Facts of Life

Three types of sport will survive the 1980s. Those that people pay to play. Those that people pay to watch. And those where others are paid to play.

Table tennis has to decide its own vision of the future. At the moment it hovers imperfectly in all three.

The fundamental category determined, the sports available strategies are relatively simple. If of the first, we stimulate the desire to play and to meet that demand with facilities, coaching and a playing structure which nurtures continuing interest and commitment.

For the second, a programme of spectator events where the emphasis is on entertainment - appealing in its presentation and intrinsic nature.

The last often comes as a result of the second. Good action; crowd reaction ... Good TV tension; sponsor attention. There are many sports, though, which do not translate well to the 24" screen.

Comparison with other sports in relation to the three types is interesting. Swimming for the first? Soccer, until recently, the second? And what about athletics or tennis (at least in this country) for the third?

Relative examination of these can lead to envy. It need not.

Tennis: Stacks of cash. Technically difficult (to begin). Poor right and club facilities (in general). Specialist areas needed.

Soccer: Pretty affluent. Easy to play. Playing areas plentiful but facilities not so good. A team game therefore extra organisation necessary: 50% of population not actively encouraged (in this country).


In contrast, table tennis stands up rather well. "Beware though", says Northants Dennis Millman, "lest an apparent strength becomes so fragile that a crisis of major proportions arises without warning".

And, obviously with some experience of British industry, he's right.

Innovation stifled by tradition. Policy determined by rote. Investment plagued by introspection. Yet, essentially, the advantages of the sport are the same as in Ivor Montagu's day.


If there were any doubts about the description 'a sport for all', the pages of this issue should dispel them. Yet we inflict on it the tortures of self-analysis.

'Change the colours'. 'Change the laws'. But the problem, in a ping-pong ball, is poor marketing.

Many think of marketing at the way the sport sells itself; the projection of the right image. With recordbreakers Douglas and Cooke in mind, 'You might be able to fly a plane ... but are you fast enough for table tennis?'

Hmmm ... 'Table Tennis News - the fastest sports mag in the world' ... (well I didn't say production!) ... Rubbeneck would approve.

But marketing is more than dealing with the present. It's the antenna with which an organisation anticipates shifts in people's desires and expectations. Those currently shivering in the church hall next to the new sports centre might like to reflect.

And to test the marketing is right, we need objective monitoring - the crux of the Sports Council's 'New Approach to Grant aid' strategy.


Dislikes. Income. If one day you receive something akin to a census form from the ETTA, you'll be playing a very important part.

But in such a voluntary organisation - as John McDonnell and Arnold mention on later pages - we need people and contacts working for the same targets.


You.

Pass the mag on won't you. Or, better, flog it and buy yourself a replacement. A merry Christmas (or New Year) to all our readers and contributors.

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Rainbow Warriors

Fiona Brown reviews the multicoloured Milton Keynes Top 12

The inaugural National Top 12 at Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes, 26th-27th October 1985 certainly set tongues wagging both inside and outside table tennis.

Initial interest in the controversial colour scheme, both to equipment and clothing, generated a dichotomy of reaction. Establishment figures expressed outrage at the thought of the sport changing beyond recognition. The players accepted the news with, in the main, enthusiasm - recognising the positive media value it contained, "If the changes will give table tennis a better future I'll go along with them", said England No 1 Desmond Douglas.

Elevated at short notice from a virtually 'bald closed doors' ranking trial to the status of a major event, the Milton Keynes Top 12 emerged from an embryo form in just a matter of months. Charters were national, "We are not creating sport into a move with 'the times', he claimed.

One player particularly responsive to the call for brighter clothing was England No 12 Fielding. "I'm all for a bright look. Let's face it, the colours we wear at the moment are pretty boring," he told Colin Fullon Standard.

In the rush up to the Friday evening start the players gave three TV appearances and with a special promotion in the plush Milton Keynes indoor shopping complex. Carl Prean delighted the crowd with the occasional tele service in between more serious moments; Alan Cooke 'who just happened to be passing' was finally coaxed into action; and Phil Bradbury joined Dave Wells and the Bellinger sisters to compete the star-studded line up.

Add all of this to the national and local press previews, the standard poster rush and the support of the Milton Keynes league, one might reasonably have expected a substantial audience - alas it was not to be. What then did the event lack? But for the unfortunate withdrawal of Carl Prean and the absence through a long illness of Sarah Sandley and Karen Smith respectively, England's best players were to do battle over two and a half days of what is possibly the most physically gruelling competition format employed by any sport.

No TV

It lacked TV certainly - in the first instance rejection by the major TV channels was blamed on scheduling difficulties; admittedly three months notice is hardly sufficient for those who plan literally years in advance. Although cable channel SkySports, who now cover our home European league matches in a regular basis, was much more enthusiastic, other commitments affected their eleven hour decision to bypass the event.

There was also the deep rooted TV suspicion of competitions without a final.

All serves another winner

Different

The outrageous colour scheme of blue tables, red nets and yellow balls was certainly different. And with the exception of those players restricted by contract the spirit of experimentation in clothing was well applied.

Must have it Lisa Bellinger is still chasing Jill Harris for the return of her Sweet 'N Low T-shirt. And Jean Parker was able to make use of the pin-striped blue and red nets and even untrained eyes could detect the tendency of heavy top spin shots to skip slightly more than normal.

Considering the importance of the event, the prestige and the healthy haul of Lenexa computer points which success would carry, acceptance of these conditions by the players was exemplary.

Of the nets Colin Wilson said, "I liked the pretty lace curtains... Well how many red nets have you seen in the shops?"

In desperation to maintain authenticity the top cord was masked and we resorted to the trusty paint brush. Somehow the end-product lacked its usual flexibility.

Yellow balls

And so to the balls. Yellow we ordered. True to form a gross marked yellow duly arrived - we advertised them as yellow. Then we opened them... "They're orange!" said the players. "They're eggs", a voice from the dark, "they're soft", said the losers.

Douglas Supreme

by Fiona Brown

The withdrawal of Carl Prean, the reigning European junior top 12 champion, left England No 1 Desmond Douglas as the only competitor with full experience of the demands of Top 12 competition. Played over two and a half days the tough round robin format began to take its toll particularly amongst the men who play the best of five sets.

Both physical, and perhaps of almost greater significance, mental resilience were put to the test over and over again. By the end of the eleventh match even the successful were hard-pressed to muster any great enthusiasm over their triumph.

The notable exception to this state of exhaustion was the youthful Douglas, who demonstrated throughout exact-
Karen Witt - sporting the gear of the future?

Karen Witt encouraged Bradbury to the edge he would have added to a story he would have included in silent admiration of the suddenly and almost inexplicably forcing him back just far enough to lessen the effect.

Defeat by an Englishman for going point for point, Douglas was fighting to dominate at close to witness the first Douglas to believe they might be about to have squeezed into second place. With attack to capture the first experience, Douglas was free- credible pace and pinpoint position.

Douglas rose to the challenge from No 8 Phil Bradbury in the sixth round, on Saturday afternoon. Unlike his predecessors Bradbury rose to the challenge and one which reduced the value of this intense style for our sport can be maximised.

RESULTS

Men
1st Round John Souter b Colin Wilson 15, 10; 20; Graham Sandley b David Wells 15, 12, 15; Alan Cooke b Steve Mills 15, 12, 5; Skylet Andrew b Nicky Mason 15, 9, 16; Souter b Andrew 15, 12, 5; 2nd Round Douglas b Souter 11, 6, 11; Wilson b Souter 13, 10, 10, 14, 19; Cooke b Sandley 13, 19, 24, 15; Andrew b Wells 17, 17, 13, 18; Bradbury b Souter 17, 15, 19; Mason b Wells 17, 15, 15; Souter b Mason 15, 17, 15, 11; Wells b Souter 15, 10, 15; 3rd Round Witt b Wilson 12, 19, 11, 15; 4th Round Witt b Wilson 17, 17, 15, 15; 5th Round Witt b Wilson 21, 17, 15, 15; Sandley b Wells 17, 15, 15, 15; Souter b Wells 15, 17, 15, 15; 6th Round Sandley b Wells 17, 17, 15, 15; Souter b Wilson 17, 17, 15, 15; 7th Round Witt b Souter 17, 17, 15, 15; 8th Round Witt b Wilson 17, 17, 15, 15.

Women
1st Round Jean Parker b Suzanne Airey 15, 15; Joy Grundy b Helen Williams 15, 17; Jackie Bellinger b Lisa Bellinger 7, 13; Alison Gordon b Karen Witt 19, 20; Fiona Elliott b Jill Harris 14; Mandy Sainsbury b Joanne Shaw 7, 15.

Intermediate placings W F A
1. Alison Gordon 8 12 0
2. Skylet Andrew 6 18 5
3. Lisa Bellinger 5 10 3
4. Joy Grundy 10 5 5
5. Karen Witt 9 4 3
6. Jean Parker 7 3 6
7. Mandy Sainsbury 4 7 5
8. Jackie Bellinger 4 5 3
9. Joanne Shaw 5 11 7
10. Helen Williams 3 11 8
11. Suzanne Airey 0 3 12
12. Jill Harris 0 1 12

Future
The National Top 12 is here to stay; there can be few who doubt the value of this intensive style of competition as preparation for major international events. It's a superbly marketable commodity; let's hope the benefit for our sport can be maximised.

Milton Keynes National Top 12
Medals Galore in Liege
by George Yates

Undoubtedly the feat of the season so far was that of Carl Preen in winning the mens singles title of the 18th Belgian Open played at the Country Hall, Liege over the period November 1-3 1985 to collect a major gold medal.

Whatever misgivings were over Carl's non-participation in the Milton Keynes National Top 12 tournament, the Isle of Wight teenager certainly made up for it with his run of victories in Belgium where he disposed of Ron van Spanje of the Netherlands (12, 9, 8), Gideon Joe Ng of Canada (9, 12, 15), Andrei Mazunov of the Soviet Union (16, 11, 15), Patrick Birocheau of France (14, 10, 9, 18, 21), Patrick Rensverse, also of France (15, 13, 7, 15) and, in the final Hideo Goto of Japan (17, 18, 19).

It was back in 1958 when an Englishman last won this particular title; Johnny Leah winning it for the third time after his previous victories in the inaugural championships of 1950 and again in 1957.

Preen, with Joy Grundy, also reached the final of the mixed doubles losing out to Andreas Podpinka of Hungary and Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia. Grundy with Alison Gordon, took another silver in losing to Olga Nemes and Katja Nolten of the Federal German Republic in the final of the womens doubles.

And, adding bronze to the collection, Preen and Alan Cooke, representing England in the mens team event, reached the semi-final stage to be beaten by France 3-0. All in all a tremendous showing for England's quartet with Alison and Joy chalking up a not insignificant win over Bettine Vriehekkoop of the Netherlands and Hrachova in the womens doubles!

In the mens singles in Liege, Cooke lost to India's Kamlesh Mehta over five games while in the counterpart womens event Alison Gordon lost to the eventual winner, Nemes, and Joy to Katja Nolten.

Lambs to the Slaughter in Bulgaria

George Yates

In Belgium, England captain Donald Parker had a great deal to celebrate — unlike Nigel Eckersley, his counterpart in Olsztyn, at the 21st Polish Open played over the period October 25-27.

Regrettably these star-studded championships clashed with the Milton Keynes affair so a youthful quartet comprising the Syed brothers, Andrew and Matthew, together with Claire Potts and Kerry Hall took part. And, in the individual events, Nigel himself.

No heroes to report here in a tournament dominated by the Swedes, much to the disappointment of the host nation whose Andrzej Grubba was taken out by Jan-Owe Waldner in the semi-final of the mens singles. He had the compensation of a victory in the mixed when partnered by Jolanta Szatko, with a final win over Zoran Kalinic and Branka Baticin of Yugoslavia.

Waldner

Twenty-seven associations were represented in Olsztyn with Waldner and Csilla Batorfi of Hungary taking the major titles. Nigel and Matthew failed to qualify in the mens singles whilst Andrew lost in the first round when beaten 20-22, 22-20, 21-18, 19-21, 10-21 by Vladimir Dvorak of the Soviet Union. Claire lost on her first excursion to the tables to Flura Bulatova of the USSR and, likewise, Kerry was despatched by Poland's Ewa Brzezinska.
Daniella Does It — England Doomed?

Two dazzling performances from 21 year old sports student Daniella Guergueltcheva swung the balance of power decisively in Bulgaria's favour in the vital European League match against England at Mansfield on 20th November.

Lying in equal first place with two wins apiece from their early season fixtures and tied on an identical sets average, both teams recognised this to be the match most likely to determine their first division fixtures. As those who followed England's fortunes last season will recall, promotion and relegation issues are settled firstly on points, and should there be a tie, secondly on the result between the teams involved. Bulgaria's success in Mansfield has provided them with the necessary cushion and should ensure their promotion to the premier division when the season concludes in March 1986.

The opening sets went according to ranked form with Desmond Douglas dispatching Stefan Stefanov and Bulgarian No 1 Mariano Loukov, a penholder, levelling the scoreline at one all with a win over Carl Prean. Prean, always the underdog, fought manfully to recover all points but failed to capitalise when the opportunity presented itself.

As the woman came to the table the tension in both team camps was apparent. The contrasting styles of England's slim athletic defender Lisa Bellinger and the powerful attacking play of the small and stocky Daniella Guergueltcheva, providing the most entertaining spectacle of the evening's competition.

Following her success in the Belgian Open where she had beaten European No 5 Zsuzsa Olah before losing narrowly to the eventual winner, Olga Nemes, Guergueltcheva demonstrated a strength and variety of shots which belied her lowly European ranking at No 18.

Lisa was rarely permitted to settle into her defensive rhythm; indeed it was the attacking sorties born of frustration which brought her back into contention midway through the second game. Unfortunately for England the challenge was met and matched with a fifth gear flurry giving Bulgaria the lead for the first time in the match.

With the score swiftly levelled by Douglas and Prean, despite moments of anguish during the mens doubles match, Guergueltcheva returned, partnered by Loukov, to inflict further damage. In the first game of the mixed doubles she faced the mighty Douglas attack, a task which many would not envy, and to her partner's obvious amazement and delight, returned most shots with equal venom, forcing at best an error, or at worst a tame return from Alison Gordon.

If, in such a contest, one can ever identify the true moment of defeat, it must surely have been at the end of this game — Bulgaria having saved 6 game points to clinch a 27-25 result. In the second game the English pair were literally knocked off the table.

As has happened so many times before all eyes turned to Desmond Douglas as he entered the arena for the third successive time. His opponent was Mariano Loukov, the Bulgarian who as a 13 year old, and after 5 years of table tennis, had been so impressed by a visiting Japanese team that he provided few threats. The Douglas attack.

Painful

Loukov, ranked only 26 in Europe, should in theory have provided few threats. The reality was painfully different. He charged ahead point after point, leaving the normally emotionless Douglas staring skyward as if in search of divine inspiration.

In the second game and with the scoreline proceeding in a far more balanced manner it appeared national trainer coach Donald Parker had mustered just the right advice to harness the Douglas attack.

But Loukov swiftly adapted to the changes. As the points slipped away England's hope of success evaporated and Loukov jumped for joy as he gave Bulgaria an unbeatable 4-2 lead.

The crowd who, but for the odd notable exception had been funereal from the outset, saw fit to make an early exit — leaving those motivated by the desire to enjoy excellence irrespective of nationality to savour the grit and determination displayed by Carl Prean, as he smashed his way to an impressive win over Stefan Stefanov.

Although already assured of his team's victory, Stefanov fought for every point and full credit must be accorded to the young Englishman, who like his team mates, was suffering in the knowledge that this defeat had almost certainly destroyed the nation's hopes of a swift return to premier division play in 1986.

While Donald Parker must now tackle the undeniable task of motivating England's squad to give of their best in the season's remaining fixtures, he needs the help of spectators at Hertford on 21st January.
Sweden Pole-axed

Sweden, the European league champions, lost their grip on the title in November. Despite home advantage, Jan-Ove Waldner and Erik Lindh could not contain the mighty Polish attack of Leszek Kucharski and Andrzej Grubba.

First Waldner succumbed, 17-21, 22-20, 23-25 to Kucharski! Then Lindh, after a disastrous 13-21 start against Grubba, made it to 20-all in the second only to lose the next two points and give Poland victory.

Elsewhere, Andreas Podpinka played the first and last two sets against Holland in Hungary's 2-5 victory and decided not to return home. He was last reported to be staying in Belgium.

Results

Super Division

16th October

FRG 3 HOL 4 (Georg Böhm b Paul Haldan; Balf Wosik Ist Henrik Van Spanje; Anke Schreiber (nee Olschewski) Ist Mijajl Klopperburg; Böhm/Jorg Rosskoff Ist Van Spanje/Haldan; Wasik/Schreiber Ist Haldan/Klopperburg; Böhm b Van Spanje; Wosik b Haldan.)

HUN 2 SWE 5 (Zsolt Kriston Ist Jan-Ove Waldner; Andreas Podpinka Ist Erik Lindh; Csilla Bartofi b Pia Ellisson; Zsolt Harci/Podpinka Ist Lindh/Waldner; Kriston/Bartof b Waldner/Ellisson; Kriston Ist Lindh; Podpinka Ist Waldner.)

POL 4 FRA 3 (Leszek Kucharski Ist Patrick Renverse; Andrzej Grubba b Patrick Birocheau; Calinska Ist Brigitte Thrivet; Grubba/Kucharski Ist Birocheau/Bruno Parietto; Grubba/Jolanta Szarko b Parietti/Thrivet; Kucharski b Birocheau; Grubba b Renverse.)

YUG 1 TCH 6 (Zoran Kalinic b Vladimir Broda; Ilie Lupulesku Ist Jindrich Pancsy; Branica Batic Ist Marie Hrachova; Lupulesku/Zoran Primovec Ist Javurek/Pancsy; Lupulesku/Gordana Perkucin Ist Pancsy/Hrachova; Kalinic Ist Pancsy; Lupulesku Ist Broda.)

20th November

SWE 3 POL 4 (Waldner Ist Grubba; Lindh b Kucharski; Wiktorsson b Stefan; Lindh/Waldner Ist Grubba/Kucharski; Lindh/Marie Svensson b Grubba/Szarko; Waldner Ist Kucharski; Lindh Ist Grubba.)

HOL 2 HUN 5 (Haldan Ist Podpinka; Van Spanje b Kriston; Bettine Wieskoop b Edit Urban; Haldan/Ist Van Spanje Ist Harci/Kriston; Van Spanje/Wieskoop b Kriston/Urban; Haldan Ist Kriston; Van Spanje Ist Podpinka.)

YUG 3 FRG 4; TCH 5 FRA 2.

League tables

after November matches

Super division

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Photos by Eileen Langsley, Baslow, Derbys (024-6882376)
Contacts Needed

John McDonnell, the ETTA’s new national negotiator for sponsorship and tv, has written to all of the association’s 300 leagues urging their help in the search for sponsors. John, the former public relations manager for Norwich Union, is keen to put something back to the sport his company sponsored over a period of 12 years.

“Every club and league can pinpoint somebody prominent in business life who is a table tennis addict, publicly or privately”, he says. “It is these people - now successful in business - to whom the ETFA could look for help in table tennis sponsorship on a national basis”.

Just last month Table Tennis News reported on a great new sponsorship with Triumph Adler, initially for the 1986 English Open. It came about partly because of the table tennis experience and enthusiasm of one of Triumph Adler’s very senior executives - marketing manager Mike Borshell.

“I know many leagues get local sponsorship to whom we are all grateful”, he says. “But what I need is firms who would benefit from national involvement. A ‘big’ person in trade, commerce, the professions or industry who can help. We ask only for a firm contact”.

Honour Thy Neighbour

Probably the most pleasant yet most responsible duties that I am called upon to perform on behalf of the ETFA are those in my capacity as chairman of the Honours Committee.

This committee, under an earlier title, has been in existence for over fifty years and was concerned initially with the nomination of members for the positions of president and vice-president.

In recent years, changes have been made and, I think, very much for the benefit of the members.

The position of Life Member was created in the 1950s and this has become the highest and most coveted award available to the members. There is no limit on the number of life members at any one time.

A new individual position, Life Vice President, was created in 1970 and this position is limited to one person only at anytime and the holder must be a past president. This is indeed a very prestigious position.

In the past few years consideration has been given to widen the ranges of honours for both players and officials. Two new categories were created a couple of years ago; one, the ‘Player Achievement Award’ and the other, the ‘Merit Award’.

The player achievement award is given to players who have represented England in World or European Championship, or a specified number of occasions and is the only award that is not given as a result of various opinions. The merit award has been essentially for the unknown warrior of the leagues who has served with distinction in a local environment far from the limelight of national attention.

The appointment of one exception, with one exception, carries with it the right to wear a specially designed badge bearing the ETFA crest and the title of the position. These badges can be worn on any occasion and are usually very prominent at the receptions during the national championships.

The exception is the merit award which is recognised by a specially designed, signed certificate which is presented to the recipient. Nominations for the merit award are usually made by the leagues or counties and sometimes the certificate has been mounted by the sponsor of the award for presentation to the nominee on a suitable occasion, such as an AGM or Annual Dinner.

The merit award certificates are confirmed by the National Council and the certificates are despatched immediately. I have been very impressed by the many letters of appreciation which have been sent in by the recipients. It is satisfying to be able to reward the workers at the grass roots.

The Honours Committee also make annual awards for special services required by the terms of reference from the donors of the Leslie Forrest Award for county administration, the Victor Barna Award for players and the Ivor Montagu Award for national administration.

With 100,000 members there must be some that can help. And national sponsorships are not just about tv coverage . . . six out of seven commercial sponsorships have no tv. With just 1500 companies presently active in this field there is plenty of scope.

“Table tennis is not unique in needing sponsorship to re-establish itself in the forefront of British sport”, he says. “Ours is a truly classless, raceless, non-sectarian, active sport which must have a real and useful place in today’s troubled society”.

“Just a name, a title and a phone number”, he asks. “You can contact me in the evenings on 07983 3214 or via Mike Watts at the ETFA office (0424 433121). We guarantee anonymity, if you put a cross in the small box declining publicity”.

Honours Committee

John McDonnell’s address is
Cranford, Sunset Lane, West Chiltington, PULBOROUGH RH20 2PB.

John McDonnell

Horses for courses

The English Table Tennis Association are again organising a flutter on the gee-gees. And it’s a safe bet!

The lottery, based on the annual Lincoln Handicap, allows member organisations to raise funds without putting the cash up front for tickets and prizes. Tickets, at just 5p each in books of five, are available from Roy Stevens at the ETFA office.

Just the value of the ticket sales are then returned to you as a cash donation to fighting funds.
Brighton Knock - the best yet?

Rob Oldfield

Visit Brighton and somehow you are left with the impression of somewhere just a little special. It could be the Georgian architecture or the splendour of the Pavilion; all the same, it seems rather fortunate that this picturesque seaside town has become almost the traditional home of Europe's oldest table tennis tournament - the English Open.

The championships began in 1922 and, often in the dramatic setting of Brighton's Dome, table tennis history has been etched over sixty years. Bengtsson, Barna, Berczik, Farkhas, the Rowe twins, Alexandru. Names which fantasize the mind and torture the tongue. Whoever lifts the titles in 1986 will be holding a trophy on which some of the greatest competitors in the sport have been indelibly recorded.

One fancies that Barna would find little difference in Brighton now as in 1938 when he last won the championships - his fifth in total. A cosmopolitan town it once brought the revelling Victorians to teeter across the pebbles to the waters of the English Channel.

In Barna's time, commuting had already begun - tempted by the breakfast on the Brighton Belle. He will certainly been able to taste the cockles and mussels of the town's famous piers.

Now the commuters of bankers and stockbrokers have been joined by a transient population of students and nubile foreigners learning English. The unlike mixture conjures a town of contrasts - of antiques and avant garde.

Antiques there are in plenty when the competition schedule permits a diversion from the Brighton Conference Centre to the nearby Lanes. Avant garde? Well it just depends on your point of view. But whatever your inclination Brighton has it.

Bookshops to browse in. Restaurants to gorge in. Stamps to lick and Art shops to admire. Stitched together by the latest fashions in a multitude of clothes shops. Terribly expensive but very classy.

The Window Gallery's primary coloured posters, Le Grandgousier with francophile diners. Names and Ballsports for the leisure clothes touched by perfume not perspiration.

Having lived and worked there for two years I already have difficulty in my own favourites. Zany goods at Artworks, Billabong's croissants, and Crusts for lagers. Food for Friends for some of the most imaginative vegetarian cooking in the country.

A gourmets paradise

In Brighton you are spoilt for choice and not just for shopping, window-gazing and evening entertainment. A place between sets and post-match analysis. But truthfully a gourmets paradise.

Fish at English's, Choys chinese, and the Soviets will like Blinis for caviar and vodka. Then there's Al Duomo's who serve the best pizzas in town. Not good for the diet maybe but deliciously indulgent.

In a word, luxury. Do yourself a favour...the Triumph Adler English Open.

Can Des hang on?

Now 30, the Triumph Adler English Open could be the last for England's No 1 Desmond Douglas. Two years ago, trailing 0-2 against Vladislav Broda, it looked as if his hopes of a second victory in England's premier event were fast disappearing.

Then came that magnificent fightback - against all the odds of service and equipment. This year, without the regular foreign competition of the German national league, Des' game seems to have taken a nose-dive.

A big crowd, cheering him on, could again inspire one of the most consistent and successful players to wear an English shirt, Remember Duisberg in 1978? The Top 12 in 1979? Not even Andrzej Grubba or Jan-Ove Waldner can afford to take Douglas lightly at the top of his form.

Prean?

And the European youth champion Carl Prean might have his sights on the title this year. Prean, now 18, shunned the championships two years ago because of the choice of the plastic ball. He has yet to emulate to an English audience the victories captured overseas. But already the Belgian Open champion he is making progress out of the public eye and could hit peak form in January.

Not forgetting, of course, the Bradbury v Secretin victory of 1984 and the magnificent achievement of Alan Cooke and Graham Sandley in reaching the final of the mens doubles.

You'll miss it on the telly. And the sea air.
The defending champion Desmond Douglas — his last Open?
This photo by Eileen Langley, Baslow, Derby (024-688 2376); all others courtesy of Brighton Borough Council

Getting there

Couldn't be easier!

Fast motorway links via the M23 and the London circular M25 mean that Brighton is now just three hours away from Birmingham by car. Steady motoring all the way . . . three and a half from Cardiff; less than four from Sheffield.

From the west it's simple too; the A27 joining up with the M27 Portsmouth/Southampton motorway. And it means Brighton is served by some excellent fast coach links — ‘Speedlink’ joining Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and a regular service by coach or train from Gatwick.

Rail services? Four rapid trains an hour during the day from London Victoria with trouble-free connections to main-line stations for the Midlands and North of England.

Hotels

Brighton is packed with hotels, from the modest comfortable guest house to the expensive luxury of ‘The Old Ship Hotel’ or the competitors’ ‘Metropole’.

A central computerised reservation service is provided in the foyer of Brighton station. Alternatively, the council’s Tourist Information Service will be able to advise: Tourist Information Office, Old Steine BRIGHTON. Tel: 0273 23755.

The Draw

Top referee John Wright, in conjunction with assistant Doug Young, has already made the draw for this year’s championships.

It was too late for this month’s issue but the next Table Tennis News will have all the details so that subscribers at home can follow the fortunes of the event through the press and teletext service.

However, at the time of writing, an impressive entry looks guaranteed for the first championships under the Triumph Adler sponsorship.

Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Germany, France, Holland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Yugoslavia and the Republic of (South) Korea have all expressed their intention of participating . . . along with the talented Swedes, Poland’s Grubba, and the powerful Soviet women.

Trade show

A special at this year’s Triumph Adler English Open is a trade fair side-show adjacent to the playing hall in the luxurious Brighton Centre.

Manufacturers, retailers and other companies are combining together to provide this extra facility for spectators.

Demonstrations of the latest equipment, the chance to pit your reactions against the table tennis robot in one of the two exhibition arenas, and a wider range of merchandise than you could ever hope to see at your local sports shop.

Clive Oakman, ETTA PR committee member and of Table Tennis Services has masterminded the show, with backing from all the major equipment suppliers including table manufacturers Jaques.

Tickets

Tickets are already on sale for the Brighton feast of table tennis and can be obtained from the ETTA office at 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF. Tel: 0424 433121.

Alternatively, you can book your seats from the Brighton Centre booking office Tel: 0273 202881. Credit card reservations are accepted.

Play begins each day at 9.00 am, with team events on Thursday 23rd January and the individuals events on Friday and Saturday. All three days offer the chance to see some excellent table tennis — variety during the early rounds and the fierce competition of the staged finals.

Prices

Thursday
All day - £4; £2 (children & OAPs)
Evening team finals only - £2; £1
Friday
All day - £4; £2
Evening later rds only - £2; £1
Saturday
Morning - all £1
1.30 pm finals - £4, £3 and £2, dependent on seat

Substantial discounts are available on group bookings and coaches are being run from many areas. Full details on reduced rates can be obtained from the ETTA office.

Substantial discounts are available on group bookings and coaches are being run from many areas. Full details on reduced rates can be obtained from the ETTA office.
Super support for Douglas debut

Fiona Brown

England No 1 Desmond Douglas, playing in the Halex National League for the first time this season, has helped to swell match attendances in the premier division. Over 200 spectators enjoyed his debut match for GKN Wolverhampton against South Yorkshire in early September. Des maintained his outstanding record winning both sets despite a slightly nervous start in which he conceded the very first game to Kevin Beadsley.

Impressed

Although delighted with his own performance Des was most impressed by 15 year old Chris Oldfield the South Yorkshire No 4. "He has plenty of talent and played one hell of a game under pressure to beat Andy Bellingham." A name to look out for in the future! — his victory on this occasion brought the match to a 4-4 conclusion.

Syed the scythe

Another youngster earning praise is Omega Reading's Matthew Syed, "He played brilliantly against us," said Ormesby Manager, Alan Ransome. "He did well to beat David McIlroy but the way he outclassed Nigel Eckersley was incredible. There aren't many Englishmen who can do that."

Double scotch on the rocks

Reading's Karen Witt added two wins to the Syed total with ice-cool performances against Scottish internationals David McIlroy and John Broe, a result which cost the former his first team place, "No disrespect to Karen but David was playing well below par today, I'll drop him until he proves he can do better," added Ransome.

True to his word out went McIlroy and in came former England No 1 Denis Neale. Recently returned from a coaching visit to Saudi Arabia it is rumoured that Denis, who turned 40 earlier this year, now has his sights set on the 1986 Veterans World Championships — what better way to prepare than in the top flight of Halex league competition!

Action replay

Spectators at the Grove v Ormesby match on 15th September could have been excused for believing they had fallen into a time warp as Neale faced Nicky Jarvis, another superstar of English table tennis in the 1970s. Having adapted his game to avoid excessive use of the loop, Jarvis demonstrated his superiority to win the set and secure a point for Grove.

Earlier in the match new Grove No 1 Steve Mills had, in the words of referee Gerald Green, "Demolished his opponents," not bad at all when one was none other than England's no 3 Alan Cooke.

Players of the Months

The selections agreed by the National League committee are:

**DAMIEN HOLLAND**

Thirteen year old Damien Holland receives the September award for his successful debut performance playing at No 4 with the Dagenham FC second team in the third division east. Damien defeated AHW Pioneers players Robert Harman (Buckinghamshire No 1) and England ranked Les Wooding.

**COLIN WILSON**

Formerly with Thorn-EMI Ellenborough, Colin is now playing at No 1 for premier division team Bath Toyota. He earns the October award for his performance in beating former team mates David Wells and Graham Sandley, both ranked above him in the Lentecc national list, and for the sporting encouragement given to his Bath team mates throughout the match.
Oldham can't "old-em"

Following two emphatic wins during the first weeks of the season Stuart Sneyd, assistant manager of league newcomers Oldham, was confidently declaring "We will win, we can't fail with the side we have got."

Six weeks later the realisation has struck. "I still think we will do well but we've blown our chance of the championship."

Today seasoned campaigners Kingsbro Insurance Services lead the third division North. They have already conquered Oldham who lie second and third placed South Yorkshire.

Why then have the plans laid by Sneyd and in particular, manager Geoff Aspinall faltered? The first hiccup came when the team to face South Yorkshire was severely weakened by the absence of veteran tournament ace Derek Schofield.

Fortunately for Oldham, No 1 Phil Aspinall was able to play and win despite a debilitating stomach condition but the 4-1 result resulted in Oldham not yet having sufficient strength in their respective contexts he is having a more successful First division. Whether this season or the next they intend to lead a winning squad.
School Report

Help Needed for School Games

This autumn school term is a relative quiet period for the English Schools Table Tennis Association as the emphasis falls on their member county associations producing the qualifying school teams for the Dunlop National School Team Table Tennis Championships. ESTTA press and public relations officer David Lomas took the opportunity to talk to ESTTA Chairman John Arnold during the half-term break.

DAL: The ESTTA is now well-established, being in its 18th year of existence. Have the aims of the founder members been realised?
JA: Yes, and more so. This season sees our 20th Team championships and our 13th National Individual championships and I look forward to the 12th International championships which we hoping to stage next early July at a venue in the North of England.

DAL: How many players took part in last year’s competitions?
JA: About 300 Teams took part in the area stages of the Dunlop National School Team Championships and almost 300 players were involved in the Dunlop ESTTA Individual Championships. Our international teams numbered 30 players.

DAL: Does this represent the total number of participants?
JA: No, not at all. When you bear in mind that the majority of the 50 member counties organise their own competitions to determine their representatives in the two major championships. I would suggest that some 12,000 boys and girls played in the qualifying stages of the team and individual events.

DAL: In what age groups?
JA: There are separate competitions for boys and girls at under 11, 13, 16 and 19 levels.

DAL: Has this always been the case?
JA: No, there have been many changes over the year. The original team event categories were U15 and U17 only but as the system evolved these were altered and the latest addition was the inclusion of U11 boys and girls competitions. These U11 events are as keenly contested in both quality and quantity as the other more senior events.

DAL: There must be, however, many players at school who do not seem to take part in our competitions?
JA: Sadly, this is so. Even in our best organised, fully constituted counties there are many schools who do not affiliate. We would hope that in such cases schools can be persuaded by parents and pupils to affiliate to the county schools association.

DAL: Are there some counties where a county schools association does not exist?
JA: Indeed, yes. In these counties we must all pull together to try to set up such a body. One must recognise that table tennis is only one of a vast variety of sports activities which can find its place in curricular and extra-curricular activities in schools. I hope that coaches and parents interested officials from local ETZA leagues and county associations will do what they can to set up associations in these “dead” counties in conjunction with interested schoolteachers.

DAL: Which are the “dead” counties?
JA: East Sussex, Merseyside, Middlesex, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. As I said in my remarks in the ESTTA 1985/86 Handbook, one of the major difficulties facing most voluntary associations is the desperate shortage of people with time and energy prepared to come forward to serve on committees, be they local, county or national ones.

DAL: You challenge schoolteachers and others interested in the development of the sport to co-operate in the hope of rectifying the situation.
JA: Yes, and I issue the challenge again: the boys and girls in such areas can only gain and the winner at the end of the day will be table tennis.

Strike fears for ESTTA

By David Lomas

By the time these notes appear in print the entries from member county associations for the Dunlop National School Team Championships will have closed. It remains to be seen what effect the teachers’ industrial action in pursuit of their pay claim will have had on the number of entries for the area finals.

However, other more established school sports have already suffered badly because of the action and ESTTA officials fear a drop in the number of schools involved.

The area finals are due to take place on Saturday/Sunday 18/19th January. The winners go forward to one of the three regional finals scheduled for Sunday, 16th February at Leeds, Stroud and Croydon. Then comes the national finals to be held at Lea Green, Matlock, on Saturday, 15th March.

Just as the magazine was due to go to press, information received from ESTTA counties revealed the extent of the feared drop in participation due to the teachers’ pay and conditions dispute.

Comparison with last year’s figures for the Dunlop National School team championships indicates a 20% reduction in those intending to take part in the Area finals in January.

ESTTA chairman John Arnold

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JA: East Sussex, Merseyside, Middlesex, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. As I said in my remarks in the ESTTA 1985/86 Handbook, one of the major difficulties facing most voluntary associations is the desperate shortage of people with time and energy prepared to come forward to serve on committees, be they local, county or national ones.

DAL: You challenge schoolteachers and others interested in the development of the sport to co-operate in the hope of rectifying the situation.
JA: Yes, and I issue the challenge again: the boys and girls in such areas can only gain and the winner at the end of the day will be table tennis.
DAL: So you strongly believe that the development of table tennis in schools is critical to the future of the game?

JA: Yes. Naturally there is splendid work done by coaches in advanced training centres, sports centres and clubs throughout the country and in youth clubs too. However, not everyone goes to a table tennis club or a youth club but everyone goes to school! This is the place where any sport still has its mass future potential. If table tennis took off in every junior school in the country then just imagine the boost for the game, and it sorely needs a boost.

DAL: How do you envisage this happening?

JA: Well every plan is not easy to implement but there must be thousands of junior schools throughout the country with small halls unsuitable for most other sports requiring a larger area where one or two tables could be used after school at say, 4pm, by the school for extra-curricular activities, from 5pm to 7pm for coaching, and from 7pm for league matches. A one-table centre could cater for 8 league teams playing at home and way on 4 nights a week.

DAL: But where do we get the players from?

JA: Initially from interest at the school. Players would return to the centre on transfer to secondary school by joining the coaching class designed for different ages and levels, and then join the league.

DAL: An interesting idea — but where will the equipment come from?

JA: Surely it's not too difficult to persuade the local education authorities to provide the use of the premises if a local league purchase a table and, say, the Sports Council sponsor the lighting — or perhaps a local sponsor might help. But that's not the problem! It's the lack of coaches, teachers and interested people prepared to give fully of their time.

DAL: But many are prepared to help!

JA: Indeed, in the ESTTA organisation many people with great dedication are striving to promote the sport we all love and enjoy. This is the same at local and county level — but we need more!

DAL: Many thanks for your time, John. Perhaps we can talk about other aspects of the ESTTA's activities and how they are trying to develop the game, sometime in the future.

Northants Schools initiative

Glennis Hooper

The NSTTA began its full calendar of events this year with the formation of the new Crane's Premier Select (U17) league at Kingsthorpe Upper School, Northampton.

For many years the schools' association have been concerned that the country's top juniors and cadets were not receiving any kind of competitive play to improve their talents and to improve the general standard of local table tennis.

It has always been their aim to create a junior and cadet league and after many months of organisation and with financial backing from Crane Engineering Ltd of Northampton such a league was formed.

The league comprises of 12 teams which include the top 36 youngsters in the county; with many eager players acting as reserves when necessary. Each team is evenly balanced which means any one of the twelve could win the Crane Cup.

This being a first for Northamptonshire the league is an ideal opportunity for the lower-ranked players to pit their wits against the top players and for the top players to help those less able and receive regular match play. For county team selectors it is an instant way of producing an accurate, up-to-date ranking list.

Nine of the thirty-six youngsters playing are girls and these are lead by Caroline Perkins (W'boro Sparkes: county No 1) and Joanne Abbott (Rushden Rebels: county No 2).

As well as so many girls it has also been encouraging to see the faces of so many other players from all areas of the county and the support of the many parents present is very heartening.

The Centre at Kingsthorpe Upper School is ideal and boasts twelve tables. With six of these being used for the league the other six were occupied by a beginners group. And a squad of 24 was selected after trials to receive regular coaching. These youngens will be aiming to pass grades 1, 2 and 3 of the Dunlop Skills Award scheme.

When they have reached a certain standard they will be moved up to the intermediate and advanced squads and from there to the elite squad who could then move to one of the new centres at the old Westfield School in Wellingborough.

Levi-Strauss (UK) Ltd, the Association's sponsors, have again purchased the trophies for these tournaments and the elite squad proudly wear Levi shirts at the national tournaments.
**Round-up by Doug Moss**

The county championships programme started at end of September with junior team matches and all but one fixture was completed. The default was for the Hunts team due to visit Derbyshire II on 28th September.

Apparently, the junior regional trials affecting Hunts were arranged for Sunday 29th September and parents of players in the junior team did not wish them to play twice over the weekend.

The date provided in the calendar for regional junior ranking trials was October 27th (a weekend free of county championship matches). Regional trials on county championship weekend would almost certainly include most county team players. Whether in the circumstances it was unreasonable for Hunts to travel to Derby is a matter of opinion.

In division 2A Cheshire were a player short for their match at Northamptonshire. It is appreciated this can be a 'last minute' problem but it causes such disillusion. Especially as adequate reserves can be nominated.

The most successful girls were Jill Powis and Helen Lower, who shared a great contribution for Staffs winning all their singles and doubles events. Andrea Holt (La) had a 'clean sheet' in singles and Nos 1 & 2 cadet girls, Kerry Hall and Julie Billingston (Dy) were unbeaten in doubles.

The Yorks/Staffs match deserves special mention. The results of the first two events (24-22 in third for Staffs; 19-16 third for Yorks) clearly indicated what a hard match this was to be. Credit is due to the Yorkshire fighting spirit for they won a further two sets at 19 and one at 18 in the third games to force the draw.

The second weekend should provide a good deal of excitement with Staffs or Yorks looking the likely champions at this stage. Having already met in a draw match their performances against other teams will decide the issue. It seems to me that Yorkshire will probably have the toughest programme as they have to play both Kent and Derbyshire (3rd and 4th in league table) whereas Staffs have already met Kent.

**Match Results**

**Junior 3D**

- Essex II 8 Suffolk 2
- Surrey II 8 Essex II 3
- Suffolk II 5 Kent III 5
- Suffolk I 4 Kent I 6
- Suffolk I 8 Kent III 2
- Suffolk II 10 Kent II 10
- Cambs II 4 Berks II 6

The Suffolk I and IIs and Kent I and IIIs had a busy day on 19th October playing four matches at Britannia Dome, Jephson. The Suffolk II v Kent III was a draw but the Suffolk team lost two sets at deuce in the deciding games. The Suffolk I v Kent II match was very close with Suffolk losing 4-6. However, John Kitchener (Sk) lost to Andy Cunningham (K) -19, 16 -19 and Sue Butcher lost to Marilyn Dudgen 20-18, 18-14. Cunningham (K) won his two singles with his fifth game being won at 21-19.

**Junior 2A**

- Northants 4 Cheshire 6
- Yorkshire II 8 Suffolk 2
- Staffs II 4 Notts 6

Northants awarded two sets and Richard Elliott won a singles and partnered Andrew Trott to take the doubles at 21-18 in the third game. Despite the 8-2 scoreline there were some close finishes in Yorks II v Suffolk match. Hazel Kavenagh won her singles at 18 in the third and Yorks got the girls doubles at 24-22 in the third. Allaric Bassano who had a good record last season, beat Richard Hutchinson 22-20, 22-20 but lost to Paul Gooding at 19 in the third.

A hard fought match between Staffs II and Notts, with six sets going to a deciding game. John Holland took the final set to give Notts the win.

Warwickshire 8 Lincolnshire 2
- Yorks II 9 Cheshire I
- Northants 3 Staffs I
- Warwickshire 5 Notts 5

The Warwickshire v Lincolnshire match was much closer than the score suggests. Darren Smith (Wa) beat Martin Barwell 15-18, 22-19, and the girls doubles was won by Tracey Green and Alison Ledwych at 23-21 in the third and then Alison won her singles against Helen Stephens 13-18, 18-19! The next week Warwicks had a tougher match against Notts. Six of the sets were decided in the third game and a draw seemed a fair result.

**Junior 2B**

- Surrey 8 Berkshire 2
- Wiltshire 1 Herts 9
- Cornwall 8 Middlesex II
- Glamorgan 7 Devon 3

Surrey v Berkshire was closer than the score suggests. Matthew Perrett beat Julian Jones at 19 in the third and Richard Jones lost first to Keith Hodder but took the set at 21-18 in the deciding set. Cheryl Bateman and Lisa Price beat served well with three wins.
Hertfordshire were well on top in the early stages of their match at Wiltshire. Ian Neate beat Michael Blandford 19, 21 to get the one event for Wilts. Cornwall team in fine form against Middlesex II. However, Neil Bevan had two hard matches against Tony Cutler 19 in the third. With Andy Hunt in doubles the scores against Cutler and Bitran were 18, 19, 19. Match results so often show how just a few point effect the outcome. So it was in the Glamorgan v Devon match when Glamorgan got a 7-3 win. For Glamorgan Theresa Perry who was unbeaten last year, beat Rachael Pergely 23-21 in the deciding set and Anthony Jones followed up in beating Richard Aitken 14, 16, 19. These two sets took Glamorgan's just a few point effect the outcome. The seven for Glamorgan.

Surrey team and Anthony Jones, who was unbeaten last year, beat Richard Aitken -14, 16, 19. Surrey 3 Glamorgan 7; Middlesex II 3; Hunts 1 Wiltshire 5; Leicestershire 5 Berks 2; Oxfordshire 5 Berkshire 3; Wiltshire 5; Gloucs. 5; Dorset 5; Somerset 5; Oxon. 5; Hunts 5; Derby 5 Leics 7; Chesh. 5; Dorset 5.
Coaching

Crystal Palace Palace

Sue Drummond

Crystal Palace national sports centre was a hive of activity on 22nd-24th November. It was the ETTA’s last coaching course for 1985 and it proved to be an excellent weekend.

The course welcomed 25 keen and enthusiastic players who worked tirelessly to achieve one of the coaching awards. There were not only potential sports centre leaders and club coaches but also a group trying to reach the next step on the coaching ladder by mastering the dip-

Table Tennis Tactics

This compact and well-presented book is written by national coach David Fairholm and published in Bell and Hyman's 'Pocket Guide to Sport' series, £4.95.

The book is designed for players who already have a sound understanding of the sport and who wish to improve their performance through better match analysis, preparation and tactics. It allows the reader to delve into various aspects of the sport which they might not have fully explored before.

Generally, Fairholm encourages both player and coach to aim beyond the sound technical base of stroke play and develop a mental game or strategy. The chapter on 'Strategy and Tactics' - advocating season planning towards times of peak performance for the serious player is enough to prompt even the laziest into a pre-season training schedule.

Later, in 'Tactics against all opponents,' the book contains some useful set-piece practice routines and some excellent practical advice on the subtle change of angles and playing into the body. As a way of animating the subject, Fairholm has presented some interesting analyses of three major finals - developing the patterns of play and highlighting the aspects which might have given advantage to either of the players.

The 94-page book is well-balanced and offers valuable information which is both carefully and enthusiastically presented. It will give many players and coaches alike a new and challenging perspective to their game.

Table Tennis' is a hard-back book recently published by A & C Black. Written by Jill Hammersley-Parker and Richard Eaton, it is a book aimed at the beginner and retails at £4.50.

It offers a classical approach to the sport, starting with the game itself - how it is scored and the correct clothing and equipment - before working step-wise through each of the strokes. Photographs of Jill at various stages of stroke production illustrate the book throughout its 80 pages.

As part of the Black's Picture Sports series, the book will be found on many booksellers shelves.

REO/SKD

Our Coaching Administrator
here to help you.
Teams from Luton, Mid-Beds and South Beds represented table tennis in the Bedfordshire Games at the Tidewater foot leisure centre in Leighton Buzzard at the start of the season. South Beds, consisting of Andy Conquest, Alan Chandler and Geoff Giles with Julie Dimmock, Dawn Campbell and Joanne Strode, won the table tennis section. But Luton South Beds represented table tennis Conquest, Alan Chandler and Geoff Giles with Julie Dimmock, Dawn Thoresen Games at Ipswich next November resulted in a win for Dunstable on Sunday 10th November. She went down 21-10, 21-19 to Debbie Toole of Yorkshire. Cornwall’s John Bassett receiving his award from St Ives mayor Cllr Michael Peters in March 1959, winning his first singles title the following year.

It appears that the county trials caught many players cold whilst others cashed in on the opportunity to climb up the rankings. Notable absentees were Mark James, Ian James, Barry Corndell, Gary Marquard, Nigel Cock, Richie Bartlett, Alison Clemens, Shirley Collins, Sheila Rapsey and Sharon James although some of these have been slotted into the lists which are as follows:

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Women

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | E Stevenson (B) | | |
| 2 | G Davey (T) | | |
| 3 | A Clement (C) | | |
| 4 | B Rapsey (T) | | |
| 5 | S Rapsey (T) | | |

With the progression of last season’s leading juniors into the senior ranks, the Cornwall junior rankings show many changes from last season:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | T Logg (L) | | |
| 2 | R Plummer (SI) | | |
| 3 | L Clarke (F) | | |
| 4 | A Ruchton (C) | | |
| 5 | T Rowe (C) | | |

B - Bude; C - Camborne; F - Falmouth; L - Launceston; R - Redruth; SI - St Ives; T - Truro

Cornwall’s John Bassett receiving his award from St Ives mayor Cllr Michael Peters in March 1959, winning his first singles title the following year. He won it three times in a row. In 1965-66 Cornwall won division two West and in that season, Bassett did not lose to anyone, anywhere. After a break when he was married, Bassett returned to win the county singles title five times in a row but astonishingly missed several years then on religious grounds. In 1976, Cornwall played England in a friendly to commemorate the county association’s twenty-fifth anniversary. Cornwall lost 1-8 but Bassett won one. Now, in 1985 there may be a few grey hairs on the distinguished old head of John Bassett but Cornwall’s godfather is as sharp as ever and still chalking up wins for his county.

Some matches may pose problems. The county’s chief rivals in the division could well be Bedfordshire, who they will have met by the time these notes are read.

Julian Wheel, representing the Ely league, has won the Constable Cup for the first time by beating U21 players from the other Cambridgeshire leagues at Haverhill Meat Products. Julian won all his four sets while holder Peter Holliday (March), Kevin Gray (Cambridge and England cadet No 11 Jonathan Collins (Wisbeach) each won two.

Results: Wheel b Gray 18, 18; b Collins 11, 11; b Holliday 12, -10, 10; b R Cushen (Haverhill)12. 8. Gray b Cushen 16, 6, b Holliday 18, -23, 19. Holliday b Collins 11, 7; b Cushen 12, 16. Collins b Cushen 26, 16; b Gray 16, -19, 20.


Disappointing drop for Dunstable

The season started for the Dunstable league with a drop in membership. This has meant that the league has been reduced to just two divisions - the junior section and division three being omitted.

It was disappointing news for the league organisers who were finding the junior section a useful launching pad for young talent. But there are hopes that it may be revived if membership picks up in the near future.

The flag of the Luton league, however, continued to fly high with Julian Wheel, representing the Ely league, as well as by beating the county’s chief rivals in the division could well be Bedfordshire, who they will have met by the time these notes are read.

With the progression of last season’s leading juniors into the senior ranks, the Cornwall junior rankings show many changes from last season:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
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Converted from a disused laundry,
phase 1 of the long-term project is
complete. It provides playing facilities
for three match and six practice tables
on the upper floor
and, on the lower floor, two match
and four practice tables along with
shower and toilet.

That in itself is impressive but
Plymouth are already working on
phase 2 to give them a reception
area, refreshment facilities, commit-
tees and committee rooms.

The headquarters are a just
reward for Plymouth's vision and the
way they have tackled the long-term
challenge.

Wilson on top

While most of Devon's top players are
back on the road, a ranking
tournament held in September
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Gary Wilson, the county cham-
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beating the No 1 Paul Whiting in a tremendously close and
exciting match.

Mike Short was also in fine form
and moved up the table from fifth
to third. With players of the calibre
of Paul Giles, Gary Lambert and
Tony Sweet standing at fourth, fifth
and sixth, the county has much to
be proud of.

Richard Atkin held his hold on
the junior boys No 1 spot, with
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to claim the top three.

 Spirits are currently high in the
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tionally well.

The two put their success down to
plenty of practice, which is just what
Gary Lambert is missing now that
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Gary Wilson, however, for
Global Sports Plymouth, has made a
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Sister Jane, in her first junior
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Lower at the Wiltshire and another
Plymouth player, Paul Thomas, has
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CLAYTON LEADS DORSET SUPER LEAGUE

Martin Hughes reports

Plymouth Centre opens

Devon's Dorothy White reports

Work and Flu hit Durhan

by Harry Black

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ST IVES CADET TOURNAMENT

David Deller

A new venture by the St Ives table
tennis club in Cambridgeshire
brought together 24 club teams from
8 counties in the Eastern region
when nearly 100 youngsters contes-
ted cadet and U12 team events at
St Ives Recreation Centre on 22nd
September.

Clubs from Beds, Bucks, Cambs,
Herts, Hunts, Norfolk, Northants and
Suffolk were in contention for the
two titles. In two very exciting
finals Barnet Centre (He) defeated
Dunstable (Bd) 2:4 for the cadet
championship whilst home club St
Ives beat Bedford Modern School by
the same margin to lift the U12
trophy.

Final placings

Cadets (top 10 from 16)
1 Barnet
2 Dunstable
3 Luton
4 Bedwell
5 Norwich
6 St Ives
7 March
8 Bedford
9 St Neots
10 Norman Centre (Norwich)

U12s (top 6 from 8)
1 St Ives
2 Bedford Modern
3 St Neots
4 Peterborough
5 St Neots
6 Bletchley

Cadet players awards

James Petersen (Bedwell); Mark
Wilson (Norwich); Tracey Slater (St
Neots); Alex Diamond (Woburn Sands)

Cadet Player of the tournament

Jem Black (Barnet)

U12s player awards

M Sydenham (Bedford); M Holton
(Peterborough)

U12s Player of the tournament

Jem Black (Barnet)

Sponsored by: Specialised
Mouldings (cadets); ARC (Under
12); APC and Rowells (players
awards); Tudor Health and Lenos
fashion shop (finals) and Tes Sport
(equipment). It is hoped to stage the
tournament at the same time next
season with double the number of
teams - U12s on the Saturday and
Cadets on the Sunday.
The working party of Clive Oakman (county development officer), Margaret Darnell (Brentwood league), Roy Franklin (Brantree league) and Colin Trundle (Chelmsford league), which compiled "The Future of Table Tennis in Essex" report said they had been most encouraged by the positive responses they had received.

The report, presented in October, was based on three questionnaires that had been devised for: a. all club players; b. Management Committee members over the past five years; and, c. current league officers.

Two avenues became apparent in the 31-page report: the short-term options containing thought-provoking ideas and statements — some of which have already led to wider discussion and action; and, the longer term which involve deeper thought, planning, rule changes, etc.

The working party comment... "we have no magic wand"... "we do not have one solution"... "we are at present restricting the opportunity for people to play"... "we need more table time and more improved venues"... "the decline in numbers playing our sport is slowing down"... "we are confident that this report will help provide a platform to turn the corner and attract more interest."

But after junior, cadet and veteran trials the following ranking lists were released:

**Junior boys**

**Junior girls**

**Cadet boys**

**Cadet girls**

**Veteran men**

**Veteran women**

---

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE CLUB ON THE UP**

*by Alf Pepperd*

This season, the Rudford and Highleadon club under the guidance of chairman Max Hathaway and hard-working general secretary Stenneth Salisbury are going from strength to strength. They have entered eleven teams in the city Junior boys league with a sprinkling of young players joining their more established counterparts in the lower divisions to provide for the game's future. No other Gloucestershire clubs with that number of teams playing regular league table tennis can spring to mind.

Meanwhile, the most exciting news to surface recently came from a meeting held in October to discuss the possible reformation of the Cirencester league. The County Premier league was played there recently in an effort to attract attention to the sport and now it looks as if there could be some positive result.

First county rankings of the season:

**Men**

**Women**

---

**FACILITIES FOUND**

*by David Deller*

In such a small county as Huntingdonshire with only three member leagues, the association is particularly proud of the facilities we are able to offer.

The Peterborough and District association have achieved an ambition — one they have had for many years — in which they have obtained a five table venue, exclusively for table tennis.

The centre when they were given the keys was a very basic building. The facilities for playing were non-existent, no table, no water, no gas, no toilets, etc. You name it — it was not there.

Now they have all the facilities required for playing County standard matches and, shortly, when new lighting is installed, the Centre will be up to the standard for playing national matches.

All this has only been achieved with very hard work. The hard work, as usual, of the very few. Everybody who is involved in table tennis, whether organising or playing, in the district of Peterborough and the surrounding counties acknowledge a debt to those few for providing a first-class venue for the furtherance of table tennis.

In the table tennis section at the Cambridgeshire games held at St Ives Recreation Centre recently Huntingdonshire represented by Keith Willett, Philip Cole, Keith Lakin, Sarah Bignell and Doreen Wakefield won the section by four points from East Cambs with Fenland 3rd. In all five districts of Cambs were represented. Hunts went on to win the overall competition.

On the tournament front 11 year old Andrew Hover reached the semi-final of the Wiltshire Junior open in the U12 singles and followed this by reaching the last eight of the Grove in October.

Local youngsters Jill Baldwin, Tracey Slater and Simon Pyke all qualified for the national trials from the Eastern regional U17 ranking tournament at Banet recently. In the corresponding cadet tournament Tracey Slater, Julie Haslop and Jonathan Wilsher also qualified.

Hunts Central juniors travelled to Norwich for their Carter Cup encounter represented by Simon Pyke, Matthew Poole and Ian Windle. The hosts won a good match 5-2 with Simon and Ian taking one a piece; two other games were lost narrowly in the third. Neil Pickard the host's very talented youngster was outstanding.
**County Notes**

**HAMPSTEAD**

David Cosway

The season started for Hampshire with a new captain for the senior first team. 35 year old Chris Shetler is an excellent choice for this job - he must command the respect of his team having been county champion twice himself.

It is good to see someone these days who has reached the top and therefore taken a great deal from the game, now being prepared to put something back in. His knowledge of table tennis and the advice he can pass on to his team members will be invaluable. I hope his inspiration will help get the county out of its present low ebb.

Having said that, I am sure none of the Hampshire committee, after appointing Chris to the position, expected him to beat everyone at the pre-season trial and finish No 1 on the day. Marvelous to see, but hardly a good reflection on the up and coming players for someone of Chris' age to sweep the field.

Unfortunately the current county champion Clive Young could not make the trials and returns to the No 1 spot.

Sarah will probably be given the chance of improving herself at senior level rather than wasting her time playing in the third division for the juniors. But she is hard pushed in the rankings with England senior No 38 Cheryl Buttery and the England No 45 and county champion Kathy Ridgard breathing down her neck.

**Men**

1. Graham Toole (G&F)
2. Rhamish Bhalla (AI)
3. Chris Shetler (S)
4. Clive Young (B)
5. Micky Sinnanan (P)

**Women**

1. Jill Green (AI)
2. Sarah Hammond (S)
3. Cheryl Buttery (S)
4. Kathy Ridgard (WU)
5. Barbara Clarke (AI)

**Junior Boys**

1. Paul Hudless (AI)
2. Richard Mandair (S)
3. Phil Watson (G&F)
4. Martin Johnstone (S)
5. Jason Hicks (B)

**Junior Girls**

1. Sarah Hammond (S)
2. Rachel Cheffey (S)
3. Lisa Rice (P)
4. G Melham (B)
5. D Taylor (B)

You do the job?". The dedicated few in table tennis are always the backbone of the sport; the county's thanks go to Keir for all the time and effort he has put into the game and for his work on the county's behalf.

The first batch of junior inter-town block matches gave the following results:

1. Aldershot 6
2. Southampton A 4; Portsmouth 1
3. Bournemouth A 9; Aldershot 5
4. Bournemouth A 5; Southampton B 6
5. Portsmouth 4.

**Division 2**

1. Gosport/Fareham 10
2. Alton 0; Basingstoke 6
3. Bournemouth B 1; Gosport/Fareham 9
4. Basingstoke 7

In the first division, favourites Bournemouth were held to a draw by Aldershot with Paul Hudless losing to Jason Haygarth in the vital singles, deuce in the third. However, in Aldershot's 6-4 win over Southampton A, he gained a deuce in the third win over Martin Johnson to ensure his teams victory. The second batch of block matches are scheduled for Sunday 23rd February 1986. Another date for the diary is the Hampshire junior closed on Sunday 12th January at the Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton.

**NEW SHIRT FOR NIGEL**

by George Yates

Donning a Lancashire shirt for the first time, former Cheshire player, Nigel Eckersley, joined Stephen Scowcroft, John Hilton and Steve Turner for the first premier division weekend. Joy Grundy and Jean Parker were set to complete the squad at Tolworth.

Initial ranking lists compiled by the Red Rose selectors read:

1. Stephen Scowcroft
2. Nigel Eckersley
3. John Hilton
4. Steve Turner
5. Paul Hutchings

1. Joy Grundy
2. Jean Parker
3. Amanda Goodwin
4. Paula French
5. Kristina Cox

1. Sean Gibson
2. David Carte
3. Andrew Eden
4. Paul Ward
5. Colin Rourke

1. Andrea Holt
2. Nicola McGraith
3. Kristina Cox
4. Barbara Smallwood
5. Rachel Greenwood

1. Andrew Eden
2. Darryl Snead

3. Matthew Ward
4. Tony Leary
5. Howard Whewell

**Cadet Girls**

1. Barbara Smallwood
2. Karen Richardson
3. Rebecca Greenwood
4. Victoria Fletcher
5. Jenny Draper

In Division 1 of the Lancashire and Cheshire League both last season's champions, Oldham, and runners-up, Bolton, met with initial defeats Oldham being beaten by Barnsley 6-4 and Bolton going down 6-4 to Liverpool.

Tony Taylor was a treble winner for the Lancsman against the doubles when the two Tony's combined. Two wins each for Keith Williams and Kenwright, plus a solo from Hutchings and the doubles, earned the Liverpudlias success despite a treble from Scowcroft to which Dave Carte added one at the expense of Hutchings.

**Results**

Coventry 5
Leamington A 5; Banbury 6
Leamington B 4; Evesham 8
Rugby 2; Walsall 3; Bromsgrove 5;
Evesham 3; Leamington A 7; Leamington B 2; Worcester 8;
Coventry 10; Walsall 0; Banbury 4; Worceester 6;
Bromsgrove 0; Leamington A 10; Coventry 9
Rugby 1; Walsall 0; Worcester 10; Banbury 10
Bromsgrove 0.
Lincoln Crusaders have got off to a good start in division three north of the Hales National League winning two of their first three matches. The first provided a jolt when Oldham, a late replacement for South Yorkshire III arrived at Lincoln with the perennial Derek Schild to play at No3. He proceeded to give a delightful exhibition before an appreciative crowd. Winning both his games, the one against No 2 Brian Hill was excellent, this sort of play could help to increase attendances, though this one was very well supported.

Matt Sheader Crusaders No3 was not at his best and it was left to Hill and Brian Allison to take the two rubbers in a 6-2 defeat. Current county rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>D Skerrett (Sc)</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>M Sheader (Gy)</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>S Worrell (Li)</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>B Hill (Bo)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>S Hunt (Gr)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>R Ludley (Li)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>J Whittam (Gr)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>C Moran (Gy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>W Noon (Gy)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>M Murvell (Li)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>D Allinson (Lo)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>M Ryan (Bo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>J Mole (Gy)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>R Benmore (Gy)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>H Stephens (Gr)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>J Duggan (Gy)</td>
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Reg Billson, secretary/treasurer of the Loughborough league for 20 years, died on 16th October. His hard work in Leicestershire table tennis and his organisation of the English junior closed championships over several years was recognised by the ETTA by his position as a Vice-president.

Reg's involvement with table tennis started at Garendon School when his two children took up the sport. He soon became active in the administration of the local league.

During the last few years, Reg's health had gradually deteriorated but he bravely carried on with his league duties and published the Loughborough league magazine *Behind the Serve*.

Although he did not play himself he was very keen on encouraging youngsters to play the sport. He organised Sunday morning coaching sessions and started the Loughborough ttc to give them the chance of playing in the local league. Reg will be remembered by all his friends in table tennis as a truly likeable man who gave every effort to further the game at local and national level.

His death will leave a tremendous gap in the local league. We send our condolences to his wife Irene who shared Reg's support for table tennis, and to his children Janet and Ivan. Ron Forster, Loughborough & District table tennis league.

Reg Billson

Lincoln Crusaders entered the first team in a Division 2A fixture last season Nottinghamshire juniors were out for success in Staffordshire in their first fixture of the new season.

Fielding Tim Sheppard, Robert Fearn, John Holland, Calire Oldman and Michelle Tomlinson, they took early leads at 3-0 and 4-2 only to see them evaporate at 4-4. That left Claire Oldman, a late substitute for Notts No 1 Kay Mayall, to clinch her singles and set John Holland up to take the last set of the afternoon to secure victory at 6-4.

Fine win in Australia

Many county players will remember Pauline Simpson who recently emigrated to Australia after a number of years table tennis in Nottinghamshire. She has soon gained recognition down under following her brilliant victory in the 2000 area championships. Pauline now goes forward to take part in the national finals.

MIDDLESEX

Steven Rose

Following the junior and cadet trials, Middlesex recently issued the following county rankings:

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<th>David Wells (NMx)</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>Graham Sandley (NMx)</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>John Souter (NaC)</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>Colin Wilson (NMx)</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>Nigel Tyler (NMx)</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Angela Mitchell (NMx)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mark Williams (NMx)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gillian Sharp (NMx)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lesley Tyler (NMx)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Boys</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jonathon Goode (W&amp;H)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>P Szekeres (NMx)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>M Jarvis (NMx)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>T Cutler (W&amp;H)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>J Birian (W&amp;H)</td>
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<td>Junior Girls</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rachel Knight (W&amp;H)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lesley Souter (NaC)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>K Baker (Ac)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>H Sme (W&amp;H)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>S Man (W)</td>
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CADET LEAGUE

$nine$ teams began the new Heart of England cadet league, sponsored by The Cirencester Benefit Society, in September. Worcester, returning to the league after two years absence, headed the table from Coventry and Leamington A. The key to Worcester's success was the form of Sarah Stone and Nicola Jones in their three victories over Walsall, Leamington B and

Newcomers Bathbury, Mark Jackson of Leamington A had a good day - winning all his nine singles matches.

The bottom clubs Rugby, Leamington B, Walsall and Bromsgrove all fielded new players this time out; they can only improve with age and experience at the second session, held again at the Automotive Products centre on 7th December.

Veteran Men

1 | M A Adey (C) | 2 | A Lindsay (C) | 3 | T Campbell (NMx) | 4 | A Taylor (W&H) | 5 | W Brookman (SWMx) |

Veteran Women

1 | K Nunn (SWMx) | 2 | M Symes (W&H) | 3 | E Britton (UX) | 4 | M Proven (W&H) | 5 | B Blanch (Ac) |

Ac - Acton; C - Central; LCS - London Civil Service; NaC - North Acton; NMx - North Middlesex; SWMx - South West Middlesex.

Successful promoted to division 2A last season Nottinghamshire juniors were out for success in Staffordshire in their first fixture of the new season.

Fielding Tim Sheppard, Robert Fearn, John Holland, Calire Oldman and Michelle Tomlinson, they took early leads at 3-0 and 4-2 only to see them evaporate at 4-4. That left Claire Oldman, a late substitute for Notts No 1 Kay Mayall, to clinch her singles and set John Holland up to take the last set of the afternoon to secure victory at 6-4.

Fine win in Australia

Many county players will remember Pauline Simpson who recently emigrated to Australia after a number of years table tennis in Nottinghamshire. She has soon gained recognition down under following her brilliant victory in the 2000 area championships. Pauline now goes forward to take part in the national finals.
OXFORDSHIRE

by Brian Hamilton

Oxford have had a dreadful start to the county championships. The senior team drew at home to Yorkshire. The county selection committee has released the following ranking lists (operative from 1st November):

**Men**
1. Stuart Palmer
2. John Kitchener
3. Russell King
4. Norman Swift
5. David Henderson

**Women**
1. Julie Vansertina
2. Sue Butcher
3. Sylvia Kenyon
4. Dawn Harvey
5. Andrea Ambrose

Junior boys
1. Paul Godding
2. Wayne Shaw
3. Richard Hutchinson
4. Chris Nicholas
5. Darren Earey

Junior girls
1. Sylvia Kenyon
2. Andrea Ambrose
3. Karen Perkins
4. Rosemary Bullock
5. Carol Leech

The Didcot league had a terrible setback when their extremely popular secretary, Paul Aitchison, was killed in a car crash outside the Atomic Energy Establishment at Harwell when on his way to play a league match there. Paul was such an enthusiastic member of the league and was one of the main reasons why Didcot are rapidly emerging as a contender to Oxford as the premier league in the county. He will be sadly missed.

The two regular adversaries continue to fight out the Didcot first division with Didcons and British Harwell on the table, but still to meet in this half. Didcons have recruited county player Clive Morris this season and the Railwaymen have encouraged Harris to travel from Oxford to increase their strength. It will be interesting to see the results of their tussles this year.

The Oxford League has seen a change at the top of the first division, with Kidlington Forum presently at the top and difficult to catch. Under the point per set situation, they have already built up an enormous lead and one which reigned champions Haddenham might find too much, even though they beat Kidlington 7-3 recently.

Unfortunately, this is one of the problems of the point per set system, it can kill off competition rather early in the season. Kidlington's rise to fame this year is, without doubt, due to the addition of Peter Jones to the already strong pair of Abbott and Morris.

The Oxford city side progressed into the next stage of the Willmott Cup competition when they hammered Maidenhead 5-0 but Neil Harris, Arthur Chilvers and Norman Swift could find opposition just a little tougher when they travel to North Middlesex in the next stage!

NORTHANTS

by Dennis Millman

Former Kettering stalwart John Russell had the changing face of table tennis vividly brought home to him when he casually picked up the trusty blade of Leicester Grammar. Using it to give his wife a playful pat he saw it shatter on impact, only to discover that the tenner he instantly offered as compensation barely paid for a season's supply of bicycle glue.

This sad saga not only heralded the appearance of John's son into the league ranks but served also to indicate that the apparent strengths of table tennis can become so fragile that crises of major proportions arise without warning.

At county level the season has opened slowly, with three early championship fixtures postponed, and the junior encounter with Cheshire narrowly lost, despite a sound performance from Richard Wittlott.

On the league scene sponsorship is the order of the day but sponsors need success and only the top teams provide this in regular measure.

Chris Handshaw, Greame McKim and Andy Edmonds, three players who have completed a winning treble in the Northampton, Wellingborough and Kettering premier divisions, certainly have all the credentials.

Supplemented by Keith Nicoll, and playing as Online Communications, they already lead in Northampton, while with Andy Trott replacing Nicoll and their former 'Kettering Town' title changed to 'Well Connected Menswear', they have made an impressive start in Kettering.

John Greenwood has taken over as county match secretary from Jimmy Scope, while Steve Wilson is the new treasurer.

County trials were held in what surely must have been one of the hottest days of the season at the old Gibson Street Baths in Newcastle. Most of the top men and veterans attended - with Peter Mcqueen emerging as the eventual winner - but only four women - Christine Burke (winner), Caron Bush, Joan Leslie and Pauline Long - managed to put in an appearance... a disgraceful state of affairs when to run two senior teams and a veteran team a minimum of five women is required.

Unfortunately, the county is desperately short of qualified umpires. ETTA treasurer and an qualified international umpire

**ADMIMINISTRATIVE ANGST**

Ian Bullock of Suffolk

The retirement of Edna and Dennis Barrett has brought about administrative changes with Joyce Love taking over as county chairman and myself as match secretary. We seem to be having more than our fair share of niggling problems with players moaning about match levies, others chasing computer points at tournaments rather than representing their county, players failing to reply to match invitations, transport difficulties and fixture clashes. Is this what administration is all about?

Lack of co-operation leads to frustration and without co-operation in its infancy I have heard of two seemingly tireless administrators who may decide to call time if things don't improve.

**SCHOOLS**

It is to be hoped that the teachers' pay dispute will be settled quickly as the forthcoming Dunlop Team Championships are bound to be affected by it. At the time of writing, Jack Perkins, who for many years has given his time freely, coaching youngsters at a local Ipswich school, is on the verge of losing his premises as his sessions do not have a strong enough link with education to warrant free use of the facilities. Not surprisingly no teacher can be found to support him during the dispute.

The county selection committee has released the following ranking lists (operative from 1st November):

**Men**
1. Arthur Chilvers
2. Neil Harris
3. Clive Morris
4. Norman Swift
5. Neil Abbott
6. Nat Richardson
7. Peter Jones

**Women**
1. Amanda Shuffelbotham
2. Julie Woodward
3. Eleanor Harrison
4. Carol Kenyon
5. Joan Cave
6. Jackie Windle
7. Mary Thompson

NISSAN STYLE IN NORTHUMBERLAND

by Pauline Long

Japanese staff at the Nissan car plant in Washington took up the challenge recently to show their skills at table tennis. They agreed to play a friendly match against a North-East team during a major exhibition of table tennis in Washington in November. The event also included an exhibition tournament between top Northumberland and Durham players.

Peter McQueen, Neil McMaster and Ian Robertson (Northumberland), together with Cliff Olsson, Dave Godbold and Tom Robson (Durham) agreed to take part. The event was sponsored by Bradleys of Washington, Sunderland Football Club who own the Centre, provided it free of charge.

The Northumberland League season commenced in September and it looks as though the main challengers to premier division title-holders Byker CC 'A' will again be Tyne Dock YC and North Shields YMCA 'A'. There are three new teams in the premier division this season, Wansbeck and Electricists 'B', who finished as division 1 winners and runners-up respectively, and third placed Lemington CC have taken the place of the now disbanded Proster and Gambler Radens teams.

Newcastle YMCA have lost their premises and now play at North Road, while Gladston Terrace are playing at Gateshead Leisure Centre. This seems to be a sign of the times, as apart from the usual drop in the number of competing teams, other clubs in the lower divisions are also having to share venues.

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CHERYL AND RICHARD SET TO DOMINATE

by Frank Hams from Surrey

Cheryl Bateman and Richard Jones both remained unbeaten in the girls and boys Surrey junior ranking tournaments. Both appear as if they could dominate Surrey’s junior table tennis for the next year or so.

Matthew Pernet, Simon Phillips, Stephen Defries and Grahame Connolly (still a cadet) with Lisa Prichett, Catherine Binks, and Tracy Prichett ranked behind the top two in that order; will attempt to stop this domination.

The cadets with their eyes set on the future are Amanda Dewsbury, Karen Ashley, Elizabeth Cocks and Miranda Markham for the girls; and for the boys Paul Carter, Jason Blake and Alexander Hole.

All the junior and cadets named were to represent Surrey at the London and SE region junior and cadet ranking trials at the Angel Centre, Tooting, Kent. By the time you read these notes, however, they will have taken place. The other counties in this region are Sussex, Kent and Middlesex.

But they nudged the Surrey selectors in the Hastings 2-Star tournament by reaching the mens singles quarter-finals before losing to Des Chartery (Ex) after beating Charles, Andrew Dodd and John Green impressively. The two Steves - Davis and Holloway won their groups and were due to play each other but Davis scratched because of a cold. Holloway then went on to beat Ritchie Venner (Sx) before losing to John Souter (Mx) in the third.

Jane Barella had an impressively win against Helen Williams and gained many more ranking points. After the game Jane’s smile was justifiably as wide as Hastings pier.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

With only three teams in the Stiga county championships and two of them in premier divisions, only the junior second team was involved in the first round of matches this season. This team will again be division 2A against strong opposition.

They opened their programme with a home match against newly promoted Nottingham who were unbeaten in last season’s division 3A. With Matthew Harvey unavailable due to studies and Angela Sanders seemingly unwilling to play for the second team, the depleted Staffs set out to win the visitors close, finishing with a 6-4 scoreline which could so easily have been reversed.

The fiftieth anniversary of this tournament was held at the Hastings Sauna Bowl, euphemistically called the ‘Hastings Sports Centre’. The temperature and humidity in the hall were high and the thriving plants on display were on loan from the Tropical House at Kew Gardens!

An excellent programme was produced despite ‘Bill & Ben’ - a spoof article. I wish they - being so close to HQ - had advocated the complete banning of bicycle glue. That, I could have taken seriously and just think, no need for a sniffometer!

Dave Harding, following his excellent win against David Dodd in the Lewisham 2-Star, did the best of the Surrey contingent in the Wiltshire 2-Star by reaching the third round but then lost to Adrian Moore (Sx); Gordon Chapman lost in the second round but Mike Hammond, Jerome Jonah, Bole and Davis - who had beaten Keith Horton and Paul Lewis to qualify - all failed in the first round.

Nicky Mason recorded his first tournament win of the season at Brixton by beating Kevin Satchell of Wiltshire in the final of the Lambeth 2-Star.

All the players mentioned in the Hastings tournament took part but, apart from Mason, Harding lasted the longest losing eventually in the fourth round.

Barella won her group but lost to Teresa Moore in the second round. Popkiewicz, Deborah Simmonds and Cheryl Bateman all lost in their groups.

A feature of Larkhall’s second team in the Hales National League is Steve Davis’ excellent start to the season. Steve, one of three Surrey players in the team is replying to his critics by being more consistent. At present he is playing like his future self. Without Simon Claxton, Steve in the county.

Meanwhile, behind Murray who was due to drop a game came Ken Walton. And two of last year’s juniors, Mark Roden and Tim Holden, proved they are making the transition to the senior game in style.

In the women’s trial there was surprise in store as Louise Davis, the top contender for a place in the first team, was beaten by her main rival Sandra Roden. Both duly won places in the side but it would need a long and accurate memory to follow when Louise was last beaten in the county.

The selection of the two senior teams was as follows: First team (Jukes, Claxton, Walton, Louise Davis, Sandra Roden) and second team (Roden, Holden, Willie Ahern, Lynda Reid, Helen Pogmore).

Three Worcestershire girls are roughing up the boys in the Midlands cadet league - in company with the only boy on their side, Stephen Oliver. Playing normally against all male opposition they have remained undefeated as a team in their first three encounters.

ADVANCE WARNING UNHEEDED

by Doug Moss from Worcestershire

Murray Jukes might have been the predictable winner at the county senior trials in Worcester but a mile more difficult to forecast was the absence of Simon Claxton, Steve Dunning and Trevor Washington - despite considerable advance notice of the dates. With tough matches looming in division 2 the county can do with all the help it can get.

Meanwhile, behind Murray who did not drop a game came Ken Walton. And two of last year’s juniors, Mark Roden and Tim Holden, proved they are making the transition to the senior game in style.

In the women’s trial there was surprise in store as Louise Davis, the top contender for a place in the first team, was beaten by her main rival Sandra Roden. Both duly won places in the side but it would need a long and accurate memory to follow when Louise was last beaten in the county.

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New benefits!

ASSOCIATION OF TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS

Hon President: Johnny Leach MBE
Hon Chairman: Barry Johnson (Tel: 06468 2978)
Hon Treasurer: Jill Hammersley-Parker MBE
Hon Secretary: Colin Wilson (Tel: 0707 874751)
Coordinator: Derek Braddley (Tel: 06468 3763)
Committee members: David Barr, Karen Witt

NEW BENEFITS NOW AVAILABLE!

Substantial Discount of 15% against all bats/shoes/clothing etc. from our sole stockist supplier "Teesport", who will dispatch direct to our members. This could save you a lot of money! Bat rubbers at very special prices!

English Open - Half Price Tickets! We have arranged this concession with ETTA for block booking of our members, and if demand warrants it, we can arrange low cost accommodation at good hotels. If numbers permit, we will also organise low-price coach trips from several pick-up points in the country on Saturday, 23rd January final date.

Free Draw for Finals Day Tickets - Members joined by 31st December 1985 will be automatically entered for the chance to win 2 tickets and free travel arranged by the ATTP.

Celebrity Exhibition Half Price Tickets ATTP are currently trying to stage a televised exhibition in aid of Africa, involving stage and screen stars as well as our own top ranked England player-members - we hope to have definite news of this shortly.

ALL of these benefits, and others still in the pipeline, for our ludicrously low membership fee! What are you waiting for? If you want to help us to make table tennis a really popular, major national sport, don’t delay, post the form today!

ATTP Membership form

Enclose £2.00 cheque or postal order made payable to “ATTP” and post to: Colin Wilson, Hon Sec ATTP, 25 Broadslee Crescent, CUFFLEY, Herts.
The county trials for women, juniors and cadets proved to be more satisfactory than in previous years with an attendance of about 80% of players invited.

The junior boys event was won by R Singh (Birmingham) and the girls by C Woodward (Leamington). The women's trial was won by Lynn Sibley (Leamington).

**West Warwickshire tournament**

The West Warwickshire tournament was run again, despite the late withdrawal of sponsorship, to avoid disappointing many players who look forward to this annual event.

There was a scare or two in store for some of the higher ranked players from the county's juniors but Carl Morgan and Sandra Peakman retained their titles. Carl defeated Philip Gunn and Sandra Di St Ledger in a repeat of last year's final. The doubles event went to John Chandler and Peter Machin against Mark Browne and Geoff Hall.

**Midlands Telecon**

The Midlands area of the British Telecom championships was won by Richard Tanner and Mary Rose both of Birmingham. The two players will now go on to represent the Midlands Area at the British Telecom national championships in Bath.

**National League**

The Olton and West Warwickshire club have joined the county's elite in the Haies National League. Invited to join division one following the withdrawal of another side, the team includes Barry Johnson, ranked 39 in the country and Keith Rodger a Solihull policeman and Scottish No 2. National junior No 4 Adrian Dixon is also on the books as is Andrew Rich the Staffordshire No 2 together with national veterans champion Ralph Gummell.

**The county has always tried to support the Sports Aid Foundation in Leeds, and many local enthusiasts remember last season's table tennis marathon which featured the Sports Council's Cyril Villiers and my predecessor in this column, Les D'Arcy.**

A useful sum of money was raised and playing in this year's fundraising event will be Colin Monath - a well-known figure in coaching circles in the county who has done much to help up-and-coming players, particularly in the Leeds/Bradford area.

Colin and his wife Hetta will be helping to strengthen the county's link with the SAF by competing in the Leeds marathon. By the time these notes appear, they will no doubt be busily collecting sponsor money from leagues, clubs and individuals across Yorkshire.

**3-Star hopes up**

Apologies are due to all those players who were disappointed by the cancellation of the proposed Yorkshire and Humberside 3-Star which, it was hoped, would have taken over from the slot occupied by the former Humberside 3-Star with no break in continuity.

However, good news of the month is that confirmation has been received from the ETTA that next year's championships will go ahead, most probably on the traditional October date with the venue, of course, Halifax.

**COUNTY NOTES**

**WARWICKSHIRE NOTES**

by Mary Rose

Former English champion Bryan Merritt won the Wiltshire veterans ranking tournament. National coach Merritt met former Swindon champion Ernie Howell in the semi-finals where Merritt won a marathon first game 24-22 after it had gone to extra time at 17-15. He then went on to march into the final by winning the second game 21-15.

Brian Powell beat Basil Thompson 21-16, 21-11 in the other semi-final of the tournament. Merritt had little trouble in the final beating Powell 21-12, 21-11. The women's final was won by Sylvia Morse who beat Gwen Hazell 21-12, 21-12.

Wiltshire's senior table tennis team got away to a flying start in the county championships with a 6-4 victory over Somerset at Yeovil. It was the first time in three years that Wiltshire, with two players on debut due to the absence of some of the higher ranked players, had won their opening match of the championships.

Wiltshire champion Kevin Satchell gave his team a super start when he blasted his way to a 21-14, 21-10 win over David Lee. But then Paul Tuck, in his first senior match, tried hard but found the pace too hot as he lost 14-21 10. He Brian Reeves. Kevin Edwards restored Wiltshire's lead with his 21-7, 20-22, 21-17 victory over Lee Sadler. And with the vital second doubles rubber from Claire Naister and Melinda Carey under their belt followed by a win in the men's doubles from Satchell and Edwards Wiltshire seemed on the path to victory. Two singles defeats, though, put the match back in the balance before Satchell and Naister put the result for Wiltshire beyond attack. Somerset's only consolation came with a final victory from Reeves in the men's singles rubber.

Meanwhile, Wiltshire's No 1 veteran team also made a tremendous start to their campaign when they walloped Hertfordshire 9-0. Wins in the opening singles, the men and mixed doubles put them on the right road and they never looked back.

And in the Thatcham invitation team tournament Swindon's under-17 side won their section. The side, of Steve Ely, Lee Goldthorpe, Javinder Singh and Neil Everden, beat Aldershot 6-0, Newbury 5-1, Milton Keynes 4-2 and Reading 4-2 with a 3-3 draw against Maidhead.

The U15 team of Colin Morgan, Paul Timmis, Mark Nelson and Nathan Pickett were runners up in their section.

**Wiltshire juniors**

The Wiltshire juniors were much improved and ran out 9-1 winners. Both Manning and Turner won two sets each, Manning and Griffiths winning the men's doubles and Heidi Cotter and Sue Roberts took the women's doubles. The two women also won their singles to round off a very good performance by the home side.

**Current rankings**

**Men**

1 Mark Thomas
2 Jason Jenner
3 John Ellis
4 Paul Griffiths
5 John Hook

**Women**

1 Heidi Cotter
2 Evelyn Wright
3 Justine Thomas
4 Sue Roberts
5 Karen Buckle

Clwyd juniors in their opening match of the season had very little joy in their 10-0 away defeat to Lancashire in the opening round.

They lost once more at home against Cumbria. This time 2-8 and for Clwyd their two wins came from James Tapp who beat Gordon Drane 21-13, 21-10; the other win was by Lee Thacker who beat Martin Lewis 21-13, 21-11.

**CLWYD**

Charles Bayliss

Clwyd found Northumberland on top form an although they started with a win by John Ellis who beat Neil McMaster 21-17, 21-18 this was to be their only score of the match as they lost 9-1.

Both Terry Turner and Paul Griffiths took Ian Robertson to a third game in sets only to fall in the third game.

However, with the return of Trevor Manning to the county team against Nottingham Clwyd were much improved and ran out 9-1 winners. Both Manning and Turner won two sets each, Manning and Griffiths winning the men's doubles and Heidi Cotter and Sue Roberts took the women's doubles. The two women also won their singles to round off a very good performance by the home side.

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The junior second team who beat Staffordshire 8-2 at Bradford called on players from only two leagues - the Hull-Wakefield axis! Hazel Kavanagh (Hull) and Andy Ball (Wakefield) made their debut for the Tykes; John Bult, Alaric Bassano and Kathryn Bray completed the quintet.

The Yorkshire association wish to pay tribute to Hold-Rain Windows, the main sponsors of the English v Austria European league match at Halifax; to Swan National car hire who provided transport for the team; and to the leisure services department of Calderdale Council and Borough council which dealt with all the arrangements for the match.
Swansea sweat row puts Smith in a spin

Welsh No 1 Evelyn Wright demonstrated a much tighter defence and greater willingness to attack when she beat England ranked junior Claire Potts in both the Junior Girls singles and in the semi-final of the women’s event at the Swansea Open on 28th September.

Janet Smith, Scotland’s entry had played well to reach the final, including a pull-up from being well down in the third to Lesley Tyler, although beating Evelyn, fell to Heidi Cotter and dropped to third place.

Much improved

Anthony Jones, with John Ellis absent, earned his position as No 2 but was given a good run by the much-improved Paul Jones of Newport.

There was some encouraging play amongst the lower-ranked junior girls, although Evelyn Wright is head and shoulders above them at present. Cadet Justine Thomas, also from North Wales, indicated her continued improvement by coming next to Evelyn, Joanna Lee, the Swansea junior was next, with Theresa Petty following her Swansea Open win, with a demonstration of tense defence and greater willingness to attack when she beat Mark Thomas and Jeanes for the absence of Mark Thomas and Brian Janes, both victims of health problems.

Nevertheless there was some first class table tennis, and a reaffirmation of Nigel Tyler’s No 1 position after the National Coach Alan Griffiths who did not play.

Evelyn Wright also confirmed her position at No 1 following her Swansea Open win, with a demonstration of tighter defence and greater willingness to attack when she beat Mark Thomas and Jeanes for the absence of Mark Thomas and Brian Janes, both victims of health problems.

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National Girobank continue sponsorship

Once again National Girobank are sponsoring the two junior/cadet assessment tournaments this season; the first at Meadowbank on 22nd September.

Top cadets Sarah Hurry and Christopher Woess opted to play in the junior events and won through to the top positions. Sarah won all her matches whilst Christopher lost only to Neil Cameron (Stirlingshire), defeating David Low 19 – 21, 22 – 21, 21 – 12.

In the cadet boys Euan Walker (West of Scotland) headed the table with West Dunbarton's Andrew Bruce and the McKellar brothers taking the next three places. Claire Hood (Edinburgh) won the cadet girls event with Catherine Symons (Orkney) in second place.

Scotrail National League

This season the Scottish National League, which has received generous sponsorship from Scotrail, got under way on 28th September with 23 teams in three divisions.

Greaves Sport (Central YMCA) of Glasgow, top team of the past two seasons, with several of the leading Scottish players in their squad, would appear to have few challengers to prevent them winning division 1 once again.

Marathon Girl

Carole Dalrymple took part in the recent Glasgow Marathon, braving the wind and rain, to complete the course in around 4 hours and raising over £250 for her club - Falkirk TTC.

This season the Scottish TTA is introducing computer ranking lists with the assistance of the Manchester firm Patsun Services. The finishing positions in the two early season assessment tournaments were used as the basis for calculating the initial 'starting points' in the six categories.

McIlroy wins assessment tournament

With David Hannah in Germany and Richard Yule now retired from serious play it was David McIlroy who headed the table at the end of the day after defeating John Broe 21 – 16, 16 – 21, 24 – 22 in the last match at Meadowbank.

In the women's event Carole Dalrymple finished undefeated but she had a close call against Janet Smith who won the first game 21 – 19 and led 19 – 16 in the second before losing 21 – 23 and 11 – 21 in the third.

Cadets Sarah Hurry and Jennifer Hook did well to finish in 3rd and 9th positions.

Top Places

Men
1. David McIlroy
2. John Broe
3. Ian McLean
4. Graeme Docherty
5. Brian Wright

Women
1. Carole Dalrymple
2. Janet Smith
3. Sarah Hurry
4. Valerie Thomson
5. Eleanor McIlroy

The Scottish team: advertising the best way to get around Scotland - Scotrail. Left to right: Janet Smith, Carole Dalrymple, David Hannah, David McIlroy and John Broe

Photo by Denis George
Gold for Britain in disabled championships

Doug Nicholls in Delden, Holland

Two hundred and twelve players representing 19 countries enjoyed the hospitality and efficient organisation of the Dutch people at this year’s European Table Tennis Championships for the Disabled in Delden. The championships were opened by Princess Margriet of Holland and attracted considerable media coverage in Europe.

The championships brought together some of the world’s finest disabled players in fierce, but extremely friendly competition. Table tennis for the disabled is broken down into classifications for individual and team events according to the nature of different disabilities. Broadly speaking these classifications are based around wheelchair, amputee, cerebral palsy and other disability players. An open tournament is also played as well as, for the first time this year, a mixed team event.

This was my first international event playing for Great Britain. I had polio in one leg and took up table tennis sixteen years ago as a thirteen year-old impressed by Chester Barnes. I have since played in the standard local leagues and knew nothing of the British disabled table tennis scene.

Moreover, I never considered myself disabled and I was pleased to realise at the championships that players with disabilities were united not because of their handicaps but because of their commitment to table tennis.

The overall standards were incredible. The competition highly professional with international umpires, superb playing conditions and busy team coaches and managers.

With two new coaches and several new players, it was very much a first outing after a year of regular training for the British squad. Nevertheless, commitment was high and results were good.

In the women’s Class 1B wheelchair event Jon Blackburn and Zia Neil crushed Switzerland 3-0 to take the gold. In the mens Class John Welsh played consistently to take the bronze behind two powerful Swedish players.

In the women’s wheelchair Class 2 Ann Peskey and Val Beck took a very well deserved silver having beaten the strong Danish and Hungarian teams but losing finally to the Austrians. Ann Smith, Britain’s No 1 woman player, gained a silver in Class 5 going down to one of Belgium’s unexpectedly brilliant players, Ingrid Borre.

Ann also did well to take the bronze in the open event and there were plenty of near misses. This was particularly true in the mens Class 5 team event in which, despite having beaten the very useful Swedish and Belgian teams in the group Pete Gabriel and Doug Nicholls were denied a bronze on points.

Taking the 32 main competitions both team and individual and giving three points for gold, two for silver and one for bronze, the final league table of results was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>1 West Germany</td>
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<td>2 France</td>
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Taking the open Class 5, Penaud is much sought after as a professional coach and player on the continent.

It was from my first, and hopefully not last, entry into international table tennis that the British team has tremendous potential and that there must be hundreds of players between Lands End and John O’Groats who could join the squad.

It was also clear from Delden that table tennis for the disabled is a vital and highly skillful part of the sport of table tennis which deserves to be taken much more seriously by every players.

Moreover, I never considered myself disabled and I was pleased to realise at the championships that players with disabilities were united not because of their handicaps but because of their commitment to table tennis.

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Significantly Great Britain was poorly represented in what may be considered the least disabled classes. This probably reveals a lack of awareness of disabled table tennis rather than a lack of good players around the country with relatively minor impairments.

The West Germans were clearly the strongest nation, with brilliant players in most sections, a well-organised team and a methodical approach to competition. An example of their strength in depth is Kreidel, their best wheelchair player.

An ex-junior international before an accident, Kreidel would easily be a leading division 1 player in Britain and would probably push into some able-bodied county teams. Similarly the Frenchman Penaud, who won the mens class 5. Penaud is much sought after as a professional coach and player on the continent.

It was from my first, and hopefully not last, entry into international table tennis that the British team has tremendous potential and that there must be hundreds of players between Lands End and John O’Groats who could join the squad.

It was also clear from Delden that table tennis for the disabled is a vital and highly skillful part of the sport of table tennis which deserves to be taken much more seriously by every players.

I hope that local clubs and the ETFA will begin to take note of Britain’s disabled players.
For the Record

Down in Bournemouth for the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) Conference, Rubberneck was interested to read local press reports of a "Superleague" in the Dorset area.

Wanting, naturally, to ensure that each of the participants were able to enjoy the full benefits of ETTA membership, Rubberneck scoured the affiliation records for this previously unknown competition.

Alas in vain. Whether the Rule book covers 'teams' of one has yet to be tested.

Howling Support

Whilst at the two-day conference for governing bodies — considered so vital by at least one major sport that it declined to attend — Rubberneck bumped into ex-Sports Minister, Denis Howell.

Howell's speech promoting Birmingham's case for the 1992 Olympic Games was generally acknowledged as the highpoint of the sports administrators shindig. With table tennis a full Olympic sport in '92 readers will be pleased to know that our two representatives enthusiastically supported the proposals — to be centred around the National Exhibition Centre.

Naughty but Nice

Dot White, Devon's Table Tennis News Correspondent, has written to Rubberneck with some very untoward promotional suggestions.

"Why don't the ETTA produce a car-sticker for table tennis players . . . one that remains decent (difficult part) but amusing?", she asks.

"Eg. Synchro swimmers do it under water and to music. Welders do it in all positions etc.", she quotes.

Suggestions on a postcard please: A free subscription to the best-received not using the words, 'approved rubbers'.

And a Merry Christmas to my reader

Stranger to truth

Just occasionally Rubberneck might resort to the truth, otherwise readers can be assured that the tradition of this new feature will be based upon rumour, innuendo and scandal.

In the words of the well-known table tennis journalist, 'facts are not my strong point'. Any 'facts' for Rubberneck's attention can be communicated via the Editor who may feel inclined to pass them on.

The Year-Late Book

In the Christmas tradition of "things come to those who wait", Rubberneck searched the shops for "Table Tennis 1985" — the ETTA Yearbook commissioned from the mysterious Cremos Publishing.

It appears being chained to the computer keyboard in Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, failed to compete with a high-tec flat and job in Milton Keynes for one half of the Robert Oldfield and Caroline Searle partnership.

Ex PR Committee member Searle departed to the offices of badminton's governing body and has not seen the computer screen since.

"Table Tennis 1986" is rumoured to be near completion.

On Her Majesty's Secret Service

Missing the small print in the morning's national newspapers, leading provincial journalist Rubberneck rang the ETTA office to learn the margin of England's European League victory against Bulgaria.

So depressed was morale however, after the lack-lustre 4-3 defeat, that the spirit of the Falklands War had been employed to relay the score to the world twelve hours after the match ended. Is no news, good news?

Falcon Crest

Officials and competitors at the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed booked in at Coventry's inner-city Crest can be reassured that no nearer hotel was available when the booking was made for the Hinckley tournament.

A "mere fifteen miles away", Rubberneck was pleased so many took advantage of the hotel's facilities. As compensation, guests are invited to enquire about the Crest 'incentive scheme' which provides a stamp for each night stayed. Twenty stamps on a card qualify for a "Free Weekend" at selected hotels.

This Sporting Life

Flicking through the TV channels over the Milton Keynes Top 12 weekend Rubberneck, as a discerning viewer, was surprised to see BBC's "Terry and June", indulging in the noble art over the green table.

Not to be outdone by David Constance of "Breakfast Time", fame, David Taber of Cornelleau had delivered a large box onto the BBC studio set which the two TV stars proceeded to unpack and break the golden rule of "never play against the spouse".
Cooke climbs into contention

Chesterfield's Alan Cooke has climbed into second place in the ETFA's November ranking list, displacing European junior champion Carl Prean. Cooke's position reflects his Australian successes when with Skylet Andrew he travelled to play in the Victoria Cup.

His rise may be short-lived as appears on Tuesday 10th the cut off date for results, 27th December. Bellinger.

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<td>3 Carl Prean (Ryde)</td>
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<td>4 Skylr Andrew (London E15)</td>
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UNBEATABLE OFFERS . . . NOT TO BE REPEATED

A few only available . . . subject to stock

T.T. Nets. £1.95 reduced to £1.25
Rubber . . . pimples in. £10 reduced to £3.00
T.T. Balls. Official XXX. £3.50 dozen

Special commemorative medal struck for the World championships in Birmingham.

In presentation box. Ideal for a trophy. £12.00 reduced to £2.50 each.

Twelve only left.

Alec Brook . . . ADB (London) Ltd., 49-55 Harrow Road, London W2 1JH. Tel: 4025671
Crooked

With reference to 'While Shepherd Watched...' Laurie Darnell reports from Essex in the November issue of Table Tennis News, I was dismayed to find that my lead item about the change of chairmanship had been completely rewritten and was unrecognizable from the report which I submitted.

My original report said:

'Essex starts the new season under the chairmanship of Peter Roden. Peter will combine his new post with that of national councillor. The ex-chairman has not been lost to the Essex table tennis scene. Alan Shepherd has been re-elected to the Junior Affairs and Tournament sub-committee and has become the Waltham Forest representative on the Management committee. As well as being vice-chairman of the North Middlesex league, Alan says that he will referee an umpire whenever he is asked and that he has adopted a 'have stop-watch...will travel' policy.'

Whilst I realize that copy may be cut according to the space available, I, together with the Essex Executive Committee, will not tolerate you as Editor creating your own story under my name. I request that any comments or quotes that you solicit and wish to publish become a separate item under your own byline.

L F Darnell
103 Queenswood Avenue
Hutton
Brentwood
Essex

All contributions are appreciated, Laurie so I prefer to leave bylines in. However, in view of your comments, I wonder whether you have had sight of my circular to contributors sent last July? - Ed.

Magazine

Regular subscribers may wish to have confirmation that Issue No 153 (November) of Table Tennis News was the first of the new season; it not being found possible to issue an October issue.

However, subscribers will not lose out on the eight editions due under their subscription as an August edition is to be introduced. This issue will round-up the late-season tournament and championship results - including the European Youth Championships, and will provide a preview of activities in preparation for the forthcoming season.

For reasons of economy typesetting errors may occur in print from time to time - it being expensive to rectify mistakes. The Editor hopes that practice will make perfect and, in the meantime, will endeavour to limit such occasions to as few as possible.

Rubber Ruler

It is unfortunate that you appear to have closed the discussion about the legality of unmarked racket rubbers with 'facts' that are incorrect.

Under ITTF regulations, the requirement for the covering material to beat the ITTF logo applies only to World, Continental and Open International Championships which in this country means the English Open. If the rule were adopted for other open tournaments the organisers would be obliged to note the fact on the entry form as an exception to the normal regulations; in other words, they would have to opt in rather than opt out.

In England, open tournaments are run in accordance with ETTA tournament regulations and it would require a decision by the National Council to make such a rule applicable. However, all this is irrelevant to the English Closed, which is not subject to international regulations but is wholly under the control of the ETFA.

I am surprised, therefore, that anyone should have thought that there was any question of ITTF-authorised covering material being required at the English Closed, a purely domestic competition.

Colin Clemett
ETTA Vice Chairman

Publicity Problem

I was sad to see this season's demise of the top team from Jacques Generation of Fareham although they are still running their local team and retain their Jacques sponsorship. I had many pleasant afternoons watching the club's efforts to bring top table tennis to this area.

Unfortunately, I was very much in the minority supporting the team and felt that the efforts of the club were not given the support they deserved. After all, they had two of the top three in England in their ranks but drew disappointing crowds with most of the time players and officials outnumbering spectators.

Publicity, however, is not the strong suit in table tennis's hands at the moment. A report in the local Southampton newspaper recently is a typical example. The report, on a Ringwood tournament, rightly headlined junior Michael Aucterlonie for winning the men's singles.

He was stated to have beaten three County players in the process. He may have beaten ranked players but no-one has played for Hampshire entered. Similarly, while many would like to see Sarah Hammond, England No 4, I still feel she has a little way to go to reach this exalted level. Laura Savaka stated to be Hampshire No 2 was, in fact last year's No 2 junior and is now a senior at No 8.

These misleading and erroneous reports hardly help the sport. I know the theory that any publicity is good publicity but surely if a report is published it should at least be correct on facts.

Players invited

Through the columns of your magazine I wonder if I might call all players who have some kind of physical disability.

We would be pleased to hear from any players who would be interested in qualifying for the Great Britain squad which would compete in next year's World championship, the 1987 European championships in Sweden and the Olympic Games in South Korea.

We have recently returned from Holland where the 1985 European championships were held. The team selected had, in our opinion, a very good tournament and we came home with several medals. However, we were all quite amazed with the standard of play and there is no doubt in our minds that the Great Britain team has much work to do in order to compete for the gold medals especially in the open events.

Many of the opposing players, the Germans, French, Swedish and Hungarians in particular would quite easily hold their own in our county and lower national league events. However, we are seeking players, not necessarily of this standard, but who are willing to put in some effort.

You do not necessarily have to be a registered disabled person to qualify, any permanent injury or disability to an arm or leg may be enough.

If you feel you may qualify please contact: Bob Churchill of BLASA 01-301 0595; Tony Teff of BLASA 0279 38775; Bob Aldritch of BASA 0378 74115 (b) or 01-980 4400 (b) or Mark Mitchell of BPSS 01-435 3105.

Bob Churchill
5 Marne Avenue,
WELLING DA16 2EZ
THE SPECIALIST SPORTS BOOKSHOP

and play with members of our children from our club to stay our son's godmother, first met might not have ventured ships in Helsinki and hope to go sightseeing.

Butlins. On the Isle of Man we hope to go to Italy - and all because I play table tennis.

In Holland we stayed with our son's godmother, first met by a table tennis player where I coached as a cadet. In France, we twice took children from our club to stay and play with members of our twin town.

The visit to Australia was the result of friendships formed with a family of young ladies at Luton tournaments.

In 1978 I went to Turkey with the English teams to the World Schools Games. Our then young interpreter Yesim is now a Doctor of Medicine and she has kept in touch.

This year she arranged extra leave to see us on holiday. We met her whole family in her home and were taken around sightseeing.

We have already played in the World Veterans Championships in Helsinki and hope to go to Rimini in 1986.

Without Table Tennis we might not have ventured beyond Skegness!

Dolly Harmer (bottom right) enjoys a meal with her Turkish interpreter, Yesim (bottom left) and her family.

PLAY YOUR GAME RIGHT
WITH TEES SPORT'S CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

DO YOU MAKE POINTS?
{ POINTS MAKE PRIZES!

1 POINT FOR EVERY £5 SPENT

For every £5 spent you score 1 point. Add up your points on each order and pick your extra presents or presents and come down to the Special Christmas "Extra Presents!"

PICK YOUR PRIZES FROM

1 Point: TEES SPORT NO. 2 OIL BASED INK PEN

2 Points: 25/% OFF TROPHY PEN

3 Points: BOX OF 12 CIGARETTE LIGHTERS

4 Points: BOX OF 24 CIGARETTE LIGHTERS

5 Points: BOX OF 60 CIGARETTE LIGHTERS

6 Points: BOX OF 120 CIGARETTE LIGHTERS

7 Points: BOX OF 240 CIGARETTE LIGHTERS

8 Points: BOX OF 480 CIGARETTE LIGHTERS

9 Points: BOX OF 720 CIGARETTE LIGHTERS

10 Points: BOX OF 1,000 CIGARETTE LIGHTERS

EXTRA PRIZES MEANS EXTRA PRESENTS

SOME DAY SERVICE ON ALL GOODS IN STOCK

SIDE EFFECTS

You don't need to be a great player to get the trips abroad . . . Dolly Harmer from Bedforshire . . .

We have visited Holland, the Isle of Man, France, Australia, Finland and Turkey, all in the last eight years. Next year we hope to go to Italy and all because I play table tennis.

Not that I have ever been more than a run-of-the-mill club player - now just a club coach and a pensioner.

In Holland we stayed with our son's godmother, first met by a table tennis player where I coached as a cadet. In France, we twice took children from our club to stay and play with members of our twin town.

The visit to Australia was the result of friendships formed with a family of young ladies at Luton tournaments.

In 1978 I went to Turkey with the English teams to the World Schools Games. Our then young interpreter Yesim is now a Doctor of Medicine and she hopes to go to Rimini in 1986.

Without Table Tennis we might have ventured beyond Skegness!
Three for Ali
The 50th Sussex Open tournament was held at the Sports Centre, Hastings on 5/6th October 1985 reports Ron Kemp. Although the entry was mysteriously far lower than of previous years, the high standard of the matches was more than compensated.
The main sponsors were again Stamco. The occasion of the 50th tournament was marked by a limited edition of 50 medals presented at a Sunday afternoon reception of sponsors, mayor and officials past and present.
Twice winner of the mens singles Graham Sandley was seeded to win the event, and he was the non-appearance of a number of high-ranking England players including four of the eight seeds. Bad luck for Nicky Mason who could not get back from Amsterdam in time - he would have been a real threat, having beaten Souter and Sandley recently.
Womens singles holder and top seed Alison Gordon was not extended in reaching the final - and met the challenge from second seed and county team player Karen Witt, who also cruised to the final. The final, though, was a very tense, nerve-racking affair, with both girls trying to dominate. At game-all and Karen 17-14 up she looked home for her fifth title.
But there was no let up as Alison caught up and led 18-17. Level again at 19-19; the last two points were snatched gratefully by Alison for the title and Parsons Cup with the £100 cheque.
Neither doubles titles were defended. The Moore brothers hit by Adrian at a national league match and the Bellinger sisters absent. The mens doubles saw Souter and Glenn Baker take the first 21-15 but then second seeds Sandley and Malcolm Temperley took control 21-9, 21-15 to take the championship.
In the corresponding womens event top seeds Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury regained the title they won in 1983 with a win in three games over Sue Collier and Karen Witt, the No 2 seeds. Alison then took her third title by winning both Sandley with the unseeded Mason and Sainsbury. The hat-trick was last achieved five years ago by Paul Day.
That a tournament runs so smoothly and is liked by all players and officials is a fair indication of Colin Hyland's efforts over the past ten years. This being his last year as organiser, it's going to be a difficult act to follow.

MENS SINGLES
Semi-finals
Sandley b Wilson 13, 16; Souter b Charlery 12, 18
Final
Souter b Sandley 8, 15
WOMENS SINGLES
Semi-finals
Gordon b Sainsbury 14, 12; Witt b J Bellinger 10, 11
Final
Gordon v Witt 12, -12, 19
MENS DOUBLES
Final
Sandley/Temperley b Souter/Baker -16, 9, 15
WOMENS DOUBLES
Final
Gordon/Sainsbury Collier/Witt -12, 19
MIXED DOUBLES
Final
Sandley/Gordon b Mason/Sainsbury -11, 13, 18
VETERANS SINGLES
Final
Bush b Schofield 17, 11
Lambeth 2-Star 12th October 1985
MENS SINGLES
Semi-finals
Nicky Mason (Sx) b Keith Richardson (Ca) 12, 16; Kevin Satchell (Wi) b Andy Creed (Ar) 14, 15.
Final
Mason b Satchell
WOMENS SINGLES
Semi-finals
Fiona Elliott (St) b Teresa Moore (So) 19, 18; Susan Collier (Bk) b Janet Smith (Sco) 13, 16.
Final
Elliott b Collier 21 - 20, 6.
CLASS 2 SINGLES
Final
Rupert Bole (Sy) b Andy Cunningham (K) - 19, 17, 16.
U12 MIXED SINGLES
Final
Mason b Steve Dorking (E) 17, 19.
CLASS 3 SINGLES
Final
Mick Browne (Wa) b Cliff Carder (Ma) 17, 19.
MENS DOUBLES
Final
John Payne/Colin Wilson (Mx) b Adrian & Stephen Moore (So) 6, 17.
WOMENS DOUBLES
Final
Elliott/Kim Mudge (St/Es) b Collier/Claire Maisey (Bk/Wo) 18, 13.
MIXED DOUBLES
Final
Browne/Elliott b Graham Bateman/ Jane Barella (Sy) 18, 11.
VETERANS SINGLES
Final
Babs Adelayo (Mx) b D Jones 11, 17.

Woodfield 1-Star 3rd November 1985
MENS SINGLES
Semi-finals
Andy Bellingham b Tony Isaac (Wa) 18, 11; Phil Gnao (Wa) b Malcolm Francis (So) 6, - 17, 16.
Final
Bellingham b Gnao 18, 14.
WOMENS SINGLES
Semi-final
Fiona Elliott (St) b Michele Cohen 7, 13; Jane Smith b Helen Lower (Wa) 20, - 15, 20.
Final
Elliot b Smith 20, - 15, 20.
MENS DOUBLES
Final
T Malkin/R Vose b Matt Shadrer/Derek Schofield (Li/Ch) 11, - 18, 14.
WOMENS DOUBLES
Final
Elliot/Cohen b Lower/Roden 17, 14.
VETERANS MIXED SINGLES
Final

Woodfield Junior 1-Star 2nd November 1985
JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES
Final
Adrian Thorpe b M Kowalinski 12, 14, 14; A Ball b Leigh Jeffries (Wo) 14, 20.
JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES
Final
Thorp/Ball b C Jones/M Stretton 14, 15.
JUNIOR BOYS DOUBLES
Final
Carey/C Perkins b Cox/Lower - 20, 18, 17.
CADET BOYS SINGLES
Final
Jeffries b Jonathan Taylor 18, 14.
CADET GIRLS SINGLES
Final
Rachel Skinner (Mx) b S Fergley 18, 12.

Hastings Tigers 10th November 1985
PHOTOGRAPHY: STAN JONES
MENS SINGLES
Semi-finals
Paul Amos (K) b Neil Harris 15, 6; Dipak Topiwala b Graham Gillett (St) 20, 17.
Final
Amos b Topiwala 18, - 17, 21.
WOMENS SINGLES
Semi-finals
S Halfenden b H Lowe 15, 17; Sheila King (St) b S Hend - 16, 10, 12.
Final
King b Halfenden 20, 18.
MENS DOUBLES
Final
Paul Elphick (Sa) b dipak Topiwala/ Harris/D Parker 17, - 19, 16.
WOMENS DOUBLES
Final
Halfenden/King b M Dignum/Pat Wales (St) 14, 15.
**December**

14 **BENEFICIAL TRUST ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED** to 15th. **Venue:** Hinckley Leisure Centre. Tel: (0455) 610011. **Information:** ETTA, 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF. Tel: (0224) 433121. **Events** (Sat): SBS, CBS, JBD, JGD, JXD. Finals, 7.30 pm. **Evening finals.** JBS, CBS, JGD, JXD. Closing date: 14th November 1985. **Prize Fund:** £90. **Lentec rating:** x:4.

29 **Stiga County Championships (Seniors and Veterans)** **Lentec rating:** Veritas Premier division, x:2; Other divisions, x:1.

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

29 **Stiga County Championships (4)** **Lentec rating:** x:1.

**SHERMAN PREMIER DIVISION WEEKEND** to 12th. **Venue:** Oldham Leisure Centre. Tel: 061-678 4090. **Organisers:** S Parr, 7 Ennerdale Crescent, NUNEATON CV11 6HY. Tel: (0205) 355580. **Equipment:** Stiga tables, Nittaku balls. **Closing date:** 2nd December 1985. **Lentec rating:** x:2.

**ETTA National Council**

**ESTTA Area finals (Area 1)** Information: Mrs V Nicholson, 38 Bristol Grove, STOCKTON-ON-TEES TS18 5SW. Tel: (0642) 582920.

12 **TAMESIDE JUNIOR 1-STAR** **Lentec rating:** x:1.

**Venue:** Copley Leisure Centre, Stalybridge, Manchester. Tel: 061-303 8118. **Organiser:** C Hope, Recreation Dept, Tameside MBC, Wellington Road, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE. Tel: 061-330 1555. **Events:** JBS, JGS, JBD, JGD, CBS, CGS. **Equipment:** Jaques tables. **Closing date:** 1st December 1985.

18 **CLEVELAND 3-STAR OPEN** (Cleveland County Council) to 19th. **Venue:** Thornaby Pavilion. Tel: (0642) 760971. **Entries secretary D Hutchinson, 7 Skripka Drive, BILLINGHAM TS22 5EZ. Tel:** (0642) 534738. **Events:** MS, WS, MD, WD, Class 2 XS, MTeam, WTeam. **Equipment:** Butterfly tables, Schildkrot balls. **Closing date:** 16th December 1985. **Lentec rating:** x:3.

**ESTTA Area finals to 19th.** **Information:** G R Gardiner, 36 Frome Street, CHORLEY PR6 6AN. Tel: (0272) 62732.

19 **INTERNATIONAL CLUB HARD BAT** **Lentec rating:** x:1.

**Venue:** Barnet table tennis centre. Tel: 01-444 7845. **Organisers:** L F Landry, 3 Osney Way, Chalk, GRAVESEND DA12 2NB. Tel: (0474) 534908. **Events:** MS, WS, MD, WD, XD, Consolation M&W. **Equipment:** Dunlop tables and celluloid balls. **Closing date:** 8th January 1986.

**February**

1 **BENEFICIAL COTSWOLD JUNIOR SELECT** to 2nd. **Venue:** Gloucester Sports Centre. Tel: 01-444 7845. **Organisers:** L F Landry, 3 Osney Way, Chalk, GRAVESEND DA12 2NB. Tel: (0474) 534908. **Events:** MS, WS, MD, WD, XD, Consolation M&W. **Equipment:** Dunlop tables and celluloid balls. **Closing date:** 8th January 1986.

16 **Stiga County Championships (5)** **Lentec rating:** x:1.

**EUSTERS STARS OPEN** to 2nd. **Venue:** Gloucester Sports Centre. **Lentec rating:** x:1.

16 **Stiga County Championships (5)** **Lentec rating:** x:1. **Other divisions, x:1.

**Stiga County Championships (5)** **Lentec rating:** x:1. **Other divisions, x:1.

**Stiga County Championships (5)** **Lentec rating:** x:1. **Other divisions, x:1.

**Stiga County Championships (5)** **Lentec rating:** x:1. **Other divisions, x:1.

**Stiga County Championships (5)** **Lentec rating:** x:1. **Other divisions, x:1.

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**Stiga County Championships (5)** **Lentec rating:** x:1. **Other divisions, x:1.**