



# table tennis news

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**The Ronaldinho of Promoting**  
Barry Hearn to work his magic on TT

**The Biggest Occasion**  
The national champs from Matthew Syed's perspective

**Coaching**  
In this issue we look at backhand attack

## Cadet & Junior National Championships

Who was crowned victorious?

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

**STIGA**

Micro  
Composite  
Technology



## Editorial

Is it good for our sport?

There's a bit of a debate happening on our facebook site ([facebook.com/englishtabletennis](http://facebook.com/englishtabletennis)) at the moment about funny TT YouTube clips, the sort of thing that does the rounds via email. Several people have commented that they do not help the sport and they can only bring harm, I however beg to differ.

To see why this type of video is a positive thing for the sport, you need to look at table tennis as a brand or a product and these videos are in effect acting as viral marketing, growing awareness of our product (table tennis).

A brief explanation of viral marketing:

The easiest way to understand viral marketing is to imagine a pyramid with the point being the first person to send the video. If that person sends it to two people and they send it to two more and so on, the communication is spread very quickly.

So why is a comical video better than ITTF Pro Tour footage? Would a non table tennis player send a clip of Timo Boll versus Ma Lin to another non table tennis player, in short no, but they might send a clip of someone playing table tennis on a piano, as ITTF president Adham Sharara did to us. So if this message comes into an office via one person and consequently hits a further ten people's inboxes, it may just cause a few of them to reminisce about playing when they were younger, and one or two of those might just decide to have a knock around.

At the end of the day some of you will agree and some of you will disagree, but the most important thing is that this is causing us to interact more and to push our sport closer to the forefront of people's minds, even if it isn't quite the image that some of you would like.

**James Cornford**  
Editor

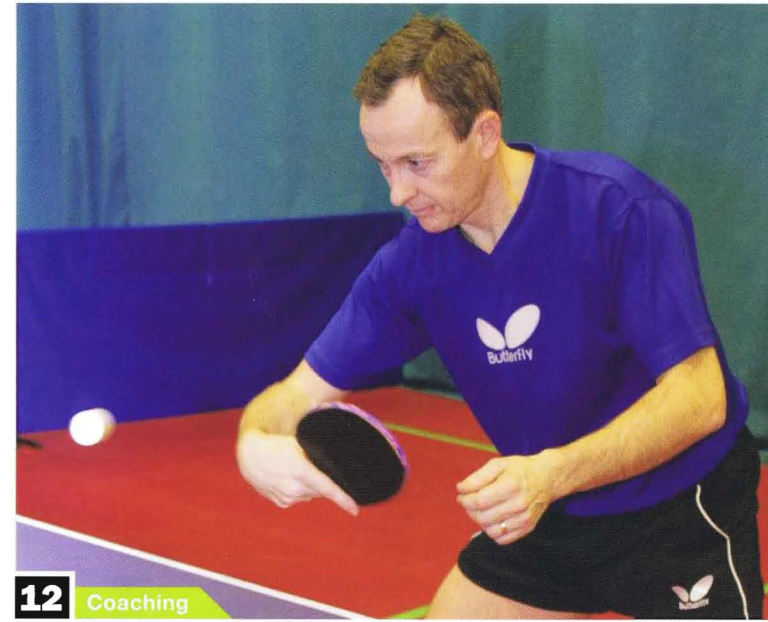
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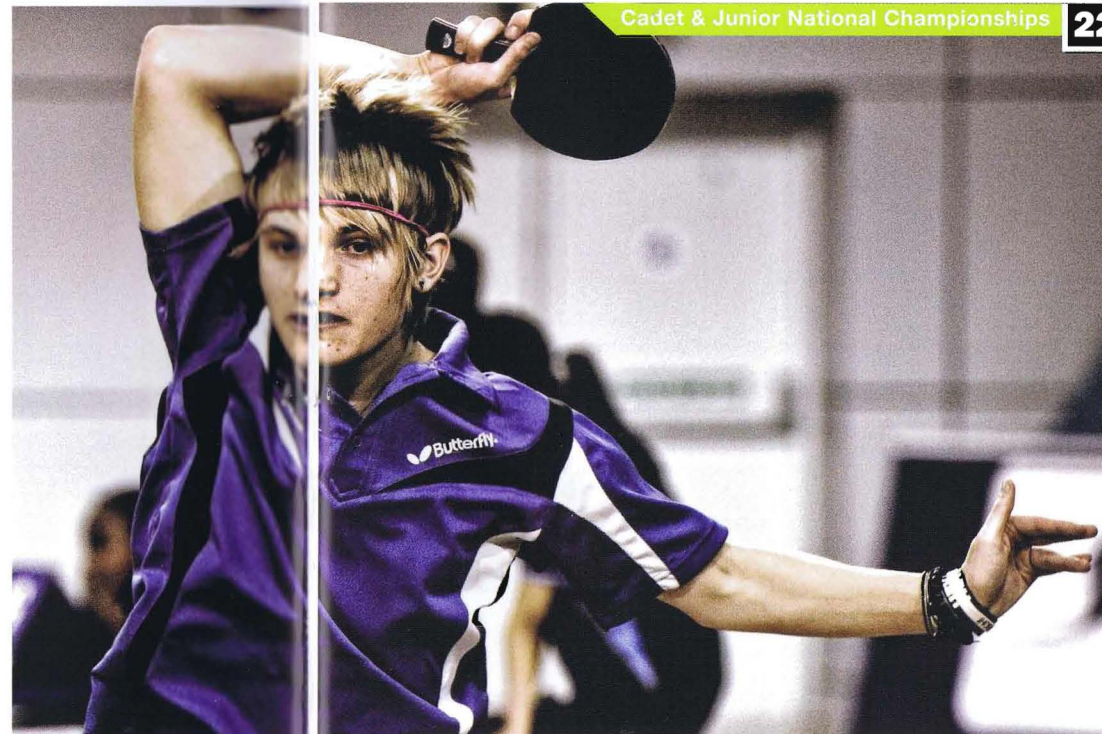
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Front cover picture courtesy of Steve Parkin  
Barry Hearn photograph bottom left courtesy of Lawrence Lustig



Alex Murdoch / ETTA Chairman

# Straight Talk

I hope you and your families had a great Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year and a successful rest of the season. 2010 will bring changes to our sport as well as further opportunities and, with the General Election, one wonders how this may impact funding for the sporting community in the coming years, we shall wait and see.

Sports including table tennis are making representations to all the major parties and the feedback has been positive, success in sport gives the country a great boost and it is potentially an excellent vote catcher. Will there be adjustments in the way Lottery funding is distributed and will the allocation from the Exchequer remain at its present level? Table tennis receives funding from both of these areas, so it is in our interests to not only keep the existing awards in place up to 2013, but to try and get an increased share.

The ETTA Communications Department will be putting together regular press releases to spotlight and justify this distribution

of public money from Sport England, UK Sport and the Youth Sport Trust from a table tennis perspective.

These press releases will focus in particular on how table tennis is helping to grow and sustain participation, as well as development of our young players, and hence contributing towards the government targets.

Now this decade is over, we are moving into our second year of the 2009 to 2013 Whole Sport Plan and interventions, which are part of the transformational programme for table tennis, fully supported by Sport England.

It is clear that differences of opinion on issues/strategies will always be in place, but in a democratic society none of us would expect otherwise. We all must strive together towards the same goal and be prepared to listen, learn and understand each other's points of view.

## Sport England

The recent announcement of the Sport England Active Survey showed that table tennis has continued to grow and is one of only six sports already meeting their growth targets for year one, just six months into the funding period

This has been substantiated with the initial data from the league team affiliation returns, which show that for the first time in many years the senior team affiliations have increased in 2009/10 from 2008/9.

Discussions are underway with regard to areas such as our facilities, social media and a new potential intervention as part of their "Innovation Funding" scheme.

## International Table Tennis Federation

The LIEBHERR 2010 World Team Table Tennis Championships will take place in Moscow, Russia – 23rd to 30th May 2010

## British Table Tennis Federation (BTTF)

Discussions are taking place with UK Sport to secure funding later in 2010 for the 2011 to 2013 period and the balance of the £1.2 M award made in 2009 has been confirmed up to April 2011.

Just for clarity and background the (BTTF) agreed, with our UK Sport adviser in attendance, prior to the announcement by UK Sport, to a review over the next three months which will be discussed at the January board meeting. This was confirmed within the UK Sport press release.

It should be made clear that, every quarter, table tennis, as with the other sports, has a review within the Mission 2012 reporting process. This last submission resulted in a number of points being raised by the UK Sport Panel, which the BTTF board agreed to review and this was considered by the UK Sport board when the decision on funding was made.

In the case of some sports the totals originally stated for the 2009 to 2013 period have changed, some up and some down. For table tennis the deferral on the decision was made by the UK Sport board and is subject to the review, which the BTTF board is considering.

Initial meetings took place with UK Sport on 16th December and others are planned early in the New Year, as well

as discussions within the board and performance management group about the review and with our other partners.

The majority of the Olympic sports operate on a GB basis whilst table tennis participates as GB, only in the Olympics, whereas in the World and European arena via the Home Countries (HC), and England also receives funding, as do the others, from their sports councils.

A number of the Olympic sports receive very little or no funding from the HC sports councils. In fact out of all 28 sports, in terms of overall investment table tennis was 13th in the total funding ladder with £10.5 M over the present Olympic cycle.

The recent investments by Sport England included an Excel programme for ETTA with a link to the GB Elite Programme, which has resulted in a significant increase in income available on Talent Development and Identification for England, some of which was previously financed from the UK Sport Talent Programme.

The intent of BTTF and UK Sport is to ensure that our team and individuals at London 2012 give creditable performances, whilst providing a legacy for 2016.

### Senior National Championships

These will take place in Sheffield from 4th to 6th March and the Management and National Championships Committee have agreed to increase the prize fund to include equal prize money in both the men's and women's events, a first for this prestigious tournament

### U11-14 National Champs

The National U11 to 14 Championships - Regional Qualification over the weekend of 3rd and 4th April 2010 is underway. The goal is to have large entries hence lots of matches with the intention to promote the event both regionally and nationally, giving the opportunity for young people from schools, clubs, leagues and counties to participate with the chance to qualify for the National Championships and become a Regional Champion.

### Commonwealth

The Daily Telegraph ran a piece about the Commonwealth Games in India 2010 under the headline 'England ready to pull out of Commonwealth Games over terror risk'. In the interests of accuracy and balance Commonwealth Games England issued the following statement:

Commonwealth Games England said "That is definitely not the case. Our current and strong intention is to field a team for the Games in Delhi next year. Of course, we have a duty of care to the athletes and other team members which we take very seriously. Despite having been given extensive briefings from relevant authorities we have not received any indication that we should not participate in the Games and we will continue to work hard to put in place the best possible arrangements for our team "

For your information it is England's intention to send a table tennis team to Delhi covering both men and women, as well as women para athletes.



U11,12 & 13 Champ, Tin-Tin Ho

From our perspective the safety of everyone is of paramount importance to the ETTA, and to that end we have already taken significant steps to evaluate and monitor the security situation in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games Council for England. This was included during our team reconnaissance trips to Delhi, which involved representatives of all sports and security advisers.

### European Table Tennis Union

The next European Championships will take place from 11th to 19th September in Ostrava, Czech Republic

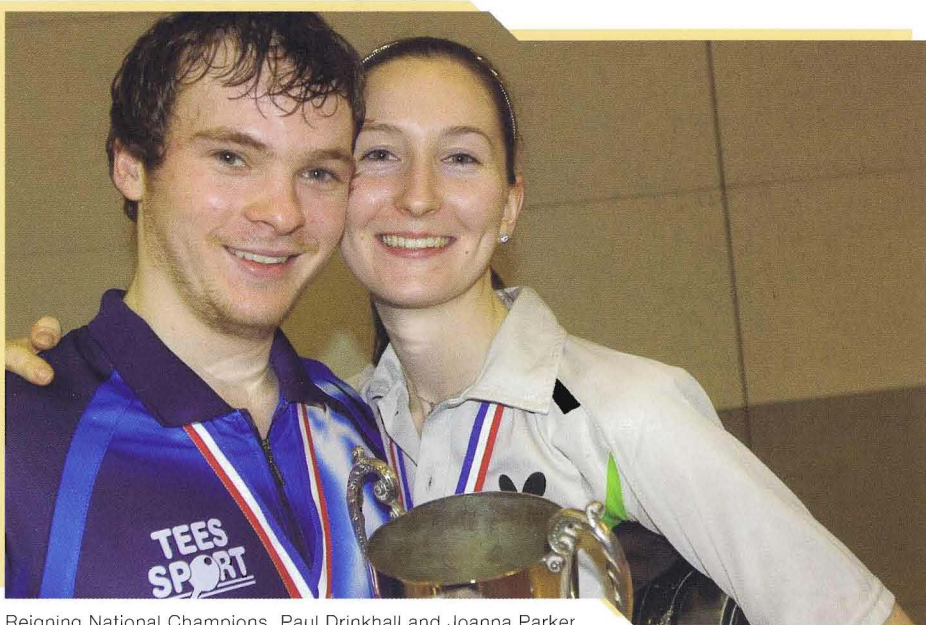
The next round of European Nations League matches will take place on 2nd March with the men playing Israel and the women playing Poland. We have expressed concern over this date as it is only a few days before our Senior National Championships, as well as the NC for many other European countries. Our Events Department is looking for a suitable venue to play both matches at the same time

I shall be attending the Sunderland League's 100th and the Guildford League's 75th anniversaries, and I would be interested in any other leagues which have major anniversaries this year

I look forward to seeing you during the season at events and meetings. I am also happy to meet with you and your committees at any time

Regards

**Alex Murdoch**  
ETTA Chairman



Reigning National Champions, Paul Drinkhall and Joanna Parker



Feng Tianwei

# Letters

I read with interest your article in the November edition of TTN about the UKCC qualifications needed by 2012. I think the ETTA will be faced with the loss of many of its older, very experienced coaches.

I have been an "active" coach for 20 years, my youngsters have represented their country in international competitions. Now, it seems I will have to start from scratch to become a recognised coach, I am not far short of 70, but feel more like 35, and with luck could have gone on for a long time yet, but not now. Will I do all this course work to prequalify? Not a cat in hell's chance! SO my retirement from coaching will be in 2012 at the latest.

With an up-to-date CRB/ISA check I could continue coaching youngsters beyond that date as an independent unrecognised coach, but I think it's unlikely. I know it's not the ETTA's doing, but I also know other experienced coaches who think the same.

**Alan Blears**

In response to your letter I feel it is appropriate to reinforce the transition from our ETTA Coaching Qualifications to the UKCC. Under the UK Coaching Framework, the ETTA made the decision to adopt the UKCC gaining access to financial and operational support, improving coaching standards and to develop a sustainable World Class coaching system; this is a decision which I fully endorse. 'Professionalising' the coaching workforce is imperative, challenging coaches to constantly develop; table tennis has failed previously as education systems have allowed qualification without the need to re-educate at any stage. Coaching in sport is in perpetual development, constantly challenging best practice; table tennis can be no different. I appreciate that we have many high quality ETTA coaches; to maintain such quality it is vital that reflective practice, continual professional development and licensing are implemented; these are all part of the UKCF and UKCC.

"Following the great success at the English Open which was the first major event for table tennis in England offering equal prize money for men as well as women, the ETTA announced today that the Cadet and Junior National Championships being held at the English Institute of Sport in December will also provide equal prize money for both junior boys and girls.

This is part of an ongoing process within the ETTA to support and attract more women into table tennis which includes plans for a Women's Conference and Workshops next year, a new working group has also just been set up and the process of reviewing prize money on other national events continues."

That will be great news for the women and girls involved in the sport!

May I also suggest that to celebrate this announcement, a national campaign to encourage more women and girls into the sport should be launched, with all PremierClubs being asked to run a series of Come & Try It sessions, perhaps using a national poster featuring the top girls with a space for local place, date and time. This could perhaps be kicked off with a national demonstration by our top women in London inviting all the major newspapers, TV and important women in sport, such as Dame Kelly Holmes, who has recently issued a rallying call for women's sport.

Coach retention is a high priority and the ETTA is offering bridging courses for existing ETTA coaches (not all sports are doing this). These courses are cheaper per candidate than the full course but ensure that an ETTA coach can transfer to UKCC and their coaching practice is up-to-date. The bridging courses are available until 2012 providing all ETTA coaches the opportunity to continue coaching table tennis; please contact the National Coaching Administrator (Sophie.hare@etta.co.uk) to book your place.

I would like to take this opportunity, however, to thank the many dedicated coaches for their efforts in the past and hope that the majority will 'bridge' to UKCC so that the sport can continue to benefit from their time, experience and expertise.

**Jon Pett**  
Coach Education Manager

I believe that the ETTA could gain good national PR from this announcement as well as compliments from the ITTF. Thank you!

**Jose Ransome**

You will also be pleased to read that the prize money for the senior national

Matthew Syed's excellent article in the last edition focuses on a fundamental problem in table tennis. He is well qualified to comment, given that he is by far the best journalist we have ever had in the world of table tennis. Many others will have heard his brilliant attempts to make the three ball rallies we occasionally see on TV sound interesting. In his article, Matthew fails to mention the rather more radical solution to the problem – to return to hard bats. But I am sure he is aware that the hard bat revolution is probably a step too far. It is inconceivable that the ITTF would ever support a change that would have such an adverse effect on the commercial foundations of TT bats and associated accessories. But the net height solution could be a winner. As in the case of the ball size, it is a change that would be easy to implement. It would certainly slow the game somewhat, allowing defenders a better chance. And the manufacturers and distributors would have a bonus even greater than when the ball change was implemented. I say go for it!

**Graham Frankel**

Well, at least as Matthew says, increase the height of the net. Now there's a thought. Actually John Prean came up with that suggestion 'yonsks' ago when the ITTF started messing about with the size of the ball and the scoring system of the game.

As you know, and are well aware, the game gets minute exposure in the UK media, be it national press or terrestrial TV. The general British public have absolutely no idea of how the game has changed and the apparent 'bash-bash' techniques are a great turn-off when they do see a little of our sport. So Matthew has got that right.

But the problem is worse than that. I have taken a number of pleasant sea cruises over the past four or five years. Each and every boat has had at least one table, and sometimes three, and organise a so-called table tennis tournament. Yet in each and every case neither the crew member organising nor any of the passengers knew (or even cared) that the game is now

championships is also going to be the same for both sexes. As for the Grand Prix series, this has been paid in equal measures for some time now, based on a proportion of the number of entries which results in the fairest system. Currently the overall prize money for men's band 5 is exactly the same as men's band 1, whilst the lowest entry,

women's band 3, receives the lowest amount. If the number of women playing exceeded the number of men then they would receive more money.

This is the sort of story that we will be using within our new marketing and pr strategy.

played to 11-up. Neither did they know that the size of the ball had changed..... not to mention the fact that the equipment supplied has always been of the worst kind (short of a sandpaper covering).

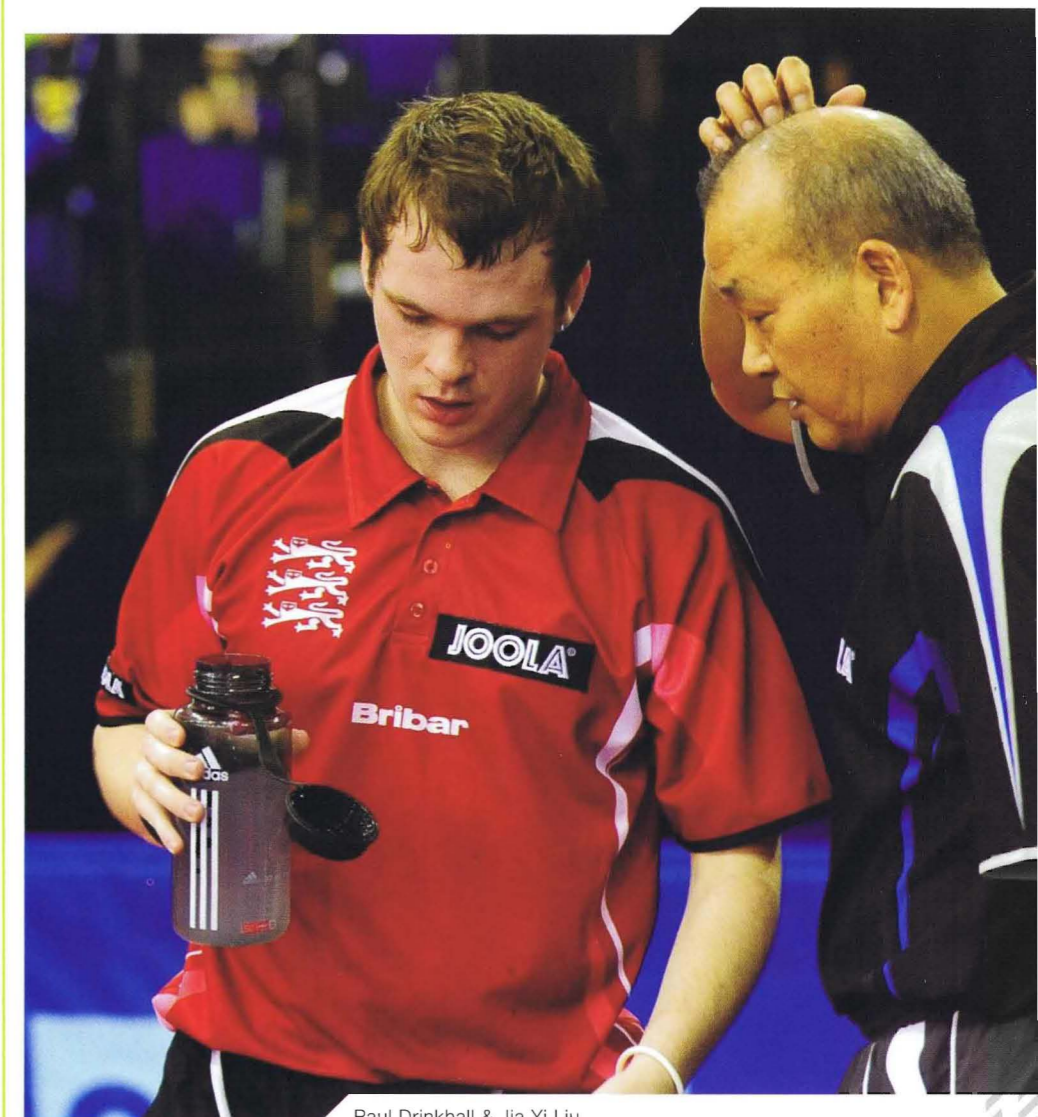
It would seem that we are not getting through to the general public. So what has happened to our ETTA publicity machine?

**Tony Shapps**

It looks like Matthew has done it again and generated some debate out there.

Graham your view on hard bats seems to be viewed by Barry Hearn and he is looking at putting his money where his mouth is, with a big tournament in Vegas; Jeremy Wilson has done an article on Barry and his tournament idea is within this issue on page 20.

As to what the ETTA publicity machine is doing, we are working on a more proactive marketing and pr plan for outside of the sport, as well as the extensive work carried out within our existing market.



Paul Drinkhall &amp; Jia Yi Liu



L. Joanna Parker & Paul Drinkhall

R: From left to right - Nick Robinson-Baker, Ben Swain, unknown, Alex Murdoch, Council General of Manchester, Councillor Graham Oxley Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Joanna Parker & Paul Drinkhall

# Latest News

## The Queen's Baton Relay

This is one of the greatest traditions of the Commonwealth Games, having been the curtain-raiser to every Games since 1958.

The Delhi 2010 relay commenced from Buckingham Palace on Thursday 29th October, where Her Majesty entrusted the baton containing her 'message to the athletes', before appearing at various high-profile sporting events including the English Open.

The Baton will travel through all the Commonwealth nations – a historic journey that will cover a distance of more than 170,000 kilometres in 236 days. On its 100 day national tour, the Baton will visit every Indian state including the capital. By the end of the epic journey the Baton will have covered a staggering 190,000 kilometres in 336 days, one of the longest in the history of the Commonwealth Games.

For more information on the schedule for the Queen's Baton Relay please visit [www.weareengland.org](http://www.weareengland.org).

### TT on the Move

It's the news that table tennis in England's waiting for - and it could have important implications for our Olympic sport.

Sport England, the government agency responsible for community sport in this country, has given table tennis the thumbs up in their latest Active People Survey conducted by Mori of the 46 sports supported by Sport England.

New research shows a very positive trend in regular participation during the last four years with table tennis among five other sports meeting their growth targets - just six months into the funding period

In the last 12 months the number of participating players rose by 10,000 which included a rise of 9% in the age range 16-34. The 35-54 year old players moved up slightly by 2% although there was no significant increase in the 55 and over age groups.

Although the overall trends from the survey of all sports show a small decline in women players, within table tennis women's

participation shows an increase Of course different parts of the country show up differently. The North West came out best of all increasing their player base by 25%

Confirming the Sport England findings, senior league team affiliations showed an increase of 25 teams more than last season, that's the first time since 1978 that team affiliations have increased

In addition the entries for the recent Cadet and Junior National Championships increased substantially and over 300 entries have been received for the London Grand Prix - a record

"It has taken a lot of hard work but these latest figures show that table tennis is moving in the right direction" said ETTA Chairman Alex Murdoch

Sport England seems to agree. "Table tennis shows a strong growth among the 16-34 year old's as well as informal participation," said a Sport England spokesperson

T. Liu Shiwen - B: Ma Long



### All change at the top

Wang Hao and Zhang Yining have been knocked off their number 1 spots by their younger compatriots.

Wang Hao, who has been ranked number 1 in the world since 2007 was pushed into second place by Ma Long, the recent English Open winner.

The dominant force of women's table tennis, Zhang Yining, who has been number 1 since January 2003 (excluding January and November 08), was deposed by Liu Shiwen.

Can they maintain their new found status, or will it be business as usual in February?

### Prize Money

For the first time the English National Championships will feature equal prize money for both men and women in all 11 categories, continuing the trend of equality being pushed through our sport.

### Tin-Tin's a Star!

Tin-Tin Ho from Westminster has been awarded £500 in recognition of her outstanding sporting ability through the OCS Young Sports Person Awards in partnership with SportsAid Tin-Tin beat off stiff competition to win Young Star award

Tin-Tin is just 10 years old yet a definite star for the future of table tennis She practices every day after school with her Dad who is her coach Playing since the age of five, Tin-Tin attends England training camps once a month "The talent is so big that there is a serious possibility that she could represent Great Britain in London 2012," says Steen Hansen

Tin-Tin also has high ambitions for the future and aims to enter the 2012 Olympic Games and win the European Youth U15 "Winning the OCS Young Sports Person Award has made me so happy

and encourages me to move on and win even more awards," she says. Tin-Tin has dominated her age group since she took up the sport and, despite her young age, recently won the British title for under 13,12 and 11 girls

Tin Tin was selected for an award from thousands of young sports people who were identified and nominated to SportsAid by their sport's National Governing Body.

Previous OCS Young Sports Person Award winners will attend the event, including 2008 Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle

Since the Awards began in 1998, OCS has made sports bursaries in excess of £235,000 to over 100 deserving young people and, over the last 30 years, SportsAid has supported in excess of 1,500 able bodied and disabled young sports people each year and is at the heart of the talented athlete sponsorship scheme (TASS) Tim Lawler, Chief Executive of SportsAid, commented, "This is the second year SportsAid is joining forces with OCS, a company already committed to funding talented youngsters through the Young Sports Person Awards We are delighted that by working together we can offer even more awards to talented young athletes "



From left to right - Sue Barker, Tin-Tin Ho & Jill Parker

# Coaching - Backhand Attack

## Backhand Drive - Beginner

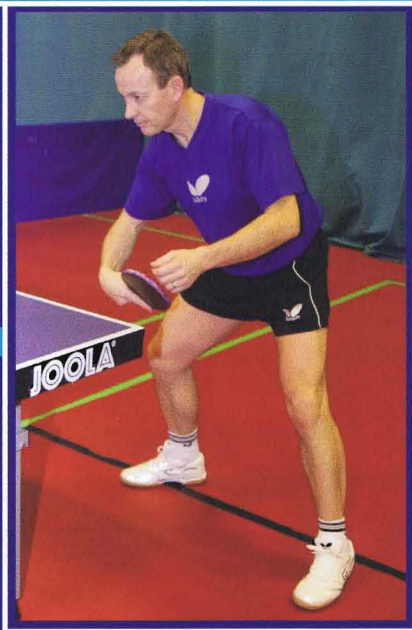
The backhand drive is an attacking shot usually played within the backhand third of the table; many players use the backhand drive as a controlling shot to allow them to follow up with their forehand drive or topspin.

### When would you use the Backhand Drive?

The backhand drive would be used when an attacking shot has been played into the backhand corner.

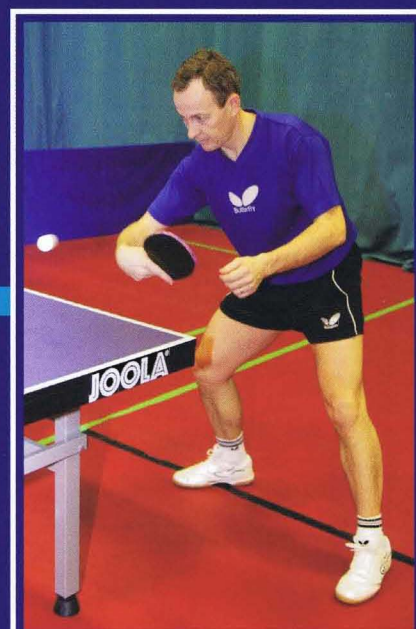
### Why would you use the Backhand Drive?

The backhand drive would be used to gain a beneficial position to execute a stronger shot.



### Ready Position

- Feet shoulder width apart and square to the line of play close to table
- Knees bent and leaning slightly forward
- Bat in front of the body



### Backswing

- Closed bat moves back towards the waist
- Wrist is angled slightly back
- Slight rotation at the waist and hips to the left



### Forward Movement

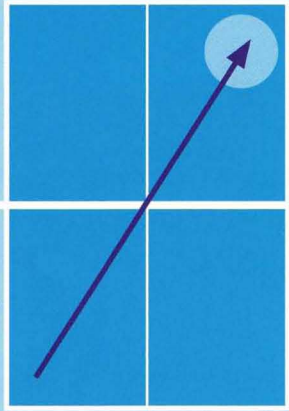
- Movement produced from elbow joint
- Bat moves straight forward
- Elbow moves slightly forward
- Contact in front at peak of bounce and slightly to the left side



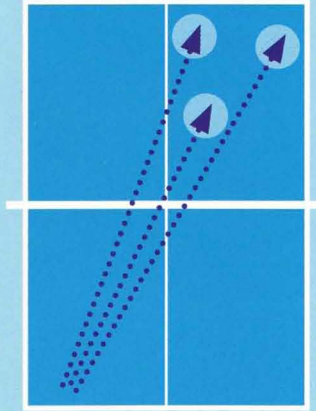
### Follow Through

- Bat moves in direction of the ball and upwards
- Recover to ready position

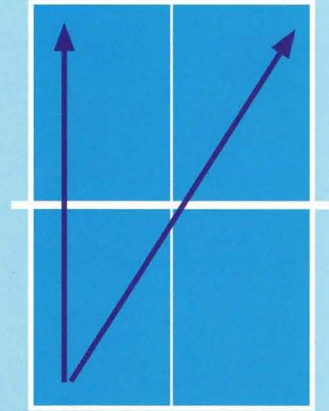
**Progressive Activities**



BH drive across court to large target, let the ball bounce, player 2 catches and throws it back, repeat 5 times and change

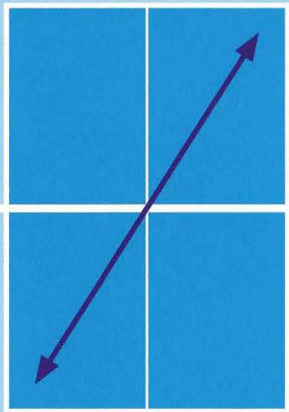


Puts target anywhere in the BH half of the table, BH drive trying to hit target

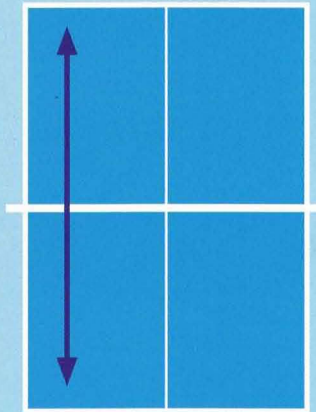


Start with 2 balls, BH drive across court, player 2 catches, play BH drive down the line, player 2 side steps across and catches

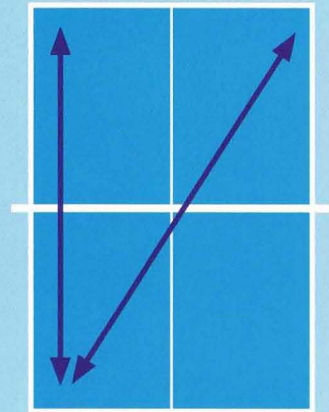
**Progressive Exercises - Regular**



BH to BH Drive

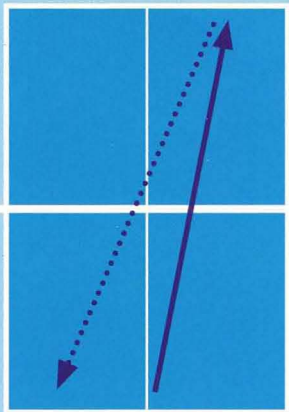


BH Drive to FH Drive

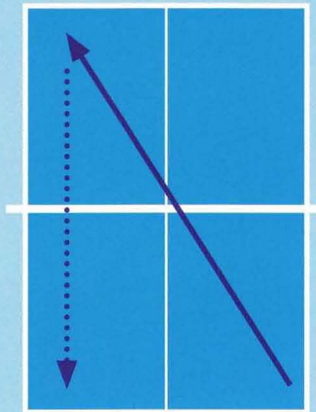


BH Drive to FH, BH Drive to BH, continuous

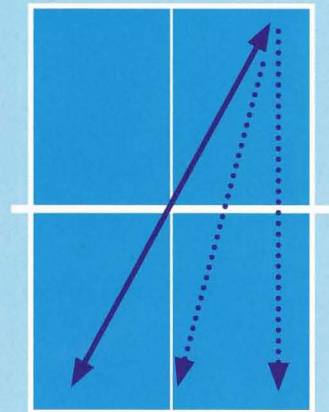
**Progressive Exercises - Irregular**



FH from Middle to BH (1-3) switch to BH, continuous



FH to FH Drive (1-3) Switch to BH, continuous



BH to BH Drive (3-6) switch to Middle or wide, free

## Backhand Topspin - Intermediate

The backhand topspin is an attacking shot that can be used as a tool to allow for a strong forehand topspin or as a point winning shot.

### When would you use the Backhand Topspin?

Any long balls (whether serve, receive or open play) to the backhand corner should be played with the backhand topspin.

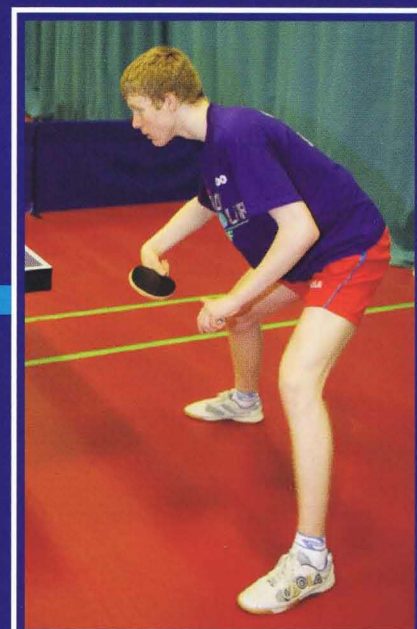
### Why would you use the Backhand Topspin?

A backhand topspin should be used to obtain a strong position in the rally; you should use the shot in a way that allows you to gain advantage within the point.



### Ready Position

- Feet are shoulder width apart and square to the table
- Knees are bent and leaning slightly forward



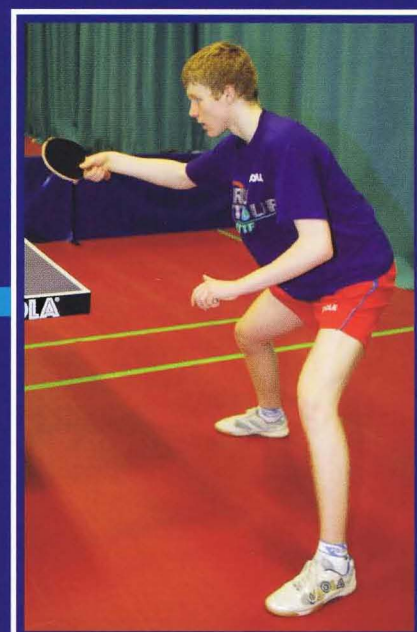
### Backswing

- Bat moves back towards the waist
- The wrist is angled backwards and slightly downwards
- Hips, waist and shoulders rotate backwards slightly to the left



### Forward Movement

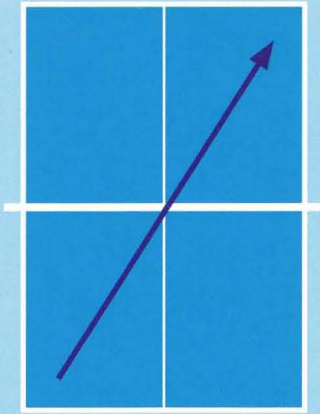
- Bat moves upwards and forwards from the elbow
- Forearm and wrist accelerate and the bat brushes the ball just after peak bounce



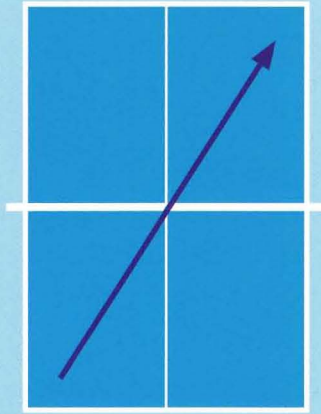
### Follow Through

- Bat moves in direction of the ball and upwards and then returns to a neutral position

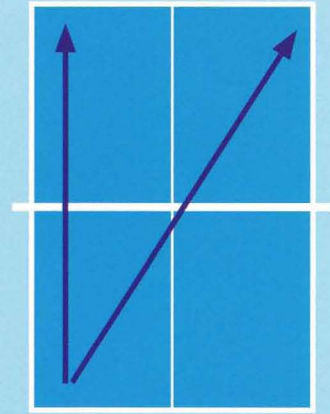
**Regular**



BH topspin to BH Block

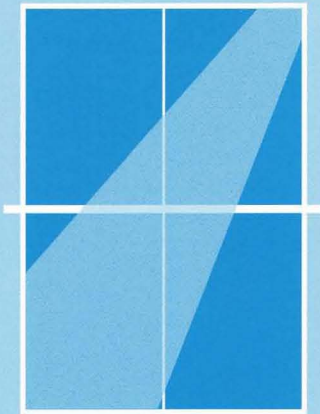


BH topspin (3-5),  
harder topspin, continuous

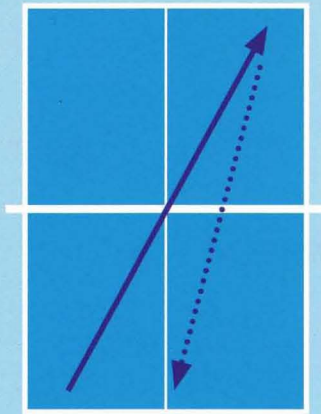


2BH topspin to BH,  
2BH topspin to FH

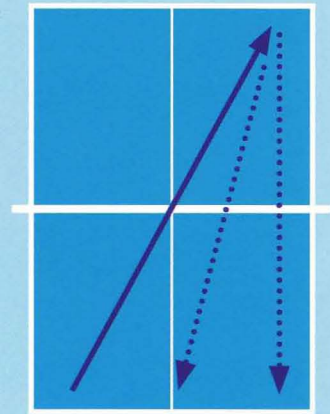
**Irregular**



BH topspin anywhere from BH corner  
to block

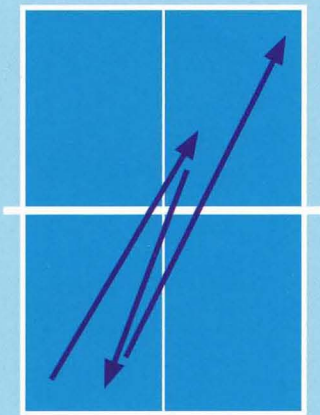


BH topspin (3-5) to BH,  
switch to middle, FH to BH, free

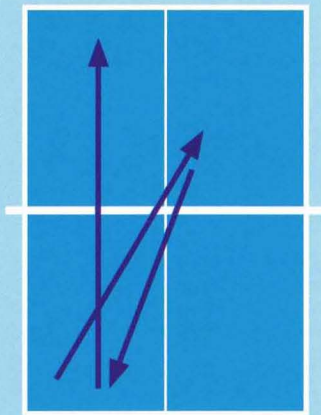


BH topspin (3-5) to BH block,  
switch to middle or wide, free

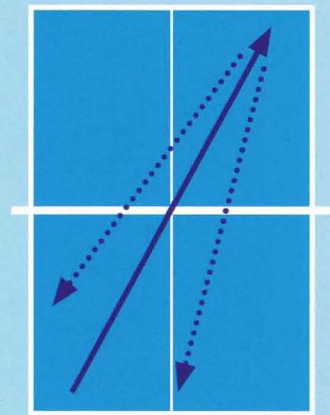
**Conditional**



Short no spin serve to BH,  
BH flick to BH,  
BH topspin to BH, free



Short backspin serve,  
push receive to BH,  
BH topspin to FH, free



Long serve to BH, BH topspin to wide  
BH or to middle

## Backhand Counter Topspin - Advanced

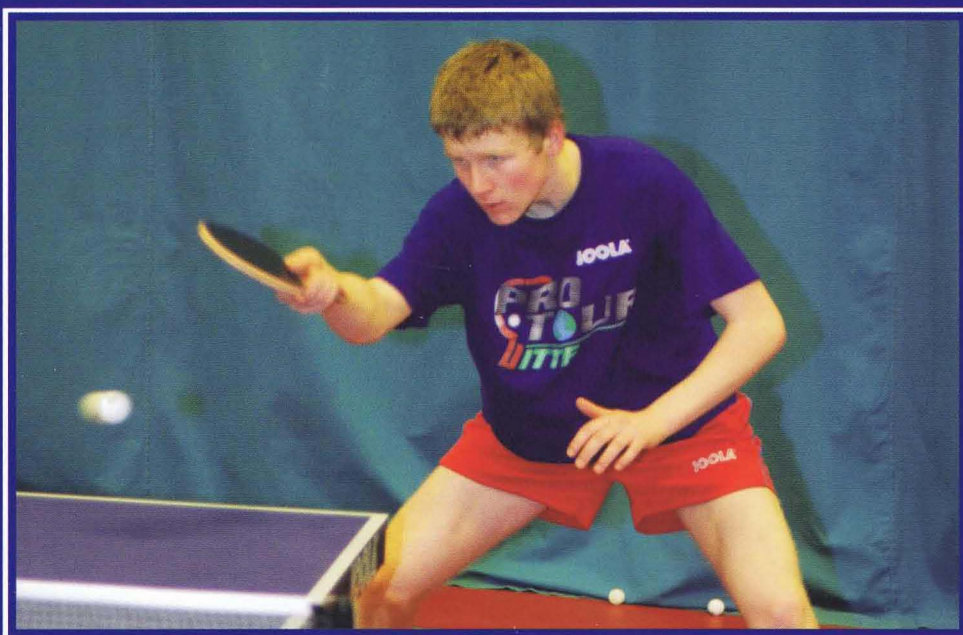
A backhand counter topspin is an attacking shot that is used to regain advantage in a rally, i.e. turning defence (blocking) into attack. The shot is executed with a closed bat angle.

### When would you use a Backhand Counter Topspin?

This shot should be used when an attack is made to the backhand third of the table, from an initial third ball attack or from a blocking position. The shot can be performed either off the bounce or at the peak of the bounce.

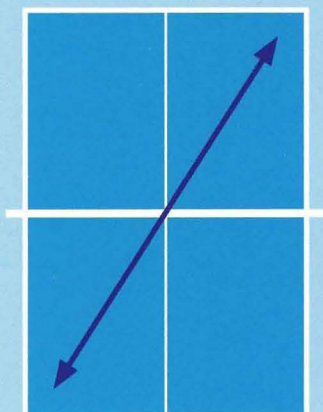
### Why use a Backhand Counter Topspin?

You should use a backhand counter topspin to obtain or regain the attack in a rally, or in an attempt to win the point.



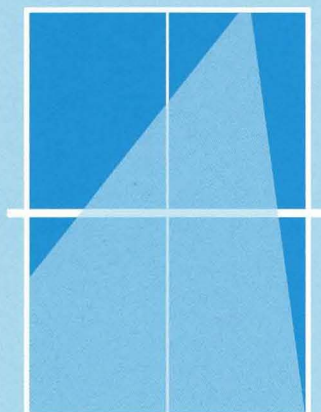
- The backhand counter topspin is executed with mainly forearm and wrist; the rest of the body remains relatively still
- The angle of the bat is in a more closed position when compared to a backhand topspin (to counteract the topspin)
- Feet and body position remain square to the line of play

### Regular



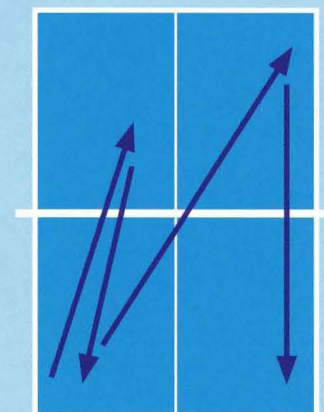
BH topspin to BH counter topspin 2,  
FH counter topspin

### Irregular



Topspin from anywhere to BH  
counter topspin

### Conditional



Short serve, push or flick to BH,  
BH topspin to BH counter topspin  
down the line

## Backhand Counter Punch - Advanced

The backhand counter punch is an alternative counter attack to the backhand counter topspin. It's a shot that is executed with no spin using a more open bat angle. The counter punch should be executed when the ball is at the peak of the bounce.

### When would you use a Backhand Counter Punch??

This shot should be used when an attack is made to the backhand third of the table, from an initial third ball attack or from a blocking position. Normally this should be used when the ball is slightly higher.

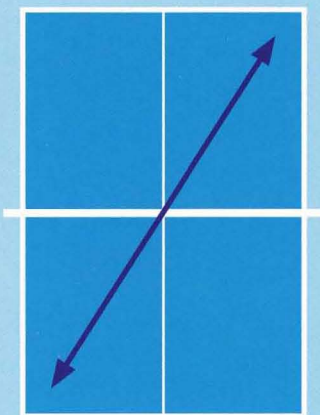
### Why use a Backhand Counter Punch??

You should use a backhand counter topspin to obtain or regain the advantage in the rally, or in an attempt to win the point.



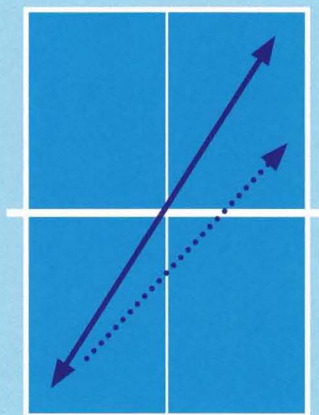
- The backhand punch is also a shot that is executed using the forearm and the wrist
- The angle of the bat is a much more open position as seen in the photo to the left
- The ball is contacted at the peak of the bounce and it is contacted at speed to counteract any spin that may be on the ball

### Regular



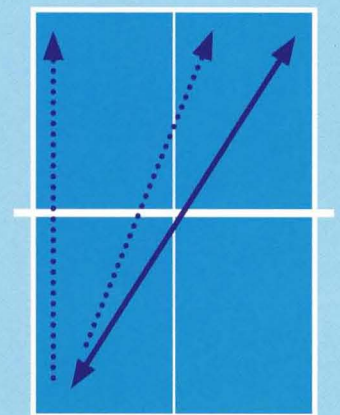
Topspin to BH, drive one, punch one, continuous

### Irregular



BH drive to BH (3-5), punch to wide BH, free

### Conditional



Long serve to BH Topspin, punch to cross-over or wide FH, free



Article by Matthew Syed

Photographs - T: Alan Cooke - BL: Matthew Syed - BM: Andrew Baggaley - BR: Desmond Douglas



The Nationals are, and probably always will be, the biggest occasion in the domestic calendar. They have history, all the great English names in the sport's heritage are on the famous trophies, and everyone who is serious about table tennis wants to win it. In my day it was called the "English Closed", but the concept is just the same.

One of the first Nationals I attended was also one of the most memorable. Desmond Douglas, the man who remains by a huge margin the greatest English player of the modern era, was on a long run of victories stretching back (or at least it seemed) to the beginning of time, but on this day he was given an incredible run for his money by England number two Graham Sandley. Sandels (as he was known) played the match of his life, failing by the narrowest margin in the deciding set. The match was followed by an exhibition match between Jacques Secretin and Vincent Purkart, which had fans standing, shouting and stamping their feet.

After watching all that, the ambition to win the Nationals was etched on my heart.

Another memorable final was between Alan Cooke and Desmond Douglas, when the latter, still on his incredible run, was pushed hard by the then newcomer from Derbyshire. Cooke was a savvy and, it has to be said, gutsy performer who had figured out what so many others had failed to realise: when playing Douglas the trick was resist the temptation to play hard into his backhand, but, rather to play soft, slow topspins into his forehand, thus inducing a top-edge on Douglas's attempted counter-topspins.

Cooke played a blinder, taking (from memory) the first set and leading 20-14 in the second, but Douglas, who had underrated fighting qualities, battled his way back to take the second game and eventually win the match. It was to set the scene for a number of intriguing and gruelling battles between the two men down the years.

My first victory came against Cooke in the final of 1997. Coached by the ferociously intelligent tactician and masterly motivator Denis Neale, I had come from behind against Bradley Billington in the semis, before overcoming Cooke in a relatively one-sided final. It was a virginal triumph but strangely anticlimactic. I remember getting back to my flat in Richmond, eating dinner alone and then beginning to plan my preparation for the World Championships that were taking place in Manchester in spring.

My most memorable victory came against Douglas one year later. Douglas had knocked out Carl Prean earlier in the competition (which

was a blessing, for me at least, because Prean was one of the world's most formidable players against defence) and had arrived in the final at a remarkable pace for an old stager. I had never defeated Douglas before in competition but was aware from our battles in practice matches that I was in with a chance.

It was an epic battle, Douglas marshalling his remarkably intuitive tactical brain to send me all around the court and then back again. I eventually came through in the deciding game, but only by attacking whenever possible. Afterwards, I chatted with Douglas at the post competition reception and he asked me who would have won had we met each other in our respective primes. It was not a difficult question to answer. Douglas at his best would have thrashed me.

In more recent years, Paul Drinkhall has proved himself to be a fearsome competitor at the Nationals. Imbued with incredible power, timing and technique, Drinkhall has oodles of potential and a keen competitive instinct. He starts as strong favourite to win the men's singles.

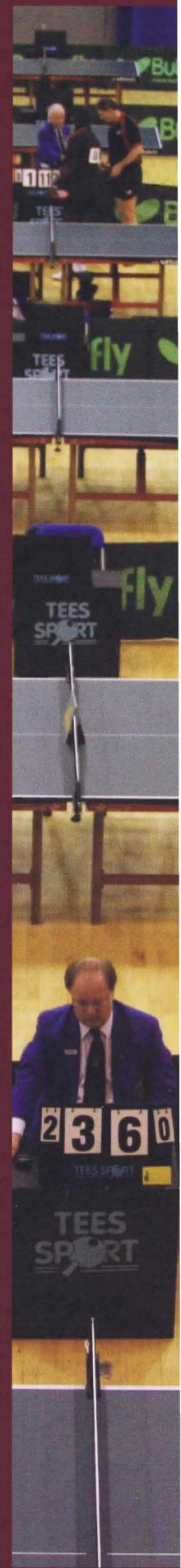
Another champion of recent years is Andrew Baggaley. The player from Milton Keynes promised so much when he played such intelligent and nuanced table tennis to help England win gold in the men's team event at the Commonwealth Championships in Singapore in 2001. Then, I really believed he would make it into the world top fifty and perhaps even higher than that.

He is a player with immense touch and tactical awareness, and I well remember practicing with him at the beginning of the last decade and marvelling at how quickly he picked up new ideas and strategies. It remains a mystery that he has not made further strides in recent years, his world ranking stuck around 150 to 200. One possible problem has been an unwillingness to modify the technique of his forehand topspin, which he takes too late and with an elbow too high, and a failure to embrace new ideas. Either way, however, he remains a threat.

It is probably also worth noting that the Nationals are an ever-changing competition. In the mid to late 1980s, it was an incredibly strong competition with three players from the top of the world rankings competing for the crown (Douglas, Prean, Cooke) and other contenders who were well inside the best hundred (Skylet Andrew, Syed, Mason, Souter, Stokes, Billington, etc).

The Nationals lack that strength, both at the top and in depth, today, but that does not alter the charm of the event, or its prestige. It remains the title to win.

# the BIGGEST occasion





# the **Ronaldinho** of promoting

He is the man who helped make snooker in the 1980s, he developed Chris Eubank into boxing's most marketable character during the 1990s, and over the past decade he has transformed darts into a sport that is now the second most watched activity on Sky after live Premier League football.

According to Ronnie O'Sullivan, he is quite simply the "Ronaldinho of promoting". In Britain, it is certainly true that no other individual has been more successful at transforming the popularity and wealth of relatively minor sports into major television events than Barry Hearn.

Hearn has now got his eye on table tennis. A major fan of the sport during the 1960s, Hearn would watch classic hard-bat matches involving the likes of Marty Reisman at New York's Madison Square Garden.

It was the sound that captivated Hearn – as well as the long and spectacular rallies. He is well aware that the decline in the post-war popularity of table tennis as a spectator event coincided with the advances in technology.

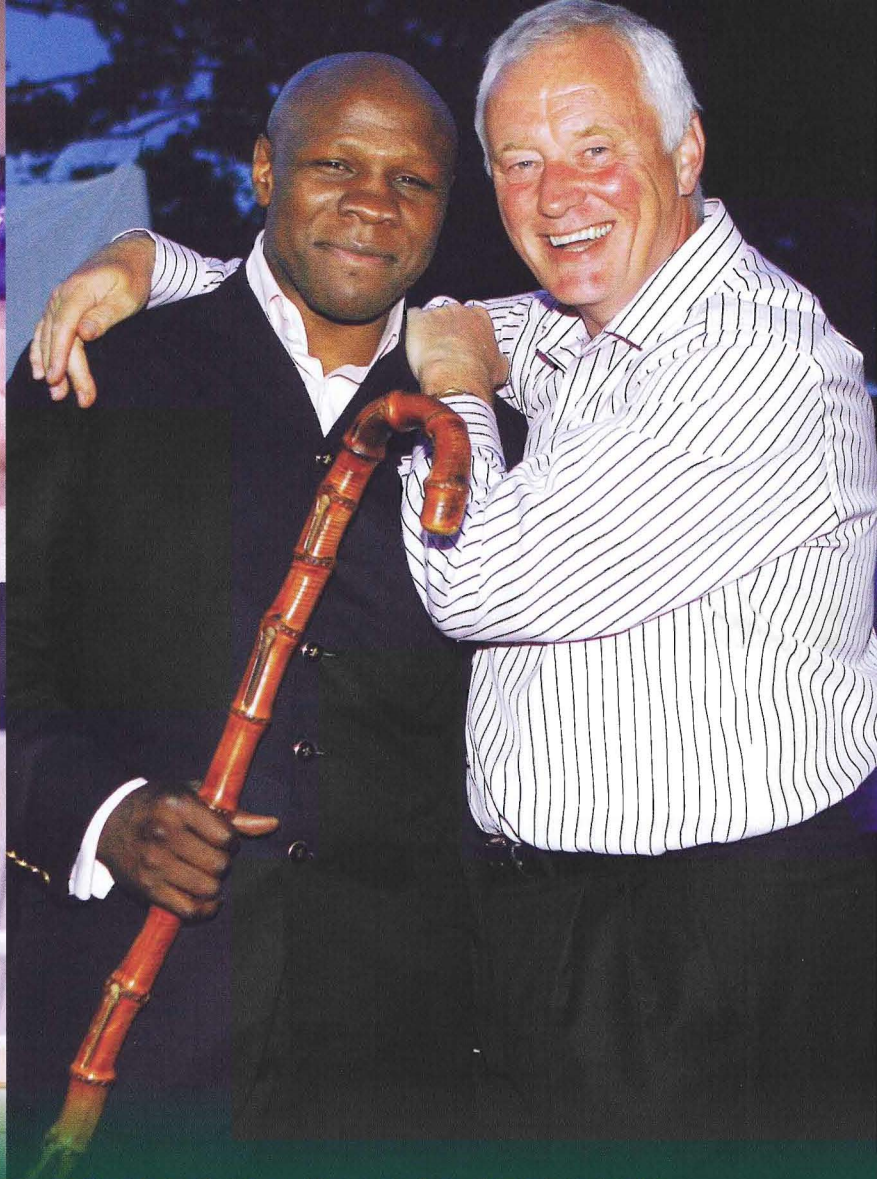
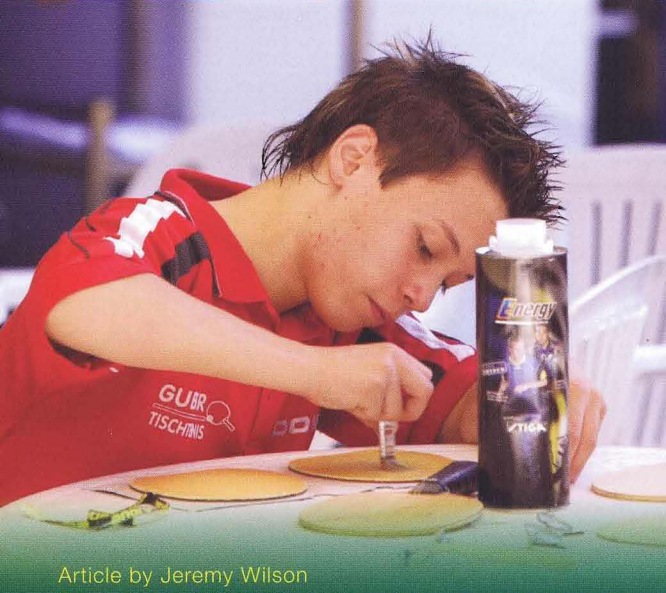
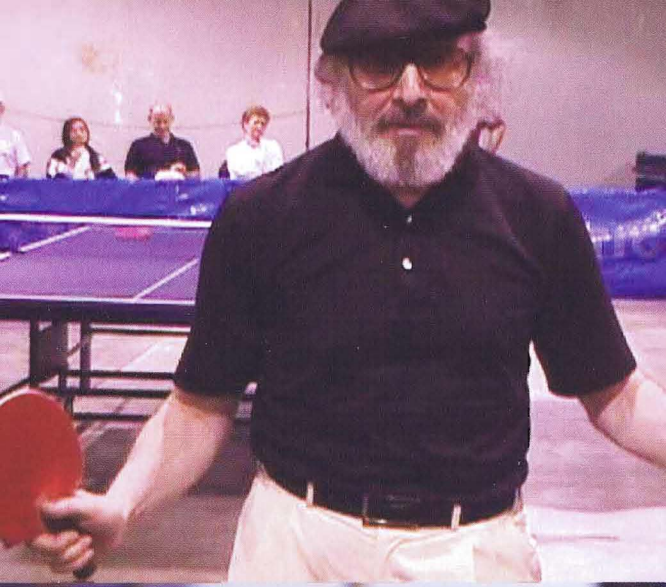
Huge speed and spin equal shorter rallies, and according to Hearn, the end of a consumer-friendly sport. Yet he believes that could change with a series of classic hard-bat events involving the very best players in the world.

"They ruined table tennis when they brought in those foam bats," he says. "They lost the noise that was synonymous with the game. I watched table tennis in the 1960s with 15,000 at Madison Square Garden.

"I want to bring that back using the old bats, launch it in Vegas, the world's top 16 players, pay them huge amounts of money. A group of investors have asked me to look into it for May/June next year."

The idea was already trialled with some success last summer on the Las Vegas 'Strip' when Reisman's life story was the inspiration for the Hardbat Classic, an all-comers tournament and made-for-television event at the Venetian hotel in June.

The tournament matched hand-picked "Hardbat All Stars" against tournament-rated players of various levels. For an entry fee of \$100, the victor would take home \$100,000 – an unheard of sum in American table tennis. The idea was to revive the sport in its "classic" form and excite television in the process.



Article by Jeremy Wilson

Photographs - L: courtesy of pachd.com - TM: Marty Reisman - R: Chris Eubank & Barry Hearn courtesy of Lawrence Lustig

It is a concept that may also win approval with the traditionalists, and although he would clearly have to overcome considerable opposition from the major equipment manufacturers, it would be dangerous to dismiss Hearn.

His energy and zest for life remains utterly formidable. He helped change the sporting landscape during the 1980s when snooker became the most popular television sport in Britain. Hearn's sporting formula remains familiar and he would undoubtedly apply the same principles to table tennis. "It is the characters," he says. "In snooker everyone was a character, you had people like Alex Higgins and Bill Werbeniuk. I used to call it soap opera with balls, well darts now is soap opera with a sharp point at the end.

"You have Phil Taylor – the legend, there are the old timers and a whole new breed of hungry young players. It is a normal competitive sport, but we have the entertainment of WWF wrestling to go with it."

Hearn is still the manager of Steve Davis and last December he returned as the new chairman of the World Professional Snooker and Billiards Association. His involvement had dwindled during the early 1990s when he became frustrated with the game's governing body.

From his position at the helm of the PDC, he has completely controlled the direction of darts to a stage where the world championships had to move to the Alexandra Palace and Premier League events are regularly attracting crowds in excess of 5,000. The first 10,000 capacity event in darts is scheduled for the O2 Arena later this year. Darts is now generating the sort of interest, sponsorship and income that is the envy of most other sports. "It is giving me as much satisfaction as the early days in snooker to take a British game and see a huge growth around the world," he says. "But I really thought snooker would be even more massive. We were going everywhere – Tokyo, Brazil, you name it in the early 1990s".

"But the governing body thought they could do it better and have messed it up. I take my responsibility and I blame myself as well for that. With the darts, I can do it my way. It is extremely motivating to know the potential and I have a blinding day, every day."

Back in the 1980s when snooker was booming, Hearn said he went to bed dancing and woke up singing. He might now be 61, but little else it seems has changed: could table tennis soon be on the receiving end?



# Cadet and Junior National Championships

Great play, great drama, and a bit of unnecessary pique at losing a critical match all rolled up to make a very interesting first day of the National Junior and Cadet Championships in Sheffield.

Daniel Lowe, seeded no 2, fell victim to Reece Placid in a crazy match in the last 32 of the Junior Boys' Singles. The first two games went to Daniel 11-3, 11-2 and then what a turnaround, 9-11, 9-11, 15-17 to Placid resulted in a charge of excessive racquet abuse (apologies to the EIS wall which bears the scar) and his banishment from the tournament.

That gave Natalie Slater and Adam Nutland a Mixed Doubles gold without having to play a shot in anger in the final. Mary Fuller deserves all our sympathy having missed out on a chance of a national title. Sean Cullen will not be best pleased either as that meant no no 1 seeds for the Junior Boys Doubles.

It must be added that Daniel calmed down and spent the rest of the day apologising for his outburst.

So to the rest of the table tennis, a day of doom for the top seeds, In the Junior Boys' Singles the quarter-finals disposed of the rest of the top four, all in five games: Lewis Gray lost to Sean Cullen, Zak Zilesnick was overcome by Richard Andrews and Daniel Basterfield was too much for Sean Cullen. Jared Patel took a comfortable win over Reece Tan in the fourth quarter.

The semis went by very quickly: Richard Andrews only needed four games to claim his final place over Sam Walker and Daniel Basterfield was even more dominant, beating Jared Patel in three straight games.

So to the final between two of the hardest working juniors on the circuit, Daniel Basterfield continued the same dominant form he had been displaying all day to come through and take the National Championships for 2009/10.

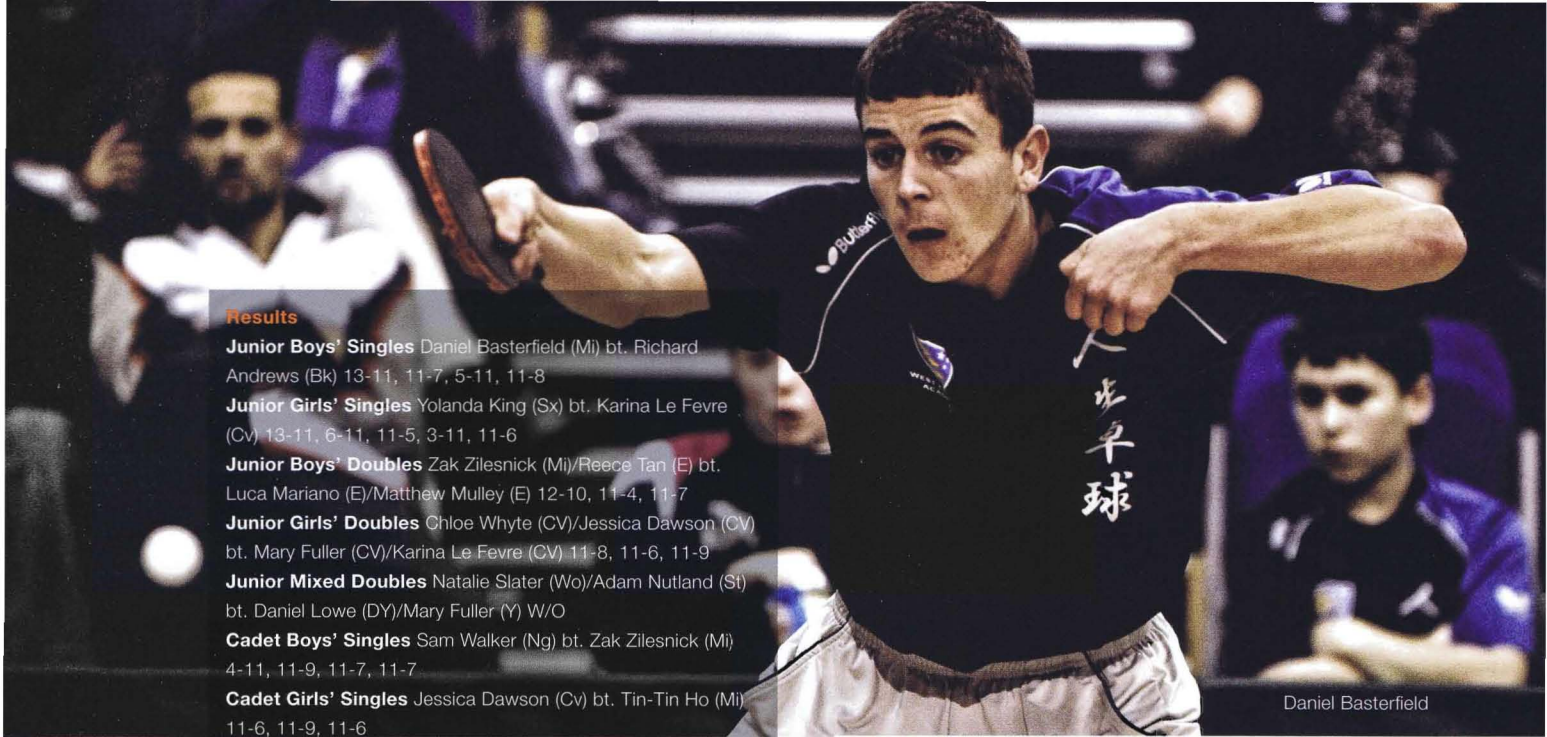
There were less shocks in the Junior Girls, but again not all went well for the seeds, Karina le Fevre, seeded no 1, duly made her way to the final, Emily Bates, no 2, fell in the last 16 to the other finalist Yolanda King. The final swung one way and then the other, but in the decisive fifth it was Yolanda who emerged victorious to claim the title.

The Junior Boys' Doubles was a very local contest between Luca Mariano and Matthew Mulley of Essex and Zak Zilesnick of Middlesex and Reece Tan, also from Essex Zak and Reece were just too strong winning the Championship in three straight games. If the Junior Boys' Doubles final was a relatively local affair it still did not match the Junior Girls Doubles final, where all four players were from the Ormesby club. In the end the experienced pair of Chloe Whyte and Jessica Dawson triumphed over Mary Fuller and Karina le Fevre, again in three straight games.

Day 2 was the turn of the cadet players and one in particular had a superb day. Jessica Dawson was unstoppable in the singles, beating no 1 seed Emily Bates in three straight games in the semi-finals and Tin-Tin Ho, also in 3 straight games, in the final. Just before that she had teamed up with Emily Bates to take the Cadet Doubles title as well. Without doubt Jessica was the most successful player at these championships, taking no less than three titles, as she also won the Junior Girls' Doubles title with Chloe Whyte on the Saturday.

The Cadet Boys' Singles also saw a new champion, an on fire Sam Walker faced the title holder and no 1 seed Zak Zilesnick. In the first game it was Zak who dominated, but Sam recovered, changed his game slightly and took the next three games to claim the title.

The only other cadet event was the Cadet Boys' Doubles, where the Cadet Singles' finalists again faced each other; Zak Zilesnick and Jared Patel came out on top against Sam Walker and Heeran Weerasinghe again in three straight games to claim the title.



Daniel Basterfield

**Results**

**Junior Boys' Singles** Daniel Basterfield (Mi) bt. Richard Andrews (Bk) 13-11, 11-7, 5-11, 11-8

**Junior Girls' Singles** Yolanda King (Sx) bt. Karina Le Fevre (Cv) 13-11, 6-11, 11-5, 3-11, 11-6

**Junior Boys' Doubles** Zak Zilesnick (Mi)/Reece Tan (E) bt. Luca Mariano (E)/Matthew Mulley (E) 12-10, 11-4, 11-7

**Junior Girls' Doubles** Chloe Whyte (Cv)/Jessica Dawson (Cv) bt. Mary Fuller (Cv)/Karina Le Fevre (Cv) 11-8, 11-6, 11-9

**Junior Mixed Doubles** Natalie Slater (Wo)/Adam Nutland (St) bt. Daniel Lowe (Dy)/Mary Fuller (Y) W/O

**Cadet Boys' Singles** Sam Walker (Ng) bt. Zak Zilesnick (Mi) 4-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-7

**Cadet Girls' Singles** Jessica Dawson (Cv) bt. Tin-Tin Ho (Mi) 11-6, 11-9, 11-6

**Cadet Boys' Doubles** Zak Zilesnick (Mi)/Jared Patel (E) bt. Sam Walker (Ng)/Heeran Weerasinghe (Sx) 11-9, 12-10, 11-4

**Cadet Girls' Doubles** Emily Bates (Li)/Jessica Dawson (Cv) bt. Tin-Tin Ho (Mi)/Vicky Smith (Dv) 11-6, 11-4, 11-6

Photographs courtesy of Steve Parkin



Karina Le Fevre



Natalie Slater



Yolanda King



Reece Placid



Adam Choi

# County Championships

## Junior 2A

This nine team division started its fixtures at two venues, as Lancashire 1 and 2 travelled to Halifax TTC to join the host's second team and Cheshire, whilst Lincolnshire seconds travelled to Wellow House School and were joined by Derbyshire 2, Norfolk, Suffolk and Leicestershire.

The Halifax leg saw the Lancashire first team emerge top of their pile after three straight wins, with a routine 10-0 thumping of their own second team, followed by more difficult encounters as they firstly beat Cheshire 7-3, before a tight 6-4 victory against Yorkshire 2, the other unbeaten team to that date.

Michael Lunn caught the eye with six wins from six and was well supported by Ellie Rees who dropped only one set for the table toppers, although it was a fine

team effort from the Red Rose county that brought them victory against their adversaries from across the Pennines.

The clash between the two counties was a thriller and saw Daryl Gee give Yorkshire an opening set lead with an 11-3, 5-11, 11-5, 11-5 victory against Adam Choi, only for Lunn to level the match score with a four game win over Ross McFadyen, at which point Ellen Auty gave Yorkshire the lead once more with a four game win over Rebecca McGrath.

Lancashire then hit their straps and reeled off four straight wins to establish a commanding 5-2 lead, although the White Rose county will be kicking themselves as they lost two of the four by the narrowest of margins.

Although Yorkshire pulled back to 5-4 with wins from Gee over Buchanan and Gemma Cundill over McGrath, it was left to Lunn to

snatch victory for Lancashire with an 11-13, 12-10, 11-9, 11-9 victory over Mason

Having played one match more in their opening fixtures it is Lincolnshire seconds who lead the way with four straight wins. As with Lancashire they had comfortable wins against Leicestershire, Suffolk and Norfolk, before a tough encounter with Derbyshire seconds, both sides being previously unbeaten.

When Derbyshire and Lincolnshire met it was Lincolnshire who were always in command and despite drawing level at two all, Derbyshire were always second best. Lincolnshire completed victory in the penultimate set with Henry McTernan and James O'Neil leading the way with maximum efforts, and Hannah Winfield and Emily Roys chipped in with one win each

Barry Sonwden

The Official Ball Supplier of the County Championships



# Tournament Review

## Bribar London Grand Prix

19th-20th December 2009

The 6' 6" tall Chris Doran was masterminding a plot to remove all the higher seeds on his way to the Men's Open title. One by one he gunned down players the calibre of Ed Slot, Eddie Famberly, and then at the last 16 stage he blew away Barry Chen S4, in a devastating fashion. Next opponent, Damien Nicholls (who was responsible for the exit of Sam Perry, Ryan Collins and David McBeath) and surely Doran could not sustain these power performances! Going 0-2 down in sets the writing was on the wall, and in an unbelievable third set he got his nose in front 18-16, and from there on in removed the gallant Shropshire player in five sets to book his place in the first semi-final.

So the remaining last eight matches featured Paul McCreery v Matt Ware, which went to the Irishman in a close five setter and Rumgay v Zheng which went to the Scottish player in four sets. McCreery S13 then had to face Danny Reed S3 and once again the England number 3 was extended to five sets, but as before showed all of his international experience to proceed to the final, but who would be his final opponent?

Step in Chris Doran S10, and still running on high octane fuel, surely he could not dislodge the top Scot and winner of so many Grand Prix titles! The stage was set for the remaining semi-final with over 100 eager spectators surrounding court 3.

Chris was just unstoppable and everything thrown at him by Rumgay was returned with utter contempt. Doran came through in the closest of three straight sets to fill his final place with Danny Reed.

Could another upset be on the cards with Mr Doran in unstoppable mode? You would bet on Danny Reed to once again show his class as he had done so many times in coming through against all the odds, especially after surviving many match points against him in the earlier rounds! The first set of the final saw the younger Doran take first blood 11-5. Reed quickly addressed the balance to level at 1-1. Doran nicked a close third end 13-11, but to Danny's credit he fought back to once again level at 2-2. By this time and after so much that Chris had gone through, with travelling back from a 35 hour journey from Colombia just two days earlier, would the jet lag come into the equation? Simple answer NO!

Chris just kept finding more at the vital points of the last set to get his head in front at the winning post. Rounding off a most entertaining match by these two heroes of our sport - Chris Doran was crowned the Bribar London Open Grand Prix Champion, both Danny and Chris received a standing ovation after a brilliant and spellbinding match.

The Women's Open Championship reached a climax with the two top seeded players Egle Adomelyte and Emma Vickers contesting the final. The surprise of this event was the outstanding performances by Sue West from the Bournemouth Sports club who reached the semi-final. Unseeded in the competition, Sue won her group then achieved brilliant results over Cherith Graham.

Fast and furious rallies were the order of the day in this super final with Egle getting the upper hand in three very close sets to be crowned the Bribar London Open Grand Prix Champion of 2009 and receive her cheque for £175.

Geoff Ware, ETTA Grand Prix Press Officer

### Results

**Men's Singles** Chris Doran (Np) bt. Danny Reed (Cv) 11-5, 5-11, 13-11, 7-11, 11-7

**Women's Singles** Egle Adomelyte (Mi) bt. Emma Vickers (Dy) 11-7, 12-10, 11-7

**Under 21 Men's** Chris Doran (Np) bt. Sam Hanley (IRL) 6-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-3

**Under 21 Women's** Emma Vickers (Dy) bt. Susan Nealon (IRL) 11-2, 11-2, 7-11, 11-6

**Restricted Singles** Umair Mauthor (E) bt. Leo Stylen (GER) 7-11, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8, 11-7

**Veteran Singles** Abdul Wuraola (Sy) bt. John Dennison (E) 9-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-5, 11-4

**Men's Band 1** Chris Doran (Np) bt. Victor Shi (FRA) 11-9, 11-6, 12-10

**Women's Band 1** Annabelle Morle (Ha) bt. Hang Li (La) 4-11, 12-14, 11-7, 11-8, 11-8

**Men's Band 2** Derek Yeung (La) bt. Tomasz Rzeszotko (WAL) 5-11, 11-6, 5-11, 11-9, 11-9

**Women's Band 2** Anja Esketveit (NOR) bt. Annabelle Morle (Ha) 11-8, 10-12, 11-6, 13-11

**Men's Band 3** Ceri James (WAL) bt. Jared Patel (E) 11-6, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7

**Women's Band 3** Susan Nealon (IRL) bt. Helen Rutherford (Sx) 11-2, 11-4, 11-7

**Men's Band 4** Reece Placid (Sy) bt. Ryan Maynard (Mi) 11-6, 6-11, 11-3, 11-1

**Men's Band 5** Stephen Joslin (E) bt. James Glass (K) 11-8, 7-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-7

**Men's Band 6** Fabian Mauroy (K) bt. Bradley Tuttle (He) 11-8, 11-6, 11-6



Lewis Gray / Kent

## A Learning Exercise

Playing abroad for England for the first time as a junior (U18) last long weekend, Benenden's Lewis Gray did well as a young player in a higher age group at the Portuguese Youth Open in Tavira.

Although in the team matches against Spain, Portugal, Poland, and Russia, the 15 year old Angley School, Cranbrook pupil and Weald TT Club member won only 1 out of 5 singles (beating a Spanish boy), he always got close to his opponents and was never outclassed. For example, against Russia he lost his first match close in the 5th game, and was 9-1 up in the 4th game, but 2 games to 1 down, before his opponent fought back to snatch a win.

In the singles group he had an excellent 3-0 result over an Austrian, and then, in his best performance led the European no.3 junior Benjamin Brossier (France) 5-1 in

the first game before losing 8-11, took the second game and was 9-6 and 11-10 up in the 4th, ultimately succumbing to a 1-3 defeat.

Former England international and non-playing captain Andrew Rushton was happy with Lewis's play. "We were trying out younger players in an older category to see how they would do. It was a good experience and learning curve. Lewis did well to get close and have some good wins. His forehand attack was strong, but he needs to make his return of serve tighter and more consistent, and to learn to relax and go with the flow when he is blocking."

Likewise, Judd School, Tonbridge pupil Helshan Weerasinghe had limited success playing for England cadets (U15), but he was not outclassed by the opposition.

Ken Muhr

Danny Reed & Chris Doran / Men's Singlers Runner-up & Winner



Anja Esketveit & Annabelle Morle / Women's Band 2 Winner & Runner-up



John Payne photograph courtesy of Paul Stansfield

# County Notes

## Berkshire by Colin Dyke

The senior team made a determined start in their quest to retain the County Premier Division status. They put up great fights before succumbing to last season's top two, champions Derbyshire (2-8) and runners-up Essex (2-8). They then turned in a magnificent performance to beat Cleveland by 6-4 to give themselves a really good chance of survival. In the match against Essex, three of Essex's wins went to the wire and if they had gone Berkshire's way, a point on the board may have resulted. Berkshire's wins came from Richard Andrews against Umar Mathoor and Tom Maynard against Ashley Stokes. Andrews also came close to Chris Sladden before losing at 7 in the fifth game whilst Lisa Sprackling did well to extend Evangeline Collier to 5.

Next up were the champions Derbyshire and what a start Berkshire nearly made, Maynard losing out to England no 24 Shaun Marples at 9 in the fifth. Hari Gehlot and Maynard both beat David Arrowsmith, whilst Gehlot lost to Sam Perry.

Finally the match against Cleveland gave the team the fillip they needed. A great start when Dave Barr beat Andrew Wilson in four tight games. Then Gehlot comfortably beat Danny Welsh. Maynard had a magnificent three straight win over

Bryn Drinkhall and Gehlot comfortably beat Wilson. Barr then excelled in also beating Drinkhall and after Susan Johnson lost in four games to Karen Shepherd, Maynard clinched the 6-4 team victory with an easy win over Wilson.

This is the strongest squad Berkshire have had for some while and with a good mix of experience and young blood can expect some good things in the near future.

The Berkshire junior team in Division 2D started their campaign in blistering fashion, taking their first match 9-1 against an experienced Essex 3 team. The match saw the debut of 10 year old Daniel McTiernan, who got off to a fine start with a 3-0 win over Adam Dukes.

The second round saw Berkshire pitted against one of the favourites, Surrey 2. A good team effort ensued for a 6-4 victory with Daniel Moses contributing two wins including an epic five setter against Gobi Sriparen (11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 3-11, 12-10).

In the last match of the day, Berkshire lost to a depleted Kent 2 by 4-6, only their second loss in two years.

Hari Gehlot continued his excellent form to take both the Men's and Veteran Singles titles and the Men's Doubles with brother Ramesh at the Berkshire Closed

Championships. Fifteen year old Daniel Moses made it to three finals, winning the U21's against 13 year old Liam McTiernan. He also pushed Hari all the way in the Men's Singles final and with Liam finished runners-up in the Men's Doubles. Wendy Porter beat her doubles partner Lisa Bosley in a tense Ladies Singles final.

## Essex by Steve Kerns

Ilford's Matthew Spero was the surprise winner of the Open Singles at the 2010 Essex Closed Table Tennis Tournament played at BATTs in Harlow over the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 2/3 January.

Although this event will not make the same amount of headlines as a minor match at Old Trafford on the same day, it represented a fantastic success for the hard hitting left-handed Spero (ranked 155) who got the better of England no.48 Ashley Stokes in the final 3-1, with a superbly executed display of controlled hitting.

In an evenly contested event the first big shock was in the groups when Ilford vet defender John Tandler beat second seed Ashley Stokes (BATTs) in four ends, relegating Ashley to second. Ashley's "punishment" was a first round meeting against the holder Umair Mauthoor (Ilford) and in a fast and at times breath-taking encounter Ashley edged home 3-2.

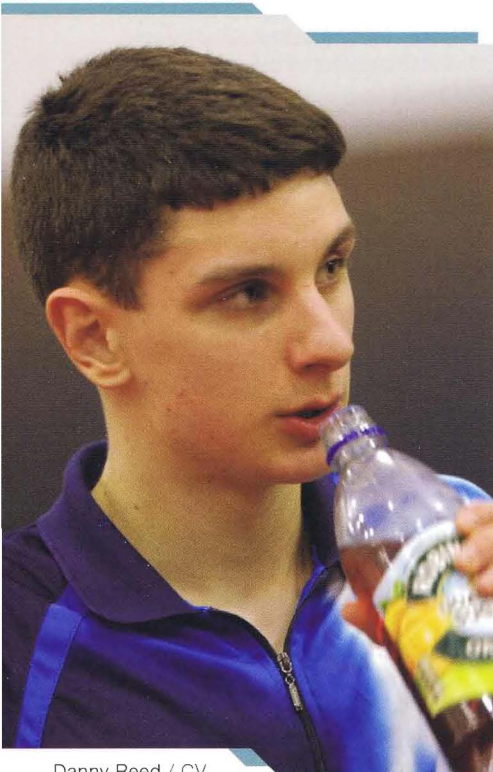
Elsewhere, John Tandler's impressive run continued and he got the better of Phil Walker (Ilford) 3-2 as well as Luca Mariano (Ilford) 3-0 to set up a semi-final meeting against Matt Spero who had earlier ousted

John Payne (BATTS) 3-2. Smooth flowing Mariano had made his mark beating Zayd Mauthoor 3-1. Spero gave Tendler no chance in their semi-final and romped home 3-0. Stokes dominated the other half of the draw beating Robin Ashleigh (Ilford) 3-0 and Steve Joslin (Colchester) 3-1. Steve had eased his way past old rival Steve Kerns (Chelmsford) 3-1 and hard bat specialist Fred Dove (BATTS) 3-2. Stokes ended Joslin's bid for "comeback glory" 3-1 to set up his final encounter against Matt Spero.

There was a small measure of consolation for Ashley Stokes in the Men's Doubles when he paired up with Matthew Mulley (Chelmsford) to take the title. They beat the holders Zayd and Umair Mauthoor 3-1 in the final having needed five ends to get the better of scratch-pairing John Payne and Michael Copleston (Romford) 3-1 a round earlier. Zayd and Umair Mauthoor were also hard pushed to reach the final and they had to use all their experience and guile to edge out Michael Andrews / Anthony Greenwood (Colchester) 3-0 in their semi-final.

### Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

Congratulations to the North Herts. Junior Boys' team who are through to the final of the Carter Cup. Two teams go through from each zone, N. Herts. finished second to Birmingham in theirs. The team was Tom Baines (15), Charlie Baines (12) and Luke Walsh (13). As you can guess from these



Danny Reed / CV

ages, most of the opposition were older. Birmingham (favourites) have some high ranked players, but the boys gave them a hard fight with Tom Baines taking Adam Nutland, the England number 19 junior, to five, before losing. The final is in May.

There are a few veteran results for our second and third teams who are both in the same division. In November, Herts. 2 lost 6-4 to Bucks 2, but beat Norfolk 2 by 8-2. At the same meeting, Herts.3 beat Cambridge 2 8-2 and lost 6-4 to Bucks.2. In December Herts.2 had a very good weekend beating Surrey 4 by 7-3, then Norfolk 3 by 9-1. Herts.3 beat Norfolk 310-0! But lost to Cambridge 1 6-4. The remaining matches are in March.

You may be wondering why there have been no Over 60 results when the team did well last year. Herts. were founder members of the Over 60s and have always played their matches at Ashford, Middx. Without warning or explanation this year they were put in the Northern group. Instead of 40 minutes car drive towards Staines once before and after Xmas, this meant three trips to the north of England – hours of driving + overnight stays. It was agreed that on top of the travel for veteran matches this was too much.

### Lancashire by Dave Buckley

A recent visit to the English Open in Sheffield certainly did not disappoint. The Saturday session was a delight of high quality play combining attack/defence pairings and all out attack. I have spent many an afternoon paying premium rates to watch a dull uninspiring football match, whereas this live sport must be up there amongst the best. If I could find fault I would say the spectators could have been closer to the action together with the overzealous stewards who seemed to be able to create atmosphere and confrontation where none existed.

The seniors have completed their season in Div 1A finishing in a respectable mid-table position with 7 points from seven matches. The players representing were Paul Cicchelli, Tomasz Rzeszotko, Hiolon Fong, Cherith Graham and Ling Yu Yung.

The Vets first team have made an encouraging start to their premier division campaign. The team of Keith Williams, Chris Ford, Barry Elliott and Brenda Buoeuy beat Gloucestershire 8-2 and Yorkshire rivals 6-4 before a 6-4 reverse to Sussex. The fine margins of success and failure were demonstrated for Lancs Vets seconds

recently. They began their Div 3A campaign with a 7-3 win over Warwickshire followed by an 8-2 reverse at the hands of a strong South Yorkshire side. The Sunday session proved to be fruitless for the Vets seconds. Beaten by Durham 7-3 in the morning, followed by an agonisingly close 6-4 reverse at the hands of Cheshire thirds, numerous five game deciders could have gone either way. As a result Lancs seconds find themselves currently second bottom in the table with considerable work to do for the remaining three fixtures. The team for the weekend was Brian Clements, Barry Crook, Dave Buckley and Sylvia Graham.

The juniors made an impressive start in Div 2A. Alec Buchanan, Craig Scarisbrick, Adam Choi, Michael Lunn, Rebekah Griffith and Rebecca McGrath were responsible for victories over Cheshire II 7-3, Yorkshire II 6-4 and a 10-0 over Lancs II.

The junior II team are finding life tough in Div 2A, but hopefully the experience will bear fruit. The squad of Alex Leslie, Jamie Lunn, Alex Johnson, Luke McCall, Rebecca Hodgson and Abigail Griffith managed two sets against Cheshire II

### Northants by Dennis Millman

County no.1 Chris Doran has recently produced some of the best performances of his career, remaining as magnificent in defeat as in victory.

Representing England in the World Junior Championships in the excessive heat of Colombia, he beat the European no.1 Daniel Koshiba to reach the last 16, but then lost narrowly to the Chinese no.1. After a 36 hour journey home Doran was in action again the following day when in the Briar London Open Grand Prix he beat Matt Ware in the penultimate game of the Men's Band 1, before taking the final in straight games against Victor Shi

Next Doran turned his attention to the Men's Singles in which he came from two games down to take Damien Nicholls in the quarters, followed by no.2 Gavin Ramgay in straight games before winning the final against England no.3 Danny Reed.

The U21 singles provided a further test of Doran's stamina, after coming from behind against Nicholls, he beat Ireland's Sam Hanley in the final. He won not only three titles but also Player of the Tournament for gaining such a memorable treble. At the Stockton-on-Tees 4 Star Cadet/ Junior Tournament two more of the county's young stars were making

the headlines. 12 year old Miles Chan ranked U13 no.3 achieved the best win of his career, defeating no.1 Helshan Weerasinghe in the semis. Having reached the final he faced his Northants team mate 12 year old Sam Mabey (no.2), but couldn't recapture his earlier form as Mabey took the title in straight games.

Mixed fortunes for the Veteran thirds as they beat Herts fifths but went down to Beds seconds and Herts sixths.

Richard Bashford starred against Herts fifths with two singles and a doubles, but Maggie Edwards also remained unbeaten, despite a heavy cold. Gerald Henson and Bashford gave the side a two one lead against Beds, but Northants were never again in front.

Two impressive wins from Cardwell kept Northants in contention against Herts sixths, but Bashford and Henson were unable to add to the tally. Cardwell and Bashford added a doubles but by the time that Maggie Edwards and Bashford took the mixed event the match was over.

Northants girl cadets, Nicole Bird and Lucy Budworth, took honours, but Shropshire won the spoils at Evesham.

Bird won her two singles for the loss of 23 points, whilst debutant Budworth won both in four ends. Aaron Ark was unfortunate to lose 11-8 in the fifth to Jamie Davis.

Staffs provided stronger opposition in the second encounter but Ark gave Northants the lead, coming from two games down

to beat the opposing no.2. It was left to Nicole Bird to lessen the victory margin beating the no.2, in straight games and the no.1 11-8 in the fifth

### **Northumberland by Nigel Rodgers**

Cramlington TTC staged its first county matches when it played host to the senior Division 1A teams from Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Cambridgeshire, Yorkshire 1, South Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire 1 in December.

The full squad was: Andrew Wilkinson (NESLC), Eddie Smith (unattached), Bart Vermoesen (NESLC), Jim Stamas (NESLC), Neil McMaster (Cramlington), Karen Henry (North Fire) and Christine Burke (Byker CC).

Bart Vermoesen played his last Northumberland matches before returning to his home country of Belgium.

Northumberland beat neighbours Durham 8-2, Cambridgeshire 9-1 and South Yorkshire 6-4, but lost 6-4 to both Lancashire and Lincolnshire, to Leicestershire (7-3) and Yorkshire (8-2).

Yorkshire finished as division champions with Leicestershire as runners-up. Results mean that Durham and Cambridge would be relegated, while South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire escaped the drop.

Special mention must go to the Yorkshire South team which turned up without any female players, therefore starting each match 4 sets down. Despite this setback,

they still managed to avoid relegation. Some excellent table tennis was played over both days and also played in a very sporting manner between teams.

Veteran Geoff Salter won the over-65 singles at the Eastern Masters Tournament in Norwich. It proved a successful weekend as he paired with John Clarke to win the Over 60's doubles as well. Fellow Veteran Jim Stamas beat Graham Outrim 3-2 to win his second successive Over 40s consolation singles title at the Midland Masters in Wolverhampton, Northumberland League Representative sides .

The Cadet teams had a very successful second weekend in the National League matches held at Billingham. The first team of Ellis Cooper, Dean Richardson and Lee Eadington won all of their matches to make it 8 out of 8.

The second team of Ryan Guttridge, Adam Curran and Akshay Pabary won all four of their matches and have now won 6 and lost 2.

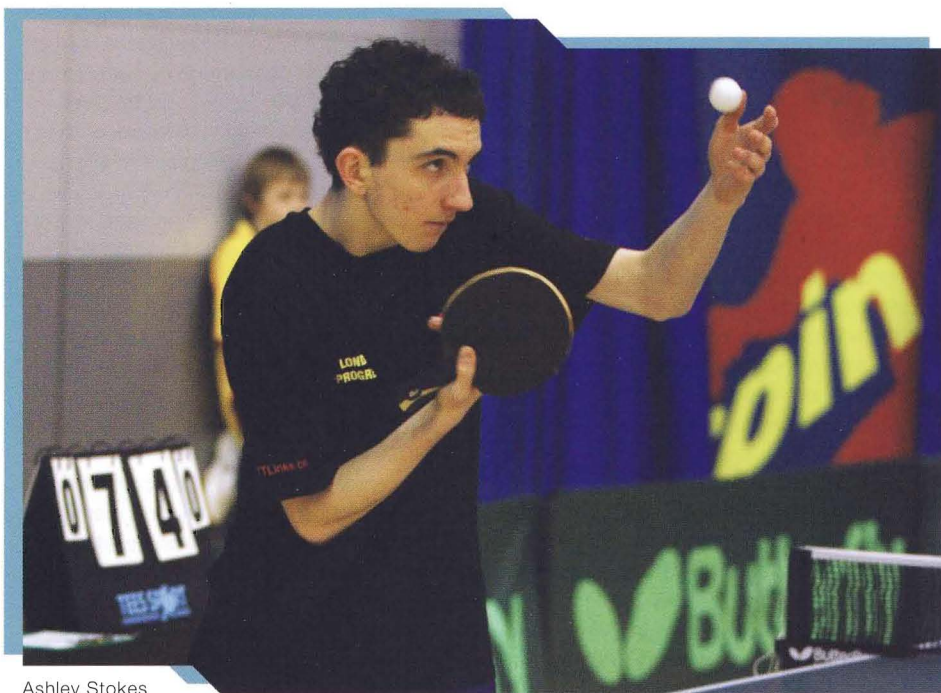
Congratulations go to Alan Hedley, who has been appointed as ETTA Coach and Support Officer for the Premier 4 Sport initiative with Cramlington TTC and Newcastle United Foundation.

### **Surrey by Chris Andrews**

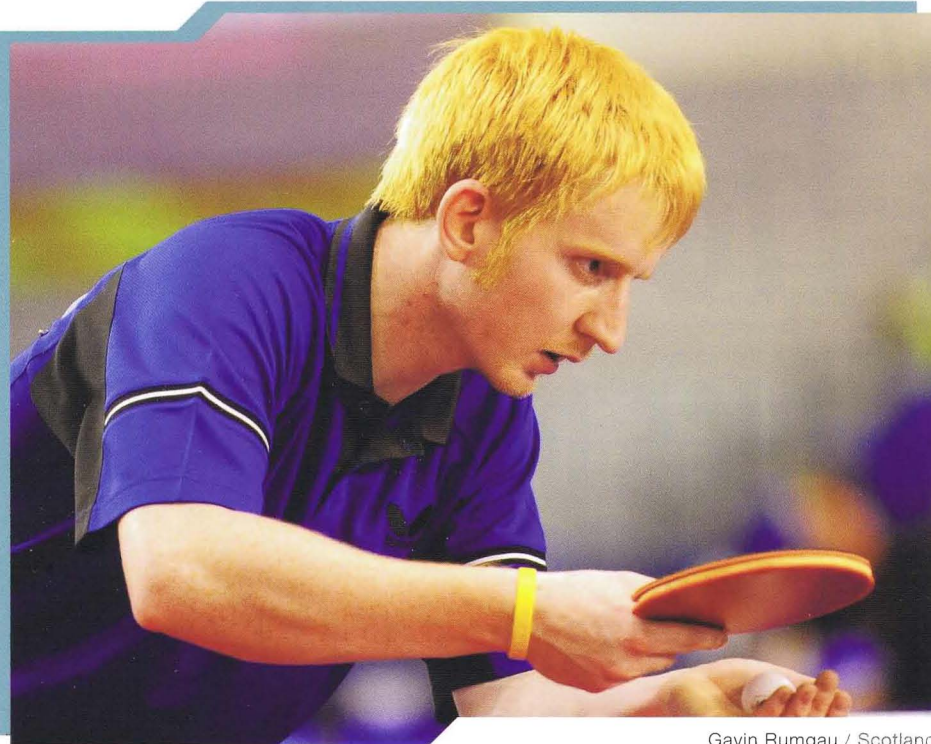
Kingston schoolboy Marcus Giles won the Surrey Schools U11s at Whitgift School, defeating Tooting's Alex Kwaskowski. Giles also cruised to the final of the U13s. Whitgift School duo Matthew Gold and Joshua Haasz won the U13s doubles, seeing off Oliver Casey and James Reynolds (Kings College School) 3-1.

The U16s doubles event was dominated by Ernest Bevin players. In the final, Emre Ibatoglu and Antoney Patten saw their trophy unexpectedly snatched by Gobi Sriparen and Lobsang Lama 3-1. Wilson's School pupil Michael Ho lost -3-2 in the final of the U16s to Emre Ibatoglu, but had his revenge in the U19s, defeating Ibatoglu 3-2 in the pair's second meeting. The U19s doubles final was contested between Whitgift School and Wilson's. In yet another closely contested set, Patrick Hui and Andrew Ankrah got the better of Michael Ho and Harry Frost with a 3-2 win

Surrey's strong, young veteran's team of Alan Choo-Choy, Ian Girdler, Nicky Mason and Marcia Ma has ripped up the Veterans Premier



Ashley Stokes



Gavin Rungau / Scotland

### Yorkshire by Barry Snowden

Division, beating all before them to go top. The Veteran's second team is also top of Division 2A, while a new junior second team is second in Division 2D.

In the Cippenham Team 2 star Open Championship, Michael Chan remained unbeaten.

At the Dulwich 2 star open Reece Placid won the U15 event.

The BATTs 1 star open tournament saw Lucy Lou win the girls' U15's title.

The open day held by Guildford Table Tennis League to commemorate their 75th anniversary was a great success, with many newcomers to the sport having a go against league players. In the Guildford Premier League the current leaders are Godalming A. Guildford are having their 75 year dinner and open event on 20th March

York Gardens' stranglehold on the Wandsworth League carries on as they have the top three teams in the first Division and the top four players in the averages who have played over 60% of their matches. Vale A lead Division 2, with York Gardens D at the top of Division 3. How long will it be before York Gardens have the top 4 teams in Division 1? J. Qizbash is on 100% in Division 5 and is also on 100% against the six players he has played in Division 3.

Despite there being no regional or national trials to progress to it did not stop the young players of Yorkshire descending in their hoards to Scarborough to play in this season's trials..

The U11 and U13 events proved to be successful for the city of Hull as they took three of the four events. With the cadets and junior events being used as a selection guide the event proved as popular as ever with players coming from all over the county to play.

The U11 boys event proved a success for Dominic Anderson of Fastbats who beat Bradford's William Nash into second place with Dewsbury player James Hobson finishing third and home player James Rule completing a good day with a very creditable day in fourth.

The girls' event was won by Imogen Barber of St Marys TTC in Hull who proved too strong for the other three players in her group as she finished well clear of Bradford player Ffion Myers with Hull's Phoebe Richardson and Dani Le Masurier of Scarborough filling the minor places. Barber also showed her rapid improvement by taking the under 13 girls' event after battling to victories over Bradford player Sarah Johnson, Pascale Fisher of Fastbats and Natasha Wrightson of Scarborough.

The under 13 boys was a one, two, three for Hull St Mary's with Abhijaif Mishra

taking the top spot from club colleagues Harvey Thompson and James Garrod and it was Halifax rising star Sam Clayton who ended the day in fourth place.

The Cadets boys was a one, two for the form players in the county and was another triumph for Hull's rising star Daryl Gee who got one over on his Halifax rival James Foster reversing the final of the Yorkshire Closed cadets' event which Foster won.

Hull and Halifax players were also third and fourth with Sam Tompkins and Matthew Stephens and it is these four players who will represent the county in this seasons' county championships.

The cadet girls was a one,two for Pudsey TTC with Nicole Finn and Ellen Auty gaining selection for the county by virtue of attaining the top two positions. Katie Lee of Scarborough finished the event a creditable third and Sarah Johnson fourth.

The junior boys proved to be a thrilling event with county selection being determined by the finishing places, although this was made more difficult by the top two boys being unavailable due to Ed Fambely being away at sports college and Reece Lo being injured so the top boy in the trials would join the top two in this season's county first team.

James Atkins of Pudsey justified his place in last season's first team by winning the trials leaving Gee, Daniel Adams of Pudsey and Halifax player James Mason to fill the places for the Yorkshire second team.

Finn also won the girls' singles from Hull's Jennifer Wood, both gained selection for the county first with Hull's Gemma Cundill joining Auty in the second team

### Obituary – Roy Punter

Reigate and Redhill District League President died on 31st December. Roy was the heart and soul of his local District League and the driving force behind all initiatives there, including involving more youngsters in table tennis. He also successfully set up the Roytons Club and persuaded Reigate School to put our beloved sport into its GCSE curriculum. As well as this he coached all the age groups in the school and many of the pupils later went onto featured in league teams for the St. Philips club in Reigate, which was another beneficiary of Roy's effort and enthusiasm. At this sad time our hearts go out to his family and friends and may they feel blessed to have known such a man.



# Jon Pett

## Profile

### Information

**Birth date:**

14th April 1981

**Place of birth:**

Cambridge

**Residence:**

St Leonards-on-Sea

**Job title:**

Coach Education Manager

### What is your background and what were you doing before you joined the ETTA?

Sport has always been a passion, having played anything as a child from table tennis to cricket and rugby. Having graduated with a degree in Sports Management from UWIC I have been involved in sport in higher education for six years. Previously I have worked with cricket and rugby union, employing my talents successfully as a volunteer in team management and with BUCS at national level, developing sport policy and strategies. Previous employment has included lecturing at UWIC in Sport and Business Management; specialities were financial management and HR, and I have supervised student work into sports development, volunteering and performance analysis. Lecturing and an involvement in sports development were extremely enjoyable and I was fortunate to be recognised by my peers for my services to student sport at UWIC. I managed the cricket team that won a national indoor title and also managed Welsh Universities Cricket for several years. My experience in higher education and coaching is an invaluable asset for my current post with the ETTA. I have also enjoyed time working in performance analysis with Glamorgan Cricket and the RFU, focussing on player development and law changes.

### Coaching has always been a big area for the ETTA, so is this a new or existing role for the ETTA?

This is a new role for the ETTA which aims to develop coaches as one of our key resources. Previously the focus has been on course organisation and coach recruitment, whereas now the emphasis is shifting towards coach education and development.

### Why now? What has caused the ETTA to create this position?

The introduction and integration of the UK Coaching Framework and transition towards UKCC has highlighted the need for recruitment at Head Office; 10 Regional Coaches have also been recruited. In order to offer coaches at all levels the opportunity for greater professional development it became evident that the new role was essential. Whilst we have a large coaching workforce, development pathways are sparse. The ETTA has highlighted several areas for attention, including the coach licence, communications, financial sustainability, and Continual Professional Development (CPD) to name a few.

### What are your aims and where do you see this role progressing?

My aims are twofold: the development of all coaches and the creation of a self-sustaining world class coaching programme, both will take a significant amount of time, but the foundations are slowly falling into place. Development of the Coach Licence and CPD programmes, and an inclusive communications strategy, are crucial systems in achieving the first goal. Ultimately I aim to increase our number of coaches and allow for lateral as well as vertical progression for all. Currently it is only possible to progress up the ladder of coaching levels, it is important that we offer progression between levels and the ability to specialise into coach support systems such as performance analysis, physiology and strength and conditioning. An educated and multi-skilled coaching workforce is the end goal, providing the opportunities for all levels of coaches to develop their ambitions and full potential in an enjoyable and rewarding system that raises the skill levels of players at all ages. Everything will take time to achieve, so I ask our coaches to be patient and understanding whilst the ETTA builds for the future.

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# Player Rankings

## World Rankings

### TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

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

### TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

Rank	Player
1.	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)
2.	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)
3.	HICKS, Hannah (HA.)
4.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
5.	MYSKOVA, Marketa (DV.)
6.	ADOMELYTE, Egle (MI.)
7.	SZADKOWSKA, K (MI.)
8.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
9.	REYNOLDS, Lindsey (LA.)
10.	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)
11.	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)
12.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
13.	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)
14.	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)
15.	FULLER, Mary (Y.)
16.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
17.	WHYTE, Chloe (CV.)
18.	SLATER, Natalie (ST.)
19.	WANG, Sarra (E.)
20.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
21.	HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)
22.	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)
23.	PERKS, Sarah (NG.)
24.	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)
25.	UZAL, Shelley (E.)

### TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Rank	Player
1.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
2.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
3.	MCBEATH, David (HA.)
4.	GRAY, Lewis (K.)
5.	ZILESNICK, Zak (MI.)

### TOP 5 CADET BOYS

Rank	Player
1.	ZILESNICK, Zak (MI.)
2.	WALKER, Sam (NG.)
3.	MORAIS, Igor (MI.)
4.	WILSON, Ross (K.)
5.	WEERASINGHE, H (SX.)

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Rank	Player
1.	WEERASINGHE, H (SX.)
2.	MABEY, Samuel (NP.)
3.	CHAN, Miles Dak Hay (NP.)
4.	WELLS, Tyrone (MI.)
5.	BOUSFIELD, John P. (CV.)

### TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Rank	Player
1.	TRUMPAUSKAS, L (E.)
2.	WURAOOLA, Abdul (SY.)
3.	SMITH, Eddie (ND.)
4.	NEIL, Lee (NG.)
5.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)

### TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

Rank	Player
1.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
2.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
3.	DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.)
4.	KING, Yolanda (SX.)
5.	WRIGHT, Melissa (YS.)

### TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

Rank	Player
1.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
2.	HO, Tin-Tin (MI.)
3.	DAWSON, Jessica (CV.)
4.	SMITH, Victoria (DV.)
5.	ARMITAGE, Tressa (HA.)

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

Rank	Player
1.	HO, Tin-Tin (MI.)
2.	SLOT, Chrissie (HA.)
3.	PATEL, Ella (E.)
4.	TSAPTSINOS, Maria (BK.)
5.	VUONG, Victoria (YS.)

### TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

Rank	Player
1.	COLLIER, Sue (CH.)
2.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
3.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
4.	HUANG, Shu (K.)
5.	MA, Marcia (SY.)

### Top 5 Men

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



### Top 5 Women

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



### Top 5 U21 Men

1. MIZUTANI Jun (JPN)
2. XU Xin (CHN)
3. MATSUDAIRA Kenta (JPN)
4. CHIANG Hung-Chieh (TPE)
5. JIN Yixiong (CHN)



### Top 5 U21 Women

1. LIU Shiwen (CHN)
2. DING Ning (CHN)
3. YU Meng Yu (SIN)
4. WU Yang (CHN)
5. SAMARA Elizabeta (ROU)



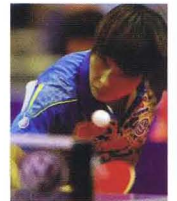
### Top 5 U18 Boys

1. YAN An (CHN)
2. KIM Min Seok (KOR)
3. FANG Bo (CHN)
4. YIN Hang (CHN)
5. NIWA Koki (JPN)



### Top 5 U18 Girls

1. WU Yang (CHN)
2. ISHIKAWA Kasumi (JPN)
3. Cheng I-Ching (TPE)
4. GU Yuting (CHN)
5. SHENG Dandan (CHN)



### Top 5 U15 Boys

1. YIN Hang (CHN)
2. ZHENG Peifei (CHN)
3. LIN Gaoyuan (CHN)
4. MORIZONO Masataka (JPN)
5. LIU Chang (CHN)



### Top 5 U15 Girls

1. GU Yuting (CHN)
2. SZOCS Bernadette (ROU)
3. MAEDA Miyu (JPN)
4. LIU Xi (CHN)
5. KIM Jisun (KOR)



For full list of player rankings please visit our website [www.etta.co.uk](http://www.etta.co.uk)



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# For your Dates Diary



Matt Kenny

## February 2010

### Saturday 6th

- Junior - National Junior League (3) Midlands
- Senior - Bribar Salisbury Grand Prix
- Women's British League (2) Doncaster
- Other - ESTTA County Individuals
- Europe Youth Top 10 - Dusseldorf

### Sunday 7th

- Senior - Bribar Salisbury Grand Prix
- Women's British League (2) Doncaster
- Other - ESTTA County Individuals
- Europe Youth Top 10 - Dusseldorf

### Saturday 13th

- Cadet - Kemnal 1 Star
- Chesham H.S. 2 Star
- Junior - Chesham H.S. 2 Star
- British League (2) Fenton Manor

### Sunday 14th

- Junior - Kemnal 1 Star
- British League (2) Fenton Manor

### Wednesday 17th -21st

- Other - Kuwait Open - Kuwait City

### Saturday 27th

- Junior - Yorkshire 1 Star
- Senior - North Herts Banded Satellite Grand Prix
- Cardiff Satellite Grand Prix
- Veteran - Cippenham Series (2)
- Other - ESTTA Team Regional Finals

### Sunday 28th

- Junior - Stiga Blackpool Graded 1 Star
- Senior - North Herts Banded Satellite Grand Prix
- Cardiff Satellite Grand Prix
- Veteran - Cippenham Series (2)
- Other - ESTTA Team Regional Finals

## March 2010

### Saturday 2nd

- Other - European National League (3)

### Friday 5th-7th

- Senior - National Championships - Sheffield

### Wednesday 10th -14th

- Other - Singapore Open

### Friday 12th

- Other - BUCS Team Event

### Friday 12th-14th

- Other - Cadet/Junior 6 Nations - Largs
- Junior - Stiga Blackpool 2 Star