Ever thought of Triumph Adler?

League and Championship tables ... from Jaques
Opinions may be based upon misconceptions, though they in themselves are sufficient cause for consternation. What matters is that the ETTA stands accused, by one of its own grassroots members.

That the current national affiliation fee is not high (currently around £1.50 per player on average — equivalent to less than two pints of beer and under 8p per league match) is of no concern. That players are not generally, as Mr Lomas mistakenly mentions, “in receipt of large sums” is of little consequence.

The issue is whether membership of the ETTA is perceived as “good value”. The divisional results sec from the Crewe and District says not.

Neil Lomas, whose article appears on page 14, like the Editor had the advantage of high-technology. Or more precisely, probably a computer with word-processing software. No doubt John Marrs’ Zillian could tell us immediately.

The number of kilobytes, however, had scant effect on the words on the screen. The order came from the brain; the theme from the heart. And as the French might say, the motivation from the gut. The gut of a player who has never represented his chosen sport to any high level, yet who cares enough to suggest a series of radical changes.

Those reforms strike at the core of the sport and the way in which it is conducted in this country. It matters not that the individuals who wish to play beyond their local leagues, coupled with a modest fixed affiliation fee for each league. The argument deserves debate.

It is not the first time such has been advocated. Indeed, rather more recently than 1963, it was put to the leagues and rejected.

But this is 1985. An era when people are prepared to pay out not insconsiderable sums provided they gain tangible benefits. We have to increase those advantages for both the casual and the committed participant; the sport must not lose either.
Empire of the Son
by National Trainer Donald Parker

While several of our players in the past decade have been close to a clean sheet in a European championship, nobody had actually achieved it until Carl Prean this year. His performance must go down as the best I have seen from an English player. It was just rewards for the work and effort he put in before the tournament.

In 1978 Desmond Douglas had been unbeaten in the Duisberg European championships until he lost narrowly in the semi-final of the individual events to Istvan Jonyer. And in 1982, Jill Hammersley was unbeaten in the Budapest team events but lost in the fifth game of the singles final to Bettine Vriesekoop.

Later, that same year, Billy Gleave was unbeaten in the Cadet team event but lost narrowly to Andrei Mazunov in the final of the singles. The results put Carl's performance over 13th-20th July 1985 at the Sporthal Overbosch, The Hague, Holland into their true perspective. Sixty two victories in the junior team event - a record for any country.

Nerve-wracking

There were several nerve-wracking moments during his singles campaign, none more so than at 19-all in the third game of the final. However, I always had a 'gut' feeling that Carl would emerge as the winner.

His opponent in the final was the Romanian Calin Toma whom he had defeated 21-7, 21-11 in the team events and 21-4, 21-5 in the Europe Junior Top Twelve earlier in the year.

After winning the first 21-12, it seemed to be a case of forgetting the past, keep playing positively and just getting off to a good start in the second. However, this did not happen, nerves crept in and the resultant negative play ended in a convincing reversal, 16-21.

"It was an ambition of mine to win the European Youth title and even after winning the first game I was still nervous", explained Carl afterwards. "Toma got off to a good start in the second game when I played too soft and he started to play very well. He was playing a lot of big forehand and backhand loops which gave him a lot of confidence".

In the third, a good lead for Carl simply wilted away and, poised at 19-all, only two points separated the winner from the loser. Fortunately, Carl won the two points quite cheaply but at that crucial stage who cares how they are won!

Last year, in Linz against Andrei Mazunov of the Soviet Union, two controversial points at 19-all in the third denied Carl the title. This year they went his way.

"I was very nervous at 18-17", said Carl. "But I looked at Toma and saw he was shaking so I just served short to his forehand with no spin, knowing he would push it long to the backhand. 18-17 and I missed a sitter! I can't remember the final point!"

Carl on Toma

"He had nothing to lose in the final he played many big forehand and backhand loops which gave him a lot of confidence despite being the underdog in view of his two previous results against me".

So, thoughout the Junior Top 12 and the European championships, Carl remained unbeaten - winning 35 out of 35 sets. It will be a record difficult to emulate. It can never be bettered.

Entertaining

Some of the most entertaining table tennis provided during the championships involved Matthew Syed. Matthew played exceptionally well throughout and fully justified the No.1 seeding he received after the cadet team events.

His main rival, who he had beaten in the final of the team event, was the Soviet Dimitrij Masunov, the younger brother of Andrei - the European senior No 11. After difficult matches, both the top seeds reached the final safely.

Then disaster struck. With the score finely balanced around 15-all in the first game, Matthew developed an ankle injury. Lingering through the rest of the game to lose 17-21, a ten minute delay occurred early in the second while treatment was applied.

Technically, such a suspension is unusual as play is required to be continuous unless a player becomes incapacitated due to an accident. But the referee Piet Oomens of Holland decided to allow the final to continue after Matthew's leg was strapped up. Whether the injury was the decisive factor in Matthew's defeat is difficult to say. But it certainly didn't help and he lost the second game by the same score.

Delay

Three different opinions from physiotherapists of various nationalities who arrived on the scene caused some bemusement too! But they all agreed on one subject after the final and the medal presentation ceremony was delayed by two hours to allow Matthew to recover.

The injury trouble, though a blow to Matthew's ambitions, came after a very hard ten-day tournament. And Mazunov, employing good tactics, had decided to mix more drop shots into his play to put him under more pressure in the final.
Michael O’Driscoll picked up some very useful victories including the Swedish and German No 1’s, Patrik Thorsell and Peter Franz, and he also won at 2-2 against Hungary. Bradley Billington also played well, particularly in the doubles of the team event final which we were very unlucky to lose 21-19 in the third game. The cadet girls were by no means outclassed and finished in a creditable 7th position. 

Kerry Hall and Andrea Holt were in with a chance against any of the opposition and the signs are encouraging for the future. Indeed, in the cadet girls singles, Claire Potts reached the quarter-finals before losing to the eventual winner Otilia Badescu of Rumania. It was a disappointing championships for Andrew Syed, though, especially in the light of his excellent performance 12 months earlier in Linz. However, he made the last 16 of the singles as did teammate Jimmy Stokes who picked up two excellent victories en route.

### Gold Medal Table

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### Individual Events Results

**Junior Boys doubles**
- First Round: Prean/Syed S3 = bye; Dixon/Stokes b Laszlo Pigniczki/Ivan Viskic (HUN) 21, 19, 17.
- Second Round: Prean/Syed b Robert Doppemar/Hannes Seyer (AUT) 19, 15, 12; Dixon/Stokes b Darko Jarmek/Karolicev (YUG) 13, 20, 14.
- Quarter-final: Prean/Syed b Marmarko/Reka Kaszati (HUN) 14, 19.
- Final: Prean/Syed b Ivo Gusev/Mastunov (URS) 17, 18, 15.

**Junior Girls doubles**
- First Round: Shaw b Todd Ho (DEN) 8, 19.
- Second Round: Shaw/Chrislo Christopher-Woess b Johnny Grang (HUN) 24, 19, 7.
- Final: Shaw/Chrislo Christopher-Woess b Milan Barto/Kasalova 17, 13, 18.

**Cadet Boys singles**
- First Round: Mady St John Of Sweden (SWED) 12, 15; Billingbion St John Of Sweden (SWED) 16, 8; O’Driscoll b Vincenzo (GRE) 8, 19.
- Second Round: Syed b Roy Faber (ITA) 4, 3; O’Driscoll b Oliver Alke (FRG) 20, 19, 15.
- Quarter-final: Prean/Syed b Van Haren (HOL) 17, 17.
- Semi-finals: Syed b Revisz (ITA) 18, 17, 15; Mazyun/Szabo b Cornael (ROM) 14, 13, 18.
- Final: Mazyun b Syed 17, 17.

**Cadet Girls singles**
- First Round: Ports b Ulrica Olson (SWE) 9, -11, 15; Hall b Carlita Karmenko (HOL) 10, 16, 16; Helsi b Nathalie Oost (LUX) 11, 9; Billingbion St John Of Sweden (SWED) 14, 18, 17.
- Second Round: Ports b Szosnay (BUL) 15, 19, 22; Helsi b Alesa Arilk (ITA) 10, 11, 13.
- Third Round: Ports b Milheko (TCH) 20, 20, 17; Helsi b Kampalaova (TCH) 16, 17.
- Semi-finals: Ports b Szosnay (BUL) 8, 19.
- Final: Badeaux b Cornael (ROM) 16, 15.

**Junior Boys mixed doubles**
- First Round: Shaw b Todd Ho (DEN) 8, 19, 7.
- Second Round: Shaw/Toledo Erlom (ENG/SWE) b Laszlo Pigniczki/Ivan Viskic (HUN) 19, 17, 15.
- Quarter-final: Syed/O’Driscoll b Revisz (ITA) 18, 17, 15.
- Final: Syed/O’Driscoll b Cornael (ROM) 17, -19, 16.

**Junior Girls mixed doubles**
- First Round: Shaw b Todd Ho (DEN) 8, 19, 7.
- Second Round: Shaw/O’Driscoll b Johnny Grang (HUN) 24, 19, 7.
- Final: Shaw/O’Driscoll b Cornael (ROM) 17, 13, 18.
### Junior Boys Team

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**England's results in detail**

**First Round (Group D)**
- **ENG 5 SUI 0** (Shaw b Michaela Frans 13, 12; A Syed b Jan Gunner 5, 11; Pren b Christian Steen 2; 8; Stekes b Gunner 5, 13; Pren b Frans 7, 13; 7)
- **ENG 5 NGR 0** (A Syed b Terje Hansen 15, 22; Stekes b Kenneth Strand 17, 17; Stekes b Arle Remagni 52, 7; Stekes b Stron 14, 14; Pren b Hansen 9, 6;)
- **ENG 3 ITA 5** (A Syed b Andrea Del Tomba 17, 17; Stekes b Lorenzo Nannini 19, 19; Pren b Francesco Marinacci 11, 11; Stekes b Nannini 13, 13; Pren b Del Tomba 10, 11; Stekes b Marinacci 7, 7; Pren b Nannini 18, 18; Stekes b Marinacci 18, 18, 11, 11)

**Second Round**
- **ENG 3 YUG 5** (Shaw b Kastina 16, 20; Stekes b Christian Koch 12, 5; Pren b Zoran Primorac 4, 11, 14; Sha b Gunner 5, 11; Stekes b Gunner 19, 19; Pren b Primorac 15, 15; Stekes b Gunner 16, 16, 16, 16)
- **ENG 5 DEN 2** (Dixon b Henrik Angermann 6, 10, 10; Stekes b Claus Jorgensen 18, 18, 18, 18; Pren b Angermann 9, 9; Stekes b Schmiedt 13, 13, 13, 13; Pren b Jorgensen 14, 14, 14, 14)

**5-8 Play-offs**
- **ENG 5 ROM 2** (A Syed b Calin Toma 17, 17; Pren b Mireille Slooimans 17, 17; Stekes b Elena Komrakova 12, 12; Pren b Toma 17, 17; Stekes b Elena Komrakova 12, 12, 12, 12; Pren b Toma 17, 17, 17, 17)
- **ENG 3 FIN 1** (Shaw b Pia Toelhoj 19, 19; Pren b Beate Kunzli 9, 9; Stekes b Beate Kunzli 16, 16, 16, 16; Pren b Toelhoj 19, 19, 19, 19)

**Junior Girls team**

**First Round (Group B)**
- **ENG 0 FIN 3** (Pots b Anni Komrakova 15, 15; Shaw b Magdalena 19, 20; Pots/Shaw b Komrakova/Magdalena 19, 20, 20; Stekes b Komrakova 15, 15, 15; Pots/Shaw b Komrakova/Magdalena 19, 20, 20; Stekes b Komrakova 15, 15, 15)
- **ENG 0 URS 3** (Pots b Isabella Mehl 16, 16; Shaw b Mari Hej 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Hej 19, 19, 19; Stekes b Hej 19, 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Hej 19, 19, 19)

**13-17 Play-offs**
- **ENG 2 DEN 3** (Pots b Liva Andersen 13, 13; Shaw b Mia Erentsen 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Erentsen 19, 19, 19; Stekes b Andersen 18, 18, 18; Pots/Shaw b Erentsen 19, 19, 19)

**Junior Girls Team**

**Final Round**
- **ENG 3 SUI 0** (Shaw b Sophie Thinon 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Thinon 19, 19, 19; Stekes b Thinon 19, 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Thinon 19, 19, 19)
- **ENG 3 FIN 1** (Shaw b Beate Kunzli 16, 16, 16; Pots/Shaw b Kunzli 16, 16, 16; Stekes b Kunzli 16, 16, 16; Pots/Shaw b Kunzli 16, 16, 16)
- **ENG 0 AUT 1** (Pots b Martina Kagereder 13, 13; Shaw b Sabine Frank 13, 13; Pots/Shaw b Kagereder/Kagereder 13, 13, 13; Stekes b Frank 13, 13, 13; Pots/Shaw b Kagereder/Kagereder 13, 13, 13)


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**Junior Boys team**

**First Round (Group A)**
- **ENG 3 SUI 0** (Shaw b Sophie Thinon 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Thinon 19, 19, 19; Stekes b Thinon 19, 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Thinon 19, 19, 19)
- **ENG 3 FIN 1** (Shaw b Beate Kunzli 16, 16, 16; Pots/Shaw b Kunzli 16, 16, 16; Stekes b Kunzli 16, 16, 16; Pots/Shaw b Kunzli 16, 16, 16)

**13-17 Play-offs**
- **ENG 2 DEN 3** (Pots b Liva Andersen 13, 13; Shaw b Mia Erentsen 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Erentsen 19, 19, 19; Stekes b Andersen 18, 18, 18; Pots/Shaw b Erentsen 19, 19, 19)

**Junior Girls team**

**Final Round**
- **ENG 3 SUI 0** (Shaw b Sophie Thinon 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Thinon 19, 19, 19; Stekes b Thinon 19, 19, 19; Pots/Shaw b Thinon 19, 19, 19)
- **ENG 3 FIN 1** (Shaw b Beate Kunzli 16, 16, 16; Pots/Shaw b Kunzli 16, 16, 16; Stekes b Kunzli 16, 16, 16; Pots/Shaw b Kunzli 16, 16, 16)
- **ENG 0 AUT 1** (Pots b Martina Kagereder 13, 13; Shaw b Sabine Frank 13, 13; Pots/Shaw b Kagereder/Kagereder 13, 13, 13; Stekes b Frank 13, 13, 13; Pots/Shaw b Kagereder/Kagereder 13, 13, 13)
Cadets Boys team

England's results in detail

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Final Round (Group D)

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Cadets Girls team

England's results in detail

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Final Round (Group D)

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Invincibility Shattered
by George Yates

The invincibility of the Chinese was well and truly shattered in the Melbourne Sports and Entertainment Centre over the period 15/18 August. Both in the ANZ Bank six-nation Team Classic and in the Victoria Cup to celebrate the Australian state's 150th anniversary.

Sweden beat the People's Republic of China 3-2 in the final of the team competition and Eric Lindh beat China's Wang Huiyan in the 16-man singles event to complete a notable Swedish double and lift the Victoria Cup.

In the team event, England's Alan Cooke and Skyler Andrew brought off the shock result by beating Sweden 3-2 in their group of three.

After Cooke had gone down to Lindh and Andrew to Ulf Carlsson, back came the English Entertainment Centre over the Invincibility Shattered was well and truly shattered in singles event to complete a state's 150th anniversary.

Cooke got the measure of Carlsson 21-17, 16-21, 21-9! and Eric Lindh beat China's Classic and in the Victoria Cup in the third. Then followed two the Melbourne Sports and ANZ Bank six-nation Team period 15/18 August. Both in groups in 6 (South) Korea beat them 4-1 in overall when the Republic of England could only finish fourth.

In the team event, England's Alan Cooke and Skylet Andrew with Cooke the only winner. Defeat against Victoria did their country proud. Twenty-two thousand miles is a remarkable successes when pair had lost to Japan 2-3 so Sweden topped the group on sets average, beating Japan 4-1.

England's wins coming at the expense of Glenn Tripper.

In a three-session series at Monklands Leisure Centre, Coatbridge over September 13/14, England brought off their 12th consecutive win in the Quadrangular tournament between the major home countries. The opportunity to blood young Jimmy Stokes gave the Berkshire youngster a taste of what might be required of him in the future. Although he played well in taking Colm Slevin to three and beat Hilton Meneely in the Irish match, he was outplayed by both Nigel Tyler and Alan Griffiths against Wales.

England's strength lay with the women; Fiona Elliot and Mandy Sainsbury both way above any opposition to be found in Coatbridge. John Souter, too, shone brightly.

After wins over Ireland (6-2) and Wales (5-3), England really got their act together against Scotland as they "whitewashed" their hosts; David Hannah going under in both his singles in straight games.

Ireland, for the third time in succession, became the recipients of the wooden spoon with Patrick O'Brien the carrier-in-chief.

In the singles event, Cooke, after beating Kim Yong Hyung of South Korea, was taken out by top seed Wang Huiyan – China's World No. 4 – but only by 9-21, 20-22, 25-23, 16-21. And Andrew fought all the way against Tommy Danielsson – the former Swede now playing very one-sided affair. This was Wang's last competitive engagement as, following his retirement as, following his marriage in September, he is to

The opportunity to blood young Jimmy Stokes gave the Berkshire youngster a taste of what might be required of him in the future. Although he played well in taking Colm Slevin to three and beat Hilton Meneely in the Irish match, he was outplayed by both Nigel Tyler and Alan Griffiths against Wales.

England's wins coming at the expense of Glenn Tripper.
Stuttering Start ... but Prean to the rescue
by George Yates

An indifferent start by Desmond Douglas with an opening set defeat at the hands of Austria's Gottfried Bar, boded ill for England in their first European league match at North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax of Wednesday 25 September. Bidding for promotion, it was an inauspicious baptism in division one.

Pulpatations, however, were alleviated when in subsequent sets Carl Prean saw off Stanislaw Fraczyk; Lisa Bellinger took care of Barbara Wilsche; Prean and Alan Cooke won the doubles; and Douglas with Alison Gordon snatched the mixed.

Another below par performance from Douglas saw the English champion fail for the second time when beaten by the 32 year old former Polish international Fraczyk in straight games.

One was left to wonder when the Birmingham left-hander last lost two sets in a European league match!

But another display by Prean in the final set sent the crowd home happy from the match – sponsored by Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council in conjunction with Hold-Rain Windows of Greediel, Halifax.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>England 5 Austria 2</th>
</tr>
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</table>
|          | Douglas/Ber 20-16; Prean b Fraczyk 16-13; Bellinger b Wilsche 11-15; Cooke/Prean b Bar/Fraczyk 18-17; Douglas/Gordon b Bar/Wilsche 16-19; Douglas b Fraczyk 14-10; Prean b Ber 16-11.
|          | Finland 2; Germany 3; Italy 4; Belgium 6; Norway 1; Bulgaria 5; Czechoslovakia 6; Hungary 1; Yugoslavia 1; Netherlands 7; France 6; Poland 1.

The 12th Maccabiah from Alan Shepherd in Israel

Every four years the athletes of the world take part in the Olympic Games. Israel has its own version, known as the Maccabiah at four-yearly intervals, but restricted to sportsmen of the Jewish faith. I have been lucky enough to take part in all of these Games except one, starting in 1961, three times as captain of the table tennis team.

In past years our British team has boasted some famous names such as Jeff Ingber, Stan Jacobson and Irene Ogus. As might be expected, they annexed quite a few gold medals.

But without a medal since 1969, our 1985 team had a big task on its hands.

The mens team consisted of Scotland's Brian Wright, Shemesh Abraham — a clubmate of Skylet Andrew in the famous Willesden league team Apollo — and two ex-Hertfordshire juniors, Perry Somers and Michael Levene. The girls were Laura Goldsmith and Sally Prowen, both of Middlesex.

There is no doubt Carl Prean would have strengthened our team! It is ironic that one of the world's top Jewish players has never been able to take part in the Maccabiah; on this occasion he was engaged in becoming European youth champion in Amsterdam. All we can do is to wish him respectfully "Mazel Tov!"

A few days after our arrival in Tel-Aviv, we took part in the Opening Ceremony, always a moving occasion but more so in '85. Ramat Gan stadium was overflowing with 50,000 spectators when we marched in with nearly 4000 other participants.

The Maccabiah flame was lit by one of the greatest athletes of all time, swimmer Mark Spitz, and the moment was made more poignant as three of the children of Israeli athletes murdered at Munich accompanied him into the arena.

The next day we were into competition, starting with the two team events. If we could beat Greece (easy) and Germany (hard), we had a great chance of going all the way to the final.

But at 4-4 against Germany, young Benny Feingold got the better of Perry Somers 13-21, 21-17, 21-14 and Germany went on to the final where they lost to Israel.

Britain got nothing as they exited to the USA in the quarter-final by a convincing 5-1.

The girls made a bright start by beating Venezuela 3-0. The South American Esther and Jackie could not play table tennis but were voted the dishiest females in the tournament and were thereafter extremely popular.

After beating Australia 3-1 they lost 3-1 to the USA and were forced to play Australia again for the bronze medals. This time it was more tense but with Laura in control in the singles and Sally joining up for the doubles, they snatched the bronze 3-1.

The individual events were next to be contested and I must confess to disappointment that Brian did not make progress after meeting a very good Canadian player in round one. Perry went out to Walter Nathan, a brilliant young player from Peru; Shemesh lost to an Argentinian and Michael to one of the good Americans.

But in the womens, Laura was the toast as she reached the final for a meeting with the Israeli No 1 Iris Carmi — eight times national champion.

However, despite nearly all the players rooting for her, she simply could not get going and the experience of Carmi meant she had to be content with the silver medal.

In the under 15 section, the boys team of Joseph Biran, Daniel Parnes and Jason Tendler brought home a silver and bronze between them.

The Games ended with the closing ceremony in Jerusalem, a much more informal affair with entertainment from singers and dancers plus a few pieces of political indoctrination from prime minister Peres. Then it was back to airport and home to the rain and cold of an English summer but, as always, a memorable time in a memorable country.
Triumph Adler takes on the ‘86 English Open

"It was just an accident really" claimed Triumph Adler’s Marketing Manager Mike Borshell. "We were already doing a major advertising campaign and decided to look at sports sponsorship as well. The Open was on a sponsorship list from the Sports Council. We rang up the ETTA and it was still available."

That fortunate "accident" meant a boost for table tennis from Triumph Adler when they signed a £25,000 deal to sponsor the English Open in 1986 at a London press conference on 17th October. The second largest supplier of electronic typewriters in the world and the largest European supplier of personal micro-computers in Europe, the UK company has a turnover of around £12 million.

"It’s our first sponsorship in this country" acknowledged Triumph Adler’s UK Managing Director Bernhard Kotarski. "We have been linked in a small way with the British Cycling Federation providing technical back-up to the Milk Race, but this event is our first real sponsorship — though our parent company Volkswagen have been involved with sport for a long time."

A fast sport linked with a fast business — microcomputers. "It’s a start, it’s new for us, but it’s a natural second step and complements our above-the-line advertising for the Triumph Adler range of micro-computers," he added.

"And it’s an international event," Mr Kotarski continued. "The worldwide participation and the chance of TV exposure overseas make the English Open very attractive to us, part of an international company. We’re looking forward to a close co-operation with the ETTA and I expect it to be successful and satisfactory."

ETTA Chairman Tom Blunn welcomed the new sponsors, and paid tribute to the negotiations of Deputy General Secretary Mike Watts who secured the deal to replace previous sponsors Charles Church. "We look forward to a long and happy association with Triumph Adler," he said.

Meeting Marketing Manager Borshell who first made the link with the ETTA, common table tennis parlance like “the Open” made one suspect a familiarity with the sport already.

"I packed up playing myself only two years ago" he admitted but denied any special inclination in the decision to sponsor. "The decision was made on hard commercial criteria after we had decided to look at sports sponsorship," he said.

Nonetheless, an ex-Hertfordshire county player who began at 17 with Ellenborough and the Barnet league, does have some inside knowledge of the sport and knows all about combination bats too! "I umpired when David Creamer annihilated Alan Hydes when he was the English Junior No 2," he said, "and I decided to copy him with pimples (no sponge) on the backhand and reverse sandwich on the forehand."

Table Tennis News welcomes Triumph Adler. Don’t miss next month’s special preview issue.
Chinaman's Chance

Globe-trotting Albert Shipley reports from the 555 World Cup in Foshan, South China.

Chen Xinhua, from the People's Republic of China, is, for me a true champion. The complete player, possessing incredible talent at both attack and defence; the only games he lost in the 555 World Cup in Foshan, China over 22nd - 25th August 1985 were to Jan-Ove Waldner - one of the best matches I have ever seen.

That had been in the quarter-finals and Chen won 18-21, 21-16, 21-13, 21-23, 21-19. For the championship he faced Andrzej Grubba of Poland but, as so often happens, the final failed to reach the heights of the previous rounds and Grubba was no match for the superior skill of the Chinaman.

I was in Foshan at the invitation of IMG (the Mark McCormack organisation) to provide the English television commentary on the event. When one witnesses first hand the vastness of their population, it is no wonder that China can produce champions at any sport on which they care to concentrate.

No Douglas

Sixteen world class players took part, made up of continental champions plus the highest ranked players available from the world ranking list. The absence of Desmond Douglas, now ranked No 25 in the world, meant that, regrettably, England had no representative in the four-day tournament.

For the first stage, the players were drawn into four groups; it was essential to finish first or second in order to stand any chance of taking the richest prize in table tennis of $16,000. And it began with an upset when, in the very first match, Eric Boggan of the USA defeated the World champion Jiang Jialiang.

The match had been eagerly awaited by the capacity audience of 4,500 who packed every session. Boggan was nervous about the task in hand but the pressure on local-boy Jiang was even greater and by varying his pace cleverly he beat the champion by two games to one.

Jiang went on to reach the semi-finals where he lost Grubba but this winning opening established Boggan as a firm crowd favourite. He ended with a match against Waldner for 7th/8th place and the ice-cool exterior of the talented Swede cracked as he lost 21-10, 21-14.

For others, the sub-tropical heat of South China meant a humidity problem. But, after the cold of the Commonwealths in the Isle of Man and the Worlds in Gothenburg, the warm conditions suited Lo Chuen Tsung.

Chen Xinhua . . . the "complete player"

555 WORLD CUP 1985

Results:
Group A:
Grubba b Jiang 13, 21, -18, 16; Chen X b Chen L 15, 16, 17.

Group B:
Chen X b Waldner 21, 17; Kim W b Boggan 16, 13.

Group C:
Chen X b Grubba 16, 17.

Group D:
Chen X b Waldner 21, 17; Kim W b Boggan 16, 13.

Semi-Finals:
Grubba b Jiang 13, 21, -18, 16; Chen X b Chen L 15, 16, 17.

Chen X b Waldner 21, 17.

Final:
Chen X b Grubba 16, 15, 11.
Dennison prevents England's clean sweep
David Lomas at the Dunlop Schools International Championships

Only a solitary win by Ireland's Andrew Dennison prevented England from a "clean sweep" in the Dunlop Schools International Championships at the Inverclyde National Training Centre in Largs, Scotland during the weekend of 22nd/23rd June 1985.

England's successes in the six team events gave them the overall trophy for the eleventh successive year since the inaugural championships at Eston, Cleveland in 1975.

Tense

Although England's team win was not unexpected there were some anxious moments for the senior girls and cadet boys teams. The girls sped to a 10-0 win over Ireland in their opening match yet could only draw 5-5 with Scotland in a tense encounter.

England's wins came from Devon's Susan Butler (two singles and a doubles with Esme Stevenson of Cornwall), Lynne Harrison (Greater Manchester) and Samantha Scott-Pawson (Dorset) with one win each. And they emerged as the winners of the event when Scotland dropped a set in defeating Ireland 9-1.

The cadet boys were also held 5-5 by Scotland but they picked themselves up to win 9-1 over Ireland - previous 8-2 winners against Scotland.

The individual events - played in groups - provided six new winners. Although Murray Jukes (Hereford & Worcester) and Susan Butler (Devon) won the senior titles, Andrew Dennison became Ireland's first-ever winner and only the second non-English player to win a schools international title in the history of the championships.

He won the intermediate boys event despite losing to Peter Harris (Herts) in his final group of four; a better sets ratio giving him the title.

Louise Davis of Shropshire (intermediate girls), Damian Holland of Essex County (cadet boys), and West Yorkshire's Debbie Toole (cadet girls) were the other England winners.

Last minute rescue

The weekend's table tennis held in Scotland for only the second time after a last-minute "rescue" by the Scottish TTA, involved 90 players from England, Ireland and Scotland. Ireland were the runners-up in the team events.

CHAIRMAN'S APPEAL

ESTTA Chairman John Arnold has appealed to the ETTA National Council for help in finding correspondents in nine of the Schools Association's 50 county areas where, at present, there is no effective contact.

The counties where help is needed are: East Sussex, Essex Metropolitan, Isle of Wight, Merseyside, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, West Sussex and Wiltshire.
England's senior girls team (left to right): Sarah Hammond, Samantha Scott-Pawson, Susan Butler, Esme Stevenson, Lynne Harrison, with NPC Phil Burwell.

Results

Team Events

Overall Team Trophy
1. England
2. Ireland
3. Scotland

Senior Boys
1. England
2. Ireland
3. Scotland

Sca 0 ENG 10; ENG 9 IRE 1; SCA 0 IRE 10.
England: David Blackburne (Do), Jukes (He & Wo), Philip Logsdon (Mt), Nicholas Newton (SY), Mark Randle (Wa). NPC: Paul Birch (Bd).
Senior Girls
1. England
2. Scotland
3. Ireland
ENG 10 IRE 5; IRE 1 SCO 9; SCO 5 ENG 5.
England: Butler (Do), Sarah Hammond (Ha), Jukes (Gtr Man), Scott-Pawson (Do), Stevenson (Co). NPC: Phil Burwell (W Md).
Intermediate Boys
1. England
2. Ireland
3. Scotland
IRE 6 SCA 4; SCO 2 ENG; ENG 8 SCA 2.
England: Gavin Black (Bd), Jonathan Bult (Humb), James Griffiths (Inn Lndn), Harris (He), Ward (SY). NPC: Dennis Worrell (LI).
Intermediate Girls
1. England
2. Ireland
3. Scotland
ENG 10 SCA 0; IRE 1 ENG 9; SCO 4 IRE 6.
England: Helen Broomhead (SY), Davis (Sp), Aliso Evans (Humb), Rachel Knight (Sy Men), Helen Lower (W Md). NPC:Christine Darnall (W Md).
Cadet Boys
1. England
2. Ireland
3. Scotland
SCO 2 IRE 9; SCO 5 ENG 3; ENG 9 IRE 1.
England: Holland (ECy), Lee Jeffries (W Md), David Morris (Sp), Nicky Ryder (W Y), Adrian Thorp (W Md). NPC: Bob Wood (La).
Cadet Girls
1. England
2. Scotland
3. Ireland
ENG 7 IRE 3; IRE 5 SCO 5; ENG 6 SCO 4.
England: Caroline Buckley (Bd), Susanne Lawton (Cy), Julie Norman (Bk), Tracy Slater (Ca), Too (W Y). NPC: Glennis Hooper.
Senior Boys
1. Jukes (ENG)
2. Blackburn (ENG)
3. Logsdon (ENG) and Mervyn Kelly (IRE)
Senior Girls
1. Butler (ENG)
2. Hammond (ENG)
3. Harrison (ENG) and Nora McEvoy (IRE)
Intermediate Boys
1. Dennison (IRE)
2. Harris (ENG)
3. Bolt (ENG) and Anthony Redmond (IRE)
Intermediate Girls
1. Davis (ENG)
2. Evans (ENG)
3. Knight (ENG) and Lower (ENG)
Cadet Boys
1. Holland (ENG)
2. Thorp (ENG)
3. Ryder (ENG) and Sean Spelman (IRE)
Cadet Girls
1. Too (ENG)
2. Hurry (SCO)
3. Buckley (ENG) and Norman (ENG)

HANDBOOK

Copies of the ESTTA Official Handbook (60p inc. p&p) are now obtainable from the ESTTA General Secretary: L C Henry, Dronfield Junior School, School Lane, Dronfield SHEFFIELD S18 6RY and contain details of the Dunlop National School Team Championships which close on 10th December 1985.
Douglas back to sharpen Wolverhampton's steel
Fiona Brown

England No 1 Desmond Douglas, back from the German National League after a period of seven years with Borussia Dusseldorf, has been snapped up by GKN Wolverhampton for his first season in the Halex National League. Wolverhampton are hoping he will lead Steven Scowcroft, Carl Morgan and Andrew Bellingham to their first Premier division title.

Target Gold Salford, rivals for Desmond's signature, have now strengthened their team by attracting the 1982 European champion John Hilton from Dutch club Nikon Velkenswaard. Salford's caretaker manager Mike Owens says "John is playing extremely well at the moment and the team are looking forward to another successful season despite the loss of Tony Boasman".

Based in Manchester, Hilton is also to be involved with coaching activities within the city as Salford bid for promotion from the First division.

Following the departure of European Youth champion Carl Prean to Germany, Bath Toyota have added Ellenborough's Colin Wilson and re-signed Kevin Satchell from Jaques Fareham. Wilson, of course, was born in Bath and Satchell, too, is a local player.

Jarvis returns

Shropshire club Grove have also strengthened their side with former international Nicky Jarvis emerging from retirement for the No 4 spot behind John Souter at No 1 and the ever-improving Steve Mills at No 2. But Jarvis, who was forced to quit because of a constant back injury due to perpetual looping, is finding the transition from coaching to competitive play more difficult than he thought.

"Although I've been coaching regularly over the past three years, I was getting too fat", he said. "I'd been playing more and more each week, having changed my grip and changed my style, but the hardest part is changing the brain. It still wants to play the way I used to play even though I have developed my backhand more to compensate. In practice it's no problem. But a match is entirely different altogether".

Ormsby retain Alan Cooke and were to field an unknown quantity in Horatio Pinta. Now a Canadian citizen, Pinta began his international career with Rumania and has already experienced top league competition in Sweden.

His arrival was predicted to upset a number of Premier division clubs. But then Ormsby's manager Alan Ransome received bad news in a transatlantic telephone call.

"It appears Pinta has had an accident, and his foot is in a cast", he said. "But it's not as bad as we first feared and he'll certainly be playing for us after Christmas. In the meantime, though, we're losing valuable points".

New Player Awards

Adding to the interest of the Halex National league, eight engraved tankards are to be awarded to the 'Player of the Month' as selected by the National League Committee between October and May. And a £100 cash prize has been introduced for the 'Player of the Year'; club captains having the opportunity to nominate on the bottom of each score sheet.

League champions weakened

League champions Thorn-EMI Ellenborough have also been hit having made only one significant signing to compensate for the loss of Wilson and Nigel Tyler. New Zealand No 1 Malcolm Temperley has come in at No 3 after South Yorkshire lost the fight for his signature. South Yorks start the season with what looks to be the weakest side in the Premier and manager Graham Coe now has little chance to strengthen his top team with most of the leading players already under contract.

Omega Reading become the first club in the competition to field two Premier division teams and their intensive youth policy means they have avoided the need to sign outsiders. Jimmy Stokes earns a well-deserved place in the first team following a successful season in which he added the scalp of Prean to an impressive tally of wins. Matthew Syed, at 15, is the Premier youngest player - a move which can only benefit his international aspirations.

Former Scottish international Keith Rodger, now a police officer in Birmingham returns to top level competition with West Warwicks Birmingham, while Butterfly Cardiff have tempted Tyler to play at No 2 behind the new Welsh national coach Alan Griffiths.

In the lower divisions a number of new clubs have joined the league, including Oldham who were called in at the eleventh hour to replace South Yorks third team in the Third division North. Despite this late entry, manager Geoff Aspinall and assistant Stuart Sneyd are confident they have assembled a squad capable of challenging for the title. With veteran stalwart Derek Schofield playing at No 4, they could well be right!
THE PREMIER DIVISION LINE-UP

Grove
1 John Souter
2 Steve Mills
3 Steve Turner
4 Nicky Jarvis
5 Malcolm Green
6 John Ellis

Omega Reading II
1 Andrew Syed
2 David Barr
3 Matthew Syed
4 Karen Witt
5 Mandy Sainsbury

South Yorkshire
1 Chris Rogers
2 Chu Van Que
3 Dave Gannon
4 Tony Sanderson

GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton
1 Desmond Douglas
2 Steven Scowcroft
3 Carl Morgan
4 Andrew Bellingham

Bath Toyota
1 Colin Wilson
2 Kevin Satchell
3 Adrian Moore
4 Andy Creed
5 Alison Gordon
6 Neil Taylor
7 Tony Clayton
8 Kevin Edwards

Omega Reading I
1 Philip Bradbury
2 Andrew Wellman
3 David Dodd
4 Jimmy Stokes

Ormesby
1 Alan Cooke
2 Horatio Pinta
3 Nigel Eckersley
4 Richard Yule

The FIRST RESULTS - 1st SEPTEMBER 1985

 Premier Division
 Ormesby 4 South Yorkshire I 4
 GKN Steelstock 4

First Division
 Ormesby II 5 W. Warwick/Birmingham 3
 Obin 5
 TCB Dolphins 6 Dagenham FC I 7
 Armst St. Neots I 2

Second North
 Unity Bradford 3 Byker Newcastle I 5
 Chas Construction I 6 Smld Lincoln 2
 GKN Steelstock II 6

Second South
 TSB Larkhall 4 EAE Waveney 4
 Gunterbury Triangle 3 Penley Sports Gwent 5

Third North
 Ormesby III 0 Vickers Sports Barrow 8
 South Yorkshire I 3 Kingsboro Insurance 5
 Crusaders Lincoln 6 Oldham 6
 Byker Newcastle II 2

Third South
 Deptford Rams 5 Omega Reading III 3
 Abing Warriors Siga 6

Third East
 Britains Deep sesame 7 Playrite Northampton 1
 Dagenham FC I 2 Fellows Cradleigh 5
 Armst St. Neots I 3 AHW Pioneers 3

Third West
 Lancashire 2 Global Sports Plymouth 6
 Leicester TTC 6 Grove II 2
 Jolliffe Poole 8 Chas Construction I 1
 Penley Torbay II 8

Join the ATTP!

Association of Table Tennis Players
Officials
Hon President: Johnny Leach MBE
Hon Chairman: Barry Johnson (Tel: 05646 2978)
Hon Treasurer: Jill Hammersley-Parker MBE
Hon Secretary: Colin Wilson (Tel: 0707 874751)
Coordinator: Derek Baddley (Tel: 06846 3763)

The ATTP exists as a players association committed to improving the standard and popularity of table tennis. Many nationally ranked players have already signed as members and we welcome all regular players, whatever their standard.

The Committee is actively pursuing various projects including the staging of unusual matches, exhibitions and Pro-Celebrity events and tournaments. But we need your help and support to succeed!

Every member receives a membership card and a number of other benefits are currently being investigated. Discount rates for rail travel and hotel accommodation; reduced admission and entry fees at tournaments and events; and special insurance premiums.

So post the membership form today!

Derek Baddley
ATTP Coordinator

ATTP Membership form

Enclose £2.00 cheque or postal order made payable to “ATTP” and post to: Colin Wilson, Hon Sec ATTP, 25 Brookside Crescent, CUFFLEY, Herts.

Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________

Postcode: ________________ Tel: ________________

Club: ____________________________
League: ____________________________

Signed: ____________________________
"Reform or die" warns
Neil Lomas

I have been playing league table tennis for 18 years and I think I know my fellow players well enough to suggest the two reasons why the Crewe league recently decided to remain in affiliation with the ETTA.

These, in fact, both relate to the restrictive ETTA rule 32.1 (which prohibits play between affiliates and non-affiliates except by special concession under the auspices of an Organisation in Good Standing).

Firstly, disaffiliation would prevent any juniors from having the opportunity to display their talents at county and national level. Although they could affiliate directly to the ETTA, they would then be banned from membership of our non-affiliated league (by ETTA rule not ours) and without the benefit of regular league competition, would be less likely to develop to county and national standard.

Secondly, many players are members of two neighbouring leagues and, if one were to disaffiliate, they would be forced, again by the same rule, to withdraw from one or the other. I suspect the vote in the case of our league might well have gone the other way if the Potteries had voted to disaffiliate at their AGM held a week earlier.

Irrelevance
I believe the majority of ordinary club players, among whom I number myself, consider the ETTA a complete irrelevance, and an increasingly expensive one at that. For the average player, whether or not England has a strong national team is of little importance, and the payment of large sums to individual players for the privilege of having them play in this country is an irritation.

Indeed, it could be argued that this is in breach of the ETTA's own rule 3.4 which stipulates that all income and property of the Association shall be used solely for the promotion of the Associations objects which include the promotion and encouragement of playing and developing the sport in England (rule 3.3).

Resentment
Our league does not have an official view on these matters; it simply has an official policy, which is to remain in affiliation. However, the growing resentment against the ETTA is not going to subside unless radical reforms are instituted which will increase the relevance of the ETTA to the ordinary player, or greatly reduce the cost of membership. Preferably both.

I am aware it is easy to criticise an organisation, but less so to suggest ways of improving it. I therefore propose for consideration a package of reforms which, I feel, would go a long way towards rehabilitating the ETTA in the eyes of its ordinary members:

1. The ETTA should recognise that table tennis is not, and never will be, a major spectator sport; and that only major sports can afford to pay large sums to individual players.
2. Rule 32.1 should be abolished.
3. Direct affiliation of individual players should be encouraged; direct affiliation of clubs abolished; and the affiliation fee of leagues reduced to a nominal sum, not dependent upon the number of teams in the league.
4. Any player registered with an affiliated league, whether individually affiliated or not, should be able to represent that league in inter-league competition; but only individually affiliated players should be allowed to enter county and national tournaments or to represent the county or country.
5. The existing disciplinary procedure should apply to all players, whether affiliated or not, taking part in competitions under ETTA jurisdiction. Rule 32.2 would need rewording to take account of this.
6. At the AGM and other general meetings, each directly affiliated individual and each affiliated league should be allowed one vote. The votes should carry equal weight except that any change in the affiliation fee should require a majority of individuals voting and any change in the league affiliation fee should require a majority of the leagues voting. Block voting should be abolished and provision made for individuals and leagues to vote by post.

If the above package were implemented, the ETTA would become dependent for the major part of its income on the direct affiliation fees of individuals, and many existing players would not affiliate. Once it became apparent, however, that the ETTA was truly answerable to its members, I would expect a large number of players to directly affiliate. The question is: are the ETTA prepared to take the risk?

There is a serious financial risk in implementing these proposals. But I believe there is an even bigger risk of the complete disintegration of organised table tennis in this country if the present situation is allowed to continue.

Leader Comment, page 1.
Welcome back to yet another season of table tennis. It only seems a short time ago that I was signing off for last season. From a personal aspect, a lot has happened since. As a result, my health problems have improved dramatically and I look forward to a new season with renewed enthusiasm.

You will, by now, have noted some changes in the format of the magazine. The ever-rising costs and reducing income from advertising have forced changes which I hope you will accept.

Activity has continued as always on all fronts and the success of our juniors and cadets in the European Youth Championships over the summer overshadows all other events. I was particularly pleased to see Carl Prean achieve his greatest ambition so far, by becoming the 1985 European Youth champion. He has tried so hard for so long and well deserves his success. He was very well-supported, and indeed inspired, by the other members of the team; I very much regret that health problems at the time prevented me from being there to give support on the spot.

The AGM took place without problems and I was pleased to have the honour of presenting a K (Bill) Vint with his well-deserved badge as the new Life Vice-President, in succession to the late Ivor Montagu. Bill still gets around and never ceases to take an interest in our affairs.

I spent a little time with him at the end of the summer and came away with more knowledge of our history and determined to maintain the standards set by Bill in his thirty odd years as Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman and President. On the ETTA's behalf, I wished him well in his health and a long service as our Life Vice-President.

Sponsorship support has been varied with some going and some coming but on balance we seem to have gained for the new season. A new approach to the problems of sponsorship and television has been introduced by the appointment of John McDonnell as our national negotiator.

John is a familiar figure through the Norwich Union sponsorship of eleven years when he was their Public Relations Manager. He gained a vast knowledge of the subject and has met a great number of people connected with this area of activity. He is also an ETTA Vice-President and anxious to help us as much as he can.

Another innovation is the Milton Keynes National Top 12 tournament to be held at the end of October. This is an area of new sponsorship and looks like being a resounding success.

Finally, we welcome Desmond Douglas back onto the domestic scene and look forward to his appearance in some open tournaments and the national league. Desmond has already commenced his duties and, so far, has concentrated on helping the juniors.

All the best for the new season.

Tom Blum
Chairman
English Table Tennis Assn.

**Veterinary Injection**

The ETTA West Midlands Coordinating Committee have given veterans table tennis a boost in the region with a Closed tournament for the Over 40s at Wolverhampton on Sunday 15 December 1985.

Open to all veterans in the table tennis counties of Shropshire, Warwickshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire, the events at the Woodfield Sports and Social Club will include Over 40 and Over 50 Mens and Women's singles.

Entry for all events is £1.00 and if time allows there will also be an invitation doubles event with contestants drawing for partners. Light refreshments and a licensed bar will be available.

Entries close on Friday 29 November 1985 and forms can be obtained from: Jim Hayward, 26 Limes Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. Tel: (0902) 751427.

**Approved balls**

The ETTA have issued a list of the brands and grades of balls which are to be used in play within, between or organised by any affiliated organisation or one in Good Standing with the ETTA during the 1985/86 season:

- Dunlop Tournament *** and ** (plastic)
- Dunlop Premier Tournament *** and ** (celluloid)
- Halex Ultra *** and **
- Nittaku *** and **
- Schildkröt *** and **
- TSP *** and **

**Jouez au ping pong?**

From temp to temp le ETTA receives requests from notre Common Marche amici "to put us in touch with some clubs anglais, in order that we may play on match ou share ein Bier oder zehn".

If your club might be interested in such an exchange the ETTA would be pleased to place you on the directory used to answer these enquiries. Tel: (0424) 433121.

**Bat Cover**

In association with former sponsors Norwich Union, the ETTA can arrange insurance cover to leagues and clubs for three main areas of risk - Public liability, Personal injury and Trophies.

With the cost of sports equipment nowadays, many members also decide to include their table tennis bats under the sports insurance extensions offered by the domestic contents policies of many leading insurance companies. "A table tennis bat?", said one incredulous agent. "How on earth can a table tennis bat cost over £40?"

"I dunno either, but you're insuring it!"

**ENGLAND NEEDS YOU!**

**EUROPEAN LEAGUE DIVISION 1**

Wed. 20th November 1985
ENGLAND V BULGARIA
at Mansfield Leisure Centre Chesterfield Road South Mansfield NG19 7AB
Tel. 0623 646081/2
Tickets
£3.00 Adult
£2.00 Children/OAP

Wed. 21st January 1986
ENGLAND V DENMARK
at Castle Hall Hertford
Tickets £4.00 Front
£3.50 Rear
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Hertford
SG14 2EY
Tel 00992 51802
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**COME AND SEE THE INTERNATIONALS IN ACTION**

**It’s for you-oo!**

Just to say you’ll be glad to know that the ETTA has 'one of those infernal machines' which allows you to leave messages on (0424) 433121 after office hours and at weekends. Anyone requiring information can be sure the messages are relayed as soon as the office reopen.
Veteran GP wins British title

Even in the best of circumstances, 41 is a bit late to take up competitive table tennis. So in May last year when general practitioner and police surgeon Dr John Marrs fashioned a new type of table tennis bat, he did not rate his chances.

To add that little bit of extra challenge to the game, he honed the blade down to a stripling 12.5 cm, stuck it on a piece of Addis mop handle and entered the British heats of the world championships finals, televised by Thames TV.

Perfect

He (oh yes, and Zillian, but more of that later) hardly expected to win. But the brain scanner he had scrounged from a local hospital gave him an obvious psychological advantage. Recording his opponents strokes with bits from a camera, tape recorder and typewriter, an Apple to eat its way through match reports, and two windscreen wiper motors to keep the vision clear and the action moving, his preparation was perfect for an assault on the title.

Considering he had not played since medical school John's victory rivalled that of another's in Berne 1982. The earlier made front page of The Times; the second got two feature articles in The Guardian (3rd and 29th August 1985). And a two-day journey to London from Cleveland ended with a £500 prize representing England in the San Francisco finals in September.

Challenge

"There is nothing like a stiff dose of competition to iron the corners off pet theories," he said. "It all started when I read an article in Practical Robotics magazine and I decided to take up the challenge."

"The challenge" in this case, meant the construction of a robot to play table tennis — the best test of the reflexes linking complex mechanics to an optical recognition system. "My children called it Zillian", and it was born from a load of obsolete electronics scrounged from friends and local sources. The whole thing cost him around £45.

"Zillian's camera eye didn't work properly" he said, "and I had to move the arm with a computer joystick, but we won easily. The robot which came second didn't even score a point for a touch let alone five points for a return over the net. The one which came fourth could not even move."

But a champion is a champion — Butterfly's Alan Ransome was soon on the spot to sign up the new ping pong prodigy, kitting them out for the world finals.

Stiga to sponsor County Championships

Doug Moss

Stiga, distributors of the Nittaku ball, have agreed to sponsor the county championships over the 1985/86 season. By the time these notes are read, many counties will have already felt the benefit of the £4,000 deal which provides balls for matches in the championships.

There will be more matches than ever this year too, with yet another increase in the number of teams taking part. Twelve extra teams have been added and, in all, over 1,000 players are expected to represent their counties over the forthcoming season.

The championships has the quantity; the aim now is to improve the quality — particularly with venues, match arrangements, publicity and presentation to attract further sponsorship. Already preparations are underway for the first of the Premier division weekends.
SWEET 'N NICE
Jackie, 21, and Lisa Bellinger, 18, from Dunstable, Bedfordshire, are to be sponsored by 'Sweet 'N Low' the sweetener in the pink sachets. The two champion sisters are currently Nos 1 and 6 in the national womens rankings.

Graham Bright, Chairman and Managing director of the 'Sweet 'N Low' company is also the MP for Luton South and said "By helping them to devote their full time to the sport, I am confident they can make an even bigger impression for England in international table tennis. Commercially, it is a good investment, providing us with the opportunity to promote 'Sweet 'N Low' in the right image of a healthy and active sport through two very attractive ambassadors".

Tony DIMMICK
Table tennis in Bedfordshire was deeply saddened by the death in May of Tony Dimmock, following a prolonged illness.  
Tony had been associated with table tennis for some 30 years, during which time he made an impact on the sport as a player, administrator and coach.
For the past seven years, Tony had given invaluable service to the Dunstable league as Chairman and his administrative ability and leadership will be greatly missed in this area.

BUCKS SCHOOL OF SPORT
Les Wooding
The County’s first venture into a residential coaching week over the summer was a outstanding success under the management of Ken Muhr. Held at Quarrendon School and under the auspices of the ‘Bucks School of Sport’, England-ranked Colin Wilson did a first-rate job in training the youngsters and, then, with Nigel Tyler staged a breathtaking exhibition. If the ETTA want to strengthen their coaching and training base, they need look no further than Muhr and Wilson.

Further success was illustrated by the decision to enter a record six teams in the County championships this season. Thanks to the sponsorship of South Heath Nurseries of Great Missenden, Chalfont Press from High Wycombe and Sunnex UK Ltd in Aylesbury, a second veterans team has been added in recognition of the 1st team gaining promotion to the Premier division last season.

The strength of the veterans base has also swelled the Bucks Inter league championships to a record nine divisions, including the inaugurations of a fourth mens division and a veteran womens division.

Bucks No 1 Philip Bradbury, from Aylesbury started the season with a return to form by taking the Lewisham 2-Star title, beating David Wells and John Souter on the way.
And in the first Junior rankings of the year, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury leagues are dominant.

Derbyshire experienced a membership crisis in 1984/85 with a 16% drop in affiliations and only the Chesterfield league showing an increase in membership. County officials are now waiting for the current season’s statistics in the hope they will show an increase.

The figures were brought up at the Derbyshire AGM in Alfreton last June where the majority of the county committee, lead by President Danny Blair and Chairman Ernest Lough, were re-elected.

The Derbyshire Challenge Cup final, billed by organiser Malcolm Allsop as “One Hell of a Match” ended with Cromford Demons of Matlock gaining a 5-4 victory in the final set against the Buxton Devils.
Even better playing conditions are promised for the Beneficial Trust Derby Junior Select next April with new flooring and improved lighting installed in the main hall of Derby Sports Centre over the summer.
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
by Alf Peppard

Nina Tskaraboulos, one of the country's leading players, is believed to be contemplating a return to active table tennis following a year of difficult fitness problems. The country will certainly emerge all the better on the return of Nina.

Sacrosanct?

Upon being introduced to the High Sheriff of Gloucester David Short at the Inter-city Sports week in Worcester last July (when Gloucester won the table tennis event), Cllr Short was heard to say, "Oh, is this where the ping-pong is being played?" Next year, yes 1986, Gloucester city players and supporters are invited to note that they are the host city to run the week-long series of sporting events and to defend the title against strong opposition from Worcester and Hereford.

Table tennis has been humming in Devon throughout the summer. Reports from both Plymouth and Torbay say that players have been putting in a great deal of time and effort into their practice sessions and national coach Bryan Merritt has been literally rushed off his feet attending training camps across the county.

Past practice has reaped its rewards with many Devon players appearing in the England ranking lists.

There will be no lack of top-class table tennis to watch in the county during the coming season. Devon are fielding two senior teams and one junior while national league teams are operating from both Plymouth and Torbay. Spectators will be spoilt for choice.

The task of selecting the county team falls on the shoulders of Devon's newly elected coaching officer Brian Pengelly, Elaine Short and Francis Jarvis. To help them keep in touch with the progress of players, they plan to hold three senior and junior ranking tournaments during the season.

The first is to decide the senior teams but Richard Atkin, Sean Gaylard, Graham Yardley, Rachel Pengelly and Joanne Loosemore have already been chosen for the juniors first match against Glamorgan.

At the inter-regional under 12 tournament in Exeter on August 31st, Ipplington's Helen Berry finished as a prizewinner in the girls competition. The format of under 12s on the Saturday followed by the under 14s on the Sunday provided an enjoyable weekend of highly competitive table tennis.

Jolliffe Poole, again sponsored by Peter Jolliffe the Bookmakers, look a good bet for third division west in the Hales National League. With the season starting earlier this year, Rodney Thomas, John Robinson, Jason Creasey and your correspondent are hoping to continue the form which brought them an 80-0 victory over Chan Construction 2 on 1st September.

New rankings based on last season's results have been issued with Tony Clayton heading the mens top ten:

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WHERE SHEPHERD WATCHED
Laurie Darnell reports from Essex

Alan Shepherd, chairman for as long as many can remember, found himself surprisedly ousted by Peter Roden from Wickford at the end of this year's AGM. But though losing the top spot, he has retained his position on the Essex management committee by representing the Waltham Forest league.

London solicitor Shepherd, still involved with junior affairs and the county tournaments committee admitted that the vote had been a bit too big for an 'any other business' item to resolve. It was Clive Okan who grabbed the nettle. He sought and received backing to form a sub-committee to investigate the decline of our sport and recommended ways to reverse the trend.

Clive, now the newly-created development officer, together with Margaret Darnell, Roy Franklin and Colin Trundle are to reveal the results of their survey at a presentation evening in October.

MBE presented the Corti Woodcock Memorial Trophy to Graham Moon. Graham formed the successful Brentwood table tennis club in 1936 and has been president of the Brentwood league for sixteen years.

In acknowledgement, the former world champion described Graham as "a Gentlemen of table tennis who has given outstanding service to the sport for almost thirty years!"
The biggest event planned for Hertfordshire this season is the European league division one match to be staged in the county in 1986. England, bidding for reinstatement in the Super division, are to play Denmark at Hitchin on 21st January and a large crowd is needed to give the home team support.

Other notes for the diary are the county closed tournaments - Junior, 8th December; Senior, 22nd/23rd February - and the Inter-league dates - Junior, 24th November and 25th January; Senior, 27th October, 1st December and 15th December; and Veterans on 24th November.

The junior ranking trials held at Barnets Table Tennis Centre on 8th September resulted in Peter Harris of Watford and Tracey Baines of the North Herts league clinching top spots in the new county rankings:

**Boys**
1. Peter Harris (Watford)
2. Derek Rogers (Cheshunt)
3. Michael Boardman (Hemel)
4. Iain Black (St Albans)

**Girls**
1. Tracey Baines (N Herts)
2. Vicky Margerison (Barnet)
3. Maria Williams (Barnet)
4. Emma Harrison (Hemel)

The team championships returned to their spiritual home of Cornwall when all roads led to Launceston on May 25th. The local committee, headed by Peter Hancock and referee Pat Archdale, ensured that, as always, Cornish hospitality was faultless.

With senior teams of four men and two women, and junior teams of two boys and one girl, the players competed in a round-robin group format with the group winners proceeding to a knock-out section to earn more team points.

The senior event was a record bonanza for Devon, their points haul of 73 being only five short of a maximum and more than double that of runners-up, Avon. And Cornwall nearly slipped up in their hospitality, failing by just one point to win the junior trophy from Somerset.

**Overall team positions:**

- **Senior**
  1. Devon 73
  2. Avon 36
  3. Somerset 33
  4. Dorset 30
  5. Cornwall 1
  6. Cornwall 2

**Junior**
1. Somerset 29
2. Cornwall 24
3. Cornwall 23
4. Devon 22
5. Devon 1
6. Herts 11
7. Hampshire 8
8. Cornwall 4
9. Dorset 7

Devon's team of Paul Whiting, Mike Short, Stuart Richards, Paul Giles, Carol Butler and Elaine Short had further success in the individual events when Whiting and Butler won the singles titles. Both junior singles finals were Cornwall versus Somerset affairs; Melanie Carey (So) defeating Esme Stevenson (Co) 10-21, 21-10, 21-17 and Graham Reed (Co) getting the better of Philip Payne (So) 21-15, 18-21, 21-17.

Hampshire, in the extreme east of the region, are to stage the event this season, with a provisional date established of Saturday 26th April 1986.

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When I last hit the typewriter, seven years ago, Hunts wins in the county championships were rare indeed. The St Neots purpose built centre (surely one of the best in the country) was in its formative years and generally the successes we had in the past two or three years were virtually non-existent.

Now Peterborough have their own table tennis hall with a fine table tennis facility transformed by the hard work of members on an oldish building.

Hunts, this year, are to run one junior team and three veterans sides. However, it stops there as, at a special general meeting held at the new centre in Peterborough, it was reluctantly agreed to withdraw the senior team. An unexpected change of division left Hunts in a group where it was thought impossible to fulfil the fixtures due to the enormous amount of travel and expense involved.

The county are now hoping that some sort of regional championships will be forthcoming in the future for the lower divisions, as seems to be the case in some other sports.

The popular County Junior league will again be one of the highlights for our ever-increasing number of youngsters. Now in its fourth year, the number of divisions has been increased to three for the first time. Teams from Peterborough, St Ives, St Neots and Huntingdon will meet on five Sundays during the season; three 1st and 2nd division matches being played on most occasions: 27th October, 24th November, 19th January 1986, 9th March, 6th April.

These matches will be held at the St Neots centre whilst the third division is to be held on different dates at St Ives Recreation Centre.

All three leagues, St Neots, Hunts Central and Peterborough have their own development programme under the financial assistance of the Sports Council Eastern region, coordinated by coaching secretary Len Saywell.

And the town of St Ives is busily at work on its spiritual home of Cornwall after 17 wins with a scratch handicap. Janet Clarke (+10) was second with 15 wins; Marion Lilley (+4) third with 13; and fourth was Pauline Chapman (+2), also with 13 wins.

The doubles took up the fourth week with arranged pairs. Each pair played the others two games each up to 21 and at the end the exhausted players had no idea who had won until all the points were counted up. Angela Bray and Julie Crags emerged as the winners from the calculation, much to Julie's disbelief.

The summer league took a different format with each team being of two players and matches consisting of four best-of-three singles sets. Each game won counted as a point.

For the fifth year running, everything depends on the last matches to produce the winners. John Lea in excellent form with the much-improved young John Whattam won the division one title 68-41, just ahead of myself and Andy Longbottom on 66-43. Peter Taylor won the most games individually, losing just three games out of fifty!

Peter also featured in Market Rasen's very popular Open Hard Rubber Bat competition. Losing in the groups to John Whitfield 18-21, 21-19, 11-21, he scraped into the main competition as runner-up, only to face John again when they both reached the final.

John took the first 22-20, Peter the second 21-19 and the third was unbelievable. With the score at 20-20, John kept the coolest in the next two points to become the champion.
Norfolk News

Ray Hogg

From 21 ends to 21 points. From Henselite to Nitarak. Battle commences on the green table after a summer on the green green.

For the first time in many years, Norfolk are to field only one senior team in the county championships - a result of being unable to rely upon certain players on a regular basis.

However, as usual, there are two junior teams and many new faces are expected to appear at the weekends which are being arranged. Now that many of our players have Saturday jobs, the possibility of only two Saturdays required is far easier than the seven needed under the traditional system.

A first for the county is the veterans team which has attracted considerable enthusiasm despite learning of the first match in Gateshead and two other away matches in Cheshire and Northampton. Luckily Yorks 2 entered late or the only home match would have been Hunts 2.

With Philip Logsdon at University in Nottingham there is a big hole to fill in the senior team. But with Gerry Stevenson in charge his sons Richard and Martyn should be available - dependent on their national league commitments which clash once or twice.

For the women, Sue Jenkinson has been ranked at No 3 at the start of her first season as a senior player. And England-ranked Neil Pickard, way out in front of the other junior boys, could end up playing for the senior team instead of the juniors.

Despite much talk and correspondence with the Cromer league during the summer, they have still disaffiliated from the ETTA and are now known as the Cromer Friendly Competition. Basically Cromer are just trying to lose their league.

With just 18 teams in two divisions, they can survive without the ETTA. For my part, we were the only league that sent me a full report of the championships last season ... Good luck.

Northumberland

by Pauline Long

Both county teams had quite a successful season last year with the senior team finishing as runners-up to Derbyshire in division 3A and the juniors ending their first season in division 2A in third place. Sadly, a shortage of girls has meant it has been decided not to enter a junior team this season, with the entire team from last year over age.

Instead, two senior teams have been entered with opportunities for outstanding junior or 'intermediate' level players to be selected for the second team. To prove table tennis life need not end at 25 or 30, Northumberland have entered a veterans team for the first time, on the understanding it will be self-supporting.

The cadet division of the recently completed Tynseide Summer league ended with Northumbria Centre teams completely dominating the three groups.

The winter season in Northumberland finished so late that the county closed tournament, held on May 18th at the new venue of Bishop Street Baths in Newcastle, has still not been reported. It had been feared at one time that the tournament might not even be held but a sudden rush of last-minute entries saved the situation.

Peter McBride retained the mens singles title but Eddie Smith gained him a tremendous tussle in the semis, losing 18-21, 21-16, 19-21. In the other semi-final there was a surprise when Thomas Blackman beat Neil McMaster 14-21, 21-16, 21-15.

In the final, Blackman ran McQueen very close in the first but the latter's experience told in the second as he won 21-19, 21-9. McQueen, in partnership with Clare Mouzon, also took the mixed doubles but he and McMaster failed to reach the mens doubles final after crashing out in the semis to the eventual winners - the left-handed pair of Keith and Ian Long.

Clare Mouzon comfortably regained her women's championship by beating Shirley Gelder 21-8, 22-20 in the semis and Christine Burke 21-19, 21-13 in the final. Defending champion Caron Buglass who played the game of her life last year to beat Mouzon had earlier lost to Burke 12-21, 21-19, 21-18.

It was not Buglass' day. As well as losing her singles title, she and Burke lost their womens doubles in the semi-final stage at the hands of Mouzon and Pauline Long. Mouzon, unfortunately, failed to make it a hat-trick of victories as the final saw Kirk 22-20, 22-20 to Gelder and Linda Spensley.

Larry Carter won the veterans singles 21-15, 21-15 at the expense of Charles Mouzon. And Elaine Hopper (+18), who has just finished her last season as a junior, became the first female player to win an individual handicap title when she beat Michael Karczewski (+13) 21-15, 18-21, 21-19 in the final of the Divisions 2/3/4 handicap singles.

Most leagues and most counties have suffered a drop in membership from individual players during the past two seasons, but at last in Sussex there are encouraging signs from at least a couple of leagues - Hastings and Eastbourne. Hastings increased their number of players last season, whilst other leagues fell back. The first figures for the brand new campaign are from Eastbourne, where an extra eleven teams and one division have been added to the league programme.

Sussex first team will be trying once again for promotion to the premier division of the county championships after missing out by the narrowest possible margin at Plymouth last season.

The journey to Plymouth helped to put the Sussex finances over the season in the mire, a loss of nearly £600. I really can't think how other counties manage to finance their presence in the southern divisions.

To the Devon side along the coast of travelling vast distances cost must be the main sponsor real money, but the problem is that some other counties do not have sponsors. Something should be done this season to smooth out this problem.

It is quite understandable that the young, talented Devonians want to travel east where the opposition is strongest, but can other counties afford the reverse journey? Sussex cannot.

TCB Dolphins in the National League are leaping high after being promoted to Division 1 following the sinking of Holts Carpets. Dolphins have netted Andy Dodd as their new No 1 in place of Graham Gillett who has returned to his rock music field. Erreys Print TTC have received increased sponsorship and will shortly resume their battles to get into the top half of Division 3 in the southern set-up.

Despite losing money Sussex have increased the number of county teams back to six, reviving the second junior side. Where is the money coming from? Hopefully, from increased fees from the players.

Most of the Sussex TTA AGM passed by with yawns, but in the last half hour following some snappy criticism by Pat Wales and Gerry Baill-Rawden the two veteran county players, Keith Jackson put the car amongst the pigeons with a scathing attack on the administration.

The Haywards Heath player and administrator was most dissatisfied with the whole thing. Despite the fact that most organisations these days have to spend so much time trying to finance their activities, Jackson found such actions "time-wasting".

He ended by criticising the absence in the chair during the whole AGM of the Sussex president Keith Watts who was, of course, quite entitled to be conducting the proceedings.

Northants Notes

Dennis Millman

Success too for Anne Wallis whose exceptional talent had not been dimmed by another year of inactivity. Returning to play in her solitary event of the season, she carried off her handicap successfully to partner Cath Walsh to victory over 34 women in the Tina Coleman Memorial Trophy.

The Wellingtonborough Closed, with an increased entry for organiser Mick Morris, also produced a surprise winner in Steve West who beat Andy Trott in the final after accounting for Andy Edmonds in the previous round. Trott and Edmonds took their revenge when they defeated West in the mens doubles, while the women's singles went to young Maxine Shears.

The new county ranking list is much the same mixture as before, with Keith Nicoll's promotion to No 2 and Adrian Roper's eight place advance to No 11, the highlights.
Pontesbury again attracted support from all over the country when they staged a team event on June 8th/9th with U12 and U14 teams playing for trophies donated by the country's evening newspaper, the Shropshire Star.

Twelve teams made the U12 event and a full complement of 16 entered the U14s, with competitors from Selborne, Pontesbury, Wellington, Valley, Kettering, Buttsbury Centre, Oldham, Dagenham, Milton Keynes, Pontefract, Selby, Wrexham, Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Bristol, Reading, Wísbech and Coventry. Even players from Lawtonstron in Cornwall and Tunbridge Wells made the trip for a great weekend table tennis.

After group matches in the U12s, held on the Saturday, the first semi-final saw Selby edge out Dagenham in a close-fought match by 6-2. David Milner and Andrew Nicholls were unbeaten in the Impressive Grant Solder for the losers. Lawtonstron overwhelmed Bristol in the other semi-7-1. Tyler Moore gaining Bristol's solitary win.

The stage was set for a repeat of last year's final with Lawtonstron geared up for revenge. And when England ranked cadets Neil Bevan and Mark Bawden won the first two sets, it looked like a runaway win. But the Yorkshire lads and lads dug in with typical grit. Ellen Meddings won the first, 9 year old Andrew Nicholls the second, and when Chris Wint beat Bevan, Selby were 3-2 in front.

Lawtonstron's Bawden edged out Meddings, then Milner defeated Johnny Maggs to set the stage for the final encounter. And in a nail-biting finish, Nicholls, will ed on by his excited supporters, just held on the Saturday, the first semi-final saw Selby edge out Dagenham in a close-fought match by 6-2. David Milner and Andrew Nicholls were unbeaten in the Impressive Grant Solder for the losers. Lawtonstron overwhelmed Bristol in the other semi-7-1. Tyler Moore gaining Bristol's solitary win.

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Both teams had win but they edged out their neighbours with a sets average of 44-9 against 43-12.

Despite the presence of several regular hard bat players - all competitors played with standard hard bats - the first of the individual event was fought out between two exponent of the sponge bat, Trevor Washington and Steve Dunning, both of Wolverhampton.

They adapted their 'modern' style of play with considerable success, giving a final well worth watching. Washington running away with the final game to win the Turner Trophy 21-14, 17-21, 21-11.

After missing a year, the Malcolm Scott Restricted tournament was again staged at the Woodfield club, Wolverhampton, and the final was a close fought match between Marc Devitt and Kevin Cartwright, the former winning 16-21, 21-19, 21-18. But the Yorkshire lads and lads were no match for the opposition. And in the other hard fought singles, it looked like a runaway win. But the Yorkshire lads and lads dug in with typical grit. Ellen Meddings won the first, 9 year old Andrew Nicholls the second, and when Chris Wint beat Bevan, Selby were 3-2 in front.

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Both teams had win but they edged out their neighbours with a sets average of 44-9 against 43-12.

Despite the presence of several regular hard bat players - all competitors played with standard hard bats - the first of the individual event was fought out between two exponent of the sponge bat, Trevor Washington and Steve Dunning, both of Wolverhampton.

They adapted their 'modern' style of play with considerable success, giving a final well worth watching. Washington running away with the final game to win the Turner Trophy 21-14, 17-21, 21-11.

After missing a year, the Malcolm Scott Restricted tournament was again staged at the Woodfield club, Wolverhampton, and the final was a close fought match between Marc Devitt and Kevin Cartwright, the former winning 16-21, 21-19, 21-18. But the Yorkshire lads and lads were no match for the opposition. And in the other hard fought singles, it looked like a runaway win. But the Yorkshire lads and lads dug in with typical grit. Ellen Meddings won the first, 9 year old Andrew Nicholls the second, and when Chris Wint beat Bevan, Selby were 3-2 in front.

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In the premier division of the county championships, Yorkshire are preparing for 'life after Fletcher' following his departure to take up a teaching post in Germany. A fine ambassador, he has served his country with distinction since he first came on the scene as a schoolboy at Hull's Hymers College.

The county are hoping it will be a case of 'tough the occasion, corte the man', just as it was when Sheffield's top cadet Chris Oldfield stepped into the breach left by Chu van Que when South Yorkshire played GKN Steelstock in the Halen National League.

Desmond Douglas, who has made the journey in the opposite direction to Fletcher, won his two to help the Midland Midland side into a 4-3 lead. Then Oldfield was called to meet Andy Bellingham, currently No 28 in the Lentec senior rankings.

The South Yorkshire youngster was unimpressed, however, and showed his promise with a fine win under pressure to earn his team a point. Ranked national cadet No 2 behind another Yorkshire boy Michael O'Driscoll, Oldfield has made a great start to his season with a win at this level.

Manager Graham Coe, who has left industrial South Yorks to live in rural Sancton, has already been active in setting up competitive table tennis in the sparsely populated area from Pecklington to the east coast.

Fortnightly matches between the main centres of population are planned with a break during the winter when weather can make travelling difficult. The initiative means that another section of England's largest county can be coloured in on the table tennis map.

Disappointingly, however, a proposal to run separate 'open' and 'girls' sections in the junior and cadet divisions of the Yorkshire league has met with little response from the competing leagues. The hope that this would encourage more girls to take up the sport by providing a less 'cut-throat' competition has thus been dashed.

With only a handful of leagues showing interest, it was decided to continue in the format of teams of four - three boys and one girl, playing nine-set matches.

Also a blow to the county was the loss of the Yorkshire 3-Star Open proposed for late October as a replacement for the now-lapsed Humberside tournament. But after passing the test last season and being given 3-Star status, it was too late to book the venue at Halifax - already committed to another major event on the suggested date. All efforts to find a revised date were unsuccessful.

In Bradford, the absence of Davids Rook and Indrics from the league have dealt a blow to the city's hopes of retaining the Premier division championship of the Yorkshire League. Also missing will be Linda Smith (nee Hryszko) after the birth of a daughter.

But the Bradford first division again looks like being a battle between Unity - led by Steve Sharpe and supported by Sheffield's Mark Ward - Hermes, and Clayton Heights. Hermits experienced squad of Stead, Bottomley, Kozmowsky and Fristley are unchanged from last season and Clayton have Shutt, Gomersall and Melody Hill.

The achievements of two of the Dunlop Centre players have not gone unnoticed by local sportsman and table tennis supporter Philip Dickinson. Mr Dickinson, owner of a chain of hair-dressing salons in the West Yorks area is to provide a very lucrative sponsorship for Debbie - already a junior international who starts this season as England No 3 cadet - and for 12 year old Ellen Meddings from Harrogate - the current England No 5 cadet.

**Trials disaster**

With triumphs on the table outside the county and in coaching, disaster struck the senior and veterans trials at Moor Orange on 14th September. It was probably all for the best that the junior and cadet trials planned for the following day had been cancelled a few days previously.
Alan gives Wales a boost

H Roy Evans

Welsh table tennis received a big boost in the summer when negotiations with the Sports Council resulted in the appointment of Alan Griffiths as the first National Coach and Development Officer.

Alan, Welsh No 1 for many years and the current Welsh champion, has been playing in Germany for the past four years and was always looking for the chance to return to Wales. He jumped at the opportunity to come home, with the assurance of a good job in the sport to which he has rendered such loyal service over a long period of time.

Although, in playing terms probably in the twilight of a distinguished career, Alan still has a lot to offer in a coaching capacity, and his ability and experience should prove invaluable in the new post. In addition to working with the national squad at top level, he is to oversee the growth programmes now inaugurated by most Welsh leagues, giving practical assistance to local coaches and also responsible for the efficient running of the advanced training centres.

Starting on August 1st, Alan was soon into the practicalities of the job and among his first commitments was taking two promising juniors - Kelvin Roberts and Richard Harry of Bridgend - to the ETTU course for coaches and players in Barcelona. Ex-Czech international Laszlo Stipek, now coach to the Spanish team, was in charge.

The new national coach has also been in North Wales already - supervising the North Wales assessment course organised by Len Elias at Castell Alun Sports Centre, and leading a special training session for North Wales stars Mark Thomas, John Ellis, Trevor Manning, Heidi Cotter, Evelyn Wright and Justine Thomas.

Brian Everson, the previous unpaid national coach has now taken up a new business appointment and would not have been able to undertake the new full-time job. His efforts over the years are well-appreciated by the Welsh association and he will be working closely with Griffiths as often as possible.

Apart from his availability for the Welsh team, always a problem during his time in Germany, Alan joins the Butterfly Cardiff national league team in the No 1 spot.

Last year, Butterfly were a much-weakened side, with Mark Thomas also in Germany and other original team members not available. In fact, Butterfly were lucky to escape relegation.

This season, they must be in with a chance of promotion. In addition to Alan's strength and experience, Nigel Tyler, formerly with Thorn-EMI Ellenborough, has joined Butterfly. Mark Thomas is back from Germany, Nigel Thomas has resumed training, and Brian Jené has transferred from Cranfield Colours Gwent.

At the Quadrangular International, held at Coatbridge in September, Wales finished third again behind England and Scotland but, in terms of sets won, had improved their performance with eleven wins in three matches.

Nigel Tyler was the best Welsh player with four wins. Alan had three. And in doubles they had two successes from three - the loss being 'deuce' with Scotland's Dave Hannah and John Broe.

North Wales Counties

by Charles Bayliss

The Association is this season at its strongest for many years with the return of the East Flintshire league and the new St Asaph league joining Llandudno, Rhyl, Angelsey and Wrexham. The Inter-league will be started shortly and, later in the season, the Closed tournament is to be held again.

The Wrexham league began their programme on September 16th with slightly fewer teams entered but they still have three divisions. The league's oldest club, Wrexham Old Boys, in division one for the past 31 years, find themselves starting the season for the first time in division two. They have five teams playing in Wrexham and one in the Oswestry league.

Justice Goodall - winner of the junior boys, the intermediates, and the mens singles titles - dominated the East Denbighshire Summer Closed tournament held in the Victoria Centre at Wrexham in late June. Karen Buckle and Ann Walker, playing at their home club, controlled the destiny of the other titles - Karen winning both the intermediates and the women's at the expense of her clubmate.
The sales of the 1985 World Championships video are reported to have gone extremely well and around 175 have now been distributed around the country. Which means, if an average of six people have viewed each one, that over 1000 people have been able to see some of the play at these championships.

"Indeed, with National and other leading coaches showing the tapes on a regular basis, I would hope that this number is actually much larger"; says National Trainer Donald Parker who provided the commentary for the video. And he now has plans for another edition - this time of the 1985 European Youth Championships.

"While the quality of the first tape left a little to be desired", admitted Parker "I hope it was of interest to keen players and coaches. We tried to keep the costs to a minimum and, through lessons learnt, future tapes should be of a better quality for the same price!" England players, of course, performed extremely well at the championships and Parker has plans for an all-girls recording for coaches of female players. Each tape (either VHS or Betamax) costs £12.00 and cheques should be made payable to "ETTA". The small profit made on each tape is ploughed back into the scheme - intended to improve the feedback to coaches who use video equipment.

"The message from the tapes is obvious"; continues Parker. "At international level it is vital to play positively. Relying on opponents' mistakes quite simply does not win and the examples of Alan Cooke v Desmond Douglas in the English Closed final and of Skylet Andren v Kiyoshi Saito at the Worlds are instances of just the slightest change towards negative play resulting in defeat!"

New Video

The tape also highlights technical developments in the international game. According to Parker the long fast push receipt against a short service has become more popular, opening up the chance of a fast topspin off the bounce in the fourth stroke of the rally.

"This topspin stroke is difficult to develop", he says, "but it's certainly an effective point winner! It's a very short stroke played using mainly the elbow and the wrist to hit almost the top of the ball".

"It was interesting, too", he noted, "to see both attackers and defenders playing that little bit closer to the table than in the past and undoubtedly the most common and effective service on show was the high forehand toss from the backhand side of the table".

Parker sees the tapes as filling a vital gap in the coaching system, allowing coaches to keep in touch with developments at international level. And he has also invited coaches to observe during England training camps at Lilleshall. "Just contact me at home and we'll arrange a convenient date", he says.

England training camps this season are scheduled for:

1985
October 28th - November 1st
December 16th - December 20th

1986
January 6th - January 10th
January 27th - January 31st

Details and videos from:
Donald Parker, ETTA National Trainer, The Barn, Common Bank, Dolphinholme, nr Lancaster LA2 9AN. Tel: (0524) 791866.

Table Tennis, particularly instructional ones, by tradition are incredibly boring. Interminable action shots to study as you hard at work over the summer when she passed twenty-five badges

Our Val

Swindon coach Val Clack was hard at work over the summer when she passed twenty-five badges to players.

Table Tennis, particularly instructional ones, by tradition are incredibly boring. Interminable action shots to study as you hard at work over the summer when she passed twenty-five badges to players.

Some of the Swindon players with their Dunlop certificates and badges

Sue in charge

The National Coaching Foundation, directed by the former table tennis liaison officer for the Sports Council in the East Midlands Sue Campbell, provides a service for coaches at national and local level with programmes, information services and technical data from home and abroad.

Information about the foundation and its subscription service for "Coaching Focus" can be obtained from: National Coaching Foundation, 4 College Close, Beckett Park LEEDS LS6 3QH. Tel: (0532) 744802.

Master Mark

Mark Wheeler, 16, from Harrow in Middlesex, has become the winner of the first Masters badge in the Dunlop Skills Award scheme introduced by the ETTA and the English Schools

advanced "Master" standard of play, with five levels for aspiring players.

The local paper, the "Swindon Advertiser" was so impressed they sent along a photographer to the awards presentation made by Ernie Watkins, president of the Swindon league.
Players of the Dunlop Advanced Training Centre in Wakefield (left to right): Debbie Toole, Mark Stephenson, Mark Land, Alaric Bassano and Joanne Roberts

**Drug tests ahead**

Contrary to recent newspaper reports, the ETTA are to establish methods to test top players for the use of "unauthorised substances". The move has been forced on them by The Sports Council who are to insist on the existence of drug-testing procedures before a governing body receives grant-aid.

For a while, the Association adopted the International Table Tennis Federation Medical Committee's line of defence, quoting "no known drug known to us which can significantly improve performance in table tennis". However, The Sports Council, in their crusade against drug abuse in sport, challenged this interpretation and have required the ETTA to comply with the new conditions.

Many feel, privately, that this a waste of resources in a sport where drugs have never been known to be an issue. But the ITTF are now expected to follow suit in order to comply with International Olympic Committee requirements when table tennis joins the Olympics in 1988.

**Glue sales up says Parker**

England Trainer Donald Parker has revealed an increase in the rerubbering of bats amongst the top players which many consider an unfortunate emphasis on equipment and a practice detrimental to the image of the sport. "The majority of topspin players at the Worlds were using bicycle glue", he says, "many gluing up two or three times during a normal day's play".

"The biggest danger I have encountered with the 'glue' is that players blame the glue for all their problems. In fact, the 'solution' often lies in other directions!"

Players use the glue in an attempt to increase the speed of rubbers. When wet between the blade and the rubber, it causes a hollow "plop" sound when the ball hits the bat.

**Sports Council drugs leaflet**

The Sports Council have issued a leaflet on "Doping control in Sport - questions and answers". Further information can be obtained from the Sports Development Unit, Sports Council, 16 Upper Woburn Place, LONDON WC1H 0QP. Tel: 01-388 1277.

"Without the cash from the government I just wouldn't be able to play darts full-time", quoted the newspaper reports. "I'd still be idling my time away in the valleys searching in vain for work that doesn't exist".

Comparing the prize monies available in the two sports, we would hesitate to recommend the playing route in the case of table tennis unless you are in with a chance of a place in England's top five. Not a bad start to a career in coaching though; a free subscription to the first successful application brought to our notice.

**On target**

Hearing that an unemployed man had set himself up in business as a professional darts player Table Tennis News wondered how long it would be before someone in a real sport took advantage of the government grants on offer.

Under the government's schemes to stimulate small businesses, Chris Johns of Penywaun, Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan is reported to have been given £1000 to buy himself a car to travel to darts contests and been guaranteed £40 a week for petrol and overnight accommodation.
Umpires Uproar

English Championships chairman Doreen Stannard was furious. Fellow committee member Len Pilditch angry. Even the stoical John Wright raised an eyebrow.

It all stemmed, it appeared, from a seemingly innocuous letter from NURC Secretary Tony Chatwin inviting umpires to officiate at the Top 12 tournament in Milton Keynes during October.

Oh yes, Rubberneck can reveal there was one little snag - you had to be prepared to fork out £14 towards expenses for the privilege.

"I'm thinking of establishing an Umpires Union" raged Doreen whose committee have often been criticised for the money spent on officials at championships. "I think it's diabolical... expecting an umpire to give up his or her time, work hard at a championships all day and to pay their own expenses into the bargain. Many of the umpires are self-employed or have to take holiday to be present at events".

"It depends on who can afford to pay, we'll end up with the dregs of the umpiring fraternity at events", she predicted.

"Things have changed since Len and I went to the world championships in Stockholm when we had to pay our own way", reflected top referee John Wright. "It seems to me that there is a lot more money in the game and the players are getting most of it while officials are expected to subsidise them".

"I think an association for umpires would be a very good idea", said the Kingston maths teacher - his professional instincts skirting the word 'union'.

The Invisible Man award

Now that former national coach Peter Hirst, once described as "the invisible man", has disappeared to the other side of the world, Rubberneck is inviting nominations for his successor to the title.

Queuing up for the award is believed to be John Prean's 'elusive Pimpernel'.

A priceless reward for information of his whereabouts. And a further commendation for suggestions to reduce the onerous 'administration' tasks of our national coaches.

Shipley Handicap

A quick ring to the ETTA office the other week and Rubberneck found General secretary Albert Shipley "out of the office". He was reported en-route back to Hastings after a weekend with Officers Blunn, Drapkin and Ransome... trying to put the final touches to the ETTA's New Approach to Grant Aid submission to The Sports Council.

Which must have been rather a distressing handicap for golf club secretary Shipley. His Hawkhurst club tournament was scheduled for the weekend spent in Scarborough.

For once, though, he had managed to hit the fairway. While Shipley braved the bracing east coast air, Hastings golfers sheltered under the nearest tree as yet another August downpour made the greens almost unplayable.

True Sky

Sinking a tube or two of the amber nectar at Headingly reflecting upon the discomfiture of our visiting cricketing friends, Rubberneck was surprised to receive a phone call from his antipodean cousin down under.

After exchanging greetings traditional in such circumstances it transpired that England table tennis player Skyler Andrew was at the centre of 'a misunderstanding' on the other side of the globe.

Sky, it appeared, without due reference to fact, had announced himself as a county cricketer and one who had been offered terms with West Ham. The Aussies, impressed, sent along a TV crew to interview the talented Andrew.

At which time the Stratford player revealed that perhaps it was schoolboy county cricket and only apprentice terms with the famous football club.

MK Topless 12?

Sunny Helen Williams, whose not inconsiderable charms have graced the early pages of a rival publication, is understood to be delighted by the invitation to the trials at Milton Keynes in October.

While the selectors experiment with the colours in order to change the image of the game, model Helen has her own thoughts on brighter table tennis gear.

Such individuality, of course, does not meet with Rubberneck's approval but no doubt the computer experts will ensure England's Topless 12 receives the bonus points she deserves.

Constant Exposure

Viewers of BBC's Breakfast Time on Monday 12 August will have recognised the enterprise of entrepreneurial ex-table tennis star Dave Constance.

With the cameras in search of the illusive summer sun, luminous Debbie Greenwood set off to Bournemouth - home of the Constance All-Stars activity holidays for kids.

But despite the early morning start hunky Dave had got wind of the BBC's plan and pulled out the reactions which once brought him a Commonwealth championships medal.

As a hurricane swept breezy

She loves me...

The announcement of a new clothing deal with the 1985 English Closed finalists Lisa and Jackie Bellinger hit the news in September.

Funny, Rubberneck thought it only yesterday that another company was claiming the attention of the lovely Dunstable sisters.

26
The day Omega went to town

You wouldn't think Omega table tennis club, one of the most successful in the country in terms of members who have represented England, needed to advertise themselves. But they, like many other table tennis clubs, realised the need for a higher profile...taking table tennis to the people.

It all started from an initiative by the club press and publicity officer, Brian Halliday. He hired a piece of floor space in Reading's 'Butts Centre' in the hope that some thousands of passing shoppers would stop for a while and wonder what was going on.

Douglas the star

Not only they but the local radio station, Radio 210, took interest in the Omega 'road show'. Enough in fact to send an outside broadcast unit to spend the whole day at the promotion, and the 'Over to the Butts' live broadcasts in 'some more table tennis enthusiasts who had missed the pre-publicity for the event. Star attraction of the day was Desmond Douglas.

Although the club has some fine players of its own, there was no doubt that the presence of the English champion was the draw. As he himself said on local radio, now he is back in England he is more available for such activities. Many local enthusiasts stopped by when he was on playing against the club players.

Life begins at Forty

The show started at 9.00 am with performances from club members England ranked juniors Paul Savins, Graham Kemp, Peter Harris and Keith Hodder. The star-studded line-up of Karen Witt, Mandy Sainsbury, Andy and Matthew Syed, Jimmy Stokes, Phil Bradbury and Dave Barr kept the crowd entertained until Desmond's first appearance at 11.45 am. He took on challenge matches from the Omega players and remained undefeated for 45 minutes.

To push home the advantages of this sport for all, the club then brought on three special acts - 'The Teenes', 'The Wheelies' and 'Life begins at Forty'.

Douglas pulls in the crowd

While Des was having lunch and giving radio interviews, the England No. 2 Alison Gordon joined up with her European Club Cup teammates Karen and Mandy. The girls took on challenges from the watching crowd before Des came back to take on some more club players; finishing with a one-game exhibition against wheelchair battler John Jenkins.

John had earlier been employed with national coach Dave Fairholm keeping the crowd interested with virtually non-stop microphone chat throughout the day. And club secretary Mike West kept the whole thing going, handing out literature and covering when people took breaks.

Club effort

It was a real club effort and without the 'roadies' who humped the equipment, including Jim and Steve Hodder, Brian Latham, Bob Plumridge and Tim Heaps, the show would never have got off the ground. Club players kept the exhibitions up until 5.00 pm with the England-ranked Claire Plumbridge joining in despite a recent shoulder injury.

Club Focus

Omega linked up with their local sports shop and Butterfly (UK) Ltd to help with promotion and the supply of equipment. Clubs, leagues or counties considering similar exhibitions might be able to benefit from local authority or regional Sports Council grants to offset costs. The ETTA's Regional Coordinating Committees should be able to advise.

Worthwhile

"It is difficult to measure the success rate of an event like this", said club chairman Peter Charters afterwards, "but the day must be considered of great value to table tennis. Details of national league matches, local contacts for taking up the game, coaching etc. were liberally handed out all day and, as a result of the venture, the sport gained extra publicity in the local press and radio".

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Ranking and Selection in 1985/86
by Peter Charters, Chairman, National Selection Committee

The Lentec/ETTA computer ranking scheme enters its fourth year in 1985/86 and begins with a rationalisation of the players currently stored on disc. With over 700 names in the computer for the mens singles list alone, the task of collating, coding and inputting has simply become too great and some pruning was essential. Human resources, if not technological, were about to blow a fuse!

As a result, after dividing the point scores at the end of the 1984/85 season by two, the qualifying point score for the mens list is now 15 - cutting the list to just over 400. The mens veterans lists have been cut by approximately the same proportion.

Players removed from a computer place will have to win their way back in with a victory in one of the nominated events over a player holding a computer spot. The problem has not arisen with the junior and cadet lists as each season a number of players move out of the age category.

In terms of the published ranking lists, the number of players is, of course, much smaller and varies according to category. But the mens will always include at least the top 200 so that tournament organisers can hold Class 2 and Class 3 events.

The lengths of the others depend upon players achieving a set number of point-gaining victories before getting onto the published ranking list. For the benefit of Table Tennis News readers, the lists will be issued this season as soon as possible after the dates or events shown;

Seniors
1. 1st August 1985 (see below)
2. Milton Keynes National Top
3. Middlessex 3-Star Open
4. Triumph Adler
5. South of England 3-Star Open
6. 18th May 1986

Veterans
1. 1st August 1985 see below
2. Middlessex 3-Star Open
3. 30th March 1986
4. 1st June 1986

Junior and Cadets
1. 1st August 1985 (see below)
2. National Junior Ranking trials
3. Beneficial Trust Yorkshire Select
4. Beneficial Trust Derby Select
5. 1st June 1986

In the first case Cooke wins but loses in the final. The points difference is 785 - 381 = 404 pts, therefore his point gain for this expected win is 1.

The match takes place in the Cleveland and 3-Star so this is multiplied by three, and there are bonus points both for reaching the semi-finals and final of the events (30 pts and 50 pts respectively). New point scores for both players become:

Cooke: 785 + 30 = 815 pts
Bradbury: 381 + 30 + 811 pts

If, however, Bradbury had won and then lost in the final, Bradbury's point gain for this unexpected win in the semi-final would have been 16. Multiplied by three because it's a 3-Star, plus the bonus points. New point scores for the players would therefore be:

Cooke: 785 + 30 + 811 pts
Bradbury: 381 + 13 + 30 = 479 pts

In addition, the results of some events, like round-robin events using a large group system eg. Top 12s and Ranking trials, are not computed individually into the scheme. Instead, bonus points related to the finishing positions in the event are given. Results are computed as far as possible in chronological order. Full details of the point gains, the weighting factors and bonus points available for the 1985/86 season are obtainable in a Technical Leaflet available from the ETTA, 21 Claremont HASTINGS TN34 1HF, price 50p.

Webb and chips

Former IBM computer buff Harvey Webb has taken over the inputting of results for the ETTA/Lentec ranking scheme from national coach Bryan Merrett. Webb, well-known for his backroom work at national championships, oversees the coding of the senior results while Mike Watts handles the rest.

It's an activity to keep the energetic Webb busy most nights and with his high-tec background he has already come up with a few suggestions to improve the scheme - including one to make himself redundant by using a computer instead.

Now working for Abbey Life Assurance in Dorset, he recently joined Elsie Carrington's club in North Bournemouth after moving westwards from Sussex with wife Marilyn and children Chloe and Jay. Their new address is: 23 Eldon Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 2RT. Tel: (0202) 528399.
Cooke gets a world ranking

Alan Cooke, England's rising star from Chesterfield in Derbyshire, gained his first world ranking on 25th May when the International Table Tennis Federation issued their new classification lists following the Gothenburg World Championships.

Cooke, 19, came into the rankings at No 79 to join his England colleagues Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean. Douglas, down seven places, is at No 25 but Prean, with a leap of nine positions, has risen to No 11.

England have four women inside the World Top 50, with Karen Witt, Lisa Bellinger and Alison Gordon being taken into account for the men's lists.

A storm has broken out over the new rankings headed by Lisa Bellinger at 21 two places ahead of Alison Gordon.

Parker in protest

The amended Lethington/ETTA rankings issued in September retain Douglas and Bellinger at the head of the senior lists.

With the but points of all ranked players halved to begin the new season, their heads over nearest rivals Prean and Gordon are reduced.

Revised England rankings

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### Rankings

#### Men (previous position in brackets)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Carl Prean</td>
<td>1104</td>
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### Notes

- Alan Cooke, England's rising star from Chesterfield in Derbyshire, gained his first world ranking on 25th May when the International Table Tennis Federation issued their new classification lists following the Gothenburg World Championships.
- Cooke, 19, came into the rankings at No 79 to join his England colleagues Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean. Douglas, down seven places, is at No 25 but Prean, with a leap of nine positions, has risen to No 11.
- England have four women inside the World Top 50, with Karen Witt, Lisa Bellinger and Alison Gordon being taken into account for the men's lists.
- A storm has broken out over the new rankings headed by Lisa Bellinger at 21 two places ahead of Alison Gordon.

---

### Revised England rankings

The amended Lethington/ETTA rankings issued in September retain Douglas and Bellinger at the head of the senior lists.

With the but points of all ranked players halved to begin the new season, their heads over nearest rivals Prean and Gordon are reduced.

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### Further Reading

- The amended Lethington/ETTA rankings issued in September retain Douglas and Bellinger at the head of the senior lists.
- With the but points of all ranked players halved to begin the new season, their heads over nearest rivals Prean and Gordon are reduced.
**Junior Boys**

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<td>Rebecca Ledwich</td>
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<td>Amanda Ledwich</td>
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AN APOLOGY
In the change-over of Editors and printers, some delays have inevitably occurred during the preparation of the first issue of the 1985/86 season. The Editor wishes to thank all those contributors and subscribers who so patiently have awaited the end result. A more regular service is hoped for in the future, with the publication of some issues linked with the dates of major events.

Don’t miss December’s preview issue of the Triumph Adler English Open

Brighton preview

Milton Keynes Top 12 report

Out Friday
13th December

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To: ETTA, 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF.
Caravan from Casablanca

There's no place like home (despite the rain) says Albert Shipley hanging onto his wallet on the caravan from Casablanca

In July I was invited by the ITTF to conduct a seminar for umpires in El Jadida, some 60 miles along the coast from Casablanca. It was my first visit to Morocco.

The old cliche that England is a green and pleasant land was brought to mind even as the aircraft prepared to land at Casablanca, for the view is just a patchwork of varying shades of brown. When you travel around the deep green of grass is rarely seen.

Probably my biggest single impression in both the city of Casablanca and out in the country was the enormous variation. One can see scenes ranging from biblical times to today's computer age.

Wizened old men, swathed in blanket-like clothes are seen perched on the back of a donkey already weighed down with panniers full of goodness knows what on either side. In the countryside there are thousands, probably millions, of small flocks of six or seven brown sheep watched over by a shepherd - often a small child about seven years old - sitting in any shade to be found.

The earth upon which these sheep graze resembles a ploughed field. What they found to eat remains a mystery to me.

A national pastime is attempting to part a man from his money, ranging from small boys touring the pavement cafes trying to sell cigarettes one at a time, to large shops displaying their goods without a single price label. Haggling at all levels is the accepted way of doing business and apparently the technique is to offer half the asking price and end up with something around 60% of the price first quoted.

Many of these 'shops' are like garages with goods piled high into the roof and I felt sure some of the bottles and cans on the uppermost shelves must have been there since time began. Another puzzle is how people make a living from trying to sell fruit by the side of a fast stretch of open road.

The town of El Jadida is a coastal resort obviously popular with local holidaymakers. From the fourth floor balcony of my hotel I could observe a long wide bay of flat hard sand which daily became dense with bodies, not just lying in the sun but playing either football or volleyball - mostly the latter. With no snob value in a suntan as in Europe, why people sunbathed at all was beyond my comprehension.

Food for thought

Most of all it helps to have a strong stomach - English health inspectors would have apoplexy at some of the apparent dangers. Food, both raw and cooked, is often on display with only a price label. Haggling at all levels is the accepted way of doing business and apparently the technique is to offer half the asking price and end up with something around 60% of the price first quoted.

At the same time, Morocco is a country of extreme contrasts. Where pavements exist they are often superb but even the best of them have deep holes awaiting the arrival of a lamp post or tree. A stroll, particularly after dark, requires a constant lookout for the hazards ahead.

And anything mechanical seems to be abused in a manner which English suburbia would not tolerate; yet this abuse is often prolonged by the skilful use of wire, string and the occasional weld. All of the cars in which I travelled needed a kick in one place or another for the door to open or for the petrol gauge to register.

Whilst the donkey and camel still exist, the bicycle seems nearly extinct and the main form of transport is seemingly ancient mobilettes which weave in and out of the traffic. Often their riders anticipate the green light by several seconds, narrowly avoiding the boots of the last cars to run the gauntlet. Not surprisingly, pedestrians have to be extra lively in order to cross the road safely!

Such were a few of the impressions gained in the short week of a visit during which my schoolboy french improved dramatically as I had to talk my way out of a problem on a couple of occasions. It is one thing to carefully formulate a question but the rapidly spoken reply tests the memory cells. Nobody ever said "la plume de ma tante" as the first-year text books would have you believe.

---

National Coach

The English Table Tennis Association are seeking to appoint a National Coach to be based initially in the Midlands area.

Candidates should ideally possess an ETTA coaching qualification plus a knowledge of modern training methods.

The duties of a National Coach include the organisation of general coaching within the ETTA Coaching scheme and supervision of training for leading senior and junior players. A current driving licence is essential.

Salary is negotiable according to age, experience and qualifications.

Application forms are available from the ETTA office and should be submitted to the General Secretary, ETTA, 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF by 13th December 1985. Envelopes should be marked "Coach".

This is a readvertisement – previous applicants may reapply.
A Farewell to Arms – part 2

I shall not write for this magazine in the foreseeable future. Readers have given me a great deal of support both publicly and privately. May I thank them all, particularly those who have not always agreed with me, but felt that I (and everybody else) had every right to express my views, to stimulate debate and change.

I have always said that the moment any contribution from me was subjected to censorship or "editing" which changed or omitted what I regarded as important, I would never write for that Editor again.

A letter (much shorter than usual) was rejected by the Editor unless two paragraphs were cut. To this I was not prepared to agree as it substantially altered what I was trying to say and represented the humorous part of the letter. Though regarded by the Editor as "of a personal nature" it was mild compared to what my humorous part of the letter.

I pointed out that the personal animosities are not on my side. Relationships that cannot

**Farcity**

I would like to draw attention to the comments of the Cambridge University Captain concerning Oxford University and the Oxford District League (April Table Tennis News).

It is fairly obvious that the true facts of the matter have not been conveyed to Cambridge as otherwise I feel sure that they would understand the Oxford league's decision a little better.

However, through your columns, I wish to enlighten the
date, a fresh start.

To my readers and correspondents I give my full and unreserved gratitude, a "thank you" once again for their interest, support and, at times, patience.

John Prean
12 Marlborough Road
Ryde
Isle of Wight.

**English bat rubbers closed**

Considerable debate has taken place between Messrs Len Saywell and Frank Harris regarding the "legality" of using bat rubbers without the ITTF identification marks at the English Closed bat rubbers. Readers may wish to be acquainted with the facts of the situation in closing this discussion.

The ITTF-approved symbol on bat rubbers is required under "Regulations for international competitions" which are used as a reference to stipulate the regulations applicable at domestic tournaments. ETTA Tournament regulations require that any conditions which are different from the international standard shall be highlighted by an asterisk on the entry form.

In last years English Closed the entry form did not indicate that the requirement for players to use bat rubbers bearing the ITTF-approved symbol would not apply. As a consequence, many gained the impression that only bat rubbers with the symbol could be used at the tournament.

However, the referee later wrote to competitors informing them that it was not the intention to apply this international regulation in the event. The ETTA are pleased to acknowledge that Mr Saywell's bat was therefore "legal" at the tournament.

**Ivor Montagu Fund**

Established in memory of Ivor Montagu, founder president of the International Table Tennis Federation, the fund exists to assist junior players to compete in major events throughout England.

Donations were recently gratefully received from: Mrs N. Vint, Mrs D M Poupard, and Messrs G Gurney, K Park, K Muhr, G A S Owen, T M Honey, W G Moon. Cheques should be made payable to the "ETTA".

Brian Hamilton
19 The Grates
Cowley
nr Oxford.

**Count our blessings**

Facing the task of my county notes to be written in early September with a long wet summer only just behind us, it is, perhaps, rather difficult to find much to write about.

My mind, however, wanders back to a fearful and horrific night in May — May 29th to be precise. Yes, the European Cup Final between Liverpool and Juventus of Italy in Brussels and the subsequent carnage that followed on that summers night.

Watching it on tv, it was hard to realise that (a) it was live and (b) that nobody was actually acting out the ghastly scenes that were seen on our screens — it was real.

As I watched, I thought of table tennis, many critics and how trivial and petty some of the complaints made of our sport appeared to be by direct comparison.

We may not, by comparison, have the TV coverage of football; we do not get the coverage that many of us seek in local or even national newspapers; what however we do have, is respect for our sport. And that goes a long way with most of us. In fact I think it makes up for a lot of our deficiencies.

That is "Table Tennis 1985". Love it or leave it.

Alf Peppard
Gloucestershire County Press Officer
Bridge Farm
Rudford
Gloucester

**Pickford's moved**

I am hoping to compile a history of the Dagenham & District League and wonder whether any readers of Table Tennis News might be able to assist me with any information about Mr Arthur W Pickford — a founder member who lived in the Dagenham area during the 1940s and 1950s.

John Soliman
Press & Publicity Officer
Dagenham T&T
20 Whybridge Close
Rainham
Essex
Aufwiedersehn Pet

Alan Fletcher, the well-known attacking Yorkshire player, has gone on the defensive with his latest move - teaching English to the children of servicemen in Germany.

The ex-England and Junior international, who took a silver medal for England in the 1979 Commonwealth team championships, won a three-year contract with the MoD and has upped camp from Birmingham with wife Susan and children Amy and Douglas.

"I hope to be able to play National League table tennis until Christmas with Chan Construction", he told Table Tennis News after playing for Grove in the Premier last year. "Then I shall be looking for a place with a Bundesliga club".

Alan, 30, will be joining England's other representatives in the league this year, including Carl Prean, and is no foreigner to the German competition. One of the first to challenge an ETTA ban on playing abroad, he spent three years with TUS-Vahr Bremen and another with Werder Bremen. "I'll let you know how things are going", he promised.

The Fletchers' new address is 48-2 Domfahrenweg, 4830 Avenwedde, Gutersloh, West Germany BSPO 113.

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Tournament Circuit

Cooke cashes in
Pauline Long

As shown on the front cover of the May/June Table Tennis News, Alan Cooke, the England ranked top seed from Derbyshire, was the winner of the £300 mens singles prize at the Newcastle Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open Tournament at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington on 27th April.

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Alan Cooke (Dy) b Adrian Moore (Sx) 13, 13, Dave Hannah (SCO) b Philip Bradbury (Bu) - 12, 8, 14.

Final

Cooke b Hannah 10, 14.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Joy Grundy (La) b Diane S. Ledger (Wa) 12, 16, Jean Parker (La) b Karen Burrows/Julie Speight (Y) 17, - 10, 17.

Final

Grundy b Parker - 19, 10, 10.

MENS DOUBLES

Final

Bradbury/Dave Wells (Bu/Mi) b Kevin Beadsley/Cooke (Y/Dy) 16, 16.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

Grundy/Parker (La) b Burrows/Speight (Y) - 17, 10, 17.

MIXED DOUBLES

Final

Brian Johns (Ch) b David Gannon (Le) 13, - 14, 15.

VETERANS SINGLES

Final

Brian Allison (Li) b Doreen Schofield (Ch) 10, 12.

China Vice

Five hundred and ten players representing 33 of the 50 US states and 23 foreign countries took part in the first US Open to be held in Florida in Miami Beach during 26th-30th June 1985 writes Malcolm Anderson. As expected, the Chinese got a firm grip on the trophies.

Cheng Yinhuwa won the mens singles event with a win over Wu Wen Chia of Chinese Taipei after the last of the Europeans, Jan-Ove Waldner, went out 21 - 19, 17 - 21, 21 - 23, 21 - 17, 21 - 21 to Atanda of Nigeria in the quarters. Earlier, a “Europe” team of George Böhm and Mariano Loukov dispatched Ulfs Bengtsson and Carlsson in the semi-finals of the team championship.

Dunlop players motor in Coventry

As reported earlier by Les D’Arcy, a contingent from the Dunlop Advanced Training Centre in Wakefield dominated the Coventry Junior 1-Star Open at Coventry Sports Centre on Sunday 8th September 1985. Debbie Toole, 13, took the U14 and U17 girls singles and Andrew Ball the boys – both players at the centre.

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Mills runs rings round Beadsley

Taking advantage of the absence of defending champion Alan Cooke, Steve Mills, the No 1 seed, had all the confidence in making a comeback after injury, of defending champion Alan singles for the top seed, too.

Cooke, like Stephen Jean Parker, the No 3 seed Scowcroft, Nigel Eckersley, Carl behind Elliot, was the winner of the world at the Colgate North defeated Fiona Elliot in the final against national league: match, Mills Kerry Hall. triumphed in the final over Barry Johnson/Peter Machin (Wa) - 13, 16, 12.

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES

Final

Cheng 3 “Europe” 1 (Cheng 1st Böhm 15, - 21, - 19; Jiao Jialiang b Lunkov 18, 9; Cheng b Böhm - 12, 11, 14; Jiang b Böhm 16, 15).

WOMENS TEAM

Final

China 3 Chinese Taipei 1 (Li/Huifen b In 13; Zu 9, 19; Cao Yanchao b Chuang Shu-Hua 13, 9; Cao/Li 1st Chuang/Jia - 18, 18; Cao b Liu 18, 8).

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Wu b Jiang (CHN) 18, 18, - 16, 16; Cheng (CHN) b Musa (NGR) 14, 12, 13, 11.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Cao (CHN) b Sonja Greffert (FIN) 20, 12, 18; Li (CHN) b Daniela Guerckelhewa (BUL) - 17, - 20, 17, 19.

Final

Cao b. Cao 11, 12, 15.

MENS DOUBLES

Final

Cheng/Jian (CHN) b Eric Lindh/Waldner (SWE) 16, 7.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

Cao/Lei (CHN) b Kamilla Bjork/Guerckelhewa (SWE/BUL) 10, 16.

MIXED DOUBLES

Final

Jiang/Cao (CHN) b Cheng/Li (CHN) 18, - 18, 19.

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Andrew Ball (Y) b Adrian Thorp (War) 18, 23; Peter Harris b Jonny Berkeley (Y) 9, 10, 19.

Final

Ball b Harris 16, 19.

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Helen Lower (Wa) b Julie Norman (8Bk) 13, 18, Debbie Toole (Y) b. Forster 20, 17.

Final

Toole b Lower - 13, 14, 15.

CADET BOYS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Jonathan Taylor (La) b R. Carle 5, 6; Mark Sieperman (Y) b T. Pike 5, 15.

Final

Taylor b Seiperman 11, 13.

CADET GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Toni Bensu Malcon (V) b. 19, 19, Joanne Roberts (Y) b. Rebecca Leitch (Wa) 17, - 13, 17.

Final

Toole b Roberts 11, 18.

JUNIOR BOYS DOUBLES

Final

Baino/Mark Land (Y) b. S. L. Soothing (Thorn) 18, 19.

JUNIOR GIRLS DOUBLES

Final

Kristina Cox/Lower (La/Sit) b. T. Greiner/K. Ryan 16, 19.

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WOMENS TEAM

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MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

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WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Cao (CHN) b Sonja Greffert (FIN) 20, 12, 18; Li (CHN) b Daniela Guerckelhewa (BUL) - 17, - 20, 17, 19.

Final

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Final

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JUNIOR GIRLS DOUBLES

Final

Kristina Cox/Lower (La/Sit) b. T. Greiner/K. Ryan 16, 19.

It was victory in the women’s singles for the top seed, too. Lancashire’s Joy Grundy, defeated Fiona Elliot in the final after the Wolverhampton girl put out the defending champion Karen Smith in the semi-finals.

Jean Parker, the No 3 seed behind Elliot, was surprisingly beaten by Cumbria’s Debbie Soothill. Soothill fell to Grundy in the semi-finals but took the girls singles title in the final against Kerry Hall.

In the boys, Bradley Billington failed to prevent Adrian Dixon’s successful defence but his father Maurice put paid to the defending title holder Derek Schofield in the veterans event.
North Middlesex – champion league

At the superb Mansfield Leisure Centre on Sunday 2nd June, the North Middlesex league won both the major national inter-league titles as they retained the Rose Bowl and captured the Wilmott Cup. Neither needed the full distance of nine sets as their strong team powered through to victory.

Virtually winning three in their 5–2 victory,

In the mens club final for the England Cup, North Middlesex triumphed again with league champions East Finchley winning for the first time at the expense of Preston’s Penwortham GRYF.

And in the womens, Omega Interleague retained the Gainsford Cup with an emphatic 5–0 away win at the Redhill club in Birmingham to join the Hales National League champions Thorn-EMI Ellenborough in Europe this season.

Lisa in Blue Jeans (easy of course)

There was quality not quantity when, as reigning English champions, they lost to the scratch pairing of Sue Collier and Lesley Popkiewicz in the second round.

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Douglas (obviously insured) grins as James Eaton tucks into his sandwich bar. Rackets journalist Richard Eaton lends a steadying fatherly hand.

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November

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To 3rd. In Liege.
Lentec rating: x 4.

2
WEST YORKSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN
Saturday 2nd November only.
Venue: Richard Dunn Sports Centre, Bradford. Tel: (0274) 307822.
Organiser: S. Nunn, 42 St Matthews Road, BRADFORD BD5 9AB. Tel: (0274) 307822.
Events: MS, WS, MD, WD, JBS, JGS, VXS. Equipment: Butterfly tables, Schildkrot balls.

WOODFIELD JUNIOR 1-STAR OPEN

3
Hales National League (5)
Lentec rating: Premier and First divisions, x 2; Other divisions, x 1.

WOODFIELD 1-STAR OPEN

9
EUROPE CLUB CUP - 3rd Round
Men: Spartacus Budapest (HUN) v Thorn-EMI Ellenborough (ENG). Women: Omega Reading (ENG) v (probably) Tolnai VL (HUN).
Lentec rating: x 2.

10
HASTINGS TIGERS 1-STAR OPEN

16
KIRKLEES 2-STAR OPEN

SOUTH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN
To 17th.

Kent JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN
To 1st December. In Landskrona.
Lentec rating: x 4.

20
EUROPEAN LEAGUE DIVISION 1
England v Bulgaria.
Venue: Mansfield Leisure Centre. Tel: (0902) 560081. 7.15 pm, doors open 6.30 pm. Tickets: £3. First: From: Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South, MANSFIELD NG19 7AB. Lentec rating: x 4.

Andrew Syed - defender at the Beneficial Trust

December

6
FINLANDIA OPEN
To 8th. In Helsinki.
Lentec rating: x 4.

7
MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN
To 8th.

HALTON JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN

11
EUROPEAN LEAGUE DIVISION 1
Finland v England.
Lentec rating: x 4.

14
BENEFICIAL TRUST ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED
To 15th.

Stiga County Championships (Seniors and Veterans)
Lentec rating: Veterans: x 1.

Hales National League (6)
Lentec rating: Premier division, x 2; Other divisions, x 1.

Hales National League (7)
Lentec rating: Premier division, x 2; Other divisions, x 1.

There’s a warm welcome in CLEVELAND COUNTY for all Players and Officials.

INTERNATIONAL