TABLE TENNIS NEWS

£2.50

No.278 MAY/JUNE 2001

GOLD FOR SYED



COMMONWEALTH GAMES IN INDIA

- SYED WINS MENS SINGLES
- YOUNG & PERRY TAKE DOUBLES

Page 12 to 14

- WANG LIQIN WINS WORLDS

Page 15 to 17

STIGA®

"THE RESULT OF MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT"

ETTA OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS

- Dawson and Sanderson Ltd. 2 Market Street, Blyth. Tel. 01670 351435. Official Travel Agents.
- The KPC Group, Ashford, Kent. Tel. 01233 623304. Official Suppliers of Paper.
- Nima Print and Design Services. Eastbourne, Sussex. Tel. 01323 430036. Official Printers.
- Les Smith Trophies, Stroud, Gloucestershire. Tel. 01453 886686. Official Trophy Suppliers.
- The Edinburgh Crystal Glass Company Ltd. Penicuik. Tel 01968 672244. Official Suppliers of Crystal Glassware.
- Senior King Solutions, Apsley End, Shillington, Herts Tel: 01462 712929. Official Suppliers of Promotional Merchandise.

SENIOR KING SOLUTIONS
A SENIOR KING COMPANY

DAWSON & SANDERSON LTD

THE KPC GROUP

NIMA PRINT & DESIGN SERVICES

EDINBURGH CRYSTAL

OFFICIAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS

- **Bribar Table Tennis - Joola**
  Equipment & balls for all ETTA National Tournaments 2000-2003
- **Butterfly**
  England Team clothing 2000-2004
  Grand Prix 2000-2003
  Junior/Vets/Womens British League 2000-2003
- **Schildkrot**
  Ball supplier to Grand Prix & British League 2000-2003 & Junior/Cadet/National Leagues 2000-2001
- **TSP**
  Ball supplier to County Championships 2000-2002

We ask all members of the association to support the above companies who are in turn supporting table tennis.

Contents

CHATTERBOX 04
Vicki meets Christophe Legout

FROM THE CHAIR 05
Triple Gold for Matthew Syed

POSTBAG 07
Letters to the Editor

BRITISH LEAGUE 11
Progress take title

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS 12

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 15
Wang Liqin wins World Crown

BUTTERFLY GRAND PRIX 21
Cooke & Deaton Still in Charge

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 22
The end of an era

ETTA RANKING LIST 26
Top of the Table

TTN EXTRA
A 16 page supplement including 'County Notes', 'Results' and much more.

The ETTA would like to thank the following organisations for their support

Lee Valley Park · STIGA · SPORT ENGLAND · Nittaku · TSP · Butterfly · JOOLA · DUNLOP · DONIC · Jarvis Sports

TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Issue No.278
May/June 2001

Publisher
English Table Tennis Association
Queensbury House,
Havelock Road, Hastings,
East Sussex TN34 1HF
Telephone: 01424 722525
Fax: 01424 422103
email Events:
vanda.jones@talk21.com
email Administration:
admin@ettahq.freeserve.co.uk
Web Site: www.etta.co.uk

Editor & Photographer
John F.A. Wood
26 Rosevale Gardens, Luxulyan,
Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 5EP
Telephone/Fax: 01726 852282
Mobile: 07887 945071
email: johnwood@macace.co.uk

Editor of TTN Extra
Ken Muhr
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

Advertisements
Richard Yule
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

Subscription & Distribution
Robert Sinclair
ETTA Headquarters, Hastings

Subscription Rates
UK - £18, Europe - £30,
Rest of the World - £35

Printer
Printed in the UK by
Nima Print & Design Services, 91a
Ashford Road, Eastbourne,
East Sussex BN21 3TE
Telephone: 01323 430036

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

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

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

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

VICKI MEETS CHRISTOPHE

VICKI HYDER-SMITH, the ETTA Teaching and Training Administrator, met the French No.1 player Christophe Legout at the sportingbet.co.uk 64th English Open Championships held in Chatham, in February 2001.

Vicki met Christophe (pictured right) immediately following the Mens Singles final, where Legout lost to Wang Liqin, and she asked him, "Can I have your shirt please."

He duly obliged, took a clean shirt from his bag and signed it.

This shirt is now one of Vicki's treasured possessions.



TABLE TENNIS SPECTACULAR

QUEENS Park Sports Centre in Chesterfield is the venue for a major table tennis exhibition which will take place on Saturday 14th July, commencing at 7pm.

Table tennis enthusiasts will remember the name of Kerry Hall, who together with her cousin Julie Billington dominated girl's table tennis both locally and nationally in the early Eighties. For the past six years Kerry has been serving as a volunteer in Romania working with abandoned children in those hospitals and orphanages we have all seen on television. For much of that time she was there purely as an individual and funding herself. More recently she has joined a Registered Charity "Hope and Homes for Children" whose target is to close down these orphanages and provide alternative accommodation for these children. For this, funds are always needed, in this particular case for recreational and educational equipment.

Kerry's father Eric, himself a former County champion, had the idea that a table tennis event would be a wonderful way to raise money for the Charity. He approached a number of England's top players, and they all agreed to give freely of their time for this worthy cause. Confirmed already are Alan Cooke, Bradley Billington (Kerry's cousin), Nicola Deaton, Helen Lower, Michael Isherwood, Louise Durrant, Georgina Walker and England's former star Denis Neale. Several local players will also be in action on the night. Entertainment will be provided by Radio Sheffield's Tony Capstick, who was also delighted to appear "for nowt".

Tickets will be available from the end of April and will be priced at £4 for adults and £2 for OAP's and children under 16. A Family ticket will also be available (2 adults and 2 children) for just £10. Special discounts will apply for block bookings from schools. Headmasters please note! Tickets can be purchased in advance from the organiser Eric Hall. You can contact him at home on 01246 274452, or Mobile on 07711 083834 or by e-mail: ebhall@ntlworld.com

Put this date in your diary – it promises to be a memorable evening! It will be great value for money, and you will also be supporting a very worthwhile cause.

WOODY'S World

CONGRATULATIONS to Matthew Syed on winning his third Commonwealth Mens Singles Gold Medal, but Matthew almost missed his chance of winning this medal due his attempt to win the seat of Wokingham for Labour in the General Election, which was originally going to clash with the Championships, but it was postponed until 7th June 2001, enabling him to compete in New Delhi.

Well, another season comes to an end, I'm off to practice playing the new 11up scoring system, have a good summer.

John Wood

REWARD

VOLUNTEERS are the lifeblood of sport in this country and Sport England wants to reward those clubs and organisations who are best at recruiting, supporting and training these 'unsung heroes'.

Entry is now open for sports clubs to put themselves forward for Sport England's Volunteer Investment Programme (VIP) annual awards. Awards on offer include:

- Nine Regional Club winners will win £1,000 each. These are all put forward for the National Club award.
- National Club Winner gets £3,000
- National Governing Body Winner gets £5,000
- University Sports Association Winner gets £3,000

Entry is open until July 31st and clubs must be members of the VIP. To join the programme and for application forms and guidance notes call the VIP hotline on 0800 363 373.

Membership of VIP is free and clubs benefit from an initial welcome pack, a quarterly mailing, the opportunity to win up to £5,000 through the awards, access training and learn new skills, attend regional seminars and find out more about what is going on in sport.

TABLE TENNIS on TV

Event	Date of Transmission	Time of Transmission	Channel
European Champions League 2000/01 Final 1	18.06.01	15.00	Eurosport
China Open	24.06.01	13.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
China Open	24.06.01	19.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
China Open	25.06.01	14.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
European Champions League 2000/01 Final 2	25.06.01	15.00	Eurosport
Brazilian Open	14.07.01	18.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Brazilian Open	14.07.01	03.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Brazilian Open	15.07.01	07.30	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Brazilian Open	16.07.01	08.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Brazilian Open	19.07.01	10.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
Brazilian Open	19.07.01	13.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
US Open	22.07.01	08.30	Sky Sports 2 Digital
US Open	22.07.01	12.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
US Open	22.07.01	18.00	Sky Sports 3 Digital
US Open	22.07.01	22.30	Sky Sports 2 Digital
US Open	23.07.01	08.00	Sky Sports 2 Digital
US Open	23.07.01	15.30	Sky Sports 3 Digital

FROM THE CHAIR by Alan Ransome

TRIPLE GOLD FOR MATTHEW SYED



Alan Ransome OBE, Chairman of the ETTA

AFTER winning one of the tightest matches of his career, Matthew Syed won the Men's Singles for the third successive time when the 15th Commonwealth Championships were played in New Delhi from 14 to 20 April. Matthew had already won the Men's Singles in 1997 in Glasgow and in 2000 in Singapore and that equals the performance of Trevor Taylor who won the first three Commonwealth Championships in 1971, 1973 and 1975. What's more, it gives Matthew and table tennis a terrific platform in the build up to the Commonwealth Games in Manchester whereby we will probably have the only English competitor who has won the gold medal in the last three Commonwealth competitions.

In the New Delhi final against the Indian Champion and local favourite, Chetan Baboor, Syed won the first two games comfortably at 21-7, 21-16. In the third game Baboor's hitting became more consistent and long spectacular rallies followed with the Indian crowd becoming more and more excited as Baboor gained the upper hand winning the third game 21-11 and the 4th at 23-21. The fifth game followed the same pattern with Baboor taking an early lead. Syed recognised that he needed to change his game if he was to have any chance and started, particularly from his own serve, to attack early in the rally. This change paid dividends, Syed clawed his way back into the match to level at 18 all. The whole match was live on television throughout India. The fifth game continued on a knife edge until Matthew clinched the title at 28-26 with his seventh match point.

England's second gold came in the Men's Doubles when Terry Young and Alex Perry combined to beat the holders, Baboor and Raman of India. Perry won his second medal when combining with Helen Lower to take a bronze in the Mixed Doubles.

The most improved player in the England squad was Gareth Herbert who was also in the medals with a bronze in the Men's Singles. Herbert's win against the Singapore No 1 Duan Yong Jun in the quarter final was an exceptional victory. In the semi-final he had the Champion, Matthew Syed worried, but the greater experience of the England No.1 was clear.

England's fifth medal came in the Men's Team event with a bronze which followed a loss to India in the semi-final. The Indians had the advantage of the better order and although Matthew Syed won both of his matches, India were the better team on the day. England were without Terry Young who could well have made a difference if he had been fit to play.

England women had a tough group, losing to both Canada and India and therefore had to be content with winning the second section and 9th position. Nicola Deaton was the only non Asian player to reach the quarter finals of the Women's Singles.

The Championships were covered extensively on both Indian national television and ESPN which transmits to the whole of Asia. Both the men's and women's team semi-finals and finals were covered live as were the semi-finals and finals of the individual events. Altogether 24 hours of coverage was achieved. The media interest in the event in India was also extensive with all of the main national TV channels having news crews permanently stationed at the event and with the newspapers carrying extensive daily coverage.

Much of the discussion in the committee rooms in New Delhi centred around the arrangements for Manchester 2002. It was agreed that the new Swaythling Cup format of five singles would be used for all Commonwealth events including Manchester from now on and it was decided to follow the ITTF Annual General Meeting in Osaka so far as the 11 up counting system is concerned.

ASIA DOMINATES IN OSAKA

The Chinese players were outstanding at the 46th World Championships in Osaka winning all seven gold medals, including re-gaining the Swaythling Cup Men's Team competition from Sweden. But unlike other World Championships of recent times, the main opposition to China did not come from Europe but from China's neighbours in the Far East, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) and North and South Korea.

In the Swaythling Cup, China came close to defeat at the hands of South Korea in the semi-final but then found Belgium, who had surprisingly beaten Sweden in the other semi, no real match in the gold medal contest. In the Men's Singles Europe seemed to be doing well up to the last 32 when the majority of the contestants came from European countries (21 – 11), but the crunch came at the last 16 stage when in seven Asian vs Europe battles, Asia won all leaving only Vladimir Samsonov who beat Jan-Ove Waldner to carry Europe's flag in the quarter finals.

The Men's Singles was won by Wang Liqin, the winner of the English Open, who came from two games down to beat the Olympic Champion, Kong Linghui in an interesting final. The biggest challenge to China's superiority came from Chiang Peng-Lung of Chinese Taipei who reached the semi-final and Korean, Kim Taek Soo who reached the quarters. China's strength lay not just in their two leading players who reached the final but in the whole squad who were all capable of winning the title.

From a European perspective the chances of picking up major world titles are probably at their lowest since the early 1960 's when China's Chuang Tse Tung and Li Fu Jung dominated the world stage. The main problem is that Europe's crop of exceptional players of the 90's including Jan- Ove Waldner, Jorgen Persson, Jean-Michel Saive, Jean-Philippe Gatien, Jorg Rosskopf are all in their 30's and the current generation headed by Vladimir Samsonov and Werner Schlager are not as yet so impressive. There are two rising stars in Timo Boll of Germany who beat two leading Chinese in Osaka, and Denmark's Michael Maze, but they are having to contend with what is probably China's strongest squad ever.

On the women' side, Asia has dominated completely in recent years. Mihaela Steff of Romania is making some headway, but the depth and strength of talent in South East Asia makes it very difficult for the European women to get anywhere near the medals rostrum.

ENGLAND IMPROVEMENT

From an England talent perspective, the results were encouraging. In the team event, taking into account that Matthew Syed was unable to participate due to the forthcoming General election, the team improved their position from 26 last time in Kuala Lumpur up to 20th and, in particular, Gareth Herbert showed a great deal of improvement since the last Championship twelve months ago. This improvement from 26 to 20 also brings England back into the World's top category. To gain promotion England won their two opening qualifying matches against Armenia and Turkey both 3–2, and then defeated the team that came bottom of their play off group in category one, Canada, again by 3 sets to 2. This victory could have been more comfortable had Gareth Herbert beaten the top Canadian world No 38 Johnny Huang. The Berkshire youngster lost 21-19 in the decider. In the top category competition England beat Slovenia 3–0 but were then defeated by Czech Republic by 3–1, England's one win coming from Herbert who beat the World No 17, Petr Korbel. In addition to Herbert, Terry Young and Andrew Baggaley played their part in the success, as did the Women's coach, Bradley Billington who had to step in on two occasions when Baggaley was unfit and on both occasions Brad won the vital singles. In their final play-off matches England were beaten by Croatia 3–1 and North Korea 3–1.

The England Women's team of Helen Lower, Katie Parker, Natalie Bawden and Louise Durrant, without England Champion Nicola Deaton, also had some credible results and finished 34th above India and Australia who are two of our strong competitors in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

In the singles Gareth Herbert won his three qualifying matches and reached the first round to play the World No. 9 Zoran Primorac from Croatia. Herbert won the first and had game point in the second before

finally losing 3–1. One had the feeling that if Herbert had won the second game he could well have taken the match. Andrew Baggaley also won his three qualifying matches and in the first round met Oh Sang Eun of Korea. Terry Young won two qualifying matches and then came up against the leading Brazilian, Thiago Monteiro, and lost narrowly. In the next round Monteiro defeated English Open silver medallist, Christophe Legout of France comfortably. As a result of his impressive performance in Delhi and Osaka, Herbert leaped 82 places up the world ranking from 230 to 148

11 UP NEXT SEASON

The joint proposal from the ITTF Executive Committee and the Athletes' Commission to change the scoring system in table tennis from 21up to 11up from the start of next season received overwhelming support at the ITTF Annual General Meeting which took place in Osaka, Japan, on 26th April. The argument that convinced the delegates from 100 plus national table tennis associations from all parts of the world was that the game up to 11 would reach a crisis point earlier than 21 and this would make the game more interesting for television viewers and spectators and, in turn, would increase the number of hours of television coverage on the TV networks around the world, thereby attracting more sponsors to the sport.

A second proposal to allow either 21up or 11 up from Finland which the ETTA delegate, Tony Chatwin, was planning to support, automatically fell when the ITTF's proposal received more than 75% support, from the total of 114 cast, 107 votes were in favour and only 7 against. So far as play in England is concerned, the ETTA National Council at its meeting in April decided that the matter should be discussed at the Annual General Meeting which is to be held on 30th June and a motion put to allow county associations and local leagues to opt out of the 11 up system and to continue with 21 up if they so wish. On the advice of our Rules Committee, this motion will be put to a Special General Meeting to be held on the same day as the AGM. This proposal needs a 2/3rds majority to be adopted.

With the 11 up rule comes service change every two points from 0-0 (not tie break) and expedite after 10 minutes, and change of ends at 5 points in the deciding game.

CHANGE SERVICE

Another important change in ITTF rules was the proposal from the ITTF Rules Committee, which we supported, to outlaw the practice of hiding the ball from the opponent at the point of contact on the service. This proposal was far more controversial than the 11up as the Chinese Association and some of their close neighbours opposed the change as did the ITTF own Technical committee. However, this proposal was also successful in gaining more than 75% of the vote, although on the advice of the ITTF President, Adham Sharara, the implementation date was delayed twelve months so that it will be introduced from 1st September 2002, immediately after the Commonwealth Games. In the meantime there will be some test events to try out the new system, both from a playing and umpiring perspective and the first such test will be the consolation events at junior and cadet level in the latter half of the European Youth Championships which take place in Terni, Italy, in the second half of July.

Another change in ITTF procedures was the introduction of incorporation and the change of status of the ITTF's Council to become, in accordance with Swiss Law, the Board of Directors. The first meeting of the new Board took place on 3rd May in Osaka and considered a number of changes to ITTF International regulations. One well publicised proposal from the ITTF Equipment Committee to ban the use of fresh glue was heavily defeated. There is strong opposition from the Athletes Commission and many associations whose players would be adversely affected by it. In addition as the procedures are not currently in place to be able to monitor such a regulation. The ITTF is looking for a solution to the problem of gluing but it would appear that it will be some time before an effective method will be in place. 2004 after the Athens Olympics would be the earliest date, but this would be entirely dependent upon acceptable and verifiable alternatives being available.

At the same meeting a proposal from England received unanimous support to add a Veterans tournament to International Senior and Junior events was added to the ITTF Regulations, which strengthens the opportunity for the ETTA to be able to run an International Veterans Open Championship at some stage in the future should the Association wish to do so. This also strengthens the ITTF and the National associations in running veterans championships. The ITTF have established a committee to work in conjunction with the Swaythling Club to promote and regulate veterans events.

At the earlier meeting of the ITTF Council the controversial proposals to limit the age of umpires at international level to 65 years or below was again discussed and on this occasion the mood of the meeting was in favour of maintaining standards by tests based on ability rather than limitation by age.

Therefore, bearing in mind that the level of feeling against the 65 age limit, it is likely that this proposal has disappeared at least for the foreseeable future.

HELP FOR THE DEFENDER ?

In the last two years the ITTF have made three significant changes aimed at making the game more attractive. Firstly the increase in size to the 40mm ball which was agreed in Kuala Lumpur last season, plus the two changes in Osaka, the scoring system and the more transparent service. From the early days one sector of the sport which was very attractive but is now less popular to the extent that it is close to extinction at international level is the defensive style. To my mind some of the most interesting and exciting matches are when you have a good, strong attacking player competing against a defender, and Matthew Syed is a first class example of a defender who regularly produces exciting matches. The final of the Commonwealth Championships in New Delhi was one of the best matches I have seen in some time.

The question of the decline of the defender was raised at the ITTF AGM and again by journalists in press conferences in Osaka and was discussed by the ITTF Research & Development Committee. The committee are looking into ways of how the laws can be changed to bring back the equality between attack and defence. The main reasons for the decline in defensive play are the improvement of attacking rubbers, the introduction of glue and the reduction in the length of the defensive pimpled rubbers. The 40mm ball also does not help defenders who rely on heavy spin. Two suggestions have been made to ban the glue and to reduce the thickness of sponge. However, both of these proposals have made before in the recent past and have enjoyed very little political support at international level due to the fact that they would have such a strong adverse effect on the majority of players at world level.

Another suggestion which is to be looked into is to raise the height of the net. In the 1930's the height of the net was at 6.3/4". This was reduced to 6" by the ITTF because there were too many pushing games that were taking a long time to complete and the lowering of the net assisted the attacking player and solved the problem.

The ITTF Research & Development Committee welcome any suggestions on what changes need to be made to encourage the defensive style of play and should any readers of this column have any proposals, I would be pleased to receive them either by e mail on ajransome@aol.com or by letter and I will see that they are forwarded to the committee members.

Other decisions taken by the ITTF in Osaka included the awarding of the 2003 World Individual championships to Paris and the 2004 World Team Championships to Doha in Qatar. A strong proposal to host the World Individual Championships from Brazil was defeated by Paris. However, Brazil are likely to be very strong contenders for the 2005 Championships.

The next AGM of the ITTF will take place in conjunction with the European Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, next March.

In the ITTF elections, President, Adham Sharara, Deputy President, Pierre Albertini and Treasurer, Han Sang Kook, were elected for a further two year term. All ETTA personnel were re-elected to their various ITTF positions including Colin Clemett and Alan Ransome to the ITTF Board of Directors, Colin Clemett as Chairman of the ITTF Rules Committee, Tony Chatwin as a member of the ITTF Technical Committee, Jill Parker on the ITTF Ranking Committee, Donald Parker to the ITTF Sports Science Committee and Alan Ransome to the Standing Orders and Research and Development Committees.

In addition to the ITTF, the European Table Tennis Union held it's AGM in Osaka together with a series of Executive Committee meetings. The ETTU have decided for all of their events that team competitions rather than being best of three 21 up will be best of five 11 up, all individual singles events including qualification instead of being best of three or best of five 21 up will all be best of seven, 11 up and all doubles competitions instead of best of three 21 up will be best of five 11 up starting from 1st August 2001. Attempts by Finland to allow players to represent a club in their own country as well as one abroad did not receive sufficient support to reach the statute book.

Alan Ransome, ETTA Chairman

POSTBAG

RED CARDS

I have noticed that at recent tournaments the increased use of yellow/red cards by umpires. This happened at both the Derby Select Junior and the National Senior Closed. The recipients of these cards seem to think the whole episode hilarious. I decided I needed to know the correct meaning of these cards, and as different umpires gave different opinions, I would ask that you persuade a suitably qualified official to put into print a 'clear definition' and the effect on a player having acquired such a penalty. Such an official statement would certainly be of help to me, and I am sure to many others who are ignorant of the correct explanation.

John O'Sullivan, Liverpool

THE POINT PENALTY SYSTEM

AT one time, all that an umpire could do was to report bad behaviour by players or coaches to the referee, but this arrangement had some serious shortcomings. The only sanction that the referee could apply, other than a warning, was disqualification and umpires were often reluctant to invoke such a penalty for what might be only a momentary lapse. It was felt also that busy referees should not need to be distracted by what might be minor offences and that in such cases the umpire should have power to take action.

This led to the introduction of the point penalty system, under which persistent misbehaviour by a player can be penalised by the award of points to the opposing player or pair and similar conduct by a coach can lead to dismissal from the playing area. Typical offences which can be dealt with under the system are equipment abuse, such as deliberately hitting the ball out of the playing area or kicking surrounds, swearing, cheating and disrespect of match officials.

For a first, minor offence by a player or coach, the umpire's first action is usually to speak informally to the offender, but if it is slightly more serious or comes after an informal warning, the umpire will make the warning formal by holding up a yellow card. For any further offences by the warned player, the umpire will award 1 point to the opposing player or pair on the first occasion and 2 on the second occasion, each time holding up a yellow and a red card together.

The situation is slightly different if a coach continues to misbehave, because the award of penalty points is not possible. In this case the umpire will hold up a red card to indicate that the coach has been dismissed from the playing area, and he or she must go far enough away not to be able to influence play in the match. If the misbehaviour by either a player or a coach persists after the umpire has used all his powers of penalty, or if it is at any time sufficiently serious, the umpire must report immediately to the referee.

In an individual event, any penalties take effect only until the end of a match, but in a team match they are carried over from one individual match to later matches. Thus if a player is warned in a first individual match, an offence committed in a later match will immediately incur penalty points. In doubles, a warning or penalty applies to the pair, but only the actual offender will carry over the warning or penalty; a doubles pair is deemed to have incurred the higher of any penalties incurred by its players in earlier matches.

In England, umpires are required to note on the score card the issuing of a warning or the award of penalty points with the reasons for them, and after a tournament the referee has to submit a report listing all such incidents. These reports are collated on behalf of the ETTA Management Committee so that persistent bad behaviour builds up a "record". It would be unwise of players or coaches to treat warnings and penalties too lightly, as they could have repercussions well beyond the matches in which they occurred.

Colin Clemett, ITTF Rules Committee

PALTRY SUMS

THE English National Championships were absolutely absorbing, and the Mens Singles final between Matthew Syed and Alex Perry was brillant. What a pity there had to be a loser.

But a damper on a wonderful championships were the paultry sums paid to the finalists. When it was announced that the Mixed Doubles winners would receive a cheque for £100 and the runners-up £35 - I nearly fell off my seat.

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE

by John Woodford in New Delhi & Osaka

• **TALKING** with Japanese journalists in Osaka, I was astounded to learn the gate figures for the Kenshoen professional circuit. I imagined that perhaps a thousand people watched these world class players in the top division and half that number in the second division watching Matthew Syed's spectacular show.

• **THE TRUTH** is that an average of only between 30 and 50 fans watch each session, I have witnessed crowds of over 3,000 in France and Germany give Matthew a standing ovation. The same thing happened when Chen Xinhua was in Europe.

• **THESE** are the top players on the circuit - Jorgen Persson, 'Speedy' Fetzner, Jean-Philippe Gatien, Peter Franz and Koji Matsushita. I understand that despite uneasiness in the Japanese TTA, the circuit is likely to go on for another three seasons.

• **NEW DELHI** - I could probably write a book on the problems encountered by players and officials, but t will summerise: This was my second visit to India - the last time I was there was in 1987 - the mosquito population now seemed to have reached epidemic proportions. Most of the visitors suffered from stomach complaints and some were still suffering three days after arriving in Osaka.

• **SOME** of the Indian officials were not up to their jobs although they all tried hard and they were polite and helpful. One official I give full marks to, just on one decision, was the referee. After Matthew Syed had been absurdly faulted for throwing the ball back from a high-toss service by Canadian umpire Greg Dzabo. Matthew appealed to the referee against Dzabo umpiring him again at the semi-final stage. The referee upheld the Syed appeal.

• **TO SAVE** Richard Scruton complaining again about exaggeration on the number of medals netted in Delhi, the score was nine, allowing just three for the bronze in the mens team event.

• **BRITISH** players and millions of others world-wide have felt that the ITTF pulled a fast one last May in Kuala Lumpur when they fast-tracked the larger ball and got away with it - now everyone is playing with it with very, very few complaints at any level.

• **RIGHT** now, it appears that the ITTF may have tried the same acceleration tactics with 11 points scoring in Osaka. I have a feeling it is a case of once bitten twice shy.

• **TWO POINTS** of relief, good news for those players who think they are being rail-roaded into 11 points universally - Finland have came up with a late proposal that options should be granted for events and their organisers to choose between 11 and 21 points

• **THE** best news for England players is, so I understand, an option in ETTA rules which would allow local leagues to continue with 21 points should the worst happen and the ITTF tried to get 11 points adopted world-wide.

• **ONE** of the powerful arguments against 11 points is that a game can comprise of only 33 points, whereas the minimum with 21 is 63. Now, I hear that 80 per cent of the Grand Prix players are in favour of 11 points. They are the players who have tried it of course, but they are a very small minority compared with all the local league players in England.

• **HOWEVER,** as the Chairman points out, none of this may happen in Osaka, but I am willing to bet, now that we have on-line sponsors, that the ITTF will persist beyond Osaka on the grounds that they must be seen continuously to be pushing our sport forward and not standing still.

• **IMPROVEMENTS** to the service rules, long overdue, will I believe go through in Osaka. Surely the ball must be visible on impact to both opponent and umpire.

Meanwhile back home:

• **THE** Sussex Open Grand Prix, 64 years old was nearly lost - the oldest tournament in the country. The Hastings TTA officials who have done so much sterling work over two generations pulled out. But after a search for a new venue and new people to run it Sussex national councillor Carol Beames re-negotiated with Hastings Leisure - the results is same venue, same week-end in October - new helpers recruited by the Sussex TTA with Harvey Webb as the organiser.

When we think of the money paid to professional footballers, golfers and lawn tennis players, a miserable £35 for being runner-up is pathetic, and a insult!

Surely the ETTA can do better.

Bill Davidson, Chairman of Mansfield & District TTA

CHALLENGE

I AM sure many of your readers have heard about the cancellation of the Veterans International Table Tennis Tournament due to take place in Liverpool over the Easter Weekend. I do not wish to comment on this as all parties have had their say and we must move forward.

I have had many calls of support from both VETTS and non VETTS members regarding this cancelled event and I wish to thank these players and officials for their support.

I was also asked by many people if I would be prepared to stand as Chairman of the ETTA in 2 years time and, after due consideration, have decided to accept this challenge and intend to work to achieve this goal.

The reasons behind the cancellation of the Liverpool Event only added to my concerns, and apparently many other players and officials, about the present approach and running of table tennis in England by our Governing Body.

I consider the grass roots of table tennis in the UK have been forgotten and our sport has become a "political power game" for certain people.

We must relook our approach to the sport and get back to basics, utilise the vast array of home-grown, talented and knowledgeable table tennis players/officials we have to expand the sport we all love. I would be very happy to hear from any persons with ideas which could help expand our sport.

I cannot offer myself to the sport as a player of International renown, my table tennis history has always been at grass roots level - in fact I played my first County match at the age of 43, and lost! Val (my wife) and I play together in three leagues, are in the same County team and attend most VETTS tournaments plus Grand Prix tournaments where possible.

All I can offer is integrity, dedication, a willingness to listen and a determination to make table tennis in England a strong, expanding, competitive and enjoyable sport at all levels.

I believe that the role of Chairman must be to ensure that the ETTA management team work effectively, without too much interference, to ensure the ETTA committees communicate fully with one another to make sure that "the right hand knows what the left hand is doing", to offer help and support to the rank and file membership and encourage growth to promote a strong base from which the sport can grow and flourish.

My only involvement with the marketing of table tennis goods has been as a local agent for Bribar helping out my local league players and trying to find a replacement for my now illegal pimple rubbers. My academic qualifications are all in the field of electronics and marketing, working for multinational companies and over the last eight years with Val running an internet based Electronic Brokerage company.

As Chairman of VETTS I shall continue to work with the ETTA in the best interest of my members and hope to receive support from your readers with my goal to get table tennis back as a major sport in England.

Alex Murdoch, VETTS Chairman

SOUR GRAPES

I write to you in response to a very irresponsible, ill-conceived and thoroughly unpleasant piece of journalistic tat written by Mr John Woodhead in his Courtside column in the March edition. His last comments about Sussex coach Pat Ginnaw were disgraceful. Pat Ginnaw has devoted his life to develop table tennis players FREE OF CHARGE. He takes nothing & gives everything. Mr Ginnaw has every right to be sat amongst the VIPs at The English Open because he was invited to do so, because of his friendship with Miles Ross. If Mr Ginnaw had not re-introduced Mr Ross to the game of T.T. then the English Open would not have received a handsome sponsorship deal & therefore no Open. Mr Woodhead please think before you write because as a layperson it sounds like very sour grapes being expressed.

Andy Foster (Arundel TTC, West. Sussex)

NORMAN COOK

IN TTN Extra, March 2001 Lancashire Notes, I see mention of Lancashire and Cheshire League: Norman Cook Memorial Trophy.

I knew Norman well. He was Hon Sec. Of the Ashton-U-Lyne TT League when I played in that league from 1947-48 to 1959-60. A very friendly person: I last met him in 1963 when I visited Ashton-U-Lyne. He was on his way to the doctor with heart trouble.

I practised at Manchester YMCA, when working in Manchester from 1953 to 1960 and knew Ron Alcock, at the time no.1 for YMCA 'A' Team or no.5 YMCA 1st Team. Their no.1 then was Jack Clayton, who later moved to Blackpool.

I still play, now at the age of 81, for Peterborough TT Club. Every Tuesday 10am – 12.30pm in an over 60s club about a dozen of us, men and women who have all played before, meet. I believe that Denis Neale coaches there on a Thursday.

My interest in table tennis started in 1936, when I attended a match at Belle Vue, Manchester, between Hungary (Barna, Szabados & Bellak) against England (Adrian Haydon, Ann Jones's father, Andy Millar and Manchester YMCA no.1 Hymie Lurie of Grove House, the Jewish & England player). Hungary won 9-0.

In 1937 I played for my work's team Rylands & Sons, in the Manchester League. Jeff Ingber was the best player I ever did play – in

continued on page 10

ETTA E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Headquarters Staff

Richard Yule, Chief Executive	richardyule.etta@talk21.com
Robert Sinclair, General Secretary	robertsinclair.etta@talk21.com
Doreen Nightingale, Administrative Officer	admin@ettahq.freeserve.co.uk
Sheila King, Development Secretary	sheilaking.etta@talk21.com
Susie Foley, Secretary to Chief Executive & General Secretary	susiefoley.etta@talk21.com
Vanda Jones, National Events Administrator	vanda.jones@talk2l.com
Judy Rogers, National Development Officer for People with Disabilities	judyrogers.etta@talk21.com
Harvey Webb, National Events Manager	vanda.jones@talk21.com
Vicki Hyder-Smith, Teaching & Training Administrator	teachandtrain.etta@talk21.com
Brian Skinner, Finance Officer	brianskinner.etta@talk21.com
Ken Muhr, Information Officer	kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com
Diccon Gray, Director of Development	dicc.gray.etta@talk21.com
Brian Spicer, Commercial Manager	brianspicer.etta@talk21.com

Outside Headquarters

RDOs	Home	Business
Wesley Bush-Harris *South & South East*	wes@etta.freeserve.co.uk	wes@etta.freeserve.co.uk
Martin Ireland *North West*		m.ireland@etta-nw.co.uk
Chris Newton *Midlands*	chrisnewton@etta6214. freeserve.co.uk	cjnnewton@etta75.freeserve.co.uk
Mark Smith *Northern & Yorkshire*	cft-jsmith5@supanet.com	t_tboy1@hotmail.com
Jon Kaufman *Greater London*		jonk@ufman.fsnet.co.uk
Philip Irwin-Brown *South West*		philip_irwin-brown@bathnes.gov.uk

Teaching and Training	Home	Business
Jill Parker, Nat. Coaching Manager	jparkeretta@cableinet.co.uk	
Peter Hirst, Dir. of Teaching and Training	pahirst@aol.com	
Paul Baker, Facilities Officer		paul@glynswood.freeserve.co.uk

National Training Centre

Michel Gadal, Performance Director	m.gadal@btinternet.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR continued

continued from page 8

practice at Manchester YMCA in '58.
Arnold Shepherd.

SCHOOL HELP

THIS letterl is related to my son.

He is a German table tennis player, aged 16, actually playing at "Herren Verbandsliga".

He is interested to visit England for some weeks or a month's stay in a school to improve his English and play table tennis or take part in table tennis training.

Do you know of any school or boarding school or language school which could help?

Thanks very much for your help and understanding.
Bernhard Plagemann
email:b.plagemann@netcologne.de

SAVE MONEY

IN our quest to save money, this year we have focussed on our club insurances. Over the past 2 years our need for increasing cover has grown as our equipment multiplies, some of which has spread into local schools. We have just sought a scheme quotation from Perkins Slade and I thought you would like to know we have achieved a one-third saving (£150) over our current arrangements. Not only that but the cover is emphatically wider going beyond just the property damage and Liability covers - we now have loss of money and revenue covers, and the response and service from Perkins Slade was top class. Well done ETTA for negotiating such a wide ranging scheme at terms which are clearly competitive and attractive - I would recommend every club has a good look at what is on offer!
Geoff Brook, Secretary,
Stowmarket TTC

HAPPY

I AM disappointed by the comments of both Simon Upson and Keith Ponting regarding the venue of the recent Junior National Trials. Certainly the parents Mr Upson talked to were different from those that I did who were more than happy with the location.

Whilst I accept that the lighting was not good, the atmosphere was better than that of Wolverhampton, Stoke and Liverpool, which have held major Junior National events recently. I have to say having travelled major distances in the opposite direction on numerous occasions at much personal expense, it was good to actually 'at last' have an ETTA National Junior event located in the south. The point I am trying to make is that the Midlands and the North should not always be considered as the automatic choice for venues. We in the south have to travel as well and do so more often for such events. These events ought to be more shared around the country, from the South West to the North East and the ETTA should be congratulated on at last choosing a southern venue.
Peter Baldwin, Sussex

MOUNTAIN GOAT

I also attended the Junior National Trials and agree with everything Simon Upson has previously written. In view of the fact that Keith Ponting feels that Simon's comments are fair he will not mind answering the question as to what happened to the £2000 collected in entry fees?

With regard to the English Open which I attended on the Friday it was good to be back watching top class table tennis again (when was the last time we had a big event in this part of the country) and the standard of play made the trip well worthwhile. However I did not watch as much as I would have liked due to the lack of seats and my inability to act the part of a mountain goat, up and down steep banking. Not an handhold or crampon in sight! Every so often I had to repair to the canteen area (tea £1) to rest my weary limbs. I did think of going back to the car to get my crutches but noted that another gentleman had tried that dodge without success. I did not mind too much as it gave me a chance to chat to old friends. Most of these had come from seating to stretch their cramped muscles! Regretfully I am not a subscriber to Sky.

At the South of England Junior, the National Junior Trials and again at the English Open I tried to piece together what is happening at the Academy, and the people attending, without success. I will try to attend the Open Day in June but in the meantime I whole-heartedly support John Woodford's suggestion regarding some waffle on the subject. Like John I have plenty of experience regarding the past but am short of information concerning the present. One of the most worrying bits of information was that Michel Gadal spent more time acting as an administrator than he did as a coach. If this is true the situation should be remedied immediately. If the World Class Performance Programme is to succeed then the Coach in Charge should be coaching.
Mike Kercher, Carshalton, Surrey

Anyone over 18 can apply for the standard card, featuring a picture of English champion Lisa Lomas. But there's the prestigious Visa Gold Card for those earning £20,000 or more.



REASONABLE INTEREST RATE - JUST 17.9%APR (VARIABLE) FOR PURCHASES

INTRODUCTORY OFFER - PAY OFF YOUR EXISTING CREDIT CARDS AT JUST 13.9%APR, FIXED FOR SIX MONTHS

NO ANNUAL FEE FOR TWO YEARS - PLUS ONGOING "FEE REBATE OPTION" IF YOU USE YOUR CARD SUFFICIENTLY

FULL PACKAGE OF BENEFITS AT NO EXTRA COST

Champion!

Announcing a new Visa card for table tennis players.

A reasonable interest rate.
No annual fee for your first two years.
Plus the chance to raise funds for the English Table Tennis Association at no extra cost to you.

Now you can show your support for table tennis wherever you go - with the ETTA's exclusive low-interest Visa credit card, issued by MBNA International Bank Ltd.

The card brings you significant financial advantages. But it also helps us raise money to promote the sport - at no extra cost to you! We receive a royalty from MBNA for every new cardholder, plus ongoing income every time you make purchases on your ETTA Visa card.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Certain restrictions apply to the above benefits. Insurances are provided by underwriters at Lloyd's of London. Payment Protection Insurance is provided by member companies of Consolidated Insurance Group Ltd. The ETTA Visa card is issued by MBNA International Bank Ltd, Stansfield House, Chester Business Park, Chester, CH4 9YZ and is available only to ETTA members and certain connected parties. MBNA Visa card interest rates are **17.9%APR** (variable) for purchases, **13.9%APR** for balance transfers and cash advances, fixed for six months from the date your account is opened. The **13.9%APR** is calculated by applying the monthly rate of 1.09% throughout the period of credit. After the six month period it reverts to the same variable interest rate which applies to purchases at that time (currently 1.38% per month). **17.9%APR**. Both APRs are calculated on a fee exclusive basis, in view of the two year annual fee waiver and assume a credit limit of £1,000 for a standard card and £3,000 for a gold card. The minimum monthly payment is just 3% of the outstanding balance (minimum £5). The annual fee (£10 for a standard card, £35 for a gold card (both variable)) will be waived for your first two years. There will be no handling charge for cash advances until after your account has been open six months. After that date a handling charge of 1% (variable) (min £1, max £25) will apply. Credit is available subject to status, only to persons aged 18 or over. Written quotations available on request.

APPLY TODAY

For more details and an application form, call FREE on

0800 776262.

QUOTING REF: BT06

The lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Alternatively, return the coupon below to:

ETTA Visa Card Applications, MBNA International Bank Ltd, PO Box 1048, FREEPOST, Chester CH4 9ZZ.

Please send me full details about the new low-interest ETTA Visa Card BC06

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

_____

Address: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Postcode: _____

Tel: (code) _____

(no) _____

PROGRESS TAKE TITLE

LONDON PROGRESS retained the British League Premiership title when they defeated Barnet 14-0 with Marco Essomba, Cris Sladden, Jason Sugrue and Christian Hundhausen all unbeaten. Their final match was against Darlington who at that stage were ensured of second place. Progress brought in James Sprackling in place of Hundhausen whilst Darlington gave a Premiership outing to Daniel Welsh. Sprackling did well to beat Stephen Slater but lost out to Samuel Coutolleau and to Welsh. Progress ran out 10-4 winners with Darlington's only other victories coming from Slater who beat Sugrue and the doubles pairing of Coutolleau and Eddie Smith, writes Aubrey Drapkin.

Horsham lost the battle for runners-up spot on the motorway rather than on the table when their vehicle broke down on the way to Darlington and they were left stranded in the Nottingham area. Their final match saw them at home to bottom of the table Norwich and, like the top two, they brought in a reserve for this match in Ian Ford. Unfortunately he did not win any singles but shared in a doubles victory with Adrian Moore as Horsham ran out 9-5 winners. Leeroy Pye inflicted defeats on Ritchie Venner and Moore but nobody was able to get the better of Lawrence Trumpauskas.

OLOP finished in the top half of the table, ending with 9-5 victories over both Barnet and Byng Hall Farningham Print. Justin Goodall was outstanding in both matches, winning all of his singles and being unbeaten in doubles.

Byng Hall Farningham Print pulled off a great escape act when they won three of their last four fixtures to avoid relegation on set difference and push Barnet, who lost all of their last four, down into the first division. Victories over Norwich and Barnet set Byng Hall on the road to recovery but defeat at home to OLOP left them two points adrift of Barnet. Whilst Barnet were losing their final match to OLOP, Byng Hall were away to JAGS. They pulled out all of the stops to win 10-4 but were kept in suspense for another hour until news of Barnet's defeat at OLOP filtered through.

The British League Official Ball

Schildkröt

3 Star - ITTF approved

available from

TEES SPORT

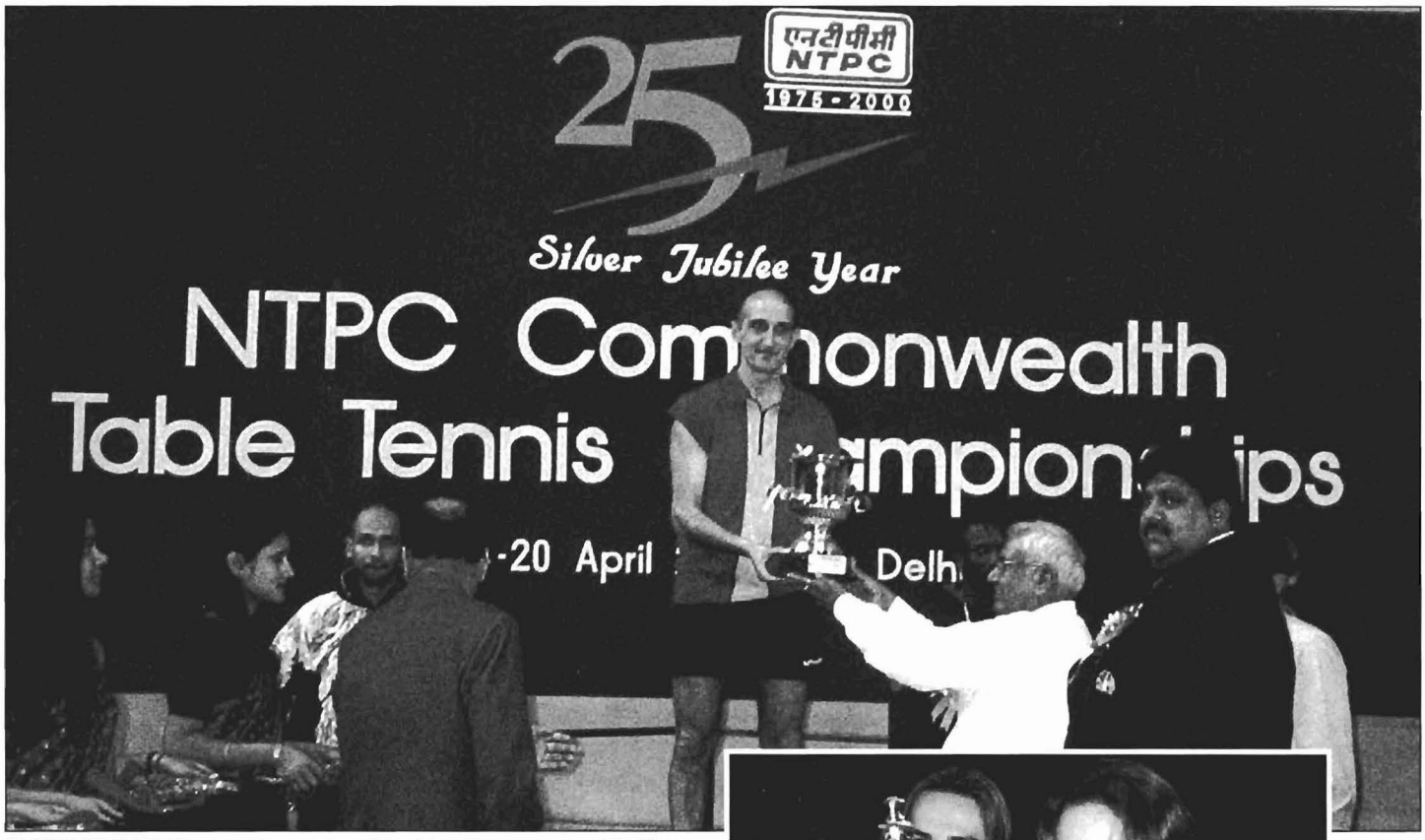
Specialists in Table Tennis **Since 1976**

Call Freephone:
0800 4584141

BRITISH LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
London Progress	14	13	1	-	152	44	27
Darlington	14	11	-	3	135	61	22
Horsham	14	8	3	3	105	91	19
OLOP	14	8	-	6	95	101	16
JAGS	14	4	1	9	87	109	9
Byng Hall Farningham P.	14	4	-	10	79	117	8
Barnet	14	3	2	9	76	120	8
Norwich Todd Foxwood	14	-	3	11	55	141	3
DIVISION ONE NORTH							
Wellow House School	9	9	-	-	60	12	18
Seasiders (Blackpool)	10	7	2	1	50	30	16
Kingshurst Bribar	9	4	-	5	37	35	8
Derwent	10	4	-	6	35	45	8
Grantham IDS	10	3	1	6	35	45	7
Darlington II	9	2	3	4	27	45	7
Uxbridge (Burton)	9	-	2	7	20	52	2
DIVISION ONE SOUTH							
Batts Team Peniel	11	11	-	-	63	25	22
DML Plymouth	11	8	2	1	56	32	18
Horsham II	11	5	2	4	49	39	12
Cippenham	11	4	4	3	49	39	12
Barnet II	11	4	2	5	44	44	10
PSP Moonrakers	11	2	4	5	38	50	8
Ellenborough	11	1	1	9	27	61	3
Limberlost Pine Poole	11	1	1	9	26	62	3
DIVISION TWO NORTH							
Ormesby	11	8	1	2	57	31	17
Coventry Phoenix	11	7	2	2	58	30	16
Darlington III	11	7	1	3	57	31	15
Dewsbury	11	5	1	5	41	45	11
Wellow House School II	11	4	2	5	32	54	10
Derwent II	11	4	-	7	40	48	8
City of Manchester	11	3	-	8	31	57	6
Halton Croda	11	2	1	8	34	54	5
DIVISION TWO SOUTH							
London Progress II	11	6	2	3	53	35	14
Byng Hall F.P. II	11	5	3	3	52	36	13
Aylesbury League	11	5	2	4	49	39	12
Horsham III	11	4	4	3	48	40	12
Barnet III	11	4	4	3	44	44	12
Tregorrick Palace	11	5	2	4	42	46	12
De Vere Sudbury Netts	11	4	-	7	34	54	8
Fellows Cranleigh	11	2	1	8	30	58	5
DIVISION THREE SOUTH & WEST							
Ashford	8	6	2	-	50	14	14
London Progress III	8	6	1	1	43	21	13
OLOP II	8	4	-	4	32	32	8
Birmingham Uni	8	3	-	5	29	35	6
PSP Moonrakers II	8	2	2	4	25	39	6
KCD Stiga II	8	-	1	7	13	51	1
DIVISION THREE NORTH							
Potteries	11	11	-	-	79	9	22
Derwent III	11	5	3	3	48	40	13
Wellow House School III	11	6	1	4	46	42	13
Darlington IV	11	5	1	5	44	44	11
Barrow	11	5	1	5	39	49	11
Seasiders (Blackpool) II	11	3	2	6	37	51	8
Dewsbury II	11	3	1	7	36	52	7
Kingshurst Bribar	11	-	3	8	23	65	3
DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
KCD Stiga	9	9	-	-	57	15	18
Middlesex Uni P IV	10	6	3	1	54	26	15
Hastings	10	4	2	4	41	39	10
Britannia HSP Ispwich	9	3	3	3	35	37	9
Byng Hall F.P. II	9	3	1	5	30	42	7
Batts Team Peniel II	10	2	1	7	36	44	5
De Vere Sudbury Netts	9	1	-	8	11	61	2

SYED'S GREATEST SHOW EVER



Picture by: Karen Tonge

MATTHEW SYED proudly receives his third Commonwealth Mens Singles Gold Medal and Cup

SYED - GREATEST SHOW EVER BY AN ENGLISHMAN IN THE MODERN ERA. What more can be said about Matthew Syed? He coasted to the New Delhi final without seriously breaking into a sweat - even against a brilliant Gareth Herbert in the semi-finals - and then be was involved in the 'Mother of all Battles' to defeat in the final the Indian champion Chetan Baboor 7,16, -11, -21, 26, writes John Woodford.

A stunning performance by the man who one day hopes to be Prime Minister or at least Minister for Sport.

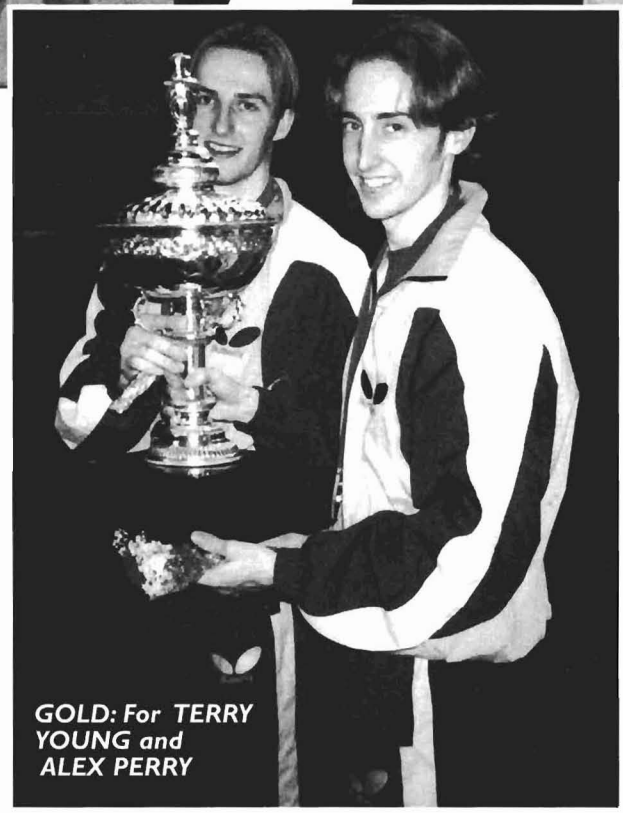
Also worth noting - excluding Andrew Baggaley and Alex Perry, the other three - Syed, Herbert and Young - are products of the Kingfisher club at Reading, currently run by Brian Halliday created mainly by Peter Charters.

After Syed's tragic cramp withdrawal at Chatham - England could not, we are told, afford a physiotherapist; before the final in Delhi the England physio spent an hour on Matthew's legs - the result a priceless gold medal!

We all knew that in front of his home crowd Baboor would excel, but suprisingly he failed to convert 3 match points. Syed had six and converted the seventh. In the end Matthew had to attack to win.

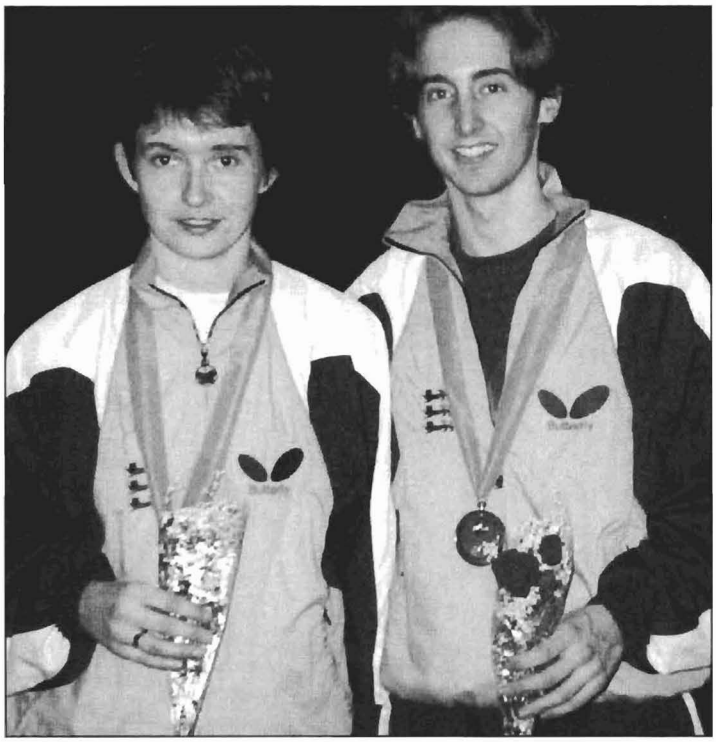
Gareth Herbert played some of the best table tennis of his career to date, to reach the semi-finals, but his lack of experience when the chips were down against Matthew showed he has some way to go with tactics and needs to resist the temptation to lash out at every ball.

England's haul of nine medals, allowing three bronze for the mens team event, included three gold. The mens doubles win by Alex Perry and



GOLD: For TERRY YOUNG and ALEX PERRY

Picture by: Brian Halliday



BRONZE: For HELEN LOWER and ALEX PERRY

Terry Young was simply brilliant, especially in the final against Baboor and Raman.

TEAM HOPES DASHED

Hopes that England would retain the Men's Team Gold in New Delhi were dashed by the host nation India whose three powerful players led by Baboor triumphed 4-3, despite Matthew Syed being unbeaten.

If Terry Young had been fit enough to play England might have reached the final, but when the chips were down Raman and Roy, the Indians supporting Baboor, proved too strong for Alex Perry and Andrew Baggaley.

As England struggled for survival Young and Syed on the bench became too vocal for the umpires. An encouraging shout from Syed was attributed to Young who was awarded a red card and relegated to the spectator seating.

England had made a fine start, moving 2-0 abead after Perry defeated Roy, 18,14, and Syed brought down Raman, -17, 11, 11, but it was a false dawn for England, when India then hit back, despite Baggaley snatching the middle game against Baboor before losing 11 in the third.

Losing the doubles with England fielding Perry and Gareth Herbert was crucial, putting India on the victory path, Syed uncomfortably beat Roy but England went down as Baggaley was beaten by Raman and Perry was tumbled 7, 16 by Baboor.

STRONGER ON PAPER

Although England womens team seemed stronger on paper than in Singapore they finished in ninth position, two down from 2000. They lost their first three matches but won the last three, crushing Scotland, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

Louise Durrant did not get a game. Natalie Bawden showed promise for the future. In the earlier matches when we lost to Canada and India, Helen Lower and Nicola Deaton battled bravely but lost their way, neither really reaching Commonwealth standard, which is improving.

Both Michel Gadal and Alan Ransome expressed disappointment at the performances of the England teams but emphasised that hame teams are always difficult to overcome.

• The organisation by the Indians in Delhi was the worst I have ever seen in 30 years. Their timing of events during the early stages was not bad - the hazards were swarms of mosquitoes and of course, the inevitable stomach upsets that affected most visitors.

The organisers blundered badly on the last day losing two hours at the end as they badly under-estimated the time needed for the presentations. Matthew went for his final one and a half hours late, by which time most of the England party were in coaches on the wray to the airport to catch the night-flight to Osaka.

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES

Q/F: MATTHEW SYED bt S.Raman (IND) 7, 6, 8; GARETH HERBERT (ENG) bt Li Aaron (NZL) 24, 18, 12;TORIOLA SEGAN (NGR) bt Zhang Tai Yong (SIN) 11, 17, 12; CHETAN BABOOR (IND) bt Alex Perry (ENG) 18, 9, 7.
S/F: SYED bt. Herbert 12, 18, 10. BABOOR bt Toriola 7,-19, 15,-13, 16. FINAL: SYED bt Baboor 7, 16,-11,-21, 26.

WOMENS SINGLES

Q/F: LI JIA (SIN) bt Li Karen (NZL) 9, 18, 17; YAO LING JIN (MAS) bt Nicola Deaton (ENG) 10, 11, 15; ZHANG XUE LING (SIN) bt Miao Miao (AUS) 15, 20 ,16; LI CHUNLI (NZL) bt Tan Paey Fern (SIN) 16, 9, 15.
S/F: LIA JIA WEI (SIN) bt Yao Ling Jing (MAS) 11, 13, 11; LI CHUNLI (NZL) bt Zhang Xue Ling (SIN) 8, 21,-19,-22, 19.
FINAL: LI JIA WEI (SIN) bt Li Chunli (NZL) 21,-18, 16, 19.

MENS DOUBLES

FINAL:TERRY YOUNG/ALEX PERRY (ENG) bt C.Baboor/S.Raman (IND) -10, 22, 18.

WOMENS DOUBLES

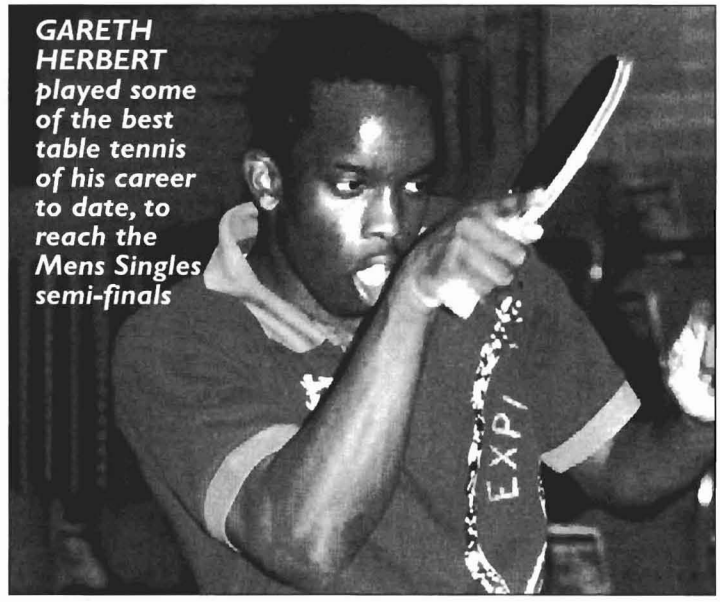
FINAL: JING JUN HONG/LI JIA WEI (SIN) bt Zhang Xue Ling/ T.P.Fern (SIN) 20, 22

MIXED DOUBLES

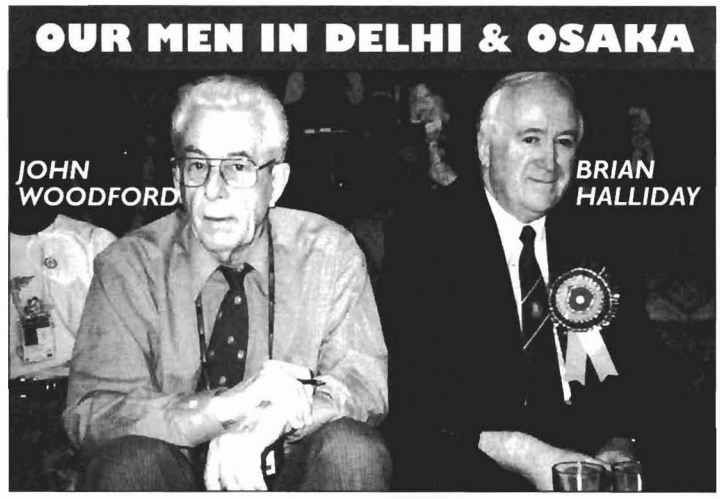
S/F: DUAN YONG JUN/LI JIA WEI (SIN) bt Alex Perry/Helen Lower (ENG) 15,14; CAI XIAO LI/ZHANG XUE LING(SIN) bt Sen Yew Fai/ Tan Paey Fern 12, 6. FINAL: DUAN/LI bt Cai/Zhang -17, 21, 13.

TEAM POSITIONS

MEN		WOMEN	
1. NIGERIA	5. WALES	1 SINGAPORE.	7.WALES
2. INDIA	10. SCOTLAND	2. MALAYSIA	8. N.IRELAND
3. SINGAPORE	11.N.IRELAND	3. INDIA	9. ENGLAND
4. ENGLAND		4.NEW ZEALAND	11.SCOTLAND



GARETH HERBERT played some of the best table tennis of his career to date, to reach the Mens Singles semi-finals



DELHI DIARY

MY first time in India. Friends had advised that it is a place you either love or hate. Keep an open mind they said. Take it as it comes. Well I have to report that I really rather enjoyed it. Okay so you have to be careful about the food. Spicy food has enormous appeal, but after an early twinge it was back to plain fare and steering well clear of all things called curry, writes Brian Halliday.

The journey to the stadium was always interesting with streets heaving with traffic, trying to avoid hundreds of people everywhere and of course the cows who have right of way. Most of the population seem to live either by the side of the road or in shanty towns. So many sights, sounds and smells.

Our man from the Daily Telegraph joined us for a tour of India's capital - an altogether fascinating experience. The charm and hospitality of the people could not have been bettered anywhere.

Practice day at the Stadium and first impressions were decidedly unfavourable. The place was indescribably filthy and the mosquitoes were out in force.

Team events start and England's first opponents, the Maldives fail to appear - whether by accident or design we didn't find out.

The early session was dominated by the Canadian ladies who pulled off a shock win over England's women. Natalie Bawden played with a controlled and professional approach and looked a good prospect. I was impressed.

Back to more mundane matters, I have to quote the Australian who remarked, "I wouldn't say the mens toilet are bad, but if I had a mother-in-law, I would send her there".

There was the usual protracted 'Opening Ceremony' (why are we saddled with these interminable affairs, which irritate the players no end? They have to stand around trying to look patriotic - and are obviously bored out of their skulls).

Day 3: Last night England men saw off Sri Lanka by a 4-0 scoreline, which reflected the difference in standards. The women continued where they left off against Canada and were swamped by India 4-0.

This morning Matt Syed was brought into the action for a potentially tricky tie against Wales. Matt's two wins helped the reigning Gold medallists to a 4-2 success. The women got going at last, trouncing Scotland 4-0, which helped them finish in ninth spot.

The swarms of mosquitoes were now under partial control. Whether a host of fine soldiers with guns and sniffer dogs were here to protect the Indian Prime Minister, due here on the Wednesday, or to exterminate the deadly mozzes. I was not quite sure.

Problems for England with Terry Young out of action with a chest bug. The squad barely noticed his absence, and coasted past a fairly ordinary Canadian side in the quarter-finals by 4-0. This set us up to play India.

Day 4: Terrific! Mosquito squads have done their work - there are not so many of the little devils around as usual.

India had done their homework and gambled correctly to ensure that their ace player Baboor was kept clear of Syed. The strategy worked brilliantly and the host country won 4-2.

England had to be content with Bronze team medals, but the Indians in their turn found a quite inspired Nigerian team too strong in an interesting final. This was a first ever Gold Commonwealth Table tennis medal for an African nation. Nicola Deaton reached the last 8, the other 7 were Chinese.

Day 5: A Golden day for England. Terry Young and Alex Perry re-wrote the record books with their sensational win over the No.1 seeds from Singapore. This was followed by an equally amazing win against Indian favourites and winners in the two previous championships.

The English duo lost the first game easily 10-21, and with the Indians cruising the destination of the major medals looked a formality. England were 14-16 down then we saw Terry at his best, serving quite brilliantly. The Indians powered back and actually had two match points, but positive play by the two Englishmen levelled and went on to edge the game 24-22.

The favourites were now clearly rattled and were never allowed to settle into a rythmn in the decider. Much tension as two match points were lost by England, but then - sweet, sweet victory.

Matthew meanwhile was progressing in the singles, playing well within himself. Bonus was another breathtaking win from Gareth Herbert, who took out Dong Yong Jun, the Singapore No.1, playing shots with power and demonstrating his world class serving ability, as he ensured another medal for England.

Day 6: Matthew vs Gareth, 3-0 to Matt, but don't be fooled because Gareth was within a whisker of winning the second game. His form is very good indeed, he looks on the verge of a major breakthrough.

Alex and Helen went with more of a whimper than a bang, beaten 2-0 by the top Singapore pair.

The womens singles was won by Li Jia Wei from Singapore, who beat the bubbly lady from New Zealand, Li Chunli (I interviewed this 39 year old who had an interesting story to tell - more on her early next season).

I was asked to present the Guernsey Cup for the Mixed Doubles. Ah! Fame comes late in life. Anyway it was a great honour and I was thrilled.

Now for the downside. Tension builds up to Matt's big match with India's Chetan Baboor. Could he make three in a row and emulate Trevor Taylor's exploits so many years ago? Well we weren't to know. A quite dreadful playing schedule, as finals day dissolved into farce and really a complete and utter shambles. The result was that the people who were Osaka bound had to rush to the airport, without seeing the England No.1 in action in the final. Apparently a quite extraordinary match with fortunes swaying one way and then the other. Live TV (can we get a tape?) captured a match of unparalled drama, with match points swinging like a pendulum. Thank Heavens - match and Gold medal to Matt 28-26 in the fifth. A world class performance. John Redwood eat your heart out!

WANG LIQIN WINS WORLD CROWN

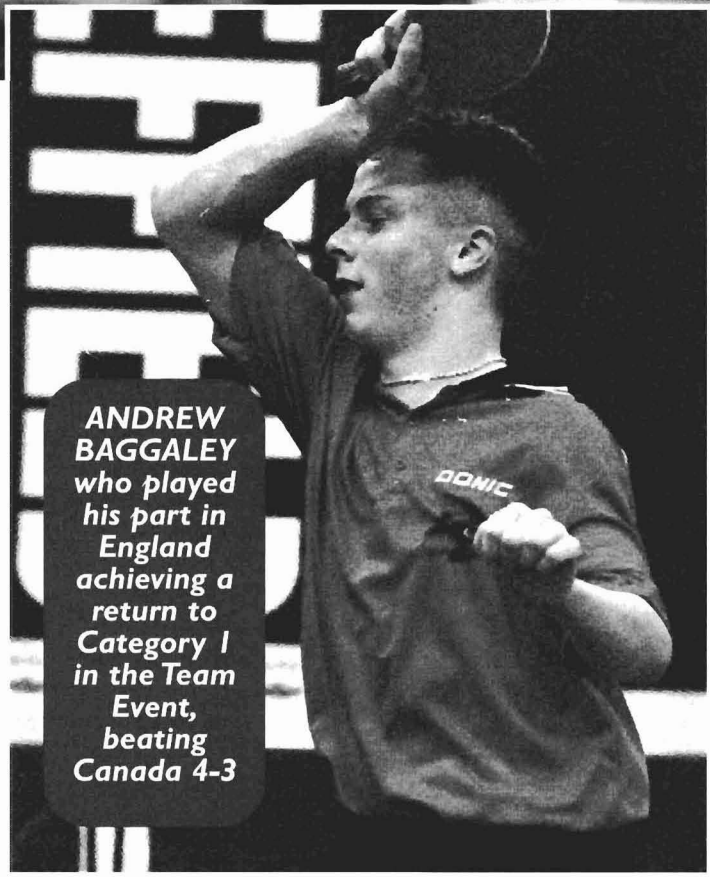


ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPION WINS IN OSAKA

MOVING across Asia from New Delhi where the mosquitoes reign and the toilets in the stadium do not flush was a welcome move for the British parties, although it was raining when we arrived in Osaka for a 16-day stay which culminated in a mens singles victory for the English Open champion Wang Liqin, writes John Woodford.

Of course, we left behind in Delhi a batch of star players Matthew Syed (off to fight the general election), Alex Perry and Nicola Deaton who had more pressing business to attend to with university examinations looming. But at least the team had nine medals, including three gold to show for their magnificent efforts in the Indian capital.

The spotlight was now on our whittled down team of three men Terry Young,Gareth Herbert and Andrew Baggaley. Their task was clear - to get us back into the Category 1 in the team event a target that was achieved with a magnificent victory 3-2 against Canada for whom the world No.37 Johnny Huang scored twice, but we ensnared his two team-mates and that was the win that counted.



ANDREW BAGGALEY who played his part in England achieving a return to Category 1 in the Team Event, beating Canada 4-3

Herbert beat Lui 22,15; Baggaley lost to Huang -19, -16; Young beat Su 15, 5; Herbert lost to Huang 21,-18, -19; and Baggaley beat Lui 13, 15.

WANG WINS

WANG LIQIN, 22 from Shanghai, the winner of the English Open at Chatham last February, proved to be a popular winner of the world title when in the final, nerves cost him the first two games, but he came through -11, -11, 16, 13, 13 - Chinese coaches nearly always want the younger man in their elite squad to win. That is how it was on this occasion. The loser Olympic Champion, Kong Linghui, 25, knows the score with the coaches. One could not help wondering if he knew it would be best for all in the squad if Wang won the day. But, the Chinese table tennis dynasty see nothing wrong in urging victory for their young stars. Perhaps Kong thought if



he took the first two games as he did, he proved a point. I watched carefully the last three games - there were a few loose shots from Kong, but generally Wang had regained his composure.

At the press conference afterwards Wang told the world media, "This was the biggest game of my life. I was nervous. I was reciting techniques to myself all the way through. There were errors I could not correct early on, but in the end I changed to more attack."

Kong said, "First or second, I am satisfied today. My mind wandered away from the third game until the end, he played very well."

BIZZARE STORY

We did not expect our womens team in Osaka to pull up any trees with Helen Lower the only experienced campaigner plus the three juniors Natalie Bawden, Katy Parker (who seems to be on a form plateau at this time) and Louise Durrant who was affected by a wrist injury - I did not see her in action during the whole 26-day tour.

The England womens team started off with a fiasco - they were due to meet Wales at 9.30 am. Previously, the time slot was 5.30 pm. but without notifying the team captains, the breakfast slot saw the Welsh trio waiting but no English team. The organisation eventually admitted they had failed to ensure that the change had been noted, so the match was re-arranged for the following morning. But this time, the Welsh trio - Bethan Daunton, Siwan and Catherine Davies - declined to play adding another chapter to a BIZARRE STORY. Reason ? - playing two matches in six hours would be too much strain.

STAR OF THE SHOW

The star of the England show was of course Gareth Herbert. After coming through three qualifying rounds he was unlucky to draw the world No.8 Zoran Primorac.

A great battle followed. Herby had four game points to take a 2-0 lead against the mighty Croatian, but in the end it was Primorac who went through -19, 21, 13, 19.

Group play to me means three or four players playing each other and the winner or winners going through. The group system used here was nothing like that. It was sudden death from the first qualifying round.

Terry Young's dismissal in round one of the qualifying singles raised some eyebrows. He lost -16, -19 to the Brazilian No.2 Thiago Monterio, who later went on to beat the French No.1 Christophe Legout. This made Terry feel better. We later learned that the Brazilian has been playing in Sweden.

GREATEST MATCH

The greatest match in Kuala Lumpur was of course, the Swaytthling Cup final when Sweden beat China 3-2. The match never-to-be-forgotten in Osaka came in the semi-finals of, the mens team events when China beat South Korea 3-2, but the Koreans should have won - Kim Taek Soo failed to secure no less than seven match points against Liu Guozheng, any one of which would have eliminated China! What a tremendous show from Guozheng to hold out under such pressure.

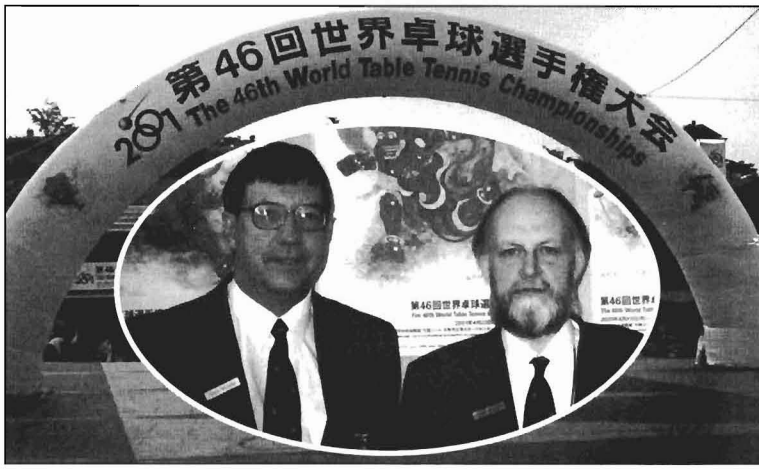
Back to the singles - Helen Lower was the last British lady to survive. She almost took the Belarus No.4 Tatiana Logatskaia to a fifth game. in the first round of the womens singles - both players were excused the qualifying rounds.

Andrew Baggaley fastened on to a good run but then he came under the big guns of the Korean No.2 Oh Sang Eun who went through 3-0. Ryan Jenkins also knocked over some victims before he too found the going much too hot when he faced Kalin Creanga.

TOO SMALL

Playing conditions were were mainly very good, although playing in three halls was not ideal. The Media Centre was too small for 900 journalists and photographers. The telephones were useless so most writers used the phones in their hotels.

At the final Press Conference ITTF president Adham Shahara said, "this was the last time when 14 days would be used. In future the individual events will be in one place - Bercy, Paris in 2003 and Doha, Qatar for the teams events in 2004."



ENGLAND'S INTERNATIONAL UMPIRES AT OSAKA: BRIAN WATKINS (left) and ANDY SEWARD, inset under the entrance arch

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES
S/F: Wang Liquin (CHN) bt Chiang Peng-Lung (TPE) 13, 22, 14; Kong Linghui (CHN) bt Ma Lin (CHN) -14, 17, 13, 15.
FINAL: Wang bt Kong -11, -11, 16, 13, 13.

WOMENS SINGLES
S/F: Wang Nan (CHN) bt Zhang Yining (CHN) 18, 11,-17, 13; Lin Ling (CHN) bt Kim Yun Mi (PRK) 14,-14, 18, 11.
FINAL: Wang bt Lin -14, 12, 12, 19.

MENS DOUBLES
FINAL: Wang Liqin/Yan Sen (CHN) bt Kong Linghui/Liu Guoliang (CHN) 11, 12, 18.

WOMENS DOUBLES
FINAL: Li Ju/Wang Nan (CHN) bt Yang Sin/Sun Jin (KOR) 16, 14, 14.

MIXED DOUBLES
FINAL: Qin Zhijian/Yang Yin (CHN) bt Oh Sang Eun/Kim Moo Kyo (KOR) 15, 15, 15.

MENS TEAM EVENT
1. China, 2. Belgium, 3. Korea Republic, 4. Sweden, 5. Austria, 6. France, 7. Germany, 8. Italy, 9. Greece, 10. Belarus, **20. England,** 30. Wales, 52. Ireland, 65. Scotland.

WOMENS TEAM EVENT
1. China, 2. Korea DPR, 3. Japan, 4. Korea Republic, 5. Romania, 6. Singapore, 7. Hungary, 8. Chinese Taipei, 9. Germany, 10. Hong Kong, 30. Wales, **34. England,** 48. Wales, 53. Ireland.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 278 May/June 2001

Editorial

So much to say: so little room to say it in! Enough copy to fill 2 or 3 magazines so **I'm very sorry – reports cut or left out**, though I may fit some in the next edition (and incite cries of 'out of date'). No space for Muhr's Memo.

Commonwealth Championships congratulations! Matthew Syed – men's singles gold, Alex Perry/Terry Young – men's doubles gold, Gareth Herbert – men's singles bronze, Alex Perry/Helen Lower – mixed doubles bronze, England men – team bronze. Chinese dominated World Championships. The end of the line for Waldner and the European old guard? Boll & Steff (& maybe Gareth Herbert, after his run of scalps, including Korbel's) still not enough to stop future Asian tide.

ITTF agree games up to 11 from September (service changes every 2 points until deuce and then alternately, and flexibility on number of games in a set) but ETTA likely to allow local discretion to keep up to 21. **Service change** to prevent shielding (see Clemett explanation inside) to be implanted September 2002, but ETTU believe experiments should be conducted first so new rule to be applied during consolation event of forthcoming European Youth Championships, Terni. And about Italy, it is rather pleasing that 'La Rivista del Tennistavolo' are reprinting some TTN articles in Italian!

ETTA Performance Director Michel Gadal is returning to a **top post in France**. He was constrained from giving his best – an ideas man and visionary worn down by bureaucracy – but behind the scenes he established and fought for the 'Academy', his legacy. Some in coaching have misgivings about perceived non-delivery to the regions, though the Inter-Regional Squad Competition, a Gadal suggestion, was deemed a success. **Soren Ahlen, the new Director,** a 'hands-on' coach of integrity, is likely to work closer with the coaching structure. Good luck to both of them. The changeover may stimulate debate on the role of the Centre, but it is the interest of English table tennis that it works, achieves and is supported.

Well done London Progress, the socially inclusive club with a wide community base and European aspirations, for winning the British League Premier Division for the third consecutive year! (Stop Press: now 'Triple Treble' champions!). And well done 'Mr Table Tennis' Coach/Corby Town TTC clubman Tom Cardwell for gaining the Corby Sports Lifetime Achievement Award.

See details of **Awards 2001 and Teaching & Training Conference, Lilleshall, 7-9 September** in the glossy, but note that **Random House** to again support **Press Officer of the Year with £500 of books.** Portfolio required with nomination: contact Ken Muhr for information.

Players! After a brief rest, use the summer to improve.

Ken Muhr

ITTF RULE CHANGES 2001 - Colin Clemett, ITTF Rules Committee Chairman

The two main rule changes agreed at the ITTF AGM in Osaka concerned the scoring system and that old favourite the service law. Considering the chorus of objections and the fact that it was the first fundamental change to the scoring system in the history of international table tennis, it was a surprise that the reduction from 21 to11 points for a game was accepted so easily. Beforehand, there had been considerable doubt whether it would attract the 75% majority needed for a change to the laws, but in the event it was supported by around 90% of delegates. Once the principle had been accepted it was necessary to decide between a number of options for the order of service, the introduction of expedite, the interval between games and so on, but these questions, too, were speedily settled and there was almost a sense of anti-climax at how little controversy there had been.

In 11-point games, the server will change after every 2 points instead of 5. One alternative considered was the tennis tiebreak system, whereby the first server has only 1 service. This is claimed to be fairer because if the score reaches 9-9 the players then serve alternately, rather than one player having the possible advantage of serving twice. However, this argument did not prevail, perhaps because there was a wish to make a clear distinction between table tennis and lawn tennis. Matches may consist of any odd number of matches, and it is for the organisers of each competition to decide what number to use. If matches are to be of about the same duration as those under the present system, best-of-3 and best-of-5 games of 21 points are roughly equal to best-of-5 games and best-of-9 games respectively of 11 points. However, some organisers indicated their intention to introduce best-of-7 matches, so as to reduce the duration of competitions.

As at present, players or pairs will change ends halfway through the last possible game of a match, now to be defined as when first one of them scores 5 points; in doubles, the receiving pair will change their order at this time. Expedite will be introduced after 10 minutes' play in a game unless both players or pairs have scored at least 9 points and, once a game has lasted 10 minutes, all subsequent games of the match will be played under the expedite system. In matches played under the Regulations for International Competitions, the interval between games will be reduced from 2 minutes to 1 minute but there will be no change to the arrangements for the time-out system. Players will be entitled to brief breaks for towelling after every 6 points rather than the present every 5 points.

The new system will take effect from 1 September 2001 and will apply mandatorily to all international competitions. All national associations are recommended to adopt it but any association may allow variations, such as the retention of 21 point games, for competitions which concern only its own members and it is understood that such a proposal will be put to the ETTA AGM. Those voting on the matter will have to balance the benefits of allowing players used to the 21-point game to continue with it against the possible disadvantage of having two distinct scoring systems within the same sport.

The proposal for a change to the service law arose from the work of a special commission set up to evaluate a number of options, which had the common theme of making the service visible to the receiver. One of these options which was at one time favoured, was to require the ball to be struck between the server's body and his/her end line and this was the subject of several experiments, including one carried out at an international competition in Barcelona. It proved unsatisfactory, mainly because it virtually precluded forehand services, and it was clear that such a restriction would not be acceptable to the majority of players. It was even suggested that spectators also preferred to see a skilful player gain some advantage from service, rather than just putting the ball into play.

The final proposal was that, at the time when the ball was struck in service, no part of the body or clothing of the server or the server's doubles partner must be within a triangular area formed by the net and two imaginary lines between the ball and the ends of the net. Like all suggestions for changes to the service law it did not satisfy everyone, but it was the solution which received the widest support. At the meeting, a number of people spoke for and against it, one of the main objections being that it would compel players to change their style of service. It did not seem to occur to these speakers that if players were not to be required to do this there was no reason to amend the law. The proposal was finally adopted by a very small margin but, to allow for the time it was claimed that players will need to adapt their style, it will not come into effect until 1 September 2002.

The final wording of all rules affected by changes agreed in Osaka should be available shortly and will be included in the new ITTF Handbook that is expected to be published by the middle of the year. For the next

AGM, to be held in Zagreb in April 2002, it is likely that the focus will be more on constitutional amendments than on further changes to the rules governing play, as there is a general feeling that after the introduction of the 40mm ball, the new scoring system and a new service law, a period of stability is required. It will be interesting to see, over the next year or two, to what extent these innovations produce the benefits that their instigators hoped to achieve.

*****

BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

Well done St. Michael's

Saturday 17th March saw the very young under 11 boys' team from St. Michael's, Bracknell (the holders), competing in the National Finals of the English Schools Table Tennis Association Championships.

The team of Jonathon Sergent (10), Myles Evans (9), Alexander Lovell (8) and Gavin Evans (7) had already played beyond expectation to get to this stage. Qualifying as the Berkshire and then the Area representatives they then had to play Regional Finals against teams from Bedfordshire, Devon and Avon but victory enabled the team to claim the title of Midlands and Western Regional Champions!

Having won this prestigious title the team now had to compete against the Southern and Northern Champions.

In their last match St. Michael's had to beat Southern champion Peniel to take the title. The result was a 4-4 draw giving Peniel the title. With a sets countback to decide second place St. Michael's were delighted that Jonathan had played his heart out against the Northerners, and taken a vital extra set. With Peniel losing their best players next year because they will be too old, the St. Michael's team already have their sights set on winning the trophy in future years!

Mr. Liston, Headmaster at St. Michael's, said, "I am so proud of the boys. They never lost a match. Coming second in a national competition is a real achievement."



Umpire Mick Reynolds says well done to Reading Girls cadet captain Lisa Bosley

COUNTY NOTES

A Look Around The Country Issue no. 278

Cadet Girls Make National Finals Again

Reading Cadet Girls battled their way to the National Finals of the Jill Hammersley Cup for the second year running.

Despite the late withdrawal of Alice Walker and Lisa Calcutt being unavailable, the Reading trio of Melaine Farquhar, Lisa Bosley, and late replacement Emma Kusta pulled off a shock win against High Wycombe, Slough and Leamington Spa at High Wycombe.

Reading defeated High Wycombe 5-2 with Lisa winning 3 out of 3 and Melanie 2 out of 2. A 5-4 loss to Slough was not enough to stop Reading from winning the event, Slough having previously lost 5-2 to High Wycombe. All in all it was a great team performance.

Shock for I.M.P.A.C.T.

30 years ago, I.M.P.A.C.T. started its successful junior coaching at Bulmershe Leisure Centre. This was an outstanding success for the voluntary organisation set up by Alan Dines with dedicated help by many others. This success continues 30 years later with outstanding contributions from many coaches, players and parents.

Success can be measured by over 2,000 juniors who have been introduced to table tennis by I.M.P.A.C.T. since 1971. The Bulmershe coaching centre has bred many international start over the years as well as large numbers of county and inter-town players. Well-known names from the early years are Karen Witt and Alison (Gordon) Broe. Gemma Schwartz came from the middle years. Recent stars are Lisa Calcutt who has won five England junior singles with Melanie Farquhar – England Under 11 no. 2 and Alice Walker – semi-finalist in the England Under 11 singles.

Sadly, Bulmershe Leisure Centre has notified I.M.P.A.C.T. that they are kicking them out of Bulmershe Leisure Centre after 1st April. Although this is supposed to be a LEISURE CENTRE a church has been allowed to use the main hall on a Sunday morning. The church apparently has no conscience in pushing out junior table tennis from Bulmershe Leisure Centre. How this contrasts with the enlightened attitude of Our Lady of Peace, Reading YMCA, Tilehurst Methodist Church, etc, who have done so much to encourage junior table tennis.

CHESHIRE by Alan Blears

Double Success for Doreen

Congratulations to Stockport's Doreen Schofield on her double success in the VETTS Northern Masters in Blackpool.

In the 0-60 section she took the singles title with a straight games win over Pauline Steel in the final and had an even more impressive success when she won the 0-50's, beating Diane Pearce in the final, again in straight sets.

Flixton's John Hilton almost matched her achievement, winning the 0-50's final against Dave Welsman, but coming runner-up to Tony Gelder in the 0-40's.

…..and for Karen

Congratulations also to Karen Shepherd for her performances in the Derby 4 Star Select and the English Nationals in Sheffield.

In Derby, she won the Cadets and lost in the semi-final of the juniors to Louise Durrant, but her greatest moment came in the quarterfinals, where she had her first ever win against England no. 6 Georgina Walker. This result was sufficient to ensure that Karen ended overall winner of both cadets and juniors in the five Junior Grand Prix events.

In the English Nationals Karen reached the quarterfinals of the U21's, despite not being fully fit.

The Cadet and Junior Masters, however, brought mixed results for Karen. In the Cadets she lost to Joanna Parker and Abigail Embling, whereas in the Juniors she beat them both, the third game win against Abigail being a remarkable turnaround after bring 17-1 down in the first game! These successes were balanced by two unexpected losses; one to fellow Cheshire girl Kate Ingham. This was Katie's first win against Karen for over three years, and reflects what has been a very good season for the Runcorn girl.

Stockport Junior Tournament

This development tournament attracted over 30 youngsters from four local leagues. The day was a triumph for the Hillcourt Club in Stockport, whose players took all four titles in the U-14 and above age groups, plus three of the runner-up spots.

U-21 Youth Cup: Amanda Pollard bt George Yardley 14-21, 21-15, 21-17; Junior Singles: George Yardley bt Amanda Pollard 21-9, 21-12; Junior Drawn Doubles: Adam Slater/Ajai Singh bt Philip Silver/Hannah Hardill 21-12, 21-15; Cadet Singles: George Yardley bt Adam Slater 14-21, 21-18, 21-14 U-12 Girls Singles: Stevie Barratt bt Stephanie Wilson 19-21, 21-15, 21-12; U-12

Boys Singles: Ross McCall bt James Stevens 21-15, 21-10; U-12 Drawn Doubles: David Dodd/Jordan Booth bt Stevie Barratt/Paul Kershaw 17-21, 21-17, 21-9; U-12 Consolation: Caroline Hallows bt Andrew Bramwell 21-13, 21-11.

Stop Press....

Jodyn Layfield was a happy young lady on 28th April. Unseeded, she came runner-up to Lauren Springthorpe in the Girls U-11 section of the Dunlop Schools Individuals.

CORNWALL by John Wood

CORNWALL's 10-year-old Darren Reed has won the National English Schools Boys Under 11 years old Singles title, at Stoke-on-Trent in April, when he beat Gloucestershire's Michael Harvey in a three set final, -20, 14, 17.

Michael is the son of the infamous Dave Harvey, who is now a well known top veteran player, who is nationally ranked at no.12 in the over 40's list.

This is Cornwall's first national title since Neil Bevan won the National Junior crown title 15 years ago. So on behalf of the county I would like to congratulate Darren for elevating the hopes and dreams that one day Cornwall may have a national senior champion.

Once again Jeremy Williams has proved his pedigree by winning the Men's singles title for the second year running, beating Graham Reed at the HSBC Bank Cornwall County Closed Championships, Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre, St.Austell, in the final 11, 18.

Shirley Luckhurst won this season's Women's singles crown, narrowly beating North Cornwall's defender Kate Alken 19, 24,14.

The Under 21 Singles final was almost a replica of last season's with Graham Worth beating Adrian Noott in two sets, 18, 15, whereas last year it went to three. These two young men then teamed up to win the Mens doubles trophy, overpowering the experienced duo of Jeremy Williams and Malcolm Peters 16, 17, in the final.

Shirley Luckhurst picked up her second trophy of the day when she paired up with Esme Denslow in the Women's doubles event, winning the final 12, 13, against Kate Alken and Michelle Turner.

The Mixed doubles saw the formidable pairing of Jeremy Williams and Esme Denslow attack their way to victory in the final 16, 14, against Graham Worth and Shirley Luckhurst.

Steve Lobb won a mighty close Veterans' singles final, 17, -22, 19, against Ray Bunt.

Once again Bob House won the Over 55 final, beating Bill Pope 14, 11, in a battle of the pimples.

The Consolation singles saw a new name on the trophy when Gary Hall defeated Derrick Lucas 10, 19.

Chris Brown carried on where he left off last year by winning the Junior singles final, beating Jonathan Randall -18, 8, 12. The Junior Doubles trophy went to Michelle Turner and Matthew Nunes who narrowly defeated Thomas Rashleigh and Glen Carew -17, 19, 20. This season's Cadet Boys' singles winner was Adam Tatlow following his 18, -17, 17, victory over Jonathan Randall in the final.

The new Cadet Girls' champion is Amy Burton who beat Alanna Tregear 6, 8, in the final.

Alanna however, did taste victory when she won the Under 12 Girls trophy beating Kaye Stenner 17, 18, in the final.

Darren Reed, the new national Schools Under 11 Champion, won the Under 12 Boys title when he defeated Ben Kessell 19, 12. This season's Junior Team title was won by Torridge OA, who beat Tregorrick Park to take the trophy.

The Veteran's county team rounded off their season with two big wins in the County Championships, beating second in the table Dorset 5-4 unexpectedly, and Devon 8-1.

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

The County Junior Closed Championships were played on 11th March 2001 at Exmouth College. The standard of play this year was very high.

Jacob Kodicek caused the biggest upset by winning the under 17 Boys' event, defeating number 1 seed Adam Shipway in the semifinal and Shaun Gibbs in the final. Michelle Barrett became the under 17 Girls' Champion, beating Helen Parton in the final.

Other results were as follows:
Boys:
U15: Daniel Mayhew bt Jacob Kodicek; U13: Simon Poyner bt Paul Christie; U11: Christopher Smith bt Matthew Noble
Girls:
U15: Helen Parton bt Lisa Radford; U13: Sally Smith bt Lizzie Binks; U11: Natalie Daly bt Millie Antunes
Boys' Doubles:
Daniel Mayhew/Adam Shipway bt Shaun Gibbs/Edward Vanstone
Mixed Doubles:
Shaun Gibbs/Michelle Barrett bt Adam Shipway/Helen Parton
Girls' Doubles:
Helen Parton/Sally Smith bt Michelle Barrett/Lisa Radford

Plymouth Primary Schools Table Tennis Championships:

Wednesday 7th and 14th March 2001 at Plymouth H.Q.

There were 27 entries in the first ever Plymouth Primary Schools Championships which were organised by John Smith of the Woolwell TT Club.

Boys' Singles:
Champion: Christopher Smith (St. Peters), runner-up: Richard Marshall (Bickleigh Down)
Girls' Singles:
Champion: Jessica Bass (St. Peters), runner-up: Bethanie Rogers (Yealmpstone Farm)
Boys' Consolation:
Winner – William Shapley (Bickleigh Down), runner-up: Elliot Goss (Yealmpstone Farm)
Girls' Consolation:
Winner – Amy Sweet (Yealmpstone Farm), runner-up: Lauren Wood (Yealmpstone Farm)

Report on Final County Championship Matches

Senior I – at Grantham – Premier Division. Gregory Bridgett, a policeman in Plymouth, was unable to play because of the withdrawal of leave due to the 'foot and mouth' crisis. Our team of Paul Whiting, Mike Short, James Whiteman, Elaine Shirt and Liz May defeated Hertfordshire 7-3 and Derbyshire 8-2 to keep us in the Premiership next year. Both their other matches against Sussex and Yorkshire ended in 10-0 defeats.

Junior I – Division 1B of the County Championships. Our team of Craig Bryant, Adam Shipway, Shaun Gibbs, Michelle Barrett and Lisa Radford registered an 8-2 victory over Dorset in Plymouth to become champions so we can return to the Premier Division next year with the knowledge that only Adam will be over age.

Averages for season:

Craig Bryant:	100%
Shaun Gibbs:	86%
Michelle Barrett:	86%
Lisa Radford:	79%
Adam Shipway:	71%

New Table Tennis Centre at Okehampton

Congratulations to Duane Elliott, Colin McLean, Fred Phillips and everyone connected with this centre. I am sorry that I could not attend the opening. Alex Perry and Alan Cooke were at the Centre giving an exhibition for which we were very grateful.

Now we have this wonderful centre our County Associations must work together to make it a success.

Junior County
Junior 2

Our team had a successful season, finishing runners-up to Shropshire I in Division 3C of the County Championships. The last match between the two top teams was a cracker with our opponents just nudging it 6-4.

Averages

Helen Parton:	93%
Rebecca Wherrett:	80%
Daniel Mayhew:	71%

Jacob Kodicek: 71%
Simon Poyner: 71%
Sally Smith: 50%

Junior 3
In the end our team finished just below halfway in Division 3C.

DERBYSHIRE by Colin Deaton

Our Derbyshire players' performances in the English Closed Championships at Sheffield must have made all followers of Derbyshire table tennis feel mighty proud. Bradley Billington was brilliant, and seems to have lost none of his sparkle. He always loved competitive play and his zest for playing in domestic competitions appears to be as big as ever.

Much has been said and read about Nicola Deaton but her second hat trick of titles speaks for itself. This tally of success brings Nicola's total of senior English Closed titles to 13, and at the age of 24 prospects for more are good.

However, despite these super performances by our senior players, we were cut right down to size with the news that both our junior and senior teams competing in the National County Championships have been relegated. Both teams on the vital play-off weekends were below strength and in the case of the seniors we had only one lady player.

We must now look at the youngsters we have for the future. Shaun Marples seems to be rising up the national ranking lists and he is unquestionably the best young prospect we have. One wonders as to whether or not he can fill the gap left by Michael Isherwood who departed to play in Spain. Under the watchful eye of his granddad, Derrick, who has guided so many players to international stardom, Shaun looks all set to keep the Chesterfield tradition rolling.

Another Chesterfield youngster who is showing outstanding promise is Staveley's 15-year-old William Cooney. William, who is almost 6 foot and still growing, represents Derbyshire juniors and plays regularly in the Grand Prix events. Together with his brother, Ashley, he has qualified for the English Schools Nationals Final in Stoke. The Cooneys' father, William, recently qualified as a coach.

Matlock's youth policy scheme is progressing well and this development has given the Matlock League an additional division this season.

The Matlock Closed was, as always, very popular. Winner of the men's singles was Steve Porter, who beat Chesterfield's Geoff Gill in the final, whilst Pat Thorley was a comfortable winner of the women's singles. 15-year-old William Cooney, a comparative newcomer to Matlock table tennis, scored an impressive double, winning the under 17 and under 21 singles.

Derby continues with a consistent Youth Policy and a series of day courses at the Mackworth Tertiary College involving 10-15 year olds is producing and discovering some real good talent. Alan Cooke has been putting them through the paces, with Nicola Deaton featuring a regular Friday evening spot. Attendances at these sessions have been good and I believe that the Derby area has a good nucleus of talent there.
Results of the Derby Closed event, which featured an increased entry, are shown below:

Men's Singles: Robin Pearce bt Dave Greaves 11, 20
Women's Singles: Jane Vickers bt Diane Siddall 10, 8
Veterans' Singles: Jane Vickers bt Don Eyden 10, 11
Handicap Singles: Simon Rudland bt Andy Norwood 18, 15;
pen Doubles: Colin Ambrose/Jane Vickers bt Andy Norwood/Andy Portlock 15, -19, 10
Mixed Doubles: Colin Ambrose/Jane Vickers bt Moira Earley/Malcolm Hearn 14, 15; Junior Boys: Robert Frost beat Tim Mitchell 9, 9; Girls' Singles: Sarah Bayliss bt Gemma Hart 13, 13; Mixed Under 12's: Tim Mitchell bt Matthew White 13, 10; Cadet Girls: Sarah Bayliss; Cadet Boys: Adam Frost bt David Arrowsmith 21, 16

All the Derby & District League coaching sessions are organised by Ada Murphy and three of the City's junior schools – Arboretum, Dale and Pear Tree – are to have an organised competition. All three schools are funded by the Community Enterprise and Training Association. Derby hope to continue their training through until next season.

DURHAM by Keith Wilson

The Durham Closed was successfully staged at Greencroft School Sports Hall. Held over two days, the tournament gave a full day for Cadet and Under 12 players with the Under 17 events moving to the second day.

Such is the growth of school-based table tennis, that there are more and more young players coming through. Andrew Leighton repeated his Cadet Boys' triumph of 12 months ago. Then it was classed as an unseeded surprise. This time round he was top seed and defeated the rapidly improving David Meads. David himself took the Under 12 boys' title, beating clubmate Mark Simpson in an entertaining final. Claire Wilson just edged out Joanne Meads in the Cadet Girls final, winning the event for the fourth year in a row, and two more Darlington girls fought out the Under 12s with Samantha McCormick beating Sarah Robinson.

On day two Kevin Wilson took the Junior Boys' title with Claire Wilson repeating her win over Joanne Meads to win a first Junior Girls' Singles title. However, it was the senior events that showed how the young players are rapidly bridging the gap with their senior counterparts, Shirley Gelder eventually defeated Kate Vickers in the women's final but was relieved to escape 21-19 in the third against 14-year-old Joanne Meads. Cadet Champion Claire Wilson went one better by taking out 1998 and 1999 champion Nicola Parks. Evidence that the girls are improving quickly – Shirley and co. beware!

Andrew Wilkinson defeated Eddie Smith in straight sets to win the Men's Singles and dropped only one set all day, 9-21, in the quarters to 18-year-old Daniel Welsh! Eddie gained compensation by taking both men's and Mixed Doubles titles with partners Dave Godbold and Kate Vickers with Tony Gelder winning the Veterans Singles and Geoff Salter combining with John Williamson to win the Veterans Doubles.

Durham was unbeaten in the final round of Veteran county matches. At Barnet they defeated Northumberland 5-4, Yorkshire 2nds 5-4 and Oxfordshire 7-2. Tony Gelder was injured but had to play in the final match, replacing a 'disenchanted' (perhaps the most polite way to phrase it) Trevor Di Martino.

The Durham County Primary Schools' festival events are proving hugely popular. The fun based skill test competition has so far seen East Stanley Primary win in Derwentside, St. Godrics Primary win in Durham, and Heathfield Primary succeed in Darlington. More are shortly to follow in Weardale, Bishop Auckland, Sunderland and Sedgefield, and a further three will see ten schools compete on June 30th in the grand final for the Sportsmatch Trophy, which will be attended by the Health Minister Alan Milburn MP who is also MP for Darlington.

Another initiative has been the introduction of the Durham Junior Grand Prix, a series of school-based tournaments. These are proving very popular for young players of all abilities. Backed by Jarvis Sports and Donic, three have so far been staged. Kevin Wilson (junior), Andrew Leighton (Cadet) and David Meads (Under 12) lead the boys' points tables, with Claire Wilson (Cadet & Junior) and Samantha McCormick (Under 12) heading the girls 'events.

It is good to see the growth of table tennis at the Seaburn Club in Sunderland and in more schools. The so far unsuccessful point being the total unwillingness of many local leagues to get involved in the rejuvenation of the sport in Durham county.

The long work in developing interest in schools is paying off with the monopoly of Tudhoe Grange ended at school level. Greencroft School is now the county champions and their rising star Sam Rafferty will play in the national schools at Stoke.

The Durham way is being used in Yorkshire and Northumberland with Andrew Wilkinson and Fabio Mantegazza aiding primary school development projects in Dewsbury and Newcastle. The future for table tennis in Durham has never been so bright and the time for senior players to put something back into their sport is here.

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

UMAIR STEALS THE SHOW

14-year-old Umair Mauthoor stole the show at this year's Essex Closed, played at BATTS over the weekend of 21st/22nd April, by taking six titles and incredibly he came within a whisker of adding the men's Singles crown as well. In a pulsating men's final he finally missed out against that calm, experienced campaigner Dave Cole at 27-25 in the third. Umair left a string of experienced players in his wake – Ray Murray, John Tendler and Matthew Spero on his way to the final, whilst David came past Adrian Davis and Paul Lucas both over three ends.

The 'Silver Fox' Ray Murray (64 years young) rolled back the years to take both Veterans' Singles events beating John King in both finals, and the Mauthoor brothers (Umair and Zayd) annexed the Men's Doubles, beating King/Spero 19-in-the-third in a wildly fluctuating match. Father and son pairing Andrew and Tony Halling put up a magnificent showing in the semi-final before succumbing 23-21 in-the-third to the eventual winners.

Umair did not have it all his own way in the Junior events and Keiran Lally played superbly before losing 22-20 in the third in the U17s final. Daniel Bronziet made his mark by ousting the seeded Matt Staines and Anthony Greenwood whilst Lee Daines beat the higher ranked Tony Halling.

Sadly it cannot be denied that the overall tournament entry of 71 was hugely disappointing whilst an entry of two for the ladies' singles defies belief. It cannot all be blamed on the clashing Vets British League or National Cup Competitions either as not that many Essex players take part in either of those events.

Results were as follows:
Men's Singles: David Cole beat Umair Mauthoor –20, 14, 25; Men's Doubles: Umair Mauthoor/Zayd Mauthoor bt John King/Matthew Spero –8, 17, 19; Mixed Doubles: Albert Francis/Karla Bryant bt Ray Sutton/Cathy Eakin –11, 17, 17; Men's Restricted Singles: Paul Lucas bt Robin Glassberg 18, -19, 19; Team event: (1) Romford (Gary & John Tendler) (2) Ilford (Matthew Spero and Robin Glassberg); Ladies Singles: (1) Karla Bryant (2) Cathy Eakin

O40 Men's Singles: Ray Murray bt John King 15, 17; O50 Men's Singles: Ray Murray bt John King 18, 18

GLOUCESTERSHIRE by Alf Pepperd

Here we are at the end of yet another table tennis season, and in this final edition it has always been my policy to give mention to ALL of the FOUR finals nights that have all been played off.
The Cirencester TTA kicked off on 3rd April at Deer Park School, Cirencester, with the following results:

In the U12 Singles final, Tom Putney beat Scott Smith –13, 6, 5. In the U14 Singles final, Simon Friling beat Tom Putney 16, 17. Division 2 Singles final: Simon Frilling beat Chris Jackson 8, 18. In the Mixed Doubles Final: the holders A. Jarvis/B. Moore were beaten by Rob Goldman and Mishelle Entwistle –15, 16, 21. In the U17 Boys Singles, the holder Mark Jackson beat Simon Frillng 17, 19.

In the Open Doubles final, the holder Charlie Jefferies and Paul Bird were soundly beaten by John Clifford and Barry Duke 13, 13. Mishelle Entwistle retained her Ladies' Singles crown by beating Marianne Willsher 13, 16.

In the final of the Veterans' Singles, Barry Duke overcame Charlie Jefferies to take the title 17, 16.

In the Men's Singles final, Ken Jackson had quite a tussle to gain superiority over Paul Bird, but it was Jackson who eventually ran out as worthy winner 18, 20.

Cheltenham Finals Nights at St. Benedict's School, 6th April 2001

The Mixed Doubles Final was won by Guy Greening and Linda Probert who beat Tony Iles and Stella Davis 10, 15.

In the first half of the Open Singles semi-final, Bill Dawe beat Alan Giles 13, 11. In the second half, Darren Griffin beat Dave Harvey –13, 18, 16. In the Open Singles Final, Griffin beat Dawe 18, 18; Boys U17 Singles Final, Dominic Wynn-Sands beat Harry Shahlaei 13, 17.

Dave Harvey had a great win against Bill Dawe in the Veterans Over 40 event, winning –19, 15, 18. The Open Doubles event went to Bill Dawe/Guy Greening who beat Gordon Shaw/Alan Giles –17, 12, 17.

With both County no. 1 and no. 2 Darren Griffin and Bill Dawe now for the first time playing on a regular basis in Cheltenham, there has been a very welcome injection this season of higher-class play.

Stroud & District Table Tennis League – Finals Night, 6th April 2001, Deer Park School, Cirencester

With this venue at Cirencester, high up in "The Cotswolds", I encountered a flurry of snowflakes en-route of some of the journey, and the venue itself was bitterly cold, nevertheless all of the matches played were most enjoyable to watch and proffered some compensation for the wintry weather.

In the Open Singles Final, Alan Giles beat David Lloyd –20, 13, 19, to capture the title for a record number of 13 times, a feat not likely to be matched for quite some time.

The Ladies Singles Final was won by Mishelle Entwistle - she beat Marianne Willsher 17, 19, this was Miss Entwistle's first Stroud Ladies Championship.

In the Veterans Singles Final, Dave Adamson beat John Fannin 18, -10, 11. This was Adamson's first veteran win.

In the Mixed Doubles Final, M. Entwistle and R. Godman beat the father and daughter combo of Rob and Marianne Willsher 12, 17. We round off with the Open Doubles Final, in which Ian Heskins and Dave Adamson beat Kevin Boalch and Dave Hope –16, 15, 11.

Gloucester City Finals Night, British Energy Headquarters, Barnwood, 24th April 2001

In the semi finals, Darren Griffin beat Roy Morley 21-18, 21-14, while Bill Dawe had quite a tussle with Guy Greening, but eventually ran out the winner 24-22, 17-21, 21-18.

This final was a strong pointer of just how good the defending champion is – Griffin beat Dawe in three straight games 21-17, 21-13, 21-13, to take the Open Singles title for the 15th time. The Ladies Singles Final could be classified as modern youth v veteran age, 11-year-old challenger Stella Davis fought well against her (no. 8 in England) veteran title-holder Judy Morley, but Mrs Morley had far too much experience and ran out easy winner 21-10, 21-10.

The Men's Veteran Singles was contested by Bill Dawe (current holder) and newcomer Guy Greening; Dawe retained his title by beating Greening 21-12, 19-21, 21-13.

A new event this season was the Under 17 Boy's Singles final in which Tom Burdettt beat Steve Gummer 24-22, 18-21, 21-14.

In the Mixed Doubles Final, the holders Darren Griffin and Judy Morley retained their title by beating Guy Greening and Linda Probert 21-8, 21-16.

Once again in the Open Doubles the holders – Darren Griffin and Roy Morley – retained their title with a 23-21, 23-21, narrow win over Bill Dawe and John Fannin.

Bits and Pieces – for the end of the season

I am delighted to report that the Gloucester Association has followed Cheltenham in going on the web, and the address is www.glostabletennis.co.uk. Thanks are due to Trevor Oliver.

HEREFORDSHIRE by Steve Watkins

The new division of the National Junior Table Tennis League in the new Ledbury Leisure Centre has just been completed. 10 teams from Hereford, Ledbury, Malvern and Evesham played on four Saturdays during the season. Hereford A team of Greg Price, Ali Dawson and Joe Davis won with 153 points. Ali won all his games, while Joe and Greg only lost one each. The photograph shows the team, including Nikki Segust and Lauren James, who both played when one of the boys was ill, with Steven Thomas from David Watkins & Co., the local sponsor, during the medal presentation.



They now hope to get promoted to the British Junior League next season. The second team, Malvern A, with 124 points, were Eak Sugkraroek, Matt Lang, Colin Sage, James Clark and David Smith.

The battle for the middle order was very closely fought with only eight points separating positions three to seven. The third place team were Evesham Tigers, with 91 points, only four points ahead of equal fourth place teams of Hereford B and Malvern B. The all girls' team of Nikki Segust, Jessica Davies, Lauren James and Liz Browning playing as Hereford C finished sixth, a further two points behind. This was a most enjoyable event for players and coaches, and plans are in place to run it again next year and also to run an under 14 league. We think we can accommodate up to 14 teams in each league. Enquiries can be made to Steve Watkins on 07970 952364.

Greg wins at last

In the Herefordshire Junior Championships, 13-year-old Greg Price achieved one of his life goals. After four years of effort he beat the current no. 1 junior Ali Dawson 21-14, 22-20 and no. 2 junior Joe Davies for the first time 21-18, 21-18, to become the number 1 ranked junior in the county. He has achieved this by putting in many hours of practice and competing in competition both in Herefordshire and in other parts of England and Wales. Part of his training has involved travelling to the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall where he has had coaching from Des Douglas and Ian Marshall, accompanied by his younger brother Josh, aged 10. This comes in a week when he played in Division One of the Hereford Table Tennis League and won all his three matches for the first time against senior players.

Another good performance in the junior championships came from Lauren James, 10, who beat the current no. 2 junior girl Jessica Davies 19-21, 21-16, 21-18, and two other players, ranked above her. In the Herefordshire county championship finals on Friday 16th March at Whitecross School she lost to Nikki Segust (county ranked no. 1 girl) for the U17 girls' title and became U12 champion when she beat Mike Powell.

Greg Price played again on finals night where Ali Dawson gained revenge and beat him in the U17 final. This match was a close three setter and had all the spectators watching it. After the match some of the senior players were heard to say "At last we have some juniors who are worth playing against" and several have now offered their services as practise partners. Greg then beat Nick Wilson for the U14 prize.

Other titles decided were the Junior Mixed Doubles, where Jessica Davies/Greg Price bt Nikki Segust/Ali Dawson 21-17, 15-21, 21-18 and the U17 Boys' Doubles where Ali Dawson/Greg Price bt Joe Davies/Nick Wilson 21-8, 21-17.

The junior county ranking is now:
Junior Boys: 1. Greg Price 2. Ali Dawson 3. Joe Davies 4. Allen Spencer 5. Nick Wilson
Junior Girls: 1. Nikki Segust 2. Lauren James 3. Jessica Price 4. Liz Browning
Cadet Girls: 1. Lauren James 2. Jessica Davies; Cadet Boys: 1. Greg Price 2. Allen Spencer 3. Nick Wilson 4. Lewis Michael 5. Robert Powell.

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Prean

Danny Burns took our 'Closed' title as well as our 'Masters' (Top 16) the latter for the 6th time and he is only 21!

There was little opposition to Lucy Pointer in the Ladies. The shortage is more acute than ever.

That topic takes me on to our County Championship experience. My old friend Stan Clarke writes (April issue) that we found promotion to Division One a little too much to handle. He cites, in evidence, that we had only won 14 sets in our first five matches and that Carl had contributed 10 of these. In fact, Carl had only won 6, and the title for the season comprised of 24 sets won of which Carl had won 10.

There were two main differences in this season's campaign and last season's winning one. We had then more than our fair share of luck, a factor I duly noted, whilst this season we had less. More importantly, we lost our no. 2 lady and so lost every set in that department. One could argue that this more than nullified Carl's presence, since he can't always play due to his professional commitments in Germany.

I commented on the line-ups of county teams more than 20 years ago. It seemed strange that a recorded amount of 7% membership of women should fill 40% of the places in a county team. I have nothing but admiration for the ladies who go gallantly to their death match after match and we owe them nothing but gratitude for taking their place, so that we are not short and make things even worse. C'est magnifique, but is it table tennis? or has the usual mixture of conservatism and wishful thinking blinded us to the obvious conclusions?

At least we shall have a county team again next time, since the sceptre of compulsory sardine-type weekends has been banished for another year, hopefully longer. We had already decided to withdraw, but are now able to unpack our county shirts again to try for another promotion season.

Of particular interest to us is the news via Chairman Ransome and John Woodford, two of the most important men in the sport in England, that there will be no more late nights in concluding our tournaments. Apparently the "English National Championships" were a victim of this practice. I do, of course, recall the pleasures of returning home at 4 or even 5 in the morning after junior tournaments. If more sensible practices succeed after decades of the opposite, a lot more players will turn out, maybe even the top ones, for the "Grand Prix" events. Until then, such tournaments will remain largely a hunting ground for the 'banded' players to whom the perverse scheduling accords a better break that it does for the 'stars' whom we cheerfully send down the motorways after midnight till most vote with their feet. So "Grand Prix" becomes "petit prix" not only in prize money but organisation, presentation and sheer spectator appeal.

I shall remind those involved of their promises next season. Until then, have a good summer.

KENT by Adrian Hall

The Kent junior 1st side must rebuild after a lengthy spell in the Premier Division of the County Championship came to an end at Grantham. The juniors are going through a transition stage at the moment with no likely candidates to replace the international junior boys that have graced the Kent side over the past few years. Our young girl players are however showing well in the national Under 14 and U12 ranking lists but are not yet strong enough to win regularly at U17 level.

Cheshire 7 – Kent 3; Dominic Hall (1), John Harley (1), Aaron Chapman (1), Joanne Hubbard (0), Hazel Clucas (0)

Kent 2 – Surrey 8; Dominic Hall (1), John Harley (1), Aaron Chapman (0), Joanne Hubbard (0), Hazel Clucas (0)
Kent 6 – Middlesex 4; Dominic Hall (2), John Harley (1), Aaron Chapman (1), Joanne Hubbard (1), Hazel Clucas (1)
Glamorgan 9 – Kent 1; Dominic Hall (0), John Harley (0), Aaron Chapman (0), Joanne Hubbard (1), Hazel Clucas (0)

Seniors 4th

The Kent senior 1st side finished their Premiership campaign in fourth place behind new champions Yorkshire.

Hertfordshire 2 – Kent 8; Justin Goodall (2), Mark Brown (2), Joe Kennedy (2), Angie Bristow (0), Helen Garlick (2)
Kent 3 – Yorkshire 7; Justin Goodall (0), Mark Brown (1), Joe Kennedy (1), Angie Bristow (0), Helen Garlick (1)
Surrey 2 – Kent 8; Justin Goodall (2), Mark Brown (2), Stephen Beerling (2), Angie Bristow (2), Helen Garlick (0)
Kent 1 – Sussex 9; Justin Goodall (1), Joe Kennedy (0), Stephen Beerling (0), Angie Bristow (0), Helen Garlick (0)

Gray and Seneviratne Ashford Champions

12-year-old Anusha Seneviratne just won the Ladies Singles, beating 16-year-old Michelle Hogben 22-20, 18-21, 23-21, but not quite as close in the Men's Singles where Diccon Gray had a comfortable 21-9, 21-12 win over Keith Yarnley.

Men's Singles Final: Diccon Gray bt Keith Yarnley 21-9, 21-12; Ladies Singles: Anusha Seneviratne bt Michelle Hogben 22-20, 18-21, 23-21; Men's Doubles: Diccon Gray/Jeremy Harrington bt Keith Yarnley/Alan Provan 21-19, 19-21, 23-21; Mixed Doubles: Keith Yarnley/Anusha Seneviratne bt Mike Jones/Denis Glenister 21-19, 21-17; Ladies Doubles: Lisa Hogben/Gina Rogers bt Denise Glenister/Leigh Hastie 21-15, 21-18; Veterans' Singles: Chris Laming beat Bob Brundenell 22-20, 21-18; U17 Boys' Singles: William Harrington bt Luke Wilkinson 21-12, 21-6; U17 Girls' Singles: Gina Rogers bt Michelle Hogben 21-13, 16-21, 22-20.

LANCASHIRE by Tony Meredith

Preston Closed Championships

Veteran Bill Ingram became open singles champion for the first time, defeating former champion Tony Rigby in the final. Ingram was unlucky not to have completed the double when partnered by Mick Seed they lost out deuce in the third to Dean Walmsley and Paul Robinson in the open doubles final. Barry Crook Snr. took the vets title for the second time beating the unlucky Tony Rigby in straight games. Daniel Martindale retained his junior crown over Ian Castle. Other results: Division One Singles: Don Melling bt Stuart Norcross, Division Two Singles, Paul Mason bt Ian Castle.
Handicap Singles, Paul Robinson bt Andrew Michnoviac.

Lytham St. Anne's Closed Championships

Reigning open singles champion Dave Marsland was surprisingly beaten in the quarters by the evergreen Keith Bailey. Les Richmond took the title by defeating former champion Brian Oldfield in the semi and another former winner Marcus Judge in the final. Oldfield & Marsland took some consolation when they retained their open doubles title over Judge & Willie Fluss. Gary Keenan came through to defeat Danny Bolton in the junior final and Brian Oldfield retained his veterans title when defeating Peter Seddon in straight games. Other results: Handicap Singles: Chris Whitmore bt Adam Ball, Handicap Doubles, James Ainsley & Stuart Keech bt Joel Harris & Whitmore.

Dennis Smith Memorial Trophy

LBH took their place in the final by way of a 5-1 victory over Lancaster & Morecambe whilst Liverpool were 5 nil conquerors of Wirral. This set up a repeat of last season's final, and on paper it would have appeared to be a one sided affair. The opening set, however, probably decided the outcome of the match. Bob Edwards had his chances to take Keith Williams in straight games and even in the deciding game he had a comfortable lead. All credit to Williams who upped a gear when he needed to – you might say the mark of a class player. Had Edwards taken the opening set the score would have been 4 all with the deciding set Edwards versus Peter Lee (a very interesting finish). As it was Liverpool won the match 5-3 with Williams and Mike Mahoney both unbeaten.

Norman Cook Memorial Trophy

Liverpool accounted for Lancaster & Morecambe in the semi-final 5-2 and, strangely, dropping both doubles events. Halton beat a very strong Bolton side 5-1 to take their place in the final. Halton were really no match for mighty Liverpool in the final. They did very well to take two sets. Mal McEvoy beat John Rankin and the much-improved Katy Ingham beat Brenda Buoey in the ladies' singles. Kevin Dolder and Paul Hutchings were both unbeaten for the 5-2 winners.

Lancashire & Cheshire League

Liverpool retained the mens premier title with wins over Bury 9-1, Mid-Cheshire 10 nil walkover, Macclesfield 10 nil walkover, Manchester 10 nil and Bolton 9-1. Mid-Cheshire were runners-up having beaten Bury 10 nil. Having beaten nearest rivals Lancaster & Morecambe 7-3, Oldham took the one north title. Larry Bainbridge was the star man with wins over the Dixons and Paul Stebbing. Stockport's victories over Trafford 8-2 and Ellesmere Port 7-3 gave them the one south championship. Halton were runners-up after wins against Mid-Cheshire "A" 8-2 and Ellesmere Port 6-4 with Mal McEvoy the mainstay. Warrington won mens two after a 10 nil victory at Hyndburn with Barrow runners-up after defeating Hyndburn 9-1 and receiving a 10 nil walkover against Manchester "A".

Mighty Liverpool retained the ladies title. They hammered Manchester 9-1 but didn't have it all their own way at Wirral. The result was 6-4 to Liverpool but Wirral almost pinched a point – Terri-Anne Nolan going down 19 in the third to Sue Burgess. Oldham were runners-up with wins over Halton 6-4 and a 10 nil walkover against Blackpool.

Southport were the worthy winners of the junior premier division even though they suffered a 10 nil defeat at the hands of Wirral. Salford & Farnworth did Southport a favour when they beat Wirral 7-3 to clinch the runners-up spot. The junior one division was won by Manchester.

The vets premier trophy will have a new name engraved on it for the first time since the inception of the competition. Liverpool unlocked Stockport's twelve-year stranglehold on the title. Stockport had to settle for second best. Macclesfield managed to win the vets one title. Wirral were surprise runners-up.

NORFOLK by Graham Rogerson

Norfolk County Table Tennis Championships

Norfolk held its annual Table Tennis Championships at the Robertson Barracks, Swanton Morley, for the second year running, and once again it proved to be a resounding success. The junior events were held on Saturday and as expected Lauren Spink dominated the girls' competition, winning all five events she entered. She took the under 12, 14 and 17 girls' singles titles and teamed up with Sarah Durrant to take the girls' doubles, then added the mixed doubles with Ben Metcalf.

As well as winning the doubles with Lauren, Sarah Durrant reached two other finals; runner-up in the mixed doubles with Chris Durrant and in the under 14 singles.

Hayley Jessop also had a good day, reaching the under 17 girls' singles final, and the girls' doubles final with Emma Watts.

The girls' under 12s was played as a round robin with Lauren Spink winning the title, and Kerry King taking the runner-up trophy.

William Shutes and Ben Metcalf shared the honours in the boys' events with William winning the under 17 singles, Ben the mixed doubles with Lauren and then the two teamed up to win the boys' doubles. Philip Dorrington was highly fancied to do well, but had to settle for the runners-up spot in the under 17s and also in the boys doubles with Stephen Shaw.

Chris Durrant also did well, in addition to the runners-up spot he claimed with sister Sarah in the mixed doubles, he took the runners-up trophy in the under 12 boys' singles.

Sam Shaw took the under 12s title, becoming the first winner of the new trophy for the under 12 boys, which was presented in memory of David Curtis who sadly died last year. David's father, Ernie, very kindly presented both this and all the other junior trophies.

The under 14s was keenly contested, with Andrew Gale doing well to reach the final, but was unable to prevent Martyn Cook from taking the title.

On Sunday it was the turn of the seniors and veterans to take centre stage. Kim Chambers was the star of the ladies' events, beating Lauren Spink in the singles final and teaming up with Russell King to take the mixed doubles. Surprisingly though in the ladies' doubles she and Sue Allen, who had taken the title in the previous five years, were beaten by Julie Horstead and Lauren Spink. Their post match comment was "at least we haven't got to clean that trophy again this year".

Julie Horstead also did well in the mixed doubles, in partnership with Doug Bennett they only just lost a close three-ender to Chambers and King.

In the men's events, Russell King was in great form, beating Mats Olson in the seniors, David Henderson in the veterans and teaming up with Kim Chambers to win the mixed doubles. He and partner Sean Molloy were also top seeds in the men's doubles, but went out in the second round to Doug Bennett and Paul Livermore, mind at least they did better than the second seeds, Mats Olson and Ben Thompson who went out in the first round to Alan Clitheroe and Mark Wortley. Clitheroe and Wortley went on to beat Bennett and Livermore in the final. The ladies veterans was won by Mary Sawyer who beat Sue Allen in the final and the plate competition went to Richard Franklin who just edged out Ben Metcalf 21-19 third end.

A special award, the Victor Ludorum, is made each year for the best overall performance in the championships. Strong contenders were Kim Chambers, with two titles and a runner-up, Russell King with three titles, however it was felt that the award this year should go to Lauren Spink for her six titles and two runner-ups.

This was an excellent weekend's table tennis and thanks must go to all organising team, especially Margaret and Dennis Calver, and to the Robertson Barracks for allowing us to use their excellent facilities. In addition, the event would not have taken place without generous sponsorship from Norwich City Council, Broadland District Council, Amoco UK, STS Stapleton's Tyre Services, Palgrave Importers and Distributors and an anonymous donor.

NORTHANTS by Dennis Millman

Tim Yarnall became the youngest winner of the Northants Men's Singles title when he gained an easy win over Ryan Keates at Wellingborough's Glamis Hall.

The 13-year-old, who is currently ranked England no. 2 at Cadet level, remained focused throughout to display both ability and maturity as he successfully countered Keates' sporadic attacks before launching devastating forays into his own.

Though Keates had enjoyed an easy path to the final, Yarnall had twice been put under pressure – first by his brother Greg and then at the semi-final stage by Richard Elliott, who took the second end 21-10 before the Rushden player regained control in the later stages of the decider.

On the day, the main title beneficiaries came from opposite ends of the age spectrum with Yarnall bringing his tally to four with the Junior Boys Singles, the under 14 singles, and the Junior Doubles in tandem with brother Greg. Robert Williams provided talented opposition at junior level but finally had to admit defeat in both Under 17 events and like his partner Michael Clarke had to be content with three runners-up trophies.

At the other end of the age range Bill Fletcher continued a successful run that brought four titles at Over 50 and Over 60 levels and raised his total to 16 in six years, including six in succession in the Over 60 Singles. Alan Ashberry pushed him hard in the Over 50 events but Fletcher, mixing punishing attack with astute defence, came through with flying colours.

Seven of the 31 titles were retained – three of these by the Yarnall contingent and a fourth by Fletcher. Lee O'Boyle was responsible for a fifth when he held on to the Rod Marchant Memorial Trophy. O'Boyle, partnered by Chris Robertson, also came out on top in the Class One Doubles.

In the Ladies events the titles were well distributed with Clem Little holding on to the veteran singles – again at the expense of Janet Wright, while Little and Viv Smiley took the women's doubles for the third time in four years.

In the singles the main honour went to Helen Watts who accounted for Wright in the closest game on finals night, while Wright also ended on the losing side in the mixed doubles when she and Gerald Finney went down to Richard Elliott and Muriel Cox, with the former getting a first ever win as Cox registered her sixth.

As with the ladies so with the junior girls, where an excellent entry produced some hard-fought encounters – particularly in Under 14 events where the proposed new scoring system was used for the first time. Sarah Hollis and Kate Mansfield twice ended on the winners' rostrum, with Katy Armstrong, Melissa Price and Shonah Keeling all winning once.

Juniors from the flourishing Corby Danesholme Club also gained major awards. Liam Regan took the Class Four Singles, younger brother Matthew landed the under 12s plus the parallel doubles partnered by Peter Hill. Alex Dickson, not to be outdone, dismissed three of the top four seeds on his way to victory in the Junior Classified event.

Although former champion Keiron Dabbs was unable to halt the Tim Yarnall charge when they met in the Premier event, his tournament experience stood him in good stead in the corresponding doubles when he and Ray Kingston eased through against Elliott and Steve Brown before proving too consistent for Keates and Steve Silk in the final.

Chris Gibbons also had much to celebrate as he completed a 'grand slam' of veteran singles, for having proved successful at Wellingborough, Northampton and Kettering, he added the county title with a convincing win over Gordon Shaw.

Not to be entirely outdone, Shaw teamed up with his old adversary Steve Brown to take the veteran doubles with some superb defending proving too good for the attacking flair of Kingston and Gary Webb.

Dickson Pang and Ben Starmer in the Under 14 Doubles, Dannel Pang, Viv Smiley and Rob Warrander in the Class One, Two and Three Singles respectively can also look back on a successful tournament. So too can tournament organiser Arthur Palmer and his enthusiastic band of assistants, while at the same time looking forward to 23rd -25th March 2002, when the County Closed Tournament will celebrate its golden jubilee.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

Both the WENADE (UK) County Senior and Veterans' teams maintained their positions in Division 1A following their second series of matches at Walsall and Barnet respectively. The senior team of Eddie Smith, Andrew Wilkinson, Dave Godbold, Caron Guthrie and Karen Newby lost 3-7 to Lancashire and 2-8 to Leicestershire, but recovered well to beat South Yorkshire 7-3 and Nottinghamshire 6-4, finally finishing in third place.

The veterans' team of "Benny" Robertson, Geoff Salter, Malcolm Lusk, Rob Dodds and Pauline Long ended up fifth after narrowly losing 4-5 to both Durham and Norfolk, but

inflicting a 6-3 defeat on champions Yorkshire I – their only loss of the competition.

A much changed WENADE (UK) Northumbria League men's team representative side of Dave Godbold, Geoff Salter and Tony Gelder – Eddie Smith and Andrew Wilkinson were unavailable – reached the next stage of the Wilmott Cup at Middlesbrough by beating the Hull and Middlesbrough sides 5-3 in each case. The winter league season has now been completed, and details of winners and runners-up are as follows.

Premier Division
Winners: Birtley SC 'A'
Runners-up: St. Gabriel's
Division 1
Winners: Washington 'B'
Runners-up: St. Jude's
Division 2
Winners: Cramlington Stingers
Runners-up: Cramlington Codgers
Division3
Winners: Cramlington Tigers
Runners-up: LJILJAN
Division 4
Winners: Cramlington Rejects
Runners-up: N North Shields YMCA 'J'

The three Cramlington teams thus achieved a notable winning treble, with a fourth team as runners-up. There will be further success in the Team Handicap Knock-out Cup Competition, as the final was due to be played between the Tigers and the Rejects. In the semi-finals, Tigers beat Philips Components 5-0 and Rejects beat Stingers 5-3.

Cramlington High School even provided the venue for this year's County Closed Tournament on 7th April after other venues originally arranged had become unavailable for various reasons. Our grateful thanks go to Alan Hedley for this arrangement and also to Aubrey Drapkin as Referee who did a sterling job at the control desk during the day.

A total of 48 men and an extremely disappointing entry of only 3 women contested the competition. In the absence of Andrew Wilkinson – who was taking part in and winning the National Inland Revenue Championships men's singles event at Nottingham University – Dave Godbold (Birtley) took his first ever Open Singles title with a most enthralling 23-21 in the third win over Eddie Smith (Birtley). Eddie gained partial consolation, however, by teaming up with Dave to win the open doubles against Malcolm Lusk and Keith Patterson (North Shields YM), and also won the handicap singles event from a scratch position for what is probably a record sixth time.

It was also a pleasure for me to umpire a most sporting junior singles final between Cramlington's Kevin Wilson and David Graham, which Kevin eventually won 21-15 in the third game. David gained partial consolation by taking the cadet singles title over another Cramlington youngster, Adam McCormack.

Other Results

Women's Singles:
Winner: Pauline Long (DSS), runner-up: Gail Curry (Oakfield College)
Veterans' Singles:
Winners: Malcolm Lusk, runner-up: John Williamson (Washington)
Handicap Singles: Eddie Smith, runner-up: Alan Hedley (Cramlington)
Band 1 Singles:
Winner: Steve Penman (N. Shields YM), runner-up: Frank Lasek (Cramlington)
Band 2 Singles:
Winner: Mike Daniels (Cramlington), runner-up: Richard Ingham (Cramlington)
Band 3 Singles:
Winner: Steve Ralph (Cramlington), runner-up: Mark Allinson (Cramlington)
Consolation Singles:
Winner: Gary Sangster (Birtley), runner-up: John Williamson

The Summer League was due to commence on 14th May.

OXFORDSHIRE by Avril Haynes

Oxon Juniors Win Title

County Championships

Kent (3) 0 Oxfordshire 10
Oxfordshire went to Tunbridge Wells to record their sixth win out of six.

Northants (2) 3 Oxfordshire 7
Oxfordshire juniors completed a magnificent season with their 7th win to win the Division 3D of the County Championships for the first time in 12 years. Alex Childs and Joanne O'Donovan both won two singles each well backed up by Greg Boone, Sam Harrison and John Camilleri with one singles each.

Senior
Oxfordshire 7 Berkshire (2) 3
Jeremy Flint and Tamar Seymour both won two good singles each, with Karl Bushell, Andrew Flint and Jackie Burgess all winning one singles each to complete the victory.

Oxfordshire 6 Kent (3) 4
Tamar Seymour once again starred for Oxfordshire with two singles wins.

Veterans
Sussex (4) 5 Oxfordshire (2) 4
Oxfordshire travelled to Hove and lost a tight match. Neil Hurford won two singles.

Oxfordshire (2) 4 Hampshire (4) 5
Oxfordshire lost another close match with George Pullin and Neil Hurford both playing well to win two singles each.

Berkshire (5) 4 Oxfordshire (3) 5
Oxfordshire won a tight match at the Kingfisher Centre with Chris Lansley playing well to win two singles and the mixed doubles with Anne Borrowdale who also won a good singles. Tony Wheeler completed the victory with a singles win.

Junior County Championships
Greg Wins Two Titles

The Oxfordshire Junior Closed County Tournament was held at the Innogy Power Station Sports Hall in Didcot at the end of March. The standard of play was very encouraging. The most exciting match was between Greg Boone and Sam Harrison, when Greg Boone just edged home in the third game.

Results

Under 12 Boys' Final: Daniel Bennett (Banbury) bt Adam Wells (Oxford) 16-21, 21-13, 21-11; Under 12 Girls' Final; Laurel Christer (Witney) bt Laura Gubbins (Witney) 21-7, 21-8; Under 12 Doubles Final; Adam Wells/Mathew Beahan (Oxford) bt Daniel Bennett/Neil Jethwa (Banbury) 21-11, 21-16; Cadet Boys Final: Greg Boone (Oxford\) bt Sam Harrison (Oxford) 14-21, 21-12, 24-22; Cadet Girls Final: Laurel Christer (Witney) bt Laura Gubbins (Witney) 21-3, 21-5;
Junior Boys' Final: Greg Boone (Oxford) bt Graham Pike (Didcot) 21-9, 21-13; Junior Girls' Final: Alexandra Childs (Banbury) bt Joanne O'Donvan (Oxford) 21-18, 21-13; Junior Girls' Doubles: Paul Guest (Oxford)/Mathew Davies (Didcot) bt Luke Abolins (Didcot)/Alexandra Childs (Banbury) 21-13, 21-19

Midland League

Veterans
Oxford 5 Leamington (C) 5
At one stage Oxford were leading 5-1 when Leamington came storming back to win the last four sets. Tony Wheeler and Nigel Taylor both had two good singles wins with Ian Arnold winning one singles.

Seniors
Oxford 9 Nuneaton 1

Oxford won this match which was much closer then the score suggests, when eight of the sets needed three games. Karl Bushell and Mark Newns won three singles each.

Sutton Courtenay Tournament

The Ian Packford Invitation Tournament was sponsored by the Oxford Fireplace

Centre. The 12 players were divided into two groups on a round-robin basis.

In the semi-finals Gary Baldwin beat Ian Packford and Eddie Roofe beat Andy Packford. The final was a good match with both Eddie Roofe and Gary Baldwin winning two games each to warrant a fifth game. Gary Baldwin went into the lead but Eddie Roofe came back to ensure he won the title.

SHROPSHIRE by Terry Ridgway

Shrewsbury's top guns of county no. 1 Darrell Corfield, town singles champion Rob Mansfield, Matt Croft, Dean Pountney, Gary Thompson, Alistair Corfield, Wally Jones and John Bebbington retained their trophy in the Midland Bank sponsored Shropshire inter-league, but the real honours must go to the Bridgnorth Club who have only 16 registered players and have competed well against the select sides of the other large leagues. Mike Dudley of Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury's Gary Thompson were the only unbeaten players with 8/8 averages.

Telford Handicap League Cup

Bridgnorth 'A' from the Telford League's first division secured the handicap cup for the season in a very tight and exciting final at the Albrighton Club, over opponents Matheson's 'D' from Division Three.

Ludlow & Leominster

On a domestic level, the foot and mouth disease caused major problems for the Ludlow & Leominster League. Victory House have been confirmed as champions with Leominster Limas in second place.

Oswestry New Champion

In the Oswestry League, Kinnerley 'A' are the new champions of Division 1, for the first time, after a final match win of the season over SOH 'B' by 7-3. Ian Johnston put up resistance to the champions by taking his three games for the SOH side, but the Kinnerley team of Brian Bevan, Vic Wedge, Dave Hunt and Chris Morris wrapped up the remaining seven games for the victory. This left last season's champions of SOH 'A' with too much to do in their final game to retain their title.

Oswestry Junior Championships

Last week's Junior Championships in Oswestry saw some new rising stars of the future. Alan Bevan won the Under 12's, Under 14's and was runner-up in the Under 16's, and still only 11. Jamie Hunt gave Alan some stiff competition in both the under 12's and 14's and is another fine prospect for the future. However, in the Under 16's the experience of Murray Drennan was just too much for young Alan, who went down in straight sets.

Shropshire Juniors Win Title

Shropshire's promising junior squad triumphed in their final round of group matches to win the Division 3C title at the weekend. Chris Gregory won his four matches comfortably despite an injured arm. Shrewsbury's Edward Moran also remained unbeaten and finished the season with a 14/14 average. Jane Easley and 13-year-old Tom Gregory picked up crucial victories in the important top of the table clash with Devon 2nd Squad to register a 6-4 win, having won the game against Devon 3rds 8-2.

Michelle Tarr, Duncan Patterson and Ashley Nicholls had an outstanding weekend and helped Shropshire 2nd squad to their first win of the season, with a 7-3 victory over Devon's third squad.

Telford League

Albrighton 'B' won the top division by a six-point difference. Congratulations to Malcolm Langford, Terry Jones and Graham Ward.

Bronze Medal for Shropshire Cadet

Despite an injury to his playing left arm, Shifnal's Chris Gregory, currently Shropshire's no. 1 junior table tennis player, secured the bronze medal at the recent National Cadet Masters. Playing with great composure and determination, Chris managed 10 wins out of 13 in the final group stages.

Chris is the only Shropshire player to ever win a national master medal at junior, cadet or senior level. English table tennis legend Desmond Douglas and former county No. 1 Malcolm Green are currently coaching Chris at the Idsall School in Shifnal and feel that the promising junior will realise his full potential and play for England in the near future.

SOMERSET by Martin Rumary

The local calendar becomes fairly crowded during March and April due to local league and county championships filling up the spare weekends.

The Bridgwater League held their competition a little while ago and Ed Martin successfully held onto this title against Mike Tarr in a very close final.

Ed and partner Colin Allsopp overcame Dave Yarde and Mike Tarr for their third consecutive title while Naomi Wilson took the ladies singles.

Mike Tarr conceded a walkover to Dave Yarde in the veterans event but did win one title along with Wendy Payne in the mixed.

The junior events saw Claire Howe beat Carly Roper in both the Under 12 and Under 14 girls while Aaron Denman retained the Under 14 boys title.

Gareth Duddridge and Phil Tillotson, the county numbers one and two, fought out the junior boys' singles with Gareth coming through fairly comfortably.

The success of the day was, as usual, largely due to the efforts of organiser Roger Palfrey.

Yeovil's closed had a major senior champion in Daniel Strutt who won a 'tense' encounter with Mike Tarr from 19-14 down in the third.

Tony Brown linked up with Daniel for the doubles to defeat Dave Yarde and Alan Stone, while Phil Tillotson gained revenge over Gareth Duddridge for his loss at Bridgwater to retain the junior singles.

Louise Troke won the ladies' singles title for the second time, and Mike Tarr collected another runners-up trophy in the veterans, losing out to John Crabtree

Bridgwater

Premier Singles: Ed Martin bt Mike Tarr 21-18, 18-21, 22-20; Division 1 Singles: Dave Wilcox bt Wendy Pryce 21-9, 21-10; Ladies' Singles: Naomi Wilson bt Wendy Pryce 21-15, 21-14; Veterans' Singles: Dave Yarde w/o Mike Tarr; Open Doubles: E. Martin/C. Allsopp bt D. Yarde/M. Tarr 22-20, 23-21; Mixed Doubles: W. Pryce/M. Tarr bt N. Wilson/M. Sealey 21-11, 21-18; U12 Girls: Claire Howe bt Carly Roper 21-18, 21-12; U12 Boys: Aaron Denman bt Dan Markey 21-14, 21-10; U14 Girls: Claire Howe bt Carly Roper 21-9, 21-14; U17 Boys: Gareth Duddridge bt Phil Tillotson 21-12, 21-7; Junior Doubles: G. Duddridge/M. Jenkins bt N. Wilson/P. Tillotson 21-11, 21-14

Yeovil

Open Singles: Daniel Strutt bt Mike Tarr 21-18, 19-21, 22-20; Division 1 Singles: Phil Tillotson bt Gareth Duddridge 22-20, 21-10; Ladies Singles: Louise Troke bt Jean Watson 21-13, 18-21, 23-21; Junior Singles: Phil Tillotson bt Gareth Duddridge 19-21, 21-17, 21-13; Steve Hayman Singles: John Crabtree bt Mike Tarr 21-17, 21-16; Open Doubles: T Brown/D Strutt bt D Yarde/A Stone 21-16, 21-15; 'Pot-Luck' Doubles: Gareth Duddridge/John Watson bt P Tillotson/Jean Watson 21-13, 21-15

In the county matches, Gareth Duddridge's two wins failed to get the juniors a win at home over Hereford. The seniors lost at home as well, despite two from Naomi Wilson including an impressive victory over Kate Hughes, and a first county win for Richard Jones.

Seniors

Somerset 3 (M. Hurley 0, R. Jones 1, D. Strutt 0, C. Cowell 0, N Wilson 0)
Worcs 2 7

Juniors
Somerset 4 (G. Duddridge 2, P. Tillotson 1, R Fortune 1, C. Howe 0, C. Roper 0); Hereford 6

At the recent Derby Junior Tournament, Kate Steward had a great win over Katy Parker of England in the quarters before going out to Natalie Bawden.

Naomi Wilson similarly had a good time at the Bath Grand Prix, winning the band 2 women's singles after beating number one seed, Judy Morley.

SUFFOLK by Andrew Dosher

With the end of the season in sight, local tournaments are in full swing. At the Ipswich championships defending men's champion Andrew Dosher lost in the quarters to Ian Brown, in what was a disappointing game by his standards, though Ian as reported last month is back on track.

Richard Hutchinson was the eventual winner, though was made to work very hard in particular by his friend Richard Ingle (scratch entry on the day) in the very first round, who just went down at 18 in the third. In the semis twice finalist Tim Avis pushed Hutchinson to 16 in the third, while Brown accounted for Charles Fulcher 16 & 16. Hutchinson was rampant in the final, winning comfortably 15 & 13 to take the title yet again.

Rebecca Sparkes won the women's without breaking into a sweat. Locally, only Claire Lowe is in the same league, but owing to studies wasn't interested in competing. Sparkes' final opponent was the talented Vicky Gray who earlier had beaten Clare Emmerson.

Former top premier player Nigel Hodder made a return to these championships, winning the division one and restricted events, in both cases beating Kenny Lewis in the final.

Andrew Holmes retained his veterans title, beating all comers, only Brown getting close. Dosher and Fulcher won the men's doubles for the third time on the trot, while Sparkes did the treble taking out the women's doubles and mixed to go with her singles title.

The Britannia Club held their annual tournament, open to members – there were six titles up for grabs. In the men's singles there were groups initially. The only seeding shock was that of Ian Brown losing to Ken Lewis. This meant that Brown, seeded 2, had to play no. 1 seed Dosher in the first round proper. A little out of sorts, Brown went down easily.

Dosher went on to win the title over Andrew Holmes in two sets, but was given his hardest test by Rex Manning in the semis, who led in the third before losing at 18. Aimee Sparkes won the women's singles final in two sets over Sonja Talbot. Talbot was overwhelmed in the first, but in a close second just went down at 19.

The handicap singles produced many good games. In the final Dosher won in three sets, Ian Brown played somewhat better than earlier, taking the second set but going down to some power hitting in the third end.

Brown won the veterans event, avenging his earlier defeat by Lewis in three, while Lewis went on to win the restricted over Paul Broxton in the final.

While Britannia Eagles have won the premiership of the Ipswich & District League, their wins over rivals Claydon A & St. Margarates 8-2 and 7-3 respectively, gave them a winning edge and with the clinching win over BT Wulfs 7-3, the title stays at Suffolk's Premier Club.

Against Claydon, both Dosher and Fulcher beat Michael Wright at deuce in the third, and two other games could have gone Claydon's way. St. Margaret's had Richard Hutchinson suffering with flu, so he was below par as Fulcher enjoyed and deserved a rare win over the newly crowned Ipswich champion.

The squad of Charles Fulcher, Andrew Dosher, Claire Lowe, Rex Manning and Keiran Hills has done well what with players' injuries and studying, Manning in particular has done very well, and has averaged around two games a night over the season.

A new table tennis club has emerged (always good news) at Washbrook, near Ipswich, and is being run by Premier player Jimmy Farrow. This will incorporate coaching. For details please contact him on 01473 730474.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

Ritchie Venner, now 35, is after Roger Chandler's record of nine Sussex men's singles titles. On 1st April at the Horsham Club, Venner as the defending champion landed his eighth crown with a final round revenge defeat for Mayur Majithia 19, 10.

Influenza took its toll – Adrian Moore, the second seed, and Andy Walker were not fit enough to play – Majithia took the Crawley crown from Venner a few weeks ago.

Rose Rainton must surely regain her county no. 1 ranking after winning the women's singles title for the fifth time with a final round victory 14, 9 against Teresa Bennett who won the title on three previous occasions.

The biggest shock of the day went to Martin Chinn (Hastings), ranked no. 424 on the England men's ranking list – he triumphed over England no. 24 and Sussex no. 1 veteran Terry Haley.

This put Haley in the bottom second stage group away from Venner, but there he lost to Peter Bartram, who subsequently was brought down by Paul Elphick 20, 17.

At the second session of the county senior/premier championships Sussex finished second, one point behind winners Yorkshire. Venner was top scorer, losing only to Jason Sugrue.

Sussex veterans have clinched promotion to the premier division of the county championships with victories over Wiltshire, Kent, Avon and Hampshire, at New Malden. Top scorer was Terry Haley with seven wins and only one defeat.

Carol Beames, the Sussex National Councillor, is currently holder of the Ivor Montagu Award for services to the sport, especially development in Sussex. Her huge contributions were rewarded by an invitation on 29th March to sip champagne with the Queen, when Her Majesty came to Brighton to cover a number of engagements.

Another Sussex lady whose services to the sport, mainly in the Worthing area, have been acknowledged, is Lilian Rymill, over the last 52 years.

She was the recent recipient of the Albert Saunders Award – part of the Worthing Sports Awards, presented by Worthing Sports Council. She started the Goring TTC in 1949 and is still going strong.

WARWICKSHIRE by Caroline Williams

Results of the Birmingham Closed held on 25th February 2001, runners-up in brackets:

Men's Singles: Ian Ferguson (Mark Read) losing semi-finalists: Leigh Bradford, Michael Browne; Women's Singles – Helen Turner (Sarah Riach), losing semi-finalists: Ann Lloyd, Nikki Leeder, Men's Doubles: Ian Ferguson/Andy Hare (Mark Read/Michael Browne); Women's Doubles: Sarah Riach/Ann Lloyd (Catherine Smith/Helen Turner); Veterans' Singles: Michael Browne (Chris Leach); Mixed Doubles: Mark Read/Helen Turner (Paul Lucas/Jane Dickens); Junior Boys: Gareth Hayward (Leigh Bradford); Junior Girls: Sarah Riach (Jenny Gordon); Cadet Boys: John Harrison (Peter Kirkham); Cadet Girls: Jenny Gordon (Lucy Dixon); Boys' Doubles: Scott Prime/Gareth Hayward (Leigh Bradford/Daniel Whitfield); Girls' Doubles: Sarah Riach/Catherine Smith (Jenny Gordon/Lucy Dixon); Under 12 Singles: Tom Madeley (Scott Danter); Junior Restricted: Peter Kirkham (John Harrison); Restricted A: Paul Lucas (Will Power); Restricted B: Mark Cornwell (Sarah Riach); Restricted C: Seb Pickett (Daniel Whitfield)

Results of the Leamington Closed held on 7th April 2001 (runners-up in brackets)

Men's Singles: Mark Woolerton (Andy Cockerill), losing semifinalists: Martin Todd, Jon Williams; Ladies' Singles: Kelly Sibley (Kate Ryan); Men's Doubles: Phil Paine/Andy Cockerill (Earl Sweeney/Jon Williams); Ladies' Doubles: Tracey Fletcher/Kate Ryan (Liz Haynes/Samantha

Meredith); Mixed Doubles: Kelly Sibley/Mark Woolerton (Liz Haynes/John Williams); Veterans Mens's Singles: Phil Paine (Mike Bridgman); Over 50 Veteran Singles: Malcolm Macfarlane (Graham Hoskin); Youth Singles: Jaz Allen-Sutton (Kelly Sibley); Junior Boys' Singles: Terry Smith (Jaz Allen-Sutton); Junior Girls Singles: Kelly Sibley (Samantha Meredith); Junior Doubles: Kelly Sibley/Jaz Allen-Sutton (Terry Smith/Jonathan Cox); Under 15 Boys' Singles: Jaz Allen-Sutton (Matthew Cooper); Under 15 Girls' Singles: Kelly Sibley (Stephanie Hawkins); Under 13 Boys' Singles: Edward Freeman (Barry Hobbins); Under 13 Girls Singles: Kelly Sibley (Stephanie Hawkins); Under 11 Singles: Edward Freeman (Charlotte Freeman); Grade 1 Singles: Mark Jackson (Jon Williams); Grade 2 Singles: Malcolm Macfarlane (Kelly Sibley); Grade 3 Singles: Tony Williams (John Taylor); Grade 4 Singles: Richard Grover (Edward Freeman); Grade 5 Singles: Chris Fincham (Adam Maltby); Handicap Singles: Dave Hawker (Ros Freeman)

WORCESTERSHIRE by Martin Clark

County Championships

Seniors

The second weekend hosted by the county at Wood Green, again organised by Dave Roden, was well appreciated by the visiting counties.

On the table we lost the services of Sandra Roden through injury and Max Crimmins' absence made matches look all that tougher, but Jill Harris, who has now joined us from Staffordshire, had a wonderful debut.

We finally finished in sixth place with five points and can look forward to another year in Division One next season.

Veterans

The second Saturday at Cippenham had contrasting fortunes for 1sts and 2nds as players had to move up to cover absentees.

The 1sts finally finished fourth, level with Dorset, whilst the 2nds are relegated after some five seasons in the division.

Evesham League

Dorothy Macfarlane finally got her name on the Ladies' Singles trophy at the Evesham League Closed Championships – the first time since 1987 that the event was not won by Lynda Reid or Jill Stride. Dot beat Lynda 19 and 22. Grahame Brown won the Men's and Veterans' Singles and the Mixed Doubles with Lynda Reid. Junior Boys was won by Rick Hartwell with Emma Talbot retaining the girls' title. Matt Hartwell combined with Wyre team–mate Mark Green to capture the Men's Doubles, while Chris McLean and Aileen Berry of Bengeworth retained the Ladies Doubles.

Malvern League

It was all change at the League's Closed Championships, as most defending champions failed to retain their crowns. Clare Newns, ranked 23 in the national women's list, took the Lamberts & Wade Singles title against defending champion Dave White. She is the first woman to have won the title in the league's history. Clare and Pete Childs teamed up to win the Express TV Doubles.

Clare completed a hat-trick of wins when she won the Ladies' Singles. In the Veterans' Singles final, Alan Salisbury recorded a fine win over defending champion Dave Woodyatt. The Worcester Balloons Division One Final was won by Peter Childs, whilst in the Ledbury Exhaust Division 2 competition Peter Griffiths yielded his crown to Nick Price. However, Pete had some consolation when he and Hipwell won the Division Two doubles. Kevin Howard won the Division 3 singles. Juniors and Cadets were well represented in the day's events, holding their own in competition against regular league division 3 players. Joe Higgs won the Cadet Singles and then teamed up with Matt Lang to record a very creditable win in the Division 3 doubles against more experienced opposition. The Junior Boys' Singles was won by Eak Sugkraroek for the third successive year, whilst the Junior Girls was won by defending champion Lucy Groves.

Bromsgrove/Redditch League

Eric Hardman dominated the proceedings in this season's closed championships, winning the men's singles –14, 9, 17, against Mark Fiddian, and the veterans' singles against Chris Maiden 15, 11, after having teamed up with Chris to take the men's doubles 15, 13 against Martin Clark and Alan Colley. Alan also reached the final of the handicap singles playing off +6, but lost 31-24 against S. Williams +26. All other events were run on a round-robin basis. Kate Hughes won the ladies' singles, with Margaret Buxton runner-up. Kate was joined by Mark Fiddian to win the mixed doubles, taking the title from last year's winners Martin Clark and Sue Leech. The junior winner was P. Harris with J. Hughes picking up the runners-up spot.

Martin Burbeck

It is sad to report the death of Martin Burbeck from the Worcester League, who had been an active player and administrator for many years. He will be sadly missed by all of his Worcester colleagues and condolences go to his wife and family.

****

Hollingbury Table Tennis Club Junior Open by Carol Beames

The first Junior Open Tournament ever held by the club was staged on Saturday 31st March 2001. An entry from across the country of players under the age of 14 years was received. Many of them were entering their first tournament and have been playing table tennis for less than one year.

The day began with group matches played out to Gold, Silver and Bronze medal winners. All matches were strongly contested and Stephen Denman of Brighton's Alpha Club proved triumphant with his first Gold. It was also his first encounter of the day with bright new talent Ben Dewsbury from Forresters Club, Crawley.

By the early afternoon the boys were beginning to take the measure of one another and forecasting who would win the day.

James Denman, who might have expected to take Bronze, met Carl Gibson in the semi-finals and gave it his all, losing to Carl 22-20, 17-21, 22-20. Carl then met James' older brother Stephen in the semi-finals and knew he had a fight on his hands. However, Stephen had moved up a gear and won 22-20, 21-11.

Ben Dewsbury meanwhile was making his way to the final to meet Stephen again. Young Ben tried to bring all his skills to the fore in a serious final, losing out to Stephen 16-21, 21-16, 21-15. It seems that Stephen prefers to win his matches from behind!

It was a successful day giving us all an opportunity to see future Sussex champions in action. Ben Dewsbury, Mahinder Saggu and Craig Smith are the new names to look out for, along with 9-year-old Dale Payne from Hastings.

Tournament Results from Cippenham TTC

Under 12 2 Star Open Championships

Boys' Singles: Daniel Rees (E) bt Myles Evans (Bu) 17, -19, 8; Girls' Singles: Gemma Yarnley (K) bt Sylvana Bielec (Bu) 11, 11; Boys' Consolation: Billy Deville (E) bt Prabdeep Panesar (Bu) 18, 19; Girls Consolation: Laura Yearnley (K) bt Katy Armstrong (Np) 15, 16

Cippenham Veterans' 2 Star Open Championships (11.03.01)

MS: Dave Harding (Sy) bt Mike Rhodes (Bu) 17, 15; WS: Kim Johnson (WAL) bt Jackie Wood (Bk) 12, 19; MCon: Dave Kellard (K) bt Keith Childs (Ha) 20, -18, 19; WCon: 1. Diane Taylor (Bk), 2. Pat Kessler (Mi)

Cippenham Cadet 3 Star Open Championships (25.03.01)

BS: Thomas Mitchell (Bu) bt James Milton (Bu) –20, 15, 14; GS: Lucy Weil (E) bt

Bethany Rees (E) 16, -16, 18; BCon: Daniel Rice (Bk) bt Lucian Robinson (So) –18, 11, 11; GCon: Sarah Smith (E) bt Catherine Hayes (Bu) –11, 14, 15

Results of the ESTTA Individual Championships, played at Fenton Manor, Stoke-on-Trent, Saturday 28th April 2001

Boys U19: Justin Dodd (Kent), Craig Gascoyne (Notts), Steven Bailey (Cleveland), Daniel Welsh (Durham)
Girls U19: Emily Dearing (E Yorks), Hannah Yardy (Essex), Hannah Roberts (Lancs), Annabelle Sorrentino (Merseyside)
Boys U16: Bryn Drinkhall (Cleveland), Craig Bryant (Devon), Warren Brooks (Berks), Peter Cleminson (Essex)
Girls U16: Kate Steward (Somerset), Gemma Chapman (Berks), Abigail Embling (Essex), Katy Radford (Notts)
Boys U13: Tim Yarnall (Northants), Shaun Rogerson (Lincs), Richard Wesley (Notts), David Hayes (Berks)
Girls U13: Kelly Sibley (Warwicks), Gemma Yarnley (Kent), Sarah Perks (Notts), Heather Shutt (W Yorks)
Boys U11: Darren Reid (Cornwall), Michael Harvey (Glos), Damien Nicholls (Salop), Matthew Dodds (S Yorks)
GirlsU11: Lauren Springthorpe (Lincs), Jordyn Layfield (Merseyside). Amy Taylor (Berks), Rachel Jamieson (Essex)

ESTTA Team Championships, Grantham, 17th March 2001

The school teams had progressed through county, area and regional finals to represent the north, midlands and the south and west.

The results were as follows:
Boys U11: 1st – Peniel Academy, 2nd - St. Michael's School, Berks, 3rd – National School, Lincoln
Girls U11: 1st – Peniel Academy, 2nd – Redlands Schools, Notts, 3rd – St. Just School, Cornwall
Boys U13: 1st – Peniel Academy, 2nd – Valley Schools, Notts, 3rd – Chesham School, Bucks
Girls U13: 1st – Peniel Academy, 2nd – Ryelands Schools, Northants, 3rd – Bradford Girls School
Boys U16: 1st – Peniel Academy, 2nd – Bradford GS, 2rd – Duston School, Northants
Girls U16: 1st – Peniel Academy, 2nd – Parkview School, Cumbria, 3rd – Wycombe High School, Bucks
Boys U19: 1st – Peniel Academy, 2nd – Kings School, Lincs, 3rd – Bedford Modern School
Girls U19: 1st - Peniel Academy, 2nd – Valley School, Notts, 3rd – Richard Huish College, Somerset

Winners of the Best Performance awards were: Boys – Tim Yardy of Peniel, Girls: Martha Travis (age 8) of St. Just

The British Primary Schools Table Tennis Championships, Largs, 20th –22nd April

Final Positions – Team Event
Boys: 1. England 2. Wales 3. Ireland 4. Scotland 5. Guernsey
Girls: 1. England 2. Wales 3. Ireland 4. Scotland 5. Guernsey

Singles Event
Boys: 1.Bradley Evans (Eng) 2. Harry Shahlei (Eng) 3. David Owen (Wal) 4. Luke Alderson (Wal)
Girls: 1. Lauren Springthorpe (Eng) 2. Stella Davis (Eng) 3. Rebecca Russell (Sco) 4. Sarah Grabham (Wal)

Consolation Event
Boys: 1. Scott Johnstone (Sco) 2. Niall Macdonell (Sco)
Girls: 1. Rachael Jamieson (Eng) 2. Andrea Shorten (Ireland)

North Herts (Ashe Construction Ltd) Banded 2 Star Open
Hitchin Boys' School, Sports Centre
3rd/4th March 2001

Men's Singles semi-finals: Mark Dare (He) bt Trevor Campbell (E) –8,-8,5-4-12; Mark Purcell (Bu) bt Stephen Davis (Sy) –4,9,-5,9,6; FINAL: Mark Dare bt Mark Purcell 12,8,8
Women's Singles semi-finals: Sara Coggon (Sx) bt Lindsey Dare (He) –15,10,9,4; Val Murdoch (Bd) bt Karen Wrigley (He) 4,6,9
FINAL: Sara Coggon bt Val Murdoch 9,6,9
U21: James Dance (He) bt Mark Cruse-Jungling (He) (group of three)
Veterans Men Final: Mick Harper (Ca) bt Trevor Campbell (E) 3,5,-14,9
Veterans Women (Final) Lindsey Dare (He) bt Sandra Harper (Bd) –9,9,10,10

Banded Events

Men's Band 2 (group) 1. Mick Harper (Ca) 2. Michael Moerller (Ca)
Men's Band 3 – Philip Handy (Do) bt Mark Purcell (Bu) 6, 10, 7
Men's Band 4 - Aaron Fennell (E) bt Mark Purcell (Bu) 15, 5, -2, 6
Men's Band 5 – Aaron Fennell (E) bt John Harley (K), 10, -10, 5, -7, 9 (an excellent game, played in very good humour, with long varied rallies. A joy to umpire).
Men's Band 6 – Chris Watkins (Mi), Stephen Head (K) 7, 7, 6
Women's Band 1 – Sandra Harper (Ba) bt Sara Coggon (Sx) 5, 7, 7
Women Band 2 – Janice Laing (He) bt Catherine Eakin (E) 8, 9, 8
Women's Band 3 – Caroline Goatly (Ca) bt Catherine Eakin (E) 8, 4, -7, 9.

NATIONAL REGIONAL SQUAD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2001
by Ken Armson MBE

On Sunday 29th April, 180 players comprising ten squads of eighteen representing each of our ten Regional Coaching Committees met at Fenton Manor S.C, Stoke-on-Trent for a new event, the National Regional Squad Championships, age groups were U14, U12 and U10 boys and girls.

The schedule required the event to be completed in one day and comprised of two groups of five teams with five crossover matches determining the final positions. A demanding schedule of 25 matches had to be completed in 7 hours using 24 tables in blocks of six with each match being played on six tables simultaneously and the Final between the top team from each group being played on 12 tables.

Although faced with an administrative nightmare organising and running a match on six tables, those in charge of each Regional squad soon got to grips with the format and what was required of them, well, most of them, that is. If there had been an award for the best organised Region it would have gone to the Southern Region who were ably led by a very organised lady and were always first to finish their matches.

After five hours of intense match play North West topped Group A with Southern topping Group B. Final order for Group A being NW, East Midlands, London, Southeast and Northern. For Group B it was Southern, Southwest, Yorkshire, W. Midlands and Eastern.

The resulting crossover matches decided final positions with Southern taking 1st place defeating Northwest 7-5 in a closely fought match that was not decided until the final set. East Midlands beat Southwest 7-5 to take 3rd place with Yorkshire beating London 7-5 to take 5th place. The match for 7th & 8th positions resulted in a draw with West Midlands taking the match on games countback 13 to 12 with Eastern narrowly defeating Northern 7-5 to avoid the wooden spoon.

There were no losers on the day for this was a successful event all round with many exciting matches, plenty of friendly and intense competitive rivalry and a high standard of play from all competitors. All Regional Coaching Committees and coaches working at grass roots level deserve our thanks for the efforts they must have put in on the development and coaching of these young players and it is certain that for some of them greater things lie in store. All this was accomplished without any financial support, the Regions having to raise their own funds and financial support for players coming from their parents, many of the coaches who get youngsters started and who were present on the day giving freely of their time with no thought of financial reward. Pity Kate Hoey, Minister for Sport

had not been present; had she been perhaps some of that Lottery money might eventually find its way to where it is most needed at the grass roots of our sport. A great disappointment was the absence of a representative from the National Training Centre, another promise unfulfilled.



Victorious Southern Region Squad

PREMIER CLUB 'ABILITY' UPDATE
Judy Rogers
National Development Officer for People with Disabilities

To date there are 23 clubs already registered on the Premier Club Ability programme, spread from Newcastle to Okehampton, Widnes to Scarborough. Through the programme there have been 11 successful Awards for All Lottery grant applications with another four currently going through the process, and two clubs funding the programme from their own monies.

The total amount granted for the financial year 2000/2001 was 11 successful awards £30,527.00. As a result 9 clubs have now completed the programme and are successfully integrating disabled players into their clubs – 12 have had their disability awareness training and are either about to hold their come and try sessions or are carrying out the coaching sessions. The 9 clubs who have completed the programme are holding regular open sessions for disabled people to encourage more participants.

From the first 12 disability awareness training sessions 150 club members have attended the sessions – from the come and try/coaching sessions 70+ disabled people have attended the come and try sessions with 41+ going on to participate in the coaching sessions.

In Norfolk the situation is slightly different in that Norfolk County Council are supporting the ETTA programme and we shall 'roll out' Premier Club 'Ability' on a county wide basis with seven centres being established over the next two years.

Following a meeting with the Table Tennis Association of Wales the programme is to be adopted and used in all their 40 registered table tennis clubs.

PremierClub - what is it all about?

Paul Baker, ETTA Facilities Officer, gives his views on what *PremierClub,* the ETTA's national programme for club development, is (and isn't) all about and looks ahead to new opportunities.

It is now about eighteen months since *PremierClub* was launched. In that time around 200 clubs have applied to join and more than 100 have registered. They range from newly formed school clubs to recent ETTA Clubs of the Year, Cippenham, London Progress and Halton, but they share a common interest in the future of Table Tennis.

How then to encapsulate what *PremierClub* is all about? Having been involved in the development of the programme since its inception as TOP Club I have always thought of *PremierClub* as a framework, an infrastructure to support clubs. I think the key elements of the framework can be described as:

- **development:** development as opposed to decline, the chance to make Table Tennis a sport that can thrive in the modern world. To stand still is to stagnate to go backwards. As a minority sport we must develop to compete.

- **networks:** working together to build links for mutual support. We need to co-operate more off the table, whilst at the same time continuing to compete on it of course. The real competition is from other sports, modern leisure facilities, computers and the internet. Working together is the key.

- **communication:** learning from what works and from what doesn't. Every aspect of club development has been tackled before and there are any number of good ideas. We need to be better at sharing them.

- **standards:** establishing a base for recognition both within Table Tennis and with partner agencies. National programmes such as the government's 'A sporting future for all' and Sport England's 'Active Sport' programme offer fantastic opportunities for development to those sports and clubs that are 'up to standard'.

- **profile:** raising the profile of Table Tennis, giving creditability to the club in its locality. Putting the strategic significance into plans for development, especially for facilities.

- **pathways:** building pathways for players, particularly young players, to develop to the extent of their ability and commitment. Building a base of talent, the broader the base the higher the pinnacle.

- **inclusive:** providing opportunities for all ages, all abilities, all ambitions. Developing clubs with a wider appeal to the whole community. Offering life long interest to the majority to enjoy Table Tennis at their own level.

- **change:** not change for change's sake but change for a purpose. Keeping what works and building on it. This applies just as much to *PremierClub* itself; after all to stand still is to stagnate!

- **planning:** change can seem daunting if it is not planned. Taking control of the future is the key and as they say 'failing to plan is planning to fail'.

- **evolution:** taking one step at a time towards a recognisable goal. Clubs have their own starting point, their own priorities, their own ambitions. Controlling the pace of change is the key, keeping everything in perspective.

- **consensus:** encouraging the inexperienced to get started and the experienced to get better. Not being prescriptive or restrictive, there are no limits only opportunities.

- **relevant:** the only reason for *PremierClub* is to provide clubs with the information they want and need. There is plenty of room for new ideas, *PremierClub* can go anywhere.

PremierClub really can offer something for every club, whatever its size, experience or ambition, so where do we go from here?

PremierClub is an active programme, it needs feedback to move forward, the first *PremierClub* Conference has been organised at Holme Pierrepont National Sports Centre on Saturday 23 June. All registered clubs are being invited to attend to hear about future funding opportunities, meet members from other clubs and visit the National Training Centre. Contact the Hastings office for more information.

See you there.

NEW TABLE TENNIS BOOK

www.ping-pong.org are publishing, in weekly instalments, a book on table tennis by Enzo Pettinelli, Massimo Costantini's coach.

The book is called "Wandering Rackets – 100 years of Ping-Pong". The book

introduces numerous original aspects starting with the profiles of all the best players of the past and present. Consultation is free of charge and the publication is in Italian and English.

News of the World 'Sports Babes'

The News of the World is looking for the country's best sports babes. Aged 16+, whatever, they'll be female, attractive and play a sport out of the public eye, such as table tennis. Anyone interested in entering should write, at their own discretion, to the following address, including a photo:

News of the World
Sports Babes Competition
1 Virginia Street
Wapping
London E1 9XR

Those selected will win an exclusive photo shoot at their top photographer's studio in London.

Sussex Indian by Peter Baldwin

Recently one of the Sussex junior players turned up for a county match without his Sussex Connection Ltd. sponsored Sussex shirt. Further investigation followed and it was discovered that his mother had accidentally given the shirt away, together with other clothes, to the Indian earthquake appeal.

If anyone visiting India notices a teenager wearing a Sussex table tennis top, please let us know as we would be very interested to learn where it ended up.

CORRECTION

Two lines were missed out of Ken Muhr's review of the 'Encyclopaedia of British Sport' in the April edition. The particular sentence in question should have read: "Not surprisingly, I first concentrated on the short, two and a bit pages long table tennis section, not least because *I had a hand in writing it; following a scholarly history of the game from* its origins up to the 1950s by Oxbridge educated expert Gerald Gurney, I contributed the words taking the sport up to the present time".

Update on Lynn's Table Tennis Website www.callnet.uk.com/home/tabletennis by Linbao Zhang

Thank you for your kind words about the site, which was set up a couple of years ago. As you've seen, it's badly outdated and has disappointed many fans. The starting point of this site is its fairly unique contents on mainly the Chinese and table tennis in English.. There are many interesting table tennis articles in various media forms in China, yet people outside China find the accession difficult due to language barriers. But to run a site of this scale one needs resources. I've been so busy for the past months that updating the site on the regular basis has become an enormous challenge. Many of the articles have to be translated into English.

I'm a TT fan myself and the site has no commercial interest at all. But I'll try to find a way to revive the site. It has a good audience around the world. People are bombarding me with questions like "what on earth have ya been up to these days?"

Egyptian wanting to play in the UK

Can you help Mahmoud Mohamed Salama, a player with more than 15 years' experience who competes in the Superleague in Egypt and would now like to join a team in the UK, perhaps in the British League. He can be contacted on e-mail mma2200@yahoo.com

Hungarian wanting to work in England in the summer

Tibor Kun, aged 28, from Hungary, is a good player ("first division for 10 years"), teacher and coach (of children) who would like to work in England as a coach or training partner in a training camp or club during 2nd July to 25th August. He would like accommodation and some money and says he is a hard worker. Tibor can be contacted on e-mail kuntibor@mailbox.hu

VETTS WESTERN MASTERS TT by Steve Watkins

In February Hereford was proud to host the VETTS Western Masters Table Tennis Championships at the Hereford Leisure Centre.

Starting at 9am both days, 230 competitors from all over England and some from overseas competed for over 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s singles and doubles titles. Ex-England international players such as John Hilton and Brian Johns and Joe Kennedy (the eventual winner) competed in the over 40s against Herbert Neubaur (the World no. 1 in the over 50s) from Germany. While in the over 60s, two Swedish players, Hans Westling and Bo Torinsson, were in action.

In the ladies events top English players Jan Dunning (England Vet no. 2), Penny Perry (4), Linda Simpson (6) and Sandra Rider (7) were also in action.

This event was made a success thanks to the support by the Leisure Centre staff, local players, and the fact that many players heard the 8.30am live radio broadcast, by BBC Hereford and Worcester, from the Leisure Centre car park on their way to the event. The radio later did a live interview with the Secretary of the VETTS, Peter Bradley. Feedback from players on the accommodation they had found was also good. The one small negative was that the lighting on the corner tables was not as good as the players would like. The centre manager has said that he will try and get it improved for the future, as he was most impressed by the event and its organisers. As a result of all this good work the VETTS had decided by the time they left on Sunday that they would return next year and so the Leisure Centre and the local Three Counties Hotel were provisionally booked for 12th/13th January 2002. We look forward to their visit.

NATIONAL JUNIOR LEAGUE 2001/2 by Mike Payne

The National Junior League was formed at the start of the season 1997/98 to fill the gap between the Junior British Leagues and the Junior Leagues. The NJL was formed in response to demands for local competition by grass roots players and by the reluctance by some juniors to play in member leagues. This season, 180 teams have played at 20 centres and the NJL will run again next season.

The calendar shows 13th October, 15th December, 9th February and 23rd March. These dates are nominal and can be changed to meet local requirements and avoid clashes with other events or use of the centres.

Clubs can apply to enter teams of three to play in venues closest to their club's location, thus saving travel and accommodation costs. The preferred option is graded divisions (a minimum of six teams) for boys and girls. Mixed teams and divisions are acceptable. The schedule of play guarantees a full day's participation with each match consisting of six or nine singles/team match. The NJL is a ranking tournament with a weighting of 1.0.

Winners of the top divisions at each centre may apply for promotion to the JBL and medals will be awarded to winners and runners-up in all divisions.

Should you be interested in entering a team or wish for further information, please contact Graham Rogerson on 01553 670016 or graham@grahamrogerson.com or Mike Payne on 01332 557162 or mjpayne@onetetel.net.uk.

Table Tennis at Universities

There are over a million students at 147 universities with only about 50 active clubs and few of these play in local leagues. The standard of play is right up to the top 10 in England complemented by large numbers of foreign students. The main difficulties are getting hold of the club secretary and the mismatch of league and university year, especially at the start of the season. Now is the time for league or club secretaries and development officers to get in touch with their local university club. Initial contact can be made through the Students Union Sports Officer or their Athletics Union Officer. If necessary, names and telephone

numbers can be obtained from Mike Payne on 01332 557162 or mjpayne@onetel.net.uk

Veterans British League part 2
By Jim Beckley

Veterans' British League champions British Police retained their title, finishing four points clear of second placed Ryelands at the excellent Stratford Leisure Centre. They snapped up 106 games throughout the two weekends, the only team to notch up the ton.

John Hilton topped the averages with 100% although all those wins for British Police came in the first weekend at Wigan. At Stratford the former European champion didn't turn out, playing elsewhere instead.

Dave Harding (85%), Brian Johns (80%) along with Keith Williams (70%) who took over from Hilton, were the reasons for this runaway win.

Scotland's superstar Richard Yule gets better with age. Although he only came in for the second session, the former Scottish international lost only one match finishing with a 90% average – a fraction better than last season.

But for Stockport it was here today, gone tomorrow. After four seasons of constant promotion they found the Premier Division just too much to handle. The second session started off with a 6-0 thrashing from British Police and from then on it was all downhill.

Millennium Belles came with a late dash to overtake Colebridge for the women's Premier Division title. Poor old Colebridge, it was the second season on the trot they have had to accept second best and without Joan Humphrey-Middlemore (injured) and Eileen Shaler far from fully fit (bad knee) it was nevertheless a great effort.

But Millennium had the title in the bag before the last crunch match against Colebridge with Sandra Harper finishing with 81% and along with Sheila King, Helen Shields and Marjorie Dawson it was a good win.

But not so good news for Ellenborough who came up from the first division last season with high hopes but like Stockport men found the going too tough and were relegated.

Watch out for those sporting Irish girls Colleens who are back in the Premier Division next season after a successful campaign that saw them hang on to a narrow one-point lead over Worcester Ladies.

Bournemouth will face the might of the men's Premier Division next season after just edging Fullerians into second place in the first division. Brian Burn led the way for Bournemouth, along with Dave Sharples and Barry Hill.

In-form Tony Gelder led Thompson Insurance into the second place in the second division with all the eights – 88.8%. But even he couldn't stop Graham Spicer from winning a tightly fought contest with only one point separating the two sides at the end of play.

One of the most comprehensive wins was that of St. Mark's in the third division. With Stuart Gibbs leading the side, they completed the two stages eight points clear of second placed Merrow. But the leading player in that division didn't come from either side. Ian Robertson from South Essex was in a class of his own, finishing with a sensational 90% despite his team finishing third from bottom.

A brilliant weekend ended with the popular Matt Sheader winning the Male Player of the Weekend Award with Jenny Gillam receiving the Female Player of the Weekend. And a big thumbs-up to organiser Gill Smith who took over the thankless task for the first time and came through with flying colours.





DIY Table Tennis Table

My husband, who is moderately good at DIY, though certainly no fanatic, plans to make a strong table tennis table that we can use out-of-doors during the summer. It will be used by children from aged 10 upwards and adults. Has anyone any tips on making a table (it must have legs that fold in) – dimensions, materials, do's and don'ts, methods, etc. Any ideas gratefully received.

(Alexandra Buxton, alexbuxton@aol.com)

From the Bridgnorth Journal, 100 years ago! (spotted by Terry Ridgway)

The Way We Were

'Ping-pong' has found its sea legs and bids to form the chief amusement of ocean travellers until it is displaced by some newer fad. The game was introduced on the Cunard liner Campania and afforded so much amusement to the passengers that the company has decided to install ping-pong on all their ships.

Scarcely had the Campania left Liverpool than the passengers were hard at it, striving for the 'ping-pong' championship of the North Atlantic.

National Junior League at Northfield School, Billingham, by Steve Durham

Northfield School, Billingham, has successfully hosted a National Junior League in season 2000/1, providing a welcome venue for the participating teams in north east England. The new facilities at the school this year are increasingly used both by the Stockton Table Tennis League as well as table tennis in the wider area as witnessed by the recent Cleveland Closed Tournament as well as the National Cadet League hosted by the school.

The school was proud to provide the winning National League team this year in Northfield C, Danny Hunt, Michael Dale and Michael Wood beating off strong competition from across the north east. Teams came from Northumbria, Seaburn (Sunderland) and Ormesby TT Club. Apart from winning the overall league event there were outstanding individual performances from Northfield players as well as other players, with the top five individual percentages throughout the League being: Davijjd Graham (Northumbria) 97%, Danny Hunt (Northfield) 94%, Michael Wood (Northfield) 81%, Andrew Dinsdale (Northfield) 78%, Andrew Wilson (Ormesby) 72%.

The league concluded with a handicap event on 10th March, which was dominated by players from the Ormesby Club. The final saw Jonathan Durham (Ormesby) defeat Stephanie Donnelly (Ormesby) 21-18, 21-13.



Northfield School C, winner of the Northfield National League. L-r: Michael Dale, Danny Hunt & Michael Wood

English Table Tennis Association
(Third Floor) Queensbury House,
Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex,
TN34 1HF
Tel: 01424 722525, fax: 01424 422103
E-mail: admin@ettahq.freeserve.co.uk
kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com

AH SO! OSAKA

JAPAN, the contrast between Delhi and Japan's second city could not be more pronounced. Crowded venues and rutted roads, gave way to luxury coaches and smooth highways, that bisect the city. A simply enormous hotel - 1000 rooms - 3 bars and 15 restaurants. It took a week to find my way around the lobby, writes Brian Halliday.

The organisation of these, the 46th in the series of World Championships, and the last to be held under the two week format of team events and individual events, is exceptional. Press facilities for 900 journalists, 800 helpers to assist in three playing arenas. There were score rooms, umpires rooms, a police station and even a prayer room. There was a special afternoon devoted to the disabled players of Japan who played past champions, including Di Rowe, Ebby Scholer, Eguchi, Hasegawa, Roseanu and Helen Elliott. It is little wonder that these championships are costing $20,000,000.

Team events first and pride of place must go to Korea who came so desperately close to upsetting the might of China in an electrifying semi-final. With the score at two matches all, Kong Ling Hui having lost two, and the packed stadium in complete uproar, Kim Taek Soo seven times came within one point of Korean immortality. The rallies were sensational with Kim and Liu throwing themselves all over the court. Neither would give in, but eventually it was Kim who cracked. Liu was engulfed by jubilant team mates and the thousands of spectators rose to acclaim one of the finest team matches ever seen. I look forward to seeing it all again on tape. Who said 21 up was dead? It was a truly amazing sporting spectacle.

The road to the Team Event Finals is long and hard. England were without the services of Syed and Perry, and the responsibility for a creditable performance rested on Young, Herbert and Baggaley.

A 3-2 win over Armenia was followed by a win over Turkey by a similar scoreline, Brad Billington stepped in for the injured Baggaley. Brad scored a crucial success, 22-20, 22-20, over Atakan.

Slovenia were beaten 3-0, and the match with Canada therefore would decide promotion to Category 1. Pressure on England, because the opponents were able to field the former Chinese player Johnny Huang. However, everything went according to plan and Andrew Baggaley clinched the return to the top grade by comfortably beating Liu.

Next came the might of Croatia where Gareth Herbert kept up his run of good form with a 2-1 win over Dragutin Surbeck, the son of a very famous father.

Then came the quite improbable - a match with the Czech Republic - Korbel and all. Gareth, who was showing signs of a major breakthrough, took the stadium by storm, and against a player of Korbel's class who is ranked over 200 places above him on the world list, scored the best win of his career. This top class world player had no answer to either Gareth's power or his fantastic services.

Match to Czech's 3-1, but morale in the England camp is on the upgrade.

Michel Gadal commented after the match that Gareth is serving as well as anyone in the world.

It was Terry Young's turn against Korea DPR with a useful win but the team went down 3-1.

Much had been written about our prospects for Japan - most of it negative, especially as it was a young and untried team. The outcome was a tremendous boost for English table tennis, after the years of decline. I was so proud to be in Japan to see the team in action, who fought for their country and for each other.

Sport England and those responsible for funding, should note that the seeds are bursting into flower, and the efforts made by Soren Ahlen and Michel Gadal are coming to fruition.

Both team finals were won, not unexpectedly by China. Surprise mens team finalists Belgium had shocked Sweden in the semis. Persson did not play to his usual level and Hakansson was the weakest link. Their long years of team success may be at an end, and with the ageing French team, the prospects for England certainly at European level look bright indeed. Only those countries who pack their teams with Chinese players pose a future threat.

In the ladies team event, the Corbilion Cup, Sweden proved too strong for England. Asa and Marie Svensson doing the damage in a 3-0 win. This match followed two walkovers.

We then lost to Slovenia 3-1 with Helen Lower successful against Halas. Natalie Bawden lost narrowly and continues to show promise.

The following day the first success was recorded with a 3-0 win over Moldova, which in fact was a desperately close match. All games went to a third game and two were won 22-20.

The Aussie with the most extraordinary name in table tennis, Miao Miao, clawed out two successes but could not stop an England 3-2 romp. Good win for Katy Parker over Barbie-Doll lookalike Tammy Gough.

Another good performance when we took Poland to the wire before losing 2-3, with two excellent victories from Helen Lower, but neither Natalie or Katy could clinch the tie.

This left England in 34th place. Perhaps not as high as expected, but there is promise of better future and certainly with the services of Nicola Deaton a higher overall position would have been achieved.

THE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS - A PERSONAL VIEW

EARLIER this year at the English Open at Chatham we saw a new and rare talent burst onto the scene, writes Brian Halliday.

Most observers forecast that Wang Liquin would go on and win the world title in Osaka - and so it proved. The young Chinese player simply took Japan by storm, accounting for a somewhat lethargic Kong Ling Hui in a five game final. There were a number of experts who expected Kong to win, having already been a World and Olympic champion, but Wang confounded pre match predictions by recovering from a 2 games to nil deficit to defeat his team mate. A strange result? Perhaps - but there is little doubt that with a combination of power and finesse the better man won.

It was China all the way. They completely, and with an application and thoroughness that is the envy of the world, annexed every available trophy to add to their splendid team performances. Efficient? Certainly. Exciting? Regrettably no.

In a massive stadium even reasonable size crowds were lost and that special atmosphere present at the Manchester Worlds in '97 was noticeably absent. The Chinese were just too good - they played from another planet, the rest were earthbound and it is difficult, not to say depressing, to know where all the other nations go from here. Chinese domination of the sport for the next ten years looks a formality.

If the Chinese men were good, then their ladies were exceptional. It was all systems go for Wang Nan to retain her title, and this she did without getting out of second gear. Only Deng Ya Ping, presently resident in England, would have given her something of a game. The mens and ladies doubles went China's way, Wang Liquin winning a Gold medal for what we all thought would be a consolation prize for missing out on a team "gold". Little did we know that the main prize awaited the following day. It certainly all seemed set for Kong, but the game sometimes makes fools of us all.

Now what of the rest? Kim Taek Soo, that superb little athlete gave 100% all the time, but lacked power at the crucial moments. At the Farewell Party he was the deserved winner of the Richard Bergmann Fair Play award. Jorgen Persson was on song all week and accounted for Gatien 19 in the fifth, in a really crowd pleasing match. Wang put paid to the Swede's chances at the quarter final stage. Another Asian Chung Peng Lung from Taipei made the semi final but Samsonov from Belarus flattered to deceive, and doesn't seem to have improved since that memorable final in Manchester.

Jan Ove Waldner continues to baffle supporters and critics. At times he showed touches of sublime skill, but then lapsed into somnambulistic state that is becoming the norm with each passing year. Best player of all time? Very doubtful. Truly great players are models of consistency. Barna, Bergmann, Chung, Roseanu et al. It is a matter of profound regret that the Swedish domination appears to be coming to an end. The mighty Swedes led by Waldner and Persson have given the sport so much, and our particular sporting world owes them a huge debt.

The other European countries failed to make a significant impact. The French were very disappointing, even Legout went out to a Brazilian in Round 1. Chila was the best of a pretty lack lustre squad. Germany had Rosskopf whose backhand was working as well as ever, but he lacked sparkle in the big matches. It was left to Timo Boll who was hugely impressive and looks to be Europe's Number 1 hope for the future. Michael Maze of Denmark looks to be a bright prospect as does Magnus Molin of Sweden.

The European door is wide open - which brings us to England.

In recent years it has not been easy to write with any degree of enthusiasm. Not so in Osaka. Here was a squad that pulled together in a new and exciting way. If Terry Young stole the plaudits in New Delhi, here it was Gareth Herbert who set all our hearts racing. he put paid to Ricardo Oliveria of Portugal8 and 15, then Carneros of Spain 15 and 19. He then took out the Greek defender Gionis 18 and 20. The seeded Croatian Zoran Primorac obviously thought that Gareth would be an all too easy opponent. How wrong he was. Gareth with some quite brilliant serving took the first game and led 20-17 in the second. Primorac levelled, but he was playing flat out punching the air and letting out great whoops of joy as the match gradually swung his way.

There were no other results of particular note but again I must stress that the future for both the mens and the ladies games looks very good. We will be challenging as a major power in Europe before too long, but as for the world? The Chinese are out of sight.

POSTSCRIPT

The complete domination by China must give the rest of the world, and Europe especially, cause for concern. The prospect of a united Korea may provide the necessary challenge in due course, and Chinese Taipei have players with the athletic ability to compete with them on reasonably equal terms.

The Europeans lag behind and the reasons are now obvious. No problem with technical ability, counter driving and spinning are in equal supply. In the service department Gareth Herbert showed that he has no equal anywhere - and that really is a major plus. No, it is in the Gym that matches at the highest level are won and lost. A highly concentrated programme to build, and then nurture super fit athletes is the only way we can compete on equal terms. There is too much coaching effort put into "table time" and not enough on the physical side of the game. There has never been a better time for English players, both male and female, to make an impact.

We have the right coaches, the right back-up team, and the right programme. Now it is up to the players.

THE PROGRESS OF JON KAUFMAN

PERHAPS you hadn't noticed but something very special is happening on the London table tennis scene. British League Champions for the last two years, the London Progress Club have just made it a hat trick of wins. Here is a club that is carving out a special niche in the game. How did it all happen for them. I caught up with their leader, Jon Kaufman, recently.



JON KAUFMAN

BRIAN HALLIDAY: Jon, you seem to be fairly new on the table tennis scene. I know you run the Progress Club. How did it all start for you?
JON KAUFMAN: I think that there was in the initial stages a sense of them and us. We at the Progress Club saw the E.T.T.A. and table tennis generally as something of a closed shop, and we felt as if we were the new kids on the block, and had something to prove. We wanted to show people that we had something to offer.
BH: When did that start?
JK: About 11 years ago.
BH: How did you go about raising standards?
JK: Slightly fortuitously - we quickly found out that one player of quality attracts similar standard players. Running parallel to that we adopted a very aggressive policy at grass roots level which produced players such as Jason Sugrue. It was a case of very hard work sustained over a long period.
BH: How are relationships with the E.T.T.A. now?
JK: We get a lot of support now. Things like being awarded "Club of the Year" are good for morale. Recognition did come late but the new impetus that promotes clubs is excellent. Perhaps we were five or six years ahead of our time, but now I believe clubs like us would get the E.T.T.A.'s full support.
BH: What is the set-up at the club, the facilities, number of tables etc. ?
JK: Well the club is moving to an academy status, we are involved in a three million pound lottery bid which will include a dedicated table tennis centre. The club will be open seven days a week and will be the centre for a whole series of feeder schools. Our present club will remain at the heart of the operation. At present we can have 12 to 15 tables for the training of juniors. To be part of this new concept for the game is exciting. We have two Sports Colleges involved in table tennis and Jason coaches there 20 hours per week, and he will be rolling out the E.T.T.A. programme. Also a whole year of one college is sitting for the Junior Umpire Award.
BH: I am sure our readers will be inspired from the example Progress are setting. How do you cope with the administration aspects?
JK: Our motto at the club is "Let the players play, the coaches coach, and the administrators administrate". We do have a system that allows players to take responsibility, which takes a lot of the pressure off me. We have 24 teams and the captains and coaches have their own specific responsibilities. So the pyramid is in place. We did buy in players to help Jason, but now we have the top players right down to the juniors playing in the Woolwich League. The kids understand the pyramid and the various stages of progression open to them. They can then aspire to the levels attained by Marco Essomba and Jason. We area very integrated club, for example Marco and Jason may be training on a table next to two novices. We don't segregate the players. Club night is a club night for all.
BH: Some of your ideas are quite revolutionary. Were you personally responsible for them?
JK: I wouldn't put it like that. The club is a living organism. These ideas have evolved. I would not say it was down to any individual, but nevertheless it has become a passion. The internationalism of the club enthuses life into it. We have Somalian, Ethiopian, and Kosovan kids all knocking up together. Also kids from Iraq and Iran, so you see we are truly multi-racial.
BH: Do you think this is a major plus for the club that you are able to attract such a large ethnic group?
JK: It has become a symbol of pride to the club in that we are so welcoming to everybody. The whole world is welcome. One coach remarked that we are not so much a club, more of a concept. This has become true over the last six years, and we have also found that schools are keen to join with us.
BH: I know that your concept is very much how the E.T.T.A. see the future. Your ideas that have come to fruition are very much along the lines of a large number of continental clubs.
JK: Sure. It is not practical to have all the kids at one venue, and the concept of feeder schools overcomes the problem of too many players on too few tables.
BH: What about co-operation from the teachers?
JK: Very much so. If the PE staff are on board it makes life that much easier.
BH: Now it seems to me that you are the power behind all this and that you motivate as a figurehead. Would that be correct?
JK: Now I play a very mediocre brand of table tennis, so if you were to rely on me to win anything its not going to happen. Everybody does their bit in their area of expertise.
BH: Does your club role fit in with your responsibilities as one of the E.T.T.A.'s Regional Development Officers?
JK: I thought that the success we have had, and the ideas incorporated into Progress, could be replicated elsewhere in London. We looked over at East London and the Fellows Cranleigh club. They were at a low ebb. They now have their own dedicated facility and now there is a problem that they have too many kids who want to play. They are going from strength to strength. Although I was only part of the team that helped set up the new club there, I do take satisfaction about the outcome of the initiative. I do think that the Progress Club has helped to invigorate the two other big London clubs, Ellenborough and Barnet. I do think that my dual responsibilities run in parallel and when I visit clubs I do try to establish a particular rapport. Everyone has a part to play in the whole jigsaw that goes to make up a club. Certainly the players that are learning and achieving give the club the necessary stability. At Progress we are a tight bonded group, and I think there is evidence of that when we go to tournaments.
BH: Your record speaks for itself.
JK: When you look at the British League Premier Division it is not that we are necessarily the strongest side, but that our morale is that much better. We have struggled against a number of teams, but that little extra encouragement by fellow players and supporters has pulled us through. Our ambition is to become a European club.
BH: That would be a major step forward if a British club could play in the European Club League.
JK: You know it is evident now that the E.T.T.A. is really up to speed with the concept of promoting clubs, and we are going to push ahead with Progress and all the clubs in my area of responsibility.

BH: Thanks for your time today. I believe that the Progress Club are setting an example to the rest of us. I look forward to visiting your club very soon.

NEW DAWN

I HAVE not for a long time felt so optimistic for English table tennis and enjoyed a tournament so much as I did at King's Lynn on 31st March/1st April. A good venue (Lynnsport & Leisure Park), a large foreign entry with Japanese, Italians and Hungarians etc. (and Scotland & Wales), and with so many of our top players, particularly younger talent, competing and performing well, were the vital ingredients. From a strong field, Slough's Gareth Herbert and Hungary's Krisztina Svitan emerged victorious, writes Ken Muhr.

Although 20 year old Herbert had been on good form to reach the National Championships semi-final via Alan Cooke and then had dispatched several world ranked players at the Croatian Open Pro Tour event, he had not looked particularly impressive in the earlier rounds of the Eastern Butterfly GP – just cruising and relatively unchallenged. The second seed Alex Perry, in Gareth's half, had withdrawn owing to the after-effects of a car accident (not serious we are pleased to report) and in addition Gareth was given a quarter-final walkover, his former Italian international opponent Roberto Giontella being disqualified for gluing up in the playing hall despite repeated warnings to players to use the designated 'gluing up' area. This action against a foreign visitor, particularly after he had survived a 11-7, 9-11, 11-6, 9-11, 12-10 epic against local (Norwich) boy Leeroy Pye, was considered harsh by many players, but referee Phil Gower was determined to get over the message that the practice (gluing up in the playing area), which is against the rules throughout the world, would not be tolerated.

Another Italian, Fabio Mantegazza, the Darlington British League player and masters degree student at Manchester UMIST University who was the 2000 BUSA champion, caused Gareth serious problems in the semi-final with his big two-wing loops, but Herbert upped the tempo in the deciding game to get the 9-11, 11-5, 11-9, 9-11, 11-6 result.

In fact up to the final, it was Herbert's last opponent Bradley Billington who had demonstrated the best form. The 30 year old former England international, now a national coach, had produced remarkable backhand and forehand topspin power and flair in outplaying his Chesterfield colleague Alan Cooke, the top seed, 11-4, 13-11, 6-11, 11-8. One long aggressive rally finished by a running Billington backhand loop, had the audience whooping in awe and appreciation! Moreover, Cooke himself was not in bad form, having just vanquished London Progress Club's Marco Essomba 11-7, 11-2, 11-4, a player who has twice beaten him this season.

Billington started the final looking on top as he took the first game – but then Herbert went up a gear and had far too much close to the table speed and spin for the older man, winning 8-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-6.

The 19 year old Hungarian international and student Krisztina Svitan, a classic combination bat defensive player with heavy chop and powerful two wing attack, added the open women's singles to the under 21 title she had won earlier. Her semi-final opponent Kubrat Owolabi must have thought the world was against her, for not only did the attractive Hungarian teenager get plenty of nets and edges, but Kubrat had been up since 1-30am to catch a 3am from Nottingham (where she now lives) to London, there being no direct connections from Nottingham to King's Lynn to get her to the tournament in time! But having got to London, rail repairs meant that she did not arrive at the venue until 2-30pm, by which time she had been scratched from the doubles! Under the circumstances she did well to provide Svitan with about the stiffest opposition she faced, losing 3 close games 8-11, 9-11, 9-11.

The top seeded Helen Lower from Wolverhampton had put out Hertfordshire based Hungarian Barbara Kiss 11-5, 11-13, 11-8, 11-6 in the semi-finals, and on the face of it her big forehand loop and smash game looked right for taking on Svitan. However, after a good start she was worn down and forced into making errors, Svitan winning 8-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-8.

The performances of National Academy youngsters were gladdening. The one I found most striking was that of 16 year Natalie Bawden (Essex) whilst taking Kubrat Owolabi to 5 games, 6-11, 6-11, 11-4, 12-10, 4-11, in the women's quarter-finals. It was how she did it, throwing in big topspins from all corners of the court, the most athletic display I have seen from an English girl for many years. By contrast 15 year old Georgina Walker's game is more smooth precision and economy, but the Nottinghamshire girl got very close (9-11, 12-10, 6-11, 11-1, 8-11) to Barbara Kiss in their quarter-final. With Louise Durrant (17, from Nottinghamshire) taking a quarter-final game from Helen Lower and Kate Steward (15, Somerset) winning a game against Owolabi in the third round, the future for women's table tennis is looking bright.

There were also good performances from the Academy boys. 16 year old Matthew Kenny (Sheffield) did not have it easy in the under 21 men's singles, dropping games en-route to the final to Eli Baraty (Middlesex), Masataka Yamamoto (Japan) and Dominic Hall (Kent and another Academy junior). Marco Essomba (Middlesex), who had put out Scotland's Neill Cameron in the semi-finals, was then a little too strong for him, winning 11-8, 11-5, 11-8. Technically good and talented but temperamentally brittle, Kenny has yet to make much impression on the top seniors and went down meekly to Brad Billington in the 3rd round of the men's singles. However, initially 'carried' a little by partner Alan Cooke, especially in a tough 5 set semi-final win Essomba and Michael James (Yorkshire), Matthew came into his own as the men's doubles final progressed, and fully contributed to the 15-17, 14-12, 11-8, 11-8 victory over Billington and Herbert.

Results

Men's Singles: semi-finals: Bradley Billington (Derbys) bt. Alan Cooke (Derbys) 11-4, 13-11, 6-11, 11-8. Gareth Herbert (Berks) bt. Fabio Mantegazza (Italy) 9-11, 11-5, 11-9, 9-11, 11-6. Final: Gareth Herbert (Berks) bt. Bradley Billington (Derbys) 8-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-6.
Women's Singles: semi-finals: Helen Lower (Staffs) bt. Barbara Kiss (Herts) 11-5, 11-13, 11-8, 11-6. Krisztina Svitan (Hungary) bt. Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) 11-8, 11-9, 11-9. Final: Krisztina Svitan (Hungary) bt. Helen Lower (Staffs) 8-11, 11-7, 11-6,11-8.
Men's Doubles: Alan Cooke (Derbys)/Matthew Kenny (Yorks) bt. Bradley Billington (Derbys)/Gareth Herbert (Berks) 15-17, 14-12, 11-8, 11-8.
Women's Doubles: Trudie Bloor (Shrops)/ Helen Lower (Staffs) bt. Claire & Nicola Bentley (Scotland) 10-12, 12-10, 11-5, 11-6.
Under 21 Men's Singles: Marco Essomba (Surrey) bt. Matthew Kenny (Yorks) 11-8, 11-5, 11-8.
Under 21 Women's Singles: Krisztina Svitan (Hungary) bt. Georgina Walker (Notts) 11-7, 11-9, 6-11, 11-9.
Veteran Men's Singles: Ian Girdler (Kent) bt. Joe Kennedy (Kent) 8-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-3, 11-7.
Veteran Women's Singles: Jane Durham (Cleveland) bt. Judy Morley (Gloucs) 11-6, 11-5, 11-6.
Men's Band 1 Singles: Michael James (Yorks) bt. Clive Carthy (Essex) 3-11, 11-8, 14-12, 11-9.
Men's Band 2 Singles: Yuki Kitayama (Japan) bt. Katsuhiro Ikeguchi (Japan) 11-6, 4-11, 11-4, 11-6.
Men's Band 3 Singles: Paul Cronin (Kent) bt. Jogenes Senorin (Middlesex) 11-9, 8-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-8.
Men's Band 4 Singles: Robin Peebles (Notts) bt. Adrian Davis (Essex) 11-8, 11-4, 8-11, 11-1.
Men's Band 5 Singles: Stephen Holloway (Surrey) bt. Shaun Bibby (Yorks) 11-7, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9.
Men's Band 6 Singles: Vidal Graham (Middlesex) bt. John O'Leary (Herts) 11-6, 12-10, 8-11, 11-9.
Women's Band 1 Singles: Siwan Davies (Wales) bt. Rebecca Fisher (Middlesex) 10-12, 13-11, 12-10, 14-12.
Women's Band 2 Singles: Amy Wright (Essex) bt. Gillian Edwards (Scotland) 11-9, 6-11, 9-11, 11-9, 12-10.
Women's Band 3 Singles: Helen McCready (Middlesex) bt. Catherine Eakin (Essex) 17-19, 11-6, 11-9, 11-9.
Women's Band 4 Singles: Gail Davey (Sussex) bt. Carol Clarke (Suffolk) 11-9, 11-6, 11-7.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

WORLD CLASS PROGRAMME ADMINISTRATOR

SPORT ENGLAND

The English Table Tennis Association is seeking to appoint an Administrator who will play a key role within the Association's World Class Programme, based at the National Training Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

This is an exciting opportunity for a dedicated and multi-skilled professional who will provide a structured and co-ordinated approach to the administration of all aspects of the National Squad Training and Competition Programme, under the direction of the Performance Director.

The Administrator will provide support in the following areas of the World Class Programme:

- Training and Competition Programme
- Budgets and Financial reports
- Monitoring and Evaluation reports
- Liaison with parents
- Liaison with Local Education contacts
- Monitoring Lottery Sports Fund Subsistence Awards

Experience of international table tennis in the capacity of player, coach or administrator will be an advantage and the successful candidate will be able to demonstrate excellent administrative and communication skills in the English language.

The Administrator will report to the World Class Programme Performance Director. Salary will be in the range £16 - £18K.

Closing date for applications: 27th June 2001

A job description and application form available under private and confidential cover from:

R H SINCLAIR, GENERAL SECRETARY
English Table Tennis Association
(Third Floor) Queensbury House, Havelock Road,
Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF
(Tel: 01424 722525 Fax: 01424 422103)
E-mail: admin@ettahq.freeserve.co.uk

SUPPORTED BY SPORT ENGLAND

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

MIDLANDS OPEN BUTTERFLY GRAND PRIX - WOLVERHAMPTON

PERRY DOMINANT

THERE was a lot else going on this weekend, including the team events finals of the World Championships in Osaka, and nearer to Wolverhampton, the National Inter-Regional Squad Championships at Stoke, so that entries were a little down. Despite this, the tournament had its highs, especially the zip of Alex Perry in the face of tough Hungarian opposition and a possibly significant breakthrough for Hungarian born, Watford living Barbara Kiss, writes Ken Muhr.

Alex Perry (Devon) was the man on form, having just returned from the Commonwealth Championships in New Delhi with 3 medals: a men's doubles gold with Terry Young, mixed doubles bronze with Helen Lower and men's team event bronze. He has also reached the National Championships final and, as a University of Nottingham student, become the British Universities champion this season. Looking very sharp Perry reached the final without dropping a game, though London Progress Club star Marco Essomba got closer than ever in their 11-7, 11-9, 11-8 semi-final clash.

In the other half the 20 year old Hungarian second seed Urban Gergely used typical long arm, two wing booming topspins to out gun Fabio Mantegazza (Manchester UMIST University) in the quarter-finals and then his compatriot Gabor Toth 11-8, 11-4, 15-17, 11-3 in an entertaining semi-final in which there were some spectacular loop to loop rallies.

Des Douglas, watching play from the balcony and basing his judgment on recent practice with Gergely, considered that Alex would win the final provided he got in quick and stayed in: if he backed off Gergely would be too powerful. Des's punditry proved sound, Perry storming away with the first 2 games and only looking in danger when he gave Gergely more time and space in a close third game, which he sneaked for a 11-5, 11-3, 17-15 victory.

Although she has won a Grand Prix before, Barbara Kiss's breakthrough was to overcome the England No.3, Kubrat Owolabi in the women's singles final, never allowing the No.1 seed to settle, for a 11-6, 12-10, victory. If she can beat England's best, she is still young enough (24) to be worth considering for selection by her adoptive country and may have aspirations in this direction. Kiss had dropped the 3rd game 2-11 to Japanese Chihro Mano, but won the fourth equally easy for her 12-10, 11-9, 2-11, 11-2 semi-final win, while Owalabi had comfortably beaten the rising junior international Kate Steward (Somerset) in the other semi-final.

The men's under 21 final was an all London Progress Club affair, with Middlesex University student Marco Essomba (Surrey) beating team mate Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) 11-9, 11-9, 8-11, 11-6. 16 year old Kate Steward was made to fight all the way before beating Lucy Perry (Devon) 11-7, 13-11, 7-11, 8-11, 11-8 in the women's under 21 singles final. (She also won the women's doubles with Kubrat Owolabi). Local man Anthony Isaacs from Cannock claimed the veteran men's singles with his 3-11, 11-6, 10-12, 11-8, 11-6 defeat of Henry Medellin (Surrey).

Poorish lighting and plenty of unused space in such a vast hall (Aldersley Leisure Village) was not conducive for producing a good atmosphere, but there were good matches and I did not hear players complaining.

MIDLANDS OPEN GRAND PRIX, 28th/29th APRIL 2001 Results:

Men's Singles: Alex Perry (Devon) bt Marco Essomba (Surrey) 11-7, 11-9, 11-8. Urban Gergely (Hungary) bt Gabor Toth (Hungary) 11-8, 11-4, 15-17, 11-3. Final: Perry bt Gergely 11-5, 11-3, 17-15.

Women's Singles: Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) bt Kate Steward (Somerset) 11-3, 11-9, 11-2. Barbara Kiss (Herts) bt Chihro Mano (Japan) 12-10, 11-9, 2-11, 11-2. Final: Kiss bt Owolabi 11-6, 12-10, 11-8.

Men's Under 21 Singles: Marco Essomba (Surrey) bt Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) 11-9, 11-9, 8-11, 11-6.

Women's Under 21 Singles: Kate Steward (Somerset) bt Lucy Perry (Devon) 11-7, 13-11, 7-11, 8-11, 11-8.

Men's Doubles: Alex Perry (Devon)/Leeroy Pye (Norfolk) bt Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) /Marco Essomba (Surrey) 11-9, 11-7, 12-10.

Women's Doubles: Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex)/Kate Steward (Somerset) bt Lindsey Thornton (Lancs)/Barbara Kiss (Herts) 8-11, 11-1, 12-10, 11-5.

Men's Veteran's Singles: Anthony Isaacs (Staffs) bt Henry Medellin (Surrey) 3-11, 11-6, 10-12, 11-8, 11-6.

Women's Veteran Singles group: 1st – Brenda Buoey (Lancs), 2nd Judy Morley (Gloucs).

Men's Band 1 Singles: Ryan Owen (Wales) bt Owen Griffiths (Wales) 11-7, 11-8, 11-5.

Men's Band 2 Singles: Lee Dredge (Dorset) bt Shaun Ellis (Yorks) 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-6.

Men's Band 3 Singles: Paul Jablon (Middlesex) bt Christopher Gregory (Shropshire) 11-13, 12-10, 11-7, 11-9.

Men's Band 4 Singles: Matthew Spero (Essex) bt Paul Jablon (Middlesex) 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7.

Men's Band 5 Singles: Keith Bird (Derbys) bt Robert Wylie (Cheshire) 6-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-5.

Men's Band 6 Singles: Vidal Graham (Middlesex) bt John O'Leary (Herts) 9-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-9.

Women's Band 1 Singles: Amy Wright (Essex) bt Judy Morley (Gloucs) 5-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-5.

Women's Band 2 Singles: Stephanie Matthew (Scotland) bt Amy Wright (Essex) 11-8, 11-9, 7-11, 11-6.

Women's Band 3 Singles: Stephanie Matthew (Scotland) bt Clare Langford (Cheshire) 11-9, 12-10, 13-11.

Grantham College
Table Tennis Academy
Starting September 2001 (ETTA Approved)



Are you..

Aged 16 or above?

Playing table tennis to junior county standard?

Want to improve your national ranking?

Wishing to study for nationally recognised qualifications?

Then take advantage of this unique opportunity to enrol at Grantham College's NEW Table Tennis Academy. You'll get the chance to improve your Table Tennis Skills whilst studying for a range of nationally recognised qualifications at one of the U.K's top FE Colleges. Located in the heart of England, Grantham College offers excellent facilities including self-catering accommodation, FREE tuition, 15 hours hours of professional coaching every week and competitive play in local, regional and national tournaments.

For further information visit www.grantham.ac.uk or telephone 01476 400251.

STILL IN CHARGE

TWO HUNDRED players entered the last stop on the Butterfly Grand Prix tour 2000-2001 played at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield on May 12-13, writes John Woodford.



ALAN COOKE and NICOLA DEATON are still in charge.

After 27 days away swatting mosquitoes in Delhi and bowing to Japanese hosts, it was relaxing to see so many players in action and further proof that Mike Johns did English table tennis a huge service when he originated the Grand Prix circuit.

Once again, the Derbyshire duo of Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton stole the honours, Alan winning his sixth tour victory and Nicola her seventh title.

Cooke and Alex Perry took few prisoners on their paths to the final. In that final the Derbyshire coach was once again in devastating form, winning 6,12, 3 with his powerful top-spin played from a pace back with some really spectacular counter-hitting.

Both finalists had to subdue the top two Welshmen in the semi-finals - this task was completed with slightly surprising ease. Ryan Jenkins is still improving - he moved up the world list 77 places after Osaka, but Perry trapped him skillfully 7, 7, 9.

In the top half, Adam Robertson, who was slightly disappointing in India and Japan, defeated Robert Pountney in the quarters 1, 3, 5, but in the semi-finals Cooke ensnared him 9, 3, 5. Matthew Kenny, the England No.2 junior from Yorkshire looks as he might be going places - he reached the later stages and put up a great fight before losing to Marco Essomba.

Amongst a batch of surprises - Neil Charles was in top form to take out the England squad player Andrew Rushton ; Robert Pountney defeated Tom Cutler and possibly the major surprise of the day when Jason Sugrue (London Progress) defeated Darlington's star player from Manchester University, Fabio Mantegazza at 13-11 in the fifth game. The smiling Italian is one of the most sporting losers I have come across.

Nicola Deaton was never seriously challenged at Sheffield. Helen Lower pulled out - her French commitments took priority, leaving the bottom half of the draw without big guns except for Barbara Kiss who reached the final losing 5, 3 11 to Miss Deaton.

It was an easy day for Kubrat Owolabi until she folded 8, 5, 9, to the English champion. in the final.

Nicola, has as far as I recall, lost only once to an English player (Helen Lower) in something like four years. In New Delhi, despite the mosquitoes and suffering from jet-lag she was the last European player left in at the womens quarter-final stage.

Another young player from Yorkshire to watch out for will be 14-year-old No.4 England cadet Nicola White. She provided the huge surprise in Round 2 of the womens singles when she overpowered the Scottish squad player Nicola Bentley -12, -8, 7, 5, 8. Nicola is from Bradford and looks a certain choice for the European Youth Championships in Rome.

Once again, John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley reached the final of the veterans singles, once again it was the Manchester man who won the day, but only after a huge battle that seemed to be going Eckersley's way until the final stages. Later, Eckersley had to pull out of the mens singles with a severe migraine.

Another 14-year-old boy who raised some eyebrows was from Essex Umair Mauthoor whose plum victim was Kent's Justin Dodd.

The veterans womens title was taken by Jane Durham (Cleveland) with a final round victory over Judy Morley from Gloucestershire, whilst in the mens Under-21 final Owen Griffiths from the Welsh squad beat Robert Pountney (Surrey) 7, 9, 6.

Predictably, Deaton and Owolabi swept through the womens doubles line-up winning the final 9,8, 14 against Trudy Bloor and Becky Sparkes. The mens doubles finalists were predictable - Cooke and Perry beat Ryan Jenkins and blonde-haired Adam Robertson 4,7, -4, 6.

The organising team headed by referee Mick Strode did a commendable job, especially when 18 tables materialised from a promised 21. Play finished around 8 pm on both days. Nine umpires turned up in their blue coats and there was in the main, full co-operation with umpiring from the players just one player lost his £5 deposit for not umpiring when required - Abdul Wuraola.

RESULTS

Mens singles: Alan Cooke (Derbys) bt Adam Robertson (Wales) 11-9, 11-3, 11-5. Alex Perry (Devon) bt Ryan Jenkins (Wales) 11-7, 11-7, 11-9. Final: Alan Cooke (Derbys) bt Alex Perry (Devon) 11-6, 14-12, 11-3,

Womens singles: Nicola Deaton (Derbys) bt Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) 11-8, 11-5, 11-9. Barbara Kiss (Herts) bt Louise Durrant (Notts) 11-9, 11-7, 11-4. Final: Nicola Deaton (Derbys) bt Barbara Kiss (Herts) 11-5, 11-3, 13-11.

Mens doubles: Alan Cooke (Derbys)/Alex Perry (Devon) bt Ryan Jenkins/Adam Robertson (Wales) 11-4, 11-7, 4-11, 11-6.

Womens doubles: Nicola Deaton (Derbys)/Kubrat Owolabi (Middlesex) bt Trudie Bloor (Shrops)/Rebecca Sparkes (Suffolk) 11-9, 11-8, 16-14.

Under 21 mens singles:Owen Griffifths (Wales) bt Rob Pountney (Surrey) 11-7, 11-9, 11-6.

Under 21 womens singles: Andrea Baldi (Yorks) bt Nicola White (Yorks) 11-6, 11-4, 11-4.

Veteran mens singles: John Hilton (Lancs) bt Nigel Eckersley (Sussex) 3-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 11-7.

Veteran womens singles: Jane Durham (Cleveland) bt Judy Morley (Gloucs) 9-11, 14-12, 11-9, 11-9.

Mens band 1 singles: Andrew Wilkinson (Northumberland) bt Mark Smith (Yorks) 10-12, 11-8, 14-12, 11-5.

Mens band 2 singles: Keith Rodger (Scotland) bt Stuart Matthew (Scotland) 11-6, 11-5, 11-9.

Mens band 3 singles: Stephen Denny (Yorks) bt Shaun Marples (Derbys) 6-11, 11-5, 13-11, 11-3.

Mens band 4 singles: Blake Taylor (Bucks) bt Liam Thomas (Wales) 11-6, 11-9, 11-6.

Mens band 5 singles: Liam Thomas (Wales) bt Neil Cartwright (Dorset) 11-8, 11-8, 6-11, 11-6.

Mens band 6 singles: Mark Buckley (Kent) bt John O'Leary (Herts) 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-7.

Womens band 1 singles: Catherine Davies (Wales) bt Nicola White (Yorks) 8-11, 11-6, 6-11, 11-6, 11-7.

Womens band 2 singles: Gillian Edwards (Scotland) bt Naomi Wilson (Somerset) 9-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-6.

Womens band 3 singles: Helen McCreary (Cheshire) bt Amanda Bell (Yorks) 8-11, 11-6, 11-6, 11-9.

Womens band 4 singles: Joanne Meads (Durham) bt Sarah Hudson (Beds) 11-3, 11-6, 11-4.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

National Coach

SPORT ENGLAND

The English Table Tennis Association is seeking to appoint a National Team Coach to be responsible for the successful delivery targets set within its World Class Programme.

This demanding role represents an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated and appropriately qualified professional who has experience in the field of elite player development and national squad training.

The successful applicant will have a proven track record and current experience of individual and team captaincy at international level.

Some of the key areas for which the National Coach will be responsible are:

- Identification and nomination of players for national squads
- Developing individual/squad training programmes
- Managing sports science/medicine support programmes
- Managing the competitive programme at home and abroad

The successful applicant will report to the Performance Director and will be able to demonstrate excellent administrative and communication skills in the English language.

Salary will be in the region of £25K and a car will be provided. The post will be based at the National Training Centre in Nottingham.

Job description and application form available from:

R.H. Sinclair, General Secretary
English Table Tennis Association
Queensbury House, Havelock Road
Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF
(Tel: 01424 722525 Fax: 01424 422103)
E-mail: admin@ettahq.freeserve.co.uk

SUPPORTED BY SPORT ENGLAND

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

THE END OF AN ERA

SO we reach the end of an era, the last season in which the Championships are played in the tried and trusted format of best of three sets, twenty one up each game, will we miss the old format? Well I for one will and I am sure that many of you will feel the same. I must admit that I view the new format of best of five sets, eleven up, with some suspicion, typical old reactionary attitude? Maybe, but I do believe in the old maxim of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". I just wonder how the score sheets are going to be re-vamped to allow for those extra sets, and just how many sets will there be, writes Stan Clarke.

The Senior and Junior Premier Divisions reached their conclusions with a combined weekend of play at the South Kesteven T.T.C. Grantham in what I understand was an enjoyable but very competitive round of matches marred only by a shortage of Umpires on the Sunday, due to illness, I was due to Umpire myself over the weekend but had to pull out due to the dreaded flu bug, much to my disappointment, as I enjoy being part of the final set of matches.

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION

Congratulations to Yorkshire who consolidated their early season lead by winning all four of their matches. They started their run against their nearest rivals from the first weekend, Middlesex, who at the start of the match were level on points with the Yorkies, not for long, the White Rose County disposed of their southern rivals seven /three, Neil Charles (2) and Rebecca Fisher (1) proving the only stumbling block. Next up Kent, same result 7/3 to Yorkshire, although Kent did take the first set they soon found themselves 6/2 behind. Sunday morning and the opposition was Hertfordshire who immediately notched up a 2/0 lead with wins for John Taylor over Peter Marshall and Morris Greenberg over Mark Smith, that must have stung the Yorkshire youngsters because they took the next six sets to establish a winning margin before Emma Hurling beat Caroline Reeh, Mark Smith duly disposed of Glen Wilkes to make the score 7/3. Their final match was against Devonshire who had slipped from fifth place into the relegation zone, a win was imperative for the West Country team if the were to avoid relegation but the Yorkshire team could see the Championship looming and promptly dispatched their opponents 10/0, a most emphatic way of ensuring the Championship would spend the next year in the green fields of Leeds. So once again it is congratulations to Michael James, Peter Marshall, Mark Smith Caroline Reeh and Joanna Roberts, worthy champions and worryingly for their opponents, young enough to repeat the performance for some years to come.

Runners up for the second successive season were Sussex. Lying in fourth place after the first round of matches where they lost to Yorkshire, they did all they could to make up lost ground hoping for a slip up by the leaders, they won all four of their matches thrashing Devonshire and Derbyshire 10/0 before a tight match saw them ease out Middlesex 6/4 finishing with a 9/1 demolition of Kent. A magnificent effort but they had to rely on somebody taking points from Yorkshire, but it was not to be.

Hertfordshire battled gamely all season but just found the opposition too hot to handle, they picked up just 15 sets from a possible 70 though not from lack of effort, they will have next season in the first division to re-group and take stock of things.

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION

What a strange division! The final places are almost exactly the same as they were after the first round of matches, the only change being in the relegation places where Kent managed to ease ahead of Middlesex to avoid the wooden spoon place but could not avoid relegation.

Surrey proved to be worthy winners having extended their winning lead to two points over Buckinghamshire who finished in second place, however they were unable to register a clean sweep over the last four matches, they started well enough beating Middlesex 7/3 and Kent 8/2 before the only glitch of their season when they were held to a 5/5 draw against Buckinghamshire, still by that time they only had to avoid defeat in their final match to ensure the Championship which they duly did. Their team of Michael Chan, Darius Knight, Miten Patel, Joanna Parker, and Debbie Flint proved their capabilities and well done to them all. It may be a different story next season of course when, as is inevitable, they loose many of their players from the junior ranks, as they say "Tempus Fugit".

Buckinghamshire effectively lost their chance at the title when having beaten Warwickshire in their first match they could only manage a draw against lowly Yorkshire in their second match, they sprang back to form to beat Cheshire 7/3, only Danny Horner (2) and Kate Ingham (1) proving an obstacle.

Middlesex who finished in bottom place actually won more sets over the season than Kent who finished one place above them, taking 23 sets from a possible 70 as compared to Kent who managed only 17, crucially from those 17 sets Kent managed to scrape a win and two points thereby avoiding the wooden spoon.

SENIOR DIVISION 1A.

The final round of four matches started with Leicestershire and Lancashire locked together on five points both having won two matches and drawn the match which paired them together during the first weekend of play, but with Leicestershire holding a superior sets advantage. Lancashire strengthened their team from the first weekend with the inclusion of Alice Howard and Jonathan Taylor, who was making a return to the game after a break of several years, hoping to claw back the necessary sets to displace their Midlands rivals at the top of the division. The first set of matches produced two games which could prove damaging to the leaders, Lancashire against the mercurial Northumberland and Leicestershire against Nottinghamshire, in the event neither match proved troublesome to the leaders, Lancashire winning 7/3 and Leicestershire 8/2. The afternoon matches paired Leicestershire against Northumberland and Lancashire against Norfolk, as Norfolk were a man short the outcome was predictable 9/1 Lancashire with only a win for Kim Chambers over Andrea Harrison saving the whitewash. The Red Rose County were hopeful that Northumberland would bounce back after a poor start and inflict some damage on Leicestershire. Not so, Chris Rogers and Co. served up a real hiding for the team from the North East, only Eddie Smith and Andrew Wilkinson offering any real resistance, 8/2 Leicestershire.

The final day of matches paired Leicestershire against the two bottom teams, Suffolk and Norfolk, they made short work of the depleted Norfolk side, only Adam Brewer with a win over Abraham Conteh upsetting the applecart, which meant that provided Leicestershire could avoid a loss or draw against Suffolk they were home and dry, they duly obliged with a win to make their position unassailable and ensure promotion to the Premier next season. Lancashire pushed all the way and duly polished off Suffolk 8/2 and repeated the score against Worcestershire to finish in 2nd place four sets making all the difference.

Kevin Dolder of Lancashire deserves a special mention, playing at number one, he finished the season undefeated, as far as I can see the only man to do so. Karen Smith also produced a 100% return, the only Lady to do so, I just wish she would make it look a little more difficult, but then perhaps it isn't for her.

Nottinghamshire, who many thought would be pressing for promotion, had a dreadful weekend loosing three matches and only managing a draw against Worcestershire in the last set of their match. Their run of poor form saw them drop to fifth place behind South Yorkshire who had a much better weekend, winning three and loosing one.

Norfolk, despite the gallant efforts of their players only a super optimist would expect a team with one player short to win anything at this level of competition.

All in all a very enjoyable weekend, well organised by Dave Roden and played in a most sporting manner on the whole, but I wouldn't be happy unless I had something to moan about. First off, County Colours, every County is required to declare the shirt/shorts colour that their teams will play before the start of the season. Unfortunately it would seem that this information is not always passed on to the players or is ignored. I saw one team playing in the shirts of their National League team which happened to be maroon when their County colour is declared as blue. My second gripe is the old familiar one concerning the provision of umpires, only three Counties bothered to send umpires, Worcestershire, Suffolk and Lancashire. The rest apparently cannot be bothered and so you have the farcical situation where, quite correctly, qualified Umpires on one table are imposing disciplinary sanctions for misbehaviour whilst on the next table, umpired by a player, much worse things are going unpunished.

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION

Congratulations to Kent worthy winners of the division, the only team to remain unbeaten throughout the season. Their team of Ian Girdler, Joey Kennedy, John Burleton and Di Pearce may not appear the strongest on paper but they produce the results where it matters, on the table. In the final round of four matches they dropped only six sets beating Leicestershire 8/1 Surrey 6/3 Middlesex 9/0 and Cheshire 7/2, most impressive. Runners-up were Essex who suffered only one defeat, and that at the hands of Kent, the "Coming of age" of Clive Carthy has certainly strengthened their squad.

Cheshire and Lancashire have for the past few seasons been accustomed to fighting for 1st and 2nd places, not so this season. After the first round of matches Cheshire were in 2nd place, but the second round of matches made a mockery of that. In their first match they managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory when they went from 4/2 up to loose the match 5/4, they then beat bottom place Leicestershire 7/2 before defeats by Surrey 5/4 and Kent 7/2, no disrespect to the Cheshire squad but why no member of the Johns family playing?

Lancashire were in a very dodgy situation at the start of the weekend, managing to retain membership of the top rank, but only just. The return of Keith Williams after a series of industrial injuries would have been most welcome although I hear he is still not fully fit, stay away from ladders Keith. Brenda Buoey continues to rack up wins for the Red Rose County as does Phil Bowen.

Middlesex and Leicestershire found the pace too hot to handle and are both relegated. Their places next season being taken by Yorkshire and Sussex.

I close by wishing you all a relaxing closed season and hope that you will all be back fighting fit next September, ready to face the challenge of eleven up best of five games, or is it seven or even nine? Answers on the back of a fifty pound note please.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS LEAGUE TABLES by Leslie Smith

Final Tables for Season 2000/2001

SENIORS

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire	7	6	1	0	54	16	13
Sussex	7	6	0	1	53	17	12
Middlesex	7	4	1	2	46	24	9
Kent	7	4	1	2	39	31	9
Devonshire	7	3	0	4	29	41	6
Surrey	7	2	1	4	32	38	5
Derbyshire	7	1	0	6	12	58	2
Hertfordshire	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

DIVISION 1A							
Leicestershire	7	6	1	0	55	15	13
Lancashire	7	6	1	0	51	19	13
Northumberland	7	3	2	2	37	33	8
South Yorkshire	7	4	0	3	31	39	8
Nottinghamshire	7	2	1	4	37	33	5
Worcestershire	7	1	3	3	32	38	5
Suffolk	7	1	2	4	26	44	4
Norfolk	7	0	0	7	11	59	0

DIVISION 1B							
Essex	7	6	0	1	48	22	12
Glamorgan	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	0	3	35	35	8
Wiltshire	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Berkshire	7	3	1	3	33	37	7
Hampshire	7	2	1	4	26	44	5
Isle of Wight	7	0	3	4	24	46	3
Kent 2nd	7	1	0	6	26	44	2

DIVISION 2A							
Yorkshire 2nd	7	6	1	0	59	11	13
Cleveland	7	5	2	0	45	25	12
Cheshire	7	4	0	3	38	32	8
Warwickshire 1st	7	3	2	2	34	36	8
Leicestershire 2nd	7	3	1	3	33	37	7
Lancashire 2nd	7	2	1	4	27	43	5
Warwickshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	23	47	2
Cumbria	7	0	1	6	21	49	1

DIVISION 2B							
Cornwall 1st	7	7	0	0	58	12	14
Worcestershire2nds	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
Avon	7	4	0	3	31	39	8
Devonshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	30	40	8
Glamorgan 2nd	7	3	1	3	35	35	7
Somerset	7	1	1	5	28	42	3
Herefordshire	7	1	1	5	20	50	3
Cornwall 2nd	7	1	0	6	31	39	2

DIVISION 2C							
Essex 2nd	7	7	0	0	48	22	14
Bedfordshire	7	3	3	1	39	31	9
Hertfordshire 2nd	7	3	2	2	34	36	8
Lincolnshire	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Cambridgeshire	7	2	2	3	35	35	7
Northamptonshire	7	2	1	2	35	35	6
Suffolk 2nd	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
Norfolk 2nd	7	0	0	7	18	52	0

DIVISION 2D							
Gloucestershire	6	6	0	0	45	15	12
Sussex 2nd	6	3	2	1	34	26	8
Buckinghamshire	6	3	1	2	37	23	7
Kent 3rd	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Oxfordshire	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Surrey 2nd	6	1	2	3	25	35	4
Berkshire 2nd	6	0	0	6	10	50	0

JUNIORS

PREMIER DIVISION							
Surrey	7	6	1	0	45	25	13
Buckinghamshire	7	4	3	0	45	25	11
Glamorgan	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Cheshire	7	4	1	2	39	31	9
Yorkshire	7	2	2	3	38	32	6
Warwickshire	7	2	2	3	33	37	6
Kent	7	1	0	6	17	53	2
Middlesex	7	0	0	7	23	47	0

DIVISION 1A							
Essex	7	7	0	0	53	17	14
Lancashire	7	6	0	1	48	22	12
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	1	2	35	35	9
Nottinghamshire	7	4	0	3	37	33	8
Cumbria	7	2	1	4	34	36	5
South Yorkshire	7	1	2	4	28	42	4
Derbyshire	7	1	1	5	23	47	3
Suffolk	7	0	1	6	22	48	1

DIVISION 1B							
Devonshire	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Dorset	7	5	1	1	39	31	11
Glamorgan 2nd	7	5	0	2	44	26	10
Buckingham 2nd	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Berkshire	7	2	1	4	26	44	5
Worcestershire	7	1	2	4	24	46	4
Avon	7	1	1	5	30	40	3
Hampshire	7	0	0	7	16	54	0

DIVISION 2A							
Lincolnshire	7	7	0	0	53	17	14
Cleveland	7	5	0	2	41	29	10
Cheshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	36	34	8
Norfolk	7	4	0	3	35	35	8
Lancashire 2nd	7	3	1	3	30	40	7
Essex 2nd	7	2	0	5	31	39	4
Warwickshire 2nd	7	2	0	5	30	40	4
Huntingdonshire	7	0	1	6	24	46	1

DIVISION 2B							
Gwent	7	6	1	0	56	14	14
Sussex	7	6	0	1	54	16	12
Surrey 2nd	7	4	1	2	32	38	9
Kent 2nd	7	4	0	3	40	30	8
Middlesex 2nd	7	2	3	2	30	40	7
Surrey 3rd	7	2	0	5	29	41	4
Gloucestershire	7	0	2	5	18	52	2
Essex 3rd	7	0	1	6	21	49	1

DIVISION 3A							
Hertfordshire	7	7	0	0	54	16	14
Bedfordshire	7	5	0	2	42	28	10(94-69)
Suffolk 2	7	5	0	2	42	28	10(91-67)
Leicestershire	7	4	0	3	39	31	8
Hunt'gd'nshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	32	38	8
Norfolk 2nd	7	2	0	5	29	41	4
Cambridgeshire	7	1	0	6	27	43	2
Bedfordshire 2nd	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

DIVISION 3B							
Lincolnshire 2nd	6	5	1	0	45	15	11
Northamptonshire	6	5	1	0	39	21	11
Nottingham 2nd	6	4	0	2	44	16	8
Durham	6	3	0	3	38	22	6
Nottingham 3rd	6	2	0	4	28	32	4
Conway 1st	6	1	0	5	13	47	2
Conway 2nd	6	0	0	6	3	57	0

DIVISION 3C							
Shropshire 1st	7	7	0	0	52	18	14
Devonshire 2nd	7	6	0	1	53	17	12
Cornwall 1st	7	4	0	3	46	24	8
Somerset	7	4	0	3	39	31	8
Herefordshire	7	2	1	4	24	46	5
Devonshire 3rd	7	2	0	5	23	47	4
Cornwall 2nd	7	1	1	5	21	49	3
Shropshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	22	48	2

DIVISION 3D							
Oxfordshire	7	7	0	0	58	12	14
Buckingham 3rd	7	6	0	1	54	16	12
Sussex 2nd	7	5	0	2	43	27	10
Wiltshire	7	2	2	3	31	39	6
Gwent 2nd	7	2	1	4	27	43	5
Kent 3rd	7	2	0	5	19	51	4
Northampton 2nd	7	1	1	5	27	43	3
Sussex 3rd	7	1	0	6	21	49	2

VETERANS

PREMIER	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Kent	7	7	0	48	15	14
Essex	7	6	1	42	21	12
Surrey	7	5	2	39	24	10
Dorset	7	4	3	35	28	8
Cheshire	7	3	4	37	26	6
Lancashire	7	2	5	26	37	4
Middlesex	7	1	6	12	51	2
Leicestershire	7	0	7	13	50	0

DIVISION 1A						
Yorkshire 1st	7	6	1	44	19	12
Durham	7	5	2	36	27	10
Hertfordshire	7	5	2	32	31	10
Yorkshire 2nd	7	4	3	34	29	8
Northumberland	7	3	4	33	30	6
Oxfordshire	7	2	5	27	36	4
Norfolk	7	2	5	25	38	4
Cheshire 2nd	7	1	6	21	42	2

DIVISION 1B						
Sussex	7	6	1	38	25	12
Surrey 2nd	7	5	2	37	26	10
Kent 2nd	7	5	2	35	28	10
Avon	7	4	3	37	26	8
Hampshire	7	3	4	32	31	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	7	3	4	30	33	6
Berkshire	7	1	6	27	36	2
Wiltshire	7	1	6	16	47	2

DIVISION 2A						
Cambridgeshire	7	6	1	37	26	12
Warwickshire 1st	7	5	2	44	19	10
Lancashire 2nd	7	5	2	43	20	10
Bedfordshire	7	5	2	38	25	10
Essex 2nd	7	3	4	29	34	6
Yorkshire 3rd	7	3	4	27	36	6
Essex 3rd	7	1	6	18	45	2
Norfolk 2nd	7	0	7	16	47	0

DIVISION 2B						
Buckinghamshire	7	7	0	47	16	14
Somerset	7	5	2	42	21	10
Dorset 2nd	7	4	3	36	27	8 (81-62)
Worcestershire 1st	7	4	3	36	27	8 (83-68)
Kent 4th	7	3	4	28	35	6
Kent 3rd	7	3	4	24	39	6
Devonshire	7	2	5	27	36	4
Worcestershire 2nd	7	0	7	12	51	0

DIVISION 3A						
Nottinghamshire	7	7	0	43	20	14
Cheshire 3rd	7	5	2	41	22	10
South Yorkshire	7	5	2	38	25	10
Staffordshire	7	4	3	33	30	8
Leicestershire 2nd	7	4	3	31	32	8
Yorkshire 4th	7	2	5	29	34	4
Northamptonshire	7	1	6	25	38	2
Warwickshire 3rd	7	0	7	12	51	0

DIVISION 3B						
Middlesex 2nd	7	7	0	48	15	14
Buckingham 2nd	7	6	1	46	17	12
Hertfordsldre 3rd	7	3	4	31	32	6
Middlesex 4th	7	3	4	30	33	6
Norfolk 3rd	7	3	4	28	35	6
Kent 5th	7	2	5	29	34	4
Bedfordshire 2nd	7	2	5	24	39	4
Hertfordshire 4th	7	2	5	16	47	4

DIVISION 3C						
Berkshire 2nd	7	5	2	43	20	10
Surrey 3rd	7	5	2	39	24	10
Sussex 2nd	7	5	2	36	27	10
Middlesex 3rd	7	4	3	34	29	8 (82-67)
Essex 4th	7	4	3	34	29	8 (74-73)
Hampshire 4th	7	2	5	19	44	4
Oxfordshire 2nd	7	1	6	20	43	2
Sussex 4th	7	1	6	18	45	2

DIVISION 3D						
Hampshire 2nd	6	5	1	43	11	10
Gloucestershire	6	5	1	37	17	10
Warwickshire 2nd	6	5	1	35	19	10
Hampshire 3rd	6	2	4	23	31	4
Sussex 3rd	6	2	4	22	32	4
Berkshire 3rd	6	1	5	16	38	2
Devonshire 2nd	6	1	5	13	41	2

DIVISION 4A						
Cheshire 4th	6	5	1	41	13	10
Yorkshire 5th	6	5	1	33	21	10
Hertfordshire 6th	6	4	2	36	18	8
Lincolnshire	6	2	4	24	30	4
Nottingham 2nd	6	2	4	21	33	4
Northampton 2nd	6	2	4	11	43	4
Clwyd	6	1	5	23	31	2

DIVISION 4B						
Hertfordshire 5th	6	6	0	36	18	12
Norfolk 4th	6	4	2	32	22	8
Surrey 4th	6	4	2	31	23	8
Huntingdonshire	6	3	3	30	24	6
Oxfordshire 3rd	6	3	3	31	23	6
Berkshire 5th	6	1	5	23	31	2
Bedfordshire 3rd	6	0	6	6	48	0

DIVISION 4C						
Berkshire 4th	6	6	0	39	15	12
Wiltshire 2nd	6	5	1	40	14	10
Gloucestershire 2nd	6	4	2	36	18	8
Hertfordshire 7th	6	3	3	26	28	6
Herefordshire 1st	6	2	4	27	27	4
Devonshire 4th	6	1	5	15	39	2
Herefordshire 3rd	6	0	6	6	48	0

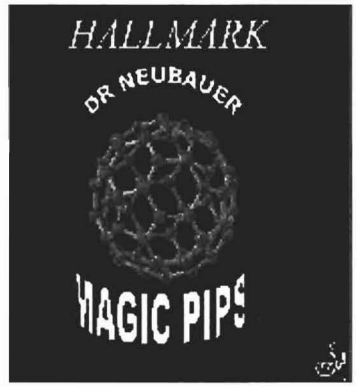
DIVISION 4D						
Glamorgan	6	6	0	46	8	12
Wiltshire 3rd	6	5	1	34	20	10
Dorset 3rd	6	3	3	36	18	6
Cornwall	6	3	3	23	31	6
Devonshire 3rd	6	2	4	19	35	4
Somerset 2nd	6	1	5	16	38	2
Herefordshire 2nd	6	1	5	15	39	2

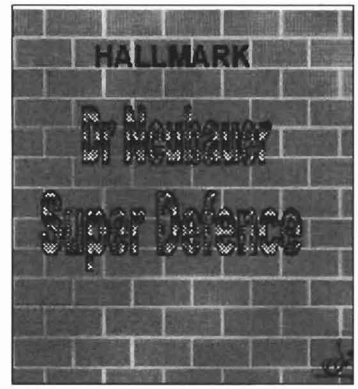


HALLMARK NEW PRODUCTS

HALLMARK the Welsh based company that is exploring new horizons for pimpled players, have developed two new rubbers and a blade, following on from last season's launch of the highly successful 'Dr Neubauer Super Special' long pimpled rubber, writes John Wood.

These new products will be tested out by myself during the summer and a blade and rubber test report will appear in September's issue.





Dr Neubauer Magic Pips

This is a new short pimple rubber available in black or red with either 1.5mm or 2.0mm sponge thickness. The 1.5mm version has a greater downward effect when blocking against top spin and counter hitting. While with the 2.0mm higher levels of rotation are possible when top spinning.

Dr Neubauer Super Defence

Super Defence is a highly effective long pimple rubber which is available either without sponge or with 1.0mm. The no sponge version is suitable for use by close to the table blockers while the 1.0mm version is designed for the classical long range defender.

Dr Neubauer STRATEGY

Dr Neubauer has now developed a combination blade which they are calling Dr Neubauer STRATEGY.This blade will give more effect to long pimples using the 40mm ball when blocking or chopping against topspin and is also effective with anti spin and Short pimples as it slows the ball down. The ball is accelerated when top spinning or counter hitting thus making it a very effective tool for combination bat players.

Further information can be obtained from the Distribution Manager, Mrs. Anne Hall, Telephone: 029 2070 5336, or on the internet: www.hallmarktt.com

NEW GLUE

THE very latest on Glue is that there will be no official change until after the next Olympics in 2004. From now until then the large gluemaker in Belgium is working on a new substance, that will when applied, give speed for 48 hours, eliminating the present time consuming situation of players gluing up between games.

But the new glue will need six hours drying time. It will be expensive but much smaller amounts will be used, so costs will be less in the long run.

GLUE AUTHORISATION

The following glue has been authorised by the ITTF since last February 2001: Jet, Jetline Trading Co., Taiwan.

TABLES

The following tables have been authorised by the ITTF, valid until July 2003: Andro 'Magnum-SC' green, and Andro 'Magnum-SC' blue.

GRANT SOLDER TABLE TENNIS SUMMER SCHOOL 2001

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING TABLE TENNIS COURSE

To be held at Barking Abbey School Leisure Centre, Woodbridge Road, Barking, Essex IG11 9ET
SATURDAY 18th AUGUST until TUESDAY 21st AUGUST 2001

COURSE ORGANISER: GRANT SOLDER (ALL 4 DAYS)

Age 28, Former professional table tennis player. Currently a Professional Table Tennis Coach working fulltime at Peniel Academy. Former coach of England Junior, Cadet, and Under 12 players. Former Essex No.1, London No.1, and England No.12 Mens. Represented England at Junior and Senior level. Former England No.1 Junior, England Under 18 Champion, Spanish International Open Champion, Essex and London Junior Mens Singles Champion. Grant has organised nine previous Coaching Courses. He played most of his professional table tennis in the Belgium Super League and Norwegian Premier Division for four seasons. An ETTA Qualified Coach.

COURSE DIRECTOR: NICKY JARVIS (ALL 4 DAYS)

Nicky is a professional table tennis coach working full time at Peniel Academy. He is former England Junior and Senior Mens No.1, and England National Coach. World highest ranking No.27 and European No.14. A very experienced coach and is regarded as one of England's leading coaches. An ETTA Qualified Coach.

COACH: ALAN COOKE (2 DAYS ONLY, SAT. & SUN.)

Former England Mens No.1, three times English Champion, former Commonwealth Champion. Alan was a great England player with an excellent hard working attitude. He has beaten some of the World's greatest players, such as Waldner, Gatien, Appelgren, and Persson. Alan is a Professional table tennis coach and is currently working with the National Team.

COACH: DESMOND DOUGLAS (1 DAY ONLY, SAT.)

Former England No.1 (for 11 years), World No.7 and European No.4. England International for 20 years. One of England's greatest all time players. Des has beaten most of the World's top players, such as Waldner, Gatien, Saive, Appelgren, Persson, Grubba and Bengston. Titles include 11 times English Champion, European Top 12 Champion, European Team Silver Medallist, English Open Champion and Commonwealth Champion.

COACH: TERRY YOUNG (2 DAYS ONLY, SUN. & MON.)

Terry is playing professionally in the German Bundesliga and is a current England International. Currently his England ranking is No.5. Highest England ranking of No.3. Terry reached the final of the National Mens Singles Championships in 1999, where he defeated England No.1 Matthew Syed. Won a Commonwealth Gold Medal in the Team event. One of the leading servers around, so he will be doing his best to help you improve your serves.

COACH: ANDREW EDEN (ALL 4 DAYS)

Aged 27, Andrew is a former England No.5 and was a regular member of the England team. His titles include Commonwealth Gold Medallist, former England Junior No.1 and English Junior Champion. Played professionally for Peniel Academy and in the German Bundesliga. Andrew is a very enthusiastic coach and a great personality.

ENGLAND TABLE TENNIS PSYCHOLOGIST: MARK BAWDEN (ALL 4 DAYS)

Mark is a fully qualified Sports Psychologist and has worked for the last four years for the ETTA, working with the top Senior and junior players on the mental side of the game. He is a former England No.5 cadet and so obviously has a very good background of the game. So here's your chance to have some 1-2-1 and group sessions with Mark and improve the mental side of your game.

COST £239 PER PERSON NON-RESIDENTIAL (INCLUDES LUNCH)
£329 PER PERSON RESIDENTIAL - FULL PRICE INCLUDES:

Accommodation - Saturday, Sunday and Monday nights accommodation, at the Palms 3 Star Hotel, which has en-suite rooms and Satellite TV.

Meals - Breakfast, lunch, and evening meals will be provided.

Playing conditions - Play will take place in the brand new £2.5 million Sports Centre funded by the Lottery, on Donic tables, with excellent lighting.

For an application form or any further information, please contact:
Grant Solder, 6 Bennions Close, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6TR
Telephone: 01708 551778 or Mobile: 07930 275 940



ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

4th June 2001 - List 89

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4815	
(5)	2	HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4774	
(2)	3	PERRY, Alex (DV.)	4618	
(4)	4	COOKE, Alan (DY.)	4599	
(7)	5	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4568	
(3)	6	BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)	4558	
(6)	7	PREAN, Carl (IW.)	4540	**
(8)	8	DOUGLAS, Desmond (WA.)	4408	**
(9)	9	BILLINGTON, Bradley (DY.)	4298	
(10)	10	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4188	
(11)	11	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	4075	**
(12)	12	EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	4044	**
(14)	13	ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY.)	3950	**
(15)	14	BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	3924	**
(18)	15	SLADDEN, Cris (E.)	3771	*
(19)	16	SHAW, Steven (ST.)	3698	
(25)	17	SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3697	
(21)	18	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)	3684	*
(20)	19	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)	3651	
(23)	20	PYE, Leeroy (NK.)	3629	
(24)	21	GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3610	
(22)	22	JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3600	
(35)	23	CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3587	
(27)	24	TAYLOR, Jonathan (LA.)	3564	**
(34)	25	HILTON, John (CH.)	3547	
(28)	26	MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3535	*
(26)	27	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.)	3525	
(31)	28	KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3513	
(29)	29	BROWN, Mark (K.)	3512	*
(30)	30	BARR, David (BK.)	3500	*
(33)	31	MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3480	*
(36)	32	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3473	
(32)	33	SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3456	
(39)	34	SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3440	*
(38)	35	CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3438	
(37)	36	ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3423	
(40)	37	CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3409	
(43)	38	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3370	
(82)	39	HUTCHINGS, Paul (LA.)	3349	
(48)	40	KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	3348	
(44)	41	WHITING, Paul (DV.)	3344	
(41)	42	CUNNINGHAM, Andy (K.)	3342	
(47)	43	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3331	
(49)	44	SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3330	
(46)	45	TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3329	*
(45)	46	JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3324	
(58)	47	BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3315	
(62)	48	POUNTNEY, Robert (SY.)	3304	
(52)	49	WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3295	
(55)	50	NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3251	
(53)	51	GANNON, David (LE.)	3244	
(54)	52	GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	3244	*
(56)	53	BRIDGETT, Gregory (DV.)	3240	**
(57)	54	BEERLING, Stephen (K.)	3237	*
(59)	55	PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3227	*
(60)	56	CRIMMINS, Max (WO.)	3221	***
(51)	57	CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3221	
(61)	58	RICHARDSON, Keith (CA.)	3219	*
(65)	59	MCKOY, Nick (MI.)	3206	*
(64)	60	SHORT, Mark (YS.)	3202	
(78)	61	RANKIN, John (LA.)	3189	
(67)	62	PAYNE, Phil (SO.)	3179	*
(71)	63	GIBSON, Sean (E.)	31701	
(68)	64	LOGSDON, Philip (NK.)	3169	*
(73)	65	HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	3168	
(66)	66	GIRDLER, Ian (E.)	3162	
(69)	67	WIGNALL, Andy (LI.)	3157	
(70)	68	ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3153	*
(76)	69	GELDER, Tony (DU.)	3133	
(75)	70	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3133	**
(77)	71	JONAH, Jerome (K.)	3130	*
(79)	72	COX, Philip (K.)	3126	*
(80)	73	HARDING, David (SY.)	3117	
(74)	74	WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	3111	
(81)	75	CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY.)	3104	*
(84)	76	JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	3103	
(63)	77	DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	3102	
(98)	78	HALL, Dominic (K.)	3101	
(89)	79	WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3096	
(83)	80	SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	3091	
(92)	81	ROOFE, Eddie (WI.)	3090	
(87)	82	TENDLER, Gary (E.)	3065	*
(85)	83	GODBOLD, David (DU.)	3060	
(90)	84	ROMANO, Mark (K.)	3057	*
(91)	85	DENNISON, John (E.)	3056	*
(100)	86	SHORT, Mike (DV.)	3055	
(88)	87	WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3054	
(93)	88	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3050	
(104)	89	MAJITHIA, Mayur (SX.)	3043	
(106)	90	HORSFIELD, Andrew (Ys) (Y.)	3038	
(94)	91	LIGHTOWLER, Richard (Y.)	3026	
(95)	92	WALKER, Andy (SX.)	3026	
(96)	93	GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	3024	**
(97)	94	OWEN, Mark (HR.)	3016	*
(99)	95	RICH, Andy (ST.)	30151	*
(101)	96	BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	3015	
(103)	97	READ, Mark (WA.)	3009	
(112)	98	BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	2986	
(107)	99	PAYNE, Clive (HA.)	2977	*
(108)	100	BUTLER, Mark (DO.)	2965	*

Senior Women

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	4030	
(2)	2	LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3925	
(3)	3	MARCH, Linda (E.)	3715	*
(4)	4	OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3670	
(5)	5	PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3590	
(9)	6	BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3575	
(11)	7	STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3446	
(7)	8	DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3436	
(8)	9	WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3430	
(10)	10	SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3302	
(12)	11	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3246	
(13)	12	HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3227	
(14)	13	SPARKES, Rebecca (SK.)	3200	
(15)	14	THORNTON, Lindsey (LA.)	3178	
(16)	15	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3140	*
(21)	16	BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	3111	
(20)	17	YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3107	**
(22)	18	RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	3094	***
(18)	19	DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3086	
(17)	20	LOCKWOOD, Karen (CH.)	3084	
(23)	21	NEWNS, Clare (CH.)	3080	***
(19)	22	BONGERS, Jose (ST.)	3075	
(24)	23	WESTON, Sally (SX.)	3068	
(25)	24	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)	3063	
(26)	25	HURLING, Emma (HE.)	3032	*
(27)	26	KENDALL , Jade (CU.)	3028	**
(28)	27	COHEN, Michele (AV.)	3025	*
(29)	28	BUOEY, Brenda (LA.)	3018	*
(37)	29	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2991	
(30)	30	SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2982	
(31)	31	SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2979	
(33)	32	HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2969	*
(34)	33	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2957	
(36)	34	SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2949	***
(103)	35	WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	2935	
(41)	36	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2901	
(69)	37	SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	2876	
(38)	38	SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2876	
(40)	39	LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	2873	
(39)	40	DAVISON, Sarah (Sk) (E.)	2873	
(43)	41	WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2858	
	42	PRINCE, Julie (LA.)	2856	N
(47)	43	PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2855	
(205)	44	BALDI, Andrea(Ys) (Y.)	2855	
(44)	45	MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2851	**
(46)	46	WANG, Lucy (E.)	2847	*
(42)	47	SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2833	
(48)	48	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2829	
(49)	49	FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2818	
(53)	50	MORLEY, Judy (GS.)	2818	
(51)	51	MALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	2813	
(52)	52	PERRY, Penny (DV.)	2812	**
(54)	53	BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2810	
(55)	54	KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2809	
(74)	55	BRISTOW, Angie (K.)	2806	
(50)	56	PESTKA, Debbie (NG.)	2792	
(76)	57	KING, Sheila (SX.)	2776	
(57)	58	GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2771	
(58)	59	SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2769	*
(62)	60	DURHAM, Jane (CV.)	2765	
(66)	61	BURGESS, Suzanne (CH.)	2760	
(61)	62	RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2754	
(56)	63	ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS.)	2746	
(63)	64	GARLICK, Helen (K.)	27401	*
(81)	65	JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2735	
(59)	66	DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2733	
(64)	67	COGGON, Sara (SX.)	2728	*
(65)	68	MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)	2727	*
(45)	69	PERRY, Lucy (DV.)	2722	
(67)	70	DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2722	
(68)	71	MUDGE, Kim (E.)	27201	*
(77)	72	BAX, Sally (HE.)	2718	
(70)	73	VAJDI, Carmen (SY.)	2713	**
(73)	74	HUMBLE, Ann (GS.)	2704	***
(60)	75	LEHMANN, Bettina (LE.)	2702	
(75)	76	SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.)	2701	*
(71)	77	HORSNELL, Sarah (MI.)	2673	
(82)	78	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)	2669	*
(83)	79	SMITH, Nicola (Y.)	2667	**
(72)	80	DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2666	
(84)	81	NARENDRAN, Aparna (MI.)	2664	*
(87)	82	REID, Lynda (WO.)	2662	
(85)	83	H-MIDDLEMORE, Joan (WA.)	2657	**
(79)	84	SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2654	
(91)	85	HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2651	
(86)	86	SEYMOUR, Tamar (OX.)	26501	**
(80)	87	FLOWERDAY, Anne (E.)	2643	
(88)	88	JOHNSON, Susan (BK.)	2635	***
(99)	89	WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	2627	
(90)	90	STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2627	*
(92)	91	POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2625	*
(93)	92	BARELLA, Jane (SY.)	26221	*
(94)	93	WHITE, Jean (LI.)	2616	*
(95)	94	SEAHOLME, Caroline (HE.)	2614	*
(89)	95	BROWN, Janet (OX.)	2612	
(97)	96	GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA.)	2603	
(96)	97	HALES, Linda (DO.)	2601	**
(100)	98	GUTHRIE, Caron (ND.)	2581	**
(101)	99	CRICK, Lisa (BK.)	2578	*
(116)	100	HOOKER, Muriel (BU.)	2572	

Junior Boys

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	4075	**
(2)	2	KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3513	
(3)	3	CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3438	
(4)	4	BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3315	
(6)	5	HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	3168	
(7)	6	JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	3103	
(5)	7	DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	3102	
(9)	8	HALL, Dominic (K.)	3101	
(8)	9	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3050	
(10)	10	BRYANT, Craig (DY.)	2986	
(11)	11	CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	2833	
(12)	12	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2789	
(13)	13	HUGHES, Tom (NG.)	2755	
(16)	14	HANDY, Philip (DO.)	2659	
(14)	15	BARHAM, Lee (CA.)	2646	
(15)	16	NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	2571	
(18)	17	GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	2489	
(17)	18	DAVIES, Stephen (LI.)	2472	
(33)	19	DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	2401	
(20)	20	MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	2367	
(19)	21	DIXON, Zeke (CU.)	2349	
(29)	22	MAUTHOOR, Umair (E.)	2280	
(21)	23	BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	2253	
(22)	24	HANSELL, Robert (BU.)	2236	*
(23)	25	YARNALL, Greg (NP.)	2224	
(28)	26	CLARKE, Martyn (CV.)	2189	
(26)	27	EVANS, Bradley (Bu) (BK.)	2177	
(30)	28	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	2156	
(25)	29	HOLTAM, Tim (MI.)	2147	
(27)	30	PEEBLES, Robin (LA.)	2059	
(39)	31	MOSS, Richard (Y.)	1961	
(31)	32	JACOBS, David (E.)	1941	*
(32)	33	BROOKS, Warren (BU.)	1925	*
(34)	34	BLOOMFIELD, Gary (SK.)	1903	*
(36)	35	FENNELL, Aaron (E.)	1887	*
(35)	36	CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1880	
(37)	37	POUNTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1844	**
(38)	38	WYNN-SANDS, Dominic (GS.)	1821	**
(45)	39	CANT, Mathew (LE.)	1795	
(46)	40	HARLEY, John (K.)	1754	
(43)	41	BRADFORD, Leigh (WA.)	1743	
(40)	42	LALLY, Keiran (E.)	1732	
(41)	43	HAYWARD, Gareth (WA.)	1730	*
(44)	44	MORAN, Edward (SP.)	1675	
(47)	45	MITCHELL, Thomas (BU.)	1651	*
(48)	46	SHIPWAY, Adam (DV.)	1630	*
(85)	47	LEMON, Robert (SY.)	1630	
(55)	48	SHUTES, William (NK.)	1613	
(49)	49	COOPER, Mark (E.)	1563	**
(50)	50	POWELL, Neil (CH.)	1563	

Junior Girls

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3590	
(4)	2	BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3575	
(5)	3	STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	3446	
(2)	4	DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3436	
(3)	5	WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3430	
(6)	6	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3246	
(7)	7	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2957	
(14)	8	WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	2935	
(8)	9	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2901	
(9)	10	WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2858	
(10)	11	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2829	
(11)	12	NARENDRAN, Aparna (MI.)	2664	*
(12)	13	WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	2627	
(13)	14	POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2625	*
(20)	15	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	2551	
(15)	16	GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	2533	
(16)	17	INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	2529	
(24)	18	CHEESMAN, Zoe (Y.)	2495	
(19)	19	SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2495	
(17)	20	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	2449	
(18)	21	MEREDITH, Samantha (WA.)	2430	*
(21)	22	FLINT, Deborah (SY.)	2410	*
(22)	23	CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2378	*
(23)	24	TODD, Nicole (E.)	2361	
(25)	25	BROWN, Grace (E.)	2320	
(26)	26	BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2266	
(28)	27	TONG, Rebecca (LA.)	2249	*
(27)	28	SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH.)	2234	
(37)	29	LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2176	
(29)	30	ROBERTS, Hannah (LA.)	2122	
(32)	31	HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	2102	
(30)	32	RADFORD, Kerry (NG.)	2091	
(31)	33	CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	2087	***
(38)	34	BELL, Amanda (Y.)	2076	
(36)	35	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	2037	
(35)	36	BARNARD, Kimberley (LA.)	1988	**
(33)	37	DONNELLY, Sarah (Y.)	1981	
(34)	38	YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	1967	
(50)	39	DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH.)	1862	
(42)	40	WEIL, Emma (E.)	1786	
(39)	41	HUBBARD, Joanne (K.)	1776	
(40)	42	VAJDI, Christina (SY.)	1759	**
(41)	43	BARRETT, Michelle (DV.)	1724	*
(43)	44	DAUNCEY, Stephanie (AV.)	1659	**
(44)	45	WALLER, Tanya (Y.)	1637	*
(52)	46	BALDI, Rachel(Ys) (Y.)	1635	
(49)	47	HOLLETT, Gemma (SY.)	1623	
(45)	48	HEARD, Gemma (E.)	1622	
(46)	49	HUMAN, Emma (BK.)	1582	****
(47)	50	CLEMINSON, Jessica (E.)	1555	**

Cadet Boys

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
1)	1	BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	3315	
(2)	2	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2789	
(3)	3	NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	2571	
(4)	4	GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	2489	
(11)	5	DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	2401	
(5)	6	MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	2367	
(9)	7	MAUTHOOR, Umair (E.)	2280	
(6)	8	BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	2253	
(8)	9	EVANS, Bradley (Bu) (BK.)	2177	
(10)	10	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	2156	
(13)	11	MOSS, Richard (Y.)	1961	
(12)	12	CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1880	
(15)	13	MITCHELL, Thomas (BU.)	1651	*
(26)	14	LEMON, Robert (SY.)	1630	
(18)	15	ROGERSON, Shaun (LI.)	1491	
(17)	16	HAYES, David (BU.)	1483	
(16)	17	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	1472	
(29)	18	LEIGHTON, Andrew (DU.)	1383	
(21)	19	SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS.)	1358	
(23)	20	PAGE, Tom (CH.)	1350	
(19)	21	FLETCHER, James (LA.)	1344	
(20)	22	REES, Daniel (E.)	1334	
(22)	23	WESLEY, Richard (NG.)	1216	
(24)	24	MILTON, James (BU.)	1202	
(25)	25	HALLING, Tony (E.)	1177	

Cadet Girls

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	3246	
(2)	2	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2957	
(4)	3	WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	2935	
(3)	4	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2901	
(6)	5	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	2551	
(5)	6	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	2449	
(7)	7	CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2378	*
(8)	8	BROWN, Sarah (E.)	2266	
(13)	9	LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	2176	
(10)	10	HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	2102	
(9)	11	CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	2087	***
(12)	12	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	2037	
(11)	13	YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	1967	
(15)	14	DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH.)	1862	
(14)	15	WEIL, Emma (E.)	1786	
(17)	16	TUCKER, Emily (BU.)	1539	
(16)	17	SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K.)	1493	
(18)	18	GASSON, Faye (CU.)	1376	*
(19)	19	WEIL, Lucy (E.)	1324	
(21)	20	REES, Bethany (E.)	1215	
(22)	21	ROGERS, Gina (SX.)	1165	
(20)	22	SHUTT, Heather (Y.)	1160	
(23)	23	BOSLEY, Lisa (BK.)	1048	**
(25)	24	LIGHTOWLER, Katie (Y.)	993	
(26)	25	SMITH, Kendall (WO.)	910	

Under 12 Boys

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1	EVANS, Bradley (Bu) (BK.)	2177	
(3)	2	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	2156	
(4)	3	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	1472	
(6)	4	SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS.)	1358	
(5)	5	REES, Daniel (E.)	1334	
(7)	6	MILTON, James (BU.)	1202	
(8)	7	CANNON, Samuel (MI.)	864	
(9)	8	POYNER, Simon (DV.)	785	
(12)	9	BARLOW, Ben (YS.)	767	
(10)	10	HARVEY, Michael (GS.)	729	
(11)	11	EVANS, Gavin (BK.)	698	
(13)	12	EVANS, Myles (BK.)	579	

Under 12 Girls

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	2551	
(3)	2	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	2037	
(2)	3	YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	1967	
(4)	4	SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K.)	1493	
(5)	5	SHUTT, Heather (Y.)	1160	
(8)	6	DAVIS, Stella (GS.)	619	
(6)	7	PERKS, Sarah (NG.)	603	
(7)	8	WANG, Sarra (E.)	595	**
(9)	9	BIELEC, Sylvana (BK.)	560	
(10)	10	BURLISON, Amy (CU.)	484	**
(11)	11	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)	481	
(13)	12	LINZ, Caroline (SY.)	398	

Veteran Men

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	DOUGLAS, Desmond (WA.)	4408	**
(2)	2	HILTON, John (CH.)	3547	
(3)	3	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3473	
(4)	4	ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3423	
(5)	5	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3370	
(8)	6	KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)	3348	
(7)	7	TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3329	*
(6)	8	JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3324	
(9)	9	CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3221	
(10)	10	CRIMMINS, Max (WO.)	3221	***
(11)	11	RICHARDSON, Keith (CA.)	3219	*
(12)	12	GIRDLER, Ian (E.)	3162	
(14)	13	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3133	**
(15)	14	GELDER, Tony (DU.)	3133	
(16)	15	HARDING, David (SY.)	3117	
(19)	16	WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	3096	
(18)	17	ROMANO, Mark (K.)	3057	*
(20)	18	SHORT, Mike (DV.)	3055	
(17)	19	WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3054	
(21)	20	PAYNE, Clive (HA.)	2977	*
(22)	21	HILL, Brian (LI.)	2953	***
(23)	22	BURLETON, John (BU.)	2930	**
(24)	23	HARPER, Mick (BD.)	2909	*
(26)	24	HOLLAND, John (Snr) (E.)	2908	
(49)	25	BHALLA, Ramesh (SY.)	2903	

Veteran Women

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3302	
(2)	2	DUNNING, Jan (WO.)	3086	
(3)	3	BUOEY, Brenda (LA.)	3018	*
(6)	4	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2991	
(4)	5	SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2982	
(5)	6	SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2979	
(21)	7	SHORT, Elaine (DV.)	2876	
(7)	8	SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2876	
(8)	9	PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2855	
(11)	10	MORLEY, Judy (GS.)	2818	
(9)	11	MALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	2813	
(10)	12	PERRY, Penny (DV.)	2812	**
(12)	13	BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2810	
(13)	14	KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2809	
(24)	15	KING, Sheila (SX.)	2776	
(14)	16	GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2771	
(15)	17	SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2769	*

TIM WILTSHIRE

THE Cornish table tennis world was in a state of shock with the sad news of the sudden death of one of it's leading characters.

Tim Wiltshire, a player for more than 40 years, died during a match at Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre, St.Austell, earlier this year.

"He will be sadly missed in all areas of table tennis in Cornwall," said Peter Knight, secretary of the Mount Charles club for which Tim played.

After leaving St.Austell Grammar School he spent two years in America with his parents, before returning to join the Royal Airforce for his National Service where his ability with foreign languages resulted in service in Berlin as an interpreter at the height of the 'Cold War'.

After National Service Tim returned to St.Austell where he met his wife Maureen.

In the late 1950's he and Mike Tregunna joined the Slades club, teaming up with the Geach brothers Ivor and Owen, Lewis Jones and Denis Penhall, where he quickly became their No.1 player and secretary.

Tim was many times County Over 40 and 55 champion, and he was a consistent winner in the Mid-Cornwall League Championships.

He was known throughout St.Austell as well as Cornwall, as 'Mr. Sportsman', where in his major sport of table tennis he participated very successfully as a player, coach and administrator. In cricket circles he was known as a canny bowler and hard hitting batsman. At golf in his latter years with St.Austell Golf Club he was a consistent winner.

Tim was a competitive person in all aspects of life, but his number one priority throughout remained his family where he was a pillar of strength for his wife Maureen, daughter Karen, and his grandchildren Tristan, Bethany and Hannah. Tim was a rare breed and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Ray Bunt

BRIAN WICKS

UNEXPECTEDLY on 31st March 2001 Brian, aged 65, died at Derriford Hospital in Plymouth.

He was born in Watford and worked in London prior to moving to Plymouth to become an Accountant with Wrigleys. Brian had suffered a heart condition for the past 1 8 years.

Brian joined the Committee of the Beacon Electrical Plymouth and District Table Tennis League in 1972. He became Assistant Treasurer for 4 years before taking over from Dave Wood as Treasurer, a position he held for over 20 years. During his tenure, the League moved from rented premises at Devonport Guildhall to purchase the old Leggo Wilson Laundry premises in Desborough Lane and then convert them into a six table centre which is flourishing and free from loans.

In addition to his involvement with the Plymouth League, Brian also became Treasurer for Devonshire Table Tennis association on 16th September 1985 when he took over from Wilf Gorman who was very ill and later died.

Brian was a quiet, well respected man with strong principles who enjoyed his weekly table tennis matches in the local league for Wrigleys. He took an active interest in youth, giving assistance on Monday nights with the Plymouth Schools League. This season he played in Division 6 with his daughter Karen and Lisa Radford (Devonshire's number 1 Cadet girl).

Brian was the loving father of four children, David, Peter, Jacqueline and Karen, plus he was also a granddad and great granddad. Our condolences go to all his family.

He will be missed greatly by all his table tennis colleagues and friends.

John Vincent

KEN MUHR interviews ANDREW RUSHTON

The National Under 21 Champions Andrew Rushton & Louise Durrant interviewed by Ken Muhr at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield on 11th March. (Louise's interview will appear in September's issue of Table Tennis News).

Andrew Rushton, 17 from Worsley, Manchester, the England no. 2 junior last season who has broken into the top 10 seniors this season, is a member of the National Training Centre, Nottingham and plays for the Fontemay Club in the French National League

Ken Muhr: First of all, to congratulate you on winning the under 21 mens singles. Is that your best victory so far?
Andrew Rushton: It is, yes. That, and the National Junior Masters last year at Cippenham.
KM: People said you were a little too quick for Michael Isherwood (in the under 21 final), and that you played better on the pressure points. Is that a fair summary of that match?
AR: I think so. It was close all the way, but in the big points I won most of them.
KM: You lost in the mens singles to Andrew Eden. Have you played him before?
AR: Only in practice.
KM: He is still a good player. How did you feel about that match?
AR: He is still very good. Going into to it I felt it was going to be a hard match, I prepared well but I suppose he was just too strong at the end of the day.
KM: It was very close so it could have gone either way. How would you analyse the match?
AR: I feel that in the first I was struggling because he is an awkward player, but as the game progressed I got a lot better against him and I thought if I could have taken the second game I could probably have taken the third game as well.
KM: What are your ambitions now?
AR: My ambition this season is to get into the Commonwealth and the World Championships, and the year after to get in the Commonwealth Games team. Technically, I want to improve my backhand consistency with punch and topspin. It is getting better all the time, but just to get it that little bit better so that I can compete with the top players.
KM: It is quite difficult to survive in table tennis until you have got to the top level. How are you surviving?
AR: I am surviving okay at the minute, I am practising every day at the national centre and working with the coaches - it is the best thing that I can do. Apart from that, I am playing in France.
KM: You are hoping to be a full-time player?
AR: Definitely, definitely. France is good, but the money side of things is a big problem as I am not getting paid at the minute.
KM: Who are your big influences, the coaches and the people behind you?
AR: My family, they have influenced me quite a bit, my mother and father, my brothers Paul and Craig. I used to play in their team in the league. And Denis Neale as well, he has helped me a lot, because when he started coaching me I was about 13 in the cadets and I went straight to 6.
KM: What did you learn from Denis?
AR: To be a bit more aggressive really, mentally I got a lot stronger. Technically I got a lot stronger, he opened my game out a lot. So I owe a lot to him.
KM: Are there any comments you would like to make about the national centre?
AR: The place is good, it is away from everything else so you can really concentrate on your table tennis. There have been a lot of people slagging off the Academy, but really if you want table tennis to progress it has got to be there. And it is good to be there, the Academy is brilliant! It has been the best thing for me. It has taught me a lot, not just about table tennis, but about life, about discipline and things like that. The coaches are working really hard as well so it is really good.

SEASIDERS SUMMER SCHOOL

FIFTH GREAT YEAR AT BLACKPOOL

5th – 10th AUGUST 2001

COACHES : DES DOUGLAS, DENIS NEALE & NICOLA DEATON

NEW 120 BEDROOM SEAFRONT HOTEL

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY NIGHT

COST : £299 (INCLUDES FULL BOARD & MID-DAY BUFFET)

DETAILS : TONY MEREDITH 01253-397589/314908

GRANTHAM COLLEGE



***NICOLA DEATON** is pictured above coaching two youngsters at Grantham College Sports Hall*

GRANTHAM COLLEGE in Lincolnshire will establish the first Further Education Table Tennis Academy in September this year. Further Education colleges across the country are looking to develop academies in a variety of sports. At Grantham we considered a number of options, and explored a Football Academy in some detail before deciding that everyone else had the same idea, and that the best academies are those linked to the top clubs - Grantham Town may have a good stadium, but they are hardly in the Premier League!

Looking at what Grantham was good at in the world of junior sport gave me some food for thought. It didn't take long to realise that there is a wealth of Table Tennis talent in the town, with much of it nurtured over the years by local coach, John Mapletoft, who ten years ago was the inspiration behind the building of South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre in Grantham. I remember that England played China at the Centre to celebrate the opening of the superb venue, and I was struck then by the very high standard of play that has to be achieved to compete on the world stage.

A chance meeting with John Mapletoft last summer led to me realise that the local College can play a significant role in helping the development of talent. At the College we already host one of the most successful local clubs for practice and tournaments and nationally ranked youth player Steve Davis is among others who train at the College. We also have 15 competition standard tables that really do look "the business" when set out in our fine Sports Hall. England No 1, Nicola Deaton, has already used the excellent College facilities and, together with Alan Cooke, will be leading a one-week residential training camp at the College during the school summer holidays.

Seven years ago, the College Governors had the foresight to build en-suite bedrooms for students on fulltime courses. This gives the College the opportunity to recruit students to courses from outside our area and from abroad, and the residential provision will mean Academy Table Tennis players have nothing to worry about in moving to the area. The accommodation is right next to the Sports Hall, so there will be no excuses in being late for coaching sessions!!

The College has been delighted at the support and encouragement of ETTA, and has patiently discussed the details of the Academy, with Chairman Alan Ransome taking a personal interest in ensuring that we are providing a top quality opportunity for young players.

Of course, we recognise that not all aspirant young people can become top flight players: that is why within the Academy all those over the age of 16 will follow a full-time College course at Intermediate, Advanced or Higher Diploma level, in addition to receiving 15 hours Table Tennis coaching each week. Everyone will leave with a qualification allowing for progression to employment or to higher education. Competition will feature significantly for our Academy players and they will play in leagues appropriate to their ability - hopefully Grantham will be able to do well in British Colleges tournaments as well.

Our Table Tennis Academy is an exciting adventure. Applicants from around the country are now being interviewed, and we shall shortly be appointing a coach to lead the initiative.

The Academy will open later this year with 16 places available for male or female players over the age of 16. It is a win-win opportunity: the players win, being able to continue their sport with their studies: the College wins by recruiting students to strengthen its reputation and Table Tennis wins through players having the opportunity to raise standards. I am sure that the Academy will capture the imagination and be a tremendous success.

Application forms for the Academy are available from the Information Officer, Grantham College: 01476 400251.

Malcolm Saville is Principal of Grantham College and Chairman of British Colleges Sport East Midlands. www.grantham.ac.uk

Grantham College Table Tennis Academy

TABLE TENNIS COACH/COLLEGE LECTURER
(part-time or full-time) Ref: AT/00.01/43
Salary: circa £20,000 per annum (negotiable)

An exciting new opportunity - Grantham College opens its ETTA approved Academy in September 2001. Students will study for a full-time qualification along with 15 hours per week coaching provided by the successful candidate.

The table tennis coach will:

- Be ETTA qualified
- Lead and develop the Academy
- Organise and deliver the coaching programme
- Promote tournament and competition opportunities
- Have an opportunity to contribute to teaching an academic programme (for suitably qualified candidate)

If you are interested in this challenging new role, please telephone 01476 400210 and leave your full contact details (24 hrs) or via whines@grantham.ac.uk or contact the Human Resources Unit, Grantham College, Stonebridge Road, Grantham. NG31 9AP. An application pack will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Closing date for receiving applications is:
1st August 2001

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Grantham College

Visit Grantham College on the world-wide web at www.grantham.ac.uk

TEACHING & TRAINING

ETTA NATIONAL TEACHING & TRAINING CONFERENCE 2001

"Let's Make It Better"

Dates: 7th-9th September 2001

Venue: Lilleshall Hall National Sport Centre

Costs: Full Residential £125.00
Day Rate with Meals £50.00
Awards Dinner Only £25.00
Format: Workshops

Level 4 Coaches Course – 2 days Saturday & Sunday
This is open to Level 3 and Level 4 coaches wishing to increase their knowledge in bringing players to an International level. The main emphasis will involve the development of tactics and qualities required at the very highest level. The course will serve as the syllabus towards the ETTA Level 4 Award.
Personal Performance Day – 1 day Saturday
Open to everyone who wants to improve his or her playing ability.
Open Coaches Workshop – 1 day Sunday
This day will revolve around designing purposeful practice for optimal player development.
Level 1 Umpires – 1 day Sunday
The new Level 1 certificate course looks at umpiring/scoring skills at local levels. It is suitable for people in Premier Clubs and local leagues.
International Umpires – 1 day Saturday
This course is designed for people who already have good experience as an Umpire but have aspirations to the Big Arena.
Tournament Organiser Level 1 – 1 day Sunday
This one-day course looks at HOW to run events at a local level and will be of particular interest to Premier Club, local league and county organisers.
Tournament Organiser Level 3 – 1 day Saturday
This course is designed for people who already have experience of running courses at local level and/or minor 'Open' Tournaments who would like to move on to running National events.
TTDO's Gold Award – 2 days Saturday & Sunday
This brand new course looks at a process of accelerated Planning to take Table Tennis into the future. It will be of interest to anyone who is active in a Premier Club or local environment or just wishes to move ideas into practical action steps.
Disability Awareness Training Level 1 & 2 – 1 day Sunday
This one-day course is designed for people with an interest in working with disabled people or would like to encourage disabled people into their club. Mark Palmer one of our top paralympic players will be there all day so come and try your skills against him!!
Women's Day Level 1 & 2 – 1 day Saturday
A one day workshop open to all who would like to see more women and girls playing table tennis and have ideas to promote our sport – also to try and solve the 'age old' question of how to keep women and girls in table tennis. Come and have your say!
Contact Jill Parker 50 Egerton Road, Ashton, Preston PR2 1AL for details. Tel: 01772 461325 or Email jparkeretta@cableinet.co.uk

BAD BEHAVIOUR

I AM becoming more and more concerned with deteriorating behaviour of many of our young players at tournaments, writes Gail McCulloch.

It seems that every time a point is lost, a mouthful of foul language follows. This abuse is not always directed at the opponent - very often it is to remonstrate with their own inadequacies. Nevertheless, the obscenities are usually loud and offensive and clearly this behaviour has to change.

I understand the frustration that one feels, if bad decisions are given, but we do have a procedure for discussing this and calling for the referee if necessary. However, regardless of the reason for the dispute, no umpire deserves to be abused by a player and more importantly, no passing spectator will be impressed by a foul mouthed exhibition in the sporting arena.

Certainly as a coach, I do not want to hear such gutter language when I give up my time to help youngsters and to promote the game that I love. The time has come for umpires to use their cards on every occasion that foul language is audible. Coaches also have their part to play by ensuring that this behaviour is outlawed and players banned from their clubs for a period if necessary. The game is clearly being brought into disrepute at present and we ALL need to stamp this out NOW.

HIGH PERFORMANCE
THE High Performance Coaching Programme was launched at the 64th English Open on February 11th. The low numbers were disappointing. However, the day was very informative with input from both Peter Hurst and Michel Gadal. The opportunity to watch some of world's best players and to discuss at length and in detail, their play was exhilerating. I'm sure that all present found the day extremely worthwhile.

On the down side, I continue to be amazed at the discourtesy shown by many coaches, in their inability to reply to invitations that are sent to them. So often, I find that planning becomes a last minute affair as we are not sure of numbers because coaches do not reply to letters that are sent to them. This makes the life of Jill Parker so difficult and often we are in a dilemma about the running of a course and it's cost effectiveness balanced against cancellation charges.

COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2001 information and entry forms appears overleaf on page 30. Please send your entries in soon, as the closing date is on the 9th August 2001.



ALAN COOKE & NICOLA DEATON
WORKING TOGETHER 2001
SUMMER SCHOOL



PLUS ALEX PERRY, MARK BAWDEN & MANY INTERNATIONAL STARS

LOCATION: GRANTHAM COLLEGE
COST: PARTICIPANTS £299
NON-PARTICIPANTS £175
DATE: 6th - 10th AUGUST 2001

CONTACT Telephone Nos.
01246 570805 / 855834
07887 586615 or 07881 624330

COACH OF THE YEAR

CRITERIA
All nominees must be affiliated to the ETTA

CATEGORIES
Male Coach of the Year
Female Coach of the Year
Tutor Coach of the Year
Young Coach (Under 25)
Contribution to Coaching (eg for long service)
Coach of Disabled Athletes
Table Tennis Development Officer Award
Volunteer of the Year
Press Officer of the Year (supported by Random House)

All nominees will receive a certificate.
Winners will be presented with their awards at the ETTA Conference at the Lilleshall Presentation Dinner on the 8th September 2001.

If you wish to send any further information about your nominees, please do so on a separate sheet of paper.

Please return your nomination forms to: Peter Hirst, 5 Sidney Gardens, Haslingfield, Cambs. CB3 7NA by no later than the 9th August 2001.

Name of Nominee.....

Address of Nominee.....

.....Post Code.....

Category .....

Reasons for Nomination .....

.....

.....

.....

Nominated by..... Tel No.....

CALENDAR

JUNE		
9th-10th	National U10/11/12 Championships	
9th-10th	Butterfly Grand Prix Finals	Potters Leisure Resort
17th	Idsall Cadet 2 Star	
17th	Idsall Junior 2 Star	
30th	ETTA Annual General Meeting	
30th-1st	Schools International	
JULY		
15th	Grove Cadet 2 Star	Whitchurch
15th	Grove Junior 2 Star	Whitchurch
28th	National Council	
AUGUST		
4th	Scarborough Cadet 2 Star	
4th	Scarborough Junior 2 Star	
4th	Scarborough Senior 2 Star	
4th	Scarborough Veteran 2 Star	
25th-26th	Butterfly Grand Prix	Liverpool
31st-2nd	Junior & Cadet Home Countries International	Widnes
SEPTEMBER		
1st-2nd	British League Weekend (1)	
2nd	British League (1) Premier Division	
7th-9th	ETTA National Conference	
8th-9th	Womens British League	
11th	Slovakia vs England Men	
15th	County Championships (1) Cadet, Junior, Senior & Veterans	