

# table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

The **three amigos**; Interview with **England's man in charge**; **Whiff Waff Gaff**; **Ormesby TTC** focus; And the latest **news and results**

What can we learn from Beijing?

## New Olympic Champions

Ma Lin and Zhang Yinning

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

**STIGA**

OCTOBER 08

## 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 Officer  
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

David Wearn  
david@dwphotographic.co.uk

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

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

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

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

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

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



# Contents

- 04 Straight Talk**  
The latest thoughts from the Chairman
- 06 News**  
What's going on in the world of TT
- 10 What we can learn from Beijing**  
Matthew Syed looks at what we can take from Beijing to help us for 2012
- 12 Coaching**  
The first of our new regular coaching sections, this time on forehand drive and topspin
- 14 The Whiff Waff Gaffe**  
A few facts about the history of our game
- 15 Letters**  
Your views and our responses
- 17 The Double Pheonix**  
The story of Ormesby table tennis club and its founder Alan Ransome OBE
- 20 Hopes for England's Future**  
An interview with England's man in charge
- 22 Summer Round Up**  
A round up of all the action over the summer break
- 26 Liam Pitchford**  
Liam is the first of our new in-depth profile features
- 28 British League**  
The first weekends events of the new season
- 30 Tournament Review**  
Looking at the action that's taken part already this season
- 33 County Round Up**  
News from around the country
- 39 John Reed**  
A look back at the life of John Reed
- 42 Andrew Rushton**  
A look at one of our new Regional Coaches
- 43 Rankings**  
Who is on top as the season gets underway?
- 44 Event Listings**  
Up and coming tournaments

# first word



Whatever you may think of Boris Johnson, his swift turn of phrase, strange humour, and clumsy demeanour combined to put table tennis in the spotlight this summer as his amusing, eccentric and quintessentially British speech, following the Olympic Games handover ceremony, managed to highlight the origin of our sport and question the creativity of the French in the space of a few words.

"The French might look at a dining table and see an opportunity to eat. We looked at it and saw the opportunity to play whiff-waff. And I say to the Chinese, and I say to the world, ping-pong is coming home." For days following this speech I received phone call after phone call from journalists keen to clarify if Boris' words were

correct: "Is it true, does whiff-waff exist? Well yes, whiff-waff does exist; however, it wasn't quite the first version. So to set the history books straight and clarify the true origins of table tennis we got the lowdown from the ITTF's Curator Chuck Hoey, the world renowned authority on Table Tennis history (Page 14).

It is clear that as the host nation for the 2012 Games we have a lot to live up to on a comparatively tight budget; a budget that has got to work doubly as hard as Beijing's due to the magical word, 'legacy'. So following his Beijing experience we've got the views of Mathew Syed, a former Olympic competitor and current Olympic commentator, who was simply astonished by the level of detail and delivery the Chinese managed to

provide (Page 10). Looking forward to London 2012 Paul Rainford interviews the ETTA Performance Manager, Steen Hansen, who has some insightful and interesting views and aspirations for English Table Tennis' young talents (Page 20). With facility development and legacy in the limelight, Richard Eaton finds out more about the driving forces behind the ETTA's Premier Club of the Year (Page 17), and Jeremy Wilson focuses on not one but three prodigies from a single school in Derbyshire (Page 26). We also continue on with the league debate on our letters page (Page 15).

I hope you have a successful start to the season and please keep sending in your comments and letters.

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

## The highlights from our main contributors...

"The next Olympics in London 2012 will provide Europe with a formidable challenge" Matthew Syed Page 12 "Paul Drinkhall and Kelly Sibley England's top man and woman came close to qualification for Beijing but ultimately failed to make the grade" Paul Rainford Page 20 "A small village from Derbyshire had almost conquered an entire continent!" Jeremy Wilson Page 27 "One of the secrets of success has therefore been in co-ordinating multiple funding partners" Richard Eaton Page 17

# Straight Talk

**The new season in many leagues has started as well as events organised by the ETTA and I wish you an enjoyable and competitive season.**

We must never forget the work done by the many dedicated volunteers in setting up the leagues' 2008/9 programmes, as well as the voluntary technical officials and staff involved in the large competition programme managed by the ETTA, without their efforts and dedication Table Tennis would not be able to operate.

We are all very proud of the fantastic success by the GB/GBP teams in Beijing and we can see how difficult it will be for Table Tennis in London 2012 with the strength and depth of China.

Most of the sports who have delivered medals have had elite funding for at least three Olympic cycles, our funding from UK Sport started three years ago and it is clear to our partners that significant progress has been made. However, London 2012 is not just about the two weeks in August but about a legacy for sport, and I am sure the results from Beijing will give our sport opportunities that have never existed before.

#### **Table Tennis at school**

The 2008/9 season brings new opportunities for table tennis throughout England. Through a Government funded initiative 225 competition managers have been appointed to work in School Sport Partnerships to assist in the development and delivery of eight sports including Table Tennis. The intention is that they will organise inter-school events over a sustained period in order that participants play on a regular basis.

The ETTA and ESTTA have jointly prepared resources to be used for intra-school competitions and inter-school competitions.

The new PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) was launched this year which expresses the Government's commitment to improve the quantity and quality of PE and sport undertaken by young people aged 5-19 in England. PESSYP builds on the success of the PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy for 5-16 year olds. It will see an investment of £755 million over three years. There are key roles for the infrastructure of specialist sports colleges, school sport partnerships, national governing bodies, county sports partnerships and other community providers to ensure that all 5-16 years olds have access to two hours of PE, and 16-19 year olds have three hours of sport outside of the curriculum. Collectively, this is referred to as the "Five Hour Offer".

#### **Table Tennis at university**

A document has been sent out to leagues and young licensed players, here is some information for all those attending or looking to attend universities and colleges in the near future to assist both young people and parents. Wherever you go Table Tennis will be played either at the university or in an association nearby, or maybe both. Table Tennis can be played whatever your level and wherever you choose to study. League, coaching and tournament play need not stop for you just because you leave home. Success in university events can lead to competition in European and World university tournaments. Take the universities first - about 60% of the 151 BUCS affiliated universities throughout the country have Table Tennis clubs and most of the halls of residence and

sports halls have tables.

The first place to go for information will be the university website which will lead you to the Union Administrator and the Athletic Union. The second will be the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) website ([www.bucs.org.uk](http://www.bucs.org.uk)) which describes what is happening nationally in way of team and individual events. BUCS have a Programme Manager for table tennis who can advise ([priya.samuel@bucs.org.uk](mailto:priya.samuel@bucs.org.uk)). BUSA also have a Sports Management Group with further contacts to advise ([mjpayne@talktalk.net](mailto:mjpayne@talktalk.net) and [mike.gr.smith@tesco.net](mailto:mike.gr.smith@tesco.net)). If you find there is no club at your university you could start one yourself by gathering names at the Fresher's Fair and working with the Student Union to set one up. It would be a valuable experience and look good on your CV.

If there is no university club then why not play in the local association. All the national associations have websites which will lead you to a club or association close to your university choice. Your own coach or club leader will have personal contacts that you can use as an introduction to these clubs.

#### **Funding planning for 2009 to 2013**

Our four years of awards from Sport England come to an end in March 2009 and following consultation with our members and with other partners, such as Sainsburys and Fred Perry, our submission to Sport England has to be in place before the end of October. Following an article put on the website by the ETTA CE Richard Yule and various other communications, we have received many positive and creative responses from the

membership, these will help to enhance our submission.

We are competing for funding with many other sports and our plan will include a number of initiatives to help increase participation, increase our coaching base, improve marketing and communications, programmes to keep people in our sport, expand our base of elite and potential elite players, club accreditation/development/facilities, programmes to increase participation by women, ethnic minorities and those with disabilities, development of Table Tennis in the workplace, an outdoor table initiative, a competition programme for all and proposals on governance and organisational structures to help support these programmes for now and in the future. We have already submitted an application as one of the selected sports for the key "Playground to Podium" project. Details of any awards made will be advised during December and you can be assured that we are working with our partners at every level to ensure that our submission not only meets the needs of our sport, but that of our funding partners.

The plan submissions to UK Sport for the British Elite Programme are also well under way and reviews are taking place at this time to assist in the planning process and meet the criteria of the Mission 2012 programme. I will keep you updated on any developments and thank you for your support. Keep in touch and I welcome your requests to visit your clubs, leagues, counties and regions to discuss any aspects of our great sport.



Alex Murdoch - ETTA Chairman

**London 2012 is not just about the two weeks in August but about a legacy for sport**

# Headlines

The latest stories from the Table Tennis World

## BOOST FOR WATFORD JETS TTC

Oriental restaurant Pin Wei is giving table tennis a boost by sponsoring the Watford Jets Table Tennis Club. The restaurant has given £400 to the club which will go towards providing branded table tennis shirts for the 75 club members. The club, which is based at the Queens' School specialist sports and science college in Aldenham Road, Watford, had been seeking sponsorship for some time. It runs teams in the Watford Table Tennis League as well as regular coaching sessions for adults and juniors. Yau-Min Choy, owner of Pin Wei, said: "I am delighted that we can work in partnership with Watford Jets Table Tennis Club to support local table tennis in this way. Local sport is such an important part of any community and it's essential it continues to get the support it deserves, particularly with such a focus now on London 2012." Club chairman Stuart Seaholme said: "Pin Wei is giving Watford Jets Table Tennis Club a great boost. Grass roots table tennis really does need the help of local businesses, such as Pin Wei, to encourage more people, of all abilities and ages, into this exciting and fast paced sport."



Rob Sinclair, Wolfie Cymbler, Laurie Landry

## OMEGA, 50 YEARS ON

Fifty years ago, 1957-58 a handful of players led by initiator, Wolfie Cymbler, today the longest serving club secretary in the history of the Willesden League, united together and decided to form a table tennis club, to be entered into the then mighty Willesden & District Table Tennis League. This club would come to be known as Omega.

On June 7th the club's historic 50 year anniversary was celebrated, and along with it Wolfgang Cymbler was honoured for his devoted service to the sport of table tennis by being awarded the Maurice Goldstein certificate.

**The club in brief:** Omega as a club grew rapidly, extending their entry to two teams. Initial results proved encouraging, becoming runners-up to Ridgeway in the first division. Further success followed over

the next few years, the arrival of Michael and David Creamer (who later represented England) along with a host of other top players heralded a prosperous era, with Omega winning the prestigious Premier League Championship for the first time in 1960/61. A year later Omega retained the championship, adding the Ascot, Jubilee and Rutherford Cups.

As the club has grown so has their list of premises, going from pubs to church halls before resting in their current premises at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

50 years on and the club is still going strong, remaining League Champions for six consecutive years, whilst further successes, claiming the Ascot, Silver Jubilee and Rutherford Cups, in a five in a row extravaganza between 2002/03 – 2007/08.

## ASIA-EUROPE ALL STARS SERIES



(ATTU) and European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) during the Olympic Games came to a five-year agreement to jointly sanction the "Asia-Europe All Stars Series," a new yearly series consisting of two tournaments, one to be held in the People's Republic of China and the other in a European country to be selected. The agreement was signed in Beijing by ATTU President LI Furong and ETTU President Stefano BOSI. Also attending the signature's ceremony were ATTU Secretary General Tony YUE and ETTU Vice President Jean-Francois KAHN.

"As president of the ATTU, I felt very happy that a cooperative agreement with ETTU was reached today", ATTU President LI Furong stated. "With the joint effort of our two parties, the table tennis fans worldwide will be able to enjoy an extremely high-level contest between Asian and European all stars. The

players from Asia and Europe are the world leading force of our sport, so the challenge between the two continental teams formed by the best players of the world will be undoubtedly exciting and thrilling".

Each "Asia-Europe All Stars Series" event shall be a two-day team competition between the Asian and the European all star team. Each team competition shall consist of five singles matches plus one doubles match.

The winner of the Series shall be determined by combining the result of both events. If the score of the Series is tied at six to six, then an additional singles match shall be played by the one selected player from each team. Each event's prize money will be 152.000€ and gradually increase up to 180.000€ in 2013.

The date of the events in each calendar year (starting from 2009) shall be jointly determined

by end of the previous year. In principle, the Asian event will take place in June, the European event in November, before or after an ITTF Pro-Tour event.

"We're aware of Asia's leading position in the sport nowadays. Our goal is to create more and more competition that helps to close the gap between Europe and Asia year after year. Both continents need it, and that's the reason why we decided to join efforts in such an ambitious project", Stefano BOSI said.

"We all agreed that table tennis needs more exposure on TV. Besides the technical exchanges, this newly initiated project is a great marketing effort, which we hope would help to attract more youth into our sport", ATTU President Li Furong said.

## GORILLAZ - DAMON'S TT BRIBE

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

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

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

Albarn also revealed that he had recently played with some of Britain's up and coming table tennis talent.

The former Blur frontman, who has helped create artwork for the BBC's coverage of this year's Games, said they had some "fantastic players".

Story courtesy Gigwise.com





Sergeant Mark Donoghue

## TABLE TENNIS ON THE FRONT LINE

Our sport stretches far and wide across the corners of the globe but it still amazes me when I find table tennis tables in some of the most unusual and harshest of conditions. As a serving member of the Armed Forces you get to see parts of the world that most people don't or quite often wouldn't want to see. As I write this I'm on my latest Out of Area Operation (OOA); four months living and working in Iraq at the Basrah Contingency Operating Base (COB) where temperatures are often hitting 50+ degrees. With fortified defences to withstand the rocket attacks I would describe living and working conditions as basic but one of the first things I noticed on my arrival in the corner of one of the rest rooms was a table tennis table. Most of the time it is impossible to even

get on it, with people always on there having a game and a laugh with others watching. When working in such conditions what better way could there be at the end of the day to de-stress the body. Being in the military you develop a work hard and play hard ethos. When we are away on Operations work can be full on, seven days a week, working 15 hours a day but you still make time for a bit of sport before the end of the day. Sport isn't just a way of keeping fit, in the military it is used to bond you together as a team and to respect and trust each other. Most of the places I've been to with the RAF you will always find a table. You'll find them in rest rooms where the aircraft technicians are working hard on servicing and repairing fast jets

or any of the gymnasiums of a typical RAF Unit. On a previous OOA to the Falkland Island I even took one of the RAF's table tennis robots with me and did some coaching while I was there. Most of the people that use the table tennis facilities are of a basic level but quite often the competitiveness is fierce and often evolves them in to joining local leagues. For RAF servicemen and women the RAF table Tennis Association holds regular tournaments and training sessions which cater for all standards from absolute beginner up to the more competitive RAF Team players. Recent tours for the RAF Table Tennis Team have included trips to China, Australia and the USA. We have been given opportunities that people of our standard would never normally see, the highlight of which for me was to practice with former World and Olympic doubles champion Wang Tao when

touring China. As a military team we were hosted magnificently by the Peoples Liberation Army and were the first Single Service Sporting Team ever to tour China. Having being in the RAF for the last 22 years it's a lot more than just a job, it's a way of life that has opened so many doors and opportunities that I will never forget. By the time you read this I will already be back in the UK ready for the start of a new season. Of course I'll be a bit rusty to start but after a full summer off you start again with a bit of renewed enthusiasm. For any of the younger table tennis players interested in a career in the RAF visit your local Armed Forces Careers Office or if you see me at a tournament or National League match come and have a chat, you never know where you will be this time next year! Sergeant Mark Donoghue Royal Air Force

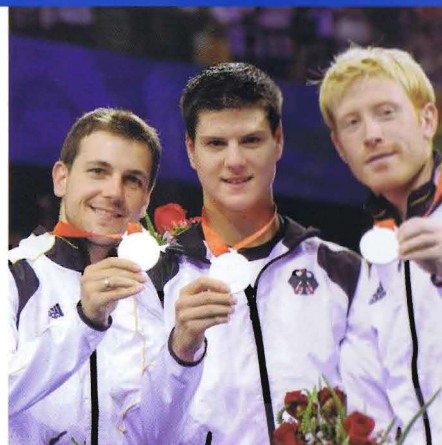
# the Beijing Olympics 08

From a table tennis perspective the Games were a magnificent platform for the sport to display itself to the world.

The Olympics in Beijing can justifiably be described as one of the best Games ever. The venues were architecturally magnificent, the volunteers consistently assiduous and the sport on display was, at times, breathtaking. From a table tennis perspective the Games were a magnificent platform for the sport to display itself to the world. The venue was regularly at capacity, the atmosphere – particularly when China were in action – electric, and the media was pleasingly willing to provide space to explore China's historical obsession with the sport.

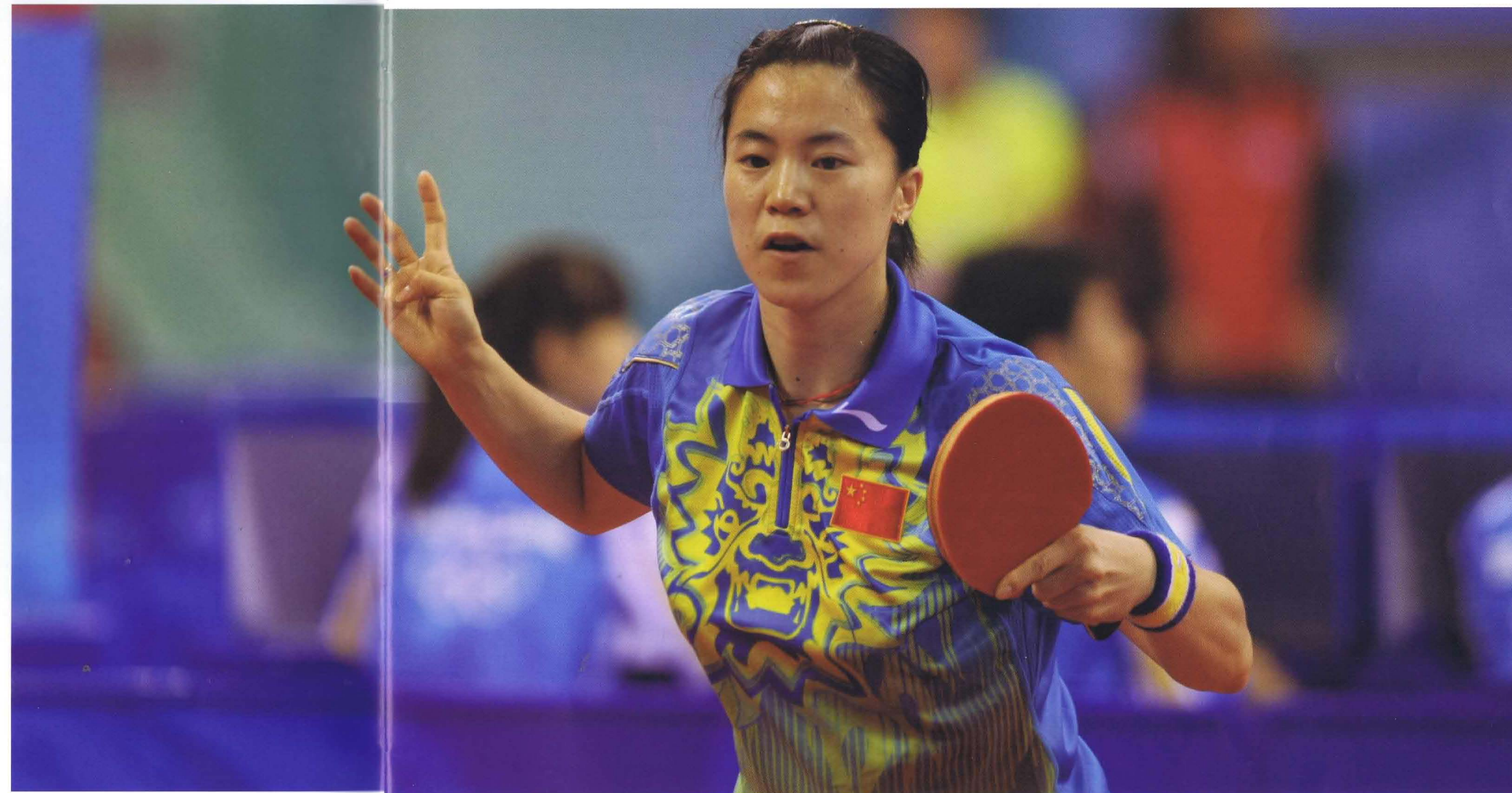
The major disappointment, however, was the one-sidedness of the events. China won gold in the men's and women's team events (every match by the scoreline 3-0) as well as gold, silver and bronze in the men's and women's singles. The gap between China and the rest of the world is probably larger than at any time since the early 1980s, possibly since the Cultural Revolution.

The extraordinary domination of China at the Olympics robbed the table tennis events of the drama and tension that have characterised previous Games. The only occasion when China seemed threatened was during the men's singles semi-final when Jorgen Persson played a match of sublime brilliance to scare Wang Hao. Although the Chinese player came through 4-1 there were a number of pivotal moments in the opening two games that might have changed the outcome. Persson's performance was, in many ways, as remarkable as that of Jan-Ove Waldner four years earlier. Persson had retired from table



tennis to coach in Qatar, then decided to make a come back, but had looked slow and out of sorts in recent months. He was anything but spectacular in the team event, but then seemed to catch on fire in the opening rounds of the singles. His quarter-final victory over fellow veteran Zoran Primorac was magnificent but it was his drama-filled and epic defeat of Vladimir Samsonov in the round of 16 that was, for many, the match of the tournament. It goes to show that there is a special alchemy at the Olympics that can create the most improbable of storylines.

But Persson's brilliance served, in many ways, to highlight the total lack of a credible challenge from the younger generation of Europeans. Michael Maze was seriously ber ept of attacking intensity in his defeat to Primorac and Timo Boll's limp capitulation to Oh Sang Eun was one of the most dispiriting performances by a leading European for some time. None of the other Europeans put up so much as a fight. Yet Europe's failure was China's triumph. The



The gap between China and the rest of the world is probably larger than at any time since the early 1980s, possibly since the Cultural Revolution.

strength in depth of the men's team has enabled Liu Guoliang, the China coach, to foster internal competition for team places that has created an awesome momentum in the team dynamic. Ma Lin was in stunning form to defeat compatriot Wang Hao in the men's singles final, the level of play many notches above that of the rest of the world. It was a

## "The only occasion when **China** seemed **threatened** was during the **men's singles semi-final**"

fitting and emotional victory for Ma following heartbreak in Athens (where he lost to Waldner) and three defeats in the world singles final, most recently when he led Wang Liqin 3-1 and 7-3 in Zagreb.

With Wang Liqin now 30 it would seem highly improbable that he will attain his lifetime ambition of winning a gold medal in the men's singles – a serious omission from his otherwise glowing CV. If, as expected, he retires in the

coming months he will do so as the greatest Chinese player since Guo. Had it not been for his undeniable psychological frailties on the big occasion, he could have become the most successful Chinese player ever.

How much Ma still has left in the tank is an open question. Four times a winner of the World Cup, he is likely to seek an elusive and precious world championship title. For the vastly talented Wang Hao, who now has

successive silver medals at the Olympics following his shock defeat to Ryu Seung Min in Athens four years ago, it is highly likely that he will be in hot pursuit of major titles in the coming years.

The next Olympics in London in 2012 will provide Europe with a formidable challenge merely to threaten China for top honours in the table tennis. For the young English players, it is a sobering thought that, to win gold, they will have to raise their games to the vertiginous levels of Wang and Ma in the space of 40-something months. Paul Drinkhall was in China to witness the men he is going to be up against in London. One hopes he has been inspired rather than cowed.



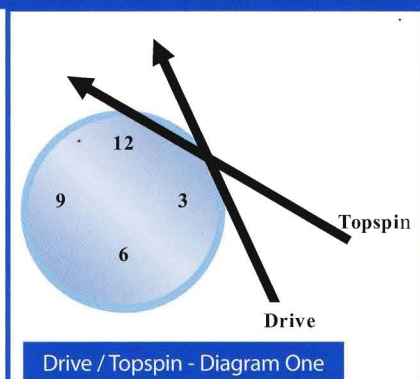
# forehand attack

The forehand is generally regarded as the most important stroke for an attacking player. This shot will produce the most power, as well as allowing the player to cover a large area of the table.

The basis for the forehand attack is to first develop a strong forehand drive technique. From this we can develop the stroke further into a topspin stroke, which is the stroke favoured by the majority of attacking players, producing vast power, speed and spin when played. The advantages of the topspin is that it can be used successfully against attacking and defensive players, played close or away from the table, and gives the player the option of varying the speed and amount of topspin they need to use, giving the attacking player many options to choose from.

The main difference between the drive and the topspin is the contact on the ball. This diagram shows the difference between the two contact points. By picturing the ball as a clock face, we can comprehend how changing the bat angle changes the amount of spin. (Diagram 1)

**Here are some of the key coaching points for the forehand drive and topspin:**



## FOREHAND DRIVE

Please refer to pictures 1-4 below left:

### Ready Position

1. Feet shoulder width apart.
2. Knees bent and leaning slightly forward.
3. Left foot slightly forward.
4. Bat in front of the body.

### Backswing

1. Rotate the body back and down at the right waist, hips and shoulders.
2. Left knee angled towards the floor, right knee well bent.
3. Bat head and arm approaching the floor.

4. Weight shifts to back foot.
5. Wrist is angled back.

### Forward Movement

1. Right hips, waist and shoulders rotate forward.
2. Elbow angle closes quickly.
3. Weight transfer on to the front foot.
4. Contact the top of the ball.

### Follow Through

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

## FOREHAND TOPSPIN

This is a development of the forehand drive, and involves changing the bat angle to produce a brushing action, as shown in the first diagram. Please refer to picture 5-8 below right:

### Preparation

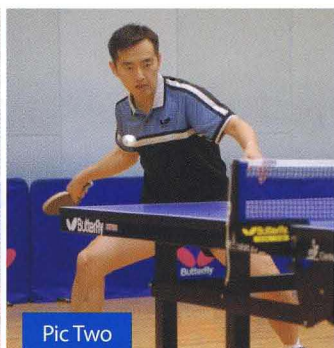
1. Left foot is slightly forward.

### Backswing

1. Hips, waist and shoulders rotate the weight onto the right leg
2. Arm moves back lower than the height of the ball.

### Ready Position

1. Bat moves upwards as legs straighten and hips, waist and shoulders unwind.
2. Forearm accelerates and bat brushes the ball soon after peak bounce



**Ready Position**

1. Weight transfers from right to left leg.
2. The arm follows through with a 90° angle at elbow and 90° angle between upper arm and body.

To help you develop your forehand attack, here are some exercises you can use. Please refer to diagram 2.

**Regular Footwork**

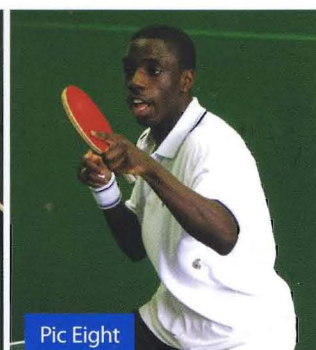
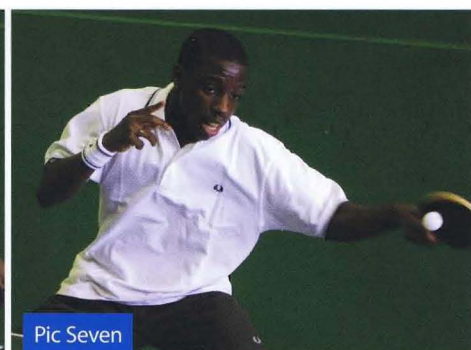
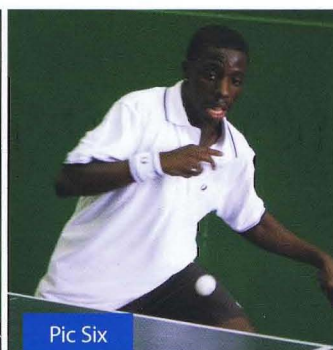
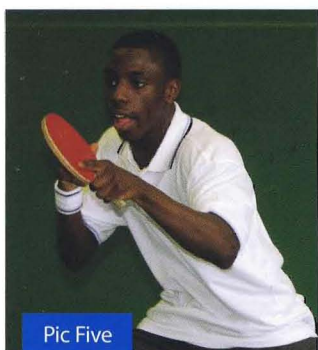
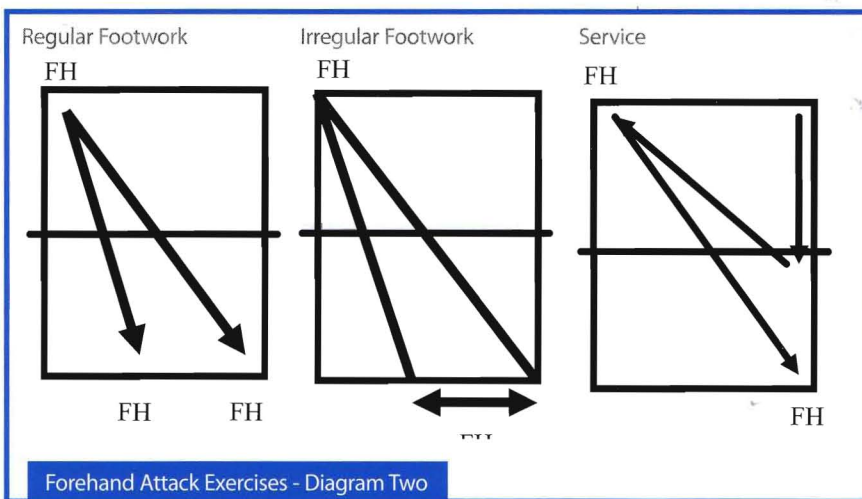
1. This can be used with the forehand drive and the topspin.
2. Start at a speed where each player is getting through the exercise whilst maintaining good technique.
3. To make it hard, the players can increase the speed they play or you can increase the distance between the points.

**Irregular Footwork**

1. The person controlling the ball can play anywhere between the two lines shown.
2. Start the exercise slightly slower to get consistency and allow the player who is moving to develop their anticipation.
3. Widen the area from 1/2 the table to 2/3 of the table to increase difficulty.
4. Again, this exercise can be used for the forehand drive and topspin.

**Service**

1. Short serve to the forehand.
2. Forehand push to wide forehand.
3. Forehand topspin across to wide forehand.
4. Free play.
5. Only use the topspin with this exercise as they will be playing their shot against backspin.
6. To increase difficulty, the receiver could play the return anywhere in the forehand half of the table.



# Boris Johnson and the Whiff-Waff Gaffe

**The Facts as revealed by the Curator of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Museum in Switzerland**

**Much has been written of London Mayor Boris Johnson's claims about Whiff-Waff, but all of these comments, including the inevitable rebuttals and follow-up debate, have one thing in common: they forgot to check the FACTS!**

**T**he ITTF Museum in Lausanne has all the facts, and also originals of the games. The Museum is especially strong in the earliest years of the game, its birth and evolution: [www.ittf.com/museum](http://www.ittf.com/museum)

Curator Chuck Hoey summarizes the facts, along with illustrations of the actual evidence:

Whiff-Waff, made by Slazenger & Sons, was registered as "a new game" on 31 December 1900, Trademark number 235,131, as shown above. No, Mayor Johnson, it was not nearly the first.

Ping-Pong was trademarked (Number.233, 177) on 20 Sept. 1900 by Hamley Brothers, who became "jointly concerned" with Jaques, as the game was renamed first to "Gossima or Ping-Pong", then "Ping-Pong or Gossima", and then just "Ping-Pong".

The name Ping Pong was coined by the sound of the celluloid ball bouncing off the sheepskin or parchment drum-style rackets.

Jaques' claim to be the first is based on their earlier attempt, named Gossima, registered on 16 July 1891, number 157, 615.

This game featured the familiar drum rackets borrowed from the shuttlecock game, a net 30cm high, and a 50mm cork ball wrapped in cotton webbing. Hardly a formula for success, with such a

high net, but Jaques continued advertising the game during the 1890s.

On 12 August 1890, nearly a year before Gossima, Emma Barker (London) patented a table net fixture and rackets with straps for the hands, describing the rules of the game as identical to lawn tennis. In her American patent, number 454, 700, filed 21 Jan. 1891, Emma included a sketch of a table laid out like a lawn tennis court, along with strapped bats.

An 1891 advertisement in the USA by Spalding proves the game was put into production, under the name Indoor Tennis, with the strapped rackets.

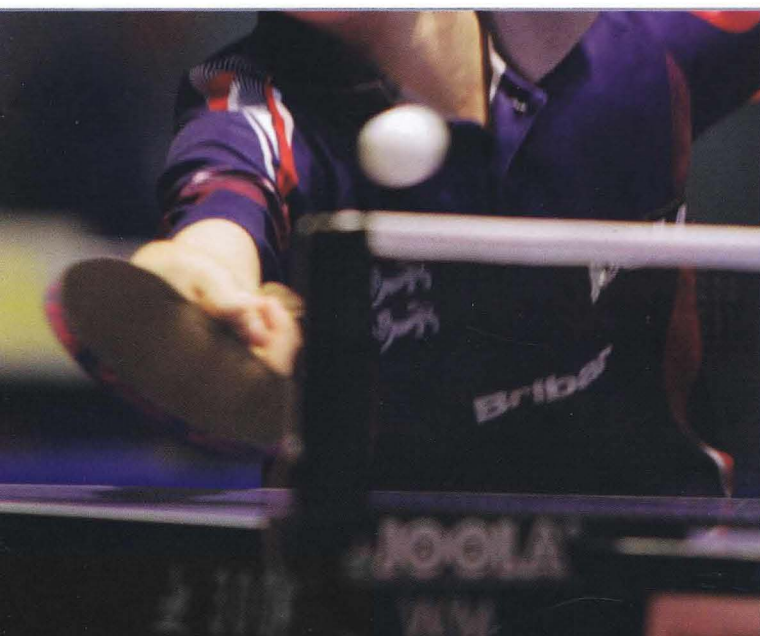
But the crown jewel of Table Tennis history is the very first game, made by David Foster of England in 1890. Only one example is known to have survived, now featured in the ITTF Museum. Strung rackets were used, with side nets designed to catch the cloth-covered rubber balls.

We cannot expect the Mayor to be an expert on this subject, but the evidence is convincing – Whiff-Waff was not the first. Only a small point, as in lively style he really captured the essence of British ingenuity in adapting lawn tennis to the dining table, and for having invented many other sports.

# Letters

The Editor

Comments from the first word in the July issue – don't worry if you missed it, just log on to <http://englishtabletennis.blogspot.com/> to get the full article.



## POLL

**Do you prefer two, three or even four player teams?**

**Two – 38%**

**Three – 50%**

**Four – 12%**

## CRUCIAL CHANGES

I am secretary of the Crawley/Horsham League and secretary of the Horsham club. I was so interested to read the leading article in TT News (July). We have just passed some crucial changes in our league despite the resistance of the 'hut' players. The article succinctly sums up the views of the progressive element of our committee.

We have brought in a number of changes as follows:  
Strict enforcement of prompt starts

### Division One:

- Central venue played on Wednesday each week
- Four a-side playing three games per player
- We have implemented rule changes to enable us to invite clubs from outside our catchment

### Divisions Two – Four:

- No refreshment break
- Encouragement of clubs to play matches on two tables where possible
- Junior teams (two players under 17 on 01 September) will play all matches at home (unless the other team is also 'junior').

Horsham and Crawley Community clubs (16 out of 36 teams) play in schools and provide a link for juniors. These

clubs are in favour of these changes.

Alan Shipley - Crawley

### JUNIOR LEAGUE QUESTION

You mention league matches finishing after 10.30 p.m. Why not introduce junior leagues with two-person teams playing four singles and a doubles, maybe best of three games?

Keith F - Surrey

### SIMILAR PROCESS

I too came through a similar process as describe in the July first word. It has been quite a journey through various systems and leagues.

My passion for the sport came through school teachers and friends that started playing at the same time. The venues were ropey at the best of times, but always enjoyable. However, today's youth have far higher expectations than I did at that age.

**Time for change?** Always...

But the changes should be driven from those that don't yet play, and are looking for something entertaining and purposeful. Those of us still playing after many years are less likely to accommodate change than the younger generation. We should be asking what the less sporty youngsters are looking for, and what their expectations are.

While this does not answer any questions posed, it is my view that to develop and sustain this wonderful activity into a more

attractive sport for today's generation, more consideration should be given to those that will succeed us.

### Are we asking the right people to comment?

My own activities within the development of this sport may not be the most dedicated or full-time, but I do look at how I and my fellow coaches and volunteers can offer more and better opportunities for those either disaffected or out of touch with sport. That much is still important.

Dale Coles

### TWO A-SIDE?

Interesting point about two a-side leagues - we have very successfully run three two a-side divisions along with our now four three a-side divisions. In our leagues we see junior after junior as they get better moving into the three a-side for the better competition. Seems that the point really is two a-side is much better for less committed players but as a player becomes more committed there is no real problem with three a-side. I have to admit we are a league virtually devoid of defenders - most three a-side matches finish just before 10pm with the shorter 11 up format. This is a major improvement the 11 up game has brought us.

Malcolm Macfarlane

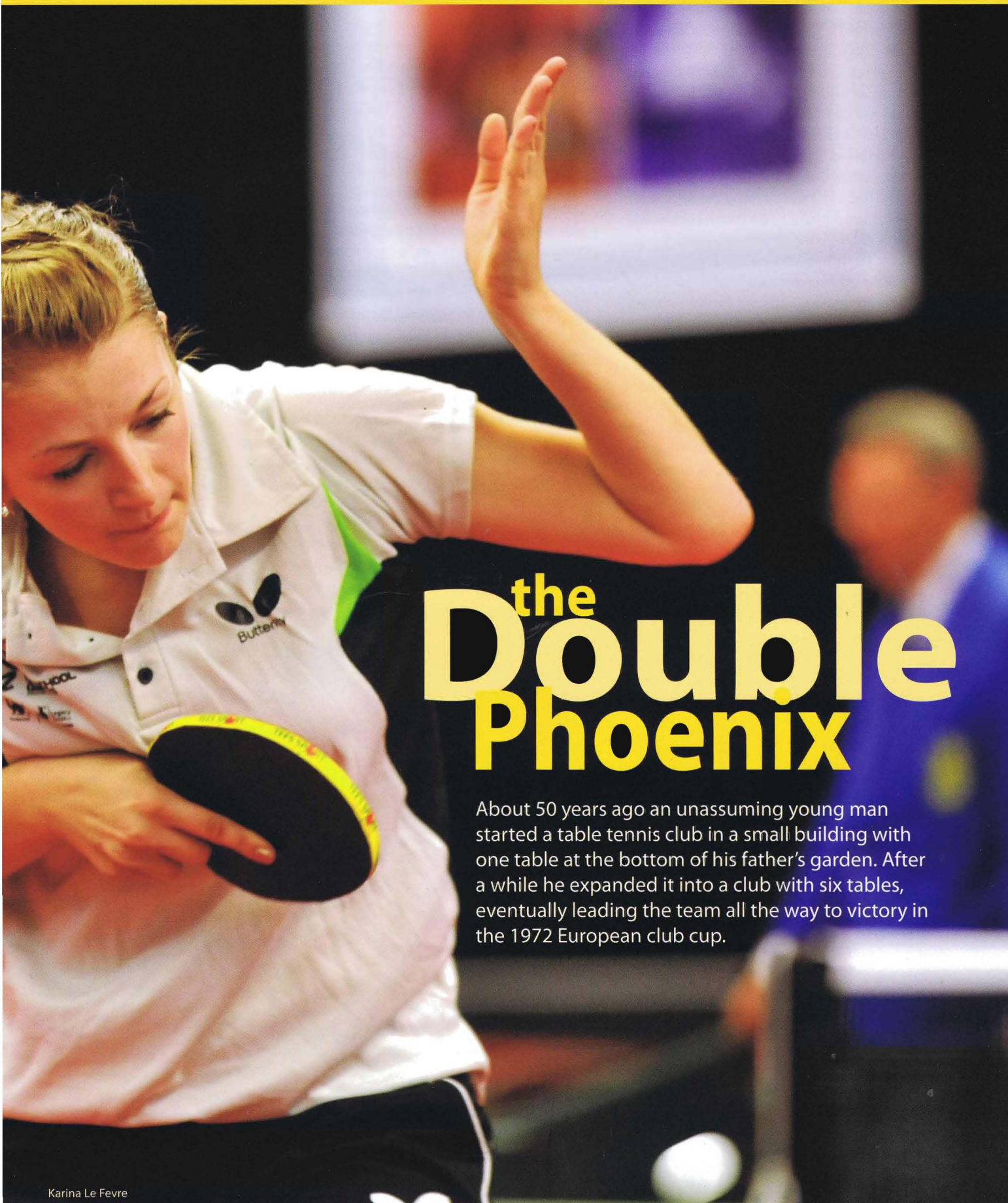
visit



**www.etta.co.uk**  
FOR THE LATEST TABLE TENNIS ACTION STRAIGHT TO YOU



download entry forms • find out grand prix results • get your ranking/rating position • regular news updates • find out the national teams progress • get grand prix player points • learn all the rules and regulations • complete calendar of events • venue details and information • find out the competition draws • information on becoming a coach • county results and tables • get the chairman's views • learn about the structure of the etta • find out about the history of table tennis • find the latest job vacancies • purchase merchandise online • and a whole lot more



# the Double Phoenix

About 50 years ago an unassuming young man started a table tennis club in a small building with one table at the bottom of his father's garden. After a while he expanded it into a club with six tables, eventually leading the team all the way to victory in the 1972 European club cup.

Karina Le Fevre

# “Little compares with the exhilaration of the **quick, slick, sleight-of-hand** sport once derided as a parlour game”

It is an improbable tale with a hint of legend and now it has a modern sequel, the same man and the same club achieving new and in some ways even more admirable successes.

He and it have created a multi-purpose, multi-layered, cleverly integrated centre, making it again this country's most prominent club – and, very helpfully, it has happened near to an area which now contains some of England's greatest deprivation.

The club is of course Ormesby, and the man Alan Ransome OBE. During the long drawn out, up-and-down course of what a headline writer might call a double phoenix, each made the other different from what they were.

Named after a small town on the edge of Middlesbrough, a steel city with a golden heart lying between spectacular coastline and romantic countryside, Ormesby became the England's most notable elite club in the seventies.

Now it caters not only for every level of play but for the whole community in wider ways. And that Ormesby has won the ETTA's National Premier Club of the Year award at excellence level 2007/8.

A shy sport for shy people, Howard Jacobson once called table tennis, hinting that within a little-vaunted pastime and unconsidered people there can lie unsuspected delights.

Little compares with the exhilaration of the quick, slick, sleight-of-hand sport once derided as a parlour game; and although one would not describe Ransome as shy, neither would people have guessed that within the focused, patient lad there would emerge such an unusual combination of visionary ideas, practical solutions, and superbly tenacious negotiating skills.

Not only did Ransome become a fine player and an excellent coach, but through table tennis he developed into the most knowledgeable and capable administrator, and one of its best known figures.

In return Ransome helped demonstrate how an unfairly marginalised sport can survive this worrying era of global capitalism, in which hugely competitive markets cause new products to spring virulently up and familiar things to choke and die.

Ransome spotted Ormesby's big opportunity – one for which he had been looking for more than 30 years - when a school one mile down the road from the original club was closed and designated by Middlesbrough Borough Council for redevelopment as a conference centre.

On the same site was a sports hall, but the local recreation department already had enough sports centres, and so, after some astute negotiating, the facility was given to Ormesby Table Tennis Club on a 125-year lease - for £1! The proviso was that it be brought up to the standard of the rest of the site. “When we took it over initially it was in a terrible state,” Ransome said. “It had been empty for months, the roof leaked, there was no electricity, the bulbs didn't work, all sorts of things.”

And so a grant of £7,500 for renovations was obtained from the council's club community project, and, with help from

club members who painted the building, the premises were painstakingly brought up to standard.

It was a great start, but much better was to follow – £500,000 of funding via the ETTA and from Sport England's community club development programme, followed by £170,000 from the government's North East development agency. Further funds of £75,000 came from the council when the whole property became a teaching and learning centre.

One of the secrets of success has therefore been in co-ordinating multiple funding partners. These are sometimes seen as socialistic devices - and yet without someone with entrepreneurial skills, the type of character famed for accelerating progress in the early days of industrial capitalism, they would never have been negotiated and co-ordinated.

Ormesby is thus an example of why some political analysts claim modern times brings an end to ideology. Both enterprise and social conscience were needed for the club



Danny Reed



to re-invent itself and progress.

The new premises contains a hall with ten tables and special lighting, including halogen lights for matches. The wooden floor had always been perfect; now an excellent playing area is supplemented by a lounge, a gym, a canteen, a kitchen and modern changing rooms. Add car parking facilities and the decaying wreck has been turned into a table tennis player's paradise.

With further land allocated and plans for an extension and a hall of 15 to 20 more tables, bringing the total to 30 or 35, the aim is to double the current membership of 120.

“We try to cater for the whole community, and everyone is welcome”, Ransome says. A major ingredient in this is the club's disability programme, which thanks greatly to Chris Rayner, who has recovered from a very serious illness, often fills the hall.

A family programme is also going well, with a Saturday morning club for kids being a big success, and the over 50s and women's programmes, which enable the hall to be used more during the day, are developing too.

Costs for playing have been kept to a minimum, which in the current economic climate gives the sport an advantage. “Half of our wards are in the lowest 7% of the country,” says Middlesbrough borough councillor Louise Morris.

“Different groups come down to play here. With the growth in (funding) partnerships the club has made things actually happen. They have worked wonders with the venue.”

But community goals sit alongside undiminished high ambition. This is the club which advertises itself that any kid can come in off the street and if he or she has the talent, will find the wherewithal within this building to climb every rung up to the international level.

It puts on tournaments. Its facilities are used for the

## “Different groups **come down** to play here. With the growth in (funding) **partnerships the club** has made things actually happen...”

Middlesbrough closed, for the summer league closed, and for weekend events. It is also used by the ETTA for British League matches and regional trials, as well as being the table tennis centre for the North East.

The elite vision which produced the great Denis Neale, who captured six national titles and a dozen accolades as a prankster, as well as other notable internationals like Nicky Jarvis, a member of England's 1978 European silver medal-winning team, and Carole Moore, one of the most colourful and hard-hitting English national and Commonwealth champions of all, still remains.

Three nights a week the top squad meets, with nine tables, for coaching and training. England's current number one Paul Drinkhall recently spent formative years at the club, and so did Danny Reed, another teenage England international. Both retain membership.

But it is the unsung heroes and heroines that the club could least survive without. Survival without volunteers is impossible but in these days of many more distractions they are harder to come by, and those like Brenda Stephenson, who does everything from administration to catering, to running tournaments, is as rare as twilight dawn.

Ransome himself has been pressed into many different roles, among them that of coach, public relations officer, chief funding negotiator, and administration overseer. But he has his own business to maintain and cannot go on forever.

And so with the help of the ETTA club links funding via Sport England, Tees Valley Sport and other local partners, a full-time professional was installed in September. He is Steve Brunskill who began a new dual role of coach/manager, and who first became involved with Ormesby 33 years ago as a lad. His aim is to get the facilities used more often during the day, especially by disability and women's groups, and to encourage youngsters to take up table tennis at school, earning opportunities to persuade them to join the club later on.

Behind this appointment lies a new vision – a professional infrastructure, a membership of 300 which would be one of the largest ever, and a future in which table tennis no longer just survives but announces itself as an expanding, socially diverse, and unexpectedly rewarding sport. Shy or not.

# 2012

**Usain Bolt showboating yet still breaking the 100 metres world record and winning by a mile... Rebecca Adlington demolishing the opposition in the pool in the 800 metres freestyle... ah, golden moments indeed.**

But those Beijing memories are starting to fade by now as the focus switches to London 2012. Quite apart from the worries about how on earth we'll cobble together enough fireworks to match this year's opening ceremony, there are questions to be answered about how well the British team can perform across the board, winning medals in a range of sports rather than just our 'bankers' of cycling, sailing and equestrian. Steen Hansen, the ETTA's Performance Manager, is under pressure to make sure that English table tennis players form part of that British Olympic team in four years' time. "2012 is absolutely paramount," says Hansen. "We need to produce something. People inevitably talk about medals but, realistically, a quarter-final placing would be fantastic." Paul Drinkhall and Kelly Sibley, England's top man and woman player respectively, came close to qualification for Beijing but ultimately failed to make the grade - Drinkhall hardly helped by the fact that he had to borrow a bat to play with at the Budapest qualifying tournament after his own was deemed illegal on account of the combined thickness of the sponge and rubber. Hansen is philosophical about his charges' failure to qualify for Beijing, pointing out that the English squad only lost to one player ranked below them in all the qualifying matches.

Notwithstanding the no-show in Beijing, Hansen sounds cautiously pleased with the England squad's progress in recent months. "We have taken some big steps forward, though with the facilities we now have in Sheffield we would expect that." Certainly, the medal haul at the European Youth Championships in Italy in June - four golds, two silver and four bronze, including gold in the junior boys' singles for Drinkhall - suggests that Hansen and his team must be doing something right.

Ironically, it is the fact that England's hopes are resting on the promise of youth that presents some problems for Hansen. "Paul and Darius are very, very young. We essentially have two 18-year-olds carrying the hopes of a nation. It is hard for them because they have no real role models unlike, say, the young German players who have Timo Boll." After the Preat/Syed era, says Hansen, there was such a fallow period for English table tennis at the elite level for such a long time. He can't really explain it. "If it was a lack of finances then that is fair enough but if it was down to a lack of structure then that's much worse."

Hansen was quite critical of both Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight following their disappointing showing on home soil at the Europe Youth Top 10 in January of this year. He said they both needed to start thinking and acting like professional athletes at all times. If they didn't, warned Hansen, they might want to start considering alternative career paths. He still thinks they need to mature. "They have to be 24-hours-a-day athletes - at the moment they don't have it."

Hansen believes that mental training is key to his squad's development into players who can seriously challenge the best of the best. "I think mental toughness represents 60-70 per cent of a top player's ability to compete. Players need to feel that pressure is a privilege, not a problem." At the moment he has access to the services of sports psychologist Jorn Ravnholt on an occasional basis. Ravnholt deals both directly with the players and through the coaches, though Hansen would like to see him used more. He says the players are starting to see the value of the mental training and is confident that it will prove fruitful in the long term.

On the women's side of things, Hansen is full of praise for the progress made by Kelly Sibley and Joanna Parker. "Kelly and Jo have been fantastic - the last six months have seen a big improvement in their games. They're being set daily goals and responding to them." However, he is all too aware that the problem with England's women is a lack of strength in depth. "There are a number of other girls on the scene who really need to prove to me that they have got what it takes," he says. "We need to start finding new players every year so that there is always competition within the group."

Hansen hopes that the work being done at grass roots level by the ETTA and others will ultimately increase the size of the talent pool. What is crucial, he says, is to improve links between the schools and the clubs. And, once they start playing seriously, more has to be done, he says, to maintain playing standards between training sessions. "With the under-12s' youth development squad, they come to the squad sessions, work hard, but then go home and don't follow things through so end up going back to square one." More good coaches are needed, he says.

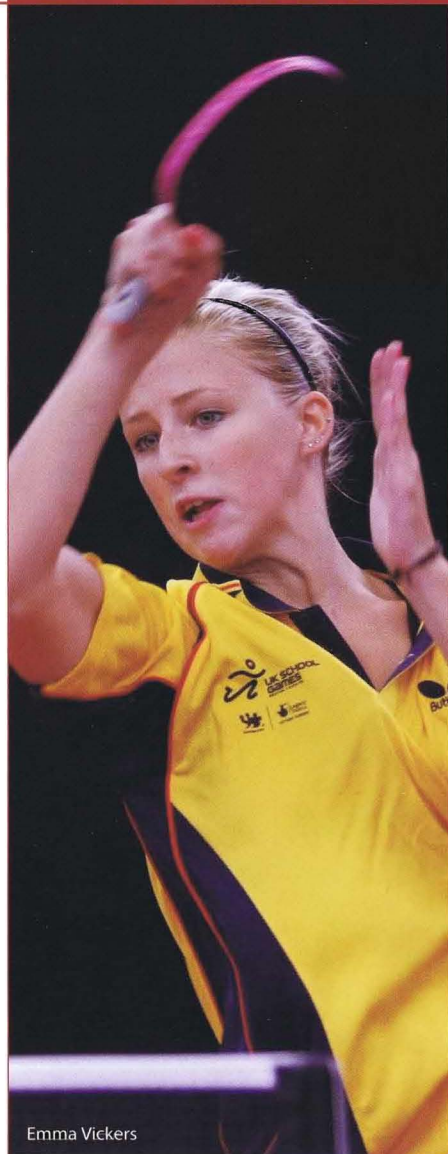
But, in the short term, Hansen has the Europeans and the Worlds in his sights. Any specific targets? "I never tell players that they 'have to win'. They can only try to do the best they can. I know that they will be proud to wear the England shirt."



## China - an Ocean of Talent

In Hansen's view, there was never any doubt that China would sweep the board at the Beijing Olympics. "They work harder than anyone else and are always extremely well prepared." The secret, he believes, is sheer strength in numbers - in terms of both players and coaches. "They have a ratio of one coach to three or four players maximum. They have a budget that is effectively without limit and a system that has been in place since the mid-50s." If particular players aren't quite making the grade, they can be cast aside, safe in the knowledge that there are thousands more where they came from in China's limitless talent pool. By contrast, says Hansen, the system here is forced to sometimes persist with players that coaches know will not ultimately make it, because the talent pool is so much more limited.

# Summer08



Emma Vickers

**Emma Vickers** led the Midlands team to a **similar** winning scoreline in the **final** of the **girls' team** event.

## THE UNDER 11, 12, 13, 14 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

This event was dominated by the diminutive Tin Tin Ho, walking away as a triple national champion (U11, 12, and 13). In both the Under 11s and the Under 12s Tin Tin did not drop a set on her way to victory, disposing of Maria Tsapsinos from Berkshire, who had reached the final by knocking out no 2 seed Emma Hoskin to take her first title, before beating Emma Torkington in the U12s final.

In the Under 13 Girls few would have bet against Emily Bates claiming another title, but Hampshire's Tressa Armitage had other ideas. In a superb first round performance Tressa took an astounding five set win over the favourite. She could not repeat her winning ways in the semi-final however, going down to Jessica Dawson of Cleveland. Meanwhile the already double champion Tin Tin Ho of Middlesex was fighting her way through the bottom half of the table to reach and win the final against Jessica Dawson to claim her third title.

In the Under 14 Girls Emily Bates of Lincolnshire added a second national singles title to her 2007/8 collection in a typically dominant performance; in the final she faced no 2 seed Lucy Davidson and controlled it all the way, winning in three straight sets.

In the Under 11 Boys it was Sam Mabey from Northampton who dominated the final against county colleague Miles Chan, winning in three straight sets.

The match of this event, however, was the semi-final between Sam Mabey and Roman Kelly (Derby). In a match of superb standard for players so young, Sam just outpointed a determined challenge from Roman, coming back from two sets to one down to win 11-7 in the fifth set.

In the Under 12 Boys, Igor Morais of Middlesex recovered from losing the first set to Scott Hollowood of South Yorkshire to take the next three sets and the gold medal.

In the Under 13 Boys event the no 2 seed, effectively the no 1 seed owing to the absence of Zac Zilesnik due to injury, Sam Walker was in domineering form dropping only one set in an event which saw many close clashes in the

earlier rounds.

In the final the unlucky Scott Hollowood of South Yorkshire had to settle for his second silver medal of the day. Sam was on fire in the final winning all three sets very comfortably. Lewis Gray of Kent produced a set of superb performances on his way to the Under 14 Boys title. In the final the no 3 seed dominated, winning in three straight sets over Reece Tan from Essex. The key match in his run to the title was his semi-final defeat of no 1 seed Ping Ho of Middlesex.

## ENGLISH BOYS DOMINATE IN ITALY

The ETTA squad returned home victorious from the European Youth Championships in Italy, in what has been their most successful Championships to date they gained their highest ever medal tally, ten, as well as Paul Drinkhall setting a record of his own, being undefeated throughout the whole tournament. 4 golds, 2 silvers and 4 bronze medals. The medal haul was courtesy of strong junior and cadet boys' sides with neither of the girls' sides troubling those at the top, however, both of the young teams improved their rankings from last year, proving that the new Sheffield Performance Centre is benefiting all.

**Golds** - Paul Drinkhall (Junior Boys' Singles) Gavin Evans (Cadet Boys' Singles)

Paul Drinkhall/Darius Knight (Junior Boys' Doubles) Paul Drinkhall/Yekaterina Kolodyazhnaya (Rus) (Junior Mixed Doubles)

**Silvers** - Gavin Evans, Liam Pitchford, Sean Cullen and Daniel Lowe (Cadet Boys' Team) Gavin Evans/Cedric Nuytinck (Bel) (Cadet Boys' Doubles)

**Bronzes** - Darius Knight (Junior Boys' Singles) Liam Pitchford (Cadet Boys' Singles) Darius Knight/Amelie Solja (Germany) (Junior Mixed Doubles) Gavin Evans/Petrissa Solja (Germany) (Cadet Mixed Doubles)

**The Teams - Cadet boys:** Gavin Evans, Liam Pitchford, Daniel Lowe and Sean Cullen

**Cadet girls** - Emily Bates, Lucy Davidson, Karina Le Fevre and Martha Travis

**Junior boys** - Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight, Damien Nicholls, Chris Doran and Mathew Ware

**Junior girls** - Mary Fuller, Natalie Slater

**Cadet Boys' Singles** - Ranked number one in Europe, Evans was odds on favourite to take the title and after an easy start with a bye and a walk over, he disposed of Cekic (MNE), Robinot (FRA), Fucec (HRV), Gauzy (FRA) and Soderlund (SWE) to mount the top step of the podium. Following a similar run of form to Evans, Phillips reached the semi-finals to claim a bronze medal. After a resilient first match, coming back from 2-0 down, Daniel Lowe could go no further, whilst Sean Cullen, who despite winning the first set, was outplayed by the Romanian Kanabe and failed to make it out of the first round.

**Cadet Boys' Doubles** - As in the singles, Evans led the way (teamed with Nuytinck), closely followed by Liam Pitchford who was teamed with Daniel Lowe. Evans made it all the way to the final for a silver medal, whilst Pitchford and Lowe went out in the last eight. Sean Cullen teamed with Costwouder (NED) went out at the hands of the Czechs in round one.

**Cadet Boys' Team** - The cadets went through stage 1 undefeated and continued their strong show of form all the way to the final, not dropping a set until their fifth match against Belgium. In the final they met the winners of group B, the French, this battle would end up in a silver medal for the English cadets with France taking the win 3-1.

**Cadet Girls' Singles** - Emily Bates and Lucy Davidson were the only two to make it through their first matches, unfortunately they both succumbed to superior opposition to go out in the next round.

**Cadet Girls' Doubles** - As in the singles, the English cadets would progress no further than round two. Bates and Davidson sailed through round one 3-0 and narrowly missed out against their Luxemburg opposition in the next round, whilst Le Fevre and Travis had a tougher time getting to round two 3-2 before going out.

**Cadet Girls' Team** - With a smaller group of three the girls came second overall, which qualified them to fight for positions 17-28. Good wins against Greece, Belarus and Turkey meant their final match was a quest for 17th and promotion to the top group in next year's

championships, this however was not to be as Bosnia and Herzegovina won 3-1.

## Cadet Mixed Doubles

There was yet another medal for Gavin in the mixed doubles, when he picked up the bronze with his German partner Petrissa Solja. The all English pairing of Daniel Lowe and Karina Le Fevre won their first match and things were looking good for them when they won the second and third sets of their next, but the tide turned as the Israeli pairing of Kuperberg and Trosman won the last two sets to take the game 3-2. The only other English pairing (Cullen/Davidson) failed to make it out of the first match, and Emily Bates with the Turkish player Selim Guler could only go one better.

**Junior Boys' Singles** - We had five boys fighting it out in the singles, but this was soon reduced to four as Mathew Ware had to pull out due to a calf injury. After round three we were down to two as Damien Nicholls succumbed to Slodej 4-1 in round two and Chris Doran was knocked out by Florent Lamoque of Belgium in the third.

Knight and Drinkhall both had easy starts with two byes each before going on an impressive run all the way to the podium, with the Russian Alexander Shibaev being the only thorn in Knights side, beating him 4-2 and denying an all English final. Paul Drinkhall defended England's honour to take the win and secure a gold to go with the bronze earned by Darius Knight.

**Junior Boys' Doubles** - As top seeds and with some impressive performances in the

tournament so far, Drinkhall and Knight took the title with ease, with only Reyes/Bruguda of Spain posing a threat.

The Anglo-Scottish pairing of Nicholls and Main went through to round two at the downfall of the Estonian pairing before being knocked out 3-1 by Flortiz/Sekera. Mathew Ware's injury forced the Ware/Doran pairing to withdraw.

**Junior Boys' Team** - England were undefeated in stage 1 which guaranteed them the top spot and entry straight into stage 3.

Their impressive form looked set to continue with a 3-1 win over Ukraine, until Sweden stopped their progress, this put them into play-offs for fifth to eighth, where they eventually came away with sixth place.

**Junior Girls** - The junior girls' tournament will be remembered as a good experience and part of their learning curve, rather than for their results, failing to get out of the first round in all but the mixed doubles where Natalie Slater teamed with Chris Doran managed to make it to stage 2.

**Junior Mixed Doubles** - As first and second seeds the mixed doubles was all about Knight and Drinkhall, with proceedings following that of the junior boys' singles. Darius Knight teamed with Amelie Solja of Germany and Paul Drinkhall with Yekaterina Kolodyazhnaya of Russia both got byes in the first two rounds, before heading to the bronze and gold medal positions respectively.

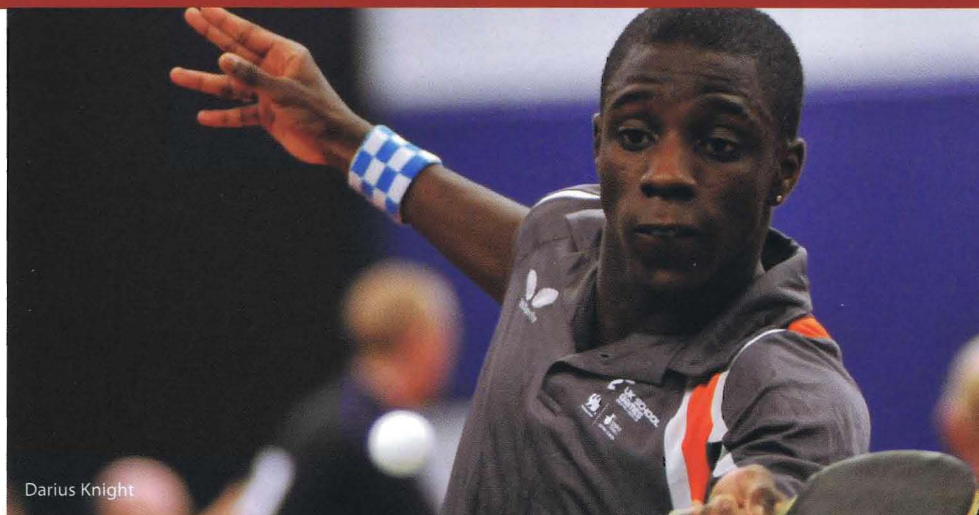
Chris Doran and Natalie Slater were able to progress through to round two before going out 3-0 to a strong Russian pair.



Gavin Evans & Liam Pitchford

# Summer08

Led by England's **Darius Knight**, the South East eventually ran away with the **team event**



Darius Knight

## UK SCHOOL GAMES

**Singles** - Shropshire's Damien Nicholls blazed a trail of glory at the UK School Games by winning the boys' individual event in style. The England junior international beat Mathew Ware in five pulsating games to earn his new title after claiming two major scalps along the way. Earlier at the University of Bath he had beaten second seed Gavin Evans and then Scottish no 1 Craig Howieson to remind the selectors that he is clearly a player to watch for the future.

Favourite Darius Knight disappointed his fans when he went down to Alim Hirji at the quarter-final stage.

Emma Vickers, a hot favourite to take the girls' title, was beaten by Cleveland player Karina Le Fevre in the last four. Karina then went on to beat Emily Bates in five games who had earlier accounted for Melissa Wright. This was a dazzling display from Karina, who can feel pleased with her weekend's work and by beating players ranked above her.

**Team** - Led by England's Darius Knight, the South East eventually ran away with the team event on the second day of the UK School Games at the University of Bath.

After a solid start on Friday, they met up with the South West and came through comfortably 4-1. For his part 18 year old Darius, who has been in form throughout the tournament, won both his singles while Alim Hirji also won a singles, and the two players lined up to win the doubles.

They beat the South East with Emma beating Yolanda King and Sarra Wang to set up the Midlands side for a 4-1 win.

### Results - Boys Individuals

Final: Damien Nicholls (E-M) bt. Mathew Ware

(E-SW) 8-11, 11-9, 11-9, 14-12, 11-5

**Semi-Finals:** Mathew Ware (E-SW) bt. Mark Simpson (E-NE) 11-7, 12-10, 11-8 Damien Nicholls (E-M) bt. Craig Howieson (SCO) 6-11, 11-8, 11-3, 11-9

### Results - Girls Individuals

Final - Karina Le Fevre (E-NE) bt. Emily Bates (E-M) 7-11, 14-12, 3-11, 11-6, 11-4  
Semi-Finals Karina Le Fevre (E-NE) bt. Emma Vickers (E-M) 6-11, 11-9, 2-11, 11-6, 11-7  
Emily Bates (E-M) bt. Melissa Wright (E-NE) 11-8, 11-8, 11-6

## OLYMPICS

**Women's Team** - South Korea (Korea Republic) went out of the gold/silver play-offs and into the fight for bronze, which they eventually won thanks to wins over USA (3-1) and a 3-0 defeat of Japan. In the gold/silver medal play offs, it was China that was victorious as they defeated Singapore in convincing style 3-0, thanks to victories of 3-1, 3-1 and 3-0.  
Nan Wang (CHN) bt. Tianwei Feng (SIN) 3-1  
Yining Zhang (CHN) bt. Jia Wei Li (SIN) 3-1  
Yue Guo/Yining Zhang (CHN) bt. Yue Gu Wang/Jia Wei Li (SIN) 3-0

**Gold: China; Silver: Singapore; Bronze: South Korea (Korea Republic)**

**Men's Team** - South Korea met Austria who had previously defeated gold medal outcasts Japan 3-1, to determine who would go away with the bronze. South Korea dominated proceedings 3-1, 1-3, 3-0, 3-0 to claim the bronze medal.

This meant it was a battle of the top two seeds for the gold, East V West, Host V Visitor, China V Germany.

Wang Hao (CH) bt. Dimitrij Ovtcharov (GER) 3-0  
Ma Lin (CH) bt. Timo Boll (GER) 3-1

Wang Hao/Ma Lin (CH) bt. Christian Suss/Timo Boll (GER) 3-1

**Team Medals: Gold: China; Silver: Germany; Bronze: South Korea (Korea Republic)**

**Women's Singles** - Li Jia Wei from Singapore was doing her best to stop the host from standing on each step of the podium, but after six games her quest was over and Guo Yue was victorious. Guo Yue (CHN) bt. Li Jia Wei (SIN) 4-2 11-6, 14-12, 9-11, 7-11, 11-3, 11-4

After winning the silver, Wang Nan decided to retire whilst still at the top of her game. Her gold in the team event and silver in the singles in Beijing makes her Olympic medal haul four golds and one silver, making her the most successful Olympic table tennis player of all time. Zhang Yining (CHN) bt. Wang Nan (CHN) 4-1, 8-11, 13-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-3

**Gold: Zhang Yining ; Silver: Wang Nan; Bronze: Guo Yue**

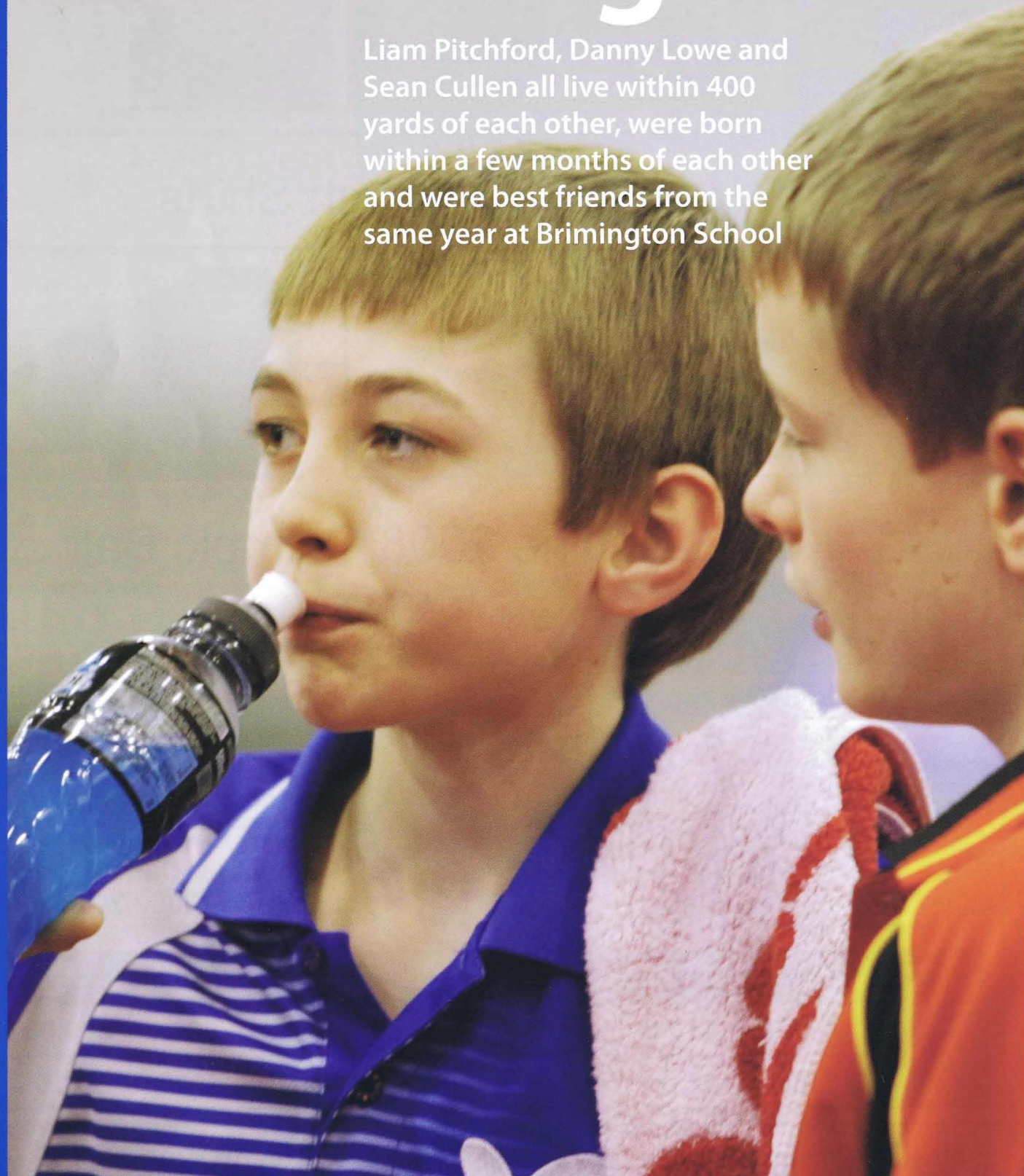
**Men's Singles** - In the battle for the bronze, Wang Liqin went up against Sweden's Jorgen Persson who was competing in his sixth Olympic games, however it wasn't to be Jorgen's day as Wang claimed the bronze in impressive style with four straight wins. Wang Liqin (CHN) bt. Jorgen Persson (SWE) 4-0 13-11, 11-2, 11-5, 11-9

Wang Hao, ranked number one at the time of qualification, went through to his second Olympic singles final having brought home silver in Athens. Hao would again prove unsuccessful being defeated by the hands of his older compatriot Ma Lin after five games. Ma Lin (CHN) bt. Wang Hao (CHN) 4-1 11-9, 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 11-9

**Gold: Ma Lin ; Silver: Wang Hao ; Bronze: Wang Liqin**

# the three amigos

Liam Pitchford, Danny Lowe and Sean Cullen all live within 400 yards of each other, were born within a few months of each other and were best friends from the same year at Brimington School



Brimington School is one of the smaller junior schools in Chesterfield. There are around 70 pupils in each year and, from the outside, there is little to distinguish it from any number of similar schools across the country. Recent annual aggregate results for English, maths and science place it narrowly ahead of the national average and it was praised in January by education inspectors Ofsted for the "outstanding" personal development and behaviour of its pupils.

The school motto is 'Go Further' – and in table tennis it has undoubtedly achieved this aim. It is unusual for any school to produce a table tennis player of a national standard. Brimington, though, can boast the remarkable statistic of having seen three of its most recent alumni progress to the England cadet and junior national squads.

What's more, Liam Pitchford, Danny Lowe and Sean Cullen all live within 400 yards of each other, were born within a few months of each other and were best friends from the same year at school.

Remarkably, they were also all part of the England cadet squad that won silver in the team event at the European Championships in Terni, Italy, this summer. A small village in Derbyshire had almost conquered an entire continent!

Eventually, they were beaten by France in the final, but not before victories over Belgium and Sweden in the earlier rounds.

The only 'outsider' in the team was Buckinghamshire's Gavin Evans, who also took gold in the cadet singles. Pitchford only narrowly missed out on making it an all-English singles final after losing in the semi-final to Sweden's Hampus Soderlund. He had earlier beaten Soderlund in the team competition, though Evans was to extract some revenge by emerging triumphant in a thrilling five-set final.

With Paul Drinkhall winning a hat-trick of titles in the junior events, Darius Knight taking two bronze medals in the singles and Evans also medalling in the mixed and boys' doubles, it was easily England's best performance in the European Youth Championships. With the Olympics in London just four years away, it was also a timely and encouraging sign of progress. If Pitchford, Lowe and Cullen could all make it into the England squad, it would be an unprecedented modern feat for one junior school.

They each began playing at Brimington under the tutelage of Bob Porter, the grandfather of one of the former pupils at the school. Pitchford had initially shown more of an interest in tennis, but his natural talent was spotted by Porter and he subsequently practiced at Colin Deaton's table tennis club.

Deaton's influence was considerable. "He encouraged them and got them into tournaments – he had a big impact," explained Liam's dad, Kevin, who himself plays in Division Four of the local Chesterfield League. "It was a bit of a coincidence because Colin also trained Liam's mum when she started playing table-tennis and they used to go to the Pontins holiday camps. "Colin died a few years ago and he never quite saw Liam make it at a national level, but Liam knew how much he had done for him."

As part of the national squad, Pitchford would travel to Nottingham for training twice a week and he has moved steadily up the rankings. He is now in his final year of his GCSEs and is intending to join the likes of Drinkhall and Knight as a full-time professional in Sheffield next year. He may also look to play for a club team abroad.

Highlights in recent years have included a win over Evans in the Under 15 national championships as well as victory in the UK Schools' Under 19 championships.

At present, his routine involves going to school and then travelling to Sheffield four nights a week for three hours of training with the

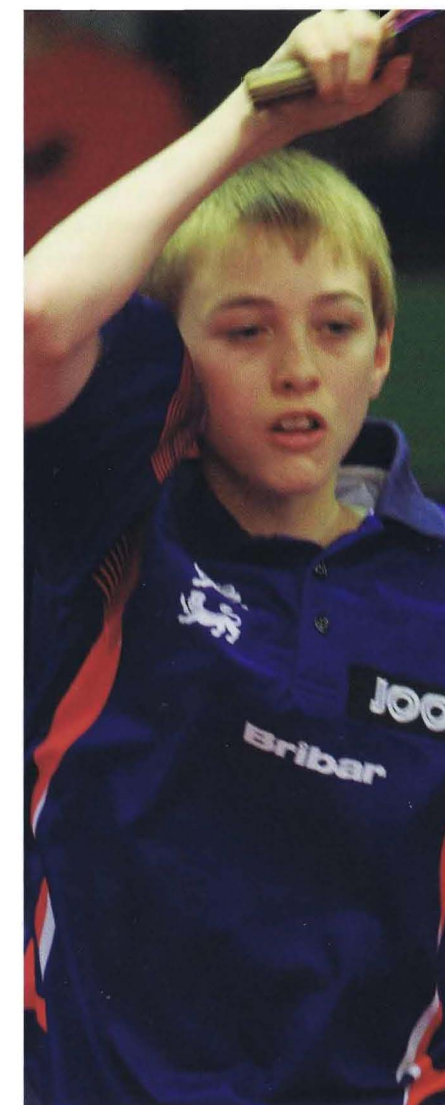
development squad that also includes Drinkhall, Evans and Knight. Weekends generally mean tournaments and he is also in the Ellenborough senior British League Premier Division team.

At the age of 15, he has already played all over the world, including an exhibition at a trade conference in front of Gordon Brown and the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

Indeed, tap in the words 'Liam Pitchford' to Google and it is also possible to watch highlights of his match against Wang Hao, the world number one, in the last 64 of the Korean Open on YouTube.

Hao is clearly in full control of the match, but there are some glimpses of Pitchford's potential, notably when he punches several unreturnable backhand blocks wide down the Olympic silver medallist's forehand. The broad smile on his face also suggested that he is not overawed by the experience.

At the end of the match, Hau stopped to pose with Pitchford for a photograph, whose progress has brought glowing words of praise from Steen Hansen, the England team coach. "Liam fights for every point and is a fine example to us all," he said.



**Pitchford** had initially shown more of an interest in tennis, but his **natural talent** was spotted by Porter and he subsequently practiced at **Colin Deaton's** table tennis club.

# The British League

**It was the fourth round of matches that produced the most exciting Table Tennis in the British League Premier Division, at the DHS London Progress Club in Southall in September.**



BATTS Team Peniel produced their best performance of the weekend and scored an impressive 6-2 victory over newly promoted Westfield, with Wang Zheng and John Holland both staying undefeated for the Essex side. Holland took the previously unbeaten Chris Doran's 100% record away, as he wrapped up the Essex side's victory by beating Doran 11-8, 11-8, 11-4. Chris Doran had impressed in his first singles by beating Shuying Xu 11-7, 11-7, 11-6, but Shuying hit back well and she secured an excellent 14-12, 11-6, 11-4 victory against Shaun Marples in her second game. Ben Barlow produced by far his best play of the weekend as he downed Craig Bryant over four ends, but he made little impression against Wang Zheng, crashing to a 6-11, 6-11, 5-11 defeat.

Ellenborough's 5-3 victory over Greenhouse TTK produced a sure-fire "Contender for the Win of the Season", when up-and-coming 16 year-old Daniel Basterfield upstaged Lorestas Trumpauskas over five fiercely fought ends. Basterfield triumphed 8-11, 11-7, 4-11, 13-11, 11-7, a magnificent win in anyone's book. With Gareth Herbert beating both Thomas Bennborn and Lorestas Trumpauskas 3-0, there was an audible sigh of relief from the Ellenborough side when John Nilsson clinched their victory by beating Jide Owolabi 11-6, 15-17, 11-8, 11-3 in the last game - TTK's best showing of the weekend by some distance.

Team of the weekend -  
Drumchapel Glasgow I secured

their fourth victory of what looks like being a very successful season as they hammered Ormesby I 7-1. Lee Dong Wang impressed as he raced to an 11-7, 11-5, 11-4 victory against David Meads. Bearing in mind that a very inform David Meads (seven wins out of eight for the weekend) hit back in his second singles by beating Ryan Jenkins 11-6, 2-11, 11-7, 7-11, 15-13 (Ryan's only defeat), it is clear that Lee Dong Wang is going to be a considerable asset for the Scottish Club. Finally, no mention of this weekend can be complete without a special mention for the very stylish kit provided by the Glasgow team's local sponsor - Skyform. Their play almost matched their appearance! An under strength DHS Greenhouse Progress side will be well pleased with their 5-3 win over Fusion after a drawn out match which finished well after the other games. Fusion's Niall Cameron had another outstanding match (he either wins or loses both of his singles!) and this time he scored excellent victories over Garth Kinlocke (11-9, 11-7, 11-4) and Mathew Ware (11-9, 11-8, 10-12, 13-11). However, DHS Greenhouse Progress just had enough in hand and Chris Lewis (who had beaten Tommy Cutler 11-9 in the fifth end) sealed their victory by getting the better of John Dennison 11-6, 11-7, 11-6. Ashley Stokes was also a double winner for DHS Greenhouse Progress, beat both John Dennison (3-1) and Neil Charles (3-1).  
By Steve Kerns



Mathew Ware

## NEW WARES AT JOHN LEWIS

John Lewis Southampton has just sponsored it's first individual athlete and that is none other than table tennis player Mathew Ware. The sponsorship deal is part of a package to help Matt towards Olympic success in 2012 and

comes in the form of £11,500 spread over a four year period leading up to the Games. This money will go a long way in helping Matt to train and gain valuable experience on the way achieving his goal of selection for the London Games.

"It will give me the opportunity to train with some of the best

players in the world in training camps – especially China". It has given me more freedom to choose when I play and with whom."

When Matt picked up his first cheque in store he gave MD Mark Venables, General Manager Jeremy Adams and Operations Manager Selling Support Adrian Young a game

in the sports department in front of fascinated customers and staff. After playing Matt Mark Venables had this to say, "He spun the ball in such a way that it was almost impossible to return it. Having seen his state of play we have high hopes for him to represent UK in the 2012 Olympics".

## PREMIERSHIP TABLE

PREMIER DIVISION						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DRUMCHAPEL GLASGOW I	4	0	0	89	35	8
ELLENBOROUGH I	3	0	1	68	56	6
WESTFIELD I	2	1	1	64	51	5
BATTS TEAM PENIEL I	1	2	1	66	56	4
DHS GH PROGRESS I	2	0	2	58	58	4
ORMESBY I	1	2	1	55	69	4
FUSION I	0	1	3	52	73	1
GREENHOUSE TTK	0	0	4	28	82	0

 **Butterfly**

The British League Official Ball



# Liverpool Grand Prix

The first Butterfly Grand Prix of the season had a truly international mixture of players, with contenders from the Czech Republic, Poland, Latvia, Hungary, Germany, Wales, Ireland and more.



## RESULTS AND PLACINGS

Men's Singles: Gavin Runggay (SCO) bt. Raphael Graf (GER) 11-8, 12-10, 3-11, 11-6  
 Women's Singles: Liu Na (IRL) bt. Naomi Owen (WAL) 14-12, 11-5, 15-13  
 U21 Men's: Remi Petrosius (Mi) bt. Damien Nicholls (Sp) 11-4, 11-4, 9-11, 12-10  
 U21 Women's: Karina Le Fevre (Cv) bt. Alice Loveridge (GGY) 11-7, 7-11, 10-12, 11-9, 11-9  
 Veteran Men: Keith Williams (La) beat Gerry Campbell (SCO) 14-12, 6-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6  
 Restricted Men: Simon Noutch (Y) beat Adam Laws (Sy) 9-11, 11-3, 14-12, 13-11  
 Men's Band 1: Raphael Graf (GER) bt. David McBeath (Ha) 12-10, 11-3, 11-8  
 Men's Band 2: Zak Zilesnick (Mi) bt. Chris Smith (Dv) 11-13, 11-4, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8  
 Men's Band 3: Ashley Robinson (IRL) bt. Warren Slaney (Dy) 11-6, 12-10, 11-13, 4-11, 11-9  
 Men's Band 4: Ashley Robinson (IRL) bt. Will Bayley (K) 11-6, 4-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-7  
 Men's Band 5: Taj Kudryk (POL) bt. Nick Rate (Li) 11-6, 11-8, 4-11, 10-12, 11-5  
 Men's Band 6: Myles Collins (Av) bt. Taj Kudryk (POL) 11-8, 7-11, 11-5, 11-7  
 Women's Band 1: Alice Loveridge (GGY) bt. Stephanie Donnelly (Cv) 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 12-10  
 Women's Band 2: Chloe Whyte (Cv) bt. Natasha Milliken (SCO) 11-5, 11-1, 11-5  
 Women's Band 3: Laura Robinson (Ys) bt. Chloe Whyte (Cv) 12-10, 11-8, 8-11, 11-9  
**Teens Sport Player of the Tournament (and a voucher for £50) Ashley Robinson**

Fourteen year old Alice Loveridge from Guernsey, in her first ever Butterfly Open Grand Prix, took the gold medal in the Women's Band One event at the Wavertree Tennis Centre in Liverpool. Alice, now part of the talent ID squad, was made to fight all the way for her debut title victory; at the semi-final stage her battle against top junior Karina Le Fevre went to five close sets, followed by a gutsy four set win in the final over Stephanie Donnelly. One of the many visiting players took the top spot in the Men's Band One competition. Nineteen year old Raphael Graf from Lieselheim in south west Germany took the winner's cheque for £60 in relative ease on his way to the title. Adam Laws caused the German the most problems in the group stage, going down in five sets, from then on Graf got the better of his contenders en route to victory in the final against Hampshire junior David McBeath. A pattern was soon emerging of the younger players dominating all the banded events on the first day's play in Liverpool.

The Women's Band Two crown went to the dynamic young cadet, Chloe Whyte from Cleveland, who was so close to taking the Women's Band Three title as well, losing out in four tight sets to another top cadet, Laura Robinson from Yorkshire.

England U13's number one, Zak Zilesnick, was victorious in Men's Band Two, with a superlative performance against Chris Smith in an all action packed final, Zilesnick just nicking it 11-8 in the fifth end.

Ireland's ever improving junior, Ashley Robinson, had a super day taking both Men's Band Three and Four titles, which put him firmly in the hunt for player of the weekend.

Poland's Taj Kudryk shone in the 72 player entry of Men's Band Five, with a powerful performance against Nick Rate from Lincolnshire in five sets. Kudryk almost took Men's Band Six, losing out to Myles Collins from Avon in a four close set final.

After proving too strong for Saturday's Band One winner, Raphael Graf, in a four set Men's Open final, Scotland's number one player, Gavin Runggay, carved his name into the record books with a third successive Liverpool title win in the Men's Open.

In the 80 year history of this famous tournament, with past winners including Victor Barna, Richard Bergmann and Dennis Neale, the enormity of this triple consecutive win (never achieved before) puts Runggay into legendary status.

The tournament had thrown up several earlier shocks with the departure of Matt Ware to Richard Marshall, Gavin Evans to David McBeath in the second round, and top seed Darius Knight's departure to the German visitor Raphael Graf in the quarter-finals.

The Women's Open went exactly to seeding, with Chinese favourite Lui Na, now resident in Ireland, not dropping a set on her way to the title.

The Under 21 Women's final was a classic encounter of two extremely talented young ladies in Karina Le Fevre and Alice Loveridge, fighting tooth and nail with some crowd pleasing long rallies. It was Karina that got revenge for her defeat in the Women's Band One by taking the win.

In the Under 21 Men's, Remi Petrosius gained a well deserved first title success in this event after several tries, getting the better of Under 21 Men's reigning champion, Damien Nicholls, in the last match of the day.



Mick Stead(C) - Paul Stansfeld

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREVIEW

There is an early start for this season's County Championships Premier Divisions, as the veterans, juniors and seniors open their accounts in the first few weeks of the season.

The veterans play their first weekend at Ashford on 18th/19th October as Yorkshire take the first steps to try to regain the title they won last season, although 2006/7 winners Leicestershire will have something to say about this, as will Sussex and Kent who provided stiff opposition for the White Rose County last season. The division looks very open this

season, you only have to look back to last season to realise how close it was, such as how would Kent have done in the second weekend had Joe Kennedy not been forced to withdraw through injury.

Winners Yorkshire beat relegated Lancashire 6-4, during which Mick Stead came from 7-2 down in the deciding game against Keith Williams, a draw would have given Leicestershire the title, and in the Yorkshire - Sussex clash Stead beat Ritchie Venner who damaged his hand during the set and required first aid, added to an 11-9 deciding game victory by Keith Rodger over Nigel Eckersley, things in this division could have been so different.

Yorkshire have a new kid on the block this season as the squad are skippered by former Cheshire county player, Janet Adams, who is now living in Huddersfield and working in "Last of the summer wine country" at Holmfirth High School.

The following weekend sees the Junior Premier Division get underway at Crippenham when Hampshire attempt to hold on to the title so gloriously won last season. Whether Hampshire can repeat last year's phenomenal results remains to be seen, but they still have a great squad to call upon and are the team to beat.

The seniors get underway at Crippenham over the weekend of 15th/16th November, and it looks

like this season will be no different from the past few years with any number of teams being the likely champions going into the final round of matches. It is hard to see anything other than another close run thing come the second weekend's climax.

Crippenham sees the first weekend's action under the watchful eye of organiser Ken Eliot, who once more takes on the challenge of the senior and junior weekends.

We have to wait until 21st/22nd March 2009 for the senior and junior divisions to be completed, with the likely venue once again being Wood Green, as organiser Ken Eliot brings all counties together for what even at this early stage promises to be a thrilling climax.

With the veterans premier due to complete at Halifax TTC on 28th February/1st March 2009, the last premier division to start and first to finish is the cadets who play their entire fixtures over one weekend, 21st/22nd February 2009, as Middlesex attempt to retain the title they won with ease last season.

Lincolnshire and Cleveland drop out of the top tier this season and are replaced by Nottinghamshire and Surrey who return after one season out of the premier division in what promises to be a thrilling weekend organised once again

**By Barry Snowden.**

## TRAVEL CITY CARDIFF SATELLITE GRAND PRIX

Table tennis ventured over the River Severn and into Wales for the Travel City Cardiff Satellite Grand Prix.

It was a good weekend for the Welsh, with 11 reaching the finals and ensuring that seven of the titles remained on Welsh soil.

Only two of the finalists from the City of Liverpool Open Butterfly Grand Prix were successful in making it through to the title play-offs this time round, they were Scotland's Gavin Rumgay and Naomi

Owen from Wales, both of whom battled it out in the Open classes. Liverpool winner Gavin could not match his previous performance as he lost 3-0 to Welshman Ryan Jenkins, whereas Naomi Owen managed to go one better to take the win again by a 3-0 margin from Hannah Hicks.

The most notable achievement of the event was that of Chloe Thomas who won both the U21s and the Women's Band 3 Singles. **By Geoff Ware**

**Men's Open Singles:** Ryan Jenkins (Gn) bt. Gavin Rumgay (SCO) 11-8, 11-9, 11-9 **Women's Open Singles:** Naomi Owen (Gn) bt. Hannah Hicks (Ha) 11-7, 11-4, 11-6 **Under 21 Men's:** David McBeath (Ha) bt. Chris Doran (Np) 11-8, 4-11, 14-12, 11-8 **Under 21 Women's:** Chloe Thomas (Gw) bt. Angharad Phillips (Db) 11-4, 11-6, 11-6 **Mixed Veteran Singles:** Dave Harvey (Gs) bt. Costas Papanтониου (Mi) 3-1 (scores unknown) **Mixed Restricted Singles (Round Robin):** 1st Shaun Murray (Ca), 2nd Darren Pumford (Sy) **Men's Band 1 Singles:** Garth Kinlocke (Ha) bt. Vytas Rybakas (E) 11-9, 11-6, 11-8 **Men's Band 2 Singles:** Richard Andrews (Bk) bt. Dan Kolesnik (Gs) 11-4, 12-10, 11-5 **Men's Band 3 Singles:** Dave Reeves (Av) bt. Tris Grettton (Wo) 11-9, 15-13, 11-5 **Men's Band 4 Singles:** Jack Williamson (Wa) bt. Scott Crawford (Cu) 8-11, 11-2, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8 **Men's Band 5 Singles:** Scott Cundy (Gn) bt. John McBeath (Ha) 9-11, 11-9, 5-11, 11-5, 11-6 **Men's Band 6 Singles:** Dan O'Connell (Gw) bt. Huw Jones (Po) 11-9, 11-5, 11-6 **Women's Band 1 Singles:** Sanja Clements (Do) bt. Michele Cohen (Wi) 11-9, 11-2, 11-6 **Women's Band 2 Singles:** Angharad Phillips (Db) bt. Charlotte Carey (Gn) - scores unknown **Women's Band 3 Singles:** Chloe Thomas (Gw) bt. Charlotte Carey (Gn) 11-4, 12-10, 11-5

# County Notes

## Berkshire by Colin Dyke

The new county rankings at the commencement of the season are as follows:

**Men** 1. Martin Adams 2. David Barr 3. Richard Andrews 4. Tom Maynard 5. Hari Gehlot 6. Mark Banks 7. David Hilbeck 8. Krasimer Ivanov 9. Stuart Williams 10. Ramesh Gehlot

**Ladies** 1. 2. Susan Johnson 3. Ayonija Sundararajan 4. Rachel Farquhar 5. Lisa Sprackling

6. Julie Evans 7. Mary Allen 8. Emma Human 9. Jaquie Lovell 10. Lisa Calcutt

**Junior Boys** 1. Richard Andrews 2. Tom Maynard 3. Daniel Moses 4. Simon Thorne 5. Jarred Knowles 6. Hanson Xu

7. Liam McTiernan 8. Simon Guard 9. Tony Lee White 10. George Dodd

**Junior Girls** 1. Ayonija Sundararajan 2. Rachel Farquhar 3. Maria Tsapsinos 4. Megan Knowles 5. Fiona Taylur 6. Emma Ashley 7. Beth Wallace

It's good to report that Berkshire will have a junior county team again this season thanks to John Cunningham filling the void of organiser once again.

Finally there could be some exciting news in Berkshire this season. A steering committee has been set up to examine the feasibility of a table tennis centre in Reading (20 plus tables) with the full support of the ETTA, Reading Borough Council, Reading and District Association and the County Association. Watch this space.

## Devon by John Smith

Devon's excellent record in the County Championships was maintained last season with the senior title won for the third time in five years, and once again no county has more junior or senior teams this season. The south west's two leading juniors, Rich Marshall and Chris Smith, will be heading their fifth and last Junior Premier Division campaign and pushing for inclusion in the successful senior side. Up and coming stars may come to light at the fourth year of a very successful county trials to be held over two days in Okehampton and Plymouth.

Two of the county's British League teams, Woolwell II and B&S Group, gained promotion last season, leaving Devon

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM DEVON

Two of the county's British League teams, Woolwell II and B&S Group, gained promotion last season, leaving Devon with three teams in Division Two or above for the first time in very many years. This success is reflected in three weekends of the event being held this year at the excellent Okehampton club. Woolwell Table Tennis Club is celebrating its 10th birthday this autumn with a weekend of events. These include an all day coaching session led by recent ETTA Coach of the Year Paul Whiting, a dinner, auction of promises and a tournament with £200 in prize money. The ever-expanding club, which recently obtained Clubmark status and received its second ETTA Club of the Year award, is shortly to engage a Community Coach for a three year term, and is in the early stages of plans to move into its own purpose-built centre

with three teams in Division Two or above for the first time in very many years. This success is reflected in three weekends of the event being held this year at the excellent Okehampton club.

Woolwell Table Tennis Club is celebrating its 10th birthday this autumn with a weekend of events. These include an all day coaching session led by recent ETTA Coach of the Year Paul Whiting, a dinner, auction of promises and a tournament with £200 in prize money.

The ever-expanding club, which recently obtained Clubmark status and received its second ETTA Club of the Year award, is shortly to engage a Community Coach for a three year term, and is in the early stages of plans to move into its own purpose-built centre.

The club's second decade will start with a series of tournaments before Christmas sponsored by Thorntons Sport & Leisure. Overall prize money exceeding £1,000 in cash and vouchers should attract the best players in the south west, but the inclusion of four banded events will enable all standards to compete.

## Derbyshire by Neil Houghton

This season seems to have started slowly but we're well into it now, it doesn't seem that long since the 2007 AGM of Derbyshire TTA, but now the 2008 AGM has come and gone. It was mostly the same as before, with one or two comments to add. It always seems difficult to get a lot going in getting women (and girls) into sport and this time there was no nominee for Women's Officer, although the committee thought of a certain keen player/supporter of Derbyshire TT, so I'll let you know if she accepts.

Looks like I've got myself into doing this column for another year, plus Derbyshire County Juniors NPC - 2008/09 season to first team in the Junior Premier Division and newly entered second team in Division 2a. Note - any players who want to have a go at county get in touch with Les or myself and show interest as even if you don't play for county yet, it's nice to know who is keen and so we can keep note of your progress.

I think those players I first captained in the Derbyshire Juniors will be over 30 years old by now! Time flies again, talking of which Les Allwood has been around even longer (well done!), as Derrick Marples (Chairman again) who

**Melanie Farquhar is the  
number one lady for  
Berkshire**



remarked that Les must have been doing Hon. Sec. job for a while and Les said it is indeed his 31st year as Secretary and he has been doing many other jobs, some of these for a long time, I think Treasurer for 17 years!

I always like giving praise where it's due and Les is near the top of any list as a keen TT supporter and worker - recently telling me about his umpiring at Women's British League which I found very hard work last time I had a go. Suppose some umpires find the team scenario easier than tournament umpiring with one table to focus on, but of course you're on all the time. Derbyshire players there were Helen Rainford and Emma Vickers.

The Lilleshall thing was apparently the real Six Nations with us as hosts this year. Heard Sean was there and was said Lucy did particularly well; Danny Lowe continued his awesome recent form and heard he was the only English player to "get through" in individuals and lost in the semi-finals to the winner, it being an all French final. Il joue tres formidable (= wicked)!

Still haven't found out much about Donington area, as in precisely how far out, or into Derbyshire, Castle Donington is and exact border position.

Big news is the European Youth Championships in Italy. Never sure how much to put in on things like this, 'cos most people will know and feel the possibility of some irritation by repeating obvious months afterwards (as big news is pretty old before it gets into TTN as a monthly), but then if I don't mention big things people might say I'm not making enough of it! A column like this can get too concerned with small items of local news, but much of the local news is not heard of and so is less time-critical; it's actually still news if it's not heard of before! Anyway, in case anybody hasn't heard, Derbyshire players have had what I would think is about the most successful European Championships for any players from one county ever!! That is Liam Pitchford achieved U15 Singles Bronze, Sean Cullen won the Consolation, and the lads including Danny Lowe all got a Cadet Team Silver!! Not heard much about Lucy Davidson and Martha Travis but sure they played well. Well done! Derbyshire is pleased for you and proud of you all!!

**Gloucestershire by Lesley Dewick**

Gloucester City Table Tennis Association boasts its first lady chairman since being formed in 1928. Janie Kirby has taken over the role having moved up from vice chair, a position that she held last year.

Kirby is an active league player and also sits on the county committee in order to promote table tennis in the county.

# County Notes

Kirby intends to drive table tennis forward in Gloucester and to try to develop a single centre of excellence for coaching in the city, to gain clubmark status for this club, and to develop players of the future for both Gloucester city and the county in turn.

It seems that this season the committee is being taken over by very capable women, with four other positions on the committee being held by ladies this season. The secretary role is in the very capable hands of long serving committee member Clare Bell, whilst Lesley Dewick and Shirley Bailey continue the press officer and development roles respectively. This year also sees a new addition to the committee with Jo Piggott becoming the minutes secretary. May the year be a very productive one for the Gloucester Association.

Elsewhere in the county both the Cheltenham and Cirencester Associations are looking towards gaining clubmark status for their coaching centre. They already have efficient centres for coaching, but want to gain professional recognition for this great work. With the committed support of table tennis enthusiasts I am convinced that by this time next year the association will be able to boast about gaining their clubmark status, or at least be within touching distant of achieving this aim. Due to the increasing number of good senior and veteran players in the county this year, Gloucestershire are able to enter a second team in both the senior and the veteran county championships. Good luck to all the players in the forthcoming season. However, it is a great disappointment that this year the county are unable to enter a cadet or junior team into the county championships due to the lack of girls playing in the county. Let's hope that this can be addressed for the future.

## Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

Herewith some results of tournaments that have taken place since the last County Notes in the order they were played.

### The North Herts. Junior Closed

Boys Under 19: Luke Walsh bt. James Selby  
Girls Under 19: Abigail Moore bt. Natasha Walsh  
Boys Under 14: Luke Walsh bt. Glen Verdon  
Girls Under 14: Natasha Walsh bt. Danielle Reid  
Open Doubles: Luke/Natasha Walsh bt. James/Chris Selby  
Handicap Event: Toby Nicholson bt. James Selby

### 2008 Junior County Championships

These were played at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on June 26th. 20 boys took part but only 3 girls.

Boys Under 18 : Guy Ben-Aroya bt. Ross MacNiven

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM GLOUCS.

It seems that this season the committee is being taken over by very capable women, with four other positions on the committee being held by ladies this season. The secretary role is in the very capable hands of long serving committee member Clare Bell, whilst Lesley Dewick and Shirley Bailey continue the press officer and development roles respectively. This year also sees a new addition to the committee with Jo Piggott becoming the minutes secretary. May the year be a very productive one for the Gloucester Association.

Boys Under 15: Guy Ben-Aroya bt. Bradley Tuttle

Girls Under 18: Haylee Potts bt. Abigail Moore

Girls Under 15: Harriet Howat

Boys Doubles: Guy Ben-Aroya/Darius Atashroo bt. Charlie Baines/Piers Gibson-Birch

Mixed Doubles: Haylee Potts/ Guy Ben-Aroya bt. Abigail Moore/ Darius Atashroo

### North Herts. League Closed Tournament

Men's Open: Jimmy Walsh bt. Steve Dobbins

Women's Open: Sandra Harper bt. Janice Laing

Veteran Men: Keith Iverson bt. Rob Adamson

Veteran Women: Sandra Harper bt. Janice Laing

### Divisional Event

Premier: Sandra Harper bt. Reno Phyto

Div. 1: Rob Adamson bt. Ola Adegbulugbe

Div. 2: Arto Viravorian bt. Julian Lugg

Div. 3: Glen Verdon bt. Charlie Baines

With this last result coming in, it means that this year secretaries of all Herts. Leagues sent me their closed tournament results without being prompted. Thank you. Some other news – Debbie Evans and Faith Frankel of HRC, Cheshunt, were winner and runner up of the Ladies Band 3 in a VETTS rating competition in July.

Philip Smith has received the ETTA Maurice Goldstein Merit Award for 30 years service to table tennis. He has been Treasurer of Bedwell TTC since 1978, NHTTA Gen. Sec. 1982-1998, League Sec. since 1990 and Handbook Sec. since 1996. He has also been nominated for the Herts. Service to Sport Award.

## Northumberland by Pauline Long

There were two end of previous season tournaments which were too late for inclusion in the last issue of TT News.

Ryan and Dean Richardson, Ellis Cooper, Ben Dawson (all Cramlington) and Jack Highmoor (Westgate) all took part in the Northfield Junior 2 star tournament. Unfortunately, no one managed to reach a main final but Jack, by finishing third in his junior group, qualified for the consolation event, and is to be congratulated on finishing as runner-up in his first tournament.

Several players also took part in a tournament in Dumfries. Veteran Geoff Salter achieved a treble success in winning the men's and veterans' singles and also the men's doubles. Steve Penman and Jimmy Scope were men's and veterans' singles runners-up respectively, whilst local boy, Calum Main – who also plays regularly in the Northumbria League – took the junior boys' title.

The Team Handicap Knockout Cup competition was eventually won by North Fire A (Bob Appleby, Clive

The south west's two leading juniors, **Rich Marshall** and **Chris Smith**, will be heading their fifth and last Junior Premier Division campaign and pushing for inclusion in the successful senior side.



Dewison and Brian Illingworth) from Division 1, who beat last year's winners Neil Badger and father and son Peter and Josh Scott from Ouston B in Division 4 by 5 sets to 2. The Northumbria Summer League season has almost been completed at the time of writing, with current leaders being as follows:

Division 1 – St. Chad's

Division 2 – North Shields YMCA A

Division 3 – Saints

Division 4 – Newcastle Community

The Winter League season was due to commence on 15th September. The senior and veteran county teams have been entered in their respective Divisions 1A and 2A respectively.

Best wishes to everyone for a successful season.

### **Surrey by Chris Andrews**

The Surrey Inter-League Tournament saw Guildford A come top of the pile with Koran Ozcan and Steve Davis winning the Inter-League Tournament. However, Guildford B were second and their Hannes Weiss beat every single player in the tournament and only lost one doubles match. Fei Fei Pei and Guy Chan also played for Guildford B. Steve Holloway and Evan Sharp came third for Wandsworth A, for Wandsworth B Aaron McKibbin and David Fraser came fourth and in fifth place were Reigate's Paul Newton and Dan Hogen.

After a 15 year rule by Graham Spicer, the new Thames Valley League Champions are Rosehill, with long serving Richard Tanner top of the averages on 93%. Deckers won both Divisions 2 and 3, with David Shore of Graham Spicer 4 top of the leader board in Division 2 on 97% and Neal Warren of Deckers 2 heading Division 3 also on 97%. Graham Spicer 7 walked Division 4, with Peter Hards their loyal member of over 40 years top of the averages on 90%. They also had three players in the top four averages of that division. In the Thames Valley Cup competition Chessington 3 beat Teddington 2, 5-2 to win the Mervyn Wood Cup, and Alexandra 3 beat NPL 3, 5-3 to win the plate competition.

Brook A defended their Division 1 title in the Haslemere and District Table Tennis League by beating Haslemere A 8-2 in their final match. Brook A's P. Myers was top of the averages on 96%. In Division 2 Liphock A won with O. Humphries of Park Wall on 100%. Iford and Loxwood A won Division 3.

York Gardens reigned supreme in the Wandsworth and District Table Tennis League by not only winning the League, but coming second and third as well. They also

# County Notes

took up the top three averages positions with Magic Nakielski of York Gardens B on 100%. St. Pauls A won Division 2 with Tim Goodship sailing to the top of the averages on 95%. Division 3 saw XXIV win the league from Wilton B by one point. Anthony Foley was top of the averages for Vale B with 100%. Cenward A took Division 4 with Harron Ali of Islamic YGA top of the averages on 100%. A young Ernest Bevin team won Division 5 with their Emre Ibatoglu and Laura Higham both on 83%. In the Byfleet & District Table Tennis League Woodham A won Division 1 and the Cup competition. A. Cheung was top of the averages on 90%. Ashford A won Division 2 with Gary Adkins finishing on 100%. The Consolation Cup event was won by Byfleet Lawn Tennis Club E.

The County Cadet first team remained unbeaten and gained promotion to the Premier Division, so congratulations on a great achievement. The Cadet second team did well with a number of new players. The junior first and second team came fourth and fifth respectively. The seniors finished fifth and eighth with junior members performing particularly well and gaining great experience over the weekend. The Surrey Veteran first team were saved from relegation by Nicky Mason and Marcia Ma. However, the second and third teams were not so fortunate and both went down. Yet the fourth team finished runner-up and both the Veteran fifth team and the Over 60 finished in fifth place.

At the GLC Closed Championships Abdul Wuraola was crowned champion of the veteran event. Fei Fei Pei was runner-up to Sushmita Limbu in the under 18 girls singles. Leading two ends to nil, Fei Fei slipped and hit her head on the table so she was very brave to carry on. Lucy Lou was runner-up in the under 13 girls' event. Laura Higham won the under 18 girls' doubles event with Charleigh Kirby. In the English League Cup Bromfield Trophy (Junior Girls) competition, a Guildford team of Fei Fei Pei, Lucy Berks and Lucy Lou came fifth overall, which is very good for a young team, and they lost 3-2 to West Cornwall who won the event. The same team also came sixth in the J M Rose Bowl (Women's) event.

It is sad news to have to inform you that Terry Haley died last season due to cancer of the throat. He was in the top ranked 70 players in the country for many seasons and had won everything the Guildford League had to offer.

## Warwickshire by Caroline Williams

The Midland League attracts entries from leagues and other organisations throughout the region. Birmingham, Coventry, Leamington and Rugby had all entered teams

## HIGHLIGHTED NEWS FROM SURREY

After a 15 year rule by Graham Spicer, the new Thames Valley League Champions are Rosehill, with long serving Richard Tanner top of the averages on 93%. Deckers won both Divisions 2 and 3, with David Shore of Graham Spicer 4 top of the leader board in Division 2 on 97% and Neal Warren of Deckers 2 heading Division 3 also on 97%. Graham Spicer 7 walked Division 4, with Peter Hards their loyal member of over 40 years top of the averages on 90%. They also had three players in the top four averages of that division. In the Thames Valley Cup competition Chessington 3 beat Teddington 2, 5-2 to win the Mervyn Wood Cup, and Alexandra 3 beat NPL 3, 5-3 to win the plate competition.

last season with varying results both against each other and against other teams from the rest of the area.

In the Men's, Birmingham finished in the runner-up spot with four wins and two draws (behind Gloucester who edged ahead with five wins and one draw), with Leamington third and Nuneaton last. The tables were turned in the Junior division where Nuneaton came first with a clean sheet of five victories (and Gloucester finished last) with Rugby, Leamington and Coventry third, fourth and fifth respectively.

There are four Veteran Divisions in the League. Coventry A were unbeaten, winning five and drawing one to give them the Division One title with a massive 22 points. Birmingham A and Leamington A teams came second and third, whilst Nuneaton lost all but one of their matches and so will be relegated for the new season. Similarly Nuneaton B, who was the only local team in Division Two, only managed one draw and five losses, and ended up at the back.

In Division Three Birmingham B were the highest placed team finishing third, ahead of Nuneaton C who were fourth, Coventry B fifth and Birmingham C seventh. Good results in Division Four, however, with Birmingham E with 4 wins and 2 draws edging out Leamington B with 5 wins and 1 draw to take the title. Both teams racked up 18 points, but Birmingham had just the better set difference. Rugby X was treading on their toes with 17 points after 4 wins, and Birmingham D finished in sixth place.

The Warwickshire Trials take place during September in preparation for the new season in the county championships, which is eagerly awaited following our successes last season.

## Yorkshire Notes by Barry Snowden

**White Rose Affairs** - Yorkshire county players Phil Cawser and Sandra Rider both performed with distinction at the recently held World Corporate Games in Leeds, with table tennis being one of 20 sports played in the city over three days in an event which in participants is second only to the Olympic Games in sports events held worldwide.

The table tennis event was held in the sports hall of the City's Metropolitan University under the watchful eye of Yorkshire Regional Development Officer Mark Willerton and his small band of helpers. It featured an entry of over 80 players both from the UK and around the world, with a number of Asian players as well as players from Europe, with German and Croatian players featuring prominently alongside home players.

The Pudsey TTC pair were in the thick of the action and it

### Hertfordshire's Jimmy Walsh beat Steve Dobbins in the Men's Open



was Rider who stole the show with success in two events as she won the ladies over 40 singles and partnered club mate Cawser to a mixed doubles success, while Cawser also received a bronze medal with a third placed finish in the over 40 singles.

This season the Yorkshire veteran first team will be looking for their third premier title in four seasons and with a new skipper at the helm as former Cheshire county player Janet Adams leads the team into battle for their weekends at Ashford in October and Halifax in February.

Adams, now living in Huddersfield and working in "Last of the Summer Wine" country at Holmfirth High School, has moved to the top of the Yorkshire rankings thanks to some fine performances last season. This has had the effect of moving the strong trio of Yorkshire veterans Linda Simpson, Sandra Rider and Helen Shields down one place as the county now have four players in the top 13 in the most recent ranking list, showing their strength in depth at the top of the veteran ladies rankings.

This coming season the YTTA have organised 4 1\* junior tournaments to be played throughout the county in a grand prix style event.

The event is launched at Scarborough TTC on Saturday 25th October before moving on to the Yorkshire region HQ at Richmond Hill, Leeds, on 20th December, while in 2009 Hull TTC will see the third event on 7th February with the final event set for Halifax TTC on Saturday 21st March 2009. There will be 8 events scheduled at each tournament at under 18, 15, 13 and 11 for both sexes, and the winner and runner-up of each will receive an award, together with cash prizes for the grand prix winners and runners up in each category when points are totalled up after the Halifax event.

Further details and entry forms can be obtained from the YTTA website [ytta.co.uk](http://ytta.co.uk), or organiser Barry Snowden on [barrysnowden@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barrysnowden@hotmail.co.uk).

Two Yorkshire officials were recognised at the recent AGM as the General Secretaries of Hull and Halifax were made vice-presidents. Hull official Brenda Hudson and Halifax's Barry Snowden were given their awards by Chairman Bevan Walker for their services to their own leagues and for the work they do for the YTTA.

# a tribute...

**John Reed sadly passed away in May aged 75 following a short period of illness.**

A man amongst men - he will be sadly missed by family and friends and the wider table tennis community where he made a massive contribution as a volunteer for over forty years.

A gregarious, engaging and warm man, he was a born organiser with a flair for leadership by example and meticulous attention to detail. John had an uncanny ability to make things happen AND by doing so had a very positive influence on the lives of several hundred young people.

A man with wide interests; popular; with a wide circle of friends and always interested in other people. On the more serious side, he was a staunch supporter of good behaviour having high morals and a level of integrity that earned huge respect.

John spent 35 years as a woodwork teacher at Millom School and many homes in the town are still adorned with wooden fish, pencil holders and wobbly stools made under his watchful eye.

The teacher role was one that he performed with confident expertise and with great distinction, managing that most difficult teacher- pupil – friend relationship with great ease.

An educationalist – not in an academic sense – but in terms of developing young people, he was able to build a rapport with his pupils built on good teaching, discipline and humour and this magical combination endeared an admiring respect from pupils and teachers alike.

The life skills learnt through Table Tennis were immeasurable and long lasting, he left a legacy through the impact of the sport on the lives of his young charges and through the table tennis centre at Parkview School.

One former pupil wrote "I have the highest regard for this figurehead and mentor who was very much respected by me and other pupils, players and parents".

John Arnold President, ESTTA said "It was with great sadness that I heard of John's death, he was one of the best supporters of schools' table tennis I have known".

Alan Ransome former ETTA Chairman and Ormesby TTC, "sorry to hear the news, he was one of the people I had most time for in Table Tennis for his achievements in Millom, there aren't many volunteers like him around"

It was Millom School Table Tennis club where John dedicated countless hours pursuing the dream of being the best school table tennis club in the UK.

In the early days he actually made the tables himself and gradually over the years purchased 18 competition tables through clubs subs and fundraising selling Christmas cards. Success started in the late 60s/70s and gathered pace into the 80s first by winning the Millom and then Barrow league; then the Lancashire & Cheshire league, county representation, county champions and ultimately, numerous national schools team champions and schools internationals.



It is widely acknowledged that he did indeed achieve being the best school TT club in the UK. Not all were star players but most reached their potential – and crucially all were better human beings for it.

Why did 92 players of all ages and standards play at Millom School week in week out? Why was it so popular at school? Firstly it was good fun and secondly it was run by John Reed who made it good fun.

Learning to play by the rules, fair play and being a good sport, taking responsibility for your self, travelling outside of Millom and staying overnight - for some this was a first, eating non English food, seeing ethnic groups for the first time! John had drive and was ambitious – he instilled to believe in yourself no matter if it was little old Millom V Barrow, Bury or Rochdale, or Millom versus the might of Manchester or Liverpool, – they all came to Millom and they all took a heavy beating – something John was extremely proud of!

Not only did he organise the events, purchase, put up and repair equipment, do the coaching, sometimes refereeing and umpiring, act in 'loco parentis' but he also drove the legendary Millom minibus to and from tournaments up and down the country. This could regularly entail an 18 or 19 hour day. Those who were part of the cohort will tell you it was character forming – the bus was a leveller. It was also the place where post tournament success was celebrated, songs were sung – and countless national schools team titles were savoured, making the long journeys back to Millom all the much shorter and enjoyable. As young people we took it all for granted, but it had a lasting impression.

So many great stories, so many fond memories. ....John Bispham Reed – a man amongst men RIP.  
Diccon Gray

Not only did he organise the events, purchase, put up and repair equipment, do the coaching, sometimes refereeing and umpiring, act in 'loco parentis' but he also drove the legendary Millom minibus to and from tournaments up and down the country.

# RUSHTON

# ANDREW



This month James Cornford interviewed the recently appointed East Midlands Regional Coach and current England international, Andrew Rushton.

**Birth date:** 18/6/83

**Place of birth:** Salford, Greater Manchester

**Residence:** Nottingham

**Current ranking:** No.3 senior men (ENG)

**Style of play:** Attacker

**Sponsors:** Stiga and CNP Professional sports nutrition

**Current club:** TTC Meyrin, Switzerland.

#### HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY:

##### **When and how did you get involved in table tennis?**

I started at 10 years old with my dad and brothers in Manchester, played local league with my brothers and then attended the national centre from when I was 15 years old.

##### **Do any members of your family play?**

Craig (brother) and my dad Geoff both play in the Bolton League and Paul (brother) plays in the Didcot League in Oxford where he now lives.

##### **What does your new job role involve?**

Working with three clubs in the East Midlands Region and then filtering

children from the surrounding schools into the clubs.

##### **What effect do you see this having on table tennis within England?**

It should have a very positive for the game in this country, more players playing and hopefully in the long term more elite players competing for a place in the national team.

##### **Do you have any key goals/targets?**

To increase the number of participants at each club and then start building a higher standard of players within each club.

##### **What do you feel will be your biggest challenges in achieving these?**

Bringing the players into the clubs will be OK, but it will be the ability to retain the players that will be the biggest challenge.

##### **Who has been the greatest influence on your career?**

In my coaching career I would have to say Jason Sugrue and Gareth Herbert, as both have taught me so much about how to motivate and get the best out of the children you are working with. They are the best I have seen at doing this.

##### **What did you do before starting this role?**

I worked for TTK at Wembley High Technology College.

##### **Who has been the greatest influence on your playing career?**

There have been quite a few; I would say Denis Neale, Alan Cooke, Gareth Herbert and my family.

##### **Have you had any major injuries?**

No I have been lucky.

##### **Most wants to beat:**

I don't know of a particular player that I would want to beat, but I have goals that I want to achieve over the coming season.

##### **What are these goals?**

My goals for the season would be to win the Six Nations (as we go to press Andrew has just achieved his first goal by winning the Six Nations), to win the Butterfly Grand Prix events in which I enter and try to play for England again more regularly.

##### **Proudest moment:**

I think that it would have to be winning a medal at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne 2006.

# World Rankings

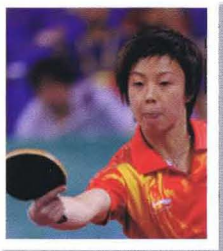
## MEN

1. WANG Hao (CHN)
2. MA Lin (CHN)
3. MA Long (CHN)
4. WANG Liqin (CHN)
5. SAMSONOV Vladimir (BLR)



## WOMEN

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



## U21 MEN

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



## U21 WOMEN

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



## U18 MEN

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



## U18 WOMEN

1. LIU Shiwen (CHN)
2. DING Ning (CHN)
3. LI Xiaodan (CHN)
4. WU Yang (CHN)
5. PESOTSKA Margaryta (UKR)



## Player Rankings 2008/2009

### TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)
2.	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)
3.	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)
4.	BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)
5.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
6.	REED, Daniel (CV.)
7.	MEADS, David (DU.)
8.	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)
9.	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)
10.	BRYANT, Craig (DV.)
11.	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)
12.	WARE, Mathew (DO.)
13.	MARSDEN, Michael (DU.)
14.	NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)
15.	HOLLAND, John J (Dy) (E.)
16.	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)
17.	URBAN, Gergely (HE.)
18.	EVANS, Bradley (BU.)
19.	NOAH, Hubert (E.)
20.	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)
21.	KENNY, Mathew (Y.)
22.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
23.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
24.	GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)
25.	ESSOMBA, Marco (SY.)

### 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.	GRAY, Lewis (K.)
2.	ZILESNICK, Zak (MI.)
3.	HO, Ping (MI.)
4.	WALKER, Sam (NG.)
5.	ADEBANJO, Azarel (E.)

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

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

### TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Ranking	Player
1.	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.)
2.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
3.	KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)
4.	WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)
5.	ECKERSELY, Nigel (SX.)

### TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1.	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)
2.	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)
3.	REYNOLDS, Lindsey (LA.)
4.	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)
5.	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)
6.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
7.	WANG, Sarra (E.)
8.	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)
9.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.)
10.	JAMIESON, Rachel (E.)
11.	HICKS, Hannah (HA.)
12.	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)
13.	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)
14.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
15.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
16.	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)
17.	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)
18.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
19.	UZAL, Shelley (E.)
20.	WILSON, Naomi (SO.)
21.	SMITH, Sally (DV.)
22.	PERKS, Sarah (NG.)
23.	COHEN, Michele (WI.)
24.	RADFORD, Lisa (DV.)
25.	HOWARD, Alice (CH.)

### TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

Ranking	Player
1.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
2.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
3.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
4.	JAMIESON, Rachel (E.)
5.	FULLER, Mary (Y.)

### TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

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

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

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

### TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

Ranking	Player
1.	COLLIER, Sue (CH.)
2.	MUDGE, Kim (K) (SY.)
3.	ADAMS, Janet (Y.)
4.	SHORT, Elaine (DV.)
5.	SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)



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 October 2008



## 2008/2009 COPY DATES

- November Issue:** Copy by 1st Oct
- December Issue:** Copy by 3rd Nov
- February Issue:** Copy by 7th Jan
- March Issue:** Copy by 2nd Feb
- April Issue:** Copy by 2nd Mar
- June Issue:** Copy by 4th May
- July Issue:** Copy by 1st June

## October 3rd -12th

European Championships, St Petersburg

## October 4th

- Cadet - Liverpool 4 Star
- Senior - Clare Pengelly Memorial SBGP
- Other - Mencap Grand Prix

## October 5th

- Junior - Cadet, Liverpool 4 Star
- Senior - Clare Pengelly Memorial SBGP
- Other - Mencap Grand Prix

## October 11th-12th

- Senior - Newcastle Open BGP
- Veteran - VETTS Midlands Master

## October 12th-18th

- Other - Commonwealth Youth, India

## October 18th

- Junior - Junior British League, Wolves
- Senior - Cippenham 2 Star
- Veteran - County Championships
- County Premier, Ashford

## October 19th

- Junior - Junior British League
- Veteran - County Premier, Ashford
- Cippenham 2 Star

## October 25th

- Cadet, Junior, Senior - County Championships
- Junior - County Premier, Cippenham
- Veteran - British League, Hereford
- National League, Grantham

## October 26th

- Junior - County Premier, Cippenham
- Chesham high School 2 Star
- Stiga 2 Star GP, Blackpool
- Veteran - British League, Hereford
- National League, Grantham

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

**DAWSON**  
TRAVEL AGENTS LTD

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

**LES SMITH**  
TROPHIES AND ENGRAVING

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

**Acorn**  
Business Supplies Limited

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

**PERKINS SLADE**

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

**Bribar**  
Table Tennis

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

**Butterfly**

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

**BATSKILLS**

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

**THORNTON**

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