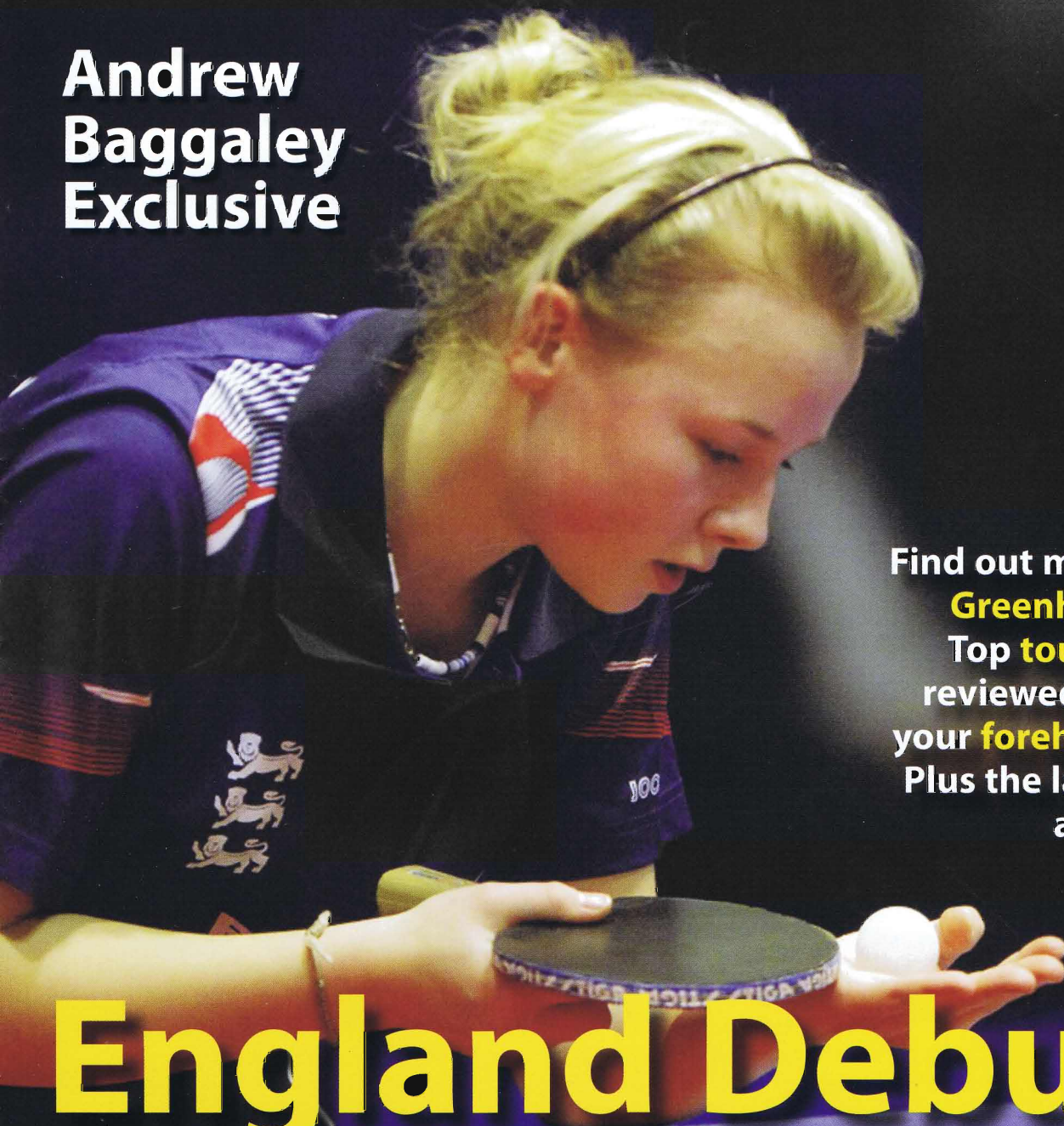


# table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

**Andrew  
Baggaley  
Exclusive**



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**Greenhouse TTK;**  
Top **tournaments**  
reviewed; Improve  
your **forehand chop;**  
Plus the latest **news**  
and **results**

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MARCH 2009

## PUBLISHER

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

## EDITOR

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

## SUB EDITOR

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

## ADVERTISEMENTS

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

## SUBSCRIPTION &amp; DISTRIBUTION

Robert Sinclair  
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

## PHOTOGRAPHY

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

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

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

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# first word



It is often touted that it takes around 10 years to craft a talented player into a top professional due to the complex blend of physical strength and mental agility required within the modern game. This thought is echoed by the current world ranking list with the majority of the world's best in their mid-to-late twenties. The rankings list within England is a different story with the top 10 displaying an average age of just 20. This presents the likelihood that all National Championship finals – barring the veterans – will be contested by players under the age of 21.

You may see this current youth domination as a positive. However, this highlights two fundamental weaknesses: a lack of experience and strength in depth within the current domestic circuit. Plus, a heightened expectation and pressure placed upon the young crop of players whose primary focus should be concentrating on maximising their

talents not dealing with the host of additional responsibilities of being England's best.

Cast your thoughts back to the golden era of table tennis, we probably all have a different idea of the exact date. However, no matter which date you pick I could guarantee the average age of the players at the top of the English ranking list wouldn't be as young as it is today. Every year the National Championships would throw up several classic confrontations with an exuberant youngster plying his or her trade against a seasoned professional.

These classic confrontations simply don't exist at the moment as the 'seasoned professionals' are few and far between – why? Simply put there is a lack of retention of players aged 25-35. The top level is symptomatic of table tennis as a whole. There are numerous players who for one reason or another have retired early. Players

that if still playing would be realistic title contenders and reaching or at their peak table tennis age - Georgina Walker, Katy Parker, Gareth Herbert ...

So I pose this question, just how can we reverse this current trend and retain players within this age bracket? What influences their decision to hang up their bat - time, finance, family?

This is clearly a new era for our sport and as we creep ever closer to 2012 it's great to witness these young stars evolving into seasoned professionals. I just hope we can retain these quality players beyond their mid-twenties to generate greater strength in depth, and once again make becoming England number 1 as tough as getting into the world top 10.

I hope you enjoy this issue and I look forward to seeing many of you at the National Championships 6th - 8th March in Sheffield.

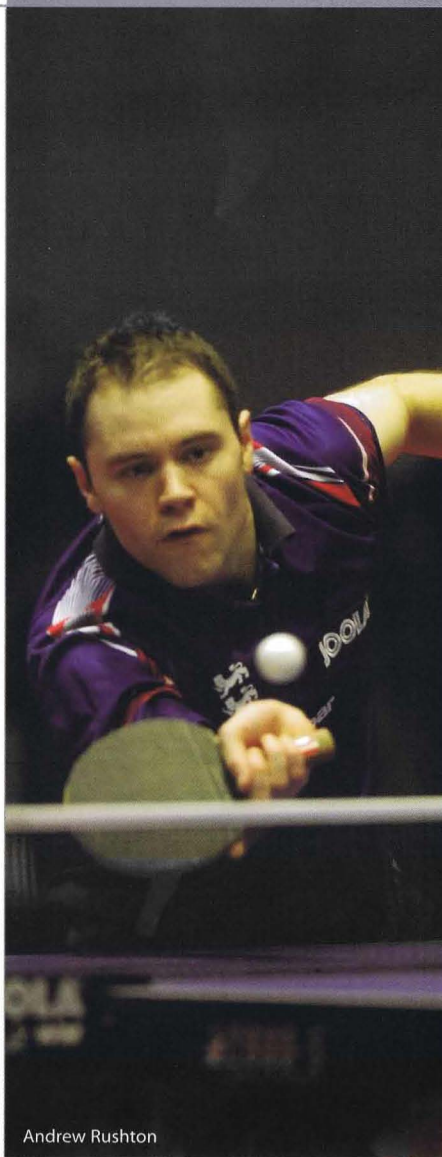
Richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

Richard Pettit, Editor

## The highlights from our main contributors...

"He is the only player who I have seen perform a cartwheel mid-shot at the World Championships; and he had a wonderful ability to mix attack and defence, attack and artistry, technique and subtlety" Matthew Syed Page 10 "The Elected Officers will take up their posts after the AGM on 27th June, which incidentally is my 65th birthday; I hope I have not been "pensioned off" by then" Alex Murdoch Page 4 "Accompanied and supported by the new Asian love in his life, Jane, he demonstrated his consistent superiority throughout the event" Geoff Ware Page 30

# StraightTalk



Andrew Rushton

This will be in terms of **resources, work programmes, budgets and staffing** to meet the needs of table tennis across all areas of **grass roots** through to increasing our talent pool of **young players**.

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

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

## 1. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND MATCHES

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

## 2. INTERVENTIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

The small working groups on an inter-departmental basis which were set up in January involving volunteers and staff are finalising their plans for each intervention. These will be submitted to management, who will then complete the overall national plan, as well as the 2009/10 budgets that will be circulated to National Council for approval.

This national plan will include the requirements of the interventional plans, which are well documented and included in the ETTA 2009/13 Whole Sport planning application and their intended outcomes. This will be in terms of resources, work programmes, budgets and staffing to meet the needs of table tennis across all areas of grass roots through to increasing our talent pool of young players.

## 3. BTTF FUNDING FOR GB ELITE PROGRAMME

I hope in recent communications and reports the situation was clarified in regard to UK

Sport elite funding for 2009/13 awarded to the BTTF.

The BTTF Board will have decided, by the time this TTN is circulated, provisional plans and approved the budgets for the next four years in terms of this funding, and once UK Sport have confirmed our submission to them during March, full details will be announced.

The BTTF have to submit its World Class Plan, budgets and cash flow requirements by latest 13th March and then the funding agreement will be sent to them for signing.

## 4. SPORT ENGLAND AND OTHER FUNDING AWARDS

In my last Forum, E-zine, February TTN and Chairman's report to National Council, details were given about these awards and the split of this funding. As you can see from the Item 2 "Interventional Plans and Programmes" the process, application and use of these awards is well under way, however, not every intervention can be completed at once as it is a four year planned process for our sport.

We are still in planning and negotiations with our partners on a number of other initiatives which will benefit the grass roots membership during the coming years. These may include some of Sport England additional initiative areas such as:

- £30 million will be invested via regular themed funding rounds that meet specific needs of community sport.
- £7 million available in small grants of between £300 and £10,000 to support sporting projects across England.
- £3 million will be distributed through Sportsmatch, enabling community clubs to make the most of the funding they receive from the private sector by matching that investment.
- £5 million will be invested, through a new Innovation Fund, in projects that identify and pilot new ways of promoting and supporting grass roots sport.
- Sport England will also invest £10 million per year of capital funding in projects that promote a sustainable

approach to community facilities. This capital funding will be in addition to the facilities funding awarded to national governing bodies of sport (NGBs).

## 5. INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATION

National Council unanimously approved the proposed rule changes following a detailed report from the Membership Committee and Rules Committee for submission at this year's AGM. Details of the proposals, implications, reasons, costing and benefits will be sent to the membership before the AGM.

It is clear that the membership are concerned about how this could impact the fees they pay to the ETTA compared to the existing team affiliations fees. The Treasurer advised National Council that "the affiliation fees at the time of Individual Membership being introduced to the Association are proposed to be at the level as would otherwise be at the time plus £1 for public liability insurance." Players who play in two or more leagues will benefit even more from this as currently they pay a fee for each league. It has and will continue to be the intent for affiliation fees to remain at an acceptable level for our membership, neither is it the intention to significantly increase these fees.

The Membership has the opportunity at the 2009 AGM to vote against any particular proposed rule change which is part of our democratic process.

## 6. PREMIER LEAGUE 4 SPORT PROJECT

This grass roots initiative is under way with a number of visits to the football clubs being arranged. An initial mapping of potential local table tennis clubs has been completed with letters being circulated asking clubs if they are willing to be considered for this programme. The final decision on which clubs and to which Premier League football club they will be linked to will be announced in the next 30 days.

## 7. SPORTS COLLEGES CONFERENCE

The 11th annual Sports Colleges Conference took place on 11th/12th February at the

International Centre, Telford. Approximately 2,000 delegates and guests attended, and the ETTA arranged and paid for a joint ETTA/ESTTA table tennis information and resources stand as part of the large exhibition that runs alongside the conference workshops, keynote speeches and topical updates. The audience was predominantly made up of the 475 Sports Colleges head teachers and directors of PE & community sport. In addition, heads of PE, Partnership Development Managers, Youth Sport Trust and Sport England staff and government civil servants attended.

Our stand was once again extremely popular and we were able to distribute over 400 ladder boards, 200 skills circuits, RDO contacts, information on coach education for teachers, schools table tennis, equipment advice (outdoor tables) and other miscellaneous subjects.

On Thursday we conducted a crude straw poll of 58 delegates we spoke to who declared that they had 416 tables in schools between them. We also had a large interest in outdoor tables and several examples that outdoor tables are featuring in school plans and within our intervention plans outdoor tables are included.

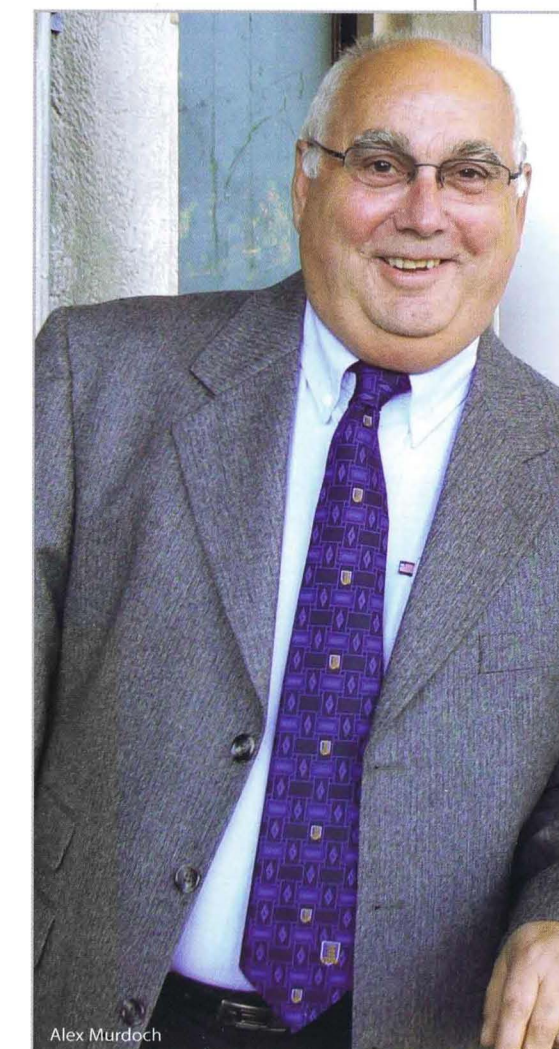
## 8. MEMBERSHIP SATISFACTION SURVEY

Sport England, our major funder, has commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct an important research study across all funded sports, which is the first of its kind in the UK. The survey will establish what is important to people when they take part in sport and how satisfied they are with the quality of their sporting experience.

The purpose is not to try and sell anything; it is purely a research study. The survey will go live in March 2009 and will be conducted online using a short questionnaire. ETTA and Ipsos MORI will communicate directly with recreational players, club players aged 16 or over and players defined by ETTA as being part of the 'talent pool' to invite them to register to take part. Further information about this survey can be found on the

following web link on the Sport England website: [http://www.sportengland.org/index/get\\_resources/research/satisfaction\\_quality\\_of\\_sporting\\_experience.htm](http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/research/satisfaction_quality_of_sporting_experience.htm) or email a member of the Ipsos MORI team at SportEnglandSurvey@ipsos-mori.com. The ETTA would encourage you to take the opportunity to participate in this study and to have your say. If selected, you could be one of 1,000 people who take part in the survey for table tennis. The results will contribute to support for improved planning and investment decisions that will shape the future of our sport.

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



Alex Murdoch

# Headlines

The latest stories from the Table Tennis World

## ETTUTV.COM

The ETTU now has its very own TV station [www.ettutv.com](http://www.ettutv.com), which will be providing live coverage of major events along with archive videos, summaries, interviews and reports, all with English commentary.

## NEW ITTF EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTOR

On 1 January 2009, Mr Mikael Andersson has assumed the new position of ITTF Education and Training Director. Mikael is no stranger to the ITTF having occupied several posts including the Global Junior Programme Manager for many years. The new challenge is a perfect fit for Mikael, as he is always very concerned with the educational aspects of our sport.



## NISSAN SUSPENDS BASEBALL, TABLE TENNIS, TRACK TEAMS

Nissan Motor Co. has announced that all of its sports activities including those of its strong baseball team will be suspended amid cuts due to worsening business results.

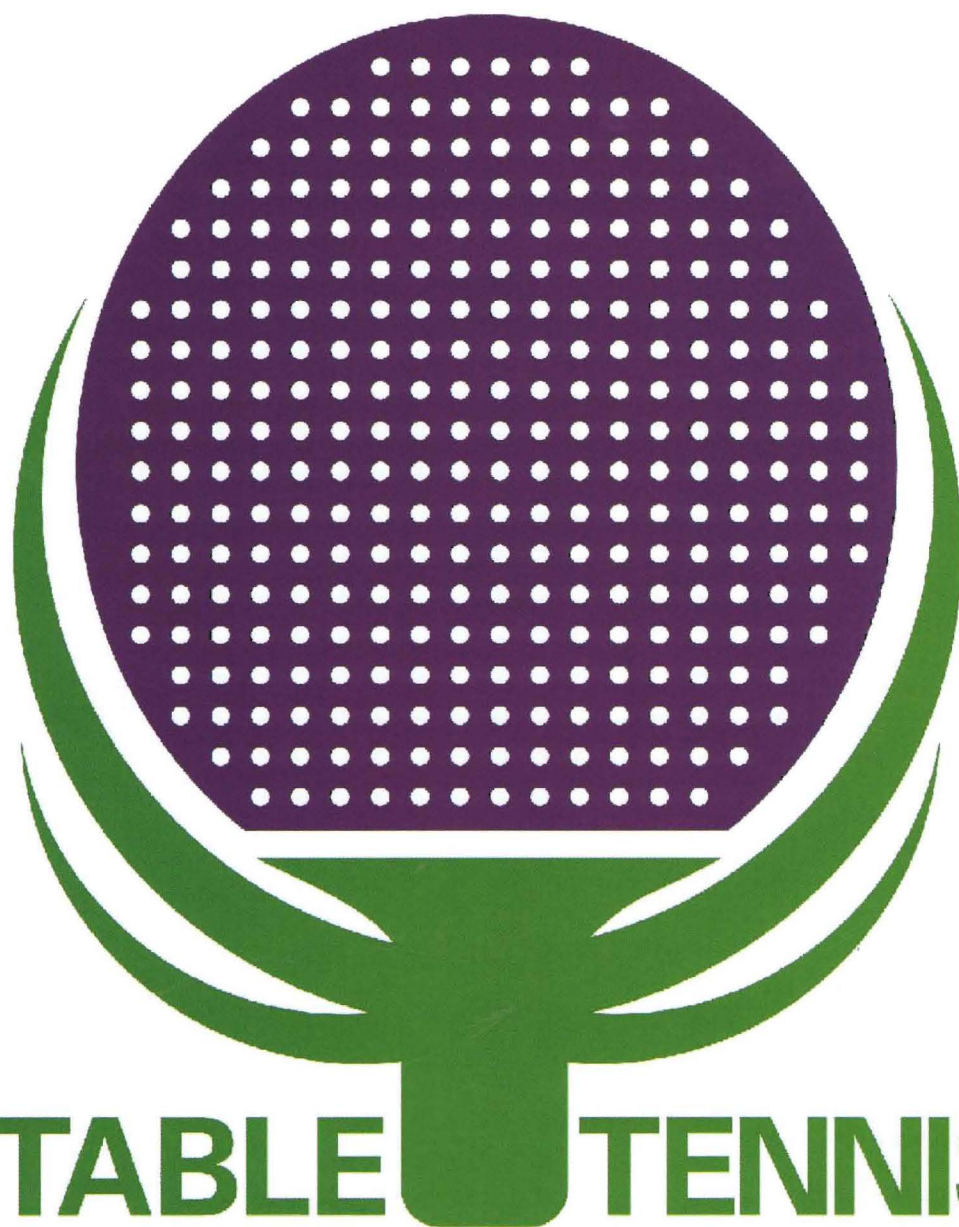
The company will suspend the activities of two baseball teams, respectively based in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, and Kanda, Fukuoka Prefecture, at the end of this year. The teams have a total of 65 members. Nissan will also suspend its 10-member table tennis team and 17-member track team at the end of March.

In line with the move, athletes will be relocated to the company's sales and production divisions.

Nissan's Yokosuka baseball team was

founded in 1959. It appeared in the Intercity Baseball Tournament 28 times, winning it in 1984 and 1998. It won the national corporate baseball championships in 2003, and produced many professional Japanese baseball players. The company's Fukuoka team has also appeared in the Intercity Baseball Tournament.

Nissan had previously continued the activities of its baseball teams even during a management crisis in the latter half of the 1990s, and the teams have fostered a sense of unity among employees. However, as Nissan expects a net deficit for the financial year ending in March and personnel cuts are being implemented, the company decided to suspend sporting activities.



## TABLE TENNIS COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS GLASGOW 09

The high velocity action of the 18th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships comes to the UK as Glasgow plays host to top players from around the globe. An enthusiastic home crowd will cheer on the UK home nations as they battle to become Commonwealth champions between 19th & 25th May 2009. Tickets are now on sale for the event and start from just £3 (subject to booking fee). Tickets can be purchased online at [www.comtabglasgow2009.com](http://www.comtabglasgow2009.com) or by calling **08444 815 787**.

With so much world-class table tennis action to watch, why not make a short break of your trip to Glasgow? The city boasts a reputation as one of the most vibrant and exciting destinations in Europe with top hotels, restaurants and nightlife. Visit [www.comtabglasgow2009.com](http://www.comtabglasgow2009.com) for fantastic deals on accommodation.



## TT ESCAPES BUSH FIRES

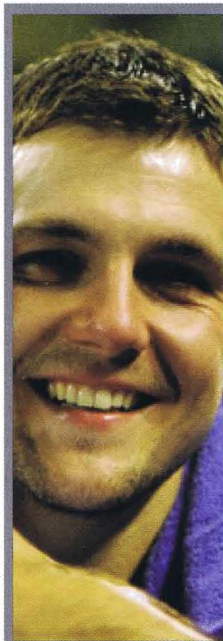
Over 750 homes have been destroyed leaving 5,000 people homeless with 1,100 square miles of land being totally burned out.

That is the current situation following the worst ever wildfires to hit the state of Victoria in south east Australia.

It is a grim situation and one that is of concern to Table Tennis Victoria and its Chief Executive Officer, Chris Horwood.

"However, Table Tennis Victoria notes that there has been no loss of facilities notified to them at present; although the fires did come close to the Bendigo

stadium", continued Horwood. "We are trying to establish if any individual members have been directly impacted by the fires; the thoughts and prayers of the whole worldwide table tennis community are extended to all those in the affected



## TIMO BOLL WINS FINAL

In the most dramatic of finals, Germany's Timo Boll kept his nerve and maintained his concentration to win the Men's Singles event at the Qatar Open on Saturday 21st February 2009, in what was arguably the very best match of the whole five days of action in the splendid surroundings of the Doha.

He beat China's Ma Lin 6-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-7, 6-11, 6-11, 14-12 and in

so doing prevented the Chinese star of achieving what no other player at the Qatar Open has ever achieved; winning the title three times in consecutive years.

Ma Lin won in 2007 and 2008, he came so close in 2009; Croatia's Zoran Primorac won in 1998, 2000 and 2001, the only player with three Men's Singles wins at the Qatar Open. Furthermore, they were in succession;

there was no tournament in 1999. Meanwhile, Ma Lin's colleague Wang Liqin has won twice as has Belgium's Jean-Michel Saive. Furthermore if the year ends in nine then Boll would seem happy in Qatar; in 1999 he won the Under 21 Men's Singles crown at the Qatar Open.

## GET QUALIFIED

Get Qualified funding can now contribute to more sports, more courses and accepts more than one application per person!

Get Qualified is run by the University of Cumbria and funded by Sport England. If you are over 16 and working or volunteering in sport (including the outdoors), at clubs or organisations striving towards professionalism within Cumbria or Lancashire, then this is for you! You could receive up to £250 towards coaching, refereeing/ officiating and outdoor qualifications; in exchange you will need to deliver a minimum of 15 hours volunteering for your sport. To apply visit [www.cumbria.ac.uk/getqualified](http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/getqualified) or contact Rachel Walker at [rachel.walker@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.walker@cumbria.ac.uk) or on 01768 893526.

## ITTF ADVANCED COACHING MANUAL

It was a tournament he progressed Published in three languages: English, French and Spanish; the ITTF Advanced Coaching Manual is now available.

The Manual will be used for ITTF Level Two and ITTF Level Three Coach Education courses and will be posted from the ITTF Offices in Lausanne, Switzerland; Ottawa, Canada and Beijing, China.

Training of course conductors in all three languages has been completed with the demand for ITTF Level Two Courses expected to be in high demand in 2009.

The author is Philippe Molodtsov.

### Successful Initiation

"Philippe Molodtsov, France's principal coach educator, is most satisfied with the results and personally conducted the first test course in Bahrain in late 2008", explained Glenn Tepper, the ITTF Director of Development Programmes. "A second test course was held in Costa Rica led by Aleksey Yefremov of Belarus." Both were highly successful.

### How to Order Manuals

Go to the development section of the ITTF website

# THE TOP 5 ARTISTS

Matthew Syed looks into the top 5 artists in table tennis. These wizards with the bat kept everyone guessing with their memorizing skills and unbelievable spontaneity.

**1** Jan-Ove Waldner: the most inventive player in history, he invented, or helped to develop, the hidden serve, the wigley, the chop block and the faded backhand. His service was a revelation, given that it remained potent throughout his career, even though his opponents had plenty of time to get used to it. For me, the magic of our sport dimmed just a little when the great man retired from international table tennis. I missed him at the Olympics in Beijing as I never thought I would.

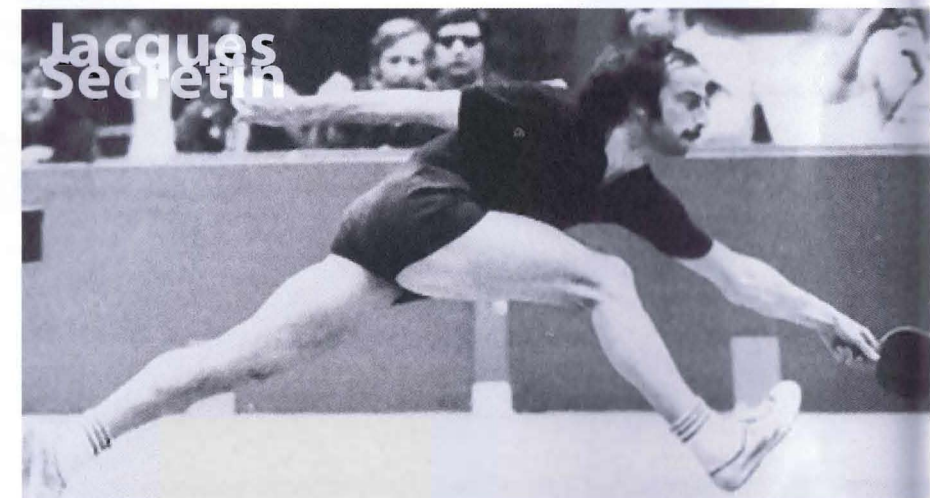
**2** Chen Xinhua: formerly of China, Chen played for a number of years in England. Although his contribution to English table tennis is a matter of some controversy – I personally think he contributed a great deal, not least, if I may talk selfishly, to my development as a player – there is no doubting his virtuosity. He had the most devilishly disguised service in history; he had a wonderful tactical mind; he is the only player who I have seen perform a cartwheel mid-shot at the World Championships; and he had a wonderful ability to mix attack and defence, attack and artistry, technique and subtlety. Arguably the greatest defensive based player of the modern era.

**3** Jacques Secretin: the Frenchman, who won the European Men's Singles title in 1976, remains one of the most beloved players in the history of the game. He had wonderful hands, a supple wrist, a brilliant and artistic brain, and a rare capacity to retreat from the table, sending the ball into the heavens and the crowd into ecstasy. In his later days he became well known on the exhibition circuit, along with funny man Vincent Purkart, but he was even more fun to watch in serious competition. I will never forget his epic contest with Li Gun Sang,

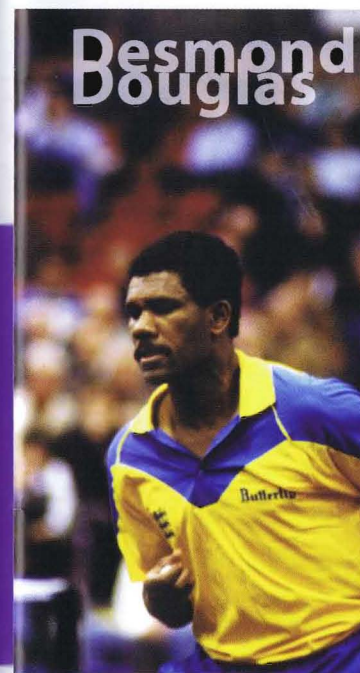
the North Korean defender, at the World Championships in New Delhi in 1986, a match nobody thought the ageing Frenchman could win. But Secretin, so inventive and intuitive, so willing to try new things and risk new strategies, bamboozled his opponent with a kaleidoscopic range of spins and parabolas. Few players have given us more joy to watch.

**4** Andrzej Grubba: one of the most underrated players in table tennis history, Grubba tragically passed away from cancer in 2005, but not before he had made a seminal contribution to European and World table

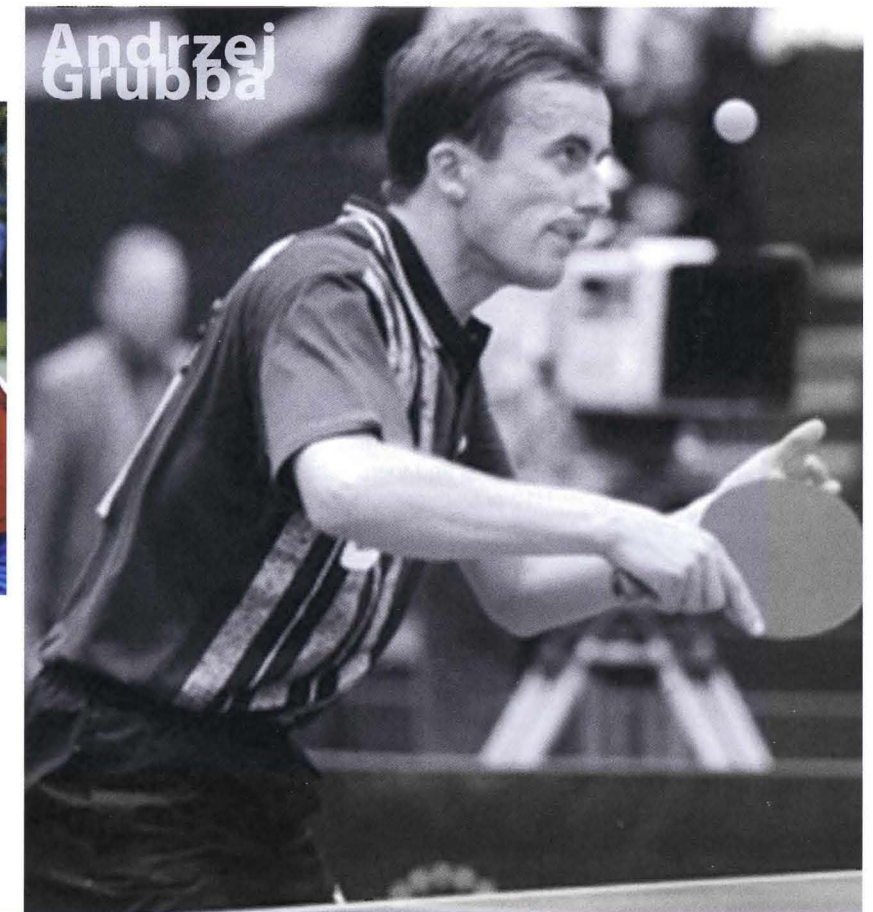
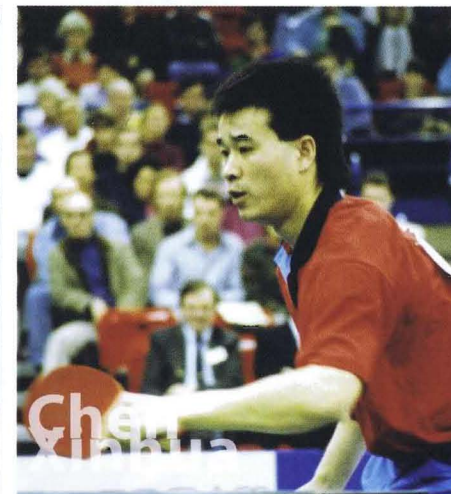
“He was a consummate reader of spin, a wonderful user of finesse, a master of angles and an all-round titan of European table tennis. ....”



“He had **wonderful hands**, a supple wrist, a brilliant and artistic brain, and a **rare capacity** to retreat from the table....”



tennis. A player so ambidextrous that he would often switch hands midpoint when caught out of position, he also possessed a wonderful variety of strokes and a touch and feel that were a joy to watch and a nightmare to play against. He conjured that paradox of time, where he seemed to be entirely unhurried, even when the ball was smashed at him with venom. His backhand was unorthodox but magnificent, his forehand poetic, his lobbing unparalleled and his sense of fun irrepressible. He will be remembered as someone who never quite won the titles he deserved, losing in major finals on a number of occasions, most memorably when he failed against underdog Ulf Bengsston at the European Championships of 1984 21-19 in the fifth. But somehow that no longer seems to matter. The memories he provided, the artistry he showed, these are the things we shall remember when we think of Grubba.



**5** Desmond Douglas: a different kind of artist, but an artist nonetheless, Douglas had one of the most subtle hands in table tennis history. He was a consummate reader of spin, a wonderful user of finesse, a master of angles and an all-round titan of European table tennis. Few players in any nation have contributed as much to their national team as Douglas, who was a stalwart for what seemed like an eternity. His greatest moment came at the European Championships in 1978, when he was unbeaten throughout the team event, but he provided many magical moments throughout his long and cherished career.

I remember playing Douglas, well into his forties, in the final of the National Championships in Bath in 1998. I was at my peak and managed to scrape through in a five-game epic, but not before experiencing the full-range of wit and thrust of Douglas's repertoire. Afterwards we shared kind words at a buffet reception upstairs and I made the point that had we met when we were both in our primes, I would have been lucky to get 15 points in any game. What is certain is that I would have lost 3-0. Douglas smiled warmly. Nobody in English table tennis has done it better.

# forehand chop

The chop is the main weapon of the defensive player and is mostly played well back from the table with backspin. Defenders change the contact point to produce varying spin from heavy backspin to no spin

Whilst the style of the all out defensive player is now less common, there is a new generation of defensive players, such as Chen Weixing of Austria and Joo Se Hyuk of Japan, combining an effective mix of defensive strokes and explosive attack. In this issue we look at the forehand chop. Key coaching points:

## FOREHAND CHOP

### Ready Position (PIC ONE)

1. The defender is in a balanced position to move either way.

### Backswing (PIC TWO)

2. The right leg moves back as the elbow is bent and bat brought to head height.

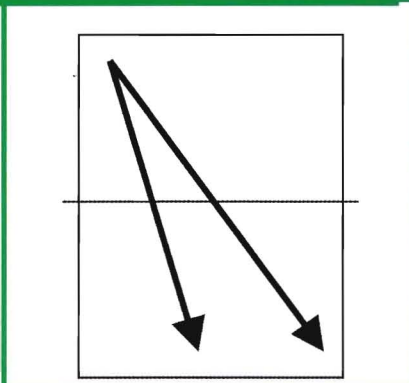
### Forward Movement (PIC THREE)

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

### Follow Through (PIC FOUR)

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

To help you develop your forehand



Exercise Two

chop, here are some exercises you can use. Please refer to diagram above.

## EXERCISE 1

### Regular Footwork

This is a great exercise for both players as the attacker is getting experience against defence, and the defensive player is learning to cover the middle, which is a common weakness for them.

1. Feeder to play a medium paced forehand topspin to begin.

2. Defensive player to play a forehand chop wide to the forehand and at the middle.
3. Make sure that the defensive player does not start too far or too close to the table.
4. As the players become comfortable with the exercise, vary the speed and length of the topspin to each point.

## EXERCISE 2

### Regular Footwork

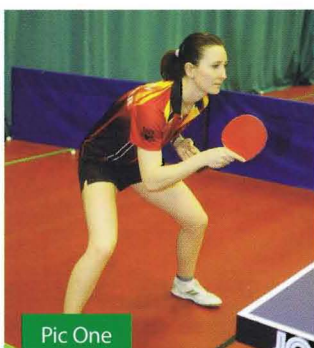
In this exercise, the focus is on movement in and out from the table.

1. Feeder to play a medium paced topspin at first.
2. Emphasis for both players on recovery.
3. Ensure that the head and shoulders are low, and the players step in with their right leg (opposite leg for left handed players) when stepping into the table.

## EXERCISE 3

### Service

4. Either a short serve to the middle or a long fast serve wide to the forehand.
5. If a short serve – the defensive player to play a long push wide to the forehand, server to attack with a forehand topspin wide to the forehand. Defensive player to defend with a forehand chop, then freeplay.
6. If a long serve – the defensive player to play a forehand chop, then freeplay.



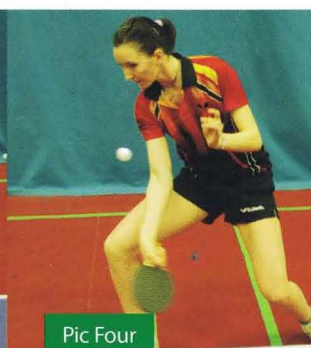
Pic One



Pic Two



Pic Three



Pic Four

keep an

open



# B.I.B.O.

and achieve success

**W**hen Andy Murray pulled back his T-shirt sleeve to reveal an unexpectedly decent bicep, he was sending out a message.

I'm paraphrasing, but the message read something like: "I'm not a lanky, sulky teenager with a propensity for pulling a muscle on a weekly basis anymore: I'm an elite, highly tuned athlete." On being quizzed about his new 'punch me there' washboard stomach and all-round improved fitness level, Murray raised a few eyebrows with the revelation that he had incorporated a spot of Bikram yoga into his training regime. For the uninitiated, this is basically 'ordinary' yoga performed in what amounts to a sauna. Doing stretching exercises in temperatures of 40°C and high humidity would be hard enough for anyone but for a lad born and raised in Scotland, not a land noted for its balmy climate, it must have been doubly tough. But could Bikram yoga work for table tennis players? Are there any other alternative approaches to training that table tennis players should consider? Or, if they want to improve, should table tennis players just concentrate on playing lots and lots of table tennis, maybe going on the odd run for stamina when the mood takes them?

Ian Pyper, strength and conditioning coach at the English Institute of Sport, has worked with many of England's top players. He very much recommends keeping an open mind when it comes to training. "I would definitely not rule out using any form of yoga-based training with any sports person, no matter what their sport is; it is a form of core training which really means providing the key link between the upper and lower body - but it is definitely not the only way of training the core."

Pyper does, however, warn of falling for fitness fads. "When a mainstream sports person backs a certain type of training, more often than not it can just be a good bit of marketing by a person or company that happens to be in the right place at the right time. Often 'new' types of training are just repackaged and renamed types of old training that people have been doing for hundreds of years."

From a brief vox pop of players and coaches, there doesn't seem to be much evidence of yoga, Bikram blend or otherwise, having hit the table tennis scene in a big way to date. But that does not mean that the sport hasn't got to grips with other approaches to performance enhancement that take place well away from the table tennis table.

One such area is sports psychology. Steen Hansen, the ETTA's Performance Manager, believes that England is now ahead of any other nation in its use of sports psychology techniques for table tennis. Hansen was first exposed to the potential of this discipline during his time coaching in his native Denmark and now calls on the services of Jorn Ravnholt, who works with the top English players to improve their mental toughness. "In table tennis you basically have 11 points and 11 separate battles. You have to be able to forget about the bad points," says Hansen.

Hansen admits that some of today's approaches have their roots in the 'inner game' philosophy that was originated by Tim Gallwey in the 1970s. Gallwey, who applied his theories specifically to tennis and golf, advocated a form of 'relaxed concentration' where the player would refrain from trying 'too hard'. Don Parker, the former ETTA national coach and top player, confirms that English table tennis has a long association with sports psychologists. "People always look for that extra edge, asking themselves what more can they do to add to their game, and the psychological aspect can provide that."

Parker recalls, however, that the great Desmond Douglas was not completely convinced of the need for fancy mind games to keep him relaxed. "Des never had that much to do with the sports psychologist; he used to prefer just to go off into the corner with a copy of the Daily Mirror."

Moving slightly into the twilight zone of table tennis training, former ETTA chairman Alan Ransome remembers how sports coach Len Heppell, whose daughter Maureen became a top player in the 1960s, managed to transfer some of the principles of professional ballroom dancing into how table tennis players could improve their movement. "Len was a remarkable coach - his theories of movement were based on dance. He demonstrated how the head should lead and the rest of the body follow." Heppell, now retired and living in Hexham, also worked with many of the footballing greats of yesteryear, including Bryan 'Pop' Robson and Trevor Brooking.

Ballroom dancing? Positive thinking? Bikram yoga? You may feel that anything is worth a try.

**"I would definitely not rule out using any form of yoga-based training with any sports person, no matter what their sport is....."**



# Joola

## European Nations League

The first matches of the Joola European Nations League ended in disappointment for both English squads as they were overpowered by convincing displays from their opponents. The Men's team faced a confident and extremely committed Turkish squad that included the exceptionally accomplished and calm performer Bora Vang; a feared opponent on the international circuit, and one well versed in pushing even the best players in the world to their limits.

The women had perhaps an even tougher task against a talented squad from Belarus, who lined up with the world class Viktoria Pavlovich, and two swiftly rising talents, Alexandra Privalova and Alena Dubkova. The matches were played simultaneously on two tables and played to a result not a conclusion.

### JOANNA PARKER V ALEXANDRA PRIVALOVA

Parker started with confidence however, a fortunate edge at 7-9 in the first presented her opponent, Alexandra Privalova, with the upper hand and subsequently the end. This set the tone for the rest of the game as Parker struggled to play to her full potential. **Score: 9-11, 12-14, 5-11 | England 0-1 Belarus**

### PAUL DRINKHALL V PENGFEI JIANG

Drinkhall also struggled to shine straight from the off after losing a drawn out, nervous and edgy first end. He swiftly replied with some sublime shots, taking the second with relative ease. However, this was short lived as both players and then coaches tussled to gain the upper hand in the third with both permitted timeouts being called: first England at 1-4, then Turkey at 4-6. The score continued to yo-yo constantly throughout the next two ends; fortunately for England Drinkhall's class shone through.

**Score: 14-16, 11-4, 11-9, 11-8 | England 1-0 Turkey**

### KARINA LE FEVRE V VIKTORIA PAVLOVICH

Next up for England was the rising young star from Cleveland, Karina Le Fevre. She faced what can only be considered an insurmountable task: to defeat the world number 32 in her first ever senior international. Needless to say this was a mismatch; however, not a total whitewash as the young player performed well gaining invaluable match experience.

**Score: 4-11, 3-11, 6-11 | England 0-2 Belarus**

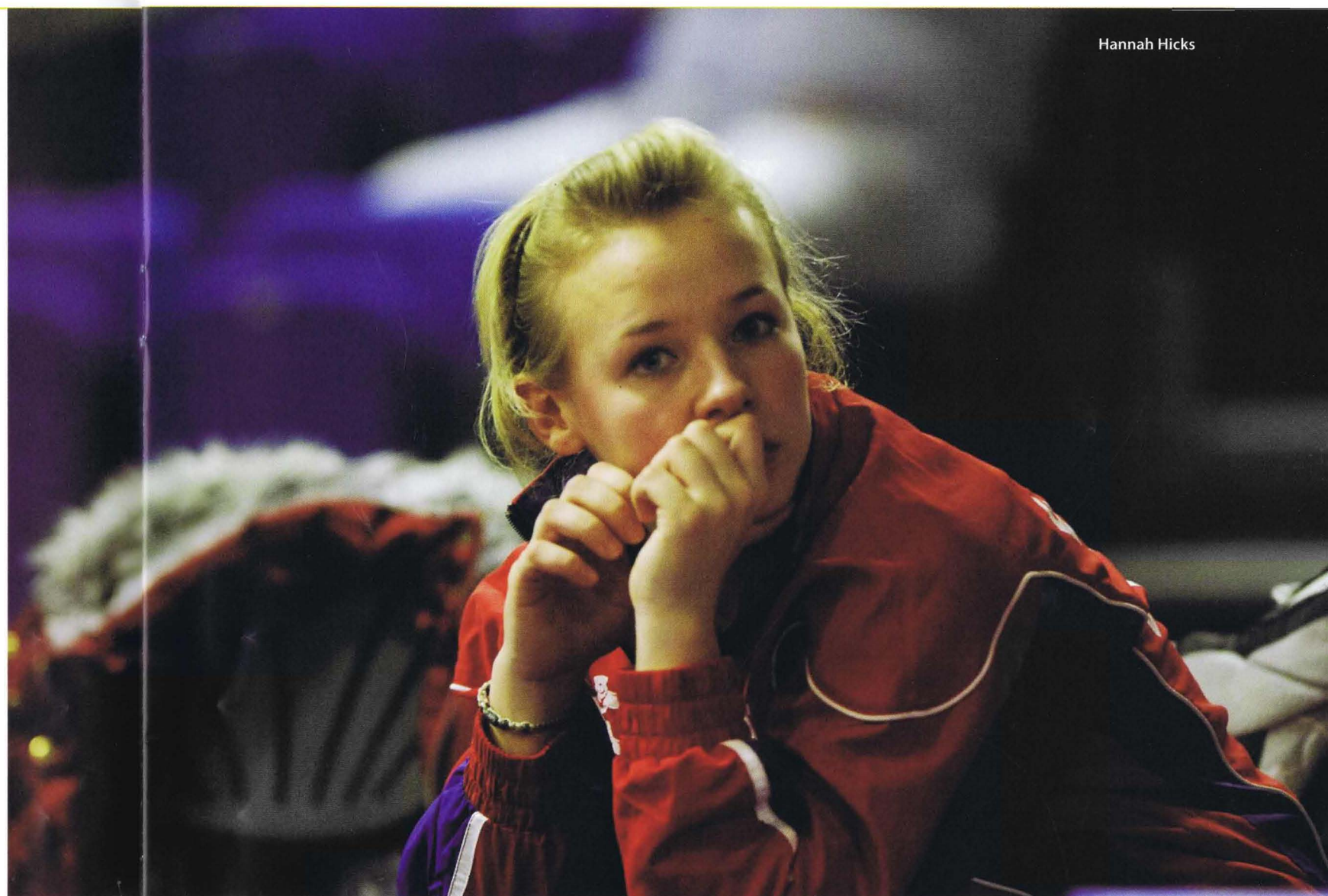
### DARIUS KNIGHT V BORA VANG

Darius Knight will surely be disappointed after letting five game points slip away in the third against the world number 64. The Londoner looked out of contention in the first two ends with an uncertain and slow start. This all changed in the third as he regained his composure and began to express himself, providing a commanding 10-5 lead. Unfortunately Knight was unable to capitalise and seemed to tie-up when he hit game point.

**Score: 5-11, 5-11, 10-12 | England 1-1 Turkey**

### HANNAH HICKS V ALENA DUBKOVA

Another debutant, Hannah Hicks, performed well in front of a great crowd. Despite pressure from the off the defender who plays her club table tennis is Sweden looked comfortable. Adopting the unusual, but fantastic to watch, style of twiddling (spinning the racket head to



Hannah Hicks

alternate between forehand and backhand rubbers during play) she performed well, particularly in the second end where she took her opponent right to the wire.

**Score: 6-11, 9-11, 3-11 | England 0-3 Belarus**

### ANDREW RUSHTON V CEM ZENG

Rushton is always a good player to watch, mainly due to his sheer intensity on the court. This however, as so often, proved to also be his worst enemy as he made several unforced errors at crucial stages within the match. After winning the first end 11-8, the right handed counter-hitter continued to put himself under unnecessary pressure. This did make for compelling viewing but unfortunately resulted in an unfavourable result.

**Score: 11-8, 11-13, 10-12, 8-11 | England 1-3 Turkey**

### PAUL DRINKHALL V BORA VANG

All eyes were now on Drinkhall; he needed to defeat Bora Vang to keep England in the match. This was the first time the two had ever faced each other and it proved to be a real thriller. Both players tried hard to establish their presence early on, but it was Drinkhall who seemed to be controlling the flow of the match, despite losing the first end 7-11. This pattern continued, and although Drinkhall dictated the majority of the play he made far too many unforced errors letting his opponent off the hook.

**Score: 7-11, 6-11, 11-13 | England 1-4 Turkey**

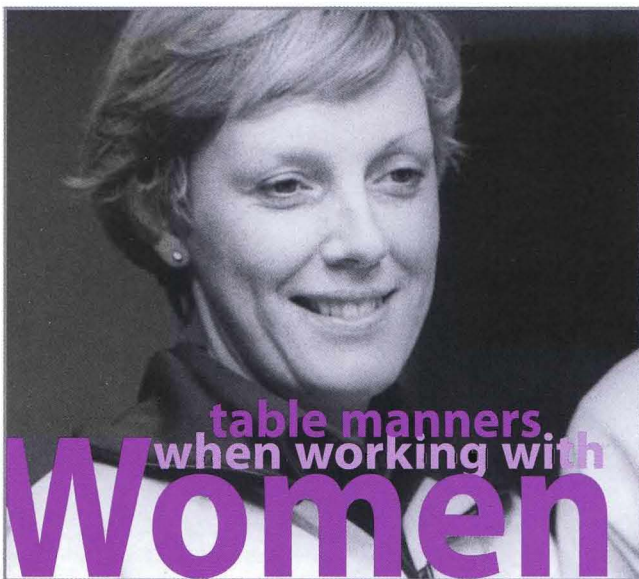
From left to right: Joanna Parker, Paul Drinkhall, Karina Le Fevre, Darius Knight, Alena Dubkova, Andrew Rushton, Pengfei Jiang & Viktoria Pavlovich



# Letters

The Editor

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



## TABLE TENNIS PROVES POPULAR IN LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

I read with interest the article by Richard Eaton on Women in Table Tennis in the February edition of Table Tennis News. As someone who (albeit male!) was an ex-junior England international and who has spent time coaching a female player who has represented England at cadet level, I have encountered various issues relevant to the issue of Women in Table Tennis, especially at the point that they become involved in the England set-up, that I believe should be highlighted to the wider table tennis public. Firstly, the difference in prize money between men and women for the winner of the National Championships is, in

my opinion, scandalous in today's climate of equality and equal opportunity. Furthermore, the level of prize money - £300 for the best player in the country - is just not acceptable to encourage the dedication required to the sport in order to be competitive on an international stage. The article quoted 'steps had been taken to positively discriminate towards girls and women'. Personally, I have not witnessed such steps. The comment within the article of a lack of opportunities for female players to play tournaments abroad for England is in my opinion correct, especially when compared to the current level of support given to England's top male players. A further point was made in

the article about local leagues being encouraged to use a format of matches which takes less time to play. My local league team containing 2 England ranked junior girls were effectively left with no option but to withdraw from the local league due to the league refusing to allow us to play matches on 2 tables to enable matches to be finished at an early time. Alongside other factors affecting society in general, I believe these are all contributing factors to the relative lack of success of female players and hence contributing to the low level of female participation. Darren Howarth

## A PING PONG POEM

*Over sixty years I have played this game  
But in recent years it has not been the same  
Changes that have not been checked  
Have seen the sport almost wrecked*

*At fifteen I played Johnny Leach  
He was well and truly out of my reach  
Then only three years ago  
Alan Cooke came and gave a good show*

*A gentleman, a real good sport  
I enjoyed playing against his sort  
Nothing fancy, just plain skill  
His exhibition gave the youngsters a thrill*

*Coaching during these past ten years  
Level two, then three, up through the tiers  
Over five hundred children in all  
From primary and secondary school*

*Junior League and competitions were run,  
All aimed at students having fun  
Developing their skills for them to play  
In the leagues, making their own way*

*Teaching basics from E.T.T.A. coaching book  
Showing how to stand, and how they should look  
Top spin drive, push, block and serve  
Teaching the skills, that's what they deserve*

*But no, having spent hours learning  
The correct skills, they are ready and yearning  
To play in the 'big boys' league with others,  
Only to be defeated by foul serves and funny rubbers*

*Top spin given, which they expect  
But no, it's back spin they get.  
A block shot hangs and doesn't come through,  
Leaving them not knowing what to do*

*Yes, it's funny rubbers I'm talking about  
Which are making a nonsense of the game, no doubt.  
It's about time the E.T.T.A  
Said @Enough's enough, playing this silly way:*

*It's the players' skills we all want to see  
Not the players who lack ability  
Hiding their weaknesses behind the 'tools'  
Making otherwise good players look fools*

*Let's have a level playing field  
Where youngsters' natural talents can be revealed  
Let's get back to enjoy the game  
So that what you give, you get back the same.*

Gerald Cosens

## THAT'S ENOUGH WHIFF WHAFF

Is Gerald Gurney being "pedantic"? I am sorry if Gerald Gurney is unhappy as to my suggesting that he was "pedantic" in criticising Boris Johnson for saying that Whiff-Waff was the earliest name attached to our sport. Collins English dictionary says that pedant is "a person who relies too much on academic learning or who is concerned chiefly with insignificant detail." Is that no an exact description of Gerald's point that "Gossima" and "Ping Pong" preceded "Whiff-Waff" as early words describing what we now call "Table Tennis"? Surely, we would today all regard the batting order of the descriptions as "an insignificant detail"? Well, I certainly do!! Sorry, Gerald Alan Shepherd.

# Greenhouse TTK Charity

**Jean Michel Saive and Chen Weixing will compete against some of the world's best table tennis players at the Royal Albert Hall in the annual Greenhouse Table Tennis Masters on May 7th, raising money to help young people in deprived neighbourhoods through table tennis.**

"It would have been easy to get involved in drugs had it not been for sport," says Darius Knight England no 2. "Table tennis gave me the opportunity to develop discipline and respect – it gave me the chance of a different lifestyle."

The proceeds of the tournament will go directly towards the table tennis initiative of Greenhouse, a charity that transforms the lives of other young people like Darius. Working with more than 8,000 participants in deprived communities of London and Wales every week, Greenhouse provides young people opportunities to develop positive life skills including discipline, teamwork and self-respect through a variety of sport and performing arts.

In 2008, an extensive evaluation found that 90% of participants said they feel positive about themselves as a direct result of involvement with Greenhouse. Teachers reported improved grades, greater discipline and reduction in lateness, saying Greenhouse often provides an alternative to gang culture, stopping many participants going down the route of exclusion.

In 2002, Darius Knight and other talented youngsters met with their coach Gideon Ashison to train after school in a garden shed in Battersea. In a response to an article in The Times, readers stepped in and donated money – and so TTK (table tennis for kids) Greenhouse grew. Table tennis is particularly effective way to engage young people in urban areas, as a large number of tables can be used in a relatively small amount of indoor space. Seven years on, TTK Greenhouse now engages over 5,000 young people across London and Wales in table tennis before, during and after the school bell – and on weekends and school holidays, too.

Over half of the top 60 table tennis players in the UK in the under 13 to under 18 age ranges have come from TTK Greenhouse programmes – but the charity does

more than create stars. Open to players of all abilities, coaches target the disengaged, disadvantaged or troubled, providing mentoring throughout the critical years of a young person's life and helping them to build a brighter future.

Proceeds from last year's Table Tennis Masters at the Royal Albert Hall enabled TTK Greenhouse to partner with London Progress Table Tennis Club – voted the best community club in Britain in 2008. Two new community clubs, two centres of excellence and several 'all-girls' clubs around London were also established, whilst 28 lucky youngsters made the trip of a lifetime to the Beijing Olympics to train alongside teams from Japan, Austria and Korea at the National Table Tennis Training Centre in China for three weeks – and watch some top table tennis.

This year's tournament will help TTK Greenhouse continue to grow by engaging more young people in need in mass-participation programmes, whilst developing some of the UK's most gifted and talented players through elite training programmes.

The Greenhouse Table Tennis Masters 2009 will be broadcast live in the UK on SKY Sports, and coverage of the tournament will also be shown in up to 40 countries around the world. In addition to determining who will be crowned the Greenhouse Table Tennis Master 2009, there will be special performances from some of the young people who attend Greenhouse programmes.

Tickets for the event range between £10 and £20 for adults and £5 and £10 for children and are on sale through the Royal Albert Hall or at [www.tabletennismasters.org](http://www.tabletennismasters.org). Starting time is 7pm.

Visit [www.greenhouse.org](http://www.greenhouse.org) for more information about Greenhouse

Visit [www.tabletennismasters.org](http://www.tabletennismasters.org) for more information about the Greenhouse Table Tennis Masters 2009

the top ten from

# the 2009 european roundup



Alena Dubkova



Bernadette Szocs

#### JUNIOR BOYS

Gavin Evans moved up into the junior ranks for this year's Europe Youth Top 10, having taken part as a cadet in Sheffield only a year ago where he finished third. Facing older, more experienced opposition proved to be a bigger challenge for Gavin who eventually came out with seventh place, taking one win on merit when he beat Hunor Szocs of Romania 4-2, Kristian Karlsson of Sweden retired from the tournament due to a groin injury, and then Gavin got a walkover against Christoph Schmidl of Germany who pulled out on the last day due to problems with a muscle strain.

The eventual winner was Germany's Patrick Franziska who went through the tournament undefeated.

Kosiba (HUN) bt. Evans (ENG) 4-2 (11-6 11-6 7-11 8-11 11-3 11-4)

Franziska (GER) bt. Evans (ENG) 4-0 (11-6 11-5 18-16 11-8)

Kovac (HRV) bt. Evans (ENG) 4-0 (11-8 11-5 11-8 11-9)

Evans (ENG) bt. Szocs (ROU) 4-2 (11-8 11-3 8-11 11-9 7-11 11-6)

Le Guen (FRA) bt. Evans (ENG) 4-1 (4-11 12-10 12-10 11-9 11-3)

Le Breton (FRA) bt. Evans (ENG) 4-1 (11-5 6-11 11-5 11-8 12-10)

Karlsson (SWE) - Evans (ENG) - Evans (ENG) bt. Schmidl (GER) 4-0 (w.o.)

De Vries (NED) bt. Evans (ENG) 4-1 (12-10 11-5 11-6 8-11 11-6)

Standings

1. Patrick Franziska (GER) 8-8
2. Victorien Le Guen (FRA) 8-6
3. Daniel Kosiba (HUN) 8-6
4. Thomas Le Breton (FRA) 8-5

5. Borna Kovac (HRV) 8-4
6. Boris de Vries (NED) 8-3
7. Gavin Evans (ENG) 8-2
8. Hunor Szocs (ROU) 8-2
9. Christoph Schmidl (GER) 8-0
10. Kristian Karlsson (SWE) 0-0 (RET)

#### JUNIOR GIRLS

Alena Dubkova from Belarus won the Junior Girls' event dropping only two games. Alena will have also made an appearance at the



Simon Gauzy

Joola European Nations League as part of the Belarus ladies team that face England at the EIS in Sheffield, which is due to take place as we go to press (February 24th).

#### Standings

1. Alena Dubkova (BLR) 9-7
2. Kristina Ambrus (HUN) 9-6
3. Barbora Balazova (SVK) 9-6
4. Cristina Hirici (ROU) 9-5
5. Camelia Postoaca (ROU) 9-5
6. Magdalena Szczerkowska (POL) 9-5
7. Aurore Dessaint (FRA) 9-5
8. Malin Pettersson (SWE) 9-4
9. Edina Toth (HUN) 9-1
10. Suzanne Dieker (NED) 9-1

#### CADET BOYS

In his second year in the Cadet Boys' group at the Top 10 Simon Gauzy of France climbed from his sixth place at Sheffield to be crowned Champion in

Rotterdam, only losing once which was to second placed Hampus Soderlund of Sweden.

#### Standings

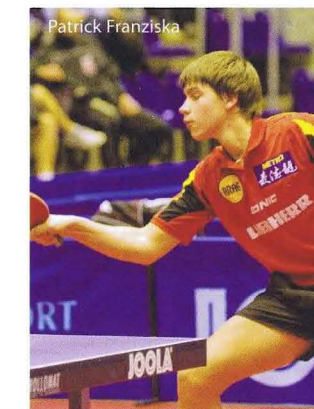
1. Simon Gauzy (FRA) 9-8
2. Hampus Söderlund (SWE) 9-7
3. Ondrej Bajger (CZE) 9-6
4. Philip Kuimov (RUS) 9-6
5. Dorian Nicolle (FRA) 9-5
6. Luka Fucec (HRV) 9-5
7. Emilien Vanrossomme (BEL) 9-4
8. Enzo Angles (FRA) 9-3
9. Tamas Lakatos (HUN) 9-1
10. Koen Hageraats (NED) 9-0

#### CADET GIRLS

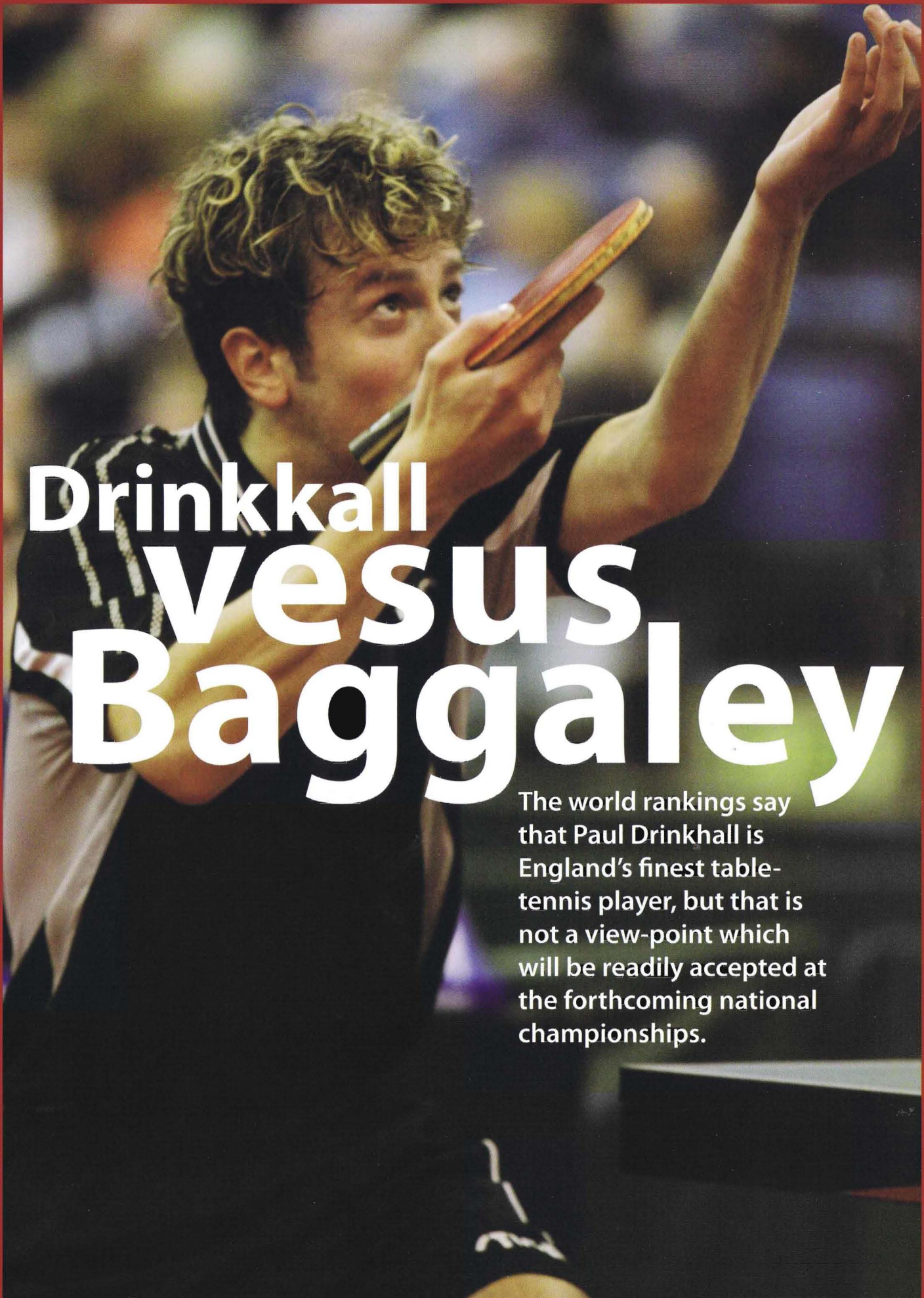
There was a two way tie at the top of the Cadet Girls between Romania's Bernadette Szocs and Russia's Yana Noskova. Going into the final match Szocs had been defeated once, whilst Noskova's score-card had yet to be blotted; in a close fought battle Szocs came out on top to win the tussle of the second and third seeds 4-3. This levelled the scores at 8-1, but as a result of beating the Russian, Bernadette Szocs topped the group overall to claim the title of Europe Youth Top 10 Cadet Champion.

#### Standings

1. Bernadette Szocs (ROU) 9-8
2. Yana Noskova (RUS) 9-8
3. Petrissa Solja (GER) 9-7
4. Anna Krieghoff (GER) 9-5
5. Maria Xiao (POR) 9-5
6. Britt Eerland (NED) 9-4
7. Mirella Madaczki (HUN) 9-3
8. Mateja Jeger (HRV) 9-3
9. Karin Adamkova (CZE) 9-1
10. Céline Pang (FRA) 9-1



Patrick Franziska



# Drinkhall versus Baggaley

The world rankings say that Paul Drinkhall is England's finest table-tennis player, but that is not a view-point which will be readily accepted at the forthcoming national championships.

**D**espite being ranked number one in England since October 2006, the national singles crown is a title that Drinkhall has previously won just once in 2007. Last year, he was soundly beaten 4-1 in the final by Andrew Baggaley, also the champion in 2002, and a player who has largely exited the domestic table tennis routine in search of furthering his career in Europe in the Spanish Super League. Drinkhall was clearly unhappy with last year's defeat, and on his own website, it says he "never seems really there" for the Baggaley match and suggests that his mind was "on the Olympic qualification two days later". Baggaley, though, will be back to defend his title at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield, and following recent victories in European national league matches against a string of the world's top 50 players, he is full of confidence. "I don't think my world ranking is a true reflection of my position," he says. "I don't play in a lot of

the world ranking tournaments as I am playing for my club side in Spain. But the standard is very high, both the practicing and the matches. I think that when I'm playing at my best, I can beat anyone in England." Brave words – but words which have been clearly backed up in 2009 by some outstanding victories in Spain for his club team of Borges Grup Vall who are based in Les Borges Blanques, an olive producing city in Catalonia. Victories this year have included wins against Peter Franz, and Chiang Peter-Lung who is currently rated at number 36 in the world. Both of those wins occurred in January during a major European club match in front of more than 1,000 people between Borges and the French team Pontoise. Baggaley's regular daily practice partner is Hu Bin, while the Spanish Super League has improved to the extent that former triple European singles champion Vladimir Samsonov is among the star players in the competition. However, Baggaley's Borges team have

enjoyed an outstanding season and, at the time of writing, are preparing for the semi-final of the European club championships. "The Spanish league is one of the best in Europe, and for me, it works well," he says. "The practice I can get is very good and the matches are of a much higher standard. I am happy with what I earn, and, while I share my time between England and Spain, it works well for me. "The only tournament I really come back for is the national championships. It is very important to win your national title, and with the history it has and the previous winners, it is a very important event. I was delighted to win it last year. "It is good to come back and play in England, though there are not many events I will play in back home. The Grand Prix series has an important place, but for me at the moment, it is not really worthwhile. Even if I won, the prize-money would probably only be enough to break in so the incentive is not really there."



"I don't play in a lot of the **world ranking tournaments** as I am playing for my **club side** in Spain. But the standard is **very high**, both the practicing and the matches. I think that when I'm playing at my best, I can **beat anyone** in **England.**"



Baggaley is **not** among the English players funded by **UK Sport** and his independence in pursuit of his ambition is certainly admirable. Yet, given his recent results in both the **national championships** and in the Spanish club league, his recent absence from **international representative** competition is clearly questionable. Baggaley is clear that he is available for selection. **“I would love to play for England,”** he says, **“but you would have to ask other people about that.”**

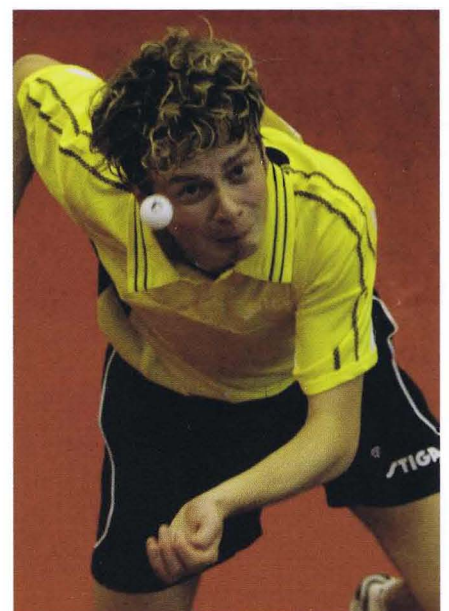
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Baggaley has previously won two Commonwealth Games gold medals in the 2002 event in Manchester and was a silver medallist four years later in Melbourne with Andrew Rushton in the men’s doubles.

He comes from a table tennis playing family and is still coached and managed by his brother Stephen. Previously, Baggaley played with the Greenleys Table Tennis Club in Milton Keynes, becoming Europe’s youngest ever professional at the age of 13, when he signed for a Belgium club. His list of national titles as a junior and cadet were also numerous.

“The school were really good to me, letting me have a lot of time off for playing tournaments and playing abroad,” he said.

Baggaley also went on to play in Germany and Sweden, but while currently thriving in Spain, the big aim is understandably the London 2012 Olympics, when at the age of 29, he should be in his absolute prime. “I want to play for England and my ambition is obviously the Olympics in 2012 where my goal is to win a medal,” he says.



# SARAH PERKS BEATS EMILY BATES

**With the majority of divisions being played over Saturdays, or weekends, instead of one match per month over seven months, there have already been outcomes in at least six divisions and at this time of year divisions are being completed every weekend.**

## CADETS 1A

One of the first to complete their fixtures with a 10 team division being played at three venues with a split of the division seeing Cleveland, Cheshire, Leicestershire, Lancashire and Shropshire all playing each other at Halifax just before Christmas with Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire 1 and 2 doing battle at King's Lynn on the same day. A cold January day saw all 10 counties travel to Grantham to complete proceedings. It was Cheshire who prevailed taking the division and title with nine straight wins, two points clear of Cleveland, gaining themselves premier division status for next season.

## JUNIOR 2C

Next up was junior division 2C, in which Warwickshire eased to the division by a four point margin from runners-up Berkshire. Warwickshire were easily the strongest team in the division, their seven wins were three more than the runners-up, and they also recorded 7-3 victories against both Berkshire and third placed Essex 4.

## SENIOR 1A

Cleveland gained promotion to the premier division when they beat Yorkshire on sets difference, and it was the White Rose county who took the clash when they recorded a 6-4 victory on the Saturday as the division was decided over one weekend. Yorkshire actually led the division at the end of the first day winning all matches and two points ahead of Cleveland, but drawn matches on Sunday against roses rivals Lancashire and Leicestershire saw Yorkshire drop two valuable points. With Cleveland strengthened on Sunday by shock inclusion of Paul Drinkhall and winning all their

matches, it was Cleveland who took the division as both counties finished on 12 points, three ahead of third placed Lancashire.

## SENIOR 2A

Senior 2A could not have been tighter as Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire proved to be the class teams in the division and both finished on 13 points, five ahead of third placed Yorkshire. Both counties recorded six wins and a draw from their seven starts, and it was Lincolnshire who just nicked the division by two sets as they both ended the campaign level.

It was in round three that saw the joint leaders go head-to-head in what turned out to be a crucial encounter. Kai Lu of Notts retrieved a two game deficit before losing to Andy Wignall, 11-6 in the fifth, and Stewart Mudie doubled Lincolnshire's advantage when he dispatched Sam Walker in straight games. Sarah Perks got Nottinghamshire on the board with a 3-1 win over England's no.1 cadet, Emily Bates, and Jason Ramage levelled matters by beating Mark Donoghue 3-0.

The see-saw nature of the battle continued as Keast retook the lead for her county, overcoming Sophie Neil in three, but Lu fought out his second five end thriller of the match, this time emerging victorious over Mudie. Emily Bates conquered Neil 3-0 but Ramage countered to equalise the overall score once again at four all as he scored a good 3-1 win over the on form Wignall. England no.19 senior lady, Sarah Perks, got the better of no.16 Keast in five closely contested ends, giving Nottinghamshire their first lead of the bout, but Donoghue's routine 3-0 win over young Sam Walker earned Lincolnshire a share of the spoils.

## SENIORS 2C

Cambridgeshire took division 2A with five wins and one loss from six starts, their loss coming from runners-up Suffolk 1, but unfortunately for Suffolk they could not capitalise on their success, a defeat at the hands of Bedfordshire 7-3 and being held by neighbours Norfolk to a draw saw Cambridgeshire take the title by one point.

## SENIORS 2D

Another division decided by sets, both Sussex 2 and Kent won five matches and lost one in this seven team division. Kent lost their only match to Sussex 2 8-2, whilst Sussex 2 lost their match to third placed Surrey 2 by the same score, and with Surrey only going down 4-6 in their clash with Kent, a blanket could have been thrown over all three counties. It was a joker in the pack of this division in Sussex 3 whose drawn clash with Surrey could have been influential in their own second team taking the title.



Emily Bates



Sarah Perks

# URBAN DROP POINTS

## Urban Progress lost their 100% record in Division 1 South of the Senior British League when they were held to a draw by a battling VRS Generation I side

Urban Progress started the brighter, taking a 3-1 lead, but VRS hit back hard. Adam Proszko was an excellent 11-7, 11-4, 14-12 winner against Costas Papantoniou and Wesley Bush-Harris levelled the scores at 3-3 by getting the better of Laszlo Varga 13-11, 11-8, 7-11, 13-15, 11-5. Game on! Would Urban Progress be able to retain their perfect record? Tibor Kadar restored their lead by beating Alex Green 11-7, 10-12, 11-4, 8-11, 11-8, but Zoltan Hosszu fell short. The ever dependable Roger Hookey (the many times Isle of Wight Men's Singles Champion) scored a superb victory for the Fareham team by beating Hosszu 7-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-5, 11-8 to level the scores.

Urban Progress had shown no signs of frailty by beating bottom-side Cippenham I 7-1, a strong performance with Costas Papantoniou, Laszlo Varga and Tibor Kadar all remaining undefeated. Robert Lemon was Cippenham's only winner, he beat Zoltan Hosszu 3-1, but Cippenham will feel very hard done by on this occasion. Martin Adams twice went down narrowly over five ends, 11-8, 11-6, 6-11, 7-11, 8-11 to Laszlo Varga and 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, 11-13, 10-12 to Costas Papantoniou whilst teammates Mark Butler, Rob Lemon and Lee Dredge also missed out over five ends. Third placed Woolwell I (15 points) won twice, although it was no stroll in the park against DHS Greenhouse Progress II. Koji Hirota made a mockery of his ETTA ranking of no. 140 (he was

previously unranked) by beating Richard Marshall (England no. 45) over five ends, as well as England no. 4 lady Marketa Myskova 3-0. Progress's Egle Adomelyte in turn made her mark by getting the better of James Whiteman 11-4, 11-7, 11-7 and in a tense last game Marketa Myskova prevailed over five fluctuating ends against Rafi Marom 13-15, 11-5, 5-11, 11-8, 11-7.

Reece Tan was on inspired form for Brighton I as they beat VRS Generation I 6-2. The England no. 3 cadet scored two excellent wins, beating Wesley Bush-Harris 3-2 and Roger Hookey 3-0. With teammate England no. 1 cadet, Zak Zilesnick, also winning twice by beating Roger Hookey (3-1) and Alex Green (13-11, 12-10, 13-11), this was definitely a good morning for the England cadet stars. Keyworth (Trevor Kerry, Kai Lu, Steve Fox and Peter Furneaux) scored two more victories in Division Four South and Midlands, and with 18 points they have a three point advantage over Howard, with Yaxley Royal British Legion a further two points back. Bottom side DHS Greenhouse Progress were brushed aside 8-0 and although York Gardens II put up greater resistance they were beaten 6-2. Second placed Howard met their match against fourth placed Woodfield II and the match finished level. Howard's England no. 14 junior girl, Kirsty Wilson, scored a superb four game win over Lester Bertie and she also won her second singles, doing very well to beat Errol Walker 4-11, 12-10, 11-8,

11-8 to earn her team the draw. Woodfield's Steve Bertie won twice, beating Ian Gordon 11-8, 4-11, 11-9, 8-11, 12-10, and he also gained revenge for a first half defeat by getting the better of Mark Buckley 11-7, 11-9, 12-10. Howard were also held to a draw by fifth placed Bribar Redlands Rookies, who had a lot to thank England no. five cadet Sam Walker for. He played well and kept his composure to beat both Ian Gordon (13-11, 13-15, 13-11, 13-11) and Mark Buckley 11-9, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8, a young man heading in the right direction. Bribar's Aidan Keyworth gave his team a 4-2 lead by beating Ross Wilson by a nail-biting 6-11, 4-11, 11-4, 12-10, 15-13 margin, but Howard weren't finished. Ian Gordon beat Sarah Perks over five ends to make the score 3-4 and Harry Lumb (the England no. 19 cadet) levelled matters by getting the better of Charlotte Airey 3-0.

Sam Walker was also the outstanding performer in the 4-4 draw between Yaxley Royal British Legion and Bribar Redlands Rookies. He beat both Lloyd Gregory (3-1) and defender Kevin Gray (by an impressive 11-7, 11-7, 11-8 margin). Aidan Keyworth gave Bribar a 4-2 lead by beating Daniel Fielding over five ends, but Yaxley hit back. Lloyd Gregory came through 11-9, 11-9, 14-12 against Sarah Perks, and Matt Rogers earned his side a draw by getting the better of Charlotte Airey 11-6, 14-12, 12-14, 11-3.



Reece Tan

### PREMIERSHIP TABLE

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

#### DIVISION 1 NORTH

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

#### DIVISION 1 SOUTH

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

#### DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

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

#### DIVISION 2 NORTH

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

#### DIVISION 2 SOUTH

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

#### DIVISION 2 SOUTH AND WEST

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

#### DIVISION 3 NORTH

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

#### DIVISION 3 SOUTH

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

#### DIVISION 3 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

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

#### DIVISION 4 NORTH

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

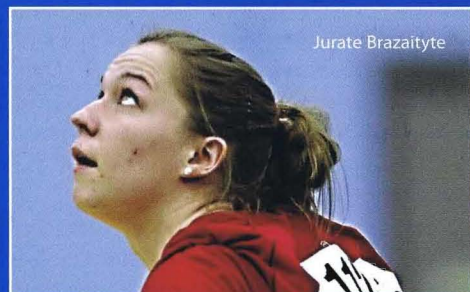
#### DIVISION 4 SOUTH

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

#### DIVISION 4 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

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

THE BRIBAR WOMENS' BRITISH LEAGUE IS NOW OVER FOR ANOTHER SEASON, the last round of matches took place at the University of the West of England in Bristol over the weekend 24th/25th January. Astor Ladies were unchallenged in the Premier Division finishing with a credible 19 points from a possible 20, the only blemish, a draw against BATT'S Team Peniel A, who took third place one point behind runners-up Drayton and Long Eaton with 11 points. Marketa Myskova of Astor Ladies played every match and was undefeated over the two weekends (20/20), just ahead in the averages of Xu Shuying, who dropped one match (10/9). **DIVISION 1** was headed by Knighton Park from Leicester, with Ormesby 1 taking the runners-up spot just 2 points behind. Two teams dominated **DIVISION 2** and in the end Sportingbet Guernsey took the title by a single point from Leeds Ladies. **DIVISION 3** saw another dominant performance as Drumchapel Glasgow took the title with 19 points, 5 points clear of runners-up Uxbridge from Burton on Trent. **DIVISION 4** was won by Oldham who finished 3 points clear of Byng Hall in the runners-up position



Jurate Brazaityte



# Tournament Review

**This month we look at the top title for Eddie in another bumper Festival and Ups and Downs of the Salisbury Open Butterfly Grand Prix**

## **TOP TITLE FOR EDDIE IN ANOTHER BUMPER FESTIVAL**

The Cippenham Young Players' New Year Festival brought players from far and wide, including the usual successful contingent from Wales, to Slough over the weekend of 31st Jan/1st Feb 09.

The locals had a title to cheer, as Cippenham's top boy, 14-years old Eddie Mitchell, seeded three, won the blue ribbon event, the U18 Boys' Singles. He did it the hard way, beating both the top two seeds en route.

After winning his group, a result that earned him a first round bye, Mitchell beat Rafi Conn-Kowlessar 3-1 in round 2 and then the up and coming Mikael Papantoniou 3-0 in the quarter-final. His semi-final was far less straightforward. Second seed Damilola Thomas took the first and third games to lead 2-1, before Mitchell hit back to win the last two 11-9, 11-8. Waiting for him in the final

was Welsh protégé Daniel O'Connell. The top seed had looked fairly comfortable until then, winning his quarter and semi-final matches both 3-0, the latter an 11-7, 11-6, 11-8 win over Jarred Knowles, conqueror of fourth seed Daniel Moses in an all-Berkshire quarter-final. Mitchell, though, had other ideas and turned the rankings upside down, winning the final 3-1.

Three of the other seven titles disappeared down the M4 towards Wales. There is nothing unusual in this, as the Welsh juniors always do well at Cippenham. One of those titles went to O'Connell in the U16 Boys' Singles, whilst Chloe Thomas won both the U18 and U16 Girls' Singles.

O'Connell was, as he was again later in the U18 event, top seed in the U16s and was barely troubled as he swept his way to the title. Laurence Williams did manage one game in the final as did Ashley Facey-

Thompson in the second round. Mitchell was seeded second for this event but found Williams just too good in their semi-final. This heralded a good run for the unseeded Williams who had already seen off challenges from Lawrence Sweeney and Danny Spaul, the conqueror of fourth seed Thomas Dantzig. The other semi-final saw O'Connell win 3-0 in comfortable fashion against third seed Daniel Moses.

It all turned out well for Chloe Thomas in the end, as the top seed won both the U18 and U16 titles. However, she was made to work hard for it, no more so than in the U18 semi-final when she came from two games down to beat Sushmita Limbu 9-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-7, 11-8. A round earlier she had also been taken to a deciding fifth game by Chantal Wilson. By contrast, the 3-0 win over Sally Hoang in the final was easy. Thomas and Limbu had met each other earlier in the final of the U16s. This time Limbu only managed to win the first game before Thomas got going to win 3-1. Hoang's was probably the best performance as she reached the final of the U18s from an unseeded position as well as the semi-final of the U16s.

Four counties shared the U14 and U12 titles on the Saturday. The boys' titles were won by Ashley Facey-Thompson of Middlesex and Jack Bennett of Sussex, whilst Surrey's Lucy Lou and Berkshire's Maria Tsaptinos won the girls' events. The latter was the star of the day as she featured in two finals.

The event was organized and refereed by Ken Phillips with invaluable assistance from Jan Chapman, Steve Smith and an army of helpers.

**By Graham Trimming**

Chloe Thomas and Sally Hoang





Gavin with new girlfriend Jane

## SALISBURY OPEN BGP

The first ever Salisbury Open, a Butterfly Grand Prix event, got under way on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th February at the 18 table venue of the Five Rivers Leisure Centre in the city centre, with the many Men's and Women's banded events.

Scotland's Gavin Rumgay confirmed his top seeding, by simply outplaying all his rivals, including his last opponent, Wang Zheng, in a daylight robbery 999 scoreline!

Accompanied and supported by the new Asian love in his life, Jane, he demonstrated his consistent superiority throughout the event to pick up the winner's cheque for £300.

Gavin was only slightly threatened by Matt Ware in the quarter-final stage, dropping his only set towards the title, but that was as good as it got for any of his rivals.

Likewise, Zheng, after beating Chris Doran in the quarter-final, dropped just the one set to Damien Nicholls at the penultimate stage on route to his final with Rumgay, but was made to look second class by the flying Scotsman. The Women's Open was also won by the top seed, Egle Adomelyte from the Greenhouse Progress club in London. She was in unstoppable form throughout this event, and simply outplayed her final opposer, Hannah Hicks, in a 3-0 scoreline.

Egle was just too strong for Kirsty Wilson and Klaudia Szadkowska in the knockout rounds to come through virtually unscathed to meet Hicks in the final.

## Tournament Results

### The Cippenham Young Players' New Year Festival

**U18 Boys' Singles** Eddie Mitchell (Bu) bt. Daniel O'Connell (WAL) **U18 Girls' Singles** Chloe Thomas (WAL) bt. Sally Hoang (Mi) **U16 Boys' Singles** Daniel O'Connell (WAL) bt. Laurence Williams (E) **U16 Girls' Singles** Chloe Thomas (WAL) bt. Sushmita Limbu (Mi) **U14 Boys' Singles** Ashley Facey-Thompson (Mi) bt. Laurence Williams (E) **U14 Girls' Singles** Lucy Lou (Sy) bt. Maria Tsapinos (Bk) **U12 Boys' Singles** Jack Bennett (Sx) bt. Hilikiah Adebajo (E) **U12 Girls' Singles** Maria Tsapinos (Bk) bt. Elizabeth Roberts (WAL)

### Salisbury Open Butterfly Grand Prix

**Men's Open** Gavin Rumgay (SCO) bt. Wang Zheng (E) 11-9, 11-9, 11-9. **Women's Open** Egle Adomelyte bt. Hannah Hicks (Ha) 13-11, 11-6, 11-2. **Under 21 Men's** Damien Nicholls (Sp) bt. Vytas Rybakas (E) 11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9. **Under 21 Women's** Alice Loveridge (GGY) bt. Hannah Hicks (Ha) 12-10, 5-11, 11-8, 11-4. **Mixed Veterans** Abdul Wuraola (Sy) bt. Tony Palaczky (Ha) 11-7, 14-12, 9-11, 11-5. **Mixed Restricted** Chris Martin (K) bt. Dan Kolesnik (He) 11-5, 10-12, 8-11, 11-6, 11-7. **Men's Band 1** Chris Doran (Np) beat Nikki Schaerrer (Wa) 11-8, 11-7, 11-8. **Women's Band 1** Hannah Hicks (Ha) beat Alice Loveridge (GGY) 11-2, 9-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-9. **Men's Band 2** Euan Liddle (E) beat Koji Hirota (Mi) 11-8, 6-11, 11-6, 10-12, 11-4. **Women's Band 2** Ikue Humphrey (Sy) beat Sue West (Do) 6-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-6, 13-11. **Men's Band 3** Scott Crawford (Cu) beat Ceri James (WAL) 11-3, 11-7, 11-4. **Women's Band 3** Ikue Humphrey (Sy) beat Sue West (Do) 11-7, 11-8, 11-5. **Men's Band 4** Ceri James (WAL) beat Myles Collins (Av) 11-9, 11-8, 11-9. **Men's Band 5** Matt Haynes (Do) beat Chris Edwards (Av) 12-10, 11-2, 11-7. **Men's Band 6** Tony Palaczky (Ha) beat Brian Burn (Do) 8-11, 15-13, 11-7, 11-9.

Hannah to that point had played extremely well to oust second seed Alice Loveridge in a straight sets semi-final, but found Adomelyte too hot to handle in the last match. Once again it was the Men's Under 21 Champion Damien Nicholls who was in phenomenal form to prove victorious in this event. Along his path to the title he disposed of Tom Maynard and Matt Ware, both in 3-0 scorelines, and then went on to drop the only set to his final opponent Vytas Rybakas 3-1. Vytas had played magnificently to get to the final, beating the likes of Daniel Ives and Chris Doran, but met his match in Nicholls. Alice Loveridge gained her revenge on Hannah Hicks at the third time of asking this weekend by taking the Women's Under 21 title 3-1.

Alice disposed of Kirsty Wilson and Leine Agata to reach the final, whilst Hicks was made to go the full distance by both Natasha Rees and then Melissa Wright in her semi-final. The Loveridge-Hicks final was once again a great match as we have been accustomed to, but this time Alice found wonderland and her best form to take a well deserved title victory. The Tees Sport player of the tournament award for £50 and a framed certificate was presented to Matt Haynes from Dorset for his fantastic efforts in winning the Men's Band 5 event, taking many maximum wins along his way to the title.

By Geoff Ware

# County Notes

## Berkshire by Colin Dyke

Martin Adams won the Men's Singles event for a record eighth time in the Berkshire County Closed Championships held at the Kingfisher Club, this being the fourth year in succession. The closest anybody came to taking a game off Adams was when Kuldeep Gehlot took him to a deuce third game in the group matches. Adams cruised through his semi-final against Ramesh Gehlot and then clinched the trophy with an 11-7, 11-5, 11-9 win over Hari Gehlot.

Emma Human won the Ladies Singles for the second time, beating both Mary Allan and Maria Tsapsinos in a round robin final, each three straight. 11 year old Maria caused a surprise and underlined her potential when she beat the vastly more experienced Jan Wright in five in the preceding round.

The Men's Doubles title was an all Gehlot family affair, with dads Ramesh and Hari beating sons Abhay and Kuldeep in five. Ramesh and Hari had scraped through their semi-final at 12-10 in the fifth against holders Adams and Prady, whilst the younger Gehlots beat Williams and Banks at the same stage. Jacquie Lovell and Mary Allan retained their Ladies Doubles title with a three straight win over Sharon Mitchell and Denise Rolfe.

A very young county junior team clinched a sensational runners-up spot in Division 2C, losing only to winners Warwickshire by 7-3. With an average age of only 13, the team, all Woodley based, give great hope for the future. A strengthened senior second team completed their fixtures in Division 2D and managed to get off the bottom with a win over Wiltshire and a draw with Sussex 3. Hari Gehlot and Stuart Williams were unbeaten in the Wiltshire match, whilst Hari and brother Ramesh were undefeated in the Sussex draw. Sussex 2 proved too strong with only Hari picking up a win over Shaun Parsley.

The veterans first team's challenge for the Division 1B title faded away with two 6-4 defeats at Harlow against Kent 2 and Essex 1 respectively. David Barr won all four singles to keep his 100% record in this division and also combined with Hari Gehlot to take both men's doubles, however further wins were hard to come by with just Hari beating Paul Murford (Kent) and Stuart Gibbs (Essex) to complete the scores.

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM DERBYSHIRE

Lucy D. has had another good tournament in East Midlands 4\* (Grantham) with a win over Emily Bates to win the cadet event and then on the Sunday just losing out to same in the junior semis. It is difficult with all the players knowing each other and training together as team mates, however, reckon Lucy can consolidate the kind of game that will consistently put her at top.

The veterans second team remain unbeaten after a draw with Kent 4 and an 8-2 win over Herts 3. Ramesh Gehlot won his two singles against Kent including a deuce in the fifth against Wayne Matthews, whilst Derek Wood also beat the unlucky Matthews at 9 in the fifth and Tony Brown beat Terry Wightwick. A men's doubles win (9 in the fifth!) secured the point. The Herts match was notable for the fact that we were 2-0 down before romping through the last eight, thanks to unbeaten performances by Ramesh Gehlot and Denise Rolfe.

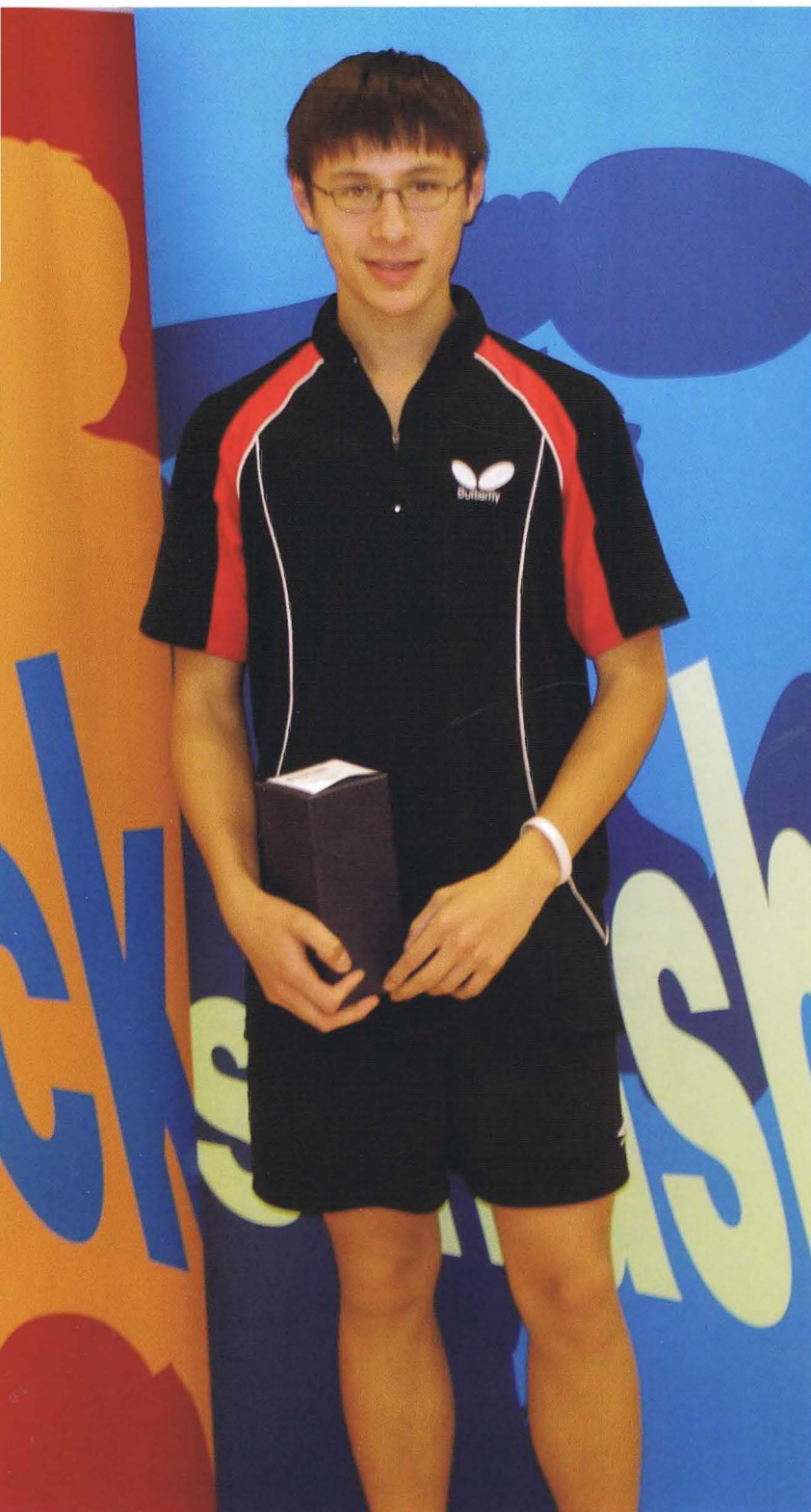
## Derbyshire by Neil Houghton

Still not heard much about East Midlands Ranking Trials. Less an event - we used to go more as a county group if not squad, although Derbyshire's support is still good. 16 players went to Grantham and Jayden Budworth won U11s, plus Ronan Kelly and Abbié Millwain attended who likely did well. It is less clear what it's for these days as with no U18s it's a diminished spectacle and no Masters link anymore, although the National Ranking Trials are worth aiming for. There seems to be a syndrome that "if you're not top ten in England by 12, you won't make it"?? If Cookie and his generation had believed that we'd have missed some great players!

A lot of British League play has been happening recently with various venues and divisions, including Will Cooney playing, Shaun playing, Dad Neil Marples playing for Chesterfield with Sean Bibby, Andrew Henry and Steve Mason. I hear Matlock have been in the fray as well. Lucy D. has had another good tournament in East Midlands 4\* (Grantham) with a win over Emily Bates to win the cadet event and then on the Sunday just losing out to same in the junior semis. It is difficult with all the players knowing each other and training together as team mates, however, reckon Lucy can consolidate the kind of game that will consistently put her at top.

As we go to press Derbyshire (new) junior II team in Div. 2A have had their first outing at Draycott. The aim of this was experience, mainly for budding county juniors with less results emphasis, but we also had a good day, two losses, two draws and a win putting us fifth from nine teams. Last match was a classy draw with third placed Yorkshire 2nds and two of best lads left at home! The

Despite some other notable achievements, Woolwell Table Tennis Club's **Chris Smith** must take pride of place.



averages were Abbie Millwain on 9 from 10; Tom Booth 5; Frances Baker 4; Dan Burton 3/9; Josh Packard 2/4; Oliver Hampson playing in difficult no. 2 position with close matches 2/9. Everybody played well with close sets! I saw on the notice board at Draycott that Alan Upton, a keen former member of Draycott more recently playing for Spondon, sadly passed away at only 62 years suddenly towards the end of last year. Our thoughts are often with the "old stalwarts" while they are into playing and supporting the sport and always with them and their families when they reach their final set. Some get luckier and play on – I remember an octogenarian years back jogging on the spot as I picked the ball up, eager to get going again!

### Devon by John Smith

The County Junior Closed Championships were held at Okehampton with 51 players taking part. Despite some other notable achievements, Woolwell Table Tennis Club's Chris Smith must take pride of place. His rivalry with Richard Marshall goes back nine years. The two live 400 metres apart, are the best of friends and the south west's two leading juniors. However, but despite numerous close calls, Marshall has won every meeting between the two in the past three years, and taken the county junior boys' title four years running. In possibly their last match as juniors, Smith finally broke the hoodoo with a four game victory, to complete the "triple crown", having earlier taken the mixed doubles title with Laura McLeod and boys' doubles with Sam Wilson. Brixham's David White always saves his best table tennis for this event. In an extremely competitive age group he completed his fourth successive county title to take the under 15 event from Exeter's Ben Snow. Woolwell's Ollie Buddell was hot favourite to take the under 13 event and fulfilled expectations for his third title, while Erik Wilson, as expected, took the under 11s for the second year. Vicky Smith's astonishing run in the girls' doubles event continued her sixth successive title, at the tender age of 13, coming with the help of Laura McLeod. Vicky also completed her third successive under 18 individual win, although Laura gave her a tough final fight, and also took the under 15s. The under 13 and 11 girls events went to Ilfracombe's Katie Smaldon and Woolwell's Olivia Ridholls respectively. The Astor Ladies team, containing three Devon players, Marketa Myskova, Lisa Radford and Liz May, completed a convincing victory in the Women's British League, with Marketa notably playing every match and remaining unbeaten.

# County Notes

## Essex by Steve Kerns

**2009 M&G Investments Chelmsford Closed** - David Cole became the M&G Investments Chelmsford & District Table Tennis League Men's Singles Champion for a glorious fourth time and he will have gained many admirers for the swashbuckling way in which he wrestled the title away from the holder and favourite - England no. 36 ranked player Neil Charles, in a widely fluctuating Men's Singles final. In the fifth end Dave kept his form perfectly and he raced home to a superb and it has to be said somewhat unexpected 11-9, 8-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-4 victory.

Julie Vansertima created a record which may never be beaten by winning the Ladies Singles' title for an unprecedented sixteenth time. She beat Alison Gurner (nee Gower) 11-6, 11-7, 11-9 in the final.

Fast improving Brandon Crouchman also impressed and he picked up four junior trophies, in a display of dominance not seen since the days of a certain David Newman. There can be few higher compliments!

**Other results included - Mixed Doubles** - Nikki Kennard/Paul Davison bt. Dave Cole/Julie Vansertima 13-11, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9.

**Men's Doubles** - Paul Davison/Neil Charles bt. Charles Sweeney/Duncan Taylor 11-8, 11-8, 10-12, 11-6. **Veterans' Singles** - Dave Cole bt. Steve Kerns 11-7, 11-7, 10-12, 11-7.

**Over 60s' Singles** - Ian Whiteside bt. Bill Smith 11-3, 11-9, 7-11, 5-1, 11-8.

**Under 21 Singles** - Bradley Hudgell bt. Greg Green 11-6, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9. **Veterans' Doubles** - Peter Hayden/Steve Kerns bt. Paul Sayer/Paul Stephens 11-7, 11-7, 11-6.

**Under 18 Boys' Singles** - Brandon Crouchman bt. Sam Pitt 11-6, 16-14, 8-11, 11-6. **Under 16 Singles** - Brandon Crouchman bt. Scott Dowsett 11-1, 11-2, 11-7. **Under 14 Singles** - Brandon Crouchman bt. Scott Dowsett 12-14, 12-10, 11-5, 11-8. **Junior Girls' Singles** - (1) Stevie Pell (2) Sarah Austin. **Junior Doubles** - Brandon Crouchman/Scott Dowsett bt. Tom Lee/Sam Pitt 11-4, 11-6, 11-8.

**Two Down Singles** - Waseem Qureshi bt. Greg Green 11-5, 11-3, 8-11, 13-11. **Four Down Singles** - Phil Smith bt. Rod MacLennan 11-6, 11-9, 11-7.

## Gloucestershire by Lesley Dewick

**Cheltenham reclaimed table tennis' Warner Shield!** The Shield is a competition played between the Gloucester and Cheltenham Associations since 1950, but it was last competed for in 1986. It has been won by Gloucester since 1963, but the trend was bucked with a long awaited

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM GLOUCS.

The final match was the open, which saw Michael Harvey representing Cheltenham against Michael Kiff for Gloucester. This was a thrilling five setter, which saw some exhibition style rallies. Harvey won the first two games 11-6, 11-7 and then lost the next two, 16-18, 9-11, he then gained control in the final set and cruised to victory winning 11-6.

win.

The match was played at Gloucester College in their magnificent sports hall.

The match commenced with the Under 18s event which saw brothers Dominic James and Simon James putting family ties aside and competing against each other, Dominic for Gloucester and Simon for Cheltenham. Some fine shots were played which resulted in Dominic winning 12-10, 11-7, 11-9.

The next match was contested by two division two players. Alan Churchill represented Gloucester, whilst Keith Ferguson represented Cheltenham. In this tremendous battle of wills and after some outstanding rallies Ferguson emerged victorious. The final score was 17-15, 11-4, 9-11, 12-10.

The next event was the mixed doubles, playing for Gloucester was Russell Hayward and Lesley Dewick, whilst for Cheltenham old partners Graham Slack and Jacqui Carver teamed up to try to rekindle their form of the past. The Gloucester pair started off very strongly winning the first set, but they were no match for the Cheltenham duo who won the next three games, with some outstanding shots from Slack and Carver. The final score was 5-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-9.

The ladies match saw Choi Sze To, a former Hong Kong champion, playing for Cheltenham against county champion Ann Barnes representing Gloucester. The match started with some closely fought games, but the talent of Choi finally dominated. The final score was 12-10, 9-11, 11-3, 11-6.

The final match was the open, which saw Michael Harvey representing Cheltenham against Michael Kiff for Gloucester. This was a thrilling five setter, which saw some exhibition style rallies. Harvey won the first two games 11-6, 11-7 and then lost the next two, 16-18, 9-11, he then gained control in the final set and cruised to victory winning 11-6.

The matches were close, exciting and all of an impressive standard. It is hoped that there can be a rematch next year and that eventually it can be extended to the four associations.

## Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

The Watford & District League held the finals of its annual closed tournament on January 11th at Queen's School, Bushey. It was successfully run by Geof Bax who sent me this report.

The evening commenced with the Division 3 final when experienced Brian Whitehead was too steady for his

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younger opponent, Dan Lovelock, and won in straight legs.

The cadet final was an entertaining match between two 13 year olds in their first season, both boys played an attacking style with Ishan Bairollya beating Jordan Olney in the fifth game.

Next came the handicap final. Steve Leven was too strong on the day, not needing the two points start he had in beating Ken Stonebridge.

In the Division 2 final Brian Clark lost the first two legs, then won the next three to beat Richard Bellamy.

The veteran final followed the same pattern when Max Bonyadi beat Geof Bax for the first time after many attempts.

The junior final was eagerly awaited as it featured Watford's Wheelchair 2012 Olympic prospect Jack Pegram, but he had an off day and was beaten easily by Paul Erdunast.

The mixed doubles final was between husband and wife Geof and Sally Bax, as well as uncle and niece Stuart Seaholme and Caroline Wilkes. Stuart dominated the game making his pairing easy winners.

Division 1 final was an all out attacking match, great entertainment. In the fourth game Richard Cottle beat Jackie Channell by just being a little steadier.

Men's doubles final – Ken Stonebridge and Anthony Budden beat Alan Thomas and Trafford Coker in straight legs.

Ladies singles final – Caroline Wilkes beat Sally Bax in the fourth game.

The evening concluded with the men's singles final featuring the numbers one and two seeded players.

Stuart Seaholme with outstanding backhand shots was just too strong for Anthony Budden who put up a spirited performance.

The trophies were presented by the Chairman of Watford Council, Councillor Mrs Jan Brown.

There are a few veteran team results. Herts. 2 lost 3-7 to Middx. 2, 9-1 to Surrey 3, but beat Cambridge 2 by 6-4.

Herts. 4 are finding it tough going this year and lost 9-1 to Cambridge 1 and 7-3 to Norfolk 3. Better luck next time.

#### **Northants by Dennis Millman**

The J&K Transport County Closed produced some outstanding performances together with some shock results.

In the men's semi-finals Steve Silk had looked out of touch against Sam Wildman who failed to take advantage when

# County Notes

he led comfortably in the first two ends.

Richard Elliott, however, was in fine form against John Fuller whose third end comeback just failed to prevent Elliott from reaching a third successive final.

In the veterans final Silk was looking for a fifth title, but Fuller's immaculate defence and occasional attacking sortie proved decisive as he reversed last season's outcome.

It was much the same in the mixed doubles with Elliott, partnered by the dependable Clem Little, seizing an early initiative before holding on to beat Silk and Charlotte Binley 15-13 in the third end.

Eventually the tide turned, although it was Jordan Dainty playing in his first finals night who won the vital points, as he and Silk edged out Elliott and Dawid Przybysz in straight games.

The junior boys provided the best final of the night with left handed title-holder Jack Coleman asserting his authority in the opener by refusing to be forced away from the table. An impeccable forehand attack made sure of the second game, and although Dainty retrieved brilliantly in the third, Coleman's intent never wavered and he eased through 14-12 to retain his crown.

The women's doubles, a repeat of last year's final with a different result, turned into a fluctuating encounter in which order of service prevailed. That is until the fifth end when Jordan Wood and Sarah Hollis bucked the trend to lead 5-1 at the changeover, with Little and Binley unable to recover.

Wood and Little were again in opposition in the singles final and with Wood slowed down by Little's control, the first two games were shared. Wood then stepped up the pace to hit through her opponent's defence to take the remaining games, and the title.

The men's final brought the evening to a close with Silk finally hitting top form against a troubled Elliott. Silk took the first end 11-4, and though Elliott pulled back to ten all in the second, Silk again prevailed. A tremendous block from Elliott at two all in the third appeared to provide a turning point as he went on to lead 7-2. Silk stayed focused picking up nine of the next ten points to take the title for the first time.

In the preceding two days there had been the usual triumphs and tribulations allied with numerous close finishes. Jordan Wood beat Charlotte Binley 14-12 in the fifth to take the junior girls' title, whilst Carl Leeson came from behind with a 12-10, 12-10 finish against Dan Smalley on his way to victory in the Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy for the 18-21 age group.

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM NORTHANTS

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Andy Trott made a cameo appearance in the veteran doubles and partnered by Silk was fortunate to take the title 11-8 in a decider against John Fuller and Terry Cardwell. The most impressive win in this section came in the final of the over 60 doubles where David Simmons and Gareth Lewis excelled. Other veteran winners were John Fuller, Michael Edwards (twice), Gerald Henson and Clem Little.

At junior level Nicole Bird maintained her high standard with four successes while others to win trophies were Jack Coleman, Jordan Dainty, Jordan Wood, Rachel Thompson, James Wright, Miles Chan, Edward Luck, Thomas Wildman, Aaron Ark, Leon Chan and Bethany Tyler.

Coleman and Wildman took the class one doubles, with singles honours in descending order going to Jason Tustain, Paul Nichols, Jonathan Holmes and Thomas Wildman.

As always Phil Slade was in fine form as tournament organiser, while the trophies were presented by Mark Stocker, Director of J&K Transport.

## Northumberland by Pauline Long

The county veterans' team, who finished their first series of Division 2A matches at Wellingborough in fifth place, were hoping to at least consolidate that position when they were due to play their final series of matches at the same venue over the weekend of 7th/8th February.

The Northumbria League has just resumed at the time of writing following the Christmas and New Year break, and already the "big three" of St. Chad's, Birtley A and NESLC A appear to be setting the pace from the rest at the top of the Premier Division, with Blaydon A in fourth place. North Fire A and Tyne Dock are the Division 1 leaders, whilst two teams from south of the Tyne, Mortimer from South Shields and Old England Crocks from Great Lumley, are the table-toppers in Division 2.

Division 3 is being fought out between Ouston A and Cramlington Corinthians, while new Chinese team Newcastle Community appear to be racing away with the Division 4 title, although they were recently held to a 5-5 draw by second placed Westgate, who are also unbeaten.

The Team Handicap Knockout Cup competition has now reached the last 16 stage, and this round was also due to be staged during February.

The Northumberland Closed tournament will be held at Cramlington Sporting Club on Sunday 5th April.

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### Sheffield by Robert Loxley

On Sunday 1st February, Stephen Horsfield (Stocksbridge Rugby) joined the elite of Sheffield men's singles champions as he triumphed over Abbeydale's Richard Lightowler, the 2003 titleholder, 11-7, 11-7, 5-11, 11-6, at the English Institute for Sport. Horsfield became only the third man in history to win the coveted prize a record six times, the other two being Saint Albion's David Rayner and Clive Guest of Saint Albion and Dial House. Stephen then teamed up with his brother Andrew to lift the men's doubles crown beating Abbeydale's Shaun Bibby and Lightowler 11-5, 10-12, 11-4, 7-11, 11-3. This was the fifth doubles title for the combination and a total of eight for Stephen and nine for elder brother Andy.

Lightowler had some consolation in winning the over 40s veterans' singles championship, in an epic final against Vulcan's Lance Webster, who had four unconverted match points in the fourth game. Lightowler eventually ran out the winner 11-4, 9-11, 13-11, 15-13, 11-9. Further success came Lightowler's way as he partnered team mate Shaun Bibby to the inaugural veterans' doubles title, beating Richard Shirt and Martin Stenton (Stocksbridge Rugby) in the final.

Vulcan's Paul Johnson took the honours in the under 21 singles with an error riddled performance against Mark Johnson (Rotherham Scorpions), winning 12-10 in the deciding game. Mark had earlier beaten Will Boardman (Don Valley) in a lack lustre final of the under 17 boys' event.

**Results:** Men's Open Singles: S Horsfield (Stocksbridge Rugby) bt. R Lightowler (Abbeydale) 11-7, 11-7, 5-11, 11-6. Men's Doubles: A & S Horsfield (Stocksbridge Rugby) bt. R Lightowler/Bibby (Abbeydale) 12-14, 11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 11-3. Vets over 40: R Lightowler bt. L Webster (Vulcan) 11-4, 9-11, 11-13, 15-13, 11-9. Vets Doubles: R Lightowler/S Bibby bt. R Shirt/M Stenton (Stocksbridge Rugby) 11-5, 10-12, 11-4, 7-11, 11-3. Youths under 21: P Johnson (Vulcan) bt. M Johnson (Scorpions) 8-11, 11-4, 12-10, 10-12, 12-10. Under 17 Boys: M Johnson bt. W Boardman (Don Valley) 11-5, 11-2, 11-5. Cadets round robin: Winner - Laura Robinson (Don Valley). Vets over 60 round robin: Winner - Graham Torry (Abbeydale). Handicap Singles: Gary Crapper (Shiregreen) bt. Jordan Greenwood (Wadsley Lovell) 22-20. Hard Bat: R Shirt bt. S Bibby 21-19.

With over half the season gone, a three horse race has developed for the division one title in the Sheffield League and it could hardly be closer with all of the protagonists having played 15 matches. Abbeydale 'A'

(Andy Henry, Richard Lightowler and Shaun Bibby) lead the way with 13 wins and 2 losses. One point behind in second place are Stocksbridge Rugby 'A' (Stephen Horsfield, Matt Kenny and Trevor Williams) and in third place, just one set behind Stocksbridge, are Crookes 'A' (Shaun Marples, Geoff Gill and Neil Marples). Little more than 12 months after first picking up a bat, at Wadsley Bridge Lovell Table Tennis Club's Wisewood Community Project, Daniel Horton recorded his first win in open competition on Saturday 7 February. Fourteen year old Daniel coasted through the early rounds of the YTTA under 15 One Star tournament, held in Hull, without dropping a set. Although suffering his first reverse 9-11 in the opening set he quickly recovered to beat fellow regional squad member, Martin Stevens from Halifax, by taking the next three 11-6, 11-4, 11-9. The WBL Wisewood satellite project benefits from the support of the NW Sheffield Young Peoples Fund and is now a highly successful starting point for young players in the area. For further information contact Rod Bly - Tel: 0114 2310009 Mobile: 0787 1098147 Email: rodbly@hotmail.com.

## Surrey by Chris Andrews

Joanna Parker lost in the last 32 of the Danish Open to Viktoria Pavlovich of Belarus who is 77 places higher than her in the World senior ranking list. At the Medway Open Grand Prix Surrey's Ikue Humphrey won the Women's Band Three event, while Ben Larcombe and Zoltan Hosszu were runners-up in the Men's Band Four and Mixed Restricted events. Surrey currently has a lot of under 13 boys on the England rating list, including Even Stevenson at 18, George Heath at 19, Kudar Dutia at 32, Marcus Giles at 35, Alex Kwaskowski at 70, Sukhveer Bhamra at 74 and Alex Yee at 77. Wing-Yung Chan is up to 6 on the junior (under 18) ratings list.

## Warwickshire by Caroline Williams

**Fergie is top dog yet again** - Ian Ferguson won his fifth men's singles title in the Birmingham Closed Championship at the Wood Green Centre. He justified his no.1 seeding with an explosive final victory against Colebridge team-mate Mohammad Khalid over four games. Khalid, who was also runner-up in the recent Warwickshire Closed, saved three match points in the final game before Fergie powered a trademark backhand and clinched victory. There were five former champions in the draw in what

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM WARWICKS.

Ferguson and Michael Brown (Smiths Wood), who played together for the first time, were top seeds in the men's doubles but were outgunned in the final by Lester and Steve Bertie.

The action now returns to the league where Colebridge Aces, Hamstead A and Smiths Wood A are involved in a fascinating battle for the Premier crown. Colebridge retain their favourites' tag, thanks to the exploits of their players at the Birmingham tournament.

was the highest standard for many years. Scott Prime (Smiths Wood), the no.2 seed, had lost comfortably to Khalid. Andrew Dixon beat reigning champion and Hamstead team-mate, Steve Bertie, before becoming yet another victim of the rapidly-improving Khalid. Lester Bertie (Hamstead), who has returned to the Birmingham League this season after a lengthy absence, took Ferguson to the limit in a superb quarter-final. The pair traded blows over five thrilling games before Fergie clinched it at 11-9 in the fifth.

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Rugby Table Tennis Club are moving on steadily. Noticing the lack of girls in the sport, they have started sessions purely for girls. Most of the girls have been recruited through their connections with schools table tennis, so single sex lunchtime sessions are in place. With their new internal club league, Rugby are now running table tennis at Lawrence Sheriff School almost every day. You will probably know the result of the ETTA Chairmanship election by the time you read this. Warwickshire members have had the advantage of up to date information on Warwickshire's website as the contest progressed. Coverage by Webmaster Don Pritchard was non partisan and communications from candidates were included.

## Yorkshire by Barry Snowden

The second event in the YTTA Junior Grand Prix Series took place at the Yorkshire Region TTC in Leeds and consolidated the fine start made at Scarborough with an improved entry of over 70 participants. The blue ribbon event, the junior boys' singles, proved a success once again for the city of Hull, as they produced three of the semi-finalists and the final result was reversal of the final in the previous event in Scarborough. Top seed Reece Lo reached his semi-final spot but was taken all the way by Halifax's Matthew Shaw as it went to a deciding game, but it was county second teamer Lo who progressed courtesy of an 11-6, 8-11, 11-3, 6-11, 11-7 victory where he faced Craig Scarisbrook of Merseyside. The second semi-final was an all Hull affair with

Little more than 12 months after first picking up a bat, at Wadsley Bridge Lovell Table Tennis Club's Wisewood Community Project, **Daniel Horton** recorded his first win in open competition



Scarborough winner Josh Thompson beating St Mary's club mate Sam Tompkins 13-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6 to book his appointment with Lo. In the final Lo was always in control and won the crucial points before recording an 13-11, 16-14, 11-6 victory.

With 25 grand prix points being awarded to the winner and 20 for the runner-up, down to 10 points for each quarter-finalist, after two rounds both players are level on 45 points.

The girls U18 event was once again won by Hannah Winfield of Grantham, who on this occasion beat Scarborough county player Alex Lee 11-8, 11-5, 11-1. As in the recent Yorkshire trials, Hull player Daryl Gee took both the U13 and U15 event and whilst he eased to the U13 event with an 11-8, 11-4, 11-5 final victory over Bolton's Matthew Field, he was made to work much harder in the cadets, being taken to five in the quarters, semis and the final itself.

St Mary's club mate and top seed Adam Tompkins was Gee's quarter-final opponent and in a thrilling tussle it was Gee who just came out on top. His semi-final clash was no easier as he was faced with another St Mary's club mate in Michael Fraser, who extended Gee all the way, but as in the previous round it was Gee who triumphed to book his place in the final.

Yet another St Mary's player (Sam Tompkins) faced Gee in the final, which shows the great work head coach Shane Bradley is doing. Once more it was taken to a deciding game before recording a 16-14, 5-11, 9-11, 11-7, 11-7 victory and it is tight at the top of this event after two events, as both Adam Tomkins and Gee are joined on 35 points by Sam Tompkins and Halifax player James Foster, with Michael Fraser only five points back on 30.

The U15 girls event was won by another Grantham player as Emily Roys repeated her Scarborough victory, once again beating Nicole Finn of Leeds 11-9, 11-4, 8-11, 11-4, and in the U13 girls event it was first time entrant Nicole Bird who took top prize with a four game final victory over Leeds player Ellen Auty 9-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-5.

The event was completed by the U11 boys which was won by another first timer Peumal Thilakarathne who didn't drop a game, beating another first time entrant Matthew Leete of Grantham 11-8, 11-9 11-9.

# World Rankings

## MEN

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



## WOMEN

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



## U21 MEN

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



## U21 WOMEN

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



## U18 BOYS

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



## U18 GIRLS

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



## U15 BOYS

1. CHENG Jingqi (CHN)
2. ZHANG Shengwunan (CHN)
3. NIWA Koki (JPN)
4. GAUZY Simon (FRA)
5. CHIU Chung Hei (HKG)



## U15 GIRLS

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



## Player Rankings 2008/2009

### TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

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

### TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

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

### TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

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

### TOP 5 CADET BOYS

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

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Ranking	Player
1.	PATEL, Jared (E.)
2.	MORAIS, Igor (MI.)
3.	HOLLAND, Alex (E.)
4.	SIKET, Michael (WO.)
5.	HOLLOWOD, Scott (Y.)

### TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.)
2.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
3.	ECKERŠLEY, Nigel (SX.)
4.	KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)
5.	SMITH, Eddie (ND.)

### 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.	DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.)
3.	KING, Yolanda (SX.)
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.	GRAZIANO, Gabriella (E.)
5.	HOSKIN, Esther (E.)

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



# Dates for your diary

Table Tennis events for March 2009



## 2008/2009 COPY DATES

**April Issue:** Copy by 2nd Mar  
**June Issue:** Copy by 4th May  
**July Issue:** Copy by 1st June

German Open  
starts Wednesday  
**18th March 2009**

### March 1st

**Veteran:** County Premier (2) Halifax  
**Other:** ESTTA Team Regional Finals

### March 6th -8th

**Senior:** National Championships, Sheffield

### March 13th-15th

**Cadet:** Cadet & Junior 6 Nations, Wales  
**Junior:** Cadet & Junior 6 Nations, Wales

### March 14th

**Cadet:** City of Derby & Jarvis Sports  
**Junior:** NJL (4)  
**Senior:** North Herts Satellite GP  
**Veteran:** VETTS Northern Masters, Blackpool

### March 15th

**Cadet:** Bradford Fastbats 1 Star  
**Junior:** City of Derby & Jarvis Sports 4 Star  
**Senior:** North Herts Satellite GP  
**Veteran:** VETTS Northern Masters, Blackpool  
**Other:** BUCS Team Championships

### March 21st

**Cadet:** Yorkshire 1 Star, Halifax  
**Junior:** Yorkshire 1 Star, Halifax County Championships (7) County Premier (2)  
**Senior:** County Premier (2)  
**Veteran:** County Championships (7)

### March 22nd

**Cadet:** Northfield 2 Star  
**Junior:** Northfield Junior 2 Star Stiga 2 Star GP, Halton  
**Junior:** County Premier (2)  
**Senior:** County Premier (2)

### March 28th

**Senior:** British League Premier (4) Cippenham 2 Star  
**Other:** ESTTA National Team Finals

### March 29th

**Cadet:** National Cadet League (4)  
**Junior:** Cippenham 2 Star  
**Senior:** British League Premier (4)

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

 <p>2 Market Street, Blythe. Tel 01670 351435 Official Travel Agents</p>	 <p>Trophies and Engraving Strood, Gloucestershire. Tel 01453 886686 Official Trophy Suppliers</p>	 <p>Acorn House, Forstal Road, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7AF Tel: 01622 882233</p>	 <p>3 Broadway, Broad St, Birmingham B15 1BQ Tel: 0121 698 800 Fax: 0121 625 9000</p>
 <p>Bribar Table Tennis Knaives Ash House, Church Road, Hoath Canterbury, CT3 4JT Tel: 01227 741471 Fax: 01227 860569 E-mail: enquiries@bribart.co.uk www.bribart.co.uk</p>	 <p>Tees Sport Zetland Place, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS1 1HJ, UK Tel: 0800 458 4141 Fax: 0800 458 7171 E-mail: tabletennis@teesport.com www.tees-sport.co.uk</p>	 <p>Suppliers of exciting and innovative coaching aids 473 Harlestone Road, Duston, Northampton, NN5 6NJ Tel: 01604 464 878</p>	 <p>3 Otterbury Close, Bury BL8 2TY. Tel: 0161 761 6609 (2# hrs) Tel: 0161 797 3539 fax: 0161 762 9402. email: william. thornton2@btopenworld.com</p>