

# table tennis news

**PING!**  
WWW.PINGLONDON.COM

## TT hits the capital

### What is Talent?

A natural gift or acquired skill?

### Road Trip

8 countries, 2,400 miles in 52 hours!

### The World Team Championships

Catch up on the international action

### Coaching

An indepth look at physical training

Issue 349 / June 2010 / £3.50

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## Editorial

### Change is afoot!

There is a new website with a whole raft of new features, more interactive content and videos, as well as easier navigation and better promotion of our athletes.

### Could this be the penultimate TTN?

As mentioned last month, sports magazines have had to evolve to stay current and informative; by the time a publication has been edited, designed and printed its content is out of date. Combine that with what is possible on the internet, how quickly it is available and the size of the audience, news and tournament reporting needs to move on. Due to this and to allow us to provide a better service all round, TTN could be no more, or at least highly altered and reduced in numbers, more news on that to follow!

Looking at the bigger picture there's potential changes brought on by a new government with new policies. As it's early days now, no one is really sure what their stance on sport is and how they will bring about making cuts and reigning in the national debt, the way in which sports are funded as a whole, as well as how that is distributed.

Times of change can be both exciting and daunting, especially if they are things that we have no control over, but change takes time, let's give it all time and see what we end up with!

James Cornford

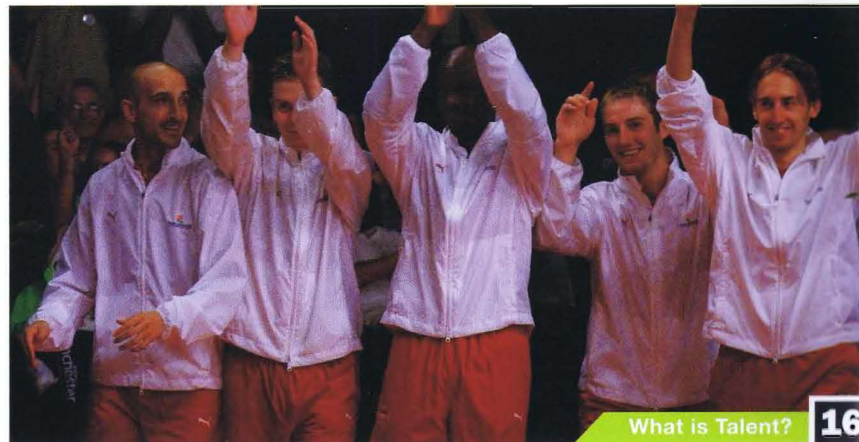
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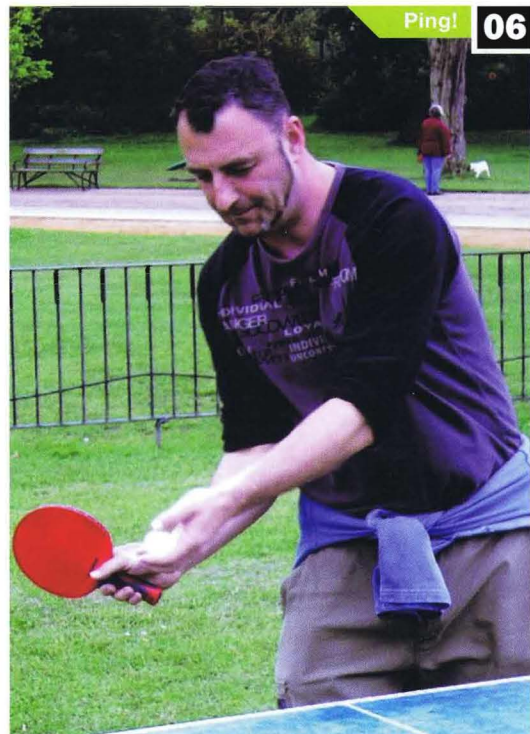
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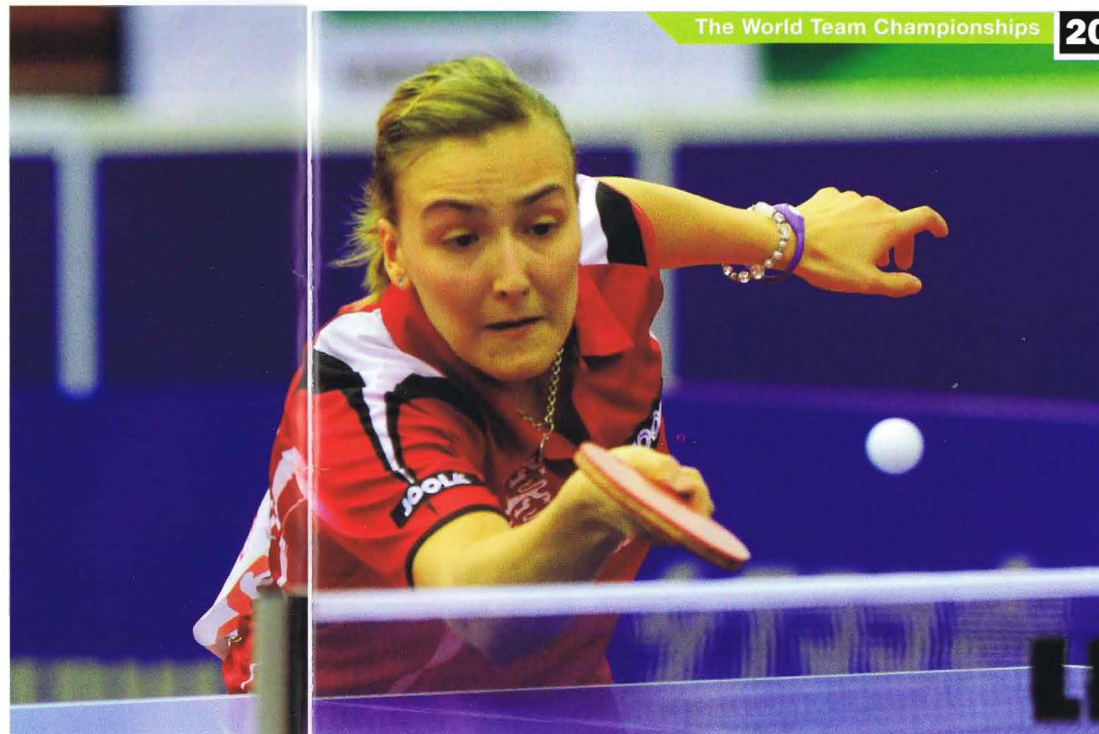
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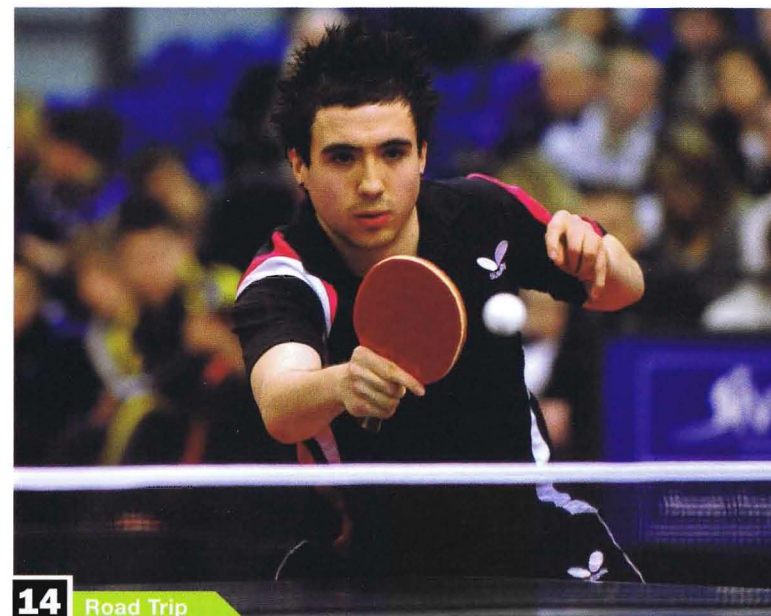
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Alex Murdoch / ETTA Chairman

# Straight Talk

The last few weeks have been a bit unusual with Val and I and three of our grandchildren stranded in Spain after a short Easter break. Who would have imagined the impact a “volcanic eruption in Iceland” could make on travel to and from England? Then we had the general election that resulted in a Conservative/Liberal coalition government. I do not want to get into “politics” but it will be interesting to see out of both parties’ manifestos on sport how this will impact table tennis, let us hope positively.

It was very interesting to note the comments made during and after the general election about “open, transparent and accountable government”, this applies also to the ETTA as the national governing body for table tennis.

From the ETTA's perspective the ability to ensure that this reaches the grass roots is impacted to some degree on how this is communicated to the grass roots. With out a comprehensive list of its members the ETTA have no “real” mechanism to ensure this happens. At present the paperwork communication channels are via your county, league and club representatives, who are volunteers. With their time constraints, it makes it difficult to provide information about our sport and the

opportunities/advantages of membership.

The website is a critical area for improving this situation and proposals are to be included in the new site. This will dramatically move communication forward and create a link between the ETTA and its members. The change in the way players affiliate from next season will add to the ability of the ETTA to communicate with them. The website, which will go live on 1st June, and other programmes are all geared with the intent of obtaining feedback from the members, updating the members and giving a better “feeling” that they are the ETTA and members of a “big club”.

## Individual Membership

I have included the write up on the website about this very important issue to enable as many people as possible to understand the process:

### Implementation Process for Initial Season 2010/11

#### Player Member

The proposed fees, agreed and put forward by your National Council and to be ratified at the ETTA AGM, are £5.64 for seniors, £2.82 for cadets and juniors. This includes an element for civil liability insurance.

#### Associate Member

The proposed fee to be agreed at the ETTA AGM is £2.50 and includes an element for civil liability insurance.

#### Membership Cards

These will be issued to all members. If you pay on line or make a payment directly to the ETTA your card will be sent directly to you. If you have paid through your local league, DAC or PC they will distribute them.

Membership numbers will have a prefix according to the highest category of your membership.

- L – Player Licence (if you presently hold a Player Licence you will retain that number, with the added prefix)
- P – Player Member
- A – Associate Member

#### Receiving Forms

Local leagues and directly affiliated clubs including PremierClubs will distribute membership forms to their members who have not received a form by email. Local leagues will be notified which of their members have been emailed forms. NB It should be noted that a player is not registered with a league and is not eligible to play unless the appropriate fee has been made and a form completed.

#### County Associations

County Associations will need to notify the ETTA of its officers, Honorary Life Members, President and Vice Presidents to enable them to become associate members, unless also a Player Member. Forms will be issued to County Associations for distribution. They should be returned directly to the ETTA. No fee will be required for members in the above categories.

For an indepth explanation of the process visit [etta.co.uk](http://etta.co.uk) or talk to Rob Sinclair, T: 01424 456208 E: [robert.sinclair@etta.co.uk](mailto:robert.sinclair@etta.co.uk)

#### School Clubs

Progress is being made and further updates are as follows:

#### Background

- Initially a one year £6m programme (DCMS, Department of Health and Lottery funding).
- SSPs (School Sport Partnerships) to develop new sports clubs on school and college sites in 7 Olympic and Paralympic sports.

- The focus of these clubs will be engaging and increasing participation among 13–19 year olds not yet or only partly engaged in sport.
- Targeting young people not currently engaging in 'third hour' activities.
- Aim to attract and engage young people and develop a sense of belonging within a club setting, and encourage the regular participation that is associated with future community club membership and lifelong participation.
- Not new community sport clubs, rather a new 'breed' of club – a school/college sport club – which is part of the school sport provision but which seeks to further narrow the gap between the curriculum and out of school hours learning and community sport.
- School Sport Partnerships to establish 6–7 clubs (minimum 3 sports).

**Targets & KPIs**

- The headline target is 3,000 clubs established.
- KPI's include: - C.100,000 young people involved (30-35 young people per club)

SSPs registrations to date:

Sport	School Clubs	FE Clubs	Total Clubs
Table Tennis	699	69	768
Badminton	657	71	728
Volleyball	371	45	416
Handball	368	47	415
Fencing	260	25	285
Boccia	176	16	192
Wheelchair Basketball	73	14	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>2604</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>2891</b>

These sports have been chosen from the Olympic and Paralympic menu as those which can be easily and simply delivered on most school/college sites and offer a range of new team and individual sports.

Some schools selecting boccia and wheelchair basketball have also selected table tennis.

**Concept & Principles**

- Is 'owned' by young people and the school
- Happens once a week
- Regularly at the same time and place
- Planned and delivered across the whole year

- Expectation that there is some sort of subscription and affiliation/ membership
- Includes coaching and an element of competition
- There are opportunities for young people to lead and volunteer (50% of workforce are young people)
- Has a brand/name

**Ping!**

Thousands of Londoners will be playing table tennis in the street this summer, see page 6 for more information.

**Sport England**

The ETTA presented the NGB self-assessment document to Sport England this month for 2009/10 with details of outcomes against the various agreed Interventions from the Whole Sport Plan. We are on track with the various KPI's and have confirmed with them any relevant actions required.

**British Table Tennis Federation**

The BTTF had its selection panel and board meetings in early May where the players, staffing and programme were discussed in depth. A number of matters were approved and further discussions will take place with all parties concerned including our funding partners UK Sport and Home Countries

Sports Councils; details of the outcomes will be put into the public domain in June.

**International Matters**

A number of meetings will have taken place at the LIEBHERR 2010 World Team Table Tennis Championships (see report on p20), including the ITTF AGM, ETTU Extraordinary Congress, Board of Directors and Committee meetings which will be attended by ETTA representatives.

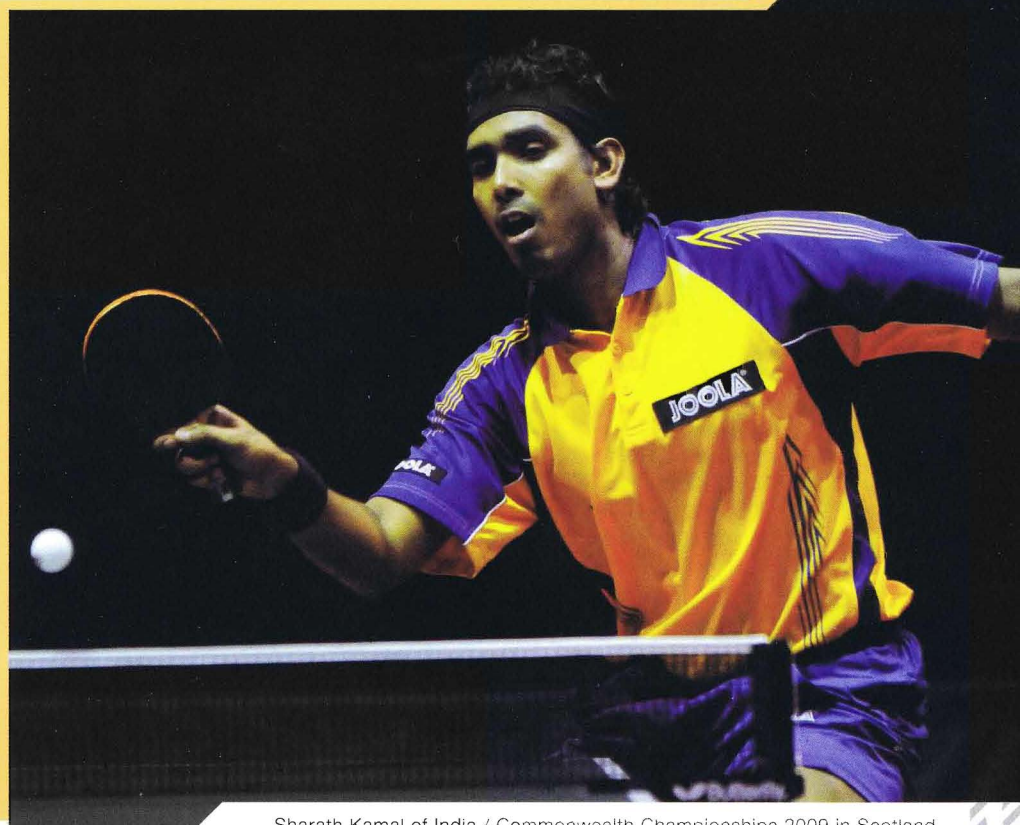
Details of some of the propositions have been included on the website.

Preparations continue for the Commonwealth Games in India later this year, the ETTA has completed its selection criteria and a long list of potential players per the requirements of the Commonwealth Games England organization. The England team captain has been appointed, namely Jill Parker.

I am happy to meet with you, your members and committees to discuss table tennis so please get in touch if you want to set up a meeting.

Regards

**Alex Murdoch**  
**ETTA Chairman**



Sharath Kamal of India / Commonwealth Championships 2009 in Scotland



Thousands of Londoners will be playing table tennis in the street this summer thanks to the first investment by Sport England's Innovation Fund in a project titled Ping!

Sing London, a participatory arts organization, and the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA). ETTA has already begun installing 50 permanent outdoor tables across London, also funded by Sport England, and these will be complemented by 50 hardwearing temporary tables, which will be erected for a month, beginning on 24th July.

Ping! which runs from July 24th 2010 will see 100 table tennis tables spring up across London's most visible spaces including squares, landmarks, offices, train stations, community locations and even airports. All tables will be available for free impromptu use, alongside a varied programme of master classes, competitions and round the clock activity including:

- Passport to Pingland
- Literary Ping Pong
- Master Class Coaching Sessions
- Beat-the-robot contests
- Singles For Singles
- Battle of the Rails
- Surreal Ping Pong at the Barbican
- Wiff Waff – a Playful Lecture

Equipment will be provided with each table, with bats bearing the request to: "Please put me back". Local custodians such as shop keepers will look after the equipment.

Ping! is being delivered through a unique partnership between

After launching in London, Ping! will travel to four other cities in England before returning to London as part of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic celebrations, giving well over 200,000 people the chance to pick up a bat and get involved for free. Sport England is investing £216,848 of National Lottery funding in the first year of the scheme, with further investment earmarked for 2011 and 2012.

Sing London has a successful record of engaging the public in participatory events. Last year over 250,000 people played on, or sung around, pianos it placed on the streets of London.

**Ping! Director, Colette Hiller, said:**  
"Our projects are all about generating public spirit. Our aim is to make participation feel irresistible. By taking part in something you feel a part of it and ping pong is something which everyone likes to play."

**Richard Yule, ETTA's Chief Executive, said:**  
"It is fantastic for table tennis to be at the forefront of further cutting edge interventions to increase sustainable mass participation. We recognize there is a growing and significant demand for informal opportunities to play table tennis that is outside of the scope of our traditional club and league structure. Ping! and the outdoor table initiatives will allow us to embrace this growing market and also reestablish table tennis in the public's

imagination as a fun, sociable and desirable sport to play."

Through the Innovation Fund, Sport England is investing National Lottery funding in groundbreaking projects, helping to deliver a lasting grass roots sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**Jennie Price, Sport England's Chief Executive, said:**  
"Sport England's job is to make sure everyone has the chance to play a sport that interests them, and sometimes that means taking the sport to the people, rather than the people to the sport. Table tennis has a very wide appeal, and I hope thousands of people will take advantage of these outdoor tables and will enjoy playing."

At the end of the project the temporary tables will be donated to schools, youth centres and community centres, with ETTA and the charity Greenhouse running an ongoing outreach programme to promote continued participation.





Frank James, Karen Tonge and Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex

# Latest News

## CCPR Award For Halton TTC

Local community sports club wins coveted national award

CCPR, the national alliance of the governing bodies of sport and recreation, acknowledged and commended the hard work of seven outstanding sports clubs across the UK. Amongst the winners in the prestigious annual Sports Club of the Year Awards was Halton Table Tennis Club, which picked up third place.

The club was presented with its award in a top London hotel by CCPR President, HRH The Earl of Wessex. As well as a plaque, winners all took back to their clubs a substantial cash prize.

Tim Lamb, CCPR Chief Executive, commented:

"CCPR is delighted to be rewarding such an exceptional club. Halton Table Tennis Club is a great example of what a community club can achieve and this award is testament to the incredibly hard work put in by those who run it. But as well as long hours in the committee room or coaching youngsters, the people who run this club have also provided expertise. That means that it provides a great service

to its members and opens up sporting opportunities for the whole community.

"A fantastic club showing an enormous junior membership growth through its outreach school to club links, providing regular coaching delivery in after school sessions, whilst the club continually grows and develops strong partnership links with local key partners in the community.

Yet another year where an ETTA table tennis PremierClub is recognised nationally for its achievements, competing with clubs of different sports from throughout the country".

Mark Willerton - ETTA National Programme Manager Clubs & Premier League 4 Sport.

### Top 100 for Drinkhall

Paul Drinkhall has reached the top 100 for the first time in his career, going up to 90th from 111th in the March ITTF senior world rankings. This is the first time that England has had a top 100 ranked player in some considerable time.

With a host of players only a few points away, let's hope Paul continues to climb.

## Lloyds TSB National School Sports Week

Table tennis competitions will be taking place in School Sport Partnerships up and down the country as part of Lloyds TSB National School Sports Week, between 28 June and 2 July 2010. The ETTA and ESTTA have a number of resources to help with the delivery of competitions and festivals, for more information see the National School Sports Week page.

## Brian's Active

Congratulations to Brian Worts of Exe TTC for his recent success at the Active Devon Sports Awards. The awards recognise those who make a contribution to sport in Devon, and Brian managed to fight off fierce competition to win both the Devon Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Contribution to Sport awards.

It is great to see our volunteers being recognised, and no more than Brian deserves thanks to his tireless work at Exe TTC (Exmouth). In recent years the club have gone from strength to strength and now boasts a membership of over 80, many of whom are families. The club has a strong community spirit and offers social and competitive play for all ages and abilities.

## SportsAid

SportsAid who focus on giving awards to youngsters, aged 12 to 18, from 50 able-bodied and 25 disability sports to help with costs such as travel, training, accommodation, competition fees and equipment, have awarded £6,500 to 13 youngsters involved in table tennis

Nicole Finn	Leeds	£500
Thomas Bell	Leeds	£500
Eric Wan	Sheffield	£500
Victoria Vuong	Sheffield	£500
James Foster	Calderdale	£250
Mathew Stephens	Calderdale	£250
Daryl Gee	Hull	£250
Leanne Stephen	North East Lincolnshire Disability	£1,000
Anthony Farrell	Sheffield Disability	£1,000

Under the Early Talent Development Pilot Project, which is in its second year for 10/11 year olds:

Imogen Barber	East Riding	£250
Sarah Johnson	Bradford	£500
Dominic Anderson	Bradford	£500
Alex Baker	Bradford	£500

Bradford recipients have their grant doubled by finance provided to SportsAid by Bradford MDC.



## 3 Players Break into Top 100

The latest men's World Deaf rankings are now out and for the first time ever there are three GB players in the top 100 in the world.

The GB No.1 player Andrew Calloway is now No.47, up from 103, an excellent achievement as we have never had a player inside the top 50 before.

Nicholas Gilmour who is still a junior has leapt in at No.64 from no international ranking previously, and James Meyers who is also still a junior is now in at No.81 from no previous ranking.

The achievement of the two juniors is particularly good as they are in the World Men's ranking as there is no world junior ranking category.

## Bounce

Everyone knows that David Beckham crosses the ball better than anyone else and that Tiger Woods never "chokes". But what are the hidden factors which allow the most successful sports stars to rise above

their competitors – and are they shared by virtuosos in other fields?

In Bounce Matthew Syed reveals what really lies behind world-beating achievement in sport, and other walks of life besides. The answers - taking in the latest in neuroscience, psychology and economics - will change the way we look at sports stars and revolutionise our ideas about what it takes to become the best.

From the upbringing of Mozart to the mindset of Muhammad Ali - via the recruitment policies of Enron - Bounce weaves together fascinating stories and telling insights into a wonderfully thought-provoking read

Table tennis features centrally throughout the book, such as the secrets of multi-ball training, "feedback loops", and why one small street in Reading in southeast England produced more top table tennis players in the 1980s than the rest of Britain put together.

By explaining fresh, ground-breaking subjects with broad appeal, Bounce is sure to be one of the most talked about books of the year

For more info. visit [www.matthewsyed.com](http://www.matthewsyed.com)



# The Importance of Physical Training

Physical training is an important addition to any training programme. Before deciding on a programme, we must analyse (ITTF Level 1 Coaching Manual 2006 p.247):

- How much physical training is required for the level of the players?
- What components of physical training are important for table tennis?
- How much time should be dedicated to physical training in the overall programme?
- Which energy systems are utilised in table tennis and what is required to train them?

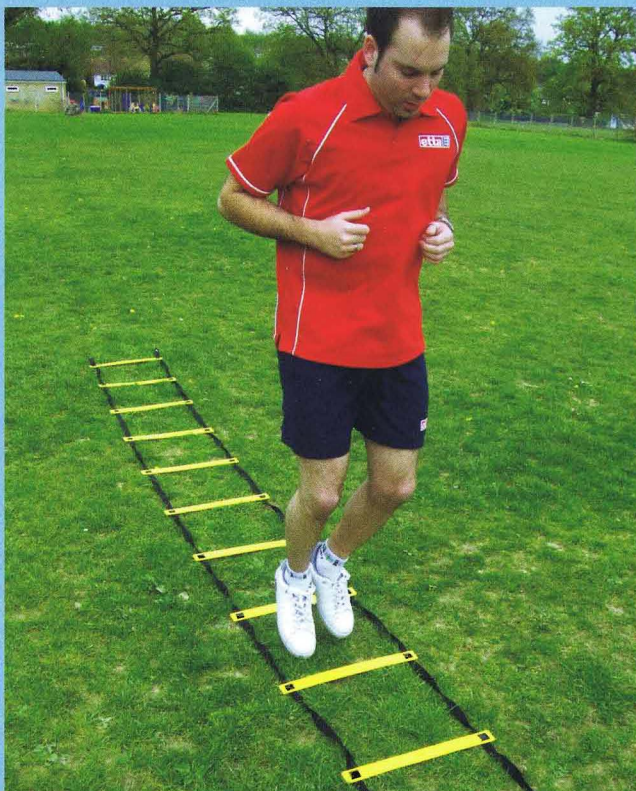
Below is an overview of some of the important physical components needed for Table Tennis, exercises you can perform to improve that component and also some specific tests that can be carried out.

## Speed/Agility

- Having good speed and agility is extremely important so that the player is able to change direction, and move quickly, both sideways and in and out of the table.
- Speed - the ability to move over a short distance in a short amount of time.
- Agility - the ability to change body position quickly without losing balance.

### Speed and Agility exercises:

The exercises shown below are designed to increase your footwork speed in various different directions. Simple ladder drills can include two feet in each square running through the ladders and side to side both feet in and out. For actual demonstrations of these exercises please visit [www.etta.co.uk](http://www.etta.co.uk) The mini hurdles are designed to increase leg strength and exercises can include hopping or jumping forwards, backwards and sideways using one or both legs, again for demonstrations visit [www.etta.co.uk](http://www.etta.co.uk).



## Muscular Strength/ Muscular Power

- Having good muscular strength and power is important so that the player can maintain good balance and produce fast strokes.
- Muscular strength - the ability of the muscles to exert a single maximal force to overcome resistance.
- Muscular power - the combination of strength and speed.

### Muscular Strength exercises:

Simple exercises such as sit ups and press ups can be carried out to improve muscular strength. Each person should ensure that they are performing these exercises accurately to ensure maximum benefits.



### Muscular Power Testing: Standing Long Jump

A standing long jump test can be performed to test muscular power in your legs. Standing still at a start mark with a tape measure along the floor, jump as far forwards as possible and record your score. By testing yourself at regular intervals with training in between hopefully you should start to see a difference in your scores. Ideal scores can be seen below.



Rating	Men	Women
Excellent	3.0m +	2.8m +
Good	2.7m	2.5m
Average	2.5m	2.2m

## Stamina - Aerobic Endurance/Anaerobic Endurance

- Having good stamina enables the player to perform well for a long period of time both for matches and the duration of a tournament.
- Aerobic endurance - the time which you can exercise without producing lactic acid (muscle aching) in your muscles.
- Anaerobic endurance - any activity that utilizes oxygen at a faster rate than your body can replenish it in the working muscles.

### Aerobic Endurance Testing: Bleep Test

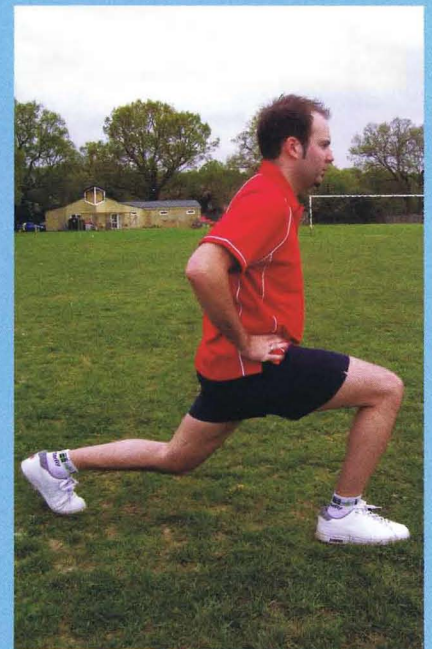
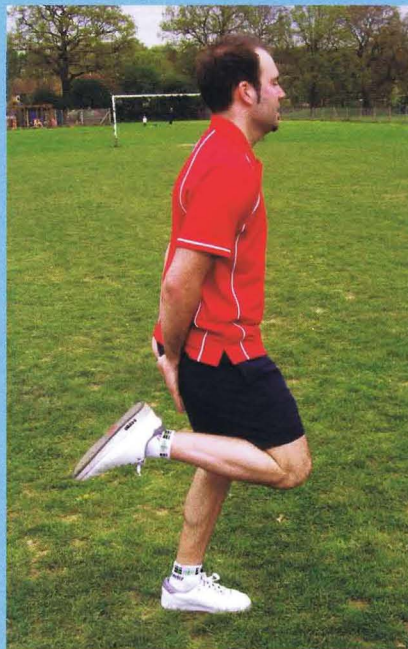
The bleep test is a common test for aerobic endurance. Set up a course and mark it with cones that are 20m apart in distance, the idea is that the person runs between the cones in time with the beeps that get progressively faster. The person should keep running until they feel they cannot run any further, ideal scores can be seen below.



Rating	Men	Women
Excellent	> 13	> 12
Very Good	11-13	10-12
Good	9-11	8-10
Average	7-9	6-8
Poor	5-7	4-6
Very Poor	< 5	< 4

### Dynamic Stretching exercises:

These pictures refer to dynamic stretching which stretches muscles whilst the body is moving, these types of exercises are good ones to include during warm ups as it can keep the heart rate up. Exercises such as lunges and waist turns are a good example of this.

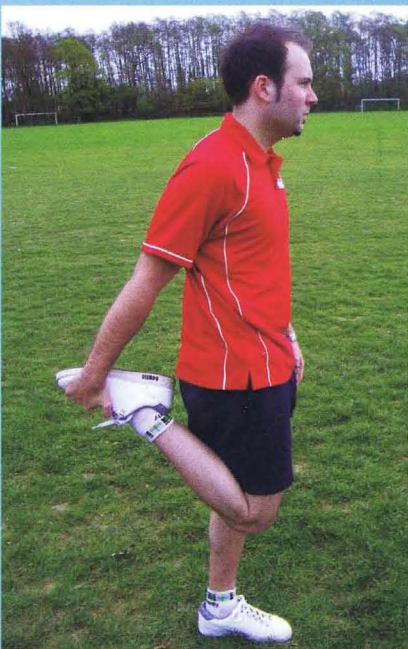
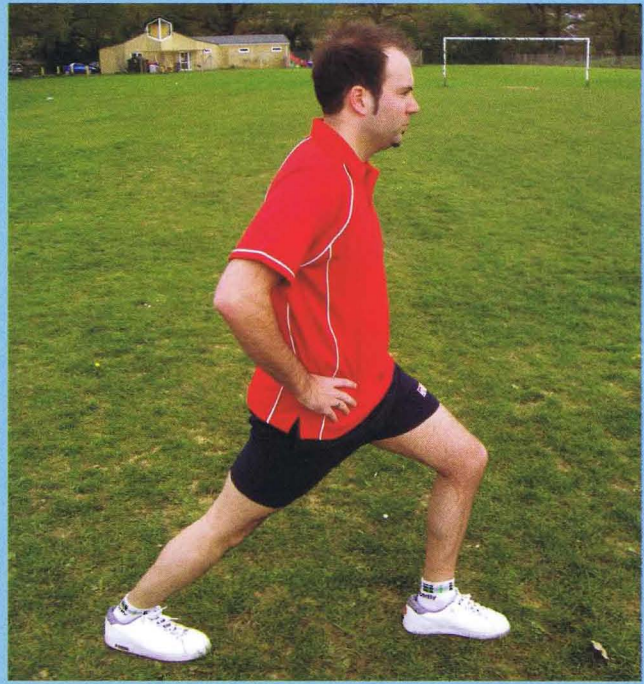
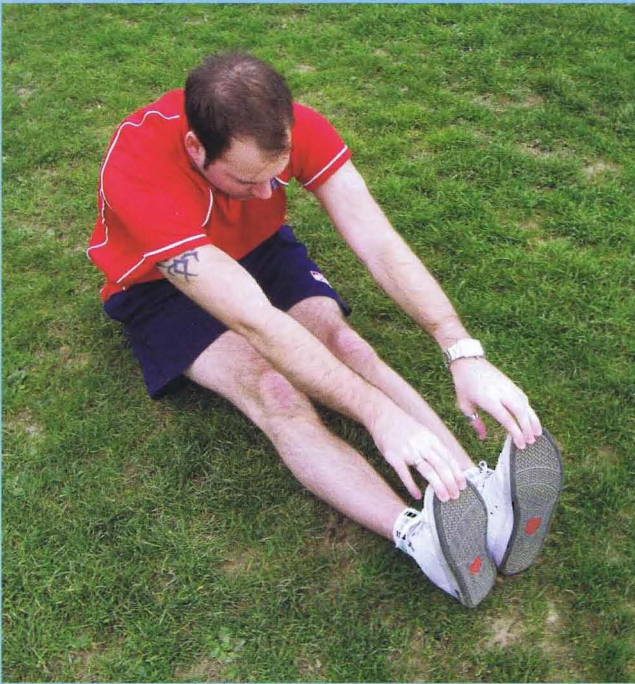


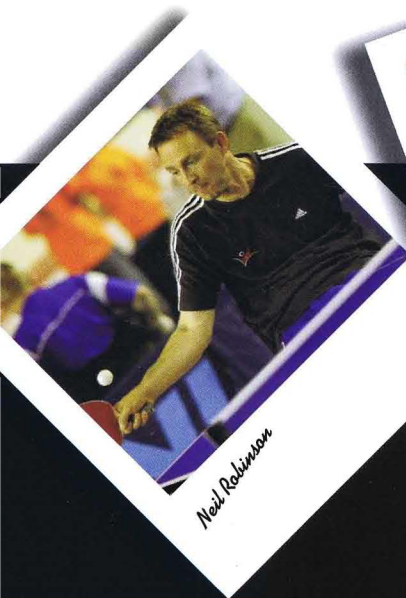
## Flexibility

- Having good flexibility reduces the chance of injury, whilst also decreasing muscle stiffness and aching.
- The range of movement in or around a joint.
- Static stretching - used to stretch muscles while the body is at rest and you are still.
- Dynamic stretching - stretches used when the body is moving.

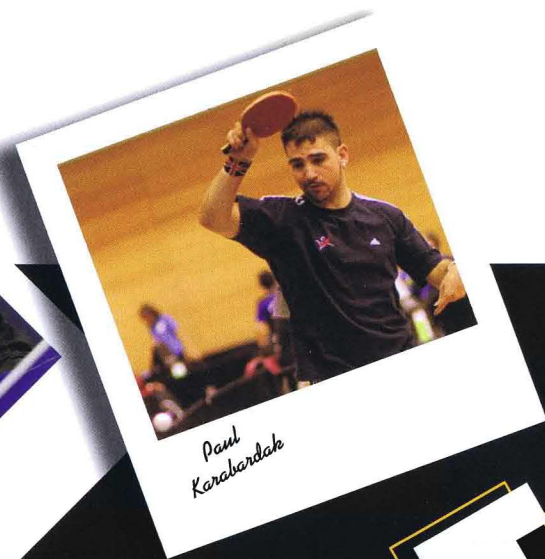
### Static Stretching exercises:

Performing regular stretches as seen in the pictures for various different parts of your body can increase your flexibility which in the long term can have a positive impact on your body's movements patterns and reduce the risk of injury. The pictures below show some of the common arm and leg stretches that stretch some of the main muscles that are used during a table tennis game. Stretches should be held for 12-15 seconds.





Neil Robinson



Paul Karabardak

# Road Trip

Jeremy Wilson

Some in the team were still very, very keen to play. I wasn't even due to go on the trip so had headed home on the Sunday.

"I then had a phone call on the Monday morning to ask what I thought about driving. I had to check a few things, I spoke to my wife but then decided to go for it."

Robinson then set off at around 4pm from his home in Bridgend in one car with players Rob Davies and Paul Karabardak and helper Guy Williams. At the same time, BTTAD performance director Gorazd Vecko was accompanied by coach Matt Kenny and players Sue Gilroy and Will Bayley in a car from Sheffield.

"I'd had a fairly good lie-in and felt quite fresh," said Robinson, "and, by coincidence, we pulled up alongside their car on the motorway near Dover. To begin with we were in holiday mode really and had no real plan for the journey. We just kept driving, and as Gorazd had a sat-nav, we just stuck close to his bumper."

Having set off from south Wales and travelled the width of England, they then drove through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Austria before arriving in Slovakia. The tournament was taking place in the spa town of Piestany, with the convey duly arriving at 9.30pm after more than a day of almost continuous travelling.

When Fulham Football Club made the 540 mile trip via road and ferry to Hamburg for their Europa League semi-final, the national sporting press was almost beside itself in admiration for the heroics of a group of millionaire footballers.

Yet amid the havoc that was caused by the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud, theirs was far from the most arduous and impressive journey from a group of British sportsmen or women.

Indeed, the efforts of Fulham almost pale into significance when set against the epic adventure that was undertaken by the British Paralympic table tennis team.

Remarkably, they embarked on a car and ferry journey through eight different European countries in order to gain vital world ranking points in the recent Slovakian Open. In all, they spent some 52 hours in a car during a round trip of some 2,400 miles!

Neil Robinson, one of the national coaches and a former world number one Paralympic player, was also one of the drivers. "The team were due to fly out on the Tuesday for the tournament and I think it first dawned on them about Saturday or Sunday that they were facing a big problem," he said. "We were all together training in Sheffield and we were talking about different options.

"We would drive for three or four hours and then stop at a service station and drink lots of espressos and then keep going," said Robinson. "We only stopped to sleep once – it was somewhere in the middle of Germany – and we stopped for about an hour and a half. I think I just found some inner-strength to keep going...we were up for far too long if you listened to health and safety! I wouldn't want to do it again, but I'm glad I did it."

The journey had taken some 28 hours but, by 9am the next morning, the team were ready to play. In the circumstances, the subsequent performances were remarkable.

In the women's Class 4/5 event, Sue Gilroy won her group with two 3-0 wins over Serbian and Australian opposition. In the semi-final, she then cruised to a 3-0 win over another Serbian before losing 3-1 to her old rival, Ingela Lundback of Sweden, in the final.

In the men's Class 1 event there was another medal for the British team, with Davies reaching the semi-final, where he was only narrowly defeated by the world number one Austrian Andreas Vevera. However, in the bronze medal play-off match, Davies brilliantly recovered from a 3-7 deficit in the fifth and final set to beat the Italian world

number four Mauro Rossi 11-9 and claim a bronze medal.

Karabardak and Bayley were competing in the Class 7 event and both topped their groups to qualify for the knockout phase. However, the Ukrainian Mykhaylo Popov proved too strong, defeating Karabardak and then Bayley in the final. Bayley had earlier beaten Popov in the group phase but had to be content with a silver medal.

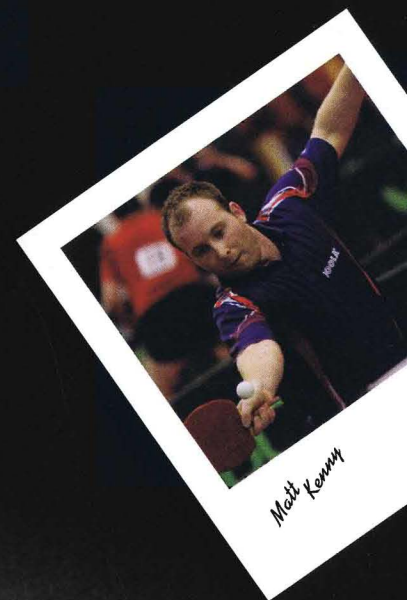
In the team events, Gilroy picked up another silver medal alongside partner Mateja Pintar, while Karabardak and Bayley took bronze after an excellent victory over the Ukraine.

In the extraordinary circumstances, it was an overall performance that bodes well for the World Championships later this year in Korea, and even more importantly, the Paralympics in London in 2012.

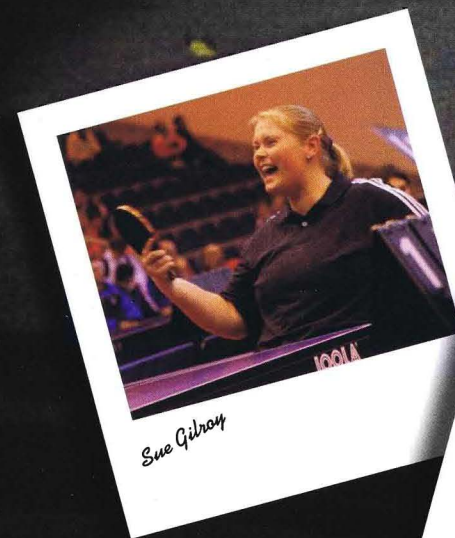
Robinson has previously played in seven Paralympics

– winning four medals, including a gold in Barcelona – and believes the current team has considerable potential.

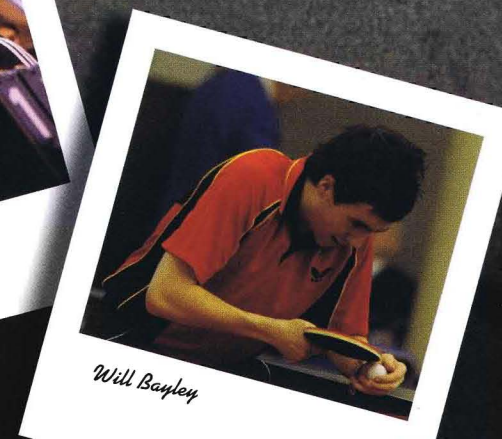
"We have some very promising young players," he said, "but, of course, it is tough because every country is strong in table tennis. When I was playing at my peak, I was also working full-time. A lot of the guys now are full-time, it is better organised and just a much more professional set-up. Twenty years ago it was quite amateur but it is as professional now as the Olympics. We will be making a massive effort to win something in the Paralympics in London in 2012."



Matt Kenny



Sue Gilroy



Will Bayley



# What is Talent?

In January 1995 I became the British number one table tennis player for the very first time which, I am sure you will agree, is a heck of an achievement. Table tennis is a pretty big sport in the UK, with 2.4 million participants, 30,000 paid up members of the governing body, thousands of teams, and serious riches for those who excel.

But what made me special? What had marked me out for greatness? I came up with a number of attributes: speed, guile, gutsiness, mental strength, adaptability, agility, and reflexes. Sometimes I would marvel at the fact that I had these skills in such abundance that they were capable of elevating me - little me! - beyond hundreds of thousands of others aspiring to that precious top spot.

All this was doubly amazing considering I had been born into a family in an ordinary suburb of an ordinary town in south east England. There was no silver spoon. No nepotism. Mine was a triumph of individuality; a personal odyssey of success, a triumph against the odds.

This, of course, is the way that many who have reached the top in sport, or indeed in any other field, choose to tell their stories. We live in a culture that encourages this kind of soaring individualism, but while

these stories are inspirational, rousing, and compulsively entertaining, are they true? Here is my story in table tennis, retold with the bits that I chose to ignore the first time around, as they diminished the romance and the individuality of my triumph.

## 1. Table

In 1978 my parents, for reasons they are still unable to explain, decided to buy a table tennis table - a super deluxe 1000 with gold lettering, since you ask - and to put it in our large garage. You can imagine that there were not many youngsters of my age in my home town who possessed a full size, tournament specification table. Fewer still had a garage in which it could be housed full-time. This was my first bit of good fortune.

## 2. My Brother

My second piece of good fortune was having an older brother called Andrew who came to love table tennis as much as I. We would play for hours in the garage after school: duelling, battling, testing each other's reflexes, experimenting with new spins, investigating new paddles, inviting over friends who, although often more accomplished in other sports, were bemused to see just how far we had advanced in table tennis.

## 3. Peter Charters

Mr Charters was a teacher at the local primary school, a tall man with a moustache, a twinkle in his eye and a disdain for conventional teaching methods. He was the coach of almost all the after-school sporting clubs, the organizer of school sports day and inventor of a game called 'Bucket Ball', a kind of improvised basketball.

Charters cared about one thing above all: table tennis. He was the nation's top coach and a senior figure in the English Table Tennis Association. No child who passed through Aldryngton School in Reading was not given a try-out by Charters. Such was his zeal, energy, and dedication to table tennis that anybody who showed potential was persuaded to take their skills forward at the local club, Omega.

Charters invited me and my brother Andy to join Omega in 1980, at the very moment we were beginning to outgrow the garage.

## 4. Omega

Omega was not a luxurious club - it was a one table hut in a gravel enclosure in suburban Reading: cold in winter, ferociously hot in summer, with plants growing through the roof and floor, but it

had one advantage that made it almost unique in the county: it was open 24 hours a day, for the exclusive use of its tiny group of members, each of whom had a set of keys.

My brother and I took full advantage, training after school, before school, at weekends, and during school holidays. We were also joined by other Aldryngton alumni who had been spotted and snapped up by Charters, so that by 1981 Omega was becoming something of a sensation. One street alone (Silverdale Road, on which the school was situated) contained an astonishing number of the nation's top players.

At number 119 were the Syeds. Andrew, my brother, went on to become one of the most successful junior players in the history of British table tennis, winning three national titles before retiring due to injury in 1986. Matthew (that's me) also lived at 119 and became a long serving England senior number one, a triple Commonwealth champion, and a double Olympian

At number 274, just opposite Aldryngton, lived Karen Witt. She went on to win the Commonwealth championships and was widely considered to be among the most brilliant female players of her generation. At number 149, equidistant between the Syeds and the Witts, lived Andy Wellman. He was a top national player who won a string of titles, particularly in doubles.

At the bottom of Silverdale Road was Paul Trott, another leading junior, and Keith Hodder, an outstanding county player. Around the corner were Jimmy Stokes (England junior champion), Paul Savins (junior international), Alison Gordon (four times English senior champion), Paul Andrews (top national player), and Sue Collier (England schools champion). I could go on.

For a period in the 1980s this one street, and the surrounding vicinity, produced more outstanding table tennis players than the rest of the nation combined. One road among tens of thousands of roads; one tiny cohort of school kids against millions up and down the country. Silverdale Road was the wellspring of English table tennis: a Ping-Pong mecca that seemed to defy explanation or belief.

Had some genetic mutation spread throughout the local vicinity without touching the surrounding roads or villages? Of course not: the success of Silverdale Road was about the coming together of

factors of a beguilingly similar kind to those that have, from time to time, elevated other tiny areas on our planet into the sporting ascendancy (Spartak, an impoverished tennis club in Moscow, for example, created more top 20 women players between 2005 and 2007 than the whole of the United States).

In particular, all of the sporting talent was focused ruthlessly on table tennis, and all of the aspiring players were nurtured by an outstanding coach. As for me, with a table in the garage and a brother as passionate about Ping-Pong as myself, I had a head start before I even got to Aldryngton.

We like to think that sport is a meritocracy - where achievement is driven by talent and hard work - but it is nothing of the sort. Think of the thousands of potential table tennis champions not fortunate enough to live in Silverdale Road, with its peculiar set of advantages. Think of the thousands of potential Wimbledon champions who have never been fortunate enough to own a tennis racket or receive specialized coaching. Think of the millions of potential

people who stand before kings may look like they did it all by themselves,' Gladwell writes. 'But in fact they are invariably the beneficiaries of hidden advantages and extraordinary opportunities and cultural legacies that allow them to learn and work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot.'

Whenever I am inclined to think I am unique and special, I remind myself that had I lived one door further down the road, I would have been in a different school catchment area, which would have meant that I would not have attended Aldryngton, would never have met Peter Charters, and would never have joined Omega. It is often said that in elite sport the margins of victory and defeat are measured in milliseconds: the reality is that they are measured in variables that are far more elusive.

It is worth pausing here to consider an objection. You may agree that opportunity is necessary for success, but is it sufficient? What about the natural gifts that mark out the very best from the rest? Are these innate skills not necessary to get to



Gavin Evans, Emily Bates & Peter Charters

Major-winning golfers who have never had access to a golf club.

Practically every man or woman who triumphs against the odds is, on closer inspection, a beneficiary of unusual circumstances. The delusion lies in focusing on the individuality of their triumph without perceiving - or bothering to look for - the powerful opportunities stacked in their favour.

This is one of the central points made by Malcolm Gladwell in his book *Outliers*. 'The

a Wimbledon final or the top of an Olympic podium? Are they not vital to becoming a chess grandmaster or the CEO of a multinational?

This has been the abiding presumption of modern society ever since Francis Galton, Darwin's half cousin, published his book *Hereditary Genius*, in which he argued that "a man's natural abilities are derived by inheritance, under exactly the same limitations as are the form and physical features of the whole organic world".

## Is talent what we think it is?

Most people feel sure that they know natural talent when they see it; that they can look at a group of kids and discern from the way they move, the way they interact, the way they adapt, which of them contain the hidden genes necessary for success. As the managing director of a prestigious violin school put it: 'Talent is something a top violin coach can spot in young musicians that marks them out as destined for greatness.'

How does the teacher know that this accomplished young performer, who looks so gifted, has not had many hours of special training behind the scenes? How does he know that the initial differences in ability between this youngster and the rest will persist over many years of practice? In fact, he doesn't, as a number of studies have demonstrated.

A ground-breaking investigation of British musicians, for example, found that the top performers had learned no faster than those who reached lower levels of attainment: hour for hour, the various groups had improved at almost identical

rates. The difference was simply that top performers had practised for more hours. Further research has shown that when top performers seem to possess an early gift for music, it is often because they have been given extra tuition at home by their parents.

The same conclusion - about the primacy of practice and opportunity rather than talent - is reached by widening the perspective, as the psychologist Anders Ericsson has shown. Just consider the way in which standards have risen dramatically in just about every area of human endeavour. Take music: when Franz Liszt composed *Feux Follets* in 1826, it was said to be virtually unplayable; today, it is performed by every top pianist.

The same is true in sport. In diving, the double somersault was almost prohibited in the 1924 Olympics because it was considered dangerous; now it is routine. The fastest time for the marathon in the 1896 Olympics was just a few minutes faster than the entry time for today's Boston Marathon, which is achieved by thousands of amateurs.

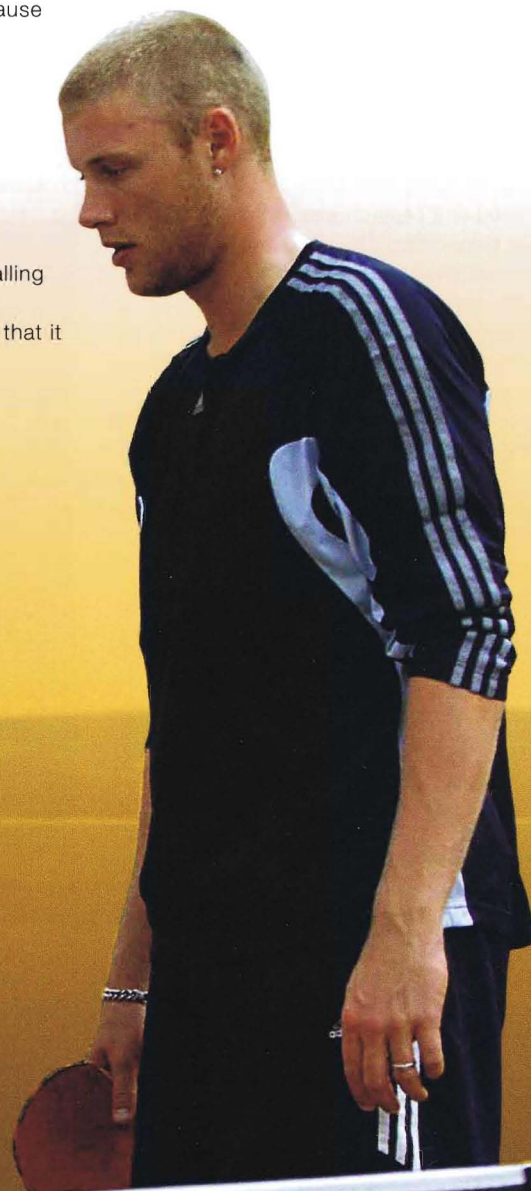
In academia, too, standards are spiralling ever upwards. The thirteenth century English scholar Roger Bacon argued that it

was impossible to master mathematics in less than 30 to 40 years; today calculus is taught to almost every college student and so it goes on.

The key point is that these improvements have not occurred because people are getting more talented: Darwinian evolution operates over a much longer time span. They must have occurred, therefore, because people are practising longer, harder (due to professionalism), and smarter. It is the quality and quantity of practice, not genes, that is driving progress.

If that is true of society, why not accept that it is also true of individuals?

Matthew Syed



Matthew Syed & Freddie Flintoff

# World Team Champs

Kelly Sibley



## A good start for the Men after a slight hiccup

Everything started fine in the men's opening match against Luxembourg, as Andrew Baggaley took a deserved two game lead, but Traian Ciociu, the world no.270, and Luxembourg no.1, turned it round in the next three for a totally unexpected victory. The second game saw Paul Drinkhall come out on top against Gilles Michely. The match was poised at 1-1.

After that England were on top! Liam Pitchford disposed of Mike Bast in three straight games and in the fourth and final game Drinkhall went up against Ciociu. Both of the first two games went to Paul on deuce and he finished the match off in style with an 11-8 third game victory.

**England 3 Luxembourg 1**

## A tremendous first match win for the Women

Playing in the Championships Division for the first time in many many years, the women's started their group with a win over Austria, who were without their no.1, Liu Jia, but still a force to be reckoned with.

**England 3 Austria 2**

## England Women lose to Italy

In the first match Sibley had one of if not the best win of her career, beating World no.76, Tan Monfardini Wenling, in three superb games. Sibley made virtually no unforced errors and was just quicker than her opponent, who is not the slowest player in the world by any means.

That would, however, be the sole win against the Italians as Nikoleta Stefanova and Tan Monfardini Wenling beat Parker. Hicks looked close to a win until a critical time-out for the Italians from which they came out on top.

The way Sibley was playing in the first match many would have been pleased to see her take on Nikoleta Stefanova in the last match, but we were denied that last game contest by the fighting qualities of the Italian no.3, Debora Vivarelli.

**England 1 Italy 3**

## A loss for the Men's Team to Slovenia

Drinkhall got the team away to a good start with a 3-0 win over Slovenian defender, Sas Lasan, but from there on it all went wrong. Slovenian no.1 Bojan Tokic, the world

no.58, was just too strong for Pitchford and Mitja Horvat got the better of Baggaley.

So to the battle of the no.1s Drinkhall against Tokic, and it was a real battle. Tokic started the stronger taking the first game, but Drinkhall recovered to take the second on deuce, the third game was the key. Tokic fought back 8-5 to sneak the game 11-9. The fourth was another dogfight but the Slovenian triumphed on deuce to take it 3-1.

**England 1 Slovenia 3**

## Back to winning ways against Thailand

Drinkhall started the match well with a 3-0 victory over Nikom Wongsiri, the Thai no.3. Pitchford then followed to play the Thai no.1, Chaisit Chaitat; at two games to one in the fourth Liam had to pull out all the stops to recover from a poor start in the game. The fifth again was tight one that in the end went to Liam.

In Danny Reed's first appearance at these championships, he faced the Thai no.2, Yuttana Tubbunmee, coming out on top 3-1 to seal a 3-0 team match result for England.

**England 3 Thailand 0**



Hannah Hicks

### No success in the evening for either Team

The men were against the top seeds in their group - the Slovak Republic. The Slovaks were just too strong. World no.89 Lubomir Pistej beat Reed in the first game 3-0. Drinkhall was next up, against Erik Illas; Illas took the first two games, Drinkhall recovered to take the third but was unable to resist in the fourth. England 0-2 down. Pitchford playing at three had the task of beating the Slovak no 1, world no 96, Peter Sereda; again the Slovak took the first two games, Pitchford pinched the third but there was nothing he could do to stop Sereda in the fourth. 3-0 to Slovak Republic.

At the other end of the hall the women were busy facing Croatia. What a start from Sibley, coming back from one game down to take world no.89, Cornelia Vaida in four. Next up Parker against the left handed power of Andrea Bakula, once again the power was just too great for Parker.

Karina Le Fevre was given a taste of senior table tennis in the third game against Croatian no.4 Mirela Durak, but Durak was just too quick and powerful and this one slipped away in three games.

Back to Sibley in the fourth against the left handed Bakula. The first game went to the Croatian but Sibley stormed back to take the second comfortably. The third game was the key and Bakula had the luck at the right time to stand 9-9 instead of 10-8 down when a ball crept over the net. That third game went to Bakula on deuce, the fourth was another real battle but Sibley just could not get ahead more than a point, and in the end two big forehands from the Croat took the match for Croatia 3-1.

**Men's Team**  
**England 0 Slovak Republic 3**

**Women's Team**  
**England 1 Croatia 3**

### China Win against England too

It is no shock that the England Women went the way of all of those before them, China won 3-0 in less than an hour.

The England Women finish in fifth place in their first stage group and Kelly Sibley at least has looked like she belongs playing at this level. Parker, Hicks and Le Fevre have found it tough, but they are not at all far away from competing in this high level.

**England 0 China 3**

### USA take a tight one

The first round match in the second stage of the Women's team event was dictated by one player Gao Jun, twice World Team gold medallist when playing for China and still ranked at no.39 in the world. 3-2 to the Americans puts England into the 13-16 play-offs.

**England 2 USA 3**

### What a successful morning!

England women playing France to stay in the championship division and the men facing Latvia.

The Men were the first to finish, England men did a thoroughly good job to beat Latvia 3-0. Drinkhall came through comfortably against Olegs Kartuzovis. Baggaley then returned to top form to defeat world no.132 Matiss Burgis 3-0. Reed continued the fine display with a 3-0 defeat of Sandis Vasiljevs.

Whilst this all went on, the women were locked in a tremendous struggle with

France, no wonder as the losing team would depart the Championships Division next year.

England started superbly, Parker on top form quickly deposed of Alice Abbat in three straight games. Sibley dropped the first game against Audrey Mattenet but recovered to win the next three. It really looked good at this stage!

Aurore Dessaint proved too strong for Le Fevre in the third match.

So could Parker win it for England against Audrey Mattenet, a tall girl with a very very hard hit? The first game was really tight but Parker came through to take it, second to Mattenet with some awesome flat hitting from the backhand side, the third game went to Parker but a really tight fourth game went the way of the French girl. A real edge of the seat job for the fifth, but the hard hitting got too much and the team match was tied at 2-2.

Sibley against Alice Abbat, the loser consigning her team to a trip to the Second Division. Sibley has played really superbly this week and was just not to be denied. She took the first game comfortably, Abbat improved her game in the second, but Sibley still claimed it, along with the third, to her and the team's delight.

**Men's Team**  
**England 3 Latvia 0**  
**Women's Team**  
**England 3 France 2**

### Yet another win today!

The clash of the two home countries was definitely a story of two parts.

Part 1 - a really out of form Paul Drinkhall losing in three straight games to Gavin Rungay puts Scotland 1-0 ahead.

Part 2 - three, all of them three straight, wins for Baggaley over Craig Howeson, Reed over Niall Cameron and Drinkhall over Craig Howeson. England win 3-1.

**Men's Team**  
**England 3 Scotland 1**

### A superb win over the Czech Republic for the Women's Team

1-0 for the Czech Republic as Sibley goes down against Martina Smistikova. Parker was next against the Czech no.1, Dana Hadacova, a girl with a huge hit if a ball was up a bit. The match swung this way and

that, every game was tight and inevitably there was need for a fifth game, with Parker coming out on top.

Katerina Penkavova ranked over a hundred places above Hicks was just too good, taking the match score to 2-1 with a 3-0 win.

In the fourth Smistokova was far less comfortable against Parker's defence than Sibley's loop game. Parker triumphed in four games, tying the match at 2-2.

Sibley to finish against the player closest to her in the world rankings (only one point separates them), Dana Hadacova. The first game was the key, Hadacova just had the edge till it reached 10-9. Sibley then won the next three (one with a killer net) to steal game one. This really affected the Czech player, resulting in a 3-0 win and with it the match 3-2 to leave the England team in position 21.

#### England 3 Czech Republic 2

#### Shot down in flames

The Men's team finished with what we have been used to seeing, a performance below their best. Vietnam has three solid players ranked in the 200s, so any win for Reed or Pitchford would be unexpected. Reed duly delivered with a battling five game win over world no.200 and Vietnamese no.1, Doan Kien Quoc. Pitchford found Tran Tuan Quynh too hot to handle losing in three straight games. Baggaley had a disastrous match that first saw the world no.197 lose to Dinh Quang Linh, the world no.291, in four games, and in a most strange fourth individual match lost to the world no.252 Tran Tuan Quynh, the match went to five games and then to deuce in the fifth game.

Baggaley then displayed one of his better bits of gamesmanship/time wasting with a bit of gymnastics six metres behind the table, call it what you want, but in my opinion he got what he deserved, a red/yellow card and suddenly he was 10-11 down. Even more strangely the Vietnamese did not wish the point and was himself red/yellow carded so the score moved level again. At the end of the kerfuffle the score was still even at 11-11 but the Vietnamese proceeded to take the final two points against a very unhappy Baggaley.

#### Vietnam 3 England 1

#### The Women's Championships

To finish 21st having been seeded 31st, to

have beaten Austria, France and the Czech Republic, one can only say the women's team have performed superbly.

The promotion/demotion between the Second Division and the Championships Division has been clarified: two teams will be promoted to the Championship Division, with no demotion, at least not automatically. The Top 18 in the Championships Division are added to the two promoted sides making 20 teams. The final four places are to be given to the four highest placed teams on the world team rankings. A situation not well received by the Women's team who think they have performed creditably enough to remain in the Division.

#### The Men's Championships

What can you say about the men's team performance at these championships? As a team, disappointing! To finish 38th when it was hoped they would be challenging for promotion to the Championship Division is not exactly great, but what is more disappointing is that the two lower ranked players Reed and Pitchford have turned in a series of unexpected wins while the two stars, Drinkhall and English Champion Baggaley, performed poorly time after time, both of their international rankings will drop seriously after this event.

#### The Finals

Shock result at the World Championships a result that will go down in history! Singapore defeated China in the Women's Team Championships. The first time in almost 20 years that China have been defeated and only the second time in 35 years. The Singapore team - mainly players who honed their skills in Beijing, turned the table tennis world on its head. World no.1 Liu Shiwen had a disaster losing both to Wang Yue Gu, the world no.15, and Feng Tainwei, the world no.9. Fang Tainwei was the key player for Singapore winning also against Ding Ning, the world no.5. A Guo Yan win over Sun BeiBei was all the Chinese team had for their efforts.

The Chinese men's team were too good for Germany; Timo Boll won against Ma Long in the first individual match, but that was all the Germans could do, China won 3-1 for the fifth time in a row. Ma Lin was on fire beating both Dimitrij Ovtcharov in

three games and Timo Boll in four. Zhang Jike added the third match with a win over Christian Suss.

#### Men's Team

China 3 Germany 1

#### Women's Team

Singapore 3 China 1



Paul Drinkhall



Alex Perry &amp; Emily Bates / Cadet Masters winner &amp; Junior Masters runner-up

# Tournament Review

## Junior Masters

17th-18th April 2010

The two number one seeds for the Junior Masters event came through a tough weekend's competition to finish in top spots. Liam Pitchford and Karina Le Fevre fought off the challenge from 13 of England's top juniors to take the titles in what is the most searching competition in the domestic junior calendar. The top ranked 14 junior players, all play all. Le Fevre lost only once, and that was in her final match with Emily Bates, whilst Pitchford remained undefeated.

At the event, held at the Grantham Meres venue, all the players continued to fight hard over this gruelling weekend in a competition designed to test physical, mental and technical abilities. Not all will feel that they achieved what they wanted, but all kept trying to the end.

Pitchford's performance was no less impressive because it was expected. On his 13 visits to the table, he dealt with his opponents 'nothing to lose' approach. Le Fevre went about the business of winning matches all weekend, only slipping once at the very end.

Final positions:

### Boys

- 1 Liam Pitchford
- 2 Sean Cullen
- 3 Richard Andrews
- 4 David McBeath
- 5 Daniel Basterfield
- 6 Daniel Lowe
- 7 Sam Walker

- 8 Igor Morais
- 9 Lewis Gray
- 10 Helshan Weersinghe
- 11 Guy Ben-Aroya
- 12 James Ward
- 13 Scott Crawford
- 14 Ping Ho (Ping came in for the injured Gavin Evans)

### Girls

- 1 Karina Le Fevre
- 2 Emily Bates
- 3 Lucy Davidson
- 4 Natalie Slater
- 5 Tressa Armitage
- 6 Mary Fuller
- 7 Chloe Whyte
- 8 Abbie Milwain
- 9 Tin-Tin Ho
- 10 Jessica Dawson
- 11 Vicky Smith
- 12 Evangeline Collier
- 13 Rachel Baker

Evangeline was drafted in with only 24 hours' notice but equipped herself well, winning on three occasions. Yolanda King withdrew due to injury after three matches.

Des Douglas and Jill Parker presented the medals and cheques.

Peter Charters

## Cadet Masters

1st-2nd May 2010

As with the Junior Masters two weeks ago, the top seed in the boys and the girls triumphed in the sternest test that there is in the English domestic calendar. Two days of 'round robin' competition against the

other 13 of the country's best age group players is tough on body and mind. Emily Bates and Sam Walker remained unbeaten over two days under the pressure of the expectation that on every one of the 13 visits to the table, their ranking position tells them that they should win. They both showed the confidence expected of favourites but also the concentration and determination needed to come through unscathed.

The atmosphere at the event, held at Cippenham Table Tennis Club, was at times electric. The enthusiasm and passion shown by these young top English players was encouraging, even if at times it did border on the raucous. The fight was carried on right to the end and such was the spirit, passion and talent on show that the future of English table tennis is looking brighter.

Whilst Emily and Sam were the stars of the weekend there were some very promising performances from other players, some even younger.

Helshan Weersinghe and Igor Morais, with two and one year respectively left in the cadet age group, were second and third behind Sam.

Tressa Armitage followed up her fifth place in the Junior (U18) Masters with second place in the cadets. Tin-Tin Ho, with three years left in the cadet age band, finished in third place.

Both 'Masters' events, Juniors and Cadets, were run impeccably yet again by referee 'Mr Masters', Mick Strode.

Des Douglas &amp; Sam Walker / Cadet Masters winner

Final finishing positions were (wins/losses in brackets):

### Girls

- 1 Emily Bates (13-0)
- 2 Tressa Armitage (11-2)
- 3 Tin-Tin Ho (10-3)
- 4 Vicky Smith (9-4)
- 5 Jessica Dawson (9-4)
- 6 Charleigh Kirby (9-4)
- 7 Emma Torkington (8-5)
- 8 Isobel Ashley (6-7)
- 9 Lucy Lou (5-8)
- 10 Megan Knowles (5-8)
- 11 Janay Gibson (3-10)
- 12 Harriet Taylor (3-10)
- 13 Nicole Finn (0-13)

Chrissie Slot withdrew through injury on the second day after nine matches.

### Boys

- 1 Sam Walker (13-0)
- 2 Helshan Weersinghe (11-2)
- 3 Igor Morais (10-3)
- 4 Michael Ho (8-5)
- 5 Eric Wan (8-5)
- 6 Ross Wilson (7-6)
- 7 Sam Mabey (6-7)
- 8 Jared Patel (6-7)
- 9 Liam McTiernan (5-8)
- 10 Jarred Knowles (5-8)
- 11 Matthew Outhwaite (4-9)
- 12 Reece Placid (4-9)
- 13 Connor Neenan (3-10)
- 14 Adam Harrison (1-12)

Both Nicole Finn and Connor Neenan were late replacements and had little time to prepare for this tough weekend of competition.

Des Douglas and Alex Perry, from the English Junior Selection Panel, presented the awards to the top three players.

Peter Charters

## Butterfly Schools' Individual Championships

24th April 2010

Records tumbled at the Butterfly Schools' Individual Championships in this year's national finals held at The Dome, Doncaster.

Leading the field was Natalie Slater (Staffordshire) who retained her Girls' U16 title for the third consecutive year, but she was pushed hard in the final by Abbie Milwain (Derbyshire), eventually winning 9-11, 11-8, 5-11, 11-6, 11-4. She was not alone with triple success as Tin-Tin Ho took the Girls' U11 crown for the third year in a row. The London East girl showed her class by winning all her group and knockout matches in three straight games. In the final she beat Letitia McMullen (Hampshire) 11-1, 11-3, 11-8. This remarkable achievement followed her victory previously this month when she won the British Primary Schools' Individual title.

Sam Walker (Nottinghamshire) also completed the treble by beating Sean Cullen (Derbyshire) 8-11, 11-7, 11-7, 13-11 in the final of the Boys' U19 adding to previous success in the U13s in 2008 and U11s in 2005. Kent's Helshan Weersinghe performed a similar feat following 2007 and 2008 U11 title wins by beating Tyrone Wells (London West) 11-8, 11-7, 11-7 in the Boys' U13 Championships.

Following his recent success in the British Primary Individual Championships, Hugo Pang (Dorset) took for the second time the Butterfly Schools' Individual Boys' U11 title

but was pushed hard in a closely contested final by Marcus Giles (London South) 12-10, 11-6, 12-10. The double was also performed by Lewis Gray (Kent) who sailed through his group and knockout matches in straight sets, only Liam McTiernan taking him to four in the semi-final, before his emphatic victory in the final 11-7, 11-5, 11-5 over Zak Zilesnick (London West).

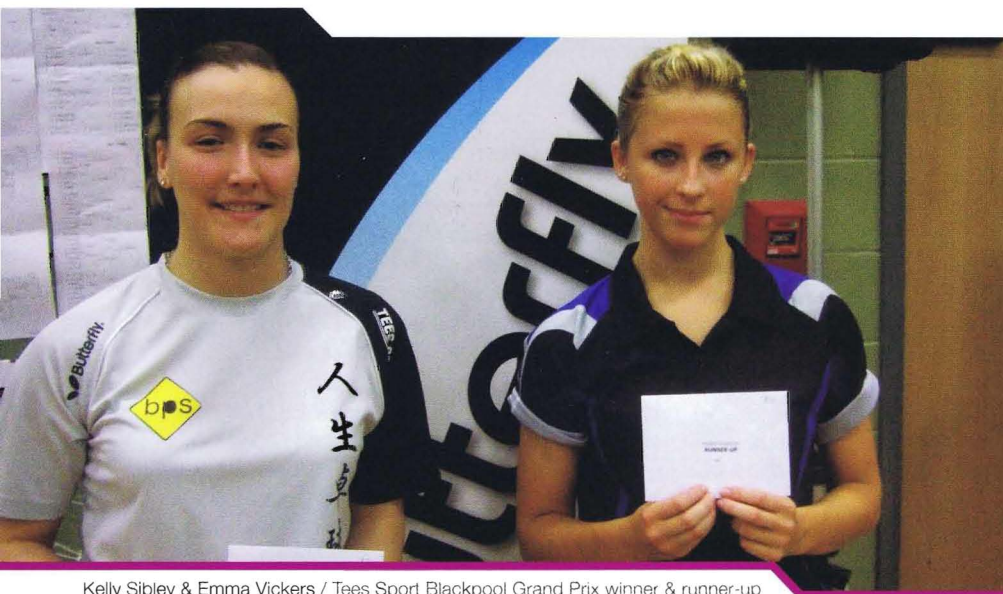
It is good to see new ESTTA Champions. The vastly experienced Chloe Whyte (Cleveland) won the Girls' U19 by beating Lucy Davidson (Derbyshire) 9-11, 11-9, 14-12, 11-6, which as the score suggests, was a hard fought final. There were close games in the Girls' U13 competition with three quarter-finals decided in the fifth and final game with some dramatic fight-backs. Emma Torkington (West Sussex) reached the final to improve on her 2009 third place, but Isobel Ashley (Derbyshire) became the Champion, winning 11-9, 11-9, 11-8.

Over 250 players from 50 counties took part in some 750 matches, making this the largest one day individual event in the country. These are the 37th National Individual Championships organised in eight age groups by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association, and the fourth sponsored by Ransome Sporting Goods who supply Butterfly equipment for both ESTTA Team and Individual National Finals.

John Arnold



John Blackband &amp; Chloe Whyte / Under 19s Butterfly Schools' Individual Championships winner



Kelly Sibley & Emma Vickers / Tees Sport Blackpool Grand Prix winner & runner-up

## Tees Sport Blackpool Grand Prix

18th-19th April 2010

Chris Doran was on top of the world after his incredible Men's Open victory at the Blackpool Grand Prix. Wearing his yellow peril lucky shirt that has brought him so much good fortune (he has not lost a singles match wearing it), he floated like a butterfly and really did sting like a bee!

His five set title win over the hot favourite and top seeded Daniel Zwickl (ranked at 110 in the world) was just amazing and to be honest, totally unexpected. Chris's subtlety and great passive control, allied with his ability to exploit openings with his offensive play on both wings and from all areas of the court, was the crucial factor in securing his success in this match. Daniel Zwickl, his final opponent, came to this event with a proven world track record and is a player of immense talent with an extremely powerful and penetrative backhand. Zwickl is currently ranked 500 places above Chris and the enormity of this success cannot be underestimated and augurs well for the progression of English players on the world stage.

The final itself was a classic nip and tuck all the way encounter that was full of explosive backhand and forehand exchanges necessitating movement and returns from every area of the table. Zwickl won a comfortable first set and it looked on the cards for the expected win from the Hungarian player. Chris started to find his game stealing the second set 11-9 from an 8-9 deficit. He then raced to an 8-1 lead in the third only to see Daniel pull it back to 8-5, at which point Doran called a time out. This had the necessary effect to galvanise Chris into top gear and claim the third set.

Zwickl levelled with some amazing winners including his trademark backhand rockets to level at 2-2. At 3-3 in the fifth set it was anyone's game. Surprisingly from this stage in the match it was the younger Doran who pulled away into a winning 7-3 lead at which Zwickl called his time out. Daniel won the next point, but from there on in it was all Doran, the yellow submarine with both fore and aft torpedoes going full on and aimed straight at the target to sink the Hungarian battleship 11-4 in that last thrilling and historic set. Chris claimed the biggest singles win of his career and pocketed his well deserved winner's cheque for £300.

The long awaited return of England senior international Kelly Sibley at a Grand Prix Women's Open event was most pleasing, as it's rare to see the top players competing in England owing to their hectic playing and training schedule. After having a battle on her hands right from the off in her first group match with Jasmine Yang, her supreme class shone through in easing through the knockout rounds to reach the final. Kelly proved too strong for her last eight opponent Gillian Edwards, but had to get into top gear to thwart the challenge of semi-finalist Lauren Spink (who had just beaten Hang Li) with a 3-1 sets score to await her final opponent.

So, as per seeding the final was between Emma Vickers and Kelly. The first set of the staged final was full of exciting and lightning exchanges on both wings by these two very accomplished international stars with that all important set going to Kelly 16-14. From that point on in the final,

## Results

### Men's Singles

Chris Doran (Np) bt. Daniel Zwickl (Hun)  
6-11, 11-9, 11-6, 6-11, 11-4

### Women's Singles

Kelly Sibley (Wa) bt. Emma Vickers (Dy)  
16-14, 11-6, 11-6

### Under 21 Men

Matt Ware (Ha) bt. Chris Doran (Np)  
7-11, 11-2, 11-6, 11-6

### Under 21 Women

Round Robin - 1st Emma Vickers (Dy)  
2nd Caroline Hallows (Ch)

### Restricted Singles

Mike Marsden (Du) bt. Jonathan Crawford (Cu)  
11-5, 8-11, 11-4, 11-6

### Veteran Singles

Thomasz Rzeszotko (WAL) bt. Tony Wilson (Cv)  
5-11, 11-6, 13-11, 15-13

### Men's Band 1

Jakov Krivic (Av) bt. Michael Marsden (Du)  
11-8, 9-11, 11-5, 11-6

### Women's Band 1

Round Robin - 1st Lauren Spink (Nk)  
2nd Karen Shepherd (Cv)

### Men's Band 2

Radek Mlynarczy (Li) bt. Nicholas Ravalec  
11-8, 6-11, 11-6, 11-5

### Women's Band 2

Round Robin - 1st Bai Xue (La)  
2nd Isobel Ashley (Dy)

### Men's Band 3

Jake Shaw (La) bt. Nathan Courtney (SCO)  
6-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-13, 11-6

### Women's Band 3

Round Robin - 1st Bai Xue (La)  
2nd Isobel Ashley (Dy)

### Men's Band 4

Pawel Orzechowski (La) beat Daniel Fielding (Li)  
11-4, 11-3, 11-6

### Men's Band 5

Peter Morgan (Ys) bt. Antony Constantinou (Mi)  
11-6, 11-13, 5-11, 11-6, 12-10

### Men's Band 6

Rob Hall (La) bt. Tomasz Halucha (Ch)  
11-7, 11-9, 11-9

Kelly started to use a variation of spin and speed in the long rallies that ensued to eventually win the match by taking the next two sets. Kelly was happy to accept the winner's cheque for £175 and run out a fairly comfortable Blackpool Women's Open Champion

The player of the tournament award and a £50 Tees Sport voucher was presented to Bai Xue for her brilliant performances throughout the two days.

Geoff Ware

## Tees Sport Wolverhampton Grand Prix

16th-17th May 2010

Gavin Rungay and Jo Parker were just sensational Wolverhampton wonders in winning the Men's and Women's Singles.

Arise Sir Gavin Rungay, you are the de man, respect bro! With now an unprecedented 18 Grand Prix titles under your belt, we salute you! Your battling qualities, sheer guts and determination, combined with showmanship, elements of escapology, and super strong mental ability, you are one of our shining lights for the UK Olympic team for 2012.

A top quality starting line up had assembled in the Men's Singles that included the likes of Drinkhall, Jenkins, Pitchford, Doran, Nicholls, Ware, Slevin, Cameron, Marsden and Maybanks - the Super Showman Rungay fighting machine took over! Love him or hate him, his comeback from the jaws of defeat in his last 16 match against Will Maybanks from an almost impossible situation of being 0-2 and 3-9 down was just incredible. He followed that up with supreme performances over Damien Nicholls coming back from a 1-2 deficit in games, to then produce a splendid victory over top seed Paul Drinkhall 3-0, with another sublime performance to outplay Mike Marsden in the final that had class stamped all over it.

Losing finalist Mike Marsden was playing out of his skin to produce top class performances that blew everyone away, the entire hall was enthusing over his electric forehand and dynamic movement to the ball, which earned him player of the tournament.

The day started with surprises galore: firstly, 12 year old Sam Mabey coming back from the dead in his group match against

the much higher ranked James Ward from a 0-2 and 1-8 deficit showing "Rungay" like never say die fighting qualities to pull through 3-2 in sets and progress through as group runner-up to Mike Marsden - sadly he departed the event at the hands of Patrick Thomas in the first round. Then another huge shock with the early exit in the last 16 of England number 2 Liam Pitchford to a devastating performance by David McBeath 3-0! David's next round departure was at the hands of Paul Drinkhall who also suffered a scare in the second round by Niall Cameron losing the first set game 4, but then got back into gear winning the next three sets to make the semis, but then fell at the hands of Rungay.

There were so many top quality matches that made this Grand Prix a day to remember - none more so than the wonders of title winner Gavin Rungay, now on course to pick up his fourth consecutive Grand Prix Champions title!

Once again it was sheer poetry in motion to be dazzled and amazed at the wall like defensive attributes that Jo Parker consistently produces as our England number 1 player ran out a comfortable Women's Open Wolverhampton Grand Prix champion. Jo was never really extended in her path to the title, just dropping the one set to Zsuzsanna Vegh in the final. She was in cruise control throughout the entire event, displaying her class to rise above all her challengers, and just far too consistent for the likes of Barbara Lzyk, Egle Adomelyte and losing semi-finalist Hannah Hicks.

Hungarian holidaymaker Zsuzsanna Vegh who played so beautifully on Saturday to

win the Women's Band 1 title went one better to reach the Singles final. In the final with Jo she played very well and was patient in attack trying to create the opening for an opportunity, but Jo was far too steady and consistent using a mixture of hard chop and occasional float to the put away any loose short pushed ball to make a winner.

Mike Marsden was voted Player of the Tournament for his outstanding performances.

Geoff Ware

### Results

#### Men's Singles

Gavin Rungay (SCO) bt. Mike Marsden (Du)  
11-8, 11-7, 11-8

#### Women's Singles

Jo Parker (Sy) bt. Zsuzsanna Vegh (HUN)  
11-7, 12-10, 10-12, 11-5

#### U21 Men

Chris Doran (Np) bt. Liam Pitchford (Dy)  
11-6, 11-9, 3-11, 11-6

#### U21 Women

Emma Vickers (Dy) bt. Karina Le Fevre (Cv)  
4-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-3

#### Veteran Singles

Tomasz Rzeskotko (Ch) bt. David Low (SCO)  
4-11, 14-12, 13-11, 6-11, 11-7

#### Restricted Singles

Mike Marsden (Du) beat Jonathan Crawford (Cu)  
11-9, 7-11, 11-9, 11-8

#### Men's Band 1

Norbert Tofalvi (HUN) bt. David McBeath (Ha)  
7-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-9, 11-5

#### Women's Band 1

Zsuzsanna Vegh (HUN) bt. Chloe Whyte (Cv)  
11-6, 11-6, 11-7

#### Men's Band 2

Dan O'Connell (WAL) bt. Wayne Mason (Ca)  
11-5, 11-9, 11-5

#### Women's Band 2

Tressa Armitage (Ha) bt. Xue Bai (La)  
11-8, 11-9, 11-5

#### Men's Band 3

Adam Nutland (Wo) bt. Pawel Orzechowski (La)  
11-8, 11-8, 10-12, 11-5

#### Women's Band 3

Lucy Davidson (Dy) bt. Tressa Armitage (Ha)  
8-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-7, 12-10

#### Men's Band 4

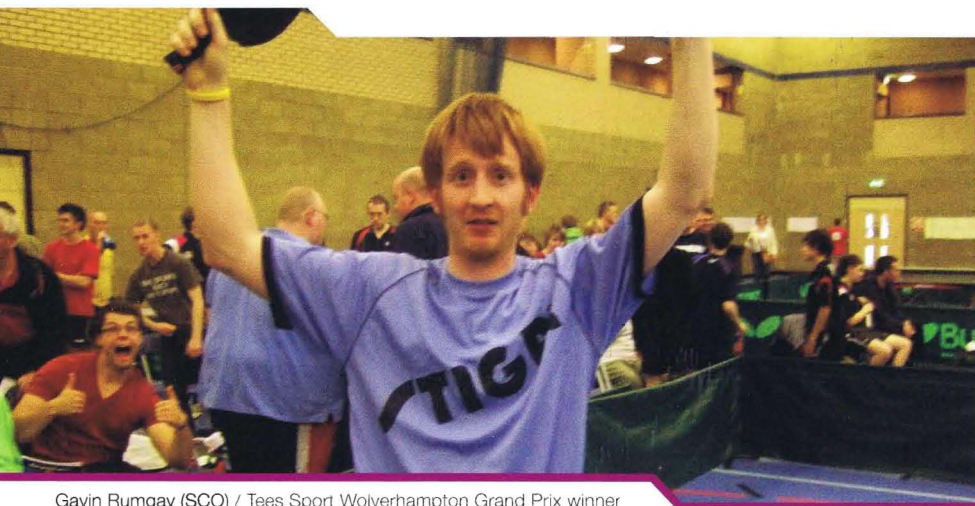
Ernest Mpundu (Ys) bt. Sam Mabey (Np)  
12-10, 11-5, 8-11, 11-9

#### Men's Band 5

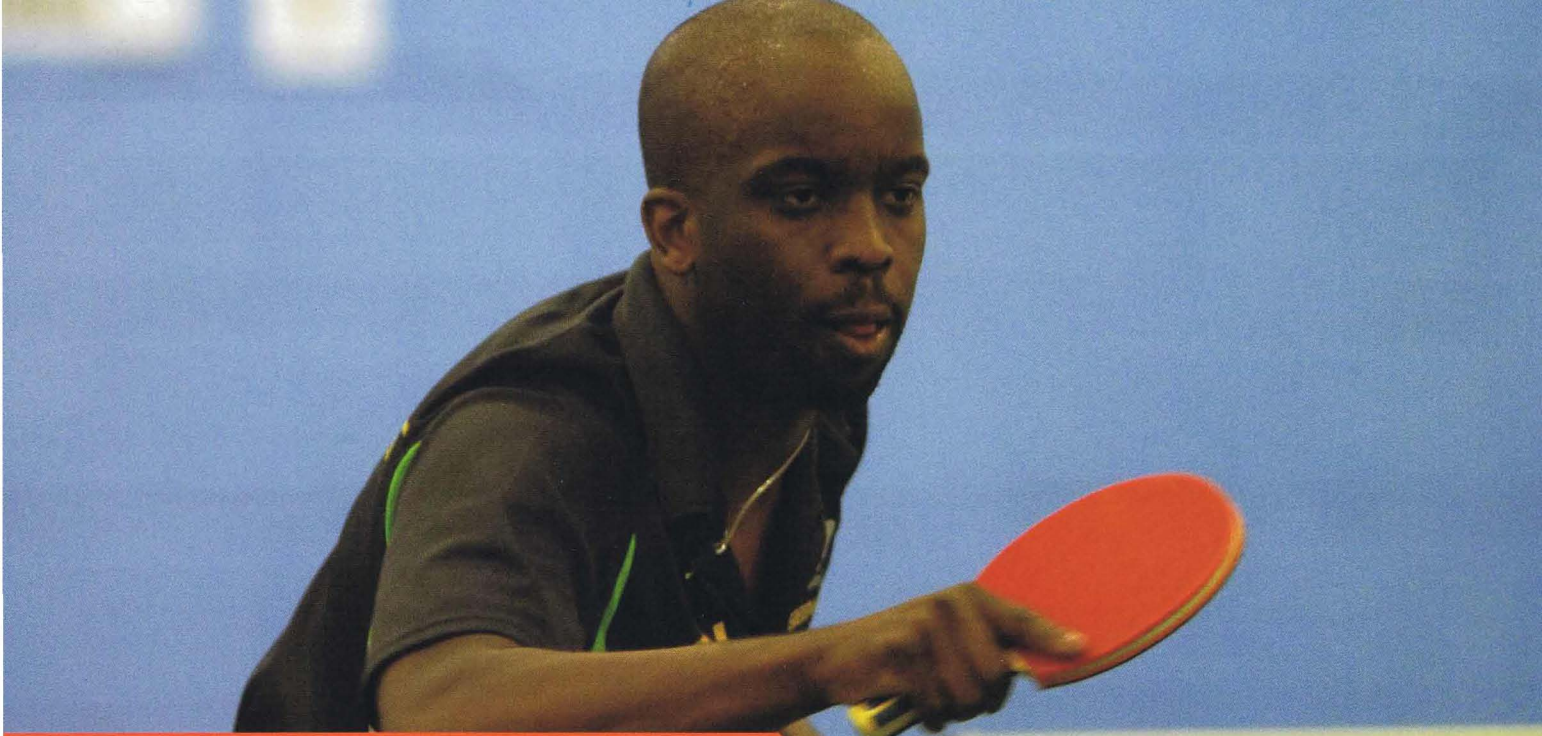
Laurence Sweeney (Wa) bt. Simon Oyler (WAL)  
11-8, 2-11, 12-10, 11-8

#### Men's Band 6

Aaron Marche (Nk) bt. Chad Bassett (Ca)  
11-3, 11-5, 11-5



Gavin Rungay (SCO) / Tees Sport Wolverhampton Grand Prix winner



Gareth Herbert / TTK Greenhouse

# British League

## Barrow Fastbats are British League Play-Off Champions

Barrow Fastbats (Jakov Krivic, Bradley Evans, Jonathan Crawford and Scott Crawford) are the 2010 British League Play-Off Champions. They excelled at Cippenham TTC in May by winning four of their matches and drawing with closest rivals Fusion who are also promoted to the British League Premier Division.

Barrow's campaign began with a 5-3 victory over TTK Greenhouse. Predictably Gareth Herbert caused them the most problems and he beat both world-ranked Croatian player Jakov Krivic and Bradley Evans 3-1, whilst Jide Owolabi also impressed. Jide beat Scott Crawford 11-7, 13-11, 6-11, 8-11, 11-5. Jonathan Crawford's two victories over Fatlum Sadiku and Chris Lewis ensured that Barrow got off to a winning start.

Barrow were able to build on this by beating Elgre Nottingham 7-1 in round two. England No.6 veteran Chris Rogers scored a fine win over Bradley Evans 9-11, 11-8, 12-10, 10-12, 11-5, although he found all action Jakov Krivic a trickier proposition. Krivic never looked in trouble winning 11-4, 11-1, 7-11, 11-5.

The two sides with unbeaten records came face to face in round three and it looked as if Fusion might take both points when they surged into a 4-2 lead. Former Olympian Sule Olaleye played his part by beating Jakov Krivic after all had looked lost when

he trailed 9-7 in the fifth end. Sule kept his nerve superbly to win 10-12, 11-2, 14-12, 4-11, 11-9, and Fusion's Mark Smith scored his second win by beating Bradley Evans 12-10, 11-6, 11-6. It was left to brothers Jonathan and Scott Crawford to keep Barrow's hopes alive. And didn't they play well. England No.59 Jonathan scored a magnificent 11-3, 8-11, 11-9, 11-9 victory over England No.42 Tommy Cutler and England No.109 Scott managed to repel the challenge of a pumped up John Dennison 11-7, 7-11, 23-21, 11-7 after a truly spell-binding encounter.

Barrow now had the bit between their teeth and they did well to beat third placed Pavilion Brighton 6-2 in round four, killing off any hopes Brighton had of gaining promotion. Jakov Krivic and Jonathan Crawford were both undefeated, with Jonathan's quick-fire victory over Ashley Stokes (11-5, 11-7, 11-9) standing out. This match also unearthed another player, 16 year old Da Shuai "Dash" Zhang, who looks way under-ranked as England No.88 and he scored two fine five game wins over Scott Crawford and Bradley Evans.

Going into the last round of matches Fusion and Barrow were tied on seven points and 22 games won. It really could not have been closer. Four players went into the last round with 100% records - Fusion's Sule Olaleye and Mark Smith, Barrow's Jonathan Crawford and TTK

Greenhouse's Gareth Herbert. Who would hold onto their undefeated records? Hands up if you would have said Gareth Herbert! It didn't work out that way. Fusion looked as if they might be in the ascendancy when rally player supreme Tommy Cutler, playing with his customary composure and returning Gareth's serves superbly, beat the former England No.2 6-11, 11-7, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8, to give themselves a 2-0 lead. Gareth fought back to beat Sule 11-5, 9-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-4, and TTK's Jide Owolabi scored a fine 11-8, 11-7, 11-3 victory over John Dennison, which left Fusion as 6-2 winners. Mark Smith retained his 100% record by beating both Fatlum Sadiku and Chris Lewis. He powered his way past Chris Lewis 11-5, 11-5, 11-8.

Barrow turned out an even better performance as they beat Olop Impact 8-0, with everyone playing their part. Jakov Krivic made it eight wins out of ten by beating both Chris Bush and David Barr 3-0, whilst Bradley Evans pulled out all the stops to beat Hari Gehlot 11-7, 13-11, 7-11, 10-12, 12-10. Jonathan Crawford retained his 100% record with 3-0 wins over Liam McTiernan and Chris Bush, and Scott Crawford was equally impressive, beating both McTiernan and Hari Gehlot 3-0. Barrow took the title by virtue, having won two more games than their South London rivals - a magnificent performance.

Steve Kerns, British League Press Officer

PREMIER DIVISION						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Drumchapel Glasgow I	14	0	0	97	15	28
DHS Greenhouse Progress I	8	3	3	68	44	19
Westfield I	8	2	4	64	48	18
Ormesby I	5	6	3	61	51	16
Sycamore	3	6	5	52	60	12
BATTS Team Peniel I	5	1	8	51	61	11
Ellenborough I	1	3	10	34	78	5
Derwent I	1	1	12	21	91	3

DIVISION 1 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Pavilion Brighton I	11	1	2	75	37	23
Fusion I	11	1	2	74	37	23
Woolwell I	6	4	4	59	52	16
DHS Greenhouse Progress II	7	0	7	57	55	14
BATTS Team Peniel II	4	4	6	48	64	12
Urban Progress I	3	5	6	56	56	11
Cippenham I	3	2	9	42	70	8
Generation 2 I	1	3	10	36	76	5

DIVISION 2 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
York Gardens I	10	3	1	77	35	23
Ashford II	9	2	3	72	40	20
Fellows Cranleigh	7	4	3	63	49	18
Dhs Greenhouse Progress III	7	3	4	66	46	17
Pavilion Brighton II	6	2	6	56	56	14
Horsham II	4	2	8	42	70	10
Westfield II	1	4	9	36	76	6
Bedford Modern I	1	2	11	36	76	4

DIVISION 3 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
De Vere Netts	12	1	1	83	29	25
Fusion III	11	1	2	81	31	23
DHS Greenhouse Progress IV	10	3	1	78	34	23
Woolwell III	7	1	6	59	53	15
Crusaders	3	3	8	43	69	9
Mossford II	2	2	10	44	68	6
Horsham III	2	2	10	30	82	6
Inspire Bognor Regis	2	1	11	30	82	5

DIVISION 4 SOUTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bournemouth Sports	14	0	0	103	9	28
Hastings	10	2	2	80	32	22
Ellenborough II	8	3	3	62	50	19
Waterside	4	2	8	45	67	10
Metropolitan Police	5	0	9	39	73	10
BATTS Team Peniel III	2	4	8	43	69	8
Pavilion Brighton III	3	2	9	38	74	8
Westbury White Horses	2	3	9	38	74	7

DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
TTK Greenhouse	12	0	2	76	36	24
Olop Impact I	11	0	3	76	36	22
Mossford I	8	2	4	63	49	18
Brighton City I	5	2	7	49	63	12
Fusion II	4	3	7	50	62	11
Sportingbet Guernsey I	2	5	7	47	65	9
Cippenham II	3	2	9	44	68	8
Kingfisher	3	2	9	43	69	8

DIVISION 2 SOUTH AND WEST						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ashford I	11	2	1	77	35	24
Woolwell II	9	2	3	63	49	20
Horsham I	8	3	3	66	46	19
B & S Group	7	3	4	64	48	17
Club Cornwall	7	0	7	58	54	14
York Gardens II	5	3	6	58	54	13
Cippenham III	2	1	11	42	70	5
Urban Progress II	0	0	14	20	92	0

DIVISION 3 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Godalming	10	0	2	66	30	20
NWF	6	4	2	58	38	16
Brighton City II	5	3	4	55	41	13
Olop Impact II	5	3	4	50	46	13
Keyworth	4	3	5	49	47	11
Britannia Ipswich	4	0	8	40	56	8
Generation 2 II	1	1	10	18	78	3

DIVISION 4 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Woodfield II	14	0	0	108	4	28
Yaxley Royal British Legion	9	1	4	67	45	19
Bedford Modern II	8	0	6	66	46	16
Morpeth Greenhouse TTK	7	0	7	48	64	14
Sportingbet Guernsey II	5	1	8	45	67	11
York Gardens III	4	1	9	43	69	9
DHS Greenhouse Progress V	4	1	9	36	76	9
Ashford III	3	0	11	35	77	6

PREMIER DIVISION PLAY-OFFS						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Barrow Fastbats I	4	1	0	30	10	9
Fusion I	4	1	0	28	12	9
Pavilion Brighton I	2	1	2	21	19	5
TTK Greenhouse	2	0	3	20	20	4
Elgre Nottingham I	1	1	3	12	28	3
Olop Impact I	0	0	5	9	31	0

# Tables

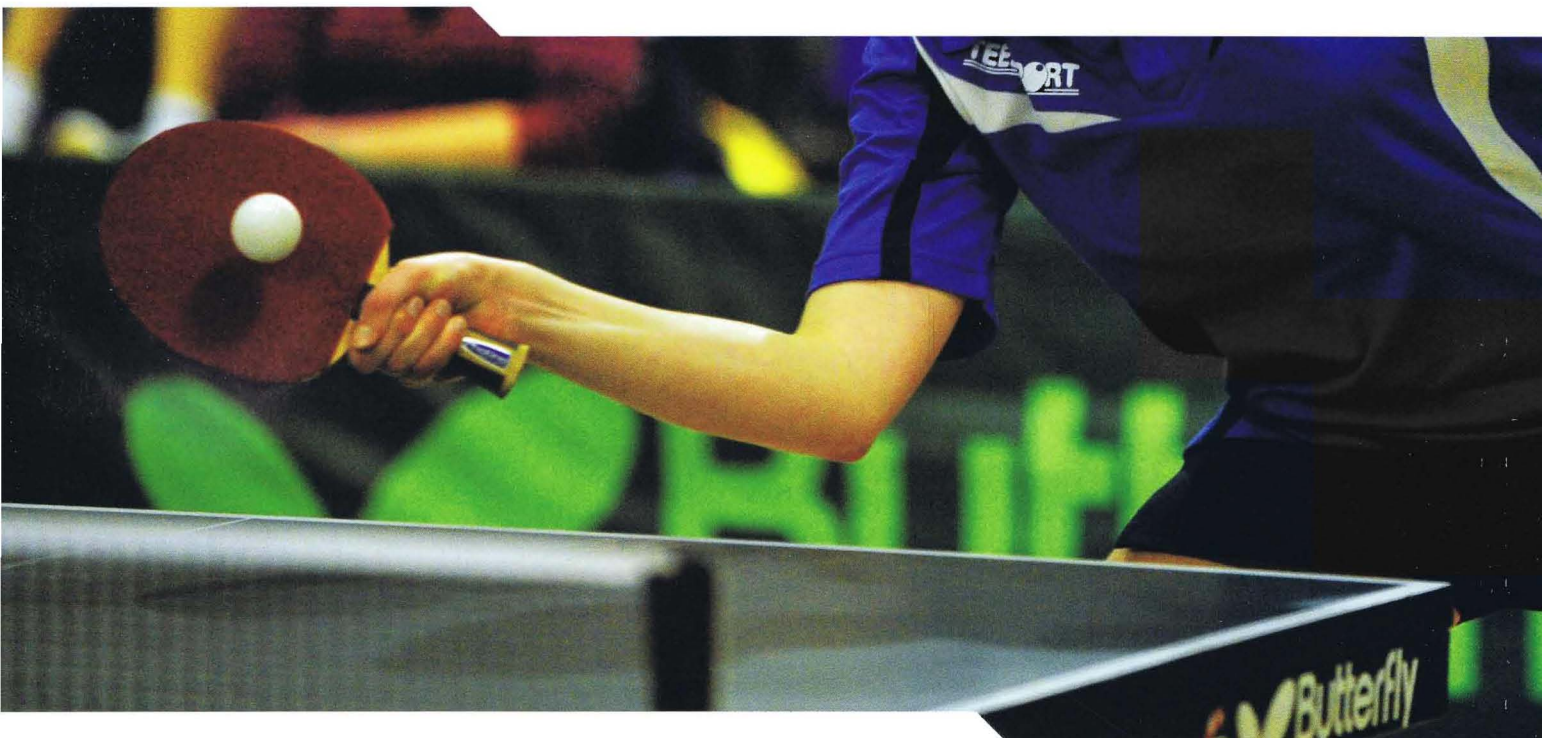
DIVISION 1 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Drumchapel Glasgow II	12	0	2	76	36	24
Elgre Nottingham I	9	1	4	69	43	19
Barrow Fastbats I	7	3	4	62	50	17
Ormesby II	8	1	5	60	52	17
Northfield I	5	3	6	59	53	13
Grantham	4	5	5	49	63	13
Halton I	3	2	9	45	67	8
Sheffield	0	1	13	28	84	1

DIVISION 2 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Burton Uxbridge I	12	2	0	80	32	26
Chesterfield	9	3	2	72	40	21
Woodfield I	5	4	5	60	52	14
Drumchapel Glasgow III	6	1	7	53	59	13
Derwent II	4	4	6	51	61	12
Halton II	4	3	7	46	66	11
Barrow Fastbats II	3	3	8	45	67	9
Elgre Nottingham II	1	4	9	41	71	6

DIVISION 3 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ormesby III	11	1	2	76	36	23
Smiths Wood Bribar	7	6	1	70	42	20
Northfield II	6	6	2	64	48	18
Formby	4	5	5	60	52	13
Rotherham Scorpions	4	5	5	57	55	13
Drumchapel Glasgow IV	4	1	9	33	79	9
St Mary's Hull	2	4	8	47	65	8
Pudsey I	3	2	9	41	71	8

DIVISION 4 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Briar Redlands Rookies	14	0	0	100	12	28
Ormesby IV	11	0	3	74	38	22
Manchester	9	0	5	65	47	18
Team Matlock	7	3	4	62	50	17
Stiga Hartlepool	5	3	6	58	54	13
Halton III	3	2	9	41	71	8
Pudsey II	0	4	10	28	84	4
Isle Of Man	0	2	12	20	92	2

DIVISION 5 NORTH						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Woodfield III	11	3	0	95	17	25
Cliffdale Chandlers	9	3	2	67	45	21
Northfield III	9	2	3	77	35	20
Ormesby V	7	4	3	62	50	18
Team Tameside	2	5	7	44	68	9
Arbory	3	3	8	43	69	9
Spartans	1	4	9	38	74	6
Rugby	1	2	11	22	90	4



# County Championships

With most counties now having completed their fixtures in this season's county championships there were a number of hotly contested divisions and none more so than Junior 2C. This not only saw the top two Worcestershire and Glamorgan seconds complete their fixtures on 12 points each, but they had identical sets as well as both having a 52-18 average, and it took the greater games advantage for Worcestershire before they were crowned as champions.

The final round of fixtures had started with Northamptonshire leading the division with a perfect record, but an early 8-2 defeat to Glamorgan had brought all the top three level on points. Northants had beaten Worcestershire 7-3 earlier in the season but made up for this loss by beating Glamorgan 6-4, and with Glamorgan's victory over Northants the three counties were now intent on scoring as many sets as possible in order to become champions.

At the end of the day Northants were the first county to bow out of the equation as their sets were inferior to their opponents, but it needed a count back of games in order to determine this season's champions, and Worcestershire prevailed in this most competitive of divisions.

Junior 1B also featured a fascinating outcome as Hertfordshire took the division on 13 points from Glamorgan on 11 and Surrey firsts another point back.

Hertfordshire dropped one point in their campaign when they were held by Surrey firsts, but with Surrey losing to Glamorgan firsts and also being held by Warwickshire they could only muster 10 points. This was one adrift of Glamorgan who were beaten by champions Hertfordshire and surprisingly held Cornwall firsts who themselves had an indifferent season.

Another tight division which was won on sets advantage was Veterans Division 1A, which saw the unfortunate Yorkshire seconds take the title for the second successive year.

The Yorkshire veterans second team repeated their feat of last season by winning Division 1A with the same record as last year, winning six and drawing one of their seven clashes, although on this occasion they were joined on a similar record by Northants firsts with whom they drew, but a superior sets advantage saw the team retain the title they won last season. The team was spearheaded by Sandra Rider and included a very strong

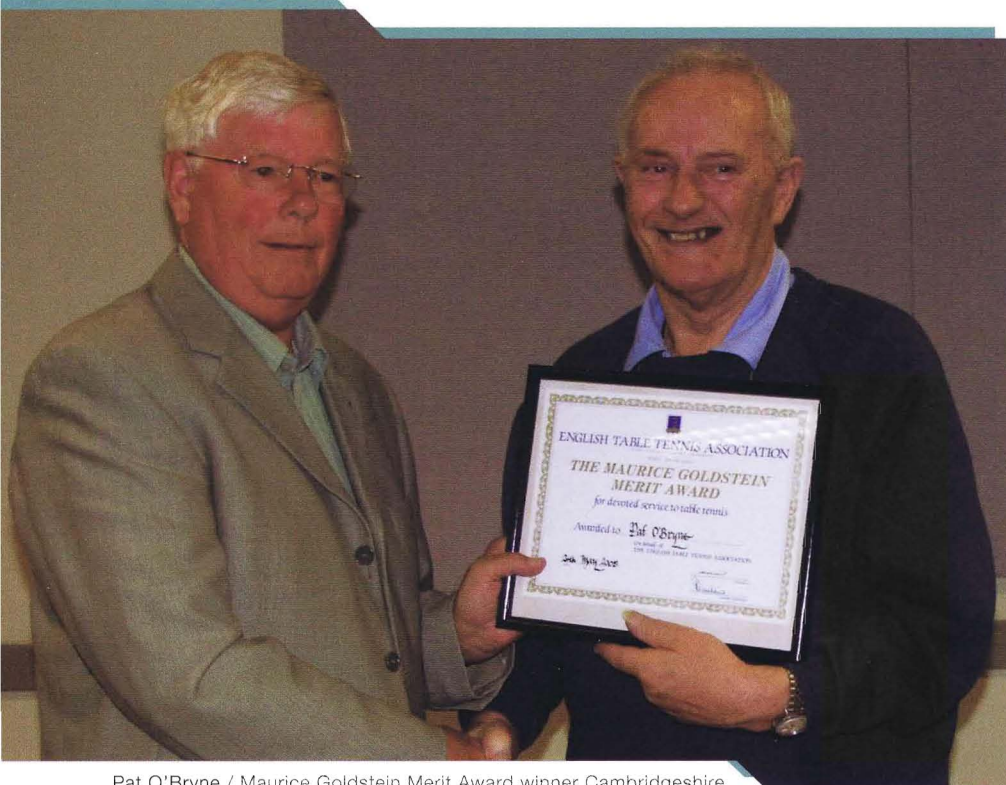
line up of Chris Clinton, Simon Pugh and Sean Madden

Unfortunately they will not be able to take their place in the premier division once again as the county have a team in that division so the promotion place will go to Northants, just like it was handed to Lancashire last season when they finished runners-up to Yorkshire.

Buckinghamshire I duly wrapped up Veterans 3C in the final round of matches held at Kingfisher TTC which saw them ease to the title with a 9-1 victory over Kent 4 and an 8-2 win over Worcestershire 2.

The talented Bucks foursome of Alan Cherry, Michael Wilkins, Robert Hazelwood and Dawn Pearce were the form team of this division and easily took the title with a perfect performance, winning all seven matches. Although they were made to work hard earlier in the season with 6-4 victories against the second teams of Berkshire and Gloucestershire, as well as Isle of Wight, once these matches were out of the way Bucks eased to the title winning by four clear points from runners-up Berkshire.

Barry Snowden



Pat O'Byrne / Maurice Goldstein Merit Award winner Cambridgeshire

# County Notes

## Berkshire by Colin Dyke

A tremendous performance by the senior first team saw them retain their place in the Premier Division, finishing sixth. On the last weekend two wins and a draw gave them enough points to survive the drop. It was particularly satisfying in that the team were forced to field two cadet girls due to unavailability of others and they took their chance magnificently. Megan Knowles and Maria Tsaptsinos, contributed wins just when it mattered. Richard Andrews lost only one on the weekend finishing the campaign with an 80% average. Dave Barr, as reliable as ever, won 6 whilst Hari Gehlot won 4 out of 8.

The team had wins against Gloucestershire (7-3) and Buckinghamshire (7-3) and drew with Middlesex. The only defeat of the weekend came against a strong Sussex side (2-8). Against Gloucestershire Knowles and Tsaptsinos both beat Ann Barnes whilst against Buckinghamshire they beat Caroline Linz and Sue Hayes respectively. The match with Middlesex might have been a win if Barr had not been unlucky enough to lose out at 14 in the fifth to Tommy Cutler. Gehlot and Andrews had maximums in this match, Gehlot beating Neil Charles and Ping Ho and Andrews beating Charles and Cutler, both three straight.

Andrews eventually found his match in the loss to Sussex when going down three

straight to Ritchie Venner, having earlier comfortably beaten Nigel Eckersley. The only other Berkshire win was a three straight by Barr over Da Shuai Zhang.

The juniors were our only winning team as reported earlier. However the veterans 1, 2 and 3 teams all came away with well earned runners-up spots in Divisions 1B, 3C and 4B respectively.

Hari Gehlot picked up the men's singles title at the Reading Closed, adding it to his county title, by beating Martin Chodounsky in a tight five set match. Cadet Maria Tsaptsinos caused a major surprise winning the ladies singles title against county champion Wendy Porter 3, -8, 10, 9.

## Cambridgeshire by Martyn

The Cambridgeshire Table Tennis Association held their Closed Championships at the Neale Wade Sports Centre on Saturday 20th March 2010.

In the absence of the 2008/9 champion Martin Gray due to illness, Keith Richardson completed a clean sweep of all the events he entered, which included becoming the Men's Champion for the 19th time. Richardson from Cambridge overcame the Wisbech left hander Wayne Mason in three close games in the Men's final. He was pushed hard in the Veterans' final by Simon Pryke from the St. Ives Club and completed

a hat-trick of wins in the Men's Doubles with another former champion Mick Harper over Wisbech pairing Mason & Matthew Knott.

Helen Arnold from Impington became the Ladies Champion for the first time against Cambridge University's Nga Nguyen in straight games. She also joined forces with Kayleigh Hubbard to beat Anne Chambers and Irina James in the Ladies' Doubles.

County Secretary Kevin Gray paired with Janet Nicholls to claim the Mixed Doubles title with an 11-9 fifth set win against father and daughter Jeff and Amy Catlin.

Nicholls also managed to win the Handicap trophy when Graham Sheppard was unable to claw back the 8 point deficit in the final.

## Derbyshire Neil Houghton

We have two recent National winners - Junior Master Liam Pitchford and National U13's Schools' Champion Isobel Ashley (Netherthorpe school)! Derbyshire players also finished high up in both events with Sean Cullen (Netherthorpe) r/u in Masters and Schools' U19s. Lucy Davidson (Netherthorpe) was third in Masters and r/u in Schools U19s whilst Abbie Milwain (Chellaston) was eighth in Masters and r/u in Schools' U16s. Danny Lowe was sixth in Masters. Ronan Kelly (Springwell) and Jayden Budworth (St. Joseph's) got to the quarters in schools U13s and U11s.

Cadet Masters held just before sending this - Isobel Ashley, with another good performance as an U13, finished eighth!

At Draycott, a pleasing Derbyshire Junior II had some loyal newcomers ready to step in and help the team. This event was certainly held at a difficult time when many people were away for Easter, so it was a pity we had a much weaker team as we likely would have finished very high up and just a chance of winning the division had we been able to field our first weekend team. Of course if our main second team hadn't had to play in Junior Prem. it could have been close at the top! Curious the way things happen, one thing leading to another. Anyway Frances Baker (Chesterfield) won most of her games and it was nice to see Jayden Budworth (Staveley) playing well and keen newcomers Hayley Gleeson (Holymoorside) with Alex Davison (Wingerworth) David Price (Long Eaton) and Jack Stanley (Borrowash).

## Essex by Steve Kerns

Former England international Stuart Gibbs dominated the 2010 Burnham Closed beating Marko Jovic in the veterans singles final and County Over 60s team-mate Dave

Bowles in the men's singles decider. There was consolation for the inform Bowles who became Over 50s Champion with a four game win over Peter Ballard. Kevin Read/Andrew Halling were the surprise winners of the men's doubles beating Minda Sinkus/George Reeves in the final.

The Championships produced numerous close matches with Marko Jovic's semi win in the veterans singles over George Reeves and Kevin Read's quarter-final victory in the men's singles over Duncan Taylor providing two of the clashes of the weekend.

20 year-old Greg Green, a superb winner of the 2009 Colchester League Men's Singles title became the 2010 Clacton League Men's Champion, beating Martin Hogg 3-0 in the final. Both Hogg and Green had excelled in their semis with Green scoring a superb four game win over Gary with Hogg getting the better of defending champion Colin Stallwood. Green added the Men's Doubles title as well, teaming up with Gary Young to get the better of surprise finalists Kevin James/Gary Stallwood 3-1. There was ample consolation for Hogg who became Veterans Champion. Hogg's final opponent Dave Hall last played in these Championships 21 years ago, and won't be displeased with his efforts, having beaten two seeded players - Neil Crook and Alan Burgess.

Perhaps the most unexpected winner of all was the seemingly ageless Terry Kirby - once ranked top ten nationally - who became the League's oldest ever champion by winning the Division Two singles. From an unseeded position he fought his way to the final and claimed the title by beating Bob Sawyer 3-0 in a closely fought final. It may be a well-worn cliché but table tennis really is a game for life!

### Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

Congratulations to the Hertfordshire Juniors who will be playing in the Premier Division next year. In the first round of matches they beat Middlesex & Warwickshire 6-4 and drew 5-5 with Surrey so they felt well up for it in round 2.

They started with a big 7-3 win over Bucks., then an even better 8-2 v Cornwall. Sets were important as they started level on points with Glamorgan but with a lesser sets ratio their position further improved with a 9-1 win v Dorset.

By chance their last match was against Glamorgan, still level on points. The Herts. no.1 Guy Ben-Aroya beat his opponents in straight sets keeping his perfect score sheet throughout the competition. Other games

went to five but Herts. came out on top, clinching the title and promotion.

The 6 Herts. veteran teams have all completed their matches. Team 4 finished with a great 10-0 win v Cambridge 3 but overall the top results came from team 3 who were runners-up in Div 3B. They kept the same team for all matches - Captain Chris Ogle with Roger Pyle, Mark McCarthy and June Nelson. Well done to all of them.

### Lancashire by Dave Buckley

A line has been drawn under yet another season. One of the highlights was in the Lancashire & Cheshire League where Oldham clinched the men's premier division title after a barren spell of 25 years. They were worthy winners by comprehensively beating closest rivals and also previously unbeaten Warrington 5-1. The team of Darryl Meredith, Tristran Swan and Paul Cicchelli displayed their superiority throughout the campaign Preston and Halton will be replaced by Manchester and Wirral in the premier division next season.

The Lancs & Cheshire cup finals played recently at the Hilton Centre were also well represented by Oldham. All three finals went to a final ninth set decider.

Norman Cook Trophy (men's) Ellesmere Port 5 Oldham 4, Mabel Neary Trophy (ladies) Halton 5 Oldham 4, Dennis Smith Trophy (vets) Oldham 5 Halton 4

The standard of table tennis in the men's match was of the highest quality, particularly the encounter between Darryl Meredith of Oldham and Tomasz Rzeszotko of Ellesmere Port. The final set decider was an excellent win for Rob Wylie over Darryl Meredith. The final set decider in the ladies was won by the experienced Fiona Dennett over the unfortunate Oldham junior debutante Paige Allman. The final set decider in the vets was won by Dave Buckley over Ken Connor.

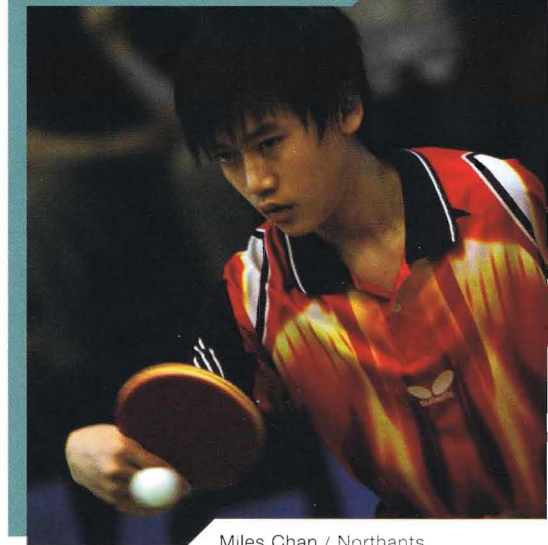
The finals night of the Bury Championships took place recently in a departure from the usual tournaments that are completed on the day. The men's final was contested between holder Graham Jeffries and Lucasz Serdiuk. The final was played over the best of seven format and Lucasz will regret the fact that it was not the usual best of five. He coasted to an apparent unassailable 3-0 lead before the experienced Jeffries changed tactics and gameplan. His experience stood him in good stead as he took the next three to take the match into a game seven decider. Graham took the final game 11-9 to retain his title. A very entertaining final in the new over 60s' event was contested between Tommy Ryan and

Derek Whatmough. The all out attacking style of Tommy and the subtle defence of Derek entertained the circa 100 spectators. Tommy eventually prevailed 11-6 in the final game. In the junior singles final Dean Clyne beat Callum Stott in four games in an entertaining final.

### Middlesex by Michael Close

Table tennis was very saddened to hear of the death of Iris Moss in February of this year. She was in her 90th year.

Iris first joined the Middlesex County Committee in 1957 and the following year became Hon Secretary and Treasurer, which she held until 2006 when she retired due to failing health. This does not tell the whole story. During this period she was the mainstay of Middlesex Table Tennis. She considered the role of General Secretary to be very far ranging and whenever there was a vacancy on the committee she was there to fill it. The various additional roles she undertook during this period included the organiser of every Middlesex Open and Closed Tournament, Handbook Secretary, Minutes Secretary, and hostess of Committee meetings. Iris always gave any newcomer to the Committee a welcoming smile and helping hand.



Miles Chan / Northants

The ETTA itself also benefited. Iris was the Umpires Controller at the World Championships in Wembley in 1954, and carried out this role at many national events until 1977 when she became carer to her mother and was unable to continue going to events. Before this Iris was often to be seen at the referee's table assisting either as deputy or as an assistant.

In her latter years she was Treasurer of the E.T.T.A. London Region.

It is pleasing that the work and devotion of Iris was recognised. A Vice-President of ETTA and Life Vice-President of the Middlesex TTA, she received special long service awards from the London Federation of Sport and Recreation at the Houses of Parliament and from the Middlesex Federation of Sport.

However, she was best known for her pioneer work at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Caz Walton, Paralympic table tennis player, has her own tribute for this work.

"In 1958 Stu Dane and Charlie Maine persuaded Iris to join them at Stoke Mandeville where the sports movement for the paralysed was growing. Iris was hooked, bringing her unique blend of knowledge and understanding to help write the rules, raising standards and establishing TT as a core sport in the Paralympic movement - her "Para family".

Iris gave so much to table tennis for disabled people. She helped out at all levels, becoming treasurer for the English Paraplegic Sports Association, a post she held for over 40 years, running competitions at regional, national and international level, bringing in other officials from Middlesex and ETTA, and sharing her expertise with other countries to help the sport grow even further. Iris travelled widely with sport for people in wheelchairs helping to run competitions in as far flung places as Germany, Israel and New Zealand. She gave 50 years of her time, expertise and friendship to disabled people and was one of the most loved faces in table tennis.

Iris received the award "Services to Wheelchair Sport" in 2001 having given a lifetime of unselfish, caring support to all those she came into contact with. She always thought of other people, putting them before her own needs and was one of the nicest, kindest human beings that I have ever had the privilege to know".

There is a general saying that nobody is indispensable and irreplaceable. When Middlesex Table Tennis Association thinks of Iris, we find this very difficult to believe!

### Northants by Dennis Millman

Miles Chan became the youngest Men's Singles champion when at the age of 13 years and 28 days he beat Richard Elliott in an absorbing County Closed final.

Elliott, four time runner-up, started well but the composed Chan seized the initiative. The third and fourth games were close but Chan held on to take them 12-10, 11-9, and



Charlotte Binley / Northants

beat Tim Yarnall's record in 2001 when he took the title 33 days after his 13th birthday.

Chan also added the U15, the U13 and the Band One Singles while joining his elder brother Leon to add the U15 and Band One doubles. He missed out on the U18 Doubles when he and Jack Coleman went down to Cavan Foo and Aaron Ark in five ends. The U18 Singles was also to escape his clutches when he lost his only singles of the day to Jack Coleman, holder for the last two years. However the previous champion was unable to make it three in a row when he lost a tremendous five end final to newcomer Cavan Foo.

John Fuller who lost to Elliott at the penultimate stage of the men's event went closer at veteran level, but Elliott was not to be denied and won 11-9 in the fifth. He then followed up to retain the Men's Doubles in partnership with Dawid Przybysz, with Kevin Bird and Coleman in second place, but lost out in the mixed together with the evergreen Clem Little, to a flourishing Chris Ross/Charlotte Binley combination. Finally Elliott and Ross proved too formidable in the Veteran Doubles.

As had often been the case, Charlotte Binley and Jordan Wood met head on in the Women's and Girls' Singles. Binley regained the ladies crown after a close encounter but had less difficulty in depriving Wood in the junior event. Binley also came out on top when partnered by Clem Little in the doubles, when Beth Tyler and Lucy Budworth became their final victims. That gave Little her eighth win in 18 finals, not quite as impressive as her 11 in 16 for the Women's Veterans where Sue Moloney again took second place.

### Oxfordshire by Lark Husbell

The Oxford divisional championships were the most competitive for many years with a truly international theme.

Division 4 Marko Zhang of China beat Sindy Li of Hong Kong in a very entertaining match. Division 3 Lorne Lorie of Scotland beat Thomas Bowden of the USA in four sets. Division 2 Eamonn Deeley beat Paul Borrowdale in four sets. Division 1 In the semi-finals Jingyo Sun of China, beat Craig Campbell of Barbados in a thrilling attacking match. In the other semi Gareth Hayward gave everything to push Karl Bushell to five entertaining games but lost the final one 11-7.

In the final it was the experienced Karl Bushell that triumphed over the youth and power of Jingyo in one of the best matches seen in Oxfordshire for some time.

Drayton TTC have won their first title in the Didcot League. Their team of Ellis Bicknell, Craig Campbell, Greg Boone, Roger Perry and Karl Bushell proved worthy winners.

Credit must go to Richard Taylor who plays for Letcombe and has won the most matches in the top division. His efforts keep Letcombe in the top division.

The Forum B team of Ellis Bicknell, Craig Campbell, Greg Boone and Andrew Flint proved too consistent for all their rivals in a very competitive Oxford League with five teams in contention for second position with one match remaining. Karl Bushell won the Warner cup for the 21st time for the most matches won in the top division.

Oxford's veterans second team comprising Neil Hurford, Mark Scott, Glenn Freeman, Mike Wilkins and Nigel Taylor were undefeated in Division 3 and proved worthy champions of the Midland League.

After 10+ years of competing in the veterans Division 1 league, Oxfordshire have been relegated. This was despite a great effort from Janet Brown in winning her three singles at Halifax and a good debut for Neil Hurford who was stepping up from the second team. The damage had been done in the first weekend with key players absent.

### South Yorkshire by Rob Loxley

Stocksbridge Rugby A have regained the Division One championship of the Sheffield Table Tennis League, and have taken their total haul of top flight silverware to a record equalling 11 titles. Andrew and Stephen Horsfield and Greg Baker were in ruthless form as they whitewashed Scorpions A, to draw level with the legendary Albion Corinthians side of the sixties, and achieve their eleventh triumph.

The Horsfield brothers have amassed an amazing 32 titles between them, having had lucrative spells at Wadsley Bridge and Vulcan in the nineties. Defending champions Abbeydale A had to settle for runners-up, whilst young hopefuls Vulcan A finished third.

The Barnsley Closed Championships programme opened with Thomas Kozlowski narrowly defeating a determined John Race in the novelty Hard Bat competition.

Charlotte Dixon took the first two games from Chris Ward, however the West Melton protégée overcame his early nerves to take the Junior Singles title 15-13.

Roseanne Hurst overcame a 2-1 deficit to win the Cadets against Jack Robinson.

With both sides making unforced errors, Lorraine Swift and Emma Harrison were eventually outplayed by Charlotte Dixon and Debbie Firth who claimed the Ladies Doubles in four games.

In the Super Veterans final, club mates Roy Battye and Mike Whyke defied the years to create a finely balanced contest which Whyke edged 11-9 in the fifth game.

Colin Scott's skills and experience proved too much for Josh Horbury in the Consolation Singles, winning 3-0.

In a tight Men's Doubles, father and son duo Ian and Richard Denton faced the Polish pairing of Thomas Kozlowski and Bartek Stampa. The Dentons built a 2-1 lead but

Kozlowski and the irrepressible Stampa raised their level to take the last two games.

Charlotte Dixon overcame a seven-point deficit to claim the Handicap Singles from club mate Tom Labella 33-27.

Ian Denton controlled the match from the outset against Roy Battye with a fine display of attacking shots on both wings, taking the Veterans Singles title in straight games.

Lorraine Swift and Thomas Kozlowski faced Charlotte Dixon and John Race in the Mixed Doubles. The use of heavily spun serves by Kozlowski kept the Higham pair on top in a straight games win.

Lorraine Swift struggled to keep pace with the youthful agility of Charlotte Dixon in the Ladies Singles. Lorraine battled hard but succumbed to Charlotte 8-11 in the fourth.

In a repeat of last year's singles final, Darren Lindley's serves and power attacking claimed the first two games from Ian Denton. Denton defended well and counter attacked to take the third 11-4, however Lindley proved to be more consistent to claim the seventh game 4-1.

### Surrey by Chris Andrews

Super Woman whipped up a storm at the Nationals. That's right, Joanna Parker was not content winning one or two National titles, she won all three of the events she entered, thereby winning the Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and the Mixed Doubles, and in every event she defeated a former National Champion (or former National Championship pair). Darius seeded at no 2 lost in the quarter-finals of both the U21 and the Men's Singles events. However he was runner-up in both the Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles finals.

Ernest Bevin College (Tooting Bec, Surrey) won the English Schools' Table Tennis Association Team Championship finals in the boys U13 age group. In the finals Ernest Bevin won all their matches, the results of which were 8-0, 7-1 and 5-3. Mark Smith coached a team of unknown players to win a national title. The evidence of this is the fact that I have only written about one of the team members once before. Surrey's new star players are Lobosang Lama, Joseph Langham-Ferriera, Andre Duckley, Franco Abbey, Ross Hagen and Sebastian Espin. In the Schools Individual Championships Surrey's Marcus Giles of London South came second in the Boys U11 event in a closely fought contest.

At the Derby Junior 4 Star Alois Clair was runner-up in the U18s Band 1 event.

The Crippenham Series 3 2 Star Open saw Lucy Burks become runner-up in the Girls' Singles and winner of the Junior Consolation beating Fei-Fei Pei in the final. Both girls beat opposition from boys to get to the final. However in the Crippenham Series 4 2 Star Open Lucy Burks won the Junior Singles and took revenge on Jasmin Ould who beat her in the Series 3 final.

Marcus Giles stole the show in the GLC Closed Championships winning both the U13 and U15 titles. In the U15s he beat no.1 seed Alois Clair in the semi-final.

### Yorkshire by Barry Snowden

This season's county championships has proved a triumph for Yorkshire with successes in all age categories, with championship winning performances by three teams and great performances by a number of others.

A Simon Nutch inspired senior first team bounced back into next season's senior premier when they took Division 1A after a thrilling weekend's action at Cramlington. Six wins and a draw against third place Lincolnshire saw them finish one point ahead of runners-up Leicestershire.

Having missed out last season on sets to Cleveland in their first season after relegation, this performance shows the county's strength as Nutch was well supported by Richard Smith and Richard Lightowler.

The veterans' second team repeated their feat of last season winning Division 1A with the same record, winning six and drawing one. On this occasion they were joined on a similar record by Northants 1 with whom they drew, but superior sets advantage saw the team retain the title.

The team spearheaded by Sandra Rider included a very strong line up of Chris Clinton, Simon Pugh and Sean Madden.

Unfortunately they won't be taking their place in the premier division once again as the county has a team in the premier division so the promotion place will go to Northants, just like was handed to Lancashire last season when they finished runners-up to Yorkshire.

The third champion team is the cadets who after one season out of the premier division, bounced back with a maximum effort winning all six of their clashes, dropping only seven sets throughout the whole campaign, and finishing two points clear of runners-up Lincolnshire.

# Player Rankings

## World Rankings

### TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

Rank	Player
1.	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)
2.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
3.	DORAN, Christopher (NP.)
4.	REED, Daniel (CV.)
5.	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)
6.	BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)
7.	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)
8.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
9.	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)
10.	WARE, Mathew (DO.)
11.	NICHOLLS, Damien (SP.)
12.	HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)
13.	MARSDEN, Michael (DU.)
14.	MEADS, David (DU.)
15.	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)
16.	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E)
17.	MA, Justin (YS.)
18.	MAYBANKS, William (HE.)
19.	BRYANT, Craig (DV.)
20.	MCBEATH, David (HA.)
21.	ANDREWS, Richard (BK.)
22.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
23.	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)
24.	MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)
25.	CULLEN, Sean (DY.)

### TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

Rank	Player
1.	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)
2.	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)
3.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
4.	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
5.	HICKS, Hannah (HA.)
6.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
7.	SLATER, Natalie (ST.)
8.	REYNOLDS, Lindsey (LA.)
9.	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)
10.	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)
11.	FULLER, Mary (Y.)
12.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.)
13.	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)
14.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
15.	WHYTE, Chloe (CV.)
16.	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)
17.	WANG, Sarra (E.)
18.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
19.	KING, Yolanda (SX.)
20.	PERKS, Sarah (NG.)
21.	TO, Choi Sze (GS.)
22.	HALLOWS, Caroline (CH.)
23.	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)
24.	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)
25.	DAWSON, Jessica (CV.)

### TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Rank	Player
1.	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
2.	EVANS, Gavin (BU.)
3.	MCBEATH, David (HA.)
4.	ANDREWS, Richard (BK.)
5.	CULLEN, Sean (DY.)

### TOP 5 CADET BOYS

Rank	Player
1.	ZILESINICK, Zak (MI.)
2.	WALKER, Sam (NG.)
3.	WEERASINGHE, Helshan (SX.)
4.	MORAIS, Igor (MI.)
5.	PATEL, Jared (E.)

### TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Rank	Player
1.	WEERASINGHE, Helshan (SX.)
2.	MABEY, Samuel (NP.)
3.	CHAN, Miles Dak Hay (NP.)
4.	WELLS, Tyrone (MI.)
5.	BENNETT, Jack (SX.)

### TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Rank	Player
1.	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)
2.	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.)
3.	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
4.	SMITH, Eddie (ND.)
5.	BARTRAM, Chris (K.)

### TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

Rank	Player
1.	LE FEVRE, Karina (CV.)
2.	BATES, Emily (LI.)
3.	DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.)
4.	WHYTE, Chloe (CV.)
5.	SLATER, Natalie (ST.)

### TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

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

### 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.	BOLTON, Emily (CU.)

### TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

Rank	Player
1.	COLLIER, Sue (CH.)
2.	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
3.	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
4.	CLEMENTS, Sanya (DO.)
5.	HUANG, Shu (K.)

### Top 5 Men

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



### Top 5 Women

1. LIU Shiwen (CHN)
2. FENG Tianwei (SIN)
3. GUO Yan (CHN)
4. DING Ning (CHN)
5. KIM Kyung Ah (KOR)



### Top 5 U21 Men

1. XU Xin (CHN)
2. MIZUTANI Jun (JPN)
3. SEO Hyun Deok (KOR)
4. KIM Min Seok (KOR)
5. MATSUDAIRA Kenta (JPN)



### Top 5 U21 Women

1. LIU Shiwen (CHN)
2. DING Ning (CHN)
3. FENG Yalan (CHN)
4. YU Meng Yu (SIN)
5. WU Yang (CHN)



### Top 5 U18 Boys

1. KIM Min Seok (KOR)
2. JUNG Young Sik (KOR)
3. NIWA Koki (JPN)
4. YAN An (CHN)
5. SIRUCEK Pavel (CZE)



### Top 5 U18 Girls

1. WU Yang (CHN)
2. ISHIKAWA Kasumi (JPN)
3. Cheng I-Ching (TPE)
4. KANG Mi Soon (KOR)
5. MORIZONO Misaki (JPN)



### Top 5 U15 Boys

1. YIN Hang (CHN)
2. LIN Gaoyuan (CHN)
3. FLORE Tristan (FRA)
4. LEE Chia-Sheng (TPE)
5. MURAMATSU Yuot (JPN)



### Top 5 U15 Girls

1. SZOCS Bernadette (ROU)
2. MAEDA Miyu (JPN)
3. JEGER Mateja (HRV)
4. GU Yuting (CHN)
5. NG Ka Yee (HKG)



For full list of player rankings please visit our website  
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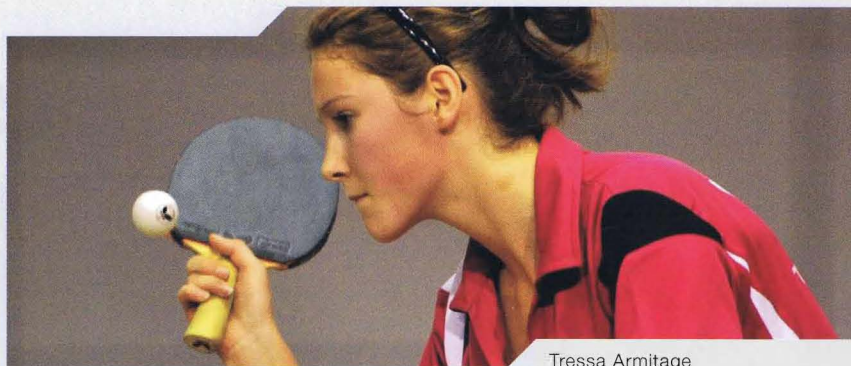
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Tressa Armitage

# Diary for you Dates

## June 2010

### Saturday 19th

Cadet - Kemnal 1 Star  
Senior - Hereford Briar Grand Prix

### Sunday 20th

Junior - Kemnal 1 Star  
Senior - Hereford Briar Grand Prix

### Wednesday 23rd-27th

Other - China Open

### Friday 25th-27th

Other - Senior Schools - Ireland

### Saturday 26th

Cadet - Waterside 1 Star  
Senior - Fusion All Star 1 Star

### Sunday 27th

Cadet/Junior - Burton Uxbridge 2 Star  
- Sussex 2 Star  
Senior - Sussex 2 Star  
- Fusion All Star 1 Star

### Tuesday 29th-30th

Other - China v World Team - Shanghai

## July 2010

### Thursday 1st-4th

Other - Japan Open - Kobe

### Saturday 3rd

Senior - Tees Sport Doncaster Grand Prix

### Sunday 4th

Senior - Tees Sport Doncaster Grand Prix

### Wednesday 7th-11th

Other - Egypt Pro Tour - Cairo

### Saturday 10th

Cadet/Junior - Burton Uxbridge 2 Star

### Sunday 11th

Cadet/Junior - Burton Uxbridge 2 Star

### Friday 16th-25th

Other - European Youth - Istanbul