CARL PREAN
ENGLAND'S EUROPEAN ACE

To serve anything but Jaques tables, well, it's just not table tennis
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October 1st October 1992
November 1st November 1992
December/January 15th December 1992
February 1st February 1993
March 1st March 1993
April 1st April 1993
May/June 1st June 1993

TABLE TENNIS NEWS
November 1992
Issue 210
The official magazine of The English Table Tennis Association
Third Floor, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings. TN34 1HF Tel: 0424 722525 Fax: 0424 422103
President J A Leach MBE
Chairman A E Ransome
Editor John F A Wood
Editorial Office: 5 The Brackens, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP2 3JA
Tel/Fax: 0442 244547
Advertising Offices: Jim Beckley, Sports PR P O Box 6, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire. SK8 7RG
Tel: 061-488 4002/ Fax: 061-488 4126
Table Tennis News is published 8 times a year September to May/June
Subscription rates - £11.20 £16.32 Sea Mail/Ireland
Air Mail Zone 1 £21.36 Zone 2 £23.04
Photographers: Geoff Twiss, John Wood and Northern Photographic Services
Subscriptions and distributions: Bethan Davies ETTA, Third Floor, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, HASTINGS.
Tel: 0424 722525
Printed by: E W Publicity Limited, 15 King Street West, Stockport, Cheshire.
SK3 0DT
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Front cover: Carl Prean, England’s European ace.
(Picture by John F A. Wood)
Matt turns the tables

MATTHEW SYED failed his mock examinations at Balliol College, Oxford, in philosophy, politics and economics. After which followed tutorial warnings about the college's reputation.

Syed needed a negotiating position in order to obtain crucial time off for England duty, so he consequently put in a week's hard study, in order to pass the real paper.

To Syed's and his tutors' intense surprise he managed a distinction (one of only four to achieve it).

This means that having turned the tables, Syed now has the leeway to play the crucial Joola European League Super Division matches with the college's blessing.

Good news

OLIVETTI (UK) Limited have just agreed to sponsor the Women's British League team for £500 which firmly establishes the team name Olivetti-Bribar.

In response to a request from Olivetti Sandra Rider is busy arranging a challenge match between the Leeds Permanent Building Society and Olivetti (UK) Ltd. This will be a short fun challenge match between management, and then the Olivetti-Bribar team will be doing a basic demonstration.

New 5 Star

A NEW 5 Star Tournament is a possibility for March 1994. The venue might be the Westcroft Leisure Centre, Carshalton and the hope is that it will attract players from abroad and home, players warming up for Birmingham 1994.

The plan might be to run an international team match before the individual events or even a European League match on the Friday thus enabling players to become accustomed to English playing conditions prior to Birmingham.

Bicycle glue out?

IT seems very probable that this is the last season with players glueing up in table tennis arenas. The practice of using vulcanising glue could be banned at Gothenburg next May.

The main reason is that the practice is a health hazard, it could also encourage "glue-sniffing" and in general table tennis terms it is not popular. Rubbers will apparently be attached to blades with "normal glue", but there could be a technical problem of some dimensions for umpires and referees trying to detect a recently applied rubber using the banned substances.

APOLOGY

'TABLE TENNIS NEWS' wishes to make it clear that in so far as the publication of those views may suggest otherwise the English Table Tennis Association dissociates itself from any views expressed by Alan Shepherd in Essex's County Notes in the October issue and apologises to Peniel Academy for publishing any material in that article which is untrue.

John F.A. Wood

Editor

FOR ALL TABLE TENNIS RESULTS Telephone 0891 664300 Calls are charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at all other times.
CONGRATULATIONS to NFD Grove, the English Champions, on being the only club to have both their men's and women's teams in the quarter finals of the Europe Club Cups. The men's team travelled to Hungary and defeated Zold Mezo Se Kiskunfelygaza by four sets to one. The man of the match was Michael O'Driscoll who beat one of Hungary's European ranked players, Sandor Varga, in a set which the Hungarians regarded as their banker. Desmond Douglas clinched the victory for Grove beating Chinese defender, Chen Chin Pin.

Grove ladies, strengthened by the signing of the Russian star, Elena Timina, defeated SV Swinchal of Vienna by four sets to zero at home. The key victory in this match was Timina's win over Renata Kassalova, the Czech international. Lisa Lomas, Allison Gordon and Andrea Holt all played their part in the victory.

Both teams now face stiff opposition in their bid to reach the semi-finals. Grove men will travel to play the German Champions, Borussia Dusseldorf whose line up is likely to include Jorg Rosskopf, Stefan Fetzner and Tohan Wossik, whilst the girls will meet Hoi (Noordkop) of the Netherlands whose team includes the European Champion, Bettine Vreeseekop.

England not so lucky

The English teams in the European League Super Divisions have not fared so well so far and are now fighting to avoid relegation. The men were unfortunate to lose 4-3 to Belgium at Sedgefield in a match that could easily have gone either way, whilst the women suffered their second defeat of the season to Germany by four sets to two at Scarborough. The men now play Hungary away and the women face France in Gateshead on 10th November in vital matches.

The French match is supported by Sedgefield and Scarborough Council, have worked in partnership with the local club and league to develop table tennis. The results are evident for all to see.

French series

In January the French national team, including the Olympic Silver medallist, Jean Philippe Gatien, will visit England for a two-match test series. One of the matches, part sponsored by Manchester 2000, the British bid to stage the Olympic Games in the year 2000, will be played on Friday, 8th January in front of BBC TV cameras and the match will be televised in Grandstand on Saturday, 9th January as well as on the BBC Friday Sport. The venues for these two matches will be announced shortly.

Reversing the decline

Further to my article in Table Tennis News last month, National Council gave its support to my proposals to address the declining membership. For membership to grow again, new initiatives are required at local level throughout the country and these must be carried out in conjunction with the local leagues and clubs. To initiate this activity, I am writing to every league to ask them to call a special meeting of their Management Committee dedicated to discussing an increase in membership of players and teams. Representatives of the ETTA will be available to attend all meetings with a series of proposals to stimulate local interest and increased play.

I was delighted that the National Councillors themselves are prepared to be part of the ETTA representation, together with Regional Committee Chairmen, Regional Development Officers and other national officials at these meetings.

It was also suggested by National Councillors that the system of counting membership does not do justice to the number of players participating in the sport, as those who do not regularly play in a local league but do play in tournaments, County Championships, British League, etc. would not be counted in affiliation figures. It was agreed to investigate a method of increasing direct membership of the Association.

Foundation for Sport & the Arts

Again as mentioned in my last article, the lack of facilities is one of the biggest problems facing English table tennis at the present time and with this in mind, the Chief Executive, Elaine Shaw, Cyril Villiers of the Sports Council, and myself, visited the Secretary of the Foundation for Sport & the Arts, Gratton Endicott, in his Liverpool office to discuss ways of increasing funding for table tennis facilities. The meeting itself was very fruitful and as a result we are submitting an application to the Foundation for a substantial amount of funding to be set aside for major table tennis projects as recommended by the ETTA. If approved, this fund would enable specialist table tennis facilities to obtain substantial grants from the Foundation on the strength of an ETTA recommendation.

In the last year, table tennis centres have opened in Grantham and Milton Keynes. If more like these were built, this in itself would be a great boost for the sport.

Other discussions with Mr. Endicott revolved around the Foundation's support for the European Championships which will play a major part in bringing the event to this country in April 1994, as well as updated guidelines from the Foundation for consideration of grants.

New guidelines

The Foundation has increased the limit up to £1,500 that can be approved by its Chairman's action, and at the same time open the door to small clubs with no claim to high level of competence to obtain grants. When considering grants, some of the criteria that the Foundation takes into account are the benefits to the community, the involvement of young children, the assistance for the handicapped, deprived and
disadvantaged, and the evidence of self help from the applicants. Projects for new and updated facilities can receive strong support. Applications involving running costs, core funding or payment of wages will only receive a low priority. Endorsements from governing bodies carry significant influence in the decision process and work carried out by the Association's Development Department has been appreciated by the Foundation.

**Veteran's British League**

Following the success pioneered by the Women's British League, the Association in co-operation with the VETTS Society, has embarked on a British* Table tennis is a great sport for everyone and I hope you are having an enjoyable season so far.

The competition will commence in January with a total of 32 teams, four divisions of men's teams with six teams per division and one division of eight teams for women.

Congratulations to Mike Lewis, Brian Halliday and Alan Duke who have brought this league into being. Table tennis is a great sport for everyone and I hope you are having an enjoyable season so far.
ENGLAND went down to a second successive defeat in the Super Division of the Women's European League when Germany ran out 4-2 winners in front of an enthusiastic crowd at the Spa Grand Hall in Scarborough.

Lisa Lomas gave England just the start they wanted when she got the better of Nicole Struse in the opening encounter, taking the first comfortably against an opponent who did not relish the English girl's short defensive ball, and then stepping up her game after Struse, who had paid dearly for some early errors, had battled back to 16-17 in the second.

But the visitors got on top when the vastly experienced Olga Nemes, 85 international appearances to her credit, knew too much for 17 year old debut girl Katie Goodall, and Christiane Praedel, the German national champion, overcame her England counterpart Alison Gordon, to put the home side up against it.

Alison's experienced showed through as she won the first 18 after building an 18-12 lead, but Praedel held her nerve to shade the second and then, with confidence boosted and hitting crisply, took the third.

The doubles followed, and it was now the turn of England to fight back and Lisa and Andrea Holt, after losing the opener 20-22, kept things tight, forced the Germans into errors and levelled the match score with a battling display which must have lifted England's hopes as the two No.s 1 came to the table.

A very patient Nemes carried the first, a more aggressive Lisa, who won some excellent points with a backhand kill, levelled as she took the second at 7, but then Nemes, making full use of her acutely angled backhand, taken very early off the table, showed just why she

has twice taken Europe's Top 12 Championship as she restored her team's lead.

The Luton girl must have wondered what had hit her as Nemes stepped up a gear, but there was no mistaking the effect on the German team as Praedel, full of confidence, swept her side to victory as she took out Katie in straight sets, but credit to the Leeds girl, who stayed with her all the way in the second game before Praedel claimed the final points.

**SCOREBOARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lisa Lomas bt Nicole Struse</th>
<th>Katie Goodall lost to Olga Nemes</th>
<th>Alison Gordon lost to Christiane Praedel</th>
<th>Lisa/Andrea Holt bt Nemes/Struse</th>
<th>Lomas lost to Nemes</th>
<th>Goodall lost to Praedel</th>
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<td>12, 19</td>
<td>-10, -17</td>
<td>-18, -17</td>
<td>18, -17, -14</td>
<td>-14, 7, -13</td>
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**ANDREA HOLT**

Like other members of the England squads Andrea Holt is now studying at college in addition to pursuing her career as a table tennis professional. She was selected for this match but declined on the grounds that she was unable to attend the last training camp due to her studies and was therefore unprepared to face Germany.

Subsequently, she changed her mind, but not before Jill Parker had informed Kate Goodall that she was to make her senior debut for England and would replace Andrea in the singles.

The Lancashire lass was then told that as another player had replaced her she could play only in the doubles.

Whether these problems affected the result of the match is just a matter of conjecture. Olga Nemes and Christiane Praedel both played well enough to ensure a German victory.
NO-ONE could ask more than for Carl Prean to beat Jean-Michel Saive. The Belgian ace, promoted from No.6 in the world to No. 6 hours before the match, went under to a Prean onslaught as England crafted a skillful fight-back in the Joola European League match at Newton Aycliffe, but regrettably, it was not enough. Belgium triumphed 4-3 after a match lasting the best part of five hours.

This leaves Belgium to contest the semi-finals and England battling amongst the (slightly) weaker teams to avoid the threat of relegation.

by John Woodford at Newton Aycliffe

Disaster hit England in the first twenty-five minutes of a struggle that lasted almost five hours. In a superb display by Thierry Cabrera the tempestuous Belgian No.2 now aged 28 defeated Prean 19, 12. The Steinhagen player led 18-14 in the first game, but Cabrera incredibly took the next seven points and the next game.

England were, it seemed, destined for a heavy defeat as Chen Xinhua struggled manfully to hold the Jean-Michel topspin but went down -19, -18.

There was a real welcome for Alan Cooke, returning to a single spot for England after a spell as a doubles player. The Derbyshire and Malmo top-spinner piled on the pressure to defeat Philip Saive 9, -16, 14.

Belgium hit back, inflicting further damage with a doubles success 15, 23 against Cooke and Prean. At that point it appeared that England were sliding to a 4-1 defeat, especially when Prean lost the first 12 to Jean-Michel.

In a great revival, Prean lifted his game to confidently take the second game 15 and the third 19 - certainly one of his best wins of this campaign, especially as Saive is clearly the most improved young player in Europe, having reached four major finals in the last 18 months.

Chen Xinhua made the match score 3-3 with an easy win over Philip Saive who at one point kicked the court surround and received a yellow card from the French umpire. The incident seemed more important than it really was as Saive's choice was unknowingly the court door which flew open!

So the stage was set for Alan Cooke to win what would have been a famous victory - all he had to do was to beat the Belgian "fireball" Thierry Cabrera. Cooke still played well most of the way, he just lost the first -19 and won the second 7.

All the while, Cabrera was getting himself more and more worked up, almost shouting when he lost points and getting involved with a small section of the crowd. Cabrera is rated No. 49 on the latest world ranking list.

Unfortunately, it seemed to some observers that Cabrera's antics managed to upset Cooke and he could only manage 9 points in the final game.

England's last group match is away to Hungary. "We should win that one" said England manager Don Parker "and then if we do we should get home and away tie with the bottom team in the other group, whoever that will be" he added.

The crowd at the Newton Aycliffe LC was somewhat disappointing - around 200, rather less than the 250 who watched the European Women's League match at Scarborough the previous week. The Scarborough secretary called on every door belonging to his registered players - not many secretaries would do that!

But Newton Aycliffe put on a fine show, masterminded by Keith Wilson and his band of helpers.

RESULTS:

C. Prean I T. Cabrera -18, 12
Chen Xinhua I J. Saive -19, -18
A. Cooke bt P. Saive 9, -16, 14
Cooke/Prean I Saive/Cabrera -15, -23
Prean bt Saive -12, 15, 19
Chen bt P. Saive 11, 8
Cooke I Cabrera -19, 7, -9
Bronze for Syed in France

MATTHEW SYED won a bronze medal, in the World Student Championships in Lyon, whilst Emma Hurling reached the Women’s consolation final.

Syed was beaten in the mens singles semi final by Damien Eloi of France and Hurling lost to Hungarian Rita Katona, in the consolation final.

PLAYERS: Matthew Syed, Michael O’Driscoll, Steve Ward, Adrian Moore, Emma Hurling, Tracey Scott-Pawson, Melanie Carey
TEAM MANAGER: Geoff Taylor
UMPIRE: Jack Randall
MEDIC: Marilyn Godfrey

Great Britain’s six players, team manager, international umpire and team masseur flew to Lyon, France to compete in the World Student Championships. Our seventh player, Matthew Syed met us out there on Monday after playing in the Penal 5 Star. The plane took off on time and after a short flight we landed safely in blazing sunshine and sub-tropical temperatures. Unfortunately due to a breakdown in communications somewhere between Birmingham and Lyon, no one knew when we were arriving. Consequently there was no-one to meet us at the airport. Team manager Geoff Taylor and his trusty sidekick Jack Randall battled in pigeon English to find out where we were supposed to go. In the end two taxis took us to the Palais Des Sports, much to Geoff’s disgust at the price — £50 for two cabs! After more confusion as to why we had turned up at the playing arena we were crammed into a clapped out mini-bus and taken to what was to be our residence for the week — at the University of Claude Bernard. This was our first experience of French driving, one which I’m sure none of us would want to go through again!

As we were not playing until Monday, Sunday was used to become familiar with the surroundings, check out the opposition and have a bit of training. Shuttle buses ran every thirty minutes (or were supposed to) between the residences and the playing arena for players, officials and umpires. The playing conditions were excellent. Fourteen tables were used in the main arena with a further nine tables in the ”small” hall which were used as practice tables. All equipment was supplied by Donic — a name not really associated with table tennis in Britain at the moment.

Monday dawned bright and sunny with a further nervous anticipation as to who we had drawn in the team event. The girls were in a group with Bulgaria and China. We considered ourselves to be on equal terms with Bulgaria and although we were defeated 4-0 the score line does not really do justice to the quality of table tennis played. A minor misunderstanding between the umpires and British order of players resulted in Emma Hurling having to play two matches in succession, the first of which was to be used as a ”reserve” game in the event of a tie.

This was not needed however. Our second match in the afternoon against China was excellent. In the first game Melanie Carey fought well but lost to Ying Peng — 10, 16. Hurling also played well against Yan Hong Tang losing the first — 10 but Tang appeared to go up a gear and won the second — 9. Tracey Scott-Pawson appeared to be a little overwhelmed by her opponent and never really got going. Although China were a strong team they were not as strong as we expected them to be which goes to show how much the European teams are catching up with the Far Eastern nations.

The lads had a better day than the girls. Only one match was scheduled the next day against Holland. Matthew Syed made a shaky start beating Meryn De Brun 20–14, 15. The Dutch were never really in contention though and were beaten 4-1. Adrian Moore made his debut in the doubles with Steve Ward and were unbeaten in the team event.

The opening ceremony was held after the first day’s play. After the march in, the introduction of the 23 countries and the official opening by the President of FISU we could sit back and enjoy the entertainment that ensued.

The lads’ second match the next day was against Korea. All the games were in fact close and could have swung either way. Moore played exceptionally well and was unlucky not to win a game. He was defeated 12–13, 21 by Lee Toe and -20, -16 by Cho Young. Mike O’Driscoll beat Lee Chang 13–17, 19 to take the score to 1-3 and yet again the partnership of Moore and Ward proved to be too strong for the Koreans bringing the match score to 2-3 but the Koreans ran out eventual winners 4-2. This meant that Britain were runners up in their group, qualifying for the main draw and had to play Germany. The Germans beat Britain 4-1.

Being out of the team event meant that Wednesday and Thursday were free for relaxing, massages, body rubs and sightseeing. Marilyn Godfrey was indeed kept busy, nurturing pulled muscles and aching legs and back mainly as a result from carrying too many bottles of cheap French wine back from the hypermarket! We began to get suspicious with Steve though who insisted in having a session at least an hour long!

On Wednesday evening a party on the Bateau Blanc (White Boat) had been arranged. This was a large boat on the River Rhone, complete with bar and disco whose most up-to-date record was “YMCA”. Moore was in his element! This was the chance for
Randall who apparently had
Koreans were grateful for! finals where he beat Legout of France defending well he lost 15-21. Eloi in Matthew Syed were eligible to play
rest day. All. that is. apart from Jack
rest day - something I'm sure the men's singles. He reached the quarter to step up a gear and despite Matt meant that everyone except
players and Officials to let their hair fierce loops from the back of the from France took the first two games A consolation event was run for
France to 22-20 in the third. With
groups had three or four players in
Filipova and stretching the French
close in her group though losing in
the start of the singles groups. All
daylight too much as Thursday was a playing his next round matches of the
Singles and doubles events. This
* As usual the coaches are of the highest proven standard and include John O'Sullivan,
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Taylor & Gordon bounce back

LANCASHIRE's Jonathan Taylor, who crashed out in the first round last year, came back to take the Mens Singles title for the first time. Alison Gordon, after last year's shock defeat, continued her domination of the Womens Singles in winning the title for the 9th time. It was remarkable that no fewer than nine players were making their first appearance in a Sussex Open final.

Taylor, seeded No.5, had a tough draw having to beat England No.2 junior Richard Hyacinth and then top seed Sean Gibson in the quarter final followed by John Holland in the semi final. The No.2 seed, Yorkshire's Chris Oldfield, had an easier route although he was taken to three sets by Grant Solder. He then faced No.1 Junior Alex Perry in the semi final who had earlier put out the Welsh No.1 Nigel Tyler. After a comfortable win over Perry, he took on Taylor in the final. In a tight match, Taylor always seem to have the edge and went on to take the title.

In the Womens Singles, Alison Gordon, after an overnight dash from the Midlands, comfortably beat Sanja Kubelka and had to fight all the way to defeat Sue Collier in the semi final. In the quarter finals, Sue had an excellent if a very hard victory beating No. 3 seed Linda Radford, 22-20 in the third set. Kate Goodall and Helen Lower took their expected places in the other semi final but it was Helen who came out on top when they met to set up the final with Alison. This was an excellent match with Helen taking the first set edging home 23-21 but then Alison gradually took control and won the next two sets comfortably. With Alison having already broken tournament records, the sponsors, STAMCO, presented to her a silver salver in recognition of her record number of titles won (including doubles this was her 20th). An outstanding highlight from the local point of view was the group win by Hastings junior Sara Coggon (ranked 28th in the England Junior rankings) over highly ranked Juliet Houghton.

The Mens Doubles provided hope of an all Sussex final but this was not to be. The two Moore brothers, Adrian and Stephen, pulled off the shock result when they defeated the No 1 seeds, Sean Gibson and John Holland in straight games in the 2nd round. They then proceeded to the semi finals where they faced Taylor and Hyacinth. They could not quite match the performance against the top seeds and went down in three sets. The other Sussex pairing of Michael Hammond and Ritchie Venner went out in the quarter finals to Perry and Edward Hatley who, in turn, went out in the semi finals to the surprise package of Bromley's Paul Carter and Simon Phillips. In the final, the underdogs gave an excellent account of themselves but went down in three sets.

The Mens Doubles proceeded as expected with Michelle Cohen (replacing Alison Gordon away on international duty on the Saturday), partnering Juliet Houghton winning through to meet top seeds Linda Radford and Helen Lower. The final was, unfortunately, a bit one sided with the top pair winning 7 and 10.

The Mixed Doubles final saw the two seeded pairs, Gordon and Holland, holders for the last two years, meeting the young pairing of Perry and Kate Goodall. The holders had a fight in an earlier match against Paul Savins and Sue Collier but eventually got through in three sets. In another good final, the youngsters stopped the hat-trick and took the title themselves in two very close sets.

In the Veterans Singles, the absence of top seed, Dave Harvey, opened up the top section of the draw and, after some good matches, Ray Tilling fought through to the final where he met Derek Holman who had won through to his final place very easily. In the final, Holman won the title for the first time with a comfortable two set victory over Tilling.

RESULTS

Mens Singles
Semi finals - J. Taylor bt J. Holland 14, 18, C. Oldfield bt A. Perry 13, 16
Final - Taylor bt Oldfield 17, 20

Womens Singles
Semi finals - A. Gordon bt S. Collier 21, 13, H. Lower bt K. Goodall -16, 15, 15
Final - Gordon bt Lower -21, 16, 7

Mens Doubles
Final - R. Hyacinth & J. Taylor bt P. Carter & S. Phillips 14, -16, 15

Womens Doubles
Final - H. Lower & L. Radford bt M. Cohen & J. Houghton 7, 10

Mixed Doubles
Final - A. Perry & K. Godall bt J. Holland & A. Gordon 18, 19

Veterans Singles
Final - D. Holman bt R. Tilling 16, 15

STAMCO TIMBER TO THE TRADE

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Palmer's finest hour

AT the time of writing three rounds of matches have been played in this season's Friendly Hotels British League and already the Premier Division has a familiar look with NFD Grove on top and Team Pensil in second place. But Stuart Palmer of Confederation Life St. Neots captures the headlines with victory over Desmond Douglas when his side entertained Grove. The 29 year old farmer from Lakenheath in Suffolk produced what will probably turn out to be the shock of the season with a 21-18, 9-21, 21-17 victory.

Stuart, who started playing table tennis at the age of nine, has played for St. Neots in the British League for eight years, but this must have been his finest hour. Not a bad performance from the left handed attacking player who reputedly never practices! For the record Stuart has been Suffolk champion on ten occasions and is still the county's number one. He also has a good sense of humour and is regarded as the team 'clown' - in the nicest possible way, of course.

By the way, NFD Grove won the match 9-1. On the same day DML White Hart Launcest on and Bashwick Tyres were locked in battle for three and three quarters hours at Launcest on before the Visitors eventually won 8-6.

Sedgefield District made a good start to life at the top with victories over St. Neots and Vymura International but were brought back to earth when Team Pensil travelled to the North East (without Matthew Syed who was playing in Paris) and beat the home side 8-4. Sean Gibson and Andrew Eden were both unbeaten with the latter taking the player of the match award.

Vymura International look like struggling in the top flight but they did give a good account of themselves against St. Neots with all of the players getting one set each in an 8-4 defeat.

NFD Grove II and Ruston Morton Lincoln are the early pace setters in the fast division North with the Grove side once again looking to be strong for this division. It's good to see the change in fortunes of the Lincoln side who were near the foot of the table last year. A good start with victories over Birbor Humber side, Well Connected Menswear, against whom Richard Tilford gave an excellent display of attacking play, and Cheltenham Saracens. Hambleton's Derek Munt was their star against British Gas CMK with victories over Colin and Peter Bowler who are both above him in the rankings.

NFD Grove also look to be too strong for division one South where their third team are unbeaten. The London side, Edition Table Tennis Club, could turn out to be the one to watch in this division. Their Manager, Reg Rochall, certainly thinks so and is persuading Cable London to feature them on local cable television. They have won both of their opening fixtures with 6-2 victories against Hoasham Angles and BSG Brentwood. Hoasahm and Ellenborough also look like being in the reckoning in this division, but already I can't help feeling that it will be for second place behind Grove.

City of Sunderland have only gone to the top of the second division North despite losing a home point to Leicester Lions who currently occupy second spot. Sunderland had a good 5-3 win in the local derby against Sedgefield Seconds with both Tony Cozer and Dave Godbold unbeaten.

The players to take the eye so far in this division is Leicester's Martin Pickles. Described as a 'joy to watch' when taking the player of the match award against Sunderland, he went on to win the award again when Leicester played Levi Westfield.

Linda Farrar are the only team to boast a 100% record in division 2 South and have not yet been extended. Duncan Taylor has been their star player with six wins out of six and two player of the match awards.

Kentwell Bungin Gillingham are also unbeaten and lie in second place, but were held to a draw by Norwich Foxwood who had Russell King in fine form.

In the South Western section VRS Fareham are the early leaders having disposed of OLOP and DML White Hart Launcest on seconds. Nigel Thomas has yet to be beaten. The other Fareham side. Andy Generation 2, are making up ground after their opening defeat by OLOP, having drawn with Launcest on and beaten Chen Construction seconds.

However, Hoasam Angles seconds and OLOP are the early challengers to VRS.

Three teams, Fellows Cranleigh II, BSG Brentwood II and Asford Kent remain unbeaten in division 3 East, although they have all featured in drawn matches - twice in fact for Asford. Spencer Thompson of Fellows Cranleigh and Mike Hayes of Brentwood remain unbeaten.

Craig Millwood of British Gas CMK II took the player of the match award against Brentwood and, again, when CMK played Team Pensil.

Is that club NFD Grove again? This time it's the Colas side who lead the way in the third division by only three straight victories. Mind you, I find it hard to describe John Ellis and Trevor Munning an...
Division 3 North looks like being a very close fought affair. To date differences from newcomers WSIHE seven of the twelve matches played Lennox House Group. The two teams have finished up all square. Indeed have already played each other, on September 20th the points were Poole forcing a draw after being 1-4 down.

Linda Farrow II are also unbeaten but they, too, have dropped one point when they lost a 4-2 lead over Adeyfield Neighbourhood Association.

LEAGUE TABLES AS AT 4th OCTOBER 1992

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Championships off to a good start

THERE was a great start to the Championships with over 60 matches played on the opening day.

Glumorgan withdrew from the Championships and therefore just 3 matches were played at this level. N'berland fielded a strong team on the opening day. Avon won both their matches being very well served by Michelle Cohen and Helen Perrott, who each won their 4 matches! Surprisingly Devon 2nds lost both matches but in the 7-3 defeat by Berks 2nds 4 events were lost very narrowly e.g. Gillian Galloway (Blk) beat Helen Wright 14, 21, 25!

The young Warwicks team did well to beat Cumbria 7-5. Ian Fergusson, Steven Meddings and Mark Jackson won their 6 events - Mark's wins were at 18 and 19 in deciding games. Yorks 2nds had a convincing 9-1 win over Leics 2nds. Samantha Metz was Yorks No 1 lady and won her 2 matches. N'berland folded a strong team on their visit to Cheshire and got a good 7-3 win. Ed Smith, Ian Robertson and Caron Guthrie won all their matches in straight games.

Worcs, on demotion, started well with a win on their opening visit to Worcs. Evesham played well to win his 2 events including a 19 in 3rd defeat of Malcolm Green. Eric Hardman did well for Worcesters won in the Chesire and got a 19 in deciding games. Yorke 2nds had a convincing 9-1 win over Leics 2nds. Samantha Metz was Yorks No 1 lady and won her 2 matches. N'berland folded a strong team on their visit to Cheshire and got a good 7-3 win. Ed Smith, Ian Robertson and Caron Guthrie won all their matches in straight games.

Essex 2nds did well at Northants to get a 7-3 win. Sally Russell (No) played well in winning her 2 matches and Kieron Dabbs (No No 1) beat Martin Cole 19 and 27. Sarah Sherlock's 2 wins were vital in Herts 2nds 6-4 defeat of Hunts. Six of the events went to a deciding match.

Worcs, on demotion, made a good start with a 10-nil win on their visit to Clwyd. Adrian Tolley and Nicola Jones (Wo) made successful debuts. Herts 3r02 had a second win when they met last season. Again the result was a draw but Staffs had to come back from 3-5 down! Joe Brggers and Matthew Brown won their 4 matches for Staffs, which included the important final 2 events. Liam gave Suffolk 2nds the 'whitewash' with all events 2 straight.

JUNIOR 1A: Cw 7. Wa 3.
Clwyd made a good start to the season's campaign with a 7-3 win over Warwick. The Clwyd girls - Joanna Burton and Julia Dewson - won their 4 matches. Two events had close finishes - Paul Robertson (Cw) beat Edward Lymbh at 18 in 3rd game and Martin Hopwood (Cw) beat Aun Ayun 20, 18, 20.

Sussex lost to the Plymouth T.T. Club. Reading. Avon won both their matches being very well served by Michelle Cohen and Helen Perrott, who each won their 4 matches! Surprisingly Devon 2nds lost both matches but in the 7-3 defeat by Berks 2nds 4 events were lost very narrowly e.g. Gillian Galloway (Blk) beat Helen Wright 14, 21, 25!

JUNIOR 2A:
Hunts had a great 9-1 win over Essex 3r03. At last! But with just 2 events going to a deciding match, Worcs were well served by Sandra Roden played well in winning her 2 matches and Kieron Dabbs (No No 1) beat Martin Cole 19 and 27. Sarah Sherlock's 2 wins were vital in Herts 2nds 6-4 defeat of Hunts. Six of the events went to a deciding match.

Seven matches were played at Bordon and Glumorgan came out on top with 2 wins over Wilts and Worcs. Ryan Jenkins and Nathan Lewis won their 4 matches. Worcs were a strong player but nevertheless picked up 3 points with a win over Devon 3 and a draw with Cornwall. Wilts were also a drawn match when Chris Witham (Dx) beat Stephen Nash at 19 in the 3rd game in the final event. Somerset convincingly won their other match - 7-3 v Dorset.

JUNIOR 2D:
There was as surprise when Kent 2nds lost 6-4 against Sussex 3r02 but then, beating a totally different team, beat Sussex 3r02 6-4! The scores stood at 4-4 in the Ockerfords/Sussex 3r02 match. At that stage Katherine Wella (Sy) beat Jennifer Simmons (Ok) at 19 in 3rd game and 1st Tulsiani (Sy) followed up with a 2 straight win over Adrian Varney to give the Sussex team a 6-4 win. Berks 2nds entertained 2 Hunts team and were resoundingly beaten 10-nil by the 1st team. Against Hunt 2nds it was a much closer match with the Hunts team winning 6-4. Claire Herbert and Joanna Store won their 4 events for Berks.

Kent was another team on demotion from Premier Div to get off to a good start - 7-2 win over Essex 2nds. Two of the Kent wins were after deuces in third games. Middle did well to get a 6-3 win over Wilts. Terry Bruce was involved in the 3 Wilts. Somerset had a great start on promotion to beat Beds 7-2; Gary Simms made a winner-up, by 21, 18, 18. The Buckler/Hunt match clinched the wins promoted last season. Hants were well won on top with an 8-1 win.

Promoted Warkoxs were good value for their 5-4 win over Staffs. Pat McCabe and Joan Hambury-Middlemore were their most successful players. Clwyd would have been well pleased with their performances against Cheshire 3r03. They went into a 5-full but came back to win 7-3 in convincing doubles wins, by Pat Tindale/Pauline Long and John Russell/Maurice Cheek, were vital in Northumbird's good 6-3 win over Notts.

Essex 4ths team, unbeaten last season and promoted, did well with a 5-4 win over Cambi. Two of the Cambi wins were at 19 and 20 in 3rd games. Herts 2nds, also on promotion, made light of the opposition with a 9-1 win over Norfolk 2nds. Beds visited St. Neots T.T. Centre to play Herts 1st team. It was a hard fought match and, although Beds won 7-2, there were wins at 19 and 22 to 3rd games. and Brian Mayfield (Blk) beat Alan Kinsey 23 and 24.

Suffolk 2nds, demoted from Division 1, had some close matches against Essex 3 but the Essex team kept on top with 7-2. Surrey 2nds and Kent 2nds were both demoted teams with the Kent team the better performers last season. But it was Surrey 2nds who won vital games in this match to get a 7-2 win. Owen 2nds on their visit to Ashford.

County Championship results will be given, as early as possible, on each Monday morning after the seven organised match dates

FOR ALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

TELEPHONE 0891 664300

Calls charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times.
AN IMPORTANT NOTICE

Will "County Notes" correspondents please note that copy containing libellous, personally abusive or political comment will not now be published. Please remember "County Notes" is for the publicity of your county activities.

In future, Table Tennis News cannot accept responsibility for comments in "County Notes" as it is impossible for the Editor to know the correctness of facts so therefore the responsibility will remain with the counties themselves.

THE EDITOR

AVON
Bob Murray

WELL IT'S NICE to get off to a good start and our County sides who were in action on the first Saturday of the season certainly did that.

Despite the absence of Andy Creed (injured by a tackle from Steve 'Vinny' Bettison in a kick about) our Senior 1sts managed to gain 6-4 wins against both Devon 2nds and Berkshire 2nds. Michele Cohen and Helen Perron were unbeaten on the day and their successes proved vital. A below par Paul Lewis took a set in both matches and with Steve Bettison and Gary Baldwin contributing one win each, we managed to escape home.

Andy was obviously badly missed as his contribution off the table is as important as his wins on the table. A broken leg takes a while to heal but let us hope that he makes a complete recovery.

The Juniors improved on their starts of previous years with a 5-5 draw and a 6-3 win against Cornwall and Devon 2nds respectively. Barry Fudge once again showed himself to be the mainstay of the team with a maximum four wins. He was well supported by Jon Thorn and Alex Sheppard who took 2 and 3 sets respectively.

Kelly Harris was also in good form to take 3 of her 4 singles. This start augers well for the rest of the season.

The Veterans pulled off the shock result when returning from Plymouth with a 5-4 win over Devon. With Mike Short and Penny Perry in the home side this was always going to be a difficult fixture but Mike Kimber's superb performance was rewarded with two victories and he was ably supported by Eric Brown and myself with one win each. A crucial doubles victory by Mike and Ernie secured the points but it is obvious that life as a veteran is not going to be easy. A special thanks to Devon for their hospitality.

The first rankings of the season have been produced. For the juniors they are:

**BOYS**
1. Barry Fudge
2. Alex Sheppard
3. Jon Thorn
4. Graham Long
5. Jon Beer
6. Tom Orlik
7. David Reeves
8. Martin Smith
9. Mark Daniels
10. James Godwin

**GIRLS**
1. Kelly Harris
2. Jessica Orlik
3. Debbie Maxted
4. Katie Worlock

Bath League
The main news from Bath concerns coaching. Two sessions per week have been arranged at the Sports Centre and St Neots. There has been a good cross section turning up so far from under 10's to over 40's.

The League are holding their Closed Championships over one day this season. Old timers like myself remember with fondness the Homestead where the tournament was held for many years before moving to the Sports Centre.

Bristol League
Bristol Junior 1 Star proved once again to be an extremely popular event with a number of top ranking players attending.

WESTON LEAGUE
Weston super Mare are another league who take their coaching seriously. Kevin Satchell has had one very well attended session which resulted in Bill Lavis struggling to cope with the increased members at his regular coaching nights - a nice problem to have.

BEDFORDSHIRE
Alex Murdoch

IT IS SOME time since Bedfordshire reported what has been happening in the county, so here is some general information.

The county consists of 4 leagues - Luton, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Bedford - with 200 teams and nearly 1,000 registered players.

We have a total of 6 teams representing the county in the ETTA County Championships - 2 senior, 1 junior and surprise, surprise, 3 veterans teams - best of luck to them all in the current season.

At the recent ranking meeting the following list is for the top 5 in each category.

**Senior Men**
1. Peter Bowler
2. Colin Bowler
3. Mike Levene
4. Jimmy Walsh
5. Jon Thorn

**Junior Boys**
1. Darren Ali
2. Robert Dynes
3. Chris Francis
4. Tony Negus
5. Charlie Major

**Veteran Men**
1. Brian Mayfield
2. Dave Randall
3. Roy Whiffen
4. Colin Bowler
5. Dave Randell

**Senior Women**
1. Lisa Robins
2. Caroline Buckley
3. Mary Jarrett
4. Sandra Harper
5. Dawn Campbell

**Junior Girls**
1. Nichola Copperwheat
2. Martine Whitaker
3. Jenny Sanders
4. Helen Davidson
5. Jean Mayson

**Veteran Women**
1. Audrey Robinson
2. Sylvia Coombs
3. Val Murdoch
4. Anita Copperwheat
5. Norma Swift

At the Junior/Cadet Eastern Region Trials held at St Neots on 12/13th September, we were represented by Martine Whitaker, Nichola Copperwheat, Jenny Sanders, Richard O'Donnell, Philip Morley, Darren Ali, Chris Francis and Robert Dynes. Martine, Nichola and Darren qualified for the next trials - our congratulations and success in the next round to them.

The first round of County Championship matches held on 26th September results were as follows:

- Junior 1 beat Bucks 2nd 7-3
- Vets 1 beat Hunts 1st 7-2
- Vets 2 lost to Northants 2nd 4-5
- Vets 3 beat Hunts 2nd 5-4

Let's keep this success rate going. Some notable results to mention are: Derek George winning both his singles in his first County match. Darren Ali and Robert Dynes beat players well above them in the ETTA Ranking List.

BERKSHIRE
John Cunningham

11 year old Gareth Herbert from Maidenhead lived up to the high hopes people have for him by winning this year's Under 17 Berkshire Table Tennis Trials. Leading England juniors Ben Johnson, Ali Subhan and Terry Young were exempt from the trials. In addition Richard Pilkington and Ian Barratt were unable to attend.

Two of the first round groups had to be decided by games ratio when the top 3 players recorded 2 match wins each.
**Counties 2**

**Final Positions:**
1. Gareth Herbert
2. Antony Rotunno
3. Daniel Nicolson
4. Alan Hoyle
5. Gareth Soden
6. Andrew Taplin
7. Robert Powles
8. Edward Emptage
9. Richard Truesdale
10. Ben Sutcliffe
11. Stuart Wise
12. Gregory Boast
13. Andrew Grantham
14. Mark Roberts
15. Paul Grundy
16. Seb Weston

**Joanna Wins Again**
For the second consecutive year Joanna Stone has won the Berkshire Junior Girls Trials. This year’s entry was stronger as there was no clash with the Southern Region Trials. Gemma Schwartz (England No. 4 junior) was exempt but Helen Gotley and Joanna Barratt slugged it out with Joanna, just as they did the previous week at the Southern Trials. Then Helen had beaten Joanna on her way to winning the South region title. In the Berkshire Trials however Joanna turned the tables and also beat Joanne Barratt to clinch the title.

**Final Positions:**
1. Joanna Stone
2. Helen Gotley
3. Susan Johnson
4. Joanne Barratt
5. Laura Davis
6. Kim Matthews
7. Lisa Pike
8. Julia Morton
9. Emma Donovan

**Gareth Wins Close Contest**
Bracknell’s Gareth Soden just won the Berkshire Under 14 Trials. He tied with Robert Matthews in the final group, but won the tournament on games ratio. In a very tough year Joanne Stone recorded Berkshire’s only win with a 7-3 reversal. Berkshire’s 3rd team Nameless first: Ian Fergusson beat Barley (Carlisle) 22-5, 22-20; beat Kevin Hodgson (Barrow) 21-11, 21-18; Steven Meddings beat Hodgson 21-19, 21-17; beat Neil Yardley (Barrow) 21-10, 21-14. Mark Jackson beat Yardley 12-21, 21-13, 21-18; beat Temple 12-21, 21-16, 21-19. Dawn Bromley beat Fiona Harris 21-13, 21-16; lost to Joanne Burgess 21-17, 21-16, 2-14. Susan Clarke lost to Burgess 21-11, 21-12, 21-11; lost to Harris 20-22, 19-21.

**DERBYSHIRE**
**Malcolm Allsop**

MY APOLOGIES TO Helen Lower and Staffordshire. I can assure Helen that I can spell her name and that of her county despite what appeared in the September issue of this publication.

News from around the county is lacking with towns not having started their leagues matches at the time of writing.

**Derby**
Last season’s increased entry in the Derby League, which was helped by the ETTA League Development Fund, proved only a temporary blessing for hard-working local officials with the entry dropping once again for this season.

Top local club Long Eaton have been pleased to obtain sponsorship from Stuart Palmer, the local Rover car dealer, who has provided club shirts for all the players. Long Eaton are hoping that car sales will be boosted so that the rest of the kit can also be obtained. Helen Rainford, whose father has a Rover car, featured in a photographic session at the car showroom.

The Derby league headquarters has moved from the Derby High School to the Derby Tertiary College where a choice of Sports Halls provides the appropriate size hall for the sessions - last season a 12 table facility was often being used by a couple of tables.

The East Midlands Cadet league provided an early competitive outing for Helen Rainford, James Astley and Kirit Dayaram at Grantham with the joy of a 10-6 win over Worksop 2nd and 9-1 over Burton 2nd being tempered by an 8-2 defeat at the hands of Grantham 1st. An early tournament outing for Helen Rainford saw her reach the quarter finals of the cadets at Kirkcaldy before losing to Nichola Smith.
DEVONSHIRE
J Vincent

THE COUNTY FINISHED its most successful season ever by winning the Maurice Goldstein Challenge Trophy with a 7-3 victory over Lancashire.

At the South West Regional Preliminary trials at Wellington in Somerset, our cadets did brilliantly with four boys and four girls qualifying for the final trials to be held in Plymouth on 8th November. Bright prospects Peter Thomas and Robert Svensson from North Devon, Daniel Adams (Torbay) and Marcus Cronin (Plymouth) were joined by the talented Lucy Perry (Crediton) and Liz May, Zoe Warren and Joanna Harracough from Plymouth.

The juniors also did well with Lucy and Liz doubling up. They were joined by evergreen Jonathan May and the much improved Gareth Buxton from Plymouth.

The results in fortunes of our cadets stems from an enterprising idea whereby Junior assessments with ranking points are run on a monthly basis by Cedric Foster, a top Division 2 P and D League player. Players with talent from all over Devon have been spotted early at these assessments and invited to training sessions in Plymouth.

With the help of parents the county has been able to run threeJunior teams at varying levels to encourage and develop its players.

Participation of the young has spread to the “Golden Oldies” with Devon now running a Veterans team led by Mike Short and Penelope Perry, quite a formidable double act!

The county veterans ranking list is as follows:

Men
1. Mike Short
2. Graham May
3. Keith Rise
4. Roger Anmiss
5. Peter Nicholson
6. P Dunston
7. K Hawkins
8. P Goulding
9. R Avent
10. M Purcell

Women
1. Penelope Perry
2. Pam Rowe
3. Madelaine Pitman
4. Stella Williams

Cadet Girls
1. Catherine Woodcock
2. Jennifer Addison
3. Natalie Baden
4. Amy Fraser
5. Susan Holmes

U12 Girls
1. Natalie Baden
2. Emma Reed

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Alf Pepperd

WHEN GEORGE NOVOTH the County Coaching Officer first mentioned the name of Mike Tyrell to me, roughly a year or so ago, I had to admit that Mike's name meant absolutely nothing to me, such was my ignorance - and considering that Mike lives only a couple of villages away from me, made the situation even more ludicrous.

So, with hindsight, I decided to investigate, and this is what I found out about Mike Tyrell of Apperley in Gloucestershire.

Peter Crayns, current County Vice Chairman, was looking for a venue for table tennis coaching in February 1990, Mike lived near the village hall and volunteered his services, Peter accepted and now Mike in turn has some 22 youngsters all receiving very adequate coaching from him and Andrew Aldridge. I understand that Graham Slack (Cheltenham's current singles champion) also helps out occasionally.

Mike attended an ETFA Coaching Course in Plymouth last April and intends to put to good use all that he learnt on the course, currently with help from Andrew Aldridge they both voluntarily run the table tennis section, under the wing of the Apperley Social Club. The Apperley TTC is but one section of community life that this rural village has - other sections cover Keep Fit, Dancing and Social Club evenings. A village well repopulated in all forms of social entertainment and activities, and for all I know, cider drinking as well!

Bob Davis, who without doubt has been Cirencester's leading light regards Mike as a great addition to the team. If this can't be said of all the league members, then there is something very wrong somewhere. Bob adds that this season they will have 28 teams in the league as opposed to 23 last year - Oh, how I wish we could say that in Gloucester city, where this season we are down to an all time low of 4.5 divisions.

Cirencester are further fortunate to have two schools as their disposal, where they can accommodate 10 teams in one and six in the other, plus good playing facilities. The League at Cirencester has only been affiliated for a few years and to hear of such success spells good for its hard working administrators.

And finally, perhaps Cirencester's luckiest break is to have the local newspaper enter a team in the league which is run by their Sports Editor, who unfailingly includes weekly results and tables in the paper.
Bits and Pieces

Seven teams have entered the South West Cadet League for the forthcoming season. Neil Henry takes charge of the Gloucester A team, and Peter Humble is in command of the Gloucester City B side. I am reliably informed by Stan Johnstone that he will once again be editing Cheltenham's Newsletter to date I have not heard from any other potential scribes.

Sad news, George Novoth who has done much hard work for Gloucester city in the role of coach, has tendered his resignation, I hope in the next edition of this magazine to announce George's successor, George will certainly be missed.

HAMPshire

Brian Lamerton

THE NEWLY FORMED Selection Committee under the chairmanship of Pete Woodacre have produced the following ranking lists:

Senior Men
1. Graham Toole
2. Micki Sinnan
3. Mark Bleakley
4. Ramesh Bhatta
5. Tony Duffield

Senior Women
1. Sarah Hammond
2. Kevin Macken
3. Serena Sinnan
4. Barbara Savage
5. Clare Woodham

Veteran Men
1. Chris Shetler
2. Graham Outrim
3. Maurice Shave
4. Robert Cox
5. Ken Burton

Veteran Women
1. Gill Larking
2. Sandra Simpson
3. Mary Barron
4. Pat Wales
5. Vera Hutchinson

Junior Boys
1. Sarah Hammond
2. Kevin Macken
3. David Dobson
4. Gareth Scadden
5. Alex Rorke

Junior Girls
1. Lorna Dutch
2. Kevin Macken
3. Wanda Hutchinson
4. Sonia Pointer
5. Carly Scadden

You will note that the rehabilitation of the Isle of Wight has been further advanced by the inclusion of three of their juniors, two of them in team places.

The opening matches produced two wins and a defeat for the Veterans sides and a double success for the two junior teams over Berkshire 2nds.

My opinion of 'block' matches has been well recorded in these columns, but the formality of getting more than half the hits on the table needs more attention and sometimes even Waldner needs to play 'bread and butter' shots. In short, sometimes spin can win points. Not all balls have to be hit at 100 miles per hour. It was left to Graham Trimming who not only runs the event efficiently and well, but also plays with great and dramatic enthusiasm and no little success. I saw him enjoy a very good win vs Mike Turner.

It was a good idea to enter a second team in the second division so that younger players could also gain experience. That Ali Hulbert and Greg Burns certainly did, though losing all three to Cippenham B. Inexperience, in fact, was the main enemy and they appeared rather nervous. However, they got better as the afternoon progressed and could have won one or two. Both are hard and energetic hitters, but the formality of getting more than half the hits on the table needs more attention and sometimes even Waldner needs to play 'bread and butter' shots. In short, sometimes spin can win points. Not all balls have to be hit at 100 miles per hour. It was left to Veteran Joe Daly to deliver the solitary point. He showed that even at 50 a good technique works wonders.

Cal Prean, still our only player on the ETFA Halex Ranking List continues in the No. 2 spot, with Chris Shetler, Graham Outrim, Maurice Shave and Gill Larking) defeated Bucks by 8 sets to 1, the B's (Bob Cox, Ken Burton, Ray Lush and Sandra Simpson) won by 7 sets to 2 against Somerset 2nds and the newly formed C string went down to Sussex 4ths by 6 sets to 3 with Norman Stagg, Wally Pay and George Cole winning a set apiece.

The juniors both played Berkshire 2nd on the same day; the A's (Jeremy Wilson, Kevin Macken, David Dobson, Lorna Dutch and Donna Gravelle) winning by 10 sets to love and the B's winning by 6 sets to 4; Gareth Scadden won both his matches at a time whilst Kevin Smith, Ben Hibberd, Wanda Hutchinson and Sonia Pointer won one each.

Each year the Hampshire Schools Sports Association make a presentation to the outstanding player in each nominated sport, the 1991 table tennis award, just announced, goes to Mark Shutter from the Gosport and Fareham Association.

HERTFORDShire

John Wood

HERTFORDSHIRE’S VETERAN RANKING trials were held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre in September with the top three men being John Taylor of Barnets in No. 1 position and the brothers from Watford Dave and Stuart Seaholme in 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Whilst the top 3 women are Watford’s Sally Bax in No. 1 spot, with Sue Felstead of North Herts at No. 2, and Sylvia Tyler of Cheshunt in the No. 3 position.

ISLE OF WIGHT

John Prean

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEX Rorke and Lorna Dutch who won their sections of the Hampshire Trials. Both gained places in Hampshire Junior County teams as a result. Lorna is only 12. If she retains her enthusiasm she can go a long way, certainly near the top of English Junior Ranking Lists. Both players gain greatly from the support of parents who are themselves table tennis fanatics.

Lorna owes her first place winning from 15-20 down in a vital 3rd game. That certainly shows good nerve and, dare one say, fortune. My advice: Next time don’t leave it quite so late!

Our teams in the Southern Regional League began their campaign and all three were well beaten by the Cippenham Club’s teams. A side’s final stages I missed as the match started rather late. The Premier place the team gained after all, despite not winning the lower section, may take some holding on this form. It was good to see that the Regional League now has three divisions. Considerable thanks are due to Graham Trimming who not only runs the event efficiently and well, but also plays with great and dramatic enthusiasm and no little success. I saw him enjoy a very good win vs Mike Turner.

It was a good idea to enter a second team in the second division so that younger players could also gain experience. That Ali Hulbert and Greg Burns certainly did, though losing all three to Cippenham B. Inexperience, in fact, was the main enemy and they appeared rather nervous. However, they got better as the afternoon progressed and could have won one or two. Both are hard and energetic hitters, but the formality of getting more than half the hits on the table needs more attention and sometimes even Waldner needs to play ‘bread and butter’ shots. In short, sometimes spin can win points. Not all balls have to be hit at 100 miles per hour. It was left to Veteran Joe Daly to deliver the solitary point. He showed that even at 50 a good technique works wonders.

Cal Prean, still our only player on the ETFA Halex Ranking List continues in the No. 2 spot, a topic most of our members raise with me and that is why I do here. After winning 47 and losing 23 last season, he ended at No. 2 to his rival who had scored 33 wins and 22 defeat. That may not sound too great to those with averages of 90% in their local leagues, but these boys play against the world’s best. This season Carl has won 10 and lost 7 whilst Chen Xinmin has won 1 and lost 3. 1-3 is obviously better than 10-7. The rest is history.

"Carl" wrote Mr Woodford elsewhere, "seemed to have the troubles of the word on his shoulders". Indeed.

Last month, John Prean complained that Carl would have been better off if he had not played in the US Open. He is right! Carl’s US Open exploits were marred by two losses to players with ratings more than 300 points below his own, players he would be expected to beat 19 times out of 20. Each loss cost him 30 points; without those losses he would certainly have done much better. If only we could all choose which matches to include and which to ignore!

John now compares Carl’s and Chen’s NUMBERS of wins and losses but our ranking scheme takes account only of the QUALITY of those wins and losses. This is a fairer system for opponents obviously differ in standard. If it DID work on numbers alone, any players with a 100% record would be guaranteed the No. 1 spot, regardless of who those wins were against, or of how good a player they really were. Carl’s average of 59% wins would inevitably place him in a very long way down the rankings, below a large number of lesser players who had better averages.

GEOFF T'WISS, for the Ranking Panel

KENT

Adrian Hall

THERE WERE MIXED fortunes for our sides on the first county weekend. Kent Junior I disappointedly went down 4-6 to Berkshire, with the Berkshire boys all ranked higher than the Kent boys a couple of good results could have given us a result
as our girls were reputedly much the stronger. In the second match Christopher Hall overcame the odds to beat Terry Young 21-17, 16-21, 21-18 to level the scores at 1­1. Nicola Duke and Natasha Barham then gave Kent a 3-2 lead and this became 4­3 when Barham chalked up her second win, but then Berles’ Helen Goatley had a splendid win over an out of sorts Duke 20-22, 21-17, 21-21 to put Berles in a winning position, a position not wasted as Ali Subhan beat Hall 21-14, 21-19 for the 6-4 win.

Kent Junior 2nd put out two sides to take on Sussex 2 and 3 at Ashford. Kent 2 beat Sussex 2-6-4 with two wins each for Glen Ritchie and Ben McCarthy who were ably supported by Christian Thompson and Heidi Steers who had an excellent win over Sara Coggan, for Sussex Clare Brown took her maximum. Sussex 3 reserved the result with a 6-4 win over Kent 2 for Kent Scott Davtry, Paul Smith, Nick Pettman, and Crystal Hall each won one game, but it was the maximums of Niall Munro and Tina Beaney that swung the match Sussex’s way.

Surrey Vets 2 proved too strong for Kent Vets 2 imposing a sound 7-2 defeat. Kent’s Ray Tilling with a singles win and in partnership with Pam Butcher in the mixed doubles were Kent’s lone successes with both John White and Keith Clarke looking short of match play, for Surrey Frank Hans and Dave Crowley were unbeaten in the singles. Ex Kent player Juls Pilfold also won her singles match against Pam Butcher.

Better news from the Kent Vets 3 side as they beat Herts 3-5-4 at Barnet, despite having to concede both ladies matches due to the injury of Brenda A’herne in the first leg of the mixed doubles. Two wins each from Ted Tydeman and Mel Dixon and one from new vet Barry Grimes was enough to see Kent home.

Plans are well in hand to bring perhaps ten Chinese players and coaches back to Kent next August to run an in depth training camp similar to the one attended by our players in China in August. If all goes according to plan, the players and coaches invited will include at least 3 ex-world and Chinese national champions. Watch this space for more details or talk to Reg Thompson or Adrian Hall as there will be places available to players from outside Kent for three of the four weeks.

Lancashire
Stan Clarke

THE COUNTY TRIALS for the coming season were held at Clayton Green Leisure Centre over the 5/6 September with Seniors and Juniors on the Saturday and Cadets and Veterans on the Sunday. The county rankings for the coming season are as follows:

Senior Men
1. Sean Gibson
2. Andrew Eden
3. Jonathan Taylor
4. Nigel Ekerckers
5. Stephen Scowcroft
6. Graham Clarke
7. Howard Whewell
8. Nigel Jobling
9. Barry Elliott
10. David Griffiths
11. Michael Dore
12. Ron Pennington
10. Alan Marsden
9. Ben Thorber
8. John Gillett
7. Bill Russell
6. Richard Yang
5. Ali Subhan
4. Sue Squire
3. John IIliffe
2. Steve White
1. Darryl Meredith

Senior Women
1. Nicola Duke
2. Natasha Barham
3. Emma Flitcroft
4. Lindsay Thomson
5. Kirsten Williams
6. Jayne Schofield
7. Andrea Flintoff
8. Julie Rushston
9. Carol Mitchel
10. Carol Mistry
11. Sarah Helps
12. Sue Squire
10. Barbara Holt
9. Kirsten Williams
8. Julie Rushton
7. Carol Mitchel
6. Emma Flitcroft
5. Lindsay Thomson
4. Kirsten Williams
3. Jayne Schofield
2. Andrea Flintoff
1. Nicola Duke

Junior Boys
1. Darryl Meredith
2. Phillip Musgrove
3. Kevin Dolder
4. Mathew Coome
5. Glen Payne
6. Tony Johnston
7. Phillip Ellisse
8. John Pillington
9. Les Richmond
10. Michael Moir
11. Ben Thorber
12. Adam Smith
10. Alan Marsden
9. Ben Thorber
8. John Gillett
7. Bill Russell
6. Richard Yang
5. Ali Subhan
4. Sue Squire
3. John IIliffe
2. Steve White
1. Darryl Meredith

Junior Girls
1. Jodie Mellor
2. Suzanne Geldard
3. Kim Roberts
4. Julie Rushston
5. Kirsten Williams
6. Keeley Smithson
7. Andrea Flintoff
8. Wendy Brown
9. Stephanie Gibbons
10. Joanne Heath
9. Kirsten Williams
8. Julie Rushton
7. Carol Mitchel
6. Emma Flitcroft
5. Lindsay Thomson
4. Kirsten Williams
3. Jayne Schofield
2. Andrea Flintoff
1. Nicola Duke

Cadet Boys
1. Gregory Lee
2. Jay Bailey
3. Robert Friel
4. Stewart Toole
5. Andrew Clarke
6. Michael Moir
7. Robert Friel
8. Stewart Toole
9. Andrew Clarke
10. Michael Moir
11. Robert Friel
12. Stewart Toole

Cadet Girls
1. Jody Mellor
2. Suzanne Geldard
3. Kim Roberts
4. Julie Rushston
5. Kirsten Williams
6. Keeley Smithson
7. Andrea Flintoff
8. Wendy Brown
9. Stephanie Gibbons
10. Joanne Heath
11. Kirsten Williams
12. Julie Rushton

Veteran Men
1. Phillip Blake
2. Bill Clements
3. Bill Russell
4. Derek Whatmough
5. Barry Crook
6. Tony Rigby
7. R. Bennett
8. P Evans
9. Alan Chase
10. Jack Bond
11. Ben Thorber
12. John Gillett

Veteran Women
1. Mabel Neary
2. Olwyn Barrows
3. Christine Cramblethumble
4. Lesley Smallwood
5. Karen Smith
6. Joanne Heath
7. Eileen Shaler
8. Jane Rogers
9. Sandra Hall
10. Eileen Shaler
11. Shirley Pickering
12. Pat Killey

The entry for the two senior events was disappointingly low although the standard was high. However, the entry to the two junior events was much higher than expected, especially the girls events which should make life easier for the Selection Committee.

Jack Bond, former Captain of Lancashire County Cricket Club, has returned to the area and is playing in the Bolton League. I hope he has better results than the Lancashire cricketers have enjoyed this year.

Leicestershire
Derek Butt

THE ELBOW TANKARD continued and was completed on time, mainly due to the work of organiser Bob Graven-Griffiths.

In the first quarter final the Good, Bad and Ugly (Knighton Park) met Bally Hi. It was Alan Passingham winning three from his four games and Dave Small four from six which put them into the semi. The second quarter final match was between British Shoe and Villagers 1 (Great Glen). The Shoe took this one comfortably 3-7 with Andy Box and Makendra Mistry winning four from six each and Derek Butt three from four.

Norman McLean held on to a six point start against Shirley Pickering of Park Keepers in the final game of a tiebreak match. John O’Connor was the Gas hero winning six of his seven games to earn his side’s passage into the semi final.

The semi finals brought together British Shoe and Good Bad and Ugly. GBU got their revenge for their only defeat in the tournament this year when they won by 11-9, Alan Passingham won four from four, Tony Walker and Dave Small won 2/6 each. The doubles proved to be the match winner as the Parleside won 3/4. For the Shoe Andy Box won 3/6, Makendra Mistry 2/6 and Derek Butt 3/4.

The second semi final was a more convincing win for Villagers II against Leicester Gas, with a strong all round performance from the team it gave them a 11-7 win.

On to the final and this was played at the Maggie YC in a wonderful spirit, especially on the Great Glen side Villagers II because they were on the receiving end of a 11-5 scoreline against the Good, Bad and Ugly.

Alan Passingham with his excellent handicap was the sole breaker winning all his games. One game of note was when Tony Walker came up against Kevin Hall, Tony received a 14 point start and suddenly found himself 17-0 up, but a remarkable fight back by Kevin gave him the game 27-17. Tony did not let the second game slip.

Dave Small played a vital part in this final with some wonderful backhand topspin. Well done to both teams for an excellent final.

The Leicester District TTT got off the mark with a full ten divisions and a couple of reserve teams in case any team dropped out.

No news from either Hinckley League or Loughborough League to report on.

The Leicester TTA have released their recent ranking list and it as follows:

Senior Men
1. Chris Rogers
2. Dave Gannon
3. Mark Ungsworth
4. Phil Smith
5. Maurice Newman

Senior Women
1. Karen Smith
2. Joanne Heath
3. Eileen Shaler
4. Jane Rogers
5. Sandra Hall

Veteran Men
1. Maurice Newman
2. Steve White
3. John Iliffe
4. Colin Truman
5. Mick Meredith

Veteran Women
1. Eileen Shaler
2. Shirley Pickering
3. Pat Killey
4. Barbara Holt
5. Christine Dawson
Junior Boys
1. Mathew Hobday
2. Lee Bruning
3. Adrian Wilford
4. Alex Tuckwell
5. Chris Tuckwell

Junior Girls
1. Helen Griffiths
2. Kathryn Freer
3. Rachel Griffiths
4. Laura Smith
5. Cheryl Sprintall

MIDDLESEX
Lorna Taylor

RICHARD HYACINTH HAS done well to top the Junior National Rankings, overcoming Alex Perry for the first time and now ranked 38 in the senior men. Caroline O’Leary did well to reach the semi-finals in the restricted and girls singles at the Bristol Junior 1 Star. Chris Boothby performed well in his first county veteran match at the No.1 position. The current Middlesex ranking lists are as follows:

Senior Men
1. N Tyler
2. G Sandley
3. J Sutister
4. C Wilson
5. M Mitchell

Veteran Men
1. J Holland
2. C Brodbby
3. A Taylor
4. J Smith
5. N Stiffkin

Junior Boys
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Junior Girls
1. Helen Griffiths
2. Kathryn Freer
3. Rachel Griffiths
4. Laura Smith
5. Cheryl Sprintall

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
Dennis Millman

TABLE TENNIS IS back - and to give the season a good start, the Bath Workshop Junior Top 12 produced the usual crop of unexpected results, even if at the end of the day the trophy went to the solitary girl competitor - Sally Russell, who thus regained the crown she won in 1990, but lost last year to Julian Marshall.

Arron Taylor created the early shocks with wins over Sally and Joe Trippett who had the proverbial field day, beating everyone with the exception of the eventual winner. Meanwhile Paul Adams had lost only once and when he faced Sally in the final match, the mathematical possibilities seemed endless, but the favourite made no mistake to leave the final order:

1. Sally Russell
2. Tom Trippett
3. Arron Taylor
4. Paul Adams
5. Joe Trippett
6. Paul Thomas
7. Paul Wood
8. Martin Gibbs
9. Andrew Thomas
10. Henry Arthur
11. Stuart Pond
12. Neil Gibbs

Sally also made a superb debut for the senior firsts, when she won both her singles in a losing match against Essex II, while Mike Pond, Dave Marsh and Gordon Shaw, also making his debut at any level, had good reason to be satisfied with their unbeaten display which gave the Veteran seconds and thirds opening victories against their Bedfordshire and Sussex counterparts.

Kieron Dabbs returned to form to account for the Essex No. 1 in a pulsating encounter, and franked his form the following day in the British League, when he won twice for Levi’s Westfield against Vymura International II. However, like Well Connected, Levi’s early season results have been disappointing.

It is pleasing to see that the Pennine Senior Top 12, the next major event on the county calendar, contains the names of Graeme McMick, David Gallo and Adrian Roper, talented performers who should help to make this an intriguing competition, but sad to hear of the illness of Gerald Firmey, the supreme of Brixworth sponsors Pennine Designer Packaging and Display. All his playing colleagues wish him a speedy recovery.

The county’s new sponsorship committee contains the names of three star performers of yesteryear - Brian Bond, John Palmer and Mike Pond, all of whom continue to participate successfully at veteran level. Hopefully their astute business acumen will help put Northants on a sound financial footing, and one of the early decisions made was to switch the County Closed to a much later Saturday 17th April, with a separate finals night on the following Monday.

At the end of the day however, success is all down to the dedicated league players who are just beginning another season, full of hope and expectation - not necessarily of hitting the highspots, but of enjoying the cut and thrust of sporting competition.

This perhaps was perfectly illustrated by the opening match of the season at Rushden Athletic, when after losing all four singles to Peter McLehan and Ian Yarnall, Caroline Perkins and Miriel Cox just held on to take the doubles at deuce in the third. The delight on their faces, and the genuine handshakes told it all.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Malcolm Allsop

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARE VERY pleased to have received the balance of money due to the Leagues from the ETTA League Development Fund, which finished last November, with the money going towards the Notts Leisure Services Sports
SOMERSET
Andy Seward

WITH NO COUNTY matches to report on, a chance to review the county rankings for the first half of the season.

At this time last season, I thought that the County rankings would generate some heat. However, all went cold. So attempting to eat fire again, here are the latest deliberations.

Veteran Men
1. Brian Reeves
2. John Crabtree
3. Graham Green
4. GeorgePhilpott
5. Mike Baker
6. Colin Allsopp
7. Paul Hewitt
8. Peter Butterworth
9. Vernon Adams
10. Kelvin Lunn
11. Graham Durdie
12. Martin Rumary
13. Alan Maidment
14. Terry Millard

The Veterans Ranking list shows several changes. Graham Green resumes his county career in the 1st team with Mike Baker taking control of the 2nds. Two other newcomers come into the top 10. At No. 10 comes first veteran Kelvin Lunn, and at No. 4 the not so new veteran George Philpott resumes battle after a few years sabbatical.

Veteran Ladies
1. Shirley Dark
2. Wendy Pryce
3. Diane Helsdon

Rob Millard is again the top junior and there is little change in the rest of the list. The two Andrews, Hewitt and Rumary, both sons of ranked veterans, make progress and it is pleasing to see the pair of them and the two top junior girls, Julie and Claire, in the latest national ranking lists.

Sussex Junior Rankings:

Boys
1. Paul Butcher
2. Kevin Doyle
3. Paul Hancock
4. James Beale
5. Niall Munro
6. Paul Cunningham
7. Martyn Sims
8. James Beer
9. Adam Flavel
10. Robert Abbitt
11. Chris Hancock
12. Brian O'Connell
13. Mark Forder
14. Jonathan Atkinson
15. Harry McCormay

Girls
1. Sarah Stedman
2. Joanna Bush-Harris
3. Sara Coggan
4. Clare Brown
5. Tina Beaney
6. Nicola Ivens
7. Alison Griggs
8. Heidy Sims
9. Emma Forder

SUSSEX
John Woodford

OVER THE PAST two years a new pattern has emerged on the running of the all-Sussex Senior and Junior Championships. Organised for many years in the past by the British League and then for a number of years by the Sussex TTA, the present setup sees the Worthing TTA in charge, supported by a sponsor, Express Sports of Uckfield.

Last season it was generally agreed that Worthing handled both events and the inter-league championships with honours. On this occasion there have been problems finding dates and choosing dates. As we all know, there are no vacant dates on the calendar except June!

Worthing have unsettled some players and administrators by running the senior event on the Saturday for several reasons. One of the best is that schools are entering a team event at the junior event for the first time - private schools have other work on Saturdays, so everyone in Sussex wants to play on Sundays.

However, the Sussex TTA will reserve their judgement on the issue until after the event when the number of players entered is counted and the Worthing organisation is given another stiff test.

In the British League, Horsham Angels in Division 1 and Lennox House (Chichester) in Division 3, are going for promotion. The West Sussex side are managed by Tim Holder, well-known "sports scientist" to the England squad.

At Horsham, the twin spearhead of Ritchie Verney and Michael Hammond is performing well, although the Angels slipped when they were minus Hammond away to Edison, Haringay.

On the junior scene, the two incredibly young Sussex junior champions Paul Butcher and Sarah Stedman are meeting little opposition inside the county, but you can be sure there is plenty waiting outside on the tournament circuit. Both have the best part of two seasons left as juniors.
THE JUNIOR COUNTY Trials were held at the Pensnett School on Sunday 6th September to provide a new ranking list for the coming season. Keith Becket (Dudley) emerged as Boys No.1 for the first time. YOImg Lewis Cook (aged 11) enters the rankings at No.8 and shows great promise for the future. As expected, Carrie Hunt (Worcester) retains her No.1 spot in the Girls rankings, with Stephanie Price improving to No. 2.

Boys Girls
1. Keith Becket 1. Carrie Hunt
2. Richard Painter 2. Stephanie Price
5. Tim Evans 5. Jenny Ponsford
8. Lewis Cook

There were no senior trials this year, however, the following ranking list has been formulated.

Men Veteran Men
2. Trevor Washington 2. Ray Dixon
5. Jeremy Duffield 5. John Stafford
7. Steve Horton
8. Kwok Chan Veteran Ladies
9. Adrian Tottey 1. Janet Hunt
10. Jason Thompson 2. Linda Reid

Women
1. Sandra Roden 3. Helen Pogmore
3. Alison Westwood
4. Sue Horton
5. Janet Hunt
6. Helen Pogmore
7. Linda Reid
8. Joanne Hill

Congratulations to Mandy Mytton on the birth of her baby son Jack and Sandra Roden on her appointment as Table Tennis Development Officer for the West Midlands.

Women's British league at the close of the 1991/2 campaign, are scheduled to entertain Prostinesy from Moscow in the opening round of the European Knockout Cup.

On the home front, two major tournaments, the East Yorkshire Junior at Bridlington, which this year enjoys 2 star select status, and the Yorkshire and Humberside 2 Star Graded Championships at Halifax - probably the leading event in the country to cater for a range of players from those in the top echelons of the ranking lists to the no less enthusiastic lesser lights - are already up and running.

And Yorkshire is proud to cater for that mass of keen participants, some of whom are hoping to make their way up the ladder, while others, the lifeblood of our sport, just wish to be involved in a weekend of highly competitive table tennis and to make new friends in the game.

Domestically the Yorkshire League has again topped the century, attracting over 100 teams from all corners of the county, with the 'central venue' method of play this season extended to the Ladies Division.

Two dates for your diaries - The Closed Championships - Senior at York Railway institute on 9th December and Junior at Millthorpe School on 24th January. Both will be staged in York and while the Yorkshire Tournament committee appreciate that some players will be disappointed because both Junior and Senior events coincide with national dates, these clashes were unavoidable, taking into account the congested calendar.

Good to see new sides from the county competing in the British League with Leeds outfit Aalco and Selby based Senior Thermal Derwent both in Division 3 North.

Ray Burch, County Development Officer, put on a Women in Table Tennis Awareness/Action Day in Doncaster with Jose Ransome, Alison Gordon and Andrea Holt in attendance. The support was enthusiastic and it was good to see several disabled players involved.

Finally, because this is where he would want it - if he could not keep it out altogether that is II - a sincere welcome to Dewsbury's Bevan Walker who has taken over the 'hot seat' as Chairman of the County Association.

He has a difficult act to follow in Eric Hill but he will do it in his way and his personality has already shown through in a number of the county's major departments. Best wishes of all to Bevan and give him and Yorkshire that little extra support that can make all the difference when it is needed.
England lose to Sweden

JOOLSA EUROPEAN LEAGUE
SUPER DIVISION

I was amazed to read in the National Press that the English team were outclassed by the Swedish team in this opening match of the European League in Olofstrom. Few would argue that Sweden are not the best in the world, especially looking at their line-up in Olof. With their first win being recorded by the world singles champion, the second by the Olympic singles champion, the third by the world doubles champions and the final one by the world singles champion with his second win. Beaten we were, outclassed we most certainly were not.

In the opening match Chen Xinhua played quite superbly against Persson to win the second game but unfortunately made a disastrous start in the third. When the game was as good as over and victory was impossible Xinhua played some exhibition points which thrilled the crowd. Carl Prean took the second match very convincingly against Peter Karlsson to level the score at 1-1. Matthew Syed was in all fairness outclassed by the Olympic champion, Waldner, but then again so.

Sweden's world champion Jorgen Persson would any defensive player. Alan Cooke and Carl Prean played very well against the world champions, Karlsson and Von Scheele, and with the score at 13-13 in the third had a very good chance to level the match. Carl led Persson 19-13 in the first game and with his excellent record against the world champion a win in the first game would have created a completely different story.

Had we forced the sixth game to be played Matthew Syed would have had an excellent chance against Peter Karlsson whom he beat at the Europeans in Stuttgart.


I took a video of the match and have put a commentary on highlighting the important coaching points from a tactical and technical point of view. Whilst not of BBC quality it will give you an opportunity to see the match for yourself and judge whether we were outclassed or not. It will also give coaches an opportunity to observe current, advanced techniques. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy please contact Sid Fryer (061-980 8110), the cost being £12.

Carl Prean

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from page 16)

VETERANS 2D:

De 4 Av 5, Wi 2 Oi 5, Se 2 2 Ha 2 7.

Devon, a new team to the Vets Section, put up a good fight and squared the score at 4-4 against Avon. Brown (Av) beat Roger Anness in the 3rd games for the Avon win. Glos, on demolition, made a good start with a 5-4 win over Wilts 2nds. Dennis Holland (Glos) was involved in 3 wins. Hants 2nds did well with a 7-2 win over Somerset 2nds. Bob Cox (Ha) made a vital contribution with 3 wins.

VETERANS 3A:

Hu 2 He 5 7.

Dave Marsh played well for Northants 3rds. He was involved in 3 of the wins in the 5-4 defeat of Sussex 3rds. His two singles wins were at 18 and 17 in 3rd games. Cotswolds took the final event.

VETERANS 3B:

No 3 6 Su 3 4, Gl 2 3 Be 3 6, Ha 2 He 5 7.

Newcomers Beds 3rd team did well, on their visit to St. Neots, to get a 5-4 win over Hants 2nds. Derek George (Bd) won the last vital match for the win. It was a surprise to see Warwicks 2nds, last season's Division, beaten 5-4 by Wilts 3rd team. Basil Thompson was involved in 3 vital wins for Wilts.

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The Experts' Expert:  
**The Coaches' Coach**

(With acknowledgements to the 'Observer')

Who do our best coaches look up to? Who are their influences? I asked 12 leading coaches (mostly at the English Junior Open) to name names, giving their own criteria. I do not claim that the exercise was scientifically/empirically valid. There are many other top coaches that could have been interviewed - Hans Soova, Sylvia Broadbent, Alan Fisher, Mike Kennedy, Peter Chesters, Peter Simpson, Lloyd Lewis (individual coach) and John Pean (parent coach) to name but a few - and who I obviously omitted.

I also deliberately gave the coaches no time to consider their responses. After the interview and off the record, respondents thought very carefully about who they would/wouldn't name. The omission of others was certainly not intended to suggest that they were not influenced by those I included. I asked obviously affected the responses. After the interview and off the record, respondents thought very carefully about who they would/wouldn't name. The omission of others was certainly not intended to suggest that they were not influenced by those I included. I asked obviously affected the responses.

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JOHN SOUTER, former Middlesex and England international, and now coaching at the Grove Club, Market Drayton - "I started playing when I was about 10. I had the best start I could which was a club called Brent Juniors which was then run by a very strict coach called Tony Petito. That was very important to be very strict when you first start...the discipline was very good...once you can get your head right and the discipline right then it's just a question of practicing the things you need to practice. After about 2 years I went to a coach called Malcolm Bogden...if I hadn't gone to Malcolm I would not have been as good as I was. He coached me to play more and more aggressively. Definitely in the latter years as a junior, also as a senior, I think to be a quiet coach, a methodical coach...

Roden Fuller, in charge of the Centre of Excellence in Wakefield which has been running for about 11 years and has produced over the last 7 or 8 years, 7 England number ones. In their best year they had 5 players from the club playing in Europe - "Coaching wise, looking at the present set-up and people in this country, I feel that technically we are not very expert. There is probably only about half a dozen coaches who I would refer to who I would use as a benchmark and from whom I would feel my players would benefit. One of those in particular I would mention is John O'Sullivan from the Liverpool area who I feel technically is very good. A lot of his own research has been based on university knowledge and expertise where he has had various things tested such as spins and effects on table, different foods...so he has used outside knowledge at a fairly highly expert level to validate his own theories. Nicky Jarvis is one of the few top players who has made the transition to a reasonably high level coach, and he is just starting to reap the benefits with his squad at Peniel...If I have to pick one coach to coach players at all levels, senior and junior, I would go for John O'Sullivan.

NICKY JARVIS, former England international and national coach, and has been coach at Peniel (School) for 4 years where he starts players at 3, 9, 10 years old and hopes to see them through to their 'full potential' - "I want to be involved with a scheme or system that has a fulfillment for myself as well as the players, that gives me the motivation that is necessary to work very hard to try to achieve what the players want to achieve. I am lucky to be in the situation where I have got that facility. The only slight problem with it is the limitation on the amount of players who I can accept. Everything else is a big plus...some of the talented players are starting to show signs of hope in the England seniors in 3, 4, 5 years...I want to be able to be involved with players who have the potential to play for England, but not only that but the potential and, very important, the right game so that they can win when they play for England...and develop the mind so that they can win...That is very difficult because you have got to work with the players all the time. You can't be a coach who just has one group of captaining players at tournaments and then sees them 2 weeks of the year...

I think from a man management point of view Don Parker has done a tremendous job over the last 11 years and certainly in his days when he was a junior coach one of captain players he worked very hard to get the players in the right frame of mind, recently he has managed to keep the England team together and make very difficult decisions...letting players do certain things...his decisions and the way he has gone about organising the England team and bringing the England team has helped England to finish certainly in the men, and England women are coming on quite well...when I was a junior I had a lot of conversations with Chris Jackett of Wakefield where the Swedish coach at the time, and basically his views were the same views that I have now. I probably respect him as a coach more than most others...a person I can relate to and I tend to agree with his views on attitudes, techniques and discipline..."
Grant aid to individuals

THE Foundation for Sport and the Arts are prepared to make grants to individuals, only in exceptional circumstances.

However, in a statement given to us by Graham Endicott, the Foundation Secretary, news is given of a special opportunity for people aged between 11 and 25.

A joint initiative from the Foundation and the Prince's Trust offers the possibility of grants, normally up to £550, for people with self-development projects in athletic sport. Although grants may be made to under 14's there would have to be a special case.

Applications to: Helen Sampson, The Prince's Trust, 8 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BA, marked 'Prince's Trust/FS & A Joint Initiative'.

Staff Coach Eastern Region

Paul Tarrant

A late starter in T.T. is the new Staff Coach for Eastern Region. He is Paul Tarrant, who started in the Hemel Hempstead league at the age of 12.

Paul was encouraged to help with coaching by Joe Morris and took over his session when he retired. Too his credit Paul is still running the same session which is for players of all ages.

He has also run the Hertfordshire junior teams and taken the squad to many tournaments. Since 1988 Paul has run courses for coaches and assisted on a wider front at Regional Coaching sessions at St. Neots.

Paul's other interests (which he rarely has time for) are dingy sailing and photography.

Apart from his Staff Coach job Paul also has a new challenge in coaching the Great Britain Deaf T.T. team and one of his ambitions is to run a coaches course for deaf players.

Having been interviewed in the October TTN about Focus Sport in the South West, it seemed logical to get a wider perspective from Deon Gray, the ETTA's National Development Manager. I caught up with Deon at the Earls Court Exhibition arena where he was supervising a table tennis demonstration.

Q. How many regions have appointed Development Officers and Staff Coaches to date?

A. Each Region has a Staff Coach - that is 10 appointments. Five Regional Development Officers have been appointed. We have been able to get things moving quite well and have had input into all 10 Regional Development plans. We are reasonably happy about the situation at present.

Q. Are you concerned about the possibility of setting things in motion without adequate resources for follow up?

A. Resources, especially human resources, could be a problem area. As you are aware we have a number of volunteer enthusiasts doing most of the work and we can't really expect them to do more. Development Officers see maintaining there volunteers, and recruiting more help as a key part of their task. There are a number of ideas for the future. Such as more family table tennis with parents and young children being coached together, with the parents eventually becoming helpers.

Q. Now, a difficult and somewhat political question. Some people in the sport believe that the large amount of money being put into the sport would be better used if given out direct to Counties and Leagues for development use. What is the answer to this?

A. This is understandable and was indeed done with the ETTA League Development Fund. However, via the Regional Committee, Counties will have a considerable input and of course many have already been involved in assisting production of Regional plans required by the Sports Council.

The Development department believe that the money will be well used. My answer (above) to your second question makes it clear that all activity will be carefully assessed. Additionally, I should point out that we are being very selective with our choice of Regional Development Officers. Generally they will be people with pedigree T.T. backgrounds, professionals who have the negotiating skills and the time to get things started with local authorities, and other people who can help T.T. We are confident that this will benefit the sport in the long term.

Editor's Note: Any questions from T.T.N readers? Send them in.

London Region Report

Efforts are continuing to build upon the achievements of the first six months in the post (see earlier reports). The Regional Development Plan has been an important part of recent work, but progress has also been made in several other areas. Examples are given below.

Regional Development Plan

The 'Position Statement' and 'Priority Areas for Action' have now passed through E.T.T.A Regional Committee and Regional Sports Council Office. After a great deal of consultation and drafting, a 'Final Draft' has now been compiled and sent to the Sports Council and the Working Party for their approval or amendments. It is hoped that the final document will be approved by the London Council for Sport and Recreation in November as planned.

Borough Initiatives

Barnet

A Disability Festival was held on 11th September. The Trainee Regional Staff Coach attended to maximize table tennis interest in the event. Polybat was supplied, courtesy of Croydon, to enable everyone to take part.

Brent

Brent have expressed an interest in hosting a Borough Tournament. Local E.T.T.A. contacts are established to help organise and benefit from the event.

Bromley

Steps are being taken now to start a Club with five Tables at the Pinyor Leisure Centre.

Croydon

Two schools are being identified as a possible Specialists Facility for Table Tennis.

Harrow

A table tennis presentation was made at the Mike Henley Centre's Development meeting. It is provisionally planned to hold a Player/Coach Day for people with disabilities, and a Coach Education Course with emphasis on disability. The adapted game of Scotball has been examined and submitted to the B.T.T.A.D. for comment, with a view to E.T.T.A. approval.
Carthey takes the gold medal

CLIVE CARthy became an unexpected World Champion when he took gold at the 5th World Corporate Games, held at the recently opened Goreebrook Leisure Centre in Dagenham during October 3-4th.

Michelle Cohen, the England No 28, secured the main prize in the Women’s singles.

Barclays Bank emerged as champion company, both in the table tennis and the overall event, which was contested amongst a reported 5,000 people across 22 sports ranging from Dragon boating to Petanque. ETTA President Johnny Leach presented the medals in an Olympic style presentation ceremony with fanfare.

So what exactly was this all about? Well, the idea was a multiactivity celebration of sport being an important part of life. From the business world, Sir John Harvey Jones spoke about how a healthy body helps produce minds fit for business. Large companies, especially banks, were the main partici-

Results

MEN’S OPEN SINGLES
Bronze Gary Tendler (Nat West)
Silver Andy Edmonds (Barclays Bank)
Gold Clive Carthy (Hong Kong Bank)

WOMEN’S OPEN SINGLES
Bronze Kate Wadling (Hong Kong Bank)
Silver To Thuy Zung (British Airways)
Gold Michelle Cohen (Imperial Tobacco)

MEN’S UNDER 30 SINGLES
Silver Mark Randle (Barclays Bank)
Gold Paul Amos (Barclays Bank)
Final Amos bt Randle 16, -17, 14, 22

WOMEN’S UNDER 30 SINGLES
Silver Elizabeth Blanch (B.B.C.)
Gold Gillian Blanch (B.B.C.)
Final Gillian bt Elizabeth Blanch 14, 18, 18

MEN’S 30-39 SINGLES
Final John Kitchener beat Andy Withers (Barclays Bank)

MEN’S 40-49 SINGLES
Final Tony Taylor beat Geoffrey Edmunds (Barclays Bank)
Silver Salver for 'Scotch Bob'

WHEN Bob Edon informed the Cleveland committee that this was to be his last Cleveland senior tournament they felt this sad occasion should be marked with a special presentation.

Bob, a Stockton man, has been connected with the Cleveland tournament since the early days. At that time it was known as the Teeside Open.

On the formation of Cleveland County he continued in his present role and has successfully completed 20 years service.

Bob was delighted with the gift, a silver salver, and was seen putting it to good use before the tournament ended.

He and his family moved north of the border to Aberdeen where he is known as 'Scotch Bob'. He managed to bring some of his expertise to the Scottish tournament scene and has successfully run the North of Scotland Open for some years.

Although many miles away he looked forward to his annual trip to Cleveland to meet his many Sasenach friends.

He told the Umpires that the last four working on Saturday evening would be rewarded with a nip of Drambuie from his flask. This year served up on a Silver Tray. I believe only three were rewarded as he kept one for himself.

His is a record of senior tournaments which will be difficult to emulate.

Bob Edon, Referee of Cleveland 5 Star 92, being presented with a Silver Salver by Colin Davison, Chairman Cleveland T.T.A.

Devon Veteran gets new lease of life

GRAHAM MAY retired on health grounds as General Secretary of the Plymouth and District League after 19 years in the hot seat plus two further years on Committee.

His many friends in Devon and Cornwall wish to thank him through Table Tennis News, for the hard work, dedication and help that he has given to so many players and officials. We shall miss his expertise with the paperwork and his ability to resolve problems so speedily.

Graham had a heart attack which resulted in him having a by-pass operation in January 1992. He has made a successful recovery and is back playing table tennis in Division One of the Plymouth and District League. Recently he won a County ranking tournament and is now Devon No.2 male veteran and ready to make his debut in the County Vets singles trophy, beating team.

Graham represented the P & D League on the Devon Committee for many years and he still retains his position as selector and continues to give considerable backing to the Juniors.

Graham May

Following in Father's footsteps

JACKY FOONG won the Welwyn Garden City Table Tennis League's mens singles trophy, beating De Havilland clubmate Keith Hartridge in the final.

Jacky's father, Sek Seong Foong, is a former number one in his native Malaysia.
The Ranking Scheme

IT is a daunting task to try to explain the current Ranking Scheme to a readership with widely different degrees of knowledge and understanding of it already. I have decided to go for an explanation in stages, of which this is the first, rather than an all-in-one technical treatise. (I refer the impatient to last November's edition of Table Tennis News which did indeed carry all the technical details, most of which are still relevant today.)

Our new ranking scheme has been welcomed by some, hated by some, but all accept the need for some system of determining the relative standards of our players. Above all the system must be FAIR, based on objective criteria rather than on someone's subjective opinion.

Every player has a RATING which states how good a player he or she is. If players improve, their rating goes up; if they hit a bad patch, their rating falls. Whether they are Junior, Senior, Veteran, Man or Woman, their rating should identify their standard. Of course it is not quite that simple in practice, since we do not play women at all levels, so men's and women's ratings are not strictly comparable in our system at present.

Once you know the ratings of two players, you SHOULD be able to work out which one will win when they play each other. But, of course, not all matches go to form, and the weaker player may win - either by chance or perhaps because he/she has improved, in which case an adjustment to the ratings would be appropriate. Some rating points should be transferred from the loser to the winner, thus ensuring a dynamic list where ratings are constantly changing.

The number of points to be transferred depends on the difference in ratings. Players on equal ratings should have a 50-50 chance of winning or losing. A big difference in ratings indicates that the odds are more heavily stacked in favour of one player. In other words the ratings also allow us to see how much better one player is than another. Ideally a separation of 100 points should indicate the same difference in standard whether it occurs at the top of the table or at the bottom. On our system it represents about a 1 in 4 (or 25%) chance of an upset, with the stronger player likely to win on three occasions out of four.

The big advantage of the current system over the previous one is that it distinguishes between the players who have lots of points because they are good and the lesser players who had been to more tournaments and had therefore collected just as many points. The concept of ratings rather than points-for-wins is fundamental - players can no longer get to the top just by going to more tournaments than anyone else. It is the loss of points when players lose matches that makes our present rating system so much fairer as a guide to real playing standards.

Whenever a match takes place between two players who have a rating, the winner gains points and the loser loses points. If one player is much better than the other, the points transfer is small if the match ends as expected; the weaker player gains many more points if the match goes the other way. Under the new system it doesn't matter how often players play, for once they have reached their correct rating, they should be winning and losing in equal proportions. They should eventually reach a stable level, but it is a level that reflects the balance between points won and points lost.

The more results the computer gets for any player, the greater the accuracy of the rating it produces. For this reason we took the decision to open the scheme up this year to ALL singles events if tournament organisers choose to register them. So whenever two players meet, whether in main events, in class or restricted events or even in consolation events, their match results can be used to determine their ratings. It will inevitably cost more to enter the greater numbers of match results into the computer, so players will pay 50p per event towards this in 1992-93. (This sum will usually be included in the event entry fee to keep matters simple.) It may be some time before every organiser makes use of this facility, and indeed there is no compulsion on them to do so, but the system should become more accurate as a result.

Over the next few months I will explain in more detail how your match results get into the computer, how it tackles the task of calculating your rating, and what the various "flags" like I, N and R all mean.

Videos

By Don Parker

Following the interest in the Video of the 1993 European Championships in Stuttgart, I have produced two more of the same quality. The first is of the September European Super League Match for the men against Sweden (featuring the Olympic Champion and the World Champion), and the second in the same competition against Belgium, in October.

Once again I have put on a commentary highlighting the main technical and tactical points. You can also hear comments from the bench and I feel any keen coaches or players looking to develop a 'positive' style will find either of the tapes very useful.

Should you wish to purchase a copy of either please indicate your preference and send a cheque (payable to Mr. S. Fryer) for £12 to:

Mr. S. Fryer
8 Cleveland Road, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA15 8AY
First World Championships to be held in England

NEXT year the English Schools’ Table Tennis Association moves into its 25th year and the anniversary will be celebrated in style as it hosts the first World Schools T.T. Championships to be held in Britain over the week from 8th-15th April, 1993.

This is the first event staged in England under the auspices of the International School Sport Federation since 1981, when the volleyball championships were held and, fittingly, it will be held in Birmingham, England’s second city, where it all began 25 years ago.

Then, thanks to the initiative of the late E.S.T.T.A. officials, Tom Blunn and Jack Carrington, a group of interested teachers from the length and breadth of England met in Birmingham and E.S.T.T.A. was brought into being with John Maxwell, now living in retirement in Pickering in North Yorkshire, as Chairman and Gerald Gurney, no stranger to readers of this magazine, as its first General Secretary.

The ‘show was on the road and, thanks to dedicated work from teachers too numerous to mention, as well as generous sponsorship from ‘the trade’, E.S.T.T.A. has since gone from strength to strength and next year moves on to the World stage.

An event of this magnitude is, of course, not cheap to stage, and this step could not have been taken without major financial support, and the Association wish to offer sincere thanks for the help, both in cash and kind, which has already been promised.

Only grants of £50,000 from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and £10,000 from the Sports Council have made it possible to bring this prestigious World event to England, while the Recreation and Community Services Department of the City of Birmingham, who have supported ‘home’ internationals so enthusiastically over the years, will take a leading role.

They have provided a well appointed and central venue in the Birmingham Sports Centre, extensive administrative facilities will be made available and, in a magnificent gesture, they have placed the services of Leisure Officer Eddie Mitchell at the disposal of the Championships Committee.

Eddie is, of course, a former officer of the Schools’ Association, and the expertise which he gained in twelve years as Competition Secretary, plus his local knowledge of both table tennis and sport in general in the Midlands will prove invaluable.

Also highly involved will be the Dunlop Sports Company, who will continue their long association with English Schools after stepping in to provide all the playing equipment for the event.

A number of preliminary meetings have been held and by now all countries affiliated to the I.S.F. will have received invitations and details, with acceptances requested by mid-October.

On the playing front, sixteen countries will compete in both team and individual competition, with each entitled to enter one boys and one girls team.

Each team will consist of four players, under the age of sixteen on January 1st, 1993, all of whom must still be in full time education at school.

As the host country, however, England have the option to enter a ‘B’ team in the championships and, at the moment, it appears likely that this option could be taken up.

I make no apology for devoting the whole of this article to the most important event which has been undertaken since the inception of organised schools T.T. in 1968, and will conclude these notes with a brief summary of dates for the current season.


North West Youth Cup

THIS event was organised by North West Region at Upton Recreation Centre, Chester. Cheshire County Council continued as sponsors of the event for their second year. Fourteen events took place with the Cheshire County Council North West Youth Cup being awarded for one year, to the club gaining the greatest number of points overall for first or second place or losing semi-finalist.

Akash Kapoor won three of the boys titles and Zoe Buchanan, four of the girls.

RESULTS

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<th>(Played as a Round Robin)</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>U14 BOYS</td>
<td>Gregory Lee</td>
<td>(Bolton)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ian Eaton</td>
<td>(Northwich)</td>
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<td>U14 GIRLS</td>
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<td>U17 GIRLS CLASS 2</td>
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<td>Zoe Buchanan</td>
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<td>Lindsey Thornton</td>
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<tr>
<td>U17 GIRLS DOUBLES</td>
<td>Clare Newns</td>
<td>(Birkenhead)</td>
<td>10, 15</td>
<td>Clare Newns</td>
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</table>

WINNERS of the Club Trophy - Mid Cheshire Table Tennis Club with 46 points
RUNNERS-UP - Gautby Road Table Tennis Club, Birkenhead with 38 points

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London Borough honours Tristan

THE Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Kofi Appiah, presents Tristan Newman with the first of the borough's Sports Award in the Junior Category.

The award is in recognition of Tristan's double 'Triple' triumph. He won the Barclays Shield for the under 11 year boys for the third year running. He also won the Barclays Shield for the number one player in the under 14 and under 17 age groups.

With the honour Tristan received an equipment voucher for £50.

Isle of Dogs Junior League Champions

ADAM Brown and Bikash Sen were sponsored by the Isle of Dogs Bursary and London Weekend Television's Youth Adventure Programme to attend the Grant Solder Summer Camp at Chelmsford.

COTSWOLD JUNIOR SELECT

January 30th/31st 1993

The programme now includes Class 2 Girl and Boy Cadet Singles on the Saturday, and Girl and Boy Junior Singles on the Sunday.

ENTRY FORMS

Please apply to:
Mr. M.J. Reeves,
21 Martindale Road,
Churchdown,
Gloucester GL3 2DN.
Tel: 0452 713840
Hungarian dominance - the thirties

Following their loss of two titles in the Budapest World Championships it was voiced in some quarters that Hungary was on a downward path, more especially as the sport was spreading and becoming more popular. From 21st - 26th January, 1930, the World Championships were staged in Berlin and as so often is the case, the critics were completely and utterly wrong. Ten teams competed for the Swaythling Cup, again won by Hungary, and they swept the board of individual titles with Victor Barna winning the first of his men's singles titles. The unstoppable Maria Mednyanszky won her fourth women's singles and then for good measure the mixed doubles with Michael Szabados and the women's doubles with Annus Sipos. We have seen how the Hungarians emerged as the top country in the late twenties, but their real dominance came in the early thirties with the acclaimed 'Three Musketeers' Barna, Bellak and Szabados. From 1930 - 1935 their total collection of individual titles numbered 28, of which Barna himself won 13. In addition they also managed to annex five Swaythling Cup victories, not surprisingly they were considered to be invincible.

It was during the thirties that life in Hungary became very difficult for anyone of Jewish origin as there were many in high positions who were anti-Semitic and the feudal system of the country had overtones of Nazism. Many of the Hungarian table tennis stars were Jewish and although they were passionately fond of their country they eventually took advantage of the opportunities that came their way and emigrated.

The World Championships returned to Budapest in February, 1931, where once again the Hungarians won all the titles and the Hungarian stars were Maria Mednyanszky and Michael Szabados who each captured three individual titles. It was Maria's fifth successive singles title and the last she was ever to win. In the men's singles the underdog, Michael Szabados, reached great heights and actually defeated Barna in three straight games 21-12, 24-22, 21-14 - it was his first and only singles title.

In 1932 the Championships were held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary once again won all the individual events but were surprisingly beaten in the team championship - which was captured by the home country. Victor Barna won the men's singles title for a third straight year, taking in four successive wins and most surprisingly, Maria Mednyanszky lost in straight games to her team mate Annus Sipos 17-21, 16-21, 19-21.

The World Championships were actually held twice in the calendar year of 1933, the first in Baden, Austria, from 31st January - 5th February, and the second in Paris, France, from 2nd - 10th December. The latter event of course, was to cover the 1933-34 season. Hungary won nine out of the ten individual events and the Swaythling Cup on both occasions. It was in the Paris championships that a woman's team competition took place for the first time and became known as the Corbillon Cup. Surprisingly, it was won by Germany who just beat the outstanding favourites from Hungary.

In February, 1935, the World Championships returned to London and a record number of seventeen countries entered. Victor Barna reached dazzling heights, winning three individual titles and helping Hungary to win, yet again, the coveted Swaythling Cup. It was in May, 1935, three months after his successes in Wembley that he broke his arm in a car crash and had a metal plate inserted. Although he competed in subsequent world championships Barna never again won the singles title.

With political difficulties mounting in Hungary, it was not always easy for the top players to carry out extensive tours, but good fortune came England's way in 1935-36 when Barna, Bellak and Szabados were allowed to accept an invitation to tour the country giving exhibitions. Their magical control of the ball and flair for exhibitionism attracted large crowds and gave table tennis a new dimension. It was about this time that they were christened the 'Three Musketeers' and the Barna 'flick' became as famous in its day as Borg's topspin lawn tennis strokes in the seventies. Barna repeatedly said that from the reception he was given in England he felt a close relationship with the country and the people, and it was no surprise when in 1938, he took up British nationality.

VICTOR BARNA

Born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1911, Victor Barna was actually christened Gyozo Victor Braun, but owing to an anti-Semitic campaign in Hungary when he was in his teens, he called himself Barna so as to gain entry into one of the fashionable clubs there. Some English friends, finding his Christian name difficult to pronounce, began calling him Victor and this name found worldwide acceptance. He became the greatest player of his generation and unquestionably the sport has still produced no greater figure. Whereas Ivor Montagu was the architect of table tennis, Victor Barna was the artist who embellished the structure.

At an early age he showed promise at many ball games, principally lawn tennis and football, and it was thought at one time that he might pursue a career as a footballer. It was, however, the competitive spirit of table tennis that fired him, especially as the centre at which he played boasted such names as Bellak, Glanzc, Kelen and Szabados. As a youngster he showed promise but according to one of his team mates he was woefully weak on the backhand. By perseverance, practice and application that weakness became his strength and the Barna 'flick' became possibly the greatest single stroke to emerge from the sport, but he denied this description.

Many modern players are quick to point out that today's style and approach to the game would make him extremely vulnerable. This issue however is hardly worth debate as the equipment he used, a pimpled-rubber faced bat, was very different from the sponge bats used by the world-ranking players of today. He had a truly remarkable record and no player is ever likely to emulate it. In world championships alone his personal tally was fifteen individual titles plus seven medals as a member of the winning Hungarian Swaythling Cup teams. He actually won five men's singles (four in a row), eight men's doubles and two mixed doubles titles. He brought breathtaking table tennis to disbelieving spectators with a style and approach to the game that they found worldwide acceptance. He became the greatest player of his generation and unquestionably the sport has still produced no greater figure. Whereas Ivor Montagu was the architect of table tennis, Victor Barna was the artist who embellished the structure.

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**Southern Region**

by Brian Lamerton

I UNDERSTAND that a very successful regional tournament we held on May 16th, but apart from the fact that Mark Werner and Kevin Smith from the team of the season, Merton travelled all the way from Bournemouth to Reading to meet each other in the final of the Men's Singles with Mark victorious nobody has been able to provide me with any other information - perhaps these notes will jog the memory of the person delegated to advise me.

Merton, promoted only at the beginning of the season from Division 1, and with a final 7 sets to 2 win against Burnham, carried off Premier Division honours in the regional leagues.

A nail biting 5 sets win to 4 win gave OLOP "B" the Division One title, which they had struggled for the last matches of the season. A walk over and weakened opposition from the final two matches allowed KCD to jump into second place.

As recorded in May/June Amity Generation are Ladies champions.

The premier leading player was Mark Werner with 92.6% followed by Marc Formbridge and Paul Bloom, both of OLOP. 5 players recorded 100% in division 1 but from few appearances. The real leader in my book was KCD's Pete Woodacre with 83.3% whilst the Isle of Wight Roger Hookey, the only ever present member of regional leagues and the introduction of a third men's division. A similar situation in the ladies league made Gilligan Galloway of OLOP (92.9%) my leader with the ever present Sarah Turner (Amity Generation) and Barbara Savage (Aldershot) both returning 87.5%.

**WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN!** - an increase in entry for this seasons local tournaments. As recorded in May/June Amity Generation are Ladies champions.

Welcome to newcomers Artel (Crowthorne), Chalfont St. Peter, Snows (Southampton) and Thatcham; matches start October 3rd.

**South West Region**

by Alf Peppard

THE SWR Trials at Wellington, Somerset for Juniors/Cadets, despite being open on entries, nevertheless proved to be a highly satisfactory event, and the following are to be thanked for providing the nucleus of a sound working force:- Mrs. Valerie Clack, SWR, Chairperson Coaching, Messrs Dave Nipper and Tim Harris, referee's and Tony Carey the Assistant Staff Coach SWR, Tony Hewitt (so), Barry Fudge (av), Jonathan May (dv), Alex Shepperd (av). 1st reserve: Peter Thomas (dv).

Robert Millard (so), Gary Button (dv), Jonathan Pocock (co), Andrew Hewitt (so), Barry Fudge (av), Jonathan May (dv), Alex Shepperd (av), David Menzel (co). 1st reserve: Peter Thomas (dv).

**JUNIOR BOYS**

Robert Millard (so), Gary Button (dv), Jonathan Pocock (co), Andrew Hewitt (so), Barry Fudge (av), Jonathan May (dv), Alex Shepperd (av), David Menzel (co). 1st reserve: Peter Thomas (dv).

**CADET BOYS**

Marcus Cronin (dv), Daniel Adams (dv), Robert Svensson (dv), Graham Worth (co), Aaron Mortimer (gs), Matthew Loughran (av), Peter Thomas (dv), Ben Pocock (co).
Severity of the bang

YOU have warned a player about a warning time between points, and shown him the yellow card. Because the warning did not have the desired effect, you award a penalty point against him. A bit later, in a fit of pique because his opponent got a lucky edge point, the umpire table a disapproving bang with the racket. Do you award sufficient points to his opponent to finish that game, or do you, depending on the severity of the bang, have the option of awarding a second penalty point? The discussion arose at the recent World Student Table Tennis Championships held in Lyon. A purely theoretical question, I UR, hasten to add.

The award of penalty points etc is covered in Regulation 4.4.7. For a first offence, the umpire may award a penalty point... for a subsequent offence he may award a game. Further, in 4.4.7.7., we see that if misbehaviour continues after the imposition of penalties, report to the referee.

So the sequence is: Warn; award sufficient points to terminate the game and suspend play and report to the referee. Of course, after the first warning, if the player’s behaviour is sufficiently serious, the umpire may suspend play and report to the referee without further ado.

Warnings and awards of penalties should be marked by the clear display of a yellow card.

The use of a red card is either by the referee if he decides to disqualify a player, or by the umpire if, after a warning about an illegal serving, the advisor is dismissed from the playing area.

It is not in the remit of the assistant umpire to warn people giving advice at unauthorized times, although the AU may be in a better position to observe the infraction than the umpire who is occupied in controlling the game. The matter of advice to players is receiving attention from the legislators, although we cannot say that we are wholly in agreement with the direction in which they seem to be going.

It was noticed in Lyon that the manner of use of the scoring machines did not follow the recommendations in Regulation 19.5, and that the use of the yellow card was not understood. It was noticed that the rules concerning the use of the scoring machine were not kept. This simplified sufficiently the conduct of matches at all levels of competition. The umpires do not use the red card, but they are allowed to use the yellow card, and the decisions of the umpire are accepted by those watching the matches.

The Volley Returns

We have received a further letter from Derek Tyler (see December 1991 issue) on the question of informalizing the volley law. He strongly disagrees with our view and asks if we would include in our next issue the letter he wrote to the editor of this magazine and which was not published. Derek writes:-

‘I feel obliged to make further comment on the suggestion in your “Umpires’ Corner” to change the law regarding the volley. The highly respected and experienced umpires who edit this column declare that no volley would have difficulty in judging whether the volley was made just over the playing surface, or just behind the end line, because this judgement needs to be made in service. I maintain that the judgement of this part of the service law is far from being easy. The volley, seated in line with the net, is badly placed to judge situations concerning the end line. Frankly he can only penalize flagrant abuses. This convention is supported by the fact that it was deemed necessary to introduce extra officials for this purpose at the World Championships in Chile. Furthermore, under Law 3.6.6.1, the assistant umpire has the right to give a warning on the first occasion that he has a doubt about any facet of the service law. No such provision exists concerning the judgement of a volley.

One must not lose sight of the fact that law changes affect the product of matches at all levels of the game. A large percentage of table tennis is played in the lower echelons of competition. The umpires are not experienced officials, but team mates, opponents, or losing players in tournaments, who are obliged by local regulations to accept the “rules” of umpiring. Very often these people “score” the matches but do not control them. They seldom look at the services, and almost never sanction them. Most players are sufficiently sporting to admit having made a spontaneous volley, even if this is not noticed by the umpire.

Umpires of the Month

Harry Spraggs - A Short Self Portrait

Born in Forest Gate, East London, where I lived until moving to Fleet, Hampshire in 1970. Married with two sons in their twenties. I am Group Accountant F. Layton. I went for six and development properties based in Rowledge, near Farnham, Surrey. A top grade amateur footballer. I had trials for West Ham United and Chelsea, and a keen athlete. Table tennis was only a third choice sport until a twice-broken ankle in the tides directed my path firmly into it.

Representative honours were won with Essex at football, athletics, table tennis and cricket, and later with Hampshire and Berkshire at table tennis.

National Service was served with the Royal Engineers as a quantity surveyor, after which I was treasurer of the now defunct East London Table Tennis League, for eighteen years. Further posts held were Essex Vine Chairman, National Councilor, Selector and Tournament Secretary.

I have also been a member of the N.I.U.R.C. and the ETTC Equipment Committee under Ron Chaydon.

I have travelled widely as an umpire, including the World Championships in Chiba and Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, Edinburgh and the Isle of Man.

Umpire Selections

Selections have been made for forthcoming events as follows:-

English Junior National Championships - 5th & 6th December


Reserves (1) J. Evans, (2) Mrs. D.M. Moomyn, (3) B.P. Linton, (4) T.J. Vane.

Veterans British League - 16th & 17th January 1993


Reserves: (1) E. Avent, (2) Mrs. D.M. Moomyn, (3) B.P. Linton, (4) T.J. Vane.

Junior Top 12 - 23rd January 1993


Reserves: (1) T.R. Verdon, (2) Mrs. E.J. Wilson.
Richard Whitehead (above right) of Nottingham won the Mixed Standing and Wheelchair National Junior Singles Championships at The Guttmann Centre, Stoke Mandeville, in October. Whilst Claire Harris (above left) of Wales, the beaten finalist, went on to win the Mixed Wheelchair Singles crown.

Junior Premier Weekend

by Doug Moss

The first series of matches played at Burton-on-Trent Leisure Centre over the weekend 10/11 October, showed that Yorkshire may be relinquishing their hold on the Junior County Championships which they have held for so many seasons. The Yorkshire team dropped two points with drawn matches against Lancs and Surrey. But no team gained full points. Three teams - Devon, Essex and Surrey - dropped just 1 point with Surrey in the lead having dropped just 6 events.

In the first round Devon met Essex and, although taking a 3-1 lead, were held to a draw. Adrian Vincent had two good wins, including the defeat of Chris Sladden (ranked 11) in 4 and 6 when Adrian Vincent and Lynsey Hayward beat Tamar Connolly 18 and 19 in deciding games. Lancs also suffered a 4-6 defeat at the hand of Essex. Ryan Savill (Dv) won two events at 18 in 3rd game and Chris Sladden beat Daryo Meredith 14, 17, 20. Lancs should improve their situation in the final series.

The most successful players in this series were Lynsey Hayward (Dv), Glenda Ashdon (Sy), Adrian Vincent (Dv) and Andrew Nicholls (Y), who were all unbeaten.

It was gratifying that BRITVIC SOFT DRINKS LTD. provided sponsorship for the series. This included prizes of a high quality mountain bike to both the boy and the girl of the weekend. The selection panel comprised the Regional Sales Manager of Britvic, the Sports Centre Manager and Doug Young, County Championships Chairman. Their choice was Philip Musgrove (Es) and Zoe Fisher (Y), who beat Tamar Connolly (La) and Lost narrowly in 3rd game to Michelle Martin (St) ranked seven.

There was a good deal of disappointment that the three top ranked boys - Alex Perry (Dv), Richard Hyacinth (Mi) and Edward Hatley (Sy) - did not represent their counties.

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FULL RESULTS

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| Surrey | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 24 | 6  | 5 |
| Essex  | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 21 | 9  | 5 |
| Devon  | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 20 | 10 | 5 |
| Yorkshire | 3 | 1  | 2  | 18 | 12 | 4 |
| Middlesex | 3 | 1  | 1  | 14 | 16 | 3 |
| Lancashire | 3 | 0  | 2  | 13 | 17 | 1 |
| Hertford | 3  | 2  | 1  | 5  | 25 | 1 |
| Stafford | 3  | 0  | 3  | 0  | 5  | 25 | 0 |

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NATIONWIDE SPORTS

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Affiliation

At the Sheffield league's annual meeting in June a proposal to discontinue affiliation to the national and county associations was defeated by 30 votes to 24.

Further analysis of the ballot, however, revealed that 14 clubs out of 32 voted against affiliation because we work on a one vote per team basis. These were eight abstainers who, I know from experience, would have preferred a club majority to disaffiliation.

The first obvious conclusion is that the members of clubs are more in favour of affiliation possibly produced a club majority for affiliation. The second conclusion is that the Sheffield Table Tennis League has now been able to voice its concerns and head responses from the Association which have gone a long way to clear up any misunderstandings and misgivings that may have been held. Such a facility for meetings is available to any league that wishes to share its concerns for the future of table tennis with the Association.

The lack of information with regard to rule books, address books, etc. has been dealt with and this should now be in the possession of the Sheffield League.

The subject of press releases, any press officer that feels able to generate publicity on a National scale through a major provincial newspaper is welcome to receive press releases from the office and initially they should apply to Jim Beckley, Vice-Chairman Public Relations who will be more than happy to consider all such requests in the light of the circumstances prevailing.

Expenditure is an item which concerns everyone connected with our sport and naturally when committees are working to expand the sport into new areas such as Focus Sport and of course the Euro 94 Medallage, it will be invaluable that there are more committee meetings, more people are involved in the organisation, and consequently expenses do rise, however I can assure all members that very close checks are kept on expenditure items to ensure that these stay within the projected budgets for each individual area of the Association.

The comments regarding the unaffiliated league in the Yorkshire area are being investigated separately and should the information be correct steps will be taken to remedy that situation shortly.

When constructive comment of the nature of the Sheffield League is placed before the Association we are more than happy to respond in the manner indicated above.

Mike Holt
Vice-Chairman Administration

Response to 'Holiday Guide' & 'No Tournament'

I write the following but I doubt it will be printed.

I buy Table Tennis News to read about table tennis. On reading the report from the European Championships it failed to supply readers with who were the eventual winners of any of the events. But did not mention that Muller and Lennard lost in the girls doubles final. But I must be honest it did provide a lot of information for someone who wants to be taken to Topolcany in Czechoslovakia. It takes 3 hours from Vienna, beer 15p per pint, coke 25p, steak and kidney £1.30 (read as steak and kidney politely). Pork chips with potatoes £1.90 (could you have had chips instead)? Yes it was great to know you can get a pair of leather shoes at 99p in a shop next to Colin Darlington's hotel. Is that the name of the hotel or was it the owner? Perhaps I am wrong but when one looks out at results in years to come it would have been good if all the results from the quarternion had been published. I know all our players would have given 100% but could someone please tell me why Michael James was not included in the cadet event. The ranking system indicates he should have been included or doesn't count for anything.

I thought the report on the U19/21 championships was very poor and why have we won to wait for a full report on the English Junior Open which the October edition on a competition which was played last May. I always thought it was in the interest of the readers to let them read reports on tournaments as soon as possible. To come up thought that Vesna Voda and Wheelchair Tennis along with the Umpire's Corner were first class articles. But if I want to read about travel and prices, I buy a Berlitz book.

Ken Lye
Stockton-on-Tees Cleveland

Dismay

The disappointment and dismay upon reading Stan Clarke's report in September's County Notes, stating that the standard of table tennis is low and will get worse in the coming year.

How on earth he comes to that conclusion one simply cannot imagine. Especially when one thinks of the success and excellent record our juniors have produced over the past few years.

For example the first team coming second from bottom, but within one or two excellent wins they managed to maintain their position in the premier division which is not bad at all. Taking into account that they are up against the top juniors in this country. The second team coming third in division two A.

Their own individual successes have been tremendous, plus for their local leagues, town team and having some marvellous results on the tournament circuit.

I am sure Stan will understand my concern, maybe if he did a little research, or come and visit our club. I think he will be suitably impressed and will see for himself just how well our youngsters are doing.

Arthur Brindle
ETTA Assistant Coach
Gosforth

Response from Tees Sport

The statement in the Tees Sport catalogue does not claim that 'THE' main distributor of Donic table tennis goods. The statement indicates that we are a "MAIN DISTRIBUTOR" of several leading table tennis brands. No claim is made to exclusivity.

The definition of an EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR is one who has exclusive rights to MARKET a certain brand of goods in a defined territory, such as the UK. An exclusive distributor normally, but not always, supplies trade accounts only. In the case of Donic goods, Tees Sport have the exclusive right to MARKET this brand in the UK.

A MAIN DISTRIBUTOR is a company which advertises, stocks and supplies the goods. There is a particular brand of goods to the general public on a retail basis. In this context, the statement in our catalogue is, therefore, correct. There is no intention in this statement to cause any confusion.

Normally manufacturers or exclusive distributors work very hard to encourage leading retailers to promote, sell and service their goods and therefore very pleased when this is achieved. We were surprised by the Jarta reaction.

As mentioned above, we have no wish to confuse or mislead anyone. Our main aim is to provide a first class service to our customers by rigorously checking and ensuring that they are not abusive or libellous I'll live with or libellous I'll live or libellous I'll live ever or libellous I'll live ever. We would like to make it clear that table tennis news does not necessarily agree with the views made by those correspondents whose letters are published. Please understand that the measures that are NOT abusive or libellous are always welcome as are replies. Only those when names and addresses are supplied for publication will in future be considered.

The Editor
Table Tennis News
5 The Bridges
Henderson
Herts
HFD 539
For details of events, dates, organisers and telephone numbers buy the 1992/93 EVENTS DIARY. (Price £3.50). Ring 0424 722525 - Bethan Davies - pay by credit card or send cheque to ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.

WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE - ENGLAND v FRANCE
TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER - 7.00 PM
at
DUNSTON ACTIVITY CENTRE, GATESHEAD
Tickets: 091 490 1616

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

VETERANS PREMIER WEEKEND
Saturday 7th November 1992
12.00 noon and 4.00 pm
Sunday 8th November 1992
10.00 am and 2.00 pm

Vymura Sports Hall,
Talbut Road,
Newton Hyde, Cheshire

Details: Derek Schofield  061 483 4744

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

SENIOR PREMIER WEEKEND
Saturday 7th November 1992
4.00 pm
Sunday 8th November 1992
9.00 am and 1.00 pm

Milton Keynes TTC
Kingston Centre,
Milton Keynes

Details: Geoff Taylor - 0203 678632

THE MANCHESTER 2000
ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Saturday/Sunday 5th/6th December 1992

The Armitage Centre,
Moseley Road, Fallowfield, Manchester.

Entries Close: 12th November 1992
Details: Jill Harris - 0922 612675

THE FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION - SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 1992

Vymura International v Bathwick Tyres - 3.00 pm  Details: 0742 885378
Team Peniel v NFD Grove - 3.00 pm  Details: 0277 201319
Con Life St. Neots v DML White Hart Launceston - 2.30 pm  Details: 0480 77349

ENGLAND v DENMARK - JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL
Dunston Activity Centre, Gateshead - 13th November 1992
Start 5.00 pm – Contact 091 490 1616
Supported by Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council Leisure Services