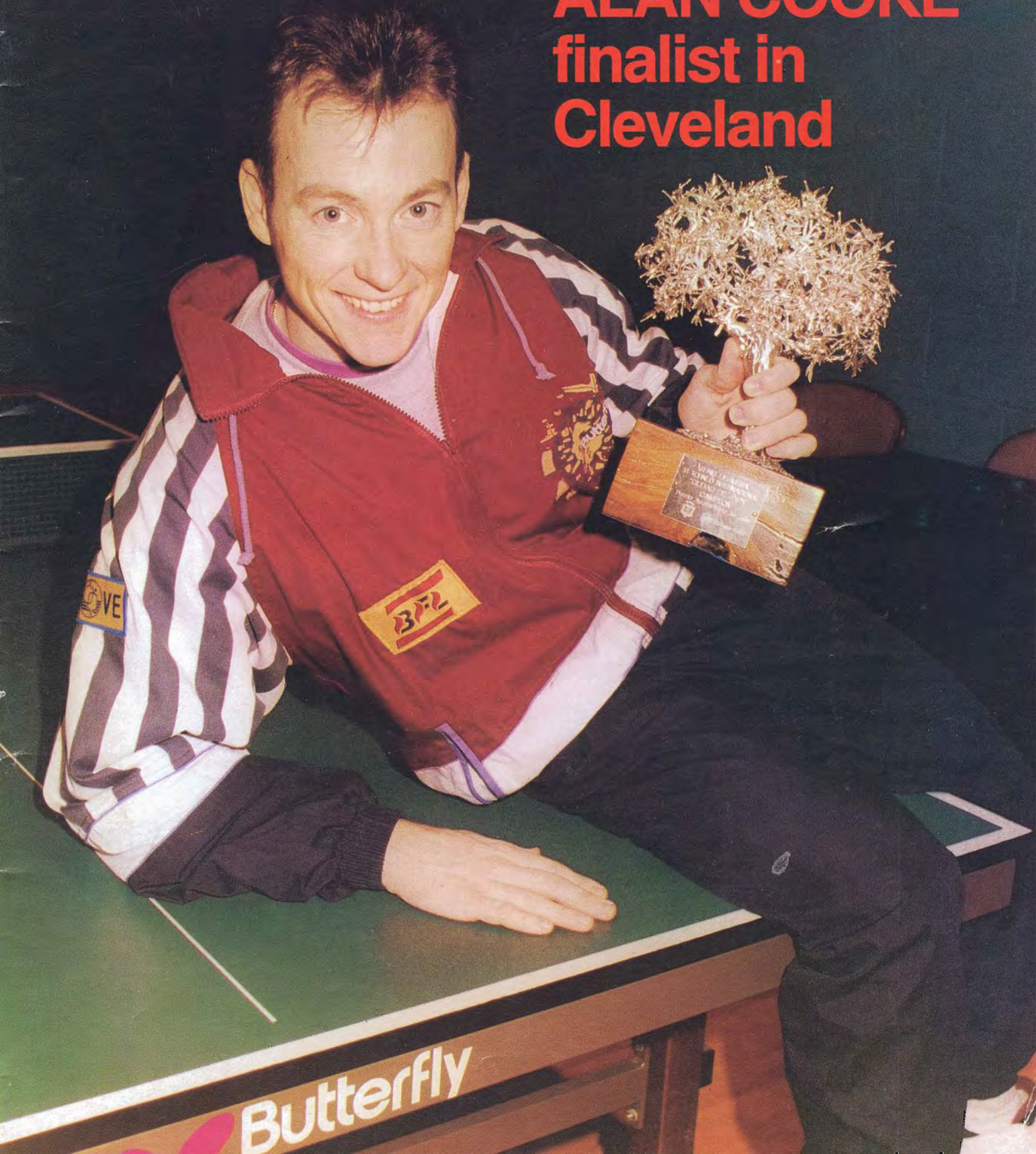




# Table Tennis News

No. 220 £1.50  
February 1994

**ALAN COOKE**  
finalist in  
Cleveland





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February 1994

The official magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

**Subscriptions & Distribution**  
ETTA, 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  
Mobile: 0850 293518

**Advertisement Offices:**  
Jim Beckley, Sports PR, P O Box 8,  
Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle,  
Cheshire, SK8 7RG  
Tel: 061-439 6001 Fax: 061-439 0223

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

**Subscription rates** - £12.00  
£17.15 Sea Mail/Ireland  
Air Mail Zone 1 £22.20.  
Zone 2 £23.85

**Photographers:**  
Northern Photographic Service,  
and John Wood

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

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Andrew Eden

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS 1993/94

*Publishing dates:*

SEPTEMBER  
1st September 1993  
(Copy date 15th July)  
OCTOBER  
1st October 1993  
(Copy date 1st September)  
NOVEMBER  
1st November 1993  
(Copy date 1st October)  
DECEMBER/JANUARY  
1st December 1993  
(Copy date 1st November)  
FEBRUARY  
1st February 1994  
(Copy date 1st January)  
MARCH  
18th March 1994  
(Copy date 1st February)  
MAY  
3rd May 1994  
(Copy date 1st April)  
JUNE  
1st June 1994  
(Copy date 30th April)

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





The Yorkshire and Humberside Federation of Disability Sports Organisations and the Sports Aid Foundation (Yorkshire and Humberside) ran a Table Tennis Marathon. Pictured are some of the players who took part (left to right), Les D'Arcy - World Over 70s Veteran's champion, David Young - Paralympic Medallist at Seoul and Barcelona, Lord Mayor (Councillor Keith Loudon) and Lady Mayoress of Leeds, Ray Burch - Regional Development Officer, Cyril Villiers - Sports Council Regional Director and David Hope - Paralympic Medallist at Seoul and Barcelona. The promotion raised over £2000 for the above charities

## Disciplinary

A hearing was held on 11th December 1993 to consider a formal allegation of breach of ETTA Rule 32.1 made against Mr. Phil Newton of the Sheffield League. It was alleged that during the Season 1991/92 and part of the 1992/93 season, Mr. Newton played with or against players not affiliated to the ETTA or other National Association affiliated to the ITTF nor under any auspices not in good standing with the ETTA without any permission of the

appropriate County Association General Secretary or of the National Council, contrary to Rule 32.1

The Disciplinary Committee found the allegation proven and decided that Mr. Newton be suspended from the privileges of membership of the ETTA from 1st January 1994 until 31st December 1994, both dates inclusive. This means that during this period Mr. Newton will not be able to take part in any table tennis activities held under the auspices of the ETTA or of any member Association, League or Club.

**NOTE:** Attention is also drawn particularly to ETTA Rule 32.2 which

provides that no member or affiliated organisation shall play table tennis with or against or take part in any table tennis function in conjunction with any suspended organisation or member.

## Lisa and Andrea beat Hooman

LISA LOMAS beat Mirjam Hooman, the current English Open Champion, 11 and 16. Then Andrea Holt was also successful against Hooman beating her -22, 11, 16 in the Women's Team Cup, Munster Germany.

The two English women then also won the doubles, overpowering the Dutch duo of Hooman and current European Womens Singles champion Bettine Vriesekoop, -23, 11, 19. England won the match 3-2 but failed to make the finals when they lost 0-3 to Rumania.

## For Sale

AN umpire's blazer is for sale, which is in very good condition. It's on sale because it was supplied to Christopher Dale to tight across the shoulders.

The measurements are length 32" sleeve length 33½", centre back to armhole 9½", chest 42", waist 36".

It cost new £82.50, but Christopher will accept offers, please write to 28 Oakwood Road, Wetherby, Leeds LS22 7QY.

## Cancelled

ESSEX 3 Star, scheduled for 9/10th April 1994, has been cancelled due to the lack of a sponsor.

And sadly so has the Yorkshire 2 Star championships been cancelled, due to be played on the 19th February 1994.

## OBITUARY

**ELSIE F. BETTS**  
(1898-1993)  
ETTA Vice President

ON Christmas Day the table tennis world lost a lady who devoted much of her life to the sport she loved. Elsie Betts, born in Folkestone in 1898 gave encouragement, enthusiasm and pleasure to countless young boys and girls. Many of these youngsters owe their interest in the sport to her tireless devotion.

Elsie Betts and her husband, Mick formed the Beverley Table Tennis Club in Rendevous Street just after the second World War, such as its success that they were very soon looking for larger premises. The Club relocated at Cheriton Road and then moved on to the Constitutional Club, Victoria Grove, where the Beverley Club remained for some years. Unfortunately, Elsie's husband died in 1967, and in 1968 Elsie decided to move to the Folkestone Sport Centre, where she continued her coaching until 1982. At the age of 84 she decided her coaching career had to finish!

Elsie Betts, spent 36 years coaching nine to 13 year old children, far too many names to recall but her most famous being Tony Piddock whom she started to coach at the age of 12. Tony not only won the Folkestone Junior and Senior titles, but also the Kent Junior and Senior titles and went on to become ranked number eight in England.

Not only did Elsie devote her time to coaching and fund-raising, she also became involved in the organisation and promotion of the sport. Holding the post of secretary to the Folkestone Table Tennis Association from 1947 until 1982. A keen member of the Kent Executive Committee, a Life-President of the Kent Table Tennis Association and Vice President of the English Table Tennis Association.

In 1977 in recognition of her outstanding service and hard work Elsie was one of only fifteen people in England awarded the coveted Torch Trophy for voluntary work in sport. During the same year her ultimate accolade was to receive the MBE.

## T.T. VIDEOS SYD FRYER

8 Cleveland Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA15 8AY - 061-980 8110  
GOTHENBURG 93 - TAPE NO.1 - Coaching Tape: Featuring all leading players (except Swedes), commentary and analysis by Donald Parker. TAPE NO.2 - Swedish Mens Team Matches v France, N. Korea (Group & Semi), Germany, Belgium and China (Final). Last game from each set played a presentation ceremony. Camera: Syd Fryer, commentary and analysis Donald Parker. Priced £15.00 each inc. p&p, full three hour tapes.

## EASTERN REGION

### "Going for Growth"

**FOCUS SPORT DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (Braintree)**  
Sunday 20th February 1994

All Welcome



Tom Blunn Fund

SUPPORTED BY



Eastern Region

Registration enquiries, please contact:  
Doreen Nightingale, ETTA Office  
Tel: 0424 722525

# Just seven weeks to Euro

WITH less than seven weeks to the start of the European Championships in Birmingham, the extensive planning over the last two years is beginning to fall into place. We have received entries from 47 men and 43 women's teams, which is the largest entry ever received for a European Championship.

By the time you read this article, the two briefing days for volunteers will have taken place. The umpires met on 8th January with the object of standardizing the interpretation of the laws of table tennis, and on 29th January the volunteers met at the N.I.A. for their briefing, including a full tour of the facilities.

Ticket sales are progressing well. Already we have sold more tickets for this event than for any championship played in this country since 1977. The reaction to the Championships from our members throughout the country has proved very positive and the momentum is building up. We expect that many leagues and clubs will organise parties to the Championships taking advantage of the special packages which have been provided by the Organising Committee. The Qualification Tournament for the remaining two men's and one women's places in the singles draw takes place at Brentwood on 12 February. The England team itself is likely to be announced immediately after the return of the teams from the Commonwealth Championships.

Leagues and Clubs interested in expanding the number of people playing table tennis in their own area should take advantage of the publicity generated by the championships and organise local events to encourage people to play. The events should run through the summer to keep the interest alive through to the new season.

In actual fact, the first quarter of 1994 is probably the busiest in the history of the sport, with major competitions taking place one after another. I know from talking to our leading journalists, Richard Eaton and John Woodford, that they are very pleased that so many significant events are happening in the second half of the season providing them with the opportunity for a succession of table tennis stories. For the first time, for some time, we are enjoying a series of features in the national press, which started with the England vs Japan tour.



Alan Ransome

The Japanese tour itself proved to be very successful. Japan brought a party consisting of four of their leading men and four of their top women, plus officials and coaches. In the men's matches, England won 4-0. However, all the matches were first class contests, played in front of good crowds who appreciated the quality of table tennis and sportsmanship. Carl Prean was the star of the men's tour winning all eight of his singles. The matches were played in Andover, Test Valley Borough Council; St. Austell, The Borough of Restormel; Grantham, South Kesteven District Council and Bletchley, Milton Keynes Borough Council, supported in each case by the Local Authority.

### Successful

Japan's women's participation, which was arranged at the request of the Japanese at short notice, was also very successful. The England and Japan national teams benefited from a three day training camp in Cleveland at the start of the tour. After participating in the Cleveland Open two matches were played at Hull and at Warwick. With very good performances from Andrea Holt and Sally Marling, the England women beat Japan at Hull, the match supported by Humberside County Council, by 6-4 and a day later in Warwick the Japanese reversed the score despite a first class performance by Lisa Lomas. Leamington Borough Council and Nissan sponsored the event in Warwick.

The best performance from the Japanese was in the Cleveland Open in which they collected five of the seven main titles with Yuji Matsushita winning

the men's singles and the former World Champion, Chire Koyama comfortably collecting the women's singles.

In January the England men's team will participate in the European Team Cup in Germany. The England women will also participate in the first European Women's Team Cup, the results of both will be published in the next issue of Table Tennis News.

At the end of January the Commonwealth Championships are being held in Hyderabad in India with the England team selected as: Matthew Syed, Alan Cooke, Chris Oldfield and Andrew Eden, Lisa Lomas, Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt. We are hopeful of returning with an array of medals.

On 16 February the England men will play the second leg of the European League semi final against Belgium at Mansfield. In the first leg played in Belgium before Christmas, we were defeated 4-2, although Carl Prean had an excellent chance of beating Philippe Saive and, if that win had transpired, our chances of reaching the final would have been excellent. As it is, our men have a very tough task in Mansfield but nevertheless one that still remains possible.

Our women's team have finished top of their section in the European Women's Super Division and will play Germany in a two leg final in February 17th in Crewe. The final outcome of the division depends on the matches between the Netherlands and Hungary, and Sweden vs France.

Coming back to the Commonwealth, at the last meeting of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Association in Gothenburg, it was decided to press for the inclusion of table tennis in the full Commonwealth Games. The sports included in the 1994 Games in Victoria, Canada, were already decided and they have also been finalised for the 1998 Games in Kuala Lumpur. Therefore, the first opportunity for table tennis to be included is the 2002 Games. Three English cities, London, Manchester and Sheffield, are all bidding to become the English nominee. The feeling within Commonwealth circles is that whichever English city is successful will be awarded the Games. The main contender other than England was Australia, but they have withdrawn their application after being awarded the 2000 Olympics. I have had both corre-

spondence and discussions with the officers of all three bidding cities and have been assured that if they are successful, table tennis will be one of the sports that they will include in their programme. So the chances of table tennis making its debut in the Commonwealth Games in 2002 in England look very favourable.

We have now received written confirmation from the Swaythling Club that our application stage the 1998 World Veterans Championship has been accepted. The 1994 Championships are to be played in Melbourne, Australia and the 1996 event in Norway. We are delighted that we will now have the opportunity to host the World Vets and that the veterans game in England, largely due to the Vets is going from strength to strength.

Another area of work within the

Association which has been receiving a lot of attention over the last two months is the provision of specialist facilities for table tennis. The Association has appointed Paul Baker, a qualified architect from Camberley in Surrey, as the Facilities Officer. Paul is a former British League player and will be involved in the development of his own club's facilities. The Facilities Panel has been meeting regularly to consider applications for ETTA recommendations to the Foundation for Sports and the Arts for the £500,000 that the Foundation have allocated for regional table tennis centres. Negotiations are in progress with at least five excellent schemes and I anticipate that a number of new centres will open around the country within the next year to 18 months as a result of this initiative.

What is more important for the future

is that the National Lottery will have funds available for facility programmes from early 1995 and schemes should be prepared for submission to the Sports Council in the second half of 1994. Paul Baker and the Facilities Panel will be working with the Regional Development Officers and local applicants to assist them to prepare their projects and ensure that the facilities will be right for playing the sport and viable from a running costs viewpoint for the long term.

We are really in a very exciting era in English table tennis. The main objective at this point in time is to make a big success of the European Championship and I encourage all of our members to make the trip to Birmingham sometime between 25 March and 4 April to both support the sport and have a marvellous time watching the world's best in action.

## COACHING & DEVELOPMENT

### Coaching Award

CONGRATULATIONS to Martin Ireland R.D.O. of the N.W. Region for organising the first Table Tennis Coaching Award

This took place on December 11th at Hyde under the direction of Regional Staff Coach, Jim Clegg assisted by Campbell Eaton, the N.W. Region's Coaching Chairman. The 25 participants enjoyed a full day of table tennis and Jim's comments suggest that this course will be highly successful for all those wishing to be introduced to table tennis coaching. Well done **writes Gail McCulloch**

### National Trials

A new champ from the Isle of Wight, Lorna Dutch! Gareth Herbert who was defeated by Christian Thompson at Leicester in Junior Boys, gained revenge to take the Cadet Boys title, in December in the Junior National Trials.

Despite the success of the Junior National Trials, organised by the Coaching Department, I was extremely disappointed by the poor manners shown by 23 of the players. In particular, I refer to the inability of the following players to reply to their invitation to play in the National Trials: David Purdy, Gary Thornton-Allen, Wayne Robinson, Neil Catley, Cathrine Sibald, Lyndsey Thornton, Joanne Pruham, Andrew Keir, Mark Davies, Andrew Dinning, Susan Johnson and B. McKinley.

Then there were the following players who accepted their invitation but failed to turn up: Debbie Pestka, Catherine Corkhill, Clare Brown, Debbie King, Gary Pestka, Ali Subhan and Chris Tuckwell. In addition, Michael James, Lyndsey

Heyward, Michelle Martin and Sally Marling failed to reply to their invitations to play in the Junior Masters.

There is, of course, the prerogative of every individual to choose whether or not to play. Their choice I would not question. However, I cannot believe that the above players are not capable of making a phone call to decline their invitations. I am sure that some of the players had genuine reasons for not playing and are probably unaware of the problems that their thoughtlessness causes. Their lack of consideration for others is a nightmare for organisers, and more importantly, in an invitation event, actually prevents other youngsters from competing.

It gives me great cause for concern when the ETTA invests large amounts of money in some of these young players by providing training camps, foreign tournaments etc, and yet they do not have the common courtesy to reply to letters. This behaviour is unacceptable. I ask that all coaches and parents ensure that their players realise the responsibility that they have by replying to letters and fulfilling their commitments.

European Coaching Course - Have you booked your place yet? Details from Jill Parker.

### JUNIOR NATIONAL TRIALS RESULTS

#### Junior Boys Final:

I Eaton (Ch) beat J. Tsuji (Sp) -15, 15, 18.

#### Junior Girls Final:

J. Coleman (E) beat G. Ashison (Sy) 17, 19

#### Cadet Boys Final:

G. Herbert (Bk) beat D. Ashall (Y) 15, -18, 16

#### Cadet Girls Final:

L. Dutch (IOW) beat T. Davies (E) -18, 18, 17

### National Lottery

NATIONAL LOTTERY case studies showing benefits to sport. **Writes Dicoon Gray (National Development Manager).**

The new National Lottery is expected to commence late Autumn this year, with funds being available to grant aid sport likely to be released early 1995.

At this stage, the government is advocating that money available to sport will be primarily used on capital projects, i.e. buildings and large development schemes.

The Sports Council anticipate unprecedented large sums of cash being available for sport; below are case studies from other countries illustrating how sport has benefited.

#### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND General

\* Lottery established 1987. 1992 Turnover £221 million. Population 3.6 million. Per Capital Annual Sales £61.

\* Beneficiaries include Arts, Heritage, Youth, Health and Welfare, Irish Language and Sport.

\* No tax is levied on stake or winnings.

#### SPECIFIC BENEFITS TO SPORT Sport Budget

\* Increased from £2 million in 1986 to £12 million in 1992. In five years preceding Lottery, sport income approximately £14 million in total. Six years since Lottery £53 million. 1992 expenditure £10 million. 1993 planning budget £9.7 million.

\* Despite the substantial increases in funding, sport has not received the proportion of Lottery surplus originally anticipated. In recent years Health & Welfare have taken significant (i.e. 50%) proportions of the Lottery surplus in what is an annual round of negotiation.

#### Development Projects

\* Five year programme for facilities at National, Regional and Local level being implemented at cost of £25 million.

\* Example include: National centres for athletics, badminton, basketball, Regional training centres for several sports and 30 local sports centres.

\* Development of professional National Governing Bodies of sport.

\* House of sport, Dublin (table tennis included).

\* Outstanding sports persons scheme.

\* National Coaching and Training Centre, Limerick.

#### NORWAY, FINLAND, DENMARK

\* Each country 4.5 million population.

\* Lottery operation originally based on Football Pools. Other products added in the past 10 years.

\* Sport has received significant Football Pools and Lottery income at National level for over ten years.

\* 1991 Lottery income for sport:

Norway	£43.2 million
Finland	£58.6 million
Denmark	£37.0 million

\* No Exchequer funding for National sports budget apart from small items, e.g. Anti-doping, Overseas Aid.

\* Lottery Income represents 10-15% of total sports expenditure when other funding taken into account.

\* Acts as a catalyst for major initiatives, e.g. Lillehammer Winter Olympic Games 1994,

'Olympplatoppen' and 'Team Denmark' elite athlete programmes.

\* Provides the base income for sport at National level.

\* Promotes the development of scheme at local level particularly in partnership with the voluntary sector.

Information reproduced from a briefing note prepared by the Sports Council May 1993

# Schools committed to Euro 94

SO far twenty local schools have committed themselves to Euro 94 by reserving seats during the championship period. And more are expected to take up the special offers  
**writes Jim Beckley**

There's little doubt that introducing school children to our sport is a major plus. Hopefully they will take back with them memories of a great occasion and some will go on to take up the sport as a result. Our local development officers will be working hard to make sure they do.

And there's a real plus for one lucky school. Each school visiting Euro 94 will have the opportunity to enter a free draw for the chance of winning one of the Butterfly competition tables being used during the event. The presentation to the winning school will be made on finals day.

But while the schools are proving very interested, the response from local leagues is disappointing. For as little as £49 per person there is a superb weekend package available including being picked up at your home town, travel by luxury coach, watch three sessions of top class table tennis then staying at a two or three star hotel. Further details from the Euro 94 office.

## Giant screen

GIANT screen closed circuit television will be one of the exciting additions to expect at the championships. A special screen measuring seven metres by seven metres will be suspended from the roof to display live pictures from the days most important matches.



The ex-world champion Jan -Ove Waldner (left) and new one Jean Philippe Gatién will meet again at Birmingham

## Press officers

A dozen local press officers turned up at the National Indoor Arena to find out more about the European championships. What they got was a clear understanding of how they can help boost interest in the event by way of their local newspaper, radio and through Birmingham City Council.

Chaired by Championship Director Clive Oakman they were taken on a trip around the NIA to see for themselves the set-up for the event including a visit to the Press Centre which will be home for hundreds of journalists for the duration of the championships.

Elaine Shaw, chief executive of the ETTA, Mike Glover, marketing projects manager of Birmingham Marketing Partnership, Brian Stocks of the NIA and Jim Beckley, Vice Chairman PR provided the expertise.

## Did you know?

1. That the previous European Championships in this country

took place at Wembley in 1966.

2. That players and officials are expected to drink over 40,000 cups of coffee/tea during the event and eat a total of 19,700 meals.

3. In excess of 2,500 matches will be played.

4. Over 80m viewers will watch the championships worldwide and 30,000 spectators will watch it live at the NIA.

5. That 20,000 bed nights have been booked at hotels throughout the city and a further 700 beds are available at the University of Birmingham.

6. That Hungary have won more medals at the championships than any other country. England are sixth in the table with seven gold, 14 silver and 19 bronze.

7. The biggest ever exhibition of trade stands will play a major role in the success of the event.

8. Volunteers working at the championships will be clearly distinguished by wearing navy trousers/skirts and yellow shirts.

9. That the National Indoor Arena is the largest indoor arena in the country with floor space of 100m x 60m

10. That 120 tungsten halogen computer controlled floodlights will provide the correct lighting

over each table.

## Showcase

THE showcase of British table tennis gets under way in just over a months time and what a show it promises to be. The figures that will make it the biggest table tennis event of the year are staggering. Forty seven mens teams and forty two womens teams will take part. 427 individual players will compete in the individual events and during the championships over 2500 matches will be played making it the biggest Europeans ever.

These are the sort of figures and headaches that face the officials especially Stuart Sherlock, the referee.

But these championships are also about players - the world's best players. For Europe continues to dominate the world and that means we can expect players like Jan-Ove Waldner the Olympic champion from Sweden. Jean Philippe Gatién, the world champion, the holder from Germany Jorg Rosskopf along with our own Chen Xinhua and Carl Prean will all make it an event never to be forgotten. Make sure you don't miss it.

**EURO 94**  
**COUNTDOWN**

53

**DAYS TO GO**

# Japanese excel at Cleveland



JAPANESE players dominated the Cleveland Five Star Open Table Tennis Championships by winning five of the seven titles at Thornaby Pavilion on the 2nd and 3rd of January **writes David Hutchinson**

The men's singles in the Cleveland County supported event was won by the Japanese number two Yuji Matsushita, who beat three of England's top players, Desmond Douglas in the quarter finals, Chen Xinhua in the semis and Alan Cooke in the final.

Matsushita, who plays the traditional penholder style, seemed to improve as the tournament progressed, the only game he lost was to Skyllet Andrew of Essex in the second round who he beat 21-14 in the decider.

Cooke reached the final after four three game matches, beating Richard Hyacinth of Middlesex and Andrew Eden of Lancashire 21-11 in the third, Sean Gibson of Lancashire 21-13 in the decider in the quarter finals then the Russian Evgveni Brainin 21-18 in the third in the semi. Gibson did well to beat Japan's Yoji Morimoto and Brainin to beat the Japanese number one Koji Matsushita.

The women's singles was dominated by the former world champion Chire Koyama of Japan who was in sparkling form.

She won her world title in 1987 while playing for China. She emigrated to Japan and is now

their best player. Koyama beat two English players, Katie Goodall and Sally Marling both of Yorkshire to reach the semi finals where she beat her Japanese team mate Mitsue Endo. In the final she beat China's Tong Feiming. All her victories were in straight games and won in a very convincing manner.

Of the English games Alison Gordon did well to take Tong Feiming to 21-18 in the third and Andrea Holt played well against Elena Timina both in the quarter finals.

## Team Event

Japan's domination began on Sunday the first day of the championships when they won both the men's and women's sections of the Butterfly International Team Event.

The Japanese first team in the men's event, consisting of the Matsushita brothers, defeated the English club champions BFL Grove team consisting of Douglas, Cooke, and Brainin 3-2 in the final.

The Japanese women's first team, which included Koyama and 16 year old Yuki Fujita, won a marathon battle with the Grove women's team consisting of Timina and Feiming by three sets to two. Fujita won a classic expedite to clinch victory for the Japanese.

Japan's fifth title came in the mixed doubles when the two singles champions, Matsushita and Koyama, combined to beat the English pair of Chen and

Nicola Deaton in the final.

The two titles that eluded the determined Japanese were the men's doubles where Douglas and Cooke were successful and women's doubles that were won by Feiming and Timina.

The prizes were presented by County Councillor Ted Wood the Chairman of Cleveland County Council.

*Pictured above is County Councillor Ted Wood, the Chairman of Cleveland County Council, welcoming the Japanese team to Thornaby Pavilion. Whilst pictured below is the two triumphant singles winners Yuji Matsushita and Koyama Chire*



**RESULTS**

**MEN'S SINGLES - SF**

Y. Matsushita (Japan) bt C. Xinhua (England) 21-16, 21-7  
 A. Cooke (England) bt E. Brainin (Russia) 21-7, 21-23, 21-18  
**F** - Matsushita bt Cooke 21-17, 21-16

**WOMEN'S SINGLES**

C. Koyama (Japan) bt T. Feiming (China) 21-14, 21-13

**VETERAN SINGLES**

J. Hilton (Lancashire) bt I. Robertson (Northumberland) 21-8, 21-19

**MIXED DOUBLES**

Y. Matsushita/C. Koyama (Japan) bt C. Xinhua/N. Deaton 21-19, 21-10

**MEN'S DOUBLES**

D. Douglas/A. Cooke (England) bt Y. Matsushita/K. Nakomara (Japan) 21-18, 21-10

**WOMEN'S DOUBLES**

F. Timina/T. Feiming (Russia/China) bt Y. Fujita/M. Endo (Japan) 22-20, 21-18

**CLASS TWO SINGLES**

Men: P. Hutchins (Lancashire) bt S. Horsefield (Yorkshire) 22-20, 21-10

Women: H. Lower (Staffordshire) bt C. Marshall (Shropshire) 21-17, 21-14

**BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL TEAM EVENT**

Men: Japan (Matsushita and Matsushita) bt BFL Grove (Douglas/Cooke/Brainin) 3-2

Women: Japan (Koyama and Fujita) bt BFL Grove (Timina and Tong Feiming) 3-2

*Pictured above right is the Womens Doubles winners Elena Timina (left) and Tong Feiming. Whilst below is Mens Singles finalist Alan Cooke*

**Cleveland County Council  
 Supporting  
 SPORT and LEISURE**



**Cleveland Junior Select**

SALLY Marling, the England No.2 junior from Hull, captured the junior girls singles title in the Cleveland Junior Select Open Table Tennis at Eston Leisure Centre **writes David Hutchinson**

Sally won the title in the Cleveland County Council supported event without the loss of a single game.

She defeated the England No.1 and her main rival, Nicola Deaton of Chesterfield, in a comfortable final by 21-11, 21-17.

Sally enjoyed an easy route to the final, which was assisted by the third seed Pia Finnemann of Denmark losing to Lindsay Haywood of Devon in the quarter finals.

The England pair of Marling and Deaton dominated the Hospitality Inn international team event, beating the Danish girls by 3-0 in the final.

England's domination of the girls events continued in the Cadet (Under 14) events as the third seed Debbie Pestka of Nottingham won the singles, beating the top seed Tracy Davis of Brentwood in a close-fought final.

Davis defeated Lena Jeppesen of Denmark in the semi final.

The English clean sweep of the girls event was completed by Pestka and Davis combining to win the Cadet team event.

As England dominated the girls events, Denmark came into their own in the boys sections.

Top seed Matt Sorenson won the boys singles, beating his team mate Morton Knudsen 21-18, 14-21, 21-17 in a close-fought final.

Sorenson had close matches in route to the final with Owen Ryan of Wales and Steven Lampkin of Surrey.

The Danish boys dominated the Hospitality Boys International team event by beating England 3-0 in the final.

The Danish raid continued through into the Cadet Boys events as Jesper Dahl won the title, beating England's Ali Subhan of Reading in a close final.

The second Danish player Michael Maze was beaten by Christian Thompson of Kent in the second round. Thompson was beaten by Subhan in the semi final.

Denmark completed their clean sweep of the boys events by defeating England 3-0 in the final of the Cadet Boys International team event.

**RESULTS**

**JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES - SF - M.**

Sorenson (Denmark) bt Tsuji Jun (Shropshire) 21-14, 23-21, M. Knudsen (Denmark) bt S. Meddings (England) 21-17, 21-13 - **Final** - Sorenson bt Knudsen 21-18, 14-21, 21-17

**JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES - S. Marling**

(England) bt N. Deaton (England)

**CADET BOYS SINGLES - J. Dahl** (Denmark) bt A. Subhan (England) 22-20, 21-16

**CADET GIRLS SINGLES - D. Pestka**

(England) bt T. Davis (England) 16-21, 23-21, 21-18

**UNDER-11 BOYS SINGLES - T.**

Yardley (Essex) bt J. Marshall (Yorkshire) 21-13, 21-12

**HOSPITALITY INN INTERNATIONAL TEAM EVENTS:**

Junior Boys - Denmark bt England 3-0

Junior Girls - England bt Denmark 3-0

Cadet Boys - Denmark bt England 3-0

Cadet Girls - England bt Redhall 3-1

# Grubba beats Chen in five

## SWEDISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1993 - KARLSKRONA

POLAND'S Andrzej Grubba won his second Swedish Open Mens Singles title with a thrilling victory over England's Chen Xinhua. Chen had previously only lost once to Grubba and a first game lead seemed to be the perfect start. However, a cool and determined Grubba led 8-1 in the second game, withstood a comeback at 16-16 by Chen, and proceeded to a 8-0 lead in the third. Chen's forehand top spin lacked consistency nor was he gaining advantage from his service. He trailed throughout the fourth game but took the lead at 20-19 and then gained the next point. Grubba's early 8-3 lead in the fifth dissipated as Chen came back to 10-10. This final game appeared to be very close to expedite at 16-17, 17-18 but Grubba produced the power to finish a 21-18 winner

**writes Richard Scruton**  
It was not a classic final but it was full of moments of tension if not too many great rallies. Grubba was ecstatic whilst Chen felt he had not produced his very best in the final.

Our two leading men produced outstanding results - Chen beat the world champion Jean-Philippe Gatien 3-1 in the quarter final and Carl Prean took out Sweden's favourite, the Olympic champion Jan-Ove Waldner in the last sixteen round. For Prean his comeback from 16-20 to 22-20 win in

the third game was the turning point in a very tight match.

In the Women's Singles Lisa Lomas led 2-1 against Korean's Kim Boon Sik, the 1990 English Junior Open Winner at Bridlington, but succumbed eight and 10 in the final two games.

There was outstanding play from European Junior Champion Vladimir Samsonov from Belarus who put out Andrei Mazunov and Erik Lindh in the first two rounds before letting slip a 2-1 lead against Grubba. Samsonov has been tipped by Waldner as a future champion. The come-back of the tournament came from world number three, Jean-Michel Saive who trailed 11-19 in the fifth against the leading Chinese player Liu Guoliang, but took eleven of the next twelve points.

The team events were by invitation with four teams in each competition. The matches were held mid-morning and were not popular with players and spectators alike. The Swedish Association will no doubt re-think its plan for next year's SOC team events (reverting to an annual basis rather than biennial) in Norrköping.

This was the 30th SOC and the biggest so far with 33 associations participating. Held in Karlskrona on the Baltic Coast, it was organised by the local Lyckeby Club with great expertise and goodwill.

For England there were the two memorable victories for Chen and Prean over the World and Olympic champions respectively, but for Sweden its first failure to win a medal in 30 SOC's.



Poland's Andrzej Grubba

### ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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### ENGLAND RESULTS

CHEN XINHUA	R1 bt Leszek Kucharski (Pol)	-14, 15, 17, 17
	R2 bt Oliver Marmurek (Fra)	18, 10, 20
	R3 bt Paul Haldan (Ned)	15, 13, 15
	R4 bt Jean-Philippe Gatien (Fra)	19, 15, -14, 18
	SF bt Peter Korbel (Cze)	15, 19, 18
	F lost to Andrzej Grubba (Pol)	15, -18, -12, 19, -18
CARL PREAN	R1 bye	
	R2 bt Calin Creanga (Gre)	17, 14, -19, 18
	R3 bt Jan-Ove Waldner (Swe)	-18, 19, 20, 16
	R4 lost to Zoran Primorac (Cro)	-16, -17, -12
MATTHEW SYED	QR bt Sandro Caenaro (Lux)	14, 15
	QR bt Silnei Yuta (Bra)	16, 10
	QR bt Pasi Valasti (Fin)	18, 16
	R1 lost to Dong Lun (Chn)	-18, 12, -14, -17
LISA LOMAS	R1 lost to Kim Boon Sik (Kor)	16, -5, 18, -8, -10
ALISON GORDON	QR bt Marie Persson (Swe)	19, 18
	QR bt Anne Guillerm (Fra)	11, 7
	QR bt Tatjana Medvedeeva (Rus)	-19, 14, 16
	R1 lost to Krisztina Toth (Hun)	-15, -19, -16

# Rising sun on English blooms

ENGLAND ought to be pleased with their two series against Japan: not simply because the men won 4-0 and the women drew 1-1, but more because of the encouraging performances these results contained **writes Richard Eaton**

The most spectacular of them were the victories by national champion Andrea Holt and England number one Lisa Lomas over Koyama Chire, better known by her unmarried name of He Zhili, the 1987 world champion from China. Arguably the most important of them, however, were the wins by Carl Prean.

He was the only unbeaten player on the men's tour, with eight victories, all of them in straight games. This was an excellent performance for a player who had lost five months while recovering from a wrist operation, lost a further three weeks practice in October because of a dispute with his former club Steinhagen, and inevitably lost confidence and form too.

Prean's narrow defeats in the first leg of the European League semi final against Belgium in Liege in December left England with a lot to do in the second leg at Mansfield. However the national champion's successes against Japan caused optimism not only about the possibility of overhauling that 4-2 defeat, but also about the prospects of England's team doing well in the most important tournament in this country for 17 years, the European Championships.

"I felt it was mostly a matter of getting more match practice and this tour has proved very useful in that respect," said Prean, who won three times against the defensive world number 46 Koji Matsushita and twice against twin brother Yuji (15 minutes the younger). The second of these wins came after the pengrip Matsushita had won the Cleveland 5 Star and after he had overcome the



(Top) Andrea Holt, (middle) Carl Prean and (bottom) Lisa Lomas

jetlag that bothered all the Japanese in the matches at Andover and St. Austell.

Matt Syed won four matches out of seven and Alan Cooke three out of four, though the most exciting men's success of all was that of Andrew Eden, the 20 year old Lancastrian who saved two match points to win on his England debut, against Yoji Morimoto. Eden thus followed his promising visit to the United States with further signs that he may be breaking through to international standard.

The most exciting success of either series was arguably Holt's against Koyama. She was close to a straight games defeat, but there was never more than a point or two in it after that, and the victory over an opponent still ranked up at number 21 in the world suggested just how good Holt could be if and when she is completely committed to table tennis. Not long before this she had begun her training in earnest for the European Championships. Already it showed.

Lomas' victory over Koyama was similarly skilful and almost as close, though some of the drama had been taken out of it by Holt's example. Both were nevertheless well-timed successes with so many important fixtures soon to follow.

There were encouraging wins too for Sally Marling and Kate Goodall, and valuable experience for all of the teenage trio of Marling, Goodall and Nicola Deaton. Upon them England's future may rest, and their lengthy struggles at Hull and at Warwick should have left them with a better idea of what is required.

**DETAILED REPORT  
OF THE JAPANESE  
TOUR WILL APPEAR  
IN MARCH'S ISSUE**

# Andrea Holt saves England

ONLY the England champion Andrea Holt, 22, emerged undefeated and victorious from the two European League matches on December 14, our men in Leige and the ladies in Bordeaux. The men, contesting the first leg of the semi final Super Division tie for the first time, went under 4-2, but the second of two nearly five hour battles, saw England triumph 4-3 in Bordeaux, in the European Womens League, Super Division group match **writes John Woodford in Leige**

Richard Eaton and I sat at the 150 foot long table in the hall in Leige, with 50 other journalists and TV personnel, on the fringe of a 2,000 strong crowd, a group of Standard Leige soccer supporters who never stopped shouting and incredibly a jazz band, with soloists and full drum kit who were permitted to perform continuously and between points. Every player waiting to serve had to wait to the end of 'Brown Girl in the Ring', or 'When the Saints Go March ing In'.

There were five telephones in the press area, open lines, which were in constant use as we tried to keep in touch with events in Bordeaux. The fact that both matches started late (8pm in Belgium for television purposes) made it virtually impossible for us to report for anything other than the fourth editions of the London papers and hope for a further report the following day.

In an atmosphere of tension, unacceptable noise levels and general pandemonium, the England quartet tried desperately hard to either win the match or at least take back to Mansfield, a 4-3 scoreline for the second leg. The team fought like tigers and nearly pulled off the 4-3 against score when Carl Prean failed to win a match point against Phillippe Saive as the clock passed the midnight hour.

Earlier, Matthew Syed, almost took Jean Michel Saive to three games. The Belgian ace perspired so much that he had

to change shirts in between games before he triumphed with continuous and vicious top-spin 17, 21.

Chen Xinhua pulled England level although he needed a dozen of his 'ace' services to achieve a 15, 15 win over Phillippe Saive who had miraculously recovered from being unfit. Thierry Cabrera, who brings a type of hypnotist with him to calm him down at matches, lost the first to Prean 14 and things looked rosier for England, but the unusually calm Cabrera who is having therapy treatment for his problems on court, hit back to use his booming top-spin forehand, relying on the familiar backhand cross-court 'punch' that wins him so many points but not enough on this occasion.

The English lads, still assailed by a vast cacophony of noise from the heavy-handed jazz drummer and his fellow musicians plus the chanting and the shouting, lifted themselves for a time as Alan Cooke and Prean made a fighting recovery to win the doubles -15, 22, 18, after returning from a 7-12 deficit in the second game.

Alan Cooke deserves a special credit. Playing only in the doubles when all the other players are warmed up is no joke. His top-spin play combined superbly with Prean to win the doubles.

England then looked to Chen Xinhua to upset the world number two. Jean Michel who does not fear backspinners lost the second 12, but burst through the Chinese player's defences to eight in the third, giving Belgium the 3-2 lead, with the noise evermore increasing as the fans scented victory.

Phillippe Saive once again raised his game to higher levels taking the first 18 and Prean improving considerably to notch the second nine. In a sparkling final game Prean lifted himself but Saive just edged home to give the fans the moment they had been waiting for. Pandemonium broke out at even higher sound levels. Journalists just

could not hear themselves speak or hear what people were saying to them on the other ends of the telephone lines.

In Bordeaux, the high drama was it seems even higher, as England women's team snatched a 4-3 win over France that should take them to the final of the Super Division for the first time.

A slippery floor was said to be the reason for Lisa Lomas the TTN cover-girl, losing two matches to low-ranked French girls Boileau and Combat, both in straight games. That put the pressure on Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt who both responded brilliantly.

Andrea, our national title-holder, who was dropped recently by captain Jill Parker, opened by winning 15, 16 against Coubat, but this success was rapidly equalised by Lisa losing to Anne Boileau. Alison, now engaged to marry John Broe, celebrated by stopping Sylvia Plaisant 13, -2, 13 to send England 2-1 up.

More hopes rose of a 4-1 for England came as England won the doubles, Lisa and Andrea 17, 9.

But disaster struck again as Alison lost to Boileau 16, -18, -16 taking the score to 3-3 and the clock getting on for midnight.

According to the commentary we were receiving in Leige, the climax of the match that gave England their 4-3 win and a huge boost for Andrea Holt as they finally dumped Sylvia Plaisant 18, -18, 23, was yellow and red cards for the lady from Ramsbottom and a yellow card for Jill Parker who alleged that the umpiring was biased.

The reasons for the flurry of cards from the French umpires seems to be Andrea banging her bat on the table, or as they say in tennis, equipment abuse.

However, a famous victory was obtained at some cost to Lisa's reputation and the results threaten her chances of playing in the European Top 12 tournament. But, England got

through after a gruelling, nerve-wracking game in which the French without Wang Xiaoming, played above their previous standards.

## RESULTS

**LIEGE:**  
**BELGIUM 4 ENGLAND 2**  
 J. Saive bt M. Syed 17, 21  
 P. Saive lt C. Xinhua -15, -15  
 T. Cabrera bt C. Prean -14, 16, 16  
 J. Saive/Cabrera lt A. Cooke/Prean 15, -22, -18  
 P. Saive bt Prean 18, -9, 21

**BORDEAUX:**  
**FRANCE 3 ENGLAND 4**  
 A. Holt bt E. Coubat 15, 16  
 L. Lomas lt A. Boileau -18, -18  
 A. Gordon bt S. Plaisant -13, 20, 13  
 Lomas/Holt bt Plaisant/A. Le Lannie 17, 9  
 Lomas lt Coubat -19, -13  
 Gordon lt Boileau 16, -18, -16  
 Holt bt Plaisant 18, -18, 23

**FOOTNOTE:**  
 The Media Committee of the ETTU will shortly receive complaints from England and Swedish journalists on the policy of running mens and womens European League matches on the same night. This loses huge amounts of publicity and is a nightmare for journalists who cannot be in two places at once. Allowing a jazz band to perform between points will also be raised and I would have thought that the ETTA after hearing from Don Parker, would also echo those complaints. We all want fans to enjoy themselves but there must surely be new guidelines after the happenings in Leige, where standards of crowd behaviour reached a new low. You cannot stop fans applauding visiting mistakes, but surely musical instruments especially percussion in an indoor arena. The effect of a big drum in a massive outdoor soccer arena is considerable. Heavily struck bass and kettle drums indoors in a racquet sport where concentration is paramount is surely not reasonable.

# European veteran championships

THE top European veterans will make their debut in their own championships in 1995 - and every two years from then onwards. The world veterans championships will be held every even year the next in Melbourne, Australia in April **writes Jim Beckley**

The ETTU are requesting applications from Associations who might be interested in hosting the championships.

## Rankings drop

WHAT a difference twelve months can make. This time last year Chen Xinhua was at No. 12 in the world rankings, now he is at No. 13 (December 7). Carl Prean was at No. 20 but now is at 27 (mainly because of a wrist injury which put him out of action). It has also been a disappointing year for Lisa Lomas who 12 months ago was on the up and up standing at No. 38, but has since dropped to 45. While national champion Andrea Holt has plunged 19 places to 96.

## Perry ranked

DEVON'S Alex Perry is the highest ranked English player in the latest ETTU junior listings at No. 26. Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton are at 21 and 23 respectively in the girls section.

## Adhesive sheets

IN readiness for the outlawing of glues from the beginning of the 1995/96 season, more pressure sensitive adhesive sheets are coming on to the market. The current list of approved sheets includes Butterfly Quick, Donic Glue sheet, Juic Ecolo Super sheet, Skitt Glue sheet, Sportcontact Kangaroo sheet, Sunflex Duplocoll-Twinglue and Yasaka Gaten. Expect many more as the big day approaches.

## EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE SUPER DIVISION

### GROUP A

	P	W	L	F	A	PTS
England	4	3	1	15	9	7
Sweden	4	3	1	13	8	7
Netherlands	4	3	1	13	10	7
Hungary	4	1	3	10	12	5
France	4	0	4	4	16	4

## Results of JOOLA EML Super Division (Semi Finals)

### POSITIONS 1-4

#### BELGIUM v ENGLAND 4 : 2

Saive J.M.	Syed	17, 21
Saive P.	Chen Xinhua	-15, -15
Cabrera	Prean	-14, 16, 16
Saive J.M./Cabrera	Prean/Cooke	15, -22, -18
Saive J.M.	Chen Xinhua	10, -12, 8
Saive P.	Prean	18, 9, 21

#### GERMANY v SWEDEN 1 : 4

Franz	Persson	-9, 21, -15
Roskopf	Karlsson	15, -18, -7
Fetzner	Appelgren	-21, 12, -10
Roskopf/Fetzner	Karlsson/Appelgren	16, 16
Roskopf	Persson	-22, -12

### POSITIONS 5-8

#### AUSTRIA v NETHERLANDS 4 : 1

Ding Yi	Keen	20, -17, 10
Qian Qianli	Haldan	-16, 5, 15
Schlager	Heister	-16, 18, 11
Schlager/Jinkdrak	Heister/Keen	-16, 18, 11
Jindrak	Heister	-11, -17
Ding Yi	Haldan	-19, 18, 13

#### FRANCE v POLAND 4 : 1

Gatien	Blaszczyk	9, 14
Chila	Skierski	22, 10
Legout	Szafranek	-22, -16
Gatien/Eloi	Blaszczyk/Skierski	17, 19
Gatien	Skierski	18, 19

## SWEDISH OPEN at Karlskrona

### Mens : First Round

C. Prean	beat	Creanga (Greece)	3 : 1
C. Xinhua	beat	Marmurek (France)	3 : 0
(Last 16)			
Prean	beat	Waldner (Sweden)	3 : 1
Xinhua	beat	Halden (Netherlands)	3 : 0
(Quarter finals)			
Xinhua	beat	Gatien (France)	3 : 1
Primorac (Croatia)	beat	Prean	3 : 0
(Semi Finals)			
Grubba (Poland)	beat	Primorac	3 : 2
Xinhua	beat	Korbel (Czech)	3 : 0
(Final)			
Grubba	beat	Xinhua	3 : 2

### Ladies : First Round

Toth (Hungary)	beat	A. Gordon (England)	3 : 0
Kim Boon Sik (Korea)	beat	Lisa Lomas (England)	3 : 2

## 'Magician'

THE days of the 'magician' type service which have grown over the last year or so, could soon be disappearing. A proposal to have the ball clearly seen by the opponent and the umpire instead of coming from behind the server has been introduced to the powerful ITTF Council who could give the go ahead next May in the time to take effect from the start of next season.

## Two famous names have passed away

TWO famous names in our sport have passed away. Bert Schoofs, the former international player from the Netherlands, died on 19 October 1993 aged 48. Bert was the Dutch national champion in 1970 and held national titles in mens and mixed doubles. He represented the Netherlands on more than 100 occasions before becoming the national coach and trainer.

Frantisek Tokar, holder of five world championship gold medals and a member of the Swaythling Club, died on 26 October at the age of 68. He was part of the golden era of Czechoslovak table tennis. He won the mens doubles title with Ivan Andreadis in 1949 and was a member of the Czechoslovak team at the world championships in 1947, 48, 50 and 51.

## Diary

### FEBRUARY

- 4-6 Europe Top 12
  - Arezzo, Italy
- 12 English qualifying comp for Euro 94
  - Brentwood, Essex
- 15 England men v Belgium
  - Mansfield

### MARCH

- 25-4 European Championships
  - Birmingham

# Middlesex lead the way

**MIDDLESEX Table Tennis Association went into partnership with the ETTA to start a new format for the 37th Middlesex 3 Star Open.** It took place at the Picketts Lock Leisure Centre in Edmonton during the weekend of 11/12 December 1993 in conjunction with the Ransome Sporting Goods Group and the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and with special thanks to the Federation of Middlesex Sports. In the first event of its kind the new style 3 Star tournament took the form of a banded system. The format was as follows: Men in three bands: Band A 2400 rating points and above; Band B 2000 to 2399 points; Band C 1999 points and below. Women will be divided into two bands: 1950 and above and 1949 rating points and below. The new format created a few organisational problems which we hope we can iron out in time for next year but the net result was what the Association wanted most, an increase in the number of players entering the tournament. There were over 172 entries for the mens competitions and 37 entries for the ladies. Matthew Syed was the top mens seed and Elena Timina the top womens seed **writes Martin Holland.**

**Mens Singles Band C: 1999 rating points and below.** Band C mens singles took place on the Sunday. The final 64 was soon dwindled down to the final eight. Mark Dare versus Damien Holland; Terry Young versus Gareth Herbert; Michael Julian Levene versus Vincent Avery; Frank Hams versus Costas Papantoniou. Pick of the previous matches was a fine performance by Gareth Herbert of Berkshire who defeated Bedfordshire's number one junior in Jimmy Walsh in three sets despite losing the first set. Then he was unlucky in defeat to Terry Young of Berkshire going down again in three sets. The final four came down to Damien Holland versus Terry Young and Vincent Avery versus Frank Hams. D. Holland of Essex overcame Young in three sets and Avery gained a comfortable win over Hams so it was Holland versus Avery in the final. The Essex player soon had the measure of his opponent and ran out a comfortable winner at nine and 12.



*Mens Singles winner Band A Matthew Syed*

**Mens Singles Band B: 2000 to 2399 rating points.** Band B mens singles took place on the Saturday. The final four in this competition was as follows: Damien Holland versus Phil Payne and John Payne versus Ben Johnson. Holland reached his second final of the tournament when he defeated Phil Payne in straight sets. John Payne fought his way to meet him in the final when he overcame Berkshire's Ben Johnson in straight sets. Payne who had not dropped a set on his way to the final found his opponent too tricky and was comfortably defeated in straight sets at 13 and 13.

**Mens Singles Band A: 2400 rating points and above.** The final thirty two came through the qualifying groups into the competition proper. There were no surprises on the way though Nicky Mason made hard work of defeating Richard Hyacinth in three.

The Band A final was a repeat of the 1991 battle with Matthew Syed taking command early over Nicky Mason and the result was never in doubt as the Berkshire player took the trophy in great style in straight games 14 and 15.

In the semi finals Syed beat Andrew Eden and Mason defeated Chris Oldfield.

Womens singles winner of Band A was Elena Timina who comfortably chopped her way to victory, beating Helen Lower five and 11.

Timina had a tougher match in the semi finals where young Sally Marling took her to three before losing 7, -17, 7.

Whilst Lower defeated Middlesex's Sanya Kubelka in the other semi 16, -18, 14.

In the Womens Band B the final four were Glenda Ashison and Sarah Davison, Jennifer Coleman against Julie Askem.

Ashison overcame a determined challenge from Davison to win in three 18, -11, 10, and Coleman just had the measure of Askem 18 and 18.

In the final Ashison was a three set winner over Coleman 18, -19, 13.

## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

### MENS SINGLES BAND C

**Semi Finals** - Damien Holland (E) defeated Terry Young (Bk) 10, -20, 11

Vincent Avery (E) defeated Frank Hams (Sy) 14, 7

**Final** - Holland defeated Avery 9, 12

### MENS SINGLES BAND B

**Semi Finals** - Damien Holland (E) defeated Phil Payne (So) 17, 15

John Payne (Mi) defeated Ben Johnson (Bk) 17, 19

**Final** - Holland defeated Payne 13, 13

### MENS SINGLES BAND A

**Semi Finals** - Matthew Syed (Bk) defeated Andrew Eden (La) 11, 16

Chris Oldfield (Y) lost to Nicky Mason (Sy) 12, 19

**Final** - Syed defeated Mason 14, 15

### WOMENS SINGLES BAND B

**Semi Finals** - Glenda Ashison (Sy) defeated Sarah Davison (Sk) 18, -11, 10

Jennifer Coleman (E) defeated Julie Askem (E) 18, 18

**Final** - Ashison defeated Coleman 18, -19, 13

### WOMENS SINGLES BAND A

**Semi Finals** - Elena Timina (Russ) defeated Sally Marling (Y) 7, -17, 7

Sanya Kubelka (Mi) lost to Helen Lower (La) 16, -18, 14

**Final** - Timina defeated Lower 5, 11

### MENS DOUBLES

**Final** - Joe Kennedy (K) and Nicky Mason (Sy) defeated Sean Gibson (La) and John Holland (Dy) 16, -14, 16

### WOMENS DOUBLES

**Final** - Susan Collier (Bk) and Elena Timina (Russ) defeated Helen Lower (St) and Linda Radford (E) 11, 14

### VETERAN MENS SINGLES

**Final** - Don McGilvray (E) lost to Derek Holman (Sy) 13, -19, 19

# Jun Tsuji lifts junior title

JUN TSUJI, an unseeded half-Japanese boy from the Grove School, Market Drayton, turned the form book upside down when he disposed of four seeds before lifting the Junior Boys' singles trophy at the English Junior National Championships at Leicester on December 4th **writes Graham Carter**

Jun, ranked at No. 10 on the Junior list when the draw was made, cruised through the draw sheet, quelling No. 3 seed Michael James in round one, and 5th seeded Andrew Wilkinson in the quarters.

Tsuji's semi final victim was Vince Avery, the No. 7 seed. With Surrey's Darren Blake doing extremely well to oust the No. 1 seed Steven Meddings in the semi final, the way was opened up for a shock win.

In the final Blake could offer less resistance to the Grove lad than had Wilkinson, who had taken Tsuji to a third game in the quarter final. Jun seized the title with a 21-11/21-17 victory against Blake, who by now was tired playing his third final of the day.

One of Tsuji's rewards for scooping the National title was meeting the Japanese touring party, at the opening ceremony at the first match of the Japanese tour, at Andover on December 29th - an experience the young champion will never forget.

Darren Blake, the losing boys finalist, came close to gaining what would have been a superb hat trick. Before his encounter with Tsuji, he had collected the Boys doubles title, partnered by last year's losing finalist Adrian Vincent, and the mixed doubles with Nicola Deaton.

Sally Marling, 17, from Hull, gained revenge in the Junior Girls singles for having lost one year ago to Nicola Deaton.

## Shock

She was helped by a magnificent performance from Gemma Schwartz (Berkshire), who caused the shock of the Girls event by knocking out the defending champion and hot favourite, Deaton 21-14/21-18 in the semi final.

In a see-saw final, Marling recovered from losing the first game to outplay Schwartz 14-21/21-14/21-16 in a repeat of last year's semi final.

Earlier, No. 2 seeds, Schwartz and Marling had been removed from the Junior doubles in the quarter final by an unseeded pair Jennifer Coleman (Essex) and Sussex's Sarah Stedman, whose progress will surely be worth watching in the future.

Christian Thompson, 14, seeded four, claimed two titles in the cadet events. Having already beaten a Danish cadet international at the Cleveland Junior international, he beat the top two seeds, Berkshire pair Ali Subhan in the semi, followed by Gareth Herbert in the final.

Thompson added the cadet doubles title with Subhan.

Lindsey Thornton, 13, from Bury, who is coached by Jackie Bellinger,



National Junior Champions Sally Marling and Jun Tsuji



Tears of a champion - Christian gets a big hug from his father Reg, after winning the Cadet Boys title

defeated the No. 1 seed Debbie Pestka (Notts) in the cadet girls singles. However she could not quite repeat the performance in the final against Essex's Tracey Davies, who triumphed 21-16/21-15.

The Junior Nationals at the Parklands Leisure Centre, Leicester, were most successful, with 300 entrants, up on 1992, and smooth organising by Jill Harris, Jenny Hughes, Karen Tongue, Mike Smith, and the help of officials from the Leicester League.

The only one who may not have enjoyed the event so much was European Championships Director Clive Oakman, who unfortunately had his Ford Sierra Sapphire stolen from outside the Leicester Moat Hotel. It was later recovered in a very damaged state, resulting in several thousand pounds of repairs.

## RESULTS

### Junior Boys Singles - Quarter Finals

Steven Meddings (Warwicks) beat Kevin Dolder (Lancs) 21-12/22-20  
Darren Blake (Surrey) beat Simon Jablon (Middlesex) 21-15/21-14  
Jun Tsuji (Shropshire) bt Andrew Wilkinson (Northumberland) 21-18/21-13  
Vincent Avery (Essex) beat Adrian Vincent (Devon) 23-21/21-18

### Semi Finals

Blake beat Meddings 21-13/21-7  
Tsuji beat Avery 21-15/21-19

### Final

Tsuji beat Blake 21-11/21-17

## Junior Girls Singles - Semi Finals

Gemma Schwartz (Berkshire) beat Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire) 21-14/21-18  
Sally Marling (Yorkshire) beat Shelley Ruocco (Essex) 21-12/21-13

### Final

Marling beat Schwartz 14-21/21-14/21-16

## Cadet Boys Singles - Semi Finals

Christian Thompson (Kent) beat Ali Subhan (Berks) 25-23/21-17  
Gareth Herbert (Berks) beat Michael Isherwood (Derbys) 21-19/21-23/21-11

### Final

Thompson beat Herbert 13-21/21-13/21-9

## Cadet Girls Singles - Semi Finals

Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) beat Debbie Pestka (Notts) 19-21/21-17/21-16  
Tracey Davies (Essex) beat Verity Cleminson (Essex) 21-10/21-15

### Final

Davies beat Thornton 21-16/21-15

## Junior Boys Doubles - Semi Finals

Darren Blake (Surrey)/Adrian Vincent (Devon) beat Vincent Avery (Essex)/Ben Johnson (Berks) 21-12/21-13  
Mark Smith (Yorks)/Andrew Wilkinson (Northumberland) beat Steven Meddings/Terry Young 21-13/24-22

### Final

Blake/Vincent beat Smith/Wilkinson 21-13/21-14

## Junior Girls Doubles - Semi Finals

Nicola Deaton (Derby)/Michelle Martin (Staffs) beat Glenda Ashison (Surrey)/Shelley Ruocco (Essex) 21-18/21-17  
Lindsey Heyward (Devon)/Debbie Pestka (Notts) beat Jennifer Coleman (Essex)/Sara Stedman (Sussex) 19-21/24-22/21-14

### Final

Deaton/Martin beat Heyward/Pestka 20-22/21-13/21-9

## Junior Mixed Doubles

### Final

Blake/Deaton beat Terry Young (Berks)/Gemma Schwartz (Berks) 23-21/21-13

## Cadet Boys Doubles

### Final

Ali Subhan (Berks)/Christian Thompson (Kent) beat Scott Friday (Kent)/Gareth Herbert (Berks) 21-15/15-21/21-19

## Cadet Girls Doubles

### Final

Catherine Corkill (Cumbria)/Lindsey Thornton (Lancs) beat Alice Howard (Cheshire)/Debbie Pestka (Notts) 13-21/21-19/21-16



ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome accepts a gift of two new cadet trophies on behalf of the Association, from Jenny Heaton



Cadet Girls champion Tracey Davies

# Super Schwartz



SUPER GEMMA SCHWARTZ pictured above, lived up to her top seed rating by winning the Girls Singles crown at the Essex 2 Star, when she overpowered Surrey's Glenda Ashison, nine and 18 **writes Steve Kerns**

In the counterpart Boys event Surrey's Darren Blake beat local Essex boy Vincent Avery in a thrilling three setter, -15, 14, 10.

The Essex Junior 2 Star Select Tournament held over the weekend of 27th/28th November 1993 at the Harlow Sports Centre attracted an enormous entry of 272, with most of the country's leading boys in attendance, despite the fact the National Closed were being held the following weekend.

After the East Yorkshire Open tournament, Craig Miller had reported in Table Tennis News that the Junior Boys competitions could be the most wide open for many seasons. That view was certainly confirmed here as Vince Avery, from the Brentwood - based Peniel club, the national No. 7 took out the higher rated Andrew Wilkinson (Northumberland) 17, 18, and then national No. 4 Ben Johnson from Berkshire 14, -17, 24 in a game which was every bit as exciting as the score-line suggests. In the other half of the draw Surrey's Darren Blake came past Gareth Herbert (Berkshire), then surprise quarter-finalist Steve Joslin Essex (17, 18) and then Mark Smith (Yorkshire) 19, -18, 13. Smith had earlier ousted top seed Adrian Vincent 10, -15, 16. Blake ranked No. 6 nationally started somewhat tentatively in the final, but eventually he took control to take the title -15, 14, 10. Clearly, both he and Avery have every chance of making top three national rankings themselves should this event be anything to go by.

Others to upset the seedings were Steve Joslin (Essex) who beat Paul Butcher (Sussex) and Steve Lampkin (Surrey), and Chris Hall (Kent) who beat Gary Pestka (Notts).

The counterpart Girls event went to top seed Gemma Schwartz (Berkshire) whose victim in the final was Glenda Ashison (Surrey) 9, 18. Glenda's appearance in the final reflected the fine tournament she had beating the higher rated Shelley Ruocco (Essex) and at the semi final stage Debbie Pestka -19, 15, 14. For good measure

she also retained her Girls doubles title, partnered by regular partner Shelley they beat Michelle Haynes (Notts)/Rebecca Sparkes (Suffolk) 18, 12 in the final. In contrast both semi finals of this event were absolute cliff-hangers, as Michelle and Rebecca beat Gemma Schwartz/Debbie Pestka 19, -20, 20 and Shelley and Glenda just saw off Joanne Bush-Harris (Sussex)/Nicola Massingham (Lincoln) by an equally nail-biting 11, -18, 21.

Sunday's play saw the Cadets and Under 12's in action and star of the show was undoubtedly Berkshire's Gareth Herbert, still with another year in the U14 age group. His quick-silver play and lightning speed gave him the edge in three games over Peniel's Ben Linnear (11, -18, 15) in the quarter final, and he beat the excellent Jason Sugrue (Middlesex) -17, 14, 12 in the semi final. His final victim was Derbyshire's Michael Isherwood (19, 15), after Michael had won a truly memorable semi final -16, 16, 19 over Kent's brilliant Under 12 Scott Friday. Scott had already shown his worth by ousting top seed Ali Subhan (Berkshire).

The U14 girls singles was dominated by Debbie Pestka, who was only stretched by three ends once, by Verity Cleminson (Essex) -18, 11, 13. Her final victim was Bethan Daunton (Wales) who beat Lorna Dutch (IOW) -14, 18, 21 in a half of the draw lacking No. 1 seed Tracey Davies (Peniel) due to illness. Verity Cleminson who had already won the Girls Restricted Singles, carried on her very busy weekend by reaching the U14 girls doubles final paired with Debbie Pestka. On paper they looked destined for victory but, no it was Peniel's Anna Cheeseman and Helen Lincoln who took this one -8, 11, 19, a very good win indeed.

The U12 boys event was dominated by Scott Friday, a near 'veteran' of this age group. His speed was truly breathtaking as he swept his way to the title. Others to impress were Stephen Jenkins (Wales), runner-up Richard Man (Suffolk) and losing semi finalists Tim Yardy (Essex) and William O'Leary (Herts) ....yes....another O'Leary!!

The counterpart girls event went to the top seed as well, Trudie Bloor (Shropshire) also seeing off all-comers two-straight to annex the title, her final victim being Susan Johnson (Berkshire) -15, 15.

# The buds are bursting in the garden of Eden

ANDREW EDEN burst onto the England scene when he made his national debut for England against Japan at the Bletchley Leisure Centre, in January, where he lost his first match nervously, but bounced back to emotionally win his second battle beating Koji Matsushita.

With arms aloft he soaked-up the adulation of the crowd, as the Bletchley faithful witnessed the arrival of a new national hero.

He said after his great victory "I was nervous as hell and I feel chuffed now!"

Eden is probably the only player to have played in Great Britain before being 'capped' for England after appearing in Detroit in November in the Great Britain team at the U.S. Open Team Championships.

Whilst in Detroit, Eden met the other love of his life, Kathy Marie King (picture inset), she's 18 years old.

"She's the kind of girl that any man could wish to meet", said a besotted Eden.

They met in a restaurant where Kathy works part-time whilst finishing her studies at High School.

Eden, who was born in a little village called Mawdesley in Lancashire, will be 21 on 1st April 1994, and the two young lovers will be together again, when Kathy visits him to celebrate his birthday.

Reflecting on the week in the States Eden commented "That week must have been the best week of my entire life, I met a wonderful girl and I played probably the best table tennis I have ever played."

Eden, who plays for Team Peniel in the British League, attributes his improvement this season to his coach Nicky Jarvis.

He has spent four years at the Peniel Academy, improving his table tennis, his coaching techniques and also continuing his studies. It seems that all the hard work is beginning to pay dividends - he started this season by winning the Stamco-sponsored Sussex Open at Hastings

where Eden sent England No.6 Nicky Mason reeling back from his powerful onslaught.

One of the main objects of the Peniel Academy is of course to foster young players. To see one bursting through and donning England and Great Britain shirts and flying off to The States and India must bring the Peniel administration and its supporters a great deal of satisfaction.

Eden flew to India proudly wearing his England shirt to compete in the Commonwealth Championships, on Sunday 23rd January 1994.

Running through a list of Andrew's biggest scalps so far - the two vastly experienced Americans Danny Seemiller and Sean O'Neill felt the weight of the Eden top-spin in Detroit, Nicky Mason at Hastings, a 9-5 third game lead over Alan Cooke before losing in the British League 21-15, and now Japan's Koji Matsushita at Bletchley.

Andrew Eden's passport is going to be used more frequently in the future. Talking of global travel he related a story of an adventure when he was 16 - on a trip to China for training he was 'lost' at Karachi airport in Pakistan for two days before being 'rescued' by Pakistan International Airlines.

As the young men line-up to catch the eye of England manager - Jon Taylor, Chris Oldfield, Alex Perry, to name but three, it looks as though Andrew Eden might even draw ahead of his rivals.

"I have no time for any other sport" he said, "I am just hoping I can improve my tactics and techniques still further so that I am strong enough to play for England in both the Commonwealth Championships and the European Championships in Birmingham."

*Main picture:* Andrew Eden is pictured on a winning streak at the Cleveland 5 Star tournament, with *(inset)* Kathy Marie King.

**Words by John Woodford and John F.A. Wood, pictures by John F.A. Wood.**



# Battle for second place hots up

WITH the halfway stage having been reached in the Friendly Hotels British League there is little more to be said about BFL Grove than has already been previously written. Their top three teams continue to dominate the top three divisions of the league, all having 100% records and all well clear of the rest of the field **writes Aubrey Drapkin.**

Attention is therefore turning to the table for second position in each of the top divisions and in the Premier Section Team Peniel's defeat at the hands of Grove make it appear to be a straight battle between Peniel and the North Easterners, Sedgefield District. At the time of writing Sedgefield still have a game in hand over Peniel and are two points behind. The clubs played a draw earlier in the season at Sedgefield and the runners up spot could well be decided when they meet again in Brentwood.

In the first division North, Olton and West Warwicks are currently in second place having lost only one match and having played a draw with third placed Sedgefield seconds, who have also only been beaten on one occasion. But the Sedgefield side have also been held to a draw twice and are now two points behind Olton and West Warwicks. Apart from the runaway leaders, Grove, it is very tight in division one South with only three points covering

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Desmond Douglas

Greenbrook have each only lost one set for Horsham Angels second team in division 2 South West as has VRS Fareham's Nigel Thomas. Thomas and Steve Giles of DML White Hart Launceston seconds have both been nominated on three occasions for the player of the match award.

In Division 2 South East, Linda Farrow are carrying all before them having won all seven of the matches that they have played. Not only has Grant Solder won every set in his six matches but he has also taken the player of the match award three times, more than anybody else in that Division. Duncan Taylor and John Taylor have both been beaten only once. Another player having a very successful time in the Second Division South East is Henry Buist of Pillinger Air Croydon who boasts a 90% record at the half-way stage.

The leadership of division 3 East changed hands at the halfway stage with Peterborough taking over as leaders from their near rivals Gridfine St. Neots. The Peterborough side have a big asset in the former International, Dennis Neale, who has won all of his sets in the first half of the season, but his team mate, Brian Hill, who is also unbeaten, is the one to have caught the eye most. Gridfine St. Neots, in their first season in the league, are still well in the hunt, being only one point behind Peterborough thanks mainly to the form of Norman Smith.

Division 3 Midlands has developed into a straight fight between Colley Toyota seconds and DML White Hart Launceston thirds who both have twelve points from seven matches and are four points clear of the rest of the field. Colley's Ryan Owen has been awarded the player of the match title on no less than four occasions and has won eleven sets in his seven matches. Honours are being shared in the Launceston camp with Jeremy Williams, Carol Giles and Tony Sweet all having excellent records in the first half of the season. In the same division Jason Thompson who plays for newcomers to the League Bromsgrove T.T.C. has taken the player of the match award on three occasions and has an 80% record. Whilst languishing at the foot of the table the Bromsgrove side, who are taking a while to find their feet, have certainly been no pushover for any of the other clubs.

There is a three way fight at the top of the third division North with Drumchapel Glasgow currently just having the edge of Moorland Seaisiders of Blackpool with Sedgefield District third team in third place. The Glasgow side could move swiftly up the divisions if they turn out the strongest team at their disposal. Their players include John Broe, who recently lost his first match when he lost to fellow Scottish player, Scott Gilbert of Sedgefield, George Innes who has won thirteen of the fourteen sets that he has played, Gordon Clancey who has yet to be beaten, and recent signing Alison Gordon.

Moorland Seaisiders Blackpool are being more than well led by the Welsh

the teams lying second top and second bottom. Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis club of Reading are currently in second place, but Edison, Bribar Colley Toyota, BSG Brentwood and even Graham Spicer Larkhall are still in with a chance of finishing second in this division.

The players to catch the eye in the top divisions so far have been Desmond Douglas in the Premier Division who has received the player of the match award on three occasions and Peter Lau of Sunderland, David Goode of Edison and Steve Rand of BSG Brentwood in the first divisions. Lau has been nominated as player of the match on three occasions in his own right and twice where he shared the award with other players. Goode has been nominated twice in his own right and twice for a half share whilst Rand has had the award three times outright and once when he shared with another.

The three second divisions all have clear leaders at the half-way stage with Leicester Lions one point ahead of Uxbridge in the North, Horsham Angels seconds three points ahead of VRS Fareham and DML Launceston seconds in the South West, and Linda Farrow a massive five points clear of both Byng Hall and Pillinger Air Croydon in division 2 South East.

Martin Pickles has been outstanding for the Lions in the first half of the season, being beaten on only one occasion and has received good support from Mark Illingsworth, Maurice Newman and Phil Smith who have all won more sets than they have lost. The man to catch the eye most in the second division North, however, has been Vymura's Mark Hankey.

Peter Barrtram, Paul Barry and Scott



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# FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE - 2

International, Natasha Williams, who also boasts the most player of the match awards in this division. Other players doing well for the Blackpool outfit are Kevin Dolder and Philip Musgrove.

Sedgefield lost ground when they were well beaten by the Glasgow side, having previously gone down in their match against Blackpool. The quote of the season off the table must be the one made by Sedgefield's Welsh player, Mark Simon, after their visit to Glasgow. He was full of praise for the Glasgow outfit, but made the comment that when visiting the Drumchapel side it was necessary to have a translator with the team. However, this would appear to be a two way situation as

when the result sheet came in, Marks name was actually on the form as Clark Simon. So perhaps the Scots didn't understand him either!

As expected the Barclays Bank side are the leaders of Division Three South with West Sussex Institute of Higher Education Lennox House Group, in second place. The Barclays Bank squad includes John Kitchener, Andy Withers, Mark Randle, Andy Edmonds and Paul Amos, who all have good records with Withers and Amos still to be beaten.

Rob Faulkner and Wesley Bush Harris are doing best for Lennox House Group who could well push the Barclays Bank team all of the way in the second half of the season.

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## PLACINGS AT 31st OCTOBER 1993

PREMIER DIVISION								DIVISION TWO SOUTH WEST							
P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS		P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	
BFL Grove	7	7	-	-	94	4	14	Horsham Angels II	6	6	-	-	39	9	12
Team Peniel	7	5	1	1	61	37	11	VRS Fareham	6	3	3	-	31	17	9
Sedgefield	6	4	1	1	46	38	9	DML Launceston II	7	4	1	2	35	21	9
Launceston	6	3	-	3	41	43	6	Bathwick II	7	3	2	2	26	30	8
Horsham	7	2	1	4	42	56	5	BFL Grove Colts	7	2	2	3	27	29	6
Vymura	7	2	-	5	34	64	4	Jolliffe Poole	7	1	-	6	15	41	2
St. Neots	7	1	1	5	33	65	3	A.G. Fareham	7	-	1	6	14	40	1
Bathwick Tyres	7	1	-	6	27	71	2								
DIVISION ONE NORTH								DIVISION THREE EAST							
BFL Grove II	7	7	-	-	44	12	14	Peterborough	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
Olton & West Warwickshire	7	5	1	1	40	16	11	Gridfine St. Neots	7	5	-	2	33	23	10
Sedgefield II	7	3	3	1	36	20	9	Brent Juniors	7	4	1	2	33	23	9
R. M. Lincoln	7	2	2	3	27	29	6	BSG Brentwood II	7	4	-	3	35	21	8
B. Gas CMK	7	2	2	3	25	31	6	Fellows Cranleigh II	7	3	-	4	27	29	6
Sunderland	7	2	1	4	28	28	5	Chelmsford League	7	2	2	3	24	32	6
Humberside	7	1	3	3	20	36	5	Ipswich	7	1	2	4	18	38	4
Cheltenham Saracens	7	-	-	7	4	52	-	Norwich T.F.	7	-	2	5	18	38	2
DIVISION ONE SOUTH								DIVISION THREE MIDLAND							
BFL Grove III	6	6	-	-	36	12	12	Colley Toyota II	7	6	-	1	35	21	12
OLOP	6	3	1	2	25	23	7	Launceston III	7	6	-	1	33	23	12
Edison	6	2	2	2	23	25	6	Hawbush	7	4	-	3	30	26	8
Colley Toyota	6	1	3	2	24	24	5	P. D. Newport	7	4	-	3	27	29	8
BSG Brentwood	6	2	1	3	22	26	5	Horsham III	7	3	-	4	30	26	6
G. S. Larkhall	6	1	2	3	19	29	4	O.L.O.P. II	7	2	1	4	27	29	5
Rejects	6	1	1	4	19	29	3	Bathwick Tyres III	7	1	1	5	20	36	3
								Bromsgrove	7	1	-	6	22	34	2
DIVISION TWO NORTH								DIVISION THREE NORTH							
Leicester	7	5	1	1	34	22	11	Glasgow	7	6	-	1	41	14	12
Uxbridge	7	4	2	1	37	19	10	Blackpool	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
Leeds	7	4	1	2	29	27	9	Sedgefield III	7	4	1	2	31	25	9
Vymura II	7	3	2	2	33	23	8	Uxbridge III	7	3	1	3	29	27	7
V. R. Warrington	7	2	1	4	25	31	5	Grove IV	7	2	2	3	29	26	6
Derwent	7	1	3	3	24	32	5	AALCO Leeds	7	2	1	4	21	25	5
Levis Westfield	7	2	1	4	22	34	5	Crusaders Lincoln	7	2	-	5	19	37	4
Leckie	7	-	3	4	20	36	3	Co-op	7	1	-	6	17	39	2
DIVISION TWO SOUTH EAST								DIVISION THREE SOUTH							
Linda Farrow	7	7	-	-	40	16	14	Barclays Bank	6	5	1	-	39	9	11
Byng Hall	7	4	1	2	33	23	9	WSIHE L.H.G.	6	4	1	1	30	18	9
P. Air Croydon	7	4	1	2	33	23	9	Rejects II	6	3	1	2	28	20	7
JAGS	7	3	2	2	27	29	8	Linda Farrow II	6	2	1	3	24	24	5
Ashford	7	2	3	2	30	26	7	G.S. Larkhall II	6	1	3	2	20	28	5
Fellows Cranleigh	7	1	2	4	23	32	4	Ellenborough	6	1	1	4	15	33	3
Team Peniel II	7	1	2	4	20	36	4	Adeyfield N.A.	6	-	2	4	12	36	2
Norwich Todd Foxwood	7	-	1	6	17	39	1								



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# Essex bid for the championship

THE first round of Senior Premier matches were played at Grantham T.T. Centre, Essex, with a young team comprising Steve Dorking, Grant Solder, Chris Sladden, Linda Radford and Shelley Ruocco, grabs the spotlight with three great 8-2 wins. First team to suffer was Middlesex, the current champions, when Essex went into a 7-0 lead. Nigel Tyler and John Souter each had a win for Middlesex **writes Doug Moss**

In the match versus Devon the only success came from Alex Perry who had a win over Grant Solder and Paul Whiting who beat Chris Sladden. Penny Perry played well to take Linda Radford to 20 in the 3rd game. Carol Giles had to retire after the 2nd game of her match versus Linda Radford. The Essex team was even more formidable against Staffs with Skylet Andrew joining the team and winning his events. The Staffs wins came from Jill Harris who beat Shelley Ruocco -16, 10 and 5, and Adrian Dixon had a 24 in 3rd win over Steve Dorking. It was a very good all round performance from Essex. Linda Radford was unbeaten, Grant Solder lost only once as did Shelley Ruocco. Shelley, still a Junior, beat three players 30-40 players above her on the ranking list! Middlesex came back well to beat Derbyshire and Staffordshire and gained 2nd place in the table. There was little to choose between Devon, Surrey and Derbyshire, who each gained three points from one win, one loss and a drawn match. Sussex gained two points from two drawn matches. Against Derbyshire the Sussex team was 3-5 down but, with wins by Teresa Bennett and Ritchie Venner, came back to get the draw. The other draw was against Devon. The Sussex team benefited from two events being forfeited because of Carol Giles' injury. Staffordshire finished with two points from a win over Lancashire. Jill Harris (Staffs) won five of her six matches. Lancashire drew with Surrey, with Sean Gibson and Darren Howarth winning their four events, and lost 4-6 to Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

**LEAGUE TABLE**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Essex	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Devon	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Surrey	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Derbyshire	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Sussex	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Staffordshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Lancashire	3	0	1	2	13	17	1

Sixteen Senior Division 1A matches were played over a weekend at St. Neots T.T.C. Leicester led the way with four wins over Essex 2nds, Yorkshire, Northumberland and Warwickshire - and are making a strong bid to reclaim Premier status. Their hardest match was against Yorkshire, who were relegated from Premier Division last season. Yorkshire started with a two-nil lead but Leicester came back well to lead 5-4 when Mark Ilingworth beat Mark Stephenson 19 and 19 for the Leicester win. Chris Rogers and Karen Smith won all their events in the four matches. Yorkshire are 2nd in the table with wins over Cambridge-shire, Essex 2nds and Suffolk. Caroline



Alex Perry

Bentley was the most successful Yorkshire player losing only to Karen Smith (Le). Suffolk lost only to Yorkshire. They had wins over Northumberland and Warwickshire and were, perhaps surprisingly, held to a draw by Hertfordshire despite Stuart Palmer and John Kitchener winning their four events. This was Hertfordshire's only point of the weekend. Emma Hurling (He) won her two events against Suffolk. Cambridgeshire, Northumberland and Warwickshire each finished with four points. Each team had a win over Hertfordshire 2nds and Cambridgeshire and Northumberland also beat Essex 2nds. Warwickshire had a good 6-4 win over Cambridgeshire with Barry Johnson and Sandra Duncan winning their four events. Essex 2nds lost all their matches - each with a 3-7 scoreline.

**Successful**

Fifteen Senior 1B Division matches were played at Plymouth T.T. H.Q. over a weekend. Each of the six teams involved played five matches which were all hard fought. Eight matches ended with a 5-5 or 6-4 result. Middlesex 2nds was the most successful team with four wins. But they were surprisingly held to a draw by Gwent, whose only other success was a win over Avon. For Gwent each of the men - David Buck, Ryan Owen and Andrew Penduck - had a singles win and Sian Evans did well to win her two singles against Mateja Glusic and Caroline O'Leary. Devon 2nds had two wins, lost only to Middlesex 2nds and had drawn matches with Sussex 2nds and Avon. Sussex 2nds also had two drawn results, wins over Surrey 2nds and Gwent but was another team to go down to Middlesex. Avon lost 4-6 to Middlesex 2nds and Gwent, had a win over Surrey 2nds and two drawn matches. Surrey 2nds only success was a 6-4 defeat of Gwent when Paul Carter and Gillian Blanch won their four events. One further Senior 1B match was Berkshire 1st team's 10-nil win over Berkshire 2nds. There were some close games and Gemma Schwartz beat Janet Parker at 19 in 3rd game. Lancashire 2nds continue on top in Senior Division 2A but had a tough match against Cheshire. In the final event. Graham Clarke (La) beat Tony Vaughan at six in 3rd game and previously Tamar Connolly had a 21 win in the 3rd

game against Clare Newns. The Leicester-shire and Warwickshire teams, on equal points met and the result was a draw. Nicola Meddings continues unbeaten for Warwickshire and Steve Meddings had a 16 and 19 win over Maurice Newman. Cumbria received Staffordshire 2nd and 3rd teams at Penrith. They were beaten 9-1 by the 2nd team but got their first win of the season with the 6-4 defeat of Staffordshire 2nd team. Stephen Dixon had two wins for Cumbria.

In Senior 2B Division. Wiltshire entertained the Cornwall 1st and 2nd teams at Devises. Against the 1st team Wiltshire lost events at 18 and 19 in deciding game and went down 6-4. Brenda Lee's (Wi) unbeaten record went losing 20 and 19 to Esme Stevenson. Wiltshire played a completely different team against Cornwall 2nds and won 10-0. Gloucestershire introduced veteran Dave Harvey to their team. He won his two events and with Darren Griffin remaining unbeaten Gloucestershire had a good 8-2 win over Somerset. Tina Sadler won the two events for Somerset.

**Invincible**

Five matches were played at Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester. Worcester 1st and 2nd teams received the Avon 2nd and Devon 3rd teams. Worcester 1st team had two 8-2 wins to put them in an invincible position at the top of the table. Sandra Roden, Malcolm Green and Trevor Washington won all their matches. Worcester 2nds also did well beating Devon 3rds 8-2, with Mike Short getting the Devon wins, and winning 6-4 against Avon 2nds. In this match Joanne Hill (Wo) came back from 16-20 down in 3rd game to beat Debbie Booy and Adrian Tottey (Wo) beat Hugh Dalton 23, -14, 19. Avon 2nds and Devon 3rds met to complete the programme and the result was a draw. Hugh Dalton (Av) won his two matches and, for Devon, Nichola Potts had two wins.

Hertfordshire 2nds played their first match in Senior 2C and had a 9-1 win over Suffolk 2nds. Fred Dove got the one Suffolk success when, in the final event, he beat John Lennon 19 and 18. Kent 1sts and Sussex 3rds are both doing very well in Senior 2D. Kent had their 2nd 9-1 win - this time over their 3rd team. The surprise win was Martin Hewett's 10 in 3rd game defeat of Andy Cunningham. Sussex 3rds followed their previous 10-0 win with the 9-1 defeat of Hertfordshire's 3rd team. Lindsey Booth got the one Hertfordshire win.

**Junior Division 1A - Four teams in line for the championship**

16 matches were played in Swadlincote. The outcome of the weekend's play produced something of a surprise. The Nottingham team had three wins and defeated near rivals Yorkshire 2nd and Norfolk. Nottingham came to the table in the final round as leaders. They had to meet Clwyd who had not gained a point. Debbie Pestka, who had won all six of her matches was not included in the Nottingham team for this final match. Her replacement lost her two events and Nottingham went down 6-4! This meant that instead of being in

pole position Nottingham sank to 4th place! Four teams finished with six points with Yorkshire 2nds, who had been beaten by Nottingham, in the lead followed in order by Northumberland, Norfolk and then Nottingham. The championship is still wide open as both Northumberland and Norfolk have to meet Yorkshire 2nds and Nottingham also meet Northumberland. There were three unbeaten players over the weekend - Gary and Debbie Pestka (Ng) and Andrew Wilkinson (Nd). Four Junior 2B matches were played in Abertillery, Gwent. Kent drew with Glamorgan when Bethan Daunton and Janine Belby (Gn) won their four events. But Kent's 8-2 win over Gwent keeps them at the top of the table. Paul Smith (K) won his four events. Both Gwent and Glamorgan beat Essex 2nds. Sussex received the Hants team and lost the first event. But Sussex hit back to win 9-1. Buckinghamshire, on their visit to Yeovil, had 9-1 win over Somerset. Grantham T.T. Centre was again the venue for County Championships. Twelve Junior Division 2A matches were played and top teams Derbyshire and Warwickshire remain unbeaten. Nicola Deaton appeared for Derbyshire and, not surprisingly, did not drop a game and David Purdy was also unbeaten. The Derbyshire wins were over Oxon, Warwickshire 2nds and the previously unbeaten Northants team. Warwickshire defeated the Cheshire 2nd and Lancashire 2nd teams. Lincolnshire had wins over Leicester and Lancashire 2nds and drew with Cheshire 2nds when, in the final event, Chris Dunne (Ch) beat Kevin Elvin 17, -21, 18. It seems the Derbyshire and Warwickshire match will decide the championship and promotion to Division One.

## Winning ways

In Junior 2B Division Norfolk 2nds and Essex 3rd team both continued their winning ways. Norfolk 2nds lead with a better sets average. Although the Norfolk team had an 8-2 win over Hertfordshire 2nds there were some hard fought matches. Norfolk won three events at 19, 20 and 22 in deciding game. Claire Vasco (Nk 2) beat Michelle Budden (He 2) -20, 22, 22! Hertfordshire 2nds gained some revenge by beating Norfolk 3rd team 7-3. Essex 3rd team led the Bedfordshire team from the start and secured a 7-3 win. Cambridgeshire are still without a point after their 9-1 defeat by Buckinghamshire 2nds. Hunts went into a four-nil lead against Suffolk 2nds and finally won 7-3. Glamorgan 2nds 4-6 defeat, at the hands of Avon, allowed Devon 2nds, after their 8-2 win over Wiltshire, to take over the lead in Junior 2C Division. Alex Sheppard and Tom Orlik (Av) are unbeaten. Devon 3rd team also did well to beat Wiltshire 8-2. Tracy Youlden (Wi) had 100% success against the Devon teams. Worcestershire got their first win with the 7-3 defeat of Gloucestershire. The Worcestershire girls - Zoe Evans and Stephanie Price - again won their four events and Tim Evans also played well to win his two matches. The Cornish boys - Graham Worth, Kevin Worth and Avadh Srivastava - won their six events to secure a win over Dorset. In Junior Division 2D

the Sussex 2nd and 3rd teams met the Surrey 2nd and 3rd teams at Hove. The Sussex 2nd team did a little better before losing 7-3 to Sussex 2nds. The Sussex 3rd team lost both their matches. Berkshire 2nds had a 6-4 win over Hants 2nds with Praveen Reddy and Helen Goatley (Bk) winning their four events.

## Emphatic

Eleven Veteran Division 1A matches were played at Barnet. Leicestershire came out on top with 5-4 wins against Cheshire 2nds and Lancashire 2nds and an emphatic 7-2 win over Warwickshire's 1st team. In this Joan Humphrey-Middlemore (ranked 22) had a 19 and 14 win over Eileen Shaler (Le) (ranked seventh). The Cheshire match 'went to the wire' with the match score getting to 4-4. Steve White (Le) then had a very good win over Phil Biggs (Ch 2) - his only loss in the weekend matches. Lancashire's first team also had three wins - over Lincolnshire, Cheshire 2nds and Lancashire 2nds. But in their first match Lancashire had to concede the first event against Warwickshire and went down 4-5. Both Cheshire 2nds and Lincolnshire teams had 7-2 wins over Hertfordshire 2nds and both teams had a very hard fought match with Lancashire's first team - in each case six events needed a decider before going down 5-4. Lancashire's 2nds is the only team not to have gained a point in the Division. Worcestershire visited Hertfordshire and, by winning both the doubles



Shelley Ruocco

events at 19 in 3rd games and Janet Hunt (Wo) beating Sue Felstead at 23 in 3rd, earned a 6-3 win. Kent 2nds continue to forge ahead in Veterans 1B Division with an 8-1 win over Middlesex. Three events were decided at 19 in 3rd games. Hants had a good 6-3 win over Somerset. Brian Reeves was involved in three comfortable wins for Somerset. Essex 2nds beat Berkshire 'in the dock' at Rayleigh Police Station, and imposed a 7-2 defeat. Dave Bowles and Ray Murray won their four singles events. Staffordshire got their first win in Veterans 2A Division with the 6-3 defeat of Northants 2nds. John Riley and Martin Pickles won their four singles. Warwickshire 2nds had a emphatic 8-1 win over Clwyd. Bernard Carter got the one

win for Clwyd. Nottinghamshire beat Northants 6-3 for whom Keith Jones won his two singles. Five Veteran Division 2B matches were played at Milton Keynes TTC when the Buckinghamshire and Norfolk 1st and 2nd teams met. Buckinghamshire 1 got two wins to lead the Division. They led 5-1 against Norfolk 1 who then won the final three events. But Norfolk 2nds suffered a nine-nil defeat at the hands of Buckinghamshire. Norfolk 2nds versus Buckinghamshire 2nds was a closer contest with Buckinghamshire winning 5-4. And Norfolk got a win when their first team beat Buckinghamshire 2nds 7-2. In the final match Buckinghamshire had an 8-1 win over their 2nd team. Graham Trimming/Dave Swift (Bu 2) won the doubles event. In a match when each event was decided two straight Bedfordshire beat Cambridgeshire 6-3. Brian Mayfield (Bd) was involved in three wins. In Veterans Division 2C Oxon first team met Sussex 3rds at Hove. They won 8-1 to head the table. Chris Hatton (5x3) beat Eddie Herry at 18 in 3rd game in the last event. Oxon 2nds did not fare so well going down 8-1 to Surrey 2nds.

## Defeat

Middlesex 2nds suffered their first defeat at the hands of Sussex 2nds. Gerry Batt-Rawden was involved in three of the Sussex wins. Surrey 3rds continue unbeaten in Veterans 2D Division with a 6-3 win over Dorset 2nds. The Devon/Wiltshire match was not decided until the last event when Basil Thompson beat Richard Avent for a 5-4 win for Wiltshire. Mike Short was involved in three of the wins for Devon. Somerset 2nds suffered another heavy defeat when meeting Avon who got an 8-1 win. Warwickshire 3rd team in Veterans Division 3A had another emphatic win. Hertfordshire 4th team suffered a 7-2 defeat at their hands. Barry Hunt and Graham Hoskin were involved in six of the Warwickshire wins. Bedfordshire 2nds are also undefeated after a 5-4 win over Wiltshire 2nds. The Bedfordshire team won both doubles events and Bedfordshire 3rd team did well to get a 5-4 win over Cheshire 3rds. Huntingdonshire 1st and 2nd teams met. The 1st team won 9-0 but six events went to a decider. In Veterans 3B Hants 4th team had an 8-1 win over Berkshire 4ths but there were a number of deuce games and two events decided at deuce in 3rd. Hertfordshire 3rd team beat Sussex 5-4 when Terry Wilson (He 3) beat Brian Keeley 18 and 15 in the final event. It was perhaps surprising that Hants 3rd team lost their unbeaten record to Dorset 3rds, who had already lost two matches. Brian Bickell/Eric Buckley's (Do) deuce in 3rd win in the doubles event proved vital. In Veterans 3C two unbeaten teams - Gloucester 2nds and Hertfordshire 5th team - met and Hertfordshire got an 8-1 win. The score does not do justice to Gloucestershire as it was a hard fought match with six events going to a decider. Brian Gale and Dave Wilson won five events for Hertfordshire. Devon 3rd team continues unbeaten after a 6-3 defeat at Herefords. Neville and Pat Meredith won the three events for Hereford. Devon 2nds won the first two events against Northants 3rds but finally lost 6-3.

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

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

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

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS - NOVEMBER 1993

## SENIOR SECTION

### PREMIER

Surrey	3	Devon	7
Derbyshire	5	Sussex	5
Staffordshire	6	Lancashire	4
Essex	8	Middlesex	2
Middlesex	6	Staffordshire	4
Lancashire	4	Derbyshire	6
Sussex	4	Surrey	6
Devon	2	Essex	8
Surrey	5	Lancashire	5
Derbyshire	2	Middlesex	8
Staffordshire	2	Essex	8
Devon	5	Sussex	5

### DIVISION 1A

Warwickshire	6	Cambridgeshire	4
N'berland	6	Hertfordshire	4
Essex 2	3	Leicestershire	7
Yorkshire	6	Suffolk	4
Leicestershire	6	Yorkshire	4
Cambridgeshire	7	Essex 2	3
Suffolk	6	N'berland	4
Hertfordshire	1	Warwickshire	9
Cambridgeshire	6	Hertfordshire	4
Warwickshire	4	Suffolk	6
N'berland	2	Leicestershire	8
Yorkshire	7	Essex 2	3
Essex 2	3	N'berland	7
Yorkshire	7	Cambridgeshire	3
Suffolk	5	Hertfordshire	5
Leicestershire	7	Warwickshire	3

### DIVISION 1B

Surrey 2	6	Gwent	4
Devon 2	5	Sussex 2	5
Middlesex 2	6	Avon	4
Devon 2	5	Avon	5
Middlesex 2	5	Gwent	5
Sussex 2	7	Surrey 2	3
Surrey 2	3	Devon 2	7
Devon 2	3	Middlesex 2	7
Avon	7	Surrey 2	3
Gwent	4	Sussex 2	6
Middlesex 2	8	Sussex 2	2
Avon	4	Gwent	6
Gwent	3	Devon 2	7
Surrey 2	3	Middlesex 2	7
Sussex 2	5	Avon	5
Berkshire	10	Berkshire 2	0

### DIVISION 2A

Warwickshire 2	5	Leicestershire 2	5
Cumbria	1	Staffordshire 2	9
Cumbria	6	Staffordshire 3	4
Cheshire	4	Lancashire 2	6

### DIVISION 2B

Wiltshire	4	Cornwall	6
Wiltshire	10	Cornwall 2	0
Gloucestershire	8	Somerset	2
Worcestershire	8	Avon 2	2
Worcestershire 2	6	Avon 2	4
Worcestershire	8	Devon 3	2
Worcestershire 2	8	Devon 3	2
Avon 2	5	Devon 3	5

## DIVISION 2C

Hertfordshire 2	9	Suffolk 2	1
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## DIVISION 2D

Kent 3	1	Kent	9
Hertfordshire 3	1	Sussex 3	9

## JUNIOR SECTION

### DIVISION 1A

Hertfordshire	8	Clwyd	2
Staffordshire	2	Norfolk	8
Yorkshire 2	4	N'hamshire	6
Suffolk	3	N'berland	7
Hertfordshire	4	N'hamshire	6
Staffordshire	2	N'berland	8
Yorkshire 2	7	Suffolk	3
Clwyd	2	Norfolk	8
Yorkshire 2	8	Clwyd	2
Suffolk	7	Staffordshire	3
N'berland	8	Hertfordshire	2
Nottinghamshire	6	Norfolk	4
Hertfordshire	5	Suffolk	5
Staffordshire	1	Yorkshire 2	9
Norfolk	6	N'berland	4
Clwyd	6	N'hamshire	4

### DIVISION 1B

Glamorgan	9	Essex 2	1
Sussex	9	Hants	1
Somerset	1	B'hamshire	9
Gwent	2	Kent	8
Glamorgan	5	Kent	5
Essex 2	3	Gwent	7

### DIVISION 2A

Leicestershire	3	Lincolnshire	7
Oxon	1	Derbyshire	9
Cheshire 2	3	Warwickshire	7
Leicestershire	5	Oxon	5
Lincolnshire	5	Cheshire 2	5
Warwickshire 2	3	Lancashire 2	7
Northants	3	Derbyshire	7
Warwickshire	9	Lancashire 2	1
Lancashire 2	3	Lincolnshire	7
Cheshire 2	6	Leicestershire	4
Derbyshire	8	Warwickshire 2	2
Northants	9	Oxon	1

### DIVISION 2B

Hunts	7	Suffolk 2	3
Cambridgeshire	1	B'hamshire 2	9
Norfolk 2	8	Hertfordshire 2	2
Essex 3	7	Bedfordshire	3
Norfolk 3	3	Hertfordshire 2	7

### DIVISION 2C

Glamorgan 2	4	Avon	6
Dorset	4	Cornwall	6
Worcestershire	7	G'shire	3
Devon 3	8	Wiltshire	2
Devon 2	8	Wiltshire	2

### DIVISION 2D

Sussex 3	3	Surrey 2	7
Sussex 2	7	Surrey 3	3

## DIVISION 2D (Continued)

Sussex 2	8	Surrey 2	2
Sussex 3	4	Surrey 3	6
Hants 2	4	Berkshire 2	6

## VETERAN SECTION

### DIVISION 1A

Warwickshire	5	Lancashire	4
Hertfordshire 2	6	Lancashire 2	3
Warwickshire	2	Leicestershire	7
Lancashire 2	1	Lancashire	8
Cheshire 2	7	Hertfordshire 2	2
Leicestershire	5	Lancashire 2	4
Lancashire	5	Cheshire 2	4
Hertfordshire 2	2	Lincolnshire	7
Lancashire 2	2	Warwickshire	7
Lincolnshire	4	Lancashire	5
Cheshire 2	4	Leicestershire	5
Hertfordshire 2	3	Worcestershire	6

### DIVISION 1B

Essex 2	7	Berkshire	2
Kent 2	8	Middlesex	1
Essex 3	9	Gloucestershire	0
(conceded)			
Hants	6	Somerset	3

### DIVISION 2A

Staffordshire	6	Northants 2	3
Nottinghamshire	6	Northants	3
Warwickshire 2	8	Clwyd	1

### DIVISION 2B

Cambridgeshire	3	Bedford	6
B'hamshire 2	5	Norfolk 2	4
B'hamshire	5	Norfolk	4
Norfolk 2	0	B'hamshire	9
B'hamshire 2	2	Norfolk	7
B'hamshire	8	B'hamshire 2	1

### DIVISION 2C

Sussex 2	6	Middlesex 2	3
Sussex 3	1	Oxon	8
Oxon 2	1	Surrey 2	8

### DIVISION 2D

Dorset 2	3	Surrey 3	6
Devon	4	Wiltshire	5
Avon	8	Somerset 2	1

### DIVISION 3A

Wiltshire 2	4	Bedford 2	5
Bedford 3	5	Cheshire 3	4
Hunts 2	0	Hunts	9
Warwickshire 3	7	Hertfordshire 4	2

### DIVISION 3B

Dorset 3	5	Hants 3	4
Hants 4	8	Berkshire 4	1
Hertfordshire 3	5	Sussex 4	4
Berkshire 2	3	Kent 4	6

### DIVISION 3C

N'hamptonshire 3	6	Devon 2	3
Gloucestershire 2	1	Hertfordshire 5	8
Herefordshire	3	Devon 3	6
Berkshire 3	7	Wiltshire 3	2

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 4

## LEAGUE TABLES 1993/94 - NOVEMBER 1993 - Compiled by Leslie Smith

### SENIORS

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Essex	3	3	0	0	26	6	6
Middlesex	3	2	0	0	16	14	4
Surrey	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Devonshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Derbyshire	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Sussex	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Staffordshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Lancashire	3	0	1	2	13	17	1

### DIVISION 1A

Leicestershire	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Suffolk	4	2	1	2	21	19	5
Warwickshire	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Cambridgeshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Northumberland	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Hertfordshire	4	0	1	3	14	26	1
Essex 2nd	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

### DIVISION 1B

Middlesex 2nd	6	5	1	0	39	21	11
Devonshire 2nd	6	3	2	1	35	25	8
Berkshire	4	3	0	1	30	10	6
Avon	6	2	2	2	32	28	6
Sussex 2nd	6	2	2	2	26	34	6
Surrey 2nd	6	2	0	4	26	34	4
Gwent	6	1	1	4	25	35	3
Berkshire 2nd	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

### DIVISION 2A

Lancashire 2nd	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Nottinghamshire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Leicestershire 2nd	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Cheshire	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Warwickshire 2nd	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Staffordshire 2nd	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Cumbria	5	1	1	3	13	37	3
Clwyd	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Staffordshire 3rd	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

### DIVISION 2B

Worcestershire	6	6	0	0	49	11	12
Cornwall	4	3	0	1	20	20	6
Wiltshire	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Worcestershire 2nd	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Gloucestershire	6	2	1	3	33	27	5
Devonshire 3rd	7	2	1	4	31	39	5
Somerset	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Avon 2nd	5	0	2	3	19	31	2
Cornwall 2nd	4	0	0	4	2	38	0

### DIVISION 2C

Hertfordshire	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Kent 2nd	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Essex 3rd	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Suffolk 2nd	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Huntingdonshire	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### DIVISION 2D

Sussex 3rd	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Kent	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Hertfordshire 3rd	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Hampshire	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Oxfordshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Hampshire 2nd	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Kent 3rd	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Dorset	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

### JUNIORS

#### PREMIER DIVISION

Berkshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Essex	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Yorkshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Surrey	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Cheshire	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Lancashire	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Devonshire	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

DIVISION 1A	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Yorkshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Northumberland	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Norfolk	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Nottinghamshire	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Hertfordshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Suffolk	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Clwyd	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Staffordshire	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

### DIVISION 1B

Buckinghamshire	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Glamorgan	5	3	2	0	33	17	8
Sussex	5	3	1	1	37	13	7
Kent	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Gwent	6	2	2	2	30	30	6
Hampshire	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Essex 2nd	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
Somerset	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

### DIVISION 2A

Derbyshire	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Warwickshire	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Northamptonshire	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Lincolnshire	6	3	2	1	34	26	8
Cheshire 2nd	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Leicestershire	6	1	1	4	24	36	3
Oxfordshire	5	0	3	2	17	33	3
Lancashire 2nd	6	1	1	4	20	40	3
Warwickshire 2nd	5	0	0	5	16	34	0

### DIVISION 2B

Norfolk 2nd	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Essex 3rd	4	4	0	0	25	15	8
B'inghamshire 2nd	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
H'tingdonshire	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Suffolk 2nd	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Bedfordshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Norfolk 3rd	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Cambridgeshire	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

### DIVISION 2C

Devonshire 2nd	5	4	1	0	42	8	9
Avon	4	3	1	0	25	15	7
Glamorgan 2nd	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Worcestershire	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Devonshire 3rd	5	2	0	3	21	29	4
Wiltshire	5	1	2	2	20	30	4
Gloucestershire	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
Cornwall	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
Dorset	4	0	1	3	15	25	1

### DIVISION 2D

Sussex 2nd	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Kent 2nd	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Berkshire 2nd	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Surrey 2nd	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Surrey 3rd	5	2	1	2	21	29	5
Hampshire 2nd	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Sussex 3rd	5	0	2	3	19	31	2
Kent 3rd	3	0	1	2	12	18	1
Middlesex 2nd	4	0	1	3	12	28	1

### VETERANS

#### PREMIER DIVISION

Cheshire	3	3	0	0	21	6	6
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	19	8	6
Dorset	3	2	1	1	14	13	4
Essex	3	2	1	1	11	16	4
Kent	3	1	2	1	13	14	2
Hertfordshire	3	1	2	1	11	16	2
Surrey	3	0	3	1	11	16	0
Sussex	3	0	3	8	19	0	0

### DIVISION 1A

Leicestershire	4	4	0	0	23	13	8
Lancashire	4	3	1	0	22	14	6
Lincolnshire	3	2	1	0	17	10	4
Warwickshire	4	2	2	0	18	18	4

DIVISION 1A (Continued)	P	W	L	F	A	PTS
Worcestershire	4	2	2	17	19	4
Cheshire 2nd	3	1	2	15	12	2
Hertfordshire 2nd	4	1	3	13	23	2
Lancashire 2nd	4	0	4	10	26	0

### DIVISION 1B

Kent 2nd	4	4	0	0	23	13	8
Hampshire	4	3	1	0	24	12	6
Essex 2nd	4	3	1	0	21	15	6
Somerset	4	2	2	0	19	17	4
Berkshire	4	2	2	0	17	19	4
Essex 3rd	4	1	3	0	16	20	2
Gloucestershire	4	1	3	0	14	22	2
Middlesex	4	0	4	0	10	26	0

### DIVISION 2A

Northumberland	3	3	0	0	18	9	6
Warwickshire 2nd	4	3	1	0	22	14	6
Northamptonshire	5	3	2	0	26	19	6
Nottinghamshire	4	2	2	0	19	17	4
Staffordshire	3	1	2	0	10	17	2
N'hamptonshire 2nd	3	1	2	0	10	17	2
Clwyd	4	0	4	0	12	24	0

### DIVISION 2B

Buckinghamshire	4	4	0	0	27	9	8
B'inghamshire 2nd	5	3	2	0	20	25	6
Norfolk	4	2	2	0	24	12	4
Bedfordshire	3	2					

## Great memories

I was shocked to learn of the double heart attack suffered by former five times England singles champion Chester Barnes. It is good that he is recovering.

Young players of today will be unaware of the huge influence that 'enfant terrible' Chester had on my generation. National senior champion but still a junior, he was our age and we, in the early sixties, tried to play like him using his square shaped, Butterfly D13, Spalding bats (price 25 shillings and sixpence!). He, and the excitement he generated, drew us to table tennis.

The Georgie Best of table tennis, with tremendous unfulfilled potential, despite wins over the very best, Chester had talent and flair and charisma to match - Waldner with personality! I am sure that he could have easily adapted his game to 'glue'. He looked good and always seemed to have attractive girls in tow! In frequent trouble with authority but sometimes the best behaved, he was a witty, lovable rogue, much written about and a TV personality. Des Douglas achieved more but Chester Barnes was probably more famous.

He possibly left serious, competitive table tennis before his prime - both a precocious success and a might have been. Still, we are thankful for great memories.

Ken Muhr, *Stony Stratford*

## If you can't lick them, ban them!

MY protest that Barna bat players are being driven out of the game has prompted one county correspondent to describe this as 'hot air'. I refer to the latest decision to impose red and black bats on leagues that do not want them.

Presumably it is alleged that I had imagined what so many told me. One can understand the motives behind the red/black rule, assuming the players do not have the ability to tell different rubbers apart. However, Barna bats have the same old rubber on both sides of the blade. What sense is there in forcing such players to peel off their rubbers and make them buy new ones which they may not like? Of course, it makes no sense except to those who feel that to upset our members at regular intervals is a way to promote the sport.

It is reported that in many parts of the country common sense has prevailed and that blind eyes are being turned to such bats. It is a natural reaction to 'impositions from above' which seek to ruin members' fun.

I was never a hard bat man myself, but I respected the skill of those who could play with such primitive weapons and saw the remedy as beating them rather than persuade my fellows to ban their bats, which added interest and diversity to the sport.

Even the red/black rule has not, on reflection, turned out a good thing for the game. It always seemed a strange reward to John Hilton to take his bat away by way of thanks for the

stupendous feat of bringing the European men's title to this country; the likes of Dougie Johnson and Billie Gleave were driven out of the game, since their skills were taken from them. Both were crowd pleasers in their different ways and we do not have many of those. Many less well known players similarly departed from a sport which had treated them so badly.

The fact that 99% of top players play a game that is virtually the same hardly adds to the spectacle and attraction of the sport, nor that crowd-pulling defenders have been practically extinguished by the red/black rule.

The latest measures, which seem designed to drive the old hard bat players out of the game, appear yet another sign of intolerance within our sport and confirm the further drift towards the glue robot as the role model for the young. Those who grumble about the skill factors in the use of 'funny rubbers' might meditate whether the use of the best glue/solvents should be so decisive a factor in the destination of world titles.

There is a lot more to worry about now than a few hard bat veterans. I would name the increasingly robotic nature of the game, oiled by dangerous and foul smelling solvents, as a far greater danger to our future.

John Prean, *Isle of Wight*

## Eleven Up - No thank you

SPECTATOR support will not improve by changing the scoring system - it will merely confuse the existing public. What one needs is SUCCESS. Just see the response to the performances of British athletes.

Player support is more important than that of marginal spectators. I have seen no evidence that players want change. On the contrary several of the world's top players have come out against it. Surely they have the right to be consulted.

Why not try the new system in the County Championships, and monitor the opinions of all taking part? Here one has a good cross section of playing standards and age groups. Other countries should be persuaded to do likewise, before imposing such radical change - even briefly - on the general international programme. The wrong decision could drive away support. Major table tennis events in Germany, France and Belgium already attract massive support.

Derek N. Tyler, *Bruxelles*

## Sussex 2 Star

I refer to Ron Langheim's article in 'Veterans' Voice relating to the STAMCO Sussex Open 2 Star (T.T. News December/January).

I am grateful to him for his comments on the running of the tournament, but I write to respond to his query as to whether the tournament will run this year. While I agree that October's tournament entry overall was down, the Veterans Singles entry was actually higher than in 1992 and, due to additional revenue from the new Class 2 Singles event and cutting expenses where possible, the tournament made a small surplus.

I wish to assure Mr. Langheim and all other interested players that the

tournament is on the calendar for this year being fixed for 8th and 9th October at the Hastings Sport Centre.

I hope for a good entry so that the reputation of the tournament over many years (this year is the 59th) can be maintained.

Thanks to all players for their interest and support.

Ron Spencer, *Organiser  
Stamco Sussex 2 Star*

## Eurobrum '94

I am appalled to hear of the decision regarding 'Eurobrum '94' that umpires will not be turning their scoring machines round to enable spectators to see them.

As a consequence unless they view the event from either end of the venue with binoculars, spectators interested in matches on 15 of the tables (and positioned at the table ends) on looking at the scoring machines, will find the numbers impossible to read, due to the 1,000 plus lux of lighting reflecting on their glossy plastic surfaces, additionally the audience (if not lip readers) will gain little, if any, information score-wise, from umpires who appear oblivious of the spectators, by whispering in a low voice the score to the players at their table, while applause is at its peak.

Having been involved in the sport for over 50 years and having a collection of video tapes covering most major events worldwide since 1961, without considering the racket changes, I would suggest that in recent years the ITTF and other administrators have 'lost sight' of several basic principles essential to the success of our sport, at major events.

1. From a spectator point of view: A clear sight of the ball in play plus a clear sight of the score. An entertaining spectacle presented by the players.  
2. From the players point of view: A clear sight of the ball.

Since Dortmund World's 1989 which to me was absolutely breathtaking for both players and spectators alike, with fantastic rallies in most matches, the world championships in particular have considerably deteriorated as have other events. Why is this?

I suggest there are a number of reasons: Spectators: Inability to see the orange ball (which in motion appears grey) against a background of players in multi coloured (including white) playing kit and brightly lit spectators. In Europe: Continued usage of glossy plastic scoring machines (particularly in England) unlike Asia for example (also Germany), where ones with a matt non-glossy surface are used. The Players: (A clear sight of the ball).

They appear to be the last people to be considered by the powers that be, e.g. if 'Eurobrum '94' was a tennis tournament an eight foot fine netting or screen would be erected at the spectators end of the six show courts enabling the players to clearly see the much larger ball, however in our sport they are inflicted with a background which can vary from brightly lit spectators, advertising posters or even electronic advertising panels around the play area.... where the adverts (and their colours) change after each point! (World All Stars Event, Belgium).

Having done a bit of umpiring myself I can appreciate the need

particularly at major events, for umpires to 'blink' their concentration to the activity within the barriers, however as a video cameraman/spectator I suggest that due to the antiquated custom of placing scoring machines mid-court-facing-inwards despite most spectators being at the table ends, we have a situation unique in sport, that is in need of changes.

At the forthcoming 'Eurobrum '94' fifty nations teams will have video cameras which their team captains will endeavour to operate while performing their coaching and other duties. The resulting video tapes lacking the sight of scoring machines are of little use apart from team use at training camps.

However, if the scoring machines were either turned or moved to where they could be viewed both by cameras and spectators, each of the fifty associations 'training videos' would immediately become marketable products, at no capital outlay except advertising space in their association magazine, a video recorder to make copies, plus a supply of blank tapes and 'jiffy' envelopes, which could be purchased with the income from orders, subject to the demand.

In this way, but unlike team captains - having no other duties, I have had the time to move my camera to include the scoring machines, which override all language problems, as a hobby with no profit motive. I have been contacted by fans throughout the world, many of whom from countries the top players never visit, also a considerable number from the leading table tennis nations where videos of every other sport are easily available, but their associations, while pleading poverty, currently are doing nothing to avail themselves of the income that providing video tapes could produce without sponsorship.

On a wh/lighter note: (with acknowledgement to Denis Norden). Having done a bit of globe-trotting in recent years: EuroParis '88, Follow the Ball, Dortmund '89, The Magic Ball, Then Videos of Chiba '91, Where the Hell is the Ball, finally Gothenburg '93 What's the Score?. The all-time classic of my collection is the 1986 final of the English Open: with white ball and white barriers? Not surprisingly it was won by the tournaments tallest player Kalinic who due to his height and close-to-the-table style, was able to see the ball with the floor as a background, his opponents however and the TV audience 'couldn't see the ball for the barriers'.

In closing, isn't it time the ITTF, the top players and tournament officials got together realising that 'to put bottoms on seats' and attract TV as in the past, the public and the players require both a clear sight of the ball and the score, not a kaleidoscopic fashion show in which they cannot be seen.

Syd Fryer, *Altrincham, Cheshire*

### PLEASE NOTE

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

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

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

## Hand Signals

AT the National Junior Championships held in Leicester, the umpires were told to use hand signals as laid down by the ITTF.

During the rounds assistant umpires were not used, so the umpires, after each point, had to raise the appropriate hand to shoulder level, to indicate which player had won the point, and then turn the number over. It seems to us unnecessary for the umpire to use a signal for each point, when the scoreboard shows which player won the point and also what the score is, in one movement of the umpire's arm **write Fred Groom and Jack Randell**

The hand signal should be used to indicate to the scoring machine operator who has won the last point, so that the score may be updated before the umpire has called the score if he has no chance to do so because of extended applause (c.f. Handbook for Officials 1993, para. 19.2.1).

In the finals, assistant umpires were used, so the use of hand signals by the umpires made more sense. Signalling the next server was felt to be acceptable as umpires often do that anyway.

We prefer a system where signals are available to be used when an umpire thinks it necessary.

## Umpires in Ireland

WE were pleased to accept an invitation to hold an umpiring seminar in Dublin at the end of November.

About fifteen people attended and we spent the day going through the Laws and Regulations, clarifying the changes that followed the last World Championships, and explaining some of the more common misapprehensions. It is now hoped to put the qualification and organisation of umpires on a more formal basis in Ireland. Of course in table tennis there is no North/South divide, a pointer to what can be done.

## Dress

WE are seeing some remarkable examples of extrovert apparel now that the regulations for dress have been relaxed. We are not sure that some of the beach-wear exhibited adds to the spectator appeal of the game. Soon baseball caps will be de rigueur, resting tastefully on the swinging earrings overlooking a kaleidoscopic shirt, and eyeball straining shorts out from which peep the ends of red cycling shorts.

*Do you think anything should go?*

## Service Law

IN reply to our suggested service law we have received a letter from Frank Draycott, an extract from which is given below.

"You suggest the ball be thrown up from the bat, but given the present level of enforcement the coaches would soon find an easy flick of the wrist

would impart a high degree of spin. The only answer to this is to have the ball thrown up from the back of the free hand. First, try to balance the ball on the back of the hand without the hand being fully outstretched, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE. There are only two places on the back of the hand where the ball can be balanced and in both of those places the balance is delicate and depends on the hand being fully outstretched. Next, with the ball balanced on the back of the hand, try to cheat. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT. PLAYERS WILL HAVE TO CONCENTRATE SO HARD ON THE BALANCE THEY WILL FORGET TO CHEAT, but

if they do try, the attempt will be clearly visible to everyone."

## Comment

THE idea of serving off the back of the hand has been raised before but, as far as we know, has never been formally discussed.

With the ball on the racket we think the umpire would see any sideways movement of the racket as the ball is projected upwards, and take the appropriate action. Thinking again, why project the ball upwards at all. With the ball sitting on the racket blade, why not just move the racket downwards

with no initial lateral movement, and strike the ball after it has fallen at least 16cms. Of course, in this case there would be no fear of the ball being below the level of the table at the start of the service.

With serving as proposed in the letter, the fingers would need to be held together if the players were allowed to balance the ball on the back of the fingers. On the back of the hand (at the knuckle) would lead to so many false starts with the ball accidentally rolling off, that it would look a bit farcical.

We would like to receive more comments, especially from players.

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# News from the Counties

## AVON

Bob Murray

NOVEMBER saw our County sides in action on ten occasions with mixed results. The Seniors travelled to Plymouth for a weekend of table tennis which apparently was more of a stamina test than anything else. An eight hour session on the Saturday was followed by twelve hours on the Sunday and it was approaching midnight when our players returned home. Other counties would still have been travelling home well into the early hours of Monday. Avon has always strongly supported the playing of County matches on perhaps two or three Saturdays/weekends but I believe that five matches in one weekend is not in the best interests of county table tennis.

On the table we achieved one win, two draws and two losses. Michelle Cohen and Andy Creed were our best players over the two days but it seems rather indicative that I am somewhat void of the details of our matches.

The Senior II's travelled to Worcester to take on Worcestershire I's, Worcestershire II's and Devon III. They returned with only a point, from a 5-5 draw against Devon, to show for their efforts. An 8-2 reverse against Worcestershire's first team was expected but the 6-4 defeat by their second team was a huge disappointment. Dov Ratz played his best table tennis for the county with an impressive four wins from six games whilst Hugh Dalton's double against Devon earned us a point.

The Veterans entertained Somerset II's at Failand and ran out comfortable 8-1 winners. Two wins each from Gary Baldwin and Bob Murray were supplemented by one each from Linda Porter and John Higgs and for the first time this season both doubles were secured.

Our Juniors continued to have extremely close matches and in their latest encounter emerged 6-4 winners away to Gwent II's. Our boys form once again proved decisive with Alex Sheppard, Graham Long and the rapidly improving Tom Orlik all picking up doubles. They are now well placed to mount a challenge for the division title.

## Trials

The final regional trials saw Tom Orlik and Graham Long qualify for the nationals in the junior boys section together with Leigh Iles and Brian Smith in the cadet boys section.

The nationals played at Whitchurch Sports Centre in Bristol was always going to be a much tougher affair but the form of Tom Orlik on the day was a revelation. In an extremely difficult group he won four of his seven matches and came within a point of winning a fifth which would have ensured qualification for the play offs.

Graham Long also played well on the day to secure two victories in his

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group and both Leigh Iles and Brian Smith managed wins in their groups.

## BERKSHIRE

John Cunningham

SADLY I have to report the death of local player Alan Williams. Alan collapsed and died during the Reading league match between Royal Mail and Springfield. A prominent and well respected player he had performed with credit in the local Bracknell and Reading leagues, representing Artel SSV and Royal Mail. He also represented Artel SSV and Southern Region level and was in the Berkshire Veteran squad. For many years Alan was a key member of the Bracknell and District team taking part in the intertown tournaments.

The church was packed with players and friends who had joined with Alan's wife Shirley and family to pay their last respects and say goodbye taken so suddenly at the age of 52.

Everybody connected to table tennis send their deepest sympathy to his wife, Shirley, family, friends and shocked team mates.

## Current Berkshire Rankings

### Men

1. M Syed
2. J Stokes
3. D Barr
4. D Reeves
5. M Childs
6. B Johnson
7. C Payne
8. T Duffield
9. H Gehlot
10. T Young
11. D Jones
12. B Hegedus
13. J Mead
14. A Subahn
15. G Herbert

### Ladies

1. Alison Gordon
2. Gemma Schwartz
3. Jean Parker-Stokes
4. Janet Parker
5. Gill Knightley
6. Lisa Crick
7. Gill Galloway
8. Isobel Walker
9. Kay Leslie
10. Sandra Pike
11. Julie Hill
12. Carol Chard
13. Ruth Champion
14. Joanna Stone
15. Sylvia Bruton

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Harry Yeates

THE only results of note to have reached me are Colin Bowler's defeat of number 13 senior Michael O'Driscoll, Neil Bigrave's win over Matthew Brown, both in British Gas CMK's 6-2 loss to BFL Grove II in Division One North of the British League, and Jake Yeate's win over number 10 ranked junior Ian Eaton at the National Ranking Trials in Bristol (he still didn't go through). Of the other Bucks juniors at the trials only Stephen Musson went through to the last sixteen, where he met, and lost to Eaton.

By the time you read this the Bucks County Closed Championships will have taken place. This is a shame as it means that I missed the opportunity of alerting people of their existence. I therefore apologise to all those of you who would have liked to have visited Milton Keynes TTC to witness this display for fine table tennis, especially since this season's Championships promised to feature the notables John Burleton, Ian Musk, Neil Bigrave and maybe even Phil Bradbury.

## CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

IF forthcoming local government re-organisation puts Barrow-in-Furness back into Lancashire, Cumbria will be hoping that the county table tennis boundaries do not change as well.

For it is easy to imagine that without the backing of the shipyard town's five-division league Cumbria would be an even more table tennis backwater than it is now.

And a lot of credit must go to Barrow's youth policy and coaches such as Eddie O'Hara, Mike Yardley and others who have worked tirelessly through the schools and clubs.

The opening of the Barrow Table Tennis Centre at Parkview School can do nothing but good to foster the sport. Under the chairmanship of John Reed, another avid campaigner, it recently got a £1,000 cheque from Cumbria County Council's Barrow Neighbourhood Forum.

This will provide 12 easy chairs for the hospitality/committee room and 40 bucket chairs for the main hall. Said John: "The Centre is now almost in first-class condition."

When the cheque was presented at the Barrow Closed Championships, one

of the Forum members, George Matthews, paid tribute from outside the sport: "Table tennis is a sport that excludes no-one and I hope this grant demonstrates not only our commitment to the local community but also to a sport that brings pleasure to spectators and players."

At the Closed, staged at the Centre, a terrific men's singles final resulted in Neil Smith beating his Millium Former Pupils' team-mate Andy Pachul 21-19, 17-21, 21-17, in a barrage of attack and counter-attack.

Two Parkview players, Jade Kendall and Katherine Swan were top of the women's singles round-robin. Jade, who had dropped four places in the junior girls' national rankings at the time, from 98th to 102, surprised 84th placed Katherine by finishing first to become the youngest women's winner.

Katherine, who won the under-14 and under-12 girls, and brother Tristran, who also plays at Parkview and collected the under-17 singles, were nominated for this season's Cumbria Sports Awards, not yet announced at the time of writing.

Katherine, who is third in the national under 12 girls' rankings, Jade is fifth, played with Tristran in a senior division 2a county championship match in November at the Centre and helped gain Cumbria's first win of the season.

In the 6-4 victory over Staffs thirds, they each won a set with Catherine Corkhill (7th in the cadet girls rankings, 11 above Katherine) grabbing two, and Stephen Dixon, pride of the Kendal League, and Neil Yardley, of Barrow, winning one each.

It was a day when the county fielded a "double header" but their efforts against Staffs seconds at Whitbarrow Timeshare, Penrith, fell on stoney ground with a 9-1 defeat.

In a team almost dominated by Carlisle players - the team at Parkview was all but one from Barrow - Steve Temple was Cumbria's only winner.

## DERBYSHIRE

Colin Deaton

ANY chances our County senior first team had of winning the premier division of the National County Championships this season quickly took a nosedive on the first premier weekend play-offs.

For the record they drew with Sussex, beat Lancashire 6-4 and lost to Middlesex by eight sets to two.

It all may have been a different story had we had the services of Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton.

## PLEASE NOTE

Would County correspondents please note that in future would they please send their copy for County Notes to:

John Wood, 5 The Brackens  
Hemel Hempstead,  
Herts HP2 5JA.

Bradley Billington showed consistently that he is still a class player, winning all his games in the three matches.

The remainder of the team comprised of John Holland, Marin Kinsella, Steve Shaw and Sue Cooke

However our County junior team turned in some far more impressive results playing three matches and winning three against Warwickshire II by eight sets to two Northamptonshire 7-3 and Oxfordshire by nine sets to one. Both David Purdy and Nicola Deaton were unbeaten.

Although the Derbyshire association continue to pluck certain young players from various schools who in turn improve and mature into our game eventually reaching all sorts of standards the County schools entry this year in the annual team event tournament can only be described as very poor in fact it is probably the worst entry on record.

The eventual Derbyshire Schools team tournament winners were U19 Boys Clowne College U16 boys Dronfield U13 Boys Dronfield U11 Girls Dronfield U13 Girls Dronfield U11 Girls Dronfield Junior.

This seasons new National red and black rule on bat surfaces has caused some major upsets in the Matlock and District League. Older players with hard bats cannot see the logic on the E.T.T.A. imposing this rule. They may have a very valid point and the result may well be the final result.

Matlocks newly introduced junior league is proving very popular with a very even standard throughout giving lots of exciting matches.

On the senior side in their divisions one Alfreton Miners Welfare lead the division with Cromford Community Centre close behind.

Both those teams are equipped with some very experienced players for instance. Alfreton are represented by Geoff Gill, Mark Gould and Wil Doxey whilst Cromford are relying on the talents of Tony Gregory John Davies and Pat Thorley.

The battle between these two clubs for supremacy will be in force until the very end of the season.

Meanwhile the very popular sponsored tournaments were won by the following. Unisys Challenge was won by L. Gay (£30) with T Taylor the runner up (£10) and the CL Holdings Masters was won by G. Gill (£30) with John Davies the runner up (£10).

Over in the Derby and District, Long Eaton 2nd are setting a real hot pace as leaders with a proud 100% record.

Derbys big junior event of the year which has now grown to become one of the most prestigious events in English calendar and junior table tennis takes place on March 12/13th. Let us all hope we get a good entry.

Burton continues in my opinion to be the area where it is all happening.

They certainly do things in style for instance the pre Christmas national league match at the Uxbridge Club was followed by a 4 course Christmas Turkey dinner.

Burtons livewire Terry Gadsby is a firm believer in the social side of table tennis.

Over the Christmas period a series of day courses were featured for players of all standards and ages and a day

coarse especially for the ladies is planned.

All the County Advanced Training sessions are now to be transferred from Lea Green in Burton still under the guidance of Derrick Marples.

But there can be no denying that the Burton area is making a determined effort to promote table tennis at all standards and in the not too distant future we could see some young up and coming players appearing in the national ranking list.

How encouraging it was to hear of two of our potentially qualified umpires taking the steps of being qualified.

County secretary Les Allwood and Burtons John Pope, recently completed their practical session in becoming a fully qualified umpire at the Tameside Open.

Alan Cooke made a good start to the New Year by producing a very polished performance in the Cleveland Open.

He reached the final of the mens singles leaving a trail of scalps only losing to a Japanese player in the final.

Finally both Nicola Deaton and Michael Isherwood were on display in the English National Closed Championships finals held in Leicester.

Isherwood again impressed in reaching the semi finals of the cadet boys singles and gave further evidence that he is amongst the best young cadet players in England.

Nicola Deaton was disappointed not to retain her junior girls title but it has to be said that she was well below her best form.

However she must not be too disappointed as she still collected two titles having the girls doubles partnered by Michelle Martin and the mixed doubles partnered by Darren Blake.

These collection of titles created a new National record in holding the most England junior titles.

It would be nice if this feature could be achieved at senior level.

## DEVONSHIRE

### John Vincent

THE Junior Closed Table Tennis Championships were held in Plymouth on Sunday 12th December 1993. There was a good attendance from all the County. Play was of a high standard with encouraging displays by the under 11. This has now prompted the Devon Coaching Officer to expand his monthly Devon Assessments to include a cadet grouping.

Top girl and boy at the Championships were Lucy Perry, sister of Alex, who became a triple champion and Peter Thomas who took two titles and was runner up in the Boys doubles.

#### Results

Girls	Winner	Runner-Up
U11	K. Chidgey	N. Crook
U13	L. Perry	J. Blyth
U15	L. Perry	E. May
U17	L. Perry	E. May

#### Boys

U11	S. Gibbs	J. Parkhouse
U13	R. Svensson	M. Palmer
U15	P. Thomas	R. Scensson
U17	P. Thomas	G. Burton

#### Doubles

M Cronin/G. Brooking (Plymouth)
P. Thomas/R. Svensson

## Coaching Officer's Observations After Championships

Devon has always produced good juniors but now more attention must be given to earlier age groups. The catalyst now appears to have arrived.

Dennis Rowe coaching in North Devon has always produced a stream of good young players particularly in the Under 11 and Under 13 age groups.

Dennis Gibbs, who plays in the Exeter League, has produced a fine prospect in his son Stuart.

Brian Worts involvement with Primary Schools in East Devon and Exmouth Community College will bear fruit soon.

John Vincent's participation in Plymouth's Champion Coaching Scheme is another source being tapped and in Mark Palmer and Kelly Pearce he has two good prospects for the future.

## ESSEX

### Steve Kerns

NOVEMBER and December have been very successful months for Essex table tennis, but top performance must go to the County's Senior first team who scored three convincing 8-2 wins over the County Championships Senior Premier weekend of at the Grantham South Kesteven Centre. From the Essex view-point the game against reigning champions, the "old-enemy" Middlesex was a brilliant success as the team raced into a 7-0 lead, and it took a strong rearguard action from Middlesex to restrict the scoreline to 8-2. Grant Solder excelled to beat Nigel Tyler 17, 9 and Colin Wilson 17, 11, whilst Steve Dorking beat John Souter 4, 12 (yes 4!), and Shelley Ruoclo had superb wins over Sanja Kulbeka - -18, 14, 13 and Leslie Keast 7, 17. Cris Sladden played his part by beating Colin Wilson 15, 19.

Devon were our next opponents, and the 1991-2 champions were also beaten 8-2. Steve Dorking scored a brilliant 20, 17 win over Alex Perry, whilst Cris Sladden beat Paul Giles 18, 21 and Shelley Ruoclo beat Carol Giles -14, 11, 11. Our final set of opponents were Staffordshire and with Skylet Andrew in the team we were in confident mood. He duly obliged by taking his two singles whilst Linda Radford showed her class by beating England No. 9 Jill Harris 14, 11 another 8-2 success. Linda stayed unbeaten all weekend, whilst Shelley belied her current England no. 49 ranking with five wins out of six, a feat equalled by Grant Solder. The County is understandably looking forward to the next set of games this month.

Essex's Junior open tournament at Harlow attracted a splendid 272 entries, and perhaps one of the best performances by the local players was the success at the Peniel pairing of Ann Cheeseman and Helen Lincoln who took the U14 Girls doubles title. A triumph here for the Peniel pair against players ranked much higher on the ranking list than them. Vince Avery fought his way to the Junior Boys Singles final offer a pulsating 14, -17, 24

win over Berkshire's Ben Johnson but on this occasion Surrey's Darren Blake took control in the third set to take the title.

Onto the Middlesex Three Star Open tournament and the name on everyone's lips was Damien Holland. Ranked only 233 nationally he sailed through the Class B event on the Saturday, and to emphasise his superiority he did the same in the lesser Band C on the Sunday. In all he secured 18 victories, 13 of these against higher ranked opponents: a re-rating is a priority to save other players from a hammering... Victims such as John Taylor (Herts) -13, 10, 11, Clive Carthy (Essex) 19, 13, Philip Payne (Somerset) 17, 15, John Payne (Surrey) 13, 13 and Vince Avery 13, 10 give an indication of the kind of confident flowing table tennis he was playing.

Don McGilroy also excelled to reach the Veterans final outting highly ranked flat-killer Dave Harvey (Gloucest) before falling to Derek Holman -13, 19, -19 in a good final. Other good wins included Martin Cole's 21, 16 success over Paul Giles, Rik James, 13, 10 win over Jason Sugrue (Middlesex).

The last tournament before Christmas the GLC Closed at Woolwich was sparsely supported but again it produced some excellent performances by the Essex contingent. Steve Dorking, the holder produced some sparkling table tennis and in the process must have devoured every inch of both courts to beat John Souter, -15, 20, 16 and in a thrilling final Nicky Mason (Surrey) 16, -21, 16 after two spell-binding games. Linda Radford the favourite annexed the ladies title with an untroubled 14, 7 win over Sussex's Janet Smith, and her father Peter took the Veterans title with a final win over Derek Holman (Hants).

## HAMPSHIRE

### Brian Lamberton

WITH a total of 5 wins and two 5-4 defeats from the last two series of county matches the decision to field four veterans teams remains justified; the second string of Mauri Shave, Keith Childs, Ken Burton and Sandra Simpson remain unbeaten.

The juniors continue to struggle in their higher division but after three blanks opened their account with the 7-3 defeat of Somerset, well done Lorna Dutch, Nick Hutchings, Greg Burns, Gareth & Carley (on her debut) Scadden.

After the first block sessions of the inter-town leagues Gosport & Fareham lead division 1 of the Mens league, Southampton the second. The Isle of Wight are top of Junior division 1, and Bournemouth lead both Junior division 2 and the Cadet league. In the latter event Lee Dredge, Elaine Moore and Tina Young defeated each of their three opponents by 10 sets to love.

Cadet Chris Butt (Southampton) was unbeaten at the final regional trials held at the Milton Keynes T.T. Centre thus qualifying for the National finals in Bristol where unfortunately he was unplaced. The Islands Lorna Dutch, exempt until this stage, is to be congratulated on coming out "Number One".

After numerous complaints as to

the lack of National events in the South we were delighted when Andover Sports Centre agreed to host the first of the England v Japan Mens series on December 29th. With Carl Preat and Matthew Syed from neighbouring counties in the English squad we were hoping to for a bumper crowd, no doubt you will find a detailed account of the match elsewhere in this magazine.

At the recent Executive meeting both Chairman Ron Wilshere and Secretary (of 19 years standing) Harold Albery announced their intention not to seek re-election at the end of the season. They will both be hard to replace but with both committee schools T.T. supporters (and workers!) they will not be entirely lost to the sport. Perhaps somewhere out there in the wings is somebody just waiting for this chance! Don't be shy - let us know NOW.

Ending this month on a sad note we have to report the sudden death of 45 years old Keith Caws whilst playing for his Snows Club in the Southampton league. In recent years Keith had given much of his time to the coaching of youngsters; our condolences to wife Lill, daughter Tina, Southampton Ladies champion in 1990 and her sister Tessa.

## HEREFORDSHIRE

### Geoff Mutton

WELCOME to the first Herefordshire County Notes. For too long the county has been a table tennis backwater with only a veterans side to keep our flag flying. Hopefully this is now about to change in a most positive and orderly way, by first coaching the prepositive coaches. Steve Watkins at Hereford Table Tennis Club has been the driving force here. We now have fifteen players at various ranges on the coaching ladder.

#### Junior Girls \* = also cadet

1. Leanne Neads \*
2. Anita Jutle \*
3. Jasuir Jutle
4. Bianca Thomas \*
5. Lisa Hedley \*
6. Sarah Staunton \*
7. Becky Morris \*
8. Shelley Cope \*

#### Cadet Boys

1. Steven Arrowsmith
2. Andrew Bayley
3. Neil Richards
4. Andrew Dennis
5. Tom Slater
6. Kevin Mutton
7. Tom Peters
8. Glyn Mutton
9. Chris Bryce
10. Philip Payne

#### Under 12 Boys

1. Andrew Bayley
2. Neil Richards
3. Andrew Dennis
4. Tom Peters
5. Glyn Mutton
6. Chris Bryce
7. Nick Price
8. Luke Semple
9. Matthew Hill
10. David Crabble

I hope to be able to made these notes a regular item, and look forward to a time when I can report Herefordshire making some impact on the

National scene. If the dedication of the coaches and the enthusiasm of the youngsters mentioned above is maintained - this may be sooner rather than later.

## HERTFORDSHIRE

### John Wood

THIS years junior champions are John O'Leary and Lesley Moorhead, who won their titles at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Sunday 12th December 1994.

O'Leary beat his elder brother Tim in a nail-biting final - 17, 17, 19, following some exciting family rivalry.

But the real upset was 15 year old Lesley Moorhead's victory over 17 year Caron Harber 10 and 18.

Moorhead's positive approach fully deserved victory over St. Albans Harber.

Kings Langley girl Moorhead won her second trophy when she partnered North Herts Josh Lury, beating Barnet's Tom O'Leary and Hemel Hempstead's Marie Masters, 6, -14, 21, in the Mixed Doubles.

Then Moorhead partnered Masters to gain her third trophy of the tournament when they won the Girls Doubles beating Caron Harber and Barnets' Michelle Budden, 14 and 14.

Radleth's Mark Freyd won the Cadet Boys final overpowering Robert Flowerday 12 and 14.

The Boys Under 12 final saw the third O'Leary grace a final when William followed in his brothers footsteps to win the trophy, 9 and 14, beating Hemel Hempstead's Paul Higgins.

The Boys Doubles was won by Stephen Taylor and John O'Leary when they won the trophy for Barnet, overpowering Mark Easton and Josh Lury, 11 and 17.

The Boys consolation was won by Watford's Lron Hirons who beat Alex Common -14, 15, 19.

Michelle Budden won the Girls consolation, with Marie Masters second and Sharon Gillett third.

## ISLE OF WIGHT

### John Preat

OUR Juniors continue to do well. The team of Lorna Dutch, Greg and Danny Burns and Nic Hutchings won all their three matches in the Hampshire Inter-Town Junior League First Division. Scores of 9-1 (v Southampton) 8-2 (v Portsmouth and Gosport) indicate the quality of play of these young players. Lorna and Nic were unbeaten.

Lorna made her mark in national junior tournaments: Final of the South of England 2 Star, semi-final of the Cleveland Select, quarter finals of both cadet and junior in the English National Championships. Her reward in ranking terms? To drop from No. 7 to No. 8. What an incredible system this is and what a way to discourage the young! As one player put it to me: "Our ritual monthly humiliation."

Whilst our Juniors seem to be heading for the title, our Cadets will not. Without Lorna (who was at the Cleveland), they went to a 6-4 defeat against Southampton in the Hampshire

Inter-Town Cadet League and, though winning their other two matches, top place may now be beyond us. Danny Burns won all his matches. He also won through to the final stages of the National Cadet Trials, the results of which we shall know by the time these notes are published.

We are soldering on with the project of getting our own Table Tennis Centre built. Numerous problems are still before us which must be common to all who have such ambitions.

Perhaps that is what the ETTA had in mind when they advertised the post of a National Facilities Officer. If the right man is appointed - it seems to be taking a long time - that could be a great asset for all those trying to create space in which table tennis can be played. Our quest for a room in the



Herefordshire's Lesley Moorhead this year's Junior Girls Champion

otherwise impressive Westridge Centre, which has been empty for some years, seems to be stuck in the quagmire of excessive rates which we cannot afford. Thus the centre will remain empty, the Ryde Club may soon be homeless with nowhere to play - a credit to British Sport to put along side such tales as the Olympic Archer, who had his dole withdrawn whilst winning two medals in Barcelona.

We certainly agree with the governing body which has identified the provision of playing space as a No. 1 priority without which the sport can only decline further. It is a problem we know well. However, one wishes more help were on offer in relaxing such ambitions and needs. I wonder how many dreams will eventually be strangled by red tape and how many good schemes will never see the light of day.

Finally, congratulations to the Island's Carl Preat on his recent victory against the World No. 1 Jan Ove Waldner in the "Swedish Open."

## KENT

### Adrian Hall

## Thompson National U14 Champion

CHRISTIAN Thompson, over looked so far by the England selectors, continued his rapid climb up the National Rankings by winning the National U14 title at Leicester and in conjunction with Ali Subhan (Berks) also took the Doubles Championship.

Thompson, seeded 4th, had a tough draw, for in the 1/4 final he had to beat the unseeded Ben Linnecar (Essex) 21-17, 21-13, who had earlier accounted for 6th seed Jason Sugrue (Middlesex). Thompson then defeated top seed Ali Subhan in the s/final 24-22, 21-17, before having to take on the in form Gareth Herbert (Berkshire) in the final and despite losing the first leg went on to take the championship 14-21, 21-13, 21-19.

Kent's success was compounded when second seeds Scott Friday and Gareth Herbert reached the final of the doubles only to be beaten by the top seeds Thompson/Subhan 14-21, 21-14, 19-21.

## National Trials

Kent were well represented at the National Trials in Bristol by those players that had won through from the Regional Trials in Essex. Special mention for 11 year old Scott Friday who came in as a reserve and won a place in the U17 event, although it was somewhat disappointing that Rachel Woollven was the sole qualifier in the U17 Girls event.

#### U14 Boys

1. Christian Thompson \*
2. Scott Friday \*
3. Jonathan Cheng

#### U14 Girls

1. Cally Howes
2. Amanda Bateman
3. Lisa Hollaway

#### U17 Boys

1. Christian Thompson \*
2. Paul Smith
3. Christopher Hall
4. Scott Friday

#### U17 Girls

1. Rachel Woollven

\* Indicates place earned due to National Ranking

The U17 boys did the county proud with Paul Smith, Christopher Hall and Christian Thompson reaching the 1/4 finals and not to be out done the U14 boys all got out of their groups. Friday reached 1/4 final without undue concern but was then unable to contain a rampant Gareth Herbert (Berks). Herbert then met Thompson in the semi-final and in a fascinating match with both players ferociously attacking the ball it was Herbert who came out on top but with much credit to both players. Herbert went on to comfortably win the final.

## Carly Jumps 34 places in National Rankings

Carly Riggs, called in as a late replacement for the "Bribar Belles" in the Womens National League, turned in a star performance winning 7 of her 8 singles and in the process jumped 34 places in the National Rankings to No. 197.

#### Carly's Victories:

City of Sunderland	Lynn Yarnell (94)
	Julie Svenson (127)
Norton T.T.C.	Julie Bickerton (153)
	Helen Butcher (218)
Dumfries	Claire Bentley (Scotland) (D218)
	Emrna Sloan

(Scotland) (D169)  
Westminster Kate Ryan (129)

## National Team Events

### Bromley 5 - North Middlesex 4

Bromley's Christopher Hall turned in a winning performance to see Bromley through to the zone final of the Carter Cup. Hall was well supported by Robert Aller (2) but on this occasion nothing for James Morris. For N. Middlesex Bradley Cohen (2), David Seal (1) and Anthony Jeyarajah (1) did not quite do enough. Bromley are now home to Barnet in the zone final.

### Colchester 0 - Maidstone 9

Maidstone Boys Cadet side of Scott Friday, Jon Cheng and Antony Lickfold comfortably won through to the zone 4 final of the Leach Cup with a 9-0 victory away to Colchester. The Colchester team of Andrew Faiers, Edward Mehan and Jan-Mark Smith all without tournament circuit experience will have learnt much from the opportunity to play against some of the best cadets in the country. Our thanks to Colchester for their hospitality and the splendid refreshments especially the chocolate cake!

### Maidstone 0 - Chelmsford 9

Maidstone's difficult task against a strong Chelmsford side in the Bromfield Trophy became almost impossible when Alison Smith called off ill on the morning of the match. Rachel Woolven did well to take Sarah Davidson to a third leg in the first match just losing 16-21, 24-22, 14-21 and Crystal Hall was in a position to beat Karen Mason letting a 9-6 third leg lead turn into a 9-16 deficit before Mason won 17-21, 21-14, 21-16. Chelmsford star Shelley Ruocco was far too strong and all the remaining dead rubbers were won two straight.

### Cleveland Junior 2\* Select

Scott Friday was a member of England Cadet Team that reached the International team final where they were beaten by Belgium.

Christian Thompson was the only English player to beat any of the Belgian national team when he got to the semi-final of the cadet singles but then mainly due to the mental and physical exhaustion did not do himself justice by losing to England's Ali Subhan.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

### Alf Pepperd

THE County (Closed) Junior Championships were played at St. Benedicts Schools Arle Road in Cheltenham. The Championships attracted good attendances and gave the selectors considerable food for thought in relation to selection for future events to be organised by the County.

Daniel Melmes, aged 11, from Gloucester featured in five events - he won three of them and was runner-up in the boys Under 14 singles.

In the boys Under 17 singles event Robin Price of Gloucester beat Cheltenham's Jon Roberts in the first

game, but Price had the misfortune to break his bat in the second game, which he lost -18, it was for Robin Price an ominous sign, as Roberts piled on the pressure and took the third game at 18 and the title.

In the girls events Ann Humble, the county No. 1 Junior girl from Higham, triumphed in the Under 17 singles event by beating the county No. 2 Melanie Garlick from Newent 11, 16, Humble also beat Stroud's Suzy Robinson in straight games to win the Under 14 girls singles.

### Results of Finals

Boys U12 Singles (group system), winner Daniel Nelmes, R.U. Chris Roberts. Girls U12 Singles (group system), winner Suzy Robinson, R.U. Rachel Rind. Boys U14 Singles Solomon Harris (Glos) beat Daniel Holmes (Glos) -15, 17, 18. Girls U14 Singles: Ann Humble (Glos) beat Suzy Robinson (Stroud), 16, 12. U14 Doubles: D Nelmes & A Humble bt S. Robinson & J Simmonds -21, 10, 10. U17 Doubles: D Nelmes & A Mortimer bt S Harris and R Price 20, 19. U17 Boys Singles: Jon Roberts (Chelt) bt Robin Price (Glos), -21, 18, 18. U17 Girls Singles: Ann Humble (Glos) bt Melanie Garlick (Newent), 11, 16.

The 46th County Closed Senior Championships took place at the new Sports and Leisure Complex in Tommy Taylors Lane, Cheltenham exactly one week after the Junior Championships, and as with the Juniors, both Tournaments were referred by Mrs Gill Smith of Cheltenham.

This was good representation from each of the four affiliated League's that exist in Gloucestershire and perhaps more important still, as with the Juniors it greatly helped pave the way for the county selectors to draw their own conclusions on players current form.

In the mens singles S/F, defending champion Darren Griffin, eased himself through with a convincing 12, -19, 16, win over fellow club mate Bill Dave.

In the other S/F Cheltenham's veteran ace Dave Harvey easily disposed of Graham Slack 10, 11 to take his place alongside Griffin in the final - and surprise the defending champion who suffered a resounding defeat as Harvey, playing with skill and great concentration beat his much younger opponent 11 and 18 to take the mens singles title for the 7th time.

In the Ladies singles, where there was a larger entry than last year, defending champion Judy Morley, of Gloucester, once again cruised through to a -18, 13, 10, final win against Heather Tyrer also of Gloucester, a veterans player, Mrs Morley is another table tennis phenomenon, often beating players who are much younger with the minimum of apparent effort.

The Men's Veterans singles had an excellent entry and as everyone expected finished with defending champion Dave Harvey, completing a double by beating the No. 2 seed Roy Fowler, 7, 16.

In the U21 singles, County Junior Champion Jon Roberts of Cheltenham beat Ken Mitchell 12, 20. The minor singles, an event excluding all registered first division players was won by Gloucester's Mrs Heather Tyrer, as she made up for her other defeat by beating Cheltenham's Phil King 18, 14.

In the Ladies Doubles the strong pairing of Judy Morley and Angela

Bristow proved too powerful for Karen Harvey and Heather Tyrer, as the former pair ran out easy winners -19, 14, 9.

The reigning men's doubles championships Darren Griffin and Graham Black were narrowly beaten 20, -15, 21, by the No. 2 Gloucester pairing of Sylvester Callum and Bill Dave.

## LANCASHIRE

### Stan Clarke

THE County representative teams continue to enjoy varying degrees of success. The Senior made a disastrous start in the first Premier division weekend losing to Staffordshire and Derbyshire 6/4 before drawing with Surrey in the final match of the weekend. Mind you with Andrew Eden and Jonathon Taylor being unavailable throughout the weekend and Sean Gibson missing the match against Staffordshire, not to mention Andrea Holt and Maria Thornley are not being available what was ostensibly a 2nd team squad performed well in the circumstances. Steve Scowcroft, Tony Taylor and Darren Howarth all found the task difficult as did Paula French and Brenda Buoey. The two ladies may perhaps feel they might have done better with a little more self belief.

In contrast the Senior 2nd team is still enjoying an undefeated run in division 2, with 5 wins from 5 matches. Once again the biggest problem has been turning out the strongest possible team from match to match, only Lindsay Thornton and Tamar Connolly of the first choice squad having played in every match to date. In the latest match away to Cheshire Kevin Dolder made his Senior County debut, stepping in at very short notice in place of the injured Steve Scowcroft, Kevin won one of his games in what turned out to be a very close match, Lancashire win by 6 sets to 4 with victory only secured in the final set of the match. The Junior 2nd team also enjoyed success and disappointment in their first 3 matches of the season winning their first match 7/3 against Warwickshire 2nd before suffering defeats by Warwickshire 1st 9/1 and Lincolnshire 1st 7/3. Once again the top ranked boy being unavailable due to other commitments. I am unable to comment on the veterans teams as I have no results to hand at the time of writing.

The Lancashire and Cheshire League fixtures are well underway, it does seem that there has been a bigger than normal movement of players throughout the various team, with familiar faces cropping up in the most unexpected places. It is still a little early to decide which teams will be in contention for honours but Stockport and Warrington seem to be very strong with Liverpool as a long odds outsider. In the Ladies 1st division the strongest teams seem to be Oldham, Warrington and Liverpool though not necessarily in that order.

It is good to see the newly appointed Regional Development Officer Martin Ireland finally in post, I feel sure that it will not be long before he begins to make his presence felt throughout the region and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him every success in his endeavours.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

### Derek Butt

THE Leicester and District League Division One title race is on, and has seen the top two teams both lose their unbeaten tags in recent weeks. First to lose was Loughborough Kingfishers and they went down to the third spot. The following week Kingfishers bounced straight back and beat the reigning champions Knighton Park 7-3 Mark Illingsworth lead the winners with a brilliant two straight maximum, with Steve Yallop getting two and Keiron Dabbs one. Martin Pickles got a brace for the Park.

So it's neck and neck at the top of the table, and I would not let on who is going to be there at the end of the season. Both teams have experienced players to call on.

The cup competitions are well into the semi final stage have Leicester Electricity playing GE Lambs in the first, with Loughborough Kingfishers meeting Leicester Gas in the other.

The Saracen Cup sees British Shore against Leicester Electricity and they will be against Belgrave W.M.C. in the final, they beat Loughborough Kingfishers with Nigel Morter getting a well earned maximum.

The Frith Trophy saw British Shoe win the first semi and they will meet either Leicester Electricity or Knighton Park in the final.

The Lilian Williamson Memorial Trophy Final will be between Knighton Park and Great Glen.

Leicestershire's two development offices are having a busy time since being elected, and with their previous experience in our game I'm sure they will be very successful. The elected officers were for the County was Mike Smith and Bryan Hall for the Leicester League. Good luck to them both.

Some news from the Hincley League we see that Bosworth 'c' lead the Calor Gas Division One with a good lead. Their team consisting of Alan Philpott, John Veasey and John Illiffe. Croft are in second spot and have Andy LeButt and Dave Brundy playing well and they lead the divisional averages.

In early December the National Junior and Cadet Championships were held in Leicester and it turned out to be a very interesting weekend and successful, and the Parklane Leisure Centre is an ideal venue. Hopefully further championships will come to our county. Players representing our county enjoyed their matches and gained a bit more experience.

I now have the Leicestershire official rankings for 1993/94 and reads as follows:

#### Men

1. Chris Rogers (Knighton Park)
2. Dave Gannon (Knighton Park)
3. Mark Illingsworth (Lough Kings)
4. Phil Smith (Knighton Park)
5. Maurice Newman (Knighton Park)
6. Martin Pickles (Knighton Park)
7. Keith Fellows (Knighton Park)
8. Ian Brown (Knighton Park)
9. Alan Philpott (N. B. Goons)
10. Dave Grundy (Leicester Elect)

#### Veteran Men

1. Maurice Newman (Knight Park)
2. Steve White (Lek Electricity)
3. Alan Philpott (N. B. Goons)
4. John Iliffe (GEC Leic)
5. Colin Truman (Balby & Whetstone)

6. Mike James (Jones & Shipman)
7. Mike Meredith (Lough Kings)
8. Geoff Aldwingle (Knight Park)
9. Bob Craven-Griffiths (Knight Park)
10. Alan Crowson (Northwood)

## Junior Girls

1. Helen Griffiths (Knighton Park)
2. Laura Smith (Knighton Park)
3. Rachel Griffiths (Knighton Park)
4. Kathryn Freer (Knighton Park)
5. Cheryl Sprinall (Dadby)
6. Karen Holdridge (Knighton Park)

## Ladies

1. Karen Smith (Knighton Park)
2. Eilee Shaler (New Braun Goons)
3. Joanne Heath (Knighton Park)
4. Tracey Smith (Knighton Park)
5. Jane Rogers (Knighton Park)
6. Sandra Hall (Greet Glen)
7. Shirley Pickering (Knighton Park)
8. Sara Capewell (Melton Mowbray)
9. Glenys Odams (Knighton Park)
10. Stephanie Burley (Dadby)

## Veteran Women

1. Eileen Shaler (N. B. Goons)
2. Shirley Pickering (Knighton Park)
3. Glenys Odams (Knighton Park)
4. Stephanie Burley (Oadby)
5. Pat Kilsby (N. B. Goons)

## Junior Boys

1. Mathew Hobday (N. B. Goons)
2. Alex Tuckwell (Knighton Park)
3. Chris Tuckwell (Knighton Park)
4. Alex Blaney (Knighton Park)
5. Stuart Palmer (Knighton Park)
6. Pritesh Nakershee (Rushey Mead)
7. Leon Chung (Rushey Mead)
8. Chandresh Sodha (Rushey Mead)

## LINCOLNSHIRE

### Kath Fisher

THE two man team event was held at Lincoln with 6 teams taking part. The event is played with the following format. Each player plays each other 2 games up to 21 (deuce only 1 point) and one game only at doubles making 9 games each match.

The teams were very evenly matched and all played each other, the doubles game being crucial in a lot of the match's. It made for very interesting conversation during the day everyone trying to guess until the last round of matches when Peter Mackie and Francis Banks (Lincoln) emerged the well deserved winners with Trevor Vinson Mike Bailey (Grimsby) a very close second. No one managed to go undefeated or anyone not to win one and Mick Dudmen surprised a few players in which was a very enjoyable day.

## MIDDLESEX

### Lorna Taylor

THE Middlesex 3 star was a financial success owing to the new format of the different bands. This type of tournament is the first of its kind for a three star open. From the feedback of the players it seemed to have received a favourable response. This was due to the fact that it gave players more matches within a similar standard. However, the standard of entries was no better than last year. Of the one hundred and seventy entrants, less than thirty were from the local vicinity, the women's entry was especially poor. There were no exceptional perform-

ances from the Middlesex players, although Richard Hyacinth did put up a fighting performance. Richard completed his groups comfortably but later came up against Nicky Mason, seeded number two. With great determination he won the first game, he went to deuce in the second but then just lost it. After this score, Nicky stepped up a gear and romped home in the final game. This was the only game he lost until he finally succumbed to Mathew Syed in the final. The full details of the tournament are reported separately in the magazine.

In the first weekend of the Senior Premier our first team started off badly with a 7-0 loss to Essex, recovering to lose 8-2. The team then won the other two matches beating Staffordshire 6-4 and Derbyshire 8-2. Our side contained Nigel Tyler, John Souter, Graham Sandley and Colin Wilson as well as being graced with the combined talents of Lesley Keast and Sanya Kubelka for the women's side.

The senior 2nd team also played several matches over one weekend. They played five matches down in Devon and performed exceptionally well to come out on top! The team of players was David Goode, Neil Charles, Simon Rockall, Nick McKoy, Mateja Glusic and Caroline O'Leary. They drew with Gwent 5-5, and beat Avon 6-4, Devon II 7-3, Sussex II 8-2 and Surrey II 7-3. David Goode, the number one man, played outstandingly well over the weekend winning all his games and gaining a 100% record. He continues to go up the ETTA ranking list, even though he has not played in an open tournament for years.

Considering they only have Berkshire II to play they stand their best chance for many seasons of winning their division.

In the first round of the Rose Bowl Competition, High Wycombe lost their match against Wembley and Harrow despite staging a late rally from 0-4 to only 3-4 down; the latter eventually regained their poise to win 5-3 thus avoiding the prospect of an early cup exit. The winning team was Rachel Knight, Caroline Seaholme and Hazel Williamson.

## NORFOLK

### Ray Hogg

TIME flies as when our veterans 1st team visited Essex recently one Janet Faeris appeared for the opposition still looking about 28 as she was when leaving Norwich. Janet and others like her just coming into the veterans divisions are probably the reasons why our two teams are not doing as well expected even with their 'coming of age' players. Captain Mick Broughton is having a brilliant season being unbeaten in county matches and having some excellent wins in Veterans and open tournaments also British League.

With so many keen and young juniors around we have enough to form yet another team but the question must be asked - where do they go from here as we have no Senior team or teams now through there being no one prepared to organise it or them. Former juniors I have spoken to recently now only play their league match and miss the opportunity of playing County at week ends. Also I have heard rumours

that certain players are considering defecting over the border with Suffolk as there is no possibility of Senior play in Norfolk. This is the first season in 25 that there has been no Norfolk Senior team - will there ever be again. We have the background administration to cope but we need a front person to organise. All volunteers contact me. No organiser - no team so no more complaints please, us few do too much now.

Junior 1st team having much success in 1a winning 3 of 4 matches. Should they keep this up next time Premier here we come. This is the most successful Junior team since the 1975 season and the only regret is that with week ends away no one in Norfolk gets a chance to actually see them in action. Even if they do not get promotion our 2nd team should, bar accidents, join them as to date they are unbeaten in 2b. 3rd Juniors are being used as experimental for players being blooded in County play ready for next season. I do hope that all junior players are present at Kings Lynn on Saturday 19th February 1994 for the Junior Closed. By this I mean all Juniors not only those ranked at the moment. As this is the time to get noticed as regular County coaching sessions are now held and any new blood is welcomed as we are looking forward for years to come - so 10 year olds come on in. For those round the County who have been asking about what happens next as having registered as prospective coaches, I have taken the whole matter up with the Regional Coaching Chairman and await his reply as to why we cannot have training sessions in E. Anglia. Just received notification of the proposed change to 11 up. I thought someone was kidding when I first heard about it after it did not take off when last tried but this is official ITTF so be ready with pen posed. My apologies to Avril King for ignoring her and regards to my fan club Joan Cook from Essex who still blames me for her being so active in veterans tournaments and Mabel Neary from Southport who I hope will be back to her old self.

## NORTHANTS

### Dennis Millman

THE vagaries of our modern festive season have determined that I should be writing these county notes on Boxing Day, in the fervent hope that there will be enough postal time to effect delivery before the first day of 1994. In the circumstances it seems an appropriate time to review the season thus far, with special reference to the innovations mentioned in earlier copy.

The Westfield Invitation Trophy duly made its much vaunted appearance, with the Premier Division exceeding expectations, even if the First Division has proved some thing of a Cinderella by comparison. Spurned Villains duo Graeme McKim and Kieron Dabbs made the early running in the top flight, but eventually came to grief against Craig Millwood and Neil Biggrave of British Gas, and also to Milton Keynes All Stars represented by Steve Cowley and Ian Musk, who now lead the table from the Villains, with

British Gas third. Individually Cowley remains unbeaten, with Musk and McKim having lost just once, whilst the best doubles results have been produced by McKim/Dabbs and Athaters Steve Brown and Mark Nannery, with both pairings having suffered one defeat.

In Division One, the awesome Gruesome Twosome of Ray Kingston and Nigel Walsh carried all before them, winning the first seven matches before surprisingly going down to the lowly Bonnie & Clyde, with Owen Bishop winning twice, but still unable to halt the eight game unbeaten run of the Kingston/Walsh doubles partnership. Rushden Sports Centre lie second, with Mike Pond, of Merit Award sponsors Nationwide, well to the fore, though the best singles achievements comes from an unbeaten Ian Scalter who has been responsible for keeping Midnight Cowboys in third place.

The Wellingborough Junior League, with an initial eight teams spawned from a Champion Coaching Course run by Dave Marsh, and sponsored by Wellingborough Leisure, has been an unqualified success with Neptune's Shervin Williams, Harvey Tilley and Morad Samaloussi making an immediate impact, and currently leading the table having taken all sixty three points in their seven games.

At Kettering the GRP Designs Trophy, one of three knock-out competitions run by the League, has met with a mixed reception from players trying to come to terms with its 'best of five - up to eleven' format. Certainly all players are in agreement that it is far removed from the tried and traditional pattern - that there are far more vital points and that spectator interest is sustained for a longer period of time. What is also evident is that the top sides continue to dominate, despite the added complication of some severe handicaps. For further developments watch this space!

The hopefully county-wide Ram Sports Trophy has made a modest start with eight entries - five from Wellingborough, two from Kettering and just one from Northampton. A possible surfeit of table tennis plus depleted venue availability may account for this apparent lack of enthusiasm but all is not necessarily lost for 'Tall oaks from little acorns grow.'

Unfortunately pertinent comments on the new Macs Supermarket County Computer Ranking System must be deferred for a while, with program problems originally causing a delay, but now the eagerly awaited first edition is imminent.

Returning to the bread and butter of the game, Higham Road currently lead the Premier Divisions in both Wellingborough and Kettering, but for once may not be the customary insurmountable margins.

### Leading Positions - Wellingborough

	P	W	D	PTS
Higham Band A	8	8	0	67
Rushden Sports A	10	7	1	66
Old Grammas A	9	6	1	62
Westfield A	9	6	3	58

### Leading Points - Kettering

Higham Band	9	9	0	80
Team Electric A	9	8	0	74
Thrapston A	9	7	0	63
Kettering Town A	9	6	0	59

## NORTHUMBERLAND

### Aubrey Drapkin

THE National Power Northumbria League continues to thrive under the guidance of its energetic secretary, Karen Newby. In the first division North Shields YMCA, the reigning champions, look in little danger of losing their title having won eight of their first nine matches that they have played. With one point being awarded for every set won for the first time this season, the Shields are a massive seventeen points ahead of both Blaydon Youth Club and Ouston Community Centre. The rest of the division, however, is very tight with only fifteen points separating second placed Blaydon and Ouston with Byker Community centre who are lying in tenth position.

Washington Table Tennis Club B team are setting the pace in division 2 whilst Ashington YMCA and North Shields YMCA F team are joint leaders of division 3.

On the County front, the Northumberland senior side had mixed fortunes in the first weekend of their division when they won two and lost two. However, it was good to have Eddie Smith back in action after a lay off with an injured hand and Eddie went on to prove that he is back to full fitness by winning all three of his sets for Sedgefield's first team in the Premier Division of the Friendly Hotels British League against Vymura.

The Friday night sessions at the training centre in North Shields continue to thrive and it is pleasing to note that the schools league seems to be doing well under the guidance of Neil Dorney.

## HORSHAM

### John Woodford

HORSHAM Angels steering clear of relegation in the premier division of the Friendly Hotels British League is good news indeed. Next season, the club's premier side hope to sign another star player - not Nicky Mason, who is still incredibly without a club and also amazingly staying easily in the No. 6 position on the England ranking list; that is a mystery to me and others.

Meanwhile, there is great progress by the young players in Sussex. Paul Butcher (Haywards Heath) and Joanna Bush-Harries (Brighton) continue to display excellent form, whilst the England No. 1 cadet Ali Subhan, who is highly-rated generally, has been beaten by two young Sussex juniors.

Kevin Doyle (Arundel) is not far behind Paul Butcher as the score at the all Sussex junior championships boys singles final suggested, he defeated the Berkshire boy in the British League. Subhan was also a loser to Horsham's James Beer at the Essex Junior Open at Harlow.

Sarah Stedman, also from Arundel, in her final season as a junior is making a considerable impact in senior doubles competitions. After winning doubles events at Lancing and Bexhill, Miss Stedman reached the semi-finals of the junior girls doubles at Leicester, partnered by Jenny Colman of Essex.

Martyn Sims rarely makes the headlines from the England No. 95

position in the rankings, but he must be worth a mention after his great win at Leicester over Andrew Sugarman (Yorkshire) in the groups at Leicester-shire.

Paul Barry (Hastings) and Ritchie Venner (Crawley) were the predictable winners of the respective East and West Sussex mixed singles championships. Both events are to some extent struggling against the odds to compete with the calls of other competing events, but they still survive through the tenacity of the organisers Roger Gillett and Derek Elphick.

## WARWICKSHIRE

### Pete Walden

WITH the season at its half-way point, it is time to reflect upon the fortunes of the Warks County Championship sides.

The Senior first team started their programme with three matches over one weekend in November resulting in a 6-4 win over Cambridgeshire, a 9-1 win v Hertfordshire, then a 4-6 defeat v Suffolk. These matches were followed by a 3-7 reversal against neighbours Leicestershire. Our top two ladies Sandra Duncan and Kate Ryan have given solid support in these matches to the mens trio of Barry Johnson, Phil Gunn and Lester Bertie.

The Senior seconds have had mixed fortunes so far. Wins of 9-1 v Cumbria and 6-4 v Staffs 3rds were tempered by defeats against Nottingham (2-8) and Staffs 2nds (4-6). A 5-5 draw in the match with Leicestershire gives the team a current standing of fifth in Division 2a. Karen Harden has taken over as team captain in Dawn Bromleys absence and she teams up with Steven Meddings, Colin Greene, Mark Jackson, and Nicola Meedings. Marks has just come into the side and has fully justified his selection.

As reported in a previous issue of TTN, the Junior 'A' side started their campaign with three wins. This has since been followed by a convincing 9-1 success over Lancashire 2. Their next fixture, against Derbyshire, looks like being a crunch match in the chase for the title!

Our Junior 'B' side have to date suffered defeats in all five of their matches. Despite this, the team of David Matthews, Stuart Kurlle, Daniel Belcher, Keith Riddell, Emma Churchley, and Liz Haynes have all shown good potential and coach Dave Spillsbury is well pleased with their progress.

A new county veterans side has been formed this season, bringing our total now up to three in the County Championships.

Only two results are to hand for the Vets 'A' side, a 5-4 success in Worcestershire, followed by the same winning margin against Lancashire. The squad has been strengthened this season by the addition of Lyndon Douglas, the brother of a certain Desmond!

The Vets 'B' side (Barry O'Brien, Alan Peirson, Phil Payne, and Ann Lloyd) has started well in Div. 2a. A 6-3 win against Staffordshire was offset by a 3-6 reversal in Northumberland, but wins of 5-4 v Nottinghamshire and 8-1 v Clwyd have taken the team to second place in the table. Phil Payne in his first season as a veteran has notched 6 wins

in his 8 games. The new 'C' team has performed brilliantly, and with four victories from four matches played leads Div. 3a. Mike Howell has won seven of his eight games and has been ably supported by Neil Wheatley, Barry Hunt, Roy Prosser and Dot Macfarlane. Three 7-2 wins plus an 8-1 v Wiltshire two have certainly set the pace in this division.

## WILTSHIRE

### Laurie Solby

TWO sparkling performances by Swindon table tennis teams put them into the zone finals of two national competitions. The men's team, playing in the Carter Cup, won a tough match against Plymouth 5-3 and the junior girls' team, competing for the Bromfield Trophy, sneaked through 5-4, again against Plymouth.

Veteran Nat Richardson gave Swindon the start they wanted when his mixture of defence and attack tormented Steve Giles to a 21-19, 21-13 defeat.

Gary Lambert outhit Ray Powell 21-12, 21-15 to put the visitors level. Swindon number one Eddie Roofe put his team back in front but was made to work hard to win 21-16, 16-21, 21-15 against Greg Bridget.

Lambert, a former junior international, called on his class to blast aside Richardson 21-15, 21-6 to make the score 2-2.

Swindon looked in trouble when a below-par performance resulted in Roofe going down in straight games against Giles.

Powell then lost the opening game against Bridget. But that was the turning point. Powell took the next game 21-15 and set the stage for a nail biting decider which he won 25-23 after saving a match point.

An inspired Roofe pulled himself out of the doldrums to score a superb win against Lambert 10-21, 21-14, 22-20, Richardson rounded off a great team performance by Swindon when he pulled back after losing the opening game against Bridget 19-21 to win the next two 21-15, 21-6 and sew-up the match.

Swindon will play against either Reading or Newbury for a place in the national semi-finals.

A dominating display by Tracy Youldon laid the foundations to the girls' victory.

She swept through all her matches without any problems - the most anyone scored against her in one game was 12 points.

Debbie King and Kelly Sampson each pitched in with one win to give Swindon victory and earn them an away match against Reading for a place in the last four.

## WORCESTERSHIRE

### Steve Horton

OUR county sides have been in action since my last report. The first team continue their excellent progress with a 7-3 win at Somerset thanks to Malcolm Green and Sandra Roden.

For the second match running the second team were involved in a draw - this time at home to Wiltshire. With

the match score at 4-3 in our favour victory looked possible when Steve Horton had battled to hold Wiltshire skipper Trevor Lloyd at 20-18 in the third only to lose out 20-22.

The Juniors recorded an impressive win at Gloucester with four wins from the girls, two for Tim Evans and one for Robin Sedman-Smith for a 7-3 match score.

Three fixtures have been played by our veteran team. In the first match Lincolnshire were too strong and were 6-3 winners despite a win each for Mervyn Wood and Janet Hunt and a mens doubles. The second fixture against Warwickshire, was played on Mervyn's 60th birthday at Jims Gym in Lye with an early start planned to allow celebrations to take place later on! Warwickshire were unable to provide a player for the opening singles so this was awarded to Worcs. This turned out to be very costly as Worcs eventually emerged as 5-4 winners with two wins for Ray Dixon, one for Janet Hunt and the usual mens doubles (Roy Norton and Mervyn). The third fixtures was against Hertfordshire which lasted nearly 5 hours. Hertfordshire were 6-3 winners with our games coming from a mixed and mens doubles and a hard fought 3 setter from the very reliable Janet Hunt. Janet had to negotiate a very difficult expedite game 25-23 in the deciding set.

Christopher Whitehead school was the venue for 5 matches involving Worcs I and II, Avon II and Devon III. This was a very well organised day and enjoyable for both players and spectators.

The first team, played against Devon III in the morning with 6 games going to three before emerging as 8-2 winners. An identical score was registered in the afternoon match against Avon II despite Eric Hardman losing both singles. The first team are now in a very strong position and look set to take the title.

This was also a very successful day for the second team who also produced two excellent wins. Two wins each for Adrian Tottey, Carrie Hunt and Joanne Hill enabled us to edge home 6-4 in the morning game against Avon II. Dave Rogers - making his debut and Lewis Siket both failed to get off the mark. A different story in the afternoon as Dave won 2, Lewis 1, Carrie and Joanne 2 and Adrian 1 for an 8-2 win against Devon II in the afternoon. The fifth match played saw Devon and Avon produce a draw. An excellent day for Worcestershire!

On the local league front we are approaching the half way mark and I am able to report on most of our affiliate leagues.

The Oak sponsored Malvern League has four divisions of eight teams this year all playing each other three times. This is a change from previous seasons with four new teams joining the league. Previously there were three divisions of ten teams playing each other twice. Also a 4 point system has replaced the old 2 points for a win. Y.M.C.A. Magpies lead division 1 by winning their first 10 games with the divisions leading player, Mark Jones on 96.7%.

R.O.S. 'A' continue to dominate in the Kidderminster league Division 1, also winning all of their games and opening up a useful gap from the chasing pack, Jason Thompson is unbeaten for R.O.S. with good support

from Craig Ward. Kingston Bulldogs are currently top of the Evesham League Division 1 closely followed by Bengeworth Tigers who have both won their opening fixtures. Bengeworth Red and Wyre Roversiders are just off the pace.

Evesham Rowing Club head Worcester League Division 1 having won 8 out of 9 matches. Hot in pursuit are Guild 'A' and last year's champions Pterodactyls. Again I predict a close finish this year. The leading players are Lewis Siket, 21/21, Jeremy Duffield 15/15 and Nick Mytton 25/27.

The Dudley division 1 title looks as if it will be between Bromley 'A' and Hawbush 'A' with Netherton 'A' capable of upsetting both if they field their strongest side of Andy Hare, Dhuru Parmar and Colin Green. Bromley and Hawbush meet at the half way point and in the last week of the season so it could go to the last match to decide the winners. Matt Harvey 21/21 (Hawbush) and Steve Horton 18/18 (Bromley) are both unbeaten so far.

I have received no information from the Bromsgrove league.

## YORKSHIRE

### Rea Balmford

YORKSHIRE players have again been in the news nationally, and congratulations go to Chen Xinhua, runner-up to Andrej Grubba in the recent Swedish Open and England's only singles winner in the 2-4 European League defeat in Belgium, who brought honour to his adopted country when he took out World champion Jean-Philippe Gatien at Karlstrona.

Youngsters Sally Marling and Kate Goodall, ranked 4 and 6 respectively, are still travelling the World representing their country - Kate had a good win over the Cecile Ozer (Belgium) in the Austrian Open at Linz; the English girls - Sally, Kate and Nicola Deaton, the latter with strong connections in Sheffield - reached the semis of the United States Team Championships in Detroit (USA) before going out to Japan; and both the Yorkshire girls are named for a further tilt at the Orientals at Hull early in the New Year, while Sally will then move on to Israel, where she has been named for the European Top 12.

And the County's strength in depth at Junior level showed up when, after the first weekend of matches, they topped Junior Division North with a squad of Simon James (Bridlington), Darren Ashall (Wakefield), David Smith (Huddersfield), Zoe Fisher (Hull) and Emma Smith (Selby).

And, at the opposite end of the age scale, what about Norman Lusher? It is two years since Harrogate's star veteran last picked up an Open title, but the hunger is obviously still there as, in a quick-hitting game - no 'chiselling' for Norman! He claimed the Over 70 Singles title at the Grimsby Eastern Masters.

I had hoped to give an up-to-date picture of the Yorkshire League Premier Division, but freak weather over the third weekend of matches saw some team 'snowed in' while others were 'snowed out', so this will be left

pending' until next month when, hopefully, all teams will have caught up.

Meanwhile congratulations to Harrogate and Hull II in Veteran Division 3. Vic Smith battled his way down from Ripon, arriving at 4.10pm for a 2.30pm start and, when the Hull side arrived some ten minutes later, an enjoyable match got under way at 4.30.

For the record, Harrogate 8, Hull II 2, but the honours were shared between Vic and the three Hull vets who braved the elements and got the show on the road.

Back to the Premier Division, and a strong Bradford side must be on similar odds to take the title as are Manchester United in the F.A. Carling Premiership or Wigan in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. But nothing is more calculated to stir the challengers than a rash statement like this, so don't put too much money on it!

But top marks to Bradford, not only for being the only League to provide me with any information on their activities, but on the high profile taken by t.t. in the schools - it is obvious that one of the strongest leagues in the County is looking sensibly to the future.

A number of current League players have come through the flourishing Schools' set up, none better known than Mark Smith (Rhodesway School), who is currently holding down the No. 11 ranking spot in the Junior list.

And Bradford schools figured prominently in the recent West Yorkshire Schools' Championships, with Clayton Middle (Under 13) and Bingley Grammar (Under 16) taking their places in the North of England finals at Farnley Park (Leeds).

From schools to coaching and the city, which has a big and well integrated ethnic community, sets a first with Sarfraz Khan of the Parkistan Community Centre qualifying for the E.T.T.A.'s Assistant Coach Badge, the first Asian so to do.

Sarfraz recently took a group of his young enthusiasts to compete in the Islamic Games in Birmingham, where they created a big impression, and they will no doubt give a boost to the sport in the city as they move through into League competition.

Interesting draw in Round 3 of the handicap Burton Cup competition - top veteran Richard Priestly (Clayton Heights, Division 1) versus the city's Yorkshire League organizer Linda Priestly (Tong, Division 5). The result is not yet to hand, but I understand that Richard and Linda are still on speaking terms - I hope so, for the sake of son Craig, who has just embarked on a t.t. career with Salem in Division 7.



Kate Goodall

# Hilton wins Eastern

THE VETTS Eastern Masters Tournament took place at Grimsby and proved another successful run fixture and good turnout. Phil Bowen made his debut and made it to the semi-final with wins over Hans Newton, D. N. Davies and Collins before losing to John Hilton. In the other half Nigel Eckersley reached the final with wins over Beck Morris Welsman and Robertson before losing to Hilton 11 and 18 **writes Ron Langheim.**

## Eastern Roll of Honour

- 0/40 M.S. Hilton beat Eckersley 11 18
- 0/20 W.S. Schofield bt Hewett 12 12
- 0/50 M.S. Lockwood bt Crowley 11 18
- 0/50 W.S. Schofield bt Moran 17 16
- 0/60 M.S. Batt-Rawden bt Brook 13 -14 10
- 0/60 W.S. Butcher bt Moran 16 9
- Mx/Doubles Hilton/Hewett bt Corking/Judson 18 -12 18

Two Surrey Vets had their best ever tournament. The bracing east coast air certainly agreed with Geoff Wines and Dave (points) Crowley. In the over 50 mens singles Crowley had win over Evans Allison Sheader and Adams before losing to Fred Lockwood in the final. Geoff Wines reached the last eight of the 0/40 m/s with win over McGilvray and Dixon before losing to Hilton and in the 0/50 m/s consolation Geoff lost in the final to Vic Smith.

## 5th Annual Ashford Vets Tournament

72 men and 25 ladies invaded Ashford (Middx) on Saturday January 8th for what seems to be a popular event. No points at stake just a chance to get match fit after the Christmas and New Year festivities.

Groups of 3 sorted the players out on their standard and several interesting results came through. Geoff Wines bt Eddie Herrity Barrie Manvell bt Wally Mascarenhas. Terry Wilson bt Chapman. Dave Kellard bt Tony Taylor after being 18-9 down in the 3rd game. Barry Morten bt Solman Callcut bt Wood and in the ladies Janet Brown had a good win over Linda Hales.

The Three Mens Competitions got underway after lunch with some hard fought battles. In the Mens 'A' Competitions there were a good win for points Crowley over Keith Horton.

The S/Finals saw Holman bt McGilvray 19 & 20 and Welsman bt Crowley 9 & 10. In a repeat of last years final Welsman again bt Holman 21-18, 21-14. Every round of the 6 (3 men and 3 ladies) competitions in drawn but just as last year the 2 best men on duty reached the final.

In the 'B' final Evergreen Gordon Chapman beat his coach and baggage Master Francis Hans -13 -13 16 16 and the 'C' final saw Dave Halfpenny bt Mike Willmott -15 15 12 all six finalists came from Surrey.

The ladies tournaments had 19 county players on view and this resulted in some hard fought matches. In the Ladies 'A' Comp Marjorie Dawson bt Sally Bax, Jackie Thomas bt Sylvia Tyler Margaret Maltby bt Pam Butcher and Bill Knightley bt Ruth Bentley. S/finals saw Dawson bt Thomas and Maithy bt Knightley. In an excellent final Dawson bt Maltby 21-17 -21-14.

In this ladies 'B' competition Shirley Carrol beat fellow Essex player Linda Hales in the final 20-22, 21-11, 16-11 who unfortunately had to concede in the 3rd game with a shoulder injury.

The 'G' final saw Jenny Gillam who was playing for the first time since she fell and broke her arm in a Surrey County match in October beat Joan West 21-18 21-18.

So ended a very long day with 189 matches taking place on seven tables.

## Middlesex 3 Star

The 37th Championship attracted 33 veterans with quite a lot of new faces and two ladies amongst the entries. Top seeds were Dave Harrey and Derek Holman of Picketts Lock.

**ROUND 1** - Harvey bt Wood (Essex); Tony Taylor retired Banken from Middlesex bt Surrey's new Vet Dave Solman - Hyde (Beds) bt Beck - Malcolm Stennett bt Chris Jacob Stanley Battrick bt Penny Perry (Dv) Chapman bt Broughton and Brian Allison, certainly Englands most travelled veteran beat Fisher. Other 1st round winners were McGilvray Hanns Isaacs Boyee Baldwin Buist Sydney Simmonds and Holman.

**2ND ROUND RESULTS** - Harvey had a real struggle with Taylor who held a 3 point lead well into the 3rd game but Dave battled on to scrape home. McGilvray beat Hanns on expedite. Little Maurice Issacs bt Boyce Allison bt No. 3 seed; Garry Baldwin Buist bt Chapman; Battrick bt Sydney; Simmonds bt Stennett and Holman bt Hyde.

**3RD ROUND RESULTS** - No. 1 seed Harvey toppled by McGilvray Allison ends Issacs Saturday entertainment Buist beat Battrick and Homan accounts for Simmonds.

S/finals McGilvray beats Allison and Holman beat Buist 21-18 in the third. In a hard fought final Holman just held off Don McGilvray.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## ENGLISH QUALIFYING COMPETITION FOR EURO 94

**Saturday 12 February 1994**

Brentwood International Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex Tel: 0277 215151  
*Groups start 9am • Knockout stages 2pm • Finals 7.15pm*

## HILTON INTERNATIONAL NORTHERN MASTERS

**Saturday/Sunday 12/13 February 1994**

**The Armitage Centre, Moseley Road, Fallowfield, Manchester**

*Events for over 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s*

Further details: Roger Vardon, 2 Woodlands Court, Knutsford, Cheshire, Tel: 0565 653080

## INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS

**15 FEBRUARY 1994**

*Joola European League Super Division - 2nd leg*

**ENGLAND**

**V**

**BELGIUM**

*(Xinhua, Preat, Cooke, Syed)*

*(J M Saive, P Saive, Cabrera)*

**At Mansfield LC, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield. Tel: 0623 646081**

## VETERANS BRITISH LEAGUE

**Final Round**

**19/20 February 1994**

Meadowside Leisure Centre, High Street, Burton on Trent

## COUNTY SENIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

**Final Round**

**19/20 February 1994**

Milton Keynes TTC. Tel: 0908 282156

## ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**5/6 March 1994**

Lynnsport Leisure Centre, Greenpark Avenue, Kings Lynn  
Tel: 0553 777122

Start 9am both days with Finals on Sunday starting 5pm  
**SPECTATORS WELCOME**

## 19th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

**25 March 1994 - 4 April 1994 - National Indoor Arena, Birmingham**

*The world's biggest table tennis event this year*

Information: Euro 94 Office, Brewmaster House,  
International Convention Centre, Birmingham. Tel: 021 644 6464

