



Table Tennis News

No. 211

Dec 1992/Jan 1993 £1.40



Britain's Best
Buy Jaques

John
Jaques



TABLE TENNIS NEWS
December 1992/January 1993
Issue 211
The official magazine of
The English Table Tennis
Association

Third Floor, Queensbury House,
Havelock Road, Hastings. TN34
1HF Tel: 0424 722525 Fax: 0424
422103

President J A Leach MBE

Chairman A E Ransome

Editor John F A Wood
Editorial Office:
5 The Brackens,
Hemel Hempstead,
Herts. HP2 5JA
Tel/Fax: 0442 244547

Advertisement Offices:
Jim Beckley, Sports PR
P O Box 8, Cheadle Hulme,
Cheadle, Cheshire. SK8 7RG
Tel: 061-488 4002/
Fax: 061-488 4126

Table Tennis News
is published 8 times a year
September to May/June

Subscription rates - £11.20
£16.32 Sea Mail/Ireland
Air Mail Zone 1 £21.36
Zone 2 £23.04

Photographers:
Geoff Twiss and John Wood

Subscriptions and distributions:
Bethan Davies
ETTA, Third Floor,
Queensbury House,
Havelock Road, HASTINGS.
Tel: 0424 722525

Printed by:
E.W. Publicity Limited,
15 King Street West,
Stockport, Cheshire.
SK3 0DT

Unsolicited articles are welcome for possible
publication, but the publishers will accept no
responsibility for return of manuscripts and/or
photographs. Whilst every effort is taken to
ensure reports and facts are correct at the time
of going to press, no responsibility will be
accepted by the Publishers should errors be
published, either for errors or matters arising
as a result.

The views expressed in Table Tennis
News are those of the contributors and are
not necessarily official ETTA policy.
Similarly TTN accepts advertisements in
good faith, but cannot accept responsibility
for the goods or services described in
advertisements. If you have any queries
these should be addressed directly to the
advertiser.

No part of this magazine may be
reproduced without written permission
from the publishers.

Front cover: Lisa Lomas celebrates
her victory over French No.1
Xiaoming Wang-Drechou
(Picture by John F.A. Wood)

CONTENTS

Player of the Month



*Chen Xinhua is this month's choice for winning the
Italian Open*

CHATTERBOX
A breath of spring **4**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
Communication the priority **5**

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN LEAGUE
Lisa lifts England **8**

64th MIDLANDS 3 STAR
Mason's Midland thriller **9**

FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE
Preen's two horse race **10**

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
Champions Devon establish lead in Sen Prem **14**

WOMEN IN TABLE TENNIS
Sandra started playing at Butlins **17**

EUROPEAN REPORT
Hands off Hastings **23**

TABLE TENNIS The Formative Years
The middle and late thirties **26**

UMPIRES' CORNER
Coaching to be banned **28**

RANKING ROUNDABOUT
The Ranking Scheme **29**

MAILBOX
All your views **30**



Greetings of the Season



HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS MONTH'S ISSUE



STEPHEN LAMPKIN
Page 24



TRACEY DAVIES
Page 25

TABLE TENNIS NEWS 1992/93

Publishing dates:

SEPTEMBER
1st September 1992
(Copy date 15th July)
OCTOBER
1st October 1992
(Copy date 1st September)
NOVEMBER
1st November 1992
(Copy date 1st October)
DECEMBER/JANUARY
15th December 1992
(Copy date 15th November)
FEBRUARY
1st February 1993
(Copy date 1st January)
MARCH
1st March 1993
(Copy date 1st February)
APRIL
1st April 1993
(Copy date 1st March)
MAY/JUNE
1st June 1993
(Copy date 30th April)

A breath of Spring

EMMA CORBETT, who is just 17 years old, brought a breath of Spring to the umpires' table at the South of England Junior 2 Star Championships.

Emma, who was on trial for the weekend, hopes soon to be regularly on the circuit after she finishes her 'A' Level examinations.

What a refreshing change to discover a youngster that is so keen to become an umpire. Good luck to you Emma.



Emma Corbett

The art of Table Tennis

DURING the month of October art dealers of Mayfair compete in an annual table tennis contest, at the Chelsea Arts Club.

This year there was a surprisingly high standard of play at the Beryl Cook competition. Famous artist Beryl Cook created the trophy from an old bat and marble.

Winner of this much coveted trophy was bare-footed outsider Alma Taft, who apparently walked all over the holder Patrick Hughes.

Swedish captain retiring

ANDERS THUNSTROM, Sweden's most successful captain, is to retire after next year's World Championships in Gothenburg.

Thunstrom made his surprise announcement during the French Open tournament at a press conference.

He is retiring because he believes that he has achieved everything possible, having reached his fulfilment since Sweden have won the World Championships and Olympic Games.

Thunstrom said, "The players need a new captain, and the captain needs a new challenge."

The new captain will be Soren Ahlen.

Veteran's British League

THE inaugural weekend of the newly constituted Veterans British League takes place at Burton on Trent over the weekend of January 16/17th (the second is at Grimsby on May 8/9th).

Entries have been accepted from teams as far afield as Bournemouth and Portsmouth through Letchworth and the West Midlands to Blackpool, Merseyside and Humberside together with many other (total 32; 24 mens 24 womens) teams. With Bournemouth's Joyce Coop and Plymouth's Michael Short both appearing for West Warwickshire the transfer market has been busy at a very early date!

Sedgefield with John Hilton, Ian Robertson and Malcolm Corking all from the top 11 ranked players in their midst start as firm favourites with the main challenge expected from Briar Humberside (Derek Munt, Brian Allison, Matt Shearer and Brian Hill), Bournemouth's "Trend & Blend" (Tony Clayton, Brian Burn, Barry Hill and Chris Pickard) West Warwickshire (Barry Johnson, Michael Short, Ralph Gunnion and Ray Dixon) and Larkhall Spicer (Derek Holman, David Welsman, Clive Morris and Connie Warren).

The Ladies are more difficult to forecast but with

Penelope Perry joining Janet Hunt, Helen Pogmore, Margaret Dignum and Lynda Reid at Worcester Ladies and with their experience of the format from the Women's league it will take a good team to beat them. Nationally ranked 5 and six Pat Basano and Carol Judson together with Ruth Bentley and Sandra Rider represent Wakefield's Clarke Brewery investment; Eileen Shaler and Joyce Coop spearhead the West Warwickshire challenge and No.1 Lesley Radford will lead off for Dagenham Ladies.

Space battle continues

THE fight for space in the sports pages of the national newspapers continues. Even the Daily Telegraph with over 50 sports bidding for space has on occasions had to omit a batch of smaller sports including table tennis.

John Woodford's Tuesday column in the DT made a stuttering start. The column was omitted twice early on and on two occasions appeared on the following day, but an improved service is expected as the season progresses. When European League matches finish late at night, missing all but the late London editions, the DT normally carry a report on the following day.

'Allez Philou'

SWEDEN'S Jan Ove Waldner rose to even greater heights to beat Jean Philippe Gatién in a tremendous mens singles final at the French Open in Lievin, Northern France on 29th November.

Cries of 'Allez Philou' from the emotional audience drove Gatién to within a whisker of victory, before Waldner took the trophy in the fifth 21-16.

The battle between these two table tennis giants was momentarily interrupted by a fly that distracted Waldner who tried to swat it, but it escaped and landed on his chest. Gatién smartly stepped up and smacked Waldner on the chest, and then flicked the insect onto the floor, so that battle could commence.

A full report and pictures of the French Open will appear in the February issue of Table Tennis News.

Prean beats Fetzner

CARL PREAN started his season in the Bundesliga Herren with a revenge win over Chen Xinhua and his program with his new Juic blade and rubbers has continued to include a vital win against Stefan Fetzner, whose present good form continued at the French Open.

In the cup competition Carl's club Steinhagen have reached the final which is due to be played in Aachen on December 27th. Steinhagen manager Rudiger Lamm commented recently "Our match winner was Carl Prean."

With all the Bundesliga teams having playing seven matches, Steinhagen lie in second position behind Grensau, with Chen's club Sontheim in fifth position.

Against Julich, Steinhagen won 6-4 with Carl up-ending Yang Jianhua 11, 13 and also stopping Vlado Broda 17, -19, 19.

Chen has also collected some well-known scalps including Andrzej Grubba 10, -14, 19 and Georg Bohm 13, 13.

The venue for the European Nations Cup has been changed from Munchen to Karlsruhe's fine Europahalle, dates - January 15-17th.

Sponsor?

WILTSHIRE 3 Star tournament has unfortunately lost its sponsor, and been cancelled.

The organisers hope to stage the tournament once again next season, if they can find a sponsor.

Cancelled

THE Pontefract One Star Open table tennis championships, scheduled for Saturday 30th January, has been cancelled.

Torch Trophy

IAN MARSHALL has been awarded the Torch Trophy Trust in recognition of his outstanding services to the NFD Grove Table Tennis Club. (Full details in next issue).

GO FOR GROWTH WITH

Cornilleau SKILTOP

This fantastic range of new tables are CORNILLEAU's pride and joy. Created to meet your demands, "SKILTOP" will become the precedent for the new generation of competition tables. Choice of new Olympic Blue and for the traditionalists in green - Special tournament organiser and promotional package available.

Further information and 60 page catalogue phone 081 393 9474

Communication the priority

AS the Focus Sport Programme begins to gain momentum a vital task is the informing of our member counties and leagues of the opportunities that are available to them over the three years of the programme.

I have written to the secretaries of all leagues affiliated to the ETTA requesting a meeting of their committee with representatives of the Association to discuss a pre-prepared agenda covering grant aid and other initiatives designed to assist members at league and club level to improve their facilities and participation in their area. Some secretaries have already responded and dates are being arranged.

A second communication initiative, the "Going for Growth" conferences have also commenced. These are one day conferences and it is planned to hold one in each region. The purpose is to inform members the details of the programmes and gives the Sports Council Regional Liaison Officers the opportunity to talk directly to member in their area.

The subjects covered are the Sports Council and its role, the Coaching Scheme, the ETTA and its services and the Development opportunities. Our Regional Development Officers participate in the conferences and are available to talk directly to members. Two conferences have been held so far in Guildford (for London and South East) and in Nottingham (for East Midlands) on 28th and 29th November. Both of them held so far were very well attended by representatives of the counties and leagues and the feedback so far has been very positive.

Speakers were Sports Council - Pauline Fancourt and Anne Rippon; Coaching - Donald Parker; ETTA Development - Mike Lewis, Diccon Gray, Colin Wilson, Claire Hunter and Harold Taylor; Growth - myself. Michael Close from London and South East and Ken Eliot from East Midlands as Regional Chairmen joined the panel for question time. The next conference is in Leeds on Saturday 12th December to cover the Yorkshire and Humberside region, when the Sports Council will be represented by Simon Town, the Development Officer is Ray Burch and the Regional and County Chairman Bevan Walker.

The remainder of the country is to be covered in the New Year with conferences being arranged as soon as



Alan Ransome

Regional Development Officers. Each conference has been grant aided by the Sports Council with a contribution from the Tom Blunn Fund.

T. V. Date

Table tennis will be next on television when England play France in a test match which is to be shown on BBC Grandstand on 9th January 1993. Heading the French team is the Olympic silver medallist Jean-Philippe Gatien whilst the England team is likely to include Carl Prean, Chen Xinhua and Lisa Lomas. The match is to be played at the Bletchley Leisure Centre on Friday 8th January 1993 at 7.00pm and tickets are available from Clive Oakman at the ETTA office. The match is being sponsored by Manchester 2000, the British bid for staging the Olympic Games in the year 2000 and Milton Keynes Marketing, the organisation that is responsible for attracting new business to Milton Keynes.

Olympic Support

Manchester 2000 has been working very closely with us over the last few months. The England team, by wearing Manchester 2000 sweat-shirts at important international tournaments and our Association delegates by talking to counterparts from other national associations are doing their utmost to promote Manchester 2000, support the bid and persuade decision makers from other countries to back Manchester.

Our technical experts are working with the Manchester 2000 Facilities team in preparation for the table tennis section of the official technical bid which gives full details of the facilities that Manchester can provide for

staging the Olympic Games.

At the invitation of Manchester 2000, the International Table Tennis Federation's Executive Board consisting of President Ichiro Ogimura, Deputy President Lollo Hammarlund and Treasurer Hans Giesecke, plus the six continental Vice Presidents, the Committee Chairman and staff will hold three days of official meetings in Manchester on 13th, 14th and 15th December 1992. Within this period the Bid Committee will have the opportunity to make a presentation to the ITTF.

In addition to the England v France Television match, Manchester 2000 have also supported the English National Junior Championships in Manchester and the England v France European Women's Super Division match in Gateshead.

As you can read from the above, table tennis is doing its best to help Manchester and Manchester is doing its best to give table tennis valuable support.

European League Success

Although the chance to win titles has been lost, the England teams in the European Super League have been doing better of late. The men beat Hungary 4-0 in a match that was much closer than the score suggests and will now meet the Netherlands in a two leg fixture in the 5 to 8 section. The return match is to be played at St. Austell in Cornwall on 13th January 1993, supported by the Restormel District Council. A victory in these matches would keep our places in the Super Division secure.

Our women's team won a very exciting match at Gateshead against France. The team was 3-1 down when Lisa Lomas secured a victory over the French No.1 Wang Xiaoming at deuce in the third to bring us back into the match. Andrea Holt and Alison Gordon both won their singles to clinch victory. The next fixture away to Italy is very important. If we can win then there is a good chance that we will avoid having to play in the relegation play-offs.

Junior Improvement

It has been apparent for the last two seasons that England has been lagging behind at junior and cadet level compared with the leading European nations and steps are being taken to

give more competition and training opportunities to all bright prospects. A new Selection and Training Committee has been formed with the Vice Chairman Selection Paul Day taking the chair. Team captains have been appointed to look after each team - Don Parker - Junior Boys; Carole Moore - Junior Girls; Martin Bawden - Cadet Boys and Jenny Heaton - Cadet Girls.

Each captain will work very closely with the selected players, their coaches and parents to ensure that the best possible training practice and competition programme can be devised. Training camps are being arranged mainly in the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays and both overseas and home international matches are being planned.

The England Junior boys and girls started their new programme on a successful note with victories in Gateshead in November, followed by winning both team events in the Hospitality Inn International Team Events at the Cleveland Junior Open, beating Denmark and the Netherlands. The singles events in Cleveland were won by Richard Hyacinth and Sally Marling. Despite this good start, a great deal needs to be done if we are to bring our juniors and cadets up to

European level. I am happy that the best arrangements possible are in place at the present time but the bid for more resources to improve the position further is continuing.

Another initiative has been implemented by Donald Parker and that is the formation of an elite squad of very young players to give them the best possible training from a young age and the success of this project should in two or three years be felt within our cadet and junior teams.

The Euro '94 Recruitment

The arrangements for Euro '94, the European Championships in Birmingham at Easter 1994 are going ahead apace. The department Directors are now making approaches to experienced people to work at the Championships and preparations are being made for a large involvement of the local people from Birmingham and the surrounding area. Meetings and promotional events are being planned.

A Good Year for Table Tennis

1992 has been both a successful and busy year for English table tennis. Our senior teams at European level have done us proud with winning promotion in the European Super League and

silver medals in Stuttgart. The Olympic Games was another success. The support of the Council for the Focus Sport Programme has given the sport a wonderful opportunity to stem its decline, grow once more and improve its facilities base. The plans are now in place and 1993 will be the year when we start to make it happen. As the end of this year approaches, I would like to thank both the association's members and the staff for the help and cooperation that has been forthcoming and wish you all a very happy Christmas and successful 1993.

EURO 94 COUNTDOWN

67

WEEKS TO GO



Chen wins Italian Open

CHEN XINHUA won the Italian Open Mens Singles at Lignano-Sabbadono, in November, beating Thierry Cabrera of Belgium.

Chen played superbly to win the title overwhelming Cabrera, 19, 14, 14, in the final.

His victories en route were Jens Sidler of Switzerland 3-0, Frederic Sonnet of Belgium 3-0, these were comfortable wins, but his encounter against Germany's Richard Prause was much closer with Chen winning 21-12 in the fifth.

In the quarter final he once again had an easy time beating Russia's Andrei Mazunov 3-0, but in the semi final Sweden's Peter Karlsson put up a good fight with Xinhua retrieving some incredible balls from his opponent, before winning 21-17 in the fifth.



Alan Cooke had victories Torben Wosik of Germany 3-2, before losing to Cabrera.

Matthew Syed had two easy wins before going out 9, 16, 10 to Ding Yi of Austria.

In the Womens Singles Lisa Lomas had two hard matches winning 3-2 against both Lotta Erlman of Sweden and Emmanuelle Coubat of France. In the fourth round she played well combining float and chop to win 3-1 against Olga Nemes of Germany, before losing to Canada's Lijuan Geng 3-0, in the quarter finals.

Andrea Holt had an excellent win against Gerdie Keen of Holland, winning 3-1, before losing 3-0 to Polona Frelj of Slovenia.

Chen Xinhua (left) - the new Italian Open Mens Singles Champion

Lisa lifts England

LISA LOMAS, England's top professional dramatically saved England from apparently certain defeat at the Dunston Activity Centre, Gateshead on November 10th. After four hours of toil, England emerged from a crisis to defeat France 4-3 in the European Womens League, Super Division.

England secured the perfect start when the Luton-based Europe No.7 overpowered and out-thought Rozenn Yquel 15, 13. England at that point seemed to be headed for perhaps a 4-1 victory. Andrea Holt produced some of her best attacking shots in the second encounter but lost to Wang Xiaoming, who since her marriage to a French sports journalist, has had less table tennis practice.

Predictably, it was 1-1. There followed an unexpected defeat as Emmanuelle Coubat pulled out her best shots to defeat Alison Gordon 12, 15. England went further behind when Wang and Coubat combined cleverly to defeat Lomas and Holt 19, 18 - a 3-1 lead for France. England looked to Lomas again and they were not disappointed.

In a wonderfully gripping contest Lisa defeated European No.5 Wang 26, -10, 22, but the England No.1 trailed 18-20 in the final game - had she lost either of the next two points. England would have been beaten 4-1! Lisa took her third match point and the spectators breathed again with England still trailing 2-3.



Lisa Lomas celebrates England's victory over France

JOHN WOODFORD IN GATESHEAD

With Coubat looking confident, not many relished the task that faced Andrea Holt, but showing considerable courage she set about her task of upsetting the French No.2 with confidence and conviction to win 13, 17.

That left the score at 3-3 with Alison Gordon pitted once again in a "do-or-die" situation. Rozenn Yquel,

although not well-known is a sturdy girl with a formidable attack, but Alison although coming under heavy pressure completed the uphill task for England, reaching the top of the mountain as the clock reached 11pm. England were the victors 4-3, a result that an hour or so previous looked like a dream. It was a recovery from a nightmare situation - a fine victory

shared by all three girls - Lomas, Holt and Gordon. Kate Goodall sat on the bench all evening watching the dram unfold - a typical situation for her in the future.

England captain Jill Parker said after the victory "It was an incredible recovery, I cannot recall in recent times, such a remarkable recovery - we were almost dead and buried!" With one win and two defeats England remain fighting against relegation.

So, England march on to face Italy - an apparently lighter task until the news emerged that in the biggest shock of the season in the women's European League, Italy had crunched Germany 4-1, with Arist beating Nemes and incredibly Laura Negrasoli, ranked No.87 in the Europe, beating Christine Praedell

If England beat Italy, no further matches will be needed. If Italy win, England could play Poland twice.

Scores:

L. Lomas b R. Yquel 15, 13
A. Holt l Wang Xiaoming -17, -15
A. Gordon l E. Coubat -12, -15
Lomas/Holt l Wang/Coubat -19, -18
Lomas b Wang 26, -10, 22
Holt b Coubat 13, 17
Gordon b Yquel 16, 18

Officials at Gateshead and Dunston hosted this match at a very late juncture. There was no time to print tickets, so the crowd was small, but those that were there saw world-class action.

England's men win comfortably

ENGLAND'S men had a comfortable 4-0 victory over Hungary in the Super Division of the Joola European League, writes Donald Parker.

Having lost the crucial match against Belgium 4-3 we were ruled out of any chance of making the 1st-4th position play-offs. However it was still very important to win for a favourable draw in the 5th-8th position play-offs and also to redeem our rather poor record against Hungary in European League matches.

Hungary had beaten Sweden in the previous match, albeit a somewhat weakened Swedish team and were clearly in good form. The match took place on Tuesday November 3rd in Szolnok, about 100km from Budapest. Our team, as normal, flew in from all points on the

JOOLA EUROPEAN LEAGUE

globe, Chen and Cooke from Venice via Vienna after Italian Open, Prean from Dusseldorf while Syed and myself flew from London.

Xinhua had to play four very hard best of five matches to win the Italian Open on the Sunday and had developed a muscular problem in his leg as a result. In practise Matthew had the re-occurrence of an injury caused some time ago in a training session however both players declared themselves fit before the match. I had intended to try the Prean/Chen doubles partnership as an option to the Prean/Cooke combination, however, with the injury problem this was not possible.

Xinhua got us off to a great start beating the Hungarian No.1 Harczi but only after recovering from 17-20 down in the first game. Carrying a potential injury and losing the first match could have created a totally different situation. Carl beat Varga two straight but found himself 6-14 down in the first and 12-18 down in the second when on both occasions he showed great determination and courage to fight back.

Matthew took a 10-2 lead in the third against Batorfi only to find himself at 15-15 and the game evenly balanced. A couple of quick pushes broke Batorfi's rhythm and Matthew won 21-15. The doubles provided a very

comfortable win with Carl and Alan both playing very well.

On the surface a comfortable 4-0 victory, however the injuries caused quite a scare and of course the first three games all had difficult moments. On the same evening Belgium beat Sweden 4-1 meaning we finished second equal, but unfortunately with an inferior aggregate to Sweden. We now play Holland on a home and away basis with victory securing our place in the Super Division, defeat would mean a relegation fight against the losers of the France-Hungary match.

RESULTS:

Chen v Harczi 20, 12
Prean v Varga 18, 19
Syed v Batorfi 15, -14, 15
Prean/Cooke v Batorfi/Varga 13, 9

Cleveland brings out the best in English Junior team

PRODUCING one of their best performances for several years England players dominated the events at the Cleveland Junior Select table tennis championships.

The Cleveland County Council-supported event was held at Eston Leisure Centre on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th November 1992.

The junior boys singles was won by England number two Richard Hyacinth from Middlesex who beat the Danish number one, Birger Vest, in an exciting final 21-18 in the deciding game. In the semi finals, Hyacinth defeated Cris Sladden of Essex 21-14, 21-13. Sladden did well a round earlier to beat Dutch International Jurg de Cock 21-18 in the third. In the top half of the draw, Birger Vest reach the final with a victory over the top seed Alex Perry of England 21-16 in the decider.

Sally Marling, top England girl from Hull, was outstanding in the junior girls singles, beating European cadet bronze medallist Evelien Hengstman of the Netherlands in straight games in the final and Denmark's Sabine Larsen in three games in the semi. In the top half of the draw, the top seed Lisbeth Poulsen of Denmark was beaten by Natasha Williams of Wales 21-11 in the decider. Natasha was unlucky to be beaten in the semi final by Evelien Hengstman of the Netherlands 21-19 in the third. Miss Hengstman had, a round earlier, gained revenge over England's number two, Nicola Deaton, for a defeat earlier in the day in the team event.

Hyacinth combined with Perry to win the Hospitality Inn International boys team event for



(Left to right): Alan Ransome, ETTA Chairman, County Councillor, Maureen Taylor, Chair of Cleveland County Council Community Development Committee, Richard Hyacinth, Junior Boys Singles Winner, and Chairman of Cleveland County Council, County Councillor Ted Wood

England, beating one of the country's top club sides Fellows Cranleigh of Essex 3-0 in the final. In the semi final top seeds Denmark were beaten by the Fellows Cranleigh team of Cris Sladden and Darren Blake by three sets to two.

Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton combined to win the Hospitality Inn International girls team event for England.

Whilst England dominated the senior events, the teams from Denmark and the Netherlands asserted themselves in the cadet events.

Cadet boys singles was won by Ulrik Marcussen of Denmark who beat Jurg de Cock of the Netherlands in straight games in the final. England's top two boys both reached the semi finals with Michael James losing to Ulrik Marcussen and Steven Meddings losing to Jurg de Cock both in straight games.

The Cadet girls singles was won by Evelien Hengstman of the Netherlands who beat Sabine Larsen of Denmark 21-16 in the final game. The only English girl to reach the semi finals was Kathryn Woodward who was beaten in straight games by Sabine Larsen.

The Hospitality Inn Cadet boys team event was won by Denmark who beat the Netherlands 3-1 in the final and England 3-1 in the semi final.

The Cadet girls team event was won by Denmark who beat England 3-2 in the final. The England pair of Kathryn Woodward and Nicola Smith did well to beat the Netherlands 3-0 in the semi final.

The Under 11 boys was won by the national champion Scott Friday of Kent whilst the Under 11 girls singles was captured by Katherine Appleton of Yorkshire.

NFD Grove women reach semi final

EUROPEAN CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS: WOMEN

A splendid team effort by the trio of Lisa Lomas, Elena Timina and Andrea Holt saw NFD Grove beat HOI Noordkop of Holland 4-2 to reach the semi final stage of the European Club Cup of Champions in the Dutch town of Den Helder.

The victory underlined the team spirit of the Market Drayton side with the Dutch champions being led by European No.1 and reigning European champion Bettine Vriesekoop.

It was to be Vriesekoop who gave Noordkop a splendid start by beating Andrea Holt but scores were soon levelled as Lisa Lomas accounted for Melissa Muller in

straight sets. NFD Grove forged ahead as Elena Timina's defensive skills proved to be too great for Dutch international Melissa Muller and a superb win by Lomas and Holt over Vriesekoop and Muller in the doubles gave the Market Drayton side a convincing lead.

Vriesekoop showed her class once again to beat Lomas but NFD Grove's trump card Elena Timina proved far too strong for De Groot and a winning score of 4-2 was posted to conclude proceedings.

EUROPEAN CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS: MEN

THE reigning European champions Borussia Dusseldorf of Germany ended NFD Grove's progress in the European Club Cup of Champions at

the quarter final stage in the Northern German city beating the Market Drayton club 4-1 in front of a capacity audience.

However, it was a superb display by the English champions who came so near to causing a major upset against the thoroughly professional Germans in a match covered by German television for some two and a half hours.

The opening encounter saw a contest of the highest standard as European champion Jorg Roskopf beat Michael O'Driscoll but the former Dusseldorf number one Desmond Douglas levelled the scores for NFD Grove as he beat young Torben Wosik in three sets with the experience of Douglas the telling factor as he dominated the third set.

The Germans progressed further as Stefan Fetzner beat Nicky Mason by the narrowest of margins with Mason recovering from an opening set deficit and trailing 18-11 in the second to extend the man from Dusseldorf to the closest of three sets.

The 1989 World Doubles champion Stefan Fetzner and Jorg Roskopf showed their class to clinch the doubles with a straight sets win posted over Douglas and Mason to put the home side 3-1 ahead. The Germans were to clinch the tie with victory by Roskopf over Douglas in a memorable match with Douglas victorious in the first set, losing the second by the narrowest of margins and leading 16-13 in the third before the European number one powered home.

Champions Devon establish lead in Senior Premier

TWELVE matches in the first series were played at Milton Keynes T.T. Centre. There were a number of surprises but perhaps the least surprising feature was the form of the Champions - Devon - who had three very good wins and dropped only five events. The Devon men - Paul Whiting, Paul Giles and Alex Perry - were dominant. They played very well to win all their matches and never looked like losing.

Middlesex, who always compete very well in the Premier Division, were again successful with wins over Staffs and Essex. But they were held to a draw by Surrey, for whom Nicky Mason and Dave Hannah won their four events and Jane Barella had a two straight win over Lesley Keast.

The Lancs and Surrey teams were both unbeaten with each County having one win and being involved in two drawn matches. Surrey's second draw was against Lancs. Nicky Mason again won his two singles but Dave Hannah was beaten -16, 19, -20 by Sean Gibson. Jane Barella and Gillian Blanch (Sy) both beat Tamar Connolly.

The addition of Jean Parker to the Berks team was certainly beneficial for that County. She won all her six matches, including a 21-7 win in a decider against Carol Giles (Dv). Berks did very well to get a 6-4 win over Essex, who had Skylet Andrew in their team. Gemma Schwartz contributed 2 wins beating Linda Radford 13 and 19 and Kate Wadling (nee Gower) 15 and 20, and Jimmy Stokes and David Barr each had a win. Berks also drew with Yorkshire, despite David Barr suffering an injury and his two events being conceded. Berks ladies took three events and Jimmy Stokes won his two matches. Gemma Schwartz lost to Rachel Brook (Y) 19 and 18.

Staffs performed well on their promotion to Premier Division. Adrian Dixon was back playing for Staffs and the team also included Gary Knights. Helen Lower was in superb form with six wins, including defeats of Carol Giles and Lesley Keast. The team did particularly well to get a draw with Lancs. Apart from Helen's wins Nicola Meddings made a valuable contribution by beating Tamar Connolly and Amanda Winskill - at 25-23 in the third game! Another great win was when Stephen Slater beat Andrew Eden 12-21, 22-20, 21-19. Staffs also put up a good fight against Middlesex with Slater beating John Souter at 19 in deciding game and Nigel Tyler at 21 in the third game.

An unusual situation arose with Yorks finishing towards the bottom of the league table. The team got just one point from a draw with Berks. And Essex, on promotion, and with Skylet Andrew playing in two matches, and naturally being unbeaten,

failed to get a point. Essex lost their matches against Surrey, Berks and Middlesex with 4-6 scores in each match. Against Surrey Clive Carthy had a good 12 and 18 win over David Hannah and Chris Sladden came so close against Nigel Thomas losing only at deuce in a deciding game.

A pleasing factor of this series was the very good number of young players competing and with some success. There were players still in the Junior category and others in the Intermediate group. Richard Hyacinth came into the Middlesex team for the match against Essex and won both his matches.

RESULTS:

Dv	8	Bk	2,	Y	1	Dv	9,
La	8	Y	2,	Bk	6	E	4,
Mi	6	St	4,	Dv	8	St	2,
E	4	Sy	6,	La	5	Sy	5,
St	5	La	5,	Mi	6	E	4,
Sy	5	Mi	5,	Bk	5	Y	5.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
DV	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
MI	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
LA	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
SY	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
BK	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
ST	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Y	3	0	1	2	8	22	1
E	3	0	0	3	12	18	0

Sussex on course for Premier

SENIOR 1B:

Middlesex 2	7	Bucks	3
Sussex	6	Surrey 2	4
Bucks	3	Sussex	7
Surrey 2	8	Bucks	2
Middlesex 2	8	Surrey 2	2
Sussex	8	Middlesex 2	2

Six matches were played at Graham Spicer Institute, New Malden. Sussex got three very good wins and, even at this stage, look good candidates for return to Premier Division. Their closest match was against Surrey 2nds. Surrey went two-nil up but Teresa Moore (Sx) then beat Gillian Blanch 13 and 11 to turn the tide. Teresa and Sally Weston (Sx) served the side well by winning their four matches. In the final event Paul Elphick secured the 6-4 win by beating Jerome Jonah 19 and 18. The Sussex ladies also won their four events against Bucks but in the Middlesex match were both comfortably beaten by Sanja Kubelka. Sanja (Mi) won all her six matches without dropping a game!

SENIOR 2A:

Cumbria	0	Yorkshire 2	10
Nottinghamshire	9	Warwickshire	1
Leicestershire 2	4	Cheshire	6

Yorks 2nds gave Cumbria the "whitewash" with just two events going to a deciding game. Notts started their programme with a decisive win over Warwicks 2nds. Ian Ferguson won the one event for Warwicks. There was a close match when L. Collins beat Dawn Bromley (Wa) at 22 in the 3rd game. Although Ches were a man short they beat Leics 2nds 6-4 with Malcolm McEvoy, Zoe Buchanan and Denise Conroy (Ch) being unbeaten.

SENIOR 2B:

Cornwall	4	Wiltshire	6
Somerset	3	Gwent	7
Gloucester	2	Gwent	8
Gloucester	6	Cornwall	4
Avon 2	7	Gloucester	3
Somerset	6	Avon 2	4
Wiltshire	6	Somerset	4
Wiltshire	5	Avon 2	5
Gwent	7	Cornwall	3

Nine matches were played in Gwent and the home team was the most successful with three good wins. Dave Buck and Sian Evans were the Gwent stars by each winning their six events. Wilts, with a win already under their belt, also did well with wins over Cornwall and Somerset. It was therefore surprising that the Wilts/Avon 2nds match resulted in a draw. In this match Mark Butler did well for Avon by winning his two singles.

SENIOR 2C:

Essex 2	9	Huntingdonshire 1
Norfolk	5	Bedfordshire 2 5

Essex 2nds got their second win when beating Hunts 9-1. Hunts got the first event when Paul Spittlehouse (Hu) beat Richard James 12 and 20. Norfolk and Beds 2nds, playing their first match, shared the spoils. Sandra Harper and Ann Robinson won their four events for Beds. For Norfolk Neil Pickard and Philip Logsdon were unbeaten.

SENIOR 3A:

Worcester	2	Hertfordshire	3	6
Suffolk 2	5	Clwyd		5

There were two hard fought matches in this Division. In the Worcs/Herts match six events went to a decider. The match score levelled 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4 and, at that stage, Sue Horton (Wo) met Janice Laing and in a team battle the Herts player just got home 20, -15, 18. But the final event was even closer. Worcs just failed to get a draw when Mark Dare beat Adrian Tottey at 23 in the deciding game! Clwyd led 4-2 on their visit

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

to Ipswich but the Suffolk team came back to force a draw. Wayne Shaw and Janet Scoulding won four events for Suffolk and Dave Morris (Clwyd No.3) won both his matches.

JUNIOR SECTION:

A great deal of activity on the County Junior scene with 44 matches played.

JUNIOR 1A:

Cheshire	7	Warwickshire	3
Cheshire	7	Derbyshire	3
Clwyd	5	Yorkshire	2
Derbyshire	1	Clwyd	9
Warwickshire	7	Norfolk	3
Northumberland	6	Norfolk	4
Buckinghamshire	6	Northumberland	4
Buckinghamshire	4	Yorkshire 2	6

Eight matches played at Northwich. Clwyd, having already beaten Warwicks, got a 9-1 win over Derbys and drew with Yorks 2nds. Clwyd is certainly a team to watch in this Division. They are well served by their girls with Natasha Williams destroying all opposition and being well supported by Joanna Bastin and Meinir Davies. Paul Robertson and Martin Hopwood are also good performers. In the drawn match with Yorks Paul and Martin each had a win and the girls took three events. Cheshire are also in the running with wins over Warwicks (a player short) and Derbys. The Bucks/Yorks match was hard fought with six events going to a decider. Wendy Barlow (Bu) had two good wins and Philip Neal and Dean Wanbow (Y) were unbeaten.

JUNIOR 1B:

Berkshire	8	Devon 2	2
Glamorgan	3	Kent	7
Essex 2	8	Surrey 2	2
Gwent	5	Sussex	5

Although Kent beat Glamorgan by a 7-3 margin four events were decided narrowly in 3rd games. Janine Belby (Gn) won her two events. The Essex/Surrey clash was another match with four close finishes but Essex 2nds came out on top with an 8-2 margin. Sid Karalliedde (Sy) had two good wins. Berks look impressive with the 8-2 defeat of Devon 2nds. Gwent, again with a player short, nevertheless got a draw with Sussex. Paul Hadley (Gw) again had two good wins.

JUNIOR 2A:

Lincolnshire	8	Cheshire 2	2
Lancashire 2	5	Warwickshire 2	5
Leicestershire	1	Nottinghamshire	9
Nottinghamshire	10	Derbyshire 2	0

Derbyshire 2	5	Leicestershire	5
Staffordshire 2	5	Leicestershire	5
Warwickshire 2	0	Nottinghamshire	10
Lancashire 2	5	Lincolnshire	5
Cheshire 2	5	Staffordshire 2	5
Lincolnshire	6	Derbyshire 2	4
Staffordshire 2	3	Lancashire 2	7
Cheshire 2	3	Lancashire 2	7
Warwickshire 2	8	Cheshire 2	2

Thirteen matches were played during the day at South Kesteven T.T. Centre, Grantham. There were five drawn matches and no team went away without a point! The Notts team were "top dogs" with three emphatic wins and dropped just one event! The local team, Lincs, did well with wins over Derbys and Cheshire's 2nd teams and a draw with Lancs 2nds, when Gary Tresadern and Nicola Massingham won their four events. Lancs 2nds also drew with Warwicks 2nds. Seven events had close finishes in deciding games - none closer than in the first event when Philip Ellison (La) beat Daniel Belcher at 20 in the 3rd game. In the Cheshire 2/Staffs 2 clash the match score stood at 4-4. Vicky Fox (St) then beat Alice Howard -19, 13, 19 and Mathew Machin (Ch) followed with an 18 in 3rd win to get the draw.

JUNIOR 2B:

Hertfordshire 2	9	Bedfordshire	1
Huntingdonshire	7	Norfolk 2	3
Buckingham 2	3	Essex 3	7
Cambridgeshire	0	Suffolk 1	10
Cambridgeshire	0	Suffolk 2	10

Hunts had another good win with the 7-3 defeat of Norfolk 2nds. The match started with Oliver Bolton (Hu) beating Paul Barrett -20, 22, 22! Although Herts 2nds beat Beds 9-1 with Beds team obviously put up a good fight - there were a number of close finishes. Essex 3rd team visited Milton Keynes T.T. Centre and beat Bucks 2nds 7-3. The closest match was that between Clare Hales (Bu) and Claire Hart (E), which the Essex player won 19, -17, 19. The Suffolk 1st and 2nd teams visited Soham and both had 10-nil wins over Cambs.

JUNIOR 2C:

Gloucestershire	5	Worcestershire	5
Devon 3	1	Glamorgan 2	9
Avon	6	Worcestershire	4
Dorset	7	Devon 3	3
Glamorgan 2	8	Cornwall	2
Somerset	7	Wiltshire	3
Gloucestershire	1	Wiltshire	9
Cornwall	2	Somerset	8
Dorset	1	Avon	9

Nine matches were played in Bournemouth. Glamorgan 2nds and Somerset both had two wins and are obviously the leading teams in this Division. In Glam's two matches only two events needed a decider. Glam have Ryan Jenkins unbeaten after four matches. Somerset had harder matches with six events needing a decider in the Wilts contest. The closest match was when Claire Shobbrook (So) beat Kelly Sampson 19, -15, 19. Against Cornwall four events had tight finishes before Somerset won 8-2. Robert Millard (So) is unbeaten after four matches. In a drawn match Glos led Worcs 5-3 but Carrie Hunt and Richard Painter (Wo) then won their matches to get a draw. Carrie Hunt (Wo) is another player unbeaten after four matches.

JUNIOR 2D:

Hampshire 1	10	Oxford	0
Hampshire 2	4	Oxford	6
Sussex 2	8	Berkshire 2	2
Sussex 3	6	Berkshire 2	4
Middlesex 2	2	Kent 2	8

Oxford visited Hampshire and lost 10-nil to the 1st team. But the team came back to record a 6-4 win over Hants 2nds, with Andrew Flint and Vicky Hahn (Ox) winning all their events. Wanda Hutchinson (Ha) had some close matches losing 20 and 21 to Vicky Hahn and beating Jennifer Simmons 17, -20, 21. Berks 2nds visited Hove and lost 2-8 to Sussex 2nds. They improved against Sussex 3 and, although losing, came back from 1-6 to 4-6. The Middx 2/Kent 2 clash was a hard match with seven events needing a decider. Kent got the edge in tight matches to win 8-2.

VETERANS 1A:

Norfolk	4	Worcestershire	5
Yorkshire 2	7	Cheshire 2	2
Oxford	3	Lancashire 2	6
Leicestershire	3	Hertfordshire	6

Worcs went into a 2-nil lead at Norwich when Mervyn Wood beat Peter Cole 13, -19, 20. The score moved to 5-1 for Worcs but Norfolk players fought well to win the last three events. A similar situation arose when Lancs 2nds went 4-nil ahead at Oxford. The home team fought back with Joyce Brown beating Alwyn Burrough 23, -23, 23 and brought the final score to 3-6. In the Yorks 2/Ches 2 match the tightest event was the mens doubles, which David Roberts/Philip Biggs won -20, 18, 19.

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 1B:

Kent	9	Somerset	0
Hampshire	4	Essex	5
Wiltshire	6	Buckinghamshire	3

Kent have made a great start to the season and look determined to get an immediate return to Premier Division. Somerset, on promotion, were given short shrift and beaten 9-0. Hants made a good start to lead Essex 2nds 2-nil. Essex came back well and in the final event Fred Lockwood (E) beat Maurice Shave for the win. Bill Moulding and Terry Bruce won four of the events in Wilts 6-3 win over Bucks. Terry Bruce was beaten 20 and 16 by Frank Earis (Bu).

VETERANS 2A:

Northampton	6	Staffordshire	3
Nottinghamshire	5	Clwyd	4
Warwickshire	6	Northumberland	3

Northants did well to beat Staffs 6-3, Keith Jones and Michael Edwards (Np) won their four singles. A close contest between Notts and Clwyd. Pat Hammond (Ng) won her singles and the doubles with Ken Phillipson. Pat McCabe won his two singles and the mens doubles, with Brian Belcher, in Warwicks 6-3 win over N'berland.

VETERANS 2B:

Cambridgeshire	3	Norfolk	2	6
Buckingham	1	Essex	4	8
Hertfordshire	2	Huntingdonshire	1	

Herts 2nds again played well with an 8-1 win over Hunts. The closest match was the ladies singles in which Sue Felstead (He) beat Pauline Leak 23, -16, 18. It was a hard fought match between Cambs/Norfolk 2nds. Norfolk won 6-3 but 3 of the wins were by a narrow margin. R. Fenham (Ca) beat C. Hewitt 14, -18, 20. Essex 4th team visited Milton Keynes T.T. Centre and, with Stan Battrick at No.3 and winning all his events, beat Bucks 2nds 8-1.

VETERANS 2C:

Essex	3	Surrey	2	4
Kent	2	Oxford		3
Middlesex	2	Berkshire	2	4

There were three hard fought matches in this Division. In the Essex/Surrey match at 3-4 down Frank Hams (Sy) beat F. Mauthmoor -20, 22, 12 but then Chris Jacob (E) beat Gordon Champman 20, -16, 17 for the Essex win. Six events went to a decider in the Kent/Oxon match. Kent won with Keith Clark and Pam Butcher being their most successful players. The Middx/

Berks match went to 4-4 when M. Isaacs beat P. Bradley 16 and 16 for the Middx win.

VETERANS 2D:

Gloucestershire	6	Devon	3
Dorset 2	9	Somerset 2	0
Hampshire 2	8	Wiltshire 2	1

In the Glos/Devon clash the match seemed even with the score 3-3 but when Dave Harvey (Gs) beat Mike Short 15 and 14 Glos went on to win 6-3. In the Dorset 2/ Somerset 2 match all wins were two straight until the final event when Dennis

Joyce (Do) beat Alan Maidment -17, 18, 14 to complete a 9-0 win for Dorset. Hants 2nds were in fine form to get their second win with the 8-1 defeat of Wilts 2nds.

VETERANS 3A:

Bedfordshire	2	3	Bedfordshire	3	6
Northampton	2	4	Hertfordshire	4	5
Wiltshire	3	7	Huntingdonshire	2	

Was there a surprise in the Bedfordshire camp when Beds 3rds beat Beds 2nds team 6-3! Alex Murdoch and Bill Astbury won their four singles and were both involved in the two doubles wins. Herts 4th team made a good start with a 5-4 win on their visit to Northants. Keith Hartridge and George Tyler (He) won their four matches. Wilts 3rds went 5-0 up against Hunts 2nds. Barbara Pace and Michael Peacock then had wins for Hunts but Wilts finally won 7-2.

VETERANS 3B:

Hertfordshire	3	5	Dorset	3	4
Hampshire	3	5	Berkshire	4	4
Sussex	4	0	Surrey	3	9

In the Herts/Dorset match all events were decided two straight at 4-3 in Dorset's favour. Geoff Bax (He) then beat Eric Buckley at 23 in the 3rd game and Jim Felstead followed with a 17 and 16 win over Danny Allen to give Herts 3 a 5-4 win. In the Hants/Berks match five events went to a decider. Hants took a 5-3 lead and in the final event Barry Morten (Bk) won his 2nd event of the match to improve the Berks score. Surrey 3rds beat Sussex 4th team 9-0 but there were some close matches - especially the mens doubles when Ron Langheim/Brian Simmonds beat Trevor Wirimanaden/Norman Beaney 16, -22, 20.

VETERANS 3C:

Sussex	3	9	Wiltshire	4	0
Berkshire	3	3	Northants	3	6
Herefordshire	3		Northants	3	6

Sussex 3 were well on top against Wilts 4th team recording a 9-0 win. The mixed doubles was close when Keith and Val Jackson beat Terry Parkin/Ginni Sherman -20, 21, 15. Northants 3 did well on their visit to Kingfisher T.T. Club. They won the vital tight matches to beat Berks 3rds 6-3. At 4-2 John Palmer (Np) secured their win when he beat John Morris -5, 21, 18! Herefords lost 3-6 to Glos 2nds. Carol Milnes was involved in two of the Hereford wins and Neville and Pat Meredith won the mens doubles at 18 in the 3rd game.



GO FOR GROWTH WITH

Cornilleau SKILTOP

This fantastic range of new tables are CORNILLEAU's pride and joy. Created to meet your demands, "SKILTOP" will become the precedent for the new generation of competition tables. Choice of new Olympic Blue and for the traditionalists in green - Special tournament organiser and promotional package available.

Further information and 60 page catalogue phone 081 393 9474

ETTA County Supplement

AVON Bob Murray

THE SENIOR SECONDS were involved in a group of matches at Abersychan where Gwent provided a very good venue matched by excellent organisation.

On the face of it the results were fairly good - a 7-3 victory over Gloucestershire, a 5-5 draw with Wiltshire and a 4-6 defeat by Somerset, and all of our opposition first teams. However, we squandered a 5-1 lead against Wiltshire and might have expected to take a point from Somerset after taking 2 sets from Lee Sadler.

Debbie Buoy continued her improved county form of last year with 4 wins from a possible 6 on the day and Carey Webb's double against Gloucestershire was crucial in securing victory. No. 1 Gary Baldwin contributed 3 wins as did Hugh Dalton but it was Mark Butler on his county debut who was the star man. His 4 victories included the notable scalps of Eddie Roofe (Wiltshire) and Lee Sadler.

The Juniors returned from Bournemouth with two fine wins to show from their exertions. The fixture against Worcestershire was always going to be difficult because of their strong girls. However doubles from Barry Fudge, Alex Sheppard and Jon Thorn secured an important victory.

The match against Dorset was slightly more straightforward with Barry, Alex, Jon once again winning both their singles. Kelly Harris also gained two victories whilst Jessica Orlik achieved a satisfying win.

Jon Thorn took manager Jack Harris' Player of the Day award for his 'zest and enthusiasm' in winning all his sets in straight games.

Alex Sheppard took the brave decision to miss the Bristol Closed to play in the final Junior Regional Trials. He was rewarded with 4th place after a string of fine performances and now goes forward to the Nationals. Alex is having his first season in the Bristol Premier with Almondsbury and is certainly benefitting from the experience of his teammates Paul Jackson and Ainslie Ross.

Bristol League

At the time of submitting my report, I have not got details of all the results from the recent Bristol Closed. However, having been involved in the Senior tournament, I can give a resume of the main results.

Gary Baldwin retained the men's singles title after defeating Hugh Dalton in the semi final and Eddie Roofe in the final. His task was made slightly easier by Eddie's excellent victory over Brian Reeves in the other semi.

There was an extremely disappointing entry in the ladies singles where Gillian Beer defeated Dina Sandford to take the title. Eddie Roofe and Hugh Dalton teamed up to take the Men's doubles title whilst Brian Reeves confirmed his No. 1 seeding in the Veterans singles by beating Bob Murray. Bob achieved some consolation by taking the Veterans doubles with Dave Price.

Undoubtedly the star performer was Ken Watts. The old warhorse was involved in 3 finals, emerging victorious in two of them - the divisional doubles teaming up with junior David Reeves and his divisional singles.

The team event was won by Failand now re-emerging as a force in Bristol table tennis. Their duo of Brian Reeves and Gary Baldwin defeated Eddie Roofe and Hugh Dalton.

BERKSHIRE John Cunningham

CHRISTMAS IS A time of cheer and by the time we receive the December edition of Table Tennis News, all our Christmas preparations will be well underway. For many this year things will be hard and perhaps those of us still in a job will spare a thought for many of our players out of work or on short time.

The month's report from Berkshire asks you to remember in your prayers two local table tennis players, their families and friends.

Kathleen Simpson

Members of the Newbury TTL and her many sporting friends were saddened

by the death of Kathleen Simpson on 26th October, aged 33. After graduating from the University of Wales with a degree in law, Kathleen joined Gardener Leader in Newbury and qualified as a solicitor in 1985. She became a partner with the firm in 1989. Outside office hours, Kathleen was dedicated to sport in all forms. In addition to table tennis where she was an accomplished player and winner of the ladies doubles championship, she was a keen squash and tennis player. Her love of the mountains was shown by her expertise as a skier and latterly in abseiling and rock climbing. As a result of her own experience in achieving the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, she helped to set up and promote the scheme for many young people in Newbury and it was a joy to all her friends that in spite of her illness, she was able to accompany the schemes Alpine project during the summer. Kathleen played in the Newbury League for 6 years and for 5 of those served on the committee. She was team captain of Newbury Coaching Club for 6 years and represented Newbury on many occasions in the Berkshire Inter-Town competition. Her friends and colleagues will not easily forget her love of life and kindness to others until the end.

Eddie Spielbergh

It is also with regret that I have to report the death of Bracknell and District player Eddie Spielbergh. Eddie, who played in the league for many years always 100% in his matches at league and tournament level. Whatever the outcome you always knew you had been in a game of table tennis with Eddie fighting for every point. He will be sadly missed and our sympathy is extended to his family.

League News

In what is believed to be their first win ever, Bracknell cadets defeated Newbury 7-2 in the Johnny Leach Cup. The heroes - Andrew Grantham, Gareth Soden and Mathew Buzzard. Andrew also received a grant of £150 from Wokingham Council. While many might have spent the award on personal equipment, Andrew, in order to share his luck with others, opted for a summer intensive coaching course at his OLOP club. Thanks to an award from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, the club will also put £200 into the one week programme.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Yvette Hooks

THE SEASON IS in full swing now with the veterans and junior county fixtures well underway.

The veterans team is in division 2B and the first match of the season was away to Essex 4 at Basildon. Unfortunately the team just lost out on a few close matches with the final score 5-4 to Essex. Joan White, Barry Hagger and John Turner won one apiece with Barry Hagger and Roger Fensom winning the mens doubles.

The second match of the season was at Soham against Norfolk 2 with the result 6-3 to Norfolk. Jean White and Roger Fensom won their singles matches, the third win came from Jean White and Chris Gay in the mixed doubles. Jean's unbeaten record in singles from last season, continues into this season.

The county's juniors have played three matches - firstly against Norfolk 2, losing 7-3. Laura Warren won two games and Nicola Butler won one game. The second and third were against Suffolk 1 and 2. However, the team lost 10-0 to two very strong Suffolk teams. However, our junior team played well and the experience against stronger and old players will have helped in developing their skills.

The Constable Cup was played on the 15th October 1992 at Witchford Village Hall. This is an inter-league cup for players under 21. The participants include Stefan Forth (Wisbech), Martin Gray (Cambridge), Ian Boggie (Ely) and Paul Richmond (March). The event was a round robin competition won by Martin Gray, with Stefan Forth as runner up. Martin regained the title he won last season.

The Cambridge League is holding its first annual Championship for a number of years, on Saturday 7th November. The results of the competition will be reported in the next magazine. This season's County Championships will be held on Sunday 21st February 1993.

Counties 2

Veteran Men

1. Barry Hagger
2. John Turner
3. Roger Fensom
4. Christopher Gay
5. Charles Waling
6. Malcolm Stennett
7. Gary Wood
8. John Ashman
9. Brian Odell
10. Philip Sinclair

Veteran Women

1. Joan White
2. Valerie Parkes
3. Ruth Ashman
4. Ann Fox

DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP matches started unhappily for Derbyshire with Jack Boulton refusing to play when he realised that possible defeats could have a nasty effect upon his computer points and therefore his position in the ratings.

The County Committee took the view that the current computer scheme has an adverse effect upon the selection procedure and have asked the National Councillor to raise the matter at the next Council meeting.

Boulton's absence, combined with the non-availability of a number of other players, with excuses ranging from holidays to swimming, meant the teams were well below strength for the opening matches.

Scott Habershon got the only success for the County Junior 1st team as they went down 1-9 to Clwyd in the opening match; then 3-7 to Cheshire when Sarah Milnes and Victoria Firth contributed one each to Michael Isherwood's opening set success.

The county Junior 2nd team started off 0-10 against Nottinghamshire, before gaining a 5-5 draw against Leicestershire; Abigail Gingele won both her singles with Matthew Worthy, Stephen Clayton and Helen Rainford gaining one success each in a closely fought match.

The final match ended 4-6 against Lincolnshire with Andrew Clayton, Abigail Gingele, Helen Rainford and Stephen Clayton each contributing one success.

Uxbridge have made their best start in the British League, but criticism has been levelled at the lack of local players appearing in the team since the move of Stephen Shaw to Rushton Marconi. Terry Gadsby has signed on a number of new players but missed the opportunity of developing the local talent.

Amber Valley

The Amber Valley League, once a hotbed of junior talent and a wonderful coaching scheme, continues to drop in numbers, this time from 12 to 9 teams. Two teams have gone to neighbouring leagues, always a danger when a drop in numbers causes an uneven competition.

Burton

Good news from Burton is that Steve Hanks is making a brave comeback after an injury jinx which threatened to end his career. Chronic abductor muscle strain resulted in 11 months of intensive physio at Burton and Birmingham hospitals but now the Birmingham Polytechnic student has stepped up his training in the hope of playing for Handsworth Victoria in Birmingham and also signed on for his old team Granville Aces in Burton.

Steve's presence in the Granville squad has helped them to a good start to the season and, along with Conder Yellow, are setting a hot pace at the top of Division 1.

Chesterfield

The welcome comeback of Bradley Billington after injury has boosted the County chances of regaining a Premier Division place, and Julie Billington has also made her comeback in the Chesterfield League.

Derby

The opening representative match saw last season's Midland League Veterans team in action. Last season's form, which won the Division 4 Championship continued, with Colin Ambrose and Brian Webster undefeated in a 9-1 win over West Brom in a very sporting match.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

OUR JUNIORS MADE a wonderful start to their Junior Premier Division programme at Burton on Trent on 10/11 October. In the opening match against big rivals Devon, the absent Alex Perry and Claire Pengelly could be said to have cancelled out our lack of Vincent Avery and Jenny Coleman. We probably had the edge in that we had the experienced Harlow girl, Michelle King as our No. 1 whereas Devon had to rely on little Lucy Perry to partner

Junior Boys

1. Adam Speed
2. Christian Grange
3. Matthew Hodgson
4. Daniel Badcock
5. Darren Halfpenny
6. Gary Canham
7. James Mansfield
8. Andrew Lodziak

Junior Girls

1. Laura Warren
2. Jodie Williams
3. Nicola Gay
4. Nicola Butler
5. Lisa Morris
6. Lisa Greenfield
7. Melanie Wilkinson

I would like to end this report by wishing all readers a Happy Christmas and New Year.

CUMBRIA **Gordon Brown**

ALTHOUGH CUMBRIA HAD lost their two opening matches at the time of writing, there was promise among the ladies.

Joanne Burgess had won both her sets at Warwickshire 2nds. She was not available for the second match at home to Yorkshire 2nds. But stand-in Claire Lague who had excelled as a county junior 10 years ago, did remarkably well on her senior county debut.

The Barrow women took Yorkshire No. 2 Cathryn Johnson to three games after winning the first 21-19.

On the men's side, Mark Temple of Carlisle has returned. In the Yorkshire match he took no. 1 Andrew Horsfield to three after snatching the first 21-16. Cumbria are delighted with their new sponsors, Whitbarrow Village Timeshare, Penrith, which is now the regular home venue. Thanks are due to non-playing captain Julie Stinch for negotiating the deal.

Cumbria O, Yorkshire 2nds 10 (October 17), Cumbria names first: Mark Temple lost to Dave Indriks 18-21, 10-21; lost to Andrew Horsfield 21-16, 11-21, 9-21. Neil Yardley lost to Horsfield 17-21, 15-21; lost to Tim Dyson 14-21, 16-21. Jimmy Cummings lost to Dyson 12-21, 6-21; lost to Indriks 11-21, 8-21. Fiona Harris lost to Cathryn Johnson 18-21, 15-21; lost to Helen Shields 11-21, 16-21. Claire Lague lost to Shields 5-21, 9-21; lost to Johnson 21-19, 12-21, 10-21.

Counties 3

Linsey Heyward. Adrian Vincent, as always, was our bete noire, as was Linsey and they won their 4 sets. This left us requiring Cris Sladden, Ryan Savill, Michelle and Shelley Ruocco to win their remaining matches (which they did) and newcomer James "Titch" Wickens to do something remarkable. Ranked 103, he came up with a splendid victory over No. 26 Jonathan May. So both sides were reasonably happy with the 5-5 draw.

Sunday morning opposition was the struggling Herts team who were defeated 10-0 after some early wobbling by Ryan and Titch in their first matches. The big test was to come in the afternoon against Lancashire, whose team looked very strong on paper, and proved to be so on the table.

Ryan against Darryl Meredith was the first set and it was only by an outstanding display of skill and guts that Ryan managed to win and it must be said that Darryl looked the likely winner for most of the match. Titch found that Kevin Dolder was much too good for him but Shelley Ruocco put us on the road to victory with an astonishing win over Emma Fletcher, ranked 22, and a very fine player. Wins by Cris Sladden and Tamar Connelly left the match delicately poised at 3-2 in our favour. Ryan had to pull out all the stops for a second time in order to defeat the excellent Dolder but Emma got up off the floor to beat Michelle King after looking on the way to a second unnerving defeat. It was still in the balance at 4-3 when Cris beat Darryl. Eventually Cris won another match which Essex seemed likely to lose -14, 17, 20. This was a terrific display by both boys. Shelley now clinched victory for us by a second tremendous effort to beat Tamar in straight sets.

Whilst our 1st team was performing so heroically, our 2nd and 3rd teams were doing almost as well. The 2nd team went to Plymouth and came away with an 8-2 win over Devon II. Back home, another 8-2 victory was secured against the strong Surrey II squad.

It very much looks as if the Essex Open on 10/11th April 1993 will be unable to run as a 5 star event due to the withdrawal by Barclays Bank of their sponsorship, but we are almost certain to stage a 3 star tournament in its place at our Brentwood Centre venue.

The Essex Junior Select will this season be played at the Waterside Centre, Canvey Island on the 20/21 February 1993. Please note that the Under 17 events only will be on the Saturday. There is a very unfortunate clash with the ESTTA Regional Team Finals on the Sunday, which is entirely down to the Calendar Working Party of the ETTA, and entrants should carefully note this. Forms for both tournaments can be obtained from Mr B Granger of 14 Galsworthy Avenue, Romford, Essex RM6 4QA.

GLoucestershire

Alf Pepperd

I WRITE THIS report one third into November, ahead of us lies what must be the largest interesting local tournament of the year - namely the County Closed, this event will be held on Sunday 6th December with Mrs Gill Smith from Cheltenham in the hot seat as Hon Referee.

The following month at the same venue the New Sports Centre, Tommy Taylors Lane, Cheltenham, we have The Cotswold (Select) Junior Open Championships over the two days of 30/31 of January 1993, all Juniors throughout the country are requested to note that the closing date for The Cotswold entry forms are Monday 21st December 1992.

I can guarantee that BBC Radio Gloucestershire South and West will be in attendance, on both days, and also that television which has graced this tournament for the last two seasons, HAS BEEN APPLIED FOR.

Perhaps the most prominent factor concerning the Cotswold this season is the inclusion of FOUR additional events, specifically aimed at the players who are not too highly ranked, for example on the first days play there is a Class 2 singles for Cadet Girls NOT ranked in the top 10, and the boys in the Top 20, on the second day Junior Girls singles for those NOT ranked in the Top 20 and Boys in the Top 30.

The feelings of the organising committee are that with these four extra events there should be a greater feeling of encouragement to enter events which previously many would have stood no chance in whatsoever.

The County Junior (Closed) Championships took place at St Benedicts School, Cheltenham early in November. Mrs. Gill Smith was the

Hon Referee and there was a good entry and here are the final results:

Boys U12 Singles
Jan Keller

Girls U12 Singles
Suzy Robinson

Boys U14 Singles
Aaron Mortimer

Girls U14 Singles
Melanie Garlick

U14 Doubles
Mortimer/Nicholls

Boys U17 Singles
Robin Price

Girls U17 Singles
Melanie Garlick

U17 Doubles
Robin Price/Martin Elliott

Bits and Pieces

I reported in last month's County Notes that George Novoth had resigned as Coaching Officer for Gloucester city, to date of writing enquiries have been made regards a replacement, but as yet, as I understand matters, the position has not been filled.

Elaine Marshall, who plays third division in the Gloucester League and is disabled, became Gloucestershire's sole representative in the paralympics Olympic Games in Barcelona way back in September, a few weeks after her return she gave BBC Radio Gloucestershire an account of everything that transpired.

And finally, to current date I have presented ten weekly live table tennis broadcasts on the BBC, dealing with table tennis information at the following levels: club, county, national and international, my very grateful thanks to the ETTA for supplying the latter information.

The County Table Tennis Selectors have released the following (first half) rankings list, season 1992/3:

Senior Men

1. Darren Griffin
2. Raymond Powell
3. Bill Dawe
4. Graham Slack
5. Dave Harvey

Senior Women

1. Judy Morley
2. Heather Tyrer
3. Angie Bristow
4. Alison Cox
5. Liz Johnson

Veteran Men

1. Dave Harvey
2. Dennis Holland
3. Roy Morley

Veteran Women

1. Judy Morley
2. Sheila Matthews
3. Viv Hathaway

Junior Boys

1. Peter Hayward
2. Robin Price
3. Jamie Day

Junior Girls

1. Kerry Hogarth
2. Emma Parker
3. Sarah Dean

HAMPSHIRE

Brian Lamerton

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN Macken (Junior Boys) and Donna Granville (Cadet Girls) who have qualified for this season's final national trials. Kevin just edged out County teammate Jeremy Wilson, on games average, for the last qualifying position.

The second bath of county matches brought two wins and a defeat for the veterans and one win and one defeat for the juniors.

Graham Outtrim's brace was not enough to save the veteran A's from defeat, by the odd set in nine, against a strong Essex 2nds. The Vets B team of Bob Cos, Charlie Childs, Ray Lush and Sandra Simpson slaughtered their counterparts from neighbouring Wiltshire and the C team opened their

Counties 4

account with an exciting 5-4 victory over Berkshire 4ths, Norman Stagg, Alan Wilcocks, Wally Pay and Mary Barron all winning a set. I thoroughly enjoyed umpiring this latter match, especially as the always excellent hospitality of the Stagg household was further extended due to the conclusion of the match coinciding with the beginning of the Lennox Lewis fight on TV. As Norman's wife said "Never before have I sat around the table after a table tennis match when the conversation has not been table tennis". All records were broken for the number of cups of tea which can be poured out during a one minute interval!

Incidentally the aforementioned Bob Cox was a little peeved that having reached the top of last season's Division 3C averages, he was wrongly listed (P17 October TTN) as Brian Cox - can't think why, my mother thought it was the best name going!

The Junior A string of Jeremy Wilson, Kevin Macken, David Dobson, Lorna Dutch and Donna Granville recorded their second successive 10 sets to love victory; this time their victims were Oxfordshire who later the same day took their revenge by defeating Hampshire B's 6-4. The Hampshire team for this match was Gareth Scadden, Kevin Smith, Alex Rorke (making his debut), Wanda Hutchinson and Sonia Pointer.

The inter-town leagues have got off to a slow start; Veteran champions Bournemouth opened their account with a 6-4 win over Aldershot, Chris Pickard and Joyce Coop and John Harvey winning two sets apiece. In Division 2 Andover with Martin Wilson and Tony Brown in form are staking a strong bid for promotion following victories over Southampton and Bournemouth D by 8-2 and 6-4 respectively. Bournemouth D also lost by 7-3 to Isle of Wight.

The men's division are playing the block system this season and after the first session (not helped by the withdrawal of Andover at 15 hours notice, but I promised not to comment on this system any more!) Aldershot with 3 wins out of 3 are streaking ahead, their team of Ramesh Bhalla, Graham Outrim and John Millward being 3 points ahead of the Gosport and Fareham trio (Graham Pointer, Rod McMullen and Steve Reilly) who have a match in hand.

HERTFORDSHIRE John Wood

BRILLIANT! THAT WAS the Hertfordshire Junior Closed Table Tennis Tournament, held at the Barnet TTC on Sunday 22nd November.

The excitement and enthusiasm that was shown by competitors and spectators was symbolised by the happy faces of 17 children that travelled from Cavendish School in Hemel Hempstead.

This year's entry was 59 in total, showing a slight increase on last year's figures. One of the many stars of this year's tournament was Cheshunt's Steven Nelson, who upset the form book by first knocking out Barnet's Stephen Taylor in the U17 Boys singles semi final and then going on to capture the coveted Junior Boys Trophy, defeating John O'Leary in an exciting final.

True to form O'Leary's long pimples confused Nelson in the first leg which saw the Barnets player take the opening game 21-17. But the lad from Cheshunt bounced back in the second with powerful forehands, winning 21-11. In the deciding game Nelson got really on top of an unsettled O'Leary playing with flair and aggression. Nelson took the trophy putting on a powerful show against the combination long pimples bat of O'Leary, winning 21-9. However, John O'Leary did taste success when he beat his elder brother Tim, in the other semi final.

Barnet's Talya Greenberg is the new junior queen of Hertfordshire following her exciting three set win over St Albans Caron Harber.

Greenberg took the first with powerful backhands and forehands 21-19, whilst Harber battled her way back into contention winning the second 21-19.

The third saw both girls going for big winners with few rallies and in the end the better control by the girl from Barnets saw Greenberg crowned Junior U17 girls champion.

North Herts' Josh Lury inflicted the second defeat of the day on Barnet's John O'Leary when he won the Boys U14 singles trophy, winning the first of three trophies. Lury took the first game in a canter 21-9 but O'Leary

got stuck in and won the second 21-18. The third was a close affair going to 13-12 to Lury, before the boy from Baldock turned on the power to run out a comfortable winner, 21-13.

Marie Masters' allround control and powerful forehand in conjunction with good backhand blocking, saw her win the county U14 girls title for the second year running, beating her old friend from Kings Langley, Lesley Moorhead. A determined Masters, from Hemel Hempstead, won this action replay of last year's final 21-17, 21-15.

The U12 Boys singles final was an all Hemel Hempstead affair which saw last year's losing finalist Paul Higgins win a pulsating battle between two talented stars of the future.

Higgins' greater experience saw him take the first 21-18 but redheaded left hander Gary Curran blasted his way back into contention with powerful forehands 21-9. The third see-sawed before Higgins took control in the latter stages, running out a 21-16 winner.

Hoddesdon's Sharon Gillett won the U12 girls singles crown when she beat Hemel Hempstead's Anna Green 21-5, 21-2. Lesley Moorhead and Josh Lury are this season's new mixed doubles champions, following their unexpected victory over No. 1 seeds Talya Greenberg and Tim O'Leary, 10-21, 21-17, 21-14.

The boys doubles champions are Josh Lury and Stephen Taylor after they beat Stevenage's Danny Sturges and Arun Dhar 21-14, 21-16, whilst the new girls doubles champions are Talya Greenberg and Caron Harber following their 21-13, 21-14 victory over Marie Masters and Lesley Moorhead.

KENT Adrian Hall

Hat Trick of Wins for County Teams

Kent Vets II had a good 6-3 win against Oxford II with Ray Tilling leading the way with two singles wins and teaming up with Pam Butcher for the mixed doubles and was ably supported by Keith Clarke, John White and Pam Butcher who each chipped in with single wins for a good team performance.

Kent Junior I made the long trip to Glamorgan where they found Janine Belby in sparkling form winning both her matches, but maximums from Craig Hastie and Glen Ritchie and good support from Christopher Hall, Nicola Duke and Joanne Barham gave Kent a 7-3 win.

Kent Junior II came away from Middlesex II with a fine 8-2 win with Scott Dawtry, Ben McCarthy and Natasha Barham unbeaten and a win each from Christian Thompson and Alison Smith.

National Trials

Disappointing results from our Juniors from the Regional Trials with only Rachel Woollven and Angie Bristow winning through in the Cadet Girls and Joanne Barham in the Junior Girls. These three will of course be joined by Scott Friday and Christian Thompson (cadet boys) and Alison Smith (cadet girls) who qualify as of right due to their ranking. Well done.

Friday and Cheng see Maidstone to Victory

Maidstone cadet boys team of Scott Friday, Antony Lickfold and Jon Cheng performed creditably to defeat Hastings in the first round of the Leach Cup (National U14 boys team competition). Robert Abbotts (ranked 30) beat an out of touch Lickfold 21-15, 21-11 to put Hastings one up, but then Cheng came from 14-20 down against Cris Hancock (32) for a remarkable 22-20, 22-20 win and set Maidstone up for victory. Friday (8) duly won his three matches 21-9, 21-11 v Ian Parry, 21-14, 21-13 v Abbotts and 21-9, 21-11 v Hancock. Cheng then beat Parry 21-14, 21-17 and Lickfold rounded off a fine Maidstone performance with a 21-9, 21-15 win against the same player.

Chris Hall Maximum as Bromley Win

Bromley recorded a splendid 6-3 win over Brighton in the Carter Cup at Eltham on 11th October, thanks mainly to a hat trick of wins for Chris Hall.

Counties 5

Hastings Put out Medway

Hastings got an unexpected 5-4 win at home to Medway in the Carter Cup.

Tournament Results

Scott Friday, Christian Thompson and Alison Smith continue to bring the silverware back to Kent from the Junior circuit.

Friday won the U12's at the East Yorkshire Select and South of England. Thompson beat Akash Kapoor to win the Cadet Boys at the South of England and teamed up with Akash to take the Cadet Doubles title. Alison Smith and Debbie Pestka settled for runners up at both the above tournaments.

Thake Transport Kent Junior 2 Star Open

Our thanks to Tony Thake for his generous sponsorship of our tournament, a full report of which I hope will appear elsewhere in the magazine. Certainly our new format of six to a group seemed to meet with universal approval and lessons have been learned that will hopefully make it even better next year - thanks for your support.

LANCASHIRE

Stan Clarke

THE FIRST JUNIOR Premier Division weekend saw the Lancashire team of Darryl Meredith, Phillip Musgrove, Kevin Dolder, Tamar Connolly and Emma Fletcher drawn against Yorkshire, Devon and Essex, probably the hardest set of matches possible. Although the final results were disappointing in terms of results, with only one point from a draw against reigning champions Yorkshire and two defeats by the narrowest of margins, the team played very well and can look forward to the second weekend with hope of finishing amongst the top half of the division. Special mention must be made of the efforts of Phillip Musgrove who not only won 4 of 6 sets played but was also elected "Boy of the Weekend" and was awarded the prize of a mountain bike donated by the sponsors Britvic. Phillip is a splendid role model for any youngster in the game, not only is he a player of high quality but his attitude is beyond reproach. Well done Phil.

It was also good to hear that the Junior 2nd team performed very well in the first four matches played at Grantham, though I am personally far from convinced that a format that requires a team to play four matches in one day, on multiple tables, is one that should be encouraged. No doubt the organisers will be looking at methods of reducing the demands on Junior players from such a format. I doubt if any senior players would be prepared to accept demands such as this.

The Lancashire and Cheshire League is well underway, the most significant result that I have so far is the defeat of Preston Ladies by Liverpool Ladies by 6-4, reversing the result of last year. Maria Thornley of Preston was undefeated on the night winning her 3 singles comfortably and partnering Carey Delaney to take the doubles. The crunch game of the night was the defeat of Carey by Liverpool No. 2 Paula French. Last year's runners up, Oldham gained a 10-0 walkover when Preston were unable to fulfil their fixture, then suffered an unexpected defeat against Manchester Ladies who could well turn out to be the dark horses, along with Warrington.

It would appear that my comments concerning what I consider to be a lack of depth of county class juniors has raised strong feelings in some quarters, however I still feel that in view of the experience I have gained during my time as a member of the County Selection Committee, County Captain and senior coach, I am in a position to compare past with present. I make no apology for my strongly held belief that we as a sport are failing to attract players to the sport in the quantities that we did in the past. I was not trying to belittle the efforts or abilities of the top ranked juniors or in fact any player, merely to express the concern that is felt by many people in the sport, both locally and nationally. If that concern annoys people, then so be it.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Derek Butt

LOUGHBOROUGH KINGFISHERS I LEAD the Leicester and District TTL Division 1, continuing where they left off last season. Still 100% and being ably lead by Mark Illingsworth who is also unbeaten. Knighton Park I are in second position and also are unbeaten and having an impressive season so far.

Should be interesting later this week when they meet each other at Knight Park. Much depends on the players available.

The rest of the divisions are going along quite well but there still seems to be a large number of postponements. The Cup competitions have had their first round played and I have heard of no major upsets. Numbers for the competitions seems low.

Coaching at the various venues are going well. Harry Ward at Knighton Park tells me he is happy with the progress and likewise Steve Yanker at the Soar Valley complex says that numbers are excellent there, and a number of these are playing in the league this season. I am fairly pleased with the Eyres Monsell complex, but the numbers are still low, hopefully after half term things will improve, but it must be said that there is keenness amongst the ones we have.

On to the Friendly Hotels Division 2 (North) and the Leicester Lions are having a good season so far, and are currently lying in second place and unbeaten. A good all round performance from the team of Mark Illingsworth, Phil Smith, Maurice Newman and Martin Pickles. Well done and keep it up lads.

At the recent committee meeting a letter was received from Phil Smith saying that due to ill health he was having to cease playing table tennis and also work as well. Phil has been playing in the Leicester League since it was formed 61 years ago and has played every season with the exception of the war years. He has played this season, until his health stopped him. He picked up a trophy at this year's presentation evening. By the way, Phil is in his 81st year. Phil was auditor for the league for a long time. Well, Phil, I would like to wish you all the very best, and hope to see you well again soon.

The Leicester and District TTL lost one of its Vice Presidents a few weeks ago and that was the passing of Bert Hayes. I have known Bert some 30 odd years and found him always the perfect gentleman. He served on the committee as Treasurer for a number of years and his advice on many matters was gladly accepted. He was always a keen player and most of all respected, both on the table and off, and will be sadly missed.

The League extended its condolences to his family and made a donation to Cancer Research in his memory. Rest in peace Bert.

MIDDLESEX

Lorna Taylor

THE SENIOR COUNTY 1st team played well at the first premier weekend which included four men and four women. They all played well, including Sonya Kubelka who just lost to Linda Radford and Sara Williams, who started off a little nervously but played very well and showed her true potential. On the men's side, Richard won both his singles including a win over Grant Solder. John Souter performed well throughout the weekend as did everyone in the team. They beat Staffs 6-4, Essex 6-4 and drew with Surrey 5-5. Graham Sandley could not play because he was playing for his club, Borina, in Belgium, where he has won 27 out of 28 matches!

The Junior 1st team performed quite well in their first weekend, all performing as well as each other. They pleasingly beat Staffs 8-2, lost to Surrey 1-9 and drew with Herts 5-5.

At the World Corporate Games, the Under 30's ladies singles was contested by the Blanches, with Gillian coming first, Elizabeth second and Pamela third. Richard Hyacinth won the men's doubles at the Sussex 2 Star, partnered by Jonathan Taylor.

Counties 6

The only players to qualify to the National Junior Trials were Robert and Joanne Weare who played exceedingly well considering there were some very good players there. Malcolm Sugden acted as the Middlesex coach for the weekend and gave encouraging support to all the players. Oliver and James Wakelam tried their hardest to qualify but unfortunately did not get through this year. However, they have another four years left in the cadets and seven years in the juniors, so we expect some great results from them in the near future.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

THINGS ARE MUCH the same in Norfolk this season with the same people doing most of the work and the same people asking why this and that is not being done. Like these notes, I get complaints if they do not appear, but when I suggest some other person even does one issue there is a deafening silence.

Our County Championships over Sat/Sun 5/6th December are even more crucial this year to be self supporting as we have lost our junior sponsor and are losing our senior sponsor after this year's championships. Either we cut some events to make it a one day championship or raise fees to an unacceptable height. I hope some ideas will be aired well before the organisation of the 1993 event.

County Teams - Junior 1st having been promoted to Division 1, went to their first two matches without our No. 1 and 2 boys who for various reasons were not available. Considering that the opposition this season will be considerably better than they have ever faced before, our scratch team did far better than we hoped without winning a match - which is to be expected in this class even with a full team. They now have a rest until next April when they play 4 matches. Junior 2nds are taking the opportunity of giving all ranked players a chance over their matches as the results do not matter that much and gives us a chance to see which of those players are capable of playing regularly next season.

Senior team seems to be the usual squad with the ever present problem of finding 2 ladies who are available on the day and having no reserves to call on should one go sick before the match. It surprises me that no one at the County Championships AGM has proposed reducing to one lady as it is not only us who have problems with their women. But there again, no doubles are now played in this section. Veterans teams are performing as usual with our 1st losing both matches so far 5-4 which is to be expected in this division with all teams so equal. Second veterans team came a cropper against Herts 2 who came with two new veterans and proceeded to demolish us 9-0 mostly 2 straight under 10 no complaints from our team - congratulations to Herts. Our only new veteran this season, Chris Brewer, was included in their next match and won both 6-3. We have enough talent in the county to run another veterans team if anybody feels like offering to organise it and it would also have to be self supporting as finances are tight.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Dennis Millman

FORMER COUNTY PLAYER David Gallo created the biggest shock for many years, when he won all 11 of his matches to lift the Pennine Designed and Display Senior Top 12 Trophy.

Midway through the round robin event, Gallo playing in his first major competition for many years met hot favourite Graeme McKim but for once it was Gallo who gained the upperhand in the opening end, kept his nerve when McKim levelled in the second and gained a clear 21-10 decision in the third. With this win under his belt, Gallo, who had earlier been taken close by

Steve Brown and Steve Silk, went from strength to strength to complete his programme with a run of straight game victories.

Meanwhile McKim was also taken the distance by Spear but took his remaining rubbers with ease to finish as runner up, while Ryan Keates added determination to enthusiasm to end a creditable third with seven successes.

November saw the launch of a major table tennis initiative at Rushden Sports Centre, masterminded by County Development Officer Gwil Evans and coordinated by East Northants Leisure Officer Roger Lovesay. Initially there will be an individual league with all matches played in ideally sized squash courts and results fed into the revamped county computer ranking system, together with those of Wellingborough and Kettering. Additionally a robot will be on hand for players requiring specialised practice, while local coaches are expected to take over on a major scale, when many of the local schools become involved early in 1993.

The veterans continue to take the honours in the County championships, with the firsts and thirds still unbeaten and the seconds going down by only the narrowest of margins to a Herts side boosted by the skills of the evergreen Keith Hartridge. Against Staffs, Keith Jones and Margaret Maltby excelled in the 1sts 6-3 success, while John Palmer's winning return just earned the 3rds the verdict after Dave Marsh and Gordon Shaw had lost their unbeaten records to Berkshire's durable Brian Halliday. Wellingborough's seniors and juniors made a good start in defence of their titles at St Neots, with Sally Russell with six successive wins proving that she is more than a match for junior boys as Bedford were beaten 8-1 and Peterborough were defeated 7-2. For the seniors Andy Trott's flair got them home 5-4 and 6-3 respectively against Ely and Cambridge.

Kettering Veteran 1sts were also in fine form with North Herts and Cambridge heavily defeated. New veteran Gordon Shaw, who has spent most of his table tennis career in the lower reaches of the Kettering League made a dream debut with 6 wins out of 6 while Ian Hawes for the seniors fell one short of this tally when he became one of Mick Harper's three victims - a maximum which denied Kettering a second win of the day.

Neither Well Connected nor Levi's Westfield are finding the opposition much to their liking in the Friendly Hotels British League, but Levi's have finally broken the long run of defeats with a fine draw against Division 2 North leaders City of Sunderland and can now look forward to the future with greater optimism.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Aubrey Drapkin

NORTHUMBERLAND SENIORS HAD no fixture in October, but the Juniors and Veterans sides were both in action. Last season the senior team suffered when they agreed to play their fixtures over two weekends and then had Eddie Smith injured for the first one. This season it was agreed to play two of their junior fixtures on the same day and once again 'North' suffered because an injury stopped Martin Gibson from playing. Two sets each from Andrew Wilkinson and Joanne Donnelly helped them to defeat Norfolk 6-4 with Diane Cartmell and Oliver Court both getting one. But they lost by the same score to Bucks. Wilkinson again got two with Donnelly and Cartmell taking one each. Young Billy Stokoe was drafted into the team in place of Gibson but it was too much to ask of the youngster.

The Veterans travelled to Warwickshire with Ian Robertson in the side, but went down 3-6. Robertson had been expected to win both of his singles but lost out to Pat McCabe.

Three teams look likely to contest the National Power Northumbria League title this season - north Shields YMCA, Blaydon YC and Gateshead. Shields and Blaydon have dominated for some time but Gateshead could be the team to look out for. They already have Humberside's Gareth Jones in their team and have now signed Bradley Billington who is currently at Newcastle Polytechnic.

In the second division early pace setters are Saint Judes, Gateshead B and North Shields YMCA D.

The training centre at North Shields is now in full swing and a large number of youngsters are being introduced to the sport. The centre has received a massive boost with a grant of £1,900 being received from the Sports Foundation.

Counties 7

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

TABLE TENNIS WAS represented at a Sport and Recreation Convention for Young People at the Mansfield Leisure Centre sponsored by the Chad and Midland Bank.

County Development Officer Ray Bayliss, together with Ann Marie and Michelle Haynes, provided coaching and table tennis demonstrations throughout the day's event which lasted from 11am to 7.30pm.

The County Senior team started with a 9-1 win over Warwicks 2nd with Linda Collins and Sarah Jayne Smith strengthening the ladies positions. The juniors started with two 10-0 wins and a 9-1 success at Grantham.

The Veterans made a 'modest' start losing 3-6 to Northumberland (away) and then a 5-4 win on home ground against Clwyd. Captain Ron Bolton expects a mid-table position at the end of the season in this division which appears stronger than last year.

The County Committee has been strengthened by the addition of Mansfield's Steve Riley who is an 'expert' on sponsorship. Having been so successful for the Mansfield League, he seems to be making good progress on behalf of the County.

Mansfield

The Mansfield League has received a further £300 sponsorship, this time from the Notts Leisure Services for the Sutton Junior TTC which will have 5 tables.

In the League, Mark Green made his debut for last season's Division 1 champions Ashfield, and helped them to a 6-4 win in their opening Premier Division fixture against Triangle TTC.

Newark

The Newark Development Programme is beginning to show results with 30 young players playing this season as the emphasis is placed upon sensible, rather than rushed, progress.

A taster course is starting at Grove School on Friday afternoons from 4.15 to 6.15pm when disabled players were invited, and Nottingham's Paralympic Olympic gold medalist, James Rawson, has promised to appear.

A grant of £780 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts has been received to provide four new tables at the Northend Methodist Church.

Nottingham

The Nottingham League has started with 9 divisions, but early administrative problems were incurred with a large number of teams changing their team captain and/or home night. Although the majority of players in the league are over 40, there is some encouragement from more junior teams.

SOMERSET

Andy Seward

AT THIS TIME last season, I said that 'The County Veteran teams achieved their usual mixed start to the season - the 1st team won and the 2nd team lost'. Nothing changes - the first two results of this season were just the same. I just wish the football pools could be as easy!

As usual, Brian Reeves led from the front against Berkshire in Division 1 and won both his singles in a 7-2 victory. Two wins also from Graham Green (nice to see him back on the county scene), one from John Crabtree and another win for Shirley Dark.

At this time last season I also said that 'Hampshire 2 looked a powerful outfit and, to put it bluntly, should not be in Division 3'. They were duly promoted, unfortunately so were Somerset 2nds. The teams met again at Westlands with the same outcome, a 7-2 win for Hampshire, one win each for Mike Baker and Graham Durley.

At the first Junior weekend held at Bodmin in Cornwall,

Gloucester unfortunately failed to show up. The outcome was that Somerset travelled many miles for just one match against Dorset and paid Cornwall for the privilege. Crazy. For the record, Vicky6 Squire made her county debut and the team won 7-3.

At the second weekend in sunny Bournemouth, Rob Millard duly dozed (some would say slept) through his first match against Way Ngo of Wiltshire. After one minute, Rob was 10-0 down and although he then partially awoke, duly lost the first game. Suffice to say that a rightly earned ear-bashing from his minder was enough to stir Rob into sufficient action to win in three.

However, top marks go to the others in the county team that day. Andrew Hewitt gained three wins out of four and Alan Russell two. One of those wins for Alan was over ranked David Menzel of Cornwall and certainly earned him the 'Win of the Day' award. Three wins also for each of the two girls, a typically subdued Julie Ashcroft and a typically effervescent Claire Shobbrook.

The overall result was that Somerset beat Wiltshire 7-3 and Cornwall 8-2. With four wins out of four, Somerset Juniors are on top of the world (well Division 2C) and looking forward to the next matches - that hasn't happened for years!

Next month, news from one of the local leagues - and a report on the next round of county matches. Back to the 'Royal Oak'.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

ADRIAN MOORE REGAINED the Sussex men's crown at Lancing in the all-Sussex championships in a 13 minute final against Scott Greenbrook (21) as the Moore family rushed off to Stephen Moore's 30th birthday celebrations!

Moore, winning the crown for the 6th time, demolished the stylish and immensely promising Crawley player 21-4, 21-9, but earlier Greenbrook and Peter Bartram had caused havoc. Bartram with his devastating backhand in full flow took out Ritchie Venner in the quarter finals before Ritchie's glue had time to become effective.

Paul Elphick, hitting the ball as hard as ever was a Greenbrook victim. In the later stages, Greenbrook just managed to get past Bartram -16, 16, 20. Teresa Moore won her fourth Sussex crown with a 16, 8 final win over Sally Weston, now playing as well as ever in the Sussex No. 2 spot. Both girls beat England No. 23 Michelle Cohen (Avon) in the county championships last month.

The Senior event was held on a Saturday, amid some opposition from people working and involved in soccer, but with a few absentees it went ahead, allowing the juniors to play on Sunday, the following day.

Both events were run smoothly by the Worthing TTA, although two Sundays will be sought next season to run the two competitions.

Paul Cicelli is the new Sussex boys champion. In his last season as a junior he managed to overcome Paul Butcher in the final. Tina Beane 13, from Hastings is the toast of Sussex junior table tennis. She won all five events she entered at Lancing, culminating in winning the main girls title winning 21-13, 22-20 against Joanne Bush Harris in the final. The Bush Harris' had quite a day - Wesley reached the men's singles semi finals. He startled everyone by winning the first game 21-19 against Adrian Moore in the semi finals, but Moore hit back craftily 5, 13.

Sussex are back in the Premier Division of the County Championships. Providing they can beat Berkshire in February, their bounce-back has been achieved with six wins and no losses. Despite being steam-rollered by Grove, Horsham Angels are bidding for promotion in the British League Division 1 battle, but they cannot afford to slip up against the other strong teams. At Chichester, Lennox House are also going for promotion, but they have had a setback - a broken leg for Nick Gamblin, the Lennox No. 4.

WILTSHIRE

Laurie Selby

THE HIGH FLYING Wiltshire senior table tennis team scored two wins and a draw from their three match date against Cornwall, Avon 2nds and Somerset.

With two matches to go they are chasing promotion but still have to

Counties 8

play Gwent who are also favoured in the race for top spot in division 2B.

15 year old Tracy Youldon from Swindon made her debut in the senior side and passed the test with flying colours, winning a singles in each of the three matches.

Wiltshire started with a 6-4 win over Cornwall after overcoming a shaky start. They were 4-2 down at one stage but then reeled off the next four rubbers.

Chris Bridges (West Wilts) was in great form to win both his singles and Brenda Lee (Swindon) was also unbeaten. Eddie Roofe (Swindon) and Tracy each won one match.

Another bleak start saw Wiltshire trailing 5-1 against Avon 2nds. But then they woke up to salvage a point with Brenda Lee again winning two. Bridges, Dave Russell (West Wilts) and Tracy Youldon each contributed one.

Eddie Roofe returned to form in the next match against Somerset and he and Brenda Lee were undefeated and laid the foundations to the 6-4 victory against Somerset.

Wiltshire were without their top players, Kevin Satchell and Claire Hunter for the triple-header played in Gwent. Wiltshire meet Gwent in February and finish their campaign against Worcs in April. But although the senior side were celebrating the great performances by Tracy Youldon, her absence from the junior team - both matches were played on the same day - was deeply felt. Wiltshire went down to a strong Somerset team - they had four nationally ranked players - 7-3.

But it was a good effort by the youngsters, all from Swindon, who forced six matches to the deciding set, eventually losing five of them. Debbie King was in fine form and won two matches with Hue Ngo chalking up Wiltshire's other win.

In the afternoon Wiltshire faced Gloucestershire and a lunch time pep talk prompted a superb performance and a 9-1 victory.

In their earlier matches, Wiltshire travelled to Bodmin where they lost 4-6 to Glamorgan and drew 5-5 with Dorset. Tracy Youldon won both her matches and Debbie King and Tim O'Mahoney each won one.

Wiltshire Veterans first team by beating Bucks 6-3 but lost to Middlesex 3-6. The second team were thrashed 8-1 by Hampshire 2nds. Two wins have resulted from the opening matches of Wiltshire Vets 3rd team. They beat Hunts 2nds 7-2.

Bristol Open

Tracy Youldon won the girls singles and Tim O'Mahoney was the runner up in the U14 singles.

Kevin Satchell and Claire Hunter retain their No. 1 spots in the latest Wiltshire ranking lists with Tracy Youldon as No. 1 Junior girl and Tim O'Mahoney as No. 1 Junior Boy.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Steve Horton

OPENING MATCHES IN the County Championships have been completed with mixed fortunes for Worcestershire.

The first team made the long journey to Falmouth and gave a good all-round effort to record a 6-4 victory over Cornwall. Eric Hardman won 2, with 1 each from Trevor Washington, Malcolm Green, Sandra Roden and Linda Reid. Sandra, who was doubtful for this match, declared herself fit and responded with a 'comeback' victory - from 5-15 down in the third!

Alterations have been made to the usual 2nd team line up, due to a 'younger player' selection policy. The team of Mark Brookes, Adrian Tottey, Nicola Jones, Steve and Sue Horton, produced a 10-0 win away to Clwyd. The newcomers - Adrian and Nicola, played well on their debut with straight set wins. The next match is at home to Hertfordshire which promises to be a tough game.

As expected, the Veterans were involved in a tight match with Leicestershire. With the match score at 4-4 the final game was decided by a close expedite which Mervyn Wood lost 18 in the third - the match score was 5-4 to Leicestershire. Ray Dixon, Roy Norton and Mervyn won one each plus a mixed doubles.

The Juniors have completed two fixtures. In the first match against Glamorgan they were beaten 7-3, despite 2 wins from Carrie Hunt and one from Stephanie Price. The second match against Cornwall also resulted in defeat, with Carrie and Stephanie winning two singles each to make it 7 out of 8 wins for the girls. We hope that with more experience the boys will soon 'get off the mark'.

British League team Hawbush recorded their first win of the season when they beat OLOP 6-2. Ken Walton and Adrian Tottey won 2 each with Julian Wootton and Mark Brookes one each to claim victory. The highlight of the match was a close battle between Ken Walton and OLOP's Chris Forest which was won by Walton 29-27 in the third game. The team who play at Hawbush Community Centre, Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, would appreciate good home support at their matches.

Contact Eric Hardman for details of Sunday afternoon home fixtures. He also informs me that refreshments are available free to spectators, but don't expect a drink at the local afterwards - Eric does not buy rounds!!

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

MOST OF THE events previewed in last month's notes will be covered elsewhere in this issue, which leaves us just a quick look at the opening matches in the ladies section of the Yorkshire League.

It is pleasing to note that the division has a full complement of eight teams and, after the first series of matches, held at the East Mount Recreation Centre in Hull, home of the British League side Brabar Humberside, Leeds I, Bradford and the two Hull sides have emerged as the front runners.

But there was much to be gained too, in terms of experience and enjoyment by the remaining four teams with Scarborough figuring in this section for the first time, getting a particularly warm welcome to the fold.

Over the following two weeks both Men's Premier Division and the five Junior Divisions got underway, the men and the Hermits TTC in Bradford and the Juniors at York's Millthorpe School.

No results from the men's division are available at the time of going to press, but Huddersfield have made a flying start in both Junior Premier and Cadet Divisions as they returned clean sheets in both categories.

In Junior Division 1, Scarborough and Hull II each have three wins from three outings, while Leeds dominate both Junior and Cadet girls divisions.

News from the British League sides is scarce, but Brabar Humberside are finding the going hard in Division 1 while on the brighter side, the new Selby club, Senior Thermal Derwent, are to be congratulated on making a big impact in their first team.

In the County Championships, Yorkshire have traditionally been strong on the girls but, with Katie Goodall moving out of the age group, Sally Marling on duty in the Nancy Evans European Club Knockout Cup and Nicola Smith unavailable, the county must have wondered if they had the strength in depth to replace them. But the youngsters brought in rose to the occasion and 14 year old Zoe Fisher, who took the "Best Girl" award at the first Junior Premier Weekend, Nicola Silburn and 11 year Emma Smith - how many younger girls have played at Premier level? - all contributed their share to an undefeated weekend.

A week prior to the Premier 'get together' all three had been involved in an advanced coaching session held by national coaches Don and Jill Parker at Scarborough, and they obviously took full advantage.

Also on debut was Michael James, No. 2 ranked cadet and No. 13 Junior, from Bridlington, some 20 miles down the East Yorkshire coast, and he too, showed up with three wins from four visits to the table.

Belated congratulations to Les D'Arcy of Wakefield - and of course numerous other leagues within the county - who took the over 70's crown in the National VETTS Championships and then paired with Ron Etheridge to add the Over 60 doubles. Les then moved on to Dublin to add a second over 70 victory, and it's now full steam ahead for Australia 1994!

A familiar figure will be missing at Dewsbury this season with the retirement of Stuart Milnes, who has made over 200 appearances for his town team since first coming into league table tennis over 30 years ago. His contribution to the sport in Dewsbury was recognised when he was awarded the President's Cup in 1988 but this year the battling defender will no longer be terrorising the young hopefuls, although we hope that the retirement is only temporary and that the 'wooden bat' will be brought out of storage again before the beginning of next season.

Sandra began playing at Butlins

FIRSTLY, welcome to a new and what I hope will be an interesting and exciting column in your monthly Table Tennis News. I probably need little introduction to most readers - however, for those of you who have been fortunate enough not to come across me when I'd had a drink or two perhaps a short 'prelude' is appropriate. I have been involved in table tennis since about 1977 when I began playing at Butlins, Skegness. Following progression through schools, local leagues and junior and senior county play I began playing the open tournament circuit which I continued for a number of years reaching the 'dizzy' heights of England No.10. After winning one or two local titles and Worcestershire Ladies Singles crown for six years, my playing career was severely halted by knee problem which finally led to an operation in December 1991. Over the past couple of years therefore I have become more involved with organisations/ administration matters serving on various local committees and becoming closely involved with the Womens' British League. After working for 10 years in banking. I have recently been appointed West Midlands Regional Development Officer.

For my first column, I trust you will forgive me for showing a little local bias to talk about Wolverhampton Ladies teams and the Woodfield Club - the Woodfield has produced a remarkable string of female table tennis players over the past few years and the club provides the backbone of the six times J.M. Rose Bowl winners - Wolverhampton (and we'll be going for a seventh this season!). The mainstay and captain of the team is Janet Dunning (presently No.33 on the ranking list) whose inspiration, support and belief has pulled us through many a game. The other two members of the 1992 winning team are the ever-improving Helen Lower (No.8) and the new West Midlands Region Coaching Chairperson - Jill Harris (No.11). I was there this year for 'vocal' support (or was it the beer?). Also on the sidelines were 'hockey-ace' Tracy Spencer and one Fiona Elliot-Mommessin (what a



J.M. Rose Bowl winners 1991/92 (left to right) front row: Janet Dunning, Jill Harris, Sandra Roden and Helen Lower



Emma Hurling

wedding that was!), who is now living and playing in Paris, but who I know still retains a great interest in Wolverhampton and Woodfield. Which brings me nicely to the question: Why are we so successful? We must acknowledge the coaches in the area who have helped us all along the road to success over the years, and the support from our league chairman and president Tony Clift and Arthur Thomas respectively and their wives, who rarely miss a match! But another reason must be the tremendous team-spirit and sense of fun seen within the squad, basically we all enjoy our table tennis (and the after-match celebrations!) and this I

feel sums it up!

Finally, I'd like to ask the question - where does women's table tennis go now? The women's British League is now a well-established event in the calendar and the women's National Team have recently completed a very successful 91/92 season - but we mustn't stop there. We are now looking to set up Regional Women's groups initiated by the Women's Rep - on each Regional Committee. I would therefore be pleased to hear from any girls and ladies in the West Midlands who would be willing to join me in helping to forward the sport in our area.

Feeling very strongly about the women's game I am very

pleased to be given the opportunity to write in the magazine. But I don't want it to be all my own views - this is your column girls. My only wish is to keep it informal, light-hearted and interesting - and I therefore invite anyone to contact me with news/views/gossip for input into future articles.

Emma gets plastered

AT the end of September my old friend Emma Hurling fell down the stairs and fractured her left ankle and tore her ligaments. She also broke a bone in her right hand.

Despite these set backs, resilient Emma hopes to bounce back and be playing again early in the new year.

Since leaving Brighton University, where she gained a honours degree in Sports Science, Emma has been working at First Sport in Hemel Hempstead, which is part of the Blacks Leisure Group.

She intends returning to college next year to do a PGCE in physical education.

Get well soon Emma, Table Tennis misses you!

Full spectrum of coaching

OBVIOUSLY coaching is of prime importance within the E.T.T.A. Focus Sport programme. With a view to the distinct possibility of ten regional development officers in place generating more work across the full spectrum of coaching activities we have, in anticipation, appointed regional staff coaches to cover the extra workload. These positions were advertised in Table Tennis News, interviews took place where necessary and the following appointments have been made:

NORTH WEST

Staff Coach - S. Sneyd
Assistant - C. Eaton

NORTHERN

Staff Coach - C. Moore
Assistant - M. Yardley

YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE

Staff Coach - P. McQueen

WEST MIDLANDS

Staff Coach - J. Harris
Assistant - D. Douglas

EAST MIDLANDS

Staff Coach - D. Marples
Assistant - A. Elliot

SOUTHERN

Staff Coach - K. Muhr
Assistant - K. Phillips

SOUTH EAST

Staff Coach - N. Thomas
Assistant - D. Berriman

LONDON

Staff Coach - K. Muhr
Assistant - M. Kercher

EASTERN

Staff Coach - P. Tarrant
Assistant - P. Hutchinson

SOUTH WEST

Staff Coach - K. Satchell
Assistant - T. Carey

We had several applications from outstanding candidates who had insufficient coaching experience, but a wealth of knowledge from their playing experience. These candidates were appointed as trainees and have been included in all the appropriate training.

The coaches will be paid on an hourly basis and it is hoped that when we have all the regional development officers eventually in position there will be sufficient work to have at least one full-time coach per region.

We have already held two training weekends, at the E.T.T.A.'s expense, at Lilleshall, with the emphasis on training the regional staff coaches to take coach education courses so that we have more 'active' coaches around the country. The Focus Sport programme will also be looking as a high priority for facilities, dedicated ones whenever possible, where coaches can actually operate but of course this is a development rather than coaching activity.

Coaching courses for coaches (Sports Centre Leader Award, Teaching Certificate and Assistant Coach) have been and are being arranged around the country. If you are interested in attending such a course please contact your respective Regional Coaching Panel Chairman who will give you the necessary details.

REGIONAL COACHING PANEL CHAIRMAN

EAST MIDLANDS REGION

(Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire)

G. Oke, 15 Bramhall Rise, New Duston, Northampton. NN5 6XH
Tel: 0604 754562 (H),
0604 752345 (B)

EASTERN REGION

(Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Norfolk, Suffolk)

K.J. Marchant, 30 The Headlands, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 4RT
Tel: 0933 677299

LONDON/S.E. NORTH

(Middlesex, Essex)
P. Gower, 43 Heybridge Road, Ingatestone, Essex. CM4 9AQ
Tel: 0277 333174

LONDON/S.E. SOUTH

(Kent, Surrey, Sussex)
Ms. G. McCulloch,
53 Fenwick Close, Goldsworth Park, Woking, Surrey. GU21 3BZ
Tel: 04367 30549

NORTH WEST REGION

(Cheshire, Lancashire)
C. Eaton, 27 Sydney Street, Greenbank, Northwich, Cheshire. SW8 4AP
Tel: 0606 871117

NORTHERN REGION

(Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland)
Mrs. P. Richmond,
Cockleberry Farm, East Cowton, Northallerton, North Yorks. DL7 0JA
Tel: 0325 378313

SOUTH WEST REGION

(Avon, Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire)
Mrs. V. Clack,

101 Churchward Avenue, Swindon, Wilts. SN2 1NW
Tel: 0793 37464 (H)
0793 526098 (B)

SOUTHERN REGION

(Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire)
D. Langley, 43 Chandos Road, Newbury, Berks. RG14 7EG
Tel: 0635 48641

WEST MIDLANDS REGION

(Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire)
Miss. J. Harris, 4 Stanier Close, Rushall, Walsall, West Midlands. WS4 1EX
Tel: 0922 612675

YORKSHIRE/HUMBERSIDE REGION

(Yorkshire)
B. Walker, 1 Rooks Close, Wyke, Bradford, Yorks. BD12 9LR
Tel: 0274 672005

FORTHCOMING COACHES COURSES

12/13 December

Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Course

Venue: Wanstead Leisure Centre, Redbridge Lane West, Wanstead, London. E11 2JZ

Contact: Dave Playford Tel: 081-989 1172

Regional Coaching Chairman: Phil Gower Tel: 0277 383174

12/13 December, 10.00-16.00

Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Course

Venue: Sycamore Sports Centre, Hungerhill Road, Nottingham.

Contact: Roy Bayliss Tel: 0602 733169

Regional Coaching Chairman: Gordon Okie Tel: 0604 754562

16/17 January

Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaches Course

Venue: Hugh Christie School, Tonbridge, Kent.

Contact: Gail McCulloch Tel: 0483 728069
(also Regional Coaching Chairman)

6 & 13 February

Sports Leader, Teaching & Assistant Coaching Course

Venue: T.A.V.R. Ashew Crescent, Shepherds Bush, London.

Contact: Terry Lee Tel: 081-748 3020 ext. 3553

Regional Coaching Chairman: Phil Gower Tel: 0277 383174

**The Experts' Expert:
The Coaches' Coach
by Ken Muhr
will continue
next issue**

First Focus Sport plans

THE first Focus Sport plans have just been published - for the N.W. and S.W. regions. And very impressive documents they are. Now comes the matter of achievement! Encouraging young players to take up competitive play is of course a main plank of both plans. So, at this point it might be useful to look at a case history of youth development work which predated Focus Sport. It gives some useful pointers.

Coaching is generally regarded as an excellent activity. So when a small town league had the opportunity of supporting a new coaching scheme in a local junior school they were enthusiastic.

The ingredients were: a player (unqualified coach), with children at the school; a supportive P.T.A., encouraged by the player.

SUCCESS

The new club, plus coaching was a success as far as producing young players was concerned. Two or three looked quite promising. They were due to move up to a local comprehensive school. This school also proved to be enthusiastic about starting a club. So two club/coaching sessions were soon in operation.

Five years later. The junior school continues to feed the senior school. The junior school are regional champions (E.S.T.T.A.). The senior school are national champions. The always supportive badminton-playing head of P.E. now plays a bit himself. About a dozen of the young players made the England rankings.

DECLINED

The local league has declined! Another five years on, and some 25 players have gained National rankings. There are County ranking lists of U-14's and U-12's (including 16 girls).

The local league has declined still further! An analysis was carried out. During the period a new league had started in a nearby town. Some clubs transferred. Economic pressures on businesses meant some loss of premises. But, it was likely that the main problem was of tournament standard young players disrupting the league.

LEFT BEHIND

The young high fliers got to college age and some went off to University. Some stayed but by now were really a bit too good for the league. Meantime the greater number of young players found that they were left behind. They were not of open tournament standard and still too young for the league's late night, they had no competitive play available to them.



Sandra Roden

aside at the coaching session on which these fetchers and carriers (especially of junior school age children) could play. There have also been parent/children Swiss Round tournaments. This season one of the new teams in the league is made up of parents and the league teams (from a low base) have increased by 20%. There are several ex-youth players in the league. It's early days but it looks like a successful development.

The League Development Structure

What can be learned from this single case history?

Well, perhaps the needs of counties and the country for excellence may not always be helpful to the local league. Of course, league disruption by high-fliers may not happen in larger, stronger leagues.

Local judgements have to be made! Regional planning and day-by-day operation of developments should assist this process.

Regional Development Officer for the West Midlands Sandra Roden

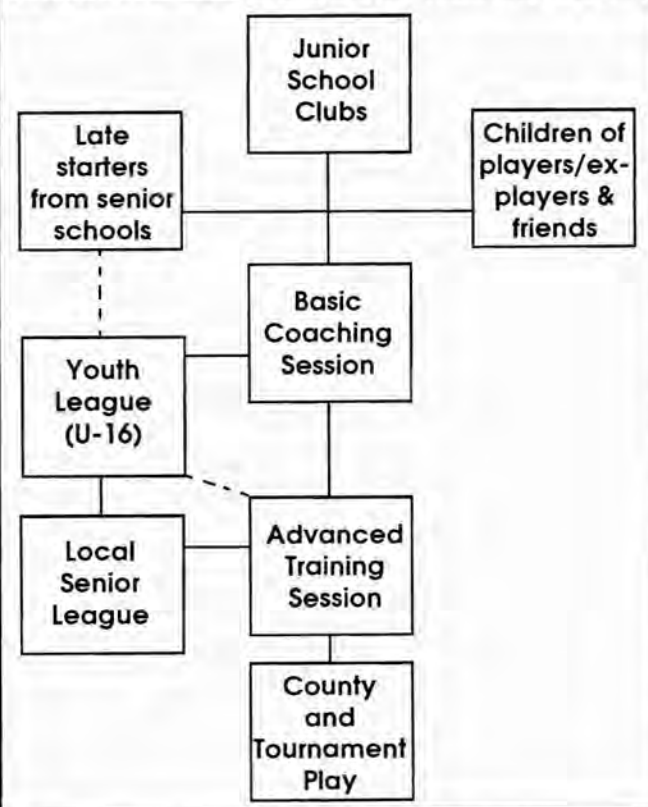
Newly appointed Regional Development Officer for the West Midlands (Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire) is Sandra Roden aged 27.

Sandra lives at Amblecote nr. Stourbridge and has worked in banking for 10 years and has a long list of 'O' levels and diplomas. As a cornet player she once competed in the 'Young Musician of the Year' competition. Denis Neale, Butlins Skegness and Sandra met each other in 1977. After this introduction to T.T. she played in Dudley Schools T.T., several local leagues and for Worcestershire. Prior to a knee injury she climbed to No.10 in the England rankings.

Sandra has combined a successful playing career with administration and has served on various local and national committees. She is also a qualified coach and umpire. The knee is now a lot better so Sandra expects to be competing again later this season.

The West Midlands development plan is still being finalised but Sandra has lots of ideas and is busy making more contacts. She also has her eye on that very handily placed Euro 94 which should stimulate a lot of interest throughout the Country and especially the Midlands if Sandra has anything to do with it.

League Development Structure Plan



They tended to pack up around the ages of 13-14.

It was clear that the bulk of the prospects for future league teams were in this group (if they could be kept playing). The obvious answer to maintaining their interest was a youth league.

So, three years ago a youth league was started (for U-16's).

It accommodates 10 teams - all playing one night a week in a school gym. All-play-all, but single games 21 up. Start 7pm - final 8.45pm. Later in the season there is a K.O. competition, best of three up to 11.

EXPANDED

Meantime with the aim of getting parents involved, a table was set

Spotlight on Peniel

Peniel School

THE Bell House in Pilgrims Hatch was acquired in September 1981 to become Peniel Academy, an independent school which is fully registered by the DES, catering for boys and girls from the ages of 4 to 18 years.

The principal of the school is Dr. Michael Reid, B.D., and the Vice-principal is Peter Linnecar M.A. (Cantab). The school is located in grounds extending over 10 acres and offers extensive facilities for academic and physical pursuits. The Bible Assembly founded Peniel Academy a natural outworking of the church. It is a free Pentecostal church which has been in existence for over 16 years and has grown steadily from its beginnings with three people to well over four hundred committed members.

The school is not an evangelistic arm of the church nor an indoctrination centre but a place where children are equipped for life, both temporal and eternal.

The school atmosphere is reflected in several ways. All the children mix together out of lesson times, the older ones taking responsibility for the younger ones, as if they are part of a large family, thus cutting across peer-groups and preparing them for later life.



Peniel School in Brentwood



Some of the Peniel teachers during a Christmas party



Vince Avery being groomed for stardom



Keith Briers aged 11 one of Peniel's first superstars



Early concentration from Matthew Reid

The emphasis throughout the school is upon creating a caring atmosphere in which discipline is firm, consistent and loving. The expectations of children's achievement, motivation and behaviour are high, but recognition is also made that children have differing talents and capabilities.

When the school first started there were plenty of people ready to say that it could never work, but our results prove that it can work with 9 out of 10 pupils going on to obtain top university or polytechnic places within the last two years.



Jenny Coleman aged 10, backhand at the ready

Peniel Table Tennis

Peniel Academy in Brentwood isn't a big school by anyone's standards. But it's rapidly achieving a big reputation for itself in table tennis, both nationally and internationally. Peniel was launched into the world of 'ping pong' by the person who used to clean the goldfish tanks at the school, as he also played table tennis. We started 10 years ago with one table, a few bats that had been retrieved from attics, and a net which obligingly let the ball drop on to the opponent's side of the table if you hit the ball against it hard enough. That, and a few aspiring (perspiring?) students.

Our first taste of success came when Matthew Reid and Keith Briers, both from Peniel, reached the Boys Under 11 Final in the Essex County Schools Tournament in 1983. Peniel was assured of victory, and Matthew, having emerged triumphant, was duly transported to Mansfield in Nottinghamshire for the national finals. His success was short-lived. He was soundly beaten by a player with red hair, and a short-pimpled bat - You guessed - Andrew Eden! No one enjoys defeat, and we realised that if we wanted to improve and help the children to reach their full potential, we would need proper coaching on a regular basis.

Having enlisted the help of Graham Moon at Brentwood Table Tennis Club, our senior pupils (seven or eight at the time) duly commenced their grooming for "stardom". Since then, we have had the help of Stuart Gibbs, who played for England over 50 times, Bobby Stevens and Nicky Jarvis, the former England Number One and England International player. More recently we have had the help of Matthew Syed, Sean Gibson, Andrew Eden, and John Holland who practise at Peniel and play for Team Peniel in the Premier Division of the Friendly Hotels British League.

THE PENIEL ACADEMY - 2

Team Peniel

Team Peniel I, consisting of Matthew Syed, Sean Gibson, John Holland and Andrew Eden, emerged 4 years ago from the 1st division Team Ramlosa, although none of the original Ramlosa members remain in the squad. Team Peniel has since become one of the top teams in the British league. In 1989 it won the 1st division, and in 1990 and 1991 it came second in the premier division losing by a very small margin to Grove Table Tennis Club.

Team Peniel 2, consisting of Clive Carthy, Vince Avery, Keith Buers, Matthew Reid, Daniel Yardy and Peter Whealy, was formed 2 years ago and play in Division 3 of the British League. Many of the youngsters from Peniel Table Tennis Club have joined the team and with Clive Carthy leading them they are sure to be formidable opponents to the other teams in the league.

Peniel Events

This year Peniel once again hosted the Peniel 5 Star Tournament at the Brentwood International Centre. Peniel brought over players from Sweden and Norway to compete in the event with the help of their sponsors MaCarntney and Dowie Financial Services Ltd.

Peniel will be hosting a similar 5 Star event next year, and are hoping to have even more international players competing.

Peniel's plans for the future

In the 10 years in which Peniel have been playing table tennis it has come a long way, but what are its plans for the future?



Some of Team Peniel supporters



Peniel youngsters playing in France



Ester Coleman and Peter Embling relax during a tournament abroad



Coach - Nicky Jarvis



Peniel would like to have its name on every trophy for every English tournament at least once - this may seem like a mammoth task, but with a little determination and a lot of hard work Peniel believes this is not an impossible task.

Peniel would also like to win the Premier Division, they are second at the moment, as

well as Division 3 East, who are joint top at the moment.

With more and more pupils from Peniel Academy representing both county and England, Esther Coleman (head teacher) and Nicky Jarvis (coach) feel that the club's objectives are realistic, and would like the children to gain more experience by training abroad.

Bigrave roasts Lampkin



TOP seed Stephen Lampkin was surprisingly beaten by Neil Bigrave, in the final of the Boys Under 17 Singles at the South of England 2 Star tournament at the Monks Hill Leisure Centre.

Hot favourite Lampkin, from Surrey, took the first game 18, but unexpectedly lost the second game 21-12 to determined Bigrave, from Buckinghamshire.

The third was a close run thing with Bigrave the victor by the narrow margin of two points, 21-19.

Welsh star Natasha Williams won the Girls Under 17 trophy for the second year running, when she beat Sarah Stedman, from Sussex, 12 and 18 in the final.

Williams also took the trophy in the Under 17 Girls Doubles for the second year when she partnered Jennifer Coleman from Sussex. In the final they overpowered Essex's Shelley Ruocco and Surrey's Glenda Ashinson, 19 and 15.

Lampkin bounced back in the Boys Under 17 Doubles, with Dean Wanbon, from Yorkshire, winning a thrilling three setter, -19, 13 and 18, against the Hampshire pairing of Kevin Macken and Jeremy Wilson.

The Cadet Boys Under 14 Singles final was really exciting with Christian Thompson from Kent winning in three against Akash Kapoor of Cheshire, 23, -16, 13.

This was a good win for Thompson who was the No.4 seed, whilst Kapoor was the 3rd seed. The 1 and 2 seeds were Terry Young from Berkshire and Scott Friday of Kent.

The Under 14 Girls final was a real corker, infact the match of the day, between Tracey Davies of Essex and Debbie Peska from Nottingham

Pictured above are Christian Thompson (left) and Tracey Davies, whilst (below) Mayoress of Croydon Mrs. Ian Croft presents the Boys Under 12 trophy to Scott Friday



shire, with Davies the girl from the Peniel Academy winning a mammoth battle in three.

Peska took the first surprisingly easily winning 21-10, and was 17-12 up in the second, looking home and dry, but Davies staged an amazing fight-back.

Last season Davies would have relied on her defence to get back into the game, but this time she decided to attack and with tremendous power. She out-attacked Peska to rise from the ashes, going from 12-17 down, to take the second 21-19.

The third leg saw both girls play a fast attacking game, not afraid of going for their shots, with the decider going point for point, with Peska getting her nose in front 16-14. But once again Davies would not be denied and she really went for victory with non stop attack, which saw her take the trophy 21-18.

Scott Friday from Kent had a comfortable victory over Gareth Herbert of Berkshire, in the Boys Under 12 final, winning 14 and 14.

But Herbert did have his moment of glory though, when earlier in the day he beat Friday in the Boys Under 14 Singles.

Anna McNamara of Surrey, won the Girls Under 12 Singles trophy when she defeated Susan Johnson from Berkshire, 10 and 17.

Under 14 boys Singles finalists, Thompson and Kapoor, teamed up in the boys Under 14 Doubles, beating Herbert and Young 23 and 11, in the final.

The Girls Under 14 Doubles final was won by Tracey Davies and Verity Cleminson from The Peniel Academy, when they beat Debbie Peska and Alison Smith from Kent 13, -9 and 14.

The middle and late thirties

IT is generally considered that the tours carried out in the mid-thirties by the three Hungarians, Barna, Bellak and Szabados were largely responsible for a noticeable growth in the sport. A close scrutiny of handbooks around this period reveal an increase in the number of clubs and individual members. One of the dangers of a rapid escalation however, is that it is often followed by a slump and to avoid such a reaction good administration is essential.

England was most fortunate at the time in having at the helm the dynamic pairing of Ivor Montagu and Bill Pope and they were joined by a quietly spoken man of great integrity, A.K. (Bill) Vint. It was in the early thirties that Bill Vint was elected Honorary Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association, an office he held with notable distinction for more than a quarter of a century. In 1947 he became Honorary Treasurer of the ITTF, a post he was to hold for twenty two years, and then for good measure he served as the Honorary General Secretary until 1977. Ivor and the two 'Bills' made a commanding triumvirate and they worked tirelessly behind the scenes in the interest of table tennis. There were, of course, others from abroad who sprang up with bright ideas and intense dedication. One such personality was Marcel Corbillion from France who was mainly responsible for staging the World Championships in Paris from 2nd-10th December 1933, when he donated the famous Corbillion Cup for competition by women's teams. The sport was growing steadily and its leaders were planning ahead.

In the second half of the thirties the all-conquering Hungarians, like old soldiers, simply faded away and new players and champions took over. Unfortunately the accent was on defence, a discipline that was essentially a negative one. When the conditions for play were slow, matches took several hours to complete and the menace of stonewalling caused much concern.

In the 1936 World Championships that were held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, the most prolonged rally of all time took place. It was the opening game in a Swaythling Cup match between Poland and Rumania and the contestants were Alex Ehrlich and Farcas Paneth respectively. Although no accurate timing equipment was used, it was estimated that the first point took between 2 hours, 5 minutes, and 2 hours, 12 minutes, to decide, and it is known that during the course of the rally a committee meeting was conducted at the courtside. To add to the unbelievable action, the two players also involved themselves in the argument and yet managed to continue the rally. It is even more unbelievable when one considers it was a competitive match in the World Championships and not an attempt to gain a place in the 'Guinness Book of Records'.

It was Ehrlich who actually won and although his country, Poland, triumphed it was Rumania who went through to the final having won all previous matches in the competition. In the final of the Swaythling Cup, Rumania lost a boring and unenterprising match against Austria - a tedious affair that took eleven hours to complete. Something had to be done and done quickly.

The eleventh World Championships were held in Baden, Austria, in February 1937 and before they started, Congress met to carefully consider ways and means of overcoming the prolonged pushing duels that were sounding the death knell of the sport. It was decided to give the Jury entitlement to scratch both players in a match, best of five, that exceeded one and three quarter hours. Despite these precautions the Championships met with similar problems and the women's final brought about the first and only disqualification of both players. Only two games had been completed after play had been in progress for one and three quarter hours so in keeping with the



Bohumil Vana



Alex Ehrlich

ruling of Congress both players, Ruth Aarons and Trudi Pritzi, were disqualified and the title declared vacant. Ruth Aarons was so distressed by the decisions that she made a vow never again to compete in an official World Championship. She kept her word and later became an astute business woman managing the heart-throb American pop star, David Cassidy.

For Austrian table tennis it was a bitter blow as in all other respects these championships had been an outstanding success story for them. They became the first country to win both the Corbillion and Swaythling Cups at the same meeting and for good measure retained the men's doubles title. The men's singles was won by a seventeen year old Austrian lad by the name of Richard Bergmann.

Arising from the discussions by Congress to encourage attacking play and to further investigate the controversial subject of finger spin, new Laws were prepared and came into force at the beginning of the 1937/38 season. These Laws met with general approval and were as follows:-

- 1) The height of the net is to be lowered from 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 6".
- 2) Any form of spin in service imparted by any agency but the racket is prohibited.
- 3) A time-limit of twenty minutes is to be imposed

for each game after its commencement.

It was also at the 11th Congress that the office of President was created and the first Chairman of the ITTF (Ivor Montagu) was invited to become the first President, a post which he gladly accepted.

In 1937, the English Table Tennis Association proudly announced that His Majesty King George VI had become Patron of the Association; this dovetailed nicely with the promotional plans for staging the 1938 World Championships at the Royal Albert Hall, London. New stars were now appearing and impressing with their skills but it was to the credit of the Hungarian team that in London, at the 12th Championships, they were able to survive the challenges and win the Swaythling Cup for the ninth time out of a total of twelve championship meetings. The Austrian players were exciting to watch and although they won the men's doubles for the third successive year they were unable to break the singles stranglehold of Richard Bergmann and Bohumil Vana (widely known as Bo), who from 1937 to 1948 took it in turns to win the coveted title.

The Royal Albert Hall turned out to be an excellent venue but owing to a previous booking the finals had to be played in the Wembley Arena - they were again well supported and the table tennis seen was exciting and entertaining. Bo Vana, the mercurial Czech, gave a dazzling display of forehand hitting to relieve Bergmann of his crown, and then to the roar of the crowd, the veteran Hungarian star, Laszlo Bellak, bowed out by winning the world's mixed title in partnership with a young English lady named Wendy Woodhead.

The Thirteenth World Championships were staged in Cairo, Egypt, from the 6th-11th March 1939, and were the first to be held outside Europe. Owing to the distances to be travelled and the imminence of War in Europe, there was a noticeable drop in the number of teams competing. For the first time Hungary failed to enter a team and Trudi Pritzi the women's singles champion appeared for Germany, her country (Austria) having been annexed by the German Army. To compensate for the poor entry, the sport was given a special filip when both the King and Queen of Egypt came to watch the play, the first occasion that a reigning monarch had watched the world table tennis championships. The men's singles was really decided at the semi final stage when Bergmann opposed his eternal rival Bo Vana. It turned out to be another of their five game classics, only this time it was Bergmann who was victorious, happily gaining revenge for the lashing he was given the previous year. The final was rather an anti-climax, with Richard Bergmann in such a dominating mood that he made his experienced opponent, Alex Ehrlich, look very ordinary. It was a sad end to the ambitions of Ehrlich who had unsuccessfully contested three world finals. During the War he suffered the tortures and indignities of a concentration camp but astounded the table tennis world by regaining his health and making a comeback. His resilience was amazing and he even managed to win national open titles, but his chances of ever winning a world singles title had gone. They had been scattered into the sands of Egypt by Richard Bergmann, one of the sport's all-time great players. In addition to his singles victory Bergmann also won the men's doubles title in partnership with Victor Barna. This turned out to be the last of Barna's fifteen individual titles in world championships.

When the Second World War started in the September of 1939, it was agreed by general consent to suspend all activities of the International Table Tennis Federation.

Eastern Region

by John Wood

THE finals of the Eastern Region Ranking Trials were held at St. Neots Table Tennis Centre over the weekend of 7th/8th November 1992. The victorious qualifiers were as follows Cadet Girls Rebecca Sparkes of Suffolk and Marie Masters of Hertfordshire, whilst the Cadet Boys were Leroy Pye of Norfolk, Josh Lury and John O'Leary both of Hertfordshire. The Junior Girls were Katie Green from Suffolk, Sarah Davison of Suffolk and Melanie Chaplin of Norfolk, whilst the Junior Boys were Tim O'Leary of Hertfordshire, Paul Davison of Suffolk, Jeffrey Gayden from Suffolk and Paul Owen also from Suffolk.

Thanks go to all players who took part in keeping the games running, with a special thank you to Len and Alison Saywell and Lill Oliver for keeping the players and officials well fed and watered. Plus a special thank you to Ken Marchant, the Regional Coaching Panel Chairman for supplying the Tippex!

West Midlands Region

by Richard Habgood

SANDRA RODEN'S appointment as the new Development Officer for the region is proving a most popular choice. Since taking up her position at the end of September, Sandra's induction period is now over, and she is now directing most of her efforts on the production of our Development Plan.

This means analysing all of the results from the Sports Council questionnaire; previously sent to all Leagues and to every Club in the region, which to date has yielded some very useful information.

Another new appointee is that of Kerry McDonald who is this region's liaison officer from the West Midlands Sports Council. Kerry has taken over from Neil Cowie and we look forward to continuing our close relationship.

The launch of our Development Plan will be done via a Conference. League Secretaries and Club Secretaries watch this space for details to be announced in the New Year - you are all cordially invited.

Grove School staged the Regional Trials on Sunday 8th November. There were many tired legs including those of the Organiser, Jill Harris!! Perhaps two days next year?

Qualifiers for the National Junior Ranking Trial in Hereford on the 2nd January are as follows:-

JUNIOR BOYS

Adrian Cadman (Salops)
Ian Ferguson (Warks)
John Goodall (Salops)
David Johnson (Warks)
Steven Meddings (Warks)
Jun Tsuji (Salops)

JUNIOR GIRLS

Zoe Evans (Worcs)
Vicky Fox (Staffs)
Tracey Garrett (Salops)
Carrie Hunt (Worcs)
Michelle Martin (Staffs)

CADET BOYS

Adrian Cadman (Salops)
Tim Evans (Worcs)
Alan Hewitt (Warks)
Steven Meddings (Warks)
Martin Twiss (Salops)

CADET GIRLS

Trudie Bloor (Salops)
Elizabeth Haynes (Warks)

Southern Region

by Brian Lamerton

BERKSHIRE'S Ali Subhan with an unbeaten performance, Terry Young, also of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire's Neil Bigrave and Hampshire's Devin Macken won the coveted four places to the national trials when the southern region final trials were held on November 8th, at Southampton.

Subhan and Young are both still Cadets and will be joined by the following cadet qualifiers: Gareth Herbert with another unbeaten run from a Berkshire lad, Jake Yeates (Bucks), Stephen Munson (Bucks), Donna Granville (Hampshire 100%) and Susan Johnson (Bucks).

Early results from the Regional leagues show that Crippenham are in fine form with five wins out of 5 for their three competing teams.

Of the new team Snobs (Southampton) justified being placed straight into Division 1 with a six sets to three defeat of near neighbours K.C.D. Stiga 'B' with David Russell winning three.



Southern Region's Ali Subhan

The opening division two clash of Artel and Chalfont St. Peter (the only match to send me a report!) ended 7-2 in Artel's favour; Cliff Putterford winning three for the victors and Neil Massa 2 for the victims. Five sets in this four hour struggle went to the third game with Artel winning four of them which suggests that fitness won the day. In their next outing Artel lost to another newcomer, Thatcham for whom Darren Jones was unbeaten in a 6 sets to 3 victory.

South West Region

by Alf Pepperd

THE following qualified for the Final of the Regional Junior Trials at Plymouth. Mrs. Pat Archdale acted as Hon-Referee, and the players marked with a * have qualified for the National Trials on 2/3rd January 1993.

CADET BOYS

* Peter Thomas (Dv)
* Graham Worth (Co)
* Marcus Cronin (Dv)
Robert Svensson (Dv)
Aaron Mortimer (Gs)
Ben Pocock (Co)
Rory Harris (Dv)
Daniel Adams (Dv)

CADET GIRLS

* Nicky Brisson (Do)
* Lucy Perry (Dv)
Claire Shobbrook (So)
Joanne Barraclough (Dv)
Georgina Poulton (Do)
Lizzie May (Dv)
Zoe Warren (Dv)

JUNIOR BOYS

* Jonathan May (Dv)
* Robert Millard (So)
* Kevin Worth (Co)
* Alex Shepherd (Av)
John Pocock (Co)
David Menzel (Co)
Andrew Hewitt (So)
Gary Busston (Dv)

JUNIOR GIRLS

* Tracey Olden (Wi)
* Debbie King (Wi)
* Kelly Sampson (Wi)
Julie Ashcroft (So)
Lizzie May (Dv)
Lucy Perry (Dv)
Nicola Bray (Co)
Gillian Blythe (Dv)

Mrs. Valerie Clark of Swindon has mentioned that her home telephone number, as printed in this year's ETTA Address Directory is incorrect - it should be 0793 537464.

Les Bridges, Chairman of the SWR informs me that applicants are coming in, in response to the advertisement in last month's T.T.N. with regards to the appointment of a full time S.W. Regional T.T. Development Officer.

It is anticipated that a suitable appointment will be made very shortly.

The Regional plan is being published and will be made public as soon as possible.

And finally, informative news from Cornwall's Ernie James, a little late in reaching print, but better late than never, Ernie tells me that recently the new Bodmin Indoor Tennis Centre came to Cornwall's immediate rescue as both of Cornwall's multi-venue's were at the time under reconstruction. This was for the purpose of County Championships play, Ernie adds, that it was over heard from one of the visiting officials, who mentioned that this is the type of venue that should be accepted, rather than a dingy club room or likewise Village Hall.

Cornwall, have apparently got Radio Cornwall to include table tennis news in their new Saturday afternoon sports broadcasts - this goes out between 1.30 and 6pm, that's good news.

Perhaps in time, some budding broadcaster may come forward from the ranks of the Cornish Committee, if that happens he/she would not be the first.

Coaching to be banned

FROM September 1st next year, coaching is to be banned altogether during a match. No doubt some players, coaches and team captains will disagree with this move, whilst others will not be too worried about it.

As far as we are concerned however, the main issue is how it will affect umpires. At the present time the umpire has to be on the lookout for any coaching that goes on, which can be a difficult task when he is watching the ball at the same time. We all know that coaching occurs between rallies as well as between games. Coaching can, of course, take various forms, from scratching an ear, to a straightforward, "keep it on his back hand." If this is spoken in some foreign tongue it could be said that it was merely "well played". But it could even take a humorous turn as, when somebody told a player who had just missed the ball to "open your eyes", JR quickly retorted, "no coaching".

We have never been in complete agreement with the umpire having to worry about this sort of thing, but regulation 4.4.6 has to be applied.

What difference will the new regulation make? Probably not a lot. The umpire will still have to keep a lookout, not only during play, but also during intervals between games. His job may, of course, be made a little easier if the number of people allowed close to the court surrounds is restricted, or even banned altogether. This may be a bit difficult in sports halls where the spectators are quite close to the court surrounds. But one can never do anything about a determined adviser who sits himself amongst the spectators and uses sign language to tell his player what he should be doing. This has been known to occur.

As an alternative, if the new regulation is not a success and creates more difficulties, we would suggest the opposite and allow coaching at all times during a



match, which would relieve the umpire of one of the many things he has to look for. The umpire should, however, always be ready to interrupt play and warn the adviser, as now under the present regulation, if he thinks that the coaching is disturbing the play or players. I (FG) remember one occasion in the mens singles final in the European Championships in Prague, when one of the players told his coach to go away, and he did so. The Dutch umpire told me afterwards that he was about to do the same. Perhaps this would happen more often if coaching was openly allowed.

Why don't you let us have your views.

Umpire Selections

Further selections have been made for forthcoming events as follows:-

Senior Premier Weekend 27th & 28th March

Mrs. H. J. Masters; J. Melnick; E. A. Pentland; D. A. Poulteney; G. T. Scruton; S. E. Sherlock; G. Tyler.
Reserves (1) K. A. Armson; R. Avent; D. Calver; T. Carpenter; D. Edwards; A. Harwood; Mrs D. M. Jermyn; J. Jermyn; Miss D. L. Moors; D. A.

Poulteney; M. D. Strobe; G. Tyler; T. J. Vance; R. Wilson; Miss M. Fraser.

A Way to Avoid Argument

It would make life a lot simpler and avoid many arguments if edge balls were not good. Law 3.1.2 would need to be amended to read that the playing surface shall not include the top edges of the table nor the sides below the edges.

One of the conditions concerning edge balls may arise.

1. Whether the ball hit the edge or side of the table.
2. Whether the ball hit the edge at all or not.
3. An obvious edge ball.

In 1. and 2. it is sometimes very difficult to determine whether the ball has hit the edge or side of the table, or missed the table altogether. But whichever way the decision goes, one of the players ends up feeling disgruntled. Under the new proposal these difficult decisions will not have to be made.

In 3., although both players know the ball hit the edge, the loser of the rally feels it was a lucky shot and, if it

happens at 19-20 in the final game, has cost him the match.

We think that the bounce of the ball will be pronounced enough for the umpire to be able to differentiate between the ball hitting the playing surface and the table edge.

What do you think? Please let us know.

READERS RESPONSE

Dear Fred and Jack

Thank you so much for a very enjoyable day on Saturday, 7th November at the Umpire's Recruitment Seminar. My husband (Nick) and I appreciated your wit and wisdom throughout the seminar, and the chance to talk to you.

We have only recently subscribed to TTN so had not ready your page in the May/June issue. Now we have caught up with the MacGregor joke (!) and, more seriously, read about the shortage of umpires.

Well, Nick has completed his test paper and is waiting for me to finish 'ploughing' (or should it be 'plodding') through mine before we send them back to Trevor Openshaw. And then we wait.

Now that we have met you, we shall read "Umpires Corner" with great interest. How did your page get that name? It is a little 'boring'. Perhaps you could have a competition to find a new title. May I suggest "From Where I Sit..." as a starter.

Going back to the Umpire's Recruitment Seminar - perhaps when you have had all the papers marked you could do another 'forum' and give us more pearls of wisdom!

With best wishes to you both, and keep up the good work

Jackie and Nick Flynn
Tunbridge Wells

The Ranking Scheme

ONCE the results from an event are received in the ETTA office, the first task is to find out exactly WHO played in the matches. Certain names are more common than others - there were 50 Smiths in the old database - so each player is now given a unique computer number. At some stage in the future we will all know our computer numbers, quote them on entry forms, and see them printed in the programmes; this would make the task of identification much easier.

The results from several weeks (a "playing period") are all entered, the data is carefully backed up again and the button is pressed for the computer to start its work. After some 20 hours of calculations proceeding at a rate of several thousand per second. So what is the computer doing for all this time? For every match the computer compares the ratings of the players involved and calculates the appropriate points transfers. These depend on the difference in the ratings and on the grade of event in which the matches were played. Let us follow the fortunes of a new player without any rating to see how the system works.

Unrated players begin the process of gaining a rating by winning a match against a player who already has a rating. Of course the computer cannot tell from just one result what rating to allocate; it must wait for several results to be achieved. The minimum information it needs to give an initial rating is two wins and two losses against players rated within 200 points of where it thinks

**An introduction by Geoff Twiss,
member of Ranking panel**

PART TWO **The Basic Processes**

the player ought to be placed. This initial rating is indicated by an "N" flag on the first occasion that a new player appears on the printed lists, and by an "I" flag on subsequent ones. It may well change considerably as more results come in. If it DOES change, then some of the matches originally used for calculating the initial rating may no longer come within the limits and will be ignored. Eventually the computer collects the magic total five wins and losses within the required range, allocates a real rating, and the "I" flag disappears.

The early matches are used ONLY to find an initial rating for the new player, and are not used for adjusting the opponents' ratings. Once the initial rating has been established, the computer recognises the new player as a real person and all subsequent matches within the 200-point range will be used to adjust both players' ratings.

As long as a player keeps playing, and the results keep coming in, the computer will eventually come up with a rating. However, foreign players are likely to play less often and might never get a real rating, so they are given a "dummy rating" before any results are entered. By telling the computer how good the player is, results can be

calculated straight away, but the judging of playing standards is not an exact science. Often it will depend on the style of the opponents, or on the playing conditions, or even on who does the judging. However, any inaccuracy in allocating an initial dummy rating will be corrected by the computer as the match results come in. Separate lists of dummy ratings are produced, which we intend to distribute from time to time with Table Tennis News.

A player's rating should remain fairly static once it has been confirmed, moving only to reflect a change in playing standard. If a set of results in a single playing period would produce a change of over 130 points (calculated at a x1 weighting, to be precise), the computer begins to doubt its judgement of the player and starts the re-rating routine. This is similar to the initial rating process, and the computer starts its search for five significant wins and losses all over again. The player is given an "R" flag on the ranking lists to show that the rating is on the move, possibly by a considerable amount.

Because re-rating is triggered by a big shift in points (which implies a lot of results), it is usually completed within a single

playing period. All matches are then calculated using the revised rating, which may be quite different from the previously published rating. If there are not enough results to complete the re-rating process within a single period, matches are calculated using the best available rating at the time the button is pressed. (No retrospective adjustment is made, even if the final rating turns out to be different from the interim value it used; any other arrangement would have a drastic effect on the system because of the knock-on effect on the opponent's matches, on the opponents' opponents' matches, and so on!).

Stars against players' names indicate inactive periods - they may not have played at all, they may have played in events that were not registered for the ranking scheme, or the results may not have reached the office in time to be included in the list. Each star represents one inactive period; players remain on the list for four inactive periods but disappear at the end of the fifth one. For the fifth and the sixth inactive period they lose 25 points, disappearing from the computer completely at the end of their seventh inactive period. If they should begin to play again afterwards, they will be treated as new players.

Next month I shall look at the more technical aspects of the scheme, like points exchange tables, event weightings and audit trails. A fourth article will address points raised by readers and deal with any issues that may need further explanation.

GO FOR GROWTH WITH

Cornilleau SKILTOP

This fantastic range of new tables are CORNILLEAU's pride and joy. Created to meet your demands, "SKILTOP" will become the precedent for the new generation of competition tables. Choice of new Olympic Blue and for the traditionalists in green - Special tournament organiser and promotional package available.

Further information and 60 page catalogue phone 081 393 9474

Pleased

I was very pleased to see that Paul Tarrant has been compensated for the hard work that he has put in over the years since he passed out at a coaching session which I ran at Barnet with Peter Hirst and David Fairholme, by being made East Region Staff Coach.

He has over the passed years helped me very much in running coaching sessions at Barnet during summer and Christmas holidays. Paul took over from me as Herts County Coach and Coaching Advisor a couple of years ago as I felt the County needed a younger go ahead coach, and he was the one.

Paul now runs the weekly courses at Barnet during the summer and Christmas holidays, also county coaching sessions once a month. His standard of coaching is of the highest quality second to none. He also does coaching at schools in Hemel Hempstead in the evenings. And who helps him but none other than my old mate John Wood.

*Doug Tomsett
Herts TTA Chairman
Ex-County Coach*

False claims

I refer to the direct response allowed from David Hutchinson of Tee Sport in the November issue to the complaint by Nicky Jarvis.

We do not wish to comment on Jarvis Sports complaint but on the further claim contained in David Hutchinson's response that Tee Sport supply equipment "from all leading brands."

However, when it came to tables, although Cornilleau are the leading brand by both value and volume in the UK this year, we can assure you and your readers that none have been offered for sale, or sold by Tee Sport or any other company in the group, as claimed by David Hutchinson.

All Cornilleau tables are distributed through INDEPENDENT retailers who can offer honest advice and choice of table both on value and quality, at prices both players and clubs can afford.

*David W. Taber
Managing Director
Cornilleau (UK) Ltd.*

Praise

Having recently attended the East Yorkshire Junior Select at Bridlington nothing but praise is due to Richard Scruton and his team in promoting such a fine tournament. From the programme to the closing ceremonies every minor detail was catered for and the Spa Hall has established itself as such a fine venue for players and spectators alike.

The prize fund was a staggering £1,645 which was split into two categories £1,245 (cash) for the main events (U17, U14 singles and doubles), and £400 in Donic vouchers for Class 2 Cadet Boys/Girls and U12 Girls. Boys singles, together with permanent trophies in the latter event.

Due to overnight food poisoning I had to travel home on the Sunday and missed all the days play, but I was astonished to find that so many leading junior boys were missing

from the 'field'. Although there was a clash with British League this tournament was a 'select' with a vast amount of prize money and the organisers should expect the leading players to attend. Those players that did not attend missed out on the chance of winning substantial prize money and perhaps more importantly gaining excellent match practice at the start of the season.

Congratulations to all of the team in Yorkshire on their efforts.

*Martin Bowden
Witham, Essex*

Ranking Panel should resign

It really is quite unacceptable that Geoff Twiss should take up space in the part reserved for the County Notes which has been out so much recently. Most correspondents are now cut to space not much larger than a few postage stamps.

The point he makes is highly subjective and I would generally not bother to comment. However, inaccuracy, inexactitude and prejudice are piled upon each other to such an extent that it is difficult to ignore all that completely. There may be members out there who really believe this nonsense.

How can he suggest, for instance, that ANY English player should beat the South Korean No.3 and the American No.1 (who also plays in the Swedish League), 19 times out of 20? That statement alone is so inept that it makes one despair that such a person should sit on the English ranking panel and indeed be regarded as its main expert.

Similarly how can he suggest that the quality of the results of the chap who plays in the harder No.1 spot is worse than those of the one who plays at No.2 and whose matches the captain can to some extent pick and choose under current European playing systems in team events?

How can he suggest, after assembling debating points of such assinity, that 33-22 is better than 47-23 or indeed 1-3 better than 10-7?

I have now ceased to search for either logic or fairness in our ranking system. I noted, on seeing again the current English team (which played against Belgium), how the ranking system had ceased to be a topic of conversation and indeed interest, whilst as recently as a couple of years ago most seemed to care very passionately. Even sadder I find the fact that so many junior tournaments now report lower entries which I attribute to the new ranking system which, on the basis of the lists I saw last season, positively encouraged NOT playing and picking your opponents (being unavailable if these were awkward). G. Twiss' response seems to be further papers explaining the inexplicable rather than the really big service which would be for him to resign. In this noble act I hope he will be joined by the rest of the present ranking decision-makers. People with more open minds and greater contact with reality will then be able to convert the basically promising system to the interests of the sport at large. I fear that nothing of the sort will happen and that

diversions will be created by personal animosities towards members of my family and myself. That will not bother me very much, but it will be sad if our best and keenest youngsters decided that our tournaments (with their inbuilt ranking unfairness) are not for them or if they take up another sport because ours has treated them so badly, whilst Twiss and Co. continue to sit in their ivory tower.

*John Preen
Chairman ETTA 1987-1991*

Distasteful

Having obtained a copy of the first issue of "Free Table Tennis" I was hoping to read a publication containing news and points of interest concerning our sport. Instead, this was in short supply as the contents contained a few of these things and I quickly came to the conclusion that the magazine has been produced for one purpose, and one purpose only which is to discredit the present administration, especially the Chairman. I find this very sad and distasteful, not least because no editor is named, but more so because the contributors are reluctant to be identified. You do not have to be a genius to know the source, but these faceless people - people of straw - would gain more respect for their views if they had the courage of their convictions and named themselves. Some of those involved in the publication actually accepted prominent positions on committees in the present administration yet, at the same time, are pursuing ways of discrediting and even overthrowing the chairman they are working for. I find this extraordinary and as they look at themselves in the mirror each day, surely they must ask if people with honour and integrity do such things. Quite clearly space will not permit a detailed analysis of all the points raised, suffice to say that I hope our members will treat the magazine with the utter contempt it deserves. Of course, in a free and democratic society they are perfectly entitled to their views and to publish such material, but I fear immeasurable harm being done should it be read by the wrong people, as it gives the impression that there is continual turmoil within the ETTA which is not the case.

I fail to understand this vindictive vendetta against the chairman and it is worth remembering that the previous chairman retired of his own free will. No one asked him to go, indeed, because of his outstanding and highly successful period of office from which the ETTA have much to be thankful for, many asked him to stay, and he would probably have been chairman to this day if that had been his wish. Under these circumstances Alan Ransome offered himself for election and, although a close result, in our first pass the post system he was a clear winner. He was subsequently re-elected

unopposed for a second term, a measure of the confidence the members placed in him. In addition his management team recommendations had the overwhelming support of the National Council, with very few votes cast against any of the candidates.

Keith Ponting, Life Member, ETTA

Misleading

I sent a letter to you in September expecting it to be included in the October issue of Table Tennis News. Bearing in mind that I wanted any CONFUSION clarified as soon as possible, I was annoyed at the delay.

Having read the Tees Sport response in your November issue, I would like to explain that Alan is not only the owner of Tees Sport Ltd. but more importantly he is also the owner of Alan Ransome Sporting Goods who are the U.K. distributors for Butterfly, one of Donic's main competitors.

Having spoken to a number of table tennis specialist shops and some U.K. distributors of table tennis brands including Stiga, they have all agreed Tees Sport's claim that they are main distributor for Donic is confusing and some have said misleading. Saying you are a distributor of a brand normally means you have the exclusive marketing and distribution rights for a defined territory such as the U.K. None of the Companies I have spoken to can ever remember anybody claiming they are main distributors for a brand when they are only stockists of that brand.

To add to my concern, I noticed on Page 17 of November Table Tennis News, the current World Mens Singles Champion, Jorgen Persson, who is a Donic sponsored player and has been for many years, is pictured playing in Butterfly clothing.

Nick Jarvis, - Director, Jarvis Sports

Publisher?

I have read with interest Ron Crayden's well-written articles titled "The Formative Years", and agree with Ken Muhr that the importance of such detailed records and experiences should not be lightly dismissed. Gerald Gurney, whose articles preceded those of Ron, has had his "Early Years" produced in paper back form. Why not an available publication from the period dating back to 1926, including pen pictures of the great champions?

We have just celebrated our 100th birthday so I should like to see a volume covering the first hundred years - a comprehensive history of table tennis from its beginning to the present day. I spoke to Ron Crayden about this and he said that he had already written such a book but had been unable to find a publisher. Other sports seem able to produce books in great numbers. Why can't we? Publishers seem to think that the table tennis fraternity are reluctant to purchase anything but instructional books. What do our readers think?

Terry Vance, Surbiton, Surrey

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



T.V. INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE ENGLAND v FRANCE

Friday 8th January at 7.00 pm



Players to include:

Jean -Philippe Gatien (World No. 2), Wang Xiaoming (European No. 5)
Lisa Lomas (European Silver Medallist), Chen Xinhua (English Champion),
Carl Preat (European No. 9)

BLETCHLEY LEISURE CENTRE

Tickets: Adults £5.00 - Child/OAP £3.00 from ETTA 0424 722525

Event will be shown on BBC Grandstand on Saturday 9th January

JOOLA EUROPEAN MENS LEAGUE

ENGLAND

v

NETHERLANDS

(2nd Stage, 2nd Leg)

Tuesday 12th January - 7.00 pm

POLKYTH RECREATION

CENTRE

St. Austell, Cornwall

Tickets: £3.00, £2.00, £1.50

From: 0726 61586

WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE ENGLAND v NETHERLANDS

Tuesday 26th January 1993 at 7.00 pm

SOUTH KESTIVEN TABLE TENNIS CENTRE

Trent Road, Grantham

Tickets from: 0476 592553

English Junior National Trials

Hereford Leisure Centre
2nd/3rd January

From 9.00 am Saturday
10.00 am Sunday
Details:

Clive Oakman 0424 722525

English Junior Top 12

Haltemprice Leisure Centre
Analby, Hull

23/24th January
From 10.00 am Saturday
9.30 am Sunday

Final matches from 3.00pm each day
Details: Steve Hopkins 0482 212828

Veterans British League First Weekend

Meadowside Leisure Centre
Burton on Trent

16/17th January
From 10.00 am Saturday
9.30 am Sunday
Details:

Mike Lewis 0272 730788

NOTE: WILTSHIRE 3* 6/7TH FEBRUARY 1993
PONTEFRAC 1* 30TH JANUARY 1993 ARE CANCELLED

Watch for Entry Forms for:
Halex National Under 11 - 13th February
English Senior National Championships - 6/7th March
Details: Clive Oakman 0424 722525