



Table Tennis News

No. 160

OCTOBER 1986

80p



MAXTACK PRO SPIN

The Maxtack Pro-Spin offers the player unsurpassed control and feel. The secret lies in the highly developed rubbers which are fitted to the well established maxply blades perfected for Dunlop by a Chinese company, these new rubbers have been acclaimed by top players as some of the best ever made. The Maxtack Pro-Spin is a very tacky rubber which

MAXDRIVE PRO

produces exceptional spin for aggressive attack plus excellent control. The Maxdrive Pro is a fast rubber ideal for the attacking player whose game depends on a loop drive and counter attack style. Both rubbers are available on their own so that players can make up their own bat combinations with either the Maxply or Allround blade.



DUNLOP
SPORT

Who's hidden my loop?

WELL folks, have you rediscovered your Desmond Douglas drive yet? Me neither — amazing how we get out the rusty bones and the dusty equipment and expect to jump right back into the swing of things isn't it? Never mind, if you are still searching for the dazzling form you demonstrated back in April then join our club. Don't despair if your team were trounced 10-0 in their first match — things can only get better — honestly!

Soon the horrors of early season inconsistency will be well forgotten and players you met only two weeks ago will turn into good friends — the season will assume a new complexion. Do not be fooled, danger

may lie ahead, you could be drawn against the premier division champions in the cup, and you only an average division seven player. The tale of woe sounds all too familiar.

Whatever your standard there are bound to be both wins and losses during the season for it is human nature to seek out new challenges, as you reach one target then set yourself another, but most of all enjoy yourself and never lose sight of the fact that it's only a game.

Have a good season, celebrate your victories, display magnanimity in defeat and good luck in your search for the unreturnable service!



Fiona Brown

New lift-off coming....

THE ETTA Public Relations Committee under vice-chairman Brian Spicer has appointed a new team to run this magazine from the next edition. The new Editor will be John Woodford. Fiona Brown continues as Associate Editor. The magazine working party will include John Prean signalling another attempt to improve the quality and circulation which we hope will make *Table Tennis News* a worthy flagship of our sport.



John Woodford



Contents

The official magazine of the English Table Tennis Association. Published eight times a year.

Editorial:
Fiona Brown

Advertisements:
Christine Wilkes

Subscriptions and distribution:
Beth Davies

ETTA, 21 Claremont,
HASTINGS TN34 1HF.
Tel: 0424 433121

COPY DATES

October 12 1986
Issue 161 November

November 12 1986
Issue 162 December

Printed by:
Thomas Hill Print (1985) Ltd.
Bishop Auckland
Tel. (0388) 607511

	<i>Page</i>
Quadrangular International — George Yates	2
Tournament round-up	3
Official News	4
Stiga Grand Prix — the system explained	7
Junior Grand Prix — Mike Watts bears good news	9
Sponsorships — individuals and events	10
School Report — The growth of the ESTTA is explained by David Lomas	11
Lentec Rankings — the starting line up	12
Lisa — a major feature focus by <i>Fiona Brown</i> and <i>John Woodford</i>	14
ACTION IMAGE — Souvenir poster LISA BELLINGER	16
Schildkrot British League — a spotlight on sponsorship in the lower divisions	19
County Notes	21
Coaching — Psychology — its place in our game is explained by Dr Tony Morris	26
Dunlop Skills Award — The new look Grade 3	28
Capital matters — calling young Londoners	29
Mailbox — Enter the 'Golden Quill' award	32

STOP PRESS:

European Club Cup 1st Round: GKN Wolverhampton 5,
Vasutas Budapest 4

Unlucky for some

George Yates tells of England's fortunes in the thirteenth quadrangular.

HAVING lauded it over Ireland, Scotland and Wales on twelve successive occasions England were finally tumbled from their throne when, on Saturday September 13th 1986 at University College, Dublin they were beaten 5-3 by Scotland in their final match to give the Scots a notable victory and first place on the rostrum. The final table was:-

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ts
Scotland	3	1	2	0	13	11	4
England	3	1	1	1	13	11	3
Wales	3	1	1	1	11	13	3
Ireland	3	0	2	1	11	13	2

Devoid of the services of John Broe in their Friday evening match against Ireland, the Scots were held to a 4-all draw but with Broe in the side for the two Saturday matches a second draw was achieved against Wales - this from being 1-4 down and match point held by Heidi Cotter against Carole Dalrymple in the sixth set - and finally that nail-biting encounter against England.

No less than seven of the eight sets in this titanic final went into a deciding game but from a 3-3 situation David McLroy got the better of Bradley Billington as did Broe against Nicky Mason. All hell was then let loose on the Scottish bench with hugs all round from Chairman Brian Christie and captain Richard Yule.

It was a deserved victory, make no mistake, but the set for me was that between the English junior champion Andrea Holt and Janet Smith which went - 18, 24 and 19, to Janet. Only one player, in singles play, went through undefeated and that was England's Mandy Sainsbury but only one doubles success in six went England's way, that being achieved by Billington and Mason against Scotland! Ireland's Colum Slevin had five wins to his credit up to meeting Nigel Tyler who also inflicted the only defeat suffered by Broe in his four singles encounters.

The whole affair proved the tightest quadrangular ever and was witnessed by a goodly assembly of spectators which far exceeded those at Bolton, Llandudno and Coatbridge in the three previous engagements. All credit to the Leinster branch of the Irish Table Tennis Association whose officials and umpires did a quite magnificent job.



Scottish star John Broe.

Denis George 0436 831434

The international scene

a brief analysis from Donald Parker

THE forthcoming season reaches its climax with the World Championships in New Delhi followed by the Commonwealth in Australia. The international senior programme leading up to these events will hopefully include the Italian, Russian, Yugoslavian and French Opens and of course our European League matches.

Once again everyone is delighted that Des Douglas will be continuing his contract with the ETTA and therefore will be available, when selected, for all events including training camps. Unfortunately the next three ranked male players Carl Prean, Alan Cooke and Skylet Andrew are playing in Germany, Sweden and Holland respectively but are available for international selections and most of the training camps. Alison Gordon and Joy Grundy are available for international selections but unavailable for training camps up to Christmas, for financial reasons in that they both have a steady income which exceeds the amount they are paid by our Association. While everyone would

like the players to receive more money when on England duty, I believe the problem lies within the structure of the game in that no player can earn a good living purely from the domestic circuit. ie. prize money, sponsorship, British League, exhibitions etc.

In the case of all the above mentioned players playing overseas there is very close liaison between the clubs and ETTA making sure the best interests of the players and our Association are utmost.

While somewhat reluctant to make any predictions regards New Delhi and Australia because of the climate, diet etc., I am confident that in the long term, given the right opportunities, we should continue to improve.

In the European league division 1, the strongest two teams on paper are Germany and ourselves. Having said that, the other teams each have their strengths and no match will be easy. With Des, Carl and Lisa Bellinger all featuring highly in the European rankings it would be ideal to go into the last match of the season against Germany playing for promotion having used these players

Results

SCO 4 IRL 4

D. McLroy b A. Dennison 24, 10; C. Dalrymple/J. Smith b A. Leonard/C. Leonard - 13, 17, 16; I. McLean lt C. Slevin - 10, -11; Dalrymple b E. McManus 14, 13; McLroy/McLean lt M. Kelly/Slevin - 13, 15, -17; Smith lost to Leonard - 19, 20, -13; McLroy lt Slevin - 17, -16; McLean b Dennison 11, 17.

ENG 6 WAL 2

J. Souter b A. Griffiths 18, 20; A. Holt/M. Sainsbury lt H. Cotter/L. Tyler - 18, 10, -18; N. Mason b N. Tyler 18, 11; Holt b Cotter 11, 9; Mason/Souter lt Griffiths/Tyler 20, -18, -17; Sainsbury b Tyler 11, 16; Souter b Tyler 17, 13; Mason b Griffiths 17, 15.

ENG 4 IRL 4

Souter b K. Keane 15, 17; Holt/Sainsbury lt Leonard/Leonard 16, -18, -17; B. Billington lt Slevin - 9, -19; Holt b McManus 11, 9; Mason/Souter lt Kelly/Slevin - 18, -13; Sainsbury b A. Leonard 16, 17; Souter lt Slevin - 15, 15, -12; Billington b Keane 13, 17.

SCO 4 WAL 4

McLroy lt Griffiths - 22, -16; Dalrymple/Smith b Cotter/Tyler 12, 15; J. Broe lt Tyler - 18, -11; Smith lt Tyler 17, -20, -14; Broe/McLroy lt Griffiths/Tyler - 11, 18, -11; Dalrymple b Cotter - 15, 21, 18; McLroy b Tyler 7, 18; Broe b Griffiths 15, 15.

SCO 5 ENG 3

McLroy lt Mason - 13, 20, -11; Dalrymple/Smith b Holt/Sainsbury - 17, 19, 14; Broe b Billington 11, 11; Smith b Holt - 18, 24, 19; Broe/McLean lt Billington/Mason 12, -18, -11; Dalrymple lt Sainsbury - 13, 14, -17; McLroy b Billington - 16, 20, 16; Broe b Mason - 20, 19, 19.

WAL 5 IRL 3

Tyler b Dennison 18, 16; Cotter/Tyler b Leonard/Leonard - 18, 17, 17; Griffiths lt Slevin - 15, -18; Tyler b McManus 17, 12; Griffiths/Tyler lt Kelly/Slevin - 16, -14; Cotter lt A. Leonard - 10, -17; Tyler b Slevin - 12, 12, 20; Griffiths b Dennison 15, 17.

discreetly to allow other players to gain invaluable experience. In my opinion Alan Cooke, Skylet Andrew and Fiona Elliot are on the verge of a good European ranking while players like John Souter, Nicky Mason, Jimmy Stokes, Andrew Syed (injury free) could, given the right opportunities, break through. Of course after some excellent results in the European Youth Championships there are several younger players with exciting potential.

In the European Super league the two main forces are Sweden and Poland, however both have comparatively weak women. Fortunately for these two, the countries with very strong women, Hungary, Holland and Russia have not as strong men with the latter not being in the Premier Division. I do not think I am being too brave in predicting Sweden for the title although on the night anything can happen.



New PLAYBAK, League and

Souter wins title at second attempt

a report from Lewisham organiser, Alex Facey

JOHN SOUTER returned to win the men's singles title at the Lewisham 2 star, held over the weekend of the 6th and 7th September 1986, which he failed to capture last year when Philip Bradbury stole it from him at deuce in the third. His road to the final was not easy, he survived a savage battle against John Hilton in the quarters, winning 19 in the third.

Interestingly, Hilton saved two match points before ignoring the new rule about towelling down. (Players may only towel down at the change of serve, otherwise play must be continuous.) He towelled down for one minute before returning to the table and missed that final loop.

John then out-pointed Graham Sandley in a semi-final packed with sheer glue power. Graham, who won this title in the 1984/85 season, surrendered with a wicked flurry of

backhand and forehand loops. Souter then met Nicky Mason in the final where both men showed a determination to out-hit each other. Mason served, looped and looped the loop off the bounce while John served, looped and looped the loop off the bounce until one finally gave way. It was a cracking final which ended as it started, with each player matching the other, shot for shot until John finally took the title, winning 22, 17.

David Hannah teamed up with Steve Dorking and excited everyone by beating Souter and Joey Kennedy in the final of the men's doubles.

Successful return

Alison Gordon returned to Lewisham this year to recapture the womens singles title she last won in September 1984. She hit her way through Jill Harris in the semi's before sprinting away with the title, beating Mandy Sainsbury 12, 13 in

the final. Alison then teamed up with Sainsbury to take the womens doubles title, beating Jackie Bellinger and Sue Collier - 15, 11, 20 in a nail-biting final.

The Lewisham tournament, promoted by the Deptford Table Tennis Centre, has grown out of all expectations. This year's events received a record entry of 209 with a further 25 entries returned. So popular is the tournament that we have decided to move to a larger venue. We will be playing next season in the new recreation centre at Brixton where 14 tables can be used instead of the nine tables at Lewisham. Next year's tournament will also have a new name. It will be the London Open Championship instead of the Lewisham Open and will be played over three days - Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Friday will have the preliminary rounds and a new range of team events open to London clubs and all British League teams. By expanding, we aim to meet the increased demand from individual competitors and also offer the clubs the opportunity to prepare their teams for the British League season to follow. There will also be a nice cash prize for the winning teams in the team events. More information will be forthcoming shortly.

I am sure everyone was thrilled with the display of talent and skill

seen at this year's event and I hope to see everyone next year at the new venue.

Results

Mens singles - Semi-finals: Souter b Sandley 16, 16; Mason b Hannah 14, 18. **Final:** Souter b Mason 22, 17.

Womens singles - Semi-finals: Alison Gordon (Bk) b Jill Harris (St) 21, 10; Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) b Teresa Moore (Sx) 12, -22, 14. **Final:** Gordon b Sainsbury 12, 13.

Mens doubles - Semi-finals: Steve Dorking/Hannah (E/SCO) b John Payne/Glen Baker (Mi/Sy) 15, 20; Souter/Joey Kennedy (Mi/Sy) b Hilton/Sandley (La/Mi) -15, 16, 19. **Final:** Dorking/Hannah b Souter/Kennedy -13, 20, 6.

Womens doubles - Semi-finals: Gordon/Sainsbury (Bk/Bk) b Helen Bardwell/Moore (He/Sx) 13, 22; Sue Collier/Jackie Bellinger (Bk/Bd) b Harris/Lesley Popkiewicz (St/Sy) 13, 13. **Final:** Gordon/Sainsbury b Collier/Bellinger -15, 11, 20.

Class 2 mixed singles - Semi-finals: John Burleton (K) b Mark Browne (Wa) 19, 17; Sean Gibson (La) b M. Short (De) 8, 16. **Final:** Burleton b Gibson 13, 15.

Class 3 mixed singles - Semi-finals: Harhat Rasul (Sy) b A. Ariyibi (E) 20, 9; Paul Namjou (K) b Peter Harris (Mi) 18, 16. **Final:** Namjou b Rasul -20, 16, 11.

Mixed doubles - Final: G. Sandley/J. Harris b Stephen Moore/T. Moore 11, -18, 13.

Womens singles - Final: Henry Buist (K) b V. Brookman 12, 10.

Andrew on the ball

Gordon Sanders reports from the Huddersfield Sports Centre

A SWITCH of venue and a restyling of the Kirklees tournament over the weekend 6th/7th September 1986 to junior, cadet and U12 events only, proved to be a master stroke by organiser Bevan Walker. Application by all the players and dedication from the tireless band of umpires produced championships of the highest quality. Tournament interest is stimulated not only by successes but by unpredictable reverses, and the early shock was provided by Justin Goodall of Shrewsbury who shattered the hopes of junior boys favourite and national No 3 Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield) 19, 19.

This opened the door for Wakefield and Dewsbury player Andrew Ball who defeated John Ellis of Wales in the final with surprising comfort, and teamed with David Carse of Bury to take the junior doubles title.

Yorkshire players took seven of the 14 titles available and dominated the consolation events designed for first-round losers, but perhaps the most rewarding performance was provided by national No 6 cadet Susanne Lawton of Ormesby who overcame No 3 Joanne Roberts of Leeds 15, 6.

Assistance in funding the championships was provided by Kirklees Leisure Services, Yorkshire Television, Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council, Tees Sport and Butterfly UK Ltd, whilst the facilities offered by Huddersfield Sports Centre were excellent.

Results

Boys singles - Semi-finals: Andrew Ball (Y) b David Carse (La) 17, 14; John Ellis (Wa) b Neil Simms (Y) -18, 18, 19. **Final:** Ball b Ellis 16, 13.

Girls singles - Semi-finals: Helen Lower (Wa) b Joanna Roberts (Y) 14, -17, 11; Nichola McGrath (La) b Debbie Toole (Y) -18, 19, 19. **Final:** Lower b McGrath 18, 16.

Boys doubles - Final: Carse/Ball b Miller/Knights 20, 19.

Girls doubles - Final: Meddings/Toole b Ambrose/Perkins 18, 19.

Cadet boys singles - Final: Eden b Solder 18, 12.

Cadet girls singles - Final: Lawton b Roberts 15, 6.

Cadet boys doubles - Final: Ledwith/Riggins b Nicholls/Smith 13, -19, 18.

Cadet girls doubles - Final: Hook/Lawton b Meddings/Goodall 19, 19.

U12 boys singles - Final: Forster b Nicholls 19, 12. **U12 girls singles - Final:** Marling b Meddings 12, 11.

Leigh lifts early title

DESPITE late withdrawals by some of the more experienced entries, due to the demands of regional trial organisers, the Coventry junior 1-star still attracted 107 entries, 75 boys and 32 girls reports organiser Jack Elliot.

In all, nine events were held, comprising the six main ones plus three consolation singles, ensuring that most players enjoyed at least two games in each singles event entered.

A feature of the U17 boys singles was the form shown by Keeran Dabbs, the Northants county cadet, who played with great confidence until finally losing to the Northants No 1 junior, Ian Bird in the quarter-final.

As often happens at early tournaments, surprises occur, and this was the case when Andrew Ball from Wakefield, who had won the Kirklees 2 star junior the previous day, was beaten by Leigh Jeffries, Warwickshire's No 1 junior, 21, 18, in the semi-final. In the other semi Darren Smith accounted for Ian Bird, 21, -13, 15, to make it an all Warwickshire final in which Leigh Jeffries confirmed his county ranking by winning 10, 16.

The girls U17 singles went very much to form, with the top two seeds, Helen Lower and Julie Norman, reaching the semi-finals without any difficulty. They both advanced to the final, Helen with an easy 7, 6, victory over Nicola Jones from Worcester, and Julie accounting for Elizabeth Bryant from Leicester 17, 14. In the final Julie avenged last season's semi-final defeat in this event, with an excellent and comfortable 10, 12 victory.

In the boys doubles the scratch pairing of Andrew Ball and Steven Baggaley defeated the Northants pair, Ian Bird and David Evans, -12, 18, 17, while in the girls doubles Esther Baggaley made it a family double by joining forces with Julie Norman to defeat the Worcester pairing of Jane McLean and Nicola Jones, 18, 18.

The boys U14 event was won by Leigh Jeffries who defeated Samuel Taylor (Rochester) 11, 9, and Sally Hughes from Banbury triumphed over Elizabeth Bryant 15, -18, 18 to take the girls U14 singles.

Tom Blunn

THE ETTA Chairman passed away peacefully in his sleep at the St. Catherines Hospice, Scarborough, on Saturday 20th September 1986. A review of Mr Blunn's life and work with the Association will feature in the November issue of *Table Tennis News*.

Around the world in 80 years

OUR congratulations go to the Association's Hon. Life Vice-President, Bill Vint OBE, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Tuesday 7th October 1986. Over the years Bill, the elder statesman of English table tennis, has travelled extensively to follow the sport. Even as we go to press he and his wife Nora are considering whether to pack their bags and accept an invitation which will take them half way around the world — to China!

The blue blazer brigade

AS in previous seasons England has been asked to provide officials for a number of foreign events. The following international umpires had been selected at the time of going to press.

Italian Open:

Brian Lamerton and Eric Pentland

Germany v Denmark:

Brian Foggin

France v Hungary:

Trevor Openshaw

Netherlands v Bulgaria:

Stuart Sherlock

Netherlands v France:

Colin Hyland

England v Turkey:

Geoff Taylor and Doug Young

England v Italy:

Fred Groom and Emil Emecz

England v Finland:

Ken Green and Gerald Hammond

England v Norway:

David Miller and Mrs Val Roffe

If you would like to know more about umpiring or refereeing, you should contact the umpires secretary for your county, whose name, address and telephone number may be obtained from the ETTA Office, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF tel. 0424 433121.

"Promotion or Prevention"

by the late Tom Blunn, former chairman of the ETTA

THE constitution of the ETTA, paragraph 3.3, requires the Association to "promote and encourage the playing, development and organisation of the game of Table Tennis in England".

In carrying out these instructions it often means that restrictions have to be applied and promotion tends to become prevention.

To organise efficiently requires rules and regulations to prevent injustice and chaos. Rules and regulations are useless if they are not adhered to. This in itself brings conflict of interests requiring agonising decisions which never satisfy everybody. The result is dissatisfaction with the ruling body when these difficult decisions require an event to be cancelled or not permitted.

The main problem areas are those dealt with by the Tournaments Committee, the British League, the County Championships, the Na-

tional Team Competitions and the Calendar Working Party.

If the competitions controlled by these various committees are added together, they must total several thousand games. Each event is very important to those taking part and it must be very tedious to find that less elite events are subject to rules and regulations. It is very easy to overlook the fact that when a club, team, league or county enters a competition, they agree to abide by the rules and regulations. These rules and regulations generally work very well for over 90% of the time, even to the extent that their very existence is forgotten. Then, when a problem arises and the particular rule or regulation is quoted, it suddenly becomes unfair, stupid, restrictive and even worse. It is then that the committees that give their spare time to organising these competitions have to look at the position independently and come to a decision. The decision must be

within the rules and regulations although in some instances discretion or even arbitration is permitted and the ETTA constitution, paragraph 34, allows an appeal against decisions of a sub-committee. It is not unknown for appeals to be accompanied by threats to sue the ETTA if the appeal is turned down. On one occasion both sides made the threat!

The most difficult decision is when an event has to be played when one party does not want to play it or a postponement or rearrangement has to be refused. Another is when an open tournament cannot be approved for a particular date requested or may even not be permitted at all.

There have been occasions when an injustice seems to be arising and compassion demands some form of compromise. On one recent occasion an attempt to compromise was challenged and a decision had to be changed in order to abide by the rules. So please bear these points in mind if ever such a decision affects your favourite competition.

UNITED WE STAND



Desmond Douglas, Richard Eaton (*Guardian*) and Mike Lewis (*BBC Radio News*) give their attention to Schildkrot matters. Photograph Jose Ransome

THE ETTA combined most successfully with Schildkrot, the new sponsors of the British Table Tennis League, to host a luncheon for national sports editors and leading journalists at the Connaught Rooms, London on Tuesday 9th September.

ETTA Deputy Chairman George Yates opened proceedings with a call for greater co-operation between the media and the Association.

Speaking on behalf of Schildkrot Mr Alan Ransome emphasized the three major objectives of the British League which are to provide top class competition which will keep our best players in England, to attract foreign players back to this country and to act as a platform —

by providing regular competition throughout the season — for the general promotion of table tennis. Mr Ransome made particular reference to the European successes of cadets Michael O'Driscoll and Christopher Oldfield for whom he saw Schildkrot British League play as a valuable career aid.

Also in attendance were representatives of Schildkrot premier division teams GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton and Panoramic Bath, two of the new breed of professional club which the league had encouraged.

Whilst the major emphasis to the media rested on the £10,000 prize fund which makes the Schildkrot British League the world's foremost professional team competition, the ETTA press officer, Fiona Brown,

emphasized the improvement in resources and services which had been accorded to each of the 64 teams during the close season — a move designed to improve the local to national connection and thereby make detailed information more readily available for use by the national press.

The ETTA's new vice chairman for public relations, Brian Spicer, concluded proceedings by drawing further attention to the financial involvement — estimated to be in excess of £100,000 per season, when local sponsorships are taken into account — and called for the revival in coverage of table tennis which the number of enthusiasts so obviously warrants.

The hunt is on for Grand Prix points

PLAYERS throughout Britain will begin the hunt for Stiga 3 Star Grand Prix points later this month with the first of this season's five events in Halifax.

When the series concludes, in April 1987, the eight leading point earners in both the mens and womens tables will be invited to the Grand Prix finale at Woking — an event which promises to provide one of the greatest spectacles of modern day table tennis.

The players will be separated into two groups of four, each playing against one another on a 'round robin' basis. The top two players in each group will qualify for cross over semi-finals with the two winners contesting the final.

With over £7,500 in prize money throughout the season these Stiga events are bound to be popular with players and spectators alike so be sure to join in the fun.

Scottish No. 1, David Hannah (left) is expected to feature prominently in the Stiga Grand Prix.

John Stone 01 606 3456

Events

STIGA YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE 3 STAR OPEN	Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October 1986	North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax
STIGA MIDLAND COUNTIES THREE STAR OPEN	Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th November 1986	Alumwell Sports Centre, Walsall
STIGA MIDDLESEX THREE STAR OPEN	Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December 1986	Picketts Lock Centre
STIGA SOUTH OF ENGLAND THREE STAR OPEN	Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th January 1987	Woking Leisure Centre
STIGA ESSEX THREE STAR OPEN	Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April 1987	Harrow Lodge Sports Centre, Hornchurch
STIGA THREE STAR GRAND PRIX FINAL	Saturday 16th May 1987	Woking Leisure Centre

Points system

Stiga Grand Prix points will be awarded, on a cumulative basis, for performances in the mens' and womens' singles events at each Stiga 3 Star Grand Prix tournament.

STIGA	ROUND						
	GROUP Win	1st and 2nd Win	3rd and ¼ Final Win	Semi-Final		Final	
				Loss	Win	Loss	Win
Points	1	2	4	4	8	16	32



Aubrey's angels

CONGRATULATIONS and the gratitude of the Treasurer, Aubrey Drapkin, are due to the Reading league for being the first to pay affiliation fees for 1986/87. They just beat Hemel Hempstead by a short head, whose fees arrived by second post on the same day, 3rd September 1986.

Ringing the changes

by Mike Watts

THE VETTS continues to grow and recently it accepted into membership its 300th member. Whilst disappointed that our application to stage the 1988 World Championships in London was not successful, the Executive Committee with boundless enthusiasm continues to look at ways of improving competition and providing events to keep members involved. Two of the exciting projects to be launched during the coming season are as follows:

National League Championships

Currently the ETTA run competitions for men, women, junior boys and junior girls, the most famous being the men's Wilmott cup. Now VETTS has received ETTA permission to organise its own competition amongst the 300 plus leagues in membership with the ETTA. Full details and entry forms are to be circulated to league secretaries shortly.

Plate/Restricted Competitions

It has been the practise for VETTS tournaments to run a Restricted singles for players ranked below No. 30 in the Lentec computer ranking scheme. The Executive Committee have considered the whole system and have agreed that for the four Open Masters tournaments the system will remain the same but for the National Age Group Masters in May, groups will remain at three players with only the top player going forward to the knock out stage and the remaining two being eligible to enter into a Consolation singles.

The AGM was unable to take decisions on a suggestion that veteran players be eligible to enter VETTS events once they became of the age group concerned rather than conforming to the present ETTA rule which states that a player must be 40 by the 30th June. It was the AGM decision that as the member—

ship of the meeting was not representative of the total membership a postal ballot should be held. The result of that ballot is that 75% of the votes received are in favour of a change and the Executive Committee will now decide shortly whether to introduce this immediately or wait until season 1987/88.

ETTA Dairies

Following Treasurer Bill Moran's

suggestion, each member of VETTS should now have received the new ETTA Diary free of charge. This comes with the compliments of VETTS as a further benefit of affiliation.

Pin Badges

New attractive pin badges have been ordered and should be ready in time for the Midlands Masters in Coventry during November 1986.



Ron Etheridge (left) a double silver medallist in Rimini, and Henry Buist who enjoyed a magnificent domestic season in 1985/86 - are pictured enjoying the social side which has helped to make the VETTS so popular. Photo: Mike Watts

The Junior Grand Prix

explained by ETTA Deputy General Secretary Mike Watts

BENEFICIAL Trust, whilst not sponsoring the total Grand Prix package, have made available for the coming season some money for the continuation of the Grand Prix system. Talks are still continuing with two companies but a total sponsorship package will certainly not start until at least the 1987/88 season.

The National Selection Committee have now considered which events should be included in the Grand Prix and the points to be allocated, details of which are as follows. The programme this season is designed to enable junior players to plan their season around nine major events and will continue to play a vital role in the development of English table tennis.

The Grand Prix events

The Grand Prix will consist of nine events — located evenly throughout the country. For the 1986/87 season these are:

1 Cleveland Junior	Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th November 1986	Eston Leisure Centre
2 English National Junior Championships	Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December 1986	Macclesfield Leisure Centre
3 National Junior Ranking Trials	Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th January 1987	Lilleshall National Sports Centre
4 Cotswold Junior	Saturday 31st January and Sunday 1st February 1987	Gloucester Sports Centre
5 Essex Junior	Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th February 1987	Harlow Sports Centre
6 Derby Junior	Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March 1987	Derby Sports Centre
7 National Junior Top 12	Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th April 1987	Lilleshall National Sports Centre
8 Yorkshire Junior	Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th April 1987	North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax
9 English Junior Open	Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st May 1987	Eldon Square Recreation Centre, Newcastle

The points system

Players participating in Grand Prix events will be awarded points in accordance with their progress in the junior boys or junior girls singles events at the tournaments. The following table illustrates the distribution of points throughout the series.

	Last 16	Quarter finalists	Semi finalists	Runner up	Winner
Select tournaments	2	4	6	8	16
Ranking trials English Open and Closed	6	12	18	24	48
	9-12th	5th-8th	3rd-4th	2nd	Winner
National Junior Top 12	6	12	18	24	48

The allocation of Grand Prix points is restricted to English players. Grand Prix winners must have participated in at least four events in the series.

Grand Prix prizes

At the end of the season the players who have accumulated the most Grand Prix points will qualify for the Grand Prix prizes. These cash bursaries will be administered by the English Table Tennis Association and may be used towards bona-fide expenses incurred in training or competing in table tennis.

	Junior boys	Junior girls
1st	£400	£400
2nd	£300	£300
3rd	£200	£200
4th	£150	£150
5th	£100	£100

Terry takes over

BURTON league player, administrator and coach, Terry Gadsby, has taken over as ETTA regional co-ordinating committee chairman in the East Midlands (Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire). Terry, who has succeeded Northampton's Ken Marchant, is hoping to work closely with the region's coaching committee chairman, Gordon Oke. Terry is already busily recruiting new members for his committee and intends to approach each county in an attempt to find willing workers.

Ranking trials

The regional junior ranking trials are to take place on Saturday 1st November 1986 at the Bingham Leisure Centre, and an administrator's course is being arranged — further details of both are available from Terry on 0283 62681, preferably between 6 and 6.30 p.m.



Mike Owen

Et Maintenant

LANGUAGES graduate, Mike Owen, has been appointed to the full time post of table tennis development officer for Greater Manchester. A native of Wales, Mike has lived in Manchester for the past few years and moves from the Salford Recreation Department to this new post which is based at the Oldham Sports Centre where you can contact him on a direct line — 061 678 4097. Mike will be working closely with leagues in the area and the North West Regional Co-ordinating Committee. He is an experienced player and coach. During the season he will be leading the Oldham team who play in the Schildkrot British League.

A ray of sunshine

Charles Bayliss

THE East Denbighshire summer closed tournament, held at the Victoria youth club, Wrexham, on Sunday 6th July, brought over 60 players to the tables in a 13 hour marathon incorporating 16 events.

Consistency was the name of the game in the female events with Prestatyn's Natasha Williams claiming three titles in the U12, U14 and U17 singles and Anne Walker capturing both the U21 and Ladies singles.

All told, it was a successful outing for the Williams family as Natasha's father Roy, picked up the Veterans singles title and shared victory in the Veterans doubles with Malcolm Buckle.

Clwyd County

North Wales County, Clwyd, will once again be entering two teams in the County Championships, one senior side and one junior team.

Mr Malcolm Buckle will remain in charge of the senior county team which he hopes to retain the services of the majority of players who gained representative honours in 1985/86. At the moment it is not known what junior strength will be available.

Ladies singles champion Anne Walker gets a helping hand with her trophy from the youngest competitor, six year old Danny Harris. Roy and Natasha Williams are pictured extreme right. Barry Price 0978 265848



Andrea on the road to success

Fiona Brown

TRIPLE English junior champion and current English junior No. 1 Andrea Holt, has secured £1,000 to help her along the road to senior success during the 1986/87 season.

The sponsorship from Ramsbottom based TNT Roadfreight (UK) Ltd, was captured when Andrea's father, Wilton, put pen to paper to enlighten local businessmen of his daughter's achievements. "We're lucky because the Bury Times have always given good coverage of Andrea's triumphs," he explains. Knowing how difficult sponsorship is to find Wilton set about the task unsure of what response to expect. TNT, who were only the second company he approached, were swift to offer their support. "The first time I met TNT's managing director, he told me that the company normally sponsored local football and cricket to the tune of £50 or £100," says Wilton, "although he thought they could do something a bit special for Andrea we were all



amazed when they offered £1,000".

The money will go towards Andrea's travel and accommodation costs for Stiga Grand Prix events. "I am going to concentrate on senior events this season and the money will enable me to make a serious challenge," says Andrea. "At the moment I am ranked No. 30 and my ambition is to break into the top ten next season," she says. "Thanks to TNT I shall be able to travel to all of the Stiga Three Star Grand Prix events so the chance is there, it's up to me to make the most of it."

Andrea's success to date is due to a great deal of hard work on her part and the support of her parents, but there is a black cloud on the horizon that they are all aware of — lack of practice partners. "She's outgrown the local opposition in Bury and Bolton," says Wilton. "She needs someone to push her harder in practice." Paradoxically Andrea has yet to be selected for the Lancashire senior team which is dominated by English champion Joy Grundy and Lancaster University student, Jean Parker the English No. 8.

One place where Andrea believes she will be able to develop her game is at English senior training camps. Having attended her first senior camp last season — in preparation for the European Youth Championships — she is eager to earn further call ups.

As a member of the English

junior girls team which won a bronze medal at the 1986 European Youth championships, Andrea has already made some telling observations about her opponents in Europe. "I really do not see any major differences in the level of skill between ourselves and the players who are winning gold medals," she says. "The only difference is that they seem so

much more confident, even when they are behind." Another factor which our junior champion has noticed is the mixed practice habit of the continental teams. "The girls get the chance to practice against the boys as they warm up for each tournament — there's no doubt that it's a tremendous advantage."

The year ahead will certainly place stringent demands upon Andrea, who must combine her table tennis aspirations with 'O' level studies. The season began with her England senior debut in the Quadrangular International — who knows where it will end? One thing is certain, young Miss Holt is full of ambition, "This time next year I hope to have booked my place in the Stiga National Top 12 — it's a big jump but thanks to TNT all I have to worry about is my performance at the table — it's going to be fun."

Ed: Andrea was later given a 'wild card' entry to the 1986 Stiga National Top 12. Readers can discover how she fared in the November issue of Table Tennis News.

Andrea must juggle studies and sport. Photograph courtesy Daily Mirror



NatWest
The Action Bank

THE National Westminster bank is further extending its weekend service to include sponsorship of the Derby Junior Select Championships on the 7th and 8th March 1987. Nat West press officer Graeme Cowling explains: "We recognise a duty to contribute to the quality of life in the community and our support of the Derby and District Table Tennis Association is a good example of this philosophy in practice." Select organiser, Mike Payne, added: "We were proud to boast the biggest junior entry in the country last season, with Nat West behind us we aim to provide another great Derby Junior Select in 1987."



Why buy foreign when

From little acorn to great oak

by ESTTA press officer David Lomas

THE Dunlop National School Team Championships come of age this season with the organisation of the 21st championships. Although the Association was founded in May, 1968, Jack Carrington was chiefly responsible for the ETTA having launched the event in the 1966-67 season. There have been considerable changes in the past 21 years, with the number of events gradually expanding to cater for pupils from Under-11 to Under-19 years of age, the concept of a school team competition involving preliminary events and area and regional qualifying stages leading to National Finals still holds good.

Since those first ESTTA-organised Championships in the 1968-69 season the responsibility of organisation has rested with only three competitions secretaries. John Wright was the first incumbent until 1971. He handed over to the indefatigable Eddie Mitchell who stepped down in 1984, having added the considerable workload of the ESTTA Individual and International Championships. When Eddie finally called it a day the ESTTA Executive split the post of competitions secretary into two separate offices, looking after the team and individual championships. Geoff Gardiner — also Lancashire Schools' TTA Secretary — took on the post of team competition secretary with Paul Birch of Bedfordshire in charge of the individual championships.

And so to plans for the 1986-87 season. The programme follows a familiar pattern. ESTTA officials are hoping that the effects of the teachers' industrial action can be put firmly behind. In the forward of the Association's new handbook ESTTA Chairman, John Arnold, says: "I hope the present season will see a return to a full commitment to the development of table tennis in schools throughout the country."

Firm entries — via county qualifying competitions — for the Dunlop National School Team Championships (4-a-side) must be in by December 10th; area contests take place during the

weekend of January 17/18, 1987 with the winning teams going forward to the three regional finals on February 22nd and then to the National finals at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Saturday, March 21st, 1987. Please note that these grand finals are on this date and not Sunday, March 22nd as printed in the calendar of events in the August/September issue of *Table Tennis News*.

Most member County Schools' Associations hold their individual championships in the spring term, with county winners going forward to the Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships which are scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd, 1987, at Mansfield Leisure Centre. Entries close on March 22nd and entry is only via county qualifying events.

The Scottish Schools' Table Tennis Association are hoping to stage the Schools International Championships at Inverclyde, Largs, on June 19-21, 1987.

The popular ESTTA Coaching Course (for pupils) is being held at Lea Green from April 21-24 1987. Details in due course.

The Association's Official Handbook for the 1986-87 season is now available from the ESTTA Hon. General Secretary, L.C. Henry, "Engelberg", Badger Lane, Woolley Moor, Derby DE5 6FG, priced 60p (inc p & p). The new edition is increased to 52 pages. It includes full details of County Associations, the Dunlop Team and Individual Championships, photographs of 1985-86 winners, and records of past winners.

Youth exchange

A CLUB in Germany is keen to arrange a youth exchange in the spring or summer of 1987. The players would be of reasonable league standard and the club is situated between Osnabruck and the Dutch border. Any club interested please write direct to:

Mr. Ulrich Deupmann,
SuS Neuenkirchen,
Burgsteinfurter Damm 32,
4445 Neuenkirchen,
Federal Germany.



Hannah still ahead

reports Denis George

Lentec Scottish computer ranking

THE 1985/86 end of season lists revealed few surprises. David Hannah retained his top position in the mens table, despite few appearances in domestic events during the season, but he headed John Broe, the most successful player in home tournaments, by virtue of his good results in the Prague European Championships. Carole Dalrymple was well clear at the top of the womens table, but in the junior boys Stirlingshire's Gordon Waddell, even though he was out of action for some weeks in mid-season, managed to pip Aberdeen's David Low by one point.

STTA senior assessment tournament

Early season form always tends to be somewhat unpredictable and so it was in the first STTA event of the season at Meadowbank, Edinburgh on Sunday 7th September. But in the end John Broe emerged the winner in the mens competition, in spite of an 8 in the third loss to Brian Wright. David McIlroy (lost to Broe & McIlroy), Anwar Majid (lost to Broe & McIlroy) and Brian Wright (lost to McIlroy and Majid) finished equal on wins and losses but

reference to the ITTF equality rules placed them 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively, Ian McLean finished 5th. David Hannah did not compete!

Form in the womens competition, however, was more predictable and Carole Dalrymple, with seven wins — all two straight, finished in top place; not quite so easy as it seemed as both Janet Smith (2nd) and Sarah Hurry (3rd) took Carole to 25 all in one set before losing 25/27. Liz Robb showed a welcome return to form to finish 4th above Eleanor McIlroy (5th) and Valerie Thomson (6th).

Scottish table tennis bulletin

Readers to *Table Tennis News* may not be aware that all the news from north of the border is contained in the STTA's official journal which is published six times throughout the season. It reports on domestic tournaments and the major championships in which Scotland has participated and includes coaching articles and other related items. One years subscription is £3.30 (UK) or £4.00 (overseas). Cheques payable to the Scottish TTA should be sent to Scottish TTA, 18 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6AU.

British is best?

ALL RANKINGS AS AT 1st SEPTEMBER, 1986

MEN				No.	Name	Town of Res.	Points
No.	Name	Town of Res.	Points	81	John Taylor	(Golders Green)	128
1	Desmond Douglas	(Birmingham)	1527	82	Rupert Bole	(Esher)	126
2	Carl Prean	(Ryde)	1101	83	Michael Short	(Plymouth)	125
3	Alan Cooke	(Chesterfield)	858	84	Philip Logsdon	(Norwich)	125
4	Skylet Andrew	(London E15)	809	85	Tony Penny	(Hornchurch)	124
5	John Souter	(Neasden)	591	86	Steven Moreman	(Gloucester)	123
6	Jimmy Stokes	(Reading)	523	87	Mark Oakley	(Camberley)	123
7	Nicky Mason	(Bexhill)	469	88	Glen Baker	(Guildford)	123
8	Graham Sandley	(Potters Bar)	432	89	Murray Jukes	(Kiddernminster)	123
9	David Wells	(Milton Keynes)	407	90	Jeff Drew	(Romford)	122
10	Andrew Syed	(Reading)	405	91	Gordon Chapman	(Worcester Park)	118
11	Philip Bradbury	(Aylesbury)	385	92	Steven Brunskill	(Middlesbrough)	117
12	Kevin Satchell	(Frome)	376	93	Richard Jermyn	(Letchworth)	117
13	Steve Mills	(Sheffield)	361	94	Lester Bertie	(Birmingham)	115
14	Colin Wilson	(Cuffley)	360	95	Ramesh Bhalla	(Guildford)	115
15	Steven Scowcroft	(Bolton)	351	96	John Green	(Nuneaton)	113
16	Chris Rogers	(Leicester)	330	97	Ray Tilling	(London SE19)	113
17	Andrew Wellman	(Reading)	327	98	Edward Smith	(Gosforth)	112
18	John Hilton	(Manchester)	321	99	Ronald Vose	(Stockport)	112
19	Nigel Eckersley	(Warrington)	314	100	Graham Slack	(Cheltenham)	112
20	Tony Taylor	(Manchester)	300	101	Lee Neil	(Dunkirk)	111
21	Matthew Syed	(Reading)	297	102	Michael Emmerson	(Selby)	109
22	Carl Morgan	(Birmingham)	275	103	Steven Sharpe	(Wakefield)	109
23	David Dodd	(London SE7)	273	104	Terry Kerry	(Nottingham)	107
24	Stuart Palmer	(Lakenheath)	262	105	Julian Wheel	(Wood Ditton)	106
25	Adrian Moore	(Bexhill)	256	106	Peter McQueen	(Gateshead)	106
26	Stephen Turner	(Preston)	255	107	Brian Garroway	(London SW7)	104
27	Max Crimmins	(Wimbledon)	246	108	Peter Taylor	(Stotfold)	104
28	Mark Mitchell	(London N9)	244	109	Michael O'Leary	(London WC1)	104
29	Desmond Charlery	(London E13)	243	110	Mark Simon	(Ormsby)	103
30	Adrian Dixon	(Wolverhampton)	240	111	Gary Lambert	(Exmouth)	103
31	David Barr	(Newbury)	239	112	Chu Van Que	(Newcastle)	102
32	Michael Hammond	(Surbiton)	237	113	Matthew Sheader	(New Waltham)	102
33	David Gannon	(Leicester)	237	114	Trevor Washington	(Wolverhampton)	102
34	Keith Richardson	(Soham)	235	115	Jeffrey Chapman	(Orpington)	101
35	Paul Whiting	(Plymouth)	232	116	Gary Spencer	(London SE23)	101
36	Phil Smith	(Horley)	230	117	Jonathan Proffitt	(Barnet)	101
37	Andy Creed	(Bristol)	228	118	Richard Darnell	(Brentwood)	101
38	Barry Johnson	(Birmingham)	224	119	Mark Owen	(Hereford)	100
39	Brian Johns	(Northwich)	219	120	Paul Sayer	(London E12)	100
40	Stephen Moore	(Bexhill)	217	121	Stanley Deakin	(Stoke on Trent)	99
41	Steven Dorking	(Hornchurch)	213	122	Phillip Vickers	(Derby)	99
42	Andrew Bellingham	(Wolverhampton)	190	123	Alan Fletcher	(Sutton Coldfield)	98
43	Andrew Rich	(Wolverhampton)	187	124	Malcolm Francis	(Brighton)	98
44	Chris Oldfield	(Sheffield)	186	125	Keith Willett	(Ware)	98
45	Malcolm Green	(Telford)	183	126	Ian Robertson	(Newcastle)	97
46	Bradley Billington	(Chesterfield)	181	127	Derek Hollman	(London SW17)	96
47	David Newman	(Maldon)	179	128	Geoff Davies	(Waterbeach)	95
48	Philip Gunn	(Birmingham)	175	129	Graeme KcKim	(Northampton)	94
49	Neil Taylor	(Cirencester)	173	130	Malcolm Corking	(Stockton)	93
50	Percy Collino	(London SW5)	172	131	Neil Pickard	(Reepham)	92
51	Michael Harper	(Biggleswade)	171	132	Stuart Gibbs	(Dagenham)	92
52	Ritchie Venner	(Crawley)	170	133	Kevin Edwards	(Warminster)	91
53	Joe Kennedy	(London SE15)	168	134	Russell King	(Lowestoft)	91
54	Andrew Dodd	(London SE7)	164	135	Richard Beckham	(London SE22)	91
55	Lindsay Taylor	(W. Hartlepool)	163	136	Michael Stead	(Bradford)	91
56	John Payne	(London N19)	162	137	Junior Facey	(London SE23)	90
57	Kevin Beadsley	(Bradford)	162	138	Jeremy Williams	(Falmouth)	90
58	John Burleton	(London SE15)	158	139	David Sharpe	(Luton)	89
59	Michael O'Driscoll	(Mirfield)	155	140	Simon Proffitt	(Barnet)	88
60	Dipak Topiwala	(London N17)	154	141	Michael Palmer	(Brandon)	86
61	David Harding	(Carshalton)	153	142	Stuart Worrell	(Lincoln)	85
62	David Tan	(London N4)	152	143	Mark Randle	(Coventry)	85
63	Craig Bakewell	(Stoke on Trent)	150	144	Gary Jordan	(Ormsby)	83
64	Alun Garraway	(London SW17)	150	145	Martin Shuttle	(New Maldon)	83
65	Stephen Holloway	(London SE18)	150	146	Stephen Davies	(Tolworth)	82
66	Darren Griffin	(Gloucester)	148	147	Tony Sweet	(Plymouth)	82
67	Tony Clayton	(Poole)	147	148	Peter Machin	(Birmingham)	81
68	Mike Owen	(Altrincham)	147	149	Philip Aspinall	(Oldham)	81
69	John Dennison	(London E9)	144	150	Adrian Pilgrim	(Coventry)	79
70	Sean Gibson	(Chorley)	143	151	Ian Doughty	(Leighton Buzzard)	79
71	David Goode	(Hayes)	142	152	Andy Mitchell	(Gravesend)	79
72	John Kitchener	(Ipswich)	141	153	Robert Brown	(Medway)	77
73	Paul Giles	(Plymouth)	141	154	Denis Neale	(Redcar)	77
74	Gary Wilson	(Plymouth)	138	155	Ayode Ariyiba	(Middlesex)	77
75	Les Wooding	(Dunstable)	137	156	Damien Holland	(Billericay)	77
76	Keith Samuels	(St. Neots)	137	157	Timothy Malkin	(Cheshire)	77
77	Andy Cunningham	(Beckenham)	136	158	Derek Schofield	(Stockport)	76
78	Neil McMaster	(Newcastle)	135	159	Andy Withers	(Haverhill)	76
79	Graham Toole	(Fareham)	132	160	Nat Richardson	(London N4)	76
80	Paul Amos	(Ashford)	128	161	Richard Tanner	(Birmingham)	75

162	David Cole	(Brentwood)	75
163	Mark Evans	(Stoke)	75
164	Thomas Blackman	(Newcastle)	75
165	T. Beckley	(London)	74
166	Farmat Rasul	(London SW6)	74
167	Babs Adedayo	(London SE26)	74
168	David Skerratt	(Scunthorpe)	74
169	Phil Smith	(Leicester)	74
170	Peter Harry	(Middlesex)	74
171	Jerome Jonah	(Wandsworth)	74
172	Nicky Standen	(Bexhill)	74
173	Tim Dyson	(Leeds)	72
174	John Robinson	(Poole)	72
175	Andrew Edmonds	(Wellingborough)	71
176	Trevor Campbell	(North London)	70
177	Jonathon Goode	(Hayes)	70
178	Ian Attridge	(London E13)	69
179	David Pilcher	(Sittingbourne)	69
180	Tony Spain	(London SE18)	69
181	Paul Hooper	(Bristol)	68
182	Steven Richards	(Plymouth)	68
183	Michael Brown	(Birmingham)	67
184	Simon Griew	(Leicester)	67
185	Peter Norcott		67
186	Paul Longstone	(Leeds)	66
187	Neil Harris	(Oxford)	66
188	David Dewsbury	(Croydon)	65
189	Peter Haydon	(Hutton)	65
190	Shaun Browne	(Warrington)	65
191	Richard Stevenson	(Norwich)	65
192	Wayne Percival	(Salford)	64
193	Steven George	(Newcastle)	64
194	Maurice Billington	(Chesterfield)	63
195	Paul Rowden	(Eastbourne)	63
196	Mark Hankey	(Manchester)	62
197	Brian Hill	(Lincoln)	62
198	Daryll Windsor	(Colnbrook)	62
199	Ian Hawes	(Northampton)	62
200	Keith Nicholl	(Corby)	62

WOMEN

No.	Name	Town of Res.	Points
1	Lisa Bellinger	(Dunstable)	1106
2	Joy Grundy	(Preston)	976
3	Alison Gordon	(Reading)	815
4	Fiona Elliot	(Wolverhampton)	610
5	Mandy Sainsbury	(Newbury)	395
6	Jackie Bellinger	(Dunstable)	337
7	Jill Harris	(Walsall)	226
8	Jean Parker	(Preston)	224
9	Juliet Houghton	(Tonbridge)	206
10	Suzanne Airey	(Grantham)	188
11	Joanne Shaw	(Normanton)	185
12	Carol Butler	(Plymouth)	166
13	Karen Smith	(Leicester)	165
14	Jane Barella	(Surbiton)	130
15	Susan Collier	(Maidenhead)	120
16	Claire Maisey	(Swindon)	113
17	Karen Burrows	(Castleford)	112
18	Claire Potts	(Chester)	96
19	Helen Bardwell	(Ware)	92
20	Kim Mudge	(London E13)	92
21	Elaine Short	(Plymouth)	88
22	Teresa Moore	(Bexhill)	86
23	Julie Dimmock	(Dunstable)	83
24	Elaine Sayer	(London E12)	72
25	Sarah Sandley	(Potters Bar)	69
26	Helen Williams	(Enfield)	67
27	Helen Perrott	(Bristol)	67
28	Michelle Hams	(Morden)	66
29	Andrea Holt	(Ramsbottom)	65
30	Melody Hill	(Bradford)	62
31	Angela Mitchell	(Edmonton)	62
32	Debbie Soothill	(Carnforth)	61
33	Julie Billington	(Chesterfield)	58
34	A. Mills		55
35	Diane St Ledger	(Birmingham)	53
36	Kerry Hall	(Chesterfield)	51
37	Lisa Haydon	(Brentwood)	49
38	Sheila King	(St Leonards)	45
39	Lesley Popkiewicz	(Purley)	45
40	Sandra Peakman	(Birmingham)	43
41	Gail Blanch	(Enfield)	43

42	Sally Weston	(Horsham)	42
43	Susan Butler	(Plymouth)	42
44	Jackie Billington	(Chesterfield)	41
45	Mandy Reeves	(Slough)	39
46	Lesley Longstone	(Sheffield)	39
47	Rebecca Russe	(Weston-s-Mare)	38
48	Michelle Cohen	(Bristol)	38
49	Julie Revill	(Oadby)	37
50	Jenny Collins	(Reading)	34
51	Doreen Schofield	(Stockport)	34
52	Joanne Palmer	(Newmarket)	33
53	Helen Shields	(Bradford)	33
54	Cheryl Buttery	(Lincoln)	32
55	Amanda Goodwin	(Manchester)	32
56	Melonie Seaton	(Doncaster)	31
57	Deborah Simmonds	(Virginia Water)	28
58	Susan Culbertson	(Birmingham)	28
59	Gillian Sharpe	(Lincoln)	27
60	Dawn Campbell	(Dunstable)	26
61	Leanne Harman	(Bournemouth)	26
62	Sarah Hammond	(Southampton)	25
63	Janet Parker	(Swindon)	25
64	Joan Harden	(Birmingham)	24
65	Claire Hunter	(Swindon)	24
66	Debbie Hoyland	(Bexhill)	23
67	Jane Vickers	(Derby)	23
68	Kathy Ridyard	(Winchester)	22
69	Julie McLean	(Hull)	22
70	Samantha Scott-Pawson	(Bournemouth)	22
71	Julie Speight	(Pontefract)	21
72	Christine Appelby	(Preston)	21
73	Susan Radley	(Lincoln)	21
74	Theresa Butler	(Plymouth)	21
75	Esme Stevenson	(Bude)	19

JUNIOR BOYS

No.	Name	Town of Res.	Points
1	Matthew Syed	(Reading)	869
2	Bradley Billington	(Chesterfield)	733
3	Michael O'Driscoll	(Mirfield)	512
4	Sean Gibson	(Chorley)	397
5	Chris Oldfield	(Sheffield)	367
6	David Carse	(Bury)	231
7	Damien Holland	(Billericay)	191
8	Neil Pickard	(Reepham)	182
9	David Morris	(Pontesbury)	179
10	Andrew Ball	(Wakefield)	178
11	Adrian Thorpe	(Wolverhampton)	174
12	John Holland	(Nottingham)	164
13	Jonathon Taylor	(Manchester)	149
14	Matthew Pernet	(Esher)	143
15	Neil Simms	(Pontefract)	141
16	Mark Ward	(Sheffield)	137
17	Leigh Jeffries	(Birmingham)	132
18	Richard Hutchinson	(Ipswich)	131
19	Darren Smith	(Birmingham)	129
20	Phillip Szekeres	(Enfield)	119
21	Andrew Eden	(Preston)	116
22	Adrian Bolton	(Nottingham)	114
23	Andrew Houghton	(Tonbridge)	112
24	Tommy Cutler	(Willesden)	109
25	Keith Hodder	(Reading)	109
26	Scott Greenbrook	(Crawley)	106
27	Richard Aitken	(Torquay)	101
28	Robert Fearn	(Nottingham)	100
29	Graeme Connelly	(Camberley)	99
30	Richard Pike	(Wetherby)	99
31	Jason Clarke	(East Ham)	97
32	Michael Harrison	(Tunbridge Wells)	95
33	Stuart Miller	(Stockton)	89
34	Ian Bird	(Rushden)	85
35	Paul Burgess-Allan	(Frimley)	82
36	Stuart Grassick	(Edmonton)	81
37	Mark Stephenson	(Halifax)	80
38	Richard Jones	(Morden)	80
39	Grant Solder	(Barking)	79
40	Neil Bevan	(Bude)	77
41	Gary Knights	(Barton-on-Trent)	75
42	Wayne Renton	(Oldham)	74
43	Kevin Lawrence	(Brownhills)	73
44	Gavin Black	(Bedford)	72
45	Robert Scott-Birchall	(Allstree)	64
46	Ian Harris	(Woodford Green)	62

A star in the making

Fiona Brown and John Woodford

LISA BELLINGER is a European Bronze medalist and the current English No. 1. At nineteen she has played in two World Championships and currently lies 10th in the European ranking list and 28th in the world. During the past three years there have been triumphs and disappointments to test not only her dedication to table tennis but her strength as an individual — it is a credit to the first lady of English table tennis that she has emerged to mount a tremendous challenge both at home and abroad which may give us all good reason to fly the flag during the seasons ahead.

Lisa sprang into the world arena in the spring of 1983 when, at the tender age of sixteen, she amazed onlookers with a series of remarkable World Championship victories in Tokyo.

Upon returning to the Bellinger family home in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, Lisa found herself at No. 15 in the European senior rankings with what appeared to be a glittering career lying ahead of her.

Alas, the fairytale was not to have a happy ending — at least not straight away. On January 1st 1985 the ITTF introduced the two colour rule for bat coverings and Miss Bellinger, a combination bat player, suddenly found that the enemy radar could anticipate her every move and, to a very significant degree, take evasive action. The arsenal of strokes which had thus far enabled her to bamboozle opponents was instantly rendered inadequate.

Those who had boldly likened her defensive style and potential to that of the great Jill Hammersley were left to wonder whether Lisa possessed a talent of similar magnitude or whether, as her critics were swift to hint, she had merely harnessed the power of technology without fully understanding it.

Indeed the transition from technologist to tactician was not an easy one and for twelve months Lisa made only a limited impression on the domestic front. Patience and hard work were finally rewarded in February 1985 when she triumphed in the Essex 3 Star Open and, as if the ice had been broken, she battled to win

her first national title barely four weeks later at Bletchley.

It was this victory which gave Lisa the coveted No. 1 place in the English women's Lentec computer list and with it came the vital selections for foreign Open tournaments and European League fixtures.

Whilst remaining, essentially, a defensive player, it is without doubt the development of an impressive attacking repertoire which has reintroduced the vital third dimension to Lisa's game during 1986 and as her bronze medal performances in the Triumph Adler English Open and the European Championships have shown, she is once again beginning to make a serious international impact.

Strangely, domestic success proved rather elusive last season. In the National Top 12 Lisa's hopes all but evaporated in round one as an astonished crowd watched her elder sister, Jackie (the English No. 6) demolish the favourite but characteristically she rallied to finish second behind arch rival Alison Gordon.

Six months later she withered in the English Closed final when faced with strong resistance from Lancastrian, Joy Grundy.

Lisa Bellinger is not the sort of person to promise revenge but you may rest assured that she will be one of the fittest and well practiced girls to take to the table in the 1986 Stiga Top 12 for 'second' is not a word she understands. "I've been practising with games up to 11 points, at first I was amazed how different the game seemed but I will be ready to give

my best effort by the time I get to Soham," says Lisa.

The experience of playing in another Top 12 event, the competition format which all the players agree is the most physically and mentally demanding of any in table tennis, will stand Lisa in good stead when she contests her first European Top 12 in January 1987. "I am really looking forward to playing in Basle, backspinners have won this event in the past so who knows!"

Later in the season Lisa may find a very hefty burden placed upon her shoulders when the English team travel to meet the Federal Republic of Germany in the final European League match of the season. Both teams are well favoured to remain unbeaten until this meeting and if so the prize at stake will be not only a victory on the night but a premier division place worth many thousands of pounds in future income and the guarantee of more regular first class competition for Lisa and her teammates. "It is just possible that I might be selected," says Lisa with the natural modesty which endears her to so many people involved in all levels of our game, "and if so it could mean another tussle with Olga Nemes. Although I have beaten her twice in recent meetings Olga is a very dangerous opponent. I suppose her all out attacking style suits me, she puts my defence to the test with her heavy topspin which I rate as one of the strongest in the women's game." Yes Lisa, but can you beat her again? "If I am in an England shirt you will get 100% effort, I can't say any more than that."

In addition to her international and domestic tournament commitments, Lisa also finds the time to play in two major league competitions. She has just signed a new contract to play for Omega

Reading in the Schildkrot British League. "I am looking forward to these matches, I know that the high standard is going to be tough but it is just what I need to keep on improving. I am sure that I can do a good job for Omega."

So what of all those other free weekends? "Are you joking, what's a free weekend? No, seriously I am continuing my contract with Molndal in the Swedish National Women's League although I don't think that I will be travelling quite as often as I have during the past two seasons. Whilst the Swedish men players are amongst the best in Europe their women aren't quite as strong."

Both Lisa and her sister, Jackie, seem to have the necessary business acumen to make the most of their table tennis talents for in addition to a 'very satisfactory' arrangement with Swedish equipment manufacturers Stiga the girls are well sponsored by the American company, Dietary Foods Ltd. who have their British base in Soham, near Cambridge. The girls actively promote the well known sweetener, 'Sweet and Low' and have already been involved in advertising campaigns aimed at the catering industry.

One person who certainly appreciates all of Lisa's talents is fiance Andrew Lomas who is to make 'an honest woman' of her during 1987. "We haven't fixed a date yet," says Lisa, "but sometime in June seems favourite." So what of her future in table tennis? "Obviously you're not the first to ask, the answer's the same though — I intend to sustain my career. This isn't a whirlwind romance or anything, Andrew and I have known each other for several years. Although he is a printer by profession he is also a keen amateur footballer which helps him to appreciate my sporting ambitions."

And what of these ambitions? Lisa is too modest to predict a successful future but our crystal ball suggests that the benefits of time, experience and technical expertise will make her a strong contender at the forthcoming World Championships in New Delhi and pave the way for further European success in Paris, 1988.

If our predictions are born out and Lisa climbs to the top of the European rostrum in eighteen months time, she will fully deserve her triumph. It will be the first English success in the event since Jill Hammersley in 1976 and a super 21st birthday present for one of the most pleasant personalities involved in top level sport today.

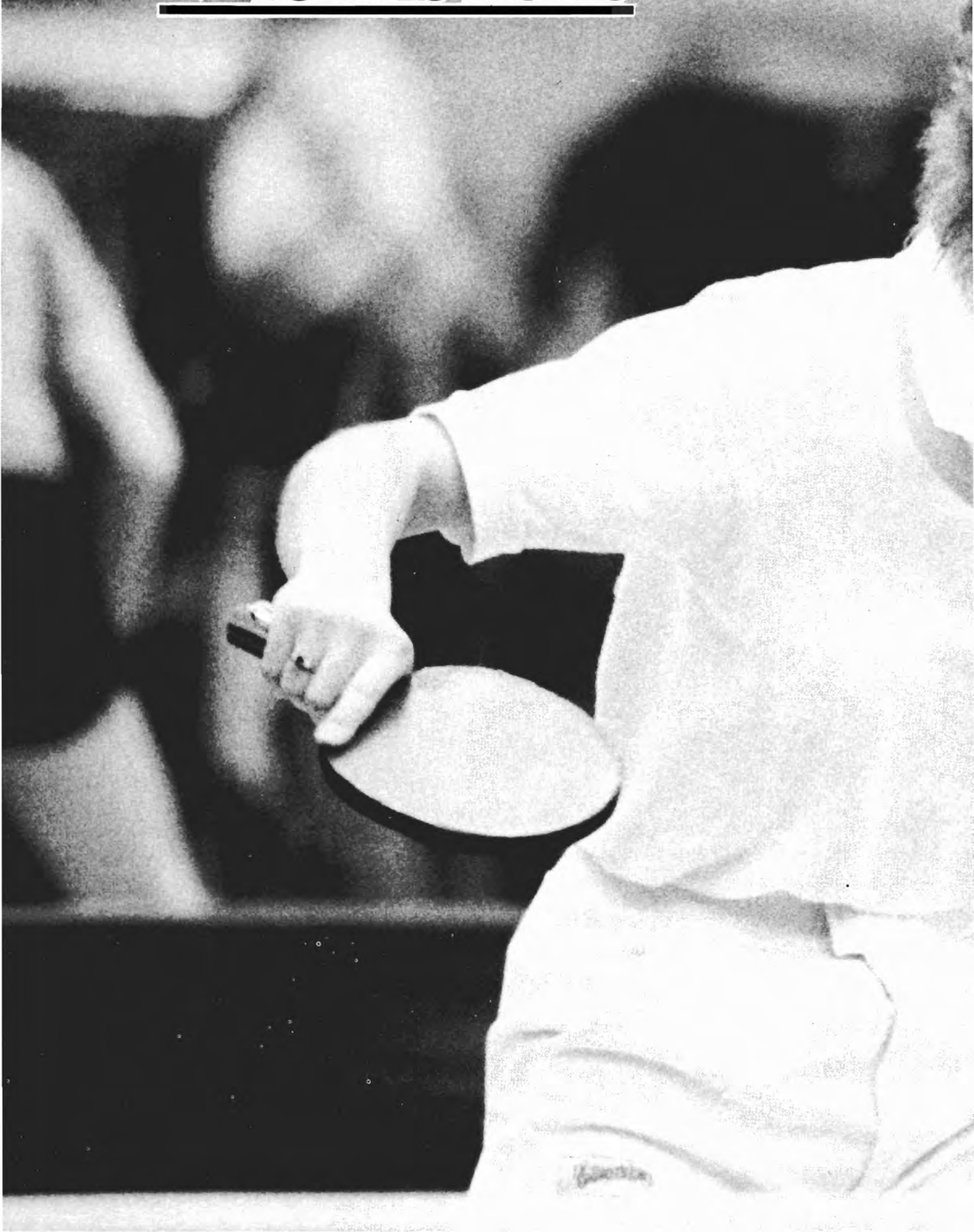


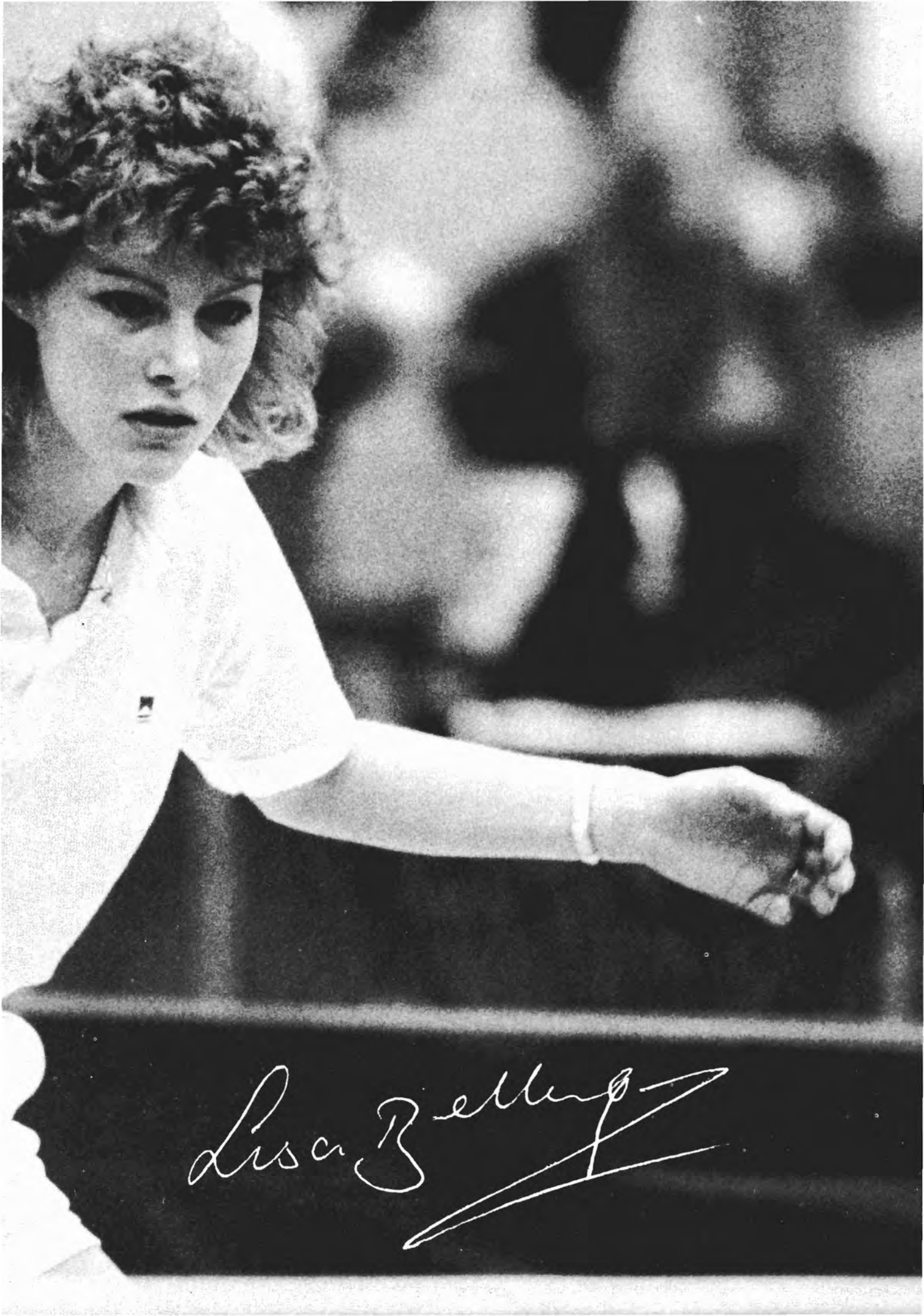
Even Lisa has to wait for her turn at the table.

Ben Radford - Action Images 01-882-8484



Table Tennis News





Lisa Bell




Schildkröt

British Table Tennis League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association



Fizz, bang, wallop!

THE new season has brought to the Schildkröt British League a new team with the highest of aspirations - both on and off the table. Team Ramlosa Essex is the mechanism which finally tempted the well known figure of Bernard Chatterley to emerge from his self imposed semi-retirement from table tennis. Bernard returns as the media mind behind the eight man Team Ramlosa squad which is headed by Des Charlery, Stuart Gibbs, Richard Darnell and Ian Attridge.

"When I was first approached I said the only thing that would make me do it was a sound three year sponsorship deal" says Bernard "Thankfully my experience as Assistant to the Director of the World Games - London 1985 - stood me in good stead. I ap-



Team Ramlosa media man, Bernard Chatterley enjoys one of his other sporting interests.

Malcolm Tandy 0926 314812

proached my contact in Ramlosa, a Swedish mineral water manufacturer and he produced precisely the package I required." So what of Team Ramlosa now that play has commenced, "I was pleased with the way we handled our opening match against Deptford Rams, 6-2 isn't a bad result when you consider that we didn't field our strongest team!"

A sound investment

Further north, in Bradford new sponsorship has brought a change of name and fortune as 3 star coach Hans Soova explains "Unity Bradford is now to be known as Bradford Investments, we have struck a very useful deal with a local finance company and our entire team is delighted." But can the new finance help Bradford to keep their rising young star, Michael O'Driscoll. "We are hopeful of making the jump back into division 1 and if we succeed then it's possible that Michael will stay, if not my advice to him would be to move elsewhere for the sake of his own career. He always gives 100% effort for Bradford and the combination of this with the skill and experience of Steve Sharpe make us a good match for the other teams in division 2 North."

Meanwhile 3rd division West team, Duchy Windows Launceston, have announced their continuing support from the glazing company who first stepped in to help the local league squad in 1985.



Launceston League Treasurer Ron Barnes (centre right) receives a £300 cheque from Paul Smith of Duchy Windows. The Duchy Windows Launceston Schildkröt side look on. Ron Cable 0566 2050

Trend Setters

Well Connected Wellingborough, formerly Playrite Northampton, look set to cut a dash thanks to their new sponsor who specializes in top quality men's fashionwear - a picture would be nice lads, so blow the dust off the box brownie this season.

That last comment applies to several teams who seem to be a little camera shy - let us have your

snaps, preferably black and white and we will do our best to give you an honourable mention.

The flying bug

Rumour has it that England International Alison Gordon has invested in a 'customized' VW Beetle to help her reach the Ashford Club. Alison is currently heading the Ashford second team in division 2 South and dividing her time between practice and work for her sponsor/employer Xidex, the computer software company.

Alison Gordon, a new face at Ashford.

Ben Radford - Action Images 01 882 8434



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Schildkrot British League

1986/87 Leading rankings

Premier division

Butterfly Cardiff

- 1 Nigel Tyler
- 2 Alan Griffiths
- 3 Nigel Thomas
- 4 Andrew Jones

GKN Steelstock

- #### Wolverhampton I
- 1 Desmond Douglas
 - 2 Nicky Mason
 - 3 Philip Bradbury
 - 4 Carl Morgan

Grove I

- 1 John Souter
- 2 Jimmy Stokes
- 3 Graham Sandley
- 4 Steve Mills

MBS St Neots I

- 1 Stuart Palmer
- 2 Keith Richardson
- 3 Stephen Moore
- 4 Michael Harper

Omega Reading

- 1 Andrew Syed
- 2 Andrew Wellman
- 3 Adrian Dixon
- 4 David Barr

Ormesby I

- 1 John Hilton
- 2 Nigel Eckersley
- 3 John Broe
- 4 David McIlroy

Panoramic Bath I

- 1 Kevin Satchell
- 2 Colin Wilson
- 3 Matthew Syed
- 4 Adrian Moore

Rotherham

- 1 Steven Scowcroft
- 2 Chris Rogers
- 3 Dave Gannon
- 4 Chris Oldfield

First division

Byker Newcastle

- 1 Neil McMaster
- 2 Eddie Smith
- 3 Ian Robertson
- 4 Thomas Blackman

Chan

Construction I

- 1 Philip Gunn
- 2 Murray Jukes
- 3 Lester Bertie
- 4 Richard Tanner

Dagenham FC I

- 1 David Newman
- 2 John Burleton
- 3 Tony Penny
- 4 John Green

Express Sports

- #### (Banda) Torbay I
- 1 Paul Whiting
 - 2 Andy Creed
 - 3 Paul Giles
 - 4 Malcolm Francis

Omega Claw II

- 1 Lisa Bellinger
- 2 Neil Taylor
- 3 Sean Gibson
- 4 Mark Oakley

TCB Dolphins

- 1 Phil Smith
- 2 Ritchie Venner
- 3 Andrew Dodd
- 4 Steve Holloway

TSP Larkhall I

- 1 Mike Hammond
- 2 Percy Collino
- 3 David Harding
- 4 Rupert Bole

West Warwickshire/

- #### Birmingham
- 1 Barry Johnson
 - 2 Andrew Bellingham
 - 3 Andy Rich
 - 4 Dhru Parmar

Second division

North

March

- 1 Geoff Davies
- 2 Gary Jordan
- 3 Andy Withers
- 4 Robert Swift

EAE Waveney

- 1 Phillip Logsdon
- 2 Keith Samuels
- 3 Neil Pickard
- 4 Russell King

GKN Steelstock

- #### Wolverhampton II
- 1 Craig Bakewell
 - 2 Fiona Elliot
 - 3 Trevor Washington
 - 4 Mark Evans

Kingbro Insurance

- #### Services
- 1 Stephen Brunskill
 - 2 Michael Emmerson
 - 3 Malcolm Corking
 - 4 Ian Plummer

Oldham

- 1 Tim Hatton
- 2 Larry Bainbridge
- 3 Howard Leigh
- 4 Nick Mooney

Ormesby II

- 1 Keith Rodger
- 2 Ian McLean
- 3 Lindsay Taylor
- 4 Denis Neale

Sincil Lincoln

- 1 Phillip Vickers
- 2 Stuart Worrell
- 3 David Skerratt
- 4 Trevor Kerry

Unity Bradford

- 1 Michael O'Driscoll
- 2 Steven Sharpe
- 3 Mark Ward
- 4 Steven Worsman

Second division

South

Ashford I

- 1 Kenny Jackson
- 2 Max Crimmins
- 3 Glen Baker
- 4 David Goode

C and L Nittaku

- 1 Joey Kennedy
- 2 Dipak Topiwala
- 3 John Taylor
- 4 Andrew Cunningham

Fellows Cranleigh

- 1 Paul Sayer
- 2 Peter Northcott
- 3 Mark Wicker
- 4 David Window

Global Sports

- #### Plymouth
- 1 Gary Wilson
 - 2 Stuart Richards
 - 3 Mike Short
 - 4 Tony Sweet

Gunnorsbury

Triangle

- 1 Jonathon Proffitt
- 2 Babs Adedayo
- 3 Simon Proffitt
- 4 Peter Simmonds

Jaques Fareham

- 1 Graham Toole
- 2 Ramish Bhalla
- 3 David Pilcher
- 4 Chris Shelter

Medway

- 1 Paul Amos
- 2 Andy Mitchell
- 3 Bobby Brown
- 4 Tony Spain

TSP Larkhall II

- 1 Gordon Chapman
- 2 Brian Garraway
- 3 Derek Holman
- 4 Steve Davis

Third division

North

Byker Newcastle II

- 1 Steven George
- 2 Michael Thomas
- 3 Andrew Hammett
- 4 Phillip Stafford

Chan

Construction II

- 1 Ron Vose
- 2 Steven Bertie
- 3 Peter Machin
- 4 David Rudge

City of Leeds

- 1 Michael Stead
- 2 Paul Sanderson
- 3 Craig Pender
- 4 Julian Gittens

Crusaders Lincoln

- 1 Jimmy Brewster
- 2 Paul Moore
- 3 Peter Mackie
- 4 John Malone

Grove II

- 1 Steve Turner
- 2 Bradley Billington
- 3 Malcolm Green
- 4 John Ellis

Leicester TTC

- 1 Phil Smith
- 2 Graeme Hall
- 3 Martin Pickles
- 4 Maurice Newman

Ormesby III

- 1 Mark Simon
- 2 Peter Abell
- 3 David Fewsdale
- 4 Jevon Chan

Vickers Sports

Barrow

- 1 Neil Smith
- 2 Neil Yardley
- 3 Alan Fay
- 4 John Backhouse

Third division

South

Aheng Warriors

- 1 Joseph Quansah
- 2 Martin Shuttle
- 3 Neville Miller
- 4 Frank Hams

Ashford II

- 1 Alison Gordon
- 2 Jonathon Goode
- 3 David Welsman
- 4 Daryll Windsor

Countrymen

Tunbridge Wells

- 1 Mark Brown
- 2 Mark Romano
- 3 Gregory Barden
- 4 Michael Harrison

Deptford Rams

- 1 Junior Facey
- 2 Jeff Chapman
- 3 Chris Beckley
- 4 Ayaode Ademakinwa

Errey's Print '84

- 1 Roger Chandler
- 2 Nicky Standen
- 3 Paul Rowden
- 4 Phil Richardson

Rejects

- 1 Michael O'Leary
- 2 Richard Beckham
- 3 Peter Harry
- 4 Gordon Holmes

Team Ramlosa

Essex

- 1 Des Charlery
- 2 Stuart Gibbs
- 3 Kevin Caldon
- 4 Richard Darnell

Thorn EMI

Ellenborough

- 1 Tony Stark
- 2 Philip Szekeres
- 3 John Lennon
- 4 Elaza Brown

Third division

East

AHW Pioneers

- 1 David Sharpe
- 2 Jackie Bellinger
- 3 Les Wooding
- 4 Phil Aspinall

Britannia Ipswich

- 1 John Kitchener
- 2 Julian Wheel
- 3 Mick Palmer
- 4 Richard Hutchinson

Dagenham FC II

- 1 Henry Buist
- 2 Damien Holland
- 3 Tony West
- 4 Phillip Cox

MBS St Neots II

- 1 Peter Taylor
- 2 Keith Willett
- 3 Andrew Trott
- 4 Simon Griew

Norwich Foxwood

- 1 Richard Stevenson
- 2 Martyn Stevenson
- 3 Steven Howlett
- 4 David Honor

Smith Motors

Peterborough

- 1 Martin Gladders
- 2 Philip Halmshaw
- 3 Julian Tee
- 4 Simon Pryke

Well Connected

Wellingborough

- 1 Graeme McKim
- 2 Nat Richardson
- 3 Keith Nicoll
- 4 Andy Edmonds

Witham Town FC

- 1 Peter Hayden
- 2 David Cole
- 3 Don McGilvray
- 4 Chris Knight

Third division

West

Duchy Windows

Launceston

- 1 Jeremy Williams
- 2 Neil Bevan
- 3 Mark James
- 4 Martin Stanley

Express Sports

(Banda) Gwent

- 1 Brian Jeanes
- 2 Nick Williams
- 3 Andrew Evans
- 4 Warwick Armstrong

Express Sports

(Banda) Torbay II

- 1 Carol Butler
- 2 Lee Sadler
- 3 Philip Payne
- 4 Steve Black

Jolliffe Poole

- 1 Tony Clayton
- 2 Hakan Sigrell
- 3 Mark Werner
- 4 John Robinson

KCD Stiga

- 1 Dave Constance
- 2 Sue Collier
- 3 Neil Harris
- 4 Ian Brown

Leominster

- 1 Mark Owen
- 2 Darren Griffin
- 3 Steve Moreman
- 4 Andrew Castle

Panoramic Bath II

- 1 Kevin Edwards
- 2 Chris Holley
- 3 Trevor Lloyd
- 4 Bob Murray

County Notes

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

AT the start of the season the Newbury league were sorry to lose two of their long established clubs - Community Centre and Baptist Club - but have nevertheless managed to retain five divisions comprising of 53 teams, a drop of only three when compared with last season. Press secretary, Bruce Mackenzie, is tipping Wootton Hill, led by David Reeves, to retain the division 1 title.

County No 1 cadet, Martin Adams of Bracknell, will doubtless be hoping to reinforce his recent good performance in the first 2 Star tournament of the season at Kirklees where he reached the semi-final of the cadet doubles (with Peter France of Doncaster) and was a quarter-finalist in the singles - bowing out after close contests with Preston's England No 3 Andrew Eden in both cadet and junior events. We should look forward to charting the progress of Berkshire's youngest ranked player, Ben Johnson of Reading during the season. If keenness alone makes champions Ben would surely already be a winner, and with big Jim Stokes as his mentor anything is possible.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Geoff Waters

DESPITE problems with the availability of men for the county last season, the committee again decided to enter two senior teams, in addition to two junior in the County Championships.

A county trial for the top sixteen men took place on Sunday 5th October at Soham Sports Centre and a full report will feature in next months' column.

Our women, Joanne Pettitt, Hilary Finch, Yvette Hooks and Alison Edge look destined to carry on where they left off last season.

The first team will again compete in division 2a, with new fixtures against Leicestershire, Northumberland and Gloucestershire.

We expect to see some new faces in the Gloucestershire team who we have not met at senior level since 1971.

Cambridgeshires second team, who finished as runners-up in division 3b last season, have been transferred to 3c. Only Essex II remain of last season's opponents, with Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Norfolk and Suffolk first teams providing the other opposition.

Vital points

Both junior teams will again compete in 3b and the first team will be looking for a little more luck this season. Last season, they tied for top place with Bedfordshire having the same number of points and sets. In the end, they missed promotion by just one game.

The juniors have lost just two players this season, with Nick Ashman now being over-age, while Matthew Laughlin has gone into what we all hope will be only a temporary 'retirement'.

The County Championships are to take place on 21st February 1987 when we return to the Soham Sports Centre.

Congratulations to Cambridge

The Cambridge league, founded in 1936, celebrates its golden jubilee this season. Les Constable, one of its founder members, has held every office at one time or another and is still doing sterling work as General Secretary. Tony Brochie has been Competitions Secretary for 25 years and he has inferred that this will be his last season.

DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

THE new season opens with Derbyshire eagerly looking forward to the senior county team competing in the Premier division for the first time. Our three juniors in the county senior squad, Kerry Hall, Julie and Bradley Billington will not be lacking in experience. News of county captain Alan Cooke's contract to play in Sweden has only just been received and his presence in the team will, hopefully, be unaffected on the two weekends involved - if available he will certainly bolster our confidence.

The 39th AGM of the Derbyshire Table Tennis Association was held at the County offices, Matlock on Thursday, 19th June 1986. Confidence in the committee was shown, although Arthur Morgan has chosen to resign the posts of County Umpires Secretary and National Councillor.

The following Officers were elected:-

Chairman: Mr. E. Lough; Vice-Chairman: Mr. R. Harrison; Secretary: Mr. L. Allwood; Treasurer: Mr. C.W. Blair; County Championships Secretary: Mr. L. Allwood; Treasurer: Mr. C.W. Blair; County Championships Secretary: Mr. L. Allwood; County League Secretary: Mr. B.R. Smith; County Umpires Secretary: Mr. C. McLean; County Coaching Secretary: Mr. D. Marples; County Challenge Cup Secretary: Mr. E. Lough; County Press Secretary: Mr. M. Allsop; County Senior Team Captain: Mr. A. Cooke; County Junior 1st Team Captain: Mrs. J. Billington; County Junior 2nd Team Captain: Mr. H. Birchall.

The Derbyshire challenge cup was won by Ilkeston Institute 'B' (Eastwood) who beat Uttoxeter 'B' (Burton) in the final held at the PE Centre, Hill Street, Burton.

The Derby league has suffered a blow with the abandonment of the proposed new headquarters which was to have operated, in conjunction with the local athletics clubs at the Municipal Sports Ground. Whilst there was a great deal of support from certain sections of the membership, the apathy of some members meant the committee had to abandon the project because of the financial involvement after a Special General Meeting failed to attract a quorum.

The league has received a drop in membership, with no new clubs coming into the league once again. One anticipates the loss of some players each season, and even some clubs due to circumstances beyond the League's control; but new players and clubs have to be recruited. How? Present methods are not working, so new ideas must be tried!

The Eastwood league has managed to maintain its membership, and the coaching scheme and junior league must take credit for their success in maintaining this strength - against the national trend.

DORSET

Martin Hughes

THE county rankings are as follows:

Senior men

- 1 Tony Clayton
- 2 Martin Abbott
- 3 Hakan Sigrell
- 4 Mark Werner
- 5 John Robinson
- 6 Rodney Thomas
- 7 Jason Creasey
- 8 Martin Hughes
- 9 Terry Glennon
- 10 Mike Hughes

Senior women

- 1 Cheryl Skevington
- 2 Leanne Harman
- 3 Joyce Coop
- 4 Sam Scott-Pawson
- 5 Suzanne Hegarty
- 6 Tracey Scott-Pawson
- 7 Jean Smith
- 8 Sarah Thomas

Veteran men

- 1 Mike Toole
- 2 Taffy Davies
- 3 Trevor Smith
- 4 Cyril Bush
- 5 Dennis Joyce
- 6 Dave Woodcock
- 7 Eric Buckley
- 8 Brian Bickell
- 9 Harry Feltham
- 10 Syd Brice

Veteran women

- 1 J. Coop
- 2 D. Robins
- 3 C. Baldwin
- 4 C. Reed.

Poole League

The Poole League will consist of six teams in the premier division and nine teams in the first and second divisions this season. The premier division teams will play each team four times, whilst the first and second will meet twice.

Two new teams have joined the league this season, Branksome Boys Club and NALGO. We hope they will enjoy their season and be with us for many years to come.

Lytchett A are once again the favourites to win the premier division, although Broadstone should put up some fierce opposition.

DURHAM

Harry Black

AT the Durham County meeting in June it was decided not to enter a team in the senior division of the County Championships, but to have a junior team entered in its place. The juniors will compete in division 3a.

Trials were to have been held at the end of September and the first match of the season is on Saturday 18th October, when the team travel south to play Clwyd.

The Durham County league gets underway in October with a senior and junior division. We hope to include a veterans division, for the very first time, if there is sufficient interest.

Peterlee and Sunderland B are the holders of the senior and junior divisional titles respectively.

Congratulations to Dermot Ledwith and Steven Riggins for their inclusion at numbers 15 and 17 respectively in the latest Lentec Cadet Boys rankings and to Ian Telford who appears at No

92 in the junior boys list. Dermot and Steven won the Cadet Boys Doubles at the Kirklees Junior 2 Star in early September.

The Durham 2 Star will be held this season at Easington Leisure Centre, Peterlee on Saturday 21st March, 1987.

Any leagues wishing to have information placed in my column are requested to send such contributions to me at:- 174 Queen Alexandra Road, Sunderland SR3 1XH.

ESSEX

Laurie Darnell

AT the County Championships conference, in June, Essex put forward two propositions but unfortunately both were defeated.

During the discussion the championships Administrator, Les Smith, said that it was essential for him to receive any complaints by letter.

I am happy to report that our new General Secretary, Gill Squier is up and about again after being knocked down in a road accident in August. The distribution of the County Handbook will, as a consequence, be delayed.

Roy Franklin tells me that every league is represented in the inter-league competition. The total entry of 132 teams playing in 24 divisions is the same as last season. Southend are once again the most enthusiastic league, having provided twelve representative teams.

Five teams from Essex entered the St. Ives Table Tennis Club's junior tournament. Brentwood, Chelmsford, Fellows Cranleigh, Lansbury and Woodford Wells sent either under 12, cadet or junior teams. David Deller, organiser of the inter-club tournament said that the Northumberland entry travelled the farthest. 72 teams representing 19 counties took part in the event at the St. Ivo Recreation Centre, Cambridgeshire, over the weekend of 27th/28th September 1986 and a full report of our county's achievement will appear in my next column.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppert

AFTER a spring and summer of -Madonna and Maradonna adulation it's somewhat refreshing to face a new table tennis season. There is always something about our particular sport that seems to bring the best out of most people connected - both players and administrators alike, we must try if possible to forget the dismal happenings to TTN this past season and now strive for better things.

The County closed championships have been arranged for November 23rd at the Cheltenham Indoor Cricket Club. This annual tournament created considerable interest last year and was well supported. Outside of the top County players the crystal ball becomes somewhat cloudy - the defending champion Darren Griffin looks every inch accustomed as the player "to the manor born".

County Notes

Our senior men and women won division 3c in the County Championships last season, and as a direct result have leapt rather astronomically into division 2a for this season, they venture up to far off Northumberland on October 18th for their first match.

The juniors efforts last season were a little less hectic, finally managing third position to remain in division 3c.

Nearly but not quite

I mentioned in the June/July edition of TTN that Cirencester had, after some 26 years of total table tennis abstinence, successfully re-formed a league. Attending their AGM back in the summer I was saddened to learn that they are not proposing to become affiliated this season, hopefully they may have a change of thought and policy in the near future.

On Sunday the 13th July at the Gloucester Leisure Centre, Gloucester City played hosts to Hereford and Worcester in the week long - 'Three Cities Festival of sport', as defending champions in the table tennis section. Gloucester's team of - Darren Griffin, Kim Jackson, Peter Wood, Lorna Bell, Lawrence Symonds and Cheryl Fannin tried desperately to retain their title but were narrowly beaten into second place by Worcester's - Paul Ashcroft, Brian Thompson, Richard Pratley, Helen Pogmore, Linda Reid and Michelle McDornell, under the non-playing captaincy of Frank Southam. Hereford, next years host city came third.

For the first time in several seasons the County will be extended junior trial invitations. These took place on Sunday October 5th at Cheltenham College.

Lucky Thirteen

On the league scene Gloucester City remain fairly static with a reported seven divisions but the large Rudford & Highleadon club in the City league seem to go from strength to strength. Secretary Stenneth Salisbury informs me that he has registered thirteen teams for this season, that's going some for sure.

Stroud and Cheltenham show a slight deficit and are now reduced to four divisions each, let us hope that this is merely a temporary set back.

Gill Smith - Cheltenham's chairperson - tells me that congratulations are due to John Greening who has done a marvellous job this summer in running the Cheltenham Summer League.

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

I WILL start my first report of the new season by apologising for my reports - or lack of them - last season. I, like many readers and correspondents alike, suffered from the unpredictable copy and publication dates and erratic editing of the reports and thereby suffered a loss of interest! A further problem that increased last season was the complete absence of reports from local

leagues. I have been promised regular reports from them this season which I hope will enable me to give a more complete coverage to all areas of the county.

Inter town round up

Aldershot won the mixed division preventing, by a single set, Southampton from winning their first title in 12 years. Aldershot also won the mens division but failed to retain their junior division one title which went to Southampton for the first time since 1973. Basingstoke won the junior division two title, Bournemouth the veteran division one and Aldershot the division two title. The new Jack Carlington trophy for the best junior average was won jointly by Sarah Hammond (Southampton) and Jason Hegarty (Bournemouth) both with 100% records.

National honour

Southampton's Ray Yates has received the ETTA's Leslie Forest memorial award for the 1985/86 season. No one could have done more for the County Championships in Hampshire and having now retired from his full time employment with AC Delco seems to be devoting even more time to the game.

We commence the new season with a new County chairman as Terry Duffield of Basingstoke takes over from Brian Lamerton. I wish Terry well in this job - not an easy one with such a far flung County.

A few dates for your diary this season. The Hampshire senior closed will be on Sunday 23rd November and the junior closed on Sunday 8th February 1987. The junior block matches will be on Sunday 21st December and Sunday 1st March. All of these events will be held at Redbridge sports centre, Southampton.

The senior A team were unluckily relegated but captain Chris Shetler is confident of an early return to division two. The County have entered a second senior team this season to be captained by Tony Catt. The junior team retained their status but have lost some of their players and could find this a hard season. The veterans A team have been promoted despite finishing only third, they find themselves in the premier division for the first time. Much of their success last season was due to the play of Fred and Ivy Kershaw and I understand that neither will be playing for the county this season. The second Veteran team won their division and have also been promoted. I will report on the trials and county rankings in my next report.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

THE Hertfordshire Table Tennis Association's 'Ping-Pong-A-Thon' table tennis marathon started with a bounce on Friday 25th July at 9pm, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

Mick Harper of the Motorola Club of Hitchin and Mike Levene of the

Fullerians Club of Watford, were given the privilege of starting the ball rolling for the 16 day continuous 384 hour marathon, with participants from the Barnet, Bishop's Stortford, Borehamwood, Cheshunt, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, North Herts., St. Albans, Watford and Welwyn & Hatfield leagues cheering them on!

Proceedings commenced earlier with an exhibition by England Internationals Mark Mitchell from Hampstead, London, and Hertfordshire's very own Colin Wilson from Cuffley. This was both humorous and excellent.

Both Mitchell and Wilson, who are playing this season for Panoramic Bath in the Schildkrot British League, at one stage actually played with cheeseboards and saucepans, instead of bats, displaying their superior skills to an enraptured audience.

The main aim of the marathon fund, is the purchase and maintenance of a minibus. The bus will be used to transport junior table tennis players, from all over the county of Hertfordshire, to tournaments, county matches and exhibitions around the country.

The final day turned out to be an occasion of 'love thy neighbour', when TV star Jack Smethurst breezed in to watch the marathon as it neared its successful completion, following 16 days (384 hours) of continuous table tennis.

Jack, who is currently starring in 'Hilliary', joined in the fun as he autographed a mountain of souvenir programmes.

An exhausted army of Hertfordshire table tennis players from all four corners of the county, sighed with relief as the clock struck 9pm, signalling the end of a stupendous achievement.

The honour of completing the last half hour was given to county chairman Doug Tomsett from Watford and county junior secretary Paul Tarrant from Hemel Hempstead.

A tired, but triumphant Tarrant said, "We are all very, very tired, but proud of what we have achieved."

The marathon fund has now approached the £2000 mark, and is still open for offers of sponsorship in return for advertising space on the minibus.



Hertfordshire's Colin Wilson displaying his saucepan skills.

John Wood 0442 44547

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

David Deller

THE new season sees the return of the Huntingdonshire senior team, after one season out of the county championships. The county will also have for the first time two junior teams, although one veteran's team has had to be forfeited, due to the availability of fewer over 40's this term.

The MBS St. Neots Schildkrot British League team have been promoted to the top flight of the British League, and local enthusiasts will now have the chance to see the country's leading players on our own doorstep. Smith's Motors Peterborough enter the British League for the first time, becoming the third team from Hunts to enter this competition.

Julie Haslop (13) has been ranked No. 12 in the first national cadet ranking lists of the new season. In the first Open, at Kirklees, 11 year old Giles Betts reached the semi-final of the under 12 event, whilst at Coventry 12 year old Paul Richards reached the quarter-finals of the cadet singles. All these performances along with the numerous youngsters now playing regularly within our boundary augers well for the future.

The St. Ives Inter Club Team Tournament was successfully completed over the last weekend in September when 72 club teams from 19 counties entered, and over 350 youngsters took part. A full report follows in my next column.

LANCASHIRE

George Yates

AT the AGM of the Lancashire TTA, held at Thames Board Mill, Warrington on 20th May 1986, it was decided that the Red Rose county would not only run a second junior team in the County Championships but also, for the first time, a veterans team, making for five teams in all.

Mark Horsfall of Burnley will be in charge of the junior seconds and Bob Johnson of Oldham is to be responsible for the veterans. Norman Pearson of Blackburn, as the County Match Secretary, will be responsible overall, whilst still being in charge of the two senior teams and the junior first.

No officer changes were effected with the writer re-elected as President, Arthur Upton as Chairman, John McKim as Hon. Secretary and Derek Hardman as Hon. Treasurer.

Following trials at Bolton and Blackburn, the county's selection committee were due to meet on Sept 16 to compile ranking lists hopefully to be published in the November issue.

On the Lancashire and Cheshire league front, under the administration of Dennis Smith of Warrington, some 102 teams have been accepted into membership with 7 men's divisions, 2 women's and 4 junior.



Tables that last buy Jaques

County Notes

Schildkrot season

Sadly Salford Target Gold have had to withdraw from the new Schildkrot British League, Lancashire's sole representative being Oldham who have been promoted into the second division north.

Numerous Lancastrians can be found elsewhere in the Schildkrot League. Former Target Gold star, John Hilton has moved, with his county colleague Nigel Eckersley, to the Ormesby Club. Steven Scowcroft has moved from GKN Wolverhampton to Rotherham and Steve Turner is now with Grove Market Drayton.

This season's Lancashire Open will again be held at British Aerospace, Lostock nr Bolton, on Saturday 25th April, 1987 whilst the Lancashire junior Open will continue at Oldham on Sunday 12th April, the organisers being yours truly and Stuart Sneyd respectively.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Bown

SO there I was one blissful Saturday morning, reflecting on the past summer holiday spent soaking up the sun on the tropical beaches of Rhyll with table tennis, quite frankly, a million miles away from my thoughts when BANG!! I received a lovely letter from Miss Brown informing me of how much copy she will require from me, to help make up the pages of 'Table Tennis News', and that the deadline for the October Issue is September 12th. September 12th!? The season hasn't even started yet! What do I write about? I know dear old Phil Reid - God bless his soul - wouldn't have had any problem delving into his vast knowledge of past experiences. But me!? I'm far too young to be able to do that, honestly!

Well, Tony Pickles and the Leicester leagues' ever popular summer handicap competition, the Elbow tankard summer league, has come to the rescue. This is Tony's first stint at running the competition, and to get proceedings down to the last two by early September proves what an efficient job he's doing.

Quarter final results:- Cobblers 7 1st Class 13 (Rimington 5/6); Kingfishers 13 Rolls Royce 7; Stingers 11 (Day 5/6) Foster's Children 9; Wigston Fields 11 Villagers 12 (Clawson 6/6) after extra time.

In the first semi-final a superb brace of maximums - X 6/6 - from Stingers' Graham Hibberd and Steve Day, together with a fighting 3 out of 4 from Graeme Hall, enabled them to trounce the luckless Kingfishers 17-3. A remarkable result this for the Stingers when one considers that they are division one players who had to concede a total of 148 pts over ten 2 game sets. The second semi-final was a much closer affair which saw 1st

Class, with fine performances from Richard Rimington and Ken Hathaway, get the better of Villagers by the narrow score of 11-9 despite a well earned 4/6 from Dermot Whelan.

Final:- Stingers v 1st Class (to be arranged)

Committee capers

At the time of going to press the following committees are known, hopefully the Hinckley and Loughborough line ups will be revealed in my next column.

Leicestershire:- President - Bryan Hall; Chairman - Mike Holt; Acting Secretary - Ian McKelvey; Treasurer - Karen Smith; Press Officer - Terry Bown; Coaching Secretary - Steve Adams; Umpires Secretary - Keith Bramhall.

Leicester League:- President - Phil Smith; Chairman - Ted Collins; Vice Chairman - Mike Smith; General Secretary - Mrs. Pat Pickles; Assistant General Secretary - Tony Lapworth; Treasurer - Richard Green; Registrations & Gradings Secretary - Ian McKelvey; Publicity Officer - Tony Lillicrapp; 'Top Spin' Editor - Vacant; Coaching Secretary - Steve Adams; Midland League Secretary - Geoff Aldwinckle.

MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

THE "copy" dates for Table Tennis News do not fit in very well with the County's arrangements, and in consequence I do not have very much to tell you this time.

Tyler Trouble

We appear to be in trouble with our County Championships premier division team as Nigel and Lesley Tyler are required for Welsh National duties during the second premier week-end. Unfortunately the crowded events calendar made it impossible for the Table Tennis Association of Wales to avoid a clash of fixtures.

The County Committee has registered two changes. Steve Rose and Geoff Woolmore both decided not to stand for the 1986/87 season and have been replaced by Jack Melnick and Reg Rockall, both of whom I am sure will be well known to tournament players. David Howes has returned to fill the vacancy left in the Committee last season. Otherwise, the Committee remains unchanged.

We are very pleased to report that the Middlesex 3 Star Open Championships are being sponsored by Stiga and arrangements are already well advanced. Entry forms are now available and I have already had my first request - from Canada!

We have not yet finalised the dates for our closed championships. The provisional dates for the senior event are either the 17th and 18th January 1987 or 31st January and 1st February,

and for the junior championships either the 28th February and 1st March or 21st and 22nd March. We will keep you informed through *Table Tennis News* and our own Bulletin of the final dates - and the venues. Keep watching this column!

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

THE Norwich Foxwood Schildkrot British League team start back in the 3rd division East after just one in the second. The reasons for relegation are a permutation of many things, suffice to say that they must get their playing, managing and administrative house in good order for the battles to come and with good team spirit could come good again.

Ken Edwards secretary plus of the Norwich league gave his report at the AGM including an eloquent half hour resume of the 1985/86 season covering every aspect of the game. I found this most interesting and informative. During the present season I hope that the co-operation shown between the county, city and British League will continue to the benefit of them all particularly as the important England v Finland European League match is being played in Norwich on Wednesday 14th January 1987 and all parties will be required to assist in the organisation.

A character in Norwich & Wymondham is Bob King who recently completed 700 consecutive appearances. Bob is the master of the match card comment like 'Practice spoiled by the opposition turning up'.

My club Taverham are celebrating their 21st birthday this month. The club has developed from 5 members and one team to 30 playing members and 7 teams in the Norwich league together with numerous players representing the County and City teams both at junior and senior level. We also supply many officials to the city, county and British league committees, and have three practising umpires as members.

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

NOTHING is new. A slight miscalculation in the Roman times eventually led to the 15th September 1752 following immediately after the 3rd, with the intervening days being 'lost'. Riots followed with people angry that their lives had apparently been shortened by eleven days. Therefore only minor recriminations could be justified for *Table Tennis News'* Olympic like leap from March to September in the current cycle of events, and hopefully all will soon return to blissful normality.

During these missing months, an apprehensive Northants was followed by a sudden improvement in fortunes, with Bert Fawcett, Dorothy Marsh, Dave Marsh and Gwil Evans taking over the positions of treasurer, match secretary, coaching secretary and umpires secretary respectively, and so, finance apart, Northants were once again able to face the approaching season on an even keel.

Junior joy

Immediate rewards were forthcoming when new coach Dave Marsh began the season by taking his young squad to the Coventry 1 Star tournament, where Ian Bird, Richard Ambrose, Kieron Dabbs, David Evans and John Tebbutt all made progress in the boys singles, with Bird reaching the semi-finals. Dabbs emulated this achievement in the under 14 event with Andrew Lingley and Colin Campbell both acquitting themselves favourably. The highlight came in the Boys doubles, where Bird and Evans came within two points of the title before falling at the final hurdle.

Nevertheless this was a fine start for the new regime which must now strive for consistency both in playing ability and loyalty, with the most difficult task being the retention of these qualities when the juniors make the enforced transfer to the senior ranks.

Also in the coaching field, our best wishes go with our National Councillor Ken Marchant, as he moves from the chairmanship of the East Midlands region to a corresponding position in the Eastern region, leaving another local coach Gordon Oke to take over Ken's former position.

Rankings

Men

- 1 Graeme McKim
- 2 Keith Nicoll
- 3 Andy Edmonds

Women

- 1 Mandy Brown
- 2 Margaret Maltby
- 3 Joyce Porter

Junior boys

- 1 Ian Bird
- 2 Richard Ambrose
- 3 Kieron Dabbs

Junior girls

- 1 Caroline Perkins
- 2 Sarah Young
- 3 Joanne Abbott

Cadet boys

- 1 Kieron Dabbs
- 2 Colin Campbell
- 3 Andrew Lingley

The first local event of the season will be the county closed due to be held at Kettering recreation centre on Saturday 15th November, when it is anticipated that all these ranked players, together with a host of eager challengers will be taking part in a new style of event supplemented by several additional events - one more way in which the county's new look image should be enhanced.

..... that's good!!

Jaques

County Notes

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

PETER McQueen, Clare Mouzon and Ian Collier were all double winners in the Tyneside summer league closed tournament at Scotswood Sports Centre on Sunday, July 13th.

Results

MS: McQueen b Eddie Smith 14, 8. **WS:** Mouzon b Lyn Yarnell 15, 16. **MD:** McQueen/Ian Robertson b Malcolm Lusk/Peter Whiteman 22, 14. **JS:** David Watson b Mark Christie 10, -13, 19. **JD:** Michael Curry/Stephen Penman b Watson/Steven Coverdale 15, -20, 16. **CS:** Collier b Stephen Riggins 19, 17. **U-12S:** Collier b Coverdale 7, 11. **H/Cap (Premier/Div 1):** Mouzon b Stuart Proctor 17, 16. **H/Cap (Div 2, 3 and 4):** Bernie Morris b Dave Laverick 17, 20.

The recent sad death of Bart Kin-nair left the post of County President vacant, and Harry Dignan was unanimously elected to fill the position. Bill McMaster and ETTA treasurer Aubrey Drapkin remain as chairman and vice chairman respectively, while Dave Scholfield replaces clubmate Steve Wilson as treasurer. Pauline Long remains as publicity secretary and Ray Main-Brown has been elected as coaching officer for the county.

County trials were due to be held on September 13 in preparation for the first matches on October 18. The newly-promoted senior and veterans' teams will be at home to Gloucestershire and away to Cheshire II respectively, while the junior team — back after a season's absence — also travel to play Cheshire II. Meanwhile, the two Byker Newcastle teams in the Schildkrot British League will both be hoping for better fortune during the coming season which opened on September 14. The first team will be doubly determined to win their division after last season's near miss, while the second team will expect to improve on last season's lowly position.

The Northumberland league season was due to commence on September 22nd, and in addition Brian Thompson was hoping to organise a junior/cadet league in order to give some of the younger players, who would otherwise find difficulty in getting into a league team, the benefit of regular match play.

The Tyneside Summer League was completed at the end of August, and although there were still some late results to come in, the winners and runners-up in each division have already been decided. The winners of the Premier A and B divisions were due to meet in a play-off for the outright championship.

OXFORDSHIRE

Matthew O'Flynn

County rankings

Men

- 1 K. Bushell
- 2 A. Chilvers
- 3 C. Morris

Women

- 1 E. Harrison
- 2 C. Singleton
- 3 M. Thompson

Veteran Men

- 1 S. Hahn
- 2 C. Jackson
- 3 A. Davies

Oxfordshire School of Sport

FOURTEEN youngsters were accepted for this summer's "School of Sport". The sessions were led by National Coach, Nicky Jarvis. He was assisted throughout the week by top lady player, Mandy Sainsbury. The coach-player ratio almost reached one to one as several local coaches gave assistance during the week and we were visited by the National Director of Coaching, David Fairholm. An improvement on previous years was that all play took place at Radley College in the new sports hall whereas the table tennis players had previously been faced with a half hour journey to and from each session. Banbury league were the best represented with seven players on the course. Oxford and Didcot leagues each had three players and Witney one. Everyone worked well and benefit from the experience during the coming season.

Ranking Trials

Unfortunately, the junior boys ranking trial planned for the beginning of September was put back to Sunday 21st September because the use of the proposed venue was lost. The following sixteen boys were invited to take part:-

Oxford league: P. Poulter, N. Yates, G. Yates, I. Packford, A. Hunter, P. Dasher, J. Smith.
Didcot league: P. Mead, P. Haycock, M. Tait, L. Gramaglia, M. Goodall.
Banbury league: D. Rose, S. O'Keefe, R. Giblin, J. Tustain.

Coventry Junior 1 Star

Sally Hughes of the Banbury league marked her continued improvement with an excellent result at Coventry. She started slowly; a little rusty following a summer of tennis. In the cadet girls first round group she gained a comfortable win against P. Hughes of Worcester but lost to Julie Bryant of Leicester. The early rounds of the juniors, in which she beat fellow Banbury player Dawn Barnett and lost narrowly to Rebecca Ledwitch, gave her the chance to work back into form in time for the final stages of the cadets.

In the semi-final she reversed the earlier result against Ledwitch with a tight game and accurate attacking flurries. Then came the Final; a return with Julie Bryant. It was an exciting test of nerves. Sally Hughes showed mental strength as well as physical

power and won in the decider. This fillip, following closely her Under 12 success at Bristol, should spur her on to a successful season.

SOMERSET

Tony Carey

Somerset County Centurion

BRIAN Reeves has achieved a record which I am sure must be the envy of quite a few players and although he has not had national recognition, in Somerset and the west country his name is renowned for tenacity and the will to win. I am sure his record will be of interest to many readers.

County matches

Debut: 13th December 1969 v Dorset (won 1 set). Played no more games in 1969/70 season. Played all of 1970/71 season apart from being dropped in one match. Played in every match since, apart from one in 1973/74 through illness.

By end of season 1985/86 (22nd March v Dorset) will have played 100 1st team matches, which includes three matches when Somerset challenged at end of season 1971/72 for a place in the Premier division.

Out of the 98 matches played so far (198 games) he has won 129 and lost 69. From 1974/75 to 1984/85 he played 11 consecutive seasons at No 1.

Somerset championships

Junior Champion: 1965/66 (but played for Gloucester as a junior because at this time Somerset did not have a junior team). Mens singles: 1970/71, 1973/74, 1975/76, 1977/78, 1978/79, 1979/80, 1980/81, 1982/83. Mens doubles: 1966/67, 1967/68 with G. Gear; 1973/74 to 1977/78 consecutively with Colin Feltham. Mixed doubles: 1969/70 to 1974/75 consecutively with his wife; 1975/76 with his sister-in-law (S. Beazer) (his wife had just had their first baby); 1977/78 with Alma Taft-Heath. Western Counties champion 1977.

teams to finish with a net loss of one. The big talking point in the county town will be the signing of county champion and high England ranked star Malcolm Green, by 1st division Longville Arms, for an undisclosed match fee. It will be interesting to hear the reaction of other sides to the use of "professionals" in a local league.

Telford report an increase of two teams, to forty five in four divisions, including a couple of new faces, though they are somewhat disappointed to find that their show venue at the prestigious Telford Racquet Centre is costing twice as much this season. It is very much hoped that they can maintain their position, as table tennis desperately needs venues of this type.

Meanwhile Grove have twenty four teams playing in their local league which is the same as last year, and will continue to run their very enjoyable graded singles tournament over nine Sunday afternoons, details from Ian Marshall telephone Market Drayton 3602. With all entrants guaranteed five matches, I would recommend any player looking to increase his table tennis commitment to take in at least one tournament. Grove are also running two very strong British league sides, bringing many of the best players in the county to Shropshire.

New ideas

Finally Pontesbury open their season with several new ideas. The TSB sponsored pairs league with four divisions commences on Friday 4th October with eight teams of two players to a division playing four best of five sets and one doubles at a central venue. There will be trophies for the top three sides every eight weeks and with a three up and three down system we are ensured of some cracking table tennis.

Finally, what a start, and probably and end, to the season for county junior champion Justin Goodall. Having temporarily retired whilst waiting to join the RAF, he was persuaded to play in the Kirlees junior 2 star and with no practice for five months he ousted European cadet gold medallist Michael O'Driscoll in his first match!

STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

SHROPSHIRE

John Morris

MAJOR news in the county is the staging of the first ever European League match between England and Turkey which was staged at Mary Webb School, Pontesbury on Saturday September 27th. I am sure that all the country's smaller associations and the ETTA have kept a watchful eye on the village association's efforts.

Firm stand

A round-up of the counties four affiliated leagues shows that the national slide in membership is not apparent in Shropshire. Shrewsbury the largest league, after losing their largest club, Belvedere Saints with eight teams, have managed to raise seven replacement

WEST Bromwich were surprise winners of the county league division 1 last season, dropping only one point to take the title from runners-up Potteries A, who had been winners the previous year. Stafford A also did well, dropping only three points in taking third place. Potteries B topped the 2nd division with Walsall B runners-up, and Tamworth A, after only a few seasons in the league, gained their highest placing yet in winning division 3 with a 100% record. Stone A were runners-up. Honours throughout the league were well distributed this season, with Stafford D winning division 4, also with a 100% record; Potteries C took second place.

Our AGM took place on June 26th. All officers were re-elected but there

County Notes

are still several posts remaining unfill- ed. Kevin Shaw has come forward as selection committee secretary and we would welcome any other volunteers. The treasurer reported an excess of income over expenditure, due entirely to sponsorship income resulting from the efforts of Mike Cross. Renewed efforts in this direction will again be required this year and I am sure Mike would be pleased to hear from anyone in the county on possible avenues to follow up.

The jump from junior table tennis to the senior level leaves many of the top youngsters floundering, sometimes due in part to lost contact with coaching circles. No problem, however, with two of our former juniors. Adrian Dixon goes straight to the top of our senior ranking list and will head our attempt to retain our position in the premier division of the County Championship. Stephen Slater has no difficulty in holding his own with the county-ranked players in the Potteries, having just won the summer senior event there.

I am pleased to report that Andrew Bellingham will still be available for county selection. There were rumours at the end of last season that he was losing interest, but I am now assured that after an interval and rest he is back in training and practicing well. He still holds No. 2 spot in the county ranking, followed by Andy Rich and Craig Bakewell. Congratulations are due to Helen Lower for a fine start to the season with a win at the Kirklees 2-Star.

The sad and premature death of David Roberts on the 16th May has deprived Staffordshire table tennis of one of its most devoted and hardworking servants, particularly at the junior level. David was the key figure in the renaissance of the schools association and many of the young players in Stafford and the north of the county owe their interest and ability in table tennis to the opportunities which he created. He was not a great player but he nevertheless keenly enjoyed his table tennis and caused many an upset in the lower divisions of Stafford table tennis. I have no doubt that he took great pleasure in the achievements of his daughter Rachel, who not only reached county level but also gained selection for Wales. Our sympathy goes to his wife, June, and to his three children.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

ROGER Chandler, 42, a legendary figure in Sussex table tennis has finally taken the plunge by signing for a British League team. His first appearance under the new Schildkrot sponsored banners will be during October for Erreys Print in division 3 south.

Chandler, from Brighton, won the Sussex crown 12 times, his reign only ending with the advance of the Moore brothers towards the top end of the national rankings. In the sixties and seventies Chandler's brand of top-spin confounded and puzzled literally hundreds of his opponents in county championship matches, at tour-

naments and of course on the domestic scene in Sussex.

Only the best blockers of top-spin have succeeded against the devoted skills of the Brighton man and I believe that this will still apply in the lower region of the British League — many a young hopeful will leave the table wondering how to beat the spin.

Hastings player Paul Barry is the other new face to join the Erreys Print club which is managed by Mike Watts. Barry finished only second to Paul Rowden in the Eastbourne championships and is a tip for the top in future Eastbourne events and also at Hastings, provided the Moores are engaged elsewhere.

Despite some objections from the Haywards Heath area, the Sussex committee have ruled against holding county trials as they believe it is a waste of time. Under chairman Dennis Reed they have declared that the Sussex men's list will remain as it is with no changes.

But they have made a few changes to the Sussex women's list — the sisters Carole Hewitt (Uckfield) and Christine Wicks (Brighton) have advanced through to fourth and fifth respectively, although Teresa Moore, Sally Weston and Sheila King retain their top three order.

WARWICKSHIRE

Jenny Heaton

THREE Birmingham players will begin the season heading their respective national ranking lists, namely Des Douglas (men), Ralph Gunnion (vet men) and at the other end of the age scale Leigh Jeffries (cadet).

Another notable achievement is that of Nicola Meddings who at 11 years old begins the season no 11 in the cadets and has been invited to attend a girls cadet training weekend conducted by Jackie Bellingier, the English cadet team captain.

Double for Mark

Following his success in the ESTTA National U19 singles at Mansfield, Mark Randle (Rugby) made it a double when at the International Schools championships at Salford he won the individual U19 title. He also captained the winning English Schools boys U19 team who narrowly beat Scotland and Ireland.

Awards of Merit

Congratulations to three members, Mrs V Jackson (Birmingham), Mr S Lenton and Mr J Elliott (Coventry) who have been presented with the ETTA Merit Award for their extensive work for the association.

County Teams

The county teams will be hoping to improve on last season's performances where the senior A team finished 3rd in division 2a, senior B were 2nd in division 3a, junior A were 6th in division 2a and junior B were 7th in division 3b. Improvement in the junior teams is especially hoped for after three county junior coaching rallies were held in the summer and several Warwickshire juniors have benefited

from regular regional coaching by National coach Bryan Merritt.

The revival of a county veterans team this season is due mainly to the enthusiasm of new vet Bob (Skippy) Brown, formerly a Worcestershire first team player.

New Sports Hall at Coventry

Mr Stan Lenton, at the AGM, gave details of plans for a new sports hall to be built at the Coventry Sports Centre for the Disabled which it was hoped would accommodate all major tournaments in the area. The Coventry Junior 1 star and the county closed are already held in the existing building, at this centre, which can hold 12 tables.

Early Successes for Warwickshire Players

Despite clashing with the Kirklees Junior 2 star, another successful Coventry junior 1 star was held on Sunday 7th September with over 100 entries including 30 from Warwickshire.

Two Birmingham boys contested the U17 event with Leigh Jeffries running out the winner against Darren Smith in the final. Leigh also won the U14 event beating S Taylor.

Rebecca Ledwitch (Birmingham) also had a good tournament reaching the semi-finals in the U14 and the quarters in the U17.

Meanwhile at the Kirklees Junior Open Nicola Meddings reached the final of the U12 event, losing to Sally Marling, and the final of the cadet doubles with Kate Goodhall.

New Umpires

A plea for new County Umpires was made by Brian Lloyd at the AGM as the number available was rapidly decreasing. Anyone interested should contact Brian on 021 745 2360.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

Yorkshire League

UNDER the new management of Richard Scruton, the Yorkshire league is as popular as ever, this season's entry again tops the century with 107 teams, representing twenty leagues, competing in twelve divisions, ranging from veteran to cadet.

We welcome Scarborough back to the fold. They have re-affiliated after a long absence, and enter two sides - mens and veteran, and although Ryedale, the small rural league based on Pickering and Malton, will no longer compete, a number of their players are likely to be seen in the Scarborough colours.

Mike on merit

There was a surprise for Yorkshire's live-wire Development Officer Mike Hanley, who has recently added the office of Regional RCC Chairman to his many duties, when he took charge of the Selby league's opening meeting of the new season.

Mike began his playing career in Selby 35 years ago and soon began to take an interest in the youth and coaching side of the league's activities,

before joining the committee ten years later.

Now holding the office of Chairman for a final year, he was presented by Secretary Stan Newman with the Merit Award and, for once, Mike was left speechless!

Vice Presidents

New Vice Presidents elected at the AGM were long service league of officials Arthur Bowers (Bradford) and Richard Hudson (Hull).

Arthur, in his quiet and unassuming way, has kept the wheels turning in one of the county's most flourishing leagues and, although no longer seen so often on the county front, many older members will remember the call at Yorkshire Closed tournaments held in the wool city - "come on lads, table's waiting".

Richard, who has retired after serving the Hull league in nearly every capacity over some 20 years was probably best known nationally for his work with the Humberside 3 star, a task he shared with wife and tournament secretary Brenda.

Good to know that Richard and Brenda have accepted an invitation to continue their association with that event as part of the control team at the forthcoming Stiga Yorkshire and Humberside 3 star.

Examination time

I'm the examiner. Can you point out Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield to me" was the introductory comment of the unknown visitor to Referee Bevan Walker at the Kirklees junior open.

Thinking that the enquirer must be the nominated ETTA tournament assessor, Bevan wondered how the presence of England's high flying cadets affected the organization of the event.

Discussion followed, but all ended in a laugh when the visitor announced himself as a representative of the local newspaper, the Huddersfield Examiner, who wanted a story on the gold medal winning Yorkshire lads.

Nets and Edges

A familiar figure will be back on the tournament scene at the Stiga 3 star Yorkshire and Humberside Open in an unfamiliar role. Former Humberside 3 star organizer Tony Ross, a keen amateur photographer, will be the official photographer at the event.

Keith Sutton, a former General Secretary, who has been out of TT administration for a number of years, has rejoined the committee of the Leeds league.

York are looking ahead to their diamond jubilee season next year when they will hope to stage one or more prestige national events - they are considering the possibility of an International match or the Premier Division weekend.

The Stiga Yorkshire and Humberside 3 star has taken on an international flavour with the entry of a team from Canada who will be warming up for the Italian Open a week later. With Sweden also likely to send a squad, the Stiga Grand Prix series should get under way on a high note.

Coach and psychologist — creating a partnership

Tony Russe talks to Dr Tony Morris

DR. Tony Morris, a sports psychologist based at the West Sussex Institute of Higher Education, first offered his services to table tennis when he met national trainer coach Donald Parker, in September 1985. Since then, with the financial support of the National Coaching Foundation, he has observed the players in the relaxed atmosphere of a training camp at Lilleshall Hall and in the highly stressful setting of the 1986 Triumph Adler English Open.

In line with activity in other sports such as athletics, netball and lacrosse, he is hoping, in the years ahead, to give practical help to England's elite table tennis players whilst teaching the methods of his approach, in its most rudimentary form, for the benefit of coaches and players at all levels.

There are a number of techniques which can be applied to the typical problems observed, but they do involve a long-term commitment. There can be no pro-

mises, but techniques such as the development of physical and mental strategies for controlling stress and enhancing concentration, the use of goal-setting to increase confidence and commitment, and the simulation of competitive conditions, so players know what to expect and can prove to themselves that they can cope, have already helped in a range of sports situations. Presently, we are discussing the possibility of developing a substantial programme over a long period. This sort of work must be based on a partnership between the coach and the psychologist. There must be an understanding that the health and development of the players and the team forms the first priority. I hope and believe that ours can be a long and fruitful partnership. Surely there are other coaches and psychologists who think this way!

A former tournament player and current 'grass roots' coach Dr. Morris enjoys a fairly wide understanding of our sport.

Here are his initial observations on performances at the English Open, perhaps the coaches amongst you will recognise many of the symptoms. The hard part, of course, is finding the cure.

"Having met the players at Lilleshall made me feel less out of place when we all gathered at Brighton for the English Open. I was with the team when they settled in on the eve of the tournament and throughout the team event, on a long Thursday, the rounds of the individual events, taking up an equally exhausting Friday, and the finals on Saturday. Generally, I accompanied the National Coach or one of his assistants, but I tried to share my time between the players, so I saw each play at least one match. During lulls in the proceedings, the opportunity arose to talk with senior officials of the ETTA and hear their views. Also, over the course of the four days, I had a number of conversations with players. These were casual and I did not 'probe' in any way, but they often volunteered valuable information, for example, on particular thoughts which worried them. Neither at the Open, nor at Lilleshall did I sit with notebook in hand! Recording the observations of each day was an activity reserved for periods of privacy.

The event proved rich in examples of circumstances where thorough psychological preparation could have helped. Table tennis is a fast game; a match is completed very quickly relative to many sports and it may be 'over' even more quickly if one player gains an early ascendancy. It is also played at speed, yet requires great powers of concentration and delicate touch, along with rapid and flexible thought processes. Many of the occurrences observed are common to a variety of sports, but their effects are particularly potent in this one: players were caught 'cold' by a lesser player who was 'keyed up' for the match; they produced an outstanding performance to gain a good win, only to lose unexpectedly in the next round; they played well to win a tough game and then could not find the resources to repeat the effort against another strong opponent; they produced a match-winning quality of performance against big-name opponents and still lost, perhaps because they didn't believe in themselves. In big matches they became over-anxious and did not play up to their capability, perhaps tightening up, or becoming distracted or not being bold enough.

Hinckley hotshots

THIRTY young players have "graduated" from the first coaching course held at the Earl Shilton Social Institute, Hinckley.

With 17 grade one and 13 grade two passes achieved chief coach Mike Holt is highly delighted, "I feel particularly encouraged by the number of girls taking awards" he told *Table Tennis News*.

"We have long had problems in finding good female players for the Leicestershire county team."

Happy Hinckley youngsters display their Dunlop Skills Awards
Hinckley Times 0455 38383



First in the field - since 1795 - still top of the

A time to think and a time to rest

Leading coach Tony Russe, advocates a little patience

I SOMETIMES feel that players and their coaches try to cram so much playing time into each individual's available hours that sight is often lost of the value of stepping back and reassessing the situation. When a player is given a rest period during training, he or she should take advantage of that rest and not just grab the opportunity for another knock-up. The player can sit quietly and think about the training session. How is it going? Am I achieving anything or merely going through the motions? Is the coach pleased with my stroke production, footwork, motivation? What was it the coach said about my arm action? I'm still not sure what he means, I must ask him.

The training session rest period should be utilised to assimilate the lessons being learned. Discuss them with the other players and, when not sure, with the coaches. This is a time for reinforcement

of a lesson learned and is vital if progress is to be made. Take time out to think.

And what about a longer rest? The junior scene is so crammed with events and training sessions that a player can easily play for 12 months of the year. If the player starts at 10 or 11 years of age he or she can be in full-time play for nearly seven years before the end of their junior days. No wonder we have junior 'veterans'. I am not convinced that it is in the player's or the ETTA's interest in the long run. There is a big drop out of players once the age of 17 is reached. There are many reasons but nevertheless it is a fact.

We put a lot of pressure on players at a very early age. They are subjected to stress both physical and mental and no one appears to notice as players of ability start to absent themselves from the elite scene. Survival of the fittest will breed the real

champion! But will it, or at what cost? Other sports are finding similar problems. In tennis what about Andrea Jaeger and Tracey Austin? Their careers virtually over and done with at a time when they should be starting to approach their prime.

It may be fanciful but I regard sportspersons as bottles of milk. Every effort serves to take a little drop from the bottle. When the bottle is empty or near empty the end is nigh. Performance will drop off, injury will probably occur, the player is played out. What bothers me is that some people appear to be hell-bent in their training methods in accelerating that end.

I remember sharing a table at a function many years ago with a 21 year old Australian, Greg Chappell. He was not robust in build or in health and although he had not set the county scene alight I had seen enough of him to know

that he could be a very fine cricketer indeed. I told him so and that, much as I would like to see more of him, I really felt that for his own good he should not tramp the county circuit season after season. He did not return and, next to Sir Donald Bradman, Greg must be the finest batsman Australia has ever produced. His career blossomed into greatness. The Australian Selectors gave him time to establish himself before national selection. He repaid them with a century first-up.

So do not be in a hurry to burn yourself out. Take time to rest. Plan a long annual break in training, find time during the competitive season for short rests. It gives the body a chance to heal, it gives the mind respite from constant stress. Take time to think, time to rest and you will be repaid.

Video tips

THE office at Hastings receives many enquiries from coaches concerning videos suitable for coaching. Professionally produced videos currently available include WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, highlights of the championships at Gothenburg, Sweden in April, 1985, (price £59.99) and SWEDISH NATIONAL TEAM, a promotional and instructional video featuring the Swedish national squad (price £39.95) obtained from Teessport (Tel. 0642 217844).

Also two 30-minute video cassettes are available for purchase at £30 each or can be hired at a cost of £10.50. Cassette No. 1 shows basic skills and top/back spin strokes and No. 2 covers advanced strokes and perfecting your game, available in either VHS or BETA. All enquiries to: Gerard Holdsworth Productions Ltd., 31 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HW. Tel. 01 828 1671.

FOR SALE

STIGA ROBOT: privately-owned Stiga Robot and all equipment. Four years old. Conditions as new. £600 ono. Tel: (day) 091) 232 1440 (evening) 0388 81 7493.

Jumper to it

COURTELLE sweaters bearing the ETTA coaching badges are now available from the Hastings office, price £14.75 (inc. VAT) including postage and packing.

The choices are: Club coach - green or maroon; Diploma coach - navy or grey; 2★ and above - sky blue or black.

Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to the ETTA. Don't forget to state your size, choice of colour and students registration number.

Coaching constable

IN his spare time PC Richard Hickman is frequently to be found coaching pupils at the Oundle Middle School, either after lessons at the school or in a nearby youth club during the evenings. Richard, a club coach, is justly proud of his

present squad who won four titles at the 1986 Northamptonshire schools championships.

Pictured with Richard are Andrew Bottoms, Tracey Marriot, Colin Campbell, Julian Marshall, Ana Hernandez and Clare Hickman.
Photo: Peterborough Evening Telegraph



tables for quality and price

Jaques

Dunlop Skills Award/Ins and Outs

Rules for Grade Three



Test 1: All-backhand push control (From 2 points, returning to 1 Target)

Using sound footwork for training, return 30 Slow Push Shots (which have been placed, slowly, by Controller from C.1, alternately, to Area B and Area M). Candidate to use only BACKHAND PUSH-STROKES, all played to Area C.1.
Pass: 30 successes 4th error fails.

Test 2: All-forehand controlled drive

Against steady returns from controller, play 30 FOREHAND

DRIVES (which have been placed slowly from C2 alternately to area F and M). Candidate to use only FOREHAND DRIVE strokes, all played to area C2. **Pass:** 30 successes 4th error fails.

Test 3: All-backhand controlled drive

Using sound footwork return to C1, 30 BACKHAND CONTROLLED DRIVES which have been driven alternately to area B & M. **Pass:** 30 successes 4th error fails.

Test 4: All-forehand push control

Against FOREHAND PUSH placed into areas F & M alternately by the controller, play 30 FOREHAND PUSHES into area C2. **Pass:** 30 successes 4th error fails.

Test 5: Combined block returns

Against CONTROLLED DRIVE placed into areas B & F alternately, play 30 BLOCK RETURNS alternating between BACKHAND and FOREHAND BLOCK to area C2. **Pass:** 30 successes 4th error fails.

Test 6: Long drive services

- (i) From correct position, serve with FOREHAND, ball to land beyond Target Area C.2.
- (ii) As (i) but service with BACKHAND, ball to land beyond Target Area C.1.

Pass: In each case, 5 successes within 8 attempts.

Test 7: Short-touch services

- (i) From correct position behind the baseline serve SHORT FOREHAND Services so as to clear the net and bounce twice on the table.
- (ii) As (i) but service with BACKHAND.

Pass: In each case, 5 successes to be achieved within 8 attempts.

This completes Grade Three. Successful candidates should now fill in form 3A. Assessor should then collect together with appropriate badge and certificate fees and send (with covering form 3B) to the Awards Organiser at the ETTA. Please try to ensure that a minimum of 5 award applications are sent on each occasion to reduce admin cost.

General Notes

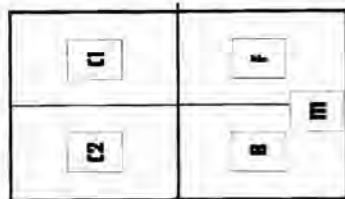
- (i) For "Penholder" styles read "to the left of the body" for "backhand".
- (ii) When assessing left-handed candidates, reverse all targets.
- (iii) Full details of rules and guidance on assessment can be found on a separate sheet.
- (iv) Details of how to maximise the use of your T.T. equipment and maintain a greater level of involvement and activity are also available on a separate sheet (4B).

Note: Throughout the test the following abbreviations will be used to denote specific areas on the table (see diagram)

C1 = Backhand Target area
 C2 = Forehand Target area
 B = Backhand area
 F = Forehand area

A sheet of A3 paper (or 2 pieces of A4) are ideal for indicating the size of the target area and can be moved to suit the test.

Controller's End



Candidates End

Foundation of success

A six strong Jill Hammersley-Parker Foundation party of aspiring youngsters enjoyed the flavour of international competition in the 3rd Luxembourg International Junior tournament over the weekend 14th and 15th June, 1986. Returning home with a very respectable medal haul, two bronze and two silvers, Barrie Johnson, who had jointly led the squad with fellow coach Sylvia Broadbent, explained the vital role which the foundation is fulfilling "If England is to continue as a force within European table tennis the Jill Hammersley-Parker foundation must prosper and continue to give

future internationals that all-important stepping stone."

If you would like to make a donation to this very worthy venture please make your cheque payable to 'The Jill Hammersley-Parker foundation' and mail direct to:

**Mrs Jill Hammersley-Parker,
 The Barn, Common Bank,
 Dolphinholme, LANCASTER.**

Foundation favourites: Back row l to r Jonathon Goode, Barrie Johnson (npc), Melonie Carey and Sylvia Broadbent (npc). Front row l to r Neil Bevan, Leigh Jeffries, Debbie Toole and Ellen Meddings



No go for Douglas and Prean

INVITATIONS to participate in the 2nd Euro/Asia tournament in Japan over the period December 10/16, 1986 have been declined by Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean of England, Milan Orlovski of Czechoslovakia and Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands. Other invitees are:

Men

Jorgen Persson (SWE)
 Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE)
 Andrzej Grubba (POL)
 Erik Lindh (SWE)
 Leszek Kucharski (POL)
 Mikael Appelgren (SWE)
 Tibor Klampar (HUN)
 Andrei Mazunov (URS)
 Zoran Kalinic (YUG)
 Jacques Secretin (FRA)
 Jindrich Pansky (TCH)
 Zsolt Kriston (HUN)

Women

Csilla Batorfi (HUN)
 Fliura Bulatova (URS)
 Olga Nemes (FRG)
 Marie Hrachova (TCH)
 Daniela Guerguelcheva (BUL)
 Zsuzsa Olah (HUN)
 Otilia Badescu (ROM)
 Branka Batinic (YUG)
 Lisa Bellinger (ENG)

Approved balls

THE following brands and grades of ball are the only ones which are licensed for the 1986/87 season:

Dunlop Tournament 3-Star and 2-Star (polymer); **Dunlop Premier Tournament** 3-Star and 2-Star (celluloid); **Halex Ultra** 3-Star and 2-Star; **Schildkrot** 3-Star and 2-Star; **TSP** 3-Star and 2-Star; **Nittaku** 3-Star and 2-Star.

Members are reminded that only a brand and grade of ball licensed by the ETTA may be used in play within, between or organised by any organisations which are affiliated or in Good Standing.

JACKMATE

for

PRICE, QUALITY, QUICK
 SERVICE VALUE
 SUPPLIES
 CUP MEDALS etc

QUALITY ENGRAVING -
 very low cost

CLUB BADGES

ALL UNBEATABLE PRICES

01-546 5616 or write for catalogue:
 56 Staunton Road,
 Kingstone-upon-Thames,
 Surrey.

Calling young Londoners

THE London ranking tournaments which proved their popularity amongst young players from every London Borough last season are to be repeated during each of the next three seasons thanks to the generosity of the Greater London Sports Council and the London Grant Scheme.

Initiated under the auspices of the GLC the scheme was designed to assess the demand for low level competition in the U12, U14 and U17 age groups throughout the city. Over 300 players contested the five events held in 1985/86 and the top 100 enjoyed a very successful finals day at the Glademore Sports Centre, Tottenham - the result of which was the very first London Ranking List.

The new three year support package and the obvious demand for more competition has already led organiser Dick Roffe to offer an expanded programme of events during the coming season. Needless to say he is on the lookout for prospective helpers, "There is lots happening behind the scenes and another pair of hands are always welcome, even if people just want to give us an hour or two of their time on the day we will make them very welcome."

Events during 1986/87 will take place on the following dates for the Boroughs as listed. Full details of venues and times are available from the organiser, Dick Roffe, 18 Buckingham Close, Emerson Park, Hornchurch. Tel: 0402 472341.

1986

Sunday 19th October - Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea.

Saturday 8th November - Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lewisham.

Saturday 22nd November - Croydon, Lambeth, Merton, Southwark, Sutton, Wandsworth.

Sunday 23rd November - Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames, Richmond upon Thames.

Croydon crumble

BRENT narrowly beat Croydon in an exciting final to the table tennis competition in the London Youth Games held at the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace on Saturday 12th July, writes **Barry Granger**. From an entry of 32 London boroughs, 12 had fought through to the final stages following a preliminary round at the Elephant & Castle Leisure Centre a fortnight earlier.

Croydon took an early lead with singles wins by David Dewsbury, Lesley Popkiewicz and Jerome Jonah but were pulled back by fighting displays from Lesley Souter, Helen Smee, Tracey Cutler and S. Lewis. With the score at 5-3, Lesley Popkiewicz and Catherine Binks took the girls' doubles to keep the match alive only for Cutler and Lewis to snatch victory in the third against Martin Lowe and Russell Bates. A well-deserved victory for

Brent who had put out Bromley (No. 1 seeds) in their group and Barnet (No. 2 seeds) in the semi-final.

Gold medals: Brent - L. Souter, H. Smee, T. Cutler and S. Lewis.

Silver medals: Croydon - L. Popkiewicz, C. Binks, J. Binks, D. Dewsbury, M. Lowe, J. Jonah and R. Bates.

Bronze medals: Kingston - J. Barella, L. Pritchett, T. Pritchett, R. Tanner and S. Pink.

Gold for the Brent team



Sunday 30th November - Regional Finals Day

1987

Sunday 25th January - Barnet, Camden, City of London Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, City of Westminster.

Saturday 31st January - Barking, Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest.

Saturday 7th February - Brent, Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon

Sunday 8th March - Croydon, Lambeth, Merton, Southwark Sutton, Wandsworth.

Sunday 15th March - Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lewisham.

Sunday 22nd March - Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames, Richmond upon Thames.

Sunday 29th March - Regional Finals Day

Haringey pair Simon Rockall (U14 boys singles winner) and Rebecca Fisher (U14 girls singles winner) combined their skills to play mixed doubles at the Glademore Sports Centre where the 1985/86 finals took place.



Ties...

Bannerettes
Badges of all types
Trophies
T-shirts & sweatshirts
All Club Insignia

Special commemorative medal struck for the World championships in Birmingham. In presentation box. Ideal for a trophy. £12.00 reduced to **£2.50 each. Twelve only left.**

Telephone or write for your edition of the Alec Brook catalogue illustrated in full colour.

ADB (LONDON) LTD. (DEPT. TT)
 49-57 HARROW ROAD,
 LONDON W2 1JH
 Tel. 01-402 5671
 Telex 24652 Tieman G

47	Dale Saunders	(Cinderford)	62
48	Kevin Pickles	(Bradford)	61
49	Michael Parker	(Stockport)	60
50	Justin Goodall	(Pontesbury)	58
51	Robert Till	(Walsall)	57
52	Darryl Sneyd	(Oldham)	57
53	Nicholas Ryder	(Mirfield)	56
54	Jeremy Krzystiniak	(Croydon)	55
55	Andrew Horsfield	(Yorks)	53
56	Gavin West	(Allestree)	52
57	Graham Cook	(Pontefract)	51
58	Howard Whewell	(Lancs)	51
59	David Thomas	(Rugby)	51
60	R. Lowe	(Formby)	49
61	Paul Smith	(Bridgwater)	47
62	Andrew McKeown	(Middlesbrough)	46
63	Paul Ward	(Rochdale)	45
64	Jason Swaine	(Bradford)	44
65	P. Whiteley	(Harrogate)	43
66	R. Ambrose	(Corby)	43
67	Robert Marles	(Frimley)	40
68	Christopher Giosop	(Chesterfield)	40
69	Michael Auclerlonie	(Salisbury)	40
70	Jasinder Singh	(Swindon)	40
71	S. Horsfield	(Sheffield)	39
72	S. Baggaley	(Milton Keynes)	37
73	Scott Solder	(Barking)	36
74	Mark Oldfield	(Sheffield)	36
75	Jason Tendler	(Ilford)	36
76	G. Mitchell	(Bradford)	35
77	James Nicholson	(Stockton)	35
78	Paul Knowles	(Derby)	35
79	Christopher White	(Ippelpen)	34
80	Will Hollingsworth	(Derby)	33
81	D. Stedman	(Arundel)	33
82	Nicholas Felton	(Birmingham)	32
83	M. Oakley	(Sheffield)	32
84	Brian Mileham	(Margate)	32
85	Joseph Bitran	(Golders Green)	32
86	John Collins	(Wisbech)	31
87	J. Beddall	(Essex)	31
88	Chris Nicholls	(Ipswich)	31
89	Gary Killington	(London E3)	30
90	Keiron Dabbs	(Daventry)	30
91	David Butler	(Tunbridge Wells)	30
92	Ian Telford	(Washington)	29
93	Rajinder Singh	(Birmingham)	29
94	D. Carter	(Coulsdon)	29
95	Graham Yardley	(Exeter)	29
96	J. Davies	(Chesterfield)	29
97	R. Todd	(Coventry)	29
98	Alan Cole	(Crawley)	28
99	John Backhouse	(B. in Furness)	28
100	Howard Williams	(Stroud)	28

JUNIOR GIRLS

No.	Names	Town of Res.	Points
1	Andrea Holt	(Ramsbottom)	701
2	Claire Potts	(Chester)	527
3	Kerry Hall	(Chesterfield)	399
4	Julie Billington	(Chesterfield)	284
5	Melonie Carey	(Bridgwater)	266
6	Nicola McGrath	(Preston)	252
7	Helen Lower	(Wolverhampton)	228
8	Debbie Toole	(Normanton)	213
9	Tanya Holland	(Billericay)	166
10	Joanna Roberts	(Leeds)	113
11	Julie Norman	(Newbury)	108
12	Kristina Cox	(Rainford)	96
13	Helen Potts	(Chester)	95
14	Caroline Dada	(Bradford)	77
15	Sarah Pengelly	(Paignton)	76
16	Kate Gower	(Ingatstone)	75
17	Lisa Pritchett	(Kingston)	74
18	Anne Pashley	(Guisborough)	73
19	Julie Forster	(Loughborough)	72
20	Louise Sherratt	(Stafford)	65
21	Hazel Kavanagh	(Hull)	61
22	Jane Wright	(Plymouth)	59
23	Caroline Buckley	(Luton)	57
24	Andrea Ambrose	(Ipswich)	56
25	Susanne Lawton	(Ormesby)	56
26	Susan Richmond	(Northallerton)	52
27	Joanne Cook	(Brentwood)	51
28	Kay Mayall	(Dronfield)	50
29	Amanda Dawkins	(Mickleover)	46
30	Cheryl Bateman	(Walton on Hill)	46
31	Sylvia Kenyon	(Ipswich)	44
32	Karen Perkins	(Ipswich)	43

33	Mary Allan	(Reading)	42
34	Tracy Scott-Pawson	(Bournemouth)	40
35	Allison Gower	(Ingatstone)	35
36	Lisa Spilsbury	(Birmingham)	35
37	Julie Brion	(Aylesbury)	34
38	Tracy Pritchett	(Kingston)	34
39	Caroline Seaholme	(Watford)	33
40	Helen Wright	(Plymouth)	31
41	Claire Oldman	(Retford)	30
42	Joanne Loosemore	(Torquay)	29
43	Claire Brazier	(Bridgwater)	28
44	Barbara Smallwood	(Formby)	27
45	Julie Clegg	(Preston)	27
46	Rachel Skinner	(Crouch End)	25
47	Helen Stephens	(Grantham)	24
48	Samantha Marling	(Hull)	23
49	R. Fisher	(Middlesex)	22
50	Julie Haslop	(St. Neots)	21

CADET BOYS

No.	Name	Town of Res.	Points
1	Leigh Jeffries	(Birmingham)	404
2	Neil Bevan	(Bude)	234
3	Andrew Eden	(Preston)	226
4	Gary Knights	(Burton)	213
5	Brian Mileham	(Margate)	197
6	Mark Bawden	(Launceston)	161
7	Mark Stephenson	(Halifax)	128
8	Grant Solder	(Barking)	115
9	Michael Auclerlonie	(Salisbury)	114
10	James Patterson	(Hatfield)	100
11	Alan Cole	(Crawley)	99
12	Craig Smith	(Selby)	89
13	Peter Bowler	(Dunstable)	83
14	Ian Black	(St. Albans)	66
15	Darren Ledwith	(Sunderland)	54
16	Martin Adams	(Ascot)	53
17	Steven Riggins	(Washington)	47
18	John Menzel	(Camborne)	46
19	Peter France	(Doncaster)	45
20	Julian Ryder	(Mirfield)	34
21	Neil Martin	(St. Austell)	34
22	Kevin Horsfield	(Sheffield)	33
23	J. Blake	(S. Croydon)	32
24	Ian Ball	(Wakefield)	30
25	Howard Whewell	(Rossendale)	27

CADET GIRLS

No.	Name	Town of Res.	Points
1	Ellen Meddings	(Harrogate)	291
2	Caroline Buckley	(Luton)	243
3	Joanne Roberts	(Leeds)	218
4	Helen Potts	(Chester)	197
5	Sarah Pengelly	(Paignton)	162
6	Susanne Lawton	(Ormesby)	132
7	Sally Marling	(Hull)	66
8	Tracey Cole	(Crawley)	65
9	Helen Wright	(Plymouth)	54
10	Kate Goodall	(Leeds)	51
11	Nicola Meddings	(S. Coldfield)	47
12	Julie Haslop	(Yorkshire)	41

Junior finishing positions for 1985/86

YOU may be interested in your finishing position on the final junior 'Lentec' computer ranking list for the 1985/86 season. The list includes only those players who are no longer in that age category.

Junior boys: J. Stokes (1), A. Dixon (4), A. Syed (6), P. Amos (9), J. Goode (11), M. Connell (12), P. Harris (13), S. Slater (14), P. Gooding (20), A. Taylor (21), J. Bult (22), J. Griffiths (24), G. Garden (25) P. Payne (26), K. Ball (31), T. West (35), T. Sheppard (36), V. Chauhan (37), S. Phillips (38), M. Harvey (49), C. Saunders (54), D. Rogers (61), S. Jones (63), A. Hunt (64), M. Jarvis (67), D. Jones (68), R. Powell (70), R. Elliott (72), R. Jacobs (73), C. Mundy (74), A. Bassano (75), M. Kowalenski (76), S. Reynolds (77), A. Trott (80), M. Land (84), K. Stevenson (90), P. Tuck (91), I. Brown (97).

Junior girls: D. Soothill (2), J. Houghton (3), H. Perrott (7), L. Haydon (9), L. Davis (12), R. Bray (14), K. Baker (16), H. Broomhead (17), J. Powis (18), L. Souter (19), S. Hammond (20), R. Knight (23), S. Webb (26), T. Clark (27), C. Plumbridge (29), A. Evans (35), A. Saunders (36), K. Bray (38), K. Withyman (40).

Name that face

"I HARDLY ever see the sport on TV and I seldom read about it in the newspapers," so says John Prean (TTN Issue 159), mirroring my own comments in an earlier issue. These comments are not fantasy, they are fact, and they are a valid reason why our sport is decreasing in numbers of members.

A survey I conducted this year in the Kidderminster and District Table Tennis League showed how little grass roots players know of the higher echelon of their own sport. Amongst the questions asked were, name the top five English men players and the top five English women players. From 19 people interviewed the answers given were:- Men: Douglas 17, Prean 16, Cooke 4, Andrew 3, Hilton 2 and Jarvis, Bellingham, Neale, Ecklersey and Morgan 1. Women: Lisa Bellinger 6, Witt 5, Hammersley 4, Jackie Bellinger, Gordon and Elliott 2 and Grundy 1.

Surely if the sport was on TV more, these names would be household, because lets be honest, if the people who play don't know the country's top players, what chance have we of recruiting new members.

I am not saying that this is the only reason for the decrease in membership. There will always be a natural wastage, but kids do watch a lot of TV. Parents would much prefer their children to play a good clean, wholesome game of table tennis rather than one of the current "in" sports riddled with drugs, childish tantrums and bad behaviour.

Our own league in Kidderminster has decreased from six divisions to four in three years, and I am amazed at the lack of awareness shown by people who look forward every week to playing, and replay every point afterwards. Their interest needs to be stimulated, TV coverage can help to do that.

As nationwide newspaper coverage is rare, Table Tennis News tends to be the only source, yet in the same survey only 1 out of 19 subscribed. Perhaps John Prean is right, we should make the magazine free, subsidized by advertisements. At first, I thought no, but perhaps it could work, after all, plenty of local newspapers are free to all householders, and seem to get by.

Where do all these marvellous people with all this money to spend come from? One source could be from the members of the Schildkrot British Table Tennis League, where a number of the

Golden Quill

A wise head ...

I'VE bought your magazine twice now and I've found it quite interesting to read, but I've noticed both times you have asked subscribers to write and tell you the magazine's good/bad parts.

Well, I've thought of a couple of things. First of all the magazine should have more pictures and less data, it goes on too much. Make it more interesting to read, short, sharp and to the point.

I also think that you should leave one page for an interview. You should interview a top player each time Table Tennis News comes out.

There should be a couple of competitions, a few small, one large, crosswords, puzzles, quizzes. The small competitions giving away a set of balls or a drink bottle for the first £25 correct entries. The large competition, winning a training course

at Crystal Palace perhaps?

Last but not least the England supporters club is a good idea. They should have their own little magazine. This should be provided, to watch the senior and junior England sides, cheaply.

Anyway I hope you enjoy my letter. Ask other subscribers to reply to my letter. Ask them to write their ideas down on paper. Let's also hear from someone different instead of John Prean, Johnny Leach, Chairmen and Secretaries. What about young players like myself. Don't be scared to let yourself be heard.

Good luck in the future.

Yours faithfully,
BRADLEY CLUTTON Aged 15
56, Ranelagh Gardens,
Ilford, Essex IG7 3JP

Ed: Thanks for this tremendous letter Bradley, we will certainly try to introduce your ideas during the season.

Winner of a £5 TEES SPORT voucher

teams are sponsored by companies. Why not get them to go one stage further and advertise their company - product in our magazine. The idea of their sponsorship is to promote their product, but all we know is their name - a small advert will expand on that and bring in business - isn't that the idea?

I have never worked in advertising or marketing, but I do work in selling and believe it or not, people do want to sell their product. Let people sell theirs to help us sell ours.

Finally, I feel we need a caption to capture the spirit of the game, how about "ENJOY YOURSELF - PLAY TABLE TENNIS."

IAIN J. PERKS
15 Housman Walk
Offmore Farm
Kidderminster
Worcs.

Ed: We are currently examining the advertising aspect of TTN. The apparent options are to create a new part time post within the staff structure or to engage a professional agency. More news will follow.

Watchdog Watts

IN his letter setting out the history of the Tees Sport Super League in Bournemouth (*Table Tennis News, issue 159*) Martin Hughes said that: "The Bournemouth league still affiliates to Hampshire despite Bournemouth being part of Dorset since 1974." That statement may mislead some readers and I would like to clarify the position, which is that Bournemouth is not part of the table tennis county of Dorset.

Under the provisions of the 1974 Local Government Act Bournemouth was transferred from the Hampshire County Council area to the Dorset County Council area for the purposes of local government administration. However, the ETTA decided that the county boundaries should remain as they existed pre-1974, but established a procedure by which they could be changed if requested. No such change has been made in the

Hampshire/Dorset area so the table tennis county of Hampshire still includes Bournemouth.

KEITH WATTS
Chairman of ETTA Rules
Committee
6 Windsor Road
St Leonards on Sea
E. Sussex TN37 7DR

About turn

AS I read Johnny Leach's letter in the June/July edition in which he uses some strong words to condemn the ETTA experiments (colours and 11-up) at the Stiga Top 12 it triggered off my memory cells. Was it not J.L. himself who once wrote an article to try a scoring change. A quick check of my indexed magazines soon confirmed my suspicions. His article headed "TRY A SCORING CHANGE" was published in the January 1960 edition ... "why not play 11-up instead of 21? That would encourage shorter games with more frequent climaxes and more varied opposition," he suggested.

I think he had a viable suggestion then and I cannot understand his apparent 'about turn'.

His article was written in the aftermath of the standardised sandwich racket and the expectancy of reduced interest in the game. The early days of sandwich caused a lot of defensive players, at all levels, a lot of problems as its ability to impart extra top spin on the ball swung the pendulum back to favour the attacking players.

An evidence of this was later in 1960 when Stan Jacobson caused a sensation at the Essex Open. Using his sandwich bat to impart "excessive topspin" Stan won the tournament and in doing so beat one of the best 'stonewallers' of all time — Bryan Merrett — in the semi-final and then in the final beat Ian Harrison who in March of that year had won the men's singles in the English Open. The first English born player to win since Percival Bromfield in 1924. Bryan was the current English Closed champion and both were jointly ranked at No. 1.

Table tennis is more in the doldrums now than it was in 1960 and experiments must be made to see if there is some way the game can once more provide spectator appeal and stem the drift away by players.

RAY YATES
12 River Walk
Southampton

Each to their own

JOHNNY LEACH MBE displays typical reactionary and inflexible views in his letter 'Colour Crazy' (*TTN June/July*). No doubt he was a worthy World Champion in 1949 and 1951 but the game has moved on since then.

Why are different coloured equipment, multi-coloured clothing and a scoring system up to 11, 'crazy' and 'rubbish smacking of desperation'? He fails to explain, apart from feebly suggesting that they will make no difference to the entertainment value of table tennis. But the sport is in dire straits in this country, so why are these ideas not worth serious consideration and experimentation? The Stiga Top 12 is, after all, still an experimental event.

I do not for a moment suppose that multi-coloured clothing and equipment will on their own make all that much difference, though I cannot see that well designed kit to brighten up the game and the use of a colour other than green for the table and net can do any harm. They may well generate interest and attention.

However, games up to 11 could have a much more significant impact for the reasons suggested by Mike Prior and others; that every point will be vital and therefore more tense and exciting to watch. In such circumstances a long rally for each point is not a necessity for spectator enjoyment. As for media attention and especially with TV and non-table tennis audiences, this system has high potential. But of course it is not suggested that all table tennis should be scored up to 11, even if the experiment is a success. There should be the flexibility to decide the best scoring system for any particular event (including alternate serves or changing service every 2 or 3 points, which Tom Blunn advocated but I am doubtful about). I suspect that most local league players will prefer the traditional way.

I have a certain sympathy for Mr Leach's support for using a standardised bat with the same kind of sandwich on either side of the blade (presumably with rubber having a fairly low coefficient of friction and rebound). This could be enforced in specific experimental/restricted events only and I guess would receive less general approval from players, who would have to modify their techniques. However, let's put it to the test! My view is that although table tennis was for me at its best to watch in the early

athletic 'Mark V' and 'Sriver' days before 'funny' rubbers, 'twiddling' and bicycle glue, the modern game can still be great to view and at times even more spectacular today. Players, manufacturers and legislators (the latter because new rules would be almost impossible to draft, pass and enforce) are unlikely to want to go back to bygone days.

What is Leach talking about when he says that, 'Players would then be obliged to rely on their own ability instead of switching from one side of the bat to the other to vary pace and spin artificially'? Is he not aware that very few top English players now use a combination bat and employ the twiddling technique? Prean, Lisa Bellinger and one or two others are exceptional.

To play with and against bicycle glue requires greater skill than ever before and to use combination bats and twiddle, now that bats must be covered with a different coloured rubber (red and black) on each side (a move I supported) is a very difficult proposition at national level. I am certain that the vets at Rimini were employing the latter methods to a much greater extent than modern stars.

Mr Leach talks about, 'golden oldies' making 'spectators bubble and squeak with enthusiasm' at their kind of play. Now, I don't wish to decry veterans table tennis which I enjoy watching because it has a certain novelty and nostalgic value and the personal qualities, individuality and fight of players are more apparent. But if such play was standard across all age bands, I suspect that table tennis would soon be even more of a 'turn off' than a 'turn on' for a wider audience and greater participation.

So I hope and believe that the Stiga Top 12 at Soham (I wish it was still at Milton Keynes but at least it has gone to my home county!) will be a success. However, the larger problem for table tennis is not the product but the promotion of it. For example, if we ever get back on TV again in a bigger way, we must insist on better camera angles, playbacks, slow motions, and interviews etc. with top players, not to mention full audiences, bussed in if necessary at little or no cost to the spectator. The big question is, how do we sell the great sport that table tennis **here and now** is?

Yours sincerely
KEN MUHR
23 York Road,
Stony Stratford,
Milton Keynes MK11 1BJ

COMING NEXT ISSUE...

Stiga National Top 12

The Everest of Table Tennis where England's best displayed the combination of stamina and skill that keeps them at the peak of the range - a round by round report.

European Youngsters

European cadet champions Chris Oldfield and Michael O'Driscoll recall their medal winning experiences and explain their aspirations for the season ahead.

Teessport Golden Quill Award

Lively letters galore are likely to pack the Mailbox as news of the monthly Golden Quill Award spreads nationwide. Could you be the next lucky winner of a £5 Teessport voucher?

Crossword Capers

So you think you can do crosswords? *Table Tennis News* welcomes Eric Hall who will be setting a real bamboozler to test your skills in the first of a new series of prize crosswords.

OBITUARY

Ken Merrett

Table tennis suffered yet another sad blow, when on Sunday, 7th September, Ken Merrett, a former Surrey international, collapsed and died at his home in Burgess Hill, Sussex.

The name of Ken Merrett (not in anyway related to National Coach, Bryan Merrett) may mean little to the players of today as he was a contemporary of mine in the immediate post-war period and gained his international badge in 1945/46 season. For me, his death was particularly upsetting as we were doubles partners in the forties and gained several tournament successes together. He came from Caterham, Surrey, and it could be said, from a table tennis family as his brother Cyril, who lost his life in the second world war, was also a brilliant player. Shortly after his marriage, Ken and his bride moved to Burgess Hill, Sussex, and it was his new county that

benefited from his expertise and experience.

On the surface, Ken was a shy and unassuming person, but underneath that exterior there was a determination and resolve that was to be admired. In fact, it was he who introduced Father Bernard Rowley - himself a tireless worker - to the sport he loved so dearly. Ken retained his enthusiasm to the end of his life, much of which he devoted to the development of young players in the Sussex area.

He was an active person of 61 years at the time of his death and consolation could be drawn from the fact that he was excused the problems, indignities and inconveniences of old age. Unfortunately, the suffering has to be borne by those he left behind and our deepest sympathies are extended to his widow. Our thoughts are with you Pat and may you find comfort in your hour of need.

RON CRAYDEN