BILL & NORA CELEBRATE FIFTY YEARS

NORA AND BILL VINT OBE, our Life Vice-President celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary with a lunch for over 120 guests in Hastings recently. Incredibly, the best man and two of the bridesmaids were able to be present at the celebrations.

Naturally, table tennis was well represented and guests included Ichiro Ogimura, (ITTF President), Lollo Hammarsland (ITTF Deputy President), Hans Giesecke (ITTF Treasurer), Johnny Leach MBE (ETTA President) as well as staff members of both ITTF and ETTA. Also in attendance and looking well was Charles Wyles OBE the former Chairman of the ETTA.

Reference was made in the speeches to the long and varied life enjoyed by Bill not only in table tennis but in his business life in local government which culminated in his position as Publicity Officer for the town of Hastings.

Congratulations, Bill and Nora.

NATIONWIDE Anglia Building Society representative Kerry Hicks presented a delightful clock trophy to the first Family Champions on the Isle of Dogs. Congratulations to mum and dad Jill and Andy Newman, and nine year old son Tristan who emerged winners by three points over other family contenders in a grueling six event tournament.

This innovative local championship will be the first of many designed to maintain interest and friendly rivalry among the Table Tennis playing families on the Isle of Dogs.

According to a story in the Sunday Telegraph magazine by Michaela Dennis the animal expert who lives there, Nairobi cinemas are bad news. She says "It is hard to go to the cinema in Nairobi because some people use it as a lavatory. They'll be so interested in the film that they relieve themselves and then move into the next seat."

THE Scottish Sports Council will help to support the Scottish squad to go to Nairobi for the Commonwealth Championships mainly because Scotland won medals in Cardiff, but they have declined support for the world championships in Chiba City.

This means that unless the young Scottish players find personal sponsors for about £1,200 per player, there is little chance of Scotland going to Japan.

THE Scottish Schools National Championships will be held in Dumfries on 5-7 April 1991 with each team consisting of four boys and four girls. Next Easter a special coaching course is to be held at Lea Green, Matlock. The contact here is Bob Wood 0253 57163.

THE British League are seeking a Press Officer to look after their two major weekends at Stourbridge in February and Bletchley in June next year. He or she would become involved in the planning of the two weekends and take a place on the sub committee. Interested? Then contact:

NICKY Carter of the George Green Table Tennis Club rounded off his Junior career by taking three major titles. He won the Barclays Shield as the number one ranked Junior on the Isle of Dogs. He also won the Junior Cup in the Silverstown and District League, and took the senior individual title at the London Federation of Boys Clubs regional tournament held at the London Arena.

A NAME to watch in the future is Robert Abbott of Blacklands School, Hastings who recently won the under 11s at the Dunlop Schools Individual Championships in Mansfield. He's been playing only six months and is still only 9 years old!

ENGLAND beat Spain 6 - 1 in their second European League First Division match in Hull and that win puts us in the semi-finals of this new competition format. But we still need two more wins to put us back into the Super Division. More about this match in the December issue.

A NEW venue for table tennis perhaps? Next year the new National Indoor Arena in Birmingham will open its doors for the first time and already the national associations of Netball, Volleyball and Gymnastics have booked major events there.
MEDALS MUST BE EARNED

THE European Youth Championships brought us no medals, not for the first time. This need not be an occasion for alarmist outbursts, nor arrogance. The 8 medals of, say, Malmo (1983) cannot be repeated at will. I wrote at the time ('The last Fling of the Combination Bats') "It was a triumph. We may not see its like again."

I recall an amusing, but shrewd article by Geoff Sandley (Father of Graham) headed "Wot, no medals?" In short, we have met both triumph and disaster and, to rephrase Kipling, have to learn to live with both impostors.

Our successes of yesteryear were based on very few players, often with combination bats (Lisa Bellinger, Billy Gleave, Carl Prean) and it was no coincidence that in 1983 (our best ever year) all-black bats were banned by the ITTF, supported by the ETTA vote and so ended the effectiveness of the combination bat.

One of the above players helped us to no fewer than 5 gold medals in a distinguished junior career. Our successes with orthodox rubbers were fewer and, in the main, longer ago. One thinks of Des Douglas (1973) and particularly Paul Day (1976). It has also to be discussed why players undoubtedly good enough have returned with no medals or fewer than we had hoped. One thinks of Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton last time and the tandem of Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield a year earlier, which yielded the silver of Michael, an undoubtedly achievement, but we had to hope for more from singles, doubles and team events.

We have discussed all this and much more and some meaningful initiatives are in the pipeline. One has to conclude that the local Centres of Excellence, with few exceptions, have not lived up to our best hopes. They have not produced European medal winners very often and sometimes have failed to attract the best players even in the area.

I therefore regard Stuart Sneyd's initiative of central Centres of Excellence as sound and gathering the best juniors for full week-ends at the National Sports Centre, Lillehall has to be a step forward. I visited one of these week-ends and was impressed.

The 'story' that we have spent less on juniors than in previous years is incorrect. We have spent more, perhaps in too many directions, though from the best of motives.

The complaint that we do not send enough juniors abroad is based on the illusion that a magic elixir is available on such trips. Russian juniors, particularly, so often seem better than ours, but this overlooks factors we cannot match, state help which may be disappearing under the new regime, special sports schools, etc. Nevertheless the foreign juniors one is likely to encounter in, say, the French Open are hardly likely to be better players than those who provide the opposition in an English 3 Star senior event.

If juniors wish to stretch themselves and play against better opposition, that opportunity exists at home at lower cost with less travel wear and tear. My own experience indicates that no player who fails to make a mark in our domestic senior scene has any chance of winning medals in the European Youth.

Our most successful junior (of all time) never went to an overseas Junior Open as a Junior. That does not mean that we shall not send juniors to Open events, but they must have a realistic chance to return as winners rather than tourists.

Sadly, it has to be reported that such trips in the past have been looked on as holidays rather than hard competition in which one represents one's country. Too often social players, to use the kindest expression, have represented us in Junior Europe. Medals are not won by such players.

Our sport caters abundantly for both the social player and the one with ambitions to go to the very top. I myself was never other than a social player. However, our 'excellence' funds must be spent on precisely that objective. We do not, despite our vastly improved financial position, have funds that remotely equal those of most of our competitors whose performance we must nevertheless try to match.

We must spend wisely and well. We always listen to advice and ideas. There should have within them the twin virtues of truth and common sense rather than personalised grievances. In organisational terms, we have combined the 'coaching' functions with those of 'development' under Stuart Sneyd and have made 'selection' a separate department under Kevin Satchell.

The latter involves international playing activities and the preparation for those, both junior and senior. The brief is international success at all levels. Everyone who has spoken to me about Kevin has been impressed by his grasp and vision. To this I add enthusiasm, which I regard as a vital quality in all members of my team.

We have already initiated an Under-11 National Championship which has attracted more entries each year. This season we shall add U-10 and U-12 National Championships, all these being sponsored by Halex for whose support we are very grateful. The U-11 event is now an established and popular event. We shall catch our young players earlier and in time this will benefit both our international and grass roots efforts.

In addition we shall stage a National U-21 Championship, so that ex-juniors have fresh goals and ambitions and so that life does not end when they leave the junior scene. A number of good U-21 events are already taking place. We hope this will stimulate many more, increasing the good health of the sport.

Don Parker will, of course, continue the good work as England Team Manager and Director of Coaching, whilst Kevin heads the Selection Dept. He will devote a great deal of time to our junior team and those with the potential to make this, Don will continue to select the teams. The U-12 squads will be broadened and continued. We hope to gather promising players more frequently for training and guidance.

"Instant" success cannot be promised. In the end, players have to be in the right frame and frame of mind on the big occasions, but we shall give any good luck going a helping hand. Both Kevin and Don are highly approachable. Problems and solutions can be discussed with them.

We held a seminar for parents and mentors, who accompany juniors on our tournament circuit. A number of speakers were able to pass on their experience. I wish something like this had existed when I began to take Carl round the tournaments. How many mistakes I would have avoided! How much I had to learn the hard way!

I have dealt mainly with the international junior scene. Coaching continues all over the country, both private initiatives and national ones. If you hear the opposite don't believe it. Ever increasing entries to junior tournaments tell the real story. The ETTA's Development Plan is providing further fillips.

The game is healthy and well, but it will only continue to be so if the grass roots are strong. We compete every day against a hundred other sports. We have to make sure that OUR message is seen and heard. It has to be an attractive one, not one that magnifies the 1% which maybe went wrong and ignores the 99% that went right.

No local Association should be without a development policy which brings new blood into our ranks. New faces, fresh ideas, particularly the the young, so that our great game has a future and future generations have the fun we have had and will go on having.
DESMOND Douglas might be easing off the accelerator these days but from the form he showed at the Masters in Gateshead where this picture was taken, he still has many years ahead of him yet.

Our Picture of the Month shows a typical Des action shot which has thrilled fans all over the country.
FRANCE TWO DOWN, ONE TO GO

CHAMPIONS DEFEATED
FRANCE, the defending champions of the Super Division in the European League, took a 6-1 hammering by Yugoslavia in their opening match of the 1990/91 season in Cetinje on Sept 11. Jean-Philippe Gatien saved the whitewash when, in the penultimate set, he beat Zoran Primorac to record the only French success even Wang Xiao Ming going down to Jasna Fazlic.

Scores:
Z. Primorac b D. Momessin 10, -19, 11;
I. Lupulescu b J-P Gatien 17, 21;
J. Fazlic b Wang Xiao Ming -15, 20, 17;
Primorac/Lupulescu b Gatien/Momessin 16, 15, 16;
Lupulescu/Fazlic b Gatien/Wang 19, -19, 14.

In the other Group A fixture, played in Weert on Sept 11, promoted Belgium recorded a 5-2 win over Netherlands the home victories going to the credit of Paul Haldan and Gerdie Keen.

Scores:
P. Haldan b T. Cabrera -14, 17;
G. Keen b K. Bogaerts 13, 14;
Haldan/Keen b Cabrera /Cabrera 17, -17, -13;
Haldan/Keen b Cabrera /Cabrera 17, -13, -17;
Haldan/I. Noor I. Saive/Els Billen 17, -17, -19;
Haldan/Keen -23, 16, -17;
Keen I Cabrera -8, -19;


Scores:
P. Skierski I Fetzner 10, -12, -16.
Skierski/A. Gieraga I Rosskopf/Struse -19, 18, -15;
Skierski/I. Fetzner 18, -16, -12;
Kucharski I S. Fetzner 18, -16, -12;
Kucharski b Rosskopf 21, 11;
Skierski I Fetzner 10, -12, -16.

scores record a 4-3 win for Yugoslavia in Super Group A against Netherlands and, in Super Group B, Sweden defeated Poland 4-3.

Two other results to hand without individual scores record a 4-3 win for Yugoslavia in Super Group A against Netherlands and, in Super Group B, Sweden defeated Poland 4-3.

GROUP B P W L F A Pts
Yugoslavia 2 0 2 4 10 0
Belgium 2 2 0 9 5 2
Netherlands 2 0 2 5 9 0
France 2 2 0 10 4 0
Poland 2 2 0 10 4 0
Czechoslovakia 2 0 2 4 0 0

GROUP B P W L F A Pts
England 2 2 0 13 2 2
Austria 2 2 0 9 5 2
Spain 2 0 2 4 10 0
Italy 2 0 2 12 0

In the other Group B fixtures at home to Czechoslovakia and won 5-2.

Details:
A. Holt I M. Harchova 19, -14, -10;
A. Gordon b A. Safarova 10, 12;
L. Lomas b Z. Kaitmiov 17, 24;
Lomas/Holt b Harchova/Safarova 16, 14;
Holt I Safarova 20, -20, -13;
Lomas b Harchova 15, 8, 20;
Gordon b Zatkova 19, 13.

In the other Group B match France beat Netherlands 6-1.

Scores:
J-M Saive b P. Chila -13, 16, 14;
T. Cabrera b J-P Gatien 19, 25, 15;
O. Ozer I Wang Xiao Ming -6, -5;
Saive/Cabrera b Gatien/D. Momessin 18, -15, 21;
Saive/Els Billen I Gatien/Wang -19, -17, -19;
Saive I Ghering -15, -12, -15;
Cabrera b Chila -12, -19, 18.

Two other results to hand without individual scores record a 4-3 win for Yugoslavia in Super Group A against Netherlands and, in Super Group B, Sweden defeated Poland 4-3.

In far off Sicily England opened up their account with a 7-0 grandslam victory over Italy. Scores:
M. Constantini I C. Prean -9, 9, -10;
G. Di Napoli I A. Cooke -7, -12.

Group B P W L F A Pts
Yugoslavia 2 0 2 4 10 0
Belgium 2 2 0 9 5 2
Netherlands 2 0 2 5 9 0
France 2 2 0 10 4 0
Poland 2 2 0 10 4 0
Czechoslovakia 2 0 2 4 10 0

GROUP B P W L F A Pts
England 2 2 0 13 2 2
Austria 2 2 0 9 5 2
Spain 2 0 2 4 10 0
Italy 2 0 2 12 0

GREAT START
As reported in the October issue England began their Group B fixtures at home to Czechoslovakia and won 5-2.

Details:
A. Holt I M. Harchova 19, -14, -10;
A. Gordon b A. Safarova 10, 12;
L. Lomas b Z. Kaitmiov 17, 24;
Lomas/Holt b Harchova/Safarova 16, 14;
Holt I Safarova 20, -20, -13;
Lomas b Harchova 15, 8, 20;
Gordon b Zatkova 19, 13.

In the other Group B match France beat Netherlands 6-1.

Scores:
J-M Saive b P. Chila -13, 16, 14;
T. Cabrera b J-P Gatien 19, 25, 15;
O. Ozer I Wang Xiao Ming -6, -5;
Saive/Cabrera b Gatien/D. Momessin 18, -15, 21;
Saive/Els Billen I Gatien/Wang -19, -17, -19;
Saive I Ghering -15, -12, -15;
Cabrera b Chila -12, -19, 18.

Two other results to hand without individual scores record a 4-3 win for Yugoslavia in Super Group A against Netherlands and, in Super Group B, Sweden defeated Poland 4-3.

VICTORY
In far off Sicily England opened up their account with a 7-0 grandslam victory over Italy. Scores:
M. Constantini I C. Prean -9, 9, -10;
G. Di Napoli I A. Cooke -7, -12.

Group A P W L F A Pts
Yugoslavia 2 0 2 4 10 0
Belgium 2 2 0 9 5 2
Netherlands 2 0 2 5 9 0
France 2 2 0 10 4 0
Poland 2 2 0 10 4 0
Czechoslovakia 2 0 2 4 10 0

Group A P W L F A Pts
Yugoslavia 2 0 2 4 10 0
Belgium 2 2 0 9 5 2
Netherlands 2 0 2 5 9 0
France 2 2 0 10 4 0
Poland 2 2 0 10 4 0
Czechoslovakia 2 0 2 4 10 0

GROUP B P W L F A Pts
England 2 2 0 13 2 2
Austria 2 2 0 9 5 2
Spain 2 0 2 4 10 0
Italy 2 0 2 12 0

GROUP B P W L F A Pts
England 2 2 0 13 2 2
Austria 2 2 0 9 5 2
Spain 2 0 2 4 10 0
Italy 2 0 2 12 0

GROUP A P W L F A Pts
Yugoslavia 2 0 2 4 10 0
Belgium 2 2 0 9 5 2
Netherlands 2 0 2 5 9 0
France 2 2 0 10 4 0
Poland 2 2 0 10 4 0
Czechoslovakia 2 0 2 4 10 0

GROUP A P W L F A Pts
Yugoslavia 2 0 2 4 10 0
Belgium 2 2 0 9 5 2
Netherlands 2 0 2 5 9 0
France 2 2 0 10 4 0
Poland 2 2 0 10 4 0
Czechoslovakia 2 0 2 4 10 0

GROUP B P W L F A Pts
England 2 2 0 13 2 2
Austria 2 2 0 9 5 2
Spain 2 0 2 4 10 0
Italy 2 0 2 12 0

GROUP B P W L F A Pts
England 2 2 0 13 2 2
Austria 2 2 0 9 5 2
Spain 2 0 2 4 10 0
Italy 2 0 2 12 0

ountry Club
Cup of Champions
Round 2 of the women's section brought a home 5-2 win for N.F.D. Grove over TTC Dietikon of Switzerland and in Round 3 they travel to Austria to take on ATUS Judenburg Sparkasse, 5-4 winners over Trade Unions Moscow in the previous round. Good Luck Grove.

Grove's men's team were due to play Avila Rojas T.M. of Spain on October 26.
Stiga Junior Top 12

Italy will provide the venue for this season's Stiga Junior Top 12 over the weekend of Jan 26/27.

Junior Boys
1 Torben Wosik (FRG)
2 Slobodan Grujic (YUG)
3 Mirko Pavlovski (FRG)
4 Thierry Tran (FRA)
5 Robert Pagonyi (HUN)
6 Petr Szranfane (POL)
7 Schlagler Werner (AUT)
8 Pagonyi Robert (HUN)
9 Szafrauskis Piotr (POL)
10 Legout Christophe (FRA)
11 Kostal Radek (TCH)

Junior Girls
1 Vanda Litinskaja (URS)
2 Okasaka Kusko (URS)
3 Laura Nichola (ROM)
4 Ekaterina Tsachuktskaja (URS)
5 Anna Januszuk (POL)
6 Alena Vachovcova (TCH)
7 Sabina Martinova (TCH)
8 Vivien Elto (HUN)
9 Petra Fichtinger (AUT)
10 Italian Nominee

Reserves
* Elke Schaeft (FRG)
* Cecile Ozer (BEL)
* Sandrine Derrien (FRA)
* Marie Persson (SWE)
* Melissa Muller (HOL)
* Kristina Toth (HUN)

Players noted * are still Juniors for 1990/91

Cadets
1 Sergi Andrianov (URS)
2 Vladimir Samzanov (URS)

Reserves
* Lacien Blaszczyk (POL)
* Stamatia Tatiana (URS)
* Litinskaja Vanda (VAND)
* Natasha Adrianu (ROM)
* Kuzhanina Marina (URS)
* Kusko Oksana (URS)
* Nichola Laura (ROM)
* Tsachuktskaja Ekaterina (URS)
* Januszuk Anna (POL)
* Vachovcova Alena (TCH)
* Martinova Sabina (TCH)
* Elia Vivien (HUN)
* Fichtinger Petra (AUT)
* Schall Elke (FRG)
* Grec Cecile (BEL)
* Lelanic Agnes (FRG)
* Mladkova Luba (TCH)
* Derrien Sandrine (FRA)
* Persson Marie (SWE)
* Lichter Olga (URS)
* Bauer Anna (FRG)
* Muller Melissa (HOL)
* Toth Krisztina (HUN)
* Rascalova Julia (ROM)
* Rosas Leo (SWE)
* Jonsson Jenny (SWE)
* Creuse Caroline (FRG)

Players noted * are still Cadets for 1990/91

Junior and Cadet Classification Lists
September 1990

Junior Boys
1 Wosik Torben (FRG)
2 Grujic Slobodan (YUG)
3 Pavlovski Mirko (FRG)
4 Tran Thierry (FRA)
5 Schlagler Werner (AUT)
6 Pagonyi Robert (HUN)
7 Olejnik Martin (TCH)
8 Noskov Sergei (URS)
9 Szafrauszki Piotr (POL)
10 Legout Christophe (FRA)
11 Kostal Radek (TCH)

Junior Girls
1 Wirth Veronika (HUN)
2 Kostromina Tatiana (URS)
3 Litinskaja Vanda (URS)
4 Natasha Adrianu (ROM)
5 Kuzhanina Marina (URS)
6 Kusko Oksana (URS)
7 Nichola Laura (ROM)
8 Tsachuktskaja Ekaterina (URS)
9 Januszuk Anna (POL)
10 Vachovcova Alena (TCH)
11 Martinova Sabina (TCH)
12 Elia Vivien (HUN)
13 Fichtinger Petra (AUT)
14 Schall Elke (FRG)
15 Grec Cecile (BEL)
16 Lelanic Agnes (FRG)
17 Madkova Luba (TCH)
18 Derrien Sandrine (FRA)
19 Persson Marie (SWE)
20 Lichter Olga (URS)
21 Bauer Anna (FRG)
22 Muller Melissa (HOL)
23 Toth Krisztina (HUN)
24 Rascalova Julia (ROM)
25 Rasos Leo (SWE)
26 Jonsson Jenny (SWE)

Players noted * are still Juniors for 1990/91

Cadet Boys
1 Andrianov Sergei (URS)
2 Samzanov Vladimir (URS)
3 Kostner Sascha (FRG)
4 Krajcik Robert (TCH)
5 Karakasevic Aleksandar (YUG)
6 Fadeev Evgeniji (URS)
7 Marzocchi Federico (ITA)
8 Balog Jozsef (HUN)
9 Radulovski Gregori (POL)
10 Schroder Thomas (FRG)
11 Pantelimon Marius (ROM)
12 Mardjka Branislav (ROM)
13 Lagovski Kostadin (BUL)
14 Tatjanin Marija (SWE)
15 Zawadski Grzegorz (POL)
16 Kostromina Tatiana (URS)
17 Balog Jozsef (HUN)
18 Kostal Radek (TCH)
19 Badorfi Zoltan (HUN)
20 Lengerov Kostadin (BUL)
21 Bardon Andrej (TCH)
22 Poliackova Zuzana (TCH)
23 Badorfi Zoltan (HUN)
24 Radek Kostal (TCH)
25 Martinova Sabina (TCH)
26 Narkiewicz Joanna (POL)
27 Bartkowiak Konrad (POL)
28 Januszuk Anna (POL)
29 Badorfi Zoltan (HUN)
30 Creuse Caroline (FRG)

Players noted * are still Cadets for 1990/91

Cadet Girls
1 Gogorita Ana (ROM)
2 Kulagina Tatiana (URS)
3 Cehovin Polona (YUG)
4 Fazekas Marta (HUN)
5 Herczig Judit (HUN)
6 Petra Gina (ROM)
7 Mancic Tanja (YUG)
8 Savu Simona (ROM)
9 Kulagina Tatiana (URS)
10 Plakidina Elena (ITA)
11 Zschau Eva (FRG)
12 Merinde Michele (ITA)
13 Narkiewicz Joanna (POL)
14 Langosz Joana (POL)
15 Poliackova Zuzana (TCH)
16 Schmidt Nadine (FRG)
17 Pavlova Julia (URS)

European Women's League
Premier Section
Results First Stage, Round 1 (18.9.90)
First Division:

Group A
1 Vienna - England 1 1:0 6:1
2 Budapest - Germany 1 1:0 5:2
3 Stockholm - Sweden 1 0:1 2:5
4 France - Netherlands 1 0:1 1:6

Group B
1 Vienna - England 1 1:0 6:1
2 Budapest - Germany 1 1:0 5:2
3 Stockholm - Sweden 1 0:1 2:5
4 Netherlands - France 1 0:1 1:6

EUROFIX
Joola European League Group Matches
Division One - Group A
Nov 17 Austria v England
Nov 17 Spain v Italy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Nov 15/18 "Sovetskyi Kultura" Invitational (Moscow)
Nov 22/25 Yugoslavia Open (Novi Sad)
Nov 29 - Dec 2 French Open (Lyons)

1991
Jan Stiga Europe Junior Top 12 (Italy)
Jan 18/20 Euroleague Nations Cup (FRG, Germany)
Feb 1/3 Stiga Europe Top 12 (Hamburg, Germany)
Feb 21/24 Czechoslovak Open (Prague)
Apr 24 - May 4 World Junior Championships (Bratislava, Slovakia)
May 25/27 "English Junior Open" (Bridlington)
May 31 - June 2 "French Junior Open" (La Roche sur Yon)
June 21/23 "Italian Junior Open"
July 20/28 "European Youth Championships" (Grenada, Spain)
July 27/29 European Masters Cup (FRG, Germany)
Oct Polish Open
Oct 24/27 "Swiss Open" (Geneva)
Nov 14/17 "Hungarian Open" (Budapest)
Nov 26 - Dec 1 Swedish Open (SOG) (Smaland)
Dec 5/6 Finlandia Open
THE CHINESE CONNECTION

GRAHAM Clarke has just returned from a Chinese experience he hopes will lift him into the top 50 of English players.

The Hyde Vymura International player, along with three scousers and a couple of cockneys, put their savings on the line in a bid to learn some of the secrets that have consistently put Chinese players on top of the world.

Already, after returning from a month's solid practice in the provincial town of Tenjin, two hours north of the old city of Beijing, the gamble is beginning to pay off. Before he left Graham was ranked 116th, when the rankings come out again next month, he expects to have broken the 100 barrier after beating players well above him in the current listings.

"They completely took my game apart and started from scratch," he said. "One of the first things our coach said to me was that because I was on the small size, I should be playing their type of game."

"We practised a lot on my forehand. They had me standing nearer the table and showed me how to kill the ball quicker."

"We practised six hours a day, six days a week and all around us were Chinese players doing exactly the same. Nobody took any notice of us, we were just one of them."

"It was practice, practice all the time. They gave us a day off to do some shopping and then it was back to the table," he said.

"Some of the youngsters couldn’t have been more than five or six years old yet they were looping and playing some very advanced shots. What they will be like in a few years time I cannot imagine."

"I have always found playing against defenders difficult. But thanks to the Chinese way of teaching, it is now all so much easier."

Graham's aim now is to make the top 50 in the country and then perhaps return again in the future, just to pick up some more tips. It seems the Chinese connection is already being used by other countries as well.

"Some of the more frequent visitors these days are the top Swedish players who make no secret of the fact that they still have a lot to learn."

Anti Drug Rules

As a responsible controlling body in sport, the ETIA, with a large number of active players, adopted rules and procedures aimed at combating the abuse of drugs. The ETIA co-operates with the Sports Council's drive against this form of cheating.

Members are strongly urged to study the relevant rules which are reproduced below. Remember that these and other rules were passed by majorities of two thirds or more at AGMs of the Association.

Particular attention is drawn to 32.8.4.

32.8.1. Doping is prohibited, doping being the use by a player of any of the substances specified in the List of Banned Substances contained in Appendix 'P' to these Rules.

32.8.2.1. The List of Banned Substances shall include all the substances listed in the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission's list of banned substances and such other substances as the National Council shall decide.

32.8.2.2. Any change made by the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission in its list of banned substances shall be copied in the list in Appendix 'P' on the day following the day on which the ETIA shall have received notification of the change, and the revised list shall have immediate effect.

32.8.3. For the purposes of Rule 32.8.1 use shall be conclusively established by —

32.8.3.1. in the case of an endogenous banned substance the presence of a body fluid, established by quantitative analysis, of more than the amount specified by the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission as the amount the presence of which is the minimum necessary to show that the quantity present could not have occurred naturally.

32.8.3.2. in the case of any other banned substance the identification in a body fluid of it and/or one of its metabolites.

32.8.4. Failure to undergo a doping control test, if requested by an official designated by the ETIA for the purpose, will be treated as a positive result having been obtained.

32.8.5. A Member shall not assist or incite any player to contravene Rule 32.8.1 nor distribute any banned substance to any player.

32.8.6. If use by a player is established as provided by Rule 32.8.3 —

32.8.6.1. the General Secretary shall make a formal allegation of breach of rule against that player and

32.8.6.2. that player shall forthwith be suspended from the privileges of membership until the Disciplinary Committee proceedings and any appeal against the decision in those proceedings have been completed.

32.8.7. In any case of breach of Rule 32.8.1. there shall be a right of appeal to the Board of Appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

NOTE: The National Council has decided as a matter of policy that in the case of breach of Rule 32.8.1 the normal minimum penalty should be a two years' suspension; where abuse is of a more serious and deliberate nature a much longer period would be expected to be appropriate.
THE Money Game

THE Sports Council is an independent body established in 1972 by Royal Charter. It has a remit covering British sport as a whole, but it is mainly concerned with English matters as there are separate Councils for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It consists of members, all of whom are appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, and around 600 permanent employees.

It aims to increase the provision of sports facilities, increase levels of participation, raise standards of performance and provide information for, and about sport. The Council receives a grant from central government (£39m in 1988/9) to carry out its activities, and it is responsible for the allocation of grants to governing bodies of sport, i.e. English Table Tennis Association. The amount of grant each sport receives, depends upon the size of the association and the proposed activities. To ascertain this, and other facts, each governing body submits a detailed forward plan, where the merits of expenditure are evaluated.

The ETFA have a current four year (1989/93) forward plan which sets out ETFA objectives and details how it is proposed that objectives will be met, and how much it will cost to meet them (i.e. how much grant is needed).

The table tennis forward development plan received full backing from the Sports Council (not all do!) and was praised for its content and presentation.

In 1989, the ETFA received £190,235 from the Sports Council which represents just under half of the Association's income (compare this with £97,039 affiliation fees income - one fifth of the Association's income).

The Sports Council HQ are in Euston, London and there are 10 regional councils spread throughout England which bring together local interests. Each council has an officer who has responsibilities for table tennis as a liaison officer. Revenue grants (or Regional Participation Grants as they were once known) are available through regional sports council offices. These grants financially assist voluntary (i.e. local clubs) statutory and commercial organisations.

Applications for a grant should reflect sports council objectives and like all good development projects, should give details of how the proposed project will develop to become independent (i.e. self supporting) on exhaustion of sports council funding.

Examples of successful table tennis grant applications have included the following: improvement of lighting, purchase of new equipment, creation of a schools project, funding of a coaching centre etc.

If you feel that your project meets the criteria above, why not phone me, Diccon Gray at HQ on 0424 722525 to discuss it further?

FUND RAISING FOR SPORT

by Hywel Griffiths

A RECENT report has shown that sport in Britain needs to become more expert in the business of raising cash often to survive. As a nation we are good organizers, but we don't like asking for other people's money.

But there are ways of raising money for sport; hence this book which will be invaluable to the many clubs and centres, struggling to make ends meet.

It isn't only God who helps those who help themselves. Self help is a hallowed and respected tradition in voluntary sport. Many of the facilities which we enjoy and admire today were provided through the work and fund raising efforts of our predecessors. In these difficult financial times the problems of helping yourself and providing everything your club needs through your own efforts are becoming more and more difficult.

Even with the advent of financial help from statutory and charitable funds, fund raising is often the biggest problem facing the voluntary sports club as it strives to survive and to improve the quality of the facilities and opportunities which it provides for its membership.

The Sports Council is pleased to help and encourage such efforts with grant aid where it can, but our resources are never sufficient to meet all the demands made upon them. Neither would we wish to assume the role of totally funding voluntary projects as such a role would only create dependence and reduce initiative.

We do, however, have a role in disseminating knowledge so that people can benefit from the experience of others. Our regional staff deal with many, many clubs who are involved in projects to provide new or improved facilities or who are seeking to help promising players, and, through our grant aid we have come into contact with many interesting ideas for raising money to finance such projects.

This publication is, then, a distillation of the knowledge and experience which we have gathered over our many years of involvement in voluntary fund raising.

There are many very good general fund raising books on the market and many of the ideas which fund raisers in other fields have developed are applicable to sports clubs. Up until now there has been nowhere where the club administration has been able to turn for advice which directly relates to the problems of sports clubs, but with this publication we hope that you will find all the help that you need between two covers.

I commend this book to anyone facing the problem of raising cash.

Dick Jeeps (Chairman - The Sports Council)
England manager and national coach Don Parker continues his coaching tips with a look at the forehand and backhand drives. How to add power to your strokes and the importance of getting into the right position at the right time.

IT'S only a matter of time before you will want to start hitting the ball harder. Although the temptation to take a swipe at it may prove to be overwhelming, it will be a pointless exercise if you keep missing the other side of the table.

Moving the ball faster takes time to learn in table tennis, as in many other sports. This is a gradual process and improvement doesn't occur overnight, so be prepared to spend time and patience on developing your basic technique. The starting point is to keep the ball going during practice for as long as possible.

To hit hard, you must be able to generate power. Power is what makes your hit move fast through the air. Power comes from using the bigger muscles in your body — for example, in your upper legs, back and stomach — and from aiming your swing slightly lower. Other than this, the basic technique involved in powerful backhand and forehand shots remains unchanged.

**Fast Forehand Drive**
You use your arm and body for this, throwing your body weight firmly forward from your back leg to the front one as you strike hard "through" the ball.

You start in a side-on position, and must rotate your waist during the action so that your shoulders are able to swing into the stroke. You end up square-on to the table.

Keep the shoulder and elbow of your playing arm 'loose'. You effectively lengthen your arm by increasing the angle of your elbow, but don't hold it completely straight. As you accelerate your bat towards the ball, your elbow must be able to close as you make contact. The greater part of your swing should occur before you hit the ball, not after.

For maximum effect, the bat should hit straight through the ball, which, as usual, needs to be taken at the top of its bounce. You have to get the sequence just right. The power comes first through the legs, then the waist, shoulder down through the elbow, and finally into the wrist and bat.

**Fast Backhand**
The same principles apply to hitting hard on the backhand as on the forehand although it is harder to get quite as much body action into it. Again, you increase the power of the shot by a slight twist of the waist; if you are a right hander, turn a little to the left and bring your right shoulder into line with the flight of the ball.

Extend your arm at the elbow and bend your knees ready to push your weight forward into the shot. With your bat held out a little to the left of your hips, start to straighten your legs and rotate your shoulders back towards a square-on position.

At virtually the same time, start your swing, using your shoulder first and then your elbow. You should be hitting the ball at the top of its bounce, at a point roughly in line with your stomach.

(Take up Table Tennis by Don Parker is published by Springfield Books.)

**Tips from the Top**
MAKE sure when you are competing in a tournament that you keep drinking water to replace body fluids. It is best to buy your own small plastic bottle and keep refillling throughout the day. Remember, if you feel thirsty then it is too late and your performance will have already been affected.

As well as drinking it is important to keep your energy levels topped up which does not mean having a Mars just before going on the table. This causes an immediate increase in energy followed by a drop which can cause that weak-legged, light-headed feeling at 15-15 in the first game. Ideally eat a well balanced high carbohydrate meal about three hours before you start preparing to compete. When this is not possible a banana is a useful snack at a tournament as this is high in fructose. It is always an excellent idea to use a glucose polymer to relieve energy powder in your water bottle making up about a 10 per cent solution i.e. 10 grams/litre. This is the best way to maintain your glycogen level, the immediate form of energy, at its highest throughout a days play.

Most players know the advantages and importance of warming up, but how many "warm down"? After a hard training session or game there will be lactic acid in the system which needs to be removed as quickly as possible or it will affect subsequent performance. By gentle jogging and simple stretching for five minutes the increase in the speed of reduction of lactic acid is very significant and means the performer is more likely to produce his or her best in the next trip to the table.
A REFEREE'S seminar will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, immediately before the Asian Championships later this month, followed by the first International Referee examination.

Two candidates will be invited from each of seven Asian associations and the Oceania Federation. Invitations will be sent direct to Associations which have staged world, continental or Olympic championships in the past five years i.e. China, India, Japan, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea - and the ITTF will be asked to nominate two other Asian associations.

The seminar will consist of a written examination and interviews. Although accommodation and meals will be free participants will be expected to make their own travel arrangements.

Speakers are expected to include Chanda Kelekar, referee of the 1975 and 1987 world championships; Borje Karlsson, referee of the 1990 European championships; Colin Clemett, chairman of the ITTF Rules Committee, who will jointly conduct the examination.

WORLD RANKING

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL

1. Waldner Jan-Ove (SWE)
2. Applegren Mikael (SWE)
3. Grubba Andrej (POL)
4. Persson Jorgen (SWE)
5. Yao Nao Kyu (KOR)
6. Chen Longcan (CHN)
7. Ma Wenge (CHN)
8. Yu Shengtong (CHN)
9. Lindh Erik (SWE)
10. Rosskopf Jorg (FRG)

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL

1. Qiao Hong (CHN)
2. Chen Jing (CHN)
3. Li Fan Hui (PRK)
4. Chen Zhe (CHN)
5. Hyosung Hwa (KOR)
6. Deng Yaping (CHN)
7. Guoqiang Zhu (CHN)
8. Luca Zovetto (ITA)
9. Li Chau (HKG)
10. Li Jun (CHN)

THE IOC has confirmed, in response to Mr. Ogimura's request, that as two bronze medals in each event are awarded at our World Championships, the same can apply in the event at the Olympic Games in Barcelona. This means of course that there will be no play-offs for third and fourth place. This represents a change from the system in Seoul.

ITTF committee members who are not doing their job are being given a last chance to do something about it. Up to 30% are not playing any useful part in the work of their committees and now individual associations are being advised that they are not carrying out their duties.

ALBERT SHIPLEY who left the ITTF after 23 years as general secretary for a position as tournament director with the ITTF was an outstanding candidate. Apparently there were very many applications of a very high calibre. But according to the ITTF executive committee the job, "because of the outstanding experience and qualifications we had no hesitation in giving him the job." Well done, Albert.

SUPER star Jan Ove Waldner may be in the army this time next year. In Sweden they still have military service as mandatory and even a world champion can escape the call to duty.

But not only is Waldner due to join up, so are Jorgen Persson and Peter Karlsson and Erik Lindh who could all add up to a real blow to European table tennis.

Table tennis is supposed to be a simple game. Yet in Japan next year, just before the World Championships, they will be holding a conference to discuss the physiological, biological, psychological and medical aspects of the sport.

Fiji and Western Samo have been elected into provisional membership of the ITTF.

Our thanks to the ITTF Bulletin for the above information.
European League for Women

**A MAGNIFICENT MATCH**

ENGLAND defeated France 4-3 on October 16 to make certain of a place in the semi-finals. Those are the bare bones of a magnificent, tremendously exciting match, in which our girls led 2-1 before the interval, went down 2-3 and triumphed 4-3.

The Pendel Academy provided a marvellous venue and a gate of over 200 which meant that about a quarter of the places were empty. Those who did not come really missed something! I can think of few matches in the main event of the European League which equalled this — none better.

**Andrea to the fore**

England captain Jill Hammersley-Parker stuck to the line-up which had produced that staggering upset against Czechoslovakia. So Andrea Holt opened against Agnes Lezannic, last year’s French Junior Champion and a defender. An opening 2-12 victory caused us few anxieties and when Andrea led 19-16 in the second after some very crisp hitting, we settled down for a quick victory, especially with her good serve to come. Instead it was 19 all and when the Bugy girl had put away a smash only to move the table in the process she was 19-20 down! She saved that game point and eventually won 23-21, each point being highly dramatic.

**Fabulous...**

The star of the French, the Chinese girl Wang Xiao Ming was next on the table against our No. 1 Lisa Lomas. It was to prove a fabulous match in which Lisa played better than I had seen her do for some years. She could not have played better than she did to go 12-5 up, but her opponent’s very safe looped and a few missed hits saw Lisa’s lead dwindle and she lost 21-19 when everything had looked so good.

She won the next by the same score, picking up a lot of points with lobs and floated balls to the base line, though each point had to be fought for and numerous returns had to be made of a good hit had to be put away. Wang is on most days as good as any player in Europe and this was one of them.

The key match...?

1-1 and Alison Gordon to play Emanuelle Coubat against whom she has both won and lost with 19 in the 3rd at a not unusual result. The French girl has a sharp forehand counter hit and pimplies on the backhand with which she makes some very good winners, but also mistakes against spinny loops. Alison won the first 21-17 but lost the second to 18. The French girl had the better of the early stages in the third, but an excellent run saw us through by 21-13. It was a dream-like spell by the Reading girl. In my calculations I had seen this as the key match, if the form book prevailed the rest of the evening. I suppose it did in the end, but not without the most enormous tension and excitement.

**Wang strikes**

Andrea against Wang was always going to be a stern test and a French lead of 15-5 did not encourage great hopes. A pull-up to 15-10 did, but the Chinese girl then shut shop and won 21-10.

Some crisp hitting induced some uncertainties in the second game which Andrea won to 17, but the third went beyond control quite quickly and to defeat by 21-1. Our fortunes had changed rapidly, 2-1 up and then 2-3 down. No further defeat was possible, if we were to win.

**Gordon and Lomas strike back**

How would Miss Gordon fare against the French defender? It was to prove an uphill task at the first game slipped away to 17. Patience is not only a virtue against good defence, it is essential. Only on lucky days will a diet of 3rd balls and routine tactics succeed.

Alison was to discover that in the first game. However, in the second and third she looped with some purpose and worked hard for her points with only the occasional hopeful flash. Two wins to 12 was no more than she deserved for her impressive application.

I was beginning to feel hopeful by now. Lisa Lomas had been playing so well. Surely victory was only a formality if she was in that sort of form? She herself had told me that she had twice lost to the French girl. It was information which at the time I could have done without! However, she fully lived up to my confidence winning the first game 21-0.

It was to be a different story in the second as the her opponent swept into useful leads and was now righting with the defensive problems rather well. Lisa’s hitting was off target more often than not. Just when we settled down for a third game, a fine run of winners and immaculate defence swept Lisa to a famous 21-19 victory which sealed the match and our place in the semi-finals.

**How Table Tennis should be...**

These will be played on a home and away basis. I think our girls will now win the group which I think will mean a match against Romania, Sweden or Germany. I think Hungary (Batorfi, Wirth, Urban) will win the other group and are likely finalists and tough opponents for the ones who prevail to that stage.

Our girls have already done magnificently. I know they will not rest on their laurels and will try to go all the way. I hope that, wherever we stage these matches, our members and fans will come out in force, because we have an excellent and attractive team.

The audience at the Pendel Academy really rose to the occasion and gave splendid support which I regarded as quite indispensable in our victory. Our warmest thanks, yet again, to Mike Reid and his team at Pendel who made this superb occasion possible. How often have I said this before? This is a part of England where Table Tennis LIVES.

It was by any standards a great day for our sport, a game played over 4 hours to the highest standards of skill and sportsmanship, an audience enthusiastic and enthralled. That is what Table tennis should be, what it can be. Adjectives fail me at last.

Well done, players, promoters, audience and ETFA who worked hard, at one time almost alone, to make the project of a European Women’s League possible.

What I saw on October 16 amply repays us for our efforts.

JOHN FREAN

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**RESULTS**

Andrea Holt v Agnes Lezannic 12, 21, 1-0
Lisa Lomas v Wang Xiao Ming 19, 19, 17, 1-1
Alison Gordon v Emanuelle Coubat 17, 18, 13, 2-1
Andrea Holt/Lisa Lomas v Wang Xiao Ming/Emanuelle Coubat 15, 15, 2-2
Andrea Holt v Wang Xiao Ming 10, 17, 11, 2-3
Alison Gordon v Agnes Lezannic 17, 12, 3-3
Lisa Lomas v Emanuelle Coubat 9, 19, 4-3

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PAGE 13
GROVE OPEN
IN STYLE

Reports Mike Loveder

THERE were no surprises in the Premier Division. NFD Grove beat Team Peniel 8-0 although John Hollands took both Chris Oldfield and Des Douglas to three games. Grant Solder made his premier debut helping Bathwick Tyres 1 to an 8-0 win over West Warwicks.

Ormesby beat Ellenborough 6-2 with Nigel Eckersley losing the two to Ewan Walker and Colin Wilson. Butterfly Cardiff beat DML Pickard despite Leigh Jeffries bogging a dink. Ruston Marconi Lincoln and St Neots shared the points. Jason Bamford did well to beat Keith Richardson and Stephen Moore. However his effort was offset by two from Stuart Palmer.

Division 2 North seems to be set to be steam-rollered by Yugo Cars I. With Dave Gannon, Keith Rodger, Lindsay Taylor and, at No. 4, Denis Neale they are capable of off to a healthy start with a 6-2 win over Colley Toyota 11. Colin Bowler beat Lee Thomas and David Buck.

Ellenborough 1 triumphed 6-2 over Horsham Dolphins 2nd in Division 2 South. Nicky McKay beat Peter Bartram and Paul Elphick. John Lennon did well too beating Andy Walker and Paul Barry. TSP Larkhall 1 beat Gunnersbury...

Destroyers 5-3. The England No. 8 veteran, Mike Short, recorded a useful win over the Welsh No. 1, Steve Whitton, beat Paul Giles and Tony Taylor.

From the 'wolds of the north-west' NFD Grove 2nd appear in Division 1 South and they opened their account with a 5-3 win over Colley Toyota. The latter have recruited Dave Barr who beat Steve Slater and Jonathan Taylor in straight games.

Rejects were hammered 7-1 by Chelmsford OC's with Clive Carthy beating John Dennison at 19 in the third but losing to Dave Newman at 18 in the third. Victoria Park Mazda achieved a 5-3 win over Team Peniel 2nd despite Andrew Eden winning his two. George Evan did well to beat Lisa Lomas 18 & 17.

NFD Grove also appear in Division 1 North and, led by Andrea Holt, they beat Norwich Foxwood 6-2. The latter found it was tough going without their No. 1 Neil recording wins in the Premier Division! They made short work of Chas Construction 11 although Neale had 2 1/2 games with Kwok Chan, winning 17-18, 3.

Ormesby and Vymura International drew with surprise wins for Graham Clarke and Derek Schofield over Bennie Robertson. Burslem scraped a 5-3 win over City of Leicester with six games going to three. In the eighth game Mark Blingsworth beat John Hancock 19-18, 23. Horsham Andro beat Cambridge 5-3 thanks in part to a 17-17, 17, 20 win by Lee Hewitt over Gary Jordan.

Chris Holley and Alex Perry beat John Moreton and John Wilkes 18 in the first game to Neil Parkin but beat Paul Multan 19 despite Leigh Jeffries bogging a dink. Ruston Marconi Lincoln and St Neots shared the points. Jason Bamford did well to beat Keith Richardson and Stephen Moore. However his effort was offset by two from Stuart Palmer.

Division 2 North seems to be set to be steam-rollered by Yugo Cars I. With Dave Gannon, Keith Rodger, Lindsay Taylor and, at No. 4, Denis Neale they are capable of...
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THE first Junior Premier Weekend was played at St. Neots TT Club. It was good to see the 12 matches played in an atmosphere of great enthusiasm with two drawn and five decided at 6-4.

It seems Yorkshire are destined to be back on top of the junior scene. The team won three matches dropping only five events. They have top ranked girls to call on — Ellen Meddings and Katherine Goodall each losing only one singles and the boys were also in form with Gareth Jones and Andrew Nicholls being unbeaten.

Lancashire, the current champions, have Devon as their first opponents. In the very first event Darren Howarth (La) was 13-17 down in the 3rd game against John Shipman but fought back well to win 24-22. However Lanes hopes of continuing as champions were soon dashed as Devon won 8-2. At a vital stage Alex Perry (Dv No.) beat Darren Howarth 19 in the 3rd game. Lanes later beat Kent 6-4 with Darren Howarth beating Brian Milham 15 and 10! Lanes dropped a point against promoters — Surrey. This match brought together the Nos. 3 (Darren Howarth) and No. 4 (Edward Hatley) nationally ranked players. Hatley (Sy) was the victor in straight games.

Devon are a good all round team and performed well. The team had wins over Lanes and Durham but dropped a point against Middlesex. A vital factor in this match was David Baker’s win, at 21 in the 3rd game, against Alex Perry. Claire Pengelly (Dv) lost to Sara Williams 21-9.

Lancashire were heavily defeated by Yorkshire. Kent had a disappointing weekend, losing each match 4-6. Brian Milham had 4 wins. The final series is in March. I see Devon as the only team who may beat Yorkshire.

Results

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| 4 | 4 | 4 |

Yorkshire juniors are aiming high this season. In their opening salvo they won three matches and dropped a mere five sets. A team to watch as our correspondent Doug Moss reports.

Yorkshire lead the way.
Seer 3B: Hants 2, 9, Glos 2, 1.

New entrants Glos 2 had a tough baptism. Paul Tskarlisianous won the one event for Glos with a win at deuce in the 3rd game.

Junr 1A: Clwyd 0, Yorks 2, 10, Warwick 8, N’berland 2, Lanes 2, 2, Suffolk 8, Lincs 2, Derbys 8.

Warwicks, on demotion from Premier Division, would be pleased to start with a good win. Barry Forster (Nd) won his 2 singles. And Suffolk, on promotion, were equally successful with a good team effort.

Junr 1B: Berks 7, Oxon 3, Glos 5, Herts 5, Cornwall 5, Wores 5, Essex 2, 8, Glam 2.

Two promoted teams, Glos and Wores, started with drawn matches. Their No. 1 players, Raymond Powell (Gs) and Lee Horton (Wo) were unbeaten. Glamorgan, also on promotion, had a harder task and were beaten by Essex 2 by an 8-2 margin.

Junr 2A: Lanes 3, 0, Staffs 10, Notts 3, Ches. 7.

Staffs’ back on the Junior championship scene, earned the 2 points. And Suffolk, on promotion, were equally successful with a good team effort.

Junr 2B: Bucks 4, Essex 3, 6, Northants 7, Berks 2, 3.

Essex got off to a good start on promotion on their visit to Slough. With the match score 4-4. Anna Wei and Vince Avery got the vital wins to earn the 2 points.

Junr 2D: Norfolk 1, 9, Norfolk 2, 1, Sussex 8, Surrey 2, 2, Suffolk 2, 1, Kent 2, 9, Surrey 3, 5, Sussex 2, 5.

Sussex, on demotion, played well to start with a convincing win. Paul McNamara (Sy) was a trifle unlucky to lose both singles at 19 in the 3rd games. Surrey 3 and Sussex 2, who shared the bottom spot last year, started with a draw. John Wakefield (Sy) had 2 wins.

Vets 1A: Lancs 6, Herts 3, Wores 4, Yorks 2, 5, Essex 2, 8, N’berland 1, Leics 4, Norfolk 5.

Herts suffered a defeat in their first match on promotion from Premier Div. Leics, on promotion, held Norfolk at 4-4 but then Tony Hipperson beat John Iliffe to give the visitors the win. Janet Hunt (Wo) came back from 13-17 down in the 3rd game to beat Carol Judson (Y) 21-17.

Vets 1B: Surrey 2, 6, Bucks 3, Oxon 9, Hants 0, Middx 4, Kent 2, 5, Dorset 6, Berks 3.

Bucks, also down from Premier Div, were also defeated — by Surrey 2. Kent 2 fought very well to get a win on their visit to Ashford. Kent had wins at 19, 21 and 23 in the 3rd game!

Vets 2A: Clwyd 0, Lanes 2, 9, Yorks 3, 3, Warwick 6.

Warwickshire, on demotion, got a very good win over Yorks 3. Pat McCabe and Ann Lloyd were involved in 5 wins.

Vets 2B: Beds 3, Northants 6.

Promoters Northants did well to win their first match. Brian Dangerfield won his singles and the doubles with Geoff Atkinson.

Vets 2C: Bucks 2, 5, Wilts 2, 4, Sussex 3, 4, Glos 5.

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Vets 3A: Chex 3, 3, Hants 2, 6, Northants 2, 3, Herts 4, 6.

Herts, on demotion, would be disappointed to suffer a 6-3 defeat. Barry Hagger won his 2 singles for Hants. Herts did well to win. There were good performances from David Wilson and Jackie North who were involved in 5 of the sets won.


The new Kent 3 team got off to a narrow win over Sussex 3. Mel Dixon, Dennis Conkney and Ted Tyerman each had a win and Pam Butcher won her singles and the mixed with Mel Dixon.

Vets 3C: Glos 2, 5, Somerset 2, 4, Wilts 3, 6, Wilts 4, 3.

Two new teams — Glos 2 and Somerset 2 — met in close contest. Tony Hoggath was again to the fore for Glos with 2 singles wins. Wilts got a 6-3 win over their 4th team but it was closer than the match score suggests. The 3rd team got wins at 19 and 20 in the 3rd games.

NO STOPPING MIDDLESEX

THE Maurice Goldstein Challenge Cup, between the champions and runners-up of last season’s Premier Division, was played under good conditions at Fountain Leisure Centre, Brentford.

The champions, Middlesex, had a weakened side in April and lost to Lancashire. But this time Middlesex were well prepared with their full team of John Souter, Nigel Tyler, Graham Sandley and Lesley Keast — and a resounding 7-2 win materialised.

Unfortunately, on this occasion, Derbyshire were without their top players. Alan Cooke was at the Romanian Open Championships and Bridley and Julie Billington were suffering injuries.

Glos, on demotion, made a great fight for their 5-4 win. The team was 2-4 down when Tony Hogarth beat Ron Langenheim 29-20, 19! Then followed 2 wins at 19 and 18 in the 3rd games by Frank Jones and John Fammint.

Vets 2D: Berks 2, 4, Hants 2, 5.

Hants 2 are another team on promotion to start with a win — but it was close. Maurice Shave (Ha) won both his singles at 19 in the 3rd game!

Vets 3A: Chex 3, 3, Hants 2, 6, Northants 2, 3, Herts 4, 6.

Ches, on demotion, would be disappointed to suffer a 6-3 defeat. Barry Hagger won his 2 singles for Hants. Herts did well to win. There were good performances from David Wilson and Jackie North who were involved in 5 of the sets won.


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John Holland

John Holland was at No. 1 supported by Ivor Warner, Jason Bamford and Nicola Deaton.

Derbyshire opened the scoring when John Holland demonstrated his good form with a 17 and 18 win over Nigel Tyler. But John Souter then beat Ivor Warner 8 and 12. The Middlesex pairings of Graham Sandley/Lesley Keast and John Souter/Nigel Tyler had easy wins in the doubles events to take the match score to 4-1.

Nicola Deaton then raised Derbyshire’s hopes, taking good advantage of her opportunity in the ladies singles event, by achieving a fine win over Lesley Keast 12 and 18.

Nigel Tyler clinched the win for Middlesex with a 17 and 19 win over Jason Bamford. John Holland again played well in his match with John Souter but could not improve the Derbyshire score, the Middlesex man winning -10, 13, 18.

Middlesex won the Goldstein Trophy for the first time. This was a timely win and augured well for Middlesex with the first Senior Premier Division matches taking place the following weekend.
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT CHESTERFIELD

Why can one small town provide so many top class players. JOHN WOODFORD has been finding out.

Alan Cooke

WE all know how important to budding players is practice facilities with strong or stronger players. At the moment within striking distance of Chesterfield, home town of Alan Cooke, Julie and Bradley Billington and Nicola Deaton England's newest debut player, there are also players such as Desmond Douglas, Sean Gibson, the other Grove players — Alison Gordon, Fiona Elliot, Jill Harris and other strong players from further afield.

When visiting Burton-on-Trent on the last leg of the England and Sweden women's tour I asked Derbyshire county stalwart Terry Gadsby just why Chesterfield was a hot-bed of talent.

It appears that the answer lies with the older generation of parents, three in number — Jackie and Maurice Billington and sports and showbiz entrepreneur Colin Deaton, all of whom played for England in the past.

Both families obviously thought it would be great for their offsprings to do the same and it appears they have succeeded after Nicola's impressive senior debut against Sweden on September 30, when she collected 24 points from the Swedish champion Pernilla Pettersson.

Another prominent name in the sport in the area is Eric Hall — he has helped enormously in promoting the sport and the players in the area which has some strange quirks concerning the borders of the two counties — Staffordshire and Derbyshire. The not so good news from the area is that the original five coaching centres are now down to three and Bradley Billington missed two major events some four or five weeks again due to a groin injury that at the time of writing was something of a mystery.

So, the answers are that geographically, Chesterfield is well-placed to arrange practice even for players from the South Yorkshire area like Chen Xinhua, still within range of Desmond Douglas from Walsall and all the players concerned with the Grove Club at Market Drayton, so efficiently run by Ian Marshall.

The coaches are there, not too far to travel, the facilities are fine and there are former internationals available to encourage not only their children but all the others as well. In addition stalwarts like Eric Hall, Terry Gadsby and many others keep the whole thing swinging.

However, there maybe problems ahead for players in the area and for the Grove club, champions of the British League currently without sponsors, short of star players and even without a press officer, the financial situation being so tight at Hastings.

Leading table tennis nations in Europe give absolute priority to their National Leagues. Many inter-club matches draw a thousand spectators. The national associations go out of their way to attract sponsors so the leagues abroad attract foreign players of stature from everywhere — China, Poland, England, France, even Korea.

Here we are (some would say) saddled with the county championships, an old war-horse (some would say) which is a fine amateur contest, but regrettably the top strata of the sport is professional and that means that next season people like Alan Cooke could be lured to the continent and the British League will be left with no star players and no prize money.
BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

THE BERKSHIRE Ranking Committee are in the process of issuing the 1990 lists and have got as far as Veteran Men and Ladies and Senior Men. From my position of total ignorance as to the method used by the Committee I shall attempt to read the minds of these great men and hazard a guess as to how they arrived at their conclusions.

At the top of Veteran men we have Wally Allanson and Syd Montgomery, in the same positions as last year and where they finished in the Reading League - a fair guide for ranking purposes because most of the top Berkshire players, whilst playing in other leagues, seem to find Reading the place to meet the stiffest competition. Having said that, third on the list Eddie Herrity, up one place from last year, does not, to my knowledge, play in Reading, but confines his efforts to Maidenhead. Big improvements may be seen from Dave Streak, the ever-cheerful Pete Bradley, John Glew and Ly Bach Tuyen from Newbury. Funny bat specialist Roger Woolven-Allen rises two places to No.4 of Maureen Allchurch, defender Matt Syed should be at No.4 of Martin Adams - possibly as a result of Dave's fine victory in the Reading Master. Incidentally, I notice that this means that the top five men in Berkshire have at one time or another represented England in their respective age groups, an achievement of which Berkshire can be justifiably proud. Can any other County beat that? (I throw out these challenges from time to time, but no one ever seems to respond).

Other climbers are Clive Payne, Graham Kemp, Marc Friddle (up six to No. 9) and Jonathan Samuel, up only one to No.11, but playing superbly after a few tips from Chen Xinhu, and the one I predict to give the most surprises in the coming season (those who know Jon would regard this as a pretty safe bet)! New entrants, or returnees, to the top 20 Men include Keith Hodder, Syd Montgomery, Bob Sym, Eddie Herrity, Dave Streak, Steve Everard, Nick Heaps and Geoff Davis.

Astute readers will observe that those named above are either in the top four or have gone up a place - so if you haven't got a mention, you know what to do!

CUMBERLAND

Gordon Brown

JONATHAN LOWES, a 17 year old prodigy from Barrow in Furness, has emerged as one of the men's rankings in his first season as a senior. Jonathan collected both the Cumberland Closed and Barrow Town men's singles last term and has won the county junior title on several occasions.

He helped Vickers Sports Club win the Barrow League and while at Parkview School, Barrow, was in the team that took the Under 16s national title. He started playing at Abbotsholm Junior School, Barrow, and is now at Barrow Sixth Form College.

DORSET

Martin Hughes

The County Championships

Dorset's senior first team suffered two defeats at the hands of Avon and Cornwall i their first encounters of the season as they were unable to raise two women to represent the county. Mark Werner remained unbeaten in his four outings, and Kevin Smith picked up a solitary victory, whilst Martin Tate was well beaten in straight sets in both matches.

The British League

Jolliffe Poole, sponsored by Peter Jolliffe (Bookmaker) started their season in the British League in the best possible fashion with a 5-3 victory away to London side Rejects II.

Clayton was the shining light for Jolliffe Poole as Mark Werner, John Robinson and Barry Hill all struggled against an in-form home side.

Pete Slatford is playing once again in the Bracknell League.

In the Mens, it goes without saying that England's top defender Matt Syed should be at No.1, with Jimmy Stokes at No.2. The absence of Andy Wellman moves former England No.1 junior Dave Barr up to No. 3, whilst another ex England Junior No. 1 Dave Reeves just holds off four place improved County Champion and Reading average topper Martin Adams - possibly as a result of Dave's fine victory in the Reading Master. Incidentally, I notice that this means that the top five men in Berkshire have at one time or another represented England in their respective age groups, an achievement of which Berkshire can be justifiably proud. Can any other County beat that? (I throw out these challenges from time to time, but no one ever seems to respond).

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Mark Werner, playing his first match for Jolliffe Poole for four years, was unable to impose his game on his opponents, and was defeated in straight sets by Keith Samuels and Steve Cowley.

John Robinson, suffering from a heavy cold, played well in this match but narrowly lost out in both his games. He went down in three sets to Mike Levene, and was unfortunate to lose 26-28, 15-21 to Jon Bradbury, after seven deuces in the first end which effectively finished his challenge.

Poole and District League

Lytchett A remain unbeaten in the Poole and District League and look likely to retain their premier division title which they have monopolised in the last decade.

ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

I HAVE TO start this piece with my annual apology for missing the October issue. Copy by the end of August always seems to catch me unawares, as I am still trying to perfect my square cut at that time, and not really thinking about the ping.

Let me then take up where I left off in May/June, mourning over the loss of our Senior
Premier Division spot. As it turns out, we would have needed to beat Surrey 9-0 to avoid relegation, and missing Steve Dorking, that was obviously impossible. More in the realms of reason, however, had those two 4-5 defeats been reversed, we would have survived.

The Senior match secretary, Bill Wadling, launched his 1990/91 campaign to regain Premier status in highly controversial style. Firstly he ignored the claims of loyal County servant Des Charrery, who was not even in the squad originally selected to play in a three match weekend in Devonshire. Secondly he chose juniors Linda Radford and Alison Gower ahead of the highly ranked seniors Lesley Radford, Elinie Sayer, Kate Gower, Julie Askem and Kim Mudge. I suppose he might have applauded such a youth oriented policy had it not been for the fact that Linda and Alison were due to lead the Junior Premier team's attempt to survive in the toughest of all Leagues. In the event the withdrawal of Grant Solder led to the recall of Desmond, and I can only hope that our squad has a successful start to its season. For the first time for many years I shall be unable to accompany the Junior squad to St Neots for its weekend. Of our players only Cris Sladden will have appeared in a Premier Division match and we will need a great deal of luck on our side to survive. All I know is that Cris, Ryan Savill, Paul Hudson, Nadine Barthee and Sarah Gardner will give their all in the cause of the County.

There have been few changes on the Management Committee of the County for this season but one of them was extremely important. Barry Granger, one of our very competent tournament organiser and also a popular umpire around the circuit, has become the new Treasurer. He takes over at a tricky time, the AGM having refused to pass a proposal to increase affiliation fees, even though the same have remained the same for the last three years. I believe that Barry will be arranging urgent meetings with John Major!

The other changes are that Mike Watts, the former ETTA Deputy General Secretary, relinquishes acting Treasurer and returns to being Vice Chairman, while Marie Know, a friend for many years standing from my days in the Central London and Ilford Leagues, becomes Administrative Secretary.

Several events have already taken place in the county. On September 9th the Essex Games were hosted by the Braintree District Council, when 14 Boroughs or Municipal Districts competed in 20 sports, including table tennis. Our event was won by Chelmsford, who fielded Steve Korns, Julie Vansertima, Ryan Savill, Sarah Gardner and Pip French. Maldon were runners-up, and their team was Martin Speight, Keith Mays and the Oakmans - Clive, Annette and Julie.

Our Junior Trials were held at the excellent Dengie Hundred Sports Centre at Burnham on Crouch. 150 players competed over two days and the first ranking lists have been issued as follows:

**JUNIOR BOYS**
1. Cris Sladden
2. Ryan Savill
3. Paul Hudson
4. Wayne Mitchell
5. Colin Law
6. Richard Lawrence
7. Peter Worthington
8. Ben Ware
9. Vincent Avery
10. Andrew Taylor

**JUNIOR GIRLS**
1. Linda Radford
2. Alison Gower
3. Nadine Barthee
4. Sarah Gardner
5. Jenny Coleman
6. Cathy Sibbald
7. Anna Weil
8. Shelley Ruocco
9. Melanie Savill
10. Elizabeth Sibbald

**CADET BOYS**
1. Paul Hudson
2. Vincent Avery
3. Daniel Yardy
4. Edward Cook
5. Wayne Smithies
6. Paul Davison
7. James Wickers
8. Stephen Joslin
9. Thomas Thostrup
10. Ryan Hughes

**CADET GIRLS**
1. Jenny Coleman
2. Cathy Sibbald
3. Shelley Ruocco
4. Michelle King
5. Sarah Davison
6. Claire Rowlands
7. Tracey Davies
8. Verity Clemimson
9. Melanie Sharp
10. Karen Mason

**UNDER 12 BOYS**
1. Alex Yardy
2. Stephen Linneccar
3. Reagan Nettlingham
4. Jehan Ramanathan
5. David Coleman
6. Neil Dalton

**UNDER 12 GIRLS**
1. Tracey Davies
2. Verity Clemimson
3. Helen Lincoln
4. Anna Cheesman
5. Abigail Cleminson
6. Lisa Joslin

Roy Franklin, Essex Inter-League chief, reports that all 17 leagues are represented, 132 teams being entered. Brentwood (Damian Holland, Martin Cole, David Cole) hold the Mens Title and Dagenham (Elaine Sayer, Kim Mudge, Gill Bowman, Gill Patten) are ladies Champions. Chelmsford (Dave Newman, Richard James, Andrew Wadding, Julie Vansertima, Kate Gower) hold the Mixed title and Clacton (Derek Wood, Chris Jacob, Dave Binns) are Veterans Champions. Dagenham (Grant Solder, James Oyekunle, Cris Sladden, Tiyo Fasanya, Linda Radford, Shelley Ruocco) hold the Junior title, and Brentwood (Vincent Avery, Ben Linneccar, Jenny Coleman) are Cadets Champions. Roy can only see two of these Leagues retaining their titles!
## Counties 3

### Junior Girls

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County selection and rankings are often a controversial subject, and once made public the selectors invariably come under severe criticism from many sections of the table tennis media. The Gloucestershire selectors met in late August, here are their findings - other more up to date rankings will follow as the season proceeds.

### Senior Men

1. Darren Griffin (G)
2. David Harvey (C)
3. Graham Slack (G)
4. Raymond Powell (G)
5. William Dawe (G)
6. David Smith (G)
7. Dave Saunders (G)
8. Frank Jones (G)
9. Alan Giles (S)
10. John Fannin (G)
11. Martin Harper (S)
12. Guy Greening (C)
13. Lawrence Symonds (G)
14. Sylvester Callum (G)

### Senior Women

1. Reiko Morita (C)
2. Heather Tyer (G)
3. Cathy Robb (C)
4. Judy Morley (G)
5. Jacqui Carver (C)
6. Christine Williams (G)
7. Julie Hogarth (G)
8. Alison Cox (C)
9. Julie Taylor (C)
10. Caroline Stainer (S)
11. Caroline Thompson (S)

### Cadet Girls

1. Kerry Hogarth (G)
2. David Smith (G)
3. Michelle Hogarth (G)
4. Elaine Bassett (S)
5. Emma Parker (S)
6. Helen Arnold (C)

### Junior Boys

1. Raymond Powell (G)
2. Jeremy Hyatt (G)
3. Peter Hayward (S)
4. Leigh Nelmes (S)
5. Lawrence Simpson (G)
6. Paul Morley (G)
7. Richard Moore (G)
8. Trevor Fannin (G)
9. Martin Chueng (G)

### Veterans Men

1. David Harvey (C)
2. Frank Jones (G)
3. Alan Giles (S)
4. John Fannin (G)
5. Roy Fowler (C)
6. Peter Wood (G)
7. Tony Hogarth (G)
8. Ray Poole (G)
9. Peter Slack (C)
10. Don Sweeney (G)
11. Bob Trimble (G)
12. Keith Simmonds (S)
13. Kenneth Smith (C)
14. Mike Grey (C)

### Veterans Women

1. Judy Morley (G)
2. Jean Golding (S)

### HERTFORDSHIRE

#### John Wood

**WHAT A START** to the season for young Duncan Taylor of Barnet, when firstly he was ranked No. 1 County Junior, following the trials held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Sunday 2nd September; secondly he went on to have a fabulous tournament at the Jarvis Sports SKITT Milton Keynes Under 21, a week later.

It was at the Betchley Leisure Centre, where Duncan's true potential came of age, when he took the tournament by storm, to win the first game against the highly talented Michael O'Driscoll, before being beaten by the No. 3 seed, in the Under 21 section.

In the Under 17 competition, young Taylor went even further, reaching the quarter finals where he lost, after giving the No. 1 seed Edward Hatley a scare, in two straight sets, but he had the lad from Surrey hanging on to his back. Having done so well, he is one of the top three players at the Woollards table tennis trophy. The result wasn't decided until the very last game of the day, when the two title contenders stood at two games all, when Keith Samuels of North Herts narrowly won an all out attacking game against Rob Liquorish.

### HUNTINGDONSHIRE

#### David Deller

**AWAY TO LINCOLN** in their first British National League match St Neots playing in Division 1 North and represented by Stuart Palmer, Steve Moore, Mick Harper and Keith Richardson gave away a 4-1 lead to finish all square at 4-4. In their next encounter things were very different with St Neots trailing 3-0 by the end of the game. Things started to look up for St Neots when Keith Samuels of North Herts narrowly won an all out attacking game against Rob Liquorish.

Mark and Kevin Holton gave good performances in reaching the regional trails recently and a good performance from leading girl Shelley Leak who narrowly missed the next stages.

At St Ives Recreation Centre recently table tennis took middle stage in a special day organised by Hunts Health Authority. Arranged by Peter Warton, the St Ives club duo of Paul Jackson and
KENT
Adrian Hall/ Brian Etherington

A NEW RANKING list based on last season’s results has been issued by the Selection Committee no girls over the age limit and only Martin Gunn too old for the Junior Boys, the list greatly resembles those previously issued:

Junior Boys
1. Brian Mileham
2. Miles Willey
3. Spencer Thompson
4. Martin Hewitt
5. Matthew Vardy
6. Matthew Bull
7. Kevin Read
8. Paul Duke
9. Michael Ettun
10. Nick Watton

Junior Girls
1. Lesley Hollingworth
2. Desiree Joseph
3. Carly Rigs
4. Nicola Duke
5. Katherine Ackerley
6. Sarah Baker
7. Joanne Barham
8. Michelle Ritter
9. Natasha Barham
10. Heidi Steers

Cadet Boys
1. Glen Ritchie
2. Ross Friday
3. Ben McCarthy
4. Christopher Thompson
5. Scott Friday
6. Adam Beasley

Cadet Girls
1. Nicola Duke
2. Joanna Barham
3. Crystal Hall
4. Alison Smith
5. Marceline Joseph
6. Rachel Woolven
7. Laura Peters
8. Carrie Blake

KENT
Simon Pryke gave nearly four major Kent Championships, was home to the Maidstone Summer Handicap Tournament in September and more recently the Maidstone Junior Trials where over 30 youngsters attended. The Youth Centre gained valuable experience in both events and by all account the Kent Junior Open in November should be the first of a series of successful tournaments run by this very table tennis orientated Youth Centre and their leader Carol Morton and friends.

Senior Women
1. Andrea Holt
2. Mandy Winstock
3. Denise Conroy
4. Julie Clegg
5. Carol Mitchell
6. Debra Wilson
7. Paula French
8. Brenda Buoye *
9. Jean Barker *

Veteran Men
1. Phil Blake
2. Tony Rigby
3. John Mason
4. Brian Clements
5. Norman Thewlis
6. Jon de Pledge
7. Derek Watsmough
8. Ken Jackson
9. Alan Chase
10. Bill Russell

Veteran Women
1. Mabel Neary
2. Alwyn Burrough
3. Lesley Smallwood
4. Kath Hilton *
5. Freda Jackson *

Junior Boys
1. Darren Howarth
2. Bret Ward
3. Matthew Coombe
4. Richard Beattie
5. Chris Whitehead
6. Philip Musgrove
7. Andrew Bottoms
8. Andrew Halford
9. Martin Hunter
10. Craig Abbott

Junior Girls
1. Maria Thornley
2. Tamar Connolly
3. Rosemary Gaultier
4. Jayne Schofield

LANCASTRE
George Yates

TWO WINS FOR Oldham’s Doug Mayall and two from Carol Mitchell of Bury, plus one each for Liverpool’s Paul Hutchings and Denise Conroy of Warrington, carried Lancashire’s second team through to a 6-4 win over Northumberland in Division 1A of the County Championships.

In Junior 1A Lancs II went down 8-2 to Suffolk with Philip Musgrove and Andrew Bottoms winning one each but Lancs III in Division 2A suffered a whitewash at the hands of Staffs with the only 4-6 set going to three involving Andrew Halford.

Meeting in Bolton the County Selection Committee formulated their initial rankings as follows:

Senior Men
1. Sean Gibson
2. Tony Taylor
3. Jon Taylor
4. John Hilton
5. Nigel Eckersley
6. Andrew Eden
7. Paul Hutchings
8. Keith Williams
9. Doug Mayall
10. Malcolm McEvoy
11. Dave Bunting
12. Howard Whewell
13. Steve Bevan
14. Martin Ireland
15. Graham Clark *
16. Neil Gravenor *

Senior Women
1. Andrea Holt
2. Mandy Winstock
3. Denise Conroy
4. Julie Clegg
5. Carol Mitchell
6. Debra Wilson
7. Paula French
8. Brenda Buoye *
9. Jean Barker *

Junior Boys
1. Darren Howarth
2. Bret Ward
3. Matthew Coombe
4. Richard Beattie
5. Chris Whitehead
6. Philip Musgrove
7. Andrew Bottoms
8. Andrew Halford
9. Martin Hunter
10. Craig Abbott

Junior Girls
1. Maria Thornley
2. Tamar Connolly
3. Rosemary Gaultier
4. Jayne Schofield
MIDDLESEX
Iris Moss

WITH THIS ARTICLE having to be posted before the results of the first County weekend are available, there is very little to report this month. The Selection Sub Committee have had their first meeting and the top ten on the Ranking lists for the start of the 1990/91 season are:

Senior Men
1. J Souter (W Mx)
2. N Tyler (N Mx)
3. G Sandley (N Mx)
4. C Wilson (N Mx)
5. T Stark (N Mx)
6. M Mitchell (N Mx)
7. D Tan (N Mx)
8. D Goode (N Mx)
9. T Cutler (Wembley)
10. N Charles (Staines)

Senior Women
1. L Keast (N Mx)
2. S Williams (W Mx)
3. A Smith (N Mx)
4. R Knight (Wembley)
5. L Souter (W Mx)
6. G Blanch (W Mx)
7. H Sme (Wembley)
8. H Williamson (Wembley)
9. K Kottasz (N Mx)
10. R Fisher (N Mx)

Veteran Men
1. M B Avedayo (Central)
2. J Holland (Willesden)
3. W Brookman (Staines)
4. L Dixon (Central)
5. R Campbell (W Mx)
6. J Smith (W Mx)
7. N Slifkin (Staines)
8. A Taylor (Wembley)
9. G Ait('% (Wembley)
10. M Isaacs (Wembley)

Veteran Women
1. M Sawyer (Wembley)
2. K Nunn (Wembley)
3. L Slifkin (Staines)
4. B Blanch (W Mx)
5. M Prowen (Willesden)
6. J Tuddenham (W Mx)
7. D Stannard (W Mx)
8. M Souter (Willesden)
9. F Wade (Willesden)
10. L Lloyd (Willesden)

The Sub Committee had decided (and had their decision endorsed by the Executive Committee) that no Junior Trials would be held this year and that any Junior or Cadet who had not represented the county and wished to be considered for the ranking lists would have to attend the Middlesex Coaching Sessions at Harrow on Monday evenings. As this was still in the experimental stage, no ranking lists for Juniors or Cadets would be issued for the time being.

The Committee were pleased to welcome a new League this season, the Isle of Dogs Junior Table Tennis League. Well done, Laurie Laken, for starting off what I am sure will be a very important League, in a rather "uncared for" area, and for our very important grass roots youngsters. We wish you the best of luck.

By the time this article is published the Maurice Goldstein Trophy challenge match between Middlesex and Derbyshire will have been played at the Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre and a report will be included in the December issue.

Entry forms for the Middlesex 3 Star Open Championships will be in circulation and if you wish to enter and have not received a form, please contact Iris Moss (081 203 4476 between 10.00 am and 10.00 pm) urgently. Don't forget the closing date is 15th November. See you at Picketts Lock.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
Dennis Millman

THE FIRST MAJOR event of the season ended in surprising fashion when the Express Sports Top 12 for Juniors was won by the only girl invited to take part - Sally Russell. Earlier in the day, the group matches had given no indication of such a possibility, for Matthew Rowe's 100% record in Group 1 against five opponents, had included a comfortable win over Sally. Likewise, Julian Marshall was untroubled in the second group, accounting for the otherwise unbeaten Andrew Lingley 8 and 13.

It was the second series of games that provided the shocks, with Sally's hard earned 16, 26, success over Julian, the highlight, but Andrew's-15, 22, 15 decision against Matthew equally surprising.

This left Sally and Andrew to contest the final, and it was a scintillating Sally who stole the show, her dominant and fluent display giving her a 21-10, 21-4 victory, which enhanced her reputation, but could have done little for the remainder of the field, as they watched thirteen year old Sally lift the prestigious Express Sports Trophy presented to her by County Chairman Phil Snelling.

Final Positions:
1. Sally Russell
2. Andrew Lingley
3. Matthew Rowe
4. Julian Marshall
5. Paul Smith
6. Steve Hobs
7. Stephen Atkinson
8. Christian Drage
9. Colin Campbell
10. Ian Souster
11. Matthew Gilbert
12. Andrew Leahy

An infusion of young blood into the County hierarchy comes as a welcome change. Following last season's election of Phil Snelling as County Chairman, we now have two new Match Secretaries in Richard Elliott and David Evans. Strangely the pleasing return of Graeme McKim from the Buckinghamshire ranks may prevent Richard from representing the Senior Firsts, and in the first series of County Championship matches he lines up alongside David in the Seconds.

Well Connected Menswear's familiar name was missing when the Ketting and Wellingborough Leagues started their new season, but aspirants to their regular pole position in both leagues needn't look forward with eager anticipation. Graeme McKim, Andy Edmonds, Chris Handshaw, Andy Trott and Richard Elliott will be appearing yet again, this time under the banner of the Higham Band Club.

Although Kettering is the only major league to have an increased number of clubs for the coming season, it is Wellingborough
which has now taken over as the County’s biggest league, as Northampton continues to decline in quantity, even if the quality in the higher sections is still maintained.

The Kettering Town Club, at one time the largest club within the county boundaries, is celebrating its fortieth birthday this season, and is marking the occasion with the provision of a new trophy. However, playing results will be of minimal importance, with enthusiasm, social awareness and many other factors which go towards making each and every match an enjoyable evening, the salient features. Prompt starts, lack of postponements, fielding the full complement of players and early despatch of scorecards, are other factors which may be taken into consideration.

Team captains, in consultation with their teammates, will be responsible for the adjudication, and it is hoped that they will approach their task with genuine enthusiasm, rather than the cynicism that pervades so much of today’s sporting activity.

Many of the teams disappearing from the League scene contain players who are motivated more by enjoyment than by success and a balance must be struck between the two, if table tennis is to halt its decline and once again become the greatest of participation sports.

**SUSSEX**

John Woodford

SUSSEX II made a rip-roaring start to the campaign at Plymouth at the first County Championships weekend in this class. The best Sussex efforts came from Paul Elphick who seems to have another wave of form to ride on and Phil Smith. The Horley based Smith, the man who has yet to win the Sussex title, often makes up for it at other events. He is best in the clubrooms - the tournament halls do not suit him. He was the only scorer as Horsham Dolphins were sunk 6-12 by Peniel Academy B in Division 1 of the British League.

Down in Plymouth he struck again to record his first ever win against Des Charley and Elphick took revenge over the Peniel setup when he up-ended Richard Darnell as Sussex II smashed Essex I 7-3. Another Elphick victim at Plymouth was John Dennis, a former Dolphin.

Sussex Secretary Derek Bunday as he enthusiastically gave me the results from Plymouth said, “Here was an inspired piece of selection - Tracey Cole defeated Alison Gower (Essex) No. 29 on the women’s list and Michele Cohen (Bristol) No. 30.”

Sussex II finished on second place behind Devon, beating Essex and Wiltshire and drawing with Avon for whom Hastings’ Decon Gray failed to score. The new Sussex third team also started well with a fine 7-3 win at Barnet against Herts II with Peter Bartram and Andy Walker unbeaten. Alan Cole scored once and is having a slow start to the season.

At the Premier Weekend Sussex men’s trio will be at full strength - Adrian Moore, Ritchie Veaver and Stephen Moore, but with Janet Smith on Scotland duty at a tournament, Teresa Moore and Sally Weston will play the women’s matches. Sussex will play Berkshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire.

A fine performance at Baltimore last season that for some reason went unnoticed was Horton and Robin Stace winning the men’s doubles consolation event at the World Veterans Championships.

**WILTSHIRE**

Laurie Selby

WILTSHIRE’S BACKDOOR PROMOTION to the First Division was the main news item reported to the annual meeting. The meeting heard they had a good season with four wins from their five matches, but were a point behind Gloucestershire for promotion into the First Division.

Then fate took a hand. Devon’s first team was demoted from the Premier Division into the First Division. But Devon seconds were already in the First Division and the rules of the County Championships say that a county cannot have two teams in the same division. So Devon seconds had to go down into the Second Division and give Wiltshire their place in Division One.

Wiltshire’s top Veterans team strengthened by the inclusion of Terry Bruce and Bill Moulding, was also promoted.

Some of the top Juniors came under fire from senior county player Eddie Roofe of Swindon. He hit out at their attitude and lack of interest. He was put in charge of the junior team, who finished second from bottom, for this season. More than 400 was paid out in a bid to step up coaching and coaching officer Kevin Satchell said it was paying off. Ranking trials had been held throughout the year and these had produced good competitive play but he complained that some top players had not taken advantage of county coaching squads.

Generally, he said, the standard of seniors was improving, junior boys were poor but there were signs of improvement among the girls. There was a shortage of women players. It was decided to put up players’ affiliation fees after hearing that the county had lost nearly 400 on the season. Seniors will now pay £4 (up 75p) and juniors £2 (up 40p) this season.

**WORCESTERSHIRE**

Ken Watton

THE COUNTY’S EXCELLENT President Ian Crickmer, informs me of the untimely death of Peter Nunney, age 45, a founder player of the St Johns Club, around the 1950-60
period. Unfortunately stricken by cancer, Peter will be remembered and sadly missed, by everyone, especially Worcester League players from that era.

On a happier note, the wedding took place (did I say happier?) of Steve Horton and Sue Meredith, during the close season, both County Second Team players. They will be setting up home in the Kidderminster area and will, after a short period of "acclimatisation to wedded bliss" be no doubt looking to consolidate their County places. Good luck to them both.

On the County scene, 29th September sees the first matches of the season taking place with Juniors, Second Team Seniors and Veterans all in action. 

Cornwall is the destination for John Smith and the Juniors, whilst yours truly will be heading for Brentwood and Essex III. The Veterans entertain Yorkshire 2nds at Jims Gym, Dudley.

International table tennis came to Kidderminster once more on 18th September, with a match between England and France. Des Douglas, Alan Cooke, Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield represented England, whilst the French team were led by No. 1 Jean-Phillipe Gatien.

A good sized local crowd were treated to some superb stuff, and despite England going down 4-3, a good time was had by all. Congratulations to Alistair Kerr, and the Kidderminster League, for staging the match.

British League table tennis is once again on show in the County this year, with Thorns TTC competing in Division 3 West.

It would be nice to see some extra support for the club, who have done as much as they can to encourage local fans to come and watch, so how about it, all you table tennis lovers.

Local leagues will commence on 1st October, but as yet I have only news of the Dudley League, where 4 divisions will be in operation.

If you want anything included in the column, please give me a ring, or drop me a line, because otherwise my options are limited.

County Rankings:

**Men**
1. Malcolm Green
2. Trevor Washington
3. Eric Hardman
4. Ken Walton
5. Jeremy Duffield
6. Mark Brookes
7. Steve Horton
8. Kwok Chan
9. Adrian Totey
10. Jason Thompson
11. Andrew Hartland
12. Mark Fiddian
13. Willie Aherne

**Women**
1. Sandra Roden
2. Mandy House
3. Lynda Reid
4. Janet Hunt
5. Sue Horton
6. Helen Pogmore
7. Joanne Hill
8. Sarah Stone
9. Barbara Jukes

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**Yorkshire**

**Rea Balmford**

**THE YORKSHIRE LEAGUE**, one of the strongest inter-league competitions in the country with nineteen Leagues fielding no less than 109 teams in 14 divisions will, by the time these notes go into print, be under way in eight of the divisions.

But, with a new format, discussed and approved by the Leagues, coming into force, all Junior Divisions and the Mens Premier Division will be played over three Sundays at a "central" venue.

All the Junior andCadet Divisions will be truly centralised at the Leeds League club room at Farnley Park, but the prestigious Men's Premier Division will move round the county with Sheffield, the Leeds/Bradford conurbation and Hull the likely venues.

This innovation follows the successful experiment last season when the Junior and Cadet girls events were played on a similar basis and brought many favourable comments, particularly in that playing time and travelling time were in much better balance.

With the men's division, it is hoped that the new and streamlined format will enable more of the top players to compete in the County's top competition now that it has become possible to use dates which are clear of major tournaments, County and British League fixtures.

Congratulations are in order for popular 'new' Yorkshireman Chen Xinhua who was early amongst the honours when he won the M & G International Open at Brentwood with a victory over Alan Cooke, and for Sally Martin who, at 14 years of age, made her senior international debut in the three match test series against Sweden. There was little joy for Sally in a 1-6 defeat, but the experience gained will be invaluable.

Still on the international front, Hull has been allocated the opening European League match of the season when England play hosts to Spain on Thursday 25th October at the Ennerdale Leisure Centre.

Dewsbury's first newsletter of the season is to hand and it is good to see the handicaps for the forthcoming season listed - everybody now has a chance to get their 'mumps' off their chests before they play, rather than after they have been beaten!

Except, that is, in the case of the Jim Brown Trophy which was played in the opening week of September and won by Brian Carter, off 23 - comment from the editor of the newsletter "Obviously his handicap needs changing!!"

On a more serious note, one or two teams have been lost and it is a pity that well established clubs are having to disband, not because the players are leaving the sport, but because premises are not available for match play.

Here, possibly, is an area which Development Officers - League, County and National - should investigate. The answer is, obviously Leisure Centres, but too few seem to be table tennis orientated and able to put reasonable facilities forward at a price a three-man team can afford.

And this comment is certainly not directed at Earleheaton who, bringing their strength up to five teams, appear to be playing their part.

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Would all County Notes correspondents please send their copy and pictures direct to Bethan Davies at:

**ETTA office, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF to arrive BY THE COPY DEADLINE DATE.**
TOP SEEDS MISSING BUT SANDLEY TRIUMPHS

In a tournament hit by the withdrawal or non-arrival of 8 top seeds, Graham Sandley took advantage to win the mens singles title for the third time and his first title for five years. Alison Gordon continued her incredible run of singles wins and this year claimed the hat-trick winning the womens doubles and mixed doubles as well.

The mens singles saw Sandley and Stephen Dorking come through their half (weakened by the absence of Bradley Billington & Michael O'Driscoll) without any real problems. The other half, with absences of Chris Oldfield and Tony Taylor, saw John Holland and Sean Gibson have varying fortunes. Gibson had a fairly comfortable passage only being taken to three sets by Paul Lewis.

Holland, on the other hand, had real battles against Michael Hammond and Phil Smith (both 3 sets) and Paul Elphick who had earlier had an excellent win against Glen Baker. Peniel Academy were well represented in the semi-finals with three out of the four being members of the club, the odd one out being Sandley.

It was, however, Sandley who took the first final place just edging out Dorking 26-24, 21-18 in a tremendous match. With club mates clashing in the other semi-final, a very close match ensued. Holland took the first set but Gibson came back to take the other two 22-20, 22-20. The final was no disappointment either with Sandley and Gibson matching each other point for point but Sandley just edged home for the title.

The mens doubles really had a turn-up for the book. Top seeds Dorking and Grant Solder (replacing O'Driscoll) had a hard three set match against Des Charliey and Joe Kennedy but then proceeded comfortably to meet Sandley and Colin Wilson in the semi-final. This again was a very tight match with Sandley & Wilson just getting home 17-21, 24-22, 21-18.

In the other half, Gibson & Holland were favourites for a final place with Oldfield & Taylor absent. However, in the quarter-finals, they met Andy Cunningham and Tommy Cutler, playing together for the first time, and lost quite decisively 7-21, 18-21.

Cunningham & Cutler then met the Sussex pairing of Phil Smith & Ritchie Venner (who came through the section made wide open through the absent pair) in the semi-final and won in three sets. They then met the experienced pairing of Sandley & Wilson in the final and, despite losing the first set, took the next two in single figures to retain their title.

The mixed doubles saw top seeds Gibson (replacing Oldfield) and Jill Harris reach the semi-final with a three set victory over Adrian & Teressa Moore. At this stage, they met Sandley & Janet Smith and just edged home 21-19, 21-19.

With John Holland (replacing Jonathan Taylor) joining up with Alison Gordon, this pair proceeded well but not easily to the semi-final where they met Joe Kennedy and Sue Collier and just scraped home 21-21, 21-19. The final saw Gordon & Holland take the title fairly comfortably over Gibson & Harris to give Alison her hat-trick of wins.

The non-appearance of seeds even affected the veterans singles with nos. one and two Henry Buist and Derek Holman failing to appear. This left the event wide open with Brian Simmonds having three good wins before going out to the holder Andy Meads in the semi-final. Lesley Radford was proceeding well through her half of the draw but was then stopped by David Harvey in the semi-final. The final saw Harvey score a comfortable victory over Meads.

Womens Singles:
Final
Miss A. Gordon bt Miss J. Smith 8, 7
Mens Doubles
Final
A. Cunningham & T. Cutler bt G. Sandley & C. Wilson -13, 14, 16
Womens Doubles
Final
Miss A. Gordon & Miss J. Houghton bt Miss J. Barella & Miss K. Owalabi -18, 5, 8
Mixed Doubles
Final
J. Holland & Miss A. Gordon bt S. Gibson & Miss J. Harris 18, 16
Veterans Singles
Final
D. Harvey bt A. Meads 17, 16
England No.2 Alison Gordon recently visited Thornaby Pavilion to put local youngsters through their paces. Alison had a busy day giving tips and hints to scores of youngsters in one of the country's busiest table tennis areas. Our picture shows her along with her young hopefuls during a brief rest period. (Photo courtesy Evening Gazette, Middlesbrough)

WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT THEM?

O N BEHALF of the Women's Committee, I would like to express our appreciation to everyone who assisted in the recent England vs Sweden Women's series, and especially to thank those sponsors without whose financial support the tour could not have been so successful.

In Bury, Mike Leggatt of SMART MOVE AND PHOTO-STATIC and Milliken Industries Ltd., assisted Bury Metropolitan Borough Council who staged the first match at Castle Leisure Centre in the town.

Rainbow Leisure Centre in Cheadle Newham, Middlesbrough, hosted the second match on Saturday and thanks are extended to a group of thirteen local corporate sponsors: Blake Newport Quantity Surveyors, Evening Gazette, Ronald Freeman Jewellers, Hillprint Ltd., Hornchurch Motor Company Ltd., I.C.I. Chemicals & Polymers, Northern Photographic Services Ltd., Post House Hotel, Alan Ransome Sporting Goods Group, The Sports Council, Northern Region, Sid Turnbull Limited — Insurance Consultants, The Swedish Church, and Willett Rose & Lanthorpe Insurance Brokers Ltd.

The final match of the tour was played at Meadowside Leisure Centre at Burton on Trent, and supported by the East Staffordshire District Council and organised by Terry Gadsby.

These events do not happen without the commitment of PEOPLE, and I would also like to acknowledge the help of Jenny Hughes who did a great job in co-ordinating the tour, Wilton Holt and members of the Bury League, members of the Rainbow Ladies Club in Middlesbrough and Uxbridge T.T.L., Meadowside Ladies and Burton Senior T.T.L in Burton, together with the Managers and Staff at all three venues for their assistance.

And last but not least, to our equipment sponsors, Dunlop and Jacques for providing the equipment.

WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT THEM?

HERE WE GO AGAIN

ARRANGEMENTS are now under-way for 1991 Women’s British League Weekends, as follows:

First Rounds: 16/17th February at Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge.

Final Rounds: 1/2 June at Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes.

Entry forms are available from the Organiser,
Mike Lewis,
Glencorse Cottage
Clifton Down,
Bristol.
Tel. 0272 75078

The League will be restricted to 30 club teams and any new clubs interested in participating in the five-division league are advised to make an early application.

Sponsorship
A great sponsorship opportunity exists as the sponsor of the Women’s British League. Sponsorship proposal and presentation folders are available from Jose Ransome. “Confins”, Church Lane, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Cleveland. Tel. 0642 322223.
MONEY FOR THE ASKING

ALL too often I hear the tale that our local Associations (Member Leagues) have not heard about the Fund and the opportunities, which it presents, to do something for Table Tennis in their area without the slightest financial risk. If so, one wonders what more can be done to make our members aware of this exciting initiative.

Not only have we written about this in this very magazine, of which, after all, every League Secretary, Chairman and Treasurer gets a copy (assuming only that such names have been given to us), but we featured the scheme in our August Newsletter and ETFA circulars. The news made the National Press last Spring and received highly favourable comment as yet another sign of the sport's revival and continuing progress.

My own local league did apply. Our scheme was a very simple one. We rented normal club halls during the summer in three locations at the usual landlord's rent of a few £s per evening.

None of our premises are large. The smallest used holds four tables and the largest six. As children were involved, we did not need enormous space.

We paid our coaches travel cost only, but no fees.

We put an ad. in the local paper which cost £40 making sure that an article appeared at the same time. Later the local newspaper actually sent a reporter and photographer. Carl Prean, who spent a month on the Island during the summer, helped very actively. He never charged us a penny. Local Radio featured a long interview with him and the scheme got further publicity.

All sessions were full, lots of children turning up. We were surprised how many owned a bat and could play a bit. We learned that Mail Order Houses now sell tables for domestic use and a lot of our newcomers came to the sport that way.

This season our league will have 54 teams instead of last season's 48 and lots of kids are in the pipeline for 1991/2.

Our grant from the ETFA was just over £400 and it was money well spent (and we still have some left for more sessions). Our scheme was as simple as that. Clubs were delighted, gaining new members and eventually revenue.

The limit of the grant is the sum total of one year's affiliation fees. We made it a long way. When the ETFA's money runs out, we feel sure that the scheme can continue on a self-funding basis with newcomers paying a small fee for coaching and playing.

Other leagues may have better ideas. Bigger leagues qualify for larger grants, which means they can make a larger splash and set their ideas a little higher, perhaps a big open day with an international match as the climax.

New tables are a good idea which can be funded in full, but we insist that they represent new capacity, fresh playing space and are not merely replacements of old ones.

Local Authorities and Sports Councils may contribute additional funds over and above what you raise or get from the ETFA.

Here is your chance to form your local development committee to improve the sport and really broaden the membership base in your league. The ETFA's development fund will give you a useful start. Pick up the phone! Talk to Diccon Gray (at our Hastings Office 0424 722 252) or to me (0983 627 47). There has to be a closing date, perhaps in a few months and it would be tragic if any league misses out.

For me personally it was a great day when we were able to plough back so large a sum — up to £100,000 — into the grass roots of the game where it can do so much good. It made our efforts over the last three years or so very much worthwhile. So far a sum over £6,000 has been allocated and requests are processed daily.

Too many leagues have not applied. Take the chance. Make the effort. It is nice to have money earning interest, especially at today's high interest rates and the ETFA is in that happy position, but better still to build a stronger sport, to serve the members, to enlarge and improve the game around the country.

That's what we are here for. That is why our members have elected us.

John Prean
SOME splendid table tennis between two evenly matched teams was seen at Bury. Middlesbrough and Burton-on-Trent. The three young Swedish Marie Svensson, Asa Svensson and Pernilla Pettersson are a promising trio that could eventually prove too strong for some central European teams.

But, this could be the last women’s tour, at least for the near future. As much as we applaud Jose Ransome’s efforts — and others — to boost women’s table tennis, the sound of a squash ball being thrashed around, they thrashed England 6-1, racing to a 5-0 lead.

Fiona Elliot fighting as hard as ever to win the third spot in the England world championships squad for Chiba City next April, took the first game 25-23 against Pettersson but then ran out of steam to lose -10, -14.

Questions will have to be raised as to whether this “blooding” of very young players was wise — these were the thoughts from the Press box as Sally Marling tried hard on her debut but could only must 17 points in two games against Asa Svensson. Fiona Lomas, really the star of the tour surprisingly lost -15, -15 to her close friend Marie Svensson and the Svenssons won the doubles.

A lack-lustre performance by Alison saw England go five down until Lisa managed to literally hit back to bring down Asa 13, 18, with a slick mixture of defence and attack. Laterly, Fiona again took the first game 16 against Marie but again could not hold the initiative and lost -10, -14.

On the road from Middlesbrough to Burton-on-Trent driven in pouring rain there were unfortunate happenings. Some 12 miles short of Burton on the A38 the ETFA mini-bus driven for the last time by Jenny Hughes ran out of fuel — despite the fuel gauge showing plenty. The players on the bus suffered a delay before a car was sent to pick them up, missing a sumptuous reception prepared at the Town Hall.

As the van was being towed in, Jenny saw Mike and Christine’s Lewis’s car involved in an accident at a roundabout. Happily, they were not hurt but their car was and the Lewis’s, (gallantly following the tour as welcome spectators) had to follow their broken car home and did not see the final match at the Meadowside Centre, where the table tennis played second fiddle to a swimming gala.

However, this was an historic moment in the history of English table tennis — Nicola Deaton, 13, but being smaller looking more like 11, made a spirited debut to become the youngest player ever to appear for England taking over from Sally Marling the previous day and Carl Prean in Lisbon in 1982.

The media were grateful for the inclusion of the two youngsters because it made as we say “a story” — had it not been for the tiny terrors it is doubtful if Richard Eaton would have been on the tour for his papers including “The Times”.

England went three-nil down as Andrea Holt lost to Marie Svensson, Nicola Deaton smashed through a number of winners before losing -14, -10 to Pernilla Pettersson and once again the England champion Fiona Elliot sadly lost -20,-13 to Asa.

Lisa Lomas

Unbeaten

England’s fine new and winning doubles pair Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt re-hoisted the England flag as they defeated Asa and Pernilla -12, 8, 11. Once more Fiona won the first game, this time against Marie but again could not hold on and lost 19, -14.

Lisa wound up her tour smartly as England fought back to beat Pernilla 19, -13, 17 and Andrea Holt finished off her tour with an overdue win 17, 20 against Asa Svensson.

The tour ended at Burton Town Hall, where the Mayors Parlour hospitality suite was in full swing — a superb meal and other liquid refreshments that should have been taken at mid-day when the mini-bus broke down.

The players were then transported back to the England training camp at Lilleshall, where we assume, the Swedish team were suitably entertained for a further three days before returning to Sweden; Jill Parker had the task, not an easy one, of captaining the England team at Burton and Middlesbrough, with Kevin Satchell taking over at Burton.

Amongst the sponsors at Middlesbrough were Carole (nee Knight) and David Moore, who are now totally immersed in lawn tennis. Carole, the former England champion and her husband dental surgeon David entertained a small group who shall remain nameless (for celebrations at meeting old friends) until the very wee small hours at the Post House hotel and the Moores took a taxi home!
DUNLOP MAKE IT SEVEN IN A ROW

DUNLOP has agreed to continue to sponsor the ESTTA national school team championships played at area, regional and national levels and the ESTTA individual championship — the largest one-day event of its kind in this country.

In addition to making a substantial cash contribution they will also supply tables and equipment for these events. The Official Handbook will also receive Dunlop support. In addition for the first time they will sponsor the ESTTA Invitation International championships held in July for school children at U19, U16 & U14 levels from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and other countries from Europe.

Commenting on this agreement, Mr. Chris Reynolds, Marketing and Sales Director of Dunlop said: "Dunlop Sports Co., believes that the encouragement of youngsters, in any sport, is a fundamental part of a child’s education and for this reason, we are delighted to be associated, for the 7th successive year, with the English Schools’ Table Tennis Association.

It is a proven fact that most world champions started playing their sport when very young — let’s hope that through the help and enthusiasm of all those involved with the ESTTA, we are able to continue our success in the table tennis arena.

We hope that through our association with the ESTTA, more young people will have the chance to enjoy this sport. We are delighted to continue our Skills Award Scheme which gives youngsters the chance to set themselves a goal and win certificates for the skills they have acquired.

John Blackband, ESTTA Chairman said “In order to continue and expand our activities there must be two essential ingredients. First, a strong dedicated band of workers who promote schools’ table tennis. Secondly, we need hard cash and security in the form of sponsorship. The cost of promoting competitions is ever increasing, and even though affiliation and competition fees are raised regularly, there is still a wide gulf between income and expenditure.

As a means to bridge this gap and provide essential security for our Association, I am pleased to inform you that Dunlop Sports Company has again offered substantial sponsorship in cash and kind. I am sure all enthusiasts will help the ESTTA executive to continue to promote the link with Dunlop for the mutual benefit of schools’ Table Tennis and the Dunlop Company. We are pleased to be introducing youngsters to the Dunlop product range which leads the field and offers its total support to the game of Table Tennis — a commitment from grass roots level to International level”.

It is estimated that some 20,000 players took part in events at county, area, regional and national also international level as part of the schools’ Table Tennis programme last year. The development of school Table Tennis must be seen as one of the corner stones of the future of Table Tennis in this country. For further information contact; Chris Reynolds (Dunlop) 0372-362222; John Blackband (ESTTA) 0922-27081 (evenings); David Lomas (ESTTA PRO) 081-656-8857.

THE English Schools’ Table Tennis Association will benefit from a new sponsorship agreement with the Dunlop Sports Company.

DUNLOP MAKE IT SEVEN IN A ROW

THE English Schools’ Table Tennis Association will benefit from a new sponsorship agreement with the Dunlop Sports Company.

NATIONAL COMPETITION DATES

Team
Regional Finals 17th February 1991
National Finals 16th March 1991
Individual
National Finals 27th April 1991
Handbooks
The 1990-91 Handbooks have now gone to press and will be distributed as soon as they are available.
I.O.M. International 1990
A very successful event was enjoyed by courtesy of the Isle of Man Association. We plan to participate in another event in 1991. Provisional dates — July 5, July 6, July 7.
Provisional Venue — Stockland Green, Birmingham
Easter Coaching Course 1991
Venue — Lea Green, Matlock
Date — April 2 — 5 (4 days)
Cost — £68 Reduced rate for Derbyshire pupils. Please give wide publicity to players in your area. If you are interested please contact Bob Wood 0253 57163.
Why not bring a party of children and you yourself participate in the Course?
ESTTA Reps on ETTA Coaching and Development Panels
Area
North West Joe Walk
Yorkshire/Humberside Richard Hudson and Rea Balsomford
East Midlands Dennis Worrell
Eastern Paul Birch
West Midlands Greta Willacey
Southern Peter Charters
London & SE Gail McCulloch
South West Peter Hancock
Northern Neil Doney
ESTTA Reps on NCSS
B. Mitchell L. C. Henry D. Lomas
British Primary Championships 1990
A successful event was held at Dumfries in 1990. A similar event to be staged next year. A team of four boys and four girls under 12 on 28.2.1991 will be selected.
Venue: Dumfries
Date: 5th — 7th April 1991

PAGE 23
COUNTY qualifying competitions for the Dunlop National School Team Championships are now well under way in most counties. Entries are due in to the Competition Secretary, Geoff Gardiner (36 Froom Street, Chorley, Lancs, PR6 OAN) by no later than December 10th.

At the ESTTA Executive Council meeting on September 30th it was agreed that all schools would be required to pay a returnable deposit of ten pounds when they submit their entry form (T3).

There has been a growing practice of teams failing to fulfil their commitments and the Council are hoping to eliminate this undesirable trend. Once school teams are knocked out at the Area or Regional stage their deposit will be returned.

The Area Finals are taking place earlier than usual — on January 12th and 13th, 1991, and so the necessary information for schools involved will be distributed before Christmas.

Winners go forward to Regional Finals at Pontefract, Cirencester and Croydon on February 17th and thence to the National Finals — at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, on March 16th.

In response to a questionnaire distributed at last season's national finals the Council have also decided to play all matches at the national finals on one table only. This will reduce the number of tables to eight, thus increasing the amount of spectator accommodation. Spectator involvement and support has always been a feature at Lea Green. There will be a slightly longer playing schedule but if all goes well the experiment could be permanent.

A press cuttings competition will also be held. This time there will be separate categories according to the progress of the teams through the various stages. Details from the General Secretary, Mr. L. C. Henry, Engelberg, Badger Lane, Woolley Moor, Derby DE5 6FG (0246 590164).

The Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships are due to be held at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 27th. Entry is only via counties. Next season, with Easter being late, it is planned to revert to the more traditional May Day Bank Holiday Saturday.

At the inaugural meeting of international schools delegates at the Leeds Schools International Championships in Douglas, Isle of Man, it was agreed that more forward planning is desirable. England are hoping to stage the Schools International Championships in Birmingham on July 5/6/7 1991. Welsh Secretary, Steve Gibbs tells me that Wales are hopeful of staging their first schools international in Cardiff in 1992 and Scotland have an option for 1993.

The ESTTA are engaged in preliminary talks with the National Council for Schools' Sports and the Sports Council with a view to staging a wider-rangiing schools international event in England — under the patronage of the International School Sport Federation.

Copies of the ESTTA's 64-page official handbook — sponsored by Dunlop — are now available from the General Secretary, Mr. L. C. Henry, £1 plus post and packing.

It includes full details of all major events, details of county secretaries and photographic coverage of last season's championships.

Order your copy now before stocks — and the General Secretary — are exhausted.

D.L.
STEVE SCORES A HAT-TRICK

by Ken Lyons

BRIDLINGTON, the resort for sport, was the venue for the 4th East Yorkshire Junior Open Championships. Played at the Spa with a record entry, the recently refurbished Victorian style building provided excellent playing conditions and a great atmosphere.

The event was superbly organised by the North Yorkshire Table Tennis Association in co-operation with the East Yorkshire Borough Council and Jarvis Sports. There was a large umpire presence (25) and first class hospitality was provided for a tournament that has a fast growing reputation and attracted the very best of the country’s young talent.

Saturday proved to be a great day for Steve Meddings (Wa) who became a triple title winner by capturing the under 12 singles, cadet singles and doubles events. The U12 event went the way of the seedings up to the semi-finals, Michael James, (4) then beat David Purdy (2) 13, -11, 17. Steve had a comfortable win over Gerald Ashison 15 and 8. In the final Steve scraped home 19 in the first and then played superbly to take the title 21-9.

The Cadet boys singles provided the upset of the day, in an event that attracted 17 of the top 20 players. Michael James of Bridlington, who had fought his way through the groups, put out the number one seed, Adrian Vincent in the first round 16 and 13. The semi-finals did however provide a line-up of four of the eight seeded players. In the first Philip Neal won a very close match with Ian Eaton (Ch) and in the other Steve Meddings was taken to three by Paul Hudson (E). The final provided some good table tennis but the greater experience of Steve gave him a win in two 13 and 14.

There was no surprises in the Cadet girls final with the experienced Sally Marling winning 17 and 7 over Lyndsey Heywood (Dv) who had previously had a good win in the semis over 2nd seed Michelle Martin (St) 19, -19, 22. The U12 Girls competition saw an all Yorkshire final where Nicola Smith beat Nicola Silburn 17, 19.

The Junior Girls singles went according to seeding up to the semi-finals where Maria Thorley (La) ousted top seed Sally Marling 18, 24. The other semi-final saw Ellen Meddings (Y) beat Nicola Meddings (Wa) comfortably 13, 9. In the final it was even all the way with Ellen winning game 20. Ellen raced away in the second winning 14 to keep the title in the county.

The Junior Boys semi-finals had Gareth Jones (Y) matched to Alex Perry (Dv) and Darren Howarth (La) to Matthew Brown (St) in a dramatic see-saw struggle — Jones eventually made the final 18, -19, 16. The second semi started with Darren showing much class to win 21-10. The final line-up being decided with Matthew unlucky to lose 22-20. In the final Jones led 14-11 in the first, Howarth fought back to level at 15 all, a trend which was to continue throughout the match until Jones took 5 points in a row off his own service in the third to win the title 19, -19, 17.

The Junior Boys doubles final went to Fraser Lewis and Kevan McKellar who were part of a large contingent from Scotland, who succeeded in two closely fought ends against the singles finalists Jones and Howarth 18, 18.

The mayor of East Yorkshire Borough Roy Saul summed up the event at the official reception as an impressive array of young talent whose competitive and friendly behaviour brings great credit to the sport, adding that he looks forward to the next table tennis event in the borough (the English Junior Open in May 1991) and hoped to see some of the competitors and officials on that occasion.
RECORD BREAKERS

by BRIAN LAMERTON

DESPITE the loss of sponsorship it was still possible to present prize winning cheques totalling £310 at the AGM of the Southern Region League held at Prestock (Farnborough) and the League now embarks on its fourth season maintaining its record of increasing in numbers every season.

Each of last season's three divisions were contested almost to the last point, Cippenham 'A' went into their last Premier division match with a 100% record and needing only two sets against arch rivals Kingfisher to take the title. Well, 2 sets was all they got as they crashed 7 sets to 2, to an inspired Kingfisher lead by a hat-trick from Malcolm Hayes. As well as taking the title Cippenham also had the two leading players amongst those playing in more than 2 matches in Alec Watson (83.3%) and Frank Earis (73.3%).

Burnham needing a three point win in their last first division match to finish on top lost, 6 sets to 3, to Amity Generation 'B' who produced a hat-trick from the league's leading lady players, Sarah Hammond and newcomer John Roberts. Burnham still obtained promotion however as winners Kingfisher 'B' are unable to take their place in the Premier due to the presence of their 'A' string. Jonathan Samuel of Kingfisher (85.7%) and Burnham's Mark Banks (77.8%) were the leading 'regular' players in this division.

Not to be outdone in the excitement Kingfisher and Cippenham were level on points at the head of the ladies division when they opposed each other in the final match. With 4 of the 5 sets going to the third game it was the brace of singles wins for Nicola Cracknell, playing in her first match of the season, who won the day for Kingfisher.

'B' to the ladies league means that we now have 3 divisions, each of 6 teams.

The junior regional trials were scheduled for October 14th at Redbridge Centre (Southampton). It is fully intended to run a Youth Cup competition in the second half of the season along Leeds Youth Cup lines — there will presumably be no national finals this season but the Southern Region hereby challenges any other region to put up their champions against ours towards the end of the season (Competition Secretary, Mick Strode 0276 31926 — is sitting by his phone waiting for acceptances!)

Plains are also afoot for Junior Cadet leagues later in the season. The Banbury School Programme Scheme ('Tables in Schools') has taken a giant step forward with the agreement of the Sports Council to make a £2,000 grant to add to a similar sum already obtained by the Banbury T.T.A. themselves together with local commercial sponsorship.

Barry Aston and his colleagues who have worked hard to reach this stage (helped by Regional Chairman Ray Yates) now hope to have the scheme 'up and running' before Christmas.

On a personal note I was privileged to take part (as an umpire) recently in an event held within the regions boundaries — the British Sports Association for the Disabled championships held in Reading — my first experience of disabled T.T. — which I found very rewarding; the organisation was first class and no praise can be too high for those who worked tirelessly to produce an outstanding weekend. I hope I am asked again!

S W Region

THE Cowfold Junior select 2 Star this season, once again to be held at the Gloucester L.C. on the 2/3rd of February — the Junior events will now take place on the first day of the Tournament, this proviso is so that any Junior Player who wishes to play in the British League the following day is free to do so. Therefore, needless to say the Cadets and U12's events will take place all day on the Sunday.

After many years as chairman of the SWR, I understand that Bristol's Mike Lewis is now no longer with us — sadly it also appears very likely that Mike's wife Christine will have to be replaced as secretary.

I am sure that both of these dedicated TT administrators will be missed considerably for all the hard work that they have selflessly put into our sport over a period of numerous years, one can be wish them well for the years that lie ahead, and thank them for all that they have done.

Mrs. Valerie Clark from Swindon takes over the role of Chairman South West Region.

S.W and Southern Regions have this past summer run a highly successful coaching course, and with the following have passed out in their respective coaching classes i.e: Michael Iremonger (Farringdon), Michael Flynn and Neal Henry (Gloucester), Peter Goadley (Reading), Martin Ramsay (Bridgewater) and Gary Trent (Diddcot).

A coaching course for children of all standards was also set up in Swindon — the get'm young attitude certainly prevailed under the watchful eyes of coaches; Val Clark and Claire Hunter, George Novothl takes over the role of Senior Coach in Gloucester City — George succeeded Paddy Jackson, (now retired) who held the position for a worthy eleven years. Bath's Mike Hawkes has been doing the rounds of AGM's in the area and hopes to be catering for coaching at several levels in cadets — new members and novices are indeed welcome.

ALF PEPPERD
DOUBLE AWARDS

THE Kirklees Junior 2 Star, the results of which were reported in a ‘stop press’ article in the last edition of TTN was the occasion for the presentation of well deserved awards to two of the officials.

Jackie Ryder has been connected with the Kirklees annual tournament - it began life as a senior open before changing its format to cater for the juniors - since its inception in 1979.

Formerly with the Dewsbury League, the league which is responsible for the Kirklees, Jackie really became committed to table tennis because of the involvement of husband Bob and her three sons.

A hardworking figure, who rarely strays far from the control desk during a day’s - or even a weekend’s - play, Jackie’s only connections with the sport today are the Kirklees and the various tournaments organised by the Yorkshire TT Association.

To mark her dedication over the years, Jackie was the recipient of a cut glass ashtray, mounted in silver and suitably engraved, by the referee/organiser of the event, Bevan Walker.

A second presentation followed in which Bevan, over the last decade, one of the front men on the Yorkshire tournament scene, received from the Brian Kinsey a bottle of Bollinger to mark his eleven year association with the Kirklees, nine as referee and ten as organizer.

* * *

ALL WINNERS

ONE of the — it not the — finest table tennis championships for disabled ever to be held in this country was recently held in Reading.

The Grand Metropolitan National Table Tennis Championships, staged by the British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD) and sponsored by Grand Metropolitan, brought together 120 table tennis players of all disability groups who had qualified from 13 regions of the British Isles.

The competition was fierce and the standard high in all of the various classes. An invitation Class nine abled-bodied event included some of our top players — Matthew Syed, Sean Gibson, Graham Sandley and Lisa Lomas to name a few. How refreshing — and how progressive — to see disabled and able-bodied players alongside each other.

These championships marvellously supported by an excellent organisation, including the ETFA officials and umpires and through Jill Hammersley Parker and David Hewitt, demonstrated just what can be achieved for table tennis for the disabled. Roll on 1991!
EXCELLENT START

NFD Grove of Market Drayton made an excellent start to their campaign in the European Club Cup of Champions when the North Shropshire based club accounted for Sporting Clubs of Portugal 5-1 in Lisbon on September 29th whilst one week later the ladies were in equally mean mood as they beat Swiss champions Dietikon 5-0 at Market Drayton to maintain progress.

The only reverse for NFD Grove in Portugal was the defeat of Chris Oldfield by former Chinese player Chen Si Chas whose defensive skills overcame the Market Drayton player in a hard fought three set encounter but the oriental star had no answer to the precision like hitting of Alan Cooke and fell in straight sets as had Paulo Fernandez in the opening set.

Meanwhile the legendary anticipation of Desmond Douglas delighted the large number of Portuguese fans as he beat Fernandez and top Portuguese man Pedro Miguel Mousa whilst Oldfield concluded proceedings by beating the latter to put NFD Grove into the last 32 against Avila Rojas of Spain.

Undoubtedly the Spaniards will prove tough opponents at Market Drayton on October 26th led by Russian star Vladimir Dvorak with highly ranked Spaniards Jose Maria Pales and Matao Chantas in support, the prize will be a quarter final clash against defending champions Levalloris in Paris in November.

Meanwhile the girls have secured a quarter final place by beating luckless Swiss champions Dietikon 5-0 with Alison Gordon, Andrea Holt and Jill Harris never troubled and straight set wins the order of the day. The girls travel to Austria to play ATUS Judenburg-Sparkasse who were the surprise winners over Trades Unions, Moscow the number two seeds, the quarter final encounters are scheduled for 9/10 November.
ENGLAND's young hopefuls tore up the form book in the Wiltshire 2 Star tournament in Swindon, with only four of the 11 events won by the top seeds.

Out went number one seed Edward Hatley (Aldershot) in the boys' singles, gunned down by Gavin Yates (Oxford) who himself crashed in the semi-finals to number three seed Alex Perry (Devon).

Out went the second seed Steve Gill (Wales), ousted by Spencer Thompson of Kent. Then came along the unseeded Richard Hyacinth who gave Thompson his marching orders in the semis and then coolly disposed of Perry to take the £50 top prize.

Devon’s Clare Pengelly also whipped the cream of the seeds. She kept her nerve to dispose of Alison Gower, the number two seed from Essex, in a nail-biting semi-final.

Then the Paignton girl smashed her way past the top seed, Natasha Williams of Wales, to take the under-17 championships.

The younger age group singles went more as expected with Adrian Vincent (Plymouth) living up to his England number two ranking by cruising to victory in the Cadet Singles.

The only mild surprise was in the Cadet girls' singles where top seed Michelle Martin (Burton-on-Trent) lost in the deciding game to against Lynsey Heyward (Newton Abbott).

Both the under 12 singles went according to the seedings — Stephen Meddings (Sutton Coldfield) taking the boys' title and Nicola Smith (Leeds), the girls.

The trophies for the best Wiltshire performances were won by Tracy Youldon, Erica Stevens and Alexander Collar.

Trophies were presented by Roy Hazell of Aldbourne, president of the Wiltshire Table Tennis Association, and by tournament organiser Bill Willson of Swindon.

RESULTS
Under 17 boys' singles
semi-finals:
R. Hyacinth bt S. Thompson 17, -14, 18; A. Perry bt G. Yates 18, 13.
Final: Hyacinth bt Perry 18, 18.
Under 17 girls' singles
semi-finals:
C. Pengelly bt A. Gower 15, -16, 20; N. Williams bt S. Williams 19, 16.
Final: Miss Pengelly bt Miss N. Williams -19, 15, 17.
Cadet boys' singles
semi-finals:
A. Vincent bt A. Very 18, 15; P. Hudson bt P. Neal 10, -16, 12.
Final: Vincent bt Hudson 12, 18.
Cadet girls singles
semi-finals:
Final: Miss Heyward bt Miss Martin 11, -11, 10.
Under 17 boys' doubles
semi-finals:
Final: Perry and Sladden bt Katz and Haycock 15, 14.
Under 17 girls' doubles
semi-finals:
Final: Miss Martin and Miss Williams bt Miss Bentley and Miss Seaholme -19, 19, 16.
Cadet boys' doubles
semi-finals:
A. Vincent and D. Heath bt V. Avery and D. Yardy 19, 16, 17; P. Neal and S. Meddings bt B. Johnson and I. Playsted -10, 10, 23;
Tony Morris concludes his observations on the changes within our sport and suggests how they might affect the way we play.

Timing of response speed was carried out by placing a photoelectric beam immediately at the mouth of the ball-firer, between it and the screen. When a ball broke this beam it started a timer. A second photoelectric cell was erected on stands at an angle to the player, so that the beam was broken by the player's forehand backswing. The locations of the two stands holding the cell transmitter and receiver were adjusted in practice trials with the ball-firer and no screen to ensure that the player could play her/his normal forehand drive unrestricted and consistently break the beam which stopped the clock. This arrangement meant that response times varied greatly between players, depending on their typical forehand drive response. This does not affect validity of the study or interpretation of results, however, because the comparisons of interest are between the different ball/background combinations and each player was tested with every combination.

Trials were presented in blocks of 15 with each ball colour/background colour combination. The sequence of combinations was balanced across players to control for any learning effects. The mean (average) response time for each ball/background combination was calculated. These values were shown in the table below.

First, and most emphatic, it appears that across the whole range of table tennis, played in venues with walls and floors of varying colour and players' kits why, there would be an advantage in terms of time to respond if a yellow ball was used.

Second, and in need of corroboration, the present results suggest that a switch to blue tables, floors, surrounds and/or walls would not be detrimental to performance, in fact it would probably enhance it. However, it might also be noted that the one background where the white ball does not produce a notably slower response time is the blue background.

Clearly habit has an effect on player's attitudes; we are all used to playing with white balls on green tables. Also, the human brain is attracted to novel stimulation, particularly in the visual sense. This means that when we first start playing in novel conditions, such as with a blue table, we are likely to be distracted by the table and thus not concentrate on the important cues. This novelty effect in the brain soon wears off, so the crucial thing is to persevere with the new conditions.

It would be valuable to repeat the experiment, using more subjects, the orange ball (and any other realistic candidates) and other background colours in addition to the present conditions.

For example, what would happen to response time for the favoured yellow ball against the yellow of the Swedish national shirt or even the lemon now being sold in a number of ranges? What about passage from one background to another, as from a red brick wall to the grey of beige of a players' shirt?

The present study suggests that further research in this area could be very valuable. In the meantime our best advice is to paint your club walls blue, dress your opponent in blue, use a yellow ball, wear a yellow shirt and get your body behind the line of flight!
BRITISH LEAGUE - RESULTS

Bathwick T 4 4
DML Dears 0 8
Ormesby 8 0
T. Peniel 5 3
City Leeds 3 5
Britainia 5 3
Norwich F 5 3
St. Neots 5 3
Gillingham 5 3
Horsdon 7 1
Gillingham 3 5
NFD Grove 8 0
Rejects 3 5
Barron 6 2
Chan Cost 2 6
Leicester 4 4
Ormesby 4 4
Bathwick T 2 6
Barron 4 4
Cranleigh 7 1
DMS Rams 2 6
Bashford 3 5
Pillingar 2 6
F. Cranleigh 4 4
G Triangle 7 1
Horsdon 2 6
Reacts 3 5
Rejects 2 6
Britannia 2 6
Cranleigh 1 7
Uxbridge 2 6
Bashwick 4 4
HPFA Soton 5 3
Thoms 1 7

(Middlesbrough) - England 6, Sweden 6
F. Elliott 1st P. Pettersson 23, -10, -14
Elliot and A. Gordon 1st A. Svensson and M. Svensson 15, -15
Emmett and M. Svensson 16, -11, -18
SWEDISH LADIES TOUR
(Berry) - England 3, Sweden 4
A. Holt 1st P. Pettersson 17, -17
A. Svensson/Pettersson 12, 11
Holt 1st M Svensson 23, 13
Lomas bt P. Pettersson 6, 13
Gordon bt A. Svensson 23, -13, -18
Benton) - England 3, Sweden 4
A. Holt 1st M Svensson, -21
A. Svensson/Pettersson 12, 8, 11
Lomas bt M Svensson 19, -13, -17
Holt 1st M Svensson 17, 20

EAST YORKSHIRE JUNIOR
Boys Singles
Semi finals
D. Howarth (La) bt M. Willey (K) 10, 15
G. Jones (Y) bt A. Perry (Dv) 18, -19, 16
Final
G. Jones (Y) at D. Howarth (La) 19
Boys Doubles
E. Lewis/K. McKellar bt D. Howarth/G. Jones
Restricted Boys Singles
Semi finals
M. Brown (St) bt. P. Neil (Y) 10, 20
P. Chapman (Y) at K. Horsfield (Y) 17, -18
Final
P. Chapman (Y) at M. Brown (St) 14, 16
Girls Singles
Semi finals
M. Thornley (La) at S. Marling (Y) 18, 24
E. Meddings (Y) at M. Meddings (Wa) 13, 9
Final
E. Meddings (Y) at M. Thornley (La) 20
Girls Doubles
S. Marling & G. Schwartz at b. G. Marshall & N. Meldings 12, 24
Restricted Girls Singles
Semi finals
L. Heyward (Dv) at J. Marriott (Dv) 17, 14, 15
M. Martin (St) at G. Schwartz (Bk) 15, 18
Final
L. Heyward (Dv) at M. Martin (St) -12, 21
Cadet Events
Boys Singles
Semi finals
P. Neil (Y) at L. Eaton (Ch) 19, -18, 19
M. Meddings (Wa) at P. Hudson (E) 11, 20, 16
Final
M. Meddings (Wa) at P. Neil (Y) 13, 14
Boys Restricted Singles
Semi finals
S. James (Y) at B. Nixon (ULS) 11, 15
P. Butcher (Sx) at D. McGeevy (ULS) 14, 25
Final
P. Butcher (Sx) at B. Nixon (ULS) -25, 12
Boys Doubles
S. Meddings and P. Neil at D. Meredith and C. Whitehead 17
Girls Singles
Semi finals
S. Marling (Y) at S. Stedman (Sx) 15, 7
L. Heyward (Dv) at M. Martin (St) -19, 22
Final
S. Marling (Y) at L. Heyward (Dv) 17, 7
Restricted Girls Singles
Semi finals
G. Ashion (Sy) at S. Stedman (Sx) 19, -18, 15
S. Goggin (Sx) at V. Fox (St) 16
Final
G. Ashion (Sy) at S. Goggin (Sx) -14
Girls Doubles
S. Marling and G. Schwartz at b. V. Fox and S. Stedman 10, 10
Under 12 Events
Boys Singles
Final
S. Meddings (Wa) at M. James (Y) 13, -11, 17
Girls Singles
Final
N. Smith (Y) at N. Silburn (Y) 17, 19

Please send your results to the Editor as soon as possible after the event has finished. Remember, we are a monthly publication and speed is essential. We want to publish as many as possible and to reach every corner of the country.

JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

Essex 6  Durham 4
Kent 4  Surrey 6
Yorkshire 7  Middlesex 3
Devonshire 8  Lancashire 2
Kent 4  Durham 2  Yorkshire 8
Surrey 4  Essex 6
Middlesex 5  Devonshire 5
Kent 4  Essex 0  Yorkshire 10
Surrey 5  Lancashire 5
Devonshire 8  Durham 3 0  0

POSITIONS

Yorkshire 3 3 0 0
Durham 3 2 1 0
Devonshire 3 2 0 1
Surrey 3 1 1 0
Middlesex 3 1 1 0
Lancashire 3 0 0 1
Kent 3 0 0 0
Durham 3 0 0 0

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS AT HOLLABRUNN

Finals

Junior Boys Singles
Torben Wosik (PRG) - Mirko Powlowski
(BPRG) 21,14, 21, 19
Junior Girls Singles
Tatiana Kostromina (URS) - Vera Wirth
(HUN) 21,13, 12, 21
Cadet Boys Singles
Sascha Köster (FRG) - Sergei Andrianov
(URS) 21, 18, 19, 21, 23
Cadet Girls Singles
Tatiana Kilgush (URS) - Ana Gogorita
(HON) 3, 2, 14, 21
Junior Boys Doubles
T. Wosik/M. Powlowski - S. Noskov/A.
Levendy (URS) 13, 21, 17, 21
Junior Girls Doubles
K. Kostromina/E. Toshkina - V. Ellop K.
Toth (HUN) 21, 19, 22, 24
Junior Mixed Doubles
Z. Varga/K. Toth (HUN) - P. Szafranek/A.
Januszyn (POL) 21, 12, 21, 9
Cadet Boys Doubles
V. Samsonov/E. Fudeev (URS) - Z. Batorfi/A.
Lintner (HUN) 21, 11, 21, 14
Cadet Girls Doubles
T. Kutilina/E. Kulagina (URS) - E.
Kulagina (URS) - Ana Gogorita
Cadet Mixed Doubles
T. Kutilina/E. Kulagina (URS) - E.
Kulagina (URS) - Ana Gogorita
Cadet Boys Singles
T. Kulagina/K. Kulagina (URS) - E.
Kulagina (URS) - Ana Gogorita

TEAM EVENTS

Boys (U17)
(1) URS
(2) France
(3) Czech
Girls (U17)
(1) POL
(2) Germany
(3) Hungary

Cadet Boys (U14)
(1) URS
(2) Czech
(3) Hungary

Cadet Girls (U14)
(1) Yugoslavia
(2) Hungary
(3) Poland

Send to: Sportage PK, PO Box 8, Chaddle, Chaddle, Cheshire SK9 7RG
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PAGE 32

A print out of the Audit Trail can be obtained for a nominal charge of £3 plus s.a.e.
IPSWICH Borough Council’s Leisure Services Department are set to launch a brand new scheme aimed at promoting sports performance and excellence for youngsters involved in table tennis.

A revolutionary step in leisure provision, Ipswich Sport 2000 aims to 'create and co-ordinate a network that will introduce young people to table tennis, stimulate involvement and interest and identify, nurture and develop sporting talent.'

It will not only be the first such scheme of its kind in the Eastern Region but, to the best of the Borough Council's knowledge, one of the first in the country.

Plans are already underway for a high profile launch involving a number of celebrities from each of the target sports on Saturday, 24 November.

As a lead up to this the scheme will be hosting a number of activities with the aim of raising the schemes profile.

Already involved is former England international Nick Jarvis and it is also planned for star Chen Xinhua, ranked No.4 in the world in 1987 but now resident in this country, to visit the scheme soon.

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TABLE tennis is a great sport enjoyed not only by able-bodied players but also by the disabled player, wheelchair bound or walking wounded alike. Table tennis, in all its forms, is played by thousands of disabled players up and down the country — from Olympic, World and European Championships through to local club level.

Since sport for the disabled — and specifically table tennis for the disabled — was first conceived in the UK after World War II as a therapeutic, rehabilitative sport for the spinal injured by the late Sir Ludwig Gutman at Stoke Mandeville, table tennis for the disabled has been organised largely on a ‘disability group’ basis where each group works on a fairly autonomous basis.

There’s the British Paraplegic Sports Association (BPSS) for the spinal injured (paraplegics and tetraplegics), The British Amputee Sports Association (BASA) for the limbless, and the British Les Autres Sports Association (BLASA) covering a multiplicity of different disabilities.

In addition to these disability specific associations, the British Sport Association for the Disabled (BSAD) through their regional organisations have provided table tennis facilities at local club level to literally thousands of disabled players from grass roots level to the elite.

However, this organisational structure of table tennis for the disabled has its shortcomings — scarce resources such as finances, coaches, suitable venues and helpers, are spread very thinly across each disability group. There is no ‘political’ focus and as a result the governing body of our sport, the ETTA, have difficulty associating with these separate entities with the result that precious resources available to the able-bodied environment are not brought to bear to the disabled environment.

But following the recently published Moylghan Report, moves are afoot to create a single focussed association that will represent table tennis for all disabled in this country. Let’s call it the British Table Tennis Association for the Disabled (BTTAD) for the moment. Undoubtedly it will overcome some of the deficiencies of today’s structure and provide greater opportunities for the disabled to play table tennis. The formation of the BTTAD is a radical, revolutionary move — as such it will not happen overnight and there are some major issues to be overcome. However, the benefits will be significant and it’s worth waiting and working for.

JOHN WOODFORD
Table Tennis Correspondent
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

PUBLICITY
THREE-STAR and two star senior tournament organisers requiring national publicity will be interested in the new policy of “The Daily Telegraph” in covering week-end sport.

The eleven-page sport supplement published every Monday may help the situation. No guarantees can be given, but those who saw the supplement on Monday October 8, may have noticed a small report and results from the Sussex Open 2-star event.

However, it is possible that working by telephone other tournaments could be covered on a similar way.

But there are strings attached to the arrangements apart from making sure in advance that I know that calls are going to be made to me on Eastbourne (0302) 268055, on a Saturday afternoon and EARLY evening.

The Telegraph require one piece of early copy by 4 p.m. at the latest — that will read something like “Allison Gordon the England No.2 reached the final of the women’s singles etc...” It must come through me as I have “ordered” space.

I need two calls, one about 3.30 p.m. with early details and again between 7 and 8 p.m. with the details of the singles finals and a few facts. I then “file” a second piece of the same length for the late edition.

So, organisers and/or press officers wishing to have a stab at getting their sponsors names in the Telegraph, here may be an opportunity of success. On some occasions, I may be able to get on board tennis assignments, but I am frequently available on Sunday afternoons and evenings to organise this new facility.

JOHN WOODFORD
Table Tennis Correspondent
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

CONGRATS DON
MANY thanks and heartiest congratulations to England supremo Donald Parker for his excellent coaching ideas and tips in the October issue.

By sheer co-incidence I have employed many of these methods myself over the years and indeed from a very early age could be seen rolling a big tyre along the road with one hand. When questioned by bemused neighbours I simply replied “I’m practising my forehand.”

Funny, I never had many friends when I was younger.

Also I have never played a match without warming up in the big furry sheepskin gloves that the mother bought for my tenth birthday or turned up without at least twelve spare pairs of spectacles in case I met opponent with an aversion to said items.

As for the use of two towels, one for yourself and one for the bat, I agree wholeheartedly but would go one further in suggesting a THIRD towel for use in the showers after the match.

Thanks again Don for showing the less informed, poor misguided souls the light.

TONY TAYLOR
Manchester

THANKS
J.A. Leach MBE, President
E.T.T.A.

Dear Johnny,
Thank you for your letter informing me of the generous gift of golf clubs from the Association and as you well know, my passion for golf there could not have been a more appreciated moment. I was particularly honoured by the arrangement for you to present them personally but quite understood how a business appointment prevented you visiting Hastings.

As you know I am off to Glen-eagles this weekend where the new clubs will be given a real baptism so I shall be thinking of you all then and probably for some time to come.

Once again, my grateful thanks to all concerned and, as they say, “You’ve made an old man very happy.”

Albert Shipley
38 Grange Avenue
Hastings
East Sussex

MORE
THROUGH the Table Tennis News I would like to express the thanks of my three daughters and myself to Gia McCulloch for organising an extremely enjoyable ladies weekend course, and to Limas Lomas, Joe Barella, Jill Harris and Gail for the excellent coaching and practice they all gave us.

It was a terrific weekend with a very friendly atmosphere and a lot of laughter which only inspired us all to work and try even harder.

The job of the coaches was difficult as we were a mixture of standards, low division players to county standard, and ages from 17 years to 60 plus, but we all felt we had benefited from the weekend and hope it shows in our game.

Many thanks once more ladies, and please can we have more of them.

Babs Blanch
THOUGH I did not know Rob Oldfield enormously well, our paths crossed quite often. It was always a pleasure when they did and I liked him tremendously. It seems also impossible that he should have died at the early age of 34, that he will live only in our hearts from now on.

Rob was a real ‘Man of Table Tennis’ who travelled the junior circuit as so many of us have done as young players and parents. With John Kitchener he was just about the best junior doubles pair of his day. “Just about?” I can hear Rob say, “We WERE the best!” On to Bath University and fame with Avon County and then to Hastings as the new ETTA press and development officer.

It proved in many ways a frustrating task, because little was going on. There were not enough events to publicise, not many events big enough to attract the media. ‘Development’ itself is a long slow progress, a little like digging for diamonds or prospecting for oil. So much good work comes to nothing.

Our Offices were still in the indescribable Claremont. I cannot recall whether it was Rob who dubbed the premises as “Dry Rot Castle” or “Woodworm Manor”. Both were equally apt. It was a symbol of our decay and getting out some years later was equally a symbol of our progress since.

It was, sadly, no place for a bright, ambitious chap and the sport, to be honest, was also going nowhere. After three years Rob moved on to “Keep Britain Tidy” where there certainly was much work to do. No civilisation nation deposits its rubbish quite so freely and with such abandon just about everywhere except in the bins provided.

Rob advanced quickly, but after some years took voluntary redundancy to build a new career. He had, as always, numerous ideas, but this time death intervened. Before that came a brief spell on the ETTA’s management committee as vice-chairman of press & P R following the retirement of Norman Reeve and at the same time Rob was Editor of TT News. In the latter role he sought to bring to the Magazine a larger number of younger readers. He may well have succeeded. We had many debates about this.

I was then very much an outsider, but he always listened to me with great care. My time as chairman was yet to come.

Some time before Rob resigned his posts to concentrate on his career. He had done sterling work for us both as a volunteer and member of staff. His place in the history of the sport, even at his young age, is entirely secure.

He certainly hoped to return to the sport and the ETTA when he had worked out his career and found his niche and I was looking forward to that day.

Our hearts go out to his widow Caroline, herself, an excellent tennis player and press officer for the British Olympic Association and a good friend of our sport.

Farewell, Robert, Man of Table Tennis. You live in our hearts and by your achievements in the game you loved so much.

John Prean

OBITUARY

John Smith

IT IS with great regret that I report the death of John Smith after a short illness.

John Moved to Cheltenham in 1960 to work for the Civil Service and jointed Cheltenham Civil Service table tennis club for whom he played up to the end of last season. He spent most of his playing days in the ‘middle’ divisions, but for the last 2 seasons he played in division one. John was a real competitor as his opponents will all confirm.

He was, however, better known as an enthusiastic committee member and as a qualified county umpire. John served on the Glos. County Committee from 1985-1988 including a 2 year spell as vice-chairman, and he had been Cheltenham’s division 2 secretary since 1981. County and British League matches were never (and never will be) the same without John officiating.

All members of Gloucester T.T.A. share the grief of his wife Gill, and children Nigel and Susan. He will never be forgotten.

Graham Slack

THE NEW ETTA TIE

The new, redesigned ETTA members’ tie is now available. It is attractively woven with the Association emblem in gold on a navy background enhanced with a fine blue stripe.

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