

table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Key time

for English Table Tennis Funding



The best **matches** ever played; We speak to **TTK's** top man; **Performance** funding questioned; **Plus** the latest **news** and **results**

STIGA NCT Wood:
Changing the Way the Game is played

STIGA[®]

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first word



Is the age of the 'celeb' shaping the sporting landscape? Step into any newsagents and you will be bombarded with numerous brash lifestyle magazines eager to force money from our pockets and impress upon us just how important it is to be somebody, or at the very least be like somebody who is somebody. Flick past the front cover and you are instantly hit with the latest scandal or outrage from one of the ever growing list of 'loosely labelled' celebrities: from the latest saga delivered by the Beckham's publicity machine to how much Gavin Henson appreciates Charlotte Church's new figure following a 40 hour gut-busting pilates routine. It's all there.

This is all very well I hear you say but just what's this got to do with table tennis? Well, my point is simple. Over the past few decades the rise of the celebrity and

the subsequent over proliferation of the lifestyle magazine has forced itself on a generation of potential players, many of whom idolise these individuals. Not because of their sporting prowess but because of their celebrity status. With no true table tennis celeb to have graced these shores since the great Chester Barnes, as a sport surely we are at a disadvantage. The perceived cool factor is missing. Where is the personality in table tennis?

Chester was fantastic for our sport. Stuart Gibbs, a former England and Essex teammate summed him up brilliantly. "When Chester walked into a room, it was like the show had arrived and everybody would look." At the height of his fame Chester himself said that he would have been World Champion if a sportsman's talent was measured by the publicity he could

generate. At his peak Chester commanded such a position in the media's heart that his name was ushered in the same breath as George Best and Alex Higgins. It's hard to imagine any of the current crop of table tennis talent commanding such kudos.

Is table tennis so fixated on the Chinese player production model that individuality and personality have fallen off the priority list in pursuit of excellence? I struggle to think of a real crowd pleaser/entertainer within the modern game. I'm not saying we need a binge drinking, womanising, England number one; those days are long gone. But an individual with charm, cheek, flair and a craving for the spotlight would be nice.

I hope you enjoy this issue and have a great Christmas and New Year; as ever I look forward to receiving your letters.

Richard.pettit@etta.co.uk
Richard Pettit, Editor

The highlights from our main contributors...

"From producing several national champions to helping improve the GCSE results of children at schools; its success has been nothing short of remarkable." **Jeremy Wilson Page 10** "For sheer, electrifying emotion there has never been a contest to compare with Waldner's intricate dismantling of Ma Lin at the Galatsi stadium in Athens." **Matthew Syed Page 18** "If it hadn't been for the granite city's near-constant threat of wind and rain the schoolboy all-round sportsman might have thrown in his lot with football or tennis. As it was, at the age of 12 he wisely headed indoors, to the local YMCA." **Paul Rainford Page 20**

Straight Talk

The month of December will be very important for our sport, with the results of our various applications for funding to be announced with the formal award documents to be sent out in January.

Networking by both staff and volunteers has continued on behalf of Table Tennis to ensure our sport receives adequate funding for its programmes 2009 to 2013.

Meetings have taken place with key personnel from Sport England, UK Sport and Youth Sport Trust, as well as the Minister of Sport, our Footsie 100 partner Sainsbury's and the International Table Tennis Federation President Adham Sharara, who visited the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and Sport England.

SPORT ENGLAND FUNDING APPLICATION FOR 2009 TO 2013

Our funding application, previously known as the Whole Sport Plan, following many inputs from the table tennis fraternity was submitted to Sport England in November.

The documents from all the 46 national governing bodies were requested to be in place by early November and will not be in the public domain until the funding awards are announced. I have previously given details of the three areas within the Sport England strategy document and some details of the initiatives suggested by the ETTA, for any clarity you may require please get in touch.

You can be assured that the ETTA on behalf of its members will put every effort in securing the best possible outcome for our sport.

UK SPORT PLANNING FOR 2009 TO 2013

Negotiations continue with UK Sport and other partners in regard to the funding for the GB Elite Programme, which will be announced following the UK Sport Board meeting in early December. Recent debates in Parliament and reported in the press identified a shortfall of £79M in the funding originally promised by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, in 2005 to cover all 26 Olympic sports to London 2012.

A significant number of sports including Table Tennis have raised concerns that this could impact their programmes over the next four years, and efforts are being made by all parties concerned to resolve this matter before

December. I remain optimistic that a positive outcome will prevail for the Olympic sports NGB's, including the British Table Tennis Federation.

INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATION

Following the recent National Council meeting, the recommendations and inputs from it have been included in a paper which has been distributed to seek further, wider consultation within Counties, Leagues, PremierClubs and the coaching fraternity, as well as included on the website.

This is a very important programme for our sport as part of its modernisation and data capture requirements. Its approval and implementation over the next 18 months will help to significantly improve our communications to the membership, enable the members to have a clearer and better knowledge of what the ETTA does and how it can be supported.

COACHING CONFERENCE

The Conference and Awards Dinner recently took place with 124 delegates attending the various lectures and practical workshops, and 135 at the dinner.

The Conference included a presentation on performance analysis, talent ID, women and girls, updates from development, tutoring, UKCC, coach licence scheme, club/coach programme and various exercises and coaching practices. The keynote address was given by Lesley Owusu (international athlete).

It was an excellent weekend well received by the coaches attending, who confirmed they have learnt a lot and this was of great assistance in their personal development as coaches.

Thanks go to the Coaching Department and staff for putting this together with members of Development.

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Since the introduction of our new look site in October 2006 we have increased our communications reach to over 160,000 unique visitors a month (2.3 million hits), and gained a

reputation as one of the most informative and widely used national governing body websites.

To ensure we maintain this position and increase the experience for every user, we will be developing a series of new platforms that will enable us to create a more interactive and engaging online environment.

This will include sub-sites for each region covering development, coaching, news and volunteering, with facilities available for everyone to participate on interactive discussion boards. The calendar will be redesigned to provide a central focus alerting users of all forthcoming ETTA activities: events, National Council, coaching courses, etc. There will also be new areas such as find a table, club finder, videos, a comprehensive photo gallery and a new news platform.

These developments will enhance our opportunity to increase membership and participation by cross communicating with social networking sites including: MySpace, Facebook, YouTube, Bebo and Flickr. They will also enable our e-zine to further enhance its already impressive circulation figures.

GRASS ROOTS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Below is a list of some grant aid/funding opportunities for the grass roots, should you need additional information please contact your ETTA Regional Development Officer, or the office at Hastings.

Sport Unlimited aims to get 900,000 children and young people aged 5 to 19 from the semi-sporty 'population segment' to participate in attractive and sustainable term time sporting activities in school and community settings between April 2008 and March 2011. Funding could be available to pay coaches. You should contact your local county sports partnerships. Community Development Foundation has a pot of £130M for grass roots grants scheme, up to £5,000 in grants.

http://www.cdf.org.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_305300
Awards for All has been in place for some time

providing lottery grants for grass roots sport – some regions are under-subscribed and would welcome applications. Regions may have different priorities – applicants should check before applying.

Sport England has stated its intention to withdraw from Awards for All soon replacing it with their own small grants scheme.

<http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/>

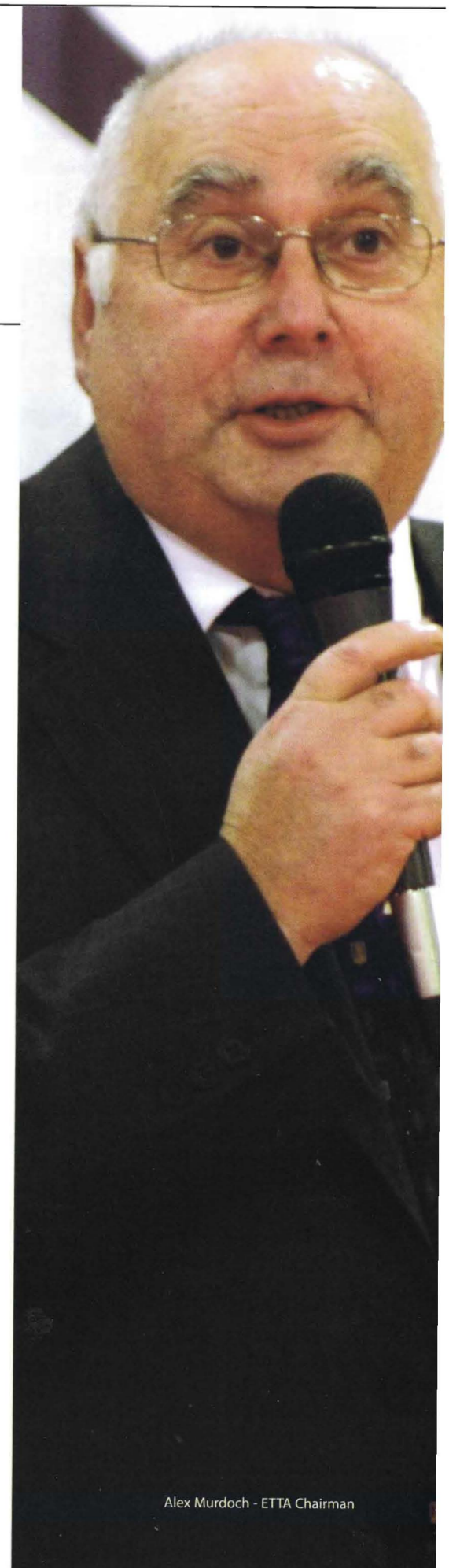
School sport coaching – a three year project, managed through the school sport partnerships (SSPs). Each partnership will receive £21,500 to deliver 1,500 hours of coaching per year. It is possible that SSPs will match up their funding with local sources of funding to create a number of part-time coach positions. Your local Partnership Development Managers (PDMs) are writing school sport coaching plans and are the main points of contact.

I will keep you updated on any developments in regard to these and any other matters and thank you for your support.

Richard Yule and I took the Sport England CEO and five key Sainsbury's managers to visit the French Institute of Sport, French TTF Office and Training Centre and the largest club in Paris. This was part of a programme leading towards a number of projects with Sainsbury's over the coming years, with 26 out of 40 managers from their Aspire programme having chosen to work with Table Tennis. Both Sport England and Sainsbury's realise that our sport can greatly benefit the local communities, and the visit was a great success and will assist the ETTA over the next decade.

Keep in touch and I welcome your requests to visit your Clubs, Leagues, Counties and Regions to discuss any aspects of our great sport.

I wish you all on behalf of the ETTA and my family a Great Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2009 will be a significant year for our sport as will the next four years with a number of changes in structures, governance, delivery plans, new initiatives to support table tennis at all levels, and an opportunity for our sport to develop and prosper.



Alex Murdoch - ETTA Chairman

Headlines

The latest stories from the Table Tennis World

DENNIS HOLLAND

"It is with great sadness that GTTA have to report the sad and untimely death of Dennis Holland, who was in his early 60s.

Dennis's funeral was held on 24th October in his home town of Gloucester and it was a mark of respect that so many people attended that they could not all get in to the service hall.

Dennis formed part of the elite squad of players which included Brian Merrett, Ian Harrison (joint England no 1) and Roy Morley (ranked in the top 10). Together, this halcyon squad won the prized national Wilmott Cup competition for a number of years.

Dennis retired from the game in his mid twenties and took up squash and also qualified as a black belt in one of the martial arts, before making a comeback in his fifties for a few years, but unfortunately his comeback was cut short by injury.

Dennis is survived by his wife and daughter and his two grandsons, whom he doted on".

Dave Harvey
Cheltenham TT Coach

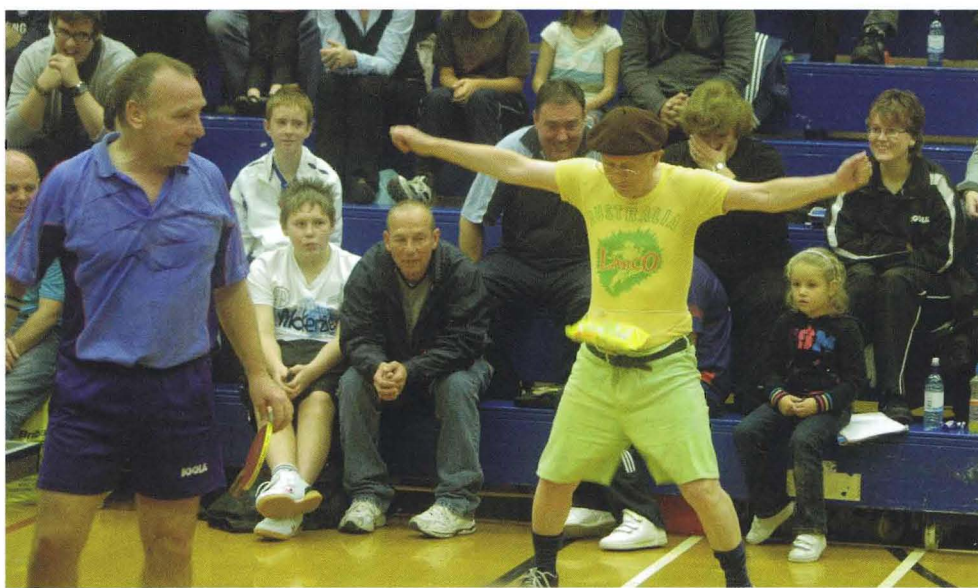


TABLE TENNIS ANNIVERSARY SUCCESS

Hastings and District Table Tennis Association recently celebrated its 80th anniversary. The event was hailed as a huge success and boasted an attendance of over 200 people. Held at the local leisure centre, it even attracted the attention of the Hastings MP Michael Foster, a keen player and at one time a regular competitor in the local league. The celebrations were free and open to all. It was an encouraging sight to see so many young players in attendance all enjoying having a knock and receiving guidance from the many experienced players and coaches on hand. There was also a robot which added the usual novelty factor, with a constant stream of players eager to give it a try, plus various interesting coaching aids and fun games. Andre Keen, the Hastings and District Table Tennis Association Chairman, said: "We had no idea how it was going to go, but it was a superb day." This comment was backed up by the huge smiles on everyone's faces and the constant sound of table tennis balls in action on every table throughout the whole day.

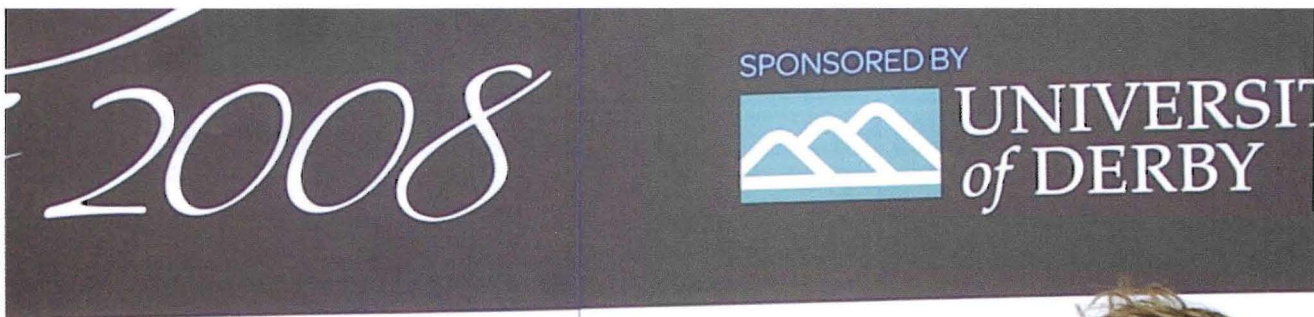
Table Toppers were also in attendance and added a touch of class and humour to the proceedings. Everyone took their seats to watch the antics of John Hilton, former European Champion and Brian Kean, a former Scottish Champion, run through their now legendary exhibition. Also included

within the exhibition were local players who assisted in demonstrating the basics of the game for newcomers as well as competing in a series of exhibition matches.

The finale to the exhibition was fantastic to watch as the table toppers pulled out and played with various strange items from their mystery bag under the table. These included a super sized bat, a frying pan, a bat with a hole and more... this combined with a series of astonishing acrobatics over the table made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening that treated all onlookers.

Robert Sinclair, ETTA General Secretary, said: "This was an enjoyable and well organised celebration. It was a pleasure to be invited, and exceptionally encouraging to see so many people eager to participate in our sport. Congratulations to the Hastings and District Association for organising such a wonderful event."

Brian Kean wrapped up the event by thanking everyone who came along, including town MP Michael Foster, and all those who helped out with the organisational side of things. The whole event demonstrated that there is a clear appetite for table tennis among the Hastings community, particularly the younger generation many of whom will now hopefully be inspired to join one of the local clubs.



JUNIOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

The University of Derby Junior Sportsman of the Year took place on the 14th November at Pride Park in Derby with over 250 people in attendance. Liam Pitchford became the 2008 University of Derby Junior Sports Person of the Year, beating fellow nominee triathlete Tom Bishop to achieve this momentous reward.

(from left) Paralympic swimmer David Ellis, Liam Pitchford, Ollie Shearer, Student Activities Manager, University of Derby Students Union.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Watton TTC have just unveiled its tenth table at the Watton Sports Centre, this however is the first to be permanently staged outside. The all weather table is made from concrete and was paid for with help from the town council (£300) and Breckland Funeral Services (£200), with the remaining £500 being donated by two members (whom would like to remain anonymous).

The idea behind the table was so that anyone can play for free at any time of day with no need to book.

The official launch of the table was done by the Mayor, Paul McCarthy, who is also a keen player.

BEAT THE STAR

Are you super-fit?

Do you thrive on success?

Think you can go head to head with a competitive celebrity – and win?

BEAT THE STAR is coming back – and it's your chance to win a massive £50,000 cash prize.

We're looking for quick thinking, athletic challengers to compete against a Star in physical, mental & quirky games.

So, if you're a sports fanatic, a smart strategist or a general knowledge genius



and think you can take on a world class sports star or an uber-competitive celebrity then THIS show is for you.

For an application form, email applicants@diverse.tv with the following details: NAME, AGE, LOCATION, OCCUPATION, CONTACT NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS.

Applicants must be over 18. There is no upper age limit. Terms & conditions apply.

With such an incredible cash prize at stake, there's a lot to be competing for - so get in quick.

20 YEARS ON!

2008 marks the 20th year of employment at the ETTA for Vanda Jones, the National Events Administrator. She started in August 1988 working with the late Mike Watts and here is what she has to say about that time. "The position was intended to be temporary

as I had been teaching exercise for 8 years and was hoping to continue after having moved from Kent. However, I agreed to stay and 20 years later I am still here!!

I have worked with six different Event Managers, four Chief Executives and three Chairmen.

Although not a table tennis player, I have taken great pleasure in witnessing the progress we have made over the years.

I have worked with many great people at the Hastings Office and many more outside the office."

2012 HOPEFULS TO USE BEIJING BALLS

TTLinks have agreed a three year deal with the ETTA to supply the National Junior and Cadet Leagues with Double Fish 3 star balls as seen at the Olympics. Having witnessed some amazing play from Ma Lin and Wang Hao at the recent Games, we are sure at TTLinks that our future stars will be looking to replicate some of those fantastic shots - and with the official Olympics ball too!

RECORD BREAKERS

Dorothy De Low is now a Guinness World Record holder, she is officially the oldest table tennis player. Born in Australia on 5th October 1910, she was 97 years and 232 days old when she represented Australia at the XIV World Veterans Table Tennis Championships in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 25 May 2008.

WHISTLE STOP TOUR

ITTF President Adham Sharara made a whistle stop tour to the UK recently to discuss all things table tennis. During his flying visit he had meetings with Sports Minister Gerry Sutcliffe MP at his office in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and with the CEO of Sport England Jennie Price at her London office.

"Both meetings were very positive," said ETTA Chairman Alex Murdoch. "Adham covered issues such as Participation to Elite and outlined a number of potential initiatives in support of our programmes and funding applications. It was a very positive visit for all parties concerned, especially with funding applications in the pipeline."



Herbert is currently manager of **Greenhouse TTK**, a charity that, incredibly, delivers regular table tennis to **5,000** school children across **9** secondary schools and more than **20** primary schools in some of the most socially deprived areas of **London**.

Herbert has been the manager at TTK for the past 18 months and he wants to build on the work of his predecessors.

Gareth Herbert is 28 years old, he was a gold medallist at the Commonwealth Games in 2002 and remains both good enough and young enough to pursue a dream of Olympic glory in London in 2012.

"But my heart is not in playing now – I would not have the desire," he says. Yet to suppose that Herbert's enthusiasm for table tennis has somehow disappeared would be a big mistake. Instead he has a bigger goal, a wider mission and what he would regard as a far more ambitious aim.

"I gave up at a much younger age than I expected," he says, "but what I do have the desire for is to try and help kids realise their dreams for the Olympics in 2016 or 2020 – that would be just as good."

Herbert is currently manager of Greenhouse TTK, a charity that, incredibly, delivers regular table tennis to 5,000 school children across nine secondary schools and more than 20 primary schools in some of the most socially deprived areas of London.

From producing several national champions to helping improve the GCSE results of children at the schools, its success has been nothing short of

remarkable.

"When I heard the Commonwealth Games were being held in England in 2002 I spent about four or five years preparing and that was my goal," says Herbert, who won the doubles with Andrew Baggaley, "but I remember walking out of the accommodation and thinking 'what do I do next?' I went into coaching and this is the third phase of my table tennis life. I love it, I'm enjoying this like I enjoyed table tennis when I was 13 or 14 and thought I would be the number one in the world. The buzz is the same."

Herbert has been the manager at TTK for the past 18 months and he wants to build on the work of his predecessors.

There are now 26 full and part-time coaches and the charity's success in helping enhance social inclusion and provide a much needed facility and opportunity to some of the capital's more needy children is well established.

One child solved an anger management problem through table tennis, while others now see table tennis as a potential career path, whether as a player or as a coach.

The scheme so inspired Adam Robertson, the Welsh number one, that he has also now opened

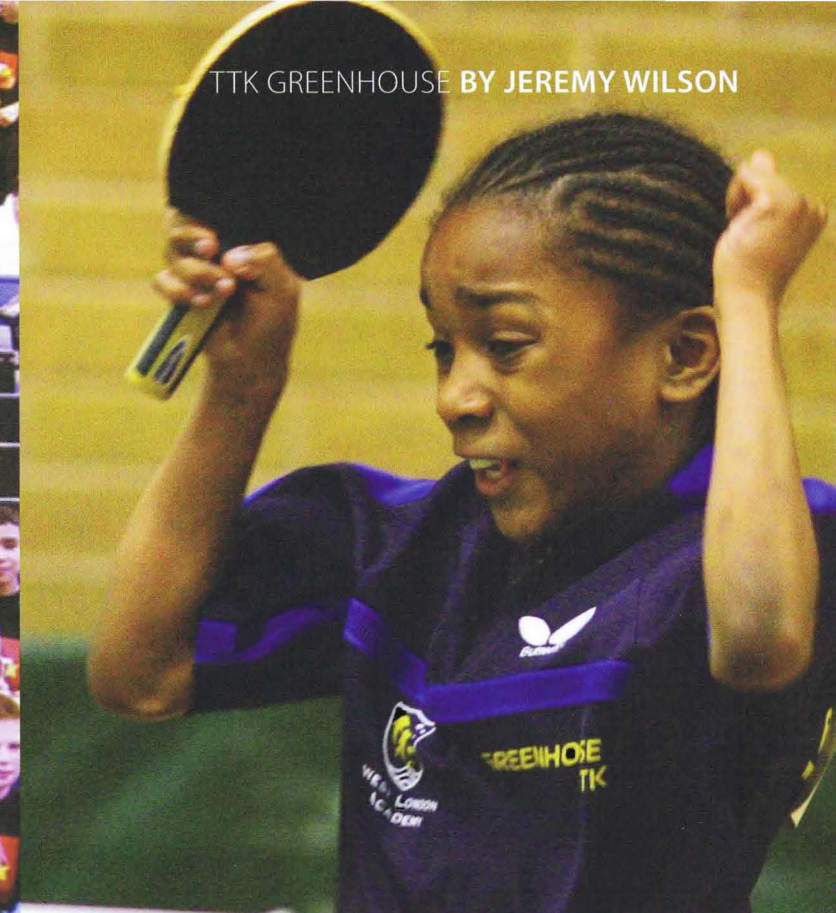
three schools in Wales.

"The effect on some of the kids has been amazing," says Herbert. "If you look at their reports they have got their predicted grades and we have seen their actual grades improve.

"Table tennis helps improve their behaviour, social skills, education and discipline, and it has a knock-on effect in the classroom".

"It teaches certain skills like listening, turning up on time and improving attention span. The feedback from the kids is unbelievable and the schools are really pleased – it is life changing. We are now just thinking, how can we expand it?" A big focus for Herbert now is to develop the elite end of the programme so that the pyramid of 5,000 children can eventually produce players that will progress to the top end of international table tennis. Yet the base of the pyramid, the work in the schools, remains the core part of the project. Earlier this year, 28 children went out to China for 18 days where they took part in a training camp and then watched some of the table tennis at the Beijing Olympics.

"The selection criteria for China was not just about who were the best players, but things like work-rate, attitude, time-keeping," says Herbert.



TTK GREENHOUSE BY JEREMY WILSON

"We spend a lot of time on all aspects of the programme. Of the 5,000 players, 1,700 are girls, which is a big thing as it can be difficult to get girls playing sport".

"We have children with special education needs, behaviour problems and wheelchair players. There is a training officer in charge of all the coaching".

"I would be surprised if there is another club that goes all the way from grass roots to national level and does what we do".

"But it can be even better. At the moment, we get them to a certain level and it can be difficult to give them the individual coaching time. We are looking to introduce centres of excellence." With an average of 350 children from each school being involved in daily coaching sessions, the difficulty in developing the very best players is obvious.

"We want to add to the standard and provide quality as well as quantity," says Herbert. "People sometimes question the standard but my answer is that we are seeing so many players that we have limited time to work on a programme to accommodate the better players. There are, though, 500 competitive players from national

standard to local leagues."

The attempt to provide a better exit route for the players to continue to develop when they reach the age of 16 has also resulted in a merger with the hugely successful London Progress club.

It means that in the British League Premier Division this year, there is both a Greenhouse TTK team and a DHS Greenhouse Progress team.

"The concern was what would happen when the players reached 16 and this is where the club comes into play," explains Herbert.

"We have had six or seven players in the youth development squad. The vision in three or four years' time is to get a small number into the national centre".

"It is the perfect time to merge with London Progress, they had a similar vision. Jason Sugrue is the manager at London Progress and top coach at TTK".

"The British League has been fantastic to us and it is a competition that provides the carrot for them. To play with and against senior players is also important, those social skills and

"Table tennis helps improve their **behaviour, social skills, education and discipline**, and it has a knock-on effect in the classroom".

professionalism rubs off."

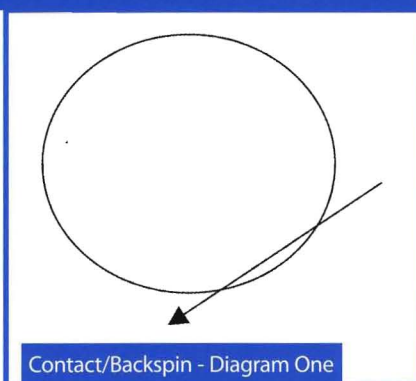
This year TTK was named Charity of the Year by the London Evening Standard newspaper but, according to Herbert, that is just the beginning. "I don't believe we are as good as we can be – it's a process," he says. "It is sustainable and if I didn't think it would be successful and have an unbelievable future I wouldn't do it. I had high goals as a player and was the same as a coach. I have the right people with me like Jason Sugrue and Grant Solder that I can ask for advice and the trustees have been fantastic.

"It works well because our vision is the same, there is no one holding us back and I am very passionate about it. The aim is simple: to make TTK the best sporting club in England!"

forehand push

Like the backhand push, this is one of the initial strokes to be taught and is commonly used on the return of serve, or if the ball is too short to attack.

When trying to improve the shot, emphasis needs to be made on maintaining a neutral grip, ensuring the wrist and arm, pivoting from the elbow are used, and keeping the player's head and upper body forward and low. The contact on the ball is the same as the backhand push with a large emphasis on creating backspin on the ball. When performing, again, it is essential that you make it as difficult for your opponent to attack as possible, therefore keeping the ball nice and low over the net. The contact point on the ball should be similar to that in Diagram One.



1. and left foot adjusts to side on position.
2. As technique improves, the stance can be squarer as shown in the photograph.
3. Arm moves back and slightly up, pivoting at the elbow.
4. Wrist is angled back.

Forward Movement (Pic Three)

1. Contact underneath the ball in front of the body, placing backspin on the ball.
2. Snap the wrist at contact.
3. Timing for the shot should be no later than peak of the bounce.

Follow Through (Pic Four)

1. Follow through forward and downward.
2. Recover to ready position.

FOREHAND PUSH - SHORT

Please refer to pictures below.

A development from the forehand push, the short push can be used to return a short service and short shots to different positions on the table to make it more difficult for the opponent to attack. Quick recovery to an attacking position is essential as the follow through over the table leaves the player in a vulnerable position.

Preparation (Pic Five)

1. The left leg moves under the table for left-handers with the body angled forward and the arm slightly bent.

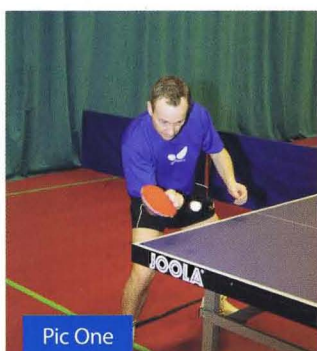
Forward Movement (Pic Six)

1. The forearm is stretched forward contacting the ball with an open bat and brushing action from the wrist.
2. Timing for the stroke is early to help keep the ball low and short.

Follow Through (Pic Seven)

1. The weight moves forward to finish with the arm stretched out and the bat open.

To help you develop your forehand push, here are some exercises you can use.



Pic One



Pic Two



Pic Three



Pic Four

Refer to Diagram 2:

REGULAR FOOTWORK

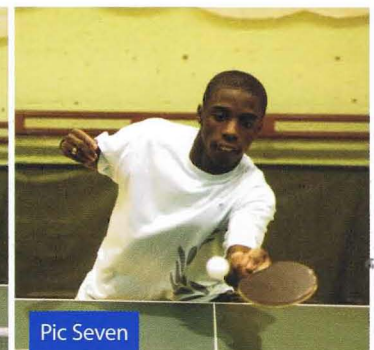
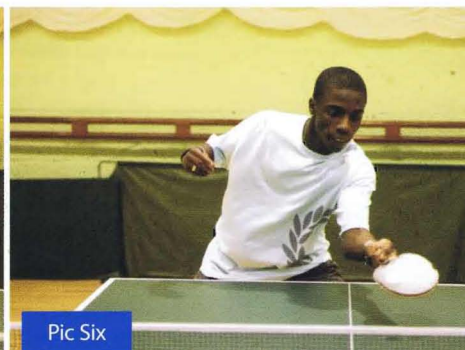
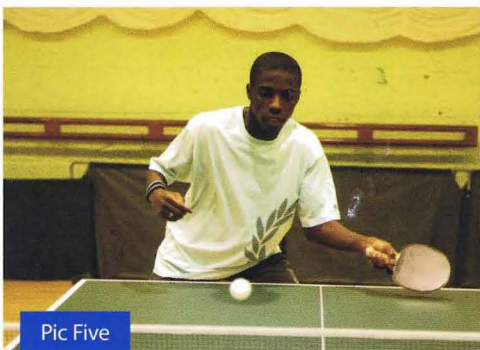
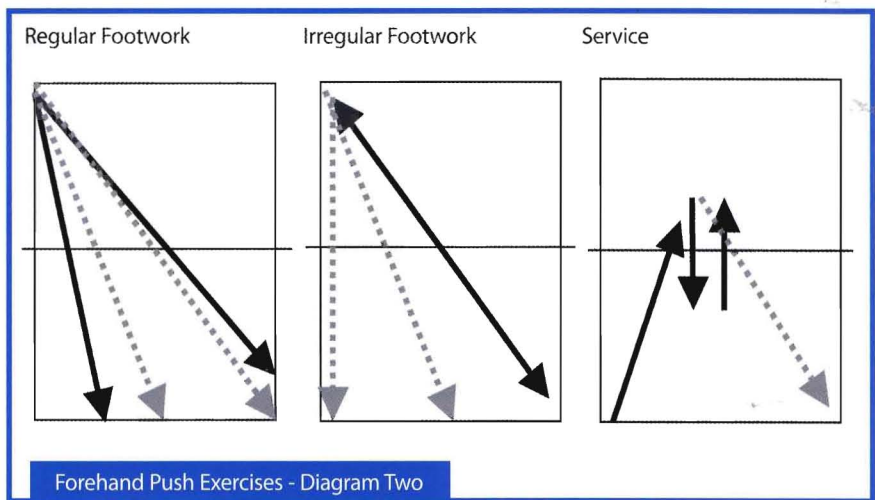
1. Start at a speed where each player is getting through the exercise whilst maintaining good technique.
2. To increase the difficulty of the exercise, start by playing the ball to the two points as shown by the grey dashed arrow, and then progress this to the direction shown by the black arrow.

IRREGULAR FOOTWORK

1. Forehand to forehand push across the diagonal.
2. Choose one player who will change the direction each time. After 2, 3 or 4 shots, they can change, switch their push either to the middle of the table or wide to the backhand.
3. If the ball comes to the middle, the player needs to attack with a forehand. If the ball comes to the backhand, the player needs to attack with the backhand.
4. Once it has been attacked, play the point out.

SERVICE EXERCISE

1. This exercise works on the short and long push, and helps develop a player's movement in and out of the table, as well as aids in increasing anticipation and ensures that the player recovers each time.
2. Players are playing a short push to each other, ensuring they recover after each stroke.
3. Choose a player who will play a long push after 2, 3 or 4 short pushes, then play the point out.



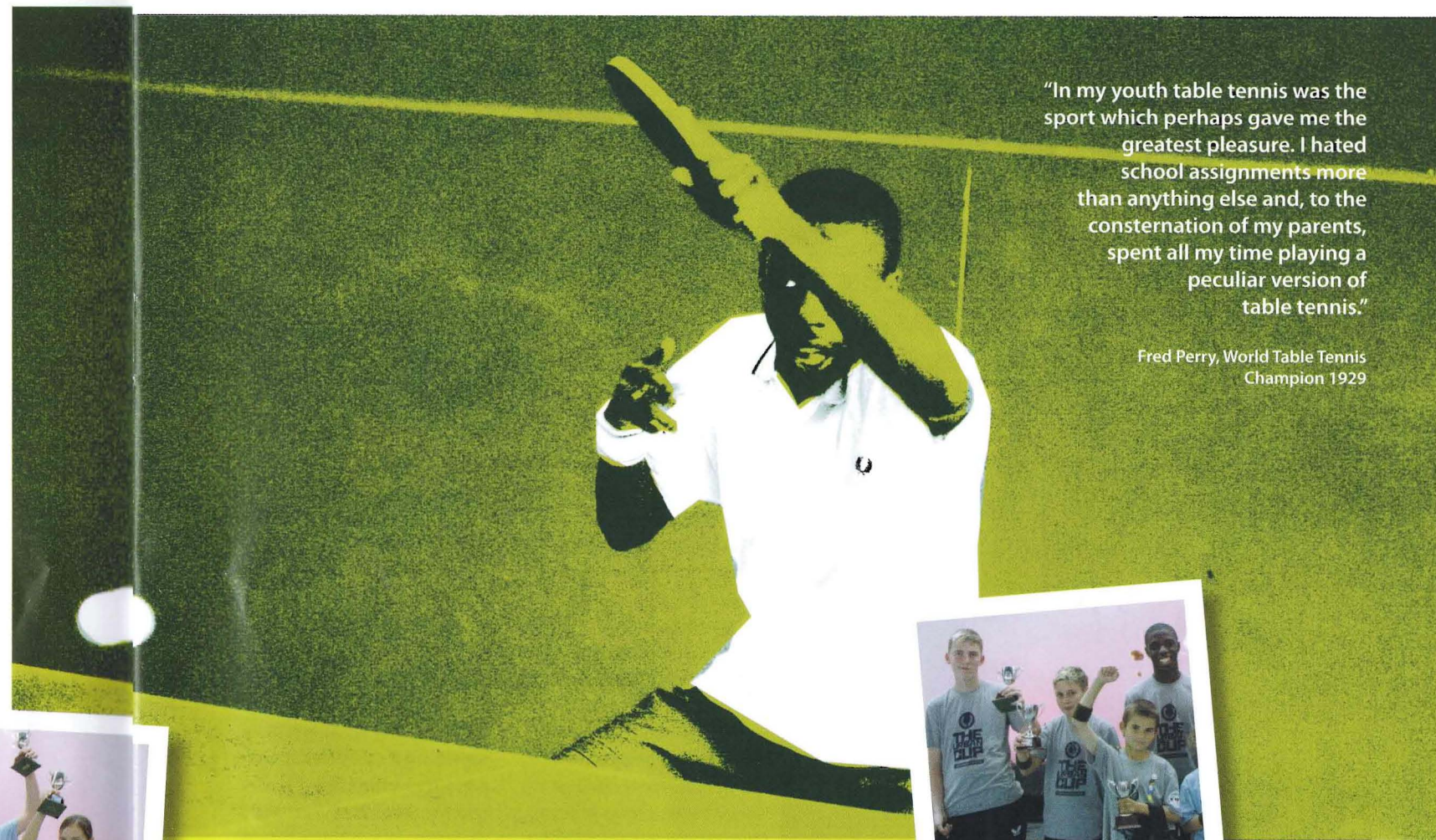
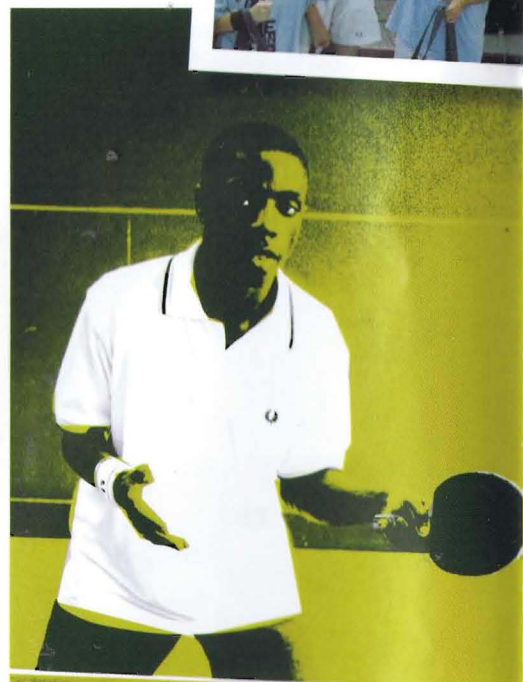
Any explanation of brand entry into the UK table tennis market begins with the unique sporting and cultural heritage of Fred Perry

The iconic sports fashion label borne out of the brilliance of Mr Perry himself has teamed up with the ETTA for a second year

Aimed squarely at getting the youth club table tennis scene active once more, the Fred Perry Urban Cup is a nationwide team event based within inner city areas and this year's final will be hosted at London's famous boxing venue, York Hall. The unique partnership between Fred Perry, the ETTA and Clubs for Young People, has set up coaching sessions and developed a selection process across the UK's youth club infrastructure with the specific aims of re-establishing table tennis at the heart of the youth club culture, and providing a pathway for the talented young players to represent their city/area. The cities/areas that will be represented at the final on 13th December are: Warwickshire, Birmingham, Greater Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Bristol, Wales, Scotland and London. Each area now has a team of six boys and girls aged between 12 and 16 years which will compete against teams from seven other major areas of the UK at the Fred Perry Urban Cup finals. The winning team will join the 2007 champions Cardiff and be crowned the 2008 Fred Perry Urban Cup Champions.

WHY TABLE TENNIS?

Richard Martin, Fred Perry Brand Manager, explains why table tennis makes sense: "Any explanation of brand entry into the UK table tennis market begins with the unique sporting and cultural heritage of Fred Perry. Fred attended Ealing County School, London, where he fell in love with table tennis. He practised the game every night; his effort and determination eventually paid off - in 1929 he won the singles title World Table Tennis Champion. He then went on to become a legend of British tennis. The brand's roots in working class culture, plus Fred's own success in the sport, fully support and credibly justify brand entry into the UK table tennis market today." Seen as one of the rising stars of British table tennis, Darius Knight has been the face of the Urban Cup. As an inspirational figure to many, Knight's rise to prominence has striking similarities to that of Perry, making him the ideal figurehead for this exciting new initiative. Let's just hope he can go on to replicate Fred Perry's world success.



"In my youth table tennis was the sport which perhaps gave me the greatest pleasure. I hated school assignments more than anything else and, to the consternation of my parents, spent all my time playing a peculiar version of table tennis."

Fred Perry, World Table Tennis Champion 1929



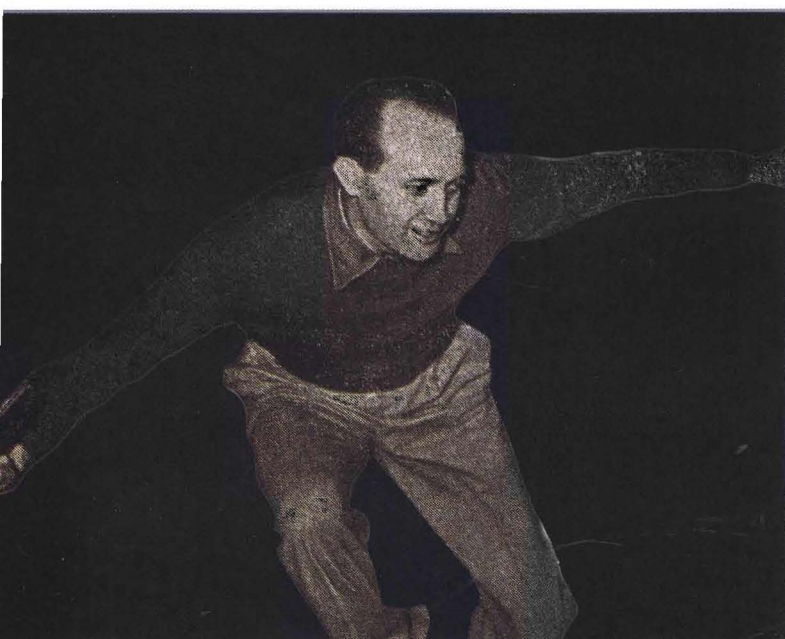
CLUBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Along with the ETTA and Fred Perry, the Urban Cup is being supported by Clubs for Young People. The National Association of Clubs for Young People is a UK registered charity (reg. no. 306065). It is a UK wide organisation representing 3,500 youth clubs and projects, working with 400,000 young men and women and 30,000 volunteers in communities across the UK. The Duke of Gloucester has been president since 1974, with his father previously holding the role since Clubs for Young People's creation (then as the National Association of Boys' Clubs) in 1926. The charity is privileged to have also been awarded a royal charter. The organisation provides opportunities on a local, regional, national and international basis, and provides accredited training programmes and advocacy for all its members.

Letters

The Editor

How to send in your views. Write to: Richard Pettit, English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House (Third Floor), Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HF Email: richard.pettit@etta.co.uk



MORE RECOGNITION FOR BARNÁ

How possibly can Matthew Syed continue to rank Victor Barna at no.6? What more could he have done to merit a superior ranking? His mass of world titles shows that he consistently beat his peers at top international level. Perhaps it is felt that he could not have coped with subsequent technical changes, but there is no evidence to support this. The most radical of these changes was the advent of thick sponge. This arrived on the European scene in earnest at the Wembley World Championships of 1954. Victor Barna competed in the doubles events on this

occasion and reached the final of the mixed doubles and the semi-final of the men's doubles. He was therefore no stranger to this revolution. On the contrary, Richard Bergman struggled against sponge. On another note the November issue of TTN was the most interesting in years. Derek N Tyler Vice-President ETTA

WHAT'S FRICTIONLESS?

So the ETTA has given us a 12 month period of grace before banning frictionless rubbers altogether. Does anyone know what a frictionless rubber is? Ask any of the players you play against in your local league and the answer will be no...

Frictionless rubbers will remain in league table tennis forever alongside foul serves, white shirts, two handled bats, late starts and the rest. League players just play because they enjoy playing, they look forward to their weekly battle and rubbers don't really come into it. Mr Average Table Tennis doesn't play in major tournaments only his local league so what's the problem. OK, let the superstars change their rubbers but don't expect the vast majority of players to conform to something they haven't been consulted on. Problem, it seems, are that these new rules are made by a

few officials at the top who expect the vast majority of players in associations and leagues up and down the country to follow suit. If the Halifax Building Society or any other major organisation wants to make any rule changes, it has to ask its members first - ask your average table tennis player whether he has ever been asked his/her opinion on any major changes to the rules and the answer is a resounding no., Come on ETTA let your members have a say instead of hiding behind the smokescreen of the ITTF. Robert Filby

A COACHING FUTURE

It seems to me that it is important to provide meaningful coaching. Too often table tennis "coaching" is little more than table time. The crucial age is 8-11 year olds whilst they are still in primary school. With the growing trend towards paid coaching and payment for school halls, it is difficult to strike the right coach to pupil ratio. I believe each session requires one lead coach and for him/her to be supported by voluntary coaches. Parents will often pay for coaching, but there needs to be a structured programme and every child must receive equal tuition, one-to-one with the lead coach. The sessions must deliver value for money to ensure table tennis can compete with other activities. The BIG question is what will parents be prepared to pay? Will they pay £10 for two hours of quality group coaching? Is this too much? What is the maximum number of pupils in each coaching session before value for money is compromised? To ensure successful delivery of session between the ages of 8-11 it is crucial that table tennis is organised at times which do not clash with other activities, i.e. football. Mark Tungatt

THRIVING LOCAL LEAGUES?

The November issue of Table Tennis News included a letter from Geoff Aspinall of the Oldham & District League pointing out that this local league was flourishing with active and encouraged junior participation. Your response [editor's] continued to "put down" local leagues that have clubs playing at their own venues, with arguments against these and no recognition of the points he made. Why does the ETTA not acknowledge there are two sides to the coin, and with generosity? My own experience in local league table tennis in a rural area is similar to Mr Aspinall's. Although small we have held our own with increasing numbers of juniors and ladies taking part. Our village club has 10 juniors who, while appreciating the variety of visits to other clubs, enjoy matches with and against their own and older age groups in a social, sporting, and still competitive atmosphere. Once this is lost the slope is slippery indeed. A

central venue can also have difficulties, it may even become unavailable and 'with all the eggs in one basket' the consequences can be very difficult. It may be the best option in some cases, but not in others. I know of one coach who would welcome the demise of local leagues altogether as he thinks it is bad for youngsters to play against those with older styles - what happens when they grow up? Don't let us be too "one-eyed" about all this, and let us recognise the valuable part that the likes of Mr. Aspinall plays in keeping the spirit of the sport thriving. International and tournament successes as reported in "Table Tennis News" are great, but not the only criterion. John Knock

Editor's response: The figures show clearly that the core league product, three players competing as a team at varying venues and nights, has been in decline for nearly 30 years. In 1979 there were 85,000 league players today the figure resides around 30,000. Likewise, affiliated

clubs have decreased by over 5,500 in the same time frame. There are leagues, like yours and Geoff Aspinall's, that have developed a welcoming infrastructure that provide sustainability and growth. However, with an estimated 2.6 Million (BMRB) players playing table tennis within this country, a system that only caters for 1.4% of them surely needs rejuvenating in some form?

STILL HEARING JOHNSON'S SPEECH

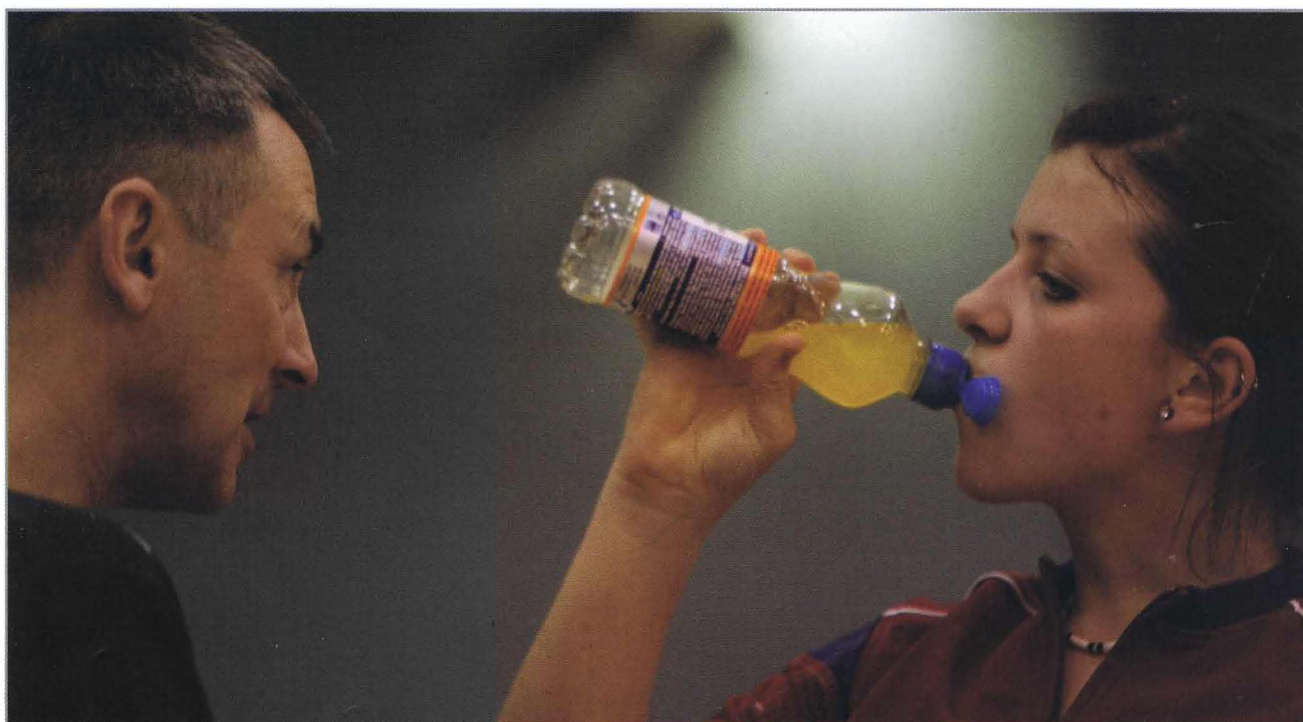
I read with great interest the letter from the great Gerald Gurney in the November issue of Table Tennis News. With huge respect to Mr Gurney, is he not treating the Boris Johnson speech a bit too seriously? As we all know, our Mayor of London is a great joker, and I am positive that he was in a light-hearted mood in what he said. Quite honestly, I cannot believe that very many of the citizens of Beijing who were present had even heard of the names "Whiff-Waff" or "Gossima" let alone "Ping-Pong", and

certainly not the order in which they had been used as a description for table tennis. I have been around a good many years in our great sport of table tennis - I was brought up in Sussex where my first hero was Charles Seaman - and when I heard Boris making his speech on TV I was very happy to laugh at his humour. It never occurred to me to be pedantic enough to question his historical accuracy.

Alan Shepherd
Vice-Chairman Essex County TTA

WHOSE PLAYER

Too many coaches consider they own good players and try and steal them from each other. If only table tennis came together and built good indoor facilities in certain areas and banged the coaches heads together. There are a lot of good coaches, but they won't work with each other - this is harming our sport. Peter Johns



4 GREAT MATCHES

Matthew Syed shares four of the best matches from the last 25 years. He starts with his favourite match between Jan-Ove Waldner v Ma Lin at the 2004 Olympics.

Jan-Ove Waldner v Ma Lin
2004 Olympic Games Athens



Last 16 of Men's Singles

This was not the best match, nor the highest quality, nor even the most closely contested. But for sheer, electrifying emotion there has never been a contest to compare with Waldner's intricate dismantling of Ma Lin at the Galatsi

stadium in Athens in 2004.

Waldner arrived at the Olympic Games a spent force: more than five years past his prime, overweight, lacking in confidence and having spent the previous weeks being handed defeat after defeat on the German Tour. The bigger ball, too, was a nuisance, making it almost impossible for Waldner to get any traction from his trademark backhand punch. And, on top of all that, Waldner had the draw from hell....Ma Lin in the second round.

Most of us feared a demolition, with Ma Lin wielding his dreadful power to humiliate the ageing legend. But by the end of the opening game, the huge and vocal Swedish contingent in the auditorium, along with the rest of us, realised we were watching something special. Waldner rolled back the years, dancing, gliding, feinting and flicking his way into the ascendancy. Ma was caught like a rabbit in headlights, confused as much by his inability to deploy his weapons as by the variety of spins and angles coming at him. Waldner eventually came through 4-1 (and got all the way through to the semi-finals), leaving many in the auditorium shedding tears of emotion. It was a victory that confirmed once again Waldner's creative audacity and his inviolable self belief.

Chu Jong Chol v Boris Rosenberg
1986 Russian Open



Open Men's Singles last 16

Had Chol come from any other country than North Korea, he would have gone down alongside Secretin and Appelgren as one of the most spectacular and entertaining players of all time. His style was

remarkable: he pushed long and then retreated to the barriers, from where he "fished", by which I mean that he tossed the ball in the shape of a shallow lob but with extra topspin. At times he played like an out and out lobber. It is a tragedy that he was so rarely a fixture at international events due to his nation's policy on boycotting almost everything except the world championships and competitions played in communist countries.

Certain players had the measure of Chol, but when he came up against an opponent who couldn't penetrate his defence the outcome was a match of spellbinding cat and mouse. No match was better than his monumental five-setter against the worthy Russian Rosenberg. The rallies were epic, wonderfully constructed, geometrically thrilling and outrageously dramatic. I watched the match with Nicky Mason, an England team-mate, and we agreed that we had never seen anything like it. Chol eventually came through by three games to two.

Poland v North Korea
1987 World Championships



New Delhi

This was the greatest team match I ever saw, back in the days when the Swaythling Cup was played in the classic three v three, all play all format. No team has ever lined up with such a wonderful diversity of players as

North Korea in that era: Kim Song Hui, a right handed, lightning fast penholder; Li Gun Sang, a truly wonderful, balletic defensive specialist who is rightly regarded as the greatest out and out defender of the modern era; and our friend Chu Jong Chol. Up against them were the formidable trio of Grubba, Kucharski and Dryszel. Every match was absorbing in its own way, with Korea eventually coming through 5-4. Not even Sweden's defeat of China in the World final in Malaysia in 2001 could top it.

Waldner v Samsonov
1997 World Final

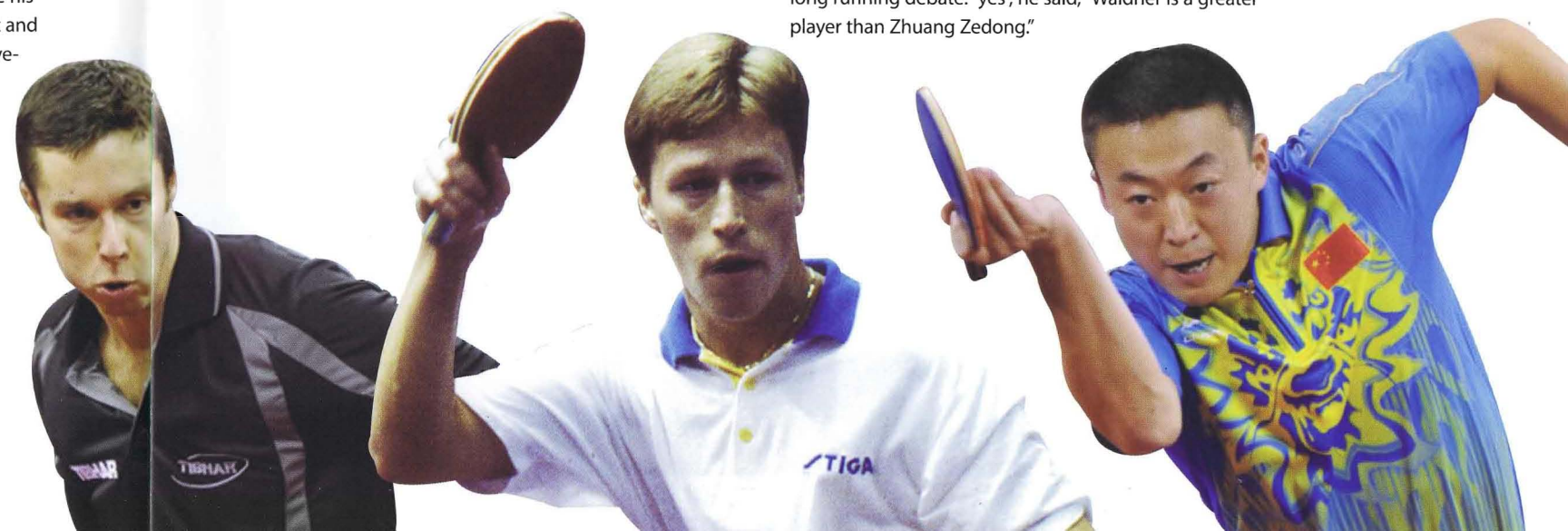


World Final Manchester

Waldner, in this match, played the highest quality table tennis in the history of the sport. He had demolished all opposition en route to the final, but many expected him to struggle against the languorous

Belarusian, particularly as he had been on the receiving end of a one-sided defeat in the earlier team competition. But Waldner was not to be denied, beating Samsonov in every department. Towards the end of the third game Waldner seemed to enter a new domain of virtuosity and began to toy with his opponent, to the delight of the audience. The table tennis was even more beguiling than when Waldner won Olympic gold in Barcelona five years earlier, dropping only one game in the tournament. After the match Denis Neale phoned me to concede defeat in a long running debate: "yes", he said, "Waldner is a greater player than Zhuang Zedong."

Waldner's travails were not merely a consequence of his age, there were also the recent **rule changes** that had deprived him of his most potent weapon **the hidden serve**



Richard Yule

An insight into the Chief of Table Tennis, Richard Yule by Paul Rainford

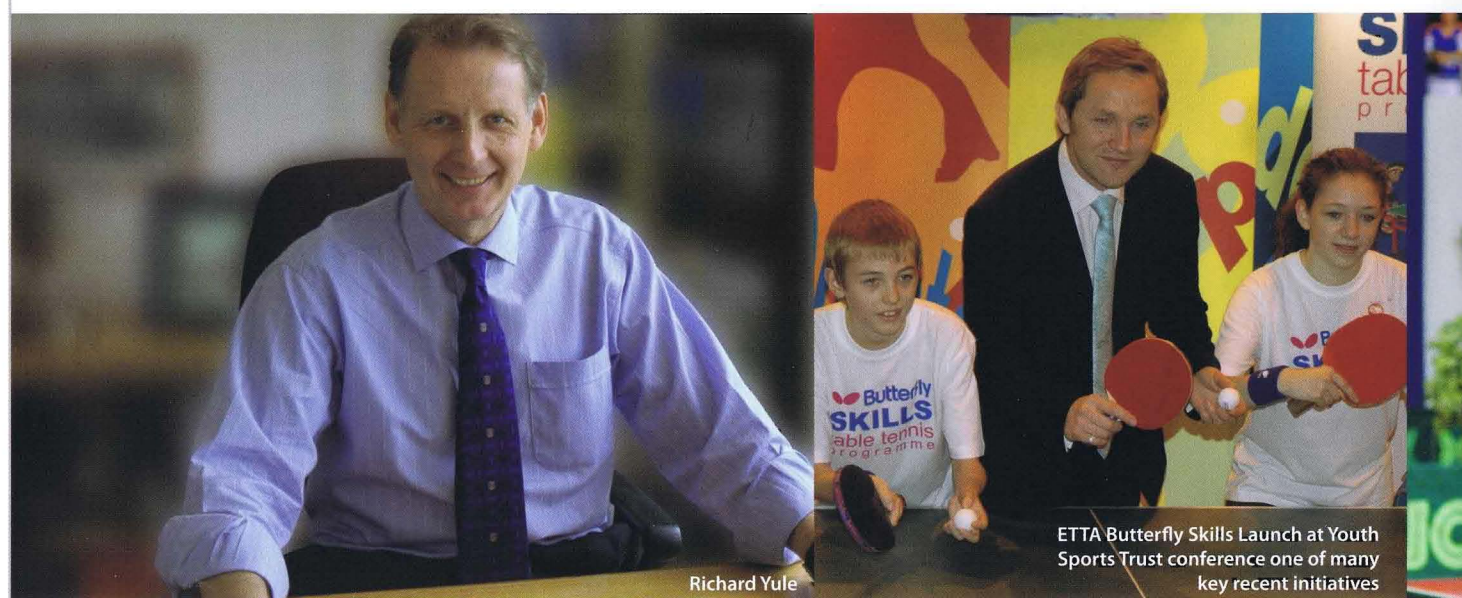
The less than Mediterranean climate of Aberdeen played a crucial part in the shaping of the young Richard Yule's destiny. If it hadn't been for the granite city's near-constant threat of wind and rain the schoolboy all-round sportsman might have thrown in his lot with football or tennis. As it was, at the age of 12 he wisely headed indoors, to the local YMCA, where he embarked on a career in table tennis that was to see him represent his country 285 times and land him the job of Chief Executive of the English Table Tennis Association in 1995. Yule was perhaps fortunate to be growing up in the 1960s, when a YMCA was to be found in nearly every big town or city, and invariably offered visitors the chance to have a go at table tennis if it took their fancy. (YMCAs famously produced two other titans of modern British table tennis, Desmond Douglas and John Hilton, the former in the Birmingham branch and the latter from its Manchester equivalent.) In more recent times, YMCAs have disappeared in many places, and the ones that do remain tend to function more as social care centres offering admittedly valuable services such as drugs advice than as sports venues. What Yule wouldn't give now for an extensive grass roots club set-up like the YMCAs that could offer kids who literally walk in off the street the chance to play some table tennis. Well, give it time. Sorting out the grass roots is just one of the items on Yule's 'to do' list. "We want to get table tennis back into the youth club sector," he says. "Gordon Brown has said he wants to see a youth club in every town and we want to make sure that table tennis is a part of those

youth clubs." The other place to catch 'em young, of course, is the schools, and Yule is understandably keen to trumpet the work the ETTA has done in this area. Table tennis is one of only eight sports pushed by the Youth Sport Trust, an influential charity that seeks to get more children involved in sport, principally through the schools. It is the continued inclusion of table tennis in large, government-backed schemes such as the Youth Sport Trust that is particularly pleasing to Yule. "We're taken seriously as a sport and involved in all the relevant projects. We're sitting down at the table with representatives from the major sports such as football." Once children have got an initial taste for the sport, either through school or youth club, the table tennis clubs have to pick up the baton and maintain their interest. This, Yule knows, is where a vast amount of talent can be lost to the game, and 2009 will see continuing efforts to address this problem. "At the moment there is a lack of transfer in that kids' interest is often not being retained at club level. It could be that the league format isn't conducive – there are too many late nights, for one thing." In the face of this, the ETTA is looking to launch a number of pilot schemes in various leagues using central venues, two tables per match and other tweaks to the traditional '7.30 till late in a draughty church hall' format that has dominated many local leagues in the past. "We are the only country in Europe that tends to play its club matches in the evenings

– on the continent it usually all happens at the weekend," Yule points out. The improvement of the clubs themselves is an ongoing project, and Yule is pleased to see that there is now a growing number of really professional yet beginner-friendly clubs such as London Progress, which won Club of the Year against allcomers from all sports in 2008. "There have been six dedicated table tennis centres built over the last two years as part of the ETTA's capital investment programme," he adds. The days of the draughty church hall could be numbered. One idea being looked into at the moment is for table tennis clubs to form links with Premiership football clubs if they happen to have one in their vicinity. "Football clubs have extensive community involvement programmes already, and the idea is that table tennis clubs can tap into and benefit from these programmes. They would be like satellite clubs to the football teams," says Yule. Of course, a lot of this grass roots work will depend on the funding being in place, and by the time you read this Yule will probably know how successful the ETTA has been in its application for a slice of the £120m-a-year Sport England money that is up for grabs over the 2009-2013 funding period. In September the ETTA had to submit a Whole Sport Plan: it is on the basis of this that the funding awards are made. So the level of funding available to grass roots table tennis development over the coming years is at present uncertain. One thing that definitely will happen in 2009 is the English Open, the first time it has been held since 2001. When I spoke to Yule he had just returned from a fact-finding

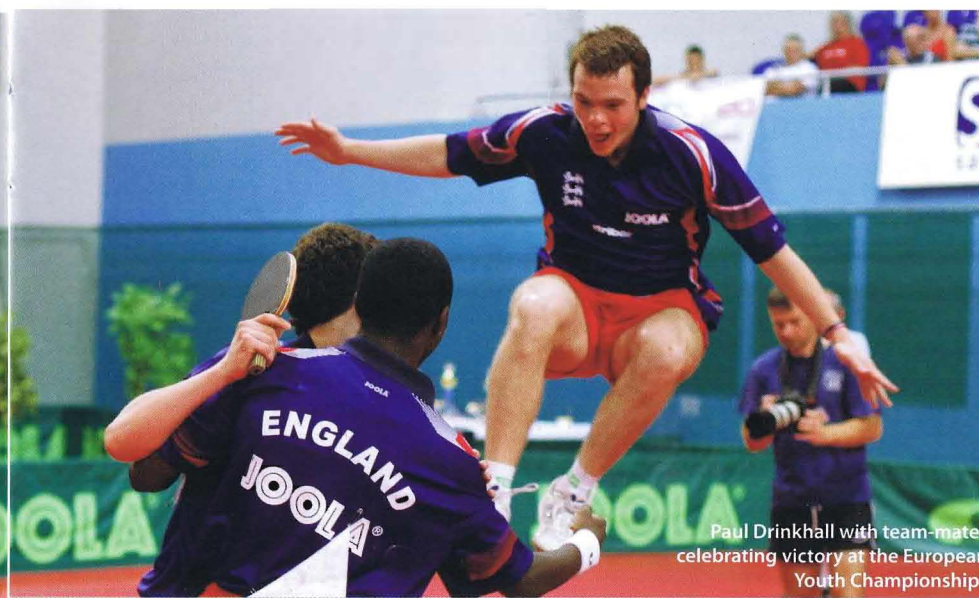
trip to the German Open, which forms part of the Pro Tour. The English Open, which will be held in Sheffield, will form one of the top four events on the Pro Tour. Yule believes that the only way table tennis will really gain more media exposure – and in turn tempt more youngsters into the game – is if our players start to perform at tournaments such as these. "TV coverage is completely tied up with player development. It's not going to happen until the likes of Paul Drinkhall make their breakthrough. And I believe Drinkhall is on the verge of that breakthrough." But at the Drinkhall et al elite end of the spectrum there is also a question mark over money: a £600m government funding package for Olympic sports, of which table tennis is of course one, is looking doubtful as a £79m portion of that amount to be supplied by private donors failed to materialise. The gold-medal-strewn cyclists are probably safe, but 'lesser' sports such as table tennis could see their share of the spoils cut. Again, by the time you read this, Yule will probably have received either the good or bad news. With money matters such as these lurking behind the ETTA's many and varied plans, it is clear that, as Yule admits, right now is a 'key time' for English table tennis. No pressure, then, Richard.

"TV coverage is completely tied up with player development. It's not going to happen until the likes of Paul Drinkhall make their breakthrough. And I believe Drinkhall is on the verge of that breakthrough."



Richard Yule

ETTA Butterfly Skills Launch at Youth Sports Trust conference one of many key recent initiatives



Paul Drinkhall with team-mates celebrating victory at the European Youth Championships



Richard Yule in his younger years

the door to a better world

Those trying against difficult odds to develop table tennis in this country are used to their emotions being jerked first in one direction and then another. It's about ten years ago now that an important door was slammed in the sport's face. Last year it was suddenly prised open again, a great change which has ushered in a hopeful new elite era for Britain.

So wonderful is the vista through this shiny new portal that it is even possible to visualise clubs being one day transformed; dreadful would be the loss if ever it were slammed shut again.

None of these metaphors exaggerate the importance of Britain's new training centre at the English Institute of Sport (EIS) in Sheffield, which at long last began only 15 months ago and which is bringing encouraging progress. During this time England's two best women have halved their world rankings, Paul Drinkhall has made a push towards world class, improvement has been achieved by almost every player involved, and transformation has been created in the mood in which top level table tennis operates.

Late last year Joanna Parker and Kelly Sibley were outside the world's top 300; by November this year they had reached the top 160. By next year they could be reaching levels which would once have seemed only a distant hope. "I am very proud of what they have done," said Alan Cooke, England's women's coach. "I know they won't continue at that rate, but if they push on there are many things they can achieve."

Steen Hansen, England's Performance Director, was similarly optimistic about Drinkhall. He has lost weight, looks happy with life, has had decent results in the German Bundesliga, and is showing he can compete with top quality players. "No-one would have believed eight months ago that Paul would improve like this," Hansen said. What in more detail has made all this possible? Most importantly that all of our best and most promising players can now spend a large number of quality hours on the table every day. It is the first time it has happened since a loss of funding brought the 2003 closure of the national

centre at Nottingham.

But there is no comparison between the facilities there and here. At the EIS table tennis has one big hall with ten tables and another smaller hall with six tables, both with high quality halogen lighting, and a taraflex-covered floor. It also has a widening team of experts – for coaching, sparring, physiology, nutrition, psychology and other areas of sports science.

There is the tenaciously dedicated Cooke for the women, the uniquely experienced Liu Jia Yi as coach for the men, and two new assistant coaches, Linus Mernsten who has just arrived from Sweden, and Nikola Vukelja from Croatia. They are all overseen by the versatile Hansen.

There are sparring partners from China, Wang Ledong and Shi Lei, and keen hopes that Vukelja's wife, Han, will have solved her visa problems, not least because, with her high world ranking, penholder style, and standard of play better than any English woman, she could become the most useful sparrer of the lot.

So now for the first time Britain's best have access to many of the advantages of their Chinese counterparts. They have a high quality psychologist from Denmark, Joannarn Ravnholt, and a performance analyst, Chris Loxston, as well as nutritional advice, weight training equipment, and a gym accessible all day every day.

"Our facilities are some of the best in Europe for sure," said Hansen.

"We are together on a daily basis. The atmosphere is good. There is a constant dialogue about what we are trying to do. We can attack problems immediately. We don't have to wait until the next camp.

"And so - now we have a chance" he said, relish oozing through his voice. Then it is replaced by a warning tone.

"There are realistic possibilities to do something special now. So we can't afford not to try, to challenge ourselves, and push as much as possible to fulfil this possibility."

This was the failure of some of England's players in the nineties. But now today's have a hidden motivator - the powerful ambience of the EIS's uniquely pervasive environment.

Underneath its undulating roofs and inside its bright and bustling modernism are facilities for the World Snooker Academy, England Basketball, England Athletics, British Table Tennis Federation (BTTF), British Volleyball, British Handball Association, Amateur Boxing Association (ABA), England Netball, British Judo, and Badminton England. These help make it one of Britain's most impressive sports centres, one which has held the AAA Championships and the World Volleyball Championships, as well as Open Fencing, World Wrestling, and the European Netball Championships - amongst many other fine events.

All this is more significant than it may at first seem. Though table tennis is a sport of dazzling brilliance and compact diversity, it has over the years endured its fair share of recalcitrants as well as geniuses.

Great talent we have had, but in the past discipline has occasionally been a problem. Sheffield's special atmosphere makes this seem unthinkable. Aspiration and excellence seep through every corner and cranny. Walk along the corridor and there are judo men and women grappling on the doJoanna; in another room gymnasts flex their bodies into miraculous contortions;

around the corner badminton players mix vicious darting movements with gentle floating parabolas. It's all very intense and the array of skills is impressive.

"It's a huge inspiration," Hansen says. "You can look and learn. You can learn something new each day."

He admits: "We steal as much as we can from other sports. There is a huge contact net around. What we want to do is steal as much as possible and then put it into an English model.

"Our goal is to beat China but I am convinced we have to create an English model to do that - and I think we have taken the first of many positive steps in that direction. And for sure we will keep pushing."

That means learning how to be a 24-hours-a-day athlete and it is this recently acquired ability which is enabling Drinkhall to make his surge. Involved is a significant change in mentality.

Meeting this psychological challenge, perhaps more than anything, can prevent table tennis in this country from slipping back into the under-achievement which followed the heyday years of Desmond Douglas, Carl Prean and Alan Cooke.

Not only does Sheffield supply the powerful motivational charge to assist with this, it is geographically advantageous too. Hansen was already living not too far away in Nottingham, Jia Yi was and still is at Rotherham, and Cooke at Chesterfield. All are within commuting distance.





Also, by good fortune, Gavin Evans lives at Newark, and Liam Pitchford at Chesterfield, which means both highly promising youngsters can have arrangements whereby they can train in Sheffield for large parts of each week and still go to school. Recently Drinkhall and Parker also bought a house at Rotherham, while Kelly Sibley and Darius Knight have become based for significant amounts of time at Sheffield.

These are all fine English talents, but it is not only the English who are based at the EIS. Naomi Owen of Wales and Gavin Rungay of Scotland have made the move, while Adam Robertson, another Welshman, visits regularly, and Liu Na from Ireland will come for two weeks a month.

But how can it be that the facilities in a multi-sports centre are so superbly suited for table tennis? Thereby hangs a curious, up-and-down tale. The tale of the slammed shut door.

It begins in the nineties when table tennis was to have become part of a UK Institute of Sport. An architect designed the table tennis section which was to have included its own special accommodation blocs and offices, for the ETTA had been thinking of relocating there. But midway through the process, in 1997, there was a change of government, which in turn brought a change of heart. The project was curtailed and down-sized.

Table tennis lost its accommodation, which was always going to be a problem because it is a sport which, to produce world class talent, needs to develop its young, and therefore needs under 16s training residentially. Still, plans for the rest of the facilities continued.

By the time they became available, however, results had declined. Table tennis lost its world class funding, and, obliged to move out of its national centre in Nottingham, it found itself in the situation of having a purpose built hall at Sheffield it could not afford to use.

"Can you imagine the frustration?" says Richard Yule, the ETTA Chief Executive. "We had been shuttling up and down, up and down to Sheffield in a group, and suddenly found we had to mount an operation elsewhere."

This was at Lilleshall, which the ETTA was indeed grateful



to have, but where conditions were not, and could never be, like those in international arenas.

Meanwhile the boxing and the basketball was moved heart-breakingly into table tennis' tailor made facilities at Sheffield, and it looked as though the performance level in England would fall further and further behind that of other nations. But unexpectedly the door swung open again. What did it was London 2012's successful Olympic bid. Suddenly table tennis gained three-year funding of £2.2 million or £700,000 thousand a year up until 2009. The

British Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) changed its constitution and became a limited company, and the new vista emerged.

"We set up a selection group geared towards selection, not just for the Olympics but various squads," said Alex Murdoch, the ETTA Chairman. "And we worked together to try to get talent identified."

Four home countries are involved but the ETTA's role is central. "Funding doesn't actually go to the BTTF," Murdoch explained. "It has a service level agreement with the lead nation and the resources of that nation are used for payments and contracts."

The reprieve for table tennis has been immense. Relief and delight have blossomed in similarly large measures, but

since the global economic downturn in the last few months they have been accompanied by more than a hint of fear. Could the progress of table tennis be halted again? The much publicised

£79 million funding gap for London 2012 has resurrected worries about table tennis at Sheffield and whether, through no fault of its own, it might suffer further reductions.

"It would be tragic if, having got this up and running again, and just as the programme is starting to deliver, we get our funding cut," said Yule. "It would be tragic if we lost momentum again."

"We are bringing the English Open back to Sheffield in October, with support from Sheffield and from the Yorkshire development agency, and that's terrific. That will bring world class competition to the EIS."

"We need stability. One moment we are on cloud nine with £1.3 million expected, and two years later we are being told no go. Cycling has had consistent funding over three Olympic cycles, and we have to get stability and confidence too. If we don't, players can't commit, and the whole thing becomes impossible. We have been up and down like a yo-yo. It's just not good enough."

It's not very often that chief executives make such impassioned and critical pleas such as this. But it illustrates how rough the fortunes have been for table tennis. And how important Sheffield has become for its future.

Funding decision to be announced by UK Sport on the 29th January 2009.

Coaching Conference

Over 120 coaches descended on Lilleshall National Sports Centre for the ETTA Coaching Conference

With a jam packed agenda the conference kicked off with a keynote speech from athlete Lesley Owusu. Inspired and ready to get learning the attendees were treated to a variety of theoretical workshops and practical sessions. Split into groups the carefully selected and well delivered topics provided many with invaluable knowledge and firsthand experience helping to develop and extend each coach's knowledge and subsequently the way coaching is delivered in their future sessions. Integral to the sessions were the eight recently appointed ETTA Regional Coaches (further details click here) supported by the National Coaching staff, and various members of the British Table Tennis Federation performance coaching programme.

The sessions included (click to view presentations where available): performance analysis, the art of a good corner person, Dartfish video analysis software, competition review, Clubmark and Young Officials Award updates, Schools Sport Agenda, multi-ball theory, coaching women and girls, plus talent identification. On the practical side the coaches were able to dust off their bats and participate in a diverse series of workshops including: speed and agility exercises for table tennis, working with advanced table tennis players with a disability, delivering the Butterfly Awards scheme, managing large groups with fun games, progressive exercises for developing strokes, core stability exercises plus a selection of high quality multi-ball drills. Charlie Childs, Vice-Chairman of ETTA Coaching, said: "Coaching sport is now recognised by all key government agencies as a vitally important skill, not just in the build-

up to the next Olympics in London 2012 but long term. Consequently significant resources are being put in place for governing bodies to access to improve the delivery of this service. Alongside this development, the new Sport England strategy focuses on developing player pathways as well as participation, which dovetails perfectly with current ETTA planning. It is fair to say that never before has coaching, and indeed coaches, had such a wonderful opportunity to develop and improve. It goes without saying that it is vital we seize the moment and ensure that our sport of Table Tennis capitalises on this unique opportunity. In order that we can move successfully forward into this new and exciting era, the focus of this conference was specifically designed to achieve this and I believe it was well received".

Jim Farrow, an attendee, said: "I thoroughly enjoyed my first Coaching Conference weekend, the subjects were interesting, informative, professionally run, well presented, and the venue superb. It was very pleasing to hear that funding was secured to enable the ETTA to recruit our best former players (Andrew Rushton, Natalie Bawden, etc) to enable a high level of coaching across the country, it seems very fitting as the ETTA would have put a tremendous amount of time/cost into these players in the past and we can now benefit from their experience and knowledge."

It is hoped that the ETTA will be able to secure funding to ensure that the national coaching conference will be back on the agenda next year. There is even a possibility of rolling this out on a regional basis to provide greater opportunity for every coach to attend. Watch this space.

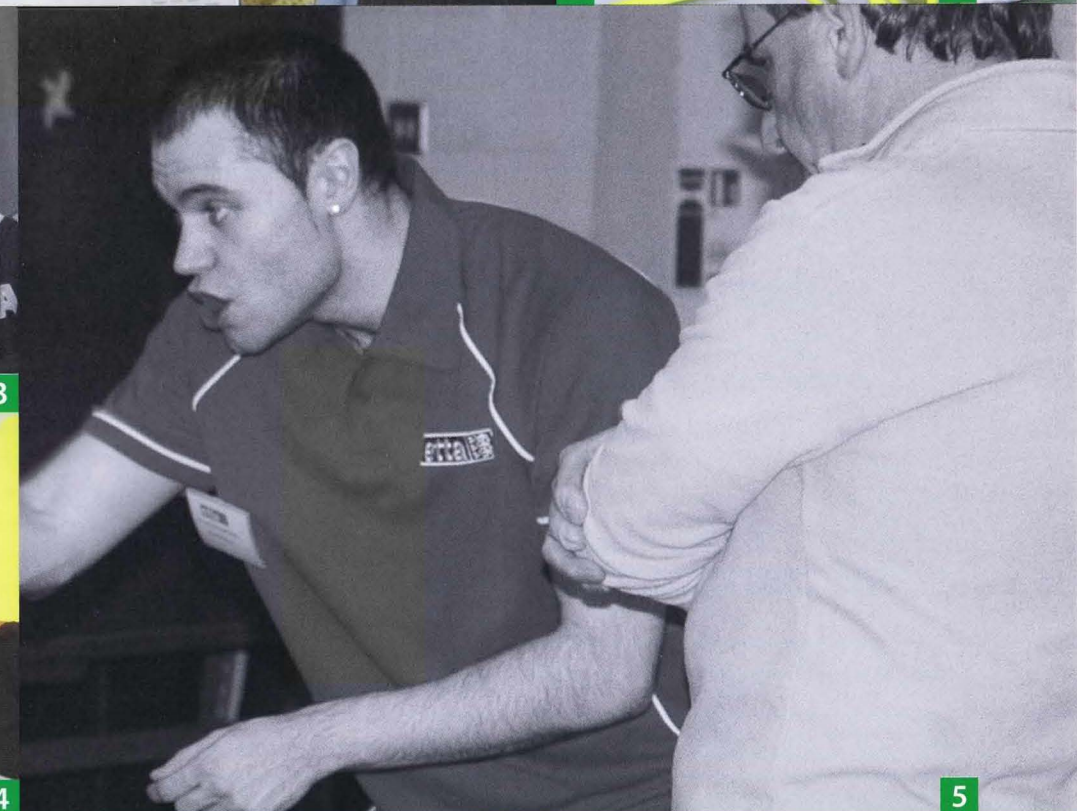
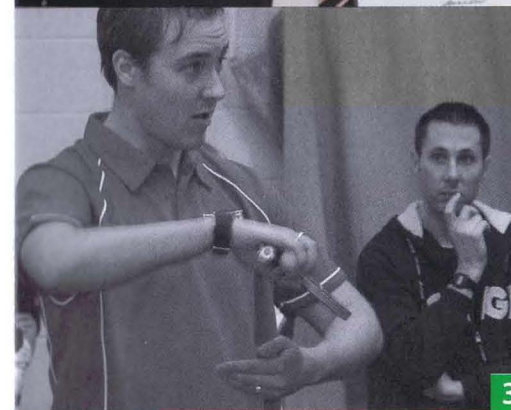
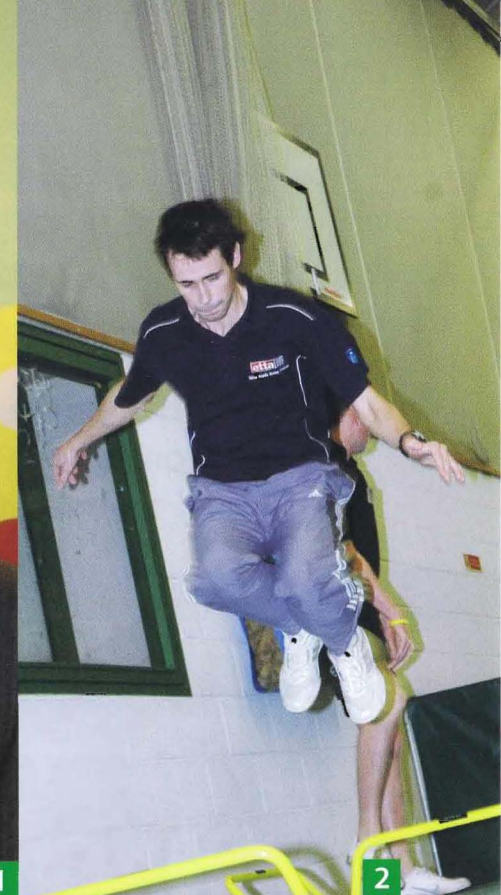
1: Press Officer of the year **Graham Trimming** with Vice Chairman of Public Relations **Jim Beckley**

2: **Neil Raine** performing a fitness demonstration

3: **Alex Green** demonstrating skills work

4: **Eric Todd** from PremierClub Mark Level winners BATTs and Vice Chairman of Development **Eileen Shaler**

5: **Andrew Rushton** performing some coaching demonstrations



Awards Dinner



The National Volunteer and Club awards dinner was bustling with the great and the good of table tennis and boasting a host of exceptional

achievements. Diccon Gray, National Development Manager, switched roles for an evening and became Master of Ceremonies, and with each award being presented by a member of the management committee the evening was set. The PremierClub of the Year awards aim to recognise and reward good practice in club development across a broad range of areas such as growth of membership, volunteers and club playing

programme. This year's winners were:
PremierClub Mark Level Winner: BATTs Harlow, Essex.
 Runner-up: Crawley Community TTC
Participation Level
 Winner: Woolwell TTC, Plymouth, Devon.
 Runner-up: St Neots TTC
Advanced Level
 Winner: Fastbats TTC, Bradford.
 Runner-up: Blackpool TTC
Excellence Level

Winner: Ormesby TTC, Cleveland.
 Runner-up: London Progress TTC
 Third place: Halton TTC
 The sport of table tennis is very much a community based affair, whether that be at a local, regional, or national basis, and is heavily reliant on volunteers. There are an estimated 14,000 volunteers within English Table Tennis, which if costed at £10 per hour, would amount to more than 10 million pounds of investment. To

recognise, celebrate and reward the efforts and achievements of these volunteers the ETTAs present yearly awards. This year's award winners were:
Female Coach of the Year
 Winner: Sue Hayes
 Club: Crippenham TTC
Community Coach of the Year
 Winner: Maggie Edwards
 Club: Northampton Junior TTC
Young Coach of the Year

Winner: Stephanie Mitchell
 Club: Crippenham TTC
Contribution to Coaching
 Winner: Alan Dines
 Club: Reading & District TT Association & Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club
Equality Award Winner: Shaun Newcomb. Club: Waterside TTC, Southampton
Table Tennis Development Officer of the Year Winner: Colin French.

Club: Waterside TTC
PremierClub Volunteer of the Year
 Winner: Brenda Stephenson
 Club: Ormesby TTC
Young Volunteer of the Year
 Winner: Sarah Holden
 Club: Waingroves Methodist Church TTC
Volunteer Co-ordinator of the Year
 Winner: Aubrey Hughes
 Club: Kidlington TTC
Press Officer of the Year
 Winner: Graham Trimming

Club: Crippenham TTC
Male Coach of the Year
 Winner: Melvyn Buxton
 Club: Colin Deaton Memorial TTC
 More detailed coverage of the awards along with video footage was in the November e-zine (online magazine), to view this and to sign up for future e-zines visit the website www.etta.co.uk and click on the e-zine link.

Bristol Open Butterfly Grand Prix

Hampshire junior players Hannah Hicks and Matt Ware stole the show on day one of the Tees Sport sponsored Bristol Open Butterfly Grand Prix, held at the Bristol UWE Frenchay Campus sports complex.



Matt and Hannah (winners of band one respectively)

RESULTS AND PLACINGS

Men's Open: Ryan Jenkins (WAL) bt. Matt Ware (Ha) 11-5, 11-2, 11-7. **Women's Open:** Egle Adomelyte (Mi) bt. Hannah Hicks (Ha) 11-3, 11-2, 11-9. **Under 21 Men's** Damien Nicholls (Sp) bt. Matt Ware (Ha) 11-8, 11-2, 9-11, 11-13, 11-9. **Under 21 Women's:** Hannah Hicks (Ha) bt. Sally Smith (Dv) 11-9, 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 13-11. **Mixed Veterans** Abdul Wuraola (Sy) bt. Michael Levene (USA) 11-7, 11-4, 9-11, 11-8. **Mixed Restricted:** Dave Reeves (Av) bt. Dan Kolesnik (Gs) 9-11, 11-9, 11-3, 6-11, 12-10. **Men's Band 1** Matt Ware (Ha) bt. Adam Proszko (Ha) 12-10, 11-7, 11-7. **Women's Band 1** Hannah Hicks (Ha) bt. Sanja Clements (Do) 3-11, 11-9, 12-10, 5-11, 11-5. **Men's Band 2:** Richard Andrews (Bk) bt. Chris Lewis (Sy) 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 11-13, 11-6. **Women's Band 2:** Rachel Pilgrim (Wa) bt. Jas Ould (K) 11-4, 11-9, 11-5. **Men's Band 3** Dave Reeves (Av) bt. Adam Ratajczak (Av) 11-6, 7-11, 11-6, 11-7. **Women's Band 3:** Sally Hoang (Mi) bt. Tressa Armitage (Ha) 7-11, 13-11, 11-7, 11-8. **Men's Band 4:** Will Bayley (K) bt. Ben Larcombe (Sy) 11-5, 8-11, 11-6, 12-14, 11-6. **Men's Band 5:** Cory O'Rourke (IRL) bt. Chris Edwards (Av) 11-8, 11-5, 5-11, 11-6. **Men's Band 6:** Nathan Bingham (Do) bt. Paul Karabardak (WAL) 11-5, 8-11, 11-6, 4-11, 11-9.

The Women's seedings were spot on with Hicks at number one, being taken the full distance in an exciting Ladies Band One final against second seed Sanja Clements from Dorset, with Hicks running out an 11-5 last set winner to take the winner's cheque. Matt Ware completed the Hampshire double act with a straight sets victory against Adam Proszko in the final of the Men's Band One competition.

However, it was far from easy for Ware at the quarter-final stage after a classic match with Chris Doran, which was worthy of any final. Ware went two sets to love up then Doran levelled at two all. The last set had all the excitement and drama with some fantastic rallies with Doran soaking up all that Ware could throw at him. Doran got his head in front 7-4, then Ware fought back to be 10-9 down, and after a long rally it went 10-10. The Hampshire player rode his luck with two net cord touches in his favour to close out the match. Alim Hirji then gave Ware another tough task, going one set up in their semi-final, and then Ware came back strongly to win the next three sets, putting him into the final with Proszko.

Richard Andrews had a great day in taking the Men's Band Two trophy with a pulsating five set final win over Chris Lewis.

The Women's Band Two title went to Rachel Pilgrim gaining a straight sets win over Jas Ould in the final.

Top seeded Dave Reeves from Avon was victorious in the Men's Band Three event. Dave got the better of Adam Ratajczak in a four set final.

Adam, unseeded in this event, had to play exceptionally well to get past Mark O'Flynn, Nick Brown and then a colossal semi-final victory against Beijing Paralympian Will Bayley in five close sets, to reach the final with Reeves.

Earlier in the day Will Bayley was crowned Men's Band Four winner, following a typical gritty tournament performance, overcoming

the determined challenge of Ben Larcombe in a five set final belter.

Ryan Jenkins and Egle Adomelyte were in a class of their own in winning the Men's and Women's titles respectively, on day two.

Jenkins, the "Welsh Rocket" and top seed for the Men's event, was superb and in sparkling form, showing his true class and just had too much gunpowder in blowing away his last opponent, Matt Ware, in a very one-sided final.

Ryan Jenkins showed some touches of brilliance and skill in the final with Ware.

There was one point in particular with Ware taking the initiative from the Jenkins' serve, and in a prolonged back from the table rally, Ware came into take an early ball off the bounce. Looking all over, that the point was won, somehow, miraculously Jenkins ripped a backhand winner down the line, taking it from two feet from the floor, leaving Ware stranded, and to the packed audience's amazement. Ryan ran out a comfortable three sets to love winner to take the £300 winner's cheque.

Egle Adomelyte won the Women's Open, and she was simply in a class of her own. Her final opponent, Hannah Hicks, was brushed aside three sets to love.

Egle, like Jenkins in the Men's equivalent, dropped only one set on her route to collecting the £175 winner's cheque, and that was to Sanja Clements in the semi-final.

The Under 21 Men's event was full of top drawer table tennis, with anyone of half a dozen players looking likely to take away the trophy.

Damien Nicholls is becoming the "Master" in these events and it was looking once again that he was the man to beat. He soon made his way to the final, but was made to fight all the way.

Both semi-final matches were played on adjacent tables proving to be great spectacles to watch, and there is very little to choose between any of the four of them. The

Damien Nicholls and Chris Doran match went right to the wire, with Damien just edging it in the fifth end. Likewise with Matt Ware and Paul McCreery, very little separated these two young men, and it was Ware who shaded it in the fifth end. This set up yet another clash with Nicholls and Ware and they seem to be making a habit of it. This time Damien gained his revenge on Matt coming through the stronger in the final leg to lift the trophy. The under 21 Women's event was again a very close contest with Hannah Hicks and Sally Smith making it through to the final. The final was a long and very tight affair with both young ladies fighting tooth and nail for the title. The contrasting styles of Hicks with her mainly defensive play, against the unique style of Smith with her aggressive punchy backhands and hard hitting forehands was a tactical affair, with enjoyable drawn out rallies. The last set was incredible with neither player giving any quarter, and in the last nerve tingling few points, Hicks came through to just nick it 13-11, and take the glass trophy. The Tees Sport Player of the Weekend award and a £50 voucher was presented to Jas Ould, for her fantastic performances throughout the two day event.

By Geoff Ware



Egle Adomelyte (winner of women's open)



Jas Ould (winner of player of the tournament)



ENGLAND PAIR SHINE IN STOCKTON

With Lewis Gray and Lucy Davidson winning the singles events, English players dominated the cadet events in the Stockton on Tees Junior 4 Star Championships sponsored by Tees Active at Thornaby Pavilion on Saturday, 14th November.

In the final after losing the first game 11-7 to Ping Ho of Middlesex, Lewis Gray ran out a comfortable champion taking the next three games 11-3, 11-7, 11-5. Gray had a closer fight in the semis when he won three of four close games against Nottingham's Sam Walker. Gray and Zilesnick won more honours in the Cadet team event, beating the Redland Bats pair, Walker and Ho, 3-0 in the final. Lucy Davidson won a five game final against her England team colleague, Yolanda King, to take the Cadet girls' singles title. Tin-Tin Ho of Middlesex threatened to spoil the England party when she led King by two games to one, only for the Sussex player to take a grip on the match and win the last two games by tight margins.

King and Davidson completed the England title haul by winning the Cadet girl's team event by beating the Welsh pair, Megan and Angharad Phillips, 3-0.

The Junior team events played through to the final, the English girls' pair were defeated by Bournemouth's Hannah Hicks and Melissa Wright by three sets to two. Hicks was the star of the match beating both Karina Le Fevre and Martha Travis, whilst Wright clinched the victory by beating Travis 3-1 when the score was poised at 2-2.

The boys' team event was more predictable as England and Kingfisher, the two top seeds, reached the finals. William Maybanks and Daniel Lowe for England defeated the Welsh pair, Patrick Thomas and Daniel O'Connell, by 3-0 in the semi-final, whilst Kingfisher's Mathew Ware and Richard Andrews beat the Ulster team, also 3-0.

Kingfisher's Richard Andrews shocked the five nation entry on day two by winning both the Boys' Singles and Boys' Team event titles.

Andrews, ranked only 13th in the English list and sixth seed in the Boys' Singles event, was given a helping hand by the Middlesex cadet, Ping Ho, who ousted the top seed, Hertfordshire's William Maybanks. In the final Andrews defeated the third seed, Sean Cullen of Derbyshire, in three straight deuce games.

Andrews won his second title, the Junior Boys' team event, when he combined with Mathew Ware to represent Kingfisher. In the final Kingfisher beat the England team consisting of Maybanks and Lowe by 3-1.

The Girls' Singles was won by the top seed, Emily Bates of Lincolnshire, who avenged her defeat in the team event against Melissa Wright from South Yorkshire, to take the final in convincing fashion by 3-1. Earlier in the day, Mary Fuller starred in the Girls' Team final to score a hat trick of wins to help her team, Grantham Tornadoes beat Bournemouth 3-2 in a mammoth team final.

By Alan Ransome

STOCKTON ON TEES JUNIOR 4 STAR CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

Cadet Boys' Singles: Lewis Gray (ENG) bt. Ping Ho (Mi) 7-11, 11-3, 11-7, 11-5
Cadet Girls' Singles: Lucy Davidson (ENG) bt. Yolanda King (ENG) 11-2, 4-11, 7-11, 11-6, 11-6. **Cadet Boys' Team:** England bt. Redland Bats 3-0. **Cadet Girls' Team:** England bt. Wales 3-0. **Mini Cadet Boys:** Helshan Weerasinghe (Sx) bt. Jared Patel (E) 11-8, 7-11, 11-9, 4-11, 11-9. **Mini Cadet Girls:** Charlotte Carey (WAL) bt. Ify Okafar (E) 11-6, 11-8, 6-11, 11-13. 14-12. **Junior Boys' Singles:** Richard Andrews (Bk) bt. Sean Cullen (Dy) 12-10, 13-11, 13-11
Junior Girls' Singles: Emily Bates (Li) bt. Melissa Wright (Y) 11-7, 9-11, 11-4, 11-2
Junior Boys' Team: Kingfisher bt. England 3-1. **Junior Girls' Team:** Grantham bt. Bournemouth 3-2. **Grade 1 Boys' Singles:** Sean Doherty (SCO) bt. Anthony Barella (Du) 11-8, 11-7, 11-8. **Grade 1 Girls' Singles:** Abbie Milwain (Dy) bt. Laue Robinson (Y) 11-3, 9-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-7

CIPPENHAM SERIES PLACINGS

Men's Singles: Winner - Abdul Wuraola (Sy) Runner-Up - Neil Wright (WAL)
Women's Singles: Winner - Jurate Brazaityte (K) Runner-Up - Catherine Chen (Sy)
Veteran Men's Single: Winner - Abdul Wuraola (Sy) Runner-Up - John Payne (E)
Veteran Women's Singles: Winner - Sue Hayes (Bu) Runner-Up - Flavia Wade (Mi)
Men's Consolation: Winner - Matthew Carter (Np) Runner-Up - Oli Shaw (Bu)
Women's Consolation: Winner - Julie Furber (WAL) Runner-Up - Claire Rogers (He)
Veteran Men's Consolation: Winner - Ray Hughes (Wi). Runner-Up - Nigel Hodder (Sk)

CRAMLINGTON JUNIOR 2 STAR RESULTS & PLACINGS

Junior Boys Final: Paul Smith bt. Marc Besford 11-8, 8-11, 11-13, 11-9, 13-11
Semis: Marc Besford (Billingham) bt. Ryan Richardson (Newcastle) 11-9, 11-6, 11-6 Paul Smith (Middlesbrough) bt. John Bousfield (Stockton) 11-1, 11-3, 11-8.
Junior Girls Group Winner: Danielle Horsley (Billingham) **Runner-up:** Sarah Robinson (Darlington) **Cadet Boys Final:** John Bousfield bt. Ryan Richardson 12-14, 11-8, 11-7, 10-12, 11-9 **Semis:** John Bousfield bt. Joel Pierre (Billingham) 11-6, 11-6, 11-9. Ryan Richardson bt. Paul Smith 2-11, 11-4, 12-10, 5-11, 11-4 **Cadet Girls Final:** Nadine Wright (Dumfries) bt. Eszter Soos (Sunderland) 11-6, 5-11, 10-12, 11-2, 11-6 **U13 Boys Final:** Paul Smith beat John Bousfield 11-7, 11-4, 8-11, 11-4 **U13 Girls Group Winner:** Rebecca Richardson (Thornaby) **Runner-up:** Nicole Wright (Dumfries) **U11 Boys Group Winner:** James Finlay (Billingham) **Runner up:** Adam Barlow (Billingham) **U11 Girls Group Winner:** Richardson. **Runner-up:** Sarah Hoskin (Stockton). **Junior Boys Consolation:** Phillip Chadwick (Billingham) bt. Jonathan Walker (Billingham) 11-7, 11-5, 11-6 **Cadet Boys Consolation:** James McCabe (Morpeth) bt. Rahul Vadehra (Newcastle) 11-5, 11-9, 11-9

TEAM 2-STAR OPEN TEAM PLACINGS

1st: Ware's the Butler? Players: Matt Ware (Ha) & Mark Butler (Do)
2nd: Abdul Sports & Table Tennis Ltd Players: Abdul Wuraola (Sy) & Ashley Stokes (Mi)
3rd: Fellows Cranleigh. Players: Emran Hussain (E) & Zayd Mauthoor (E)
4th: Blaenafon Aces Players: Patrick Thomas (WAL) & Lewis Williams (WAL)



Abdul Wuraola (Sy) & Ashley Stokes (Mi)

CippenhamTTC

Reports from the Cippenham Series Tournament, Cramlington Junior 2 Star and 2-Star Open Championship

DOUBLE FOR WURAOLA AND HOME SUCCESS FOR HAYES BY GRAHAM TRIMMING

Abdul Wuraola had two reasons to be very happy with his weekend's accomplishments at Cippenham Table Tennis Centre: the Surrey veteran won both his events at the second Cippenham Series tournament and did it in fine style. The Cippenham Series is a season-long series of six events with prize money at the end for those players that accumulate the most points. This weekend saw the second senior event and the first veterans' event. On Saturday, Wuraola was second seed behind the winner

of the first Cippenham Series senior event Neil Charles. But Charles fell victim to the Essex teenager Yasa Mauthoor in the quarter-final. Mauthoor, himself, became a casualty in the semi, falling to Neil Wright from Wales 11-7 in the fifth and deciding game. This was Wright's second five-gamer as he had also been taken the distance in the quarters by another Welsh player, the up and coming junior Lewis Williams. Meanwhile Wuraola was moving through the bottom half of the draw a little easier although both Zoltan Hosszu and Umair Mauthoor took games off him. In the final, Wuraola showed his

class by defeating Wright fairly comfortably 3-0. Jurate Brazaityte from the Byng Hall club in Kent cemented her position at the top of the points table in the Women's Singles on Saturday. Brazaityte won Series 1 in August and followed this up on Saturday to take a commanding lead at the top of the table. She prevailed after a gigantic battle with Catherine Chen in the final. Chen does not even appear in the latest England ranking list and was therefore unseeded. The final was actually the second time in the day that these two players had met but on the first occasion it was Chen who shocked the

series leader with a 3-0 win in the preliminary round group. There was a surprise in store in one of the other groups as well. Welsh girl Claire Ford, on the ETTA listing but with zero points, shocked second seed Sarah Hudson 12-10 in the fifth. Neither seeded player thus won her group, but both progressed in second place into the championship event. It was group 3 that produced the tightest finish with a three-way tie that saw Samantha Meredith and Sue Hayes qualify and Julie Furber relegated to the consolation event that she won. Chen then beat Hudson in five and Brazaitye got the better of Ford in four in the semi-finals and that set up the second meeting of Brazaitye and Chen on the day.

From a local perspective, best performances in the men's event came from Ashley Shaw and Tony Stead who both progressed from their groups and reached the last sixteen, while Ashley's brother Oli Shaw, after a good win over Paul Beck, was runner-up in the Men's Consolation won by Matthew Carter.

On Sunday it was the turn of the veterans and once again it was the Abdul Wuraola show. No surprise here because he is ranked number one in England in this age group. However, Reading's Hari Gehlot made him work very hard in the semi-final and led two games to one at one stage. Wuraola survived this scare and was a worthy 3-1 winner over second seed John Payne in the final. The other semi-finalist was Radovan Zivkovic who came through a quarter vacated by third seed Gehlot, a preliminary group round loser to the in-form Winston Wong, probably the result of the tournament. Wong then was beaten by Dave Randall in the first knock-out round following which Randall was eliminated by Zivkovic. Of the other fancied players, Steve Davis went out in the

quarters to Wuraola, Fred Dove at the same stage to Gehlot after having led 2-1, and Lee Middleton tamely to Payne. The Veterans Women's Singles brought home cheer with a win for Cippenham's Deputy Chairman Sue Hayes. Played as a round robin, Hayes was never extended by the small field.

CRAMLINGTON JUNIOR 2 STAR BY AUBREY DRAPKIN

The first ever Cramlington Junior 2 Star tournament which was sponsored by aalco, the UK's leading metal stockholder, produced one of the best finals seen in the region for some time, when Marc Besford of Billingham met Paul Smith of Middlesbrough in the final. Smith won the first game, but Besford hit back to take the next two. Smith then narrowly won the fourth to level matters again and took a commanding lead in the deciding game, only to see Besford hit back again before the Middlesbrough boy won 13-11. The cadet boys also produced an exciting final with John Bousfield of Stockton just getting the better of Newcastle's Ryan Richardson who had put out Smith in the semi-finals. The junior girls was played on a group basis which saw three girls each win five out of six matches. This meant that the group had to be decided on the results of the matches between the three of them but that still left them level at one match and four games each. The ratio of points won to points lost eventually saw Danielle Horsley of Billingham (76-72) declared the winner with Darlington's Sarah Robinson (77-77) runner-up. Scotland's Nadine Wright (72-76) just missed out finishing in third place.

Smith also took the U13 boys' title with victory in the final over Bousfield.

The U11 boys' group was won by James Finlay from Billingham with the runner-up being Adam Barlow, also from Billingham.

The cadet girls' title went north of the border when Nadine Wright of Dumfries beat Sunderland's Eszter Soos in the final.

The girls U11 and U13 groups were both won by Rebecca Richardson of Thornaby.

WARE'S THE BUTLER? HE'S ON THE PODIUM! BY GRAHAM TRIMMING

Matt Ware, the current England number 11 ranked player teamed up with Mark Butler to justify their seeding and win the third annual Cippenham Team 2-Star Open Championship on Sunday. In fact, they won through six matches winning 2-0 all the way, although Butler, a member of Cippenham's first team in the British League, did have to pull out all the stops on a couple of occasions, being taken to five ends by both Chris Knight and Dave Langham. Ware, on the other hand, was extended to five ends only in the pulsating opening match of the final against the England number one veteran Abdul Wuraola. Imaginatively entitled "Ware's the Butler?", the top seeded team of Ware and Butler won that final against Abdul Sports & Table Tennis Ltd 2-0, with Butler finishing the job with a fantastic 3-0 win over Ashley Stokes, a player ranked 50 places higher in the country. The Cippenham Team Open is different to any other tournament in the country. Instead of contestants playing as individuals and going home

when knocked-out, in the Team Open they progress as a pair. Play throughout the day is governed by a progressive knock-out format that provides a full day's play for each player, with each team ultimately gaining a final ranking position in the field of 24 teams.

The best match of the day was in the semi-final round. Abdul Sports were up against fourth seeds Fellows Cranleigh and the East London team scared the second seeds all the way despite eventually losing 2-0. They led 2-0 in both matches and it took two tremendous comebacks for Abdul Sports to progress. The noisy Wuraola eventually defeated plucky Emran Hussain 8-11, 9-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-9 and then Stokes got the better, just, of Zayd Mauthoor 9-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-4, 11-8. Stirring stuff! In the other semi-final Ware and Butler successfully fought off the challenge from Blaenafon Aces with two wins both 3-1. Ware beat Patrick Thomas and Butler beat Lewis Williams to end the run of the impressive Welsh youngsters who had been seeded only eighth.

The best local performance came from The Shawmeisters, featuring brothers Ashley and Oliver Shaw. They took full advantage of the absence of third seeds Frenford Club to get into the top eight.

The tournament was organized and refereed by Graham Trimming and attracted a maximum entry of 24 teams.



Kent are in a healthy position after the first round of matches in this season's veterans county championships premier division, with three wins from three matches, and they did it without the services of Joe Kennedy.

The south east county began their three matches played at Ashford TTC with a Saturday morning clash against Middlesex, with a squad of Chris Bartram, Phil Cox, Mark Romano and Jackie Williams, and by the time the men's doubles came around at the seventh set, the match had already been sewn up as Kent had raced into a 6-1 lead.

The remaining sets saw Middlesex give an element of respectability to the scoreline but could not stop Kent recording an impressive 7-3 victory which was continued in the afternoon as newcomers Wiltshire were walloped 9-1. This day had proved a real baptism of fire for Wiltshire as they had already been soundly beaten 8-2 by reigning champions Yorkshire.

The other newcomers Cheshire, making a welcome return to the top flight, had enjoyed a splendid first day by firstly holding 2006/7 champions Leicestershire to a thrilling draw on Saturday morning but went one better in the afternoon as they beat reigning champions Yorkshire 6-4, which saw a last set mixed doubles victory by Mark Evans and Sue Collier over Richard Lightowler and Janet Adams 9-11, 11-7, 11-9, 6-11, 11-4.

Sunday morning saw Mark Brown, Diccon Gray and Di Pearce join Romano in the Kent ranks, and after a super match with Sussex it was Kent who just edged a fine victory by the narrowest of margins as Brown and Pearce took a deciding set mixed doubles victory over Ritchie Venner and Sheila King 14-12, 12-10, 7-11, 11-3 to secure a 6-4 win and a perfect start from their three matches.

Kent take lead in Veterans Premier without the services of Kennedy

Cheshire moved to within a point of Kent as they too walloped Wiltshire 9-1 as Kent had done the day before to complete a miserable weekend for the West Country newcomers.

With the exception of Wiltshire the remaining five counties still have all to play for when they all meet again at Halifax later in the season. It was a mixed weekend for reigning champions Yorkshire who had all possible results in their three matches, as after their win over Wiltshire and loss to Cheshire, they allowed a 5-2 lead over Surrey to slip away as the match ended in a draw.

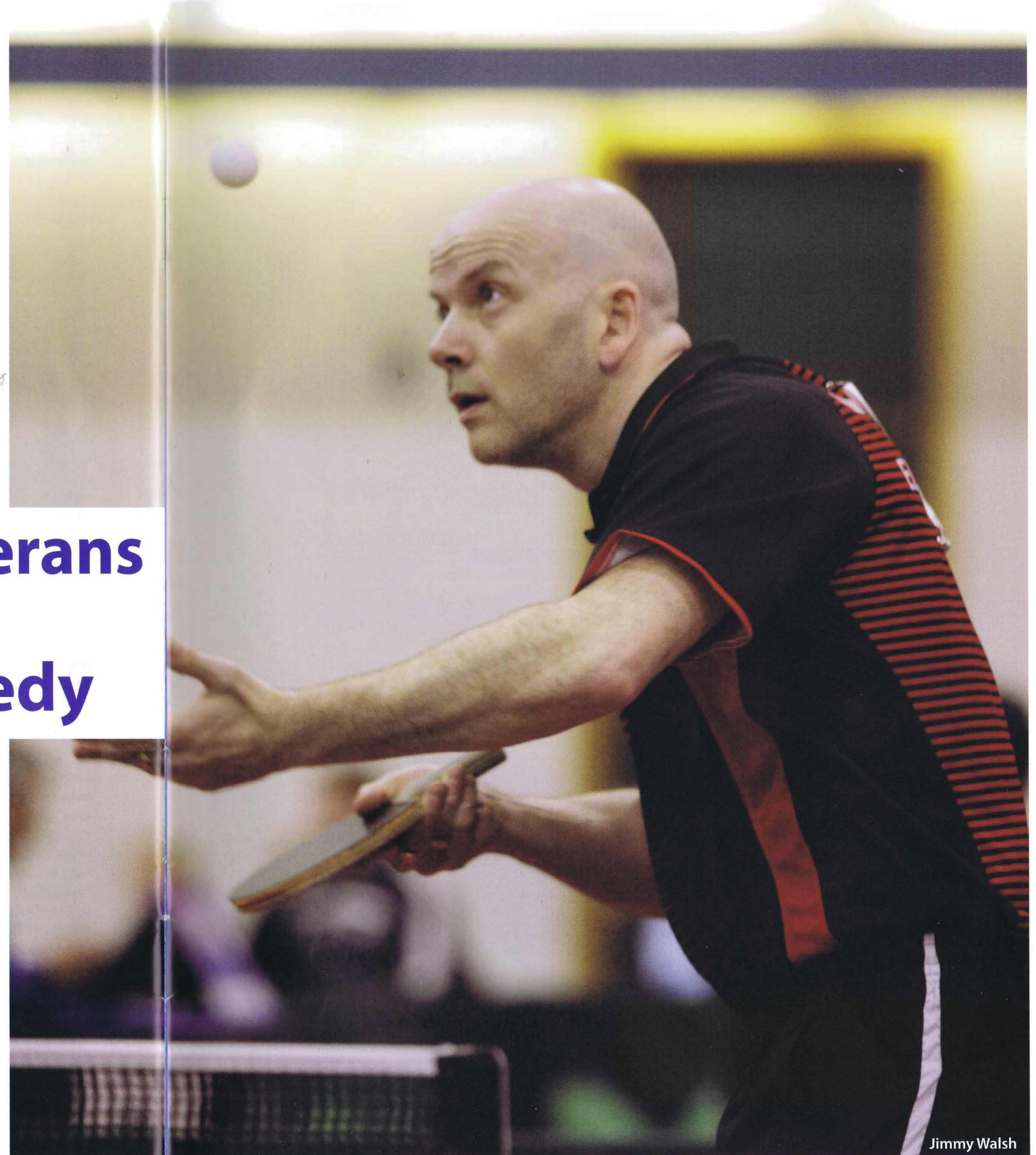
Runners-up last year and former champions Leicestershire were surprisingly off the pace and only managed to draw two matches out of the three they played, losing to Middlesex on Sunday morning 6-4 with top player Chris Rogers losing both his singles; firstly Jimmy Walsh beat him 9-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9, 9-11, and then he was beaten by Costas Papantoniou 11-9, 10-12, 7-11, 9-11.

Surrey will also be pleased with their weekend's work as they drew all their matches with three impressive performances against Leicestershire, Sussex and Yorkshire.

Jim Perry refereed the weekend with a good team of umpires, and all counties enjoyed their time at Ashford. The destination of this season's premier division will be revealed at Halifax on 28th February and 1st March when all counties meet up again.



Sunday morning saw Mark Brown, Diccon Gray and Di Pearce join Romano in the Kent ranks, and after a super match with Sussex it was Kent who just edged a fine victory



Jimmy Walsh

County Notes

Devon by John Smith

The county junior premier first weekend saw Devon's team of Richard Marshall, Chris Smith, Mike Griffiths, Vicky Smith and Amy Whiting, all from the Woolwell Club in Plymouth, sitting proudly joint top after three good wins. Pride of place goes to Chris Smith who didn't drop a single game the whole weekend.

The Woolwell Club's ambitious £1,000 Super Series, sponsored by Viridor Waste Management and Thornton's Sport & Leisure, got off to an explosive start with two days at Eggbuckland Community College in Plymouth.

Saturday's band 1 event saw top seeds and local junior rivals Richard Marshall and Chris Smith cruise into the final, where Marshall had the edge in a close encounter, taking it and the £50 first prize by four games to two. Freddie Cutler took third place (from Exeter veteran Colin Snow) but not before squeezing out Sanja Quamina in a thrilling quarter-final.

Sunday's event ended with the same result, but not without numerous twists and turns. This time Quamina edged out Cutler to take a semi-final spot, but Mike and Elaine Short, not present the previous day, added some spice to the event. First Elaine gave Chris Smith a surprisingly stiff test at the group stage and she repeated the dose to husband Mike in the quarter-final, losing both narrowly in the final game.

The semi-final between her two conquerors was an epic. Short, giving over 40 years but no quarter to his young opponent, took the first game, conceded the next two, but drew level again. A five game match would have gone Smith's way 12-10 but again Short levelled, only to finally concede 9-11 in the seventh. The match seemed to have taken its toll as Marshall shot to a speedy three game lead in the final. However, a heroic comeback saw Smith 10-8 up in the sixth and virtually level. Marshall's next service return hit the very corner of the table, the psychological tide had turned, and he closed out the next three points for another victory.

Band 2 was, if anything, even closer fought. On Saturday, Mark Perfect from Exeter, the only contender over 20, proved just too good despite losing to Sam Wilson in his group. He defeated Sam Hurst in the final, with 13 year old Ben Snow pipping Wilson for third place. On Sunday, in

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM ESSEX

There is no stopping H20 Rowhedge D at the top of Division Two as they ended Pegasus A's unbeaten start to their first season in this division. Phil Smith made it 24 consecutive wins assisted by Fred Button as the pair dominated proceedings once again in a fine 8-2 win. Gt Horkesley C continue to punch above their weight in second place, this week they beat Jobserve 7-3 thanks mainly to another maximum by Wuidong Liu although Roger Warren pushed him to five sets, going down 11-9 in the fifth end.

Perfect's absence, both semi-finals went the full distance as Wilson saved five match points to beat Sean Mills and Hurst edged out Amy Whiting. Hurst had to settle for second again as Wilson took the final by three games to one, while the third place match also went the full distance, with Mills victorious this time.

Band 3 went to Alex Persad on Saturday and Oliver Davis on Sunday, while ever improving 10 year old Jordan Bone produced a shock Band 4 victory on Saturday, then repeated the dose for a glorious double the following day.

Essex by Steve Kerns

Prolific Colchester League Press Officer Martyn Green has provided the latest update from the Colchester League. A magnificent effort by Michael Andrews helped H20 Rowhedge B end Gt Horkesley A's unbeaten run to close the gap to just three points at the top of the Colchester & District Table Tennis League Division One. In completing his maximum Andrews downed the previously undefeated Ipswich star Richard Goodhand 11-9, 11-7, 8-11, 8-11, 11-9, as well as Mike Wright and Richard Ingle. He was backed up by Mike Shore, as he won two, including a second defeat for the Ipswich captain. Brentwood former county junior Mark Mulley completed the rout with two wins on his debut to seal an 8-2 victory that leaves the Championship race wide open.

H20 Rowhedge's 'C' team are third, still undefeated winning 6-4 over Rayne. Steve Kerns was at his best winning three for the Braintree Club, including a three set win over ETTA Regional Development Officer John Andrews. St Mary's A resurgence continued as they won 10-0 against Walton C. Greg Green reeled off his third straight maximum with Sue Welham returning to form winning her three along with Gary Young as they move up to fourth.

There is no stopping H20 Rowhedge D at the top of Division Two as they ended Pegasus A's unbeaten start to their first season in this division. Phil Smith made it 24 consecutive wins assisted by Fred Button as the pair dominated proceedings once again in a fine 8-2 win. Gt Horkesley C continue to punch above their weight in second place, this week they beat Jobserve 7-3 thanks mainly to another maximum by Wuidong Liu although Roger Warren pushed him to five sets, going down 11-9 in

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the fifth end.

League Chairman Ron Fosker reports that the Braintree League celebrated their 60th anniversary with a dinner held at the Colne Valley Golf Club on Saturday 1st November 2008. More than 100 guests attended to hear guest speaker Richard Yule, Chief Executive of the English Table Tennis Association, and to mix with current and many past league players. The League had the rare distinction of being able to invite its founder to its 60th anniversary. It was Harry Warde who called the meeting to bring the League into existence in 1948. He became its first General Secretary and went on to spend 16 years as Chairman.

Other former League players present included men's singles champions Maurice Overall (1952), John Leith (1987) and Andrew Wadling (1989-91), and ladies' singles winners Kate Wadling (1989-91), Sarah Davison (1995), Helen Barnett (2003) and Kelly Skeggs (2004-05). Peter Beatham and Harold Bickmore travelled from north Wales and north Yorkshire respectively, and other former players included League President Len Woolmer, Vice-Presidents Dave Atterbury, Fred Button, John Millbank, Peter Morgan and Ced Vigar, plus John Cleasby, Brian How, John Mills, Terry Pleasance, Mike Shorten, Phil Sinclair, Ashley Skeggs, Vicky Stredder, Malcolm Wehmeyer and Sally Wellington.

Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

The Hertfordshire County Junior Ranking Trials were held on September 6th.

Here are the results – up to the first 10 in each category.

JUNIOR BOYS (Under 18) 1: Guy Ben-Aroya 2: Pritesh Kakad 3: Ross MacNiven 4: Bradley Tuttle 5: Luke Walsh 6: Peumal Thilakarathne 7: Glen Verdon 8: Max Tomblin 9: Jack Blackburn 10: Ryan Bembridge

CADET BOYS (Under 15) 1: Ross MacNiven 2: Bradley Tuttle 3: Luke Walsh 4: Peumal Thilakarathne 5: Glen Verdon 6: Jack Blackburn 7: Charlie Baines 8: Tom Baines 9: Anthony Close 10: Ishan Bairoliya

JUNIOR GIRLS (Under 18) 1: Haylee Potts 2: Natasha Walsh 3: Helen Ford 4: Wen Ting Wang 5: Harriet Howat

CADET GIRLS (Under 15) 1: Natasha Walsh 2: Wen Ting Wang 3: Harriet Howat

Two of the veteran teams have had their first matches of the season - 5 and 6. They are in the same division this year. Team 5 played three other counties over one weekend away at Weavers Leisure Centre, Wellinborough. They had out their strongest team of Barry Phillips (captain), David Langham, Alan Lamprell and Mary Nicholls.

They beat all three counties. First Northants 3 7-3, then Oxfordshire 3 6-4, lastly Bedfordshire 2 went down 9-1. Well

County Notes

done to Team 5. Team 6 have played one match. They beat Northants 3-6-3. In the team was Alan Shelford who gave his best performance for the county and won his singles, the men's doubles and a mixed. Others were Ron Wilde, Jim Felstead and Jackie Channell who won her singles and a mixed with Ron.

Northants by Dennis Millman

This year's top 10 events for both boys and girls were sponsored by J&K Transport which will also sponsor Northants county coaching for the next three years. A depleted boys' event went very much to form and after four rounds Jordan Dainty, Jack Coleman and Nathan Thompson remained undefeated, while Sam Wildman had lost only once when beaten in five ends by Rob Griffin. Round five brought the top four together with Dainty getting the better of Thompson in four ends and Coleman a straight game winner against Wildman. Opponents were reversed in round six with Dainty fully extended by Wildman before scraping through 11-9, 11-5, 11-13, 10-12, 11-8. Coleman had no such problem against Thompson emerging a clear 11-1, 11-5, 11-9 winner. The final round featured Dainty against Coleman for the title, while Thompson and Wildman contested third place, a battle won by the latter in four ends. Rothborough's Dainty hit top form in the final and although Coleman could have taken the second game, Dainty stood firm to become the boys' top 10 champion.

Final placings: 1. Jordan Dainty 2. Jack Coleman 3. Sam Wildman 4. Nathan Thompson 5. Rob Griffin 6. Dominic Barker 7. Miles Chan 8. Leon Chan

The girls' event produced some intriguing clashes with no player emerging unscathed, but from the start four girls looked potential winners and they safely negotiated the first two rounds. However, in round three Jordan Wood repeated her County Closed girls' singles win against last season's Ladies Champion Charlotte Binley, while newcomer Gemma Deeley also went down to Rachel Thompson who came from two games down to win in the fifth.

Deeley didn't allow this setback to affect her performance in round five showing her true ability to beat Wood in straight games. Thompson was now the only unbeaten player but this quickly changed as Wood shrugged off her loss to beat Thompson without dropping an end and leaving all four girls level with five wins each.

Round seven came and went with all four girls still in contention. However, if Deeley could beat Binley in round eight and then win her final match she would take the title.

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM SURREY

At the European Championships in St. Petersburg, Russia, Joanna Parker beat World ranked 155 Danish player Mie Skov. In the team event Joanna led the team with eight wins out of ten matches. The England women's team came 21st in Europe. Joanna even reached the last 32 in the women's singles. Darius Knight and the England men's team also came 21st in Europe in the team event.

Binley soon ruled out this possibility winning 11-9, 12-10, 5-11, 11-7 to leave Wood in pole position, level with Binley and Thompson, but having beaten them both in earlier rounds. As anticipated Wood made no mistake in her final encounter to make sure of the title, while Binley beat Thompson in four ends to take second place.

Final placings: 1. Jordan Wood 2. Charlotte Binley 3. Rachel Thompson 4. Gemma Deeley 5. Gina Steadman 6. Rachel Brown 7. Nicole Bird 8. Bethany Tyler 9. Lauren Armstrong 10. Lucy Budworth

Andy Trott, men's county champion on 11 occasions, made his veteran debut for Northants 1sts a spectacular one when he won all eight singles matches, with only one requiring a deciding end. Dave Welsman wasn't far behind with a single defeat, but for once the mixed doubles wasn't Northants' strong point.

The weekend began with a draw against Leicestershire 2nds, but with three of the opposition's wins coming late in fifth ends Northants were a shade unlucky. Trott and Welsman shared five wins between them.

Northumberland proved no match for Northants in match two with their solitary point coming in a men's doubles. Steve Silk and Margaret Welsman remained unbeaten in singles and doubles.

Local rivals Bedfordshire provided tough opposition levelling three times after Trott, Silk and David Welsman had put Northants ahead. Northants finally got a grip on the game to take the remaining four rubbers.

Against Norfolk 2nds, Northants came from behind to win 7-3 and so completed a rewarding weekend.

Surrey by Chris Andrews

At the European Championships in St. Petersburg, Russia, Joanna Parker beat World ranked 155 Danish player Mie Skov. In the team event Joanna led the team with eight wins out of ten matches. The England women's team came 21st in Europe. Joanna even reached the last 32 in the women's singles. Darius Knight and the England men's team also came 21st in Europe in the team event.

Surrey girls were fantastic in Wolverhampton and were given the honour of team of the weekend. The Graham Spicer/York Gardens team came top of Girls Division 3 in the British Junior League with Lucy Lou on 90%, Feifei Pei 80% and Lucy Burks on 70%. Feifei was playing as no.1 player in the team. They finished higher than Morpeth A, Morpeth B and Waterside B. This is a real coup as at one point at least one of the Morpeth girls they played, was once in the England setup. Also Morpeth School is a TTK school and they play table tennis before, during and after

Hastings' Sheila King helped set up the victory over Middlesex with three wins, overcoming Sally Raymond and claiming two mixed doubles successes with Venner and Eckersley.



school. To show how difficult Division 3 was, you have to look at the results of Jasmine Ould in Division 1 who won 83% of her matches and this is from a player who Feifei beat earlier in the season.

Sussex by Graham Carter

Hastings junior star Yolanda King was selected to represent England Cadets (under 15s) at the Stockton 4 Star international tournament on November 15th and 16th. This follows a terrific display by the girl, who was the 2007 English champion at under 13s and under 15s level, for Sussex in the Junior County Championships Premier Division. Representing the first team, she was unbeaten in six matches over the weekend which included victory over England no. 5 Mary Fuller 11-4, 13-11, 6-11, 11-7 to help force a valuable 5-5 draw against Yorkshire.

Brighton's Helshan Weerasinghe also gave a great display to win four out of six for Sussex, playing at the tough no. 1 position.

Worthing newcomer Da Shua Zhang made an impressive debut, winning three matches as did Worthing's Sally Hughes as Sussex trounced South Yorkshire 10-0 but lost 4-6 to Devon.

Coach Terry Dean said: "After three matches we are in fourth place and have some strong teams behind us and probably need to beat Lincolnshire in the second session to stay up. Yolanda was superb over the weekend to remain undefeated. It was a very difficult weekend for us and we still have some more really tough games to play, but the team spirit was good and we did our best. Da Shua Zhang, known locally as Dash, was a most welcome addition to the side."

The Hastings League celebrated 80 years of organised table tennis in the town with a festival and exhibition match. Novices, former players and current players took part and received free coaching on Saturday 8th November at Summerfields Leisure Centre in Hastings. This was followed by a thrilling and fun exhibition match staged by Table Toppers, whose line-up included former European men's singles champion John Hilton and Brian Kean, the former Scottish champion. Sussex champion Ritchie Venner was also displaying his skills.

Sussex veterans are joint third in the County Championships Premier Division after a session of matches in Ashford, Middlesex.

England no. 2 Ritchie Venner (Hastings) was unbeaten in singles matches with six wins out of six, and Uckfield star Nigel Eckersley clinched five wins out of six as Sussex beat Middlesex 7-3, drew 5-5 with Surrey and lost 6-4 to the only

unbeaten county, Kent.

Venner's 100% record over the weekend comprised wins against Surrey aces Dave Harding and Ian Girdler, Middlesex pair Jimmy Walsh and Costas Papantoniou, and Kent's Mark Romano and Mark Brown.

Hastings' Sheila King helped set up the victory over Middlesex with three wins, overcoming Sally Raymond and claiming two mixed doubles successes with Venner and Eckersley.

Sussex County Table Tennis chairman Diane Kirkwood resigned from the job at a special general meeting in Patcham, Brighton. Peacehaven's Brian Pettitt, the vice-chairman, will stand-in as acting chairman for the rest of the season.

Yorkshire by Barry Snowden

Gee double winner at Trials: Hull's promising youngster Daryl Gee was a double winner at the Yorkshire Trials recently held at Scarborough Table Tennis Centre over the first two days of November, when he won the under 13 and under 15 boys' events.

Saturday saw the under 11 and cadet events for both boys and girls with both the under 11 events and the cadet girls being played on a round robin basis; this saw Sam Drake from Halifax and Sarah Johnson from Bradford taking the respective under 11 events and Nicole Finn of Leeds victorious in the cadet girls.

Under 11 Boys 1. Sam Drake (Halifax) 2. Ryan Lo (Hull) 3. Ethan Lowe (Scarborough) 4. Dominic Anderson (Bradford)

Under 11 Girls 1. Sarah Johnson (Bradford) 2. Imogen Barber (Hull) 3. Natasha Wrightson (Scarborough) 4. Chloe Wrightson (Scarborough)

Under 15 Girls 1. Nicole Finn (Leeds) 2. Jennifer Wood (Scarborough) 3. Katie Lee (Scarborough)

In the cadet boys play was in four groups of seven players, with the top two in each group qualifying for the A final, and it was Gee who took the honours with an unbeaten performance of seven wins, although he was taken mighty close by runner-up Liam Chipman of Keighley who Gee beat 8-11 11-7 7-11 14-12 12-10, although Chipman was himself beaten by third placed player Adam Tompkins of Hull as Gee took the event by two clear sets.

Under 15 Boys 1. Daryl Gee (Hull) 2. Liam Chipman (Keighley) 3. Adam Tompkins (Hull) 4. James Mayne (Ryedale)

Sunday saw the under 13 and under 18 events and once again both girls' events were run on a round robin basis, but the boys' events were full to capacity.

As expected reigning Yorkshire Junior Champion and

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM SUSSEX

The Hastings League celebrated 80 years of organised table tennis in the town with a festival and exhibition match. Novices, former players and current players took part and received free coaching on Saturday 8th November at Summerfields Leisure Centre in Hastings. This was followed by a thrilling and fun exhibition match staged by Table Toppers, whose line-up included former European men's singles champion John Hilton and Brian Kean, the former Scottish champion. Sussex champion Ritchie Venner was also displaying his skills.

winner of last year's junior girls' event Rebecca George of Scarborough comfortably took the event with four straight game successes, including an 11-2 11-3 11-3 demolition of cadet winner Nicole Finn, although Nicole bounced back well to win her next three sets to finish second. The under 13 girls' event was won by Ellen Auty of Leeds.

Junior Girls 1. Rebecca George (Scarborough) 2. Nicole Finn (Leeds) 3. Alex Lee (Scarborough) 4. Jessica West (Scarborough)

Under 13 Girls 1. Ellen Auty (Leeds) 2. Rhianna Wood (Scarborough) 3. Georgia Rose (Halifax) 4. Imogen Barber (Hull)

The under 13 boys was a Hull and Scarborough affair with Hull players finishing first and fourth with the home club filling second and third.

As expected, with the confidence of winning the previous day's cadets' event, Gee eased to the under 13 title without dropping a game, leaving Scarborough players Macauley Youngson and Keegan Barstow fighting it out for second and third and it was Youngson who prevailed when the two clashed in the final set of the A final. Hull completed the top four as Jacob Barber picked up fourth spot.

Under 13 Boys 1. Daryl Gee (Hull) 2. Macauley Youngson (Scarborough) 3. Keegan Barstow (Scarborough) 4. Jacob Barber (Hull)

The under 18 boys was a triumph for Daniel Adams of Leeds who, although he lost to Halifax player James Mason in his first match of the day, took the A final with a final set victory over favourite and top seed Reece Lo of Hull. Despite Adam's earlier loss to Mason it was his only loss of the day, and he took the event by virtue of his head to head victory over Lo. The third and fourth places went to Josh Thompson of Hull and Halifax player Mason who both ended the day on four wins each in the A final, but Thompson got the nod on his victory over Mason.

Under 18 Boys 1. Daniel Adams (Leeds) 2. Reece Lo (Hull) 3. Josh Thompson (Hull) 4. James Mason (Halifax)

The top four players in the under 11, 13 and 15 events will now be invited to join the cream of South Yorkshire talent at the regional trials. Although the under 18 is not now a category in the ETTA trials system, the results of the under 18 will be a major influence for selectors when the county junior second team is selected for their county championship matches in January.

World Rankings

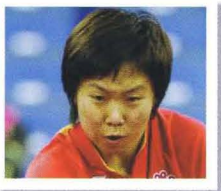
MEN

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



WOMEN

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



U21 MEN

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



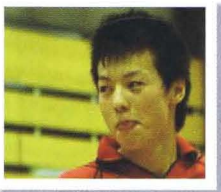
U21 WOMEN

1. LI Xiaoxia (CHN)
2. GUO Yue (CHN)
3. CAO Zhen (CHN)
4. FUKUHARA Ai (JPN)
5. LIU Shiwen (CHN)



U18 BOYS

1. MATSUDAIRA Kenta (JPN)
2. XU Xin (CHN)
3. DRINKHALL Paul (ENG)
4. MA Liang^ (SIN)
5. XU Ruifeng (CHN)



U18 GIRLS

1. LIU Shiwen (CHN)
2. DING Ning (CHN)
3. LI Xiaodan (CHN)
4. WU Yang (CHN)
5. CHENG I-Ching (TPE)



U15 BOYS

1. YAN An (CHN)
2. SONG Hongyuan (CHN)
3. ZHANG Shengwanan (CHN)
4. AGUIRRE Marcelo (PAR)
5. NIWA Koki (PAR)



U15 GIRLS

1. ISHIKAWA Kasumi (JPN)
2. KIM Hye Song (PRK)
3. YANG Ha Eun (KOR)
4. CHEN Meng (CHN)
5. SOLJA Petrisa (GER)



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.	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)
6.	HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)
7.	MEADS, David (DU.)
8.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
9.	NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)
10.	WARE, Mathew (DO.)
11.	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)
12.	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)
13.	BRYANT, Craig (DV.)
14.	MARSDEN, Michael (DU.)
15.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
16.	HOLLAND, John J (Dy) (E.)
17.	HIRJI, Alim (MI.)
18.	URBAN, Gergely (HE.)
19.	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)
20.	NOAH, Hubert (E.)
21.	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)
22.	EVANS, Bradley (BU.)
23.	DORAN, Christopher (NP.)
24.	MCBEATH, David (HA.)
25.	BARLOW, Ben (YS.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
2.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
3.	DORAN, Christopher (NP.)
4.	MA, Justin (YS.)
5.	WARE, Mathew (DO.)

TOP 5 CADET BOYS

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

TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	MORAIS, Igor (MI.)
2.	PATEL, Jared (E.)
3.	HOLLOWOOD, Scott (Y.)
4.	SIKET, Michael (WO.)
5.	SMITH, Paul (CV.)

TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	WURAOOLA, Abdul (SY.)
2.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
3.	SMITH, Eddie (ND.)
4.	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)
5.	WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)

TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1.	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)
2.	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)
3.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
4.	REYNOLDS, Lindsey (LA.)
5.	HICKS, Hannah (HA.)
6.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
7.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.)
8.	WANG, Sarra (E.)
9.	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)
10.	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)
11.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
12.	JAMIESON, Rachel (E.)
13.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
14.	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)
15.	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)
16.	PERKS, Sarah (NG.)
17.	HOWARD, Alice (CH.)
18.	SMITH, Sally (DV.)
19.	ROSE, Emma (HE.)
20.	WEIL, Emma (E.)
21.	DONNELLY, Stephanie (CV.)
22.	BONGERS, Jose (LE.)
23.	COHEN, Michele (WI.)
24.	HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)
25.	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
2.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
3.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
4.	HO, Tin-Tin (MI.)
5.	WHYTE, Chloe (CV.)

TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
2.	DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.)
3.	KING, Yolanda (SX.)
4.	WHYTE, Chloe (CV.)
5.	HO, Tin-Tin (MI.)

TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

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

TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

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



For the full list of player rankings go to our website

www.etta.co.uk



Dates

for your diary

Table Tennis events
for Dec 08 and Jan 09

December 6th

Senior: London Open Butterfly Grand Prix
Veteran: VETTS Eastern Masters
Other: World Junior Championships (6-13)

December 7th

Junior: Stiga 2 Star GP
Senior: London Open Butterfly Grand Prix
Veteran: VETTS Eastern Masters
Other: Merseyside Open Games

December 13th

Cadet/Junior/Senior/Veteran: County Championships

December 14th

Cadet: National Cadet League

December 20th

Cadet/Junior: Yorkshire 1 Star
Junior: Chesham High School 2 Star

December 21st

Cadet/Junior: Ernest Bevin TTK 1 Star

December 22nd

Junior: Chesham High School 2 Star

December 28th

Veteran: Ashford Veterans

December 30th

Junior: Chesham High School 2 Star

January 3rd

Junior: Chesham High School 2 Star
Senior: Medway Open BGP

January 4th

Senior: Medway Open BGP

January 9th-11th

Other: Tournament of Champions

January 10th

Cadet/Junior/Senior: County Champs
Veteran: VETTS Western Masters

January 11th

Senior: British League
Veteran: VETTS Western Masters

January 15th-17th

Other: Guernsey Mini Champs

January 17th

Cadet: East Midlands 4 Star
Junior: National Junior League
Veteran: County Championships
Other: ESTTA Team Zone Finals

January 18th

Junior: East Midlands 4 Star
Senior: British League Premier
Other: ESTTA Team Zone Finals

January 24th

Junior: National Junior League
Senior: Women's British League

January 25th

Cadet: National Cadet League
Senior: Women's British League

January 30th-1st

Other: European Youth Top 10

January 31st

Cadet: Crippenham 1 Star
Junior: County Championships
Veteran: British League/National League



2008/2009 COPY DATES

February Issue: Copy by 7th Jan

March Issue: Copy by 2nd Feb

April Issue: Copy by 2nd Mar

June Issue: Copy by 4th May

July Issue: Copy by 1st June

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CHILDS

CHARLIE



Charlie Childs Vice-Chairman of Coaching at the ETTA, tells us about his background and his aims for coaching.

Birth date: July 1950

Place of birth: Portsmouth

Residence: Fareham

Current ranking: 250-300 (men's list)

Style of play: Attack with a wicked "no spin" topspin

HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY:

Do you play, or have you played in the past?

Yes - a lot. I have played local league for 38 years, also played county senior and veterans for Hampshire many times. I still play irregularly on the Grand Prix circuit and British League for my club, Generation 2 TTC, in Fareham.

What does your new job role involve?

I see it as a governance role to ensure that what we have to do in coaching is done correctly in a qualitative sense as well as ensuring a good return for the significant amount of money invested in the Coaching Department by our members and organisations like Sport England.

What do you feel you bring to this role that maybe your predecessors didn't?

Comparing myself to previous job holders is not something I wish to do, as

it is impossible for me to do. However, I have some relevant non Table Tennis skills which may be beneficial to the role such as: project management experience of large projects; business skills - marketing; IT skills - software development and design; financial knowledge - budgeting and monitoring

What do you feel are the challenges to be faced by coaches in the future?

Being appropriately trained and qualified to do the required job. There are many types of coaches required now and in the future. We need to be able to train and update coaches in an ever changing coaching world to ensure that our coaches are ready for that challenge.

What were you doing before you joined the ETTA and do you have a table tennis background?

I left full-time employment at Ordnance Survey as an IT project manager. I also had roles as Marketing Portfolio Manager and Head of Production Unit. I'm now Director of TTLInks (Table Tennis equipment supplier). I was also a Non-Executive Director in the NHS for four years doing a governance role for the local NHS with a special remit for HR

processes.

My organisational background for table tennis is: Club Chairman and Lead Coach - Generation 2 TTC (PremierClub).

Ex-Chairman of Gosport & Fareham League; Regional Coaching Co-ordinator - ETTA Southern Region for four years.

I qualified as a coach in 1977 and have worked continuously at my club and locally since then. I also coach regularly at the ETTA regional squad (Southern) and I am now lead coach for the RAF Academy.

If you could change anything about the sport (structure, rules, etc, etc), what would it be?

We need to give the clubs who are at the forefront of development in our sport more of a voice for change.

We need to completely "revitalise" the coaching system so that all coaches feel part of a greater team and not working in separate coaching silos. The recent Coaching Conference was well received by all those who attended, hopefully because it was very practical. We need to push this practical support out to all coaches wherever they work.