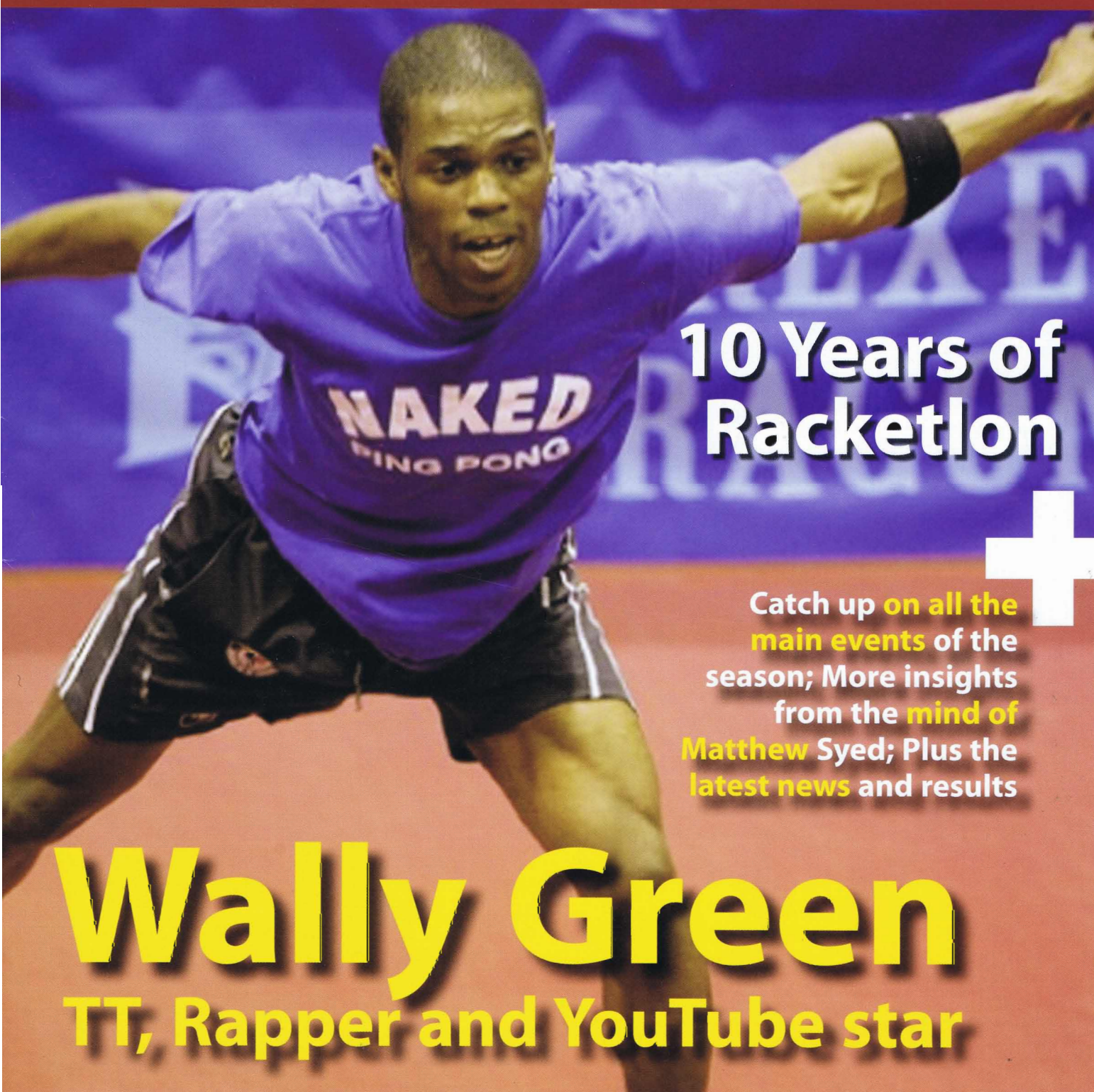


table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



10 Years of Racketlon

Catch up on all the main events of the season; More insights from the mind of Matthew Syed; Plus the latest news and results

Wally Green

TT, Rapper and YouTube star



STIGA NCT Wood:
Changing the Way the Game is played



STIGA

JULY/AUGUST 09

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Geoff Ware, ETTA Grand Prix Press Officer



first word



Once again the season has flown by at what seems like breakneck speed. As each year I sit down to write my final editorial of the season I find it incredible just how much has been crammed into such a relatively short space of time; perhaps even more incredible how quickly that time has passed. It only seems like yesterday that we were debating the words of bumbling Boris as he blasted the world's media with the magical promise that Whiff Whaff was coming home following the closing ceremony of the Beijing Games.

For me the 2008/9 season will be remembered as a year where things changed, decisions were made and the foundations for the future of our sport were laid both on and off the court. On the court many of the young pretenders: Knight, Drinkhall, Reed et al, moved into the senior ranks providing us with a clear picture

of exactly where English Table Tennis stands on the world stage. Off the court, funding, leadership and membership were all on the agenda as the sport's foreseeable future was played out in nail-biting fashion in that order.

Without a doubt the lowest point of the year was the significantly delayed performance funding announcement. From the off the UK Sport elite funding structure based primarily on the ability to medal at 2012 never looked likely to favour table tennis, this mainly due to the medal/participation ratio plus the unattainably high standard of play set by China. After an agonising wait and some rather adverse publicity UK Sport placed a tentative offer of £1.2 million and set a clear challenge: to ensure further funding you must shorten the odds of stepping on to the podium in 2012.

I could choose any number of moments for the highest point of the year, such as Paul Drinkhall winning the U21 China Open or the announcement that once again England will host an English Open, providing us all with the opportunity to witness live the best players in the world. But instead I have opted for a moment that has the potential to revolutionise the way our sport is governed: the announcement that individual membership was approved at this year's AGM.

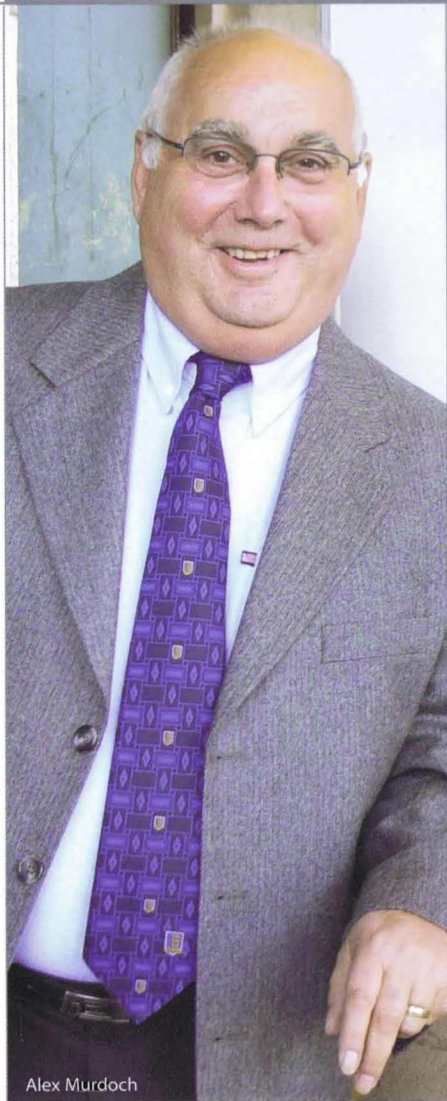
I hope you have a great summer and that your preparations for next season go according to plan, if not remember there's always next year....

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

The highlights from our main contributors...

"I'm not sure if there was ever a more spectacular sight in world table tennis than Persson lunging at the ball at full stretch" Matthew Syed Page 24
"The 19 year old European Youth triple champion added another major scalp to his growing list of titles" Jim Beckley Page 28
"Play with intensity, take the ball early and stay on your toes" Keith Lesser Page 19

Straight Talk



Alex Murdoch

“Only one sport, table tennis, has seen a statistically significant increase”

Although for most leagues the season has finished, the work of your local volunteers continues in preparation for next season which we hope will result in an increase in participation with leagues and clubs. People playing our sport, outside of the membership structure, continues to increase within both the schools and general community sectors. This has been confirmed in recent reports from the Government on participation in schools and from the recent Sport England Activity Survey on participation, conducted by Mori, of the 46 sports they support published on their website under National Highlights relating to participation by over 16s once a week.

“Only one sport, table tennis, has seen a statistically significant increase” Our goal must be to ensure that we attract these players into the ETTA structure, and a number of programmes have been included in the Whole Sport Plan interventional policies which will drive our sport forward in many ways.

The use of the website, which is being upgraded, as well as various social media initiatives are very important to the increase in participation and membership for table tennis. This, with other programmes for Women in Sport, TT in the Workplace, 16-18 drops outs, recruitment and support for technical officials and volunteers, league and club initiatives, increase coaching/coaches, and facilities assistance will contribute to the outcomes that both table tennis and our funding partners want.

A very key element for the future of our sport was the approval of Individual Membership at this year’s Annual General Meeting.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

The question of Individual Membership has been raised and been under debate for decades, now it is part of our governance and rules following approval at the AGM in Birmingham on 27th June 2009, with 27,841 for and 6,161 against. For me personally it was a fantastic birthday present and I thank all those involved, in particular the Membership Committee and Rules Committee, and the

members for approving Individual Membership, which received support and input across the whole of the table tennis fraternity, as they considered this would benefit our great sport now and in the future. Concerns were raised both at the AGM and with me prior to the AGM by email, phone and during meetings in respect of the initial proposals submitted by Management and National Council in terms of the fee approval section, and an amendment relating to this was approved at the AGM.

Consequently this fee section will follow the established process of fees, allowances, entry fees, etc being submitted to National Council at the January meeting for their approval and in the case of the membership fee only, the agreed fee will be submitted to the next AGM for approval then will come into effect immediately. This ensures not just that the membership have the final say but allows the Treasurer to look at and present his membership fee proposals to both National Council and the AGM.

This historic and critically important membership affiliation process change moves the governance of table tennis into a new era. It was part of the transformational programme recommended by the present Directors and Management to Sport England for the 2009/13 bid for funding and subsequently approved by National Council, and was included in my first manifesto in 2003.

BRIEF REPORT FROM THIS YEAR’S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM and an EGM took place at the Strathallen Hotel, Birmingham, on Saturday 27th June 2009.

In attendance were 80 delegates from across the table tennis fraternity representing schools, clubs, leagues, counties, regions as well as management, staff and ETTA committee members. Apart from the very important proposition on Individual Membership a number of other propositions were passed in respect of general rules covering disciplinary and child protection.

Discussions and debate within the Management Report ranged from women in

sport, national championships, 16-18 drop outs, honours, approved rubbers, Table Tennis News, website and development. The report was approved by all and congratulations were given for an excellent and professional presentation of the report itself.

The accounts were approved and showed a turnover of over £2,849,315 of investments into the sport, an increase of £300,000 from the previous year, and an operating surplus of £22K was achieved.

The Treasurer reported that the additional investments in the 2009/10 budget will mean a turnover of over £4M and hence additional workload for the Finance Department, and he thanked his staff for their hard work over the last 12 months.

Presentations were made to:

- New Vice-Presidents, George Tyler, Geoff Twiss and myself (a great honour for me to receive).
- Mike Atkinson received the Ivor Montagu Award.
- Paul Drinkhall was awarded the Victor Barna Award.
- Ron Washington received the Malcolm Scott Award.
- Karina Le Fevre was awarded the Johnny Leach Most Improved Player of the Year Award.
- Brian Gale received the Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy at the County Conference.
- Richard Yule received the A K Vint OBE Staff Award.

On behalf of the membership I thanked the staff and the numerous hard working volunteers for their contribution, help and support during the past 12 months.

WHOLE SPORT PLAN UPDATE

The new funding award for 2009 to 2013 will enable additional recruitment of full and part-time staff to help and in support of our dedicated volunteers.

The ETTA will be advertising and employing the following: Operations and HR Manager, two additional and one replacement Regional Coaches, Coach Education Manager, National Network Manager, National Programme Manager for Clubs/Premier League 4 Sport, Development Assistant, additional part-time staff for Development/Coaching/Club Support. Some staffing/job responsibilities re-alignment will take place and in addition the Operations/

HR Manager will look at the staff conditions and appraisal systems.

We shall be putting in place programmes to support our technical officials and volunteers via recruitment and retention initiatives, increased training for our talented young players, and we intend to have up to 10 Performance Clubs in place by the end of 2010. Regional Development staff work programmes have been changed, draft proposals made for a series of women’s courses and increased support for local coaches from the Regional Coaches.

A new website to be released in the next three months will encompass the needs of international, national, regional, county, league and club requirements, improved aspects of social media and more focus on direct inputs from the membership and grass roots.

An office refurbishment will take place at Hastings during the coming months; a review of our IT needs is in hand, results and ranking service to be upgraded and also assistance, if required, for league management systems. Discussions are ongoing with both Sainsbury’s and Fred Perry; further information will be circulated in due course.

Detailed discussions are taking place with Sport England in regard to the Grow, Sustain and Excel outcomes for each of the intervention policies. This will form for each intervention “Logic Models” covering areas of inputs, activities, outputs and both intervention and strategic outcomes. These will be used by both Sport England and management/staff as performance/monitoring tools to assess the ETTA’s progress during the WSP as well as the part of our quarterly reporting procedures. Application forms and details are being sent out to young players 16 to 18 about the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) following discussions and provisional agreement with Loughborough University. This programme is similar to an NVQ and can be completed by the students at the same time as taking their GCSE and A levels. There are a range of benefits for the young table tennis players who will be selected for this programme:

1. Three national weekend training camps.

2. Technical/tactical/physical sessions led by national coaches.
3. Individual sessions with a sports nutritionist.
4. Individual sessions with a sports psychologist.
5. Guidance on lifestyle.
6. Development sessions on communication skills to help with media interviews and public appearances.
7. appearances.
8. Guidance on future career choices.
9. Support throughout the programme from Loughborough College Elite Sport tutors.
10. Completion of a nationally recognized qualification to add to a curriculum vitae.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS: 28TH OCTOBER – 1ST NOVEMBER ENGLISH OPEN/ITTF PRO TOUR EVENT – EIS, SHEFFIELD

The official launch of the 65th English Open will be on Thursday 23rd July at the Winter Gardens in Sheffield, with Councillors, representatives from UK Sport, Yorkshire Forward, the press and celebrities. England players will also be in attendance to give demonstrations.

It will include details of how much and where to purchase tickets and a demonstration in Sheffield at lunchtime. Ticket prices and packages, etc will be announced then and will be available via the Sheffield box office only. There will be a link from the ETTA site to Sheffield. Note it is likely there will be a charge for ticket purchase as is normal for credit card transactions. This will be levied by Sheffield not the ETTA.

No tickets can be purchased through Hastings. The venue capacity is 1,500 for each day from Wednesday – Sunday. The tickets prices and all details will be available from 23rd July.

Hope these updates are of use to you, any questions please get in touch.

Headlines

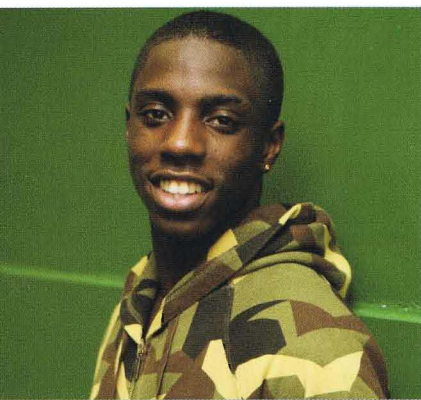
The latest stories from the Table Tennis World

DARIUS SEALS NINTENDO DEAL

England number two, Darius Knight, will be used in a new up and coming pan-European advertising campaign for Nintendo's new Wii Sports Resort game.

So over the next year you could be seeing Darius on the TV, in print, point of sale and online promoting Nintendo's latest sports offering.

Here is Darius' rather PR heavy comments on the new game and Nintendo's new controller: *"I loved the control of the Wii MotionPlus in Wii Sports Resort - it meant I could map my movements precisely on screen. Every flick of my wrist was faithfully mirrored and I found myself having to hold the controller exactly as I would my racket to get the effect I wanted. It even reproduced a backhand with spin! I loved the challenge it presented and couldn't put it down until I'd mastered my sport in the virtual world!"*



Andrew Rushton Coaching

NEW REGIONAL COACHES REMIT

After completing the first year of their current role, the ETTA's Regional Coaches are to take on a completely new job description. Whilst they have had great success in terms of increasing participation, it was always hoped to realign their positions to work more closely with the Sport England criteria of 'sustain and excel'. They will therefore be responsible regionally for the quality of coaching (both players and coaches), talent identification/development and the management and training of regional squads. Their new roles are seen to be comparable to that of the ETTA regional staff coaches some 25 years ago, and hopefully will be able to impact in a similar

way by providing help and support to all coaching activities in their regions. One of their principle duties will be talent identification, which will come under the direction of Jill Parker who is now the 'National Talent and Coaching Manager'. The seven current Regional Coaches are to be joined by three new ones (South, South East and South West) in the near future. Hopefully they will be well received in all clubs throughout the country and by working with and developing the current coaching provision, have a real positive impact on the quality of coaching and ultimately our level of junior players.

SUE GILROY MBE



Sue Gilroy

Sue Gilroy, one of our leading Paralympic table tennis players, has been awarded an MBE in the recent honours list for her services to table tennis. Sue has just added a silver medal to her ever growing collection of silverware gained at major championships by taking second place at the European Championships in Italy, in the Women's Class 4 event. Here are a few words from Judy Rogers (Equality & Child Protection Officer) about Sue and her experiences working with her:

My relationship with Sue goes back some 11 years when I joined the ETTA as the full-time national officer with the

responsibility for developing table tennis for disabled players. Sue has supported the work I have been carrying out in promoting our 'Ability' programme to table tennis clubs working with them and providing the training to the members to work with disabled people. Within the school where she teaches, she has been coaching the children to play table tennis for a number of years, in addition to her 'day' job as a teacher, giving up her own time to encourage these new players to our sport. Despite the fact that she is still only 36 years old, she supports, encourages and helps coach the disabled national squad, using

her experiences and knowledge to help the rest of the squad. She has also been involved with the UK School Games as an athlete mentor in Coventry where her enthusiasm for the sport touched all the young competitors, both disabled and non disabled. Along with all of this she is one of the nicest people I have ever had the pleasure to meet and work with and when I need a role model, someone to provide an exhibition, she is always there to help. I cannot think of a more fitting acknowledgement of her dedication, commitment and love for her sport.



NEW ETTA WEBSITE

After a lot of work the new ETTA website is on its way, the redesign will make the site easier to use and offer a lot more functionality to the end user along with lots of new and exciting features, including videos, user interaction and blogs. The new site will be launched in three phases,

Beta Stage 1, Beta Stage 2 and Complete Launch, as with every new website it is impossible to iron out all glitches prior to release due to the sheer amount of variables in the end-user setup set up (browser, operating system, plug-ins etc.). In order to combat any issues we will be

releasing a satisfaction questionnaire that will provide invaluable direct feedback from you the end-users and inform us of any areas that require code/graphical adjustment, these comments will then be taken on board for the final "Complete Launch".

TIGER ON THE TABLE

It has recently been revealed that the top two golfers in the world, Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, aren't just content with facing each other on the green, but they also team up with their wives and play doubles on the table tennis table as well.

BTTAD

Gorazd Vecko has just been appointed as the new British Table Tennis Association for people with Disabilities Performance Manager, they will be responsible for the overall strategic delivery of the BTTAD World Class Programme (WCP). He will lead and direct the WCP to achieve medal winning success at major championships and the London 2012 Paralympic Games, and ensure a legacy for the future of the sport.

GRAND PRIX VENUES CONFIRMED

The venues for the 2009/10 Grand Prix have now been confirmed, there will be 14 in total, 10 Open Grand Prix and 4 Satellite Grand Prix. Visit the new ETTA website to find out the 2010 dates and venues!

Event	Venue	Date
1	City of Liverpool Open Grand Prix	02/02/10
2	London Open Grand Prix	16/02/10
3	Sheffield Open Grand Prix	23/02/10
4	Manchester Open Grand Prix	03/03/10
5	London Open Grand Prix	10/03/10
6	London Open Grand Prix	17/03/10
7	London Open Grand Prix	24/03/10
8	London Open Grand Prix	31/03/10
9	London Open Grand Prix	07/04/10
10	London Open Grand Prix	14/04/10
11	London Open Grand Prix	21/04/10
12	London Open Grand Prix	28/04/10
13	London Open Grand Prix	05/05/10
14	London Open Grand Prix	12/05/10



PHYSICIANS V PATIENTS

Three members of Mursley Table Tennis Club, Paul Hooley, Roger Myers and Phil Adams, all suffered serious heart complaints that required emergency treatment at Milton Keynes General Hospital's A & E Department. Roger and Phil then went on to have major heart surgery at Oxford.

The immediate treatment all three received at MK General, which was crucial to their recoveries, was carried out by a team of specialist doctors including Peter Thomas, Ibrahim Mamadi and Richard Adjuwon who, together with Obi Onue Kwusi, another

doctor who works with the prison service, also play table tennis in the Milton Keynes League for the Greenleys Club. Last week a rather special Physicians v Patients match took place at Mursley between the two teams with the doctors winning the closely fought, evenly balanced competition by six games to four.

"The result wasn't of the greatest importance to us" said Mursley captain Paul Hooley. "The team is just so grateful that, thanks to our opponents and the further help we received from the nurses of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit at MK General, we have fully

recovered from our ordeals and have regained our fitness to a level that enables us to once again play a game we love at a competitive level."

Paul continued "The Physicians v Patients match gave us the opportunity to thank our opponents for so promptly and expertly administering their skills in our hours of greatest need, and to show them how much progress we had made since those fateful moments. It was an especially poignant moment for me to meet up again with Ibrahim, this time on the table tennis table rather than on the treatment table where he had administered a

life saving 'clotbuster' drug to relieve my suffering. Even at such a critical moment we were able to talk about table tennis and I am eternally grateful to him and the rest of the Greenleys Physicians and their A & E colleagues". All players enjoyed the evening to such an extent that it was agreed it would become an annual event. In presenting the trophy to Richard Adjuwon, Greenleys captain, Paul Hooley said "This is only on loan and we hope that next year the Mursley players will have made such further progress as to tip the result in favour of the Patients".

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a dominant championships last year in Terni, Italy, that saw England return home with 4 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals, the squad has just been announced for the 2009 European Youth Championships that will take place in Prague from 9th-19th July.

The squad is:
Junior Boys: Gavin Evans, Liam



Pitchford, Chris Doran and David McBeath.

Junior Girls: Karina Le Fevre, Hannah Hicks, Emma Vickers and Chloe Whyte (Chloe Whyte in Junior Team and Cadet Individual events)

Cadet Boys: Lewis Gray, Zak Zilesnick and Sam Walker.
Cadet Girls: Emily Bates, Lucy Davidson and Tin-Tin Ho.
Coaches: Linus Mernsten, Nikola Vukelja, Xue Han Vukelja, Steen Hansen and Matt Stanforth.

By the time you read this the squad should be home, hopefully with some more silverware.

Annual Snapshot

Here are the main events that contributed towards a season of change, decisions and when the foundations for the future of our sport were laid both on and off the court.

JUNE 2008

BRONZE FOR EMILY AND LUCY

Emily Bates and Lucy Davidson took an unexpected but most welcome bronze medal in the Cadet Girls doubles in the French Youth Open in Rennes.

LUXEMBOURG INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Chris Doran had a great showing in Luxembourg bringing home second place overall thanks to some top performances, winning six of his seven matches to come joint top of his group.

ESTTA WEBSITE

'The English Schools' Table Tennis Association is pleased to announce the launch of its new website www.estta.org.uk.

CADET 6 NATIONS, LILLESHELL

The England squad of came back with two bronze medals, one in the Cadet Girls Team event and the other in the Cadet Boys Singles courtesy of Daniel Lowe.

PROGRESS DOES THE DOUBLE (AGAIN)

The DHS London Progress club for the second year in succession have clinched both the Senior British League and Women's British League titles.

JULY 2008

ANOTHER GOLD FOR JADE

Halton TT Club member Jade Carr, has added to her impressive gold medal tally after winning last year's UK Transplant Games and World Transplant Games by winning the European Heart Lung Event in France.

BTTAD SUCCESS

The GB squad came home with 2 golds, 3 silvers and 4 bronze medals.

For the men Scott Robertson of Deeside won gold in the Class 5 Men's Singles, Will Bayley and Paul Karabardak won gold in the Class 7 Team event, with Will Bayley then getting the better of his team mate in the Class 7 singles, beating Paul Karabardak in an all GB bronze medal match. In the GB second team Farrell Anthon

For the women Sue Gilroy got the silver medal in the Class 4 Women's Singles and bronze in the women's singles, whilst Jane Campbell partnering her Russian team mate achieved silver. Sara Head continued her good form, claiming the silver in the Women's Class 3 Singles, Cathy Mitton rounded off the medals claiming bronze in the Women's Class 2 Singles.

AUGUST 2008

ALBARNS TT BRIBE

Damon Albarn says he only agreed to play a longer set at the recent Lyon Festival because organisers gave him a table tennis table. Albarn's revelation came in an interview with the Radio Times, in which he admitted to be obsessed with the sport.

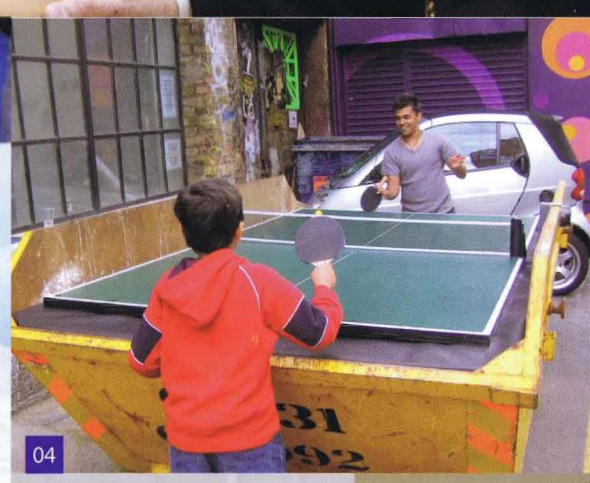
"Yeah, everywhere I go I have to have a table tennis table. I love it; it's a brilliant way to relax when you're working," he said.

"I'm playing at the Lyon Festival and they wanted a slightly longer set, so I said, 'If you give us a table tennis table then you'll get a longer set.'"

CHINA CLEANS UP



1. Urban Cup 2. India Tour 3. Boris and his Whiff Whaff 4. TT In The Dump 5. Modric 6. Top 200 for Joanna 7. Gavin Does the Triple 8. Paul Drinkhall walked away with 4 titles



JUNE 2008

TOP 200 FOR JOANNA

Joanna Parker broke into the top 200 in the world ranking list for the first time in her career, rocketing 42 places from 217th to get up to 175th. Paul Drinkhall and Kelly Sibley have also performed well achieving career best rankings.

Paul Drinkhall 158th was 170th
Kelly Sibley 167th was 191st
Joanna Parker 175th was 217th

JULY 2008

BEST EVER EURO YOUTH CHAMPS

England's trip to Terni in Italy for the European Youth Championships was their most successful to date resulting in, 4 golds, 2 silvers and 4 bronze medals.

Cadet Boys Team; Evans, Pitchford, Cullen, Lowe. Silver **Junior Boys Singles;** Drinkhall Gold and Knight Bronze **Cadet Boys Singles;** Evans Gold and Pitchford Bronze **Junior Boys Doubles;** Drinkhall/Knight Gold **Cadet Boys Doubles;** Evans/Nuytinck (Belgium) Silver **Junior Mixed Doubles;** Drinkhall/Kolodyzhnaya (Russia) Gold and Knight/Solja (Germany) Bronze. **Cadet mixed Doubles;** Evans/Solja (Germany) Bronze.

SEPTEMBER 2008

TT IN THE DUMP

Table Tennis has been skipped thanks to greengaged. As part of the ecological and social design festival skips are being converted into more useful spaces, one of these being a coin operated table tennis table designed by Jonathan Attenborough.



08

FEBRUARY 2009

EUROPE YOUTH TOP 10

Gavin Evans moved up into the Junior ranks for this year's Europe Youth Top 10, having taken part as a cadet in Sheffield only a year ago where he finished third. Facing older, more experienced opposition proved to be a bigger challenge for Gavin who eventually came out with seventh place.

MARCH 2009

DRINKHALL'S CLEAN SWEEP

Paul Drinkhall walked away with 4 titles from the 08/09 National Championships which must be a record, the only other competitors to take home more than one title was Kelly Sibley who won the women's singles and mixed doubles. Another notable achievement was the crowning of the youngest ever women's doubles champions, Emily Bates and Mary Fuller.

Beijing Olympics - In true dominant style China cleaned up in the singles events, taking gold, silver and bronze in both the men's and women's singles events and gold in both the men's and women's team event.

BORIS AND HIS WHIFF WHAFF

During the Olympic hand over Boris Johnson states to the world that table tennis, or Whiff Whaff as he likes to call it is coming home.

20 YEARS ON

National Events Administrator Vanda Jones reached 20 years of service at the ETTA after starting back in August 1988 working with the late Mike Watts. She has worked with 6 Event Managers, 4 Chief Executives and 3 Chairman.

SEPTEMBER 2008

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Woolwell TTC celebrated their 10th birthday.

SENIOR 6 NATIONS

England clean up claiming four medals. In an all England final Andrew Rushton took the gold by beating silver medallist Tim Yarnall 3-0, the two then combined to gain a silver medal in the team event, whilst the women's team took home a Bronze.

THE BEIJING PARALYMPIC GAMES

11 GB players (including 7 English) participated in the Beijing Paralympic Games - no medals won but some near misses- on to 2012!

OCTOBER 2008

'DON'T STOP 'TIL YOU REACH THE TOP!'

The ETTA PremierClub Competition Ladder Board

arrived in the office, the custom designed white board encourages competition between players. It comes with a dry marker pen and operating rules to display next to it. The aim is for players to get as far up the ladder or pyramid as possible. The boards were given out free to registered PremierClubs and linked schools. It is also available from us directly at a cost of £10 each.

CADET WORLD RANKING

In the first ever Cadet World Rankings List we had three players in the top 100, Gavin Evans was our highest at number 4 behind three Chinese players, with Liam Pitchford 20th and Daniel Lowe 93rd.

REGIONAL CLUB DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

October saw the launch of the regional club development workshops, the aim of these free workshops was to support clubs and bring ETTA National officers into the regions to offer advice and ideas for local use.

GOLD MEDAL FOR ENGLAND

The first ever gold medal for England at the European Learning Disability Championships was won by Adam Thompson and Victoria Bromley in the mixed doubles and then Victoria joined Jacqueline Smith to gain silver in Women's Doubles.

NOVEMBER 2008

JUNIOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Liam Pitchford became the 2008 University of Derby Junior Sports Person of the Year beating triathlete Tom Bishop

BEST PERFORMANCE TO DATE

Paul Drinkhall reached the last 16 in the Erke

England played host to India in a three match test series in London, Stoke and Preston, the first two events produced 5-5 draws with the England women winning 4-1

Austrian Pro Tour, this is his best performance to date in a Pro Tour event.

WORLD CADET CHALLENGE

Gavin Evans helped Europe towards a gold medal whilst partnering Simon Gauzy of France. In the final they beat Taimu Arinobu and Masahiro Otsuka of Japan 3-1.

DECEMBER 2008

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPS

The boys team had a successful championship to become the cream of Europe and claim bronze behind las

Paul Drinkhall narrowly failed to become only the second European in history to win the World Junior Championship singles title, losing out to the talented Chien-an Chen from TPE 11-8, 3-11, 14-12, 11-8, 11-5 in the final.

TT SEES SIGNIFICANT GROWTH

In the second Active Peoples survey which tracks the percentage of the population aged 16 and over that has participated in sport at least once in a 4 week period, there has been an increase in those taking part in table tennis by just over 20%. In the 2005/6 survey the figures were 163,000 for regular participants, as opposed to 195,700 in the 2007/8 survey, which means an increase over of 32,700.

BBC LONDON RISING STAR AWARDS

Thanks to her amazing performances in her age group and up against much older competitors since she took up the game, Tin Tin Ho was announced as one of the winners of the 2008 BBC London Sport Rising Star Award.

PLAYGROUND TO PODIUM

The ETTA was awarded £569,000 grant funding from Sport England to develop the Playground to Podium programme increasing the number of disabled table tennis players.

JANUARY 2009

KAREN TONGE MBE

As a result of her services to table tennis, in particular the voluntary aspect, Karen Tonge has received an MBE in the New Year Honours list. This will be the third time that Karen has visited Buckingham Palace, having received the

President's Certificate of the National Playing Fields Association and for her involvement with the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR).

PREMIER LEAGUE 4 SPORT

This new initiative was launched at Tottenham Hotspur with Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the secretary of State for the Department For Culture, Media & Sport, Andy Burnham, along with Premier League Chief Executive, Rick Parry, Tottenham Manager Harry Redknapp and a squad of players. Table tennis, badminton, judo and volleyball will link a 'hub club' with a Premier League football club and then set up 4 satellite sessions in 4 schools for each sport in an aim to get 25,000 new young people involved in sport.

FEBRUARY 2009

LOCOG APPOINT 2012 TABLE TENNIS MANAGER

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

ANNOUNCES £1.2 M FUNDING FOR THE BTTF'S OLYMPIC PROGRAMME

UK Sport announces £1.2 m funding for the BTTF's Olympic Programme and £1.6m for the BTTF's Paralympic Programme

MARCH 2009

FOURTH TERM FOR ALEX

Following an 83% turn out for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 administrative year election, Alex Murdoch was voted back in as Chairman for a fourth term, winning by 56%. Peter Bradley retained his position as Deputy Chairman winning by 57%.

APRIL 2009

GAVIN DOES THE TRIPLE

Gavin Evans in his first year as a Junior swept the board at the Junior National Championships at Loughborough University, something he has got used to doing at every age group over the years.

He was seeded number one for all the events, but to live up to that seeding was no mean feat.

Junior Mixed Doubles Champion, GavinEvans/Emily Bates; Junior Boys' Singles Junior Boys' Doubles Gavin Evans/Liam Pitchford

COMPETITION REVIEW

Through development funding made available due to involvement with the UK School Games, a major competition review has taken place to challenge competition structures and pathways, highlight gaps in provision, identify duplication of events, ask whether competition structures allow for talent ID and provide clear pathways for young people to engage fully at all levels within sport. The full results for which will be circulated over the coming months.

MAY 2009

MORE CLUBS

Over the last year the official opening of the following clubs has taken place which goes to show the continuing growth of our sport: Generation 2 TTC (Fareham), Waterside TTC (Southampton), Kidlington Forum TTC (Oxfordshire) and Burton Uxbridge TTC (Staffordshire).

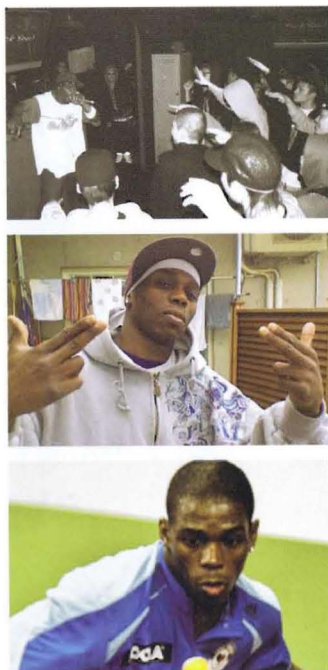
INDIA TOUR

England played host to India in a three match test series in London, Stoke and Preston, the first two events produced 5-5 draws with the England women winning 4-1 and the men losing by the same score. Going into the last event tied at 10-10 the men turned things around to win 3-2 with the women taking their third consecutive 4-1 win, to take the series win 17-13.

4 BRONZE MEDALS

The Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in Scotland saw the addition of more silver ware for England as they achieved four bronze medals. In the team event the boys lost out to India after a close confrontation, two of the other three bronze medals were courtesy of the boys with Paul and Darius achieving theirs in the doubles and Paul similarly in the singles. The last bronze medal came from Joanna Parker and Kelly Sibley in the women's doubles who lost out to the Canadians seeded at number 2.





Wally Green

It's not quite on the same level as Susan Boyle but, for a little known table tennis player, the YouTube profile of Wally Green is certainly impressive.



His appearance on a Japanese hip-hop show has already prompted almost 30,000 downloads, while footage of his table tennis exploits – including playing a match with his mobile phone as a bat – has attracted well over 10,000 viewings. Still, as Green himself admits: “There are not too many table tennis players who are also rappers.” Green, though, has already done much to raise the global profile of table tennis. He has featured in newspapers and television stations across the world and was centrally involved in the production of the Xbox 360 table tennis video game that goes by the name ‘Rockstar

Games Presents Table tennis.’ “The people producing the game saw me playing at a tournament in China Town in New York and they asked if I wanted to be involved with the game,” he says. “They asked me if I knew Rockstar Games? I said, ‘Of course I do – you guys made Grand Theft Auto. I play that every day!’ Then she asked if I would be interested in doing motion capture for a table tennis game that they were making. I was invited to the motion capture studio. We did a lot of shoots in the period of about a year and half.” Doing ‘motion capture’ basically means wearing a suit with reflective balls attached. The balls are then picked up by sensors to replicate the different movements. “Then they ask you to do a range of

motions,” he says. “For example forehand, low mid high, backhand low mid high, smashing, and all kinds of movements forwards, backwards, sideways, all diagonals, running, walking. All of these are done with every possible variation.” Green’s movements were then used as the basis for the simulated players in the video game, which was released in 2006 to critical acclaim. It has now also been made into a Wii game. Green’s success has allowed him to turn professional at table tennis, earning money from coaching and exhibitions, but also his involvement with Rockstar Games. Yet his fame cuts across music and sport. As a musician, Green performed at the Superbowl after party with 50

Cent, one of the most famous rappers in the world, while he has also given a table tennis exhibition in front of thousands of basketball fans during a break in an NBA match between Denver and Phoenix. His aim is simple. He wants to bring table tennis to different parts of the world, such as Harlem, where he has lived for the past decade. “My goal is to become the most popular and famous player in the world,” he says. “I would like to open up a table tennis centre in Harlem - I bring the street basketball mentality into table tennis. “That is what I want to do and I think I have made it more popular. I play with my cell-phone and people remember that. I want to

make it more popular. “People can’t really believe what they are seeing – they think ‘this guy is cool’ and it makes them think that the sport is cool.” Green is also a serious player and, during June, was competing in the Japan Open. A look at his more serious practice sessions on YouTube backs this up, although there is no pretence that the top Chinese players need to be losing any sleep ahead of the London Olympics in 2012. On the Pro Tour, he admits that he is among the lower ranked players but there is little doubt that he is among the most noticed and enthusiastic. Green arrives at tournaments dressed in a bandana, jeans and jewellery. There is no tracksuit and, until the match

begins, no sign of what might be considered ‘normal’ table tennis attire. “There are no African-American table tennis players and at tournaments I’m usually the only black player,” he says. “There is no hip hopper in the world like me, there is no one from the hood that plays table tennis, no one has that mentality. People are way too serious, I don’t care about being number one, my thing is to be the most popular. For me, entertaining people is more important than

being number one. I entertain the crowd even if I lose. I try to put on a show for the crowd, having fun is more important.” As a child growing up in Brooklyn, Green had never considered playing table tennis. He was into traditional American team sports, such as basketball, as well as tennis. He still remembers first playing table tennis in 1997 when he saw a table in a pool hall. “It was in mid-town Manhattan and I just wanted to play,” he says. “I saw people playing and just wanted to

hit the ball. Straight away I was hitting it on the table. The guys were like ‘wow’. Everyone was looking at me like I was crazy.” Green was hooked, although it took time to win acceptance at his club and for other players to practice with him. “I was like, ‘what’s up with those dudes,’” he says. “I wanted to play and that motivated me. I used to laugh at ping pong when I was younger – I was into basketball and football, it’s ironic. It is so hard to get good at. You can play for 20 years and still be terrible – I think about 90 per cent of it is mental. “Other sports I played because I was good at them, but with table tennis it’s different, I do it because I want to play every day. Table tennis is unique and just addictive.”

“There are not too many table tennis players who are also rappers.”

10 Years of Racketlon

Racketlon is another breed of multi discipline sport, where each competitor must pit their wits over 4 events, which in the case of Racketlon is table tennis, badminton, squash and tennis.

BACK IN 1999

Keith Lesser first heard of racketlon (the sport involving table tennis, badminton, squash and tennis) in 1999. This was soon after meeting John Nilsson. Nilsson has since become a British Premier League table tennis star for Ellenborough. John practiced at Mossford TTC ten years ago when he was based in east London. Racketlon competition started in Scandinavia in the 1980s before its internationalisation in 2001.

SIX YEARS AGO

In the summer of 2003 after finishing university, Lesser's table tennis and now racketlon adversary Ray Jordan stumbled upon the sport on the internet. Jordan's findings were very interesting; the first English Racketlon Open had taken place in October 2002. Debuts in the English Open in October 2003 were successful with both Jordan and Lesser reaching the semi-finals of the Band C event (the bottom band). Racketlon very much adopts the same system as table tennis. Players compete in categories banded by ranking and ability. Both won all of the table tennis easily giving away almost no points (racketlon is up to 21 in every sport, every point counts). Both also won some squash and badminton games, however struggled against strong tennis players! Racketlon was still in its infancy in 2003 and there was only at this

point one tournament a year. Readers will be interested to know that Gavin Rumgay had already participated (in September 2003) narrowly losing out to Swedish table tennis expert Rickard Persson (Gavin won the table tennis 21-10).

ENGLISH OPEN 2004

The 2004 event doubled in size compared with the previous year reaching almost 100 players. Here Lesser met Richard Whitehouse (2008 O55s' World Champion) and James Greenhead (2008 English Closed winner). Whitehouse (known on the circuit as superman) also reached the 2008 World Championships O45s' final, but lost in the semi-finals of the O55s'. This is quite a feat for the 56 year old. At the tender age of 51, Whitehouse was more than a match for an inexperienced Lesser.

2005 ADDS A DIMENSION

The sport is challenging physically, tactically and psychologically. Mick Strobe as head referee added an air of professionalism to events (Mick has since been in charge of the last four English Opens).

The sports can be picked up relatively quickly. Any county player will wipe the floor with you, however the real interest of racketlon is when you come up against someone of a strong level in a



different sport to yourself. So you win 21-3 in table tennis and lose 21-4 in tennis, who is going to come out on top in badminton and squash when neither of you play very often? These sorts of dynamics often decide a racketlon match which makes the psychology and what is called "profiles" of players very interesting.

UK TOUR LAUNCHED IN 2006

In 2006 events were launched all around the country (six in total) which stimulated growth and interest in the sport. More tournaments were added in 2007, and 2008 really has to be when the sport exploded. Events in the latter part of 2008 and all events in 2009 (players can register online at www.englishracketlon.org) have waiting lists as the sport grows in popularity.

RACKETLON EXPLOSION IN 2009

Peter Nicol (former World number one squash player) has taken part in an exhibition against a top racketlon player (narrowly losing out). The sport has also been covered on Chris Evans' Drivetime show on Radio 2 and on the BBC Breakfast as well as Sportsround.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN 2009?

Well, it's looking good so far! The English Championships attracted over 100 players domestically and over 200 are again expected for

the English Open. The Herts Open (February) and the West Midlands Open (March) also attracted around 100 players. The English Open in August will again be the highlight of the tour and all standards are welcome.

Lesser still can't beat superman.....

COMMON AREAS BETWEEN SPORTS

The changes between the sports takes a short time to get used to, however the synergies between the games are undoubted. Play with intensity, take the ball early and stay on your toes are common features in all the sports. In table tennis, players usually aim for the corners and into the body. The same can be said for badminton and tennis, with the drop shot thrown in. Ball placement in squash is again key, aiming for the front and back corners, but not into the body which is when a point is replayed (should the players get in each other's way).

The links with table tennis are strengthening with London GP venue Redbridge Sports Centre as the focal point for English racketlon. There were more than a dozen "racketlon" spectators at the English Nationals in Sheffield (March), and the sports are supporting each other in the background.

Interested parties can get more information at www.englishracketlon.org or email keithlesser@yahoo.com.

These sorts of dynamics often decide a racketlon match which makes the psychology and what is called "profiles" of players very interesting.

receive of service

We have already seen that service is one of the most important parts of a table tennis game, however the receive of serve is also very important. The receiver needs to try and find the right tactics against their opponent to make sure they put themselves in a good position for the rest of the point.

There are some key elements that one should adopt when receiving serve:

1. Watch to see if the serve comes long – if the serve comes long you should always look to attack it.
 2. Watch to see if the serve comes half long – if the serve comes half long you should look to attack it.
 3. Watch to see if the serve comes short – if the serve comes short you need to decide what receive to use, for example touch, flick or long push.
- It is important for everyone to remember to use a variety of different receives so that you keep your opponent guessing, this may be with the type of receive you use but it could also be to different places on the table.
 - The two receives of serves that we will be looking at in this article are the forehand flick and the backhand touch.

FOREHAND FLICK

- The flick is an attacking stroke against a short ball, using mostly the wrist and forearm. You would normally use the flick return off a serve that had 'no spin' or 'sidespin/topspin'. The starting position is the same as for the short push, so that the player can alter the direction, speed and spin, as well as to flick or push the ball short or long, with a quick change of the wrist. The flick will use more of an upward, brushing action against backspin, while the stroke is more horizontal against no spin, sidespin or topspin. A strong contact will also minimise the effect of the opponent's spin. Quick recovery is essential as the follow through over the table leaves the player in a vulnerable position.

PREPARATION:

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

BACKSWING:

- The bat moves forward horizontally with the bat neutral or slightly closed depending on the spin. With the elbow as the pivot point, the stroke is performed with the forearm and wrist.

FORWARD MOVEMENT:

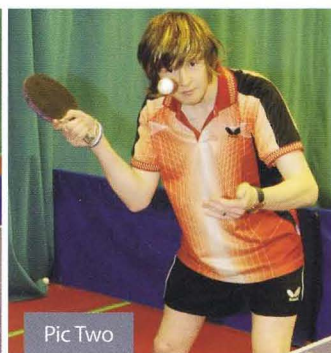
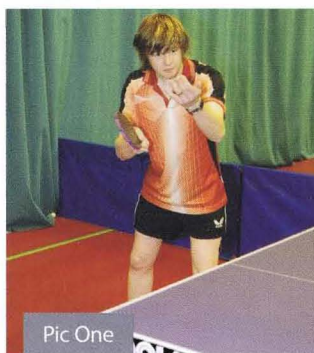
- Contact is made at the top of the bounce in front of the body.

FOLLOW THROUGH:

- The bat continues to move forward and upward.
- The player then recovers by moving the right leg back.

BACKHAND TOUCH

- The short push can be returned short to different positions on the table with a similar action to the long push, this makes it more difficult for the opponent to read if it is going short or long. For a ball wide on the backhand it is preferable to step forward with the left foot, which also has the player in a good position for a follow up forehand. In the middle to



backhand area, the right foot will move under the table. Quick recovery to an attacking position is essential as the follow through over the table leaves the player in a vulnerable position.

PREPARATION:

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

FORWARD MOVEMENT:

- The forearm is stretched forward, contacting the ball with an open racket and a brushing action of the wrist.

FOLLOW THROUGH:

- The weight moves forward to finish with the arm stretched out and racket open.

FOOTWORK

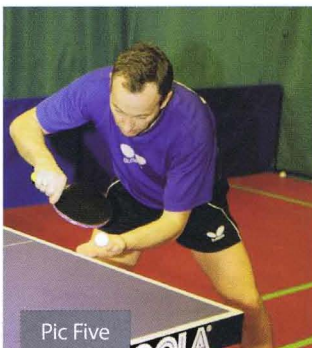
- The footwork is very similar for both strokes. For a right handed player, the right foot will move in under the table to ensure stability and control, and also to facilitate a quick recovery regardless of whether they play a forehand or backhand. The only exception to this would be if the ball was placed wide on the backhand, in which case the player could move their left foot in around the side of the table. The player should still try to maintain the width in the stance, and avoid crossing the feet over.

FORWARD MOVEMENT:

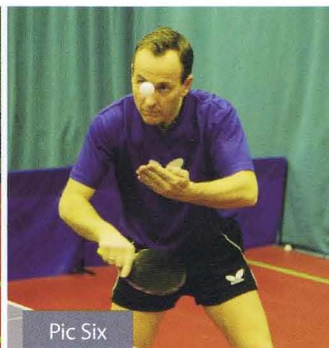
- The ball toss is in front of the body as the bat and forearm are in a horizontal position.



Mat Ware



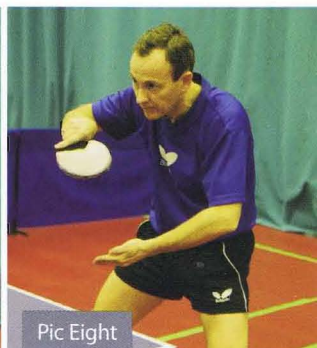
Pic Five



Pic Six



Pic Seven



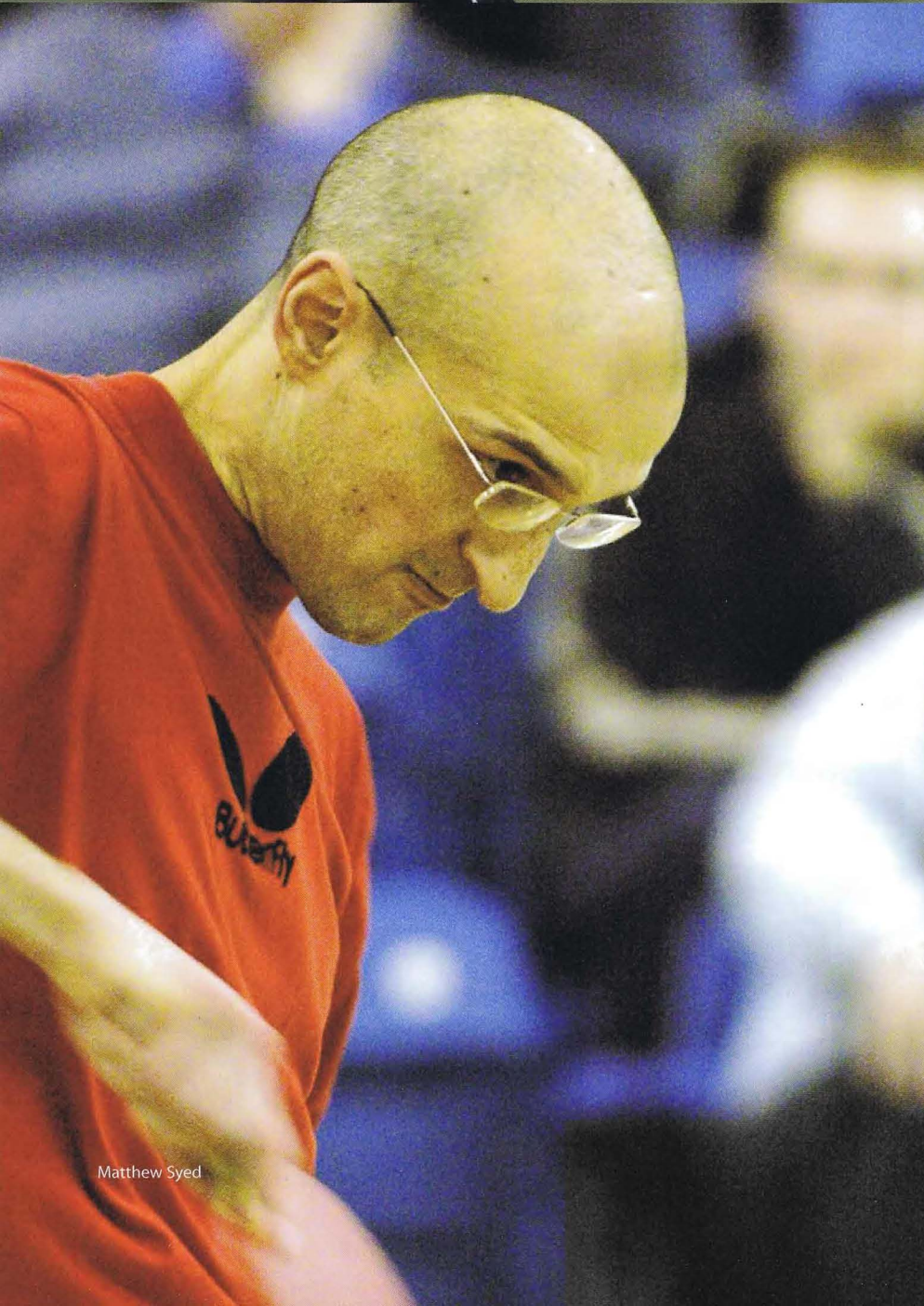
Pic Eight

matthew's musings

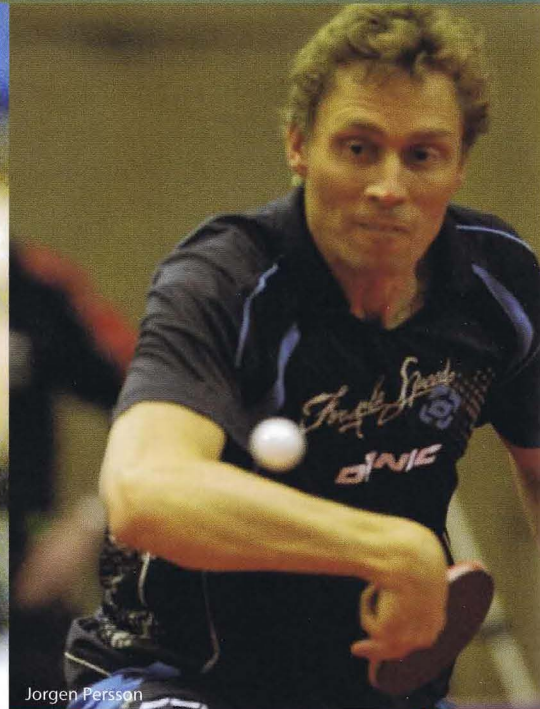
Matthew Syed shares his views on four of the greatest backhands of all time with Swedish Jorgen Persson taking top spot. He also puts his thoughts to paper and talks about the passing of John Cunningham plus the good and the bad of current umpiring.



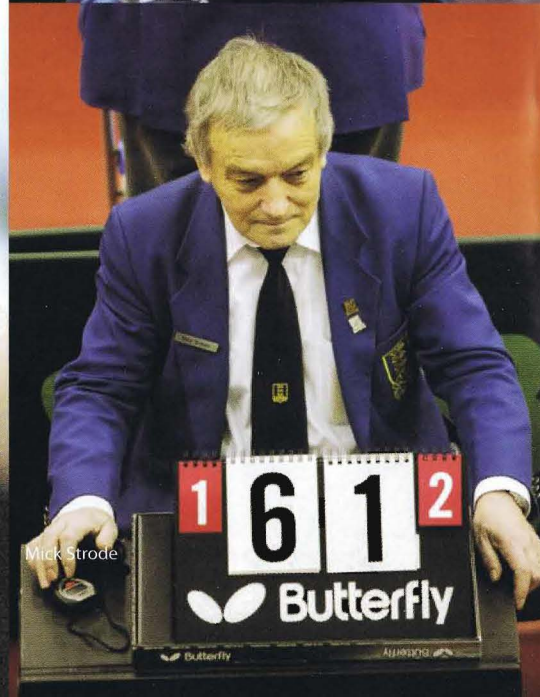
Wang Hao



Matthew Syed



Jorgen Persson



Mick Strode

GREATEST BACKHAND OF ALL TIME

1. JORGEN PERSSON

I am not sure if there was ever a more spectacular sight in world table tennis than Persson lunging at the ball at full stretch, bat poised, shoulder turned, wrist cocked. His backhand smash, delivered with a flourish bordering on the satirical, caused huge excitement around the world and won the Swede some vital points en route to winning the world singles title in 1991 in Chiba, Japan. Persson's backhand was also a solid stroke when delivered as a topspin or a block: safe, reliable and capable of being accelerated over the net where necessary.

2. ANDREI MAZUNOV

Mazunov was one of the most remarkable players I ever competed against. He would take forever between points, fidgeting, blowing on his hand, caressing his brow, before slowly, steadily taking his place at the table. But when he did, you knew that there was one place not to play to: his backhand.

It was not the power that was the difficulty, but the spin. He played it from a deep crouch with a wickedly accelerating wrist, such that when it bounced on your side of the table, it almost took off. His brother, Dmitri, copied his technique with considerable success and it is still possible to discern Mazunov's influence on a new generation of Russian players.

3. WANG HAO

A few years ago the idea of a penholder having one of the strongest backhands in the world would have been dismissed as a joke, but with the swivel-wristed revolution sparked by Liu Guoliang, it has become a terrifying weapon in the

penholder's armoury.

But nobody plays the backhand with more speed, consistency and wicked sidespin than Wang. At times, there is so much sidespin on the ball that it seems like a slice and his opponents have to actually lift the ball to get it over the net, something that simply invites Wang to step around and deliver the coup de grace with his equally explosive forehand.

4. ANDRZEJ GRUBBA

Grubba had an unusual backhand technique, the bat delivered from a side-on position, but it was remarkably effective. Away from the table a couple of yards, Grubba could keep spinning the ball from the backhand side forever, a wonderful sweeping stroke that delighted audiences around the world. Grubba's backhand was also a wonderful stroke when he was forced into the deep, alternating between a low lob with lots of topspin and a high lob which unerringly landed near the baseline.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM

The passing of John Cunningham will have caused great sadness in the table tennis fraternity in Reading and beyond. He was one of the most tireless and enthusiastic volunteers in the local sporting community: a man with tremendous integrity, a ready wit, huge reserves of energy and, above all, a deep moral seriousness.

I got to know John when I ran for Parliament in 2001. He was a member of the local Labour Party and a constant

source of information, ideas and inspiration. He was not merely someone who talked a good game but was always willing to back his ideas with action: seeking to get things done, to help those around him and to provide opportunities to those who are often left behind. We have always been blessed in table tennis by the quality, integrity and indefatigability of our volunteers. But John was one of the very best. A man who had humility and ability in equal measure, a man whose generosity of spirit was a constant source of inspiration to those who knew him, a man who leaves behind a legacy that will endure. It was a privilege to know him and an even greater privilege to count him as a friend.

UMPIRES

Commentating on top international table tennis around the world, I keep getting struck by the poor quality of the umpiring. It is not uncommon, even in matches of vast prestige, to see umpires who are conspicuously out of their depth, providing poor interpretation of the rules, poor handling of the players and a rather obvious insensitivity to the rhythms of the sport.

There is, however, one nation that consistently produces umpires of high ability and judgement. Umpires whose knowledge of the rules is exceeded only by their common sense and humanity. Umpires who make the right decisions with almost unerring consistency and, as importantly, with tact and grace. Yes, I am talking about the blue-blazered umpires from England. They do the country proud.

"A few years ago the idea of a penholder having one of the strongest backhands in the world would have been dismissed as a joke"

2009 AGM Meeting

individual membership was approved at this year's AGM, along with a series of different awards which were received by Paul Drinkhall, Karina Le Fevre, Richard Yule and more....

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP APPROVED

At the recent AGM table tennis members have voted overwhelmingly in favour of Individual Membership. At their AGM in Birmingham they stamped their approval on this often controversial issue by a massive 82% (27,841 votes for and 6,161 votes against).

It's been a long time coming but after decades of debate and discussion and under the chairmanship of Alex Murdoch, the sport is now moving into an exciting new era.

For decades previous chairmen of the ETTA had discussed and debated the need for individual membership and current chairman Alex Murdoch has finally succeeded in persuading the membership to accommodate



"Bill" Vint Staff Award was presented to the ETTA Chief Executive Richard Yule

this need.

This historic, critical and important membership affiliation process change moves the governance of table tennis into a new era, and was part of the Transformational Programme recommended by the present Directors and Management to Sport England for the 2009/2013 bid for funding and subsequently approved by National Council.

Concerns were raised in respect of the initial proposals submitted by Management and National Council in terms of the fee approval section and amendments were approved at the AGM, and the substantive proposals were then approved with over 82% of those voting in favour.

These proposals followed detailed investigation by the ETTA Membership Committee, who were empowered by the Directors to move this forward. Over the last few years the committee has received inputs from the table tennis fraternity to modify the content; thanks go to them for their hard work and efforts in making this change possible.

The process will not be implemented until the 2010/11 season and further documents in regard to the process will be distributed widely.

The Chairman of the ETTA, Alex Murdoch, thanked all those involved, in particular the Membership Committee, Rules Committee and the members for approving Individual Membership which received support and

inputs from the whole of the Table Tennis fraternity and crossed "party lines" as all considered this would benefit our great sport now and in the future.

ETTA AWARDS

Every year the AGM also recognises individuals through a series of different awards; here is a brief description of each award along with the winners.

The Victor Barna award dates back to 1950 and is awarded to mark the most notable performance by an English player. This season's winner was England's no.1 Paul Drinkhall.

Karina Le Fevre was awarded the Johnny Leach Most Improved England Player of the Year Award.

The Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy was presented to Brian Gale for his outstanding service and contribution to the County Table Tennis Championships.

The Malcolm E Scott award is presented each year to a person considered to have given outstanding service to the ETTA. This year it was presented to Ron Washington.

"Bill" Vint Staff Award was presented to the ETTA Chief Executive Richard Yule. The award is for the member of staff who in the opinion of the Honours Committee has given themselves over and above the need as an employee to do so.

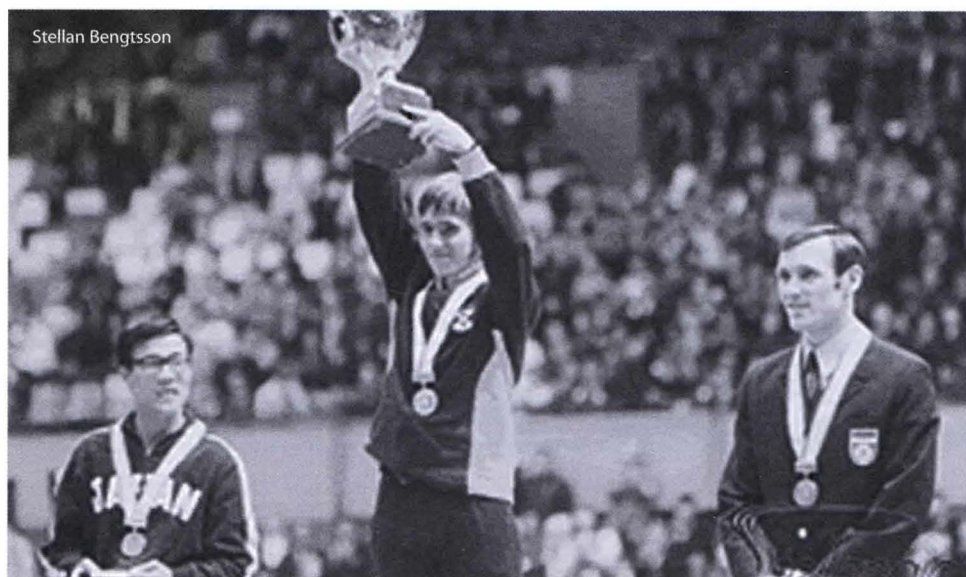
Mike Atkinson was presented with the Ivor Montagu Award for his excellent work in a voluntary capacity.

In addition George Tyler, Geoff Twiss and Alex Murdoch (ETTA Chairman) all became ETTA Vice-Presidents.

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



Stellan Bengtsson

I don't disagree with 2008 Sports Feature Writer of the Year, Matthew Syed, on his choices as the Top 5 (male) Artists in Table Tennis (TTN March 2009), but there are many other players worthy of mention.

Before he lost some of his speed, the mini but muscled, teenaged 1971 World Champion, Stellan Bengtsson of Sweden, was a revelation, with his lightning fast left-handed loops and counter-hitting, and flyweight boxing like footwork. A real star, he could work a crowd and had great sex appeal to the girls.

Although, like Waldner, he could be dreadful when he was playing badly, on-form the super athletic 1975 World Champion from Hungary, Istvan Jonyer, was truly awesome, with huge, massively powerful, but smooth, graceful, apparently effortlessly executed, two wing loops. His swinging, straight-arm, forehand loop,

hooked or faded, must be one of the most magnificent shots ever produced!

Not an artist in the same way as the others, but for sheer physicality, athleticism, indomitable fighting spirit and will to win, who could compare with the great Yugoslav, Dragutin Surbek, who would bear down on the ball in very corner of the court, just to keep it in play until the instant he could get his big forehand loop in? An early exponent of the 'wiggly' and the lob.

Part of the appeal of England's own teenage prodigy of the sixties, Chester Barnes, was that he, also like Waldner, was gifted but vulnerable, so that on-song he would make great but risky shots with an almost flashy slickness when his situation looked most dire. One memorable victory was over the formidable reigning world champion Shigeo Itoh of

Japan in the Royal Albert Hall in 1970. A real crowd-pleasing showman with wonderful flair. Unfortunately his form fluctuated! And then there are so many defenders I could highlight. I saw the legendary Richard Bergmann only as an old man with the Harlem Globetrotters, but the defender who first impressed me most was Norio Takashima (Japan), who, at a time (late 70s) when others were using long pimples stuck to reversed Sriver on both sides, and had perfect strokes in both chop and attack, aided by the nimbleness of footwork and fighting spirit. In the 1970s Liang Ko-liang (or Liang Geliang) was, with his Chinese compatriot Huang Liang, one of the first exponents of what is now the modern defensive game - long pimples backhand chop, combined with fierce reverse rubber forehand loop, set up by evil serves - further

developed by the likes of Chen Zinhua and Li Gun Sang (North Korea). In the early days, when both sides of the combination bat were the same colour, a major feature of this game was also twiddling. Liang was a wonderful versatile player - he could 'loop the loop' with Surbek - and continued his stardom on the world veterans' scene.

Finally, I must mention Matthew Syed himself, who at his peak in the early 90s was the world's best and most spectacular retriever of the ball, covering an incredible amount of ground and returning numerous impossible shots from way back over the barriers. A audience thriller abroad, on home soil his most memorable performance was in beating 1991 world champion Jorgen Persson (Sweden), one of the best players against defence, in the 1995 Olympic Qualifying competition in Manchester. Matthew's relative weakness was his attack, but had he been around before the speed rubber and glue era, I believe that he would have been in the world top 10.

Of today's top players, I would plump for tall, sinewy world champion Wang Liqin (China), who to my mind is Jonyer speeded up and more economical, to suit the modern game. He launches massive loops with that same graceful, effortless power.

Ken Muhr

Tournament Review

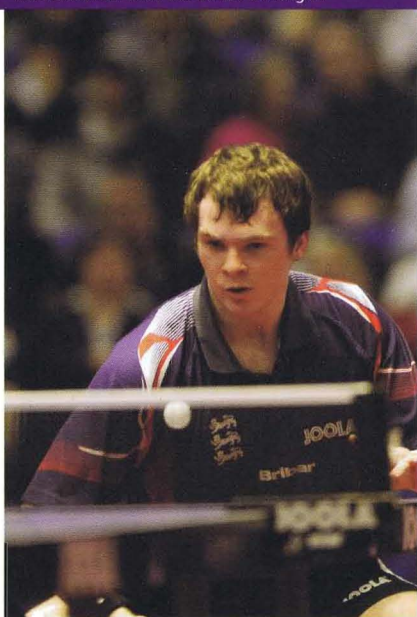
This month we take a look at China success for Drinkhall, the eleventh Annual Cippenham Young Players' summer festival, Wolverhampton and Hereford GPs and the Under 11, 12,13, 14 Championships.

CHINA SUCCESS FOR DRINKHALL BY JIM BECKLEY

England's national champion Paul Drinkhall has notched up the best win of his young career by winning the Under 21 singles at the China Open in Su Zhou.

The 19 year old European Youth triple champion added another major scalp to his growing list of titles beating Chinese Taipei's Hung-Chieh Chiang in the final 4-3, and was immediately signed up to play for top team Fujin in the Chinese League First Division. It was a rollercoaster tournament for the Cleveland player who battled through to beat France's young no 1 Romain Lorentz 4-3 before beating another Chinese player Ti-Tse Wang 4-0 in the semi-final. In the final he used his Chinese style forehand loop to devastating effect keeping Chiang on the defensive and not allowing his opponent to take advantage.

Paul Drinkhall wins the Under 21 singles



"I didn't start too well but the further I got the more confident I got. I've had some good wins recently but this tops the lot. To win a title like this in the world's top event is brilliant," he said.

Coach Steen Hansen commented: "Paul has been threatening to win one of the world's top events for some time and this win will have given his confidence a real boost. And now to be playing in the Chinese League among the world's top players just shows how much the Chinese players admire him." For Paul Drinkhall it was the first ITTF Pro Tour win of his career and only the second time in the 13 year history that an English player has won gold on the ITTF Pro Tour, the only other winner was Carl Prean. He won in 1996 at the Brazil Open in Rio de Janeiro when he beat Liu Song in the final to capture gold; at that time Paul Drinkhall was six years old.

Drinkhall will now fly out to Singapore to take on some of the world's top players aiming to take a step closer to his aim of winning a medal at the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

ANOTHER SEASON COMES TO AN END AT CIPPENHAM

The curtain came down on another season at Cippenham Table Tennis Club, with the eleventh annual Cippenham Young Players' Summer Festival. This two day bonanza, a 1 star open tournament in four age groups, continues to be the most eagerly awaited in the calendar and once again the total entry was around the 300 mark. Referee Ken Phillips, his assistant Jan Chapman, and the many other volunteers who turned up to help were kept busy managing the 17 tables over the entire weekend.

Reading's Daniel Moses emerged as the star of the boys' events, winning both competitions on the Sunday, whilst Evangeline Collier and Sally Hoang shared the top honours in the girls.

The final match of a long weekend, the U18 Boys' Singles final, turned out to be one of the most exciting. Moses had to come back from two games to one down and survive match point in the fifth to earn his double. His opponent on this occasion was Emre Ibotoglu. While both players attacked hard, it was Ibotoglu who had the more fearsome attack, with Moses relying more on soaking up the pressure utilizing a more defensive style and his strong counter-blocking backhand won many points. While Moses, the second seed, was a more expected finalist, Ibotoglu, actually seeded fourth, failed to win his opening group. That position went to Jared Parsons who took his opportunity to make it right through to the semi-final, where he fell to Moses. Ibotoglu, however, recovered from that reverse to set about a run that took him past third seed Tony Ziqiri in the semi-final.

Earlier in the day, Moses had also prevailed in the U16 Boys' Singles. In this event he was in the same half of the draw as Ibotoglu and their meeting in the semi-final ended in the same result. It was another Reading youngster, Liam McTiernan, a member of the host Cippenham club, who prospered in the top half of the draw. The sixth seed made it all the way through to the final after defeating Josh Jenkins in his semi-final. However, it was Moses that won the battle of Reading three-straight in the final. McTiernan, overall, had a good weekend. On Saturday, in the U14 Boys' Singles, he made it to another final and led Ashley Facey-Thompson 2-1 before losing at deuce in the



Ryan Jenkins

fifth game. Television viewers may recognize Facey-Thompson, a member of the Great Britain paralympic squad, as one of a duo of Greenhouse players who took part in a celebrity challenge televised live from the Royal Albert Hall recently. The sixth seed surpassed himself beating fourth seed Rafi Conn-Kowlessar in the quarters and then top seed Alois Clare in the semi.

It was Jack Bennett who scooped the other boys' prize, the U12 title, on Saturday. He beat Daniel McTiernan, younger brother of Liam, in the semi-final and then Marcus Giles in the final. The other semi-finalist was Daniel Pound.

Evangeline Collier and Sally Hoang shared Sunday's main prizes in the girls' events, beating each other in the two finals. In the early U16 event it was Hoang who prevailed 3-1 while later Collier gained her revenge in the U18 final, albeit the result was closer and not decided until 11-8 in the fifth. Feifei Pei was a semi-finalist in both events, while the other beaten semi-finalists were Majada Yasmin in the U18s and Chantelle Wilson in the U16s. On Saturday, Lucy Lou was the winner in the U14s, over Nicole Hall, and Chrissie Slot in the U12s, over Sasha Denby. Unusually, for a junior age tournament at Cippenham, none of the winners' awards made it down the M4 into Wales, although Hall and Denby did take back runners-up awards.

Results

WOLVERHAMPTON

Men's Open Gavin Runggay (SCO) bt. Wang Zheng (E) 11-8, 11-7, 11-6. **Women's Open** Shuying Xu (E) bt. Naomi Owen (WAL) 11-9, 11-9, 11-3. **U 21 Men** Matt Ware (Ha) bt. Chris Doran (Np) 11-8, 11-5, 12-10. **U21 Women** Claire Nelson (IRL) bt. Caroline Hallows (Ch) 9-11, 11-13, 11-9, 11-4, 12-10. **Mixed Veterans** Lee Neil (Ng) bt. Abdul Wuraola (Sy) conceded. **Mixed Restricted** Mike Marsden (Du) bt. Michal Kiska (E) 11-4, 12-10, 11-9. **Men's Band 1** Chris Doran (Np) bt. Matt Ware (Ha) 11-4, 11-8, 12-10. **Women's Band 1** Klaudia Szadkowska (Mi) bt. Sanja Clements (Do) 11-6, 11-8, 11-4. **Men's Band 2** Emran Hussain (E) bt. Daniel Welsh (Cv) 11-5, 11-8, 11-8. **Women's Band 2** Gosia Muda (Mi) bt. Angharad Phillips (WAL) 12-10, 11-8, 12-10. **Men's Band 3** Chris Main (SCO) bt. Scott Barton (SCO) 11-2, 11-2, 11-6. **Women's Band 3** Des Cloves (K) bt. Charlotte Carey (WAL) 15-13, 4-11, 11-4, 15-13. **Men's Band 4** Tomasz Rzeszotko (La) bt. Chris Main (SCO) 11-13, 11-9, 11-5, 11-8. **Men's Band 5** Michal Kiszka (E) bt. Joe Hurdley (Sp) 11-8, 11-7, 11-4. **Men's Band 6** Michal Kiszka (E) bt. Joe Hurdley (Sp) 9-11, 12-10, 11-6, 15-13.

CIPPENHAM YOUNG PLAYERS' SUMMER FESTIVAL

WINNER

U18 Boys' Singles	Daniel Moses (Bk)
U18 Girls' Singles	Evangeline Collier (E)
U16 Boys' Singles	Daniel Moses (Bk)
U16 Girls' Singles	Sally Hoang (Mi)
U14 Boys' Singles	Ashley Facey-Thompson (Mi)
U14 Girls' Singles	Lucy Lou (Sy)
U12 Boys' Singles	Jack Bennett (Sx)
U12 Girls' Singles	Chrissie Slot (Ha)
U18 Boys' Consolation	Edwin Slot (Ha)
U18 Girls' Consolation	Chrissie Slot (Ha)
U16 Boys' Consolation	Rafi Conn-Kowlessar (Mi)
U16 Girls' Consolation	Nicole Hall (WAL)
U14 Boys' Consolation	Daniel Barna (Sx)
U14 Girls' Consolation	Letitia McMullan (Ha)
U12 Boys' Consolation	Luke Saville (Mi)
U12 Girls' Consolation	Letitia McMullan (Ha)

WOLVERHAMPTON GP BY GEOFF WARE

Scotland's Gavin Runggay looked odds on to become the Men's Open Butterfly Grand Prix Champion for a fourth consecutive time. His masterful 3-0 display against Wang Zheng in the final looked to have sealed the title, with just Hereford to be played.

Gavin was at his very best in controlling the play with nice touches, tight receives and returns to thwart the challenge from his Asian opponent in the closing match. His two nearest rivals in the race to win the overall Grand Prix points tally and a nice cheque for £1,650 both faltered at the quarter-final stage. Matt Ware lost out narrowly to Wang Zheng in the fifth set 12-10, whilst Damien Nicholls went out of the event to an in form Mike Marsden 3-1, now both have to fight it out for second place, with a generous £800 on offer. Match of the day was the fantastic last eight marathon between Po Huang Chen (s3) and Chris Doran (s7). It had everything, brutal rallies, five breathtaking sets, culminating in a blow by blow swashbuckling fifth set battle where match points were saved and lost by both players. The assembled audience were all on the edge of their seats, and at 10-9 with his first match point, Chris put an anxious smash into the net. He then saved a match point down at 10-11 by bombing a backhand winner cross-court. Po Chen eventually closed out a memorable match

13-11, after forcing a forehand mistake by Doran to take his semi-final position against Wang Zheng (s5).

It was particularly pleasing to welcome a new face onto the Women's Open Grand Prix scene, that of top French player Sarah Hanffou. With her high ITTF ranking she was seeded at number 1 and made easy progress through to the last four stage, beating Leine Agata and Claire Nelson, but then came up against the regular winner of women's events, Shuying Xu (3). The Asian superstar (who had earlier knocked out England junior Emma Vickers) lost the first set to Hanffou and it appeared that an upset was on the cards! Alas not to be, as Shuying changed gear into overdrive with her power packed smashes and change of direction, went one step nearer to another title by winning the next three close sets.

Naomi Owen (2) was not really extended against Caroline Hallows or Klaudia Szadkowska, but then had to draw on her wealth of international experience to halt the determined challenge from the clever penholder, Sanja Clements (5), who had fought back from 0-2 down in sets to level the match. Owen then took charge in the last end 11-6, to book her place in the concluding match with Shuying Xu.

The final started off with two fairly close sets in the Asian's favour, and she then sealed the title victory over Naomi 11-3, in the third set, to pick up yet another winner's cheque for £175.

Could Damien Nicholls be crowned the U21 Men's Champion once again, in the event he has simply mastered this Grand Prix season and last? The number 1 seed started off well in the knockout rounds gaining victories over Ceri James and then made to pull out the Damien magic to get past a defiant Daniel Ives in five tough sets to reach the last four. Also in the top half of the draw, Chris Doran (3) was continuing in his previous devastating Saturday form plus his great charge in the Men's Open, earlier in the morning, by beating Daniel O'Connell and Vytas Rybakas (6), to set up a semi-final confrontation with Nicholls.

The Doran – Ware final was a repeat of yesterday's Band 1 closing match, however with a completely different ending! Ware gained his revenge by coming through in straight sets to take the title.

The U21 Women's event winner was always in the balance, with two absolutely superb last four matches to enjoy. Caroline Hallows (4) had an epic tussle with her best mate Emma Vickers (2) in the lower half of the

draw semi-final. In a seesaw match with most enjoyable play from both these young ladies, it was Hallows who just shaded it 11-8 in the fifth set, to reach the final.

Claire Nelson (1) was also having a scrap on her hands not only from her opponent, but also from the many vocal Leine Agata supporters from the Bristol Academy! To her credit she kept her cool in an amazing match of the highest quality, to come through 11-7, to reach the final with Hallows. Almost immediately both girls were called to start the final, as the hall was about to close up. Yet again another classic ensued with Hallows taking the early initiative 2-0 in sets. Nelson fought back to level at 2-2, and the last set had all the drama and excitement of any match this weekend. In a point for point last and final set with so many great rallies, it was Claire who managed to get to the winning line first 12-10, to take the Women's U21 title.

The player of the tournament award and a £50 Tees Sports voucher was presented to Adam Nutland for his superb run of maximum wins during Saturday's play.

HEREFORD GP BY GEOFF WARE

Ryan Jenkins and Shuying Xu were once again in a class of their own in winning the

Hereford Open Butterfly Grand Prix and crowned Men's and Women's Champions. Ryan has a 100% record in his three events entered this year, whilst Shuying Xu has lost just the one match all season in her six Grand Prix events and that in the final of the London Open Butterfly Grand Prix to winner Jo Parker.

In the lower half of the draw Damien Nicholls was on a mission as he was lying in overall third position in the race for the runners-up prize of £850 in the Grand Prix points table for the season, and seemed unstoppable in his route to the semi-final. He got the better of Matt Ware (lying in second spot for the title) in a three close sets quarter-final, which gave him a realistic chance to finish ahead of Ware if he could beat the Asian Zhi Tao in the semi-final. He started off brilliantly taking the first two sets against the second seed and it looked on the cards that he would get to the final with Jenkins (then enjoying an extra £450 for winning this match). However the last four contests turned upside down when Zhi Tao changed tactics and came out with all guns blazing to thwart Nicholls' great run winning the last three sets, to set up his final with the Welshman.

Top seed Jenkins mastered all the opposition put to him in the top half of the draw k/o rounds that included Shaun Marples, Garth Kinlocke and last four contender Chris Doran, who took him to deuce in two of the three sets played. His last adversary and second seed Jiang Zhi Tao did muster some kind of challenge taking the second set in the final to level, however the Welsh Wizard was just too clever against the Asian left hander taking the next two sets to maintain his unbeaten run in his third Grand Prix of the season and collect the winner's cheque for £300.

Shuying Xu, the Asian superstar from the Greenhouse Progress club in London, has been a devastating destroyer all this Grand Prix season and almost untouchable. Once again she was never out of a canter with her lightning attacking and hard counter hitting play, and took the Hereford title without dropping a single set, demonstrating the huge gap that exists between her and possibly only two female players in England, Kelly Sibley and Jo Parker!

Shuying blew away all her challengers that included Angharad Phillips, Klaudia Szadkowska and finalist Hannah Hicks, all in straight sets to earn easy pickings of £175 plus her £600 for winning the series, and was a worthy Grand Prix champion for the second successive season.

Results

CHELTENHAM (COTSWOLD) 3/4 STAR

Men's Open - Ryan Jenkins (WAL) bt. Jiang Zhi Tao (CHN) 11-8, 9-11, 11-7, 11-8. **Women's Open** - Shuying Xu (TPE) bt. Hannah Hicks (Ha) 11-6, 11-3, 11-5. **Under 21 Men's** - Damien Nicholls (Sp) bt. Chris Doran (Np) 8-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-7. **Under 21 Women's** - Melissa Wright (Ys) bt. Natalie Slater (St) 11-7, 11-4, 4-11, 11-9. **Mixed Veterans** - Brian Wright (SCO) bt. John Dennison (E) 11-9, 10-12, 11-9, 11-5. **Mixed Restricted** - Michal Kiszka (E) bt. Zoltan Hosszu (Sy) 6-11, 11-7, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8. **Men's Band 1** - Niall Cameron (SCO) bt. Vytas Rybakas (E) 7-11, 11-8, 11-13, 11-9, 11-4. **Women's Band 1** - Sanja Clements (Do) bt. Melissa Wright (Ys) 11-5, 11-7, 7-11, 12-10. **Men's Band 2** - Emran Hussain (E) bt. Euan Liddle (E) 11-5, 11-7, 11-9. **Women's Band 2** - Angharad Phillips (WAL) bt. Rachel Pilgrim (Wa) 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9. **Men's Band 3** - Tomasz Rzeszutko (WAL) bt. Lukasz Janisiewicz (E) 11-7, 11-4, 11-7. **Women's Band 3** - Emily Standing (Cu) bt. Charlotte Airey (Li) 11-7, 8-11, 11-4, 11-13, 12-10. **Men's Band 4** - Brian Wright (SCO) bt. Daniel O'Connell (WAL) 11-8, 11-6, 11-5. **Men's Band 5** - Ola Andersson (Hr) bt. Josh Jenkins (WAL) 11-4, 11-9, 11-7. **Men's Band 6** - Emre Ibatoglu (Sy) bt. Darren Silva (Bu) 11-7, 12-10, 2-11, 7-11, 11-9.

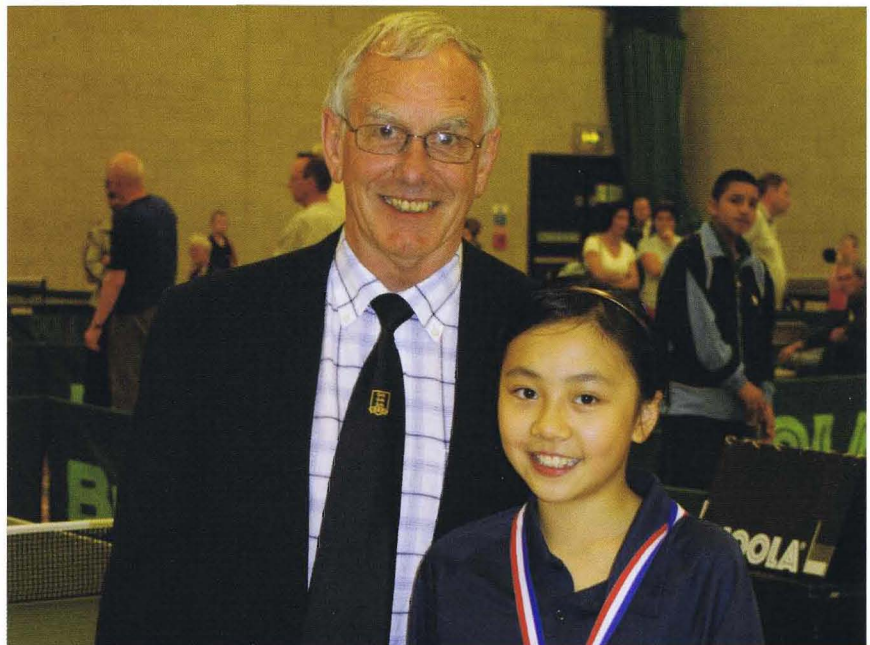
BUTTERFLY GRAND PRIX CHAMPIONS FOR 2008/9

Men's Open	Gavin Rungay (SCO)
Women's Open	Shuying Xu (TPE)
Under 21 Men's	Damien Nicholls (Sp)
Under 21 Women's	Hannah Hicks (Ha)
Veterans	Abdul Wuraola (Sy)
Restricted	Zoltan Hosszu (Sy)
Men's Band 1	Matt Ware (Ha)
Women's Band 1	Sanja Clements (Do)
Men's Band 2	Chris Smith (Dv)
Women's Band 2	Angharad Phillips (WAL)
Men's Band 3	Will Bayley (K)
Women's Band 3	Jas Ould (K)
Men's Band 4	Myles Collins (Sy)
Men's Band 5	Scott Cundy (WAL)
Men's Band 6	Koji Hirota (Mi)

With the absence of Hannah Hicks (who had already accumulated enough points to be untouchable), it left the door open for several contenders in the Women's Under 21 event to take the winner's prize. Melissa Wright, the top seed, was making stealthy progress to the final with her defensive style of play mixed in with attacking shots, and this method causes most young ladies huge headaches to play against. Following the group stages Melissa soon asserted over Laura Price and Chloe Thomas to reach the final, whilst second seed Natalie Slater was also making headway outpointing Leine Agata and a four close setter with Annabelle Morle to reach the final with Melissa. The Wright-Slater final saw Melissa race to a two set lead then Natalie reduced that deficit by one set, but she could never totally penetrate the solid defensive skills that Melissa possesses to see the top seed run out a 3-1 final winner.

Once again the Damien Nicholls Under 21 roadshow was steamrolling its way to yet another final. Damien has developed a tough style of play which makes him very hard to beat nowadays. Influenced by mentors Des Douglas and Alex Perry, he mixes up to the table precision blocking and accurate re-looping, plus the ability to go back from the table when needed to throw back all that is given to him with excellent control and re-looping early from off the bounce. He soon brushed aside opponents Cameron Thomas, Jon Hall and Garth Kinlocke (who had just beaten Matt Ware in a five set quarter-final), all with 3-0 scores, to await his last opponent. Chris Doran was also playing well in getting past Patrick Thomas and an epic fifth set nip and tuck duel with Daniel Ives who continued his fight with Doran to the bitter end quarter-final match. His last four opponent Richard Andrews also gave as good as he got but Chris won that match 3-1 to set up his final with Nicholls.

Doran got off to a great start in the final taking the first end but once again the Master of the Under 21s Nicholls moved effortlessly through the gears taking the next three sets to be crowned Hereford Under 21 Champion, but also a very worthy overall Grand Prix champion for a third successive time (winning 8 out of 10 events this season), surely a unique and historic achievement to collect his £400 winner's cheque - "Damo" you were absolutely brilliant! Angharad Phillips from Wales was voted the player of the tournament for her supreme efforts during the event and was presented with a Tees Sport voucher for £50.



Tin-Tin Ho

UNDER 11, 12,13, 14 CHAMPIONSHIPS BY MALCOLM MACFARLANE

There was some excellent play on show at day 1 of the U11,12,13,14 Championships at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. In the U14 Boys' Doubles no 1 seeds Zak Zilesnick and Connor Neenan lost to no 3 seeds Igor Morais and Ross Wilson in the final.

Igor and Ross had an excellent win in the semi-finals defeating no 2 seeds Sam Walker with Eric Wan in four sets, before toppling the top seeds 11-8 in the fifth, coming back from two games to zero down in what was by far the most competitive of the day's finals.

In the U14 Girls' Doubles no 1 seeds, Emily Bates/Jessica Dawson defeated no 2 seeds Tin-Tin Ho/Charlotte Kirby in the final. They dropped the first game but came back strongly to take the next three.

In the U14 Singles, both Emily Bates and Zak Zilesnick were seeded to win their respective events and both succeeded with some ease. Emily beat no 2 seed Tin-Tin Ho in four games (the only defeat of the whole weekend in singles for Tin-Tin), whilst Zak has a similar scoreline against no 2 seed Sam Walker.

In the U11 Girls' competition there was only ever going to be one winner, Tin-Tin Ho, who did not drop a game on the way to her championship and nobody took more than six points in any of the games she won.

In the final Emily Bolton was really up against a class act losing to Tin-Tin 11-5, 11-5 11-3.

In the U11 Boys' competition Matthew Leete

took the championship with some excellent play over Daniel McTiernan in the final.

Day 2 was dominated by Tin-Tin Ho, winner of both the U12 and U13 Girls' Singles without dropping a single game.

This ensured that Tin-Tin repeated her 2007-8 performance by winning all except the U14 Girls' Singles.

In the U12 Girls only Maria Tsapsinos in the semi-final stretched the champion in any way and that match was still three straight games 11-8, 11-9, 11-7. In the final Chrissie Slot found Tin-Tin at her most dominating losing 11-4, 11-5, 11-2.

The Under 12 Boys' Singles produced the competition for the day, winner Sam Mabey fought off a strong challenge from Jack Bennett in the semi-final, winning that in five close sets. In the final it was a repeat of the semi, Jack Basterfield took the first on deuce, Sam responded to take the next two but Jack came back again with a 11-9 win in the fourth. 2 all, in the final set both had their chances but finally, and with as much relief as celebration, Sam Mabey was champion 10-12, 11-9, 11-2, 9-11, 12-10.

Igor Morais, winner of the U14 Boys' Doubles, added the U13 Boys' Singles title with a dominating performance beating Jared Patel in the final in three straight games 11-7, 11-9, 11-9.

It was the usual story in the U13 Girls' Singles. Annabelle Gibson just could not cope with the consistency and occasional power of Tin-Tin Ho's game losing 11-8, 11-1, 11-9.

County Notes

Derbyshire by Neil Houghton

Been a lot going on recently including National Schools' Team event at Hinckley, I also went down to Draycott coaching at the National Teams Competition, somewhat nearer than Suffolk last time I coached a team in it. Staveley Springwell School has got enough strength in depth this year to win the National Schools' U16s at Hinckley. The thing that can be frustrating (as for Danny and Sean in previous years) is that with four in a team, it's not easy to find four really good players at same school (and the standard is very high at moment) - the other side of this is that if it was a team of two or even three it may not be so challenging but, whatever, Sean Cullen, Danny Lowe, Josh Packwood and Ronan Kelly have now done it and by chance (not unconnected with me passing time on car journeys texting radio stations) even got them a mention on Radio Derby on the way back and a decent plug for the sport! Inspired by the enthusiasm of the man and woman on that Sunday evening show I contacted both Radio Derby and Peak Fm about the national counties "double", suggesting Radio Derby talk to Les and Peak Fm contact me, but have had no response so maybe they aren't atypical of the media attitude to Table Tennis after all?

Another curious meeting of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire took place in National Schools', this time the other way round with a Derbyshire player representing Notts, that is Emma Vickers (who goes to college in Ng) beat Derbyshire team-mate Lucy Davidson in the U19s final! At least we were sure to have a Derbyshire player winning the final anyway. Danny lost in the semi of U19s after an epic struggle.

Most of the usual suspects were down at the Cadet Masters and more recently the Juniors at Northampton; Derbyshire players did well (Lucy was third in Cadets on the earlier weekend), although Sean was injured and Liam wasn't there. Danny played and did well, including beating Matt Ware early on, so keeping the Derbyshire flag flying. I heard Jayden Budworth finished in the semis at Norwich in the U11s Nationals recently - well done. Next item on the late-season agenda is the International Schools' in Largs. I plan to go up there as I have a player going and it's said to be a nice seaside place, warm but rain-prone.

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM DERBYSHIRE

Another curious meeting of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire took place in National Schools', this time the other way round with a Derbyshire player representing Notts, that is Emma Vickers (who goes to college in Ng) beat Derbyshire team-mate Lucy Davidson in the U19s final! At least we were sure to have a Derbyshire player winning the final anyway. Danny lost in the semi of U19s after an epic struggle.

Essex by Steve Kerns

2009 Essex Closed - The favourite Umair Mauthoor became the 2009 Essex Closed Men's Singles Champion played at BATTs, Harlow, in April. Mauthoor's final opponent was Jared Patel, ranked no. 2 in England at U13 level. Patel scored three top draw wins beating Kevin Read 11-4, 6-11, 11-8, 11-9, then Fred Dove 5-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-8, and then surprise semi-finalist Dave Bowles after one of the closest and most exciting matches of the season. Patel looked dead and buried (rephrase that - he was dead and buried) trailing 10-2 in the third end against a clearly inferior Bowles. Somehow Jared managed to erode into his opponent's lead and amazingly salvaged the game 14-12. Patel went on to win 8-11, 5-11, 14-12, 13-11, 12-10. However, there was no fairytale ending and Umair Mauthoor dominated the final winning 11-7, 13-11, 11-3.

Top seed John Dennison became the Veterans' Singles Champion in his first appearance in the event, beating Paul Beck 11-9, 11-6, 11-8.

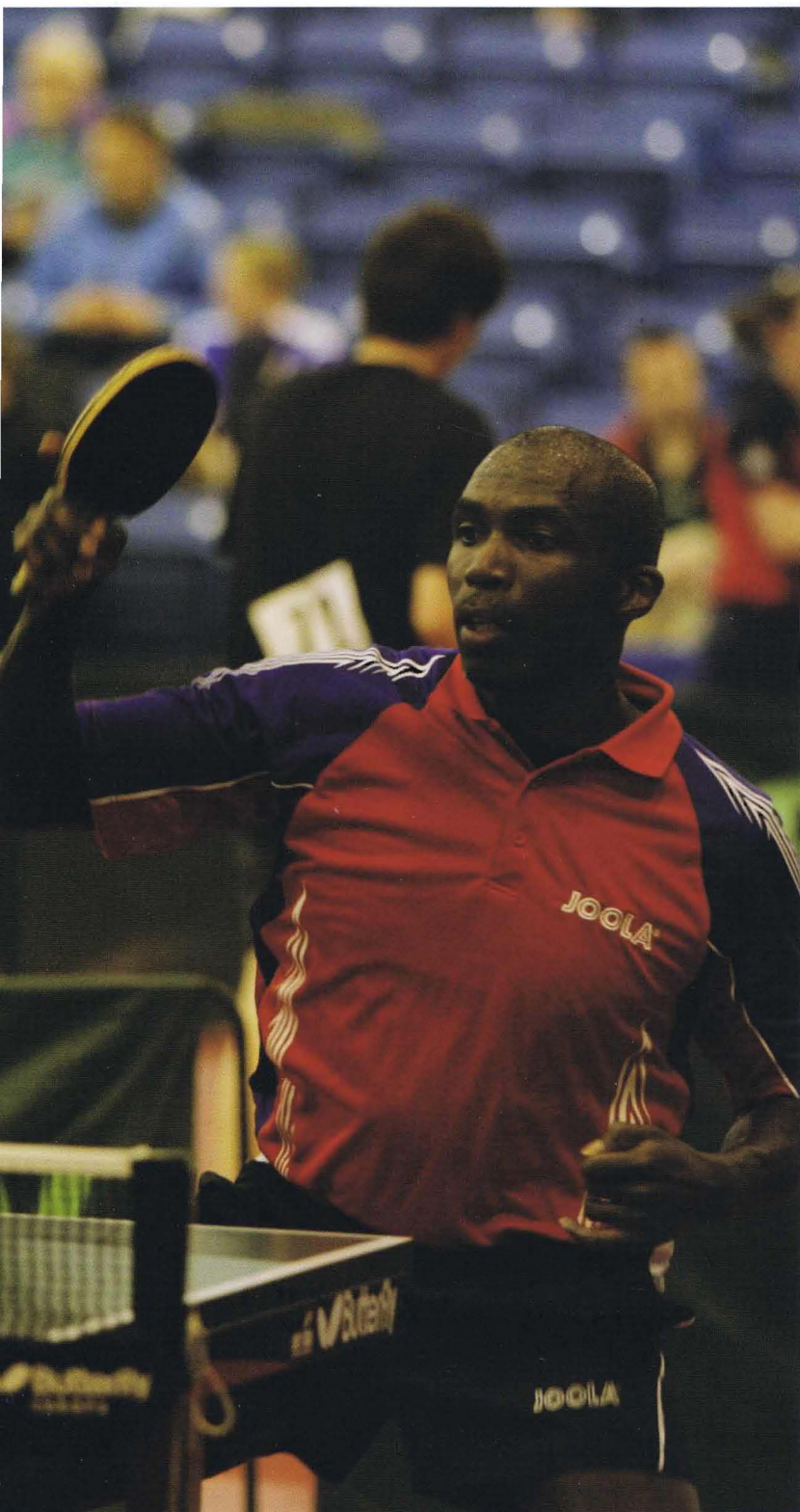
Top seeded Umair and Zayd Mauthoor won the Open Doubles title, but only just. They were taken all the way in the final by Kevin Read/David Evans who matched everything the Mauthoor brothers threw at them. Umair and Zayd shaded it 5-11, 12-10, 11-8, 8-11, 12-10. Kevin and David had scored two fine wins to make the final, beating Fred Dove/Ray Lam 8-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-3, and Paul Beck/Dave Bowles 11-9, 11-7, 7-11, 15-13.

There was further success for Kevin Read who held off the challenge of impressive newcomer Mindaugas Sinkus in a tense five set final of the Restricted Singles. Kevin just shaded this one 9-11, 11-3, 11-7, 8-11, 11-9.

Matthew Mulley who has made giant strides this season demonstrated this improvement in the U21 Singles event. He powered his way to the title, getting the better of Anthony Kent 11-6, 11-6, 11-5 in the final.

Anthony Kent is the 2009 U18 Boys' Champion, but he was pushed all the way by Philip Lawson. Kent just prevailed 3-11, 11-8, 11-9, 1-11, 12-10. Kent had to work hard to get the better of Alex Holland over five ends 14-16, 11-9, 9-11, 11-6, 11-5, and then Romford team-mate Joe Stannard 11-6, 11-13, 11-7, 11-8, but it was the final where he had to really dig deep.

Top seed **John Dennison** became the Veterans' Singles Champion in his first appearance in the event, beating Paul Beck 11-9, 11-6, 11-8.



Philip Lawson who scarcely put a foot wrong all day became the U15 Boys' Champion, beating Brandon Crouchman 12-10, 12-10, 11-5 in the final. The favourite, Alex Holland, made no mistake in the Boys' U13 Singles and he sailed through to take the title beating Matthew Callcut 11-5, 11-6, 11-4 and Liam Williams 11-6, 11-2, 11-9. Williams had needed four games to get the better of Ben Page 11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 11-0 a round earlier.

Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

The Shaw League held its closed tournament between April 21st & 30th at St. Michael's in St. Albans, as ever it was very well attended. Here are the results:

Ladies Singles

June Nelson bt. Petra Schmelzer

Ladies Doubles

P Schmelzer/J Channell bt. J Nelson/H Fish

Mixed Doubles

D Wilson/J Nelson bt. R Anderson/A Fereday

Men's Doubles

G Morgan/T Murrell bt. R Anderson/B Cummins

Veteran Singles

Gary Keers bt. Kevin Fraher

Junior Singles

Ross McNiven bt. Max Tomblin

Open Singles

Tony Murrell bt. Gary Morgan

Minor Singles

Max Tomblin bt. Jackie Channell

Handicap Singles

Abhishek Karoliya (+14) bt. Chris Wade

Very late in the day Veteran Team 6 finished this season's matches on May 16th. They lost to Beds. 2 by 7 matches to 3, but beat Beds. 3 by 7 matches to 3. The team was David Wilson (captain), Alan Shelford and new signing Bob Adamson who managed to win one on his debut. The lady was Jackie Channell.

Lancashire by David Buckley

Andrew Rushton represented England in the recent series of matches against India. His performance in the overall decider at Preston underlined his growing experience at the higher level by defeating Amairaj Anthony Arputhraj, who had defeated Andrew only a week earlier in London.

The Lancs and Cheshire leagues have now all been completed. The men's premier division was won by Warrington led by Jake Shaw and ably backed by James

Bartolo and Mark Bleakley. A flawless performance from Darryl Meredith clinched Oldham runners-up spot. East Lancs will be playing premier division table tennis next season after topping division one. Mike Moir, Josh Bleakley and Kamal Hussain were responsible for the promotion. The standard of division one next season promises to be high with teams of the calibre of Manchester and newly demoted Trafford all vying for promotion. The junior premier division was won by Wirral. The players responsible were Steven Nicholls, Chris Hatton and John Simcox.

Northants by Dennis Millman

The 2008-2009 season has undoubtedly proved the most successful in the history of Northants, with more triumphs and less tribulations than ever before.

The major achievements at the top in the National Championships were Tim Yarnall reaching the semi-final of the U21 men's event, only to be eliminated by England no.1 Paul Drinkhall. Then partnered by Andrew Rushton, Yarnall went through to the final of the men's doubles, before going down in four ends to Drinkhall and Darius Knight.

Chris Doran, partnered by Hannah Hicks, got even closer to a title when faced by the eventual singles Champions Drinkall and Joanna Parker, who eventually came out on top 11-8, 15-13, 10-12, 7-11, 11-7.

Doran's successful sequence continued when he won the U19 event at the English Schools' national individual finals, and for an encore took first place in a nail biting Junior Masters.

In the younger age groups 11 year old Sam Mabey and 12 year old Miles Chan both achieved international status and despite their comparative youth reached the top 5 at U13 level.

In team events the Veteran Firsts Steve Silk, Andy Trott, Dave Welsman and Margaret Welsman took pride of place by winning Division 2 of the County Championships, whilst Westfield's Junior British League team of Jordan Dainty, Jack Coleman, Joel Carton, Sam Wildman and Miles Chan were crowned Division 3A champions.

One of the best county closed tournaments provided some tremendous encounters followed by a finals night of high quality. Steve Silk finally got his name on the men's singles trophy while Jordan Wood confirmed her national ranking in the ladies section.

On the local league front Kettering Town made it three Premier titles in a row, despite an injury to Ken Philipson

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM NORTHANTS

The major achievements at the top in the National Championships were Tim Yarnall reaching the semi-final of the U21 men's event, only to be eliminated by England no.1 Paul Drinkhall. Then partnered by Andrew Rushton, Yarnall went through to the final of the men's doubles, before going down in four ends to Drinkhall and Darius Knight.

which kept him out of action for the second half of the campaign. John Fuller and Mike Hawes provided the backbone of the team with Chris Doran, Carl Leeson and Dan Smalley making occasional, but telling, appearances. Steve Silk, Chris Ross, Dawid Przybysz and Alex Aston made sure of second place for Burton Baptise A, while Higham Band's Richard Elliott, Mark Nannery and Andy Harrison finished third.

At Wellingborough the Premier Division was won by Westfield A with 51 points to spare over runners-up Chesterwell. Jordan Dainty led the averages with 42 wins out of 45, while Cheterwell's David Waples did well to record 48 wins from 60 starts, the only player in the top echelon to play in every match.

South Yorkshire by Rob Loxley

At the recently held ETTA Butterfly Grand Prix in the Barnsley Metrodome, many local players flew the flag, including Vulcan's Sarah Perks (19) who reached the semi-finals of the Women's Open, losing to Lindsey Reynolds. Sheffield's Melissa Wright (formerly of Abbeydale TTC) seeded fourth in the U21 women's singles, used her defensive skills to take the title with a 3-1 win over Sarah Perks (Ng).

Melissa also reached the final of the Women's Band 1 event, losing 11-6, 11-5, 12-10, against Emily Bates. Vulcan's Matt Dodds reached the quarter-finals of the U21 Men's, losing a fantastic match 11-9 in the fifth to Matt Ware.

In the Men's Band 1 event, Ware reached the final edging out Crookes' Shaun Marples (Dy) 11-7 in the decider. Sheffield's Jack Grant (Don Valley TTC) worked hard and triumphed in the Men's Band 3 singles with a 3-1 win over Chris Clinton.

Matt Kenny showed his class, and in beating Vulcan's Matt Dodds 3-1, provided the springboard of a 4-3 lead for Stocksbridge Rugby A to retain the three a side knockout cup and record five consecutive wins and eight in the last 12 years. Vulcan started confidently with 13-year-old Sam Walker taking out the six times Sheffield singles champion Stephen Horsfield 3 games to 2. Matt Dodds increased Vulcan's lead with a 3-1 win over Trevor Williams, then Kenny, the division's ninth highest scorer, stepped up and demolished Mo Khan 3-0. Vulcan went 3-1 up with Dodds' win over Horsfield but that proved to be as far as Vulcan could reach. Kenny proved too strong for Walker, and Williams had sufficient defensive guile to see off Khan in a marathon set that went the distance, 11-9 in the fifth.

The major achievements at the top in the National Championships were **Tim Yarnall** reaching the semi-final of the U21 men's event, only to be eliminated by England no.1 Paul Drinkhall.



Surrey by Chris Andrews

The home of the Commonwealth Games for 2009 was Glasgow. Darius Knight won a bronze in the team event and the doubles event where he partnered Paul Drinkhall. Joanna Parker also won a bronze medal in the doubles with Kelly Sibley. Darius's best win came in the last 16 of the singles event where he beat Adam Robertson, Wales' no.1 player, ranked 155 places above him in the World rankings.

Surrey with Guildford in particular had a great run in the English Cup competitions. Guildford men had an amazing first and second places in the Wilmott Cup. Guildford C won the trophy with Guildford B second. Guildford also came second in the girls event, the Bromfield Trophy. As well as this Guildford ladies came seventh in the JM Rose Bowl.

Lucy Lou and Marcus Giles were part of the London region team crowned National Regional Champions. The British Universities & Colleges Sport Championships, held in Sheffield, saw Imperial win the Men's Team trophy with Surrey's Eddie Liu player of the tournament. Abdul Wuraola was runner up in the Mixed Veterans' event at the Wolverhampton Grand Prix.

At the Greater London Championships Jerome Jonah won the Veterans' Singles. Lucy Lou came second in the U18 girls' singles and won the U15s' event. Erme Ibatoglu was runner-up in the U15 boys' event.

In the Senior British League, Simon Philipsz was Surrey's leading player on 53%. Matt Pernet won promotion with Ashford I from Division 2 South & West, while youngster Michael Ho finished on 75% in Division 3 South. Henry Medellin was Surrey's leading average man in the Veterans' British Premier League on 50% playing for Holme Park Development 1. Graham Spicer 1 gained promotion in the Veterans' Division 1A with the team of Steve Horton, Derek Holman and David Bangerter. In Division 2A Simon Philipsz' team Bribar Fusion Vets won the League and David Solman's Holme Developments 2 came second. In Division 1 of the Women's Veterans British League Marcia Ma finished top of the leader board on 100% for HEL Ladies.

Crusaders came second in British Junior League Division 2B, while York Gardens B won Division 4B.

Crusaders were runners-up in Division 1 of the National Junior League, just one point behind the winners, and in Division 3 Crusaders teams finished first, joint second and fourth in a division of 14 teams. In the National Cadet League, Crusaders have won Divisions 1 and 3 and are runners-up in Division 2. Crusaders 'A' in Division 1

featured the talents of Carshalton's Lewis Bray, Wallington's Kedar Dutia, Wallington's Krishan Sareen and supported by Ryan Kean, whilst Crusaders 'B' comprised Croydon's Alex Yee, Joseph Yee and Alan Reddaway. It was Crusaders 'F' that won Division 3 with Amar Shukla, Alex Moon, Bobby Loveder and Oscar Terry. Crusaders 'E' – Jamie Hughes, Atish Joygobin-Gopee and Jack Murphy - missed the runners-up spot by just two points.

The Wandsworth and District Table Tennis League saw York Gardens take positions one, two and three. Wilton won Divisions 2 & 3. XXIV Club B team won Division 4, with Vale F winning Division 5. York Gardens' domination of the Wandsworth League showed again as they won the Chairman and President's Cups.

In the Sutton League Patrick Beckley of Rosehill won the Open. He also won the Doubles with Richard Tanner.

Janice Lee of Graham Spicer won the Ladies Open.

Lennie Loew took the Consolation event with Richard Tanner beating Geoff Grange in the Veterans' event and John Fanin overcoming Joel Clancy at deuce in the fifth of the Super Veterans' final. Michael Ho won the U18s and U15s beating Lewis Bray and Kedur Dutia respectively.

Warwickshire by Caroline Williams

Leamington have celebrated the end of a very successful season with 76 teams spread over 7 divisions (4 3-a side, 3 2-a side) making them probably the third largest league in England. At their presentation evening held in early May along with a quiz and carvery, perpetual trophies were presented to the winners from the Closed Championships, as well as to the division winners from the league. Runners-up to each division and individual averages winners also received trophies.

The results of the closed championships were:

Men's Singles: Jon Hall bt. Tristan Gretton

Ladies Singles: Charlotte Spencer bt. Tracey Fletcher

Men's Doubles: Jon Hall/Ron Vose bt. Mike Bishop/Earl Sweeney

Ladies Doubles: Charlotte Spencer/Lleryn Brocklehurst bt. Tracey Fletcher/Claire Cram

Mixed Doubles: Holly Thompson/Deepak Chandrababu bt. Mike Bishop/Charlotte Spencer

Veteran Men's Singles: Ron Vose bt. Mike Bishop

Veteran Women's Singles: Marion Dixon bt. Grace Newman

Over 50 Singles: Ron Vose bt. Mike Bishop

Over 60 Singles: Graham Hoskin bt. Malcolm Macfarlane

Youth Singles: Tristan Gretton bt. Loz Sweeney

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM SURREY

Surrey with Guildford in particular had a great run in the English Cup competitions.

Guildford men had an amazing first and second places in the Wilmott Cup.

Guildford C won the trophy with Guildford B second. Guildford also came second in the girls event, the Bromfield Trophy. As well as this Guildford ladies came seventh in the JM Rose Bowl. Lucy Lou and Marcus Giles were part of the London region team crowned National Regional Champions.

Junior Boys' Singles: Loz Sweeney bt. Phil Blowey

Junior Girls' Singles: Charlotte Spencer bt. Holly Thompson

Under 15 Boys' Singles: Loz Sweeney bt. Luke Spencer

Under 15 Girls' Singles: Holly Thompson bt. Jessica Campion

Under 13 Boys' Singles: Luke Spencer bt. Niall Herbert

Under 13 Girls' Singles: Jessica Campion bt. Imogen Evans

Under 11 Boys' Singles: Timmy Cooper bt. Peter

Armstrong

Under 11 Girls' Singles: Billie-Jay Jenkins bt. Olivia Fletcher

Junior Doubles: Loz Sweeney/Charlotte Spencer bt. Niall Herbert/Roald Myers

Grade 1 Singles: Tristan Gretton bt. Deepak Chandrababu

Grade 2 Singles: Loz Sweeney bt. Steve Proctor

Grade 3 Singles: Philip Blowey bt. Claire Cram

Grade 4 Singles: Holly Thompson bt. Graham Rose

Grade 5 Singles: Sam Poland bt. Troy Pierce

Parent/Child Doubles: Earl/Loz Sweeney bt. Andrew/Tristan Gretton

Handicap Singles: Luke Spencer bt. David Margurie

Division 1 was won by Colebridge Aces for the second successive year, led by Ian Ferguson, with St. Georges B (under Mark Jackson) taking the runner-up spot. As well during the evening, the Most Improved Junior award went to Luke Spencer and the Endeavour Trophy was presented to Tom Brocklehurst, for his excellent work as press officer.

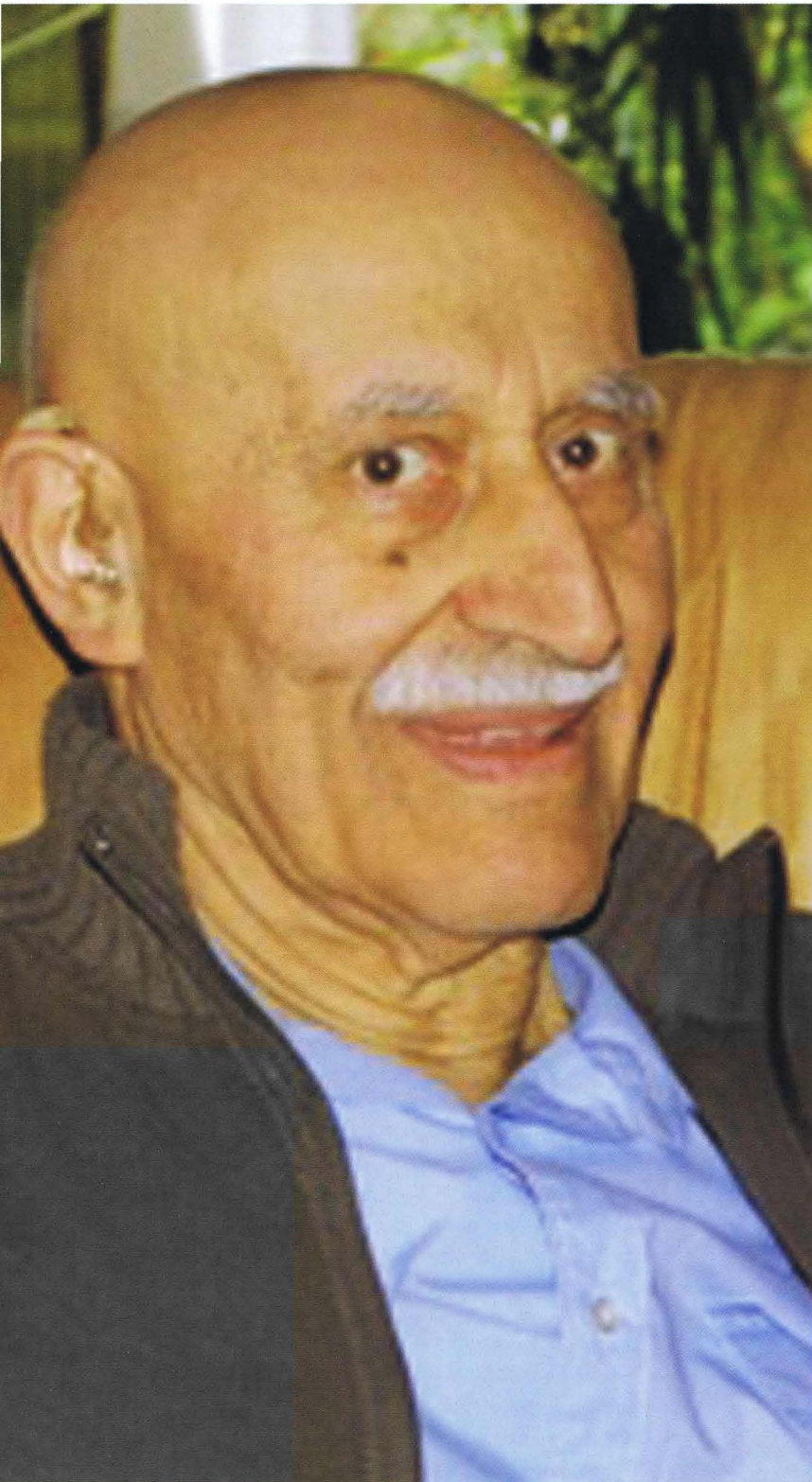
Michael Papantoniou 1921 - 2009

It is hard to imagine a more cheerful, sociable and popular figure than Michael Papantoniou, who died on 7th April aged 88. Entering a room, it would seem like he was friends with everyone, making quips, chatting generally about one thing or another and making time for all. His shuffling gait, heavy Greek accent and trademark beret added to the image of a charming character. He was a remarkably convivial man who put tremendous energy into all of his interests.

Michael never rose above division four level as a player himself. His style never changed, scrambling the ball back somehow or other, most unconventionally, and throwing in chat and jokes at unlikely moments. Red-faced juniors could never work out how they were beaten by this crazy man. Michael was more than proud of being the oldest active player in the league and indeed he played in the Minor Singles at the Closed Championships just six weeks before he died.

His legacy to the game is immense. His son Costas is

It is hard to imagine a more cheerful, sociable and popular figure than **Michael Papantoniou**, who died on 7th April aged 88.



ranked in the top ten veterans in England whilst his four grandsons have all reached that level in junior rankings. Even more, his and his family's support for their efforts on the table has been tremendous. Upon retirement from his restaurant business at age 44, he founded the Apollo club with Ray Raymond, which began in the Willesden League but transferred to the Wembley & Harrow upon the demise of the former League. Apollo, led by Costas, won the national inter-club Wilmott Cup three times running in the 1980s.

In the W&H League, Michael was a member of Kenton from the early 1960s until the 1980s and then played for Apollo at the John Billam Scout Hut in Preston Road, latterly moving to the Harrow Leisure Centre. Michael was elected a Vice-President of the League in 1997.

Away from table tennis, one of Michael's interests was keeping bees and making honey. He was the longest-serving member of the Middlesex Beekeepers' Association. "I want a garden with a house in it because I want to keep bees," he is reported to have told the estate agent, in typical fashion, when he began looking for a house. He said it was for him, his family and his swarm. He was also a keen horticulturalist and spent endless happy hours tending a wide variety of plants and shrubs. Even table tennis visitors were always taken on a guided tour, with Michael pointing out and naming his favourites. More often than not, visitors were sent away with a pot of honey too.

Not content with having a garden which most of us would find daunting, he also maintained a double allotment nearby, where he grew vegetables. For many years he exhibited at the Brent and Harrow annual shows, winning several awards for excellence.

Michael was born in Cyprus in 1921 and came to England in 1938. He served with the British Army's Medical Corps in the Second World War. He leaves a wife, June, a son Costas, a daughter Marianna and five grandchildren.

World Rankings

MEN

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



WOMEN

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



U21 MEN

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



U21 WOMEN

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



U18 BOYS

1. MATSUDAIRA Kenta (JPN)
2. MA Liang (SIN)
3. YIN Hang (CHN)
4. SEO Hyun Deok (KOR)
5. ZHENG Peifeng (CHN)



U18 GIRLS

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



U15 BOYS

1. YIN Hang (CHN)
2. ZHENG Peifeng (CHN)
3. CHENG Jingqi (CHN)
4. NIWA Koki (JPN)
5. ZHANG Shengwan (CHN)



U15 GIRLS

1. CHEN Meng (CHN)
2. YANG Ha Eun (KOR)
3. SOLJA Petrissa (GER)
4. TANIOKA Ayuka (JPN)
5. NOSKOVA Yana (RUS)



Player Rankings 2008/2009

TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

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

TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
2.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
3.	DORAN, Christopher (NP.)
4.	WARE, Mathew (DO.)
5.	GRAY, Lewis (K.)

TOP 5 CADET BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	GRAY, Lewis (K.)
2.	ZILESINICK, Zak (MI.)
3.	WALKER, Sam (NG.)
4.	TAN, Reece (E.)
5.	MORAIS, Igor (MI.)

TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	MORAIS, Igor (MI.)
2.	PATEL, Jared (E.)
3.	MABEY, Samuel (NP.)
4.	SMITH, Paul (CV.)
5.	SIKET, Michael (WO.)

TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	WURAOOLA, Abdul (SY.)
2.	NEIL, Lee (NG.)
3.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
4.	SMITH, Eddie (ND.)
5.	HILTON, John (CH.)

TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

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

TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

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

TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

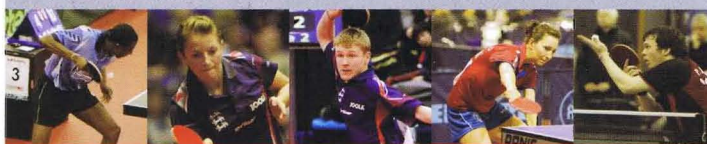
Ranking	Player
1.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
2.	DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.)
3.	KING, Yolanda (SX.)
4.	WHYTE, Chloe (CV.)
5.	HO, Tin-Tin (MI.)

TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

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

TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
2.	COLLIER, Sue (CH.)
3.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.)
4.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
5.	MA, Marcia (SY.)



For the full list of player rankings go to our website

www.etta.co.uk



Dates for your diary

Table Tennis events for August 2009



August 9th

Junior: Horsham 1 Star
Senior: Horsham 1 Star

August 22nd

Senior: City of Liverpool Open BGP

August 23rd

Cadet: Burton Uxbridge 2 Star
Junior: Burton Uxbridge 2 Star
Senior: City of Liverpool Open BGP

August 29th

Senior: Cippenham Series

August 30th

Veteran: Cippenham Series

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

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WARE

GEOFF



My dream would be that table tennis could once again have an “iconic figure”, akin to a charismatic Chester Barnes....

Birth date: 02/02/48

Place of birth: Hayes, Middlesex

Residence: Poole, Dorset

Current title: Butterfly Grand Prix Press Officer

HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY:

What does your role involve and how does your average week/weekend unfold?

I compete in the local Bournemouth league once a week and probably every third weekend I am away somewhere around the country doing my bit to promote and communicate on table tennis tournaments. Primarily I am responsible for reporting on all the major Butterfly Grand Prix events, but also during the year I attend and report on around 20 major events in the playing calendar. I like to think that in my own small way through my write-ups that I spread the word about table tennis tournaments that would otherwise be “lost in time”. I particularly enjoy talking to players, coaches and parents about general table tennis topics, and enjoy the privilege of watching so many wonderful matches, especially from the

up and coming younger players, and how they handle their emotional roller coaster rides during and after play. Table tennis has been a huge part of my life and given me opportunities to travel to places and countries that I would have never dreamed of going (Sweden, Germany, and Netherlands as examples). Through those enjoyable experiences and meeting so many wonderful characters, I hope that in my writing I have put something back into the sport that has given me so much pleasure over 40 years!

Was it your love of the sport that got Matt involved, or did his ever-progressing career drag you in?

Very much the former. Matt seemed to be a natural when he first started playing at 9 years of age, and I have been extremely proud of his achievements over these last years. The enjoyment and wonderful opportunities and experiences he has gained through our common interest in the sport will stand him in good stead throughout his future life.

What impact has table tennis had on your life?

Immense, it has given me something to look forward to after a day and week's work. Interaction with other players, great competition, team spirit, a degree of fitness and now a fantastic opportunity to report on events as an ETTA volunteer around the country.

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

So many changes have been made in my time, mainly positive. My dream would be that table tennis could once again have an “iconic figure”, akin to a charismatic Chester Barnes that could make headline news in the daily papers. I think we need a sports promoter working closely with the ETTA, similar to Barry Hearne, who could raise the profile of table tennis to former heights, and get our great sport back regularly on TV, as he has done with snooker and boxing.