

table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

World Championships Exclusive

England v India; Table Tennis Masters; Commonwealth Championships; Plus the latest news and results

Mary Fuller

England Debut

STIGA NCT Wood:
Changing the Way the Game is played

STIGA®

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first word



Individual Membership - critical for the future of our sport!

Your opinion counts but it may not count for much in our present system no matter how loud you shout. Individual Membership can change this...

How often in a game of Chinese Whispers does the original message get back round to the beginning? In my experience very rarely, it depends on who's playing, whether they're interested, or even if they receive the right message in the first place. Some players may deliberately decide to change the message and if you have one or two of these in the chain you've got no chance of success.

Of course in Chinese Whispers distorting the message is part of the fun; it's interesting to see what strange garbled message spouts out of the last person's mouth and find out how far removed it is from the initial saying. But when it comes to more important

matters, such as the strategic direction of the sport you love, surely it would be better to have first hand information by way of a direct communication, rather than relying on a chain of intermediaries who may even be tempted to put their own slant on things or worse still not even pass the communication on at all?

The reason I pose this question is because on the bill at this year's AGM is one item that has the potential to revolutionise our sport and in doing so to ensure that a direct communication channel is established allowing us, the ETTA, to converse with every registered player and official creating a more open, direct, efficient, consistent and democratic means of governance. This item is Individual Membership.

In contrast our current form of affiliation/membership process is outdated, restrictive, inconsistent and intolerably inefficient; it provides virtually no knowledgebase to

benchmark our sport and without this our destiny is out of our hands as we have to rely on third party evidence to ensure sustained funding. In today's competitive market place where accountability is a pre requisite, not just a nicety, the current system is clearly stifling our progression.

Individual Membership is not extra paperwork or additional cost, it is simply a coordinated step forward and a way of empowering our membership by banishing the Chinese Whispers and providing a means to communicate directly to each other. For more information on Individual Membership and how to ensure it is passed at the AGM please log on to our website at www.etta.co.uk

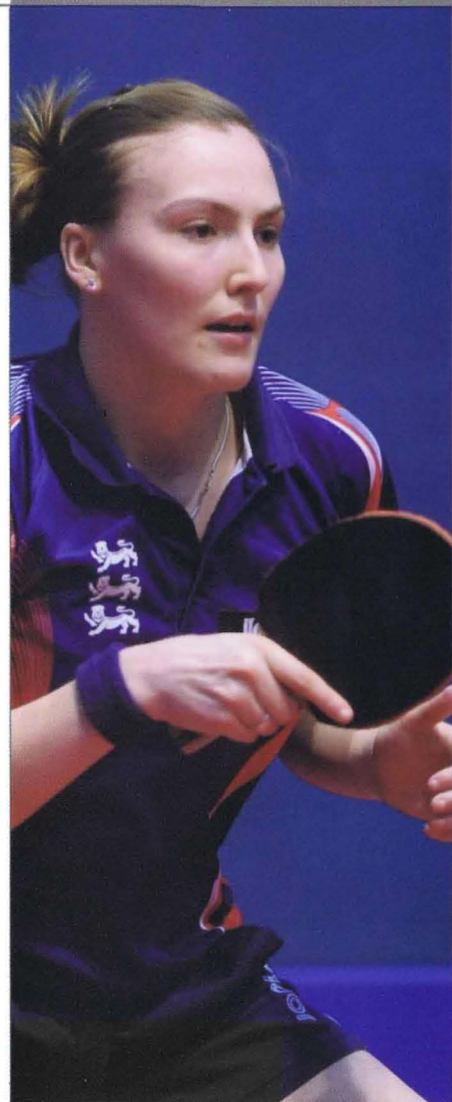
I hope you enjoy this tournament focused edition; as ever I look forward to receiving your comments and letters.

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

The highlights from our main contributors...

"Our sport is nearly alone in the eyes of our funding partners without an Individual Membership system" Alex Murdoch Page 4 "Focus should always be on position of the feet, weight transference and the ability to disguise the spin being used" Matthew Stanforth Page 12 "He could have been Scottish but he was from India; the locals in Glasgow had taken the 27 year old Subhajit Saha to their hearts" Ian Marshall page 19 "He was clearly un intimidated by his surroundings, despite the event being live on Sky Sports, and conducted himself in such a way that will generate considerable optimism about his prospects of moving in the upper echelons of the world rankings." Matthew Syed Page 22

Straight Talk



These propositions will require a **75% majority** to be approved and I ask you to ensure **your views are made clear** to your voting member at league and county level.

The season is coming to a close for many leagues and the work by their administrators will start for the next season. We hope that all Leagues can increase the teams for 2009/10 and that the directly affiliated clubs continue to expand.

My local league has run a summer league for many years which has attracted additional players and teams mainly for the lower divisions, I hope that others will follow suit as it certainly has worked for us.

Table tennis is increasing, in particular at schools, and it is essential that these participants are given the opportunity to take part in the competition programme within the leagues and clubs, and they can develop to be involved in the ETTA national and regional events. To achieve this it is essential that we are more flexible in our goals to attract these young players and the English Schools' TTA, which is in good standing with the ETTA, has many local and national events which give the opportunity for these youngsters to get involved.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

The information for the AGM in June which will include the propositions, implications, reasons, costing and benefits will be sent to the membership in advance of this AGM. An initial document has been sent out from the office, if you have not received a copy please get in touch, this document covered an overview of the proposals and costings for individual membership, with some background on the reasonings and outcomes. These propositions will require a 75% majority to be approved and I ask you to ensure your views are made clear to your voting member at league and county level.

I am personally in favour of this change, not just because it fits in with the transformational policies for the future, or that our sport is nearly alone in the

eyes of our funding partners without an IM system, more importantly it will benefit our sport and its members in many ways increase and improve the communication to our membership, help the membership understand and feel part of the ETTA, improve our ability to increase the membership, attract sponsors and ensure that the benefits and new benefits are available to all of those playing our great sport.

PLANS AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS

A summary of the 2009 to 2013 Whole Sport Plan was submitted to National Council and others in April, copies can be sent to you if required by e-mail, please contact the ETTA office.

The inter departmental working groups continue to meet, involving volunteers and staff to review the 2009/13 plan in line with our awards in terms of resources and work programmes.

Management submitted the 2009/10 budget forecasts to National Council at the April meeting which was approved. This budget is of course subject to change as and when the various Interventional Plans are put in place, with the relevant resources and staffing during the phase in transformational timescales agreed.

The budgeted investment in our sport over the next 12 months is £4,466,300, in 2008/9 it was £2,648,110.

The 2009/10 budget does, however, cover a number of areas that are ring fenced expenditures, albeit last year was similar, but did not include facilities provision, BTTAD provision and the English Open provision. These have been additionally funded by Sport England, UK Sport, Youth Sport Trust and Yorkshire Forward.

In real terms the investments from 2008/9 to 2009/10 will increase by £774,190, which is an increased general investment of 30% to support our sport and continue its progress forward.

This additional investment will be used in areas including club development, coaching, volunteers and technical officials, children & young people, table tennis in the workplace and women in sport, participation at grass roots, marketing & communications, competitions and talent identification. Our thanks go to our funding partners for their continued and increasing support for our sport.

We will not just concentrate on getting new members but ensure that support and resources are in place to retain our existing membership, particularly within the local league/club/school structures.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

These Championships took place in Japan from 27th April until 5th May and included the ITTF Board, AGM and Committee meetings, as well as European Board/Congress and the CTTF Board/General meetings.

A large number of propositions and resolutions were voted on during these various meetings and details will be included on the ITTF website. The propositions to change the service rule were defeated. A modification to the laws of the game was approved and details will be included in the ETTA leaflet for next season.

In addition the elections of the ITTF Executive and Board of Directors took place as well as the election of committees, commissions and working parties.

Adam Sharara was re-elected ITTF President with an overwhelming majority over the candidate from Brazil. A new ITTF executive board, enlarged to nine members, the largest ever, was also elected, European representatives on that board are Petra Sorling of Sweden and German President, Thomas Weikert. Alex Murdoch was elected for a further four year term on the ITTF Board of Directors. Peter Bradley was re-elected as a member of the ITTF Equipment

Committee for a further two year term. Stuart Sherlock (NURC Chairman) was elected for the first time as a member of the ITTF Technical Committee, Val Murdoch (NC Bedfordshire) was re-elected for a further two year term on the ITTF Nominations Committee and also re-elected as a member of the European Women's Working Group.

BTTF FUNDING AND GB ELITE PROGRAMME

The BTTF has completed and submitted its World Class plans, budgets and cash flows to UK Sport which have been approved. A detailed programme and calendar has been formulated which will be monitored by the Performance Management Group.

A Board and Selection Panel meeting took place in Glasgow during the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships.

Mission 2012 meetings are planned with UK Sport during the next couple of months, which are part of the progress and monitoring procedures within the BTTF remit for the Elite Programme.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

The following has been confirmed and put into the public domain, it is just a reminder and I hope that you will support this event and get behind your England players.

28th October – 1st November English Open and ITTF Pro Tour Event - EIS Sheffield.

Networking at the World Championships took place on the promotion of the English Open which is supported by UK Sport, and over 500 brochures were distributed to promote this event. Delegates met with a number of key representatives from associations who have top level players, including in particular China, Korea, Japan, Germany, France and Russia, in an attempt to ensure these top players attended this

event.

An interesting fact: at the last individual World Championships in Zagreb, the total number of hits on the ITTF website was 28 million and it has increased to almost 68 million for the recent World Championships in Yokohama. The page views have more than tripled and the number of unique users has more than doubled.

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



Alex Murdoch

Headlines

The latest stories from the Table Tennis World

ST. HELENS JUNIOR TTC RECEIVE GRANT

St. Helens Junior TTC has recently received a grant of £8,200 from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. This has allowed the club to purchase more equipment and it now has 18 tables in the new second venue at St. Cuthberts High School. This was necessary to be able to give more children from the schools the opportunity to play.

The PESSYP project continues to have a big impact on the number of people playing table tennis in St. Helens.

The club now encourages the parents to stop and play with each other, while their children are being coached.

This has been very successful and increased the number of volunteers in the club.

The club has also invited a table tennis club from Stuttgart to visit for a week during August this summer. This will include six girls, six boys and three supervisors.



PRIMARY SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

Teams from England, Guernsey, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Scotland and Wales met for the Primary Schools' International Table Tennis Championships, staged by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association at St. Bede's RC High School, Blackburn from 3rd – 5th April 2009.

Scotland (Ying Jin, Blair Fowler, Garry Wright, Christopher Wheeler and NPC Lia Chao) dominated the Boys' Team Championships recording three 10–0 and two 9–1 victories. Their play was consistent, measured and clinical. England (Hilikiah Adebajo, Daniel McTiernan, Damola Fenuyi, Alex Nagle and NPC Dave Pilkington) pipped Ireland (Ryan Farrell, Jonathon Porter, Kevin Hutchinson, Eric Shekelton and NPC Liam O'Ceallaigh) for second place following a 5–5 draw in the

team match of eight singles and two doubles, winning 21–18 on count back.

England (Tin-Tin Ho, Emily Bolton, Lydia Anslow, Hannah Noutch and NPC Suzanne Airey) deservedly won the Girls' Team Championships with three wins, drawing against Wales (Beth Roberts, Lauren Cundy, Sasha Denby, Laura Edwards and NPC Joanne Clark) who took the silver medal position. Following two days of team matches, day three was devoted to individual group and knockout events. Both finals were fought with skill and maturity for such young players with nine year old Christopher Wheeler (Scotland) beating fellow team mate Blair Fowler to become the boys' champion and Tin-Tin Ho (England) taking the girls' crown by beating Beth Roberts (Wales).



2009 YOUNG MALE ACHIEVER



Alex Edmonds (centre) presented with his Young Male Achiever award by Mickey Bushell and April Barrett

Alex Edmonds (16) from Oswestry in Shropshire was presented with the Young Male Achiever of the Year Award at the 2009 npower Disability Sports Awards. Despite having no toes, restricted fingers and a curvature of the spine, Alex has competed at international level in athletics and is recognised as a formidable table tennis and badminton player. In the past year he has won two gold medals and one silver at the national badminton competition and

bronze at the national table tennis competition. This is the second consecutive year that Alex's achievements have impressed the awards selection panel; last year he was nominated for the award but was narrowly pipped to the post. The 2009 awards proved to be Alex's night. Val Hanover, who entered Alex for the award, says: "He has developed his own way of holding a bat and racket and has become an excellent player in both sports. He is an inspiration to other athletes

and puts his whole soul into the game." When asked by host, Setanta Sport's presenter, Matt Teale, who he would like to mention, the young athlete, who has autism, said he'd like to thank his parents for all their support. Kevin Rodgers, community involvement executive for sponsors, npower, comments: "Alex was nominated last year and it is great to see that his achievements in 2008 have resulted in recognition this year".



THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Rod Clayton, an inspirational and enthusiastic teacher from Portchester School, came up with the brilliant idea of a "Breakfast Club" starting at 7.30am to play table tennis before school. With funding solely from the school coffers for tables and equipment, this had a positive effect on lateness and attendance issues, and soon numbers swelled. Up to 50 schoolchildren would queue up to play every morning before school opened, followed by a nice breakfast! As part of the reward after two weeks of attendance each individual was given their own bat, and soon the club grew. On Wednesday evenings, together with the schoolchildren, parents and friends started playing which soon spread throughout the community. Well over 200 children have now enjoyed the sport.

SPORTS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Having received the 2008 Sports Feature Writer of the Year award at the British Press Awards Matthew Syed has gone one better in 2009, being named Sports Journalist of the Year. It was his regular work for the Times that saw him achieve

such an accolade, here is what the judges had to say: "Unique and imaginative work, by far the most innovative of the entrants. Matthew Syed produced an entry that was both moving and enthralling. He combines wit, originality,

insight and a capacity to be both thought provoking and hilarious. A rare talent and a genuine example of a sportsman who has turned to journalism with distinction and without the 'superstar' gimmickry or ghost writing deception".



ITTF AGM OUTCOMES

At the ITTF Annual General Meeting in Yokohama the delegates elected the biggest ever Executive Committee. Nine members with at least one from each continent will control the fate of the table tennis governing body until 2013. Canada's Adham Sharara was re-elected for a further term of office recording an overwhelming majority over Brazil's Alaor Azevedo with China's Yang Shu'an being elected Deputy President, following the retirement of Nigeria's George Segun.

The members of the ITTF Executive Committee are:

President: Mr. Adham SHARARA, Canada
 Deputy President: Mr. YANG Shuan, China
 Executive Vice-President: Mr. Neil HARWOOD, Australia
 Executive Vice-President: Ms. Petra SÖRLING, Sweden
 Executive Vice-President: Mr. Thomas WEIKERT, Germany
 Executive Vice-President: Mr. Koji KIMURA, Japan
 Executive Vice-President: Mr. Chérif HAJEM, Tunisia
 Executive Vice-President: Mr. Khalil AL-MOHANNADI, Qatar
 Executive Vice-President: Mr. Melecio Eduardo RIVERA, El Salvador

The Cayman Islands were welcomed as new members of the ITTF and Papua New Guinea were welcomed back after a period of absence, increasing the number of members to 207.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM P&O

Benenden's rising table tennis star Lewis Gray met double Olympic gold medallist Sarah Webb when she visited P&O Ferries to mark the start of the second year of a sponsorship deal for promising Kent athletes.

Sarah presented Lewis with a cheque worth £3,000, which is the second instalment in a five year programme that aims to support five young Kent athletes in their ambitions for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sailing superstar Sarah won gold in the Yngling class at the 2004 Olympic Games, with Shirley Robertson and Sarah Ayton - the squad famously tagged 'three blondes in a

boat' by the media. She won gold again at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, and got this year off to an award winning start with an OBE in the Honours List.

Simon Johnson, director of tourist sales and marketing at P&O Ferries, said: "In addition to handing over the sponsorship money and some new sports kit, Sarah offered the athletes an insight into what it takes to hit the summit of sporting success. We appreciate her taking time to visit us and help to inspire the next generation of sport stars." The athletes sponsored under the scheme are:

Lewis Gray, 15, from Benenden (table tennis)

Hannah Moon, 18, from Deal (rowing)

Vicky Silk, 17, from Folkestone (athletics)

Chloe Martin, 18, from Tonbridge (sailing)

Nathan Milgate, 21, from Herne Bay (shooting)

The squad members were identified through their national coaching bodies, working closely with the county council's Sports Development Unit. The P&O Ferries Talented Athlete Programme is part of the company's £250,000 sponsorship of Kent County Council Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service.

England vs India

The first ever test series between England and India proved successful and provided valuable experience and opportunity to tighten up match play before the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in Glasgow.

Particularly impressive was Kelly Sibley's return to form demonstrating that she has lost none of her hunger for the game despite recently being sidelined for a lengthy period due to injury. Combined with her arch rival and close team-mate Joanna Parker they rewarded the home support in all three venues with an exemplary 100% return from their matches.

With both these players continuing to make huge strides at international level and accompanied by some great performances from the two younger members of the squad, Mary Fuller and Hannah Hicks, the question has to be raised: could this be the start of a new era for women's table tennis in England? It certainly seems that the appointment of former England no.1 Alan Cooke as Women's Performance Coach has refocused and galvanised the squad.

The men's squad were less convincing with a mixed bag of results that left them completely overshadowed by the visitors (5-10). The struggling Darius Knight provided no return against three separate opponents which undoubtedly compounded his decision to book the first flight possible to China for a three month intensive training camp. Knight said: "I'll be going out there for three months and it's going to be like a detention camp - there will be no distractions, I'll get the opportunity to play with the best players in the world - it'll be 24-hour table tennis." Let's hope this pays off.

Other members of the squad also struggled; the best return came from England's no.1 Paul Drinkhall, winning two out of three. Next best was Drinkhall's north east compatriot Danny Reed whose two victories from four ensured balanced score cards (5-5) at both London and Stoke.

It is perhaps unfair to be overly critical of this young men's squad at such an early stage in the senior careers, but if they're to fulfil their potential a better return is required, even against the current Commonwealth Games team gold medallist.

Venues - Hosted in three different venues the matches ran exceptionally smoothly. Without a doubt the jewel in the crown was Preston which provided an environment and level of support that was a cut above London and Stoke. The Guild Hall a venue that has played host to the likes of Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Elton John and David Bowie, provided a fitting finally and certainly raised the performance level of the English squad ensuring their best return of the series in front of the 900 spectators.

MATCH REPORTS

London - Dormers Wells Leisure Centre, Southall
Player of the day was the exceptional Mary Fuller, who demonstrated her abilities with an excellent senior debut taking the experienced Poulomi Ghatak all the way before finally dipping out in the fifth: 8-11, 7-11,

Darius Knight lost to Subhajt Saha 7-11, 11-9, 8-11, 4-11 (1-3). Danny Reed beat Soumyadeep Roy 13-11, 11-9, 3-11, 14-12 (3-1)

WOMEN ENGLAND 4-1 INDIA

Joanna Parker bt. Shamini Kumaresen 11-6, 12-10, 11-4 (3-0). Kelly Sibley bt. Mouna Das 11-9, 11-7, 11-5 (3-0). Mary Fuller lost to Poulomi Ghatak 8-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-9, 5-11 (2-3). Joanna Parker bt. Mouna Das 11-7, 7-11, 13-11, 11-9 (3-1). Kelly Sibley bt. Shamini Kumaresen 11-5, 11-7, 11-3 (3-0)

Match result: England 5-5 India

STOKE - MEN ENGLAND 1-4 INDIA

Danny Reed lost to Soumyadeep Roy 9-11, 4-11, 10-12 (0-3). Gavin Evans lost to Subhajt Saha 8-11, 17-15, 5-11, 11-13 (1-3). Paul Drinkhall lost to Sourav Chakroborty 11-8, 11-4, 4-11, 5-11, 4-11 (2-3). Danny Reed bt. Subhajt Saha 6-11, 11-5, 11-7, 11-9 (3-1). Gavin Evans lost to Soumyadeep Roy 11-9, 6-11, 5-11, 9-11 (1-3)

WOMEN ENGLAND 4-1 INDIA

Joanna Parker bt. Madhurika Suhas Patkar 11-7, 11-3, 11-3 (3-0). Kelly Sibley bt. Poulomi Ghatak 11-7, 11-7, 11-9 (3-0). Hannah Hicks lost to Mouna Das 9-11, 8-11, 7-11 (0-3)

11-9, 11-9, 5-11. Unfortunately the men's squad didn't perform as well with their only win coming from Cleveland's Danny Reed.

Match result: England 5-5 India

Stoke - Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke
With the scores level (5-5) Stoke provided a clean sheet and both teams fought hard to gain the upper-hand before the final match in Preston. England fielded two tweaked squads with senior and junior number ones Paul Drinkhall and Gavin Evans taking the places of Darius Knight and Andrew Rushton in the men's squad, and Hannah Hicks replacing Mary Fuller in the women's. Joanna Parker, Kelly Sibley and Danny Reed retained their places. The end result, however, was identical with the women's squad winning 4-1 and the men's exactly the reverse.

Most notable result was between Paul Drinkhall and Sourav Chakroborty. Drinkhall led by two in convincing style but seemed to lose concentration and found himself on the wrong end of a 3-2 scoreline.

Match result: England 5-5 India

Test score: England 10-10 India

Preston - The Guild Hall and Charter Theatre

A revitalised England squad performed well in front of a capacity crowd. In this the third and final match of the

series England fielded their strongest and most experienced players with an aim to overhaul the resilient and talented squad from India.

Both Paul Drinkhall and Kelly Sibley got the home nation off to a flyer, winning their matches comfortably with some excellent play. This was swiftly followed with two more wins from Andrew Rushton and Joanna Parker. However, the strong start was halted with Darius Knight and Lindsey Reynolds suffering defeat; this provided India a much needed boost making the match score 4-2. With India in the ascendancy it was crucial that Drinkhall and Sibley won their next matches: both delivered. This ensured England a fine series victory.

With the series in the bag it was down to Rushton and Parker to finish. Unfortunately Rushton came unstuck against the quality from India's no.1 Chakroborty. However, Parker finished in style topping off a fine week's performance.

Match result: England 7-3 India

Overall test score: England 17-13 India

India will now be looking to avenge this result when they host a rematch of this test series prior to the Commonwealth Games in Delhi next year.

Joanna Parker bt. Poulomi Ghatak 11-6, 11-8, 11-7 (3-0)
Kelly Sibley bt. Madhurika Suhas Patkar 12-10, 12-10, 11-6 (3-0)
Match result: England 5-5 India
Test score: England 10-10 India

PRESTON - MEN ENGLAND 3-2 INDIA

Paul Drinkhall bt. Sourav Chakroborty 11-6, 11-4, 6-11, 11-8 (3-1) Andrew Rushton bt. Amalraaj Arputhraj 11-8, 11-5, 4-11, 11-8 (3-1) Darius Knight lost to Pathik Mehta 8-11, 11-8, 11-13, 11-13 (1-3) Paul Drinkhall bt. Amalraaj Arputhraj 11-5, 11-4, 12-10 (3-0) Andrew Rushton lost to Sourav Chakroborty 11-5, 6-11, 7-11, 6-11 (1-3)

WOMEN ENGLAND 4-1 INDIA

Kelly Sibley bt. Neha Aggarwal 11-7, 11-8, 11-7 (3-0)
Joanna Parker bt. Madhurika Patkar 11-8, 11-3, 7-11, 11-8 (3-1). Lindsey Reynolds lost to Shamini Kumaresen 1-11, 5-11, 4-11 (0-3). Kelly Sibley bt. Madhurika Patkar 11-9, 9-11, 11-4, 7-11, 12-10 (3-2)
Match result: England 7-3 India
Overall test score: England 17-13 India

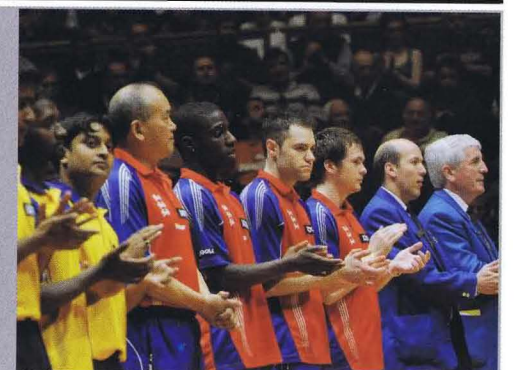
ENGLAND SQUAD

Men: Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight, Andrew Rushton, Gavin Evans and Danny Reed
Women: Kelly Sibley, Joanna Parker, Lindsey Reynolds, Mary Fuller and Hannah Hicks

RESULTS

LONDON - MEN ENGLAND 1 - 4 INDIA

Darius Knight lost to Soumyadeep Roy 11-7, 11-8, 7-11, 8-11, 8-11 (2-3). Danny Reed lost to Subhajt Saha 11-7, 6-11, 4-11, 7-11 (1-3). Andrew Rushton lost to Amalraaj Arputhraj 7-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-7, 7-11 (2-3)



importance of service

Service is regarded as one of the most important shots in table tennis, as this, in a way, shapes the outcome of the rally. Service is unique to other shots as the player has complete control over all variables such as spin, speed, and positioning.

Once the basis of the serve has been developed, players can then introduce disguise to create unforced errors, or set the players up for third ball attack. In this article we will look at the forehand and backhand serve technique.

There are some key elements that coaches must be aware of for their players to be strong in this part of the game:

- Being imaginative, the use of a relaxed wrist and the type of grip used are essential components of the serve.
- Focus should also be on the position of the feet, weight transference and the ability to disguise the spin being used.
- A good service is performed with the use of the whole body and not only by use of the arm and the wrist.
- The player must understand that the service movement is not finished until the player is back in

the starting position.

In the end it will be through service practice and match exercises that the service will improve. A new serve takes a lot of time to learn, so the player should be encouraged to experiment with new serves, whilst still practising the old ones. It is not illegal to steal or borrow from other players, or to use your imagination to invent new ones. It is very important that each player has an individual service philosophy. It is better to have four or five serves with which the player feels confident, than lots of different serves. It is essential the server not only thinks about what he/she wants from the serve, but also considers the opponent's weaknesses. In today's table tennis where the ball often goes only four to five times over the net, the serve is of paramount importance and should be used wisely. This creates demand for imaginative tactics but the following general rules can be followed:

- A short serve is useful against a

player who is bad in the short play, or if the player's starting position is too far away from the table.

- A half long serve is useful against players who have a good flick and/or have a good short game.
- A long fast serve is useful as a surprise element and to open the rally up. It is also useful if the player's starting position is too close to the table.

If a player can vary the spin, speed, length and direction of the serve, then that player has a very good tactical weapon.

THE FOREHAND SERVICE ACTION (PICS ONE - FOUR)

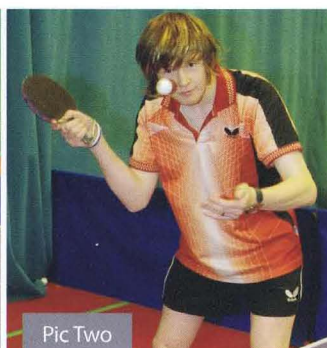
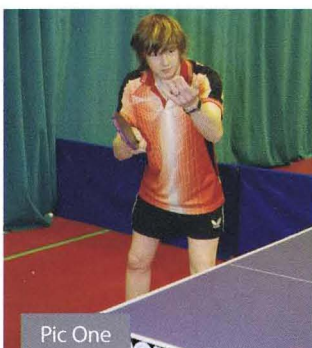
The general principles of the forehand service action can be shown using the following photos. As described already it should be remembered that there are slight variations depending on the placement and spin being imparted on the service.

PREPARATION

- The bat starts higher and behind the free hand before the throw up.
- The arm needs to be high so that the lower arm and wrist can have maximum movement.

TOSS

- The throw up is to the side of the body, but must be visible to the



opponent. To achieve this the player adopts a stance almost at right angles to the end of the table again to allow freedom of movement for the bat arm.

CONTACT

- At about chest height and about 30 cm from the corner of the table for most forehand serves. The body has to be lowered to achieve a low contact. The free arm is pulled back out of the way so the opponent's view is not restricted. The zone of the bat at which contact is made depends on the spin that is going to be produced (as described above).

FOLLOW THROUGH

- Weight is transferred onto the right leg and the left leg is brought forward to adopt a ready position.

THE BACKHAND SERVICE ACTION SIDESPIN/BACKSPIN (PICS FIVE - EIGHT)

This serve is mostly used by women, but of late some male players have begun to use this serve. For the female players it is important to have a secure and tight service. Placement should be short to the forehand or long to the backhand, because most of the female play is concentrated around the backhand diagonal. The male players are mostly using the backhand serve as a variation whilst the females use this as their main service. It is always good to use this service as part of the service training. The rhythm is important in this serve. The weight moving from the front leg to the back leg will give a natural rhythm. In the backhand serve it is advisable to follow the 'ball down', so that the contact point is close to the table. The bounce should be in the



middle of the table and the contact point is at NE on the bat.

PREPARATION

- The bat starts behind the ball near the forearm. The legs are positioned with the right leg forward, though a neutral stance can also be used.

TOSS

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

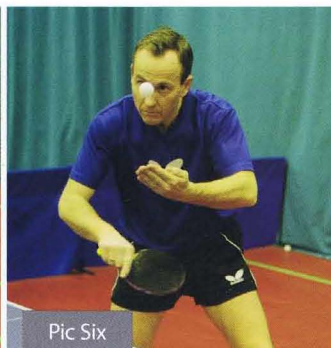
- With the body in a lowered position, contact is made on the lower left side of the ball, giving backspin-left sidespin with the bat moving forward and downward.

FOLLOW THROUGH

- The arm is almost fully outstretched at the conclusion of the serve.



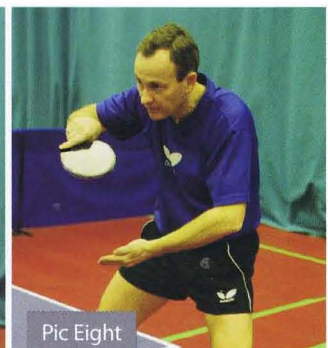
Pic Five



Pic Six



Pic Seven



Pic Eight

JAPANESE Adventure

The World Championships are over for the English players for another year and although no silverware returned with them, the coaching team will hope they will have learnt and benefited from the experience and challenges faced at such a high level.

Three English players left these shores to pit their wits against the toughest opposition in the world, hoping to continue their climb up the international ranking list and to cause some upsets along the way.

Being such a big event the England team had to wait until day 3 before they took to the court, below is a brief summary of their Japanese adventure.

DAY 3: MIXED DOUBLES

England's first appearance in the 09 World Championships was short but sweet, the mixed doubles pairing of Paul Drinkhall and Joanna Parker dispatched the Indian duo of Pathik Mehta and Kasturi Chakraborty in less than 20 minutes to progress into round 2.

Paul Drinkhall/Joanna Parker (ENG) bt. Pathik Mehta/Kasturi Chakraborty (IND) 11-7, 11-8, 11-4, 11-4

DAY 4: SO SO CLOSE

In the first round of the Singles and Doubles events, the squad had a monumental task ahead of them, all facing players ranked considerably higher, but despite this some valiant performances took place. Singles: Paul Drinkhall showed just what a potential talent he is, racing to a 3-0 lead against the world no 21, Zoran Primorac of Croatia. Primorac had to rely on all his immense experience to take the next three games to level the match at 3-0 and in a tremendous seventh game, Primorac had to save a

match point before sealing the match 13-11.

Kelly Sibley also performed excellently taking world no 95 Renata Strbikova from the Czech Republic all the way to the seventh game. Unfortunately the seventh went to the Czech by 11-7, but it was another superb performance. Joanna Parker was unable to cope with world no 56, Zhenqi Barthel of Germany, who picked off Joanna's defence in four straight games.

Doubles: In the Women's Doubles, Kelly Sibley and Joanna Parker faced no 2 seeds Ding Ning and Gou Yan from China and although they lost two sets on deuce, they never looked like they could break down the Chinese pair.

DAY 5: FINAL PERFORMANCE WAS NOT BAD AT ALL!

Day 5 would be the last appearance for the English squad.

The last 64 in the Mixed Doubles saw Paul Drinkhall and Joanna Parker having to contend with a very strong Japanese pair, Jun Mizutani, world no 22 and Sayaka Hirano, world no 19. If that was not enough, around 2-3,000 Japanese supporters were going wild at every point their players won and all eyes in the stadium were held by the match.

Game one went to Japan at deuce, the next two games were won by Drinkhall/Parker as they combined the touch and hard hitting of Drinkhall

with the varied defensive and greatly improved attacking skills of Parker to move into a 2-1 lead. Game four and the Japanese dominated after a bad start for the English pair.

Into the critical fifth game, Paul and Joanna held a slender lead through most of the game, but were pegged back to 9-9 and then the game was gone 11-9 to the Japanese pair.

In the sixth game the Japanese pair held the lead most of the way, but they were then pegged back to 8-8, an attempted chop to the middle of the table from Joanna slipped just long and a superb backhand drive from Mizutani was placed right in the corner, 10-8 to Japan, a powerful cross court smash from Paul Drinkhall made it 10-9, but then another superb backhand from Mizutani was un-returnable and the Japanese pair recorded a hard won victory.

Mixed Doubles - Last 64

Jun Mizutani/Sayaka Hirano (JPN) bt. Paul Drinkhall/Joanna Parker (ENG) 13-11, 4-11, 8-11, 11-3, 11-9, 11-9

The World Championships are over for the English players for another year and although no silverware returned with them, the coaching team will hope they will have learnt and benefited from the experience and challenges faced at such a high level.

There were several very good performances against much higher ranked players which were close to but could not be converted to wins, but there is no doubt the young English squad can take heart that they competed very well at this top level, in an event where every competitor is keyed up to perform to their maximum.

DAY 4 RESULTS

Men's Singles: Zoran Primorac (HRV) bt. Paul Drinkhall (ENG) 4-11, 11-13, 1-11, 11-4, 11-4, 11-8, 13-11

Women's Singles: Renata Strbikova (CZE) bt. Kelly Sibley (ENG) 9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 4-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-7
Zhenqi Barthel (GER) bt. Joanna Parker (ENG) 11-6, 11-2, 11-6, 13-11

Women's Doubles: Ding Ning/Guo Yan (CHN) bt. Joanna Parker/Kelly Sibley (ENG) 11-4, 11-6, 12-10, 13-11

FINAL RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Wang Hao (CHN) bt. Wang Liqin (CHN) 4-0

Women's Singles: Zhang Yining (CHN) bt. Guo Yue (CHN) 4-2

Men's Doubles: Chen Qi/Wang Hao (CHN) bt. Ma Long/Xu Xin (CHN) 4-1

Women's Doubles: Guo Yue/Li Xiaoxia (CHN) bt. Ding Ning/Guo Yan (CHN) 4-1

Mixed Doubles: Li Ping/Cao Zhen (CHN) bt. Zhang Jike/Mu Zi (CHN) 4-2



COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nations from around the world descended on the Scotstoun Leisure Centre in Glasgow for the 18th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships. Here's how the finals played out:

SINGLES: SINGAPORE SWEEP SINGLES' TITLES

Top seeds, Singapore's Gao Ning and Wang Yue Gu showed their class to win the respective Men's and Women's Singles titles.

In front of an appreciative Scottish crowd, the Men's Singles event saw Gao Ning, the defending champion, clinch gold against India's Sharath Kamal Achanta, whilst Wang Yue Gu succeeded in the counterpart Women's Singles competition. She beat national team compatriot, Yu Meng Yu, to clinch the top prize.

It was for Gao Ning a successful retention of the title he had won two years earlier in the Indian city of Jaipur, whilst for Wang Yue Gu it was one step higher; in 2007 she had lost in the final to Sun Bei Bei.

Men's Singles: Final Gao Ning (SIN) bt Sharath Kamal Achanta (IND) 11-7, 7-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6

Women's Singles: Final Wang Yue Gu (SIN) bt Yu Meng Yu (SIN) 11-8, 12-10, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9

DOUBLES

Men He could have been Scottish but he was from India; the locals in Glasgow had taken 27 year old Subhajt Saha to their hearts, following the efforts he had made in the team and singles event during seven days of competition in the Scotstoun Sports Campus; his level of sportsmanship a model for all.

The point that brought the final of the Men's Doubles event to an end, on Monday 25th May 2009, saw him leap into the arms of partner Sharath Kamal Achanta, as they beat the top seeds Singapore's Gao Ning and Yang Zi to clinch gold.

Women In the corresponding Women's Doubles competition it was normal service.

Top seeds, Singapore's Sun Bei Bei and Yu Meng Yu, captured gold; they beat second seeds, Sara Yuen and Zhang Mo of Canada in the final, gradually acclimatising to the combination of the two young ladies from the continent of North America.

Mixed Defending champions, Yang Zi and Wang Yue Gu, retained their Mixed Doubles title by beating top seeds,

Gao Ning and Sun Bei Bei in four games at the final hurdle. Seeded two, Yang Zi and Sun Bei Bei won 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 12-10. The combination of the left handed Yang Zi and the right handed Wang Yue Gu, the classic doubles partnership, proved an irresistible force.

A semi-final place booked one day earlier, they beat India's Amalraj Aputhraj Anthony and Madhurika Patkar to reserve their place in the gold medal contest, recovering from an opening game deficit to record a four games success.

Men's Doubles: Final Sharath Kamal Achanta/Subhajt Saha (IND) bt Gao Ning/Yang Zi (SIN) 11-8, 10-12, 13-11, 12-10

Women's Doubles: Final Sun Bei Bei/Yu Meng Yu (SIN) bt Sara Yuen/Zhang Mo (CAN) 4-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-7

Mixed Doubles: Final Yang Zi/Sun Bei Bei (SIN) bt. Gao Ning/Sun Bei Bei (SIN) 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 12-10

TEAM - SINGAPORE SWEEP TEAM FINALS

Men's Team Represented by the powerful trio of Gao Ning, Yang Zi and Cai Xiao Li, Singapore retained their Men's Team crown. In so doing they emulated the efforts of their female compatriots some two hours earlier.

At the final hurdle they beat the Indian team of Sharath Kamal Achanta, Sourav Chakroborty and Subhajt Saha by three matches to one. The success in Jaipur, two years earlier, was the one previous occasion that Singapore had secured gold in the Men's Team competition.

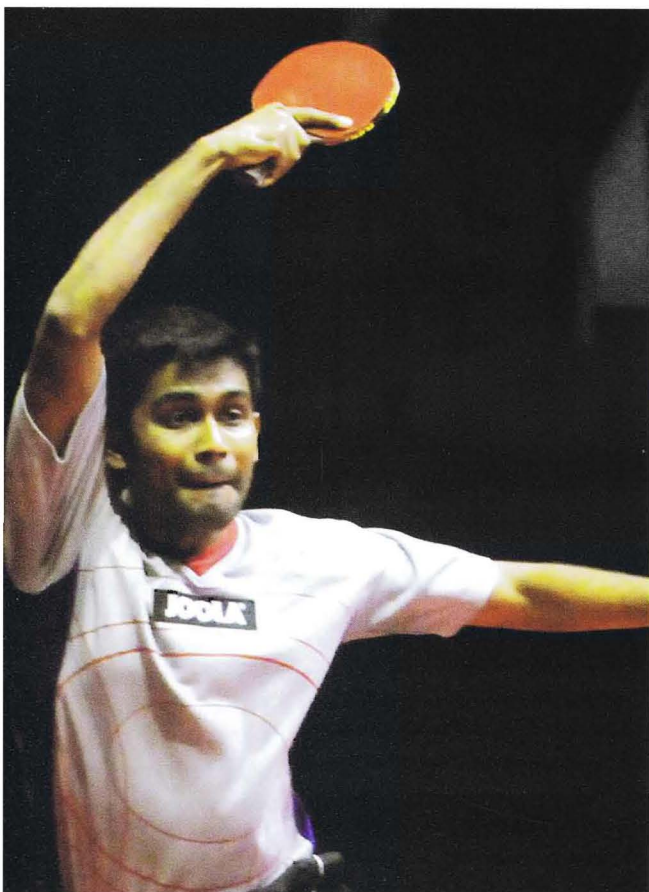
Women's Team Represented by Wang Yue Gu, Sun Bei Bei and Yu Meng Yu, Singapore won the Women's Team title beating geographical neighbours, Malaysia, by three matches to nil at the final hurdle. It was victory yet again for the south east Asian country and it was gained in the city where they won the title for the first time.

In 1997 they won in Glasgow and they have won ever since. They succeeded on home soil in 2000, in New Delhi in 2001, in Kuala Lumpur in 2004 and in Jaipur in 2007; for the sixth time the crown was theirs in Scotland.

COMMONWEALTH RANKINGS

Following the 18th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in Glasgow 2009

Men			Women		
1.	Gao, N	Singapore	12.	Robertson, A	Wales
2.	Achanta, K	India	13.	Rumgay, G	Scotland
3.	Drinkhall, P	England	14.	Rushton, A	England
4.	Saha, S	India	15.	Henzell, W	Australia
5.	Chakroborty, S	India	16.	Hinse, P L	Canada
6.	Arputhraj, A	India			
7.	Pradeeban, P	Canada	1.	Wang, Y G	Singapore
8.	Knight, D	England	2.	Yu, M Y	Singapore
9.	Yang, Z	Singapore	3.	Sun, B B	Singapore
10.	Cai, X L	Singapore	4.	Das, M	India
11.	Jenkins, R	Wales	5.	Miao, M	Australia
			6.	Zhang, M	Canada
			7.	Parker, J	England
			8.	Beh, L W	Malaysia
			9.	Sibley, K	England
			10.	Liu, N	Northern Ireland
			11.	Ng, S K	Malaysia
			12.	Ghatak, P	India
			13.	Chiu, S J	Malaysia
			14.	Sim, K X Z	Singapore
			15.	Xu, S	Australia
			16.	Owen, N	Wales

**Men's Team: Final**

SINGAPORE 3-1 INDIA

Gao Ning v Sourav Chakroborty 11-6, 11-6, 11-9

Yang Zi v Sharath Kamal Achanta 8-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-3, 8-11

Cai Xiao Li v Subhajt saha 2-11, 11-2, 11-9, 11-8

Gao Ning v Sharath Kamal Achanta 11-8, 11-9, 11-2

Women's Team: Final

MALAYSIA 0-3 SINGAPORE

Beh Lee Wei v Yu Meng Yu 8-11, 2-11, 6-11

Ng Sock Khim v Wang Yue Gu 11-5, 11-5, 5-11, 3-11, 4-11

Chiu Soo Jiin v Sun Bei Bei 4-11, 5-11, 7-11

ENGLAND'S PERFORMANCES**Men:** Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight, Daniel Reed and Andrew Rushton**Women:** Joanna Parker, Kelly Sibley, Karina Le Fevre and Hannah Hicks

Four bronze medals, virtually every defeat bar one against the Singapore squad that is clearly the strongest in the Commonwealth. It certainly has not been a poor tournament for the English squad of players with some outstanding performances from individuals in the squad.

Men's Singles In the Men's Singles England's Paul Drinkhall reached the semis with a superb four straight win over Amal Raj Anthony Arputraj of India. He will have been ruing the fact that his semi-final opponent was no 1 seed Gao Ning of Singapore, the World no 9.

In the other semi-final were Subhajt Saha and Sharat Kamel Achanta of India, both straight game victims of Paul's in the Men's Team event. His fears were justified, Gao was too consistent, too powerful and too fast for Paul in the semi-



He could have been Scottish but he was from India; the locals in Glasgow had taken 27 year old Subhajt Saha to their hearts....

final. A bronze medal thus in the Men's Singles was the tally.

Men's Doubles Paul and Darius met Gao Ning and his partner Zang Zi, the no 1 seeds. They won a close first game but the Singapore team regrouped and took the next three games for a place in the final and again England had to be content with a bronze medal.

Men's Team It was a tale of two players, a stupendous performance from Paul Drinkhall the England no.1, who beat both Soubhajt Saha and Sharath Kamal Achanta in three straight games whilst colleague Danny Reed rose to the occasion. He played at a level that belied his world ranking of no. 403, to extend both Achanta and Saha the full five games distance without getting the success he richly deserved.

It was a brave performance but it ended in sadness, it was defeat for England; the one other Indian success being the win of Sourav Chakroborty over Andrew Rushton in the third match of the contest. Chakroborty won in four games.

Mixed Doubles The Mixed Doubles were a similar story with both Paul Drinkhall with Joanna Parker and Darius Knight with Kelly Sibley losing to the Singapore pairs seeded 1 and 2, Gao Ning with Sun Bee Bee and Zang Zi with Wang Yue Gu.

Women's Doubles The Women's Doubles pair of Joanna Parker and Kelly Sibley had Canadian opponents Zhang Mo and Sara Yuan of Canada, the no 2 seeds, they took the second game but again it was just a bronze for England.

Women's Singles No medals in the Women's Singles, both Joanna Parker had no answer to Wang Yu Gue, the no.1 seed from Singapore, while Kelly Sibley had similar problems with Yu Meng Yu, also from Singapore.

Women's Team The England Women finished their team event with a defeat in the 5th/6th place play-off, England gave Karina Le Fevre a run out at no 1, Kelly Sibley at no 2 and Joanna Parker playing no 3. Canada's Zhang Mo was unbeatable again; only one from Kelly Sibley and one for Joanna Parker came England's way. 6th place thus for the England Women.

Dunlop Masters 2009

The Dunlop Masters at the Royal Albert Hall in May was another star-studded affair with some great table tennis. Paul Drinkhall, in particular, demonstrated his formidable skill and power with an improbable and stirring triumph over Jorgen Persson in the semi-finals before succumbing to the fluent consistency of Vladimir Samsonov in the final.

Drinkhall is improving all the time, the most striking thing about his victory over Persson the extent to which he could out match his illustrious opponent away from the table. He was clearly un intimidated by his surroundings, despite the event being live on Sky Sports, and conducted himself in such a way that will generate considerable optimism about his prospects of moving in the upper echelons of the world rankings.

Samsonov continues to delight with his languorous and elegant style. The Belarusian has achieved great things in his career, even if he has yet to capture either the world or Olympic title. But it is the way he plays with such minimalism and guile that has delighted his many admirers and it will be interesting to see whether he has sufficient improvement left in his game as he approaches the tail-end of his career to threaten the dominance of the Chinese.

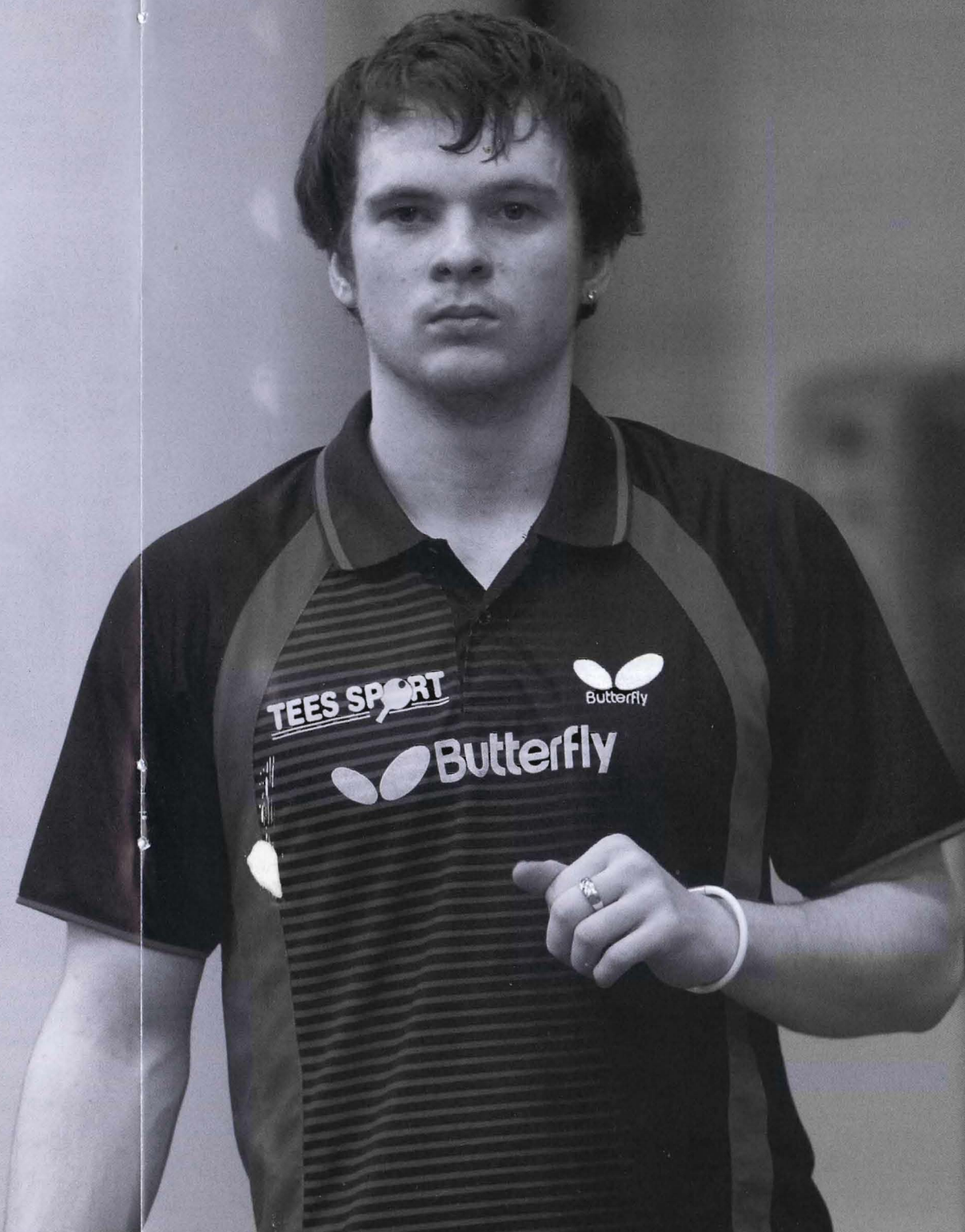
Perhaps the most noteworthy event of the night took place off the table when Samsonov called me over to a backstage area to say he wanted to donate his first prize of \$3000 to Greenhouse Schools Project (the charity which organised the event). This was a truly remarkable gesture, one that touched the trustees of the charity and spoke volumes about the character, integrity and generosity of Vladi. The money will be used in the table tennis programmes of Greenhouse, enabling young people to get excellent coaching and decent facilities. Jean Michel Saive and Chen Weixing produced a characteristically entertaining contest, which Saive won by the tightest of margins. Saive is a truly remarkable player: someone who has won the European Championships and topped the world rankings, despite having a service which has no spin whatsoever, just dabbled over the net. He relies on his consistent, powerful top-spinning on both wings and a will to win that is scarily intense. He is nicknamed "The Fighter" by Jan-Ove Waldner.

There was a time in the mid 1990s when many thought Saive would go on to dominate world table tennis in the

way that Waldner had done before him. But the huge watershed occurred when opponents realised that Saive's assets could be nullified by pushing the ball long and deep to the forehand on the opening stroke and then counter-topspinning Saive's first ball. In an instant Saive's greatest strength (top-spinning a half long push) was taken out of the game.

Another player worth mentioning is Darius Knight, who lost to Drinkhall in the opening round, but who put up a considerable fight in what became a very entertaining contest. In the event last year, Knight had looked just a little overawed by the occasion, so it was great to see him fully at ease and playing with conviction and confidence. Knight has not only become a considerable player but a bright, confidence and charismatic ambassador for the sport in the media and beyond. Most who meet him describe him as real asset to the sport. The key for him now is to train with real intensity between now and 2012. One undoubted disappointment of the evening was the lack of spectators, which was a real pity. Another aspect of the event that has been severely criticised was the Master of Ceremonies, a stand up comedian who, according to the feedback received by the ETTA and elsewhere, was far too over the top. It ought to be said that he was not the choice of Greenhouse or ETTA but our valued partners at Sky Sports. I suspect it is fair to say that he will not be used again for a sporting event of this kind.

Big thanks, as ever, to the brilliant umpires and other volunteers who made the event possible. As so often Harvey Webb and the ETTA events team offered considerable experience, knowledge and good-humoured support on the night. Having worked with Harvey over many years, it is always wonderful to know you have the most experience competition manager in the business on the team. The Greenhouse staff, too, worked diligently to put the whole thing together.



Greenhouse helps young people living in deprived communities develop positive life skills through sport and performing arts. We target those who may not otherwise have access to these opportunities, working in state secondary schools, special schools and community clubs.

RESULTS

Quarter-Final: Saive bt Weixing: 7-11, 14-12, 11-7, 8-11, 13-15
Drinkhall bt. Knight: 12-14, 11-6, 11-8, 11-8,

Semi-Final: Samsonov bt. Saive – 11-4, 11-8 11-6. Drinkhall bt. Persson 9-11, 11-6, 14-12, 11-9

Final: Samsonov bt. Drinkhall: 11-4 8-11, 11-8, 11-8



2009 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

With all four County Championship premier divisions completed by mid March, it is interesting to reflect on the highs and lows of the county scene across the country.

CADETS

Middlesex retained the cadets title they won the previous season over a weekend's action at Draycott and Long Eaton TTC, although they did not have things all their own way as they took the title by two points from 2007 champions Sussex.

Middlesex were undefeated on maximum points with seven straight wins, although they were pushed mighty close by Sussex and 2008 runners-up Warwickshire who both were beaten by the champions 6-4.

This season we say goodbye to Yorkshire and Buckinghamshire who are relegated, but their replacements for next season come with a high pedigree as both Cheshire and Glamorgan won their respective division ones with maximum 18 points from 9 straight wins each.

JUNIORS

Middlesex also featured strongly in the junior event but on this occasion had to give second

best to champions Derbyshire although it was a very closely run thing as both counties finished on 12 points out of a possible 14. Middlesex actually beat Derbyshire 6-4 when the sides met, but the southern based county will be kicking themselves as they dropped valuable points when being beaten by third placed Sussex, and with both counties tied on sets won, it was the sets against which determined the destination of the title in favour of Derbyshire.

South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire leave the premier division for at least a season and will be replaced by two southern counties, Essex and Kent, next term.

SENIORS

Derbyshire seniors matched the achievement of their own junior team as they eased to the title with an impressive seven straight wins record and completed the season four points clear of runners-up Essex. The final weekend of the seniors and juniors at Walsall saw both Derbyshire sides supporting each other to

their respective titles.

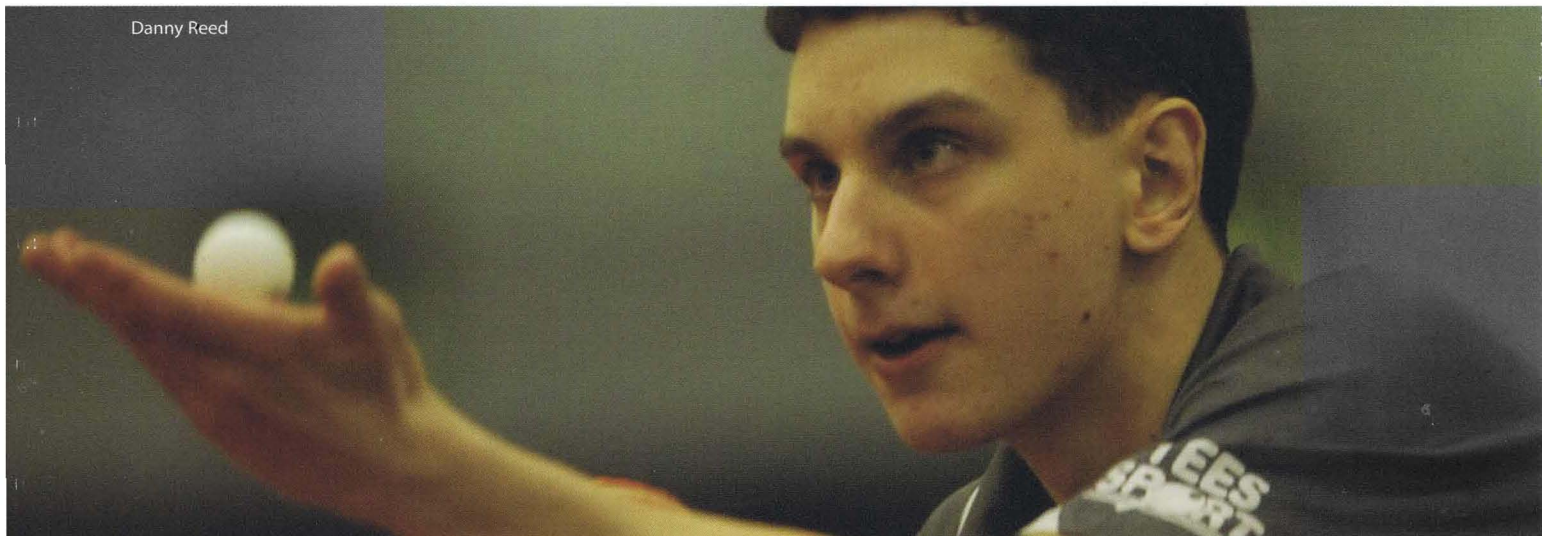
Devon and Durham were the two counties leaving the senior ranks for next term and will be replaced by Cleveland and Berkshire, with Cleveland in particular showing their intention to go up in style by including Paul Drinkhall in their ranks during the campaign.

VETERANS

Yorkshire retained the title they won last season and have now captured the title for three of the last four seasons, finishing as runners-up to Leicestershire in 2007. The second weekend was held at Halifax TTC, where the home county came from three points and third place after the first round of fixtures to win their four matches and top the table on 11 points, one ahead of first weekend leaders Kent.

We say goodbye to Middlesex and Wiltshire this season who will be replaced by Lancashire, who finished runners-up to Yorkshire 2 in Division 1A, and Gloucestershire who topped Division 1B by one point from Dorset.

Danny Reed



The British League

Sycamore and Urban Progress were promoted to the Senior British League Premier Division at the British League Premier Division Play-offs which took place at the Long Eaton & Draycott Table Tennis Club.

Barrow, who were without their top player, Scottish international Gavin Rungay, did well to hold runaway Division One South & Midlands Champions Sycamore to a draw in the first round. Sycamore's Sam Perry played his part by beating Jon Crawford (11-5, 11-9, 11-6) as well as Bradley Evans (11-5, 11-7, 13-11), whilst the "old warrior" himself, Denis Neale, showed all the experience you would expect from a former England no. 1. He beat both Sean Cullen (13-11, 7-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-9) and Adam Frost (3-11, 11-5, 11-7, 13-11).

Sycamore roared back into contention in round two by getting the better of Elgre Nottingham convincingly 7-1. Their rapidly improving duo of Daniel Lowe and Sean Cullen were joined by Kevin Dolder (who arrived from work) and Jason Ramage, and they scarcely put a foot wrong. Stewart Mudie who looks ridiculously under-

ranked at no. 181 in England, excelled by getting the better of Ramage 11-6, 11-8, 11-9.

Round three produced some of the best play of the weekend with Sycamore excelling by getting the better of Urban Progress 5-3. Sean Cullen was outstanding and his 11-8, 9-11, 13-11, 13-11 victory against Tibor Kadar (just one defeat in 28 games over the season) was amongst the best performances of the weekend. Adam Frost also played his part and his win over Zoltan Hosszu from two games down (11-13, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-8) was absolutely vital from the overall match perspective. Sam Perry had given Sycamore an early lead by getting the better of Costas Papantoniou 11-8, 12-14, 4-11, 11-8, 11-9, which proved vital as Urban Progress's Will Maybanks retained his 100% record for the weekend by beating Kevin Dolder, 11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9 and Adam Frost (11-7, 11-5, 11-6). Currently ranked

no. 33 nationally but training very hard in Hungary, it is quite clear that Will Maybanks is heading for the England top ten.

Significantly, Derwent also dropped their first point of the weekend in round three, finding themselves held to a draw by Elgre Nottingham. Lee Neil's excellent double against Simon Noutch and Mark Simpson played an important role as Elgre surged into a 4-1 lead, but Derwent were far from finished. Steve Horsfield got progressively stronger as he beat Mark Green (9-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-2) whilst Simon Noutch came through a sticky patch as he beat David Arrowsmith (11-9, 11-13, 9-11, 11-3, 11-6). In the last game Richard Smith made no mistakes and he beat Emma Vickers decisively 11-7, 11-7, 11-7 to level the match.

In round four Sycamore made sure that they will be playing Premier Division Table Tennis next season by scoring an outstanding 8-0 win over Derwent. Four games were decided in the fifth end and Sycamore won all four of them. Sean Cullen required five ends against both Stephen Horsfield and Richard Smith, whilst Kevin Dolder had to pull out all the stops to get the better of Mark Simpson 8-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-6, 12-10. Simpson could be forgiven for thinking he should have stayed in bed as he also missed out 9-11, 13-11, 11-7, 6-11, 9-11 against Sam Perry. In the final round Urban Progress secured second place behind Sycamore by beating Derwent 5-3. This was a lengthy match which finished some two hours after the other games, which were played on two tables. The outstanding Will Maybanks retained his 100% record by getting the better of Simon Noutch (11-4, 11-9, 11-7), as well as Mark Simpson (11-8, 10-12, 13-11, 11-5), and Tibor Kadar also won twice. He beat Richard Smith (11-5, 11-4, 11-8) and Simon Noutch (8-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-8), the win that sealed his team's promotion. The hard working Zoltan Hosszu completed what had been an excellent Urban team effort by getting the better of Richard Smith (9-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-4).



PREMIERSHIP TABLE

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DRUMCHAPEL GLASGOW I	12	0	2	87	25	24
ELLENBOROUGH I	9	1	4	58	54	19
BATTS TEAM PENIEL I	8	2	4	63	49	18
WESTFIELD I	5	5	4	59	53	15
DHS G'HOUSE PROGRESS I	6	3	5	57	55	15
ORMESBY I	4	5	5	49	63	13
FUSION I	1	4	9	45	67	6
GREENHOUSE TTK	1	0	13	30	82	2



DIVISION 1 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derwent I	11	1	2	77	35	23
Ormesby Ii	11	1	2	74	38	23
Barrow	8	2	4	60	52	18
Drumchapel Glasgow Ii	7	1	6	64	48	15
Grantham	4	5	5	54	58	13
Rotherham Scorpions I	4	3	7	49	63	11
Halton	3	2	9	46	66	8
Fastbats	0	1	13	24	88	1

DIVISION 1 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Urban Progress I	13	1	0	91	21	27
Brighton I	8	2	4	66	46	18
Woolwell I	7	4	3	63	49	18
VRS Generation I	5	4	5	54	58	14
Dhs Greenhouse Progress Ii	5	2	7	49	63	12
Batts Team Peniel Ii	4	2	8	46	66	10
Cippenham I	3	3	8	43	69	9
York Gardens I	1	2	11	36	76	4

DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sycamore	14	0	0	89	23	28
Elgre Nottingham I	8	2	4	66	46	18
Olop Impact I	8	1	5	61	51	17
Kingfisher	5	3	6	56	56	13
Cippenham Ii	5	2	7	48	64	12
Fusion Ii	5	1	8	49	63	11
Carrara Polska I	3	3	8	44	68	9
Urban Progress Ii	1	2	11	35	77	4

DIVISION 2 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northfield I	13	1	0	97	15	27
Sheffield	10	1	3	73	39	21
Murrayfield	8	4	2	71	41	20
Market Rasen	6	4	4	57	55	16
Chesterfield	4	1	9	46	66	9
Derwent Ii	4	0	10	35	77	8
Elgre Nottingham Ii	3	1	10	37	75	7
Smiths Wood Bribar	1	2	11	32	80	4

DIVISION 2 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sportingbet Guernsey	12	1	1	84	28	25
Mossford I	11	3	0	81	31	25
Byng Hall I	7	3	4	70	42	17
Brighton Ii	5	3	6	48	64	13
Bedford Modern I	5	2	7	51	61	12
Horsham Ii	4	2	8	46	66	10
DHS Greenhouse Progress III	3	0	11	39	73	6
De Vere Netts	2	0	12	29	83	4

DIVISION 2 SOUTH AND WEST

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton City	9	3	2	74	38	21
Ashford I	7	4	3	62	50	18
Woolwell Ii	6	3	5	54	58	15
Club Cornwall	6	2	6	56	56	14
B @ S Group Okehampton	6	2	6	53	59	14
York Gardens Ii	3	4	7	52	60	10
Horsham I	4	2	8	49	63	10
NWF	4	2	8	48	64	10

DIVISION 3 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Drumchapel Glasgow III	12	0	0	79	17	24
Uxbridge I	7	3	2	64	32	17
Pudsey I	5	4	3	52	44	14
Hull C.N.T.S.	5	4	3	50	46	14
Formby	3	3	6	38	58	9
Ormesby III	2	1	9	29	67	5
St. Mary's Hull	0	1	11	24	72	1
Sunderland (Resigned)	0	0	0	0	0	0

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashford Ii	10	1	3	73	39	21
Cippenham III	9	0	5	59	53	18
Fusion III	6	5	3	64	48	17
Horsham III	6	2	6	55	57	14
DHS Greenhouse Progress IV	5	3	6	54	58	13
SEH Britannia Ipswich	5	2	7	49	63	12
Crusaders	3	4	7	51	61	10
Hastings	2	3	9	43	69	7

DIVISION 3 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Woodfield I	6	5	1	64	32	17
Fellows Cranleigh	7	2	3	59	37	16
Westfield Ii	6	4	2	52	43	16
Carrara Polska Ii	5	1	6	40	56	11
VRS Generation Ii	4	2	6	48	48	10
Olop Impact Ii	1	6	5	40	56	8
Mossford Ii	2	2	8	32	63	6
Southampton West (Resigned)	0	0	0	0	0	0

DIVISION 4 NORTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northfield Ii	11	1	2	80	32	23
Rotherham Scorpions Ii	8	4	2	73	39	20
Ormesby Iv	7	4	3	63	49	18
Drumchapel Glasgow Iv	6	4	4	59	53	16
Hydroflo Team Matlock	6	2	6	57	55	14
Pudsey Ii	4	1	9	45	67	9
Isle Of Man	3	1	10	36	76	7
Uxbridge Ii	2	1	11	35	77	5

DIVISION 4 SOUTH

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inspire Bognor Regis	13	0	1	83	29	26
Woolwell Iii	10	0	4	72	40	20
Barnet	7	2	5	65	47	16
Metropolitan Police	7	1	6	60	52	15
Ellenborough Ii	4	4	6	48	64	12
Batts Team Peniel Iii	5	1	8	48	64	11
Pavilion	3	4	7	50	62	10
Byng Hall Ii	0	2	12	22	90	2

DIVISION 4 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keyworth	12	0	2	84	28	24
Howard	10	3	1	70	42	23
Yaxley Royal British Legion	7	3	4	62	50	17
Woodfield Ii	6	4	4	62	50	16
Bribar Redlands Rookies	3	5	6	52	60	11
York Gardens Iii	4	2	8	49	63	10
Bedford Modern Ii	3	2	9	40	72	8
DHS Greenhouse Progress V	1	1	12	29	83	3

Tournament Review

This month we take a look at the International Disabled tournament in Czech Republic, how Ruthless Rumgay Reigns Supreme in Blackpool, Cheltenham (Cotswold) 3/4 Star and Cippenham Series 4 2-Star Open

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS FOR DISABLED IN CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

The first two competitions that GB have entered for the year of 2009 has ended in overall success and some exceptional performances.

In Czech Republic (standing only event) Great Britain ended with taking three medals. Will Bayley won the class 7 singles without dropping a single game, beating Daniel Horut 3-0 in the final (someone he had never beaten before). Dave Wetherill reached the final of the class 6 singles losing out 3-2 to Gregorovic of Croatia. Finally the Class 7 team of Will Bayley and Paul Karabardak gained a silver medal where they narrowly lost to Czech Republic 3-2.

Other great performances to mention are Kim Daybell and Joe Stotesbury who both reached the quarter finals in their classes (class 10 and

class 7). Both these players had never progressed from their group in previous competitions, so this was a big step forward.

In addition, Paul Karabardak reached the semi-finals of the open men's event, on his way beating Richard Csejtyey, the current world ranked number 1 in class 8.

In Slovakia (standing and wheelchair) the team came away with seven medals. Sue Gilroy had a great open women's singles event beating Peric from Serbia in the semi-finals (silver medallist in class 4 in Beijing and current world ranked number 1 in women's class 4) and narrowly lost to Lundback from Sweden in the final 3-2. Sue also gained a bronze medal in the Class 4-5 singles.

Dave Wetherill gained a bronze medal in the class 6 singles, on his way had beating Buzin from Russia, world ranked number 5, 3-2 who he had never beaten before. In addition, the men's class 7 team (Will Bayley and Paul Karabardak) took the gold medal in the class 7 team event beating Czech Republic 3-0 who they lost to in the final at the Czech Open. The women's class 4-5 team (Sue and Claire Robertson) took a bronze medal beating a pair from Norway and Spain in the bronze medal play-off. The women's team 2-3 (Cathy Mitton, Sara Head and Jane Campbell) also took a bronze medal beating Slovakia in the third place play-off 3-2.

Rob Davies partnered with Holger from Germany (current ranked 3 in the world) in the class 1 team event in which he took a silver medal.

Other noticeable performances were Joe Stotesbury, Kim Daybell and Jane Campbell. Joe progressed again through his group beating Ben Despineux from Belgium 3-0. He lost in the quarter finals to Daniel Horut of Czech 3-0. Kim Daybell progressed through to

the semi-finals of the class 10 men's singles beating Ladislav Gaspar from Slovakia world ranked number 6 and Sebastian Powroziak from Poland - current world ranked number 8. Jane Campbell also progressed through her group stages beating Doris Mader 3-1, current world ranked number 8, and Christine Fillou from France 3-0 - world ranked number 22. Some good performances at the two competitions which can hopefully be built upon for Slovenia, Romania and ultimately the Europeans which are to be held during 4th to 13th June in Genoa, Italy.

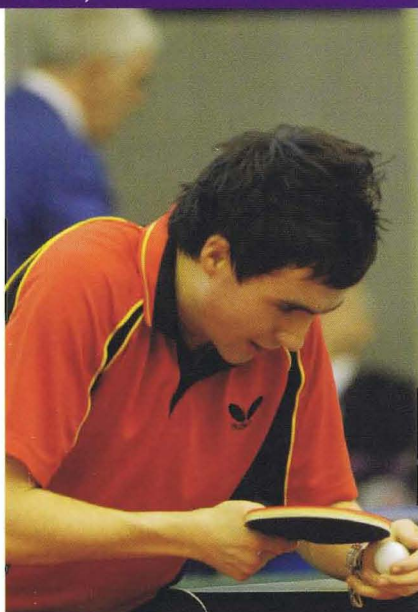
RUTHLESS RUMGAY REIGNS SUPREME IN BLACKPOOL

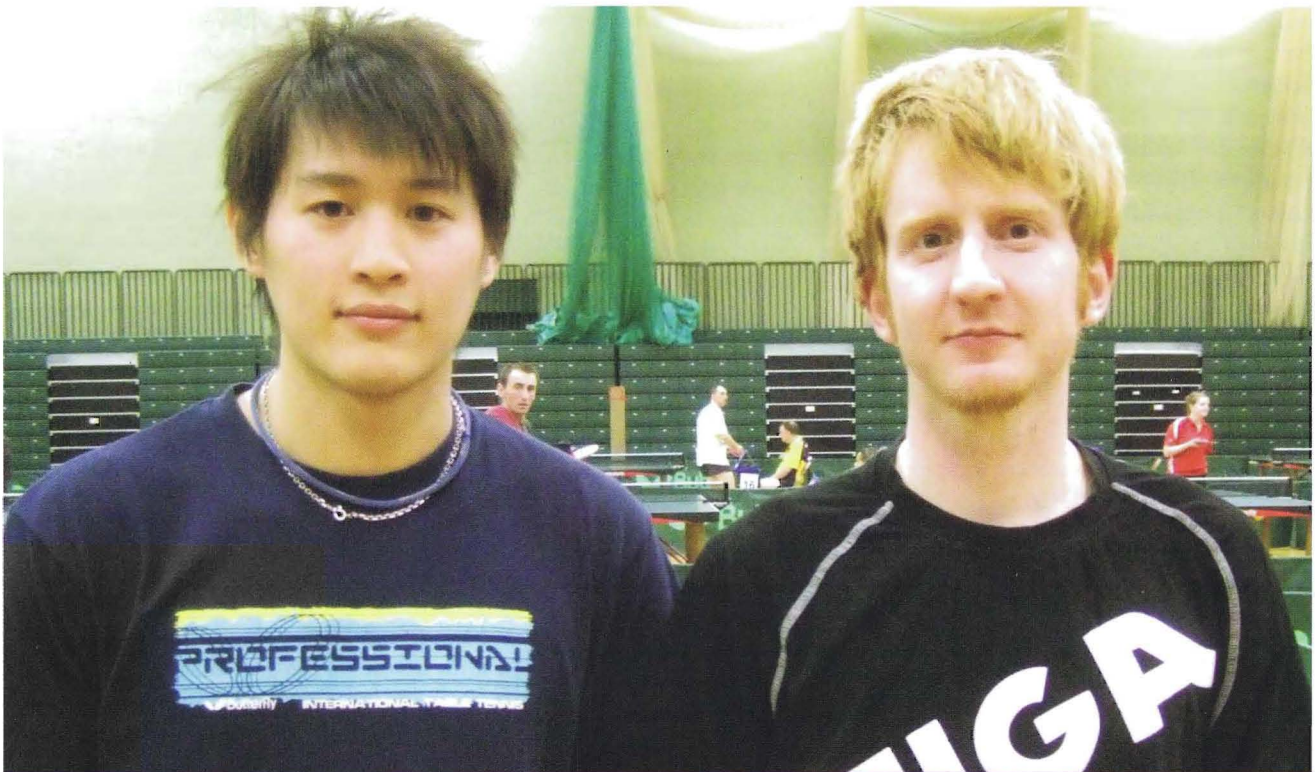
Gutsy Gavin Rumgay defied the odds and romped home to a grandstand finish in the Men's Open. Gavin's second round match against Abdul Wuraola saw him down and out on the pleasure beach, trailing 0-2 in sets and 1-5 in points, and sure to crash out of the tournament! However like a true thoroughbred, it wasn't in the script in his mind, and for sure he fought his way out of trouble to come through in a 3-2 sensational turnaround.

"The Entertainer" Rumgay then follow up with victories over Lee Neil and Shaun Marples to meet the Chinese hotshot Po Huang Chen in the final. Chen had earlier outplayed England number 2, Darius Knight, in a 3-1 scoreline, at the penultimate round, to face the flying Scotsman in a final conflict. The stage was set and a packed audience awaited an epic Scotland v China final between these two young gladiators of the sport.

Right from the first point played, you could see the determination and sense of being "in the zone" on Rumgay's face and his body language that said he would not be denied.

Will Bayley





Gavin Rumgay and Po Huang Chen

The energy, enthusiasm, and showmanship qualities that Gavin brings to the table are unique, and table tennis is crying out for more characters like him to propel our sport to new heights! After winning those tough and energy sapping drawn out rallies, Rumgay would be heard to come out with expressions of deep satisfaction like "That's Massive", or "Give it Some", or "World Class", pumping himself and the thrilled audience up into a frenzy of excitement. Po Chen was under the cosh on every precious point, as the first set would be oh so important. With Gavin's deep deception of spin and variation on his serve, it rarely offered an opportunity for the Chinese player to get in any kind of opening strong attack. Gavin soon stamped his authority on the first set, then the match, with an awesome display of supreme talent and at times sheer magic, to come through to take the title and winner's cheque for £300 in a straight sets victory.

Losing semi-finalists Shaun Marples and Darius Knight played a huge part in making this event so memorable. Shaun was playing his very best to thwart the challenge from Matt Ware and Gerry Campbell, whilst Darius was in cruise mode, beating Gavin Maguire and Sam Hanley. However with all their supreme efforts they could not progress any further as their respective challenges came to an abrupt end, by Gavin Rumgay and Po Huang Chen.

The Women's Open event turned out to be

Results

BLACKPOOL

Men's Open - Gavin Rumgay (SCO) beat Po Huang Chen (TPE) 11-8, 11-9, 11-6.
Women's Open - Klaudia Szadkowska (Mi) beat Karina Le Fevre (Cv) 13-11, 6-11, 6-11, 12-10, 11-8.
Men's Under 21 - Matt Ware (Ha) beat Mark Simpson (Du) 11-7, 11-7, 11-13, 7-11, 11-7.
Women's Under 21 - Karina Le Fevre (Cv) beat Hannah Hicks (Ha) 9-11, 11-6, 11-8, 2-11, 11-8.
Veteran Singles - Lee Neil (Ng) beat Abdul Wuraola (Sy) 11-3, 5-11, 11-9, 11-8.
Mixed Restricted - Simon Noutch (Y) beat Maciej Nakielski (E) 11-7, 11-7, 4-11, 11-7.
Men's Band 1 - Niall Cameron (SCO) beat Sam Hanley (IRL) 12-10, 11-7, 11-7.
Women's Band 1 - Mary Fuller (Y) beat Klaudia Szadkowska (Mi) 11-8, 11-6, 11-7.
Men's Band 2 - Richard Main (SCO) beat Scott Crawford (Cu) 11-5, 11-2, 10-12, 11-9
Women's Band 2 - Jessica Dawson (Cv) beat Catherine Chen (Sy) 11-8, 11-7, 11-6.
Men's Band 3 - Richard Main (SCO) beat Tomasz Rzeszotko (La) 11-4, 11-8, 11-13, 6-11, 11-7.
Women's Band 3 - Marina Popa (ESP) beat Anna Dobrzanska (La) 11-5, 11-9, 11-5.
Men's Band 4 - Tomasz Rzeszotko (La) beat James Ward (St) 11-8, 11-8, 6-11, 6-11, 11-7.
Men's Band 5 - Scott Barton (SCO) beat Attila Kovacs (IRL) 8-11, 11-8, 11-7, 6-11, 11-9.
Men's Band 6 - Brian Wright (SCO) beat Richard Wesley (Ng) 11-13, 11-4, 12-10, 9-11, 11-5.

"Klaudia skies no more" as Miss Szadkowska brought rays of sunshine into the Blackpool Sports Centre, and what an amazing final it was with the unseeded Polish player up against top seeded England and Ormesby

Club number one junior, Karina Le Fevre.

In a thrilling and tense final with both girls giving it their all with incredible pulsating action from start to finish, the very hard hitting forehand of Szadkowska against the controlled consistent backhand of Le Fevre proved the deciding factor, with the Polish young lady just edging her way through to the title in a fifth and memorable final set 11-8, over a very gallant and honourable loser, Karina Le Fevre.

Karina had earned her final place after enjoying great performances over Melissa Wright, Natalie Slater and her semi-final opponent, Caroline Hallows, whilst Klaudia did not drop a set through the rounds until the final, gaining solid 3-0 performances over Annabelle Morle, Alice Loveridge, and semi-finalist Hannah Hicks.

Later in the day the Men's Under 21 competition came to a climax with an all England final between Matt Ware and Mark Simpson. It was a topsy turvy encounter with Mark working hard to level the match after producing bombs past Matt in the third and fourth legs, from being two sets to love down. Ware came out with all guns blazing in the deciding end to open up with a healthy lead that he held, to take the title and a nice glassware trophy.

Karina Le Fevre put firmly behind her the disappointment of narrowly losing the earlier Women's Open event final to come up trumps in the Under 21 version. In once again

another classic Blackpool final, Karina played her part with Hannah Hicks to treat the audience to some top class attack versus defence action. Hicks with her "never give up fighting spirit" against the controlled aggression of Le Fevre's graceful attack on both wings allowed those present to savour many wonderful long rallies from these exciting young England prospects. Karina found the key to unlock the Hicks' defence, and from being 1-2 down in sets, took the fourth then deciding set, to run out a true champion 11-8 in the last end.

The Tees Sport player of the tournament award and £50 in vouchers was presented to Richard Main from Scotland for his outstanding results throughout the weekend.

By Geoff Ware

CHELTENHAM (COTSWOLD) 3/4 STAR

Last year's format was repeated whereby the Cadet and Junior open events were run as 4 star events, with the remainder being 3 star. It was decided to arrange the schedule to achieve an earlier finish on the Saturday with the number of competitors to be governed by the schedule and not the other way round. As it happened, the changes in the basis on which entries are accepted for 4* events discouraged the no-hopers and this, together with the effects of the recession, reduced the numbers to manageable proportions without the need to reject many applicants. There were 127 boys and 57 girls, with 533 matches scheduled for Saturday, 370 for Sunday.

In addition to entrants from all over England, the usual handful of competitors came over from Ireland and Wales and a girl from India who was, we think, playing in England for the first time (not familiar to the ETTA) and took the Cadet Banded trophy.

Once more the strongest events were on Saturday with 8 of England's 10 top-ranked cadet boys on show.

The Cadet Boys' Open final saw England no. 1 Zak Zilesnick beat England no. 2 Lewis Gray, whilst in the girls' equivalent, top seed Yolanda King (England no 3) won for the second year in a row, beating Wales's Chloe Thomas.

On Sunday afternoon special guests Alex Murdoch, wife Valerie and Mayor of Cheltenham watched the finals of the Junior Open events; the 2007 runner-up Garth Kinlocke went one better, beating Emran Hussain in the boys' final, and Yolanda King completed an undefeated weekend by upsetting the top seed and England number

2 junior Emma Vickers in the girls' final.

CIPPENHAM SERIES 4 2-STAR OPEN

Competition is hotting up for the £1,580 prize money on offer for the inaugural Cippenham Series. A weekend of competition at Cippenham Table Tennis Centre resulted in three closely contested events and one little short of a runaway. With four of the five senior events having been completed, there are two main contenders and a third outsider for the Men's Singles Series title, whilst the Women's Singles has virtually been won already by Kent's Jurate Brazaityte.

Two of the three junior tournaments have also been concluded and the fight for the overall Girls' Singles title could hardly be closer, with only four points separating the top three positions. The top positions in the Boys' Singles are more widely spread yet there are still four potential winners.

Neil Charles, leader of the men's points table after three tournaments, was absent on Saturday, playing for his club Fusion in the British League Premier Division. England's number one veteran Abdul Wuraola took full advantage of this absence, as he won the weekend's event and closed to within nine points of Charles. Neil Wright, from Wales, the runner-up on Saturday, is in third place and perfectly positioned should the top two falter

in the last event at the end of May.

Owen Clutterbuck, another Welshman, and a signing for Cippenham this season in the British League, is in fourth place after reaching the quarter-finals on Saturday where the fourth seed lost to surprise semi-finalist Jon Hall. Hall lost to Wright in the semi and the other beaten semi-finalist also came from outside of the seeded ranks. That honour belonged to Cedric Brion, a Frenchman who has recently started training at Cippenham. His quarter-final was an all Cippenham affair and a one-sided win over Rafique Sarhadi, a player who has performed consistently throughout the Cippenham Series and lies in fifth place in the points table. Eddie Mitchell, Cippenham's most promising junior, was the third local in the quarters, while Ben Wiseman perished one round earlier.

Jurate Brazaityte won her third Women's Singles event to take what looks like an unassailable lead into the final tournament. Brazaityte fully deserves this position having also been runner-up the one time she did not emerge winner. There is quite a battle going on for second place, however, with Saturday's runner-up Julie Furber in third place, four points behind Catherine Chen and one ahead of Jasmin Ould. Chen, seeded second, did not even make it through the group stage on Saturday, losing to both Ould and Saloni Shirwaiker.

James Ward, winner of the first boys' event in August, could only manage a semi-final place this time, being beaten by Zhang Da Shuai. The fourth seed then went on to lose to Reece Tan in the final after Tan had ended the run of Cippenham's Eddie Mitchell in their semi. Ward still leads the points table, however, with Tan, Zhang and Mitchell waiting for a slip-up.

Both girls' events were won by visiting players from overseas. In the main event Saloni Shirwaiker of India prevailed: after defeating Feifei Pei in the quarters, the unseeded Shirwaiker came from 2-1 down to just get the better of top seed Jasmin Ould in her semi before winning against Charlotte Spencer in the final. However, her toughest match was in the group stage when she only just got the better of Majada Yasmin 13-11 in the fifth and deciding game. Spencer was another who had to come back from 2-1 down in her semi against Chrissie Slot. To really add an international flavour to the winners' list, the girls' consolation was won by Jessica Pace of Malta.

The tournament was organized by Terry Boxall and Steve Smith and refereed by Mick Strode.

Results

CHELTENHAM (COTSWOLD) 3/4 STAR

U13 Boys - Jared Patel (Essex) bt. Lewis Williams (Wales) 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-5

U13 Girls - Charlotte Carey (Wales) bt. Emma Torkington (Sussex) 14-16, 11-6, 11-5, 11-5

Cadet Banded - Mathew Lancey (Wales) bt. Liam McTiernan (Berkshire) 11-8, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9
Saloni Shirwaiker (India) bt. Maria Tsaptsinos (Berkshire) 11-7, 13-11, 11-5

Cadet Boys Open - Zak Zilesnick (Middlesex) bt. Lewis Gray (Kent) 14-12, 7-11, 4-11, 11-7, 11-9

Cadet Girls Open - Yolanda King (Sussex) bt. Chloe Thomas (Wales) 11-4, 11-6, 11-4

Junior Boys Banded - Daniel Basterfield (Middlesex) bt. Jide Owolabi (Kent) 13-11, 11-4, 4-11, 7-11, 11-5

Junior Girls Banded - Charlotte Carey (Wales) (age 12) bt. Vicky Smith (Devon) 4-11, 6-11, 11-3, 11-7, 11-4

Junior Boys Open - Garth Kinlocke (Hampshire) bt. Emran Hussain (Essex) 7-11, 13-11, 2-11, 11-9, 11-6

Junior Girls Open - Yolanda King (Sussex) bt. Emma Vickers (Derbyshire) 17-15, 11-4, 10-12, 14-12

CIPPENHAM SERIES 4 2-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles - Abdul Wuraola (Sy) bt. Neil Wright (WAL)

Women's Singles - Jurate Brazaityte (K) bt. Julie Furber (WAL)

Boys' Singles - Reece Tan (Mi) bt. Zhang Da Shuai (Sx)

Girls' Singles - Saloni Shirwaiker (IND) bt. Charlotte Spencer (WA)

Men's Consolation - Fred Dove (E) bt. Matthew Carter (Np)



Abdul Wuraola & Neil Wight

3RD NATWEST JERSEY OPEN

The final day of the 3rd NatWest Jersey Open tournament proved to be a real scorcher with big money to be played for. The men's singles group stages proved to be very interesting with higher ranked opposition from the UK struggling against local players. Trev Lefebvre emerged from Group 1 as runner-up at the expense of Rory Scott from Sussex and Bobby Vincent did likewise in Group 2, beating Evans and Osborne from England to progress to the knockout stage. Eugene Ellis and Paul Marshall won their groups whilst Josh Band almost added another impressive senior of JoJo Seniorin to his collection but went through as runner-up in a very close 3-2 loss. Craig Gascoyne, Tom Morgan, Luke Walker and Hugo Tupper also progressed to the knockouts.

In the two preliminary rounds Band and Lefebvre had good 3-0 wins. Band then had to face the number 1 seed Damien Nicholls. The fifteen year old from Jersey did not disappoint, taking the second game to square the match. Nicholls then moved through the gears to reach the quarter-finals 3-1. No.2 seed Ben Barlow from Yorkshire also eased into the quarters, but Luke Walker found the experienced chop of Julien Gittens too hot to handle. Gascoyne and Barlow saw off the attempts from Seniorin and Gittens both in 3-0 scorelines to set up their semi-final. Nicholls put in another faultless display to

despatch Jake Collins and the all Jersey quarter-final saw Paul Marshall overcome a spirited Eugene Ellis 3-1.

Gascoyne's and Barlow's semi-final was as explosive as expected. Both players know each other's game so well and the exchanges drew huge applause from a full Geoff Reed Centre. Barlow finally prevailed 3-2, but not without sustaining a nasty fall in the third game. Nicholls had a smoother track to the final easing past Paul Marshall with a characteristically majestic performance. The final lacked its full intensity, as Barlow's injury certainly hindered his movement and Nicholls took full advantage to beat the defending champion 3-0 to take the title and a cheque for £500, whilst Barlow consoled himself with £250 and the losing semi-finalists £100 each. The women's singles looked to be going the way of the two top seeds as well after the group stages, that was until Nicola Duke from Jersey put in her best performance to date to beat the 2007 winner Rachel Pilgrim from Warwickshire. Duke kept her focus and resisted for once, going for the big shots and generally fed off her opponent's errors. The 3-1 victory drew huge applause from local supporters as Duke made the final. Her opponent was the highly experienced no.1 seed Sanja Clements from Dorset. Duke battled all the way winning big points with booming smashes, but it was the guile and unique play of Clements that won the day for

the title and a cheque for £350.

Damien Nicholls filled his coffers again winning the U21 Men's Singles in the final against Jake Collins 3-1. Nicholls again beat Band in the semis and Collins defeated Tom Morgan who had despatched Luke Walker in the quarter-finals for his best win to date. Rachel Pilgrim took the Women's U21 as expected, with Jersey's Kelsey Le Maistre a well deserved runner-up, whilst JoJo Seniorin took the Restricted Singles.

The Veteran Singles was a more difficult one to predict until former European Champion John Hilton threw his hat into the ring. Early Jersey interest dissipated as Ellis had to retire in the semi-final against Hilton with an injury. Adrian Pilgrim saw off a strong challenge from Clements to also make the final. Pilgrim (nicknamed Dick Turpin following performances at the tournament) pushed Hilton all the way and at 2-2 a real upset looked on the cards. However the class of the illustrious member from Cheshire finally showed as Hilton pocketed his winner's cheque!!

Other remaining results from the tournament were as follows:

Junior Girls - Kelsey Le Maistre (Jsy) bt. Jodie Le Maistre (Jsy)

Junior Boys - Jake Collins (UK) bt. Max Tupper (Jsy)

U14 Singles - Hugo Tupper (Jsy) bt. Michael Fisher (Jsy)

County Notes

Devon by John Smith

A massive record entry of 194 from 31 schools played in the county schools championships in Plymouth. Five people retained their titles Chris Smith from St Boniface's College in Plymouth, Ben Snow from St Wilfrid's in Exeter and the Devonport High School for Girls triumvirate of Amy Whiting, Laura McLeod and Vicky Smith who (joined by Gabriella Hattersley) were also runners-up in the national under 19 team final. The county sent its full quota of champions to the national individual finals with Vicky Smith the most successful, receiving a second runners-up medal after a narrow under 13 final defeat. Compensation came in selection for the England Schools' under 14 team in the home international in Scotland in June.

Chris Smith was joined by Richard Marshall, with both undefeated in the singles, to bring the Carter Cup back to the Plymouth League for the third time in six years. The two, in their final year as juniors, dominated the league season, Smith topping the averages for the second time, pipping Marshall by less than 2%. Vicky Smith's excellent debut season in the top flight, winning nearly half her matches while the youngest division one player, saw her take both the junior girls and ladies' awards at the league's presentation evening. She also performed well at the national junior championships, reaching the last 16 of the junior singles and last 8 in the cadets, an achievement only matched amongst the under 14s by Emily Bates.

239 entries from 64 players in 12 events produced a very successful 10th annual championships at the Woolwell club. The only real shock came in the main open event for the Frank Bush Trophy. Hot favourite Richard Marshall lost out to 60 year old Mike Short in the semi-final, but Short was no match for Chris Smith in the final.

Devon Schools Championships results:

U19 Boys Winner C Smith, R/U Mike Griffiths (Ivybridge), 3rd = Sean Mills (John Kitto) & Elliot Goss (St Boniface's)
U16 Boys Winner Dominic Sussex (Gt. Torrington), R/U Sam Hurst (Torquay Grammar), 3rd = Ben Taylor (Gt. Torrington) & Jake Howes (Plymstock)
U13 Boys Winner B Snow, R/U Ollie Buddell (Plymstock), 3rd = Tom Pearce (Okehampton) & Kevin Vandabona

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM DEVON

Chris Smith was joined by Richard Marshall, with both undefeated in the singles, to bring the Carter Cup back to the Plymouth League for the third time in six years. The two, in their final year as juniors, dominated the league season, Smith topping the averages for the second time, pipping Marshall by less than 2%. Vicky Smith's excellent debut season in the top flight, winning nearly half her matches while the youngest division one player, saw her take both the junior girls and ladies' awards at the league's presentation evening. She also performed well at the national junior championships, reaching the last 16 of the junior singles and last 8 in the cadets, an achievement only matched amongst the under 14s by Emily Bates.

(Plymouth College)

U11 Boys Winner Dan Howell (Okehampton), R/U Ed Haskell (Okehampton), 3rd = Ben Bolton (Okehampton) & Henry Drummond (Woolacombe)

U19 Girls Winner A Whiting, R/U Heather Dixon (Eggbuckland), 3rd Katie Edwards (Eggbuckland)

U16 Girls Winner L McLeod, R/U Katie Snow (St Wilfrid's), 3rd = Leanne Saunders (Ilfracombe) & Hannah Sharpe (Exmouth)

U13 Girls Winner V Smith, R/U Naomi Jackson, 3rd = G Hattersley & Katie Smaldon (Ilfracombe)

U11 Girls Winner Mia-Mae Lawrence (St Andrews), R/U Lauren Isaac (Okehampton)

Derbyshire by Neil Houghton

Done by Middlesex four times between 1949 and 1960, by Essex in 1964-65 and 1971-72 and Yorkshire in 1972-73, but then not achieved in the 36 years since. Now Derbyshire seniors/juniors are DOUBLE CHAMPIONS 2008/09!! The seniors won the Premiership title for the second time (previous 1987) and for the first time the juniors have won the County Premiership title!

Around five years back at Grantham with the juniors we came runners-up and I was a bit 'parrotish' at getting beaten by Berkshire in the last match, but was told it was their most successful season as Derbyshire had never won it!

Considering the top juniors we've had, I found this surprising and unlucky.

Topping the table, just, after the first weekend all looked a bit "iffy" when Liam Pitchford broke his left hand three days earlier (another school accident!) and we lost sets at the first weekend on account of some goalkeeping! Star of the Sussex game was very supportive and keen no. 1 from the second team (who also helped us avoid relegation last season) Tom Booth, who fought hard winning his first set and was instrumental in giving us a chance for a winning scoreline. The 'professionals' Sean Cullen and Danny Lowe then dominated their sets. Lucy Davidson did a good job all weekend and earlier Abbie Millwain wins and the previous weekend wins by Liam Pitchford all played a part. Emma Vickers (swapped with Abbie for this junior match) contributed a dominant two

Chris Smith was joined by **Richard Marshall**, with both undefeated in the singles, to bring the Carter Cup back to the Plymouth League for the third time in six years.



sets for an 8-2 win and the title! Interesting outcome also is that Emma and Abbie finished up with two Championship trophies, one senior and one junior! Well done everybody!!

Just heard that Liam Pitchford got himself a bronze at the World Junior Championships with Paul and Darius - mega-performance!!

During the county weekend, ever-keen John Lowe was telling me some of detail of son Danny's recent Derby 4 Star matches and his runner-up to Matt Ware in the final - well done! Abbie also figured high at Derby and seems others of our Derbyshire youngsters from above have been playing in Cardiff recently - that is Lucy and Sean, with England taking gold in the Home Six Nations Team event, along with Sean winning Junior Singles and Lucy runner-up to Hannah Hicks in Junior Girls. Good stuff! Stop Press - Staveley Springwell C.S. are U16 Schools' Champions 2009!

Essex by Steve Kerns

Burnham Closed - With over 80 individual entries this League's tournament put some of the larger League's Championships well and truly in the shade. It also produced a high playing standard, with Marko Jovic's devastating forehand attack carrying him to the Men's Singles title as he impressively beat Duncan Taylor 11-8, 12-10, 11-7 in the semi-final and Peter Ballard 11-7, 11-7, 14-12 in the final.

Stuart Gibbs rarely goes home from these events empty-handed, he pulled out all the stops to get the better of Marko Jovic 11-3, 7-11, 11-8, 12-10 in a high-class Veterans' Singles final.

Results:

Ladies' Singles: Linda Attridge bt. Valerie Board 11-6, 9-11, 11-2, 11-4.

Men's Doubles: Peter Ballard/Marko Jovic bt. Duncan Taylor/Glenn Johnson 11-8, 11-9, 11-8.

Mixed Doubles: Stuart Gibbs/Linda Attridge bt. Kevin Read/Emma Dadswell 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 15-13.

Ladies' Doubles: Valerie Board/Linda Attridge bt. Diane King/Janet Pannell 11-5, 11-7, 12-14, 11-8.

Over 50s' Singles: Eric Green bt. Peter Ballard 11-5, 8-11, 11-6, 6-11, 11-8.

Clacton Closed - Colin Stallwood became only the fifth player in the League's history to take all three major titles in the same tournament. Stallwood, the Men's Singles runner-up last year went one better this time, beating 2004 Champion Gary Young 11-7, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8 in the final having beaten his conqueror from last year, Kevin

County Notes

Gowlett, in the penultimate round. Stallwood added the Men's Doubles title with Martin Hogg and the Mixed Doubles crown with Annabelle Rodriguez.

In his first season as a veteran, Martin Hogg took the Veterans Singles getting the better of Colin Webber 11-7, 10-12, 11-9, 11-5 in the final, whilst Gill Locke, playing her first Clacton tournament, won the Ladies Singles, beating Annabelle Rodriguez 3-1.

Results:

Men's Doubles: Martin Hogg/Colin Stallwood bt. Alan Burgess/Dave Binns 11-5, 11-6, 9-11, 11-5.

Ladies' Singles: Gill Locke bt. Annabelle Rodriguez 12-10, 11-5, 9-11, 11-7.

Ladies' Doubles: Jenny Binns/Trisha Salter bt. Gill Locke/Bethany Johnson 7-11, 11-2, 11-4, 11-5.

Super Veterans Singles: John Rice bt. Dave Binns 11-9, 11-5, 11-9.

Junior Singles: Mike Shore bt. Mark Smith 11-9, 11-8, 11-5.

Junior Doubles: Mike Shore/Mark Smith bt. James Denyer / Lewis McKenny 11-6, 11-7, 11-5.

Division Two Singles: Mark Smith bt. Jenny Binns 11-6, 11-7, 11-7.

Colchester Closed - Greg Green scored two top-notch wins to take the Men's Singles title from an evenly matched field. Green beat Michael Andrews in five ends in his semi-final and he came through a widely fluctuating final to beat Gary Young 5-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-9, 11-8 for a truly magnificent victory.

Jimmy Farrow won the Veterans' final, although his opponent Fred Button won't have been too disappointed as he became the first player in League history to reach the finals of all three Veteran age group categories in the same tournament. What can you say about Sue Welham? Sue won her 22nd Ladies Singles' title in 30 years. There can be few more prolific champions in any local League.

Results:

Ladies' Singles: Sue Welham bt. Annabelle Rodriguez 12-10, 11-5, 11-5.

Men's Doubles: Richard Goodhand/Jimmy Farrow bt. Kevin Gowlett/Greg Green 9-11, 11-7, 11-8, 6-11, 11-8.

Mixed Doubles: Sue Welham/Gary Young bt. Hazel Hume/Greg Green 11-6, 11-5, 11-9.

Junior Boys' Singles: Mike Shore bt. Toby Turner 11-9, 11-4, 11-3,

Veteran Singles: Jimmy Farrow bt. Fred Button 12-10, 11-4, 11-6.

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM KENT

Byng Hall's Jasmin Ould retained her two singles titles at the Kent Junior Closed Championships at Howard School on Saturday 2nd May.

The England no.10 comfortably won the cadet singles, beating Claire Harvey (Meopham) 11-5, 11-7, 11-3. Although she never looked like losing, she had a harder time in the junior girls' singles final, dropping her only singles game of the Saturday before beating Daniella Gray (Weald Club) 11-9, 11-5, 10-12, 11-9.

Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

The Hertford & District League held its closed tournament on March 15th at Cheshunt TTC. This is one of our smaller leagues so there were only 15 entries, 12 men and 3 ladies. Apparently all were veterans.

Results:

OPEN SINGLES Winner: Brian Day

Runner-Up: Dennis Shaw

LADIES' SINGLES Winner: Faith Frankel

Runner-Up: Jenny Pomfrett

MEN'S DOUBLES Winner: Brian Day/Mark Janes

Runner-Up: Dennis Shaw/Joe Torres

MIXED DOUBLES Winner: Jenny Pomfrett/Glen Smith

Runner-Up: Jo Swain/Terry Burroughs

VETERAN SINGLES Winner: Nigel Gray

Runner-Up: Brian Heffernan

VETERAN DOUBLES Winner: Dennis Shaw/Joe Torres

Runner-Up: Terry Burroughs/Brian Heffernan

DIV. 1 SINGLES Winner: Dennis Shaw

Runner-Up: Jenny Pomfrett

DIV. 2 SINGLES Winner: Les Edmunds

Runner-Up: Alan Gibbs

SUPER VETERANS Winner: Joe Torres

Runner-Up: Dennis Shaw

Herts Veteran 2 concluded their fixtures with 5-5 draws against Bucks 2 and Norfolk 3. The best player at these matches was the captain of 2, Tom Carr, who won all his singles.

Other news: at the North Herts Grand Prix Jimmy Walsh of Stevenage beat Jeff Rigby of Oxford to win the Veteran Singles. Haylee Potts beat Ikue Humphrey of Surrey to win Band 3 Ladies' Singles.

In the Herts largest leagues, the Premier Division of North Herts was won by Bedwell A and top of the Premier in the Shaw League was St. Michaels.

Kent by Ken Muhr

Byng Hall Success at Kent Champs

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Although she never looked like losing, she had a harder time in the junior girls' singles final, dropping her only singles game of the Saturday before beating Daniella Gray (Weald Club) 11-9, 11-5, 10-12, 11-9.

Daniella got compensation by winning the category 2 singles, with a close 12-10, 11-13, 12-10, 11-7 victory over

In the match of the day, the tall Jide Owolabi, from Deptford School, scrapped through 9-11, 11-2, 13-11, 9-11, 12-10 against the diminutive Ross Wilson (Howard Club) to become junior boys' champion,



Megan Sullivan (Darenth Club), and Lauren Beaumont beat her Howard club-mate Katie Wilson 11-9, 11-4, 13-11 to claim the under 13 girls' singles.

In the match of the day, the tall Jide Owolabi, from Deptford School, scrapped through 9-11, 11-2, 13-11, 9-11, 12-10 against the diminutive Ross Wilson (Howard Club) to become junior boys' champion, in a contrast of effortless power against Wilson's sharp hand speed over the table.

Wilson, the England no.9, was clearly the top player in the cadet boys' singles, ultimately triumphing over Gregory Kaddock, Lewisham, 11-8, 11-7, 11-5. However, the Deptford School boy Gregory in turn won the category 2 junior boys' singles 11-7, 11-5, 11-7 over Andrew Lockwood (Byng Hall).

Dan Lawrence, who is both a member of the Kemnal Club, Bromley League and the Weald Club, looped his way to victory in the under 13 boys' singles against club mate Oliver Gunns, who he beat 11-4, 11-7, 6-11, 12-10. Oliver was a conclusive winner of the under 11 boys' singles, conquering Luke Savill (Howard Club) 11-4, 11-4, 11-5.

Ross Wilson and Jide Owolabi triumphed in the junior boys' doubles, being given some trouble by second seeds Darren Richardson (Maidstone) and Joe Risby (Bromley), in their 12-10, 9-11, 11-7, 11-5 success. Andrew Lockwood and Jack Hartland (Howard) were the steadier pair in their 11-9, 8-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-3 cadet doubles' victory over Daniel Chen and Dan Lawrence.

The junior girls' doubles went to Claire Harvey and Megan Sullivan, but they were made to work hard 11-13, 11-6, 11-8, 11-6 by under 11 girls Jessica Wen (Ashford) and Katie Wilson.

Senior Champs - Chris Bartram from Bromley beat Mark Brown (Byng Hall) in straight games, 11-6, 11-9, 11-8, to become Kent men's singles champion. The same players met in the veteran men's singles final where the match was a little closer, but the result the same, Bartram taking it 11-4, 8-11, 11-8, 11-6.

Mark Romano (Byng Hall) lifted two doubles titles, with Dave Davies (Bromley), he won a close men's doubles 11-5, 11-9, 5-11, 4-11, 11-7 over Bromley pair Bartram and Andrew Dodd. In the mixed doubles with Marianne Jorgensen of Maidstone he beat Bartram and Carol Homewood (Bromley) after a long fourth game, 11-9, 11-6, 5-11, 17-15. Daniel Ives (Bromley), now a student at the Bristol Academy, overcame Phil Thomas (Howard) 11-8, 13-11, 14-12 to claim the under 21 men's singles. Byng Hall's Jurate Brazaityte got the verdict against

County Notes

Jasmin Ould 11-8, 11-4, 6-11, 11-7 to take the women's singles. The two lifted the women's doubles with an 8-11, 11-5, 11-6, 11-9 success against Jorgensen and Jill Shipton (Maidstone).

Ould added to her two singles' titles tally of the previous day by defeating yet another Byng Hall player Julie Latreville 11-9, 11-7, 4-11, 11-2 in the under 21 women's singles. In the veteran women's singles Jackie Williams (Medway) bettered Marianne Jorgensen in 5 games, 11-6, 7-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-7.

Northants by Dennis Millman

This year's Kettering Closed attracted the best entry for many years, but as the 10:30pm deadline was reached the final shots were played and Richard Elliott had regained the men's title that he had won on four previous occasions.

For much of the day it had looked as if youth would have its way with Jordan Dainty, Jack Coleman, Matt Carter, Sam Wildman and Charlotte Binley all prominent. However, as the evening unfolded it was the senior brigade of Elliott, John Fuller, Chris Ross and Helen Watts who dominated the proceedings.

At the penultimate stage of the men's singles Elliott outstayed Ross, while Fuller's defence had blunted Dainty's attack. Earlier, Carter had led Elliott two nil but the near veteran fought back to take the decider. The final proved another close call but Elliott stood firm to beat Fuller in four ends.

The men's doubles became a lottery when injured Mark Nannery withdrew to leave an Elliott/Alex Aston pairing who met and beat the no 1 seeds Ross and Terry Cardwell at the semi-final stage. The sixth seeded Bird/Coleman team reached the final where in another match of ebb and flow they beat Elliott/Aston in five ends. Ross finally came into his own in the mixed doubles when he and Charlotte Binley got the better of Elliott and Rachel Thompson in an engaging finale. Ross also turned his attention to the veteran event denying Steve Silk a third Over 40s title, and then combining with Cardwell to add the corresponding doubles.

Coleman, with four titles, was the most prolific player on the day, as in addition to the men's doubles he added the U30 singles' crown, the U16 singles and junior boys doubles partnered by Sam Wildman. One event the county champion didn't win was the junior singles, where Dainty seized the initiative to retain the title and reverse the outcome of the County Closed.

Dainty also put his reputation on the line in the premier

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM NORTHANTS

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handicap, when playing off scratch he beat an array of opponents.

Binley made it three titles when she retained the girls' singles and then teamed up with Rachel Thompson to prevent Helen Watts and Brigitta Palinkas from taking the ladies' doubles for a third successive time. However, in the singles a positive Watts turned the tables on Binley to take the titles for the seventh time.

Simon Jarvis, hitting the ball harder and flatter than the opposition, regained the hard bat title.

Scott Dixon and Aaron Moore proved the perfect pairing in the mystery doubles, while the consolation final saw Nathan Thompson get the better of father Barry after trailing by two games to one. Nathan became the 33rd different player to win the event in its 35 years' existence. As usual Phil Slade, tournament organiser for the 26th time, met all challenges with aplomb, none more so than squeezing some 350 encounters on to 10 tables, in 14 hours of continuous play.

Oxfordshire by Karl Bushell

County Teams

Veterans 1 - Our first team had a good finish to the season to secure their place in Division 1B. The match against Berkshire at the new Kidlington centre was a close and entertaining match, with Berkshire winning 6-4. Tony Stead made his first team debut for Oxfordshire and recorded a win over Ramish Gehlot, and Karl Bushell had a fine 3-0 victory over Berkshire no.1 Dave Barr.

The next weekend the team travelled to Cirencester and recorded two wins against Kent II 6-4 and Essex IV 9-1. Andy Misseldine was undefeated and Karl and Jeff Rigby won three out of four respectively. Janet Brown won her first singles of the season to finish on a high note. Karl/Andy won both doubles to finish the season on 100%.

Veterans II - The team finished in mid table and ended with a win in Wiltshire. The team has been well led by Neil Hurford with some excellent performances from Jan Curtis, Nat Richardson and Wilf Crompton during the season.

Midland League - Oxford's veterans team look set to win Division 2 of the Midland League and thus gain promotion to the top division. It has been a real squad effort under the management of John Birkin and there are high hopes that the team can challenge for honours in the top division.

The Oxford junior team of Ross Henderson, Chris Smith and Jake East are well placed in their division with hopes of winning the title.

County Notes

continues to grow with participation levels in 2008-9 increasing by 46% over the initial year. The grant of £1,500 has been used to purchase a further two match quality tables and additional barriers.

The venue now boasts a total of ten tables and each Wednesday evening the club provides an opportunity for members of the local community to play table tennis and progress into competition if they wish.

The final Wisewood session of the winter featured a three category tournament, with the following winners: Y4-6 Charlie King (Shooters Grove), Y7-9 Dominic Calvert-Lewin (Wisewood) and Open category Jordan Greenwood (WBL).

The 2009-10 winter series of Wednesday evening sessions will start in September.

For further information about Wadsley Bridge Lovell Table Tennis Club please contact Rod Bly on 0114 231 0009 or email: rodbly@hotmail.com.

Wadsley Bridge Lovell G have completed the double with victory in the lower section of the knockout cup, to add to their Division Five crown which they snatched by a mere two points from Abbeydale E. The cup final was also a close affair against Don Valley D, during which Daniel Horton and Robert Shaw both ended unbeaten. Wadsley stalwart Bryan Cartwright, whose experience and enthusiasm as team captain and mentor undoubtedly contributed to the youngster's triumph, masterminded the double. Bryan won the Sheffield under 17s singles' title in 1949 and went on to become Sheffield men's singles champion in 1953.

Surrey by Chris Andrews

In the World Championships held in Yokohama, Japan, Joanna Parker and partner Paul Drinkhall won their first round match and narrowly lost in the second round to a Japanese pair who are the 22nd and 19th best players in the world. Naturally the Japanese pair received massive home support from the crowd.

At the Barnsley Grand Prix Darius Knight won the Men's Open 11-6,11-4,11-4. Abdul Wuraola was runner-up in the Veteran's event, while Ikue Humphrey was runner-up in the Women's Band 2 event.

Surrey's county cadets were on amazing form to come third in the County Premier League. They managed this feat even without a second girl playing. Emre Ibatoglu playing at third won 100% of his games. The rest of the Surrey team of Michael Ho, Lewis Bray, Alois Clair and Lucy Lou all finished on 50% or higher. Surrey beat Nottingham 6-4, Yorkshire 7-3, Warwickshire 7-3 and

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM SURREY

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Buckinghamshire 6-4, while drawing with South Yorkshire. Middlesex and Sussex were too strong and finished first and second. Sussex had England rating's no.1 Helshan Weerasinghe. The non-playing captain was Michael Loveder.

In the County Veterans Premier League, Surrey were in the title race. However in the end we finished in a very respectable third place.

The first Junior 1 star Horsham tournament saw Surrey's George Heath win the under 13s' title. Jonathan Realpe won the under 14s consolation against fellow Surrey player Yithzak Montano. Jonathan was also runner-up in the under 15s consolation event.

At the North Herts Open Satellite Matt Pernet won the Men's Band 2 and the Restricted event. There was also joy for Ikue Humphrey as she won the Women's Band 2 event and was runner-up in the Women's Band 3 event. Fei-Fei Pei was runner-up in the Under 21 Women's event. The Cippenham Series 4 Men's Singles was won by Abdul Wuraola.

Catherin Chen was runner-up in the Blackpool Grand Prix Women's Band 2 event. Abdul Wuraola was runner-up in the Veteran Singles event.

David Harding won the over 50s doubles in the veterans Northern Masters.

Simon Peters, a larger than life figure on the table tennis scene, has died after a two year battle with cancer. Simon was truly a great character and it is no exaggeration to say that when he walked into a tournament or a match, the room lit up with his presence. With his flowing hair, permanent tan and outrageous clothes he would dominate the table with his equally eccentric playing style. We send our condolences and best wishes to his family.

Yorkshire by Barry Snowden

A successful season with one blemish

With all county championship events now completed it has proved a highly successful season for the white rose county with two divisional titles, although the relegation of the cadets team from the premier division proved to be a sickner.

The two league champions were the top two veterans teams, as the first team skippered by Janet Adams of Huddersfield and well supported by Mick Stead, Keith Rodger, Martin Lowe, Richard Lightowler and Chris Clinton took on the cream of the nation's veterans over the weekends at Ashford and Halifax and retained the title; they have now won three of the past four seasons.

County Notes

The veterans' second team won Division 1A by a point from Lancashire but it is their red rose rivals who are promoted as only one team per county can participate in the premier division, therefore the second team must continue in the lower tier.

The vets third team can also hold their heads high as they were also involved in this division and completed the season in third place behind Lancashire, and with the fourth team finishing mid table in a very competitive Division 3A and the fifth finishing runners-up to Cheshire thirds in 4A, Yorkshire have a very strong veterans squad at county level nowadays.

The junior first team avoided relegation this season which can be considered as an achievement as the county is not at its strongest at junior level currently, but retaining premier status gives it something to work towards next season.

The junior second team finished third in 2A behind Cleveland and Cheshire seconds and with all six players used having at least one more season left in the junior ranks, this result can be improved on and the second team will go into next season full of confidence.

Despite their relegation it may not have been the worst possible scenario for the cadets as having struggled to stay up last season the drop could have been expected, and a season in a lower division to regain their confidence may in the long term be just what was required.

The two senior teams both performed with distinction this season: the first team only just failed to regain their premier status when they lost out on sets to Cleveland who included Paul Drinkall in their squad in an attempt to gain promotion, whilst the Yorkshire second team could not improve on last season's runners-up spot in 2A and in fact fell one place down, but finished a creditable third place behind Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire in a highly competitive division.

LEN BARTON OBITUARY

Len Barton, who has died aged 83, was a former President of the Colchester & District Table Tennis League for twelve years and prior to that Chairman from 1977 to 1985. Len played and coached in Colchester starting in 1944 before moving to Hampshire in 2001 with his wife Maureen to live closer to his son Terence.

He represented Gt Horkesley and Colchester at playing level, but it was as a coach that Len really excelled. He was responsible for the town's junior coaching for over 25 years, and the growth and success of junior table

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM YORKSHIRE

The same quartet of Dyson, Madden, Land and Simpson had played in all matches and now faced their own third team who featured a wealth of experience and the new exciting prospect of Hull's Chris Clinton. Although the second team were never behind they were never more than two sets ahead and were mighty relieved when Madden and Simpson took a last set mixed doubles victory over Corporate Games world champions Phil Cawser and Sandra Rider to ease to a 6-4 victory and complete the weekend with four wins.

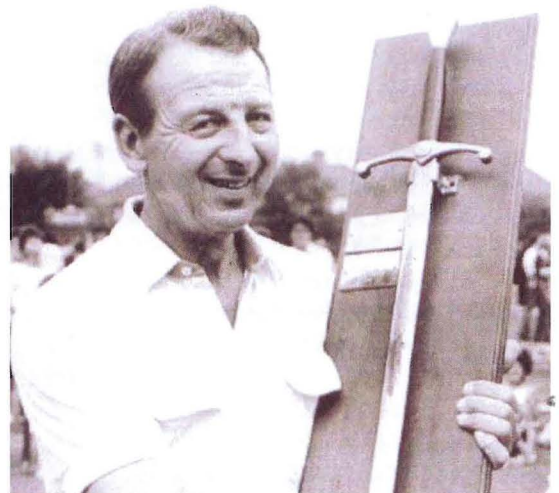
tennis in the area, particularly in the 1970s and 80s was largely attributed to his sterling efforts. Such names as Darren Jones, Melvyn Rampling, Paul Taylor and Michael Andrews are just four of the many youngsters to flourish under his auspices. Indeed Len cites Paul Taylor becoming Essex Under 12 champion as one of the most satisfying moments of his coaching career. Len and his wife Maureen were also responsible for several overseas table tennis trips including Easter visits to Frankenberg, Germany and Tarragona in Spain.

Len started coaching in the late 1960s and in 1975 was responsible for the fund raising events to enable the league to hire the then new Colchester Sports Centre for junior coaching sessions. These courses led to many youngsters achieving table tennis honours, indeed even when he stood down as coach in 1992 he still encouraged juniors with his own 'Len Barton Award' to inspire not just higher playing standards, but also a level of sportsmanship he always exemplified. It was in this year that he too was presented with a prestigious award. He was honoured by the Essex County Association when he received the 'Corti Woodcock Memorial Award' for his significant contribution to table tennis in Essex.

Len and Maureen had booked accommodation to return to visit last month's Colchester table tennis tournament but sadly, due to doctor's orders, had to cancel their plans at the last moment. After recent heart surgery Len passed away on Wednesday 8th April in hospital, Portsmouth.

He is survived by his wife, Maureen, and son Terence and preceded by his daughter Linda.

Len's funeral was held at Colchester Crematorium on Tuesday 21st April.



World Rankings

MEN

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



WOMEN

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



U21 MEN

1. MA Long (CHN)
2. OVTCHAROV Dimitrij (GER)
3. 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. CAO Lisi (CHN)
5. CHENG I-Ching (TPE)



U15 BOYS

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



U15 GIRLS

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



Player Rankings 2008/2009

TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

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

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.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
7.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.)
8.	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)
9.	WANG, Sarra (E.)
10.	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)
11.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
12.	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)
13.	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)
14.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
15.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
16.	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)
17.	WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.)
18.	ROSE, Emma (HE.)
19.	RADFORD, Lisa (DV.)
20.	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)
21.	PERKS, Sarah (NG.)
22.	WEIL, Emma (E.)
23.	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)
24.	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)
25.	HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

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

TOP 5 CADET BOYS

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

TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

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

TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.)
2.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
3.	HILTON, John (CH.)
4.	KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)
5.	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

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

TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

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

TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

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

TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

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



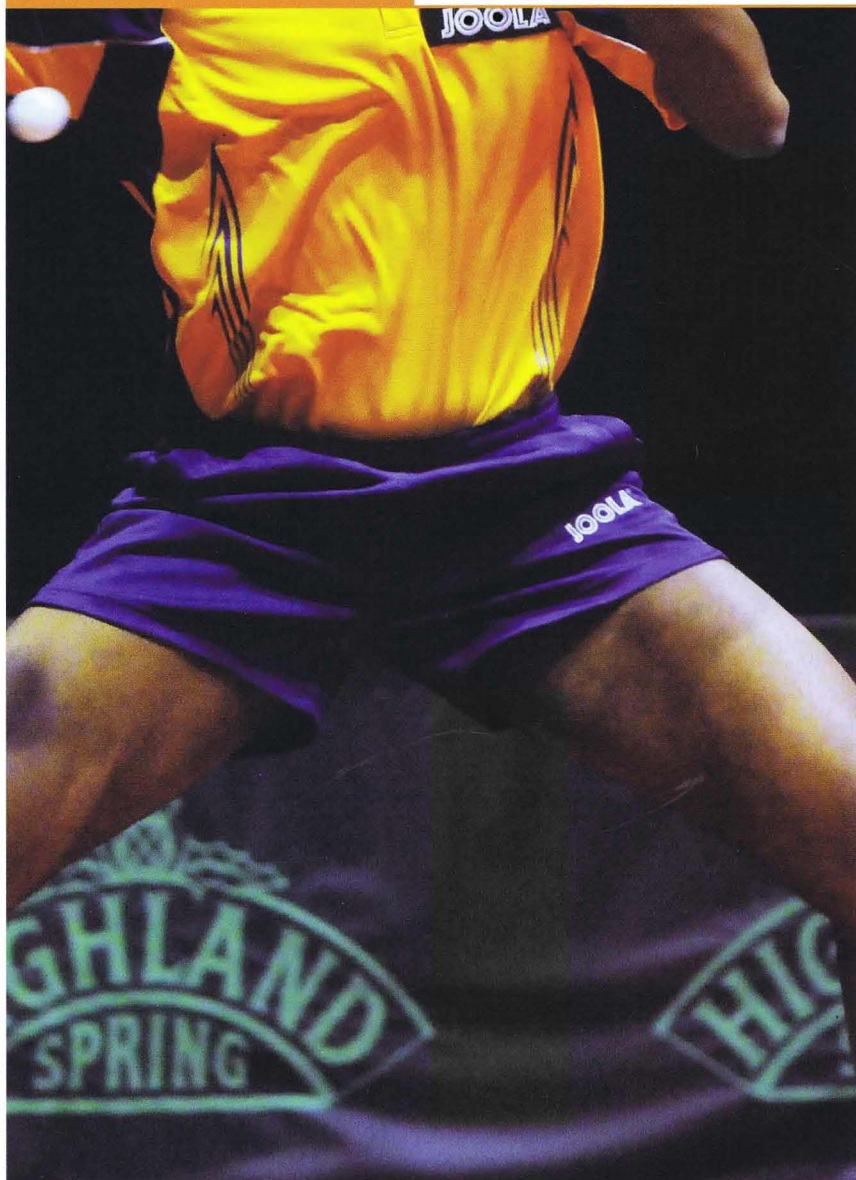
For the full list of player rankings go to our website

www.etta.co.uk



Dates for your diary

Table Tennis events for June 2009



June 13th

Cadet: Cippenham 2 Star

June 14th

Junior: Cippenham 2 Star

June 15th-20th

Other: European Veterans (Porec)

June 26th-28th

Other: Senior Schools Games (Scotland)

June 27th

Junior: Ernest Bevin TTK 1 Star (Tooting)

Other: ETTA AGM

June 28th

Cadet/Junior: Uxbridge 2 Star

July 5th

Horsham Junior and Senior 1 Star

July 11th - 12th

Burton Uxbridge Cadet and Junior 2 Star

July 10th-19th

European Youth Championships - Prague

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

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Fax: 01227 860569
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hrs) Tel: 0161 797 3539 fax:
0161 762 9402 email: william.
thornton2@btopenworld.com

GRAY

DICCON



I consider it an extremely exciting, challenging and (often) satisfying role and feel it is a privilege to work for the national governing body.

Birth date: 23/12/61

Place of birth: Carlisle, Cumbria

Residence: Benenden, Kent

Current ranking: ETTA office: 2, England Veterans 23, England Seniors 156

Style of play: Awful. Slow awkward left hander, specialising in the 'snowball loop'

Current club: The Weald Table Tennis Club (Cranbrook, Kent)

HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY:

What does your job role involve and how does your average week unfold?

As ETTA National Development Manager I have responsibility to manage the departmental staff (13), national development projects and liaison with national sports development organisations. I consider it an extremely exciting, challenging and (often) satisfying role, and feel it is a privilege to work for the national governing body. I do not have an 'average' week, but I generally balance outreach work across England with staff and external organisations and time in the Hastings office. This amounts to much travel and anything between 40-70 hours per week. The Development Department activities

are wide ranging and extensive; table tennis has opportunities to benefit from the increased government investment in sport as a direct result of London securing the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

What have you gained from table tennis on a personal and career point of view?

The sport has given me enormous pleasure, satisfaction, confidence and friendship over my 37 years' involvement as a player, coach, parent, and club volunteer. From a career point of view and a physical education background, table tennis has focussed my career, provided me with stimulating opportunities to help shape the future of the sport, and brought me into contact with many volunteers and professionals in many different exciting contexts at local, national and international level.

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

Help drive the modernisation and change agenda encouraged by our

external partners.

Prioritise compulsory table tennis above swimming on the national curriculum and instigate compulsory table tennis in the work place!

Employ more full-time workers to develop the sport from clubs into schools and the community.

I would like to help realise the massive potential that the sport has in terms of growth and strength in England.

As a player and father to a player do you see much "Football Dad" syndrome happening at events?

The time, money and emotion that many parents (including my wife and I) commit to supporting their children reach high levels is a massive investment and can dictate family life. Believe me that when the child you coach, transport, cajole and support is your own, the emotional constraint is a challenge that some handle better than others. 'Football dad and mum' does happen!