



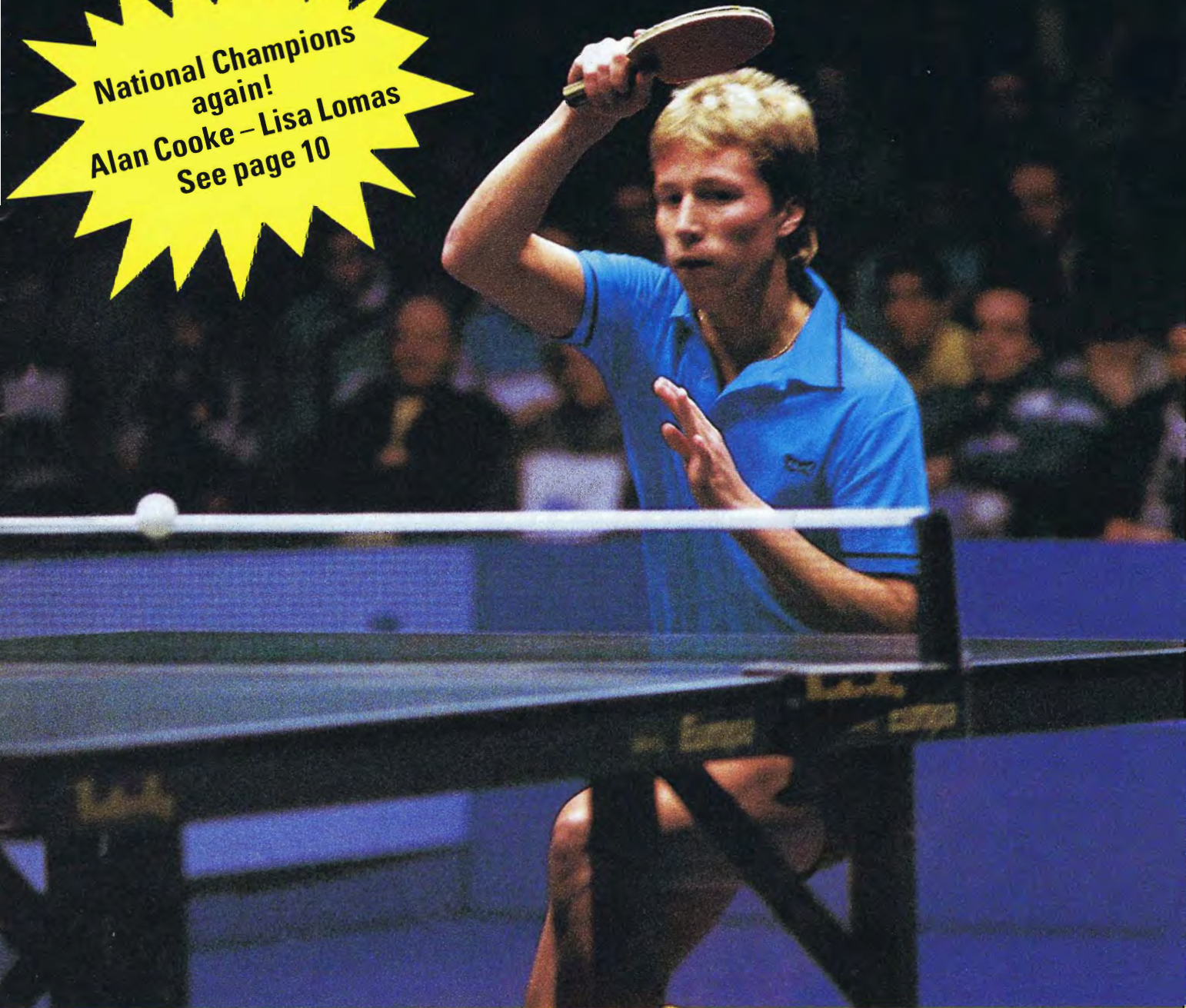
Table Tennis News

No. 183

May 1989

90p

**National Champions
again!
Alan Cooke - Lisa Lomas
See page 10**



No 1 IN THE WORLD — JAN-OVE WALDNER

**and JAQUES TABLES
and DOUBLE FISH
TABLE TENNIS BALLS**

Jaques

Four "gems" to remember . . .

ENGLISH table tennis players, administrators, fans will not easily forget this campaign now drawing to a close. It was the season when we entered the Olympic Games in Seoul, England finally bounced back into the Super Division of the European League, when Sweden slayed the Chinese dragon, (at least in the men's game) by winning the Swaythling Cup and Jan-Ove Waldner became the new world champion.

A year ago we failed to win promotion again and then found that Hungary were a new barrier. As it happened, Belgium and Austria were the two nations we had to beat and this we did principally by the strength of our two young men Alan Cooke and Carl Prean. Both have had a season they can look back on with pride – Alan captured the Commonwealth title in Cardiff and it was Carl who raised his game in Dortmund in the memorable match with Waldner when he reached 19-19 in all four games against the exquisite talent of the man who two days later, became the new champion of the world.

Don Parker summed it all up in Dortmund when he said, "We are now in all the competitions amongst the top nations including the new men's world team cup as we finished ninth here in Germany. I am more than pleased with the group of teenagers now bidding for a place in the England squad headed by Michael O'Driscoll, Bradley Billington and Matthew Syed. They demonstrated in Cardiff that they are improving all the time. Win of the year for the women's squad was by Alison Gordon over Olga Nemes, the European Top-12 champion" he said.

Over 200 British fans in Dortmund personally witnessed how well the sport is supported there – thousands there – hundreds here; the roar of the German crowd – polite clapping or even silence here, at least, most of the time.

Leadership challenge still receding

As the magnificent sponsorship by the Leeds Permanent Building Society continues to expand into the Women's British League, John Prean remains the undisputed chairman of the ETTA. The prospect of any serious challenge to his leadership seems to have receded even further into the background.

Receded upheavals as we have seen over the past three years might sell newspapers but they do not help the sport in the long run.

Looking ahead I see three objectives, although there are other targets as well . . . first to establish ourselves as a power that could win the Super Division rather than survive, secondly to reach the final of the team event at the European Championships in Gothenburg and to improve communications by getting even more publicity on television and in the newspapers and to produce a professional magazine.

As "Table Tennis News" went to press, it became known that the ETTA have decided that next season this magazine will be edited by the staff at Hastings . . . to which I can only add my best wishes!

JOHN WOODFORD



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

Editor
JOHN WOODFORD

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★ **COVER
PICTURE**

JAN-OVE WALDNER of Sweden is the most talented player in the world. It is therefore fitting that his genius has been rewarded with the world singles crown in Dortmund. Aspiring youngsters will have noted that he is the coolest player around when the heat is on and his victory marks the end of the domination of the men's game by China. Well done, Sweden.





SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by

JOHN WOODFORD

End of the line in Dusseldorf!

RICHARD EATON ("The Times") and Morley Myers (United Press International) came to a shuddering halt on a dark and rainy night in Dusseldorf during the world championships.

Approaching a huge junction in his Escort Ghia, Richard followed the silver arrows ahead into an area where work had taken place on the tramlines. Holes dug around the lines (later to be replaced with tarmac) had been left exposed.

Travelling at only 10 m.p.h the English duo hit the obstruction splitting a front axle and knocking off a wheel! Ace one-line joker Morley commented dryly "We seem to have come to the end of the line Richard!"

Happily, neither journalist was injured. Unhappily, the car was taken away on a transporter and the battle with the insurance began. Meanwhile, after a £50 taxi ride back to Dortmund, the bad news was that the car would take a long time to repair so the English newsmen had to return to England by air instead of ferry.

Before we left Dusseldorf I took photos of the accident junction, where of course the obstruction been rapidly repaired, but the road signs were still arrowed at the point of the collision.

● Footnote: Immediately after the incident the police put barriers round the accident area.

French bid is withdrawn

THE French seem to be occupying a low profile in European table tennis at this time. Their bid to run the 1993 world championships in several cities ending in Paris was withdrawn in Dortmund without coming under starter's orders. It will be Mexico City instead.

Another French bid, by Didier Mommessin to get into the French squad in Dortmund did not materialise, although Didier did turn up in time for the last night party to meet his friend in the English squad Fiona Elliot, the new English No. 2 from Staffordshire.



Andrei Mazunov, USSR

A friendship seems to be blossoming between our modest young England No. 5 Andrea Holt and the Russian superstar Andrei Mazunov. The couple were spotted by newsmen having quiet chats away from the chaos at the last night shindig.

The rush for food in the early stages of the party had to be seen to be believed. Over a thousand people, apparently starving, stormed to the serving tables amid scenes of chaos.

A number of people left the mass catering mayhem to seek more peaceful surroundings at the adjacent Park Hotel restaurant including our Leeds executive Mrs Wendy Cunningham and APA account executive Betty Maitland.



Wendy Cunningham, the Leeds executive, was in Dortmund for the final week-end.

Both ladies enjoyed the short stay in Dortmund and were perhaps envious of the enormous following that the sport has in West Germany.

A television triumph for the Germans

THE organising committees of the world championships gave absolute priority to television and it paid off.

German viewers and many abroad on worldwide Sky satellite TV saw German patriotism in sport raised to new heights as Jorg Roskopf and Stefan Fetzner emerged victorious from the mens doubles final.

I have never witnessed a scene quite like that in person. We have all seen it at the Wembley Cup Final, not this time perhaps, but always previously. German fans by the thousand literally shouted their men to victory. I almost felt sorry for the two giants Kalinic and Kucharski - how they managed to get the scoreline so close I do not know.

As at Wurzburg, the Germans persisted in clapping whilst players were poised to serve, but it was a scene to gladden all German hearts especially the sponsors.

A conversation with Ebby

Scholer after the whole tournament had ended confirmed what we were thinking - on the strength of the television coverage of the mens doubles final, table tennis in Germany has been elevated to the middle range of sports. It is no longer a minor sport in that country.

The new "mixed" zone

A NEW arrangement at Dortmund that was appreciated by the 500 journalists was the provision of a "mixed zone" in the main 10,000 seater stadium where newsmen were free to talk to the players as they left the arena.

It is accepted that for TV purposes alone, journalists cannot be allowed access to the floor at all times, the spectators and the TV cameras would not be able to see the play for people.

This was extremely successful as we were able to talk with the England captains and the players regularly, an essential ingredient to producing good copy for newspapers.

It is hoped that the same "mixed" zone arrangements will be created on Gothenburg and at all future world events.

Olympic involvement for Morley

LONDON based Morley Myers is a journalist seldom seen at UK events but is becoming increasingly involved in the sport.

At present UK Sports Editor for UPI, he was with Reuter for seven years and is a very experienced journalist in many sports, with lawn tennis a speciality sport.

He is a co-opted member in an advisory capacity of the ITTF publicity committee. George Yates is also on that committee which among other things will have considerable work ahead on the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Morley is an expert Olympian on media matters and will shortly be travelling abroad to Olympic meetings.

He is well-known to both the ITTF president Ichiro Ogimura and the IOC president Juan-antonio Samaranch.

EVENTS COMING UP . . .

- 20 May Grove Cadets 2-star
- 27-28 May VETTS Nationals, Bracknell
- 26-28 May Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-star
- 3-4 June The Leeds English Junior Open, Bridlington.

NEXT SEASON

- 27 Aug The Leeds British League (1)
- 2-3 Sept City of London 2-star
- 2-3 Sept Kirklees Junior 2-star
- 9 Sept Milton Keynes Under-21
- 10 Sept Coventry 1-star junior
- 10 Sept The Leeds British League (2)
- 15-16 Sept The Leeds Masters
- 30 Sept The Leeds County Championships (1)
- 1 Oct The Leeds British League (3)
- 3-5 Oct England v Germany, Women's series
- 7-8 Oct Sussex 2-star
- 7-8 Oct Grove 2-star
- 14 Oct VETTS Eastern
- 15 Oct The Leeds British League (4)

European League

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION

DATE CHANGE

The date of next season's Stiga Europe Top 12 for seniors has been brought forward to January 19/21, 1990 the venue remaining in Hannover. A clash with the Constructa Trade Fair on the original date of February 2/4 is the cause when hotel accommodation would be at a premium.

OTHER DATES IN EUROPE

1989	
Oct 19/22	Polish Open (Poznan)
Nov 2/5	Austrian Open (Linz)
Nov 16/19	Hungarian Open (Budapest)
Dec 2/3	Finlandia Open (Helsinki)
Dec 7/10	Swedish Open (SOC)(Jonköping)
1990	
Jan 4/7	English Open (Manchester)
Mar 3/4	Federal German Open (Saarbrücken)
Apl 8/16	17th European Championships (Gothenburg, Sweden)

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS UNION EUROPEAN LEAGUE DECEMBER FIXTURES 1989

AN AGREEMENT has been reached between the European Table Tennis Union and the Asian Table Tennis Union to proceed with the 5th in the series of Euro/Asia contests.

The proposed dates are from Monday, December 11 (day of travel) to Thursday, December 21 (day of departure) with the following programme envisaged:-

Sunday Dec 10 Finish of Swedish Open (SOC)
Monday Dec 11 Travel ex Stockholm to Athens
Tuesday Dec 12 Team matches in Athens
Wednesday Dec 13 Travel to Rome
Thursday Dec 14 Team matches in Rome
Friday Dec 15 Travel to Barcelona
Saturday Dec 16 Team matches in Barcelona
Sunday Dec 17 Travel to Paris
Monday Dec 18 Free Day
Tuesday Dec 19 Individual Events in Paris
Wednesday Dec 20 Individual Events in Paris
Thursday Dec 21 Return Home

European League matches arranged for the month of December may, as a consequence, have to be re-arranged dependent on selection of players from the Associations concerned. The matches in question are:-

Super Division	Yugoslavia	v	Sweden
	England	v	France
	Poland	v	Czechoslovakia
	F.R. Germany	v	Netherlands
	Austria	v	Finland
	Italy	v	Belgium
	Denmark	v	Hungary
	Turkey	v	Bulgaria

★ ★

Division 1

★



Bolton-based George Yates 19 years Editor of TTN is the secretary of the ETTU.

FINAL TABLES

European League

Super Division

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN	7	7	0	37	12	7
F.R. Germany	7	5	2	27	22	5
Poland	7	5	2	26	23	5
Czechoslovakia	7	4	3	30	19	4
Netherlands	7	3	4	22	27	3
Yugoslavia	7	2	5	23	26	2
France	7	2	5	16	33	2
Bulgaria	7	0	7	15	34	0

Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	7	6	1	36	13	6
Austria	7	6	1	36	13	6
Hungary	7	5	2	35	14	5
Belgium	7	4	3	30	19	4
Finland	7	3	4	16	33	3
Italy	7	2	5	17	32	2
Turkey	7	1	6	15	34	1
Switzerland	7	1	6	11	38	1

Division 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
DENMARK	7	7	0	43	6	7
Spain	7	6	1	35	14	6
Norway	7	5	2	32	17	5
Scotland	7	4	3	25	24	4
Luxembourg	7	2	5	23	26	2
Wales	7	2	5	21	28	2
Greece	7	2	5	16	33	2
Iceland	7	0	7	1	48	0

Division 3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
IRELAND	1	1	0	6	1	1
Isle of Man	1	0	1	1	6	0

LANCASHIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS

KEITH WILLIAMS of Liverpool took the men's singles title in the resurrected Lancashire Championships played at the West View Leisure Centre, Ribblesdale, Preston beating Paul Hutchings, also of Liverpool, 13 and 16 in the final.

The women's singles title and the newly-donated Baxi Cup went also to a Liverpool player in the person of Brenda Buoy who narrowly beat Preston's Nicola McGrath 24-22 in the decider. It was disappointing for Nicola who had ousted the No. 1 seed, Amanda Goodwin of Oldham.

But Preston players did make their mark when Tony Rigby took the veterans title beating Jack Evans of Warrington in the final while, in the girls' singles, Maria Thornley beat Joanne Wooldridge.

Andrew Eden of Southport was the winner of the boys' singles accounting for Burnley's Howard Whewell in the final. Andrew going on to take the men's doubles title, with Hutchings, against Bolton challengers David Carse and Nigel Hallows.

Brenda Buoy and Amanda Goodwin won the women's doubles title beating Nicola McGrath and Julie Clegg in the final. The prizes were presented by the Managing Director of the SSS Sports Group, Mr. Mike Robinson, the sponsors, the prize fund being £225.

It was 12 years ago when last this tournament was held, in Fleetwood, when Blackpool's Brian Carney took the men's singles title. Preston last ran the

championships in 1972 when it was run in conjunction with the Preston Guild tournament which occurs every 20 years, the Preston Guild Trophy being presented by the Borough Council of Preston.

RESULTS

Men Singles

Semi-Finals

P. Hutchings (Liverpool) bt H. Whewell (Burnley) 8, -18, 8;

K. Williams (Liverpool) bt G. Clarke (Blackburn) 16, 18

Final

Williams bt Hutchings 13, 16

Womens Singles

Final

B. Buoy (Liverpool) bt N. McGrath (Preston) -19, 12, 22

Boys Singles

Final

A. Eden (Southport) bt Whewell -17, 12, 14.

Girls Singles

Final

M. Thornley (Preston) bt J. Wooldridge (Preston) 12, 9

Veterans Singles

Final

A. Rigby (Preston) bt D. Evans (Warrington) -17, 14, 18

Mens Doubles

Final

Eden/Hutchings bt D. Carse/N. Hallows (Bolton) 5, 19

Womens Doubles

Final

Buoy/A. Goodwin (Oldham) bt J. Clegg/McGrath (Preston) 17, 10.

STOP PRESS

Essex get their star returned

THE ETTA Tournaments Committee have now reversed their decision on demoting Essex from a 3-star to a 2-star event.

The problem has been solved by allowing seven 3-star events next season, all the six regulars with Wiltshire as the additional one.

Disagreement

The U-turn followed complaints from Essex and some early disagreement on the committee. Chairman Mr Richard Scruton said, "I feel the matter has now been resolved to everyone's satisfaction."

SWEDISH MOVE BLOCKED

A MOVE by Sweden to drastically change the format of the European League was stopped in Dortmund. The Swedes wanted a complicated programme what would involve splitting the Super Division in two, with the stronger sides playing each other twice and the weaker sides doing the same, depending on the results of the first round of matches.

John Prean spoke well against the move, voicing the opinion of a large majority of the ETTU meeting, but in doing so of course, the Swedish view of England was not improved in any way.

They will try again in Gothenburg next April, but how they can hope for victory without visible support is a mystery.

9th Commonwealth Championships

CARDIFF RESULTS

Mens singles 3rd round

L. Tsung (HKG) v E. Kasser (Aus) 11, 16, 13
 J. Taylor (ENG) v M. O'Driscoll (ENG) -8, -14, -17
 N. Mason (ENG) v T. Omotara (NGR) -16, 15, 14, -10, 11
 P. Lewis (WAL) v H. Pintea (CAN) -15, -17, -17
 S. Andrew (ENG) v C. Morgan (JAM) 10, 18, 16
 M. Syed (ENG) v S. Ghorpade (IND) 19, 6, 19
 F. Saif (PAK) v J. Proe (SCO) 17, 14, -13, -17, 17
 H. Meneely (N. IRE) v A. Musa (NGR) -10, -13, -17
 F. Liu (HKG) v L. Thomas (WAL) 7, 4, 4
 T. Taylor (ENG) v B. Billington (ENG) -20, -14, -17
 D. Hannah (SCO) v W. Ahmed (NGR) -19, -19, -18
 S. Dorking (ENG) v J. Ng (CAN) -12, -15, 8, -10
 K. Mehta (IND) v A. Cooke (ENG) -6, -11, -15

4th round

L. Tsung (HKG) v M. O'Driscoll (ENG) 11, 14, 13
 N. Mason (ENG) v H. Pintea (CAN) 6, -17, 14, 6
 S. Andrew (ENG) v M. Syed (ENG) -17, -5, 16, -13
 F. Saif (PAK) v A. Musa (NGR) -13, -15, -16
 F. Liu (HKG) v B. Billington (ENG) -18, -17, -15
 W. Ahmed (NGR) v J. Ng (CAN) 11, -15, 17, -11, 9
 K. Mehta (IND) v A. Bourbonnais (CAN) 16, 10, 11
 P. Pinkewich (AUS) v A. Cooke (ENG) -9, -9, -12

Mens Doubles 3rd Round

Tsung/Lui (HKG) v Jones/Hyatt (JAM) 14, 7
 Billington/Sandley (ENG) v Makhuda/Ullah (PAK) 17, 14

Andrew/Mason (ENG) v Ahmed/Olaleye (NGR) -18, 20, 11

Anaxagorou/Anaxagorou v Mehta/Ghorpade (IND) -11, -8

Dorking/Hilton (ENG) v Broe/Hannah (SCO) -15, 18, 20

CARDIFF RESULTS

Satchell/Whiting (ENG) v Williams/Lewis (WAL) 14, 15

Musa/Omotara (NGR) v O'Driscoll/Oldfield (ENG) 18, 20

Walker/Wright (SCO) v Pintea/J. Ng (CAN) -12, -4

Mens Doubles Quarter Finals
 Tsung/Lui (HKG) v Billington/Sandley (ENG) -19, -14

Andrew/Mason (ENG) v Mehta/Ghorpade (IND) 12, 18

Dorking/Hilton (ENG) v Satchell/Whiting (ENG) -14, -18

Musa/Omotara (NGR) v Pintea/Ng (CAN) 19, 19

Mens Doubles Semi Finals
 Billington/Sandley (ENG) v Andrew/Mason (ENG) -10, -22

Satchell/Whiting (ENG) v Musa/Omotara (NGR) -11, -12

Mixed Doubles Quarter Finals
 Tsung/Wa (HKG) v J. Ng/Chen (CAN) 17, 19

Bourbonnais/Desjardins (CAN) v Andrew/Elliott (ENG) -11, -20

Pintea/Domonkos (CAN) v Liu/Chan (HKG) -14, -19

Mason/Gordon (ENG) v Musa/Owolabi (NGR) -13, 11, -16

Semi Finals
 Tsung/Chai (HKG) v Andrew/Elliott 16, -19, -21

Liu/Chan (HKG) v Musa/Owolabi 17, 8

Women's Doubles Semi Finals
 Sainsbury/Harris (ENG) v Tepper/Hughes (AUS) -10, 19, -13

Chai/Chan (HKG) v Lomas/Elliott 13, 11

Women's Singles 3rd Round
 K. Mok (HKG) v J. Barton (CAN) 10, 10, 6

K. Owolabi (NGR) v F. Elliot (ENG) 20, -9, -19, -16

K. Tepper (AUS) v T. Chan (HKG) -20, -14, -15

L. Keast (WAL) v L. Lomas (ENG) -6, -11, -16

P. Chai (HKG) v N. Roy (IND) 11, 10, 5

B. Chen (CAN) v A. Holt (ENG) 14, 20, 14

CARDIFF RESULTS

A. Gordon (ENG) v B. Kaffo (NGR) 16, -19, -16, 12, 10

M. Sainsbury (ENG) v So Hung Hui (HKG) -13, -13, -11

Womens Singles Quarter Final
 K. Mok (HKG) v F. Elliot (ENG) 11, 17, 18

T. Chan (HKG) v L. Lomas (ENG) 12, 12, 19

P. Chai (HKG) v B. Chen (CAN) 9, 13, 9

A. Gordon (ENG) v S. Hui (HKG) 20, 14, 14

Womens Singles Semi Finals
 K. Mok v T. Chan -19, -15, -15

P. Chai v A. Gordon 11, 17, 12

Mens Singles Quarter Finals
 C. Lo (HKG) v N. Mason (ENG) 12, 16, 20

M. Syed (ENG) v A. Musa (NGR) -19, -16, -13

B. Billington (ENG) v W. Ahmed (NGR) -15, -9, -16

K. Mehta (IND) v A. Cooke (ENG) -19, -13, -12

Mens Singles Semi Finals
 C. Lo (HKG) v A. Musa (NGR) 19, -12, -16, -16

W. Ahmed (NGR) v A. Cooke (ENG) -10, -18, -16

THE FINALS

Womens Doubles

Kerry Tepper/Wendy Hughes (AUS) v Chai Po Wa/Chan Tan Lui (HKG) -18, -8

Mens Singles
 Alan Cooke (ENG) v Atanda Musa (NIG) 13, 11, 13

Womens Singles
 Chan Tan Lui (HKG) v Chai Po Wa (HKG) -16, -15, -8

Mens Doubles
 Sklet Andrew/Nicky Mason (ENG) v Atanda Musa/Titus Omotara (NIG) 14, 18

Mixed Doubles
 Skylet Andrew/Fiona Elliot (ENG) v Liu Fuk Man/Chan Tan Lui (HKG) -12, -19

FROM JAMAICA...



The Jamaica womens team finished eleventh in Cardiff, but Miami-based Nadine Senn Yuen was first on the list for the photographers. She is seen here receiving advice from her coach. Picture: Hideki Chiba, Tamasu, Tokyo.

STOP PRESS

Cooke wins Tour

IN THE European club cup of champions final in Duisburg, Borussia Dusseldorf beat Falkenberg (Sweden) 5-3. Alan Cooke beat Stefan Fetzner -16, 13, 19 but lost to Jorgen Roskopf and Ralph Wosik.

RESULTS

Carter Cup (Boys)
 Quarter finals
 Crawley bt Norwich 5-4
 Bristol bt North Middlesex 5-0
 Ormesby bt Burnley 5-1
 Nottingham bt Milton Keynes 5-3
 Semi finals
 Crawley bt Bristol 5-2
 Nottingham bt Ormesby 5-4

A THREE match tour of England by the West German women's team is currently being finalised for September or October. The German team to play England will include Top 12 champion Olga Nemes, defeated by Alison Gordon in the World Championships. Host venues and organisers are not being sought - interested parties should apply to Diccon Gray at Hastings.

Bromfield Trophy (Girls)

Semi finals
 Plymouth bt Brentwood 5-1
 Pontefract bt Birmingham w/o



ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME COACHING COURSES at CRYSTAL PALACE

The following courses take place at Crystal Palace, London SE19 in September and November 1989. Prices are £64 (residential) and £38 (non residential). Details and application forms from ETTA office.

WEEKEND COURSES

No. 89-1 September 8-10 (non residential)

No. 89-2 September 8-10 (residential)

No. 89-3 November 17-19 (non residential)

No. 89-4 November 17-19 (residential)

No. 89-5 November 17-19 (non residential)

No. 89-6 November 17-19 (residential)

PROGRAMME

Personal

Performance Course

Assistant

(Club) Coach Course

Coaches

Advancement Course

First Commonwealth crown for Cooke

by JOHN WOODFORD in Cardiff

ALAN COOKE, celebrated his 23rd birthday in Cardiff by winning comfortably the coveted singles title, after Carl Prean and Desmond Douglas decided to reserve their energy for Dortmund. In a lack-lustre final round Cooke stifled the challenge of the hard-hitting Nigerian Atanda Musa, an object lesson in tactics.

In some of the earlier rounds Musa gave the impression that he was the hardest striker of the ball in the hall and on some occasions he certainly was. However, power is not everything. The ability to dictate the angles proved decisive for the England and Top-12 champion as he completed his hat-trick – he pinned Musa down on his backhand, piling on the top-spin crosscourt and down the line until Musa was subdued to the point of despair.

Some will say the less said the better about the winner of the womens singles Chai Po Wa and the runner-up Chan Tan Lui. The Hong Kong girls it was confirmed in several quarters were *not* eligible – “everyone in Hong Kong knew that they had not resided there for two years”, said spokespersons in that city. But so thick is the smokescreen surrounding the immigration laws and administration, it was clearly decided not to enter them in the Olympics but to go for the Commonwealth and the world championships.

However, nothing could be proved in either Cardiff or Dortmund. At least in Dortmund after ITTF president Ochiro Ogimura had had his photograph taken with the Hong Kong girls, he admitted “that the rules needed tightening up” and an Eligibility Commission would be set up and ETTA chairman John Prean was invited to participate.

England's haul of trophies was three, the men's team event, the mens singles, the mens doubles by Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason.

Young England players struck hard at Cardiff and left a trail of scalps. Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield) eased out the Indian champion Manmeet Singh and Jonathan Taylor of Manchester, but O'Driscoll finally met his match losing to the top-seeded Lo from Hong Kong, who also accounted for Nicky Mason.

Bradley Billington also reached the quarters after whipping out Lui Fuk Man, a magnificent win,

Invitation

but Bradley was finally subdued by but only in five games by Ahmed of Nigeria.

The fourth round contained a major shock for Skylet Andrew, when he went down in four to Matthew Syed, one of the group of three teenagers looking for a place in the England squad pres-



Alan Cooke, crowned a wonderful season of international play to become Commonwealth champion for the first time. He will hold the title until April 1991 and it is expected he will defend it 6,000 feet above sea level in Nairobi, Kenya.

ently occupied by Skylet. A week later in Dortmund however, Sky hit back with four fabulous wins over European players all ranked above him, so the pressure in the last stages of this season and during the summer for Nicky Mason to consolidate his place in the squad against the teenage onslaught.

Team Events

England, Hong Kong and Nigeria were the dominating teams in the final with Douglas and Cooke unbeaten and Carl Prean narrowly losing -15, 21, -19 to Liu Fuk Man. Amongst the other men's

teams some magnificent play was seen from India, Canada and Pakistan and especially from Atanda Musa the Nigerian No. 1 who a week later in Dortmund was only beaten by an extremely narrow margin by the Swedish aces Appelgren and Waldner.

As expected Hong Kong and England dominated the womens event, meeting in the final and as expected the winners were Hong Kong over England 3-1. Lisa Lomas pulled off one of her surprise wins 19, 18 over Chai Po Wa, before both of the controversial girls Chai Po Wa and Chan Tan Lui overcame Alison Gordon without a struggle.

It was Canada and Scotland who finished third and fourth with Barbara Chen prominent for the Canadians and for Scotland, Janet Smith and Carol Dalrymple played major roles.

THE FINAL PLACINGS

Men

1. ENGLAND
2. Nigeria
3. Hong Kong
4. India
5. Canada
6. Pakistan
7. New Zealand
8. Jamaica
9. Australia
10. Wales
11. Scotland
12. N Ireland

Women

1. Hong Kong
2. ENGLAND
3. Canada
4. Scotland
5. Australia
6. Wales I
7. Nigeria
8. India
9. New Zealand
10. N. Ireland

Presentations for Brian Webster in Cardiff

Roy Williams a Vice President of the Table Tennis Association for Wales and Jean Beer the Secretary of Glamorgan County Table Tennis Association on behalf of the Umpires of the Commonwealth Championships presented Brian Webster of Dundee with a medal for his services as the Press Liaison of the championships.

Brian Webster's services were also appreciated with a presentation by the national journalists.

ON THE WAY NEXT SEASON!

SEPTEMBER or OCTOBER

England v Germany Women's tour

THE LEEDS MASTERS September 15-16

Jan: 4-7

LEEDS ENGLISH OPEN, Manchester

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DORTMUND RESULTS

MS: Round 3: Jiang bt Lo 18, 17; Chu bt Wang -17, -19, 22, 20, 19; Yu bt Ahn 18, 23, 20; Lindh bt Ding -18, 14, 19, 13; Persson bt Chen -15, 16, -15, 15, 13; Xie bt Li -11, -12, 7, 18, 20; Xu bt Carlsson 18, 12, 19; Yoo bt Ceceva 18, -16, 11, 13, 18; Kim bt Chen 17, 14, 12; Kim bt Woo 14, 17, -15, 13; Ma bt Appelgren -25, 16, -16, 10, 14; Grubba bt Roskopf 18, 20, 12; Primorac bt Grman 8, -17, 17, 14; Klampar bt Kim -17, 20, 12, 12; Saitoh bt Hui 9, 16, 16; Waldner bt Preat -21, 20, 19, 19. **Round 4:** Jiang bt Chu 12, 20, -18, 18; Yu bt Lindh 13, -18, 19, 13; Persson bt Xie 17, -18, 16, -16, 14; Xu bt Yoo -17, 10, 17, 19; Klampar bt Primorac -18, 16, 11, 19; Waldner bt Saitoh 17, 8, 15; Kim bt Kim 13, -20, 13, 17; Grubba bt Ma 18, 20, 12. **Quarter final:** Yu bt Jiang 20, -18, 16, 18; Persson bt Xu 11, 16, -17, -15 18; Grubba bt Kim 18, 19, 15; Waldner bt Klampar 19, -11, 18, 20. **Semi final:** Persson bt Yu -11, 10, 9, 11; Waldner bt Grubba -16, 16 19, 17. **FINAL:** WALDNER bt Persson 17, 18, -20, -18, 10. **WS: Quarter final:** Chen bt Badescu 16, -15, 5, 16; Uchiyama bt Gao -20, 19, 17, -19, 21; Li bt Guergueltecheva -24, 13, 18, 16; Li bt Deng 17, 13, -22, -14, 15. **Semi final:** Li bt Chen 17, 20, 13; Qiao bt Hyun 13, 15, 17; **FINAL:** QIAO bt Li 15, 12, -11, 16. **MD: Quarter final:** Roskopf/Fetzner bt Grubba/Gatien 16, -19, 18; Chen/Wei bt Janci/Ceceva 10, 10; Teng/Hui bt Shibutanti/Matshushita 19, -13, 10; Kucharski/Kalinic bt Cooke/Preat 15, 17. **Semi final:** Roskopf/Fetzner bt Chen/Wei -11, 12, 17; Kucharski/Kalinic bt Teng/Hui 15, 17. **FINAL:** ROSSKOPF-FETZNER bt Kucharski/Kalinic -18, 17, 19. **WD: Quarter final:** Chen/Hu bt Guergueltecheva/Wang 6, 17; Li/Ding bt Kwon/Ilyun 20, 15; Liu/Gao bt Li/Chen -15, 17, 16; Qiao/Deng bt Chan/Chai 14, 11. **Semi final:** Chen/Hu bt Li/Ding 14, -22, 10; Qiao/Deng bt Gao/Lui -23, 13, 21. **FINAL:** QIAO/DENG bt Chen/Hu 18, 19. **XD: Quarter final:** Yoo/Hyun bt Teng/Hu 15, 9; Chen/Chen bt Chu/Yu 12, -19, 22; Kalinic/Perkucin bt Kim/Li -13, 15, 19; Chen/Gao bt Wei/Li 21, -18, 12. **Semi final:** Yoo-Hun bt Chen/Chen -16, 18, 12; Kalinic/Perkucin bt Chen/Gao 12, 14. **FINAL:** YOO-HYUN bt Kalinic/Perkucin 7, 13.

Our Women in Dortmund

by JOSE RANSOME

AS EXPECTED, China won most of the women's medals at the Worlds. However, believe it or not, the team that did remarkably well was England. Hardly rated at all at the start of the event, at home or abroad, the England girls finished 10th overall, notching up some exciting individual performances too.

Immediately prior to the World Championships, the England women's team won the silver medals at the Butterfly 9th Commonwealth Championships in Cardiff, losing narrowly 3-1 to a very strong Hong Kong team in the final. In that match Lisa Lomas excelled to beat Chai Po Wa in straight games and the true strength of the Hong Kong team became apparent in Dortmund when they took the bronze medals and finished in third place.

In Dortmund, England had some excellent performances in the Corbillon Cup. Against Hungary in the second stage, our girls again lost narrowly by the score of 3-1, and Hungary placed 4th overall. In this match Fiona Elliot lost a close encounter to the famous Batorfi in three, Alison Gordon beat Gabriella Wirth, the doubles went to Hungary, and then Alison lost in three games to Batorfi.

The doubles continued to be England's stumbling block... against the USSR the girls were an incredible 2-0 in the lead, Alison having beaten Irina Palina 12, -19, 19, Lisa having a great 18, 19 win over Valentina Popova a former European Champion before Lisa and Fiona lost the next vital set of doubles and the initiative slipped away, a great pity because it would have been a real breakthrough for the girls.

Great climax

However, in the individual events a few days later, Alison bounced back to score the upset

of the tournament from a women's viewpoint when she beat Olga Nemes current Europe Top 12 Champ and German No. 1 in an absolutely fantastic match in front of an adoring West German crowd. This must have been a great climax to a successful season for Ali, and her smile of joy at the end said it all.

At the same time Lisa Lomas came desperately close to providing another major upset against Ding of China, after leading 2-1, she lost -18, -16 in the 4th and 5th games.

Fiona went out to the finalist, Li Bun Hui of North Korea. Andrea Holt survived two rounds of the qualifications before going out to Kim of Korea R.

The finals

My last thoughts about the women's game were obviously at the Finals on Sunday afternoon. Although the players, Qiao of China (who did not play in the team events at all), and Li Bun Hui of North Korea, were obviously very skilful... and how are we going to get our girls to that standard?... I felt that the match would do nothing to encourage people to promote the women's game. On the other hand, of course, this was the World Championships where the intention is to win the title, not necessarily to project the sport as exciting for the general uninitiated public. I don't know the answer for accomplishing both goals.

(cont ▶)

THE FINAL PLACINGS

Swaythling Cup

- Sweden
- China
- North Korea
- Russia
- South Korea
- Japan
- West Germany
- Poland
- ENGLAND
- Hungary
- Belgium
- Holland
- Yugoslavia
- Czechoslovakia
- Chinese Tapei
- Nigeria
- France
- Bulgaria
- Brazil
- United States
- Hong Kong
- Finland
- Austria
- Denmark
- Italy
- Israel
- Canada
- Turkey
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Australia
- India (disqual.)
- Indonesia
- Switzerland
- Spain
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- Iraq
- New Zealand
- Jamaica
- Greece
- Nepal
- San Marino
- Macao
- Saudi Arabia
- Trinidad, Tobago
- Jordan
- Tunisia
- Barbados
- Guatemala
- Bangladesh

Corbillon Cup

- China
- South Korea
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- North Korea
- Japan
- Czechoslovakia
- Sweden
- Russia
- ENGLAND
- Holland
- United States
- Yugoslavia
- Rumania
- Bulgaria
- Chinese Tapei
- France
- Denmark
- West Germany
- Austria
- Canada
- Finland
- Belgium
- Poland
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Macao
- Australia
- Malaysia
- India
- Brazil
- Cuba
- Nigeria
- Greece
- Nepal
- Scotland
- Columbia
- Norway
- Peru
- Spain
- Wales
- New Zealand
- Turkey
- Israel
- Malta
- Ireland
- Jordan

On the air

LISTENERS to the BBC World Service interested in table tennis received regular live broadcasts by Richard Eaton on both the Commonwealth and the World Championships from Cardiff and Dortmund.

The interest in the rising stars amongst the African countries led BBC's "Focus on Africa" programme to call for three live broadcasts from Cardiff and three from Dortmund, mainly on the Nigerian players and their star Atanda Musa, who reached the final in Cardiff, a task undertaken by John Woodford.

By a strange coincidence, Alan Shepherd reports on the sudden appearance of 15 year-old Nigerian boy James Uyekunli who claimed a lot of scalps at the Essex Junior 2-star tournament.

Waldner homes in to world crown!

by JOHN WOODFORD in DORTMUND

JAN-OVE WALDNER, as if guided by an invisible beam, stormed through with clinical precision to win the world singles crown at the Westfalenhalle Stadium in Dortmund on April 9, the first European to win since Istvan Jonyer in 1975 at Calcutta and the first Swede to win since Stellan Bengtsson at Nagoya in 1971.

There will be those who will argue that he had a fortunate draw – he did not meet a Chinese player, but many of those who have watched his progress over the last two or three years, I am one of them, have felt that here is the best player in the world, aggressive strokes of sheer majesty, an almost perfectly groomed temperament – it was not always the case – and the ability to dig himself out of trouble when all seemed lost.

The final round, against his compatriot and best friend in table tennis, Jorgen Persson was not a real classic. It was strange to see the splendid Swedish captain Glenn Ost leave the two players on court and to see the coaching benches empty.

Waldner took the first two games calmly, smoothly making it look as though Persson's unprecedented run of success throughout the tournament was easily beaten. But Persson came back to the next two. Waldner's impeccable reputation was about to be re-examined in the fifth. Showing the authority of a world champion, Waldner confidently won the last game 21-10 and that was it!

As pandemonium broke loose as it always does when a new champion has been born, Persson sat with a towel covering his face for several minutes in disbelief at his defeat.

Tumult

When the tumult began to die down Waldner said, "I am pleased to have won, but I am sorry for my best friend Jorgen. When he fought back in the third and fourth there was a chance I was going to lose my rhythm, but happily for me, I regained my confidence."

One of Waldner's hardest matches was in Round 3 when he came through a really thrilling battle with Carl Prean who was beaten 3-1, but in all four games the score of 19-19 was on the board, this surely is some indication that Prean, one year younger than Waldner, is a true professional, more experienced than anyone in his age-group in Europe and able to cope with the pressure of playing regularly in front of crowds of thousands of people in West Germany. Waldner beat Prean 21-23, 22-20, 21-19, 21-19.

The roars of the crowds in Germany, especially when there is a



THE FOUR MEN ON TOP OF THE WORLD
The four men who dominated the mens singles event in Dortmund on the victory rostrum, left to right Jorgen Persson (Sweden), Jan-Ove Waldner (Sweden) the new world champion, Yu Shentong (China) and the crowd's favourite character Andrzej Grubba of Poland.

West German in the arena have to be heard to be believed. As a German crowd of 2,000 shouted and clapped, unfairly at times, England to defeat at Wurzburg two years ago in the European League, Kucharski and Kalinic were similarly shouted out of the gold medal in the mens doubles final, won of course by a superb performances from Jorgen Rosskopf and Stefan Fetzner, but I have strong doubts if they would have achieved the same result abroad. They are very good players who combine well, but not that well.

On the night that Rosskopf and Fetzner triumphed the crowd was estimated at around 8,000. On finals day, nearly 10,000 people were there, but contrary to reports before the event started, there were always seats available somewhere.

There were two outstanding performances by English players in the singles, Carl Prean's gallant defeat by Waldner and Alison Gordon's best-ever career-win over Olga Nemes, the West German No. 1 and winner of the last European Top-12 in Charleroi in February.

Swinging Ali

Alison, sensing that the former Rumanian girl was getting nervous in front of her 5,000 fans,

stormed through five games to win at 21-18 in the fifth. After her fabulous victory, which will surely bring her nearer to the Top Twelve women in Europe, she said "The pressure was all on her, the crowd chanting did not help her. I have lost to her on every occasion before, but this time, I decided to keep swinging away and it worked." Alison later lost 3-0 to China's Gao Jun.

Absurd

Alan Cooke, fresh from winning the Commonwealth title in Cardiff, never reached his best form in Dortmund. Absurd scheduling in the team events did not help – in bed at 1 a.m. and up again at 6.30 a.m. is not Cooke's best recipe for success. However, he managed to beat off Andras Podpinka, the Hungarian who played for Belgium in five games before losing to Ma Wenge one of the best of the young Chinese players.

Near to medal

Cooke and Prean were the men who kept the English flag flying longest. In the mens doubles they heaved out a string of pairs including the then world champion Jian Jialiang and Yu Shentong, before losing one step away from a medal to the finalists Kucharski and Kalinic, the two six-foot "giants", 21-15, 21-17.



Ranked No. 51 in the world China's Qiao Hong lifted the womens singles world crown with a four-game win in the final over Li Bun Hui of North Korea.

Final Rumpus!

PANDEMONIUM broke out in the final of the Swaythling Cup when Jiang Jialiang was faulted by a German umpire Fritz Eigler for apparently serving from below the level of the table when losing to Waldner 8-5 in the final game.

The match was suspended for 16 minutes whilst committees argued with the referee who should have been the sole arbiter. Then, in another weak decision, the umpire was replaced as Jiang had refused to continue under Eigler, but later the Technical Committee had agreed that the Eigler decision on Jiang's service was upheld.

Another side-step in order to avoid the China team walking out, a threat that was later confirmed.

Denis George (Scotland) came up with a gem from his memory box - 30 years ago at the same venue, Ichiro Ogimura refused to play on when it was alleged he moved the table while striking the ball. That took 45 minutes to sort out and chalk marks were placed round the table legs to prove any further table movement!

The Dortmund exhibitors

by DAVID LOMAS

AMONGST the exhibitors at the World Table Tennis Championships in the Westfalenhalle in Dortmund were Gerald Gurney (England) and Adri van Drielen (Holland).

Gerald is no stranger to table tennis aficionados in this country. He was the founder-Secretary of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association in May, 1968, and went on to become Chairman, President and Life Member. His collection of table tennis memorabilia has been displayed at many world events, not only in England (at the English Open in Brighton in January 1988), but also in Holland, Malaysia, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

He has been "signed-up" to display his fascinating collection at the European Championships in Gothenburg in 1990, the World Championships in Chiba City, Japan, in 1991 and the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992.

His latest book "Table Tennis - the Early Years" has just been published by the International Table Tennis Federation. It is available from: G. N. Gurney, Guildhall Orchard, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex CO7 7TU (0206 230330), price £3.50 including postage.

For Adri van Drielen it was his first display at a World event. He collects table tennis balls - hundreds of them! His first catalogue, published in 1984, listed 268 balls - all different, and attracted great interest. His huge collection is the outcome of 20 years' collecting. His tenth catalogue lists, details and illustrates 1550 balls. He told me in Dortmund that his latest total is 1598. His 116 page catalogue is available for only £1.50 from: Adri van Drielen, Thomas a Kempisstraat 5, NL -8021 BG Zwolle. Tel: (0) 38 537600.



Jan-Ove Waldner

DORTMUND QUOTES

Torben Wosik

"My goal for these World Championships was to get through the qualifications. Against a European top player like Carl Prean I only hoped to win a game. His funny backhand surface posed a problem for me at first. It was a fantastic experience to play in front of such a great audience supporting me", said 15-year-old Torben Wosik (FRG) after his 3-2 defeat by England's Carl Prean in the second round of the men's singles.

Carl Prean

"I knew it would be difficult, but I had not thought it would be that difficult. I tried to avoid Torben taking the lead because then the audience would have gone mad. Torben adjusted very well to my style of play."

Xu Zhao Fu

China's head coach Xu Zhao Fu: "I already warned a few years ago that we could get into a backlog with our technique compared to the Europeans.

Jan-Ove Waldner

Waldner said: "I am very happy but so sad for my friend Jorgen. After the third game I lost my rhythm but I came back strongly."

Don Parker

"Our mens team finishing ninth means we qualify for the new world team event. Alison Gordon's win over European Top-12 champion Olga Nemes was her best ever and we only just missed a medal in the mens doubles when Alan Cooke and Carl Prean reached the quarter-finals after beating the former world champion Jiang Jialiang. "We are now in the top grade of all the world events" he said.

John Prean

on Ecuador failing to arrive- "The reputation of the World Championships is at stake. It should not be like a free-for-all where everyone comes when they feel like it", he said.

Stefen Fetzner

on the new system of no qualifying rounds -

"These sort of games are not interesting either for us or the spectators," said Fetzner, the West German No. 2, after helping the hosts defeat lowly Iceland 5-0 in just 70 minutes. "Qualification rounds must be introduced."

Swaythling Cup: The new All change format

ENGLAND voted against the surprise change in format for the world team event the Swaythling Cup at the ITTF final meeting in Dortmund, but the extra votes carried by the smaller third world countries, pushed the proposal through by 56 to 32 against.

George Yates, the secretary of the ETTA said, "I was surprised by the voting result. It seemed that this brand new format should be tried out first in the new world team cup, but it was not to be."

The major alteration is the first for over 60 years in the competition, and will stop five hour matches. A maximum of five games will be played instead of nine, involving three men, none of whom can play more than twice.

The brand new concept is: A v X, B v Y, doubles - B and C v X and Z, A v Y and C v Z, a pattern that will puzzle many players and administrators.

NO NONSENSE!

THERE was no trouble with Press accreditation in Dortmund; none of the problems experienced in Paris last year when only full-time writers were admitted without hassle. Even "fringe" journalists were accommodated - Brian Spicer wrote daily for the "Daily Express", David Lomas managed to get accredited and so did video-fanatic Syd Fryer (Manchester) - "my cup runneth over" when he held the Swaythling Cup and met Glenn Osth and Istvan Jonyer.

Press cover excellent

THE national press gave unprecedented coverage to events in Dortmund. The four "heavies" - "The Times", "Daily Telegraph", "Guardian" and the "Independent" gave prominent coverage, a mass of results and some excellent large photographs of players. The tabloid papers were not so keen, but the "Mail", "Express" and "Today" carried a few stories, especially of course, when there was friction.



The rout of the China men's team – Sweden win the Swaythling Cup!

THE END of the Ping Dynasty! The Great Wall of China has crumbled! Those phrases and many others tumbled out of the Dortmund Press Centre by telephone, typewriter, computer, radio, television throughout the event from the moment the Chinese men's team were destroyed 5-0 by Sweden in the Swaythling Cup final.

The Chinese women with the Koreans still dominate the world, but the Chinese men are going to be No. 2 to Sweden at least for two years until we all meet again in Chiba City, Tokyo for the next (41st) world championships.

China's head coach Xu Zhao Fu said in Dortmund "I already warned a few years ago that we could get into a backlog with our technique compared to the Europeans. This result (Sweden 5, China 0) is therefore not too surprising for me. My players gave their best possible performances within their capabilities. We will certainly need four to five years to win the Swaythling Cup again."

Sweden's captain Glenn Ost said "I knew we could beat the Chinese, even the 5-0 result is not a surprise, although we were lucky with the order of the matches."

Waldner said, "A wonderful moment for us, we believed we could win, but not by 5-0".

England move up to No. 9

England mens team had a rough ride in the Swaythling Cup, but they finished in ninth spot, three better than in Delhi, where at times replacing toilet paper was more important than replacing bat rubber!

Ecuador threw the first spanner in the England works by not turning up, a fact which was not communicated to Don Parker at the team hotel some 15 miles away, so the team had to rise at 6 a.m. whereas they could have rested until mid-day.

One commentator described the situation as "scandalous" when the England men played three games in 24 hours and had to rise at 6 a.m. after reaching their beds after 1 a.m. the previous night, four hours sleep.

Desmond Douglas summed it up "They wait until the matches are finished and then make the draw, which is too late. It is unusual for the Germans, everything is first class, except a terrible schedule."

However, England cruised through to the third stage but there lost to North Korea and Poland. The match against Korea was a thriller with England delighting its 200 supporters by taking a 2-0 lead as Douglas beat Kim and Prean overpowered Chu, but the

defeat of Cooke by Li saw England's chances slipping away in a battle that lasted five hours.

England men's challenge for the Swaythling cup ended when they lost 5-2 to Poland, but in the third stage, they beat Holland, Belgium and Hungary to finish ninth.

Don Parker said, "I was very pleased to beat those three countries in the third stage matches. The match against North Korea was the turning point. One slice of luck there, one edge ball in our favour and we could have beaten them and gone through."

Defiant Sky

Skylet Andrew finished his Swaythling cup run in great form. In the 5-4 victory over Belgium, the East Londoner protected his place in the England squad defiantly as he beat Thierry Cabrera the Belgian No. 2 and Phillippe Saive when the score stood at 4-4.

England one up

England womens team, losing 3-0 to Russia in their last match finished in tenth position, one better than in Delhi in 1987. Captain Jill Parker said "Our girls, Alison Gordon, Lisa Lomas and Fiona Elliot have put in an excellent team performance."

On the schedules, Jill said "I have never known it happen like this before. Players need to know who and when they are playing. For a world championship, it is ridiculous."

England women's most crucial loss was by 3-1 to Hungary, when both Alison and Fiona took Csilla Batorfi to three games and Alison lifted her game to beat Gabriella Wirth, a revenge win for her European League defeat. Defeats by Russia and Hong Kong followed, but overall a sound performance by our girls – all European players were finally overshadowed by the Asian girls.

China wins Corbillon

IN THE semi finals of the Corbillon Cup China beat Hong Kong 3-0, in a match where one of the Hongkong girls purposely appeared to use the wrong side of her bat. This followed the contro-



Sweden celebrates an historic victory

versy over the allegations of non-eligibility for the Hong Kong pair Chai Po Wa and Chan Tan Lui, which continued in Dortmund after a rumpus in Cardiff.

But shortly after ITTF President Ichiro Ogimura had his photo taken with some womens teams that included Hong Kong, it became clear that even the ITTF were side-stepping the issue, although agreeing that the rules needed tightening and suggesting that ETTA chairman John Prean might like to sit on a new ITTF Eligibility Commission.

In the final of the Corbillon Cup, Chen Jing and Li Hui fen beat South Korea 3-0, winning the women's team title for the eighth time in a row.

SWAYTHLING CUP

MEN: Final: Sweden bt China, 5-0 (M Appelgren bt Jiang Jialiang, 21-10, 18-21, 21-15, J-O Waldner bt Teng Ji 22-24, 21-19, 21-17; J Persson bt Chen Longcan, 22-24, 21-16, 21-13; Waldner bt Jiang, 21-16, 17-21, 21-16; Appelgren bt Chen, 21-17, 21-16). **Play-offs: 3rd-4th:** North Korea 5, Soviet Union 3 (Kim Song Hui bt V Dvorak, 21-17, 21-18; Chu John Choi lost to A Mazunov, 21-17, 21-19; Li Gun Sang bt D Mazunov, 21-13, 16-21, 21-16; Kim lost to A Mazunov, 19-21, 21-18, 23-25; Li bt Dvorak, 22-2, 21-9; Chu lost to D Mazunov, 17-21, 21-17, 18-21; Li bt A Mazunov, 21-18, 21-15; Kim bt D Mazunov, 24-22, 13-21, 21-13). **5th-6th:** South Korea 5, Japan 4. **7th-8th:** West Germany 5, Poland 2. **9th-10th:** England 5, Hungary 0 (S Andrew bt Z Kriston, 21-17, 14-21, 21-10; D Douglas bt K Nemeth, 21-15, 21-14; A Cooke bt Z Harczy, 21-12, 19-21, 21-13; Douglas bt Kriston, 21-14, 21-18; Andrew bt Harczy, 21-18, 16-21, 23-21). **11th-12th:** Belgium 5, Netherlands 1. **13th-14th:** Yugoslavia 5, Czechoslovakia 4. **15th-16th:** Taiwan 5, Nigeria 2. **17th-18th:** France 5, Bulgaria 0.

19th-20th: Brazil 5, United States 3. **21st-22nd:** Hong Kong 5, Finland 1. **23rd-24th:** Austria 5, Denmark 4. **25th-26th:** Italy 5, Israel 1. **27th:** Canada (no play-off). **28th-29th:** Turkey 5, Norway 3. **30th-31st:** Pakistan 5, Australia 4. **32nd:** India (no play-off). **33rd-34th:** Indonesia 5, Switzerland 1. **35th-36th:** Spain 5, Luxembourg 1. **37th-38th:** Malaysia 5, Ireland 4. **39th-40th:** Scotland 5, Wales 4. **41st-42nd:** Iraq 5, New Zealand 4. **43rd-44th:** Sri Lanka 5, Greece 2. **45th-46th:** Nepal 5, San Marino 1. **47th-48th:** Macao 5, Saudi Arabia 1. **49th-50th:** Trinidad and Tobago 5, Jordan 3. **51st-52nd:** Tunisia 5, Barbados 1. **53rd-54th:** Guatemala 5, Bangladesh 4. **55th-56th:** Madagascar 5, North Yemen 4. **57th-58th:** Mexico 5, Lebanon 1. **59th-60th:** Sri Lanka 5, Kenya 2. **61st-62nd:** Colombia 5, Cyprus 2. **63rd-64th:** Iceland 5, Palestine 0. **65th-66th:** Togo 5, Netherlands Antilles 0. **67th-68th:** Liechtenstein 5, Guernsey 1.

CORBILLON CUP

WOMEN: Final: China 3, South Korea 0. **Play-offs: 3rd-4th:** Hong Kong 3, Hungary 0. **5th-6th:** North Korea 3, Japan 0. **7th-8th:** Czechoslovakia 3, Sweden 1. **9th-10th:** Soviet Union 3, England 0. **11th-12th:** Netherlands 3, United States 0; **13th-14th:** Yugoslavia 3, Romania 0. **15th-16th:** Bulgaria 3, Taiwan 1. **17th-18th:** France 3, Denmark 0. **19th-20th:** West Germany 3, Austria 0. **21st-22nd:** Canada 3, Finland 0. **23rd-24th:** Belgium 3, Poland 1. **25th-26th:** Indonesia 3, Italy 2. **27th-28th:** Luxembourg 3, Macao 1. **29th-30th:** Australia 3, Malaysia 2. **31st-32nd:** India 3, Brazil 2. **33rd-34th:** Cuba 3, Nigeria 2. **35th-36th:** Greece 3, Nepal 1. **37th-38th:** Scotland 3, Colombia 2. **39th-40th:** Norway 3, Peru 0. **41st-42nd:** Spain 3, Wales 1. **43rd-44th:** New Zealand 3, Turkey 1. **45th-46th:** Israel 3, Malta 0. **47th-48th:** Ireland 3, Jordan 0. **49th-50th:** Jamaica 3, El Salvador 2. **51st-52nd:** Kenya 3, Guatemala 0. **53rd-54th:** Lebanon 3, Cyprus 0. **55th** (no play-off) Netherlands Antilles.

The Leeds National Championships

Ice-cool Cooke does it the hard way!

by JOHN WOODFORD in Portsmouth

ALAN COOKE, 23 from Chesterfield, Derbyshire is now firmly entrenched as the undisputed No. 1 star of English table tennis. In the Leeds National championships at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth on May 6, he once again displayed true professionalism overcoming all the hurdles placed in this path with spirit, courage and ice-cool temperament to retain the title, winning for the second time.

He did it the hard way, adding the coveted English crown to his Commonwealth title earned in Cardiff and his Top 12 title won at Clacton. The only place he could not hit peak form was in the world championships in Dortmund, but as the saying goes "you cannot win them all".

Stunning performances by teenagers Chris Oldfield and Matthew Syed against Cooke in the later rounds enriched the occasion. Oldfield is now being looked upon in a new light as he came within two points of beating Cooke in the fifth game.

In the semi-finals, Syed, recently honed to some degree of perfection by Chen Xinhua is now lining up for re-admission to the England elite squad after knocking out Nicky Mason in the quarter-finals and taking the new champion to five games before cramp took its toll in the final game, leaving Cooke to race home 21-13.

Don Parker will relish a big squad bursting with talent and containing some fine defenders - Lisa Lomas the new womens champion, Syed and Andrea Holt

fulfil those roles, but things are not looking so rosy for Skylet Andrew who lost to Jimmy Stokes in Round 3, but Syed and Mason had the last laugh when they retained the mens doubles title, beating Cooke and Carl Preat for at least the third time this season, proving Parker's point that are his best doubles pair.

I hinted in the Daily Telegraph that I thought Carl Preat had an excellent chance of winning his first England crown. My suggestion that he could well claim his first win over Desmond Douglas was dismissed in several quarters, but my hunch proved correct up to the final where Cooke once again regained total control of all his assets and disposed of Carl 21-18, 21-19, 21-15.

That win appeared to place Preat in a theoretical England 2 ranking position, which will I hope, give us a situation next season where Desmond Douglas will give England when they need it, the finest No. 3 player in Europe with the exception of world champions Sweden.

However, back to Portsmouth, two more teenagers startled spec-



Lisa Lomas



Alan Cooke

tators on Saturday by winning the mixed doubles final. They were Julie Billington and John Holland both from Derbyshire. They whipped out the second seeds Mason and Alison Gordon in the semis and then dumped Skylet Andrew and Fiona Elliot in the final 21-16, 25-23, a magnificent achievement. Possibly, they are the first unseeded pair to win the title.

Lisa Lomas has come in from the cold. She has fought hard over the last twelve months to regain her form. Results of her efforts against adversity began to show in Dortmund when she beat the former European champion Valentina Popova.

Chen Xinhua has been present at a number of England training camps this season. It could be his influence that is helping England's defensive experts Syed, Lomas and Andrea Holt, note they all did well at Portsmouth.

Lisa's return to glory was more notable because she had to beat both her major rivals Alison Gordon in the final and Fiona Elliot in the semi-finals. The results of the womens singles left no doubts in Don Parker's mind that we have four outstanding players at the top of the tree - Lomas, Gordon, Elliot and (from Ramsbottom) Andrea Holt whose almost unique blend of attack and defence looks so promising.

RESULTS

Men's singles. *Qtr-finals:* A Cooke (Derbys) bt J Stokes (Berks) 21-9, 21-16, 21-14; M Syed (Berks) bt N Mason (Surrey) 21-18, 21-12, 12-21,

21-4; C Preat (LoW) bt S Dorking (Essex) 21-10, 21-10, 21-14; D Douglas (Warwicks) bt B Billington (Derbys) 21-19, 21-18, 21-17. *Semi-finals:* Cooke bt Syed 21-12, 21-23, 21-15, 16-21, 21-13; Preat bt Douglas 21-16, 15-21, 21-16, 21-17. *Final:* A Cooke (Derbys) bt C Preat (LoW) 21-18, 21-19, 21-15.

Men's doubles. *Semi-finals:* Mason & S Andrew (Essex) bt G Sandley & P Bradbury (Bucks) 21-17, 21-18; Cooke & Preat bt C Oldfield (Yorks) & M O'Driscoll (Yorks) 21-10, 21-19. *Final:* Mason & Andrew bt Cooke & Preat 21-15, 22-20.

Women's singles. *Qtr-finals:* A Gordon (Berks) bt J Harris (Staffs) 21-18, 21-17, 21-11; A Holt (Lancs) bt J Shaw (Yorks) 21-9, 21-11, 21-13; L Lomas (Beds) bt C Giles (Devon) 21-10, 21-4, 21-6; F Elliot (Staffs) bt M Sainsbury (Berks) 21-17, 17-21, 18-21, 21-14, 21-13. *Semi-finals:* Gordon bt Holt 22-18, 21-17, 21-19. Lomas bt Elliot 21-12, 21-17, 15-21, 21-19.

Women's doubles. *Semi-finals:* Elliot & Lomas bt J Billington (Derbys) & D Toole (Yorks) 21-17, 21-16; Gordon & Sainsbury bt Shaw & Holt 21-11, 21-8. *Final:* Elliot & Lomas bt Gordon & Sainsbury 21-18, 21-16.

• Footnote: The tournament schedule for the final hours of the tournament was blown off course by long drawn out five-game singles matches involving three defensive players. The promise of a finish of the singles by 7 p.m. led to extra orders from national newspapers, but the delays and the single-table staging of the semi-finals led to journalists orders being cancelled. Amongst the casualties (words were ordered but could not be delivered in time) were the "Daily Mail" and "The Times". Other papers cut down our space dramatically.

Media Facilities in Dortmund

MOST of the facilities for the 500 journalists were good. The rooms provided were spacious although overflowing at peak periods with writers sharing desks and German-keyboarded (QUERTZ) typewriters.

On the plus side, the computer service from the 36 courtsides was brilliant. We were able to get an up-to-the-minute print-out on any match during the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups and results within seconds.

The second major plus was a system of quotes from players in major matches that arrived on our desks within minutes, saving us precious time chasing players or going to the official press conferences.

Missing was a large wall display, especially valuable during the individual events so that scribes can see at a glance what is happening. Instead, we had to scabble through mountains of paper. After an appeal by Morley Myers (UPI) certain improvements were made on the wall display - the results sheets (A4) were pinned up, so there were crowds of newsmen peering to read tiny scorelines at 5ft away.

The whole system was to some extent bogged down in new technology, fast computers, fast copying. In general, everyone did their best to help when almost everything of course, was geared to give top priority to television requirements . . . very important we all agree . . . but not to the discomfort of other sections of the international and national media who come not on holiday, but to work hard.

Top rating for assistance went to Manfred Schafer, the deputy press officer. His help got us out of several scrapes with deadlines.

The refreshment area for the media provided free beer and soft drinks but everything else had to be paid for.

On the telephone communication side, there were 25 outside lines with four switchboards and teams of cheery operators. There were no collect (transfer charge) calls, so money had to be paid for all calls although the link-line (freephone) calls to London newspapers cost only pennings each time.

ORMESBY CUP RESULTS - QUARTER FINALS

Blackburn (Postal 1) beat Stockton (ICI Cass&S) 5-3
Ipswich (Britannia) beat Brighton (Pavilion TTC) 5-1
Willesden (Apollo) beat Birmingham (Handsworth Victoria) 5-2
N Middlesex (Thorn Ellenborough) beat Bracknell (Kingfisher) 6-0

The players representing these teams in the matches mentioned above were: Stockton M Corking, M Nesbitt, S Brunskill. Ipswich R Tanner, J Kitchener, R. Nelhams. Brighton P Elphick, R Cosens, R Venner. Willesden S Andrew, N Mason, M McCarthy. Birmingham I Gunn, P Gunn, B Johnson. N Middlesex N Tyler, G Sandley, T Stark. Bracknell G Kemp, K Hodder, P Savins.

Which way table tennis?

by RICHARD EATON of the "Sunday Times"



Richard Eaton

MANY of the weeks of preparation and thousands of pounds spent in getting England's players into the best shape for the World Championships were wasted. Captain Donald Parker could have been forgiven for blowing his top at the disgraceful dissipation of resources and talent caused by the scheduling in Dortmund in March and April.

Donald didn't, partly I suspect because he had already called the organisers "boy scouts" for asking England to give Ecuador another chance for not turning up on time; but also because by the time the exact draw for the second stage became known it was too late to do anything about it.

Damage to moral?

Complaints at that stage would have led to negative thinking and risked damage to morale. England's men were already bracing themselves to face Poland only a few hours after a titanic tussle against North Korea. As for the women they had been required to cope with midnight phone calls to tell them who they were due to play in the morning. England's captain has, however, made known his criticisms to the ITTF technical committee now that it is all over.

What happened marred what was otherwise one of the most

successful world championships in the history of the game. There were 69 nations, more than 500 players, 32 tables, and sometimes as many as 10,000 spectators. The scale of it all was breathtaking, the presentation was often magnificent, and the noisy involvement of the crowd in the main arena raised the roof and uplifted the emotions. But we should seek to see such blemishes never occur again. Fortunately, they may not do so.

That is because the ITTF has voted in favour of a new format for the Swaythling Cup. This will be similar to that used in the Corbillon Cup women's competition. Two singles players will play up to four singles between them. There will also be one doubles. The only difference with the women's format is that a third player must be used in the doubles. A team therefore has a minimum of three players, not two.

This will at least ensure that the

five-hour Korean marathon, which effectively ended England's hopes of reaching the last eight, could never happen again. Scheduling problems will be alleviated. Perhaps ironically however, England voted against the new format, which was also looked upon with displeasure by many of the leading nations.

They apparently feel that plunging straight into the first major change in the 60-year history of the Swaythling Cup is not the right way to go about things. So great a transformation, some of them think, should be tried and tested before being put into operation - for instance in the forthcoming inaugural World Team Cup.

Maybe they are right. I can't help a sneaking feeling however that when it comes to it the new format will help ease quite a few problems. It may also improve the presentation of the game. Oh, and by the way, the ITTF has decided that in future the draw - which took an absolute age at each stage in Dortmund - will at last be done

by computer. No more midnight calls, girls.

These and other difficulties illustrate the paradoxical crossroads at which the game exists. The defeat of China by Sweden in the men's final was high drama tinged with absolute farce. Fully fifteen minutes it took for China's protest at an umpiring decision to be considered. The referee pondered the point with the heads of two committees and meanwhile the game's greatest nation was threatening to walk out and cause a major incident.

Quick decisions

Down which road will table tennis go? Onwards to a carefully planned professionalism, quicker decision making and a slicker shop-window? Or will it be sidetracked by clinging to its cumbersome, outmoded and occasionally comic administrative structures?

CALENDAR OF WORLD EVENTS from the ITTF . . .

* Multi-sport events

1989

May 18	May 21	China Open Championships	Shanghai CHN
May 25	May 28	Hong Kong Open Championships	Hong Kong HKG
Jun 1	Jun 4	Japan Open Championships	Tottori JPN
Jun 7	Jun 11	US Open Championships	Miami USA
Jun 16	Jun 18	8th Youth French Open Championships	Cherbourg FRA
May 30	Jun 5	Brazilian Open Championships	Brasilia BRA
Jun 16	Jun 18	8th French Youth Open Championships	Cherbourg FRA
Jul 14	Jul 23	31st Caribbean Championships	Curacao AHO
Jul 22	Jul 30	32nd European Youth Championships	Luxembourg LUX
Jul 22	Aug 6	World Masters Games (all sports, for veterans)*	DEN
Jul 31	Aug 4	European Championships for the Disabled	Vienna AUT
Jul 31	Aug 4	Kenya Open National Championships	Nairobi KEN
Sept 6	Sept 9	555 World Cup 10	Nairobi KEN
Sept 16	Sept 17	Samaranch Trophy	Seoul KOR
Oct 19	Oct 22	Polish Open Championships	Poznan POL
Nov 2	Nov 5	Austrian Open Championships	Linz AUT
Nov 16	Nov 19	Hungarian Open Championships	Budapest HUN
Nov 23	Nov 26	Stiga World Grand Prix Masters (to be announced)	
Nov 30	Dec 3	Swedish Open Championships (SOC)	Jönköping SWE
Dec 8	Dec 10	Finnish Open Championships	Helsinki FIN

1990

Jan 5	Jan 14	4th Central American Games*	Tegucigalpa HON
Mar 1	Mar 4	F.R. Germany Open Championships	Saarbrücken FRG
Jun 2	Jun 3	4th Deutschland-Cup (Int. Chs. of Trier)	Trier FRG
August		16th Den. Am. & Caribbean Games*	Guatemala City GUA
Aug 23	Aug 26	Japan Open	Osaka JPN
Aug 29	Sept 2	555 World Cup 11	Chiba City JPN

A big 'Thank-you' to MALCOLM FRANCIS!



England's leading and most successful young coach

From all the players in his coaching squad, who wish him happy birthday with many thanks.

- ALEX PERRY:** England No. 2 Cadet, winner of 6 opens this season including the top 12.
- NICKY BRADFIELD:** England No. 3 Cadet, Winner of 3 opens this season.
- DAVID HEATH:** In the England Top 4 U/12's, winner of open tournaments.
- JOANNE BARHAM:** In her first season under Malcolm, now Kent champion for her age & now one of England's top U/11 players.
- PAUL CICCHELI:** In his first season playing at 13 years of age. Has become sussex U/14 champion represented Sussex U/17's, obtained an England Cadet ranking.
- PAUL BUTCHER:** In only 6 months has become Sussex public schools champion, and is the Sussex U/12 champion.

Finally, last but not least Birthday wishes from JANET SMITH: Scotland & Sussex Number one, Sussex Champion

Once again a big vote of thanks to Malcolm, to whom we all are very grateful and proud to have as our coach.

Good results, good fortune?

PERHAPS FATE had given us our full ration of good fortune for the season. Perhaps a very good Commonwealth and promotion to the European Super League was all we could expect. Both our teams improved their position compared with the previous World Championship in New Delhi. Our girls came 10th, our men 9th. In the latter case we had expected more.

We had performed honourably against Sweden and China in our home friendlies. We have a very good team and we entertained some hopes of a medal. However, under all the circumstances, perhaps 9th place was not too bad. It gained us a place in the World Team Cup next year which is of some importance.

A shift in power

Whilst the Chinese dominance of the Ladies' Game remained in Seoul, the writing was on the wall for China's men. Just as the South Korean men proved the Masters in the Olympics, so the Swedes proved superior in Dortmund. I was surprised to see the Chinese line up with players who had failed before and the World Champion Jiang in particular was a shadow of his former self. The Chinese in the main continued to place excessive faith in players with short pimples and penholders.

The Day of Glue

Alone among leading nations, they appear to have overlooked the attractions of 'Bike Glue' a substance which makes sponge bouncier and faster. It is not a trend I welcomed when I first wrote about this development some years ago, but I have changed my mind and now regard it as no bad thing. It enables players to play a little further away from the table. The ball stays in the air longer and this is more interesting than both players playing from close to the table, as was often the case in the past. That is not to say that the modern player is anchored in one spot. Waldner, Persson and Appelgren, particularly the latter, are quite superb far away from the table where they produce very good lobs and even counter hits. The Chinese in the main stayed close, which had served them well in the past. This time they seemed armed with old fashioned weapons and they had no answer to 'glue'. I think their European style players Xu Cencai and Chen Shibin (who toured here) were their best and with glue might have been a match for the Swedes. Neither was given a chance in the team event.

The Eclipse of South Korea

I must confess that I made South Korea favourites. How could one do otherwise after their superb display in Seoul where

Yoo Nam Kyu played like an angel. His impact there reminded me in some ways of that of Ogimura in London in 1954. A new dimension seemed to have appeared. With Kim Ki Taek almost as good and a new star in Kim Taek Soo, who had won the Euro-Asia, how could one look further? What I had overlooked was that the South Koreans have never travelled well and they did not do so this time. Yoo looked some way off peak fitness on which his game so much depends.



Yoo Nam Kyu, Korea

Curiously, South Korea and Sweden met in a group match. Sweden won 5-4 in a 6 hour epic in which Lindh lost three and his place to the rampant Persson and he never got it back. Persson did not lose another match till the Final where he fell to Waldner in 5. Waldner played like "A man born to be king". The Cup had his name of it – or so it seemed.

The Rise of Sweden

The Swedes got better and better as the tournament progressed. Two men in the Final and a 5-0 victory in the Team Final, such facts speak for themselves. Superlatives are hard to find, but deserved. They have four stars of absolute world class. To the question of why it took so long, i.e. what happened in Delhi, the Swedish Coach, Glen Ost is reported to have said that it was a different event in which his players had played with a bat in one hand and a toilet roll in the other! One hopes that glue was attached to the right weapon!

We await with interest what the future will bring, how China will react to the shift which has taken place, whether the response will be a greater emphasis on top spin players and acceptance of 'glue' or whether China will continue with more traditional Chinese methods based on short pimples and penholder techniques. My

guess is that a well balanced squad will emerge in two years time, but that most current players will disappear into Coaching or to European Clubs.

Among such giants England is now very near to greatness. The door is open, but we have yet to walk through it. We nearly did in Paris, where we won the European Silver Medal, but in Dortmund the door never opened.

English Players

There was much to admire in the play of most English competitors. Alison Gordon's win against Olga Nemes as well as a very partisan crowd was quite stunning. This was, after all, the winner of the European Top 12. Alison now knows she can do it and nothing is more important than that. Lisa Bellinger lost an epic battle to a very good Chinese (their ladies are always good) in five. She was very close to winning and that would have been really something. Our men had rough draws. Nicky Mason again lost to his Bogeyman Nemeth from Hungary, unfortunately in the qualifying rounds. Des Douglas and Alan Cooke lost to Chinese, but looked to have chances at times. Skylet Andrew and Carl Prean met the eventual finalists Waldner and Persson. Carl lost to the Champion 21, -21, -19, -19 in an excellent if nerve-wracking contest and so went out our last survivor. As the score indicates, Carl had his chances, but it was not to be.

I have mentioned our place in the top 10 for both men's and ladies' teams. Both had relatively comfortable passages to the round of the Last 16, but rough draws from then on. The men had to win their match against North Korea, but a 2-0 lead disappeared and their defender Li Gungang proved the joker in the pack, winning three. We lost three 19 or deuce in the third, but we won two that way as well. We could have won 5-0, but so could our opponents. In the end we lost 5-3 to the eventual third placed nation. It was a five hour epic, an astonishing match. Nothing I can write can convey the quite incredible tension and the constant fluctuations of fortunes. It was an evening match and meant a late finish. The next morning we were expected to be on the table again at 9 o'clock (what other spectator sport has such ridiculous starts?).

Without boring readers with



John Prean

the various problems of transport (great throughout) and finding a meal (the canteen had shut) it meant that our team played Poland the following morning after 4 or so hours sleep, which is no way to prepare for Grubba and Kucharski. That match, too, was lost, though not without hopeful moments, which in the event did not last. We won our remaining 4 matches, but that was only enough to finish 9th, a poor reward for 4 wins from 6 matches in Category 1.

Germany with two wins from 6 finished 7th and Japan with a similar tally finished 6th, but that was the way the Dortmund cookie crumbled.

First opponents: The invisible men.

Before entering Category 1 a group had to be won, which in the end we did via two 5-0 wins against Finland and Ireland. However, our first opponents Ecuador did not turn up in a match scheduled for 9 o'clock in the morning, a favourite time for matches involving England. I don't know who decided this, but, when Ecuador had not appeared, a decision was made to postpone that match till the evening. Deep concern was obviously felt for those who had neither turned up nor sent a message, little for those who had come and had had to get up at 5 in the morning to be there. We protested and eventually the match was re-scheduled for 2 o'clock when the Ecuadorians again did not turn up. The incident received much publicity during the first two days when little goes on under the new playing system which followed to destruction of the old Category system which was an infinitely better way of

Chairman in Dortmund 2

doing things. This did not make the sport look good, but journalists could not be blamed if they turned their attraction to other matters when there was so little to report about what went on in the playing arenas.

A midnight awakening.

It has been my view for some time that scheduling was one of Table Tennis' great problem areas. The 9 o'clock starts, which I regard as ludicrously amateurish (except, of course, in participation events) are one aspect, but the lack of consideration shown to players is another chapter in this very unhappy table tennis saga.

I was awakened one night well after midnight to be given the time of the next match of the England ladies. No apology was ever received for this ridiculous inefficiency. That apart, there is no question that all our preparations and hopes were shot to pieces by a bungled schedule of quite grotesque inefficiency. No doubt, the sport is full of 'Mr Nice Guys' who have endured this sort of thing for 50 years and maybe that is why the world championships are conducted like a youth club rally. My hopes that anything will change are not high, but it is time someone spoke up.



Alison Gordon beat Nemes

Liechtenstein vs China

It was tragic that the old Category system was abandoned. Nations divided into categories then and promotion and relegation were important issues. I was not around when these changes came about. I have no doubt that this was the result of democratic votes, but how democratic is it, if a nation with a handful of players has as many votes as one with thousands? Supporters of the new system argued that now Liechtenstein not only has a chance of playing China, but can become world champions. Under the old system only a place in Category 3 beckoned. All small nations must have the chance of winning the world title. If such highly theoretical criteria really are regarded as important, then surely they could be satisfied by continental or group qualifying events and the top 16 or 24 nations

would then contest the final stages, as they do in the Soccer World Cup. Even the Olympics need a qualifying process, big as they are.

Table Tennis sees virtues in quantity at the expense of quality, in 30 or more tables played on at the same time, in the 9 o'clock start and ultimately the ideals of the youth club rally rather than those of a spectator sport. Each year new nations appear, often at a very early stage of development in table tennis terms. It does them few favours to play against China or other nations who have been playing much longer and are therefore stronger. Local works teams do not play Manchester United, to quote the example of soccer, a highly successful sport and it is right that ladders should exist on which you climb to the top. Only in Table Tennis is it thought virtuous and desirable for Liechtenstein to play China, at any rate without any qualifying process which establishes that right, other than payment of an ITTF membership fee.

A Moloch

The result is that the World Championships have become a moloch which is beginning to devour itself, too large to be fair to everyone and therefore unfair to all, some perhaps more than others. It is not the intention of these notes to indicate that the German organisers did a bad job. In some respects they did a very good one against a generally unsatisfactory background. There were too many nations, too many competitors. World Championships are about excellence, about spectators, about spectacle and showmanship. I do not see how you can serve the twin interests of all the above AND mass participation. The contradiction is total, the achievement impossible.

Swaythling Cup destroyed

One consequence of mass participation is the search for shorter matches and formats, so that more players still can be accommodated. In that cause (I can think of no other reason) the Swaythling cup has been destroyed and I cannot put it in any other way. The best of 9 format (many poor



Carl Prean tested Waldner

matches ended at 5-0) has been replaced by a best of 5 format, still contested by three players, though somewhat under-employed ones. If the match goes the full distance (i.e. a 3-2 score line) one player will play two singles, the other two will only play one and a doubles. If the match ends early at, say, 3-0 two players will play one singles and one will play only one doubles – not much for which to travel half way round the world. I can imagine little which is more tepid or less attractive for players and spectators alike. I cannot think what possessed delegates to vote for something so destructive and sad. I can think of no other reason than the thought of little nations that a 3-0 defeat is better than a 5-0 one, if the contest with China really materializes. The Swaythling Cup has been responsible for so many great moments in our sport, so many glorious hours. In Dortmund all that was destroyed and something very luke-warm was substituted, without trial, without credentials. It is difficult to resist the conclusion that more and more officials are surfacing who do not like the sport very much and therefore that the less of it that is seen, the better. We seem to drift more and more into an era in which administrators matter more than players. There seem too many administrators



Jan-Ove Waldner, World Champion

about, who really do not like the game, whose heart is in the hard bat era or in off table activities. I cannot explain in any other way the surgery on the Swaythling Cup which has made one of great institutions into a cripple.

Europe's influence still diminishing

There were further signs that Europe's influence is now insignificant and still diminishing, that a great deal of experience and long traditions count for little. Nearer home, the sport has undoubtedly made a lot of progress. Dortmund was a sharp reminder that we must continue to rely mainly on our efforts and on the sound base we have created.

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The Leeds County Championships

1,300 players competed during the season

by DOUG MOSS

AT THE beginning of April most of the 640 match programme is complete – a very few matches outstanding. In the biggest competition yet 1300 players have taken part and the largest number came from the Junior Section.

SENR 1A:

Cambs	4	Warwicks	6
Herts	0	N'berland	10
Norfolk	6	Worcs.	4
Yorks 2.	5	Essex	5

Essex struggled to get a point against York 2, with Ruth Bray and Helen Broomhead (Y) winning their 3 events. Des Charlery (E) beat Lee Hewitt 17 and 19 in the last singles to secure the draw. But Essex finished well clear of rivals to earn an immediate return to Premier Div. Norfolk and Herts are the demotees.

Sandra Roden (Wo) was the only player to win 100% singles in this Section. Steve Dorking (E) and Phil Gunn (Wa) were the most successful men.

SENR 1B:

Dorset	1	Kent	9
Middx 2.	6	Somerset	4
Surrey	6	Avon 4.	4
Sussex	7	Devon 2.	3

Surrey, with a win over Avon, completed their programme unbeaten. So both teams demoted last season regain Premier status. Somerset are demoted – joined by Dorset, who return to Div 2 after one season. Tom Cutler (Mx) played well to be unbeaten in singles and Glen Baker (Sy) got 100% in singles and doubles. Sue Butler (Dv), by virtue of a deuce in third win over Sally Weston (Sx), retained her unbeaten singles record.

SENR 2A:

Ches 1.	10	Ches 2	0
Ches 2	2	Lancs 2.	8
Leics 2.	10	Ches 2.	0
Notts	6	Leics 2.	4
Warwicks 2.	7	Cumbria	3

Ches 1 and Lancs 2 teams both had convincing wins. But the championship is still not decided until these teams meet. Lancs are 1 point ahead and Ches. will need to win to get the title. Amanda Goodwin and Marjorie Riddle have performed well for Lancs winning all singles and doubles events – and Keith Williams (La) also has a clean sheet.

SENR 2B:

Avon 2.	9	Dorset 2.	1
Dorset 2.	6	Cornwall 2.	4
Wilts	7	Herefords	3
Worcs 2.	1	Glos	9

Hants had already completed their fixtures and won promotion. With the services of Sarah Hammond, Sarah Turner and Cheryl Buttery Hants went through the season winning 23 of the 24 ladies events! The 3 events for Hereford v. Wilts were won by Mark Owen and Michael Owens, which included a 17 in 3rd doubles win

over Kevin Satchell/Terry Bruce.

SENR 2C:

Cambs 2.	3	Suffolk 2.	7
Herts 2.	3	Lincs	7
Northants	4	Beds 1.	6
Beds. 1	7	Beds 2.	3

Northants lost their first match to Beds – so Lincs win over Herts 2 gave them the title. Lincs were well served by Jane Strawson, who won all her singles and doubles events.

SENR 2D:

Kent 2.	3	Bucks	7
Oxon	4	Essex 3.	6
Sussex 2.	7	Surrey 2.	3
Essex 2.	10	Berks 2.	0

Essex 2 take the title, and with their first team going back to Premier, they will compete in Div. 1 next season. Essex 3 were runners-up just 1 point behind. Bucks left it to the end of the season to get a win but finish level with Kent 2 at the foot of the Table.

Linda Radford (E3) was the only singles player to go through the season unbeaten – and also with Alison Gower had 100% in doubles.

JUNIOR PREMIER: Yorkshire were invincible and again take the title. In the 7 matches the team dropped only 8 events. It was a great team performance with Michael O'Driscoll, Chris Oldfield and Debbie Toole being unbeaten and Mark Stephenson and Joanne Roberts losing only 1 singles. Essex had 5 wins, including a 6-4 win over Lancs, and got the runners-up spot. Middlesex make an immediate return to Div. 1 and are joined by Staffs.

RESULTS

Dy 6	Dv 4	Y 10	Dv 0
E 1	Y 9	Dy 3	La 7
Mi 1	La 9	E 9	Bd 1
St 4	Bd 6	Mi 4	St 6
La 4	E 6	La 1	Y 9
Y 9	Dy 1	St 3	E 7
Bd 6	Mi 4	Bd 7	Dy 3
Dv 6	St 4	Dv 5	Mi 5

JUNR 1A:

Ches.	3	Yorks 2.	7
Durham	10	Hunts	0
Lancs 2.	6	Lincs	4
Warwicks	7	Notts	3

Yorks 2 take the title but only by a superior sets average over Warwicks. But the Midlanders will be back to Premier Div after 1 season. Ches and Hunts are the demoted teams. No player got 100% in singles but Rajinder Singh/David Clarke (Wa) won all their doubles events.

JUNR 1B:

Berks	5	Surrey	5
Herts	6	Sussex	4
Kent	5	Avon	5

It was very close in this Section with just 2 points separating the top 5 teams. Kent took the title with a 1 point lead over Herts, who went from 5th to runners-up position by their win over Sussex. Nicola Cracknell and Lisa Crick played well for Berks to win all their doubles and 11 of 14 singles events.

JUNR 2A:

Ches 2.	4	N'berland	6
Cumbria	6	Lancs 3.	4
Derbys 2.	3	N'berland	7
Derbys 2.	10	Cumbria	0
Lancs 3.	5	Ches.	5
Northants	9	Leics	1
Warwicks 2.	8	Clwyd	2

Northants had a very good 9-1 win over Leics and top of the Table with 15 points. But, at the time of writing, N'berland have 2 matches to play needing 4 points, with 17 events for, to draw level. Stephen Coverdale (Nd) has 100% in singles. In this section both Natasha Williams (Cw) and Sally Russell (Np) were unbeaten in singles and Cerie Tierney/Suzie Sorrention (Ch) had 100% in doubles.

JUNR 2B:

Cambs	0	Hants	10
Glos	3	Middx 2.	7
Glos	1	Hants	9
Hunts 2.	0	Berks 2.	10
Hunts 2.	0	Worcs	10
Middx 2.	9	Cambs	1
Oxon	8	Herts 2.	2
Worcs	3	Oxon	7

8 matches were played at St. Neots to complete this Section. It was down to the Oxon/Worcs match to decide the Champs. With Gavin Yates (Ox) playing well to beat both Lee Horton and Jason Thompson – and the Oxon girls (Dawn Barnett and Sally Hughes) maintaining their 100% records in singles and winning the doubles, Oxon got a convincing 7-3 win. Joanne Hill (Wo) lost her first singles of the season. Hants go 10-0 and 9-1 wins and came from behind to take the runners-up spot and leave Worcs in 3rd place.

Jeff Giles (Ha) and Gavin Yates (Ox) were the most successful boys in the Section each losing just 1 singles. And Giles, with Mark Thorne, was unbeaten in doubles. Emise Kottasz and Liz Blanch (Mi) also won their doubles events.

JUNR 2C:

Avon 2.	1	Gwent	9
Devon 2.	5	Cornwall 1.	5
Devon 2.	10	Cornwall 2.	0
Devon 3.	2	Cornwall 1.	8
Devon 3.	9	Cornwall 2.	1
Devon 3.	1	Devon 2.	8
Glam.	8	Avon	2

Glamorgan have finished their programme with 13 points. But, at the time of writing, Cornwall 1 have 10 points and Gwent 11 points with both having 2 matches to play. Gwent and Cornwall have to meet. Glam may well be overhauled and it could be Gwent, the other Welsh team, to take the title. These 3 top teams have unbeaten girls Diane Elward (Gn), Sian Evans (Gw) and Rachel Boon (Co). Five matches were played at Plymouth. The most exciting, and one which may influence the championship, was the Devon 2/Cornwall 1 match which ended in a draw.

JUNR 2D:

Essex 3.	7	Kent 2.	3
Suffolk 1.	1	Essex 2.	9
Surrey 2.	9	Suffolk 2.	1
Sussex 2.	2	Norfolk 1.	8
Sussex 2.	4	Norfolk 2.	6

Essex 2 take the title, after demotion last season. The team dropped only 1 point – to the Essex 3 team, which finished as runners-up with just 1 point less. VETERANS PREMIER: Cheshire again won all their matches and retain the Championship title. Kent, getting three 5-4 wins in this second series, were again the runners-up.

Lincs, usually featuring high in the Table, won only 1 match and are relegated. Middlesex will join Lincs – the team got a win in their last match (v. Surrey).

No singles player went through the series unbeaten and just 1 doubles pair – Derek Holman/Connie Warren (Sy) – achieved this. The matches were hard fought with 9 of the 16 matches in this second weekend ending at 5-4.

RESULTS

Ch 5	Sy 4	Ch 9	Bu 0
K 8	Mi 1	K 5	Li 4
Bu 7	Li 2	Y 4	Sy 5
Sx 4	Y 5	Mi 4	Sx 5
Mi 2	Y 7	Sx 4	Ch 5
Sy 4	K 5	Bu 4	K 5
Li 3	Ch 6	Li 4	Y 5
Bu 6	Sx 3	Y 3	Mi 6

VETS 1A:

Ches 2.	10	Norfolk	0
Leics	5	Warwicks	4
Northants	1	Yorks 2.	8
Worcs	1	Essex	8

Continued on page 42

The Leeds County Championships 2

SENIORS

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	7	6	1	45	18	12
Lancashire	7	6	1	43	20	12
Berkshire	7	4	3	32	31	8
Leicestershire	7	3	4	30	33	6
Derbyshire	7	3	4	28	35	6
Devonshire	7	3	4	24	39	6
Yorkshire	7	2	5	28	35	4
Suffolk	7	1	6	22	41	2

Division 1A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex	7	5	2	0	51	19	12
Northumberland	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Warwickshire	7	4	1	2	32	38	9
Yorkshire 2nd	7	3	2	2	41	29	8
Worcestershire	7	2	2	3	36	34	6
Cambridgeshire	7	2	2	3	34	36	6
Norfolk	7	2	0	5	27	43	4
Hertfordshire	7	1	0	6	17	53	2

Division 1B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Surrey	7	7	0	0	54	16	14
Kent	7	5	1	1	46	24	11
Sussex	7	4	2	1	46	24	10
Middlesex 2nd	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Avon	7	3	0	4	33	37	6
Devonshire 2nd	7	2	0	5	33	37	4
Dorset	7	1	0	6	15	55	2
Somerset	7	0	0	7	13	57	0

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lancashire 2nd	7	6	1	0	54	16	13
Cheshire	7	5	2	0	50	20	12
Nottinghamshire	7	5	0	2	42	28	10
Leicestershire 2nd	7	4	0	3	45	25	8
Warwickshire 2nd	7	3	1	3	40	30	7
Cumbria	7	2	0	5	24	46	4
Cheshire 2nd	7	1	0	6	13	57	2
Clwyd	7	0	0	7	12	58	0

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hampshire	8	7	1	0	58	22	15
Cornwall 1st	8	7	0	1	62	18	14
Wiltshire	8	6	0	2	55	25	12
Gloucestershire	8	5	1	2	51	29	11
Herefordshire	8	3	1	4	40	40	7
Avon 2nd	8	2	1	5	32	48	5
Worcestershire 2nd	8	1	3	4	28	52	5
Dorset 2nd	8	1	0	7	14	66	2
Cornwall 2nd	8	0	1	7	20	60	1

Division 2C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Lincolnshire	7	6	1	0	50	20	13
Bedfordshire 1st	7	5	1	1	41	29	11
Northamptonshire	7	4	1	2	43	27	9
Suffolk 2nd	7	4	0	3	36	34	8
Bedfordshire 2nd	7	2	1	4	31	39	5
Cambridgeshire 2nd	7	2	0	5	33	37	4
Hertfordshire 2nd	7	0	3	4	26	44	3
Huntingdonshire	7	1	1	5	20	50	3

Division 2D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex 2nd	7	6	0	1	56	14	12
Essex 3rd	7	5	1	1	47	23	11
Sussex 2nd	7	5	1	1	43	27	11
Berkshire 2nd	7	4	0	3	28	42	8
Surrey 2nd	7	3	0	4	37	33	6
Oxfordshire	7	2	0	5	25	45	4
Kent 2nd	7	1	0	6	23	47	2
Buckinghamshire	7	1	0	6	21	49	2

JUNIORS

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	7	7	0	0	62	8	14
Essex	7	5	0	2	40	30	10
Lancashire	7	4	1	2	40	30	9
Derbyshire	7	4	0	3	33	37	8
Bedfordshire	7	3	1	3	30	40	7
Devonshire	7	1	3	3	28	42	5
Staffordshire	7	1	0	6	24	46	2
Middlesex	7	0	1	6	23	47	1

THE FINAL TABLES OF THE CAMPAIGN

Division 1A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire 2nd	7	6	1	0	54	16	13
Warwickshire	7	5	1	1	42	28	11
Lancashire 2nd	7	5	0	2	41	29	10
Lincolnshire	7	3	2	2	38	32	8
Durham	7	2	2	3	38	32	6
Nottinghamshire	7	2	0	5	32	38	4
Cheshire	7	2	0	5	27	43	4
Huntingdonshire	7	0	0	7	8	62	0

Division 1B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kent	7	4	3	0	44	26	11
Hertfordshire	7	4	2	1	38	31	10
Surrey	7	3	3	1	40	30	9
Sussex	7	4	1	2	39	31	9
Berkshire	7	3	3	1	39	31	9
Avon	7	2	2	3	35	35	6
Buckinghamshire	7	1	0	6	30	40	2
Somerset	7	0	0	7	14	56	0

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Northamptonshire	8	7	1	0	57	23	15
Northumberland	8	6	2	0	52	28	14
Derbyshire 2nd	8	4	0	4	43	37	8
Warwickshire 2nd	8	3	2	3	42	38	8
Leicestershire	8	4	0	4	35	45	8
Lancashire 3rd	8	2	2	4	38	42	6
Cheshire 2nd	8	2	2	4	38	42	6
Cumbria	8	2	1	5	31	49	5
Clwyd	8	1	0	7	24	56	2

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Oxfordshire	8	7	1	0	62	18	15
Hampshire	8	6	1	1	60	20	13
Worcestershire	8	6	1	0	59	21	13
Middlesex 2nd	8	5	1	2	54	26	11
Cambridgeshire	8	3	1	4	31	49	7
Gloucestershire	8	2	1	5	34	46	5
Hertfordshire 2nd	8	2	0	6	32	48	4
Berkshire 2nd	8	2	0	6	26	54	4
Huntingdonshire 2nd	8	0	0	8	2	78	0

Division 2C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cornwall 1st	8	6	2	0	58	22	14
Glamorgan	8	6	1	1	60	20	13
Gwent	8	6	1	1	53	27	13
Devonshire 2nd	8	4	3	1	56	24	11
Devonshire 3rd	8	3	1	4	39	41	7
Dorset	8	2	2	4	38	42	6
Avon 2nd	8	2	2	5	26	54	5
Cornwall 2nd	8	1	1	6	18	62	3
Wiltshire	8	0	0	8	12	68	0

Division 2D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex 2nd	8	7	1	0	64	16	15
Essex 3rd	8	6	2	0	58	22	14
Surrey 2nd	8	5	1	2	46	34	11
Norfolk 1st	8	5	0	3	46	34	10
Suffolk 1st	8	4	0	4	42	38	8
Norfolk 2nd	8	3	0	5	32	48	6
Kent 2nd	8	2	1	5	33	47	5
Sussex 2nd	8	1	1	6	25	55	3
Suffolk 2nd	8	0	0	8	14	66	0

VETERANS

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	7	7	0	45	18	14
Kent	7	6	1	39	24	12
Yorkshire	7	4	3	32	31	8
Sussex	7	3	4	32	31	6
Buckinghamshire	7	3	4	31	32	6
Surrey	7	3	4	31	32	6
Lincolnshire	7	1	6	26	37	2
Middlesex	7	1	6	16	47	2

Compiled by Les Smith
From Gloucestershire



John Souter, No. 1 in Middlesex

Division 1A	P	W	L	F	A	P
Essex	7	7	0	53	10	14
Cheshire 2nd	7	6	1	45	18	12
Yorkshire 2nd	7	5	2	35	28	10
Norfolk	7	4	3	31	32	8
Worcestershire	7	3	4	30	33	6
Warwickshire	7	1	6	22	41	2
Leicestershire	7	1	6	20	43	2
Northamptonshire	7	1	6	16	47	2

Division 1B	P	W	L	F	A	P
Hertfordshire	7	6	1	43	20	12
Sussex 2nd	7	5	2	35	28	10
Oxfordshire	7	4	3	32	31	8
Kent 2nd	7	3	4	31	32	6
Surrey 2nd	7	3	4	31	32	6
Middlesex 2nd	7	3	4	30	33	6
Dorset	7	3	4	28	35	6
Hampshire	7	1	6	22	41	2

Division 2A	P	W	L	F	A	P
Lancashire 1st	7	7	0	51	12	14
Yorkshire 3rd	7	6	1	41	22	12
Nottinghamshire	7	5	2	40	23	10
Cheshire 3rd	7	4	3	32	31	8
Northumberland	7	3	4	33	30	6
Lancashire 2nd	7	2	5	20	43	4
Lincolnshire 2nd	7	1	6	21	42	2
Clwyd	7	0	7	14	49	0

Division 2B	P	W	L	F	A	P
Essex 2nd	8	8	0	69	3	16
Essex 3rd	8	7	1	50	22	14
Hertfordshire 3rd	8	5	3	42	30	10
Huntingdonshire 1st	8	5	3	38	34	10
Northamptonshire 2nd	8	5	3	31	41	10
Norfolk 2nd	8	2	6	28	44	4
Huntingdonshire 2nd	8	2	6	23	49	4
Bedfordshire	8	1	7	22	50	2
Berkshire 4th	8	1	7	21	51	2

Division 2C	P	W	L	F	A	P
Berkshire 1st	8	7	1	53	19	14
Gloucestershire	8	7	1	51	21	14
Buckinghamshire 2nd	8	6	2	53	19	12
Hertfordshire 4th	8	5	3	35	37	10
Surrey 3rd	8	4	4	40	32	8
Berkshire 3rd	8	3	5	34	38	6
Wiltshire 2nd	8	2	6	30	42	4
Herefordshire	8	1	7	16	56	2
Wiltshire 3rd	8	1	7	12	60	2

Division 2D	P	W	L	F	A	P
Wiltshire 1st	7	5	2	38	25	10
Hampshire 2nd	7	5	2	38	25	10
Hertfordshire 2nd	7	5	2	38	25	10
Berkshire 2nd	7	4	3	34	29	8
Dorset 2nd	7	3	4	28	35	6
Sussex 4th	7	3	4	28	35	6

Superb organisation in Wiltshire

Another record entry as VETTS go West

by MIKE WATTS

THE inaugural WESTERN Masters superbly organised by Bill Willson and his Wiltshire colleagues attracted the biggest entry ever for a VETTS tournament with 198 entries.

Played at the Link Sports Centre in Swindon over the weekend of the 4th/5th March 1989, the tournament attracted almost all of the top Vetrans players in the country.

In the Over 40 Mens Singles, the winner was Derek Holman (Surrey) but all the glory was taken by VETTS Chairman Derek Schofield (Cheshire) who in successive rounds first put out Stuart Gibbs (Essex) two straight, then beat Malcolm Corking (Yorkshire) in a close three setter. Holman himself had to stop both danger man Henry Buist (Kent) and then Clive Morris also from Kent. Maybe the effect was too much for Schofield who then went down two straight in the final.

The Over 40 Womens Singles went by seedings with the two top seeds meeting in the final. Doreen Schofield (Cheshire) finally winning two straight against Carol Judson (Yorkshire). True to form Henry Buist added another VETTS Over 50 title to his collection when beating Lincolnshire's Matt Sheader in an absorbing final whilst the Over 50 Womens Singles was won by Joyce Coop (Dorset) who beat Janet Hunt (Worcs) at 21-19 in the third on expedite. Shocks in the Over 40 Mens Doubles were countless as top seeds Holman/Morris crashed to the all Leicestershire pairing of John Iliffe and John Hughes and second seeds Robin Stace and Keith Horton (Sussex) lost to Stan Battrick (Essex) and Ramish Bhalla (Hants). Final winners were fourth seeds Schofield/Sheader who beat unseeded Alan Timewell and Keith Powell from Cheshire.



Henry Buist, Kent

Henry Buist picked up a second title when in partnership with Mike Watts (Sussex) they just got home in the Over 50 Mens Doubles final 21-18 in the third over the Essex partnership of Fred Lockwood and Stan Battrick.

Derek Holman just failed to add a second title as he and partner Margaret Dignum (Kent) lost to the all Yorkshire pairing of Cleve Judson and Pat Bassano in the Mixed Doubles.



Cleve Judson, Yorks

FINAL SCORES

Over 40 Mens Singles	: D. Holman (Surrey)	bt	D. Schofield (Chesh)	19, 11
Over 40 Womens Singles	: D. Schofield (Ches)	bt	C. Judson (Yorks)	12, 14
Over 50 Mens Singles	: H. Buist (Kent)	bt	M. Sheader (Lincs)	10, 19
Over 50 Womens Singles	: J. Coop (Dorset)	bt	J. Hunt (Worcs)	13, -9, 19
Over 60 Mens Singles	: R. Etheridge (Kent)	bt	L. D'Arcy (Yorks)	17, 11
Over 60 Womens Singles	: J. Beadle (Kent)	bt	M. Jones (Chesh)	19, 10
Over 70 Mens Singles	: R. Satchell (Sussex)	bt	T. Jenkins (Bucks)	9, 18
Over 40 Mens Doubles	: D. Schofield (Chesh)/ M. Sheader (Lincs)	bt	A. Timewell/ K. Powell (Chesh)	15, -11, 14
Over 40 Womens Doubles	: D. Schofield (Chesh)/ C. Moran (Lincs)	bt	C. Judson/ P. Bassano (Yorks)	15, 20
Over 50 Mens Doubles	: H. Buist (Kent)/ M. Watts (Sussex)	bt	F. Lockwood/ S. Battrick (Essex)	-20, 12, 18
Over 50 Womens Doubles	: C. Moran (Lincs)/ P. Butcher (Kent)	bt	S. Coombes (Bucks)/ K. Fisher (Lincs)	-17, 16, 16
Over 60 Mens Doubles	: A. Davies (Oxon)/ A. Hartshorn (Lancs)	bt	J. Husband (Bucks)/ A. Gould (Lancs)	9, 9
Mixed Doubles	: C. Judson/ P. Bassano (Bucks)	bt	D. Holman (Surrey)/ M. Dignum (Kent)	-14, 17, 15
Restricted (Men)	: A. Hartshorn (Lancs)	bt	L. D'Arcy (Yorks)	-6, 19, 19
Restricted (Women)	: M. Maltby (Northants)	bt	J. White (Herts)	-15, 21, 15

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Essex 2-star junior tournament

Solder victory on home territory

by RON MACKENZIE

GRANT SOLDER on home ground at Harlow Sports Centre was in magnificent form to win the final of the junior boys singles. After winning an extremely tough and hard-hitting semi-final against Cornwall's Neil Bevan, Solder marched to beat in the final the top-seeded Andrew Eden from Lancashire.

The event attracted a huge entry of 350. The cadets played on the Saturday and the juniors on the Sunday and the table tennis of both days was of a very high standard.

The boys U.12 singles was won by Darren Blake (SY) who had no trouble in any of his matches.

Likewise, in the girls U.12 Nicola Deaton (Derby) was not extended in any of her matches and won the final comfortably. The Cadet Boys singles was won by Barry Forster beating Nicky Bradfield in the final following a very hard semi against qualifier Richard Hyacinth of Middlesex.

RESULTS

U.12 Boys singles final Darren Blake bt Steven Meddings 11, 10
 U.12 Girls singles final Nicola Deaton bt Sally Marling 10, 17
 Cadet Boys singles final Barry Forster bt Nicky Bradfield 10, -23, 9
 Cadet Girls singles final Katherine Goodall bt Sally Maling
 B. Forster John Blasco -6, 8, 11
 Cadet Boys doubles final Philip Robson bt D. Blake
 K. Goodall Linda Radford -19, 10, 18
 Cadet Boys singles final S. Marling bt Nicola Meddings 10, 16
 Junior Boys singles semi finals Andrew Eden bt Gary Knights 17, 16
 Grant Solder bt Neil Bevan 19, -20, 16
 Junior Boys singles finals G. Solder bt A. Eden 12, 14.
 Junior Girls singles semi Finals Katherine Goodall bt Debbie Toole
 Sally Marling bt Ellen Meddings
 Junior Girls singles K. Goodall bt S. Marling 8-12
 Junior Boys doubles final A. Eden bt G. Solder
 B. Mileham L. Jeffries 9, 20
 Junior Girls doubles final J. Roberts bt E Meddings
 K. Goodall A. Gower 10, 22



Steven Meddings



Sally Marling

Olympic money pouring in – £600,000,000

THE television rights for the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992 have been sold for around £600,000,000, a substantial amount of that sum will go to the various sports, in due course.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the ETTA are not very happy with the amount of money received by table tennis from the Seoul Olympics in general and in particular that the ETTA received a sum of around £5,000.



The British Olympic Association will publish a report shortly outlining the vital role played by funding from the Sports Council's Olympic Review Group – headed by Sebastian Coe – in maintaining Britain's status in Seoul.

National Olympic Committee members were presented recently with the Report's interim conclusions on British performance in Seoul and the changes to be made before 1992. Those conclusions were based on a month-long series of meetings earlier this year with all the governing bodies of Olympic Sports.

"Britain was able, in Seoul, to maintain its position in the world sporting hierarchy in what was the first true test, because of boycotts, since 1976", explained BOA General Secretary Richard Palmer. "In discussions with the governing bodies it became clearer that without the extra preparation monies received from the Coe Committee, through Minet sponsorship, we would have been incapable of performing to such a high level."

West Midland Regional Club League

TEN TEAMS from all parts of the West Midlands contested this year's Regional Club League, played on six sessions at Grove School in Market Drayton. Three matches were played each time, following the British League format and playing on two tables, starting at 1pm and finishing at 5.30 pm – a packed afternoon of play to justify the distances travelled. There was an air of intense activity, but also a social undercurrent as players renewed old acquaintances and relived past glories!

Four Pools from Evesham registered but never mobilised the strongest squad of players, and it was Paul Harmer's six-man squad from Telford who dominated the season. Bryan and Knott (Telford) proved a very competitive unit, evenly matched in standard and ringing the changes well. They had several very close tussles with Thorns and Leckie in particular, emerging with draws where all had seemed lost at the half-way stage.

The challenge

The fight for 2nd and 3rd places lasted right up to the final matches, with Dudley-based Thorns holding off the challenge from close neighbours Leckie. Results against the weaker teams proved all-important, sets difference alone separating the two teams for most of the season. Telford's second squad, playing as Bryan and Knott (Wrekin) were always close on their heels.

Shelfield fell by the wayside in mid-season, having failed to live up to their initial expectations, allowing Potteries-based Norton and West Warwickshire to dominate the middle ranks. Meanwhile Four Pools registered more and more players in the quest for elusive success, finishing the season with half of Worcestershire on their books! Only the two very young Grove squads were outclassed, but they tackled opponents many times their age with determination and unflagging optimism; they should now have learned that accuracy and guile have their place too beside vigour and youthful directness.

Ken Walton of Thorns seemed destined for the Player of the Year award although regretting an early defeat at the hands of Paul Harmer, but Bryan and Knott's Malcolm Langford had kept an unbeaten record and just managed to fit in sufficient matches to beat the 70% qualifying limit.

The final league table was:

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Bryan & Knott (Telford)	16	13	3	0	29
Thorns	16	11	4	1	26
Leckie	16	10	5	1	26
Bryan & Knott (Wrekin)	16	8	4	4	20
Norton	16	8	2	6	18
West Warwickshire	16	6	1	9	13
Four Pools	16	4	1	11	9
Grove V	16	1	1	14	3
Grove VI	16	1	1	14	3

STOP PRESS

Fast exit for Perrin

NICKY MASON and Skylet Andrew's fine mens doubles win at Portsmouth was not seen by Mason's manager Ray Perrin. He caught the fast train back to Wimbledon after Mason's exit in the mens singles to Matthew Syed.

Before he left Mr Perrin told national journalists that he did not think that his man had what it takes to reach the top! Mason declined to comment.

Canary Islands Chirping!

THE ETTA have received a letter from a group of keen table tennis players in the Canary Islands who would love to play a match against a team from England.

Anyone wishing to combine an exotic holiday with a friendly game should contact direct: Mr. Ramon, Excell Traders, PO Box 2028, La Naval, 126 -1, 35008 Las Palmas, Canary Islands

Ashford stop champions Bath

by MIKE LOVEDER

HIGH FLYING Ashford I now look set to relieve Bathwick Tyres of the League Championship. Ashford are poised to take their fourth trophy in four seasons having taken 3 points from Bath.

When these two sides met on 15 April Glenn Baker was injured and Peter Jackson was dropped! The match started, after the presentation of a £2,500 cheque to the Meningitis Trust in memory of Mark Sayer, with Jean-Michel Saive beating Kevin Satchell 16 & 10. Nicky Mason made little impact on Des Douglas. From eleven all in the first game Douglas came through to win 21-15. In the second game he took an irretrievable 13-3 lead and won 21-8. Steve Dorking was at No 3 to face the much improved Chris Rogers. Dorking lost the first 21-23 and went 0-4 down in the second. A spirited fightback saw him take a 12-8 lead which was sufficient to win 21-13. The reverse occurred in the deciding game as Dorking took a 7-3 lead only to find himself trailing 9-13. Rogers then won again at deuce. Dave Hannah looked less than impressive against Matthew Syed losing -12, -10 for Bath to take a 3-1 lead at half-time.

One of the highlights of the match was Saive's battle against Douglas. In a fast and furious con-

test Saive overpowered Douglas' lightning blocking blasting numerous shots down the line to win vital points and take the game at 21-15 in the third. Syed then carved up a nervous looking Mason 15 & 14 and this was followed by another long tussle as Dorking took on a fired up Satchell. At one game each it was Dorking who took a 15-10 lead in the third but had to fight all the way for a 21-19 victory. Hannah performed much better against Rogers winning the first game under 10. Rogers then came back with his third deuce win of the day, but the determined Scot won the third 21-13 for a hard-fought draw. A disappointing result for the favourites Ashford, but they made up for it just 6 days later.

Playing on home ground Douglas scraped through against Mason at 25-23 in the third. Having adjusted the bottom half of their team, Ashford rattled off the next six games. Saive beat Satchell and Douglas again, the latter at deuce in the third. Glenn Baker made miraculous recovery to beat Rogers and Satchell. Mason

gained revenge over Syed who also lost to Peter Jackson. Rogers took some consolation beating Jackson in the last game to leave the score standing at 6-2 to Ashford.

Butterfly Cardiff were also beaten 6-2 by Ashford while Bath were busily whitewashing Chan Construction. Bayer Bradford went down 3-5 to Ormesby and Armada 400 lost 0-8 to Bath although Alison Gordon lost in three to both Satchell and Rogers. Bayer Bradford could still survive.

Bradley Upset

On April 23 Bath beat Cardiff 7-1 and Ashford beat Armada 400 by the same score. Ormesby, playing at home to Grove I, produced a slightly surprising 6-2 victory with Horatio Pintea and Nigel Eckersley beating Bradley Billington. Chen Xinhua of course won his two including a 12 & 6 victory over Jimmy Stokes. Grove had to console themselves by winning the last two games with John Souter beating John Broe and Graham Sandley beating Nigel Eckersley. Games dif-

ference is now critical and it appears Ashford need only beat Bayer Bradford by any scoreline to lift the title. Indeed a 5-3 win should be enough unless Ormesby can beat Armada 400 and Bath 8-0!

Kettler Sport take Division 1 North with a 7-1 win over Grove II, and Britannia Ipswich snatched third place away from City of Leeds, crushing them a surprising 8-0. Burslem go down, beaten 5-3 by Ruston Marconi Lincoln. West Warwickshire finished just one game behind City of Leeds after drawing away to MBS St Neots.

Relegated Plymouth Bulldogs beat promoted C&L Ruislip 6-2 in Div. 1 South. Horsham Dolphins beat Rejects 7-1 to push them down to 5th place. Had this single result been reversed Rejects would have finished 2nd! Dagenham FC beat Doleq Carpets 7-1 to move up from fifth to third place as they never got to use Dave Wells this season.

Vymura International finished 2nd in Div 2 North despite losing 1-7 to Oldham. March beat Chan Construction II to hold on to third place. Royal Mail Leicester's 6-2 win over Grove III changed nothing as did Well Connected Wellinbro's result with Ormesby with the former having about 6 points to spare.

Ashford II took no gambles with Victory Sports Tonbridge beating them 6-2 to win Div. 2 South while the main challengers Chelmsford OC's drew with relegated Fellows Cranleigh. Deptford Rams drew with Butterfly Cardiff II too!

Liverpool win

Liverpool lift the Div 3 North title as they beat the Hartlepool People's Centre 6-2. Birmingham SC drew with Bri-Bar Byker while Vymura International crunched Crusaders Lincoln 7-1 to move up a place.

In Div. 3 South Horsham Dolphins II win by two points beating Ashford III 6-2 to leave the latter in bottom place. Rejects II gained revenge over Lambeth 4 Tops with a 6-2 win to finish in 2nd place with just one loss but five draws. Marley Ashford survived their first year in the division together with Gunnersbury Triangle.

Div 3 West waits for Bathwick Tyres II who are most likely to win the division ahead of Specsavers Barry who finished with a 6-2 win over Kingfisher Reading. Grove IV took a point from Doleq Carpets to leave Leckie as favourites for the propping up spot.



Mr 'Taff' Hughes, Sports Sales Manager of Kettler (GB), presents a sponsorship cheque to members of Kettler Sport table tennis team, winners of Division One (North) of the Leeds British League. As a result, they will now be promoted to the prestigious Premier Division of the League for the 1989-90 season. Former European Champion John Hilton leads the squad, one of five teams from the Kettler Wulstans Club, Stoke-on-Trent. The team has had a rapid rise to the Premier Division, playing in Division Three just over a year ago. Kettler's sponsorship also extends to the club's four other teams which play in the Potteries and District League under the joint Kettler-Ansells banner.

Pictured left to right are: Stephen Scowcroft, 'Taff' Hughes, Stephen Slater, John Hilton, Stan Deakin, Adrian Moore and Joe Deakin.

The Leeds British League 2

RESULTS

Premier	
Ashford	4 4 Bath
Ashford	6 2 Cardiff
Bath	8 0 Chan Cons
Ormesby	5 3 Bradford
Bath	2 6 Ashford
Armada 400	0 8 Bath
Cardiff	1 7 Bath
Armada 400	1 7 Ashford
Armada 400	1 7 Ormesby
Bradford	2 6 Ashford
Bath	4 4 Ormesby
Cardiff	4 4 Bradford
Bath	4 4 Grove

Div 1 North:

Leeds	4 4 Grove II
Kettler	7 1 St Neots
Lincoln	6 2 Ipswich
Warwicks	5 3 Burslem
Burslem	3 5 Lincoln
Ipswich	8 0 Leeds
Grove II	1 7 Kettler
St Neots	4 4 Warwicks

Div 1 South:

Ruislip	8 0 Horsham
Dagenham	5 3 Plymouth
Rejects	5 3 Ramlosa
Larkhall	2 6 Doleq
Doleq	1 7 Dagenham
Horsham	7 1 Rejects
Plymouth	6 2 Ruislip
Ramlosa	4 4 Larkhall

Div 2 North:

Leicester	6 2 Oldham
March	5 3 Ormesby
Vymura Int	8 0 Chan Co
Grove III	2 6 Leicester
Chan Cons	3 5 March
Oldham	7 1 Vymura Int
Wellingbro	5 3 Grove III

Div 2 South:

Ashford	6 2 Chelmsford
Cheltenham	5 3 Cranleigh
Poole	3 5 Deptford
Chelmsford	4 4 Cranleigh
Deptford	4 4 Cardiff
Tonbridge	2 6 Ashford
Cardiff	4 4 Tonbridge

Div 3 East:

Ipswich	3 5 Cranleigh
CM Keynes	4 4 Westfield
Dunstable	6 2 AHW Comets
Norwich	4 4 Ellenbro
AHW Comets	4 4 Norwich
Westfield	4 4 Ipswich
Ellenbro	7 1 CM Keynes

Div 3 North:

Byker	5 3 Ormesby
Hartlepool	6 2 Lincoln
Peterbro	1 7 Liverpool
Vymura Intl	5 3 Birmingham
Birmingham	4 4 Byker
Lincoln	1 7 Vymura Intl
Liverpool	6 2 Hartlepool

Div 3 South:

Ashford	4 4 Pillinger
Lambeth	2 6 Horsham
Marley Ash	0 8 Rejects
Larkhall	5 3 G Triangle
Horsham	6 2 Ashford
Rejects	6 2 Lambeth

Div 3 West:

Fareham	4 4 Reading
Grove IV	1 7 Launceston
Leckie	3 5 Doleq
Doleq	4 4 Grove IV
Reading	2 6 Barry
Barry	4 4 Bath II

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Ashford

THREE draws at the end of April gave Ashford I the Championship and Ormesby the runner-up spot. Former champions Bath are currently 4th with one outstanding fixture against Bradford. Bath must win this to take 3rd place from Grove. Bradford must draw to avoid relegation. With £1,500 at stake on this one match I back Bath! Jean-Michel Saive returns to Belgium for the summer and is looking forward to another season of Ashford's excellent team spirit. Grove will now need to recruit if they are to make an impact on the Premier next year. Armada must be grateful to Cardiff. A well deserved title to Ashford who are a fine example to the League - hard work justly rewarded.



Tony Stark (Armada 400), victor over Hannah & Eckersley



Andrew Eden, from Liverpool

the LEEDS BRITISH LEAGUE - TABLES



Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ashford	14	10	4	0	85	27	24
Ormesby I	14	9	5	0	79	33	23
Grove I	14	8	4	2	77	35	20
Bathwick Tyres I	13	7	5	1	69	35	19
Butterfly Cardiff I	14	4	2	8	49	63	10
Armada 400	14	2	1	11	30	82	5
Chan Construction I	14	2	1	11	23	89	5
B Bradford	13	1	2	10	28	76	4

Div 1 North

Kettler	14	11	1	2	75	37	23
Grove II	14	8	4	2	66	46	20
Br Ipswich	14	6	5	3	66	46	17
City Leeds	14	6	4	4	61	51	16
W Warwicks	14	6	4	4	60	52	16
RM Lincoln	14	4	0	10	35	77	8
St Neots	14	2	3	9	48	64	7
Burslem	14	2	1	11	37	75	5

Div 1 South

C&L Ruislip	14	11	2	1	80	32	24
Horsham D	14	7	3	4	63	49	17
Dagenham FC	14	6	2	6	57	55	14
T Ramlosa E	14	4	5	5	55	57	13
Rejects I	14	5	3	6	52	60	13
Larkhall	14	5	3	6	47	65	13
Doleq	14	3	5	6	48	64	11
Plymouth	14	2	3	9	46	66	7

Div 2 North

Wellingbro	13	13	0	0	89	15	26
Vymura Int	13	10	0	3	67	37	20
March TTC	14	8	1	5	61	51	17
Leicester	14	7	1	6	60	52	15
Oldham	14	5	0	9	51	61	10
Ormesby II	13	5	0	8	43	61	10
Grove III	13	4	0	9	39	65	8
Chan Con II	12	0	0	12	14	82	0

Div 2 South

Ashford II	14	12	1	1	86	26	25
Chelmsford	14	11	1	2	80	32	23
Cheltenham	13	7	2	4	50	54	16
Deptford R	14	7	2	5	58	50	16
VS Tonbridge	14	4	3	7	49	63	11
J Poole	13	4	1	8	42	62	9
B Cardiff	14	2	3	9	43	69	7
F Cranleigh	14	1	1	12	32	80	3

Div 3 East

Ellenbro	14	11	3	0	80	32	25
Norwich F	14	9	5	0	81	31	23
Dunstable	13	7	2	4	59	45	16
AHW Comets	14	6	4	4	55	57	16
Cranleigh	13	5	5	3	54	50	15
Westfield	14	1	4	9	37	75	6
CM Keynes	14	1	3	10	37	75	5
B Ipswich	14	1	2	11	37	75	4

Div 3 North

Liverpool	14	12	0	2	82	30	24
Hartlepool	14	10	2	2	74	38	22
Birmingham	14	7	4	3	64	48	18
Vymura Int	14	6	1	7	58	54	13
BB Byker	14	4	5	5	55	57	13
Lincoln	14	4	2	8	44	68	10
Peterbro	13	3	2	8	41	63	8
Ormesby II	13	0	2	11	22	82	2

Div 3 South

Horsham D	14	10	3	1	76	36	23
Rejects II	14	8	5	1	73	39	21
Larkhall	12	7	1	4	51	45	15
Lambeth 4T	14	7	1	6	57	55	15
Pillinger	14	3	4	7	49	63	10
G Triangle	12	3	3	6	44	52	9
Marley Ash	12	3	2	7	35	61	8
Ashford	14	2	1	11	39	73	5

Div 3 West

S Barry	14	9	3	2	78	34	21
Launc'ton	14	7	5	2	65	47	19
Bath II	11	8	2	1	59	29	18
K Reading	13	6	3	4	59	45	15
AG Fareham	13	2	7	4	50	54	11
Doleq Carp	13	3	5	5	43	61	11
Grove IV	13	0	5	8	28	76	5
Leckie	13	1	2	10	34	70	4

Counties 1

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

NEWBURY Ladies again take prime spot in this column by continuing in their winning ways in the Rose Bowl by beating Willesden by a convincing 5-1 scoreline to move into the National semi-finals. Bracknell League Champions Kingfisher having reached the same national quarter final stage as the Newbury ladies were hopeful of similar glories but found themselves up against North Middlesex who included a trio of characters who rumour has it can play a bit, namely former England No. 2 Graham Sandley, current Wales No. 1 Nigel Tyler and England No. 45 Tony Stark as their number 3. Small wonder that the Bracknell squad of Graham Kemp, Keith Hodder and Paul Savins found life a bit tough and succumbed, but not without a struggle. Nevertheless reaching the last eight of a national competition is thought to be best performance ever of a Bracknell team in the League's 30 year history. Perhaps Kingfisher will be able to put in a repeat performance next year as they are already assured of the Bracknell title for the 1988/89 season.



Mandy Sainsbury (Berkshire) will coach this summer but is retiring from some competitive play including the Bundesliga. See her letter and Don Parker's reply on Page 29.

I happen to know that a slightly different set of Kingfisher players are currently holding top place in the Leeds Southern Regional League Premier division and with only one team left to play from a somewhat controversial earlier postponement should be in possession of the title well before publication of this column. This squad again features Keith Hodder, currently poised for both qualification in the Reading Masters and the coveted Maidenhead Wilkinson Sword, and unlikely to be toppled from top place in the Bracknell League with an unbeaten 100%. Will he make the treble? My predication says not but I cannot think of any previous occasion when anyone has even been in the running. Altogether a fine performance from a thoroughly nice guy.

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

BARROW maintained its position as one of the strongest schools table tennis areas in the country when Parkview and Yarlside schools collected titles at the Dunlop National Schools' team championships at Lea Green Sports Centre, Matlock, Derbyshire, on March 11.

Parkview, who won the boys' under-13 title last year, this time gained the boys' under-16s, beating Salesian College, Farnborough, 5-3 and Hellesdon High, Norwich, 5-3.

The diminutive Jonathan Lowes won all his four sets, two in each match, Justin Brunton won one against Hellesdon, Gareth Brunton two against Salesian and one against Hellesdon and Andrew Reynolds one in each match.

Yarlside Primary won the boys' under-11 competition, beating Holymead Junior, Bristol, 6-2 in the final after disposing of Cumnor House, Croydon, 5-2. Christian Lidstone won all his four matches, Jonathan Wright three, Ian Edwards (two) and James Holywell (two).

Parkview girls were runners-up in the under-16s, beating Thomas Peacocke, Rye, 5-3, but losing 8-0 to winners Grove, Market Drayton. The Parkview team was Caroline Watt, Fiona Harris, Carrie Lowes and Rebecca Holland.

Parkview, however, came unstuck in the girls' under-13s, going down 6-2 to Bristol Bradington and 7-1 to Peniel Academy, Brentwood. But they had done well in winning the northern title in their age group which had qualified them for Matlock.

Congratulations to Diccon Gray, who was in six Millom School national schools title winning teams up to 1980, on being appointed the ETTA's development officer. He presented prizes at Matlock.

CUMBRIA put up a brave fight in their final Leeds County Table Tennis Championship Division 2a match of the season on Saturday March 18th, but went down 7-3 to Warwickshire 2nds in Birmingham.

Ian Reed, of Millom Former Pupils, was the visitors' star, winning both his singles against number one Ian Gunn 22-20, 21-15, and Peter Machin 17-21, 22-20, 21-17.

Acting captain Roger Stewart, of Carlisle Sports Centre Free Traders, won Cumbria's other set with 16-21, 21-13, 21-19 win over Machin.

Back from having a baby, Barrow's Karen Backhouse took former England ranked Fiona Sutton to three games, losing the first 11-21, winning the second 21-17

and going down in the last one 16-21.

The other lady, Lynne Hadfield (Whitehaven YMCA Cobras) fought back from 8-0 down in the first game of her set with Lesley Smith to lead 20-19 before being defeated 21-23. Lesley won the second 21-17.

Cumbria have finished the season with two wins and five defeats and have finished fifth in the eight-team division. Last season they ended fifth in a seven-county division 3a.

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

THURSDAY March 9th 1989 was a strange evening for Cornish Table Tennis. Because it was the evening that Cornwall said farewell to Tom Honey stalwart of the Cornwall Association and West Cornwall League since the early 1950's. The Old Quay House Inn near his St. Ives home was full to capacity for the farewell dinner with dozens of applicants having to be turned away. A measure of the respect that Tom Honey carried. During the evening tributes were paid by County Chairman David Blackford, County Secretary and West Cornwall League chairman Roger Jacobs and also by ETTA General Secretary Albert Shipley who was a special guest for the evening. Tom Honey served Cornish table tennis for more than 38 years, during which time he was secretary to the County Association and more recently the West Cornwall League. He became one of an elite number of English Table Tennis Association Vice-Presidents and, until his recent departure to Scotland to live, was Cornwall's National Councillor. No fewer than ten former county singles champions were also present at the dinner including the first one Geoffrey Cornelius who was County Champion in 1952 and the most successful one John Bassett the Cornish table tennis legend. So, with Tom Honey moving to Scotland to live, a large hole is left in Cornwall's administrative network - a hole that will take some time to fill in.

Sunday March 12th was the Cornwall Schools Individual Championships at Launceston College. In the absence of Neil Bevan, the boys events were very open this year and there were certainly some surprises. Top seed in the under 19 and under 16 boys event John Menzel Jnr found himself below par and found himself eliminated in the semis of both events by Johnny Maggs in the former and Matthew Rushton in the latter. Both boys played well to reach their respective finals where they were both beaten by the number two seed Mark Bawden who seems to have

regained his appetite for the game. The standard of play was good with Bawden a worthy winner. The girls events were completely dominated by the Camborne pair of Rachel Boon and Anna Cahill. In fact it was a successful day for Camborne whose new crop of youngsters made their school the most successful on the day:- U19BS: Mark Bawden (Launceston) bt Johnny Maggs (Bude) U19GS: Rachel Boon (Pool) bt Anna Cahill (Camborne) U16BS: Mark Bawden bt Matthew Rushton (Camborne) U16GS: Rachel Boon bt Anna Cahill U13BS: Jonathon Pocock (Camborne) bt David Menzel (Camborne) U13GS: Anna Cahill bt Sarah Richardson (Launceston) U11BS: Kevin Worth (Launceston) bt Graham Worth (Launceston) U11GS: Overall Winner - Heide Warden-Lovell (Falmouth).

DERBYSHIRE

Martin Kinsella

DERBYSHIRE live to fight again in the Senior County Premier Division. Needing two wins to be safe Derbyshire first beat Suffolk 5-4 with two good wins from John Holland and then in a northern relegation battle Derbyshire condemned Yorkshire to the drop in another 5-4 nail-biter with Bradley Billington beating Chris Oldfield -17, 19, 19 and Martin Kinsella beating Steve Mills 20, -19, 20 that's how close it was.



Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) still playing with Dad's old bat keeps the flag flying for her county.

Another successful Derby Junior Open sponsored by the Nat West Bank was ably run by Mike Payne. Julie Billington and Nicola Deaton who is still playing with her dad's old bat both raised the Derbyshire flag high in front of their home crowd.

Congratulations to Bradley Billington on his European League debut and his England No.6 ranking.

Congratulations are also due to Alan Cooke who on the week of his 23rd birthday won his biggest title yet, the Commonwealth Championship. We are all proud of you Alan. Just keep the form going and I think you can do something a bit special in the Worlds before coming back to retain your English title.

DEVONSHIRE

Val Heath

SAVING the best until last means this is the issue I must report our greatest youth success of the season:-

Alex Perry from Crediton. Alex (who has another year in Cadets) started the season well by winning the U14 boys in 2*'s at Bude, Torbay and Wiltshire. These wins paved the way to his first peak of the season at the Leeds English Junior where he gained R. Up position against B. Forster and won the doubles title alongside N. Bradfield.

To follow Alex came R. Up at the Tameside 2* U14 before taking part in an England Senior camp.

Alex thoroughly enjoyed this camp and although it was extremely hard work he felt it was very valuable prior to the Derby 2* select there Alex in fine form beat N. Bradfield (semi's) and R. Powell (final) to win the Cadet title.

Sheer determination and love of the game has strengthened him physically and his unending energy along with his strong mental attitude never ceases to astound those watching.



Alex Perry, Devon

Winning the U17 Singles at the N. Bournemouth 1* as well as the mens doubles with Malcolm Francis added a further feather to his cap leading up to his most recent peak of the year at the England Cadet Top 12

Winning all eleven games with brilliant tactical play gained Alex his worthy first place.

This lad who at the same time is excelling at School, could give us all a few lessons in determination and we wish him all the best in the future.

Coaching thanks

P.S. He asks me to convey his thanks to Malcolm Francis his coach through the magazine for his constant support and making his year such a success.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

THE outstanding news of the month is that our three teams will all be in their respective County Premier Divisions next season. Pride of place obviously goes to the Seniors, who drew their final game away to Yorkshire II, but still won Division 1A by a clear four points.



Grant Solder, Essex

Our all conquering Veterans ended with a 100% record by beating Worcs. 8-1 after another gruelling journey. They too will be playing at top level in 1989/90.

I am best pleased by the performance of the Junior second and third teams. Both played in Division 2D and remained unbeaten, champions and runners-up. So the second team will return to Division 1 and I think I am right in saying that all its opponents will be first teams.

A pleasing note of the final round of matches is that we are able to introduce one of our best youngsters, Ryan Savill (12) into the third team where he won one of his singles. We also turned out a fourth team against our friends from Kent in a friendly which gave chances to Wayne Mitchell (Harlow) and Peter Worthington, Karl Grant, Anna Weil and Cathy Sibbald (Brentwood). A very enjoyable match resulted in an 8-2 win.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our six representatives at the Junior Top Twelve at Milton Keynes, namely Damian Holland, Grant Solder, Alison Gower, Linda Radford, Chris Sladden and Sarah Gardner, and in particular to Damian, who finished 4th.

Finally, may I record my visit to the Veterans' Tournament at Swindon, to see what our people got up to at these notorious events. I saw the likes of Stuart Gibbs, Stan "the Bat" Battrick, Fred Lockwood etc. but, what was more amazing, I actually played against two ex-Southend League luminaries, namely, Alan Timewell and Alan Cooke. The latter turned out to be not quite so good as his namesake, although he was too good for me.

Then I bumped into the legendary Bert "Doc" Levinge, who was one of my good friends in the Ilford League 30 years ago, but who now lives in Ireland. It was great to see him. Unfortunately I formed the view that I am too old for this sort of play as I felt quite shattered after losing to a 70 year old gentleman named Trevor 25-23 in the third and then being spattered all round the court by Matt Sheader.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

THE END of the season - this final report hopefully outlines some of the most important matters that have occurred during 1988/89 in Gloucestershire.

It is always a feather in any Counties cap to attain another affiliated League, Cirencester did just that last Autumn - and as expected from any newly formed Association are going great guns - Well done Cirencester keep it up.

Gloucestershire Schools Annual Championships: These championships were again successfully held at St Benedicts School in Cheltenham - played on 9 tables under the watchful eyes of Peter Cruwys (Hon Referee) and Steve Taylor (Secretary Gloucestershire Schools T.T. Assoc.)

Results of all Final's

Boys Under 11, Jamie Day (Hempstead) beat Peter Dupree (Hempstead) 10, 19. Girls Under 11, Kerry Hogarth (Picklenash Newent) Group Winner. Boys Under 13, Paul Morley (Crypt) beat Peter Hayward (Marling) 24, 9. Girls Under 13, Beth Walker (Archway) beat Janet Latham (Denmark H.S.) 8, 17. Boys Under 16, Jeremy Hyatt (Newent) beat Lawrence Simpson (Kings Glos) 10, 20. Girls Under 16, Alison Cox (Bournside) Group Winner, R.U. Elaine Bassett (Archway). Boys Under 19, Ray Powell (Crypt) beat Adrian Stalley (Pates Grammar) 15, -20, 19. Girls Under 19, Wendy Nicholls (Maidenhill) Group Winner, R.U. Penny Wyatt (Maidenhall).

Leeds British League

Gloucestershire have only one team in this league - that's Cheltenham Saracens team of: Dave Harvey, Mark Owen, Darren Griffin and Graham Slack, promoted from last seasons Division 3 (West) into this seasons Division 2 (South), Highlights of the season - 39 year old No. 1 Dave Harveys defeat of Phil Bradbury (Depford Rams) and Bradburys 1st loss of the season and Harvey again went down 14-20 against Alex Abbott in their third game, Dave did the seemingly impossible - by winning the next 8

points in a row to take the set 22-20, this took place versus Fellows Cranleigh in Saracens penultimate match of the season. Cheltenham Saracens should fall into third or fourth place in the final table.

A tribute to former County Chairman Jack Reeves - the positive structural mainstay (once again) of this years Cotswold Junior (Select) Championships in Gloucester, although even no longer on the County Committee, where indeed would we be without you Jack? On behalf of the County Committee - Many Thanks.

Gloucestershire County Council School of Sport

Three years ago the above with the co-operation of the Forest of Dean D.C. and the Tewkesbury B.C. plus the Cotswold District Council set up what was then known as "The 1st Glo'shire School of Sport", not only was table tennis included in their sporting curriculum, but many other sports as well, Athletics, Hockey, Netball, Soccer and Cricket to name but a few, I am delighted to mention that for the 3rd year (1989) Table Tennis is in the very capable hands of Kevin Satchell the Wiltshire Coach, our selected youngsters couldn't have a better qualified tutor than the 10th ranked all England Player from Melksham.

Coaching

Throughout the County coaching has taken top priority - in Cheltenham Peter Cruwys our County Coaching Secretary is never very far away from Steve Cox's coaching sessions where Steve is greatly helped by Graham Slack and Dave Harvey.

Steve Cox has applied to Val Clack (S.W.R. Coaching Officer) to have Cheltenham recognised as an advanced Coaching Centre.

In Stroud Coaching comes under the control of Bob Brown - Bobs helpers are Alan Giles and Trevor Golding at the Stroud Leisure Centre on Saturday mornings.

Cirencester, I know that Peter Cruwys and Kevin Satchell have done a considerable amount of good solid coaching - but this is a new league finding their way and I must confess that I do not know at present if they have their own permanent Coaching Officer.

In Gloucester coaching is in the very capable and experienced hands of Paddy Jackson and George Novoth and as a result of their combined efforts the emergence of Raymond Powell and Jeremy Hyatt as future stars has indeed been very evident for some considerable time, but there are others in the coaching pipe line who could be rocking their boat in a few years time.

LANCASHIRE

George R. Yates

PAUL SHIRLEY, the brother of Jill Parker, made the headlines in the Lancashire Evening Post when, in the Alliance Leicester championships of the Preston League, he not only beat last season's champion, Dave Bunting, but went on to take the title with a final victory over Barry Cook.

The winning line for Shirley against Cook was 18, -14, 16 and the pair joined forces to take the mens' doubles beating Tony Rigby and Andrew Gray -20, 13, 14 in the final.

Nicola McGrath won the women's singles title for the third successive season with a final 14, 20 victory over Joanna Wooldrige and, in partnership with Julie Clegg, also won the women's doubles beating Carey Delaney and Allison Hitchen in the final.

And, to complete a hatrick of successes, Nicola clocked up a third final victory in the company of Martin Ireland by beating Chris Spedding and Julie Clegg 16, 17 in the final of the mixed.

Barry Crook lost his veterans' crown when beaten by Tony

Rigby in what was considered the best final of the day. 15-year-old Ron Pennington won the junior singles beating Rod Manwaring 16 and 17 in the final.

The new youth singles champion is Willie Berkeley with a final win over Sam Valentine -10, 16, 17 but, in the youth doubles, it was the turn of Micky Malcolm and Valentine to mount the rostrum, the beaten finalists being Berkeley and Pankash Parek.

Prizes were presented by Mr. John Daghish the local manager of the Alliance Leicester Building Society.

Lancashire and Cheshire League

Congratulations to Liverpool on their retention of the Division 1 championship title and to the capture of the women's first division title taking over from Preston. Oldham won the Junior Div. 1 and Stockport, who else of course, retained the vets title top division.

In the final of the Bolton's League's closed the men's singles crown was won by David Carse, his final victim being Graham Clark.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Brian Lamerton

ROGER HOOKEY capped an outstanding season when taking the Islands championship with an emphatic 21-18, 21-9 final defeat of Mike Turner; last years champion Chris Angus and Dave Hilliam were defeated semi-finalists. Sharon Urry is the new ladies champion and for good measure she also shared the mixed doubles title with Martin Mitchell. Peter Urry and Paul Morton surprised everybody (themselves included) by defeating Roger Hookey and Mike Turner in the mens doubles final whilst the successful ladies partnership was Joy Batten and Amanda Will.

Hookey's other accomplishments this season were to lead Sandown (ably assisted by the aforementioned Turner and Ian Smith) to another Island first division title and also to act as Captain, Secretary, Baggage Man and No. 1 player to the Regional League team - not the most successful of seasons on the table but at the time of writing we are 'hanging on' to our premier division place. In the Ladies Regional league our girls finished third (out of 3) - come on Hampshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire lets have some more opposition next season.

Five of our youngsters Duncan Watson, Marcus Gorman, Alister Hulburt, Mathew Roberts and Mathew Hobbly journeyed to Southampton to participate in the Leeds Youth Cup - they didn't set the World on fire but all enjoyed their excursion into the 'big time'.

Three more youngsters, representing Newport Vics. Richard Gower, Andy Westhoppe and Graham Chiverton lifted the handicap Knowles Cup with a 5 sets to 2 win over Cowes High School (comprising 2 pupils plus 1 staff member).

My drive for umpires (Yes, I double as Umpires Sec.) has so far produced one completed test paper - again a junior - if he passes next time I'll name him! (he wasn't far off first time).

And Congratulations to an old youngster - Carl Preat, still only 21 and his team gold from the Commonwealth championships in Cardiff was his fourth Commonwealth medal.

	P	W	Pts
Sandown 'A'	20	20	80
Shanklin 'A'	20	18	67
Newport Vics. 'A'	20	14	57
Wroxall 'A'	20	11	48
Rookley 'B'	20	10	46
Newport Vics 'J'	20	9	43
Rookley 'A'	20	8	39
Wroxall 'B'	20	4	21
Sandown Boys Brigade	20	4	20
Haven Street 'A'	20	4	14
Ryde 'A'	20	0	5

LEICESTERSHIRE

Tony Lilicrapp

THE Veterans of Leicestershire finally discovered the secret of success when they scraped home 5-4 against bottom of the table Warwickshire in their most recent Division 1A fixture.

Architect of Leicestershire's long awaited first victory was Graham 'dizzy' Hughes who beat Brian Belcher in the opening singles game of the match and later on in the evening slugged it out with Graham Hoskins to emerge 21-17 winner in the third thus putting Leicestershire into an unbeatable 5-2 lead. Other Leicestershire winners were John Illife and Eileen Shaler with one win apiece and these two then combined to take the mixed doubles.

This win, however, still leaves them bottom but one of the Division and relegation is looking more a probability than a possibility.

After easily whitewashing an out of sorts Cheshire II side in early March the Leicestershire Senior II side slid to only their second defeat of the season away to middle of the table Nottinghamshire. Maurice Newman made the scoreline respectable for the away side winning both of his singles games against John Ellis and Robert Yong but unfortunately for Leicester he received little in the way of support from either Martin Pickles or Keith Fellows and it was left to Julie Revill to win the only other singles rubber for Leicestershire, when she accounted for Anna Clague.

Any realistic hopes the Leicestershire Juniors had of lifting the Division 2A title were virtually laid to rest when they were well and truly beaten by leaders Northamptonshire at Wellingborough in mid March.

Leicestershire's only success, as they went down 1-9, came when John Gayton and Darren Branhan beat the home pairing of Kieran Dabbs and David Evans in the mens doubles. This apart Leicestershire will certainly wish to forget this match in a hurry.

The 1989 Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy, a handicap competition open to ladies playing in any of the Leagues affiliated to the Leicestershire Table Tennis Association, was won by Sue Capewell who beat veteran Glenys Odams 21-13, 16-21, 21-14 in an absorbing and entertaining final.

Organiser Audrey Watson was, I know, disappointed by one of the lowest turnouts for the competition in recent years with only 16 players contesting the first round. It was pleasing to note, however, that the County Ladies No. 1 Karen Smith took time out from her busy playing schedule to compete.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood



Sarah Seaholme, Watford, Herts.

HERTFORDSHIRE'S young stars were on display at the Junior Top 12, at the Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes, on Easter Saturday and Sunday.

Shining brightest for the county was Watford's Sarah Seaholme who won four of her singles and came 9th in the Cadet Girls.

Ian Black, from St. Albans, came 11th in the Junior Boys winning two, where he beat the No. 2 seed Neil Bevan from Cornwall.

Whilst Hemel Hempstead's Emma Hurling also came 11th, winning one of her singles in the Junior Girls section.

Meanwhile back on the County Inter-League Senior tournament scene, where last year's winners Hemel Hempstead have gone and won it once again, when on Sunday 12th March they completed their matches with a 100% record,

record, Glen Wilkes with 92%, Rob Liquorish with 70% and John Wood with 50%.

Hemel Hempstead's crunch match was with runners-up Barnet, whom they beat 5-2, where Barnet's two games were won by super defender John Taylor.

The quarter-final stages of the Alpha Herts and Beds Cup have now been completed with the cup holders Hiretech-Adeyfield A beating Neeld 7-2, to move into the semi-finals where they will meet Bedford Modern, who overcame the challenge of St. Albans 6-3.

In the other half of the draw Motorola beat Hiretech-Adeyfield B 5-3 and AHW Comets won at home 5-3 against Bedwell A. with Jackie North stealing the limelight with a personal 100%

MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

THE MIDDLESEX Closed Championships were played at the Brent Junior Table Tennis Club (Aylestone School) over the weekend of 11th/12th March, with the Junior events on the Saturday and the Senior events on the Sunday.

The entry to the Cadet Boys and Junior Boys events was quite good, but as so often happens, the number of girls entering was very poor. We were unable to run Cadet Girls events and even the Junior Girls Singles had only 10 entries. The Junior Girls Doubles started with 3 pairs although a further scratch pair entered on the day. It was a shame that Simon Rockall, our No. 1, was under the weather and did not do himself justice, but he still managed to partner David Baker in winning the Junior Boys Doubles. David Baker and Sara Williams were undoubtedly the most successful players on the Saturday, with Sara taking the Junior Girls Singles and Junior Mixed Doubles (with David) titles, and David winning the Cadet Boys Singles, the Junior Boys Doubles (with Simon Rockall), the Junior Mixed Doubles (with Sara), and finishing runner-up in the Junior Boys Singles.

The entry on the Sunday was affected by our clash with the Cleveland 3-Star and the consequent loss of all our top players, but one wonders whether they would have entered anyway. With the very full Calendar it is difficult not to clash with something, but perhaps with hindsight it would have been better not to clash with such a prestigious event. Once again Sara Williams did very well, taking the Womens Singles title and the Womens Doubles with Sally Prowen. Taking into consideration that Sara is still a Cadet, she must be regarded as one of the brightest stars in the Middlesex firmament. Keep it up Sara.

Cadet Boys Singles: David Baker beat Richard Hyacinth 14, 14 Junior Boys Singles: Joel Roodyn beat David Baker -18, 13, 13. Junior Girls Singles: Sara Williams beat Kitti Kottasz 19, 13. Junior Boys Doubles: David Baker & Simon Rockall beat Damian Abrahams & Nigel Keedy 12, 18. Junior Girls Doubles: Emese & Kitti Kottasz beat Elizabeth Blanch & Caroline Walsh -19, 10, 6. Junior Mixed Doubles: David Baker and Sara Williams beat Richard Hyacinth and Kitti Kottasz 8, 17. Mens Singles: David Tan beat Costas Papantoniou -16, 15, 14. Womens Singles: Sara Williams beat Rachel Knight 19, 12. Mens Doubles: David Tab & Costas Papantoniou beat Viv McCarthy & Tom Cutler 19, 17. Womens Doubles: Sally Prowen &

Sara Williams beat Amanda John & Lesley Souter -16, 12, 14. Mixed Doubles: Tom Cutler & Rachel Knight beat Ian Svenson & Marilyn Sangster 18, -16, 18. Veterans Singles: Babs Adedayo beat Tony Taylor.

We are most grateful to Tony Pacitto for helping us to get the venue (for the last time?) and for supplying everyone with refreshments.

Middlesex youngsters did not do too badly in the London and South East Region of the Leeds Youth Cup. They lost at the semi-final stage in 6 events and in addition Sara Williams won the Junior Girls and Cadet Girls Singles, Kitti and Emese Kottasz won the Junior Girls Doubles, Emese won the Class II Junior Girls and Richard Hyacinth was runner-up in the Class II Junior Boys.

Although the Kottasz sisters are only "loaned" to Middlesex from Hungary, I must comment on their dedication. There would appear to be no event in or around London, from the London Junior Table Tennis Scheme to the Middlesex 3-Star that these girls do not enter. No opposition is too high or too low for them as long as they are playing table tennis. Do we have something to learn from them?

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

ALTHOUGH some of the loose ends remain to be tied, the season fast approaches its end, and hopefully one can reflect on the successes, while forgetting the failures, of what has proved an absorbing period of time.

The individual success story must belong to twelve-year-old Sally Russell, who won every match in her first Leeds County Championship campaign, and in doing so almost certainly helped Kieron Dabbs, David Evans, Neil Atkinson and Tracey Marriott to promotion, although Northumberland still have several Junior Division 2A fixtures to be played.

Not content with this, she also won the Wellingborough Ladies Singles title against that experienced campaigner Muriel Cox and suitably encouraged she sallied forth into the Leeds senior ranks to win on her first ever appearance at this level. Her father John, who was always difficult to beat in his Kettering League days, must be well pleased.

Once again the club of the season must be Well Connected. Suitably re-inforced by Adrian Pilgrim, that well-travelled trio of Graeme McKim, Andy Edmonds and Mark Randle, have carried all before them in Division 2 North of Leeds British League with thir-

teen straight wins to date, the best achievement of any British League side. However this success may have detracted from a county championship bid which faltered against Lincolnshire before finally being extinguished in an undistinguished defeat at the hands of neighbouring Bedfordshire.

On the league front, Well Connected, without Pilgrim and rarely with Randle, repeated their now customary hat-trick of Premier titles at Northampton, Wellingborough and Kettering. The rapid emergence of Richard Elliott and the persistence of Rafe Miller, who strangely represent Levi's Westfield in the British League, did much to assist Edmonds, McKim and supreme Chris Handshaw to a haul of titles likely to be boosted by both the Borough and the Evening Telegraph Trophies as the Kettering League season unfolds.



Graeme McKim

The year has been enlivened too by Gerald Finney's generous sponsorship of the Pennine/NCTTA Computer Ranking scheme which has certainly attracted both its devotees and its detractors. Currently hard work and enthusiasm from Gwil and David Evans have won the day, with the father and son combination providing the backing to a system which has added a new dimension to local table tennis.

Despite Gerald having an unfortunate season through illness and injury he still maintained enough genuine feeling for the game to increase his sponsorship by underwriting a Top Twelve Tournament to feature the leading dozen players on the Pennine list at the close of the season and this should provide a suitable finale.

Another unsung heroine in county circles is secretary Barbara Gibbs. She too has not enjoyed the best of health during her term of office, but this has not prevented her from fulfilling her duties cheerfully and conscientiously at all times. Let us hope that the year ahead will be one that she and Northamptonshire can enjoy to the full, and that both will reap the rewards they genuinely deserve.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Aubrey Drapkin

AT THE beginning of the season I mentioned that the future looked bright for the County with a good crop of youngsters coming through. This certainly has proved to be the case and I'm pleased to report that the young players have made their mark as I expected that they would.



Barry Forster

At the time of writing the County Junior team is unbeaten in the second division of the Leeds County Championships where the boys have lost only three sets all season. Barry Forster has, as previously reported, won the English Cadet title and he will be playing in the Junior Top 12. Blydon Youth Club, who regularly play youngsters in their teams, have had seven teams in the Northumberland League this season and their A team look likely to finish as runners up in the top division. The recent Tyne and Wear Office Supplies tournament, the Northumberland closed, had more than it's fair share of youngsters taking part. Young David Venus won the handicap competition with his team mate Colin Harris getting to the semis.

In the mens singles Stephen Coverdale was a losing quarter finalist whilst Blydon Youth Club A and B were the losing semi finalists in the team event. Andrew Wilkinson of North Shields won the Class 3 singles. I'm sure that all of these players will make even more progress next season.

The Tyne and Wear Office Supplies tournament was played at Wallsend Sports Centre and attracted a good entry. Twelve tables were well used during the course of the day when 266 matches were played.

Eddie Smith retained the men's title, took the doubles with Ian Robertson and helped Gateshead to win the team event. He was also runner up in the Handicap and in the mixed doubles with Christine Burke. Clare Mouzon retained the ladies title and also won the Class 2 singles. Robertson won the mixed doubles partnered by Caron Guthrie who also helped Christine Burke to success in the Ladies Doubles. As expected Fred Short gained the veterans title.

OXFORDSHIRE

Steve Joyner

THE 1988-89 county championships were held in March and again the entry was disappointing. Banbury provided the bulk of the attendance with a small suburb of the county known as Oxford also contributing a dozen or so entries. Despite the low numbers the quality of table tennis was high. Top seed Peter Jones arriving late from the previous nights school disco soon found going sticky.

Jones game appeared patchy as did his eyes, and in his opening game against drinking partner M. Haycock Jones showed little confidence. Eventually the star took control and moved slowly on to the next stage. Second seed Carl Bushell still shaken from an unfortunate incident with a concrete wall managed to scrape past the cagey George Pullen.

The next few rounds threw up some good contests. Ray Powell undisturbed following his warning from tournament referee Barry Yates for blatantly holding hands with his girl friend during each point, still managed to brush aside the challenge of gentleman Arthur Chilvers. The four semi final places were again occupied by the top four seeds. The first semi saw a furious counter hitting game between Bushell and Joyner.

Joyner it was that stood firm and won through to his fourth consecutive final. The mouth watering prospect of Jones against Morris in the second semi did not live up to expectation and Jones managed to reverse the previous weeks outcome to win comfortably in two sets.

Jones after his shaky start was now glowing brighter than his white socks under the ultra violet light at the school disco. He played positively and confidently to beat old friend/enemy Steve Joyner.

The glamour section saw seed Eleanor Harrison go out to teammate Kathy Singleton. Dawn Barnett stormed to the final from the other half of the draw to set up an interesting encounter with Kathy. Dawn took the initiative and was soon in control taking her first county title.

As expected Gavin Yates was set to clutter the mantelpiece with more silver ware as he raced to the junior and restricted singles titles. He then teamed up with Dawn to take the mixed doubles. The lure of bigger trophies elsewhere was too great for Oxford's top veterans including our loyal chairman Alf Davies. This rather depleted entry meant an earlier finish and an unexpected victory for outsider Arthur Chilvers.

SHROPSHIRE

Ian Marshall

GROVE'S ever faithful duo of Mark Turner and Keith Sillitoe gave clear notice of their intent to retain their title in the Shropshire Star First Division of the county table tennis league when they completed their matches at the start of the final series of play without the loss of a set.

However, the men from the North Shropshire market town will need to be at their best to maintain pole position with the Wrexham duo of David Wyn Morris and Alan Harris alongside Pontesbury pair of John Lumley and Martin Williams, also unbeaten after the matches played on March 12th at Grove School. Meanwhile the young Grove side of Philip Edge and Richard Sutton head the Concorde Trophies Division Two having returned a clean sheet against Pontesbury III and the two Grove reserve teams but the crunch could come against Wrexham B for whom veteran Les Morris proves the most amiable tower of strength.



Keith Sillitoe, Shropshire.

The March Graded Singles tournament proved as hard fought as ever with the Talbot Hotel Grade E event typifying the spirit of the competition as eleven year old Amy Cowan of Grove overcame a much improved Sarah Horton of Stafford to gain the title whilst Pontesbury's Daniel Forbar gained success in the consolation event over Grove's David Bishton. Meanwhile the H&E Scaffolding Grade A1 event saw success at the first attempt for Hereford's Lincoln Franklin over Pontesbury's John Lumley with Grove veteran Maurice Alcock beating Wrexham's Alan Harris in the consolation event.

The defeat of Lumley in Grade A1 was avenged in Grade A2 by Pontesbury clubmate Jonathan Day who beat Mary Webb schoolmate Matthew Alexander for the title whilst experience in the form of Wrexham's Les Morris overcame Grove's hard hitting Clare Hand for the consolation award.

The increasing support for the tournament from neighbouring

Worcestershire was well rewarded in the Movefast Grade A3 event Leominster duo Chris Haynes and Damon Fenton fought a splendid final with the former the victor whilst further success came for the Leominster camp as David Johnson beat Grove's consistent Sarah Pigram.

There was further success for Pontesbury with Neil Morris the victor in the Shrewsbury Built-Up Felt Roofing Grade B event over Leominster's Andrew Jackson with Grove's sporting Paul Hacking the consolation winner over yet another Leominster player Roy Robinson. Meanwhile young Gareth Forbar emulated clubmate Neil Morris to add further gold to the Pontesbury camp as he gained the Roofrite Grade C title over Grove's young Martin Bailey whilst Newcastle-under-Lyme's Gary Chadwick ousted Martin Twiss for success in the consolation event.

The Wrexham camp gained success in the R.S. Bratton Building Contractors Grade D event with Danny Harris victorious over Grove's Simon Nilski whilst Robert Pollard of Grove beat Newcastle's Paul Radcliffe to win the consolation event.

Meanwhile Bryan and Knott of Telford in the guise of Ian Baker, Terry Jones, Mike Beamon, Malcolm Langford, Paul Harmer and Julian Woolton duly won the Leeds West Midland Regional Club League in fine style whilst in the Leeds British League both Grove I and Grove II press for honours.

Finally congratulations to Grove School Under 16 Girls who retained their National School Team title with the squad of Sarah Creasey, Liz Creasey, Gail Ottolini and Claire Marshall in the express lane. Grove's Under 13 Boys team finished in third place thanks to the efforts of Adam Twiss, Philip Edge, Richard Sutton and Martin Bailey.

SOMERSET

Tony Carey

SINCE my last sermon and progress report on the state of Table Tennis in the County, I have witnessed various encouraging signs of a revival of interest in our sport and the best of these being the large entry of youngsters who entered the recent Bridgwater League Championships at Chilton Trinity School on 5th March, with the greater percentage of them being under 12 years of age. I am sure that from what I saw, and others would agree, that if these youngsters continue to show the same competitiveness each time they play coupled with a willingness to learn, then the County can be assured of a bright future again.

In the meantime though we

must have patience and gather together what experienced players we have into a squad who will work and practice together to improve the overall standard, and to also give the youngsters that I spoke of earlier a pinnacle to reach.

These comments are my own thoughts readers which I am sure may not be endorsed by all of you, but which I hope will be considered and discussed as a broad base from which to start our recovery.

This recovery starts next season when both our Senior and Junior teams will be in a lower division and will have different teams to play and venues to visit. Our hosts or visitors will, I am sure, find that we will not let the disappointments of this season shackle our drive to win. This drive sparkled and shone at brief periods during our Senior team's match against Kent at Yeovil, a performance worthy of a televised production. With the return of Lee Sadler to the team for the first time this season coupled with the glowing reports we heard of his performance in the National League for Bathwick Tyres II, we had high hopes of securing a point from this match. The other members of the team being Brian Reeves, captain courageous, who was prepared to sweat blood in the pursuit of victory with whoever he is pitted against, Philip Payne who was at one time looking to be a star in the senior ranks. Our ladies being Melonie Carey and Tina Sadler, a quite useful doubles combination as was proved in this match when they overcame their nerves in a tense third game to win against a good experienced partnership of Teresa Moore and Sally Weston. Although our men fought gallantly they were unable to reap the rewards due to them for their efforts, our only other win being that of Melonie against Teresa.

Our fortunes were slightly better in the next match away to Middlesex when our ladies doubles combination won against Rachel Knight and Gillian Blanche, and Melonie won against Rachel, the bonus being a well deserved win by Brian.

In conclusion I would like to say that it was very encouraging for West Country fans to see four of our Region's finest players competing in the Commonwealth Championships at Cardiff. Congratulations Carol Giles, Paul Whiting, Paul Lewis and Kevin Satchell. By your performances you demonstrated in a practical way all that I have been saying about the world of Table Tennis in our Region, showing that our sport is truly countrywide and that true skill is born dedication and practice wherever you may live.

SURREY

Terry Vance

CONGRATULATIONS to Nicky Mason on his continued inclusion in the England Squad and to David Hannah on his return to fitness and the Scotland team.

I have been asked the whereabouts of Paul Brook who played in the Central League in the 1960's. I gather it is nothing to do with owing money! If anyone does know of him please give me a ring.

At least one person has complained about my not mentioning his Club. If he would only send the information I would endeavour to have it printed. On this topic I would like to ask the League Secretaries to send me a copy of their Handbooks each year and maybe I could gain some snippets of information when I am stuck for articles.

John Fairweather of Thames Valley League regularly sends me a copy of his Division 2 Report but I would also like to mention the other divisions. With 2 weeks left it appears that Elmbridge 2 will win Division 2 closely followed by any one of eight other teams. Heading for relegation is Teddington 2 with either Alexandra or Racial joining them.

John Llewellyn of the Wandsworth League informs me that they are now running 8 divisions, the first significant increase for decades. Lambeth are leading Division 1 but have played 1 more game than Earlsfield who are only a point behind. S. Holloway leads the averages. In Div 2 4 teams are tying for top honours:- Earlsfield B; Crescent A; 24A; 24B. Joint top of the averages are G. Carter; R. Clark and N. Sutton.



Nicky Mason, England No. 4

I am in the process of compiling an address list of those people who would like to receive entry forms for the various Surrey Championships in the future. If you entered last year your name has already gone on this list. But please let me know on 01 390 4068 if you wish your name included. The list will only be used for Table Tennis purposes.

SUSSEX

John Woodford and Graham Carter

JANET Smith and Ritchie Venner are the new Sussex champions. At Southwick, Venner took the title for the second time top-spinning out Adrian Moore in the final 21-19, 8-21, 21-17. Since then Adrian Moore has gone up to No. 19 on the England list.

Miss Smith from Woodingdean, who is clinging to her Scottish No. 1, rating under pressure from rivals, had no trouble disposing of Teresa Moore 21-14, 21-11 in the womens singles final. The Woodingdean girl took three titles.

There were several upsets in the mens singles. Paul Elphick took out the Crawley rising star Scott Greenbrook and Chris Munday, also from Crawley, accounted for the No. 4 seed Stephen Moore.

Coles sweep

Crawley's Cole family totally dominated proceedings at the Sussex Junior Table Tennis Championships. They amazed everyone by winning all five events.

Alan and Tracey Cole from Gosports Green won every title on offer in an outstanding display of talent and determination.

Alan, 16, won the under 17 boys singles, beating fellow Crawley lad Mayur Majithia 22-20, 21-13 in the final. The two then teamed up to win the Boys' Doubles title against the promising Haywards Heath duo Trevor Brown and Martin Roberts.

Tracey, 15, was not to be outdone by her elder brother. She promptly won a hat-trick of titles, showing that she's the hottest property in Sussex Girls' Table Tennis. She easily beat Hastings' Lian Wilson 21-14, 21-15 to win the Girls' under 17 singles. She then teamed up with schoolmate Nicola Mundy to win the Girls' Doubles, beating Lian and Natasha Wilson in the final.

Beaming Tracey then rounded off the successful day for the Coles by beating Alan in the final of the Mixed Doubles.

Tracey was partnered by Mayur Majithia, whilst Alan played with Nicola Mundy.

SUSSEX schools are the best in England at Table Tennis - and that's official. Representing the County in the Final at Lea Green, Derbyshire on Saturday 11th March 1989, Crawley's Ifield Community College shook off some very strong opposition to win the Dunlop Under 19 English Schools Championships for the 2nd year running.

Keith Newell was the star of Ifield. He remained unbeaten all day before clinching the deciding set against Selby to win the title.

The 3-way final began with a very close match between the Yorkshire champions Selby College and Prince William School from Oundle (Northants) - Selby winning 5-3.

Ifield then played Prince William. Comprising of Scott Greenbrook, Mayur Majithia, Keith Newell and Manish Majithia, Ifield played exceptionally well to win 8-0.

Ifield therefore needed only a 4-4 draw to win the Championship. They started confidently with Greenbrook showing why he has been playing for the Sussex Senior 1st team recently, with an impressive 21-9, 21-5 demolition of Selby's No. 2 Chris Hewitt. The Selby No. 1 Craig Smith proved too good for Mayur Majithia, and Ifield's next win came when Keith Newell comfortably beat Robert Carle.

Meanwhile, Manish Majithia was losing a close fought game 21-19, 21-19 with Selby's No. 3 Gary Horsefield. With the match score at 2-2, Mayur Majithia overpowered Horsefield 21-3, 21-3. Ifield were looking to Greenbrook to clinch the title with his next match against Selby's star-player Smith. Scott won the 1st game 21-9, but Smith fought back well to take the 2nd 21-19. In a tense nail-biting 3rd game, Smith benefited from a net win 21-19 and level the match score at 3-3.

Keith Newell showed all the determination needed as he edged home 21-19 in the 1st game with Selby's No. 2 Hewitt. With the crowd's tenseness affecting the players, Keith fought back from a 16-19 2nd game deficit to win 24-22 and give Ifield a Championship winning 4-3 lead.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

THE clash with the Cleveland 3-Star meant that several of the top county players were absent from the County Closed, but this had the effect of producing some very competitive table tennis as the opportunity of gaining honours became a possibility for several top class players normally overshadowed by our nationally-ranked squad.

Andy Rich has been runner-up in the men's singles five times over the last ten years without a win so his victory on this occasion was well-deserved on that account alone. His emaculate and accurate retrieving against the consistent loop and drive of Greg Hallam provided an excellent final for the spectators, rounding off a long day of enjoyable table tennis played in good spirit throughout.

An entry of over 120, 12% up on last year, with most of the increase coming in the junior events, provided a full day's play on 10 tables in the Ford Hall at Lilleshall and I

would like to record our thanks to the Sports Centre and staff for the excellent facilities and support which they provide.

In the women's and girls' events, cadet Nicola Meddings achieved a clean sweep of her four events, taking the cadet and junior girls, the women's singles and the doubles (with Michelle Martin). Clearly, Nicola is destined to join in a few years' time our three other ladies in the upper reaches of the national ranking-list. Garry Knights dominated the junior boys' events and also played well to take the intermediates in a close fought final with Martin Riley.

Only two titles went to the north of the county this year, the men's and mixed doubles. Mark Evans was on the winning side in both, retaining the men's with John Hancock in a close final against Andy Rich and Tony Isaac and partnering Michelle Holland in a straight sets win over Paul Barnett and Tracey Nigh.

Staffordshire Closed

Men's Singles Semi finals: A. Rich (W'ton) bt E. Wilkes (Pott) 17, 15. C. Hallam (Pott) bt P. Barnett (Pott) -17, 18, 13. final: Rich bt Hallam 19, 16.

Women's Singles final: N. Meddings (W. Brom) bt T. Nigh (Staff) 16, 13

Intermediate Singles final: G. Knights (W. Brom) bt M. Riley (Pott) 14, -18, 17

Junior Boys' Singles final: G. Knights bt P. Malkin (Pott) 11, 18
Junior Girls' Singles final: N. Meddings bt J. Bickerton (Pott) 19, 5

Cadet Boy's Singles final: S. Claire (W'ton) bt P. Tomlinson (W'ton) 20, 14

Cadet Girls' Singles final: N. Meddings bt M. Martin (Burton) 18, 18

Veterans' Singles final: M. Pickles (Staff) bt J. Taylor (Staff) 13, 13

Men's Doubles final: M. Evans & J. Hancock (Pott) bt A. Rich & A. Isaac (W'ton) 23, -16, 13

Women's Doubles final: N. Meddings & M. Martin bt T. Nigh & L. Sherratt (Staff) 19, 15

Mixed Doubles final: M. Evans & M. Holland (Pott) bt P. Barnett & T. Nigh 16, 13

Junior Doubles final: G. Knights & B. Chell (Burton) bt P. Malkin & M. Parr 14, 13

I am saddened to report the death of Maureen Sherratt, the wife of our hard-working secretary. A keen follower of table tennis, Maureen accompanied her husband on most of his umpiring engagements. Her regular support in and around the Stafford table tennis scene will be greatly missed and our deepest sympathy goes to Derek and to the family - Louise, Wendy and Philip, all of whom are keenly involved in local table tennis.

WORCESTER

Dave Roden

CONGRATULATIONS this month go to Sandra Roden on reaching No. 10 on the National Ranking List, Lee Horton on finishing third in the Cadet Top Twelve event held recently, and Oxfordshire County Junior Team, who beat Worcs Juniors 7-3 in the match which decided the Junior DIV2B championship.

The final round of County match results were disappointing for our teams. An under-strength 1st team visited Norfolk and lost 6-4. Sandra Roden and Mandy House won their three sets, and Trevor Washington won one, but Jeremy Duffield and Eric Hardman, making his County debut failed to record a win. Sandra's singles win ensured her of a 100% singles record for the county this season.

The 2nd team were beaten 9-1 by Gloucestershire, Sue Meredith preventing a white-wash; the Veterans lost 8-1 to a strong Essex team, Mervyn Wood beating Stan Battrick for Worcs win, and the Juniors lost their vital championship decider with Oxfordshire 7-3, after looking promotion candidates all season. Lee Horton and Jason Thompson won one each and the doubles. The Juniors final match with Hunts was won 10-0.

The Worcester and Malvern Leagues held their individual tournaments recently. At Worcester, Mark Fiddian did well to beat Nicky Mytton -17, 9, 13 in the final of the Mens singles, having beaten Alex Westwood in the semi.

The Ladies singles was retained by Alison Westwood, who beat Lynda Reid 16, 17 in the final. Other main results:

Intermediate Singles: Mark Jones bt Dean Kloos 15, 17. Veteran Singles: Malcolm Dicks bt David Frost -10, 16, 18. Mixed Doubles: Alison and Alex Westwood bt Lynda Reid and Nick Mytton 14, 9. Mens Doubles: Ron Butterton and Alex Westwood bt Alan Salisbury and Dave Woodyatt 8, -18, 13.

Superb entry

At Malvern, a superb entry of 75 players assembled at the Winter Gardens for their tournament. Ex County Junior Richard Pratley retained the Mens Singles when he defeated Steve Meredith 14, 19 in the final, and Janet Hunt retained the Ladies title with an 8, 14 final victory over Carol Milnes. Veteran singles: Neville Meredith bt Malcolm Dicks -23, 11, 20. Open Doubles: Paul Ashcroft and Richard Pratley bt Neville and Steve Meredith 11, 13. Junior singles winner: Neil Couston.

The finals were watched by over 80 spectators.

WILTSHIRE

CLAIRE HUNTER made a happy return to Wiltshire table tennis when she snapped up three titles in the county closed championships.

Claire, who is studying for a degree in sports studies at Chichester, beat Swindon champion Brenda Lee in straight games.

She partnered Carolyn Gale, playing in the tournament for the first time to a straight games to the women's doubles title and then teamed with Alan Duke to take the mixed doubles. The major upsets came in the men's singles when the top-seeded Terry Bruce went out to Ian Neate (Swindon) and second seed Trevor Lloyd (Melksham) was ousted by Andrew Metcalfe, the unseeded former Yorkshire player now living in Swindon.

Metcalfe, back in the game after a lay off, fought back after losing the opening game to beat Jasvinder Singh in the final.

Results of finals

Mens Singles: A. Metcalfe beat J. Singh -21, 14, 10. Womens singles: Miss Hunter beat Miss Lee 12, 11. Veterans' singles: E. Howell beat A. Duke -17, 12, 20. Mens doubles: T. Bruce and W. Moulding beat B. Powell and R. Powell 13, -20, 15. Womens Doubles: Miss C. Hunter and Miss C. Gale beat Mrs S. Morse and Miss T. Youldon 10, 10. Mixed doubles: A. Duke and Miss C. Hunter beat T. Bruce and Mrs M. Potter 14, 17.

In the junior tournament Swindon's young stars showed their dominance of Wiltshire table tennis when they won all but one of the titles.

Stuart Fry led the Swindon charge by chalking up a hat-trick of victories.

He justified his number one seeding in the Cadet (under 14) singles where he inched out in a three game thriller against Hue Ngo (correct).

Then he and Simon White won the boys' doubles and partnered Karenza Palmer of Aldbourne to the mixed title.

Results of finals

Boys' singles: A. Collar beat P. Fry 20, -14, 11. Girls' singles: Miss T. Youldon beat Miss M. Potter 16, 18. Cadet boys' singles: S. Fry beat Hue Ngo -11, 18, 21. Cadet girls': Miss Y. Dowd beat Miss E. Stephens 19, -15, 11. Under 12 boys' singles: S. Elwick beat J. Evans -13, 18, 12. Under 12 girls' singles (group): winner Tracy Youldon. Boy's doubles final: S. Fry and S. White beat P. Fry and H. Ngo -20, 17, 14. Girls' doubles final: Miss M. Potter and Miss K. Palmer beat Miss Youldon and

Miss Fry 13, 8. Mixed doubles: S. Fry and Miss K. Palmer beat P. Fry and Miss M. Potter -7, 13, 15.



Adrian Metcalfe, Wilts.

A piece of tennis history was made in Swindon championships when a girl of 11 became the town's junior champion.

Tracy Youldon, who has been playing only two years, won the under 18 and under 15 singles.

Alexander Collar retained both his under 18 and under 15 singles titles and then teamed up with Peter Fry to take the boy's doubles.

Under 17 boys' singles final: A. Collar beat P. Fry 18, 10. Under 17 girls' singles: Miss T. Youldon beat Miss M. Potter 19, 14. Under 15 boys' singles: A. Collar beat S. White 18, 13.

Under 15 girls' singles: Miss T. Youldon beat Miss M. Potter 13, -18, 19. Under 13 boys' singles: N. Ngo beat M. Thompson 10, 15. Under 13 girls': Miss H. Fry beat Miss K. Sampson 14, -13, 10. singles title in 1972 and went on to win it three more times. He played for the county 85 times.

Bill took his first Wiltshire title more than 20 years ago when he won the junior boys' singles. He went on to chalk up four senior titles.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

THE SEASON of Closed Championships is already upon us, and at YORK the top names in the mens Singles fell like ninepins as 21 year old Mark Bond, who had already put the Intermediate Singles title under his belt, lined up against another 'outsider' in Keith Dodd in the final.

Dodd, admittedly the title holder three years ago, but now playing in Division 2 after a lay-off, dismissed seeds Ian Stansfield (4) and John Elliott (1), while Doug Bartle (3) and Mick Wadsworth (2) fell to the unseeded Bond, who took the final in straight sets.

He also beat Chris Dale in the Intermediate final, as well as stepping up for the finals of the Mens Doubles (with Tim Bean) and Mixed (with Betty Norman) and well deserved to receive the

Clifford Trophy as the outstanding player of the Championships.

Maureen Gott claimed the Ladies title for the ninth successive time and the eleventh in twelve years, and the Junior Singles went to a girl for the first time since Janette Richardson won it in 1974 when Adele Lobley beat Neil Snodgrass in the final.

Other results were: MD - Tim Read and Graham Hatfield; LD - Gott and Lisa Clifford; VS - Wadsworth; VD - Bartle and Stan Ryder; Hard Bat Singles - Charles Allenby.

Down the road at Selby it was teenagers to the fore with 15 year old Selby High School boy Gareth Jones, the second seed, ending the seven year monopoly exercised by the Sturge club on the Fasprint Selby Closed Mens Singles.

Chris Nicholls cleared holder and top seed Craig Smith out of the way in the semi-final battle of the 17 year olds, only to find Jones too hot in a straight sets final, but there was consolation for Smith - Nicholls in the Open Doubles, where they took the title for the third year running, with Smith adding the Junior Singles as he got the better of - yes - Jones!

Debbie Newman (LS) and Andrew Nicholls (Cadets) completed teenage representation which must have given a big boost to Mick Wilcockson and his team of coaches who have done so much to improve standards in the town and its surrounding villages.

Represented by the Sixth Form College, SELBY also carried the County flag in the ESTAA's National Team Finals, where they were just shaded into second place by Sussex side Ifield Community College in the Boys Under 19 event despite an excellent win by Smith over Scott Greenbrook.

Popular Tournament Referee Bevan Walker is the man behind a new Kirklees Summer League to be launched at the Batley Sports Centre over a fourteen week period.

By bringing all the teams together at one venue, Bevan hopes to encourage the social side of the sport, and he is also encouraging the Ladies' game by the stipulation that each team - not squad - must field one female player.

The match format is not yet finalized, but it could well be four MS, one LS and two XD, and the venture will be watched with interest as a pointer to the future of the game.

In LEEDS Division 1 has become a three horse race between Yorkshire Bank A, Tascus and Waddingtons A with the last named, two points behind, but with a game in hand on leaders Yorkshire Bank, the current favorites.

Denis is accurate

I FOUND Rea Balmford's article on Denis Neale most interesting, and Denis's observations on the present state of the game very accurate. There are a great many of us around the country who are decent club players (and coaches sometimes) who find the present trend is towards equipment rather than player.

There is a bewildering variety of rubbers available and we are now treated to the "bicycle glue boys" as well. The enjoyment is slipping away as the game is no longer a contest to see which player is the best but which bat has the more unusual combination of rubbers.



Denis Neale is no longer mine host at Northallerton, Yorkshire. He is off to South Africa for three months, mission undisclosed.

A few years ago I played a promising County junior with "funny" rubbers and had plenty of trouble. I then suggested a game with Mark 'V' for both of us and had very little problem. This junior had only changed from Mark 'V' to his new rubbers during that season. The rubbers made all the difference.

Table Tennis must be the only racquet sport that gets itself into such a mess. Tennis, Badminton and Squash don't have the same problems. Ivan Lendl wins because he's the best player not because he has stringing that throws the ball off unpredictably. Jahangir Khan and Morten Frost are top players on ability alone. Can you imagine Hockey if players were allowed to put a sticky solution on the stick to aid adhesion?

Denis Neale is dead right. The over development of equipment is killing Table Tennis as a spectator sport in this Country, and is doing nothing whatsoever to encourage individual ability and development.

COLIN WESTNEY
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Retiring Mandy not picked since 1980

FIRSTLY I would like to announce that I will be retiring from competitive table tennis at the end of this season (14 May), I have had a good innings and feel happy to still be playing at 27, and stopping through choice, which has been swayed by the chance of having a holiday in New Zealand in the middle of next season. Therefore, I have turned down playing in the Bundesliga next season.

Even now, people ask me 'Why aren't you picked for England?' On being asked this again the other day I was staggered to realise that the last time I had represented England in a major International, (besides playing twice in the Quadrangular, which most people know is regarded as one of the less important Internationals, in which I never lost a singles match), was in 1980, nine years ago, in the German Senior Open. During that time England have selected over 20 girls for Senior Internationals.

In those nine years I have won several 2-star tournaments, and three 3-star tournaments, came runner-up in the National Championships last year, and have for several years been in the Top 5 in the England Ranking and got as high as number 3. Disappointingly I was not picked for anything (except the Quad) after getting a bronze medal at the 1985 Commonwealth Championships.

I played in the individual events, after paying my own way to go out with the team to practise, having to stay on my own for a week in a Guest House, down the road from the players' Hotel. I think the preparation paid off for me, as I played well to reach the semi-finals, and a bronze medal, although I received no recognition from England, as I was given **NO OPPORTUNITIES** to play for England at a major International. Although I have attended many England Training Camps, and find it strange that selection has not followed.

In January of last season I played in the individuals of the English Open in Brighton I beat Carol Giles and then played a Japanese player, to reach the 3rd round, where I lost to Bulatova from Russia, and in the English Nationals later in the season I reached the final.

This season I have played for TuS Glane in the Bundesliga, Germany against some fine players, although I have not felt outclassed and have had some good wins

over, Katja Nolten, Nicole Struse (both representing Germany in the Worlds at Dortmund last month), and Yan Qun Yang (an ex-Chinese player).

I know there will be people who will say, 'Ah - she was just unlucky', saying it with a little sympathy - but it's too late now - it's not going to give me those opportunities I have tried so long and hard to get. (Or even **one opportunity in nine years**). I should have made more of a fuss at the time, but thought my chance would come, and think to myself, I still need to prove myself more.

I have no regrets but perhaps an explanation on the above would be forthcoming from the England Selectors.

Unfortunately, people who read this, will not appreciate this letter, as much as those who know me, or experienced a similar deal.

I have no doubts that I will miss Table Tennis as it has always been such a big part of my life, and I will continue coaching this summer. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone in Table Tennis - **ALL THE VERY BEST**.

MANDY SAINSBURY

Don Parker's Reply

UP UNTIL September 1987 the selection committee was responsible for selection and after myself as sole selector. For the season 1988-89 Mandy chose to play in the Bundesliga which immediately eliminated her from selection as current international players are banned from this league except of course the Germans. I am therefore surprised Mandy mentions her performance in the English Open and Closed last season as she automatically eliminated herself from subsequent selection by playing in Germany. Indeed I have been criticised quite strongly in certain quarters for offering one of the extra places at the recent Commonwealth Championships to Mandy as she was unavailable for England.

With regards the period prior to sole selection it would be totally unprofessional to reveal selection committee discussions. However I can assure everyone that the committee very diligently considered all the players taking numerous factors into account such as results, potential, ability under pressure, age, style, dedication etc and also took into account the long term future as well as the short term before they selected players they thought good enough.

Mandy is of course quite right when she mentions that other players have experienced a similar deal. Players with an equal record have received similar treatment. A selection committee

or indeed a sole selector can never be right in everybody's eyes, all it can do is its best for its Country and that is certainly what I shall be doing over the next few years. It is a great pity that what is best is not always the same as what is fair and unjust. I shall never win but maybe a few 'draws' are possible!

Finally, I would like to express my best wishes to Mandy in her retirement. She was an excellent ambassador for the Sport and I am delighted that she will be staying involved in coaching.

DON PARKER Sole Selector

Mainly on the service

DISCUSSIONS by letter can go on too long, and at the risk of not having the last word on the subject of 'fair' services I make my final contribution to the debate with this letter.

The Laws of table tennis have for a long time been modified at intervals when some practice or style or type of equipment produced such an advantage to a user that it detracted from the game. Officers from the various associations in the International Federation had to get together to agree a wording of the appropriate Law to get over the difficulty.

For example, when servers began to hide the serving action from the receiver, as exemplified by Carl Prean whose ingenuity I much admired at the time, it was felt necessary to modify the service law. Personally, I think that the resulting wording has turned out to be over elaborate, and difficult to apply. Also, as John Prean points out, it has not necessarily achieved the desired result.

In general, the officers of the ITTF whose job it is to revise the Laws would be persons actively engaged in, and closely associated with the players of, the sport so as to be well aware of the desirability of introducing new measures. It is a great pity to propagate an atmosphere of 'them' officials and 'us' players. However, I have never known John Prean to be 100% wrong in anything he says or does. Therefore, it would as well to note his proposition that the drafters of the amendments are insufficiently in touch with the possible outcome to be sure that they get the wording correct.

So, we are all agreed that it would be better if the receiver can see what the server is doing when he strikes that ball in service, and what side of the racket he is using at the time. The umpire or his assistant should also be able to see that the service is legal. All we have to do is devise suitable wording to ensure that this hap-

Continued on page 31

Mailbox 2

(cont from page 29)

pens, and make it easy to understand and easy to be positive whether it is legal or not. This is evidently easier said than done. You may have seen a possible new wording of the Service Law by Colin Clemett, Chairman of the ITTF Rules Committee, in the March issue of Table Tennis Digest published by the ITTF.

He points out the 23 things that under the current Laws the umpire may have to consider in the fraction of a second occupied by the service, and asks for suggestions to perhaps simplify the Law even further than his proposed new wording.

The 16cm throw up modification has at least achieved the objective of getting rid of the sweep straight off the hand, or its near equivalent of a 2mm throw. As I said, and as John emphasised in his last letter, it is difficult to estimate the exact height of throw up, and that is why I said that an umpire would certainly give the benefit of the doubt to a player who he thought had thrown the ball up only 5½ inches. What causes the difficulty is when players ignore the spirit of the Law and try to see what they can get away with. I would say that if a player sails so close to the wind that considerable doubt is generated as to whether the service is legal or not, he cannot complain if the umpire calls a fault. An umpire is only human, and confronted with a barrage of doubtful services a fault may be called even by mistake on the odd occasion in a tournament - after all a player makes 21 mistakes in a single lost game. However, it's nice to think I'm perfect.

JACK RANDALL

Cadet girls: more space wanted

WHILST recognising that the Editor of Table Tennis News is at the mercy of his correspondents, one wonders why, when many people are doing their utmost to promote women's table tennis, the female sex is so poorly represented in the pages of our magazine.

In Junior tournaments reported in this season's editions, girls events received less than 50% of the attention given to those for boys with Cadet Girls' events receiving only 10% of the allotted space.

That Cadet Girls are the lowest of the low is evidenced by the October report of the European Youth Championships at Novi Sad where, amongst the 68 column inches of Paul Elphick's report, there was not even an

acknowledgement that England had a Cadet Girls' team present. For the record our team consisted of Katie Goodall and Ellen Meddings and they finished 12th in the team event.

Similar non-attention was given to the Cadet 6-Nations tournament held last summer in Bletchley. News that our team of Ellen Meddings, Katie Goodall, Maria Thornley and Helen Wright were runners-up, losing only to West Germany on sets difference, made one national daily newspaper (only one of the newspaper's 'team' actually played in the match, but one can't have everything!) but merited not a word in Table Tennis News.

Let us hope that the corresponding events this year will be more fully reported and that other correspondents will begin to give the girls the credit they deserve. They work as hard as the boys for their success and whether or not we are trying to build up female participation in table tennis, deserve a fairer deal.

RICHARD HUDSON
14 Rufford Crescent,
Rufford Park,
Yeadon, Leeds

Editors Note: Editors are not at the mercy of correspondents. The sport in this country is at the mercy of thousands of people in the sport who are too mean to buy this magazine. If they were not so "tight" we could attract more advertisers that would produce more pages, that would lead to fuller reports and more about Cadet Girls. Paul Elphick's story was excellent from Novi Sad, but so long that cuts had to be made. Large quantities of good material have to be omitted from this magazine, cadet girls is just one subject that does not get the space it deserves. Mr Hudson refers to my story in the Daily Telegraph on the 6-Nation event at Bletchley - that was extremely fortunate to appear. Wrong names was due to incorrect information supplied.

It is naive to think that summer events, even the European Youth Championships are going to get national press coverage. No-one submitted a report on the 6-Nation event for the October magazine, as far as I can recall.

No more tears

MIKE Loveder (Mailbox March) has a decent record against defenders. However, against one who is able to return his best shots, turn defence into lightning counter attacks and exaggerate pretty well I doubt whether he would have realised his potential! His other point, however, demands more serious attention.

Entry Forms for most Tournaments state play will commence in groups. When players fail to arrive - for whatever reason - it

should be the referee's duty to make up the numbers to the required level. Indeed with entry and travelling costs (and distances) so high there's surely a case for all tournaments to commence with groups of four. This would guarantee, (as it does in the Middlesex 3 Star) the vast majority of players who make up the tournament, a minimum of 3 matches. With groups of 4 there would be less change over times, more continuous T.T., less empty tables and possibly an improvement in the entertainment value for spectators.

In order to guarantee full groups I suggested in Surrey notes June '86 a pool of reserve players (late entries or scratch players) to stand by to fill vacancies. In the unlikely event of everyone turning up these players would play in groups themselves and enter round one in the place of byes.

Incidentally, Mike, I did ask for an early start at Essex.

FRANK HAMS
104, Wandle Road,
Morden, Surrey

Corner coaching

THERE is no doubt that a good at-the-table match adviser can be of great benefit to players, par-

ticularly youngsters, sometimes turning 'certain' defeat into brilliant victory. However, in the December 1981 edition of the now defunct 'Table Tennis' magazine, I wrote of some of the pitfalls for parents (and coaches) who act as 'Cornermen' for their own children (pupils).

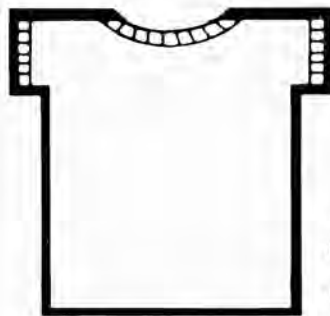
Another worry is that juniors can develop a dependency on the adviser, not being able to think things out for themselves, or blaming loss on his absence. "He/She had someone to help him/her but I had no-one." "Nobody was interested in me so I didn't try." Bad advice can also be blamed. "It's not my fault. You told me to hit/push/play to the backhand etc." But an expectation that coaches should/will watch every match is often not realistic or even fair.

Changing tactics

Helping players develop autonomy (so for example they can adapt to changing tactics/circumstances throughout the course of a game rather than blindly following instruction) yet knowing when and how to gain them maximum advantage through good advice and moral support are arts which all coaches should seriously consider. Perhaps the role of the cornerman can be discussed at the 'Mental Preparation for Table Tennis' course at Lilleshall on July 2nd.

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THE LENTEC NATIONAL RANKING LIST

SENIOR MEN & WOMEN



Includes all ranking scheme events up to and including the Essex 3 Star 12.2.89

EFFECTIVE FROM 17.3.89

SENIOR MEN

1. Alan Cooke (Chesterfield)	3096
2. Desmond Douglas (Walsall)	2855
3. Carl Prean (Ryde)	2579
4. Nicky Mason (Bexhill)	1591
5. Skylet Andrew (Stratford)	1385
6. Bradley Billington (Chesterfield)	1151
7. Matthew Syed (Reading)	1080
8. John Souter (Neasden)	998
9. Steven Dorking (Hornchurch)	853
10. Kevin Satchell (Melksham)	844
11. Chris Rogers (Leicester)	814
12. Jimmy Stokes (Reading)	811
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14. John Hilton (Manchester)	807
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16. Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield)	772
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12. Joanne Shaw (Normanton)	373
13. Lesley Radford (Upminster)	370
14. Juliet Houghton (Tonbridge)	331
15. Susan Collier (Maidenhead)	311
16. Elaine Sayer (London E12)	294
17. Deborah Toole (Normanton)	290
18. Helen Lower (Wolverhampton)	289
19. Jane Barella (Surbiton)	279
20. Cheryl Buttery (Lincoln)	266
21. Teresa Moore (Bexhill)	262
22. Melonie Carey (Puriton)	254
23. Susan Butler (Plymouth)	250
24. Elaine Short (Plymouth)	249
25. Gillian Blanch (Acton)	227
26. Helen Perrott (Keynsham)	227
27. Sally Weston (Horsham)	210
28. Susan Radley (Lincoln)	204

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.

New ground success for the schools

The first East-Sussex Schools event

by DAVID LOMAS

"WHERE'S the press office?" joked ETTA General Secretary, Albert Shipley, when he spotted journalist John Woodford at Hastings YMCA Sports Centre on Saturday, March 18th.

It was an understandable joke – for both John and Albert are more accustomed to such facilities at the events they attend – and this was the East Sussex Schools Individual Championships. At first sight a county schools individual championships is hardly an earth-shattering event but this was a bit special – the first ever staged in East Sussex and taking place in Hastings, where both the ETTA and the ITTF are based.

The Championships were the culmination of much spade-work, spearheaded by the ESTTA.

London and South-East Regional Co-ordinating Committee Chairman, Brian Spicer, who is also Sussex National Councillor, had bemoaned the lack of organised schools table tennis events in both East and West Sussex and had from time to time during the last six years endeavoured to nudge the ESTTA into taking some initiative.

The seeds were finally sown in September of last year when a questionnaire on table tennis facilities and potential interest was sent to over 300 schools throughout the county. Following the receipt of 47 replies it was decided to go ahead with an inaugural individual championships.

A convenient date was fixed – not an easy task threading one's way through the calendar minefield – and an eight table venue at the YMCA was soon found. Sussex County and Hastings Chairman – the experienced Colin Hyland – agreed to be referee and others came forward to help on the day. The vital last piece of the jigsaw was put in place when Leon Shepperdson, Chairman of local timber merchants, Stamco, swiftly responded to an invitation to sponsor the event.

ETTA Assistant Events Manager, Robert Sinclair, and YMCA table tennis coach, Kevin Haffenden, provided invaluable help by collecting and transporting tables from local clubs late on the Friday night.

Former ESTTA Competitions organisers, John Wright and Eddie Mitchell had also made a contribution by revealing the "secrets" of the ESTTAs tried and test automatic consolation system of play.

Brian Spicer took time off from his road-running hobby to look after the guests, who included the Deputy Mayor of Hastings, Councillor Paul Smith and East Sussex curriculum adviser for physical education, Mrs Margaret Coleman, sponsor Leon Shepperdson (STAMCO) and Albert and Betty Shipley.

Having written about the personalities involved in the championships let me emphasise that this venture was really about the grass-roots of the game – the players. 136 pupils aged from ten to nineteen – from 20 schools throughout the county took part. Many of them were playing in their first-ever tournament. The winners were due to travel to Mansfield on April 29th to play in the Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships, boosting the total of participants to 275.

And the press office? John Woodford – to my knowledge making his debut at a schools event – covered the event for the Sussex Express and the Brighton Evening Argus, and Roger Standen – table tennis correspondent for the Hastings Observer and News series was also busy.

It is hoped to build on the success by organising a similar event next season. Brian is also optimistic that West Sussex schools can get their act together and follow their East Sussex neighbours in this vital area of development.

SCHOOLS RESULTS

Under-11 Boys Glen Magee (Newlands, Seasford) bt James Crman (Westfield) 21-16	Under-16 Boys James Toze (Claverham) bt Andrew Collins (William Parker) 14, 14
Under-11 Girls Tina Beany (Guestling Bradshaw) bt Emma Wilson (Newlands) 10, 16	Under-16 Girls Lian Wilson (Thomas Peacocke, Rye) bt Tamara Shiner (Cavendish, Eastbourne) 2, 3
Under-13 Boys Niall Munro (Claverham) bt Paul Smith (Claverham) 13, -12, 16	Under-19 Boys Jon Yau (Wilton House) bt Stuart Hobden (Eastbourne College) 13, 20
Under-13 Girls Sara Coggon (Grove) bt Nicola Evans (Grove) 12, -18, 22	

SALE

PRICE ATTACK

<<<<NEW SALE ITEMS>>>>

RUBBER

Joola Clipper Fast Attack	RED/BLK	1.5 2.0	£12.00
Joola Carrera Tacky	RED/BLK	2.0	£10.00
Joola Tomi-Bold Anti-Spin	RED/BLK	1.5	£9.00
Golden Falcon Fast Attack	RED/BLK	1.5 2.0	£10.00
Vip Speedy Spin Fast Attack	RED/BLK	2.0	£12.00
Striver Killer Anti-Spin	RED NOT ITTF	1.8	£10.00
729 Friendship Tacky	RED/BLK	1.5 2.0	£12.00
Lewtec Swing Long Pimples	RED	1.5 40/50/60	£11.00
Lewtec Swing Long Pimples	RED	2.0 40/50/60	£11.00
Lewtec Swing Long Pimples	BLK	2.0 40/50	£11.00
Lewtec Grip Tacky	BLK/RED	1.5 40/50/60	£10.00
Lewtec Grip Tacky	BLK/RED	2.0 40/50/60	£10.00
Lewtec Attack Reverse	BLK	2.0 70	£9.00
Lewtec Killspin Anti-Spin	BLK	1.5 40/60	£8.00
Lewtec Killspin Anti-Spin	BLK	2.0 40/60	£8.00
Swing Long Pip, No Sponge	RED	---	£7.00
TSP Bolt Allround	RED/BLK	1.5 2.0	£5.00
TSP Super Flash Attack	RED	1.5	£4.00
TSP Spectol Rev Allround	RED	1.5 2.0 2.5	£3.00
Spin/Speed Unnamed	RED	2.5	£2.00
TSP K1 Reginner	RED	1.5	£1.00
B'Fly Print Long Pimple	BLK NOT ITTF	1.0	£9.00
TSP Curl Long Pimple	RED	2.0	£5.00
Silver Spot Short	RED	1.0 1.5	£2.00
Hard Bat Rubber	RED/BLK		£1.00

BLADES

Joola Drive Speed 9 Control 7	GRIP: FL. AN.	£12.00
Joola Ranger Speed 5 Control 8	GRIP: FL. AN.	£8.00
Joola Tomi Holdspeed 1	CONTROL 10 GRIP: ST.	£10.00
Tibbar B-19	SPEED 9+ CONTROL 4 GRIP: ST.	£19.00
Power Allround	SPEED 7+ CONTROL 7 GRIP: FL. ST. AN.	£10.00
B'Fly English	SPEED 5 CONTROL 8 GRIP: ST.	£6.00
TSP Pierce	SPEED 6 CONTROL 7 GRIP: ST. AN.	£10.00

BAT CASES

Stiga Round Bat Case	RED/NAVY	£1.50
Donic Round Bat Case	BLUR	£1.00
Donic Case with Ball Holder	RED	£1.50
TSP Two Bat Vallet	YELLOW	£4.00
TSP Nylon Holdall	BEIGE	£5.00

<<<<SUPER VALUE BATS>>>>

STIGA HANS ALSER	WHISP BAT	£13.00
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SUPER VALUE SPRING OFFERS

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Nancy the first lady . . .

NANCY Roy Evans, of Cardiff, was saluted as "the number one lady in table tennis" in the Butterfly Commonwealth Championships at the National Sports Centre.

That was how she was introduced to players and spectators by Mrs Jose Ransome, chairman of the Women's Committee of the English TTA and a leader of the British Organisation Women in Table Tennis.

Mrs Evans, who is the championship secretary in Cardiff and is the wife of former International Federation President Roy Evans, was presented with a basket of flowers by England's former Commonwealth champion Jill Parker.

Mrs Evans, who has been secretary of the Table Tennis Association of Wales since the 1940s, was the world No 7 player in 1938.



Iceland coming!

by DAVID LOMAS

TEAMS from England, Iceland, the Isle of Man, Ireland, Scotland and Wales will be involved in the Leeds Schools International Championships which will take place at Stockland Green Leisure Centre, Erdington, Birmingham on 30 June, 1st and 2nd July.

Almost 150 players are expected to take part. English teams will be hoping to continue their unbeaten record which stretches back to the first championships in 1975.

Rubber Authorisation

A NEW list of ITTF authorised racket coverings will be published in June this year and manufacturers who wish new racket coverings to be authorised then should ensure that the Chairman of the Equipment Committee has received the request and the samples by 15th May at the latest.

Manufacturers who have already requested authorisation of a new rubber will receive an invoice from the ITTF Secretariat before then.

Manufacturers should note that samples of racket coverings should **not** be sent to the Secretariat but to: Mr. J. Rufford Harrison, 22 Cragmere Road, Wilmington, DE 19809, USA



Roy Evans and his wife Nancy were the recipients of a bowl at the finals night dinner at Cardiff. It was given to Roy in Nancy's absence by Gordon Baker, chairman of the Commonwealth TTA, commemorating a total of 120 years service to the sport. Left, Roy Evans former President of the ITTF. Picture Brian Webster, Dundee.

Press Competition: Results

OVER one hundred press cuttings were submitted for the ESTTA's competition. ESTAA chairman, John Arnold, said "The standard was very high, especially in terms of photographic coverage and accuracy. It was noticeable that several entries came from the news pages - back and front - as well as the sports pages. One entry was a double-page spread in a regional evening newspaper, with two-inch headlines!

The winning schools will receive equipment prizes

donated by our major sponsors, Dunlop Slazenger International.

Winners:

1st Prizes: Gosforth School, Dronfield. Ifield Community College, Crawley. Woodfield Junior School, Wolverhampton
2nd Prizes: Cumnor House School, Croydon. Woodley Junior School, Stockport. Yarlside Primary, Barrow-in-Furness
3rd Prizes: Hillside Avenue Primary, Norwich. Holymead Junior, Bristol. Worcester Sixth Form College

James Uyekunle Nigerian, 15 is sensation

by ALAN SHEPHERD
of Essex

THERE was a big buzz at the Essex Junior Select over the unknown 15 year old who was toppling the giants. His name was James Uyekunle and he arrived in England in February from Nigeria, where he tells me he is their Junior Champion.

He is good

After straightforward wins in his group over Bradley Matthews and Robert Hyacinth (both Middlesex) James defeated Lawrence Simpson (Glous) in Round 1, without the loss of a game. His next opponent was the holder, Leigh Jefferies of Staffs, No. 7 in England. Now we would see if this boy really was any good. Leigh will tell you he is, since he lost -18, -16!

Tremendous Battle

James next faced Mark Stephensen (Yorks), No. 15 ranked. This was a tremendous battle, both players attacking throughout. Mark won the first game easily to 10, James the second 12, then Mark took command and led 18-14. A few crunching forehands later, James and won 21-18!

He is left handed and his forehand loop has an enormous swerve on it.

His backhand is not so clever but he blocks well with it. Could he live with the long pimpled wiles of Gary Knights, the England No. 10? As it happens, no, but he only lost after a terrific battle -14, 22, 17. Great play by Garry in this and all credit to the loser. For the information of other envious Counties, James lives in the Essex part of East London, so is one of ours from now on!

Women in Leeds British League

Magic launch at Burton

by JOSE RANSOME

Meadowside Leisure Centre, Burton Upon Trent – the venue for the launch of the first weekend competition for women in Great Britain . . . The Leeds Women's British League. "Absolute Magic" . . . to quote umpire Tony Carey, the magic reflected in the Magic Ball Song from the 40th World Championships played during the weekend.

Lasting impressions . . . over 130 happy women and girls playing table tennis at an incredibly high standard, the infectious team spirit and attractive, colourful team outfits. The overall enthusiasm of everyone involved, players, coaches, umpires and organisers, and appreciation that this event was finally underway. "We should have done it years ago" said Lesley Radford of Fellows Cranleigh. Even some of the team names highlighted the renewed interest in the women's game, A.H.W. and Western "Belles, Patsun "Roses".

By the end of five full sessions of play at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, the standing in the four groups of six teams each had been established. The main upset in the seeded position occurred in the last round match in Group 4 when Patsun Roses beat Murrayfield Memorial team into first place.

My overall impression was that the standard of play and tension in many of the matches surpassed some of the international finals I have witnessed in recent weeks. Well done, everyone!

More Magic and glitter on Saturday evening at a dinner attended by over 130 "Ladies, Ladies, Ladies and Gentlemen", as Terry Gadsby so aptly addressed the gathering. A delicious meal prepared by the Burton Technical College, not too dampened by somewhat slow service because it provided the opportunity we had aimed for, to socialise after a hard day's competition.

The presence of the Chairman of the East Staffordshire District Council, Stan Deeming and Mrs. Deeming, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Burton Upon Trent, Councillor & Mrs. F. A. Smith added to the occasion.

Improvements in the presen-

tation of the event for the general public and an informal Saturday evening buffet at the Crest Hotel in Luton for the participants will feature in the arrangements for the final weekend at Bletchley Leisure Centre, when the format will be three divisions of eight teams each, comprising the 1st and 2nd placed teams from Burton in Division 1, the 3rd and 4th placed teams in Division 2 and 5th and 6th placed teams in Division 3.

Each Division will be divided into Groups A & B in which round robin play will take place on the Saturday. Semi final and

final matches will take place on the Sunday to determine the Champions and overall final standing of the 24 teams.

Finally, a vote of thanks to our sponsors – the Leeds Permanent Building Society, Butterfly Table Tennis (U.K.) and Schildkrot, to the staff at the Meadowside Leisure Centre, to the Burton Daily Mail and Advertiser for publishing a fabulous centrefold supplement, to the clubs, players and their sponsors, and to everyone whose efforts combined to make it a truly "Magic" weekend in Burton.

Make a date with the women for May 27-28 at the Bletchley Leisure Centre, Princes Way, Milton Keynes . . . I can promise you a weekend to remember!



Wendy Cunningham making the presentation to "woman of the weekend" Alison Evans of Patsun Castell Alum.



ETTA COACH EDUCATION COURSE

"Highly recommended for any coach or parent working with competitors on the tournament circuit" – DON PARKER, England Team Manager

EVENT: ETTA Workshop: Mental Preparation for Table Tennis

DATE: Sunday, July 2nd, starting with coffee at 10.00 and finishing at 17.00

VENUE: Lilleshall Hall, National Sports Centre, Nr Newport, Shropshire

PROGRAMME: The aim of this workshop is to stimulate a dialogue between coaches and psychologists about the specific mental preparation needs of table tennis players. This is based on informal feedback from coaches after psychological presentations made at three ETTA Coaching Conferences, which suggested that many table tennis areas are keen to discuss issues of mental preparation with sports psychologists.

The format of the workshop reflects the emphasis on discussing focussed on specific issues. Hence the day will be divided into a morning session on one major area, namely stress management, and an afternoon session on another important area, concentration and attention.

Each session will commence with an orienting presentation by a psychologist. This will be followed by a short practical session, where coaches will be introduced to an appropriate mental preparation technique. A small group discussion will follow. Each group will consist of a number of coaches and a convener, who is a psychologist. The groups will be provided with some general questions to orient their discussion but the convener's brief will be to act flexibly to encourage issues to emerge and to be debated.

Following the discussion, there will be a plenary session where the conveners will report back the main themes and conclusions of each group. Finally, all delegates will reflect on these reports.

The group comments and the plenary discussion on each topic will be written up, along with the keynote presentations, to provide a document which can be used in the ETTA Coach Education Programme.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Tony Morris As well as being an eminent psychologist, Tony is a former Yorkshire Junior County Player. He will be bringing his team of psychologists. Also in attendance will be Don Parker (Director of Coaching) and Stuart Sneyd (Vice-Chairman, Selection/Coaching).

COST: £6 (payable to "ETTA") which includes morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

Please return to: ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings TN34 1HF

I would like to reserve a place on the Workshop on July 2nd

Name

Address

Please tick for travel directions

Please note that the number of places is restricted to 50 and that applications will be dealt with on the basis of first received, and that the course is also open to non ETTA Coaches.

Picture Parade 1



In Dortmund the presentation of the Joola Trophy was made by ITTF President Mr Ichiro Ogimura. Left to right, Mihaly Kozak (secretary AIPS), Jorgen Persson (Cash 5,000DM), Mr Ogimura, Csilla Batorfi (Cash 5,000 DM), and Michael Bachtler, managing director of Joola. The prizes were for the best performance in the team events.



Janet Smith, currently No. 1 in Scotland and Sussex recently won the all-Sussex title from Teresa Moore in the final and is hoping to go to Tokyo this summer for another special Butterfly training course.



At the Scottish Championships singles winners David Hannah (left) is pictured with the surprise womens singles winner Sarah Hurry (right). In the centre is Mr Ronnie Fergus, sales director of the sponsors Runtalrad of Iver, Bucks.



On the Isle of Dogs, a photograph that was omitted last edition showing the six No. 1 ranked players at the Island Ranking tournament. Left to right Louise Butcher (U11), Stacey Brown (U14), Nicky Carter (U17), Chris Day (Barclays, the sponsor), Femi Ysoof (U14) and Genn Cramer (U11).



In Cardiff, Mr Kimihiko Tamasu and Mr Alan Ransome shake hands on the signing of the new ten-year agreement for Tamasu and Butterfly that includes benefits for many British players.



Table Tennis wedding of the year so far was between international umpires Dianna Winnill of Hampshire and John Jermyn of Baldock, Herts. Both are well-known as tournament referees and organisers.

The Cardiff Butterfly reception

Tamasu and Butterfly fly on into the 1990's

AT A RECEPTION held for delegates, players, coaches and officials of the British National table tennis associations during the Butterfly 9th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff this announcement was made by Mr. Kimihiko Tamasu, Managing Director of Tamasu Co. Ltd., Tokyo, manufacturers of the Butterfly brand of table tennis equipment.

"The initial ten-year Agreement between the Tamasu Co. Ltd. and Butterfly Table Tennis (U.K.) Ltd., comes to an end next year and this Press Conference has been called to announce the signing of a new ten-year Agreement which will run into the 21st Century."

Mr Tamasu said "The Tamasu Company are very satisfied with the progress that Butterfly Table Tennis (U.K.) Ltd., has made in the British market and I wish deeply that the mutual relationship and co-operation will become even closer in future years.



Alan Ransome
Managing Director of Butterfly UK

Delighted

"We have been pleased to sponsor the national associations and are delighted to see here in Cardiff the teams of England, Scotland, Wales, Isle of Man and Guernsey all wearing their Butterfly clothing, and we are very pleased to have assisted in the development of many leading players in the United Kingdom, including Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke, Carl Prean and Alison Gordon.

Into 2000

"It has been our policy to help the development of table tennis throughout the whole of Great Britain and it is our intention to

continue this policy into the year 2000."

Ransome pleased

Mr. Alan Ransome, the Managing Director of Butterfly Table Tennis (U.K.) Ltd replied:

"We are very pleased to enter into this second ten year Agreement with the Tamasu Company which will take us through to the next century.

We have dealt with many sporting goods companies over the last fifteen years or so that we have been in the business and have found Tamasu to be the most helpful and reliable business partner.

Their continued support has enabled us to become by far the biggest supplier of table tennis equipment in the United Kingdom and, in turn, we have been able to use funding from our profits to the maximum benefit of table tennis in this country."



"Together with the Tamasu Company, Butterfly U.K. have been one of the main sponsors of table tennis in the United Kingdom over the last ten years. The championships which we have been very pleased to support include: The European Top 12 in 1983, The 8th Commonwealth Championships on the Isle of Man in 1985, The Leeds Euro Asia in Cleveland in 1988 and now, of course, here in Cardiff, the Butterfly 9th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships.

Table Tennis History – The New book now on Sale

A FASCINATING new book "Table Tennis – the Early Years" by Gerald N. Gurney has now been published.

Four hundred books in twenty languages have been published since the sport started. This is the first attempt at a comprehensive account of the early days.

It covers the period from the late 19th century to the formation of the ITTF in 1926.

Ron Crayden

Amongst a number of people who helped Gerald Gurney with this excellent publication which is A4 size and lavishly illustrated is Surrey's Ron Crayden.

The book is available from Gerald Gurney, Guildhall, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex CO7 7TU, costing £3.50 including postage.

U.S. Open set for June 7-11 in Miami

THE U.S. OPEN, set for June 7 through 11 in Miami, Florida, is expected to draw at least 900 players from the United States and more than 30 foreign countries, reports Dennis Masters, national tournament chairman.

The tournament, to be held at the Stephen Muss Convention Center in Miami Beach, is open to all members of the USTTA and foreign table tennis associations. And if Masters has his way this year the Open will attract many more foreign players, particularly those 40 years old and over. While in Yugoslavia last year to attend the Veteran World Championships, Masters learned that many foreign senior and veteran players were unaware that the U.S. Open featured several events for over-40 players.

"This year we are promoting the tournament to foreign associations so their senior players in particular know that we want them to come," Masters said.

The U.S. Open is part of the prestigious STIGA World Grand Prix Masters, an international series of open table tennis tournaments sponsored by Swedish Table Tennis AB. The STIGA Masters games will culminate later this year with finals to be played in Sweden.

Total prize money for the U.S. Open this year will be \$20,000 up from \$18,000 in 1988. Prizes for leading international players will be \$1,000 for first place and \$600 for second. The top North American players will receive \$600 for first place, \$300 for second, and \$150 for third and fourth places.

The American All Star games, a special event within the U.S. Open, will offer North American players separate prize money: \$600 for first place, \$400 for second, \$225 for third and fourth place and \$100 each for those who finish in fifth through eighth places. The winner of the All Star will represent North American at the World Cup later this year. The same amount of prize money will be awarded to winners of the Under 2500 Singles Round Robin event.

Another feature of the Open will be the Elite Singles 11-point event with best of four out of seven.



BARCELONA
in 1992

Yellow balls and maybe white shirts! in the table tennis hall

AT a press conference in Dortmund on the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, it was announced by Ochiyo Ogimura, the President of the ITTF that yellow or orange balls would be used.

And even more revolutionary, it is possible that white shirts will be permitted. This means, presumably that the rules will be changed only for this tournament, but the trend is there and it is possible that coloured balls and white clothing is going to be permitted worldwide at some time in the not too distant future.

Samaranch yellow?

Ball manufacturers are working on colours including "Samaranch yellow" after the name of the President of the IOC Juan-Antonio Samaranch whose home town is predictably, Barcelona!

Records in Dortmund

by DAVID LOMAS

THE 40th World Table Tennis Championships in Dortmund achieved many records: audience record, participants record etc. A further record was produced by the print centre from volunteers and six modern copy machines from Océ. Layed end to end this paper would stretch 107.792 kilometres (70 miles), which is further than the distance from Hastings to Central London.

Waldner Top

In a press poll organised by "China's Daily", China's largest newspaper, Jan-Ove Waldner was voted as the "most popular player of the World Championships."

ITTF President Ichiro Ogimura: "Jan Ove Waldner is a new type of winner among our World champions, elegant, technically brilliant, always relaxed and concentrated. You don't have to explode between runnings to win gold. Both players showed a great demonstration of table tennis."

8.6 tons of meat

Head chef Jürgen Greinus gave a summary of his service on the final day in Dortmund. No fewer than 120,000 meals have been prepared in those two weeks served in hall V, the restaurant Rosenterrassen and at receptions; 8.6 tons of roast-beef, filet, port and poultry, 12,000 chickens, 1.4 tons of lamb, 4.1 tons of fish, three railway wagons of rice, 8,000 litres of blancmange, ice cream and mousse, 150,000 eggs and 250,000 pieces of fruit and 250,000 cups of Coca-Cola and lemonade.

That Doubles final

Roy Evans, Wales, former ITTF President: "What a tremendous final! The audience reminded me of the spectators in an English football stadium."

IOC Verdict

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch: "I never saw table tennis in such a fantastic atmosphere and in front of such a large audience. The red surface is a real optical progress - now I would like only yellow balls added. I am happy for the organisers and especially for the German spectators, that I came in time to be a lucky charm for the men's doubles semi-finals in Dortmund."

BOOK REVIEW Table Tennis

by DONALD PARKER
and DAVID HEWITT

THERE was a time when a regular flow of books on Table Tennis could be seen. It was a sign of the hard times which had visited the sport, at any rate in this country, that fewer and fewer books seemed to appear. Therefore it is doubly welcome that this book should have been published and that it should be of such a high standard.

Don Parker is too well known to need any introduction from me. He has made a great success of his twin posts as England Team Manager and Director of Coaching. Before that he was a highly successful England Junior Coach and the Juniors who came through in his time now form the backbone of the England Senior Squad. Co-Author David Hewitt is a professional writer, a former County Junior Player and current ETTA Senior Coach.

The book, which is full of excellent sketches and photographs, achieves the impossible in the sense that there is much in it for beginner and advanced player. It is remarkably well written.

At £3.99 the book is an absolute steal. It is published in the Play the Game Series by Ward Lock Ltd, 8 Clifford Street, London

JOHN PREAN

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Schools Correction

IN the April issue of TTN a misprint recorded Gosforth as runners-up in the Girls Under-13 event. In fact it was Brislington School, Bristol, Avon.

1989 Coaches

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Oldfield triumph at Derby

by MIKE PAYNE

CHRIS OLDFIELD returned to Derby not only to defend his Under 17 title but also to win back his position in the ranking list from Jonathan Taylor. He faltered at the semi-final stage when Andrew Eden snatched the first game but settled down to take the next two. He then went on to beat Jonathan in the final and take the trophy back to Sheffield.

Derbyshire hopes were resting this year on Julie Billington and Nicola Deaton. Nicola reached the semi-final as seeded in the Cadet singles before going down in an exciting match against the eventual winner Katherine Goodall. Later in the day Nicola renewed her rivalry with Sally Marling in a re-run of last years Under-12 final. This time Nicola emerged as winner from a long match full of spirited counter hitting.

Julie in the Junior final beat last years winner Debbie Toole but not without some anxious moments - particularly with Debbie changing the pace and spin in some of her longer rallies.

Another return winner was Darren Blake of Croydon who beat Adrian Vincent of Plymouth in the Under 12-singles.

Despite another record entry a 7.30 finish was achieved on both days. Full credit here to referee Stuart Sherlock and the umpires and the cooperation of all the players.



Chris Oldfield

Thanks are extended to the National Westminster Bank whose sponsorship enabled the event to retain its high standards.

RESULTS

Junior Boys
Semi Finals
C Oldfield bt N Bevan -16, 14, 16
J Taylor bt G Solder 13, 9
Final
Oldfield bt Taylor 17, 14

Junior Girls
Semi Finals
J Billington bt J Roberts 16, -17, 15
D Toole bt M Thornley 12, 14
Final
Billington bt Toole 12, -14, 8

Junior Boys Doubles
Semi Finals
D Holland/J Taylor bt M Beaumont/I Black -18, 18, 19
A Eden/B Mileham bt C Oldfield/G Solder 16, 20
Final
Holland/Taylor bt Eden/Mileham 21, 18

Junior Girls Doubles
Semi Finals
K Goodall/I Roberts bt J Billington/D Toole 19, -17, 20
N Deaton/S Williams bt L Radford/A Gower 14, 14
Final
Goodall/Roberts bt Deaton/Williams 7, 15

Cadet Boys
Semi Finals
R Powell bt B Forster -16, 15, 12
A Perry bt N Bradfield 10, -12, 19
Final
Powell bt Perry 23, 19

Cadet Girls
Semi Final
K Goodall bt N Deaton 14, -17, 18
S Marling bt C Pengelly 16, 17
Final
Goodall bt Marling 22, -17, 19



Jonathan Taylor

Cadet Boys Doubles
Semi Finals
D Blake/J Blasco bt D Katz/R Powell -17, 17, 15
S Crouch/D Hacker bt S Henley/M Williams 11, -16, 17
Final
Crouch/Hacker bt Blake/Blasco 15, 14

Cadet Girls Doubles
Semi Finals
L Heyward/C Pengelly bt N Deaton/S Williams 13, 15
K Goodall/S Marling bt N Meddings/L Radford 10, 17
Final
Goodall/Marling bt Heyward/Pengelly 5, 9

Under 12 Boys
Semi Finals
A Vincent bt P Hudson 13, 21
D Blake bt S Zeffert 7, 8
Final
Blake bt Vincent 17, 15

Under 12 Girls
Semi Finals
N Deaton bt S Russel 11, 18.
S Marling bt N Martin 20, 10.
Final
Deaton bt Marling 17, -17, 13.

Hannah's ninth title, Sarah is in a Hurry

DAVID HANNAH'S recovery from his early season injury came too late for him to be considered for the Scottish teams at Cardiff and Dortmund, however he did retain his title of Scottish Champion at Inverclyde, winning the Mens Singles for the ninth successive year. David dropped only two ends - to Gerry Campbell in the quarter-finals and to John Broe in the Final. The continuing improvement of No. 1 Scottish junior - Euan Walker - earned him a place in the semi-finals at the expense of Ian McLean.

Young Sarah Hurry in recent months has beaten Smith twice, in the January Assessment and in the Korrugal Open in February, so it was no surprise when Sarah did so again in a semi-final of the 'Closed'. Carole Dalrymple, happily recovered from a fractured right wrist incurred before Christmas as shown by defeating Sarah in the Korrugal Open Final a few weeks earlier, reached the Final with straight-sets wins and looked in the form needed to bring her a tenth consecutive title! Carole narrowly won the first end 21-19, then Sarah won the second 23-21 and ran up a long lead in the third. Carole fought back in a late recovery but had to bow out to her young opponent 18-21. Thus Carole Dalrymple's long reign as 'Queen of Scottish T.T.' came to an end and Sarah Hurry had made the break-through.

SCOTLAND

BY DENIS GEORGE

RESULTS

Mens Singles
Semi-finals
David Hannah bt Euan Walker 19, 18
John Brow bt David McIlroy 8, 21
Final
David Hannah bt John Brow 21, -13, 19

Women Singles
Semi-finals
Carole Dalrymple bt Liz Robb 8, 9
Sarah Hurry bt Janet Smith 17, -15, 16
Final
Sarah Hurry bt Carole Dalrymple -19, 21, 18

Junior Boys Singles
Final
Euan Walker bt Andrew Bruce 19, -21, 15

Junior Girls Singles
Final
Sarah Hurry bt Jennifer Hook 12, 16

Cadet Boys Singles
Final
Steward Crawford bt Fraser Lewis 12, 14

Cadet Girls Singles
Final
Paula Sloan bt Emma Sloan 14, 14

Mens Doubles
Final
D. McIlroy/I. McLean bt D. Hannah/J. Brow 10, 19

Womens Doubles
Final
S. Hurry/L. Hood bt C. Dalrymple/E. Robb -19, 20, 15

Mixed Doubles
Final
J. Broe/J. Smith bt B. Wright/S. Hurry 17, -13, 19

The Leeds Scottish League
The final matches of the 1988-89 season were played at the new Meadow Sports Centre, Dumbarton, on March 4, followed immediately by the presentation of trophies and distribution of prize money to all participating teams.

As expected CENTRAL YMCA (Glasgow) - John Broe, David McIlroy, Ian McLean and Euan Walker - retained the Division 1 title with Morgan Agency (Aberdeen) in second place.



Sarah Hurry is the girl who has taken her main rivals Janet Smith and Carol Dalrymple by storm, winning the Scottish crown after close battles.

9th Commonwealth Championships, Cardiff

The Scottish Women's team of Carole Dalrymple, Janet Smith and Eleanor McIlroy achieved Scotland's highest Commonwealth rating when finishing 4th of 15 and thus gaining Scotland's first Commonwealth team medals. The men, without David Hannah, finished 11th of 18.

40th World Championships, Dortmund

Our women improved on their 1987 position from 38 of 50 to 37 of 55, whilst the men slipped from 28 of 60 to 39 of 70.

News from two regions

SOUTH WEST REGION NEWS

by ALF PEPPARD

BOTH Bill Lavis (sec, Weston-S-Mare and District League) and Mike Hawkins of the Bath and District T.T.A. contacted me with the sad news of Weston-S-Mares stalwart Ray Phillipot's sudden passing, Ray was cremated at Worle on 30th March. He was 69 years old and had played for Somerset (before the boundary changes in 1974) upon numerous occasions and also in the very large Bristol League.

Ray had also been highly instrumental in helping to form the W-S-M and District T.T.A. which was formed in 1977 – and locally he was also involved with County Cricket.

I also understand that at one time in his sporting career Ray played T.T. for W-S-M in company with Chester Barnes – but that's a long story, and I'll leave it there.

Suffice to say Ray Phillipot's untimely passing will I'm sure prove a great loss to all who knew him.

And finally more news from Weston-S-Mare – during last March the South West Federation of Womens Institutes played their area finals at Knightstone, Five Counties turned up and I understand that Wilts won the overall championship with Avon coming in as runners-up, regrettably as the ultimate finals are in London and the date in question does not suit some Wilts Members – the runners-up Avon will travel to London for the Finals.

Bill Lavis is running coaching on 11 tables at Knightstone and this coaching centres around not only Juniors – but intermediates and I'm told, any one who just cares to drop in.

Regional Highlights

In the Bristol and District League I'm told that Andy Creed turned out for Knowle and Brislington "B" who drew 5-5 with their "A" side in a Premier Div match, The "A"s led 5-4 then Creed and David Hadley beat Chris Holley and Paul Hooper, Creed earlier lost to Holley in the singles.

West Wilts Trio, John Ford, Roy Smith and Cliff Benson went down 3-6 to Bournemouth in the Veterans National League at St. Johns club-room in Warminster – perhaps they should be called the Lions of Longleaf?

In the Bath and District Association:- Mayfield "A" appear well on course to retain Premier Division with 19 wins out of 19 games played and 166 points gained – in second place Oldfield A.

As this is the final South West Regional Report of this season – may I take the opportunity of just saying a sincere thank you to the following – for reports and support given to me this season in order to compile this column.

Mike and Christine Lewis (Avon), Mike Hawkins (Bath), Tom Honey (West Cornwall), Bill Lavis (Weston-S-Mare), Les Smith, (Glos), Tony Cary, (Somerset) Jack Revees, (Glos), Eric Wynn (Avon).

WEST COUNTRY FINALS NIGHTS

Gloucesters Annual Final's Night

Finals only:

Junior Boys Singles: Jeremy Hyatt (Holder) beat Richard Moore, -20, 16, 12. Mixed Doubles: W. Dawe/H. Colwill (Holders) beat G. Slack/J. Carver, -19, 15, 18. Open Doubles: D. Harvey/D. Griffin beat G. Slack/S. Moreman, 16, -16, 21. Ladies Singles: Heather Colwill beat Jaquie Carver, 19, -16, 21. Open Singles: The defending Champion Darren Griffin beat David Harvey, 20, 21, -21, 16.

Sorry Cheltenham and Cirencester your Finals Nights are too late for me to report because of the required copy date, how about having them a little earlier next year.

Stroud's Annual Final's Night

Report upon Finals only:

Junior Boys: Andrew Stratford beat Andrew Ind, 10, 12. Open Singles Semi-Final: Alan Giles (Holder) beat Martyn Harper, 14, 21. Open Singles Semi-Final: David Smith beat Andrew Stratford, 15, 19. Veterans Singles: Alan Giles beat Keith Simmonds (Holder), 13, 11. Junior Girls: Wendy Nicholls beat Penny Wyatt, 5, 16. Mixed Doubles: M. Harper/Caroline Stainer beat A. Giles/W. Nicholls, 21, 20. Open Doubles: M Harper/R. Willsher beat D. Adamson/C. Jeffries, 10, -20, 17. Ladies Singles: Mrs Ros Ross beat Miss Wendy Nicholls, -22, 14, 23. Open Singles: David Smith beat Alan Giles (Holder)

SOUTHERN REGION

Youth cup day at Redbridge

by BRIAN LAMERTON

BEHIND other regions date-wise but behind nobody in quality this seasons Southern Region Youth Cup produced a day of continuous first class table tennis at Redbridge Sports Centre, South-ampton on March 12th and we send Nicola Cracknell (Berks), Nicky Bradfield (Berks) James Mason (Bucks) and Gemma Schwartz (Berks) to the National Finals in Bristol with high hopes. These were the winners but to everybody goes the credit of laying before our Leeds visitor a performance which must have been convincing that the Leeds money was being wisely invested.

Winners of the other events (no way should they be called minor) but who do not qualify for the Grand Finals were; *Restricted Junior Boys* – Mark Shuttler (Hants); *Junior Girls*, Lucy Shaw (Oxon); *Cadet Boys* Ben Johnson (Berks); *Boys Doubles* Martin Adams and Nicky Bradfield (Berks); *Girls Doubles* Lias Crick (Berks) and Anna Watton (Bucks). Gemma Schwartz won the restricted girls singles as well as the main event.

Outstanding

Staying with the juniors the regional league is now all over bar the shouting and the outstanding premier division winners were Kingfisher's all junior team of Martin Adams, Mathew Greenwood and Marc Priddle backed up by Graham Kemp and Keith Hodder.

Pyestock with a 100% win record took Division 1 Graham Otrim, Andy Nash and John Millward being their main fighting force with Jill Green proving more than a useful reserve.

Three teams only made a disappointing Ladies league but full marks to Jackie Thorne and Jacquie Farwell of Cippenham who between them lost but 1 of 20 sets.

Premier Division	P	W	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	9	8	24
Cippenham 'A'	10	8	22
Purebrook 'A'	9	5	13
Amity Generation 'A'	9	4	13
Isle of Wight	9	1	6
Rownhams	10	2	6

First Division	P	W	Pts
Pyestock	8	8	19
Burnham	8	4	12
Cippenham 'B'	8	3	10
Kingfisher 'B'	8	2	10
Amity Generation 'B'	8	3	9

Ladies Division	P	W	Pts
Cippenham	4	4	11
Aldershot	4	1	4
Isle of Wight	4	1	3

LONDON & SOUTH EASTERN REGION

(MIDDLESEX, SUSSEX, KENT, SURREY AND ESSEX)
UNOFFICIAL RANKING LISTS.

THE List published in the last issue has created much comment. It was unofficial and has no effect on selection. It merely isolated the South East players in the National List in their Junior order, and separated the cadets from the juniors in the same order.

Created interest

It was intended to create interest, so I am glad it did. We hope next season with the help of more regional competition to create lists based on performance at each level and on the various county lists, which should be the result of trials.

BERNARD ROWLEY

Parents upset by unofficial ranking list

IN THE April edition you have printed an unofficial ranking list for Juniors and Cadets in the South East Region.

At first I thought it was a joke, but then I thought the players concerned such as Darren Blake, Edward Hatley, Stephen Crouch and David Baker may not see the funny side of it. Who compiled the list? What criteria was used. This devalues all the hardwork and results obtained by these boys.

True perspective

If you produce an unofficial list, the official list should be produced along side it to put it in its true perspective.

How a person can be placed above players who are above him in the national rankings is beyond me. Why was it done? What are they trying to prove? To anyone in the know this list is worthless and means absolutely nothing, but to an outsider it could possibly mean something completely different.

We are trying to promote table tennis as a serious sport, but this turns it into a farce which means table tennis as a whole is the loser.

If this has come from an official source then there is something seriously wrong in the South East Region which needs immediate investigation, as someone somewhere is not treating all the players the same. If they are going to produce a ranking list then all results must be taken into consideration.

DAVE BAKER

35, Greencroft Road,
Heston,
Middex.

Comment on the Robertson proposals

North Wales Counties TTA

by CHARLES BAYLISS

Wrexham and District League

WITH the season now quickly drawing to a climax the chase for the titles in the three divisions now looks like this. Div. 1. Groves "B" Team are in pole position with 142 points closely followed by Impetus "A" with 135 points both having played 18 games with four games still to play. Llay. RBL are third with 119 and a game in hand over the other two teams.

In Div. 2. the promotion situation has already been decided and both Wrexham Old Boys "C" and Telecoms "A" are assured of going up to Div. 1. next season, however with Old Boys on 146 and Telecoms on 135 and both still have two matches left just who will take the title spot is still to be decided.

In the Div. 3. again the top two teams are in a position where no other team can catch them up and both Groves Junior/A and the Wrexham SCFD are already promoted, however who will be first is still not certain, at the moment Juniors have 119 and Disabled have 118 both still have two games left to play.

Leeds Counties Championships. Veteran Div. 2/A

In their final match of the season Clywd Vets went down against Cheshire 3rds by 3 games to 6 games for Clywd their winners were Peter Williams who won both his singles and Karl Harrison (I). Clywd Team: Peter Williams, Karl Harrison, Bernard Carter, Chris Watkins.

We regret to report the death suddenly of Kevin McGuire who was a popular player in the Malpas Team in the Wrexham League. Kevin had played in Wrexham, Chester and also Whitchurch Leagues for a number of years and had played for Wrexham's Inter-League Teams for the League with much success. Kevin was only in his thirties.

Leeds County Championships - Continued from page 14

Essex went through the season unbeaten - and dropped only 10 events over the 7 matches. The team gets an immediate return to Premier Div. At the other end of the Table Leics got a win in their last match, beating Warwicks 5-4. But not quite enough to save Leics from demotion - Warwicks just have the edge on sets advantage. Peter and Lesley Radford and Fred Lockwood (E) were all unbeaten in singles. In doubles Mick Broughton/Tony Hipperson (Nk) were supreme with 100% wins.

VETS 1B:

Hants	2	Sussex 2.	7
Herts	6	Oxon	3
Kent 2.	8	Dorset	1
Middx 2.	1	Surrey 2.	8

There were some vital matches in the last Round. Herts 6-3 win over Oxon gave them the title, and immediate return to Premier Div. And 2 teams in danger of relegation had emphatic wins against teams above them. The wins for Kent 2 and Surrey 2 over Dorset and Middx 2 left 4 teams with 6 points and Dorset, with a slightly inferior games average, join Hants for demotion.

Joyce Coop (Do) was the only singles player with 100% win - this followed her unbeaten run in a Senior Section last season!

VETS 2B:

Clywd	3	Ches 3.	6
Lancs	7	N'berland	2
Notts	8	Lancs 2.	1
Yorks 3.	6	Lincs 2.	3

Lancs won all their matches and go to Div 1. Norman Thewlis and Tony Rigby performed well

for Lancs with 100% singles wins and, with Mabel Neary, Norman was unbeaten in mixed doubles.

VETS 2B:

Berks 4.	4	Northants 2.	5
Essex 3.	5	Herts 3.	4
Hunts 1.	6	Beds	3
Hunts 2.	2	Beds	7
Norfolk 2.	0	Essex 2.	9

Essex 2 finished with a 9-0 win to complete a remarkable season. They won all their matches and dropped just 3 events over the 8 matches! Essex 2 replace Essex 1 in Div 1 next season. The Essex 3 team were runners up losing only to their 2nd team. Jim Holey was unbeaten for Essex 2 and the team won every doubles event.

VETS 2D:

Berks 2.	3	Herts 2.	6
Dorset 2.	4	Wilts 1.	5
Somerset	4	Hants 2.	5
Sussex 4.	4	Sussex 3.	5

What a situation! 3 teams - Hants 2, Herts 2 and Wilts 1 - each losing 2 matches, collected 10 points and had identical averages (38-25)!

Herts 2, in their win, had 2 sets going to expedite - both involving Dave Wise (Bk) and Geoff Bax (He). Wilts got their win in only the final event when Mike Oxley beat Cyril Bush 14 and 19.

VETS 2C:

Berks 3.	5	Surrey 3.	4
Glos	9	Wilts 3.	0
Herefords	0	Bucks 2.	9
Surrey 3.	2	Berks 1.	7
Wilts 2.	4	Herts 4.	5

Berks 1 took the title with just a 2 sets average lead over Gloucs. Berks lost on their first match of the season and Glos lost only to rivals Berks 1. Gill Knightley (Bk 1) won all her singles and doubles events, with Sid Montgomery.

Another NATIONAL Cadet Event?

by BERNARD ROWLEY

I WAS very interested to read the article on cadet development by John Robertson in the last magazine. As the coach of three cadets in the top 25 at the moment, I feel I have a proven interest in developing players of that age.

I am also interested in my capacity as The Regional Coaching Chairman for London and the South East. The core group which, with me, forms our policy in line with the National Coaching Plan has appointed a competitions coordinator with the priority of looking into the availability of suitable cadet competition in our region. We believe that it is correct to target this group of players, and have done so.

Mr. Robertson has identified two objectives.

1. The development of an under 14 competitive network to attract young players into the game.
2. To assist the more talented to reach National Standard.

He also says that Coaching, Training and Development are paramount. I wonder has he consulted the National Coaching Committee or the Director of Coaching? It seems to me that what he is setting about could be directly in opposition to the documents being issued by the Director, who is worried about the amount of over competition at higher levels by cadet players.

It is my belief that the 2nd objective should be left to the Director of Coaching who is discussing the matter with the relevant committees (the Coaching and the Junior Development Committees). The amount of competition and Junior Development Committees). The amount of competition provided nationally for the better players is

already adequate, and in fact tempts players to overcompete. Although it could perhaps benefit by some geographical reorganisation.

The objective which I feel someone could set would be 'To attract under 14 boys and girls to become involved in table tennis'.

This would allow some important factors to be considered in more depth.

a) Things are already being developed in several places, and these must not be endangered.

b) Different areas have different needs, certainly London has not the same problems and needs as the rest of the South East.

c) Under 14 covers a wide age range and range of standard.

d) Involvement of schools and their Association.

e) The 'Youth Club Mentality'. We need them to join us, yet their normal attitude is not what leads to International players.

f) A season is a lifetime for a child, perhaps the need is for more one off events and single venue leagues lasting a few weeks then repeated.

In short, I am suggesting Mr. Robertson becomes involved in the less glamorous end of his objectives. Give a lead in his own area proving the success of his ventures, and learning from the others that are under way.

We have a better administration these days giving better direction to our efforts, don't let us go back to the blunders of the past.

Heart of England Cadet TT League

BIRMINGHAM finished worthy winners of The Heart of England Cadet League following the final round of matches played at Kenilworth St. Nicholas School.

They finished the season unbeaten defeating Banbury 'A' in the crunch match by 8-2 with Nicola Meddings and Jan Ferguson winning 3 each and sharing the average winners trophy.

Leamington 'A' finished a creditable 3rd with David Johnson on an 85% average.

Matthew Sims of Banbury 'A' defeated Leighton Matthews of Coventry 21-12, 21-13 in the final of the singles knockout competition, retaining the trophy from last year.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Birmingham	14	14	0	0	28
Banbury 'A'	14	13	0	1	26
Leamington 'A'	14	11	1	2	23
Birmingham Schools	14	11	0	3	22
Evesham	14	9	2	3	22
Rugby	14	6	3	5	15
Coventry	14	6	1	7	13
Swadlincote 'A'	14	6	0	8	12
Nuneaton	14	5	2	7	12
Banbury 'B'	14	5	1	8	11
Kidderminster	14	4	1	9	9
Leamington 'B'	14	3	1	10	7
Swadlincote 'B'	14	2	1	11	5
Walsall	14	2	0	12	4
Stratford Upon Avon	14	1	1	12	3

One of England's brightest rising stars

★ BRADLEY BILLINGTON ★

by THE EDITOR

BRADLEY BILLINGTON, arguably England's brightest rising star is certainly being groomed for stardom by England, but a vast amount of hard work has to be done by the player, if he is to continue moving upwards.

A two-hour delay in Budapest gave me an opportunity to speak with Bradley, a modest, unassuming young man who seems to have the skills on the table to make him a real star of the future plus a determination to make a success of a professional career as a table tennis player.

He is already a professional, having pulled out of a business studies course as it began to interfere with many hours of vital table tennis practice.

Swedish ambition

Bradley has an ambition to play abroad in one of the national leagues and his sights are set on Sweden. "If you are going to make it in this game it means playing abroad" he said, "I could stay at No. 6 if I do not go abroad. My next major targets are to make the England squad for the European championships in Gothenburg next year and the world's in Tokyo in 1991."

No. 3 in the Grove, Leeds British League side, Bradley from Chesterfield, Derbyshire will be 19 in August and of course, his 17-year-old sister Julie is well-placed in the England women's list and may also have a future in the England squad not far ahead.

Practice on a high level is so important for professionals. Bradley travels frequently to Manchester to play against Tony Taylor and John Hilton.



Bradley Billington is from a real table tennis family. His sister Julie is also a possible England star of the future and their parents were both players of some stature. Bradley made his European League debut against Hungary in March and came within striking distance of beating Tibor Klampar. Photograph: Ivan Stevens, Horsham.

His best victories have been over Skylet Andrew, the England No. 4 Sean Gibson and John Souther. Against foreign players he recalls one of his best successes was against the Italian star Nannoni, Peter Franz the top German junior and Vardanian from Russia.

A few hours earlier, Bradley had come close to beating the legendary Tibor Klampar. The Derbyshire man won the first easily and led 14-9, and 16-13 before the legend found the right tactics – hitting down the lines instead of cross-court. Said Bradley, "When I was leading Klampar in the second I thought there is no way I could lose."

Although coming from Chesterfield, the same home town as Alan Cooke, the two men rarely have chances to practice together, "Cookie is nearly always away" said Bradley.

"I hope to go to Sweden this summer to play and practice and hopefully, I might be able to get a place in the Swedish National League" he said.

Dedication

From the present group of teenagers on the England grooming list other stars might well emerge, but the dedication and determination presently associated with Bradley Billington seems a recipe for success.

Leach, Cooke, Xinhua at Hull

by REA BALMFORD

FOLLOWING the early season forum when ETTA Chairman John Prean and wife Erica were guests of honour in Hull, the city's T.T. officials, led by Chairman Steve Hopkins and Development Officer Dave Sergeant, again played hosts when National President Johnny Leach, M.B.E., made the journey north to attend a 'Spectacular' which starred Alan Cooke and Chen Xinhua.

The occasion, at the city's Woodford Sports Centre, where the sport is becoming an increasing focus of interest – the Centre already has a five team club in residence and is committed to involvement in the ETTA's 'Come and Try' scheme – was an afternoon of table tennis involving players from the 'grass roots' in Division 8 of the local League to Alan and Chen.

The sporting link between the Hull Association and HQ in the south was closely intertwined

with another North-South link, for the event was sponsored by Hull firm Huon Haulage, whose business is largely involved with the movement of goods back and forth between Humberside and the capital.

Adrian Thompson, director of Huon Haulage and himself a player in both Hull and Humberside Leagues, considered the exercise very well worth while, and he paid a tremendous tribute to 'Cookie', describing him as not only a superb player, but a superb

person, ready to do anything to make the event go with a swing.

Adrian's final comment probably summed up the whole thing – 'The best ambassador English table tennis has ever had'

Response, re-action

Delighted with the response and the reaction of the spectators, Steve Hopkins promised that, next season, another similar venture would be mounted to enthuse the dedicated and to inspire the uncommitted.



Johnny Leach, MBE

In Hospital

RON CRAYDEN, the former England captain was in hospital for a nose operation as TTN went to Press. Ron has become well acquainted with hospitals since he visited Delhi in 1987.

A new tournament system

by BRIAN BURN

ALTHOUGH I have been living in Saudi Arabia for the past thirteen years, I have yet to miss an issue of Table Tennis News and I always enjoy reading articles on the different formats of competition whether it be on a handicap or group system. In the March '89 edition I noted articles on pages 2 and 24 referring to possible ideas and solutions for tournament play.

I would like to outline a system that I have used for several years in Saudi Arabia that has been thoroughly enjoyed by the players and is easy to administer. Fifteen tables are used, 315 players have participated and 1,170 best of three games played. Each player plays either six or eleven matches against players of similar ability. Play is spread over two days and consists of four sessions. Day 1, Saturday - Session A - 8.30 am to 3.30 pm. Session B - 3.30 pm to 10.30 pm.

Day 2, Sunday - Session C - 8.30 am to 3.30 pm. Session D - 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Players played in sessions A, B or C and the successful players play in Session D.

Participants are placed into forty five groups of seven players and groups 1 to 3, 4 to 6, 7 to 9, etc. are divided into equal abilities depending upon computer rankings and/or other known factors, i.e. groups 1 to 3 are the players ranked 1 to 21 and all the groups are of equal ability. Groups 43 to 45 consist of players ranked 295 to 315. The top two players in each group go forward to session D to play each other, i.e. top two groups 1, 2 and 3 played each other, etc.

There are obvious advantages to the system and also a few disadvantages but the former certainly outweigh the latter. Some of these advantages and disadvantages are set out below and there are obviously many more points that could be discussed.

Each player must be sent a schedule of his matches including the games he has to umpire. A players group matches are played on the same table. Upon arrival at the venue each group of players must check in with the tournament referee, collect the scoreboard and balls and then the format will virtually run itself. The tournament referee may be called upon to settle any disputes should they arise. Players may be allowed to arrive late for legitimate reasons provided they had not fallen more than one match behind the set schedule.

Example

- A 1 v 2 Referee 7
- B 3 v 4 Referee 2
- C 5 v 6 Referee 4
- D 1 v 7 Referee 5

Player "1" would be scratched if he was not available to play match "D". If he arrived he would also play match "A". If a player was absent then the next match on the schedule would start immedi-

ately. If a group was running behind time, play would be transferred to an additional table where a group had already finished.

Players have no one-sided matches and have ample opportunity of gaining valuable ranking points. With a little careful planning, men and women could play in the same event (not in Saudi Arabia I hasten to add but this would certainly be possible in other countries). The leading players in the tournament ended up playing eleven of the top twenty one players; this must be a tremendous plus for tournament play.

In England, the top 105 players could be scheduled to play all their matches on one day, if there were clashes with other events on the Saturday. Players who were unsuccessful in progressing to the Sunday "D" session could return home without having to incur accommodation expenses and many players who did qualify could travel home if it were only an hour or two drive away as they would not be required to play until 4.00 pm the next day.

I fully realize that so many matches impose a tremendous physical stress on a player especially in the combined sessions C and D, but it is not that many years ago that I remember England playing China, Japan and Hungary all on the same day in the Swaythling Cup. Other advantages of this system are that it could be adapted in many ways. For example: 270 players, 900 matches, five or ten matches per player and session times, 9.00 am to 2.00 pm and 3.30 pm to 8.00 pm each day. The earlier finishing time would benefit the publication of results in the Monday newspapers and the players travelling arrangements.

Sponsorship

Tournament sponsorship would be essential, especially for the top three groups to attract the best players. However, the other groups could virtually fund themselves. 21 players x £3 = £40, for group winner, £23 for runner-up. Therefore even the players ranked 295 to 315 would have the chance of a £40 cash prize.

There would be no staged final but spectators could watch the 15 matches of the top players on one table surrounded by adequate seating arrangements. The schedule could easily be designed so that the top three seeds would

play each other near the end of the session. The top group would have independent umpires.

I am sure that two tournaments during the season run along the above format could be as successful in England as it is in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.

BRIAN G. BURN

Table Tennis Coach and P. E. Lecturer,
King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals

OBITUARY

RAY PHILPOTT

by TONY RUSSE

IT WAS with deep sorrow that I learned of the death of RAY PHILPOTT on 19th March, 1989, after a long illness. Only a few days before I had seen him to present to him a momento from the Somerset County Committee whom he had served as player and administrator for over forty years.

Ray had been the main thrust of Weston-Super-Mare Table Tennis from the end of the Second World War into the 1980's. When Weston was the Y.M.C.A. only he built a town side that was formidable and feared. He twice led the team to win the old Western League which was a forerunner of today's British League. The Weston Seaside over the years were represented by Chester Barnes, Graham Gear, Tony Kinsey, Eric Hall and Roger Morris among others.

Played till 60

Ray enjoyed playing table tennis and did so until he was nearly sixty years of age. A pen-hold attacking player he converted from hard bat to sponge in the early 1960's and took on a new lease of life. He was fondly known as 'Daddy-O' to us (shades of 'Seventy-Seven Sunset Strip') and I counted it a rare honour and a privilege to have played alongside him.

Cricket supporter

Ray was also a strong supporter of Somerset County Cricket Club and had assisted Vic Marks with last year's benefit and when I last saw him he presented me with a copy of the brochure of this season's beneficiaries Dennis Breakwell and Trevor Gard. A former printer he had edited and arranged this last of his works for sport.

A grand man, many lives are richer for having known him and he will be much missed. Farewell, Daddy-O.

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