SYED WINS
PENIEL 5 STAR
Players of the Month

This month’s choice is Chen Xin Hua and Lisa Lomas for their outstanding European victories.

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Matthew Syed who magnificently won the Peniel 5 Star Mens Singles trophy. (Picture John F.A. Wood)
Graham is our new Information Manager

Graham Carter has been appointed as the ETTA's new Information Officer.

He has been working in table tennis promotion in his spare time for over 10 years.

His PR work includes being a reporter for BBC Radio Sussex, Press Officer of Horsham Angels Friendly Hotels British League club, Pavilion Ladies British Women's League team and the Crawley and Horsham League.

Graham, 31, is also a keen player and has played in local leagues for 20 years. He represented Sussex as a Junior and plays regularly in the top division of the Crawley and Horsham and Haywards Heath Leagues for Horsham Table Tennis Club.

His current employment is at aircraft maintenance firm FLS, formerly known as Dan-Air Engineering, at Gatwick Airport. "My mates there are wishing me luck and are hoping that I will become the new Desmond Lynam."

Graham will be moving to Hastings to take up the new job: "I feel most excited and am very much looking forward to the new challenges."

Olympic Games

Just before Sydney were awarded the 2000 Games on September 23, news emerged from the BOA Press Conference at the Cafe Royal in London that Delta airlines are to splash out £4.5m on flight tickets to fly British Olympic teams to Atlanta for a three-year period of acclimatisation and training in the heat.

It will be hotter there in 1996 than in Barcelona, we are told. And from Monte Carlo came the news that women’s soccer, beach volleyball and mountain bike racing will make their debuts in Atlanta. No news of sports getting the elbow so far, but if three new sports are in, some must be out. England manager Don Parker told TTN "I shall be taking teams from Britain to the training sessions in Atlanta and adjacent training centres over the next three years."

Delta’s home base is Atlanta, that is why British Airways could not match the American deal.

Back to Delhi!

THOSE who suffered from all sorts of ailments when the World Championships were staged in New Delhi will be fascinated to hear that the 1994 Commonwealth Championships have been switched from Goa to Delhi next January.

Those who may be going this time should start their series of inoculations now!

England ladies beat Sweden

LUTON’S Lisa Lomas led England’s Women’s team to a sensational 4-1 victory over red-hot favourites Sweden, in a Womens European League match at The Edison Table Tennis club in Horsey, London.

Lomas set the scene for England when with a mixture of strong backspin defensive play and sharp topspin attacks, she finally overwhelmed Sweden’s Asa Svensson 19-21, 21-18, 21-10.

When Lisa returned to the table to face Sweden’s No. 1 Marie Svensson, the match score at 3-1 to England, and to the delight of the crowds Lomas took the game and match for her country winning 21-11, 17-21, 21-13.

Early in the evening Alison Gordon beat Marie Svensson 21-17, 12-21, 21-17, and Lomas and Andrea Holt won the doubles beating the two Svensson girls 13-21, 21-17, 21-17.

A full report will appear in the November issue of Table Tennis News.

Broken Jaw

RYAN SAVILL, 17 years old and, last season’s surprise member of the European junior England team, has sadly broken his jaw and will be out of action for three months.

FRANCE - Female Player Wanted

To play in Division 2 and win promotion to Division 1 in January. Club situated North of Paris (100 miles from Calais). Student in French required if possible for a school year’s teaching job and TT training courses. Contact: TTSQ - BP 189 - SAINT-QUENTIN (France). Contact before end of October.
Great start in Europe

ENGLAND have made a great start in the European League with the men beating Poland at Whitwick and the Women defeating Sweden by the same score at the Edison Club in London.

In the match on September 7th supported by the North West Leicestershire District Council. The England trio, Chen Xinhua, Matthew Syed and Alan Cooke all did well in their singles. Poland's only victory came in the doubles when Donald Parker with a 3-0 lead under his belt decided to give emerging Jonathan Taylor and Chris Oldfield the opportunity of European League experience. The lads played well taking the Poles to three games but were defeated in the decider.

Victory over the Netherlands in the next match on 5th October in Stourbridge, (supported by Dudley Borough Council) would almost certainly give England their semi-final place leaving the visit to Sweden for the last group match to decide only the top two finishing places. For the Dutch match, Carl Frean is expected to be back in the England line-up having recovered from the wrist injury that dampened his performance last season.

Carl was hoping to return to the England team for the challenge match against Belgium in Leeds which was televised by BBC Grandstand the following day. If Carl can come back refreshed after his enforced layoff and can recover his best form, then this could be England's best season in recent times. Chen Xinhua is looking fitter and fresher than at any time since his arrival from China. Matthew Syed is looking very good having enjoyed an excellent start to the season and Alan Cooke is also back to full fitness.

With two wins and the doubles from Lisa Lomas the England womens team excelled to beat Sweden on September 21st. The women's division this year is very tough because 3 of the 10 teams are to be relegated and this win for England gives a great boost to the teams chances of retaining their super division place. Lisa Lomas was supported well in this match by Alison Gordon who did well to win her singles and by Andrea Holt in the doubles.

RANKING SCHEME RE-WRITTEN

Thanks to a remarkable piece of computer software programme writing by Adam Twiss, the revised computer ranking system will be implemented from the 1st October 1993. After taking into account the recommendations and comments from both coaches and players on the tournament circuit and the opinions of National Council, the Ranking Committee decided to introduce a bonus scheme that will be added to the current rating scheme to produce the final ranking list.

The bonuses will be given to each player each time they play a match, by giving extra points to the winner and effectively reducing the level of lost points for the loser. The list will appear with three columns, the first column will be the current rating points figure, the second the current bonus total and the third will be the total of the first two columns.

This will have the dual benefit keeping the accuracy and integrity of the current rating scheme and at the same time encouraging participation through the bonus programme.

To make the necessary changes to the current ranking computer software, the Ranking Committee approached the Canadian Table Tennis Association but after initial indications to the contrary the Canadians were unable to implement the requested changes within the time scale required.

Ranking Committee member, Geoff Twiss, offered on a voluntary basis the services of his 17 year old son Adam to rewrite the programme from scratch, incorporating all the changes. Adam is both a tournament player and a qualified umpire, as well as having excellent skills with a computer. Adam has finished his A levels with five top grade passes this summer and has been accepted at Cambridge University to study Computer Science commencing in October. He accepted the challenge and spent over 300 hours at his computer over a four week period, writing and perfecting the programme. He has not only incorporated all the features of the Canadian scheme but has also added the bonus scheme to meet the requirements of the ranking committee.

The re-written software also considerably reduces the computer running time and the amount of paperwork needed to access the information. The programme also includes an experimental "wins only" listing so that the results of the scheme not including losses can be published for comparison purposes and can be implemented at a later date if found to be a better system.

Our thanks go to Adam Twiss for his considerable highly skilled work and to Canadian Table Tennis Association who have helped us greatly over the last two years when we were experiencing difficulties with the former scheme. Geoff Twiss has produced a leaflet explaining the ranking scheme and the new changes which will be issued with the October list.

PROBLEMS AT PENIEL

My greatest concern so far this season, is the happenings at the Peniel 5 Star in September when a team event was aborted by the withdrawal of both the England and BFL Grove teams at the semi final and final stages following allegations that some of the French and Belgium players were using fast glues not permitted by our regulations. A full investigation into the incident is underway headed by Deputy Chairman, Tony Chatwin, who leads our Competition Department. This Department's responsibilities cover both...
the tournament programme and re-gluing regulations.

Reports have been requested from all parties involved. Regardless of the eventual outcome of this investigation this type of incident does great harm to the sport and I appeal to all those who care about the future of table tennis to refrain from actions that cause this kind of damage.

ANOTHER REPORT CONDEMNS THE GLUE

The glue issue itself is still continuing throughout Europe and there are some who hope to persuade the ITTF to delay further the implementation date beyond the 1st June 1994. There is however, a new report on the effects of the glue that has been published by a team consisting of Olle Ramnas, Gunnar Barrefors and Goran Petersson, of the Department of Chemical Environmental Science, Gothenburg University. The report itself is written in technical language and is difficult to grasp in full but the conclusion is clear, I quote:

"The reported major glue solvent components may give rise to general short-time physiological effects. These include potentially lowered reaction rate and coordination ability which may be important for the performance of the players involved. The most important long-time health hazards are likely to be linked to the increased formation of free oxygen radicals from the metabolism of hydrocarbons. These radicals are thought to increase the ageing of the cell, the incidence of cancer, and the development of autoimmune and several other physiological defects. For sportsmen, the effect of hydrocarbons adds to an increased radical formation due to a high oxygen intake. It is concluded that prohibition of the use of organic solvents in sports is essential both to the sportsmen and as a good example in other fields of solvent use."

This is a further report which is added to the four that we received prior to taking our decision to eliminate the fast glues. So far, no technical reports have been produced supporting any counter arguments, therefore we must expect that the ITTF will remain firm in its resolve and rid the whole table tennis world of this menace from the 1st June 1994 and resist strongly the attempts of those who wish to keep these poisonous substances in our midst.

WOOLWICH SPORTMATCHED

On the junior front, we were delighted to announce in the September issue of Table Tennis News and at a press conference at the European League match in Whitwick the sponsorship from the Woolwich Building Society from the Junior League promotion.

This support is being matched by the Government's Sports Sponsorship programme, Sportmatch, so that the total value to the Association and the Sport over the three years will be in the region of over £180,000. Full details of how Leagues can take advantage of the junior programme will be sent to all League Secretaries shortly.

Present:

The 42nd World Table Tennis Championships

From GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN

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From your courtside seat you'll see the defending World Champion Sweden fight their way into the finals against a determined Chinese team. The team finals is the most competitive and exciting in recent memory. Waldner, Persson and the new powerhouse, Karlsson, have all they can do to stop off Ma Wenge, Wang Tao and Wang Hao. Wang Hao shows why he is becoming the "World's Best Defender" as he engages Karlsson and Waldner in classic fight-for-every-point matches.

Tape B - 120 minutes Men's Individual Competition, including three Quarter-Finals Women's Singles and Men's Doubles

Upsets abound... and new faces emerge. Women's number one and two, China's Deng and Qiao, lose early... France's Chila embarrasses Persson... Belarus's 18 year old Samsonov surprises Karlsson, Canada's Huang beats Fetzner in one of the tournament's best matches, and Belgium's Podpinka (Klampar's transplanted nephew) uses a swing from-the-heels style to upset Wang Tao and then scare Gatien in the quarters in down-to-the-wire matches. J.M. Salve beat Ma Wenge at his own game in another quarter-final thriller.

Tape C - 120 minutes Individual Competition - Balance of Men's Quarter-Finals Men's and Women's Semi-Finals and Finals

You'll be awed by the new level of power spinning as four Europeans advance to the semi-finals. Waldner's consummate touch prevails over Kim Taek Soo in the quarters, but in the semi he falls to Salve's inspired kill-every-ball tactics. Gatien is too much for Prinorac in the semi in a battle of power-loop skills. Badescu becomes the first European woman to reach the semi-finals in 30 years, and her match with Hyun Jung Hwa is one of the best ever in that event. The Men's final between Salve and Gatien is a slugfest between the tournament's best matches, and Belgium's Podpinka (Klampar's transplanted nephew) uses a swing from-the-heels style to upset Wang Tao and then scare Gatien in the quarters in down-to-the-wire matches. J.M. Salve beat Ma Wenge at his own game in another quarter-final thriller.

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Opportunity for serious chinwag

WHILE the European Championships are in progress and spectators are watching all the action, in other parts of the complex other events will be going on unnoticed. Writes Jim Beckley.

For like all major events whether its party political conferences or huge exhibitions, the very fact that so many influential people are together at the same time at the same place, makes it an ideal opportunity for a serious chinwag.

While the players clash head on in the main hall, top officials will be putting their heads together in meetings all over the arena. Every day of the championships somewhere, some time, meetings will be in progress, decisions being made, crucial votes being taken. The future of the sport will hang in the balance during those eleven days in Spring.

Next door at the impressive International Convention Centre which held the European Community Summit last year, the biggest meeting of all will be taking place.

The Congress Meeting will be an impressive affair with officials from all the European countries as well as further afield gathering for their once a year decision making conference.

Back at the NIA there will be another group of officials with a very different itinerary. A course for coaches is being held for the duration of the championships with top international coaches providing details of winning techniques and styles. There will also be opportunities to attend seminars and lectures and to work closely with some of the world top coaches.

SUPPORT for Euro 94 is rolling in nicely. Already we have Butterfly and Nittaku committed to providing a major part of the equipment being used. Butterfly will supply tables, net and post sets, scoring machines and surrounds. While Nittaku are the official ball suppliers.

Other official services include International Tournament Services - a consortium of tour operators and accommodation services... ITS will arrange tour and accommodation exclusively for the championships.

Weather or Not, a company headed by Jackie Bellinger are the championships official merchandisers, selling every-thing from T shirts to stickers from caps to key rings and from Ski jackets to pens.

Latest News

DON'T forget that the ETTA's Information Line now has its own Euro 94 slot. If you want the very latest news about the championships from tickets to train times then ring 0891 664300.

During office hours Clive Oakman, the tournament director and Lyn Cupples will be on hand to answer all your questions but during out of office hours the information line might be your answer.

All the previous lines have been retained with county news now linked in with the Update section, the Friendly Hotels British League moves to the No. 2 position ahead of the new Euro 94 line.

VACANCY

EURO '94 PUBLICITY MANAGER

This position is available immediately and will be based in the EURO '94 Championships Office in Birmingham. Duties will be centred around the promotion of the European Championships to ensure the best possible awareness of the event and as a consequence the best possible spectator attendance.

The successful applicant will be required to promote through the usual media channels, i.e. National, Regional and Local Press, National and Local Radio and Local T.V. In addition a close relationship will be established with Birmingham City Council to ensure the best possible profile of both the Event and the City.

It is likely you will have a PR/Marketing background, previous experience with the media and probably an interest in table tennis.

The position will be for a fixed term contract to the end of the Championships, April 1994. Salary will be £1,000 per month plus commission.

Interested persons should contact the EURO '94 Championships Office Brewmaster House, International Convention Centre, Birmingham. B1 2EA Telephone: 021-644 6464 for an application form
Before the match, I could not find a single person who knew where Whitwick was on the map or had even heard of it. Few had heard of nearby Coalville and more had heard of Loughborough of course. But, to the great credit of the local community in Leicestershire - Mike Holt country - they turned out a crowd of nearly 500 to watch England despatch Poland 4-1.

So, after winning the prize for the biggest crowd from a small community, the locals enjoyed a sparkling show by England, although contrary to the ETIA press release issued before the match there was no mega-clash between the Polish superstar Andrzej Grubba and Chen Xinhua.

The reasons for Grubba's non-appearance can only be guessed - all countries including England must make way for the young players - and Grubba and Leszek Kucharski have had very little in common with the Polish TIAS for some years.

It was therefore a young side for Poland and they were very useful players. Piotr Skiorski, 21, has been in the Polish side for some time, but he was quickly sent packing 12, 15 by Matthew Syed who a few days later at Brentwood collected four more very delectable scalps - Mommessin, Marmurek, Cabrera and Philippe Saive.

Piotr Szafraek, 20, was disappointing, against the Chen back-spin he was completely outclassed 14, 8. Alan Cooke took sometime to find some of his best shots. He recovered in the first game to beat Lucjan Blaszczyk, 20, whose outstanding win in Gothenburg was against Quin Qianli from Austria.

In the second game however, the Derbyshire top-spinner lifted his game to win 17. That left England three up and gave Don Parker the chance to give European League debuts to Jon Taylor of Manchester and Chris Oldfield of Sheffield. Our two young men of the future won the first game 12, but the two young Poles managed to turn the tables neatly 17, 13 to reduce the England lead to 3-1.

The final game saw Chen unable to concentrate and having to recover by winning nine back-spin serves in a row to win 21, 17 against Skierski. After the match Don Parker said, "It was a solid start by England. The young players have got to be brought into the side and this was an opportunity."

A win over Holland in the next match should put England on the path to the semi-finals.

**Scores**

M. Syed b P. Skierski 12, 15
Chen Xinhua b P. Szafranek 14, 8
A. Cooke b L. Blaszczyk 14, 8
J. Taylor-C. Oldfield b Skierski and Blaszczyk 12, -17, -13
Chan b Skierski 21, 17

**New rules for 1993/94 season**

NEW rules came into force on the 1st September 1993 and they are compulsory.

Firstly, the surface of one side of the racket shall be bright red and the surface of the other side shall be black, whether or not both sides are used for striking the ball.

At the 1993 Annual General Meeting a motion to continue giving local leagues power to authorise their players to use uncovered rackets in their domestic competitions was defeated. It will therefore no longer be permissible for any player to use a racket with an uncovered blade.

A point will no longer be lost if the ball is volleyed over the table. This will not be effected by abolishing the separate "volley law" and including the over-the-table volley within the scope of the "obstructing law."
Sportsmatch in League with Woolwich

THE Woolwich Building Society's sponsorship of table tennis (announced in Table Tennis News Aug/Sept edition) has been "Sportsmatched" writes Elaine Shaw.

"Sportsmatch", the government's sponsorship incentive scheme co-ordinated by the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, have guaranteed to match £ for £ the £31,000 invested by the Woolwich Building Society in the first year of the three year sponsorship. Under condition that the government continues the Sportsmatch scheme, that support of the Woolwich sponsorship will continue during 1995 and 1996. The total investment could amount to £168,000 over three years.

"This support by Sportsmatch is fantastic news for table tennis and, in particular, for the future of table tennis in England", commented Alan Ransome, Chairman of ETTA. "It means that £62,000 will go directly to the grassroots in 1994, just at the time when we expect to benefit from the greatest promotional push that table tennis has seen in this country since 1977."

The news of the forthcoming launch of the network of Woolwich Junior Leagues has caused considerable interest. The ETTA has received many enquiries for further information, together with confirmation of intention of involvement from several leagues.

The input of additional funding from Sportsmatch will enable a more beneficial package of support to be provided to those leagues and clubs which enter the Woolwich Junior Leagues from its launch next year.

Twelve months planning and preparation will enable the ETTA and the Woolwich to launch the Woolwich Junior Leagues in 1994. Club and league suggestions will be taken into consideration with regard to the best means of providing the required support to establish and then run the junior leagues. The intention is to provide as much support as possible to enable thousands of junior players to benefit.

During the next twelve months the ETTA's Development Department will research the best means of setting up, promoting and supporting this venture. Through Table Tennis News and personal contact, leagues and clubs will be consulted, kept informed and motivated to participate. The investment is in the grassroots so the needs of the grassroots will be a major part of the consultative process.

Every league which is interested in the Woolwich Junior Leagues should register their interest with the Woolwich Junior League Co-ordinator at the ETTA's Office in Hastings.

Another part of the Woolwich sponsorship, The Woolwich Junior British League, will be launched this season with entry forms having been distributed last month to addresses known to be, or likely to be, interested in submitting a team. Any team or potential team which has not yet received details should contact Mike Lewis urgently at Glanavon Cottage, Clifton Down, Bristol, BS8 3HU, tel: no: 0272 730788, as the closing date is the end of October.

The Woolwich Junior British League will commence this season with two weekends of competition in Milton Keynes and Woolwich in April and May 1994.

Sportsmatch

Sportsmatch provides government funding for approved schemes. It was established last year because of the crisis situation with many sports found themselves as a result of companies pulling out of sponsorships due to the recession. With a fund of £3 million for the first year, Sportsmatch considers applications from new sponsorships which input commercial investment into grassroots sports activities.

The Woolwich Junior Leagues and Woolwich Junior British League are ideal as they not only fulfill the requirement of a significant commercial promotion by the sponsor, but also benefit young people throughout the country.

Full details of Sportsmatch and how to apply for Sportsmatch funding are available from the ETTA Office in Hastings.

Alex Perry, England's Junior Boys Champion, who hopes to play in the Woolwich Junior Leagues.
MATTHEW SYED was simply fantastic as he took the men's singles crown at the Brentwood Sports Centre, beating Belgium's Philippe Saive in the Peniel 5 Star Open Championships, sponsored by Stafford Charles Limited.

Syed wore his England shirt with pride as he first outclassed Ireland's Colum Slevin 11 and 15 in the semi-final, and then he played like a man inspired when he defeated the highly talented Saive 20 and 21.

Syed's victory was even more fantastic considering he is ranked No. 44 in Europe, whilst Saive is ranked at No. 29.

Syed's defence was as usual immaculate with his rapier like topspin drives flashing past Saive.

The Belgium's forehand hitting was ferocious, but Syed's defence was impregnable with England's favourite son dancing and leaping in the air, as he acknowledged the rapturous applause of the crowd.

In the other men's singles semi-final Saive beat Birmingham and England star Desmond Douglas 21, 13, 12, in an all-action battle that saw the quicksilver reactions of Douglas matching Saive's variety of attacking shots, before the Belgium boy won through to the final.

The ladies singles final was won by Russia's Elena Timina, who now plays with BFL Grove, when she chopped her way to success against England's Alison Gordon 14 and 17.

Gordon actually took an early lead with big forehand loops, but Timina's tight and varied defence saw the England lady forced into errors as she lost the first game. And in the second leg Gordon was also ahead at 12-10, before Timina tightened her game to take the title 21-17.

In the semi-finals Timina beat Andrea Holt 17 and 20, whilst Gordon won her way to the final winning against England's No. 1 Lisa Lomas 20 and 10.

The men's doubles was won by Alan Cooke and Desmond Douglas who beat Denmark's Kim Hogsberg and Binger Vest 15 and 14.

England's duo played steadily to see off the Dane's attempt at glory, with Douglas's and Cooke's combined play forcing Hogsberg and Vest into errors.

Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt won the Ladies Doubles crown beating Elena Timina and Nicola Deaton 9 and 13.

The combination of Timina's defence and Deaton's attacking shots held the favourites for a while, but in the end England's pairing of Lomas and Holt ran out comfortable winners.

Earlier the men's groups saw many top players in opposition where Bradley Billington went out to Alex Perry following a very tight battle.

Round one saw the exit of Richard Hyacinth losing to Adrian Dixon, who in turn was beaten by Peniel's Andrew Eden. Chris Sladden beat Norway's Lasse Holm and Michael O'Driscoll took out Norway's Stian Winther.

Thierry Cabrera, the No. 1 seed comfortably went through to the quarters with straight wins and so did No 2. seed Alan Cooke, Philippe Saive (Belgium), Des Douglas (Wa), Eugenij Brainin (Russia) and Colum Slevin (Ireland).

Douglas beat Cooke 15-15, Saive 19-19 over Brainin Slevin 30-15 against Perry and the match of

Words by Ron Mackenzie and Ruth Gibson
Pictures by John F.A.Wood

Jubilant Matthew Syed and Elena Timina with their singles trophies, whilst pictured below is ETTA President Johnny Leach with singles finalists Philippe Saive (left) of Belgium and Matthew Syed.
THE weekend officially started on Friday evening with an international match staged at Peniel Academy between England and France.

The French team was Olivier Marmurek and Didier Mommessin and England Alan Cooke and Matthew Syed. Alan failed to appear and his place was taken by Jonathan Taylor.

In the first singles Taylor played Marmurek and never seemed to be able to reach the standard he can play. He played very tentatively throughout the first game and the Frenchman took this easily with some fine attacking. The second game was identical to the first and Marmurek took this 21-13.

Matthew Syed came next against Didier Mommessin and with a mixture of defence and attack when required took the first 21-13. Didier came more into the next game and Matt had to rely on his defensive skills in order to sustain the Frenchmans attack. Rallies became very long and tactical but Matt managed to get there 21-17.

The doubles were a complete fiasco with the English team losing the first 21-3. There were innumerable errors in the next game, most coming from the English pair and although play was even throughout the game the French took this 21-17 Taylor was next out against Didier Mommessin and played better, he tightened his game up and with a good attacking flair came good, 21-17. He lost the second game 21-19 with some inspired play coming from the Frenchman. Didier took the final game 21-18 after some good play. Taylor was 7-1 ahead at the start but eventually made some unforced errors and let his opponent in.

The final match with France already holding a 3-1 lead, saw Matthew take on Olivier Marmurek. The Frenchman was held to 9-7 and then his attack just went right through his English opponent and he stormed to a 21-10 win. Matt composed himself for the second game and his defensive play was brilliant. Olivier was hitting the ball hard but Matt was not troubled and levelled with a 21-12 win. The final game saw Oliver hitting very strongly and he went

LADIES DOUBLES
A. Holt (La) L. Lomas (Bo) bt N. Deaton (Dy), E. Timina (Rus) 9.13

MENS DOUBLES
A. Cooke (Eng) D. Douglas (Wa) bt K. Hogbergs (Den) B. Vest (Den)

LADIES SINGLES - SEMI FINALS
E. Timina bt A. Holt 17.20
A Gordon (Bk) bt L Lomas 20.10

FINAL
E. Timina bt A. Gordon 14.17

MENS SINGLES - SEMI FINALS
M Syed (Ire) bt C. Slevin (Ire) 11.15
P Saive (Bel) bt D. Douglas 21.13.12

FINALS
M. Syed bt P. Saive
into a 6-2 lead but Matt pulled back to 10-10. He then took the lead and started to get his attack going. The Frenchman played very well and one rally went to 16 shots - but Matt pulled the plug on him 21-16.

ENGLAND V FRENCH RESULTS
Taylor v Mommessin 12-21, 13-21, 14-21
Syed v Mommessin 21-13, 21-17, 1-1
Syed Taylor v Mommessin Mommessin 3-21, 17-21 1-2,
Taylor v Mommessin 21-15, 19-21, 18-21 1-3
Syed v Mammurek 10-21, 21-12, 21-16, 2-3.

Team Event
In the magnificent Brentwood International Centre - the brilliant organisation of Dick Roffe had set the stage for one of the most prestigious and well supported open events in the country. Ably supported by referee Peter Roden and his deputies, Phil Gower and Val Rolfe and a fine crew of officials and umpires we were all waiting for the off, but unfortunately there were a few mutterings prior to the international team events starting concerning illegal glue substances being used on the bats of some of our foreign visitors, mainly from France and Belgium and this had to be investigated by the referee. It was decided by Peter that as at this stage there had been no official complaints made the team, the tournament should be allowed to progress with the situation very closely. It was at the semi-final stage when France were due to play England and Belgium to meet Grove that the event turned into a complete and utter shambles by official complaints that the players of France and Belgium were using a banned substance on their bats.

England accused France of using illegal glue on their bats and when approached by the referee, Mr Peter Roden, they eventually admitted that this was the case and were immediately disqualified from the tournament. Grove threw the same accusation at Belgium, who strongly denied this. Once again the referee was called and upon investigating the event and interviewing players concerned, decided there was insufficient evidence to prove Grove's accusation and therefore he would have to allow the match to continue. Grove immediately withdrew from the tournament and England, now becoming Belgium's opponents in the final, did likewise.

It appears sportsmanship is becoming less evident, amongst some of the top players who feel their own satisfactions have to be complied with in order for table tennis to take place regardless of sponsorship and spectators. I have no doubt this could affect future sponsorship with Stafford Charles Ltd who had agreed to assist us on a long term basis. Should this be the case there are bound to be repercussions, and quite rightly so.

Didier Mommessin of France who had to withdraw from the Mens Singles on Sunday, due to instructions from his Association.

In the groups Ireland lost to Switzerland 3-0, but did well to beat Switzerland 3-0. In group 1 Belgium beat Switzerland 3-0, group 2 saw England beating Belgium 3-1 and Group 2 saw England beating Belgium 3-1. Group 3 had France beat Grove II 3-0 and Peniel 3-0, Peniel beat Grove 2-1. Group 4 had Grove I beating Peniel II 2-1 and Denmark 2-0, Belgium beat Peniel 3-0.

Belgium were awarded the title due to both Grove I and England refusing to play against them.

Comment on the Glue Rumpus at Brentwood by John Woodford of The Daily Telegraph

JOURNALISTS at Brentwood were told that the organizers took ample precautions before the tournament with faxes to the foreign associations, warning them of the strict glue regulations in force in England.

Although the entente cordiale between the French and England national - is good enough to produce a marriage - Fiona and Didier Mommessin - this was the second time in three years that the French team has been at the centre of a dispute at Brentwood - there were problems of who qualified in 1991.

There was and still is a feeling that had England manager Don Parker been present he would have directed his men to play on and they would have done so.

The crowds who came to watch the action - 500 at Brentwood - and the sponsors of the two remaining five-star events - Brentwood and Middlesbrough - do not deserve this sort of farce. There is a large section of opinion who will lay the blame on the ETFA National Council for trying to rush the rest of the world into the immediate glue ban last January when it was not realistic and not possible for the trade and the players to change overnight. No player has died or as far as is known, has become permanently ill through using glue over two decades. Reasonable time should therefore have been given by England to change to the alternative of double-sided adhesive film. It seems highly unlikely that England is right and the rest of the world is wrong.
Two awards for Dick Roffe

Dick Roffe of Essex received two surprise awards at the Peniel 5 Star tournament in September, firstly he was presented with a beautiful cut glass decanter by Peniel on the Saturday, then on the Sunday he received the coveted ETTA Merit Award for 40 years Service to table tennis from ETTA President Johnny Leach, after the Mens Singles final between Matthew Syed and Philippe Saive. Writes Ruth Gibson.

His 40 years service to table tennis makes an impressive list starting in the 1952/3 season when he was a Barking and District League committee member, where he held the post of Junior Match Secretary and other positions. Plus he represented the League as County representative.

Sketchy details only for few years. Coached younger members played and organised local leagues championships.

By 1961 played at North Ilford in Ilford League, founder member of Redbridge Sports Centre. Organised league championships and coached youngsters.

In 1964/5 he was introduced to the Barking Committee ("There are some really nice people I would like you to meet - bring your book - you can take the minutes!") said a kindly soul. Stayed involved with the Barking Committee until he moved to Thurrock. (Life Member, Barking).

Whilst in Thurrock he ran the ECTTA club - Played representative matches, coached the youngsters - Qualified as a Coach and Umpire. Ran the local championships - Played in Basildon and Southend and helped out in their championships. Helped organise the Times Superleague at Chadwell St. Mary for the County. Sat on Thurrock Sports Council to improve table tennis in area. Sports Personality of the year 1976. Life Member of Thurrock Table Tennis League.

Liaison Officer at World Championships in Birmingham 1977 and in 1979 was hospitality/Liaison Manager for Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh.

Also in 1979 he received Corti Woodcock Award from County, the highest award in Essex for administration.

Helped organise Scottish Open at Meadowbank. Assisted in the negotiations for sponsorship from Barclays Bank for Essex to promote their 3 Star, and helped to retain 3 star status when threatened.

Umpired at World Student Games in Cleveland and at the First World Championships for Disabled at Stoke Mandeville and subsequently at other championships there. (English/European)

Organised at Mini Olympics for Mentally Handicapped both at table tennis and other sports, and organised the Essex/Peniel 5 stars, and is a Life Member Essex County Table Tennis Association.

Over the year has played in East London, Barking, Ilford, Becontree, Dagenham, Romford, Brentwood, Thurrock, Basildon and Southend Leagues.

Pictured above Dick Roffe with the beautiful cut glass decanter, he received from Peniel, whilst below Dick accepts his ETTA Merit Award from ETTA President Johnny Leech.
Sky and Des became a team

The team was complete, two players who are great friends and have travelled the world playing for England had combined to have a very positive input into table-tennis in our country.

Sky and Des are really excited about the future and have plans that are already in motion including a catalogue that will be called Des Douglas Table Tennis DDTT, which will promote mainly Stiga, and the signings of top junior stars Steve Meedings and Darren Blake. Des says "We want to help the young players as much as we can, obviously that can only be done if we make money but our main objective is to encourage an environment where kids want to play table tennis and can see a light at the end of the tunnel." Stiga in this country has truly come into a new era or as they say in their catch phrase 'A New Generation'; new distributors players and products including an exciting new blade called 'The Ultimate Wood' which has a completely new feel, Syncro and Mendo rubbers which are used by Des Douglas, Sky Andrew and Peter Karlsson. Sky says "It is important that we all pull together to promote our game. Kids are our future and it is imperative that they are set fair and healthy standards and that is what we aim to do. Likewise, to the market and we will applaud any other brand that promotes table tennis and gives something back, to the game.

Any clubs requiring sponsorship assistant should write to:
Sponsorship Des Douglas Table Tennis, P.O. Box 3522, London E18 2DZ. Tel/Fax: 081-532 9006

DES DOUGLAS JOINS STIGA AND SKYLET ANDREW IS NOW DISTRIBUTOR

England stars Skylet Andrew and Des Douglas are the new distributors for Stiga Competition products in the UK and both players will be sponsored by Stiga for at least the next 3 years. Sky, who has been with Stiga for over 8 years, was offered the agency in the summer and after frantic discussions and meetings he decided that it was better if he did it rather than let a company with no interest in table-tennis handle things. Then Des agreed terms with Stiga and decided to have a part in the business side as well as the playing side.

Des Douglas Table Tennis
A New Generation Stiga
PO Box 3522, London E18 2DZ Tel/Fax: 081 532 9006

OPEN SPECIAL OFFERS

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OTHER BRANDS

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Sale ends 31st October

CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO: SKYLET ANDREW LIMITED
The toughest job in table tennis

Clive Oakman has one of the toughest jobs in table tennis - at least until next Easter. For him, as Championships Director for Euro 94 he is the key player responsible for pulling all the strings together to make it the most successful event ever. It is an unenviable task but if anyone can do it, Clive can, writes Jim Beckley.

Clive began playing youth club table tennis at the age of 14. Turned to cycling for a while before returning to become league secretary for the Burnham and District League. Seven years in table tennis business came to an end last year when he took up the job of National Events Manager for the Association.

Married with two daughters, his wife Chris finished her first London Marathon this year in the commendable time of 4 hours 58 minutes and feels she could have gone faster. But Euro 94 is a massive undertaking by any standards and to make sure the job is done properly he has had to move away from home and take up offices in Birmingham. Along with secretary/PA Lyn Cupples he is coordinating the 1001 things that will make or mar the most important tournament in the world next year.

A typical day in the life of Clive’s busy schedule includes negotiating contracts with the NIA, dealing with trade exhibitors, meeting officials of local leagues, talking to sponsors and television people and being available at all hours, literally.

He recently had to stay up half the night just to receive an assignment of thousands of leaflets, so as to save on delivery costs. It’s a 60 hour week that will roll on until the end of April next year.

But at the end of the day the sport should benefit enormously. “These championships will provide the sport with a vast awareness not achieved since the World Championships almost 20 years ago. But unlike then, we have the Join a Table Tennis Club campaign, Woolwich Junior League programme and Focus Sport as well as ten regional development officers in place which should provide positive benefits,” says Clive.

He added: “The publicity from TV alone may well enable us to get more sponsorship not just for the association but for leagues throughout the country.”

That publicity machine has already moved into gear. Thousands of leaflets and newsletters have been distributed around the world. Already we know that people as far away as China are talking about Euro 94. “The aim is to make sure it is the biggest and best European Championships ever. We already know that China is sending a delegation to spend the entire eleven days here. They have been impressed with what they have heard and seen already so are sending a team to check out how we do it. Clearly they are hoping to pick up some ideas for the world championships in Tianjin in 1995.”
 Even stronger squad

CHAMPIONS BFL Grove, seem to have an even stronger squad of players this season despite the loss of Nicky Mason, England International, Alan Cooke, has been signed during the closed season along with the Russian player, Evgenii Brainin. Both of them played in the opening match against Bathwick Tyres along with Desmond Douglas, Chris Oldfield and Steve Ward who played in the doubles set. Needless to say BFL Grove ran out 14-0 winners.

Supported by Schildkrot

all three of his singles as Vymura edged home 8-6.

Yet another new signing, Euan Walker, turned out for Sedgefield District when they visited newly promoted Horsham Angels and he also won his three singles in his first match. With Bradley Billingdon and John Hilton also in form the North Eastern side took both points with a 10-4 scoreline.

It was good to see Adrian Dixon back in action for Olton and Wight. Warwick and they started the new campaign in Division One North with a 6-2 home win over Ruston Marconi, Lincoln. Dixon took one set, but Andrew Rich and Barry Johnson were both unbeaten with Johnson taking the 'Player of the Match' award.

BFL Grove II were able to turn out a very strong team led by England International Mike O'Driscoll and ran out 7-1 winners away to British Gas CMK.

O'Driscoll, however, did not have things all his own way when he was pushed to the limit by Ian Musk with the England player only just winning the third end 21-19.

Derek Munt was voted player of the match as Humberside got off to a great start with a 7-1 home win against Cheltenham whilst the local derby between City of Sunderland and Sedgefield District ended up 5-3 in favour of the Sedgefield side.

OLOP Table Tennis Club of Reading made a good start to life in the First Division with a 5-3 home win over Graham Spice Larkhall. New signing, John Stoter, won both of his singles and was well supported by Eddie Hatley who also won two. Tony Duffield weighed in with one to give OLOP their first points in the First Division. DFL Grove III made a winning start by winning 6-2 away to Rejects whilst the Welsh side, Briar Colley Toyota, had a similar score at home to ESG Brentwood.

Levis Westfield, Leicester Lions, and Uxbridge Burton all started with victories in Division 2.
score there were some very close and exciting sets in this one. Farhat Rasul and Peter Harry were both unbeaten for JAGS who defeated newly promoted Team Peniel second team 6-2 whilst Pillinger Air (Croydon) had Martin Lowe and Henry Buist to thank for their 6-2 home win against Norwich Todd Foxwood. Newly promoted Ashford played a 4-4 draw away to Fellow Cranleigh thanks mainly to Justin Goodall who won both of his sets.

In Division 2 South West there were only two matches played on the opening day and both of these ended up all square. DML White Hart Launceston II looked well set to get both points away to BFL Grove Colts when they held a 3-1 lead, but the Colts hit back strongly to lead 4-3 before Launceston won the final set of the day to share the points. Kingshurst Briber fought back from 3-0 and 4-2 down to gain a 4-4 draw away to Amity Generation Fareham.

Unfortunately the match between VRS Fareham and Horsham Angels II was not played due to a car accident involving the Horsham Angels players. Nobody was seriously injured, but two of the players were badly affected by shock and the car was very badly damaged.

Newcomers, Gridine St. Neots., made an excellent start in Division 3 East with a 6-2 home win over Chelmsford League, but fellow newcomers, Peterborough, went down by the same score to Fellows Cranleigh II. Brent Juniors picked up two points on the opening day with a 6-2 win away to BFL Grove IV, but victories by Andy Stokes and Claire Marshall in the last two sets of the day gave the home side a share of the points. There was another draw when AALCO Leeds entertained newcomers Uxbridge Button II. It was another case of the newcomers looking likely to take both points with a 4-2 lead and having to settle for a draw but Julian Gittens and Paul Clarkson continued the day for the home side.

Newcomers, Gridine St. Neots., played in Division 3 South with a 5-3 victory away to Crusaders Lincoln.

Barclays Bank, virtually the former Wellingborough side that played in Division 1, looked to be far too strong for Division 3 South and an all round performance from John Kitchener, Andy Withers, Mark Randle and Andy Edmonds gave them an 8-0 success in their first game when their luckless opponents were Rejects II. Ellenborough started with a 5-3 home win against Linda Farrow II whilst Adeyfield Neighbourhood Association and Graham Spicer Larkhall II shared the points in a 4-4 draw at Hemel Hempstead.

**FRIENDLY HOTELS BRITISH LEAGUE RESULTS 19 SEPTEMBER 1993**

**PREMIER DIVISION**

Policy Plus St. Neots 5 9 DML White Hart Launceston I
Bathwick Tyres I 5 9 Sedgefield District I
Team Pennel I 9 5 Horsham Angels I
Vymura International I 2 12 BFL Grove I

**DIVISION 1 NORTH**

Olton & West Warwick 8 0 Cheltenham Saracens
British Gas CMK 4 4 Sedgefield District II
Briber Humberside 4 4 City Sunderland
Ruston Marconi Lincoln 2 8 BFL Grove II

**DIVISION 1 SOUTH**

OLOP I 3 5 BSG Brentwood I
Rejects I 2 6 Ediscun
Graham Spicer Larkhall I 0 8 BFL Grove III

**DIVISION 2 NORTH**

Leicester Lions 5 3 Uxbridge (Burton) I
Levi Westfield 2 6 Darwen
City of Leeds 0 0 No Result Vale Royal Warrington
Vymura International II 7 1leckie

**DIVISION 2 SOUTH EAST**

Linda Farrow I 4 4 Norwich Todd Foxwood I
JAGS 4 4 Norwich Todd Foxwood I
Fellows Cranleigh 2 6 Pillinger Air (Croydon)
Syng Hall 7 1 Team Pennel II

**DIVISION 3 SOUTH WEST**

VRS Fareham 3 5 DML White Hart Launceston II
Bathwick Tyres II 3 5 Sedgefield District I
BFL Grove Colts 7 1 Horsham Angels II
Horsham Angels II 8 2

**DIVISION 3 EAST**

Griffine St. Neots 2 6 BFL Grove IV
BSG Brentwood II 7 1 Horsham Angels II
Fellows Cranleigh II 3 5 Britshna Ipswich
Chelmsford League 2 6 No Result Brent Juniors

**DIVISION 3 MIDLAND**

Bromsgrove 3 5 DML White Hart Launceston III
Bathwick Tyres III 4 4 Sedgefield District II
Briber Colley Toyota II 2 6 BFL Grove I
Horsham Angels III 3 5

**DIVISION 3 NORTH**

Co-op 2 6 Moorland Seawards (Blackpool)
Uxbridge (Burton) II 2 6 Sedgefield District III
BFL Grove IV 3 5 Crusaders Lincoln
Drumchapel Glasgow 7 1 AALCO Leeds

**DIVISION 3 SOUTH**

Adeyfield N.A. 2 6 Rejects II
WITTHE Boxun Jee Grp 5 3 Linda Farrow II
Barclays Bank 7 1 Ellenborough II

Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly
The Experts’ Expert; The Writers’ Writer
(With acknowledgement to the ‘Observer’)

On the same lines as ‘The Coaches’ Coach’ (see in earlier editions), I asked some leading table tennis scribes to ponder on their literary peers and significant others, who had in some way been influences, sources of inspiration or encouragement, or simply were people they admired. There were again, of course other writers I would have loved to have interviewed - former ‘Table Tennis News’ editor for many years, George Yates, who was unfortunately unwell; Ron Craydon, the other tennis historian; and longtime Yorkshire, columnist, Rea Balmford, for example - but there had to be limits. As it is I interviewed 13 subjects and - table tennis journalists being writers and me being a sympathetic non-brutal editor - some of the transcripts go on a bit! But I believe what they have to say makes good and interesting reading.

W.rites Ken Muhr

The Experts’ Expert; The Writers’ Writer
Ruth Cleminson married Sean Gibson in September

Teresa Moore married Jeremy Bennett in May
COACHING

Rome wasn't built in a day

THE new Coaching Committee has met and various areas of the National Coaching Scheme were seen as being in need of an overhaul. Writes Gail McCulloch.

Obviously Rome wasn't built in a day and so certain priorities will have to be set, including the following (but in no particular order):

a) Each Region to produce an up to date list of active coaches. This information to be stored on computer, and used as a back up for new coaches.
b) The manual to be updated. This will probably be in 2 sections - basic and advanced.
c) Coaching course content to be standardised and assessment procedures to be altered to improve the quality of coaches.
d) Centres of excellence to be under tighter control in terms of the coaches programmes and the players commitment and learning structure.
e) Advanced players to be monitored in terms of their practice/training opportunities.

National Trials
THE Junior National Trials will be played at Whitchurch Sports Centre, Bristol on December 19th (Jr Boys, Cadet girls) and December 20th (Jr Girls, Cadet boys).
There will be 192 competitors (JB-64, JG 48, CB 48 and CG-32). In the 2 junior events the top 4 competitors will be invited to play in the Junior Masters on December 29th and 30th.
Entry into the trials is via qualification at Regional level except for the top ranked players who have an automatic qualification.

Regional Coaching Chairman
APOLOGIES to Campbell Eaton (N. West) Beron Walker (Yorks) for the omission of their photos in the last issue of TT News. Unfortunately they were absent when the photos were taken, but this does not mean that coaching is not alive and well in those areas.

Coaching Awards
THE awards have been restructured and renamed as follows:
a) Coaching Award (Short introduction)
b) Sports Leaders Award/ Teachers Award (12 hour training)
c) Coach - Level 2 (12 hours theory plus 12 hours practical)
d) Coach - Level 3 (12 hours theory plus 3 four hour National Coaching Foundation Courses)
e) Coach - Level 4 (senior)
Euro Coaching Course
THIS is a must for all coaches who wish to keep up to date with modern techniques and training methods. Application forms are available from Jill Parker.

Coaching Administration
REGRETTABLY we said goodbye to Bethan Davies, our coaching administrator, at the end of September. Bethan has been with the ETTA for 15 years. However, the lure of the green, green grass of home has tempted her to return to Wales. We will miss her and send her our best wishes.
Meanwhile, all coaching matters will be administered by Jill Parker in Preston.
spend as a lecturer in PE at a Teacher Training College in his native Northumberland. A bad injury compelled him to relinquish this line of country and return to normal teaching. In 1961 he became Headmaster of Moor Grange High School, Leeds, where table tennis became a major sport. The perimen- 

tored the 'Centre of Excellence' for table tennis ran under the auspices of the Sports Council. Tom Matthews was a distinguished Headmaster and held in the highest possible esteem by the L.E.A., staff, pupils and parents during his 17 years at Moor Grange. He was Chairman of the English School's Table Tennis Association from 1972 until 1978 when at the age of 64 he retired from teaching. He was then elected President of the Association and continued to serve in that office until 1989. He was not part of the ESSTA in its first few formative years but was a senior officer during its development years. He saw the inauguration of both the Individual and International Competitions for school children.

His wise counsel and knowledge welded together the Executive Committee of the Association - school teachers from all parts of the country. He led by example and determination. A series of serious heart operations did not deter his endeavours.

After his retirement from full time teaching Tom actively encouraged schools and organisations to participate in table tennis. He lectured to students at Carnegie College in Leeds, promoted 'table tennis rallies' in his area and arranged demonstrations in Junior, Middle and High schools throughout the country. Almost every day of every year Tom, among the table tennis world, saw him in some voluntary activity for the sport of table tennis. His enthusiasm for young people was not channelled entirely into table tennis activities. He was a 'City Challenge' Director for the Outward Bound Trust and a Gold Level Field Assessor for the Yorkshire Dales Expedition Panel of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Tom's funeral took place on 16th August 1993 in Leeds and was attended by representatives of local, county and national table tennis bodies - a sign of the contribution the he had made to sport particularly for the benefit of young people and the high esteem in which he was held by all with whom he worked.

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**Tom Matthews**

TOM MATTHEWS, MA was elected Chairman of the English Schools Table Tennis Association in 1973. He was more than a figurehead at the decision as he had only been a table tennis addict for five years although he was very much a sportsman. He loved the clean blue of a tennis court and played lawn tennis as a student at Bede College, Durham. Immediately after graduating from Durham he took a Diploma in Physical Education at Carnegie College, Leeds, where he played and enjoyed most games.

The 1939 war found him in the Army and after a two year spell with a Parachute Battalion, he returned to the Army Physical Training Corps as a Supervising Officer P.T. in the Mediterranean zone until demobbed in December 1945. Three years were
Bert & Charlie, Sussex Stalwarts

BERT FRETWELL and Charlie Seaman are the senior citizens of Sussex table tennis. As young men in their prime they were a force to be reckoned with at county championships level in those far off days. Wrote John Woodford.

I can just remember Charlie Seaman playing at the Orange Hue Club in Brighton and at the Aquarium playing an avalanche of forehand drives that seemed to me at the time so hard that the balls would frequently disintegrate! He went on to play for England five times under the direction of Victor Barna, after winning at county championships and the Sussex AGM in 1992. He is still President of Sussex and refereeing many other events. He is still President of Sussex and refereeing many other events. He is still President of Sussex and refereeing many other events.

Back from the Desert War, he ran the Mikado Table Tennis saloon in Brighton, a venue that became the venue for visits from a number of international players including Richard Bergmann.

Bert Fretwell has been in the front line of almost everything in Sussex table tennis for past 42 years. The only exception was when he was in the army at the time of Al Alamain - Bert was working in Cairo at the time.

BOOK REVIEW by Paul Tarrant

Know the Game - Table Tennis
Published by A & C Black, London

This book is offered by the publishers, in collaboration with the ETTA, as an introduction to table tennis for the complete beginner.

Many coaches, or indeed more experienced players, might cringe at it's suggestion that you should learn to 'steer' the ball not hit it. In the service one should 'bottom-spin' or 'mixed-spin' the ball (in referring to sidespin). The text suggests a 'chop the topspin' or 'topspin the chop' philosophy on return of service, the push may be taken late to allow more time ... and so on.

Even more confusing, to return a 'mixed-spin' service one apparently has to 'move with the serve' and 'play outside the ball', also for a 'bottom spin' serve that cannot be topspin, "the safest answer is a simple blocking action." Although the text goes on to say that an open flat should be used, the terminology is contrary to present usage and as such could be very confusing.

Critically said, I do like the "Arthur Murray" style of foot diagrams. Equally amusing and seemingly related is the suggestion that you should "take your partner" when practicing 'touch and position' in the gymnasium, or that "you can practice hundreds of touch balls before you even bother a partner!

This book could do with an update on basic techniques. The terminology also needs to be brought more into line with current texts, so as to allow a smooth progression were the reader to attend coaching sessions or to read some of the more technical literature available.

Summarising, a book for the complete beginner with basic some outdated rules and a very simplified "all round" view of the game.

Coaches receiving some of the readers of this book to their sessions will almost certainly have some changes to make.
Kingston Table Tennis Centre

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

The most exciting development in English table tennis for many years has just come to fruition. The new table tennis centre at Kingston was handed over from the contractor, Laing's, to the Milton Keynes Community Trust. It is expected that the Milton Keynes Table Tennis League in the form of a limited company set up for the purpose, will take over responsibility for the building and a full programme of league matches, coaching, practice, and representative games will be arranged, writes Tony Curzon.

Completion of this project marks the culmination of a long period of planning which started in the 1970's when the League Community Fund raised several thousand pounds towards the project which then lay dormant for several years until it was resurrected in 1986. Following visits to other centres such as St. Neots and Elynnshorough a brief was prepared and an approach made to the Development Corporation for funding. During 1988 a marvellous opportunity to provide exactly what the League had hoped for presented itself when the Development Corporation marketed a site at Kingston, in the East Flank of Milton Keynes itself has been expanding rapidly. A shortage of good venues is known to be a major contributory factor in this decline. It is ironic that this should be the case when Milton Keynes plays host regularly to top class events such as European League Matches, the English Closed Championships, National Top 12 tournaments and a National under 21 tournament.

The new Centre should reverse this decline and provide a showcase for the promotion of the sport. Milton Keynes is fast becoming a major regional centre for business, shopping, home and leisure. By the year 2000 it will be one of the largest cities in the UK. The new table tennis centre will have a large potential catchment and is an ideal location close to the M1. It should therefore be able to both benefit from and add to Milton Keynes growing reputation as a modern, progressive City where sport can be performed at the highest level.

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

The Table Tennis Centre is situated within the Kingston District Centre at the junction of H8 Standing Way and V11 Tongwell Street. It is joined by a tail glass atrium to a gymnastics centre which will be run by the Milton Keynes School of Gymnastics. The building is smartly clad in a combination of buff brick and cream coloured panelling. The centre has its own dedicated parking (shared with the gymnastics centre and other community buildings on the site) and is attractively landscaped.

GROUND FLOOR

Entrance lobby with space for circulation contains a kiosk which can be used as a shop for the sale of table tennis equipment and/or as a control point for the building. A main hall measuring 30m x 13m which can accommodate six tables for league play or eight for coaching/practice. Specialist coin-operated lights have been fitted which provide the recommended 350 lux at table level, whilst the background lighting is dimmable to create that big match atmosphere. Walls are dark and non-reflective which gives an airy, spacious feel to the hall. A heating system has been installed to provide a constant 13°C temperature and the ventilation system will provide frequent air changes.

NEED FOR A NEW CENTRE

Table tennis in Milton Keynes has developed over the years, as in most other parts of the country, in a variety of makeshift venues ranging from works canteens to church halls. There has only been one venue devoted exclusively to table tennis - AHW - and whilst the club has produced many good players it is cramped and lacks many modern amenities. If table tennis is to survive in Milton Keynes it will have to compete with other sports in an increasingly sophisticated sports market, good modern facilities are essential. The number of league players in Milton Keynes has declined over the last few years at a time when the population of Milton Keynes itself has been expanding rapidly. A shortage of good venues is known to be a major contributory factor in this decline. It is ironic that this should be the case when Milton Keynes plays host regularly to top class events such as European League Matches, the English Closed Championships, National Top 12 tournaments and a National under 21 tournament.

ROLE OF CENTRE

The Kingston Centre will be able to satisfy a number of important objectives:

- As a purpose-built centre it will provide the proper physical and environmental conditions for the sport which should lead to an improvement in standards.
- Being available exclusively for table tennis it should lead to an expansion of the game locally.
- It will provide an important social and administrative focus for the game locally.
- It will be used for all levels of play including practice, coaching, local league matches, inter-league, British League, domestic and County tournaments. It could also be made available for national squad training and even international matches.

FIRST FLOOR

A viewing gallery with 26 fixed seats overlooking the main hall. Again the lighting is dimmable. Office/committee room for the administration of the Centre's and League's affairs.

Bar/lounge measuring approximately 10m x 5m. This has been fitted with a carpet and down lighting and is ready for the installation of a bar serving, furniture and games machines to create an intimate space which will be the social hub of the building.

Kitchen with a range of fitted kitchen units capable of supplying hot and cold refreshments.

SECOND FLOOR

Operating plant. Space for additional storage of equipment.

MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTRE

A company limited by guarantee has been established in order to run the centre on behalf of the league. A board of directors has been appointed and a lease is being negotiated with the landlord - The Milton Keynes Community Trust.
Chess players

TABLE tennis and chess are two games that have great worldwide popularity. There is a noticeable connection between interest in one of these games and the other. In many instances, and, similarly, one finds that some chess champions do intense table tennis for relief from the stresses of chess activity. The popularity of chess and table tennis for mathematicians is also quite striking.

An entry of this article has been interested in table tennis and chess since the 1960s. Many of his friends who played either game also played the other. Adolf Chess Champion Bobby Fischer (1972-5), U.S.A., Tigran Petrosian, (1963-9) and Alexander Alekhine (1927-36 and 1937-46), Russia, all played table tennis for fun to some extent. When Peter Karlson of the world champion Swedish team was in Illinois, U.S.A, in 1992, I asked him if any of his team-mates were chess players. He said Jan-Ove Waldner and Michael Appelgren played chess.

As table tennis players, Great physicists Niels Bohr (Denmark), Womer Teller’s strength of character, Teller studied for his doctorate under Heisenberg at Leipzig University in the late 20s. Although he had suffered a serious injury from an accident that had cost him a foot, he fought through that handicap to become one of the best table tennis players that the physicist who competed with Heisenberg. Dr. Heisenberg was amazed at this display of Edward Teller’s strength of character.

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South West Region
by Alf Peppard

A few years ago at a British League match when Alex was playing for Bathwick Tyres, I interviewed him for BBC, South and West Radio, one of the questions that I asked him was, what comes first with you, your education or table tennis? I shall not divulge his reply, but, I have no hesitation in saying this - he is I know at the time of writing awaiting his Economic's "A" results, and also working towards his maths and other studies. I fear that ere long, Alex Perry will have to make a rather big decision - that of being a full time T.T. pro player OR going to higher education fields, whatever his choice, I certainly wish him well.

I do not know Lucy Perry well enough to even suggest that perhaps she would even wish to cumulate her famous brother, Alex would indeed be a very hard act to follow and Lucy is still a Cadet Player, least ways at the time of writing she is No. 8 in England as an U12, and 42 as a Cadet Girl. I suspect that when the next ranking lists come out, Lucy will be considerably higher than 42.

And, finally, on this saga of the Perry family, I come to Penny who is currently ranked at No. 3. as a Lady Veteran, with her greatest highlight coming in the English National Championships last March when she beat Margaret Dignum, 17, 15, in the final of the All England Ladies Veteran Championships. This win presented the Perry family with a unique double - mother and son both national champions at the same time, as Sir James Saville would say - "How about that then."

The Perry Family

Southern Region
by Brian Lamerton

MUCH has happened in the south during the "close" season; we have appointed a development officer, the regional plan has been published and we have a new chairman (I refuse to be called a chair, so now you know who the new man is!)

23 years old Stephen Joel, a member of the Chippenham club who has coached junior table tennis at high level and is resident in the region at Windsor has been working in the Sheffield area since graduation from the University of the same city. Stephen took up his post on 6th September and is based at the Sports Council's Reading office. It is Stephen's aim to contact all leagues before Christmas but if you want to speak to him first he will be pleased to hear from you on Reading (0734) 493311.

Approximately one thousand copies of Development Plan have been distributed to counties, leagues, clubs (406 of you), schools and local authorities etc. If by chance you have been missed or require additional copies contact Stephen.

After 12 years as Chairman, since the inception of regional committees, Ray Yates has decided to retire although he will not doubt "pop up" from time to time, possibly as a link with the disabled. Thanks Ray for all your effort; you leave a number of notable legacies not the least of which is the regional league which has kept up its record of increasing in numbers every year; this season we shall have 23 teams in 4 divisions (3 Mens, 1 Ladies). Whilst increasing in teams we have "lost" one club, founder member Amity Generation - thanks for your support and hopefully your absence is only temporary.

In an endeavour to keep up numbers and widen the distribution of "jobs" John Cunningham of Berkshire will take over from myself as Press Officer and Eleanor Hughes (Oxfordshire) has agreed to join us as Womens representative. I am indebted to these two and also to existing officers who have agreed to carry on; Harry Spraggs (Treasurer), Mick Strode (Competition Secretary) and Graham Trimming (League Secretary). Derek Langley, national appointed as Coaching Chairman together with County, Schools and Veteran representatives complete the "squad".

John will take over these notes next month when he will be able to report on the seasons first league matches and also on the 25th September conference at Marlow. I hope that I shall have seen many of you there.

London Region
by John Llewellyn

THE summertime has proved to be highly eventful for table tennis in the London Region. First and foremost was the production of "table tennis Focus Development Plan." The plan gives guidance not only to the way we should be developing table tennis in London but nationally as well. A true blue print for the sport.

Many changes have taken place in the London Region Table Tennis Committee. Formerly known as London and South East. In April they decided to split completely from the South East Region to form two separate bodies. New members to the committee are John Llewellyn press officer, Reg Rockall coaching chairman (North) and Karen Hammersmith and Fulham and South East.

Grant applications have been going well in the region. Foundation for Sport and the Arts have given grants to Time and Talents TIC in Rotherhithe totalling £7,150, £1,000 to Graham Spicer TIC in New Maldon and £600 to St. Pauls TIC, Wandsworth.

Junior development programmes have been launched in both the West Middlesex and Wandsworth TTL's. New coaching has been generated in the London Boroughs of Croydon, Horbett, Barnet, Haringey, Harrow, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham and Enfield. The biggest success though is that of the £1,000 to Graham Spicer TIC in New Maldon and £600 to St. Pauls TIC, Wandsworth.

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**COUNTY NOTES**

**News from the Counties**

**AVON**

Bob Murray

VERY little to report this month with my only information coming from the Weston-Super-Mare league. Weston have made a net gain of one team this season which has enabled them to restructure their divisions. They now have seven teams in the Premier Division, seven teams in Division one and eight teams in Division two. Teams will play each other three times in each division.

The two new teams in the league are additional sides at Winscombe Lawn Tennis Club and Worle School.

I hear that Chas Devine a stalwart who will be well known across the country has decided to hang up his hat at the age of 76 - we wish him well.

On the county scene we will again be fielding four sides this season: two seniors, one veteran and one junior.

The veterans with new additions Gary Baldwin and Linda Porter may achieve the highest placing although I am more optimistic about our juniors who should be challenging for promotion.

**SUSSEX**

John Woodford

Brighton's Joanna Bush-Harris, 15, can claim to have experienced the toughest group draw in an open tournament for a long time - at the Peniel 5 star at Brentwood in the womens singles group she played Kate Goodall and Nicola Deaton.

A tough draw indeed for Kate and Nicola. Many referees would have slapped one of the two names into the hat when they emerged together, but not Peter Roden, the 'straightest' referee in Britain, who do not play straight bats - on the group draw in an open tournament for a country has decided to hang up his bat at the age of 76 - we wish him well.

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**YORKSHIRE**

Rea Balmford

The Angels were sitting in Scott Greenbrook's car at Horsham waiting to take-off for Peshaw, when they were smashed into by a woman driver allegedly reading a map. Both cars were write-offs, no-one seriously hurt but the players were too shaken to find another vehicle and make the journey. Nigel Thomas was apparently after not losing his match fee. The decision of the league will be made shortly.

**SUSSEX JUNIOR RANKING LISTS:**

1. Paul Butcher
2. Kevin Doyle
3. James Beale
4. Robert Abbotts
5. Marvyn Sims
6. Paul Hancock
7. James Beer
8. Neil Munroe
9. Paul Cunningham
10. Chris Hancock
11. Adam Pavill
12. Harry McCarey
13. Brian O'Connor
14. Jonathan Atkinson
15. Mark Forder
16. Ian Bailey
17. Sarah Seddon
18. Joanna Bush-Harris
19. Clare Brown
20. Sara Coggun

The playing season got under way over the first weekend in September with the Elite 2 Junior Championships at Huddersfield, and the home players were very much to the fore, particularly in the Junior Boys Singles event where three of the four semi-finalists were born in the Broad Acre.

A real thriller saw Bradford's Mark Smith come (past Phil Neal of Hull at 19 in the third in one semi), while Mike James, just out of the Cadets and surely one of Yorkshire's biggest young prospects, got the better of Ian Eston (Ch) in the other.

And there was to be no stopping the boy from unfashionable Bridlington at this stage, and using all the 'know-how' he has assimilated in a summer much of which has been spent in representative play - World Schools Championships, European Cadet 'Six Nations' and finally the European Youth Championships in Lubiana, he ran out 22, 17 winner.

Concecision for the losers came in the Elite Class 2 Singles with a three set victory over top Scot Stewart Crawford, while in the parallel Cadet Elite Class 2 Darren Ashall (Wakefield) took the title with a win over Robert Scrossens (Dv) and added the Cadets Boys Doubles in tandem with Derbyshire's boy Michael Northwood.

Nicola Smith (Leeds) and the unlisted Emma Smith (Selby) were runners up in the Junior Girls and Cadet Girls Singles respectively - with the title going to top seeds Nicola Denton (Dy) and Debbie Pentik (Ng), while Emma also reached the Doubles final with Charlotte Spink (Leeds), only to finish on the losing side once again to Joanna Barradough (Co) and Laven Lockwood (Ch).

By the time these notes go into print the Yorkshire League, which provides top class competition for teams across the County from Northallerton in the north to Sheffield in the south, and Halifax on the Lancashire border to Scarborough on the North Sea Coast, will be under way.

Men's Premier division, ladies, Junior and Cadet will again be run on a 'central venue' basis, with Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Scarborough and York hosting matches, thus allowing all teams to play two matches on each scheduled date and reduce both travelling time and costs.

**PLEASE NOTE**

Would County correspondents please note that in future would they please send their copy for County Notes to:

John Wood, 5 The Brackens, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 5JG.

Scottish Provident General Manager Geoff Johnson hands over the Friendly Hotels British League sponsorship cheque to O.L.O.P. secretary John Cunningham.
and Lewis Sibet (Worce) have informed a second British League team within Worcestershire. Bromsgrove take their place in Midland Division 3 and their home venue will be Droitwich Sports and Leisure Centre. The team will play against our other side Hawthorn CC and expect to do well in the division.

There is quite a lot of activity in Worcestershire on the development scene. A regional centre of excellence will be set up at Christchurch Whitehead School starting this month.

Carne Hunt, who started playing at Christchurch Whitehead School, performed very well in the recent home international table tennis championships in Perth, Scotland. Teams competed from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man. Carne played her part in helping the English team to win the under 18 girls team championships. She then teamed up with Nicola Meddings of Staffordshire for the doubles competition and played well to reach the final. Unfortunately they were beaten 21-16 in the third to Natasha Williams, the top ranked senior woman in Wales and Menni Davies.

**KENT**

Adrian Hall

A capacity crowd of over 400 were entertained all to that is best in table tennis when Kent and China met in a table tennis extravaganza supported by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge.

**Kent v China**

The Chinese training practice of multiball rarely seen in the country was brilliantly demonstrated to the crowd by two of Kent's top junior players. Christian Thompson and Crystal Hall who had trained to play the system in China last Summer.

Two special challenge matches brought the crowd to its feet with an array of dazzling attacking and defensive shots. Sean Gowan (England No. 8) lost to coach Li Hao Song (former Chinese No. 3) 18-21, 19-21, 21-15, 19-21. Skyler Andrew (England No. 7) was the sole winner when he beat best defensive skills of Bei Fon 21-15, 21-19 with a combination of comedy and brilliant loop drives.

**Medway v China**

Following the tremendous success of the Kent v China match the Medway v China followed supported by Gillingham Borough Council at the Black Lion, Sports Centre, Gillingham, was again well supported.

Result: Medway 0 - China 3

**Chinese Turn on the Lights**

The Landfield Club played host three times to the Chinese during their stay in Kent, on their last visit coach Wang Da Zhi and county chairman Roy Thompson were able to officially switch on the club's new halogen lights. The lights and installation were partly paid for by an ETTA grant.

**Chinese Ambassadors**

The guests from China have made many friends in the county during their August stay. As hosts of the Thompsons, Hall and Shetley, they have bought a new dimension to our families and friends in terms of culture, food and understanding.

Truly the Chinese have been great ambassadors for both table tennis and their country.

**Maidstone Teams**

Beaten in National Final

There are very few occasions when one league can boast two teams in a national final but that is just what Maidstone can boast as both their girls and boys cadet teams won through to the national team event finals at Grantam.

The girls team of Allison Smith, Rachel Wollfe and Jude Shetley lost 5-0 to Leeds.

Scott Friday managed Maidstone's only victory for the boys as they lost 5-1 to the more experienced team from Chesterfield. Antony Lickfold and Jon Cheng made up the Maidstone team.

**Season 1993/4 Kent Junior Rankings**

**Junior Boys**

1. Glen Ritchie  
2. Christian Thompson  
3. Paul Smith  
4. Christopher Hall  
5. Ben McCarthy  
6. Scott Dawson  
7. Allister McTavish  
8. Scott Friday  
9. Lee Howes  
10. Lee Smith

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**COUNTY NOTES**

**HERTFORDSHIRE**

John Wood

David Edwards of Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire has recently been selected to umpire at the European Table Tennis Championships to be held in Birmingham from 24th March to 4th April 1994.

David began umpiring in 1986 at the age of 22 after realising that he would probably not attain the standard required for a County player, although still wanting to be involved in table tennis at the highest level.

He began umpiring junior, junior and veteran county matches, then in 1989, he wanted to go further and include National tournaments. The number of tournaments increased each year and now he awaits over 25 tournaments a year which take him as far apart as Hastings in the South to Staffordshire for the doubles championships at the age of 27 he became the youngest National Umpire on the scene. A regional centre of excellence will be set up at Christchurch Whitehead School starting this month.

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**WORCESTERSHIRE**

Steve Horton

At the time of compiling this report we are awaiting the commencement of a new season at league and county level.

It is worth pointing out that the county first team will play against the second team in the same division. The first team are all established players owning the top places in the county. The second team, by comparison, has seen many changes over the past few seasons with the policy of introducing younger players. There has been some discussion about the merit of trials, league performance or the policy of introducing younger players.

Mike Brown lost to Wu Cun Jian. 15-21, 19-21

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BERKSHIRE

With the new season just around the corner all the local leagues are well into their 1993/94 preparations. A final look last season, in the Newbury league Thatcham 'A' chasing their fifth successive title were pipped at the final hurdle by Thatcham 'B'. However it was some 'D' team including Dave Reeves, Darren Jones and Janet Parker.

The Newbury and District League celebrated their 60th Anniversary this coming season and plans are already in hand to celebrate the occasion.

Maidenhead and District, Reading and District and Bracknell and District champions were Our Lady of Peace TCC. The club also won the respective handicap in each league thus achieving their best ever season. As the treble is unlikely to ever happen again a claim has been made to the Guinness Book of Records for entry. The county front the highlight was the Southern Region League and the Bracknell and District League, are once again sponsored by major Environment company 'Ariel'. Our Lady of Peace TCC have received major sponsorship from Butterfly and Scottish Provident at British League and Southern Region level and support from Thatcham Company 'Target Steel' in the Maidenhead League and Reading Youth Division. Wokingham Hotel, St. Anne's Manor agreed to sponsor the O.L.O.P. teams in the newly named, Bracknell Wokingham and District League.

Stop Press - Sponsorship

The very existence of some clubs in local table tennis is determined by 'Sponsorship' SSV, who play in the Southern Region League and the Bracknell and District League, are once again sponsored by major Environment company 'Ariel'. Our Lady of Peace TCC have received major sponsorship from Butterfly and Scottish Provident at British League and Southern Region level and support from Thatcham Company 'Target Steel' in the Maidenhead League and Reading Youth Division. Wokingham Hotel, St. Anne's Manor agreed to sponsor the O.L.O.P. teams in the newly named, Bracknell Wokingham and District League.

ESSEX

Stephen Kerns

News has filtered through from the Thurrock league of a new addition to their league of team of handicapped people to play in their third division, they will be playing under the name of Thurrock Wheelers and they are recipients of a grant from the Thurrock Sports Council to assist them in paying for their venue the Tilbury Leisure Centre. At the leagues AGM it was unanimously agreed that they be allowed to play all their matches at home, as the leisure centre is best equipped to cope with their needs.

The league has also agreed that all matches in their division should be made up of nine singles, as they cannot play doubles. Their team captain is John Barton, a wheelchair athlete of some note who recently threw an East of England Javelin record of 21.95 metres in the recent Wickford Games. League Secretary Greta Baker reports that the league is delighted to have such an enthusiastic group of people as new entrants, and wonders if they are the only team comprised of wheelchair competitors competing in an Open League in the country.

Inter-league supremo Roy Franklin has reported an entry of 121 teams this year, seven down on last year. All leagues have entered except Silvertown making sixteen in all. Dagenham dominated proceedings last year winning the premier league in the men, ladies, mixed and veterans categories and will be out to defend their titles.

The Chelmsford league, which has retained its eight division for the past five years looks like seeing a real dogfight to capture its first division title this year. Last years champions ECCB (Dave Cole, Rick James, Simon Woods, Andy Walder and Shelley Rucoo) have interleague competition from OCs A (Martin Cole, Steve Bond, Mike Hayes and Steve Northcott) and the return of a full-strength Maldon A side of Dave Newman, Dave Bowlers, Steve Dettmar, Stuart Gibb and Dave McElroy.

Dates for the diary include the Essex Junior Open tournament on 27th/ 28th November 1993 at the Harlow Sports Centre. The Junior team this year has to say goodbye to the two lads the British National League. His only worry is which of his talented juniors winning division one, and Peter tells me that he has high hopes of lifting the Premier this season. 

DERBYSHIRE

Collin Deaton

The Table Tennis calendar opens in Derbyshire with the news that our own Alan Cooke is to be based in England, at least for this season.

"Cookie" who has spent the last two seasons playing in Sweden was missed in our county during this period and the news of him being around in our area is perhaps just the shot in the arm that Derbyshire needs.

We are quite keen to field our strongest county team this season being promoted last season to the NCC premier division.

If we can get our strongest teams out which would give us the choice from Alan Cooke, Martin Kinaelia, John Holland, Bradley Billing, Steven Shaw, Nicola Deaton and Julie Billington who I am informed is keen to make a comeback after troublesome wrist injury.

Maybe we would not quite have the class to emerge as champions but few would argue that we would indeed be a force to be reckoned with.

At junior level unfortunately our county team has been dropped but it is pleasing to note our young junior players are continuing to make their presence felt nationally.

Our number one cadet player Michael Informational commenced the season with a flourish by winning a double in the Knittlee Open winning the cadet boys singles and cadet boys doubles.

His ambition is to get the English top ranking spot this season and I reckon it is within his capabilities.

I wouldn't go as far as saying he is another "Cookie" but coach Derrick Marsh is very pleased with the progress he is making.

Derbyshire national Councilor Terry Gadley has entered another team in the British National League.

This club, Uddridge of Burton Trent, have lost both Nicola Deaton and Steven Shaw to Grove but the dedicated Terry still hopes to experience some success this year with his national league team.

The Marlowe League Martin Merlins team have won the Derbyshire County Challenge Cup by the slender margin of four points.

They defeated Derby's Sandiacre in a real tense final with the final score down seven to 99 points.

Congratulations to Chesterfield Nicola Deaton on gaining the number one junior spot and also being ranked number five in the senior ladies ranking lists.
Neil Houghton (County Junior Captain) is experiencing some difficulty in getting the necessary commitment from our junior squad competing in the junior divisions. Neil has the full backing of the Derbyshire committee to enforce certain foundations to any youngster who is not prepared to play. Finally, it was a pleasure to read of the recovery Roy Pace, the Eastwood area enthusiast, is making after having an accident.

Roy has produced several young players of note over the year and we hope after a rest he will continue his interest and associations with the game at a local level.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**Alf Peppard**

In last months County news I mentioned events that had taken place in the Cirencester and Stroud League's, this month I shall dwell upon reports from the Cheltenham and Gloucester League's.

Starting with the former association, Cheltenham are spending £2,000 installing top quality lighting for five tables in constant use at St. Benet's School at Arle Road, Cheltenham. St. Benet's has for a very long time provided its venue as a T.T. venue, it has in the past been used for the Gloucestershire Schools' Championship, and also the County Junior events are staged there regularly every year, and this year I understand is no exception.

I think it possible that the St. Benet's venue with, of course, the full approval of the education authority, might in time, become a T.T. Centre of Excellence, I sincerely hope that it does. St. Benet's is booked for junior coaching. Now what better way of providing for the future of the Cheltenham T.T.A. than that?

Stan Johnstone, for several years the stalwart editor of the League's newsletter. Net and Edge, has handed the editorship over to Graham Slack. Stan now serves the Cheltenham Association as a county representative on the county committee and Graham takes over the role of county general secretary, a mammoth task, and as well as these duties, Graham is also a county selector.

Darren Griffith, the undisputed county No. 1 singles champion and mostly associated with the Hempstead based Wanderers club in Gloucester, has I understand signed on to play for Dowty 1st Division in the Cheltenham League in company with Sylvester Callum, Steve and Alison Cox. I'm sure that Darren will very shortly be making his presence well known. Will he pull out at the end of the season with a 100% singles record? Your guess is as good as mine.

And finally upon Cheltenham, Helen Cox takes over the role of secretary of the association, a job previously held by Sue White, teams in the town's League have increased from 33 to 25.

And the Gloucester T.T.A. AGM a proposal from Dennis Castler from the Rudford club that all divisions for the forthcoming season should consist of eight teams was carried by 16 to 10 votes in favour, each team in all divisions will now play each other three times.

After well over three decades of service as Chairman to the Gloucester Association, Mr. Alan Haines resigned the position to become the Association's new President. Mr. Haines was presented with a silver salver tray in recognition of this service, the presentation was performed by Mr. Norman Saunders on behalf of the entire Gloucester Association.

Mr. Andy Borrow succeeds as the new Chairman - the City Committee remains unchanged apart from Rudforths Colin Bruton becoming a committee member, Colin also represents Glouce city on the County Committee.

City team secretary, Ray Marshall informs me that he hopes to enter three teams in the Midland League - a senior team, ladies and junior teams.

Strouds new general secretary Dave Dean will be attending next years European Championships at the Birmingham N.I.A. on a full time basis.

Dave will be assisting Ian McFarlane with the organisation of the championships.

Dave's knowledge of computers came to the notice of Clive Oakman the championship director, and accordingly, Clive snapped Dave up.

Dave Dean has also taken on the role of Tournament Secretary/Organiser for the Gloucester 1 Star Graded tournament to be played on March 12th next year.

The County Selectors have released the following 1st half rankings for season 1993/94

**Senior Men**

1. Darren Griffin (G)
2. Dave Harvey (C)
3. Graham Slack (C)
4. Ray Powell (C)
5. Bill Dawe (C)
6. Dennis Holland (C)
7. Sylvester Callum (C)
8. Lawrence Symonds (G)

**Senior Women**

1. Judy Morley (C) FR
2. Heather Tyers (C)
3. Angela Bratow (C)
4. Alison Cox (C)
5. Julie Taylor (C)
6. Jacqui Carver (C)
7. Liz Johnson (CIR)
8. Kimberley Sible (G)

**Veteran Men**

1. Dave Harvey (C)
2. Dennis Holland (C)
3. Roy Powell (C)
4. Roy Morley (FR)
5. John Fannin (C)
6. Alan Giles (S)
7. Peter Wood (C)
8. Rob Whilier (S)
9. Rob Wilsher (S)
10. Steve Coox (C)

**Veteran Women**

1. Judy Morley (C)
2. Julie Taylor (C)
3. Sheila Matthews (C)
4. Roy Rose (S)
5. Vivien Hathaway (G)
6. June Hall (C)
7. Barbara Davis (C)
8. Ann Smith (G)

**Junior Boys**

1. Jon Robert (C)
2. Robin Price (G)
3. Arron Morison (C)
4. Martin Ellis (G)
5. Scott Wylie (G)
6. Scott Nicholls (G)

**Junior Girls**

1. Ann Humble (G)
2. Melanie Garlick (G)
3. Emma Parker (S)
4. Suzy Robinson (S)
5. Lynn Holton (CIR)
6. Sarah Dean (S)

**Code: C = Cheltenham, CIR = Cirencester, S = Stroud, G = Gloucester.**

**HAMPSHIRE**

**Brian Lamerton**

Three months on it is difficult to recall why this years AGM lasted so long; obviously a lot of people had a lot to say which is no bad thing.

The only items of contention which I can recall were, should we finance a 4th veteran team which was agree and exception. 4th veteran team which was agree and exception.

Eventually we have increases in the number of county teams and also an increase overall in the inter-town games. This has helped by the continued re-integration of the Isle of Wight who have entered a senior mixed team to add to cadets, juniors and veterans.

The island was also represented at the senior trials when we Roger Hookey caused the major upset of the day after 3 'deuce' games.

We appear to have a well organised and very efficient team management and selection committee this season; trials at all levels being held before the first week in September was out and the following is the result of their deliberations.

**Seniors**

1. Graham Toole
2. Micky Sinnamon
3. Ramesh Bhalla
4. Graham Pointer
5. Roger Hookey
6. Jeremy Wilson
7. Kevin Macken
8. Andrew Ely
9. Mark Bleakley

**Junior Boys**

1. Tom Legden
2. Sandra Simpson
3. Mary Barron
4. Teresa Watson
5. Janet Guess
6. Norma Millward
7. Jenny Bowoili
8. Andreas Seager

**Junior Girls**

1. Greg Burns
2. Celia Stadden
3. Nicholas Hutchings
4. Dalbir Chaggar
5. Mark Wilsher
6. Lucan Chan
7. Dennis Burns
8. Kevin Smith
9. Chris But
10. Stewart White
11. Paul Shuter
12. Stewart Dover

**Lorna Dutch**

2. Donna Granville
3. Wanda Hutchinson
4. Sonia Pointer
5. Carly Stadden

**ISLE OF WIGHT**

**John Prean**

Our membership figures are up again, though by only one team this year. We have been able to defy national trends for some years now. This time the new rule concerning rubber colours has not helped and a number of Old Bara Bat players are reported to have called it a day, but they were not the only ones. I did not enjoy having to explain this to our members, particularly as I had voted against such positions change in our National Council.

I have found the local scene generally more fun than the national one. During the summer I was elected Chairman of the County. There is much to be done. I see the elimination of our deficit as a priority. We cannot go on losing a few hundred pounds a year indefinitely, laudable though much of the expenditure has been. We desperately need more and better premises in which to play, if the sport
is to survive, let alone grow. Two promising projects are in the pipeline. One is a major one, in partnership with a football club, which will need a lot of work and money to go ahead with initially. If we succeed, it will transform island table tennis.

Our Juniors travelled to Southampton for the Hampshire trials and surprised us and probably themselves with their excellent results. Lorna Dutch (the County No. 1 Junior Girl) and Sonia Pointer retained their county team places in the 1st and 2nd teams respectively. Greg Burns won the No. 1 place in the trials. Not without anxiety when he lost an early match, but otherwise played extremely well. Nic Hutchings proved the surprise package, capturing the No. 3 spot and coming literally from nowhere. He played very well and showed a good match temperament. Danny Burns (13) was very unlucky to finish 7th and so missed a place in the 2nd team and the experience and pleasure this would have brought. His time will obviously come. Our summer coaching sessions thus paid off very well. It was fun to be involved in this way again. Even as the legendary Jim Daly, though Carl the Hampshire senior trials and looks set for a place in the second team. The experience and pleasure

Barry Reeves 2-0, and then in the final encounters Mick Meredith came up against Ian Wethersby. Mick took the first game to make the match score 9-10, but Ian made use of his handicap to beat Mick in the very last game 21-14. So the Ironmen (Bungay) made their passage into the final. Terry Wyke (Ironmen) got a 6:6 maximum. The other semi final Good Bad & Ugly (Knighton Park) played United (Cuddley) and beat them 12-8. Dave Small got low from his six games for CB & U and was well supported by Mike Gillett and Tony Walker. Again the double proved to be a vital part of the match the holders of the trophy Good Bad and Ugly taking three from four. For the losers United Martin Taylor took four from six.

My bet is that the holders will retain the trophy, mainly because they have played the Ironmen twice losing 11-9 and making a draw the second time. But this time they will be more prepared by virtue of team selection, as they have more players to choose from whereas the Ironmen have to rely on the team that has played previous matches. But who knows that this jude may prove me wrong. Any rate good luck to both the teams. I shall be there to see what happens. Will report on the final in the next issue of Table Tennis Monthly.

Coaching is going well at the Scratby Valley complex and Rushey Mead school are entering their second team into the league this season. Well done lad.

Hopefully the Eyres Monells complex will be increased numbers this term.

LEICESTERSHIRE Derek Butt

Well the summer league (Elbow Tankard) has progressed very well and the group winners, two from each went into the quarter finals. The teams were Group A Kingfishers and United, Group B Parkinson and Cole Colters, Group C Ironmen and Good Bad and Ugly. Group D British. Shoe and Gas. After some very close and exciting quarter finals we progressed to the semi finals which were played his week.

In the first semi final Kingfishers played Ironmen and what a nail biter this turned out to be. After four matches the score was 4-4, then came the all important doubles which the Ironmen won three from four. Eventually the works team took a 10-6 lead. Kingfishers then made a comeback as Richard Grimley beat

MIDDLESEX Lorna Taylor

Nicky McKay has taken over as first team manager of our senior side from the start of the season. We hope he will lead the team to new heights again, as we did last year and many years previous. Mark Mitchell has retired from the post after many years of continued support and excellent coaching and enthusiasm.

There has been little test for some Middlesex umpires, due to the fact they have been kindly donating their service at the National Wheelchair Games. This year they have been held in Stoke Mandeville.

Lincolnshire

Kath Fisler

While most of us had a rest during July and August, the disabled players were working very hard. The wheelchair from Grimby played for Great Britain in the Wheelchair Games in Dublin and in the team event they did very well to finish in third place. Then on to Germany where 600 players from all over the world took part in an international event, the competition was very high and Colin came ninth in a group of twenty.

Next to Nottingham having been selected to represent England in the international games for players with cerebral palsy, the event called the Robin Hood Games had players from 30 countries taking part, in the wheelchair event class 1 & 2 Colin played some excellent table tennis and was rewarded by winning the gold medal in an excellent achievement.

At the start of term, Colin started playing in Division 6 of the Cheshire league and each season have gone up a division, and starting next season players in Division 3 will have to watch their step especially after all the extra training, Colin had a very good season 1992/93 and won the individual title for Division 4.

Two other players also took part in the national table tennis championships held by the British Sports Association for the disabled at Reading.

Judy Smith beat Elaine Marshall (she went to Barcelona Paralympics) and reached the final where she lost in 3 sets to Melanie Davis (The current European Champion) Well played, Judy and Peter Taylor reached the semi final where he lost to Barry Cook of Lancashire in the play off 3rd place beat Alan Barrett Humberside 2 straight both players are also from Grimby and play in class 5 standing category.

NORTHERN Dennis Millman

Chris Handshaw’s ten year winning sequence as skipper of Town A, Well Connected and Higham Band A in the Kingsley League, and his final match of last season when Higham, unable to field a full side, lost seven three to Team Electric A.

The Higham side’s team members who had gone more than two hundred matches without defeat, were doubly unfortunate because the match had been originally postponed when Electric had failed to raise a side.

However, hard though Handshaw and Richard Elliott played, there was no escape. Handshaw accounted for both Ian Hawes and Keith Jones, while Elliott got the better of Steve West before Hawes and Jones, added the final doubles to complete Higham’s demolise.

Nevertheless this defeat didn’t prevent Higham from taking the title, nor did it prevent the same squad of players from their customary monopoly in Northampton and Wellington as the following statistics show. In Kingsley League Higham played 22, won 21, lost 1, points 205, in Wellington played 18, won 18, points 168 and in Northampton playing as Barclaycard played 22, won 22, points 200.

Congratulations to Handshaw, whose organisations skills have welded together the expertise and commitment of Gwene McKim, Andy Edmonds, Andy Trott, Adrian Roper and Richard Elliott but that solitary reverse could well herald a change at the forefront of local table tennis.

Barclaycard took the Northampton title narrowly by 51 points to 52 from County Trio, who relied heavily on an estranged McKim, well supported by Steve Silk, but both Adrian Roper and Edmonds led McKim in the final averages, followed by Handshaw, David Gallow, Keith Jones, Chris Gibbons, Steve Silk, Mark Nanney and Phil Streiling.

Other divisional winners were Tramisers A in Divisions 1 and 2, where John Moon produced the best individual return, Travellers A in Division Two, Park Avenue in Division Three, Post Office in Division Four and YMCA A in Division Five.

Meanwhile McKim, concentrating on the Kettering League until a nasty road accident brought his season to a premature close, was clinching his eleventh successive men’s singles title, with an unprecedented finishing as the unlucky runner up for the fifth time.

Fortunately McKim recovered swiftly from his injuries, as did his wife Joanne, and was soon back to his brilliant self, just as he became the first man at the Kettering tournament, where the only end he dropped was a deuce game in the semi-final against Richard Elliott.

This phenomenal champion of unparalleled consistency, also added the men’s doubles title in tandem with Chris Handshaw, with Hawes, partnered for the first time by Elliott, again on the losing side. McKim finished ahead of his own ‘grand slam’, when with Jane Johnson, he took the mixed event by repeating the win the pair achieved on their only other entry ten years ago.

Hawes was consigned to the runners up slot for this occasion, together with Muriel Cox whose day ended more happily when she held on to her singles crown at the expense of Clare Hickman, who had earlier saved five match points against Angela Bevan, and then won an absorbing semi final against Cathy Fleming, who together with Mrs Johnston made sure of the ladies doubles.
COTSWOLD JUNIOR 2 STAR SELECT TOURNAMENT
Saturday/Sunday 29/30th January 1994
CHELTENHAM RECREATION CENTRE
Girls and Boys Junior, Cadet and Under 12  •  Girls and Boys Class 2 Junior and Cadet
All events will have groups of four for initial rounds
ORGANISER: MR. J. REEVES, 21 MARTINDALE ROAD, GLOUCESTER, GL3 2DN
Tel: 0452 713840. Closing date for entries 23/12/93

WOMENS EUROPEAN LEAGUE - SUPER DIVISION
ENGLAND V HUNGARY 7.00pm
Venue:
Victoria Community Centre, Oakley Building, West Street, Crewe, Cheshire
Tel: 0270 211422
Tickets:-
Advance sales: Adults £3.50, £2.50 concessions. On the door £4.00 adults £2.50 concessions.

VETERANS PREMIER WEEKEND
HYDE, CHESHIRE
FOR DETAILS:-
GEOFF TAYLOR
0203 678632

WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE
Bletchley Leisure Centre
Milton Keynes
Sat/Sun/ 6th/7th November
Details:
Chris Lewis - 0272 730788

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION
13/14 NOVEMBER 1993
SOUTH KESTEVEN TTC, GRANTHAM

ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
PARKLANDS LEISURE CENTRE, WIGSTON ROAD, OADBY, LEICESTERSHIRE
Entry Forms available in ETTA Office from early October. Spectators welcome free entry
TEL: 0533 720789