



Table Tennis News

No. 181

March 1989

90p

Carl triumphs in father's "Homeland"

See page 5



John Jaques

Family reigns su'Prean'
Jaques – The Family Firm
Since 1795

The promotion dream comes true

THERE were times during the last four years when it seemed that England were doomed to stay in Division 1 of the European League for ever. Four years is a long time. Supporters of soccer teams have grown old waiting for their team to succeed and that is how it seemed until recently for the supporters of English table tennis.

This time last year when we knew that Hungary were coming down to meet us, it seemed that another barrier had been placed in our path, but their strength is far less than in days gone by and the result of our match in their country next week will not affect England's newly-won status.

A lot of the credit must go to the dedication of the players in the England squad – Alan Cooke, Carl Prean, Skylet Andrew, Nicky Mason, Alison Gordon, Lisa Lomas and their captain Don Parker whose tasks are still awesome. However, his burden must now seem lighter as congratulations pour in following the champagne occasion at Bexleyheath. Remember also that despite what you might read in some sections of the media Desmond Douglas will not say "no" if Don Parker asks him to play in the European League next season, should a desperate need arise, as in the case of Alan Cooke's recent shoulder injury.

A Reply from the European Table Tennis Union

THREE times I have recently twisted the tail of George Yates, ETTU secretary on certain issues that suggest autocratic and not democratic moves by that august body. George has now replied (Mailbox, Page 26) with the suggestion that I have been less than polite regarding his character! Not for one moment would I suggest anything of that nature. George Yates is one of the straightest gentlemen in the sport. But I still believe and so do a number of others, that the ETTU takes hard decisions like banning players from the Top-12 if they do not play against Asia and awarding league points against countries if they do not conform with the Joola advertising contract. It needs some strong characters to stand up to the ETTU at the next opportunity before a court rules "restraint of trade" on the Top-12 issue.

The very latest news for table tennis sponsors is excellent. The BBC TV moguls are showing considerable interest in the possibility of televising matches here between England and South Korea next season if the tour discussions reach a satisfactory conclusion.

JOHN WOODFORD



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JOHN WOODFORD

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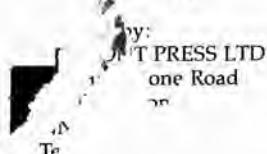
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COVER PICTURE

Never in the history of the sport in Britain or possibly in the world have a father-and-son shown such dedication as John and Carl Prean from Ryde, Isle of Wight. In the committee rooms for John and on court for Carl their powers provide formidable strength of purpose.





SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by

JOHN WOODFORD

Compromise Celebration



Ray Perrin

NICKY MASON'S sponsor and one of the sponsors of the recent South of England 3-star tournament, Ray Perrin, was so keen to toast the champion's success, that he ordered champagne at the Woking Leisure Centre - but celebrated with a compromise - three bottles of Veuve du Vernay at £19 each!

Easter Festival in Norfolk

OVER £1,000 in prize money and vouchers will be on offer this Easter at Pontin's Hemsby Holiday Centre, Norfolk where Trevor Openshaw, national referee and international umpire will be spending his Easter break organising a Table Tennis Festival.

No, hold on, not quite correct - the table tennis fun and games - no seeding, bingo-ball draw is to be held from Tuesday March 28, the day after the Easter Monday Holiday until Saturday April 1.

After Easter

It seems that the idea is to get you there at Pontin's for Easter and then carry on with the table tennis!

However, late bookings can be made by contacting the Administration Manager, Pontin's Hemsby Holiday Centre, Beach Road, Hemsby, Norfolk, Tel: 0493 730698.

But, all entry forms must go to Trevor himself at 26 Maximfeldt

ETTA appoint a new Development Officer

DICCON GRAY, 27, has been appointed as National Development Officer by the English Table Tennis Association.

Based at ETTA headquarters in Hastings, he will take on prime responsibility for creating and implementing development schemes aimed at increasing the participation level for the sport beyond its current level of 2.3 million regular adult players. He will concentrate initially on building female participation and increasing the level of play in Leisure Centres.

Since graduating with a sports studies/science degree from Nonington College, Kent, Gray has travelled widely including trips to Nepal and Mexico. He has worked as a Youth Activities Officer in a probation hostel and as a teacher in Bristol. As a table tennis player he achieved schoolboy international standard and reached a top 20 position in the national junior rankings and still plays at County and British League level.



Diccon Gray

Editor's note: I was the first journalist to meet Diccon Gray and I was immediately impressed - here is a young man of action, who could go a long way in the administration of the sport. One of his first tests was to help prepare some material for me to be used in a forthcoming programme on table tennis on Channel 4 in connection with a "Daily Telegraph" promotion. His grasp and presentation of the facts was first class.

Road, Erith, Kent DA8 1AH and not to Hemsby. Tournament entries have to be made separately from the accommodation. Hemsby is near Great Yarmouth.

Events: Open singles, mens doubles, womens singles, womens doubles, mixed doubles, under 17 singles, under 14 singles, veterans singles.

Bradford Sponsors in Seoul

BAYER, Bradford, the multi-national German company who sponsor the Leeds British League team Bayer Bradford, had eight winning gold medal competitors at the Seoul Olympic Games.

Representing West Germany: fencer Arndt Schmitt won a gold and silver medal. West Germany's hockey goalkeeper Christian Schliemann won a silver (beaten to the gold by the UK). Ralf Lubke won a bronze in the 4 x 400 metres relay and five of the FRG football team finishing in bronze medal position were from Bayer.

In stark contrast, one of the tragic figures of these games was also from Bayer: Daley Thompson's friendly rival Jurgen Hingsen, sensationally disqualified after three false starts in the first even of the Decathlon.

No less than 20 athletes from Bayer represented West Germany in Seoul, making a total of 125 athletes Bayer has sent to the Olympics over the years, winning a total of 29 medals including four golds.

Foreign Exchange

THE table tennis section of the Club SSV ANHAUSEN, situated near Augsburg in Southern Bavaria, Federal Republic of Germany, wish to arrange a match with an English club, preferably in the London area.

SSV ANHAUSEN have three men's teams (six players per team) and three women's teams (four players per team) but the size of any travelling party can be mutually agreed.

Any club interested in starting an exchange visit with this club should write direct to: Manfred Flinspach, Ludwig-Uhland-Str. 10, D 8901 Deubach, Federal Republic of Germany.

Sorry, Essex!

ALAN SHEPHERD probably thinks I do it intentionally - give other counties Essex players! Last season it was Grant Solder (Essex) whom I mistakenly gave a Herts label - that was caused by a photo coming in from a Herts source.



Steve Dorking, Essex

This season Steve Dorking (Essex) I have mistakenly labelled Surrey. One reason for that is of course, Leeds British League players appearing miles away from their home counties - Dorking plays for Ashford in Middlesex, not far from the Surrey border and of course, he also partners Surrey players in doubles competitions. Apologies to Essex.

Calling all Handicappers

FROM TIME to time we receive enquiries on methods of running individual handicap tournaments and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who feels they have evolved a successful formula.

Obviously, the secret lies in knowing the strengths of all the players taking part but methods can vary so much, from games of 51 points with 0 to 25 handicaps to normal games of 21 points with large minus handicaps.

A small prize will be awarded to what is considered the most effective system submitted to: Albert Shipley - E.T.T.A. General Secretary.

Termination of Suspension

The Table Tennis Association of Wales has announced the termination from the 31st December 1988 of a suspension imposed on Brian Jeanes.

Sweden, England the champions

LANDING their fifth consecutive win in the Super Division of the European League with a 5-2 success over Yugoslavia in Kalmar on Jan 25 has confirmed Sweden as the favourites to take over from France as the champions.

Singles successes for Jörgen Persson over the two Zorans, Kalinic and Primorac, together with a singles each from Erik Lindh and Marie Svensson, and the men's doubles (Lindh and Persson), saw the Swedes comfortably home and dry.

But, on the same night in Willstätt, Federal Germany also maintained their unbeaten record with a 4-3 win over France who, at one stage led 3-2 only for Jorg Rosskopf to beat Jean-Philippe Gatien in the penultimate set and for Steffen Fetzner to win the match with a final victory over Olivier Marmurek.

On the same night again, the Netherlands went down to their third defeat of the season when beaten 5-2 by Czechoslovakia in Gorssel where wins by Paul Haldan over Jiri Javurek and by Mirjam Kloppenburg over Marie

Report by
GEORGE R. YATES



Jorgen Rosskopf no. 1 in West Germany

Hrachova got the Dutch team off to a 2-1 lead but all in vain.

Sweden 5 Yugoslavia 2
E. Lindh b Z. Kalinic 9, 20.
J. Persson b Z. Primorac -16, 11, 20.
M. Svensson b Frelih -18, 10, 18
Lindh/Persson b Primorac/
Kalinic 16, 16;
P. Karlsson/O. Svensson 1 Pri-
morac/Frelih 17, -17, -16.
Lindh 1 Primorac 21, -19, -18.
Persson b Kalinic 9, 16.

Federal Germany 4 France 3
J. Rosskopf b O. Marurek 14, 15.
S. Fetzner 1 J.-P. Gatien -18, 16, 16.
O. Nemes 1 b Wang Xiaoming
-17, -7.
Rosskopf/Fetzner b Gatien/D.
Eli 17, 12.
Rosskopf/I. Bohning 1 Gatien/
Wang -13, 18, -18.
Rosskopf b Gatien 15, 19.
Fetzner b Marmurek 19, 15.



George Yates ETTU secretary writes in mailbox on critics of ETTU See page 26

Netherlands 2 Czechoslovakia 5
P. Haldan b J. Javurek 11, 18.
D. Heister 1 T. Janci -12, -18.
M. Kloppenburg b M. Hrachova 8,
16.
Haldan/H.v. Spanje 1 Javurek/J.
Pansky -13, -19.
H.v. Janci -15, 13, -17.
Haldan 1 Janci -15, 13, -17.
Heister 1 Javurek -16, -9.

LANCASHIRE & CHESHIRE LEAGUE

by George Yates

LIVERPOOL, the defending champions of the first division, were surprisingly held to a 5-all draw at home to Bolton on Jan 20, the pair now equating on 7 points from five matches with Bolton having the edge on sets.

David Carse and the veteran Clive Heap shared four of the Bolton sets on Merseyside with Nigel Hallows supplying the other at the expense of Stuart Richards who was otherwise unbeaten. Keith Williams and Malcolm McEvoy had one win each with the pair winning the doubles.

In failing to fulfil their away fixture against Blackburn cost Stockport a conceded 10-0 defeat but, at home to Warrington, and despite a treble from Graham Clarke, Blackburn went down 4-6. Table:

doubles success with Kevin Hill, the latter losing only to Jonathan Lowes with Rohit Khurana, the Oldham No. 3, yielding all his three singles to Lowes, Gavin Boyd and Kevin Hodgson. Table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oldham	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Barrow	5	3	0	2	35	15	6
Preston	4	2	1	1	28	12	5
Hyde	2	1	1	0	8	3	
Wirral	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Burnley	4	1	1	2	15	25	3
Southport	3	0	1	2	6	24	1
Macclesfield	3	0	0	3	0	30	0

Preston, the defending champions of the women's first division, had an easy ride when away to Macclesfield they won 9-1 with Nicola McGrath and Maria Thornley unbeaten and Carey Delaney losing only to Pat Brookes. But Liverpool, this season's favourites, had Amanda Goodwin to contend with when they met Oldham, Mandy accounting for Paula French, Brenda Buoye and Justine Thomas in that order but Liverpool-two wins each for Justine and Pauline, one for Brenda and the doubles-got home 6-4. Table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	5	2	3	0	32	18	7
Liverpool	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Warrington	5	3	0	2	24	26	6
Blackburn	5	1	3	1	29	21	5
Stockport	4	2	0	2	16	24	4
Ellesmere Port	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Burnley	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Oldham	4	0	1	3	15	25	1

Oldham would appear to have stamped their name on the championship trophy of Junior Division 1 when, on Jan 13, they inflicted a 6-4 defeat on Barrow, the defending champions.

Darryl Sneyd was unbeaten in his three singles and shared a

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Liverpool	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Oldham	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Stockport	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Crewe	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Warrington	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Ellesmere Port	2	1	0	1	7	13	2
Macclesfield	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

In the Zone final of the Leeds Wilmott Cup competition Bolton, following their 5-1 semi-final defeat of Warrington, are at home at Blackpool who, in their semi-final, beat Blackburn 5-4.

Quarter-final draw in the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy competition is (handicap in brackets):

Farnworth (4)	v Warrington
Preston (4)	v Bolton
Liverpool B.H. (scr)	v Nelson (scr)
Glossop (6)	v Liverpool

National Team Championships

Ormesby Cup - 2nd Round

Zone 1

Blackburn beat Carlisle 8-1
Potteries beat Preston 5-0

Zone 2

Leeds beat Harrogate 5-1
Stockton beat Huddersfield 6-3

Zone 3

Birmingham beat Coventry 5-4
Milton Keynes beat Oxford 5-1

Zone 4

Ipswich beat Burnham on
Crouch 6-0
Norwich beat Braintree 5-1

Zone 5

Watford given W/O by Wembley
and Harrow

Zone 6

Portsmouth beat Worthing 8-1
Brighton beat Tunbridge
Wells 5-4

Going Down

Italy's lack of success leaves them pointless at the foot of the table but all credit to Switzerland for their fine home win over Finland in Kloten.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	6	6	0	36	6	6
Austria	5	4	1	27	8	4
Belgium	5	4	1	25	10	4
Hungary	4	2	2	16	12	2
Finland	5	2	3	10	25	2
Turkey	5	1	4	11	24	1
Switzerland	5	1	4	8	27	1
Italy	5	0	5	7	28	0

Zone 7

Ilford beat Chelmsford 5-3
North Middlesex beat Waltham Forest 5-2

Zone 8

Bracknell beat Poole 5-3
Slough beat W. Cornwall 5-2

Woking is the most popular southern venue?

Mason secures his Dortmund ticket – over 300 at Woking

by MICHAEL GREEN

THE PRESIDENT of Surrey Table Tennis Association, Mr Ron Crayden, describes Woking Leisure Centre, the venue of The South of England 3 Star, as 'palatial'.

Over 300 'princes & princesses' of the sport took part and there was something definitely regal about the way Nicky Mason swept all aside to take the title. But it could have been so very different...

In his quarter-final, the top-seeded Mason faced the tenacious young Lancastrian Sean Gibson seeded at seven in what proved to be a dramatic encounter.

Nicky couldn't really get going and he found the drive and determination of his young opponent difficult to cope with in the first game. Nicky lost 13-21.

Gibson now had the bit between his teeth. In the second game he matched Mason point for point, never giving up any rally without a tremendous struggle. Sean was leading 10-9 when disaster struck...

Presumably trying to return one of Mason's lethal topspins, he apparently overbalanced and fell heavily at speed coming to a shrieking halt.

Coaches came rushing to his aid and it soon became apparent that Gibson had dislocated his shoulder. He was taken to hospital, bitterly disappointed at being thwarted so cruelly in his quest for glory.

There was no doubt that Nicky had been struggling... He shrugged his shoulders, thanked his lucky stars, and got on with beating his old adversary John Souter in the semi.

My match of the tournament was definitely Souter's quarter-final win over Matthew Syed 14-21 21-19 21-19. This was a fine spectacle with Souter's consistent attack combined with Syed's mesmeric ability to get the ball back from impossible positions. Superb...

The other half of the draw threw up a surprise finalist in Wiltshire's Kevin Satchell. In a scintillating semi, ninth seeded Kevin just pipped the number ~~one~~ seed Bradley Billington 21-19 in the third.



Nicky Mason, the final winner



Matthew Syed



John Souter

RESULTS

Men's Semi-Finals

Nicky Mason (Sy) b John Souter (Mi) 7, -17, 11
Kevin Satchell (Wi) b ~~Bradley Billington (Dy)~~ 11, 20, 19

Final Mason b Satchell 6, 12

Women's Semi-Finals

Alison Gordon (Bk) b Andrea Holt (La) 18, 13
Lisa Lomas (Bd) b Lesley Radford (E) 13, 12

Final Gordon b Lomas 10, 22

Men's Doubles

John Souter (Mi)/Colin Wilson (Mi) b Joe Kennedy (K) Nicky Mason (Sy) -14, 17, 11

Women's Doubles

Lisa Lomas (Bd)/Jean Parker (La) b Jill Harris (St)/Sue Collier (Bk) 22, -9, 10

Veterans

John Hilton (La) b Connie Warren (Sy) 12, 14

Class 2 Singles

Neil Pickard (Nk) b Graeme McKim (Np) 18, -17, 18

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TENNIS ASSOCIATION**, Queensbury House,
Havelock Rd, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF

Could Satchell trouble Mason in the final... In fact, it was no contest and Nicky took the title with ease. He was presented with his cheque and trophy by Ray Perrin of Ray Perrin Sports & Music Management who is not only a sponsor of the tournament but also manages the new champion.

Others with excellent wins include Steve Dorking (E) who beat the fifth seed Jimmy Stokes, Max Crimmins & Adrian Dixon before coming to grief in the quarters against Billington. Craig Bakewell (St) had a narrow victory over the recovering Dave Hannah. The much improving Tony Stark (Mi) defeated John Burleton and put up a super show against Matthew Syed before losing in three.

The women's event ran to form and consequently never really sprang into life. Alison Gordon was too strong for everyone although her task was made easier due to the non-appearance of Fiona Elliot, Joy Dean, & Mandy Sainsbury.

The tournament also received financial support from Stiga and the Lambeth Building Society.

Ding Yi capsized by Carl Prean

by THE EDITOR

SOMEONE had to bring the Austrian-Chinese player Ding Yi down from his lofty perch in Salzburg, happily for us, Carl Prean lifted his game once again to dizzy heights to give England a 4-2 lead and an historic victory.

We can only hope the Austrians give Belgium even more trouble when they meet.

Talking on the telephone to the England team camp before the match I was shaken to hear that Alison Gordon was suffering from pains in her arm and that there might have been a call for a replacement player. Thank heavens that was not necessary and Ali went on to secure an easy but vital women's singles victory over Elisabeth Maier.

Thin ice

To go into a match of this importance, away from home, with no injury cover is skating on very thin ice indeed. Had we lost to Austria through injury and no reserve player available there could well have been a hue and cry from Cleveland to Cornwall.

The match in Salzburg, one of the most beautiful towns in Europe provided an opening shock when Dietmar Palmi, a wily chopper beat ~~Carl Prean~~ ~~Alison Gordon~~ ~~Ding Yi~~ 16, 10. Not always at his best against back-spin, ~~Carl Prean~~ ~~Alison Gordon~~ ~~Ding Yi~~ tried hard but England had to wait only a few minutes before Carl Prean mounted an onslaught on Ding Yi who was beaten 16, 10 – the key to the whole match. Alison Gordon zoomed in to put England 2-1 ahead crushing Maier 12, 14. Carl and Prean then combined powerfully to take apart Ding Yi and Peter Eckel 14-12, to give England a 3-1 lead.

A classic battle developed in the mixed doubles. ~~Carl Prean~~ ~~Alison Gordon~~ were finally defeated 9, 23, 18 by Ding Yi and Maier. So Austria hit back, once again deploy-

ing the strategy of using Ding Yi in all four games.

3-2 to Austria and it was the Saarbrucken ace back on court. This time he showed that he can handle hitters and choppers, despatching Palmi 12, 13, to give England the winning 4-2 lead.

The "dead" rubber saw Ding Yi beat ~~Carl Prean~~ ~~Alison Gordon~~ 13, 11, but England had gained their vital point and that was really all that mattered as far as the team were concerned.

Reserves on tap

A great day for Carl Prean and the team. Don Parker responded by naming the same team for the match against Belgium, where two advantages applied – a home environment and reserves on tap in case of injury.



DING YI is now ranked no.4 in Europe!

SALZBURG RESULTS

1. Prean 4	Cooke 18, 10
Ding Yi 1	Prean – 16, – 10
E. Maier 1	A. Gordon – 12, – 14
Ding Yi-P. Eckel 1	Cooke-Prean 12, 12
Ding Yi-Maier b	Cooke-Gordon 9, – 23, 18
Palmi 1	Prean – 12, – 13
Ding Yi b	Cooke 13, 14

Promotion for Super England!

by JOHN WOODFORD



The champagne magnum made its appearance at Bexleyheath, left to right Don Parker, Steve Wild (The Leeds), Carl Prean, Alison Gordon, Lisa Lomas, Skylet Andrew, ~~Carl Prean~~.

WHEN we lost to Holland four years ago and were relegated, few people thought it would take four years to get back. The standard of play amongst the European nations continues to rise and it was therefore with huge sighs of relief that 800 fans crowded into the Crook Log Sports Centre at Bexleyheath to see the England promotion express roar through, leaving lowly Turkey 7-0 losers and England through to the elite division.

The spotlight falls principally on three players – ~~Carl Prean~~, Carl Prean and Alison Gordon – the players England dare not drop for the vital matches against Austria and Belgium. Although we finally beat Belgium 5-2 and we led Austria 4-2 in Salzburg, all three have played vital roles, certainly Carl's unbeaten show in Austria is the top performance, ~~Carl Prean's stunning night against Belgium is also highly respected.~~

Very few matches in the London area have produced big crowds in recent times so it was a very welcome sight to see so many people coming to watch England crush a Turkish side that was without their top three players. Had the Turks top pair Yaldir and Cimen got off the plane at Heathrow and ~~Carl Prean had~~

not recovered from his arm muscle injury Desmond Douglas might have appeared, despite the fact that in some sections of the press, you might read that he has definitely retired from the European League.

Take it from me, that if England really needed Desmond Douglas, he would do his duty and play.

Among the other delights at Bexleyheath was an appearance

in the VIP seating of Skylet Andrew's parents, who apparently had never seen him play since he became a professional. It was also fitting that Skylet played in the match, as he has played such an important role in the earlier matches this season and also in the last campaign.

England did all they had to do against Turkey who tried hard enough but only made progress

in the first game of the doubles when ~~Carl Prean~~ and ~~Alison Gordon~~ lost to Erduran and Ozbayraq. The England pair swiftly got their act together and with a little bit of concentration came through 11, 11.

The Turkish young lady Tunay Yilmaz was so nervous she had difficulty returning Alison Gordon's services – I could have said she was as nervous as we all were at Leeds Town Hall against Belgium.

What a wonderful night it was as the champagne flowed and the cameras flashed at Bexleyheath. As chairman John Prean said "It was like a dream come true". Donald Parker said "It was a wonderful team effort – this time next year we could be fighting not against relegation in the Super Division, but battling for the honours". Let us hope that Don is right – that our young players, improving all the time can take Europe by storm.

RESULTS

Carl Prean	b R. Erduran 13, 16
C. Prean	b M. Ozbayraq 12, 12
A. Gordon	b T. Yilmaz 11, 13
Carl Prean	b Erduran-Ozbayraq 16, 11, 11
S. Andrew-Gordon	b Erduran-Yilmaz 14, 16
Carl Prean	b Ozbayraq 13, 14
Prean	b Erduran 19, 9



Another superb photograph by John F.A. Wood of Hemel Hempstead. The picture is of the two Hertfordshire No. 1. players Keith Samuels and Maggie Pavitt. John Wood will take over as Editor of "Table Tennis News" during the summer break.



AT the South of England 3-star open at Woking, sponsor Ray Perrin lines up for the cheque presentation for Mike Loveder's camera.

ROBBERY: These two pictures on this page had to be rushed last minute to Belmont Press at Northampton. Their factory was raided by burglars on February 25 - in the chaos of the attack two photographs that were to have appeared on this page (from Woking) were lost!

LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE SPECIAL · LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE SPECIAL · LEEDS

Ormesby: Call-up for Canadians?

by MIKE LOVEDER

THE INCLUSION of an Englishman in the squad could be costing Ormesby dearly as they seem unable to beat the top opponents by effectively having three players. Chen Xinhua's two win advantage is being offset by two losses from the number 4 position. Ormesby may have to fly in both Canadians for their second attempt at beating Bath and Grove.

Now Ashford need to make an error against Bath to lose their lead. Struggling Bayer Bradford could cause an earthquake in the bottom half of the division. They are rumoured to be wrangling for the last minute registration of Alan Cooke on completion of the Swedish season. Unconfirmed reports of something in the region of £500 per match would make this an expensive gamble, but would certainly keep the top teams on their toes! Postponements have resulted in Ashford having to play 5 fixtures in 2 weeks during April including one against Bayer Bradford.

Shaken, Stirred

Des Douglas must have shaken Chen Xinhua by winning his first game comfortably, leading 19-16 in the second game, and serving - only to see Chen stirred into action to force a deciding game

and eventually win through for Ormesby to draw with Bath. This was Desmond's first loss in four years and he will no doubt be seeking revenge when these two sides meet again in the last fixture of the season on 30 April.

Nice to see that Ashford did not postpone against Ormesby despite the absence of their No 1 player. Following a six hour drive the Ormesby v Ashford fixture was completed in less than 3 hours. All games were won two-straight and once again the final score was 4-4. Not surprisingly, Chen Xinhua took the lead with a 14, 17 win over Glenn Baker. Joe Ng, Ormesby's other world-ranked Canadian, found Nicky Mason firing on all cylinders. Ng experienced difficulty with receipt of service and was beaten 10, 15. A very sporting John Broe lost -9, -17 to an in-form Steve Dorking and this was followed by

another win for Peter Jackson over Nigel Eckersley to put Ashford 3-1 ahead.

Mason played quite sensibly against Chen and, after losing the first at 17, took a 12-7 lead. However Chen levelled at 14-14 and went on to win 21-18. Ng had little trouble beating Jackson and then Broe put Ormesby 4-3 ahead with a 14 & 20 win over Baker. In the last game of the day Eckersley took an 8-2 lead against Dorking but could not maintain the momentum, losing out -15, -17.

Race against time

The following morning I experienced a 110mph race from Ormesby to Grove. The late arrival of the Cleveland team resulted in their pre-match practice reduced by 35 minutes. Nevertheless Joe Ng managed to stay cool and overcome a strong challenge from Jimmy Stokes 17, -16, 15 in the opening game.

Chen, who had had no warm up, still managed to beat the hard-hitting John Souter 16, 16.

Bradley Billington demonstrated that he was too good for Nigel Eckersley winning 11, 11.

With Sean Gibson injured, John Broe had to play reserve Graham Sandley. Prior to this match Broe had always beaten Gibson and always lost to Sandley. So, for the first time ever, Broe overcame his psychological disadvantage and beat Sandley 15, 12.

Match Highlight

Chen then beat Stokes to put Ormesby 4-1 ahead. Souter beat Broe fairly convincingly 14, 11 and this was followed by the highlight of the match. Could Billington beat Ng? The England No 6 lost the first at 16 and at 8-7 in the second lost a disputed point as the umpire saw the ball hit the edge of the table. However this had the effect of firing him up sufficiently to win the second game at 17. In the third Billington took an inspired 6-1 lead only for Ng to level the score at 11-11. From then on they exchanged points until the Grove star burst through 21-19 to reduce the deficit to 3-4. This left Sandley to beat Eckersley for the points to be shared. He did so too with scores of 16, 9.

A Staggering German Cup Final

THE GERMAN Cup Final, which took place on January 8, occupied little space in our own newspapers, though it should have done. It proved a quite staggering occasion. You will find some of the details almost unbelievable, but all are confirmed.

Match Income: £70,000!

The match was attended by 2,800 people; the match income was 220,000 Deutsch Marks (yes, two hundred and twenty thousand) which is about £70,000 (seventy thousand pounds)! Specifically installed Executive Boxes produced an income of 20,000 DM or about £7,000. Local Television allocated four hours to the match. The "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung", probably Germany's most famous newspaper, wrote that the sport had pushed forward into totally new dimensions. It was a show, concluded the newspaper, which Ion Tiriac, a great (tennis) sales expert himself, could not have bettered. The home team, which had purchased the home rights from their opponents, was the A.T.S.V. Saarbrücken and the visitors were S.S.V. Reutlingen, both clubs of great traditions.

The home team is probably to German Table Tennis what Manchester United is to English football. Success is a way of life. Last season, though they headed the league table by 7 points, a strange play-off system, which follows the normal league programme deprived them of the title. That, however, was the main event for 6-man-teams. This was the Cup, which is fought out by 3-man-teams and brings with it automatic qualification to the European Champions Cup of which Saarbrücken are former holders.

Chinese World Champions on view

The Saarbrücken line-up was Xie Saike, a member of two World Championship winning teams, still well under 30, Carl Prean and Peter Engel, a former German Champion, whilst Reutlingen fielded Guo Yua Hua, now 32, who was world champion in 1981 and 1983 and a silver medallist in 1977 and 1979, Peter Stellwag, many times German Champion and the



Carl Prean, the Saarbrücken and Isle of Wight professional beat seven out of the top ten men on the world ranking list in 1988, an historic achievement for an English player. John Prean, the ETTA chairman describes the tension at the West German cup final.

Austrian international Dieter Palmi.

Superb Staging

The match was magnificently staged, the light so trained that only the playing box was lit up. A giant T.V. screen was in the hall, which recorded every point. The atmosphere was electric, when the 'Englishman with the German passport,' as Carl is often described in the German press, stepped into the arena to do battle with Guo, the former world champion.

It was generally accepted that Guo had to win his three matches if his club were to have a realistic chance, but he was quite capable of that. His German form has been impressive. However, his team's hopes were shot to pieces in that vital, first encounter which Prean won 15, -13 and 18. It was stated that Guo felt a recurrence of an old injury towards the end of that decisive third game and so the English player was deprived of some of the credit for his victory.

Thereafter Reutlingen's resistance crumbled against a home team which had been well prepared. A host of famous training partners had attended their final training sessions. Saarbrücken won 5-0. German matches end when the winners have accumulated sufficient points. It is a lesson we could learn to our advantage. It was perhaps fitting that Prean should play the last match and defeat Stellwag 13 and 9.

Jubilation

Pandemonium reigned, as his delighted team mates threw Carl into the air, but this was to prove only a warm-up, as the rather bulkier team manager Georg Rebmann was then similarly propelled by his jubilant team.

Sadly, I was not there - prevented by numerous long-standing engagements which had been fixed longer than the date of the match - but I would have liked to have been, because it was clearly a wonderful occasion for table tennis and one which set new standards of organisational and financial excellence.

A great sport

When I offered myself as a candidate for the chairmanship of the Association, my main plank was the sport itself. I believed that this had a great future. Others thought that it had not, that a dignified Cinderella status was the best we could hope for, similar to that enjoyed or suffered over the previous years.

At the Seoul Olympics Table Tennis enjoyed the fourth highest spectator figures and day after day large crowds attended what was often modest entertainment in terms of quality of play. Nevertheless the crowds kept coming. If we had given more thought to selection and scheduling, one wonders what staggering attendance figures might have emerged. The experience of Saarbrücken shows what can be achieved, when the sport gets its act together. It can have the most enormous future.

JOHN PREAN

Our prayers are answered!

by THE EDITOR in Leeds

LEEDS Town Hall reminded me of The Vatican. I am willing to bet that some of the 600 England fans said a prayer or two as England and Belgium pitted amongst the lofty portals fought out one of the most tense struggles I have seen in the European League.

In the previous crunch battles, two against Holland and in Germany the tension was electric. At Leeds it was a thousand volts job!

The match lasted four hours, ending at 11.05 p.m. with England winning 5-2 – a scoreline that some saw as a little flattering to England.

The heroes of the long night, the opening of the gateway to the Super Division were Carl Prean and [REDACTED] both men are now quite brilliant at absorbing pressure.

Cabrera danger

We shall never know if the absence of Andras Podpinka would have made a different result. Belgium captain Milan Stencil said that Podpinka had been ill twice and therefore without practice, so he never came into contention for the match.

Many of us have seen fine performances in the past from Thierry Cabrera, a man who has been punished in the past for his

fiery temperament. He gave Carl Prean a hard-time in the opening game. Although Prean came through 20, 21, the close scores set the pattern for the evening. The crowd spent most of the long hours on the edge of their seats, but in the end their patience was rewarded.

Jose's flags

I doubt if any of the fans present thought that [REDACTED] was going to topple the spectacular Jean-Michel Saive, but he did it 13, 18 as the Union Jacks, supplied by Josie Ransome, waved frantically.

Forecasts that England would win the women's singles easily, might have been based on the fact that Karien Bogaerts is frequently unfit to play. She appeared and played well as she did in Seoul – scraping home against a very gallant but very disappointed Alison Gordon. Another cliff-hanger, 21 in the third.

Back came the men, Prean and

PROMOTION CHAMPIONS



Although this picture was taken after the champagne bottle was exploded by Lucy McCrickard at Bexleyheath, it was the match at Leeds that really decided that England go up and Belgium stay down.



Mike Watts, ends his career as the ETTA Events Manager on a very high note. He was presented with gifts from the England team and the media to mark his moving on. Chairman John Prean made special thanks in his speech for his services.

[REDACTED] to put England back on course, but they had to struggle to subdue the Belgian pair Saive and Cabrera, yet another third-game cliffhanger, 20 in the third, but at least it put England 3-1 up and securing victory.

England's poor record in European League mixed doubles came into the spotlight again as [REDACTED] and Alison Gordon went down 16, 11 to Saive and Bogaerts, a pair that I would expect to go a long way in Dortmund. So, the Belgians were back in the match at 3-2.

Fortunately, England had a trump card left – Carl Prean, who once again lifted his game to stop Saive 24-22, 13-21, 21-14 to give England victory. That had the crowd on its feet, all was well.

With the issue decided [REDACTED] Cooke disposed of Cabrera 13, 16. [REDACTED] told me at Preston, "I was so psyched up in that match against Belgium. Now I have an arm injury, brought on by the strain of the occasion." Classic comment from ETTA chairman John Prean, "It was a day I shall remember for the rest of my life."

RESULTS

- C. Prean b T. Cabrera 20, 21
- [REDACTED] b J. Saive 13, 18
- A. Gordon 1 K. Bogaerts 13, -17, -21
- [REDACTED] b Saive-Cabrera 17, -15, -20
- [REDACTED] b Saive-Cabrera 13, 16
- Prean b Saive 22, -12, 14.
- [REDACTED] b Cabrera 13, 16.



ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

EVENTS MANAGER

Based: Hastings

Salary: Negotiable

The ETTA is seeking an Events Manager to co-ordinate activity on its total domestic competitive programme, ranging from high profile championships covered by television to smaller, single day events. The increasing interest by players, spectators and the media in Table Tennis makes this appointment particularly challenging.

The Events Manager will be responsible for ensuring that all aspects of National Championships, tournaments and events run by the Association are carried out correctly, on time and within budget, either by the relevant committee of the Association or by the Events Department. He/she will also be responsible for the co-ordination and implementation of the associated promotional programmes.

The Events Manager will be based at the Association's modern headquarters in Hastings and will report directly to the Chief Executive. He/she will be responsible for a small Events Department staff. Direction will come mainly from the Marketing Committee, of which the Events Manager is the secretary, and from liaison with specialist competition committees.

Proven and relevant experience in the organisation of sporting events is essential, as are well developed skills in negotiating venue, hotel and catering agreements. The demands of the job dictate the working of unsocial hours but time off in lieu of weekend and Bank Holiday days is granted. The ability to communicate effectively is essential, as is a high degree of mobility.

An attractive salary will be negotiated based on the experience of the successful applicant.

Write for job description and application form to:

E J Wallbutton Chief Executive
The English Table Tennis Association
Queensbury House, Havelock Road,
Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF

Completed applications must be received
before 31 March 1989.

Over 1,000 at the Leeds Masters at Preston

The Andrzej Grubba show!

by THE EDITOR

ANDRZEJ GRUBBA, the Polish world No. 5 lived up to expectations of his high ranking to win the £4000 Leeds Masters Invitation tournament at the splendid Preston Guild Hall. Grubba, possibly the best player in the world from the rear of the court, proved on this occasion to be the television producer's dream.

Few of us present will forget an abundance of exquisite Grubba returns, brilliant lobs and an occasional drive from 25ft. away in the final round when Grubba tantalisingly lost the first game -19 and then took the next two against Andrei Mazunov 12, 10.

Andrei Mazunov reminded us that he was only one step away from becoming European champion in Paris. He or his brother Dmitri must between them have an excellent chance of looking at the European men's singles trophy on their mantlepiece before long.

Working from the back

The fact that Grubba was able to defend successfully when driven back made the point that the Pole is such a brilliant player "up at the net" or way back. Now we know how he won the World Cup, scattering all the Chinese opposition.

Delightful

Apart from such a delightful venue, Preston provided big crowds on both days, well over a thousand on the final day and some 800 on the Friday night. On some occasions in the past we have struggled to get the crowds to this event. This time, despite the fact the television cameras were present, we were well-rewarded with a superb crowd.

Brothers most impressive

Progress by the Mazunov brothers has clearly been maintained. Two brothers in the semi-finals is certain proof. Dmitri, 17, had a remarkable start in his group by beating Chen Xinhua (who appeared to be lacking practice) and Carl Prean 17, 22. Later, in the same group Desmond Dou-



Andrzej Grubba, Poland



Andrei Mazunov, USSR

glkas beat Dimitri, squeezing into the semi-finals aided substantially by Prean who capsized Chen with a comprehensive win 9, 13.

How Carl loves choppers! "I wish there were more of them" he said later at Preston. Carl's looped drives seem to be totally lethal against backspin.

regrettably was feeling the physical and mental strain of the previous night at Leeds when England toppled Belgium from their lofty unbeaten slot in the European League. Cooke was far from his best against Grubba and Andrei Mazunov and was unable to play against Liang Ge Liang on the Saturday morning, visiting the physio instead.

Liang, aged 38, looked his age. At the next Masters (September) hopefully, his invitation might go to one of his younger compatriots playing in Germany.

The semi-finals produced some magnificent play with Grubba giving us a foretaste of his long defence. Desmond Douglas, although losing to Andrei Mazunov 19, 17 said, "I was quite pleased with my play". He looked sharp enough to face the backlog of fixtures for Bath in the Leeds British League, the Cleveland Open, the Commonwealth Championships and then Dortmund.

Group 1

A. Grubba b Liang Ge Liang 15, 24
A. Mazunov b A. Cooke 15, 16
Grubba b Cooke 17, 14
A. Mazunov b Liang 17, 16
Liang w/o Cooke, injured
Grubba b A. Mazunov -19, 21, 17

Group 2

D. Mazunov b Chen -16, 19, 17
D. Douglas b C. Prean 21, 11
Chen b Douglas 19, -19, 16
D. Mazunov b Prean 17, 22
Douglas b Mazunov 18, -11, 17
Prean b Chen 9, 13.
SF: A. Mazunov b Douglas 19, 17
Grubba b D. Mazunov 15, 15
Final: Grubba b A. Mazunov -19, 12, 10.

New Counties event

ON A DATE yet to be announced a brand new event will take place. This will be the Leeds County Championships Challenge to be played for the Maurice Goldstein Trophy and a prize fund of £750 (£500 for the winners and £250 for the runners-up). The teams will be the County Champions and the team placed second in the previous season's County Championships Premier Week-end. This season's teams will be Derbyshire, the champions and Middlesex, the runners-up.

We hope to make this a major media and spectator occasion which will bring credit and more recognition to the County Championships and the match will, of course, commemorate the long and distinguished service to the sport of our late President, Maurice Goldstein.

A handsome trophy will be purchased, financed half by donations from members and half by the E.T.T.A.

We look forward to an excellent show. Watch for details.

LANCASHIRE 2-STAR OPEN CANCELLATION

DUE to structural alterations affecting both the concert hall and main canteen at the premises of British Aerospace Air Weapons Division at Lostock, near Bolton the Lancashire 2-Star Open scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 1989 has had to be cancelled.

Regrettably the venue, as used for thirty-three years, will no longer be available to us and as this information was only given me recently there is now insufficient time to obtain an alternative.

All good things must come to an end and so the demise of the Lancs 2-Star as far as Lostock is concerned. Sorry.

GEORGE YATES



British League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association



Saive signs up for Ashford

by MIKE LOVEDER

AS THE Premier Division goes from strength to strength, this period saw Grove lose their unbeaten record to Ashford who secured an astonishing 7-1 victory. Belgian champion Jean-Michel Saive made his debut for Ashford and found that the Leeds British League is far from easy. He beat John Souter in the opening game 11 and 19 after trailing 9-14 at one stage.

Nicky Mason then beat Jimmy Stokes by almost identical scores. Glenn Baker got off to a slow start against Sean Gibson - losing the first game 10. He clawed his way back to win and put Ashford 3-0 ahead. Dangerman Bradley Billington beat the New Zealand No 2, Peter Jackson, 16 and 19 from 14-18 down in the second.

England No 9 Stokes seriously threatened the Belgian No 1 by winning the first 17. Stokes lost the second 7 but recovered to lead 20-16 in the third, only to lose six consecutive points. Following a shock defeat at the Top 12, Mason was keen to gain revenge over Billington - but did it the hard way! After being a game and 17-11 ahead he found himself playing a deciding end. At 16-11 up in the third he did not make the same mistakes and won 21-16 for a 5-1 lead. Baker then pulled out an unexpected win over Souter 16, 16 as Souter never really came to terms with Baker's second game lead of 7-1. With the match clearly won by this point the New Zealander seemed quite dazed against Gibson and lost the first at 18. Gibson seemed set for an unexpected win but Jackson pinched the second 24-22. Suddenly he sprung to life and romped home 8 in the third to put Ashford on top of the League for the first time.

Still in contention

The previous week Ormesby beat Butterfly Cardiff 6-2 to remain in contention. Nigel Thomas beat David McIlroy and Carl Morgan beat Nigel Eckersley while Chen Xinhua and John Broe were trouble free. Armada 400 seem to have secured another year in the Premier with a 5-3 victory over Chan Construction. This was largely thanks to Tony Stark, who beat Leigh Jeffries and Neil Pickard, and to Paul Whiting who beat Dave Gannon and John Holland.

In Div 1 North Phil Gunn beat John Hilton 14 and 15 but lost to Steve Slater as Kettler beat Warwick 6-2. Phil Bowen increased his average to 70% with a win

over Andy Rich 34-32 in the last game of this match. Ipswich beat St Neots 6-2 and Phil Logsdon looked outstanding with comfortable victories over Mick Harper and Stephen Moore. Grove beat Lincoln by the same score as John Ellis looked good beating Dave Skerratt and Stuart Worrell. City of Leeds led Burslem 4-0 only to share the points as Craig Bakewell reversed the trend against Bennie Robertson.



Chen Xinhua, Ormesby

Doleq Carpets' Brian Jeanes made little impact on his return against Ruislip and Steve Ward beat John Taylor for Doleq's sole win. Dagenham scraped a victory over Horsham Dolphins as John Burleton beat Ritchie Venner 8, -15, 19 and Phil Smith 17, -13, 20. Dave Dodd also won two against Smith and brother Andy. Larkhall gained an unexpected win over Rejects as Brian Garroway surprisingly beat Mike O'Leary and Richard Beckham. Team Ramlosa Essex kept Plymouth Bulldogs at bay with a 6-2 win with Gary Lambert unbeaten. Richard Darnell recorded an impressive 6 and 13 victory over Gary Wilson.

Martin Simpson beat Stuart Miller and Mike Nisbet as Maurice Newman beat Malcolm Corking and Stephen Cooper for Royal Mail Leicester to record a 5-3 over Ormesby II. Vymura chase Well-Connected Wellington, beating March 6-2 as Tony Worthington entertained with wins over Gary Jordan and Chris Weston.

Cranleigh 'Barred'

Ashford II took no chances with Fellows Cranleigh as Peter Norcott provided the main resistance by taking an end from Dave Barr and Joey Kennedy. Chelmsford crushed Deptford Rams 6-2 as Phil Bradbury beat Dave Newman and Des Charlery. Jolliffe Poole almost dropped two points to Victory Sports Tonbridge. The draw seemed to hinge on Tony Clayton winning 19, -11, 20 against Mark Brown.

In Div 3 East Dunstable Pioneer beat Britannia Ipswich 6-2 although Ritchie Nelhams beat Keith Samuels. City of Milton Keynes suffered another 3-5 defeat, this time to AHW Comets. Norwich Foxwood beat Levi's Westfield 7-1 as Richard Elliott beat David Honor 18 and 18 in the last game. Ellenborough beat Cranleigh II 5-3 despite a surprise win by Clive Carthy over Jon Proffitt.

Liverpool, without Andrew Eden and Paul Hutchins, lost 3-5 to Birmingham. Peter Waite beat Chris Ford -18, 8, 11 in the last game to secure victory. Hartlepool only just took the lead with a draw at Ormesby as Mark Christie and Stephen George were out of sequence. Bri-bar Byker beat Vymura without Mark Oakley. Dave Godbold took two including a 23 and 10 victory over Matthew Sheader who was playing at No. 1.

The Larkhall veterans overpowered Ashford III by 5-3 with the last four games going to three and the vets taking three of them. Gunnersbury Triangle got very close to Lambeth 4 Tops as Chris Boothby beat Neville Miller and Farhat Rasul only to see his team



Mike Loveder

lose the last two to lose 3-5. Horsham Dolphins crushed Marley Ashford 7-1 with Alan Cole looking very impressive with a -15, 8, 6 victory over Kent's Brian Mileham. Gary Zabrocki beat Tony Murrell for Marley's consolation game. Rejects II kept the pressure on Dolphins with a 7-1 win over Pilling Air Croydon.

Launceston Win

White Hart Launceston temporarily knocked Bath down to



Alan Cole, Horsham Dolphins

3rd place in Div 3 West with a surprise 5-3 win. Young Neil Bevan scraped two useful wins over Chris Holley and Andy Creed. Launceston's 4-1 lead was reduced to 4-3 before Graham Reed beat Gary Baldwin. Doleq moved to safety with a win over Amity with Jeremy Hobbs beating Ram Bhalla and Graham Toole. Grove and Leckie were whitewashed by Reading and Barry respectively and only one of these 16 games went to three. Leckie's Peter Baker and was beaten -13, 19, 12 by Tony Healan.

The Leeds British League 2

RESULTS

Chan Cons	0 B Cardiff	8
B Bradford	5 Armada 400	3
Ormesby	4 Bathwick T	4
Burslem	5 St Neots	3
B Ipswich	4 Grove II	4
RM Lincoln	5 Kettler	3
W Warwicks	3 City Leeds	5
Dagenham	2 Rejects	6
Doleq	6 Ramlosa	2
Plymouth	2 Horsham	6
Larkhall	2 Ruislip	6
Grove III	5 Oldham	3
March TTC	4 Leicester	4
Ormesby	6 Chan Cons	2
Well-Con W	7 Vymura Int	1
Cheltenham	2 Chelmsford	6
Deptford	3 Tonbridge	5
Cranleigh	2 B Cardiff	6
J Poole	2 Ashford II	6
Dunstable	6 CM Keynes	2
Cranleigh	4 AHW Comets	4
Norwich F	7 B Ipswich	1
Ellenbro	6 Levi's W	2
BB Byker	4 Hartlepool	4
Liverpool	7 C Lincoln	1
Ormesby	2 Birmingham	6
Peterbro	6 Vymura Int	2
G Triangle	6 Pillinger	2
Marley Ash	5 Ashford III	3
Rejects II	4 Horsham II	4
Larkhall II	P Lambeth 4 T	P
Doleq II	2 Bath II	6
Grove IV	0 Sp Barry	8
Leckie	4 Amity GF	4

Congratulations to Mick Broughton of Norald Foxwood — Player of the Month for January

LEAGUE PICTURE PARADE

PICTURES: MIKE LOVEDER



Jimmy Stokes, Grove



John Broe, Scotland & Ormesby



Percy Collino



Matt Sheader, Vymura



Chris Rogers, Bathwick Tyres

the LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE — TABLES



Premier	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Ashford I	7	5	2	44	12	12
Ormesby I	7	5	2	42	14	12
Grove I	8	5	2	46	18	12
Bathwick T	6	4	2	32	16	10
B Cardiff	9	4	0	36	36	8
Armada 400	10	2	1	27	53	5
Chan Const	10	1	1	17	63	3
B Bradford	7	1	0	12	44	2

Div 1 North	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Kettler	10	7	1	50	30	15
Grove II	10	6	3	48	32	15
B Ipswich	10	5	4	49	31	14
C Leeds	10	4	3	46	34	11
W Warwicks	10	4	2	40	40	10
St Neots	10	2	2	38	42	6
Burslem	10	2	1	28	52	5
RM Lincoln	10	2	0	21	59	4

Div 1 South	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
C&L Ruislip	10	9	1	60	20	19
Horsham Dol	10	5	2	45	35	12
Dagenham FC	10	4	2	40	40	10
T Ramlosa E	10	4	2	40	40	10
Rejects I	10	3	2	37	43	8
Doleq Carp	10	2	4	36	44	8
TSP Larkhall	10	3	2	31	49	8
Plymouth BD	10	1	3	31	49	5

Div 2 North	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Well-Con W	8	8	0	56	8	16
Vymura Int	9	7	0	45	24	14
March TTC	10	5	1	43	37	11
Ormesby II	10	5	0	36	44	10
RM Leics	10	4	1	41	39	9
Grove III	8	4	0	29	35	8
Oldham	9	2	0	28	44	4
Chan Con II	8	0	0	10	54	0

Div 2 South	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Chelmsford	10	9	0	61	19	18
Ashford II	10	8	1	60	20	17
Cheltenham	9	5	2	39	33	12
Deptford R	10	5	1	42	38	11
VS Tonbridge	10	3	2	33	47	8
Joll Poole	10	3	1	31	49	7
B Cardiff II	9	2	1	29	43	5
F Cranleigh	10	0	0	17	63	0

Div 3 East	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Thorn Ellen	10	9	1	58	22	19
Norwich Fox	10	8	2	62	18	18
Dunstable P	10	6	0	45	35	12
AHW Comets	10	5	2	40	40	12
F Cranleigh	10	3	4	40	40	10
C M Keynes	10	1	1	27	53	3
B Ipswich II	10	1	1	26	54	3
Levis Westfd	10	1	1	22	58	3

Div 3 North	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	10	8	0	58	22	16
Hartlepool	10	7	2	55	25	16
Birmingham	10	7	2	51	29	16
BB Byker	10	3	3	40	40	9
Cr Lincoln	10	4	0	33	47	8
Vymura Int	10	3	1	37	43	7
Seat Peter	10	3	1	33	47	7
Ormesby III	10	0	1	13	67	1

Div 3 South	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Horsham Dol	10	7	2	55	25	16
Lambeth 4T	9	6	1	43	29	13
Rejects II	9	4	4	43	29	12
Larkhall II	7	4	0	26	30	8
G Triangle	9	3	2	34	38	8
Pillinger A	9	2	3	34	38	7
Marley Ashf	9	7	2	28	44	6
Ashford III	10	1	0	25	55	2

Div 3 West	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Spec Barry	10	7	1	56	24	15
King Reading	8	6	1	44	20	13
Bathwick II	8	6	1	42	22	13
WH Launceston	9	4	3	42	30	11
Am G Fareham	9	2	5	38	34	9
Doleq Carp II	9	2	3	30	42	7
Leckie TTC	10	1	1	24	56	3
Grove IV	9	0	1	12	60	1

No surprises in the England Squads

40th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ENGLAND captain Don Parker made his final choices for the Commonwealth and World Championships and produced no surprises, or unusually, any bitter disappointments as he made up his mind on the two squads.

At Clacton in the Stiga English Top-12 it seemed possible that successes by Matthew Syed and Bradley Billington might just bring into the frame the two teenagers – as Syed clinched the trip to Delhi two years ago.

But it would seem that Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason have themselves recorded a string of super successes this season, neither could be left in the cold in favour of the teenagers who will almost certainly have many days of glory to come in the not too distant future.

To some extent the teams picked themselves – Cooke, Douglas, Prean will appear in Cardiff and Dortmund – still England's best trio for 30 years, with at times Cooke and Prean taking it in turns to play the star role, Cooke at Clacton, Prean in Salzburg are two examples.

But, some of the icing on the cake at Cardiff has been chipped away because Douglas and Prean are to be rested before the 11-day ordeal and trial of strength, skill and stamina ahead in Dortmund – they will appear only in the team event in Cardiff, whilst Cooke, Mason and Andrew will stay on for the individual events.

This will leave Prean and Douglas four days rest before Dortmund – a very sensible move by the selector supremo.

Unique

In the woman's squad Alison Gordon, Lisa Lomas and Fiona Elliot will represent England. Andrew Holt with her unique combination of chop and hit is in need of a few more surprise wins against big names to give her confidence.

However, she will appear for England in the individual events in Cardiff and will join the England team in Dortmund for all events.

Similarly, Skylet Andrew has been awarded the biggest carrot in Dortmund – a place in the England squad – whilst Nicky Mason perhaps is a shade unlucky to be joining the England team in Dortmund for the individual events. Skylet will appear in Cardiff only in the individual competition.

Lo Chuen Tsung now seems certain to be the No.1. seed in



Skylet Andrew

Cardiff with Douglas out and says organiser Roy Evans "He is quite capable of winning three matches in the team events. Hong Kong will also be seeded Nos. 1 and 2 in the women's singles. And, late news, the teams events will be played in groups, instead of straight knock-out.

CARDIFF START

Play starts officially in Cardiff on Monday, March 20 with an opening by the Secretary of State for Wales Mr Peter Walker running through to the finals of the individual events on the Sunday afternoon March 26.



The world championships will start on Wednesday March 29, through to finals day when the new world champions will be crowned on Sunday, April 9.



Jill Parker

MEETINGS IN DORTMUND

The following meetings have been provisionally scheduled. Other announcements about meetings will be displayed on the notice board in Dortmund and all Committee members should check with the ITTF office as soon as possible after their arrival.

Tuesday, 28 March

Evening Jury

Wednesday, 29 March

14.00 Council

Evening OPENING CEREMONY

Thursday, 30 March

09.00 Press and Publicity Committee (1)

09.00 Rules Committee (1)

09.00 Standing Orders Committee (1)

11.00 Equipment Committee (1)

11.00 Technical Committee (1)



Alison Gordon



Lisa Lomas



Fiona Elliot

Friday, 31 March

09.00 Management Committee

09.00 Olympics Commission

14.00 Classification Committee (1)

14.00 Manufacturers Meeting

Saturday, 1 April

09.30 BGM FIRST SESSION

Sunday, 2 April

09.00 Equipment Committee (2)

14.00 Technical Committee (2)

Monday, 3 April

10.00 Rules Committee (2)

14.00 Seminar on Concrete Tables

Tuesday, 4 April

TEAM FINALS

Wednesday, 5 April

FREE DAY

Thursday, 6 April

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS START

09.00 Equipment Committee (3)

09.30 Medical Committee (1)

09.30 Standing Orders Committee (2)

14.00 Rules Committee (3)

14.00 Technical Committee (3)

Friday, 7 April

09.30 BGM SECOND SESSION

Saturday, 8 April

09.30 Council

11.00 Rules Committee (4)

14.00 Classification Committee (2)

14.00 Technical Committee (4)

Sunday, 9 April

INDIVIDUAL FINALS



Andrea Holt

It maybe only the beginning!

Some pretty startling claims have been made on behalf of English table tennis since promotion to the Super Division of the European League was completed with the rapid consumption of Turkey and champagne at Bexleyheath last month.

According to England captain Donald Parker England now has a chance of going on to challenge for the Super title itself. And according to ETTA Chairman John Prean, table tennis is capable of development to the point where it takes its place in popularity alongside the more major sports.

Certainly a sense of euphoria was created by the rip-roaring 7-0 victory over the Turks, which contrasted utterly with the anxious cliffhanging of the previous two matches, against Austria and Belgium. And maybe the remarks were made with a weather eye on how to help promote the sport. But they are also worthy of more serious consideration.

The promise

Parker's promise is that Carl Prean and Alan Cooke, at 21 and 22 years old respectively, will continue to improve. Perhaps in Europe only Gatien and Mazunov are younger and better, which means that in two or three years time we could be a strong position. But of course Preano and Cooke must keep their present high levels of professionalism and dedication.

But we have to look to one of the women to improve as well. By Super Division standards we may find ourselves with a weakness in the women's singles and mixed doubles. Therefore much may depend on getting one player through to top class out of Alison



Alison Gordon could be the player that England will be looking for to some vital wins in the Super Division next campaign. At the Czech Open on Feb 23 Alison beat Alena Safarova, the new Europe No.4.

Gordon, Lisa Lomas, Fiona Elliot and Andrea Holt. Alison has shown some encouraging signs this season but remains tantalisingly on the edge of the breakthrough she really needs.

Positive outlook

I think we might find the first season up in the Super Division a bit difficult, but I applaud the captain's positive outlook. He is pleased with his young team's efforts and so are we all. I shall remember Carl Prean's splendid win against Ding Yi in Salzburg as the turning point of the campaign.

Father John Prean's pronounce-

ments have been even more ambitious. He too is pleased with the progress that has been made (off the table in his case) and believes it may be only the beginning. After all, the game is simple and colourful, easy to follow, and understood by most people. The small table fits the small screen. So it could get plenty more television than it already has.

Those, roughly speaking, are the Chairman's views and they are plausible. The Leeds Masters brought about the best effort by BBC TV for twelve years. Something seemed to have been learnt from Cheerleader and Grand Slam Productions in presenting



Richard Eaton

sports more imaginatively and with different camera angles.

It may even be possible to get some of the European League on to the box now that we are up in the Super Division. John Prean is likely to keep up his pressure on the European Union, which is inhibiting the chances of gaining further sponsors and TV in this country with its insistence that its own sponsor's advert must appear courtside.

"We are not masters in our own house" has become a notable quote. However the threat of withdrawing from the European League has now receded. The Super Division is that bit more marketable and we wish John Prean and Ted Wallbutton the best of luck in capitalising on it. After all much has been achieved in quite a short time. It is important to keep the log rolling.

STOP PRESS

Space Pressure

Over 25 pictures and those normally included in the Counties pages have been omitted from this issue due to shortage of space. Several stories and some results have been held over. JW

IN THE AUSTRIAN ALPS . . .



Salzburg was one of the most attractive venues in the European League this campaign. Alan Cooke's camera captured this scene with Don Parker and Richard Eaton on the hotel balcony.

EVENTS COMING UP . . .

4-5 Mar	VETTS Western, Swindon
4-5 Mar	Nat-West Derby Junior 2-star Select
11 Mar	ESTTA National Team finals
11-12 Mar	Cleveland 3-star, Thornaby
18 Mar	The Leeds County Championships
19-26 Mar	Commonwealth Championships, Cardiff
25-26 Mar	English Junior Top-12, Milton Keynes
27 Mar- Apr 8	40th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, DORTMUND
16 Apr	The Leeds British League, Premier
16 Apr	Bedford 1-star
22 Apr	Lancashire 2-star, Bolton
22-23 Apr	Yorkshire 2-star select
29 Apr	ESTTA Individual championships
29 Apr	Bristol 2-star
29 Apr	Hollington Junior 1-star
30 Apr	Hollington 1-star
30 Apr	Under-11 National Championships
30 Apr	Bristol Junior 2-star
6-7 May	The Leeds English National Championships, Portsmouth
14 May	The Leeds National Team Finals
20 May	Grove Cadets 2-star
27-28 May	VETTS Nationals, Bracknell
27-28 May	Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-star
29 May	The Leeds Youth Cup Finals
3-4 June	The Leeds English Junior Open, Bridlington.

The most hectic tour of all

by DON PARKER

NEVER have I experienced such a hectic tour. For George Yates, Des and myself it started on January 4th at Manchester Airport and finished at the same airport on January 18th. During that time we played three rounds of team event in three different countries, an individual tournament in Thailand, stayed at six different hotels and spent over 50 hours in flight.

The first port of call was Kota Kinabalu in North Borneo where the matches took place in over 100°F with what felt like 100% humidity in a non-air-conditioned stadium which was packed with around 5,000 screaming Malaysians. Considering the Europeans played on the same day of arrival the results were remarkable. Europe I (Grubba, Waldner, Appelgren) beat Asia I (Jiang, Kim Ki Taek, Teng Yi) very convincingly and Europe I Women beat Asia II Women. A player who really impressed in these early matches and continued to do so throughout the tournament was Kim Taek Soo, the South Korea No 3. This in my opinion must now give the South Koreans an equal chance with China and Sweden to take the Swathyling Cup in Dortmund.

From Kota Kinabalu we flew to Singapore for the second round of team matches. Situated very close to the equator the weather was very similar to that experienced in North Borneo. It was here Des produced his best form of the tour when he inspired Europe II to an excellent victory over Asia I with a win over current World Champion Jiang Jia Liang. While Asia I were having great problems, not helped by the absence of Olympic Champion Yoo Nam Kyu due to food poisoning, Asia III were playing inspired Table Tennis led by the above mentioned Kim Taek Soo ably assisted by the Taipei player Wu Wen Chia and Japanese player Matsushita.

The final round of team matches was held in Hong Kong where Europe I men confirmed their position as the No 1 team when they beat Asia III 5-0.

Mugged

Unfortunately in the ensuing celebrations Waldner was struck in the face with a bottle when leaving a restaurant, presumably someone after his money, and after receiving 6 stitches in the very nasty wound had to return to Sweden.

Certainly the most exciting moment of the whole tour occurred in the last match between Europe III Men and Asia II Men. With the match score at 4-4 Des played the Hong Kong No 1, Lo Chuen Tsung in front of

what could only be described as a very patriotic crowd and the noise was deafening as the scores stood at 25-25 in the third game. Unfortunately Des lost having had 5 match points however Europe Men were the overall winners by 33 set to 32 sets. While Asia women won overall I feel the European Women played extremely well and the gap has certainly been narrowed. It was interesting to see the Hong Kong No 1 girl, Chai Po Wa, playing for Asia I with a very unusual penhold twiddle technique using long pimples and reverse. Both her and Lo will provide very tough opposition in the Commonwealths. However having had the opportunity to study them closely we will certainly be preparing very thoroughly.

Very Tired

From Hong Kong the party moved on to Bangkok for the individual tournament. I am afraid here it was a story of a very tired European team who managed to produce some gutsy performances in the form of Grubba and Primorac who both reached the last four with the latter having 2 match points against Kim Ki Taek. The Chinese men failed badly while the two South Koreans dominated with the younger Kim Taek Soo finishing of a very successful tour in fine style.

In the Women's the Chinese dominated with a repeat of the Olympic final and once again Chan Jing beat Li Hui Fen. In his group match against Persson, Des had his closest encounter with death during a match. A huge light over 100 feet high came loose and plummeted to the ground landing very close to Des in the court visibly shaken both players agreed to a void match as the outcome was merely academic with the group winners already decided.

From my own personal point of view it was a great honour to be asked to coach the European Teams. It was very interesting working with the likes of Waldner, Appelgren, Grubba, Mazunow, Persson etc. It was very informative discussing a variety of issues with my European contemporaries Osth (Sweden), Giersz (Poland), Korpa (Ger-



Desmond Douglas, the England No. 2 surprised a few people by embarking on the strenuous Asia v Europe series. In Singapore he beat the world champion Jiang Jialiang.

THE PARKER ROLE . . .

DON PARKER took on a new and exciting role on this tour, being a tour coach for Europe, working alongside the other well-known coaches and players and clearly added vastly to his experience of not only courtside coaching but discussing tactics with the other coaches late into the nights.

many) and Beliakov (USSR). Needless to say I am very fortunate that English is the International language. Finally the tour gave me the opportunity to observe just before the Worlds and Commonwealths the top opposition we are likely to

encounter. So while it was a very gruelling tour it was professionally of great benefit to myself but not necessarily for the players who had a short time to recover before the European Top 12 in Belgium.

RESULTS

6th Asian Cup Tournament Manila 13/16 Nov 1988

Men's Finals

1- 2 Wei Qingguan (CHN)	bt	Chen Longcan (CHN)	11,12,21
3- 4 Kim Taek Soo (KOR)	bt	Wu Wen-Chia (TPE)	22,9
5- 6 Xu Zengcai (CHN)	bt	Chih Chin-Shui (TPE)	13,16,10
7- 8 Park Jae Hyun (KOR)	bt	Moon Kyu Min (KOR)	14,14,13
9-10 Masaki Sakurai (JPN)	bt	Lin Wei-Chung (TPE)	21,18
11-12 Farjad Saif (PAK)	bt	Khalid Hadi (UAE)	18,17
13-14 Kyoshi Saito (JPN)	bt	Tay Kee (MAL)	6,16
15-16 Ryota Taira (JPN)	bt	Antonio Aguilade (PHL)	14,10

Women's Finals

1- 2 Deng Yaping (CHN)	bt	Li Huifen (CHN)	16,19,15
3- 4 Chai Po Wa (HKG)	bt	Kwon Mi Sook (KOR)	16,12
5- 6 Lee Jung Im (KOR)	bt	Miki Kitsukawa (JPN)	13,16
7- 8 Chen Yueh-Jen (TPE)	bt	Hui So Hung (HKG)	19,13

Swedish International Invitation Tournament Söderköping 11/12 Nov 1988

QF	M. Appelgren (SWE)	bt	J. Rosskopf (FRG)	13,16
	J.-Ö. Waldner (SWE)	bt	T. von Scheele (SWE)	17,21,17
	L. Kucharski (POL)	bt	Guo Yuehua (CHN)	13,16
	J. Persson (SWE)	bt	U. Bengtsson (SWE)	19,17
SF	M. Appelgren (SWE)	bt	J.-Ö. Waldner (SWE)	22,14,13,22,16
	J. Persson (SWE)	bt	L. Kucharski (POL)	11,15,8,19
F	J. Persson (SWE)	bt	M. Appelgren (SWE)	13,25,12,17,17

Kate and Sally in Verona

by JENNY HEATON

YORKSHIRE cadets Kate Goodall and Sally Marling finished a commendable fifth and seventh respectively at the unofficial Cadets European Top-12 in Verona, of Romeo and Juliet fame.

Invitations for this event were received for both Kate Goodall and Sally Marling, but unfortunately there were no invitations for any of our cadet boys (places were based on the ETTU ranking list at the start of the season).

Late arrivals by most countries due to fog must have caused the Italian organizers some anxious moments. It was so bad that Milan airport was closed and flights were diverted. Luxembourg did not arrive until 2 am! We were more fortunate only being delayed one and a half hours at Heathrow and being able to land at Venice as planned.

The one and half hour train journey from Venice to Verona was fine, despite thick fog all the way. We arrived just in time for dinner, the first of many pasta

dishes (Kate and Sally's favourite food!).

The tournament held at the Palazzodello Sport - Verona, an excellent venue, was well organised and provided good competition and experience for all the young players. In the girls event, USSR had two good defensive players, Tauschkanova, the eventual overall winner and Bondarenko, who won group B. Negrisoli (Italy) was the other star of the girls' event, a very strong top spin player on both wings, who won group A, beating Tauschkanova, only to lose later to her in the final.

Both our girls played well and finished third in their respective groups, Kate losing only to Negrisoli and Tauschkanova and Sally losing to Bondarenko and

the Polish girl, Rozner. Sally and Rozner both finished with two wins each, but Rozner got second place, due to the result between them.

This meant that on the Friday, Kate and Sally played off for 5-8th places. Kate beat Sabirli (TUR) and Sallandt (FRG) to finish 5th, with Sally losing to Sallandt but beating Sabirli to finish 7th. Both creditable places.

	P	W
Kate Goodall	7	5
Sally Marling	6	3

With having the two group system, it would have been impossible to coach both players at the same time, and Rowden Fuller's presence was invaluable in easing this situation.

Final placings were as follows:
Boys: 1 Tran (Fra), 2 Closset (Bel), 3 Samsonov (USSR), 4 Gustavsson (Swe), 5 Lasek (Pol), 6 Duran (Fra), 7 Unterreiner (Aut), 8 Atkinson (Lux), 9 Mondello (Ita), 10 Giustinelli (Ita), 11 Teke (Tur).
Girls: 1 Tauschkanova (USSR), 2 Negrisoli (Ita), 3 Bondarenko (USSR), 4 Rozner (Pol), 5 Goodall (Eng), 6 Sallandt (FRG), 7 Marling (Eng), 8 Sabirli (TUR), 9 Merenda



Jenny Heaton

(Ita), 10 Kagseder (Aut), 11 Schmitt (Lux).

In the boys' event, Tran's closest match came in his group against Gustavsson which he won 22-20 in the third, otherwise he domi-



Sally Marling

nated the event. Closset had an unexpected win over Samsonov in his group but lost two straight in the final.

The fog that affected the start of the competition was not going to be forgotten and had the final say. We had to be diverted to Trieste Airport (over 100 miles away) to catch our flight home - arriving at Heathrow three hours late.

350 juniors at St. Ives

by David Deller

THE FOURTH St. Ives Club Team Tournament held at St. Ivo Recreation Centre in Cambridgeshire again brought around 350 youngsters from 72 club sides. Clubs from Yorkshire proved very successful with two wins and a runner up spot in the three age groups.

32 teams took part in the cadet section sponsored by St. Ives T.V. Video and Hi Fi Centre with Fellows Cranleigh of Essex winning the final against York 2-1. Andrew Nicholls beat Linda Radford in the opener, but the Essex club fought back as Chris Sladden beat Robert Sharp in straight sets and Tim Blackall beat J. Hazelhurst to give Fellows Cranleigh a club that has been particularly successful over the past three years. Edison of Middlesex finished third whilst Surrey representatives Comber House finished fourth. Sixteen tables were used throughout the tournament and well over 1000 matches played.

Final positions in the cadet section

1. Fellows Cranleigh (Essex)
2. York (Yorkshire)
3. Edison (Middlesex)
4. Comber House (Surrey)
5. S. C. Oxstall (Avon)
6. Reading "A" (Berk)
7. Brentwood (Essex)
8. Leamington (Warks)
9. March (Cambs)
10. Chelmsford (Essex)
11. Woburn Sands (Bucks)
12. Ellerborough (Middx)
13. Newport Pagnell (Bucks)
14. Bedford (Beds)
15. Grantham (Lincs)
16. Croydon Y.M.C.A. (Surrey)
17. Peniel (Essex)
18. F. Cranleigh "B"
19. Chelmsford "B"
20. St. Neots (Hunts)
21. Croydon (Surrey)
22. Edison "B"
23. St. Ives "A"
24. Reading "B"
25. Rejects (Surrey)
26. Maldon (Essex)
27. Lowestoft (Suffolk)
28. Rejects "A" (Surrey)
29. Leamington "B"
30. St. Ivo
31. Bow School (Inner London)
32. Bow School "B" (Inner London)

The Junior competition sponsored by Twyford Homes brought a excellent final between Selby and Brentwood which the former won by a 2-1 scoreline. Keith Buer put Brentwood ahead beating Craig Smith, whilst the match was levelled as Chris Nicholl defeated Stephen Rand. The Yorks club sealed the match when Gareth Jones knocked over Matthew Reid.

Final positions in the junior section

1. Sturges Selby (Yorks)
2. Brentwood (Essex)
3. Fellows Cranleigh (Essex)
4. Norwich (Norfolk)
5. North Yorks
6. St. Ives (Hunts)
7. Chelmsford (Essex)
8. Peniel (Essex)
9. Grantham (Lincs)
10. Ellerborough (Middx)
11. Bedford (Beds)
12. Lowestoft (Suffolk)
13. Playmore (Lincs)
14. Leamington (Warks)
15. Gloucester
16. Stantonbury (Bucks)
17. Leamington (Warks)
18. St. Neots (Hunts)
19. Central Y (Middx)
20. Woburn Sands (Bucks)
21. Chelmsford "B"
22. Reading "A"
23. Norwich "B"
24. Reading "B"

The Ashford Tragedy

by RAY TUCKER

MARK SAYER - THE GAME'S LOSS AT 14.

ASHFORD'S youngest British League player Mark Sayer died from meningitis in the first week of the New Year, a sudden and tragic loss for family, club and his many friends.

Mark at the age of 14 became the youngest member of the Ashford Table Tennis Club to gain a place in the British League team. He was one of the brightest hopes for the future of the club, truly liked by his team mates for his good humour and love of the game - win or lose.

One of his greatest qualities was his ability to listen and learn about the finer points of the game and then put them into practice to become part of his game overnight. He had pure sporting talent, natural footwork and the build of an athlete. His style was sportingly aggressive - always working hard to win - always fair - and never too proud to congratulate the better player on the day, a true young sportsman.

Where did he get this all from? Well for those who know the family and their love of the game, Mum, Dad and younger brother Paul - they were his support team. The Sayer family played all of the points from off stage in all of the events around the country, they gave support, Mark got the results.

It was hard work in getting as far as he did in the game, and many an hour or two was put in with dad and long time friend Bill Kessler at the practice table, all in preparation for the big time - well he made it - British League Player at 14.

Mark in my view was County if not future International material, very gifted and a pleasure to manage and coach.

As a token of love and respect for Mark one minutes silence was observed at the British League match on January 8 at Ashford Table Tennis Club.

His infectious laughter will remain in the club as a reminder of his talent, for the love of his family, and to remind us all that it's only a game.

Skylet appears for Essex

by Doug Moss

SKYLET ANDREW made a welcome appearance for Essex in their Premier Division promotion campaign. Herts were beaten 10-0 but there were some good matches and none closer than the Maria Williams (He)/Kate Gower (E) clash. Kate won 20, -23, 24! Yorks 2 had a very good 8-2 win over Cambs, who were without Keith Richardson and Helen Bardwell.

Worcs made the long journey to Newcastle and must have been travel weary for they went 0-6 down before winning 3 of the last 4 events with Sandra Roden and Mandy House getting good singles wins.

SENR 1A: Herts 0 Essex 10. Yorks 2. 8 Cambs 2. N'berland 7. Worcs. 3. Norfolk 10 Warwicks 0.

SENR 1B: Avon 3 Kent 7. Surrey 1. 7 Devon 2. 3. Sussex 1. 5. Middx 2. 5. Dorset 8 Somerset 2.

Surrey continue their winning ways. But Kent keep up the pressure with a 7-3 win over Avon, for whom Paul Lewis had a good -19, 16, 17 win over John Burleton. Sussex v. Middx 2 was a really hard fought match with 5 events having very close finishes. Dipak Topiwala (Mx) won his 2 singles at 18 and 17 in 3rd games. Gillian Blanch (Mx) lost her unbeaten singles record to Sally Weston who won 10, -10, 20!

SENR 2A: Ches 1. 7 Notts 3. Ches 2. 3 Notts 7. Cumbria 6. Clwyd 4. Warwicks 2. 3. Lancs 2. 7.

Notts visited Ellesmere Port for 2 matches losing 3-7 to Ches 1st team but reversing the match score against Ches 2. John Ellis and Tim Sheppard (Ng) each won 3 of the 4 singles in these matches. Clwyd put up a fight against Cumbria with Alison Evans and Barbara Williams winning their 3 events.

SENR 2B: Hants 10 Dorset 2. 0. Hants 6 Cornwall 1. 4. Hants 10 Cornwall 2. 0. Wilts 8 Glos 2. Glos 7 Herefords 3.

Hants played 3 matches in the day at Redbridge School. They inflicted the first defeat on Cornwall 1 to take over at the top of the Table. Wilts/Glos met being level on points and sets average. Kevin Satchell, back to the Wilts team, was influential in their 8-2 win. Undaunted Glos returned from Swindon to meet Herefords at Cheltenham in the evening and got a good 7-3 win. Mark Owen (Hr) played well to win his 2 singles. Worcs 2 - 1-4 down to Avon 2, fought back to get a draw. There was an entertaining match between two wily players - Ken Walton (Wr) and Bob Murray (Av) - who gave a good exhibition of ball control and there was a thrilling finish with Bob winning -16, 16, 22!

SENR 2C: Beds 1. 3 Lincs 7. Cambs 2. 3 Northants 7. Hunts 5. Herts 2. 5.

Lincs 7-3 win at Dunstable keeps them at the top of the Table. The ladies from each team were unbeaten in singles and doubles.

But, vital for Lincs, Suzanne Airey and Jane Strawson triumphed over Julie Eames and Lisa Robins. The doubles score was 23, -21, 22 and Jane Strawson's win over Lisa Robins was 19 and 20! Two other close finishes in Lincs favour - Stuart Worrell beat Mike Levene -17, 13, 20 and Peter Bowler 18, -13, 19. What a match!

SENR 2D: Essex 2. 7 Surrey 2. 3. Essex 3. 10 Berks 2. 0. Kent 2. 3. Sussex 2. 7.

Essex 2 defeat of Surrey puts them at top of the Table. But Essex 3 had a clean sweep over Berks 2 and have the same number of points - as also have Sussex 2 with their 7-3 win over Kent 2. For Kent Paul Rainford beat Tony Murrell -17, 14, 19 and Paul Elphick -6, 16, 20!

JUNR 1A: Notts 3 Yorks 2. 7. Warwicks 5 Lincs 5. Lancs 2. 6. Durham 4.

Yorks 2 continue unbeaten with a good 7-3 win over Notts. But Warwicks surprisingly dropped their first point by drawing with Lincs. Rajinder Singh had 2 wins for Warwicks but Kate Ryan lost her first singles to Helen Sims and, with Alison Ledwitch, suffered their first doubles defeat. The Lancs girls - Karen Richardson and Tamar Connolly - won their 3 events against Durham and Stephen Bain also notched up 2 singles wins.

JUNR 1B: Bucks 4 Surrey 6. Herts 6 Avon 4. Sussex 8 Somerset 2.



Darren Blake, Surrey

Surrey visited Burnham and got a good 6-4 win. In two close finishes Surrey got vital wins when Darren Blake won at 19 in 3rd game and, with score 5-4, Jason Blake beat Ben Davies -20, 12, 18 to secure the win. In Herts/

Avon match the doubles were vital. Emma Hurling/Sarah Seaholme won 20 and 20 and Ian Black/George Sanders beat Steve Bettison/David Hadley at -16, 13, 19.

JUNR 2A: N'berland 8 Leics 2. Warwicks 2. 4 Ches 2. 6. Lancs 3. 6. Derbys 2. 4. Cumbria 3 Northants 7. Leics 6 Clwyd 4.

Northants continue, unbeaten after their visit to Cumbria. Sally Russell (Np) won her singles against Carrie Lowes -19, 11, 21 and, with Tracey Marmott, won the doubles 20 and 20. Ches 2 beat Warwicks 2 with their girls, Cerie Tierney and Susanna Sorrentino, winning their 3 events.

JUNR 2B: Hunts 2. 0 Middx 2. 10. Herts 2. 4 Glos 6. Cambs 8. Herts 2. 2. Middx 2. 4 Hants 8. Hunts 2. 0 Oxon 10. Glos 2 Oxon 8. Hants 7 Herts 2. 3. Cambs 9 Hunts 2. 1. Berks 2. 1 Worcs 9.

Another 8 matches played at St Neots with Oxon getting two more wins. Worcs visited Reading and got a 9-1 win with Martin O'Donovan (Bk) beating Kevin Sefton (Wo) -15, 18, 13. This leaves Oxon and Worcs well in the lead - they meet in the final session at St Neots.

JUNR 2C: Avon 2. 2 Devon 3. 8. Avon 2. 6 Wilts 4. Devon 2. 8 Avon 2. 2. Devon 2. 10 Wilts 0. Dorset 3. Gwent 7. Wilts 1. 1. Devon 3. 9.

Another junior get together at Bath Sports Centre with five matches played. The Devon 2 and 3 teams recorded some convincing wins. Gwent visited Bournemouth and did well to get a 7-3 win and keep in touch with the leaders. Lee Thomas and David Buck won 5 events for the Welsh team.

JUNR 2D: Surrey 2. 3 Essex 2. 7. Essex 3. 9 Norfolk 2. 1. Essex 3. 7. Norfolk 1. 3. Suffolk 1. 8 Sussex 2. 2. Suffolk 2. 2 Kent 2. 8.

Essex 2 win over rivals Surrey 2 keeps them unbeaten and at top of Table. Allan Radford was involved in three Essex wins. And Essex 3 got two wins over the Norfolk teams to leave them on the heels of the 2nd team. The meeting of the two teams should decide the title holders.

VETS 1A: Ches 2. 7 Leics 2. Ches 2. 8 Warwicks 1. Leics 4. Worcs 5. Norfolk 4 Yorks 2. 5. Northants 1 Essex 8.

Essex with a 8-1 win are streets ahead. Margaret Maltby got the one win for Northants with a narrow win over Pauline Anker 18, -22, 19. With the score 4-4 Mervyn Wood beat Terry Heighton (Le) to give Worcs the win. And Doug

Bartle performed a similar feat for Yorks in their 5-4 win over Norfolk.

VETS 1B: Hants 4 Oxon 5. Herts 3 Middx 2. 6. Kent 2. 6 Surrey 2. 3. Sussex 2. 6 Dorset 3.

Herts "came a cropper" - lost their first match to Middx 2. Trevor Campbell (Mx) had two narrow wins beating Dave Seaholme (He) -22, 18, 19 and John Taylor, making his first appearance for the Veterans team, -22, 19, 18! Dave Harse got 3 wins for Oxon in their defeat of Hants.

VETS 2A: N'berland 6 Lancs 2. 3. Notts 6 Ches 3. 3. Yorks 3. 8 Clwyd 1.

Notts got a very good win over Ches 3. Ron Bolton (Ng) beat Ches No. 1 Peter Jones 11 and 5 but Jones later defeated Alf Saunders -6, 18, 17! Eddie Lough had singles wins at 23 and 19 in the 3rd games! Fred Short (Nd) was again in form with two singles wins against Lancs 2 and he and Maurice Cheek retained their unbeaten doubles record.

VETS 2B: Hunts 1. 6 Norfolk 2. 3. Hunts 2. 8 Norfolk 2. 1. Beds 0 Essex 3. 9. Berks 4. 0 Essex 2. 9. Herts 3. 4 Northants 2. 5.

Essex 2 and 3 teams both record 9-0 wins. Essex 2 have dropped only two events over six matches! Norfolk 2 team went to St Neots to play 2 Hunts teams. Both Hunts teams won with the 2nds being more successful than the 1st team. James Sizer and Ken Green each won their two singles events for Hunts 2.

VETS 2C: Glos 6 Bucks 2. 3. Herts 4. 8 Wilts 3. 1. Surrey 3. 6. Herefords 3. Wilts 2. 4 Berks 1. 5. Wilts 2. 3 Berks 3. 6.

The crunch match in this Section saw Glos beat Bucks 2. 6-3. Frank Jones and Alan Giles (Gs) won their 4 singles. Margt. Newcombe was involved in two of the Hereford wins at Ashford. Margt. beat Sally Bickell at 17 in the decider and combined with Richard Owens to win the Mixed.

VETS 2D: Berks 2. 6 Hants 2. 3. Dorset 2. 5 Somerset 4. Sussex 3. 5. Herts 2. 4. Sussex 4. 2 Wilts 1. 7.

Sussex 3, at the foot of the Table, met the Div leaders, Herts 2 - and won 5-4! The introduction of Alan Rowden, as Sussex No. 1, had an influence - he won both his singles as also did Keith Jackson. Hants 2 visited the Kingfisher Club and suffered a 6-3 defeat at the hands of Berks 2. The Hants wins were each at 18 in 3rd game - two of these wins were achieved by Norman Stagg and the other by Maurice Shave.

The Leeds County Championships 2

THE COUNTY TABLES at Feb 10th, 1989

Compiled by Les Smith

SENIORS

P W L F A P

Premier Division	3	3	0	19	8	6
Lancashire	3	2	1	18	9	4
Middlesex	3	2	1	13	14	4
Leicestershire	3	2	1	12	15	4
Devonshire	3	1	2	14	13	2
Yorkshire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Derbyshire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Berkshire	3	0	3	8	19	0
Suffolk	3	0	3	8	19	0

Division 1A

P W D L F A P

Essex	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Yorkshire 2nd	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Northumberland	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Cambridgeshire	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Warwickshire	5	2	1	2	20	30	5
Worcestershire	5	1	2	2	23	27	4
Norfolk	5	1	0	4	20	30	2
Hertfordshire	5	1	0	4	16	34	2

Division 1B

P W D L F A P

Surrey	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Kent	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Sussex	5	2	2	1	31	19	6
Avon	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Middlesex 2nd	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Devonshire 2nd	5	1	0	4	20	30	2
Dorset	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Somerset	5	0	0	5	7	43	0

Division 2A

P W D L F A P

Lancashire 2nd	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Cheshire 1st	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Leicestershire 2nd	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Nottinghamshire	5	3	0	2	39	20	6
Cumbria	5	2	0	3	17	33	4
Warwickshire 2nd	5	1	1	3	25	25	3
Cheshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Clwyd	6	0	0	6	10	50	0

Division 2B

P W D L F A P

Hampshire	7	7	0	0	53	17	14
Cornwall 1st	6	5	0	1	48	12	10
Wiltshire	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Gloucestershire	6	4	0	2	37	23	8
Herefordshire	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Worcestershire 2nd	6	0	3	3	20	40	3
Avon 2nd	7	1	1	5	23	47	3
Cornwall 2nd	5	0	1	4	12	38	1
Dorset 2nd	5	0	0	5	4	46	0

Division 2C

P W D L F A P

Northamptonshire	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Lincolnshire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Bedfordshire 1st	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Cambridgeshire 2nd	5	2	0	3	26	24	4
Bedfordshire 2nd	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Hertfordshire 2nd	5	0	3	2	19	31	3
Suffolk 2nd	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Huntingdonshire	5	0	1	4	13	37	1

Division 2D

P W D L F A P

Essex 2nd	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Essex 3rd	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Sussex 2nd	5	4	0	1	31	19	8
Surrey 2nd	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Berkshire 2nd	5	3	0	2	21	29	6
Oxfordshire	5	2	0	3	18	32	4
Buckinghamshire	5	0	0	5	15	35	0
Kent 2nd	5	0	0	5	13	37	0

JUNIORS

P W D L F A P

Premier Division	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Derbyshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Lancashire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Essex	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Devonshire	3	0	2	1	1	13	7
Bedfordshire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Middlesex	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Staffordshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

VETERANS

P W D L F A P

Premier Division	3	3	0	20	7	6
Cheshire	3	2	1	16	11	4
Sussex	3	2	1	16	11	4
Kent	3	2	1	22	18	4
Surrey	3	2	1	24	13	2
Buckinghamshire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Lincolnshire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Yorkshire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Middlesex	3	0	3	3	24	0



Adrian Dixon, Warwickshire

Division 1A

P W L F A P

Essex	5	5	0	38	7	10
Cheshire 2nd	5	4	1	30	15	8
Yorkshire 2nd	5	4	1	24	21	8
Norfolk	5	3	2	26	19	6
Worcestershire	5	3	2	25	20	6
Northamptonshire	5	1	4	14	31	2
Leicestershire	5	0	5	13	32	0
Warwickshire	5	0	5	10	35	0

Division 1B

P W L F A P

Hertfordshire	5	4	1	31	14	8
Middlesex 2nd	5	3	2	25	20	6
Oxfordshire	5	3	2	24	21	6
Sussex 2nd	5	3	2	23	22	6
Dorset	5	2	3	21	24	4
Surrey 2nd	5	2	3	20	25	4
Kent 2nd	5	2	3	19	26	4
Hampshire	5	1	4	17	28	2

Division 2A

P W L F A P

Lancashire 1st	5	5	0	37	8	10
Yorkshire 3rd	5	4	1	28	17	8
Nottinghamshire	5	3	2	25	20	6
Cheshire 3rd	5	3	2	24	21	6
Northumberland	5	2	3	24	21	4
Lancashire 2nd	5	2	3	17	28	4
Lincolnshire 2nd	5	1	4	16	29	2
Clwyd	5	0	5	9	36	0

Division 2B

P W L F A P

Essex 2nd	6	6	0	52	2	12
Essex 3rd	5	4	1	30	15	8
Hertfordshire 3rd	6	4	2	32	22	8
Northamptonshire 2nd	6	4	2	25	29	8
Huntingdonshire 1st	6	3	3	26	28	6
Norfolk 2nd	6	2	4	25	29	4
Huntingdonshire 2nd	4	2	2	15	21	4
Berkshire 4th	6	0	6	12	42	0
Bedfordshire	5	0	5	8	37	0

Division 2C

P W L F A P

Gloucestershire	5	5	0	34	11	10
Buckinghamshire 2nd	6	5	1	40	14	10
Berkshire 1st	6	5	1	39	15	10
Surrey 3rd	5	3	2	29	16	6
Hertfordshire 4th	6	3	3	24	30	6
Berkshire 3rd	6	2	4	26	28	4
Wiltshire 2nd	6	1	5	18	36	2
Hertfordshire	6	1	5	13	41	2
Wiltshire 3rd	6	1	5	11	43	2

Division 2D

Counties 1

TO COUNTY WRITERS ...

THIS MONTH these pages are bursting with news items from 24 counties. That averages a column each in six pages and gives our hard-working scribes a guide on copy length - one column. Regret, no room for pictures this edition.

AVON

G. Baldwin

WITH a month separating the Bristol Closed it was back to Soundwell Technical College for the AVON CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS. A two day affair starting with the Juniors on Saturday and Seniors on Sunday.

To incorporate the Top Juniors a County Match had to be brought forward to enable them to compete while the Top Senior players were already committed to the The Leeds League.

Apparently the Leeds League fixtures are already finalised one year beforehand so why wasn't the Seniors day reversed with the Juniors.

Referring to the Juniors, no Bristol based juniors were in attendance, none - from Bath or Weston is this due to lack of transport?

A host of New Champions saw the mens title won by Kevin Phillips an Ex-Welsh Junior player beat Junior No. 1 Steve Bettison in the final while Steve himself won the Junior event the day previous over clubmate Ian Johnson.

A new name for the Ladies title, Dina Sandford beating the County No. 1 Michele Cohen to win on a Group basis.

Mens Singles

K. Phillips bt S. Bettison

Mens Doubles

G. Baldwin/H. Dalton bt R. Murray/K. Phillips

Team Event

S. Bettison/D. Hadley bt R. Murray/M. Cohen

Veteran Singles

R. Smith bt P. Dominey

Mixed Doubles

M. M. Cohen bt M. Childs/D. Sandford

Ladies Singles

Dina Sandford

Ladies Doubles

D. Sandford/M. Cohen bt J. Westall/C. Webb

Juniors

Junior Boys

S. Betison bt I. Johnson

J. Boys Doubles

M. Bush/H. Green bt N. Finlayson/I. Johnson

J. Girls

K. Matthews bt J. Westhall

J. Team Event

N. Finlayson/I. Johnson bt M. Bush/H. Green

Cadet Boys

E. Finlayson bt G. Davies

Cadet Girls

T. McCourt bt C. Davies

U12 Boys

J. Thorn bt J. Smith

U12 Girls

T. McCourt bt R. Rosewell

Bathwick Tyres II set off across to Wales to take on the 100% Spec-savers Barry who were the leagues leaders.

In all a great team performance all round with Andy Creed winning 2, Chris Holley and Paul Hooper although losing out 19 in the third to Tony Healan each won their remaining game. With Bathwick leading 4-3 it was down to the ever fighting Diccon Gray to beat Dave Chan for a good 5-3 win.

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

TABLE TENNIS makes you younger! Question: What is it that you can do in 1988 and then do again in 1989 three years younger? Answer: Play in the Area Final of the ESTTA Team Championship. So Windsor Boys School proved when they took this year's U-16 title with two of the same team who last year were victorious at U-16. Together with the Berkshire U-11s from Emmer Green, they defeated the Champion Schools from Bucks, Herts, Surrey and Oxon to go on to the Regional Finals.

This double win for Berkshire well illustrated a feature of all team events, namely that everyone counts. If any of the 8 players had lost just one of the games they won in the key matches, their team would not have gone through. For young Simon Tomlinson of Emmer Green, playing in a "big" tournament for the first time, even his fighting 2-1 defeat turned out to be crucial, since it was his set win which saw his team through on count-back.

Staged on the same day as the Berkshire Closed Championship, the successful outcome of the Schools tournament was some compensation to those who would have taken part, with some prospect of success, in the senior County events. Hopefully in future years, this clash will be avoided, since the introduction of Table Tennis in schools is surely one of the best ways to promote our sport. If young players have to make the difficult decision between representing their school or attempting to capture a County or League title, there is a little chance if they choose the latter, that the school will reach their deserved place in the ESTTA event. It is in-school publicity of such success which encourages other pupils to take up the sport.

The County Championships, held at Bulmershe as usual, pro-

duced no enormous surprise, at least in the final placings. Paul Savins took both the Mens and U-21 titles (retaining the latter from last year), whilst Mary Stafford repeated her win in the Ladies singles, but this time against the vastly improved Nicola Cracknell, who despite playing well throughout the weekend, could not manage to capture the U-17 Ladies crown from holder Lisa Crick, who with partner Anna Watton, took both the U-17 and Senior Ladies Doubles title.

Martin Adams retained the U-17 boys singles and doubles trophies, the latter with Nicky Bradfield, who, after some notable successes in a number of Cadet tournaments around the country, was no surprise when winning the Cadet boys. Gemma Schwartz overcame Lucy Singleton in the Cadet girls final, whilst Marcus Horth and Ben Johnston and success in boys Cadet Doubles. New title winners were Frank Earis in the Veteran singles, John Cooper and Eddie Herrity in the Vets Doubles, and Malcolm Hayes and Bob Davies (the other Mens singles finalist) in the Mens Doubles.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Michael Jarrett

IT IS MY pleasure to devote this month's column to Bedfordshire's County Teams, to date the season has been relatively successful, obviously for some teams, more than others but on the whole things have run smoothly and good results have been attained against the highest standard of opposition.

Pride of place must be given to the County's juniors; Peter and Colin Bowler, Mark and Hayley Beaumont and Caroline Buckley. Their efforts of last season elevated them to the Premier Division, in itself a major success. Competition in the first round of matters was hard and resulted in defeats against Yorkshire and Lancashire 2-8 and 3-7 respectively. These two Counties are arguably the strongest in the eight County division. Certainly the team found their third opponents, Devon slightly less formidable gaining a creditable 5-5 draw. Colin Bowler was the player in form over the weekend recording five wins from his six games, against higher ranked opposition. The second round of matches in March is eagerly awaited and with some hard work and a little luck the juniors will be competing in the Premier next season.

Both Beds senior sides play in Division 2C and both have performed well. The first team are unbeaten and have dropped just one point in their draw with

Herts 2, victories were achieved against Suffolk 2, Cams 2 and Hunts. The most consistent performances have come from Beds No.1 woman Julie Eames who has yet to be beaten and from Mike Levene who has won six from eight games. Julie has also partnered Lisa Robins to four doubles victories.

The second team have recorded just one win and are therefore not in contention for the title but may help the first team by performing well against their rivals at the top. The most successful of the second string are captain David Hyde, Mary Jarrett and surprisingly the men's doubles combination who have won four from four.

Finally the veterans have chopped their way to four straight defeats but have not been able to hold a full strength team in every match. With the inclusion of Brian Mayfield for future matches an improvement is inevitable.

Dates for your diary

5th March 1989 Dunstable League closed tournament

12th March 1989 Bedfordshire closed tournament

16th April 1989 Bedfordshire open 1 star tournament.

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

FOLLOWING four consecutive wins the Cornwall senior first team has now eased to the top of division 2B in the Leeds County Championships with promotion now a distinct possibility for the first time since 1966. The crunch match with Hampshire scheduled for February 4th will almost certainly decide the division. Victories over Worcestershire II (9-1), Gloucestershire (8-2), Avon II (10-0) and Herefordshire (7-3) outline good all round team performances and the culmination of many years work by the County's officials and coaches. The Junior first team is now spearheaded by John Menzel Jnr now that Neil Bevan is on senior duty and Andrew Bevan is too old. Nevertheless the team is still performing very well and if they win away at Gwent on February 25th, may well gain promotion. The senior and Junior second teams are struggling in their respective divisions but are gaining valuable experience - an ideal stepping stone for the up and coming players.

In the British League, White Hart, Launceston are in their seventh season of existence and are still striving to climb out of division 3 West. However, two draws against Generation Fareham and Doleq Carpets meant an unhappy Christmas for Launceston with their promotion chance effectively 'out of the win-

Counties 2

dow'. Launceston were soon back to winning ways though in the new year with a 5-3 win at league leaders Bathwick Tyres II. Neil Bevan won man of the match with two fine singles wins and Graham Reed made his first appearance since December 1985 clinching a singles win under pressure with the match score at 4-3.

In the Wilmott Cup, West Cornwall did not enter a team this year but Launceston did and were unfortunate to be drawn away to the holders Plymouth. Launceston were comprehensively beaten 5-1 although Neil Bevan saved a Whitewash with a very notable win over Paul Whiting. Launceston were also Cornwall's only representatives in the Rose Bowl and again were eliminated by Plymouth.

The Premier Divisions of the local leagues in Cornwall are now beginning to take shape. Apologies for the absence of the Launceston and District Premier Division which will hopefully appear in the next issue. League positions in the West Cornwall and Mid Cornwall currently stand as follows.

West Cornwall Premier

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Falmouth Docks A	10	9	0	1	80
Falmouth Dock B	9	9	0	0	73
St. Austell-Slades A	9	5	2	2	51
St. Ives A	8	5	1	2	45
Devoran A	8	3	0	5	41
Truro A	9	3	2	4	40
Redruth A	7	3	0	4	39
Camborne A	8	2	2	4	33
Devoran B	7	1	1	5	27
Palace (Truro) A	9	0	1	8	18
Helston God. A	8	0	1	7	13

Mid Cornwall Premier

	P	W	D	L	Pts
St. Austell-Slades A	8	8	0	0	58
Sibleyback A	8	7	0	1	58
Bodmin B	7	4	0	3	36
Bodmin A	6	3	0	3	35
Newquay A	8	3	0	5	32
Roche A	8	1	1	6	30
Newquay B	7	3	0	4	27
St. Austell-Slades B	8	0	1	7	21

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

PLAYING on a carpet surface, Cumbria lost 9-1 to Lancashire 2nds in the Leeds County Table Tennis Championship Division 2a at Preston on Saturday, January 7th.

The visitors' only triumph was recorded by number one Stephen Temple, who plays for Sports Centre Freetraders in the Carlisle League. Stephen beat England ranked junior Andrew Eden (Ormskirk) in three games.

Cumbria's other men, Roger Stewart and Stephen's brother Mark, who also turn out for Freetraders, each lost their two singles.

Captain, Julie Mclean, of Penrith, played well to take Lancashire's number one woman Amanda Goodwin to three games, while Egremont-based

Lynne Hadfield, a UKAEA Sellifield police inspector, copped it with a 21-16, 21-13 beating by Marjorie Riddell.

Lancashire 2nd 9, Cumbria 1 (at Preston, January 7), Lancashire names first: Andrew Eden beat Roger Stewart 21-14, 21-19; lost to Stephen Temple 21-17, 26-28, 18-21. Malcolm McEnvoy beat Stephen Temple 21-13, 21-14; beat Mark Temple 21-16, 21-21, 21-17. Keith Williams beat Mark Temple 21-6, 21-10; beat Roger Stewart 21-13, 18-21, 21-19. Eden and Williams beat S. Temple and Stewart 21-10, 21-19. Amanda Goodwin beat Julie McLean 21-17, 15-21, 21-14. Marjorie Riddle beat Lynne Hadfield 21-16, 21-13. Goodwin and Riddle beat McLean and Hadfield 21-9, 22-20.

In Junior Division 2a on the same day at Park View School, Barrow-in-Furness, a below-strength Cumbria went down 7-3 to visitors Warwickshire 2nd. Cumbria names first: Tony Dawson lost to Garry Woodward 12-21, 15-21; lost to Stuart Taylor 21-19, 19-21, 15-21. Nick Hill lost to Stuart Taylor 13-21, 19-21; lost to Stephen Meddings 14-21, 13-21. Jamie Harris lost to Stephen Meddings 14-21, 9-21; lost to Garry Woodward 18-21, 12-21. Dawson and Hill lost to Taylor and Woodward 21-19, 18-21, 18-21. Fiona Harris beat Joanne Groves 17-21, 21-12, 21-19. Carrie Lowes beat Susan Clarke 18-21, 21-18, 21-18. Harris and Lowes beat Groves and Clarke 21-17, 21-15.

DORSET

Martin Hughes

DORSET senior first team are having a tough time in Division 1B of the Leeds County Championships. Their most recent matches have seen them go down 9-1 to Surrey, and 8-2 against Middlesex seconds. Against Surrey, only Tracy Scott-Pawson won a game for Dorset, beating Debbie Simmonds 21-12, 21-14. Surrey were relegated from the Premier Division last season, whilst Dorset were promoted from Division 2, but Surrey's team of Glenn Baker, Max Crimmins, Michael Hammond and Jane Barella, proved too strong for Dorset's Tony Clayton, Hakan Sigrell, John Robinson, and Cheryl Skevington.

Dorset's only successes against Middlesex were by Tony Clayton over David Goode, and John Robinson over Dipak Topiwala in the final game of the day.

The senior seconds are not faring any better, losing 8-2 both Herefordshire and Wiltshire in Division 2B. Against Herefordshire, Dorset's wins came from Martin Hughes and Martin Tate who both defeated Dave Sayer in straight sets.

Martin Hughes won the only singles events for Dorset against Wiltshire as he defeated Jas Singh by 21-17, 21-19.

Martin also combined with Terry Glennon to win the men's doubles for Dorset against Terry Bruce and Trevor Lloyd in three extremely tight sets, winning 18-21, 21-29, 23-21.

Although all of the first four games were very closely contested, Wiltshire managed a clean sweep to take a 4-0 lead, and from that point onwards Dorset were struggling to stay in the match.

Juniors

Dorset juniors have been playing their division 2C matches in blocks this season, and they have had two wins and two draws so far in six matches. In their first weekend of matches they travelled to Cornwall to play four matches against Cornwall and Devon.

DEVON

Val Heath

I FEEL at present with the wealth of youngsters in Devon really proving themselves that I would like to mention some of the players singularly.

On this occasion Adrian Vincent from Plymouth is my choice as his dedication to training and his stable attitude throughout play has made his sudden leap to no 7 Cadet a marvellous success for Devon. Both he and dad John must be congratulated on this achievement as a lot of hard work has been involved.

I must point out too that throughout Adrian has remained the polite pleasant lad he has always been.

Adrian and his peers from this area I feel are at a great disadvantage in tournaments before play starts. Frequent Friday nights are spent exhausting themselves on the motorways prior to play the next day and sheer love of the game, I'm sure, eggs them on throughout the weekend.

Our performance in the Ranking trials at Lilleshall was poor this time - possibly the importance of the event made a difference to their nerves although full marks must be given to Johnathan May for reaching the last 16 of the cadets - well done.

Plymouth Junior Closed:

Girls Singles

Winner	R. Up
Helen Wright	Clare Pengelley
Intermediate (U21)	
G. Bridgett	S. Giles
Boys U17	J. Shipman
G. Bridgett	J. Shipman
U15 Open	Clare Pengelley
J. Shipman	Clare Pengelley
Boys U15	D. Heath
J. Shipman	D. Heath
Doubles	
H. Wright, G. Bridgett	S. Giles, S. James

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

OUR SENIORS are still on course for a speedy return to the Premier Division of the County Championships thanks to a splendid win over Northumberland, despite the presence in their side of our former star, Ian Robertson. We have registered Skylet Andrew to boost our challenge, and it would be great to see him turning out.

The Juniors were also in action in January. The second team entertained Suffolk II at Brentwood and had a comfortable win,

although the visitors salvaged a set when their boys doubles pair edged Steven Rand and Tayo Fasanya out after a series of match points either way. The third team went once again to Ipswich, where they secured an excellent victory by 8-2 over Suffolk I, Neil Butcher, Ruth Cleminson and Nadine Barthee being unbeaten.

In the inter-league competitions Dagenham lead the top divisions of the Mens, Veterans, Junior and Cadet categories and, following a 6-4 win over reigning champions Chelmsford, are also well-placed in the Women's Section. In this match ex-County player Kim Mudge won all 4 sets she contested, including a "deuce in the third" victory over former Suffolk No.1 lady Julie Vansertina (nee Dowsett). Harlow lead the Mixed Division mainly due to outstanding play by Helen Bardwell and Jeanine Smith. The latter, an Essex junior who subsequently (with our blessing) went to play for Herts, has returned to live in Chelmsford, and hopefully will now be available for our County.

At the Area Finals of the ESTTA Team Event, the winners were:

Boys Under 19: Redbridge Technical College

Girls Under 19: Peniel Academy, Brentwood

Boys Under 16: Peniel Academy

Girls Under 16: Peniel Academy

Boys Under 13: Peniel Academy

The County was honoured during January by the staging at Clacton of the Leeds Top Twelve Tournament for Men and Women. A capacity crowd sat spellbound throughout the day and finally were rewarded by some great final matches. Alan Cooke was unbeatable, and secured the top prize of £650.00 while Fiona Elliot overcame Lisa Lomas to surprise everybody but herself.

I made the long trip up to Lilleshall for the National Junior Ranking Trials where Grant Solder was our best performer, but we were all slightly disappointed at his elimination by Brian Mileham at the semi-final stage. However Brian went on to beat Andrew Eden in the Final, so you cannot complain.

Counties 3

Gloucestershire

Alf Peppard

BY THE time that these notes are published, we are once again almost nearing the tail end of – yet another season.

At the time of writing the County finds itself once again staging "The Annual Cotswold Two Star", at the Gloucester Leisure Centre, I refrain from too much comment upon this very popular Select National suffice to say that this year's intended entry of four young ladies from Eire could well provide an International flavour in the Junior Girls section.

Local T.T. Communications within the County have never been at a better level, Gill Smith's regular Cheltenham reading "Net and Edge" continues to attract attention and indeed reaches well outside the county boundaries, Stroud's Chairman John Bunn edits "The Stroud Pointmaker" and the said newsletter, certainly makes its points.

Yet another newcomer to the editorial scene within Gloucestershire this season, "makes his debut". That's Keith Simpson (Assistant Secretary to the large Rudford Club). Keith has produced two well edited Newsletters called "Table Top Talk", the latter entails 25 full pages of T.T. worded crosswords, anagrams, and general chit-chat etc. Well done Keith.

Radio efforts

My own mediocre efforts consist of live weekly Radio broadcasts on BBC Radio Gloucestershire – these began last October after I had left another well known Radio station in Gloucestershire after 7½ years.

Cirencester send representatives to our Bi-Monthly County meetings and recently I received an invitation from our Coaching Secretary Mr Peter Cruwys to spend an evening at Cirencester. Peter is shortly going there in his official coaching duties, hopefully I shall tag along to find out how they are faring in their first season of affiliation.

Good results

Gloucestershire's team in the Leeds British League (Div 2 South) Cheltenham Saracens, Dave Harvey, Mark Owen, Graham Slack and Darren Griffin, are turning in some good results, but at the time of writing Chelmsford O'C's head the Division and I understand they hammered Saracens to the tune of an 8-0 whitewash in the first half, thus with Ashford II in 2nd position this remains yet another obstacle for our Cheltenham based club to overcome.

Hampshire

David Cosway

THE FIRST Senior Team continue their good start to the season with their fourth win, this time by 7-3 over Worcester. Cheryl Buttery and Sarah Hammond each won their Singles and combined for the Doubles. For the men, Rhamish Bhalla won his two Singles, while Graham Toole and Mark Wilding each won one. The Junior match against Worcester ended in a draw with Jeff Giles, John Crouch, Tina Caws and Clare Woodham all contributing wins to the result.

The First Veterans went down 4-5 to Surrey. Mary Barron won in her first County outing and Bob Cox won his two Singles. The Second Veteran Team beat Sussex II by 7-2 with Maurie Shave, Norman Stagg and Graham Lynch all winning two Singles.

The focus recently in the County has been on the Juniors. The Junior Trials left Jeff Giles clear of his rivals when he remained unbeaten to keep the No. 1 ranking spot. Mark Thorne (Southampton), returning to the game for his last season as a Junior, lost only to Giles to take 2nd spot. John Crouch and Richard Hatley of Aldershot each lost 3 sets to contest the No. 3 and 4 places. For the girls, Clair Woodham (Aldershot) won all her games to finish top while Tina Caws (Southampton) lost only to Woodham and Elizabeth Shoebrook (Aldershot) lost two sets.

The Cadet Trials, run for the first time as a separate event, brought forward a great deal of untapped talent. Kevin Macken (Aldershot) was unbeaten in the Boys, while Tom Painter (Bournemouth) lost only one and Stuart Difey (Gosport) lost two. Joanne Winsor (Portsmouth) won the Girls No. 1 ranking.

The County Junior Tournament Under-17 Singles confirmed Jeff Giles as the No. 1 and Mark Thorne as No. 2. The losing semi-finalists were the 3rd and 4th ranked Aldershot pair of John Crouch and Richard Hatley. In the Final, Jeff had a comfortable 14 and 7 win over Southampton's Mark Thorne. Jeff, who lives in Winchester, plays in Southampton and represents Gosport and Fareham in the Inter-Town League, has really come to the fore in this his last season as a Junior.

With Mark Thorne also in his final Junior season, the County must again consider running a second Senior Team to keep players of this quality in County table-tennis while they bridge the gap between Junior and Senior status. In the Under-17 Girls, Southampton's Tina Caws beat Elizabeth Shoebrook of Aldershot 14, 5 and 14.

Hertfordshire

John Wood

LAST weekend saw North Herts Keith Samuels win the Men's Singles title in the Hertfordshire Closed Table Tennis Championship, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

The final was a repeat of last year's, with Samuels beating Barnet's John Taylor 18, 9.

Samuels added a second trophy to his cabinet when in partnership with John Taylor he won the Men's Doubles title, when they overpowered Barnet's John Lennon and Alan 'Digger' Lamprell, 14, 10 in the final.

Taylor also won the Men's Veteran title when an exhausted Alan Lamprell conceded.

Cheshunt's Maggie Pavitt is the new Ladies Singles Champion after she out hit her younger opponent Maria Williams of Barnet in an exciting final.

Dazzling Maggie Pavitt popped up again to win the Mixed Doubles with her Cheshunt partner Mark Dare, when they beat Barnet's John Lennon and Stevenage's Karen Morton, 9, 9, in the final.

Pavitt and Dare, who only play together once year, have now won this trophy for the third year running.

World Veteran over 50 Consolation Singles Champion, Keith Hartridge from Hatfield, took his third Super Veteran's Single Crown, when he out played Barnet's Long Pimple specialist Derek Somers, 16, 21, 15, in a close defensive final.

Watford's Sally Bax is the proud winner of the Ladies Veteran's Singles Crown, following her thrilling three-setter, when she beat her old rival Sylvia Tyler from Cheshunt 16, 11, 15, in the final.

Watford's rising young star Caroline Seaholme added another trophy to her collection, when she teamed up with Hemel Hempstead's Lynne Harrison to win the Ladies Doubles final, beating Barnet's Maria Williams and Cheshunt's Caroline Boxall, 16, 8, 18, in an all action final.

Great! Great! Great! That was the Hemel Hempstead School Under 13 Boys team when representing Hertfordshire they won the Eastern England School's Team Championships, at Thatcham in Berkshire in January.

The five youngsters Ameer Rasheed, Lee Birtchnell, Paul Reynolds, Roger Wu, and Mark Davies, really flew the flag for the county when they overpowered the other four team in their group. They beat Banbury 7-1, Barrow Hills from Surrey 6-2, Park House from Newbury 6-2, and Waddesdon from Aylesbury 7-1.

This famous five now go forward to the national semi-final stage at Croydon.

Richard Hale School from Hertford represented us in the under 19 Boys event, and did very well in reaching the final, but unfortunately a very tired foursome of Richard Grethe, Ben Neal, Clive Lewis, and John Dore, went down 1-7, to Abingdon School from Oxfordshire, with Ben Neal winning the consolation game for Hertfordshire.

Hemel Hempstead School's Boys Under 16 team of Chris Fleming, Kevin Welling, Robert Dunbar, Simon Wu, and Mark Davies, also took part but only managed to win one match in their group.

Isle of Wight

Brian Lamerton

WHEN last I wrote Isle of Wight notes I said that the Regional League team was champing at the bit waiting their first match; now literally as I sit at the typewriter comes the 'phone call that after 5 defeats we have secured our first victory – Sunday 29th. January – Rownhams 4 Isle of Wight 5. 2 sets apiece for Roger Hookey and Mike Turner with the all important fifth set from the wily Joe Daly – for the ever present Joe this was a first win and a very important one it was too. In the same period the ladies have played once only. Losing 5 love to Cippenham.

Late Call

Another late 'phone call came from Veteran Dave Williams, our News sheet Editor, to tell me that he defeated the holder Keith Taylor in the first round of the Guildford cup – a handicap event (I didn't have the heart to ask for Daves start!) – but by the final all the big names had gone as Ventnor's 14 year old Sam Johnson out hit another junior Matthew Roberts.

A new innovation this season has been a 'Top 10' tournament – from two groups of 5 Roger Hookey, Mike Turner, Ian Smith and Alan Hulbert emerged as semi-finalists with Hookey defeating Turner two straight in the final.

The name Hookey is becoming as well known in Island table tennis circles as the name Prean, as Roger together with the aforementioned Turner and Smith spearheads Sandown towards a third successive championship.

	P	W	Pts
Sandown	12	12	48
Newport Vics 'A'	12	9	35
Shanklin	11	9	33
Rookley 'B'	12	6	27
Rookley 'A'	11	6	27
Newport Vics 'J'	11	5	26
Wroxall 'A'	12	6	24
Sandown Boys Brigade	12	2	12
Wroxall 'B'	12	2	12
Haven Street	12	3	11
Ryde	11	0	1

Counties 4

LEICESTERSHIRE

Tony Lillicrapp

THE BUBBLE burst in a big way for the hitherto unbeaten Leicestershire Juniors when they visited Derbyshire for their most recent County Championships Division 2A fixture.

Used to being three up after the initial men's singles as they have been in every match to date, the away side found themselves in the unfamiliar position of being 2-1 down with John Gayton being the only Leicestershire player to win one of the early singles when he beat Neil Slater in a close three game rubber.

From then on the decline was gradual for Leicestershire as they slid to their first defeat of the season with the only crumb of comfort being that John Gayton was still unbeaten at the end of the match.

Warwickshire II were our visitors for the last Senior Division 2A fixture and what an absorbing match it proved to be.

0-3 down after the initial men's singles, a drubbing looked on the cards for Leicester.

This was not to be the case, however, as the home side first took the ladies' and men's doubles and then Maurice Newman levelled the score with a fighting 21-18 win the third against P. White.

Whether this fight back had any long lasting effects on the away side is hard to say but from this point on they managed only one more win when L. Smith beat Joanne Pickles in the penultimate ladies' singles game leaving the home side to run out somewhat surprising 6-4 winner.

The Veterans in their first Division 1A fixture of the new year entertained Northamptonshire and were well and truly thrashed in the process.

John Iliffe managed to save Leicester from a white-wash when he beat Michael Edwards in the third rubber of the evening but from then on it was all down hill for the home side as Northants ran out worthy 8-1 victors.

At the conclusion of the second East Midlands Cadets League Weekend held at Grantham the Leicester I squad consisting of Dean Langley, Paul Bassett, and Nicholas Young were in fifth position in the chart with four wins and three defeats from their first seven fixtures whilst Leicester II comprising of Louise Parsons and Helen and Rachel Griffiths were bottom but two having recorded only one win so far from their seven games when they beat bottom side Amber Valley II.

Coventry currently head the league with a 100% record from six games. In fact, they have only dropped three sets out of a poss-

ible sixty with their number one Steve Arkell (a thoroughbred name if ever I heard one!) top of the individual averages, also with a 100% record from 18 games played followed by team mate Philip Balfe who has lost only once.

The highest placed Leicestershire player in the averages is Dean Langley who is in 8th place having won 16 out of 21 whilst team mate Paul Bassett is two places below with 14 from 21.

LANCASHIRE

George R. Yates

A PACKAGE deal has struck by the Preston TTA and SSS Sports Group who are to sponsor the Lancashire Closed Championships on Saturday, April 15, with an option for a further four years incorporating the build up to the Preston Guild Tournament which is held every 20 years.

The deal was struck through the Manager of the West View Leisure Centre, Mr. Phil Walsh, with his premises providing the venue for a 9 a.m. start on April 15. The championships will comprise seven events MS, WS, VS, BS, GS, MD and WD and entry forms are now in the process of being distributed throughout the member leagues.

They can also be obtained from the Tournament Organiser, Tony Rigby at 146 Margaret Road, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9RU ('Phone (0772) 745855 the closing date being Saturday, March 18).

Entry fees are £1.50 for the senior singles and veterans, £1 for the junior singles and £2 per pair for the doubles. The prize fund totals £225 and will be increased to almost double next season.

Preston are hoping to start a new era in taking league matches into Leisure Centres next season. Commencing at the West View plans are being made to introduce a whole division of 12 teams to be played on one night each week. But only with the co-operation of the members of the Association can such an objective be achieved.

It may be splitting clubs into teams, but the Preston Association feels this is the way forward if we are to survive and take our place with the other major sports.

The Preston Closed Championships were due to take place at Clayton Green Leisure Centre on Friday, Feb 24 and Saturday, Feb 25, the tournament being sponsored by the Alliance Leicester Building Society.

In the Bolton League's individual divisional championships held at the Bolton Institute of Higher Education on January 6, the first division title was won by Nigel Hallows who, in the final, beat Ron Durose

LINCOLNSHIRE

Sharon Harvey

WHO CAN stop Scunthorpe? must be the question every Butcher Cup follower is asking, as with the Inter-Town competitions reaching the half way stage Scunthorpe have yet to drop a point. Despite the very high standard of the league this year, Paul Rowson, Jonathan Rowson and Lee Robinson have made easy work of defeating their opposition, Lee Robinson being the only Butcher player still to be unbeaten. However with Boston snapping at their heels, the Butcher Cup may not be decided until the very last round when the two teams meet.

Elsewhere Grantham 1 look set to repeat last year's victory in the Butlin Cup, and Louth are in a very strong position in the Haigh. Only the Veteran competition seems completely open for grabs, with Grimsby, Stamford and Gainsborough all sharing the same points.

The league tables are:

HAIGH CUP

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Louth	3	2	0	1	4
Lincoln	2	1	1	0	3
Scunthorpe	3	1	1	1	3
Grimsby	3	1	0	2	2
Grantham	1	1	0	0	2
Gainsborough	2	0	0	2	0

BUTCHER CUP

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Scunthorpe	4	4	0	0	8
Boston	3	3	0	0	6
Lincoln	4	2	1	1	5
Grantham 1	3	1	1	1	3
Stamford	2	1	1	0	3
Mablethorpe	4	1	1	2	3
Grimsby	4	1	0	3	2
Spalding	3	0	2	1	2
Gainsborough	2	0	0	2	0
Grantham 2	3	0	0	3	0

BUTLIN CUP

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Grantham 1	3	2	1	0	5
Grimsby	3	1	2	0	4
Grantham	3	1	1	1	3
Scunthorpe	3	0	0	3	0

VETERAN CUP

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Grimsby	2	2	0	0	4
Stamford	2	2	0	0	4
Gainsborough	3	2	0	1	4
Boston	3	0	0	3	0
Mablethorpe	2	0	0	2	0

The first round of the Wilmott Cup - the ladies' Inter-Association knockout - saw the Grimsby team of Hazel Everett, Gillian Sharpe and Connie Moran defeat Grantham's Helen Stephens, Jeanette Baxter and Jane Strawson 5-3. Without discrediting the other players, the return of Gillian to the Grimsby side obviously played a large part in deciding outcome of the match, as she won all three of her games.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mike Tunningley

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE juniors travelled to Grantham for their latest County fixture against Lincolnshire full of optimism following their 9-1 win against Huntingdonshire.

Despite travelling without their number one Robert Yong who once again elected to play for the seniors, hopes were high on obtaining a successful result. However, Lincolnshire played exceptionally well to gain a fine 8-2 win. Only Paul Wood played to his true capacity and his two wins were gained at the expense of Warren and Robinson. With Yorkshire 2nd being their next opponents, Notts must knuckle down to some hard work before their final matches with Warwickshire and Durham.

Sarah Smith has now moved into 27th place in the latest Cadet National Rankings lists and her Worksop colleagues wish her every success in improving her position.

Robert Yong is to be congratulated on reaching the last eight in the recently held National ranking trials. He was eventually defeated by Andrew Eden after gaining a fine win over Johnathan Taylor.

Worksop were represented by the Portland School in the English Schools Regional Finals held at Grantham. The team comprising Paul Davison, Paul Joyce, Simon Hooley and Andrew Dolby had reached the regional finals following an unbeaten run in the area finals. Eventually they finished in second place which was not quite good enough to go through to the National Finals. However this was an excellent performance by the Portland and they hope to go one stage further next season.

Worksop League

The Worksop and District Table Tennis League played their Annual Inter-Town match with near neighbours Retford at the BRSA club during January, and following their 8-4 win in the Champions v Champions event they were glowing with confidence. This was not mis-spent as they went on to record an overall 13-5 victory. Worksop A defeated their Retford counterparts 8-1 while Worksop B just held off the Retford challenge to win 5-4. Winners for Worksop A were Gary Lee, Ann Wass, Alan Wilson/Gary Lee, Paul Davison/Ann Wass, Mick Bartrop/John Gazeley, Paul Davison, John Gazeley and Mick Bartrop while Joe Launders obtained Retford's solo win.

Winners for Worksop B were: Paul Joyce, Brian Higgins, Stuart Cox, Mike Tunningley/Paul Joyce and Stuart Cox/ Brian Higgins

Counties 5

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

BETTER late than never I bring you various results from around the County that I have gathered during my absence from this magazine. County Championships brought no specific surprises with Neil Pickard winning the singles but not without bringing to bear all the expertise he has learnt on the circuit.

Alan Nicholls from Kings Lynn gave him a fright in the S.F. and Steve Fox threw everything except the table at him in the final. With Phil Logsdon at the Middlesex we expected Neil would have an easy path through - Alan and Steve thought otherwise. Wendy Durrant won the Ladies singles for the 11th time out of 12. 'Mighty' Mick Broughton took the veterans for the sixth time in a row. Neil and brother David the men's doubles, the old firm of Ruth Hogg & daughter Wendy the ladies doubles for the 9th time and Richard Stevenson & Alison Taylor the mixed. A fine tournament only slightly marred by the attitude of some Norwich based players when losing to those strangers from Kings Lynn whose contingent graced the tournament by its behaviour and dress not to mention will to win.

The juniors brought some changes with Jon Cockburn beating Andrew Hawes to round off an excellent season so far. Alison Taylor took the U/17 girls for the 3rd and final time, also the mixed with Andrew Hawes and the doubles with Nicky Savage. Jon Cockburn and Mark Wilson the boys doubles, Melanie Chaplin U/13 girls and then the K. Lynn youngsters Gary Hewitt U/15 boys, Theresa Hewitt U/15 girls, Gary Block U/13 Boys - some good talent coming along here. Our first time with an U/11 event proved a success with 30 entries and some talent which frankly amazed me.

The style and shots of these youngsters and the pleasure they had in displaying their talent was a joy to behold - Stuart Purlin who only plays in his local Beccles league beat the favourite Wayne Robinson in 3 sets.

This year the championships will again be at Long Stratton December 9/10th. Some local leagues have held their championships as at Wymondham Steve Howlett kept his dominance by winning the singles yet again with Les Rayment runner up. In K. Lynn Peter Holiday has re-emerged to win the men's singles from Alan Nicholls whose son Lee won the boys singles. Alison Edge from over the border won the ladies, and new veteran David Ashmore took that title.

OXFORDSHIRE

Steve Joyner

THIS MONTH Oxfords senior team went on a sight seeing trip around London only hours before an important county match against Surrey 11. The Clive Morris tour operators ferried the team cleverly around London's busy streets taking in many of the main tourists attractions.

The highlight of the excursion surely being the three laps of the main Hammersmith High Street. Eventually Pete Jones map reading ability managed to steer the team safely to a public house for refuelling and better directions. The match itself proved to be a hard long slog. The three Oxford men Pete Jones, Clive Morris and Steve Joyner all took games off the nationally ranked Surrey players. Unfortunately Oxons only successes came from the men's doubles and Eleanor Harrison.

The 8-2 score line did not do any justice to the battling Oxon team who saw seven, three game sets all end in defeat. However the much improved team spirit and younger element will bring positive results in the near future.

The Banbury league staged its fifth Redkir Leisure Banbury top twelve tournament in January. Again it proved to be a popular event not only with the players but also with the many onlookers who during the tournament took time out from their own sports to enjoy some of the great table tennis on display. With Colin Lynes on holiday and Eric Barlow still recovering from injuries sustained after his office party there was plenty to play for to gain one of the four semi final places.

Domonic O'Flynn and Steve Joyner qualified comfortably, but a real battle developed for the other two places. Tony Bradley, Dawn Barnett, Paul Tew and Jason Tustain all had good wins, but Alan Brooks who was having a great tournament had a tough battle with O'Flynn but could not cause an upset.

The most outstanding performance of the day came from popular Paul Barnett. Paul who had often said he found it difficult performing on his day off raised his game amongst other things to produce his best form for several seasons. His semi final with Steve Joyner was a cracker, Paul hit himself into a 16-11 lead in the third.

But at this stage his grip slipped as did his shorts and Joyner eventually scraped through. The final was predictable, both players trying to out-hit each other, however, it was Joyner who eventually defeated his team mate in two games.

SHROPSHIRE

Ian Marshall

THE EVER faithful David Morris established his authority on proceedings at Lilleshall in January to win the Men's Singles title for the third time in the Shropshire Closed Championships hosted by the Telford Association. Morris showed little mercy on his opponents with the long serving Shrewsbury man Ian Baker the final victim in straight sets. Meanwhile on the ladies side Grove clubmate Liz Creasey maintained the tradition of Market Drayton success in the Ladies Singles with newcomer Tracey Spencer of Telford ousted in the final.

There were to be further successes for Morris and Creasey with the former partnering Mark Turner to win the Men's Doubles and the latter in harness with Claire Marshall to win the Ladies Doubles title, whilst the Mixed Doubles event saw success for the home camp as Terry Jones partnered Tracey Spencer to gold.

Meanwhile on the junior scene Grove duo Adrian Cadman and Ruth Barnett justified their top seedings as did clubmates Matthew Alexander and Clare Hand in the cadet events, whilst Pontesbury's sporting Jonathan Day emerged victorious in the Boys Singles and Sarah Creasey out-hit sister Liz for the girls crown.

A large entry of 94 players for the two day championships, masterminded by the enthusiastic Paul Harmer, was most encouraging the hopefully bodes well for the future with the possibility of England's largest inland county returning to the county championships scene next year, a move which can only be applauded.

Meanwhile, Grove report yet another superb entry for the January Graded Singles event with over 110 players contesting seven grades on 21 tables, a format which undoubtedly works and from which tournament organisers may take heed. The roll of honour for January sees David Savage of Stoke-on-Trent the winner of the H&E Scaffolding Grade A1 title over brother Neil whilst further success came for Potteries families as Neil Malkin beat Paul Malkin in Grade A2; however Mark Woolerton ended the Potteries success in the Movefast Grade A3 beating Leominster colleague David Johnson for the title. Meanwhile further success came the way of Leominster in the Shrewsbury Built Up Felt Roofing Grade B event as Damon Fenton beat Asa Gaffer with the Roofrite Grade C title being captured by Grove's Paul Hacking over young Stuart Thomas of Pontesbury. However

SOMERSET

Tony Carey

IN MY last epistle I mentioned the noticeable decline in the strength of both our Senior and Junior squads, which was fast approaching the situation where it was a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul with the Juniors to Senior teams, or whoever came bat in hand would play.

This situation has not changed to any great degree since, and I accept that this does happen in other parts of the country where the playing eras do not overlap, or where the administrative and coaching support moves on. Therefore I forecast some lean years ahead for Somerset Table Tennis, but I am sure the sun will shine through at various times to keep our aspirations warm and to herald the end of our winter (not of discontent I might add).

Hammering

But now back to the present and this means what is happening around and about. Well the first is my report that the last Senior Team match against a strong Surrey team at Chilton Trinity School, Bridgwater, proved not quite like the hammering the score of 10-0 suggests with some noticeable performances from each member of the team, led once more by our Peter Pan captain courageous Brian Reeves. Some of my older readers may remember Brian from the days when the popular cry at matches was "they shall not get through even if I have to stay here all night". Well folks, Brian still sticks by that motto continuing to produce superb touch to retrieve the situation just when his opponents are saluting a good topspin attack shot or think they can put a short ball just over the net and get away with it only to find the ball rocketing past them, followed by Brian. If only our younger pretenders to Brian's throne would copy his example what excitement would be generated in the sport, and the true meaning of skill would be realised.

Another player who has brightened the Somerset scene for the last 4 years Ron Wetherby, has unfortunately left the County to return northwards, North Wales I believe, with something he didn't have when he entered our shire, a wife and newborn son. Good luck Ron to you and your family and thank you for the entertainment your table tennis brought to this County, with a style that came as an eye-opener to those brought up on a different interpretation of timing and recovery. You certainly gave us food for thought.

I will be back next issue with the news of the County scene from all angles.

SURREY

Terry Vance

Surrey Senior Championships

MS semi final Max Crimmins bt Jerome Jonah and Steve Holloway bt David Harding.

MS finals Max Crimmins bt Steve Holloway.

LS: Deborah Simmonds bt Linda Clemett.

VS: semi finals Gordon Chapman bt Ron Langheim and Frank Hams bt Chris Harper.

VS: Final Frank Hams bt Gordon Chapman.

LD: Sue Adamson/Deborah Simmonds bt Hazel Earl/Jenny Nolan.

MD: Terry Haley/Steve Holloway bt Anthony Fitzgerald/Farhat Rasul.

XD: Debbie Simmonds/Brian Simmonds bt Linda Clemett/Max Crimmins.

RS: Brian Garraway bt Simon Philipsz.

Congratulations to Debbie Simmonds on her marvellous hat-trick.

Steve Holloway so surprised himself by winning the first in the Final against Max that he couldn't concentrate in the next two games.

As might be expected the Veteran's Final went to expedite and was umpired magnificently by Margot Fraser. This enabled her to complete the Final test to become a County Umpire.

In the *County Championships* Hannah Webber had a tremendous win over Sarah Seaholme for the Junior 1st. The Junior 2nd team travelled to Norfolk and beat their 1st and 2nd teams on the same day. The Senior 1st team travelled to Somerset and won 10-0. Jane Barrella played despite feeling unwell. This illness was later found to be a blood disorder. Ever since her trip to Japan she has had no luck with her health. I hope this will be the last illness and that she can get back to achieving her Table Tennis ambitions.

While speaking of illnesses Mick Kercher has at last found someone to operate on his hips despite being told he is too young for this operation. I hope this will be soon and he can then walk and drive without the pain he has been suffering in the last few years and enjoy his redundancy. Also due in hospital at the time of writing is your President Ron Crayden. My best wishes for a quick recovery.

It seems to me that a lot of the Surrey Committee are becoming prone to illnesses, maybe due to old age and overwork on your behalf! So get your local Surrey Leagues to nominate people for the several vacancies on the County Committee in time for the

AGM. This will relieve some of the pressure on the few people who run the County and also make it more democratic.

Guildford League's Premier Division Burymead "A" look set to win with Pyestock "A" finishing 2nd. The match between these teams produced a 7-3 win in favour of the former. At the moment though Merrow "A" are leading the division but have played one more match than Burymead.

First Division Fetcham are struggling to find the form of previous seasons. In the Second Division Burymead "C" are challenging for promotion. In the Third Division Fred Florence gained his 30th win of the season while in the Fourth Division Richard Dolbear won his 1st match in 30 outings. My thanks to Ted Simpkin for this information.

SUSSEX

Graham Carter and John Woodford

A TEAM of youngsters from West Sussex have reached the last twelve in the Dunlop English Schools' Table Tennis Championships.

The reigning English under 19 champions, Ifield, who play in the Crawley and Horsham League looked very sharp as they started their defence of the National title. Representing West Sussex Schools on 22 January they cruised through the Regional finals which were held at Sutton.

Ifield disposed of the Surrey champions, Hampton, by the massive margin of 8-0. Ifield's team consisted of England Schools' International Scott Greenbrook, Sussex No.2 Junior Mayur Majithia, Keith Newell (Sussex Junior team player), and a new rising star Manish Majithia—Mayur's twin brother.

The College side is managed by science master Andy Meads, who feels that the squad are in very good form: "This was a good start but our real test will come when we play the former English champions, Bedford Modern Public School."

Hastings, without Teresa Moore edged their way through to the zone final of the Rose Bowl with a 5-4 win against Brighton, for whom Janet Smith was undefeated.

Sue Hayes snatched a vital win against Sally Lucas, but it was Rosemary Rainton, newly promoted to No.7 on the Sussex ranking list who managed to win the last match, with the score standing at 4-4, over Christine Wicks, 16, -20, 16. Sheila King scored twice but lost -8, -20 to Miss Smith, almost certainly the top seed for the TSB all-Sussex championships at Southwick on March 26.

WORCESTER

Dave Roden

THE COUNTY 1st team recorded a splendid 6-4 away win over Cambridgeshire at St Neots in their Leeds County Championship Div 1A match on 7th January. With Malcolm Green unavailable, Mark Brookes performed creditably on his 1st team debut.

Fight back

Worcestershire trailed 3-0 after the opening sets, but Sandra Roden and Mandy House started the fight-back with a narrow 19 in the third win in the Ladies' Doubles. With Murray Jukes and Trevor Washington winning the Men's Doubles two straight, Worcs were back in the match.

Following Brookes' defeat by Geoff Davies in the sixth set, House beat Yvette Hooks 19 in the third, Jukes beat Keith Richardson 19 in the third, Roen beat Helen Bardwell 15 in the third to put Worcs 5-4 ahead, and Washington beat Mick Harper 14 in the third to ensure two valuable championship points for Worcs. Eight sets in this match needed a third game to decide.

First point

The Senior 2nd's entertained Hampshire in Div 2B and lost 7-3, Ken Walton and Steve Horton winning one set each, with Walton and Paul Garner winning the Men's Doubles.

The Juniors dropped their first point in Div 2B when they were held to a draw by Hampshire Juniors. Jason Thompson was Worcs star with two wins, Lee Horton, Kevin Sefton and Joanne Hill all giving good support with one win each, Sefton excelling to win the final set 18, -17, 18.

In the Veterans Div 1A, Worcs lost 5-4 to visitors Yorkshire 2nds. Ray Williams made his debut for Worcs and won one set, as did Roy Norton and Janet Hunt, Norton and Mrs. Hunt winning the Mixed Doubles.

Latest results from the County League show Kidderminster A beat Evesham 9-0 and Bromsgrove beat Kidderminster B 7-2.

At mid-season in the Dudley League, Jims Gym, led by Trevor Washington and Mervyn Wood, are level on points with Woodside Liberals, led by an unbeaten Andy Hare and Dhiru Parmer at the top of Div 1.

In Div 2, the Bromley c team of Andy Hartland, Jason Thompson and Lee Horton are still unbeaten and look firm favourites for promotion.

Div 3 has Quarry Bank Liberals D, with ex County player Wendy Baggott, tied at the top with Baggeridge B, while in Div 4, Dudley MBC and MEBF have dropped just one point to each other, with MEBF's Bob Atkiss still unbeaten.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

IT COULD be quite an event when Yorkshire League Premier Division sides Huddersfield and Northallerton meet in the West Riding town in March.

Both are undefeated at the turn of the year and just two sets is the margin between them with Huddersfield, who could well include the new England No. 8 Michael O'Driscoll in their line-up, holding that slender advantage.

Northallerton are the surprise team of the past three seasons — they were playing in Division 3 in 85/6 — and caused quite a stir when they won the championship of Division 2 in the 86/7 campaign and then went straight through to Division 1 twelve months later to move into the Premier section for the first time in their history.

The outfit from the North Yorkshire market town are fortunate to be able to call upon a number of players who compete in the powerful Teeside leagues and this term have added nationally ranked Malcolm Corking, vastly experienced at top level, to the strong squad of Steve Cooper, Michael Nisbet & Steve Brunskill.

Bradford II and Halifax are both 100% in Division 1, as are Northallerton III in Division 3, and it is good to see Scarborough's newly entered second string setting the pace in 4.

Reigning champions Sheffield (Ladies) and Selby (Junior) have still to drop a point, while Sheffield also lead the Cadet section ahead of Hull, with whom they have shared the spoils.

Tightest competition is probably in the Veterans Division 1 where, although it is again Sheffield who can point to an unblemished record, at least five teams can fancy themselves for end of season honours. Vet. Div. 2 and 3 are topped by Bradford and Hull II respectively.

Yorkshire based players dominated the Humberside Closed Championships at Grimsby with Stuart Worrell, now teaching in Hull, and Ruth Bray each taking a major singles title and then adding the parallel doubles with Kevin Rogerson and Hazel Kavanagh.

Three other competitors collected a brace of titles — Ian Parker (Hull) (Junior Boys Singles and Doubles), Debbie Newman (Selby) (JGS and JGD), and Simon James (Bridlington) (CBS and CBD).

By the time these notes appear both the Yorkshire 2* (Graded) Championships and the Yorkshire Closed Championships will have been completed — results next month — and the 2* has attracted an excellent response of 126 entrants.

More facts from our history book

GOOD LUCK to Pat Wales in her mission to outlaw use of the term 'Ping-Pong'; may I outline the facts so that we can all help to rebut the mistaken notions often put forward in this matter:

Preserved

1. 'Ping-Pong' was the original name. Not true. It was Table Tennis, and 'Ping-Pong' was the registered title used (and jealously preserved) by Jaques for their equipment.

2. The first association set up was called the Ping-Pong Association. Not true. The Table Tennis Association (1901) preceded the Ping-Pong Association, if only by 4 days, but neither lasted for long.

3. Ivor Montagu (astonishingly) preferred the name 'Ping-Pong'. True but when a new association was set up in 1922, Jaques objected to their title being used and so the Table Tennis Association (later retitled the English Table Tennis Association) was formed.

Vellum bats

4. "Ping-Pong was a game designed for the kitchen or dining-room table with vellum bats," (Pat Wales); but it was also widely played at a tournament level around 1901-2. The following analysis of a forehand stroke - from one of the several instructional books of the period - dispels the notion of 'pit-a-pat'. "In driving from right to left, arm, wrist and racket are almost in a straight line, the face of the racket leaning slightly towards the table, and the ball being taken well away from and somewhat in front of the body. Swing the racket towards the ball with the arm in this position, taking care that the racket travels almost parallel with the table. To do this the body must be considerably bent. The moment the ball comes into contact with the vellum, swing upwards so as to lift the ball over the net. The spin imparted to the ball by this movement will cause it to fall rapidly and keep low, and travel fast after striking the table. The wrist can be used in combination with the arm and body to bring the racket upwards. This increases the spin on the ball, but also increases the difficulty of performing the stroke..."

The book is coming

The full story is told in my *Table Tennis - The Early Years* to be published in the Spring, by the ITTF.

GERALD N. GURNEY
Guildhall Orchard
Great Bromley
Colchester, Essex

Central London Comment

ON the vexed question of 'Table Tennis' vs 'Ping-Pong' - for once even chairman John hasn't got all the facts. For years I tried to dissuade my friends from referring to Ping-Pong; told them that the best people might sometimes say 'ping' (as in 'I dun enjoy me ping like wot I useta') but that 'pong' was definitely OUT. Then at the Welsh Open I sat next to a couple of Chinese spectators and managed to get across to them my question: "What did the Chinese call this game?" "Oh!" - grinning broadly - "Ping-PONG".

Only question remaining: "If what the Chinese play is Ping-Pong, what the Hell must table tennis be like?"

LEO BLACK
C.U. (Middx.)
Sometime Chairperson
Central London
Ping-Pong League

Was the champion's service fair?

THOUGH what Jack Randall writes (ITTF Feb.) is quite reasonable, he does miss my main point.

It is not the umpire who has to return service, but the player. If the player cannot see the bat strike the ball, then it is difficult for him to return the service in a way that does not produce instant punishment or at all. Yoo Nam Kyu's service was not visible to his opponent. I sat behind our player and was able to move my seat and from none of the positions tried could I see the bat strike the ball. Both our player and players and coaches from other countries told me the same thing.

Umpires sat by the side of the table and I do not know what they saw or did not see, since the rest of us (spectators included) sat behind the tables. For all I know, they saw what was hidden to us, but they are not called upon to play or to return the service.

Much consternation resulted from the all-black 'funny' bats which, it was said, produced errors that could not be explained and made the game a mockery. At that time one had the assistance of one's eyes and ears. One could listen to the sound, one could observe the flight.

A hidden service offers no such advantages. Spin imparted from behind the body and well shielded from view cannot be read and therefore poor returns are likely. At the highest level, if you return badly, you are dead. These facts of life are not suf-

ficiently understood by officials who draft the rules. Most of them played in another era when different problems existed and are out of touch with the modern game.

Interpretations

I wish I could share Jack's confidence in the interpretations of the 6 inch throw of the service. It appears to have led to further inconsistencies. This was inevitable. Who can tell from some distance whether a ball is thrown 4 inches or 6 inches? The answer is no one. Nevertheless this is what umpires are now asked to do.

JOHN PREAN

The reply from George Yates

IN response to last month's editorial in which the Editor, John Woodford, proounds his impression that "the ETTU is an autocratic body full of arrogance who make far reaching decisions with very little consultation with member countries" perhaps it would be as well if I were to enlighten him.

On the question of players being forced to play in the Euro/Asia series under penalty of not being invited to the Stiga Euro Top 12. This was a proposition put by the ETTU President, Mihovil Kapetanic, at the ETTU's Informal General Meeting in New Delhi during the last world championships.

Concerned with players withdrawing from the 2nd series in Asia, especially females, it was stated that the whole idea was to improve the standard of the Europeans thus bridging the gap between the two continents. The proposition was carried unanimously and what could be more democratic than that? And how that gap has been bridged as witness the Euro men's No. 1 team winning all their team matches in the recent 4th series in Asia.

As per the ETTU handbook Regulations for the European League (9) Equipment it reads:- The Union may enter into contracts for the exclusive use of branded equipment in the European League. Such contracts shall include only 50% of the advertising space on the inside surfaces of the surrounds, the remaining 50% to be at the disposal of the host Association. It shall be a condition of entry into the League that all participants will use the adopted equipment in all League matches. Should the correct adopted equipment not be used, the Referee shall declare the match a walk-over to the away team.

The foregoing regulation has met with the approval of member

associations and any wishing to amend this regulation are at liberty to submit their proposals at the next BGM to be held in Gothenburg next April.

Any steps taken to obtain sponsorship for any of the ETTU's activities must have the approval of the BGM and what could be more democratic than that? Like every association, whether national or international, the ETTU must have money to further and enhance its activities. Had not the ETTU allotted money to host countries of the European Youth Championships they would have died and who wants that?

Communications between the ETTU and the ETTA are good and, although as Hon. General Secretary I must not show bias, when I can help I do so and this was very evident when the Euro/Asia individual event was dropped by Switzerland I immediately contacted the ETTA who, together with the Leeds Permanent Building Society, reaped the benefit in staging it in Cleveland.

Some substance

Maybe the problems appertaining to international open draws have some substance and should not be tolerated but not being directly concerned I can promise to take up with Cesare Sagrestani, the Chairman of the ETTU's Referees Committee, on this question.

I hope the foregoing explanations will enlighten my character and dissuade Mr. Woodford from blackening it.

GEORGE R. YATES
Hon. General Secretary, ETTU,
43 Knowsley Road,
Bolton, Lancs. BL1 6JH

More tournament tears

I WAS delighted when I arrived at Harlow for the Essex 3-star, opened my programme, and found a defender drawn in my group. Very rare these days, a potential 52 ranking points. Then I was told that he had been moved to an earlier group because he had threatened to withdraw if required to play at 7.40 p.m.

Surely he should have asked for an early start on his application form? Any chance of winning the group or gaining 52 points had gone. Four trains and a full entry fee for just one game and then over 3 hours to get home!

This may seem like small fry to some but it is not to the majority of players who make up tournaments. Higher up the scale it is the equivalent of moving Chen Xinhua out of Carl Prean's group at Preston!

MIKE LOVEDER
Wimbledon

Taylor retains Tameside crown

THE Patsun/Brother Tameside Junior Open Table Tennis Championships, held at the Copley Recreation Centre, have been heralded as another major success. 300 competitors from as far apart as Devon and Cleveland participated in 14 different events. There were many closely fought and exciting matches which had over 500 spectators on the edge of their seats.

Many of the prizes this year went to promising local players. The hero of the first day was Zoe Buchanan of Hyde, Cheshire, who contested three of the four girls' finals. In the Cadet Girls' Doubles, Zoe partnered top Welsh girl Natasha Williams and although losing the first set of the final, eventually they ran out winners against Michelle Martin of Somerset and the highly talented Nicola Deaton of Derbyshire.

In the Cadet Girls' singles, Zoe came through the earlier rounds comfortably, but in the final found the power of Natasha Williams too much, losing in straight sets. The final of the Class II Girls' Cadets was once again another hard-fought three-set match; Zoe eventually ran out the winner over Sarah Gardner of Essex. Zoe's success has been the culmination of three years' hard work at the Mossley, under the expert eye of the coach Dave Kinder.

The Cadet Boys' Singles was played out between the two top seeds, Alex Perry of Devon and

Nicky Bradfield of Berkshire. Eventually, Bradfield's greater power proved too much for the skill of Perry and he ran out the winner in three sets.

The second day of the Tournament saw the Juniors in action and with over 100 entries in the two singles events, the competition lived up to all expectations, with many hard-fought and gruelling early matches. Once again, many of the honours went to the local players.

Seeds powerful

Jonathan Taylor of Denton, ranked No. 3 in England, comfortably retained his singles title winning all his matches in straight sets, defeating Jason Bamford of Notts in the final. Jonathan also partnered Andrew Eden of Lancashire in the Boys' Doubles Final and once again the power of the top seeds proved too much for the rest and they ran out winners defeating Kieron Dabbs and Paul Woods of Northampton in the final. The Junior Boys' Class II singles also produced a great

result for Tameside and Cheshire with the promising Darren Howarth of Droylsden battling through the final stages to overcome Gareth Jones of Yorkshire.

The girls' events proved equally exciting with Joanna Roberts of Yorkshire retaining her title with a comfortable win over Elizabeth Creasey of Shropshire. The Junior Girls' Doubles Final was a much more closely fought affair and although it was the last match of the day, the players produced some sparkling rallies and in the event the determination of Deaton and Williams proved too much for the more experienced pair of Evans and Roberts.

Tournament organiser, Chris Hope, said that extending the event over two days has proved an enormous success. Over the past four years, the Tournament has grown in popularity attracting top players from all over the country. He also extended his thanks to the umpires and co-sponsors, Patsun and Brother.

RESULTS

Junior Boys' Singles:

Jonathan Taylor (Cheshire) Bt Jason Bamford (Nottingham) 21-16; 21-14.

Junior Boys' Singles, Class II:

Darren Howarth (Cheshire) Bt Gareth Jones (Yorkshire) 21-11; 21-13.

Junior Boys' Doubles:

Jonathan Taylor/Andrew Eden Bt Kieron Dabbs/Paul Wood 21-16; 21-18.

Junior Girls' Singles:

Joanna Roberts (Yorkshire) Bt Elizabeth Creasey (Shropshire) 21-8; 21-14.

Junior Girls' Class II Singles:

Elizabeth Creasey (Shropshire) Bt Emese Kottasz (Middlesex) 21-15; 21-9.

Junior Girls' Doubles:

Nicola Deaton/Natasha Williams Bt Joanna Roberts/Sion Evans 23-21; 21-17.

Cadet Boys' Singles:

Nicky Bradfield (Berkshire) Bt Alex Perry (Devon) 17-21; 21-12; 21-10.

Cadet Boys' Singles, Class II:

Stephen Crouch (Surrey) Bt Gareth Davies (Avon) 18-21; 21-16; 21-18.

Cadet Boys' Doubles:

Nicky Bradfield/Alex Perry Bt Jeremy Hyatt/Gareth Davies 21-16; 16-21; 21-17.

Cadet Girls' Singles:

Natasha Williams (Wales) Bt Zoe Buchanan (Cheshire) 21-11; 21-12.

Cadet Girls' Singles, Class II:

Zoe Buchanan (Cheshire) Bt Sarah Gardner (Essex) 20-22; 21-12; 21-11.

Cotswold Junior select tournament

Jonathan Taylor crushes Bevan

A HIGHLY successful Cotswold select which totalled some 341 entries and of the ten titles that were up for the taking, once again local prestige failed to find a position in any of the Finals.

On the first day's play Raymond Powell the Gloucestershires No. 1 Junior reached the 3rd round, where he made his exit to Andrew Nicholls 9, -19, -14.

Another local lad Jeremy Hyatt went one better and got to the 4th round. Hyatt the Gloucestershire No. 2 Junior definitely had the No. 1 seed – Barry Forster of Northumberland extremely worried in this round with scores of 26, -20, -18, only Forster's greater experience saw him triumph to the final, and win it.

With Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield absent (both playing Leeds British League), the stage was seemingly wide open for Jonathan Taylor to display his talents – indeed he did, beating a rather under the weather Neil Bevan 6 and 14 in the final. Bevan was far from being 100% in good health and did well to reach the final.

In the U17 Girls' final it appeared a foregone conclusion that the one and two seeds would meet in the final, and indeed they did – and Miss Billington after going to pieces in the second, losing it at 11, pulled herself together and sealed the final against Joanna Roberts 21-12.

The diminutive Miss Nicola Deaton from Chesterfield and her doubles partner Sara Williams did well to win the U17's Doubles Final – especially as on the previous day – both were R.U. in the Girls' U14 Doubles Final.

by ALF PEPPARD



Jonathan Taylor

STOP PRESS

JOHN WOOD (Herts) will take over as Editor of TTN during the summer break.

A BREAK-IN at our printers Belmont Press during which two photographs for this edition were lost caused a delay in publication – our apologies to readers.

RESULTS

Boys singles – U12 – Darren Blake (SY) beat Adrian Vincent (DV) 10, 8.
Girls singles – U12 – Sally Marling (Y) beat Nicola Deaton (NY) 19, 8.
Boys doubles – U14 – John Blasco (Mi) and Darren Blake (Mi) beat Nicky Bradfield (Mi) and Alex Perry (DV) 16, 17.
Girls doubles – U14 – Katie Goodhall (Y) and Sally Marling (Y) beat Nicola

RESULTS

Deaton (DY) and Sara Williams (Mi) 19, 20.
Boys singles – U14 – Barry Forster (ND) beat Nicky Bradfield (Mi) 14, -16, 10.
Girls singles – U14 – Katie Goodhall (Y) beat Sara Williams (Mi) -20, 16, 14.
Boys doubles – U17 – Alan Cole (Sx) and Paul Carter (Sy) beat Neil Bevan (Co) and Garry Knights -12, 20, 17.
Girls singles – U17 – Julie Billington

RESULTS

(Dy) beat Joanna Roberts (Y) 11, -11, 12.
Girls doubles – U17 – Nicola Deaton (Dy) and Sara Williams (Mi) beat Alison Gower (E) and Caroline Buckley (Bd) 18, -18, 18.
Boys singles – U17 – Jonathan Taylor (Denton) beat Neil Bevan (C) 6, 14.

How the juniors stand

THE LENTEC NATIONAL RANKING LIST

JUNIOR BOYS AND GIRLS

– in conjunction with the ETTA (As at Feb 3, 1989)



JUNIOR BOYS

1. Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield)	1343
2. Johnathan Taylor (Denton)	1154
3. Chris Oldfield (Sheffield)	1034
4. Andrew Eden (Ormskirk)	952
5. Neil Bevan (Bude)	896
6. Grant Solder (Barking)	833
7. Leigh Jeffries (Sutton Coalfield)	814
8. Brian Mileham (Margate)	774
9. Jason Bamford (Aldecar)	610
10. Gary Knights (Barton u/Needwood)	597
11. Damian Holland (Billericay)	582
12. Howard Whewell (Rossendale)	576
13. Alan Cole (Crawley)	575
14. Ian Black (St Albans)	566
15. Mark Stevenson (Halifax)	541
16. Colin Bowler (Dunstable)	540
17. Darren Howarth (Droylsden)	538
18. Peter Bowler (Dunstable)	532
19. Martin Adams (Ascot)	505
20. Keiron Dabbs (Daventry)	504
21. Michael Auchterlonie (Halifax)	499
22. Stephen Bettison (Nailsea)	486
23. Graeme Connolly (Frimley)	484
24. Stephen Hanks (Burton on Trent)	404
25. Paul Wood (Southwell)	401
26. Barry Forster (Whickham)	399
27. Paul Carter (Coulson)	390
28. Stephen Horsfield (Sheffield)	371
29. Mark Beaumont (L/Buzzard)	369
30. Matthew Greenwood (Amersham)	362
31. Michael Nisbet (Stockton)	352
32. Ian Collier (Sunderland)	347
33. Alexander Perry (Crediton)	336
34. James Nicholson (Stockton)	328
35. Simon Rockall (Crouch End)	328
36. Gregory Bridgett (Plymouth)	324
37. Nicholas Bradfield (Maidenhead)	321
38. Darryl Sneyd (Oldham)	316
39. Robert Yong (Nottingham)	311
40. Keith Buers (Brentwood)	303
41. David Hadley (Bristol)	301
42. Jason Thompson (Brierley Hill)	297
43. Graham Cook (Pontefract)	283
44. Craig Smith (Selby)	279
45. Christopher White (Ippelepen)	273
46. Allan Radford (Upminster)	263
47. Gareth Jones (Selby)	262
48. Steven Riggins (Washington)	245
49. Martin Vickers (Bradford)	245
50. Jason Blake (S Croydon)	239
51. Christopher Nicholls (Selby)	226
52. Steven Giles (Plymouth)	225
53. Rywel Green (Bristol)	223
54. David Clarke (Coventry)	218
55. Matthew Reid (Brentwood)	214
56. Gavin Yates (Thame)	211
57. Rajinder Singh (Birmingham)	210
58. John Menzel (Camberne)	207
59. Spencer Thompson (Rainham)	206
60. Jason Lee (Nelson)	202
61. Mark Priddle (Maidenhead)	196
62. Philip Chapman (Bradford)	194
63. Ian Windle (St Ives)	193
64. Steven Rand (Upminster)	186
65. Ian Johnston (Bristol)	182
66. Timothy Pike (Wakefield)	179

67. Raymond Powell (Gloucester)	178
68. Stephen Coverdale (Greenside)	176
69. Christopher Weston (Peterborough)	175
70. Lee Horton (Brierley Hill)	175
71. Philip Robson (Benwell)	166
72. Paul Bickell (Branscore)	165
73. Steven Barrett (Bude)	160
74. John Blasco (S Croydon)	156
75. Dov Katz (Stanmore)	155
76. Matthew King (Ashford)	154
77. Christopher Sladden (Southend)	152
78. Andrew Hawes (Taverham)	149
79. Robert Scott-Birchall (Allestree)	147
80. Darren Blake (S Croydon)	147
81. Morris Greenberg (New Barnet)	145
82. Mark Wilson (Taverham)	141
83. Daniel Baxter (High Wycombe)	139
84. Jeremy Hyatt (Gloucester)	139
85. John Shipman (Plymouth)	137
86. Lee Robinson (Scunthorpe)	136
87. Kevin Smith (Bournemouth)	133
88. David Baker (Heston)	131
89. Edward Hatley (Frimley)	131
90. Graeme Sanderson (Washington)	129
91. Tayo Fasanya (Canning Town)	126
92. Micael Davies (L Mill)	124
93. James Patterson (North Walsham)	123
94. Karl Horsfield (Selby)	123
95. Robert Barasso (Croxley Green)	122
96. Andrew Freeman (Washingtonborough)	111
97. Jeffrey Giles (Winchester)	111
98. Neil Slater (Burton on Trent)	111
99. Gary Woodward (Coventry)	110
100. Richard Hyacinth (Brent)	110

JUNIOR GIRLS

1. Julie Billington (Chesterfield)	1412
2. Deborah Toole (Normanton)	1116
3. Joanna Roberts (Leeds)	890
4. Ellen Meddings (Harrogate)	737
5. Sara Willims (Hillingdon)	635
6. Katherine Goodall (Leeds)	595
7. Alison Gower (Ingatestone)	559
8. Caroline Buckley (Renhold)	542
9. Maria Thornley (Chorley)	537
10. Sarah Pengelly (Paignton)	519
11. Linda Radford (Upminster)	497
12. Sally Marling (Hull)	439
13. Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield)	432
14. Helen Wright (Plymouth)	376
15. Tina Sadler (Yeovil)	371
16. Joanne Keighley (Shipley)	366
17. Andrea Ambrose (Ipswich)	332
18. Emma Hurling (Berkhamstead)	314
19. Alison Ledwith (Birmingham)	297
20. Samantha Marling (Hull)	286
21. Helen Potts (Chester)	281
22. Tracey Cole (Crawley)	272
23. Sarah Creasey (M. Drayton)	271
24. Nicola Cracknell (Reading)	270
25. Nicola Meddings (Birmingham)	267
26. Anna Watton (Stoke Green)	264
27. Elizabeth Creasey (M. Drayton)	259

CADET BOYS

1. Barry Forster (Whickham)	1010
2. Edward Hatley (Frimley)	739
3. Nicholas Bradfield (Maidenhead)	688
4. Alexander Perry (Crediton)	637
5. Andrew Nicholas (Selby)	613
6. Darren Blake (S Croydon)	517
7. David Barker (Heston)	512
8. Raymond Powell (Gloucester)	465
9. Adrian Vincent (Plymouth)	418
10. Lee Horton (Brierley Hill)	386
11. Christopher Sladden (Southend)	381
12. Graeme Sanderson (Washington)	364
13. Martin Dawson (Sheffield)	353
14. John Blasco (South Croydon)	325
15. Richard Hyacinth (Harlesden)	283
16. Stephen Crouch (Camberley)	279
17. Jonathon May (Plymouth)	274
18. Phillip Robson (Blaydon)	262
19. Dov Katz (Stanmore)	230
20. Jeremy Hyatt (Gloucester)	228
21. Daniel Hacker (Camberley)	214
22. Mark Williams (Hillingdon)	208
23. Matthew Brown (Wolverhampton)	207
24. Philip Neal (Hull)	206
25. Benjamin Ware (Shenfield)	201
26. Robert Sharp (Northallerton)	194
27. Kevin Hodgson (Barrow-in-Furness)	179

CADET GIRLS

1. Katherine Goodall (Leeds)	1520
2. Nicola Meddings (S Coldfield)	749
3. Sara Williams (Hillingdon)	746
4. Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield)	671
5. Linda Radford (Upminster)	600
6. Sally Marling (Hull)	585
7. Claire Pengelly (Paignton)	508
8. Caroline Watt (Barrow in Furness)	394
9. Sarah Seaholme (Watford)	329
10. Rachel Boon (Launceston)	294
11. Zoe Buchanan (Stockport)	277
12. Lesley Hollingworth (Sittingbourne)	269
13. Michelle Martin (Burton on Trent)	213
14. Tamar Connolly (Blackpool)	185
15. Sarah Gardner (Chelmsford)	171
16. Tracy Garratt (Market Drayton)	164
17. Clare Hand (Market Drayton)	156

ERRORS – NO RESPONSIBILITY

Whilst every care is taken that the data inserted into the computer are accurate, the occasional error is inevitable as we are all human. The ETTA accepts no responsibility of any kind for such errors and their consequences. Any mistake discovered will be rectified in a subsequent list. Any queries from the ranking list should be directed to E J Wallbutton, ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings TN34 1HF and be accompanied by a deposit of £5 which will be returned to the applicant if investigation of the data validates the need for such a query.

Could Korea win the Swaythling Cup?

Yoo Nam Kyu – Gold in Seoul

EVERY person who has made an achievement in a field has a hidden story. The first Olympic gold-medalist in the Men's Singles, Yoo Nam Kyu, plays in the most traditional style of Japan, a penhold topspin attack. No story about him would be perfect without being mentioned on his 4-year-long self-discipline and devoted desire to the victory.

At the age of 16 he won the National Junior boys title in South Korea and was selected to participate in the West-Japan Open Championships, Yanai City. He reached the final against Danny Seemiller, USA, and lost.

On his way back home he stayed two nights at the Butterfly's Dohjo in Tokyo and watched overnight, uncountable numbers of video tapes of his similar playing stylists and other world tops. He spent all his prize money to buy these copies. After 4 years, he successfully gained the gold.

He plays typically Japanese. Left-handed. His main weapon is the explosive forehand topspins, superior to that of Saitoh. His footwork springs like a rubber ball, and it reminds me of a still sharpened movement of Kohji Kimura.

The table tennis theory of Korea has taken its pattern in Japan, but it has successfully solved the historic problem of backhand strokes and found their own way in countering the Chinese flat shots in a middle distance, playing both forehand and backhand, and not running too much away from the table.

More Powerful

Yoo Nam Kyu is not tall, plays Japanese topspin, and sometimes even goes back from the table for loop returns. No difference with our countrymen. However, his strokes are much more powerful. He is equipped with explosive backhand shots, too, and thus his opponents have less chances to start offence.

An extraordinary will must have been the cause of his incessant endeavour and practice to complete his style, revising Japanese one, for the past 4 years. A process of "creation after imitation." He has perfected a creation of his own playing style.

Young Lion

He plays just like a young lion. He knows how he should bring himself to the best condition while he plays. Sometimes he exceeds in the expression of his fighting spirit but gives us no bad impression. At the moment when he has beaten his older teammate Kim Ki Taek in the excited final games, he stretched out his right arm overhead, expressed his joy with the whole body, and has given him a hand. For a moment he closed his eyes, thanked God, putting his hands on the face. He

Report by
**HIKOSUKE
TAMASU**

walked back to his bench, sat down, shook his shoulders and he cried.

Lately, I was visited by Mrs. Qiu (ex-world champion), the delegate chief of the Chinese table tennis team that tours in Japan. She said, "The results of our players at the last Olympics were more or less adequate. It was a pity that we lost the women's doubles, but, I believe, we could not have expected more in the

men's singles. Now I am writing a book, in which I tell that it is very difficult to keep the world's top position for 30 years regardless in which field it is. I want you to read it. Our players today have problems in mentality."

She thinks that South and North Korea would become still stronger in the future. Since China won the men's singles for the first time in the world championships in 1959 and gained all men's titles in 1961, about 30 years have passed. Also, it is about 30 years ago when Japan lost the world leading position.

Wake up Japan. Rise young lions like Yoo Nam Kyu. Four years to go until Barcelona!



Yoo Nam Kyu

NATIONAL REGISTER FOR COACHES

BRITAIN's first ever nationwide Registry of Sports Instructors was launched recently at Lloyds in the City of London.

The RSI will provide a national reference point for employers seeking qualified sports instructors and coaches across a wide range of sports and pastimes. The new organisation is pioneering a unique scheme of comprehensive low cost insurance cover with certain underwriters at Lloyds for qualified coaches and those under instruction.

It further provides a 24 hour Lawcall service for free legal advice over the telephone on any matter as well as a raft of other benefits including a low cost private health plan, discounts on sporting goods and low cost travel to sporting venues and events.

The RSI is the inspiration of Ted Huxter, one of the UK's best known coaches with 35 years of experience and qualifications in nine separate sports. "With the increasing privatisation of local authority sport and leisure facilities, I felt it was high time that instructors should be helped to sell themselves to a wider market," he said.

The basic annual cost of RSI membership for Instructors is £28.50, while that for Associates (those under instruction) is £14.50. The insurance, arranged with certain underwriters at Lloyds through insurance brokers T. L. Ireland & Co, covers virtually all sports and pastimes with the exception of powered flight. Its benefits are effective anywhere in the world, subject to English Law.

The RSI membership card incorporates an instructor's photograph. It records his qualification grades sport by sport. It confirms that he has proper insurance cover. An expiry date proves whether his membership is current. All these assure employers and pupils that RSI instructors are genuine.

Personal accident; permanent total disablement - £10,000; Temporary total Disablement while instructing £50 per week for 52 weeks excess of first 14 days (Associate members, £10,000 lump sum, £25 per week for 30 days excess of first three days); Personal Liability - £100,000 each accident; Optional Professional Indemnity Malpractice cover (£15 extra premium) -

Further Information from:
Paul Slaughter Director
Registry of Sports Instructors
2 Selwood Road Croydon
Surrey CR0 7JR Tel: 01 656 5299

ENGLAND JUNIOR TRAINING CAMPS

by DONALD PARKER

TO enable players, coaches and parents to plan ahead we are hoping to hold training camps at the Grove School, Market Drayton, on the dates below. Participation is of course, by invitation only.

Monday, February 13, 1989 - Thursday, February 16, 1989.

Monday, March 27, 1989 - Thursday, March 30, 1989.

Monday, May 29, 1989 - Thursday, June 1, 1989.

Saturday, July 22, 1989 - Tuesday, July 25, 1989.

Monday October 23, 1989 - Thursday, October 26, 1989.

Thursday, December 28, 1989 - Sunday, December 31, 1989.

Monday, February 19, 1990 - Thursday, February 22, 1990.

Monday, April 16, 1990 - Thursday, April 19, 1990.

Monday, May 28, 1990 - Thursday, May 31, 1990.

Saturday, July 21, 1990 - Tuesday, June 24, 1990.

A twenty-four team line-up!

SATURDAY and Sunday, 15/16 April will see the launch of the Leeds Women's British League at the Meadowside Leisure Centre in Burton on Trent with a line up of 24 Teams. Fantastic! Over one hundred women players from all over the country, including 8 of the top 9 and 30 of the top 50 players on the computer ranking list, plus the top Scottish, Welsh and two French players (the majority over 18 years of age) are supporting the new women's league and from all reports, keen to get the competition under way.

The second weekend has been provisionally scheduled for 27/28 May at Bletchley Leisure Centre.

Each of the 24 teams will play a total of 10 matches, 5 at Burton and 5 at Bletchley. Each club may select its team from any of its registered players, with matches being 3 a side, each player playing two singles, for a total of six sets, 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw. The introduction of doubles, which form an important feature of the women's game, will be considered for next season.

The Programme

The schedule for the first weekend's play will be:

Saturday: 1st Round matches 11.00am-1.30pm
2nd Round matches 2.30pm-5.00pm
3rd Round matches 5.00pm-8.00pm

Sunday: 4th Round matches 10-12 noon
5th Round matches 1.00pm-3.00pm

Special hotel rates are being sought, plus prices and menus for a sit down meal/buffet for everyone following play on Saturday... a good opportunity for the girls to socialize after a hard day's play.

AND, REGRETTABLY, THE NOT SO POSITIVE ASPECTS OF WOMEN IN TABLE TENNIS

ARE YOU aware that women are hardly represented at the top level of the organization... no women on the Management Committee, and only two female National Councillors out of forty, one Honorary Life Member - Doreen Stannard - one part-time professional staff - Jill Parker... plus the girls in the E.T.T.A. office. A grand total of 14 places for females compared to 113 males on the various committees. The position is even worse at the County level with 20 women listed compared to 196 men, but somewhat healthier at the Local League level with 58 women league secretaries out of the approximately 300 leagues. Women are very welcome on the promotion, organisation and administration side of table tennis. Anyone interested in becoming involved should get in touch.

Did you see the Women in Sport programme on Channel 4 on Sunday, 22nd January? Several women and their sports featured, but not table tennis, of course. Why not? No doubt because editors/producers have no idea that English girls play table tennis to a high level and because film clips of our players in action are probably non-existent. This is something that needs to be remedied, and fast.

Did you know that Department of Health brochures promote every racket sport except table tennis? Why not, because we don't promote ourselves to these agencies. Ken Muhr is looking into this for us.

Women in the Counties

DOUG MOSS of Worcester, publicity secretary for the County Championships, has provided a comparison of female players in this competition for the seasons:

	1983/84	1987/88
Seniors	177	185
Juniors	154	177
VETTS	58	80
Totals	389	442

It is good to note an overall increase of 53 female players in this well established competition and that proposals to restrict the number of women required for County matches has always been resisted by the County Championships Committee.

Still on this subject, Doug mentions that Worcester has three women out of eight officers on their committee, plus four lady Vice Presidents. Well done, Worcester!

Report by

JOSE RANSOME

THE REGIONAL NETWORK

Northwest - Doreen Schofield appointed as Women's Co-ordinator. *Coaching Rally* organised for Sunday, 5th March at Kingsway Leisure Centre, Kingsway, Widnes, Cheshire 10 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Organiser KAREN TONGE, Senior Coach JILL PARKER, Player/Coach ANDREA HOLT.

West Midlands - Ian Marshall reports *Coaching Rally* on Sunday, 19th February at Grove School, Jenny Heaton and Fiona Elliot in charge.

In conjunction with the West Midlands Sports Council, Malcolm Green will be conducting *Ladies Days* in the Shrewsbury/Telford and Kidderminster/Worcester area. (Contact Ian for further details).

West Midlands Women's League - held on 18th December with Sarah and Elizabeth Creasey of Grove coming first, and Janet Hunt and (partner) of Worcester second. Good and friendly competition and an enjoyable day for all. Finally... An official Staff Professional Day (Baker Day) at Grove to be devoted to table tennis for the PE teachers... what a good idea for all schools to follow!

East Midlands - Susan Airey and Terry Gadsby are getting the ball bouncing in the East Midlands with a *Coaching Day* at Uxbridge Community Centre in Burton, on 12th February this to be followed by County coaching days. The *Leeds Women's British League* in Burton will provide a great opportunity for promotion to more women in their area.

Northern - 29th January at Dunstan Activities Centre in Gateshead will see 21 teams from all over the Region take part in the first round of the *Northern Women's League*. Second round scheduled for 19th March at Southlands Centre, Ormesby. *Coaching Rally* with Sylvia Broadbent and Alison Gordon arranged for 19th February at Eston Leisure Centre. Contact Pam Richmond for further details.

LOGO COMPETITION



Here's the first submission for the Logo competition, this one drawn by George Picken of Billingham in Cleveland, and currently being used for the Northern Region campaign.

Come on people, let's see what else we can do!

Deadline date extended to 15th April.

Prize Fund

A prize fund of £1,000 will be divided

Div. 1 Winners	£500
R.U.	£250
Div. 2 Winners	£100
R.U.	£50
Div. 3 Winners	£75
R.U.	£25



Jose Ransome the organiser

Women in Table Tennis contact

Jose Ransome
"Conifers"
Church Lane
Ormesby
Middlesbrough
Cleveland
Tel: 0642 322223 (h)
223333 (o)

Beadsley double in Belfast

by ALAN STRONG

KEVIN BEADSLEY (Halifax) went to Belfast and found the atmosphere to his liking – winning the Men's Singles and Doubles titles at the province's premier CANON ULSTER OPEN.

Left-handed Beadsley, former English Junior Champion, cut a dash as he scythed his way through the Mens entry, eliminating top seed David McIlroy (Scottish No 1) in the quarters and the Irish No 5 Sean Spelman (Galway) in the Semis. Kevin's travelling partner, Anglo-Irish player Martin Kinsella (Derbyshire) fared none too well going down to defender Derek Weir (Ulster), a former Irish international, in the last 16. Martin lost out to Irish No. 4 Andrew Dennison (Ulster) in the team event and now has a mountain to climb to convince the selectors of his suitability to wear a green shirt in 1989.

Ulster protégé

Andrew Dennison, the 19 year old Ulster protégé had a tense battle with title holder Ian McClean (Scotland) in the semis

to earn the right of a final place against Beadsley. In a disappointing final, Beadsley's skill and experience dominated.

Scottish girl Sarah Hurry was the Canon Ulster Queen winning no less than three singles titles – Junior, Under 21 and Senior. Her minor titles were both at the expense of Graine Redmond (Dublin), with Jennifer Reid (Ulster) her senior victim, Jennifer had scored a notable senior victory over Eleanor McIlroy (Scotland).

Canon the soccer sponsor

The Ulster Branch can be well pleased with the good standard of play and high publicity profile obtained in its first tournament under the Canon sponsorship banner – the company which has supported a certain well known Football League!

SOUTHWEST REGION NEWS

by ALF PEPPARD

UNFORTUNATELY, many reports in this column are more of a historic aspect rather than up to date news – regrettably this is often unavoidable, it is however far better to have news perhaps a little on the late side – rather than no news at all.

Therefore at the half-way stage of the West Wilts T.T. League Bradford "A" topped the Premier Division with 75pts, nearest rivals are Warminster Lions trailing 11 points behind, a somewhat change for them as I understand that they have been the leading team for the last few seasons.

Bradfords "A" No.1 Player J. Musselwhite heads the singles averages with a splendid 91.66% average.

Kevin Satchell runs the 3rd Division Melksham Club and is doing sterling work also in coaching matters – Well Kev's well noted for his coaching abilities isn't he?, and in this respective Division Melksham "B" head the top of the table with 83 clear points.

Congratulations to Dina Sandford of Frenchay Bristol and Sue Lovell for having been appointed S. W. Regional contacts for "Women in Table Tennis", also Judy Chinn who has indicated her willingness to do likewise for The West Cornwall T. T. League – WELL DONE INDEED LADIES.

The Leeds Regional Club League Tables to date (Late January)

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	4	4	0	29	7	29
Stroud	5	2	3	26	19	26
Bathwick Exhaust	5	3	2	24	21	24
Money Shop	4	3	1	22	14	22
Plymouth Global	4	2	2	22	14	22
Swindon "B"	4	2	2	20	16	20
Bathwick Tyres	4	3	1	19	17	19
Swindon "A"	4	2	2	17	19	17
Falmouth Docks	4	0	4	9	27	9
Launceston	4	0	4	1	35	1

W Cornwall Table Tennis League Helston Garages 'Players of the month', Congratulations to Alan Craig senior who received the award for last November and to Chris Solway, the Committee's choice for December.

County Individual Championships

The League Committee will be responsible for arranging and staging these championships again this season.

They will be played at Humphry Davy Upper School, Coombe Road, Penzance, on Saturday 15th for the Juniors and Sunday 16th (Seniors) of April, entry forms from Roger Jacobs.

Armenian Earthquake Appeal

by JACK REEVES

IN conjunction with the Cotswold Select Table Tennis Championships, held at Gloucester Leisure Centre, a Draw was run each day for the Armenian Earthquake Fund. This evoked a good response from several local companies who donated prizes and indicated they were delighted to learn we were encouraging all the 340 young participants to make a contribution to help their unfortunate contemporaries in Russia.

More coming

An amount of £207 has so far been realised, and I understand this will be swelled by donations from local players and Associations within the county.

The Draw winners were: C. Oakman (Maldon), M. Gibbs (Stroud), S. Rowe (Sussex), D. Hayward (Stroud), A. Taylor (Saltash), D. Saunders (Sydney), C. Symonds (Gloucester) and B. Maggs (Bude).

Douglas is No. 10 in Belgium

THE 1989 European Top-12 at Charleroi, Belgium was another triumph for Jan-Ove Waldner, a few weeks after he was "mugged" outside a Hongkong nightclub. Waldner, although rushed back to Sweden after the violence, recovered quickly his very best form to beat Erik Lindh into second place.

Csilla Batorfi led the women's event most of the way but was finally beaten back into second place by Olga Nemes (West Germany) who won her first Top-12 title at Cleveland at the age of 15.

Desmond Douglas fought hard, ending with four scalps – Rosskopf, Bohm, Lupulescu and Carlsson. He finished joint eighth, but in a play-off losing to Andrei Mazunov saw him drop to tenth.

~~1. Carlsson was ruled to~~
Belgium when Mikael Appelgren dropped out, but in the end the England champion watched proceedings from the bench.

THE FINAL PLACINGS

MEN

1. Jan-Ove Waldner, Sweden
2. Erik Lindh (Sweden)
3. Jorgen Persson (Sweden)
4. Ding Yi (Austria)
5. Georg Bohm (West Germany)
6. Leszek Kucharski (Poland)
7. Jorg Rosskopf (West Germany)
8. Zoran Primorac (Yugoslavia)
9. Andrei Mazunov (USSR)
10. Desmond Douglas (England)
11. Ilija Lupulescu (Yugoslavia)
12. Ulf Carlsson (Sweden)

WOMEN

1. Olga Nemes (West Germany)
2. Csilla Batorfi (Hungary)
3. Daniela Guergelcheva (Bulgaria)
4. Alena Safarova (Czecho)
5. Renata Kasalova (Czecho)
6. Wang Xiaoming (France)
7. Jasna Fazlic (Yugoslavia)
8. Valentina Popova (USSR)
9. Marie Hrachova (Czecho)
10. Edit Urban (Hungary)
11. Mirjam Kloppenburg (Holland)
12. Fliura Bulatova (USSR)

CAROLINE IS BACK



The unbound enthusiasm of Caroline Searle has been captured by Jose Ransome. Caroline will help with the publicity for the Leeds Women's British League, about to be launched.



Lindh, the infant prodigy

by ROGER GOTTFRIDSSON, Swedish journalist

ERIK LINDH was the first European to win an Olympic medal in singles in table tennis. That achievement of his will become table tennis history.

Scarcely not a single Swede, interested in table tennis, is surprised that Erik Lindh becomes history – he has been on his way ever since the very day he started playing on his parents' kitchen table at Kungälv (about 20 kilometres north of Gothenburg). It was said, both early and correctly, that Erik was an infant prodigy.

He has not always been as tall as now but already very, very young he showed up an unusual talent.

At the age of 10-12 he dominated the youth competitions in the Gothenburg area. All the way from the class where his age placed him, up to juniors and fairly low seniors' classes.

With almost restless energy he accomplished his matches. He possessed early a very large register depending not least to a great extent of talent but also on another important matter, Johan, the some years older brother, a civil engineer.

Johan is big brother in the right sense of that word. He has patiently taught Erik to play table tennis which so far has brought him to catch an Olympic bronze medal.

Many trainers have part in Erik's development – all talented persons don't reach the great successes. But it is John who knows him best and has often given him important advice which makes the difference between success and great success.

Because the way to the top – where Erik not yet reached – has not always lain straight and even, not even for a talented person as Erik.

Erik had, ever since he became senior, reputation not to be a real winner. He managed soon to get into the European Classification list. Became also quickly a name for the top-level of that list.

At lucky moments Erik Lindh plays a table tennis which in my opinion is not surpassed by anyone of the present international top players. The periods where his play works at hundred percent tend to get longer and longer and occur more often. As he at the quarter final of the Olympic Games beat Jiang Jialiang for the first time at a major international championship.

He feels pain

A reason why Lindh is not hundred percent stable is that his groins are badly damaged since several years back. When moving rapidly he feels pain. After long days at the table he finds it difficult to sleep, when turning himself round it hurts.

Rest, warmth, long warmings up – Lindh has tried everything to get rid of these troubles. Until now without succeeding. The only thing he has not tried and what cannot be realized until after the World Championship in Dortmund is an operation.

Erik lives and plays in Falkenberg where he became Swedish Champion in team events in 1988.

He was among those Swedish players who earlier played in the FRG (Bremen and Jülich) before the regulations stopped it. Financially it was an advantage to play in the Bundesliga. From the view of sport however



Erik Lindh

A name at the top

He was the only player in the world to succeed in getting among the 16 foremost at all the world competitions in 1981, 1983 and 1985. Fine achievement and testimony that Erik Lindh was a name at the international top. However not enough to be regarded as a really great player.

In 1985 Lindh won his only National gold so far, by defeating Jörgen Persson in the final of men's singles at the National Championship.

"That was one of my greatest successes up to the bronze medal. It is very difficult to win the National Championship. This competition is regarded as very important by us players," Erik tells us.

Another success that Erik likes to remember is his world debut in singles in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, in 1981.

In the first round the young (not yet 17 years old), nervous and inexperienced Lindh was placed against Xie Saito. The Chinese who had won all the matches he had played in the team event.

When the match was over nor Erik Lindh neither Xie Saito and the spectators did believe what they heard. In the minutes it was namely written: 21-18, 21-15, 21-18 to Lindh!

Erik did not lose the respect for Chinese players – it abides deep in the souls of table tennis people – but he proved that it was possible to approach also the best Chinese players.

it is an advantage not to need commute – much of the time it took to travel can be used for better training.

Not yet at the top

In fact nothing indicates that Erik Lindh's bronze medal at the Olympic Games is the top of his career.

Maybe instead the introduction to a permanent seat at the international top.

By the way, Erik Lindh was nearly not allowed to take part in the Olympic Games.

Great drama

The selection principles, where Jan-Ove Waldner and Jörgen Persson were direct-qualified with the help of their positions in the world classification list, and a Swedish Qualification play for one place, was an object of great drama when Lindh and Mikael Appelgren met in the final. Appelgren was leading with 17-13 in the fifth game before Lindh managed to turn.

Which resulted in the European champion Mikael Appelgren not becoming qualified to participate in the Olympic Games – and Erik Lindh bringing home from Seoul an Olympic bronze medal.

Chester Barnes and Trevor Taylor at Aylesbury celebration



THANKS to Bucks & Herts Newspapers Ltd this photograph reveals some Golden Oldies and four of England's best players in 1989 at the Aylesbury League's sixtieth birthday celebrations held at the Aylesbury Civic Centre. Lovelies Lisa Lomas and Fiona Elliot did an exhibition game, followed by Trevor Taylor and Chester Barnes, ending with Jimmy Stokes and John Souter.

FAIR PLAY IN SPORT

The new Campaign

THE National Coaching Foundation and McDonalds Hamburgers have launched a Fair Play campaign for children in sport. We would ask you to assist us in promoting the concept by letting people know of its existence. The campaign is designed to reinforce the positive elements of children's participation in sport. A booklet and video have been developed to support the campaign which is intended:

- To ensure that children and young people find enjoyment and lasting satisfaction through participation in physical activity.
- To make adults aware that children play to satisfy themselves, and not necessarily to satisfy adults and their ambitions.
- To encourage children and young people to adopt a fit and healthy life-style by making sports participation attractive, safe and enjoyable.

Certificates

Under this scheme, children who demonstrate good sportsmanship in their school may be awarded a certificate, signed by their headteacher or Coach and their McDonalds restaurant manager. More details on this scheme are included on page 16 of the booklet.

Minister writes

In the foreword of the book Mr Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport, writes:

"There is no doubt that sport can help to prepare children for the stresses of adult life. However, we must not forget that for sport to continue to play a positive role in society, competitive fervour must be balanced by adherence to the principle of fair play. It is all too easy for those involved in sport to lose sight of the need for such a balance in their quest for competitive successes, and indeed to lose sight of the fact that participation in sport must, first and foremost, offer children the prospect of fun and enjoyment."

Everybody has a responsibility to see fair play - players, coaches, teachers, officials, parents, youth leaders, playworkers, administrators, spectators and people in the media. Together their attitudes and actions can ensure high standards of sporting behaviour, and help to emphasise fun, friendly competition and individual fulfilment.

REGIONAL RALLY FOR WOMEN AT WIDNES

THE Kingsway Leisure Centre, Widnes, Cheshire will be the venue on Sunday March 5 for a regional women's coaching rally to be attended by Jill Parker and player-coach Andrea Holt, with additional input by North West Senior Coaches, including organiser Mrs Karen Tonge.

It is open to all players at a cost of £3 for the day, 10a.m. to 5p.m.

The course is to provide opportunities for women in table tennis and will be divided into groups according to standard of play or interest. It will give Women Coaches a refresher session and an update on the coaching of women and girls.

It will provide leading Regional Players with an opportunity to assist with coaching with a view to becoming a qualified coach.

To provide an introduction to the sport for female PE teachers and Recreation leaders.

To provide an opportunity for high level coaching for intermediate and beginner women players.

System of Play

In the first weekend at Burton on Trent the 24 teams will be drawn into four divisions of six teams with the top eight seeded teams being spread between the four divisions. With each club in a division playing each other (five matches in total) each division will establish its own league table. For the second weekend the top two teams from each division will make up eight teams in the First Division, the third and fourth teams will be placed in the Second Division, whilst the fifth and sixth teams will play in the Third Division.

Each Division on the second weekend will be split into two groups of four teams each. Each group will play three matches on the first day (Saturday). The group winners and runners up will go into the semi-finals to play against the opposite group winners on the Sunday, and the same procedure will be followed throughout the rest of the div-

isions, so that each team will play a total of five matches throughout the weekend and finish with a league ranking between 1-24.

Prize Fund

A prize fund of £800 (unless this can be increased in the meantime) will be divided as follows: Division 1 winners £400, Runners Up £250
Division 2 Winners £150
Division 3 Winners £100

Our thanks for getting the Leeds Women's British League organised go to Mike Lewis. Stuart Sherlock has been appointed Referee, with Karen Tonge as his Deputy. It is hoped that as many women umpires as possible will officiate, and Caroline Searle of British Olympic Association fame, has agreed to assist with the press. Terry Gadsby, the local organiser, plans an extensive local promotion, and we all hope that as many people as possible will join us for this auspicious occasion.

Six national holders undefeated

by DAVID LOMAS

THE AREA FINALS of the Dunlop National School Team Championships took place at twelve venues on the weekend of January 21/22. Six national title holders emerged unscathed and were due to do battle at the three Regional Finals on February 19th.

The winners were:

North Region

Area 1 (Newcastle upon Tyne)
B19 Selby College
B16 Hustler, Middlesbrough
G16 St. Robert of Newminster, Washington
B13 Gosforth Central Middle, Newcastle
G13 Gosforth Central Middle, Newcastle
B11 Jesmond Road Junior, Hartlepool
G11 Gosforth Central Middle, Newcastle

Organiser Neil Dorney reports that Gosforth Central Middle have strength in depth in B13. In B16 Steven Riggins and Graeme Sanderson played well for Biddick School, Washington but they lost to Hustler from Cleveland.

Area 2 (Leeds)

B19 Hulme Grammar, Oldham
G19 Wyke Sixth Form College, Hull
B16 Thornleigh College, Bolton
G16 Kettlethorpe High, Wakefield
B13 Hulme Grammar, Oldham
G13 Sandal Endowed CE Middle, Wakefield
B11 Hulme Court, Oldham
G11 Woodley Junior, Stockport

Five winners from Greater Manchester, with three schools from Oldham leading the way, Kettlethorpe beat Hathershaw Comprehensive, Oldham, on a doubles, after drawing 4-4. Hulme Court have four good players in B11, which enabled them to beat local hopes, Archbishop Cranmer Middle, Leeds.

Area 3 (Chorley)

B19 Burnley College
G19 Runshaw College, Leyland
B16 Parkview, Barrow
G16 Parkview, Barrow
B13 Parkview, Barrow
G13 Parkview, Barrow
B11 Yarlside, Barrow
G11 Yarlside, Barrow

Burnley College squeezed through, winning 5-3 against Alsager Comprehensive, with Gary Pickford of Alsager unbeaten. Several of the players from Barrow were unbeaten, including Kevin Hodgson and Jamie Harris (B13) and Caroline Watt (G16). Yarlside's Martin Holland told me that three girls who were members of his G11 national winners last season, now play in G13 for Parkview.

Area 4 (Grantham)

B19 King's, Grantham
G19 Kesteven and Grantham Girls
B16 Aldercar, Heanor/
G16 Kesteven and Grantham Girls
B13 Gosforth, Dronfield
G13 Kesteven and Grantham Girls
B11 Dronfield Junior
G11 Dronfield Junior

National champions, Kesteven and Grantham, look set to hold on to their crown and **Aldercar have a useful line-up. A blank day for teams from Nottinghamshire.**

Midlands and West Region

Area 5 (Market Drayton)
B19 Worcester Sixth Form College
G19 Worcester Sixth Form College
B16 Evesham High
G16 The Grove, Market Drayton
B13 The Grove, Market Drayton
G13 The Grove, Market Drayton
B11 Market Drayton Junior
G11 Market Drayton Junior

Organiser and The Grove schoolmaster, Ian Marshall, tips his G16 team to take some stopping in their quest for further national titles. Nicola Jones and Sarah Stone played well for Worcester Sixth Form College (G19). Adam Twiss shone for The Grove B13 whilst Market Drayton Junior had two 8-0 wins in B11. No joy for Staffordshire teams.

Area 6 (Northampton)

B19 Prince William Upper, Oundle
G19 Highfields, Wolverhampton
B16 Myton High, Warwick
G16 Smestow, Wolverhampton
B13 Moseley Park, Bilston
G13 Oundle Middle
B11 Woodfield Junior, Wolverhampton
G11 Woodfield Junior, Wolverhampton

Four winning teams from Wolverhampton with Woodfield looking particularly strong in B11 and G11. Myton High qualified on games ratio with Raymond Powell of The Crypt, Gloucester unbeaten in B16.

Area 7 (Plymouth)

B19 Coombe Dean, Plymouth
G19 Yeovil
B16 Millfield, Street
G16 Coombe Dean, Plymouth
B13 Coombeshead, Newton Abbot
G13 Coombeshead, Newton Abbot
B11 Ipplepen County Primary, Newton Abbot

David Heath sparkled for Coombeshead B13 in their 8-0 win over Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater. Millfield went through on a doubles decider. No entries from Cornwall a major disappointment.

Area 8 (Southampton)

G19 Bournemouth Girls'
B16 Salesian College, Farnborough
G16 Bournemouth Girls'
B13 Walhampton, Lymington
G13 Brislington, Bristol
B11 Holymead Junior, Bristol
G11 Holymead Junior, Bristol

Salesian College might well make it to the National Finals. Their line-up is John and Stephen Crouch, Daniel Hacker and David Coulston. Organiser Harold Albany was impressed by Brislington's Gareth Davies in B16.



David Lomas Schools Press Officer based at Croydon

Area 10 (Newbury)

B19 Abingdon
B16 Windsor Boys'
G16 Park House, Newbury
B13 Hemel Hempstead
B11 Emmer Green Primary, Reading
G11 Emmer Green Primary, Reading

Martin Adams outstanding for Windsor Boys'. No Girls events on the day, with Park House (G16) and Emmer Green (G11) going through unopposed.

Area 11 (Brentwood)

B19 Redbridge Technical College
G19 Peniel Academy, Brentwood
B16 Peniel Academy, Brentwood
G16 Peniel Academy, Brentwood
B13 Peniel Academy, Brentwood
G13 Peniel Academy, Brentwood
B11 Buttsbury Junior, Billericay
G11 St. Joseph's RC Primary, Rotherhithe



Ian Marshall probably the most successful organiser of schools table tennis in Britain is from Grove School, Market Drayton.

South and East Region

Area 9 (St. Neots)
B19 Bedford Modern
G19 Stowupland High, Stowmarket
B16 Hellesdon High, Norwich
G16 Thurlestone High, Ipswich
B11 Hillside Avenue, Norwich
G11 Hillside Avenue, Norwich
B13 Bedford Modern
G13 Linslade Middle, Leighton Buzzard

Some new faces from Norfolk emerged as winners and play in the Regional stage for the first time. Luton Sixth Form College (G19) were edged out, 5-3 by Stowupland. Bedford Modern got two teams through from four involved.

Area 12 (Sutton)

B19 Ifield Community College, Crawley
G19 Bullers Wood Girls', Chislehurst
B16 Whitgift, Croydon
G16 Thomas Peacocke, Rye
B13 Cumnor House, Croydon
G13 Hillcross Middle, Morden
B11 Cumnor House, Croydon
G11 North Borough Junior, Maidstone

Winners from four separate Associations in this strong area. The three Wilson sisters took Thomas Peacocke of Rye through to the Regional Final for the first time. North Borough (G11) look very strong, with Rachel Woolven at No.1. Cumnor House are poised for further honours in B13 and B11, whilst Ifield will bid for their third national title if they can see off Bedford Modern in the South and East Regional final.

A man who was also unbeaten for ten years!

DENIS NEALE

by REA BALMFORD

THE ENTRY Denis Neale (Redcar) at No. 154 in the current Lentec computer rankings is not likely to mean much to the present generation of table tennis stars who look up to Desmond Douglas as the man who has climbed to the pinnacle of our sport.

But Desmond took the title he proudly held for an unbeaten ten year period from six times holder Denis, a man feared not only on the domestic circuit but, in the late 60s and early and mid 70s, throughout Europe and the Far East.

Middlesbrough born Denis never claimed the World Championship, but just look at this list of World title holders - Chiang Tse Tung, Hsing En Ting (China), Hasegawa, Itoh, Kono, (Japan), Jonyer (Hungary) and Bengtsson (Sweden). He beat them all, some more than once while they were at the top of the tree.

The lad from Newport Boys Club, who practised for hour after hour with present ETTA Deputy Chairman Alan Ransome in the chicken hut at the bottom of Alan's garden in Ormesby, retired while he was still at the top.

He moved round the country - sports promotion in Chesterfield, a betting shop in Great Harwood

near Manchester, a newsagency in Redcar, and now his own licenced restaurant and pub in the pleasant North Yorkshire village of Thornton le Moor near Northallerton.

A true Yorkshireman, frank and forthright, he did not always hold authority in high esteem but, like fellow Tykes Freddy Trueman and Harvey Smith who reached the top of their chosen sports, whether you admired him or hated him, you could not ignore him.

"The Greatest"

"The greatest England No.1 of my time in the game" is the view of Norman Lusher, supremo of the Harrogate Wanderers club for whom he played in the local league.

"Why Harrogate?" you ask. For travelling reasons the Yorkshire steel town of Middlesbrough was affiliated to Durham County, and Denis, a member of the Ormesby

club, represented Durham in the County Championships.

But "I am a Yorkshireman, and desperately wanted to play for Yorkshire, so I affiliated to a Yorkshire club" is the answer. "Something that does not happen now?" was my question. "No, I'm afraid loyalty to and pride in County has gone".

"Standard belter"

What does the former champion think of today's game? "Probably the overall standard is a little better, but in many respects we have gone backwards - look at the lack of spectators at County Championship and British League matches as an example."

Full Houses

He remembers the days, now long gone, when full houses of 500 or more people were at County Championship matches and says "Nowadays ten is an average



Denis Neale is now mine host at Thornton le Moor, Northallerton, Yorkshire

'crowd' at a British League fixture, even when World class players are competing."

The obvious question was "Why?" and the reply twofold - "Too many different types of bat and too few characters. We are nowadays testing not the sporting ability, but the technological know how of two players."

Buzz in Hall

"Painting glue on bats does not pull in the public, personalities do" and Denis himself was certainly a personality. When Neale

CONCLUDED ON PAGE 40

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24 HR ANSA-

A detailed report on Asia v Europe

Europe the winners by 33-32 by George Yates

AFTER many trials and tribulations brought about by visa problems, sickness and injuries a European party comprising nine male and six female player, five coaches, three officials assembled at Schipol Airport Amsterdam for the 10,505 kilometres flight to Changi Airport, Singapore.

Mikael Appelgren, Jan-Ove Waldner, Jorgen Persson of Sweden, Andrzej Grubba (Poland), Andrzej Maxunov (Soviet Union), Desmond Douglas (England), Georg-Zsolt Böhm (F.R. Germany) and Yugoslavia's Ilija Lupulescu and Zoran Primorac comprised the male players and Eriu Bulatova (Soviet Union), Daniel Guergueltcheva (Bulgaria), Olga Nemes (F.R. Germany), Csilla Batorfi (Hungary), Renata Kasalova (Czechoslovakia) and Jasna Fazlic (Yugoslavia) formed the female sextet.

Glenn Osth (Sweden), Dr. Adam Giersz (Poland), Alexander Beliakov (Soviet Union), Istvan Korpa (F.R. Germany) and England's Donald Parker were the coaches, the officials being Mihovil Kapetanic, the ETTU President from Yugoslavia, Henk van Dilst, the ETTU Hon. Treasurer from the Netherlands and yours truly, the ETTU Hon. Sec.

After an overnight stay at the Meridien Hotel, the whole party, minus Glen Osth, departed from Singapore for the flight to Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia, there to meet up with the Asian opposition and officials with the news that Yoo Nam Kyu, the Olympic champion, had failed to answer the starter's gun being laid low in Seoul with food poisoning.

This meant, for the first match between Asia I and Europe I the Asians had to bring in Teng Yi in place of Yoo Nam Kyu and a subsequent argument as to the make-up of Asian teams with only eight players at their disposal. In the event Koji Matsushita of Japan and Kim Taek Soo of South Korea took over from Teng Yi in the Asia I team and Hong Kong's Liu Fook Man stepped into the Asia III team in his homeland for the last set of team matches.

The appended results will give a glowing account of the Europe I team with three successive victories and a sets analysis of 15 to 4 but Europe II, despite a 5-3 win over Asia I, in which Des Douglas claimed the scalp of world champion Jiang Jiali, fell to both Asia II and Asia III. Europe III failed to record a win but Europe II in their final match against Asia II in Hong Kong, with the overall result being vital, came back from a 4-1 deficit to level at 4-4 all only for Douglas to lose the ninth and deciding set when losing 22-24.

21-10, 25-27 to Hong Kong's Lo Chuen Tsung.

This gave the Asians a 5-4 win in matches although, on sets, Europe came out on top 33-32 and it had been sets that decided the outcome before but on this occasion the ATTU would have it on match results. No such controversy appertained in respect of the women with the Asians outright winners both on match results and sets - 3-1 in matches and 18-8 in sets.

THE WALDNER MUGGING

In was in Hong Kong that the second casualty struck when Jan-Ove Waldner, having broken curfew along with Mikael Appelgren was attacked in the early hours on returning to the Lee Gardens Hotel from a disco. A thug wielding a broken bottle set about Waldner the damage done to his face necessitating six stitches in his cheek and a return from Bangkok to Stockholm on the eve of the individual events.

Only Grubba and Primorac emerged from the groups as Europe's challengers for the men's singles title as did Guergueltcheva, Bulatova and Fazlic for the women's title.

Primorac had a straight games win over Wu Wen Chia of Tapai but Grubba was taken to a fifth and deciding game by Hong Kong's Lo Chuen Tsung the European pair failing in the semis, Primorac falling to Kim Ki Taek (KOR) and Grubba to Kim Taek Soo the eventual winner.

Swathting cup?

The name Kim Taek Soo may sound unfamiliar and you have to run your finger down 42 lines of the world ranking list before it can be found. But the 19-year-old South Korean will be a force to be reckoned with in the future. He is currently ranked third in his country, behind Yoo Nam Kyu and Kim Ki Taek, the Olympic gold and silver medallists respectively.

The women's Olympic champion, Chen Jing of China, was the winner of the women's singles in Bangkok beating her compatriot Li Huifen in the final. Guergueltcheva fell to the champion in the quarters as did Bulatova to Japan's Mika Hoshino and Fazlic to Hyung Jung Hwa of South Korea.

ASIA v EUROPE

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

Z. Primorac (YUG) b Wu Wen Chia (TPE) 17, 20, 16;
Kim Ki Taek (KOR) b Teng Yi (CHN) -17, 25, -12, 20, 12;
Kim Taek Soo (KOR) b Chen Longcan (CHN) 13, 16, 18;
A. Grubba (POL) b Lo Chuen Tsung (HKG) -16, 19, 14, -16, 16.

Semi-finals:

Kim Ki Taek b Primorac 18, -17, 19, -18, 20;
Kim Taek Soo b Grubba 15, 11, -17, 19.

Final:

KIM TAEK SOO b Kim Ki Taek 6, 10, -12, 19.

In the Groups (best of 3) Douglas was beaten 15 and 13 by Kim Taek Soo and by Chen Longcan 9 and 9, but beat Matsushita 16 and 15.

MEN

Jan 6 in Kota Kinabalu

ASIA III 5 ASIA I 2

A. Grubba b Kim Ki Taek 16, -21, 13;
J-O. Waldner lost to Teng Yi -19, -13;
M. Appelgren lost to Jian Jiali -17, 19, -17;
Waldner b Kim Ki Taek 9, -11, 17;
Grubba b Jiang Jiali -17, 20;
Appelgren b Teng Yi 19, -23, 16;
Waldner b Jiang Jiali -13, 13.

Jan 7 in Kota Kinabalu

ASIA III 5 EUROPE II 1

K. Matsushita lost to J. Persson -13, 14, -20;
Wu Wen Chia b D. Douglas 11, 10;
Kim Taek Soo b A. Mazunov 19, -21, 19;
Wu Wen Chia b Persson 20, 15;
Matsushita b Mazunov 18, 16;
Kim Taek Soo b Douglas 19, 15.

Jan 7 in Tawau

ASIA II 5 EUROPE III 2

Lo Chuen Tsung lost to Z. Primorac -19, -19;
Chen Longcan lost to I. Lupulescu 17, -9, -14;
Teng Yi b G. Böhm -17, 10, 16;
Chen Longcan b Primorac 13, 11;
Lo Chuen Tsung b Böhm 8, -14, 19;
Teng Yi b Lupulescu 19, 13;
Chen Longcan b Böhm 20, 19.

Jan 8 in Singapore

ASIA I 3 EUROPE II 5

Matsushita b Persson 20, 20;
Jiang Jiali -lost to Mazunov 21, -15, -19;
Kim Ki Taek b Douglas 20, 18;
Jiang Jiali -lost to Persson 14, 18;
Matsushita lost to Douglas -13, -19;
Kim Ki Taek lost to Mazunov 16, -13, -17;
Jiang Jiali -lost to Douglas 16, -16, -17;
Kim Ki Taek lost to Persson 21, -18, -18.

Jan 9 in Singapore

ASIA I 5 ASIA II 2

Grubba lost to Teng Yi 15, -17, -15;
Waldner b Lo Chuen Tsung 14, -10, 14;

Appelgren b Chen Longcan 16, 21;
Grubba lost to Chen Longcan -17, 16, -19;

Appelgren b Lo Chuen Tsung 10, -15, 17;

Waldner b Chen Longcan 9, -12, 16.

ASIA III 5 EUROPE III 4

Matsushita lost to Primorac -14, 19, -20;

Wu Wen Chia lost to Lupulescu -18, 7, -18;

Kim Taek Soo b Böhm 15, 19;

Wu Wen Chia b Primorac 17, -19, 16;

Matsushita lost to Böhm -20, 19, -13;

Kim Taek Soo b Lupulescu 12, -21, 17;

Wu Wen Chia lost to Böhm 16, -19, -19;

Kim Taek Soo b Primorac 12, -21, 15;

Matsushita b Lupulescu 15, -16, 17.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

Chen Jing (CHN) b D. Guergueltcheva (BUL) 14, 13, 15;
M. Hoshino (JPN) b F. Bulatova (URS) 16, 17, 18;

Hyung Jung Hwa (KOR) b J. Fazlic (YUG) 17, -15, 11, 9;

Li Huifen (CHN) b Lee Tai Jo (KOR) 8, -14, 23, 23.

Semi-finals:

Chen Jing b Hoshino 14, 13, 15;

Li Huifen b Hyung Jung Hwa 19, -20, 21, -15, 16.

Final:

CHEN JING b Li Huifen 19, 11, 13.

Jan 11 in Hong Kong

ASIA III 0 EUROPE I 5

Liu Fook Man lost to Grubba -12, -13;
Wu Wen Chia lost to Waldner -15, -20;
Matsushita lost to Appelgren -19, 16, -13;

Wu Wen Chia lost to Grubba -14, -12;

Liu Fook Man lost to Appelgren -14, -16.

EUROPE III 2 ASIA I 5

Primorac lost to Jiang Jiali -15, -14;

Böhm b Kim Ki Taek -13, 15, 20;

Lupulescu b Kim Taek Soo -16, 11, 18;
Böhm lost to Jiang Jiali -16, -14, -19;

Primorac lost to Kim Taek Soo 14, -11, -9;

Lupulescu lost to Kim Ki Taek -11, -18;

Böhm lost to Kim Taek Soo -17, -15.

Jan 12 in Hong Kong

EUROPE II 4 ASIA II 5

Douglas lost to Teng Yi -16, -19;

Persson b Lo Chuen Tsung 16, 21;

Mazunov lost to Chen Longcan -11, -17;

Persson lost to Teng Yi -16, 11, -10;

Douglas lost to Chen Longcan -15, 16, -15;

Mazunov b Lo Chuen Tsung 20, 15;

Mazunov b Teng Yi 9, 17;

Douglas lost to Lo Chuen Tsung -22, 10, -25.

WOMEN

Jan 7 in Kota Kinabalu

ASIA I 5 ASIA II 3

D. Guergueltcheva lost to Lee Tai Jo -20, 19, -14;

F. Bulatova b M. Hoshina 17, -15, 17;

O. Nemes lost to Li Huifen -15, 15;

Bulatova b Lee Tai Jo 17, -15, 15;

Guergueltcheva b Li Huifen 21, 17;

Nemes b Hoshina 17, 18;

Bulatova lost to Li Huifen -11, -10;

Nemes b Lee Tai Jo 13, 13.

Jan 8 in Tawau

ASIA I 5 EUROPE II 0

Chai Po Wa b J. Fazlic 9, 11;

Chen Jing b R. Kasalova 9, 19;

Hyung Jun Hwa b C. Batorfi -13, 12, 15;

Chen Jing b Vazli 11, 7;

Chai Po Wa b Batorfi -12, 17, 20.

Jan 8 in Singapore

ASIA II 5 EUROPE II 1

Hoshino b Kasalova 20, 26;

Li Huifen b Fazlic 14, 15;

Lee Tai Jo b Batorfi 19, 17;

Li Huifen lost to Kasalova -19, -19;

Hoshino b Batorfi 19, 13;

Lee Tai Jo b Fazlic 19, -25, 19.

Jan 12 in Hong Kong

ASIA I 5 EUROPE I 2

Hyung Jun Hwa b Nemes 17, 18;

Chen Jing lost to Guergueltcheva -17, -14;

Chai Po Wa b Bulatova 17, -19, 6;

Chen Jing lost to Nemes -8, 22, -18;

Hyung Jun Hwa b Bulatova 11, 10;

Chai Po Wa b Guergueltcheva 17, 17;

Chen Jing b Bulatova 16, 4.

More Results

BUSINESS MOVING OUT?

THE London Business Houses League was one of the biggest in the country. In fact it had to be geographically split into 4 sections and had a number of ladies divisions too. Sadly it continues to decline. With no ladies divisions for 8 years the League now comprises 49 teams in 5 divisions.

In the Premier Division the Department of the Environment dominate with little resistance. Their closest rivals are the Electricity Council and Lensbury (Shell Centre), with London Transport and HM Customs chasing. The latest positions and Top 10 averages are as follows:

	P	W	F	A	Pts
Dept Environment	10	10	89	11	40
Electrospor	8	7	54	26	28
Lensbury (Shell)	7	5	43	27	21
HM Customs	6	3	30	30	13
London Transport	6	3	30	30	12
Grove	8	2	30	50	10
LB of Camden	7	1	24	46	7
British Telecomm	6	0	15	45	2
Mercantile Credit	8	0	15	65	2

M Loveder	DOE	18/19	94.7%		
S Ludlow	Electro	16/17	94.1%		
S Wilmott	DOE	12/13	92.3%		
G Psorakis	DOE	10/12	83.3%		
A McAlister	Customs	8/12	66.7%		
G Morris	Camden	11/17	64.7%		
G Dulieu	Electro	9/14	64.3%		
K Mowatt	Customs	7/11	63.6%		
A Wood	Lensb'y	12/19	63.2%		
K Low	Grove	7/12	58.3%		

DENIS NEALE:

THE LEGEND OF YORKSHIRE

(continued from page 36)

was called to the table a buzz went round the hall, spectators began to move, and there was an air of expectancy—something was always liable to happen—and usually did!

Bring people back

"Standardize the equipment, put an end to the 'third ball kill' and let us see some rallies—that is the way to bring people back to the sport" and the former champion says "I would still back myself against most playing with the old 'hard' bat".

He is now back in the game—"play some matches in the Northallerton League at Dave Close's farm just down the road" and still makes the weekly journey to help his first love, Wanderers—"I haven't missed a match for them so far this season".

British League side Bradford have taken note and signed him up but, these days, he is above all 'dad' to three lively youngsters and, with wife Denise, joint captain of the team at the Black Swan.

RESULTS *

Stiga World Grand Prix Masters Barcelona 24/26 Nov 1988

Stage 1:

Group A

L. Kucharski	(POL)	bt	J. Rosskopf	(FRG)	15,-14,18
J. Rosskopf	(FRG)	bt	Jiang Jialiang	(CHN)	-12,18,18
Jiang Jialiang	(CHN)	bt	L. Kucharski	(POL)	14,-18,15

Group B

E. Lindh	(SWE)	bt	J.-M. Saive	(BEL)	15,-22,13
J.-M. Saive	(BEL)	bt	Teng Yi	(CHN)	16,-19,19
E. Lindh	(SWE)	bt	Teng Yi	(CHN)	-14,6,19

Group C

M. Appelgren	(SWE)	bt	J.-P. Gatien	(FRA)	17,20
A. Grubba	(POL)	bt	J.-P. Gatien	(FRA)	16,13
A. Grubba	(POL)	bt	M. Appelgren	(SWE)	16,15

Group D

Chen Zhibin	(CHN)	bt	S. Fetzner	(FRG)	-20,23,19
J.-Ö. Waldner	(SWE)	bt	Chen Zhibin	(CHN)	15,-18,20
J.-Ö. Waldner	(SWE)	bt	S. Fetzner	(FRG)	12,14

Stage 2:

M. Appelgren	(SWE)	bt	Jiang Jialiang	(CHN)	14,17,17
E. Lindh	(SWE)	bt	J. Rosskopf	(FRG)	17,15,14
A. Grubba	(POL)	bt	Chen Zhibin	(CHN)	16,18,-8,11
J.-Ö. Waldner	(SWE)	bt	J.-M. Saive	(BEL)	17,-12,18,8

SF

E. Lindh	(SWE)	bt	M. Appelgren	(SWE)	16,-14,12,19	
J.-Ö. Waldner	(SWE)	bt	A. Grubba	(POL)	-7,18,-16,16,20	
F	E. Lindh	(SWE)	bt	J.-Ö. Waldner	(SWE)	10,-21,17,13

Final Placings

1. E. Lindh 2. J.-Ö. Waldner 3. M. Appelgren 4. A. Grubba

French Open Nantes 1/4 Dec 1988

MS SF	J.-Ö. Waldner	(SWE)	bt	D. Douglas	(ENG)	16,15,18
	Li Gun Chang	(PRK)	bt	G. Bohm	(FRG)	15,15,15
F	J.-Ö. Waldner		bt	Li Gun Chang		19,15,17

WS SF	O. Nemes	(FRG)	bt	Li Bun Hui	(PRK)	18,13,17
	Chen Zih	(CHN)	bt	Cho Jong Hui	(PRK)	23,13,16
F	Chen Zih		bt	O. Nemes		6,-12,13,8

MD F	J.-Ö. Waldner/		bt	I. Lupulesku/		
	M. Appelgren	(SWE)	bt	Z. Primorac	(YUG)	12,-15,12
WD F	Chen Zhe/Li Jun	(CHN)	bt	Li Bun Hui/Cho Jong	(PRK)	26,17

XD F	Yu Shentong/		bt	Wang Hao/		
	Chen Zih	(CHN)	bt	Liu W.	(CHN)	20,-16,20

Nantes 1/4 Dec 1988

Sovetskaja Kultura Tournament Moscow 3/6 Nov 1988

MS SF	Xie Chaojie	(CHN)	bt	Zhou Xingjiang	(CHN)	-19,9,9,11
	Li Gun Sang	(PRK)	bt	Lin Zhigang	(CHN)	16,16,5
F	Li Gun Sang		bt	Xie Chaojie		17,-12,20,11

WS SF	Qiao Hong	(CHN)	bt	Ding Yaping	(CHN)	17,15,-16,17,15
	Hu Xiaoxin	(CHN)	bt	Guergeltcheva D.	(BUL)	10,-18,18,22
F	Hu Xiaoxin		bt	Qiao Hong		18,-19,20,-19,14

MD F	Kim Song Hui/		bt	Xie Chaojie/		
	Kim Jin Myong	(PRK)	bt	Zhou Xingjiang	(CHN)	-11,21,19
WD F	Li Bun Hui/		bt	Badescu O./		

WD F	Yu Sun Bok	(PRK)	bt	Lohr K.	(ROM)	16,12
XD F	Zhou Xingjiang/		bt	Kim Song Hui/		
	Hu Xiaoxin	(CHN)	bt	Li Bun Hui	(PRK)	18,18

Italian Open Championships

Arezzo

29 Oct/1 Nov 1988

MS SF	J. Rosskopf	(FRG)	bt	A. Podpinka	(BEL)	18,-18,15,-16,12
	Ding Yi	(AUT)	bt	P. Karlsson	(SWE)	16,17,19
F	J. Rosskopf		bt	Ding Yi		17,-15,-18,15,21

WS SF	Qiao Hong	(CHN)	bt	Ding Yaping	(CHN)	17,-17,-16,12,8
	Hu Xiaoxin	(CHN)	bt	Gao Jun	(CHN)	14,-16,-20,19,16
F	Hu Xiaoxin		bt	Qiao Hong		14,13,-5,17

MD F	Xie Chaojie/		bt	J. Rosskopf/		
	Lin Zhigang	(CHN)	bt	S. Fetzner	(FRG)	11,-13,14
WD F	Hu Xiaoxin/		bt	G. Perkucin/		

WD F	Hu Xiaoxin/		bt	G. Perkucin/		
	Gao Jun	(CHN)	bt	F. Frelih	(YUG)	8,8
XD F	Xie Chaojie/		bt	Zhou Xingjiang/		

XD F	Xie Chaojie/		bt	Hu Xiaoxin	(CHN)	18,-11,19
	Gao Jun	(CHN)	bt	Zhou Xingjiang/		
			bt	Hu Xiaoxin	(CHN)	

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Mens/Womens Qualifying groups.

Sunday 12th

Mixed Doubles
Mens/Womens Doubles
Mens/Womens Singles
Mens Veteran Singles }
Finals 5 p.m.

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Saturday 2.30, Sunday 9.30, 2pm

SATURDAY, SUNDAY APRIL 8, 9

ESSEX JUNIOR ★ ★ 2-STAR SELECT

Harlow Leisure Centre, Hammerskjold Rd, Harlow
Entry forms from: D. Miller, 16 Tomswood Road, Chigwell,
Essex IG7 5QS. Closing Date: 13th March

SATURDAY, SUNDAY APRIL 22, 23

YORKSHIRE JUNIOR 2-STAR SELECT

Northbridge Leisure Centre, Halifax
Saturday: Cadets – Sunday: Juniors
Entry forms from: Rea Balmford, 30 Glebe Road, Wawne, Hull
HU7 5XR. (Tel.: 0482 821279). Closing date: 28th March

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

THE THIRD ENGLISH NATIONAL UNDER-11 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South
Mansfield

Entry forms from: English Table Tennis Association, Queens-
bury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.
(Tel.: 0424 722525) Closing date: Tuesday 4th April