Safety in sport — our special feature, courtesy of RoSPA, takes a close look at the Table Tennis arena.
Pick up your trusty quill

With activity centering, of late, on the attraction of new Table Tennis News subscribers no-one has ventured to tackle the question of contributions. Perhaps we can’t see the wood for the trees but this magazine — the tool of the membership — is currently held together through the regular contribution of county press officers and a few hardy annuals.

I believe we still have more subscribers than contributors, marginal though it may be, and consequently appeal for your support, or criticism whichever the case.

Where are all the players? Surely subjects as close to your hearts as kit advertising and computer points are worthy of comment so let’s hear it. Perhaps we should give a prize to the youngest contributor, I think I would win hands down at the moment and I am no spring chicken!

Here is one idea to get you thinking, do you want an England supporters club. Is there enough interest among the ranks to warrant organised travel to international events at home and abroad.

Remember — copy date 12th September!

And now for the good news. Four medals from the European Youth Championships must surely be regarded as a success. Congratulations to the players and coaches involved — after all did we really expect to strike gold while many were still mourning the loss of Carl Prean from the junior ranks?

Worthy of note is the fact that the majority of England’s young squad live well north of Watford, pray tell me where are the shining Southern starlets? Did you happen to see the Commonwealth Games? Silly question I suppose for we were all bombarded with it at peak viewing hours night after night. Good, bad or indifferent almost every event was covered — if only table tennis could be amongst them. Is it really sensible to hold our very own Commonwealth Championships which place an unwelcome financial burden upon the host association and excite only a moderate degree of press coverage. Perhaps the time has come to seek entry to the Commonwealth fold, after all we all hope for great benefits from our newly acquired Olympic status.

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* INCLUDING SUPER PULLOUT CALENDAR OF EVENTS *
Tykes Strike Gold in Belgium

George R. Yates reports

Yorkshire's Michael O'Driscoll of Mirfield and Chris Oldfield of Sheffield carried England's colours to final success in the Centre Sportif du Lezcy, Louvain-la-Neuve when, on July 25, 1986 they emulated the deeds of Carl Prean and Billy Gleave in Topolcany in 1981 by winning the cadet boys' team event with a final 3-1 win over the Soviet Union.

Prior to, in five first stage matches, they had seen off Poland, Scotland, Greece, Holland and the Federal Republic of Germany, all without the loss of a set, and repeated the dosage in the second stage encounters with 3-0 victories against Sweden, Belgium and Yugoslavia.

Could they do it a ninth time in the final? That was the question — the answer was yes with a struggle as was evident in the very first set when the phlegmatic O'Driscoll was beaten, 13, 18, 13 — 18 by the Soviet's Sergei Tiapkin.

But, Oldfield, that veritable pocket battleship, put the boot back on an even keel with a 2-straight win, 18 and 19, over Dmitrij Gusev thence to line up with his fellow Tyke for the doubles.

And what a set this was with the English pair losing the first game, 18 — 18, winning the second at 13, and then establishing a 20 — 14 lead in the deciding third only to lose seven points on the trot to be 20 — 21 down! But, with true Yorkshire grit, they emerged the winners at 29 — 27 in what was quite a pulsating set to say the least.

Returning to the table in under a hour the strain of the previous engagements, Debbie Toole lost to Darko Jamsek, 13 — 8, 13 — 11, 13 — 11, 13 — 11, after losing the first game — 13 in a marathon 21 — 15 being the score.

But the Russian's resistance survived this onslaught of the Tykes, with Debbie Toole falling at the second hurdle to Alessia Arisi of Italy in Round 1 whilst in the second round Julie Billington went out to Lydie Godiche of France. Kerry Hall had wins over Laura Negrisoli of Italy and Gayret Isseven of Turkey before losing over three games to Russia's Olgia Laposhina.

In her performances in the other doubles events was countered by Matthew Syed's win in the consolation boys' singles in which he beat Peter Anderson of Sweden in the semi's and Frank Boute of the Netherlands in the final.

Leading team placings (previous positions in brackets)

Boys

1   Sweden (1)
2   France (2)
3   Czechoslovakia (9)
4   Yugoslavia (3)
5   Soviet Union (4)
6   Federal Germany (6)
7   Belgium (13)
8   Romania (8)
9   Hungary (7)
10  Italy (10)
11  England (5)

Girls

1   Czechoslovakia (1)
2   Romania (4)
3   Yugoslavia (8)
4   England (15)
5   Soviet Union (3)
6   Yugoslavia (7)
7   Sweden (2)
8   Yugoslavia (4)
9   Federal Germany (5)
10  Holland (8)

Cadet boys

1   England (2)
2   Soviet Union (1)
3   Romania (3)
4   Belgium (4)
5   Hungary (4)
6   Yugoslavia (5)
7   Holland (10)
8   Sweden (6)
9   Czechoslovakia (9)
10  Federal Germany (7)

Cadet girls

1   Hungary (5)
2   Czechoslovakia (4)
3   Romania (1)
4   Yugoslavia (2)
5   Soviet Union (3)
6   Federal Germany (6)
7   England (7)
8   Belgium (10)
9   France (11)
10  Sweden (5)
**European Youth Championships**

### Individual results

**Junior boys team**

- **First stage**
  - ENG 5 Lux 1 (Adrian Dixon b Billerman -18, 8, 18; Matthew Syed b Tamanu, 15; Jimmy Stokes b Hansen -14, 11; Dixon b Moretti -15, 15; Stokes b Billerman 15, 11; Hansen 7, 12).
  - ENG 5 Aus 1 (Bradley Billington b Godum 16, 16; Stokes b Schuh 7; Syed b Karnowski 12; Stokes b Godum 19; Billington b Karnowski 14, 17).
  - ENG 5 Rom 3 (Syed b Ignat 17, 12; Billington b Calin Toma -16, 16; Stokes b Hetman 12, 15; Stokes b Toma 19, 15; Stokes b Ignat 21, 19; Billington b Hetman -13, 14; Stokes b Toma 11, 17; Schuh b Hetman 9, 15).

**Second stage**

- **Eng 5 Eng 4** (Darko Janek b Syed -17, 10; Zoran Primorac b Stankovic -8, 14, 8; Jakis b Stokes 11, 15, 16; Primorac b Syed 11; Jakis b Stokes 15, 19; Jakis b Syed -17, 13; Jakis b Billington 11, 21).
- **Bel 5 Eng 3** (Vroonen b Stokes 12, 18; J.M. Saive b Vroonen 19; Syed b Vroonen 19, 7; 7; Jakis b Vroonen 15; Jakis b Syed -17, 13; Jakis b Billington 19, 21).
- **Eng 5 Den 2** (Syed b Bentzen 7, 17; Billington b Peterson 20, 18; Stokes b Syed 18, 18; Syed b Syed 10, 14; Stokes b Syed 19, 11; Jakis b Jakis 15, 15; Jakis b Syed -17, 13; Jakis b Billington 19, 21).

**Junior girls team**

- **First stage**
  - ENG 3 Fin 1 (Andrea Holt b Malberg -11, 14; Claire Potts b Komulainen 9, 15; Debbie Soothill b Potts b Malberg; Komulainen 14, 19; Potts b Malberg 8, 16; Potts b Malberg 11, 14).
  - ENG 3 Eng 0 (Komarak b Potts 16, 12; Billington b Hall -20, 15; Timina b Houghton 5, 16; Komarak b Medvedeva b Soothill b Potts b 18, 18; 19).
  - ENG 3 Lux 0 (Holt b Bastian 11; Potts b Regenwetter 20, 22; Potts b Sothill b Regenwetter/ Schoder 18, 13).

**Second stage**

- **Eng 3 Eng 4** (Holt b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Regenwetter 20, 22; Potts b Sothill b Regenwetter/ Schoder 18, 13).
- **Eng 3 FRA 2** (Holt b Holt 19, 19; Claire Potts b Komulainen 12, 14; Debbie Soothill/Potts b Komulainen 14, 19; Houghton b Komulainen 8, 16; Houghton b Komulainen 12, 14; Houghton b Komulainen 11, 17).
- **Eng 3 Lux 9** (Potts b Potts 16, 19; Holt b Bastian 11; Potts b Regenwetter 20, 22; Potts b Sothill b Regenwetter/ Schoder 18, 13).
- **Eng 3 Lux 9** (Potts b Potts 16, 19; Holt b Bastian 11; Potts b Regenwetter 20, 22; Potts b Sothill b Regenwetter/ Schoder 18, 13).

**Third stage**

- **Eng 3 Eng 4** (Holt b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Regenwetter 20, 22; Potts b Sothill b Regenwetter/ Schoder 18, 13).
- **Eng 3 FRA 2** (Holt b Holt 19, 19; Claire Potts b Komulainen 12, 14; Debbie Soothill/Potts b Komulainen 14, 19; Houghton b Komulainen 8, 16; Houghton b Komulainen 12, 14; Houghton b Komulainen 11, 17).

**Quarter-final**

- **Eng 3 Eng 4** (Holt b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Regenwetter 20, 22; Potts b Sothill b Regenwetter/ Schoder 18, 13).
- **Eng 3 Lux 9** (Potts b Potts 16, 19; Holt b Bastian 11; Potts b Regenwetter 20, 22; Potts b Sothill b Regenwetter/ Schoder 18, 13).

**Final**

- **Eng 3 Eng 4** (Holt b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Regenwetter 20, 22; Potts b Sothill b Regenwetter/ Schoder 18, 13).
- **Eng 3 Lux 9** (Potts b Potts 16, 19; Holt b Bastian 11; Potts b Regenwetter 20, 22; Potts b Sothill b Regenwetter/ Schoder 18, 13).

**Individual results**

**Junior boys singles**

- First round
  - Adrian Dixon (ENG) b Harry (WAL) 10, 8, 15; Stokes (ENG) b Stokes (ENG) 11, 10; O’Driscoll (ENG) b O’Driscoll (ENG) 19, 19.

**Second round**

- Hall b Leon (FRA) 10, 10; Billington b Hall -13, 8; O’Driscoll (ENG) b O’Driscoll (ENG) 19, 19.

**Quarter-final**

- Billington b Hall 17, 17; O’Driscoll b Billington 17, 17; O’Driscoll b Billington 17, 17.

**Semi-final**

- O’Driscoll b Billington 17, 17; O’Driscoll b Billington 17, 17; O’Driscoll b Billington 17, 17.

**Final**

- Billington b O’Driscoll 17, 17; Billington b O’Driscoll 17, 17; Billington b O’Driscoll 17, 17.

**Junior girls singles**

- First round
  - Claire Potts (ENG) b Jackie Shaw (ENG) 10, 10; Potts (ENG) b Potts (ENG) 15, 15; Potts (ENG) b Potts (ENG) 15, 15.

**Second round**

- Holt b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Holt 15, 19.

**Quarter-final**

- Holt b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Holt 15, 19.

**Semi-final**

- Holt b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Holt 15, 19; Claire Potts b Holt 15, 19.

**Final**

- Holt b Holt 15, 15; Holt b Holt 15, 15; Holt b Holt 15, 15.

**Cadet team**

- First round
  - Michael O’Driscoll (ENG) b Tran (FRA) 19, 17, 12; Christopher Oldfield (ENG) b Cano (ESP) 19, 17, 12.

**Second round**

- Billington b Hall 17, 17; O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19.

**Quarter-final**

- O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19; O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19; O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19.

**Semi-final**

- O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19; O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19; O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19.

**Final**

- O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19; O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19; O’Driscoll b O’Driscoll 19, 19.

**Cadet doubles**

- First round
  - Michael O’Driscoll/Chris Oldfield (ENG) b Nastounidou/Lazaridou (GRE) 14, 14.

**Second round**

- Michael O’Driscoll/Chris Oldfield (ENG) b Nastounidou/Lazaridou (GRE) 14, 14.

**Semi-final**

- Michael O’Driscoll/Chris Oldfield (ENG) b Nastounidou/Lazaridou (GRE) 14, 14.

**Final**

- Michael O’Driscoll/Chris Oldfield (ENG) b Nastounidou/Lazaridou (GRE) 14, 14.
On, off and under the table

Dave Fairholm in charge of the cadets......

It is every coach's dream to captan his country, fly Concorde, stay in a 5 star hotel and enjoy the accompanying prestige. Well, that is what you think you're highly mistaken. Take the Cadet 6 Nation tournament for instance.

It began with the obvious notification from the selection committee and relevant details of dates, venues, hotels etc. plus the players who had been selected. From then on, we were on our own, we being Jackie Bellinger and myself. To keep costs to a minimum Concorde was rejected in favour of a trusty 4 year old 12 seater Ford mini bus!

The journey began on Thursday 5th June from Thatcham, Newbury and via Dunstable, Billericay for a stop over in Margate. This enabled us to engender the vital team spirit, as we would be eating, travelling and living and playing together for the next five days.

Home away from home

In Margate we stayed with Roy and Margaret Pugh (Roy a 2 star diploma coach and Margaret an ex-table tennis widow) who from past experience would act as mother to us all.

The stopover provided the first real opportunity to brief the squad, firstly checking their medication requirements (hay fever, asthma, diabetes), secondly their fitness. Any new injuries perhaps? Thirdly we collected passports, fortunately on this occasion every one had remembered them! Everyone was reminded that they were representing their country 24 hours a day, both on and off the table until the moment they disembarked from the mini bus at Euston.

The squad consisted of two teams, the girls Debbie Toole, Kerry Hall and Julie Billington and the boys, Chris Oldfield, Damian Holland and Leigh Jeffries. We informed the debutants of the formalities, the official opening ceremony, the exchanging of pin badges, shaking of hands both before and after the game and also after the match. A more important point of discussion would be the tournament itself, the format, how many games they would be expected to play in a day, who would start the doubles and where, when and at what time could the players warm up and practice.

After this short meeting Jackie and I took the teams to their final practice in the local league headquarters which Harry Porter had arranged for our visit. The knock itself is not a strenuous affair after all, as they say in soccer "We don't want to leave it all on the training ground". Once again, it is another opportunity to check fitness, loosen up and harness team spirit.

It was early to bed (I think) and ready for the drive to Dover, the ferry crossing to Osend and the four hour drive to Essen, Germany so accurately gauged by ETTA Deputy General Secretary Mike Watts not only a veteran, but a veteran of trips to Germany it would seem.

Mutiny on a Bounty

Damian left his mark by vomiting on the ferry crossing closely followed by the rest of the squad apart from yours truly, who by now had found his sea legs.

Ostend (Belgium), Holland and Germany here we come. With Jackie as my trusty navigator, I couldn't go wrong as long as I remembered to drive on the wrong, or should I say right, side of the road and put the clock forward an hour.

These journeys are never easy, and this was to be no exception as we were confronted by pouring rain, and road numbers that did not tally with our map. We arrived in Essen at 8.00 p.m. and had a swift knock to accustomise to the conditions. Whilst the players were knocking, the captains attended the usual pre-tournament jury meeting. This is a meeting of team captains and officials to discuss the draw, the format, the rules and any late team changes. From there to a late, but very nice supper of snitzel, chips and salad in a quaint country pub. The hotel was pleasant and there was only one snag, you can turn to the peace and quiet of the hotel and there was only one snag, you can turn to the peace and quiet of the hotel for a night's sleep, the boys in one room, girls in another.

From a captains point of view, the location was poor, with the hotel situated 10 miles from the venue. The hotel was pleasant and there was only one snag, you can turn to the peace and quiet of the hotel for a night's sleep, the boys in one room, girls in another.

Early to bed ....

We were in bed at 11.00 p.m. and up at 7.00 a.m. and ready for the team photograph in the sports hall at 8.15 a.m. Once again, one of the many formalities that go with an international event. This has its advantages as it helps us to remember the true meaning of sport and friendship through competition.

At 8.30 a.m. the team captains were requested to control for the first of five draws. In this particular event, it was hardly crucial as each match was played on two tables, the next match taking place as a table became vacant whenever there was a resting player available from either side. This was the last chance to exchange good wishes as both Jackie and I, with our respective teams would not be coming into contact for the next 12 hours, apart from the occasional glance.

Over the next 2 days, our young warriors were involved in a total of 105 matches - averaging 17 sets each over the 12 hour sessions - a true marathon.

Captains must be aware of the tensions, anxiety and nerves that go with playing for your country and in this, Jackie has the benefit of having been in that situation. We were both aware that this was Leigh's first involvement at this level, whilst other rookies, Debbie Toole and Damian Holland were also making their England debuts, but had had the valuable experience of playing in the English junior open with the 'Jill Parker Foundation'.

L to R Jackie Bellinger (NPC), Dave Fairholm (NPC), Debbie Toole, Julie Billington, Kerry Hall, Chris Oldfield, Damian Holland, Leigh Jeffries.
A veteran at 14!

On the other hand, Kerry Hall by now was almost a veteran making her third appearance at this very event. For Chris Oldfield and Julie Billington, this was their second of the six nations! Just for the record, this was my fourth CEN, my first trip included Jackie's sister Lisa in the team.

It was nice to reflect over the years how the tournament had grown in status as had the development of the participating countries.

The Swedes were a blend of mini Jorgen Persson's and Stefan Bengtsson's. France with their powerfully built players attacked from both wings and looked very 'old' cadets. The Germans were strong and steady. The Dutch boys were much improved and the Danes had been transformed from a 10-0 push over to a professional fighting unit, running most teams close and pinching a draw from our boys.

By Sunday evening the boys, considering their inexperience, had finished a respectable 5th. Chris had proven he was one of the outstanding players competing, Damian notched up a number of creditable victories and Leigh will do doubt improve and build upon the experience. Pride of place went to our very well balanced girls, who for the second successive year finished as winners with an excellent all round team effort. Credit to Kerry, Julian, Debbie and not forgetting Jackie, who's leadership was truly first class.

The singles were an anti-climax with only Chris and Debbie reaching the quarter-finals.

Back at the hotel it was time for the players to meet socially and the captains to replay every match, and in some instances, every point.

Gifts, telephone numbers and addresses were exchanged as each team packed their bags and headed for home. The English were to be the last away the following day, so we could say our goodbyes to all.

Once again, off to bed at 11.00 p.m. and up at 7.00 a.m. for the long drive home. The journey was without incident as players chose to sleep rather than talk or observe the passing scenery. Even my navigator Jackie, fell asleep clinging to our map.

And now for the bad news ....

A short meeting was held on the ferry, whilst we de-briefed the players as to how we viewed the event and their individual performances. Recommendations for closed season practice were made to each of the squad and at this point the players were informed of their moral duty to pass on their experiences and information received from their captains to their parents, coaches and local officials who have all helped in various ways towards their overall development.

After seeing everyone off at Euston at 8.00 p.m. I travelled the last 60 miles to Thatcham alone, bringing the total mileage to 1,000. There I was met by my patient wife Cheryl and our 8-week old daughter Elisha. She had changed so much in those 5 days, which would be lost forever, the price every one pays whose job takes them away from home.

A quick clean of the mini-bus and it was back to the comfort of my Orison. As the time slipped past midnight and into Tuesday I walked through the door to hear the phone ring. "Been away again?" the caller asked. "Germany was it this time?" he enquired. "Cor, you've got everything I'd ring around mid-week and normally catch you in then" he added.

Yes, I was well and truly back home.

Boys team

SWE 6 ENG 4 (Thomas Buza v Damien Holland 19 - 18, Mag. 15; Peer ogersson v Leigh Jeffries 11, 16; Bengtsson v Chris Oldfield 12 - 20, 16; Buza v Jeffries 16, 13). ENG 5 DEN 8 (Holland v Cyrille Laurent 14, - 15, - 15; Oldfield v Hestbaek 16, 12 - 15, - 15; Oldfield v Oldfield 20, 15; Petersson v Heather 19, 14). DEN 6 SWE 4 (Hallen v Maria Holen 16, - 14, 14; Oldfield v Maria Holen 16, 12; Billington v Sorensen 16, - 16, 16)

Girls team

ENG 6 DEN 9 (Pinny Hall v Trine Skov 10, 11; Julie Billington v Anne Sorensen 11, 16; Debbie Toole v Perriee Gran 16, 14; Billington v Skov 20, 14; Oldfield v Gran 17, 12; Oldfield v Oldfield 19, 14; Hestbaek v Hestbaek 19, 16). DEN 5 SWE 4 (Haller v Maria Holen 14, 19, 16; Oldfield v Maria Holen 16, 12; Billington v Sorensen 16, - 16, - 16; Oldfield v Oldfield 19, 14; Billington v Oldfield 16, 12).

Girls team whiteboard

Subject: Girls team

Date: Saturday 27th September 1986

To: Mary Webb

From: John Morris

Re: Commercing at 7.00 pm

Tickets: £2.50

available from

John Morris
0743 791340 (h)
0743 790303 (b)

COME AND SEE THE INTERNATIONALS IN ACTION
Trinidad and tobacco
Albert Shipley in Port of Spain

No, it is not a printer’s error but the seventh staging of the 555 World Cup which was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, from the 7th to 10th July, 1986 and was again sponsored by the British American Tobacco Company. My presence in Trinidad was for the purpose of giving a short course of instruction to the local umpires and to provide commentary for the final stages of the World Cup which was held in Danielsson 20, 15, 12; Danielsson b Mikael Appelgren (SWE); 6 Andrzej Grubba (POL); 7 Europen.

The format of the event was once again sixteen players made up of six continental champions, nine top world ranked players plus the local champion, playing a first stage of four groups of four, the winners and runners-up in each group going forward to contest the top eight places.

There were very few surprises in the group play; the European players struggled to find their touch not having played competitively for nearly two months. Andrzej Grubba (POL), having beaten the European champion Jorgen Persson (SWE) in his group, was unlucky enough to be drawn against world champion Jiang Jialiang (CHN) in the quarter finals. Mikael Appelgren (SWE) lost to the world No. 2 Chen Longcan (CHN) at the same stage, thus ending European interest in the top four places.

The two Chinese players, coached by the 1973 world champion Hsi En-ting, duly reached the final but as so often happens when two players from the same country meet, the competitive edge was lost. The steady play of Chen overcame a very subdued Jiang and for the third consecutive year the World Cup trophy returned to China, this time accompanied by $24,000 (U.S.) in prize money.

I shall remember Trinidad for the enthusiasm of its audience, the heat and humidity (it was the start of the rainy season), the comfort of the Hilton Hotel, the scenery and the American TV programmes which made our ITV look quite genteel.

Results: (early rounds best of 3 games, quarter-finals, semi-finals and final best of 5 games)

Group A
Jiang Jialiang (CHN) b Tommy Danielsson (AUS) 15, 18; b Erte Boggan (USA) 9, 14; b Kim Wan (KOR) 16, 15; b Kim Wan b Bogann 16, 16; b Danielsson 20, 20, 12; Danielsson b Grubba - 20, 12, 13.

Group B
Yoshihito Miyazaki (JPN) b Andrej Grubba (POL) 23, 18; b Jorgen Persson (SWE) 16, 14, 18; b Nigel Christopher ( TRI) 12, 11; Grubba b Christopher - 21, 21; b Persson 14, 15; Persson b Christopher - 9, 10.

Group C
Lo Chuen Tsung (HKG) b Atanda Musa (NGC) 14, 11; b Dragutin Surbeok (YUG) 13, - 21, 21; b Mikael Appelgren (SWE) 11, 18; Appelgren b Surbeok - 11, 12; b Musa - 18, 17, 16; Musa b Surbeok - 21, 9, 19.

Group D
Chen Longcan (CHN) b Kiyoshi Saito (JPN) 13, 13; b Claudia Kan (BRA) 18, 18; b Kim Ki Tae (KOR) 15, 15, 19; Saito b Kim Ki Tae 18, 12; b Kano - 16, 15, 10; Kano b Kim Ki Tae - 18, 17, 18.

For positions 13-16:
Kim Ki Tae b Surbeok 16, 15; Grubba b Christopher - 11, 15, 12; b Mikael Appelgren 22, 23, 17; Saito b Christopher 9, 17.

For positions 9-12:
Persson b Danielsson 18, - 15, 14; b Kano - 9, - 21, 20; Musa b Kano -9, 12, 20; Danielsson b Musa 16, - 18, 14.

For positions 18:
Rang Ji Hua b Grubba 20, - 15, 12, 20; Kim Wan b Miyazaki - 24, 11, 14, 21; Lo Chuen Tsung b Saito 13, 20, 13; Chen Longcan b Appelgren 16, 19, 23; Grubba b Miyazaki - 17; Saito b Appelgren 24, 16; Saito b Miyazaki 13, - 20, 20; Appelgren b Grubba 13, - 18, 19.

Semi-finals:
Jiang Jialiang b Kim Wan 6, 16, 18; Chen Longcan b Lo Chuen Tsung 10, 10, 16, 18.

For positions 3-4:
Kim Wan b Lo Chuen Tsung 18, 16.

Finals:
Chen Longcan b Jiang Jialiang 18, - 12, 18, 15.

Final placings:
1st: Final: Jiang Jialiang (CHN); 2nd: Jiang Jialiang (CHN); 3rd: Kim Wan (KOR); 4th: Le Chien Tsung (HKG); 5th: Mikael Appelgren (SWE); 6th: Andrej Grubba (POL); 7th: Kiyoshi Saito (JPN); 8th: Yoshihito Miyazaki (JPN); 9th: Jorgen Persson (SWE); 10th: Claudia Kan (BRA); 11th: Tommy Danielsson (AUS); 12th: Atanda Musa (NGC); 13th: Kim Ki Tae (KOR); 14th: Erte Boggan (USA); 15th: Dragutin Surbeok (YUG); 16th: Nigel Christopher (TRI).

Olympic sport aid

The Sports Aid Foundation is to administer the allocation of training grants under the Minet Olympic awards scheme announced recently. Minet have provided £15m towards the preparation of Britain’s potential Olympic representatives for the 1988 games. Individual yearly awards range from up to £5,000 for those considered likely to win an Olympic medal and up to £2,500 for competitors expected to perform with distinction. For sportsmen who are expected to be selected for Britain’s Olympic team, the yearly minimum of £400 is available.

Capital Bank US Open

The Championships, held in Miami, Florida, from 11th to 15th June, 1986, attracted over 500 participants writes USTTA press officer, Malcolm Anderson. Of these, nineteen held a current world ranking. Although thirty four nations were represented the peoples Republic of China won 6 of the 7 major events, losing only the mens doubles.

Mens singles:
Final: Xi b Back - 18, 22, 6, - 19, 16. Mixed doubles:
Final: Muka Zhi Bin b Kiyoshi Kano b Musa -18, 17, 16, 18.

Womens singles:
Final: Xu b Back - 18, 22, 6, - 19, 16. Mixed doubles:
Final: Muka Zhi Bin b Kiyoshi Kano b Musa -18, 17, 16, 18.

Womens doubles:
Final: Geng/Xu b Hosokawa/Yamada - 24, 14.

Mixed doubles:
Final: Fan Xu b Chang/Lin - 21, 22, 15, 10.

Olympic sport aid

The Sports Aid Foundation is to administer the allocation of training grants under the Minet Olympic awards scheme announced recently. Minet have provided £15m towards the preparation of Britain’s potential Olympic representatives for the 1988 games. Individual yearly awards range from up to £5,000 for those considered likely to win an Olympic medal and up to £2,500 for competitors expected to perform with distinction. For sportsmen who are expected to be selected for Britain’s Olympic team, the yearly minimum of £400 is available.
The top 10 male and female players who have earned their place in the 1986 Stiga National Top 12 were revealed in the latest Lentoc computer ranking lists. The final four players, who will receive wild card entries, are yet to be nominated by the National Selection Committee.

Stiga National Top 12, which takes place from Friday 10th October to Sunday 12th October 1986 at the Soham sports centre, Cambridgeshire, has already aroused media interest on two counts. Multicoloured equipment is to replace the normal dark green and white coloured equipment. The new scoring system has been adopted. All games will be up to 11 points instead of the traditional 21.

Defending their titles in Soham will be Desmond Douglas and Alison Gordon. In the 1985 event Douglas succeeded in winning all 11 of his matches in this round robin competition.

New sponsors Stiga, the Swedish based equipment manufacturers, have generously provided a £2,100 prize fund as part of their overall sponsorship of the event.

Tables for the Stiga National Top 12 are now being specially prepared by craftsmen in Sweden and will be delivered to the Soham Centre under the personal supervision of Simon Hobson, Sales Manager of Rodan UK, the distributors of Stiga equipment in this country.

Players assured of their place in the Stiga National Top 12:

**Men**
- Desmond Douglas (Birmingham)
- Carl Prean (Ryde)
- Alan Cooke (Chesterfield)
- Skyler Andrew (Reading)
- John Souter (Neasden)
- Jimmy Stokes (Reading)
- Nicky Mason (Bexhill)
- Graham Snell (Potters Bar)
- David Wells (Milton Keynes)
- Jeff Kidson (Timperley)

**Women**
- Lisa Bellinger (Dunstable)
- Joy Grundy (Preston)
- Mandy Sainsbury (Newbury)
- Jackie Bellinger (Dunstable)
- Jill Harris (Walsall)
- Janet Houghton (Tonbridge)
- Suzanne Airey (Grantham)

Eckersley overcomes Scottish challenge

The Cheshire 2-star, which is one of the main events of the Altrincham festival, once again proved to be a popular attraction. Nigel Eckersley, in retaining his title, required all his skill to overcome Scottish No. 1 David Hannah, the No. 1 seed, in the semi-final and to foil the bid of local star Tony Taylor in a repeat of last year’s final.

![Eckersley in action.](image)

In the women’s singles last year’s losing finalist, Christina Peacock, went one better this year. The defending champion Doreen Schofield, the reigning national ladies veteran champion, bidding to take the title for four years running, was on the day halted by the youthful skills of rising Cheshire star Lynn Harrison. The Class 3 mixed singles proved to be a most popular event. Restricted to players not ranked in the top 200 in England, Tony Worthington, aiming to emulate his Timperley Civil Service team-mate Mike Owen, last year’s winner, served and smashed his way through seven rounds, only to be pipped at the post by G. Bryan of Grantham 23-21 in the third game of the final.

In the mens singles the defending champion Doreen Schofield, in retaining his title, required all his skill to overcome Scottish No. 1 David Hannah, the No. 1 seed, in the semi-final and to foil the bid of local star Tony Taylor in a repeat of last year’s final.

In the mens singles the defending champion Doreen Schofield, in retaining his title, required all his skill to overcome Scottish No. 1 David Hannah, the No. 1 seed, in the semi-final and to foil the bid of local star Tony Taylor in a repeat of last year’s final.

Olympic Award

England number 2 Carl Prean received worthy recognition for his junior performances during 1985 when he was awarded with the British Olympic Association’s ‘Year of Youth’ trophy at a recent luncheon. Carl won the BOA nomination, ahead of young stars from many established Olympic sports, as a result of his victories in the 1985 European Junior Top 12 and European Youth Championships. The award for the most promising performance by a young female athlete went to ice skater Joanne Conway.

Carl Prean and Joanne Conway pictured after receiving their awards from Charles Palmer, Chairman of the British Olympic Association.

**OFFERS NOT TO BE REPEATED**

We have NETS, RUBBERS, T.T. BALLS
Japanese Butterfly penholder bat blades reduced from £12.00 to £4.50 each

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.
Tournaments

Wins for Civil Servants

Competitors from as far afield as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland took part in the 53rd national finals of the Civil Service Table Tennis Championships, sponsored by Grants of St James's, at Crystal Palace on Friday April 18th writes Mike Loveder.

However, of the six events contested, one was won by the North West region, one by the East Midlands region and, for the second year running, four events were won by the London region.

Paul Long, an unusually predictable mens singles event. Both Richard Beckham, the defending champion, and Nicky Standen, the No 2 seed from South East region, duly reached the semis. However, Standen's centrally blocked game was unable to contain Beckham's power shots and the London region player recorded another two straight wins for his hat-trick of victories on the day.

It was the women's singles which turned out to be the most spectacular event, with demolition needed to be seen to be believed.

No 2 seed, Sally Weston (South East), showed some of her potential when she destroyed Helen Shields (Yorks & Humbs) by the remarkable scores of 21-18, 21-10 at the semi-final stage. Weston probably recognised the need to play particularly well when she witnessed some of the results in the other half of the draw.

Here, Christine Appleby (nee Peacock, of the North West), currently ranked at England No 72, had caused a series of shock results and she must have wished it was a 3-Star tournament with all the computer points she could have earned!

In the early rounds she beat Paul Long (Northern) 21-8, 21-6. Not satisfied with this she went on to beat the England No 53, Joanne Petit (nee Palmer), of the Eastern region 21-9, 21-10.

But then followed her most astonishing result when she played Jane Barella (London) in the semi-final. Barella, who was fresh from having beaten the England No 3 Alison Gordon in the South of England 3-Star, was unable to repeat Appleby's combination of attack and defence.

When the game was slowed down Appleby attacked well too and she won 21-7, 21-7. Weston appeared to learn something from Barella's mistakes and put up a very determined fight in the final which was far less straightforward for Appleby.

Weston varied her game, showing as much patience as her opponent. However the defender's perseverance saw her through 21-23, 21-10, 22-20. It is encouraging to see that there are still young defenders coming through.

The veterans singles was reintroduced this year and it replaced the intermediate boys singles.

There were four times as many veterans this year as there were under 21's last year.

In a couple of unexpected results Alan Timewell (North West) overcame the No 1 seed Maurice Cheek (Northern) in two straight games in the semi-final and the No 2 seed, Phil Newton (London), was very narrowly defeated in his semi-final against Alan Jesson (East Midlands) 21-16, 20-22, 19-21.

It was Jesson's combination of long and short pimply which seemed to unsettle the No 2 seed and in the final, he further illustrated his appetite for close games by beating Timewell 21-19, 22-20.

Steve Worsman and Helen Shields (Yorkshire & Humber-side), the holders and No 1 seeds of the mixed doubles, made an unexpected early exit in their semi-final against Andy Gray and Appleby of the North West region.

The No 2 seeds, Beckham and Barella (London), had a comfortable run to the final. In the final it was largely Appleby's defence which caused her opponents some concern, but the London pair pulled through 21-16 in the third game.

The mens doubles saw Beckham, this time partnered by Peter Harvey, cruising through to their final where they met Standen and Robby Williams (South East). The Beckham/Harry combination proved to be too fast and powerful and a two straight games victory was seen.

Another London region victory occurred in the womens doubles with Barella - this time partnered by Heather Payne-Drury - coasting to the final. They played with plenty of confidence and had won the Surrey Closed womens doubles earlier this year.

But the event was not without one “upset” when Rita Bentley and Weston (South East), beat the No 1 seeds Shields and Jean Newton 19 in the third. The Surrey Champions were another fast and powerful pairing who could not be prevented from winning the final in two straight games.

Mens singles

Standen b Appleby 21-11, 21-7

Womens singles

Womens doubles

Veterans singles

Final

Mens doubles

Final

Womens doubles

Mixed doubles

Final

Veterans singles

Final

Morris men and women

The sixth under 12 and under 14 team events for the Shropshire Star, which were played at the Mary Webb School, Pontesbury on Saturday 7th June and Sunday 8th June reports John Morris. Once again a maximum entry was received for this unique event, with several unlucky entries having to be returned.

In preliminary group one of the under 12 event, holders Selby, posted notice of their strength, with comprehensive victories over Gloucester A, Milton Keynes and Launceston B, while group two saw St Ives edge out local team Pontesbury, with Stroud third and Butterfly fourth. A close affair between Dagenham and Gloucester, with the southerners 5-3 winners decided group three, while a powerful Launceston A inspired by England's leading Under 12 player, Neil Bevan, won group four ahead of Pontesbury B, St Ives and Gloucester B.

In the first semi-final Selby, led by Ellen Meddings, proved too strong for St Ives, winning by 7-1. In the second semi-final second seeds Launceston A narrowly lost by 5-3 to the Dagenham team of J West, A Gower, L Radford and M Angus, with Angus taking the vital battle of the No. 4's deuce in the third. Selby powered their way into a 3-0 lead in the final before Radford and West took two for Dagenham, making the score 3-2. That however, was to be their last success, as Selby recovered to take the remaining games and complete a hat trick of wins in this competition. The unexpected star of the Selby side was young Andrew Nicholls who, at only 10 years of age, has yet to be beaten in this competition.

A cracking entry in the under 14 event saw a very powerful Pontefract, totally dominate one group one from Butterfly, Milton Keynes and Oldham. Launceston did likewise in group two, while sets difference dictated that Wisbech were second, Holders Selby third, Gloucester B fourth. Group three was a much closer affair, with Selby making the semi-final, after a titanic struggle against Grove. Newbury were third and the less experienced Harlepool side fourth. In group four, Thames Valley commenced with two comfortable 7-1 victories before having a real struggle to defeat Dagenham, inspired by Grant Solder, 5-3. St Ives were third and Stroud fourth.

The first semi-final illustrated Pontefract's strength in depth as they overwhelmed Launceston A, who were without Mark Bawden at No. 2. Neil Bevans two wins were their sole victories in a 6-2 defeat. In the second semi-final Craig Smith recorded a thrilling victory over Grant Connolly, but the young Selby squad were unable to maintain their challenge against four strapping lads from Thames Valley who triumphed 6-2.

The final provided a feast of good table tennis. Pontesbury's Nick Ryder, scoring over Jeremy Krysinskiak 1-0, Connolly out hit Graham Cook 1-1, Mark Stevenson outlasted Brian Gnoschev 2-1 while Alan Cole was just too strong for Jason Roberts 2-2 at half way. The crunch match came when Ryder edged out Connolly while Stevenson expertly took Krysinskiak 4-2 to the northerners. Cole snatched one back from McKeever but was unable to win the last game to win the shield for Pontesbury at 14 in the third.

This tournament will be held again on Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th June 1987 and any associated events near the tournament are invited to contact the organiser John Morris, 2 School Bank, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury. Tel: 0743 791340 (b) or 0743 790303 (h).
Strengthening foundations

Tom Blunn, ETTA Chairman

I would like to congratulate Fiona Brown and her team on the quality of the last issue of the magazine. I personally know of the amount of time that Fiona has put into the June/July issue both at the office and at home during the evening. It has made us all realise that being the editor is not a cushy job by any means — it requires dedication and time.

As regard content, I was very interested to note the early success of the eleven-up game. I am fully behind this experiment and hope the question of the sequence of service will soon be resolved. My own personal opinion favours either alternate or at the most a change after every two services.

The question of the dates of issue of the magazine has been dealt with now on several occasions and, as was anticipated, existing subscribers would be able to order the full eight issues of the magazine would be secure and there would be enough surplus to permit more pages and more reading material. It sounds so simple but it needs effort by every county. Why not try to help; it is easy to criticise but not as easy to be constructive.

Seminar south west

The third South West Development seminar took place at Torquay on Sunday 22nd June reports regional co-ordinating committee chairman Mike Lewis. Twelve leagues from six counties were represented and the ETTA development officer Fiona Brown was in attendance.

Sunday's programme included four major discussion topics 'Establishing clubs in schools' presented by Mrs Brenda Russe; 'Table tennis for all', by Tom Honey; 'Communication, the problems' by Fiona Brown; and 'Raising finance for league development' by Peter Hancock.

The system of split discussion groups proved popular and enabled leaders to summarise many aspects of table tennis activities.

Fiona Brown's detail of the new Sports Council campaign 'What's your Sport' was well received and all agreed, a suitable vehicle for use in the promotion of greater communication in the South West.

One interesting decision agreed by the group led by Eric Wynn (Avon county chairman) was for a yearly meeting of league and county officials at a central venue to discuss mutual problems and pass on details of successful projects.

Altogether this was a worthy and successful day made so by the backing of those who attended, the ETTA for its support and financial aid, the South West Sports Council for its grant towards venue, administration and hospitality costs, and the speakers.

Double dealing earns £160,000

Table tennis at all levels will benefit from the newly announced sponsorship in which Dunlop and John Jaques & Son will support the English Table Tennis Association to the value of £160,000 over the next eight years.

The two companies have jointly agreed to provide tables, nets, posts, surrounds, scoring machines and umpires' tables for the English open, the English closed and invitation or other televised events. The agreement will run from 1st September this year and will also cover the English junior closed and open tournaments. Dunlop and John Jaques are committed to the development of English table tennis from grass roots to championship levels.

Both companies now have the right to advertise themselves as official suppliers of equipment to the Association. Chairman Tom Blunn commented: "The ETTA are extremely pleased that two major forces in British sport have co-operated to provide a comprehensive package of sponsorship which will help to nurture the development of the game in this country".

For more official news see Money Matters page 32
Safety Service

The tragic accident in March when a 22-month-old baby was crushed to death by a table tennis table in a toddlers' play centre prompted Table Tennis News to contact the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' new leisure safety service.

Table tennis tables are to be found in most schools, community halls, youth clubs and leisure centres throughout the country. The sport is economic on space and has modest requirements of specialist equipment and clothing. However, injuriousness and in formality of participation can bring about a relaxed management approach to the game, a factor which may not be in the best interest of safety or the sport itself.

Table tennis does not immediately come to mind as being a potentially dangerous sport. However, injuries to broken toes and sprained ankles are not uncommon and could be prevented by adopting some of the following safe practices:

**Equipment**

The use of any large item of equipment presents a problem of storage, handling and maintenance.

Ideally, storage space should be located adjacent to the hall in which the activity is to take place. The store room needs fire resistant doors, kept locked when the store room is not in use.

Table tennis tables should not be left blocking or impeding access routes, e.g. corridors, and under no circumstances in front of fire doors or entrances.

If equipment has to be left in areas open to members of the public then it is important that tables are properly secured so they cannot be knocked over.

Equipment should always be handled by members who are experienced and competent in its movement and assembly. The requirement for handling table tennis tables varies considerably with different makes of tables, however, the same rules apply:

i) Make sure there is a clear passage from the place of storage to the playing area. Check for any obstructions, spillages, closed doors, etc.

ii) Have sufficient pairs of hands available to manage the job...important in avoiding unnecessary strain when lifting.

iii) Plan a co-ordinated routine for assembly ensuring each person understands his own task and what other members of the group are doing.

Maintenance of equipment is an ongoing responsibility necessary to avoid accidents and possible injury; it is not a matter of just doing repairs when something goes wrong! The equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and examined for particular attention to table tennis legs and wheels.

Facilities

Table tennis should be played in a well lit and ventilated room. A sprung floor is ideal, but the game can be enjoyed on any flat surface that provides adequate grip.

It is important to keep the floor surface dust and moisture free to prevent slips. This can be achieved by regular cleaning and good ventilation.

If drinks get spilled during a game, stop play and mop up straight away.

There should always be sufficient clear space around the table to allow unhindered movement of players. Obstacles hidden in the wings of the room may not be obvious and can cause unexpected injuries.

The proximity of glass to the playing area is only acceptable if it is adequately protected by wall bars, for example or if the glass is specially toughened to withstand the impact of a falling person.

Clothing

While, in many non competitive situations, special clothing for playing table tennis is not essential, dress should always be comfortable and allow good mobility. It is important to wear flat shoes which give a good grip on the surface being used. Specialist table tennis shoes are ideal.

Supervision

Supervision of all sporting activities is recommended. This can be best achieved by an ETFA-qualified coach who can be instrumental in the acquisition of skill and adoption of safe practices. There should be a competent person available to deal with an emergency at all times.

Emergency Action

When preparing for emergencies, anticipate the worst! It may be necessary to learn essential first aid to deal with an injury as quick remedial action can prevent long-term damage.

i) Stop the activity immediately.

ii) Protect and support the injured part.

iii) Control bleeding. Cover the wound with dressing and apply pressure.

iv) Control swelling. Bandage the injury, apply ice cold water and elevate the injured part.

v) Treat the injured person for shock. Keep them warm and reassured.

vi) Seek medical care and treatment.

Members should also be familiar with the emergency procedures of the premises they are occupying.

Safety plays an important role in the preparation for any physical activity. Table Tennis is no different to other sports, it presents its own hazards which need to be recognised and avoided.

Proper management of activities ensures the safety and enjoyment of those who participate.

This article was prepared by RoSPA's leisure safety department in conjunction with Table Tennis News. More about the departments' services and their subscription rates for membership can be obtained from RoSPA, Cannon House, The Priory, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS. Tel: 021-233 2461.


What's your Sport?

‘What’s Your Sport?’ is the next big campaign by the Sports Council to get the nation off its backside and into sport. The new campaign is to build upon previous Sports Council campaigns which, over the past decade, have been targeted at specific groups or themes such as, health, family sport, 50+, and disabled.

The current campaign, Ever Thought of Sport? continues until the end of 1986 aimed at Young People.

But in May 1987 the Sports Council will step up the Sport for All campaign and will direct its attention to all those not currently participating.

The theme ‘What’s Your Sport?’ aims to fill an information gap that currently exists. A multitude of sporting opportunities are available but not all are widely known and there are many clubs who would welcome new members. Table tennis clubs with their traditionally low local profile are no exception and could benefit from the massive sport promotion.

The Sports Council intends to take its message into the living rooms by, for the first time, booking television time to publicise the values of sport, whether they be health and fitness, or are purely social values such as fun and friendship.

Part-funded by a £1.5m sponsorship from the Milk Marketing Board, ‘What’s your Sport?’ will feature 4 week bursts of eye-catching TV advertising in May and September 1987 and May 1988.

Each 'ad' will carry a central telephone number for enquirers, accessed by a local call, and they will be sent a pack of information about the sport of their choice.

Time for every table tennis club to think what it offers to potential members to be ready for 1987! 
Family favourites

The family who are bats about table tennis

By Tony Pritchett of The Star

To ask if the Billingtons play table tennis is a bit like wondering if the Cowdrey's and the Bedser's played cricket or whether the Charlton family were any good at football.

The Billingtons of Chesterfield DO play table tennis. Dad Maurice was No. 1 England junior, and now both his children, Bradley aged 15 and 14-year-old Julie are making their mark. Mum is the 'failure' of the family... she only got to No. 2 in the rankings, although she did eventually overtake her husband at senior level and won an English senior title.

The call up for the Billington kids to play for England in the European Youth Championships in Belgium was another remarkable family triumph. It is the second year running the brother and sister team has won nomination for this event.

Contrary to popular expectation, the famous kids of famous parents did not have table tennis bats thrust into their tiny fists at the moments of birth. Bradley, now one of the nation's outstanding prospects, didn't play until he was nine years old; Julie followed him after a promising career in gymnastics.

Success

"People say, when they hear about our success, that the kids ought to be good. But what they have achieved is down to them; we can only advise and coach. If they didn't love the game they wouldn't be any good; if they didn't want to play at the highest level, they would find something else to do," said Mr Billington. "It's no use people saying 'they should be good, shouldn't they?' but they forget that they started with a bigger disadvantage than most in that their expectations were higher."

"Far from being pushed, there have been times when they have pushed me into training. At the same time, there's nothing robotic about them, they have school exams and other interests just like other kids. The exams are important, whether the other pastimes get in the way as they grow up, we shan't know until it happens."

The family have cleaned up local and area championships and helped establish Chesterfield, the home of England's No. 2 Alan Cooke, as one of the national centres of table tennis in the country.

The maintenance of this civic pride will depend on the development of Bradley and Julie in the next ten years.

The Billingtons, Bradley, dad Maurice, mum Jackie and Julie.

Limelight

"To stay where they are, in the limelight, will be more difficult than getting there," said Mr Billington. "The pressure on No. 1 in any sport is continuous and it's immense. We practice a good deal but it's not an every day of the week demand."

"Jackie and I are qualified coaches but our main help to them is financial. It costs a lot of money to travel up and down the country competing in tournaments. A weekend's play can cost £150 and I am happy that we are able to do it."

Article and photo reproduced by kind permission of Sheffield Newspapers Ltd.

On the ball in Dubrovnik

Colin Clementt reports

In the second week of June I attended the 1986 ITTF Council meeting, which was held in the Yugoslav holiday resort of Dubrovnik. With temperatures in the 90's (or 30's for metric readers) it was hard for members to drag themselves away from the undoubted distractions of the beach, but duty triumphed over pleasure and the meeting settled down to a wide range of business.

The first major item was a progress report on the arrangements for the 1987 World Championships, to be held in New Delhi, by Mr Mattital of the Indian TT Federation. We were pleased to learn that, although the full organising committee had not yet been set up, it was hoped that this would be done shortly and we were reassured that Indians were renowned as successful last-minute organiser. Those who were concerned with the 1975 World Championships in Calcutta will recall that at the corresponding stage of preparations the stadium had not been built. The New Delhi stadium has already been in use, so clearly matters are well in hand this time.

The Council also exercised its right to make amendments to the regulations for international competitions, which are normally reflected in each Association's own playing regulations. There were two which represented significant changes of policy. The first was to make it legal for playing clothing to carry general advertising, instead of just the maker's name or trademark. Two advertisements are now allowed on the front or side of a playing shirt and one on the back, and one may be carried anywhere on shorts or skirt. There is a specified maximum size for each of these advertisements and it is hoped that this restriction will make the idea acceptable to television.

The object of the change is to enable players to derive benefit from sponsorship and, initially at least, it will probably be of most interest to the top players. The second change is likely to have a more general effect. In an attempt to limit the extent of time-wasting and "tactical" delays, breaks for towelling are now permitted only at the change of service or, where service is alternating, after every five points.

The feeling of the meeting was that the continual interruption of play for towelling was now so excessive that something had to be done, rather in the way that action was taken a few years ago to discourage foot-stamping during service. That action virtually eliminated the problem and it will be interesting to see if the new measure is equally effective.

On the day following the series of meetings our host arranged a relaxing boat trip around some of the many islands just off the coast, each of which seems to have its own naturist beach. In the spirit of international friendship we greeted the sun-worshippers as we sailed past, until we heard the warning voice of our President: "Don't wave at them, Nancy, you never know what they'll wave back!"

Full details of subsequent ETTA regulation changes are on page 27
The Schildkrot story

Fiona Brown

The ‘Best of British’ is very much the theme behind the new Schildkrot British League. In the few short months since Schildkrot, the Munich based table tennis ball manufacturers, moved in with a £25,000 sponsorship deal to support the 1986/87 competition, there have been exciting developments.

Team promotion is the name of the game this season and each of the league’s 64 teams has the opportunity to boost its following thanks to the promotional packs being provided by Schildkrot. Our new sponsor is completely confident that the Schildkrot league is going to be so popular that spectators will soon be queuing at every venue to see the stars in action.

Nicky Mason returns from Holland to support the GKN hope of a second title. Dave Wingar 0784 56006

Premier Division
1. Ormesby
2. GKN Wolverhampton
3. Omega Reading
4. Butterfly Cardiff
5. Panoramic Bath
6. Grove
7. MBS St Neots
8. South Yorkshire

First Division
1. Dagenham FC
2. TSP Libbey
3. TCB Dolphins
4. Byker Newcastle
5. CVF Warwickshire/Birmingham
6. Chan Construction
7. Omega Reading
8. Express Sports (Banda) Torbay

Second Division North
1. Ormesby
2. GKN Wolverhampton
3. Unity Bradford
4. March
5. Kingsboro Insurance
6. EA Wavney
7. Oldham
8. Sinfon Lincoln

Second Division South
1. Medway
2. Gunnersbury Triangle
3. Nittaku Rusi
4. Libbey
5. Fellows Cramleigh
6. Global Sports Plymouth
7. Jaques Fareham
8. Ashford

Third Division North
1. Ormesby
2. Chan Construction
3. Leicester
4. Crusaders Lincoln
5. Libbey
6. Grove
7. Unity Leeds
8. Byker Newcastle

Third Division South
1. Ashford
2. Rejents
3. Abeng Warriors
4. Depford Table Tennis Centre Rams
5. Team Rams/Hussle
6. Thorn EMW
7. Errey’s Print
8. Countryman Tunbridge Wells

Third Division West
1. Leicester
2. Jolliffe Poole
3. Lanark East
4. Express Sports (Banda) Torbay
5. Panoramic Bath
6. KCD Stiga
7. Omega Reading
8. Express Sports (Banda) Gwent

Third Division East
1. Britannia Deepshire
2. NBS St Neots
3. AHW Pioneers
4. Norwich Foxwood
5. Dagenham FC
6. Witham Town
7. Smith Motors Peterborough
8. Well Connected Wellingborough

Player power
Reigning premier champions GKN Wolverhampton have retained the services of England No. 1 Desmond Douglas for a second year and team manager Paul Chester is naturally delighted, “We worked hard to get Des to join us 12 months ago and I think that’s an even greater coup that he has decided to stay with us.” GKN have also been busy in the transfer market. England No. 7 Nicky Mason has returned from Holland to back Des at No. 2 whilst the unsettled Phil Bradbury has found his niche at No. 3. Des’ practice partner, Carl Morgan, completes the GKN line up which Chester believes will retain the title. “I am happy with the side; it’s strong and it’s well balanced. We’re looking forward to playing in Europe and the Schildkrot title is in our sights — from what I’ve heard so far there is nobody stronger.”

Full details of fixtures and venues are to be found in the SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE handbook, available now from the ETIA office, price £1 including postage/packing.

Schildkrot distributed by Butterfly

Photo: Courtesy Butterfly U.K. Ltd.
A tragedy of good intentions — on the magazine in 1985/86

John Prean

At risk of offending reader Sweeting and other fans, I feel we owe our readers rather more by way of explanation than we have given so far. If we don’t, they just won’t buy the magazine again. Some, I fear, will do just that. The rest, rebuff our efforts to give the old warrior another chance, because without it what sport will it be? In the meantime

Sackcloth and ashes should be the order of the day. We have let our readers down. I say ‘we’ because I am part of the ETTA and none of us are blameless. We could all have fought a little harder against what we saw coming. One is reminded of a tale marketing men relate to each other on rainy days.

The best hamburger in town

The hero of the story is the one who made this excellent product. His overheads were low because he operated from a stall, his product the best because he used the most and the best meat. Life can be very simple. He did so well that he could afford to send his son to college where he studied ECONOMICS. What he learned convinced him that the world was heading for a slump and he naturally told his father about it and advised him to take precautions, like cutting costs to be leaner and more efficient than the competition. The father responded by cutting costs in the only possible way - by reducing the meat content of the hamburger.

In time he lost customers, because the product was no longer as good. His takings dropped and further action become necessary. It was swiftly and bravely taken by further cutting the meat content. As you will have guessed, fewer people bought the product and after repeating the process a few more times, the father went bankrupt surveying his stock of meatless uneaten hamburgers, whilst singing the praises of his economist son who had foreseen it all. “I sure made a wise decision when I sent my son to college” he cried.

Lower costs, less profit

I wonder whether the son joined the ETTA, because his theories certainly gained acceptance here. The old magazine in its last year under George Yates is said to have lost £6,000, but it was a very tasty hamburger with 57 pages and a devoted readership; the 50 pages plus were cut to 30 plus and the price went up by a third. Was it not predictable what would happen? Our taste for suffering went further. We added unpunctuality and late often outdated issues to our other sins. To charge more for less was not the answer.

Advertising

It was obvious that the Magazine carried fewer pages of advertising. Why was no-one selling space at the start of the season? We have, after all, a number of full-time employees. The badminton people’s magazine is free and they get lots of advertising. So they manage to sell space. Much as I admire our chairmen’s efforts to sell space, should not someone have got on to this a little sooner? Was it not clear that, if the first issue was two months late, all the others would be too? Is it not wrong in every way to let down your readers, who have paid £8 at the start of the season to get eight copies? So when our big-hearted ETTA tells us that there will be no increase next season, I put a counter question: Will there by any readers!

A Service or a Profit Centre?

The membership pays quite a lot of money to the ETTA - one can debate whether it is enough. Many see nothing in return. Should they not see a free monthly magazine which is what the badminton members see? Once that principle is established, one can talk about how to do it. It can be done. There is no question about that. Without a magazine the ETFA might as well shut up shop. The answer certainly is not to serve up to our members an increasingly less meaty, but more expensive hamburger. A loss of £6,000 sounds very grave and few of us would care to lose that sort of money, but it has been seen in context. The ETFA spends more than £300,000 in one year, so that £6,000 on the essential task of communicating with members, telling them what is going on, is
The history of spin

ATTP Coordinator Derek Baddeley reviews the development of spin

Spin, for both attacking and defensive play has of course always been an integral part of the game, primarily as a means of controlling both depth and trajectory of the ball, but also to some degree as a counter-offensive measure - i.e. backspin by defenders to limit attacker's opportunities, topspin by attackers to overcome this limitation and put some pressure on defenders whilst reducing the risk involved in attacking.

Even vicious spin services are nothing new - I have been told that in the twenties and thirties finespin and then knucklespin serves developed by some of the world's top players because such unreturnable at that time machines were virtually returned to alternate sets of five services, with the winner being the player who managed to return at least one, and then win the subsequent rally.

Open hand

This course led to the adoption of the "open-hand" rule, and eventually the much stricter rules in force today were formulated to stop other forms of services appearing at various times, notably the "back to the table" services! I can assure readers that without these service rules you would be facing deliveries today which would be completely unplayable, and would make the present range of service actions appear tame!

During the sixties I took part in an international tour of the USA and there was much comment in the American press about my own services and the effect they were having on my opponents. Some members of the US association decided to try to "turn the tables" (an apt metaphor!) and staged an apparently innocent "curtain raiser" to one of the matches at which time matches were virtually returned to alternate sets of five services, with the winner being the player who managed to return at least one, and then win the subsequent rally.

The problem was that this type of rally had become more and more unusual as the balance swung to predominantly "stowenew" defensive tactics and the natural "flow" of the game was lost. It was to try to break this defensive dominance that Stan Jacobson and then myself devised the slow, heavy topspin loop in the early sixties.

The technique was not intended to win points outright (although to begin with it often did) but was aimed primarily at forcing a high return fairly quickly, giving the opportunity of a hard hit or kill. Today's generation of fast-looping, fast moving players can have very little conception of how difficult it was before the loop to break down the numerous almost impenetrable low-chop backspin defences which faced the minority of committed attackers like myself.

Dour defence

Tournament after tournament after tournament would see most of the late stages of both mens and womens singles reduced to dour "pushing" trials of endurance between defensive players who were either incapable or frightened of hitting, or more often than not resolutely refusing to do so! This eventually resulted in the "time-limit" rule being imposed, and when this proved to be not effective enough, the "ex-pedite" rule which survives today, although rarely required!

The loop of change moved all this, and I make no apology for it! Surely no-one wants to see a return to the interminable "chiselling" matches of long ago?

I would remind my contemporaries and elders how that kind of play really killed the game for years. It was the new "T.V. refusenik" to consider" filming the major events for a very long time: and how I have heard the comments of spectators walking out en-masse in disgust from tournament finals between top-ranking players where the score had reached two points each after half an hour's play!

There was naturally a terrific uproar throughout the country from the majority of officials and leading defenders as Stan and I swept most of them aside in double-quick time; cries of "It's not table tennis" and "Ban the shot" were heard everywhere, but a number of prominent people acknowledged that something had been needed to open up the game again. Anyway, how could you ban what was effectively a slow topspin drive?

Indeed, my coach and mentor, the late Adrian Haydon commented when he saw me developing the shot, that it was only an extension of his own heavy topspin drive, and he bemoaned the fact that without the benefit of our modern sandwich rubber he had been unable to produce the same amount of spin in the heyday of his battles against the defence of the famous Victor Barna, or he felt that the course of the game's history might have been somewhat changed...

At any rate, World No 4 at his best, was of course the father of my team-mate Ann, who became the World No 2 woman, but gave up the game largely because, after she adopted a "sponge" bat, the ETFA banned its use in this country while the rest of the world carried on allowing it for some considerable time.
Our loss became Lawn tennis’s gain, as we all knew she went on to become one of the best half-dozen players in the world, and eventually won Wimbledon under her married name of Ann Jones.

However, this is history of another kind, and to revert back to the loop-drive, the main point to bear in mind is that at that time it was used as a means to an end, and not as an end in itself, as it has tended to become in recent years.

As was to be expected, defensive play began to lose its appeal as very few of the top defenders were able to cope with the rapid increase in the number of loopers who began to appear throughout Europe. However, some did manage to adapt by dint of much practice, one notable example being England’s No 1 Ian Harrison, who learned how to chop the slow loop very well indeed and keep his returns low.

Others followed his lead and to counter this the fast, over the table loop was developed. One of the first exponents in this country was my practice partner and county team mate Ralph Gunnnion now the national veterans champion.

But the best and most effective answer to a looper at that time was to block it over the table, immediately after the bounce. Or, better still, to hit or loop first, thus denying your opponent the “pushed” ball which was essential for him to be able to loop. At that time, the rubbers available did not enable one to loop properly against hitters, or to counter-loop.

Famous Europeans Dragutin Surbek (above) and Istvan Jonyer (below)

So this became the era of the fast, close to the table, counter-hitters and blockers, Chester Barnes being our own best exponent, staying England No 1 for several years from the age of 16, and rarely being beaten by an English player until eventually challenged by an equally quick-reflexed counter hitter in Denis Neale. Neale took over the mantle of top-man as Chester moved to professional coaching and exhibitions.

The big problem for all the top European hitters was now how to beat the pen-holder Japanese and Chinese, who at that time were very “flat” hitters. Although we had men who were just as quick as the top Asians, they found themselves unable to rally consistently with them.

Firstly, due to being used to countering topspin hitting so that they constantly hit into the net by allowing for a “kick” that was not there and secondly, as anyone who has opposed a flat penhold hitter will know, it was extremely difficult to anticipate where the ball was going directed, particularly with their backhand side. The swing barely altered, only the blade angle was changed to send the ball down either wing. Obviously the closer you moved to the table, the less time there was to react!

The answer was eventually found by the Swedes, whose national coach at that time, coincidently, was the Japanese penholder and former world champion Ichiro Ogimura. A faster, more resilient rubber, giving a much improved coefficient of friction (grip) was developed by manufacturers, Stiga, in partnership with a Japanese company.

This, allied to the greater fitness, mobility, and speed of footwork around the table which Ogimura instilled into the Swedish players gave rise to the two-wing fast-looping style which took Stellan Bengtsson to the world singles title. Following his lead and using the new rubber, European loopers found that by virtue of their constant “lifting” actions, they could rally with the Asian penholders, and begin to exploit their weakness on the backhand side.

The style was refined still further by players such as Yugoslavia’s Dragutin Surbek and Hungary’s Tibor Klampar and Istvan Jonyer, who developed the straight-armed “power” loop from well back off the table. This allowed more time to assess the direction of the penhold attack or block, as well as the time to actually execute such a long arm swing, whilst imparting very heavy topspin, the “dipping” trajectory of the loop combined with its speed making it even more difficult to block.

To digress for a moment, it should be remembered that a major spin-off from this technique was its adaptation to the game of tennis, by one Bjorn Borg, himself the son of a good table tennis player who much admired national hero Stellan Bengtsson.

Loop-driving has now become as much a part of modern tennis as in our game, particularly among European players, who are now beginning to dominate the world scene.

The “dipping” trajectory of topspin returns of serve, as originally perfected by Borg, is now a common weapon against serve/volleyers on fast surfaces, whilst the acceleration and kick in the bounce of looped baseline driving has revolutionised slow-court play in recent years.

Back to our game now, and with blockers world-wide beginning to find it difficult to contain loopers, (with the notable exception of our own Desmond Douglas, whose phenomenal reflexes and control have enabled him to stay in contention with the best), the pendulum began to swing back to defence, either in the conventional backspin style, or by off-table counter-looping and high topspin returns.

As an ever-increasing variety of rubbers became available, it was inevitable that someone, somewhere would conclude that the answer to all this spin and speed was to absorb it, and in Europe, this manifested itself in the appearance of the “Anti”-loop rubber dead-bat defensive style, also very effectively adopted by the top-ranking Japanese defender Takashima.

The ever-inventive Chinese meanwhile took a similar but subtly different course, and engineered astonishing changes in their nationally known style, putting into effect their policy of “Allowing many flowers to bloom” in an all-out effort to regain their World supremacy, which had been snatched from them by the victorious Hungarians, winners of the mens team Swaythling Cup.

Adoption of the shake-hands western grip was encouraged, England’s Desmond Douglas is renowned worldwide for his amazing blocking abilities.
enabling more active use of the backhand as an attacking weapon, but more importantly allowing development of European style chop defence.

The Chinese knew that this by itself would not be enough, and experimented with different rubbers and techniques aimed at confusing attacking loopers, eventually emerging with the long-pimpled combination bat style which we have come to know so well, bewildering the top European players with their mixture of spin and non-spin coupled with quick two-wing hits at every opportunity.

Although this helped them to regain the Swaythling Cup at the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham, the Chinese had become very sensitive to world opinion, which was accusing them of using a form of deception and cheating; and they quite obviously felt that under the influence of team spirit they would not be enough, and more importantly enabling more active use of the backhand, as for instance Guo Hua used to do on the backhand, and always looked vulnerable.

This constant battle for supremacy between attackers and defenders, blockers v. loopers, penhold v. shake-hands, East v. West is what has pushed our ingenuity to develop new styles, methods, materials or whatever, as of course happens naturally in all spheres of human activity and endeavour.

Liang Geliang one of China's first exponents of the combination bat. Photo: Brian Ashton.

From there on, the Chinese appear to have discouraged further use of combination bat technique, but it had caught the imagination of a number of players, particularly of course John Hilton, who went on to win the European singles title, and in the process spawned a whole new generation of combination bat players, bringing us to the present day situation.

It has become noticeable now that under the influence of team manager Li-Fu-Yung, 3 times world singles runner-up to Chuang-Tse-Tung (I insist on referring to these two marvellous Chinese hitters with the name spelling by which I once knew them), the Chinese have decided to nullify the spin of the European loopers by attacking first with fast, over the table angled drives, rather than waiting for the westerners to swing first and then blocking, as for instance Guo Hua used to do on the backhand, and always looked vulnerable.

Larkhall conquer London

writes Mike Loveder

London's first division of the Central League was again keenly contested during the 1985/86 season. However towards the end Club 25 Larkhall looked virtually assured of the title, having no less than five Surrey and England ranked players in the averages including Mike Hammond who maintained a 100% record.

The Department of the Environment 'A's' snatched the runners-up spot at the last minute from Exiles 'A'. In DOE's last match of the season they met Exiles and both sides were below maximum strength. Richard Beckham took a well-earned maximum in this match and Gordon Holmes recorded a 2-straight victory over Jon Green. Mike Loveder stood in for Mike O'Leary and found himself facing Gordon Holmes at 4-4. Mike's victory, 25-23 in the third, put DOE 'A' among the medalists. It was to their credit that DOE were the only team to play and beat Club 25 Larkhall, although Exiles gave them a fright.

Alan Lindsay's Fulham were quite unable to keep up with Exiles despite having a very respectable team. Fulham dropped valuable points late in the season to slide into fourth place.

It was Dave Solman and Phil Cawser who played consistently enough to help earn the Exiles second place, followed by Bethnal Green Institute's young Chris Herbert (Ian Kenyon, Pete Hunt and Ian Kenyon), could have maintained the position. Tony Miller's St. Brides did very well to maintain a mid-table position. Tony was one of a few players who came out of the season relatively unscathed and still managed to win a maximum from the league leaders including the scalp of Dave Harding.

Exiles III started the season as relegation favourites but soon proved their worth, led by veterans Phil Newton and Dave Moss. Gainsford 'B's' strength varied from week to week. Early in the season they beat DOE 'A', largely thanks to an inspired performance by David Svenson, but they were also seen to lose to weaker opposition.

London University 'A', last year's champions, began to struggle from the outset without the services of Mark Oakley who is away in Germany. Ian Fullerton kept the side alive and they have to thank him for another season in division 1.

Young Chris Herbert started the season well for Stepney Green, but they were unable to continue the good results of last year and must therefore face relegation. Gainsford 'B' are no doubt looking forward to a season in division 2 as they only managed to clinch five points.

Promoted to the first division next season are the Metropolitan Police and the Department of the Environment 'B'.

Final table

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In the final of the men's team knock-out competition, Bethnal Green (Ian Kenyon, Pete Hunt and Steve White) lost 4-5 to Exiles I (Don McGilivary, Richard Beckham and Gordon Holmes).
**Stiga County Championships**

**Extra interest**

_Doug Moss_

The last round-up of the 1985/86 season produces the players' leading averages for all divisions.

Looking ahead to next season — it was reported to the annual conference that 167 teams have entered. This is six more teams than were in the Championships at the end of the season. To cater for this number two sections of a fourth division have been introduced in the senior section and in the veterans' category there is now a section 3D.

In Division 3 of the senior section last season there were three sections of ten and one of nine teams. Views of counties represented at the conference were such which showed an overwhelming preference for the introduction of a fourth division and Divisions 3 and 4 being of six/seven teams.

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**Final leading averages 1985/86**

(Qualification - 4 matches and at least 70% wins)

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**JUNIOR 3**

- Nick Rayner (Le) 8 0 100
- Karl Albon (Hu) 7 0 100
- John Barrow (Ca) 7 0 100
- Andrew Wright (Ch) 6 0 100
- W. Armstrong (Ca) 6 0 100
- Julie Heslop (Hu) 5 9 100
- Steven Scowcroft (La) 5 9 100
- Peter Lewis (AV) 5 9 100
- Tony Sweet (Dv) 5 9 100
- Mary Hefler (Av) 5 9 100

**JUNIOR 3B**

- Stuart Champion (Brk) 8 0 100
- Jon Collins (Ca) 7 0 100
- Michael Wright (Av) 7 0 100
- Peter Bowler (Brk) 7 0 100
- W. Holingsworth (De) 6 2 75
- Doug Moss (Brk) 6 2 75
- John Barrow (Ca) 5 8 100
- Tony Sweet (Dv) 5 8 100
- Mary Hefler (Av) 5 8 100
- Steven Scowcroft (La) 5 8 100

**JUNIOR 3C**

- Nick Rayner (Le) 7 1 88
- J. Albon (Hu) 7 1 88
- John Barrow (Ca) 7 1 88
- Andrew Wright (Ch) 6 2 75
- W. Armstrong (Ca) 6 2 75
- Julie Heslop (Hu) 5 9 100
- Steven Scowcroft (La) 5 9 100
- Peter Lewis (AV) 5 9 100
- Tony Sweet (Dv) 5 9 100
- Mary Hefler (Av) 5 9 100

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**NEW BLOOD, OLD PROBLEMS**

_Bob Adams_

As the experts of these pages will have observed that it is a full season since former referee Brian Halliday decided to use his right hand to hold just a bat rather than a pen as well, but presumably they will have realised that TT is still played in Berkshire, at least because of the publication of the 'Jimmy Stokes Benefit' edition of TT News in July. Many thanks for your contributions in the past Brian, and I'm sure I believe you when you say there is nothing to this press office's job! At this stage of the pre-season run up, of the four Berks leagues (Bracknell, Maidenhead, Newbury and Reading) only Bracknell have decided upon the make up of their league. Largely due to the withdrawal of the five teams of Birch Hill following the loss of their venue (the Girl Guides wanted it back), their players have distributed themselves around the league. With minor losses here and there, secretary Alan Goss had regretfully to announce a reduction from 6 to 5 divisions. In the coming season the 3 largest clubs - Wokingham (8 teams), Met. Office (who specialise in indoor sports so their matches can't be rained off) (7 teams), Bracknell (5 teams) with teams well distributed throughout the divisions will be trying, along with the other premier division clubs, to knock fourth largest Woodley (4 teams in Bracknell) off their top spot of last season.

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_Karen Witt, the reigning Commonwealth champion and former English No 1, who retired from our sport at the end of the 1985/86 season. Karen is now training to be a nurse at Westminster Hospital._
County Notes

DORSET
Martin Hughes

County championships
The new season is quickly upon us and our county teams will be hoping for better times this season. None of the 1987-88 team managed to finish above mid-table, although the senior seconds finish ed a creditable fifth on the same number of points as the two teams above them. A problem we have in Dorset is not enough junior and lady players. No new talent has emerged for a few seasons and we must hope for better in the future.

Tees Sport super league
The Tees Sport super league provided a great success last season and will be held again during 1986/87. Champion Tony Clayton is likely to be the player to beat in the coming season.

Schildkroit British league
Joffie Poole will be competing in the third division west of the new Schildkroit British league and have secured two major new signings. County No. 1 Tony Clayton comes from Panoramic Bath, and Hakan Sigrell a Swedish student, will be the new number two. The remainder of the squad remains unchanged with John Robinson, Jason Creasey, Martin Hughes, Terry Glennon and Rodney Thomas providing the back-up.

CUMBRIA
Colin Taylor

In their two final matches the Cumbria senior side lost 2-8 against Nottingham and 1-9 away to Durham. Against Notts the wins were predictably our top ranked players Tim Pachul and Karen Backhouse (both Barrow). Tim came from behind once again to win – 14, 16, 22 and Karen did likewise but finished comfortably, winning – 24, 11, 14. The only other set to go to three games was the ladies doubles where Miss Backhouse and Elaine Bell (Barrow) did well to extend their opponents before losing 18, – 5, – 9.

In the Durham match it was Tim Pachul and John Backhouse who registered the win in the mens doubles with a – 17, 15, 15 scoreline. One more set went the full distance and that was the womens doubles. Karen Backhouse and Margot Lewis (Barrow) did well to extend their opponents before losing 18, – 22, – 12.

Looking back over the season’s results it is obvious that the seniors have been struggling. However, the future looks healthy enough with juniors making an impact already in senior events. The juniors themselves have managed to hold their own and can look forward to better results in the seasons to come.

ESSEX BOUNCE BACK
Lawrie Darnell

What a relief! Only two official positions remain to be filled after the AGM. The posts of tournament secretary and Essex schools representative remain vacant. Clive Oakman and Barry Granger have agreed to respectively organise the Essex senior open and the Essex junior open, a job shared is a job halved.

Colin Trundle (Chelmsford) and Alan Shepherd (Walthamstow) were nominated to become National Councillor. Peter Roden was proposed but refused to stand. Colin Trundle was duly elected to the National Councillor post and was duly elected to the post.

Barry Granger is the new senior mens doubles secretary. Ray Franklin takes over competitions, Phil Gower takes over coaching and Terry Odams and Maurice Newman will be juniors secretary and vice-secretary respectively.

Our county seniors virtually ran away with division 3C, our strength unquestionably lay in our men. Darren Griffin finished the season with a 100% singles record, Graham Slack and Steve Moreman both lost only two and David Smith managed an 83.3% singles average. Our lady players were the weak link in the team and indeed could well have problems in division 2 next season.

The juniors in division 3C, finished in 3rd place, and will remain in that division for next season but they will be minus Craig Saunders and Lawrence Symonds who will be over age. Again as with the seniors this junior team lacked junior girl potential.

PROVIDENCE CAPITAL COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE

Another highly successful season for this league in its 5th year, with the overall winners being Fakenham with a clear 28v33 point gap over nearest rivals, Cheltenham.

Congratulations to the winning team of: Steve Moreman, Darren Griffin, Marny Lane and Richard Peppard, also thanks to John Boyd the league’s chairman for all his organisational work.

LANCASTHERSHIRE
George Yates

In addition to two senior and one junior team, as entered last season in the county championships, Lancashire will, next season, have further representation with a second junior and, for the first time, a veterans team. The season started, taken on 20th May at the AGM put Mark Horsfall of Burnley in charge of the junior seconds and Bob Johnson of Oldham looking after the veterans’ interests.

Winners in the various divisions making up the Lancashire and Cheshire league were:-

Men
1 Bolton
2 N Sale
3 Manchester

Women
1 Warrington
2 Macclesfield

Juniors
1 Preston
2A Oldham
2B Stockport
3 Barrow

LEICESTERSHIRE
Terry Brown

Success at the Leicestershire Closed
A record breaking 367 entries were received for this season’s Leicestershire and district closed championship. Nottinghamshire’s 16-year-old John Holland, who currently plays for Thorn EMI in division one of the Leicestershire league, landed a double, including the blue ribbon mens singles title and the boys singles title. John however had to settle for second best in the intermediate singles final to Simon Griew. Knighton Park’s Liz Bryant also had two victories capturing the cadets and under 100 graded singles titles. Chris Kinsey, Graham Hughes, Tim Odams and Maurice Newman all won one final and lost one, as did sisters Jane and Joanne Heath, who faced each other in two finals.

HERTFORDSHIRE
John Wood and Harry Stevens

In their final match of the season Hertfordshire triumphed 6-4 at home to Bucks with two wins each from John Taylor and John Lennon who then combined to win the men’s doubles game. Peter Harris picked up the other win. It was an unhappy outing for Sally Bux who fought gamely in the singles before going down – 18, 17, 17 and then lost out at 17 in the third playing doubles with Karen Morton.

Highlight of the summer in Hertfordshire was a ‘Ping-Pong-A-Thon’ table tennis marathon, in aid of the ‘Hertfordshire junior’s mini-bus appeal fund’, which was held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre from 25 July to Sunday 10 August.

The purpose of the event was to raise money for the purchase of a mini-bus to convey junior players from the county of Hertfordshire to national tournaments, exhibitions and county matches.

NORFOLK
Ray Hogg

We have a full committee, money and all sorts of ideas to make this coming season something to remember. On a sad note rumour has it that Fakenham are joining Cromer in dis-affiliating and if this is so we will have to re-think our attitudes to the players who are connected with those leagues. The general opinion is that they can’t have both ways.
The Northumberland Chronicle Northumberland 2 star open at Concordia leisure centre, Cramlington on 3rd May was once again a huge success. Alan Cook retained his mens singles title and with it the prize money of £320, defeating Nicky Mason in the final. An exceptional run from unseeded Neil McMaster, who beat England-(entry) Dorking in the quarter finals before falling to Mason in the semis, proved to be the outstanding local performance of the day. Nicky Mason was Peter McQueen, who reached the final of the Class 2 mixed singles before losing to John Denison of Essex.

The womens singles title went to Jill Harris of Staffordshire, but Caron Guthrie deserves a special mention for putting out the seeded Doreen Schofield in the quarters and just losing to the better finalist Lesley Popkiewicz 19 in the third in her semi-final. Clare Mouson also reached the semi-final, and together with Pauline Long, the semi-final of the mens doubles, where they took Harris and Popkiewicz to three games before losing.

The Tyneside summer league season is now in full swing, with 63 teams contesting 8 divisions, and 44 teams contesting the handicap knockout cup. One point per set applies in this league, which ensures that no team can relax even if they have a so called winning margin.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Mike Tunneyling

Notts Juniors remained on course for promotion to the premier division with their fine 7-3 away win over Cheshire. Choivier, who posted a 6-4 win over Warwickshire in the previous fixture, were confident enough to know that Notts only managed to draw with Warwickshire.

However the Notts players responded well to the challenge of the match and notched wins for Tim Sheppard over Simon Jones as well as defeating Andrew Taylor gave Notts a fine start.

In the handicap - perhaps the most improved player in the Notts squad - continued his progress following successive wins over Simon Jones and Joseph Taylor whilst the girls Kay Mayall and Claire Oldman remained undefeated in their matches with Julie Hope and Belinda Hall respectively.

A special mention must be given to Adrian Boltol who despite his two singles defeats played much better than in recent county matches and has approached the form of last season which made him such a dangerous opponent to face.

OXFORDSHIRE ALL SET
Matthew O’Flynn

Team hopes
Karl Bushell has plans to improve on the performance of the senior team who finished a disappointing seventh in division 3C. He hopes to build on the commitment and enthusiasm of players who Brian Hamilton has generated. David Hawkins will be hoping that the junior team will continue in the same form as last season, when they finished third in division 3B and were the - a hard bat - best Bedforshire 1st. Unfortunately, the team will be without the number one player of the past few seasons, Dominic O’Flynn, who led the way in 1985-86 with 11 wins from 14 games. Sergio di Paola, Roger Perry and Paul Knight are also out of the junior category as some rebuilding of the team will be necessary. The Banbury girls, Sally Hughes and Dawn Barnett should show more improvement now they are well settled in the team. A ranking trial is also arranged for early September to select the top team for the boys.

School of sport
Most of the top junior players in the County will be taking part in the Oxfordshire School of Sport at Radley College. Taking command of the coaching during the week will be Nicky Jarvis for what will be his first official duty in the area following his recent appointment. Seven of the 14 places have been taken by players from the Banbury league the dedicated coaching of Dave Joyner is producing obvious success.

STAFFORDSHIRE
Jack Chalkley

This season’s programme of events ended with a repeat of last year’s in the 14 event while the division three and four singles went to Dave Ewen.

Way back in March the 2nd team with Steve Davis (1) Melville Taylor and Lisa Pricehet making their debuts lost to Sussex 3-7. They won their next game against Berkshire 9-1. A feature of both these games was Trevor Bunn, Richard and Martin Stevenson, Terry Darby, Andrew Rice, Trevor Cockburn and Louise Winter all of whom were present at a very good game in the under 15, 18 in the singles, combining with Keith Jones to account for Peter McQueen, who reached the final of the Class 2 mixed singles before losing to John Denison of Essex.

The county championships principal­ly returned a well-deserved semi-final win. In the remaining events Graeme McKim maintained his dominance of the Northampton table tennis scene when he comfortably retained his open singles title inthe Counties meeting. It was a remarkable achievement for Andy Edmonds and Clem Little in the doubles in which they won both games. Tracy shared responsibility evenly with her partner Maxine. Andy Edmonds took the opening game 11-8, 11-9. Andy Edmonds and Clem Little in the doubles in which they won both games. Tracy shared responsibility evenly with her partner Maxine. Andy Edmonds took the opening game 11-8, 11-9.

Keith captures two
Keith Jones was also among the honours adding both the veterans and the hard bat titles to his mixed doubles success, while Richard Elliott justified his top seeding by taking both the boys singles and the doubles in tandem with John Tebbutt, his beaten singles opponent.

Sarah Young proved herself by beating the girls singles but just failed to gain a first round victory in the division when falling to Perry Williams.

In the remaining events Graeme McKim’s younger brother Scott edged out Nick Kelly in the under 14 event while the division three and four singles went to Dave Ewen.
WARWICKSHIRE
Mary Rose

The Warwickshire junior coaching rallies are proving very successful giving 50 of the county's youngsters a great chance of intensive coaching. Both coaches and players seem very enthusiastic after the first two rallies which had very well for the county's future at representative level. Rajinder Singh (Birmingham) earned congratulations and the £100 Bursary Tarmac award after the Tarmac coaching session held over the Easter holiday. Leigh Jeffries was selected for a team to visit Luxembourg in the summer, under the auspices of the Jill Hammersley/Parker foundation.

WILTSHIRE
Laurie Selby

A stamp of class enveloped the men's event at the Wiltshire senior closed table tennis championships in Swindon. It was delivered by the sulkfull by Kevin Satchell, the county champion who gave up his job in a dole office to become a full-time player. The question was whether he was going to win the men's singles crown, for the seventh time but if anybody was going to reach double figures in a game.

Swindon champion Ray Hughes tried in the quarter finals and was brushed aside by Satchell's fine form. Roden played for the mens singles event with Ray Powell putting himself back on top of the county junior hierarchy by winning the under 17 singles. Seeded three, he disposed of number one Michael Achtertborne (Salisbury) in the semi-final and then his attacking play ripped apart the defence of Ian Neate in an all-Swindon final.

WORCESTERSHIRE
Doug Moss

The Worcestershire closed championships were played for the first time in the Dudley area and were well staged at the Thorns Community College. Louise Davis (Kidderminster) was again the star of the championships.

At age 16 Louise won the womens singles title for the fourth consecutive year. She became a triple champion taking the womens doubles in partnership with Sandra Roden and the mixed doubles with 17 year old Tim Holder.

Simon Claxton (Worcester) reclaimed the mens singles title which he last won in 1984. Murray Jukes, the reigning champion, did not compete, being engrossed in "A" level studies.

The mens singles event saw 17 year old Nick Roden (Dudley) in fine form. Roden played for the county junior team last season and this year has progressed to feature regularly in the county senior II team.

The end of the season brought a competition, organised by John Barter, between league and schools junior and cadet teams throughout the county. There was a worthwhile entry and at the end of the day Dudley league won the junior competition beating Worcester league in the final. Richard Pratley played very well for Worcester beating both Paul Smith and Peter Canavan, the current county junior team Nos 1 and 2. Franche School, Kidderminster did well to beat Evesham league in the cadets final.

YORKSHIRE
Rea Balmford

Honour for Debbie
Young international Debbie Toole stepped forward at Yorkshire's annual dinner to receive the J.D. Cram award for the 'Most Improved Young Player' from ETTA Deputy Chairman George Yates. New Elevated to No. 1 in the Lentar cadet ranking list and also holding top place in Yorkshire's powerful seven strong junior squad, Debbie, who plays for the Pontefract club in the semi-final, is the dominant female representation in the excellent Youth Championships.

Incidentally how good to see Jackie, not too long out of the junior ranks herself, given the responsibility of leading a tour of this type - there will be a rapport with the youngsters, who will obviously benefit from contact with a top player whose memory of her own days when she was near the foot of the ladder and trying to climb must still be fresh. Another respected figure with a slightly longer association to the game, Bevan Walker, was also honoured at the annual dinner. Bevan received the L.E. Forrest memorial trophy, his third major award in as many months. Over the years Bevan has given invaluable service to the Dewsbury league and the Yorkshire committee. Long may his enthusiasm for our game remain.

North Yorkshire closed
Nationally ranked Tony Sanderson (York) took the mens singles title for the sixth time in nine years at the North Yorkshire closed championships at Selby when he scored a comfortable victory over Northallerton's Stephen Cooper in the final.

There was, however, some consolation for Cooper when he teamed up with Northallerton colleague Peter Garmian to take the mens doubles with a straight sets win over Bevan Walker (Northallerton) and Mike Willcockson (Selby).

Dominating the ladies events was Harrogate's 12-year-old Ellen Maddocks, who claimed an unprecedented four titles, and took the ladies singles crown for the first time with a three set win over York's former county player Jeanette Jackson.

Other results
XD: Nigel Pennock (Harrogate); JBS: Craig Smith (Selby); JGS: Gregorson b Sharon Phillipson; Cadet S: Smith; VS: Pearson; Over 50 S: Lee Browning (Harrogate); H'Cap S: Andrew Whiteley (Harrogate); Lower Division S: Maddocks.

Northallerton Closed
MS: John Plummer b David Blake; MD: Stephen Cooper/Richard Scruton b Plummer/Nick Hackett; VS: Richard Daniel b Barry Pearson.

Mixed doubles at Leeds
News of wedding bells in Leeds where British and Yorkshire league player Paul Sanderson, former city junior champion and Leeds league player for some 10-12 years, teamed up for life with Linda Hannah, who also plays in the Leeds league.
Leamington Triumph

Brian Aston

Leamington 'A' are the new champions of the Heart of England Indoor league sponsored by the Cirencester Benefit Society. In the final session of matches at Leamington on Feb 8th they defeated Banbury 7-3 after a very close match, and then crushed their 'B' team 9-1.

Kate Ryan, Clare Woodward and Mark Jackson all won twice against Banbury, and Clare and Mark added the doubles. Clare stood down against the 'B' team for an Ewan Huc depute - and lose the only game to Andrew Jackson for whom it was a very good win (Victoria Clarke was the 5th member of the 'A' squad playing in previous sessions).

Spa's 'B' team went on to force a creditable draw with Walsall, a result which helped them to a respectable mid-table position.

Worcester finished runners-up and produced the averages winner in Nicola Jones who enjoyed a 95% success rate. Scott Piper, Walsall, was second with 91% and Leamington's Mark Jackson third on 90%.

The league singles knockout was won by Mark Jackson who beat clubmate Clare Woodward 21-8 in the 3rd. Jackson won the 1st 25-23 and Woodward the 2nd 21-18.

Banbury's first season in the league proved fruitful and were the best turned out side thanks to their sponsors.

Any teams interested in the league should contact Brian Aston on Leamington Spa 29398.

Results - final session
Bromsgrove 3 Coventry 7; Bromsgrove 5 Evesham 5; Worcester 5 Evesham 5; Coventry 5 Evesham 5; Walsall 5 Leam B 5; Leam A 7 Banbury 3; Leam A 9 Leam B 1

NORTH WALES

C.T. Bayliss

At the end of yet another season the Wrexham division one winners are Caergwrle Boys Brigade first team and McAlpine Quarries snatched the runners-up position from Malpas.

In division two Llyr Royal British Legion B were champions with Telecoms C second. Third place went to the McAlpine Quarries B team.

Division three title winners were the youngsters from Telecoms. The juniors had led this division almost from the start of the season and held off the challenge of Wrexham Old Boys C with Caergwrle BB C in third place.

In the league cup competition Caergwrle Boys Brigade completed their double adding the division one title to the Godfrey Party cup by beating Malpas in the final.

In the P.W. Hale handicap competition Caergwrle Boys Brigade C defeated Telecoms juniors. The OBA consolation shield competition was won by Llyr RBL B.

The T.P. Gabriel merit award trophy has been awarded to Gary Price the popular match/secrectary who plays for Llyr RBL.

East Shotton. North West district were third and their A team fourth. In division 2 Caergwrle Boys Brigade C finished top with 147 points, North West district B second on 143 and third place went to Boys Brigade D. British Aerospace who reached the D.R. Ledgard challenge cup final on default when both semi-final opponents, Caergwrle Boys Brigade seniors, turned out an ineligible player now themselves executed for similar reasons as BSC Shotton juniors. The cup was won by a 6-4 scoreline. For Clwyd John Ellis was outstanding winning his singles and Trevor Manning and Ellis won the mens doubles.

Against Cheshire 2nds the match was much improved overall a late surge by the visitors resulted in a close 6-4 to celebrate. For Clwyd John Ellis was outstanding winning his two singles and partnered with Trevor Manning the doubles.

Chris Watkins won one ladies singles and Marie Turner the doubles.

CLWYD

Charles Bayliss

In a match which had started promisingly Clwyd slipped in the second half to find Lincolnshire taking the final 3 sets and the match 7-3 for Clwyd Paul Griffiths and John Ellis won one singles and Trevor Manning and Ellis won the mens doubles.

Against Shropshire 2nds the match was much improved although a late surge by the visitors resulted in a close 6-4 to celebrate. For Clwyd John Ellis was outstanding winning his two singles and partnered with Trevor Manning the doubles.

John Barber

Mens division 1
Notts A finished with a fine 8-2 win over Wolves A to secure second place.

Veterans division 1
Leamington and Notts B were engaged in a well contested match with 6 sets going to the third, but the visitors slipped to defeat - and relegation. Stratford A are also relegated, losing all 10 to Oxford.

Veterans division 2
Kidderminster won well at West Bromwich to clinch promotion, having also defeated Walsall who were in contention with them. Lloy Coventry B played well to hold Kidderminster after being 2-5 down.

Will Rubberneck bounce back?

Now entering his second year Rubberneck has mellowed, becoming a little less cynical and a lot more humorous! He desperately needs to know about the really funny things which affect us 'pongists' so don't delay, drop him a line today marked 'for his eyes only' care of ETTA HQ.

The great escape

Has anyone seen a £2,000 cheque blowing in the wind recently? If so then National League champions GKN Wolverhampton would like to hear from you. Unlucky manager Paul Chester lost two cheques in one day - one later reappeared but the 'law of sod' dictated that it should be for £1,821.

What a dope

Those of you concerned over the potential problem of drugs in sport will be relieved to know that a special general meeting of the ITTF has voted to adopt a stern drugs testing procedure based on samples of blood or urine provided by selected competitors at forthcoming events. Full details will soon be available from the Hastings office; enquirers should request 'Appendix P'!
Selection and Ranking

Selection matters
by Peter Charters (Chairman National Selection Committee)

It has become necessary to enlarge on the annual statement made in Table Tennis News regarding the concepts of selection and ranking. Each year it is stated that ranking does not mean selection; the computer ranking is compiled from factual results whilst the fundamental principle of selection is that it is based on the opinion of selectors. The task of the selector is to use personal judgement to assess a player's ability to win for England in the present and/or in the future. You cannot quantify a selection based on this task. This judgement is arrived at by taking into consideration numerous factors; the number and description of these factors and even the weighting of each factor is a matter of individual opinion by each member of the selection committee. This would still apply in the case of one man/woman selection.

The Selection Committee for the 1986/87 season is as follows:

Peter Charters (Vice-Chairman, selection and coaching)*

Donald Parker (trainer and men's captain)

Nicky Jarvis (women's captain)

Paul Day (junior captain)

David Fairholm (coaching liaison)

Mike Kercher (trials)

Mike Watts (secretary)*

* Non-voting

Whilst selection remains a matter of opinion, the Lentecc ETTC ranking scheme is, wherever possible, based on results. The only opinion used, once the formula has been set up, relates to the position of foreign 'dummies'. The opinion of Donald Parker in conjunction with the match captained (if different) decides what dummy place or equivalent position on the English list the foreign player should be given.

The Lentecc ETTC scheme enters its sixth season and Lentecc have provided new facilities to increase efficiency and production of the lists. To keep the task of collating, coding and inputting to a reasonable and manageable level the computer places in the senior men for the start of the 1986/87 season have been cut to just over 400 whilst the women's and veterans lists have been cut by approximately the same proportion. Players removed from a computer place will have to win their way back with a victory in one of the nominated events over a player holding a computer spot. The problem does not arise with juniors and cadets as at the end of each season a number of players move out of the age category. All points carried forward from the end of the 1985/86 season will be divided by two for the start of the 1986/87 season. This will apply to all categories. Half points will be rounded up to the next whole number. The base of the team events used will be as last season - the top two divisions of the county championship with the British League. The tournament base will be 2 star events. The number of players on the published ranking lists will vary, 200 men will need to be published for use by organisers of Class II and Class III events. The length of the women's, juniors, cadets and veterans lists will depend on the number of points gained by the players destined to be among the lowest places on the published ranking list. It is the policy to wait until a player has had a number of point gaining victories before he is placed on the published ranking list. For the benefit and information of players, coaches, parents etc., the system for the 1986/87 season will be as follows:-

The system will continue to be on a wins only basis. For the calculation of points the following formula will be used:-

**Expected win (when a higher placed player beats a lower one)**

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**Unexpected win (when a lower placed player beats a higher one)**

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When players are level on points at the time of playing a match, one point would be awarded to the winner to make it an expected win for the purpose of calculation.

**Weighting**

Results in different events will continue to be of differing value. Points gained will be multiplied by the weighting for the particular event in which the result occurred. Weighting factors are as follows:-

**Senior**

All County Championship matches.

All British League matches other than first and premier division.

2 Star open tournaments X1

British League - First and premier divisions.

European Club Cup.

International events - class III X2

3 Star tournaments

International events - class II X3

Stiga Grand Prix finals

English Closed

European League

International events - class I

European Top 12 X4

World championships X5

**Note:** The qualifying rounds of the English Open will be X3 whilst the main event will be X4. Any team 'plate' event will be X3.

**Juniors and cadets**

All county matches

2 Star tournaments X1

International events - class III X2

Select open tournaments

Ranking tournament - knock out stage

International events - class II X3

English Closed

International events - class I X4

European youth championships X5

**Note:** The qualifying rounds in the English junior open will be X3 whilst the main event will be X4. Any team 'plate' event will be X3.

**Veterans**

All county matches

2 Star open tournaments X1

Regional open tournaments X2

3 Star tournaments

National 'age group' championships X3

English closed championships X4

**Groups events**

Results in large group play amongst English players do not compute well to the system. Therefore, the following points only will be awarded for finishing positions.

**English Top 12's**

1st - 300 pts; 2nd - 250 pts; 3rd - 200 pts; 4th - 150 pts; 5th - 125 pts; 6th - 100 pts; 7th - 75 pts; 8th - 50 pts; 9th - 40 pts; 10th - 30 pts; 11th - 20 pts; 12th - 10 pts

**English junior ranking trials**

**Groups**

**Junior boys**

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**Junior girls**

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**Cadet boys**

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<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Cadet girls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pos.</th>
<th>Pts.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>8</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Regional trials for juniors and cadets - Top 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pos.</th>
<th>Pts.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Groups of four or less will be computed in the standard way.

**Bonus**

**World championships**

Winner - 1000 pts, runner-up - 700 pts, losing semi-finalist - 350 pts, losing quarter-finalist - 250 pts, last 16 & 125 pts, last 32 - 50 pts

**European Top 12's**

1st - 400 pts, 2nd - 300 pts, 3rd - 250 pts, 4th - 200 pts, 5th - 150 pts, 6th - 120 pts, 7th - 100 pts, 8th - 80 pts, 9th - 70 pts, 10th - 60 pts, 11th - 40 pts, 12th - 30 pts

**International events class I**

Winner - 300 pts, runner-up - 150 pts, losing semi-finalist - 100 pts, losing quarter-finalist - 50 pts, last 16 - 25 pts

**English closed**

Winner - 200 pts, runner-up - 100 pts, losing semi-finalist - 50 pts, losing quarter-finalist - 25 pts.

For the benefit and information of players, coaches, parents etc., the system for the 1986/87 season will be as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Weighting Factor</th>
<th>Points difference</th>
<th>Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
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<td>31</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>121</td>
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<tr>
<td>211</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>261</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>over</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When players are level on points at the time of playing a match, one point would be awarded to the winner to make it an expected win for the purpose of calculation.
Selection and Ranking

3 star tournaments, national ranking trials, (k.o. stages), Siga grand prix final, international events class II, veterans at 3 stars
Winner - 80 pts, runner-up - 40 pts, losing semi-finalist - 20 pts, losing quarter-finalist - 10 pts.

International events class III, veterans regional opens select tournaments
Winner - 50 pts, runner-up - 30 pts, losing semi-finalist - 15 pts.

2 star tournaments, veterans at 2 stars
Winner - 10 pts.

Categories
Results will be included only in the category under which the event is played, e.g., a junior player's senior event wins over other junior players will not count towards his/her junior ranking, only a senior ranking.

Starting factor
Players final 1985/86 points have been divided by two for the start of the 1986/87 season.

Equality
Where two or more players are level on points, the player who has previously held the highest ranking will remain in that position.

Foreign players
Foreign players will be allocated dummy positions on the computer list. Each position on the ranking list will have a 'shadow' or dummy place with five dummy positions above the No. 1 ranked English player. The first eight dummies will be:

A - 281 pts ahead of the English No. 1, B - 151 pts, C - 31 pts, D - 11 pts, E - 1 pt. Dummy E will be halfway between the No. 1 and No. 2 ranked players in England, F halfway between 2 and 3, G between 3 and 4 and H between 4 and 5.

Responsibility
The National selection committee will retain responsibility for all lists issued. Players may be withdrawn from (or in some cases added to) the lists at the committees discretion. The class grading for each international event will be decided in advance by the selection committee.

Issue of ranking lists
Ranking lists will be issued as follows:

Seniors
As soon as possible after the:

Juniors and cadets
As soon as possible after the:

Veterans
As soon as possible after the:

2 Competitions

1 Rackets
As from 1st July 1986, the ITTF regulation on racket coverings was amended to read: "the surface of one side of the racket shall be bright red and the surface of the other side shall be black, whether or not both sides are used for striking the ball."

This regulation is compulsory for world, continental and open international championships but the ETTA will apply it to all events which qualify for the computer ranking scheme. e.g., Open tournaments, County Championships, Schildkrot British League, National Team Knock-out competitions, etc.

By resolution of the ETTA AGM, any county association or local league may adopt this regulation for its own competitions if they so wish but no county association may direct a local league to adopt it for that league's domestic competitions.

1.2 The laws of table tennis require a side of the blade of a racket used for striking the ball to be covered but the ETIA AGM agreed that any local league which wishes to do so may allow the use of uncovered rackets in its domestic competitions.

2 Competitions
The ETIA National Council have ruled that "any affiliated county association, local league or club, may, without special permission, organise and conduct an additional competition or competitions solely among its own members and players on a knock-out basis, wherein the normal provisions of the approved laws are varied in one or more of the following ways:

1. By reducing or increasing the number of points required to win a game, either for all players or differentially under a system of handicaps.
2. By restricting the type of racket or racket cover or by otherwise diverging from the normal requirements as to equipment."

This is a waiver of ETIA Rule 41.2 which requires all competitive play to be under the laws of table tennis and allows the staging of handicap competitions and hard bat events.

3 Clothing
The ITTF have changed the regulations on clothing in order to allow garments to carry advertising in addition to the makers normal trademark, symbol or name.

On the front or side of a playing shirt there can be up to two separate advertisements each contained within an area of 40 sq. cm. (e.g. 2.5" x 2.5"). Similarly, one such advertisement can be on the playing shorts or skirt.

The back of a playing shirt may carry one advertisement containing in a total area of 200 sq. cm. (e.g. 5.5" x 5.5" or 8" x 4").

This will allow those players who are fortunate enough to have a personal sponsor to give some recognition to that sponsor which hitherto has only been possible on a tracksuit.

A copy of the full wording of the clothing regulations can be obtained from the ETTA office who will also be pleased to answer any other queries on laws and regulations.

4 Continuous play
In an attempt to restrict time-wasting, international regulations have been amended so that breaks for towelling will be allowed only at the change of service or, where service is alternating, at intervals of five points.

Change in the wind
During the past two years, attempts have been made to secure a sponsorship agreement for the English Closed writes Mike Watts but on viewing the event interested parties have declared the Championships to be unattractive. Apart from the prestige, the event is no different to any other 3 star tournament and whilst it stays in a sports hall with the usual ten or twelve court setting it will remain so.

Therefore, a number of changes are being made in an attempt to improve the image and thereby increase the chances of obtaining sponsorship and, hopefully, television.

For the 1986/87 season, only the top 64 men and 32 women on the ranking list at a given date will be eligible to enter; from 1987/88 onwards it is planned to hold nine regional qualifying tournaments with only a small number of players given automatic entry.

Only the standard five in competitive play will be allowed on a playing shirt, either for all players or differentially under a system of handicaps.

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Coaching

Taking stock
By Tony Russe

With a new season almost upon us, coaches should be taking stock, of themselves and their players. What are their aims for the coming season, are they reasonably achievable, how are they to be achieved? This little piece of self-analysis should be done by all coaches, whether their responsibilities are at national or at club level. We all tend to think of the national scene and forget the importance of Joe Bloggs running his one night a week session in the backwaters. But Joe’s contribution is at least equal to that of his seniors and could be argued to be greater. So please, Joe, stop and think about what you hope to achieve this season.

What is the most important ingredient? I overheard an altercation at a coaching session during the summer when a league official was expounding the absolute essential of the presence of an umpire. Without an umpire the game could not go on. What rot! The whole set-up of the ETTA organisation is one of bricks, one of fleshand you to be greater. So please, Joe, stop and think about what you hope to achieve this season.

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So Joe look at your players and plan how you can best serve them. Remember, in the final judgement it is players who make coaches’ reputations. But there are players, good players and excellent players. Don’t discard one for the other. They are all important to the game as a whole. In racing parlance, among the betting fraternity some horses are said to be ‘dogs’. They are not dogs, they are racehorses. All the structure. Sometimes it gets us to ensure that players can play. The players are the most important thing in the whole set-up. Without the players there is no need for coaches, umpires, administrators or whatever.

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Top dogs
A course for senior coaches is to be held at Crystal Palace over the weekend of the 19th to 21st September 1986. Entitled "In search of excellence" it will provide an opportunity for selection and coaching to come together to reconsider our present methods and plan for the future, in search of a winning national team and potential champions. Attendance will be by invitation.

Team effort
David Fairholm is now the ETTA Director of Coaching. This may or may not be news to you. However, it is a new post and a very arduous one. David puts everything of himself into his coaching and I am sure that he will grow with the job and be successful. However, feedback is important. David’s advice is available to coaches of all levels. If you need help in any way, write to him at Hastings. Don’t harbour grievances, tell David and he will do all he can to help. There are exciting times ahead and let us give him all the support and understanding that he needs to bring greater success to the ETTA coaching scheme.

Lilleshall for all
Players from the West Midlands should note two important dates in their diary. Courses will operate at Lilleshall on September 26th - 28th for student and club coaches and November 22nd - 23rd for junior and cadet players. Details are available from regional co-ordinating committee chairman Jim Hayward on 0902 751427.

The West Midlands region is to enjoy its own club league during 1986/87 with teams contesting matches on Schildkrot British League dates, again Jim Hayward is the man with the details.

Everthought of coaching?

Russe

Jarvis in action
Newly-appointed ETTA Southern region national coach, Nicky Jarvis, made an early start to his new profession when he visited Newbury in early July. Nicky, a former England No 1 and current captain of the English women’s team, takes over from Dave Fairholm who has moved up to tackle the role of ETTA Director of Coaching.

You can contact Nicky at:
1 Howard Ridge, Burgham, Guildford, Surrey. Tel: 0483 506963

Nicky Jarvis (centre) with leading junior and cadet players at Newbury.


Peter Bloodworth 0635 46591

Go to any tournament and just look around you. All the players there are striving for recognition. They have all worked hard for the day and all but a few must fall by the wayside as the tournament progresses. If their practice hours were added up it would make a mind blowing grand total. So Joe, a few practical hints for the new season.

1 Assess your players as honestly as possible, set them achievable targets, review their results and reset the targets up or down as the season progresses.

2 Be flexible yourself, Joe. None of us ever stops learning.

3 In your coaching teach quality of stroke and positivity of mind. They are equally important and a true champion player must have both elements.

4 A good coach must be a good teacher. A good teacher must know his subject. So Joe, keep yourself up to date. Attend some courses yourself. Coaches must bounce ideas off each other.

5 Enjoy your players. Enjoy their successes and share their disappointments, but always remember that they are the important ones.

Good luck, Joe, keep on trying. The coaching system cannot survive without you.
All in the best possible taste

Student coach Steven Sonsino reports

There were many sore limbs and aching backs, but no one was killed outright at the ETTA's 1986 holiday coaching course or Summer School at the National Sports Centre in Crystal Palace in July. The gruelling week-long course did not, either, result in any of the country's Goliath-like international stars.

Besides a gaggle of national and senior ETIA coaches, including Gail McCulloch and Javed Ameri, several excellence squad players were around throughout the week. Helping to improve our games were the diminutive grinner, Jimmy Stokes, England junior number one, and the mighty multi-to-receive serve; and the quiet but sneaky Juliet Houghton, England junior number four, senior number nine. They were having a last minute, three-day-long knock up before the European Youth Championships in Belgium.

In addition, the crew was aided and abetted by Welsh international Nigel Tyler, who was practicing to be a coach on the Crystal Palace hostel.

Most of the seventeen guinea pigs arrived at the Crystal Palace hostel on the Sunday evening before the physical torture began, and the course was officially opened at 8.30pm by David Fairholm, director of coaching. Before settling down to watch three table tennis video films he invited everyone to share bacon and eggs never looked so appealing as they did on those mornings. What is it they say about the condemned and a hearty breakfast?

The non-residents arrived each day at 9.30am and soon — in the first of two daily warm ups — everyone was running round the hall, puffing and panting like the Reverend W Audry's steam trains (and as a guide; track the ball with your heart our temperature was in the high eighties on most days, and that the windows were often closed, and that workmen were pneumatically pounding the concrete outside, did nothing to temper the perspiration of the painting group. The cold drink vending machine outside the table tennis hall must have made millions by the end of the week.

After the first twenty-minute "warm up", David Fairholm warmed the tired troupe by the floor. The week was very long. "Don't burn yourselves out," he said. Some of us were well burnt out by this time, but politely kept quiet. He went on: "Wednesday's the worst day." On this occasion he was wrong; by general consensus Tuesday was the worst. One player said that on Tuesday it seemed as if someone had lowered the floor.

David also reminded us that we could use any of the Crystal Palace facilities — track, pools, squash, badminton — if we'd just let him know. No one was really sure where he expected the energy for more torture to come from.

Perhaps it was just for the coaches' benefit, although on Tuesday Nigel Tyler skived out of a squash match with England number 14 and former junior number one Colin Wilson. Colin helped us to see a demonstration match along with Jimmy, Juliet and Nigel.

Our actual table tennis practices started off with those basic building blocks of table tennis: yes, backhand push and forehand drive. Nicky Jarvis, resplendent in new trainers, shorts and shirt, told us how to think of technique in recovery, and as a guide; track the ball with your heart our. "Always get back to the recovery position, and always use your spare arm as a balance and as a guide; track the ball with your heart our." So with the emphasis firmly on technique we moved quickly on to a selection of European cheeses.

The second video showed two players that had reached the top. It was the semi-final of the 1985 Charles Church Championship, with Poland's Andrzej Grubba playing Frenchman Jacques Secretin.

After the opening game of the match, course leader David Fairholm split the company into two groups — one behind Grubba, one behind Secretin — to analyse the tactics of each player. This ploy gave us an insight to top class tactical play whilst helping everyone to acquaint themselves with their fellow students.

The third video, a Japanese film on individual techniques, rounded off the evening at midnight.

The following morning's activity started early for some — jogging round the perimeter of the camp before breakfast. This went on every morning for the residents, but only half of them made it each morning. Bacon and eggs never looked so appealing as they did on those mornings. What is it they say about the condemned and a hearty breakfast?

The non-residents arrived each day at 9.30am and soon — in the first of two daily warm ups — everyone was running round the hall, puffing and panting like the Reverend W Audry's steam trains going uphill. (Eat your heart out.) The fact that the temperature was in the high eighties on most days, and that the windows were often closed, and that workmen were pneumatically pounding the concrete outside, did nothing to temper the perspiration of the painting group. The cold drink vending machine outside the table tennis hall must have made millions by the end of the week.

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The three videos shown on the first evening included a new 15-20 minute film produced by the Swedish table tennis federation about how an average young player might make it to the top of the table tennis tree. As this wasn't enough to wet the appetite of the course...
**Young and Old**

'**Mr Table Tennis’ retires**

Joe Veselsky, Ireland’s “Mr Table Tennis” has retired from his position as president of the Irish Table Tennis Association. Joe has been the dominant personality in the game at administrative level since his arrival in Ireland as a refugee from Czechoslovakia in the early 1950s. Fluent in many languages, Joe represented Ireland as non-playing captain at European and World Championships during the 1960s.

A former Leinster and Irish selector, Joe has filled every role possible as an official of the ITTA.

Fit, fast and over 40?

**VETTS secretary Mike Watts with the latest news**

In the words of the famous Johnny Walker scotch whisky advert “Born 15th January 1984 and still going strong.” Not so many years ago players dreaded the thought of reaching the ripe old age of 40. You were finished—nothing to look forward to and nowhere to go. But suddenly all that has changed. The cry now is for more competition; more recognition and more interest not only at national level but now at world level.

To date three World Veteran championships have been held. The first in Gothenburg, Sweden attracted 450 players and England won 2 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze medals. In 1984 the second took place in Helsinki, Finland and this time England won 2 gold, 3 silver and 6 bronze from an increased entry.

This year, 1986, over 1100 players journeyed to Rimini, Italy including 84 from England. Standards have definitely improved and England’s haul was 3 silver and 2 bronze. The 1988 championships have been allocated to Yugoslavia and hopefully the 1990 will be in England.

**Stamford stalwart**

There was a special tribute to Stamford and Rutland League stalwart, Brendan Alston, on the annual presentation night at Barnack Cricket Club.

Brendan received an ETTA Merit Award in recognition for his services to table tennis during his years of office with the league. Special guest at the awards evening was Mr. Ken Marchant, chairman of the ETTA’s East Midlands regional co-ordinating committee.

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**Package deal for youth clubs**

AG International Leisure Equipment have linked with the National Association of Youth Clubs in a promotion which could result in many clubs nationwide obtaining much-needed new tables.

Two models from the Kettler (GB) table tennis range will be made available to clubs together with a sponsorship pack which tells them how to organise successful table tennis events to pay for the table—and raise finance for club funds. The two models are the Oslo, a free-standing unit on trestle legs, and the folding Nordkap.

The package, telling clubs how to raise funds, has been put together by the National Association of Youth Clubs whose sports and recreation officer, John Bateman, said: “We have already circulated over 6,000 clubs in the country and the response has been very good. Many youth clubs operate on a shoe-string, and while most of them have access to a table tennis table it may not be of very good quality. This link will give them a good table paid for by their own initiative.”

Interested? Then contact AG International Leisure Equipment, New Road, Studley, Warwickshire B80 7LY.

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**Harold still sparks— at 80!**

Penn 80-year old Harold Rhodes, still a registered player with Wolverhampton Electricity club, could well claim to have the longest competitive record in table tennis in the country—or even the world! Manchester-born Harold began playing at the age of 14 and his first league outings were in Norwich in 1929—and he has been playing ever since. He represented Wolverhampton before the war and afterwards collected a string of veterans singles titles. He stubbornly persists with the old pen-holder grip—which is quite understandable when you consider it has served him well for the past 66 years.
Golden moments in Salford

David Lomas

Although England teams and players once again dominated the Dunlop Schools International Championships - which were held at Broughton Recreation Centre, Salford on July 5th and 6th - Scotland provided their first individual champion in the shape of Sarah Hurry who won the cadet girls event.

Scotland's first-ever winner, Sarah Hurry, receives congratulations on her cadet girls success from the mayor of Salford, Councillor Hobbs.

Ireland also had two runners-up; Grainne Redmond (cadet girls) and Andrew Dennison (senior boys).

England won the team trophy for the twentieth consecutive time since the championships began in 1975. Ireland were second and Scotland third.

Mark Randle (England) receives the International Team Trophy (on behalf of the England team) from the mayor of Salford, Councillor Hobbs.

England's hope of retaining the overall team title was never in doubt but their senior boys team suffered some anxious moments before they eventually won their event and joined the other five England teams who enjoyed similar successes. The seniors suffered some anxious moments since the championships began in the North West. Many thanks are due to Salford City Council's Recreation Services Department who provided substantial help to make the event possible and to Dunlop Slazenger International who provided equipment and other help.

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual events</th>
<th>Team events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior boys</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overall team trophy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mark Randle (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Andrew Dennison (IRE)</td>
<td>ENG 6 SCQ 4; SCQ 5 IRE 5; IRE 4 ENG 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Jon Bull (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Gordon Waddell (SCO)</td>
<td>ENG 6 SCO 4; SCO 5 IRE 5; IRE 4 ENG 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Senior girls</strong></td>
<td><strong>Intermediate boys</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Debbie Soothill (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Louise Davis (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Susan Butler (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Sarah Hammond (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intermediate boys</strong></td>
<td><strong>Intermediate girls</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Damian Holland (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Adrian Thorp (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 John Holland (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 David Morris (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cadet boys</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cadet girls</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Neil Bevan (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Andrew Eden (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Michael Auctherlonie (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Gary Knights (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cadet girls</strong></td>
<td><strong>Overall results</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sarah Hurry (SCO)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Grainne Redmond (IRE)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Caroline Buckley (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Joanam Roberts (ENG)</td>
<td>1 England; 2 Ireland; 3 Scotland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

England's senior girls team, who defeated Ireland and Scotland by maximum 10-0 wins, with NPC Dennis Worrell (LJ). 1. to r: Helen Perrott, Susan Butler, Louise Davis, Sarah Hammond and Debbie Soothill.

Lancashire TTA Chairman and National Councilor, Arthur Upton, presents the senior girls trophy to Debbie Soothill (Lancs/England).

Helen Lower (England), Intermediate Girls event winner, with Alan Hydes of Dunlop Slazenger International.

England's intermediate girls team, with NPC Gill McCulloch (Sy). 1. to r: Nicola McGrath, Helen Lower, Kristina Cox, Tanya Holland and Melanie Carey. All photos: Ian Lunn 06/790 3457

Cadet boys winner, Neil Bevan (England) with the mayorress of Salford, Mrs. Hobbs.

England's intermediate girls team, with NPC Gill McCulloch (Sy). 1. to r: Nicola McGrath, Helen Lower, Kristina Cox, Tanya Holland and Melanie Carey. All photos: Ian Lunn 06/790 3457
Super league solution

In Table-Tennis News (March/April), comment was made by David Cosway, Hampshire county press officer, about the Tees Sport super league in Bournemouth, and how it has become a substitute for the local league. As one of the founders of the former I offer the following comments.

The Bournemouth league still affiliated to Hampshire despite Bournemouth being part of Dorset since 1974. Certain members of the committee vowed this will never change and therefore the players in the super league, who all represent Dorset in the county championships, retain their allegiance to the Poole league which affiliates to Dorset.

The Bournemouth league was informally as long ago as season 1979/80 that changes to the structure of the premier division were necessary if the top local players were to continue playing.

Suggestions were made by the players for changes such as (a) reduce the number of teams in the division, (b) play the first half of the season with twelve teams and then split the top six and bottom six for the second half.

A questionnaire was circulated by the committee proposing these options to all premier division players. No official result was ever announced, but we were told there was a poor response to returning the form, and therefore this indicated that change was not wanted by the majority. No changes were made.

The top players continued to play in the Bournemouth league for another five seasons hoping for improvements, but the situation deteriorated. Some teams would turn up with only one or two players against the top teams instead of three, and fines of 20p were hardly a deterrent. Those who did turn up were already resigned to defeat and played accordingly, and these were often the same people who were against a change in the system.

Criticisms were made that the top players should not play in the same team, but surely sport does not segregate friends?

The super league was finally seen as the best option, and regrettably the local league may have suffered. Alternatively, some argue that the local league has benefited as matches are now more even.

It should also be noted that the Poole league, which affiliates to Dorset, was willing to make changes last year, and all the top players still play in this league as well as three of them serving on the Dorset T.T.A. committee.

Top players can only play in a certain number of matches, and many local players who only play one league match each week fail to realise how much time is spent playing county matches, British league matches, tournaments, inter-league and local league matches.

In all these competitions we pay our own expenses, and why should we therefore pay to play against opponents in the local league who do not even bother to make the effort to turn up with a complete team?

The super league will be held again this season because it is played in superior playing conditions and continues to fulfil the needs of those who compete in it.

Yours faithfully,
Martin Hughes
Secretary — Tees Sport
Super League
88 Dover Avenue, West Parley, Wimborne, Dorset BH22 8HP

Supremo support

With regard to the article 'Forward to the 20th Century' by John Prean in the June/July issue it is obvious from the column I had already submitted to the News of the World for publication on 27 July that I am wholly in agreement with John's views. The following is the original text.

English Table Tennis needs a supremo - a sole selector and manager with powers and responsibilities similar to those invested in soccer's Bobby Robson.

Such an appointment wouldn't be entirely new - I was given the job on similar terms back in the 1960's and found it workable. I've also reason to believe it was successful. Now insistent voices are starting to press for a revival of the supremo system which was abandoned after my retirement.

Discontent with the work of the present selection committee was expressed from the floor of last week's AGM. I don't go along with that. Peter Charters and his co-selectors are experienced, dedicated officers doing their best. No selectors can expect to please everyone all of the time. Equally it's unfair to expect trainer Donald Parker to carry the can for the results of teams selected for him.

If a supremo were to be appointed, Peter Charters's selection committee would still have an important advisory role to play. But the final choice of team should be made by one man with a close, up-to-date knowledge of all the leading players. And he would stand or fall according to the performance of his teams over a reasonable period.

I have no doubt who the supremo should be - Donald Parker, the current England trainer is respected by all his colleagues as a player, captain and coach and he is already doing 90 per cent of the job well under reasonable conditions. As an extra string to his bow he has available the help of his wife Jill, England's outstanding woman player of the last decade.

I say give Don the last word in selection and let results determine the value of this proposed change of policy.

When I put my proposal to Tom Blunn, the chairman of the ETTA confirmed that it was bound to be discussed at top level in the next few weeks. "It will depend on a majority decision" he said "My own mind is open, though I must say the supremo idea worked well when you did the job".

Desmond Douglas, England's leading player said: "It's up to the council, of course, but if they have the courage to appoint a supremo I'd regard that as a forward step!"

Johnny Leach MBE
15 Manor Links
Bishops Stortford
Hertfordshire CM23 5RA

Invisible man

In reply to John Prean's letter in the last issue of Table Tennis News, I will gladly answer the points raised by Rubberneck if someone would kindly translate them for me.

Rubberneck him/herself has admitted that he/she isn't about truth, accuracy, etc. and in any case much of it was far too deep for me to understand. If John would care to put into print what exactly Rubberneck was driving at, I will do my best to answer.

Peter Charters
Vice Chairman, Selection/Coaching
57 Burghfield Road
Reading, Berks.

£60,000 silver lining

The old adage 'every cloud has a silver lining' has certainly proved to be true in the north of England. Following the abolition of metropolitan councils in Tyne and Wear and Manchester table tennis has received great benefits. Substantial funds, administered by the county councils have been allocated to the employment of full-time table tennis motivators in both population centres. These posts will be administered by the Northern and North West regional co-ordinating committees respectively.

South east successes

A widely distributed regional brochure, sponsorship from TSB, fourteen ranking tournaments in London in 1987 supported by the Sports Council and two MSC schemes operating in Sussex are the proud boast of the London and South East regional co-ordinating committee.

Over 4,000 regional information brochures have been circulated, courtesy of the Sports Council, to local authorities, sport centres, youth clubs and other important target groups. Playrite Sports were the main sponsor.

TSB are among the sponsors who have supported two senior and one junior tournament, the regional junior trials and the regional brochure.

Specialist attention from Michael Close, the new chairman of the RCC, has resulted in substantial Sports Council grant aid for fourteen ranking tournaments in London which will be united by a ranking list.

Activity in the region is designed to generate new affiliations by introducing newcomers to the competitive opportunities of our sport.

Building blocks

If you want to build your own table tennis facilities and you live in the South West region then ETTA regional co-ordinating committee chairman Mike Lewis is waiting to hear from you. Only two schemes have been recommended for Sports Council capital grant aid and there is scope for others to be considered on the basis of a 50% contribution. You can contact Mike on 0272 730788.
Free speech

According to Mr. Sweeting in Table Tennis News (June/July) "Mr. John Prean, yet again, felt the need to write a destructive article and it "saddens" him "to read the number of articles that continually appear in this magazine which do nothing less but criticize the state of the game."

I respect his view that all is well, but have noted that since 1980 we have lost close to 30% of our members, including some who were very young and very good. I hardly ever see the sport on T.V. which, rightly or wrongly, is important and I seldom read about it in the newspapers. It appears to interest few of our fellow men. All this makes my life as a local official very difficult, because our members, old as well as potential, are taking up other sports which appear to be more respected and glamorous.

What does Mr. Sweeting think we should do? Join the ever swelling ranks who have left the sport? Pretend that all is well when it is not? Or stay and create some sense of awareness of what is wrong, so that reforms follow?

I have a very big stake in table tennis and a commitment to it, not least because my whole family has put much into the sport. I desire little more passionately than to see this great sport where it belongs - right at the top.

If I thought that to become an ostrich would serve the sport, I too, would bury my head in the sand and pretend that the world I could not see was wonderful. If things are wrong - and the signs are there - then surely it is a member's right and duty to speak up and, if people do, they deserve our gratitude. The sport would be much worse without them. It is the ostriches and the ones who try to suppress free speech who should search their souls.

It has been said that the test of a nation's or organisation's civilisation is its treatment of minorities. I'll drink to that .... except that I don't regard myself in a minority any more, because most people who think and worry about the sport now want to see changes.

These will never come if we pretend that all is well. It is now a question of survival. The membership losses tell the story and time is no longer on our side.

John Prean
12 Marlborough Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 1AA

OBITUARIES

H 'Bert' Dainty

It was with sorrow that Doncaster and Yorkshire table tennis enthusiasts learned of the death of Doncaster league president Bert Dainty on April 14th.

Mr Dainty, a native of Wigan, moved to Doncaster as a 20-year-old and quickly made his mark on the local sporting scene, as a rugby player, scoring a try in every match during his first season with Doncaster Rugby Union Club.

He also partnered Mary Pinder, who later became his wife, to three Doncaster badminton mixed doubles titles before the outbreak of the Second World War.

In the late forties Bert was asked if he would start a table tennis section in a local club to keep kids off the streets — and so began his long and passionate association with the game.

As the standard of Doncaster table tennis soared through Bert's encouragement in arranging tournaments, his genial personality was a boost to the losers as well as the winners.

Since those early days he has served on the Doncaster committee and later served as Doncaster's representative on the Yorkshire committee, receiving a Special Badge Award in 1965/66 and the L E Forrest Memorial Award the following year.

Mr Dainty was also made an honorary life member of the YTFA.

Last December, he received the English Table Association-Merit Award for his devoted service to the game.

Tony Levertton

Tony Levertton — for two decades the corner-stone of Wanstead & Woodford TTC — died on Tuesday 11th March, aged 47. He will be deeply mourned by Pam his wife, and family and also by his many friends within and outside our sport.

Table tennis will be the poorer at his loss to the game. Tony pioneered Wanstead & Woodford TTC from modest beginnings of division 8 of the Ilford League to the lofty heights of division 1.

He won many club titles and league championships and represented Ilford and Tower Hamlets as a player, serving on the Ilford League committee as auditor and many other posts for many years. He was also a prominent member of the East-London League as a secretary for many years.

For Wanstead & Woodford he was our Hon Treasurer, Hon Vice President and Selection Committee chairman.

Tony had a unique style of play that could only come from one mould as many opponents could verify. Always persistent on the service and game he beat attack or defence. When it came to sportsmanship he was second to none.

Vic Bliston

WJ (Bill) Rogerson

In February last Bill Rogerson died peacefully in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, at the age of 81 years. His wife Chrisie had died two years previously and had laid a great deal of Bill's life which could never be filled.

At the height of his powers Bill was a most energetic and devoted member of the Cambridge TT Club, his activities including being a player of some repute, administrator, seller of the ETFA magazine for which Cambridgeshire headed the 'league table' at that time and then becoming President for a period of years. One cannot dwell too much on his eagerness to see that Cambs. became a force in the table tennis world and many are the evenings he has hived to sell the magazines year after year — a unique achievement!

I had known Bill for forty years and he was a wonderful friend and adviser and nothing was ever too much trouble. In my times of adversity he was a great comfort and I shall always remember him especially for this.

Our present generation of players and administrators should be thankful for Bill's past 'performances' which have set the stage for years to come.

Leslie Constable

Percy Lawes

It is with deep regret that I report the death of Percy Lawes, who died at the age of 81 at Warminster, Wiltshire, on Sunday, 11th May. Percy was one from that generation whose love of the game led him into administration and he applied himself most conscientiously without any thought of personal gain or reward.

Unselfishly, he gave a large part of his life to promoting the game for the benefit of others, particularly the young. His roots in table tennis went back to the classical era of pimped rubber bats and numbered among his friends such past masters as Victor Barna, Alec Brock and Jack Carrington.

In more recent years the apple of his eye were those popular Guildford sisters, Linda and Susan Howard. Percy was essentially a man and he held most of the important offices over the years from secretary to president. It could be said it was his enthusiasm and vision that has made Guildford such a thriving table tennis centre today.

For 16 long years he was the general chairman of the Surrey TT Association and for 14 years he was also treasurer, and then for good measure he served for seven years as Guildford's respected chairman.

As if this were not enough he also found time to be the chairman of the Surrey TT Association in the sixties and was part of the seventies, till he retired to Warminster.

His many friends will mourn his passing and special sympathies go out to his widow to sustain her in such great loss. Ron Crayden.