TABLE TENNIS NEWS

£2.50

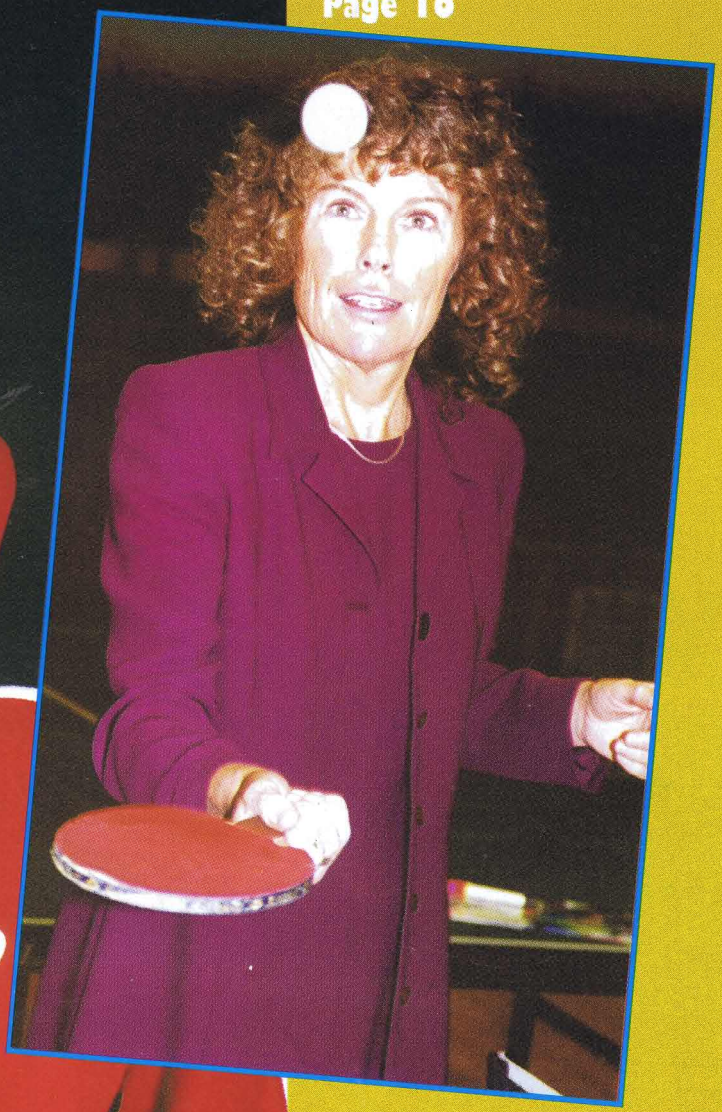
No.271 SEPTEMBER 2000

KATE HOEY VISITS CORNWALL

Page 16

ANDREW BAGGALEY WINS BRONZE IN BRATISLAVA

Pages 14 to 15



THE BIG INTERVIEW WITH SOREN AHLEN

Pages 20 to 23

STIGA®

You can now purchase "STIGA SPECIALIST PRODUCTS" from
The Bat Workshop Tel: 01304 369 996 Fax: 01304 369 636 e-mail: sales@bat-workshop.co.uk
Thornton's Sport and Leisure Tel/fax: 0161 761 6608
FOR STIGA TABLES
Telephone Sweden Table Tennis (UK) Ltd Tel: 01903 267599

Liu Guoliang wins the World Title with **Mendo MP** rubber and **Clipper CR** blade!

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

- **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
- **Bribar Table Tennis - Joola**
  Equipment & balls for all ETTA National Tournaments 2000-2003

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

Contents

CHATTERBOX 04
Ping in Dave's step

FROM THE CHAIR 05
England success at European Youth

POSTBAG 07
Letters to the Editor

OLYMPIC PREVIEW 12
Kong Linghui No.1 seed

EUROPEAN YOUTHS 14
Medals for Baggaley and Robertson

TABLE TENNIS CENTRES 16
Kate Hoey visits Cornwall

FACE TO FACE 17
Herbert Neubauer - A unique talent

THE BIG INTERVIEW 20
With Soren Ahlen

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
LION
WOOLWICH SPONSORSHIP
TSP
Butterfly
DUNLOP
JOOLA
DONIC
Jarvis Sports

TABLE TENNIS NEWS & TTN EXTRA

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Issue No.271
September 2000

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
Centenary Cottage,
Church Road, Charlestown,
St.Austell, Cornwall PL25 3NS
Telephone/Fax: 01726 70607
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.

PING IN DAVE'S STEP



PICTURED ABOVE: (left to right) STEVE MILLS, Operations Manager - Machining for BAE Systems, Lawrence Patton MBE, and Dave Evans with Taffy. *Picture by kind permission of BAE SYSTEMS*

BAE SYSTEMS worker Dave Evans from Sunnyside Road, Crosby certainly had a 'ping' in his step recently when he arranged a couple of marathon table tennis sessions to raise enough money to sponsor a guide dog for the blind.

Dave managed to raise £1,400 whilst remaining unbeaten when he played over 70 sets of table tennis in two days against colleagues in the Pendle Restaurant at BAE SYSTEMS, Samlesbury. Diners watched in wonder as Dave even beat some of his opponents using a frying pan! However, still short of his target Dave went on to organise a further marathon session with the Bath Street Table Tennis Club in Crosby. This enabled him to raise the further £832 - needed to sponsor the dog.

Dave said: "I chose the charity in memory of my father who died in August. He was blind and I thought it would be a nice gesture, to raise enough money to buy and train a guide dog. I was determined to raise the full amount even if it meant an extra days ping pong.

"The two days at BAE SYSTEMS were great fun and everyone enjoyed themselves, it was all very-light-hearted, especially the games when I used the pan."

Dave has named the dog Taffy after his father.

WRONG SCORE!

Table Tennis News published a wrong score, due to a misundersatanding. Apologies to Anusha Seneviratne.

The score should have read: Anusha Seneviratne from Ashford, Kent, had won through a close final to beat Lauren Spink from Norwich, Norfolk, 21-23, 21-14, 21-19, in the National Under 11 Girls Singles.

PLEASE NOTE

Correspondents can send their copy by email to:

johnwood@macace.co.uk

for "Attachments" save them as a

"Word 5.1 for Machintosh" file

or you can save it in

a "Richtext" file

WOODY'S *World*

WELCOME to the the first issue of Table Tennis News for the 2000/2001 season, you will notice that it is predominantly packed with interesting interviews and features. This is due to the fact that the only tournament played since the June/July issue was the European Youth, which we feature on pages 14 and 15.

We also feature the exciting news of our new National Table Tennis Centre at Sheffield, see Alan Ransome's column on page 5.

There is an Olympic Games preview on pages 12 to 13 and an indepth interviw with Soren Ahlen on pages 20 to 23.

I would like to wish all our readers a happy as well as a successful season.

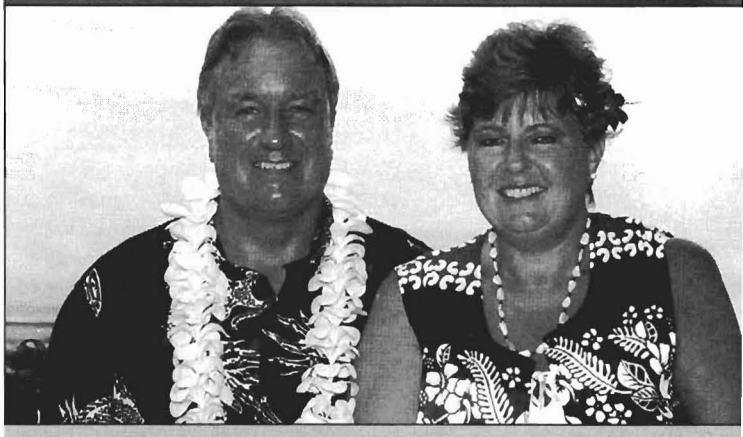
John Wood

SYED FOR PARLIAMENT?

Subject to formal endorsement, Matthew Syed will be representing the Labour Party in the parliamentary constituency of Wokingham, John Redwood's seat, at the next General Election. Syed who was the first British Athlete for any sport to qualify for the Sydney Olympics, has long combined playing table tennis with his keen interest in politics and economics, having gained a first class degree at Balliol College, Oxford.

Syed said, "I am looking forward to using my competitive skills in the political arena."

MARRIED IN FLIP-FLOPS IN FIJI



Popular table tennis players on the VETTS circuit, DEREK WOOD and JACKIE THOMAS, tied the knot in Yanuca Island, Fiji, last May, with only themselves present, and had two people from Sydney Australia to be their witnesses. They just wanted to make everything legal without having to go through a traditional wedding. However, they had a celebration for family and friends over the VETTS National weekend in Bristol, held at the Aztec hotel.

As you can see from the photograph Derek and Jackie did not marry in traditional uniform either. But what you cannot see in the photograph, is that they are wearing blue flip-flops !

FROM THE CHAIR by Alan Ransome

ENGLAND SUCCESS AT EUROPEAN YOUTH



Alan Ransome OBE, Chairman of the ETTA

FOLLOWING the impressive results from the Danish Open and the Cadet Six Nations in June, the England junior team produced their best overall performance for over a decade in the European Youth championships played in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 7 to 16 July.

Andrew Baggaley produced the best result in reaching the semi-final of the Junior Boys singles before losing to the eventual winner Cioti of Romania 2 - 1, whilst Dale Barham reached the quarter final of the Cadet Boys Singles before losing to the European No. 2 and silver medallist, Bobillier of France. Dale was also unbeaten in the Cadet Boys team event.

Katie Parker was again the best of the girls reaching the last 16 of the Junior Girls Singles. In fact, six of the England players reached the last 16 in various events: Georgina Walker and Kate Steward in the Cadet Girls doubles and Andrew Baggaley and Louise Durrant in the Junior Mixed doubles. The best performance in the team events was produced by the Cadet Girls who finished 12th. The Junior Boys finished in 17th place and re-gained their position in the top category for the next championship.

Another excellent performance was produced by Adam Robertson of Wales who reached the final and won the silver medal in the Junior Boys singles, the best ever performance in a European Youth championship by a Welsh player.

These results are a considerable improvement on last year and although two of our leading juniors, Andrew Baggaley and Andrew Rushton, will be over age next year and Dale Barham out of the Cadets, we can look for further progress when the championships are next played in Italy in July 2001.



ANDREW BAGGALEY (left) and ADAM ROBERTSON, who won Bronze and Silver medals in the Boys Singles at the European Youth Championships, in Bratislava

Picture by Roger Varden

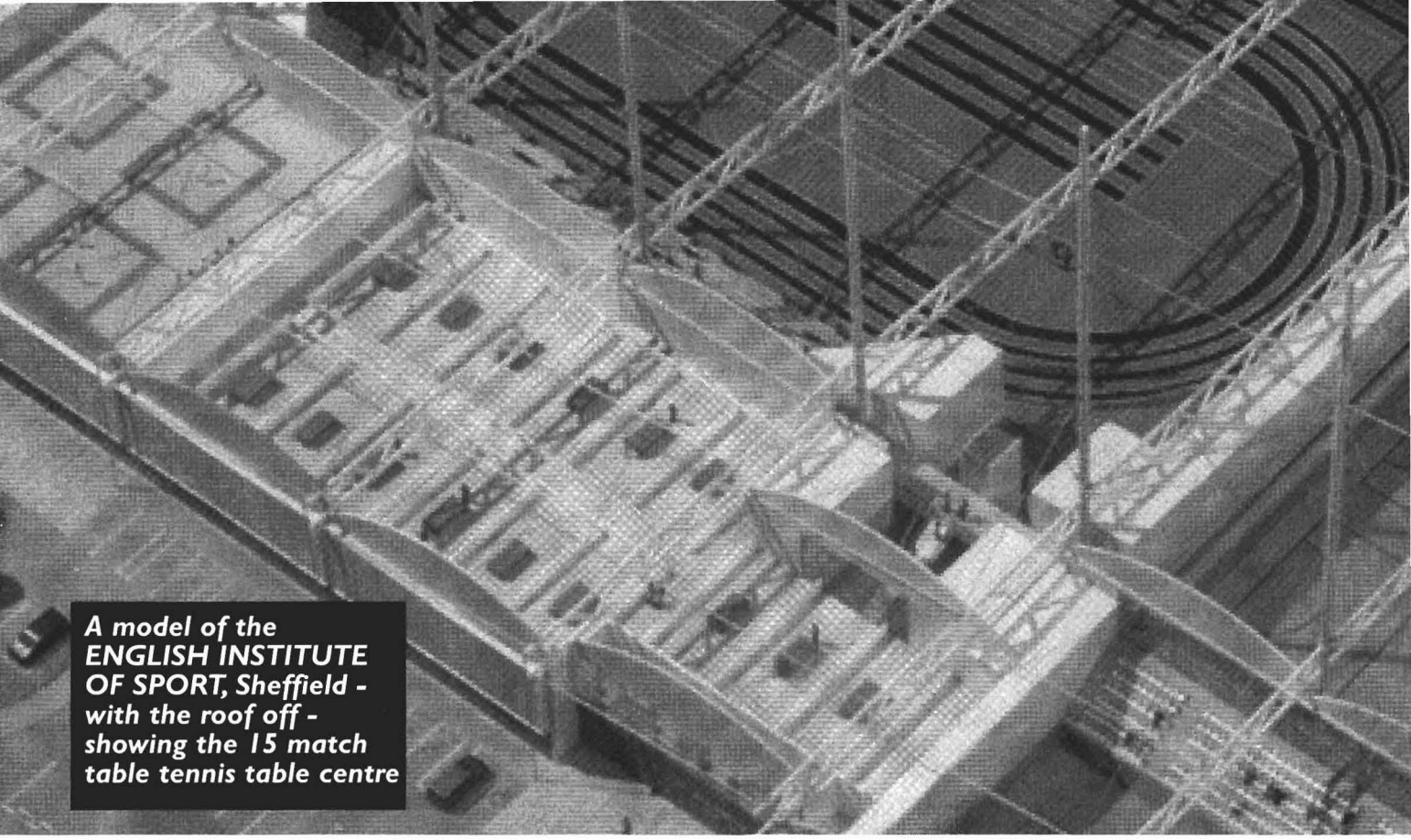
ETTA MOVE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE TO INSTITUTE OF SPORT

The ETTA National Council at its meeting on Saturday, 29 July adopted a proposal from Management Committee to move the ETTA National Training Centre from Holmepierrepont in Nottingham to the new Institute of Sport in Sheffield. The playing facilities at Sheffield will be to the best standard available when the new facility is built in 2002. There will be 21 tables for practice (10m x 5m) and 15 tables for matches (12m x 6m). the floor will be sprung wood with a Taraflex covering. The lighting and decor colour will also be to the highest specifications and the most suitable for table tennis.

In addition, within the location of the table tennis playing hall will be a players' lounge, glue room, meeting room, offices for the Performance staff and adequate storage. Located elsewhere within the Institute will be state of the art fitness facilities, changing rooms and a restaurant. An accommodation block is planned for a site adjacent to the Institute. The location of the Institute is by the Don Valley Stadium, which was the principle stadium for the World Student Games, and the Sheffield Arena, which is a similar facility to the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. The access is close to the M1 Motorway and Sheffield city centre rail and bus stations.

The absolute priority of the table tennis facilities will be for the ETTA World Class Programme where the players will be able to practice every day at the times specified by the Performance Director. In addition, the ETTA will be able to make use of the centre when it is not required for the World Class Programme for the staging of events and Teaching & Training courses, conferences, etc. The facilities will also be available when not required for the uses described above, for the Yorkshire & Humberside Region, the South Yorkshire County Association, the leagues within South Yorkshire and local clubs and other ETTA affiliated organisations.

The costs of building the Institute, which are in excess of £25,000,000, are being met by the Sport England National Lottery fund and Sheffield Partnership funding. There is no requirement for a contribution towards the capital costs from the ETTA. In addition to the table tennis facility, there are extensive facilities for netball, athletics and judo. The area which has been allocated to the All England Netball Association, which covers three netball courts, would also be suitable for table tennis events, as would the additional multi use court. The combination of the netball facilities and the multi use area and the table tennis facilities would be big enough to stage events of the size of the World Veterans or the European Youth championships. The multi use court would be ideal for events such as European League matches or other international single court events as spectator seating is provided. It would also be ideal as the finals area for the National Championships.



A model of the ENGLISH INSTITUTE OF SPORT, Sheffield - with the roof off - showing the 15 match table tennis table centre

2001 ENGLISH OPEN TO BE HELD CLOSE TO M25 MOTORWAY

English Open Championships, a major event within the ITTF Pro Tour 2001, is to be staged at the new Buckmore Park centre near Chatham in Kent between 6 - 11 February. The main hall which will accommodate 9 tables has a sprung wooden floor and permanent tiered seating. The centre is located next to the M25 near the M2 and M20. This will make the 2001 English Open most accessible for table tennis supporters living within the London area for approximately 30 years. The venue is within reasonable distance of both London Heathrow and Gatwick airports and close to the rail terminal at Ashford which serves the Euro Star train service.

The 64th English Open will be the opening Pro Tour event of the 2001 season and is likely to receive a very strong and large entry from many parts of the world. Information with regard to the Open will be available later in the year from the ETTA head office. Mailings will be dispatched to our member associations and further details will be published in Table Tennis News.

ETTA LIMITED

Following the vote at the annual General Meeting on 1st July in favour of incorporation, the National Council at its meeting on 29th July passed the formal motion to incorporate and instructed the Management committee to proceed with the formation of ETTA LIMITED as soon as possible and to transfer the ETTA assets to the new body. The formal incorporation may take some further time as there are a number of procedures that need to be followed. However, it is extremely likely that incorporation will be completed and in place before the end of this year.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Matthew Syed has been spending most of the last three months building up for the event that the majority of the World's best players regard as being the most important, the Olympic Games table tennis competition in Sydney which takes place between Sunday, 17 and Monday, 25 September 2000.

Matthew has stayed in match practice by competing in two of the summer ITTF Pro Tour events, the US Open and the Brazilian Open where he reached his allotted seeded position only to be defeated by a leading Chinese player.

During August Matthew attended two training camps, the first being in Malmo, Sweden where he was accompanied by his Olympic Coach, ETTA Head Coach Soren Ahlen, and the other at one of the World's leading clubs, Charleroi, in Belgium whose team includes Jean-Michel Saive, Zoran Primorac and Vladimir Samsonov.

Matthew flies to Australia on 5 September where he will reside at the BOA holding camp on the Gold Coast accompanied by Soren Ahlen plus Alex Perry and probably Denmark's Alan Bengson who will both assist him with his pre-Olympic practice. On 14 September Matthew flies to Sydney for the Games which commence on 17 September.

The system of play for the Men's Singles will be that the 64 players will be divided into 16 seeds who will not play in the first round groups and 48 players who will play in 16 groups of 3. Matthew is one of the seeded group leaders and therefore has every chance to qualify for the knockout stage which will be the last 32.

With Matthew's style of play the two draws, the group and the knockout stages, are particularly important. If Matthew receives a favourable draw meeting players who are not at their best against defenders, then progress through to the later stages is a definite possibility. On the other hand if he meets some of the leading Asian players who are very good against chop or some of the players he has difficulty with from Europe, then progress will be much more difficult to achieve.

This Olympics is also being seen as a major battle for supremacy for the Men's table tennis between Europe and China. Overall China have been doing well in recent years except that Sweden won the World Team event in Kuala Lumpur. Therefore the battle for supremacy is now focused on the Olympics. For Europe the top two hopes are Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus) and Jan Ove Waldner (Sweden) and for China Kong Linghui and Liu Guoliang are the two best prospects.

Sydney will also be the last competition to be played with a 38mm ball as the 40mm version comes into law internationally from 1 October 2000. BBC television is giving extensive coverage to the Olympics although it is difficult to say at this stage how much of the table tennis competition will be covered. From an Internet perspective one way of following the table tennis competition would be via the ITTF web site which is <http://www.ittf.com>

The ITTF are still in the process of talking to their internet providers but I am reliably informed that the competition can be closely followed via the ITTF web site.

With the Olympic Games taking place, all other major table tennis events such as the ITTF Pro Tour and the European Champions League will not take place during the month of September and therefore table tennis on Sky and probably Eurosport will resume in October or November. Details of the transmission times will be published in Table Tennis News as they become available.

Alan Ransome, ETTA Chairman

POSTBAG

LONG JOURNEY

HOW interesting the June/July issue of TT News was, partlcularly the Sussex County Notes written by John Woodford.

In the past I have seen many criticisms of John Prean for using his own County Notes to air national grieveances. Strange that John uses his notes for exactly the same purpose with regard to the British League Conference. However John must surely brush up on his knowledge of geography (I would have thought it would be a little better considering the amount of travelling he encounters in a normal year). Up here in the North we tend to find that the distance from Glasgow to any of the proposed weekend venues is a bit more than his idea of "up to 50 miles". Our club, and our neighhours Ormesby will face round trips of 170, 230, 240, and 260 miles for our tour weekend.

John also mentioned the view that fans are the people who will lose out - what fans! We have visited Horsham on many occasions and about 12 would ber the norm - and that is a great deal more than you will find in many other venues. What "crowds" we get more in the top division whilst the others have few or even no spectators at all.

The simple fact escapes John, even though he rightly points out the now huge clash of loyalties with the Grand Prix circuit. The ETTA have continually snubbed the idea of investment in the club structure, what happened at Sheffield just had to come. Unrest had been the case for two or three seasons. The British League had two options, 1) continue on It's downward spiral and eventual death. or 2) be brave enough to voice the opinion that something had to change.

lt Is abundantly clear that the ETTA have no intention of giving the British League the financial boost it so urgently needs, so now at least we have the opportunity of making each Premier Division fixture something special. We at Dariington intend to use each home match to try and develop within the community. Perhaps others should think likewise.

On a final point of georaphy, John Woodford may complain of the huge distance from Kent to Cornwall, perhaps he might like to look at the Premier Division from our point of view - our closest away fixture is Barnet.

Keith Wilson
Darlington TTC

Editor's Note: I can understand the comments of Keith Wilson, but I would like to point out that John Woodford's opinions were referring to the newly formed controversial British League Weekends proposition that was pushed through by the North of England at the British League Conference at Sheffield, last summer, against the wishes of the majority of the southern clubs.

Because it's true that a return journey across southern England is between 600 and 800 miles. Making life difficult for the clubs outside of the Premierships who receive far less sponsorship monies than their more glamourous counterparts. Perhaps the southern divisions could return to home and away basis, whilst in the north they carry on with their much loved weekend format. Plus it must be pointed out that local sponsors are not happy if their team's are without home matches.

"LAST OF THE MOHICANS"

lT would be ungracious not to thank John Woodford for the starring role he accorded me in his 'Courtside' article (TTNews June/July). lt is nice to be remembered. After all, I retired as Chair of the ETTA in 1991. I suppose it is better to be remembered unkindly than not at all.

John is wrong, however, in at least two respects. My criticism is seldom aimed at individuals and those foolish enough to read my county notes will note that praise is bestowed very freely and that my criticism is directed at things that have been done badly or policies that seem wrong-headeded or even malevolent.

My praise of the late George Yates was not intended as criticism of John just because his style is different. It is sad, of course, if it is really space or lack of such, which means that we cannot find out, for instance, how our players did individually in the World Championships. The Magazine should not be starved of funds. There are much worthier areas in the

continued on page 8

COURTSIDE
by John Woodford

• **SUE MOTT,** my "Telegraph" colleague has come down hard on British lawn tennis after the humiliating debacle at Wimbledown when we lost 3-2 to lowly Ecuador, which led to Britain being relegated from the world's top tennis nations.

• **WE** know the feeling. The entire media and many well-known players past and present have unmercifully flailed the LTA policies. "British tennis has been mis-managed to the point of decrepitude" wrote Mott. Tim Henman is demanding a drastic change at the very top.

• **THE HEIRARCHY** obliged almost immediately replacing the LTA director of tennis Richard Lewis with a Frenchman Patrice Hagelauer, a former coach to the French team. Up to now the LTA have been reluctant to appoint foreign coaches despite the fact that they are the second wealthiest LTA in the world.

• **HERE** we have some grounds for a controversial debate comparing the major sport of lawn tennis with table tennis. We have two of the top coaches around in Michel Gadal and Soren Ahlen. They are obviously being paid a lot of money, whilst the funds coming through Sport England from the national lottery are dwindling for several reasons, the main one being that less people are buying lottery tuckets.

• **THAT** could not have been forseen when we were delighted to be told over two years ago that almost come what may, we were going to receive £2.3m annually for seven years. That always seemed too good to be true.

• **DARE** we say that there are signs of some progress? Andrew Baggaley winning the Danish Junior Open in Copenhagen and reaching the semi-finals in Bratislava whilst Dale Barham continues to pull up some smaller trees.

• **LAST QUOTE** on this subject for now: Sue Mappin, ex-player, former national team manager has said recently "There is no chance of getting world-class teenagers and seniors if we don't-have a wider base to build on."

• **THE BULK** of talented lawn tennis teenagers have parents willing to spend lots of money in the early stages taking them round the tournament circuit Europe-wide and employ coaches. That is a handicap we do not have.

• **TABLE TENNIS** continues to boom in most European countries. France is an example, there are others. Is that why nearly all our top players are playing in France and several in Germany? I am told that France have now expanded their professional coaches to 300!

• **ENGLAND** has less than half-a-dozen full-time professional table tennis coaches, although there are increasing signs that at the lower levels there are more coaches now earning a living than there were several years ago because coaching is increasing in schools and elsewhere.

• **WHEN** a big, new multi-sporting venue opens it is important that it attracts major events to get it on the map. This is happening at Chatham next February for the World Pro-Tour English Open Grand Prix. It is about time we were able to stage some top-class play in the South, where of course the venues are dearer to hire and the helping hand with grants are less than in the rest of the country.

PLEASE NOTE: Would correspondents for Postbag and County Notes please restrict their copy to 300 words

ETTA where the economic axe could be applied.

John deserves considerable credit, as he is "The last of the Mohicans", that band of journalists which followed our main events in my time in the Chair, when many excellent matches and tournaments were staged all over the country. Now John is the only one left and he deserves the warmest praise for his feats of endurance and loyalty to the sport, which does not always deserve it.

That does not mean that I always agree with him or like what he writes, but he has established a niche as a personality which is uniquely his own.

Whether a mutual admiration society will be founded is as unlikely as my accompanying him on a trip to India and Japan. The World Championships in Osaka are a interesting prospect well worth thinking about, but I did not even go to the Commonwealth Championships when they were on the Isle of Man!

I do not think this is a major event when staged on its own or one vastly superior to an ETTA 3 Star, Which is something I also try to avoid, if I can.

There is, of course, the added complication that in India players and others are often ill. I recall just how sick were Waldner and Appelgren, when the World Championships were staged there. The Swedish coach said that his players had no chance, as they were playing in effect, with a bat in one hand and a roll of toilet paper in the other. Even I might find it difficult to write my fabled prose on the famous buff paper with a pen in one hand and a roll of toilet paper in the other.

As John reports such events, there is always the chance that world class players show a bare bottom to the audience, a much reported deed of which, John has made us so often aware. All things considered, it may be more than flesh and blood can stand, especially for one as squeamish and sheltered as I, who tries so hard to avoid even ETTA 3 Stars.

John Prean
Isle of Wight

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
Employment Opportunity

NATIONAL EVENTS MANAGER

SPORT ENGLAND

The ETTA is seeking to appoint a National Events Manager who will play a key role in the delivery of the Association's extensive events programme.

This is an opportunity for a dynamic self-starter who can:

- Negotiate with venue providers for international matches, national championships and other ETTA events.
- Undertake the detailed organisation and marketing, of all ETTA events.
- Deliver events within budget and provide accurate financial reports for each event.

The successful candidate will be based at the Association's Headquarters in Hastings and will report to the Chief Executive and Vice-Chairman (Marketing).

Benefits:
Salary circa 20K + performance related commission Car, mobile telephone, laptop and out-of-pocket expenses will be provided.

Closing date for applications: 7th October 2000

Job description and application form available under private and confidential cover from R.H. Sinclair, General Secretary, ETTA, Third Floor, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF Tel: 01424 722525 Fax: 01424 422103

The English Table Tennis Association is an equal opportunities employer

OLDER PLAYERS

I note in the TTN July2000 issue under "from the chair" remarks about a possible over 60 County Championship Competition.

For those who are not aware, the "VETTS" (Veterans English Table Tennis Society) have recognised a need for older players since 1986 and have provided a competition programme at their tournaments for 40-70+ age groups. At this time we have over 750 members including 206 in the 60 - 70 age band which includes a number of World and European Champions.

Membership is open to all veterans and cost £10/annum up to 65 and £5 thereafter.

Application forms are available from the membership sec, Mrs Val Murdoch 01462 671 191.

Alex Murdoch
Chairman, VETTS

CLUB NEEDED

I have just taken up table tennis after 45 years absence - early retirement at the age of 62, which has given me a new interest in the game.

I fished out of my attic my old table tennis bat, signed by Johnny Leach, which was called a 'Sandwich Bat', it is housed in a Dunlop Barna soft case, alas the pimpled rubber has seen better days and the 'towelling' type handle grip has pulled off leaving a bare wooden handle.

Do you have a list of bat repairers in my area, or would it be better to buy a new bat. If new it is, do you have any manufacturer's catalogues or addresses.

I have viewed Dunlop Max Allround and Dunlop Power Force, together with the Stiga Range from Sweden, and the Schildkrot selection from Germany. Schildkrot produce 6 bats, Proline, Champion 5, Avantgarde 3, Prestige, Elite and Jade. Could you give me some guidelines on which is best to purchase, as all of the above bats are rated for speed, spin and control. Is it the higher rating that is the better bat to purchase or is it a good indication?

Geoff Kingsnorth
Shillington, Hitchin, Herts.

Editor's Note: Well Geoff you certainly have asked for a lot of advice in one letter. Firstly, your nearest table tennis club is at Hitchin Boys School. Secondly, advice on which bat to purchase could be gained by telephoning one the advertisers in this magazine, plus if you go along to Hitchin Boys School I'm sure they will let you try out some different types of bats.

It is difficult for me to advise you on what particular bat to purchase, because I don't know what style you play. But, as you have had such a long lay-off from playing table tennis I would personally recommend that you get a bat with maximum control, with medium spin and speed.

I wish you good luck with your quest for a new bat Geoff, and welcome you back into the world of table tennis.

THE FOLLOWING LETTERS ARE FROM OVERSEAS PLAYERS WHO ARE EITHER LOOKING FOR PEN PALS OR A CLUB TO PLAY AT. IF ANY READERS ARE INTERESTED, I SUGGEST THAT YOU CONTACT THEM DIRECT

PENPALS NEEDED

PLEASE send me a few names of players of your association, with their addresses (phone, Fax and email).

I wish to correspond with them. Ideally the players ages would be between 17 and 30.

I need 8 women players and 5 men, with their playing levels.

Please contact me by email: sogbobo@exeiterfn

Soglo Bonaventure
Cotonou

TWO SONS

I am interested in sending my two sons, Master Subal Mehta - Age 13 and Master Dhawal Mehta - Age 15, for advanced level Table Tennis coaching during any suitable time between 1st April 2001 to 31st July 2001.

Both of them have been playing competitive Table Tennis for the last five years and both of them have been representing our State Table Tennis Team for National Tournaments in Under 12, Under 14 and Under 17 Categories.

continued on page 10

PLEASE NOTE LETTERS FOR POSTBAG MUST IN FUTURE BE TYPEWRITTEN

We are looking for comprehensive advance level Table Tennis coaching for a period of minimum 15 days up to maximum of 45 days.

I will appreciate it very much, if you could, with your vast contacts in the field of Table Tennis, Suggest the name/names of Table Tennis Clubs, who are conducting Table Tennis Coaching Camps for upcoming Table Tennis players.

To start with, we require following basic information from the clubs, who are conducting Table Tennis Coaching Camps.

(1) Proposed Table Tennis coaching camp schedule between 1st April 2001 to 31st July 2001

(2) Prospects giving idea about

(a) Club and its activities

(b) Details of the Table Tennis coaching

(c) List of the faculties Involved

(3) Expense Break up

(4) Details on facilities available such as Accommodation, Food, Transportation etc.

(5) Criteria/Guideline for Qualification to be eligible to receive Grants/Sports fellowship/Contract Money from The Host Club.

My contact Address, Phone nos., & Fax nos. are as follows:

Rajesh Mehta Kashrich Exim Pvt. Ltd.
Basement, Vrindavan Apartment,
29/B, Nutan Bharat Society, Alkapuri,
Baroda- 390 007. India
Telephone: (Off.) 91-265-332006
91-265-311420
Fax: (Off.) 91-265-332062
Telephone: (Res.) 91-265-322271
91-265322272
Email Address:
kashrichbaroda@hotmail.com

Soliciting your favourable response at earliest on Fax # 91-265-332062

Thanking you,

Rajesh Mehta

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

WITH this letter I would like to introduce myself as an international table tennis player. I have been playing table tennis in India since I was 8 years old, at present I am 23 years old. At present I am in the country and participated in the world championships held in Holland 1999-2000, as a member of the Indian team. I also played the Fajr international Table Tennis Tournament held in Iran. In addition, I have played in the Korean Open Table tennis Tournament and also the world ranking Qatar Open.

My performance in all the International tournaments mentioned above was lauded by Indian as well as foreign critics.

Presently I am in India playing Indian tournaments and I feel that to further my chances of improvement in my game, this can only be possible if I give myself to the British exposure in the field of table tennis. We understand Britain, especially England & London has improved, that standards of a great height and I would consider it fortunate if I am allowed to be invited to the British table tennis activities.

I therefore request you to furnish me with names and addresses of the sports facilities/ Complexes, who would be interested in entertaining my request and look forward to receiving from you at your earliest convenience.

Bhushan Singh Thakur
Telephone: 020 6691082
Fax: 009 91 20 5439030
email:
bhbushanthakur@hotmail.com

IMPORTANT

FOLLOWING A MEETING OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD, WE HAVE DECIDED THAT COPY DATES MUST BE ADHERED TO. LATE COPY WILL PROBABLY BE PUT INTO THE FOLLOWING ISSUE, BUT IF SPACE ALLOWS, WE WILL INCLUDE IT.

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 appy 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) _____

NATIONAL TRIALS & JUNIOR/CADET MASTERS SEASON 1999-2000

At the last meeting of the National Councii I indicated that a meeting would be arranged to review the ahove events. I am pleased to report to you that a mecting took place during the English National Championships in Sheffield attended by Alan Ransome OBE (ETTA Chairman), Tony Chalwin (ETTA Deputy-Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Selcction)), Michel Gadal (ETTA Performance Director), Gail McCulloch Vice-Chairman (Teaching and Training), and Keith Ponting Vice-Chairman (Competitions). Also present for a short while was Mick Strode, the Referee for the Junior and Cadet Masters, who was invited to give his views on those events, writes Keith Ponting.

During the discussions it was agreed that, in general, the new policy for above events had been successful and it was felt that no major changes were desirable or necessary. However, one significant change was agreed, which was to reinstate exemptions for the National Trials and details are given in the appropriate section of this documcnt.

For Season 2000-2001 the following policy is recommended and I ask for the support of National Council at the meeting on Saturday, 29th July.

Junior Select 4 Star Tournaments

These are confirmed as follows:

Essex, 7th/8th October, 2000
East Midlands, 28th/29th October, 2000
Stockton-on-Tees, 18th/l9th November, 2000
Cotswold, 27th/28th January, 2001
Derby, 3rd/4th March, 2001.

There will be NO automatic entry into the Junior and Cadet Masters. Qualification will be through the above tournaments, together with the six leading players from the Final National Ranking Trials.

These tournaments will again be subject to a points system as follows: Winners 300 points Runners-up 150 points Losing Semi-Finalists 50 points Losing Quarter-Finalists 25 points Losing last Sixteen 15 points.

In the event of a tie on points gained from the five 4 Star Select Tournaments, the positions for entry into the Masters will be decided by the placings on the latest ETTA Ranking List. This will be the one that comes out in March.

A running total record will be kept by Doreen Nightingale at Head Office and will also be available on the ETTA website.

Regional and National Trials

The following exemptions will apply:

The top 10 Junior Boys
The top 8 Junior Girls
The top 8 Cadet Boys
The top 5 Cadet Girls

The position on the August National Ranking List will apply.

At the conclusion of the Final Regional Trials the following players will receive an invitation to the National Trials:
Junior Boys - Top 5 players from each region plus the 4 highest nationally ranked reserves from any of the regional lists
Junior Girls - Top 4
Cadet Boys - Top 4
Cadet Girls - Top 2 players from each region plus the 7 highest nationally ranked reserves from any of the regional lists.

The ranking list to determine the reserves will he the one published in December, which should include all the results from the Regional Trials.

Confirmed dates:
Junior/Cadet Preliminary Trials 23rd/24th September, 2000
Junior/Cadet Regional Trials 25th/26th November, 2000
Junior/Cadet National Trials 6th/7th January, 2001.

Junior and Cadet Masters

It was agreed to retain invitations to 16 players and to continue with a two day event being played in two stages. The first stage will consist of two groups of 8 players (7 matches each) all on the first day. The two players who finish 7th and 8th will be eliminated. The top six players in each group will qualify lor the second stage on day two. All results recorded by the players who quality for the second stage will be carried forward from the first stage and will count in the final 12 player league table. All of the players in the final 12, who did not play each other in the first stage, will play in stage 2, so producing an all play all final league table. All the players who qualify for the second stage of the competition will, therefore, play six matches each on the second day.

In the event of any player gaining dual qualification, either through the Select Tournaments or the National Trials, therefore creating vacancies, the spare places will be taken up by the highest ranking reserves from the National Trials.

Confirmed dates:
Cadet Masters 31st March/1st April, 2001
Junior Masters 21st/22nd April, 2001.

All the information contained in this document will he published in "Table Tennis News", the National Ranking List Booklet and on the ETTA website.

KEITH PONTING Vice-Chairman (Competitions)

The British League Official Ball

Schildkröt

3 Star - ITTF approved

available from

TEES SPORT
Specialists in Table Tennis **Since 1976**

Call Freephone:
0800 4584141

KONG No.1 SEED

CHINA'S Kong Linghui, the world's No.2 ranked player, is No.1 seed for the Mens Singles title in the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, in Australia, later this month, writes John Wood.

Kong's main rival Vladimir Samsonov from Belarus is the No.2 seed, whilst the current holder of the Mens Singles Olympic Gold medal is China's penholder Liu Guoliang, who I am sure will play a major part in the outcome of where this year's glory will rest.

Former Olympic Gold Medallist Jan Ove Waldner, from Sweden,probably the best table tennis player the world has ever seen, who is only seeded at No.5, will I am sure make one more huge effort as this is probably his last Olympic Games.

Silver Medallist in the Atlanta Olympic Games, Wang Tao from China is not playing, whilst the Bronze Medal holder, Germany's Jorg Rosskopf, is seeded in 18th position.

Austria's Werner Schlager, seeded at No.6, could be the dark horse.

SYED OF SYDNEY

England's Matthew Syed, who is seeded at 31, will be hoping for the right draw, thus enabling him to reach the medal positions. Go for it Matt, everyone in England will be supporting you, fulfill your destiny.

KONG GOING FOR DOUBLE

China's Kong Linghui hopes to pick up his second Gold Medal in Sydney, when he and Lui Guoliang defend their Mens Doubles.

In Atlanta Kong and Lui defeated fellow countrymen Wang Tao and Lu Lin in the final.

Europe's medal challenge will come from France's Jean-Philippe Gatien and Patrick Chila, Austria's Werner Schlager and Karl Jindrak, and, Sweden's Jan Ove Waldner and Jorgen Persson.

WANG NAN IS FAVOURITE

China's Wang Nan,the current World Champion and No.1, is red hot favourite to take the Women's Gold Medal here in Sydney.

Wang's main contender for the title is fellow countrywoman Li Ju.

Flying the flag for Europe will be Croatia's Tamara Boros and Romania's Mihaela Steff, seeded 9th and 10th, respectively.

Winner of the Gold Medal in Atlanta, Deng Yaping, is not now playing internationally and won't be defending her title.

Sadly, England doesn't have a representative in the Womens Singles. In Atlanta we were represented by Luton's Lisa Lomas.

TWO FOR WANG?

Wang Nan and her partner Li Ju will be hoping that they score victory in the Womens Doubles. Main rivals are Sun Jin and Yang Yin also from China seeded 2.

Europe's hopes lie in the hands of No.4 seeds from Hungary, Csilla Batorfi and Krisztina Toth, who are



probably Europe's leading womens doubles pairing.

WHITAKER'S OLYMPIC ALMANACK

WITH Olympic fever hotting up, impatient fans can spend the next few weeks swotting up, thanks to a fascinating book telling them everything they ever needed to know about the Olympics.

Whitaker's Olympic Almanack 2000 is an A-Z listing of fascinating facts, statistics and entertaining anecdotes about the Olympics, from the ancient games right up to the present day.

Published by TSO - which also publishes the successful Whitaker's Almanack series - the 250-page book is packed full of Olympic information including coverage of every summer and winter games, detailed summaries of the history and performances and medal tables.

Timed to provide sports fans with all the facts they need ahead of Sydney 2000, the easy-to-use book has been written by Olympic aficionado, former BBC statistician Stan Greenberg.

Stan said: "This book is perfect for the sports fan whether they're lucky enough to be travelling to Sydney or watching from the comfort of their armchair. It is also great for those people who love statistics as -it is packed with everything you could ever want to know about the Olympics.

"It's an extremely comprehensive and easy to follow guide with everything listed in alphabetical order- it is guaranteed to provide hours of fascinating reading for everyone."

Whitaker's Olympic Almanack 2000 is £14.99 and available from all good book shops. It is also available directly from The Stationery Office on 0870 600 5522 or the TSO website www.thestationeryoffice.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sydney 2000 will be held between 15 September and 1 October and is set to smash Olympic records. More than 10,000 competitors from 200 countries are expected to compete in Australia, with a worldwide television audience of billions.
- There will be a record total of 300 medal events, including 23 new events for women. The volleyball will be held on Bondi Beach, while the main Homebush stadium is the largest ever at the Games with a capacity of 110,000. Even the torch relay is the longest in history, covering 31,811 miles.
- The oldest gold medallist at the Olympic Games was shooter Oscar Swahn of Sweden, in 1912, aged 64 years 258 days - he won a silver medal eight years later and became the oldest ever competitor
- The most Olympic medals won be a single individual is 18 by Soviet Larissa Latynina between 1956 and 1964.
- The United States is the reigning Olympic champion at Rugby Union - it was last included in 1924.
- Great Britain won the 1936 ice hockey title.
- Despite winning nine gold medals and a silver in Olympic competition, American Carl Lewis ranks third among athletes. His countryman Ray Ewry won 10 golds in the standing jumps in the early part of the last century and the Flying Finn Paavo Nurmi won nine golds and three silvers in the 1920s.
- Golf was an Olympic sport in 1900 and 1904.
- A survivor of the Titanic disaster, Norris Williams, won a gold medal in the 1924 tennis mixed doubles event.
- Britain's Philip Noel-Baker, who took the silver medal in the 1920 1500m running event, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1959.
- Dr Benjamin Spock, the famous paediatrician and author of the best-selling Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care, won a gold medal in the American 1924 rowing eights crew.

STIGA®

Importer & Distributor
THORNTON
SPORT & LEISURE



The result of more than 50 years research and development!

We have updated and adapted our famous 3-Star ball to the new 40mm standard.

Speed	5-10% decrease
Spin	5-10% decrease

Endorsed by world & olympic champion Liu Guoliang
All competition balls hand selected for precise quality

Full Catalogue available
Thorntons Sport & Leisure
3 Otterbury Close, Bury BL8 2TY
Tel: 0161 761 6608 Fax: 0161 762 9402

STIGA ® is a registered trademark of Stiga AB, Sweden

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEDALS for ANDREW BAGGALEY & ADAM ROBERTSON

ENGLAND'S Andrew Baggaley and Wales' Adam Robertson won Bronze and Silver Medals, respectively, at the European Youth Championships, in Bratislava, during the summer.

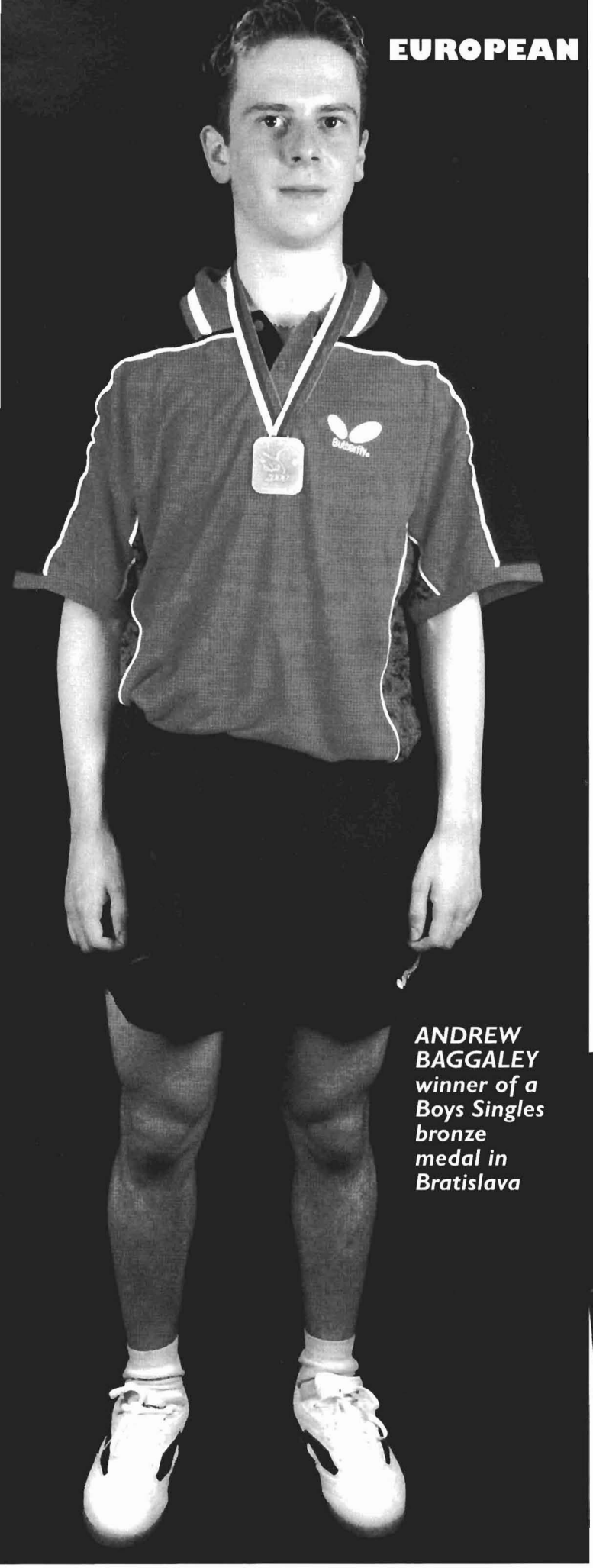
Baggaley, 17 years old Milton Keynes youngster, became the first English boy to win a European Youth medal for 11 years.

Baggaley, who reached the semi-finals, could have done even better making it an all British final. He had beaten the European No.2 Junior boy Constantin Cioti of Romania, in the team event, but in the semis Baggaley went down 23-21, 19-21, 12-21, after leading by a game and being 18-16 and 19-18 up in the second.

The final provided a rare Silver Medal for Wales, when 16 year old Adam Robertson from Wrexham narrowly lost to Cioti 19-21, 19-21.

England's Dale Barham reached the Cadet Boys Singles Quarter-finals, where he lost to France's Bobillier 18-21, 23-21, 7-21. Whilst Katy Parker did best for in England in the Junior Girls, reaching the last 16.

Barham made a second quarter-final when he partnered Andrej Gacina of Croatia.



ANDREW BAGGALEY winner of a Boys Singles bronze medal in Bratislava



KATY PARKER



DALE BARHAM



***GREAT BRITAIN** flies the flag on the podium in Bratislava, with **ADAM ROBERTSON** (left) and **ANDREW BAGGALEY** (2nd right)*

Picture by Roger Varden

There were other successes for England too, when Andrew Baggaley and Adam Robertson reached the last 16, also Baggaley and Louise Durrant in the Junior Mixed Doubles and Georgina and Kate Steward in the Cadet Girls Doubles, reached the last 16.

COMMENTS BY ANDREW BAGGALEY

"Without doubt the 1999/2000 season has been my best so far culminating in winning a Bronze Medal in the Junior Boys Singles event at the European Youth Championships in Slovakia, the first English medal in this category for almost a decade.

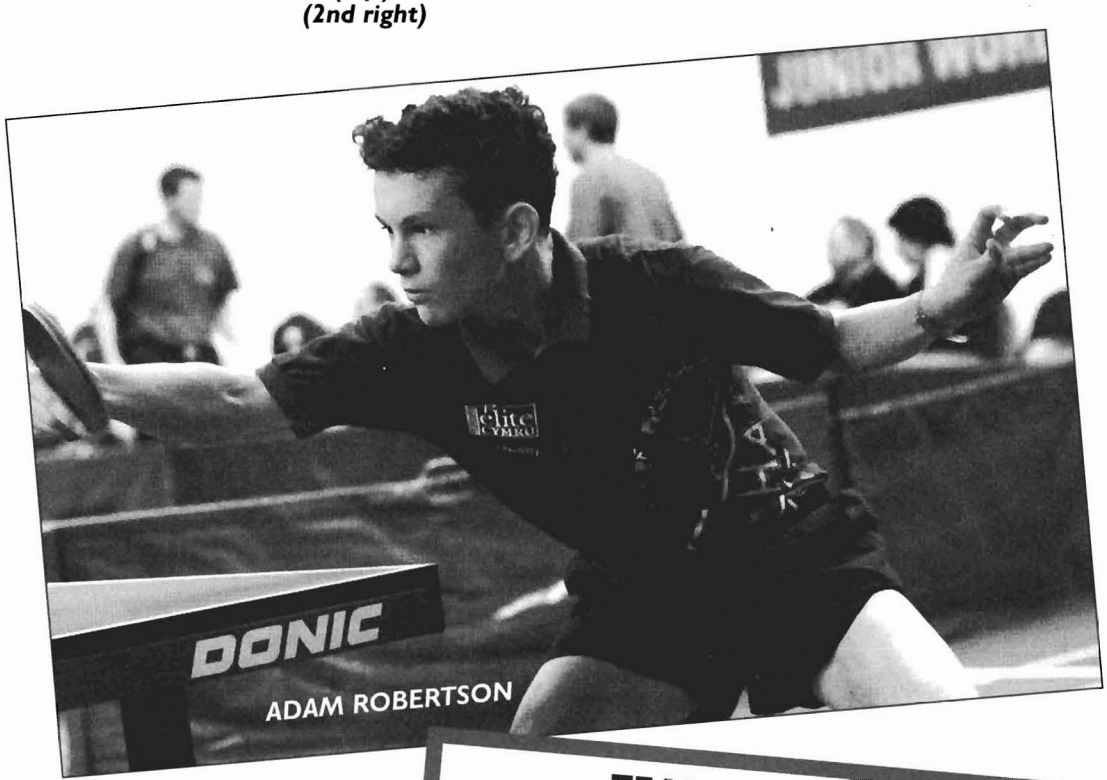
Only two weeks earlier, I won the Danish Youth Open which gave me great confidence as I beat some of the best players from Europe and the Far East.

I feel slightly disappointed I only won a Bronze as I know I am the best 17-year-old in Europe. However, winning a medal from an unseeded position, having an incredibly hard draw and playing every team match (including doubles), made me extremely proud of my achievement.

During my Junior career, I have won 17 English National titles, won a Commonwealth Team Gold Medal, played in the German Bundesliga from the age of 16 and also won a European Youth medal as a Cadet (U14)

It is always an honour to represent England and I look forward to playing my part in helping England once again be a major force in World Table Tennis.

Finally, a big thank you to all the people who travelled from Milton Keynes to support me in Bratislava. It made the event extra special and I would be thrilled to see more support at England Internationals in the future."



TEAM PLACINGS

JUNIOR BOYS	JUNIOR GIRLS	CADET BOYS	CADET GIRLS
1.POLAND	1.GERMANY	1.GERMANY	1.RUSSIA
2.FRANCE	2.RUSSIA	2.CZECH REPUB.	2.ROMANIA
3.GERMANY	3.CROATIA	3.FRANCE	3.CZECH REPUB.
4.SWEDEN	4.HUNGARY	4.YUGOSLAVIA	4.YUGOSLAVIA
5.SLOVAKIA	5.UKRAINE	5.HUNGARY	5.GERMANY
6.RUSSIA	6.CZECH REPUB.	6.SLOVAKIA	6.POLAND
17.ENGLAND	18.ENGLAND	22.ENGLAND	12.ENGLAND

KATE HOEY VISITS CORNWALL



KATE HOEY AT SPORTS COLLEGE LAUNCH

CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE celebrated in style on Thursday 13th July when the curriculum took on a decidedly sporty look to mark the launch of the college's sports college status, writes John Wood

The college was delighted to have the presence of Kate Hoey, MP, Minister for Sport, who took time out of her busy schedule to officiate at the opening ceremony.

Attending also were representatives of the District and County Councils, the Education Department, other sports colleges and the local schools with which Callington will be forging close links over the next few years.

The festivities closed with a whole-college assembly, culminating with the appearance of two sky-divers, both former students of the college, who "got the bug" for parachuting whilst in the sixth form.

The sports college status means an injection of finance, equipment and staffing which will have an enormously positive effect not only on sports teaching but on the entire curriculum.

Linked with this is the college's recent designation as the only school in the South West to become one of the new teacher training schools. Reflecting the high quality report received in the recent OFSTED inspection, college staff will be mentors to trainee teachers, allowing them to witness first-class teaching and to draw upon the collective classroom experience of the Callington staff.

Callington Community College is certainly keen to stay at the cutting edge of new educational developments, continually improving the provision it offers from pre-school, through mainstream education for 11-18 year olds to community adult education.



TOP PICTURE: A determined KATE HOEY shows some of the pupils at Callington Community College how to play a backhand. ABOVE: KATE HOEY meets two local coaches, DAVE ASHTON (centre) from Saltash and SHIRLEY LUCKHURST who is a former pupil and now coaches at Callington Primary School.

CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE ONE OF 22

The Government announced recently that Callington Community College was to become one of 22 new Sports Colleges from September 2000. Callington Community College who submitted a detailed bid in June last year, after raising the required £100,000 sponsorship has become one of a small group of Sports Colleges in the Country and make up a group of only five in the whole of the South West joining Ivybridge Community College, South Dartmoor Community College, Penryn College and Poltair School.

The success of the bid means that Callington Community College will benefit from an initial £100,000 capital grant for improving sports facilities and an annual grant £120,000 for each of three years to help develop sport in the college and in the community. Headteacher, Steve Kenning was absolutely delighted "This has to be the best moment of my teaching career. As a Sports College Callington Community College will be at the forefront of educational developments in the whole Country. The Sports College movement is not just about developing sport, it is also very involved in raising the quality of education overall. The college, its students and staff, and the community will benefit enormously. Our thanks go out to all the members of the community who have supported our bid. Our next task is to start planning and to celebrate!"

TABLE TENNIS NEWS EXTRA

Issue no. 271 September 2000

Editorial

Welcome to the new season and good luck! We continue to make **small changes to Table Tennis News** to give it wider appeal. This is always a balancing act: by pleasing some we will upset others; in any case perfection is impossible to achieve. Nevertheless, we hope that more or most people will be happy with our efforts.

The first and most obvious change is that this **first edition of the new season has come out earlier** than in the recent past. Partly because of this (and because the last, June/July edition was later than usual), we have less county notes and tournament/competition reports than usual, so both the main glossy magazine and TTN Extra have for this issue **more features, interviews and general interest articles.** However, in response to demand and some criticism, we will continue with more of this kind of content. Contributions are invited!

Please note that the copy date by which contributions and reports should be submitted to John Wood (for the glossy) or myself (for TTN Extra) will now be the **1st of the month prior to that of publication** (i.e. two weeks later than previously, so that it is not too old). Ideally, copy should be typed (in 'Word' or rich text format, if possible) and it can be sent, faxed or e-mailed (to admin@ettahq.freeserve.co.uk or myself on kenmuhr.etta@talk21.com). Although most County Notes contributors were not guilty, a few have supplied excessively long reports. Therefore, we are now requesting that **county copy is limited to 300 words please.** If the report is too long I may cut it, and if it arrives late it may be placed in the following edition (from the next month), space permitting. I also reserve the right to edit copy, at my discretion, and particularly with regards to personally vicious, potentially libellous or inappropriate content.

Although it is always possible that I could lose a county report, or that it could be lost in transit, I have had no substantiated evidence that this has happened. Also, I would stress that I am always keen to publish County Notes, usually unaltered. I say this because a couple of correspondents have suggested that notes have been sent to me, which were not published. My suggestion is keep a copy of what you submit (as proof or to resubmit), and if that is not published then raise the matter with me.

I am able to publish the results and reports of only a fraction of those open tournaments run, particularly junior opens, because frequently nothing is sent to me. However, I do feel that players deserve the recognition for their successes and would **urge open tournament organisers to submit their completed Forms PR1**. If you don't have a form, please ask me for one. Closed tournament reports, incidentally, should normally be incorporated in county notes.

It was excellent news that **Andrew Baggaley bagged a European Junior Boys' Singles Bronze Medal in Bratislava** in July, and he could have done even better, having beaten the European ranked junior no. 2, Constantin Cioti (Romania) in the team event and leading him by a game and 18-16 in the semi-final. Had Andrew come through, the final would have been an all-British affair, 16-year-old **Welshman Adam Robertson reaching the final** from the opposite side of the draw, before bowing to Cioti. **A great boost to the Nottingham National Training Centre is Adam's decision to join it**, at no cost to the ETTA. He trains hard and fights to the end at the table, whilst maintaining sporting behaviour and a modest personality. He will be a good example and practice partner to the others there. While English/British table tennis is on a roll, it would be wonderful if **Matthew Syed**, our only playing representative could perform creditably at the **Sydney Olympics on 16th-25th September**, but in all fairness to Matthew, we shouldn't hold our breath. For him to do well is dependent on so many factors – a perfect draw, peak performance and luck! Our best wishes will be with him.

It is getting increasingly difficult to compete against the world in any sport. Despite their £millions – including £30m from Wimbledon each year – the Lawn Tennis Association continues to be dogged by embarrassing failures, such as Britain's Davis Cup loss to Ecuador, and talented youngsters who don't come up to expectations (mediocre in world terms). Paul Hutchins, a former Davis Cup Captain, says (Observer, 23rd July 2000); "Something happens to many of our players when they get to 18 or 19 and have to make the transition from junior to senior. Too many find they aren't up with the best of the European players, get hacked off and stop playing". With the LTA Director of Coaching Richard Lewis drawing the brunt of criticism and being sacked, players like Tim Henman believe that their French Performance Director, Patrice Hagelauer, should be given *carte blanche* to sort out the game as he sees fit. Hagelauer of course has been saying about British tennis the same sort of things that our own French Director of Performance, Michel Gadal, has been saying about English table tennis. Clubs should be promoting junior tennis instead of discouraging juniors (Guardian, 17th July 2000):

"They must be made to see that if they do not bring the youngsters in, then they will die. It is all very well having a few talented juniors, and we do produce them. But to get champions, you need hundreds of top-class juniors, not just 20 or 30."

In The Times (19th July) Hagelauer said: "It seems that in this country there is a national sport which is criticism. It is probably one of the reasons why we are not successful. What is happening is a very important lesson to me. If we are delivering negativity all the time, we won't be successful."

The Guardian article went on to say that British tennis is a very small school, driven by petty jealousies and rivalries, and packed with self-servers who contribute little and expect to be given everything. On a similar theme (of British sport generally suffering humiliation). Deidre Anderson of the UK Sport Institute, says (Observer, 23rd July): **"Sports have to be prepared to change their structure, if they really want to enhance their chances of international success."**

To draw lessons from this, I would say that, while like many sports we are in difficulty, **English table tennis is on the right lines in trying to develop a network of Premier Clubs linked to the National Training Centre, but we must all pull together to support this and be prepared to see it through** (with enthusiasm, Alan Dunn, interviewed inside, might add). **Make theory a reality.**

Ken Muhr

BERKSHIRE by John Cunningham

Mick Goes International

OLOP's British League Umpire, Mick Reynolds, received the letter he was long awaiting last Friday morning. Arriving from the English Table Tennis Association it informed him that he had graduated to International Umpire following the final examination taken three months ago at Farnborough.

England has three tiers of qualification, starting with County Umpire and graduating on to Tournament Umpire and then National Umpire. Thereafter, the ETTA nominates candidates to take the International Table Tennis Federations written examination to reach the highest grade in the sport.

Mick started umpiring in 1986 as a direct result of encouragement from International Umpires Harry Spragg and Mick Strode to help with Hampshire County matches, which were held for a short time at Basingstoke.

Two years later, having successfully passed both practical and written elements of the County Umpires examination, he was fired by the atmosphere of the Senior English Closed Championships held at Brighton and decided to join the tournament circuit.

A major step forward came in 1993 with the invitation from John Cunningham and Terry Duffield to umpire OLOP's British League fixtures on a regular basis. "I have been here ever since, the conditions allow the players to give their best performances" says Mick. April 1997 produced the invitation to umpire at Manchester's G-Mex Centre in the World Championships for 12 days.

Highlights included umpiring world number one at the time Vladimir Samsonov (Belarus) and Deng Yaping (China) in the singles events. "The Championships were an incredible experience enhanced by the most fervent of fans from China and Korea particularly".

Still ambitious he would like to encourage suitable candidates to take the first steps on the umpiring ladder and on a personal note be appointed umpire for a World or Olympic Singles Final.

Mick Umpires for the OLOP Premier Matches at Cippenham TTC

Mick was undefeated in three leagues Reading (Div 4), Bracknell (Div 1) and Maidenhead (Div 2), helping his OLOP squad to win a total of five titles/trophies Maidenhead Div 2, Bracknell Div 1, Maidenhead Team Handicap RU Reading, Div 4 and RU Reading Team Handicap.

COUNTY NOTES

- A LOOK AROUND THE COUNTRY

ISSUE NO. 271
SEPTEMBER 2000



Mick Reynolds (right) receives a small token from OLOP and Berkshire Captain player Dave Barr

Army Apprentice College, Arborfield
Year 2000 Table Tennis Tournament
Sponsored by OLOP Allied Worldwide Computer Services
ROLL OF HONOUR

Apprentices College Champion:
AT Johnson C Company
Apprentices College Runner-up:
AT Heath St. Omer Company
Champion: 82 Squadron AT Jordan
Runner-up: 82 Squadron AT Holden
Champion: 263 Squadron AT Sweeney
Runner-up: 263 Squadron AT Tyrell



Table Tennis Champion Year 2000 Army Apprentice College Champion and C Company Champion Apprentice Tradesman Johnson and Runner-up AT Heath (St. Omer Champion)



82 Sqn Champion AT Jordan and below, 263 Sqn Champion AT Sweeney



Bracknell, Wokingham & District
Roll of Honour 2000

Premier Division
Champions: Broadmoor 'A' (Clive Banham, Keith Pearson, Martin Hancock, John Millard)
Runner-up: ICLA
Division One
Champions: OLOP AWCS 'B'
Runner-up: Wokingham & Crowthorne 'C'
Division Two
Champions: Met Office 'A'
Runner-up: Wokingham & Crowthorne 'E'
Division Three
Champions: Patmoor 'B'
Runner-up: Broadmoor 'D'
John Howard Shield Team Handicap:
Winners: TRL (Peter Millard, Derek Seager, Ron Bartlett)
Runner-up: Royal Ascot
William Hill 'Sportsmatch' Award:
Mark Hancock – Broadmoor (unbeaten all season)
Stickland Service to Sport Trophy:
Clive Banham – Broadmoor



Clive Banham admires the Premier Division Trophy

CORNWALL by John Wood

Cornwall's Summer Handicapped League is well under way, and will soon be entering the second half of competition, where the new 40mm ball will be introduced.

This two player team system, which was introduced last summer, has proved very popular, resulting in three strong divisions for this year's campaign.

Leading Division 1 are Tim Wiltshire and Tony Hales on 43 points, having played eight matches. The chasing pack, who are still in with a chance of catching the top of the table team, are Bob House and John Wood who have played six with 33 points, Graham and Lisa Reed played five with 227 points, and Mark Rowe and Gary Hall played five on 26 points.

Division 2 sees Bill Stewart and Jim Reeder with their noses in front with 46 points having played seven, closely followed by Dennis Williams and Amy Lynn on 45 points having played one more match.

Les Haysom and Trevor Gooch have a good lead in Division 3 with 57 points having played eight matches.

Cornwall's AGM took place on Thursday 17th August 2000, at Tregorrick Park Table Tennis Centre. A report will appear in the October 2000 edition of Table Tennis News.

This coming season sees an increase in the number of teams in the ETTA County Championships, with two in the Seniors, two in the Juniors and one in the Veterans.

CUMBRIA by Gordon Brown

Member leagues of the Cumbria Table Tennis Association are looking forward enthusiastically to the 40mm ball to be brought into use this coming season by order of the ETTA.

This was reported at the Cumbria Association's annual general meeting at the Salutation Hotel, Ambleside, on Wednesday 5th July.

Secretary Peter Rushton reported that the new ball, service rule and matches of five game sets 11 points and up would be experimented with on the International Table Tennis Federation Tour.

Congratulations were offered to 15-year-old Zeke Dixon of Kendal, on his selection for England in an inter-schools international tournament in the Isle of Man embracing the host island, Iceland, England, Scotland and Wales.

The county junior team, of which Zeke was part, finished a creditable fourth in Division 1A of the County Championships, in which they will again play while seniors will again operate in Division 2A.

All officials were re-elected – Chairman: Bob Gale (Kendal), Vice-Chairperson: Miss Clarice Rose (Windermere), Secretary: Peter Rushton (Kendal), Treasurer: Richard Johnstone (Workington), Match Secretary: Steve Dixon (Morecambe), Tournament Secretary: Richard Johnstone, Assistant Tournament Secretary: Ken Douglas (Workington), Press Secretary: Gordon Brown (Whitehaven), Coaching Secretary: Mike Yardley (Barrow), Umpires Secretary: Colin Taylor (Ulverston), Auditor: Ron Rigg (Whitehaven): National Council Representative: Clarice Rose.

DEVONSHIRE by John Vincent

County Initiative

Roy Barraclough (Chairman) and Keith Ponting (Secretary) with the help of a sub-committee successfully prepared a project enabling Devonshire County TTA to receive a grant of £3,915 from the 'Awards For All' scheme. The aim is to increase participation in the sport within the County. Four new table tennis tables and nets have been purchased which will enable us to provide coaching where needed in any part of Devon. The education of potential umpires and coaches plus the setting up of a Ladies Division are high on the agenda. Part of the award is being allocated towards running tournaments and disabled events.

Schools International in the Isle of Man

Craig Bryant was selected for England as no. 1 in their cadet team, which was successful in winning Gold. In the international individual event Craig won the Gold Medal. He was in excellent form and remained undefeated all weekend.

Stuart Gibbs played in the Under 18 'B' team. His team did well coming third with Stuart receiving a Bronze Medal. He later did well to win the Consolation Gold.

Beacon Electrical Plymouth Schools League – Individual Championships

These Championships were run on the last Monday night of the season with entrants restricted to entry into one category only.

Results

Girls' Singles:
Winner– Aimee Roberts, RU – Sally Smith
U14 Boys' Singles:
Winner – Christopher Smith, RU – Matthew Rix
U18 Boys' Singles:
Winner – Sam Bruty, RU – Tom Bruty

Cyril Whiting – County Umpire

Prior to our AGM Cyril Whiting decided to cut his workload by not standing for re-election as County Match Secretary. He had been Devon Match Secretary for the past 12 years, brought the Senior Premiership matches on two weekends to the China Fleet Club, Saltash, nr. Plymouth, always been available to umpire county matches and organised Devon Senior & Junior Closed Championships, plus the Plymouth League Championships. This man who has excellent organisational skills and a tremendous knowledge of the ETTA Rules, is a colossus leaving his successors with a difficult act to follow.

Roy Barraclough (County Chairman) at the AGM praised Taff for all his good work, made a presentation to him as a token of our appreciation, awarded him his certificate of 'Life Membership' to Devonshire County Table Tennis Association and wished him well for the future.

Taff will continue as a County Umpire and remain in the wings to give guidance if required. He will continue his work with the Beacon Electrical Plymouth & District League running four teams for WBS & Co, also he will organise the Plymouth representative teams in the Inter-City Devon League, plus play a large part in the running the Plymouth Closed Championships.

New County Match Secretary

Joe Clifford (on 01752 609367) was elected as the new Match Secretary. Dennis Gibbs will be the manager of our Junior I team with Mike Kodicek manager of Juniors 2 & 3.

ESSEX by Steve Kerns

Special General Meeting

The big news from the recent County Special General Meeting was that the County would still run the same quota of teams next season, i.e. 3 Junior, 2 Senior, and 4 Veteran sides but the Veteran third and fourth sides will only be funded to the extent that the County will pay their entry fees and venue costs. The players will be responsible for accommodation, food and travel expenses. The overwhelming feeling from the meeting was that the Leagues were

no longer prepared to spend 79% of the revenue raised on the County teams as was the case last season. You can see their point as a mere 4% of the County's registered players are likely to get the chance to play for the County sides. Why should the League's lower division players be continually expected to pay for the privileges of the best? The veteran players might argue that they make up 11 inter-league divisions and therefore represent the best supported group of players in the county. The counter-argument will almost certainly be that Inter-League competition is largely self-funding and therefore it is unfair that the County supports the Veterans to a greater extent that everyone else. Following the resignation of Shirley Carroll a new Veterans supreme is desperately needed although it may be possible for individual team captains to run each team. Volunteers will be most welcome.

Corti Woodcock Award

Popular Harlow League Chairman Eric Todd was the latest recipient of the County's Corti Woodcock Award (the county's top award for service to the sport). Eric needs no introduction around the county and his drive and enthusiasm has been well documented and is visible to everyone in the shape of the thriving BATTS Club. Eric thanked colleagues Neil Brierley and Dave Wright for their efforts and said it was especially poignant for him to win the Corti Woodcock Award as Corti had been the game's big name administrator when he had started to play in the West Essex League in the early 1950s.

Players' Player of the Year

Senior first team captain Clive Carthy deservedly took the County's Players' Player of the Year Award. Clive's route to the top is not a conventional one; he only started playing at 19 and languished in the lower divisions of the North Middlesex League for two years. After getting into coaching he finally entered his first open tournament when he was 26. Clive is not a regular fixture in the national top 50 and has twice won the County Closed Men's Singles title. Many of the country's better players have been taken apart when Clive is firing on all cylinders.

Life Membership

International Umpire and County Umpires Secretary for the last 13 years, Sue Gower was awarded County Life Membership in recognition of her continued service to the sport. A previous recipient of the Corti Woodcock Award, Sue and husband Phil have kept up a schedule of umpiring commitments that would leave most people exhausted.

Scimitar 2

It was pleasing that the County AGM agreed that they wanted to keep Scimitar magazine going and in a magazine format. It was reasoned that a magazine provides a historical record of the times whereas a website can provide a very up-to-date service but its contents will soon be forgotten. Scimitar Editor Rik James has acquired a domain at the following website *www.scimitar2.co.uk* and hopefully this magazine will go onto reach a wider audience in both formats. To encourage more sales it is hoped to attract a team of agents on the following basis – sell five copies and get one free. At a mere £1 a copy this represents excellent value for money. Anyone interested in subscribing should contact Rik at his following e-mail address: *r-james@rjg-uk.com* or on telephone no. 01206 513790.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE by Alf Pepperd

11 year old Gloucester girl Stella Davis who, at the time of writing, is ranked no. 12 in England at the U12 level after winning the County's U17 title last year, has had her future chances of success in table tennis greatly enhanced by a sponsorship deal worth £600. This backing comes from the Gloucester based company of "Stantek Electronics", and should greatly help her playing potential in the years that lie ahead.

Walsall's Jill Harris was unable this year to act as non-playing captain for The Schools International at Douglas, I.O.M, on 30th June, 1st and 2nd July 2000.

Local lass and County women's player Ann Humble from Gloucester stepped in to fill the vacant position for the U19's girls team which consisted of: Kate Hughes, Emily Dearing, Terr-Ann Nolan, and Nailsworth's (Glo'shire) Suzy Robinson

This talented team in England B won all their matches against Ireland, Wales, Scotland and the host team the Isle of Man.

Each country was divided into A and B sides and England named their two teams based on results at the English Schools Championships.

In the final England A v B match, Robinson played a vital role by securing a well earned victory over the A side's no. 2 Kate Hughes, Robinson later admitted that in several previous encounters she had lost to Hughes, but this time success prevailed and the Gloucestershire girls' winning ways returned, along with the efforts of the rest of the England B team, who ran out worthy winners.

Publicity

We are indeed fortunate in the County to have two newsletters in regular circulation, during the respective season.

"Net & Edge", Cheltenham's issue, has been edited by Mike Brown for many seasons and continues to be read well beyond the boundaries of its home town.

"Topspin", edited by Trevor Oliver, is Gloucester's news rag, it also covers a multitude of table tennis events and this forthcoming season will be Trevor's second as editor.

As County Press Officer, I am still involved with the BBC at Radio Gloucestershire, and provide table tennis news for that station from late September until the following mid-April, plus of course several local newspapers.

The First Grand Prix of the Season

I have been in contact with Mike Johns, the Events Manager, with regard to the above Grand Prix, this will be staged on 25 tables at Cheltenham over the August Bank Holiday – 26th and 27th.

To date I regret to say that I have no further information about the event, however, it will be over by the time readers get their September copy.

ISLE OF WIGHT by John Prean

Although summer seems to have started at last (when I wrote these notes on 31st July) serious players have begun to practice with the new ball and not all have liked what they saw. Some compare the 40mm ball with the old "Barnas". Most think that we could have made the game better, certainly ensuring more rallies, if we had raised the net, something I advocated over 30 years ago to counter the frenzy of third and fourth ball attacks which had gripped the sport. On the other hand, something had to be done. I hope it all works out.

I hear grumbling, too, about matches in the ETTA Grand Prix being played up to 11 but again I support this initiative. Similar experiments in my time in the ETTA chair were entirely positive and were opposed only by a few conservative players for reasons they never made clear. I also favour scoring and serving along the tie break lines of tennis. We must adopt what

has worked out in ours. The above are real attempts to improve the game. They deserve our patience and support.

Our league will not start till early October and so what is really the most important news will have to wait until next time. This is whether we have managed to hold our numbers and have arrested the membership decline which has gripped the sport for so long. My enquiries among member clubs do not encourage optimism or hopes of repeating last year's actual increase in numbers.

Those who take an interest in such matters have expressed disappointment that the mercurial Lucy Pointer, in her first year as a junior, was not included in the English team in the European Youth Championships. They point to her reaching the semi-finals of the Senior Nationals, so that on doubles form alone, Lucy had a good case, and, with two years left in the junior ranks, clearly was one for the future. I was told that the official view was that her form till then had been less good. Locals argue that she had a long injury spell, which undermined her practice.

The loss of a player like this is, of course, a real blow to our own local scene. It is an inspiration to youngsters when a young girl does so well and a never-ending source of publicity, and so exposure for the sport, when a female player, who is so young, defeats men in our league. My view has hardened in respect of the system of a central academy, which takes young players away from their own area and their own home, where they become the players they are. Similarly, local coaches feel very bitter and this is reported from all over the country. I cannot really feel that "the end justifies the means" when I survey our national results.

We hope that we shall not be deprived of Lucy's services in our county matches by an edict from the ETTA Academy at Nottingham or that she suffers further injuries in training. We are now only one division away from the Premier, although our realistic target is to avoid relegation. Even that will depend to some extent on the availability of Carl Prean, who will return to Germany where they play most matches over weekends. His presence enables Danny Burns and Roger Hookey to play one place lower, which is obviously a help. Both had excellent county seasons last time.

Carl played in the final Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Seville where he had to drop out with a mystery knee problem when going well, winning his first three matches. In one of life's unhappier moments both his Olympic hopes and his summer were destroyed. He is now on the way to recovery thanks to excellent treatment and minor surgery at the British Olympic Medical Centre. The interest and concern from our own beloved ETTA was, of course, deafening.

NORTHANTS by Dennis Millman

Following the untimely deaths of John Gandolfi, Peter Edwards and Alan Hunt, the close season brought further sadness in the passing of two more local table tennis stalwarts – John McCarthy and Graham Brown.

As a player, John McCarthy had represented the Gayton club in both Towcester and Northampton Leagues for some 20 years, and during that time had done much to raise the profile of the club as team and tournament organiser, while at the same time upgrading the venue to county standard.

In 1991 he became Chairman of the Towcester League, continuing in that capacity until 1999. During this period he campaigned vigorously to improve the league's status, and his energetic approach was instrumental in attracting new players and increasing the number of participating teams.

At his instigation, a major grant was obtained and the purchase of new tables followed. This enabled the league to provide a loan service to newly established clubs. His hands on approach made him ever present at tournaments, while during his term in office he undertook the organisation of the annual presentation evening and many fund raising events. Due to his unstinting efforts an ailing organisation had become a thriving concern.

Graham Brown's contribution to table tennis was of a much earlier era beginning in 1963 when he became Secretary of the Wellingborough O.G's. Then in 1966 he took over the position of Secretary to the Wellingborough League – a job he held for seven years.

When the Northants Association was re-formed in 1967 it was Graham Brown who became the new Secretary and he was quick to set the County Association on an even keel.

A consistent performer with the table tennis bat, he still found time to shine in both lawn tennis and hiking circles.

Although he left the table tennis scene some years ago, his contribution like that of John McCarthy will not be forgotten.

Coincidentally the Wellingborough season ended with major triumphs for both O.G's A and O.G's B sides. The A side took the Premier Division title for the first time, ending Higham Band's sequence of victories which stretched back to the 1989/90 season. Congratulations go to Michael Edwards, Chris Gibbons, David Gatiss and Paul Gatiss.

O.G's B ended their season by consigning Thrapston C to a second successive deafet in the final of the Knock-Out Cup. Stan Galkowski took the main honours, but he was well supported by Simon Toone and Perce Sharp, with Ian Donaldson best for the losers.

Congratulations are also due to Wellingborough's affable Arthur Palmer, who this season completes 25 years as Chairman, after previously serving as Treasurer and Vice-Chairman.

Higham Band was not to be denied in Kettering and took the Premier title for the ninth time in 11 years. Thanks to the combined efforts of Steve Brown, Mark Nannery, Ryan Keates and the unbeaten Richard Elliott.

In the Knock-out competitions the Shirley Everard Points Cup went to Corby Town E for whom Charlie Hickman took the starring role, aided by Michael Clarke and Rob Warrander. Youth had its fling in the Borough Trophy with three wins from Damien Carr, two from Bill Lumley and one from Owen Lumley, giving Rifle Band Cheetahs victory at the expense of fellow club side Tigers. The GRP Designs Trophy, with its best of five games up to 11 points format dating back to 1992, some 10 years before its likely universal implementation, was won by Burton Baptists to add to the Evening Telegraph Trophy and the Second Division title they had already collected. Derek Muggleton, Gary Shepherd and Asif Manji took the honours, with Premier Division runners-up SAS Thrapston again in second place.

Dick Cole, who has just completed 50 years as a player in the Kettering League, was guest of honour at Kettering's Dinner, Dance and Prize Presentation, held at the Ritz Ballroom, Desborough, and attended by 150 guests.

Cole, who in his playing days has been the recipient of many awards, found himself on this occasion presenting a fine array of trophies. However, one trophy he did not present was a new one donated by Gartree, for the player who made the greatest impact at the Annual Closed Tournament. This replacement trophy was presented by Gartree Match Secretary Phil Preece to Corby's Lee O'Boyle.

NORTHUMBERLAND by Pauline Long

I returned from a week's holiday on 29th July to find that, in the meantime, the June/July

issue of TT News had arrived, confirming that copy was required by 1st August for the September issue. As a result – not currently being in possession of a word processor, fax or computer facilities - I am writing this report in longhand without arranging for typing and sending it to Ken Muhr by first class post in the hope that it will arrive by the stated date.

Ken mentioned in his editorial that several correspondents were sending him reports after the scheduled copy date. Unless I have missed a prior announcement, there appears to have been very little notice given of the change of date from 15th to the 1st of the month, which hardly allows for copy to be sent in on time. More importantly, correspondents know should also know the copy date for the October issue in advance in case another closing date is imminent before that magazine is received. I would therefore suggest that as in previous years, a list of copy dates for the season should be published and adhered to as far as possible.

Regrettably, a new date could not be found for the JOYSON OFFICE EQUIPMENT County Closed Tournament, which had unfortunately clashed with the Grand Prix event at Eldon Square. It is now hoped to hold it in October or November, depending on the events calendar. The scheduled date for the next Grand Prix event at Eldon Square is 17th December.

Former County juniors Shaun Jackson and Chris Leyland represented Northern Region at the National Association of Youth Clubs finals at Widnes on 3rd June, but both players went out at the semi-final stage to the London representatives.

31 teams are currently contesting four divisions of the WENADE (UK) Northumbria Summer League, which was due to end on 18th August. Present leaders are: Division 1: St. Gabriel's, Division 2: Byker CC, Division 3: North Shields YMCA 'D', Division 4: Maccabi.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE by Alan Dunn

Rother Valley Table Tennis League results were:
Premier Division winners – London & Scandinavian Metals, thanks mainly to Mick Brooks 37 from 50, Steve Young 33/36 and able assistance from George Brooks. Runners-up were JSM. Steve Needham had 40/50, Mick Bell 37/47, with fine performances from Jimmy Jeickles and Mick Barlow. Third Place went to Swinden House. The Division One title was taken by Wombwell Wanderers, runner-up Mainline 'C' and third place Mainline 'E'.

Top performers in this division were John Bradshaw (LSM) 48/60, Andy Hutchinson (Swinden) 41/45, Colin Scott (St. Aidens) 41/46. St. Aidens were the winners of Div 2 with Scorpions 'C' second and Swinden 'F' third. The heroes here were David Clow (St. Aidens) 53/54, David Maddison (St. Aidens) 47/48, Phil Arliss (Scorpions) 27/34, Ben Barlow (Scorpions) 26/33.

In the Rotherham (JBP) Junior League sponsored by JOHN BRAILSFORD PRINT, the award winning team was Rotherham Raiders, Emily Robinson (Brinsworth Comp) and Jonathan Dronfield (Oakwood Comp). Runners-up were Double Trouble. Joe Dunn (Greasbrough Juniors) and Peter Morgan (Old Hall Comp). Congratulations again to Mick Barlow's Bramley Sunnyside team for winning the Junior Schools competition for the second year running.

Positions in the Barnsley League were: Stocksbridge (champions as usual) thanks to Stephen Horsfield 21/21, Brian Barret 49/58, Gary Firth 35/42 and Mick Travis 38/48. Second were Barnsley North End, Glen Carson top scorer with 47/60. Rotherham's LSM were third.

In Division Two Graham Jones 42/48 and Colin Scott 34/35 played a large part in the St. Aidens victory. Barnsley North End were second with Roy Battye taking 46/54 and Mick Whyke 43/51. YMCA won Division Three, Terry Wade 43/48 and John Holmes 37/48. Just one point behind were Darfield, Graham Philips 41/48 and Alan Oliver 35/48.

In the Barnsley Closed Tournament, Brian Barret is champion, he beat Glen Carson in a best of five thriller. Ladies Champion is Debbie Wilson (YMCA) who proved too strong for W. Sylvester (NOMADS). Brian Barret took his second title, in the veterans against his Stocksbridge team mate Mick Travis. The pair then went on to win the doubles over Gary Woodward/Glen Carson.

Mat Kenny continues to shine at international level, playing for England in the Slovenia Youth Open, and the Belgium Youth Open and he will be representing his country in the European Youth Championships in July. Mat also reached the semi-final of the National Junior Championships only to be beaten by the Junior no. 2 Andrew Rushton, who Mat had previously beaten in the senior National Championships.

STAFFORDSHIRE by Terry Ridgeway

ETTA's Richard Habgood presented the Maurice Goldstein Award for Services to Table Tennis to the members of the Stafford Table Tennis Committee to celebrate their combined services to the League of over 100 years (all four male members are still top ranked Division One players).

SUFFOLK by Andrew Dosher

The season has ended on a good note as far as Suffolk players are concerned. At the Grand Prix finals in Bath, 21 year old Rebecca Sparkes took out three titles – the under 21s, the band 1 (by a landslide) and the doubles. Claire Emmerson won the women's band three and won the band two final on the day.

For the men Ian Brown finished a creditable sixth in the men's veterans, while Andrew Dosher came third in the mens band three.

One of the best matches of the day was undoubtedly Becky Sparkes' match with Hannah Yardy, which Sparkes won 19 in the third. Both players epitomised the qualities you need to have to success as an athlete. When well down in respective sets neither gave up and showed real depth in character.

Both the Suffolk County Table Tennis and the Ipswich League have had their AGMs.

The only main change of responsibility on the Suffolk board is the change in Chairman of the selectors which is now held by Peter Avenell. Talking to the players, while most think the top 10 ranking is basically right, it is felt a harder look could be in order for players below this. For example, Andrew Holmes was within a point of getting to the semi-finals of the Suffolk men's singles and recorded an 83% average in the Ipswich League, while others ranked above him did not qualify for the main draw and whose league average was considerably less. Richard Ingle and Paul Fuller are two players who also deserve consideration, the former recently enjoyed a 4-1 match win ratio at the recent Ipswich top 12 (a report can be found later on in this article) championships, while the latter has had a good year in the National League and enjoyed some noted scalps at the Sudbury Invitation league.

Sudbury have moved their playing venue from the Yellow Dot club in Sudbury to Gosfield in Essex where it will continue the two man league format, but will keep the HQ in Sudbury.

At the Ipswich AGM a request to increase the size of the Premier League to 14 teams from 11 was met, which means that noted youngsters like Aimee Sparkes and Claire Emmerson will now be playing in this division next season. The Committee on suggestion have also agreed to help the Britannia Ipswich National League Club financially, which, owing to the change in

format (four weekends) meant that the team in this division would be made of juniors.

The League has been criticised in the past but deserves great credit for its forward thinking, as the league and its players will surely benefit from their decisions.

Stowmarket are starting a two man invitation league to be played on Sunday nights. Paul McCartney once said that TV got boring at this time, can't think why nobody thought of it before, as a lot of people practice on Sunday evenings. Stowmarket being central in Suffolk might well attract a good array of players. Lee Balaam, Andrew Dosher and Chris Brook are just three leading players who have agreed to play. Interested parties can contact Geoff Brook on 01449 774153.

The Britannia Club held the inaugural Ipswich Top 12 tournament at the Dome at the end of May. This was open to the top 12 available players in the Ipswich League based on the Ipswich league averages.

The format was two groups of six, all players playing each other in a group, with the top two going through to the semi-finals.

The first group had Andrew Dosher and Richard Hutchinson on a 4-1 match win ratio, both players had 8-3 games for and against and amazingly both had a 30 plus points average (more chance of winning the pools than this occurrence); being that Dosher won the match between them he was adjusted to come first. The second group was even tighter as three players Ian Brown, Tim Avis and Richard Ingle all had a 4-1 match win ratio. Avis trailed a game and 18-16 to Brown in their last match, had Avis not recovered to win the match he would have gone out. Sadly for Ingle who enjoyed wins over Avis, Rebecca Sparkes, Gavin Bloomfield and Jamie Webb, his games ratio wasn't quite good enough. On countback Brown with Avis the runner-up.

The first semi pitched Hutchinson against Brown. Brown had never previously taken a set in this fixture but showed solid resistance in taking the second before succumbing comfortably in the third. Dosher versus Avis is always a lively encounter which also went the distance as Avis saved a match point in the second and led in the early part of the third before succumbing at 17. Brown avenged his group loss to Avis by winning the third and fourth play off in three.

The final was a tight affair with Dosher continuing his good record over Hutchinson by squeezing home by the narrowest of margins at 19 & 19.

Next season Britannia East of England Top 16 invitation tournament will hopefully be held in October.

This has been a very successful event and has witnessed some of the very best players in the area. Last season Lincolnshire's Andy Wignall left Ipswich with the cash first prize of £130 (how many events can you expect to win this type of cash in); runner-up got £75.

Players living or playing in leagues in Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridge, Lincolnshire, Northampton, Herts, Beds and Hunts are welcome to apply to play. It costs just £12 to enter and everyone is assured of six games. Based on the 555 World Cup, once players are eliminated they play off for placings. Four groups of four Round Robin, then a knock-out, criteria being that players must be 250 plus calibre in the men's and above or to that standard (this is open to women also) the top four placings receive prize money. Call me if you are interested in playing. I can now be contacted on mobile 07968 135602.

Just wanted to thank my Essex counterpart Steve Kerns for so kindly informing the TT public of my 100% loss ratio in the BATTS League, I was quick to remind him that the worst of these three players were Dave Newman, Colin Carslake and Joey Kennedy, all of which I took to three and that a certain Paul Pountney was a much better player confidence wise for having beaten him in the Middlesex. Remember Steve, you are nothing without the players ranked below you. See you next season.

SURREY by John Sabourin

Firstly, our belated congratulations to Croydon's own Margot Fraser on achieving International Umpire status. Well done Margot.

Junior County Trials weekend will be held at the Graham Spicer Club on 9th and 10th September. Invitations were sent out in late June to those who need to attend.

The provisional date for the first Junior County Weekend is 18th and 19th November. This will be held at the Graham Spicer Club.

JAGS Table Tennis Club report another good season. John Dennison, Tom Cutler, Clive Carthy, Selwyn Campbell and Neil Charles finished in 5th place in the National League Premier Division and have gained European qualification for the coming season. Abdul Wuraola has also been welcomed back to the club after a year absence and is on top form.

JAGS also began junior coaching sessions last season on Fridays between 4 and 6 and these have proved very popular with local school children. They hope to develop this by running a junior side as soon as they can. Juniors are always welcomed at the club which can be found at 144 East Dulwich Grove, London SE22 8TE. Open sessions are also held each Saturday afternoon from 2 until 6 and anyone is welcome.

Clearly the next generation need to be encouraged by initatives such as JAGS. At present there are no Surrey boys or girls on the ETTA national ranking lists at Under 12.

After 63 years of existence the Leatherhead League will not start the new season. The league which was operating with just 6 teams drawn from Graham Spicer, Chessington and Fetcham, is in abeyance due to the Fetcham Club's loss of its premises.

SUSSEX by John Woodford

One of the most active county association presidents, Bill Goldfinch, was the central figure at the annual meeting of the Sussex County TTA at Hurstpierpoint on 9th July, where there was standing room only.

All the principal officers were re-elected headed by the chairman for the past five years, Keith Jackson. The additional officer chosen was David Berriman as coaching secretary.

The meeting was preceded by awards to the two top juniors of the season, Claire Hodger and Gareth Mann.

The meeting concluded with a tribute from Father Bernard Rowley, a former resident of Sussex, who said that Sussex is probably the most organised and well-run county in England.

Much of that success is due to the hard work of the secretarial duo, Alan and Carol Beames, with Carol the recipient of the Ivor Montagu national award for her work in development and many other fields.

Sussex will be fielding nine teams in the county championships, two senior, three junior and four veteran sides. The premier division team led by Ritchie Venner will again be powerful contenders for the title, losing out last season by the narrowest possible margin.

In the British League, the three Horsham club teams have all been strengthened, with Venner happy to move down to the no. 2 spot in the premier team to make way for the England no. 13 from Walthamstow, Lorestas Trumpauskas, a new challenge for the other two contenders for the premier title, London Progress and Darlington.

During this short summer break, Sussex players at all levels have been practising with the 40mm ball. Comment from Ritchie Venner: "It takes a short time to get used to it, but I am sure that in a month or so into the autumn, it will not be a problem."

The next major change looming is of course, 11 points. Sussex fans will have an early opportunity at the Sussex Grand Prix

at Hastings (October 14-15) to see the new ball and 11 points.

World class players, however, are not happy about playing in major events with the new ball so soon after the Sydney Olympics. In Bremen, Vladimir Samsonov told me "There is no way I am playing in top events without months of practice with the new ball".

MUHR'S MEMO
Information Messages from Ken Muhr

I will try to keep this relatively short, at the risk of leaving out important items. The introduction of the **40mm ball** gave us more media exposure, for example Matthew Syed being interviewed about it on BBC World Service and Radio 5, myself on Radio 5 and Richard Yule on Greater London Radio. Apart from John Woodford's Daily Telegraph copy, there was a rather (negatively) unbalanced article about the new ball in the Sunday Telegraph of 2nd July, immediately following the AGM vote. I am also aware, partly from the telephone enquiries I received, that there was considerable coverage in regional/local papers and on various websites.

There has been a lot of **media interest in Matthew Syed going to the Olympics**, with an Alan Hubbard Independent on Sunday interview to be published soon and other articles to follow. I have had countless requests for his profile. Matthew Syed himself has penned more Times features, as well as doing some general sport reporting on triple jumper Jonathan Edwards and Chelsea v Manchester United. This, together with the large amount of publicity his selection as **Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Wokingham constituency** (John Redwood's seat) has aroused, with articles in The Times and Guardian, many TV and radio interviews, and much more to come (initially combining the Olympics and politics), sadly forces one to the conclusion that sooner or hopefully later, as with Harry Evans (former Editor of the Sunday Times and Chairman of Random House Publishing) and Richard Eaton (who now reports mainly on lawn tennis), he will wish to sketch a broader canvas or operate at a higher level than table tennis. That is not to say that he will forget or deny his table tennis roots when he moves on: it is just being realistic. Good luck to him!

Other **snippets** such as Syed in the US Open, Andrew Baggaley's European Youth Bronze Medal, his climb up the national senior rankings and the announcement of the English Open at Buckmore Park, Chatham, on 6th-11th February have appeared in the national press, and sometimes been remarked upon on local TV and radio. (I did an interview myself on BBC Radio Kent about the Open.) I am certain that I missed much table tennis that was on the broadcast media, but I did see the few minutes on table tennis in the Durham Millennium Youth Games that was included in the Energise programme on ITV. Alan Hubbard included a positive appraisal of developments in his Independent on Sunday column, while John Woodford in The Daily Telegraph gave the only on-going reportage. Incidentally, John Goodbody's comments in The Times as to the outcome of the Government enquiry into table tennis, are premature and pure speculation at this stage. It is noted that Sports Minister Kate Hoey (28th July) has announced that the Government is to review Sport England and all the services it provides, in order to 'sweep away sport's "overbearing bureaucracy"' quotes Alan Hubbard (Independent on Sunday, 23rd July 2000).

Finally, I repeat a plea I make in the Butterfly Grand Prix circuit programme. To facilitate local media coverage, could all tournament organisers please ensure that all scores, not just the names of winners, are entered on the public draw sheets. This information is essential for tournament reporting and most people do not have the gall to pester the busy referee's table for it!

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS – "New Age Travellers?"

Andy Seward, Chairman of County Championships Committee

The County Championships Committee sent out a questionnaire last February to all Counties requesting feedback on the 'team format' and 'playing arrangements' for County matches.

A second questionnaire is about to be sent to County Secretaries that may result in the most significant change to the structure of the County Championships in years. The County Championships Committee are considering whether the time has come to have County teams for other age groups, i.e. new sections for Cadets, Under 21s and Over 60 Veterans.

The questionnaire will be asking Counties whether they would enter one or more teams in any of these new sections if the County Championships set up the structure.

There are several reasons for considering this new adventure. There is no doubt that a high number of juniors who become ineligible to play a further season in the 'junior' section are unable to break into a County Senior team and thus become 'lost' to the Championships. Would an Under 21's section encourage these players to continue in competitive table tennis?

The Veterans section continues to grow rapidly. This season, 99 teams, the highest ever, entered the Championships and a Division 4 has had to be created for the first time. 'Over 60's' events at tournaments are well supported and the County Championships Committee are wondering whether the 'Over 60' players would like to have a competition in their own age group.

So it is over to the Counties to discuss and deliver their verdict. The questionnaires will be sent out in September.

London Heathrow Youth Games
1st & 8th July 2000, by Alan Shepherd

The table tennis section of this annual inter-borough competiton took place at Picketts Lock Leisure Centre and Crystal Palace National Sports Stadium on successive weeks. Finalists in the boys' competition were Brent, Barnet, Enfield, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Westminster, Merton and Wandsworth. The eventual winners were the Tower Hamlets team of Micah Evans and Daniel Cannon who proved just too good in a splendid final match for the Redbridge team (sadly missing their best player, Keith Lesser, who was engaged in another event in Sweden!) fielding Zayed and Umar Mauthoor. Places three and four were contested by Brent (the holders) represented by Luis Dominguez and Wliliam O'Leary and Barnet, whose team was Eli Baraty and James Dick. Brent were the winners, Enfield did very well to take part in the 5th/6th play-off. Their team was James Smith, Guney Gok, Robert Pennock and Marc Armstrong, and they ousted Westminster for 5th place.

The girls' competition had six finalists and Havering's team of Karla Bryant and Emma Hopson saw off all opposition. Brent and Bromley were respectively third and fourth, while Redbridge's team of Laura Lesser and Rush Ashleigh had a good victory over Hillington to secure the 5th spot.

Greater London Closed
Middlesex University Sports Hall, Enfield
27th/28th May 2000, by Alan Shepherd

The Millennium staging of this event attracted a satisfying entry of 130, although

the Bank Holiday date was obviously not to everybody's liking and the clash with a national age group tournament at Widnes did not help either. Hopefully next season, when we will be operating on 27th-30th December, we may well have an even larger response.

The first competition to take place was the Under 12 Boys' Singles. The group winners and runners-up contested a knock-out stage of 8 players, the winner being George Watson from Grove Park in south east London and the runner-up, Paul Hizer, from the Mossford Club in Ilford.

The Under 14 Singles combined both boy and girl entrants and the final was once more an Essex v Kent affair. The outstanding winner was the very talented Essex County player from Poplar, Umar Mauthoor, whose final opponent was the up-and-coming Paul Orhevba, clubmate of George Watson.

Middlesex and Herts players got into the act in the Under 17 Boys' Singles with Tim Holtam taking the title in a close game with Daniel Gillett. Holtam then teamed up with Umar Mauthoor to win the Boys Doubles.

The Men's Singles entry was exceptional with 'overseas' players such as Anders Johannson (Sweden), Lorestas Trumpauskas (Lithuania) and Marco Essomba (Cameroons) in the draw – not to mention cosmopolitan types with Luis Dominguez, Costas Papantoniou, Olatoye Boyede, Noriaka Miyoshida and Christian Hundhausen! Such was the strength of the entry that players such as Kent's Joe Kennedy were not seeded. Following the conclusion of the groups John Dennison, from Leyton, found himself involved in a series of big matches. His first round opposition was the highly rated Farhat Rasul (Surrey) and the win for John was by -15,15,21. Another Surrey man, the even higher ranked Abdul Wuraola, then stood in John's path, but again he was the winner, this time by –15,22,17. The quarter-final was a round too far however where Anders Johannson proved too good, although not before John had taken the first game. The other upset was possibly the first round meeting of two doughty contenders in the seeded Clive Carthy, the Essex County Captain, and Joe Kennedy of Kent. Joe was the winner in three, and he did not go out until the semi-final. At opposite ends of the draw Trumpauskas and Essomba had untroubled passages. Marco, however, was in tremendous form, and, having defeated Johansson 20,15 in the semi, he beat Trumpauskas 20,14 in the final.

The Under 21 Men's Singles was excellently contested, with a final between London born Philip Handy (Dorset) and Luis Dominguez (Middlesex) of which Philip was the worthy winner.

Star players appeared in the small women's entry, with Chinese immigrant Brooke Shi defeating England player Linda Radford (Essex) in the final.

The other events staged were the Men's Doubles won by the Essex pair of Clive Carthy and Laurestas Trumpauskas and the Veteran's Singles won by Henry Medallion, from west London.

Forms for the 2000/1 Greater London Closed at Middlesex University Sports Hall, Trent Park, Oakwood on 27th-30th December and for the Essex Junior Open 4 Star Grand Prix at Harlow Sports Centre on 7th/8th October are obtainable from Alan Shepherd, Flat 6, 32 Green Road, Southgate, London N14 4AU. Tel: 020 8441 5775.

Loop Attack and the Women' s Game Part one, by Rowden Fuller,

- formerly of Yorkshire, now coach to women's sides Bergkvara AIF and Kalmar BTK in the Swedish National League

If you take a group of elite men and women in Sweden, put them two metres away from the table and play loop, who will win the rallies? Obviously the men every time. As far as fast loop with good speed and strong spin is concerned, how many women can produce a sustained and extensive range of successive topspin and loop strokes (say 10-15 shots) and have the capability of continuous offensive play from both ? Very, very few, not only in Sweden, but even over the whole of Europe.

When considering loop play we must always bear in mind that not only are women different, but also that they usually face a different type of game to men. While men often loop to loop, women often loop to block or counter – the return ball is very different.

Women are not as strong as men, look at the world records for weight-lifting (a big gap), they are not as fast as men, look at world records for sprinting (getting closer though), but when it comes to reaction speed, the difference between sexes is minimal. World class reaction players are few in the male table tennis world, yet in their time Lindh and Douglas were successful – take glue away and lessen the power in the men's game and they would have been even better. But in the women's game there are many more reaction players and they have less power to cope with – naturally they are much more effective, and it's much harder for women loopers to make a real impact. Men also often lack the decisive killing force, which women use to hit through spin early – they usually prefer to use their superior strength and loop their way to victory from further back.

If women loop from mid distance (1-2 metres off the table) and don't win the point with the first 2-3 loops, do they really think they will have more chance with 5 or even 10 loops? The blockers and counter-hitters are just going to move them round, using the angles, until they miss or tire – from this distance it's always the looper who has much more ground to cover. Generally top women are so good at containing fast spin, that if you don't win in the first 2-3 loops, you will lose – and if you do win, usually you will do so not because of the fast spin but because of placement, or angle or length or change of speed or spin; you win in other words with something different, not with power.

It would, therefore, appear to make sense that women look at the loop as a means to make an opening, so that they can finish the point on the next 1-2 strokes, not as a point winning stroke in itself. It would also appear logical to try and win the point earlier in the rally rather than later, as the longer they continue to loop, the more they lose the initiative and drift into a control situation from which they have less chance of actually winning the point. For those women who loop as a main weapon it would perhaps be interesting to assess just what percentage of points they win when the rally progresses beyond the 5th and 6th ball.

Sustained looping requires good use of waist and legs, good co-ordination, smoothness of movement with balance and rotation of the body, and fast forearm fold. This last aspect is rather more important with women than men, it allows better balance and recovery with less strain on the body, of course the loop can be played long arm, as per Klampar, or Chen Jiannin Kalmar, but this does require good strength in shoulder and back and sometimes results in slow recovery to the next ball – it is also usually played a little further away from the table.

Most women are more eminently suited to closer table combat and more adept in the first and second round of looping – once they get forced a little back and the rally progresses, they usually lack the required power. This is, therefore, another compelling reason why women loopers should aim to achieve dominance in the first 3-4 balls, serve and 3rd ball, receive and 4th ball. In these initial balls you are in the driver's seat, you dictate, with a better than 50% chance to win the point – after that it's not the same kind of game, the odds are

50/50, with both players changing tactics, it becomes more a question of control and counter control measures. But even then you should work to retain offensive initiative – you can do this by always looking to achieve quick change in the first 5-6 balls in a number of areas – change of speed/spin, tactical switches, variation in angles, direction, length, quick transition to offence. From the receiver's point of view it is vital to remember that control or counter of the first 3 loops is the priority, whether you loop to loop, or kill through the spin. The single most important loop is the opponent's first spin from a backspin ball – this is the one stroke women must be able to handle.

Part two of this article will appear in the next edition of TTN Extra.

PARALYMPIC UPDATE

With the departure of the squad now only a few weeks away the excitement is growing within the camp. In addition to the original 12 selected players, ***Mark Palmer and Sue Gilroy*** *have been accepted into the squad at the last minute. The 14 will be jetting off to Sydney towards the end of September and all of our best wishes for a successful campaign go with them – here's hoping they can bring some medals home.*

DSE National Championships

This major competition in the disabled table tennis calendar takes place in the Woodford Leisure Centre, Hull on 16th and 17th September with play commencing at 9.30 on both days. Admission for spectators is free so please come along to support and enjoy this feast of top quality play.

EVENTS DIARY
by Mike Johns

3-Year Sponsorship Deal for Grand Prix

The 5th year of the ETTA Grand Prix is about to start and the great news is that we have acquired a naming sponsor for the next 3 years. Butterfly, the world's largest TT equipment manufacturer, will support the circuit which has been renamed the 'Butterfly Grand Prix' is the introduction of the ITTF's experimental scoring system. We will be playing best of five, up to 11 points. In the ITTF system service change remains as it is now, every five points, but Referee Mick Strode suggested that we use the lawn tennis tie-break system where the first server serves once then the service changes every two points. Initial tests seem to indicate that this may be the best system but for the first four tournaments of the season we will try each method twice and then go for the most popular.

Cheltenham Open

The first Butterfly Grand Prix this season was a new tournament, the Cheltenham Open, supported by the Cheltenham Borough Council and scheduled to be played on 26th/27th August. An entry of well over 200 included Alan Cooke, Nicola Deaton, Alex Perry and defending GP champions Helen Lower and Michael Isherwood. It should be very interesting to see what effect, if any, the 40mm ball and the new scoring system, have on the leading players.

West Midlands Open

At the time of writing it seems very unlikely that this event will take place this season. A change of council at Stratford means a change of policy and financial support is not likely to be forthcoming. We are trying to find an alternative venue for a Butterfly Grand Prix major over that weekend.

Newcastle Open

Another new tournament this season the Newcastle Open, will take place the weekend before Christmas at the Eldon Square Leisure Centre in the heart of Newcastle's shopping district. Organised as a satellite tournament last season, it now becomes a fully fledged Butterfly Grand Prix event.

South West Open

This popular tournament, which has previously been organised by the ETTA, will from this season be in the capable hands of the St. Austell Centre Committee. Held over the Easter weekend, it has over the last three seasons attracted most of England's leading players including number 1 Matt Syed. It is expected that the Restormel Borough Council will continue in the role of supporting sponsors.

Schools International Championships 2000
by Geoff Gardiner, General Secretary, ESTTA

The Schools International Championships were held in the Isle of Man over the weekend of 30th June – 2nd July. The ESTTA sides, who traditionally have had things much their own way over the years, found the going a little tougher in 2000, especially in the individual events, although they did return to the mainland with a fair share of spoils.

The team event was staged with a new format of 2-a-side and the ESTTA entered two teams in all six categories.

The girls' under 16 competition attracted the least number of entries with only Ireland and Iceland providing opposition. The A side of Gemma Chapman and Deborah Flint with 3-1 victories over England B and Ireland, and 3-0 whitewash of Iceland, came top while the B team of Aimee Sparkes and Zoe Cheeseman defeated Ireland and Iceland by the same score as their seniors, thereby taking second place.

In the boys' under 16, England A (Dominic Hall and Thomas Hughes) sailed through the group stage without dropping a set, but in the play-off the Scottish pair of Rumgay and Eggar clinched the gold medals with a 3-2 success.

Craig Bryant and Bryn Drinkhall, England A's representatives in the cadet event, won their group comfortably with 3-0 wins over Wales A , Scotland B and the Isle of Man B, while Adam Bleakley, Tim Yarnall and Warren Brookes of England B dropped just one set in the other group with victories over the A sides of Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man. In the play-off the A pairing completed the job with a 3-0 success over the B team.

Seven teams competed in a round robin competition for the cadet girls' title. The ESTTA players Lisa Calcutt and Abigail Embling (A) and Amanda Bell, Christina Vajdi and Nicola White (B) equalled the boys' exploits taking gold and silver respectively, albeit the silver was only achieved on countback, having tied with Scotland and Wales.

The boys' under 18 competition was dominated by Iceland, led by G Stephenssen, a full international, and a strong Irish pair took silver. Stuart Gibbs and Gary Bloomfield, England B took third place while Tim Cleminson and Daniel Welsh, England A, had to settle for fifth after a countback.

The girls' B team of Terri-Ann Nolan and Suzanne Robinson overcame the A pairing of Emily Dearing and Kate Hughes 3-2 in a decider for gold and silver.

In the individual events ESTTA players picked up two gold medals – Gemma Chapman (G16) and Craig Bryant (B14) and five silvers – Emily Dearing (G18), Aimee Sparkes (G16), Lisa Calcutt (G14), Dominic Hall (B16) and Bryn Drinkhall (B14). The medal haul was completed by nine bronzes won by Daniel Welsh (B18), Gary Bloomfield

(B18), Terry-Ann Nolan (G18), Zoe Cheeseman (G16), Deborah Flint (G16), Adam Bleakley (B14), Tim Yarnall (B14), Christina Vajdi (G14) and Abigail Embling (G14).

The ESTTA extends its appreciation to the NPS's Maria Boulton, Ann Humble, Gail McCulloch, Mark Smith, Paul Birch and Rob Pountney for their efforts with the players.

The English Schools' Table Tennis Association aims to provide competition for boys and girls in full-time education up to the age of 19. To take part in the team or individual events it is necessary to participate in county competitions, as entry to tournaments organised by the ESTTA is restricted to County Champions. Where no County Schools' Association exists an individual school may affiliate.

For more detailed information or to find out who the county secretary is for your area you should contact the ESTTA General Secretary, Geoff Gardiner, 36 Froom Street, Chorley PR6 0AN. (Tel: 01257 264873).

Important dates for season 2000/1:

1st Dec	*Last due to nominate schools for Team Championships*
20/21 Jan	*Area Finals of Team Championships*
11 Feb	*Regional Finals of Team Championships*
17 March	*National Finals of Team Championships*
21 March	*Last date to nominate players for Individual Championships*
20-22 Apr	*British Primary International Championships – Largs, Scotland*
28 Apr	*National Team Finals*

The team event is for teams of four boys or girls at under 11, 13, 16 and 19 on 1st September 2000. This also applies to the individual championships. Players who perform well in these competitions are considered for the Schools Internationals.

Categories change for World Veterans Championships

Please note that during the World Veterans Championships in Vancouver, the WVC Committee changed the age groups for future championships to read as follows:

40 – 49 years
50 – 59 years
60 – 64 years
65 – 69 years
70 – 74 years
75 – 79 years
80 years and over

We kindly ask you to inform your veterans/senior players accordingly.

Worldsport.com in trouble

One of the best websites for table tennis was that provided by Worldsport,com in association with the International Table Tennis Federation – www.tabletennis.worldsport.com. Concentrating on the world scene, but also including background information on the sport of table tennis, it was well written, well informed, well presented (with some excellent photographs of top players in action) and well organised. Therefore it came as a bit of a shock to learn in the middle of July that Worldsport.com, which had contracts to provide websites for dozens of international sports federations, had an uncertain future owing to financial difficulties and was laying off staff. However, the table tennis website was still in operation in mid August, featuring an excellent interview by Michael Andersson and Swedish star Jorgen Persson on his prospects in his final Olympics, and his future plans. We must hope that this website will survive and prosper. Pay it a visit!

About.com Table Tennis Website

It may be American – maintained by former U.S. International Sean O'Neill – with a particular focus on the sport as played there, but the scope of much of this site (http://tabletennis.about.com) is universal. As a Tim Titrud says in the March/April edition of USA Table Tennis Magazine, it is "A true portal for table tennis enthusiasts, O'Neill has something for everyone. About.com's table tennis pages are full of valuable information and resources. The site is updated on a daily basis and web surfers are treated to weekly features, spotlighted sites, and timely polls. Sean's features often include coaching tips...the site goes well beyond just articles with an online books and video store, over 500 links categorized by topic, an events calendar, a bi-monthly newsletter, a chat room, and a moderated forum." When the editor of TTN Extra visited this interactive site, he was interested to note that Nittaku 3 star were coming out top of an ongoing survey of new 40mm balls.

Dave Edwards Umpiring at Sydney Olympics

English officials frequently perform at at least as high a level as our players. In the June/July TTN Extra Editorial readers were advised that Northallerton's Richard Scruton was to referee the European Youth Championships in Bratislava on 7th-16th July, and by all accounts he did a good job. And Matthew Syed is not going to be our only representative in the table tennis competition at the Sydney Olympics on 16th-25th September. For 37 year-old international umpire from Abbots Langley, David Edwards will be there too – as an umpire. Quoted in the Watford Observer and in the Hertfordshire Midweek Observer, David, a post office worker who is regularly in blue blazer guise on the tournament circuit, said, "I am absolutely delighted to represent Royal Mail and Great Britain in Sydney."

London Junior Table Tennis Scheme - Big changes for the new season! 2000/1 Tournaments

Age Groups
There will be four age groups instead of two – Under 12s, Under 14s, Under 17s and Under 19s.

Under 12 & Under 14
In these age groups, there will be 44 tournaments. 40 Zone tournaments catering for between 50 and 75 players, spread around London. 10 tournaments in each of the following months: September, November, January & March. Four All London tournaments, one per month, during October, December, February and April. The top 120 players from the 10 Zone tournaments will be invited to take part in the All London Tournament that is held during the following month. As in the past, there will be three standards of ability, Band A – Advanced, Band B – Intermediate and Band C – Novice.

Under 17 & Under 19
Initially, for these two age groups, there will be four All London tournaments, one per month during October, December, February and April.

Ratings
As in the past, results from all tournaments will be entered into our Computer Ranking Programme, players thus gaining points according to their wins and losses. After each age group, four boys and girls will be produced and a copy sent to all the players who take part.

Awards
The Grand Prix points system, introduced last season, whereby players gain points depending on where they finish in each tournament, will once again decide who receives the awards at the end of the season.

Weekend Coaching Sessions
Players who perform well at the All London tournaments will be invited to attend

Regional Training/Development Days, together with others from National Rankings. It is planned to hold six such days involving 20-24 juniors.

Inter-Regional Competition

It is possible that an Inter-Regional Competition will be held and it is likely that the teams will be selected from those juniors participating in the Regional Development Programme.

For further details, please contact Len Pilfold on 020 8850 3910.

IT'S FUN, IT'S FAST, IT'S FANTASTIC!

English Schools Table Tennis Association Plea for Support for School Sport

We would like your support as we, with other school sports associations affiliated to the National Council for School Sport, are concerned about the situation in which 'school sport' finds itself today. Contrary to the perception of some, sport in school is still very active. Initiatives, old and new, are taking place. However, help is desperately needed in terms of support for teachers, facilities and finance.

We want national and local government to help by:-

- Recognising and supporting the value of the activity for young people
- Using their influence at appropriate times
- Initiating discussion and action

We want them in particular to consider that:-

- School sport is based on educational principles and its extension of the curriculum
- It is involved with the mental, moral and physical development of pupils
- There should be opportunities for pupils in a variety of sports
- School sport provides a pathway for the talented and encouragement for all
- Schools benefit through improved and informal pupil-teacher contact
- As teachers volunteer their time and professional skills, they require and deserve support.

However, this is being threatened because:-

- Many teachers no longer have the time to become involved in extra-curricular activities due to increasing pressures in other subjects
- School sports associations, at local and national level, are alarmingly short of teachers who can give a commitment and are short of the finance to support them. These organisations, run by volunteer teachers, provide the framework for competition, representation and development

School sport needs to be run through education in order to provide the balanced environment for pupils.

You may also wish to contact the National Council for School Sport website for further information*www.schoolsport.freeserve.co.uk*

We write to ask that, when you can, you influence and raise discussion in order that this issue can be effectively addressed. **Thank you for your support.**

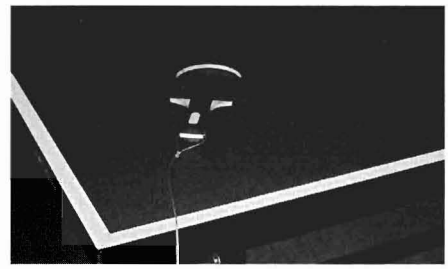
FLUXUS: EVERYTHING AS ART TABLE TENNIS AT THE TATE

Josie Ransome has provided TTN Extra with information on the Fluxus display, which included a table tennis exhibit, at the Tate Museum of Modern Art in London.

The Fluxus Collective was a radical group of over 40 international artists who, from 1962, collaborated in Europe, the USA and Japan. Named Fluxus from the Latin 'to flow', they aimed to 'promote living art, 'anti-art' and 'non-art reality' through merging different art forms – including performance, music, film and publishing – and blurring the boundaries between art and life, thereby questioning the very nature of what an artwork might be. As the artist Joseph Beuys observed: "There were as many different ideologies and interpretations of Fluxus as there were people"!. Fluxus created work that was 'functional, conceptional, inexpensive, ephemeral and funny.'

So where does table tennis fit in? The display room is divided into six Fluxzones of which the 'Games zone reveals their absurdist approach to sports and pastimes, and offers visitors the chance to try a game of Fluxpingpong'. Played on a traditional full-sized table (a Butterfly rollerway was displayed), the bizarre element of Fluxpingpong is the alterations made to the playing implements. Of the four bats attached by cord to each corner of the table, the first had a big hole in the middle of the blade, the second a tin can stuck on the blade, the third something looking like the domed crust of a pie baked on to it, the fourth was latticed with what looked like off-cuts of red hosing or piping.

If you are interested in viewing the Fluxus room, it is part of the overall display theme 'History/Modern/Society' and is situated next to the Andy Warhol exhibition. For further information about the Tate Modern, Bankside, London SE1 9TG call 020 7887 8000 or the Information Line 020 7887 8008.



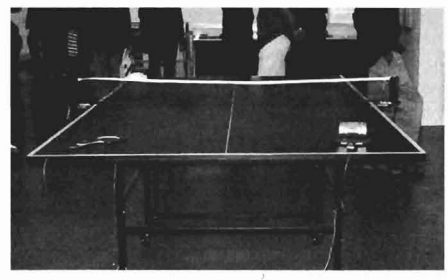


Table Tennis in Vogue at the Victoria and Albert

Further indicating that table tennis is becoming a trendy, fashionable sport, a shiny metal table tennis table, designed by contemporary furniture designer Ron Arad, who is a keen player in his studio, was featured in the first of a series of contemporary late nights called Friday Late View at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London on 30th June. The evening presented by Ron Arad and Tomato, the Hip Design Collective (who are also interested in table tennis!), opened with interactive Arad animated designs for furniture and lighting, which respond to the rhythm of music or other sounds. During the evening outside in the garden, London Region Development Officer Jon Kaufman, plus three youngsters from the Progress Club, Daniel Flash, Michael Persaud and Hannah Justice, led a 'Come and Try' session, which Jon says 'loads of people tried'. Apparently, the Progress players quickly adapted to the concave table (it goes up at the ends), which made the ball rise. England and Commonwealth Champion Matthew Syed also supported the event and rounded off the session with an exhibition with Ron Arad, who now plans to design a figure of 8 shaped table – i.e. a table having two holes! (note that another novel design is the round, 8-foot diameter table divided in quadrants by alternating colours, currently in use for 'Spin

Pong' at the Chicago Ping Pong Festival 2000 from August 3rd to September 24th).

LONDON PROGRESS TREBLE

As a line was missed out in the published version of the June/July TTN Extra interview with club manager Jon Kaufman, thereby giving the wrong impression that London Progress had won the British League Premier Division 3 years in a row but had only won the double (in titles), the Ormesby Cup not being mentioned, we now apologetically reprint Jon's reply when asked what the 'treble' was:

"The treble of course was the British League Premier Division, *which we have won now two years in a row*, *the Ormesby Cup*, which we have won now three years in a row, and the Wilmott Cup, which we have also won 3 years in a row representing West Middlesex."

Penny Lane Quadruple Team win first 40mm Ball Event in Exmouth

On Saturday 1st July, the Penny Lane team of Daniel Mayhew, Ben Wyatt, Luke Walton and Naomi Wilson won the Exmouth Quadruples Table Tennis Championships, billed England's first (new) 40mm ball competition, at Exmouth Community College. 12 equal teams of four (juniors and some adults.) 48 players in all, balanced according to ranking, competed in a range of activities – (team) 'quads' where a player remains at the table until losing a point with all-change at change of service and games up to 31, 'targets', 'group singles' skills tests, and 'goal scoring' – for prize money of £175: £100 for the winners, £50 for the runners-up and £25 for the team that came third. Brian Worts was the innovative organiser, on behalf of the Exmouth League, of this very successful day.



Penny Lane players at the front from left to right: Daniel Mayhew, Ben Wyatt, 11 year-old Luke Moulton holding the money, Naomi Wilson with the winning scorecard. Others L to R in photo: Organiser Brian Worts, League Secretary John Smithers, League Pres Officer Dave Arnold, League Chairman Pete Hayfield.

Badminton the World's Fastest Racket Sport?

Whereas British badminton officials are on firm ground in claiming that in participation terms it is the 'nation's most popular racket sport' – only tennis can rival it in Britain – the veracity of the claim in 'Badminton', August 2000 that 'Badminton is the world's fastest racket sport' depends on the criteria being used. It may be true that a shuttle can leave the racket at a speed of almost 200mph but it decelerates much quicker than a table tennis ball smashed at 100mph. But accepting that the projectile travels faster in badminton, tennis and probably squash, the area where table tennis has the 'world's fastest' edge is rate of shot in a given period of time. The Bellinger sisters' (Lisa Lomas and Jackie Worrell) Guinness Book of Records record of 173 shots in a minute equates to almost 3 shots a second, but in short bursts top competitive table tennis can be played at twice that rate. And none of the other racket sports, not even lawn tennis, can begin to challenge that table tennis is the spiniest!

Incidentally, badminton is saying the same things as table tennis regarding clubs: "How many clubs do you know that will take in beginners, juniors or players that only want the social aspects...? Our club structure is based on match play, we are not really clubs at all but a collection of teams. Our attitudes need to change if badminton clubs are to survive. Clubs need to understand they have a community responsibility. They are the providers of badminton in their locality. The badminton club of today needs to be associated with the local schools, colleges and community centres, providing contact from coaches, administrators and other club personnel to create badminton playing experiences for everyone", Clive Ellames, 'Badminton', August 2000.

COACH INTERVIEW – ALAN DUNN
By Ken Muhr

Alan Dunn is a Level 3 Coach working in Rotherham , South Yorkshire. He is a coach at Rotherham Scorpions TT Club which he runs with 9 teams in the Rother Valley League and one team in the Hallam League. The Club also won the Woolwich National League, Yorkshire Region, at Armley Sports Centre, Leeds, last year (1998) and were promoted into the Junior British League. Working for Rotherham Borough Council he does around 14-15 hours paid coaching and probably 6-10 hours voluntary.

What brought you into coaching? What were your motivations?

"Really it was circumstances. What actually happened was, I played table tennis when I was at school – the only thing I ever won was the school championships, oh and apart from that I think in about 1971 I was the under 13 doubles champion for Leeds Schools – but I didn't play from being about 15 until about 7 years ago and my eldest lad was of the age that I thought he might be interested in table tennis so I got a cheap table tennis set and put it on my dining room table and tried a couple of times to get him interested but that didn't work. But I enjoyed simply holding a bat and it brought back memories of the way I used to play so I went through to Armley Table Tennis Centre where my father goes and I played him, and that is where I met Ray Burch. Now Ray Burch at that time was (Yorkshire) Development Officer and came out of his little office when he saw me play and he had a knock with me, and he asked me would I consider being a coach. I hadn't played in a long while, 15 years, and was very rusty and I thought it was a bit too much to see myself coach so I was not really interested. But I did think about it and played a little bit more. Then I played at a local club, and I was miles out of range, I was completely out of depth even in the 5th Division, but the seeds were there and I was interested again. So I thought about coaching and went to talk to Ray Burch again, and he told me that if I was interested there was a coaching session available Saturday mornings at Sheffield Road Swimming Pool in Rotherham, so I said I would think about it and put my name down for a coaching course at Leeds and I passed that.

Then my first actual session was for one and a half hours at Sheffield Road Swimming Pool and I was under the impression that if you put a poster up you would get loads of kids. With the local authority lady I worked under, the Community Liaison Officer I think, I got quite a lot of tables in – I thought the worst thing in the world would be to have loads of kids but only two tables. So I ended up with five tables. What I decided was, as I was waiting for this big session to come off, you have got to get the kids an identity so what we will do, rather than just give the kids a coaching session, we will start a little club but at this time we hadn't any kids! I developed the idea of Rotherham Scorpions Table Tennis Club and one kid turned up! The following week the same kid turned up! And the following week! That's all we had, one kid. And I had got the Rotherham Scorpions table tennis shirt printed up,

because that is what I did at the time, I was a t-shirt/leisurewear printer. Eventually, very very gradually we managed to build the numbers to half a dozen, with a little bit of input from Ray Burch coming doing roadshows and things like that. Gradually, we increased, adding on a new session about every 6 months so now we have got , including the academy session: 2 beginners sessions, one at the Herringthorpe Leisure Centre on Saturday then we go to Sheffield Road Pool for the second session; then back to Herringthorpe for our top session, the Rotherham Academy, where we encourage the top players from South Yorkshire to come along to coach and we have quite a lot of success. Most of the top seniors in South Yorkshire like Andrew Horsfield, come along to assist. We have got two sessions on a Monday, Tuesdays are normally our match play day (home venue night), and I realised you can only have coaching if you have got a session for pupils to compete with each other so on Wednesdays we have a ladder session (an idea from Ray Burch), then Friday we have a beginners open session. On Tuesday we have a new open session at Rawmarsh Swimming Pool, which is loosely connected with Rawmarsh Comprehensive School which has received Sports College status so we are trying to develop that – we have three tables in there. We have got a small junior table tennis league, which is four teams this year, going up to five next year. Next year we are hoping to start a comprehensive schools league as well.

When you had only one kid coming a week, how did you feel? You weren't put off?

"I was, a little bit. But it just made me more determined and I realized that we had got to get into schools. If in the first three or four weeks we had had six or eight kids turn up regularly, I would not have looked round and gone into schools, so that would have limited what we could have done. It made me work harder. It was like a push on the backside. I got loads more playing from the schools and started flooding the area with them, which still didn't work (initially) because table tennis was so low profile in the area with no juniors. There was just one junior playing in the Rother Valley League, in fact he had just stopped playing in the Rother Valley League and gone into the Sheffield League and had always received his coaching and training from Sheffield. So there wasn't any coaching. It has been difficult to do it now but we are in the happy situation that we have got probably more kids than we can handle as far as developing to quite a high standard. We have got quite a lot of kids that because of commitment, or their parents or general reasons just want to play happy-go-lucky table tennis. They don't particularly want to be good or have coaching. But because we have only so much access to table time we are trying to make it a little bit more professional and limit the access for purely social table tennis".

You have mentioned Ray Burch. Who would you say influenced your coaching as you went along?

"Peter Thompson, he is my cousin, he has been coaching a long, long while and it would be nice to achieve 10% of what Pete has done. There is Alan Lowe who is the senior coach in South Yorkshire and such as Ray Burch. I am trying to go round to a lot of coaching sessions, and I have been to watch such as the England Under 12 camps with Sylvia (Broadbent) coaching and I have been down and watched Derrick Marples. There are quite a few good coaches. I think you learn a hell of a lot from this sort of situation (Level 3 of course)."

What motivates you now most from coaching? What do you get from it?

"I am really enjoying developing a big club. I would like Rotherham Scorpions being one of the biggest clubs in the country and I would like the other clubs to get stronger. I would like our club system to be based on the continental model where you have got a big club, lots of coaches wanting to improve it and a social side to it. At some point we are going to have to have our own proper building rather than the three centres we have got now, though there are some advantages to these; you have some kids who just come to one down-the-road venue that is there, and also working with Rother Valley Council Leisure Services we are fortunate that overheads don't some into it so much, particularly around Christmas or the main part of the holidays when the numbers drop alarmingly without me worrying too much about it. I am very happy working within the partnership we have of local authority, really good sponsor which is John Brailsford Print which we would really struggle without because he subsidises the entries for the National League, the British League, equipment such as the robot – and the little bit of backing from Rother Valley League, who have seen what we have contributed: around about 50% of the registered players, 30% of the teams, which might have kept the Rother Valley League going."

If you have one central message about coaching, one thing you really feel strongly about, what might it be?

"You have got to be incredibly enthusiastic. If you are enthusiastic it rubs off on anyone you are trying to get to assist, it rubs off on parents, it rubs off on the kids. If you are not enthusiastic you haven't got a prayer. If you look around now (at the Level 3 coach course) the enthusiasm is there to be seen and it comes down from Peter Hirst, who is at the top. It is the same on a coaching session in a club or in a league; it is the enthusiasm that the guy at the top has got that rubs off all the way down. If you are running your own coaching sessions and you are trying to get your coaches to develop the game, you have got to give them the support and you have got to be enthusiastic about it. Take the time to ring them up and take an interest. That is all enthusiasm, that is the key. That is more important that doing it technically correctly."

What are you most proud of – successes in your own terms?

"We have got a couple of county players; one player who has played for the county already and one player who may get in this year but is good enough to get into the county squad. It is really that. They were just players who came along and you would not have picked them out as possible players, but they have got through with hard work and enthusiasm rather than good coaching. So now as I improve as a coach I know that the sky is the limit. I can produce some really good players because I have learnt constantly – I am constantly improving my coaching."

Interview conducted in Summer 1999.

Table Tennis Exhibitions

When he was Northern Region Development Officer, Ken Muhr was frequently requested to draft a paper outlining an example or model table tennis exhibition, which he did produce in 1998.

The paper was too long (7 pages) to reproduce here but if readers would like a copy they can contact Ken at ETTA Headquarters. Meanwhile a summary is published below. Note that it is of the more structured, educational type of exhibition (of around 45 minutes duration, suitable for schools) as opposed to the purely fun or challenge match type.

Good exhibitions are very entertaining and are excellent tools for recruiting people and improving the image of the sport. Obviously

everyone does an exhibition a little differently, so it is anticipated that anyone using this model as a guide will make changes to it.

Summary of Table Tennis Exhibitions

Advice:

1. Know purpose of exhibition – have a definite follow-on.
2. Ensure that facility and equipment are appropriate.
3. Ensure that you have an audience.
4. Ensure that you have a good commentator/MC.
5. Ensure that you have appropriate players.

Content (checklist)

Introduction of top players.
Purpose of exhibition stated.
How to hold bat.
Ready position.
Backhand push.
Forehand to forehand drive - slow to fast.
Backhand to backhand drive/counterhit – slow to fast
Footwork: BH; FH; BH/FH; FH; FH; FH; FH round volunteer.
Speed: BH to BH world speed record attempt.
Spin: Spin serve – volunteers to try to return. FH Topspin loop to block and then to backspin chop.
Power: FH kill/smash to lob; multi-ball smashing.
Challenge match between top players. Players challenged by member of audience
Run-around for volunteers.
Players and audience thanked. Purpose of exhibition reinforced.
Hand out appropriate information.

German Bundesliga Second Division

A few British names appear in the Bundesliga lineups for Second Divisions North and South for the new season. Three times England Champion Carl Prean, just 33, transfers from Cestas Bordeaux, France and returns to Germany to take the no. 1 position at TTG Weitmar-Mun in Second Division North. Terry Young, 21, is no. 4 at the same club. 17-year-old Andrew Baggaley is no. 3 at TTC Bergneustadt. Ireland's Colum Slevin, now 35, is no. 5 for SV Werder Bremen. Wales' Ryan Jenkins, 21, is no. 2 for TTC Heusenstamm in Second Division South.

Big Ball Well Received At Team TT Pre-Season Tournament, North Solihull

The Editor has been advised by Daily Telegraph journalist, John Woodford, that the new larger 40mm ball was positively received in its English Open tournament debut at the Team TT (part of the Shoot Out Club) Pre-Season Tournament at North Solihull Leisure Centre on 13th August. The winner of the Band 3 singles Martin Chinn said that you soon get used to the new ball, though just when Jan Dunning thought she was getting used to it, the ball popped up higher than expected. Junior Gary Wilson also got used to the new ball quickly, while Sue Hayes felt that the ball definitely came through slower, which would be an advantage to a blocker.

Mike Johns, ETTA Events & Marketing Manager, looked in on the tournament, summing up the reaction, "Although it will still take some time to get used to, most people seemed to judge the new ball favourably". They also seemed happy with the best of five games up to 11 experiment, agreeing that in this format players should have two serves each.

Another use for the 38mm Ball

Karen Tonge has sent me an article which her husband spotted in The Daily Telegraph (10th November 1999). Apparently, the heads for the rubber puppets in the children's tv programmes *Trumpton* and *Camberwick Green* were made from table tennis balls. Perhaps there is a use for old 38mm balls as doll or puppet heads? However, as they could burn or cause suffocation, maybe they would not pass health and safety criteria.

PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE SPEED GLUES AT ITTF BGM, OSAKA 2001

The ITTF Equipment Committee, chaired by Dr. Rufford Harrison, seems likely to make a proposal to eliminate speed glues at the ITTF Biannual General Meeting held during the Osaka World Championships, Japan, from 23rd April to 6th May 2001, a solution to the problem of how to eliminate regluing and using speed glues being confidently expected to be found.

BUSA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Too late to go into the ETTA Diary, Mike Payne advises us that the British Universities Sports Association Table Tennis Team Championships have moved from 3rd/4th March to 24th/25th March 2001.

FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO PLAYED TABLE TENNIS

Sheila King, from the ETTA Development Department, spotted a photograph of Diana Ross, former lead singer with the Supremes, playing our sport with what looked like some proficiency.

Perhaps we in table tennis sometimes take for granted an ETTA Vice-President, Ann (Haydon) Jones, who before Wimbledon lawn tennis winning fame was a top world table tennis player, being desperately unfortunate as an 18-year-old at the World Championships in Stockholm in 1975 to lose in three finals. Despite having blistered feet, Ann led the Japanese Fujie Eguchi 6-2 in the fifth before losing the closest of singles finals 14-21, 22-24, 21-19, 23-21, 19-21. With Ivan Andreadis of Czechoslovakia, she was edged out of the mixed doubles final by 18-21, 21-10 19-21. And though apparently mismatched in partnering a fellow lefthander, Diane Rowe in the women's doubles, they still went to five against Hungarians Livia Mosoczy and Agnes Simon in the final. Ann had reached two previous world championships finals, the women's doubles in London in 1954 and the mixed doubles in Tokyo in 1956, but she was destined never to take a world title. The daughter of another table tennis international, Adrian Haydon, and a fantastic and gutsy talent, she has perhaps never been given quite her full due from the table game.

In the last issue, it was stated that the French Prime Minister plays table tennis but his name was not published. It is, of course, Lionel Jospin.

SIX NATIONS CADET GIRLS TOURNAMENT
10TH-11TH JUNE 2000, by Tony Pacitto

In 1968 I asked the Czech Coach why his girls' footwork was better than the English Boys. "It was best if I saw the training", was his reply. The result: A group of good English Junior Boys and Girls had three weeks training in the Czech environment. I saw how much more effort and work rate the Czech players put into their practice.

A few years later Mandy Reeves did the same, and came home playing her best table tennis. Her view was that she had no chance to get to the top in Europe. Some of the players had gone to Japan, Korea, Hungary, the worst ones another three

weeks in Prague, she had only Brent T.T. Club.

After I retired from coaching I said never would I return, but I found 'never' was a long time. When another old coach told me the general standard was bad, I thought he was living in the past, but I soon found he was right. For four years everyone was telling me I was coaching Joanna Parker wrong, the relief when she won the Under 12 National cannot be described.

So back to Europe: For the first time after 10 years absence what would I find? A lower standard, less skill, or would it still be like the past?

The Six Nations Cadet event in Copenhagen, Denmark. The venue, the National Sports Centre Headquarters of all Danish sport. A truly superb complex.

The main building housing offices for all sport, single and doubles bedrooms and a magnificent sports hall. The main feature of the building for me was the use of glass. The accommodation was good, food excellent, and most of the organisation good. The competition: Denmark, England, France, Netherlands and Sweden. My opinion from the past: we could beat Denmark, and maybe the Dutch and Sweden.

England A: G. Walker, K. Steward. England B: J. Parker, K. Shepherd.

Match v Denmark

Georgina wins 2 in straight games. Steward, Parker, Shepherd, all win 2 but drop 1 game in each. Both doubles won, so a comfortable start. Result: 10-0

Match v France

A Team: Georgina loses, Kate wins, doubles lost in third set. Georgina wins, but French no. 1 too strong for Kate. B Team: French win too strong but a good win for Joanna over De Almeida. Result: 3-7

Match v Germany

The Germans far too strong for the English girls, Kate won 1 game, Karen won the only set to save a whitewash. Result: 1-9

Match v Netherlands

The A Team started well but lost both singles in the third game, won the doubles and Georgina won her last match. Lost 2-3. The B Team saw Karen at her best and Joanna her worst match, they lost a doubles that should have won v Sweden 1-4 match.

A Team. What a tussle! Kate wins, Georgina loses, girls lose the doubles 19-21 in the third. Girls lose next three sets all in third game. Score was not a fair reflection on a very good contest.

England played 5, won 1, lost 4. For 20, against 30. Final positions 1. France, 2. Germany, 3. Netherlands, 4. Sweden, 5. England, 6. Denmark.

Singles:

4 groups of 6, 2 players to go through to KO stage, Karen won one match in group. Eliminated. Kate won two in group. Eliminated. Georgina lost only to Mattenet French no. 1, qualified 2nd place. Joanna lost only to German no, 1 K. Schneider, should have won good win over Cahoreau. Qualified 2nd place. Joanna lost to De Almeida, whom she said had beaten in the the team event 20-22 in the third set.

Personal conclusion:

All four girls fought very hard, and at times played really well but one felt they could have done better if more consistent. Joanna losing too many sets in third game. The Europeans seem to play stronger at the end of a match. I was impressed with both the German and French teams. At the Masters I asked Michel Gadal why the girls did not play like the boys. His reply: they don't on the continent. This is true, their movement and flexibility is a joy to see.

There was also a boys' cadet event and England Boys' team. My apologies to them, for I was interested in the girls team and the boys played at the same time.

Results suggested they played well, just missing out on second place to finish third. I believe Dale Barham only lost one match in the team event. He was also losing finalist, problem with his bat in final, only time anyone looked at bats. Congratulations to a fine bunch of boys, well done!

When Nottingham started I admit to being a critic. When a new venture starts it has problems, which have now been cured. When I spoke to Michel he invited me to go and see the centre to see for myself what it was like. I came away happy because for the first time I saw a set-up that may get us back to our old standard.

The improvement is starting to show, we have a long way to go but with our foreign coaches and Bradley we have a chance. I hope it will be a long time before they seek new pastures. My first trip abroad saw some fine table tennis and me make some new friends. There was also some sightseeing.

Advice: steer clear of Nigel Shepherd when he is drinking coffee!

Chicago Ping Pong Festival 2000

With the strong endorsement of Mayor Richard Daley, the City of Chicago's Ping Pong Festival began on 3rd August and will last for 7 weeks, finishing on 24th September. The purpose is to 'build a sense of community by bringing people together. Chicagoans and visitors can enjoy this popular game that anyone can play'. Its extent is quite staggering: over 300 tables are being made available for free play in parks, plazas, buildings lobbies, visitor centres, hotels, museums, restaurants, bars and various sightseeing attractions. Special events, exhibitions and tournaments are being run at prestigious sites including Chicago O'Hare International Airport. (inclusive) programmes - up to 40 events daily – aim to attract a hugely diverse range of participants, including celebrities, and include novel activities such as 'Spin Pong', which is played on a round, 8-foot diameter table divided in quadrants by two alternating colours.

If you cannot visit Chicago, you should at least visit the impressive websites *www.chigacopingpong2000.com* or *www.cityofchicago.org/tourism/pingpong* which carry a great deal of information and have many links. Incidentally, I noticed among 'facts' the following:

Ping Pong is a family game; table tennis is a sport (a neat distinction!).

An estimated 25 million people worldwide have played ping pong at least once.

Behind soccer, table tennis is the second most popular participationary sport in the world.

The phrase 'Ping Pong diplomacy' was coined when Chinese and United States Table Tennis teams exchanged visits in 1971 and 1972 (what about the English team?!).

DUNLOP SKILLS AWARDS

Thanks to support from Dunlop Slazenger, the ETTA now has a supply of all the Dunlop Skills Awards resources. We apologise for the period when some of the certificates and badges were not available. The cost of the certificate and badge at each of the 5 levels: Dunlop Rookie, Dunlop Improver. Dunlop Player, Dunlop Matchplayer and Dunlop Master – remains at £2.00. Although an award revamp is still planned, we cannot put a timescale on this at this stage and therefore will continue with the existing scheme until further notice. For further information contact your RDO or ETTA Headquarters.

English Table Tennis Association
Third Floor, Queensbury House,
Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex
TN34 1HF.
Tel: 01424 722525, fax: 01424 422103,
email *admin@ettahq.freeserve.co.uk*
Website: www.etta.co.uk

UNIQUE TALENT

NO one player on the veterans' scene has caused more sensations, more comment, more admiration, or more envy than Dr Herbert Neubauer. He has won World and European Veterans titles at both singles and doubles, writes Brian Halliday.

I first met Herbert in Neustadt about ten years ago when, along with Ray Dixon we met him and his partner in a doubles match. We were duly well and truly beaten but struck up an immediate friendship. There was no doubt that, even with his Curl Spezial rubber, we had encountered an extraordinary player.

Herbert decided to try his luck in our tournaments and the rest, as they say, is history. He won both the Over 40s and Over 50s in his first visit. Since then his blend of charm and expertise has brought him many friends in the UK. Of course there have been mutterings from a few that refused to recognise a quite unique talent, and there were dark hints of him treating his rubber and baking it to alter the rubber's characteristics.

I caught up with Herbert again in Vancouver and asked him to talk about his career and of course - about that dreaded rubber.

BRIAN HALLIDAY: How did it all start for you?

HERBERT NEUBAUER: I started in the game at about age 12 or 13, which is far too old.

BH: Did you get any specialised coaching early on?

HN: Absolutely none at all. I just learnt from watching other players, however I was first coached at age 16.

BH: Did the game come naturally to you? Were you gifted in this respect?

HN: You know my game. I am not sure if I am gifted. It did not take me too long to become quite good. I also played football at that time at a reasonable level.

BH: When you were at that age did you have an orthodox game or were you always producing peculiar shots? (Joint laughter)

HN: I used to play with a hard bat and everybody thought I had a classical game. The problem was I didn't win any.

BH: Who was your role model?

HN: I think Conny Freundorfer. He had fast legs. He was German Champion nine times. Now I thought that the future of table tennis was not with a hard bat. I then commenced to play an all round game with reverse rubbers.

BH: When did you decide to change your game to the style that you now adopt?

NH: It happened just 12 years ago. I did not have much time for practice and I had slow legs, so I decided to do something about it. I tried out anti loop, long pimples, short pimples, everything. I decided to have long pimples on the backhand.

BH: Before you changed to long pimples, were you successful with reverse rubbers?

HN: I was maybe top 10 in Germany. I got to quarter final of German Singles, but I was not an outstanding player.

BH: Now heres a tricky one for you. Have you been criticised for using your present rubber? Have people got upset about it?

HN: Very few. The ones that get upset I suggest that they might like to try my bat for themselves. They usually say afterwards that they were unable to play with it.

BH: How long did it take for you to master it?

HN: Probably one year, but to learn the different techniques and special shots, it took maybe four or five years. I took advice from some top players including Liang Ge Liang. There was one shot that I developed myself where the ball comes to me on the backhand, I withdraw the bat at the last split second so it has a more cushioning effect on the ball. It is my most effective stroke, but it is difficult to learn.

BH: Of the rubbers that suited your game, what was the first that you used?

HN: Feint Long then Curl Spezial came out, then Yung 6398 which was banned. I used Piranha, Grass Spezial. They were all banned. Currently I am playing with Bamboo.

BH: There are a number of top players in England who cannot believe that you get the effect you do without treating the rubber in some way. Can you categorically say that you don't treat the rubber?

HN: I DON'T TREAT THE RUBBER.

BH: I know that, but I had to ask you to set the record straight once and for all. I know that you have told me you go through a whole pile of rubbers before finding the right sheet - so what do you look for?

HN: I look for effect and also control. I put each sheet on the bat and test each one until I am satisfied that I have found exactly the right sheet.

BH: What do you regard as your best win (apart from beating Dragutin Surbek in Lillehammer)?

HN: Once in my younger days I beat Kollarovits who had reached the semi-final of the European Championships and had almost beaten Johansson. I beat good players but never in a consistent way.

BH: What training do you do?

HN: Jogging, swimming, and I ride up mountains in the summer on my racing bike. I go skiing in the winter.

BH: I remember in Halifax when, just having won the mens Over 50s singles, you went out for a run just before winning the Over 40s final.

HN: Good physical shape helps my concentration when I get out on the table. On that occasion it helped my breathing and I was able to concentrate that much better.

BH: Have you got other interests outside table tennis?

HN: I like to read a lot. I like travel and to learn languages. I am very interested in stocks and shares, and money matters. These and other financial interests provide me with my living. I sacrifice about four hours a day doing business over the phone or going to the bank myself. I read a lot of magazines dealing with the economics of companies.

BH: The new rubber that is being produced under your name from 1st July. What has been your involvement in producing that rubber?

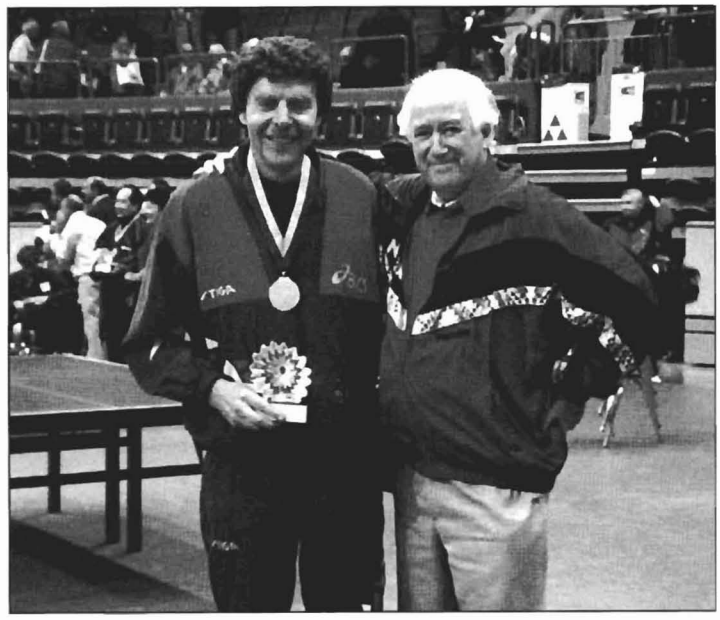
HN: Apart from testing, I have been involved in this enterprise for the past three years. I put a little of my experience in it by telling the manufacturers the length and width of the pimples I require, and the difference in space and the sponge required. We did all manner of tests with different sponges and found out, quite definitely, that rubber without sponge has the most effect. We also found out that the red rubber is far more effective than the black.

BH: When you showed me a piece of your "Dr. Neubauer Super Special" there did not seem to be much difference between that and the old Curl Spezial.

HN: No. Curl Spezial had a coating on it and if you used a magnifying glass you could see this quite clearly. The new rubber has no coating but in many respects it is very similar to Curl Spezial.

BH: Your new rubber has been approved by the ITTF with effect from 1st July. I know you will be harder to beat than ever. I hope you will be able to attend more of our tournaments this season.

HN: Thanks very much Brian, I love coming to England and do appreciate all the many friendships I have made within VETTS since coming to your country.



HERBERT NEUBAUER (left) pictured with BRIAN HALLIDAY in Gothenberg, in June 1999, where he won yet another trophy, and made many more friends.

LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL

ONLY a person with no soul could fail to be excited by the prospect of seeing the great American table tennis player Marty Reisman in action at the Manchester Sports Development Centre on Denmark Road this Friday night (9th June). It might not sound glamorous-American Veterans versus English Veterans in their first ever hard-nippled-bat encounter since the hard nippled-bat capitulated to the slithery deviousness of sponge in the early Fifties, but the emotional significance of the event is beyond measure. For those of us who loved table tennis before technology ruined both the spectacle and the aesthetic of the game, watching Reisman at the table again, and listening to the kerplock-plock of the ball against a bat that isn't a mattress, will be like beholding Caruso before the invention of the gramophone, writes Howard Jacobson.



MARTY REISMAN in action at the 1998 World Veteran Championships in Manchester

"Once we were like warriors, and table tennis was a game fit for heroes (kerplock), an edgy battle involving the will and the intellect (kerplock-plonk). Then the dastardly Japanese introduced the sponge bat (squelch-plonk) and the magic died". By Howard Jacobson

It's over half a century since Reisman first came to England to play competitive table tennis, a gangling street-smart teenager from the Lower East Side, looking more like a nuclear scientist than a sportsman and bringing with him an explosive version of the game never before seen in Europe. Racket-head acceleration, that was the secret. I played against it briefly in New York last year, and nothing's changed - you still can't detect the sudden upping of top-spin tempo. But why get technical? Working in fractious tandem with Dick Miles, the other great American racket-head exploder, what Reisman really brought to European table tennis was the slick glamour of New York, an exhilaration, a conviction that as long as you were on it, the table tennis table was the centre of the universe.

It wasn't that the game lacked self-conviction at that time. Players like Barna with his famous fly-swat backhand flick. and Richard Bergmann who broke his opponents' spirits by retrieving balls so far back from the table that he was sometimes in another room, packed arenas to the rafters. Table tennis touched a nerve in post-war Europe; its jumpy indoor intensity appealed to people who were used to living in their heads, and who had not yet discovered the mindless athleticism of 'sport'. There was something chess-like about table tennis, but chess in which the players left their seats and occasionally removed their ties. It appealed to swotty boys like me because it felt intellectual. An activity for philosophers. The first ever world champion was a Dr Roland Jacobi from Hungary, and most world champions thereafter (until sponge) looked as though they were in possession of a PhD. Enter the prize-fighter, Marty Reisman, hot from taking bets on himself in Lawrence's Table Tennis Club on Broadway once a speakeasy owned by Legs Diamond, and still not a joint where you threw challenges around lightly. And all at once the neon lights went on and the band played Gershwin.

Reisman beat Barna in the final of the 1949 English Open at Wembley. Before my time, but I've seen film footage. Five thousand spectators, every one of them biting on a cigarette, and the young Marty Reisman doing pirouettes between shots. Not disrespectful. Not even flash. Just basking in his talent.

He was one of the favourites - by some people's estimation (including his own), *the* favourite - to take the world title in Bombay in 1952. No American man had yet won it and American table tennis was running hot. Dick Miles had the better form, but Reisman had the chutzpah and liked performing overseas. What neither had, however, was sponge.

Against all the odds, the 1952 world championships was won by a little-known Japanese player with a modest demeanour and a sinister name Hiroji Satoh. Even less known than Satoh was the substance he played with. Developed in secret by the Japanese (which might explain what they'd been up to in the Malay, jungle 10 years before). Hiroji Satoh's inscrutable foam paddle bamboozled everybody including Hiroji Satoh, who played as though it were a magic wand with it's own volition. It did for Reisman anyway, moved the focus of table tennis from Europe and America to China and Japan, and substituted the frenzy of technology for the calm of intelligence.

Thereafter, quite literally, the game fell quiet. Kerplock-plock, kerplock-plock became squelch-plock, squelch-plock. An alteration for the worse not only to the mellifluousness of table tennis but also to its rhythm. With lumps of mattress in you hand you do not play the old virtuoso game of cat and mouse, you do not fence for an opening, and you do not stand in another room retrieving mashes. The ball is now moving too fast and with too much bizarre spin on it for any such finessing. And what follows from that is that you no longer enjoy your opponent's skills and judgement either. With sponge. all the smiling stopped. And all the dialogic skills of table tennis went up in smoke.

Sponge itself was just the beginning. With new racket surfaces came new stratagems. such as stamping when you served in order to conceal the sound even of the ball's last vestigial squelch, and contorting your body so horribly it turned your opponent's stomach. For a while, wondering if they ought

to halt the game's decline into farce, the authorities banned and unbanned one substance and contrivance after another. Now you could play with inverted pimples under your sponge, now you couldn't. In those years I owned 20 different bats myself. It was a torture deciding which to play with. A two ply hard bat with nipples like a young girl s chest was my instrument of choice, but it looked vulnerable against all that bristling multicoloured porosity. In the end there was no halting the scientific advance. Today a game of table tennis is half decided before it starts, by the glue with which you attach your rubbers to your blade. Use an illegal glue and the glue-sniffing machine which no major tournament dare be without will blow the whistle on you. Not that anybody's listening Because the other consequence of innovation is that the game has become too fast, too furious, too technical, too private, the rallies too quickly over and too unengrossing, for anybody but the players themselves to enjoy. Bye bye spectators. Not in Asia, where sponge seems to appeal to some appetite for hurry, but in Europe and America where it does not.

And bye bye telly too. What the eye can't see, the cameraman can't find. Some dynamism from the players might have compensated for the eye-smarting velocity of the ball, but sponge, as I have said, breeds dourness. What table tennis needed in an age of cameras was Marty Reisman. But he was now expunged, sponged out of it and otherwise engaged.

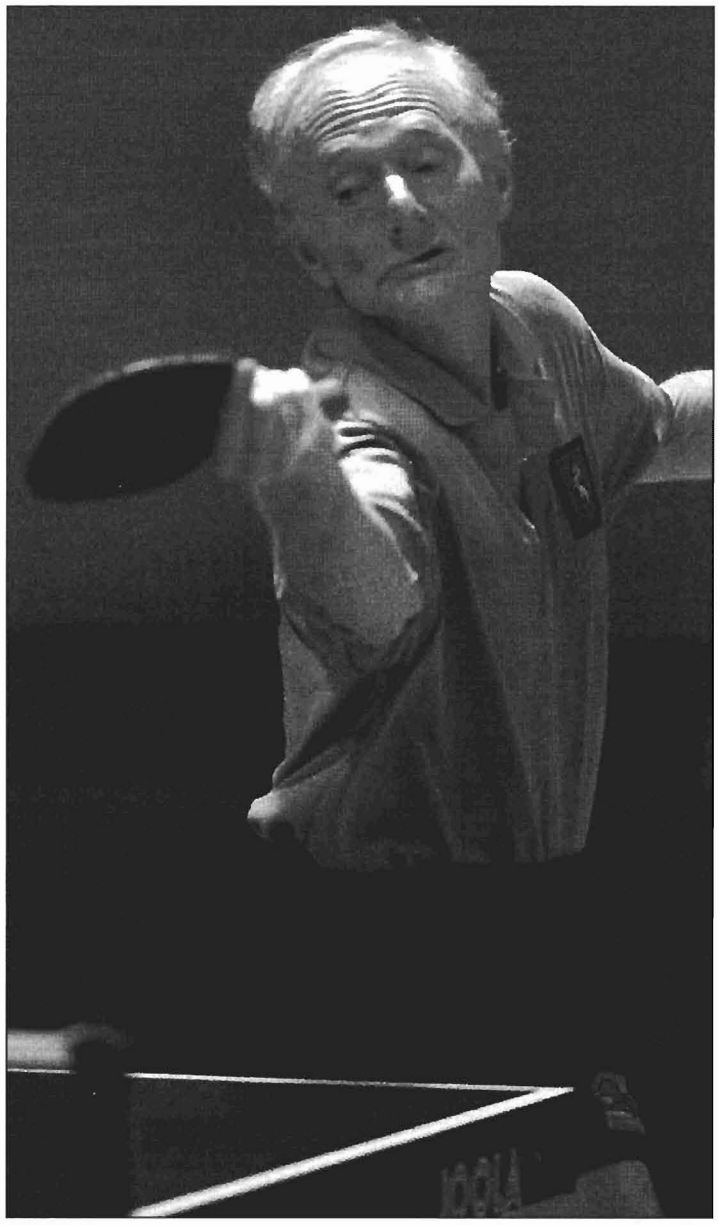
Never reconciled to the Bombay debacle, Reisman has given the last 50 years of his life to hustling, travelling the world playing exhibition matches, making friends of table tennis-crazed sultans and maharajahs, taking on all-comers with his spectacles, a chair-leg, an eye-lid, (anything except the hated sponge) and being a thorn in the side of authority. As though to remind us of the glory days of table tennis, when it had a whiff of the existential about it, he plays every match in a species of Apache dancer's *chapeau*. Silently his Japanese wife wipes the table before he plays. John and Yoko? A touch of that. A touch of a certain tragic oriental opera too. Dick Miles read *Ulysses* between matches and became a fine writer. Reisman's cultural allusions are less sedentary. And more calculated to stir up trouble. At a tournament in Vancouver last week he turned up in leopard-skin pants. It's a dare of course. He is waiting to be banned. At which point he will be able to round in triumph on those who vacillated when table tennis needed them and say, "Your banning me because I'm wearing leopard skin pants at some two-bit tournament but you allowed Hiroji Satoh to sabotage the greatest game there ever was"!

The hard bat international in Manchester represented a triumph for Reisman's persistence. Where others surrendered to the stamping inelegance of sponge. Reisman held out. He has flung wild challenges at America's best young sponge players, daring them to confront him - an old man now, an ageing lion - hard bat to hard bat. He has dinned the beauty and morality of hard bat into the consciousness of American table tennis. And now he is starting on us.

I love a Luddite more than I love any man. But playing against Reisman will be another exquisite hard bat player - Jeff Ingber of England and the Woodlands Social Club, where I learnt my table tennis. Ingber was my hero. The most dashing man I'd ever seen with the most satirical forehand. Kerplock mock - the very sound his bat made was the music of banter. Playing him was like playing Victor Mature and Alexander Pope combined. It was a privilege to lose. What it was like to win against him I never found out. But the contest was ennobling. God, we were warriors in those days. And now for one night, those days are here again.

Reproduced by kind permission of The Independent

Howard Jacobson's table tennis novel 'The Mighty Walzer' is published by Vintage.



HENRY BUIST who danced his way to victory over America's Marty Reisman, for the third time in two years

MANCHESTER ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL VETERAN CHALLENGE

ENGLAND 5 AMERICA 2

VETERAN ACE HENRY BUIST can now justifiably claim to be one of the best hard bat players in the world, after a hat trick of wins over America's world famous hard bat player Marty Reisman, writes Jim Beckley.

Buist, Kent's 65 year old player, followed his win in the Veteran World Championships in Manchester two years ago by beating the flamboyant 70 year old Reisman in the Manchester Atlantic Challenge International Match between the USA and England, and 48 hours later he did it again to win the hard bat title at the manchester Veterans Championships at the Manchester Leisure Sports Centre.

But in the Challenge match, in front of two hundred enthusiastic spectators, it was England's Denis Neale proved that he can still put on the style that won him six national titles, when he won three matches to pave the way for a 5-2 victory over the Americans, after the visitors had led 2-1.

Manchester's Jeff Ingber continued his comeback beating Professor Scott Gordon before Buist, a super fit sporting all-rounder who also acts, sings and tap dances, had the crowd cheering on an English victory when he beat Reisman 21-8, 21-23, 21-18.

Results:

Henry Buist(Eng) l. Steve Berger(USA) 19,-14,-19; Denis Neale(Eng) b. Scott Gordon(USA) 19, 16; Jeff Inger(Eng) l. Marty Reisman(USA) -19,-21; Denis Neale(Eng) b. Steve Berger(USA) 15, 12; Henry Buist(Eng) b. Marty Reisman(USA) 8,-21, 18; Jeff Inger(Eng) b. Scott Gordon(USA) 13, 13; Denis Neale(Eng) b. Marty Reisman(USA) 20, 16.

HIROJI SATOH

IT was a sad coincidence that Hiroji Satoh, the first Japanese and sponge bat player to win the World Men's Singles title in 1952, who Howard Jacobson mentions in this article, died on the 4th June 2000, aged 76.

"PLAYERS HAVE TO BE FIT"

INTERVIEW WITH SOREN AHLEN, ENGLAND HEAD COACH, NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE, HOLME PIERREPONT, NOTTINGHAM.
Ken Muhr, ETTA Information Officer and Brian Halliday, ETTA Vice Chairman for Public Relations conducted the following interview with the straight talking Soren Ahlen, who has also held top coaching positions in Sweden (World Men's Team Champions under his stewardship) and Japan as well as undertaking a brief previous stint as a National Men's Team Coach in England.


SOREN AHLEN

KEN MUHR: How does it feel to be back in England again?
SOREN AHLEN: I really enjoy it especially as the weather has been much better than expected!
KM: It would be interesting to find out a bit about your Japanese experience. How did you find it compared to Europe, socially and table tennis wise?
SA: Socially the life outside of the job was really enjoyable and nice. I met a lot of nice people and I made a lot of friends over there - fantastic food and unbelievably friendly people. In the working situation it was a bit tougher because it is a big cultural difference. In Japan it is common that the coaches are just doing what the old men request. 70 or 80 years old men say that they practised like this during the 50's and 60's and then they got world champions. It is some problem for them to understand that times are changing and material is developing, and practice methods are developing so it was quite hard to convince them that they had to change within the organisation and everything. I just felt confused every day because I couldn't understand why they wanted me to stay when they didn't want to use my ideas. So after 2 years - and I was quite happy to stand 2 years - I asked them if it was possible to stop, to cancel the contract 2 years earlier than expected. And also, related, in (the previous) October after (I had been) 1 year and 2 months in Japan, they had also fired my closest working partner Takashima, and that was just for political reasons.
BRIAN HALLIDAY: Was Takashima behind the success of (fellow defenders) Matsushita and Shibutani? Did he have a lot of influence?
SA: Not more than anyone else. It was Takashima and I running the team from the beginning and he was working mainly with the women and me mainly with the men. But of course we worked across the squad and I was responsible for the women as well, but I delegated the main job to Takashima. He is an academic, a vice-professor. When they fired him in October, everything got worse. Then suddenly without any knowledge at all they asked me to stop being responsible for the women's team in December, and when I asked why they just gave excuses. In July they had wanted me to be responsible for everything and the results were just improving. There was no main reason to fire him or me from the women's team. It was just political reasons. We selected players from companies that were not accepted by some persons with high positions.
BH: That is very interesting. In the 1950's and 1960's the Japanese had very good players. But they did go downhill didn't they? They haven't produced any really big name stars recently.
SA: That is easy to understand because now they don't practise hard, and now when the players leave school and start university when they are 18, the coaches just turn up to the tournaments - the coaches are not so much in the practice hall. So of course their results go down. And also the practice methods: they are still the same as we used in Sweden when I stopped playing at the end of the 60's. But maybe the future belongs to Japan because they have a lot of talented players and they have learned more and more. I was there for two years but before that they have had a lot of foreign coaches and players coming there for seminars, so of course they have had to understand that everyone coming there can't be wrong. So I think there are big changes happening and I think the new coach Maehara appreciated my ideas very much - he was working as my assistant - so I think it is a good future for Japan. Maybe also this decision with bigger balls will make the game a bit slower and they can play more forehands, and also the rotation of the ball is less so they can improve their receiving because their backhand receiving is their main problem.
KM: Most of the top players are amateurs?
SA: No, they are not more amateurs than the Swedish players, it is just that they are not called professional. It is just a name on paper.
KM: They are actually full-time?
SA: Yes. They are working in the clubs. The best players practise full-time, they don't need to work. Half-good players maybe have to work 4 hours a day and then they practise. But the practice quality is not very good. They don't practise hard. Their physical status has gone down unbelievably. But the young players were very prone to work hard.
BH: How much influence does Mr Tamasu have? I would think that he would like to see Japan at the top.
SA: Yes, but he has no influence in that association. His influence is with Butterfly.
KM: You are back in England again. Have you noticed any changes in the short time you were away.
SA: Now there is a lot of money but not as good players as when I was here the first time (captaining the men's team). Carl Prean refuses now to play (for England) and Alan Cooke and Bradley Billington have now stopped playing. So it is hard to repair that. But they did quite well in the Commonwealths - very well with such an inexperienced team - but you could see also that with such a young team if something was going against them then it was very easy that they could get 'thrown' by it, as they were in the Worlds when they lost against Denmark in the second match. It will take time to build up but now I think that their practise quality is much better in the hall, even if they have further to go before I am satisfied with it. It is clearly an

improvement compared with the bad effect on practice caused by the problems with the Lottery. It was really bad team spirit and the players at that time could not separate the problems with the Lottery and their practice: there was really bad quality and bad quantity of practice until Christmas and then we had some big meetings in January and hopefully there is a change now, and even in the long run. In the short term it (the problem with the Lottery funding) is cleared up but I want to see what happens after the European Championships before I say something because then the hard work starts. You can build up something. Now it is just peaking for the Championships.

KM: Could you say something about what you are doing technically and tactically and physically to build the players up?

SA: Physically there is not too much to say because now it is too short a period to run it through. Now as I did for Manchester I am focussing on the conditioning because the time (before the European Championships) is too short to build up muscles, but in the long run after the Europeans, then the players have to build up so that they are fit.We are doing regular tests, the youngsters have improved a bit, especially the boys, but they could be much better, and the seniors - we haven't tested everybody - I have seen some test results now and they are far from good. Of course fitness has a big influence on the game. When we tested the players in Sweden, when they were fit they played well. There is a close relationship.

About the technical and tactical aspects, we are working individually with players. They have their own particular problems and weaknesses. My idea is that players should be as complete as possible, to take away the possibility of opponents finding good tactics against our players. At the same time of course it is necessary to have 2 or 3 bad points, but that is individually from player to player.

KM: On the game generally around the country, do you have any comments on what you have seen? If you were to advise players out on the tournament circuit, players who want to become good enough to come here (Holme Pierrepont), what would you say to them?

SA: I have been watching some tournaments. Of course there should normally be more talented players here than in Sweden, and there are. I have seen a lot of good young players, from 10 years old up to 14 or 15. That is definitely not the problem. The problem is to take care of the kids and give them a good education from the beginning and to instill some kind of practice culture. The young kids here who are the most talented, practise more than the kids in Sweden, but the quality is not the best. You see a lot of kids practising very much in long sessions, for more than 2 hours when they are 10 or 11 years old, but after 1 hour they just look tired and think it's boring. It is really important that the kids enjoy the play, because if you enjoy playing you enjoy practice and then you really want to be a good player by yourself. I am a bit worried because I believe that in some cases the kids are pushed too hard by parents or maybe coaches. It is difficult to say things like this - I don't want to say things like this, but it is just the thoughts I have that it could be like this. If you have players for example at the centre practising every day very hard, and it is a big step for them, then it is hard to understand how they sometimes have - in my opinion quite often have - bad sessions, are not keen to do the physicals, things like that. This is although this is the National Training Centre and you expect more from the kids. If you have kids in the club, then of course it is different, they have to fight to come here, but if they have been selected to be here then you would expect a bit more from these kids. And if they themselves are really keen to be here, then it is hard to understand why they try to cheat the coach when they are doing the running and the physical, don't listen about nutrition or the education we give them etc. So it is difficult to say whether everybody at the Centre is keen to be here or they are pushed to be here, because if they themselves are keen to be here, I would expect higher quality.

The kids have to enjoy the practice and you can't push them too hard because if they don't want to practise hard, even if you push them and they go to the practice hall, the session maybe will be bad. But the difficult bit is finding a balance, to know when you should push them and you when you should not push them. That is the problem, because when they are getting older, 13,14, 15, 16 and getting on for seniors, then you are almost always tired when you practise. This is because you practise so much. But when you are young 9 to 12, 13, then it is hard to say.

KM: You suggested that 2 hours is maybe too long for a session?

SA: When I compared here to Sweden I did not say it was wrong, but I did say that compared to Sweden the most talented players play longer. This is just factual: longer sessions and more often. In Sweden when they are talented and aged 9, 10 and 11 they practise maybe 3 times a week but they play more tournaments in Sweden, almost every second weekend. But it is hard to say - in China they start when they are 4/5 years old and practise many hours every day. But obviously we (Swedish Men's Team) are now the best again! (BH: That was certainly a brilliant team victory in the finals of the World Championships!)

I have been around and seen a lot of good players in England. I think that the average quantity of practice for players is in England very low, much lower than Sweden, especially when the players come up to 13, 14 and 15.

BH: What do you think is the fault of the coaching system here?

SA: I think it is a very high priority to start some kind of coach education because the player has to learn how to behave and how to practise. They have no knowledge at all about that.

KM: You said 'not knowing how to practise' but earlier, you talked about being uncertain how hard players should be pushed. My own subjective comment is that I think that too often in this country coaches don't push enough. Kids get bored, because although they might moan if it is a hard session they actually respect it. So I am a bit uncertain about this pushing: if you push against their will maybe it doesn't work but I think that some coaches are too laid back.

SA: In my opinion, that is different. I mean in the hall you should always push them. There shouldn't be any lazy sessions. But if, for example, we take a talented 11year old player, he may normally practice 3 times a week, but he has 3 quality practices, if he practices 5 times a week, maybe 1, 2 or 3 of these sessions is very low quality. Then you have to analyse whether the quantity is more important than the quality. If you think that is the case then of course you go for the 5 times a week and tournaments at the weekend. If you think that quality is more important, then of course you go down to 4 or 3 sessions but step it up. I think it is best to start low and build it up.

There is always a reason why an 11 year old kid doesn't want to practise - the practice is too boring, the coach is not making it fun enough, maybe the practice is not good enough, maybe the kid is tired and the practice is too much so of course he should rest. So there are a lot of reasons why you don't want to do things.

KM: So what sort of people are you looking to select to the Centre? What are the essential

25 YEARS AGO

• ISTVAN JONYER of Hungary and PAK YUNG SUN of Korea DPR were at the head of their respective singles on the ITTF World ranking list, whilst England's Trevor Taylor was at No.20, Denis Neale at No.25 and Nicky Jarvis at No.30. Our highest placed lady was Jill Hammersley at No.17.

• ALAN HYDES decided to retire after playing for England at three World and four European Championships, to become New Zealand's National Coach.

• THE STIGA SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS between England and Scotland, which was sponsored by Stiga and Cleveland County Leisure and Amenities Department, was won by England. This tournament was a new concept with 36 players from each country.

• 45th USA OPEN in the Mens Singles Final Kjell Johansson beat his fellow Swedish countryman Stellan Bengtsson -15, 15, 12, 10.

• MIDDLESEX's Ted Connell retired as Chairman of the County Association and was replaced at the helm by Geoff James. Two new members were elected to the Executive Committee and these were Don Kenny (Barnets) and Dave Groombridge (Acton).

• BELLE VUE BONANZA The reigning World Champion Istvan Jonyer of Hungary and European Champion Milan Orlowski of Czechoslovakia, were invited to play at the Masters Tournament at the Kings Hall, as were French ace Jacques Secretin and Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia.

qualities?
SA: The important thing is to find a player with a good attitude; I mean a player who wants to improve, not to be selected. If you improve of course you automatically will be selected, but here I get the feeling that the important thing is to be selected. If you want to do more than be selected then you have to have that attitude that you want to improve. If I go into more details then the most important basis is the player with good hand skills and good mental skills, and then of course it is a big advantage to have good technique as well. Technical and tactical skills. Physically, it is not a problem if they are not fit, it is just to start practising.

KM: One of the comments that has been made about the Centre is that it is a bit remote from the game 'out there'. We don't see the Centre coaches enough or have enough contact with them. Do you think that is fair comment?
SA: It depends on how you look at it. I think that it is very important that we meet the coaches outside the Centre and I want to increase the cooperation. But it is quite hard. We have 3 full-time coaches and the target - which is difficult to meet - is to always have two coaches all the time when the kids have sessions. If you then should travel around, then I think you have no time at all to do that because you are also going to tournaments, and you have to be free sometimes if you don't want to kill all the coaches. It is tough enough as it is. What I suggest, and it is a very easy way, and I really want to do it although it is not down to me, is to invite all the coaches who are interested to a big meeting over a weekend to inform them of what we are doing here, what we are thinking about things etc. I think that is a very good idea and maybe it is easier for the coaches who are interested in knowing something about the Centre to turn up here, rather than us travelling away to different places when we are quite limited in our time. If I go away for one day then it is a must that Jia, Brad or Alan Cooke as a part-timer can do the job.

KM: You mentioned coach education. Have you and Peter Hirst had meetings?
SA: Peter has popped in to meet me, but I have told Peter that if I should do something then I need time to do something because I would want to do it well, and I have no time to do something good because at the same time Michel wants me to cover a lot of sessions and then also I go to tournaments. But I must speak more to Pete to try to find ideas. Of course the target must be that Michel starts to work as he should rather than just try to convince the Lottery to follow his plans. They employ him for his expertise from a very good country with good records and they don't trust him! I can't understand it! If everything had been normal then of course this (work with the coaches) would have already started and then Michel could have had plenty of time to create ideas for the table tennis. That is why he is here. Now he just does the financial things, booking tickets and fighting with the Lottery over his plans.

BH: The system is wrong here?
SA: The system is completely wrong!

KM: You would not have had this problem Sweden or France?
SA: If you are a national coach in Sweden then you are a national coach. You get your money, you make your budget and you review your strategies. Then of course if you need more money or you want to change something, then you have a meeting with the national team committee. A few times a year. Only if it is extremely necessary, then you just make a first meeting or a telephone meeting, but I get the feeling that everything is very complicated in England. They are sending letters to each other instead of 'phoning up' and talking it out on the telephone. As it is now it is not a good situation as the Lottery or Sport England should be truly for us. If we have a problem we should be able to ask them for help to fix it. Now we have to justify everything before we do it.

KM: Since coming back to England have things come up to your expectations or is the problem with the Lottery a big disappointment to you?
SA: It is difficult to say something like that. In the hall everything has improved unbelievably since September but we started from a very low level. Now compared to 1997 the juniors and cadets are much, much better. So that is good. I can't say that it has improved much outside of the hall but we are working very hard on it. It is difficult. Just because we get good money from the Lottery does not mean that we get good players. We have to work very hard to get good players and it is important that the surroundings, the coaches, the ETTA and the players are right. The players have to understand that if you have the tools as we have now, they still have to work unbelievably hard - otherwise good results will not come.

KM: What are your hopes for the Centre in the next few years?
SA: The important thing, for this Centre is to create an atmosphere where the players really enjoy practising because they think it is good for them to stay here. And of course we have to give them the best education that we can. To work hard as coaches. We have physios, we have a psychologist, we have all the tools we need. It is no problem to make this good for the kids. It is very important if we can get 1 or 2 successes with players in the beginning so that other players can see that it is possible to make successes here, because they have no idols to watch now. In the long run, to have a situation when the players always try to come here, even the seniors. Then you try to pick one week every month with some foreign players and then in the future it should be that they ask to come. Now we have to ask them and pay for them to come. They should really appreciate getting an invitation to practise with the English team. I can forecast that in 4-5 years, if everybody continues from the seniors and we have some good younger players so that we could have a very good group of 10 to 12 players here with good attitudes and skills, it will be very easy to get cooperation from other nations then. If everybody does what they should, it is easier to invite good players and you get an even stronger group maybe 1 week in every month. Maybe 1 week with the Polish team, the French team, the Swedish, some cooperation, then you will always get good practice. So I should say that in 8 to 10 years everything should be running automatically and then it will spread out to the rest of England, so that each player who is taught to play aims to try to come here, increasing

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
Is seeking to appoint a

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

SPORT ENGLAND

The Association is the Governing Body for table tennis in England, and is responsible for all aspects of the sport, including development, training, playing and marketing.

The Position:
The role requires the individual to actively seek out commercial sponsorship opportunities for an excellent portfolio of table tennis products, including England's European League matches, English Open Championships (now part of the ITTF ProTour), British League, County Championships, other national events and development, youth and grass-roots programmes.
You will also be expected to produce an annual Marketing Plan to achieve your targets and objectives as well as initiating new strategies to seek out other commercial activities for the Association.
The appointment will be based at the Hastings Headquarters of the Association. You will be part of the Senior Management team, reporting to the Chief Executive and Vice-Chairman (Marketing).

The Person:
Dynamic, highly motivated, confident individual, who is capable of working on their own initiative. You must be able to demonstrate an ability to communicate and present at all levels and preferably have a proven track-record in the search for commercial sponsorship. The position would suit a recently qualified individual seeking to enhance their CV with a national sporting Governing Body, or a senior person looking for a role within a sports Governing Body.

The Benefits:
Salary 20K + substantial performance related commission and bonus for on-target performance. Car, mobile telephone, laptop and out-of-pocket expenses.

The closing date for applications - 7th October 2000

Job description and application form available under private and confidential cover from R.H. Sinclair, General Secretary, ETTA, Third Floor, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF. Tel: 01424 722525, fax: 01424 422103.

The English Table Tennis Association is an equal opportunities employer

the hours spent on the table and the base gets much stronger. The strength in depth of players is so important for the country, otherwise it is too easy for the top players.

As it is now, for example, we have the problem with the senior men. It is very difficult to run the training and create some kind of team spirit. Alex (Perry) and Terry (Young) are in the Commonwealth Programme. They are not top players but of course they are very important, for example, for the performance player Matthew Syed and the wild card Gareth Herbert, because if Alex and Terry don't turn up here we just have Gareth, Matthew and hopefully sometimes Andrew Baggaley. Then we just have 3 players, but with 5 players and 2 knocking at the door, like Dale Barham and Andrew Rushton, then it is quite a good group, but if you take away 2 of the best players then it can easily happen that one player is sick and you can't make anything (of the session). The Lottery has to understand that they have to provide some possibility even for the weaker players who are not potential medallists in the future but are all trying hard.

Normally the players have to find their salaries. The better they play, the better the contracts they get but what we should provide them is the best possible practice and the possibility to go to any tournament if we want them to go there. I think it is quite lunatic for, for example, Alex and Terry because they are in the Commonwealth Programme. If we select them for more than something like 2 tournaments, then the ETTA has to pay for them or they have to pay for themselves. Then it is hard to motivate them and get team spirit. Why should they fight hard when they don't receive even a chance to go to tournaments? If we could select them to the tournaments we want, then of course they can fight to be selected, and then they get the chance to play well and get close to the target to come into the programme. They (the Lottery) shouldn't close the doors as they have done now. There must be some kind of carrots, even for players outside the programme. I am not fighting to give players money, I am fighting to give players the chance to improve if they want to. I am not sure how far Alex and Terry can progress, but if they could get to 40 or 50 on the world ranking list then normally, if you compare this to other countries, they are a very good force for the team and then maybe we can fight for team event medals.

KM: I presume that you have a limited budget to buy in good practice partners?

SA: We try our best. It is important sometimes, especially when we have so few players here and they know each other so very well because they have no other players to practice against in England. In Sweden we have the training camps one week every month, and we have 12 to 14 players of almost the same level. Then the players go home to the clubs and they have other players to practise with even there, so they always get different spins, speeds and directions so they are used to many different styles. So that is what we have to move to in the long run in England. At the moment we have to do what we can: some weeks are better than other weeks.

(The discussion then moved on to coaches).

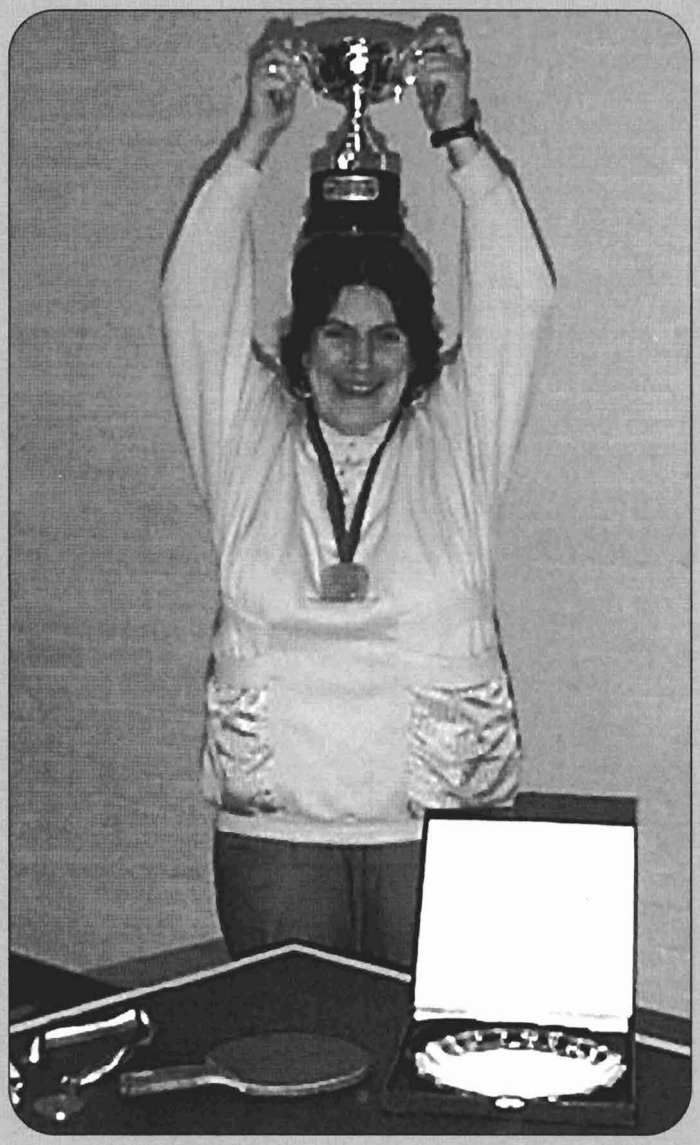
SA: Good players have so many different coaches. They need to learn the skills to separate information: what is good information for me and what is not so important. You meet a lot of different coaches during your career. Waldner for example used at least 50 different coaches during his career. That is the system in Sweden. In other countries coaches are following players all the time. It is hard to say what is best. If you are just watching one player - if you take for example 1 group of 5 players and you follow them all the time until they get to seniors, then of course that is good. You know all their weaknesses, their strengths, their mentality, everything but then maybe the players get quite sensitive. If you for some reason can't go to a tournament, then maybe they can't play. They may have a big problem in finding trust in other coaches. It is also very easy to be blind if you just watch the same players. It could be good to have different coaches with different views and different eyes. And then of course these coaches have to speak to each other and then you may find out something new by the discussions to make it even better for the players.

KM: In Sweden do coaches speak to each other?

SA: Yes, but it is very informal all the time. We are not writing letters to each other! If I have a training camp and I want to speak to that player's club coach then I just 'phone' him or otherwise I wait until I meet him. Even different club coaches are discussing how they are running coaching in the clubs to get different ideas from each other.

A long discussion then ensued on when and why Sweden became a top table tennis nation, particularly in men's events, but that is a subject for another article!

AWARD FOR KAREN



Congratulations are in order for Karen Ley, the 34-year-old member of Rushmore Mallards. Karen collected this prestigious award for her extraordinary year of Table Tennis successes, writes Judy Rogers.

Regional TV covers the Southern Counties Sports Awards and Karen was featured on the preview for the awards night. (Company and TV Cameras)

Karen has had a fantastic year of Table Tennis and has won the following events and medals in her class:

- Gold at the Special Olympics.
- Gold at the World Summer Games at North Carolina in June.
- Silver at the UK Special Olympics.
- Silver at the National Championships in November.
- Bronze in the Ladies team event of the INAS - FID World Championships at Portugal in October.

Karen is particularly modest about her achievements in 1999, and when I met her for a knock and chat about her year I asked her a few questions.

Q: Karen, how long have you been playing Table Tennis?
A: About 4-5 years seriously, I started playing at Rushmore Mallards where I also did a lot of athletics and Swimming (She also has won medals in these sports too!)
Q: How often do you practice?
A: I practice 2-3 times a week and get coaching from Ken Lewington
Q: What was it like to be nominated for Disabled Sports Woman of the year and to win!
A: It was a bit of a shock to start with but it was brilliant to win
Q: What's next for you?
A: I hope to start playing in some of the Grand Prix tournaments next year and I am really looking forward to it.

GRASS SPEZIAL 3000 A NEW WEAPON WITH THE 40mm BALL

TABLE TENNIS DIRECT alias The Bat Workshop has been the main dealer for Tibhar products for the past nine years. This year Tibhar have developed an exciting new stress technology rubber called Vari Spin D-TecS. It offers new features for attacking allround players who like to remain in control. With this new rubber they can up the pace without any real loss of control and it will zest up the attacking capabilities.

The Grass family now has a new member called Grass Spezial 3000 a new weapon for use with the large ball. Tibhar Rapid now has a soft version, obviously called Rapid Soft. It has been developed with a new type of synthetic sponge for more penetration and spin. On the blade front there is a new carbon blade called Samsonov Carbon. Its speciality is the 'Ayous' wood, which is mixed with the carbon for extra sensitivity of touch. The 'Balsa Contact System' blades have really established themselves as excellent choices for allround offensive players. Also check out the new Tibhar VS clothing ranges featuring this year's fashion colour tan and the all time favourites blue and red. They are also the exclusive suppliers of the Andro, Juic, Adidas and the Best Of Five ranges. The Andro 'Super Core' range of blades feature up to the minute design technology for enhanced touch play. While the 'Revolution Fire & Revolution' rubbers are stressed up with tensor technology, they will suit the ultimate attacking players. Andro's new range of specialised clothing features stretch panels for comfort.

The high profile Adidas brand features new clothing and footwear, which is based on hi-tech materials and designs, so connoisseur of high quality should check them out.

The Best Of Five specialise in high tech carbon blades and they have been very popular for many years. Juic specialise in rubber and offer a very comprehensive range for all styles of play. The very popular Spin Spiel and 999 Elite can bring lots of spin and control to most players' games.

TABLE TENNIS DIRECT :
Telephone 01304 369 996.
Fax : 01304 369 636
E-mail : sales@tabletennisdirect.com
www.tabletennisdirect.com

ECHOES OF BRIBAR

Listed below are just a few of the new products available this season from Bribar Table Tennis.

JOOLA ECHO

A rubber designed with a super soft sponge for the allround but attacking minded spin player who demands that extra touch for a precise controlled game. The soft feel has been designed for the modern game and enables the user to play a varied block, chop and spin attack game. A new technique called Soft + Technik is used to mix natural cauotchouc with synthetic polybutadiene which helps produce the extra spin.

JOOLA K4

JOOLA have once again pushed technology to the limits with the introduction of the K4 blade. The special dampening construction of the "K" range is once again adopted giving an advanced sweet spot which produces an amplified connection between the grip and 5 ply blade which absorbs disturbing vibrations. In addition the handle is further enhanced with the introduction of the Round About Grip (RAG) technique - this sensor optimised grip construction gives an even better feeling between the blade and hand.

JOOLA FETZNER CELLO

Classic samba and limba wood 5 ply construction for fantastic feeling, and high control; the construction of the veneers however, gives enhanced exceleration which the JOOLA team believe will be critical for traditional allrounders now using the 40mm ball. Superb styling and high quality workmanship - a winner.

JOOLA ROSSKOPF POWER

Sensitive allround plus category blade. 5 ply samba and limba wood construction for power spin play. The blade also features the exclusive JOOLA Round About Grip (RAG) technique for improved touch and feeling.

JOOLA NETWORK

JOOLA have produced a special single ply carbon core blade which gives all the advantages of carbon with an enhanced sweetspot yet with a reduced speed resulting from the mix of wood plys.

VIRUS 2000

Some readers of 'Trade News' page in June/July edition of Table Tennis News, which featured a rubber test of Virus 2000 long pimples, have telephoned me expressing the difficulty they have had in contacting the Tony Hold organisation in Germany to purchase a sheet of Virus 2000. Well their problems are over because this rubber can now be purchased direct from Bribar Table Tennis.

DONIC STING

This season Jarvis Sports are pleased to announce that Donic have produced two brand new long pimpled rubbers, Sting and Vamp.

DONIC STING RUBBER TEST

Sting is a traditional long pimpled rubber which is ideally suited to the defensive player.

I tested out a sample sheet of Donic Sting Ox, and discovered it suited my backhand really well. I could chop and float the ball, and attack more easily than most long pimpled rubbers.

It was also comfortable to return my opponent's spin. Donic Sting is obviously designed to satisfy both needs, making it a kind of allround rubber.

The manufacturers informs us that it is an extremely durable rubber, which is available both red and black, in OX and 1.0 mm.

DONIC VAMP

I have yet to see a sheet of Donic Vamp long pimpled rubber, but Table Tennis News does have the manufacturers techincal desciption of this new product.

Donic Vamp, which is apparently a completely new design of long pimples, has an unpredictable effect.

It has an extraordinary long thin pimple with a distance apart that is just inside the ITTF limits.

Donic tests have proved that this new pimple geometry is like no other, and is able to produce surprising spin and chop variations.

Vamp has a new elastic rubber mixture that is soft as well as elastic. This mixture apparently improves the ball control as well as pimple effect.

Available in red and black, in OX and 1.0mm.

NITTAKU MORISTO

This Nittaku rubber is for fast exploding offensive power in the revolutionary technology of rubber sheets charged with molecular tension.

Use with care this rubber is extremely fast, yet still has remarkable ball control.

On the Japanese market Nittaku Moristo is the shooting star of table tennis rubber sheets.

Available in red and black, 1.6mm, 1.8mm, 2.0mm and maximum.

NITTAKU TITANIUM X8 (Off)

The core of this 5 ply centre veneer combination with Abachi, SF-Titanium-Mesh and Oregon straight in "Mesh Laminate"- technology. It's covered with two subtle and thin veneers of Premium Limba. This radically fast titanium blade gives you such s sensitive feedback that your hand feels really joined with the blade.

WHY TITANIUM?

This material has excellent consistency when pulled or pressed giving an enormous regularity in its vibration characteristics. Due to the outstanding hardness of the specially manufactured Titanium Mesh veneers, this material can be imbedded in the wooden veneers

continued on page 27



ETTA NATIONAL RANKING LIST

TOP OF THE TABLE

START OF 2000/2001 SEASON

Further details please ring Doreen Nightingale 01424 722525

Senior Men

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	SYED, Matthew (SY.)	4731	**
(5)	2	BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)	4559	
(2)	3	PREAN, Carl (IW.)	4520	***
(3)	4	COOKE, Alan (DY.)	4499	*
(4)	5	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)	4467	**
(6)	6	PERRY, Alex (DY.)	4442	**
(7)	7	HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)	4319	**
(12)	8	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)	4041	
(9)	9	ISHERWOOD, Michael (DY.)	3997	*
(10)	10	EDEN, Andrew (LA.)	3992	**
(11)	11	BLAKE, Darren (SY.)	3923	**
(22)	12	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	3842	
(13)	13	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lorestas (E.)	3788	*
(14)	14	SHAW, Steven (ST.)	3733	*
(16)	15	SLADDEN, Cris (E.)	3667	**
(17)	16	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)	3603	**
(18)	17	SUGRUE, Jason (MI.)	3563	**
(19)	18	GOODALL, Justin (K.)	3537	**
(21)	19	SMITH, Eddie (ND.)	3529	**
(23)	20	JAMES, Michael (Y.)	3517	**
(24)	21	MARSHALL, Peter (Y.)	3514	**
(25)	22	MOORE, Adrian (K.)	3501	**
(54)	23	KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3497	
(26)	24	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3491	*
(27)	25	JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3464	**
(28)	26	BARR, David (BK.)	3454	**
(29)	27	SLATER, Stephen (ST.)	3447	**
(30)	28	ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3444	**
(31)	29	TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3390	**
(32)	30	SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)	3382	**
(33)	31	WILKINSON, Andrew (ND.)	3375	**
(34)	32	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.)	3373	*
(35)	33	CUTLER, Tom (MI.)	3367	*
(36)	34	CHARLES, Neil (MI.)	3363	*
(39)	35	ATKINSON, David (CA.)	3323	**
(38)	36	CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3319	
(40)	37	JOHNSON, Ben (BK.)	3298	****
(41)	38	WHITING, Paul (DY.)	3297	**
(42)	39	SAMUELS, Keith (BD.)	3291	****
(43)	40	NEIL, Lee (NG.)	3289	**
(44)	41	GANNON, David (LE.)	3263	**
(45)	42	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)	3263	***
(46)	43	CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3256	**
(47)	44	BROWN, Mark (K.)	3251	**
(49)	45	SMITH, Richard A (Y.)	3244	**
(48)	46	PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)	3244	*
(50)	47	THOMAS, Peter (DY.)	3233	**
(51)	48	HORSFIELD, Andrew (Ys) (Y.)	3224	**
(53)	49	CAMPBELL, Selwyn (SY.)	3218	***
(52)	50	JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	3207	
(55)	51	GILES, Paul (CO.)	3186	**
(56)	52	NEALE, Denis (Y.)	3177	**
(57)	53	CRIMMINS, Max (WO.)	3173	**
(58)	54	SHORT, Mark (YS.)	3172	**
(59)	55	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3171	*
(60)	56	GREEN, Mark (NG.)	3156	**
(61)	57	DENNISON, John (E.)	3138	*
(62)	58	CORBIN , Anthony (HE.)	3129	****
(63)	59	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3121	*
(64)	60	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3113	*
(65)	61	GODBOLD, David (DU.)	3112	**
(66)	62	WIGNALL, Andy (LI.)	3109	**
(67)	63	MCKOY, Nick (MI.)	3108	**
(68)	64	FESEHATSION, Daniel (MI.)	3069	****
(69)	65	PAYNE, Phil (SO.)	3066	**
(70)	66	CHAUSSE, Christophe (YS)	3042	*
(71)	67	WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3028	**
(74)	68	ROGERS, Martin (E.)	3014	**
(73)	69	HARDING, David (SY.)	3014	*
(75)	70	KENNEDY, Joe (E.)	3013	*
(76)	71	ROOFE, Eddie (WI.)	3012	**
(77)	72	OWEN, Mark (HR.)	3006	****
(78)	73	BEERLING, Stephen (K.)	3001	**
(79)	74	ADAMS, Martin (BK.)	3000	**
(80)	75	POUNTNEY, Robert (SY.)	2999	*
(81)	76	GASCOYNE, Craig (NG.)	2997	*
(83)	77	MCLEAN, Ian (NK.)	2994	**
(82)	78	MUSK, Ian (BU.)	2994	**
(84)	79	WALKER, Andy (SX.)	2994	**
(85)	80	RAINFORD, Paul (K.)	2993	****
(86)	81	DODD, Justin (K.)	2992	*
(87)	82	MAJITHIA, Mayur (SX.)	2992	**
(88)	83	BARTRAM, Peter (SX.)	2990	**
(89)	84	HALL, Dominic (K.)	2984	**
(90)	85	RANKIN, John (LA.)	2981	*
(91)	86	TENDLER, Gary (E.)	2978	*
(92)	87	GRIFFIN, Darren (GS.)	2968	***
(93)	88	LOGSDON, Philip (NK.)	2962	**
(94)	89	WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	2961	**
(95)	90	BRIDGETT, Gregory (DV.)	2952	**
(96)	91	WALSH, Jimmy (HE.)	2946	**
(97)	92	GIRDLER, Ian (SY.)	2938	*
(99)	93	JONAH, Jerome (K.)	2921	I*
(100)	94	HALEY, Terry (SY.)	2914	**
(101)	95	BARHAM, Lee (CA.)	2913	**
(102)	96	BARRY, Paul (SX.)	2909	***
(103)	97	SANDLEY, Graham (MI.)	2907	****
(104)	98	SHORT, Mike (DV.)	2903	**
(105)	99	BECKLEY, Chris (SY.)	2899	*
(106)	100	YARDY, Timothy (E.)	2894	**

Senior Women

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	DEATON, Nicola (DY.)	3882	**
(2)	2	LOWER, Helen (ST.)	3782	*
(3)	3	RADFORD, Linda (E.)	3650	*
(4)	4	OWOLABI, Kubrat (MI.)	3580	**
(5)	5	PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3526	
(8)	6	DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3349	
(9)	7	WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3325	
(6)	8	MARLING, Sally (Y.)	3293	**
(7)	9	SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3284	***
(10)	10	THORNTON, Lindsey (LA.)	3210	*
(11)	11	RUOCCO, Shelley (E.)	3163	**
(12)	12	HARRIS, Jill (ST.)	3135	**
(13)	13	DUNNING, Jan (ST.)	3134	**
(14)	14	SPARKES, Rebecca (SK.)	3126	*
(15)	15	YARDY, Hannah (E.)	3095	*
(16)	16	WESTON, Sally (SX.)	3091	***
(17)	17	BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3089	
(18)	18	COLLIER, Susan (BK.)	3074	****
(20)	19	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)	3048	**
(21)	20	BLOOR, Trudie (SP.)	3045	*
(23)	21	RODEN, Sandra (WO.)	3001	**
(25)	22	SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990	**
(26)	23	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)	2981	*
(27)	24	COHEN, Michele (AV.)	2975	**
(28)	25	BUOEY, Brenda (LA.)	2973	**
(30)	26	HOWARD, Alice (CH.)	2937	*
(31)	27	PERRY, Penny (DV.)	2930	*
(32)	28	SMITH, Sarah (NG.)	2910	**
(48)	29	STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	2855	
(33)	30	FISHER, Rebecca (MI.)	2848	*
(34)	31	WANG, Lucy (E.)	2831	I***
(35)	32	RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2822	**
(37)	33	HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2806	*
(67)	34	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2801	
(38)	35	SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2793	**
(39)	36	SEAHOLME, Sarah (HE.)	2789	***
(40)	37	MALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	2787	**
(42)	38	PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2785	**
(44)	39	SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2779	**
(45)	40	SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2778	**
(46)	41	SILBURN, Nicola (Y.)	2776	**
(47)	42	JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2772	**
(49)	43	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2756	*
(50)	44	MARLING, Samantha (MI.)	2755	**
(51)	45	KING, Sheila (SX.)	2750	*
(52)	46	SMITH, Nicola (Y.)	2746	**
(54)	47	BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2726	**
(55)	48	PERRY, Lucy (DV.)	2722	*
(56)	49	MORLEY, Judy (GS.)	2718	*
(57)	50	STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2716	**
(58)	51	DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2713	**
(59)	52	KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2696	**
(60)	53	DEARING, Emily (Y.)	2693	**
(61)	54	BAX, Sally (HE.)	2689	**
(62)	55	SOLLEY, Jo (MI.)	2680	I*
(63)	56	BURGESS, Suzanne (CH.)	2676	**
(64)	57	DAWSON, Marjorie (E.)	2674	*
(65)	58	GELDER, Shirley (DU.)	2674	**
(66)	59	VAJDI, Carmen (SY.)	2657	*
(68)	60	ROBINSON, Suzanne (GS.)	2646	*
(70)	61	FLOWERDAY, Anne (E.)	2643	**
(71)	62	MAY, Elizabeth (DV.)	2643	**
(72)	63	HORSNELL, Sarah (MI.)	2642	*
(78)	64	BROWN, Janet (OX.)	2639	
(73)	65	POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2639	*
(74)	66	DAVISON, Sarah (Sk) (E.)	2638	**
(75)	67	LLOYD, Gemma (CH.)	2637	*
(76)	68	H-MIDDLEMORE, Joan (WA.)	2636	**
(77)	69	HALES, Linda (E.)	2630	***
(79)	70	JOHNSON, Susan (BK.)	2628	**
(80)	71	VICKERS, Jane (DY.)	2623	***
(81)	72	SHALER, Eileen (LE.)	2619	**
(83)	73	REID, Lynda (WO.)	2610	**
(85)	74	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2582	**
(86)	75	WHITE, Jean (LI.)	2574	***
(87)	76	SPENCER, Tracey (ST.)	2573	**
(88)	77	ECKERSLEY, Carol (SX.)	2553	**
(89)	78	CONNOLLY, Tamar (OX.)	2548	I***
(90)	79	COGGON, Sara (SX.)	2547	***
(91)	80	HICKMAN, Susan (E.)	2544	**
(92)	81	HUGHES, Kate (WO.)	2544	***
(93)	82	BENTLEY, Ruth (NG.)	2543	**
(95)	83	GRAHAM, Sylvia (LA.)	2532	*
(94)	84	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2526	
(96)	85	NARENDRAN, Aparna (MI.)	2524	***
(97)	86	GUTHRIE, Caron (ND.)	2522	***
(98)	87	DONNELLY, Janine (Y.)	2520	**
(99)	88	LARKING, Gill (HA.)	2513	***
(100)	89	NOLAN, Terri-Anne (CH.)	2511	**
(101)	90	BALDWIN, Brenda (WI.)	2507	****
(102)	91	BUTCHER, Pamela (K.)	2499	**
(103)	92	DARK, Shirley (SO.)	2497	*
(104)	93	MURDOCH, Valerie (HE.)	2495	**
(105)	94	STAFFORD, Mary (BK.)	2483	**
(107)	95	HUNT, Janet (WO.)	2467	***
(108)	96	LLOYD, Ann (WA.)	2464	***
(109)	97	FELSTEAD, Susan (HE.)	2453	**
(110)	98	DURHAM, Jane (CV.)	2440	I***
(111)	99	THORN, Julie (K.)	2427	**
(112)	100	EMMERSON, Clair (SK.)	2424	*

Junior Boys

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(3)	1	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)	3842	
(6)	2	KENNY, Mathew (Y.)	3497	
(4)	3	CHAN, Michael (SY.)	3319	
(5)	4	JAMIESON, Christopher (E.)	3207	
(7)	5	ROSENTHAL, Louis (LA.)	3121	*
(11)	6	HALL, Dominic (K.)	2984	**
(12)	7	BARHAM, Lee (CA.)	2913	**
(14)	8	CLEMINSON, Peter (E.)	2746	
(15)	9	BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	2734	
(17)	10	HUGHES, Tom (NG.)	2592	*
(18)	11	BRYANT, Craig (DV.)	2536	**
(21)	12	HORNER, Daniel (CH.)	2449	
(25)	13	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2304	
(24)	14	DAVIES, Stephen (LI.)	2288	*
(26)	15	HANDY, Philip (DO.)	2253	*
(27)	16	DRINKHALL, Bryn (CV.)	2233	**
(29)	17	HANSELL, Robert (BU.)	2133	*
(31)	18	POUNTNEY, Paul (SY.)	1948	**
(32)	19	BLOOMFIELD, Gary (SK.)	1943	***
(35)	20	CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1877	*
(36)	21	HOLTAM, Tim (MI.)	1870	*
(39)	22	NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	1806	**
(40)	23	BROOKS, Warren (BU.)	1787	**
(41)	24	COOPER, Mark (E.)	1709	***
(43)	25	DIXON, Zeke (CU.)	1638	*
(45)	26	WOODHOUSE, Grant (CU.)	1621	**
(47)	27	FENNELL, Aaron (E.)	1599	**
(49)	28	EVANS, Bradley (BU.)	1556	*
(53)	29	YARNALL, Greg (NP.)	1522	**
(54)	30	CANT, Mathew (LE.)	1514	***
(55)	31	BRZEZNIAK, Kacper (Y.)	1505	**
(56)	32	CLARKE, Martyn (CV.)	1500	**
(59)	33	SHUTES, William (NK.)	1483	**
(58)	34	HEATLEY, Ian (CH.)	1476	
(60)	35	MITCHELL, Thomas (BU.)	1474	*
(66)	36	BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	1451	
(62)	37	DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439	**
(63)	38	GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	1439	*
(64)	39	MORAN, Edward (SP.)	1434	*
(67)	40	SHIPWAY, Adam (DV.)	1416	*
(68)	41	MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	1380	**
(70)	42	DORRINGTON, Philip (CA.)	1375	**
(71)	43	MCQUEEN, Harris (LE.)	1322	****
(72)	44	GIBBS, Shaun (DV.)	1314	**
(73)	45	WALL, Benjamin (Y.)	1310	****
(74)	46	WYNN-SANDS, Dominic (GS.)	1304	*
(75)	47	HAYES, David (BU.)	1301	*
(77)	48	ROGERSON, Shaun (LI.)	1290	*
(79)	49	DANIELS, Peter (WI.)	1275	**
(82)	50	ADAMS, Lewis (DY.)	1273	***

Junior Girls

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	PARKER, Katy (LA.)	3526	
(2)	2	DURRANT, Louise (NG.)	3349	
(3)	3	WALKER, Georgina (NG.)	3325	
(5)	4	BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)	3089	
(6)	5	STEWARD, Kate (SO.)	2855	
(8)	6	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2801	
(9)	7	POINTER, Lucy (IW.)	2639	*
(10)	8	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)	2582	**
(12)	9	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2526	
(13)	10	NARENDRAN, Aparna (MI.)	2524	***
(17)	11	BROWN, Grace (E.)	2394	*
(18)	12	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2381	*
(16)	13	SORRENTINO, Annabelle (CH.)	2377	
(19)	14	FLINT, Deborah (SY.)	2355	***
(20)	15	WRIGHT, Amy (E.)	2337	**
(21)	16	TONG, Rebecca (LA.)	2306	**
(22)	17	CHEESMAN, Zoe (Y.)	2303	**
(23)	18	TODD, Nicole (E.)	2296	**
(24)	19	CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2257	**
(25)	20	SPARKES, Aimee (SK.)	2243	*
(27)	21	MEREDITH, Samantha (WA.)	2190	*
(28)	22	DONNELLY, Sarah (Y.)	2169	**
(30)	23	BARNARD, Kimberley (LA.)	2079	**
(31)	24	GRAHAM, Cherith (LA.)	2024	
(32)	25	WILSON, Naomi (SO.)	2005	*
(34)	26	INGHAM, Katy (CH.)	1959	
(37)	27	WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	1799	**
(38)	28	CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	1787	*
(40)	29	LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	1783	
(44)	30	ROBERTS, Hannah (LA.)	1723	
(41)	31	BROWN, Sarah (E.)	1707	*
(43)	32	BARRETT, Michelle (DV.)	1622	**
(45)	33	HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	1610	*
(46)	34	DAUNCEY, Stephanie (AV.)	1566	***
(47)	35	STONE, Hannah (BK.)	1555	**
(49)	36	RADFORD, Kerry (NG.)	1511	*
(50)	37	GABEROVA, Iva (MI.)	1504	***
(51)	38	HUMAN, Emma (BK.)	1468	**
(52)	39	BLAKE, Camille (SY.)	1450	***
(53)	40	HEARD, Gemma (E.)	1425	**
(54)	41	BELL, Amanda (Y.)	1424	**
(55)	42	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	1415	*
(56)	43	CLEMINSON, Jessica (E.)	1397	***
(57)	44	DEWHURST, Elizabeth (E.)	1384	***
(58)	45	VAJDI, Christina (SY.)	1295	*
(59)	46	HUBBARD, Joanne (K.)	1269	**
(60)	47	GASSON, Faye (CU.)	1255	****
(61)	48	HOLLETT, Gemma (SY.)	1245	**
(62)	49	STONE, Helen (Y.)	1229	***
(63)	50	HODGER, Claire (SX.)	1218	***

Cadet Boys

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(3)	1	BAKER, Gregory (ST.)	2734	
(6)	2	YARNALL, Tim (NP.)	2304	
(8)	3	CARTWRIGHT, Neil (DO.)	1877	*
(9)	4	NOUTCH, Simon (Y.)	1806	**
(12)	5	EVANS, Bradley (BU.)	1556	*
(15)	6	MITCHELL, Thomas (BU.)	1474	*
(18)	7	BLEAKLEY, Adam (LA.)	1451	
(16)	8	DENNY, Stephen (Y.)	1439	**
(17)	9	GREGORY, Christopher (SP.)	1439	*
(19)	10	MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)	1380	**
(20)	11	HAYES, David (BU.)	1301	*
(21)	12	ROGERSON, Shaun (LI.)	1290	*
(22)	13	POWELL, Neil (CH.)	1209	
(23)	14	FLETCHER, James (LA.)	1130	
(24)	15	WESLEY, Richard (NG.)	1121	*
(25)	16	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	1115	*
(26)	17	MOSS, Richard (Y.)	1081	**
(27)	18	REES, Daniel (E.)	1067	*
(28)	19	SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS.)	1044	*
(35)	20	BRIDGE, Luke (SX.)	933	**
(37)	21	MAUTHOOR, Umair (E.)	925	*
(39)	22	WONG, Hwan-Min (SY.)	917	**
(40)	23	LEMON, Robert (SY.)	915	**
(41)	24	HALLING, Tony (E.)	908	*
(42)	25	ANDREWS, Thomas (DO.)	899	*

Cadet Girls

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(3)	1	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)	2801	
(5)	2	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)	2526	
(6)	3	EMBLING, Abigail (E.)	2381	*
(7)	4	CALCUTT, Lisa (BK.)	2257	**
(10)	5	WHITE, Nicola (Y.)	1799	**
(11)	6	CRAVEN-GRIFFITHS, Kelly (LE.)	1787	*
(12)	7	LANGFORD, Clare (CH.)	1783	
(13)	8	BROWN, Sarah (E.)	1707	*
(14)	9	HOWARD, Clara (CH.)	1610	*
(15)	10	STONE, Hannah (BK.)	1555	**
(18)	11	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	1415	*
(21)	12	GASSON, Faye (CU.)	1255	****
(25)	13	WEIL, Emma (E.)	1192	*
(26)	14	SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K.)	1141	*
(28)	15	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)	1063	*
(29)	16	TUCKER, Emily (BU.)	1032	*
(33)	17	SHUTT, Heather (Y.)	971	*
(36)	18	BOSLEY, Lisa (BK.)	944	*
(39)	19	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	833	*
(43)	20	ROGERS, Gina (SX.)	789	***
(44)	21	WEIL, Lucy (E.)	787	*
(45)	22	SMITH, Kendall (WO.)	783	**
(46)	23	LIGHTOWLER, Katie (Y.)	758	**
(47)	24	YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	748	*
(48)	25	DENNETT, Elizabeth (CH.)	707	

Under 12 Boys

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1	EVANS, Bradley (BU.)	1556	*
(7)	2	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)	1115	*
(8)	3	REES, Daniel (E.)	1067	*
(9)	4	SHAHLAEI, Harry (GS.)	1044	*
(12)	5	POYNER, Simon (DV.)	776	*
(16)	6	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)	542	I*
(17)	7	MILTON, James (BU.)	483	*
(20)	8	BARLOW, Ben (Y.)	397	*
(24)	9	EVANS, Gavin (BK.)	329	
(29)	10	FLASH, Daniel (MI.)	261	I*

Under 12 Girls

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(2)	1	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)	1415	*
(3)	2	SENEVIRATNE, Anusha (K.)	1141	*
(5)	3	SHUTT, Heather (Y.)	971	*
(7)	4	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)	833	*
(8)	5	YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)	748	*
(12)	6	ASHLEIGH, Ruth (E.)	499	I*
(13)	7	DAVIS, Stella (GS.)	439	***
(14)	8	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)	429	*
(15)	9	WALKER, Alice (BK.)	359	*
(16)	10	WANG, Sarra (E.)	341	I**

Veteran Men

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)	3491	*
(2)	2	JOHNS, Brian (CH.)	3464	**
	3	ROGERS, Chris (LE.)	3444	**
(3)	4	TAYLOR, John (HE.)	3390	**
(5)	5	CLAYTON, Tony (DO.)	3256	**
(6)	6	NEALE, Denis (Y.)	3177	**
(7)	7	CRIMMINS, Max (WO.)	3173	I**
	8	CARTHY, Clive (E.)	3171	*
(8)	9	HARVEY, Dave (GS.)	3113	*
(9)	10	WELSMAN, Dave (NP.)	3028	**
(10)	11	HARDING, David (SY.)	3014	*
	12	KENNEDY, Joe (E.)	3013	*
(11)	13	WILLIAMS, Keith (LA.)	2961	**
(12)	14	GIRDLER, Ian (SY.)	2938	*
	15	HALEY, Terry (SY.)	2914	**
(13)	16	SHORT, Mike (DV.)	2903	**
(14)	17	ROMANO, Mark (K.)	2886	**
(16)	18	HILL, Brian (LI.)	2878	**
(17)	19	BREWER, Chris (NK.)	2868	***
(18)	20	PAYNE, John (MI.)	2855	**
(19)	21	HARPER, Mick (BD.)	2850	***
(20)	22	SEAHOLME, Stuart (HE.)	2813	***
(21)	23	DAVIES, Nick (Y.)	2811	**
(22)	24	HOLLAND, John (Snr) (E.)	2810	**
(23)	25	WILLIAMS, Trevor (YS.)	2805	**

Veteran Women

	Pos	Name	Rtg	Flg
(1)	1	SMITH, Karen (LE.)	3284	***
(2)	2	DUNNING, Jan (ST.)	3134	**
	3	SMITH, Angela (MI.)	2990	**
(4)	4	BUOEY, Brenda (LA.)	2973	**
(5)	5	PERRY, Penny (DV.)	2930	*
(6)	6	RIDER, Sandra (Y.)	2822	**
(7)	7	HARRISON, Jennifer (E.)	2806	*
(8)	8	SHIELDS, Helen (Y.)	2793	**
(9)	9	MALTBY, Margaret (NP.)	2787	**
(10)	10	PEARCE, Diane (K.)	2785	**
(11)	11	SCHOFIELD, Doreen (CH.)	2779	**
(12)	12	SIMPSON, Linda (Y.)	2778	**
(13)	13	JUDSON, Carol (Y.)	2772	**
(14)	14	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)	2756	*
(15)	15	KING, Sheila (SX.)	2750	*
(16)	16	BAWDEN, Marilyn (E.)	2726	**
(17)	17	MORLEY, Judy (GS.)	2718	*
(18)	18	STEEL, Pauline (SX.)	2716	**
(19)	19	DIGNUM, Margaret (WO.)	2713	**
(20)	20	KNIGHTLEY, Gillian (BK.)	2696	**
(21)	21	BAX, Sally (HE.)	2689	**

continued from page 24

without changing the wood characteristics.

FAREWELL CHRIS

Chris Rayner, the former Tournament and New Business Manager of Tees Sport, left on the 11th August 2000, to embark on a new career as a Branch Bank Manager for The Royal Bank of Scotland in Darlington.

Chris, who has been with Tees Sport for three and a half years, said "I would like to wish all of my customers a fond farewell."

As The Royal Bank of Scotland has just bought out Natwest, Chris will be joining the largest banking group in Great Britain.

New products from Butterfly will appear in the next edtion of Table Tennis News.

STIGA DESTROYER

New at Thorton Sport & Leisure is a high flex long pimpled rubber, Stiga Destroyer, which has good catapult effect. The soft pimples permit extra bend which in turn produces maximum effect and disruption for your opponent. For best speed use the 1.4 version, for best control 1.0mm, and for high effect the orthodox.

Stiga are also introducing this season three new blades called "Oversize". These blades have been developed to cope with the unforeseen problems caused by the new 40mm ball.

Thicker larger blades offers approximately 10% extra speed compared to conventional ones. The larger head gives extra stability of touch and feel.

BBC OLYMPIC GUIDE

THE BBC GUIDE TO THE OLYMPICS 2000 is the definitive guide to the first Olympic Games of the new millennium, which take place in Sydney, Australia from 15th September- lst October. Around 10,300 athletes from over 200 countries will be participating in over 30 sports, making it the world's most significant and exciting sporting event by far.

These particular Olympics promise record-breaking achievement and excitement,'and will certainly be the biggest in history to date. Two new sports have been added - the triathlon and taekwondo, and trampolining has been added to the gymnastics schedule. Also, many of the events have been expanded to include women for the first time, among them water polo, weightlifting and the modern pentathlon. From archery and athletics to weightlifting and wrestling, THE BBC GUIDE TO THE OLYMPICS 2000 will provide fans with all of the knowledge they need to enjoy every event in the Olympics. It includes:

- RULES & REGULATIONS - for each sport, the main rules and regulations are provided, together with nuances and subtleties to look out for in the more obscure sports
- EVENT GUIDES - these are tips on who is most likely to win the medals in each event, including an event-by-event guide to every race on the track and in the pool
- JARGON BUSTER - for the sports that come laden with impenetrable jargon, a 'jargon buster' is provided to help give a clear idea of what everyone is talking about
- DID YOU KNOW? - these sections for each sport provide titbits on the more bizarre aspects of different events as well as a few strange-but-true stories of past Olympics
- STATISTICS - for those who love their statistics, readers will find an all-time top five gold medal table for each sport featured in Sydney and an overall top 10 gold medal table, along with the number of medals Britain has won in each event.

Price: £5.99 paperback



50 YEARS SERVICE

NATIONAL UMPIRES AND REFEREES COMMITTEE

50 YEARS OF SERVICE The National Umpires and Referees Committee 1950 - 2000, Published June 2000, by the English Table Tennis Association.

Copies available from the ETTA office, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings TN34 1HF or from Richard Scruton, 9 Wycliffe Road, East Cowton, Northallerton DL7 ODZ - please enclose £2.50 plus 50p postage per copy (cheques payable to E.T.T.A.)

It would not have been possible to publish '50 Years of Service' without the generous support of those listed below, to whom we offer our grateful thanks:

Derek Burridge, Ron Crayden, Colin and Sandra Deaton, Nick and Linda Jarvis, Laurie Landry, Johnny Leach MBE, Lisa Lomas, Ian Marshall, Carol Moore, Ken Muhr, Denis Neale, Don Parker and Jill Parker MBE, Stan Parr, Alan Ransome OBE and Jose Ransome, Reg Thompson (Jarvis Sports), Veterans English Table Tennis Society (VETTS), Richard Yule, The Butterfly Co, Cawood Smithie & Co Ltd, Dawson & Sanderson Ltd,
Richard Scruton.
Chairman, NURC

MEMORY LANE



30 YEARS AGO: Cambridge YMCA 1st Team (left to right) a very youthful Ken muhr who is now the ETTA Information Officer, Mick Harper, Gerald Coatman, and Sally (Browning) Hurst, who later that year married Peter Hurst, who is ETTA Director of Teaching and Training.

ENGLAND VISIT SAUDI ARABIA

ENGLAND TEAM VISIT TO RIYADH KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA - 3rd to 13th July 2000

AN England squad, consisting of Michael Isherwood, Steven Shaw, Peter Marshall, Michael James, Stephen Beerling, Justin Dodd, Tim Yardy, Graig Gascoyne, Derek Marples (Coach), and Tony Chatwin (Team Leader), left London Heathrow on Monday 3rd July bound for Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, writes Tony Chatwin.

The visit had been arranged by BAE as part of the "Saudi British Sports Co-operation Programme", the purpose being to train with the Saudi National Senior and Junior squads.

The England party arrived at Riyadh airport at 22.45 hours, when the temperature was 104° F. We were escorted through customs and taken to the National Training Centre in Riyadh.

Tuesday, and each day thereafter, started with a training run at 07.00 hrs, breakfast was at 07.30 hrs, then report to the hall at 09.30 hrs through to 12.30, lunch then report back to the hall from 15.30 to 19.00 then dinner.

The exception to the programme was Friday when we had a free day, which we used by training in the morning and shopping in the afternoon, when the temperature was 136° F. Then on Saturday morning we went to King Saad University, where the squad took part in physiology tests. Sunday, matches were held held at the Al Hilal Club and Monday the afternoon session was replaced replaced with another shopping trip followed by a dinner at the Hyett Hotel hosted by the Saudi Table Tennis Federation.

As mentioned above two matches took place at the Al Hilal Club, senior and junior, the seniors won 3-0, the juniors won 3-1. On Tuesday two more matches, this time at the Centre, with the seniors winning 3-1 and the juniors winning 3-0. Wednesday we played an individual event, where England players finished in 1st,2nd and 3rd positions.

Altogether a rewarding trip for all the squad who acquitted themselves very well. Our grateful thanks to Peter Waddell and Keith Halton of BAE and to our Saudi hosts, for their friendships and hospitality during our visit, which ended at 01.50 hrs at Riyadh Airport, where the temperature was still 100° F.

England Coach Derek Marples added, "The Saudis had a manager, two junior coaches, both were Saudi and one senior coach, a Korean. They made requests to intergrate our players in all their training programmes - formal training in the morning, match play in the evenings - at which we duly assisted at all times.

"Friday morning being free enables us to have our own 2 hour training session. Our players thought this most beneficial.

"The individual event saw Michael Isherwood finish in 1st position, whilst Steven Shaw was runner-up."

TABLE TENNIS NEWS COPY DATES

ISSUE	*COPY DATES*
SEPTEMBER 2000	1st AUGUST 2000
OCTOBER 2000	1st SEPTEMBER 2000
NOVEMBER 2000	1st OCTOBER 2000
DECEMBER 2000	1st NOVEMBER 2000
JAN./FEB. 2001	1st JANUARY 2001
MARCH 2001	1st FEBRUARY 2001
APRIL 2001	1st MARCH 2001
MAY/JUNE 2001	1st MAY 2001

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Following an Editorial meeting in the Summer, we have decided that copy dates must be adhered to.

Late copy will probably be put in the following issue, but if space allows we will include it.

Spin, Flight & Bounce - Part 1

By Henry Buist

Most aspects of spin, flight and bounce we pick up naturally over the years. But sometimes things do not always behave as we expect and we are fooled. A sound theoretical knowledge of these factors can sometimes help us to understand such things as unusual bounces, why hard hits go on, why some balls which hit the net seem to gain more topspin, why some tennis serves kick and why the third England goal in the 1966 World Cup Final may indeed have been a goal.

What Causes Balls to Swerve

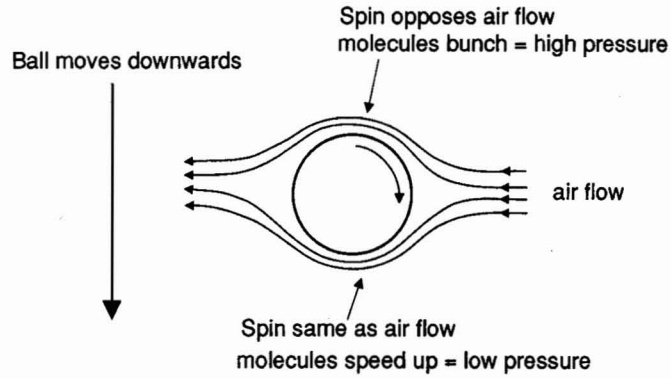
Consider a stationary ball, rotating in a clockwise direction, and the air moving past it from right to left.

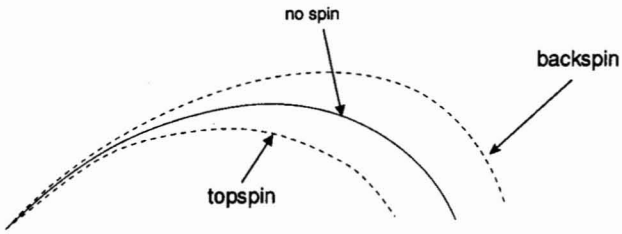
Air passing above the ball will find that the rotation of the ball is such as to oppose its motion. This causes the air molecules to slow down and bunch up so creating a high pressure area.

Air passing below the ball will find that the spin is in the same direction as the air so here the molecules will speed up so creating a low pressure area.

The result is that the ball will move downwards. In physics this is known as the Magnus Effect.

I have just described the effect of topspin, but by turning the page around you can easily see the effects of sidespin and backspin.





The important point here is that both topspin and backspin do cause the ball to deviate in flight. Most of the time we are not aware of this and have absorbed its effect naturally in the course of our play. However, a knowledge of these effects can be of use in some circumstances as we shall see later.

You can easily test the effects of topspin and backspin yourselves. In a large hall hit the ball as hard as you can with topspin; it will plummet sharply to the floor. Then hit it with backspin and see how it soars.

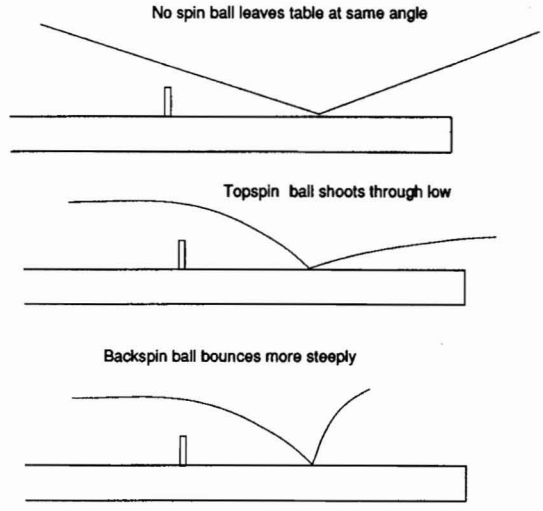
Topspin

Topspin is the most important spin in table tennis because without it we would not be able to hit the ball hard. Consider a ball hit from below net height, once it has crossed the net some force is required in order to bring it down onto the table - gravity alone will not do it if the ball is travelling very fast. This force is provided by topspin which, as we have seen, causes the ball to dip. So a hard hit must also contain a lot of topspin in order to bring the ball down onto the table, so the harder the hit the more topspin it must contain. One of the features of modern bats is that they allow the ball to be hit very hard from below net height because they put sufficient topspin on the ball to allow Mr Magnus to do his job. This topspin also causes the ball to come off the table fast (see below).

Normal Bounce

The type of spin on the ball will affect the way it comes off the table:

1. With no spin the ball will come off the table at the same angle at which it hits it.
   Remember your school physics:
   angle of incidence = angle of reflection
2. Topspin will make the ball shoot through fast and low
3. Backspin will make the ball rise more steeply



These are the bounces which occur during the normal course of play. In the next part of the article we will look at what appear to be abnormal bounces and find out how they occur. This will help us understand why some topspin shots kick high rather than shoot through low, why some balls which hit the net gain more topspin, why some tennis serves kick and why England's third goal in 1966 World Cup Final may indeed have been a goal.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER		
2nd	Selby 2 Star	
3rd	British League (1) Premier Division	
8th-13th	World University Championships	Shanghai
9th-10th	Womens British League	Kirby
10th	Blackpool Senior Graded 2 Star	
16th-25th	Olympic Games	Sydney, Australia
15th-17th	Disabled Games	
16th	County Championships (1)	
17th	British League (2) Premier Division	
22nd-24	Home Senior International	Cardiff
22nd-23rd	British League Weekend (1)	
23rd-24th	Junior/Cadet Preliminary Trials	
30th	Chesham High School Junior 2 Star	
30th/1st Oct	Clare Pengelly Memorial Open A Butterfly Grand Prix	Torquay
OCTOBER		
1st	National Cadet League (1)	
7th-8th	Essex 4 Junior Star Select	Harlow
7th-8th	VETTS Midlands Masters	
8th	British League (3) Premier Division	
14th	National Junior League (1)	
14th-15th	Sussex Open Butterfly Grand Prix	Hastings
14th-15th	Junior British League (1)	
14th-24th	Summer Paralympic Games	Sydney, Australia
21st	County Championships (2)	
21st	Junior Premier (1)	
21st	Derwent Cadet 2 Star	
22nd	Blackpool Junior 2 star	
22nd	British League (4) Premier Division	
22nd	Chesham High School Junior/Cadet	
26th-29th	ITTF Italian Pro Tour	
28th-29th	East Midlands 4 Star Junior	
28th-29th	Veterans Premier (1)	
28th-29th	Junior Premier (1)	
29th	Cirencester Under 12/14 1 Star	
29th	Derwent Senior Banded 2 Star	
NOVEMBER		
2nd-5th	French Open	
4th	County Championships (3)	
5th	British League (5) Premier Division	
11th-12th	Western Open Major Butterfly Grand Prix	Bath
11th-12th	South of England Junior 3 Star	
12th	North Yorkshire Junior 2 Star	
16th-19th	ITTF Polish Pro Tour	
18th-19th	Senior Premier (1)	
18th-19th	Veterans British League (1)	
18th-19th	Stockton-on-Tees Junior 4 Star	
23rd-26th	ITTF Swedish Pro Tour	
25th	Wilmott Cup & Rose Bowl (R1)	
25th-26th	Junior/Cadet Regional Trials	
25th-26th	VETTS Eastern Masters	
25th-26th	British League Weekend (2)	
26th	British League (6) Premier Division	
26th-29th	ITTF Pro Tour Sweden	
DECEMBER		
2nd	National Junior League (2)	
2nd-3rd	West Midlands Open Major Butterfly Grand Prix	