Commonwealth Champions
NEW RALLY AND GRAND PRIX TABLES
FROM JAQUES...
Send for Details
Editor's Note

Marvellous, we won lots of medals in Nairobi and put up a good show in Chiba, but most of all we turned up and competed to the best of our ability.

Our men's team won gold in Nairobi, but our two youngest lads stole the show in Africa, with Chris Oldfield and Michael O'Driscoll winning gold in the Men's Doubles, beating the reigning champions Nicky Mason and Skylet Andrew in the final.

Little Nicola Deaton deserves a mention, because she really flew the flag for England winning three bronze medals in her very first Commonwealth Games.

In the Worlds at Chiba City, life proved a little tougher for the England team, with the very best on display, but Alan Cooke pulled off a remarkable victory over Sweden's Michael Appelgren, in the first round of the Men's Singles.

New World Champion Jorgen Persson and runner-up Jan Ove Waldner proved that the Chinese are not invincible by reaching the final for the second time, proving that there is light at the end of the tunnel for other European players, including ourselves.

But in the Women's singles the Chinese really do seem untouchable, with tiny Deng Yaping, the new world champion, who has spent, supplying copy to Newsdesk, but Alan Cooke pulled off a remarkable victory over Sweden's Michael Appelgren, in the first round of the Men's Singles.

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Meanwhile back on the home front, I visited two tournaments for this issue, the Barclays Essex 5 Star and the BP Essex Junior Select and enjoyed them both immensely, especially the hospitality provided by Frances Wayland.

As this is the last issue that retiring Chairman John Prean will be writing his 'In my View' column, I would like to thank him on behalf of Table Tennis News, for his past services to the sport that we all love.

John's typewriter won't be gathering dust just yet though, because he will probably be a regular correspondent to 'Mailbox' and supplier of information for Newsdesk.

This is also the last issue that David Lomas will be writing for the 'School Report' column, on behalf of ETTA.

So I would like to thank David for the many years that he has spent on supplying copy to Table Tennis News.

Next season starts earlier with an August/September edition, so don't forget that the copy deadline is 15th July.

Also, please don't forget to send in your annual subscription to Bethan at Hastings, before you go on holiday! An order form appears opposite page 21.

Have a good summer.

John F. A. Wood
NEWSDESK

Tel: 0442 244587

Cooke off to Sweden

ALAN COOKE marked his 25th birthday by clinching a lucrative contract with the Swedish club Malmo. Next season he will be living in Sweden and returning for a few events.

NFD Grove (Market Drayton) will be sorry to lose him, but he is sorry to leave Grove, but the lure of playing in Sweden is understandably too great at a vital stage of his professional career. Like Carl Prean, Chen Xinhua, Nicky Mason and Skylet Andrew — professionals must operate where the conditions are right and the money is best.

His new team-mate will be Ulf Bengtsson, Thomas von Scheele and Goran Weana, all members of the Swedish national squad. Alan will play in the No.1 position for Malmo, a sure sign that they rate him highly and that he can justify such a high spot.

Most of this present campaign, Alan has looked an increasingly powerful player. His athletic style, fearsome top-spin and general determination has been clear for all to see. It started in November when he played so well in Lyons to reach the quarters at the French Open. A slight lapse at Stourbridge but another cracking show at Brentwood that resulted in Chen Xinhua, Nicky Mason and Skylet Andrew — professionals must operate where the conditions are right and the money is best.

He commented recently, "I was very happy at Grove and may one day return to them, but this was an offer I could not refuse."

Walk-Overs

At least 7 nations were reported as not having turned up for their matches in the recent World Championships in Chiba, Japan. All presumably sent entry forms and were allocated places in the draw. The letters W.O. (walk-over) appeared again and again in press reports.

The L.T.T.F. have been making huge efforts to improve the image of the game. Blue Tables, Orange Balls, Brick-red floors, Ball boys, White shirts, etc. What good will all that do, if nations do not turn up?

It has been said that most were too poor to be able to afford the air fares to Japan, but surely not too poor to afford a postage stamp saying that they could not come?

The following footnote appeared in The Times on 13/5/91: "An unfortunate result from the men's team event in the world tabletennis championships currently taking place in Chiba, Japan. "We are unable to veriﬁcate the Press Association agency preview for the tournament."

Scoop

For Saarbriicken's astute manager, Georg Rebmann the signing of Jorgen Persson represented the scoop of the season once Persson became the 1991 World Champion. Persson had had a disappointing season by his own high standards. He was defeated in the ETTU Cup by Chen Shibin, last season's No.1 for Saarbriicken, which gave the German Club a 5-4 victory over Sweden's Champions, Malmo. There were many who advised Rebmann to retain the mercurial but inconsistent Chinese star. Persson and Rebmann had their answer in China and Rebmann now has the crowd pleaser he needs. He also has the best player in the world.

Harry's farewell

THE Ashton Table Tennis League is mourning the loss of its president, Mr. Renshaw, who died on Friday, 23rd March 1981, aged 77.

Mr. Renshaw was the first official Ashton table tennis champion, in 1934, and went on to win the prize a record five times. He was the mainstay of the great Ashton inter-league teams of the 1940s and 50s and, at his peak, was selected for Lancashire, the first Ashton player to be so honoured.

He later played for Cheshire and was the first ever chairman of the CTTA and later, their President. Mr. Renshaw was the first life member of the Ashton League, and was created President in 1976.

His greatest honour however, was his involvement with the great Ashton Table Tennis League. He was head coach at Albion School, Ashton, in February, 1937; when he had the distinction of playing against the then world champion, G. Victor Barna.
IN MY VIEW

by John Prean

A Smooth transition

The Association's AGM on the 6th July will be my last day as Chairman. My successor was, of course, elected in March. The time between is one in which he and his team are able to prepare for office, whilst the business of the Association continues. The transition will be a smooth one.

The election is now behind us. It is right, if the democratic process is to mean anything, that all issues and credentials should be fully and publicly examined. It may be examined also whether we are best served by annual elections or whether a new chairman should not be given a two-year-term, as is the case in the ITTF and ETTU and some countries.

My time has been one of very substantial progress and change. There was too much wrong to consider another era of inactivity and decline. We were too close to bankruptcy contrary to what sections of the press thought good copy. It was a period of success which could not have been achieved without substantial unity and harmony. By exaggerating minor problems and ignoring major achievements, all too often an opposite impression was created. This was unfair to those who had accomplished so much and ultimately bad for the sport.

The Association Suffers

Constructive criticism is good and healthy. The trend I have noted for some years, of personalising issues into "personality conflicts" is very bad for the sport. It will not encourage the young to join our ranks. It will unfailingly produce a bad press and it will revolt potential sponsors. Too often incompetents have blamed 'personality conflicts' for their failures and blunders. Often they ended as accusers when they should have been at the other end.

It should never be forgotten that the Chairman of the Association speaks for the Sport and therefore he must have our support, no matter how we have may voted in elections. These columns provide ample opportunity to state what is right and what is thought to be wrong. It should not spill over into personalities. Grievances should not be carried to the national press, where often they will not be understood or be well presented, not least because of space limitations. I can reveal that we have lost substantial sponsorship deals, when members have unburdened themselves to the press with real or imagined grievances and made the sport look bad. One sponsor, on the eve of a very big deal, told me: "If you cannot control your own members, I cannot support you." A very large sum was lost. A tiny minority had managed to do enormous harm. It was not I, the intended victim, who suffered: it was the Association and the Sport.

My successor will never have to endure this from me.

Our Children

Despite a few "black spots" I do not want to give the impression that I have had anything other than encouragement and support. Sadly, criticism was usually found in these columns, whilst support was usually in private letters, which I received in very great numbers. You may know that I had intended to step down a year earlier. The letters of support and friendship I then received decided me to soldier on for another year. They outnumbered the critical kind by more than 30 to 1.

The majority of our members wants to see the sport progress, so that, as I have often put it, our children may have the fun we have had from this great game. They do not see our sport as a platform for the mean in spirit, whose main aim seems to be to look for the worst in people and their motives. That does not mean we cannot argue about the great issues of the day, but it should be a civilised activity. The aim should be to win the debate, not to portray the holder of opposite views as a villain.

No praise too great

Throughout my time I was flanked by a strong and enthusiastic team for whom no praise could be too great.

I was pleased to see Stuart Sneyd receive such a large number of votes to become deputy chairman. I brought him into my team when he was little known nationally. He was very much associated with the new policies, indeed stood in the front line in the re-organisation of the coaching scheme. He took a lot of flak then. His huge victory in the elections is a renewed vindication of our policies and he will remain in charge of Coaching.

Malcolm Allsop was quite splendid as Vice-Chairman in charge of Administration, a large dept. which needed much of his time when so much was changing and indeed needed to be changed. He always was a quiet man and so never got the credit he deserved. It is good to be able to put the record straight.

Richard Scruton, whom I only brought in at the beginning of the 1990/91 season, was quite excellent. He was a first rate V/C (Competitions). I continue to see him as a future Chairman of the Association. At 37 he has much time on his side.

The season sees two new events, first a week-end for Under 10 and Under 12 age groups, secondly one for the Under 18 and Under 21 ages. The former will create interest earlier and help bring younger people into the game and perhaps stars of tomorrow whom otherwise other sport might have captured. The latter will provide competition that spans the gap between junior and senior stages and perhaps spawn other events all over the country in due time.

I wrote about Jim Beckley last time when he stepped down as Editor to TT News. He now steps down as V/C of Publicity and P.R., where he did an excellent job.

My nomination of Kevin Satchell, then only 28, as V/C Selection caused much surprise, but that soon changed to admiration as he got down to the job. The dept. is not without problems. Discipline
Kevin Satchell

NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME
Coaching Education Weekends

Lilleshall National Sports Centre
(Shropshire)
28th/29th/30th June 1991

Peniel Academy
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2nd/3rd/4th August 1991

Commencing at 2pm on the Friday and concluding at 5pm on the Sunday, these weekends offer all the course work necessary (including National Coaching Foundation Requirements) for qualification to ETTA Coach level.

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Havelock Road
Hastings
East Sussex TN34 1HF
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St Brides Institute London EC4
Contact Maureen Lown
Tel: 081 758 8658 (b)
081 641 4319 (h)
Team titles retained in Nairobi

England and Hong Kong retained their men's and women's team titles at the Trust Bank Commonwealth Championships in the Moi International Sports Centre and in both finals it was India who took the count.

Despite being beaten 5-3 by Canada in the first stage groupings and 5-4 by Nigeria in the second England's men came through the back door to claim the gold medals with a final 5-1 victory over India.

Two easy openers resulting in 5-0 wins over Tanzania and the Isle of Man halted the Englishmen into a false sense of security especially after establishing a 2-0 lead over Canada in the final Stage 1 match when Chris Oldfield beat Gideon Joe Ng and Skylet Andrew accounted for Horatio Pinea. But thereafter the tide turned as two successes for Canada's Chinese immigrant, Johny Huang, and one for Ng put England's backs on the ropes from which they bounced back to take the sixth set when Nicky Mason brought about a second defeat for Pinea. Subsequently the Canadians wrapped it up with wins for Huang over Andrew and the point of no return came with Ng's narrow defeat of Mason 20, 9 and 20.

England's second defeat in Stage 2 followed their 5-0 dismissal of Scotland and was inflicted by Nigeria when a 4-1 lead was squandered with dual successes for Andrew and Oldfield and a blank return for Michael O'Driscoll!

In the Stage 3 crossover match against Canada the previous defeat was avenged with a 5-4 triumph in which both Oldfield and Mason won twice and Andrew beat Pinea for a second time — this from being 4-3 down!

In the counterpart women's event England's two teeny boppers, Nicola Deaton and Sally Marling, found themselves going it alone with Alison Gordon, afflicted by a stomach bug, only providing token support. But how well the two 14-year-olds performed in causing eyebrows to be raised in defeating both Uganda and Northern Ireland 3-0 and Australia 3-2 thanks to two wins for Nicola and the doubles in combine with Sally who lost to both Jenny Langridge and Kathy Gould.

Alison returned to the fray for the second stage matches and with Sally skated to a 3-0 success against Wales in the initial encounter but thereafter fell to India 3-0 and to Hong Kong by the same margin in the third stage crossover. And again it was defeat when playing for positions 3/4 when beaten 3-1 by Canada with Alison our only winner against Helene Bedard, Julie Barton accounted for both Alison and Sally and, with Marianne Domonkos, also won the doubles 20 and 19.

Both team finals were one-sided affairs with England dethroning India 5-1, the one loss being Kamlesh Mahta's victory over Mason, but Hong Kong's two very strong women had matters very much their own way against India in their final.

Gold for the Tykes

Skylet Andrew was the only Englishman to reach the semi-final stage of the men's singles losing to Canada's Huang who won 23, 12, 15 and 14. Nicky Mason fell to the Indian, Mehta, in the quarters while Chris Oldfield and Mike O'Driscoll were eliminated in the third round by Atanda Musa of Nigeria and Huang respectively. Huang went on to win the event with a final victory over Mehta conqueror of top seed Musa in the semis.

But it was a far different story in the men's doubles in which England's quartet had all to themselves in the final in which O'Driscoll and Oldfield beat Andrew and Mason 22, 16, 18.

Triple bronze

What then of the exploits of Chesterfield's Nicola Deaton in picking up no less than three bronze medals? In the women's singles she saw off the challenge of Ireland's Pat Hunter, Scotland's Janet Smith and, in the quarters, Iyabo Akamnu of Nigeria before falling, predictably, to top seed and eventual winner Chai Po Wa of Hong Kong.

Alison Gordon was also a faller in the semi losing to the second seed Chan Tan Lui, the other Hong Kong star, Sally Marling also losing to Chai Po Wa in the quarters.

In the women's doubles Nicola and Sally, after wins over Radika and Sejal Shu of India and Justine Thomas and Natasha Williams of Wales, had the daunting task of tackling the top-seeded Hong Kong pair, Chai Po Wa and Chan Tan Lui, but they put up a good fight before being beaten 20 and 17.

Alison was paired with the third Hong Kong girl, Chan Suk Yuen, and also succeeded in reaching the semi before losing to Bhuvaneswari and Mantu Ghosh of India who, in the final, were beaten 5 and 7 by Hong Kong's rampant Chai Po Wa and Chan Tan Lui.

On then to the mixed doubles in which Nicola, paired with O'Driscoll, again reached the semis only to lose to Chan Chi Ming and Chan Tan Lui of Hong Kong who eventually claimed the title at the final expense of Ng and Domonkos of Canada. Andrew and Alison took their departure.
in the quarters when beaten by Chetan Baboor and Ghosh of India while Mason and Sally took their departure, also in the quarters, to Chetan Chi Ming and Chan Tan Lui, established an initial cost which necessitated a taxi journey which was involved in a crash on the return trip. But, apart from having his spectacles knocked off, Doug was uninjured. His assistant referee was Kenya's Samir Sultani, who rendered valuable assistance.

Dozen behind the scenes were Philo and Jane Pinto with Sharad Chia, the Kenyan Chairman, Dharam Prakash and Felix Pinto rendering, in their various capacities, all manner of help.

At the BGM of the Commonwealth Tennis Association, Kenya's Sharad Chia succeeded Roy Evans as the Association's President and the writer, George Yates, succeeded Hora Matl of Guernsey as Chairman with Keith Bowler retaining the secretariat.

Coming down from the clouds, for Nairobi is nearly 6,000 ft above sea level, one can look back at the successful run tournamen
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**Triple triumph for Sweden**

Following their retention of the men’s team title with a final 3-2 victory over Yugoslavia, the tone on the occasion was provided by Jorgen Persson in winning the men’s singles and by Peter Karlsson and Thomas von Scheele who triumphed in the men’s doubles — truly a remarkable feat for Sweden!

And did it ever happen before in the World Championships that four European Associations provided the semi-finalists in the Swaythling Cup competition? Yes, it did, but it was way back in Bombay in 1954. Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Yugoslavia made up this elite quartet in Calcutta and are to be congratulated in totally breaking the oft monopoly by the Asian Associations with the exception, two years ago in Dortmund, when Sweden triumphed against the People’s Republic of China.

The European Table Tennis Union claim credit for this surge by their member associations following their initiative in instigating the EuroAsia series which have proved so profitable first to bridge the gap and finally, in Chiba, to demolish the bridge completely.

Not so the women however with a combined Korean team, yet both North and South United by one team, taking the women’s team title and China maintaining their hold on the women’s singles and doubles in addition to the mixed doubles respectively by Dong Yingying, Chen Zihe and Gao Jun and Wang Tao and Liu Wei, yet another significant treble!

But what a future was anticipated in the men’s team event when Germany having been afforded by a 2-0 lead by China conceded the remaining three sets in the presence that their players were unwell and could not continue. Naturally this caused a considerable stir and eventually the German non-playing captain, Zlatko Cordes, was debarred by the Jury from any further involvement with captivity. Subsequently, after apology, a contrite Zlatko was allowed to involve himself for the individual events.

What then of England’s fortunes in the team events? Well, for the men, it was more than a bright beginning with four wins on the trot against Belgium (3-2), Japan (3-1), China maintaining their hold on the women’s team title with a final 3-2 victory over Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Yugoslavia made up this elite quartet in Calcutta and are to be congratulated in totally breaking the oft monopoly by the Asian Associations with the exception, two years ago in Dortmund, when Sweden triumphed against the People’s Republic of China.

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The tide turned when both Sweden and Korea inflicted damaging 3-0 defeats with partial recovery with a 3-2 win over Chinese Taipei, only for Czechoslovakia to beat us 3-2 with a 3-2 win over Chinese Taipei. But the Isle of Wight player with Prean going down to Janci and Song Hui of Korea, to China’s Xie Chaojie, and Didier Mommessin of France and Ched Gyang of South Korea against the top Chinese, Ma Weng, fell all alarmingly having equated the match score at 1-1 losing the next two games -36, 4 (1) Mentally, Matt Syed comfortably disposed of Scotland’s John Broe only for Czechoslovakia to beat us 3-2 with a 3-0 win over Chinese Taipei. But all good things come to an end.

**FINAL TEAM POSITIONS**

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**Mens**

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**Women**

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<tr>
<td>21/22</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
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end and so it was for Ilamboyent's 'Sky' when beaten, over 5 games, by China's Wang Tao, 19 in the fifth. What then of the English national champion, Carl Peas, who began by outplaying his deficit at the hands of the Czech Roland Virn. Successively, the Englishman and the German came through with wins over Siberia, Andor Crubels of Poland and Korea's Kim Tae Soo.

The counterpart women's event only one European, Hungary's Csilla Batorfi, succeeded in reaching the last sixteen with the title holder, Qiao Hong of China beaten in the quarters by Jorg von Scheele of Sweden who, in the semis, beat Norway's Frode Grini and Harry Spraggs, who was called upon to contest three qualifying rounds and like "Sky" she proceeded in putting on a show of shows at the championships moved to the Isle of Wight players to watch the English national champion, Carl Peas, who began by outplaying his deficit at the hands of the Czech Roland Virn.

Successively, the Englishman and the German came through with wins over Siberia, Andor Crubels of Poland and Korea's Kim Tae Soo.

Surprise Winners
Lisa Lomas began with a win over Christine Pradel of Germany only to fall to Chi Pu Wu of Hong Kong in the next round a late that was to befall Andrea Holt who began with the despatch of Canada's Julie Bartam and defeated at the hands of Tu Yong the Chinese immigrant.

Surprise winners of the men's doubles were Peter Karlsson and Thomas von Schoele of Sweden who, in the quarters, beat Norway's Frode Grini and Wany Tang of the Netherlands and in the semis, defeated both Lager and Persson in the semis before battling home, 18 in the 9th, against Lu and Wang Tao of China in the final. England's Chris Nicholls with Pendle won against Finland's Linus Eriksson and Pasi Valastad going under to Tu Shenglong and Zhang Leo of China. Rick and Pern coped and were first round fallers to Chen Yung Ping and Chou Kuo of Poland, Robert and Chen, of China, David and Yu of Sweden, and Andrew and Liu of China built to quality but whereas the latter pair did, Andrew, paired with Tomas Janci of Czechoslovakia, did not, falling to Thierry Cabruna and Frederic of Switzerland.

Germany's Steffen Fetzner and Jorg Roskopp, winners in Dortmund, went out in the second round when beaten by the Maurovich brothers, Andrei and Dimov, who subsequently lost to the beaten finalists.

Lisa and Andrea nudged home 20 and 2 against Pascal Romankishin and Tu Yong of Switzerland in the first round of the women's doubles but took their leave when beaten 20 and 19 by China's Cheng Yaping and Qiao Hong who, in the final, were beaten by Chen Zhihe and Gao Jun also of China. Meantime Fiona, paired with Polona Frelih of Yugoslavia, failed to emerge from the women's round when beaten by Kim Hye Yong and Park Hae Jung of Korea.

Chen won his first medal ever when Calin Cucuza, formerly of Romania, got a bronze medal in the mixed doubles event with his former compatriot Otilia Badescu. The pair were beaten by China's Xie Chaojie and Chen Zhihe who, in the final, lost to Wang Tao and Liu Wu of China.

England's two players, Andrew Syed and Andrea Holt and Skylet Elliot and Andrew Florio but neither progressed beyond the first round the former losing to Zhang Li and Qiao Yunging of China and the latter to Virts and Hrdashov of Czechoslovakia.

Budget
Stuart Sherlock as a Deputy Referee and Harry Spraggs, who was called upon to umpire the men's singles final, both looked treasured in their red blazers as did the rest of the umpiring fraternity but after the comparative calm of the Commonwealth Championships in Nairobi affairs in China were of the jamboree variety.

A budget estimated at 15 million US dollars could not have been very much wider of the mark and with a veritable army of personnel in every department the championships moved to a successful conclusion with a closing ceremony which incorporated a full scale orchestra playing Beethoven's 9th Symphony complemented by a choir in glorious voice.

The Japanese TTA are to be complimented in putting on a show of shows at the Nippon Convention Centre (Makuhari Messe) witnessed not only by thousands of spectators but by the presence, at the individual finals of, His Imperial Highness, Prince Akishino and the ICC President, Jean Samaranch.

ITTF President, Ichiro Ogimura, can be well satisfied with events at Chiba throughout he kept a close eye on proceedings while playing host to all manner of people in his own inimitable style and handling the two sessions of the ITTF BCW well.

Winners of the jolly Trophy — presented by AIPS — were: Japan, Primrose of Yugoslavia and Hyung Jung Hwa of Korea who had the best returns in the team competitions. The Victor Barua awards presented by the Swatchy Club for the most sporting players went to Janet Smith of Scotland and Alfonso de Kastilias of Yugoslavia.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS — Men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Seed</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<td>Persson</td>
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<td>Kong Qing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Watanabe</td>
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<td>S. Frasch</td>
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<td>Aleksandrov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>K. Jones</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Forrest</td>
<td>1-0 1-0 1-0 1-0</td>
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**Note:** The above table represents the individual results for the men's category at the 41st World Championships held in Chiba, Japan.
CAPTAIN'S REPORT

THE team flew out on Friday morning and arrived in Tokyo on Saturday morning with the tournament, commencing on the Wednesday morning. All the team took the right steps in enhancing their ability to adjust to the time difference and in my opinion the preparation period was ideal. Any longer and I think the players would have become frustrated with the wait. While these extra days proved costly I feel it was money well spent as we certainly made a good start.

The hotel we stayed in was one of about a dozen used by the organisers and appeared to be by far the best. The German team were round the corner from us, using the same bus service, in a much inferior hotel. It would appear Jill's 'scouting' trip paid dividends. The bus journey was about 20 minutes with a frequent service.

Through our involvement with the National Coaching Foundation we managed, at no cost to the ETFA, to secure the services of two Sport Scientists, Ian Maynard and Tim Holler. Both presented papers at the Science Congress and joined us on the eve of the Championships. Between them they supervised the nutritional requirements of the whole team, shot the video and were a great backup to Jill and I on the team bench with their support. Tim is a trained masseur and over the Championships probably gave 100 massages. Most countries, (certainly all those in the top groups), had brought their own masseur and by the time they have paid his salary, hospitality and air fare would cost around £2,000.

The tournament itself started very well for both our teams. The men started in particular very well beating Belgium, Japan and Yugoslavia. The new system has become frustrating with the wait. While these extra days proved costly I feel it was money well spent as we certainly made a good start.

We lost to Sweden and Korea but finished with a 3-2 win against Taipei, Carl winning at 2-2 against Wu. We therefore won 5, lost 2 in the original group and qualified for the last sixteen knockout. Unfortunately the No. 3 in the team does not get a good deal of play unless the matches go full distance.

We lost to Sweden and Korea but finished with a 3-2 win against Taipei, Carl winning at 2-2 against Wu. We therefore won 5, lost 2 in the original group and qualified for the last sixteen knockout. Belgium won 2, lost 5 and when the draw was made had a much better draw than us, Russia and Canada being in our half. When Carl beat Vimy who he had lost to in the team event and Alan had an unbelievable match against the European Champion, Appelgren, recovering to win from 15-20 in the fifth. Skylet had a very solid 3-0 victory over young Wosik, Xinhua a slightly nervy performance against the experienced Matt, who in Chiba finished 8th, indicating we have a very good strength in depth.

In the individual events all our men progressed to the second round, a very good achievement. Particularly when Carl beat Vimy who had had to lose in the team event and Alan had an unbelievable match against the European Champion, Appelgren, recovering to win from 15-20 in the fifth. Skylet had a very solid 3-0 victory over young Wosik, Xinhua a slightly nervy performance against the experienced Matt, who in Chiba finished 8th, indicating we have a very good strength in depth.

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INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Men's Singles: Round 3
J-D Waldner (SWE) b D Mazuov (URS) 13, 12, -16, 11
J Rosskopf (GER) b Wei Qingguang (CHN) -24, 16, 15, 18
Wang Tao (CHN) b Kim Song Hui (KOR) -22, 15, 17, 10
J-P Prean (FRA) b T.Haldan (HOL) 16, 20, 19
Yao Nam Kyu (KOR) b Wang Yanshang (NOR) 14, 19, 15, 22
H Shibutani (JPN) b P. Saule (BEL) -16, 17, 16, 12
Chen Xinhu (ENG) b Z. Primorac (YUG) 14, 11, 18
Ma Weng (CHN) b Ding YAUT (AUI) 20, 18
A Grubba (POL) b Kyung Ho Chai (KOR) -20, 12, 21, 13
Chen Zhi Bin (CHN) b Yang Jinhua (LUX) 14, 20, 17, 15
J-M Saive (BEL) b C. Prean (ENG) 19, 18, 21
J-P Gatien (FRA) b PHaldan (HOL) 18, 19, 17
J Frierson (SWE) b G-Z. B6hm (GER) 17, -19, 16, 16
J-Rosskopf (GER) b Wei Qingguang (CHN) -24, -16, 15, 18
J-O Waldner (SWE) b DMazunov (URS) 19, 12, -18, 11
Waldner b Ma Wenge 18, -18, 7, 15; Persson b Kim Taek
Waldner b Gatien -16, 15, -17, 15, 14, 10; Ma Wenge b Yoo Nam
Waldner b Rosskopf 18, 17, 18; Gatien b Wang Tao 9, 18, 15;
Persson b Chen Xinhu 15, 14, 10; Waldner b Gatien 19, 18, 18

Women's Singles: Round 3
Wang Tao (CHN) b Kim Song Hui (KOR) -22, -10, 17, 11, 10
Yansheng (NOR) 15, 14, 10.

Final: KARLSSON NON SCHEELE -16, 16, 14, -18, 18
Final: DENG YAPING b Li Bun Hui 13, 18, 14
Final: PERSSON b Waldner 19, 18, 18

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Gao Jun (CHN) b BVrieskoop (HOL) 13, 15, 18;
Semi-finals:
Chen Xinhua (ENG) b Z. Primorac (YUG) 14, 11, 18;
Cooke/Prean b SWard (WAL) 8, 11, 8;
Holt b RVarsi (TCH) -17, 10, 20, 10;
Chen b D. Mommessin (FAA) -19, 16, 12, 17;
Deng Yaping b Lui Wei -19, 19, 14

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Wang Tao/Lui Wei b Kim Song Hui/Li Bun Hui -22, 20, 13, 10
Xie Chaojie/Chen Zihe b Creanga/Badescu 15, 19, 14;
Chen Zihe/Gao Jun b Ding Yaping/Li Jun 10, 14, 13:
Xie Chaojie/Chen Zihe b Rosskopf/N.Struse (GER) 14, 15, 22;
Chen/Wei b Zhang I LeV -13, -10;
Chen/Hu Xiaoxin 16, 22, -16, 17; Li Bun Hui b Dind Yaping

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Liu Wei b Hyun Jung Hwa 14, -13, 17,-13, 27;
Liu We b Hyun Jung Hwa 14, -13, 17, 27;
Chen/Syed b Zhang ILeV -13, -10;
Chen/Syed b L. Pratidina (INA) 14, -17, -19, 11;
Elliot b RP.Wong (HKG) b R.Kaffo (NGR) 13, -19, 11
Elliot/P.Frelih (YUG) b I.AkanmuIB.Kaffo (NGR) 13, -19, 11

Women's Singles: Qualifying Rounds
Wang Tao/Lui Wei b Kim Song Hui/Li Bun Hui -22, 20, 13, 10
Xie Chaojie/Chen Zihe b Creanga/Badescu 15, 19, 14;
Chen Zihe/Gao Jun b Ding Yaping/Li Jun 10, 14, 13:
Xie Chaojie/Chen Zihe b Rosskopf/N.Struse (GER) 14, 15, 22;
Chen/Wei b Zhang I LeV -13, -10;
Chen/Hu Xiaoxin 16, 22, -16, 17; Li Bun Hui b Dind Yaping

Mixed Doubles: Qualifying Rounds
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Liu We b Hyun Jung Hwa 14, -13, 17, 27;
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Women's Doubles: Qualifying Rounds
Liu Wei b Hyun Jung Hwa 14, -13, 17,-13, 27;
Liu We b Hyun Jung Hwa 14, -13, 17, 27;
Chen/Syed b Zhang ILeV -13, -10;
Chen/Syed b L. Pratidina (INA) 14, -17, -19, 11;
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Chen/Syed b L. Pratidina (INA) 14, -17, -19, 11;
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Liu We b Hyun Jung Hwa 14, -13, 17, 27;
Chen/Syed b Zhang ILeV -13, -10;
Chen/Syed b L. Pratidina (INA) 14, -17, -19, 11;
Elliot b RP.Wong (HKG) b R.Kaffo (NGR) 13, -19, 11
Women at the Worlds

Women were very much in evidence at the 41st World Championships in Chiba City, Japan, as players, officials, helpers in every department and particularly the ladies, dressed in their traditional Kimonos, provided a spectacular aspect of the ceremonials and events at the Championships.

On the playing side, generally speaking the Chinese and Korean women are still far superior to the Europeans, whilst the European men again confirmed their strength over the Asians. Interesting this could it provide a useful subject for a scientific study? There is also a large gap in the standard of play between the top twenty women's teams and the next thirty: What can be done to bridge this gap?

The England women's team performed reasonably well, given the opposition they faced in China, coming sixth in the first stage group play out of eight countries which included China, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, USSR, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Chinese Taipei. The girls scored a good 3-0 win over Bulgaria, when Andrea Holt scored a major upset victory over the European champion, Guaguitcheva. Although losing 3-0 to Czechoslovakia, all three sets went to three games and against Yugoslavia Fiona Elliot extended Gordana Perkucin to three, while Andrea did the same to Polona Frelih. Lisa Lomas and Andrea also scored a good doubles win against the strong Hungarian combination of Batorfi and Wirth. At one set all and deuce in the third in the doubles against France in the first round of the final draw, England had every chance to win the match and proceed further to the last eight. As it was, the French team stood on the podium with China and Korea. A little extra experience, confidence or concentration would have clinched it.

In the individual singles, Lisa beat Christianne Praedel of Germany 3-1, before losing in the next round to Chau Po Way of Hong Kong who reached the quarter finals. Andrea beat Julie Barton of Canada 3-0 before losing to Cindy Leung of Hong Kong 3-1. Out of 52 foreign umpires, two were female, whereas out of the 100 Japanese, 64 were female and 40 male. Apparently women have more time for officiating in Japan. Also it was pleasing that one of the three Deputy Referees was a woman, Cindy Leung of Hong Kong.

The 41st Worlds was also very pleasing colourwise for the spectators, with red, blue, black and orange in the foreground, and the ladies proper before bowing out to the champion, Dong Yaping of China. Incidentally, Jill Parker the woman's team captain was again one of the few female coaches on the world scene. When not busy with the team she was involved in meetings to further the sport of table tennis. There was good team spirit throughout compared to the powerhouse teams Chiba was the Women's Singles Champion, F. Eguchi. Bottom picture is part of the closing ceremony. Photographs by Jose Ransome

Women's League in 1991/92 followed the successful experimental league last season. Last minute high level matches were held in an attempt to resolve the situation and at the time of writing the final outcome is not known. The men did their best on behalf of the women, but did not win the match and all the men lost. The criteria governing the competition should meet the new needs.

Janet Smith of Scotland (and Sussex) won the Fair Play Award at the Closing Party for continuing to play on so that her team could stay in the competition even though she was quite sick and had to go to hospital three times. It was nice having Betty Griffin (Stevenson) supporting the teams in Chiba, (a guest of the Swatby Thing Club) and quite a surprise when Melody Hill (Ludl) turned up in Chiba. A surprise too for Melody to find that the event was taking place in Japan as she arrived there on holiday.

A report on "Women at the Worlds" would not be complete without mention of the part the Japanese women played in the overall presentation of the Championships. Exquisitely dressed in Kimonos, two ladies performed the ancient game of the Ladies Widow Club and quite a surprise when Melody Hill (Ludl) turned up in Chiba. A surprise too for Melody to find that the event was taking place in Japan as she arrived there on holiday.

And a great time was had by all! I particularly enjoyed taking photographs for the magazine and a video which I plan to prepare and edit for members to see.

General organisation of women's table tennis in Japan comes under a J.T.T.A. Women's committee of five famous champions, including the 1957 World singles champion, F. Eguchi. (seated next to me in the photo).
**Victory for heart-throb Jorgen**

Jorgen Persson, master of the forehand loop and the backhand kill, landed the mens singles trophy in Chiba City on May 6 to the delight of his Swedish team-mates and the continent of Europe, not to mention the ladies — he is at the very top of their heart-throb list.

Jorgen, 25 from Malmo but moving to Saarbriicken soon to play No.1 in the Bundesliga with Carl Pran, disappeared under a swarm of well-wishers at the Press Centre and elsewhere — instead of marking journalists out of areas where they are not normally allowed.

In Chiba Facilities the tournament overall was well-run and presented by the Japanese TTA. The show courts were in an arena not unlike Dortmund with four tables, but only 4,000 seats. The seating was well-packed most of the time, but sold out for finals day. The main hall held 26 tables.

Food for the players and officials was excellent, better than any previous venue. Transport to hotels, buses every hour, sometimes every half hour was first-class. The Press Centre was only just adequate for the delegates and photographers. Telephones were good with about 25 lines. Totally absurd was the wall-chart system in the Press Centre and elsewhere — instead of marking through the draw, everyone would manage was a red line through the draw and 3-0 instead of the full score!

But the Japanese are a welcoming and courteous race, not good at crowd control and keeping tenacious journalists out of areas where they are not normally allowed.

Jorgen Persson

journalists in Chiba. Cordas acted rather too hastily when Germany led China 2-0. He decided the Chinese were not trying to win to manipulate the placings in the group and avoid Sweden. His action was to pull out the German team, when he had two other courses of action — consult his team bosses or invite the intervention of the referees. After being suspended, he wrote letters apologising for his hasty action, but I did not see him on the benches again.

Englands women had a tough time. They finished 12th but in the final round they lost to Korea. The couples in the men's events had been stilted until the next world championships at a venue, as yet undecided, in 1993.

The Swiss team went out after their victory in the team event of the 1993 Worlds — would the Northerners play ball? Five hundred Koreans living in Japan supported their national team in Chiba, proudly cheering when Germany led China 2-0, but ended with a cartwheel on court — a hasty action, but I did not see him on the benches again.

Feeling like nothing on earth she played for Korea, but her reward was the Fair Play Trophy — a silver engraved bat, a fine silver watch and membership of the elite Swaythling Club, normally reserved for people who have played a number of times or captained their countries.

And furthermore, there came another bonus for Sweden and for Europe. Unseeded Peter Karlsson, supported by those including myself seated court-side, but the umpire did not see it, neither did Saive, when Germany led China 2-0, but ended with a cartwheel on court — a hasty action, but I did not see him on the benches again.

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**Korea United**

Another important happening in Chiba was the unified team from North and South Korea. They did not do as well as expected in the team events for men, although they triumphed in the Corribon Cup.

Table Tennis may have helped the divided nation to unite, but there is still a lot of doubt for example what might happen if Seoul hosted the 1995 Worlds — would the Northerners play ball?

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**Janet in the Swaythling Club**

Janet Smith, the Brighton-based Scottish champion had a nightmare three weeks in Naino and Chiba, although all ended happily. She was ill in Nairobi, delayed 15 hours at Moscow airport feeling worse, and was taken to a Scandinavian hospital in a country where she was put on "drips" suffering (apparently) from dehydration.

Feeling like nothing on earth she played for Scotland on one occasion but had to pull out and still played in the singles, feeling ill losing to a player from Chinese Taipei.

But her reward was the Fair Play Trophy — a silver engraved bat, a fine silver watch and membership of the elite Swaythling Club, normally reserved for people who have played a number of times or captained their countries.

**Cooke’s Corker**

The best individual win in Chiba by an England player was without doubt by Alan Cooke over the second seed Mikael Applegren in Round 1 of the mens singles, a beautifully timed success for the Chesterfield hero.

Alan played a subdued role during the team event in England as the major roles were taken by Carl Pran and Chen Xinrma that culminated in England crushing Yugoslavia 3-1, the team going on to the end and were only knocked down 3-2 by Sweden in the final.

So there was Alan Cooke, spending hours on the benches during the team session with the second toughest draw in Chiba facing mighty Applegren from China is without doubt a formidable player and a worthy world champion. The slightly worrying factor in Chiba was that even the best of the women players in Europe seemed to have little impact on the Asian girls.

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But the Japanese are a welcoming and courteous race, not good at crowd control and keeping tenacious journalists out of areas where they are not normally allowed.
Changes called for in the new Swaythling Cup System

FOLLOWING a great deal of comment and criticism of the new system introduced for the first time in Chiba for the Swaythling Cup, the I.T.T.F. council agreed to think again for future championships. Both the match playing system of five sets including doubles and the group system which turns into a last 16 knock out draw were felt to be unsatisfactory.

The five set system came under attack for being too complicated to understand and for forcing captains either to play a second strength doubles pair or drop their best singles player from the two singles position. In the main, captains preferred to play a second strength doubles, but in the final of the Swaythling Cup Yugoslavia decided to play their No.3, Kalinic, in the top singles place.

The final knock out draw system created a situation where the top teams in the world played 7 matches over five days just to qualify for the last 16, and then a single loss at that stage, regardless of how well the team had done previously, meant that they could only then compete for a world ranking of 9-16.

At the I.T.T.F. Congress meetings, the President of the German Table Tennis Association, Hans Wilhelm Gab, asked the I.T.T.F. Council to produce a system that was easy to understand and meant that the best players would meet each other in the singles and that the best pairs could be selected for the doubles.

The Olympic Games

Arrangements for the number of players to qualify for the Olympic Games in Barcelona in July 1992 were confirmed. The top 16 men and women in the World ranking list will automatically qualify for Barcelona. Europe will hold its own qualification tournament for a further 12 men and women. As is normal with the Olympics, participation is limited to three players in the men’s and women’s singles from each Olympic Association. The European qualification tournament will be held in February 1992 at a venue to be decided.

Future World Championships

Mexico, who hold the option for the 1993 World Championships, withdrew in Chiba and the I.T.T.F. are investigating possible applications from other associations. The three most likely candidates appear to be Sweden, China and Korea. A decision was taken in Chiba to hold the 1995 World Championships in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Several countries, including England, have indicated an interest in staging the Championships from 1997 onwards.

I.T.T.F. Officers

The three principal officers of the I.T.T.F., Ichiro Ogimura, Lollo Hammerlund and Hans Giesecke, were all re-elected unopposed.

I.T.T.F. Computer Ranking Scheme

Following a great deal of work carried out by the Canadian Table Tennis Association and some of Les Wooding, the I.T.T.F. are to go ahead with a Computer Ranking List for next season. Results in all of the major championships will be included and the system will incorporate both wins and losses.

World Title Events

The I.T.T.F. were pleased with the progress that had been made over the last two years with their World Title Events, the T.S.P. World Team Cup and the Butterfly World Doubles. The Nittaku All Star Circuit was also regarded as being successful. All of these events will continue next season. They all carry substantial prize funds, which has implications for International Open championships that do not provide substantial cash prizes.

Rule Changes

The majority of the rule changes that were submitted were either defeated or withdrawn. Three that did make progress were:

1. Any changes to the rules affecting play would become operative from 1st September rather than 1st July.
2. Umpires will be permitted to warn a player before taking a point.
3. The expedite rule cannot be introduced after the score reaches 19 – all.

Table Tennis Museum

The I.T.T.F. have entered into an agreement with a Japanese local authority Narakawa to host a World Museum for Table Tennis. In addition to the Museum, the city will provide a major table tennis centre.

European Table Tennis Union

The main points to come out of the E.T.T.U. meetings in Chiba were as follows:

1. From the start of next season the European League, formerly a mixed league, will be for men only for the Super and First Divisions, playing three a side, six singles and one doubles.
2. The separate Women’s league, which was introduced as an experiment for the first time last season, will continue but the exact format is as yet unsure.
3. The principle proposed by England to hold national closed championships throughout Europe on the same weekend each season was well received and the E.T.T.U. are proceeding with this on a voluntary basis.

ETTA LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT FUND

** DEADLINE **

At their meeting on 13th April, NATIONAL COUNCIL set 15TH NOVEMBER 1991 as the deadline for grant applications to the above fund.

Any interested affiliated League who have not yet received a grant, can obtain further details on how to claim back full affiliation fees from DICCON GRAY (National Development Officer) at the ETTA on 0424 722525
A personal view of Chiba

The future of different sports is seen more and more in terms of television, the ability to please this hard task master and potential benefactor. If only Table Tennis could succeed in this field, what a golden future would lie before us... Look at Snooker, Soccer, Rugby Union, Cricket, even Darts and_boxing on both of which we had rather looked down a few years ago, and what about American Football? Not long ago we had vaguely looked on this as a muscular fancy dress party played out in an alien land, but today thanks to the magic of television all that has changed...

The visual, the artificial

Sound thinking therefore that much attention should be given to the presentation of the sport. There were orange-covered balls, blue tables, red floors, white shirts, though not often full houses.

It seemed at times that the door had occupied more thought and time than what went on in the arena. A cync remarkd that to understand the sport these days you had to attend the ITTF Congress or be part of the Technical Committee. It was not enough to see what Person and Waldner did on the table.

Decision Time

The decision to make black/red bats part of the rules, for instance, effectively abolished the game most charismatic characters. The defender virtually ceased to exist as a force at international level. That is not to say that Li Gumg and Chen Xin has did not play well in Chiba, but neither had the remotest chance of becoming world champions. Chen, in 1985, and Li, this time, might have had a real chance with an all-black bat. It is not the purpose here to discuss past decisions, merely to show how enormous was the influence on the game, and the people in it, of the ITTF Congress and the policies which preceded and accompanied it.

In 1989 a large majority voted for the abolition of the old Swaythling Cup system, which will probably never return. What replaced it was a strange travesty of the old system.

The inclusion of the doubles did little for England, since it meant invariably being one down with four to play or, if you like, having to win 3 singles out of 4, a tough act at the best of times. That apart, the group system did England few favours. Winning 5 matches out of 7 proved a meaningless exercise, since at that point a 'sudden death' stage began and decided against Czechoslovakia undid all the good work. The one defeat counted more heavily than the five wins. Yugoslav (Finalists) and Belgium (Semi-Finalists) had been better, but to no avail. Belgium, in fact, had won practically nothing in the groups, but two wins thereafter propelled them to a mediasional position! The Poles were another victim of the group system. They too lost in their first contest in the sudden death stage to Canada, more precisely, perhaps, to Johnny Huang, who won two singles. He had been, I am told, in Canada for 9 months after arriving from China. If so, one wonders what happened to the 6 year, or even the earlier 2 year eligibility clause. Whilst Luxembourg and Norway only used their excellent Chinese in the Individual Events, Canada was transformed by the inclusion of theirs. A few days earlier Huang had won the Commonwealth singles title. I think it right that all players, regardless of nationality, should be able to play in the individual events, but I cannot see how it can be restrained and were reported as playing with some determination to lose...

The German NPC then conceded the match and China won 3-2. On a first class scandal. One recalls how the Chinese held up the Men's Team Final in 1989 by held an hour whilst protesting about an umpiring decision. Officials, indeed the ITTF were unequal to the challenge then and so it proved this time. The German Coach was selected as the sacrifical lamb and banned from the team bench during the team events! That proved the end of the disciplinary festivities.

Issues not faced

The system is cobbled together as a compromise and in order to appease the stronger nations, who liked the old category system, which divided nations on the basis of their previous performance in the event two years earlier. Then the top two in each group went into the semi-finals. There was next to no scope for the China/German type of incident then. Compromise does not mean that one extreme should be exchanged for another. Why could not the top 4 of each group go into the last 8? If it was thought desirable to bring in teams from lower groups, the best two could have played off against the 4th placed nations of the groups of Category 1.

The sooner the present playing format is abandoned, the better. If the classic "3 vs 3" really no longer has support, then the format of the European Women's League should be considered (6 singles and 1 doubles).

However, the major problem remains the gathering of so many players and indeed officials into one place. A world championship is, in the end, an elite event for the best players in the world. Winchester of Tennessee is not thrown open to park players. Chiba was and the votes of their representatives are more numerous and therefore more decisive than those of the larger nations who will provide the best players. A series of qualifying events is therefore quite essential, so that members are reduced and the world championships become what they are supposed to be—big sport.

This is where I came in. Television was not won, because basically there is no market for boy scout gatherings. When there is, we shall have a better chance. Till then, only the crumbs of television will remain and that is not enough. Crumbs are traditionally thrown to the poor.
Yorkshire take two titles

YORKSHIRE'S Junior and Veteran teams rose to the occasion winning both county titles, during a somewhat hectic end to the season's Championships. 170 matches were played over the weekends 23/24 March and 6 April. This was a season with the highest entry ever - 187 teams in 26 Divisions.

JUNIOR PREMIER — The final series of matches were played at Bailey Sports Centre. And it was Yorkshire who reclaimed their place at the top of the Junior scene after finishing in 3rd place last season.

Their first match of the weekend was obviously going to be the vital one. It was against Devon, who were in 2nd place after the first series. And Devon went into a 2-nil lead! Alex Perry and Adrian Vincent both had comfortable wins. However the Yorkshire girls - Sally Marling and Ellen Meddings — were dominant winning their 4 singles. Garth Jones also did very well with 2 wins, including the 2 straight defeat of Alex Perry at a vital stage in the match.

Yorkshire went on to win 6-4 and followed this with good wins over Kent and Surrey. In their last match Yorkshire had a very hard fight with Lancashire. Yorkshire led 4-3 when Darren Haworth (La) had an exciting win over Garth Jones the score being 15, 21, 22! Match score Connolly won their 4 events.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

Essex 10, Glos 0; Sussex 2.4, Middx 2.6; Sussex 2.1, Devon 9; Glos 4, Sussex 2.6.

12 matches played at Chelmsford to complete the fixtures. Devon dominated the scene with 4 emphatic wins, dropping only 5 events. Devon won the championship and gain promotion to Premier Div. Paul Whiting finished with a 100% record of wins. Essex were runners-up having lost to Sussex 2, in the first Round, and to Devon. In this vital match the Devon ladies — Carol Giles and Elaine Short — won their 4 events, as they did in Devon's other 3 matches. Wilts had the services of Kevin Satchell when they drew with Middx 2. Glos is the team for demotion.

Senr 2A:
Warwicks 2.0, Staffs 10; Staffs 10, Lines 0 (Conceded); Leics, 2.10, Durham 0 (Conceded).

Staffs emphatic win — all 2 straight games — against Warwick 2nds gave them the championship. Staffs have succeeded in getting promotion in successive seasons and will appear in Div 1 next season. Cumbria and Durham finish level on points and sets at the foot of the table.

Senr 2B:
Cornwall 1, Devon 2.9; Cornwall 5, Hants 5; Somerset 5, Glam 5; Devon 2.8, Somerset 2; Glam 4, Avon 2.6; Hants 2, Devon 2.8; Hants 8, Avon 2.2; Avon 2.5, Cornwall 5; Avon 2.1, Somerset 9; Glam 6, Cornwall 4.

10 matches played at Launceston to complete the fixtures. Devon 2 had dropped 3 points from their 3 matches in the first Round. But the team had 3 very good wins this time, including the 8-2 defeat of Hants, their closest rivals. Greg Bridgett, former Devon Junior, came into the team in this final Round and won all his matches. So it was another successful Devon team who will replace Devon 1 in Div 1. Hard lines Hants, who finished on level points but 4 events down on Devon. Rhamish Bhalla (Ha) lost only once during the season — to Kevin Buddell (Dv) at 15 in the 3rd game. Dorset, who conceded all the ladies events in the first Round, did not compete in the final Round and are due for demotion.

Senr 2C:
Suffolk 2.1, Wors 9; Norfolk 6, Beds 2.4; Bedford 2.6; Cambs 2.4, Herts 4.

Wors finished in style with wins over Suffolk 2 and Beds 2, went through the season unbeaten and get immediate return to Div 1. Trevor Washington went through the season with 100% wins and Malcolm Green lost only one match. Ruth Hunter (Nk) had 2 very close events in the match with Beds 2, losing at 20-3 in the 3rd game to Sandra Harper and Mary Jarrett. Cambs 2 did well to get a 6-4 win over Herts, who were without the services of John Taylor, on Vets duty for the County. Suffolk 2nds is the team for demotion.

Senr 2D:
Northants 6, Essex 2.4; Berks 2.4, Oxon 6; Northants 6, Oxon 4; Essex 2.6, Surrey 2.4.

Essex 2s 6-4 win over Surrey 2 gave them the championship, having a slightly better sets average than Bucks. But with Essex 1 in Div 1 it will be the Bucks team for promotion. Kate Cowan and Debbie Taylor won their 4 events in the vital match and it meant that Kate achieved 100% success throughout the season. Oxon lost their last match 4-6 at Northants. Dawn Barnett and Sally Hughes, in their last season as Juniors, won their 4 matches for the Senior team. The Berks/Oxon match was a vital one to decide which team would be for demotion. Oxon did well to get their first win of the season which took them off the bottom of the Table.

Senr 3A:
Northants 2.9, Chivy 1; Wors 2.9, Chivy 1; Chivy 2.7, Hunts 3; Essex 3.9, Northants 2.1; Wors 2.4, Chivy 2.6; Hunts 2, Essex 3.8; Herts 3.10, Chivy 0 (Conceded); Chivy 5, Hunts 5.

Chivy visited Wors for their last match. A vital match it was with a win for either team giving them the championship and possible promotion. A draw would have given Essex 3 the title. The Chivy team certainly rose to the occasion. Although Chivy had to concede 2 events (one lady absent) they got a 6-4 win with John Hope, Phil Biggs and Tony Vaughan winning their 6 events. Sue Horton (Wo) won her singles as did Lynda Reid, coming back from 7-16 to win at 19 in the 3rd game! Essex 3s 8-2 defeat of Hunts puts them in the runners-up position. The Essex team drew, earlier in the season, with both Chivy 2 and Wors 2. Chivy finished at the bottom of the Table.

Senr 3B:
Suffolk 3.9, Glos 2.1; Hunts 2.4, Dorset 2.6; Bucks 2.3, Chivy 2.7; Dorset 2.4, Hunts 2.6.

Suffolk 2s continued their programme with a 9-1 win. The team won all 5 matches and dropped only 6 events! Peter Bartram and Andy Walker went through the season unbeaten. Herts 2 beat Dorset 2 and finished as runners-up, suffering only 1 defeat — by Sussex 3, Glos 2s win over Bucks 2 took them away from the bottom of the Table and left Bucks 2 stranded. Dave Smith and Alan Giles (Gs) won their 4 events.

Juniors 1A:
Warwicks 10, Lanes 2.0; Yorks 2.6, N'berland 4; Lincs 3, Suffolk 7, Derby 6, Clwyd 4; Suffolk 2, Warwicks 8; Lanes 2.4, Clwyd 6; N'berland 5; Lincs 5; Derby 5, Yorks 2.5.

Warwicks completed the season with 2 more convincing wins. Just 1 point dropped as a result of a draw with Derby. Warwick made an immediate return to Premier Div. Steven Weddings and Ian Ferguson both won 12 of their 14 singles. Clwyd got a good 6-4 win over Lanes 2 with Natasha Williams (Cs) getting 100% wins over the season. Menir Davies (Cw) also won her 2 singles. N'berland, without the services of Barry Forster, were held to a draw by Lincs. The Lincs girls — Nicola Maseingham and Elaine Timbrell — won their 4 matches. Derby did well to draw with Yorks 2. Katy Pety (Dv) won her 2 matches. Lanes 2 and Lincs are the teams for demotion.

Juniors 1B:
Glam 2, Berks 8; Essex 2.7, Wors 3; Oxon 9; Herts 1, Cornwall 2; Essex 2.8, Herts 7, Essex 2.3, Berks 10, Cornwall 0, Glos 6, Wors 4.

Berks had a marvellous season — 7 wins and dropped only 11 events. Nicola Cracknell (Bk) played in all matches and had 100% wins. There was an exciting clash in the match v. Glam with Martin Adams (Bk) beating Steven Gill -16, 19, 22! Oxon was another very good team — they had the one loss against Berks but beat all other teams very comfortably. Dawn Barnett (Cs) had just 1 defeat — by Nicola Cracknell. Lee Horton (Wo) had 2 good wins over Raymond Powell and Jeremy Hyatt (Gs). In the 8-2 defeat at the hands of Essex 2 it was Rachel Boon (Wo) who got the 2 wins. Cornwall and Wors are the teams for demotion.

Juniors 2A:
Lincs 2, Staffs 1.8; Notts 7, Chivy 3; Staffs 2.1, Derby 2.9, Lincs 3.1, Notts 9; Chivy 2.2, Chivy 1.8, Staffs 2.6, Leics 4; Notts 8, Derby 2.2.

Staffs 1 finished the season with 2 emphatic wins. The team dropped just 1 point over the season, won the championship of the Div and will be promoted to Div 1. Matthew Brown and Alison Taylor (St) each suffered just 1 defeat over the season. Chivy finished just 1 point behind Staffs 1 — they lost 4-6 to Staffs. Zoe Buchanan (Ch) achieved 100% wins. Staffs 2 got their first points of the season at the expense of Lincs. This took them off the bottom spot. Lincs 3 got the "wooden spoon" in this Div.

Juniors 2B:
Berks 2.4, Wills 6; Herts 2.5, Bucks 5; Middx 2.7, Warwicks 2.3, Northants 6, Essex 3.4; Warwicks 2.3, Northants 7, Berks 2.2, Middx 2.8; Bucks 8, Wills 2; Herts 2.4, Essex 3.6.
Northants made a good bid at the end of the season. The team inflicted the first defeat of the season on Essex 3 and finished with a 7-3 win over Warwick 2. But Essex 3 won their final match and top the Div by virtue of a better sets ratio. However, with Essex 2 in Div 1, Northants will be the team for promotion. There were some close games in the Herts 2/Essex 3 match. Caron 1-3 (He) was involved in 2 of these. She lost to Anna Wals -13, 27, 21 and beat Elizabeth Sikabila -18, 16, 21. Bucks were 2-5 down in their match against Herts 2 and fought back to get a draw. Bucks 2 lost to get a point, although they lost 3 matches at 4-6 and are at the bottom of the Table.

June 2D:
Surrey 3, Oxford 2, Sussex 1, Suffolk 2, Surrey 2, Kent 2; Kent 2, Berkshire 2, Suffolk 1, Oxford 1, Berkshire 1, Kent 1; Kent 1, Berkshire 1, Oxford 1, Suffolk 1, Berkshire 1, Kent 1.

Two Surrey and two Norfolk teams met at New Malden to complete their programme. At that time, Northants 1 headed the Table but were beaten 7-3 by Surrey 2 in a match in which 7 events went to a deciding set. Surrey 2 won the championship and gave promotion to Div 1. Glenda Ashion (Sy 2) won all her matches. Kent 2 concluded with a 6-4 win over Sussex 2 and the runners-up: Norfolk 2 finished at the top of the Table.

Vets 1A:
Essex 2, Lancashire 2, Herts 1, Norfol 1, Worcs 2, Yorks 2, N'berland 1, N'berland 2, Leics 1, Norfolk 1, Yorks 2, Herts 1, Essex 2, Lancashire 1, Worcs 1, Yorks 2.

Lancs defeat at the hands of Essex 2 ruled them out of winning the Div and it was down to the results of Leics and Essex 2 in their last matches. Leics visited N'berland and won 7-2 with Maurice Newman and Tony Kinsey winning their 4 singles and also being involved in 2 doubles wins. Essex 2 were surprisingly beaten 5-4 by Herts and had to be content with runners-up position. John Taylor was in the Herts team and won his 2nd singles and the doubles with Stuart Seaholme. With the match score 4-4 Alan Lamport beat Faisal Mahtoor 19-21, 21-11, 11-21, 21-19. But this great effort did not save Herts from demotion.

Going into the last Round any of 2 teams could have been demoted. Worcs won both their last 2 matches 5-4, each decided in the last event, by a win from Roy Norton. Norfolk also won their final match 5-4 and both these teams avoided relegation. N'berland is the other team for demotion.

Vets 1B:
Surrey 2, 3, Middx 2, Oxford 3, Kent 2, Hants 1, Dorset 3, Berks 2, Bucks 2, Oxon 7, Kent 2, 6, Surrey 3, 2; Middx 5, Dorset 4, 6, Middx 2, Berks 3.

The defeat of Surrey 2 by Middx ended their chance of becoming Divisional champions. Kent 2 got a narrow win over Oxon. In their last match Kent 2 confirmed their right to the title with a 7-3 win over Surrey 2. Keith Clark and John White (K) won their 4 singles and were involved in 2 doubles victories. Bucks 6-3 win over Hants saved them from relegation. Bucks and Hants are for relegation.

Vets 2A:
Lancs 2, Chesh 2, Essex 2, Warwick 2; Leics 2, Oxfords 2, Beds 2, Oxford 2, Chesh 2, Yorks 2, Clwyd 2, Chesh 2

Lancs 2 defeat by Chesh 2 destroyed any title hopes. Chesh 2 had a maximum win over Lancs 2, headed the Division and gain promotion. At the outset of the Lancs/Chesh match there were 3 men with 100% records - Brian Clements (La), Norman Thevis (La) and Derek Schofield (Ch2). This vital match Thevis beat Schofield, Schofield beat Clements and Thevis lost to Schofield, all in 81/4 sets respectively. The final match is at 7-3 and are due for relegation.

Vets 2B:
 Beds 8, Notts 1, Notts 1, Hants 1, Hunts 3, Norfolk 2, 6, Northants 9, Norfolk 2, 0, Essex 3, 5, Beds 4.

Essex 3 narrowly defeated Beds in their final match with Peter Ballard and Linda Hales being involved in 4 of the wins. Linda Hales inflicted the first defeat of the season on Sylvia Coombes. But Northants head the Table, and are for promotion despite the fact they were earlier beaten 8-1 by Essex 3.

Vets: 2C:
Middx 2, Wilt 2, Beds 3, 2, Sussex 3, 6, Essex 7, 7, Beds 2, 2.

Middx 2 got a maximum win over Wilt 2 and became champions of the Div. The Middx team excelled in the doubles events losing only 1 throughout the programme. Glos concluded a good season with a 7-2 win over Beds 2. Dave Harvey made his debut and had 3 wins. Glos are runners-up although they did achieve a 5-4 win over Middx. Hereford 2s, at the bottom of the Table, are for demotion.

Vets 2D:
Surrey 2, 3, Berks 2, 5, Herts 2, 5, Hants 2, 5, Berks 2, 5, Somerset 4.

Berks 2 inflicted the first defeat on Sussex 2 and left both teams on equal points going into the last Round. Sussex 2 beat Hants 2-3 but Berks 2 had a 2-5 win over Wilt 2. It went to 4-4 with Ian Schwartz (Bk) winning the final event - as he did against Sussex 2. Wally Alanson (Bk) was involved in 2 expedite matches and in one of these he inflicted a first defeat on Brian Reeves. Sussex 2 took the title and Dorset 2 got the "wooden spoon" and Division 2 position. John Taylor was in the Herts team and are for demotion.

Vets 3A:
Warwicks 2, 3, Beds 2, 1, Norfol 3, Northants 3, Norfol 3, Beds 2, 3, Beds 2, 2, Herts 2, 2, Wilt 2, 7, Herts 4, 7, Northants 3, 2.

A fitting finale in this Div with the last unbeaten team - Herts 2 and Warwicks 2 - beating in the last Round. Warwicks 2 were on top with Pat Glynn and Barry O'Brien winning their 4 singles and both being involved in 2 doubles wins. For Warwicks 2 won 7-2 and are the champions of this Div. There was a very close finish in Chesh 3/Bed 3 match. With the score 4-4 Derek Hendry (Ch) beat Doug Folds 19, -10, 23! Eileen Edwards (Ch3) kept her unbeaten record. Beds 2 fought back well in their last match but did not take them away from the bottom of the Table.

Vets 3B:
Surrey 3, Sussex 4, Herts 3, Hants 3, Northants 3, 0, Northants 1, 3, Kent 8, Sussex 3, Herts 3, 3, Berks 4, 8, Sussex 4.

Sussex put up a good fight against their 3rd team before losing 4-5 in the last event. They won the 2 doubles and Pat Pearce and Brian Keeley had wins at 19 and 21 in the 3rd game. Kent 3, finishing with a 4-1 win, won through this season unbeaten, won the championship and are due for promotion. Northants 3 take the "wooden spoon".

Vets 3C:
Wilt 3, 7, Herts 5, Berks 3, 8, Wilt 4, 5, Glos 2, 4.

Berks 3 ended the season with 2 good wins and gave them the championship. Pam Spooner and Mike Harris went through the season unbeaten. Wilt 4 did what their 3rd team failed to do, while Wilt 3 the championship, when they beat Glos 2. Wilt 3 won the final event for the 5-4 win.
WELL, THE LONG wait was certainly worth it with two excellent Divisional Groups being played on the weekend of 23/24 March.

Andy Creed was undoubtedly the star of Avon’s matches held at Essex. He had a maximum haul from his 6 games including a brilliant win over the host county’s Steve Dorking. Andy looks determined to regain his County No 1 spot. The bare results of played 3, won 1, drawn 1 and lost 1 do not show how close Avon I were to picking up all 6 points on offer. A 6-4 defeat at the hands of Essex saw Andy’s two victories supplemented by one each from Paul Lewis and Chris Holley but unfortunately nothing from the girls.

A Wiltshire side without injured Kevin Satchell were no threat to Avon. Maximums from Andy, Paul, Chris, Helen Perrott and one from an unusually out of touch Michele Cohen gave us a resounding 9-1 victory. The weekend concluded with a 5-5 draw against Middlesex II. Helen and Andy capped fine performances by again taking both their matches and Paul took the other.

Avon II’s can be well pleased with their performances at Launceston in an excellent weekend’s table tennis. The last minute withdrawal of Dorset threatened to throw the schedule into chaos but clever rearrangement of fixtures by organisers Pat Archdale and Pete Hancock ensured things ran smoothly. 9-1 and 8-2 defeats at the hands of Somerset and Hampshire respectively were predictable even if the score lines did nothing to reflect the closeness of some of the matches. But a 6-4 win over Glamorgan and a 5-5 draw with Cornwall ensured that Avon were at least able to hold their own in the post match analysis held behind closed doors in the White Hart Hotel!

Highlights of the weekend on the table were the victories enjoyed by Steve Bettsion and Ian Johnson over “King Ginster”, Jeremy Williams and by Steve over Glamorgan No 1 Mark Simon. Over the weekend Steve had 4 wins out of a possible 6 and Ian 3 out of 8. Paul Hooper showed he is coming back to form with 3 wins out of 6 and Bob Murray managed 1 win from 4. Debbie Bouey’s 2 wins from 8 and Carey Webb’s 1 from 8 were scant reward for their efforts but these 3 victories all came in the Glamorgan game and tipped the scales.

Following these results, Avon I’s and II’s have joined the Junior side in finishing mid table in their respective divisions. Next season it is hoped that a Veteran’s side can be re-established to give Avon a full range of teams in the County Championships.

Congratulations to Brinsington School who are the new English Schools Champions in the Under 13 Boys section following wins against Downside (Purley) and Park View (Cumbria). The Brinslington squad of Graham Long, Tom Orlik, Matthew Pullin and Ross McDonald are all part of Bernard Nash’s impressive coaching set-up at the Knowle & Brinslington Club.

Congratulations also to Holymead School who were the new English Schools Champions in the Under 11 Girls event. the squad of Emma Price, Lizzie McDonald, Jessica Orlik, Clare Smyth and Andrea Long achieved the runners up sport in the competition. A win against Woodley (Stockport) was followed by a defeat against the very strong Peniel side from Brentwood.

Bath League
Two matches involving Oldfield have almost certainly decided the outcome of this season’s Premier Division title and the Knock Out Cup. In the league, 3 wins for Chris Holley, 2 from Marc Cotton (including an excellent win over Wiltshire’s Trevor Lloyd) and 1 from John Higgs gave Oldfield a 6-4 win over rivals Mayfield. Bob Murray with 2 wins did best for the losers but a second consecutive title now looks inevitable.

In the Knock Out Cup against Longwell ‘A’, Oldfield took and early lead with wins by Chris Holley over Martin Smith and John Higgs over Mike Bridgeman and looked on course for victory. It was then that Clive Ellison took charge of proceedings and superb wins over Holley, Higgs and Marc Cotton were supplemented by one each from Smith and Bridgeman. Langwell will now be warm favourites to win this competition.

Wesley Super Mare League
Good news from Weston is that they have at last found a venue for their closed championships. By kind permission of the Station commander, this year’s event will be staged at RAF Locking on 28th April.

One of the favourites for the Mens Singles title will be former Somerset player Joe Garland who seems to be playing as well as ever. Joe is unbeaten in the league this season and his YMCA side look certain to take the championship.

Bristol League
Most of the Bristol Executive’s time lately seems to have been taken up by the shenanigans surrounding the ETTA.

Nailshead Leopards are still clear at the top of the Premier Division and the main interest is centred on the battle for the runners-up spot. Bristol Club B have only dropped three points to date but have a very difficult run-in and will be hard pressed to finish ahead of Knowle & Brinslington A. There is the usual scramble at the bottom of the league where four teams will be relegated.

BERKSHIRE
Bob Adams

FOR A COMPARATIVELY new club, Our Lady of Peace (OLOP in the table tennis world) have certainly made some impression in Berkshire - not yet in my view challenging the position of Kingfisher as the best known in the county, but coming up fast. For example, in the Bracknell League, they not only took virtually certain to top the Premier Division, beating SSV into second place (Kingfisher, although third, have no hope of catching either), they already have both Division One and Four titles in the bag. A glance down the individual averages gives a clue as to their success - Tony Duffield and Michael Childs with 100% and 94% occupy first and third places, whilst Ian Schwartz and Martin O’Donovan are close behind but with more individual wins.

In Division One Barry Morton and Femi Iyi all hold the top two positions, Tim Heaps is fourth, with only Eddie Spielberg of Bagshot getting in amongst them. Jim Hastings take numbers two spot behind the unbeaten Dave Halfpenny of Broadmoor in Division 2, but going down to Division 4 we find an OLOP man at the top - Peter Gaulty, again with 100%. The only other 100 percenters are Martin Lowe of Met Office in the Premier, unfortunately with his other league commitments he has been unable to play any more than nine opponents, but judging by the way he has brushed these aside, it is interesting to conjecture how he might have fared against Tony, had they met. In Division 2 of the Bracknell League, Royal Ascot A have taken the title, although the race for second place and promotion could not be more close, with only 2 points splitting Broadmoor B, Winkfield A and Met Office B.

The standard in this division has, to my mind, been exceptionally high this season -
for some unknown reason the division has been filled with vast numbers of players who graced the first division last year - I reckon that all the teams in the top half of the second division could happily replace the bottom half of the first. Wokingham E should take the Division 3 title, a good all round performance by the team with Alan Fieldsen and Colin Field getting the bulk of the points - a strange statistic here is that Dave Thornton and Mick Prater, both of Kingfisher have higher averages than Alan and Colin, but their team look like finishing in the bottom half of the division.

Looking at the Reading League, OLOP again feature prominently with no fewer than eight teams participating in the senior divisions and four in the junior. I do not have the current placings but no fewer than three OLOP teams are topping their divisions and two more are in second place - and no, they are not just all the same players appearing in two leagues. When one remembers that OLOP are also mid placed in Division 2 (Midlands) of the British League one can see just how well the club has progressed in the last three of four years through their policy of both recruiting established players and developing new ones.

Newbury Press Secretary informs me that the Thatcham squad of Dave Barr, Clive Payne, Dave Wise, Terry Wies and Alan Paizcy will retain the Division One title - I'm not surprised with a line up like that. Only Dave Reeves seems to be missing, and he leads Woolton Hill in the runners up spot. JOB A have Division 2 sewn up as have West Ilsley in Division 3, with the remaining Divisions 3 and 4 still undecided. In the Newbury Closed Championships Dave Reeves and Julie Normans took the major singles events, and these two, coupled with Darren Jones and Liz Whittaker took the doubles titles. Newbury have tried a second season with 3 points for a win, 2 for a draw and 1 for a 4-6 defeat. Most teams seem to like it but counter proposals are expected at the AGM.

Finally on a sad note, Ron Jerome, one of those players who always gave his all in a table tennis match but still managed to remain on the best of terms with his opponents, died in the last week of March. For many years both Club Secretary and the Press Secretary of the Bracknell League, his knowledge of the statistics of the players and the history of the League was second to none. An accomplished cartoonist and holder of that rare distinction, an entry in the Guinness Book of Records for his record breaking Scrabble exploits, he will be greatly missed by his table tennis friends, who will all wish to send their condolences to his wife and family.

THE CARLISLE AND District Table Tennis Association annual City Championships sponsored by C.M. Boyd Insurance Brokers were held at Carlisle Sports Centre on Saturday, March 9th. Mark Temple who plays for the Royal Oak at Scotby won the Open singles event defeating his brother Steven the titleholder for the past two years. The two brothers teamed up again to win the open doubles title from Brian Bell and Jimmy Cummings. The junior singles event was won by Paul Dawson of the Sands Centre beating Phil Clarkson in straight games. Eleven year old Phil gained revenge by winning the U15 title beating Stephen Mond from Annan and the Division Two handicap event defeating his father John in a keenly contested final. Andrew Endrody also from the Royal Oak, Scotby secured his fifth veterans title inflicting a two set defeat on George Gray. The main handicap event was claimed by Kenny Young of Solway Wines, Dumfries beating Ian Wallace also of Dumfries in an exciting final. The full results are as follows:

**Open Singles:**
M Temple beat S Temple 22/20, 21/18

**Open Doubles:**
M & S Temple beat B Bell/ J Cummings 21/10, 19/21, 21/18

**U17 Singles:**
P Dawson beat P Clarkson 21/12, 21/12
**U15 Singles:**
P Clarkson beat S Monk 21/2, 21/8

**Veterans:**
A Endrody beat G Gray 21/16, 21/19

**Div 2 Handicap:**
P Clarkson beat J Clarkson 41/33

**Main Handicap:**
K Young beat I Wallace 51/48

The run in for the first division title in the Carlisle & District League is hotting up with Tailor Made Windows comprised of Martin Tickner, Julie McLean and Stuart ONeil at the top closely followed by Royal Oak, Scotby and Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries. Fire Service lead division two from the Sands Conquerors with Salvation Army in third place. The top positions are as follows:

**Division One**

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<td>56</td>
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<td>Royal Oak, Scotby</td>
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<td>Solway Wines</td>
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**Division Two**

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<td>Fire Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sands Conquerors</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
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**DORSET**

**Martin Hughes**

DORSET SENIOR SECONDS recorded their first victory of the season recently when they defeated neighbours Hampshire seconds by six games to four. Martin Hughes won both his games against Miki Sinanan and Andrew Ely, after coming back from 13-20 down against Ely to win 22-20, 21-18. Jo Le-Neve-Foster beat Barbara Savage in an excellent contest, 20-22, 21-17, 21-19 but Bev King was defeated in straight sets. Jason Hargray played well but was on the losing end of two close matches against Sinanan and Mark Shutler, losing in the decider on each occasion.

Hampshire were without a second lady player, so two sets were conceded, but captain Dave Sharples sealed the victory for Dorset when he won the last game of the day, beating Shutler in straight sets.

The Veteran first team were also away to Hampshire, and they recorded a resounding 8-1 victory as Barry Hill, Chris Pickard and Joyce Cooper all kept a clean sheet with only Taffy Davies losing a set. Unfortunately, due to some 4-5 losses in the early part of the season, it appears that Dorset will have to wait another year to see if they can join the elite ranks of the premier division.

A hard fought match away to West London side Gunnersbury Triangle saw Jolliffe Poole emerge with a 4-4 draw in the second division south of the British League recently.
Gunnernsby Triangle's top two players, David Goode and Neil Charles, proved too strong for Jolliffe Poole but Poole took full advantage against Chris Boothby and Steve Gennari as they won all four of the matches involving them.

Jolliffe Poole's number one Tony Clayton, who has never lost both his singles in a British League match since joining the team in 1986, went down in straight sets to Goode and Charles.

John Robinson was soundly beaten by David Goode in his first match, but played with steel and determination to eventually defeat Chris Boothby in a pulsating match, 20-22, 21-17, 22-21, after holding a 20-17 lead in the first end, and a 20-18 lead in the deciding end.

Jason Creasey also played a vital part as he beat Steve Gennari in straight sets, 21-14, 21-19 whilst Mark Werner, who was moved down to number four in the Jolliffe Poole ranking at Christmas, secured both his singles against Boothby and Gennari, although Steve Gennari gave him a hard match in the last game of the day before he eventually ran out the winner at 20-22, 21-17, 21-17 to earn Jolliffe Poole a valuable league point.

**ESSEX**

Alan Shepherd

THE WEEKEND OF March 23rd/24th was quite a traumatic one for our players, match secretaries and umpires. Apart from the small matter of contesting no fewer than seventeen matches in places as far apart as Batley in Yorkshire and Chelmsford in our own county, there were the critical tasks for our seniors of trying to win their way back into the Premier Division, for our Juniors of staying there, and for our Veterans of achieving a good placing at that top level. It did not help that some of our leading players were unable to represent us in Senior/Junior or Senior/Veteran, so that we ended up with weakened sides throughout.

The juniors made the very long journey to Batley, with an unexpected cushion of 4 points already in the bag. However, Linda Radford and Alison Gower were unavailable to us and I feared that we would be unable to gain sufficient points to avoid relegation. At the end of the first day we had not gained any more points, while Kent had closed the gap behind us. We had to kick ourselves for not forcing a draw with Lancashire, which County seems to hold the Indian Sign over us.

Last season we were sure that we had the best team in the country, and would have won the Championship had we been drawn with them. Even they must have been surprised at their 6-4 win. This season Cris Sladden pulled off a great win over Darren Howarth, leaving Ryan Savill with the apparently simple job of beating the extremely talented 13 year old Darryl Meredith in order to secure for us a much needed 5-5 draw. Ryan did not manage it, and once more we had lost 4-6. After this somewhat disjointed team were crushed 9-1 by the powerful Devon squad.

The second day dawned and even the most optimistic of us could not see any reward coming from our match against Middlesex. Richard Hyacinth and Dav Katz looked good for a minimum of two sets, but probably three, while Sara Williams and Emese Kottasz looked certain to another four. So a 7-3 loss was on the cards. How we managed to win 7-3 is one of the great mysteries of our sport! In the event Cris Sladden, Ryan Savill and Paul Hudson played magnificently to win all six sets contested by them and after Jennie Coleman had lost to Emese despite holding three match points in the third game(!) Sarah Gardner came along with a stunning two straight victory over the same player.

The match against Kent was supposed to have been our last chance of gaining the point which was needed to avoid relegation and no longer requiring it made the game a little bit anti-ematic. At one time I thought we would lose, after Miles Willey had clobbered both Cris Sladden, Spencer Thompson had edged out Ryan Savill 22-17, 19 and Lesley Hollingworth had snatched it from Sarah Gardner 19, 20. However, Kent had left Brian Mileham and Desiree Joseph behind, and their young replacements Glenn Ritchie and Natasha Barham were a little bit outclassed. Jenny Coleman justified her inclusion in the Essex squad by having a marvellous win over Lesley Hollingworth and Cris Sladden came good against Spencer Thompson. As a result we gained a 6-4 win and a final placement of fourth, which, in all the circumstances has to be regarded as brilliant, and a tribute to a most unusually (for Essex Juniors) well behaved and hard working squad, very efficiently coached by Bob Sladden. Next season we hope to push Malcolm Francis' Devon squad all the way for the title, since we will have the same players as I have mentioned, the rapidly improving Vincent Avery, and I sincerely hope our No.1 girl Linda Radford.

At the Chelmsford meeting of the Division 1B Seniors, not only did Essex need to beat Avon and Gloucestershire but also they had to beat Devonshire by a large margin. Unfortunately, although the first requirement was met, we were unable to beat Devon at all. Steve Dorking and Grant Solder tried valiantly, but even they could not win everything, while Carol Giles and Elaine Short were too strong for the mother and daughter combination of Lesley and Linda Radford. That at least was something that had never been seen before in the County Championships, and as each of them won 4 sets out of 6, they did not do too badly either. So it is good luck to Devonshire in the Premier Division next season when we will be trying extremely hard once more to join them in 1992/93.

Even without Lesley Radford our Veterans squad of Stuart Gibbs, Peter Radford, Dave Solman, Stan Battrick and Marjorie Dawson looked capable of mounting a challenge for honours. Phyllis Lauder, their redundant leader, tells me that the hiccup of a 4-5 defeat at the hands of Lincolnshire, following victories by 6-3 and 7-2 over Surrey and Sussex respectively, prevented our team from finishing in the runners-up spot behind the champions, Yorkshire.

Tamil trying to work out how the line-up mentioned above lost 0-9 to the White Rose county!

My campaign for copy from our member leagues has borne fruit again in the form of a letter from my old friend Ron Fosker of the Braintree League accompanied by a very interesting report upon their recent Closed Championships. This reveals that the mens singles was won by an “Old Boy” of the late lamented Littlehampton Training Camp, namely Andrew Wadding, the son of our Senior Match Secretary. He beat top County veteran Derek Wood in what appears to have been a very hard fought final, far less comfortable than the scoreline of 21-18, 21-16.

The ladies singles was won by Andrew's fiancee, Kate Gower, a member of the famous Gower family. She beat one of the county's talented cadets, Sarah Davison, who is just 13, and has already represented Essex in a friendly match against neighbours Suffolk. Apart from this she reached no fewer than 8 other finals, of which she won 5!!

Guess who won the mixed doubles?

It was Andrew and Kate who beat young Sarah, partnered by my very old friend Robert Hellaby, a giant of the County team all those years ago when Ian Horsham, Susan Beckwith, the Lockes and sister Janet also figured. To complete this saga of families 14 year old
Paul Davison won the boys singles and restricted singles.

Finally, may I be permitted to include a few words of congratulations for new Chairman Alan Ransome. Everybody in Essex wishes him good fortune in his onerous position. If he does as well as he did when masterminding the Ormesby Club to be the most feared in the junior game in the early seventies with talented players spilling out of the woodwork, then table tennis in Essex will be in good hands.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Alf Pepperd

IT WAS A great pity that the Stroud and Gloucester Final's nights happened to coincide on the same evening this past season.

Players like Alan Giles and Ray Poole stalwarts, who for years have played in both league's could have been denied the chance of participating in both final's nights, and probably were, respective committees must ensure that next season's finals nights to not take place on the same evening - for all those concerned.

It is not very often that Gloucestershire these days can boast "A National Champion" but that happened over the weekend of 9th/10th March when Cheltenham's Dave Harvey won the Veterans title in the National Championships in Stourbridge. Harvey, an Assistant Administration Manager at Dowty Rotol Ltd, who plays in both Gloucester and Cheltenham League's beat Tony Isaacs from Staffs 19, 19, to take the Singles title and No. 1 ranking.

Under 13 Boys
J Day (Severn-Vale) bt A Mortimore (Thomas Richs) 17, 18.

Under 13 Girls
M Garlick (Newent) bt K Hogarth (Newent) 13, 13, 19.

Under 11 Boys
J Kellor (Elmbridge) bt R Dearing (Elmbridge) 18, 3.

Under 11 Girls
Winner a Humble (Higham)

Runner Up
Jacquie Browett (Elmbridge)

Finals Nights Results
The first league to feature an annual Finals night was Cirencester. This event took place at Deerpark School and Stroud's FN took place as usual in the small hall of the Stroud Leisure Centre, situated in the beautiful surrounds of Stratford Park.

In the first of the open singles semis defending champion Alan Giles had a walkover over Rob Wisker, and in the other semi Brian Cullis beat John Fannin, 17, 19, so that was the scenario for a Giles v Cullis singles final, Alan retained his title by beating Brian, 17, 15. The ladies singles was won by Roz Ross who beat Caroline Thompson 11, 18.

The open doubles was a very tight affair and resulted in Brian Cullis/John Fannin beating Ian Pooler and Andrew Stratford 16, 22, 17. Trophies and silverware was presented by Mr Gordon Evans, the sports editor of The Stroud News and Journal.

The last of the finals nights featured Cheltenham, the venue was at the YMCA in Vittoria Street. In the first of the Open semi finals Cheltenham's Chairman Graham Slack beat Guy Greening -18, 12, 12 and in the other semi Dave Harvey ran out the winner against Sylvester Callum, 12, 16. So, in the final Harvey the holder opposed Graham Slack, in replica of last year's open final - and this year Graham was not going to be intimidated by Dave Harvey's recent successes, their first game was close, Graham just
HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

NORTH HERTS SENIOR Inter League team have won the county title for the second year running.

On Sunday 24th March, the North Herts trio, Mick Harper, Jimmy Walsh and Lindsay Booth won their remaining two games, beating Cheshunt 6-1 and Hemel Hempstead 5-2, to take the title, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

The other two members of the North Herts squad, who did their bit on the first Sunday of the competition last November, were Keith Samuels and Sandra Harper.

Runners up this year were Barnet, with Watford in third. Surprisingly none of the men achieved maximum wins this year, but two of the women managed 100% singles records, they were Sandra Harper of North Herts and Emma Hurling of Hemel Hempstead I.

Senior Inter League 1990/91

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The Cheshunt Junior Inter-League team swept aside all challengers to take the trophy in style.

On Sunday 17th March 1991 they won their remaining three matches with consummate ease, beating Watford 5-2, North Herts 13-2 and North Herts 17-0, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

Cheshunt's four man squad was Justin Skinner, Kevin Flowerday, Simon Flowerday and Steven Nelson. Runners up, just one point behind, were St Albans with Watford in third place.

Unfortunately only one player achieved a 100% singles average, that was Cheshunt's Kevin Flowerday, with the next closest being North Herts' Colin McCarthy with 91.66%.

Junior Inter League 1990/91

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<tr>
<td>Cheshunt</td>
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<td>St Albans</td>
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<td>Hemel Hempstead I</td>
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Highlight of the month for Hertfordshire was when Hemel Hempstead's Emma Hurling won the women's singles title at the British Polytechnic Table Tennis Championships.

Barnet's John Taylor came a close second to Emma, by reaching the Veterans final at the British Polytechnic Table Tennis Championships. Barnet's John Taylor came a close second to Emma, by reaching the Veterans final at the British Polytechnic Table Tennis Championships.

MARCH WAS A good month for Roger Hookey; with a 21-12, 21-19 final defeat of Chris Angus, Roger retained his Island Men's singles title; together with Mike Turner and Ray Winter his Sandown club held on to, for yet another season, the first division championship and a hat-trick in the Regional League gave the Island only their second win of the season with a 5-4 success against Kingsfisher 'B'.

Other Island title winners from the Championships held at the Ryde club's new headquarters were Ladies Singles: Regina Stevens, a schoolteacher newly arrived in the Island this season and playing for Pleassey; Mens Doubles: Chris Angus/Chairman Alan Hubbert; Ladies Doubles: Regina Stevens/Mary Wheeler; Mixed Doubles: father and daughter Chris and Michelle Angus (a busy day for Christ) who overcame at the last hurdle the brother and sister partnership of Ian and Sharon Urry.

Peter Urry together with Paul Moreton and Mark Mitchell representing Rookley 'A' are this season's Knowles Cup (Handicap) winners following their final victory over Newport Vics 'A'.

Our Juniors and cadets have now completed their season in the Hampshire inter-town league and all have gained much from their trips to the mainland. The Juniors (Alex Rorke, Marcus Garman, Alister Hubert, Laurence Downs and Claire Wagborn) missed winning the second division title only on sets average from Bournemouth 'B' whilst the Cadets (Gregory Burns, Stuart Dover, Geoff West, Steven Holbrook and Nick Hutchings) a little overawed at first ended with a very satisfying 7 sets to 3 win against Bournemouth. It was pleasing to hear the comments at the end of the last session from Harold Albery (Hampshire Secretary and Junior Match organiser) "Don't forget, we want the Island back against next season!".

Returning to the League, it was always one way traffic for Sandown in a First division reduced to 9 teams; up from division 2 next season will come champion, Ryde 'A' (Barry Howlett, John Rawlings, Bill Paul and Brian Farrell) and also possibly second and third team Wrexall 'B' and St Lawrence 'A' in order to
Establish a larger division.

Tim Lewis of Ventnor ‘C’ s fourth division team provided the season’s only 100% individual record.

### 1st Division

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<td>Sandown A</td>
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<td>Newport Vics A</td>
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<td>Wroxtall</td>
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<td>Shanklin</td>
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<td>Rookley A</td>
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<td>Plessey</td>
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<td>Rookley B</td>
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<td>Newport Vics B</td>
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<td>Ventnor A</td>
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Finally, our next contribution will include truly overseas news as it has now been definitely decided to send a team to the Island Games in Oland (Scandinavia) in June.

Finally 2, congratulations to Carl Prean who has finally landed the English Men’s Singles title after two previous disappointments, and finally 3, we look forward to seeing more of John Prean as he goes into well earned retirement from his very successful four year stint as National Chairman.

### Kent

**Adrian Hall**

As expected the U11 Boys final proved the highlight of the Lenham Storage Ltd Kent Junior Closed Championships on 9/10.3.91 No. 1 seed Christian Thompson (Medway) just beat nine year old Scott Friday (Medway) in a match of exceptional quality with controlled topspin and counter hitting and retrieving from all parts of the court 18-21, 21-17, 21-15.

Nicola Duke (Tonbridge) dominated the U14 girls events beating Joanne Barnham (Rotherhithe) in the singles final 21-19, 21-10 and partnering Alan Smith (Maidstone) to take the doubles against Crystal Hall (Maidstone) and Joanne Barham 23-21, 21-14.

Glen Richie (Folkestone) failed to complete a hat-trick of wins in the boys’s event when partnered by Ben McCarthy (Tonbridge) they were beaten in the U14 doubles by the Friday brothers Ross and Scott 16-21, 21-17, 25-23. This was perhaps just reward for Ross Friday who was beaten by Richie in both the U13 and U14 events 21-17, 21-11 and 21-15, 21-3 respectively.

In the Junior Boys the only upset was the defeat of Paul Duke (Tonbridge) 16-21, 21-15, 25-23 by Craig Hasting (Ashford). The top four seeds reached the semi finals where Spencer Thompson (Medway) was put under pressure by Kevin Read (Ashford) but held on to win 21-18, 21-19, Matt Vardy (Maidstone) beat No. 2 seed Miles Willey (NWK) 21-10, 21-14. The final was full of spectacular hard hitting rallies with Thompson just squeezing home 15-21, 21-8, 21-7.

Junior Girls No. 2 seed Carly Rigg’s (Maidstone) came to grief in her group 22-20, 22-20 against Joanne Barnham but she in turn fell to Nicola Duke 21-15, 17-21, 21-10 in the semi final. Other good results worthy of mention were Rachel Woolven’s (Maidstone) 9-21, 21-18, 21-18 victory over Heidi Steers (Tonbridge) and Crystal Hall’s win over Michelle Ritter (Rotherhithe) 13-21, 22-20, 23-21. In the final Lesley Hollingworth (Stingbourne) was made to play her very best to control the at times inspirational play of Duke 21-15, 17-21, 21-10.

Crystal Hall and Joanne Barnham caused a major upset in the Junior Girls Doubles when they out played the red hot favourites Hollingworth/Duke 21-17, 21-19 in the second round and kept their composure to defeat the No. 2 seed Heidi Steers and Natasha Barham 21-16, 19-21, 21-14 in the final.

Peter Barrow (Medway) virtually unknown prior to the Championships won the U17 class 2 without dropping a game.

In the U17 Girls class 2 the major upsets were the defeats of Natasha Barham by Crystal Hall 19-21, 21-16, 21-17 and Rachell Woollven’s magnificent victory over Joanne Barnham 21-19, 10-21, 21-19. In the final Nicola Duke got yet another winners medal with a 21-14, 22-20 win against Michell Ritter.

### Results

**U17 BS**

S Thompson (Med) bt M Vardy (Maid) -15, 8, 17.

**U17 GS**

L Hollingworth (Sit) bt N Duke (Ton) 15, -17, 10.

**U17 BD**

S Thompson (Med)/M Willey (NWK) bt K Read (Ash)/M Vardy (Maid) 19, 16.

**U17 GD**

C Hall (Maid)/J Barham (R’Hithe) bt H Steers (Ton)/N Barham (R’hithe) 15, -19, 14.

**U15 BS**

C Hastie (Ash) bt G Ritchie (Flk) -19, 9, 13.

**U15 GS**

N Duke (Ton) bt N Barham (R’hithe) 12, 19.

**U14 BS**

G Ritchie (Flk) bt R Friday (Med) 15, -13, 3.

**U14 GS**

N Duke (Ton) bt J Barham (R’hithe) -10, 19, 15.

**U14 BD**

R Friday/S Friday (Med) bt G Ritchie (Flk)/B McCarthy (T Wells) -16, 17, 23.

**U14 GD**

N Duke (Ton)/A Smith (Maid) bt C Hall/J Barham 21, 14.

**U13 BS**

G Ritchie (Flk) bt R Friday (Med) 17, 11.

**U13 GS**

J Barham bt C Hall 18, -17, 10.

**U11 BS**

C Thompson (Med) bt S Friday -18, 17, 15.

**U11 GS**

C Howes (T Wells) bt E Flynn (Ton) 20, 21.

**U17 BS II**

P Barrow (Med) bt G Ritchie (Flk) 12, 13.

**U17 GS II**

N Duke (Ton) bt M Ritter (R’Hithe) 14, 20.

Trophies were presented to the winners and runners up by the Transport Director of LENHAM STORAGE LTD., Mr Allan Flood.

Vardy beats England No 2 Matt Vardy (Maidstone) did hit English Junior Rankings no harm at the Derby select tournament on the 3rd March, playing the best table tennis of his career to beat No 4 Steven Meddings (Sutton Coldfield) 21-14, 17-21, 26-24, No 2 Gary Knights (Burton-on-Trent) 15-21, 24-22, 23-21, No 17 Gavin Yates (Thame) 21-17, 19-21, 21-17, before being finally beaten by No 9 Martin Adams (Ascot) 16-21, 21-19, 16-21.

**Kent Schools**

Maidstone Grammar Schools Mathew Vardy became Kent U19 Schools Champion when in a hard hitting final he defeated Kevin Read (Canterbury College) 21-14, 24-22.

Read had earlier had a struggle against a determined James Cleness (Harveys Grammar School) before winning 21-9, 20-22, 13-15.

In the U 16 boys semi-finals Paul Duke (Wilderness - Sevenoakes) just hung on to defeat Craig Hastie (Norton Knatchball - Ashford) 21-19, 10-21, 21-17 and Peter Barrow (Borden Grammar School) fresh from his triumphs at the Kent Junior Closed Championships completely out played Sam Corcoran (Norton
Knatchbull) 21-8, 21-5. Barrows run of success came to an end in a final riddled with unforced errors and despite three service faults in the final leg, Duke scraped home 21-18, 14-21, 24-22.

Ross Friday (Rainham Mark Grammar) retained his U13 title but he was made to fight all the way to defeat Scott Dawtry (Harvey Grammar Folkestone) 21-16, 20-22,21-19.

Nine year old Scott Friday (Thames View Rainham) claimed the U11 title one held by his brother when he over powered Nicky Stokes (Mierscourt Rainham) 21-7, 21-9.


The winners go onto Mansfield as their Schools and KENTS representatives for the Dunlop English Schools National Finals on April 27th. Well done!!

Barclays Bank West Kent Table Tennis Tournament

This popular annual event staged at the Wilderness Sports Centre on Saturday 16th March attracted a large entry of approximately 160 young table tennis hopefuls, for many it would have been their first taste of tournament play and the standard varied from raw beginners to experienced nationally ranked players who played in a separate invitation event.

Each entrant received a Barclays Bank Mug so nobody went home empty handed and most entrants played at least four games in a day when good fun was had by all.

Sevensoaks Table Tennis League

The Sevensoaks League Annual Closed Championships were held at Donnington Hall on Sunday 17th March. This friendly Sunday League tournament attracted a disappointing entry but those taking part had a full days table tennis in splendid surroundings with refreshments readily available. Organisers Roger Pingram and Brenda Bennett ran the tournament in a friendly relaxed manner that should be the envy of many other leagues.

Results

Open Singles
Roger Pingram (Fort Halstead) bt Adrian Hall (Larkfield) 21-7, 26-24.

Open Doubles
Roger Pingram (Fort Halstead) & Adrian Hall (Larkfield) bt Roy Terry (Fort Halstead) & Shev McDonald (Larkfield) 21-17, 21-15.

Over 45 Singles
Les Hart (Larkfield) bt Derek Allen (Limpfield) 21-11, 21-16.

Over 45 Doubles
John Neat (Fort Halstead) & Derek Allen (Limpfield) & Ron Terry (Fort Halstead) & Peter Warnock (Limpfield) 26-24, 21-19.

Junior Singles
Adam Besley (Sevensoaks C.P.) bt Stewart Massey (Leigh) 21-19, 21-17.

Handicap Singles
John Neat (Fort Halstead) bt Shev McDonald (Larkfield) 21-15, 21-16.

For further information contact
Adrian Hall on 0634 687141 (Q)
0732 844756 (H)

LANCASHIRE
George Yates

ALTHOUGH CHAMPIONS OF the Junior Premier Division last season, Lancashire had to content themselves with third place following the second weekend of matches at Batley where they beat Essex (6-4), lost to Middlesex (4-6), beat Durham (8-2) and finally became the only county to take a point from champions Yorkshire.

It was in the opening match against Essex that Darren Howarth lost his only set of the weekend when beaten by Chris Sladden while Maria Thornley suffered her only defeat when she lost to Jackie Marriott of Durham, otherwise it was a 7-1 return for both players.

Darryl Meredith finished 3-5, Richard Boulton 3-1, Matthew Coombe 0-4, Tamar Connolly 3-3 and Karen Richardson 0-2 for an overall 23-17 analysis still a creditable performance.

The Red Rose senior seconds had their home match conceded to them when Suffolk defaulted on the fixture and in their final engagement against Cheshire forced a 5-all draw thanks to wins for Graham Clarke and Brenda Buoey and a solo from Paula French.

In this latter engagement Stan Clarke, the normal non-playing captain, had a frustrating time when, for varying reasons, the chosen Paul Hutchings and Doug Mayall became unavailable as did the chosen reserves, Keith Williams and Malcolm McBryde. But, eventually, Dave Bunting stepped into the breach with captain Stan having to don the green shirt himself!

Both Veteran teams, after bright beginnings, have fallen away with the firsts going down to Leicestershire (2-7) and Essex II (3-6) and the seconds losing to Warwickshire (4-5) and to Cheshire II (3-6) - not a happy ending.

No happier tidings to impart in respect of the junior second and third teams with the likelihood of the latter being withdrawn from next season's entries a shortage of girls of sufficient standard being the major problem. Oh for a few budding Andrea Holts!

And congratulations once more to Andrea who added to her laurels in again beating Lisa Lomas to win the women's singles event in the Essex 5 Star and on her elevation to No.3 in the Hales ETTA rankings. Also on the up are Maria Thornley, from 16 to 12 and Mandy Winkskill, from 73 to 18, although there may have been confusion in the computer with points earned under her maiden name of Goodwin.

Top Lancastrian in the men's list is Sean Gibson, although down from 7 to 9 and Jonathan Taylor, down from 9 to 13, and Tony Taylor down from 17 to 20. On the up are Andrew Eden, from 32 to 25 and Graham Clarke from 70 to 36. Young Darren Howarth leaps from 83 to 54 and Stephen Scowcroft from 93 to 58. Who said the latter was a spent force?

Lancashire and Cheshire League

Warrington duly achieved their objective in beating Liverpool Business Houses 8-2 to champion, for the first time, the men's first division. Malcolm McBryde, Peter Flinn and Terry Turner being the players responsible in the final success with Peter Lander earlier involved in this championship winning season.

Congratulations also to Blackpool in taking the runners-up position their final win being against Blackburn by a 6-4 margin with two wins each for Dave Bunting and Steve Bevan, a solo from Martin Ireland plus the doubles won by Bunting and Ireland against a treble for Graham Clarke and one from Neil Gravenor.

Manchester and Liverpool Business Houses are the dormeetes from the first division, their places to be taken over by Wirral and Oldham, although the latter have their 'A' team to thank in winning Division 2 (South) whereas Oldham finished in second place in Division 2 (North). Liverpool have retained the women's first division title with an unblemished record as have Stockport in the veterans first division whose Derek Schofield has announced his retirement from L & C TTL play. Could it be the legs are finally giving out? But what a stalwart and a credit to the game.
Oldham have taken over the junior first division title from Barrow, despite losing their final match when beaten 7-3 by Wirral whose Gary Allen trebled against Matthew Coombe, Darryl Meredith and Chris Whitehead.

Finally, do not forget Tuesday 21st May, which is the date not only of the Lanes and Cheshire League but also of the Lancashire TTA as well as Thames Board Mills Social Club, Warrington. Have a good summer.

**LEICESTERSHIRE**

**Terry Bown**

THE LATEST EDITION of the Loughborough Leagues’ Table Tennis magazine “Behind the Serve”, superbly edited for many years by David Green, carries a report on their League tournament. Organiser John Brindley writes - It was always on the cards that the Loughborough Students would prove the joker in the pack in the handicap tournament at the Queens Hall, Loughborough.

Their highly talented Second and Third Division players provided a handicap headache for the organisers and they scarcely looked like losing a match all day - except when they played each other. All six titles for which they competed went the way of the Students with Sawley’s Division 1 class preventing a total clean sweep.

**Results**

**Open Singles**

M Oberliessen (Students) bt A Tompkinson (Barrow) 18, 20.

**Open Doubles**

A Cheung/N Aries (Students) bt R Struck/M Oberliessen (Students) -17, 16, 13.

**Division 1 Singles**

A Watson (Sawley) bt W Glossop (Sawley) 14, -15, 19.

**Division 1 Doubles**

A Watson/W Glossop (Sawley) bt I Medley/M Truman (Sawley) 20, 19.

**Division 2 Singles**

A Cheung (Students) bt M Oberliessen (Students) 14, -15, 19.

**Division 2 Doubles**

N Aries/A Cheung (Students) bt A Stevenson/A Tompkinson (Barrow) 14, 18.

**Division 3 Singles**

D Connors (Students) bt D Byrne (Students) 21, 14.

**Division 3 Doubles**

D Byrne/D Connors (Students) bt J Brindley/M Brindley (Kings Church) 12, 20.

Meanwhile in Division 1 of the Loughborough League, Sawley A top the chart with 7 straight wins (27 points). Knighthorpe A, Sawley B and Thingstone A are too far behind the top two to cause them any concern but an epic battle looks likely between Smithland Motors A, Barrow A and Cavaliers B to avoid relegation.

The top of Division 2 looks extremely competitive with no less than 4 teams all in with a shout of the Championship. Just 5 points separates Smithland B, Knighthorpe B, Barrow B and Students A. At the bottom; Inicorn look doomed and Keighor, Sawley C, Barrow D and Barrow C should not rest on their laurels otherwise any one of them could join them.

**Leading Players**

1. Peter Hadgraft (Swith) P36 W33 92%
2. Bryan Summers (Thring) P36 W31 86%
3. Martyn Balmora (KT) P34 W26 76%
4. Mark Genco (Swith) P33 W25 76%
5. Arthur Tompkinson (Bar B) P39 W29 74%

**Leading Players**

1. R Hogg (Aeros) P35 W31 89%
2. J Brindley (Kings) P26 W23 88%
3. N Marriot (Aeros) P29 W21 72%
4. P Bull (Barrow) P41 W27 66%
5. K Corr (KT) P25 W16 64%
6. V Odedra (Barrow) P25 W16 64%

“Middlesex”

**Iris Moss**

DESPITE THE FACT that I missed out on last month’s issue of Table Tennis News, I haven’t got much to report. All our teams have performed reasonably well, none brilliantly apart from our Premier team, but I understand that they have all retained their places in their respective Divisions.

Having cancelled the Middlesex Junior Closed because of lack of entries, it was decided to have Junior and Cadet events with the Senior Championships. The result was that although we are going to run our Closed event over the week-end of 20th and 21st April, the entry barely justifies the effort.

The total entry for all events is approximately 60 people - and that is in a County where at least 1000 people must be registered to play in the number of teams in the Leagues! Colin Wilson is coming to the next meeting of the Tournaments Sub-Committee (I hope) to see whether he can suggest anything that will “sell” our Closed Championships to our players.

Our Inter-League Competitions are almost completed and in the last Tables which have been published, it looks as though Willesden are having a field day, leading in all except the Victor Barna Competition. But in some instances there is not much difference between the first and second places, and the final results might well be different.

The MTTA 100 Club Dinner in honour of Len Pilditch and our 1989/90 Champions will be well attended. In all 62 people will be coming which shows that Len is more popular than our Closed Championships!

Have a quiet summer. I will be slaving away over the Handbook, and I hope to be writing to you all again next season.
MAKING A RARE appearance at the Wellingborough Closed Tournament, Graeme McKim won the men's singles with consummate ease, to make it three titles within the month, for earlier he had annexed the corresponding Northampton and Kettering events in similar fashion.

Richard Elliott was the losing finalist, and he also ended on the wrong end of the men's doubles, when together with Chris Handshaw they became the latest victims of McKim, and the newest in a long line of successful doubles partners, Julian Marshall.

Marshall went one better than McKim, for he gained an easy win over Paul Smith in the junior boys' singles, to become the first winner of the Rod Merchant Memorial Trophy, and then together with Andy Lingley, he held on to the junior doubles after three close games with Matthew Rowe and Christian Drage.

However at the end of the day, the most prolific winner was thirteen year old Sally Russell who accounted for Caroline Perkins in the ladies event, Clare Waples in the junior girls, Paul Adams in the under fourteen singles, Graeme McKim in the over sixty singles, Phil Slade in the consolation singles, Davis Waples and Paul Adams in the mystery doubles and Muriel Cox, John Gandolfi, Scott Dixon and Neil Gibbs, with the help of generous handicaps, taking the various handicaps, but perhaps the most deserved award was the ETTA Certificate of Merit presented to the Wellingborough League Chairman Arthur Palmer, who for almost thirty years has been the arm round which the league's activities have revolved, and whose quiet yet consistent service has shown a true spirit of dedication.

In the Central Auto Supplies Women's Top Twelve, two players in each of the initial groups dominated the proceedings. In the first group, Margaret Malby and Kristina Cox each won four rubbers in straight games, but when they met it was the younger, more aggressive Cox who came out on top, taking the third end convincingly to eleven.

The second group saw Donna Furniss and Sally Russell carry all before them, dismissing all opposition in straight games, until faced by each other, a tense battle was fought with Furniss emerging triumphant after losing the opening end.

As has happened before, and most recently when Miss Russell took full advantage to win the Junior Top Twelve, the second phase contained the surprise results, with the runners up in the original groups each beating the group winners from the opposite section, in this instance, Mrs Maltby accounting for Miss Furniss and Russell getting the better of Miss Cox.

After Kristina had swiftly despatched Donna in the third place play-off, the final became a fluctuating encounter with the first end comfortably to Sally at 21-13, and the second to an improving Margaret 21-11.

The final end ebbed and flowed, Maltby six one ahead, Russell leading ten seven at the change-over. Maltby thirteen twelve up, Russell in front at seventeen fourteen and then suddenly Maltby with three match points at twenty seventeen. Young Sally saved two of these, but not the third, and it was the experienced Margaret Malby who became the Central Auto Supplies Top Twelve Women's champion for 1991, and the recipient of a fine trophy duly presented by one of the directors - Patrick O'Reagan.


Looking back on the season as it rapidly disappears into the record books, Northants table tennis has also ebbed and flowed. Well Connected, now as Higham Band, has again dominated the local leagues. After a shaky start Graeme McKim is again wearing his rightful crown. Many of our tournaments have become more adventurous, and consequently more entertaining for players and spectators alike. However the margin between success and failure is a slender one and soon AGM's up and down the county will be seeking newcomers with staying power and originality to supplement the undoubted and lingering talents of those current senior committee members who have already devoted the best years of their lives to our noble art.

THE SENIORS TRAVELLED to Cornwall for their second county weekend and came away with one win, one draw and one defeat - as captain Brian Reeves commented "a mixed bag of results!" Brian and Melonie Carey achieved the best results, Miel winning 5 out of 6 and Brian four, including an excellent victory over Mark Simon of Glamorgan.

Excellent organisation as usual by Cornwall; no doubt the disappointing non-appearance of Dorset will be covered elsewhere.

Taufion League

After a long period of decline when the league went from five divisions down to two, the number of players has started to increase. For the last two seasons, the league has been tottering on the brink of needing an extra division and hopefully there will be three divisions next year. Partly this has been due to former players being attracted back into the game, partly the results of coaching sessions at Wellington Sports Centre and local schools and church halls.
A team strengthened by visitors from Bridgwater, including Phil Payne, looks likely to win the league title this season. Phil has already won the Taunton League singles title this season, yet another trophy for his collection.

The league has a strong veteran's element, indeed one of the Committee members, Bill Weller, is 80 years old and is still playing league table tennis - as is his wife! Bill is, however, not the only octogenarian playing in Somerset as Arthur Weare from the Henton Club in the Mendip League also reached that milestone earlier in the season. It's all down to clean living and a good pint of......

SURREY

Terry Vance

CONGRATULATIONS TO NICKY Mason on making the team for the Commonwealth Games in Nairobi. Nicky performed well at the National championships being the only one to take a game off new Champion Carl Prean.

The Inter League Competition has 4 teams in the Harding cup and 5 teams in the Percy Johnson Cup. The Sutton Trophy for Juniors will not be played because only one league entered. Maybe the Sutton League, who donated the Britannia TIC - Ipswich, Daddy Brooks bt son Simon Bowers.

As many tournaments as 6. Paul Hancock

Girls
1. Tracey Cole
2. Natasha Wilson
3. Sarah Stedman
4. Joanna Bush-Harris
5. Claudine Wilson
6. Sara Coggan
7. Claire Brown
8. Tina Beaney
9. Nicola Evans
10. Joanne Thomas
11. Carrie Munday
12. Toyin Bakare
13. Cara Ward
15. Heidi Simms

WARWICKSHIRE

Alan Healey

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SUSSEX

John Woodford

AMBITION PLAYERS PLEASE note - it pays to play in as many tournaments as possible. Sussex player Paul Elphick has this campaign shot up around 100 places on the England Men's List. Now he is No.38 and will freely admit that below him are a number of players he would have difficulty overpowering. But the fact of life is that people who fail to turn up at tournaments pay the penalty on the computer.

However, the future of Sussex table tennis has never looked brighter - there are now a number of players already hitting the local and regional press headlines and they have three and in some cases four seasons left as juniors!

Next season, Wesley Bush-Harris (Brighton) and our two top girls Tracey Cole and Natasha Wilson move into the senior ranks. Left behind, in tremendous form are a dozen players, some of whom must be destined for stardom - at what level remains to be seen.

Paul Butcher and Paul Cichelli are two names to watch for for more excellent progress. Butcher is the player with some of the quickest reflexes I have seen, and that view is shared by Sussex coach Pat Ginnaw.

Not far behind in the reckoning is Arundel's Kevin Prean, his wife! Bill is, however, not the run these events for your TVL Elphick has his collection. separate night? These are some suggestions after all they try to run these events for you the players.

The league has a strong veteran's element, indeed one of another title. Their 3 players, Steve Holloway Dave Bangerter, Dipan Shah head the averages with Steve unbeaten. The Croydon & District League Closed had only 22 entries for their 9 events but they decided to run it after Monks Hill Sports Centre agreed to charge only for the hours used.

The Results:
Mens Singles
Dave Crowley bt John Callcut;
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Hazel Linfield bt Heather Allen;
Veterans Singles
Chris Harper bt Emil Emeccz;
Hard Bat
Emil Emeccz bt Russell Bates.
Open Doubles
Emil Emeccz/John Callcut bt Ian O'Connor/Lee Nichols.
Mixed Doubles
Div 2
Nick Chillaq bt Heather Allen;
Div 3
Daddy Brooks bt son Simon Brooks.

It is rumoured that Croydon & District League have been having talks with Croydon Business House League with a view to amalgamation because of the loss of so many teams in each League.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

AMBITION PLAYERS PLEASE note - it pays to play in as many tournaments as possible. Sussex player Paul Elphick has this campaign shot up around 100 places on the England Men's List. Now he is No.38 and will freely admit that below him are a number of players he would have difficulty overpowering. But the fact of life is that people who fail to turn up at tournaments pay the penalty on the computer.

However, the future of Sussex table tennis has never looked brighter - there are now a number of players already hitting the local and regional press headlines and they have three and in some cases four seasons left as juniors!

Next season, Wesley Bush-Harris (Brighton) and our two top girls Tracey Cole and Natasha Wilson move into the senior ranks. Left behind, in tremendous form are a dozen players, some of whom must be destined for stardom - at what level remains to be seen.

Paul Butcher and Paul Cichelli are two names to watch for more excellent progress. Butcher is the player with some of the quickest reflexes I have seen, and that view is shared by Sussex coach Pat Ginnaw.

Not far behind in the reckoning is Arundel's Kevin Prean, his wife! Bill is, however, not the run these events for your TVL Elphick has his collection. separate night? These are some suggestions after all they try to run these events for you the players.

The league has a strong veteran's element, indeed one of another title. Their 3 players, Steve Holloway Dave Bangerter, Dipan Shah head the averages with Steve unbeaten. The Croydon & District League Closed had only 22 entries for their 9 events but they decided to run it after Monks Hill Sports Centre agreed to charge only for the hours used.

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the girls who won 10 from 14 matches during the campaign.

The two girls - Joanne Groves (Kingshurst YCC, Solihull) and Susan Clarke (Wellesbourne TTC, Warwickshire) have been improving all season and are looking forward to a higher class of table tennis next year.

Team Coach David Spilsbury wishes to pass on his own recognition of the support given to this team by the parents, throughout a long season.

Warwickshire Veterans

The Warwickshire Veterans second team, in their first season, handsomely repaid their sponsors Realm Security Systems Ltd, by winning Div 3A of the County Veterans Championship with a 100 percent record.

Their season reached an exciting climax when they met Huntingdonshire II's in their final match at St Neots, Huntingdonshire.

With their strongest team of Pat Glynn, Barry O'Brien, Neil Wheatly and Dot McFarlane, Warwickshire were always on top during the match and ran out as worthy winners by 7-2.

Skipper Neil Wheatly attributed the success of his team to its strength in depth. "We fielded the same team in only two of our six matches", he said, "but Barry Hunt, Graham Hoskins, Barry Russ and Dot Shreward all made vital winning contributions - winning nine out of the twelve doubles games was another important factor.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Ken Walton

IN THE COUNTY Team Handicap Competition, O.E.'s beat Crackpots by 4 points in the semi-final, and will be playing either Worcester LTC, or Stourport Workmans in the final. Last years finalists, Thorns TTC, and Bromley TTC will once again contest the scratch final, to be played at Jims Gym, Dudley. The same teams incidentally, will meet again in the final of the Dudley Table Tennis Leagues, "Second Chance Cup", having defeated Hawbush, and Jims Gym 'A' in their respective semi-finals.

News from County Chairman Doug Miss is that he organised and ran a schools table tennis competition for Hereford and Worcestershire recently.

Whilst on the subject of young players, a junior and cadet team tournament is to be held at the Pensnett school on May 12th, Vera Royal and Barbara Jukes will be running the event, and tell me that spectators are welcome.

Coaching Co-ordinator Brian Selby ran a course in January at which 16 students made good progress. Any ranked players looking for extra help, or indeed, willing to offer assistance to Brian during coaching sessions, should contact him for details.

Interested to hear that Chester Barrac and Trevor Taylor were "exhibiting" their considerable talents in Kidderminster recently, exact details not known.

Despite being an important part of the Martin Pipe/Peter Scudamore horse racing set up nowadays, Chester obviously retains his love for the game. Wonder if he still retains that fabulous backhand? Hopefully by now, both County Senior teams will have won their respective last matches, and in the process their respective divisions!!

Anyway, whatever, a great season for both teams, well done everyone. Couldn't fail to be impressed by the English Closed held at the Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge. Referee Doug Young and his team, plus all concerned with the event, especially old mate Brian Lloyd, did everyone proud, and surely they will be back again next season, for another resounding success. Catshill Youth Centre Bromsgrove was the venue for the Bromsgrove and District League Championships. Well supported and attended, as per usual apparently, some sparkling play was forthcoming with the two main titles going to Margaret Dignum (Ladies Singles), and D Rogers (Mens), defeating Helen Pogmore and Craig Ward respectively.

Finally, a thank you from me to everyone who has given me information for this column this year. Hope to be back in action with the October edition. see you all at the AGM.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

IT WAS A pleasure and an honour for Yorkshire to host the second Junior Premier Weekend at the Batley Sports Centre, and the county were delighted when our new-look Junior squad brought the title, which twelve months ago we passed over to our friends and greatest rivals Lancashire, back across the Pennines.

Non - playing captain Bevan Walker rang the changes in his seven strong squad, and they came undefeated through the seven match series, dropping only one point to the Red Rose side.

At the other end of the age scale the Veterans went one better as they travelled south to the Veteran Premier Weekend, returning a clean sheet as the Veteran Premier Weekend at Batley.

The Northallerton League, a five strong squad who make up the Division 1 along with Brockholme B and Appleton Wiske. Red hot championship favourites, however, are Brockholme A, represented by the SEE SW Durham British League squad of John Crawford, Steve Cooper, Keith Bell and Gary Webell.

Finally, some interesting information from the newly formed Edinburgh Street Community Centre, who field teams in Divisions 5 and 9 of the HULL League. A five strong squad who make up the Division 9 strength includes four senior citizens who boast an aggregate age of 262 years, the 'odd one out' being the son of one of the club's players.

And no less than three of the senior citizens are ladies, with team captain Alice Duffy, who had never played table tennis until recently in her 70th year. I can say without reservation that Alice is the oldest female player in the Hull league - perhaps somebody will let me know if she can lay claim to being Yorkshire's senior lady.

What about a challenge from Peter Powell's squad at Chester (TTN March 1991) - I can pass on the contact if required.
## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 4

### JUNIORS

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### Division 3A

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**COPY DATE FOR THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE is 15th JULY**

"A TABLE FOR TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY?"

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Cooke topples Prean

ALAN COOKE took the top prize of £700 winning the mens singles crown with a surprise victory over top seed Carl Prean, in the Barclays Essex 5 Star tournament, at Brentwood. Cooke, who at one stage looked to be losing in the second, having lost the first leg to National Champion Prean, managed to fight his way back into this final, taking the third aggressiveely.

Meanwhile Andrea Holt who appears to have the measure of the other three girls at the top of English table tennis, won the Womens singles £400 prize when she beat Lisa Lomas in the final in three.

The first Five Star Tournament staged by Essex was carried out with the flair associated with its organiser, Dick Roffe. Under referee Mike Watts and Deputy Peter Roden, the events got under way on the Friday evening with the Veterans singles. There were many surprises before the eventual winner was known, No. 1 seed Stuart Gibbs went out to John Taylor in the semi's and Essex lady Lesley Radford took out No. 3 seed Derek Holman in the 2nd round. Other seeds fell, No. 2 Mike Short in the 3rd to David Solman who went out in the next round to Andy Meads. In the final, No. 4 seed Taylor could not find his usual form and was comfortably beaten 16 & 13 by Meads.

Saturday commenced with the story of Alison Gordon Phyllis Lauder, Essex Assistant Secretary and the over 80's veteran womens World Champion, with her husband Keith Lauder, the President of Dagenham league.

The groups were played off first with no surprises and we proceeded with the mens doubles event stretching into Sunday. In the top half No. 1 seed Alan Cooke and Des Douglas won through to the final without conceding a game beating the Moore brothers Adrian and Stephen in the semi-final. The bottom half was a little closer with Steve Dorking and Mike O'Driscoll losing the first in the semi final 21-12 before taking the next two 19 & 13 against Philip Bradbury and Andrew Eden.

The ladies doubles brought no surprises, the No. 1 seeds Lisa Lomas and Fiona Elliot reaching the final together with Janet Smith and Jill Harris, the No. 1 seeds not dropping a game.

In the mixed doubles the No. 1 seeds Steve Dorking and Andrea Holt won through to the final without losing a game and No. 2 seeds John Holland and Nicola Deaton reached the same position after a close match against Joey Kennedy and Sue Collier.

The ladies singles slightly weakened by Alison Gordon's non-appearance saw many surprises; No. 3 seed and England No. 4 going out to Helen Lower 19-21, 21-9, 21-23. Helen then losing to Jill Harris who in turn went out in the semi's to Lisa Lomas, No. 1 seed. Andrea Holt reached the same stage after dropping just one game to Sally Marling in the 3rd round, before beating Carol Giles in the semi's.

The mens singles top half saw Carl Prean No. 1 in England and the tournament winning through to the semi final very comfortably without losing a game. Nick Mason reached the semi's in similar circumstances from the No. 4 spot. The bottom section saw Des Douglas also reaching the semi final without a game being taken from him and Alan Cooke became his semi final opponent in likewise manner.

The new English ranking lists were known just prior to the tournament and there was excitement when it was discovered that John Holland had jumped from the No. 24 spot to No. 11, one place in front of his Peniel National League team mate Steve Dorking who had moved up one place to No. 12. and that they were to meet in round 2. The two friends put everything into this match and Steve was always trailing by the odd point after very long attacking rallies in the final few points and he snea-
The finals started at 3.00pm with about 500 spectators in the tiered seats on either side of the magnificent Barclays blue coloured arena.

Carl Prean (Low) opened the final stages with his mens singles semi final against Nicky Mason (Sx). Mason, determined not to be over-awed by the National Champion staged some marvellous attacking rallies before losing the first 19-21. He fought with great tenacity in the second game with strokes flowing from both players and took this game 21-19. The final game saw Carl putting on more pressure and winning 21-15.

Alan Cooke (Dy) was just too fast for Des Douglas (Wa) who could not get into his stride before Alan ran out the winner 14 & 17.

The mixed doubles was made up of two very contrasting games, Steve Dorking (E) and Andrea Holt (La) went through John Holland (Dy) and Nicola Deaton (Dy) 21-7 in the first but the second was very fiercely fought with very tight close table rallies before going once again to the first pair 26-24.

The ladies doubles was between Lisa Lomas (Bd)/Fiona Elliot (St) and Jill Harris (St) Jane Smith (Sco). Lisa and Fiona were not put under too much pressure apart from some hard hitting by Jill and ran out winners 21-15, 21-17.

The mens doubles was a fast fought hard hitting cross court match which Des Douglas and Alan Cooke did not have to work up too much steam in order to beat Steve Dorking and Mike O’Driscoll (Y) 21-16, 21-13.

The third game started with Alan nosing in front only to be pulled back and overtaken with some cross hitting from Carl. A few silly mistakes saw Alan fall behind but with some power hitting he lead 10-8 at change of ends. He forged ahead to 17-9 with some quick hitting and speed about the table. Carl was now at the receiving end of an Alan Cooke assault and went down fighting 13-21.

FINALS

Vets Singles: A. Meads (Sx) bt J. Taylor (He) 21-16, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles S. Dorking (E)/A Holt (La) bt J. Holland (La)/N. Deaton (Dy) 21-7, 26-24

Ladies Doubles L. Lomas (Bd)/F. Elliot (St) bt J. Smith (Sco)/J. Harris (St) 21-15, 21-17

Mens Doubles A. Cooke (Dy)/D. Douglas (Wa) bt M. O’ Driscoll (Y)/S. Dorking (E) 21-16, 21-13.

Ladies Singles A. Holt (La) bt L. Lomas (Bd) 24-22, 18-21, 21-15

Mens Singles Semi-Finals

C. Prean (Low) bt N. Mason (Sx) 21-19, 19-21, 21-15

A. Cooke (Dy) bt D. Douglas (Wa) 21-14, 21-17

Final A. Cooke (Dy) bt C. Prean (Low) 19-21, 21-19, 21-13

Our grateful thanks to Barclays for their wonderful sponsorship and support at the tournament and to the management and staff at the magnificent Brentwood International Centre.

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PAGE 23
Peniel stole the limelight

DUNLOP NATIONAL SCHOOL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Peniel Academy, Brentwood, stole all the limelight at the Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships at Lea Green on March 16th when they won the title. The Under-16 event was dominated by Peniel, who won the title for the second year running. The Under-13 event was won by Parkview, Barrow-in-Furness, and the Under-19 event was won by Archbishop Cranmer CE, York. The Under-11 event was won by Shankill House, Edinburgh, and the Under-12 event was won by The Grove, Bristol. All the matches were played on a single table, and the winners were announced after each match. The final scores of all the matches are given below.

RESULTS:

Boys Under-19
1. Peniel Academy, Brentwood
2. Dronfield
3. Wollaston Comp

Boys Under-16
1. Peniel Academy
2. Parkview
3. Dronfield

Boys Under-13
1. Parkview
2. Archbishop Cranmer
3. Newent

Boys Under-11
1. Shankill House
2. Peniel Academy
3. The Grove

Girls Under-19
1. Grantham Girls
2. Peniel
3. The Grove

Girls Under-16
1. Peniel Academy
2. Parkview
3. Wollaston Comp

Girls Under-15
1. Parkview
2. Archbishop Cranmer
3. The Grove

Girls Under-13
1. Parkview
2. Archbishop Cranmer
3. Newent

Girls Under-12
1. Parkview
2. Archbishop Cranmer
3. The Grove

Girls Under-11
1. Parkview
2. Archbishop Cranmer
3. The Grove

Boys Under-19 results:

Peniel 8 Parkview 0

Boys Under-16 results:

Peniel 4 Parkview 4

Boys Under-13 results:

Peniel 4 Parkview 4

Boys Under-11 results:

Peniel 4 Parkview 4

Girls Under-19 results:

Peniel 8 Parkview 0

Girls Under-16 results:

Peniel 4 Parkview 4

Girls Under-15 results:

Peniel 4 Parkview 4

Girls Under-13 results:

Peniel 4 Parkview 4

Girls Under-12 results:

Peniel 4 Parkview 4

Girls Under-11 results:

Peniel 4 Parkview 4

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Girls Under-13
1. Parkview
2. Archbishop Cranmer
3. Newent

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2. Archbishop Cranmer
3. The Grove

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1. Parkview
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Future Stars

DUNLOP SCHOOLS

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships were held at Mansfield Leisure Centre on April 27th. The event produced six new champions — three of whom are from Peniel Academy, Bruntwood. Unlike the "outside-half factory for the Welsh rugby side" as immortalised by Max Boyce, it looks as though Peniel are well set to produce future stars!

There was the incentive of possible selection for the 30-strong English Schools squad to take on fresh opposition from the continent — in the shape of Czechoslovakia and Belgium — in the Dunlop Schools International Championships at Birmingham in July — but most players were content to pursue national honours.

All the 250 competitors were county champions. Organiser Paul Birch had enthused about the quality of the Boys' under-16 event in particular. Out of a maximum entry from 50 county areas, 44 responded. Defending champion, Edward Hatley, was seeded to most players were content to pursue national honours.

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Attract the best players from the national honours. The results of the Dunlop Schools Individual Championships are as follows:

**Girls Under-19**
- Linda Radford (Essex Metro) bt Claire Marshall (Shrops) 21-6, 21-19.
- Samantha Marling (Humberside) 21-17.
- Martin Adams (Berkshire) bt Garry Knights (Staffs) 21-13, 27-25.
- Adams bt Carter 21-9, 12-21, 21-17.
- Dawn Barnett (Northants) bt Claire Marshall (Shrops) 21-16.

**Boys Under-16**
- Edward Hatley (Hants) bt Raymond Powell (Gloucestershire) 21-14, 21-14.
- Chris Sladen (Essex County) bt Rod Manwaring (Lancs) 21-18.
- Girls Under-16
- Sally Marling (Humberside) bt Lyndsey Heyward (Devon) 21-12.
- Sara Williams (Middlesex) bt Nichola Meddings (W. Midlands) 19-21, 22-20, 26-24.

**MARTIN ADAMS (Berkshire) receives congratulations on his Boys Under-19 Success at Mansfield from Robin Fountain of sponsors, Dunlop.**

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**DUNLOP SCHOOLS INDIVIDUAL **

**CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**RESULTS:**

- **Boys Under-19**
  - Paul Carter (Surrey Metro) bt Garry Brown (Surrey Metro) 21-12, 12-21, 21-17.
  - Martin Adams (Berkshire) bt Garry Knignts (Staffs) 21-13, 27-25.
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NOT SATISFIED with their draw against Ormesby, the giant killers and third place candidates Team Peniel struck out at Grove and took a point with Matthew Syed beating Alan Cooke -21, 18, 18. Sean Gibson beat Chris Oldfield fairly comfortably and a duck from John Souter saw the points shared. It was Des Douglas nominated as Man of the Match as he beat Syed in straight games and Steve Dorking in three.

Draw enough?
Ormesby beat Bathwick Tyres 5-3 and the result was never really in doubt with Chen Xinhua and Michael O'Driscoll almost cruising. Ormesby dropped two games to Ellenborough a week later and are clearly not concerned with looking at a title gained on games difference. Indeed a draw with the equally mighty Grove at the end of the season should be enough for Ormesby to take the title for the first time. Of course there will be very little room for doubt if Creanga should suddenly reappear! Ellenborough took two points from Butterfly Cardiff as Colin Wilson beat both the Pauls - Lewis & Giles. Steve Ward won two for the Welsh but this was offset by a duck from Tony Taylor.

Highlights from Division 1 North include City of Leeds flexing their muscles against an unsuspecting Norwich Foxwood. The latter only won one as Neil Pickard beat Dave Indriks. Ruston Marconi Lincoln also stepped up a gear to beat Well-Connected Menswear despite two wins from Adrian Pilgrim. The way was opened for St Neots as they whitewashed Liverpool and Grove III drew away to Britania Potters Leisure. Phil Logsdon and Richard Tanner beat Andrea Holt in straight games in their two maximums.

Houdini Horsham
Further south Horsham Dolphins continued their Houdini act with a crushing of a 3-man Victoria Park Mazda. Tommy Cutter helped Chelmsford OC's to a 5-3 win over Colley Toyota with straight game victories over Mike Owens and Dave Barr. Lisa Lomas convincingly led Team Peniel II to a win over Rejects 1 despite two from Paul Carter. Clive Carthy recorded a surprisingly comfortable win over Joey Kennedy.

Dave Harvey helped Cheltenham Saracens to a bit of a surge to win 6-2 against Colley Toyota II. White Hart Launceston may have surprised OLOPS

Sean Gibson beat Chris Oldfield fairly comfortably

as Jeremy Williams led them to a 5-3 victory. City of Milton Keynes won a 3-hour+ marathon against Chan Construction to stay near the top. John Burleton pulled out the stops to beat Pete Machin 3 & 14.

Mark Illingsworth was the leader of the pack as City of Leicester punished Humberside Andro with a 7-1 defeat. Also in Division 2 North Cambridge managed to share the points with Vymura International. Andy Withers was very convincing in his two and Martyn Livermore won two hard-fought games.

McKoy looking crisp
Gunnersbury Triangle and Horsham Dolphins consolidated their mid-table positions with a draw in Division 2 South. Alan Cole played well to win two including one over Neil Charles. Tony Clayton beat John Taylor but lost to Nicky McKoy as Jolliffe Poole sunk 2-6 to Ellenborough who now have the Divisional title well within their sights. Fellow Cranleigh halted AHW Comets progress. Paul Sayer managed to beat Colin Luscombe and Steve Cowley to help his team towards a 6-2 win.

Cranleigh were at it again (winning) in Division 3 East against Team Peniel III. Linda Radford beat Mike Hayes and Ayo 'Pandus' Ademakinwa. Britannia ACI moved to relative safety by beating Uxbridge Burton 6-2. Malcolm Davis did much damage at No.1 in beating Neil Slater and Ivor Warner.

The top of the table tussle in Division 3 North between SEE S W Durham and Boro of Sunderland resulted in a draw despite the inclusion of Nigel Tyler who beat Dave Godbold and Pete McQueen. Malcolm Corking beat McQueen 20, -12, 22 and then beat Cliff Olsson 19 & 18. It was Ian Collier who offered the most resistance beating John Crawford 11 & 12 and Steve Cooper 17 & 16 despite trailing 4-11 against the latter.

Lowen and behold
Martin Lowe helped Pillinger Air Croydon to a 5-3 win over JAGS SC even though Farhat Rasul beat Henry Duist and Phil Cox. Rejects III suffered a shock 3-5 defeat at the hands of the experienced TSP Larkhall II. Derek Holman and Steve Davis were unstoppable. Trevor Campbell beat Gordon Chapman but then went on to lose to Frank Hams.

Little received from Division 3 West where I can only report that Bathwick Tyres beat Alpha Southampton 6-2 with Chris Bridges playing well. The other result I have is that Leckie whitewashed Thorns. Jill Harris was probably the best player on view and she beat Mark Brooks 17 & 16 and Ken Walton -20, 8, 12.

Results from early April include two walkovers for the Ormesby Club:-

Ellenborough 6 2 W. Warwicks
Grove I 8 0 B Cardiff
Ormesby 8 0 Destroyers
Peniel I 8 0 Bath

Grove III 6 2 Leeds
St Neots 5 3 WC Menswear

Chelmsford 5 3 VP Mazda
Horsham 3 5 Grove II
Gillingham 3 5 Peniel II

Burslem 2 6 Humberside
Leicester 4 4 Chan Const
Ormesby 5 3 Cambridge
Vymura Int 1 7 Yugo Cars

Birmingham 2 6 C M Keyenes
Cheltenham 3 5 Bath
Ellenborough 2 6 Larkhall
Cranleigh 4 4 G Triangle
Horsham 4 4 Poole
**British League – 2**

Sunderland 6 2 Tigers
Oldham 7 1 LD Crusaders
Ormesby 8 0 H Blaydon
Vymura Int 3 5 Durham
Brentwood 2 6 Yugo Cars
Cranleigh 7 1 Uxbridge
Westfield 6 2 Peniel III
Farleigh 8 0 Newport
Southampton 3 5 Grove IV
Thorns 1 7 Bath
B Ashford 0 8 Croydon
DS Rams 1 7 Larkhall
JAGS SC 7 1 L. Farrow
Norwich Liverpool
Rejects I C Toyota
Chan Const Launceton
OLOPS C Toyota
AHW Comets Rejects II
Edison Rejects III

British League Tables 9/4/91

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Div. 1 (North)

St. Neots | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 64 | 32 22 |
NFD Grove III | 12 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 65 | 31 21 |
Brit. Potters Leis. | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 51 | 37 15 |
Well-Con.Mensw. | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 52 | 44 13 |
Ruston Marc.Linc. | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 37 | 51 7 |
Norwich Foxwood | 12 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 40 | 56 7 |
City of Leeds | 12 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 37 | 59 6 |
Liverpool | 12 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 30 | 66 3 |

Div. 1 (South)

NFD Grove II | 12 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 68 | 28 23 |
Chelmsford OC’s | 12 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 62 | 34 19 |
Colley Toyota | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 50 | 46 12 |
Vict. Park Mazda | 13 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 51 | 53 12 |
Team Penal II | 12 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 43 | 53 9 |
Rejects I | 12 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 47 | 57 9 |
Horsh. Dolphins I | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 41 | 55 8 |
Kleinw.Bens.Gillll. | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 40 | 56 6 |

Div. 2 (Midlands)

Bathwick Tyres | 13 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 74 | 30 21 |
City of Milton Keynes | 12 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 59 | 37 17 |
Cheltenham.Saracens | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 55 | 41 14 |
Colley Toyota I | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 55 | 51 12 |
White Hart Launc. | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 41 | 55 11 |
Chan Const. I | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 39 | 56 8 |
OLOPS TIC | 13 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 44 | 60 8 |
Birm’thm Sports Club | 12 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 35 | 61 6 |

Div. 2 (North)

Yugo Cars I | 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 71 | 25 20 |
Ormesby II | 12 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 63 | 33 19 |
Vymura Inter. I | 12 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 52 | 44 15 |

Lifeline Dev. Crus. 12 5 0 7 40 56 10
Tigers TTC 12 2 1 9 28 68 5
Ormesby III 12 1 1 11 26 70 3

Div. 3 (South)

Pill. Air Croy.RTTL | 12 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 66 | 30 19 |
Edison TTC | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 54 | 34 16 |
TSP Larkhall II | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 53 | 43 14 |
Rejects III | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 54 | 49 12 |
J.A.G.S. S.C. | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 46 | 50 11 |
Briar Ashford | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 42 | 54 10 |
Linda Farrow | 12 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 34 | 62 7 |
Dick Shepherd Rams | 12 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 32 | 64 5 |

Div. 3 (West)

Amity Gen.2 Fare. | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 61 | 19 20 |
Bathwick Tyres III | 11 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 53 | 35 15 |
Leckie TTC | 10 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 57 | 23 14 |
NFD Grove IV | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 32 | 48 7 |
Thorns (Dud) TTC | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 27 | 53 7 |
Hall,Pin&Fost.Alpha | 2 | 1 | 8 | 31 | 57 5 |
Parkside Drag.(Newp.) | 2 | 0 | 8 | 27 | 53 4 |

**THE UNDER 18/21 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A progressive move for English Table Tennis this year is the inclusion in the Calendar of the Under 18/21 National Championships.

This tournament is to be held at the superb Spa Royal Hall in Bridlington on Saturday and Sunday 22nd and 23rd June 1991. The East Yorkshire Borough Council have kindly agreed to support the event as they have done with the English Junior Open the last four years.

The ETTA see this as a step forward, as this age group is certainly essential in helping players bridge the gap between the Junior and Senior ranks.

So many players reach high standards in the Junior age group, but find the step into the Senior ranks that much more difficult and become disheartened with the rise in standard. They either fail to reach their true potential or fall out of the sport completely.

Seven events will take place over the weekend and with a number of England’s leading senior players eligible to enter, will ensure a top class field and some very exciting Table Tennis.

**Tommy Cutler helped Chelmsford OC's to a 5-3 win over Colley Toyota**

Humberside Andro | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 47 | 49 12 |
City of Leicester | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 46 | 50 11 |
Burslem | 12 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 40 | 56 9 |
Cambridge TTC | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 37 | 59 6 |
Chan Const. II | 12 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 28 | 68 4 |

**Div. 2 (South)**

TSP Larkhall | 12 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 65 | 31 19 |
Ellenborough II | 12 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 64 | 32 19 |
Gunnersbury Triangle | 12 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 52 | 44 13 |
AHW(Blich)Comets | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 48 | 48 12 |
Horsham Dolphin II | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 47 | 49 11 |
Jolliff Poole | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 43 | 53 11 |
Fellows Cran.I | 12 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 43 | 53 10 |
Rejects II | 12 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 22 | 74 1 |

**Div 3 (East)**

Yugo Cars II | 11 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 55 | 33 17 |
BSG BRentwood | 10 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 52 | 28 15 |
Fellows Franl.I | 11 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 49 | 39 14 |
Team Penal III | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 43 | 37 10 |
Levi’s Westfield | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 39 | 41 9 |
Britannia A.C.I | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 29 | 51 5 |
Uxbridge (Bur.) | 10 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 21 | 59 2 |

**Div. 3 (North)**

Bor. of Sunderland | 12 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 73 | 23 22 |
SEE S.W. Durham | 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 61 | 35 20 |
Vymura Internat.II | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 61 | 35 15 |
Oldham TTC | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 51 | 45 11 |
Hoyles Blaydon YC | 12 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 44 | 52 10 |
Super Hungarians

Having gone down 4-3 to Hungary in Budapest on Feb 10, Austria reversed the scoreline in St. Valentin on March 16 but with the sets equated at 7-7 the Hungarians gained promotion to the Super Division of the European League by virtue of a better games analysis 18-16!

At one stage Austria had a 4-2 winning lead but in the last all-important final set Qian Qianli, despite taking the first game, was then beaten 16 and 17 by Karoly Nemeth. Scores:

- Ding Yi bt K. Nemeth 14, 13;
- Qian Qianli bt Z. Harczi 17, -20, 13;
- E. Maier lost to G. Wirth -9, -11;
- Ding Yi.Qian Qianli bt Nemeth/S. Varga -21, 14, 13;
- Ding Yi/P. Fichtinger lost to Harczi/Wirth -12, -11;
- Ding Yi bt Harczi 17, -16, 18;
- Qian Qianli lost to Nemeth 11, -16, -17.

Demoted from the Super Division will be Czechoslovakia who, having lost 5-2 at home to Poland in Topolcany on Feb 5, subsequently lost a second time when beaten 4-3 in Poland but no individual scores to hand. As a result of losing to Spain 4-3 in Madrid on Feb 9 Spain consigned Finland to Division 2 with a 5-2 success in Helsinki on March 16. Scores in Helsinki were:

- P. Valasti bt J. Pales -15, 17, 12;
- L. Eriksson lost to R. Casares -15, 19, -17;
- J. Kaimio bt A. Godes 19, -18, 14;
- Eriksson/Valesti lost to Casares/Pales -20, -13;
- A. Kontala/A. Komulainen lost to Pales/Godes -11, -9;
- Valasti lost to Pales -16, 20, -17;
- Eriksson lost to Pales -18, -13.

Although no result is to hand in respect of the promotion 2nd leg issue in Division 2 Denmark, having beaten Norway 5-2 in Norway, are the likely candidates for promotion. But at the other end of the scale Ireland became due for the drop when beaten 4-3 twice by Wales in Abersychan on Mar 15 and on the following night in Cardiff. Israel are due to take over. Scores in Wales were:

**In Abersychan**

- N. Tyler bt H. Meneely 14, 17;
- S. Ward lost to C. Slevin -22, -13;
- N. Williams bt J. Reid 19, 18;
- Tyler/Ward lost to Slevin/Meneely 18, 17, -8;
- Tyler/L. Collier bt Slevin/Reid 16, 19, 16;
- Tyler lost to Slevin -12, -18;
- Ward bt Meneely 19, 15.

**In Cardiff**

- C. Slevin bt Ward -17, -11, 14;
- Meneely lost to Tyler -11, 19, -13;
- Reid bt Williams 17, -16, 20;
- Slevin/Meneely lost to Tyler/Ward -16, -19;
- Slevin/Reid lost to Tyler/Collier -19, -12;
- Slevin bt Tyler 10, 16;
- Meneely lost to Ward -17, 14, -15.

Following the success of the experimental women's league in Europe last season there is little doubt that the league will assume formality hence forward but whether or not the established European League with a mixed team will continue in its present form will be open to debate, division by division, at the Informal Biennial General Meeting in Chiba. It could well be the Super and First Division associations will opt for separate men's and women's divisions.

In the experimental league this season Hungary and Czechoslovakia are involved for the championship decider in Div. 1 and Belgium and Italy in Div. 2. Positions 7 and 8 in Div. 1 are between France and the Netherlands in between Norway and Spain in Div. 2.

Hungary's Karoly Nemeth (left), and Austria's Ding Yi (below)
Scores:
V. Wirth lost to Braun 16,-19,-18;
G. Wirth bt Kahn 12,-19, 15;
Nagy lost to Batorfi 19,-12,-16;
G. Wirth bt Kahn 13, 10;
V. Wirth lost to Batorfi -16,-19;
Nagy bt Kahn 7, 17;
G. Wirth lost to Batorfi -16,-10,-16;
Nagy bt Braun -20, 18, 14;
V. Wirth bt Kahn -14, 13, 18.

ETTU/Nancy Evans Cup
In the men’s semi-final stage
Lyckeby Bordtennisklubb of Sweden are
at home to TTC Julich 1948 e.V of
Federal Germany while Falkenberg
Bordtennisklubb of Sweden play hosts
to Sportvereinigung Steinhagen e.V. of
Federal Germany.

Nigel Taylor of Wales

Jean-Philippe Gatocem pf France

European Club Cup of Champions
U.T.T. Levalliois of France and
Borussia Düsseldorf of Federal Germany
were this season’s finalists and they
agreed to make it a 2-legged affair. In the
first encounter in France Levalliois won 5-
1 but in the return in Federal Germany
Borussia Düsseldorf won 5-0 and 6-5 on
aggregate Scores:-

In France
Lo Chuen Tsung bt Cabrera 19,-18, 19;
Mommesin lost to Rosskopf -16,-15;
Gatien bt Fetzer 15, 17;
Lo Chuen Tsung bt Rosskopf 19,-17, 20;
Cabrera bt Galien 17,-19, 20;
Mommesin bt Fetzner -18, 17, 11.

In Federal Germany
Rosskopf bt Lo Chuen Tsung 18, 9, 20;
Fetzer bt Mommesin 19,-17, 20;
Cabrera bt Galien 18, 9;
Fetzer bt Lo Chuen Tsung -21, 13, 15;
Rosskopf bt Galien -22, 11.

Statistik Budapest won the
women’s section for the 19th time when
they narrowly accounted for Budapest SE
in an all-Hungarian final played on
March 26, 5-4 being the winning margin.

Finalists in the women’s section are
TSG Dülmen of Federal Germany and
CSS Slinta IJ.P.I.P.S. Constanta of
Romania. The final is scheduled for June
8 at a venue yet to be determined.

STOP PRESS
Denmark duly qualified for promotion
to Div. 1 of the European League
by beating Norway 4-3 in Esbjerg on
March 6 thus winning 9-5 overall.
Two men's singles successes for Lars
Hauth and Jan Harkamp, against
Roar Blikken, a win for Pia Hansen
in the women's singles, and the
mixed doubles did the trick.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE – SEASON 1990/91

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Champions & Promoted: Hungary

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Champions & Promoted: Denmark

Division 3 Final Placings

1. ISRAEL - promoted
2. Greece
3. Malta
4. Iceland

Division 4 Final Placings

1. Liechtenstein
2. Guernsey
3. Jersey

PAGE 29
DIMINUTIVE, unseeded Kathryn Woodward stole the show at the BP Essex Junior Select tournament, by winning the Under 12 Girls singles title.

Woodward's unexpected win overshadowed the singles victories by Edward Hatley and Maria Thornley in the Junior section and Adrian Vincent and Michelle Martin in the Cadets.

It is not often that the winner of an Under 12 event at a junior tournament steals the thunder of the big names, but so it was at Harlow. Little Kathryn Woodward, from Stockport, Cheshire, went into her category unsung and unseeded, but came out as the winner not only without losing a game, but in turn ousting the top three seeds. First to go was Nicola Silburn from Yorkshire, next Alison Smith from Kent, and finally Nicola Smith (also from Yorkshire) the No.1 seed. What a performance!

Top Seed

In the Cadet Girls Kathryn met her match at the hands of Cathy Sibbald, of Essex, who then succumbed to County colleague Jenny Coleman. Top seed Lynsey Hayward (Devon) had a fight on her hands in the quarter-final before seeing off Vicky Fox (Staffs) but reached the Final at the expense of Jenny. Meanwhile Sally Russell (Northants) put out Gemma Schwartz (Berks) but herself fell to Michelle Martin (Staffs). The Final saw Michelle a fairly comfortable winner over Lynsey.

Adrian Vincent upheld his No.1 status in the Cadet Boys singles. His progress to the Final was only hindered by games lost to Andrew Wilkinson (Northumberland) and Steven Weddings (Warwicks). Darren Blake had to battle very hard to beat David Heath (Devon) -18, 15, 7 and Philip Neal (Yorkshire) -8, 17, 19, both of whom have must have been very disappointed to lose. However Adrian was the master of the Surrey boy in the Final.

Winners Rostrum

Darren Blake did manage to get on the winner's rostrum when he and Adrian Vincent won the Cadet Boys Doubles event without losing a game throughout. The home County, Essex, gained its only victory of the day when Jennie Coleman, partnered by Lynsey Hayward, won the Cadet Girls Doubles. The Final was undoubtedly the most exciting one, with Gemma Schwartz and Michelle Martin putting up such a stern fight that the winners only just got home -17, 15, 22.

Just happy to be there, Louise Matta (left) of Peniel, Tracy Daniels (centre) also of Peniel and Lindsey Thornton from Bury in Lancashire

(Photos by John F. A. Wood)
With over 350 entries the Tournament was as popular as usual, and I hope it was enjoyed by all those who took part. I believe that everything ran smoothly, with reasonably early finishes on both days. I would like to commend the splendid efforts of our organizer Barry Granger who made everything go off so well, and to thank our team of umpires who laboured so hard over the weekend. To our sponsors, BP International of Harlow, go our sincere appreciation of their help and generosity towards our staging of this Tournament.

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES
Quarter-Final G. Knights (Staffs) bt D Baker (Middx) 12, 11
E. Hatley (Surrey) bt R. Hyacinth (Middx) -17, 13, 13
G. Jones (Yorks) bt A. Perry (Devon) 12, 13
B. Forster (Northumberland) bt D. Howarth (Lanes) -12, 15, 11
Semi-Final Hatley bt Knights 18, -18, 19
Jones bt Forster 15, 12
Final Hatley bt Jones 22, 7

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES
Semi-Final M. Thornley (Lanes) bt S Williams (Middlesex) 18, 17
L. Radford (Essex) bt A. Gower (Essex) -24, 10, 15
Semi-Final Radford bt Williams 19, 14
Final Radford bt Gower 15, 14

CADET BOYS SINGLES
Semi-Finals A. Vincent (Devon) bt V. Avery (Essex) 18, 9
D. Blake (Surrey) bt P. Neal (Yorks) -8, 17, 19
Final Vincent bt Blake 10, 16

CADET GIRLS SINGLES
Semi-Finals L. Heyward (Devon) bt J. Coleman (Essex) 19, 9
M. Martin (Staffs) bt S. Russell (Northants) -23, 16, 11
Final Martin bt Heyward 13, 17

CADET BOYS DOUBLES
Semi-Finals A. Vincent/Blake bt D. Heath (Devon)/P. Hudson (Essex) 17, 15
Neal/S. Meddings (Warwicks) bt B. Johnson (Berks)/P. Butcher (Essex) 15, 10
Final Vincent/Blake bt Neal/Meddings 12, 9

CADET GIRLS DOUBLES
Semi-Finals J. Coleman/L. Heyward bt S. Ruocco (Essex) -12, 15, 18
S. Schwartz/M. Martin 17, 15, 22

UNDER 12 BOYS SINGLES
Semi-Finals M. Adams (Berks) bt M. Greenwood (Bucks) 18, 19
D. Blake (Surrey) bt C. Sladden (Essex) -16, 13, 13
Final Adams/Greenwood bt Blake/Sladden 12, 15, 11

UNDER 12 GIRLS SINGLES
Semi-Finals L. Radford/S. Williams (Middlesex) bt D. Barnett (Ox)/S. Heath (Yorks) 18, 17
A. Gower/M. Thornley bt K. Goodall/C. Bentley (Yorks) 18, 17
Final Radford/Williams bt Gower/Thornley 15, 14

UNDER 12 BOYS DOUBLES
Semi-Finals Vincent/Blake bt D. Heath (Devon)/P. Hudson (Essex) 17, 15
Neal/S. Meddings (Warwicks) bt B. Johnson (Berks)/P. Butcher (Essex) 15, 10
Final Vincent/Blake bt Neal/Meddings 12, 9

UNDER 12 GIRLS DOUBLES
Semi-Finals J. Coleman/L. Heyward bt S. Ruocco (Essex) -12, 15, 18
S. Schwartz/M. Martin 17, 15, 22

important notice
The National Under 12 Team Championships (7th July) and the National Centre of Excellence (5/6/7th July), both scheduled to be held at Lilleshall National Sports Centre, have been cancelled. Cancellation of the latter means there will not now be a clash with the schools International Championships — best of luck ESTA.

The Lilleshall facility will now be used as a coaching/assessment weekend for the under 12s. This will form the basis for selection of the England Under 12 Squads for 1991/92. Details to be announced.

STUART SNEYD
Vice Chairman
Development/Coaching

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The new magnificent seven

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of previous vice-chairmen, who have performed their duties magnificently in the service of English table tennis, are seven eager men, who will serve the game with the same dedication and enthusiasm as their predecessors. And with some fresh ideas they will hopefully go on to achieve even greater success.

The ETTA National Council endorsed the choice of the new committee by Chairman elect Alan Ransome, at their April meeting.

For your information and interest Table Tennis News publishes the following short histories, on each of the new vice-chairmen.

L. A. CHATWIN
Tony Chatwin, aged 57 years old, who lives in Spondon, Derbyshire, is married to Pat and has two daughters Claire and Helen. He is by profession a maintenance engineer.

Unfortunately Tony doesn't play table tennis these days, but was once a good club player with Rolls Royce in Derby. He represented Derbyshire at Senior and Veteran level too.

It would appear that Tony's whole life is table tennis, for he was the Secretary of Rolls Royce Table Tennis Club for an incredible 28 years.

At one time he was also County Councillor in Derbyshire, where he is at present President. Tony is also currently serving as a Vice President of ETTA.

His other involvements in table tennis are ex-chairman of Town and County, qualified as a coach with Jack Carrington, ex National Councillor, set on development and tournament committees, member of NURC since 1970, member of Disciplinary Committee and Appeal Branch Committee.

Tony’s other activities, which somehow finds time for, are Chairman of Rolls Royce Tennis Club, for whom he still plays in the first team, and Chairman and Trustee of Rolls Royce Recreational Sports Committee.

Superstar, multi-talented Chatwin also represented Derby at Basketball, but that was many years ago.

Coaching S. J. SNEYD
Stuart Sneyd, who is Deputy Chairman, and chair, continues his successful role in the Coaching Section, where his expertise and motivation have proved very helpful to aspiring coaches.

Stuart is 46 years old and lives in Oldham, Lancashire with his wife Hilary and two sons Jarred and Darryl. He has recently become self employed as a Health and Safety Consultant.

His table tennis qualifications are ETTA, National Referee, L.T.T.F. International Umpire, and he is a member of the British institute of Sports Coaches (M.B.I.S.C.)

Stuart's other involvements in table tennis is Deputy Chairman, Coaching Officer and Development Officer of the Oldham League, he is also an executive member of Lancashire County, member of the British Olympic Table Tennis Committee, member of User Committee of Lilleshall National Sports Centre, and he is also in charge of the England under 12 squad.

Somewhere Stuart finds time for other interests outside of table tennis, mainly aircraft and marine communications.

M. W. J. LEWIS
Michael Lewis, who is aged 60, is married with three sons, lives in Clifton Down, Bristol. He is by profession a zoologist.

Michael's playing career included the winning of the Worleid Wide 40 years ago.

He is a senior Coach/Assessor and County Umpire.

Off court Michael is a very busy man indeed, from 1980 onwards he has been organiser of the Women's British League. Whilst in the past he was S.W. Region Coaching Chairman from 1977 to 1981, S.W. Region Development Chairman from 1981 to 1990, S.W. Sports Council representative 1980 to 1991, National Councillor for Avon 1980 to 1991, and various local league divisional matches.

Michael also lends a full life outside of table tennis, being a member of S.W. Sports Aid Foundation Grant Aid Committee. He is also interested in Squash Rackets and Badminton, and of course his hands are full with his seven grandchildren!

Marketing C. R. OAKMAN
Clive Oakman, who is 43 years old, and lives in Maldon, Essex.

Many of you may have met Clive on his equipment stall around the tournaments, for those who haven't his profession is table tennis equipment hire and retail.

Clive is a very active league player in Essex, playing for his club Maldon, in Division One of the Chelmsford and Burnham Leagues. He is also a coach and a County Umpire.

Clive's other involvements are Chairman/Secretary, British League Team Chairman, League Secretary from Tournament Committee, County Tournament Committee, Treasurer/Development Officer, National Councillor, and RCC Chairman.

He has been involved in many National Championships since 1984, from Brighton to Manchester.

He is English Senior National Organiser at Stourbridge, and has represented England Table Tennis at the Polish Open (twice) and with Spens (Leeds/APS) for the past six years.

Clive's busy schedule, has seen him for another spell of table tennis, although he did manage to escape from everything last summer to walk the coast to coast path (190 miles) from St. Bees, Cumbria, to Robin Hood’s Bay, Yorkshire.

G. R. YATES
George Yates, who is 69 years old, is married to Evelyn and has two children, a married son and daughter, and lives at Bolton, Lancashire.

He retired from British Rail after 44 1/2 years service, and now works as a freelance journalist, subscribing mainly to the Bolton Evening News, as well as Table Tennis News.

George, who is a County Umpire, plays table tennis for Hesketh Club.

He is Hon. General Secretary of the European Table Tennis Union, L.T.T.F. Council Member for Europe, President of VETTS, President and Press of Lancashire Table Tennis Association, President of Lancashire and Cheshire Table Tennis League, Member of Commonwealth Table Tennis Association, and Hon. Manager Committee, Hon. Match Secretary of the Bolton League for 41 years, and former Editor of Table Tennis News.

George likes to relax listening to classical music, visiting country pubs, watching cricket and football and taking holidays in Bournemouth.
Arthur receives award

At the Wellingborough & District Table Tennis League’s Closed Championships the opportunity was taken to honour the League’s Chairman, Arthur Palmer.

The English Table Tennis Association Merit Award for devoted service to table tennis was presented to him by Ken Marchant, Vice-President of the ETTA and Vice-Chairman of the Wellingborough League. Ken paid tribute to the excellent work he had done in the following posts in the League over the past 29 years as follows:

- Hon. Treasurer for 12 years (1962-1974)
- Acting Chairman for 2 years (1974-1976)
- Chairman for 15 years from 1976 to date
- Tournament Organiser on behalf of the League for 31 Tournaments

He also commented on Arthur’s playing career which spanned 28 years before retiring from competition, during this time he played for Irthlingborough Town Band Club (which he formed), Wearn Shoes (which he also formed), Old Grammarians, Whitworths and finally Higham Band Club.

On the County scene Arthur was County Umpires Secretary for 7 years (1978-1985) being himself a qualified County Umpire.

He is also a qualified Tournament Referee, the only one in the County. Truly a record to be proud of for a well respected person in the table tennis fraternity.

Arthur duly replied to Ken’s tribute, saying how stunned he was at the unexpected surprise and that he would treasure the Merit Award Honour bestowed on him always.

Arthur Palmer (left) is presented with an ETTA Merit Award by Ken Marchant

Paul Sherwood is Grove's most successful player

Thermovitrine

Graded Singles:

Fourteen year old Paul Sherwin proved to be NFD Grove’s most successful player in the April Thermovitrine Graded Singles Tournament held at Grove School on Sunday 14th April.

The Grove schoolboy, in his first season of competitive play, clinched the consolation singles title in the under fourteen age group with a final success over Burton-on-Trent’s Helen Rhodes; whilst in the afternoon session of play, the NFD Grove player stamped his authority on proceedings by clinching the Grade E title at the expense of Burton-on-Trent’s Charlotte Merrick.

There was to be success for Wolverhampton’s Sanjeev Clair in the senior singles, beating Leamington’s Chris Haynes in a high class final, whilst there was to be success for the Warwickshire Spa town in the consolation event as Richard Arnold beat colleague Kevin Atkins for success.

Meanwhile, the town of Chester clinched gold in the under 14 singles as Mark Ryder beat Stoke-on-Trent’s Richard Mounsey in a hard fought final, with NFD Grove’s Philip Parson and Leamington’s Liz Haynes the losing semi-finalists. It was to be the girls of Stockport who dominated the under 10 event, with Tracey Hunt beating Pottery’s youngster Matthew Mounsey to win the main event, whilst Cassandra Hakby won the consolation title at the expense of Chester’s Luke McCloud.

Final Hurdle

Youth was to beat experience in the Grade A event as Leamington’s Mark Jackson beat NFD Grove’s veteran Maurice Alcock at the final hurdle, with Chester’s Scott Jones the consolation winner, in a closely fought final over Manchester’s Paul Doolan. However, there was to be success for the Doolan family as Stuart Doolan clinched the Grade B title with a final success over Manchester’s Tony Rudovsky, whilst Newcastle’s John Steed beat the hard working Liz Haynes of Leamington to clinch the consolation event.

However, Leamington was to come good in the Grade C event as the rapidly improving Kevin Ariss beat town colleague Stuart Kure for final victory, with Newcastle’s Claire Shipley beating NFD Grove’s Philip Parson to win the consolation final.

Potteries

The hard fought Grade D event went the way of Chester’s James O’Connell at the expense of NFD Grove’s Matthew Siviter, with Pottery’s junior Matthew Mounsey winning the consolation event over Burton-on-Trent’s Helen Rhodes. Meanwhile, in Grade E NFD Grove’s impressive Lorna Ferguson won the consolation event beating clubmate Krissy Sherwin in the final.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Committee of St. Neots Table Tennis Club has for sometime been concerned about the possibility of a fire on the premises, the main danger of which would probably come from a smouldering cigarette.

Although we are required by the Insurance Company to inspect the premises before they are vacated there is always the danger that a smouldering cigarette could be missed. The effect of a serious fire would of course be disastrous for local table tennis and have some effect nationally.

The committee has therefore decided that with effect from 1st May 1991, Smoking will be banned in the Playing Area, Office, Canteen, Kitchen and Toilets. For the convenience of players and visitors however, smoking will be allowed in the passageway from the Main Entrance Door.

We hope you will appreciate the reason for this ban and give us your co-operation by confining your smoking to the passageway only.
Southern Region
by Brian Lamerton

Cippenham 'A' successfully saw off the challenge of Pyestock (6-sets to 3) and are now on course to retain their regional league Premier division title. Alec Watson KCD(Siga) 9 2 11 (3), Frank Earis (2) and Steve Dorrell (1) were the Cippenham winners with Andrew Nash bagging a brace for Pyestock.

In Division 1 OLOP look as impregnable as the 9 sets to love drubbing which Mike Childs, Ian Schwartz and Martin O'Donovan gave to Cippenham 'B' suggests. The Ladies league is a repeat of last season where all depends on the last match between champions Kingfisher & Cippenham.

Good individual performance this month came from Roger Hookey (Isle of Wight), Howard Davies & Kevin Smith (Merton) and Taryn N-Vallis (Kingfisher Aldershot Ladies) twice, when three individual wins all contributed to over-all team wins.

South West Region
by Alf Pepperd

To current date — Heartly Congratulations to Dorsets County Press Officer, Martin Hughes, who despite only having two League's to report on, ie: Poole & Wimbourne has this season done a marvellous job and up until the April issue of this Magazine, Martin, has not missed one single month of County Reports.

Since moving further South West, Andy Seward has done remarkably well with his Somerset County reports, at least we now are aware that table tennis is alive and well in that part of the Region. I have this season completed 31 live weekly broadcasts for BBC Radio Gloucestershire, South & West, plus two recorded events when I had to be somewhere else.

My very grateful thanks to Alex Perry, Englands No.1 Junior from Crediton Devon, and the ETFA National Development Officer DiCon Gray for allowing me to interview them both in early April for the BBC local Sports prog.

South West Cadet League
Final Positions Season 1990/91

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Leading Averages

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Sponsors of
Alan Cooke
wish him every success this season
Lloyd helps the ladies

COTSWOLD LADIES LEAGUE

Sunday 24th March saw the Cotswold tournament staged at Sydenham Sports Centre in Leamington Spa which enjoyed a good entry, helped mainly by our Referee, Brian Lloyd, making sure entries were received by most female members of the eligible leagues even those who had not played in the League itself.

Open Singles
The premier event, the Open Singles, had an entry of 30 with the last 4 consisting of Sue Culbertson (Birmingham), Janet Hunt (Worcester), Kate Ryan (Leamington Spa) and Sandra Peakman (Birmingham). Janet and Sandra won through to a tightly fought final with Sandra being the victor at -24, 20, 16.

The Cadet Singles was run in groups and Swindon's England Ranked Cadet, Tracy Youlson, showed form by beating J Allen in a comfortable two straight sets final.

Straight Sets
Other events included Div 1 Singles, Div 2 Singles, Doubles and Consolation Singles. The Division 1 Singles saw Helen Pogmore (Worcs) beat Joan Humphrey-Middlemore (B'Ham) in the final, seemingly having no difficulty taking the match in two straight sets. Joan had beaten Julie Taylor (Cheltenham) and Helen had beaten Judy Morley (Gloucester) in the semis, again both matches being taken in two straight sets. Division 2 team mates Kate Ryan and Tracey Green from Leamington Spa battled in the final, group of 3 along with Glady Lott of Oxford, with Kate taking the No.1 spot and Tracey No.2. In the Open Doubles Sue Culbertson partnered Sandra Peakman (both of Birmingham) and beat Witney partnership Janet Brown and Ann Wotherspoon in the semi to meet Lynda Reid and Helen Pogmore (Worcester) in the final which again was a two-straight victory for the Birmingham duo. Another two straight sets final was between the two Witney ladies, Joy Kirby and Ann Wotherspoon with Joy taking the closely fought two straight sets Consolation final at 20 19 after being taken to 3 sets in the semis by J Groves (Birmingham).

Next Year
The afternoon was a great success with plenty of T.T. for everyone with most events run in groups, organised by the one and only “Brian Lloyd” from Birmingham. Thanks Brian for all your assistance — a thorn between so many roses!! See you next year.

Trophies
Presentations were made at the end of the events, along with the 1990/91 Divisional Trophies. Worcester were the victors in Division 1 with the second place still to be fought between last year’s division 2 promotion winners Cheltenham, and Gloucester. Gloucester still having one outstanding match against Witney. Cheltenham’s Reiko Morita took the individual award with 100% record. The Division 2 award was presented to Leamington Spa with Oxford taking the runners-up trophy, however with these two teams still to play a final match, a ‘gentleman’s’ agreement was made that should Oxford win the final match the trophies would be exchanged!!! With Oxford on the pen I’d like to mention the league match between Oxford and Evesham. Paddy Allan had come out of retirement and arrived in form and attacked anything in sight (even the net!!) winning points on both sides with superb positive play and gained a hat trick to help Oxford to an 8-2 win. Margaret Abbott took games from Jenny Williams and Joan Parfitt although not without a fight (both were won in the 3rd set). Sally Chambers took 2 games (not surprisingly with two people to hit the ball!!). Best wishes Sally for the forthcoming event. Back to the League results — Tracey Green and Kate Ryan were the joint No.1 Individual players each gaining 100% records and it was agreed that each would receive an Individual trophy. WELL DONE!
Best read!

Mailbox was the best read in March TTN. I wonder what an interested but unbiased observer would make of it all?

Does Colin Wilson’s ‘ten or less spectaculars at any one time’ at County Premier weekend tell us anything?

Geoff Twiss writes of the future need for ‘bold decisions, innovation and flair’. ‘The market is king’, he says. How right he is. But is Alan Ransom, with his proven marketing skills, our white knight to lead us to the promised land? I think not.

The Americans have a saying ‘But where is the beef?’ No amount of marketing flair and glossy packaging can sell a product that people find insufficiently appealing. They may try it, but they won’t stay with it until they get the ‘beef’.

This way rather than as Chairman of the ETFA. This position could then be filled by a person with a proven track record of effective service to sport, not just one that is inherently appealing to players. In the increasingly competitive market for public leisure time, the basic product ‘beef in the sandwich’ — must not only be sufficiently appealing to attract but also must be sufficiently captivating to hold that attraction permanently.

Geoff Twiss said ‘The market is king’.

Failure to respond adequately to this fact can only lead to further decline until we are left out on an even lower plateau of support than we have now. Bold decisions for change could revitalise the sport and people’s perception of it. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

John Parker 3 Ferry Green

Willington, Derby

Amazed

Regarding the letter from Pam Richmond (April Issue) which deals with comments made by Keith Wilson and John Crawford on the election issue and the poor state of affairs within Cleveland County, I find that I am absolutely amazed that any representative of a county association has the nerve to define its failure to provide representative match playing as ‘it’s supposed to have great motivator’ included the growth of this form of competition as one of his main election policies. The two gentlemen concerned did not bother to list the whole of those in Cleveland who still work to improve standards, they simply made the point that unless a candidate wished for support on certain issues then it must be seen that the organisations to which he belongs are working towards the same aim. That particular organisation have had no interest in any form of county match play for several seasons. It is an easy way out to say that money previously spent on coach training should be spent on coaches’ schemes. Having decided on that path, I would expect to see some indication of a developing junior game. With the exception of three lowly ranked cadets who could all do far more given the sort of backing they would receive in other counties, there is no success at all nor any sign of anything to come in the future. Anyone with even the smallest amount of interest in the game will know that good quality match play must play a role in good coaching.

Name

Keith Wilson and John Crawford were 100% correct in their judgement of an area where they have competed and organised for the past 23 years. Since his trade involvement became heavy, Alan Ransom simply has not had the time to motivate in the way that the phenomenal success of the 70’s was gained. True, top class events are still held in the region. They are a joy to watch and I am pleased that I can regularly see the very best players only a few miles away. However, these should not be disguised to the real truth, and that is that Cleveland and as Mrs. Richmond says, is barely a shadow of its former glory days. High profile events will also be very beneficial to any particular brand names and trade interest. There are no real events playing the game in Cleveland and as Mrs. Richmond says, is barely a shadow of its former glory days.

The situation in Cleveland and the letter from Mrs. Richmond is rather like listening to a horse racing trainer who tells all and sundry that he has an abundance of talent that has yet to set foot on a racecourse. Unfortunately, anyone who has knowledge of that particular pastime will undoubtedly say that only fools will take any notice. As far as I am concerned, our magazine is being used to underline the efforts of her association.

I personally would rather read the comments of a respected person and a respected organiser than those of someone who is so obviously living on past glories. An attitude that does Cleveland County and the sport itself, no favours whatsoever.

Ken Lyons

Northallerton, N. Yorkshire

Disheartened

When I heard that the National Junior Top 12 was not to take place this year I was very disheartened. I see it as the second most important tournament on the circuit behind the National Championships. It is the only competition where players get the opportunity to play against all of the other top juniors and to find the most appropriate ranking position for each.

By staging more tournaments it is my belief that the task of selecting teams for international events would become easier and the rankings would become less an attendance list.

The Management Committee’s reason for cancelling the event was ‘Severe overcrowding of the junior calendar’.

I find this hard to believe seeing as there is only five other major events between Christmas and the following season.

Martin Adams

Sunninghill, Ascot

Unwelcome

We journalists agree with Pam Richmond when at the end of her letter in the April issue of TTN she says ‘Criticism from outsiders who have no knowledge of what they are writing about is unwelcome’.

The Editor will by now have realised that the letter headed ‘Disgust’ written by someone called ‘I. Barrington’, could well be libellous and is certainly written in a style that as a former editor, I would dismiss as personal abuse. If the Editor continues to print such dangerous letters without amendment or rejection the ETTA will need to increase their libel insurance.

During the four years John Prean has been in the chair, many words have been written praising his efforts. He has not been ‘attacked’ as so clumsily described by the writer from...
World Class

While I agree with Jim Beckley that Carl Prean's play at the National Championships was 'awesome' (Table Tennis News, April) I think he takes something away from Carl in his description of the semi-final clash with Chen Kin Man.

It was not that Chen was off form but that Carl, definitely in 'overdrive', was so devastatingly good. Chen seemed to me to be playing well - good enough to beat anyone else in England - and the only disappointment was that he could not get closer than 12-21, 17-21, 13-21, (not 17-21, 7-21, 9-21, the scoreline over Sean Gibson) against the imamnade Prean. Chen's only chance was to attack more, Carl 'read' his shot so perfectly.

It was a world class performance by a gentlemanly champion.

Ken Muhr
Stone Stratford, Milton Keynes

Lunatics

Have the lunatics finally taken over the asylum? Having read an article in the 'Mail On Sunday', with regard to the proposed charge against John Prean of bringing the sport into disrepute, I sense that perhaps there may be some resemblance with my first statement and the workings of our own governing body. By the time this letter is published the charge will have been sensibly dismissed or outrageously upheld, but the effect on the need for unity at top management level should not be left without comment. Unity is badly needed, and has been for some time. How such a course of action can be tolerated by the vast majority of seemingly sane people within our game is beyond comprehension. There should be no place in authority for vindictive fools who use the system as a means for gaining notoriety at the expense of a man who has achieved so much during his five year stint as Chairman. The long standing critic from Berkshire, as he is described in the Mail article, should make himself known to the full membership. At least then we may be able to avoid close contact should his apparent 'illness' be contagious! John Prean made his views known on the election to be his successor, with a particularly strong opinion on why he thought Alan Ransome would be a bad choice. His views were made in the style that we have all become accustomed to. He has always written in a controversial manner, sometimes abrasive, but very often brutally true and nothing hurts more than an unwelcome truth or two. However these were his own thoughts. Personal opinion is not yet a crime in this country. I would go as far as to suggest that to publicly castigate a man after five successful years in management is nearer to being a criminal act. I have no working interest at national level, but as an interested observer of Table Tennis politics I believe that the long running Chen Affair, the election issue, and the ridiculous disrepute charge has highlighted the need for a Chairman with the ability to bring all of the warring factions together. Whether Alan Ransome can do this is open to debate and, although I personally supported Richard Scruton, I honestly and sincerely wish him 100% success during his time in the chair. He will need support from all corners to achieve what is needed to make our sport grow again, he can well do without the sort of ad­ministrational hooligan whose petty charge has pitched our sport into the national newspaper headlines, once again for all the wrong reasons. Unity is a key requirement for Alan Ransome, he must have all of the top class administrators under one roof. If he begins his term of office by dispensing with men of proven talent, then the membership will be given the first sign that they have got it all wrong.

Keith Wilson
31 Branckin Road
Darlington, Co. Durham

Election

In the recent election of Chairman, from an electorate of 302 organisations on the Electoral Register 255 ballot papers were received in time, a creditable return of 84%. That is the good news. The bad news is that of those 255 papers 30 did not show the organisation from which they came, having been incompletely filled in, so that the value of their vote could not be checked from the Electoral Register and they were invalid - this despite a reminder in the covering letter 'Make sure that your FILL IN THE NAME OF YOUR ORGANISATION; if you do not, your vote will be invalid'. A note on the ballot paper told the person(s) filling it in that all 8 boxes in the authentication section had to be filled in, yet 8 failed to show the office of the second person signing and had to be rejected. A ninth was rejected for another reason.

The commendable 84% return sadly finished as only a 71% poll. Four people expected the Post Office to work miracles by delivering items on the same day as they were posted - the closing date!

In the election of Deputy Chairman, of the 84% return of 253 papers 36 were unidentified and 7 incomplete, reducing the poll to 69%

A.J.H. Wickens
ETTA Returning Officer

Jolson sings

In reply to your correspondent G. Twiss (TT News April), I reply to Readers' Letters when asked to do so by the Editor. I realize that "John Prean comments" is not as interesting as "Jolson sings" or "Astaire dances". That apart, I reply when I feel a reader deserves a reply. I do not really feel this is the case in respect of Mr. Twiss' letter.

John Prean
Isle of Wight

Persistance

One admires Alan Shepherd for this persistance, if not his grasp of the matter (TT News April). My letter, printed in the Telegraph, did no more than explain Management Committee policy and correct certain misapprehensions. It was both my duty and my right to do so. If Mr. S. wants to interpret this as "confrontational" and another occasion for unpleasantness, so be it. I have no intention to respond to him in kind.

John Prean
This correspondence is now closed - Editor.

Please Note

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

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

Only those whose names and addresses are supplied for publication will in future be considered.

MAILBOX - 2

London NW8.

It is our job to tell people what is going on, to describe situations and to produce facts and to comment like anyone else on what is happening (or what might happen) in a sport where we are closely involved. Mr. Prean freely admits that his style of management has produced what he once called "casualties", but that is his way of doing things.

During the Prean era we have written hundreds of table tennis stories - The Daily Telegraph by the end of May will have carried over 170 table tennis stories during the season - very few of which were "political". Describing his actions from the chair is not attacking. It is reporting facts.

John Woodford
Eastbourne, Sussex

Before publishing the letter from I. Barrington, I gave it's contents long and careful deliberation, and finally decided that the statement made was the personal opinion of I. Barrington, and therefore not libellous. If I had rejected the letter I would have been showing an unfair bias towards fellow journalists - Editor.

Thanks

Dear Colleagues

Thanks to a significant majority of County and League Associations, July will see me installed as Deputy Chairman for 1991/92.

To say that I am delighted is almost an understatement - it is a great feeling to know that my first year in office will be spent with so much support behind me.

I approached the election campaign with a touch of nervousness, unsure of the reaction at the other end of the telephone line. I was impressed - very impressed - with the response. Take it from me, with the dedication and enthusiasm I found out there, table tennis has unbelievable potential.

I learned a lot, perhaps most importantly, the need for personal contact. That lesson will not be forgotten and has already been passed on to others.

Best wishes for the future and thanks once again for the tremendous support.

Stuart Sneyd
Deputy Chairman, elect

MAILBOX - 2

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Honours for disabled

TWENTY-NINE top disabled athletes from the north west took part in the North West Regional Table Tennis Championships in Manchester.

Organised by the British Sports Association for the Disabled, and supported by Central Manchester Development Corporation, the championships took place at the Castlefield Hotel's "Y" Club in Manchester.

Special guests included the husband and wife team Don Parker and Jill Hammersley Parker, both well known and respected figures in the table tennis world. Don is an England international and current manager of the England able bodied team; whilst Jill has twice been the European women's singles champion.

The two will be coaching the North West finalists in the run up to the BSAD's national finals this summer and also gave training tips during the Manchester event.

Specially commissioned cut glass crystal trophies, sponsored by the Development Corporation, were awarded to the winners in nine different classes. The prizes were presented by Cllr. John Gilmore, Lord Mayor of Manchester, Dr. James Grigor, chairman of Central Manchester Development Corporation, and John Denham, physical education director of the "Y" Club.

IN the early hours of Saturday morning on the 9 March, table tennis players from all over the country were making their way to the West Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Coventry for the second training week-end of this multi-disability squad.

The ultimate goal for all squad members was to place in the team selected for Barcelona in 1992.

This is the first squad to be drawn from all disability groups, for selection into one team to represent Great Britain. Previously it had been the case that each individual disability sports group had selected it's own team. Thus at most International events there were in effect three or four teams 'representing' Great Britain at Table Tennis.

"Sports Specific"

However, following Minister of Sport Mr. Moynihan's papers "Building on Ability" moves had been made to bring together the various disability and make the teams more "sports specific", rather than "disability specific", with the ultimate aim of the process being that the governing bodies of a particular sport, ie the ETTA, becoming responsible for all aspects of their sport, including for people with disabilities.

Therefore the players that were greeted by Bob Churchill, the British Paralympic Association's Table Tennis Co-ordinator, came from various disability groups, Les Autres, Paraplegic, and Cerebral Palsy. But there the divisions ended as all squad members were put through a rigorous training routine by the coaches present, John Holland (CP Sports), Tony Teff, (Les Autres), Mark Mitchell and Claire Plumridge from the BWTTA, the paraplegic sports group.

Each coach organised a particular session which lasted approximately one hour, points covered included consistency, flexibility, three ball attack, and various types of service and service return. During each session players were moved from table to table at regular intervals to ensure that partners did not get fed up with each other, it also allowed a nice mix of the disability groups and showed graphically the differences in the standard of play.

At the beginning and end of each morning and afternoon session there was a warm up and warm down carried out by David Heel, a physiotherapist. These sessions are very important as injuries often occur when players stretch 'cold' muscles, or don't relax properly after a hard training session and find themselves in trouble the following day.

I am certain that most players would have taken something away from David's sessions and will use some exercises not only before competing or training, but for day to day fitness as well.

Most players seemed to enjoy the week-end and I am certain many gained a great deal from it. Not all will go to Barcelona next year, but I'm certain that for those who don't, the experience of being part of such a squad, that represents the best of British talent in Table Tennis for disabled people, will be great spur for the future. This after all is the start of a new way forward and at least we are ONE TEAM for Great Britain, cue - the National Anthem!!!
Carlisle Div 1 Winners

Carlisle and District Table Tennis League Division 1 winners (left to right) Stewart O’Neil, Julie McLean and Martin Tickner

WILTSHIRE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Claire Hunter

Senior results
Men’s singles, semi-finals: Terry Bruce beat Ian Neate 21-19, 21-11; Bill Moulding beat Tim Waller 20-22, 6-21, 21-19; Finals: Bruce beat Moulding 21-17, 14-21, 21-9.

Women’s singles, semi-final: Claire Hunter beat Alison Hunt 21-18, 21-13; Brenda Lee beat Tracey Youlton 21-11, 21-10; Finals: Miss Hunter beat Miss Lee 21-16, 16-21, 21-16.

Veteran’s Men’s singles, semi-finals: Terry Bruce bt Brian Powell 21-14, 21-13; Bill Moulding bt Alan Duke 21-12, 16-21, 21-10; Finals: Bruce bt Moulding 17-21, 21-10, 21-16.

Veteran’s women’s singles, semi-finals: Sylvia Morse beat Ann Jorry (Calne) 21-17, 21-13; Margaret Wilson beat Gwen Hazel 21-12, 19-21, 21-11; Finals: Mrs. Morse bt Mrs. Wilson 21-15, 21-16.


Women’s doubles, semi-finals: Brenda Lee and Margaret Wilson beat B. Roberts and Julie Mills 21-12, 21-9; Claire Hunter and Tracy Youlton beat Melissa Potter and Margaret Potter 21-11, 21-10; Finals: Miss Lee and Mrs. Wilson beat Miss Hunter and Miss Youlton 21-18, 16-21, 21-12.


City of Derby
Junior Select

Stewart Crawford from Falkirk upset the form book in the cadet singles. Seeded No. 9 based on his performances in recent English events he beat Andrew Wilkinson and Philip Neat and the No 1 seed Darren Blake in the top half of the draw. With tremendous support from the rest of his team he went on to confidently beat Adrian Vincent the No. 2 seed in the final. This is the first time that a Derby cup has gone out of the country.

Collection
In the cadet girls Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton once again contested a final. This time Sally came out the winner. On the Sunday she added the junior trophy to her collection when she beat Ellen Meddings in that final.

High Entry
Again, despite a high entry, Referee Stewart Sherlock with Deputy Karen Tonge finished both days at 6.30. This was Stewart’s last Derby Select as it was for organizer Andrew Horsley. Both have played a tremendous part in the success of this tournament.

RESULTS

Cadet Girls Semi Finals
S Crawford bt D Blake 22-23, -16, 12
A Vincent bt P Hudson 16, 14
Final: Crawford bt Vincent 21, 16

Cadet Boys Semi Finals
S Crawford bt D Blake 22, -16, 12
A Vincent bt P Hudson 16, 14
Final: Crawford bt Vincent 21, 16

Junior Girls Semi Finals
S Marling bt K Goodall 12, -15, 12
E Melling bt N Deaton 10, 18
Final: Marling bt Melling 14, 13

Junior Boys Semi Finals
E Hatley bt D Howarth 18, -17, 18
A Perry bt M Adams 16, 16
Final: Perry bt Hatley 15, -14, 16

WHAT’S ON

ETTA
HALEX U10/12 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sat/Sun 15th/16th June
Bletchley Leisure Centre
Bletchley, Milton Keynes

ETTA
U18/21 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sat/Sun 22nd/23rd June
The Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington

ESTTA
SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Fri/Sat/Sun 5th/6th/7th July
Stockland Green Leisure Centre
Birmingham

WORLD WHEELCHAIR GAMES
(Table Tennis)
Sat/Sun/Mon 20th/21st/22nd July
Guttmann Sports Centre
Aylesbury, Bucks

BSAD NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sat/Sun 10th/11th August
Rivermead Leisure Centre, Richfield Avenue, Reading
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<th>Pts</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Hartidge Keith</td>
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<td>Schofield Derek</td>
<td>Stockport</td>
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| 180 | Reeves Brian | W.R.
| 179 | Taylor David | Manchester |
| 178 | Bayford Patricia | Aldershot |
| 177 | Anker Pamela | L.Coll |
| 176 | Neale Brian | Warwick |
| 175 | Hagger Barry | Hunts |
| 174 | Bunrugh Ann | Northants |
| 173 | Radford Peter | Upminster |
| 172 | Brookman Bill | Heston |
| 171 | Bax Geoffrey | Watford |
| 170 | Taylor Lee | Birmingham |
| 169 | Cartwright Brian | Stockport |
| 168 | North Jackie | Hertfordshire |
| 167 | Jackson Keith | Burnley |
| 166 | Newcombe Margaret | Hereford |
| 165 | Thomas Jackie | Slough |
| 164 | Wilson Karen | Aldershot |
| 163 | Rayford Batt [ ] | Eynsham |
| 162 | Sinden David | Exeter |
| 161 | Rogers Paula | Cheshunt |
| 160 | Shaler Eileen | Fareham |
| 159 | Shailer John | West Bromwich |
| 158 | Smith Howard | Huntingdon |
| 157 | Woolley Barry | Gloucester |
| 156 | Wheatley Neil | Warwick |
| 155 | Richardson Nath | Faringdon |
| 154 | Taylor George | Finchley |
| 153 | Sykes Matthew | Bisley |
| 152 | Smith John | Portsmouth |
| 151 | Smith Jack | Bolton |
| 150 | Smith Jack | Bromley |
| 149 | Smith John | Burnley |
| 148 | Smith John | Portsmouth |
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| 130 | Smith John | Southport |
| 129 | Smith John | Reading |
| 128 | Smith John | Maidstone |
| 127 | Smith John | Chichester |
| 126 | Smith John | Shrewsbury |
| 125 | Smith John | Basingstoke |
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| 122 | Smith John | Reading |
| 121 | Smith John | Shrewsbury |
| 120 | Smith John | Stafford |
| 119 | Smith John | Reading |
| 118 | Smith John | Wakefield |
| 117 | Smith John | Reading |
| 116 | Smith John | Preston |
| 115 | Smith John | Reading |
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| 113 | Smith John | Aldershot |
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| 105 | Smith John | Aldershot |

**Ranking Lists may be obtained from ETTA (Hastings) by sending a stamped addressed envelope which should state which list is required, i.e., Senior, Veteran Men, Veteran Women, Cadet and any queries and complaints should be stated in writing. Information cannot be given on the telephone. Often research is needed, which requires a great deal of time and staff are taken from urgent work. You will understand.**

Whilst every care is taken that the data inserted into the computer are accurate the occasional error is inevitable. The E.T.T.A. accepts no responsibility of any kind for such errors and their consequences. Any mistake discovered will be investigated and a full audit trail posted to the player. Proven errors will be rectified in a subsequent list. Any queries from the Ranking List should be directed to Rob Sinclair, E.T.T.A., Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, TN34 1HF and be accompanied by a payment of £5 plus s.a.e. to cover cost of administration.
New England colours

THESE smart new England shirts are part of a contract signed earlier this year with the Tamasu Company who manufacture Butterfly equipment in Japan.

They were worn for the first time at the World Championships in Chiba and the Commonwealths in Nairobi, and England was the first nation to adopt white as one of its official colours.

The ITTF agreed at a meeting last year to permit the use of white shirts for events when a yellow ball is used.

The England players were even consulted for their views on the new shirt and shorts and had a hand in the final design.

Andrew Flies Solo

SKYLET Andrew flew to Chiba, at his own expense, to compete under his own banner alongside his England colleagues.

Andrew arrived at Chiba on a high note, having been a member of the successful England men’s team in Nairobi.

Skylet Andrew is pictured right, with the Hungarian No.1 lady Czilla Batorfi