Carl Prean

England's No.1 for the
Cadbury's Chocolate Break

English Open

Proven Number One
Jaques Table
All roads lead to Birmingham

THE NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA is in the heart of Birmingham, easily accessible from Britain's motorways; the M5, M6 and M42 encircle the City Centre, easily accessible from Birmingham New Street and Snow Hill rail stations which are both some 15-20 minutes walking distance away; and easily accessible from Birmingham International Airport, some 25 minutes away by road.

Birmingham, my town, is a City full of surprises and when you visit the Convention Centre, Symphony Hall and National Indoor Arena complex, this exciting development is something that each and every one of us, is justifiably proud.

New dimension

The regeneration of this quiet area of the City has added a new dimension to the many facilities that Birmingham offers to all.

We call the National Indoor Arena Britain's premier indoor sporting venue, indeed it is world class, and on view will be more than 20 tables and seating for approximately 6,000 people.

The National Indoor Arena is a multi-use centre, and since opening in October last, has already staged an Opera - Verdi's epic, Aida, which had a cast of 600, but to my mind, was lost with the adaptability of the seating, and its cost, leaving much to be desired.

Not so for our 59th English Open Championship where the most careful thought has gone into the table plan and seating layout. The cost of watching the World's best table tennis players is considerably less too.

Finding the Arena

For those who choose to travel into the City by road, the A456 and A457 embrace the National Indoor Arena, from which the numerous signs direct all to the ample car parking facilities adjacent to the Arena. A simple plan is often the most difficult to provide, but should anyone lose themselves then Broad Street (the A456) is perhaps the best known locator, know to all, and largely unaffected by redesign, or indeed, renaming.

The A456 (Broad Street) is also the Hagley Road, the land of 1001 Hotels and B&B places, of every description, price and quality. It is the land of restaurants, night clubs and casinos - just about every type of entertainment expected. If I was coming to stay in Birmingham to visit the National Indoor Arena then it would be along the Hagley Road corridor that I would choose, so enabling me to leave my car, take a 5-10 minute bus ride, and so enjoy the freedom of meeting up with friends without concern for breaking any possible laws!

Parking away from the designated spaces at the National Indoor Arena, like any City Centre, is a nightmare, like trying to find a needle in a haystack, but it is not necessary to know of anywhere else. Most Stores, and indeed the Art Gallery, the Museums, the Library, and the Shopping Malls, are but a short distance away and very walkable.

"Of original charm" is a description of which most citizens of Birmingham are blissfully unaware. As a child, I was told that Birmingham has more waterways than Venice. Is this so? I still don't know the answer but canals do surround the National Indoor Arena and most nearby have been extensively refurbished, well worth a visit for the inquisitive who enjoy narrow boats and good local hostelries. Gas Street Basin is but some five minutes away - very colourful and worth the short stroll.

Birmingham's heritage this century is perhaps best known for its association with the motor car. The nearby Science Museum is very educational and St. Paul's Square adjacent there-to is yet another example of Birmingham's regeneration.

Birmingham has been a City for 103 years and gained its Royal Charter from Queen Victoria in January, 1889.

The City's motto is "Forward", most apt for a City Council continually wishing to provide the best for its citizens and others to enjoy.

For well over 60 years Birmingham has played its part in the development of table tennis. As a founder member of the ETTA in 1927, the late Maurice Goldstein OBE (1912-1988) was not only Secretary of the Birmingham League for over fifty years but was also the ETTA's President from 1973 until his passing.

Many will remember the World Championships that were staged in the City in 1977, again at a brand new venue at that time, the National Exhibition Centre, which first opened its doors, the year previously.

The National Indoor Arena deserves success.

The facilities demand using. Table Tennis will have to "jockey" with others for the Hall's use but we can make this partnership work with your help and support.

Follow your road to Birmingham between the 9th - 12th January 1991; I promise you will not be disappointed.
CONTENTS

Highlights of this month's issue

CADEBURY'S CHOCOLATE BREAK ENGLISH OPEN All roads lead to Birmingham

NEWSDESK Chris Oldfield recovering

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 15 Days of fabulous table tennis

JOOLA EUROPEAN LEAGUE Englan's underground victory

PREMIUM LINE

BRITISH LEAGUE

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE Lisa beats Batorfi

WORLD TEAM CUP England slam Germany

Editor's Note

THIS being Table Tennis News' Christmas and New Year edition, I wish to express my season's good wishes to all our readers.

I would also like to personally send Christmas Greetings to Chris, John and Ros Oldfield, who are constantly in my thoughts and prayers.

This issue is dominated by the exciting news of the Cadbury's Chocolate Break English Open. Yes, we have a sponsor for the English Open thanks to the efforts of Elaine Shaw, our Chief Executive.

This Open promises to be bigger than the last with over 30 countries taking part. And a special open for Desmond Douglas as it is taking place in his city.

I would like to send my congratulations to John Holland and Naomi Barthoe who were married at the Peniel Academy on 14th December 1991 and apologise for not being there in person, but unfortunately it clashed with the Junior Nationals.

December/January issue, is action packed with reports on International as well as National and local events, so why not treat your friend to an annual subscription of Table Tennis News, as a Christmas present.

I hope that we all have a prosperous, successful, healthy and happy new year.

John F A Wood

TABLE TENNIS NEWS 1992

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(Copy date 30th April)
Nicola scoops national award

TABLE tennis sensation, Nicola Deaton, added to her clutch of national honours last week without even picking up a bat!

The 15 year old England player received a "pleasant shock" when she became this year's Sunday Times Schoolgirl Sportswoman of the year at an awards ceremony in the Drapers Hall, London.

There she joined female sporting stars, both past and present, including Mary Peters MBE and Christine Truman, for a memorable luncheon.

Nicola, from Barlborough, was nominated for the award by her games teacher at the Mount St. Mary's School, Spinkhill, Miss Jill Greenwood.

However, her triumph came completely out of the blue, as her father, an ex-England international explained.

"Nicola had no indication whatsoever that she was going to be the winner," Colin told the Trader. "It was certainly one of the proudest moments of her life."

And Nicola, nicknamed the "pocket rocket" because of her pint-size, added: "I was flabbergasted, but very, very pleased."

"I received my medal from Mary Peters and I met lots and lots of famous sporting people."

According to Colin, Nicola was presented with her medal and a magnum of champagne in recognition of her remarkable feat earlier this year in Nairobi, where she gained three senior Commonwealth bronze medals.

And the younger is undoubtedly set for greater glory as she has already been chosen as a member of Britain's Barcelona Olympic squad.

Chris Oldfield recovering

AT the time of going to press on Thursday 5th December 1991, Chris Oldfield was making good progress, in the Nether Edge Hospital, Sheffield, writes John Wood.

England ranked Oldfield was involved in a serious road accident on Sunday 24th November, whilst driving home from Market Drayton to Sheffield, following a British League match. The accident occurred on the A516 in Derby and involved three other cars.

Oldfield started to recover consciousness towards the end of the week and sufficient progress had been made to move him from Derby to Sheffield on Tuesday 3rd December.

At this stage he is now on a rehabilitation programme and a really good sign was that Chris had his first solid meal for 10 days, on Wednesday 4th December, when he ate an omelette.

Members of NFD Grove table tennis club made a tape to assist Chris in his recovery and Desmond Douglas took this message to the Derby hospital, and Oldfield responded to the table tennis sounds and the voices on the tape.

Chris' parents John and Ros Oldfield wish to thank the many well wishers who have sent their regards. They are overwhelmed by their son's popularity and would like to say a special thank you to Jill Parker, Ian Marshall and members of NFD Grove.
15 Days of fabulous Table Tennis

THE up coming festive season is to be a real "FESTIVAL OF TABLE TENNIS" in England with no less than 15 days of international events covering the country from Cornwall right up to Tyneside. The historical will, of course, be the 59th ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS which are to be staged at the magnificent new National Indoor Arena in Birmingham from 9th to 12th January. Individual entries are being confirmed daily. Sweden are bringing their top six men; 1991 World Champion, Jorgen Persson, 1989 World Champion, Jan-Ove Waldner, 1991 World Doubles Champions, Peter Karlsson and Thomas von Scheele, three times European Champion, Mikel Appelgren, and European Top 12 Champion, Erik Lindh. Even with all that talent available, Sweden were not good enough to beat China in the final of the TSP World Team Cup in Barcelona in November.

Chinese representatives at the English Open will include the holder of the Men's Singles, Yu Shengtong and Xie Chejia who was a member of the Chinese squad in Barcelona. Within the Japanese team will be Miko Hoshino, the holder of the Women's Singles. Many other top countries and players are participating, including the teams from Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium, the U.S.R.R., Canada and Nigeria, and entries have now been received from 30 countries, probably the biggest entry ever for an English Open. All the best English players will be participating so this will be a rare opportunity for British table tennis fans to see a World Championship class event in the centre of the country.

At the time of writing no sponsorship has been announced, but I am pleased to report that we have three very significant leads and I am very hopeful of making an announcement in a matter of days.

The Festival of Table Tennis starts on the 18th December when the England men entertain Czechoslovakia in the first leg of the vital Jools European League semi-final. Our boys did badly in Ipswich to lose to Austria 4-1 but redeemed a semi-final place with a 4-0 win against Spain the night before the start of the TSP World Team Cup in Barcelona. A victory against Czechoslovakia will probably bring England two futures against Austria in the final for promotion to the Premier Division.

The match against Czechoslovakia is to be staged at the Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre and sponsored by Sedgefield District Council. Special arrangements are being made by England Captain, Donald Parker, to bring his players together 24 hours earlier than usual for special training to achieve the desired result.

The England Vs China seven match tour is to be played nationwide. China are sending a very strong squad including two of their current top players and two very impressive up and coming youngsters, so great matches are in prospect. As part of their English tour the Chinese will play in the Cleveland Open on 4th and 5th January. A strong international entry is gathering at Thornaby pavilion for this event en route to Birmingham, including national teams from China, Japan, Denmark, Greece, Canada, New Zealand, Scotland, Wales and Ireland and, of course, England. The Butterfly team events will be played

Alan Ransome

on Saturday with the individual matches staged on Sunday.

A top Women's match in the European Women's league is to be played on the eve of the English Open at the Nidaros Orange Leisure Centre in Solihull, near Birmingham, when England take on the might of the Soviet Union. With England's progress this season, the two sides could be evenly matched and another hard competitive match is in prospect. For further information about all these events, see the back inside cover of Table Tennis News. This period is probably the most impressive programme of international table tennis ever staged across England and congratulations are due to Olve Oetsman and the T.T.A. Marketing team for putting together such a sparkling spectacular.

Play your part, leave the fireside and the TV over the festive season and enjoy supporting spectacular table tennis! One time to watch the television will be on Saturday, 11th January when the finals of the English Open Championships will be featured on BBC Grandstand.

In addition to all this activity on the marketing side, significant progress has been made with the Sport Council's Focus Sport Table Tennis programme. The "European Focuss is now being addressed by the Sport Councils of each European country. Discussions on this project are at a very early stage, but again the potential benefit for the sport in terms of extra specialist facilities could be very worthwhile.

There is an enormous amount of work involved in this development programme and I would like to pay tribute to Mike Lewis and Diccon Gray who have been doing this on their own and would like to pay tribute to Mike Lewis and Diccon Gray who are both doing a tremendous job for the Association in carrying out the work to make progress with these projects.

At the invitation of the President of the I.T.T.F., Ichiro Ogimura, I attended the TSP World Team Cup and meetings of the I.T.T.F. Executive Board in Barcelona at the end of November. Again, our teams did well. England men beat Germany, the European Silver Medallists, and came within a hair's breath of beating the World Champions, Sweden, going down 3-2. This tournament will be reported in full elsewhere in the magazine, but I can say it was great to see Alan Cooke back on form beating Jorg Rosekof and the leading German player and Carl Prean playing one of his best ever table tennis matches to defeat World Champion, Jorgen Persson. Unfortunately the fabulous North Koreans were too strong for us in the quarter finals. They have two of the world's best players, the defenders Li Cun Sang, and aggressive penholder attacker, Kim Song Hui. Our women's team who were late reserves coming

Continued overleaf
into the event beat the Australian team which included two Chinese players, but found the might of North Korea and Hungary predictably too strong.

The I.T.T.F. and E.T.T.U. meetings in Barcelona proved to be very interesting and productive. The main point was that a number of delegates agreed with our view that tournaments such as the English Open ought to be protected and enhanced by the I.T.T.F. There is a danger that the multitude of new I.T.T.F. world title events will lower the priority of International Open Championships. The I.T.T.F. accepted this point and formed a Calendar Committee to structure a better calendar for international events and set standards for international tournaments. This is very much along the lines of our Calendar Working Party plus the arrangements that we have for the grading of 5 Star, 3 Star and 2 Star tournaments. The benefits of achieving 5 Star international status, or whatever term the I.T.T.F. decide to use, for our English Open would be enormous, in that it will mean that the I.T.T.F. will guarantee the leading world players and assist with the provision of prize money. It is, therefore, vital that we prove to the I.T.T.F. that we are a suitable recipient of such status and the English Open in Birmingham in January gives us the opportunity to do just that.

Other interesting developments include the progress that the I.T.T.F. are making with the production and installation of an international computer system for table tennis and President Ogimura has promised that England will be one of the first to receive the I.T.T.F. computer hardware. This will mean that in our Hastings office we will have on line all the latest information relating to International rankings, player profiles, and technical and general information regarding I.T.T.F. events which will be an extremely useful asset.

Whilst in Barcelona I held many meetings with the top policy makers in table tennis from other countries, developing relationships and building useful contacts for the future. One meeting was with President Ogimura himself at which time he had accepted, together with officials of the Japanese Association, our invitation to Japan’s leading young players to compete in the English Junior Open in Bridlington in May and to stay on to play some international matches against England and attend a joint training camp. Progress is being made with the development of our juniors and it was nice to see some victories at Gateshead in the junior international against the Netherlands last month and to see England pick up the majority of the titles at the Cleveland Junior Select. Improvement has started but there is still a long way to go.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all members of the English Table Tennis Association a Very Happy Christmas and a successful and prosperous New Year!

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6th VETERANS WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
DUBLIN 1992
15th - 20th JUNE 1992

MEMBERS of the V.E.T.T.S. will shortly be receiving their entry forms for this competition direct from the organisers in Dublin. Any other Veteran player wishing to play in this competition should contact the organisers direct for an entry form at:

6th Veterans World Table Tennis Championships
Central Hotel Chambers
Dame Court, Dublin 2
Tel: (01) 772789
Fax: (01) 6799419

We have been asked to send all our entries in together so would everybody please make their cheques payable to: "V.E.T.T.S DUBLIN" and send them along with their entry form to:

John Clew
7 De-Vitre Green
Wokingham
Berk's RG11 1SE
Tel: (H) 0734 780703
(W) 081-897 1820

As the amounts of money referred to on the entry form are in Irish pounds, would you please ensure that you use the following conversion rates before you send me your cheque in pounds sterling:

ENTRY FEE
(Irish £33.00) Please pay £31.00 sterling
GUEST FEE
(Irish £17.00) Please pay £16.00 sterling
PUBLIC TRANSPORT FEE
(Irish £14.00) Please pay £13.00 sterling
FAREWELL PARTY TICKETS
(Irish £22.00) Please pay £21.00 sterling

If you have any questions regarding this competition please contact John direct.

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STOP PRESS

In an effort to try and get everybody located in the same area, we have managed to secure some bed and breakfast accommodation at a very good rate. Please contact John as soon as possible as good accommodation will be heavily in demand.
The Chinese are exercising it. Passport from the new country. And since Seoul which has changed the situation completely. To cut a complicated regulation short, it basically gives the old country the right of veto for three years after a player gets a passport from the new country. And the Chinese are exerting it.

You can see why. Between 180 and 300 men and women have left China to earn money as players and coaches around the world during the 1980’s. So since 1988 the whole of the Premier Company has been owned by Hillsdown Holdings who are major food suppliers to multiple store grocery chains.

Premier Beverage Products maintain their links with Cadbury in the form of a licensing agreement on Cadbury drinks products, hence the brand they are promoting through their sponsorship of the English Open is Cadbury’s Chocolate Break.

Also included within their range of products:
- Bournvita
- Cocoa
- Marvel
- Complement
- Typhoo/QT (instant tea)
- Cadbury’s Milk drink

For 1992 a new drink, Cadbury’s Highlight, is being introduced.

Managing Director of Premier Beverage Products Mr. Bill Brodie, agreed to the English Open sponsorship as a way of promoting the Cadbury’s Chocolate Break brand to the family market. It is his first involvement with the sport and we will certainly work closely with him and his team to try to ensure he meets his objectives.

Projects which involved him in sponsorship in the recent past include the Birmingham Walkathon and Swimathon for Telethon. He is particularly pleased to be able to sponsor such a prestigious sporting event as the English Open at a venue so close to his company’s headquarters in Birmingham.

Tickets for the Championships are still available from the Hastings office with payment either by cheque or credit card. Tickets will be on sale at the National Indoor Arena throughout the Championships.

Introducing our Sponsors

THE English Table Tennis Association is delighted to welcome Premier Beverage Products to the sport of table tennis through their sponsorship of the English Open Championships 1992.

Premier Beverage Products, one of four separate companies established in 1990 from the division of Premier Brands, markets a range of drinks and milk based products. Premier Brands was originally formed as a result of a management buy-out from Cadburys but since 1989 the whole of the Premier Company has been owned by Hillsdown Holdings who are major food suppliers to multiple store grocery chains.

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by Elaine Shaw

BRITAIN opened a door for its Olympic medal hopeful only to see another closed in his face by China. Three and a half years earlier his former country said that it would not allow him to play in the Barcelona Games, writes Richard Eaton.

Chen needed that passport to be eligible for what, at the age of 32, would almost certainly be his one and only chance of taking part in the Olympics. His world ranking of 12, the highest for an Englishman, means he does not have to take part in any qualifying tournament.

It came as a shock to learn that the adopted Yorkshireman needed something more. Unknown to many people there is a new Olympic rule introduced since Seoul which has changed the situation completely. To cut a complicated regulation short, it basically gives the old country the right of veto for three years after a player gets a passport from the new country. And the Chinese are exercising it.

You can see why. Between 180 and 300 men and women have left China to earn money as players and coaches around the world during the 1980’s. So says the Beijing-produced magazine China Sports. The figure may therefore be higher. The talent drain is a desperate worry for the Chinese. They want to reduce it, and maybe even to encourage some of the talent back.

There were urgent behind-the-scenes talks between the English and the Chinese at the Olympic venue in the Estacion del Nord during the World Team Cup in November. Their outcome provided a grim prospect for Chen, but not quite an impossible one.

"A change of heart will be difficult but not impossible" was the view expressed by Li Furong, Vice President of China’s Olympic committee, to Alan Ransome, the ETTA’s Chairman.

It had better be quick but not impossible too. The Olympic qualifying tournament starts on February 7th, and Britain has to decide before then whether it should put an extra player into this as a replacement for Chen.

Chen has already had enough hassle over eligibility and citizenship and rule changes and appeals and selection controversies and visas and politics to have made him want to give up long ago. Small wonder he said: "I am very disappointed to hear of the Chinese objections. I have been really looking forward to playing for Britain in the Olympics. My preparation is already planned."

He continued: "This is the third season that I have played for England in world events and Barcelona may be my last chance to compete in the Olympics. I hope that an agreement can be reached."

If it can, he would, on current form, have an outside chance of a medal. If it can’t, he will have to content himself with the knowledge that those repeated demoralising treks by car and train to get a visa, and the long hours spent hanging around embassies every time he wants to compete abroad, are at last over. Xinhua is one of us now.

Chen’s sweet and sour

Britannia opened a door for its Olympic medal hopeful only to see another closed in his face by China. Three and a half years earlier his former country said that it would not allow him to play in the Barcelona Games, writes Richard Eaton.

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You can see why. Between 180 and 300 men and women have left China to earn money as players and coaches around the world during the 1980’s. So
See the stars at Birmingham

English Open 1990 Men's Singles Champion, Yu Shenton of China

Birmingham's favourite player Desmond Douglas

Sweden's Jan Ove Waldner
Chinese domination

THE THAKE TRANSPORT Kent Junior Open Championships played at the Howard Grammar School on 2nd and 3rd November attracted an entry of over 200 and climaxied on the first day with a spectacular display of attack and defence with Kent's Chinese resident guests again dominating their events. Unfortunately their three month stay is nearly at an end and no English player has even looked like ending their unbeaten run. On this occasion it was the penhold attacking style of Meng Qing Yu that overcame the defence of Xu Kai 21-15, 22-20. The challenge of England International Edward Hatley (Surrey) and Adrian Vincent (Devon) was brushed aside at the semi final stage 21-11, 21-9 and 21-18 respectively.

Sarah Seaholme (Herts) beat 4th seed Jennifer Coleman (Essex) in the first round of the Under 17 girls singles 17-21, 21-8, 21-14 for the only major upset but Joanne Barham (Rotherhite) made her Kent colleague and 3rd seed Lesley Hollowingston (Sittingbourne) fight all the way for her 16-21, 21-17, 21-19 victory. Linda Radford (Essex) beat Seaholme 21-15, 21-11 in one semi and Kent's challenge ended at the same stage when Sara Williams (Middb) beat Hollowingston 21-10, 21-11 and went on to control the heavy topspin of Radford for a 21-12, 21-18 championship victory.

Craig Millwood (Herts) and lan Muak (Bucks) toppled 3rd seeds James Wheatley (Derby) and Darren Lindsey (York) in the 2nd round of the Under 17 Boys doubles but found the Chinese pair too hot to handle in the semi final 21-12, 21-14. The other seeds reached their respective places in the bottom half of the draw where Edward Hatley/Adrian Vincent just edged Richard Smith (York)/Don Katz (Middb) 21-14, 19-21, 21-14 but they got little change in the final, losing 21-12, 21-16.

The Under 17 Girls doubles seeds reached their allotted places but there Tamar Connolly (Lancey)/Sarah Gardner (Essex) beat 2nd favourite Sarah Seaholme/Jennifer Coleman 21-17, 21-19 but could not maintain that form in the final and lost 21-14, 21-11 to the No.1 seeds Linda Radford/Sara Williams who had Nicola Duke (Kent)/Sarah Stedman (Sussex) 19-21, 21-9, 21-0, 21-9 in the other semi. Maidstone's Martin Hewett kept the Kent flag flying in the Under 17 Class 2 boys singles with a controlled 21-17, 21-14 win against Colin Butterworth (Avon). After overcoming Glen Ritchie (Folkestone) in the second round Hewett then had a 19-21, 21-16, 21-19 victory over Benjamin Ware (Essex) and in the semi final passed all expectations with a positive and controlled display of top spin against the combination of Surrey's Stephen Lampkin 9-21, 21-15, 21-14. Tamar Connolly all the way from Lancashire reached her second final of the day in the Under 17 Class 2 girls singles but again came out second best, this time to Lincolnshire's Nicola Massingham 21-13, 21-17.

Sunday belonged to the Under 14's (Cadets) and Under 12's and again produced some splendid matches. The Cadet Boys singles lost two seeds in the early rounds No.2 Simon Jahn (Middb) crashed at the first hurdle to Leighton Chipperfield (Notfolk) 21-17, 21-19 who went on to reach the final with wins over James Purser (Surrey) 21-13, 21-15 and Kevin Doyle (Sussex) 21-9, 21-16 but found the combination bat of No.1 seed Stephen Lampkin to difficult, losing 21-9, 21-16. Kent's Scott Pidday put out the seeded Sidanta Karalliede (Sussex) in the first round 27-25, 21-19 but in turn lost to Kent's other Under 21 star Christian Thompson 21-17, 21-17 who put up a great fight before losing to Stephen Joslin (Essex) 18-21, 21-15, 21-18.

Essex's Verity Clemenson had a magnificent tournament, dismissed by the defeat of No.1 seed Vicky Fox (Staffs) in the quarter final of the Cadet Girls singles 17-21, 21-18, 21-10 and then made Nicola Massingham fight for her final place 21-16, 21-15. The other seeds reached their allotted places with Massingham adding another title to the one won on Saturday with a 21-12, 21-17 win over Sarah Stedman.

Kent's Christian Thompson and Alan Smith caused a major upset in the Cadet boys doubles when they beat the seeded Robert Abotts and Paul Cunningham (Sussex) in the second round and continued their run to reach the semi final before losing to the top seeds and eventual champions Steven Lampkin/Sidanta Karalliede 21-17, 21-11.

The Cadet girls doubles went generally to form with the seeded pairs reaching the semis but Verity Clemenson Tracey Davies (Essex) missed a good opportunity to put out Crystal Hall/Joanne Barham (Kent) when they let a 19-11 lead in the third slip away to lose 21-19.

In an unseeded event most of the top Under 12 boys knocked each other out in the early rounds but in the end it was Sarah Barham (Northumb eria) that came out on top with a fine 21-16, 21-16, 21-16 win over Ben Linnecar (Essex). Verity Clemenson won the Under 12 girls singles with a determined and skilful performance against the favourite and clubmate Tracey Davies 21-18, 20-22, 21-8 and also reached the Cadet Class 2 final, accounting for Kent's Alison Smith 21-18, 21-17, before finally being beaten by Tina Beaney (Sussex) 19-21, 21-10, 21-18 in the final.

Kent's Glen Ritchie and Christian Thompson reached the semi final of the Cadet boys Class 2 event with Ritchie getting home 21-8, 21-12, but he in turn fell to Stephen Joslin 21-18, 21-11 in the final.

Prize money and trophies were presented to the finalists by her Worship the Mayor of Gillingham, Councillor Cutting and By Alec Thake, director of Thake Transport, sponsors of the Kent Junior Open.

Credit Card payments through ETTA office

BUYING tickets, paying magazine subscriptions and other purchases through ETTA's Hastings office is now much easier thanks to an agreement with Barclays Merchant Services.

Hastings office now accepts payments by Visa and Mastercard. It gives all table tennis supporters the option of an alternative, easy payment method. One phone call and you can order and pay for tickets for the English Open, an England international, renew your Table Tennis News subscription and buy an ETTA tie and diary.

When you phone, please remember to have your credit card with you as we will need to take details of your card number and expiry date when you place your order.

RESULTS - TELEPHONE 0891 664300
England juniors dominate

RESULTS

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Semi-finals
Alex Perry (ENG) bt Chris Slacken (ESSEX) 15, 11
Edward Hatley (ENG) bt Ronald Vyverberg (NED) -17, 20, 15

Final
Alex Perry (ENG) bt Edward Hatley (ENG) 15, 9

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-finals
Diana Bakker (NED) bt Natasha Williams (WALES) 15, 20
Katie Goodall (ENG) bt Linda Radford (ESSEX) 16, 12

Final
Katie Goodall (ENG) bt Diana Bakker (NED) -15, 7, 15

CADET BOYS SINGLES

Final
Steven Merdinger (ENG) bt Vincent Avery (ENG) 12, -18, 15

CADET GIRLS SINGLES

Final
Eveline Hengtsman (NED) bt Shelley Ruocco (ENG) 10, 11

U11 BOYS SINGLES

Final
Dominic McGreevy (IRE) bt Stephen Lineiment (ESX) 14, 16

U11 GIRLS SINGLES

Final
Lindsey Thornton (LANC) bt Trudie Bloor (SHROP) 12, 13

HOSPITALITY INN CADET BOYS TEAM FINAL - ENG bt NED 3-0

Steven Meddings bt Jorg de Cock 15, 10
Vincent Avery bt Camiel Nikkele 14, 12
Merdinger/Avery bt De Cock/Nikkele 20, 17

HOSPITALITY INN CADET GIRLS TEAM FINAL - NED bt ARUNDEL 3-1

Eveline Hengtsman bt Vicky Fox 6, 7
Katie Goodall bt Femke Hermus 16, 5

HOSPITALITY INN JUNIOR BOYS TEAM FINAL - ENG bt NED 3-1

Robert Hyacinth bt Jurgen Pastoors 13, 19
Alex Perry bt Ronald Vyverberg 19, 15

HOSPITALITY INN JUNIOR GIRLS TEAM FINAL - ENG bt NED 3-1

Katie Goodall bt Femke Hermus 6, 4
Nicola Deaton bt Diane Bakker 14, 17

Express Sports 1992 Summer Camp

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Express Sports is Britain’s largest camp, which gives the best value for money. The course is held in the beautiful county of Devon; The coaches are England’s most successful tournament coaches: Malcolm Francis, John O’Sullivan, Derek Marples, Brian Etherington, Rowdon Fuller and Peter Garvey.

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For more information and to reserve your place please contact:
Malcolm Francis on 0825 764566 or write to 19 Campbell Close, Uckfield, Sussex.

APOLOGY: To Sandra Rider, Olivetti Ladies and in particular to sponsors, Olivetti Systems and Networks - the caption under the picture appearing on page 33 of the November magazine should have read ‘Presenting a cheque for £500 - YES thank you Olivetti Systems and Networks for FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS’
England's underground victory

ENGLAND men stormed into the semi-finals of the Division 1 promotion chase in the inner suburbs of Barcelona at a place called Ellsenda, an area unknown to many taxi-drivers and at a venue unknown to many residents of the area.

The England supporters present included Alan and Jose Ransome, Richard Scruton, Colin Clemett, David and Kate Miller.

Mrs. Ransome was attending her first ever European League match away from home - she was startled by the friendly but crude presentation. More experienced Englishmen abroad like Colin Clemett could only smile as the national anthems were played in a clubroom atmosphere seating about 200 people.

We could only stand solemnly as we heard a collectors piece vocal recording of God Save the King, which is estimated must have been over 40 years old.

In this jolly, noisy atmosphere England men were looking for a quick 4-0, following their misfortunes against Austria in Ipswich. As Chen Xinhua was put in to open the innings. My first impression was that the Spanish men had made some progress, proved by their 4-3 win against Italy.

Chen hardly raised a sweat in the cool Spanish evening as he won the first game 21-9 against Roberto Casares. The second game saw the Chinese player easing the pressure and allowing the Spaniard to get 17 points on the scoreboard.

Carl Prean, keen to make amends for losing in Ipswich swiftly got back into his best rhythm crushing Ismael Caymel 14 and 13. The battle between Prean and Caymel contained a strange incident when the umpire unjustly complained on certain aspects of the Saarbrucken player's service following a protest from Caymel. But Prean weathered the storm quite easily and the result was never in doubt giving England a 2-0 lead.

Alan Cooke turned a corner of his fortunes for this season with a return to devastating top-spin aggression that made Cibantos seem a novice. Cooke was in complete command allowing only 20 points against him to win 9, 11.

So, 3-0 ahead saw Prean and Cooke place England firmly in the semi-finals against Czecho-slovakia with a splendid doubles win 14, 11 over Casares and Caymel.

That was it. The English fans were left to find their way out of the hall which was situated under an underground tube station and then find a taxi-driver who knew the way back to the city centre and the various hotels, spread miles apart through the vast sprawling suburbs of Barcelona, but a beautiful city by any standards.

On several occasions during the match, play was held up whilst a train passed overhead, the building shook and the lights flickered.

Apparently, there were no refreshments for spectators or visitors to purchase. There were two plus points - journalists were given a telephone to use but the lights in the "office" were put out when a door opened on to the arena at the back of the court, and there was mercifully, no interval, understandable because there was nothing to drink if you were dying of thirst, but of course, most of the tapwater in Spain is not drinkable!

SCORES:

SPAIN 0 ENGLAND 4

Chen Xinhua b R. Casares 11, 17
C. Prean b I. Caymel 14, 13
A. Cooke b M. Cibantos 9, 11
Prean and Cooke b Casares and Caymel 14, 11

FOOTNOTE:
The entrance to the hall was invisible for newcomers. As a result the journalists handed their Press passes to an amazed ticket collector for the underground trains!
TABLE tennis again has a Premium Rate Information line. The service, previously withdrawn because of operational problems, comes into service again on 16th December 1991. The number is 0891 664300.

Three different 'menus' offer callers the option of firstly a general update on news, events and results; secondly a detailed British League fixtures and results service; and thirdly a similar fixture and results service for County Championships.

The system is simple and the instructions on how to use the service are clearly given to all callers. All callers are greeted briefly, with the operator then advising the caller that he or she will have the option of selecting News Update, British League or County News. The options are then each offered in turn with the caller being requested to say 'yes' for the required service and stay silent for options not required (as it is voice activated any word will actually activate the system so silence really is necessary for the options not required!). Silence for all options will result in all three being repeated to give the caller a second chance.

Information will be updated regularly to ensure this telephone line is the best way of obtaining the most up to date information on table tennis events, results, players in the news, international team selections, match venues, prices and where to get tickets and a host of other information.

After a caller has heard all the information on one subject he/she will be given the option of listening to the other table tennis messages on the same line. Each message will last up to 5 minutes.

Table tennis supporters are encouraged to use the service - British Telecom have shown their confidence in the sport by providing the line free of charge, but it's future will only be secure if used regularly. Calls are charged a 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times. An average of over 2,500 calls per month will ensure its future.

Table tennis now lines up proudly with other sports which provide a telephone informational and results service. The lines are also used for weather reports, telephone quizzes, recipes, medical advice and some less 'acceptable' services.

The dubious reputation earned by some 0898 members was challenged by Mercury's 'clean' image with the ETTA with detailed service, please use it.

Table tennis is therefore one of the first sports to benefit. The system will provide the ETTA with detailed reports on average call length, number of calls per day, per week, per month etc, the percentage of total call time on each of the options, total value of calls, and other statistics, which will help ETTA learn which of its options are most popular and how we can tailor the service to ensure it is satisfying our supporters needs.

YOUR involvement is needed to make the service a success. Make use of the service. Call in regularly to keep up to date and report back to the ETTA office to let us know what you think of it - what have we missed off which you would like to see included and what have we included which you think is a waste of time. It's your service, please use it.

---

**TABLE TENNIS SERVICES**

**Jackie Bellinger**

Ex-England International & National Table Tennis Coach

For the 1991-92 season I will be organising the following events. If you have queries, require any further details or would like to book a place, do not hesitate to contact me. 7 The Dell, Wigmore Park, Luton. LU2 8SU Tel: 0582 454636.

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Open to England ranked jn/cadet players

Dates:
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Ellenborough move up

FORMER League Champions Ellenborough moved up above the play-off zone at the expense of former League giants Bathwick Tyres I who they beat 8-3 this period. Colin Wilson was clearly the Man of the Match with three two-straight singles wins against Adrian Moore, Paul Giles and Alex Perry. Ellenborough and Yugo Cars now look like the mid-table candidates while NFD Grove and Team Peniel continue to battle it out for this season's honours. Confedera­tion Life St. Neots seem unable to lift them­selves off the bottom and may well be looking forward to relegation by now?

NFD Grove II remain the 'untouchables' in Division 1 North with a whitewash of West Warwickshire. Ian Stokes retained his 100% record with two 18 in the third wins against Andy Rich and Barry Johnson. Andy Rich lost by the same margin to Craig Bakewell but was awarded the Man of the Match for putting up some pretty tough resistance. Liverpool continue their recovery led by Paul Hutchings, and with a 6-2 win at Norwich, moved up to third place, one point behind Vymura Interna­tion. With Britannia Ipswich withdrawn Norwich Foxwood are now bottom, one point behind Ruston Marconi Lincoln. Well Connected Menswear held Vymura to a draw despite a hard fought maximum from Graham Clarke. Having beaten Andy Withers 13, 13 it was Darren Howarth who went on to secure the point for Vymura by beating Graeme McKinnon 8 and 5. Andy Edmunds finally forced the draw by scrapping home against Andrew Howarth 22-20, 22-20 in the last game.

Toyota back on course

In Division 1 South Colley Toyota regained top spot from Horsham Dolphins by beating them 8-2. Ritchie Venner beat both Dave Barr and Steve Ward in three for some consolation. Paul Whiting led DML White Hart Launceston to a 5-3 win over bottom-placed Victoria Park Mazda in Cardiff. Gary Wilson beat Tony Healan but lost to George Evans 17, 19, 19 for a final. NFD Grove III are not having things all their own way in this Division but managed a 5-3 win against Bathwick Tyres II to hold on to 4th place. All games were won or lost with scores of 19 or deuce in this 3 hour match. For Leeds Craig Render levelled the match for the first time at 1-1 by beating Gareth Jones 18, 20, 19 and then Gary Boysy levelled the match for the fourth time with a 17, 21, 20 win over Dave Randerson. Only 2 points separate the bottom 5 teams after 6 matches in this division.

Milton Keynes Bowl (ER)

The Bowler brothers, Peter and Colin, together with the evergreen John Burleton kept City of Milton Keynes two points clear at the top of Division 2 South East with a 5-3 win against Fellows Cranleigh. Peter Bowler beat Steve Cowley and the improving Jason Tendler in straight games. Veteran John Tendler beat Richard Hyacinth and took a game from John Burleton. BSG Brentwood remain snapping at their heels with a 6-2 win over Leckie. Adrian Thorp beat Richard Darnell and David Cole. Keith Fellows recorded a rare miss against Steven Rand, just losing out 19, 20, 26. VBS Fareham picked up their second win of the season and consequently pinned Jolliffe Poole to the foot of the table, perhaps 'against the bookmakers odds'. Nigel Thomas picked up a comfortable maximum, including the scalp of Tony Clayton, with good support from Mike Levere. Pillinger Air Groydon moved up to third place with a 5-3 victory against their local rivals Rejects. Martin Lowe started with wins over Paul Carter and Simon Phillips.

Wilding halts Gillingham

In Division 2 South West Kleinwort Benson Gillingham just clung on to top spot having been held to a draw by Amity Generation Fareham who are fourth. Mark Wilding secured Fareham's point with wins against Neil Harris and Juliet Houghton. In contrast Paul Rainford retained his 100% record and was untroubled by Ramesh Bhalla and Mark Bleakley.

Edison had it relatively easy with an 8-0 win over the relegation candidates Gunnersbury Triangle. Clive Carthy seemed to enjoy the audience of over 50 spectators and David Goode stamped his authority on the match winning two of the four under-10 games. David Buck led Colley Toyota II to a 6-2 win over Horsham Dolphins II. Mayur Majthia beat Jeremy Hobbs and Andrew Evans from the No. 4 spot.

Britannia Ipswich in Division 3 East seem to be benefitting from the withdrawal of their first team and are now well clear of relegation. Their 6-2 win against Ellenborough III took them up to 4th place, just one point behind the three joint leaders. Chelmsford League move into 2nd place, only two games behind the leaders, with a 5-3 victory over Vesuvius Woodfield. With Keith Jones in one team and Rik James in the other, it was 'Rik Jones' who got Man of the Match! In fact it was Rik James who beat Andy Trott and Kieron Dabbs. Norwich Foxwood II dethroned Team Peniel II 6-2 with Keith Burley taking consolation in beating Sean Molloy and Trevor Bunn. Fellows Cranleigh II cling on to top spot by the skin of their teeth having recorded a 5-2 win against BSG Brentwood II.
RESULTS OF BRITISH LEAGUE MATCHES PLAYED ON SUNDAY
3rd NOVEMBER 1991

PREMIER DIVISION

| Yugo Cars | 0 | NFD Grove I | 8 |
| Con Loe St Neots | 3 | Team Panel I | 8 |
| Ellenbott I | 5 | Bathwick Tyres I | 3 |

DIVISION 1 (NORTH)

| Vymura Inter. I | 4 | Well Connected Mens. | 4 |
| Norwich Foxwood I | 2 | Liverpool | 6 |
| NFD Grove II | 8 | West Warwickshire | 0 |

DIVISION 1 (SOUTH)

| Victoria Park Maid | 3 | DML, W.H. Launc. | 5 |
| Larkhall I | 5 | Ellenbott I | 3 |
| Horsham Dolphins I | 2 | Colley Toyota | 6 |
| NFD Grove III | 5 | Bathwick Tyres III | 3 |

DIVISION 2 (NORTH)

| Borough of Sunland | 5 | Yugo Cars I | 3 |
| Burslem | 4 | City of Leicester | 3 |
| City of Leeds | 4 | Ribab Humberbridge | 4 |
| Stephens NYSD I | 5 | Chas Construction I | 3 |

DIVISION 2 (SOUTH EAST)

| City of Milton Keynes I | 3 | Fellowes Cranleigh I | 3 |
| Pitts Air - Croy | 5 | Rejects I | 3 |
| Jolliffe Poole | 3 | VS Searle | 5 |

DIVISION 2 (SOUTH WEST)

| Cheltenham Sancross | 3 | DML, W.H. Launc. II | 2 |
| Amity Gen. | 4 | Fellowes Cranleigh | 3 |
| Horsham Dolphins I | 2 | Colley Toyota | 6 |

DIVISION 3 (NORTH)

| Uxbridge (Burton) | 5 | Kingshurst Bribar | 3 |
| Vymura Inter. II | 6 | Ormsby | 2 |
| Lifeline Dave Cron | 6 | Vale Royal Warr | 2 |
| Stephens NYSD | 3 | Borough of Sunland | 5 |

DIVISION 3 (EAST)

| BSG Brentwood I | 2 | Fellowes Cranleigh I | 6 |
| Chesham League | 5 | Leves Westfield | 3 |
| Norwich Foxwood I | 6 | Team Panel I | 2 |
| Britannis Ipswich | 6 | Ellenbott I | 2 |

DIVISION 3 (MIDLAND)

| Chan Construct. I | 4 | OLOT TTC | 4 |
| Larkhall II | 4 | NFD Grove Coles | 4 |
| Ashford (Kent) | 3 | Lammet 4 Tops | 5 |
| Thomas TTC | 2 | Bathwick Tyres III | 6 |

DIVISION 3 (SOUTH)

| Alphas Southampton | 2 | DML, W.H. Launc. | 3 |
| NFD Grove IV | 4 | Linda Farrow | 2 |
| Ashford (Middlesex) | 6 | JAGS SC | 2 |
| Rejects II | 6 | Parkside Dragons | 2 |

LEAGUE TABLES AS AT 4TH NOVEMBER 1991

| NFD Grove I | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 8 | 12 |
| Team Panel I | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 43 | 11 | 10 |
| Yugo Cars I | 6 | 3 | 1 | 27 | 32 | 6 |
| Ellenbott I | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 20 | 30 | 4 |
| Bathwick Tyres I | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 37 | 2 |
| Coast St Neots | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 11 | 40 |
| NFD Grove II | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 7 | 10 |
| Vymura International I | 5 | 3 | 1 | 24 | 18 | 7 |
| Liverpool | 5 | 3 | 2 | 21 | 19 | 6 |
| Well Conn. M/wear | 6 | 2 | 2 | 25 | 23 | 6 |
| West Warwickshire | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 17 | 23 | 4 |
| RM Lincoln | 5 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 26 | 22 |
| Norwich Foxwood I | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 32 | 1 |

DIVISION 1 (SOUTH)

| Copley Toyota I | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 34 | 14 | 10 |
| Horsman Dolphins I | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 34 | 14 | 9 |
| DML Launceton I | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 21 | 9 |
| NFD Grove III | 6 | 3 | 1 | 27 | 21 | 7 |
| Barkhill | 6 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 26 | 6 |
| Bathwick Tyres II | 6 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 26 | 5 |
| Ellenbott II | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 33 | 1 |
| VP Marriott | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 38 | 1 |

DIVISION 2 (NORTH)

| Stephens NYSD I | 6 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 10 | 12 |
| Chas Construction I | 6 | 3 | 1 | 32 | 15 | 0 |
| Yugo Cars II | 5 | 3 | 1 | 25 | 23 | 7 |
| Borough of Sunland I | 6 | 2 | 1 | 32 | 27 | 5 |
| City of Leicester | 6 | 2 | 1 | 32 | 25 | 4 |
| Ribab Humberbridge | 6 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 25 | 4 |
| Burslem | 6 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 29 | 4 |
| City of Leeds | 6 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 35 | 3 |

DIVISION 2 (SOUTH WEST)

| BSG Brentwood I | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 30 | 19 | 9 |
| Waddington Air Creps | 6 | 1 | 2 | 25 | 21 | 7 |
| Fellowes Cranleigh I | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 22 | 26 | 6 |
| Rejects I | 6 | 2 | 2 | 24 | 24 | 6 |
| VFS Fareham | 6 | 1 | 3 | 20 | 28 | 4 |
| Lecky TIC | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 31 | 2 |
| Jolliffe Poole | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 31 | 2 |

DIVISION 3 (NORTH)

| Vale Royal Warrington | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 35 | 13 | 10 |
| Vymura International I | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 35 | 13 | 10 |
| Borough of Sunland | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 35 | 13 | 10 |
| Ormsby | 6 | 2 | 2 | 24 | 24 | 6 |
| Stephens NYSD II | 6 | 2 | 1 | 32 | 25 | 5 |
| Uxbridge (Burton) | 6 | 3 | 1 | 23 | 21 | 7 |
| LD Crusaders | 6 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 26 | 26 | 6 |
| Kinghurt Bribar | 6 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 34 | 1 |

DIVISION 3 (EAST)

| Chelmsford League | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 15 | 8 |
| BSG Brentwood I | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 29 | 20 | 8 |
| Norwich Foxwood I | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 29 | 20 | 8 |
| Britannis Ipswich | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 17 | 7 |
| Team Panel I | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 18 | 6 |
| Leve Westfield | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 26 | 5 |
| SS6 Brentwood I | 6 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 31 | 3 |
| Ellington I | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 34 | 1 |

DIVISION 3 (MIDLAND)

| Chan Construct. I | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 31 | 17 | 11 |
| OLOT TTC | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 17 | 11 |
| NFD Grove (Colts) | 6 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 18 | 9 |
| Larkhall II | 6 | 3 | 1 | 26 | 22 | 7 |
| Bathwick Tyres II | 6 | 2 | 1 | 23 | 25 | 3 |
| Thomas Dudley | 6 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 26 | 3 |
| Lambeth 4 Tops | 6 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 36 | 2 |
| Ashford (Kent) | 6 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 34 | 0 |

DIVISION 3 (SOUTH)

| Linda Farrow | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 17 | 11 |
| JAGS SC | 5 | 0 | 4 | 21 | 12 | 8 |
| Rejects II | 6 | 3 | 1 | 27 | 21 | 7 |
| Ashford (Middlesex) | 6 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 26 | 6 |
| Parksides Dragon | 6 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 21 | 5 |
| DML, W.H. Launc. | 6 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 29 | 3 |
| Alpha Southampton | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 14 | 34 | 1 |

Until 1992, Seasons' Greetings.
Lisa beats Batorfi - but Hungary still win

LISA LOMAS really flew the flag for England beating the Hungarian No.1 Csilla Batorfi, and also Veronika Wirth, before an enthusiastic Hartlepool audience.

Despite appalling weather conditions, the biggest table tennis event ever to be staged in Hartlepool, the Women's European League match, England v Hungary, was a great success.

Those who did brave the elements were rewarded by a fascinating and exciting match in which England were beaten but not disgraced by the current European champions.

Our girls were given the best possible start by Lisa Lomas who defeated Veronika Wirth 21-11, 21-15 to give England a 1-0 lead. Lisa recovered from a nervous start when she went 0-3 down in the first game to take total command with a mixture of superb defence interspersed with excellent backhand counter attack.

Alison Gordon was next on for England against the Hungarian No.1 Csilla Batorfi and found difficulty playing the high thrown Chinese style service, losing the first game 14-21. Alison came out for the second game with a more positive attitude attacking the service with some brilliant forehand drives to level the set at 1 game all with a 22-20 win.

However, the final game was again dominated by the Hungarian's service, Alison lost her rhythm and it slipped away 10-21 for Hungary to level the match at 1 set all.

Andrea Holt gave England hope when she took the first game against Katerina Nagy 21-18, this after trailing 14-16, but the pugnacious Hungarian left hander got the adrenalin flowing in the next two games and with a brilliant display of heavy topspin forehand attacking strokes put her team in front by winning 21-9, 21-4.

In the doubles the England pair of Lomas and Holt came desperately close to levelling the match with some excellent team play, but Wirth and Nagy pipped them at 23-21 in the third game to make it 3-1 to the visitors.

Lisa Lomas showed her fighting qualities to come back after losing the first game 19-21 to Batorfi, winning the next two 23-21, 21-19. It was definitely Lisa's night, she played superbly and was good value for her two wins.

With England 2-3 down and Hungary needing one more to clinch the match, Alison Gordon went on with Nagy. Alison battled away with determination and not a little skill to take the first game 22-20 but the aggressive Nagy opened up in the second, bringing her forehand attack into play to win 21-15.

In the final game, one of fluctuating fortunes, Alison had her chance to level the match holding match point at 21-20 only to see it slip away, the Hungarian winning 23-21 to make the final score 4-2 in her team's favour.

The match was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Hartlepool, Councillor and Mrs. Trevor Lloyd, other Civic dignitaries and Northern Region table tennis officials. At the Civic Reception which followed the match, the Mayor expressed his appreciation of the fine table tennis played by the England and Hungarian teams and hoped this would lead to other international matches being staged in Hartlepool in the future.

Results:
Lisa Lomas b Veronika Wirth 21-11, 21-15
Alison Gordon I Csilla Batorfi 14-21, 22-20, 10-21
Andrea Holt I Katerina Nagy 21-18, 9-21, 4-21
Lomas & Holt I Wirth & Nagy 21-15, 15-21, 21-23
Lisa Lomas b Csilla Batorfi 19-21, 23-21, 21-19
Alison Gordon I Katerina Nagy 22-20, 15-21, 21-23
AVON

Bob Murray

I HOPE THAT Ken Walton was not implying any extortion by Avon County TTA in his emotive Worcestershire County Notes last month - it was certainly the impression he gave to a lot of our members.

I have been asked to make it absolutely clear that the cost of the Bath Sports Centre venue for the Senior Division 1B weekend event worked out at £46 per team - very good value for 4 matches per county. That is the sum and total of Avon's charge to the participating counties.

As to his assertion that the system of playing of county matches on a weekend basis or indeed playing 2 matches on a Saturday is 'hairbrained', I would inform him that a great number of counties, including Avon, have undertaken a detailed costing and concluded that it is in fact a most cost effective way to play county matches especially if one is prepared to take their turn to play host.

The exorbitant costs of venue hire and petrol together with ever increasing demands on player's and official's time require a new approach to county table tennis. It is interesting to note that at the beginning of the season Cornwall had estimated that it would cost them close on £100 to fulfil just one fixture in Division 2B (ironically away to Worcestershire 2nds) if the matches had been played in accordance with the provisional schedule.

I believe Worcestershire are a victim of the current divisional structure of the County Championships. The first divisions are currently split North and South with Worcestershire hardly coming into either category and they certainly cannot be classed as a South West County, the division to which their 2nd team have been allocated.

There needs to be an urgent review of the County Championships structure with wide ranging Terms of Reference. Certainly I would expect to see an option considered which included three 1st divisions (North, Midlands and South) sitting under the Premier.

In the meantime however, Ken, please don't use the privilege of your column to cast aspersions on honest, hard working officials.

Now to some table tennis. A mixed bag of results was the outcome for Avon Juniors following the first round of matches in Division 2C.

Despite Barry Fudge's maximum haul from his six games and an impressive debut by David Reeves, who won four out of his six games, Avon could only manage one win and one draw from their three encounters. A 5-5 draw against the host county was followed by a 9-1 victory over Devon III's with 10 year old Jessica Orlik gaining her first county success on her debut.

Unfortunately the last match of the day saw our youngsters go down 3-7 to local neighbours Somerset whose girls proved decisive. David Reeves and Bath's Andrew Hewitt (playing for Somerset) produced what must be a rare occurrence in Junior table tennis - an expeditious match (they are both obviously chips off the old block).

Kelly Harris with 3 wins on the day can be well satisfied with her performances against strong opposition whereas I'm sure Colin Butterworth will be anxious to improve on his similar haul in the next series of matches.

Our thanks go to Cornwall for an extremely well organised event at a very good venue.

Bath and District League

It is obviously early days in all our leagues but I noted first week defeats for last season's Premier Division champions and runners up. Oldfield B and Longwell A were the conquerors of Oldfield A and Mayfield A respectively. I expect Longwell's squad which includes county players Martin Smith, Gary Baldwin, Michele Cohen and Chris Bridges to be very difficult to beat this season.

Bath are currently looking at ways to bring more families into local table tennis and I understand some initiatives are in hand. Also they are understandably delighted to have their highest number of juniors playing in the league for many years which hopefully will reverse the current trend of diminishing teams.

I was pleased to hear that my former teammate Tony Shepherd was back playing league table tennis following a break of some 15 years. I'm sure he will be as difficult to beat as ever and, in joining another former representative player for Bath in Doug Matthews, I expect Newbridge to be challenging strongly for honours in Division 4 come next April.

Weston Super Mare League

I don't quite know how Bill Lavish does it. Following the loss of the Tropicano venue, Weston have moved their coaching scheme to Worle School and within three weeks they have managed to attract fifty (yes 50!) juniors. If this can be maintained it should not be too long before Weston are recapturing the glory days of the 60's and 70's.

The Bristol Executive are actively seeking another sponsor whilst looking at ways in which they might still run their highly successful 2 star event in April - I will keep you informed.

The Bristol Junior 1 Star produced three local finalists but unfortunately no champions. Barry Fudge continued his recent run of excellent results to reach the final of the Junior Boys event whilst Graham Long (Cadet Boys) and Lizzie McDonald (Under 12 Girls) are also to be congratulated for their achievements. A full writeup of this event should be included elsewhere in ETTA News.

Gary Baldwin, Michele Cohen, Barry Fudge and Lizzie McDonald were undoubtedly the star performers at the Bristol Closed Championships held at Soundwell Technical College. As well as winning the major titles on offer they all picked up additional silverware from success in other events. Results in full:

| Mens Singles | G Baldwin bt S Bettson | 26, 14, 15 |
| Ladies Singles | M Cohen bt V Majmudar | 20, 16, 19 |
| Veteran Singles | E Brown bt G Douglas | 20, 17, 15 |
| Mens Doubles | Baldwin/Bettison bt C Ellison/E Brown | 9, 20 |
| Ladies Doubles | Cohen/Majmudar bt S Stanley/D Phillips | 10, 12 |
| Veteran Doubles | E Brown/P Eatherington bt Douglas/Pearson | 17, 17 |
| Division 1/2 Singles | R Jemmott bt I Maggs 13, 13 |
| Division 3/4 Singles | A Smith bt J Beer 17, 18, 22 |
| Division 5/6 Singles | D Reeves bt G Dyer | 15, 15 |
| Division 1/4 Doubles | A Smith/M Withyman bt I Maggs/B Atkinson | 18, 21 |
| Division 5/6 Doubles | D Reeves/G Auger bt A Boucher/D Phillips | 12, 19, 18 |
| Boys Singles | B Fudge bt C Butterworth | 14, 15, 12 |
| Girls Singles | L McDonald bt K Harris | 13, 16 |
| Boys U14 Singles | T Orlik bt G Long | 20, 18, 13 |
**CUMBRIA**

**Gordon Brown**

UP TO THE end of November, Cumbria county side had enjoyed a satisfactory opening to the season. Captain Juny McLean has been at her sparkling best with a 100% record. She won both her sets against Warwickshire and Lancashire 2nds. Her two against Lancashire at Huyton on November 23rd were the side's only successes. She could easily have gone down in her clash with 30th ranked national junior Tamar Connolly. Both battled it out to three games before Julie took the third 23-21.

Number 2 to Juny was Fiona Harris, making her senior debut after many years of success as a junior. Like the rest of the side, Fiona lost in two straight, but she did herself no harm.

With a 50% record at the time of writing, the team are pleased with the come-back form of Jimmy Cummings. A county star of yesteryear, Juny went into temporary retirement. In only his second season of returning to the fold, he has gained county honours once again. Also previously well known as a player in the Warrington and Widnes areas, Jimmy took the Whitehaven and Carlisle leagues by storm from the outset. Last term he was unbeaten in Whitehaven and not far behind the top in Carlisle.


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**BERKSHIRE**

**John Cunningham**

GOOD NEWS FROM the Maidenhead TTL, ‘Knowle Hill’, a new club, have joined the League, a new club, new venue and 100% players new to the game. “The big clubs better look out” says Maidenhead Chairman Peter Matthews, “They only started in the spring and already have 47 junior members on their books, some growth rate.” Thanks to the Transporter scheme of the local Council who first identified the potential at Knowle Hill, the Maidenhead Committee, the League Development Fund, the ETFA and most importantly Ken Phillips and Nicky Bradford all contributed. Ken and Nicky put in many hours coaching and encouraging the youngsters. ‘Transporter’ believe that there are at least three other clubs waiting for volunteers to give them a kick start. Peter would like to hear from anyone with spare time to help.

**1991 Maidenhead Closed Championships**

Mens Singles
K Hodden

Womens Singles
S Collier

Junior Boys
M Priddle

Mens Doubles
H Hodder/C Forrest

Womens Doubles
S Collier/L Finch

Mixed Doubles
S Collier/H Bartholomew

Girls Singles
I Walker

Junior Doubles
I Walker/Ro Dawson

Under 15
A Rotumo

Under 13
T Young

Veteran Singles
E Herrity

Handicap Singles
L West

Marc Priddle won the Wilkinson Sword Trophy awarded for the player with the highest average in the Premier Division. The Hugh Bartholomew Trophy awarded to the Junior Boy who made most improvement in his relative standard of play went to Ro Dawson. NWCA Bluejays took the Senior Knockout Competition while the Youth Knockout was won by Altwood Panthers. M Bartholomew took the Premier Divisional Championships, T Heaps Division 1, M Dozell the second, A Rotumo the third, while the fourth and fifth fell to Ri Dawson and T Benewell respectively.

The unbeaten Old Gords Falcons secured the Premier Division title with 21 wins and one draw, ahead of Cippenham Spartans.

Division one went to Old Gords Perrys closely followed, just three points behind, by Tylers Green B. Boyin Hill A ran away with the second division, leaving NWCA Blue Jays 20 points behind in the runners-up spot. A very close contest in division three saw Cookham Social scrape home by two points, ahead of Marlow Dolphins. SEB Ladies were just behind in third spot. In an even closer finish in four Altwood Lions were left on 134 points, Phoenix Mystars 131 and Old Gords Condors on 130 points.

Division five went to Castle Hill Panthers, well clear of Old Gords Keeetlets in second spot.

Finally the Youth Division gave the league a dead heat on points with Old Gord Baglets by virtue of more match wins, getting the verdict against Altwood Demons.

At the time of writing the new season is well under way. Tylers Green A came unstuck as John Glew recorded good wins over Jeremy Legg and Earl Nanton to give Kingfisher a 5-5 draw. The former Maidenhead champion Mark Curtis recorded a fine maximum for Tylers Green, including the scalp of Brian Halliday. Nick Heaps was in fine form for Castle Hill Cheetahs as they achieved a close 6-4 win over rivals Castle Hill Tigers. A maximum for Heaps including a win over Martin Bartholomew. Just in passing, twelve years ago the same Nick Heaps, then playing for OMEGA in the Reading League, did a bit of pump priming and coaching, at a new club called Our Lady of Peace? This club now fields 31 teams at National, Regional and local level and could well be interested in joining the Maidenhead League next season.

Elsewhere in the Berkshire Cadet Rankings, the cadet ranking trials took place at Altwood School. Ten year old Susan Johnson came out on top just edging out Danielle Montgomery. Danielle herself was just ahead of Clara Chilvers from Newbury. Terry Young of Maidenhead dominated the boy’s event. Taking advantage of the absence of Ali Subhan, Terry was undefeated ahead of Nigel Antell of Reading.

**Cadet Girls**
1. Susan Johnson
2. Danielle Montgomery
3. Clara Chilvers
4. Hueng Dicu
5. Nicola McGuinness

**Cadet Boys**
1. Terry Young
2. Nigel Antell

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**Girls U14 Singles**
J Orlik bt L McDonald 12, -19, 14.

**Boys U11 Singles**
P Adams bt J Barker 11, 9.

**Girls U11 Singles**
L McDonald bt J Orlik 12, 9.

**Junior Doubles**
Fudge/Butterworth bt Long/Orlik 12, 10.

**U14 Doubles**
T Orlik/G Long bt R Hadden/R McDonald 13, 19.

**Junior Team**
B Fudge/C Butterworth bt J Thorn/M Smith 3-1

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**Womens Singles**
S Collier

**Junior Boys**
M Priddle

**Mens Doubles**
H Hodder/C Forrest

**Womens Doubles**
S Collier/L Finch

**Mixed Doubles**
S Collier/H Bartholomew

**Girls Singles**
I Walker

**Junior Doubles**
I Walker/Ro Dawson

**Under 15**
A Rotumo

**Under 13**
T Young

**Veteran Singles**
E Herrity

**Handicap Singles**
L West

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Counties 3

DERBYSHIRE
Malcolm Allsop

The second round of matches in the County Championships saw both Derbyshire Junior teams fall to defeat.

David Pardy won both his sets for the first team with Jack Boulton and James Wheeley winning one apiece against Clwyd but the Welsh girls proved far too strong allowing our girls only 101 points in eight games as Clwyd deserved their 6-4 victory.

The junior 2nd team were also surprised by the strength of the Staffordshire 2nd team girls - Vicky Fox and Helen Butcher! Andrew Clayton won both his sets and Stuart McIntyre won one as Staffordshire won by 7-3. Twelve year old Helen Rainford played well upon her debut.

Disappointment in Derby came two weeks into the season when last season's Premier Division champions, St Andrews 1st, withdrew from the league due to work commitments.

Derby High School 2nd are the early Premier Divisions leaders, after winning all their opening matches, whereas Derby High School 1st are awaiting their first win. Proof that hard work and effort can succeed?

Derby High 3rd and Castle Donington 3rd head division one with Rolls Royce 2nd close on their heels.

Stretton Social Club Red are just ahead of Uxtoxeter Old Mill A in Division 1 of the Burton league with last season's champions Robert Sutton Orange struggling in mid-table. Simon Hall's appearance on the first Under 21 Ranking List appears to have had a bad influence upon his play.

Granville Kings lead Division 2 after 7 straight wins with Transcher and Lloyds Bank trailing in their wake.

Unbeaten Hill Street Black lead Division 3 with Ray Carr and Brian Fern well placed in the leading averages.

DEVONSHIRE
John Vincent

Devon (Senior) I
Devon returned to the Premier Division in great style with an outstanding win in their first match over the reigning county champions Lancashire by 7-3. The two sisters, Carol Giles and Sue Buddell won both their games, thus taking the pressure off the men.

Paul Whiting lost to Andrew Eden but beat Sean Gibson in an exciting match 21-17, 21-22. Paul Giles was unlucky against Sean Gibson losing two very close games 20-22, 19-21. However, he recovered well to record a win over one of his bogey players Tony Taylor. Alex Perry, in his first appearance at No.3 in the senior side, started off with a fine win over Tony Taylor. In his second match he had a tight game against Andrew Eden losing 17-21 in the third.

In their second match against Bedfordshire, who were also promoted to the Premier Division, Devon recorded a 10-0 victory. On the Sunday Devon played their old rivals Berkshire and recorded an impressive 9-1 victory. The scoreboard does not reflect the closeness of the matches but again the Devon team spirit and support for each other was outstanding. Sue Buddell was a little unlucky to lose 20-22 in the third to Julie Norman.

Devon (Senior) II
Mike Short led his team to a 6-4 victory over Wiltshire in Division 1B of the County Championships. Both he and Clare Pengelly recorded two wins each. Against Middlesex they gained a creditable 5-5 draw with Helen Wright shining with two wins.

Devon suffered two defeats at the hands of expected promotion candidates Avon and almost repeated the close against Essex. He unluckily lost to Des Charley 22-24 in the third after having to concede an edge point when 20-19 up.

Veterans
Mike Short is to be congratulated on winning the South of England 3 Star Vets tournament by beating Stuart Gibbs (Essex) in a cracking final 20-22, 21-19, 21-16. In the semi final Mike accounted for the No. 2 seed Malcolm Corbing (Yorkshire) 21-15, 21-19 and had earlier in the tournament beaten defender Matt Sheader (Grimsby) for the first time ever 21-12, 21-18.

Juniors
Devon had a splendid junior treble at the Wiltshire 2 Star Junior Open played in Salisbury. Alex Perry won the Junior boys event with a devastating display defeating Richard Huiscine 21-8, 21-12 in the final. In the semi final Alex beat Gloucester's Raymond Powell in straight sets.

Lynsey Heyward completed the double by beating Shelley Ruocco (Essex) 20-22, 21-17, 21-16. In the semi final she had an excellent win over the No. 1 seed Sara Williams (Middx) in a close contest 21-18, 23-21.

Clare Pengelly completed the winning treble in the Junior girls doubles with partner lestey Hollingworth (Kent) recording a victory over Lynsey Heyward and Jennifer Coleman (Essex) 21-19, 21-14 in the final.

Adrian Vincent in his first tournament of the season reached the semi final of the Junior boys, losing to Richard Huyceh (Middx) 21-17, 10-21, 16-21.

South West Regional Trials
At the Preliminary Trials in Wellsington, Somerset, Devon were successful in having five of their juniors and cadets qualify for the final trials. They were:

Junior Boys
Simon Dilkes (Torbay)
Philip Lord (Plymouth)

Junior Girls
Lisa Morris (Plymouth)

Cadet Boys
Peter Thomas (North Devon)

Cadet Girls
Lucy Perry (Crediton)

DORSET
Martin Hughes

County Championships
The Veteran first team are on course for promotion from Division 1B of the County Championships following two victories in the first stage of their campaign.

Tony Clayton, in his first season in the veteran ranks, is unbeaten at the time of writing whilst Joyce Coop also maintains her 100% record. In their first match they saw off the challenge of Surrey seconds in a close game, winning 5-4, with Clayton winning two, Barry Hill and Joyce Coop winning one apiece and Joyce teaming up with Brian Burn on his Dorset debut to take the mixed doubles.

The second match saw Dorset easily sweep aside Sussex seconds 8-1 with Tony Clayton, Barry Hill and Joyce Coop all gaining maximums whilst Brian Burn chipped in with one victory. Barry Hill formed the successful partnership on this occasion with Joyce Coop to take the mixed doubles.

The senior team, who are in a division higher than anticipated due to the withdrawal of last season's first team, crushed 7-3 to Surrey seconds with Cherry Crasey winning both her singles and Brian Garraway beating Darren Blake on his Dorset debut.

The British League
Jolliffe Poole, sponsored by Peter Jolliffe Bookmaker, are making a slow start in the Second Division South East this season with only two draws from their first six matches.
ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

THE COUNTY THIRD team played no fewer than five matches over the weekend of 12/13th October at Buckingham. The squad of Richard James, David Cole, Steven Rand, newcomer Sabine Liebig and Sarah Gardner won all their matches, beating Cornwall II by 9-1, Bucks II by 7-3, Kent I by 6-4, Hants IT by 7-3 and Herts \textit{Jr}ior second team played its first winning 10 sets.

The following weekend the Junior second team played its first match against Surrey II at New Malden. The team of Vincent Avery, Ben Ware, Wayne Mitchell, Jenny Coleman and Sarah Gardner (again!) were the winners by 8-2, and put up an excellent performance although it is fair to say that Surrey were weakened when their two Sri Lankan brothers dropped out at the last moment.

I now have news of our Veterans teams. The first team was in action at the end of September over a weekend. Against the champion county Yorkshire, our team lost by only 4-5, a great improvement over last season's 0-9. Surrey were beaten 5-4 and Sussex 7-2, placing us third in the League table.

The veterans second team opened its programme with a 8-1 win over Sussex II but then lost 4-5 to Berkshire. On this occasion Fred Lockwood, Dave Solman, Jim Hobley and Marjorie Dawson could hardly have suffered a more nerve wracking defeat. At 4-4 Jim Hobley stood at match point twice, but lost both, and Berkshire took the spoils.

The third team had an 8-1 win over Sussex II in September and like the second team suffered a 4-5 defeat at the hands of Surrey III. Their match was however, very different in that Surrey led 5-0, only for Essex to battle back gallantly to 5-4. The side was Faizal Mauthoor, Chris Jacob, David Wright and Shirley Carroll.

Finally I hear that the fourth team, consisting of Steve Willis, Dave Finlayson, Johnny Tender and Linda Hales, beat Berkshire IV by 8-1.

I will close with some comments on the extremely odd goings on at the South of England Junior Tournament on 26/27th October. Two rather mature looking boys from the Medway Towns League turned up, named ominously Meng and Xu but as they were unseeded nobody worried about them much. It was then discovered that they had recently turned over people such as Skylet Andrew, Sean Gibson and Alex Perry and could be a bit useful. They then proceeded to steamroller people like David Baker, Ryan Savill and Darren Blake by scores in single figures and inevitably contested the Final. I believe that they have been allocated dummy rankings - which should be 1 and 2 if they really are juniors - and one does wonder how whoever put in their entries can have failed to inform the Tournament organisers of their status.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

MANY OF US Gloucestershire table tennis folk have a positive gift for undeniably undervaluing ourselves, for one thing we have developed an inferiority complex about our fellow table tennis enthusiasts in neighbouring and not so neighbouring counties.

Now just what am I getting at? Well a few weeks ago a very well known table tennis person in the county said to me, "Alf, its a great pity that all senior county matches are nowadays played on the group system, and almost invariably staged outside of Gloucestershire." This person continued by saying that he had not seen a senior county match for at least a couple of seasons, and how he missed them.

I mentioned that many Senior matches were now zoned over respective weekends mainly for financial reasons, plus the fact that a greater social aspect was unquestionably more forthcoming by playing several matches together under one roof, my very attentive friend had still to be convinced, so naturally speaking I launched out on another
tack. I mentioned that he could watch county players in action almost every two or perhaps three weeks in the format of British League matches, this would only involve people popping over to the Cheltenham Saracens HQ - that was two Saracens home matches ago - he has not turned up as yet?

At one of these British League matches I got into a conversation with Guildford's Ramesh Bhalla who plays for Hampshire and Amity General II Fareham in Division 2 South West region, one question that I posed Ramesh was "Are your County and British League matches well supported spectator-wise?" Ramesh replied that spectator attendance in that area had dwindled to almost non-attendance.

I wonder if this sad state of affairs might just exist all over the country, and now come to my final conclusion, if it does, then all our Senior British League players deserve much better things in the form of more local spectator support, which it appears at the present time is sadly lacking.

The Gloucester County Closed, which last year was held in October, this year once again takes place at the Cheltenham Indoor Cricket Club's HQ in Tommy Turner's Lane, Cheltenham, slightly a little later this year on Sunday 1st December, I understand that play will commence at 9am, Mrs Jill Smith from Cheltenham has taken on the role of Referee.

This could well be the very last time that this well established hall will be used as a table tennis venue, it is highly possible that the new Cheltenham Sports Complex, which is still under construction and should be open by July 1992, just might be the destined venue for many sporting ventures in the not too distant future.

Country Matches

The most recent matches played all ended in defeats for Gloucestershire, briefly the Junior Division 1B travelled to Plymouth only to suffer a 3-7 defeat by Devon 2nds. Raymond Powell was not available and taking over the No. 1 role - Jeremy Hyatt played exceptionally well to win all his singles, 12 year old Cadet and No. 1 Girls player for Gloucestershire Kerry Hogarth from Newent, won one and lost one, but for her age put up a very good show. Our Veterans A side playing at home to Oxfordshire lost 3-6; Roy Fowler won one and our No. Veteran Lady player - Judy Morley, held firm to retain her unbeaten singles record, so far singles wise Judy is having a great season, let's hope that she keeps it up. Veterans V v Wilts II played at Swindon and despite Roy Morley's 100% singles achievement, Wiltshire narrowly beat us 5-4.

Local Newsletters in Gloucestershire

I write these notes early in November, only the well established Cheltenham local rag has appeared, twice so far this season, that's Net and Edge well edited by Veteran Sam Johnstone, the magazine is as usual jam packed with very interesting reading that should delight table tennis players of all ages, shapes and sizes.

Revised County Rankings:

Veteran Men

1. Dave Harvey (C)
2. Roy Morley (G)
3. Dennis Holland (G)
4. Roy Fowler (C)
5. Alan Giles (S)
6. John Fannin (G)
7. Frank Jones (G)
8. Don Sweeney (G)
9. Peter Wood (G)
10. Dave Shill (G)
11. Ken Smith (C)
12. Bob Trimmel (C)
13. George Van Sant (S)
14. Raymond Poole (G)
15. Roger Beard (G)

Senior Women

1. Heather Tyrer (G)
2. Jacqui Carver (C)
3. Alison Cox (C)
4. Judy Morley (G)
5. Christine Williams (G)
6. Cathy Robb (C)
7. Angela Bristow (G)
8. Julie Hogarth (G)
9. Julie Taylor (C)
10. Linda Probert (C)

Code:  
G = Gloucester  
C = Cheltenham  
S = Stroud
HAMPSHIRE
Brian Lamerton

I AM INDEBTED to Steve Chu, Basingstoke's 16 year old press officer for news of his association, in particular the visit of teams from the Stotzheim Cub of Euskirchen, Basingstoke's German twin town. On the table Stotzheim had the greater success but the pleasure of a visit to Oxford and the dinner dance which followed, was enjoyed equally by all.

In the Basingstoke League, Portals having won each of their opening 4 matches by 10 sets to love appear destined for their sixth successive title. In Bournemouth recently on a business trip I was impressed by the local paper's table tennis report which included the name of every winner in the past week's league matches so congratulations to Mayor, Trowbridge and Anderson for saving their club's Meron K, Mudeford C and Bransgore F respectively from a sixth division whitewash! Give me a Christian name or even an initial Bournemouth Evening Echo and I will give you a perfect score.

Leading the Bournemouth individual averages after the first month of season is Spencer's Mark Oakley, now working for the BBC and following his father's illustrious steps into sports journalism.

I am less impressed with the Portsmouth Evening News - Saturday's edition used to give me news of Portsmouth, Gosport and Fareham and South East Hants leagues - last week nothing!

The Southampton evening paper which drops through my letterbox every day tells me that the Alpha club's intrusion last season into Snows monopoly of the Premier Division is unlikely to be repeated, due in part to the movement along the coast to Hove of Tony Catt by his employers. The strongest challenge to Snows this season looks likely to come from the newly promoted Eastpoint.

Andover are the latest of Hampshire's ten member Associations to celebrate their Golden Jubilee; into my hands recently came their handbook which includes a very interesting 2000 word history, researched and written by secretary Lionel Whyton. Known originally when formed in 1941 as Andover Civil Defence League prominence in the formation was the late Ken Course, 'Mr. Sportsman' of Basingstoke and long serving President of the County Association.

Having aired my personal dislike of the block system of playing county matches, I have to report that since my last report Hampshire's senior second team have started and almost completed their season! I note that the Worcestershire correspondent shares my view on this subject but I am not gentlemanly enough to use his word 'advised' - to play in the block system - Hampshire were 'bulldozed', it being made quite clear that there was the only way we were going to get a game.

Apart from anything else, this meant that due to British League commitments we were without our No.1 player for three of the five matches. Mark Bleakley and Barbara Savage each returned 60% averages over the weekend but the nett result was 1 win, 1 draw and 3 defeats - roll on October 1992, let's have another game!

During the month both junior teams defeated Surrey 3rds with Jeremy Wilson, Kevin MacKen, David Dobson, Caroline Newling-Ward, Terry Farrow, Mark Giles, Robert Praine, Caroline Cook and in particular 12 year old Donna Granville all performing well.

Not unexpectedly, I have a revised men's ranking list to report; what is unexpected is that the one time highly placed Steve Mills has thrown in his lot with Hampshire and appears at No.1.

On the veterans have made much progress in the inter-town league; Bournemouth's 'Taffy' Davies, Chris Pickard, Dennis Joyce and Joyce Coop preparing to carry all before them as their perennial rivals Portsmouth have already lost to Bournemouth E.

HERTFORDSHIRE
John Wood

WHAT A WEEKEND young 12 year old Marie Masters had at the beginning of December, firstly she made her debut for the Junior II County team against Norfolk II, where she won both her games as did her teammate 14 year old Stephen Taylor of Barnet who was also making his debut.

Then on the Sunday she entered the County Closed Junior Championships at Barnet TT Centre where she won the Under 14 Junior Girls Crown, beating Lesley Moorhead of Watford in the final. Marie was to go on to even greater things by reaching the Girls Under 17 singles final where she met Watford's England ranked superstar Sarah Scaholar.

However, highly talented, Sarah in the end proved too strong for young Marie from Cavendish School, Hemel Hempstead, with Sarah winning the final in three open attacking games.

A full report of these Junior Championships will appear in February's issue of Table Tennis News.

ISLE OF WIGHT
John Prean

THE LEAGUE RACE has not yet hotted up, but there was a first rate sensation when Wroxall A defeated Sandown A 6-4. The latter have very much dominated our premier section in recent years, but Alan Hulbert has assembled a strong team at Wroxall and this time Sandown bit the dust. Wroxall's trump card was Steve Barsdell who won three, which included the infliction of a very rare defeat on the reigning island champion Roger Hooke. Steve is the Island's most dedicated player, travelling long distances to get practice which, sadly is what one has to do these days, as premises disappear. When I was a (relatively) young man of 40 plus (young only in my own eyes I imagine) three excellent venues were available at which one could practice regularly, always sure of a game. All have disappeared, as landlords realised the value of their real estate and put it to better, or at any rate, more profitable use.

I see this as English table tennis' major problem. I see it as Islands table tennis' only real obstacle to substantial expansion. It is heartening to see so many new youngsters coming into the game, sad that few have the opportunity to play more than twice a week and then on crowded club nights which offer little time table. You don't become an England junior that way, as Carl Prean did a decade ago and Derek Grant a quarter century earlier.

Nevertheless, I hope for a good show by our juniors who will be competing in the Hampshire Association's Junior weekends. I have been delighted by the progress of Alex Runke and Greg Burns, one a defender (mainly), the other an attacked in the modern manner. Both have moved up to our second division this season. I confidently expect both one division higher a year from now. Ali Hulbert is the fourth member of the so far all-conquering Wroxall team in Division 1, which makes it the best Island junior team for some time. Lower down we have one or two youngsters of 11, of whom perhaps more at a later date, who certainly have the makings of future stars, if the required practice can be arranged (a big "if") and school work does not 'interfere'.

Still sadly, no county team. If we had Carl Prean fairly regularly, we would feel confident of putting
up a useful show. Alas, he has had only one weekend on the island since July. Regina Stevens is back on the island, teaching at Cowes High School which would certainly win most ladies’ matches for us in which she played. The basis for a useful side exists and youngsters will be knocking at the door soon.

Thus Carl remains our only ‘overseas’ traveller and mainly local matters have to be reported (after the excitement of the inter-island games featured in earlier columns). Despite the increased influx of youngsters as in most leagues many veterans continue to feature in our leagues. In that cause, I decided to ease my way back into the fold after a virtual absence of a dozen years. I managed to play about half the matches in our division 3, the other half being cut off by conflicting duties as ETTA Chairman. To my great surprise I was ‘promoted’ to my club’s division 2 side and, to my equal surprise, remain unbeaten. I fully expect that happy state of affairs to have ended by the time you read this. Alex Rorke, who is even younger than I am, is in the same team and is learning valuable lessons every night – mainly how NOT to play, which is as important as learning how to play. It is good to be back, but rather hard work. I live in terror that my team might be promoted!

The spelling gremlins entered my last column. Waldner (the former world champion) was spelt ‘Walhers’ which ruined one finger’s chances of hitting the racket. Fingers crossed that I shall be free from such intrusions and further censorship this time.

KENT
Adrian Hall

THE HIGHLIGHT OF the season so far must have been for those lucky enough to have been there the finals of the East Yorkshire Championships where Kent’s resident Chinese stars put on a magical display of table tennis. On both occasions it was the attacking penhold style of Meng Qing Yu that overcame the breathtaking defence of Xu Kai. These two players and coach Wang Da Zhi have added a new dimension to Kent and all have spent many hours imparting their special knowledge and skills to the youngsters of the county and have made many friends in the process.

Rolvenden 21 Years of Friendship

I was pleased to hear that the Rolvenden TTC from the Ashford League have enjoyed 21 years of friendship with Kiel West Germany which started with an invitation from the ETTA in 1970. This year being the 21st was a special visit, but I understand Rolvenden could not match their hosts on the table but that a great time was had by all.

County Championships
Kent Seniors had a most satisfactory start to their county championships campaign, winning 4 out of 5 of the opening matches on 12/13th October 1991 at High Wycombe.

Results
Kent 7 Hants 2nd 3
Kent 6 Herts 2nd 4
Kent 4 Essex 3rd 6
Kent 8 Bucks 2nd 2
Kent 9 Cornwall 2nd 1

In contrast, our Premier I Vets lost all three matches at Stockport on 28/29th September, going down 2-7 to Leicester and 3-6 to both Lincoln and Surrey. Vets 11 beat Wiltshire 5-4 but the third team could not match their efforts and went down 4-5 to Surrey.

Junior I gained another 5-5 draw, this time at home to Glamorgan on 19th October. Martin Hewitt (2), Glen Ritchie (2) and one for Paul Duke got the result despite Natasha Williams and Janine Belby getting their maximums for the visitors.

Junior Success of the Tournament Circuit

Our Juniors continue to bring the trophies home from the tournament circuit. Scott Friday comfortably won the Bristol I Star Under 12’s beating D Pilkington 21-7, 21-11 and then with a quality display took the South of England title with an impressive 21-13, 23-21 win over No. 1 seed Ali Subhan (Berk). Kent’s other Under 12 star Christian Thompson had earlier just failed to topple Subhan 13-21, 21-15, 23-21 in a splendid match. Crystal Hall and Shelley Ruocco (Essex) just scraped through their semi final against second seeds Joanna Bush Harris/Nicola Massingham 18-21, 21-18, 21-19 but then got everything right to take the Cadet Girls Final against top seeds Sarah Siedman and Glenda Ashinson 21-14, 21-17. Alison Smith reached the final of the Grove ‘Roofrite’ 1 Star Cadet singles but found Belgium Eva Zumarrie just too good. The long trip to Bridlington for the East Yorkshire 2 Star was well worthwhile as Christian Thompson upset the seedings to take the Under 12 singles with a splendid victory over Gerry Ashison (Surrey) and Glen Ritchie beat Steven Joslin (Essex) in the restricted Cadet Boys, one place better than Crystal Hall could achieve when she lost 21-16, 21-12 to Nicola Silburn in the equivalent Cadet Girls event.

Kent in Belgium
I am grateful to Andy Cunningham for the following report:

Monday 21st October 1991 represented the first stage of an ambitious training programme for the development of Kent with a party of 11 players attending a training camp in Nemur, Belgium. The facilities offered were excellent with on-site accommodation and catering as well as first class playing conditions. Our Belgium hosts, led by Wang Da’yong, the national coach and ex-Chinese national champion, compiled a gruelling training schedule, comprising of three two hour sessions a day. In addition to the Kent squad and our Chinese guests, top Belgium Junior and Cadets attended everyday along with some full-time Senior players, including Peter Jackson, the New Zealand No. 1.

The Chinese coaches were able to quickly assess each player’s strengths and weaknesses and consequently geared each session to specific individual requirements. The practice was intense with about 50 balls being used on each table, and the principle advantage of this method of practice is that it eliminates wasting time picking up balls and enables a practice sequence to continue without interruption even when a shot has been missed. Although some of the squad found the principle of ‘multi-ball’ system difficult to adjust to at first, by about the third day all felt that it was far superior to the ‘one-ball’ practice techniques generally adopted in England.

By the end of the week the entire squad was exhausted without doubt each and every player benefited considerably. We are all extremely grateful to Wan Da’yong and his team for ensuring that all had an enjoyable and worthwhile time and to Reg Thompson and Roy Willey for making it all possible.

Southwark TTC Tour of Sweden
Nine youngsters - five boys and four girls accompanied by five leaders selected Sweden as an ideal venue as the home of the world champions for Group training, matches and to attend a Swedish coaching clinic. Matches were played against that Partilla Club, Gothenburg, which boasts 160 members, 12 coaches and 10 table venue, supplied by the local authority and with on-site accommodation and catering as well as first class playing conditions. Our hosts, led by Wang Da’yong, the national coach and ex-Chinese national champion, compiled a gruelling training schedule, comprising of three two hour sessions a day. In addition to the Kent squad and our Chinese guests, top Belgium Junior and Cadets attended everyday along with some full-time Senior players, including Peter Jackson, the New Zealand No. 1.

The Chinese coaches were able to quickly assess each player’s strengths and weaknesses and consequently geared each session to specific individual requirements. The practice was intense with about 50 balls being used on each table, and the principle advantage of this method of practice is that it eliminates wasting time picking up balls and enables a practice sequence to continue without interruption even when a shot has been missed. Although some of the squad found the principle of ‘multi-ball’ system difficult to adjust to at first, by about the third day all felt that it was far superior to the ‘one-ball’ practice techniques generally adopted in England.

By the end of the week the entire squad was exhausted without doubt each and every player benefited considerably. We are all extremely grateful to Wan Da’yong and his team for ensuring that all had an enjoyable and worthwhile time and to Reg Thompson and Roy Willey for making it all possible.

Kent Junior Open
A full report of the ‘Thake Transport’ Kent Junior Open has been submitted as a separate report for inclusion in the tournament section of the magazine.
LANCASHIRE
George Yates

vymura Ttc's HYde premises was the venue for a triple engagement for Lancashire Veterans in Division 1A of the county Championships where, following their initial 6-3 win away to Oxfordshire, they accounted for Northants (6-3), Cheshire II (6-3) and Yorkshire IT (5-4) over the weekend of October 19/20th.
Blackburn's Phil Blake spearheaded the victories being unbeaten in his six singles engagements and, with Tony Rigby of Preston, won three out of three men's doubles. Brian Clements of Manchester had a 4 out of six return, Rigby 2 out of 6 and Alwyn Burrough of Blackpool successful against Pat Brookes in the match against Cheshire II and, with Clements, one out of three mixed doubles.

Meantime at Byker Community Centre, the veterans second team, having beaten Staffs 7-2 in their first match, accounted for Northumberland 8-1 Kent Jackson of Liverpool standing in for Bill Russell of Oldham, losing to John Russell, but it was all systems go for Derek Watmough of Bolton, Norman Thewlis of Oldham and Mabel Neary of Southport.
In the senior Division 2A Lancashire II also continued their winning ways for, as a follow-up to their 10-0 slaying of Lincolnshire in their opening match, they accounted for Warwickshire II 8-2 at Colebridge TTC where both Blackpool's Tamar Connolly and Liverpool's Brenda Buoyez lost to Kate Ryan to leave Graham Clarke of Blackburn, Paul Hutchings and Chris Ford, both of Liverpool, unbeaten with the girls successful against Joanne Groves.
The only cloud on an otherwise sunny weekend was the 8-2 defeat inflicted on the Junior second team by Notts against whom only Phil Musgrave of St Helens tasted success in beating Kevin Green and Mark Short. His St Helens teammate, Kevin Dolder, Mark Stevens of Salford/Farnworth, Lindsey Thornton of Burly and Jayne Schofield of Oldham all failed to make an impact.
Outgoing transfers from Lancashire are threefold with Jean Parker, the sister of Don, signing for Berkshire following her marriage to Jimmy Stokes while Malcolm McEvoy of Warrington and Denise Conroy of Widnes have transferred their affection to Cheshire who have releases Emma Fletcher to Lancs.

Lancashire and Cheshire League
Warrington, the defending men's first division champions, began their defence with a 7-3 home win against Blackpool with McEvoy unbeaten but having established a 4-1 win at home to Blackburn they lost 6-4. This was Blackbum's second successive win for in their opening match they beat Liverpool 6-4 thanks to a treble from newcomer Sharrad Pandit who outshone Clarke who was beaten by Neil Gravener in his opening set. Promotees Wirral and Oldham met in their opening match with Oldham winning 7-3 with a treble for Tim Hatton and two each for Doug Mayall and Dave Griffith against one each for Peter Lee and Roy Smith plus the doubles by the same two players.

Subsequently Oldham were beaten 7-3 by Stockport whose Roger Hampton and the Horsfield brothers, Andrew and Steve, raked up their second win after beating Bolton 7-3 in their opening engagement when a treble against Blackburn won by Hatton and two each for Mayall and Dave Griffith against one each for Peter Lee and Roy Smith plus the doubles by the same two players.

Oldham, last season's runners up to Liverpool in the women's first division have begun the season well with wins over Preston (7-3) and Blackpool (8-2). The three that escaped them against Preston was when Mandy Winskill, Karen Richardson and Marjorie Riddle all gave second best to Marina Thornley and, against Blackpool, it was Marjorie and Karen who lost to Tamar Connolly who, in her third and final set lost to Mandy -14, 16, 16.

Oldham, the defending Junior Division 1 champions, surmounted their first hurdle in beating Barrow 6-34 with Matthew Coome winning three, Darryl Meredith two and Andrew Halford 1. Subsequently they accounted for promotees Halton 9-1 at Runcorn where Meredith lost to Dean Appleton who, incidentally, had a treble against Blackpool when Halton were beaten 7-3.
Wirral, who last season finished runners up to Oldham, lost their second match at home to Barrow, despite a treble from their No. 1 Mark Newns and this after winning their opening fixture 6-4 away to Preston when Newns lost to Rod Manwaring. Gary Allen was a treble winner for Wirral in this match.

This season in the veterans sphere the league boasts five divisions with Stockport the defending first division champions opening up their programme with a 9-1 away win against Warrington whose only winner was Jack Evans when beat T.Ball, Hamson and Pete Collins carried all before them in accounting for Bob Bagot, Norman Deakin and Evans.
Promotees Oldham and Bolton have made promising starts with Oldham beating Halton (9-1) and Preston (7-3) while Bolton have seen off Trafford (10-0) and Halton (9-1). Russell, Thewlis and Stuart Meredith have represented Oldham in both matches as have John Mason, Barry Crook and Watmough for Bolton.

LEICESTERSHIRE
Derek Butt

The Leicester and District League is well underway into another season and already many divisions have likely candidates for being champions, no less than Loughborough Kingfishers in Division 1 where Mark Illingworth is unbeaten in four matches and is well supported by Chris Kinsey. Other players in this division so far unbeaten are Alan Philpott (N B Goons) Steve White (Electricity), Les Baker (Knighton Park) and Dave Grundy (Electricity). Also looking strong in this division and right on the heels of Kingfishers are Electricity who have a strong all round team with plenty of backup.

Coaching at the Soar Valley College is progressing very well with a keen interest shown by all the students where the number are very steady and many of these youngsters will be ready for league matches next season providing we can get suitable premises for the matches. Unfortunately the complex at the Mary Linwood School still has not started.

Another class that is due to open is at the United Reform Church rooms at Oadby where Rob Sanders, a local player, is starting a winter training session for approximately 20 youngsters aged between 11 and 15 on Monday evenings. Well done Rob!

The local cup competitions are also well underway and many have reached the quarter final stage, one being the Saracen Cup where the holders Loughborough Kingfishers have already been knocked out 6-0 by New Braunstone Goons in the previous round.

Quarter Final Draw
Knighton Park v Leics Electricity British Shoe Corp v Royal Mail
New Braunstone Goons v County Hall or Leics Gas
Thumby Northwood v Belgrave
Liberal or Great Glen

The Frith Trophy has also reached the quarter final stage and the full draw is as follows:

A 31 year tenure of office as Chairman of the Bolton Brady Table Tennis League was sadly terminated on 6th November by the death of Rupert de Rigg's who, at the age of 66, lost his fight against cancer.

Well known as one of nature's gentlemen, Rupert left his native isle of Grenada in December 1942 to seek an engineering course in the UK which was realised in Liverpool, followed by subsequent fulltime employment with B & F Carter Ltd in Bolton.

Our sympathies go to his wife, Marjorie, his son, Vaughan and daughter, Yvonne.
Syston Casuals v Royal Mail
Great Glen v New Braunstone
Goons
Knighton Park v British Shoe
Belgrave Liberals v Leics Electricity

In Loughborough the division 1 early leaders are Cavaliers A who have had convincing wins.

An invitation has been made to the Loughborough LLeague to send a team to Germany to play in an International table tennis tournament, what a wonderful opportunity this will be for the lucky team, if this is possible.

The Leicestershire rankings have been released and are as follows:

**Men**
1. Chris Rogers
2. Dave Gannon
3. Phil Smith
4. Mark Illingsworth
5. Maurice Newman
6. Ian Brown
7. Martin Pickles
8. Keith Felows
9. Tony Kinsey
10. Graham Hall
11. Alan Philpott
12. Steve White
13. David Grundy
14. Paul Bumpus
15. John Gayton
16. Les Baker

**Women**
1. Karen Smith
2. Eileen Shaler
3. Jane Rogers
4. Joanne Pickles
5. Yvonne Black
6. Sandra Hall
7. Janet Panten
8. Shirley Pickering
9. Glenys Odams
10. Sara Capewell
11. Helen Griffiths

**Veteran Men**
1. Maurice Newman
2. Tony Kinsey
3. Steve White
4. Graham Hughes
5. John Illiffe
6. Colin Truman
7. Bob Craven-Griffiths
8. Alan Crowson
9. John Davies
10. Steve Zanker
11. John Ball
12. Eileen Shaler
13. Shirley Pickering
14. Glenys Odams
15. Pat Kilsby
16. Barbara Holt
17. Christine Dawson

**Junior Boys**
1. Dean Langley
2. Matthew Hobday
3. Lee Brunning
4. Albert Lo
5. Adrian Wilford
6. Paul Bassett
7. Harry White
8. Michael Goldby
9. Alex Blaney
10. Gareth Durdin
11. Alex Tuckwell
12. Chris Tuckwell

**Junior Girls**
1. Helen Griffiths
2. Rachel Griffiths
3. Kathryn Freer
4. Laura Smith
5. Cheryl Sprintall
6. Karen Holdridge
7. Sally Holdridge
8. Rebecca Blaney

That’s it for another month!

**Lincolnshire**
**Pat Fowler**

Lincoln have opened the new season’s representatives matches in fine style. The Butcher Cup team, following an 8-2 win at Spalding in their opening match, continued their progress with a 8-2 home win against Gainsborough. Quentin Olley and Sally Johnson came up trumps to win their three singles rubbers and teamed up to win the doubles rubber in impressive style.

Kieron Kennedy, a young player making steady progress in the First Division of the Lincoln League, showed the courage and determination required to win one important singles rubber.

On the same night, the Lincoln Haigh Cup team entertained Stamford and followed their opening match win against Boston with a 6-4 win. This match produced some excellent games of table tennis, with a creditable performance coming from captain Paul Moore, who won his three singles, taking the scalp of highly rated Stamford player Julian Wheel in the process.

Andy Wignell and Roy Harper also showed the courage and determination required at this level, battled through to win one singles and a rubber each.

Roy teamed up with Paul Moore to win the vital doubles rubber against Paul Spittlehouse and Julian Wheel 6-21, 21-13, 21-12. The scores reflect the determination shown by the Lincoln players.

Lincoln’s Midland League campaign got off to a good start with a 7-3 away win at Leicester. Player representing the town were Paul Moore, Mike Thornley and Peter Mackie.

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8. Rebecca Blaney

That’s it for another month!

**Middlesex**
**Iris Moss**

On Friday 18th October, the Federation of Middlesex Sports held their annual awards presentation dinner at Twickenham Rugby Ground. A number of awards were presented by the Guest of Honour, Tessa Sanderson, including two for table tennis. Richard Hyscith was honoured as the Middlesex Junior Sportsman of the Year, an award which was well deserved as Richard worked his way up to No. 3 on the England ranking list, apart from being the mainstay of our Junior team. I was nominated for and given a Special Commendation Award for outstanding service to table tennis in Middlesex. Needless to say I was thrilled to receive the Award but still maintain that the benefit has been mutual. It is now 13 years since I retired from the office and although as I get older and slower I sometimes find it difficult to keep up to date, I am sure I would have been bored to death if it hadn’t been for my table tennis work. I can strongly recommend the administrative side as a way of keeping in touch with a great sport.

The entries for the Middlesex 3 Star Open Championships have now been received and the draw carried out. So far as numbers are concerned, we have maintained our entry (despite last year’s diabolical weather) and together with quantity, we have also maintained our quality. The top seed in the men’s singles is Matthew Syed with Chris Oldfield holding second place, closely followed by Nicky Mason and Sean Gibson. Of the top 24 England men we have 16 apart from top Scottish and Welsh players, so we have not done too badly. Our “foreign” entry consists of two Nigerians from Germany and one German and one Frenchman living in London!

In the women’s singles, Alison Gordon holds top seeding with Katherine Goodall at No. 2 and Jill Harris and Helen Lower at No. 3 and 4 respectively. With some unusual pairings in the doubles and the top veterans, we look forward to a happy and successful Championships – weather permitting of course!

We have been fortunate in getting some sponsorship this year with the Federation of Middlesex Sports sponsoring the men’s singles. Unfortunately they were not able to give us sufficient to increase the prize fund but we are very grateful to them for the help they were able to give us. Our usual partial sponsors, Butterfly UK Ltd, for the equipment and the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority with their help with the hire of Picketts Lock, have stuck by us and continue to give us their help. We are grateful to them all.

The report on the Championships will no doubt be appearing in next month’s edition of the magazine when we will be able to record the winners of the 35th Middlesex Open Championships.
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Dennis Millman

LAST SEASON’S SUCCESS
told a victory. Third consequent elevation, has
to record a victory.

Nevertheless, there have
of success. Well Connected
with Andy Edmonds and Graeme
well to the fore, while
in Division 1 North
with Andy Edmonds and Graeme
McKim well to the fore, while
in Division 3 East,
despite not being able to
noted that Graeme
McKim who has taken the
Kettering Closed men’s title for
the past nine years, remains at
No. 1 with the top 20 reading as
follows:

1. Graeme McKim
2. Andy Edmonds
3. Andy Trott
4. Richard Elliott
5. Ian Hawes
6. Keith Nicoll
7. Chris Handshaw
8. Rafe Miller
9. Keith Jones
10. Stephen West
11. Geoff Atkinson
12. Mick Spear
13. John Moloney
14. Steve Brown
15. Robert Filik
17. Ashley Bennett
18. Steve Silk
19. David Steele
20. Chris Gibbons

BEING THE MOST EXCITING

Malcolm Allsop

NORTHUMBRELAND

Aubrey Drapkin

THE MOST EXCITING
development for some time in the
county has been the setting up of
a training centre at North Shields
YMCA. This is open to any
players voicing disappointment
over the country and fears of jet-
lag are predicted!

The county juniors
to have played their part so far
in encouraging the newcomers
and giving exhibitions.

There have been changes
in the administration of both the

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

THE COUNTY TEAMS
maintained their good start to the
season by winning their second
fixture with pride of place going
to the senior team who polished
off Clwyd in double quick time
for a 10-0 victory, leaving the
players voicing disappointment
that the opposition was not stronger
- calm down boys, there’s more
opposition to come.

The county veterans also
encountered Clwyd but met with
harder opposition before winning
6-3. The next match will see the
players having to travel from all
over the country and fears of jet-
lag are predicted!

The county juniors
tended Lancashire 2nd with
Kevin Green, Gary Pestka, Mark
Short, Debbie Pestka and Sarah
Smith in good form for an 8-2
victory; Philip Musgrove

form with satisfaction. Apart from
her local league victories in
Northampton and Wellingborough
and an unbeaten display against
Lancashire Veterans, she has been
playing the Veterans Masters with
considerable reward. At Basingstoke
she played superbly
to reach the semi finals and then
led Doreen Schofield in the early
stages before the well organised
No. 1 made her class tell. Then at
Swindon Margaret was still going
strong late on the final afternoon
after confidently disposing of four
high ranked opponents.

Both British League sides
have also enjoyed a fair measure
of success. Well Connected
Menswear have coped more than
adequately in Division 1 North
with Andy Edmonds and Graeme
McKim well to the fore, while
Levi’s Westfield are having a much
better season in Division 3 East,
despite not being able to field their
strongest side. For Levis, Richard
Elliott has shown much improved
form, and he has been well
supported by Keiron Dabbs, Keith
Jones and Dave Marsh.

In the local leagues, the
former Well connected side, now
playing as Barclaycard in
Northampton, and as Higham Band
A in Wellingborough and
Kettering, and comprising a squad
of 20 youngsters have been
involved in many years.

Kettering Seniors also began
with two wins, albeit by narrower
margins, even with mainstay Ian
Hawes unavailable. With Graham
Ball, now resident in Japan where
he represents the Nissan Table
Tennis Club, also an absentee,
Gordon Shaw and Matthew Rowe
made their debuts. Both had
considerable success, with Shaw
almost matching last season’s
momentous win over Kieron Dabbs,
only to squander three
points before Dabbs eased
home 24-22 in the deciding

In the other sections, Kettering Veteran Firsts, the
Veteran Seconds and the Juniors
have all registered victories, with
David Hoddle, Phil Slade, Alan
Ashberry, Dave Webb, Bill Lupton
and Ruth Hickman all displaying
good form while Wellingborough
Veterans and Juniors have also
witnessed winning ways, with
Colin Lord and Tom Rose most
impressive.

Margaret Malloy is another
player able to view her early season
unprecedented.

The demise of the County
Pennine ranking scheme has given
more emphasis to similar
ventures produced by individual
leagues with the Kettering ranking
list, now in its eighth year, the
first to get in print. It is not
surprising to find that Graeme
McKim who has taken the
Kettering Closed men’s title for
the past nine years, remains at
No. 1 with the top 20 reading as
follows:

1. Graeme McKim
2. Andy Edmonds
3. Andy Trott
4. Richard Elliott
5. Ian Hawes
6. Keith Nicoll
7. Chris Handshaw
8. Rafe Miller
9. Keith Jones
10. Stephen West
11. Geoff Atkinson
12. Mick Spear
13. John Moloney
14. Steve Brown
15. Robert Filik
17. Ashley Bennett
18. Steve Silk
19. David Steele
20. Chris Gibbons

THE MOST EXCITING
development for some time in the
county has been the setting up of
a training centre at North Shields
YMCA. This is open to any
youngster in the area from
beginners upwards and has partly
been possible because of the ETFA
Development Grant received by
the Northumbria League. Upwards
of 20 youngsters have been
attending the Friday evening
sessions under the supervision of
Peter Wilkinson and Dave
Schofield. County junior players
have also played their part so far
in encouraging the newcomers
and giving exhibitions.

There have been changes
in the administration of both the

counties and the Northumbria
League. Alan Morpeth (Mr
Northumberland) has taken over
the Chairmanship of the county
from myself and Karen Newby
has replaced Alan as County
Secretary. Karen has also
undertaken the League Secretary’s
job, replacing Larry Cartmell.
Larry is no longer involved on
the committee and we are very
grateful to him for the work and effort
he has put into the job in the past few
seasons.

On the playing front, it is
good to see county star Ian
Robertson is back to form and
enjoying a most successful season
so far in the British League, playing
for Stephens NYSD. ‘Benny’ also
reached the quarter finals of the
recent Yorkshire 2 Star tournament.

Regular faces on the junior
tournament scene have been Barry
Forster, Andrew Wilkinson, Paul
McCann and Gordon
Keogan. Joanne Donnelly and
Diane Cartmell have also been
around the more northern events.
performing well for Lancashire to record their wins with victories over Kevin and Mark.

The success of coaching in the Mansfield area has resulted in the League looking for further venues to meet the demand. The presence of 14 under 13 girls is pleasing to report.

Revills Trophies A lead the Premier Division of the Mansfield League after winning their opening 4 matches, but Micro Image A and Fringe have won their opening 3 fixtures. Dean Brookes (Fringe) put up a good show with an unbeaten display as they inflicted the only defeat of the season (so far) upon Open Cast Exec A by 6-4.

More matches have been played in Division 1 where Micro Image B lead the table despite being held to 5-5 draws on three occasions.

CMB Aerosols and Kirkby Wyvern lead Division 2 and 3 respectively. The Nottingham League have a number of new enthusiastic member sons the Committee and plenty of new ideas are coming forward. Dave Worster has taken over as league secretary with June Worster promoted to editor of the Nottingham League Newsletter. If the first edition is any indication then June is destined to maintain the traditions of "Table Talk" as one of the best newsletters in the country.

The Worksop League have an increase in the number of teams this season with Sunday afternoon coaching sessions taking place at Worksop Sports Centre. Further development of the Notts Training Scheme is the employment of Gary Stephens by the Leisure Services Department with the intention of creaming off the better players into a new scheme to advance further progress.

Notts are fortunate that the Schools secretary, John Wilde, is so keen and has attended all the NNTA Committee meetings to far this season where his input is very much welcomed. The Notts Schools had their AGM in October, and John says they now have more teachers involved in the Schools Association and that must be another encouraging sign at a time when the climate for sport in schools seems to be more favourable.

I am pleased that we have been able to revive two competitions and I hope the players will respond by supporting the competitions with their entries. The Nottinghamshire County Closed Championships will be on the 23rd February and the Nottinghamshire Inter-League competition on 22nd March. Both events will be at the Sycamore Centre in Nottingham.

David Ashmore still has to make his debut. Norwich as expected won the match 5-2 but the performance of the Kings Lynn players shows the gap is narrowing. Only these two leagues entered this competition I know that Wymondham, Dereham and Yarmouth have capable veteran players - why don't they enter - is it that they don't know about it as entry forms go the league and possibly not passed on.

NORFOLK
Ray Hogg

SPELLING MISTAKES SEEM to be the in thing these days despite the advent of word processors. I have been trying to find Tavehan in Norfolk and for the Midland Vets Hindeley. On the publicity for England/Austria match one Alan Clarke is playing for England. Even our local evening paper had our Chris Brewer playing for Bedford in their report of a Senior County match.

Norwich cadet Leighton Chipperfield is making the headlines locally at the moment. At 14 years he seems to have come good and emerged from the cadet squad as one to watch. We as a county must make sure that he and any others that show exceptional promise are able to go to tournaments, Centres of Excellence, etc without the worries of finance. There are possible various grants available which we will be looking at.

Another personality to emerge is Adde Johnson who has taken upon herself to organise a girls only club on Sunday afternoons. This is open to any girl from 10 years up who is interesting in playing table tennis. Beginners are most welcome the idea being to bring new girls into the game without the distraction of boys watching. Anybody interested from throughout Norfolk contact me.

Norwich 3-a-side veterans which is really the Norfolk 1st team took on Kings Lynn which is a possible 2nd team squad although

SOMERSET
Andy Seward

THE COUNTY VETERAN team achieved their usual mixed start to the season - the first team won (v Hampshire I) and the 2nd team lost (v Hampshire 2). As usual Brian Reeves won both his singles. One each from John Crabtree, debutant Paul Hewitt, a vital mixed doubles win and ladies singles win for Shirley Dark completed the victory 6-3. Hampshire 2 looked a powerful outfit and, to put it bluntly, should not be in Division 3. One has to question the rules which force a team to be relegated having finished third in their Division the previous season. For the record, Vernon Adams achieved the sole Somerset success in a delightful hardbat attacker/defender contest against Ray Lush. A pleasure to watch.

The County veteran teams continued their usual mixed start to the season - the 1st team won (v Dorset 2) and the 2nd team lost (v Dorset 3). As usual Brian Reeves won both his singles. One each from the reliable JC and from Shirley and unbelievably two doubles victories (this must be Somerset's year!) rounded off another 6-3 result.

At the first Junior weekend held at Launceston College, the County Juniors as usual...... correction ............ unusually came away with two wins. Dorset kindly gifted us the four girls sets by default, and the boys duly won all theirs to make the result 10-0. Rob Millard, his County Junior ranking this season at the dizzy heights of No.1, duly dozed through his early morning matches, but came alive in the late afternoon in an excellent uncompromising match against Avon's Colin Butterworth. Definitely 'Match of the Day!'

Nice to see Mark Smith change his game to defeat David Reeves (Avon) definitely underrated is Bridgewater Mark. Kate Gent and Julie Ashcroft remained undefeated and turned the match against Avon into a comfortable 7-3 win. A special mention to 15 year old Andrew Hewitt, son of Veteran Paul, who made his debut in a county shirt and performed superbly all day. Andrew is unusual in that he is basically a defender and counter hitter and is learning his trade fast. His match against fellow defender David Reeves (Avon) went to expediency. When was the last time that happened in a Junior county match? Three out of four wins for Andrew - he'll remember his county debut.

Next month, news from the local leagues and a report on the next county matches. Thought for the day: 'Change the law of life. Those who look only to the past are certain to miss the future' (JFK)

STAFFORDSHIRE
Tony Clift

REPORTS FROM COUNTY captains show mixed fortunes to date. In division 2A the Vets lost to Lanes Vets II 7-2. Martin Pickles won 2 singles with Shirley Boone, John Beresford and Tony Reeves all showing useful form. The Junior A side in Division 1A opened with 2 wins - 7-3 v Northants and 6-4 v Durham.

In the first match Matthew Brown, Paul Tomlinson and Richard Tilley each won 2 matches with Nicola Meddings chipping in with the other win. In the much tighter latter match Staffs came
COUNTIES 11

back from 2-0 down to level at 2-
2, 3-3 and 4-4 before winning the
final 2 matches. Nicola Meddings
won 2 crucial matches with each
of the lads winning one singles, as
did Julie Bickerton. The Junior B
team have also recorded 2 wins.

The county league is now
underway, comprising of 2
divisions of 7 and 5 teams
respectively. The first batch of
Division 1 matches took place on
13th November with Stone beating
Tunworth 8-2 and Stafford v West
Bromwich sharing a 5-5 draw.
Division 2 starts on 16th November.

Rumour has it that Nicola
McGrath of Lanes is appearing in
the Stafford League and Paul
Bridgeman has returned to Stone.
Wolverhampton's Division 1 has
Moseley A and Woodfield C as the
early pace-setters. Woodfield A
were hit with early injuries to
Andy Rich and Mervyn Wood.
Sandra Roden is facing surgery on
her long standing knee problems
which will hopefully see an early
return to full fitness - much needed
for a further successful defence of
the Rose Bowl.

SURREY
Terry Vance

TOURNAMENT RESULTS AT
the South of England Junior 2
Star - Stephen Lamkin was runner
up in the Under 14 boys singles
but went one better in the doubles
with Simon Jablon from Middlesex; Glenda Ashion was
runner up in the Under 14 girls
doubles with Sarah Stedman of
Sussex. Glenda also reached the
semi-finals of the Under 14 doubles
losing to the eventual winner. In the
Under 17 boys doubles Darren
Blake and Hannah Webber made
their senior debuts. Vets 2 were
beaten 8-1 by Middlesex but Vets
3 maintained their winning ways
with a 5-4 win over Essex.

Junior Development League
This is now being run at Sutton
Youth Centre by Mike McKenna.
Anyone interested should contact
Mike on 081 642 0634.

SUSSEX
John Woodford

RITCHIE VENNER LIFTED the
West Sussex men's singles
championship for the fifth time in
succession when the annual event
took place at the Newman School,
Hove on 17th November.

Venner ripped through all
his opponents without any trouble,
through to the final to meet Paul
Elphick (Haywards Heath) who
encountered powerful opposition
for the quick improving Crawley
player Mayur Major. Major
Major won the first 21-16,
lost the second 8-21 and led
19-15 before losing 20-22.

Worthings Pauline Steel,
No. 21 on the English women's
tournaments list, won the prize for
the best performance by a woman
player.

Meanwhile Malcolm Francis
(Uckfield) is now established as
one of the leading coaches in the
country for his coaching of Alex
Perry, the England Junior champion
who won the Cleveland
International boys singles trophy
at Middlesbrough with a final win
against Edward Hatley of Surrey.

Sussex junior teams made
a promising start to the season,
winning 8-2 against Surrey
although losing 6-4 to powerful
Buckinghamshire. Paul Butcher
started the season with a wrist
injury, but that is now well on
the road to recovery.

Paul Cicchelli is in some
danger of not being selected for
Sussex. He seems to be prepared
to give priority to tournaments
classing with county commitments
- not a new problem. That will
be sorted out at the next county
meeting. Meanwhile, new county
junior secretary Ian Brown seems
to be making a success of his new
job and has produced these ranking
lists for the Sussex Juniors:

Girls
1. Sarah Stedman (Arundel)
2. Joanna Bush-Harris (Brighton)
3. Sara Coggin (Hastings)
4. Clare Brown (Hove)
5. Nicola Evans (Hastings)
6. Claudine Wilson (Hastings)
7. Tina Bearey (Hastings)
8. Carrie Mundy (Crawley)
9. Toyn Bokare (Hastings)

Boys
1. Paul Butcher (Haywards Heath)
2. Paul Cicchelli (Lancing)
3. Kevin Doyle (Arundel)
4. Alex Gray (Worthing)
5. Paul Hancock (Chichester)
6. James Beale (Hastings)
7. Martin Sims (Haywards Heath)
8. Paul Cunningham (Burgess Hill)
9. Niall Munro (Hastings)
10. James Beare (Horsham)

WILTSHIRE
Laurie Selby

THE WILTSHIRE
CONNECTION linked both
winners of the Western Masters
Veterans table tennis tournament
in Swindon.

Former Wiltshire player
Penny Perry made the big news
when she took part in her first
veterans tournament - and came
away with three titles. Unseeded,
she swept a path through the
country's best over 40's players
which led her to the women's
singles title. She also won the
restricted singles and partnered
Wiltshire Veteran bill Moulding
to victory in the mixed doubles.

"I thought I would play in one
tournament before I got too old" she
said. "I decided to play in this
tournament because I wanted to live
in Warminster and played for the
county team in the mid 1960's".

Who is the mother of England No. 1 Junior Alex
Perry, played in the West Wiltshire
League before she moved to Devon
where she now lives. "I play in the
local Exeter league but never
practice unless Alex is desperate
for a practice partner" she
explained.

"I didn't show as she firstly
put out top seed Doreen Schofield
in the semi final and then swept to
a straight games win over Gill
Knightly (Berkshire) in the final.

The Over 40's mens singles
winner Mike Short also has a link
with Wiltshire - he is travelling
from Devon to Swindon in the
tournaments of playing in the
Thamesdown League. It is all
part of his plan to get a place in the
Wiltshire Veterans team. 'There
is no Veterans' team in Devon.
The nearest is Wiltshire. "To
qualify I have to play six home
matches in a Wiltshire league".

He has already played the two and
half hour trip from his home to
play one match in the league. He
was in great form in winning the
Masters title at the Link Centre,
West Swindon, beating Malcolm
Corking 21-12, 24-22 in the final.

In the quarter finals he put out
Wiltshire's top veteran Terry
Bruce who played well to take the
opening game before Mike got
into gear and won the next two
games. Gwen Hazell (Aldbourne)
and her partner Edna Fletcher
(Norfolk) were runners up in the
over 60's womens doubles.

Fifteen year old Tracy
Youlden scored the best win of
her career when she won the class
2 singles at the Bristol 1 Star
tournament. For the Swindon
schoolgirl, who has chatted up
many Wiltshire and Swindon
Championships, it was her first win in an under 17 event outside the county.

Tracy is taking the big step from the Cadet section for under 14 years olds into the much tougher competition of the under 17 groups.

In the semi finals of the class 2 singles, open to players outside the England top 20, she went on to defeat Clare Newns and beat Joanne Groves (Cheshire 21-11, 21-12 in the final.

COACHING WITHIN THE county seems to be extremely active, especially the schools and clubs in the Kidderminster area, whose coaching Secretary Roger Stevens is based. My information is that despite the vast numbers of participants, quantity and not quality seems to be the current order of the day. Perhaps some of the Senior players could help out here?

Chairman Doug Moss and Beryl Shannon are considering organising either a Dinner Dance or a Buffet evening to celebrate the Association's 40th anniversary. Further news on this topic when available.

Regional Junior/Cadet trials were held at Grove on 9th November at which the following players were representing the county: Jonathan Briscoe, Keith Dean, David Hancock and Craig Harris in the boys and Carrie Hunt and Zoe Evans in the girls. County Senior and Junior Champion Lee Horton was not attending. Injury to County Veteran stalwart Melvin Wood meant that John Stafford stepped into the breach for matches in Stockport against Northants and Cheshire II's over the weekend of 19/20th October. Excellent performances from John along with Ray Dixon, Roy Norton and Janet Hunt, enabled the side to record 9-1 victories in both fixtures. Results from the County firsts weekend in Bath were disappointing if not a little predictable. A 6-4 win over a Kevin Satchell-less Wiltshire was their solitary success and came alongside defeats by 6-4 (Sussex II), 9-1 (Avon), 9-1 (Essex) in which Trevor Washington recorded a marvellous win over Grant Solder at 17 in the 3rd. Well done Trevor again.

In the Dudley League Division 1, Champions Bromley A have started well and with Lee Horton added to the squad this season, will obviously be there or thereabouts. Biggest challenge is likely to come from the very strong Thorns A trio of Adrian Thorpe, Ken Walton and Mark Brookes, who have also started powerfully.

As usual writing these notes in late October/early November, creates a problem in remembering to wish everyone a Merry Christmas to all.

On a final note, entries for the county closed (senior) need to be in shortly, with everyone wondering whether all the 'top' players will be playing this year or not. It would be nice to see them all there but somehow I have my doubts.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Ken Walton

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YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

BEST WISHES go to Rod Hullah for a speedy recovery after spending a short time in hospital following a heart attack. Rod, who took over from Allan Battye as County Competitions Secretary, is now back at home and all his friends throughout Yorkshire will look forward to seeing him back in action in the non-too-far distant future.

Thanks go to Albert Dawson (Sheffield) and Ray Burch (Huddersfield) who picked up the pieces during Rod's illness and got the Yorkshire League show 'on the road'.

Congratulations to Craig Milner and Kath Sheehan (Northallerton) who were married on 31st August. Best wishes from all in Yorkshire; Richard Scrutton (Northallerton) who has been appointed Referee of the World Team Cup in Barcelona scheduled for late November and to Katie Goodall (Leeds) on her selection for the England squad for the European League (Ladies division) match in Sweden last month. Katie did not play, but will have benefited enormously from the experience.

The draw for the Veteran section of the Yorkshire Clubs Championship has been made as follows: Crookes (Sheffield) v Middleton PA (Leeds); Coneythorpe (York) v NHS Eagles (Hull); Harrogate Wanderers v Clayton Heights (Bradford); Meltham (Huddersfield) v Pakistan (Bradford). Byes - Morganie, York RI, Brochholme (Northallerton), Brook Motors (Huddersfield).

With only three ladies teams entered, they will play each other twice on a home and away basis - Hermitas (Bradford); Leeds Permanent BS; H & R (Selby), formerly Sturge.

The Dewsbury League, like many others throughout the country, is including a growing number of veterans in its ranks - a plus in that these players are remaining in the sport longer and, I am sure, a tribute to the steadily growing VETTS organisation, but a trend which raises serious doubts about the long term future.

But Dewsbury have taken positive action after setting up a close-season coaching programme at the Bailey Sports Centre under the guidance of that man of many talents, Bevan Walker.

From just two players in the first session, the response has now grown to 16 and a junior league of six two-player teams, playing early evening each Thursday at the Sports Centre, has been established, and this will be followed by a second League competition and a cup event in the second half of the season.

The new venture takes the town back to the days of the 70s when a very youthful Michael O'Driscoll was just one member of a group which helped to make the Sports Centre a hive of table tennis activity.

Coaching is also very much to the forefront at Hull with the invaluable support of the local authority youth service who fund no less than four centres to cater for a heavy demand from local youngsters.

The centre at Thunate Primary School, open for coaching on two nights each week, also fields six teams, usually over 75% of whom are teenagers, in the League and recently held a 24 hour table tennis marathon which raised £800, the proceeds being shared between the centre and table tennis provision for the disabled. Hull coaches have been working with a disabled group and the result is two teams competing in the leagues, the squad including wheelchair player Wendy Watson, who only took up the sport 18 months ago.

Wendy was a member of a small but enthusiastic squad from the Yorkshire and Humberside region who 'took silver' in the Disabled Championships during the summer, and the highlight of her short career was a half hour coaching session with England Team Manager/Coach Don Parker at the Reading venue. The wheel has now turned full circle for Wendy, who has successfully completed a coaching course, is now busy coaching a group of able bodied youngsters.

The Northallerton League is steadily increasing in strength with increasing support from a wide catchment area which includes Darlington (Darham), Middlesbrough (Cleveland), and Harrogate (Yorkshire) with Bedale (4 teams) and Brotholme Farm (3 teams) dominating the top division and, following summer coaching sessions, two new teams from the village of Upsall joining the lower sections.

Good to see a number of new teams competing in the Bridlington League from the villages in the surrounding rural area, as well as from the small market town of Driffield. In a Division 1 which is made up of players of considerably differing abilities, an interesting innovation is the introduction of a handicap system which, it is hoped, will increase the competitiveness.
Committee reactivated

FOLLOWING several months of relative inactivity, the Women's Steering Committee became reactivated on Sunday, 10th November when a good meeting was held at the Midlands Open in Birmingham. Although I had announced my retirement from the role as Women's Chairman at the end of last season (hoping that someone else might take over the role now that several important goals had been achieved), Mike Lewis, Vice Chairman of the Development Department, asked me to continue at least for another season, and I have agreed.

New Direction

Now that there is a greater awareness of Women in Table Tennis and their special needs in the sport, that the Women's British League has completed three highly successful seasons and become well-established, and there are more and better competitive opportunities for the national women's team, a "New Direction" was agreed for the Women's Committee. With a new ETTA administration, a return to regionalisation and the Sports Council's "Focus Sport" programme, in which women feature strongly as a priority group, women's development and the promotion of table tennis for women and girls in a more professional way, will become the Committee's main focus of attention in the coming months.

New Members

Pat Archdale of Bristol, Sandra Roden of Bradley Hill, Worcestershire, and Pauline Steel of Worthing, have joined the Women's Committee and take on special responsibilities. Other members include: Jill Parker, Karen Tonge, Carole Watton, Mike and Christine Lewis, Diion Grey, Dorothy McIntyre and myself.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to 15 year old Nicola Deaton of Chesterfield who was nominated by her school and won the SUNDAY TIMES 'Schoolgirl of the Year' award recently. This was good news for Nicola and her sport!
Battle of the Roses

TEAMS in VETS 1A congregated at Vynwy, Cheshire, which had previously hosted the first Veterans Premier Weekend. 9 matches were played. Lancs. was the most successful team with 3 wins. Their hardest match was against Yorkshire 2, who went into a 2-nil lead, with wins by Richard Priestley and David Hope. Lancs. made a comeback but were still 2-4 down and then fought well to get the 5-4 win. Phil Blake was their lynch pin with 6 wins - dropping only 1 game. Yorks. 2 were also involved in a tight match with Cheshire 2. That match score went 2-2, 3-3, 4-4 when David Roberts (Ch) had a good 2 straight win over Doug Bartle. Worcs. played just 2 matches and had 2 great 8-1 wins - one of these over Cheshire 2! Worcs. players won all their tight matches. One other 1A match was played in Glos. when the visitors, Oxford, had a good 6-3 win. Arthur Chilvers and Nat Richardson won their 4 singles.

FULL RESULTS

Ch2 8 Np 1 La 6 Ch2 3
La 6 Np 3 Wo 8 Ch2 1
Ch2 5 Y2 4 Y2 8 Np 1
La 5 Y2 4 Gs 3 Ox 6
Np 1 Wo 8

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Berks. got their second 5-4 win in VETS 1B. The team put up a very good fight at Rainham to beat Essex 2. In the final event Sid Montgomery (Bk) beat Jim Hobley (E) - 18, 10, 10 to secure 2 points. Dorset also had another good win - 8-1 over Sussex 2. With Tony Clayton and Joyce Cooper-Dorset have a very good team. There was another 6-4 match score in the Kent 2/Wilts clash. Bill Moulding (Wi) won the final event at 24 in the 3rd game but Kent had already notched up 5 wins. Middx., well on top against Surrey 2 - went into a 6-nil lead and got an 8-1 win. Gordon Chapman was the sole winner for Middx.

Lancs. 2 and Notts. recorded further wins in VETS 2A. N'berland received the Lancs team. John Russell (Nd) got the only success when he beat Ken Jackson (La) - 18, 19, 20! Clwyd won the first event at Notts. - Harold Furber beat Ken Phillipson - 18, 10, 20. They led 2-1 but Notts. turned the tables with 2 doubles wins and kept on top to win 6-3. Herts. visited Wellingborough for their VETS 2B match against Northants 2. They went into a 3-nil lead and kept well on top to gain a 7-2 win. The mixed doubles was a tight match with Northants getting a win. Brian Lamprell/Sally Bax 2 -19, 17.

Surrey 3 got another 5-4 win in VETS 2C. A good fight back by Essex 3 was a little late - at 0-5 down they took the last 4 events! In the first event Ron Langhey (Sy) was 16-20 down on expedite and then took the next 6 points for a win! Bucks. with only 1 team this season, got off to a very good start, under new skipper Jackie Thomas. They had a 7-2 win over Middx. 2, who won only the 2 doubles events. Kent 3 visited Oxon 2 suffering a 6-3 defeat. Alf Davies and George Pullin (Ox) were involved in 5 of the wins.

Hants. travelled to Kingfisher Club, Reading for a VETS 2D match. They went into a 4-1 lead but Berks. 2 fought back to level at 4-4. Graham Outtrim put Hants back on top, and the securing the win, when he beat Mike Harris 15 and 13. Somerset got their 2nd win beating Dorset 2 6-3. Brian Reeves had three 2 straight wins. Glos. 2 went 1-4 down at Swindon but Sheila Matthews turned things around when she beat Margaret Wills 14, 20, 18. Glos. levelled at 4-4 but then Tony Brown beat Peter Wood at 16 in the 3rd game to give Wilts. a 5-4 win.

In VETS 3A Hunt. 2 lost 4-5 to Herts. 4. Brian Spittlehouse (Hu) beat Dick Emmerson (He4) and won the doubles with Michael Peacock. Herts. had to forfeit 2 events because Jim Felshtad was not eligible for their 4th team. Northants. 3 suffered a heavy defeat in their first match when Herts. 2 won 9-0. Gerald Finney (Np) came closest when he lost 16 in the 3rd to Geoff Bax.

Just one match in VETS 3B with Essex 4 getting a convincing 8-1 win over Berks 4. One event only went to a decider - Colin Dyke (Bk) beat Dave Finlayson - 18, 16, 19. Herts 5/Wilts 3 was a hard fought VETS 3C match. Herts led 3-2 after Len Flewers (He) had beaten Ray Corder (Wi) - 18, 16, 24 and Brian Gale (He) got a win over Royston Smith (Wi) - 25, 25, 12! Gwen Hazell then brought Wilts. level with a 20 in 3rd win against June Nelson. Ray Corder and Basil Thompson then won the next 2 events for the Wilts. win. Hants. 2 were 3-4 down against Berks 3. Bob Cox (Ha) then beat Ian Schwartz 16 and 20 and Norman Stagg got a 22 and 18 win over Brian Halliday to give Hants the 2 points. Dorset 3 took a 5-nil lead over Somerset 2. The last 4 events were shared leaving Dorset 3 with a 7-2 win.

There was another very good win for Lancs. 2 in SENR. 2A. They beat Warwicks. 2 by an 8-2 margin. It seems they will dominate this Division. There were some close games but Lancs. won them all! Kate Ryan was the successful Warwicks. player with good wins over Brenda Bueoy and Tamar Connolly. Cheshire and Leics. 2 were playing their first match of the season and a close result. Leics. may have expected more when they went into a 3-nil lead. But Malcolm McEvoy (Ch) turned things...
around when he beat Maurice Newman at 16 in the 3rd game. Cheshire came back to lead 5-4 and then Maurice Newman beat David Seaton in the final event to earn the point for Leics. 2. Essex 2 started with a win in their first match in SENR. 2C by beating Northants. 6-4. Mark Wicker and Clive Carthy (E2) won their 4 matches. Suffolk 2 got off to a good start against Cambs. 2. They led 4-2 but Cambs. did well to win the last 4 events for a 6-4 win. Andy Withers and Alison Edge (Ca) won all their matches. The Beds. / Norfolk 1 match score was 4-4 when Mary Jarrett (Bd) beat Ruth Accourt at 22 in the 3rd game. But C. Brewer (Nk) levelled the score in beating D. Hyde 9 and 20 to get the draw. Herts. had another good win beating Northants. 7-3. Graeme McKim (Np) played well to win his 2 matches for the visitors.

Surrey 2 visited Broadstone for their SENR. 2D match against Dorset. The visitors went into a 2-nil lead with wins by Farhat Rasul and Darren Blake and kept on top to win 7-3. Cherry Cheesy (Do) had a "clean sheet", including a 18, 19, 22 win against Hannah Weischer. Oxon included in their team 2 fast seasons juniors - Gavin Yates and Martin Haycock, who each got a win against Berks. 2, but Gemma Schwartz and Nicola Cracknell, Berks juniors last season, went one better in winning their 4 events to contribute to Berks. 2's 6-4 win. Clwyd entertained the Notts. team for a SENR. 3A match. The visitors went away with a 10-nil win. The tightest match was Lorraine Smedley's - 18, 19, 20 win over Meinir Davies. Steve Brown's 2 wins could not stave off a defeat for Northants 2. Staffs. 2 got a 6-4 win with Alison Taylor being their most successful player with 2 wins.

Six of the SENR. 3B teams gathered on 12/13 October at Hazelmore Youth Centre, High Wycombe. Over the weekend they each played 5 matches! Essex 3 team, with Richard James, David Cole, Steven Rand, Sabine Liebig and Sarah Gardner, was on top throughout. They won their 5 matches including the 6-4 defeat of nearest rivals Kent.

The Essex/Kent clash was a close contest. With Essex leading 4-3 the respective No.1's met and Andy Cunningham (K) beat Richard James 20 - 22, 20 Sabine Liebig (E) then got a 16 in 3rd win over Julie Lawrence and David Cole (E) followed with the defeat of Phil Cox at 15 in the 3rd to give Essex the win. Kent had an even harder match against Herts 2 but this time got a 6-4 win. 7 events went to a decider with 5 of these ending at 18, 19 or 20. The closest of these saw Chris Knight (K) beat John Lennon (He) 12 - 26, 21, 22! They were involved in 2 drawn matches. They led 5-4 on each occasion but against Herts 2 John Lennon foiled them with an 18 in the 3rd win over Danny Baxter. Against Hants. 2 Nick Halsell (Bu) was the victim when Graham Pointer won at 17 in the deciding game. The following week Gwent played their first match when they received Bucks. 2 and made a good start with an 8-2 win.

**FULL RESULTS**

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</table>

There were 4 tight matches in JUNR. 1A Div. The Clwyd and Staffs teams have started well with 2 wins. Clwyd beat Derbyshire 6-4 with their girls. Natasha Williams and Joanna Bastin, getting 4 wins. Staffs. had a 6-4 win over Durham. Nicola Meddings was the Staffs. star with 2 wins, including a 2 straight defeat of Jackie Marriott! Graeme Sanderson won his 2 events for Durham. N'berland did very well to get a draw with Yorks. 2. Barry Forster was, as usual, to the fore with 2 wins and Andrew Wilkinson was also unbeaten. There was another 6-4 result when Suffolk beat Northants. Lee Balaam (SK No.1) had 2 wins.

Surrey 2 had started in JUNR. 1B with a 10-0 win but had to come down to earth when, at the hands of Essex 2 playing their first match, they were beaten 8-2. D. Chan won the 2 events for Surrey 2. Mathew Simms got the only 2 wins for Oxon when they were beaten 8-2 by Herts. Kent/Glamorgan was a hard match with 7 events going to a decider. The match score was 4-4 when Janine Belby (Gn) beat Michelle Ritter (K) - 19, 18, 22! Glen Ritchie hit back for Kent with a 17 in 3rd win over Marc Morrissey to get a draw. Glos., without Raymond Powell, visited Devon 2 and suffered a 7-3 defeat. Jeremy Hyatt (Gs) played well to win his 2 matches.

Cheshire had a second 10-nil win in JUNR. 2A. The Cheshire 2 team was the victim this time with just 2 events going to a decider. Staffs. 2 and Notts. also had further wins. Notts. performed very well to beat Lancs. 2 by an 8-2 margin. Philip Musgrove got the 2 events for Lancs. beating Kevin Green (Ng. No.1) and Mark Short, when the scores were 14 - 20, 19. Staffs. 2 visited Burton on Trent and got a 7-3 win. Tony Brabant (St) had the hardest match in getting the better of Russell Hardy 19, - 20, 19. Warwicks led Leics. 4-3 when Dean Langley (Le) levelled the scores beating Edward Lynn - 21, 23! Lisa Hobday (Wk) then had a 2 straight win over Helen Griffiths - Warwicks. led 5-4. Another Hobday, Matthew Hobday from Leics, then stepped in to get a 9 and 10 win the final event to get a point for Leics.1 Norfolk 1 gained their second win in JUNR. 2B beating Lancs. 7-3. The Norfolk boys - Shaun Parsley, Gary Hewitt and Lee Nicholls - were again to the fore with 6 wins. Lancs. did better against Norfolk 2. They got a draw by virtue of a win by Dominic Stokes (Ll) in the final event. Suffolk 2 got an 8-2 win over Cambs. with just 1 event going to a decider when Sarah Davison (Sk) beat Shelly Leek - 21, 17, 16. Launceston provided the venue for 8 JUNR. 2C matches. Somerset had the most success with 2 wins beating Dorset 10-nil and Avon 7-3. Most unusually, in a Junior match, there was an EXPEDITE game with Andrew Hewitt (So) beating David Reeves 21 in the 3rd game. Cornwall did well with 10-nil and 9-1 win and, against Avon, from 2-4 down got a win.威尔士, got a 8-nil win over Dorset, who did not have any girl players in any match, and drew with Devon 3 with their girls - Tracy Youlden and Debbie King. Winning their 4 events. One other match was played at Newport when Gwent beat Worcs. 8-2. Lee Horton had 2 very good wins.

Surrey 3 went to Hants to play 2 JUNR. 2D matches. The Hants 1 and 2 teams got 8-2 and 7-3 wins respectively. Surrey, remarkably, gave opportunity to 10 players in these 2 matches. Sussex 1 and 2 teams visited the Kingfisher Club, Reading. Against Sussex 1 the Berks 2 team got the first event when Ian Barratt beat Paul Cicchelli 18, - 16, 20, but that was the extent of their success. Berks 2 lost 2-8 to Sussex 2, with Desmond Shielam getting their 2 wins. Bucks gave a very good performance to beat Middx. 2 9-1 and were pleased to see their girls - Wendy Barlow and Lucy Templeton - getting a success by winning their 4 events.
Onslaught in Liege

IN front of 3,200 spectators in Liege on October 30th Belgium completed their first stage Group A matches with a 4-0 win over the Federal Republic of German in the Joola European Men's League to top the group with an unbeaten record.

Wins for the Saive brothers, Jean-Michel and Philippe, and for Thierry Cabrera, plus the doubles at the expense of Jorg Rosskopf and Steffen Fetzner, brought proceedings to a dramatic and speedy conclusion.

Scores: J-M Saive b T. Wosik 4, 19; T. Cabrera b J. Rosskopf 19, 15; P. Saive b S. Fetzner 19, 14; Cabrera/F. Sonnet b Rosskopf/Fetzner -15, 18, 22.

Prior to this, in Olkus on October 15th, the Belgians came back from a 2-3 deficit to beat Poland 4-3 with Philippe Saive winning two, his brother, Jean-Michel one and, in the final set with the match score squared at 3-all, a win for Cabrera over Leszek Kucharski.

Scores: A. Grubba b T. Cabrera 16, 8; P. Skierski b J-M Saive -10, 17; L. Kucharski b P. Saive 17, -15, -21; Grubba/Kucharski b Cabrera/J-M Saive 12, 19; Grubba b J-M Saive 12, 9; Skierski b P. Saive -19, 15, -18; Kucharski b Cabrera 19, -13, -19.

On November 5th In Steenbergen the Netherlands brought about the third successive defeat for Poland winning 4-3 thanks to a last ditch win for Frank Boute over Lucjan Blaszczyk. But it was by no way the strongest team Poland put out, the scores being: D. Heister b L. Blaszczyk -17, -13; T. Keen b P. Skierski 14, -19, 14; D. Heister b J. Rosskopf -21, -18; Haldan/Heister b Rosskopf/Fetzner -21, -18; Haldan b Rosskopf -19, -21.

France made it three out of three when in Le Mans on November 5th they accounted for Hungary 4-2 the scores being: Gatien b K. Nemeth 16, 10; O. Marmurek b Z. Harci 17, 15; D. Mommessin b S. Varga -19, -14; Gatien/Mommessin b Nemeth/Varga -17, -15; Gatien b Harci 14, 16; Marmurek b Varga -16, 19, 14.

Sweden after their shock reversal at the hands of France in their opening match travelled to Hungary on October 15th to win 4-0 the scores being: Z. Harci b E. Lindh -15, -10; S. Varga b J-O Waldner -11, -16; K. Nemeth b P. Karlsson 17, 17; Nemeth/Varga b Waldner/Lindh -17, 22, -17.

And, against Yugoslavia in Halmstad on November 5th Sweden were again the victors by a 4-1 margin the one to escape them was when Erik Lindh lost to Slobodan Grujic. Scores: J-P Persson b A. Dob 18, 19; P. Karlsson b J-Lupulescu 13, 22; E. Lindh b S. Grujic -17, -20; Karlsson/T. von Scheele b Lupulescu/Grujic -14, 14; Persson b Lupulescu -18, 13, 12.

The outstanding match between Yugoslavia and Hungary has been arranged for November 14th in Miskolc.

GROUP B TABLE

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Second stage matches are as follows being reversed on January 7th 1992.

December 17th
France v Germany
Sweden v Belgium
Hungary/Yugoslavia v Poland
Hungary/Yugoslavia v Netherlands

Shock result in Division 1 (Group B) was the 4-1 home defeat inflicted on England by Austria at Ipswich and of which details will be found elsewhere in this.
publication. However all is not lost for should England beat Czechoslovakia, the favourites to top Group A, who still have a home match against Bulgaria to play, then they could find themselves playing Austria twice more in a 2-legged final.

Meantime England still have a third match to play, against Spain in Barcelona on November 18th, the Spanish team having beaten a full strength Italian team in Catanzaro on November 6th by a 4-3 margin. Scores: M. Costantini b J-M Pales -17, 17, 17; L. Nannoni 1 R. Casares -13, -20; G. Di Napoli b Caymel -19, -15; Nannoni/Di Napoli 1 Pales/Caymel -19, -19; Costantini b Casares 11, -19, 15; Nannoni b Caymel -12, 12, 15; Di Napoli b Pales -18, 18.

Previously at home to Austria in Biella on October 23rd the Italians were beaten 4-1 their only success coming in the first set when Massimo Costantini beat Qian Qianli. Scores: M. Costantini b Qian Qianli -18, 16, 12; Nannoni/Di Napoli I Ding Yi -18, -15; Di Napoli b J-M Pales -14, -19; Nannoni/Di Napoli I Ding Yi/Qian Qianli -14, -14; Costantini b Ding Yi -10, 13.

Denmark, in Group A, went down 4-1 to Czechoslovakia in Staytrup where Lars Hauth beat Petr Javurek in the opening encounter but thereafter failed to advance on it. Scores: L. Hauth b P. Javurek -12, 20, 21; K. Hogsberg b P. Korbel -9, -10; A. Bentsen b R. Vimi -13, -17; Bentsen/J. Harkamp 1 Korbel/M. Gman -21, -17, Hauth I Korbel -15, -24.

Turkey brought off their first win at home to Bulgaria in Sakarya on October 2nd when the scores were: G. Yaldiz b 1. Aianski 7, 13; O. Eren b M. Bratanov 20, 19; O. Cimen b K. Lengerov -17, -19; Yaldiz/Cimen b Bratanov/Lengerov 19, 16; Yaldiz b Bratanov 15, 18. Denmark, in their final match away to Turkey on November 9th won 4-1 to book their place in the semi-finals which will likely be:

- December:
  - Austria v Denmark
  - England v Czechoslovakia

And, in January, these fixtures will be reversed.

**TABLES**

**GROUP A**

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**HOSTILITIES**

The continuing hostilities between Serbia and Croatia have thus far prevented Zoran Primorac from turning out for Yugoslavia in recent Polish and Hungarian Opens despite applying for entry as a Croatian. Unfortunately for him Croatia are not members of either the ITTF or the ETTU which creates an impasse which would appear to be difficult to solve.

In the 24th Polish Open, played in Czestochowa over the period October 17th/20th, Jean-Michel Saive of Belgium was the winner of the men’s singles title beating Calin Creanga of Greece -21, 15, 16, 11 in the final. In the semi-finals Creanga beat Grubba -13, 18, -21, 20 and 21 and Saive accounted for Trinko Keen of the Netherlands 10, 5 and 12.

Bettine Vrieskoop of the Netherlands was the winner of the counterpart women’s event beating Chinese opponents in both the semi-finals and the final. France won the men’s team title beating the USSR 3-2 and China the women’s title beating Yugoslavia 3-1. The Frenchmen came back from a 0-2 deficit for their victory in which Elo and Chila beat the Mazunov brothers in the doubles followed by singles successes for Mommesen and Elo over A. Mazanov and Chetinin. England were not represented.

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THREE: THE CRAZE SWEEPS THE WORLD

To what did table tennis owe its spectacular popularity and success at the very beginning of the twentieth century? There was, perhaps, a shift of fashion away from lawn tennis which, although always popular, did require a large lawn and some relatively expensive equipment. The weekly journal *Lawn Tennis* started up a table tennis column in March 1901, with reference to "the many lawn tennis players who have taken to table tennis during the winter evenings." When table tennis opened up publication of its own journal *Table Tennis and Pastimes* in January 1902, the very first copy quoted a correspondent of the *Sheffield Independent* who gave six reasons for the popularity of the new game. "It is inexpensive and it is adaptable to the family table. It only requires two players; both sexes meet on fairly equal terms; first experiences are usually encouraging, and lastly, it offers the widest scope for real skill." This is an impressive list, and one might wish today to add only that table tennis is fast and provides plenty of exercise.

How did this remarkable craze - without parallel in other sports - manifest itself? Of course we have no idea of the number of players taking part, and even today it is only the registered players who are calculable. But some figures are known from the *Pioneer*. Issue number 2 of 25th January 1902, printed a 'Directory' listing twenty clubs. By the middle of March this list had swollen to 113, about 65 table tennis clubs and 48 rival ping-pong clubs. At the beginning of February, the *Pioneer* claimed 20,000 readers, a phenomenal figure.

Crystal Palace Table Tennis Club - based in the famous iron and glass Great Exhibition building in South London - boasted 500 members and was rumoured to have 200 tables. Many of the larger towns in England set up public rooms where table tennis could be played. The Arcadian Club in the City of London advertised "10 full size ping-pong tables from 3pm - all day on Saturdays." Today, such facilities are virtually non-existent anywhere in England.

The larger tournaments offered prizes to the value of £100 and attracted large entries; an event organised by the Ping-Pong Association at the Queen's Hall, London, in January 1902, had 120 entrants in the 'Gentlemen's Competition' which, played in twenty groups, not surprisingly extended over seven days. The Ladies' tournament was only four short of this. The following month a tournament at Alexandra Palace in North London - only just completed and given its name by the Queen Consort of Edward VII - even attracted entrants from abroad. This must rank as the first 'international open'. A smaller tournament played at Sudbury had to make use of tables in the homes of the competitors. These events were keenly followed by relatives and friends, usually described as "a vast concourse of spectators", but on one occasion at Cardiff in Wales, more specifically estimated at 1500.

Table tennis was played in some surprising places and by some surprising people; schoolmasters had their own tournaments; nurses; soldiers; footballers, cyclists and London store assistants took up the game. Oxford and Cambridge colleges became involved in the game, leading to a partial ban at Oxford when studies were interrupted. Boarding and public houses had to provide facilities in order to attract custom and the game became a serious rival to billiards. Even a table tennis café was set up.

The *Pioneer* recommended the game as a cure for 'mal de mer' on long sea voyages - although it was disconcerting for a player when returning a ball to see the opposite side of the table sinking away from him. Many inter-club matches were played, but apparently there were no leagues in the early 1900s; these developed later.

All this activity encouraged the sporting manufacturers, primarily John
By early 1902, the Pioneer reported that “pingue-pongue fever” had struck Paris, particularly in newspaper offices, the elite were exchanging formal invitations and the first club had been formed. Nice Lawn Tennis Club had set up a table for use when the tennis was rained off and there was a big boop in Cannes, with tables in hotels and regular tournaments. A large entry was attracted to the first tournament in Paris, played at the Tennis Club in the Boulevard Exelmans and won by Mademoiselle Yvonne de Pfeffele, a well-known tennis player. A tournament played at Boulogne included a mixed singles event with seven ladies and only one gentleman in the last eight. But opposition to the new game was not unknown. Le Petit Bleu reported that Great Britain was doomed, “for what nation”, it asked, “could hope to flourish in the midst of such depravity - soliciting themselves with ping-pong while men were fighting and dying in South Africa?” A page or two later the Pioneer reports, “Ping-Pong is played in slack times by our troops on the Veldt”, and a drawing in the Graphic in May 1902, shows Boer prisoners playing in a prisoner-of-war camp. And it was also reported that the game was to be officially banned - along with football and rounders - in French schools.

Edward Shires, an English footballer, introduced the game to Budapest in 1902, and in 1904 the first Hungarian tournament was played, the winner being an Austrian, Erwin Kaufmann. Not surprisingly, the game soon travelled the relatively short distance from England to Germany. It was set up at the Kaiser’s Palace, King Edward VII having sent a set at Christmas, and great interest was shown in a tournament played at the first established club in Berlin. The Frankfurter Zeitung devoted considerable space to the new game. An article welcomed the introduction of ping-pong from England, arguing that neither this innocent, fashionable game (nor, indeed, the English Parliament) should be derided. There was no loss of national pride in taking up the new game. It was an important activity in contrast to cricket, football, golf and tennis, all of which were an inexcusable waste of time. Ping-Pong had much to commend it; to both young and old it gave healthy relaxation; it was athletic and exciting; it was cheap and kept the family together. Only simple materials were needed - a dining-table, a muslin net, two small bats and - to avoid broken windows or a bloody nose - some featherlight, celluloid balls. The single bounce service was used and lawn tennis scoring. The inventor of ping-pong, the writer concluded, deserved much credit, and it was astonishing that no one had thought of it earlier. Such were the virtues of the game that the enthusiast would never give it up and would play it as often as possible.

Further afield, the game was soon flourishing in Buenos Aires, India and Egypt; it was a favourite social amusement in Malaysian and Australian colonial circles, and a report came from Bangkok that the King of Siam was an enthusiast. Also it was said that table tennis was in high favour at the court of His Majesty the Shah of Persia (now Iran). By early 1902 the game was already sufficiently advanced in New Zealand for two tournaments to be played at Christchurch. The photographs of these events are the earliest known which show a tournament in progress.
Signs of a Chinese revival?

CHINA has dominated the women's world table tennis scene for more than two decades and that continues, but now after beating reigning champions Sweden 3-0 in the men's TSP World Cup final in Barcelona all the indications are that a revival is on the way. The three-year domination by Sweden may be over. China could be poised to win both mens and womens events throughout the world.

The answer to this question - is China on the way back to the stranglehold in the men's events for some 18 years? - may not be known until Gothenburg in 1993 at the next World Championships.

There is another batch of younger men coming through - world NO.7 Ma Wenge has been on the scene for sometime, but he is certainly a potential world-beater. He was backed up in Barcelona mainly by Wang Tao and Wang Hao, neither new boys, but very dangerous.

With China poised to spend the best part of three weeks touring England, their strength in depth is highlighted by the fact that none of the Chinese playing in Barcelona mainly by Wang Tao and Wang Hao, neither new boys, but very dangerous.

The men's final in Barcelona at the Estacio Du Nord (the old North Station) was disappointing because Jorgen Persson the world champion was pulled out by the Swedish coach due to a swollen and inflamed left knee.

This gave the Chinese an immediate advantage, one they were quick to take, winning 3-0, avenging several past defeats by Sweden, especially the one in Dortmund.

This gave the Chinese an immediate advantage, one they were quick to take, winning 3-0, avenging several past defeats by Sweden, especially the one in Dortmund.

The finest game of the tournament, agreed by most spectators was that between Ma Wenge and Lee Gun Sang in the semi-finals, but Waldner's magic patches had the crowd spellbound in the men's final.

Waldner's final clash with Ma Wenge was really the climax of the tournament. Waldner won the first 23-21, lost the second and was leading in the third before Ma Wenge retained control near the end. The most memorable shot of the six-day event for me was a winning drive by Waldner hit from 30 feet from the table!

Peter Karlsson, winner of the Hungarian Open is Sweden's new young hope. The world doubles champion looked classy for most of the six days in Barcelona, but he looked still classy but rather more ordinary when he lost 16 in the third to Wang Tao.

90 Minute Final

Erik Lindh, the only European to win a bronze medal or any medal in Seoul, like Sweden did not have a great tournament. In the last game of the men's final, completed in ninety minutes, Wang Hao beat Lindh 14, 12 and that was the end for the Swedes.

Scenes of jubilation by the Chinese men were the first for three years and in fact, many Chinese faces were smiling in Barcelona that evening, except one, Chen Xinhua who had just learned that China stood alone in opposing his participation in the Olympic Games in Barcelona next July.

Jose Ransome will not agree, but I find top-class women's table tennis between Asian teams boring for most of the time. Fine for the real do-or-die fans who will get up early in the morning after a Spanish late-night usually ending at about 3am. Too early for the media - but China won 3-1 against South Korea in the women's final, with another stunning performance for the Chinese pocket dynamo Deng Yaping, the world champion, who is only 18, but trains five hours a day and is only 4 feet 11 inches tall!

The Finals

CHINA 3
MEN:
Ma Wenge b J. Waldner -21, 13, 17
Wang Tao b P. Karlsson 12, -16, 16
Wang Hao b E. Lindh 14, 12

CHINA 3
WOMEN:
Deng Yaping b Hong Soon Hwa 16, 14
Liu Wei I Hyun Jung Hwa -14, -19
Qiao Hong b Hong Cha Ok 15, 18
Deng b Hyun 13, 20

How they finished

WOMEN:
Winner China
Runner-up Korea
Semi-finalists China, Korea, Japan
Quarter-finalists France, Hungary, Sweden, Czechoslovakia
Third in Group England, Finland, USSR, Yugoslavia
Fourth in Group Australia, Denmark, Spain, USA

MEN:
Winner China
Runner-up Sweden
Semi-finalists China, Sweden, France, Korea DPR
Quarter-finalists Austria, Belgium, England, Korea
Third in Group Germany, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia
Fourth in Group Australia, Spain, Nigeria, USA
GERMANY, with their strength in organisation, finance and at times world-class players have stood between England and glory on several occasions in recent years. To see our men take them apart was on this occasion worth travelling further than Barcelona to watch.

It gave the English men's team, one of the strongest since the 1950's, a dream start to their second World Cup. At the first World Cup in Japan 16 months ago, the England men were fortunate with the draw - they beat Canada, Chinese Taipei and Japan before losing to Sweden in the semi-finals and in the groups.

In Barcelona, the draw could hardly have been more difficult. The win over Germany was the key to reaching the quarter-finals and the knock-out blow for the Germans, who unusually for them, were very subdued.

Peter Franz is clearly an improved player and came mighty close to beating Chen. Alan Cooke on occasions plays his best table tennis towards the middle and end of the season - he excelled to pile on the top spin against Jorg Rosskopf to win 19,19. Carl Prean followed up with a splendid win over Stefan Fettner - something he will be wishing to repeat in the Bundesliga where he is just losing to the Big Guns. He lost 17 in the third to Persson and 19 in the third to Lindh in the final game, a battle memorable because two more points to Matthew and Sweden would have been beaten and also because of an extraordinary incident near the end when the ball bounced twice but the umpire gave Lindh the point. Lindh 'wrestled' with the scoreboard and the umpire, before the Spaniard conceded and the point went to England.

Matthew Syed is going through the period where he is just losing to the Big Guns. He lost 17 in the third to Persson and 19 in the third to Lindh in the final game, a battle memorable because two more points to Matthew and Sweden would have been beaten and also because of an extraordinary incident near the end when the ball bounced twice but the umpire gave Lindh the point. Lindh 'wrestled' with the scoreboard and the umpire, before the Spaniard conceded and the point went to England.

Star performance of the day was by Carl Prean, who calmly dismissed the world champion Persson 15, 16 delivering a series of crunching drives, those shots we were hoping for at Ipswich.

And so to the easy match 3-0 against the USA, a nation who seem to have no way of reaching world class - the distances are just too great, it would seem.

And so we came to watch the North Koreans in action - without any doubts the world's best defender at the moment is Li Gun Sang. His clash with Chen was a classic duel in which Chen elected to do nearly all the attacking. Although Chen's attack can reach world class it was just not good enough to get through Li Gun Sang.

Prean looked as though he would continue his winning run taking the first game 12 against Kim Song Hui, but with patience and perseverance the Korean took the next two games 19, 15.

Alan Cooke enhanced his World Cup reputation with a win over lesser known Choe Gyong 15, 19, but it was Kim Song Hui who pushed North Korea through to the semi-finals 15, 16 against Chen, whose World Cup week did not see him at his best.

However, 24 hours after the Barcelonas farewell party, Chen bounced back to beat Jean-Michel Saive and world champion Persson at the Pondus Cup in Copenhagen and then lost to Waldner in the semi-finals.

Scores of the England matches........

**MEN:**

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**England slam Germany**

**England women's tougher draw**

Even more stern was the England women's draw - Hungary the best European team to start and then North Korea, followed by Australia with two Chinese women in the team.

Alison Gooden's only selection for England was against Hungary, but she could not raise her game again to the heights she did at Hartlepool and was well-beaten by the high serving Nilla Batoifi.

Lisa Lomas usually manages to beat the not-so-well-known players and this she managed 15, 12 against Kristina Toth. Andrea Holt, the England champion looked as though she was going to beat the powerful young looper Kristina Nagy, but lost 22 in the third, leaving a key win for Hungary as Batoifi defeated Lomas 13, 15.

Against the Koreans, Lisa Lomas managed to squeeze the second game 14 from Li Bun Hui (the world No.2) before losing the third at 13.

The Australian match was something of a triumph for England. The threat of two Chinese playing for the Aussies sounded like more bad news for the Poms, especially with leggy Kerrin Tapper backing up. However Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt threw everything into their matches and beat both of the Chinese women Ying and Hui, leaving a grandstand finish for Fiona Elliot who bounced back twice losing the first and trailing in the third to defeat Tepper 21 in the final game.

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**SCHEDULE OF THE ENGLAND MATCHES**

**MEN:**

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Pictured above are (from the top down) England's Carl Prean, Chen Xinhua, Alan Cooke and Matthew Syed
The Boston idea

BOSTON AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

was becoming stagnant, teams were diminishing, standards dropping, no
juniors coming through. The only way to stem this
demise was through the
innovative injection of a table
tennis centre.

Within 3 years of the idea
being floated our new
headquarters was complete.
Not an old church hall or
school, but a brand new
centre ideal for county
defends, inter town
defends, local league and
coaching activities. The
centre has been successful
beyond belief.

The philosophy of the
Boston Committee was two
disciplines:
(i) maximum use of facilities
for all table tennis
(ii) to start a junior coaching
programme

Point (i) has been
achieved by having league
matches dedicated to
Monday, Tuesday, Wednes-
day nights. On a Thursday
night a singles league is run,
allowing lower league
players to progress through
the leagues to challenge the
better players. Point (ii) is
achieved on Friday nights. J.
Brewster County Player and
Coach runs a junior pro-
grame attended by 12-15
juniors and increasing each
time.

The centre was funded
with money from a 100 Club
lottery, grants from ETTA
Development Fund, County
Council, Sports Council,
Local Council, and finances
from Mr. R. Fleet President
of Boston Amateur Sports
Association. The league
would like to thank everyone
who has made this venture
so successful.

South of England
Junior 2 Star
by Terry Vance

WALES AND KENT shared the
trophies at this tournament. In the
Girls U17 final Natasha Williams of
Wales the number 2 seed beat her
namesake Sara from Middlesex, the
number 1 seed. The 3rd and 4th
seeds were beaten in the quarter-
finals by Catherine Sibbald and
Shelley Ruocco respectively.

Natasha Williams combined with
Caroline Bentley of Berkshire to beat
Jennifer Coleman of Essex and Sarah
Seashole of Hertfordshire in the U17
Girls Doubles. Unfortunately Natasha
could not achieve the triple title
because there is no Mixed doubles at
this event!

The unseeded pair from Kent
Meng Ching-Yu and Xu Kai fought
out the U17 Boys final with Meng
(pronounced Mung) beating his
colleagues from the Medway Towns
Table Tennis League, they also
combined to win the U17 Boys
Doubles against David Baker of
Middlesex and Darren Blake of
Sussex.

In the Girls U14 singles final
Sarah Bedman of Sussex beat the
number 2 seed Shelley Ruocco. The
U14 Girls Doubles was won by
Crystal Hall of Kent and Shelley
Ruocco of Essex who beat Glenda
Ashton (Sussex) and Sarah Stedman.

There were no shocks in the
Boys U14 Singles when number 1
seed Vince Avery (Sussex) beat
Stephen Lampkin (Surrey) number 2
seed in the final. The Doubles final
was won by Simon Jablon (Middle-
ssex) and Stephen Lampkin against
Matthew Bartlam (Yorkshire) and
Keith Doyle (Sussex).

Taylor Davis (Yorkshire)
produced the upset in the Girls U12
semi when she beat no. 1 seed

Lindsay Thornton (Lancashire) only to
lose in the final to Debbie Pestka
(Nottingham).

Scott Friday (Kent) deservedly won
the U12 Boys Singles title against the
holder Ali Subhan (Berkshire) number 1
seed. In the quarters Scott had beaten
local hero and number 2 seed Gerry
Ashdown.

The thanks of the organising
Committee go to Croydon Council for
providing the facilities; Clive Oakman
for his equipment; Carpenter and co.
Solutions for their generous and
continued support.

RESULTS:
Singles
U17B Meng CHING-YU bt Xu KAI -18,
15, 16. U17G Natasha WILLIAMS bt
Sara WILLIAMS 18, 13. U14B Vince
avery bt Stephen LAMPKIN 11, 13;
U14G Sarah STEDMAN bt Shelley
RUOCCO 18, 18. U12B Scott FRIDAY
bt Ali SUBHAN 13, 21. U12D Debbie
PESKKA bt Tracy DAVIES 21, 19
Doubles
U17B CHING-YU/KAI bt David BAKER/
Daren BLAKE 10, 12. U17G Caroline
BENTLEY/N. WILLIAMS bt Jennie
COLEMAN/STEDMAN 16, 11. U14B
Simon ASLON/LAMPKIN bt Matthew
BARTLAM/Kay DOYLE 19, 9. U14G
Crystal HALL/RUOCCO bt Glenda
ASHDOWN/STEDMAN 14, 17

Trophies were presented by the
Mayor of Croydon (Cllr. Jim Walker),
Deputy Mayor (Cllr. Brian Smith) who
was accompanied by his wife Jean.
Also present were Noel Carpenter from
Carpenter & Co. (Soliciors), Ron
Croydon president of Surrey TTA; Mick
Kercher (Life Member & Vice Presi-
dent), Joan Bourne (Vice President);
Jimmy Starling (Chairman).

IN MEMORIAM

CHRIS BALL

CHRIS BALL, long standing member of WAMDSAD and the British Wheel-
chair Table Tennis Association, and current member of the GB Table Tennis
team died, following a short illness, on Tuesday November 12th 1991, aged 35.

Chris, who suffered from polio as a child, first became involved with sport
for disabled when he joined the Windsor and Maidenhead District Sports
Association for the Disabled (WAMDSAD) in 1978. At that time he was a keen
swimmer and represented his club and Southern Region of England on a
number of occasions. In the early 80's Chris took up table tennis and quickly
became a very accomplished player as a member of the GB paraplegic squad.
He won many local, regional and national tournaments, representing Great
Britain in World European and Olympic Championships as well as a number of
international tournaments throughout Europe. In all, he represented Great
Britain in over 20 international tournaments. Chris' most significant table
tennis achievement was possibly his last - when he won the Open Tournament
this year's World Wheelchair Games at Stoke Mandeville.

Chris leaves two sons - Matthew aged 9 and Daniel aged 8 years. Table
tennis, both on the disabled and local ablebodied scene, will not be the same
without him.

PAGE 28
Book with a difference

A SPORTS book with a difference that's Almanac 1992 described as the complete sporting factbook - but it's more than that.

Did you know, for instance, that earlier this year Sian Evans from Cheltenham took a second off her own record to win the annual bog pulling title in Alaska - or that the Black Dog Bakers of Crawley lost their world title held since 1986 to the Moonshiners from Surrey - at Moorfield?

In Japan, where else, there is a new form of skydiving. For £9 a time you can leap off a narrow ledge into a lift shaft and be suspended in mid-air without a parachute, held aloft by an 80mph blast of air from a fan at the bottom. What happens when the fan is turned off is not made clear.

Then there is the junior champion of Subbuteo, the table top version of soccer, who comes from Bristol and whose name is Richard Ficker.

These and many more gems go into making this book a must for any sports fan. There is of course a serious side to it which includes all the latest results from 59 sports including table tennis. Although there is danger that the off beat comments are likely to attract most of the attention.

It's also a book full of quotes. For instance this one from Bob Willie commenting on Sky TV: "At least it's looking pretty comfortable out there. And if you want to be comfortable when you are visiting the north west, why not stay at the Mitram Hall Hotel in Cheshiir?"

Or this from David Irvine of The Guardian on the British Closed Tennis Championships: "One small word summed up most of the tennis. Dire." Would our table tennis writers dare to make such a comment?

A great little book and unlike similar books is guaranteed to bring a smile to your fac.

World Corporate Games

BUSINESS all over the world will be linking up for the World Corporate Games next year. Table tennis is one of 22 sports involved including dragon boat racing.

The venue for our sport is the Seymour Leisure Centre in London (know it?) and the tournament is scheduled for the last two days of the event - Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th October 1992.

The games will be held over 10 days with company chairmen to shop floor workers rubbing shoulders for major awards. London's finest sporting venues including the Crystal Palace national sports centre and the docklands will host the event, and with over 1000 entries and 20 countries taking part it should be an event to remember.

Dunlop's new brochure

DUNLOP have come out with a new brochure which takes you through their entire range from bats and balls to tables and nets.

There's also something for newcomers to our sport. The Starter Set includes two pimpled rubber bats, two balls and a net and post set. For the club player two quality rubber bats, three two star balls plus a net and post set complete a neat and tidy package.

The selection of tables cover the whole range of rollaways including those which will be used at the forthcoming English Open. The basic pimples to the more polished version which combines Chrome long pimples with an ergonomically designed handle. My first bat, was the Barna pimples rubber, as I'm sure it was for many thousands of my era. I notice the Barna pimples are still there but backed by a sponge layer. Such is progress.

Two new books

DON DAVIES has written a book entitled 'Psychological Factors in Competitive Sport', which is a must for all developing coaches.

The psychology of sport is an applied psychology. It is the science of psychology applied to sport and attempts to describe, explain and predict achievement and performance in sport.

'Table Tennis' is a book published in collaboration with the BTSA.

Both books will be reviewed in Table Tennis News next year.
IT was to be a weekend for Yorkshire at the H & E Scaffolding Junior Open Table Tennis Championships held at Grove School, Market Drayton over the weekend of September 28th / 29th with both the boys' singles and girls' singles events going to players from White Rose county.

Clinched

The powerful attacking style of Northallerton's Robert Sharp clinched the boys' singles title at the expense of NFD Grove's Matthew Brown, whilst attractive topspin strokes from both wings saw Bradford's Caroline Bentley beat NFD Grove's Nicola Meddings to claim victory at the final hurdle. Sharp had ousted second seed James Wheatley of Derby in the semi-final whilst Brown had overcome clubmate Kevin Hodgson who had beaten top seed Darren Lindley of Yorkshire one round earlier. Meanwhile, NFD Grove's Tracey Garratt was the victim of Miss Bentley in the semi-finals whilst Colwyn Bay's Joanna Baslin fell to Miss Meddings at the penultimate stage.

Harness

There was to be further success for Robert Sharp as he clinched the boys' doubles in harness with county colleague Darren Lindley with James Wheatley and Steven Meddings the beaten finalists. In similar vein, there was to be a second title for Caroline Bentley who joined the forces with Zoe Buchanan of Stockport to overcome Tracey Garratt and Emma Fletcher of NFD Grove in the girls' doubles final.

Hard Fight

NFD Grove's Steven Meddings stamped his authority on proceedings in the cadet boys' singles, but the pragmatic Oldham boy Darryl Meredith made the current England number one fight hard for final success as he extended the Midlander to a close three set final. Meanwhile, the cadet girls' singles went the way of Kathryn Woodward of Stockport in a splendid final, whilst the busy Stockport girl Kathryn Woodward won the Restricted B girls event at the expense of Stratford's Sarah Clarke.

Victorious Welsh

Wales was to be successful once again in the Restricted B junior boys' singles as NFD Grove's Martin Hopwood beat Wakefield's Dean Warburton in a three set final, whilst the principality was victorious once again in the girls' event as NFD Grove's Rachel Northis accounted for Kent's Crystal Hall at the final hurdle.

Splendid final

Success came the way of the hard working Richard Potter in the Restricted A event as the Leeds boy overcame NFD Grove's talented Welshman Paul Robertson in a splendid final, whilst the busy Stockport girl Kathryn Woodward won the Restricted A girls event at the expense of Stratford's Sarah Clarke.

ROLL OF HONOUR

**Junior Boys' Singles**

- Winner: Robert Sharp (Northallerton) - Runner Up: Matthew Brown (NFD Grove)
- Winner: Caroline Bentley (Bradford) - Runner Up: Nicola Meddings (NFD Grove)
- Winner: Darren Lindley (Huddersfield) & Robert Sharp (Northallerton) - Runners Up: Steven Meddings (NFD Grove) & James Wheatley (Derby)
- Winner: Caroline Bentley (Bradford) - Runner Up: Tracey Garratt & Emma Fletcher (NFD Grove)
- Winner: Richard Potter (Leeds) - Runner Up: Paul Robertson (NFD Grove)
- Winner: Martin Hopwood (NFD Grove) - Runner Up: Dean Warburton (Wakefield)
- Winner: Rachel Northis (NFD Grove) - Runner Up: Crystal Hall (Maidstone)

**Junior Girls' Singles**

- Winner: Kathryn Woodward (Stockport) - Runner Up: Zoe Fisher (Hull)
- Winner: Michelle Haynes (Mansfield) - Runner Up: Kevin Hodgson (Yorkshire)
- Winner: Michelle Haynes (Maidstone) - Runner Up: Ross Friday & Scott Friday (Rainham)
- Winner: Claire Newns (Wirral) & Alison Smith (Maidstone) - Runners Up: Debbie Pestka (Nottingham) & Kathryn Woodward (Stockport)
- Winner: Richard Potter (Leeds) - Runner Up: Rob Anderson (Hull)
- Winner: Michelle Haynes (Maidstone) - Runner Up: Zoe Fisher (Hull)

**Junior Doubles**

- Winners: Caroline Bentley & Robert Sharp (Northallerton)
- Winners: Darren Lindley & Paul Robertson (Northallerton)
- Winners: Steven Meddings & James Wheatley (Derby)
- Winners: Caroline Bentley & Tracey Garratt (Stockport)
- Winners: Martin Hopwood & Dean Warburton (Wakefield)

**Cadet Boys' Singles**

- Winner: Richard Potter (Leeds)
- Winner: Caroline Bentley (Bradford)
- Winner: Simon Thomas (Wales)
- Winner: Darren Lindley (Huddersfield)
- Winner: Martin Hopwood (NFD Grove)
- Winner: Rachel Northis (NFD Grove)

**Cadet Girls' Singles**

- Winner: Kathryn Woodward (Stockport)
- Winner: Michelle Haynes (Maidstone)
- Winner: Michelle Haynes (Maidstone)
- Winner: Rachel Northis (NFD Grove)

**Cadet Boys' Doubles**

- Winners: Richard Potter & Matthew Brown (NFD Grove)
- Winners: Robert Sharp & Matthew Brown (NFD Grove)
- Winners: Darren Lindley & Robert Sharp (Northallerton)
- Winners: Steven Meddings & James Wheatley (Derby)

**Cadet Girls' Doubles**

- Winners: Caroline Bentley & Tracey Garratt (Stockport)
- Winners: Richard Potter & Matthew Brown (NFD Grove)
- Winners: Martin Hopwood & Dean Warburton (Wakefield)
- Winners: Rachel Northis & Crystal Hall (Maidstone)

**Junior Boys' Restricted A**

- Winner: Richard Potter (Leeds)
- Winner: Paul Robertson (NFD Grove)
- Winner: Steven Meddings (NFD Grove)

**Junior Boys' Restricted B**

- Winner: Martin Hopwood (NFD Grove)
- Winner: Dean Warburton (Wakefield)
- Winner: Rachel Northis (NFD Grove)

**Junior Girls' Restricted A**

- Winner: Kathryn Woodward (Stockport)
- Winner: Crystal Hall (Maidstone)

**Junior Girls' Restricted B**

- Winner: Rachel Northis (NFD Grove)
- Winner: Crystal Hall (Maidstone)

**Junior Doubles**

- Winners: Caroline Bentley & Robert Sharp (Northallerton)
- Winners: Richard Potter & Matthew Brown (NFD Grove)
- Winners: Martin Hopwood & Dean Warburton (Wakefield)
- Winners: Rachel Northis & Crystal Hall (Maidstone)
South West Region
by Alf Pepperd

MY thanks to Fred Ingram, Cornwall's hard working Secretary for the following Cornwall news.

At a meeting held in Truro early in the season, it was generally thought a good idea by the Committee to share all forthcoming meetings between the respective areas in future, i.e: North Cornwall, Mid-Cornwall and West Cornwall. By doing it this way it would hopefully have the effect of creating perhaps greater interest in these rather far flung regions.

Prior to the meeting (footnote), reported that the outstanding development money had to be disposed of in one of two ways, either proportionately to the Counties based on the number of teams (Members). Or equally to all Counties. Upon going to the vote - the result was unanimous for sharing equally.

England will be playing China on the 25th of December 1991, and the venue will be the Polysty Sports Centre at St. Austell, a lovely afternoon to Christmas.

It always gives me great pleasure when table tennis friends and fellow acquaintances make it known that they are preparing to visit, either the Altar Of the Registry Office, therefore hearty congratulations to Arvon's Gay Baldwin and Swindon's Brenda Lee, both I understand are now officially engaged to be married in the not too distant future.

Another well known player of not so long ago had her banns of marriage called at Rudford's St. Mary's Church in Gloucestershire, Congratulations, Nina Tsakarisian.

Mike Lewis attended the region's November meeting to explain the Focus Sports and the Focus Foundation for Sports and Arts programme. It would appear that in the immediate future at least any worthwhile scheme will not be able to put forward lack of finance as reasons for not getting it off the ground.

Pat Archdale has joined the Regional Committee as Women's Coordinator although it was typical of Pat's enthusiasm that at her first meeting she had already taken on more responsibility (as assistant to competitions secretary Mick Strode) before the other newcomer, Veteran rep. Harvey Webb had even found the venue!

Whilst 'doodling' during the meeting I calculated that, including Mick Strode who lives almost next door, the average round trip to attend an evening meeting was 120 miles.

South Eastern Region
by Brian Lamerton

KINGFISHER A (Premier) and Unify Generation 1st & Ladies Division) are the early pace setters in this season's extended regional leagues. With a much changed line-up last season's champions Cippenham languish one place off the bottom.

The Isle of Wight, who led the first division after one match provide the only other present male player with a 100% average in Roger Hockey whilst Barbara Savage (Aldersey B) Sarah Turner (Unify Generation) and Gill Galloway (OLOP) have similar records from Generation 'A' and 'B' and 'C'.

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The course was organised by the National Table Tennis Association, and sponsored by Huntingdonshire County TTA and Leagues, to promote coaching at a local level.
DETAILS of this month's umpire profile were not received in time to meet the copy date, so this item is absent this issue.

To keep this column in the magazine every month we would like to receive comments and opinions on what we say. Also we would welcome comments from players, coaches, parents etc., on umpiring matters; and umpires.

**Volleying continued**

We have, in fact, had a reply to the item in the October issue dealing with the volley law, in which we suggested that it could perhaps be abolished.

A letter has been received from Derek Tyler, who used to run the Sussex Open when it was held at the White Rock Pavilion in Hastings, and who now lives in Belgium. He disagrees with our view, and writes:

"The present law is one of the simplest and easiest to administer. We already have too many laws that require a marginal judgement, and your idea would add to their number. One would need to judge whether the volley was made over the surface of the table or just behind the end line. On occasions this can be a difficult decision. The inopportune volley that you refer to is, of course, unfortunate, but relatively rare. The net cord shot that drops dead and is impossible to return occurs more frequently, but has to be accepted as one of the hazards of the game."

We do not think that the umpire would have any more difficulty dealing with this as he already needs to judge whether the ball is over the table or not when it is struck in service, and also whether or not a player is guilty of obstruction, if the ball is stopped before passing the end line not having passed over the table. Although a volley, as we described, is relatively rare, it is not uncommon for the ball to fly off the top of the net, or be mis-hit, and then hit a player's racket, having passed over the end line, before he has time to get his racket out of the way. If the volley law was abolished, the umpire would not have to concern himself with what the ball hit once he saw that the ball had passed over the end line of the table. It certainly happens that in some cases the umpire is unsighted and has to rely on the honesty of the player concerned in order to apply the law.

Further, we have spoken to the chairman of the ITTF Rules Committee and he tells us that he tried, in 1981, to get the ETTA to submit a proposal to abolish volleying as an offence, but failed to get support from either the ETTA Council or the NURC. The ITTF Rules Committee supported such a proposal to the 1987 Biennial General Meeting, but it did not get a big enough majority to change the law. It is hoped to make another attempt in 1993. Some players' views on this would be welcomed.

**Reflect on this**

I (JR) recall an unfortunate occasion many years ago when I, as referee, had to disqualify the opponent of Chester Barnes in the final of the Men's Singles of the Portsmouth Open when Chester complained that his opponent was using an illegally shiny racket, but the opponent refused to do anything about it. It so happens that only the previous weekend Chester, in an international match when he was playing for England, was forced to change his racket when there was a complaint about the shininess of his rubber. Consistency demanded that the same standards should be applied for him as against him. It would have been better of course if the complaint about the rubber in the Portsmouth Open had been made before the final had been reached, and there cannot be many occasions when a final has been decided by a walkover.

Nowadays, law 3.4.6. says the side of the blade shall be dark coloured and matt. Of course, "dark" is scientifically defined as giving a Y-value under illuminant A of not more than 30% according to the CIE system. Further, a "matt" surface is one whose gloss, measured with an EEL glossmeter at 45 degrees head setting, is not more than 6%; corresponding measurements of 60 degrees specular gloss using ASTM procedure D523 must give values no greater than 24%.

Not many people know that! As well as all this, it is regarded as unacceptable if the surface is so shiny as to allow the shape of a light source to be distinguished in its reflection. This last condition is at least something an umpire might get to grips with, especially if he has neglected to bring his glossometer along to the tournament.

But of course there is the saving factor that the rubber has the ITTF logo of approval moulded into it, so everything is straightforward isn't it? Unfortunately it would appear not.

It will be obvious to anybody examining current rackets that there are a number of shiny rubbers being used. It would appear that a manufacturer may submit a matt sample for approval, and then produce under mass production conditions a shiny version for sale. Also, there are some so-called "cleaners" which leave a thin glossy film on the racket surface.

Notwithstanding the presence of the ITTF logo, umpires are recommended to refer doubly shiny rackets to the referee, and referees should report offending brands so that eventually the ITTF can take action against the perpetrators.

**Assistants warming**

FOLLOWING the recent change of law, an umpire raised the question as to whether an assistant umpire may warn a player if he is doubtful of the legality of the player's service. This subject has been brought up and discussed by the ITTF Rules Committee, who thought it better that only the umpire should give any warning, because if either the umpire or assistant umpire is not sure whether the other can see the service, then confusion could arise.
 Memories of last summer

EXPRESS SPORTS 
SUMMER CAMP 1991

THE first impression gained when one approaches Dartmouth Community College is of the picturesque town of Dartmouth which lies at the bottom of an enchanting valley. The Community College where the Express Sports summer camp was situated, boasts one of the most spectacular views of the south west. 1991 was the second year running that this beautiful site had been obtained which made this a holiday not only for keen table tennis enthusiasts but also ideal for families wishing to tour the area. Express Sports summer camps have developed over the last six years into England’s largest and arguably most successful training camp. In fact one of Britain’s most successful players, Alex Perry, the current ‘English Junior Champion’ was actually discovered here at the tender age of eleven years. He still attends each year. One major advantage of this camp is that over the years the price has remained economical and affordable for most. This ensures that everybody in every avenue of life can attend.

When we arrived Malcolm Francis, the Course Director, was there to welcome us. He himself partly learnt his skills in China and can now claim to be one of the best English coaches on the tournament circuit. It was actually Malcolm who discovered Alex Perry who five years on has progressed to winning many prestigious titles here in England and has had great success abroad.

Other leading coaches present when we arrived were Brian Etherington; a leading tournament coach, John O’Sullivan; regarded as one of Britain’s best coaches having had success recently with Darren Howarth and Kate Goodall and Derek Marples; a leading ‘ETTA’ coach and personal coach to none other than Allan Cooke. During the introductory speech, given by the Course Director, it was impressive to hear that in each coaching session there would be only six to eight players. This would give everyone a chance for high quality individualised coaching. We were also informed that at the end of the week the coaches would give out individual written reports to us to take home to concentrate on for the next year. As well as the actual coaching sessions it was going to be possible to play with high class players such as Matthew Syed.

During the week the Express Sports shop would be open so that we could try out new equipment (at competitive prices) recommended by the coaches to enhance our game. In case of any unfortunate accidents there would be a qualified medical person on site at all times.

As the week progressed a daily pattern of activity emerged. Everybody was encouraged to play at least two sessions out of three a day (morning, afternoon and evening). In the free time it was possible to use the swimming pool available on site (manned by a life guard), enjoy a game of cricket on the vast green playing fields, or take a gentle stroll to the video shop, which came in very useful. Highlights of the week incorporated the running of two tournaments, one of which was handicapped which gave lower ranked players a chance to reach the final. Relaxing boat trips up the beautiful River Dart were also organised.

The day started at eight thirty with showers and breakfast at nine o’clock. Three meals a day were provided with a tuck shop open mid-morning and mid-afternoon for snacks such as ice poles and ice cold drinks, a necessity in the recent summer heatwave. Hot food was available after the last session before retiring to bed. The meals were kept basic, for example, scampi and chips or roast chicken, but salads were always available and vegetarians catered for. Great quantities of sandwiches sufficed for lunch.

Free time, and especially the evenings after the last coaching session were great times to relax with one another and get to know each other better. It was always possible to find John O’Sullivan by looking for the gathering crowd of younger children (some as young as eight years) as they clambered all over him fascinated by his receding hair line! The adult players left for the local inn at this point for some peace and quiet! Those who chose to reside in a hotel left after this, while the rest of us returned to the college classrooms to collapse exhausted onto our mattresses and snuggle up in our sleeping bags in preparation for the next strenuous day!

QUESTION:
Where do England number one junior players, coaches, go in the summer?

ANSWER:
Express Sports Table Tennis Camp

PROOF:
Kate Goodall is coached by
John O’Sullivan
Alex Perry is coached by
Malcolm Francis

Come to this camp for proven
successful coaching
The cost is only £155 per week
For dates and contacts see other advert or ring 0825 76 4566

STOP PRESS
STOP PRESS
STOP PRESS

Both Alex and Kate won the
singles events in the Cleveland
Junior International Open
Carl Prean replies to John Woodford

May I refer to Mr. Woodford's article in 'Table Tennis News' (November)? He writes *Carl Prean declined the offer of being last reserve* and I see that he has been elected to spend some of the £12,000 per year for ten years, that piece of news coming at such high levels was totally unacceptable to me as I may think.

I'm afraid that in the past equally important sponsors have been treated in the same shabby fashion. I hope that in future British sponsors of English table tennis will be treated with the respect and appreciation that they so rightly deserve. The ETTA are finding it more and more difficult to obtain important sponsors because of their previous track record. Too much has been demanded and too little given in return.

I hope the new Chairman and new management team will restore the good old fashioned values and ethics that we have well understood in the past.

And my personal greetings to all the old friends and stalwarts and heroes of the sport who gave unstintingly of their time and effort especially during the 1977 World Championships which were such a resounding success and instilled a new spirit into table tennis in this country. It was a tremendous effort on everyone's part and for the next two years English table tennis basked in the glow of success, prestige, popularity and publicity.

Many old friends and colleagues have told me that sport at top level during the past three or four years.

I hope under the present leadership many of them will agree to return and send a hand

"Yes! I'm delighted to tell you that Swing is legal and I want you to supply us of our rubbers, just for the moment your enquiries at Stan Lenton, 9 Cavalier Close, Nunsmere C115 4XH.

John Woodford

Swing is here to stay

I feel that I must answer Mr. Woodford's article in 'Table Tennis News' (November).

The main incentive as far as I was concerned was to supply a technical service to the English team on equipment of the same quality and standards as the Japanese and Chinese National Teams. We produced both the outer sheaths of rubber to very high standards and the inner rubbers, in fact we were the only Company to my knowledge ever to produce high class equipment treated with the respect and appreciation that they so rightly deserve. The ETTA are finding it more and more difficult to obtain important sponsors because of their previous track record. Too much has been demanded and too little given in return.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CADBURY'S CHOCOLATE BREAK ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Birmingham National Indoor Arena
(Finals from 12 noon Saturday)
Thursday/Friday/Saturday 9/10/11 January 1992:
Individual Events
Saturday/Sunday 11/12 January 1992:
International Team Events and Veterans
Saturday 11th, BBC TV Grandstand coverage.
Further details from ETTA 0424 722525

Men's Joola European League 1st Division Semi-Final (first leg)
ENGLAND v CZECHOSLOVAKIA
Wednesday 18th December 7pm
Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre
Tel: 0325 300500 Tickets £2 (AD) £1 (CH/OAP)
Sponsored by Sedgefield District Council

Women's European Super Division League
ENGLAND v USSR
Wednesday 8th January 1992 6.30pm
Tudor Grange Leisure Centre
Solihull, West Midlands
Tickets £2.50/£1.25 - Tel: 021-705 6371
Supported by Solihull Leisure Management

CLEVELAND 5 STAR & BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL TEAM EVENT
4/5th January 1992
Thornaby Pavillion, Cleveland
David Hutchinson, Tel: 0642 534738 (B) 0642 224444

ENGLAND v CHINA Test Match Series
England squad likely to include Carl Prean, Chen Xinhsua, Alan Cooke and Matthew Syed.
Chinese Team includes English Open Champion Yu Shenton and Xie Chaojie member of the Chinese team winning the TSP World Team Cup in Barcelona in November.

1. Polkyth Recreation Centre, St. Austell, Cornwall.
   Saturday 28th December, 1991 6.00pm
   Sponsored by Aztec Canon
   Tickets £4 (AD) £2.50 (CD)
   Tel: 0726 61585

2. Littledown Centre, Bournemouth, Dorset.
   Sunday 29th December 1991 6.00pm
   Sponsored by Slough Estates
   Tickets £4.00 (AD) £2.50 (CD)
   Tel: 0202 528399

3. Hereford Leisure Centre, Hereford.
   Monday 30th December 1991 7.00pm
   Tickets £4 (AD) £2.50 (CD)
   Tel: 0432 278178

4. Concord Leisure Centre, Sheffield.
   Wednesday 1st January 1992 6.00pm
   Sponsored by Sheffield City Council
   Tickets £4 (AD) £2 (CD)
   Tel: 0742 570274

5. Grantham Table Tennis Centre, Trent Road, Grantham.
   Thursday 2nd January 1992 7.30pm
   Sponsored by South Kesteven Dis. Council
   Tickets £5.00
   Tel: 0476 590012

   Monday 6th January 1992 at 6.45pm
   Sponsored by Gateshead Metropolitan BC
   Tickets £3 (AD) £2 (CD/OAP)
   Tel: 091-477 3600

   Tuesday 7th January 1992 7.15pm
   Sponsored by Milton Keynes B. Council
   Tickets £4 (AD) £2 (CD)
   Tel: 0908 377251

Tickets for all matches are available from ETTA office in Hastings - Tel: (0424) 722525. Payment by cheque or credit card must accompany order.