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Table Tennis News wishes all its readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Nicola Deaton's £700 Tampax award

DERBYSHIRE's young international player Nicola Deaton reached the final of the National 'Tampax Sport for Women' award.

At the London Park Lane Hotel, she received a cheque for £700 and was the only table tennis player from over 60 applicants to reach the national finals.

The £5,000 first prize went to a young international gymnast currently training in Bulgaria.

Nicola is this season sponsored by Butterfly Grove Table Tennis Club.

CITY OF DERBY SELECT JUNIOR OPEN

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Mike Payne: (0332) 557162
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Katherine Goodall from Leeds.

ENGLAND RANKINGS

MEN
1. Chen Xinhua (Yorkshire)
2. Desmond Douglas (Wshire)
3. Carl Prean (L.O.W.)
4. Matthew Syed (Berkshire)
5. Alan Cooke (Derbyshire)

WOMEN
1. Lisa Lomas (Bedfordshire)
2. Alison Gordon (Berkshire)
3. Andrea Holt (Lancashire)
4. Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire)
5. Katherine Goodall (Yorkshire)

New Director

CONGRATULATIONS to former junior International Paul Judd (Birmingham and Warwickshire) on his appointment as the new Director of Coaching for British Columbia (Canada).

Euro 94

As part of the Euro 94 initiative and during the run up to the championships a tournament for all non-league players is being staged at 20 leisure centres throughout Birmingham - and space has been allocated to play the finals on 2nd April 1994 in the main hall at the NIA.

£1000 prize

FRIENDLY HOTEL'S British League champions BFL Grove, from Market Drayton, Shropshire, have won a £1000 prize at the Foundation for Sport and the Arts Club of the Year Awards.

Grove finished joint third in the inaugural competition, organised by the C.C.P.R. (Central Council for Physical Recreation).

Governing bodies from over 100 different sports selected a club to enter the competition, totalling 175 clubs.

Grove's prize was collected by the club manager Ian Marshall, a French teacher at the Grove School, Market Drayton, home of the table tennis club.

Douglas and Gordon overtake champions

THE two English national champions, Carl Prean and Andrea Holt, have been overtaken by older players, in the latest English Ranking List, published on Friday 12th November 1993.

Desmond Douglas, 38, from Walsall and Glasgow-based Alison Gordon, 30, have risen from No.3 to No.2 on the lists. They replace the current English champions Prean, 26, and 23 year old Holt, from Bury, Lancashire, who have each fallen a place.

Only the naturalised former Chinese player Chen Xinhua (Yorkshire) is ahead of Douglas on the new list.

Gordon, a former English champion, is behind the European silver medallist Lisa Lomas (Luton), who has held the England No.1 place for two years.

17 year old Nicola Deaton from Chesterfield is listed in the top four for the first time, having gone one place ahead of
European successes

ENGLAND women enjoyed their best victory to date in the European League Super Division when they defeated Hungary at Crewe by four sets to one last month. Lisa Lomas played some of her best table tennis, equivalent to her performance when she won the silver medal in the European Championships in Stuttgart two years ago. Both her singles as well as combining with Andre Holt to win the doubles. Her best victory was over the former European Champion Csilla Batorfi. Lisa was supported by Alison Gordon who is now also back to her best form. Alison defeated Vivien Ellis.

This victory moves the England girls up the league table and away from the relegation zone. In the European League this year three teams are to be relegated to bring the number of participating nations down from ten to eight. This result, added to the win secured over Sweden in September, virtually assures England of a Super Division place for next season. An away victory over France on 14th December would make this certain and could, dependant on results between other teams in our group, place our girls in the league finals.

As reported in the last issue of Table Tennis News, the England mens team are through to the semi final of the Super Division of the Mens European League and are playing a two leg fixture against Belgium. The first match will be in Belgium on either the 14th or 15th December and the return leg on the 15th February in Mansfield. With the three-a-side, seven set system, the two sides are very evenly balanced. Jean Michel Saive, the runner-up in the last World Championships will be the star man for Belgium, but Donald Parker will have the choice of Chen Xinhua, Carl Prean, Matthew Syed and Alan Cooke. All of these four players are capable of winning sets against Belgium. Victory would be rewarded with a two leg final against either Germany or Sweden.

Staying on the international front, the Japanese mens and womens teams are making a short tour of England over the New Year period. The first mens match between England and Japan is to be played in Andover on 29th December followed by the second match in St. Austell, Cornwall on the 30th. This is to be followed by the Cleveland Open on 2nd and 3rd January. Further matches are to be played in Grantham on 4th January and Bletchley on 5th January. The Japanese womens team will train with the England women before the New Year, then compete in the Cleveland Open followed by matches against England on 4th and 5th January at venues to be finalised. The womens tour has been arranged at the request of the Japanese Association at short notice.

The Commonwealth Championships are to be played in Hyderabad, India from 25 January to 1 February. The Commonwealth always gives our players the opportunity of winning medals, although the competition is becoming stronger particularly as a number of former Chinese players are now eligible to represent a number of Commonwealth countries. In particular Canada are strong with Johnny Huang and Lijuan Geng within their squad. The Commonwealth will provide good publicity for table tennis in the run up to the European Championships.

Other events to be played in the New Year include the European Nations Cup in Munich in which our mens team will be competing from the 14 to 16 January and the new European Mens Cup also in Germany from 21 to 23 January. The European Top 12 is being played in Italy from the 4 to 6 February. When combined with the European League this is a very busy time in the run up to the European Championships.

Entries for the Euro 94 continue to flow in. Currently we have received entries from 46 national mens teams and 42 womens teams including all the top European countries such as, Sweden, Germany, France, Russia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Hungary and the Czech Republic. With the entries received so far Euro 94 will be the largest European Championships of all time. The last Championship played in Stuttgart two years ago had entries from 40 mens and 37 womens teams.

In fact, this will probably be the largest European Championships played so far in any sport when calculated by the number of participating national associations. The event is made larger still by the change of system for the womens team event. In the past the womens team event has been played on the Cobbion Cup two a side system, but at the last ETU Congress in Stuttgart a proposal to change to the same system as the mens, three a side with seven sets, was adopted and this in itself will increase the number of women participants in Birmingham. So far entries have been received from 215 men and 173 women.

Whilst the Euro Executive Committee are concentrating on the organisation of the Championships, it is the Association's Development Department that is working hard to ensure that our member leagues and clubs throughout the country are ready to take advantage of the additional interest in the sport generated by the Championships. When the last championship of this size, the World Championship in Birmingham in 1977 was played, the interest in table tennis immediately afterwards was enormous, but unfortunately the Association and its members were not fully prepared for the upsurge.

This time the Development Department, including our ten full time Regional Development Officers, will be encouraging our member leagues and clubs to be ready for the increase in interest. One major initiative will be the formation of junior leagues throughout the country in conjunction with our own local leagues, sponsored by the Woolwich Building Society.

In the main these leagues will commence at the beginning of next season. However, leagues are being encouraged to arrange individual competitions for youngsters interested in playing table tennis in April with a six to eight week taster summer league following in May and June. This is designed to capture the interest immediately after the Championships and not to leave it until the start of next season by which time much of the enthusiasm may have waned.

On the junior international front the fast improving Danish team paid a short visit to England in November to participate in the England v. Denmark Junior and Cadet Internationals at Gateshead supported by Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council and to play in the Cleveland Junior Open.

The England junior girls pair of Sally Marlton and Nicola Deaton were in command throughout the whole weekend as were the Cadets, Debbie Pestka and Tracy Davies. However, with one exception when Christian Thompson beat Michael Maze in

Alan Ransome

PAGE 5
the second round of the Cadet Boys Singles in the Cleveland, our England boys were well beaten at both the Cadet and Junior level. Although more is being done now to assist the improvement of our juniors, the results on the boys side, are not showing through so far. The appointment of a Junior National Coach is likely to be made later in the season in an attempt to accelerate our junior improvement particularly on the boys side and help bridge the gap with the leading European countries.

B.F.L. Grove Club who are currently British League Champions in both the mens and womens section and head the premier division this season, were selected in joint third place in the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Club of the Year Awards which were presented at an Award Ceremony in London recently.

In first place was the South Yorkshire Boat and Ski Club, second place was the Blackbrook Amateur Rugby League Club from St. Helens and joint third with Grove was the Letchworth Ladies Hockey Club. In the press release that was issued by the Foundation, the Grove Club were congratulated as being "...an outstanding example of a true sports club providing opportunities for all sections of the community to get involved in sport. The youth section makes up 80% of the total membership with a structured coaching programme for players of all abilities. Voluntary assistance enables the Club to be open during afternoons and evenings, five days a week and all day on Saturdays and Sundays."

I would like to add my congratulations to Grove and to Ian Marshall for winning this Award. I do hope that with the assistance now available for Facilities Programmes via the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, the Sports Council and E.T.T.A. that other clubs will be encouraged to emulate Grove and provide their own success stories.

1993 has been a good year for English table tennis. Despite the spate of injuries in the early part of the year, our England players have done well, particularly in the European League. Our events and competitive programme has run well despite the pressure of organising Euro '94.

Our coaching scheme is seeing a new lease of life with activity considerably increased and our Development programme with the eight full time Regional Development Officers, the facility programme and the increased funding makes table tennis the envy of many governing bodies. All of this has only been made possible because of the considerable amount of effort and dedication given by many members, both volunteers and staff to whom I am deeply grateful. Much of the work undertaken in 1993 will come to fruition in the New Year. We have a lot to do, but also have a lot to be encouraged by and look forward to.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, exciting and fruitful 1994.

B.F.L. Grove's Ian Marshall

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Lisa thrills in Crewe

ENGLAND’S No.1 player Lisa Lomas produced a career-best performance to topple the European No.3 Csilla Batorfi, and help England to a surprise 4-1 victory against Hungary in the European League Super Division at the Victorian Community Centre, Crewe on November 2nd. Writs Graham Carter

Lisa celebrated her promotion to 13 on the European rankings list by out-hitting the high-serving former European champion in straight games 21-19/21-16.

She started the evening well with an efficient display against Krisztina Toth, herself rated European No.21. Lomas beat her 21-15/21-12, and then combined with Andrea Holt to stop Batorfi and Toth in the doubles.

With the score at 3-1, there were worries of a repeat of the Netherlands match exactly a week earlier when we lost 4-3 after establishing a similar lead. This time Lisa made sure of the result with a brilliant win we shall savour for a long time.

The first game was pretty even, with Lisa’s defence matching Batorfi’s attack 14-14. Lomas then drew ahead 19-17 before capturing the game 21-19.

Things were finely balanced in the second until at 13-12 to Lomas play was disrupted due to a lost ball in the crowd. This could have effected Batorfi’s concentration. At 18-13 she drew rapturous applause for a forehand back court smash yards from the table.

Lisa had clearly benefited from her summer trip to China, where she had attracted much interest. She worked hard on her attack; surprising, but effective for a defensive player. Kate Goodall, 18, gained valuable experience when she was selected for the singles. She looked very impressive even though she was first on against Batorfi. No signs of intimidation here. managing 19 points in the first game against those very high serves.

Alison Gordon produced a gutsy display of attack to beat the pony-tailed Vivien Ello in three games, at a crucial stage for England.

“We are absolutely delighted with the performance. On paper Hungary were the favourites, but Lisa and the whole team did outstandingly well,” said a jubilant Jill Parker after the game.

The victory placed England top of the European League Super Division table, with two wins from the three matches so far played.

This match was very much a joint venture between the ETTA and the Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council. It was the first international table tennis match to be held in South Cheshire, but hopefully not the last, as the Hungary game attracted much interest.

It was the first visit to the Community Centre by the BBC TV North West film crew.

“We were delighted to stage the match. It was a tremendous occasion, and we would very much like to hold more international matches in Crewe soon,” enthused Keith Turnbull, Head of Recreation and Leisure at the Borough Council.

RESULTS

ENGLAND 4 HUNGARY 1 Match Score

European Women’s League
Super Division Crewe
Kate Goodall lost to Csilla Batorfi 21-19 21-17 0-1
Lisa Lomas beat Krisztina Toth 21-15 21-12 1-1
Alison Gordon beat Vivien Ello 21-14 21-12 1-1
Doubles:
Lomas/Andrea Holt beat Batorfi/Toth 21-13 21-18 3-1
Lomas beat Batorfi 21-19 21-16 4-1

Pictured above is all conquering Lisa Lomas who beat both Hungary’s Csilla Batorfi and Krisztina Toth. Pictured right is Csilla Batorfi, whilst far right is England’s rising star Kate Goodall. Bottom right is England’s Alison Gordon who beat Hungary’s Vivien Ello
Marling ends Timina's 100% run

PLAYERS from Russia, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and Nigeria joined those of the four Home countries when the sixth season of competition opened at Bletchley over the weekend of November 6/7th.

The three teams of B.F.L. Grove were each led by a European in Elena Timina, Sybille Schneider and Maud Illien; for good measure Grove's Anglo Dutch player Jose Bogers who again went through the weekend unbeaten was presented with the 'Women of the Weekend' award.

For several seasons the Premier Division has had a "whose going to be second" look about it and that is now becoming "whose going to be third" as Hull Sandhill had firmly established themselves as second favourites. The result between these two was a decisive 5-1 win for Grove but note the one that got away.

Sally Marling, who normally manages to produce a headline ended Elena Timina's competition unbeaten record when after obtaining but three points in the last game Sally recovered to take the next two 14 and 16. Sally lost Horsham in that match whilst Natasha Williams who had a decisive victory over Emma Hurling's defeat by Jose Bogers.

Brian Lamerton

Horsham Angels made an impressive debut in division one and at the half way stage occupy second place only as the result of an inferior games average (7-6) in the drawn match with Grove.

Claire Hunter won two for Horsham in that match whilst Emma Hurling's defeat by Joan Bogers was her only one after being ever-present. City of Milton Keynes, the other promoters, also acquitted themselves well despite the loss of Gemma Schwartz to Hull.

Dawn Barnett being their leading player with eight wins from 10. Division one produced the longest average a set a match and also decisively defeated Lynda Fahey's seven from eight putting her in third individual position behind only her team captain Sandra Rider and Fullers Sarah Williams who both appeared only twice. "Irish Ladies" were obviously determined to get every penny out of their entry fee; their drawn match with Olivetti Bribar producing six three game sets and their matches with Bio Strath, Oaks and Fullers four each. Only two other matches throughout the whole weekend went to three on four occasions. Geraldine Green of the Irish went all the way in all of the six sets in which she played, but winning only once.

Newcomers Westminster are early leaders in division three (A) and also supply the two leading individual players, Karen Harden, 100% and Sandra Duncan capturing both Hull and Norton important with £30 each.

New women's committee chairman, Pauline Steel was a non playing captain on this occasion and cheered on her team, Pavilion Ladies, to the half way lead in division three (B). Sarah Stedman and Rosemary Rainton, each with six from eight, occupying equal third position in the individual averages. In first and second position were Nicola Messingham (Gonerby) and Kathryn Woodward (Grove Three); these two did not meet when Gonerby ended the weekend with a somewhat surprising 5-1 victory. Newcomers Leicester also lost heavily to Gonerby but otherwise enjoyed three close encounters.

The press room had their busy moments but none more so than during a 20 minute period on Saturday afternoon when Jane Belbin's live interview on BBC Radio Surrey was followed by a similar interview between their Sussex counterparts and Sally Weston and that was immediately followed by a straight report on the local channel, Chiltern Radio, by your scribe.

Amy Generation, founder members of the league, received the "Team of the Weekend" award. Presentations were made by Councillor Fred Smith, a past Mayor of Milton Keynes, who has been very supportive of table tennis particularly in the erection and dismantling of the arena.

Hull Sandhill's Sally Marling conqueror of BFL Grove's Elena Timina

WOMEN'S BRITISH LEAGUE

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PAGE 8
**EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1994**

**Birmingham, table tennis city**

BIRMINGHAM will become a table tennis city for eleven days next year. Already over 11,000 bed nights have been booked for players, organisers, delegates, press and umpires etc. But that could be just the tip of the iceberg as spectators begin to plan their trip to the championships during the next few weeks. **Writes Jim Beckley**

While it may be an organisers nightmare, for the hotels concerned it's a welcome bonus. The four major hotels, the Holiday Inn, Novotel, Copthorne and Midland are fully booked.

A further 5000 bed nights have been allocated for the thousands of spectators who are expected to flood the city for the duration of the championships. Prices are expected to be in the range of £23 to £30 per person per night.

An agreement has also been reached with Birmingham University to provide budget priced accommodation. Situated about one and a half miles outside the city centre, a cost of £14.50 per person per night in either single or twin bedded rooms including breakfast has already been reached.

**Table Tennis News**

WHO are the favourites? Who are the outsiders? and which countries are likely to dominate Euro 94. Will someone spring a surprise?

If you want to catch up, be in touch or just on top of what is happening at next year's big event in Birmingham, Table Tennis News is the magazine to read.

Full of pictures and colour features, the ETTA's own magazine will be publishing a European Special for the championships in March.

But besides covering the European scene our correspondents will be bringing you news from the Friendly Hotels British League, the county championships and all the major tournaments plus a lot more.

Table Tennis News is available only by subscription and for just £12 a year you will receive eight crisp issues delivered to your doorstep from September to June.

So don't miss out. Contact the English Table Tennis Association, Third Floor, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings TN34 1HF for details.

**Top umpires**

FORTY seven of England top umpires will gather for the European championships in Birmingham. They will be joined at the National Indoor Arena by forty overseas umpires. In addition four referees have been appointed of which two will be English, one Italian and another from Croatia.

To make sure there is a consistency in the enforcement of the laws during the event, the National Umpires and Referees Committee will be holding an umpires seminar at the same venue on Saturday 8th January 1994. Stuart Sherlock on 0253 888470 is the man to contact for further information.

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**Xmas Special Offers**

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CHEQUES PAYABLE TO SKYLET ANDREW LTD.
OFFER ENDS 24th DECEMBER 1993

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**Desmond Douglas**

Desmond Douglas, Birmingham's most famous player reached with Birmingham University to provide budget priced accommodation. Situated about one and a half miles outside the city centre, a cost of £14.50 per person per night in either single or twin bedded rooms including breakfast has already been reached.

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**EURO 94 COUNTDOWN**

115 DAYS TO GO
Sue Withycombe has joined the EURO 94 team based at Brewmaster House. Sue will be working alongside championships director, Clive Oakman, to publicise the European Championships, with the overall objective of increasing awareness, resulting in the highest possible spectator attendance over the eleven day period.

Sue comes from a background of ten years in an advertising/PR and event co-ordination role with an advertising agency and has spent the last seven years in a customer care role with IBM UK. She is looking forward to the challenge this role will offer and has thoroughly enjoyed getting involved with table tennis.

Anybody with ideas for further opportunities to promote the event can contact Sue on 021-265 4645 or by writing to: Euro 94 Championships Office, Brewmaster House, International Convention Centre, Birmingham B1 2EA.

Press Officers meeting

A Regional Press Officers meeting has been arranged for 12th December 1993 to give information and press packs and ask for support through the table tennis network to ensure press coverage throughout the UK.

WIN TWO TICKETS TO THE OPENING CEREMONY AND FIRST DAY PLAY - FRIDAY 25th MARCH 1994

If you can answer the following ten questions your entry will qualify for two free tickets to the EURO 94 Championships Opening Day on Friday 25th March 1994.

The most original answer to the tie break question (judged by the EURO 94 Committee) will be the winner.

Name: .................................................................
Address: ................................................................
Tel. No.: .......................................................... Date: ........................................

1. Where are the European Table Tennis Championships being staged?
2. What dates do the Championships start and finish?
3. What date is the Men's Team Final?
4. Who is the current Men's World Champion?
5. Who is producing the official EURO 94 merchandise?
6. How much is a season ticket for the full eleven days at the Championships?
7. Who will be defending her Individual Silver Medal at EURO 94?
8. Over what holiday does the Championships fall?
9. What is the phone number of the ticket hot-line?
10. What dates will the individual events be held on? (including qualifying round)

Tie break questions: Why do you want to attend the European Championships? (maximum of 25 words)

This competition is not open to members of staff of the ETTA. Please cut out the form, complete and return to Sue Withycombe, EURO 94 Championships Office, Brewmaster House, International Convention Centre, Birmingham B1 2EA.

Closing date for entry forms is 1st January 1994.
WHEN the young Horace Mallett was elected (albeit reluctantly), to the presidency of the Guernsey Table Tennis Association in 1947/8, he could hardly have imagined that it would be another 46 years before he handed in his resignation.

He had offered his services for a single year, 'to fill a gap', but stayed to preside over enormous changes in the ways in which the game is both played and administered, and to become a world figure in his chosen sport.

Horace's involvement with table tennis began at the age of 12, in 1931. At that time he was a member of the 4th Guernsey Town Church Scouts who counted among their number a Rover Scout called Lloyd Strappini, an island class player whose skills fired the interest of the youngster.

Table tennis is no different from any other sport: an early sight of a fine player can inspire the novice to follow, and Horace was off and running.

To speak to him now is to hear the obvious affection he still holds for those early days. The great names of the day are recalled without hesitation - Strappini, Roy Martel, Bill Druce and, above all, Bert Brenton, winner of championships by the bucketful.

Horace played for his Scout troop and also the Toc H Youth Club team, run by Arthur Barton in premises at the North Pier Stairs.

It was there that Horace played during the Occupation, when table tennis balls were hard to come by and a candle at each end of the table made up for the lack of electricity.

At the end of the war, Guernsey players had new opponents against whom to test themselves when they played matches against members of the Liberation Forces, at various venues round the island.

Local hot-shots of today, seeing the avuncular figure of their president with a bat in his hand only at his annual outing at the island championships, would be forgiven for thinking that a swift exit in the first round of the men's singles had always been the limit of his ambition.

Not so. I questioned Horace about his own game and found that he had held his own against top local players in his youth.

He had made his own bat - plywood and sandpaper, would you believe? - and played with the 'pencil-hold' grip, but with a style all of his own.

He regrets not changing to the more conventional 'shakehands' grip, feeling that he would have become a better player had he done so.

The immediate post-war years saw increasing interest in table tennis, with membership rising to a peak of more than 400 players, registered in some 25 clubs, encompassing schools, youth clubs and businesses.

It was at this time that Horace first played league table tennis, as a member of the Old Intermediates.

On joining the social committee of the OIs with Frank Stroobant, Alec Rose, Roy Nicolle and others, he organised table tennis at the boys' school in 1945/6, and in 1946/7 season they played at the girls' school, where they joined forces with the GI girls.

Horace remembers this as a time of 'great fun', and is still in touch with many of the friends he made then.

Through his membership of the Town Church, they were offered the use of the Lower Central Halls by the then rector, the Rev. Basil Guille, and became part of the church's social club, with an affiliation to the GTTA.

His long administrative career began in earnest in the 1946/47 season when he became treasurer of the GTTA, with the princely sum of six shillings and four pence (about 32 pence now) at his disposal in its bank account.

Besides being president of the GTTA, Horace is also president of the Lions Club, which began life as a splinter group from the Town Church Club in the mid-'60s, and for a couple of seasons were known as Town Church Lions.

With no premises of their own, they played at the Ozanne Hall until it was sold, and then at the Church Hall at Potters Corner.

When the Lions' present premises, at Maurepas Road, became available, Lions members were seen at their best. Led from the front, as always, by their president, they tackled the hard, physical work of making a silk purse out of a sow's ear with determination and stamina, and now have a purpose-built centre with accommodation for visitors.

Typically, Horace isn't content to rest on his laurels, and thinks there is still plenty to do at the Lions, where he will stay on as president.

Having brought his story up-to-date, I asked Horace to go back over the years, to pick out his table tennis highlights.

Immediately he recalled the 'exhibition' years of 1952/3/4, when locals were seen at their best. Led from the front, as always, by their president, they tackled the hard, physical work of making a silk purse out of a sow's ear with determination and stamina, and now have a purpose-built centre with accommodation for visitors.

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Immediately he recalled the 'exhibition' years of 1952/3/4, when locals were treated to a display of breath-taking skills by world-beaters at the peak of their powers.
nothing to the present generation of players, unless they take an interest in the history of their sport.

But they were all world champions, and drew packed houses to the St. John Ambulance hall in the Rohais.

In each of those three years, they played on two nights, to all-ticket crowds of 400 per night. "Fire regs" must have been more casually observed in those days!

Incumbent Lt-Governor Philip Neame, who was among the spectators, made the comparison with a tin of sardines, but bore the discomfort in good humour.

Horace doesn't trust his memory absolutely, but thinks that Leach and Bergmann were paid £50 each per visit while the Rowes both received £25. No sex equality there!

These visits were extensively covered by the Evening Press, which Horace regards as a significant factor in the GTTA membership boom of the time.

Next in Horace's 'pick of the years' was 1972, when Guernsey table tennis celebrated its 50th anniversary.

An invitation tournament was held at the Badminton Hall, the participants being England, Germany, Scotland, Jersey, Ireland, Wales, Holland and, of course the hosts.

Besides the Bailiff, Lt-Governor and other local notables, Roy Evans, president of the ITTF, was among the guests, a sign of the growing esteem which Guernsey table tennis attracted, largely through the efforts of its president.

In 1977, Guernsey hosted the Commonwealth championships, and this is obviously Horace's 'pick of the highlights'.

I was one of an army of helpers at that event and it was then that I really became aware of the amount of work that Horace took on.

We all worked hard, but someone had to co-ordinate it all, and that was Horace. At every committee meeting he would arrive with an enormous armful of paperwork that, like Topsy, 'just growed'.

The organisation went on for months, and I swear that if it had taken just a couple of weeks longer, Horace would have needed a barrow for his file of papers.

When it was first mooted that Guernsey should hold the championships, I'm sure that it was only Horace's drive and vision that got it off the ground.

Reproduced by kind permission of the Guernsey Evening Press

IN MEMORIAM

NORMAN LEE
by John Hatfield

NORMAN LEE, president of the Sheffield Table Tennis League for 22 years, died on the 28th October 1993, aged 84 years old.

He was a founder member of the League in 1931 and represented Woodseats Methodists until retiring from the game in 1955.

Norman took over the Presidency in 1971, following the death of Sol Rosenberg and was actively involved in the organisation of the League and was a regular attender at meetings.

In 1977 he presented the League with the Norman Lee Jubilee Trophy, which has become a prestigious annual award for outstanding club secretaries.

He leaves a widow Kathleen, a son and daughter and five grandchildren.

A memorial service was held fittingly at Woodseats Methodist Church on the 3rd November 1993.

The New Generation are doin' it in.....

Darren Blake
South of England Junior Open Champion
Linda Radford
Sussex Open Senior Champion

Celebrate Christmas with Stiga

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Offer ends 24th December 1993
2000 players on 66 tables!

THAT many players on that many tables sounds like a tournament organiser's nightmare, but that I am assured is the target that is likely to be achieved by the Australian TTA as organisers of the World Veterans Championships in Melbourne from April 22-29, 1994. The quarter finals were on the Sunday while continually berating Connie Warren for having the audacity to suggest that he goes in a round of drinks. Clive Morris, another hardened veteran of the bar, reassures he has seen the error of their ways and thinks this lager drinking very unwise. Clive keeps his drinking in strict control - only one bottle of wine with the meal and no more than 12 pints of Guinness afterwards. He is then helped up to bed by his highly trained nurse/pharmacist (and county l.t. star) Margaret, who also administers the aspirin in the morning, while gently massaging his throbbing temples, totally ignoring his tantrums and touchiness and patiently convincing him that he is going to live to fight another day. In strict contrast to the first three, Nigel Eckersley believes in no alcohol, an early night and up early on Sunday morning (around five) for a little light training - 500 sets up, 300 press ups, 1000 bench press, etc... before breakfast. Perhaps the strangest regime of all however, certainly as far as Sunday mornings are concerned, is the one of the brilliant former vets' magazine editor, John Holland, who, rumour has it, has been studying the latest scientific findings. John believes that too much soap is bad for the skin, so uses only a very small piece when showering and follows this with a cup of hot water in the hotel bedroom before going down to breakfast. As with the current record breaking Chinese female runners, there is a great deal of mystery surrounding John's theories which is far too complex for me to understand, so I suggest that anyone interested in them should speak to John himself, or Bill Brookman, or event the fitness professor himself, ageless Henry Buist.

So, British veterans you have only eight weeks left to increase the numbers coming from Britain for this event, which promises to be the best organised World Vets Tournament so far, by far. With Sydney having secured the 2000 Olympic Games. Australian organisers are on their toes and certain to do a good job.

Des Douglas Table Tennis would like to announce the signing of a new three year agreement between Stiga (Sweden Table Tennis AB) and the Swedish National Team. Players like Jan Ove Waldner, Jorgen Persson, Michael Applegren and Peter Karlsson have won Olympic World and European championships in Stiga clothing. We wish them the very best for the next three years.

Looking Good... Feel Great . . . In Stiga.

Phone us on: 081-532 9006
Write to us: DDTT, PO Box 3522
London E18 2DZ
DESPIE being on the losing side, Darren Griffin, recently transferred from Cheltenham Saracens to Bathwick Tyres, took the eye when he defeated Sean Gibson of Team Peniel 21-17, 21-17. Peniel, however, ran out 12-2 winners to at least stay in striking distance of BFL Grove.

Launceston had new signing Carl Morgan in their side for the visit to Vymura International and he won his first two sets before losing out to player of the match Stephen Horsfield. Launceston went on to win 10-4. Policy Plus St. Neots and Horsham Angels shared the spoils in a closely fought game at St. Neots to give the home side their first point of the season. There was no single outstanding performance and the player of the match award was shared by Keith Richardson and Ritchie Venner.

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The Market Drayton side easily saw off the challenge of Segdenfield to the tune of 14-0 - the fourth time they had run up this scoreline to the tune of 14-0 - the fourth time they had run up this scoreline.

Sunderland's Peter Lau put in a tremendous performance against Olton and West Warwick, beating both Phil Gunn and Adrian Dixon but the Midlanders eventually won 5-3 to stay in second place.

BFL Grove II kept their 100% record in Division One North, but just! In a closely fought encounter with Segdenfield II six of the eight sets went the distance with Matthew Brown just edging out Ian Robertson 21-18 in the third end of the last set of the day to give Grove a 5-3 win. Needless to say, having already beaten Mick Steele, Brown was made player of the match.

Cheltenham Saracens, without Griffin, are really struggling in this division and had picked up only three sets from their first four matches. Another 9-0 reverse came at the hands of Ruston Marconi Lincoln.

Sunderland's Peter Lau put in a tremendous performance against Olton and West Warwick, beating both Phil Gunn and Adrian Dixon but the Midlanders eventually won 5-3 to stay in second place.

There's no stopping BFL Grove III in Division One South where they have opened up a six point gap at the top of the table after only five matches. Edison TTC were expected to give them a run for their money, having beaten them last season, but Grove made no mistake, winning 7-1.

Steve Rand had two very imposing victories for BSG Brentwood. His win over Lukhnall's Dave Harding put BSG back in it as they were trailing 0-2 at the time and his second success of the day, against Gordon Chapman in the final set, gave his side a 5-3 victory.

Leicester Lions consolidated their position at the top of Division Two North by beating Vale Royal Warrington 6-2 whilst Ubridge (Burton) stayed in second place after a fine 7-1 victory away to Vymura II. Mark Green became the first player this season to beat Bernie Wentworth and Mark Hankey.

Levi Westfield seem to be most unpredictable this season and after some heavy defeats bounced back to beat City of Leeds 5-3. Tony Isaac of Leckie TTC saved the day for his side by beating Darwen's Simon James to force a draw.

In the South Eastern section of the second division Linda Farrow are stamping their authority and after five matches still boast a 100% record. Duncan Taylor was in great form for them as they defeated Pillinger Air Croydon 5-3.

The Kent derby between Byng Hall and Ashford ended up all square. Even the player of the match award was shared between Mark Brown and Phil Saxby.

Team Peniel II gained their first points of the season with a 5-3 home victory over Norwich Todd Foxwood.

Horsham Angels II, leaders of Division Two South West, started badly against DML White Hart Launceston losing the first two sets of the day but recovered to win the match 5-3.

VRS Fareham stay in contention after easily winning their 'derby' match against Amity Generation 6-2.

Local rivals Gridline St. Neots and Peterborough are setting the pace in Division Three East with the St. Neots side just ahead of Dennis Neale's team.

Unbeaten performances by Norman Switt and David Hyde helped St. Neots to overcome Britannia Ipswich 6-2 whilst Neale and Brian Hill were both undefeated in Peterborough's 5-3 success against the Chelmsford League.

Division Three Midland continues to be keenly contested with Bribar Colley Toyota II, Hawbush C.C. and DML. Launceston III all locked together on equal points at the top of the table. Launceston won 5-3 against Horsham III and Hawbush.
by a similar score at Bromsgrove. Colley went one better to win 6-2 away to Bathwick Tyres III with Ryan Owen and Ryan Jenkins both undefeated.

The Scottish side Drumchapel Glasgow defeated Moorland Seasiders of Blackpool 8-0 in a match that was much closer than the score suggests but they remain a point behind Sedgefield III who beat AALCO Leeds 7-1. Bardsley Bank dropped their first point of the season when they were held to a draw by WSIHE to lose their unbeaten record were Lennox House Group in what was described as the finest and most competitive match ever played at Bishop Otter College.

**First points**

In the matches played on 31st October, Bathwick Tyres gained their first points of the season with a 9-5 victory over St. Neots. The Scottish side Drumchapel Glasgow defeated Moorland Seasiders of Blackpool 8-0 in a match that was much closer than the score suggests but they remain a point behind Sedgefield III who beat AALCO Leeds 7-1. Bardsley Bank dropped their first point of the season when they were held to a draw by WSIHE to lose their unbeaten record were Lennox House Group in what was described as the finest and most competitive match ever played at Bishop Otter College.

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Two terms in the hot seat

Swaythling Club

President Johnny Leach will have completed two terms in the hot seat when he hands over to Peerele Sode at the world championships in Tianjin, China in 1995.

But for the former twice world champion work for this famous old club will go on.

Johnny, who holds a similar post for the ETTA, is a founder member of the Club and has no intention of settling for a quiet life on the sidelines.

"There are a lot of things which I want to see through. It's doubtful that I will be able to finish them all in my current term but I will carry on in some capacity until everything is in place," he said.

The exclusive Swaythling Club exists for players who have taken part in two or more world championships. Over the years it has expanded and nowadays membership stands at an all time high of about 500 from over 60 countries.

It's the Swaythling Club International which is also responsible for the organisation of the World Veteran Championships, to be held in Melbourne, Australia in 1994, Norway 1996 and England in 1998.

Their main aim is to encourage new players, especially younger ones and sportsmanship. They do this in various ways including the presentation of two major awards the Richard Bergmann Trophy for Fair Play and the Victor Barna Award for the Best Player. Both are presented at the world championships.

And there's no secret that once a member always a member and you will be well looked after.

"We always take a keen interest in our members and will always help out where necessary. Members are not just members but part of an ever expanding family," said Johnny.

The Swaythling Cup is played for every two years in the men's team competition. At present Sweden are the holders and they will defend their title in China in 18 months time.

A meeting of all club members takes place at every European and World Championships. So we will be certain to see many past world champions at Birmingham, including the famous Rowe twins, Peerele Sode and Ichiro Ogimura.

Nowadays Johnny is still very active and keeps an eye on the family business, which specialises in the manufacture of dartboards and dartboard cabinets, with his two sons John and Jeffrey. Recently he and his wife Daisy moved house and that is something he would not like to do too often.

"It was the most traumatic job of all. I wouldn't wish it on anyone, I'm still aching," he laughed.

But there is another Johnny Leach that probably gives him a higher profile than his connection with the Swaythling Club.

For the last 40 years he has written a table tennis column for the News of the World and it is his proud boast that in all that time he hasn't missed a deadline. Not every story gets in, of course, but many do and space in the country's biggest circulation newspaper is a real bonus for a sport where column inches are like gold dust.

Main picture: Johnny Leach with his OBE.

Words by Jim Beckley,

Pictures by John F.A. Wood
Berkshire lead Junior Premier

The first round of Junior Premier matches was played in Liverpool. Berkshire, the newcomers to Premier status, was the team of the weekend. They won their three matches and head the league table! Berks' wins over previous strong contenders - Essex, Yorkshire and Lancashire. Surrey, last season's champions, have already lost a match - to Essex - so Berkshire must have great prospects of being champions this season. Their closest contest was against Essex when it was left to Garath Herbert to beat Stephen Joslin (E) at 22 in the 3rd game to secure a 6-4 win. **Writs Doug Moss**

Essex and Middlesex are jointly in 2nd place having each lost one of their matches. Surrey and Yorkshire teams each suffered a loss and, when the teams met, the result was a draw. Yorkshire came back from 3-5 down with wins by Sally Marling over Glenda Ashion and Philip Neal (Y) over Adam Laws.

Cheshire, the other promoted team, had a good 7-3 win over Devon with Clare News and Karen Lockwood successful in their four events. Cheshire lost 3-7 to Surrey and 4-6 to Middlesex, when the Cheshire girls again had 100% success. It came close to a draw with Berkshire 3rds as Gary Thornton-Allen (Ch) met Hertfordshire 3rds, in senior 20, when, in the final event, Jon Roberts (Gs) beat Lewis Siket at 23 in 3rd win.

The most successful players were Stephen Lamplin (Sy) and Gareth Herbert (Berk No 3) who were unbeaten. Clare News (Ch), Sally Marling (Y) and Shelley Ruocco (E) also got 100% wins. A surprise result was Stephen Joslin (E) beating Darren Blake (Sy). This was a big factor in the Essex 6-4 win over Surrey.

**LEAGUE TABLE**

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In Senior 1B Division, Devon 2nds did well on their visit to Kingfisher Club to beat Berkshire 2nds 8-2. Berkshire first team visited Gwent and got a 7-3 win with David Barr having a good win over Steve Ward (Gw). Clwyd received the Cumbria team for a Senior 2A match and, with Natasha Williams and Mainir Davies winning their four events, the homesters secured a point from a draw. Nottingham team went to West Warwickshire T.T.C. and came away with an 8-2 win over Warwickshire 2nds. Mark Green and Tim Sheppard (Ng) both had wins over Steve Meddings. Nicola Meddings got the two events for Warwickshire.

Cheshire had wins over Staffordshire 2nd and 3rd teams - 6-4 and 9-1. Clare News (ranked 130), after her success at junior level, excelled with wins over Jose Bongers and Janet Dunning. Lancashire 2nds have a strong team in Division 2A - Steve Scowcroft, Tony Taylor, Graham Clarke, Lindsey Thornton and Tamar Connolly. Visitors Leicester 2nds went down 9-11 in Senior 2B the Cornwall 1st and 2nd teams visited Worcester. The 1st team lost 2-6, with Cara Rowe and Esme Stevenson each getting a win, and the 2nd team went down 10-nil. Worcester 2nd team visited Gloucester in the final event. Sylvester Callum (Gs) beat Lewis Sliket at 23 in 3rd game to gain a point for Gloucester.

Carrie Hunt (Wo) made her debut at senior level and won both her events. Somerset team was a player short at Plymouth H.O. but achieved a 7-3 win over Devon 3. Wiltshire team was 3-5 down against Avon 2nds but wins by Brenda Lee and Trevor Lloyd earned a point. In Senior 2C Suffolk 2nds lost 3-7 to Essex 3rd team. Claire Lowe had two wins for Suffolk. At Barnet Kent 3rd team met Hertfordshire 3rds, in Senior 2D,

where the visitors led 4-3 but Hertfordshire came back to take both points from a 6-4 win. In the final event Chris Marlow (He) beat Craig Haste at 15 in a decider. Five events went to a decider in the Hampshire L/Hampshire 2 clash but the first team won 9-1. Sussex 3rd team had a conclusive 10-nil win over Dorset.

Three matches were played in the Junior Division 1B at Milton Keynes. Buckinghamshire did well to get 6-4 and 8-2 wins over Gwent and Hampshire. Wendy Barlow (Bu) was undefeated. Gwent 4-nil up in their clash with Hampshire. Lorna Dutch and Donna Granville (Ha) got three wins but Gwent ran out winners 7-3. Essex 2nds had a hard fight at Yeovil with six events going to a decider. Essex came through with a 6-4 win over Somerset. In Junior 2B Norfolk 2nd and 3rds teams received Huntingdonshire at the Norwich Norman Centre. The 2nd team won 7-3 but Huntingdonshire retaliated with an 8-2 win over Norfolk 3rds. Essex 3/Buckinghamshire 2 was a very hard fought match. Six of the events could have gone either way but the Essex team won 6-4 when, in the final event, Barry Mays beat Gereth Thomas -26, 20, 8. Bedfordshire 1st team was indebted to Martine Whittaker and Jenny Sanders winning their four events to get a 7-3 win over Huntingdonshire 2nds. Just one event went to a decider in Suffolk 2nds 9-1 win over Cambridgeshire 2nds. Three Junior 2C matches were played at Plymouth H.O. Devon 2nds beat Cornwall 9-1 but the Cornish team earned a point from a draw with Devon 2nds. Devon 2 beat Devon 3 10-nil. Glamorgan 2nds visited Worcester and got a 7-3 win. David Stephens (Wo) had a good 11 in 3rd win over Robert Chell. Cadet Craig Weekes looks a very good prospect for Glamorgan. Wiltshire/ Gloucestershire match ended as a draw when, in the final event, Jon Roberts (Gs) beat Stephen Penfold in straight games. Dorset girls - Elaine Moore and Tina Young - won their four events on their visit to Avon but, with a 22 in 3rd win for Tom Ollrik in final event, Avon won 6-4. In Junior 2D the Surrey 2nd and 3rd teams visited Fareham to play Hampshire 2nds. Surrey 2nds won 7-3 with Anna McNamara and Sarah Lane winning their four events. Against Surrey 3rds the home team led 5-2 but the visitors fought back well to earn a draw. There was another draw when Berkshire 2nds received the Kent 3rd team. Kent 2nds fared better with a good 8-2 win over...
The most successful players were Nicky Morris in the 3rd game. Sussex and Surrey Kent beat Surrey 5-4 when Clive Morris who each won 100% in singles events. Gloucestershire's team was without Dennis Holland and went down 5-4 to Kent 2nds, who won both doubles events. Somerset beat Essex 3rds 6-3 with Brian Reeves and Graham Green involved in all six wins. Staffordshire and Northampton getting a 6-3 win. Mike Atkinson (Bu) was involved in three wins. Cambridgeshire team visited Norwich, went into a 2-nil lead and got a 6-3 win over Norfolk 2nds. John Turner (Ca) won both singles matches and the doubles with Malcolm Stennett. In Veterans 2C Surrey 2nds received Kent 3rd team and won 7-2. Kent's two events were won by Graham French who beat Frank Hams and Dave Crowley - both at 18 in 3rd game. There were two domestic battles with Sussex 2nds beating their 3rd team 7-2 and although Oxford 1st beat Oxford 2nds 8-1 at least four events were decided narrowly. Three matches in Veterans 2D each ended with the away team getting a 6-3 win. Surrey 3rd team, on promotion, have started well and had their second win at the expense of Devon. Dorset 2nds went into a 3-nil lead over Somerset 2nds and, with Cyril Bush winning both his singles events, earned two points. Wiltshire 1st team, on demotion, was beaten by Hampshire 2nds for whom Maurice Shave won both singles. Newcomers Warwickshire 3rd team beat Cheshire 2nds 7-2 in Veterans 3A. Roger Moss won the two events for Cheshire. Wiltshire 2nds visited St. Neots T.T.C. and secured a win when Alan Duke (Wi) beat Tony Olver at 22 in 3rd game. Huntingdonshire beat Hampshire's 4th team with Alan Kirkop and P. Laughlin winning their four singles. Two bow teams were in opposition in Veterans 3B and visitors Kent 4 beat Hampshire's 4th team 5-4 with Ted Tydeman (K) getting a vital win in the final event. Dorset 3rd team beat Hampshire's 3rds 6-3 with Danny Allen (Do) involved in three wins. Berkshire 2nds got a 6-3 win over Sussex 4 at Hove. At King's Hill T.T.C. Hampshire 3rd team gave Berkshire 4 the "whitewash". Newcomers Devon 3rd team started well with a 5-4 win over Wiltshire 3rds at Swindon. But Devon 2nds did not fare so well when losing 3-6 to Herefordshire 5th team. Gloucestershire 2nds received Herefordso and got a 6-3 win. Carol Milnes was involved in two of the Hereford wins. In a match wholly decided in straight games, but with a number of games going to deuce, Northamptonshire 3rds beat Berkshire 3rds 7-2.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2

Middlesex 2nds. Sussex 2nds beat the Surrey 3rd team 8-2. Surprisingly it was the Surrey 2nds No.1 - Martyn Sims - who lost the two events.

The first round of VETERAN PREMIER matches was played at Barnet. The top two teams Cheshire and Yorkshire each had three wins. Again it seems it will be down to these two teams to decide the Championship at Ashford T.T.C. in January. Cheshire beat Hertfordshire 7-2, when Paul Collins (Ch) lost his two events, and Sussex 8-1. Against Dorset Tony Clayton (Do) had two easy singles wins and combined with Brian Burn to take the mens doubles. But Dorset could not improve on this and Cheshire won 6-3. Yorkshire's first match was a tough one! Opponents Hertfordshire led 4-3. Malcolm Cockey (Y) then beat John Taylor at 21 in 3rd game and Nicky Davies followed with a win over David Seaholme to clinch a Yorkshire win.

Yorkshire played well to beat Essex 8-1. Essex won the mixed doubles but Sandy a Rider (Y) beat Marjorie Dawson at 15 in deciding game. Yorkshire's other win was over Surrey 6-3. Dorset and Essex both won two matches each beating Sussex. Essex went 2-nil down against Surrey but won 5-4 and Dorset had a hard match against Kent before winning 5-4. In this match Ruth Bentley (K) beat Joyce Cooper. Kent and Hertfordshire each had some close matches and each secured one win. Kent beat Surrey 5-4 when Clive Morris (K) won his two matches. Hertfordshire's win was over Kent 5-4. With match score 4-4 Stuart Seaholme (He) beat Clive Morris in the 3rd game. Sussex and Surrey both failed to win a match but each team was involved in matches with a 5-4 result. The most successful players were Nicky Davies (Y), Derek Schofield (Ch), Tony Clayton (Do) and Doreen Schofield (Ch) who each won 100% in singles events. Tony Clayton, with Brian Burn, was also undefeated in mens doubles.

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Just one Veterans Division 1A match. Worcestershire received Lincolnshire, who won three of the six mens singles and recorded a 6-3 win. Janet Hunt (Wo) had a good 15 in 3rd win over Beryl Voss. Berkshire went 2-nil down to Middlesex in Veterans 1B but came back to win 6-3. Syd Montgomery (Bk) was involved in three wins. Hampshire did well on their visit to Essex. They beat Essex 2nds 6-3 by winning the six mens singles events. Gloucestershire's team was without Dennis Holland and went down 5-4 to Kent 2nds, who won both doubles events. Somerset beat Essex 3rds 6-3 with Brian Reeves and Graham Green involved in all six wins. Staffordshire and Northamptonshire met in Veterans Division 2A, the teams finished level last season but this time Northamptonshire's team was in great form to win 8-1. Warwickshire 2nds, on promotion, found it hard going at North Shields. They went 4-nil down and Northumberland concluded with a 6-3 win. Nottinghamshire won both doubles at Clwyd and this was certainly an influence in their 6-3 win. Essex 4th team finished well above Buckinghamshire 2nds in Veterans 2B last season. But the tables were turned with Buckinghamshire taking the 6-3 win. Mike Atkinson (Bu) was involved in three wins. Cambridgeshire team visited Norwich, went into a 2-nil lead and got a 6-3 win over Norfolk 2nds. John Turner (Ca) won both singles matches and the doubles with Malcolm Stennett. In Veterans 2C Surrey 2nds received Kent 3rd team and won 7-2. Kent's two events were won by Graham French who beat Frank Hams and Dave Crowley - both at 18 in 3rd game. There were two domestic battles with Sussex 2nds beating their 3rd team 7-2 and although Oxford 1st beat Oxford 2nds 8-1 at least four events were decided narrowly. Three matches in Veterans 2D each ended with the away team getting a 6-3 win. Surrey 3rd team, on promotion, have started well and had their second win at the expense of Devon. Dorset 2nds went into a 3-nil lead over Somerset 2nds and, with Cyril Bush winning both his singles events, earned two points. Wiltshire 1st team, on demotion, was beaten by Hampshire 2nds for whom Maurice Shave won both singles. Newcomers Warwickshire 3rd team beat Cheshire 3rds 7-2 in Veterans 3A. Roger Moss won the two events for Cheshire. Wiltshire 2nds visited St. Neots T.T.C. and secured a win when Alan Duke (Wi) beat Tony Olver at 22 in 3rd game. Huntingdonshire beat Hampshire's 4th team 6-3 at Barnet T.T.C. with Alan Kirkop and P. Laughlin winning their four singles. Two bow teams were in opposition in Veterans 3B and visitors Kent 4 beat Hampshire's 4th team 5-4 with Ted Tydeman (K) getting a vital win in the final event. Dorset 3rd team beat Hampshire's 3rds 6-3 with Danny Allen (Do) involved in three wins. Berkshire 2nds got a 6-3 win over Sussex 4 at Hove. At King's Hill T.T.C. Hampshire 3rd team gave Berkshire 4 the "whitewash". Newcomers Devon 3rd team started well with a 5-4 win over Wiltshire 3rds at Swindon. But Devon 2nds did not fare so well when losing 3-6 to Herefordshire 5th team. Gloucestershire 2nds received Herefordso and got a 6-3 win. Carol Milnes was involved in two of the Hereford wins. In a match wholly decided in straight games, but with a number of games going to deuce, Northamptonshire 3rds beat Berkshire 3rds 7-2.

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

FOR ALL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS
TELEPHONE 0891 664300

Calls charged at 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at other times.
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 3

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS - OCTOBER 1993

SENIOR SECTION

DIVISION 1B C'td
Norfolk 2 7 Huntingdonshire 3
Essex 3 6 Buckinghamshire 2 4
Suffolk 2 9 Cambridgeshire 1
Bedfordshire 7 Hertfordshire 2 3
Huntingdonshire 2 4 Essex 3 6
Suffolk 2 5 Bedfordshire 5

DIVISION 2A C'td
Northamptonshire 3 Northumberland 6
Norfolk 2 5 Clwyd 4
Northamptonshire 5 Clwyd 4

DIVISION 2B
Essex 4 3 Buckinghamshire 2 6
Norfolk 2 3 Cambridgeshire 6
Buckinghamshire 2 6 Cambridgeshire 3
Essex 4 4 Bedfordshire 6
Essex 4 5 Norfolk 4

DIVISION 2C
Oxon 2 1 Oxon 1 8
Sussex 2 7 Sussex 3 2
Surrey 2 7 Kent 3 2
Kent 3 6 Oxon 2 3
Sussex 3 4 Middlesex 2 5
Surrey 2 6 Sussex 2 3

DIVISION 2D
Devon 3 9 Somerset 6 5
Somerset 2 7 Devon 3 9
Cornwall 2 9 Berkshire 2 6
Hampshire 2 7 Middlesex 2 3
Hampshire 2 6 Devon 3 9
Hampshire 2 5 Somerset 6 4

DIVISION 1A
Cambridgeshire 2 Berkshire 6
Essex 2 3 Hampshire 6
Kent 2 5 Gloucestershire 4
Somerset 6 Essex 3 3
Hampshire 8 Essex 3 1
Gloucestershire 4 Essex 2 5
Berkshire 4 Kent 2 5
Somerset 6 Middlesex 3

DIVISION 1B
Northamptonshire 6 Warwickshire 2 3
Staffordshire 1 Northamptonshire 8
Clwyd 3 Nottinghamshire 6
Warwickshire 2 5 Nottinghamshire 4

VETERAN SECTION

PREMIER
Cheshire 8 Sussex 1
Kent 4 Dorset 5
Essex 5 Surrey 4
Yorkshire 5 Hertfordshire 4
Surrey 3 Yorkshire 6
Northamptonshire 5 Dorset 3
Kent 7 Hertfordshire 2
Kent 5 Sussex 6
Northamptonshire 8 Sussex 6

DIVISION 1A
Huntingdonshire 3

DIVISION 1B
Berkshire 2 6 Hampshire 2
Somerset 4 Essex 2 6
Buckinghamshire 2 6 Hampshire 2
Somerset 4 Essex 2 6
Hampshire 7 Somerset 3
Essex 2 1 Sussex 9
Kent 6 Buckinghamshire 4
Northamptonshire 2 7 Huntingdonshire 8

JUNIOR SECTION

PREMIER
Middlesex 8 Devon 2
Surrey 7 Cheshire 3
Berkshire 6 Essex 4
Lancashire 2 Yorkshire 8
Devon 4 Lancashire 6
Cheshire 4 Middlesex 6
Essex 6 Surrey 4
Yorkshire 4 Berkshire 6
Devon 3 Cheshire 7
Surrey 5 Yorkshire 5
Middlesex 3 Essex 7
Berkshire 8 Lancashire 2

DIVISION 1B
Buckinghamshire 8 Hampshire 2
Buckinghamshire 6 Gwent 4
Somerset 4 Essex 2 6
Hampshire 7 Somerset 3
Essex 2 1 Sussex 9
Kent 6 Buckinghamshire 4
Northamptonshire 2 7 Huntingdonshire 8

AMENDED RESULTS

SENIOR 2C

JUNIOR 2C
Devon 2 10 Cornwall 0
Devon 3 7 Cornwall 3
(Players in wrong ranking order)

JUNIOR 2D
Berkshire 2 7 Kent 3 3
(Kent had ineligible player)
**Regional Notes**

**South West Region**

*By Alf Peppard*

Cotswold Select National Junior Open Championships - January 29th and 30th 1994

When the ‘Cotswold’ tournament takes place, over the above-mentioned weekend, it will signal the 27th year of this highly successful event, since its inception in 1968, and it will again be staged at the New Sports Complex, at Tommy Taylor’s Lane in Cheltenham.

Being designated a ‘Select’ tournament by the English TT. Association means that the best boys and girls in the country compete - at age levels Under 17, 14 and 12, in order to gain their county and national affiliations.

Also included in the tournament are some class two events especially aimed at young players who are either too young or perhaps taking their first steps on the competitive table tennis circuit.

It is anticipated that some 300 boys and girls will participate, and it will entail 16 tables of continuous play on 16 tables in the new sports hall, and it will be covered by the press, radio and television.

Tournaments all over the country and similar to the ‘Cotswold’ are so vital for the development of our young players.

Entry forms for the ‘Cotswold’ have long since been distributed - and a gentle reminder, the final date for entries is Thursday 25th December 1993.

Glancing through the West Cornwall T.T. League handbook I note that DML, White Hart Launceston remain the only club in the South West Region competing in the British League providing three teams competing in the Premier Division, Division Two S.W. and Division Three Midland.

British League matches are played periodically at Launceston College on Sunday afternoons on four tables.

They involve many of the regions leading players and are a fine spectacle for spectators, my thanks to Peter Hancock for this information.

Sponsorship - Kesella Garages - National Westminster Bank plc

The West Cornwall T.T. League are especially thankful to Kesella Garages who have kindly agreed to sponsor the main league programme for the fourth successive season, thus enabling the league to maintain its standards of administration and to make some improvements.

Net West have again agreed to sponsor the Divisional Cup on September 19th at Carn Brea for the fourth successive year, ranging from a special match for the Under 21 section. The figures from the last year are 160 entries received for the North of Thames competition. This was held at the popular Janet Adogele Leisure Centre, in Hammersmith. A very deserving well done goes out to Graeme Battrow for running the tournament on both days.

Some of the events are now run over two days to cope with the increase in demand. One of the other changes that has proven the addition of an under 21 section. The figure from the first of these two day events have been good with 124 entries received for the North of Thames competition. This was held at the popular Janet Adogele Leisure Centre, in Hammersmith. A very deserving well done goes out to Graeme Battrow for running the tournament on both days.

Reg Rockwell is the new Regional Staff Development Officer in London. He was promoted over from Nigel Thomas who had to leave the post due to increased commitments at work. This will fit in nicely with Reg’s other post as Regional Director of Coaching.

September/October has been one of the busiest periods for Coach Education with a total of 60 people attending level one and two courses throughout the Region. The demand for these courses is now such that we need more tutors. A tutor course has been arranged for 23rd January 1994, contact Reg Rockwell (tel: 081-341 9011) for details.

With so many new developments taking place it has been hard to keep up with them all, so I have highlighted a few to keep you informed of what’s happening.

Publicity: the 4th newsletter was released at the start of October with a circulation of over 1,000. A grant application form for the Foundation for Sport and the Arts was also included in the circulation.

This now means every ETTA affiliated club in London has now received a form. Coach Education: level one and two course held in the following Boroughs: Brent, Ealing, Haringey, Redbridge, Southwark, the tutors were Reg Rockwell, Brian Etherington and John Lewellyn.

New coaching generated: Hammsmith & Fulham, Townmead Youth Club, Harrow Boys Club, four hours per week. Toweter Hamlets, five hours per week. Donhead School, Merton, coaching part of P.E. curriculum, with 100 players per week.

School/Club link: Notre Dame Girls School in Southwark, coach: Mike Kercher. Colín Wilson the London Region Development Officer is to be congratulated as he has been instrumental in getting most of these projects on the ground. He also recently carried out a survey to find out how much outside capital has been put into table tennis in London. From an estimated £30,000 has been contributed by outside sources from January-October 1993.

**South East Region**

*By John Woodford*

Both parties are seldom happy after a divorce, but it seems that the recent split between London and the South East regions resulted by the re-structuring of the Southern Region. The changes which reflects the huge administrative areas has caused happiness all round and no gruff. Brian Spiro remains in the chair in our Region.

A useful test of his guidance along the development path will come at Crawley on November 27th when a large-scale Development Conference will be staged at which the South East Region Development Plan will be launched.

There is still a great deal of work to be done in the county - some local leagues are making excellent progress with grants, but a few leagues are still bogged down.

The Hastings league who have successfully staged the Stanco Sussex Open for 59 years and who will again be staging the event on October 16th-17th.

Earlier Merton had beaten OLOP "Scottish Provident" 6-3, no details of this match as yet, but a combination of "Phoenix" Hotel Strong Side, a clash with a veterans tournament and injuries, caused OLOP to call in local lad Brian Hickel to join his son Paul and John Millward. Thanks for helping out Brian.

The ladies league started well, played at Ash with all clubs participating.

Again I have only the OLOP Scottish Provident details, with Sylvia Bruton and Sharon Mitchell in outstanding doubles form for OLOP, remaining unbeaten throughout the day. The duo also defeated Aldershott A and B and lost a good contest with Ash "B" 3-2.

Ariel "Div" are confident of winning division two this season and new signing Geoff Davis could be the key player in their squad. Davis one of the top players in the Reading League, started with a smash as SSV beat Cippenham "C" 8-1.

Stanley Mathurin was the lone winner for Cippenham, beating Geoff Huggins 14-21, 21-18, 21-13. Credits to Edgeborough Sports Centre for superb refreshments, and to Cippenham in particular their unimpressed effort. A cross between Lenny Henry and Frank Spencer, thank you from Ariel for a sporting and enjoyable evening.

Back in the Premier the "A" team from Cippenham had a good 5-4 victory over OLOP Scottish Provident "A". The win achieved in the last rubber of the evening when Mike Rhoades defeated Tony Reynolds 21-18, 13-21, 21-14. Earlier however Steve Joel had sewn the seeds of victory, beating Ian Schwartz 21-9, 21-18.

**Who is Steve Joel**

Stephen Joel is the new Southern Region Development Officer for table tennis. Based at the Southern Region Sports Council Offices in Reading, Stephen is already making a great impact on local table tennis.

The Regional Committee is to have a very high profile in his plans for the "Way Ahead" for table tennis over the next three years.

The number one priority in the Region will be facilities and to this end a working paper is being produced.

We all wish Stephen the best of luck.

PAGE 23
Excellence training

IN the past, each Sports Council region has run one Centre of Excellence. For a variety of reasons, these centres have not been as successful as it was hoped they would be. One reason was the locations and the difficulty that many young players had with actually getting to the centres. Writes Gail McCulloch

Now, under the Focus Sport programme, each region will aim to run three or four centres which will be called Centres for Excellence. Obviously the centres have not and these players had with actually squad of 12 players, all of whom programme, each region

standards may initially be quite problems that players may have access to a good training and National coaches when the aim to run three or four centres player; as a means of communi­late players

are aimed at the junior and hopefully many of them of national potential

diverse, but all talented players in finding suitable practice

groups and progress of each player; as a means of communica­tion between individual and centre coach; to highlight problems that players may have in finding suitable practice partners; and to assist Regional and National coaches when the players go to training camps (as hopefully many of them will). The log books will be checked periodically by centre coaches. All Centre for Excellence coaches have also been given training log books. These are: to help the coach prepare the sessions more effectively; to help plan progression (long term); and to cater for individual needs. These logs will be monitored by members of the National Coaching Committee.

LEVEL 3 COACH COURSES

In response to the demand to upgrade more coaches, there will be four level three courses this season as follows:-

May 8-9th - (SW. Region) at Yale Leisure Centre
June 5-6th - at Lillleshall
June 10-12th - at Stockton-on -Tees
July 29-31st - at Chichester

Application forms will be available in January from Jill Parker.

TUTORS & ASSESSORS COURSE

January 23rd will be a training day for all would-be tutors and assessors (up to level two standard).

This is for level three coaches from the London, South East, Southern and South West regions. Places are limited and so application should be made to the Regional Development Officer.

EURO 94 - ADVANCED COACHES COURSES

A course not to be missed. Have you booked your place yet? Application forms from Jill Parker.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME

1. COACHING AWARD

This is a six hour course which aims to give a very basic introduction to coaching. It may be suitable for parents, 6th formers, Duke of Edinburgh candidates or anyone considering a career in leisure, sport or related professions.

Although a good playing standard is not a prerequisite of this award, it is suggested that students spend a good proportion of the time on the table in order to aid their understanding of the basic principles.

2. SPORTS LEADER AWARD

This consists of a 12 hour theory/practical course plus 12 hours of practical coaching under the guidance of a qualified coach. Assessment takes place when both of these criteria have been completed. The course is aimed at anyone wishing to learn the fundamentals of coaching table tennis and a satisfactory playing standard is necessary - i.e. the ability to demonstrate the four basic strokes competently. Students whose playing ability is weak will be given help to improve and should not be put off from attempting to qualify at this level.

3. TEACHERS AWARD

This is for the experienced coach with a minimum of one years experience at Level 2. The course includes three NCF courses (Level 2) and the coach must pass the County Umpires test, attend four Open Tournaments, submit a written paper and be working regularly within the NCS.

4. COACH - Level 2

This course is for level three coaches from the London, South East, Southern and South West regions. Places are limited and so application should be made to the Regional Development Officer.

EURO 94 - ADVANCED COACHES COURSES

A course not to be missed. Have you booked your place yet? Application forms from Jill Parker.

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Winter Course : Only £125 for 5 Days
Monday, December 27th, start 2pm
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As usual the coaches are of the highest proven standard; including John O'Sullivan and Rowden Fullen. Course director is Malcolm Francis, star players include senior Internationals Alex Perry and Kate Goodall.

For more information or to reserve your place, ring Express Sports - 0625 764566

STOP PRESS

Eight page summer camp colour brochure soon available, please ring for your copy.
National Lottery

OVER the next twelve months, the National Lottery is expected to be widely publicised in Britain with an estimated 50% of Britain's adult population likely to become regular players when it becomes established in late 1994. Writes Diccon Gray the ETTA Development Manager

The ETTA are monitoring the progress of the Lottery as it develops and progresses through various government stages so that table tennis has a clear understanding of the potential benefits to sport. We are working very hard towards table tennis being at the front of the queue when funds are distributed.

The ETTA intends to keep members updated on Lottery progress, and the following information (courtesy of the Sports Council) is relevant background information.

National Lottery Bill
The Government has stated that the primary objective of the National Lottery is "to raise as much money as possible for designated "good causes" nominated are: sports, arts, heritage, charities and a Millennium Fund for projects celebrating the year 2000.

The National Lottery Bill was introduced to the House of Lords May 1993 and Royal Assent gained in October 1993.

The bill proposes that sport will receive 20% of the overall surplus allocated to "good causes". Of this sum, 83.3% will be administered by the Sports Council, 8.9% by the Scottish Sports Council, 5% by the Sports Council for Wales and 2.8% by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland.

Lottery surpluses will primarily be used for capital projects i.e. buildings and facilities, not salaries or small revenue projects.

Potential benefits to sport
Additional funding of £100-200 million per annum for sport.

Sport may also derive benefit from the proposed Millennium Fund for major projects, e.g. future Olympic Bids.

Spin-off benefits to sport in terms of possible event sponsorship by Lottery Company, sport-related games, sport-related advertising.

The Lottery industry - key facts
Single Jackpot prizes in the USA have reached levels exceeding $100 million. In Europe, Jackpot prize levels are more in the $1 million - $3 million range. In Britain, the Lottery is expected to have £14 million in weekly prize money. The characteristics of the Lottery are to have a small number, one or two each week, of instant millionaires and then lots of smaller prizes.

The Lottery is played by purchasing scratch/instant tickets or selecting Lotto numbers for the weekly draw. Tickets are instantly validated through a computerised online network and smaller prizes are paid through the retail agent. Tickets normally cost 50p or £1 equivalent.

Lottery agencies will probably be located in newsagents, convenience stores, shopping malls and post offices. It is estimated that Britain will need 15,000 - 20,000 individual retail agents to achieve the desired coverage.

Issues for sport
Ensure maximum proportion of Lottery surplus for "good causes".

Ensure fair and consistent proportion of Lottery surplus for sport.

Present and represent the case for sport and it's value as a beneficiary area.

Capital v. Revenue funding
Ensure funding from Lottery is targeted at all levels of sport: International, National, Community.

Ensure current Sports Council funding is maintained.

Define relationship between National Lottery, Foundation for Sport and the Arts and other Football Pool industry income.

N.B. The applications procedure is not yet finalised and clubs are requested not to contact the Sports Council at this stage.

As soon as the procedure is known the ETTA will circulate all relevant information.

The above posters which are A4 and A3 in size and in full colour, are available from Claire Taylor, ETTA, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.
A shorter, sharper game

GET ready for a shorter, sharper game. That's the message being delivered by the ITTF who feel a radical shake-up of our sport is overdue. Writs Jim Beckley

The most controversial of changes in the pipeline is likely to be that of playing to 11 points instead of 21. Many sports including badminton, squash, netball and soccer have considered ways and means of making their sport more attractive and table tennis is no exception.

But playing to 11 must be considered one of the biggest changes to effect table tennis for many years. And it does have its supporters with many top players giving encouraging noises.

But that's not all. Other changes up for serious consideration include lighter and larger balls, a change in the thickness of rubber coverings and even the length of rackets. These rules and others will be decided upon next May in China and if they go through, the English Open could be one of the first major events to feel the wind of change.

Top 13

Our own Sally Marling has been nominated to play in the European Top 12 junior tournament in the city of Tikra, Israel in January. The stylish...Yorkshire girl wins her place ahead of rival Nicola Deaton. Nicola is first reserve and will join Sally if someone drops out of the original list. Nevertheless its good to see two English girls in European Top 13.

European women are going through a bad patch. Unlike the men who tend to dominate the world scene these days, in contrast the ladies are hardly to be seen. Now the ETTU has recognised the problem and is aiming to bring our ladies up to scratch. They intend to form a working party to study the problem and hopefully in time, come up with the answer.

Golden racket

Belgium has asked the ETTU for approval to hold a new invitation tournament late next year which promises to be a glittering event in more ways than one. Besides major prize money the winner will also take home a golden racket studded with diamonds.

New trophy

Borussia Dusseldorf, winner of the Europe Club Cup of Champions, have been given permission to keep the cup after winning it for three years on the run. Now the ETTU will have to pay for its generosity by forking out for a new trophy.

Olympic city

Sydney

Full marks to Olympic city Sydney who have already announced details of the table tennis arrangements. The event will take place at the Sydney Exhibition Centre on the shores of Sydney harbour. It is a 10,000 seater stadium which will include 16 tables plus all facilities for officials and players and practice halls are close by. Apparently twice already the ITTF have inspected the centre and were impressed by what they saw.

Glue for Paris

The European Youth Championships in Paris, 15-24 July 1994 have been given the go ahead to use liquid glues although they take place after the ITTF's official dateline of 1 June 1994. The ETTU has informed the ITTF of its concern.

Diary

DECEMBER

3-6 Finnish Open, Helsinki
17-19 Portuguese Jun Open, Lisbon

1994

JANUARY

7-9 Czech Open, Most
8-12 Global Youth Champs, Tokyo
14-16 Euro Nations Cup, Bayreuth, Germany
22-23 Euro Ladies Team Cup, Daulman, Germany
23-24 Europe Junior Top 12, Israel
25-1 Commonwealth Champs, Hyderabad

FEBRUARY

4-6 Europe Top 12, Arezzo
Simplifying the service law

HAVING got the volley out of the way perhaps we ought to turn our attention to the service law and try to suggest a way of simplifying it to make it easier for umpires to apply and easier for players to understand. Perhaps we ought to turn our attention to the service law and try to suggest a way of simplifying it to make it easier for umpires to apply and players to understand. Hopefully some discussion will ensue from these rather radical changes, so comments please, particularly how might somebody gain an advantage by manoeuvring under this new law.

The rest of Law 3.6.6 and 3.6.7 stay as now. The ‘tree hand’ is kept, but is not now used in the service.

There were some unfortunate printing errors and missed proof corrections in the November issue in the Umpires’ Corner article. In “Edge Over” eight lines from the end “also noted” should have read “always noticed.” In “Law Changes” 4 lines eight, without “should read” before line 11, “now such thing as a volley” should read “no such thing as a volley, the server loses a point.”

Now doesn’t that make more sense?

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**PAGE 27**
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We are, as a family, in our third year as a subscriber to T.T. News whose delivery is eagerly awaited and contents正文

The Editor
Table Tennis News
St Bracketts
Hemel Hempstead
Herts
HN2 3JA

Glue

RARELY have we been treated to such baldness and insincerity as we were by Mr. John Woodford under the headline 'Glue Rumpus at Brentwood' (T.T. News October 1994). Well later alter the following: "...the ETTA National Council tried to rush the rest of the world into an immediate glue ban..." and "...it seems highly unlikely that English Table Tennis and the rest of the world is wrong."

I have criticised various ETTA administrations in my time, but on this occasion the ETTA Council acted transparently and support. Mr. Woodford's remarks depart from fact as well as fair play. Hundreds of teenagers all over the world, which includes the U.K., dinned from glue sniffing/solvent abuse every year. It must be obvious that the inhalation of glue solvents cannot do the user much good. A table tennis player may attach glue to his bat several times per day, which may be more than a thousand times per year. The use of glue bestows undoubted advantages, which is why players cling to the stuff with a vengeance. Moreover, there is a restriction that no one uses the stuff. However, it was not something that was initiated by the ETTA. This was done by the ITTF, the international governing body of the sport. The council has an overwhelming majority within the ETTF Council for the banning of liquid glue and the ban was to begin in September 1985. A powerful lobby persuaded the President of the ITTF to delay implementation which he had the right to do. Any delay was therefore pushed forward to the 1st June 1986. This was found the time that the ban was to surrender. The ETTA did not surrender and continued the ban on liquid (fast) glue in English events. The considerable credit is due to both Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the ETTA, with whom I have often agreed and continue to do so. The seat of power is the ETTA Committee of the ITTF, with whom I have often disagreed, and continue to do so. The seat of power is the ETTA Committee of the ITTF, with whom I have often disagreed, and continue to do so.

Programs

Copy date

WE are, as a family, in our third year as a subscriber to T.T. News whose delivery is eagerly awaited and contents are well received, although they are frequently disappointing in content.

The hope for table tennis must surely lie with the development of the young, to kindle their interest and make our Association the most important force of the future scheme. Of course, we wait to hear from Lisa and Andree, Carl and Cheryl but this is a bit like watching of Liverpool F.C. when you play for your school in the local league.

There was none of the confusion of the Kirkkises tournaments, except for a few false starts, for nothing can be done until the main rules are agreed. The York players won their competition between Scotland, Wales, I.O.M. and N. Ireland and English players won both individual trophies, this probably the most successful English summer last season. The celebrations were terrific. Everyone who is proud to English, the photos were taken and the results were published together with a magazine but not mention could be found in any future issue.

Why not run a page on under 12s and younger events, not everyone can win but the mention of who reached the semi and the shock results could make a young player feel important and encourage others to have a go. A few points to note:

Junior Notes' section allowing two thirds of a column is not sufficient.

John Lockwood
Barnet Committee of the Equipment Committee, speaking at the annual dinner of the Secondary Schools Association did issue a statement that both operate from Methodist Church Halls but the areas in which they are located are entirely different. The first in Tilehurst, Reading commenced in 1977 and is still going strong. The other we started in 1968 here in Cornwall in the small village of Crafthole.

In both clubs the concept was supported by more than a dozen primary school members who had no league experience when they joined. Some have been content just to play a relaxed game on the table. In the other, members were more likely to play more competitively. As a result both clubs now have several league teams comprised mainly of players without prior league experience. Despite a restriction imposed on the club at Tilehurst limiting membership to those attending church, the club expanded and within a few years secured eight tables all of which are often in use on a club night. The restriction has now been gradually relaxed. At Crafthole it is only just possible to fit the seven tables into the small Church Hall for the junior section.

Although the hall which was only used on one weekday evening a month before the club was formed is barely used out of season during the league season.

Each club has had its fair share of successes at senior and junior level in league and other competitions.

Other features common to both clubs which I have believe contributed to their growth, are a regular programme of social and fund-raising events run by a social sub-committee, separate junior sections, junior coaching, and club competitions comprising of several events spread over about four months culminating in a club final.

Geoff Cadwallader, Torpoint, Cornwall

PLEASE NOTE

We would like to make it clear that Table Tennis News does not necessarily agree with the views made by those correspondents whose letters are published in Tables. Letters that are not abusive or libellous are always welcomed, as are replies.

We reserve the right to refuse any letters when names and addresses are supplied for publication in future.

PAGE 28
News from the Counties

BOURGEOIS
Bob Murray

OCTOBER has seen our Senior 2nds, Veterans and Juniors in action.

The Senior 2nds were involved in an exciting 5-5 draw against Wiltshire at Falland. Mark Butler was our man of the exciting 5-5 draw against Wiltshire at match with excellent wins over Eddie Roche and Dave Richards. Hugh Dalton and Clive Ellison chipped in with one each as did Carey Barrett to earn a deserved point.

The Veterans travelled to Bourne-mouth to take on Dorset 2nds and returned with two points after a 6-3 victory. Gary Baldwin, enjoying his table tennis immensely as a 'cadet' vet, won both of his games as did Bob Murray. Gary and Bob also teamed up to take the important mens doubles. John Higgins was involved in two marathon games emerging victorious in one of them. Surprisingly neither went to expedite deuce.

The Juniors have been in action twice during the month. Two wins each from Alex Sheppard, Graham Long and Jon Thom secured a 6-4 victory against Dorset. This was followed by a 5-5 draw against Wiltshire, a match in which Alister Clare silenced Roche with his games in style. Tom Orlik was also in good form winning both his singles and Graham won one to secure the draw. Lizzie McDonald and Jessica Orlik have played well in all of the games this season and, although not winning any in the recent round of matches, it will not be long before they are winning consistently at junior level.

Bristol League

Bristol staged an excellent Western Masters in the VETTS series of tournaments. The outstanding local performance was that by Gary Baldwin who took some impressive scalps in reaching the final of the Over 40 singles where he was defeated by top seed Nigel Bowler.

On the league front, Knowle and Bristol 'A' have started well defeating both last season's runners-up Bristol Club 'B' and last season's Division One champions Falland. The game against Falland was particularly tight with K & B edging it 6-4 despite a superb maximum from Brian Rees.

BERKSHIRE

John Cunningham

Berk's Juniors on track for Premier title

In the English Table Tennis Association's County Junior Premier Division, Berkshire have beaten their closest rivals and look to be a good bet to take the championship.

Each of the eight counties involved played their first three matches in the 1994/95 Premier Division at Liverpool's Everton Sports Centre. The matches involving Essex and Berkshire were particularly well supported - with the spectators loudly showing their appreciation of the excellence of the play.

Berkshire's first match was against Essex. This turned out to be very tense for the supporters. There was never more than one set dividing the two teams until Berkshire's Ben Johnson relieved the pressure by thrashing the Essex No 1 21-10, 21-15. This made the match score 3-3 to Berkshire with two sets to play. Berkshire lost the next set 22-20 but commanding a 3-2 lead, 12 year old Gareth Herbert had the responsibility of trying to win the final set, and hence the match for Berkshire.

Things were looking bad as Gareth was on the defensive in losing the first game. However, Berkshire's coach Jim Stoker gave him some fresh ideas for the second game and Gareth won it comfortably. The final game went to deuce, but Gareth looked very happy to shake Gareth's hand at the end!

The 2nd team of Jake Yeates, Mark Pitcher and Tom Yeates were in the USA). The good form of the county junior 1st team continued on 15th October, despite the selection of a slightly weakened boys' side (because Tom and Harry Yeates were in the USA). Playing two matches at the Buckinghamshire junior county championships - losing to Bedfordshire, 6-4, with both of the titles winning both of their matches with consummate ease. The boys were a much harder task though, and Pilcher, Yeates and Munson all lost to Owengate one and two. They had strength in depth as well, and the other matches were won by Pilcher and Yeates only 15 and 19 in the third respectively.

The 2nd match, versus Hampshire, was won 8-2 by Buckinghamshire, leaving us with 100% victories this season. This time it was the Harry Yeates who failed, losing to Liam Templeton, but the girls were in better form, providing both their wins. It could have been more, as Barlow was seriously troubled, before eventually winning 17 and 10 in the third. The boys won all of their matches for us, although we were all taken to three games. Yeates beat Greg Burns 10 in the third, and Pilcher and Munson both beat Gareth Bonden 15 in the third. The day ended with Barlow having won all of her games, Pilcher and Yeates having won three each, and Munson and Templeton on two each.

The 2nd team, sadly, fared a little worse. The girls, suffering from the knock-on effect of Tom and Harry Yeates being unavailable for the 1st team, fell 4-6 at the hands of Essex 3rds. The team consisted of Mark

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Harry Yeates

Junior County matches 18.9.93

THE Buckinghamshire junior county team's first matches in this year's County Championships proved to be quite successful, the 1st team winning 8-2 away to Essex 2nds and the 2nd team leading Bedfordshire 7-3 at home.

The 1st team (Stephen Munson, Harry Yeates, Tom Yeates, Lucy Templeton and Donna Tuohy) faced what looked like a team of less than maximum possible strength as a result only dropped two sets - Munson to Thomas Thostrup (a hard-left chopper), and Tuohy, in her first county match, to Karen Mason (43rd) closest in the 3rd.

The 2nd team of Jake Yeates, Mark Pitcher, Mark Cotton, Elizabeth Seymour and Katie Dickens weren't quite as convincing, although Yeates and Pitcher played well to win their two matches.

As far as other county related matches, British Gas CMK have so far played three matches in Division One North of the British League and have lost two (7-1 vs Grove 2nds and 5-3 vs City of Sunderland) and won the other (6-2 vs Cheltenham Saracens).

The two matches at which the Juniors have qualified for the finals of the Regional Tournaments are Yeates, Yeates and Munson (U17 boys) and Wendy Barlow and Donna Tuohy (U17 girls).

Please note

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

John Wood, 5 The Brackens, Homel Hampstead, Herfs HP2 5JA.

Page 29
Jimmy plays in the Carlisle league as few years now on a consensus of the information received from the Association. Well, but is a former individual.

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

AFTER 50 years in the game, Eric Tyson, of Barrow, has had to push through a shoulder injury. And with a fine display of forehand looping, finally prevailed 28-26 in the third, against Essex's No.1. He ran into trouble in the other match, though, and will have to watch to his "illegal" service in future.

COUNTY NOTES - 2

COTTON, Elizabeth Seymour and Clare Hayes, along with debuts for Gareth Thomas and Kevin Holland.

There were some positive results from the day's play though, and the victories came from Hayes (one), Seymour led with a very fine close-to-the-action backhand it, was made to fight for the victory, though, and, with a fine display of forehand looping, finally prevailed 28-26 in the third, against Essex's No.1. He ran into trouble in the other match, though, and will have to watch to his "illegal" service in future.

CUMBRIA

Gordon Brown

AFTER 50 years in the game, Eric Tyson, of Barrow, has had to finish through a shoulder injury. To special advice that his left shoulder cannot take any more wear and tear, Eric said: "It's terrible news, absolutely terrible."

But for every old 'un bowing out like Tyson, Barrow always has a dozen youngsters - and brilliant young players on that.

What town or county would not feel secure for the future with a brother and sister partnership such as Tyson and Katherine Swan, for example.

Age 13 and 11 respectively they played together in Cumbria senior team's 5-2 draw with Croyd - Cumbria's first county championship point for two years - and did not disgrace themselves.

Tristan won two sets against No. 2 Keith Williams and No.3 Chris Robson, for whom the match brought back memories. For he used to play in the Carlisle League.

In the October rankings, Tristan was 79th junior boy, and joint 767th in the senior men's rankings, while Katherine has not played in a county match although dropping both sets, was third ranked under 12 and 304th senior woman at the same time.

Other sets for Cumbria against Croyd were gained by Mark Temple, of Carlisle (two) and Jimmy Cummings.

Jimmy plays in the Carlisle league as well, but is a former individual champion of the Whitemoor league, officials of which have decided not to nominate him to the English Table Tennis Association.

Such action has been mooted for a few years now on a consensus of opinion that, as one of the county's many small leagues, they get nothing for the affiliation. Members felt at the annual meeting in the YMCA that fees went towards national administration and helping players in the upper echelons.

ESSEX

Steve Kem

ESSEX Junior teams have been in action, the first tournament of the season being a 7-day journey to Liverpool for the Premier league weekend where their first act of opponents were Berkshire, Surrey and Middlesex.

The campaign opened with a narrow 4-3 loss to Berkshire at a memorable match.

Steve Nettleingham, who is only 14, scored a sensational victory over Terry Young, at No 6 on the national ranking list, some 33 places above him. Shelley Rusco also contributed a tremendous win over Gemma Schwartz, after being 11-16 down in the third game, and James Wickens lost 18 in the third to Gareth Herbert, whilst Steve Joelin fell 22 in the deciding to the same player. Clearly no lack of excitement here!

The next match was against Sussex, and this time it was Steve Joelin who produced a stunning performance by beating England No.5 Darren Blake 21-9 in the deciding. This excellent win has been the highlight of their campaign so far and never headed, eventually winning 6-4.

Our final match was against Middlesex, and although lacking the excitement of the previous games we won 7-2. Both Reagan and James Wickens took their two singles. Pride-of-place however goes to Shelley Rusco who stayed unbeaten, with a splendid six-out-of-six win.

The junior third team have also made an impressive start beating Huntingdonshire 6-4 and Buckinghamshire II by the same score. Nicky Lapwood took the Man of the Match award against Huntingdonshire whilst Barry Mayes repeated the feat in the Buckinghamshire game.

The Senior second team also began their campaign with a win by 6-4 over Middlesex, and an impressive win against Sussex with the title of the match. In the Friendly Hotels British League, Sedgefield District's three teams have chances for honours. Apart from receiving the usual from BFI, Grove, their Premiers side have won three and drawn with Team Peniel. Possibilities here of 2nd place. Sedgefield's 2nd team are in the top three in the 1st North and the 3rd team lead the 3rd North at the time of writing. City of Sunderland also have entered the 1st North but are suffering from 5-3itis. Lately the team have been suffering from 5-3itis. Lately the team have been

EVANS, David

EVANS, David

He enjoyed a steady run in action. With a large squad attending the county's foremost award for service to the game) in 1979.

In the first half of the season, two categories were formed for honours in four divisions, of which others will be promoted from each.

The event which saw the baptism of a new referee in Trevor Spraggs (Yes, son of Harry!) attracted an entry of 40 in the National League. The county's Advanced Training Centre at Newton Aycliffe now has a full-time coach. Unfortunately Dave Robson has been suffering from a back injury.

bits and Pieces

In a Junior County match versus Wiltshire, Gloucestershire's 13 year old Ann Humble scored a great win against Wiltshire's very experienced Debbie King, scores: 10, 18, 19, that result without any doubt should push Ann's ranking up considerably.

Darren Griffin, Gloucestershire's No.1 player beat Sean Gibson 17, 17, in a Premier Division British League match recently, Griffin plays for Batwick Tyres and Gibson who at the time of writing is ranked at No.8 play for Peniel.

HAMPshire

Brian Lamerton

GRAHAM Tooke regained his Hampshire men's singles title when he defeated Graham Potter 18-21, 21-19, 21-13 in this season's final played at Southampton Rechhridge Sports Centre.

The event which saw the baptism of a new referee in Trevor Spraggs (Yes, son of Harry) attracted an entry of 40 in the senior team, semi finalists were Micky Sinman and the seeded Steve Riley.

When deciding on the final, the number which takes place on Sunday 29th November provide an interesting insight especially for the County Selectors to note, the venue is at St. Albans, Harpenden, and Cheltenham, and the Secretary and Hon. Referee will be Mrs. Gill Smith from Cheltenham.

Moving on a week to the following Saturday 6 December when the Counties are staging the Senior (Closed) Championships at the new Cheltenham Sports Hall at Tommy Taylor's Lane, Cheltenham.

This excellent venue has a restaurant and bar available for refreshments well in the vicinity of the player area, and ample car parking space both in the hall and opposite at the Sports Stadium, as with the Junior events - Mrs. Gill Smith again steps in as secretary and referee for this event, it is hoped that there will be a big response from players to both.

The season itself is now under way for the 1994 season because of Euro 94, our 'final game was against Bayesia who at the time of writing is ranked at No.6. We lost 3-2. The visitors won both of their singles, whilst Steve Rand, David Cole, Vince Avey, Keith Wilson and Sue Hickman.

Moving onto the tournament scene, it was pleasing to see Linda Armstrong who at the time of writing was 4th at the Wiltshire ITTFA 5 Star Tournament. The event was held in the media centre at the University of the West of England in Bath.

Championships (three) only had 14 days between them, see what I mean? This is the price that we pay for the European Championships next year, but if they are well supported by the media in general, then it's a small price well paid, and indeed well worth it.

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**COUNTY NOTES - 3**

who had earlier put out the holder Ramesh Bhalla. An entry of 10 for the Ladies singles was good but provided little opposition for champion Sarah Tumer. Mark Giler in an outstanding performance of skill won the title vacated by his brother Jeff when he overcame Tony Reynolds 26-28, 21-19, 21-18. Chris Shelker and Gill Larking retained their veteran titles and most of the doubles awards went the way of Ramesh Bhalla and Barbara Savage who together won the mixed and then partnered Graham Pointer and Sarah Tumer in the other event.

The second round of County matches produced four wins, a draw and five defeats. The Veteran 2nd and 3rd, sides kept up their winning sequence, the 3rd's without a loss as a result of a 7-3 victory over Chris Shelker, Bob Cox and Graham Outrim brought the 1st team their first win. The juniors continue to struggle having to work in France, their one set won in the 'A' sides defeats at the hands of Owent and Buckinghamshire went to the girls, Lorna Duth (three) and Donna Glanville (two). The Junior 'B's took on Surrey 2nd and 3rd, losing 7-3 to the former and achieving a creditable draw with the latter. The team was changed a little for the two matchers and each of those named won at least one set, Danny Burns, Sonia Pointer, Dalbir Chaggar, Mark Wharebon, Chris Sun, Kevin Smith and Wanda Hutchins would have done much more.

The Senior 'A' string eased into their season with a nine sets to one victory over their own 'B' side for whom Rachael Cheffy, newly returned from working in France, won the one set which got away.

Congratulations to Bellingstone's Kevin Macken, a leading players in last season's title winners. His success has been awarded an Outstanding Sports Person of the Year Award by the Hampshire Schools Sports Association.

**HERTFORDSHIRE**

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WINNER of this season's Cadet Inter-League competition was Barnets League, who were undefeated on Sunday 31st October, 1993, at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

The three champions from Barnet were John Wood, Adrian Hall and Anna Greenberg.

Runners-up were Hertford, who lost just once, to Barnet 1-3.

**CADET INTER-LEAGUE 1993/94**

P W D L AFPS

Barnets 4 4 0 0 14 2 8
Hertford 4 4 0 0 11 5 6
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defeat for Alison Smith at the hands of the unranked Sarah Hornsall after convincingly winning the first leg 21-11, she then lost 14-21, 15-21.

Junior Division 2D
Preston. Well he has found a pattern of tiny feet. Well done Mark and thinks she's far too good for when the turnout was a bit lower than expected, nevertheless it turned out to be a very good tournament with some extremely good table tennis.

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Smith, has suffered an injury to his hand that has kept him out of action in not only the local league but also the Friendly Hotels British League. However, Ian Robertson and Andrew Wilkinson have both been performing well for Sudsfield.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The senior events have made an excellent start to the season with victories over Chester II, Warwickshire II and Cumbria. Surprisingly, perhaps, it has been the male element who have been particularly dominant with Junior Stoddart, Mark Green and Robert Yong unbeaten so far and Tim Sheppard having had to bow the knee only once. Whilst it may be customary to despair at this, I feel we do have an excellent chance of gaining promotion with the current squad strength at the ladies (Linda Collins and Sarah Smith) are also now coming into good form.

The veterans, despite the addition of Terry Hall - who had a period of operation by acknowledging the 'going' over 40 for this season, have made an indistinct start losing to Northumberland (3-6) and Warwickshire II (4-5) and beating Chwiy (6-3). The star performers here have been the ladies Shirley Belton and Janice Montford, whilst not always victorious have played to their full potential which perhaps cannot be said of the men who have dropped vital rubbers - particularly doublets.

Inter-Town Competition

This team competition was organised by Worksop League and held at Wellow School - to whom we are grateful for the facilities provided, and drew entries from Mansfield, Nottingham and Worksop. Unexpectedly, Mansfield emerged victorious with wins over Mansfield (12-0) and Worksop (9-3) with Worksop beating Mansfield 9-3 to take second place. Whilst he did not land on the winning team, open singles player must be made of Mark Short who was unbeaten in singles for Worksop throughout the day.

Around the Leagues

Newark - Despite a fall in the numbers of teams - 13 down to 11, the movement of players during the close season should produce a more open league than in recent years. On the junior side John Williams continues his outstanding! his working at the Nottingham club - where he has now been joined by Paul Thompson and his Grove youngsters, and now has five tablets in operation on a number of evenings each week. Newark are fortunate to have both Paul and John who have given a considerable amount of time to local youngsters in recent years.

Nottingham - Nine divisions comprising 108 teams sees the league continuing to flourish. At the top level we are sorry to have lost the talents of Steven Shaw, Gary Knights and Bill Bridgegater but pleased to note that the Worksop duo of Mark Short and Mick Bartrop will be making regular appearances. At the lower levels it is good to note the increase in junior teams and praise is due to the people responsible - Pat Mur, Dave Bullas, Brian Draycott, Ralph Green etc.

Mansfield - This year the league consists of 10 teams, an increase of four, this increase largely due to new junior teams. At a time when the availability of premises is a big problem it is encouraging to hear that Mansfield Recreation Club have six tables and are keen to attract greater usage.

Worksom - The league continues to enjoy sponsorship from D.T.H. Engineering and reports a 15% increase in entries for this year’s tournament. Development work appears to be in sound hands with the possibility of league headquarters currently under investigation.

Tournament Round-up

No report of table tennis in the county these days would be complete without a mention of one or more of the Pestka family. True to form Debbie - joint England No.1 cadet, came up trumps in her first two tournaments of the season winning both titles at the Killikrode Junior 2 Star and more importantly the East Yorkshire Junior select at Bridlington. The victory at Bridlington was particularly praeworthy since it required a 'guy' final game recovery against arch rival Tracy Davies from Essex.

Whilst Debbie and Michelle Haynes are the lofty-ranked stars of Nota table tennis for the notables in performance so far of the season came from Junior Stoddart at the recent Yorkshire/Humber 2 Star at Halifax. On his way to the semi final he overcame Robert Roberts the Barbadian No.1 and Nigel Eckersley of Chester before bowing to top seed and eventual winner Alex Perry of Devon. On a more general note it was good to see the suburban clubs of Wellow and Nota presage another part tournament - a far cry from my early years, when a Nota player at an open tournament was a real rarity.

On a lighter note I have two questions for all Nota fans: 1. Why do we still refer to Conrad Stoddart who is six-foot tall, built like a middleweight and possesses a forearm like a sledge-hammer as ‘Junior’? 2. Does Terry Hall throw the ball high enough? "LIKE WOT I DO, when serving?"

Somerset

Andy Seward

Two thoughts regarding the beta. The ETTA at their July National Council meeting passed a resolution that puts into Law "that bats shall be red on one side, black on the other.".

What has been the effect apart from a lot of hot air blowing from 'just off the Subject? In this part of the country, the younger players and their coaches appear to be in favour of the decision and the sales of red paint has definitely increased. I await details from any of our leagues of any team losses due to this new Law. Presumably, the law enforcers on this topic will be Batman and Robin?

Secondly, it was a welcome chance to note a Banks (type) bat being used by an Essex junior in a County match versus Somerset recently. Suggest to say that the maker made compulsive viewing, but one has to wonder whether in the long term the spaghetti bats but have a future in the game. Sad. For the record, two wins for Andrew Hewitt, each for Alan Russell and Andrew Rumney gave Somerset's good base but it was not to be as the Essex girls collected four wins to take home the points.

On the subject of County matches, it is always very pleasing to take a County veterans' match to a new venue. Somerset wishes to express its thanks to Child Okeford (where you may ask?) for their arrangements and hospitality for our 'home' match in Dorset versus Devon! In the match itself, Somerset were not to contain with the Dorest basa and stations and a win in the mixed doubles came as a surprise. Two late wins for George Philpott and Alan Mainman made the score 6-3 to Devon. The interest then in new venue and much to be said about how to beat the down narrow lanes on the 'levels'. Whether our opposition will find it debatable, it may be our only way of achieving a win.

To those of you who avidly study the monthly Ranking List produced with much professionalism nowadays by Hastings, I ask the following simple question. Is the list a true reflection of the strengths and abilities of ALL the players in your County? Sadly, it is my view that the answer from a Somerset point of view is 'No'. As Lloyd Grossman would say "let us look at the evidence."

The player currently ranked in the Mendip League at No.26 is currently in the ETTA Senior Men list at No.716. I do not in any way decry the efforts of the gentleman in question, he is a very talented player who is improving all the time. However, how many of the 25 players above him in Mendip are ETTA ranked. Answer: Four. That concerns me.

In general, more on Somerset rankings and the local League scene.

Sussex

John Woodford

The popular Moorle family continue to dominate the playing arena in Sussex. Brother Adrian and Teresa boosted their haul of Sussex singles successes at Lancing on October 24, when Adrian triumphed for the seventh time and Teresa who is now married to Jeremy Bright of Brighton, lifted herself to win the fifth time surmounting her usual final opponent computer wizard Sally Wesson of Horaham despite the fact that Sally is eight places above Teresa in the national ranking. Adrian came from behind in his singles final to best off a very strong challenge from Crawley star Ritchie Venner -19, 13, 12.

Three were plenty of surprises for the 80 players who battled through twelve hours play organised by the Worthing TTC very efficiently and sponsored by Express Services.

The mens doubles winners were Scott Greenbrook and Mayur Majithia. The Crawley boys scythed their way through the seeds knocking out the Moore brothers Stephen and Adrian on the way - a superb shock win.

Two players had special reasons to feel frustrated. Paul Elphick could not resist smashing the ball down the stadium as he was well beaten by Venner in the mens semi. He was warned by the umpire for equipment abuse.

But it was Hastings-based narroquo accepting defeat by clipping the Sussex leg of the Men's doubles Iapt-ico (coo) as she lost to top seed Sally Weston in the women's singles semi.

Miss King, a fine counter-hitter won the first game losing only three points, led 17-13 in the second, 18-15 in the third but lost 19, 19 after losing three unlucky points on the net and table-edge!

The new Sussex junior champions are Paul Butcher (Haywards Heath) and Joanna Bush-Harry of Brighton.

Butcher, although still troubled by a shoulder muscle problem showed remarkable poise as he enthusiastically triumphed over Ben Doyle (Ansedle) in the final 13, 11.

Joanna Bush-Harris was a worthy winner of the girls singles, knocking out the younger holder Tina Beaney 19, 17 in the final.

An investigation has however, been promised to probe the reasons why the entry for the junior event was down to 30 players - 90 last year - officials and coaches in the Brighton and Crawley areas will be invited to attend the session, leading up to a debate the December 12 meeting of the Sussex TTA.

Warwickshire

Pete Walden

THE Coventry and District League continues to flourish under the auspices of Alan Stockham as Chairman and his son Matthew as the General Secretary and his other executive, up and down the country, falling members of players, teams and venues were beginning to take their toll. The Coventry Committee has addressed these problems in a positive manner, and has managed to stabilise a rapidly deteriorating situation by striving hard to maintain its existing player base, and by some shrewd financial tactics. Much work has also been put into the formulation of the league development plan, in concert with the full co-operation of the Regional Committee and the Sports Council.

Two major changes for Coventry this season have already been implemented. The system of ranking the players will now follow the one in use by the ETTA and the setting for the Coventry Closed Championships has been changed. Instead of taking place at the Disabled Centre's facilities in Tile Hill, this season's championships will be held at the St. Augustine's Sports Centre in Radford, on Sunday, February 26th 1984. Let's hope that this new beginning will give us a clear idea of what can be achieved.
WILTSHIRE

Laurie Selby

POUR Swindon juniors have jumped the first hurdle in their bid to win places in the All-England trials being staged in the new year.

They all won through the South West regional trials held at Wellington.

Tim O'Mahony, Tracy Youlton and Debbie King all won through their groups without losing a match. Tracy Youlton and Debbie King also won through their groups without losing a match. Tracy went through without dropping a set.

Three of the younger members found the going a little tougher but still qualified by being third in their group.

Stephen Penfold and Luke Leach both played in the Cadet (under 14s) events and Stephen was unlucky not to progress to the Plymouth trials after winning two matches in his group. He was placed 15th on games countback - had he won two more points he would have gone through.

Luke played well in his first attempt in competition at such high level but failed to pick up a win in a strong group.

Tracy's fine form has put her at number 33 in the national under 17 rankings - the highest of any Swindon player.

Brenda Lee (Ferndale) is at 52 in the seniors and Swindon champion Eddie Rooke (Ferndale) is at 167.

Alan Duke (Northside) is at 153, Mike Odey (St. Savour) is at 167 and Sylvia Morse (Gulakln Sanford) are all in the veterans' rankings.

Tim O'Mahony (Ferndale) is placed 59 in the under 17 boys and Tracy Youlton (Ferndale) is 70 and Kelly Sampson (Ferndale) is 126 in the under 17 girls.

The Swindon and District League is giving table tennis a help with this season to coincide with the European Championships which are being held in Birmingham.

Some of the leaguers experienced players and coaches have offered to give exhibitions and coaching sessions to schools during the day or to youth groups in the evenings. Tables are also available.

The Wiltshire juniors interested should contact Val Clack on Swindon 537494 or Stuart Morse on 0294 816738.

Wiltshire veterans faced a gruelling test to sort out the really good in the county when their ranking tournament was staged in Swindon.

Thirty four over 40s took part in the tournament at Churchfields School and spectators were treated to quality in a friendly atmosphere.

Brian Powell was the eventual winner but he didn't have things all his own way.

Powell scraped victory against Alan Duke 24-22 in the deciding game and then went down to Basil Thompson in his next match.

But the defeat spurred Powell on and he never lost another game. He faced Tony Miltham (West Wilts) in the final which he won comfortably.

Miltham's fine performance in his first ranking tournament improved his ranking from 17th to 8th. Other notable performances came from Tony Parsons (West Wilts) who moved from 15th to 5th; Malcolm Philips (Trowbridge) from 20th to 14th; Colin Shephard (Salisbury) 23rd to 15th and Malcolm Gayer (Thamesdown) from 41st to 31st.

Sylvia Morse dominated the women's tournament, winning all her games in straight sets to keep her number one ranking.

The next veterans' ranking tournament will be held on Sunday April 17th at Churchfields. If anybody would like to enter they should contact Mike Odey on 0294 8166227.

The new Wiltshire rankings list are:

MEN: 1. Tony Bruce (Swindon), 2. Brian Powell (Swindon), 3. (joint) Bill Moulding (Salisbury), Basil Thompson (Swindon) and Tony Brown (Salisbury), 6. Mike Odey (Calne), 7. Alan Duke (Swindon).


Wiltshire's five county teams met with mixed fortunes in their latest round of matches in the county championships.

The senior side travelled to play Avon Seconds and started badly. Both Eddie Rooke (Swindon) and Dave Richards (Devizes) failed to win a game.

But Trevor Lloyd (West Wilts) played a skippers role by picking up both his singles and Swindon's Brenda Lee did the same bringing her county to tally of five all but securing victory.

Helen Frost (Salisbury) chipped in with one victory to give Wiltshire a hard-noured draw.

Only one of the county's three veterans' team came away with victory. It came from Wiltshire Seconds who travelled to St. Neots where they beat Bedfordshire 6-4.

Swindon's Alan Duke laid the foundations of the win with two singles successes. Now Nairn (Swinton) and Alan Cooke (Salisbury) contributed a win each and it was left to Duke and Cooke to win the doubles and sew up both points.

The Wiltshire Flats faced a strong Hampshire Second team and went down 5-3. But on the bright side, Tony Brown (Salisbury) showed fine form with two singles victories, including one against Keith Chalke who is nationally ranked at 55.

Tony joined forces with Sylvia Morse (Swindon) to take a closed mixed doubles match to record Wiltshire only other success. Basil Thompson (Swindon) and Mike Odey (Calne) battled hard but without a win to show for it.

All four players in the Wiltshire Third team got on the scorecard - but the team still went down 5-4. Tony Miltham (Trowbridge) had a day to remember by winning both his singles and then teaming with Ray Cordery (Salisbury) to win the men's doubles.

Terry Parkins (Melksham) and Liz Whitaker (Swindon) won the mixed doubles.

The Wiltshire junior team met Gloucestershire at Cirencester Hill Infant's School, Swindon.

They came away with a draw thanks to the play of the more experienced members of the team.

Tracy Youlton and Tim O'Mahony were both unbeaten. Debbie King scored the other win to earn Wiltshire a 6-5 draw.

Luke Leach, who was playing in his first county game, and Stephen Penfold both benefited from the experience but both found the opposition just too good.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Steve Horton

THE Senior Ranking Lists for this season.

MEN:
1. M. Green
2. T. Washington
3. M. Dugman
4. K. Walton
5. S. Horton
6. M. Brooks
7. L. Sillek
8. A. Tottley
9. J. Thompson
10. J. St. Clair
11. M. Fiddian
12. C. Ward
13. W. Abern

WOMEN:
1. S. Roden
2. M. Myton
3. A. Westwood
4. C. Hunt
5. E. Horton
6. J. Huns
7. M. Dugman
8. H. Pogmore
9. L. Reid
10. J. Hill
11. S. Stone
12. J. Burbeck-Finn
13. N. Jones
14. B. Slack
15. W. Baggot

VET MEN:
1. T. Washington
2. R. Dixon
3. R. Norton
4. M. Wood
5. J. Stafford
6. K. Chan
7. S. Rochelle

VET WOMEN:
1. J. Hunt
2. M. Dugman
3. L. Reid
4. H. Pogmore
5. B. Slacks
6. B. Shirman
7. S. Hemury

The senior first team continued their good form with wins against Cornwall I (8-2) and Cornwall II (10-0). In the match against Cornwall I, Trevor Whittaker (Swindon) played both Jeremy Williams to gain revenge for their defeat against him last season.

Cattle Hunt and Sarah Stone produced two wins each to enable the second team to gain a good away draw at Gloucester. Adrian Tottey beat Sylvester Calham for the only win for the men. However, with the match score at 5-4 in favour of Worchestershire, Lewis Sillek was involved in a tremendous battle with Sylvester which resulted in a win for Gloucestershire 25-23 in the third.

With one player short for the journey to Douset, the Juniors rallied from 2-4 down to win the last singles. In their home fixture against Glamorgan II Stephanie Price, Mark Norwood and David Stephens won one each but were beaten 7-3. Zoe Evans was unavailable for this fixture, but her replacement, Jennifer Pennell, put in a good performance.

Again the veterans were slow off the mark and were unable to recover from a 4-0 deficit at home to Worchestershire. Our wins came from Mervyn Wood, Janet Hunt and a mens doubles (Mervyn and Roy Norton) for a final match score 3-6.

Our two British League representatives, Hawbrook and Bromagrove, met for the very first time with a close match anticipated. Bromagrove led 2-1 and 3-2 before Hawbrook won three in a row and the match 5-3. Jason Thompson won two for Bromagrove and Dave Rogers once. Hawbrook wins come from Julian Woolon (two), Ken Walton (one), Sandra Redon (one) and Eric Hardman (one).
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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 ETTA OFFICE - SPECTATORS WELCOME

NATIONAL JUNIOR TRIALS
18/19 DECEMBER 1993
Whitchurch Sports Centre,
Bamford, Whitchurch, Bristol
Tel: 0275 838505

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 - Andover Leisure Centre
30 December 1993 - Polkyth Leisure Centre, Carlyon Road, St. Austell, Cornwall Tel: 0726 61585
4 January 1994 - South Kesteven Table Tennis Centre, Trent Rd, Grantham
Tel: Ian McDonald 0476 592553
5 January 1994 - Bletchley Leisure Centre, Princes Way, Milton Keynes 0908 377251

CLEVELAND 5 STAR
2/3 January 1994
THORNABY LEISURE CENTRE
Organiser: D. Hutchinson,
7 Skripka Drive, Birmingham, Cleveland. Tel: 0642 534738

ENGLISH QUALIFYING COMPETITION FOR EURO 94
Saturday 12 February 1994
Brentwood International Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex Tel: 0277 215151
Groups start 9am • Knockout stages 2pm • Finals 7.15pm
Entries to: Peter Roden, Flat 6, Glendale House, Glendale Close, Shenfield, Essex CM15 8DB
No later than 15 January 1994