



Table Tennis News

No.214 APRIL 1993 £1.40

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ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION COACH EDUCATION WEEKENDS 1993

There are two weekends at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, each of which combines the ETTA Advanced Coaching Course with national Coaching Foundation Level 2 Courses to provide all the necessary course work required for ETTA Assistant Coaches to qualify to ETTA Coach level.

The cost for ETTA registered coaches is £100 (including VAT) which covers all course fees and materials and residential, full board accommodation from lunch on Friday (13.00) to afternoon tea on Sunday. Coaches not registered with the ETTA may also attend at an all inclusive cost of £150.

The Lilleshall weekends are as follows:-

Friday/Saturday/Sunday - 4th/5th/6th June 1993

Venue: Lilleshall National Sports Centre,
Newport, Shropshire

Tutors: Nicky Jarvis assisted by Desmond Douglas and Stuart Sneyd and supported by specialist NCF tutors

Places: Limited to 14

Closing date

for applications: Friday 21st May 1993



Friday/Saturday/Sunday - 2nd/3rd/4th July 1993

Venue: Lilleshall National Sports Centre,
Newport, Shropshire

Tutors: Donald Parker assisted by Desmond Douglas and Stuart Sneyd and supported by specialist NCF tutors

Places: Limited to 14

Closing date

for applications: Friday 18th June 1993



A third weekend will be held at WSIHE, Bishop Otter College, Chichester. The NCF Level 2 Course "Understanding and Improving Skill" is not included and it will therefore be necessary for participants to attend this particular course on a separate occasion.

The cost for ETTA registered coaches is £85 (including VAT) which covers all course fees and materials for the weekend, bed and breakfast on Friday and Saturday and lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

Coaches not registered with the ETTA may also attend at a cost of £135.

The Chichester weekend is as follows:-

Friday/Saturday/Sunday - 16th/17th/18th July 1993

Venue: Bishop Otter College, Chichester
West Sussex

Tutors: Nicky Jarvis assisted by Gail McCulloch and supported by specialist NCF tutors

Places: Limited to 20

Closing date

for applications: Friday 18th June 1993



Application forms for all three weekends are available from:-

**The Coaching Administrator
English Table Tennis Association
Queensbury House, Havelock Road,
Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1HF
Tel: 0424 722525.**



The Uncle Ben's National Championships held at Kings Lynn was a real fun event as the two photographs above prove. Firstly the top picture shows 10 year old Katie Toms, the daughter of Mike Toms the Sales and Marketing Director of Master Foods, dishing up a meal for Tournament Director Clive Oakman. Whilst the ETTA Chief Executive Elaine Shaw dresses in the latest Uncle Ben's fashion.



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Players of the Month



This month's choice are Nigel Eckersley (left) and Penny Perry for being the unexpected winners of the Uncle Ben's Veteran Singles trophies

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Report on the Gothenburg World Championships

The ETTA would like to thank the following companies for the support they give to English table tennis:



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Front cover: Carl Prean the Uncle Ben's Mens Singles National Champion and (inset) Andrea Holt the Uncle Ben's Womens Singles Champion (Pictures by John F.A. Wood)

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Torch Trophy for Ian

IAN MARSHALL recently received a Torch Trophy Trust miniature trophy.

This award was in recognition of Ian's outstanding services to NFD Grove Table Tennis Club.

Ian is pictured receiving the trophy from his Royal Highness The Duke of Kent.

Lamont's challenge

CHARLIE SALE of the Daily Express has challenged Norman Lamont to a table tennis match either at No.11 Downing Street or at his country mansion.

This challenge follows on from the Chancellor's claim, "I've seldom met anyone who can beat me at table tennis?"

A bonus

JOHN JAQUES, the world's oldest manufacturers of sports goods including table tennis tables, recently captured a valuable corner of the market when they provided the tables for the England v France match at Bletchley Leisure Centre. "We were delighted with the coverage the match got and to have our tables on television was a bonus", said marketing manager Ben Jaques.

Elected

TONY CHATWIN was elected as Deputy Chairman at Farnham Common on Sunday 7th March 1993. He polled 116 votes, whilst Malcolm Allsop received 44 votes.

Summer camps

ONCE again this summer popular sisters Lisa Lomas and Jackie Bellinger are running coaching weekends, where you can probably learn how to break a world speed hitting record.

The weekends will be at the splendid South Kesteven



Table Tennis Centre, Grantham, on the 13th to 15th of August and the 20th to 22nd of August.

Further information can be obtained from Jackie Bellinger 0582 454636 (office) or 0582 480784 (home).

Donations

A letter from Mrs. Nora Vint indicates that she has just come to the end of acknowledging more than 250 cards, letters and donations following the death in January of Bill Vint, OBE. Of the funeral in Hastings, Nora wrote, "It was a wonderful end to a fantastic life." The amount in donations to the Winkle Club in remembrance of Bill amounted to over £2,300.

The ETTA will be donating an annual award to an Outstanding Staff Member in memory of Bill and are very honoured that Mrs. Vint will be donating Bill's OBE to the Association. This will be framed and hung in a place of honour in the Association's offices in Hastings together with a photograph of Bill.

Fireworks

A belated congratulations to East Midlands Regional Chairman Ken Eliot, who became a father on 5th November 1992, when his wife Judith Ann gave birth to a baby girl, Kathryn Elizabeth.

Kathryn was born at

Lincoln County Maternity Hospital, weighing 6lb 6oz.

Pictured below is proud dad Ken and Kathryn.

Ron Moseley

SADLY we report the death of Ron Moseley, the well known Press Association table tennis journalist, who died in March 1993.

The funeral took place on Monday 29th March at the Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay, Essex.

Donations (not flowers) to MacMillian Nurses Trust, Basildon Hospital, Basildon, Essex.

Gothenburg

ENGLAND's team for the World Championships in Gothenburg this coming May is, Chen Xinhua, Carl Prean, Matthew Syed and Alan Cooke, with Desmond Douglas as reserve.

Whilst the women will be Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt and Fiona Elliot-Mommessin.

Euro '94 Update

NOW we are counting down the number of days before the Championships begin. Tournament and Championships Director Clive Oakman has moved into the hot seat for these next twelve months to oversee what will be the biggest ETTU Championship event yet to be staged.

Euro '94 is going to be a mammoth event involving many people needed for all of the numerous, varied and different activities. Last month on the 23rd March at the N.I.A. was the first of many sessions with volunteers who have already expressed their willingness to assist.

Being part of Euro'94 is something not many of us are prepared to miss and the Championships Executive Committee are grateful to all those who are prepared to help.

For those of us who just want to watch REMEMBER THAT TICKETS GO ON SALE EXCLUSIVELY TO ETTA MEMBERS BETWEEN 1st SEPTEMBER-31st DECEMBER this year.

EURO 94 COUNTDOWN

360
DAYS TO GO



Cause for concern

FEE REDUCTION COULD DECIMATE ETTA

THE end of February is a time when proposals for changes to our Association rules must be submitted. The Deputy Chairman, the Treasurer and myself are very concerned at the receipt of rule amendments from the Isle of Wight County, Nottinghamshire County and Bristol and D.TTA which, if passed, could decimate the activities of the ETTA.

These rule changes are proposed for consideration at our AGM in June. If one or other of these proposals were passed, it would reduce the affiliation fee income from our members between 20 and 50% (depending on which proposal was accepted). On the face of it, this would cost the ETTA between £20,000 and £50,000 per annum, which is between 5-10% of our total turnover. However, the Sports Council who provide approximately double the affiliation fee income towards the cost of our regular programmes, have introduced a new condition into the grant aid contract for the next four years to the effect that their support depends on increases, at least in line with inflation on membership subscriptions, of the associations that they support.

Elaine Shaw, Donald Parker, Diccon Gray and myself met the Sports Council's Grant Assessment panel last month and presented the ETTA's bid for finance for the next four years. Our bid was very well received and we are hopeful of being one of the few governing bodies to receive an increase in grant aid compared with the previous four years. The value of our grant over the next four years towards the cost of our programmes could be as much as £1 million. In addition, the Sports Council are supporting through their Regions our Development programme which will include the appointment of ten Development Officers, one per region. The extent of this support is likely to be in the region of £200,000 to £300,000 per annum for three years. Further support from the Sports Council is being given to the European Championships to be staged at Birmingham in 1994 to the value of £100,000. The total value of all this support is likely to be in the region of £2 million over the next four years, which is more than double the figures ever received by our sport in the past.

The Sports Council are taking a hard line with governing bodies who are not, in their view, introducing the right sort of development programmes into their sports. Some governing bodies are now in difficulties because of the withdrawal of Sports Council funding. We are regarded by the Sports Council as a good, progressive association, but if our membership approved the Isle of Wight, Nottinghamshire or Bristol proposals, they could immediately withdraw their support. I ask those responsible for these rule amendments to think again and urge our member leagues and counties who carry the votes at the AGM to reject these proposals.



Alan Ransome

RULE CHANGES AT THE WORLDS

The World Championships are being played in Gothenburg next month and we wish both our men's and women's team every success!

The ITTF have produced a test device which can tell the difference between different types of glues and all bats will be subject to test in Gothenburg. If players are found to be using any non-approved glues, they are liable to disqualification. The ITTF Executive Board are putting a proposal to their Council that all liquid glues be banned before the start of next season. This proposal has also been submitted by the Scottish TTA. If this is passed, it would mean that rubbers could only be fixed to the blade with double sided sheet adhesives or similar, which would remove the use of all glues and which, as far as it is known at the moment, would have the effect of reducing the speed of the bats used by players who take advantage of the fast liquid glues.

There are a number of other important proposed changes on the agenda and some of the more significant are:-

1. Changes to the service rule that would outlaw the "Magician" type services, i.e. which hide the contact point of the ball on the bat. This would take away a lot of the advantages from the service. Proposals are from the USA, Germany, Japan and Sweden.
2. Sweden are proposing a ban on the combination bat. If this is passed then the rubber on both sides of the bat would need to be identical. The effect of this would be to seriously weaken the standard of defensive and combination bat players.
3. China and Japan are proposing a reduction in the thickness of sponge to 1.8mm, normally 2.5mm is permissible. This would slow down the attacking players.
4. China are also proposing to reduce the length of long pimples. This would adversely affect some of the defensive players.
5. Japan and Germany are proposing that the blade be made only of natural wood, thereby outlawing carbon blades. These

blades are not widely used in this country so it would not have a major effect on English table tennis.

We will be taking the opportunity at the World Championships in Gothenburg to promote the staging of the European Championships in Birmingham in 1994. We are sharing a display stand with Manchester 2000, the British Olympic Bid, to promote both the bid and attendance at Euro '94.

NEW SPONSOR, NEW VENUE

With a new sponsor, Uncle Bens, a part of the Master Food Group, the English National Championships ran well at a new venue at Lynnsport and Leisure Park in Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Carl Preat won the Men's singles after a very interesting final with Desmond Douglas. Andrea Holt did well to win the Women's singles beating Fiona Elliot Mommessin in the final after Fiona had beaten Lisa Lomas in the semis.

The sponsor was pleased and is considering further involvement in table tennis. The venue was very good and likely to be used for more events on the ETTA circuit. Congratulations to all concerned!

ENTRIES DOWN

Some other events, however, have not been going so well and have had to be cancelled through shortage of entries. This is a matter of concern to the Management Committee and steps need to be taken to reverse this trend. Quite clearly the climate is more difficult now for counties and leagues to organise open tournaments than it was a few years ago. Sponsorship is more difficult. Local authority cutbacks have increased the cost of venues. The recession means that the players cannot afford to go to so many tournaments and the top players are rarely available to appear in domestic open tournaments because of their more lucrative club contracts on the Continent which reduces the attraction of the tournament to both other players and spectators.

THE RANKING DEBATE

Another reason given for the shortage of entries is the current ranking scheme which includes losses. The scheme is regarded as accurate both in terms of the list itself and results input by Doreen Nightingale. The Ranking Committee have been seeking the views and ideas of both players and coaches on the tournament scene. Some say it is better to have a less accurate list and increase participation. At present, so far as we know, the software does not exist that could cope with the number of players currently in the programme for a "wins only" system. In addition, working on a "wins only" system would not be so accurate as the current scheme. The last time we used this scheme the Association had to introduce a European override for the top ranked players and this "override" was calculated by the "six wise men" committee system. The reason for this was because the scheme was distorted by some players playing a lot more matches than others and they went up the ranking list due to the fact that they played much more

table tennis in qualifying events.

Some people are suggesting that we go back to the "six wise men" system whereby a small committee evaluates the results and produces a ranking list. This was the way it was produced in the pre-computer days, but the number of players who could be ranked is obviously much smaller than the current system.

Others think that the introduction of "bonus points" for wins could achieve the best of both worlds. Pete Garvey, Brian Etherington, Malcolm Francis and Derek Marples are amongst those who have suggested this approach. These "bonus points" would be based on wins and on reaching certain rounds in tournaments and would be added to the player's rating points in the category in which the match was played. i.e. wins in a cadet event would be added for the cadet list so as not to distort other lists. This could prove to be the answer to keeping on the one hand an accurate list as well as encouraging participation in matches and tournaments.

The three computer systems that are in use at the moment all include losses. These are the ITTF system for the world ranking list, the VETTS system for their own closed ranking list and the Canadian system from which our scheme was adapted. National

Council will be discussing this matter at its April meeting and the Ranking Committee will meet in May to consider changes for next season. Ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Another key to encourage players back into the tournament scene is to give them a better days table tennis. The traditional knock out system which means that many of the matches are between players of widely varying standards does not provide as enjoyable or good table tennis as matches between two players who are of a similar standard.

The current ranking scheme provides the opportunity to create events similar to but more accurate than the Class 2 and 3 singles. This system, known as "Rating" events, operates successfully abroad. This would mean more matches at an even competitive standard for the players.

Another concern of Management Committee is that the counties and leagues who organise the tournaments cannot afford to make a financial loss on their events. A scheme whereby the Association becomes an active partner with the counties and leagues to run tournaments that include some graded events is also under consideration.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

I opened this article talking about the rule changes, the support from the Sports Council and the effect that the proposed rule changes could have if passed.

Staying with the financial side, the eleven month figures produced by our Treasurer, Peter Hillier, are showing that we will have met our financial target of producing a surplus that will increase the Association's assets in line with inflation at the end of the financial year. My aim was to carry out a very wide development and coaching programme for table tennis in this country with the objective of increasing participation. This programme is now in place without it being a burden on either the members or the Association's assets. In addition, we are doing everything possible to improve the standard of both our senior and junior players.

The sport is moving forward. We have the European Championships coming up next year which will be a tremendous boost for the sport and with goodwill on all sides, I am confident that we will find an answer to the ranking and participation concerns.

SOUTH WEST REGIONAL REPORT BY ALF PEPPERD

Enthusiastically minded folk

REPORTING upon a ETTA Membership graph drawn up between 1984-1992, without question or any degree of doubt in every ones mind our sport is membership wise, much on the downward trend. In the South West Region alone in 1984/84 we had 15,863 affiliated teams fully operative, where as in season 1991/92 that had dropped to 11,435 Percentage wise directly affiliated clubs have more or less held their own, despite losses in some areas.

Evidence suggests that two thirds of all players are male with 15% of the adult players aged 45 or over, I could go on quoting statistics but I shall refrain, enough is enough.

The 65,000 Dollar question now, is what are we in general going to be about it? Well a few months ago, "The Sports Council (SW)" in conjunction with other Regional areas formulated a Focus Sport Working Group to initially promote table tennis overall, I further understand that our Regional Development Officer, Melonie Carey has already made her presence well known in some parts of the Region.

I can only say "THAT THIS IS A START"; and all enthusiastically minded table tennis folk who genuinely want not only to see our sport survive, BUT HELP IT TO DO SO, should attend the conference's that have been arranged in your respective area when the time comes, it is only by us all getting together in open discussion, that we can make our feelings more broadly known.

I learnt with sadness that West Cornwall's Alan Martin died recently. Alan had been ill for some time, and used to play for Truro "A" in the Premier Division, the League was represented at the funeral by the Chairman and Secretary.



Melonie Carey

In the West Cornwall Table Tennis League Divisional Championships, which were sponsored by "The National Westminster Bank", the following got through and either won OR lost in the finals.

Premier Division Singles:

Jeremy Williams (Plymouth) beat Malcolm Peters (Redruth Highway) 19, 19

Doubles:

Jeremy Williams/Neville Reed (Falmouth) beat Stephen Lobb/Malcolm Peters (Redruth Highway) 20, 20

Division 1 Singles:

Alan Brookes (Mevagissey) beat Dene Clarke (Penryn RFC) 11, 8

Doubles:

Tim Wiltshire/Dave Knitt (Mevagissey) beat Paul Mallon/Avadh Srivastava (Peoples Palace) 11, 18

Division 2 Singles:

Stephen Appleby (RNAS Culrose) beat Gregory Floyd (RNAS Cul) 11, 13

Doubles:

Stephen Appleby/Stephen McConnell (RNAS Culrose) beat Stephen Gilbert/

Gregory Floyd (RNAS Culrose) 17, 13

Division 3 Singles:

Brian Dyer (Peoples Palace) beat Jeremy Hartley (Falmouth) -18, 14, 12

Doubles:

Michael Tripp/Peter Thomas (Godolphin) beat Brian Dyer/Danny Downing (Peoples Palace) -19, 20, 14

Overall Handicap Singles:

John Cook (Falmouth) beat Gregory Floyd (RNAS Culrose) 50, 46

SOUTH WEST VETERANS LEAGUE Season 1992/3

Latest league positions include all results received up to February 10th 1993, and supplied by Leslie J. Smith the League Secretary.

	P	W	L	F	A	PTS
West Cornwall	4	4	0	29	7	8
Coaver Club, Exeter	3	3	0	22	5	6
Northside, Swindon	3	2	1	21	6	4
Exmouth Casuals	6	2	4	24	30	4
Longwell Green, Bristol	2	1	1	10	8	2
Ilfracombe Club	2	1	1	6	12	2
Westlands, Yeovil	2	0	2	2	16	0
North Cornwall	4	0	4	3	33	0

Prean wins tenacious final



Andrea Holt (left) and Carl Prean the Uncle Ben's National Singles Champions

CARL PREAN won the title but Desmond Douglas most of the attention. This was always likely to happen. Had the most popular player in English table tennis extended his record of men's singles titles to 12 at the age of 37 it would have been a sensation. Instead we settled for an absorbing final of tenacious hitting and counter-hitting and for an admirably determined and hard-working champion who deserved his success.

Prean, who won 17-21, 21-17, 14-21, 21-10, 21-9, would have been the unofficial favourite to regain the men's singles even if Chen Xinhua, the holder, and Alan Cooke, twice the former champion, had not withdrawn with injuries. To what extent injury affected the destination of the women's singles title, regained by the versatile skills of Andrea Holt, is hard to say.

Lisa Lomas, the top seed, has yet to recover her best form since the thigh injury that caused her withdrawal from the European Top 12 tournament in Copenhagen in February. Chen also withdrew from this, and from the European Nations Cup in Karlsruhe in January, causing fears that the 33 year old former Chinese international's long lasting blood vessel problem may render him unfit for the World Championships in Gothenburg in May.

No doubt about the fitness of Douglas though. As pencil-slim as ever and still honed to much of his sharpness, the left-handed legend etched a trail to the final past four well-known names.

First there was his old England colleague John Hilton, the 1980 European Champion; then Chris Oldfield, his NFD Grove team mate; then Alex Perry, the sparring partner and junior champion less than half

his age; and in the semi finals Nicky Mason, another British League colleague.

Mason might have taken Douglas the full distance had he served well and followed up at 17-18 in an interesting fourth game. Instead, when it mattered, Mason played three big points indifferently - a pity in view of some of the spectacular effort he had invested in a second game comeback. This had seen the fifth seed flat on his back in the next court, with the surrounds collapsing and spectators hollering.

That was when Mason was a game and 7-12 down, yet he got up and started to turn the match round. Had he been a little more focused when an important target was within sight, he might have hit it. His 21-15, 19-21, 21-14, 21-17 defeat contained plenty of what-might-have-beens.

Prean's path, on paper at least, was easier, and took him to the final via a sequence of straight games wins over Steven Shaw, Stuart Palmer, Skylet Andrew and Matthew Syed. But the match against Syed was tough.



Nigel Eckersley (left) and Penny Perry the Uncle Ben's Veteran Singles Champions

**Words by
Richard Eaton
and
John Woodford
Pictures by
John Wood**

The Oxford University student unravelled his best defensive web and his best performance of the tournament in a 21-18, 21-17, 21-15 loss against the favourite. It is becoming a bit of a marvel that Syed can raise his play to such a level after 18 months of study.

Syed's earlier performances had been patchy, against the much-improved Jonathan Taylor and against the surprise quarter-final survivor, Andrew Eden. (Eden came through in the quarter in which Sussex number two Ritchie Venner had upset the disappointing Sean Gibson. But Syed won, even without playing well. It remains to be seen whether the brilliant defender can continue to combine international class table tennis with international politics and economics exams through the remainder of his days at Balliol College.

Perhaps it is easier to survive without practice when you play away from the table, where reflexes are slightly less important. But it was still remarkable the tenacity and accuracy with which Syed prolonged the rallies against Prean, one of the best players in the world against chop and float. Where Syed may be losing some of his skill is in attack.

Supported by



Dunlop

Prean has lost little of his, despite an insistence on playing without fast glue on the forehand side of his combination bat. This is a policy which, father-coach John says, has been adopted on principle, not as an investment for what they hope the ITTF rules may be at some time in the future.

The Prean's feel that not only toxic but "fast" glues are undesirable. Although Carl would be quite within the laws of the game in Germany to use fast glue in the Bundesliga (though not, at the time of writing, in England), he no longer does. It means he often has to work harder to get the ball through when he is forcing the pace, and that sometimes it is better to spin the ball more.

He certainly tried this against Douglas, but then feeding the great man with too much pace is never a good idea anyway. Both players stayed mainly within four feet or so of the table, trying to vary the pace, switch the direction, change the spin and snatch the small advantages that can establish control of the rally. For 45 of the 50-minute match it was hard to guess who was going to do so more often.

Prean had a bad sequence on his service at 12-13 in the first, which did more than anything to cost him that game. But the fourth point of the second game saw Prean win a brilliant counter-hitting rally which may have given him confidence, and when Douglas served at 11-14 Prean thrust backhand hits more positively into the action, even risking them cross-court into his opponent's velvety, fluent forehand.

Prean was as a consequence rewarded with four points out of five against the Douglas delivery at an important time and not long afterwards the ding-dong battle had moved, level pegging, into the third game. At this stage the favourite was still looking surprisingly tense, turning to gesture and grimace towards his father if things didn't quite go right.

Douglas by contrast was contained, cogent, and economical. When the former European Top 12 champion drew away steadily in the third game, it seemed that another famous triumph might be on its way. But everything changed in the middle of the fourth.

Douglas came with a useful run from 4-11 to 8-11 and briefly Prean again displayed tension in his face. But several good backhand hits from Prean in the next rally were followed by one or two errors under pressure from the older player. Then the match swung dramatically.

Prean romped to the fourth game. "It was important to get a good start to the fifth", said Prean, and he did - but by then Douglas's excellent effort appeared to have shot its bolt. Perhaps by then he was slightly tired; perhaps Prean relaxed a little more and grew more confident.

More like it was a little of both. From early in the final game it was mostly one way traffic, with Prean's heavy forehand at last coming into the action in a big way.

Resilience, courage and tactical acumen had got him through a sticky patch. By the end the

considerable skill Prean undoubtedly has, but which his style does not advertise in the most aesthetically pleasing manner, was blossoming luxuriantly and visible to all. The tournament finished with father and son in thankful embrace.

Holt a worthy winner

ANDREA HOLT, 22, effectively sharp and almost but not quite, committed, to attack was a worthy winner of her second England crown. She won the title, for the first time at Stourbridge in 1991 along with Carl Prean. She appears to have reached a point where she really believes in herself, enough to beat a whole string of her regular opponents, experienced, inexperienced, young and old.

After watching her defeat Fiona Mommessin in the final 20, 20, 18 it was interesting to recall that she started to emerge six years ago at the age of 16 as a defender who attacked occasionally. I can recall that the Table Tennis News magazine editor at the time (John Woodford) made her the "cover girl" for the first time. This might have had an adverse effect, despite the fact that she beat a powerful Asian player at the English Open in Brighton.

Andrea is it seems, best motivated on court by her father Wilton Holt, who started off her career on a table in their garage at Ramsbottom in Lancashire. Star players frequently have to be coached on court by national coaches not relations. Those that cannot lift their game with other coaches can be at a disadvantage.

The introvert Lancashire lass who rightly decided that the best way to win this coveted English title was to attack, will it is thought, soon be back at the top of the England ranking list - although the strangest things continue to happen in the computer.

TOP TO BOTTOM

·Uncle Ben's ladies Lucy Mitchell (left) and Sylvia Shaw serving up a delicious Korma and sweet and sour

·Men's Doubles Champion Nicky Mason (right) who won this year's trophy with Skylet Andrew, poses with Michelle Martin

·Diccon Gray (right) ETTA's Development Officer meets Lynnsport's Manager Neil Anthony (left) and Deputy Manager Heather Lumby

·Uncle Ben's Mixed Doubles Champions Fiona Elliot-Mommessin and Skylet Andrew





She is now beating the four senior players in the squad with increasing regularity - Lisa Lomas, Alison Gordon and Fiona Mommessin - and except for odd lapses manages to subdue the challenge from the group of three young ones, Sally Marling, Kate Goodall and Nicola Deaton who are queuing up to get into the senior elite squad.

Lisa Lomas was not at her best. She appeared to be slightly affected by her leg muscle injury, especially in the later stages against Fiona, who certainly had an excellent tournament trying to tell Don Parker that she would love to play for England in Gothenburg - there are bound to be disappointments when the squads are announced.

Summing up the womens singles - the four senior "ladies" all reached their semi final places - not a great help for international selection - and the three leading teenage prospects did not reach that stage. Nicky Deaton had a tough draw with an early clash against Alison who also accounted for Kate Goodall in the quarters. Neither can Linda Radford be ruled out these days - she can take care of powerful but slightly older players like Joanna Roberts 22, 14, -16, 19, whilst Sally Marling fell to Lomas and Helen Lower was a Holt victim in four games. The grittiest show was possibly the semi finals, when Andrea lost the first two games -15, -18 to Alison and then fought back 10, 16, 13. So both singles winners Holt and Prean, bounced back after losing ground to older players - that is when young legs win the day.

● Former Commonwealth doubles champions Nicky Mason and Skylet Andrew broke all previous records when they lifted the mens doubles trophies for the fifth time. Des Douglas has won it more often, but with different partners.

Eyebrows were raised everywhere when Richard Tilford, No.98 in England became Douglas's partner in place of the injured Alan Cooke. They had an outstanding victory in the quarters when they took out Bradley Billington and Chris Oldfield - possible the biggest shock of the tournament, there were very few other surprises. Taking the first game of the

TOP TO BOTTOM

Chris Brewer, Kings Lynn Veteran Champion, who plays for the Heacham Club

Table tennis enthusiasts Hitesh and Nish Bhayani, who were our hosts at the Park View Hotel!

Enjoying the Friday night coaching session at the Lynnsport and Leisure Park are (left to right) members of the KingsLynn League, Coach Steve Goodale, Sarah Goodale 15 years old, Wayne Thorne 12 years, Mike Ruffles and 10 year old James Ruffles

final Desmond and his young partner, also a left-hander seemed destined to create a massive shock result, but the wily pair Mason and Andrew survived -22, 13, 17.

Nigel Eckersley the second seed was clearly over-the-moon at winning the veterans singles from his "mate" John Hilton, 18, 15 in the final. Eckersley said "That has completed my two ambitions in the last nine months, to get to the semi finals at the World Veterans tournament in Dublin last July and to win this one." Nigel beat the genial Hilton in Dublin, losing to Jacques Secretin in the semi finals.

It is doubtful if England has in the past, had a mother and son as title-holders at the same time. Penny Perry is the new England veterans champions, whilst her son Alex is clearly out on his own as the best England prospect at 17 and hopefully, soon to break into the England squad on a permanent basis.

Kate Goodall, who is now taking steps to improve her footwork, recorded a memorable success by winning the womens doubles title for the first time, 18, 19 with Andrea Holt against Lomas and Mommessin, a further sign that the youngsters are beginning to emerge onto the top rungs of the ladder.

Another record came when Skylet Andrew and Fiona Mommessin won the mixed doubles for the sixth time. Helped possibly by the absence of Chen Xinhua, they stormed through 19, 15 in the final at the expense of John Holland and Alison Gordon.

● Great efforts were made to help the sport's publicity by not running the key games late in the day. For example, the two rounds of singles mid-afternoon on Saturday, were essential to make space in the Sunday papers. If the whole thing could have ended at 5.30pm instead of 6.35 the situation would have been perfect. Most national newspapers need early edition copy not later than 6pm. Smaller spaces are the penalty if the matches stretch out to five ends, as did the mens final.

Sponsorship by Master Foods enabled a useful prize fund of £5,750 to be raised, but the use of the title "Uncle Ben" on the front of the tournament title did not fill the editors and journalists with joy, the delete cursors on the Fleet Street and Wapping computers worked overtime.

● VENUE: The Lynnsport Leisure Park is an asset for Norfolk that is only matched in a few other places in Britain. The facilities could not be faulted, the huge first floor viewing areas were immensely appreciated by everyone, the staff that were in contact with the media were extremely helpful. The only real snag was the location, a long way from the motorway network, but having said that, the feeling is that the ETTA will certainly make a return visit, possibly in 1994.

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES - Quarter Finals

N. Mason beat B. Billington 18, -14, 8, 12
 D. Douglas beat A. Perry 13, 6, 13
 M. Syed beat A. Eden -17, 9, 16, 20
 C. Prean beat S. Andrew 11, 10, 15

Semi Finals

Douglas beat Mason 15, 19, 14, 17
 Prean beat Syed 18, 17, 15
Final - PREAN beat Douglas -17, 17, -14, 10, 9

WOMENS SINGLES - Quarter Finals

L. Lomas beat S. Marling 16, 17, 11
 F. Mommessin beat L. Radford 14, 11, 19
 A. Gordon beat K. Goodall 17, 14, 12
 A. Holt beat H. Lower 10, -18, 19, 14

Semi Finals

Mommessin beat Lomas 13, 18, -15, 14
 Holt beat Gordon -15, -18, 10, 16, 13
Final - HOLT beat Mommessin 20, 20, 18

MENS DOUBLES - Semi Finals

D. Doulgas/R. Tilford beat M. Harper/S. Palmer 12, -19, 16
 S. Andrew/N. Mason beat R. Saville/C. Sladden 14, 11
Final - ANDREW/MASON beat Douglas/Tilford -22, 13, 17

WOMENS DOUBLES - Semi Finals

F. Mommessin/L. Lomas beat A. Gordon/M. Thornley 12, -14, 16
 A. Goodall/A. Holt beat T. Connolly/c. Marshall 12, 14
Final - GOODALL/HOLT beat Mommessin/Lomas 18, 19

MIXED DOUBLES - Semi Finals

S. Andrew/F. Mommessin beat N. Mason/A. Holt 11, -14, 18
 J. Holland/A. Gordon beat A. Moore/C. Hunter 19, 7
Final - ANDREW/MOMMESSIN beat Holland/Gordon 19, 15

VETERANS MENS SINGLES

Final - N. Eckersley beat J. Hilton 18, 15

VETERANS WOMENS SINGLES

Final - P. Perry beat M. Dignum 17, 15

VETERANS MENS DOUBLES

Final - M. Corking/J. Hilton beat D. Harvey/D. Holman 22, 18

VETERANS WOMENS DOUBLES

Final - R. Bentley/E. Shaler beat M. Dignum/A. Perry 19, 18



TOP TO BOTTOM

·Kate Goodall who partnered Andrea Holt to victory in the Ladies Doubles final
 ·Losing Mens Singles finalist the Legendary Desmond Douglas
 ·Veteran Mens Doubles winners Malcolm Corking and John Hilton, pictured with Lynnsport's Manager Neil Anthony and the ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome
 ·Part of the media team at Kings Lynn (left to right) Colin Fuller, John Woodford, Jim Beckley ETTA Vice Chairman Public Relations and Richard Eaton

Cracker of a weekend

WHEN the fifth season of the Womens British League opened at Bletchley on 20th February the outstanding question was "who is going to be second!" The likely candidates for this position met on Sunday morning - Hull Sandhill 1 and World of Sport - and what a cracker it was. For openers Sally Marling v Nicola Deaton, our two top juniors, always an outstanding tussle - this time Nicola repeated her junior championship success 23-21, 21-12. Then Lynda Radford beat Kate Goodall 18 and 19; one set all. Maria Thornley defeated Janet Smith 19 in the third. Goodall beat Marling 17 in the third; two sets all. Deaton beat Thornley 17 in the third and finally Radford got the better of Smith - final score three sets all. Such was the quality of this match that when umpire Doreen Nightingale mistakenly thought that she was being offered a break she refused to leave the table. So, these two now move on to Stourbridge (April 24/25th) level pegging.

It is to the considerable credit of NFD Grove that they only make news when they lose and on this occasion all we could hope (!) for was sets; in fact they lost but two. Sally Marling perhaps not at her best against WOS reached the heights when she defeated Andrea Holt 15 and 13 and the other deficit was when Helen Lower lost out to Alison Evans 13-21; 21-16; 21-17. Alison, playing for Hull Sandhill 2nds was



Player of the weekend Nicola Deaton

the surprise packet of the first day as from an unranked position she also took the scalps of Lynda Radford 13-21; 21-15; 21-19 and Janet Smith 19-21; 21-16; 21-10. For the record, and back to Grove, Alison Gordon and Elena Timina each won eight out of eight, Andrea Holt nine from ten and Helen Lower three from four.

Promotees Plymouth Pavilions (Carol Giles will have been disappointed with her four from 10 return) and newcomers Scottish Ladies will have to battle to retain their Premier places with last seasons two relegated teams - South Kesteven Sovereigns one and Welsh Ladies favourites to return from Division 1. Karen Smith, Helen Newbound and Jill Harris of SKS occupy 1st, 2nd and 4th positions in the divisional averages with only Sandra Roden of Graham Spicer relieving them of two sets.

Again the promoted teams Beyer Bradford and City of Milton Keynes struggled although with a stronger No.3 Gemma Schwartz (seven from 10) and Dawn Barnett (six) would have seen CMK amongst the leaders.

By contrast, but not surprising, Grove 2nds, last seasons Division 3A champions have gone straight to the top of Division 2 with Jose Bongers one of the only three ever present players to return an individual 100% record; Eddisons (Division 3B newcomers) Sanja Kubelka and Kubrat Owolabi being the others.

Horsham Angels (last season's



Edison Ladies, leaders of Division 3B, (left to right) Kubrat Owolabi, Sara Williams, Sanja Kubelka and Claire Plumridge



Plymouth Pavilions Carol Giles

WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE - 2

"Shoestrings", the previous season's "Mission Impossible" led by Sally Weston (seven from eight) look set for the second Division Two promotion spot - perhaps a reward for at last finding an identity.

Of the newcomers not already mentioned Irish Ladies (Division Two), Dumfries, Norton (late replacements for DML White Hart Launceston) Gonerby and Bramhall all found the going tough with the six from 10 by Gonerby's Sarah Jane Smith the best individual return followed by 50% averages of Jennifer Thompson and Geraldine Green (Irish Ladies) and Norton's Julie Bickerton.

Again a successful weekend, well supported by Milton Keynes Borough Council whose Mayor and Deputy Mayor together with their wives both honoured us with their presence. Great back-up from the Centre Staff, special mention of the four umpires who arrived overnight to help with the venue erection, chauffeur Harry Spraggs with George Tyler, David Edwards and Alan Harwood. Christine Lewis's first as organiser (well done!) and with a lady also as Referee in Karen Tonge we really should look for a Lady Press Officer - the offer is "on the table" although this is one job which I am not over anxious to lose! With Malcolm Macfarlane and his computer revealing both Karen and myself of much figure work the balance was partially restored.



Team of the weekend The Oaks (left to right) Mateja Glusic, Gill Blanch, Liz Blanch



Referee Karen Tonge (left) presents local lady Dolly Harmer with the 1st prize in the raffle a 'Manchester' lion the Manchester 2000 Olympic bid mascot



Youngest lady at Bletchley was 17 months old Michelle Riddy, pictured here with her father Neil, who plays in the Milton Keynes League with Newport Pagnell

WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
PREMIER DIVISION							
NFD Grove 1	5	5	0	0	28	2	10
World of Sport	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Hull Sandhill 1	5	3	1	1	21	9	7
Hull Sandhill 2	5	2	0	3	13	17	4
Plymouth Pavilions	5	1	0	4	8	22	2
Scottish Ladies	5	0	0	5	1	29	0
FIRST DIVISION							
S. Kesteven Sovereigns 1	5	5	0	0	24	6	10
Welsh Ladies	5	3	1	1	18	12	7
Graham Spicer	5	1	2	2	13	17	4
Amity Generation	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
City of Milton Keynes	5	1	2	2	13	17	4
Bayer Bradford	5	0	1	4	8	22	1
SECOND DIVISION							
NFD Grove 2	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Horsham Angels	5	3	1	1	17	13	7
Fullerians	5	1	2	2	16	14	4
Oaks	5	1	2	2	13	17	4
Irish Ladies	5	0	3	2	11	19	3
S. Kesteven Sovereigns 2	5	1	1	3	11	19	3
DIVISION 3A							
Olivetti Bribar	5	5	0	0	28	2	10
Vymura International	5	4	0	1	21	9	8
City of Sunderland	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Norton T.T.C.	5	2	0	3	10	20	4
Dumfries	5	1	0	4	7	23	2
Bribar Belles	5	0	1	4	10	20	1
DIVISION 3B							
Edison T.T.C.	5	5	0	0	28	2	10
Pavilion Ladies	5	4	0	1	19	11	8
NFD Grove 3	5	3	0	2	16	14	6
Gonerby	5	1	1	3	12	18	3
Bramhall	5	0	2	3	9	21	2
Worcester Ladies	5	0	1	4	6	24	1

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Peniel close the gap

TEAM PENIEL ensured themselves of finishing at least in second place in the Premier Division when they defeated Vymura 8-0 at Hyde. Matthew Syed, Sean Gibson, John Holland and Andrew Eden were all too strong for the home side whose only measure of success came when Andrew Horsfield took an end from Holland, a feat which was to earn him the 'player of the match' award. The victory moved Peniel to within two points of NFD Grove who remain firm favourites to retain the title.

Sedgefield District, in their first season, now look certain to take the third place after a drawn match with Launceston. Bradley Billington was in form in this match winning all of his singles and also his doubles set when he was partnered by Ian Stokes. That particular doubles set against Paul Giles and Paul Whiting was probably the most important set of the day from Sedgefield's point of view when after a closely fought match the home pair won 19-21, 30-28, 21-16. Confederation Life St. Neots halted their slide by winning 8-6 away to Bathwick Tyres with Stuart Palmer once again taking the



Peniel's Matthew Syed

'player of the match' award with some steady play throughout.

NFD Grove fielded a weakened side when they visited bottom of the table HUMBERSIDE in Division 1 North

and went down 5-3, their first defeat of the season. The two points could prove important to HUMBERSIDE. Grove, for whom Helen Lower was in excellent form, retain a two point advantage over Chan Construction at the top of the table. Phil Gunn of Chan played with control and flair against Cheltenham Saracens and helped his side to an 8-0 victory to keep them in line to challenge for promotion to the Premier Division. Ruston Marconi Lincoln defeated West Warwickshire 5-3, Richard Tilford winning a crucial set for them when they were losing 2-3. Well Connected Menswear picked up an important point in a 4-4 draw with British Gas Milton Keynes for whom Phil Bradbury was, once again, in good form.

NFD Grove III had Steve Slater and David Morris, making his debut in this team, to thank for a 5-3 victory over Briar Colley Toyota to retain their two point lead over Horsham Angels at the top of the First Division South. A very entertaining Mike Hammond helped Horsham to a 7-1 victory over his former club Larkhall whilst their nearest challengers, Edison Table Tennis Club, were surprisingly beaten 5-3 at home by London rivals, Ellenborough. Bathwick Tyres II picked up a rare point when they shared the spoils with BSG Brentwood. Martin Cole of Brentwood just took the 'player of the match' award over his team mate Ryan Savill.

Sedgefield II opened up a three point gap at the top of the Second Division North with a 7-1 victory over Levis Wesfield who had been showing much improved form in previous matches. Mick Stead, Malcolm Corking, and John Crawford were all unbeaten for Sedgefield with the former Sunderland player Ian Collier gaining Levis' only success when he defeated Ian Robertson. City of Sunderland lost ground but remain in second position after a 5-3

defeat away to Dennall Harcross Vale Royal Warrington. The result was in doubt until the very last point which was won by Ken Connor of Warrington against Tony Gelder, Connor winning the final set 21-18, 16-21, 24-22. Leicester Lions got back to winning ways with a 6-2 victory over Burslem whilst Vymura International II won 5-3 away to City of Leeds, Steve Dobbins turning the match in their favour by beating Richard Smith.

Having taken over as leaders of Division 2 South West, Rejects Lambeth promptly lost their next match when they went down 5-3 at Norwich Foxwood. Neil Pickard took the eye in this match, the Norwich player beating both Jerome Jonah and Paul Carter. Linda Farrow bounced back into the reckoning for the title in this division with a 5-3 win at Kleinwort Benson Gillingham thanks to a powerhouse display from Costas Papantoniou. The after match comment gives a special mention to the umpire who managed to pronounce the player of the match. An inspired performance by Phil Cox helped Pillingier Air Croydon to beat bottom of the table Britannia Ipswich 6-2 whilst Fellows Cranleigh and JAGS played out a 4-4 draw.

Horsham Angels II have emerged as strong contenders for the title in Division 2 South West and a 6-2 victory over DML White Hart Launceston II put them two points ahead of the Reading side, OLOP, although the latter do have a match in hand. OLOP dropped a vital point when they were held to a draw by bottom of the table Chan Construction II for whom Anthony Isaac took the 'player of the match' award. VRS Fareham also lost a vital point when they were held to a draw by Leckie T.T.C. for whom Adrian Thorpe had a good day. Division 3 East continues to be fiercely contested with only one point separating the top four teams and Ashford go back on top after winning 7-1 away to Norwich Foxwood II. British Gas Milton Keynes II dropped to second place when they were held to a draw by fourth placed Fellows Cranleigh II. John Tendler won both of this singles for Fellows Cranleigh, coming back from 10-18 down in the third end against Neil Biggrave to win 23-21. Peniel II are also still involved in the top four after beating BSG Brentwood II 5-3. Chelmsford League moved off the bottom of the table with a 6-2 win away to Brent Juniors who changed places with them.

With NFD Grove Colts being held to a 4-4 draw by Bathwick Tyres III in Division 3 Midlands DML White Hart Launceston take over the top spot thanks to a 7-1 victory over Parkside Dragons of Newport. Paul Bickell fought hard to keep OLOP II in the match against Hawbush Community Centre, winning both of his sets, but the Stourbridge side eventually won 5-3.

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Division 3 North has developed into a tussle between Uxbridge Burton and Senior Thermal Derwent of Selby. Uxbridge found Mark Christie in form for Sunderland II and dropped a vital point in a 4-4 draw whilst Senior Thermal Derwent were running up a 6-2 victory against Crusaders of Lincoln. NFD Grove IV played their seventh draw in eleven

matches when they entertained AALCO Leeds. Andy Stokes performed well for Grove but the player of the match was Richard Lightowler whose victory over Jun Tsuji kept Leeds in the match. The local derby between Sedgfield District III and Ormesby went the way of the home side who ran 5-3 winners.



LEAGUE TABLES AS AT 28th FEBRUARY 1993

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NFD Grove	9	9	-	-	73	1	18
Team Peniel	9	8	-	1	66	18	16
Sedgfield District	10	5	1	4	58	56	11
Bathwick Tyres	10	3	1	6	44	72	7
DML White Hart Launceston	9	2	2	5	45	65	6
Con. Life St. Neots	10	2	2	6	45	73	6
Vymura International	9	1	-	8	23	69	2

DIVISION 1 NORTH

NFD Grove II	11	9	1	1	67	21	19
Chan Construction	11	8	1	2	57	31	17
R.M. Lincoln	11	7	2	2	57	31	16
West Warwickshire	11	5	1	5	44	44	11
British Gas CMK	11	2	4	5	37	51	8
Cheltenham Saracens	11	2	3	6	24	64	7
Well Connected Menswear	11	1	4	6	34	54	6
Bribar Humberside	11	2	0	9	32	56	4

DIVISION 1 SOUTH

NFD Grove III	11	10	-	1	66	22	20
Horsham Angels	11	9	-	2	66	22	18
Edison T.T.C.	11	7	1	3	49	39	15
Ellenborough	11	5	2	4	44	44	12
Larkhall	11	4	2	5	38	50	10
BSG Brentwood	11	2	2	7	33	55	6
Bribar Colley Toyota	11	1	3	7	32	56	5
Bathwick Tyres II	11	-	2	9	24	64	2

DIVISION 2 NORTH

Sedgfield District II	11	8	2	1	63	25	18
City of Sunderland	11	6	3	2	49	39	15
Leicester Lions	11	5	3	3	48	40	13
City of Leeds	11	3	3	5	42	40	13
Levis Westfield	11	3	3	5	40	48	9
D.H.V.R. Warrington	10	3	3	4	34	46	9
Vymura International	10	3	2	5	37	43	8
Burslem	11	1	3	7	31	57	5

DIVISION 2 SOUTH EAST

Rejects	11	7	2	2	53	35	16
Linda Farrow	11	6	3	2	56	32	15
Norwich Foxwood	11	6	2	3	51	37	14
K.B. Gillingham	11	5	3	3	49	39	13
P. A. Croydon	11	3	4	4	43	45	10
JAGS	11	4	2	5	41	47	10
Fellos Cranleigh	11	3	3	5	39	49	9
Britannia Ipswich	11	-	1	10	20	68	1

DIVISION 2 SOUTH WEST

Horsham Angels II	11	8	1	2	59	29	17
OLOP	10	7	1	2	47	33	15
VRS Fareham	9	5	2	2	45	27	12
Leckie T.T.C.	9	3	2	4	38	34	8
Amity Generation Fareham	10	2	2	6	30	50	5
DML White Hart Launceston II	9	2	1	6	28	44	5
Chan Construction II	10	2	1	7	25	55	5

DIVISION 3 EAST

Ashford (Kent)	11	6	3	2	53	35	15
British Gas CMK II	11	5	5	1	50	38	15
Team Peniel	11	6	2	3	54	34	14
Fellow sCranleigh II	11	5	4	2	48	40	14
BSG Brentwood II	11	3	5	3	44	44	11
Chelmsford League	11	2	3	6	43	45	7
Norwich Foxwood II	11	2	3	6	29	59	7
Brent Juniors	11	1	3	7	31	57	5

DIVISION 3 MIDLANDS

DML Launceston II	10	8	1	1	56	24	17
NFD Grove COLTS	10	7	3	-	52	28	17
Kinghurst Bribar	9	5	-	4	45	27	10
Hawbush C.C.	10	3	4	3	39	42	10
P.D. Newport	9	3	1	5	26	46	7
Bathwick Tyres III	9	-	3	6	25	47	3
OLOP II	9	-	2	7	22	50	2

DIVISION 3 NORTH

Uxbridge Burton	11	6	4	1	55	33	16
S.T. Derwent	11	7	2	2	54	34	16
NFD Grove IV	11	3	7	1	48	40	13
City of Sunderland II	11	4	5	2	48	40	13
Sedgfield District III	11	3	5	3	44	44	11
AALCO Leeds	11	2	5	4	38	50	9
Ormesby	11	2	1	8	36	52	5
Crusaders Lincoln	11	1	3	7	29	59	5

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

Jolliffe Poole	10	8	1	1	61	19	17
Lennox House Group	10	6	3	1	49	31	15
Linda Farrow II	9	6	2	1	47	25	14
Rejects II	10	4	1	5	38	42	9
Larkhall II	9	3	1	5	31	41	7
Ellenborough II	9	1	-	8	22	50	2
Adeyfield N.A.	9	-	2	7	16	56	2



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Local boy makes good at Canvey Island

CHRIS SLADDEN took the Essex Junior Select Tournament by storm winning the Boys Singles crown at the Waterside Farm Sports Centre on Canvey Island, Essex.

Playing down the road from his Southend home, Chris Sladden improved his chances of representing England at the European Youth Championships in July by defeating all comers without the loss of a game. Seeded at No.4 because he was nationally ranked at No.5 when the draw was made, Chris had to see off the dangerous challenge of Vincent Avery, seeded No.6, in the quarter final, which he did safely. He then reversed his defeat of the previous week in the County match at Batley by Edward Hatley (Surrey), seeded No.2 and finally triumphed against Richard Hyacinth (Middlesex) in a repeat performance of what he had done at Batley, only this time he did not drop a game. Sharp and confident throughout, Chris well deserved his crown as champion, and of course his many friends not only in Essex but on the tournament circuit, will have been delighted.

The tournament was enhanced by the presence of six excellent boys and girls from Sweden, who had been training at the Peniel Academy. As often is the case, information about them was sparse, so that none of them could be seeded. In the event the lissom figure of Asa Andersson emerged from Group 15 to take her place in Round 1 proper of the Girls Singles. A few hours later, there she was in the final! En route she put out Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) easily, Sara Coggon (Sussex) not easy at all, but in the third, Glenda Ashison (Surrey) again in the third, and eventually in the semi final Jennie Coleman (Essex) after a very tough match by scores of -12, 18, 19. Amazingly we had two non-seeded players in the final, because Welsh girl Bethan Daunton, dummy ranked No.39 by the dreaded computer surpassed all expectations by getting through. Having survived a hard match in Round 1 against Wendy Barlow (Bucks) she profited by the scratching of Sarah Stedman (Sussex) who did not feel fit enough to take part in the singles, but played in the doubles in order not to let down her partner. Next she eliminated Tracey Davies (Essex) 16, -13, 19 and got to the final by ousting Debbie Pestka (Notts) 15, -16, 20. Debbie had previously got rid of the No.1 seed, Shelley Ruocco (Essex) 19, 18, so could not have expected the Welsh hero to trouble her! Unfortunately for Bethan, all good things came to an end in the final, which was won by the Swedish girl Asa 13, 13. The doubles events on Junior day went to



Chris Sladden (left) and Ali Subhan

the re-arranged No.1 seeded boys pair of Edward Hatley/Richard Hyacinth, when Ryan Savill had to pull out injured. They did not lose a game until they reached the final where they succeeded by 15-20 14 against Darren Blake/Chris Sladden, the No.2 seeds. The Girls event, on the other hand, contained some very hard fought matches. The ultimate winners, with Shelley Ruocco getting her name on the winner's list for Essex with partner Glenda Ashison of Surrey, had to struggle really hard. In the quarters they found Crystal Hall and Joanne Barham of Kent to be no mean opponents and got through only by 18, 11, 16. Then the two Swedish girls, Emma Jonsson/Asa Andersson were equally doughty, and fell only by 9, 16, 16. Before that Emma and Asa had only just got the better of Tracy Davies/Verity Cleminson (Essex) by -10, 13, 20! Top half winners were Jenny Coleman/Sarah Stedman. Despite Sarah's fitness problems the pairing only dropped one game in reaching the final, this to the Welsh girls, Bethan Daunton and Janine Belby. The final was a great battle, however, and Shelley/Glenda only got home by 22, -18, 16.

A huge entry for the Class 2 events caused scheduling problems, and a regrettably late finish. However a worthy winner of the Boys Event was Terry Young, from Berkshire, who presumably was a good betting proposition, as he was the highest ranked eligible player, at No.32. He only just got there, however, as Dean Appleton, from Cheshire, battled all the way to 19, 11, 20 in the final. The corresponding Girls Event was won by Sarah Davison, who lives in Essex but plays for Suffolk, and who beat Joanne Barham (Kent) in the final by

20, -17, 14. The highly eligible girl at No.21 was Michelle Haynes (Notts) but she was unsporringly beaten by her county pal Debbie Pestka!

Sunday saw the younger competitors in action. The final of the Under 12 boys was between the top two in the new Under 12 Ranking List, Scott Friday (Kent) and Gareth Herbert (Berks). This was won by the No.2 Gareth. Incidentally the best match I saw over the whole weekend was that between Gareth and Reagan Nettleingham (Essex) in the Cadet Boys Event. Reagan won by 7, -19, 18. If ever one could say that both these boys could well be internationals of the future, this was the occasion. Even the watching Skylet Andrew was impressed. Reagan went out in the next round to the No.1 seed, Ali Subhan, of Berks, by -20, 12, 15 but as Ali went on to win the event by beating his Berks rival Terry Young, that was no mean performance. An excellent match in this event, incidentally, was the semi final between Terry and Simon Jablon (Middlesex) which Terry won by -21, 17, 19!

The Under 12 Girls Singles was won, expectedly by the No.1 ranked and seeded player, Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) but ironically Michelle Haynes (Notts) who was not good enough to win the Class 2 event, sailed through the Cadet Girls event to victory, without losing a game. Bethan Daunton completed a good weekend for her by reaching the final. Michelle was not unhappy at her trip to Essex because she also took the Cadet Girls Doubles event partnered by Lindsey Thornton. Opponents in the final were supposed to be Alison Smith (Kent) and Debbie Pestka (Notts) the No.2 seeds, but when Debbie scratched Lesley Moorhead (Herts) took her

place and the pair still got to the final! The final final was the Cadet Boys Doubles where Gareth Herbert/Terry Young squeezed home by -19, 12, 19 over Christian Thompson (Kent)/Ali Subhan (Berks).

Class 2 Boys' Singles - Semi Finals
T. Young (Bk) bt P. Owen (Sk) 12, 20
D. Appleton (Ch) bt R. Owen (Wal) 17, -14, 16
Final - Young bt Appleton -19, 11, 20

Class 2 Girls' Singles - Semi Finals
J. Barham (K) bt R. Sparkes (Sk) 21, 19
S. Davison (Sk) bt C. Lowe (Sk) 19, 15
Final - Davison bt Barham 20, -17, 14

Cadet Boy's Singles - Semi Finals
A. Subhan (Bk) bt A. Kapoor (Ch) 15, -17, 12
T. Young (Bk) bt S. Jablon (Mx) -21, 17, 19
Final - Subhan bt Young -16, 19, 18

Cadet Girls' Singles - Semi Finals
M. Haynes (Ng) bt L. Thornton (La) 18, 12
B. Daunton (Wal) but R. Woolven (K) 15, 12
Final - Haynes bt Daunton 10, 12

Under 12 Boys' Singles - Final
G. Herbert (Bk) bt S. Friday (K) 12, 20

Under 12 Girls' Singles - Final
L. Thornton (La) bt A. Macnamara (Sy) -14, 16, 14

Junior Boys' Singles - Semi Finals
R. Hyacinth (Mx) bt S. Lampkin (Sy) 16, 19
C. Sladden (E) bt E. Hatley (Sy) 15, 13
Final - Sladden bt Hyacinth 17, 16

Junior Girls' Singles - Semi Finals
B. Daunton (Wal) bt D. Pestka (Ng) 15, -16, 20
A. Andersson (Swe) bt J. Coleman (G) -12, 18, 19
Final - Andersson bt Daunton 13, 13

Junior Boys' Doubles - Semi Finals
E. Hatley (Sy)/R. Hyacinth (Mx) bt G. Ritchie (K)/A. Bjork (Swe) 18, 19
C. Sladden (E)/D. Blake (Sy) bt S. Lampkin (Sy)/J. Boulton (Dy) 14, -14, 17
Final - Hatley/Hyacinth bt Sladden/Blake 15, -20, 14

Junior Girls' Doubles - Semi Finals
J. Coleman (E)/S. Stedman (Sy) bt J. Belby/B. Daunton (Wal) -18, 14, 14
S. Ruocco (E)/G. Ashison (Sy) bt E. Jonsson/A. Andersson (Swe) 9, -16, 16
Final - Ruocco/Ashison bt Coleman/Stedman 22, -18, 16

Cadet Boys' Doubles - Semi Finals
C. Thompson (K)/A. Subhan (Bk) bt J. O'Leary (He)/S. Jablon (Mx) 19, 16
G. Herbert/T. Young (Bk) bt A. Kapoor (Cr)/D. Ashall (Y) 12, 19
Final - Herbert/Young bt Thompson/Subhan -19, 12, 19

Cadet Girls' Doubles - Final
L. Thornton (La)/M. Haynes (Ng) bt L. Moorhead (He)/A. Smith (K) 12, 11

ETTA County Supplement

"County Notes" is for the publicity of county activities. The accuracy of what is published is the responsibility of the County Associations, as the Editor cannot possibly know what "facts" may be incorrect. Copy containing libelous or personally abusive matter or "political" comment will not be published.

AVON Bob Murray

FEBRUARY WAS AN extremely disappointing month for our county sides with only one win resulting from 6 matches played. The Senior 2nds suffered 9-1 defeats at the hands of both Worcestershire and Cornwall. Clive Ellison gained an excellent win over Eric Hardman in the first match whilst Paul Hooper was our sole victor in the match against Cornwall at Walton in Gordano. It certainly has been a struggle for our 2nd team since November when our top 6 men players were 'locked' into the first team.

After a sound start to the season the Veterans have also faltered being on the wrong end of 8-1 and 5-4 scorelines against Gloucestershire and Hampshire 2nds respectively. We were never going to seriously trouble a very strong Gloucestershire side in our encounter at Failand and a mixed doubles success by Bob Murray and Muriel Lewis was all we had to show for our efforts. The Hampshire match was a far better contest with the result in doubt throughout. One win each from Bob Murray, Mike Kimber and Paul Eatherington and a doubles success by Bob and Paul were not quite enough to take the points.

The Juniors have been the biggest disappointment to me this season with a side containing three Bristol Premier players. In the latest series of matches they started the day by beating Gloucestershire 7-3 with doubles from Barry Fudge, Alex Shepperd and Jon Thorn and one from Kelly Harris. However, they fell to Glamorgan in the afternoon despite an excellent brace from Alex. Barry and Graham Long chipped in with one each but the Glamorgan girls proved too strong for Kelly and Lizzie McDonald.

Bath League

The Bath Closed Championships was held for the first time to my knowledge on one day at the Bath Sports Centre. However, the number of matches proved too many to fit into the sports centre's opening hours and the majority of event will have to be completed at a later date.

The two major events that were concluded saw familiar victors. Chris Bridges retained his Chronicle Cup title with a comfortable win over his Wiltshire teammate Trevor Lloyd and in the Anchor Cup, the ladies singles, Linda Porter added her name once again to the trophy, having won it on a number of occasions in the 70's and 80's.

Weston League

The mystery surrounding the points system in the Weston League is not as complicated as I suggested in a previous issue - in fact it is very simple. In Division 1 there is a point at stake for every set which is the same as most leagues nowadays. However, in Division 2 they award a point for every game which is won to try and encourage those teams who might otherwise suffer a whitewash - hence scores of 20-2, 13-12 and 18-6 which I noticed in the newspaper recently.

Bill Lavis made best use of a recent grant, acquiring ten second hand tables to help his coaching at Worle School. This now gives him 18 which is still not enough for his army of players. Coaching has also

started at Walton in Gordano, an excellent venue which we have used for recent county matches, where Maurice Phillips is starting to build an enthusiastic club.

BERKSHIRE John Cunningham

THERE WAS SOME confusion as to who won the Berkshire Intertown Maidenhead Top Town was the headline in the local press. Newbury reported the same achievement in their weekly paper. However, from the horses mouth, Robin Lockwood reported to the Berkshire Executive Committee as follows:

Despite being unable to field a ladies team, Newbury for the first time since the Barbara Peisley trophy was presented, won the cup. The margin, just one point ahead at Maidenhead. John Freeman proposed a vote of thanks to Robin Lockwood for his six years work organising the tournament, also adding how pleased he was to see a different town winning the Intertown this year. In 1994 the Newbury League celebrate their 60th Anniversary but this season has already turned out to be memorable in more ways than one. Though down to 47 teams, the lowest number for many years, the quartet of David Barr, David Reeves, Clive Payne and Darren Jones are enjoying a fine run in the Wilmott Cup, having accounted for Swindon, Plymouth and Reading. Now they are Intertown champions and for good measure the Thatcham team of Darren Jones, Martin King, Tony Reynolds and Clive Payne head the Southern region, Division 2, with a 100% record.

Bracknell showed a great improvement to finish second on the senior day, mainly thanks to a fine win by the ladies team of Mary Allen, Julie Hill and Gill Galloway.

Bracknell and District League champions OLOP have won the Zone final of the British League national team competition defeating teams from Aldershot, Guildford and Cornwall. The cadets all but followed suit, but after defeating Newbury and Reading fell to the strong Slough team. Nevertheless it was the best ever performance by a Bracknell side.

Reading, led by Ben Johnson, are still in the Carter Cup after defeating Guildford and Maidenhead. The undefeated Richard Pilkington was the hero against Maidenhead for whom Terry Young caused a major surprise, defeating Ben Johnson in three.

The well supported Maidenhead Closed was won by Reading Raider Paul Savins with Sid Montgomery taking the veterans title. Michael Childs beat the odds to win the Reading Handicap, then followed up by winning the Reading Championship at the expense of Terry Haley. Young Jon Willis took the Youth League singles title.

Mary Allen on the comeback trail after having a baby, just lost out to Isabelle Walker in a very good Ladies final. Berkshire club OLOP currently lead the Friendly Hotels British League by one point and also lead the Reading, Bracknell and Maidenhead Leagues but the pressure is on as they face up to the last four matches of a long season.

CUMBRIA Gordon Brown

BARROW TABLE TENNIS superstar Kevin Hodgson collected four titles in the Cumbria Closed Championships at Millom Sports Centre on Sunday 7th March.

The Vickers men beat Neil Smith (Millom Former Pupils) 21-15, 21-10 in the men's singles final; Tristran Swann (Barrow) 11 and 8

Counties 2

in the junior boy's U17; partnered Phil Clarkson (Carlisle) to take the junior doubles 17 and 13 against Swann and Christian Lidstone (Barrow) and linked with Neil Yardley (Barrow) to capture the mens doubles against Steve and Mark Temple (Carlisle).

Swann also reached four finals, but won in only one of them. In addition to the junior boys U17 and Junior doubles, he figured in the U14 and mixed doubles.

His victory over Clarkson in the U14 was the best final of the tournament. Swann lost 9-21 in the first game, narrowly won the second 25-23 and took the third 21-17. In the mixed doubles he partnered sister Catherine, only to slump 19-21m 21-8, 17-21 to Mike Walsh (Barrow) and Catherine Corkhill (Barrow). Tristran's sister also added to the Swann family's sideboard collection by winning the women's doubles round robin with Jade Kendall (Barrow). In other round robins Catherine Corkhill collected the junior girls singles U17 and 2nd placed Jade Kendall made amends by taking the U12s. Catherine won the women's singles. She beat Abigail Robertshaw (Kendal) 17 and 15 in the final.

Stan Nailsworth (Barrow) failed to take the veterans crown from Kendal's Colin Pratt, despite winning the first game 21-15. Pratt got the second 21-12 and a close third 21-19.

In the second round of the men's singles, there was a shock when No. 2 seed Steve Temple fell to former county junior player Stephen Dixon (Kendal).

Barrow town team did well to reach their first ever semi final of the Lancashire and Cheshire League Norman Cook Memorial Trophy.

However, they failed to reach the final, losing narrowly 5-4 to Mid Cheshire. Barry Johns discovered what few players if any in Cumbria find, and that is how to beat Kevin Hodgson in 2 straight games.

Ian Johns beat Ian Rood, who won the first game 21-15, but Neil Yardley pulled one back for Barrow against M Turner 21-18, 22-20.

Barrow levelled through Caroline Watt, 21-16, 21-14 against Marie Turner. The lead again went to the visitors when Hodgson and Yardley lost the doubles to B Johns and M Thompson.

The home team made the score 3-3 when Read and Watt beat I Johns and M Turner in the mixed doubles. Reed, however, lost to B Johns in straight sets and Yardley lost to I Johns for Mid Cheshire to take a winning 5-3 lead. The last set was academic, but Hodgson made the final score look more respectable by beating N Thompson 21-10, 21-15.

DEVONSHIRE

John Vincent

CONGRATULATIONS TO LYNSEY Heyward on becoming the National Trials Junior Girls Champion at Hereford. She plays in Division 1 of the Plymouth TTL with Steve Gibbs and Adrian Vincent for Inter-City who are in second place to Underground Hair.

With the banning of fast glues Adrian Vincent found the going tough at Hereford but adapted well to record nine consecutive wins to reach the semi final stage of the Junior Boys event.

Jonathan May (Global Sports Plymouth) made a slow start but then settled down and recorded four good victories.

Our cadets also did well with Peter Thomas (Bideford) having some close games and finishing with three wins. His Junior County 2nds teammate Lucy Perry (Crediton) also had three excellent wins.

Marcus Cronin (Plymouth Health) managed two wins and should soon appear on the national ranking list, whilst 12 year old Robert Svensson (Torrington) showed promise opening his account with a good win.

At the halfway stage of the season, the Plymouth League top division averages of over 75% are as follows:

Division I

	P	W	%
1. Mike Short	27	26	96.3
2. Adrian Vincent	39	37	94.9
Gary Lambert	39	37	94.9
4. Gregory Bridgett	33	31	93.9
5. Steve Giles	39	35	89.7

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Pepperd

THREE YEARS AGO in April 1990 a new and welcome tournament was inaugurated in Gloucestershire called the Inter-town Competition, it consisted of competitive play between the four existing leagues - Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham and Cirencester, run annually at Deerpark School at Cirencester by Bob Davis and his many willing helpers this tournament not only provided the nucleus of a remarkable following, but also has increased in general popularity.

Gloucester did not enter this tournament in 1990, that year in question Cheltenham took the honours but in seasons 1991 and 1992 Gloucester were back in force and totally dominated the tournament, winning it with an exceedingly high overall number of points.

At a Gloucester Executive meeting held on 26th February, it was announced that Gloucester would NOT be able to enter a team this forthcoming April 17th because of other table tennis commitments. What other commitments I ask myself? The Cities Finals night will be long over, there are no county matches to be played on 17th April, they finished on 3rd April, no British League matches either, they are all played on Sundays, so why have the Gloucester Committee pulled a Gloucester team out of this year's Inter-Town competition? Perhaps a backlog of Midland League matches still to be played? Whatever the real reason is for not entering a team, I will support the view that many others express, Gloucester has enough surplus players available to have sent some sort of team along, after all said and done, we should be in the business of promoting table tennis, not the opposite, and this low profile attitude towards our sport does not enhance Gloucester's prestige one little bit.

It was pleasing to note that in the Gloucester City Junior tournament finals, the following young players established themselves agewise in formidable form, every one of them is a credit to the sport that they play.

Final Results

Girls U14 Ann Humble

Girls U17 Ann Humble

Boys U11 Daniel Nelmes

Boys U13 Solomon Harris

Boys U15 Robin Price

Boys U17 Robin Price v Scott Wylie (to be played on finals night)

Both girls came from the Rudford Club, and all the boys from Crypt Tigers.

Held at St Benedicts School in Cheltenham and under the ever watchful eyes of Peter Cruwys, there were 8 events in all:

Finals

Boys U11 Daniel Nelmes

Girls U11 Suzy Robinson

Girls U13 Ann Humble

Boys U13 Robert Dearing

Boys U16 Robin Price

Girls U16 Group System: Melanie Garlick

Counties 3

Girls U19 Emma Parker
Boys U19 Raymond Powell

That's it for this month Gloucestersians, in next month's final issue for this season, I will endeavour to cover all the finals nights in the county - that is if they will let me in.

HAMPSHIRE Brian Lamerton

A QUIET MONTH - neither senior team in action and only one outing each for the two junior and three veteran teams. The junior trip to Brighton was however a double header as both A and B sides took on Sussex B and C's nett results a win and a draw for the A's but a whitewash and a 3-7 reverse for the B's. Kevin Macken and Jeremy Wilson retained their 100% individual records whilst David Dobson, the new Southampton junior champion, picked up 3 out of 4. These 3 lads are all in their last year as Juniors and should their success bring promotion, it could also bring big problems for next season. Ben Hibberd (2), Donna Granville, Lorna Dutch and Gareth Scadden (1 each) all returned from the seaside with scalps to their credit.

The 3 Veterans teams each played their opposite numbers from Wiltshire, Dorset and Surrey with results 6-3, 6-3 and 2-7 respectively. Only the B team of Bob Cox, Ray Lush, Ken Burton and Sandra Simpson would now appear to have any realistic chance of honours but Chris Shetler's pair for the A's at least keeps them in line for a respectable position.

Back to the Southampton Junior Championships, Dobson completed a double when he teamed up with his singles final opponent Ben Hibberd (seen off 15 and 17) and also win the Under 17 doubles. Chris Butt won both U12 and U14 singles, his final opponents being the brothers Stephen and Mark Wilshere who then paired up to beat Butt and sister Stephanie in the U14 doubles. From a restricted entry (due to the clash with the regional schools team finals at which Mountbatten had 3 teams) Anna Maskell emerged as leading girl.

On the inter-town front, despite being held to a draw in their final match by Gosport and Fareham, the Aldershot trio of Ramesh Bhalla, Graham Outrim and John Millward have won the men's league.

After the second session of cadet matches Southampton stay ahead, represented by the aforementioned Butt, Wilshere and Wilshere together with Alistair Turner, their forthcoming 'crunch' match with Portsmouth, who field Lucan Chan, Donna Granville and Leighton Jones, will decide all.

Finally, congratulations to Aldershot Ladies Jill Greene, Barbara Savage and Jackie Rise who defeated the much stronger, on paper, Wembley and Harrow by 5 sets to 4 in the Roe Bowl zone final.

HERTFORDSHIRE John Wood

THIS SEASONS HERTFORDSHIRE stars are Duncan Taylor and Sarah Seaholme, who won their respective singles finals at this year's Closed Championships held at The Barnet TT Centre.

Taylor won his final fairly comfortably when he beat Perry Somers 21-10, 21-15.

Surprise of this year's mens singles competition was when Mark Dave beat Duncan Taylor's father John 21-15, 18-21, 21-19 in the quarter finals.

Seaholme also won her final in straight games, beating the holder Emma Hurling 21-18, 21-17. But Hurling bounced back when she

won the mixed doubles with her partner Glen Wilkes, beating Derek Rogers and Janice Laing 21-13, 22-20 after being 21-17 down in the second.

The mens doubles was won by the golden oldies Jack Baxter, 61 years old and Geoff Bax 60, when they beat the highly fancied John and Duncan Taylor 21-15, 21-15.

Dave Seaholme had a great 52nd birthday when he beat Derek Balding 21-19, 21-17 in the mens over 40 Veterans final.

Sally Bax won the ladies veterans round robin tournament for the 5th time, pushing Sue Felstead into the runners-up spot.

The Over 50 veterans final was won by Alan 'Digger' Lamprell when he saw off the challenge of Tony Teff 21-13, 21-19.

The mens veterans final was won by the combined talents of Derek Balding and Dave Seaholme, when they beat Jim Felstead and Terry Wilson 21-19, 25-27, 21-15 following a titanic battle.

Last but not least, the ladies doubles final was won by sisters Sarah and Caroline Seaholme, when they took the trophy beating Sue Felstead and Janice Laing 21-15, 21-17.

ISLE OF WIGHT John Prean

OUR CADETS FINISHED joint second in the Hampshire Inter-Town which must be seen as an excellent result. Our players are all under 13 and we have two girls playing against Boys. Congratulations to Danny Burns, Lorna Dutch and Sonia Pointer. Lorna reached the last 8 of the Essex Junior Select, thoroughly justifying her national ranking of No. 16. Next season may produce a real break-through. If so, it will be achieved against greater odds than those which confronted previous ranked juniors Derek Grant and Carl Prean. Our ranking system remains a positive incentive NOT to play and particularly to pick and choose one's matches. This is not a minority view any longer.

Carl Prean won the national title in Kings Lynn, sponsored by Uncle Ben's Rice, which was always my favoured brand. I was generally impressed with the event, the arena and, above all, the solid spectator support. Great credit also to the local volunteers and excellent umpiring. The absence of 'glue' seemed to produce longer rallies and more interesting contests. It certainly enabled Matthew Syed to return even more 'impossible' balls than usual. His retrieving reminded one of Takashima and even Bergmann. He proved a tough opponent for Carl to penetrate and score of 3-0 did not do justice to an incredible match. Many rallies had the crowd gasping with astonishment and pleasure. However, that was 'only' the semi final. In the final Carl met the ageless Des Douglas, at 37 seeming as fast as ever. Our man won, but only after 5 pulsating games which again had the full house on the edge of the seats. A change of tactics at 1-2 seemed to turn the tide.

Earlier Carl had beaten Stuart Palmer, the only British player to have beaten Des this season, in quite a hard match. What a talented player Palmer is! I recall him as a good junior, but he probably slipped through the net at the time. If he had played full-time, he would have gone a very long way. Carl's reward for that one? Zero ranking points!

After 5 wins and the National Title Carl gained 20 ranking points and that for the biggest domestic event of the season or, if you like, he increased his total by less than 1%! If he had lost to Palmer (no disgrace) he would have lost 50 points. If he had lost to Skylet Andrew (as have many very good players) he would have lost 30 points. It puts into perspective why players have voted with their feet and are not going to tournaments and why tournaments are going out of business.

It is a conversation we often have at local level and all too often the decision is NOT to go. Our costs begin with close to £40 for crossing

Counties 4

the Solent strip of a few miles. This and the ranking system present irresistible reasons to stay at home! All over the country there are young players who should be attracted into the national arena and the precise opposite is happening. It is later than we think, perhaps already too late to bring about the urgent change that is needed.

KENT Adrian Hall

The Chinese are Coming

Ten of China's top players and coaches have accepted an invitation to coach in Kent for 2 weeks during August 1993.

World Class Players - World Class Coaches

Wang Da Zhi - head coach, institute of Tianjin.

Ma Ming Hong - Former Chinese no. 1

Li Hao Song - Former Chinese No. 3

Meng Qing Yu - Current team champion in China

Xu Kai - Current team champion in China

Wang Le Qi - Current Chinese Youth champion

Li Zhen Biao - Coach and Doctorate in PE

Wu Chun Jian - Current Tianjin Junior Champion, now in Chinese team squad

Wang Chen Xi - current Tianjin cadet champion

Wang Da Yong - Former world team champion, Chinese champion and now Belgium National Coach

Coaching Chinese Style, including Multiball

Dates: 1st week 7th to 14th August

2nd week 14th to 21st August

For more information contact **Reg Thompson, Kent CTTA, 14 Maryland Court, Rainham, Kent ME8 8QY (Tel 0634 235865) - HURRY, SPACES WILL BE AT A PREMIUM**

Scott Friday retains National U11 Title

Scott Friday, who lives in Medway, but represents Maidstone in National team events, retained his National U11 singles title as expected when he beat Tim Yardy (Essex in the final at Grantham on 12.2.93. The dominance that Friday holds at this age level was never challenged and he won all his matches two straight.

Kent also had an unexpected finalist in the consolation U11 singles when Christian Hanys (Folkestone) was unfortunately beaten in the final by O Wakelam (Herts).

Jade Stutely the Hero as Maidstone reach National Final

The Maidstone Girls Cadet (U14) team of Alison Smith, Rachel Woollven and Jade Stutely came back from 2-4 down for a hard fought 5-4 win away to Plymouth on Sunday 28th February 1993, for a place in the National Final of the Hammersley Cup to be played at Grantham on Sunday 6th June. Smith then showed her experience to keep Maidstone in the match when she held her nerve for a win over Joanna Barroclough and Woollven levelled the match at 4-4 with a competent win over Liz May.

The whole match then rested on the battle of the No 3's and it was Maidstone's Jade Stutely that turned out to be the hero of the day with a 14-21, 21-6, 21-18 win. Stutely showed real courage and determination in the third leg being 1-4 down, 10-8 up, 17-18 down to Zoe Warren before then serving out for the victory.

Kent Schools Table Tennis

The Kent Schools Individual Championships were held at Walderslade

Scholl on 15.2.93 and produced the champions at various age groups that go forward as Kent's representatives at the National Championships on 8th May.

U12 Boys Scott Friday

U11 Girls Gemma Alcorn

U13 Boys Christian Thompson

U13 Girls Andrea Bateman

U16 Boys Paul Smith

U16 Girls Crystal Hall

U19 Boys Craig Hastie

U19 Girls Heidi Steers

Maidstone Closed Championships

The Maidstone Closed finals held on 17.2.93 produced the best set of matches in memory and well entertained a crowd of over 120, yet each match was won two straight. Boxley's Alan Longhurst and Larkfield's Claire Hunter became the new Men's and Women's championships and each had a share in the Mens and Ladies Doubles titles.

Mens Singles Alan Longhurst

Women's Singles Claire Hunter

JB Singles Peter Barrow

JG Singles Crystal Hall

Veteran MS Graham French

Veteran WS Gloria Dowding

Mens Doubles Darren Boyce/French

Mixed Doubles Andy Chapman/G Dowding

Womens Doubles C Hunter/C Hall

LEICESTERSHIRE Derek Butt

NOT MUCH TO report on at present as things have not altered much since my last report.

Division 1 leaders in the Leicester and District League are Knighton Park I team and by the time this is printed I would think they will be this year's champions. Although it is mathematically possible for another one of two teams to steal it from them, but I doubt it. Nearest rivals and last year's champions Loughborough Kingfishers, have dropped some silly points.

The Knighton Park team of Karen Smith, Martin Pickles, Keith Fellows and John Gayton are all playing well with Karen lying in second place in the individual averages behind Mark Illingsworth who is still unbeaten and from Loughborough Kingfishers. The Loughborough side have used about 7 players so far this season. When the two means met Kingfishers won 6-4 with Mark securing a maximum, this defeat was the only one that Park have had.

The rest of the divisions are getting through the fixtures quite well although I have heard that there have been plenty of postponements recently.

All the cup competitions have reached the final stage, but none have been played yet. I will report on these later.

On to the coaching scene and again nothing has changed much. One thing I would like to see is a Junior League set up to play on Saturday mornings so that some of the youngsters could get some match practice. Parents will not want their sons and daughters out late in the evenings when normal matches are played, this is understandable. When they are older there is no problem.

It is keeping the youngsters we have coached recently, interested, until this age is attained. It is important to keep these youngsters interested as they will be in the leagues very soon. This of course is all

Counties 5

a well known fact, but it is still something to be considered. Going back to the league for this season, and I have not heard of one team withdrawing, and I cannot remember this happening for a long time.

The Inter-Town tournament had been arranged for two Sundays in March, but I have my doubts if this will go ahead as there are a lack of entrants due to various reasons such as tournaments and representative matches. It will be a pity if this event does not continue as it has been successful in previous years.

Well, that's about it for now, I'm just off to the Canary Islands.

MIDDLESEX

Lorna Taylor

OUR COUNTY TEAMS played with mixed success on the weekend of February 13/14th. The young Junior 1st team gained more valuable experience, led by our No. 1 Richard Hyacinth and we surprisingly defeated Devon 6-4 and drew with Lancashire 5-5 but lost to Essex 4-6 and Yorkshire 1-9. Richard Hyacinth also reached the final of the Essex 2 Star Select before just missing out on the winners rostrum.

The Junior 2nd team reversed last year's result and defeated Surrey 3rd 6-4 with a good all round performance by the team with Sarah Horsnell making her debut and although not winning, performing creditably.

The Golden Oldies however, ran out of puff in both their matches. The Vets 1st team lost 5-4 to Essex 2nd despite Chris Boothby winning all his 3 games. The Vets 2nd team also lost to Kent 2nd 5-4 after a brave fight.

A relatively unknown player, Steve Mathews, rose to local prominence by winning the Wembley and Harrow Men's Closed tournament in an exciting final with John McConce. A local comedian was heard to remark that Steve, like fine wine, has matured with age. Sarah Williams has taken to winning some more cups by winning the Harrow and Wembley and West Middlesex women's singles, not to mention the doubles victories.

An important date for all diaries is the Middlesex Junior and Senior Closed at Willisdon High School, Doyle Gardens, on 15th and 16th May.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

PHILIP LOGSDON IS back. After a long and mysterious illness which he seems to have passed on to Neil Pickard, he regained his county and Norwich singles titles this season. We look forward to the day when both these players are fully fit to battle it out, that is providing one of the fringe players suddenly gets it together on the day. Having seen our juniors in action recently, I was most impressed with the improvement of some who I considered would never make it. Once we get our coaching more coordinated and regular and disciplined the improvement should be tremendous.

I am also optimistic that following on from the current crop of recognised Juniors there are many more just beginning to make their mark on the game. Addie Johnson is doing more than her bit regarding getting girls into the game with the only all girls club in the county - she only spoke to me as I was writing these notes to say she had some new entrants who already showed promise. More the need for some coaching coordinating for not only the known players. She also held a schools individual tournament and the winners are being sent to Coventry - Emma Corbett, Ashleigh Mackellar, Harriot Johnson, Kelly Sadd, Wayne Robinson, Leeroy Pye, David Parker and Joseph Chapman qualified

although Emma is really a Suffolk girl, she attends a Norwich school.

Talking of girls in the Norwich Championships which were the most successful for years, the ladies doubles final was contested by 3 ladies with an average age of over 60 and one other who was a daughter of one of the players. All the youngsters fell at the first hurdle.

Gary Hewitt in his last season as a Junior, still carries all before him in Kings Lynn and Wisbech, retaining the Senior singles titles in both championships. With his talent surely he should be given a chance in the county senior team and/or British League team.s

Veterans 1st team have been relegated after many years in Division 1A. The bright spot is that with Edna Fletcher unavailable, comparatively young Susan Allen also from Yarmouth, came into the side to give experienced Eileen Shaler a good game and the next match beat Sally Bax on her own table. Her coming in to the side has reduced the average age by 25 years. Veterans 2nd team won some and lost some but enjoyed all of them. Many different players were used, all of whom gave their all and some of whom were surprised at the standard of these veterans. Pat Ross played the lady in most matches - I think they keep her in because of the refreshments she supplies. Joy Dixon appeared on one occasion and showed she is still a force giving Sylvia Coombs a good game.

Juniors 1st team, having a funny season with 4 matches to be played over one weekend still to come, with both 1 and 2 ranked girls away on holiday. Junior 2nd seem to have played all ranked players in anticipation of next season and some players are improving so fast I think there must be ranking trials before starting next season.

All be warned that county funds are at an all time low and we now have no sponsors for the Closed Championships. You may have to dig into your pocket next season as expenses are rising and income is stagnant. Any comments or ideas you know where to find me.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Dennis Millman

MICHAEL EDWARDS DEFEATED holder Keith Jones to win the Reznor (UK) Veterans Top 12 after 8 hours of fierce competition at Wellingborough's Glamis Hall. In the early stages both players had been taken to deciders by Gordon Shaw, and then by Brian Dangerfield, who was most unfortunate to miss out against Jones.

Dave Marsh returned to the event in fine form, taking 7 rubbers in straight games after a heavy defeat at the hands of Alan Ashberry, and before losing by the longer route to Ray Kingston and Jones, while Kingston also made an impressive return to competition.

The climax came when Edwards met Jones in the final match of an event, organised for the first time by Denise Barnett. Jones was expected to repeat his Northampton Closed win over Edwards just a week earlier, but Edwards had other ideas and playing to a well-constructed tactical plan he gave Jones no respite in the opening game which he took 21-7.

Jones improved in the second and in a close encounter always held the initiative until he led 18-17. At that stage Edwards played four perfect points and selecting exactly the right ball to hit, he took them all to become the new champion, and to receive the magnificent trophy from Reznor's Regional and Area Sales Manager Dennis Lunney.

Chris Handshaw, for so long in the shadows of Graeme McKim, Andy Edmonds and Richard Elliott, finally won his first major singles title, when in the Northampton Closed he came from behind to beat Keith Jones in an absorbing final.

Earlier Handshaw had lived dangerously at the semi final stage, when after dropping the opener to 19 against the in form Gary Webb, he had battled long and hard to get the verdict in the decider. But it was always going to be Handshaw's day and against Jones he kept his nerve.

Counties 6

and used his great tactical skill to excellent advantage and so gain an overdue win.

Ray Kingston's return to the tournament scene had its disappointments and rewards, with early exits from the singles events followed by superb displays in partnership with Michael Edwards in the doubles. Kingston dominated the men's event with some terrific hitting to gain a surprise win for himself and his partner, but then having reached the final of the Veteran doubles, the pair went down late in the third to those experienced campaigners Keith Jones and Brian D'Hooghe.

Jones had his usual field day with additional wins in the Veteran singles in which his final opponent was Phil Slade, who earlier had accounted for both Kingston and D'Hooghe, the over 50 singles, the Hard Bat singles against D'Hooghe and the mixed doubles in tandem with Margaret Maltby.

Mrs Maltby was also at her best throughout the long day, maintaining the splendid form that has taken her to such an elevated position in the veterans national ranking lists. However, Towcester's Donna Furniss was also playing well, and after gaining the narrowest of wins over Joyce Porter at the penultimate stage, Miss Furniss took the holder all the way in the final of the singles before Maltby emerged triumphant, just as she did in the ladies doubles partnered by Mrs Porter. In the first and second division singles she again had to go the distance against Miss Furniss before accounting for David Birch and so complete a quartet of titles.

In the remaining events, Colin Brogan proved most successful, adding the lower divisional singles to the victory he had earned against Martin Gibbs at Junior level. However, Gibbs, partnered by Paul Wood, gained consolation in the junior doubles while finally the under 14 award was claimed by Majid Soorty in a 5 player round robin.

NORTHUMBERLAND Aubrey Drapkin

BRADLEY BILLINGTON BECAME the new Northumberland Closed Champion when he defeated Eddie Smith in a close fought final in the Joynson's Office Equipment tournament at Wallsend Sports Centre. Billington, currently studying in Newcastle and playing for Gateshead in the National Power Northumbria League, is ranked at No. 15 in England; but was given hard matches in both the semi final and final of the competition. Having accounted for Bob Simmons, Malcolm Lusk and Ian Collier he was pushed all the way by the Glebe player, Peter Lau in the semi finals before winning through. Smith defeated Allan Mathewson, Keith Weatherby, Neil McMaster and Ian Robertson on his way to the final. After Billington took the first end 21-18 and appeared to have a comfortable lead in the second, Smith fought back but could not quite make it, going down 24-22.

Ian Robertson of North Shields had a particularly good day, picking up three titles. Partnered by another North Shields player, leading junior Andrew Wilkinson, he took the doubles title when they defeated Smith and Neil McMaster in a very close encounter. Robertson also picked up the handicap singles title by defeating Malcolm Lusk in the final and romped home in the veterans against Dave Swan.

One of the lesser players to take the eye was Keith Weatherby who won both the consolation singles and the class 2 singles whilst Craig Fryer took the class 3.

Christine Burke, back on the Northumberland scene after a long absence, came good in the final of the ladies singles, beating Lynne Yarnell 23-21 in the third end. Lynne had some consolation when she won the women's doubles group partnered by Karen Newby.

Results

Mens Singles Bradley Billington

Ladies Singles Christine Burke

Mens Doubles Ian Robertson/Andrew Wilkinson

Womens Doubles Karen Newby/Yarnell

Veterans Singles Robertson

Handicap Singles Robertson

Class 2 Singles Keith Weatherby

Class 3 Singles Craig Fryer

Consolation Singles Keith Weatherby

SOMERSET Andy Seward

THE SOMERSET NOTES, due to have been printed in the February issue of TTN were unfortunately omitted. Apologies to all readers (plural?). This may be a case for Poirot or was it censorship a la IOW. It may be old news but here is a summary:

At the first Seniors weekend in Gwent, Somerset played 3 matches with limited success. With Brian Reeves now 'retired' from senior county matches, 'young' Phil Payne was drafted into the team - at No. 1 at that - and duly won all his singles against Avon 2 and Wiltshire. Was that an inspired piece of county ranking? Well, not really, as Phil won the Somerset Closed last season and fully justified the top spot. Phil made it six out of six against English counties when he won both his singles against Cornwall at the second county weekend in Falmouth.

Now there's a story in itself - the second county weekend in Cornwall! Suffice it to say that one county failed yet again to fulfil their fixture commitments as per the county handbook, so Somerset yet again travelled to Cornwall just to play one match. However, the two weakened teams played out a really excellent match which ended 5-5. Our thanks go to Cornwall for their usual hospitality.

And so to the Vets.

At High Wycombe we play both Bucks and Middlesex. The thoughts were that one win would be sufficient to stave off relegation - Middlesex must be strong, so we must beat Bucks. In the event, the ending to the bucks match was an advert for table tennis. At 4-3 to Somerset, Captain Reeves won a titanic battle 16, -19, 19 against Ken Muhr, who not only writes a good game, but plays an even better one. With John Crabtree winning the final match by coincidentally exactly the same score 16, -19, 19, Somerset won 6-3. A 7-2 win against Middlesex followed - in fact it was nearly a whitewash - which completed a successful day for the unfancied Somerset team.

To complete the scene, even the Vets 2 won a match. Away against Wilts 2, the match stood at 4-4, when Mike Baker beat Mike Oxley -16, 8, 17. Two wins for George Philpott, a win for Wendy Pryce in the Ladies and in the Mixed with Mike Baker gave Somerset the points.

Defeat however against Devon Vets (Mike Short, Penny Perry et al). Two wins for newcomer Kelvin Lum and one for George were all the successes.

Next month, news from the Local Leagues and a summary of the season.

Counties 7

SUSSEX

John Woodford

SUSSEX COULD END the season with all three senior teams promoted. First class performances by the senior side, spearheaded by Adrian Moore and Ritchie Venner, Teresa Moore, Sally Weston have ensured that Sussex go back into the premier division.

If the second team can win their last match, then they will go up, along with the new third team, who secured four wins from five after driving to Plymouth Mayur Majithia (Crawley) and Sarah Stedman (Arundel) were the two players who impressed Keith Horton most that weekend.

Ritchie Venner is finishing the season in great form. His win over Sean Gibson at Kings Lynn was the best of his career. All Ritchie needs now is for Horsham Angels to win promotion in the British League to the premier division.

Political opinions are no longer acceptable in these columns so I am told, so I can only dwell briefly and factually with a major disturbance among the junior committees, who seem to have split into three factions.

Sussex No. 1 junior Paul Butcher and Sussex junior champion Tina Beaney were suspended from the last two county matches because they chose to play in the Eastbourne Championships instead of staying available for Sussex on a clashing date.

The fathers of both players have complained at the county's action, which apparently was done without warning. Further rounds of this battle are expected at the next meeting of the Sussex TTA, although there could be an appeal to the ETTA if time limits allow.

WILTSHIRE

Laurie Selby

PRACTISING HIS SERVICE on the dining room table put success on a plate for Swindon table tennis star Eddie Roofe. It wasn't food that Eddie was dishing up when he practised so hard - he was perfecting his serving skill with table tennis bat and ball. "I used to try various forms of spin serves for hours when I started playing" he said after winning the Swindon Closed singles championship for the third time in a row. And it is his serve that makes Eddie such a difficult player to beat.

Garry Baldwin found that out to his cost when the two met in an action replay of last season's final. They were neck and neck at 15-15 in the opening game but Eddie, aided by some super serving, won the 6 of the next 8 points for the game. It was a similar story in the opening exchanges of the second game but Eddie again put on a spurt which gave him the championship. It was also revenge for Eddie who lost to Gary in the final of the Bristol Closed Championships earlier in the season.

15 year old Tracy Youldon proved how much her game has matured when she retained her women's singles crown. Tracy was 8-4 down in the first game against Brenda Lee but then buckled down to her task and produced some fine consistent hitting to win in 2 games.

Alan Duke proved a cut above the rest in the veterans singles. He beat reigning champion and top seed Basil Thompson in the final. He teamed with Tracy Watkins to defeat the unseeded Ian Neate and Tracy Youldon in the mixed doubles final.

Second seeds Ray Powell and Glen Freeman upset top seeds Roofe and Alex Collar in the mens doubles with a straight sets victory. The womens doubles were played on a group basis with Brenda Lee and Debbie King coming top of the table. Trophies were presented by Brian Neate, Chairman of the Sanford TTC who hosted the event.

Three players had the poorly attended Swindon Closed Junior Championships all sewn up. Tim O'Mahoney took a hat-trick of titles, Tracy Youldon notched 2 and Stephen Penfold grabbed the others.

Tim crashed through against Mark Thompson 21-16, 21-8 and then handed out a 21-7, 21-15 hiding to Hue Ngo to take the U17 title. Tim and Hue teamed up to win the U17 doubles in the final against Tracy and Debbie King.

Tim's third title came when he and Tracy teamed up for victory against Hue and Debbie in the mixed doubles final. Tracy took her revenge for last year's shock defeat in the U17 singles final by Debbie. This time she thumped out a 21-14, 21-18 win in the final.

Stephen Penfold swept to the U15 title when he beat Ricky Kirby 21-10, 23-21 in the final. Stephen also beat Ricky into 2nd place in the U13 singles.

Stephen scored his 3rd win in the U17 class 2 singles where he had to pull out his best form to shake off the challenge of Roo (c) Patel 18-21, 21-15, 21-9.

Swindon's shooting table tennis stars shone brightly as they helped the county's junior team to a victory and a draw in their latest matches. Tim O'Mahoney and Tracy Youldon were unbeaten in the two matches and helped their team earn a 5-5 draw against Cornwall and a 6-4 win against Avon.

Swindon's girls are again flying the flag for the town in a national competition. A resounding 6-0 victory over Newbury in the Bromfield Cup put them through to the last four of the competition. Swindon's win over Newbury was surprisingly easy as the visitors never captured a game.



SHINING LIGHTS - The Swindon table tennis team who have reached the semi finals of the Bromfield Cup (left to right) Tracey Youldon, Debbie King and Kelly Sampson

Counties 8

WORCESTERSHIRE

Steve Horton

THE 41st WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY Closed was held at the Thorns Community College attracting top players from most of the affiliated leagues.

Malcolm Green (seeded No. 1) must be congratulated for retaining the men's singles title with a straight sets victory over the No. 4 seed Mark Brookes. Mark had played well en route to his first singles final by beating No. 6 seed Lewis Siket and the No. 2 seed Eric Hardman, both in straight sets. Malcolm's passage was not straightforward - the experienced Ray Dixon put up a very strong challenge in the quarter final and nearly produced an upset losing only 21-19 in the third. Malcolm put this behind him and started well in the final taking a decisive lead only for Mark to respond with some powerful counterhitting to lead 18-17. Malcolm stepped up a gear, taking 4 points in succession and the first set. Malcolm was able to pull away from Mark to win the second set 21-14 and, of course, the title.

Sandra Roden confirmed her No.1 position in the ladies singles by recording a 21-14, 21-12 win over Junior No. 1 - Carrie Hunt. Carrie had beaten No. 2 seed Mandy Mytton 22-20 in the third set of a hard fought semi final. However, Sandra's experience and positive attacking play were too much for Carrie on this occasion. Sandra collected a second title by combining with Mandy to win the ladies doubles 21-13, 16-21, 21-11 against Joanne Hill and Janet Hunt.

Ken Walton and Steve Horton both produced their best table tennis to come back from one game down to win the mens doubles final against the No. 1 seeds Green and Brookes 17-21, 21-11, 21-15. Steve and Ken were fortunate in a first round tie against the Bromsgrove pairing of Steve Jones and Martin Madkins scraping home 21-19 in the third!

Ray Dixon was in good form in the Veteran mens competition, winning all his games in straight sets including the final against Roy Norton.

Janet Hunt won the Veteran ladies title in a round robin event by defeating both Linda Reid and Margaret Dignum.

Janet teamed up with Ray Dixon for the Veteran doubles but were unable to break the solid partnership of Mervyn Wood and Roy Norton. Roy and Mervyn took the title with a 21-18, 21-16 victory.

Unseeded Carrie Hunt and Steve Horton were winners of the Mixed Doubles, taking out the No. 1 seeds Roden and Norton in the semi final and beating Siket and Reid in the final.

In the consolation singles Eric Calver reached the final by beating Roger Stephens, Ron Butters and Colin Green. Nick Mytton was the winner of the final.

The county teams were in action shortly after the County Closed with the first team producing a convincing 9-1 victory at home to Avon II. The 2nd team made the long journey to Ipswich to play Suffolk II. Jason Thompson, making his senior debut, produced some excellent table tennis to win both singles. Incidentally the team arrived at the venue with the rear wheel of the minibus about to fall off and did not get back to Worcester until the early hours of Sunday morning - on the back of an AA Relay Lorry!

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

WITH THE SEASON moving into its vital final stages, Middleton PA A are looking to head off nearest challengers Yorkshire Bank A and Tascus in a hotly contested Division 1 in Leeds.

Middleton, who have brought in county stars Mick Stead and Tim Dyson from Bradford and Huddersfield respectively to support Yorkshire team colleague Dave Indriks, also based in Bradford, in a squad of four completed by Paul McKreith, have yet to taste defeat, although they have been held to a draw on four occasions, and it is the county men who are setting the pace in the section with averages of 90%+.

Also unbeaten are Yorkshire Bank A (Paul Sanderson, Craig Render and Neil Harris) and, in second place with games in hand, the bankers could make the final weeks of the season more than interesting.

With Yearden Celtic and Middleton C opening up a gap at the top of Division 2, two of the three clubs promoted at the close of last season - Victoria B and Regal Tailors A, as well as Leeds Permanent, will be looking over their shoulders as they bid for top Division survival.

But the third promoted club, Bramley Ebenezer A, have made a good start in top company and are presently in fifth spot in the table, while Richard Potter, in his first season at top level and just out of the junior ranks, is showing up well with a better than 50% return, only marginally behind Chris Newsome, who heads the Bramley list.

Sixth in the averages is another teenager in Joanna Roberts, representing Lawnswood YMCA A and she has been ever present in all her club's 15 matches.

At Dewsbury the Closed Championships have been played through to the late stages, with the finals due to be completed at Batley Sports Centre on the first weekend in March.

In the League competition only Richard Lightowler (Harrison A, Division 1) and Geoff Berry (Gawthorpe, Division 2) are unbeaten but it is Akeroyd who tops the Merit Table.

With one session of matches to go Huddersfield, who have completed their programme, top the Yorkshire League (Senior Premier Division) table, but Bradford I with two matches still to play, are level on points and Sheffield I, also with an unblemished record and three to play, just two points behind and the result of the confrontation between these two should decide the destination of the title.

A low entry of 75 players in the Yorkshire 2 Star Graded Singles Championships reflected not only the problem of the current recession but also the crowded state of the table tennis calendar. But it was decided, despite possible financial loss, the tournament should go ahead in the interests of table tennis and of those players who have so loyally supported the event over the years, and those who did manage to make the date at Huddersfield had an enjoyable day's sport with all five events played in groups.

The ladies singles was won by Maria Bubb who must have more obstacles to overcome than most now that she lives on the Isle of Man with Nicola Silburn in runner up position. The men's was won by Stephen Shaw from Derbyshire.

Contenders for honours

FEBRUARY was a very busy month for the County Championships with two rounds of matches and 130 matches scheduled. The championship has been decided in some divisions and in others it is not too different to see who are the main contenders for honours. All is set for the final round.

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION -

SURREY WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The final series of matches was played at the Batley Leisure Centre. The championship was in the balance until the final round of matches when Surrey beat Essex to claim the title. And so the championship title went South after being held in the North for at least the last seven years!

After the first series Devon, Essex and Surrey each had five points. But Yorkshire became strong contenders and, with Sally Marling added to their team, made a bid for the championship.

At the end of play on the Saturday, when each team had played two matches, Essex held the lead being one point ahead of Devon, Surrey and Yorkshire. There was a vital match on the Sunday morning when Yorks met Essex. Essex led 4-1. However Yorkshire came back strongly to lead 5-4 after Darren Lindley (Y) had beaten Ryan Savill (Essex No. 1) at 22 in the 3rd game. Chris Sladden (E) won the final event to secure a draw. Meantime Surrey had a 10-nil win over Staffs and Devon were beaten 6-4 by Middlesex. Essex and Surrey both had 10 points when they met in the final round. Surrey went into a 2-nil lead and finally won 7-3 - but it was a close thing. Ryan Savill (E) had two narrow losses - 20 and 19 in 3rd games against Darren Blake and Edward Hatley. At this same stage Yorks beat Devon 6-4 to get the runners-up spot. Adrian Vincent (Dv) played well to win his two matches and Lynsey Heyward (Dv) beat Nicola Silburn but lost to Sally Marling 9 and 20.

No team finished without a point but Herts and Staffs are the teams of demotion. Most of the top players were involved in this series, with the exception of Alex Perry (Dv) who was training with Alan Cooke in Sweden.

There were some interesting and some surprising results:-

- Adrian Vincent (Dv) beat Edward Hatley (Sv) -18, 15, 17
- Chris Sladden (E) beat Richard Hyacinth (Mi) 18, 20, 17
- Kevin Dolder (La) beat Edward Hatley (Sy) 14, 22 (and was the only boy unbeaten in the final series)
- Darren Lindley (Y) beat Richard Hyacinth (Mi) -18, 19, 18
- Diana Chan (Sy) beat Michelle Martin (St) -18, 15, 17

FULL RESULTS

He	0	Y	10.	Y	5	E	5.
Sy	5	Dv	5.	Sy	10	St	0.
Mi	4	E	6.	He	0	La	10.
St	2	La	8.	Mi	6	Dv	4.
E	8	St	2.	St	5	He	5.
Dv	7	He	3.	La	5	Mi	5.
La	3	Sy	7.	Dv	4	Y	6.
Y	9	Mi	1.	E	3	Sy	7.

FINAL LEAGUE RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sy	7	5	2	0	53	17	12
Y	7	4	3	0	48	22	11
E	7	4	2	1	43	27	10
Dv	7	3	2	2	40	30	8
La	7	2	2	3	39	31	6
Mi	7	2	2	3	39	31	6
He	7	0	2	5	13	57	2
St	7	0	1	6	14	56	1



Sally Marling

JUNIOR 1A DIVISION

Bucks	4	Clwyd	6
Derbys	3	Warwicks	7
Yorks 2	9	N'land	1
Clwyd	4	Cheshire	6

Clwyd retained their lead with the 6-4 defeat of Bucks. The Clwyd girls - Natasha Williams and Meinir Davies again to the fore with four wins. Yorks 2nds did well to beat N'berland. Seven events went to a decider but Yorks won 9-1. Warwick pulled away from relegation zone with a 7-3 win over Derbys. Clwyd later met Ches and lost their first match. Ches won five of the boys events and Clare Newns (Ch) had a vital 17 and 18 win over Meinir Davies. Ches now look favourites for promotion.

JUNIOR 1B DIVISION

Glam	5	Berks	5
Surrey	9	Devon 2	1
Gwent	3	Essex 2	7
Surrey 2	0	Kent	10
Berks	7	Gwent	3
Kent	8	Essex 2	2
Glam	8	Surrey 2	2
Devon 2	6	Surrey 2	4
Devon 2	2	Glam	8

Unbeaten Berks surprisingly dropped a point on their visit to Glam. Berks won five of the boys singles. A -17, 18, 21 win by Ali Subhan (Bk) over Simon Thomas proved vital. Ben Johnson (Bk) kept his unbeaten record but also had a hard match against Thomas before winning -22, 12, 15. The Kent team continue in fine form with a 10-nil win over Surrey 2nds, but they lost to Berks in the first match of the season. Berks went 2-nil down against Gwent when Paul Hadley (Gw) beat Terry Young -18, 24, 21! But Berks got back to their winning ways with a 7-3 win. Essex 2nds put up a good fight against Kent. Eight events went to a decider, of which Kent won six - Kent won 8-2! Three matches were played in Plymouth and Devon 2nds won their first match with the defeat of Surrey 2nds. Glam beat both Devon 2nds and Surrey 2nds.

JUNIOR 2A DIVISION

Warwicks 2	6	Staffs 2	4
Lancs 2	3	Notts	7
Northants	10	Leics	0
Lancs 2	9	Leics	1
Northants	8	Derbys 2	2

Warwicks 2	4	Lincs	6
Derbys 2	3	Lancs 2	7
Notts	8	Northants	2
Lincs	7	Staffs 2	3
Northants	7	Lancs 2	3

Ten matches were played at Grantham to complete the fixtures. The two unbeaten teams were Notts and Northants. Northants started very well with a 10-nil win over Leics and then beat Derbys 2nds 8-2. The vital match then came when Northants met Notts. Notts were well on top to win 8-2. There was a particular close match when Debbie Pestka (Ng) (ranked 29) met Sally Russell (ranked 22). Debbie won 19, -15, 28! Gary Pestka and Mark Short (Ng) both played in all eight matches and got 100% wins. Notts had previously beaten Lancs 2nds 7-3 and therefore became champions and earned promotion to Division 1.

JUNIOR 2B DIVISION

Hunts	8	Bucks 2	2
Cambs	4	Herts 2	6
Norfolk 2	8	Beds	2
Essex 3	1	Suffolk	9
Essex 3	4	Suffolk 2	6
Suffolk	10	Suffolk 2	0
Herts 2	2	Hunts	8
Beds	10	Cambs	0

Hunts and Herts 2nd teams, both getting another win, are rivals for the runners-up spot. Both teams had earlier been beaten by the leaders Suffolk 1st team. Herts were lucky to win, being surprisingly one player short. Their boys John Lury, Pat McCarthy and Alex Common won their six events. Suffolk 1st team went further ahead with the 9-1 win over Essex 3rd team and, to rub it in, Suffolk 2nds also won 6-4 over an Essex 3rd team, which had five different players. Later in the month Suffolk 1 got two more 10-nil wins and, although having one more match to play, have wrapped up the championship having had a splendid season. Their girls - Sarah Davison and Katie Green - got 100% wins. Hunts did well to beat Herts 2nds 8-2 and virtually secure the runners-up position. Although all results were two straight in the Suffolk 2nds/Bucks 2nds encounter the match score was 5-5.

JUNIOR 2C DIVISION

Glam 2	7	Dorset	3
Glos	1	Cornwall	9
Devon 3	4	Wilts	6
Worcs	4	Somerset	6
Worcs	6	Wilts	4
Devon 3	2	Somerset	8
Glos	3	Avon	7
Avon	4	Glam 2	6
Cornwall	8	Dorset	2

Nine matches were played at Cheltenham Recreation Centre, to complete the fixtures. Somerset, despite being a player short, won their final two matches - against Worcs and Devon 3 - to remain unbeaten and take the championship of the Div. Glam 2nds, beaten only by Somerset, were the runners-up. Against Avon the Glam team went 2-nil down. They came back to lead 5-4 and then Nathan Lewis (Gn) beat G. Long 19, -19, 19 for the Glam win.

Worcs had their first win with the 6-4 defeat of Wilts. A vital event was when the only two unbeaten girls met in their final event of the season. Carrie Hunt (Wo) dominated the play to beat Tracy Youlden (Wi) 14 and 15, achieve 100% wins and clinch the win for Worcs.

Robert Millard played a vital role in Somerset's success and was the only boy in the Div to go through the season unbeaten.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

JUNIOR 2D DIVISION

Kent 2	6	Oxon	4
Middx 2	6	Surrey 3	4
Sussex 3	2	Hants	8
Sussex 2	5	Hants	5
Sussex 3	7	Hants 2	3
Sussex 2	10	Hants 2	0
Hants	7	Middx 2	3
Hants 2	6	Middx 2	4
Berks 2	8	Surrey 3	2
Oxon	6	Surrey 3	4
Oxon	5	Sussex 2	5

Kent Junior teams are certainly doing well with Kent 2nds getting another win - 6-4 at the expense of Oxon 2nds. There is a very interesting situation at the top of the table. Hants 1st team beat Sussex 3rds 8-2 but drew with Sussex 2nds. Hants got a point when, in the final event, Kevin Macken (Ha) beat Paul Cunningham -19, 18, 11. Hants 1st team later got a 7-3 win over Middx 2nds with Jeremy Wilson and Kevin Macken retaining their unbeaten records. This takes Hants a point ahead of Kent 2nds with both teams having one match to play. Hants 2nds also beat Middx 2nds 6-4 when Ben Hibberd (Ha2) beat James Wakelam 12, -19, 19. Berks 2nds got their first points with an 8-2 win over Surrey 3rd team. Oxon did well to get three points from their matches with Sussex 2nd and 3rd teams.

SUSSEX DROP A POINT

SENIOR 1B DIVISION

Berks 2	5	Sussex	5
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Sussex, who have made such a strong bid to return to the Premier Division, surprisingly dropped a point against Berks 2nds. Sussex were without Adrian Moore and Sally Weston. It was a very close thing even to get the draw. At match score 4-4 Teresa Moore (Sx) beat Lisa Crick -17, 20, 20! In the final set Mike Childs (Bk) beat Paul Elphick -20, 11, 18!

SENIOR 2A DIVISION

Warwicks 2	8	Cheshire	2
Cumbria	1	Leics 2	9
Notts	3	N'berland	7
Leics 2	5	Notts	5

Ches were without their two women on their visit to Coventry and were beaten 8-2 by Warwick 2nds, who climb above Ches in the table. Stephen Meddings (Wa) won his two events. N'berland kept up their unbeaten record with a 7-3 win over Notts. It was a really hard match with three events decided at 19 in 3rd game and the final event was even closer when Robert Yong (Ng) beat Ian Robertson -16, 28, 21! Phil Smith and Martin Pickles won their four events for Leics 2nds in the drawn match with Notts.

JUNIOR 2B DIVISION

Gwent	7	Wilts	3
Worcs	8	Avon 2	1
Avon 2	5	Gwent	5
Worcs	7	Glos	3
Avon 2	1	Cornwall	9

The top two teams met with Gwent getting a 7-3 win over Wilts and consolidating their position at the top of the table. There were two deuce in 3rd events - A. Penduck (Gn) beat M. Young 15, -16, 21 and Brenda Lee (Wi) beat Sian Evans -14, 14, 21 to retain her 100% record. But Gwent let things slip when they "fielded" a weakened team against Avon 2nds. On the day Gwent got the win when Sian Evans (Gw) beat Debbie Booy -20, 9, 24! but as Gwent had an ineligible player the result was adjusted to 5-5. This was the only point lost by Gwent and they win the championship and promotion. Worcs had a good 9-1 win over Avon 2nds with Clive Ellison getting the only Avon win. Against Glos, Worcs went 2-nil down after wins by Darren Griffin and Sylvester Callum. Worcs came back to win 7-3 with Sandra Roden, Mandy Mytton and Malcolm Green each winning their two events. It was something of a surprise when bottom of the table Cornwall had such a comprehensive 9-1 win on their visit to Avon 2nds. Eight of the wins were in straight games.



Teresa Moore

SENIOR 2C DIVISION

Hunts	4	Beds 2	6
Herts 2	4	Norfolk	6
Norfolk	3	Essex 2	7
Beds 2	4	Herts 2	6

Beds 2nd team got their first win on visiting Hunts. Keven Copperwheat (Bd) won both his matches and Nicola Copperwheat had a vital 21, -24, 19 win over Pippa Wells. Herts 2nds went 2-nil up against Norfolk but the visitors came back to win 6-4. Ruth Acourt and Chris Brewer (Nk) won their four events. Essex 2nds confirm their lead with the 7-3 win over nearest rivals Norfolk. Ruth Acourt (Nk) again did well with a 15, 9, 19 win over Alison Gower. Beds 2nd team were beaten for the first time by the visiting Herts 2nds team. Ian Black was the most successful Herts player with two wins.

SENIOR 3A DIVISION

Lincs	6	Herts 3	4
Suffolk 2	3	Worcs 2	7
Herts 3	7	Suffolk 2	3
Clwyd	0	Staffs 2	10

The top two teams met with Lincs beating Herts 3rd team 6-4 and taking over from them at the top of the table. Dave Skerratt (Li) had two straight wins over Derek Rogers and Tom Carr to retain his 100% record of wins. Worcs visited Ipswich and came away with a 7-3 win over Suffolk 2nds. Steve Horton and Jason Thompson (Wo), making his debut, won their four singles. Herts 3rds completed their programme with a 7-3 win over Suffolk 2nds. With Staffs 2nds winning 10-nil against Clwyd there are three teams who could top this Division. Herts 3rds will have to await the outcome of the Lincs and Staffs 2nds matches in the final round.

VETERANS 1A DIVISION

Lancs 2	4	Worcs	5
Norfolk	4	Leices	5
Yorks 2	6	Oxon	3
Cheshire 2	4	Herta	5
Herts	6	Norfolk	3
Worcs	5	Oxon	4

Lancs 2nd team lost their first match and Worcs gained two valuable points on their visit to Huyton. It was a close thing - the win was clinched when Ray Dixon (Wo) beat Barry Crooke -14, 11, 22! Worcs won the two doubles events. Norfolk led 4-3 against Leics when Maurice Newman (Le) beat Mick Broughton and Steve White (Le) followed with a 16 in 3rd win over Peter Cole. This gave Leics their 3rd 5-4 win and, for unlucky Norfolk, it was their 3rd 4-5 loss. Herts got a 5-4 win on visiting Ches 2nd team. John Taylor (He) still unbeaten. The Worcs/Oxon match was between teams level on points and sets. The score was 4-4 after Arthur Chilvers (Ox) had beaten Ray Dixon 26, -12, 20. John Stafford (Wo), on his first appearance of the season, beat Nat Richardson -20, 12, 12 for the 5-4 win. The nine set match certainly provides excitement - this was Worcs' fifth 5-4 result this season. Herts 2nds 6-3 win over Norfolk means their last match against Yorks 2nds will decide the championship.

VETERANS 1B DIVISION

Kent	8	Berks	1
Essex 2	5	Middx	4
Hants	6	Wilts	3
Somerset	5	Wilts	4
Berks	4	Hants	5

After their 8-1 win over Berks, Kent look well set for return to Premier Division. Tom Adams (K) beat Ian Schwartz at 19 in 3rd game and Clive Morris/Ruth Bentley (K) won the mixed doubles at the same score. It was a hard fought match between Essex 2nds and Middx. Chris Boothby (Mi) beat Fred Lockwood at 18 in 3rd game to level the match score 4-4. Dave Wright (E) then beat Tony Taylor 20 and 13 for the Essex win. Wilts, without Terry Bruce, lost 3-6 to Hants. Against Somerset, Wilts won both doubles at 18 and 19 in deciders. But Somerset got a 5-4 win with Brian Reeves (So) having two fairly comfortable two straight wins. Two doubles wins for Hants certainly helped them to get the 5-4 win over Berks.

County Championship results will be given, as early as possible, on each Monday morning after the seven organised match dates

**FOR ALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS
TELEPHONE 0891 664300**

Calls charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 3

VETERANS 2A DIVISION

Staffs	3	Clwyd	6
Notts	3	Cheshire 3	6
Clwyd	4	Northants	5
Warwicks	8	Northants	1
Staffs	6	N'berland	3

The two bottom teams both got wins and valuable points. Clwyd's 6-3 win over Staffs pushes them up the table. And Ches 3rds wins over Notts was aided by Phil Luxton's two singles wins and taking both doubles events. Warwicks met nearest rivals Northants and, with Barry Johnson as No.1, got an 8-1 win to go top of the table. Staffs 6-3 win over N'berland was achieved with John Riley and John Taylor being involved in all six wins. Margaret Malby was the most successful Northants player in their 5-4 win over Clwyd winning her singles and the mixed doubles with Keith Jones.

VETERANS 2B DIVISION

Camb	3	Herts 2	6
Essex 4	7	Hunts	2
Bucks 2	1	Beds	8
Herts 2	6	Bucks 2	3
Norfolk 2	2	Beds	7

Herts 2nds, with the 6-3 win over Camb retain top place. Essex 4th team beat bottom of the table Hunts 7-2. Beds 1st team got an 8-1 win over Bucks 2nds at Milton Keynes T.T. Centre. Brian Savage/Jan Curtis got the one Bucks win when beating Roy Wiffen/Valerie Murdoch 18, -19, 19. Herts 2nds still unbeaten after their 6-3 win over Bucks 2nds. Alan Lamprell (He) involved in six wins from the February matches. Beds had their 2nd win of the month when beating Norfolk 2nds 7-2. Roy Wiffen (Bd) involved in another close finish in mixed doubles and, this time, with Sylvia Coombs, winning at 25 in the 3rd game!

VETERANS 2C DIVISION

Kent 2	5	Middx 2	4
Berks 2	0	Surrey 2	9
Oxon 2	0	Sussex 2	9
Essex 3	9	Middx 2	0
Oxon 2	7	Berks 2	2
Sussex 2	1	Kent 2	8

A hard fought match between Kent 2/Middx 2. Four events decided narrowly in 3rd games. Keith Clark (K. No.1) won both his singles matches. Bottom of table Berks 2nds suffered a 9-nil defeat at hands of Surrey 2nds. The nearest Berks came to a win was in the mens doubles - Dave Cowley/Ron Langheim (Sy) beat Barry Morten/Peter Bradley 19, -19, 19. Sussex 2nds got a 9-nil win on their visit to Oxford but there were some close games. After losing the first game Gerry Batt-Rawden (Sx) beat George Pullin 31-29 and went on to win the 3rd game. Middx 2nds suffered at the hands of Essex 3rd team. 9-nil the score but the mens doubles was decided at 26 in 3rd game and Maurice Isaacs (Mi) lost to Ray Murray at 19 in 3rd. Oxon 2nds recovered from their 9-nil defeat to get a 7-2 win over Berks 2nds. George Pullin (Ox) involved in three wins this time. Kent 2nds got a surprising 8-1 result over Sussex 2nds but again there were some close finishes.

VETERANS 2D DIVISION

Devon	6	Somerset 2	3
Hants 2	6	Dorset 2	3
Avon	1	Glos	8
Dorset 2	8	Wilts 2	1
Somerset 2	2	Glos	7
Hants 2	5	Avon	4

The two unbeaten teams met and Glos beat Avon 8-1! The one event for Avon was in the mixed doubles - Bob Murray/Muriel Lewis (Av) beat Roy Fowler/Judy Morley -17, 11, 16. Somerset 2nds got off to a 2-nil start against Devon. Kelvin Lumm (So) beat Graham May -23, 19, 22! However Devon came back to win 6-3. Dorset 2nds won the first event against Hants 2nds when Brian Burn

(Do) beat Ken Burton -19, 10, 22. Hants came back and at 4-3 Bob Cox (Ha) turned the tables on Brian Burn by winning 21, -15, 20. Hants went on to win 6-3. Glos went another step nearer the championship with the 7-2 defeat of Somerset 2nds. Avon suffered another defeat - this time against Hants 2nds, who came out on top 5-4. Dorset 2nds back to winning ways with an 8-1 win over Wilts 2nds. Jean Smith retained her 100% singles wins.

VETERANS 3A DIVISION

Beds 3	2	Northants 2	7
Warwicks 2	7	Beds 2	2
Hunts 2	2	Herts 4	7
Herts 4	2	Beds 3	7
Northants 2	5	Wilts 3	4
Warwicks 2	9	Hunts 2	0

Unbeaten Beds 3rd team met nearest rivals Northants 2nds. Beds won the first event but Northants took the next seven all in straight games. Herts 4th team beat Hunts 2nds 7-2 but there were some very close games. In the mens doubles B. Spittlehouse/M. Peacock (Hu) beat Keith Hartridge/Jim Felstead 20, -22, 23! The Herts 4/Beds 3 match was between teams 2nd and 3rd in the table and with identical points and sets. The Beds team was well on top throughout and won 7-2. Keith Hartridge won his two singles for Herts. Northants 2nds gave Hunts 2nds the "whitewash".

VETERANS 3B DIVISION

Kent 3	6	Sussex 4	3
Surrey 3	7	Hants 3	2
Dorset 3	8	Berks 4	1
Berks 4	0	Surrey 3	9
Kent 3	7	Dorset 3	2
Hants 3	6	Herts 3	3

The only successful Sussex player against Kent 3rds was Trevor Wirimanden. His win over Ted Tydeman was at 23 and 21, he beat Mel Dixon and won the mens doubles with Chris Baker. Kent's 6-3 win takes them above Sussex 4 in the table. Surrey 3rd team lost the two events against Hants 3rd team but came back to take the next seven events. And Surrey 3rd team's later 9-nil win over Berks 4th team puts them in an invincible position at the top of the table. Hants 3rd team completed their fixtures with a 6-3 win over Herts 3rds with C. Childs (Ha) involved in three wins. Dorset 3rds were a player short against Kent 3rd team and lost 2-7. Mae Allen (Do) was involved in the two wins.

VETERANS 3C DIVISION

Northants 3	1	Herts 5	8
Glos 2	8	Wilts 4	1
Berks 3	6	Herefords	3
Herts 5	2	Sussex 3	7
Glos 2	4	Northants 2	5
Wilts 4	7	Herefords	2

The Northants 3/Herts 5 match was a clash of unbeaten teams. The Herts team won three of the first four events at 17 and 18 in 3rd games and went on to win 8-1. Wilts 4th team took the first event at Glos when Ray Cordery beat Peter Wood -13, 19, 19. But that was the extent of their success and Glos 2nds won 8-1. Later Glos 2nds had to play Northants 3rds and narrowly lost 4-5. Herefords started well when Neville Meredith beat Colin Dyke 19 and 23 and Richard Owens had a 20, 17, 16 win over John Glew. There were some other close games but Berks won 6-3. The unbeaten Herts 5th team met their match against Sussex 3rds, who won 7-2 and take over at top of the table. Wilts 4th team got their first points with a 7-2 win over Herefords.

FORTHCOMING COACHING COURSES

17/18 April - Assistant Coaches Course

Venue: Penrice School, St. Austell
Contact: Tony Cavey Tel: 0278 685175
Regional Coaching Chairman: Val Clack Tel: 0793 537464

1/2 May - Assistant Coaches Course/Sports Leader

Venue: Mendip
Contact: Kevin Satchell Tel: 0225 700637
Regional Coaching Chairman: Val Clack Tel: 0793 537464

14 May - Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award Four consecutive Friday evenings

Venue: YMCA Sports Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstowe.
Contact: Jenny Fitzgerald Tel: 081-527 0787
Regional Coaching Chairman: Phil Gower Tel: 0277 353174

11/18 July - Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Award

Venue: St. Nicholas High School, Northwich, Cheshire.
Contact: Campbell Eaton Tel: 0606 871117
 Also Regional Coaching Chairman

REGIONAL STAFF COACHES

There are two vacancies for Regional Staff Coaches, the N.W. Region and the Southern Region.

These positions are paid on an hourly basis with our full-time Regional Development Officers helping to generate the work.

The ETTA will also provide regular high level training and promote their services to local authorities and potential coaching services employees.

We would be pleased to hear from anyone interest in taking up one of these positions. For further details and application forms please contact:

**Mrs. Jill Parker, National Coaching Manager, Highfield House,
64 Regent Drive, Fullwood, Preston. PR2 3JD**

NEW WORK GENERATED BY THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICES FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

WEST MIDLANDS - SANDRA RODEN

2nd February Broadway School, Birmingham
Exhibition by Helen Lower/Sandra Roden

9th February Broadway School
Junior Tournament followed by coaching session
Coach Jim Peakman

13/14 February Coach Education Course at Harry Mitchell Sports Centre, Smethwick
Eight student coaches. Course tutor Jill Harris

SOUTH EAST - CLAIRE HUNTER

12 January -
23 February Surrey Action Coaching, Bishop Reindorp School.
Middle school children

26 January -
23 March Tonbridge Junior Coaching for beginners
Coach Jason Blake

13/14 February Sport Leader Award Course, Strood Sports Centre.
Coach tutor Roy Pugh

22 February for 6 weeks School/Club Link Scheme (WSIHE BL Club & School)
Coach Dave Berriman

28 February Kent Coaches Workshop, Ashford.
W/c 22 February School Link Project (Arun District Council)
Barnham, West Sussex.
Coach Peter Hammond

6 & 7 March Teacher, Sport Leader & Assistant Coach Award, Chelsea School, Eastbourne
Coach Dave Berriman

Saturday 11th April Junior League (U14) - promoted by Terry Dean (League Dev. Officer) and Worthing Borough Council

28 March/4 April Tournament promoted by Tandridge & District Council and Lumpsfield Lawn Tennis Club

20 & 21 March Crystal Palace Sports Centre
SE Region Development & Coaching Conference

Summer Term for 8 weeks Tunbridge Junior Coaching for improvers
Coach Jason Blake

GREATER LONDON REGION - COLIN WILSON

Coach Education Course (Sport Leader) - London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham - 13 participations, 13 passes. Tutor Reg Rockall

London Borough Tower Hamlets (Isle of Dogs) - London Junior Table Tennis Scheme - Weekly sessions of two hours at eight schools, two-seven tables each. Over 200 participants per week. Coaches Laurie Laken and John Llewellyn.

London Borough Barnet - Half term course, Barnet Table Tennis Centre - Three days of three hours each, eight tables, 18 players per day. Simon Rockall.

London Borough Wandsworth - Disability Programme, Battersea and Wandsworth - Two six week courses, one and half - two hours each, four tables. John Llewellyn.

London Borough Tower Hamlets (Isle of Dogs) - 50+ scheme, Exhibition and Coaching Session, one table. Reg Rockall.

London Borough Croydon - Disability Programme, Tournament and Coaching Day, three tables reserved for coaching, 40 players from five day centres. Mike Kercher.

London Borough Tower Hamlets (Isle of Dogs) - Half term schools programme, George Green's School, three full days of Coaching and Competition, seven tables, over 50 players. Laurie Laken, Grant Solder, John Llewellyn.

OTHER FOCUS SPORT ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE

£25.00 Sports Match application made. Three League Development Meetings held (North Middlesex, Bromley, West Middlesex).
Umpires Recruitment Seminar held, six participants.
New multi-Table Club - Holy Family School, Isle of Dogs, four tables.

REGIONAL STAFF COACHES COACHING ADCTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

SOUTH WEST REGION

Kevin Satchell Monday - Brislington School, Bristol 14.30-22.00
Tuesday - Melksham T.T. Club, Melksham Sports Centre 19.30-22.00
Thursday - Bath University, Bath 19.30-22.30
Above format for the week

Assistant R.S.C.
Tony Carey

Wednesdays - Wellington Leisure Centre
19.00-21.00. Eight tables
(One per month)

WEST MIDLANDS

Jill Harris 1st/8th/22nd Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge
18.00-19.00 Coaching for Beginners
19.00-20.00 Coaching for Improvers
2nd/9th/16th/23rd Birmingham Sports Centre
19.15-21.30 West Midlands Centre of Excellence
6th Hereford Leisure Centre
10.00-16.30 League Coaching Session
13th/14th Harry Mitchell Centre, Smethwick
10.00-16.30 Assistant Coach Education Course

SOUTH EAST

Nigel Thomas

February 2, 9, 23 Surrey Action Coaching
Bishop Reindorp School, Working/Guildford
For beginners

SOUTH EAST

Dave Berriman
N.R.S.C.

Regular work
Monday - 15.00-17.15 Tonbridge School, Horsham
School/Club Link Scheme
Tuesday - 19.00-21.00 Horsham Regional
Advanced Training Centre
Wednesday - 19.00-21.00 Warden Park School,
Cuckfield, West Sussex. Beginner/Intermediate
Junior Coaching
Thursday - 15.30-17.30 North Lancing Middle
School, West Sussex - School/Club Link Scheme
Friday - 15.00-17.00 Horsham Tonbridge School/
Club Link Scheme 14/15 year olds
17.00-19.30 Limsfield Tennis Club, Surrey
Club Junior Coaching Session
Saturday 10.00-12.30 Horsham Tonbridge School/
Club Link Scheme 8-13 years old
Extra Coaching Organised
11th February - 18.00-19.00 Table Tennis
demonstration at Boundstone School, Lancing
for Worthing League
17th February - One day Coaching Clinic for
Haywards Heath Junior at Warden Park School
28th February - 18.30-21.00 Coaching Session
for Haywards Heath Junior League players
Sydney West Sports Centre, Burgess Hill

NORTHERN

Mike Yardley
A.R.S.C.

Regular Work
Monday 15.30-17.00 Park View School
Tuesday 15.30-19.00 Ulverston Victoria School
Wednesday 15.30-17.00 St. Bernards School
Thursday 15.30-17.00 Dowdales School, Dalton
Friday 14.30-16.30 A.T.C.
Saturday 9.00-12.00 Leisure Centre
(All the above are mainly for 11-16 year olds)

COACHES QUALIFIED LEVEL 1 FEBRUARY

Sean Carman, Wellington, Hereford
Peter Coormiah, Lytham St. Annes, Launs
Anthea Dixon, Ross on Wye, Hereford
Helen Taylor, Aylestone Hill, Hereford
Stephen Watkins, Hereford
Edward Andrews, Hereford
Ian Cooper, Newton Farm, Hereford
Harmesh Jutle, Kings Acre, Hereford
Geoff Brook, Stowmarket, Suffolk
Peter Green, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk

First two Regional Plans

REGIONAL PLANS

We have now had a chance to compare the first two regional plans, for the North West and South West regions. As would be expected much of the content matter is similar with headings such as Participation, Performance, Facilities in each. Both plans devote much space to analysing the current position or 'Where are we now' as the South West puts it.

Activity

Each region sees actions such as much increased activity in schools and emphasis on training of officials and coaches as the way forward.

Supporting publicity is also given consideration in both plans.

Competitors

We only have to look around at the posters in local libraries, sports shops and school notice boards to see that table tennis often does less well than its competitors in this area. Since much of this type of publicity (and editorial publicity via the local paper) is free it does seem to be a potentially worthwhile task. Posters, stamps, Xeroxing, photographs, telephone calls and local visits don't cost much. The North West plan sets a budget of £300 but the South West does not have a budget figure at all!

Different

The North West and the South West plans are most different when specific development proposals are made. The North West simply give a strategy based on requirements for the Manchester area. A strategy working group has been formed to implement the plan.

The South West development proposal is based on an actual case history of a simple but successful small town development. From this a plan is shown in block chart form as an example of good practise.

The plans are impressively presented, with the North West version helped by pictures. They should both serve as useful ambassadors.

TWO MORE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES

Two more conferences have been arranged; at Taunton Racecourse in Somerset on 27th March and Birmingham Sports Centre on 10th April.

A4 poster printed black on gold



Set of five 'Running Sport' booklets

Speakers (at the time of writing) include Alan Ransome, Donald Parker and Mike Lewis, plus an Open Forum Session. Each league in the regions is offered four free places and travel expenses for a car.

NO NEWS IS NOT GOOD NEWS

As may be observed from the dearth of news of regional activity in these columns the new regional organisations are not good at spreading the word. My spies tell me that quite a lot

is happening, however.

To me this points to the need for a formal appointment in each region of a publicity officer (with a small budget). There are masses of opportunities. And we have seen from the effect of T.V. presentations (of snooker for instance) what results can be obtained.

Maybe we can't get table tennis on T.V. every week but we can into papers and local radio in the regions and quite possibly local T.V.

DO YOU PLAY TABLE TENNIS?

Or would you like to try? It's likely that you do. But, this message is not aimed at you. It is the headline of an attractive professionally created poster produced for people who would like to get involved but don't know what to do about it.

This A4 poster printed black on gold paper was produced by Somerset for local promotions. It is suitable for notice boards in schools, sports centres and libraries and sports shop windows etc.

Somerset have kindly agreed to make it available nationally at cost (minus the Somerset reference, of course).

Price is £3 per 100. Please advise Diccon Gray at Hastings of your requirements.

FREE

The Sports Council have produced a set of five 'Running Sport' booklets. They are; Getting things done (recruiting and training volunteers); Running meetings; Running a club; Looking after the money; Raising money (fund raising, sponsorship, marketing). Each title is normally to be priced at £2 (or £5 a set). However, every league is offered a free set upon application to Hastings enclosing a stamped addressed A5 size envelope (49p).

The booklets, which are linked to a series of courses, are written in a very practical style. For instance, Getting things done invites the reader to consider why **he** or **she** is a volunteer (not a bad starting point for planning recruitment!). They are also written with a minimum of jargon! Lots of useful ideas. Well what a read. Well done Sports Council.

SOUTH WEST ACTION

Melanie Carey Regional Development Officer for the South West reports after six weeks in action. A lot of time has been spent making contact with people who will help with or do development work. Off the ground are three championship coaching schemes in Cornwall, Dorset and Devon, 'Come and Try Table Tennis' sessions in Avon, with others planned for Somerset, and two coach education courses. Mel is also arranging visits, it is hoped, to all South West leagues and organising the South West Development Conference.

The best ever staged!

THE Barcelona Olympics were among the best ever staged and table tennis received excellent coverage. However for those of you who may have missed some of the action, you can relive those moments with the ITTF's souvenir video.

Besides all the action there is background to some of the top players as well as a close look at the city of Barcelona. The cost of each set is £45 which should be sent to Mike Lawless, ITTF, 53 London Road, St. Leonards on Sea, East Sussex.

Super Team

SWEDEN retained their Super team title when they finished Belgium off in a two legged encounter to take the Super Division title of the Joola European League. After beating them in Belgium 4-2 they completed the job at Kalmar, a town in southern Sweden by winning 4-1. The only surprise being the defeat of Jan-Ove Waldner who lost to Philippe Saive in both matches.

Alex Ehrlich

ALEX EHRlich of Poland who recently passed away was never a world champion but reach the final of the mens singles on three occasions. His main claim to fame was his part in playing the longest rally for one point which lasted 2 hours 12 minutes against the Romanian Farkas Paneth.



Alex Ehrlich - English Open Mens Singles winner 1950/51

Sniffer machine

THE glue problem threatens to become even more complicated than it already is. Officials now fear that many of the rackets players use could be suspect



Jan-Ove Waldner World No.1

MEN'S WORLD RANKING

1	-	2095	WALDNER Jan-Ove	SWE
2	-	2006	GATIEN Jean-Philippe	FRA
3	-	1974	PERSSON Jorgen	SWE
4	-	1961	MA Wenge	CHN
5	6	1947	SAIVE Jean-Michel	BEL
6	5	1942	ROSSKOPF Jorg	GER
7	-	1940	KIM Taek Soo	KOR
8	-	1898	LI Gun Sang	PRK
10	-	1886	YOO Nam Kyu	KOR
11	-	1885	WANG Tao	CHN
12	-	1873	CHEN Xinhua	ENG
13	14	1835	PRIMORAC Zoran	CRO
14	13	1817	LINDH Erik	SWE
15	16	1816	WANG Yonggang	CHN
16	18	1813	APPELGREN Mikael	SWE
17	16	1810	HUANG Johnny Wenguan	CAN
18	15	1802	DING Yi	AUT
19	-	1796	KIM Song Hul	PRK
20	-	1792	PREAN Carl	ENG

WOMEN'S WORLD RANKING

1	-	2227	DENG Yaping	CHN
2	-	2114	QIAO Hong	CHN
3	-	2019	HYUN Jung Hwa	KOR
4	-	2010	LI Bun Hui	PRK
5	-	2000	GAO Jun	CHN
6	-	1978	CHEN Zihe	CHN
7	-	1947	CHAI Po Wa	HKG
8	12	1936	GENG Lijuan	CAN
9	-	1934	YU Sun Bok	PRK
10	8	1927	ZHANG Qin	CHN
11	10	1918	CHAN Tan Lui	HKG
12	nr	1880	ZHENG Yuan	CHN
13	-	1878	TANG Weiyi	CHN
13	14	1878	HONG Soon Hwa	KOR
15	-	1871	LI Ju	CHN
16	11	1870	BATORFI Csilla	HUN
17	16	1843	BADESCU Otilia	ROM
18	17	1831	VRIESEKOP Bettine	NED
19	20	1824	LIU Wei	CHN
20	21	1823	HONG Cha Ok	KOR
38	41	1689	LOMAS Lisa	ENG

after trials with a new sniffer machine found traces of aromatic and chlorinated solvents within the wood of the blade. Any player who intends to use new rubber or a new blade is advised to remove it from its packaging and leave it exposed to air for at least ten days before playing in the championships.

Test of rackets will be carried out at random during the world championships and if a positive trace is found, the racket will be impounded and the player disqualified.

Cancelled

SURPRISE, surprise. The Croatian Junior Open Championships which were due to take place in May have been cancelled.

Top 12

NO luck for our top players in the recent Europe Top 12 in Copenhagen. Chen Xinhua beat only Ding Yi to finish bottom of his group. While Carl Prean did little better losing all his matches also finishing in bottom place. Lisa Lomas had to drop out after playing one match. Worse was to follow when not one British player was included in the European top 12 for junior players.

Dates for your Diary

May 1-3 - English Junior Open, Bridlington; 11-23 World Champs, Gothenburg; 29-30 Deutschland Cup, Trier; 29-31 Austrian Junior Open, Stockerau; 30-1 China Open.

June 4-6 - French Junior Open, La-Roche-Sur-Yon; 10-13 USA Open; 10-27 World All Stars circuit (Asi/Euro); 11-13 Luxembourg Jun Open; 16-20 Brazilian Open, Rio de Janeiro; 22-26 Mediterranean Games, Lan-Rouss; 27-29 Bulgaria Jun.

Busy Chen

ENGLAND No.1 Chen Xinhua is a busy player these days. He can regularly be seen playing on the lucrative World All Stars circuit. In Seoul he beat Jorg Roskopf, the European Champion. In Saga, Japan he topped the Japanese No.1 Joshio Tazaki but lost to Jan-Ove Waldner in Tadotsu, Japan.

Schools prepare for Grantham

THE twenty four teams who will battle out the finals of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association's National Team Championships at the Kesteven and Grantham Table Tennis Centre, are now known following the three Regional finals which were staged in late February.

In the South and East Region, Peniel Academy, Brentwood dominate the list of finalists, with representation in no less than five of the eight events, while Parkview, Barrow-in-Furness (three), Grove, Market Drayton and Holmead Junior, Bristol (two each) all have more than one qualifying team.

Surprising to see only two sides from Grove coming through but, knowing the very high standards set at Market Drayton, I feel that there is optimism for the future with other schools in the Midlands and South West Region closing

the gap, rather than the standards of the Shropshire youngsters going into decline.

Kesteven and Grantham (G19), Dronfield Junior (B11) and Yarlside, Barrow-in-Furness (G11) all return after varying lengths of absence, and all are previous title winners, as are Highfields, Wolverhampton (G13), who took top honours on three occasions in the late 70s and early 80s.

In the B16 event the powerful Whitgift, Croydon squad look to be favourites to retain the title they took twelve months ago, while North Leamington (B16), with two of the players who took them to last season's National Finals, will be looking to move up from the third place which they took on that occasion.

Also bringing back the basis of last season's squad are Sutton High, St. Helens, who have moved up into the B19 after finishing in second place behind

Whitgift in 1992 in the lower age group, and they should have a strong hand to play in the B19.

The last - and only - time a title went to Suffolk was in 1974 when Northgate Grammar, Ipswich were B19 winners, but the East Anglian county are back after an absence this time round with Thurleston High, also from Ipswich, taking their place in the G16, while other less known names in Heles, Plymouth, Cedars Upper, Leighton Buzzard (both B19), Dronfield (B16) and Wheelers Lane, Wolverhampton (B13) will all be out to impress.

The full finals line-up is:-
B19: Sutton High, St. Helens; Heles, Plymouth; Cedars Upper, Leighton Buzzard.

G19: Kesteven and Grantham; Grove, Market Drayton; Peniel Academy, Brentwood.

B16: Dronfield; Grove; Whitgift, South Croydon.

G16: Parkview, Barrow-in-

Furness; Forth Leamington; Thurleston High, Ipswich.
B13: Parkview; Wheelers Lane, Wolverhampton; Peniel Academy.

G13: Parkview; Highfields, Wolverhampton; Peniel Academy.

B11: Dronfield Junior; Holmead Junior, Bristol; Peniel Academy.
G11: Yarlside, Barrow-in-Furness; Holmead Junior; Peniel Academy.

●The Schools International Table Tennis Championships, will take place in Birmingham on 8th to 14th April, at the Birmingham Sports Centre, with a full complement of 16 countries having entered in both boys and girls events, with China the No.1 seeds.

The draw took place on 28th February 1993 at the New Cobden Hotel, Hagley Road, Birmingham, under the supervision of Referee Tony Chatwin.

County Cable junior success



Prize and trophy winners (left to right) Neil Brittan, Andrew Fleming, Lior Hirons, Paul Higgins and Emma Sikora

THE inaugural County Cable Junior Handicap table tennis tournament, held at the Longdean School, Hemel Hempstead, on Monday 1st March 1993 was a huge success.

Winner of this tournament was 15 year old Lior Hirons

from Watford who beat Hemel Hempstead's 11 year old Paul Higgins 21-18, 9-21, 21-13.

Whilst Hemel Hempstead's 14 year old Andrew Fleming over powered Watford's Liron Hirons 21-14, 21-18 in the consolation final.

Other awards for sportsmanship went to 13 year old Emma Sikora and 13 year old Neil Brittan, who are both from Hemel Hempstead.

This County Cable Junior tournament followed the County Cable Senior Handicap tournament held at

Adeyfield Community Centre Hemel Hempstead on Friday 26th February 1993, which was in aid of Childline and the Adeyfield Friendly Hotels British league team, which was won by Emma Hurling who beat Kevin Masters 21-18, 21-14, in the final.

Isle of Dogs spectacular



A three day table tennis event at the George Green School proved a popular half-term event. The Isle of Dogs Community Trust Chairperson Robin Tassell presented trophies to the top ten ranked players in the Barclays scheme as follows:-

UNDER 21 MALE

1. Bikash Sen
2. Ian Hall

UNDER 17 BOYS

1. Chve Ting Li
2. Bikash Sen
3. Tristan Newman
4. Adam Brown
5. Kwok Tang
6. Ian Hall
7. Jamie Evans
8. Dean Coveley
9. Thanh Chu
10. Kenny McCreaner
11. Bibash Sen

UNDER 14 BOYS

1. Chve Ting Li

2. Kwok Tang
3. Dean Coveley
4. Tristan Newman
5. Jamie Evans
6. Bibash Sen
7. Kenny McCreaner
8. Rawi Shamoo

UNDER 11 BOYS

1. Ricky Brown
2. David Holtam
3. Tim Holtam
4. Scott Murray
5. Owain Hughes

Forty five youngsters attended a day of training headed up by international star and coach Grant Solder. On the final day twenty four youngsters received medals in recognition of their competitive skills.

The three day event was made possible through the support of the Isle of Dogs Leisure Services and Community Education Department, the London Junior Table Tennis Scheme and the George Green School.

Corbet Arms Hotel Graded Singles

THERE was just reward for NFD Grove's young duo of Krissy Sherwin and Michael Ostapski at the Corbet Arms Graded Singles Tournament with Sherwin clinching the Grade D title and Ostapski the Grade C title.

Sherwin overcame Leamington's Llyern Brocklehurst to emerge as champion whilst Ostapski underlined his recent progress to beat Jennie Ponsford of Kidderminster in a straight sets final.

However, the tournament was to be dominated by Scottish international Scott Gilbert who was well rewarded for his long journey from the

West of Scotland. Gilbert who represents Sedgefield in the Friendly Hotels British League won both the Senior Singles and the Grade A Singles titles with fellow Scot Stuart Wallis the runner up in the former and the ever faithful NFD Grove veteran Maurice Alcock the beaten finalist in the latter.

The veterans were to the fore in the Senior event as Colin Green of Evesham overcame Worcester's Tom Sedman-Smith in the consolation final whilst Green also appeared in the consolation final of Grade A losing by the narrowest of margins to NFD Grove's Mark Jackson.

The cadet event saw success for Alistair Waterhouse of Stockport beating Kidderminster's Jennie Ponsford in the final whilst more success came for Kidderminster in the consolation final as Philip Nicholls beat Worcester's Alan Jones.

The Under 12 event saw success for Chester as Michael Matthias won the main event and Paul Roberts clinched the consolation with NFD Grove's Trudie Bloor and Kidderminster's Tim Lloyd the respective runners up.

An impressive Paul Beechley of Evesham clinched the Grade B title beating Leamington's Ian Gittins in the final with the

latter's colleagues Emma Churchley and David Matthews contesting the consolation final with Churchley victorious.

The Grade C consolation event was to see an all Chester consolation final as Adam Burns beat Luke McLeod whilst Leamington's John Parker beat Worcester's Rosalind Sedman-Smith in the counterpart Grade D event final.

There was more success for Kidderminster in Grade E as Philip Nicholls beat colleague Alison Rathbone in the final whilst the success continued for Worcestershire in the consolation final as Tim Lloyd beat Newcastle's John Wootton.

The fabulous fifties

TABLE tennis, perhaps, was at its most attractive in the fifties and the competition between the top Europeans and the 'whirlwinds' from Japan gave it a new sparkle and zest. Unfortunately the decade started on a sad note when in June 1950, the indefatigable Bill Pope, one of the early officers of the ITTF and the highly respected secretary of the ETTA, passed away. Bill was a man of vision and a tireless worker - he will long be remembered.

In 1951 the World Championships moved to the Konzerthaus in Vienna where the effects of a sponge bat were first felt in a major event. A 28 year old Austrian named Waldemar Fritsch appeared with a sponge-faced bat and soon became a veritable giant-killer; while his opponents were waiting to hear the ball coming there was a 'whoosh' and it had gone. During the course of the championships he notched up victories over Harangozo, Koozian, Roothoft and Sido. Most of his wins were made in the Swaythling Cup matches over three games where, it seemed, his secret weapon was most effective. Over the longer course of five games his opponents had more opportunity to fathom out the problems he set and he was eventually tamed by Ferenc Sido who previously had been one of his victims. Many of the former stars were on the downgrade, and it was heartening to see new blood rising in the body of the sport. Nowhere was this better illustrated than in the women's doubles when two delightful teenagers known as the Rowe twins won the title at their first attempt and had the English contingent waltzing in Vienna. Ros and Di as they were called went on to reach the final of the women's doubles for five consecutive years winning the title on two occasions. England had a further success when their former champion Johnny Leach played immaculately to win the coveted St. Bride Vase. In 1949 many had labelled Johnny as a lucky champion but those selfsame critics must have blushed repentantly at his form in Vienna. Playing with splendid restraint, he won all of his Swaythling Cup matches and in the singles simply out-gunned the top players of the world. His confidence was supreme and his fighting spirit of the highest order. In the women's singles we were again treated to a dazzling display from Angelica Rozeanu; she had the eye to seek out the weakness of an opponent and the skill to take advantage of the situation. She was a thoroughly worthy champion.

1952 must go down as a special year in the history of table tennis as it was the first year that the championships were held in Asia and marked the beginning of the Asian dominance. Sponge bats had been used before in World Championships and with great effect, as we saw the previous year in Vienna, but never before with such



The Rowe twins - Di and Ros

guile and control as now demonstrated by the Japanese. The venue for these championships was Bombay, India, and playing in the World's for the first time, Japan won the Corbillon Cup and three individual titles. Before these championships, little had been heard about play in Japan although it was known that in the thirties each of the Hungarian 'Musketees' had suffered defeats when on tour there. Victor Barna himself was beaten by a player named Nikeda but it was rather hushed up as there were many imponderables, such as the quality of equipment and conditions for play. There is uncertainty as to the start of the table tennis in Japan; on the one hand it is printed in a souvenir programme issued by the Japan Table Tennis Association that Professor Gendo Tsuboi took it there in 1902 following the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, and on the otherhand it is recorded by Ivor Montagu that it was his mother, Lady Swaythling, who introduced the game there. No matter what the origin, their players showed considerable skill and a new kind of offensive approach; they were all penholders, making for an intensely exciting style of play. It was the men's singles that created the major surprise, when the weakest of the Japanese players, Hiroji Satch, took the title. The secret of Satch's success was not an array of brilliant shots but the skilful use of a sponge bat. He mesmerised the European stars by his variations and the unusual bounces he managed to produce. At times the ball would seem to hover and then, following a spinning approach shot, a venomous hit would be unleashed. The lack of noise upon impact was also very disconcerting to his opponents and many experts voiced the opinion that this alone would kill table tennis as a spectator sport.

The ITTF however thought otherwise and after much discussion decided to allow sponge to be used in international competition. Although they made no excuses the irrepressible Rowe twins must have taken the opposing view when they were relieved of their doubles titles by two petite sponge pen-holders, Shizuka Narahara and Tomie Nishimura. Hungary managed to win the Swaythling Cup against a determined assault by England who, on their way to the final, had accounted for the Japanese whirlwinds in an exciting match full of tension. A most notable landmark was reached at the end of the championships when the Asian Federation was inaugurated at the Cricket Club of India, Bombay, with twelve Associations present.

The first Asian Federation Championships took place in the Badminton Stadium, Singapore, from 22nd-29th November 1952. They were run on similar lines to the World Championships but the results, to the embarrassment of the Japanese, were rather different - out of the seven events they only managed to win a half-share in one title, that of the women's doubles. Hong Kong won the men's team event beating Japan in the final, where the World Champion, Hiroji Satch, lost all his three matches. In the men's singles Satch showed improved form to reach the final where he was literally overwhelmed by Sih Sui-cho of Hong Kong 21-12, 21-10, 21-13. The stonewall defensive tactics of India's Mrs. G. Nasikwala proved too strong for the women competitors and in the semi final she eliminated Miss Yoshio Tanaka (twice Japanese Champion) with consummate ease. It was an inspired performance by the Hong Kong players who won three events and finished as runners-up in the other four.

England's future star

JOHN WOODFORD recently talked with two of England's brightest hopes for the future, Alex Perry and Kate Goodall.

ALEX PERRY

● Alex Perry, 17, the new England junior champion and the present England No.1, heads a group of young men from whom England's senior elite squad of the future will be chosen.

The other leading name is Richard Hyacinth from Middlesex who regrettably fell by the wayside at his own country open. Perry's victim included Adrian Moore and Nigel Tyler at Edmonton, seemingly proof that Perry is out on his own in his age group. Hyacinth is blooming a short distance behind but these two are well ahead of the field.

Perry, from Crediton, Devon, comes from a sporting family; his mother Penny is a leading England veteran and his sister Lucy is already amongst the winners at cadet events.

Alex returned some weeks ago from a five week training session at the world-famous Doho, the Butterfly National Training Centre in Tokyo. Few players get a chance to undergo the Dojo course - Michael O'Driscoll was the last England squad player on he course, which is physically strenuous, mentally demanding and can reduce students to tears!

Participants work seven days a week, with 90 minutes physical exercise daily routine and of course, lots of table tennis against a range of players at various venues plus the expert advice from the Japanese national squad coaches.

A report on Perry sent back to the ETTA indicated that the coaches at the Dojo regarded him as one of the most promising students they had encountered.

It is of course, some time ago that Perry defeated Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason. Since then he has claimed a huge batch of victims including the young Japanese player Ichiro Nakamuri and the young Swede Simon Angel.

"It was a very demanding course, but I enjoyed it immensely" said Alex, who at an England training camp after the Dojo experience played well against the two world-class defenders Matthew Syed and Elena Timina. Alex was defeated 18, 19, 20 by Timina. He commented later "She will beat the Horsham Angels players Mike Hammond and Paul Elphick." That prediction was accurate.

Perry's personal coach is the Sussex-based promoter Malcolm Francis who told me "The greatest benefit Alex has received from the trip to Japan, is that it has increased his hitting power. He is on his way up the England men's list now and I believe his progress will continue into the Top Ten."

KATE GOODALL

● Kate Goodall, 17, who comes from the Headingley district of Leeds has become in the past few months the girl most likely to gain a regular place in the England women's elite squad. She reached the final at the Middlesex Open.

She made her senior debut for England against Germany at Scarborough on October 7. Her hard-hitting on both wings saw her score 17 points in both the second game against Olga Nemes and Christiane Praedal.

Her most valued victories so far have been against the two young Japanese players Keiko Okazaki and Toshi Murakami in an England v Japan international match at Driffield last year.

Kate does not have a lot of spare

time - she is studying five days a week at college, working for a National Diploma in Sport and Leisure Studies. She also relaxes playing lawn tennis, swimming and badminton.

Not long ago she was fighting to gain supremacy over her slightly younger rivals Sally Marling, also from Yorkshire and Derbyshire's Nicola Deaton. These three girls seem certain with Andrea Holt to be the England senior squad for future years. Kate Goodall has just eased ahead of Sally and Nicola, but you can be sure the

two younger girls will waste no time in trying to catch up.

Unexpected defeats are suffered by all players. At Hastings at the Stamco Sussex Open, from the No.2 seeded spot the Leeds student went down -16, 15, 15 to the determined Helen Lower, just three places lower on the England list, but Kate remains cool in defeat, a priceless asset.

Kate told me "Now I am just waiting for my first big win, meanwhile, I am hoping to be picked for the world championships in Gothenburg."

If England can afford to send four players to Sweden then the team picks itself - Lisa Lomas, Andrea Holt, Alison Gordon and Kate Goodall. If only three go then Kate could still win priority, if the England selection policy is looking to the future, as it surely must.

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Skitt Nevada - Violet Blue with Navy/Orange/Fuchsia Trim	£16.99	£19.99	

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Decisive stand on glues and gluing

ONE must applaud the decisive stand taken by the table tennis authorities on the matter of glues and gluing. It is clearly incompatible with any sport purporting to encourage physical fitness to be party to an activity that will have the diametrically opposite effect. However, it is one thing to decide that something must be done and another to find a way to do something effective, practical and sensible. Gradually, the proposed course of action is becoming clear.

The ET'TA in January ruled that, "All 'fast' glues should be banned, and 'gluing up' not be allowed during an event, or within 48 hours prior to an event. This ban includes all English players, senior and junior; in all events when playing for England. No glue may be taken into the playing hall or venue."

It is expected that this ruling will be adopted by counties and local leagues in their own competitions.

The ITTF issued a list of approved adhesives, but the latest ET'TA list dated 25th February 1993 is given below:-

"Any adhesive which is NOT on the list below or any solvent contained in an adhesive which is NOT on the list is a "Banned Adhesive"

WARNING: This list shows which adhesives it is permissible to use for fastening racket covering to racket blade. However, all wet glues contain solvents and the inclusion of an adhesive in this list must not be taken as an assurance by the ET'TA that the substance is not harmful, although it is considered that risk to health is

negligible if usage is only on an occasional basis. Players are strongly advised always to follow the manufacturer's recommended safety precautions where available.

1. Butterfly double sided adhesive film
2. Scholer-Micke double sided adhesive film
3. Butterfly Chack - normal glue
4. Joola rubber gum
5. Scholer-Micke - normal glue
6. TSP rubber cement
7. Kienzle Victoria - normal glue
8. 3M Scotch Pressure Sensitive Tape
9. Dubhar individual

The above list will be subject to change as either more medical evidence is furnished or manufacturers increase the number of normal glues on the market.

How the 48 hour rule and what make of glue has been used will be monitored by the Umpire at the sharp end has yet to be promulgated, it should make interesting reading. It is possible that self adhesive rubber may come into use if approved.

Reader's Response

Due to lack of space in the last issue, three of the replies we received concerning our articles on coaching and edge balls, had to be omitted. To complete the story these are included this month:

Stan Buchan, from East Kilbride writes:-

"Your suggestions regarding coaching seem very sensible. The umpire who is not a linguist cannot be certain if the words spoken by the coach are advice or expletive. It is extremely difficult during an intense and fast game for the umpire to take in the activities of those beyond the playing area.

The redefinition of the table surface while it may help the umpire is likely to meet opposition from the 'edge ball' specialists who take a pride in their accuracy as most edge balls prove impossible to return."

Comments:

Stan agrees that coaching will be difficult to stop, and the

main thing the umpire is looking for is anybody interrupting play.

We do not remember ever meeting an accurate 'edge ball' specialist in over 40 years. This rare breed will have to change their game.

Jose Pacheco, from Portugal writes:-

"Coaching ban. Honestly I think that it will be rather difficult to enforce this rule, especially in wide halls where the main tournaments take place. I also agree that it is impossible to understand different languages and to realise what are instructions and encouragements. It would maybe be better to authorise coaches to give advice anytime but without disturbing the players (any player).

Edge Balls. I don't know if there are any studies and numbers about this subject, but I think that two umpires normally can see if the ball touches or not the edge, although it is sometimes difficult even for players. The problem increases when there is only one official, as the opposite side is blind.

I think that your suggestion is reasonable and interesting although I don't agree with the fairness, or not, of such a situation. To lose one point at 19-20 like that is the same if the player volleys the ball, or if his opponent strikes the ball which touches the net winning one point. All sports have lucky and unlucky moments."

Comment:

He really agrees with us. As we said before, we are merely changing a lucky moment into an unlucky one.

Geoff Wadsworth, from Huddersfield writes:-

"Edge balls". In my opinion, there is no question, but that a ball which is deflected by the edge of the playing surface should be invalid. A fault.

One of the advantages table tennis has over court games is that the playing area is determined by an edge as opposed to a boundary line, thus nullifying the need for lines people, and the unavoidable errors. If our playing area was determined by a boundary line on a larger table

(heaven forbid), then all returns which at present strike the edge of the playing area, would clearly bounce outside a marked boundary.

In other words, all balls which bounce correctly are inside the playing area, and the ones that deflect are outside. Unfortunately, we ignore this obvious method of determination, and cause great frustration to players who may lose games through receiving returns which are almost unplayable. I feel sure most would welcome a change of law outlawing dubious returns and everyone would quickly adapt to a new rule."

Comment:

With regard to edge balls, he agrees with us about the advantage of having an edge surrounding the playing surface as opposed to just a line.

WHY NOT CONCEDE

Law 3.12.1 states:

"A game shall be won by the player or pair first scoring 21 points unless both players or pairs score 20 points, when the game shall be won by the player or pair first scoring subsequently two points more than the opposing player or pair."

A player is well behind on points in a game. Nothing seems to be going right and he feels it is rather a waste of time to have to carry on until his opponent has scored 21 points.

In this sort of situation a player may well wish that he could concede that game and start afresh in the next one. At least the succession of lost points would be halted, and he would perhaps be psychologically better prepared for the next game.

So why not allow a player to concede a game, if he wants to. His opponent surely will not mind, as he has just won a game without having to win 21 points. The law would need only a short addition at the end to the effect that a player may also win a game by virtue of his opponent conceding that game.

A few replies from referees and players on this point would be very welcome.

FOR SALE

Umpires' blazer 'Gents' available. Unwanted. Not used at all. Chest size 43", sleeve length 33.5" £82.50 including ET'TA badge. If interested please contact Wetherby (0937) 580151 or write to Chris Dale, 28 Oakwood Road, Wetherby, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS22 4QY.

BILL TODD

PEOPLE from the local table tennis world in Norfolk and all different walks of life have been paying tribute to popular local personality Bill Todd who died on Sunday 31st January in the intensive care unit of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital at the too early age of 49 of a brain tumour. Even after the diagnosis of this tumour in this autumn of 1992 he remained outwardly cheerful and determined to fight the problem.

In the lovely setting of Foxwood he and his wife Yvonne ran a guest house and catering business specialising in weddings and social functions for all ages - they had a special place in their hearts for disabled children and organised special events for them both at Foxwood and abroad.

Bill founded Foxwood Table Tennis Club to promote youngsters playing the game - the Club expanded quickly and the Club now has eight teams playing in the Norwich and District Table Tennis League. Bill was also instrumental in setting up annual exchange visits for the local Taverham Club with the town of Eisingen in German. These exchange visits have been taking place since 1979 and a group from Eisingen travelled to the funeral which took place on February 8th at St. Edmunds Church, Old Costessey.

Bill was a prime mover in bringing international table tennis to Norfolk in the late eighties and he also sponsored Norwich Foxwood's British League team by providing food for them and transport to away matches. He will be remembered by enthusiasts throughout the country for his light-hearted outlook on life always full of fun and with a quick ripost for all. He travelled abroad on many occasions to support our national team and one of his favourite stories (I cannot vouch for its



Bill Todd

authenticity) concerned the European championship in Germany when he went up to Georg Roszkopf in the dining area and said to him "Georg would you be kind enough to do me a favour as I am going to eat with my friends in a few minutes. When we are well into our meal come up to me and tap me on the shoulder and say Hi Bill, glad to see you its been a long time, etc. doing that my friends will be impressed by my being on first name terms with such a well-known player." Georg agreed to do as Bill asked and half-way through the meal Bill got the expected tap on the shoulder and Georg started to go into the pre-arranged banter. But Georg was quickly cut off by Bill in mid-sentence as Bill said "Piss off Georg can't you see I'm eating" and Georg after recovering from the initial shock realised the wind up and joined in the laughter....that short story epitomises this fun-loving man completely and the table tennis scene both at national and local level will be much the poorer at the passing on of this much loved character.

Bill, you were magic!

JOHN COWLEY

BARNETS and District Table Tennis League's longest serving player, 73 year old John Cowley, died on Thursday 4th February 1993, whilst playing a match at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

On return to civilian life John joined a team who represented Friern Barnet Council, who had entered a team in the Barnet League for the 1946/47 season. This was only the second season in which the league operated due to the war years, and is the first season for which detailed records still exist. These early days travelling to away matches was by bus, which meant late nights as he played against South Mimms Sports and Social, Neutorite at Borehamwood, Barnet Police and Wellhouse Hospital (Barnet General) in Barnet and Tudor TTC who played under the stands at Finchley Football Club.

During the season John had the privilege to play Norman Purvis and his wife Mrs. I. M. Purvis who were instrumental in the founding of the League.

John eventually formed his own team at Elstree RDC, who joined the Metro

politan League. During this period, whilst playing in the NALGO cup, John came up against Gilbert Marshall, a pre-war England International who won on that occasion. He had to wait another 25 years to get his revenge as by then Gilbert had joined BAT TTC. In the end travelling proved too much for the players and John re-joined the League in 1959 and took his place on the EC, on which he served until his untimely death.

Over the next few years beside's taking his regular place in his team, the thoughts of many were turning toward the building of a table tennis centre in the Barnet area. Fund raising was the most important aspect of the work and as you can see today we have a lot to thank John and his contemporaries for.

Playing in the main in the lower divisions John has amassed a total of 52 trophies, including the Summer League in 1976. Other than his playing against Gilbert Marshall John remembers beating Barry Morgan who had a 75% average in the Premier Division all be it in the 2-a-side competition. His playing partner, Bill Payne unfortunately did not do as well and they lost out. With the two Arthur's, Lyall and Neat the Herts NALGO team has been together for 16 years and who can usually be found on the wrong side of the glass partition at the Centre near table one.

MARK EDWARDS

ONE of St. Alban's star players 33 year old Mark Edwards sadly died whilst playing for St. Albans Club against Adeyfield, in a local league match in Hertfordshire on Friday 27th November 1992.

Mark will be missed by not only his team mates but everyone associated with him, for he really enjoyed the challenge and looked forward to every match with enthusiasm.

Unbeatable

AFTER reading the attached article of the 15th March edition of the Daily Express, where our Chancellor of the Exchequer claims "I am an unbeatable fiend at table tennis and I've seldom met anyone who can beat me" (send him a copy of the ETTA ranking lists!), can we now assume an advantageous VAT rate on the future purchase of all table tennis equipment? Or at the least a new sponsored tournament entitled "The Norman Lamont Very Attractive Terms Cup". Maybe this is just pure wishful thinking.

Ian K. Davidson
Billericay, Essex

Excellent talk

FOLLOWING on to the letter by Terry Vance "100 Years of Table Tennis", may I refer to an excellent talk by Mrs. Pat Archdale at Cardiff with precisely that title.

Many of the facts she had unearthed of the early years were completely unknown to most present, and some caused great merriment e.g. 'You must serve below the waist' - which made the ladies wear high waisted dresses when playing.

At her house, she also has a great collection of picture, cartoons, china and models relating to table tennis. Anything from a clay-pipe to a pencil sharpener. Together with her collection of badges from tournaments all over the world, she is in a position to offer great help in the writing of a book with a title that she has already used.

Like Terry, I think such a book should be written, and would suggest if possible that people like Pat, Terry and Ron Crayden should get together and share their immense fund of knowledge for the benefit of players present and future.

R. Bennett
Solihull, Birmingham

Alternative systems

I was very interested to see Diccon Gray's request for comments on possible alternative systems for league play, on page 19 of March's issue of Table Tennis News.

I am a player with fairly wide experience - 18 different leagues over the past 31 years. A few years ago, I began to see worrying developments in the sport; in particular, the 'shrinking' of leagues, and the fact that fewer juniors were coming into the game. The average age of league players, in the areas in which I played recently, has increased at an alarming rate.

I believe there may well be a number of root causes of this problem, but one pet theory which I have developed and which I am now more than ever convinced has some truth, is that the sport is being destroyed by our dogged adherence to the traditional form of the leagues match as you have defined it in Diccon Gray's first point.

Although I have never experi-

enced an alternative system such as suggested in point two, I am sure that this sort of arrangement could help to revive table tennis in this country. While retaining the competitive elements of league play, we need to provide more opportunities for younger players to get helped into the game. The traditional league format does NOT do this simply because of the length of time which the match occupies the table.

I'd be interested to know how the ETTA could influence leagues to change their ways! In my experience league committees are not the most adventurous of bodies. This is a dreadfully hypocritical statement for me to make; having played in all these leagues I have never once attempted to join a committee and influence it from within! But I feel that they have a tendency to spend their efforts on rather more parochial issues than the development of the sport, and I suspect the reaction you would get will go something like "we've never done it like that before so it couldn't possibly work."

Graham Frankel
Hertford, Herts

Wooden bats

WHEN asked by a young beginner, or their parent, what bat to recommend, the pregnant pause is quite deafening. With so many blades and rubbers on the market, it is so difficult to advise how they should spend their money. Does one simply suggest that they try out a few of their friends bats (if they will let them) and then decide with which they feel comfortable. But does this really help, as so much depends on such factors as their adopted style of play etc. What else can one do? If they stop to listen, I usually reminisce on being weaned on wooden bats, often covered with vellum, sandpaper or cork, followed later with pimped hard thin rubber. And then drift on to February 1952, when a virtually unknown Japanese player (H. Satoh) won the World Championships in Bombay using a racket with 5/15" 'soft' rubber. Many of his detractors were unfair to Satoh, attributing his success to the use of a new style of covered racket, rather than to his skill in exploiting its potential. And we all know what's happened thereafter. Actually, there were players using 'soft' rubbers long before the Satoh era - Charlie Dawes (Bristol) and Hugo Fritsch (Austria) coming to mind. In fact, it is chronicled that Mr. R.P. Warden, who later became a Vice President of the ETTA was using, in 1900-04, a home made bit of wood and pimped rubber, with a layer of thick velvet pasted in between. But none of this helps young people taking up the game, and I wonder what others advise.

Jack Reeves
Gloucester

Players paid the price

YOUR correspondent's statement (TT News March) that "Carl (Pean) disregarded all the glue problems -

so did the ETTU" I find a little puzzling, since the two attitudes were completely different. Carl conformed to the ETTA National Council decision, using no glue for 48 hours before the event. The ETTA allowed gluing during the event and some very fast glues were being used. Leaving aside the health hazards as represented by the solvents, it is - or should be - fairly obvious that the approach to the 'glue problem' was vastly different. It may be said that 'glues' (or, to be more precise, solvents in glues) speed up rubbers to such an extent that a player without 'glue' has little chance against a player of similar standard using 'glue'.

It is no longer a matter of tins bought in garages adding a little speed. It is one of private mixtures which enable players to hit much harder with far less effort in terms of shorter strokes and therefore reactions. It is a revolution in playing techniques which has crept up on us over the years, as significant, perhaps, as the original introduction of sponge in the hard bat era.

Unfortunately the issues of the health hazards (in terms of inhaling solvents whilst 'gluing up') and those of the ever faster rubbers (which shorten the rallies and perhaps reduced spectator appeal) have been confused. Both birds can be killed with the same stone, if there is real international will to do so.

I applaud the ETTA's stand. It alone has opted for a 48 hour glue ban prior to events. But there is a price to pay for such 'principles' and it is paid by our international players in terms of defeats in unequal contests: Not all players, of course, since defenders do not use glue. Attackers do and must, if they are to compete on equal terms.

It has been sad to see other nations have retreated on this issue, how national advantage has overshadowed health issues and fair play. That is no reason why we should not stick to our principles. If we don't, the sacrifices made by our players will have been in vain.

John Pean
Chairman ETTA 1986-91

So much criticism

EVERY time I pick up the ETTA Magazine there always appears to be criticism of the ranking scheme, mainly from highly ranked players and those who used to serve on the ETTA Committee.

My wife and I are both regular players who joined the VETTS some years ago and we, like many of our table tennis friends, find no problems with the present system.

The whole purpose of table tennis is to play and enjoy yourself, not worry about avoiding a tournament so you can save a loss and avoid rating changes.

I played in all the VETTS tournaments for three years without a win, but in the last three years (due to an improvement in my standard) I have started winning and I am more than pleased to see my name in the list at 185, and so is my wife who is now ranked 40 in the veterans.

Until this year, neither of us had played County matches, but now both represent Bedfordshire 3rd team (veteran) and the privilege of playing is far more important to us than the chance of gaining or losing points, and also the chance to play in the new Veterans British League.

I do not believe that the new ranking scheme is the reason for reduced attendance at tournaments - but feel that this may be due to the current economic situation on the high cost of accommodation etc.

Why can't people let the scheme run its course for at least three years and give it a chance to settle down, you have good people working on it (Doreen Nightingale) and they should not be subjected to so much criticism.

I know many players who do not really understand the ins and outs of the scheme (me included) but are pleased to have a ranking in the U.K. at whatever level. Would it not be possible to publish the ranking list down to a much lower level so all ranked players could see their position? Surely this would encourage more players to buy the magazine.

Alex Murdoch
Letchworth, Herts

PLEASE NOTE

We would like to make it clear that Table Tennis News does not necessarily agree with the views made by those correspondents whose letters are published in Mailbox.

Your letters that are NOT abusive or libellous are always welcome, as are replies.

Only those when names and addresses are supplied for publication will in future be considered.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN

SAT/SUN/MON 1ST/2ND/3RD MAY 1993

The Spa Grand Hall, Bridlington, Yorkshire

See England's Top Junior and Cadet Players against
**BELGIUM, DENMARK, ISLE OF MAN, FRANCE, SWEDEN, SCOTLAND,
LUXEMBOURG, ITALY, AUSTRIA AND LIECHTENSTEIN**

*Why not spend a pleasant May Bank Holiday
in the
"Resort for Sport"*

WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE

Crystal Leisure Centre,
Stourbridge, West Midlands

Sat/Sun 24th/25th April 1993

Details: Christine Lewis
0272 730788

VETERANS BRITISH LEAGUE

Grimsby Leisure Centre,
Cromwell Road, Grimsby

Sat/Sun 8th/9th May 1993

Details: Mike Lewis
0272 730788

NATIONAL TEAM FINALS

South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre, Grantham
Sunday 6th June 1993

**FRIENDLY HOTELS
BRITISH LEAGUE
SECRETARIES !!!**

**HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR
1993/94 ENTRY FORM?
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN RETURNED BY 31ST MARCH**