England beat Holland

Andrea Holt's hidden talents
Players of the Month
Andrew Eden and Linda Radford are this month's choice for winning their respective singles title at the Stamco Sussex 2 Star

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Chen Xinhua (Pictured by John Wood) 1

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The ETTA would like to thank the following companies for the support they give to English table tennis:
Sovereigns win in Bulgaria

SOUTH Kesteven Sovereigns silenced the 500-plus crowd at the Svetov Centre in Bulgaria on Friday night and romped to a 4-1 win over Academias in the second round of the European Club’s Table Tennis Cup.

The win earned them a home draw against French opposition in the third round and that is scheduled to be played at South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre in early November.

Jill Harris got the Grantham based team off to a great start beating Milena Doneva 21-7, 21-14. That was followed by Karen Smith’s 2 sets to nil victory over the home side’s top player Marieta Georgieva, despite being 6-1 down in the first set.

Game three was the most exciting of the match. Helen Newbound faced Mariela Paneva and points went both ways until the score stood at 19-19.

Helen then completely stunned the home crowd by scoring 21-18 after a Bulgarian supposedly unreturnable serve twice in succession to take the first set at 21-19.

Helen took control in the second set to win 21-16. Sovereigns just needed one more game to win the match.

Jill Harris and Jane Strawson went down 21-12 in the first set of doubles but despite being 16-10 up in the second, they finally went down 21-18 after a Bulgarian comeback.

It was left to Jill Harris to clinch the tie and against the home side’s number one, Giorgeva, Jill took the game in straight sets.

BFL Grove’s women also win

THERE was good news for BFL Grove in the Women’s Club Cup of Champions as the Market Drayton based trio of Lisa Lomas, Elena Timina and Andrea Holt beat E.T. Ezteka Ettelbruck of Luxembourg 4-2 with success for the team from the Grand Duchy coming from Xia Lian Ni ever Timina and Holt.

Middlesex 3-Star Open

THIS year the ETTA and Middlesex are going into partnership to experiment with a new type of tournament. Briefly instead of playing against all comers, competitors will be able to play against those with similar rating points. Men will play in 3 Bands: Band A with 2400 Rating points and below. Women will be divided into 2 Bands: 1950 Rating points and above and 1949 Rating points and below. All entrants will be allowed to enter the Band above them as well as their own Band.

The effect of this should be that loss of rating points because you have an "off" day will be minimised, whereas if you feel you are playing at the top of your form you could play in 2 Bands and, with luck, double the rating points earned in this Tournament.

Needless to say this experiment has resulted in our having to revise the prize Fund and it might also mean that you have to play your doubles on a different day to your singles, but we can guarantee that if you play 2 Bands they will be on different days.

We hope that lots of players will take part in this experiment and will let us have their views after the event. The closing date for entries is 18th November 1993 so get moving!

Cooke wins in Spain

BFL Grove’s Alan Cooke returned to top form on Sunday 10th September by winning the top Spanish tournament of the season in Jaen.

Cooke qualified for the latter stages by beating top Spaniard Roberto Casares in the group matches and continued to improve as he ousted clubmate Desmond Douglas in the quarters before accounting for Chinese ace He Xie Wen in the semi finals and the legendary Polish star Andrez Grubbs in the final.

Radio

PROFESSIONAL table tennis coach Stephen Baggsley from Milton Keynes and his younger brother Andrew, aged 10 (England No. 2 U-12s) were recently heard on BBC Three Counties Radio making possibly the first ever live on air, outdoor, table tennis exhibition along with Ex-Blue Peter Presenter Simon Groom. BBC Three Counties Radio Broadcasts to Herts, Beds, Bucks and parts of London.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

WOODFORD 1 STAR TOURNAMENT
11th & 12th DECEMBER 1993

Please note that details relating to the above event as stated in the tournament diary are incorrect. The organisers are DAVE RODEN, 55 KINGSWOOD ROAD, KINGSWINFORD, WEST MIDLANDS, DY6 9TE

And the event actually takes place at the Woodfield Club, Wolverhampton (not Birmingham)
Eleven up for next season?

One of the main talking points in the E.T.T.U. Executive and Management in Rome at the beginning of October was the proposal that is being formulated for consideration at the next I.T.T.F. Council meeting in China in May of next year for the game to be scored up to 11 points instead of 21.

If adopted, this would be an experimental rule covering all international events for a twelve month period. The intention is that the change would apply to all events such as the World Championships, World Team Cup, European League and International Open Championships, including the English Open. If accepted at the international level, it would be up to the English Association to decide to what extent it would apply to play in this country. It could follow the example of the Red/Black rubber rule which initially was applied only to events under the direct control of the E.T.T.A. such as the National Championships, British League, County Championships, ranking trials, open tournaments, etc., so allowing the Counties and Leagues to make their own decision on the rule implementation for their own competitions.

The 11 up concept is not new. We introduced it for the Stiga Top 12 event which was played in Solihull about five years ago. A survey was taken at the time which concluded that the majority of the spectators preferred the 11 up system. The main advantage is that, like tennis the game would come to a climax much earlier. It is felt that watching table tennis would become more exciting for TV viewers and spectators with 11 up.

The I.T.T.F. have been carrying out experiments in some of their own events over the last couple of years and the reaction of the world's top players is said to be favourable. However, they do not like to play 11 up in one competition and then change back to 21 up a couple of days later for a different competition, hence the proposal to try the 11 up system for all international events for a full season. Full details of how the change would work, if accepted, are not available yet. However, one would expect that a match presently best of three x 21 up would become best of five x 11 up and so on. It is also likely that the number of consecutive serves for one player would be reduced from to, say, three and deuce would come into operation at 10 all.

The E.T.T.A. National Council discussed this subject at some length at its October meeting and Councillors will be consulting their members regarding the proposals so that they can be fully aware of the feelings throughout the country in advance of any voting or decision making.

At the same meeting of National Council, Clive Oakman the Director of the 1994 European Championships which are to be held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham gave a full presentation on the progress of the organisation of the event do date. Publicity material for Euro '94 has been very widely distributed, including 90,000 copies of the EURO NEWS second edition. Tickets are now on sale and are available from the Box Office at the NIA.

With the intention of increasing the public awareness of the championships, Sue Withicome has been engaged for six months as the Euro '94 Publicity Officer. Her role will be to publicize the championships through all media channels and increase attendances.

Whilst no major sponsor has yet been confirmed, the number of official suppliers supporting the event is increasing. The latest addition is Canon as official business machine supplies who will provide all the photocopying equipment required plus a quarter of a million sheets of paper for the championships results and information service.

National Councillors were asked to encourage their members to come to Birmingham to see and enjoy the most prestigious table tennis event to be staged in the UK since 1977. Whilst on the one hand we are working to create interest and enthusiasm for table tennis by hosting the 1994 European Championships, work is going on at grass roots level to create playing and learning opportunities throughout the country by our Development and Coaching Departments. With the appointment of Stephen Joel (South) and Martin Ireland (North West) eight of the 10 Regional Development Officers are now in place. Appointments are expected to be made for the Eastern and Northern positions by the end of the year.

The main new initiative is the Facility Programme where we are encouraging and supporting our members to improve playing facilities. The Foundation for Sports and the Arts have generously allocated £500,000 for table tennis facilities in this financial year. Applications from member clubs and leagues are now being submitted to the Development Department. A Facilities Panel has been established to consider the applications and, subject to approval by Management Committee in each case, the successful applicants will be passed on to the Foundation for ratification.

When considering a submission for financial support, the panel will not only be looking at the building or conversion plans, but will be taking into account strongly the viability of the total scheme to be able to sustain very regular table tennis activity long into the future. Therefore the business plan for the project will be just as important as the building plans.
The valuable funding provided by the Foundation for Sports and the Arts this year may well be enhanced further with the establishment of the new National Lottery which is due to commence in 1995 and will give a significant proportion of the profits to sports projects. The funding available for facilities schemes for sport in the future could be considerable.

To help our members we are, with the assistance from the Sports Council, currently considering applications for the appointment of a Facilities Officer. The successful applicant is likely to have considerable experience in building development and design and, when appointed, will be available to assist ETTA members who are planning a facility project with help and advice at every stage, right from the initial grant application through to the opening of the facility, including the preparation of the business plan.

In my October Report I referred to the unfortunate happening at the Peniel 5 Star tournament when the team event was aborted following the withdrawal of three key teams. An official enquiry has now been established by the ETTA to investigate these incidents. The enquiry panel is named as Tony Chatwin, Chairman, Tony Wickens and Brian Halliday. Their report is expected to be completed before the end of November.

By beating the Netherlands 4-1 at Stourbridge, the England men's team have reached the semi-final of the Joola European League and will now play a two-leg fixture against Belgium. The first match is in Belgium on December 14th, returning to England on February 15th. This is the first time that our team have reached the semi-final and with all four players, Chen Xinhua, Carl Prean, Matthew Syed and Alan Cooke all back to full fitness, we have never been in a better position to progress even further. With a superb victory by 4-1 over Sweden in September, our women's team are also doing well in the Super Division of the Women's European League. With both teams doing well in Europe and the European Champion

**Nine years excellent service**

AT the VETTS AGM held in Coventry Mike Watts stood down as General Secretary after nine years excellent service which has seen the society grow from a mere handful of members to its present position of having over 525 members. Writes Ron Langheim

Mike was made the societies new President, Peter Bradley has taken on the role as General Secretary and any prospective new members can join by contacting Val Murdoch (Membership Secretary) on 0462 071191

VETTS Society Tournaments for the coming season are:

**EASTERN MASTERS** 27/28th Nov 1993, Grimsby

**MIDLAND MASTERS** 29/30th Jan 1994, Hinckley

**NORTHERN MASTERS** 12/13th Feb 1994, Manchester

**SOUTH MASTERS** 12/13th March 1994, Harlow

**NATIONAL MASTERS** 21/22nd May 1993, Bracknell

Entry forms for these tournaments can be obtained from Peter Bradley (0734 585365)

**ASHFORD**

The Ashford VETS Tournament will be held on Saturday January 8th 1994 entry forms, available from Ron Langheim on 0784 244563.

### WESTERN MASTERS

Roll of honour Western Masters held at Thornton, Bristol 2/3rd October

### OVER 40

M. S. N. Eckersley beat G. Baldwin 13 & 11
L. S. M Dignum beat D. Schofield 17 & 17
M/P. N. Eckersley/M. Corking bt Schofield/Sheaden 14, 16, 16
L/D. C. Hewett/M. Dawson bt J. Middlemore/K Shailer 9 & 12
MX. C. Hewett/J. Johns bt J. Thomas/D. Holman 17, -16, 17

### OVER 50

M. S. H. Buist bt R. Gunnion 14, 8
L. S. D. Dignum bt J. Cooper 12, -17, 10

New Vets Baldwin and Biggs made 0/40 men singles a/f with Baldwin beating Corking 14 and 19 in Round 2, Chris Budden reached last 8, before losing 19 in the 3rd to the Thigh Slapping Derek Holman.

My vote as Vet of the Tournament goes to Margaret Dignum who beat the most successful vet in England Doreen Schofield twice to twin both over 40 and 50 ladies singles titles. The Midland air has certainly improved her performance since she left the backwaters of Kent.
Stream of volunteers

A steady stream of volunteers is building up for the championships and before long Clive Oakman will be sorting through the names and allocating duties. One area that is still on the light side is for drivers of courtesy cars and minibuses which will be on hand to take players and officials to the venue.

Best Seats

If you want the best seats then book now. That's the message from the Euro 94 office as the momentum begins to build up next year's championships in Birmingham.

When tickets went on sale last month there was immediate response and up to the time of publication ticket demands were steady.

But championship director Clive Oakman warn that the later you leave the decision to go, the less chance you will have of getting the best seats.

The championship office is at Euro 94, Brewmaster House, International Convention Centre, Birmingham B1 2EA. Tel: 021-644 6464.

Big names

EURO 94 will be the place to be if you want to launch a new product or find out what the new trends will be. Trade responses to the championships has been excellent. So far most of the big names in the sport have indicated their eagerness to take a stand in the trade exhibition area and that is good news for players and spectators alike.

From bats to balls and from shirts to shorts plus a lot more will be on view in one of the biggest trade shows the sport has ever seen and as the months move on the organisers expect even more enquiries.

The equipment on view will be aimed at the league player as well as the casual player, a market which is of particular interest to the trade.

There will also be a Euro 94 merchandising stand as well as the ETTA Information Desk.

Clearly it promises to be a bumper show in more ways than one. So make a note in your diary and don't miss the most important table tennis event in 1994.

Exhibitors showing an interest so far include: The Bat Workshop, Butterfly, Express Sports, Hanno, Juic, Jarvis Sports, Joola, Lion, Imperial, Nittaku, Simon Fraser Sports, Teesport and Schindtrot.

EURO 94 COUNTDOWN

145 DAYS TO GO

TV Coverage

Still five months to go but already Euro 94 is guaranteed massive television coverage. Seventy countries and altogether over 80 million viewers will tune in to see the biggest table tennis event of 1994.

Its clearly the biggest audience these championships will have ever had and will give the sport in this country its biggest boost ever.

Looking after the television will be Grand Slam Sports who are the second largest independent TV production company in the UK and by far the largest in the sports field.

They have worked with us in the past and done a good job so we are in good hands.

They will be bringing with them a team of about a dozen including camera operators, interviewers and producers.

Important Role

TABLE TENNIS NEWS is going to play an important role in Euro 94. Besides keeping you up to date with all the latest news over the next few months, the next four issues will carry the various publications associated with the championships.

Booking forms, accommodation brochures, merchandising leaflets as well as the championships own publication Euro News, will be carried as separate inserts during the coming months.

So if you want to be kept in touch with all that is going on get the magazine that does just that.

Draw

THE Team draw for Euro 94 will be made on Monday, 21 February 1994 at 11am in the Olympian Suite at the National Indoor Arena.
England beat Holland

THE shortage of ticket-buying fans at Leeds and Peterborough did not apply at the Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge - 500 plus turned up to cheer the England men on as they eventually stormed through to the second stage of the Super Division, 4-1 winners over Holland on October 5.

Chen Xinhua in a more serious mood after the Leeds circus opened for England winning 15, 10 over Merijn de Bruin, ranked 139 in the world whilst Chen retains his No. 14 spot.

Trinko Keen, who won eight out of eleven games for Holland in Gothenburg put on a display that would not disgrace any of the top 20 in Europe.

Trinko unleashed a series of mainly forehand sizzling winners that proved just too strong for Carl Prean. The Isle of Wight professional fought desperately hard but his counter-hitting was not quite of the Daily Telegraph power enough and the Dutchman came home 18, 20, 13.

Chen Xinhua b M de Bruin 15, 10
C. Prean b T Keen 20, 13
Prean and A Cooke b Keen and Heister 15, 15
Chen b Keen 17, 17

with side-spin proved crucial - England went ahead 3-1 with scores of 15, 15. That just left Chen to bring down Trinko Keen 17, 17, but the Yorkshireman with a club in the Munich suburbs had to use again some of his "ace" services to get through, leaving England 4-1 winners, home and dry in the semi-finals.

At the time of course, it was not known that Poland had beaten Sweden 4-3 in Gdansk, but happily England were not affected by the craziest result of the season, no doubt another cynical team selection by Sweden, who figured out they would not need all the Big Guns in Poland. But of course, the European League is not highly rated in Sweden.

ENGLAND 4, HOLLAND 1
Chen Xinhua b M de Bruin 15, 10
C. Prean b T Keen 18, 20, 13
M. Syed b D. Heister 20, 3
Prean and A Cooke b Keen and Heister 15, 15
Chen b Keen 17, 17

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

NORTHERN

Regional Table Tennis Development Officer
(Full Time 3 year fixed term contract)

In conjunction with ETFA/Sports Council "Focus Sport" initiative, the main thrust of the post will be to plan and coordinate the implementation of the Northern Development Plan for table tennis.

Salary likely to be in the range between £14,000 - £18,000 (all hours worked post), to be confirmed. Office base, not yet confirmed.

The successful candidate is likely to possess the following:
Proven organising/administrative ability (preferably in sport)
Effective communication and negotiating skills
High level of self motivation and ability to motivate others
Experience of sports development
Understanding of table tennis
Full driving licence

Closing date for applications: 22nd November 1993

Job description and application form available from:
Doreen Nightingale
English Table Tennis Association
Queensbury House, Havelock Road,
Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF
Tel: 0424 722525 Fax: 0424 422103

Striving for equal opportunities, this post is funded by the Sports Council (Northern) and the English Table Tennis Association
Belgium beaten but only just

FRESH from an amazing come­back victory over Stefan Fetzner in Germany. Carl Prean, lifted himself into his professional top gear to play a vital part in a 3-2 England victory in front of the BBC Grandstand cameras at the Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds on October 1.

Chen Xinhua, acclaimed by Don Parker as now playing the best defensive table tennis since he came to live in England over four years ago, gave England a grand start by beating Philippe Saive who clearly played far better than when he lost in the final of the Peniel 5-star at Brentwood. Chen, slimmer and fitter than last season has to defend superbly and to employ some of his range of 'ace' services to beat the stronger, young players these days.

The TV cameras then concentrated on the Big Battle between Prean and the world sliver medallist Jean-Michel Saive, won fairly comfortably by the Belgian ace 16,17.

Lisa Lomas, also bronzed and slimmer proceeded with clinical precision to give England a 2-1 advantage by despatching the promising Belgian teenager Cecile Ozer 13, 17. Having spent weeks in Japan, specifically to improve her attack, Lisa showed that she has made some progress with a series of attacks on both wings that surprised the Belgian champion who appeared promising but not so professional in her approach.

The Chen Circus

Chen Xinhua and Jean-Michel promised to be a battle royal. In some respects it was - the Chinese former world No. 4 and World Cup winner led 20-17 in the first game but lost 20-22, but he won the next game and the stage seemed set for a magnificent decider. But Saive swarmed back showing the meagre crowd that he can attack violently and accurately forehand and backhand even without his vicious top-spin.

Having fallen well behind, Chen decided to put on a circus act to which Saive responded. Both men hit winners from outside the court. Another series of circus material saw Chen juggling the ball on his nose as the TV cameras rolled. All something of a surprise in a serious match.

The crowd roared its appreciation. The players received almost a full standing ovation as

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Enoch's winning trio, Lisa Lomas (above) Chen Xinhua (middle) and Carl Prean (bottom)

Belgium levelled the match 21-14 to Saive. Credit must also go the Karen Tonge who had the unenviable task of umpiring a circus act under the gaze of the cameras. Tremendous TV of course, but perhaps best suited to Channel TV, rather than the BBC.

Many fans expected to see all the fun on the box on Grandstand. But that did not happen. BBC policy is excellence in sport and so the transmission included only a small section of the comedy by two skilled performers who must have a future earning big money with exhibition table tennis.

With the match poised at 2-2, serious table tennis of the highest order likely to be seen in Europe entered the arena with the showdown between Carl Prean and Philippe Saive. Unwavering professionalism in approach and technical superiority just managed to win the day for the man from the Isle of Wight.

He seemed to be just below his best with his attacking strikes, gallantly fighting hard to stop the young Belgian 19,23 a superb climax to the match that sent the fans home happy.

Just over 200 fans, slightly less at Peterborough on the following night has highlighted the struggle going on in the ETTA Events department to find suitable venues for this first series of international matches.

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England 3 Belgium 2
Chen Xinhua b P Saive -19, 9, 14
C Prean I J Saive -16, -17
L Lomas b C Ozer 13, 17
Chen I J Saive -20, 13 -14
Prean b P Saive 19, 23
Belgium revenge at Peterborough

who turned out when England played China at the same venue, appeared to watch Belgium.

But the organisers only had four weeks notice of the match, not long enough to attract people on a Saturday night, when most people have other things planned.

There were hopes that Alan Cooke might lift himself to defeat Philippe Saive in the opening clash, but again the Belgium No. 2 (whose advantage when in Belgium of being able to play his brother daily is enormous) swept home cutting through the Cooke top-spin to win 10, 11.

A number of people lost a lot of sleep the previous night watching TV the Lewis-Bruno fight. Matthew Syed did not seem too sharp as he went under 8, 14 to Jean-Michel Saive who played so decisively all evening that he was killing services stone-dead.

Lisa Lomas repeated her win over Cecile Ozer, although the Belgian girl perked up to win the second game. In the third however, Lisa swept home with her newly acquired attack and some typically vicious back-spin to win 6.

Alan Cooke got into the fourth game against Jean Michel and was unlucky to take the first number, losing 21, but the Belgium silver medallist piled on the pressure once again to clinch the match 13, giving Belgium the 3-1 winning lead.

Syed looked perkier in the final game against Philippe Saive, but further proof emerged that he has improved since the Peniel 5-star and revenge was exacted for the Peniel final, 15, 16 to Saive. Up to the tour, Syed had collected 28 scalps in a row.

England 1 Belgium 4
A Cook 1 P Saive -11, -10
M Syed 1 J Saive -8, -14
L Lomas b C Ozer 14, -14, 6
Cooke 1 J Saive -21, -13
Syed 1 P Saive -15, -16

In conjunction with
ETTA & THE SPORTS COUNCIL
CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US

at the
GREATER LONDON TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

on Saturday/Sunday
18th/19th December 1993

to be held at
THE WATERFRONT LEISURE CENTRE
WOOLWICH LONDON

Open to residents, workers and those born within the Greater London Region

THE PRIZE FUND IS £2000

Details and entry forms from
Terry Vance,
14 Hill Crescent,
Surbiron,
Surrey,
KT5 8DP

Telephone home: 081-390 4068
Office 071-798 2731

PAGE 1
Sedgefield in front by a whisker

SEDGEFIELD DISTRICT are on top of the Veterans British League Premier Division, following the first weekend held at Grimsby in September, but only by a whisker, from arch rivals Peterborough.

The Grimsby Leisure Centre witnessed some excellent table tennis over the two days, before Sedgefield's John Hilton, Malcolm Corking and Ian Robertson led by the narrowest of margins of one gam difference from Peterborough's Dennis Neale, Nigel Eckerley, Nicky Davies and Phil Bowen, leaving all to play for at the final weekend at Burton in February 1994.

Caldervale lead the title chase in the Women's Division, two points up on second placed Dagenham, who are themselves two points in front of Worcester Ladies who are in third spot.

The ladies of Caldervale, Doreen Schofield, Ruth Bentley, Carol Judson and Sandra Rider, played so well that they won for themselves the title of 'Team of the Weekend'.

Players of the Weekend were Sedgefield's John Hilton and for the women's division it was the Bombers' Jutta Trapp, who finished on Sunday afternoon unbeaten.

There were a couple upsets over the Saturday and Sunday, with firstly Val Murdoch of Letchworth, who is ranked nationally at 47, surprisingly beating Merseyside Pacemakers' Connie Moran, who is ranked 23, in straight games 2-0.

In Division Three, the men of Vymura International, Roger Hampson, Derek Schofield, Norman Thewlis and William Russell, are leading the rest by a street.

They are 4 points clear of joint second placed Olton & West Warwick 'A' and Fullerians.

OLOP, Andy Meads, Keith Horton, John Millward and Graham Outrim, lead Division Two by 2 points from Reading YMCA, whilst Olton & West Warwick 'B' are in front of the Division three race, with Steve White, Barrie Russ, Chris Maiden and Alan Philpot, 2 points ahead of Barclays Bank.

**VETERANS BRITISH LEAGUE**

**MEN**

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**DIVISION ONE**

| YMCA International | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 5 | 10  |
| Olton & West Warwick A | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 12 | 8   |
| Fullerians         | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 14 | 6   |
| PSS TGG            | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 14 | 4   |
| Stanmore (Ireland) | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 14 | 4   |
| Bithir Kingfisher  | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5  | 5  | 0   |

**DIVISION TWO**

| OLOP | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 21 | 9 | 0   |
| Feeding YMCA       | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 16 | 15 | 5   |
| Graham Spicers     | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 15 | 5   |
| Aldborough         | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 14 | 4   |
| Portsmouth         | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 4   |
| Thompson Insurance | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6  | 24 | 0   |

**DIVISION THREE**

| Olton & West Warwick B | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 3 | 10  |
| Barclays Bank         | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 9 | 0   |
| Letchworth Lawn Tennis | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 17 | 5   |
| Lillington Free Church | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 19 | 4   |
| Great Grimsby        | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 19 | 2   |
| Sealanders (Blackpool) | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 7  | 23 | 1   |

**WOMEN**

| Caldervale          | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 5 | 10  |
| Dagenham           | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 8   |
| Worcester Ladies    | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 13 | 9   |
| The Bombers         | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 15 | 9   |
| Olton & West Warwick | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 15 | 9   |
| Bithir Belle        | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 15 | 9   |
| Letchworth Lawn Tennis | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 6  | 24 | 2   |
| Merseyside Pacemakers | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 9  | 21 | 1   |
Seaside wins for Eden & Radford

ANDREW EDEN and Linda Radford took the honours at this year's STAMCO Sussex Open Two Star Tournament held on 9th and 10th October. Writes Ron Spencer.

In the mens singles, all eyes were on Nicky Mason endeavouring to take the title for the fourth time and he went easily on his way to the semi-final, where he met Grant Solder seeded 5th. Solder had come through to this stage help by the withdrawal of the 3rd seed, Alex Perry. The semi-final was a very tight match with Mason taking the first set easily. Solder fighting back to take the second set 21-18 and then just being edged out by the same score in the third set. Eden the 3rd seed, had no problems in the early stages of his draw until the quarter-final where he had to overcome a tremendous challenge from the 5th seed John Holland, just edging home 21-19 in the third set. Sussex's Adrian Moore, seeded 5th, took advantage of the absence of second seed and title holder Jonathan Taylor to progress to the semi-final stage where he lost comfortably to Eden. In the final, Mason's powerful hitting and skill was matched and bettered by Eden who took his first ever Sussex Open title.

Five young players, all ranked in the England top 10 women, entered this year and, with nine times champion Alison Gordon not entering, all had a good chance of winning the title. However, this number quickly reduced to two when Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower withdrew and Marie Thorley failed to appear. Two survivors were Kate Goodall seeded 2 and Linda Radford seeded 3, and they progressed to the final without any problems beating Sanja Kubelka and Kitti Kottasz respectively in the semi-finals. With Kate moving up to no. 4 in the latest ranking list, it was thought that she would dominate, but it turned out to be the other way round. Linda took the first set 21-14, Kate came back to take the second set and then was something like 9-6 up in the 3rd set before Linda came back strongly to take it 21-14 and the title. This followed in the footsteps of her mother, Lesley Radford, formerly Bell, who won the title in 1984 and 1979. One of the highlights of this event was the tremendous quarter final match between Sanja Kubelka and Emma Hurling which Sanja eventually won 21-18, 21-19.

There was some consolation for Mason in the Mens Doubles partnered by Joe Kennedy. In the top half of the draw, Mason was partnered by Holland and Stuart Palmer in their semi-final. Although not seeded, Mason & Kennedy came through to the semi-finals via a close call against Ritchie, Venner & Colin Wilson which they won 21-19, 21-19 in the 3rd set. At this stage, they met 2nd seeds Stephen Dorking and Solder who won in straight games. In the final, Eden & Holland scraped home 24-22 in the first set, but Mason & Kennedy took the next two and the title.

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These Games are akin to the Olympic Games and in fact recognised by the I.O.C. They are held in Israel every four years, and bring together Jewish sportsmen from all over the world. Although many international athletes take part, table tennis has never sent too many of its top players. Those I can recall are the great Angelica Rozeanu of Romania (World Champion 1951 to 1955), Suzy Javor (Hungary), Norbert Van Der Wolle and Rosmarin of Belgium plus our own Stan Jacobson, Irene Ogus and Jeff Inger. The amazing Leah Neuberger of USA, world champion in 1948 and 1956 in mixed doubles was also there once or twice. Writes Alan Shepherd

This time it was quite difficult, and I counted no fewer than 13 world ranked players who were taking part. The highest ranked man unfortunately did not show. This was Evgenij Brainin, the Russian who has just joined Grove and who stands at No. 114. He did compete at Marseilles in 1991 in the European Maccabiah Games, where he mysteriously lost in the men's final to Leonid Geisman of Germany, a tremendous player, but with no world ranking. Apart from Geisman who was in the German team and seeded no. 8 there were the four Israelis, Michael Kedar (193) Guy Basis (211) Yosef Bogen (270) and Izhak Abramovitz (293), Yair Nathan of Peru (279) and the highest ranked man in the tournament (at 177) Dmitry Abramenko of Kazakhstan. Seed No. 7 was a very talented American named Barry Dattel. In the ranks of the fairer sex, Elena Timinia of Russia was the top world ranked player present. She is, of course, very well known and popular in England through her open tournament and British League activities, and I formed the view early on that she had only had to turn up to win gold. Opposing her, however, were her teammates Irina Falina (54) and Marina Kravchenko (108), three Israelis, Tatiana Stoibrat (205) Sari Hose (210) and Zoya Sidorovski (235) plus Tracy Ginsbury (260) from South Africa.

Our only world ranked player was Brian Wright, the Scottish No. 3 or 4, who is at No. 323 on the list, but he had chosen to get married this summer, and was thus not in our team. Had he been, he could well have been struggling against the fellows I have named!

Our men were Morris Greenberg (Herts), Joel Roodyn (Middlesex), Dov Katz (Avon) and Jason Tendler (Essex). In the opening Team Event they had a bloodless victory over Argentina by 4-0 but then were brought up short when the USA beat us 4-0. Their team consisted of the No. 7 seed, Dattel, Dicky Fleisher (whose standard was of the nature of top 50 in England) and a Simon Shofmaker who could also play a bit. He had a rather tasty service when with his bat in his right hand, he hit the ball over his left shoulder. This had all the umpires crowded round, and they were forced to declare the service good! Mr Shofmaker was a great character who had played in the World Vets at Baltimore where he told me his only loss was to Liang Ko Liang! Next opponents were Holland, who had one brilliant young player, Jonah Kahan, but nobody backed him up, and we scraped through 4-3, putting us in the quarter-final.

The match against Germany was very exciting with plenty of crowd participation, and one sensational win for Dov Katz. The result, however was 4-1 to the Germans, and an exit for us. Our ladies consisted of Talya Greenberg (Herts), Jo Solley, Lisa Cohen and Sally Raymond (formerly Prowen), all from Middlesex. They took part in a Round Robin of six countries. Victories over Austria and Argentina by 3-0 were cancelled out by defeats all by 3-0 against Israel, South Africa and C.I.S. The resultant fourth place rather remarkably led to our team receiving Bronze Medals.

The Junior Boys line-up was Bradley Cohen, Richard Binstock, Darryl Melzack and Mark Freyd. Their matches were extremely hard and, considering the strength of this opposition, our youngsters did remarkably well. A splendid win by 3-0 over USA was negated by a 0-3 result v Argentina. The crunch match was against South Africa in which a victory would have put us in with a medal opportunity in the quarter final. Sadly we just went down by 2-3, and also lost 3-2 to
Germany. The outstanding player was Bradley Cohen, and I was so impressed with his play that I signed him on for my team in the North Middlesex League!

We had two teams in the Veterans Events. Stuart Greenberg, Ian Mablin and Stuart Spurling represented the over 40's, and victories by 3-1 over USA and Australia secured silver medals for them, gold going to Israel. Ronnie Herber, Eric Finestone and I formed the over 50 squad. We beat USA 3-0 but lost 3-1 to Israel and were awarded unofficial silver medals. In our match against USA I came up against another marvellous character. His name was Manny Moskowitz and he claimed that he would be 75 on his next birthday. He said that he was All American Champion in 1936 and his doubles partner in those days was the famous Sol Schiff.

When the individual events started our men immediately had the most fantastic wins. Following a walk-over, Jason Tendler had the frightening task of sorting out Dicky Fleisher. This he did in quite brilliant fashion in winning 3-1 - all singles matches here being "best of five." His reward for his great win was a contest with No. 1 seed Abramenko. Ilford League Div. 1 against Russian world ranked player sadly saw Jason blasted off the table. Next up was Joel Roodyn. He came through a five setter against a very good Lithuanian player, Kolcovas, and then faced the wily USA vet Shofmaker. Wonderfully, Joel equalled Liang by winning in three straight games. This took him into the last 16, but there he was seen off by the Israeli, Guy Basis.

Dov Katz had a good opening win over the Dutchman David Rosenstein, but slightly disappointingly then lost to Benny Feingold of Germany by three games to one. Morris Greenberg started with a comfortable win over an Argentinian, then took out Gribnev, a high-class Bulgarian player, by three games to two. Morris was thought by us to have a real chance of getting a medal from here, even though he was due to play the brilliant Dutch boy, Jonah Kahan, who had just put out Bogen (in Round 1). I am afraid that Jonah was too good for Morris.

Our girls had really no chance of progress with all those world ranked players in a draw of only 32. Jo Solley had a win, then met Timina. Talya had a win and then met Stofblat. Sally had a walk-over, then played Tracy Ginsberg. Lisa Cohen found the Argentinian girl Zdrojewski too good for her. Later on Talya rescued something from the wreckage by winning the Plate Event.

In Men's Doubles, Dov and Morris had a terrific win against the Canadians, Rene Lewandowski and Mitch Rothfleisch, but bowed out in the next round against Basis and Bogen, of Israel. Joel and Jason were taken out by the Germans, Geisman and Feingold. The Women's Doubles event produced a very weird match in Round two. Our girls Jo Solley and Lisa Cohen, who are jolly good league players, beat two Argentinians in the first round, and went on to play the World No. 108 Kravchenko, partnered by Anna Isaev of Germany, who would probably get into one of the weaker county sides in England. Astonishingly, Anna was so petrified at playing alongside a superstar that she could hardly get the ball over the net, and nothing that the Russian girl could do helped. As a result our girls went through into the semi-final where they secured bronze medals by losing to Hose/Stofblat.

I cannot report any degree of success for the junior boys in their individual events but in the Veterans' events we brought in our "Joker" in the form of one Jeffrey Ingber, to play in the Over 50 singles. In the sixties, Jeff was England No. 3 and actually was Maccabiah champion in 1957 and 1961, then losing finalist in 1969. To our dismay, Jeff must these days be a better squash player (he represents Lancashire in Vets he tells me) since he lost in Round 1. I have to report that I actually beat an American in Round 1 before bowing out in Round 2 to an Israeli.

In the over 40 singles, our star was Ian Mablin, who reached the semi-finals and secured a bronze medal. In doubles, Ian was partnered by Stuart Greenberg and they secured another bronze for a semi-final loss.

Finals night was fairly remarkable. Guy Basis had eliminated the No. 1 seeded Russian, Abramenko by 3-2 in the semis, so played his Israeli team-mate, Michael Kedar, winner over Jonah Kahan, in the Final. It was difficult to concentrate on this match when there was simultaneously going on the women's final between Timina and Kravchenko at the other end of the Hall. Irena appeared to be coasting in Game one, but still trailed by 15-18 when to everybody's horror, the dreaded 'expedite' was called. It did not seem to matter that Kravchenko took that game. Since Irena is one of the best defenders in the world and also hits like a rocket with her backhand, it seemed that the expedite rallies were just made for her. It did not work quite like that, as it happened. Game two jogged along to about 6-6 then, don't ask me why, Irena gave up, and lost 6-21. She tried again at the beginning of Game three but fell behind to 12-18 when she appeared to be on the verge of chucking it in for good. Incredibly she now fought back to win 24-22 and was only 2-1 down in games. Meanwhile, Michael Kedar had secured the gold medal by beating Asis in the men's singles.

I have now taken part in these Maccabiah Games eight times between 1961 and 1993. It has always been a wonderful experience and quite different to any other sporting event in which one might participate.

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BFL Grove are already the only side in the Premier Division who can still boost a 100% record which, of course, is hardly surprising considering the strength of their squad. In fact, they have only dropped two sets in their first four matches and these were both lost in the match against Vymura. The Cheshire side's Jonathan Taylor beat Chris Oldfield and then partnered Graham Clarke to victory over Oldfield and Steve Ward, but Vymura were still on the wrong end of a 12-2 scoreline. Writes Aubrey Drapkin.

The only drawn match to date came when Sedgefield entertained Team Peniel. Player of the match Sean Gibson won all three of his sets for Peniel and Andrew Eden and Steve Dorking proving to be too strong for the Scotia Euan Walker and Ian Stokes. For Sedgefield Bradley Billington and Stokes both took two sets with Walker and John Hilton both managing to get one ace. Billington and Hilton combined to take the second doubles set.

Both clubs then won their next two matches to share second place in the division. Sedgefield won 9-5 away to Bathwick Tyres and 8-6 at home to Policy Plus St. Neots. Peniel defeated Horsham Angels 9-5 and then beat Vymura by the same score.

Horsham Angels got their victory in the top flight by beating Bathwick Tyres 10-4.

BFL Grove also dominate both first divisions with their second team, that includes England international Michael O'Driscoll, top of the northern section with four victories from four matches. Sedgefield II won their first two encounters in the North but were then held to a 4-4 draw. This was all round performance by the Walsall club with Adrian Thorp, Jill Harris, Dave Hanney and Keith Fellows all getting one set.

But despite this performance against Leicester they languish at the foot of the table, their only other point coming from a draw with Oxbridge.

Linda Farrow are the early pace setters in division two south East with maximum points from the first four outings. Byng Hall, Team Peniel II, Ashford and Norwich Todd Foxwood have all fallen to the Londoners whose John Taylor, Grant Solder and Duncan Taylor have all claimed 'player of the match' awards.

Division two south west already looks to be a fight between Horsham Angels II and VRS Fareham. Horsham have so far beaten Amity Generation, Jullifree Poole and BFL Grove Colts to sit on top of the table. VRS had successes against Poole and DML White Hart Llanosten II but then dropped a point to Kingshurst Bibar. Bathwick Tyres seconds started badly with a defeat away to Llanosten but by being able to field a stronger team have since beaten Kingshurst and Amity Generation.

Griffins St. Neots are making an impact in their first season in the league, being the leaders in division 3 east. After victories over the Chelsford League and Bren Juniors they slipped up against neighbours Peterborough who had Denis Neale in their team, but then bounced back to beat Norwich Todd Foxwood II. Peterborough and the Chelsford League share second place with five points each.

Division 3 Midlands looks like being keenly contested with no club retaining an unbeaten record and four of them on six points from four matches. Hawbush C.C. have a slightly better set difference having won three successive matches against Horsham III. Colley Toyota II and Bathwick Tyres III after losing out to OLOP II in their first match. Birbor Colley Toyota II have beaten

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BFL Grove also dominate both first divisions with their second team, that includes England international Michael O'Driscoll, top of the northern section with four victories from four matches and their third team likewise top of the Southern Section with a similar record. Sedgefield II won their first two encounters in the North but were then held to a draw by both British Gas CMK and Olton and West Warwicks. Despite these two set backs they are in second place behind Grove.

In the southern section the Haringey club, Edison, also started with two victories - 5-3 against the Welshmen Bibar Colley Toyota and 8-2 away to fellow Lodonners, Rejacs. In their next match, however, they found Jimmy Stokes in fine form and went down 5-3 to the Reading side OLOP. In division two north, Leicester Lions lead the way with seven points out of eight having taken maximum points from Vymura II, Oxbridge (Burton) and Deerwent. The only point lost was when Leslie T.C.C. held them to a 4-4 draw. This was an all round performance by the Walsall club with Adrian Thorp, Jill Harris, Dave Hanney and Keith Fellows all getting one set.

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Launceston III, OLOP II and Horsham III. The other Welsh side, Parkside Dragones Newport won their opening matches against Bathwick Tyres, Bromsgrove and Horsham before going down to Launceston. Launceston's other victories have been against Bathwick Tyres and Bromsgrove.

Drumchapel Glasgow are favourites in division 3 north, but they slipped up away to BFL Grove IV after winning their first three matches. This has allowed Sedgefield III and Mooreland Sawmills from Blackpool to jointly take over at the top of the table. Both teams have lost one point, both being held by Grove.

As expected Barclays Bank still have a 100% record in division 3 south and top the table, having dropped only five sets in four matches. Rejects II and Lennox House Group look to be the teams that will challenge for the second spot this division.

Anyone regularly using the telephone line to obtain the results will know that I nearly refer to this as the "Friendly Line". On Sunday 3rd October I had to chase two results only to be told by the secretaries that they had already put them on my answering machine. The only trouble is - I don't have one. Apparently they had both got the wrong number and the gentleman whose machine they got hadn't given his name, but had simply said "this is my friendly answering machine."

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**PREMIER DIVISION**

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**DIVISION ONE NORTH**

| BFL Grove II | 4 | 4 | - | - | 26 | 6 | 8 |
| Sedgefield II | 4 | 2 | 2 | - | 21 | 11 | 6 |
| Olton & West Warwick | 4 | 2 | 2 | - | 21 | 11 | 5 |
| Humbersea | 4 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 17 | 4 |
| City of Sunderland | 4 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 17 | 3 |
| British Gas CK | 4 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 16 | 3 |
| R. M. Lincoln | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 19 | 3 |
| Cheltenham | 4 | - | 3 | 3 | 29 | 3 |

**DIVISION ONE SOUTH**

| BFL Grove III | 4 | 4 | - | - | 24 | 6 | 8 |
| Edison | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 14 | 10 | 4 |
| OLOP | 4 | 2 | - | 2 | 16 | 16 | 4 |
| Colley Toyota | 3 | 1 | - | 1 | 13 | 11 | 3 |
| Rejects | 3 | 1 | - | 2 | 9 | 15 | 2 |
| BSQ Brentwood | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 19 | 2 |
| G. S. Larkhall | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 1 |

**DIVISION TWO NORTH**

| Leicester Lions | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | 19 | 13 | 7 |
| Uckridge | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 12 | 5 |
| Vymura II | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 12 | 5 |
| Leeds | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 16 | 5 |
| Derwent | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 16 | 3 |
| V. R. Warrington | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 16 | 3 |
| Lewes | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 11 | 21 | 2 |
| Leckie | 4 | - | 2 | 2 | 10 | 22 | 2 |

**DIVISION TWO SOUTH EAST**

| Linda Farrow | 4 | 4 | - | - | 23 | 9 | 8 |
| P. A. Crowdon | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 21 | 11 | 6 |
| Syd Hall | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 20 | 12 | 6 |
| Ashford | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 14 | 4 |
| JAGS | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 17 | 4 |
| Fellows Cranleigh | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 17 | 3 |
| Norwich 4 | 4 | - | 1 | 3 | 9 | 23 | 1 |
| Team Peniel II | 4 | - | 4 | 7 | 25 | - |

**DIVISION TWO SOUTH WEST**

| Horsham | 3 | 3 | - | - | 19 | 5 | 6 |
| VHS Fareham | 3 | 2 | 1 | - | 17 | 7 | 5 |
| Launceston | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 11 | 5 |
| Kingshurst | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 17 | 16 | 4 |
| Bathwick | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 11 | 13 | 4 |
| BFL Colts | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 18 | 3 |
| A. G. Fareham | 4 | - | 1 | 3 | 10 | 22 | 1 |
| Jolliffe Poole | 3 | - | 3 | 3 | 21 | - |

**DIVISION THREE EAST**

| Gridfit St. Neots | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 19 | 13 | 6 |
| Peterborough | 4 | 2 | - | 1 | 18 | 14 | 5 |
| Chelmsford League | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 15 | 5 |
| BSG Brentwood II | 4 | 2 | - | 2 | 19 | 13 | 4 |
| Fellows Cranleigh II | 4 | 2 | - | 2 | 17 | 15 | 4 |
| Brit. I Pawitch | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 19 | 4 |
| Brent Juniors | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 17 | 3 |
| Norwich II | 4 | - | 1 | 3 | 10 | 22 | 1 |

**DIVISION THREE MIDLAND**

| Hawbush | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 20 | 12 | 6 |
| Colley Toyota II | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 19 | 13 | 6 |
| P. D. Newport | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 17 | 15 | 6 |
| Launceston III | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 17 | 15 | 6 |
| OLOP | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 16 | 3 |
| Horsham III | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 14 | 18 | 2 |
| Bromsgrove | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 13 | 19 | 2 |
| Bathwick III | 4 | - | 1 | 3 | 11 | 21 | 1 |

**DIVISION THREE NORTH**

| Blackpool | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | 21 | 11 | 7 |
| Sedgefield III | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | 21 | 11 | 7 |
| Glasgow | 4 | 3 | - | 1 | 21 | 11 | 6 |
| BFL Grove IV | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 17 | 15 | 4 |
| Uckridge II | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 16 | 3 |
| AALCO Leeds | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 20 | 3 |
| Crusaders Lincoln | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 11 | 21 | 2 |
| Co-op | 4 | - | 4 | 9 | 23 | - |

**DIVISION THREE SOUTH**

| Barcleys Bank | 4 | 4 | - | - | 27 | 5 | 8 |
| Rejects II | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 13 | 11 | 4 |
| WSHS L. H. G. | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | 12 | 14 | 2 |
| G. S. Larkhall II | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 13 | 3 |
| Linda Farrow II | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 15 | 17 | 2 |
| Elenborough | 4 | 1 | - | 3 | 11 | 21 | 2 |
| Adeyfield N. A. | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 1 |
Andrea Holt's hidden talents

Sporting all-rounder seems to sum up Andrea Holt the 22 year old from Bury who has already claimed the national singles title twice. But while most of us know her as a talented table tennis player, she has other hidden assets as well. Writes Jim Beckley.

Earlier this year she made her debut for tennis club Holcombe Brook. So what you may say, plenty of table tennis players are handy with the larger racket as well. But this north Manchester club are the top women's team in the land and Andrea is preparing to play a key role in their future plans.

Twelve months ago she had never played competitive tennis. Then she signed up with her local club more as a means of keeping fit than anything else and has never looked back.

Showing the sort of commitment she gives to table tennis, she soon provided enough promise to catch the attention of Holcombe manager Tony Lawson. "I wouldn't have believed it. For a girl who has never played at this level before she's amazing. She has natural talent and because of her table tennis exploits is very fit."

She was quickly drafted into the Holcombe first team squad and although mostly on the sidelines, had the satisfaction of seeing the team win the Everet National Club League at the first attempt.

Ironically, she may get her big chance to become a regular thanks to a change of rules. Last year Holcombe won the league mainly because they fielded two top Russian players. Now there are rumours that teams may only field one foreign player and that could let Andrea in.

At every opportunity she plays in ITA/Volkswagen tournaments and a handicap of 15.3 classifies her as a "higher grade of club player."

In between tennis and table tennis any spare time is spent on the golf course. "It's too expensive to join a club, so the municipal course at Burnley is ideal for me," she says. Whilst not having a handicap, a recent round of 89 on a par 72 course would probably give her a handicap of 18.

But beyond sport there is a more serious Andrea. Somewhere in between all this activity she is taking a B Tech National Diploma in Sports Studies. She has already landed a distinction in her first year and is aiming to finally go for gold and get a degree.

In the meantime table tennis continues to take up the major part of her daily lifestyle. Two and a half hours a day is set aside for practice which she hopes will enable her to retain her singles title in March next year.

Tough, stubborn but a natural born winner. That's the description given to those born under the sign of Scorpio and Andrea Holt who will be 23 this month, fits it perfectly. Pictures by John F.A. Wood.
Championships off to great start

THE Championships, successful as ever, got off to a great start with over 130 teams in action on the opening day. *Writes Doug Moss.*

**Sent 1B Div:** Berks, 4 Middx II, 6. Avon, 7 Berks II 3.

Berks first team, on demotion from Premier Div, lost their first match to Middx 2nds. David Goode (Mi) played well in winning his singles matches, including a 14 in 3rd win over David Barr. Gemma Schwartz was the successful Berks player with 2 comfortable wins. Avon went 2 nil down to Berks II but came back for 7-3 win with Michelle Cohen and Helen Perrott winning their four events.

**Sent 2A Div:** Notts 6, Ches 4, Leics II, 7 Clwyd 3, Staffs II, 4 Lancs 2, 6 Staffs III, 0 Lancs 2, 10 Cumbria 1 Warwicks, 2 9.

Notts could well be contenders for promotion and got off to a good start with a win over Ches. R Yang (Ng No. 1) won his two matches. Lancs II, down from Div 1, also started well with wins over Staffs II and III teams. Mathew Brown and Jose Bongers did well to win their four matches for Staffs II. Graham Clarke (La) played well and did not drop a game in these two matches. Events were all two straight in the Leics II/Clwyd match. The Leics men - Maurice Newman, Keith Fellows and Ian Brown - won their six matches and Natasha Williams had two comfortable victories for Clwyd. Five events went to decider in the Cumbria/Warwicks II match but the visitors went away with a 9-1 win.

**Sent 2B Div:** Somerset 8 Avon II 2, Wilts 7 Glos 3, Worcs II, 2 Worcs 1 8.

The Somerset team was in good form with their 8-2 win over Avon II. The tightest match was Lyn Addicott's (So) win over Kelly Harris 17, -22, 18. Wilts were aided in their win over Glos with Brenda Lee, the Wiltshire women's singles champion, and Helen Frost being unbeaten. Worcs should be good contenders for promotion this season. They got on their way with an 8-2 win over Worcs.

**Sent 2C Div:** Suffolk II, 2 Kent II, 8 Kents II did well on their visit to The Dome, Ipswich with a convincing win. Sarah Davidson and Clare Lowe each had a win for Suffolk II. In Sarah Davidson's other match, against Carly Riggs, she lost 18, -10, -22.

**Sent 2D Div:** Oxon 6 Herts III, 4. Hants II, 8 Dorset 2.

Oxon did well with a win over Herts 3rds. Tony Gorman and Dawn Barnett (Ox) had four wins. Gorman beat Chris Marlow (He) -16, 13, 20, Dorset visited Hants II and got off to a good start with wins by Brian Burn and Dave Sharples. But that was the extent of their success. Dorset team was handicapped by being a player short.

**Junr 1B Div:** Hants 2 Kent 8, Essex 2, 2 Bucks 8, Glam 6, Sussex 4, Glim 5, Gwent 5, Sussex 5, Gwent 5, Sussex 10 Somerset, 0, Somerset 2, Glam 8.

seven matches were played in Swansea. Glam got off to a good start with a win over Sussex but were forced to a draw by Gwent. Five of the events were decided narrowly in three games with Gwent coming out on top in four of these. Somerset, on promotion, were in some difficulty losing 0-10 to Sussex and 8-2 versus Glam. Hants, also on promotion, lost 8-2 to Kent.

Joanne Barham (K) beat Donna Granville -19, 20, 20 but lost to Lorna Dutch 20 and 18. The Bucks team did very well on their visit to Basildon to beat Essex 3rds 8-2. Harry and Tom Yeates and Lucy Templeton had 100% success for Bucks.

**Junr 2A Div:** Northants 7 Ches II, 3, Lancs II, 5 Oxon 5, Lincs 6, Warwicks 2 4, Ches II, 6 Worwicks 2, 4, Leics 3, Northants 7, Ches II, 3 Derby 7 Oxon 5, Lincs 5, Warwicks 1 8, Leics 2, Lancs 2, 3 Northants 7, Warwicks II 4, Leics 6, Lancs II, 1 Derby 9, Lincs 6, Warwicks 4.

Twelve matches were played at Grantham T.T. Centre. Northants just failed to get promotion but with four players from last season's team - Joe Trippett, Paul Adams, Sally Russell and Ruth Hickman - got off to a very good start with three 7-3 wins. Derby on demotion from Div 1, also started well with 9-1 win over Lancs 2nds and 7-3 defeat of Ches. 2nds. Lincs made a good fight back against Oxon, coming from 3-5 to secure a draw. In the final event Darryl Davies (Li) beat Fraser Harris 19, -17, 19. Lincs also
made a good finish against Warwicks II. With match score 4-4, they won the last two events.


Hunts, runners-up last season, slipped in their first match of the season. They lost 6-4 to Essex 3rds. Graham Winberg and Nicky Laywood (E) won their four matches. Norfolk 2nd and 3rd teams visited Soham Sports Centre and both teams came out on top against Cambs. Norfolk 3rd team, making its debut to the Champs, went two-nil down but came back for a 6-4 win. Herts 2nds 8-2 but there were some close matches. Josh Lury (He) beat Robert Davey -12, 19, 26.

Junr 2C Div:- Glai 5 Devon II. 5. Glam II 7 Devon III 3. Cornwall 4. Wilts 6. Glai 2 Avon 8. Dorset 5 Worcs 5. Glam 2nds received the Devon 2nd and 3rd teams. Against Devon 2nds the team was 4-3 down when Robert Chell (Gn) beat Peter Thomas -17, 19, 24, which helped the team to get a draw.

Against Devon 3rds Chell had another 26-24 win in a deciding game! Glam got a 7-3 win. Gareth Brooking (Dv3) won his two matches. Wilts beat Cornwall 6-4 on their visit to Falmouth. Avadh Srivastava (Co) won both his matches. The Glai girls - Ann Humble and Neil Garlick - each won a singles against Avon, who got an 8-2 win. Worcs, who were a player short, were 5-3 down against Dorset but came back to get a draw. Chris Witham won two matches for Dorset and Zoe Evans got two wins for Worcs.


Berks 2nds visited New Malden for two matches. They started with a 9-1 win over Surrey 3rd team. Later there was a hard fought match against Surrey 2nds, who had come down from Div. 1. Surrey 2nds came out on top with a 7-3 win. The 2nd and 3rd teams of Sussex and Kent met at Hove. Scott Friday (under 12 national No. 1) made his first appearance in the Champs and won his two matches to assist Kent 3rds get a 7-3 win. Kent 2nds were also successful against Sussex 2nds with a 6-4 win. Ben McCarthy (K) beat Martyn Sims (Sx) 20, -16, 24. Hants 2nds started very well with an 8-2 win over Middx 2nds.

Vets 1A Div:- Leics 6 Worcs 3. Worcs went 4-nil down on their visit to Hants 1st and Kent 2nds. Visitors Kent led 3-2. There followed three events which each ended at 20 in deciding games and took two hours to complete! Gill Larking (Ha) beat Pam Butcher, Keith Clark (K) beat Bob Cox and Chris Shetler (Ha) had a win over Paolo Beck. Kent won 5-4. Glos, on promotion, started with a good win over Middx 1st team. Bill Brookman (Mi) had a 15 and 18 win over Dennis Holland and, with Mary Sawyer, won the mixed doubles in the 3rd game. Essex 3rd team, on promotion, started against their 2nd team and suffered a 6-3 defeat. Berks/Somerset match went to a 4-4 scoreline when Ian Schwartz beat John Crabtree for the Berks win.


Warwicks 2nds, on promotion, got a good win over Staffs 1st team. Phillip Paine, Barry O'Brien and Ann Lloyd were the successful Warwicks players. Northants 2nds, also on promotion, met their 1st team and went two nil up. However, the 1st team got on top to win 7-2. Michael Edwards/Brian D'Hooghe (Npl) won the mens doubles 28 and 22! N'berland did well to win 6-3 at Notts with Maurice Cheek (Nd) involved in three of the wins.

Vets 2B Div:- Beds 4 Bucks 5. Cambs 3. Essex IV 6. Norfolk 9 Norfolk II. 0. Bucks, on demotion, got off to a good start with a 5-4 win over Beds 1st team. They won the two doubles events at 20 and 18 in deciding games. Essex 4th team got a 6-3 win over Cambs at Soham Sports Centre. Geoff Boyce was involved in three of the Essex wins. Norfolk 1st team, on demotion, met their 2nd team and struck the first blow for a return to Div. 1 with a 9 nil win.


County Championship results will be given, as early as possible, on each Monday morning after the seven organised match dates.
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 3

Oxon 1st team, on demotion, went 2-nil down against Surrey 2nds but took the next five events, including two doubles, and finally won 5-4. Kent 3rd team found it hard going on promotion and were beaten 8-1 by Sussex 2nds. Middx 2nd team was also dominant with an 8-1 win over Oxon 2nds. Alf Davis (Ox) got a 15 and 13 win over John Smith (M).

Vets 2D Div:- Avon 4 Devon 5. Surrey III. 7 Wilts 2. Hants II. 9 Somerset II. 0.
Avon and Devon finished with almost identical records in this Div last season. It was not surprising there should be a 5-4 result, which went to Devon this time. In the mens doubles Gary Baldwin/ Bob Murray (Av) beat Mike Short/Paul Freeman 16, -19, 23. Surrey 3rds, on promotion, met Wilts 1st team, on demotion and with a weakened team. The Surrey team won 7-2 with John Callcut involved in three of the wins. Hants 2nds were in fine form with a 9-nil defeat of Somerset 2nds.

Vets 3A Div:- Wilts II. 1 Warwicks III.

Wils II, on demotion, received newcomers Warwicks 3rd team. The visitors went 6 nil up and finished with an 8-1 win. In the mens doubles Mike Howell/Roy Prosser (Wa) beat Alan Cooke/John Nash 10, -19, 20. Ches 3rds, another new team, also got off to a good start with a 7-2 win over Herts 4th team. But six events needed a decider including Peter Jones (Ch) 21, -20, 21 win over George Tyler. Hunts 1st team, on demotion, received Beds 2nds. Four events were decided narrowly in 3rd games but it was the visitors who got a 6-3 win. Beds 3rd team was also successful with a 6-3 win over Hunts 2nds.

Gloucs II. 5. Herts V. 7 Herefords 2. Devon have two new teams in Vets Section. Devon 3rds did well on their visit to Northants to beat their 3rd team 6-3. Six events went to a decider. Devon 2nds did not fare so well losing 5-4 to visitors Wilts 3rds. Tony Mileham (Wi) won his two matches. Gloucs 2nds did well on their visit to Reading to get a 5-4 win over Berks 3rds. A vital event was the mixed doubles when John Fannin/Shelia Matthews 19, -13, 21. Four events were decided narrowly in 3rd games but Herts 5th team beat Hereford 7-2. The closest match was Brian Gale's 15, 21, 23 win over Pat Meredith.

See the Stars at Birmingham

Sweden's Jan Ove Waldner

England's Lisa Lomas

The European Table Tennis Championships
25th March - 4th April 1994
THE NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA
One of the premier events

THE East Yorkshire Junior Open Select Championships played at the Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington, on 2nd and 3rd October 1993, further enhanced its reputation as one of the premier events on the Junior calendar. Writes Craig Milber

With an entry which maintained the Junior numbers from previous years, it was interesting to note all the top 17 ranked Junior girls entered the tournament.

Being one of the early events of the year it is always an early indication for the coming season and the signs are that this year’s Junior boys competitions could be the most wide open for many seasons.

With the withdrawal of top seeded Steven Meddings, through injury, and 2nd seed Andrew Wilkinson falling in the 2nd round to Ali Subhan, the way was open for some of the less fancied players. After local favourite Michael James was defeated by Vince Avery, at the quarter final stage, 21-12 18-21, 27-25, in the match of the tournament, only Terry Young of the top four seeds could boost a place in the semi final. His opponent was the unseeded Jun Tsuji from Shropshire, who had taken full advantage of Meddings’ absence to make good progress in the top quarter of the draw, and continued his good form to oust Young in two straight games. After local favourite Michael James was defeated by Vince Avery, at the quarter final stage, 21-12 18-21, 27-25, in the match of the tournament, only Terry Young of the top four seeds could boost a place in the semi final. His opponent was the unseeded Jun Tsuji from Shropshire, who had taken full advantage of Meddings’ absence to make good progress in the top quarter of the draw, and continued his good form to oust Young in two straight games. In the other semi Ben Johnson, from Berkshire, overcame Avery to take his place in the final, but after two close games could not contain Tsuji who ran away with the third game, 21-11. The Junior girls singles ran according to form with Nicola Deaton and Sally Marling reaching the final in convincing style, brushing aside the challenges of Gemma Schwartz and Jennifer Coleman in the semi finals. On this occasion Nicola came out on top in a high quality final in which neither girl took complete control.

There was a local victory in the Junior Boys doubles when Michael and Simon James, from Bridlington gained a comfortable win over Ben Johnson and Philip Neal. Sally Marling and Gemma Schwartz combined for their third Junior doubles title in four years, this time defeating Nicola Deaton and Debbie Peatka (a replacement for another injury victim, Michelle Martin).

Nicola Deaton winner of the Girls Singles title

On the previous day the Cadet singles had followed a similar pattern to the Juniors, with the girls being dominated by the top two seeds Tracy Davies and Debbie Peatka, Debbie winning a close final 21-18 in the third game. The boys event was much more open, eventually being taken by 2nd seed Ali Subhan, from Reading, who had a relatively easy route to the final, beating Ben Linmear in the semi. In the final his opponent was Northumberland’s Gareth Herbert, who had beaten top seed Gareth Herbert in the quarters, and another higher seed Christian Thompson in the semi. It looked as though his run may have continued in the final when he recovered from an 8-1 deficit to take the first game 21-16, however with strong attacking shots on both wings Subhan took control in the next two games to emerge triumphant. Then showed his obvious delight by immediately relaying the good news by phone from court side. He had more to phone about in the doubles, when alongside Christian Thompson they defeated another Berkshire/Kent duo in gareth Herbert and Scott Friday. The girls doubles went according to seeding with the Peniel pairing of Tracy Davies and Verity Cleminsen defeating Debbie Peatka and Alice Howard.

Scott Friday was the second winner to retain their title when he was victorious in the Under 12 boys singles over Richard Mann. Whilst Cheshire girl Karen Lockwood was a double winner taking the Under 12 and Class 2 Cadet girls titles, beating Linda Brown and Trudie Bloor respectively.

This years entries included 21 members of the Scottish National Development squad and their main success came in the Class 2 Cadet boys, where they provided three of the semi finalists, with only Gregory Lee of Lancashire stopping a clean sweep. However two Scots progressed to the final with Stuart Wilson defeating his compatriot Adrian Marchetti.

On both days the Mayor and Mayoress of East Yorkshire Borough Council, Mr and Mrs John Ireland attended the finals, presenting prizes and spending time circulating, talking to competitors. They were extremely impressed with the sportsmanship displayed throughout, especially in the Junior and Cadet boys finals.

EAST YORKSHIRE JUNIOR OPEN SELECT

RESULTS

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<td>Under 12 Boys Singles</td>
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Coaches training weekend in Milton Keynes

The Regional Staff Coaches and Assistant Staff Coaches met for a training weekend at the Friendly Hotel, Milton Keynes on 25th and 26th September 1993. The current emphasis is on coach education and to this end two National Coaching Foundation workshops had been arranged by our supremo, Jill Parker. Sixteen coaches were in attendance including our vice chairperson Gail McCulloch, and Jill and Don were on hand to organise and update.

The first workshop involved presentation skills and we had all been asked to spend time in advance preparing a brief on a given subject to present to the group. Excuses for lack of preparation abounded including "I did not know until 2pm yesterday that I was attending" and "I've been abroad for two weeks." One would think we had all been asked to give blood the way nervousness and apprehension took a grip. However, guinea-pig Derrick (open the window), Marples gave a typically gutsy performance to get us on our way and everyone joined in to provide an interesting and informative session.

Dinner in the evening was a magnificent meal which took rather longer than expected causing Tim Holder's practical physiological session to have a rather late start. Tim kept it moving. It soon became apparent (or was it hypnotised) until near midnight that one or two of the more studious participants still managed to procure and quaff a pint or two (water of course).

Sunday morning and our Jogger Rose early for his pre-breakfast get lose in Milton Keynes (it's easy). He joined us near midnight though one or two of the more studious participants still managed to procure and quaff a pint or two (water of course). The first workshop involved presentation skills and we had all been asked to spend time in advance preparing a brief on a given subject to present to the group. Excuses for lack of preparation abounded including "I did not know until 2pm yesterday that I was attending" and "I've been abroad for two weeks." One would think we had all been asked to give blood the way nervousness and apprehension took a grip. However, guinea-pig Derrick (open the window), Marples gave a typically gutsy performance to get us on our way and everyone joined in to provide an interesting and informative session.

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The Leading Edge
by Pauline Steel

Career Development Course for Sportswomen supported by the Sports Council.

Murry and Sally Weston (Sussex county players) recently attended the above named course at Loughborough University. The objectives were:
1) To increase awareness of self as the foundation of success and of developing potential.
2) To support the development of skills such as self diagnosis, effective communication and needs and wants, dealing with conflict and negotiation, goal setting, planning for continued self-development and of coping strategies.
3) To develop key communication skills in coaches, aiming at optimizing the growth of these skills in the performer.
4) To initiate the growth of these skills of the implications and application of the course content within the participants governing body.
5) To assess the part the course was introductory, finding out about people and the sports they represented: Table Tennis, Netball, Badminton, Sailing, Cricket, Soccer, Volleyball, Rowing, Judo.

On Saturday we had a lecture on self assessment with the view that understanding ourselves would help to understand the needs of others (i.e. coach and performer situations). The whole day was spent discussing the human performance area for women competitors and coming up with similar situations and explaining how we would deal with them. The evening was spent discussing the different areas of our own performance area for women competitors and coming up with similar situations and explaining how we would deal with them. The evening was spent discussing the different areas of our own performance area for women competitors and coming up with similar situations and explaining how we would deal with them.

On Sunday we moved into the performance area for women competitors and their coaches. An interesting exercise was to reflect on our own performance area for women competitors and coming up with similar situations and explaining how we would deal with them. On Sunday we moved into the performance area for women competitors and their coaches. An interesting exercise was to reflect on our own performance area for women competitors and coming up with similar situations and explaining how we would deal with them.

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FOUNDATIONS GRANT AID ETTA
£500,000

(Mike Lewis V/C Development)

NEW table tennis centres are set to benefit from major capital expenditure grants from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts (FSA).

It is well known that increased quantity and quality of facilities for table tennis are long overdue, and that a surge in the popularity of the sport of table tennis will be more easily achieved given more profile for our sport which essentially boils down to where it is played.

The ETTA are regularly being advised by member leagues and clubs about lost of playing venues which often inevitably leads to shrinking numbers and hence the decline in the ETTA membership.

SUCCESSFUL BID

Early this summer came the outstanding news that an ETTA's bid for grant aid to the Foundation for Sport and the Arts had been successful and that, "Grant Aid in the sum of £500,000 is to be set aside and earmarked for individual Foundation grants to the regional table tennis centres upon the recommendations of the Association."

The funds will therefore be granted to Table Tennis centres throughout the country to assist with capital building costs.

Partially as a result of the 'Focus Sport' initiative the ETTA is already aware of some 30 projects (all at different stages), to create new table tennis centres. We therefore anticipate no shortage of schemes applying for a share of the £500,000 which has been grant aided for this financial year. We are of course keen to hear of new projects of which we are not yet aware.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

To assist the ETTA in ensuring the grant aid is used in the best interests of table tennis, an application form is now available together with "Essential Criteria." An ETTA facilities panel will assess all applications and recommend to the ETTA Management Committee projects for funding. Management Committee recommendations will be considered by the FSA who will make final decisions and grant aid accordingly.

Any person (or body) who has a table tennis centre project for which funding is required should in the first instance contact the appropriate Regional Development Officer and/or Regional Chairman to discuss the project. Application forms are available from these contacts or from the ETTA office in Hastings.

FACILITIES OFFICER

In addition to offering this grant aid via the F.S.A., the ETTA are also in the process of recruiting an experienced full time Facilities Officer whose role will be to advise and act as a catalyst to enable value for money projects to be quickly established.

This officer will be available to members with projects, in an advisory capacity from initial discussions to completion of facility projects.

This is an extremely exciting time for table tennis giving an opportunity for significant progress to project the sport forward. The ETTA are delighted to be able to offer this opportunity and assistance to its members.

Further Information From
DICCON C GRAY
(ETTA NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER)
TEL: (0424) 722525 FAX: (0424) 422103
Fair play award of Luxembourg

IT doesn't always pay to play fair. Or does it. Take the case of Luxembourg's Christian Schaus and Daniel Wintersdorf who accepted a ten minute break in their game against Norway so their opponents could fix their rackets with glue instead of replacing them as they should have done.

Unfortunately (or well, the two Luxi players lost their concentration and the match. However, their sportsmanship was recognised and they were awarded with a Fair Play award from the ETTU. Writes Jim Beckley.

Unlucky Chen

Unlucky Chen Xinhua. The 22 year Yorkshireman and former Chinese World Cup Star, was eliminated in the first round at the European Masters Cup in Hanover although all three players in that group lost one match.

After beating Croation Zoran Primorac 3-1, he then lost to Olympic Champion Jan Ove Waldner 3-0 and although the Swedish player also went on to lose 3-1 to Primorac that one match was enough to put Chen down and out.

German ace Jorg Rosskopf moved smoothly through his group and went on to win the tournament beating Peter Karlsson in the final collecting $40,000.

Getting tough

The EITU are getting tough on teams failing to get their results in on time to me. From now on all teams who don't send in their scorecards within the three day limit are liable to fines of 100 Swiss francs, the time of going to Press that was about £50.

Flagged

Umpires would do well to make sure they keep a copy of the latest regulations with them. At least that's the advice to officials involved with the European Club Cup of Champions. A close check on whether the highest ranked player in each team has been nominated in the correct order has been flagged up by the ETTU.

Movement

Israel seems to be the country most Russian players would like to go to. The most recent movements of players to Israel has been from the former Soviet Union. Altogether five players have decided to settle there.

Two players from Belarus and one player each from Russia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have committed their future to Israel.

Nearer home John Bult moved from the EITA to the Welsh ITA.

Calendar

NOVEMBER
11-14 Austrian Open Linz
18-21 Croatia Open Zagreb
24-28 Swedish Open Karlstad

DECEMBER
3-6 Finish Open Helsinki
17-19 Portuguese Youth Open Lisbon
Edge Over

OUR suggestion about calling an edge-ball as ‘Off’ seems to have driven some
readers near to apoplexy. Remarkably, the objections to the suggestion all
include some such phrases as ‘There is never any doubts about’ or ‘There were
no arguments whatever’... ‘the ball touched the edge’. It is easily
detectable, if not by sight then by sound. If we had thought that, then
the subject would not have been raised in the first place. We started from the
premise that it does happen that a slight touch of the edge on the far side
of the table can be, and sometimes is, missed by an umpire. This can lead to
a loss of confidence in the umpire. But it does give an opportunity, as was
interestingly pointed out by one
touch the edge on the far side
of the table. It is a let
December '92 and March/April '93. Individual events, there
is no interpretation because the
the edge-ball were also noted.
if Tacky 'C £18.99
rubber covered - only the side used for
striking the ball. The other side may
be covered with any material or merely
coloured appropriately.

4) Law 2.10.1.1 defines the word
volley' out of the definition of a let
service i.e. if the ball in service touches
the net and is stopped by the receiver
including anything he wears or
missed by an umpire. This
changed good luck to bad luck.

5) Law 2.11.1.5. says that a player
loses a point if the ball touches the table
twice before he can strike it. The old
law said 'touches his court twice where
of course it could spin back over the
net and touch his opponent's court.

6) Law 3.2.1.3. points out that glue
with liquid solvents will not be allowed
after 1.6.94.

that one of our
pointing for discussion has found
favour with the powers that be: the
idea of simplifying the Law by getting
rid of the Volley (at the October 92
issue and subsequent comments in
December '92 and March/April '93).

5) Law 2.11.1.5. says that a player
loses a point if the ball touches the table
twice before he can strike it. The old
law said 'touches his court twice where
of course it could spin back over the
net and touch his opponent's court.

6) Law 3.2.1.3. points out that glue
with liquid solvents will not be allowed
after 1.6.94.

7) Law 3.2.2.2. allows for the ball
being orange.

8) Law 3.2.2.4. defines the priority and
dimensions of the players' numbers.

9) Law 3.2.2.10. says what to do when
opponents are dressed alike.

10) Laws 3.3.2.1., 3.3.2.2., 3.3.2.7., and
3.3.2.8. allow for 2 assistant umpires.

11) Law 3.4.6.2. says that now, in
individual events, there can be only one
designated adviser.

12) Law 3.4.7.3. now gives that umpire
the power to give 2 further penalty
points for a second offence.

13) Laws 3.4.7.6. and 3.4.7.7. details
the use of coloured cards in penalty
situations.

The rest of the changes are outside
the jurisdiction of the umpire.
Wheelchair problems

THE ITTF Equipment Committee sympathises with Nicholas Turner who, at least when he wrote his March letter (Mailbox Section), could not manoeuvre his wheelchair under the ends of most tables. A couple of years ago someone - not a wheelchair player - brought this possible problem to our attention, and we thought enough about it to make some enquiries. In particular we checked with an association of wheelchair players, and were told that there was no difficulty. As a result, we took no action. Furthermore, I officiated at the US Wheelchair Championships recently, and found that no one there was inconvenienced.

But on the assumption that Mr Turner is not the only player disadvantaged because of the tables, there is another problem, and we shall be glad to look further into it. In fact we'd have done it earlier than this, and must apologise to Mr Turner for the delay, which was occasioned by our virtually complete preoccupation with the glue problem.

Obviously we could examine every approved table, determine whether or not it is suitable for wheelchair play, and announce the results. Let's not, that sounds too much like work. I'd prefer to start from the other end, namely Mr Turner and other wheelchair players who, after all, are the experts in this field. Well, welcome any input. Which tables are acceptable and which are not? Please send the information to the ITTF, Washington, USA.

Inconvenienced.

The pervading atmosphere led me to believe that this was not a question of whether the paper perfection of grading mechanics is so admirable in practice, but there are entertaining stories of some players who calculate the effect on their grading before deciding whether they will be available for any match. Theories have even been propounded to suggest that player could work his matches to safely maintain or improve his position. It is difficult to believe that there can be any truth in such stories, but it indicates an attitude of mind so contrary to T.T. traditions and good sportsmanship, that anyone with any affection for the spirit of the game will unite in seeing that it does not arise.

Jack Reeves, Gloucester

Successful

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the running of a most successful Chinese training camp held in Gillingham, Kent, over the two weeks of August. In particular I would like to thank Mr Greg Thompson, Camp Organizer and Mrs Linda Ritter who was the camp Co-Organizer, although Linda had a very difficult task to do. I would like to say that I think she did a remarkable job. I would also like to say a word of thanks to both Alan Horner and Gary Halls who assisted with the coaching.

As I attended the camp for both weeks I made quite a lot of new friends from all over England. I would like to finish my letter by addressing all those who took part in the camp. I had a very enjoyable time, and enjoyed the company of you all at the camp. I would like to wish you all the very best in the future, and I hope to see you all again sometime.

Sern McCauley
(Northern Ireland Table Tennis)

Solution

During the recent Peniel tournament I noticed that nine players, who won their Saturday Group matches, were unable to attend on the Sunday. One solution, apart from the unpleasant one of deducting points, might be to play a preliminary round first round the day before, for those players who are unable to attend on the Sunday. Though having had a doubles partner not attend on the Sunday to play a doubles after winning his Group matches a few years ago, it is rather a debatable point of what can be done.

John C. Fairweather
Woking, Surrey
News from the Counties

AVON
Bob Murray

TWO wins and two losses from the opening series of county matches.

The Senior Is got off to an excellent start with a 7-3 victory over Berkshire I at Nailsea. The ladies once again proved the mainstay of the side with Michele Cohen and Helen Perrott both winning their two singles. It was nice to see Andy Creed back in the side after a season's lay off through injury and he picked up one of his singles along with Hugh Dalton and Chris Holley who also was making a welcome return to county duty.

A below strength Senior II went down 8-2 away to Somerset. One win each from Mark Butler and Debbie Boyce were all we had to show for the evening's efforts but I understand that both John Beer and Kelly Harris made promising county debuts.

The veteran fixture against Devon was always going to be a close result and so it proved. Devon reversed last season's score with a 5-4 victory. One singles win each from Gary Baldwin, Bob Murray and John Higgs plus a doubles success for Gary and Bob was not quite enough to take the points. Linda Porter, like Gary a first year Vet, played well without success in her matches.

The Junior side had the best result of the day returning from Gloucestershire with an 8-2 victory. Two wins each by Alex Sheppard, Graham Long and Jon Thorn were supplemented by one each from Lizzie McDonald and Jason Orlik.

County Rankings

Following the first season of county matches a new set of county rankings has been produced. Leading positions are as follows:-

Men
1. Andy Creed
2. Gary Baldwin
3. Chris Holley
4. Hugh Dalton
5. Paul Hooper
6. Mark Butler
7. Clive Ellinon
8. Dov Katz
9. Barry Pudge
10. John Beer

Ladies
1. Michele Cohen
2. Helen Perrott
3. Debbie Boyce
4. Casey Webb-Barrett
5. Diaa Sandford

Veteran Men
1. Gary Baldwin
2. Bob Murray

Regional Trials

Our juniors and cadets gave us our best result in the South West preliminary trials for many years.

Jessica Orlik and Gemma Loughran both qualified in the cadet girls section while Graham Long and Tom Orlik will definitely line up in the final trials in the junior boys section but Alex Sheppard could only make the reserve list. However, it is in the cadet boys section where we achieved unparalleled success. Paul Adams, Paul Hynam, Leigh Bees have all qualified, many as group winners and the future of Bristol and Avon table tennis looks rosy as these and many others come off Bernard Nash's production line.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Alex Murdoch

DURING the summer we had the AGM of the county with the majority of committee standing again for the coming season. Thanks to them all for their continued support - without these people we would not be able to run our county teams.

Berkshire No. 1 Junior and England No. 3 Gemma Schwartz

Entered in the County Championship this season are: 1 Senior Teams, 2 Junior Teams and 3 Vetts Teams.

Why is the county so short of additional good ladies at both senior and junior level to stop us entering more than one team in each category. More effort and assistance is required from all the Leagues within Bedfordshire, not just the few who do all the work.

Ranking Lists as follows

Senior Men
1. Ian Collier
2. Jimmy Walsh
3. Mike Lewene
4. Norman Swift
5. Kevin Copperwheat
6. Brian Mayfield
7. David Hyde
8. Keith Mcconnell
9. Paul Birch
10. Gary Turner

Senior Ladies
1. Jean McCluskie
2. Sandra Harper
3. Mary Jarrott
4. Audrey Robinson
5. Anita Copperwheat
6. Val Murdoch
7. Nichola Walsh
8. Jean Mayson
9. Martine Whittaker
10. Jenny Sanders

Junior Boys
1. Robert Dyson
2. Philip Morley
3. Chris Friends
4. Andrew Pearson
5. James Packman

Junior Girls
1. Martine Whittaker
2. Jenny Sanders
3. Nichola Leeder
4. Nichola Tarrant

We wish all players at all levels the best of success and enjoyment for the coming season.

Please note no Ranking complaints found in this County report.

At the recent Eastern Region junior trials, Bedfordshire were represented by 10 juniors. Congratulations to Martine Whittaker, Lee Anker and Graham Babcock who will go through to the next rounds.

BERKSHIRE

John Cunningham

Sorry for the lack of a Berkshire report in September, a report was sent complete with photographs, where it finished up I don’t know?

However, seconds went down 7.3 to Avon first despite a brace of wins from Ben Johnson. Johnson was one of three juniors called up by team manager Sylvia Bruton, the others were Terry Young and Kay Leary.

Newbury player Darren Jones also made his debut joining Gill Galloway

PLEASE NOTE

Would County correspondents please note that in future they please send their copy for County Notes to:
John Wood, 5 The Brackens
Hemel Hempstead,
Herts HP2 8JA.
taking time out from tennis. Allan Bruton tells me that the match between young Johnson and the Avon number one, Alan Crow, was a real thriller going to an exciting third rubber. To quote Allan, the match was an all action, absorbing, tactical and totally brilliant contest, just going to the junior Boys. The match was fairly well played with both young sides, with enough talent shining through to augur well for the future.

The cadets and juniors should certainly do well this season, with the likes of Reading players G. Johnson, Gemma Schwartz and Ali Subhan, Maidenhead ace Terry Young and Sloughs Gareth Herbert.

On the league front, early days but late signing John Souter proved to be the key to a good 6-4 win for Kingfisher ‘A’ in the first match of the Reading League, his maximum was a major setback for last years champions Our Lady of Peace ‘A’.

The Going for Growth’ Southern Region Conference was held this weekend in Marlow. I understand that it was a worthwhile event with about 70 attendance. Those that I have spoken to were very impressed with the input of Alan Ransome.

Berkshire Junior and Cadet Trials

Stars of the Future

Some stars of the future tested their early season form at the Berkshire junior table tennis trials.

The 14+ boys event at AWE Abingdon was attended by fewer than the ideal number of 16. However, the standard of play was excellent. The Poumney brothers, aged 12 and nine, acquitted themselves very well and look to be exciting prospects for the future. Praveen Reddy took the title with a convincing performance that bodes well for his appearances for Berkshire juniors this season.

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Matthew Thomas (N) 7 Shivan Campbell-Platt (R), 8 Robert Hudson (N), 9 Luke Sadler (N), 10 Guy Abel (N), 11 Jonathan Shally (N), 12 Andrew Siddall (R), 13 Conor Meade (B), 14 Chris Kent (M), 15 Alexander Ashley (N), 16 Martin Foan (N), 17 Dean Wise (B), 18 Christopher Crowe (R), 19 Owen Wild (R), 20 Mucia Richardson (R), 21 Alex Lewis (N), 22 David Wild (R), 23 Michael Wild (R), 24 Tom Hughes (B), 25 Matthew Stearnes (B).

The Berkshire committee will use these results at their next meeting to put together new junior and cadet rankings lists. Leading the current Berkshire ranking lists are several top English juniors. If their form matches expectations this season, Berkshire will make a very strong challenge for the county junior premier division championship.

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CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

Cumbria may languish in the lower reaches of the county championship, but they have some of the most promising players in the country. The selectors’ biggest battle is getting the best players to turn out for the county. Many, like 14th nationally-ranked junior boy Kevin Hodgson, prefer to go for big tournaments and the National League.

The county did manage for the opening of the county championship season, however, to include leading cadets Tristan Swan (25th in the national cadet rankings) and Catherine Corkhill (12th girl cadet).

They may have been slightly out of their depth, but not entirely and showed tremendous potential. Tristan, for example, took Andy Hare, number three for 9-1 winners Warwickshire 2nd, to three games, and Catherine only lost the second game of her set with Dawn Bromley 21-19.

Whitbarrow Village time share complex, near Penrith, are again hosting the county as sponsors for the second season running, and the next match there is on Saturday November 20th against Staffs 3rd, 2.30pm.

Cumbria vs Warwickshire 2nd (Cumbria names first): Mark Temple (Carlisle) lost to Colin Green 21-17, 19-21, 19-21; lost to Ian Fargurn 21-10, 15-21, 21-7. Stephen Dixon (Kendal) lost to Fargurn 19-21, 21-14, 17-21, lost to Sam Risk (Bridlington). Tristan Swan (Barrow) lost to Hose 13-21, 21-19, 11-9; lost to Green 15-21, 9-21. Catherine Corkhill (Barrow) lost to Dawn Bromley 9-21, 19-21; lost to Nicola Meddings 18-21, 15-21, Claire Largue (Bridlington) lost to Meddings 18-21, 10-21; lost to Bromley 21-16, 21-7.

A big boost towards breeding more Barrow success stories is the opening of the new tennis table centre at Park View, Barrow, for coaching and general play. Hodgson and Neil Yardley and Alan Pay got Vickers off to a good start with a 10-0 win over Millom Former Pupils A as the Barrow season opened.

DERBYSHIRE

Colin Deaton

Derbyshire have commenced the season with two fine wins defeating Cheshire 7-3 and Lancashire 9-1 in Division 2a of the National Junior Championships.

We amalgamated our two junior teams for this season into one team and this good start will have given our youngsters some confidence. Representing Derbyshire in these two matches were David Purdy, Michael Isherwood, Matthew Worthing, Sarah Milne and Abigail Gagele. With both Purdy and Isherwood being so far unbeaten in their singles.

Our Seniors open their weekend play off matches with the thought of Alan Cooke in the team, although it appears as though we shall be denied the services of Nicola Deaton who will be on international duty in the prestigious Cleveland Junior Open.

What a pity we are unable to field our team as it would have been no denying, a Derbyshire side at full strength would be a hard nut to crack.

The Counties only British League Team Unbridge of Burton have also got off to flying starts, with their first two games 6-2 and 7-1 respectively. In fact, the Burton League and the general table tennis scene in this area continues to thrive.

This year, they have commenced a junior league for the very first time which comprises of ten teams with two players in a team.

On the development side, they have introduced table tennis to about 300 children and hope to start shortly, a series of ‘Champions’ coaching sessions.

During the month of September, the Burton League were host to a party of young German players. This German club are twinned with Burton and has been in existence for eleven years.

The Derby and District League too are introducing our sport to the youngsters by virtue of some beginners courses in schools. One school in particular has purchased three new tables and have weekly coaching sessions under the guidance of a top qualified coach.

Much of this nucleus of young players being introduced to our game in this area is due to the drive and enthusiasm of the East Midlands Regional Development Officer Harold Taylor and I am sure that the dedicated Harold will be the first to admit this needs to be maintained.

Once again, they will be staging the annual Derbyshire Closed Championships, which are to be held at Markwold Tertiary college on Sunday 6 February 1994. A good entry is anticipated.

Another active league within our county is the Matlock and District League. Although they operate with only two divisions, they, in addition, have a Junior League consisting of 10 teams which is an increase on last year.

Most of the Junior teams are a product of the coaching sessions held, at the Cromford Community Centre, with one school fielding no fewer than five teams and other efforts of recruiting are being pursued at all levels.

The next big sponsored event is CP Holtings Masters which has top players competing from both Matlock and the Chesterfield leagues including Geoff Gill, Melf Gould, John Devis and Tony Gregory.

Whilst they are most keen to develop a player from their area to represent the county side they do point out that they have a league magazine called ‘Love All’.

Chesterfield continue to rule the roost as far as the top players on the county are concerned. With six divisions to their credit, they continue to produce several England ranked juniors.

Coaching throughout Chesterfield is under the guidance and watchful eye of Derrick Marples who still believes in the fact that quality is more important than quantity.

How interesting it was to note that Russian defender and European ranked star Ilina Timmins is playing in the Chesterfield League. The popular player is to play for Chesterfield in the National Rose Bowl Competition. Their first match is against Blackpool at the end of November.

Finally, Nicola Deaton kept the Derbyshire flag flying by winning the East Yorkshire 2 Star Select at Bridlington. She went through the entire tournament without conceding a game and another most interesting feature is the number of young Derbyshire Juniors who are now travelling to play in these various Junior Open events.

‘Have Bat Will Travel’ seems to be the applicable cliché, I hope it continues.

DEVONSHIRE

John Vincent

This year the County is running nine teams, 3 Seniors, 3 Juniors and 3 Veterans, with seven of the team being self financing. Our players are determined to improve their standard of play by paying their way at representative level.

South West Junior Preliminary Trials

Congratulations to the following in reaching the last 8 of the Regional Trials:

Junior Boys
1. Peter Thomas (North Devon)
2. Robert Svenneon (Torquing)
3. Gareth Burton (Plymouth)

Junior Girls
1. Joanna Barraclough (Plymouth)
2. Elizabeth May (Plymouth)
3. Lucy Perry (Credenon)

Cadet Girls
1. Joanna Barraclough
2. Lucy Perry
Our top players Adrian Vincent and Lynsey Hayward (Junior) and Robert Svensson (Cadet) were exempt from their duties due to their high national ranking.

**Junior County**
Both our second and third teams played Cheltenham II in Swanssea. Our seconds drew 5-5 with Robert Svensson taking 2, Peter Thomas 2, at Deerpark School. Gloucestershire, a team event is scheduled for St. Benedicts School in Arle Road, Cheltenham.

What basically is the idea behind these series of get togethers? I think that the Gloucestershire team decided to start again and I hope that during this period of time is to collect data on all the players that attend and get together a top squad of players who we think might be worthy of having specialist coaching made available in the not too distant future.

Other Counties are producing players of a much higher standard than ours, and I feel that to obtain some of these top players in our squad is worthwhile. Gloucestershire must do something positive perhaps what I have already mentioned is but a start, we shall see, only time will tell, coupled with patience and a continued interest in our Juniors, who after all represent the future of our sport. Take care of them now and perhaps they will take of T.T. later.

Darren Griffin the County official No. 1 has sought a transfer (and got it) from his old team - Cheltenham Saracens in the 1st Div. North of the British League to now play Premier Division for Bathwick Tyres. The same team is Cheltenham former all England Veteran singles champion of a few years ago Dave Harvey.

And finally, the County (Closed) Senior Championships will take place on Sunday 5th of December, the venue is at “The New Sports Complex” and Leisure Centre at Cheltenham. The Junior Championships will be held on the 28th November and the venue St. Benedicts School, Arle Road, Cheltenham.

Congratulations to the following coaches in obtaining their awards recently:
**Coach - John Vincent**
Aver Coach - Cedric Foster, Elaine Sherratt, Tamar Connolly, Blackpool.

**Hampshire**
Brian Lamerton

Saturday, September 18th saw Hampshire Table Tennis Association create a record when they fielded seven teams in the Championships and five victories may well have been a record as well.

The Junior ‘A’ side which won promotion last season and then lost all their boys because of age were expected to have a tough ride this season but although going down 8-2, against Kent there was much promise. Glenda Stoneson in fact won all five of her matches opening set; the other win was achieved by Lorna Dutch who is a very good player amongst their ranks namely Stephen Taylor, who is following in the footsteps of his father John, and brother Duncan.

Worsted and Hertford, who are in joint second after North Herts, still have to face Barnets on the second Sunday of the tournament, on the 6th March 1994, so on paper they still have a chance of the title, but in reality Barnets are red hot favourites to retain the Junior Inter-League trophy.

**Hertfordshire**
John Wood

Hertfordshire’s Inter-League season started with the juniors performing at the Barnets Table Tennis Centre and coming out on top after the first Sunday of this tournament were coming season: Teacher - Linda Harper. Barnets’ three youngsters Stephen Taylor, Mark Easton and Michelle Butten.

Barnets also have the only undefeated player amongst their ranks namely Stephen Taylor, who is following in the footsteps of his father John, and brother Duncan.

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**Hertfordshire Junior Inter Leagues**

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**FRANK HUNTCHINS**
It is with deep regret that we have to announce that Frank Hutchings died suddenly on 21st September 1993. Frank had been involved with the Centre since its inception in the 1960s, and had always been its Treasurer. His work in maintaining the Centre’s accounts was very much behind the scenes, and, apart from the day-to-day keeping of the accounts, involved VAT Returns, calculation of stocktake values and preparation of the Annual Accounts, all of which required a considerable amount of his time and was entirely voluntary. He had also been involved with the management of the Centre, in particular the electrical and heating aspects, and liaised with various organisations over matters affecting the running of the Centre.

Frank had been involved with the Barnets & District Table Tennis League for very many years and had held several positions on their Committee, including Treasurer and Chairman, and was President at the time of his death. He had been a member of Potters Bar Table Tennis Club for more years than most of us care to remember, and had been their Treasurer for several years. Our sympathies are extended to his widow, Jackie, and to his children, Hazel, Dawn and John, and grandson Katie.

The funeral took place at Golders Green Crematorium on Monday, 27th September 1993, at 2.15pm. Both the Centre and League sent floral tributes on behalf of their committees and members.

**LANCASHERI**
Stan Clarke

The County trials held over the weekend of 4/5th September resulted in the following ranking lists for the coming season:

**Men**
1. Sean Gibbons, Chorley
2. Jonathan Taylor, Denton
3. Andrew Eden, Mawdesley
4. Steve Scowcroft, Manchester
5. Tony Taylor, Manchester
6. Darren Howarth, Droylsden
7. Nigel Ekersley, Macclesfield
8. Graham Clarke, Haslingden
9. Paul Hutchings, Liverpool
10. Norman Thewell, Littleborough
11. Howard Whewell, Rossendale
12. Nigel Boydeil, Leigh

**Women**
1. Andrea Holt, Ramsbottom
2. Maris Thornley, Chorley
3. Paula French, Liverpool
4. Lindsay Thornton, Liverpool
5. Tamara Comissio, Blackburn
6. Janetse Hutchings, Blackburn
7. Amanda Winkell, Blackburn
8. Brenda Bovey, Liverpool

**Junior Boys**
1. Kevin Eldred, St Helens
2. Darryl Meredith, Oldham
3. Glen Payne, Kearsley
4. James McGreal, Skelmersdale
5. David Wilde, Oldham
6. Tony Johnstone, Blackpool
7. Tony Wilson, Preston
8. Robert Pien, Blackburn
9. Gregory Lee, Horwich
10. Ben Thorber, Burnley
11. Stuart Toole, St. Helens
LEICESTERSHIRE

Derek Butt

The Elbow Tankard (Summer League) was completed on time again this season mainly due to the well organised system that Bob Craven-Griffiths has introduced. It certainly works well. First of the semi finals was Ironmen and Kingfishers. Ian Weatherby matched the works team a dramatic victory just as Kingfishers were making a comeback. At four all Ironmen took three out of four to Brooks to get the points and then they extended their lead to 9-4 as Terry Wale beat Dave Roche. Kingfishers then came back as Richard Grumley won. When it came to the last match Mick Meredith (Kingfishers) needed to win his two games against Weatherby. Meredith took the first to make it 10-9 to Ironmen, but Ian Weatherby then made good of his handicap and clinched the all important last game 21-14. So the Ironmen were through.

In the second semi, holders Good Bad and Ugly (Knightrion Park) were up against United (Cadeby). Dave Small was the holders key man getting five from his six games. Again the doubles proved to be very important GHU won three of the four. The holders went through 12-8.

Ironically the two finalists were from the same group in the early stages. The Good Bad and Ugly retained the trophy as they beat the Ironmen 11-5 it was a bit one sided this match but in the group matches Ironmen beat the champions.

The Park side went straight into a 6-0 lead as Dave Small, Alan Pasingham and Mike Gillett won comfortably. The Ironmen could not get back after being hit for six, and the winners just romped away.

Skerer: Dave Small won 4 out of 4 Alan Pasingham and Mike Gillett won 3 from each.

The Intertowns tournament has managed to get played at least the junior event anyway. Four teams were represented, two from Hinckley and two from Leicester. Credit must go to Hinckley for sending two teams as their second string were youngsters with little experience, but nevertheless put up a good performance, well done lads.

Matches were played on a round robin basis and the outcome was as follows:

Leicester 1st team w2 from 2
Leicester 2nd team w1 and lost 2
Hinckley 1st team w2 from 2
Hinckley 2nd team lost 2.

So Leicester and Hinckley firsts went into the final and a good match we had. It was neck and neck after the sixth match and in the seventh Matthew Hobday put the Hinckley side into the lead as he beat Chris Tuckwell. Then in the eight between Stuart Palmer (L) and Alex Sibley (R) Alex had the chance to wrap it up for Hinckley, but Stuart pulled it back for Leicester winner 23-21 in the third.

The final game was between Alex Tuckwell (L) and Daniel Marriott (R) Alex was too strong for Daniel and took the match for Leicester winning 21-18, 21-17 and the matched ended 5-4.

For Leicester Stuart Palmer and Alex Tuckwell took the first two, and Chris Tuckwell got the one. Man of the Match went to Hinckley’s Matthew Hobday who recorded a maximum. Thanks to Harry Ward for his work on the day.

The new season is now two weeks old and already there have been a few shocks. Perhaps the most notable has been the defeat of Loughborough Kingfishers Mark Illingworth in Division One he lost to Steave White. Well done Chalkie.

Mark has had an incredible record, and was unbeaten in Division One for the past two seasons. He did not miss many matches either. This has been a really remarkable feat and congratulations to him as well.

The Rushley Mead complex has entered two teams into the league this season these lads are from the season at Soar Valley. Their team in Division 2. The season after promotion in their first season, have started with a win and a draw. Well done to these lads as well.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Kath Fisher

A new club has been formed as Tetney near Grimsby with the help of the B.T.T.A. Scheme and the Grimsby League. With two new teams, two nets, balls and five surrounds, they started in July 1992 with just coaching. As it developed they added another table kindly donated by Colin Grey, and started this season 6 teams will play from there in the Grimsby League. Some are new players some old and some returning to the game after four years (always good news). Four of the new ones have only played for 20 weeks but are keen to get started, so they are starting at the deep end and looking forward to the experience.

The County Junior team had a reasonable start to the season with all teams in the league playing on a single venue day at Kesteven Centre, Grantham in the first match after being 4-3 down they came back to beat Warwickshire 2-4, just lost 6-4 to Warwickshire I and drew with Oxford 5-5. The girls had a very good day, Nicola Manningham got 100%, Rachel Lewis on her debut for the Howarth. Graham Clarke. Paul O’Leary won 4/6. Gary Tuckwell got the one. Man of the Match went to Hinckley for sending two teams as their 1st team w2 from 2 Tresadern. Daryl and Mark David the Tamar Connolly won a close fought Leicester 2nd team w1 and lost 2 Junior Boys boys also played their part.

Veteran Women

1. S Kubelka
2. K Kottasz
3. M Glusic
4. A Smith
5. M Glusic
6. R Knight
7. K Kotzass
8. M Heffernan
9. L Soutter
10. B Blin
11. K Baker
12. R Blanch
13. J Bolton
14. J Wakelem*
15. C O’Leary
16. J Jablon

Junior Boys

1. S Jablon
2. J Sugrue*
3. A Jeyarajay
4. M Michaelides
5. M Wilshire
6. S Zofard
7. P Tucker
8. R. Lazarus
9. J Wakelem*
10. D Wakelem*

Junior Girls

1. J Weare
2. C O’Leary
3. S Hors nell
4. C Wilson
5. K Lindsay
6. J Souter
7. S Horsnell
8. A Smith
9. C Boothby
10. D Wakelem*

COUNTY NOTES - 4

Middlesex

Lorna Taylor

The Senior II team won their first match of the season beating Berkshire 6-4. David Goode and Simon Rockall each winning their singles and Neil Charles and Kitto Kortass contributing on each. The Veterans II team lost 6-3 to Gloucestershire; however, the 2nd team gained a 5-1 win at home against Oxford 2. Our team consisted of Norman Slikfin, John Smith, Maurice Issacs and Lorna Slikfin. The new Junior II team came up against Hampshire 2, but unfortunately suffered an 8-2 defeat, Sarah Hornell the most experienced of the team, was the only scorer. Phillip Tucker and Vicky Annsam both made their county debuts in this match and this has finally given them a taste of competition at this level. The other young team members were James and Oliver Wakelem who played their second ever county matches and who unfortunately played the same team as last year. Again they just missed out on winning their first match for their county.

Congratulations to Jason Sugrue, who has recently returned from China after refereeing coaching, for becoming number three cadet in England (September list). The following ranking list as of September 1993 are as follows:

Senior Men
1. N Tyler
2. G Sandley
3. J Souter
4. C Wilson
5. D Goode
6. N Charles
7. T Cutler
8. D Tan
9. P McKoy
10. S Rockall
11. D Topiwala
12. C Papantoniou
13. S Horner
14. P Simmonds

Senior Women
1. S Kubelka
2. L Keast
3. S Williams
4. A Smith
5. M Glusic
6. R Knight
7. K Kotzass
8. M Heffernan
9. L Soutter
10. B Blin
11. K Baker
12. R Blanch
13. J Bolton
14. J Wakelem*
15. C O’Leary
16. J Jablon

Junior Boys
1. J Jablon
2. J Sugrue*
3. A Jeyarajay
4. M Michaelides
5. M Wilshire
6. S Zofard
7. P Tucker
8. R. Lazarus
9. J Wakelem*
10. D Wakelem*

Junior Girls
1. J Weare
2. C O’Leary
3. S Horsnell
4. C Wilson
5. K Lindsay

Veteran Men
1. C Boothby
2. W Macareenhaus
3. W Brookman
4. A Taylor
5. J Smith
6. N Slikfin
7. M Issacs
8. M Sharp
9. I Maitlin
10. R Sydney
11. P Safranak
12. G Allward
13. G Hawkins
14. A Boyle

Veteran Women
1. S Raymond
2. M Sawyer
the season with only the Vice Chairmen, Steve, T. A., and one league rep. present. Even with four apologies for absence that leaves about ten who I have yet to hear from. Treasurer reported that by fund-raising during the close season with the minimum amount of help some £300 had been raised which gave a buffer to start things off. With the 12 per person per match charge we will be watching closely to see whether that has the required effect. Another reminder that the Closed will be at Lynnsport Sat/Sun February 19-20th 1994 and a good turn out of officials would be appreciated as this may be the last one after 46 years. The East Anglian League seems to be coming back after some years in the doldrums particularly in the veterans section. With new names such as Kings Lynn and Fakenham and from the comments of the first matches played a good time was had by all. Other leagues may wish to emulate next season in which case we await reports. County Juniors are playing regularly in the British League 3rd division and in a recent match the gap between Mick Broughton and the three juniors was vast. Mick won his Junior matches easily and the juniors struggled to make any impression on the opposition experience. We are having trouble with baseball cap as we umpires maintain they look out of place when worn during a County or British League match. Suggestions that they get their hair cut is greeted with amusement. We have all the figures from the league and it appears that (total) numbers of teams show little difference from last season.

NORTHANTS


dennis milligan

Still looking back to last season, one of the highlights was the visit of a rejuvenated Desmond Douglas to Rushden Sports Centre, where he took a full and active part in a well attended Open Day. Dominating in an easy Douglas win in a Round Robin also featuring local opponent Graeme McKinnon and Andy Trot.

He also faced a challenge from top disabled representative Geoff Paist, who astounding the spectators with his expertise from a mainly stationary wheelchair, but Douglas was not so successful when he and McKinnon fell eleven shots short of the world speed championship held by Lisa Lonng and Jackie Belling.

Steve Brown's Higham Band B, finally got their hands on a Kettering in a well attended Round Robin, where Steve won the second set 21-18 and so put the firsts back in contention. The second championship match, the Seniors against Avon counterparts, but Doug won five of the six games requiring deciders and won on to win the championship.

Levi's Westfield are now the sole Northants side in the Friendly Hotel's British League, but despite the inclusion of Graeme McKinnon, who has moved from the now defunct Well Connected, Levi's have made their usual erratic start with one win and two defeats.

Looking ahead the resignation of Coaching Administrator Gordon Oke leaves the county with a gaping void that needs to be filled quickly if the many new initiatives within the county are not to be thwarted.

However, the new style Macs Super Computer County Ranking System, the Westfield Invitation League, the Ram Sports Challenge Trophy, the Wellingtonshire Junior League and Kettering's GRP Doubles are reckoned with when playing for the County or British League. The firsts meet the seniors in their 8-2 win over Avon 2. The selectors opted for youth and inexperience and were totally vindicated. The new Mens title of Phil Payne, Adam Galllop and Rob Millard have but a handful of county appearances between them but all performed with determination and desire.

Phil showed that the game can be played with subtlety, touch and disguise, and remains ice-cool as he weaves his magic spell around his attacking opponents. The same adjectives cannot be used to describe the style of Rob Millard. There is no doubt that Rob has made great strides over the past two years and his uncompromising attack can only improve further under the watchful eye of his coach and mentor, Brian Etherington. His debut for the seniors confirmed this progress as he nervous won his first match and comfortably won his second. It is his move on to the next level.

North Shields YMCA, champions of the National Power Northumbria Winter and Summer Leagues, have started the new winter season where they left off in the summer with a 10-0 victory over the Washington side, Cleve. Ian Robertson, Andrew Willock and Martin Young showed that Shields were, once again, being a force to be reckoned with this year. Their main challenges are, once again, likely to be Joyner and Blyth Junior Table Tennis Club and Blaydon Youth Club.

Unfortunately, the season started on a tragic note when Allen Jarvis of the St. Charles club collapsed and died after winning three of his four matches in a hard fought game against Blaydon Youth Club B team. Deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

The county Junior team opened the season with a 6-3 victory away at Nottingham where Maurice cheek won both of his singles and also partnered Dave Armstrong to success in the doubles. Pat Tindale and Pauline Long got one each set and then combined to take the mixed doubles.

Veteran Ian Robertson has already shown that he is still a force to be reckoned with when playing for Sedgfield in the Friendly Hotels British League. Ian is currently in the Premier Division and has won all of his three sets away to Bathwick Tyres to help Sedgfield to victory and then in the following match won an important act to, eventually. He picked up two points against St. Neots.

Looking to the future it is pleasing to see that Andrew Wilkinson, at the time of writing, is ranked No. 3 in the National Junior List.

SOMERSET

Andrew Seward

There are times when it appears that the tennis season is trying to compete for the focus and attention. One such time is early, finish late. The local British League team played the matches by mid-September and all of our county teams played their first match before any of the local League started. The county results duly reflected this oddity. Performance of the month went to the seniors in their 8-2 win over Avon 2. The selectors opted for youth and inexperience and were totally vindicated. The new Mens title of Phil Payne, Adam Galllop and Rob Millard have but a handful of county appearances between them but all performed with determination and desire.

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same could be said about Adam Gallop. His keenness to return from Durham University to his home county to play shows admirable commitment. It is to be hoped that the County can remain a magnet to him in the years to come.

For the record, the 1994-95 County season saw an additional January when Bradford and Sheffield6. Daniel Belcher were made in the 2nd team line-up due to the absence of Mel Carey and Ron Langenheim was the 1st. Ron Langenheim winning his 3rd 2-angle. John Calcutt winning his 3 events and John Gilliam winning her 2 events.

**WARWICKSHIRE**

**Pete Walden**

The First County Championship matches of the season saw our Junior 'A' side go off to a flying start in division 2A. Playing at the superb South Kenmore Tennis Centre in Grantham, Lincolnshire, they dispatched the home county side by 6-4 before storming to a 8-2 win against neighbours Leicestershire. The star performance came from young Alan Hewitt, who is still only 14; Alan scored three wins in four outings in his debut game in a county team. Edward Lynn, Ryan Stobbs and Emma Churchley also notched three wins in their four games, whilst Liz Haynes chipped in with two wins from four to round off a good day's work these very promising junior players.

The Junior 'B' side did not fare quite as well as the 'A' side, going down by the score of 4-6 in all three of the matches. This particular team though, consists entirely of players who are under 15, so they are invariably playing against older and more experienced opponents.

The Birmingham League kicked off with nine divisions in the 3-a-side league, and three divisions in the 4-a-side league. Unfortunately, there is no longer a separate Womente League. In the 3-a-side league, Premier Champions Colebridge 'A' will be looking to hold onto their title, whereas Handsworth Victoria will be trying to go one better this time round.

The Birmingham Committee have decided not to run the Midland Open this year, possibly because of the fact that a date could not be found. Let's hope its return is made a priority for season 1994-95.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WOMENS BRITISH LEAGUE
Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes
Sat/Sun 6/7 November 1993
FOR DETAILS:-
Chris Lewis 0272 730788

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
Premier Division
13/14 November 1993
South Kesteven TTC, Trent Road, Grantham
Details: Geoff Taylor
Tel: 0203 678632

ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Saturday/Sunday 4/5 December 1993
PARKLANDS LEISURE CENTRE, Wigston Road, Oadby, Leicester Tel: 0533 720789
Saturday: Junior events start 9am Finals 6.30pm Sunday: Cadet events start 9am Finals 5pm
ENTRY FORMS ETIA OFFICE - SPECTATORS WELCOME

ENGLISH JUNIOR MASTERS
29/30 December 1993
Milton Keynes TTC, Kingston Centre, Milton Keynes
Tel: Bill Clarke 0908 282156

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

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS
ENGLAND V JAPAN
29 December 1993 - Venue to be advised
30 December 1993 - Polkyth Leisure Centre, Carlyon Road, St. Austell, Cornwall Tel: 0726 615 85
1 January 1994 - Venue to be advised
4 January 1994 - South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre, Trent Rd, Grantham Tel: Ian McDonald 0476 592553
5 January 1994 - Venue to be advised