SILVER FOR ANDREA HOLT

- FRIENDLY HOTELS
- BRITISH LEAGUE
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- ALL THE NEWS!

TERRY YOUNG & GLENDA ASHISON ARE NEW JUNIOR CHAMPIONS

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1997 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN MANCHESTER

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INSIDE...

SPECIAL 8 PAGE REPORT

60th English Open Table Tennis Championships

Cleveland

ISSUE 228
FEBRUARY 1995

£1.50
February issue publishes an eight page special report on the 60th English Open in Cleveland on pages 17-24, where Andrea Holt, who won the silver medal in the women’s singles, was England’s only medal success in this premier event that promised so much for English players.

Sadly, England’s men’s team was decimated by various injuries, with Alan Cooke being our only official representative left to fly the flag for England. Cooke didn’t let us down though, playing superbly he reached the third round where he lost to the dynamic Frenchman Damien Eloi, the eventual men’s singles champion. Cooke then partnered Holland’s Gerrard Bakker and reach the quarter finals, where once again he lost to Eloi who was partnered by fellow Frenchman Christophe Legout, a formidable duo who were to go on to win the trophy.

A formidable duo who would go on to win the trophy. The great news is that from next season we will be staging the English Open every year, instead of every 2 years.

Pages 12 to 13 features a report on the fabulous Chino Tour that was played in front of Glendo Ashison are the new Captain’s Council have decided to allow 3rd generation liquid glue to be used at all levels from 23rd January 1995 (see page 6).

John F. A. Wood

February 1995 TABLE TENNIS NEWS
OLDHAM'S MR TABLE

TEACHERS RETIRED

HEADMASTER GEOFFREY ASPINALL RECEIVES AN MBE IN THE NEW YEARS HONOURS.

The award marks both his services to tables tennis and the local community.

Grandfather Mr Aspinall, 64, took up the sport at the age of six.

He still plays regularly and was secretary of the Oldham District League for 17 years.

He said: "I tried to give up the job but then they made me league president instead."

He plays every week as captain of the Werneth Cricket Club eight table tennis team though he joked: "These days its more a matter of just standing there while other people hit the balls at me."

Formerly head of St Martin's Primary School in Filton Hill, Oldham, Mr Aspinall was heavily involved in all kinds of sporting activities during his years there.

He was born in Huddersfield and spent 35 years working in Mansfield before moving to Oldham with his wife Jean 25 years ago.

He is a lay preacher at Holy Trinity Church, Bardsley, and he helps edit a weekly local talking newspaper for the blind.

GOOD NEWS from the TREASURER

Legislation on VAT was changed from 1st April 1994, making league affiliation fees exempt from VAT, whereas they had previously been standard rated.

At first, all the facts available indicated the probability that this would cause the Association to become partially exempt and therefore unable to reclaim all VAT incurred on supplies. The reasoning was that with more than £100,000 of income now being exempt from VAT, Customs and Excise would say that nearly all our VAT costs would have to be apportioned between our exempt and standard rated income. This would result in a large under-recovery of VAT, i.e. an extra cost burden of the Association estimated at £25,000 per annum. It was therefore agreed, almost unanimously, at a Special General Meeting held at the time of the June AGM to increase the affiliation fee unit by 17.5% as a contribution to this extra cost.

However, in recent months, we have had a considerable amount of correspondence and meetings with inspectors at the Hastings VAT office in which we have put forward a case, in favour of us remaining fully taxable, i.e. able to recover 100% of our VAT costs. The result of all this is a very satisfactory outcome in that the VAT inspectors have accepted that we were fully taxable up to 31st March 1994.

We put in a claim for VAT paid on affiliation fees for the four years to 31st March 1994 and have received a cheque for more than £74,000. At the November management committee meeting it was decided to recommend to National Council that two motions should be placed before the AGM:

1. The £74,000 be returned to members in full as a rebate from their 1995/96 fees.
2. Half of the £74,000 be returned to members and the remainder be placed in a special Junior Development Fund to be invested to give our leading juniors extra opportunities to attain the standards now reached by those in other leading countries.

As far as the current season is concerned, we have to wait until after the end of March 1995 to see whether VAT incurred on costs relating to competitions and coaching is below £7,200 and if this is the case, then the rebate from the 1995/96 fees could be higher.

In future, we will have to look at the results for each year to 31st March in April and only then can we determine the possibility of making a rebate the following season.

If you have any questions on this, please direct them to me. PETER HILLIER, ETA TREASURER

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DICKENS WAS THERE

The great writer Charles Dickens was a long term guest at the Great White Horse Hotel in Ipswich, players and officials involved in the England v. Belgium European League match in January were surprised to find out during their stay at the same hotel.

In fact it was, during his stay there that he wrote 'Pickwick Papers', and the hotel is mentioned in the classic book. Other famous guests over the years include Lord Nelson, and it has been open for business for over 400 years! A more modern writer to stay at the Great White Horse was the Daily Telegraph's John Woodford, who wrote the paper's England match report during his stay at the establishment.

Table Tennis Snippets

HUGE OVERSEAS ENTRY for KENT 2 STAR

Tournament referee Phil Gower reports that a remarkable 64 entries from overseas countries have been received for the forthcoming Thake Transport Kent Junior 2 Star Select. A total of 285 have entered, making it one of the most popular tournaments of the season. It will be held at Gillingham on 18th - 19th February.

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1997 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS in MANCHESTER

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION BID STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL AND THE SPORTS COUNCIL TO STAGE THE WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 1997, WAS SELECTED BY THE ITTF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN TAIWAN AT THEIR MEETING IN MID-DECEMBER WRITES ALAN RANSOME.

The Championships will be staged at the beginning of May '97 using two arenas, the new Manchester Arena which will have 14 tables and 16,000 seats, and the G-Mex Centre which will house 35 tables and 30 additional tables for practice. The full details of the Championships are still to be finalised, but the ITTF's decision gives us a great opportunity to promote table tennis throughout the whole country.

There are many positive affects of bringing the World Championships to England and these include:
1) increasing interest in the sport which will give the many new facility projects which we are currently supporting an excellent chance to attract new members;
2) gives our leading players the opportunity to become public figures and sports superstars. One point which has been lacking in recent times, is a table tennis player who is very well known to the general public. Desmond Douglas was the last player who fulfilled this role. The time is now ripe for a new personality to come forward and the staging of the World Championships will give our players a platform.
3) we need 49 tables for the World Championships, and this gives the opportunity for many of our Umpires to officiate at the Championships. Our National Referees and Umpires Committee are busy planning the organisation of recruitment & training courses and seminars to give our Country and National Umpires the opportunity of upgrading to international standard so that they can officiate in Manchester.
4) our coaches throughout the Country will have another opportunity to see the world's best players without having to travel abroad. Watching the top players is one of the best ways for our coaches to improve their knowledge of the sport.
5) the Association's Marketing Department will have the opportunity to create a media build-up to the Championships which will bring both extra promotion and television for table tennis.
6) More of our players will have the opportunity to benefit by playing in the World Championships in their own Country.

Altogether, the staging of the World Championships should give a massive boost to the sport of table tennis throughout the whole of Great Britain.

**TABLE TENNIS in the COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

Our discussions with Manchester have included an application for table tennis in their bid to stage the Commonwealth Games for the first time in the year 2002. Manchester have included table tennis within their proposal, and at a meeting on 10th January, the English Commonwealth Games Council approved the nomination of table tennis. Manchester are the front runners to be awarded the Games. Currently there is no major competitor and a final decision will be taken before the end of this year.

Manchester are proposing that the Commonwealth Games table tennis event be held over 9 days, 4 days for the team events, 1 free day and 4 days for the individual events. It is likely that the venue will be the Manchester Tennis Centre (which is located within the vicinity of the airport) using 12 tables, including 4 show courts, plus practice tables and other facilities as appropriate.

**GREAT WORK by our TREASURER**

The ETTA Treasurer, Peter Hillier, has negotiated a rebate of approximately £75,000 from the VAT man. This money, paid by our member leagues to the ETTA was passed on to Customs and Excise during the period between 1990 and 1994. With a decision from the European Community to support him, Peter has negotiated a full rebate and table tennis is one of the first sports to stake its claim to recover the funds. As the money has originated from our Members, the Management Committee has recommended that Members through their representatives at the Annual General Meeting should decide what should be done with this rebate.

Members may opt to pay all of the rebate back to the leagues in the form of a reduction of the 1995/96 fees. However, our Selection Department are preparing their case to argue that some of the funding should be used to help our leading English Junior Players to improve their standards and assist the long-term prospects of our Senior National Team.

**ANDREA STAR OF THE OPEN**

From an England point of view, the star of the English Open in Cleveland held from 4th-8th of January, was Andrea Holt. Andrea played brilliantly to beat the Russian No.1 Elena Timina and the Swedish current European Champion Marie Svensson. In the final, Andrea found the twice-European Champion, Bettine Vreeskoop of the Netherlands a little too steady. Other excellent performances were recorded by Alan Cooke, Nicola Deaton and Helen Lower, which thoroughly delighted the home supporters. One disappointment was the number of withdrawals in the Men's Singles. Prior to the commencement of the event,
NEW CENTRE AT GUILDFORD

On the development front, I am pleased to be able to report the building of a new table tennis centre at the Bishop Reindorp School in Guildford. The school linked with the Challoner Hall Club to promote a project that has attracted in excess of £220,000 of funding. The Centre includes the building of a new Gymnasium which is suitable for 4 tables and the upgrading of an existing gymnasium which will also hold 4 tables. The Centre will use existing changing rooms and other facilities at the school. The funding for this centre has been approved by the Sports Council who have contributed £60,000, the Foundation for Sports and the Arts via the ETFA - £70,000, the Surrey County Education Authority - £40,000 and the school itself have contributed in excess of £50,000 plus the land.

One of the main promoters of this scheme has been the ETFA Vice-Chairman for Coaching, Cail McCabe who is both the head of P.E. at the Bishop Reindorp School and one of the prominent members of the Challoner Hall Club. The Headmaster John Maton and Club Secretary Ken Lemon, have also been of great assistance. From the Sports Council, Jeff Neslen, has been a great supporter.

It is anticipated that building at the new Centre, will start in March with the Centre being open for the start of the new season. It is planned that the Centre will be open from 6.00pm to 10.30pm Monday to Friday, plus Saturday, Sundays and school holidays. Already programmed is League Play, the Wollaston Junior League Coaching, practice and the Centre for Excellence for the South East.

SAFE IN EUROPE

England women maintained their place in the Super Division of the European League when they defeated Belgium by 4 sets to 3 in Belgium and by 4-1 in Ipswich on the 17th of January. Belgium will play Poland in the final two-leg fixture to decide which team is relegated. England Men were defeated for the second year running in the semi-finals, this time by Germany. Germany won by 4-1 at Doncaster in December and by 4-0 in Saarbrücken in January. England's place in both the Men's and Women's Super Division for next season is secure and organisations interested in staging European matches should contact Clive Oakman at the ETFA office as soon as possible.

NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVE 3RD GENERATION LIQUID GLUES

Following receipt of a report updating the international situation regarding adhesives prepared by Deputy Chairman Tony Chatwin and myself, National Council approved that with effect from Monday 23rd January 1995 the current ITTF Women's Approved Liquid Adhesives becomes effective for all categories of competitive play in England.

This will have the effect of allowing all players in England to practice and play with liquid adhesives being used by players in the rest of the world.

Council believes that the latest adhesives approved by the ITTF (January 1995 list) are now acceptable for general use in England. This follows considerable concern about the possible adverse effects of early types of liquid adhesives which were banned by the ETFA on ITTF advice in 1992, forcing manufacturers to produce less harmful adhesives to be approved for use.

Test procedures will be introduced as soon as possible and disciplinary action may follow for any player using banned substances.

A full report will appear in the next issue of TTN.

By Alan Ransome, Chairman
NEW JUNIOR CHAMPIONS
Young & Ashison

TERRY YOUNG (BERKSHIRE) AND GLENDA ASHISON (SURREY) ARE THE NEW NATIONAL JUNIOR SINGLES CHAMPIONS! THEY LIFTED THE TITLES AT BUSHFIELD LEISURE CENTRE, PETERBOROUGH, OVER THE WEEKEND OF 3RD AND 4TH OF DECEMBER.

WROTE KEN MUHR.

Terry's success was no great surprise for he has been the outstanding junior boy this season. Even though he had shown a brief fallibility at the Woolwich Junior British League the previous weekend when his run of 96 consecutive singles victories was finally broken, at Peterborough on the Saturday he was in total control in reaching the final without dropping a game. The England No. 2 Stephen Meddings (Warwicks) then provided sterner opposition in going into a first game lead. Terry immediately levelled but the decider was neck and neck to 11 all. At that point Terry turned on the power to surge ahead 17-12. Although Stephen fought back tenaciously to within one point at 17-18, it was Terry who dominated the play and reaped the reward with a 16-21, 21-16, 21-16 win. Two days later he celebrated his 16th birthday.

Glenda Ashison’s path to the girls final was not easy. She was severely tested by both Joanna Bush-Harris (Sussex) in the first round, and Tracy Davies (Essex) in the semis, but held her nerve to come through at 21-19 in the third game in both cases. Ultimately she faced the favourite Shelley Ruocco (Essex), but, playing with cool resolve and firing relentlessly both forehand and backhand loops, she imposed her game. Shelley, untroubled in her earlier matches, replied with flashes of attacking brilliance but lacked the consistency to break the Ashison grip on the match, with the popular Croydon High School girl winning 21-18, 21-15.

Indeed Glenda looks like having the necessary technique, temperament, athleticism and dedication - 'stickability' - to achieve greater things. Glenda combined with her friend and rival Shelley Ruocco to record a comfortable girls doubles win over Clare Newns (Sussex) and Sarah Steedman (Essex), and Shelley achieved further compensation for her singles defeat when partnered by Terry Young who beat Ashison and Stephen Meddings 19-21, 21-13, 21-16 in the mixed doubles for her second title. But Meddings, playing with Terry Young, surprisingly also lost in straight games in the boys doubles final to outsiders (Leeroy Pye (Norfolk) and Adrian Cadman (Shropshire). He had earlier survived what would have been the greatest upset of the tournament when in the second round of the junior boys singles, he very nearly went down two straight to Gerry Ashison (Surrey) before coming through 21-19, 21-15.

New National Cadet Singles Champions
Gareth Herbert and Lindsay Thornton.

Gareth Herbert (Berkshire) and Lindsay Thornton (Lancashire) cleaned up the cadet events on the Sunday, winning two titles apiece. Although he had a smooth ride to the cadet boys final, he was given an unexpectedly tough time by the lefthanded Scott Friday (Kent). Gareth dropped the first game 25-27, won the second 21-17 and saw Friday claw back 4 match points before he clinched the final game 21-19. Although he is very talented, Gareth showed lapses in concentration and application, which Scott, demonstrating greater 'fight', was able to exploit. The boys combined to beat 11 year old Andrew Baggaley (Buckinghamshire) - surely a star of the future - and Robert Peountey (Berkshire), 21-14, 21-17 in the cadet doubles.

Lindsay Thornton was the most consummate victor of them all. No-one got near the fast, hard hitting lefthander. Seventeen points, achieved by surprise finalist Emma Smith (Yorkshire) - who had overcome second seed Karen Lockwood 18-21, 21-12, 21-14 in the semi-finals - was the best anyone did against her in the singles. Lindsay, paired up with Alice Howard (Cheshire), was also outstanding in the cadet girls doubles, in which they beat Smith and Charlotte Spink (Yorkshire) 21-19, 21-12 in the finals.

There were promising signs that England might now start bridging the standard gap that exists between our young players and our main rivals in Europe, though there is still a long way to go. Out two junior champions - play positive 'European' games, which could set the tone and example for others, and there are several talented youngsters on the way up. Moreover, there seems to be a new interest and enthusiasm in coaching and the junior game - I was heartened by the number of coaches, helpers and parents present. In particular, it was good to see so many former top players - Denis Neale, Jill Yi Liu, Donald and Jill Parker, Skyler Andrew, Carole Moore, Nick Jarvis, Alison Gordon, Jackie Bellinger, Colin Wilson and Malcolm Francis among others - advising or watching the players. You don't have to have experienced top play at the sharp end to be a good coach - but it certainly helps!

Tim Holder, the ETTA's Sports Psychologist also gave four well received presentations to parents and coaches on how they can help their charges achieve success in competition through practices such as positive goal setting, communication and performance evaluation. The competition was well run and the playing conditions good. However, complaints were made about the catering facilities being separate from the main complex, and over-scheduled programme which confused many - including the writer! Overall though, an excellent Championships.
### ENGLISH JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Bushfield Sports Centre, Peterborough 3rd - 4th December 1994**

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<td>Michael James (Bridlington) 22-20, 21-10</td>
<td>Terry Young (Maidenhead) bt Steven Meddings (Sutton Coldfield) 17-21, 21-13, 21-16</td>
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February 1995 TABLE TENNIS NEWS 9
ENGLAND'S MISSION in GERMANY

England men's team had a dual mission into Germany - to play the second leg of the European League semi-final against Germany and onto Karlsruhe for the European Nations Cup. This is the story of the defeat in Saarbrucken and an astonishing success in Karlsruhe where England qualified by beating France 3-1 and winning £5,300!

The Germans do most things in style - they employed a live band on the evening. They also assembled a 24-piece orchestra for the service. Cook and Billington tried in vain to stem the Russian advances in the doubles but no joy, going down 16-13.

FRANCE MEET THEIR WATERLOO!
Alan Cooke, now brimming with confidence (who said that all sport is 80 per cent confidence?) stunned the 2,000 mainly French fans with a revenge win over Eloi for Thornaby 20-14.

With England scenting victory at 2-0 ahead, came the doubles. This time the captain's selection - Billington and Perry - nearly came off. They won the first against Loguet and Eloi 20 and led 16-12 in the second before the French re-gained their confidence, pulling away from the deficit and winning the third 10.

THRILLING CLIMAX
The Germans love defenders like Syed and Chen. The situation was that England must win to go through with the tall, lean Balliol College defender in one corner and the chunky, short-legged Eloi in the other, knowing that this was the crunch match of the tournament for him and the French. -5,000 for reaching the semi or much less for failure.

The crowd saw Syed at his best, but saving the Very Best until last. He lost the first 14-18 down in the last game, having won the second 14. Incredibly, Eloi lost his way. He seemed to have two choices as he led 18-14 - thrash on with his attack hoping to burst through the Syed back-spin or play it steady and hope the England player would crack and make the mistakes. Eloi made the wrong choice. He continued to attack finding the floor or the net as Syed went on to lift himself to a famous victory 22-20.

England were through! The Stadium erupted, a standing ovation - it was the last match of the night. The hands of the England team were raised to heaven as the prospect dawned on them that they were through against all the odds - even the normally placid Don Parker back home was surprised - and most important to the professionals, they were destined to share £5,300 of the prize kitty.

The following morning, England were beaten 3-0 by the world champions - Sweden - Karlsson, Persson and Waldner. No disgrace, reasonable scores, the end of a great run, it is not often that we have Watforded the French!

ENGLAND WOMEN STAY UP
Unbeaten performances by Lisa Lomas and Andrea Holt helped England to a 4-1 victory against a young Belgian side at The Corn Exchange, Ipswich. The success was in a European Women's League stage 2 match, 2nd leg, and means England avoid relegation from the Super Division. The match was sponsored by Ipswich Borough Council and Manulife Financial. It followed on from the 4-3 victory away in the 1st leg in December, giving them a 8-4 win on aggregate. England therefore continue to be amongst the top 8 teams in Europe by competing in the Super Division next season.

Belgium must now play another play-off leg, probably against Poland during February to decide who will be relegated to Division 1.

INFO LINE CANCELLED
Sadly, the ETTA Information Line is to be discontinued on March 31st as we have been informed that it is no longer viable.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION and ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
A FULL TIME POST
To formulate and manage the implementation of a NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN TABLE TENNIS
Salary: £15,500-£16,000
Office Base: Hastings

The successful candidate is likely to possess the following:
- Proven organisational and administrative ability (preferably in sport).
- Effective written and oral communication skills.
- High level of self-motivation and initiative.
- Experience of sports development.
- Understanding of Table Tennis.
- Full driving licence.

Closing Date: February 27th 1995

Job description, person specification and background information available from:
Doreen Night ingale, English Table Tennis Association, Queensbury House, Havelock Road, Hastings
East Sussex TN34 1HF
Tel: 01424 722525 - Fax: 01424 422103

STRIVING for equal opportunities, this post is funded by the Sports Council and the English Table Tennis Association, in conjunction with the English Schools’ Table Tennis Association.
Ian Cooke was my Man of the series for England. When injuries forced his regular team mates to withdraw, Cooke did not budge. He played in all six matches, which were played during a period of just seven days. Cooke always entertained, earning the applause of the crowds and the respect of the mighty Chinese.

Alan collected valuable wins also, with 5 out of 11 games played. Matthew Syed was the top performer in terms of results, with 6 wins from 9 and posed the Chinese many challenges.

In defence of China, they started the matches just 24 hours after arriving from a 20 hour flight. Not much time to recover from the massive journey and the ensuing jet lag.

WaKING WONDERS
The China Tour made a triumphant start when almost 1000 spectators packed into Woking Leisure Centre to witness England defeat China 4-2.

It had been some years since an international had been staged in the South East. The table tennis enthusiasts of Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex and Berkshire voted with their feet in appreciation of the efforts of Woking Borough Council in bringing the event to Woking.

A new way of introducing the players was used by the Tour Manager and Master of ceremonies Clive Oakman. They emerged under spotlight from a canvas tunnel, accompanied by swirling mist (dry ice) and the music of Status Quo: "Rocking All Over The World". This was described by Alan Cooke as being the "best presentation of a match I have ever seen".

On the table, Matthew Syed scored two great wins and looked in peak form to earn him the Man of the Match award. Carl Prean and Alan Cooke added one each to round off a great team performance.

Both of China's points were scored by Xiong Ke, who later was to scale the heights at the English Open.

RESULT: England 4 China 2

"KING KONG AT ST. AUSTELL"
Kong Linghui, the 19 year old who is ranked No.13 in the World, made his first appearance in what became an ill-fated tour for the Asian Champion. Kong scored two for China to set up a series levelling 4-2 victory, and gave an insight into why he is being thought of as a future World Champion.

With a very relaxed manner, and a preference for his forehand, Kong hit with striking force. Nevertheless, Alan Cooke took him to deuce in the third. However it was "local boy" Alex Perry, from Crediton, Devon, who stole the attention of the full-house Cornish crowd.

Perry, 19, called in as a late replacement for Andrew Eden, was evenly matched with "King" Kong and at 18-18 in the third had the St. Austell audience on the edge of their seats. Alex could not quite pull off the shock of the year, but came close enough to earn the rapturous applause and a further international appearance later in the tour.

To conclude, it was obvious that Perry has developed his game by several points since moving to Sweden, where he gains practice with Waldner and Appelgren.

RESULT: England 2 China 4
Matthew Syed beat Xiong Ke 21-12/21-11. Alan Cooke lost to Kong
Linghui 21-14/17 21/21 23. Alex Perry lost to Li Jing 17-21/17 21.

**ENGLAND EARN DRAW AT STOURLBRIDGE**

B.B.C TV Grandstand cameras witnessed match which produced rows, high drama on the table, and an uncharacteristically late appearance at the Crystal Leisure Centre by Carl Prean.

Carl’s journey to the Midlands from the Isle of Wight had taken nine hours, thanks to cancelled ferries and Sunday service trains. Arriving to be told that he was third in the line-up was maddening, as he had not had time to glue-up his bat, or even get a warm-up knock.

An argument which lasted for an hour before the match rested on the team captains and the players not agreeing to a preferred playing order put forward by B.B.C TV.

Then, there was argument over shirts - the Chinese team colour was white - unsuitable for T.V. coverage in England, but acceptable in Asia where orange balls are the norm. In the end, the Chinese Team refused offers of red shirts from England, due to using their individual practice shirts - which were not of uniform colour. On the table, in front of another superb crowd, local community alike to an entertaining display to start an England come back, although his opponent was switched to Jian Shan when Kong Linghui bowed out from the whole tour with severely strained tendons in his shoulder.

Matthew Syed continued the fightback against Li Jing and then Alan Cooke withstood the pressure to overcome Xiong Ke in a hugely entertaining three set marathon to earn England a 3-3 draw.

**RESULTS: ENGLAND 3 CHINA 3**

Alan Cooke lost to Jiang Shon 21-19,15-21,13-21
Matthew Syed lost to Kong Linghui 21-19,21-21,19-21
Carl Prean lost to Xiong Ke 12-21,21-14,21-14
Chen Xinhua beat Jian Shon 21-18,21-19
Matthew Syed beat Li Jing 21-15,21-11
Alan Cooke beat Xiong Ke 21-17,19-21,21-18

**CHESTERFIELD DOUBLE AT GRANTHAM**

Bradley Billington was named Man of the Match at Grantham when he scored one of England's two points. Looking powerful and well composed Billington, from Chesterfield rose to the challenge against Li Jing, emerging the winner by a margin of 21-17,21-19. Alan Cooke made it a Chesterfield double by securing a good win against Xiong Ke. However, injuries were now starting to take hold and in quick succession Chen Xinhua and Xiong Ke reported troubles. Chen was unable to appear again on the tour after losing to Xiong Ke.

More drama was to occur after the Grantham match, with requests from the Chinese team for urgent physiotherapy resulting in a midnight trip for two players, Kong Linghui and Xiong Ke, to the Grantham hospital to receive treatment from local physio expert Andy Thomas.

**RESULTS: ENGLAND 2 CHINA 3**

Bradley Billington beat Jiang Shon 15-21,17-21
Alan Cooke beat to Li Jing 25-21,19-21
Chen Xinhua lost to Xiong Ke 21-15,21-13,13-21
Bradley Billington beat Li Jing 21-17,21-19
Alan Cooke beat Xiong Ke 21-19,21-19

**COOKE ONLY WINNER AT MANSFIELD**

A great Mansfield crowd of over 700 enjoyed another feast of international table tennis. The trusty Alan Cooke produced the sole England win, against Li Jing and thrilled his local home fans with an open attacking display against the left handed Xiong Ke. Alex Perry, in his second match of the tour, took a game off Xiong, who is ranked No. 43 in the World. By this stage in the tour China were gaining the upper hand, despite being without their No. 1 Kong Linghui, who by now was sitting out, counting time before returning to China.

China leapt to a 5-1 victory, but Nottinghamshire table tennis enthusiasts were given an insight into how strong Chinese table tennis is. In an interview with the Mail on Sunday reporter, Kong said that table tennis is far the largest sport in China - the National Sport, and that other sports have gained little or no ground against table tennis.

At Mansfield China clinched the series.

**RESULTS: ENGLAND 1 CHINA 5**

Alan Perry lost to Xiong Ke 15-21,21-13,11-21
Alan Cooke beat Li Jing 21-14,21-16
Matthew Syed lost to Jiang Shon 15-21,15-21
Alan Cooke lost to Xiong Ke 24-26,21-14,15-21
Bradley Billington lost to Li Jing 19-21,16-21
Alex Perry lost to Jiang Shon 13-21,19-21

**SYED SHINES AT CHESTER**

Another double by Matthew Syed lifted the massive 900 plus Chester crowd to a crescendo as the Reading defender out-chopped first Jiang Shan, then Xiong Ke.

Syed’s performances were much appreciated and his tactics will no doubt be monitored by the Chinese coach Yu Yuansheng, in preparation for the World Championships in China next May. Syed being videoed by the touring team.

Alan Cooke put in another scintillating performance. In a tense marathon, he reached game in the third, but fell to Xiong Ke. Every point was watched with bated breath by the numerous Chester crowd.

The England team included Billington, looking good again and Jonathan Taylor. No-one played badly, it’s just that, in the words of England coach Denis Neale: “No-one bad comes out of China”!

**RESULTS: ENGLAND 2 CHINA 4**

Matthew Syed beat Jiang Shon 21-16,17-21,21-17,11-12
Jonathan Taylor lost to Li Jing 16-21,18-21
Alan Cooke lost to Xiong Ke 22-24,23-21,20-22
Bradley Billington lost to Li Jing 21-13,18-21
Matthew Syed lost to Xiong Ke 21-13,22-20
Jonathan Taylor lost to Jiang Shon 14-21,18-21

Old friends meet again at the China Tour at Stourbridge. All ex-members of Birmingham League Committee, until the Sykes’ left for Germany in 1974.

Left to right: Jim & Helen Sykes, Richard Hobgood, Barry, Sheila and Gareth Hayward.
Peniel did well to stay in touch with the leaders as they were forced to field a much weakened side in their match with Policy Plus St. Neots. This was due to the continued absence of the injured Sean Gibson and the absence through illness of Andrew Eden.

Clive Carthy and Vince Avery were drafted into the team and Avery won a crucial set against Mick Harper 21-12, 21-14. John Holland and Steve Dorking won all of their singles and combined to beat Harper and Stuart Palmer in the doubles to give Peniel a narrow 8-6 victory.

Drumchapel Glasgow and Horsham Angels shared the points in a 7-7 draw, the Angels pulling back after Glasgow had built up a 4-1 lead.

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Napuri Santra who beat both Jimmy Stokes and Terry Young in the Market Drayton club's 6-2 victory over the previously unbeaten OLOP club of Reading.

Carl Morgan, however, lost his 100% record when he went down to both Stokes and Ben Johnson.

Olton and West Warwickshire and Rusten Marconi maintained their challenge for promotion in the North with victories over Leicester Lions and Bribar Humberside respectively whilst Linda Farrow retained third spot in division one South by winning 7-1 at Byng Hall.

City of Leeds and BFL Grove Colts are level on points at the top of division two North, Leeds winning 6-2 at home to Derwent and Grove having a 5-3 home
Away on business?
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Victory over Uxbridge seconds.

In the South Eastern section of the second division Barcdays Bank beat Ashford 5-3 to stay one point ahead of Pilling Air Croydon who won by a similar score against Fellows Cranleigh. Linda Forrow seconds gained their first points of the season by defeating Peniel seconds 7-1.

Cheltenham Saracens go to the top of division two

South West after victories over Jolliffe Poole in a rearranged match and Hawthaugh. Dragons, Bribra, Colley and the Hyndia dropped their first point of the season when they were held by Launceston seconds and are now one point behind Cheltenham but have a game in hand.

At the end of the table Amity Generation Fareham surprised Grindime St Neots to record their first victory of the season.

The third division East leaders are Progress who have Crusaders Lincoln and Brent Juniors breathing down their necks.

Leckie top the Midland section on set difference from Launceston thirds with OLOP seconds only one point adrift.

Adeyfield have a two point cushion at the to of three North and Horsham Angels thirds are in a similar position in three South.

Victory over Uxbridge seconds.
RUSSIAN TOUR

Tour Report

HULL

ENGLAND 1 RUSSIA 9
Gordon beat Timina 10/12/11-21
Marling lost to Melnik 12/21-16:21
Goodall lost to Polina 22/20/9/21/12:21
Deaton beat Shahova 21/19-21/16
Gordon/Goodall lost to Timina/Polina 12/21-13/21
Marling/Deaton lost to Melnik/Shahova 17/21/16/21
Gordon lost to Polina 20/22/12:21

CREWE

ENGLAND 2 RUSSIA 8
Goodall lost to Polina 17/21-14/21
Gordon beat Shahova 21/16-21/21
Deaton lost to Polina 15/21-16/21
Thornley lost to Melnik 15/21-16/21
Goodall lost to Timina 13/21-14/21
Gordon beat Melnik 21/8-15/21-17
Deaton lost to Polina 14/21-10/21
Gordon & Deaton lost to Polina & Timina 14/21-12/21
Gordon & Thornley lost to Melnik & Shahova 17/21-16/21

YOUNGSTERS

Youngsters

Gain

Experience

against

RUSSIA

Alison Gordon showed the up and coming players just how it is done when she gave a classy attacking display to win twice for England, as the home side went one better, losing 8-2 to Russia on 10th January at the Victoria Centre, Crewe.

Gordon, fighting off tiredness following the previous night’s match and the Open, picked up England’s two points and showed just why, at 32, she is still an automatic choice for England, along with Lomas and Holt. She has the game to beat the big guns in Europe, gained through 15 years of playing for England Women’s team.

At Crewe she tore through the inexperienced but highly promising attack of Tatiana Shahova 21-16/21-11. In a closer match she made nonsense of the ranking list by out-attacking world No.46 Galina Melnik - 43 places ahead on the World List - for the third time in the last three encounters between the two stars.

DEATON DARES AT HULL

Nicola Deaton showed a tremendous determination and was rewarded by gaining England’s sole point during their 9-1 defeat by Russia at the Woodford Leisure Centre, Hull on 9th January.

Deaton, 18, fought hard as if to say ‘pick me’ to the England selectors. She attacked well to beat the 19 year old Tatiana Shahova 21-19/21-16. This was not all: in her second match she came closest out of the England team to grabbing a second success, against World Team Cup champion Galina Melnik.

Deaton played with real ‘bottle’, to quote a neighbouring spectator and only narrowly lost 21-18, after being 18-all in the third.

Left handed attacker Kate Goodall also gave her England career a boost, taking games off both the two world class defenders Elena Timina and Trina Palina.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

Russia stayed on after competing in the 60th English Open to play England in a two match women’s international test series, predictably, the full-strength Russian team stuffed a weakened England side comfortably writes Graham Carter

England fielded a below strength team in both matches, which came the very next day after the Open. Both Lisa Lomas (arm/nerve) and Andrea Holt (calf muscle) were absent due to injury, giving the chance to the younger stars of the future to stake their claims for England selection.

Out of the quartet of youngsters used, Nicola Deaton and Kate Goodall looked the favourite candidates to one day break into the England side.

Sally Marling, thought by many to be a bigger talent, looked tense and nervous at Hull, and turned down an England call-up at Crewe. Such a rebuff is probably not the best way of impressing the England Manager, and could spell the end to her supporters’ hopes of selection in the near future.

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Deaton played with real ‘bottle’, to quote a neighbouring spectator and only narrowly lost to the world No.46 21-11/21-19-21/16-18, after being 18-all in the third.

Left handed attacker Kate Goodall also gave her England career a boost, taking games off both the two world class defenders Elena Timina and Trina Palina.

As expected in a system which protects players from the full effect of losses, the rating points of the English players have continued to rise. In order to maintain the fairness of the system, the ITTF Rating Bands used to allocate Dummy Ranking Points to newcomers have been revised in consultation with Don Parker.

The next review will be during May 1995.

REVOLUTION OF ITTF BANDS

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| 1-10 | 3300 | 3330 |
| 11-21 | 3210 | 3240 |
| 21-30 | 3140 | 3170 |
| 31-40 | 3020 | 3050 |
| 41-50 | 2900 | 2930 |
| 51-100 | 2800 | 2830 |

Stuart Sherlock
Chairman Ranking Panel
THE NEW ENGLISH OPEN MEN'S SINGLES CHAMPION

DAMIEN ELOI

FRANCE
HOLT’S MELODY & CRESCEndo

THE ENIGMA’S VARIATIONS REACHED A SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED MELODY AND CRESCEndo. ANDREA HOLT, WHOSE VERSATILE TALENTS HAVE OFTEN PROMISED SO MUCH BUT HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN MADDENINGLY UNPREDICTABLE, FOLLOWED HER REGAINING OF THE ENGLAND NUMBER ONE RANKING WITH MOST NOTABLE PERFORMANCES OF HER CAREER WRITES RICHARD EATON AND JOHN WOODFORD.

The 24 year old Lancastrian became the first woman for 16 years to reach the final of the English open, achieving that at the Thornaby Pavilion in Cleveland with displays which showed just how difficult and confusing she can be to play against when she uses her unusual mixtures of attack, defence and counter attack in well-timed combinations.

Holt scored a 23-21, 21-14, 21-17 victory in the third round over the seed Elena Timina, who had led Russia to the European Team title last April in Birmingham. She followed that by beating another European champion – Marie Svensson, who had been woman’s singles winner at Brum’s big event, and whose heavy forehand loop usually makes her a dangerous proposition for defensive players.

But though Holt often defends she does other things well too. She found ways to contain or prevent the second-seed Swede’s attacks, producing an 8-21, 21-15, 24-22, 21-18 victory that was not only the sensation of the tournament but made the most media-worthy story at the English Open for several years. It was also the best English achievement in the women’s singles since Jill Hammersley-Parker also reached the final in 1980.

In that year Jill went onto win the title at a time of great personal problems. Now she was coaching Andrea, and it would have made the perfect last harmony had the two of them been able to compose a victory in the final over an adversary when each in different decades have found extremely difficult to play against.

Bettine Vriesekoop, however, was still too good, even at the age of 33 and after one retirement, and she deserved her 21-6, 23-21, 21-13 triumph over Holt. So often has the Dutch player been a barrier to the English, that it was almost a surprise to find it was the first time that top-seeded former European champion had won the English Open.

Meanwhile Daimen Eloi was becoming a shock men’s winner. The quick-footed, slick-handed Frenchman achieved that by beating the Chinese left-hander Xiong Ke, in four games in the final. But for a change it was the women - and in particular Holt - who got more of the attention.

There has been an indication this might happen. Holt had beaten Timina during the Euro’s and not only knew she could beat her former team mate from BFL Grove again but knew clearly how it should be done. Her attack, she was certain, was better than her opponent’s, and her defence was good enough to prolong the rallies against the tenacious Muscovite and to extend the first game to more than 15 minutes.

SHOCK MEN’S WINNER

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EXPEDITE

Then would come the expedite rule; then attack would become more important than defence. And sure enough at 16-17 in the opening game, it did. Nevertheless that game went on for fully another eleven points, all of which were vital. Timina gave hints that since moving to The Netherlands last year she may have improved her attack, particularly on the backhand. Had she been able to pinch that first game she might have carried enough weapons to have made a long match of it.

Instead Holt, with a patience and a discipline that suggested an encouraging new maturity may be emerging, took the first 23-21 and then dominated the second game. She served well, and occasionally finished rallies quickly. Usually she pushed, chopped or floated when Timina...
served and waited for attacking errors induced by the 13-stroke per rally rule. Most notably of all the trainee teacher nearly always stuck to her plan.

A smash into the net from Timina, which put her 12-17 down, was symptomatic of her frustration. Another smash, which took a net cord, and went off the table, gave Holt the second game 21-14.

The third was different. There were moments when Holt lapsed into indiscreet offensives and she trailed 7-9, 11-13 and 13-15. Then the pattern reasserted itself, with a smash from Timina taking Holt to 15-15, and a forehand loop off getting the home crowd excited and carrying the English player to two points ahead.

There was a brief recovery by Timina from 15-19 to 17-19, but the match played a daring smash and drop shot combination, and was rewarded by a push from Timina into the net under pressure. Match point: another forehand loop from Timina taking Holt to 15-15, and a forehand loop off getting the home crowd excited and carrying the English player to two points ahead.

The next opponent, like Holt, was a surprise quarter-finalist extracting frequent forehand looping errors from Muller, and then elicited some more mistakes from 15-15 onwards in the second game to help her take it 21-16. It was only in the third that Holt encountered difficulty.

In this she had to save three games points, again mostly with defensive play, using her twiddle and the reverse and long-pimpled rubber combination to drag Muller into the net. Muller was confused by Holt's Defensive play using her twiddle and the reverse and long-pimpled rubber combination to drag Muller into the net. Muller was confused by Holt's defensive play.

At 10-9 in the second game Holt kept her nose in front with a backspin and side spin serve followed by some sharp attacks, and at 15-14 kept ahead with some tricky topspin defence, causing Svensson to put a drop shot into the net. Suddenly doubts seemed to spring into the second seed's mind and she won only one point on her next service point, then looping into the net, twice looping off, and once smashing off. By reaching game point Holt visibly acquired extra confidence.

In the third and fourth games through she had considerable assistance from an edgy Svensson. The Swede led 17-13, 19-16 and 20-19 in the third game, but when faced with the backhand push return of serve on game point Svensson delivered an air shot with an attempted forehand loop. Holt then earned herself two game points, the second with brilliant defence from wide of the table. She clinched the third game with several more superb backhand chops combined with a push, which caused Svensson's loop to take a net cord and go off. Holt knew she could win then, and she did because Svensson's mind began to react to the doubt created by the English player's variety and deception. Fine aggressive attacker though she is, Svensson revealed some startling mistakes when it really mattered.

At 16-16 she smashed a high ball into the net and at 16-17 she did another air shot with a backhand loop (from a good backhand chop). The Svensson slipped to 16-19 as Holt suddenly took the initiative with a rousing
It was a thrilling win, but to follow it the final was something of an anti-climax and a little predictable. Even at the age of 33 Bettine Vriesekoop is probably as good as when she was European champion - wonderfully fit, relentlessly patient with her slow looping, extremely experienced, and particularly good against backspin defence. It was Vriesekoop who had beaten Jill Hammersley-Parker in the 1982 European final and Lisa Lomas in the 1992 European final. Now she beat Holt in the English Open final 21-6, 23-21, 21-13. Vriesekoop has the control and tactical ability to move her defensive opponents in an out and to choose the right ball from which to deliver the faster attack. Holt tried to attack herself in the second game, and had one great chance, a game ball at 19-20 on Vriesekoop's serve. But the Dutch player continued the same steady slow-looping and Holt did a backhand chop into the net. It was her only opportunity of getting into the match and applying real pressure to Vriesekoop. After the top seed had won the second game - with ten successive slow loops which caused Holt to chop the ball long - the contest tilted her way. Vriesekoop is professional, astute, hard working, and plays to her strengths, and is a worthy English Open champion.

LOMAS INJURED

She also accounted for another English hope, Alison Gordon, by 21-19, 14-21, 21-11, 21-19 in a fine fighting third round match. Meanwhile the English national champion Lisa Lomas progressed one round further only to be halted by an arm injury which has been bothering her for much of the season. That gave Svensson a walk-over to go through to meet Holt. Another BFL Grove player, Tong Feiming, showed how good she is against backspin defence by outplaying the fourth seed Russian Irina Palina to reach the quarter-finals. Three other leading English players, Chen Xinhu, Carl Prean and Matthew Syed were all ruled out through injury, and Alan Cooke's hopes of reaching the quarter-finals for the first time were ruined by the deft little Damien Eloi.

Cooke's third round score was 21-14, 22-24, 21-19, 21-12 and no-one did better than that against the in-form Frenchman, not even the top-seed Swede Peter Karlsson, beaten in four games in the quarter-finals, nor the Chinese left-hander Xiong Ke, also beaten in four, in the final. Xiong, like so many of the English, was injured. He had to go to hospital with a painful shoulder during the England v China series and received court-side treatment throughout the English Open. Yet he beat two former members of the Swedish world title-winning teams, Mikael Appelgren and Erik Lindh, and battled through all the way to the final hurdle. Did some of our players lack adequate preparation or did they lack the same commitment to try to win this country's premier event?

THE NEW SYSTEM

Those fans who were unable to travel to Thornaby might be interested to know the players' reactions to The New System, apparently designed in the corridors of power to create elite tournaments for the professionals.

The sixteen elite seeds in the two singles events did not enter the fray until a late stage. They then paired with sixteen survivors from the qualifiers and group winners. Some players had to play only once a day - Nicola Deaton was one of them - on game at 8pm.

A consensus of opinion from the England squad is that players need not play three but two matches a day. And, in a five day tournament there should be room for a team event - a unanimous viewpoint.

Another talking-point from the players was that the reduction from eight tables to four was done a day too early. In fact with careful planning a day could be saved on the whole tournament and top professionals would have had plenty of time between games.

The basic entry fee of £25 for the ordinary players, possibly brought in to keep down the numbers was unpopular and caused a number of players to stay at home, especially those who live a long way from Thornaby - most people do. This is at a time when there is a shortage of tournaments - the English National at Kings Lynn being the only major event up to the Commonwealth and World Championships.

Credit is due however, to the ETTA Management for making such a bold format experiment. The number of teams - 27 made it the biggest event in Europe this season, but many teams used the English Open to gain experience to their young players. The list of absent stars was longer than the England casualty list - Waldner, Persson, Saive, Gaten.

These top men are now playing only in odd events preparing for China in May and of course protecting their high world rankings. All current ranking systems seem to have the major flaw that by playing only one game in six months, a high rank can be held - Jean-Michel Saive wants to go to the Tianjin as the No.1.

ELLWOOD CHINESE VISITORS

The gallant touring side, with four players instead of five originally expected, carried three
players with shoulder muscle injuries through both the tour and the Open. Two Chinese players received hospital treatment at Grantham from a local physio after midnight.

A travelling physio would have given daily massage and of course dealt swiftly when problems arose.

Engaging a tour physio for seven days (and missing his New Year celebrations) might have cost the ETFA £500, money that might have been well spent, if only out of courtesy to our Chinese guests who travelled without a leader or a physio, just a team captain who proved to be a tough character during any negotiations.

Another alternative would have been to engage local physios to be on stand-by at the tour towns - to leave two teams bound for -
to leave two teams bound for tour towns.

Injuries through both the tour and the Open. Two Chinese players received hospital treatment at Grantham from a local physio after midnight.

The Middlesborough Evening Gazette table tennis correspondent Alan Ransome -
who has written a weekly column in that regional paper for over 30 years, had little good news on the first day: the only English winner was the English junior title holder, Glenda Ashiron from Surrey.

Alex Perry, who after the Open played in the three matches for England, could hardly believe the strength of his second stage group - he lost 3-1 to David Johnston (France) Keinart (Germany) and the qualifier Masahimoto of Japan who later became an Alan Cooke victim 10, 16 in round 2 of the main competition.

Two other qualifiers were Chris Oldfield who later lost to Kei Sato in round 1 at 12 in the fifth game and Derbyshire’s Bradley Billington. The Derbyshire and England player was in the second stage qualifying after taking out Michael James and Drago Surbek. In Round 1 however, Billington was dismissed 17, 11, -11, 14 by Peter Nilsson of Sweden.

Jonathan Taylor, who like Perry is playing professionally in Sweden, fell by the wayside losing to a Slovenian player. Helen Lower gave her all to reach the second round of the singles. Her increasing number of fans are asking why such a supreme fighter has not yet been given a chance for England?

She is a full-time professional player at the same club in France as Denis Neave - Bethune, near Chartres in the French national League. The best match I saw at Thornaby was Lower’s stunning five-games victory against the Slovenian Petra Dermastija after scoring only seven points in the opening game.

Alison Gordon hunted out the German player Nina Wolf 12, 15, 11 but just failed to take the final match victory.

Vriesekoop to a fifth game, losing 19 in the fourth.

How strong is Grove’s Tong Feiming? There were some answers at Thornaby. Ian Marsh will be pleased with three Feiming victories that took her to the quarters - Dubravka Sisak (Croatia) Tatiana Kostromina (Bulgaria) and the Russian Irina Palina, before losing 16, 15, 15 to the Swedish pocket-dynamo Asa Svensson a new Grove ranking list might read - 1 Feiming, 2 Holt, 3 Lomas - some No.3 when clear of injuries.

Matthew Syed who played brilliantly against China in Chester and would have expected to do well in Thornaby, sustained a should injury. Carl Prean had an accident playing table tennis at home while Chen Xinhua hobbled in, thought he was fit but then had second thoughts.

When Lisa Lomas pulled out of the singles after playing through the pain barrier to beat Jane Dobesova to reach the last eight, it completed a dismal weekend for the players and organisers alike.

This is just not and English problem with leading players throughout Europe also struggling to keep an increasing number of injuries at bay.

Fetzner, Rosskopf, Saive, Appelgren and Pernson have all had their problems this season.

Consider this lengthy list of events World Team Cup, World Cup, Euro Nations Cup, European Masters, World Doubles Championships, All Star Circuit, European League, Euro Top 12, Olympic Games plus all the various leagues in Europe which attract our players the length and breadth of the continent.

Add to this list the tours that our players undertake in this country and you have a problem of enormous proportions.

England manager Don Parker feels our top players are taking on too much.

“Many of our top players are overplayed and overtired. They are constantly being asked to play tournaments all over the world and sooner or later it catches up with them,” he said.

“For a whole host of reasons the top players are the main target for organisers and that has the knock-on effect on our B squad who rarely get the sort of competition they need.”

“Some of these players are travelling everyday of their lives and the pressure to play can be considerable.”

Nowadays most teams have their own teams of doctors and physio’s standing by to ease the pain barrier. Not so now.

The programme our leading players are being asked to undertake is growing and that in turn is providing a difficult and almost impossible situation, especially when sponsors are involved and ranking points are at stake.

Typical of the problems that surfaced at the English Open in Thornaby last month, when wave after wave of players reported injuries that not yet denigrated the original draw which had to be re-made, were shoulder injuries, groin strains, sprained ankles and more sinister, fatigue.

It’s a growing menace throughout table tennis and, to be honest, the world of sport in general.

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THE NEW ENGLISH OPEN
WOMEN'S SINGLES CHAMPION

BETTINE VRIESEKOOP

HOLLAND

60th English Open
Table Tennis Championships
Cleveland
Your best bet of getting some

extra flexibility over revenue funding, sport needs, for the present, to play the “Capital ball” to ensure its share of the cash bonanza.

How can sports governing bodies, associations, clubs, centres, trusts, local authorities or schools access the money which will be distributed via the relevant Sports Councils for England, Scotland, Wales and in Northern Ireland? For the purposes of this article we will stick with England.

Application forms are already available from the Sports Council by ringing their lottery help-line on 0345 649649. The forms come in a package with guidance notes, a comprehensive guide explaining how to develop and manage a project and other information leaflets. The help-line staff can also answer many initial queries to help applicants complete the forms.

Completed submissions will be accepted, from organisations not individuals, by the Sports Council from 4 January 1995 and the first grants are likely to be made from March/April 1995 onwards. There is no need for panic attempts to return forms by 4 January. It is not a once-and-for-all deadline. Schemes can be submitted at any time of the year (except those seeking more than £5 million for which a set of deadlines will be issued later this year). In fact, it might be an advantage for an organisation to miss the early crush.

Sports facilities - from grass-roots community schemes to large stadia - will be eligible for grants. So, too, will substantial equipment purchases provided they have a long life-expectancy and are related to a permanent site. In some cases the Sports Council may also consider grants for refurbishment if this will genuinely upgrade the facility and lead to increased community use. Public access is one of the keys to success in seeking funding. (See “Table of Examples”).

As Rodney Walker, Sports Council Chairman, explained: “This is a tremendous boost for sport. I want every community in the country to be able to point to a project which the lottery has funded by the year 2000. Every million pounds, for instance, could buy 30 natural turf pitches, four athletics tracks, 200 cricket pitches, a community sports centre or a swimming pool”.

But there will also be a need for would-be projects to show financial, construction and design viability as well as the correct level of safety standards. A solid system for on-going management will also be a factor. (See selection criteria table).

The Lottery Sports Fund does not intend to provide 100% of the cost of projects. Applicant organisations will need to provide at least 35% of the cost from other sources. This may mean organisations working to find partnership funding. Projects under the level of £5,000 will normally be considered for funding, although the Sports Council can give advice on alternative sources of funding.

Each application pack includes a number of consultation forms. The guidance notes will explain that these need to be sent to the relevant local authority and sports governing body who will then go forward, together with any comments from the consultees, to the Lottery Grants Panel.

You could be forgiven for not envying this group of 12-15 people their task. They could well face over 15,000 detailed applications in the first year and will need to show a sound analytical mind together with great integrity and independence in deciding which schemes to fund.

The Lottery Grants Panel chaired by Trevor Brooking and Gerald Dennis, which is a separate legislative body to the Sports Council and is accountable to government via the Department of National Heritage, will be a representative mix of individuals. Some will be Sports Council Members, others will be drawn from amongst top sportsmen and women as well as experts in the field of construction, engineering, design and finance. They will be appointed in mid-December 1994.

If a scheme is rejected, the Lottery Grants Panel can recommend that it be re-submitted a year later or that the applicant should reconsider the scheme and possible make a new application. The Sports Council will make sure that every unsuccessful applicant is given an explanation as to why the project failed to meet the criteria. Equally, it will have an on-going help-line and monitoring system for successful projects.

Decisions will be made as speedily as possible. Over to you and good luck.

STAR GUNN for WARWICKSHIRE

WARWICKSHIRE WAS THE ONLY TEAM NOT TO DROP A POINT. THEY HEAD THE TABLE AFTER WINS OVER CAMBS. AND LANCS 2ND. PHIL GUNN WAS WARWICKSHIRE'S STAR PLAYER - HE DID NOT DROP A SINGLE GAME IN HIS 4 MATCHES: WRITES DOUG MOSS.

SENIOR DIVISION 1A

Nine matches were played at the St. Neots T.T. Centre. The results were:

| BU 7 | SK 3 |
| BU 4 | ND 6 |
| SK 4 | Y 6 |
| CA 3 | Y 6 |
| WA 7 | LA 2 3 |
| CA 4 | WA 6 |
| SK 4 | CA 6 |
| Y 6 | ND 4 |
| LA 2 5 | BU 5 |

The other most successful players - each with 6 wins - were John Burleton (Bu) and Helen Newbound (Ca). There were many hard fought matches with a third of the events going to a decider! One such clash was the Suffolk/Yorks match. Tim Dynon (Y) beat Phil Logsdon at 19 in 3rd game and Helen Shields (Y) beat Claire Lowe at 18 in a deciding game! The Yorks team was also involved in a 6-4 win over Northumberland when Andrew Horsfield (Y) beat Ian Robertson 18 and 16 with a third of the events going to a decider. Visitors Hants 2nds won a point for the home team. Andrew Rumary (So) proceeded 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4. At this stage Vicky Gray, Suffolk's most successful player, beat Kirsty Pryke 8 and 7 to earn a point for the home team. Adam Champion struck back with a 2 straight win over Chris Brook to get a point for Herts. Herts 2nds put up a good fight against their 1st team before going down 4-6.

JUNIOR DIV 1A:

| CW 2 | Y2 8 |
| SK 6 | CW 4 |
| NK2 3 | SK 7 |
| NK1 6 | NG 4 |
| NK2 2 | Y2 8 |
| NK1 8 | BK 2 |
| SK 4 | Y6 6 |
| DK 5 | NK 1 5 |

10 matches were played at Kesteven TTC. Yorks 2nds took the lead after getting 3 wins. Their hardest match was against Suffolk when the Yorks girls lost their 4 events to Rebecca Sparks and Claire Lowe. But the Yorks lads - Peter Marshall, David Smith and Wayne Marsh - were unbeaten. Derby's Northfields 1st team has each dropped just one point, as a result of their 1st match. Scott Habershon and Helen Rainford won their 4 events for Derby's 2nd team established themselves at the top of this Division when they gained a maximum win over Berks 2nds. Sussex 3rd team are nearest rivals having continued unbeaten with an 8-2 win over Mid Suffolk.

JUNIOR DIV 2B:

| SK2 5 | HU 5 |
| HE2 4 | HE1 6 |

The Suffolk/Hunts clash was a hard fought match. The match proceeded 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4. At this stage Vicky Gray, Suffolk's most successful player, beat Kirsty Pryke 8 and 7 to earn a point for the home team. Adam Champion struck back with a 2 straight win over Chris Brook to get a point for Hunts. Herts 2nds put up a good fight against their 1st team before going down 4-6.

SENIOR DIV 2A:

Just one match in this Division during December, when the Staffs. 2nd and 3rd teams met at Norton TTC, Stoke on Trent.

All matches were decided in straight games finishing 9-1 to the 2nd team. Staffs. 3rds got the final event of the match when S Davis beat A. Stokes 18 and 16.

JUNIOR DIV 2C:

| GN2 6 | SO 4 |
| GS 3 | WO 7 |
| HR 1 | WO 9 |
| GS 9 | CH 1 |
| WI 6 | DV 4 |
| CO 7 | DO 3 |

Glam. had a 6-4 win over Somerset. They are the only team not to have dropped a point and have established themselves at the top of the League Table. Andrew Rumary (So) played well to win his 2 events. The Glos, Herefords and Worcs teams met at Cheltenham. Glos and Worcs team both had a 9-1 win over newcomers Hereford. Chris Jones (Hr. No. 1) played well to get a win over the Glos and Worcs No. 2 players. The Glos/Worcs clash was a hard fought match. Worcs got a 7-3 win but Jonathan Bunn (Glo) lost his events at 18 and 24 and 3rd games! Wilts beat Devon 3nds 6-4. Wilts team is very well served by Tim O'Mahoney and Debbie King who are unbeaten.

JUNIOR DIV 2D:

| BK 2 | SY 2 10 |
| K3 4 | HA 2 6 |
| SY 3 5 | BU 2 5 |
| SX 3 8 | MI 2 2 |

Surrey 2nd team established themselves at the top of this Division when they gained a maximum win over Berks 2nds. Sussex 3rd team are nearest rivals having continued unbeaten with an 8-2 win over Mid Suffolk.

VETERANS DIV 1A:

| ND 3 | HE 6 |
| WA 7 | OX 2 |
| WO 2 | LE 5 |
| CH 2 | LI 7 |
| OX 3 | ND 6 |
| LI 5 | WO 4 |
| LE 6 | WA 3 |
| HE 6 | CH 2 |
| CH 8 | OX 1 |
| ND 2 | LE 7 |
| WA 3 | WO 6 |
| LI 4 | HE 5 |
| WO 2 | HE 7 |
| LE 5 | CH 2 4 |
| OX 2 | LI 7 |
| WA 5 | ND 4 |

16 matches were played at Barnett T.T. Herts and Leics came out on top each having wins. Herts' closest match was against Lincs. Stuart Seaholme (He) had to beat Ken Phillipson in the final event of this match - he won 23, -16, 12. Leics toughest match was against Worcs. Worcs made a great start with Tim O'Mahoney and Ortie Hardman beating Maurice Newman 12, -20, 22 and then went on into a 3-nil lead. Leics came back well to win the 2 doubles events. The match ended at 4-4 when Keith Fellows beat Roy Norton to give Leics the win. Another hard fought match was the Worcs/Northumberland clash. Despite Ian Robertson being involved in 3 wins Worcs' only win was a 5-4 win when Phil Pain beat Bob Dodds 19, -11, 15 in the final event.

Players who were unbeaten in singles events over the weekend were Brian Hill (Li), Ian Robertson (Nd), Eileen Shaler (Le) and Sally Bax (He).

VETERANS DIV 1B:

| BU 3 | K2 6 |
| SO 11 | SY 1 8 |
| SY 2 7 | E3 2 |
| BK 6 | E2 3 |

Kent 2nds, with a good win over
Sussex 2nds continued their Sussex 2nds continued their
SX2 8 MI2 1. 3rd team. Essex 2nds, on their win over Essex 3rds. Ray Murray and Brian
7-2 win over Warwicks 3rd team. Nova Sayadian (K3) lost both his singles matches.
VETERANS DIV 2B: NK1 8 E4 1.
NPI 6 NG 3.
Norfolk is certainly the top team in this Division their latest success being the 8-1 win over Essex 4th team. Chris Brewer and Steve Howlett are unbeaten and Mick Broughton has lost only once. Hunts got their first wins with a 6-3 win over Bucks 2nds.

VETERANS DIV 2A:

CW 2 WA 7. LA2 7 WA3 2. NPI 6 NG 3.
After this series of matches there are 3 unbeaten teams in the Division. Muriel Cox came into the Northants 1st team and won her singles and the mixed doubles with Keith Jones in their 6-3 win over Notts. Warwicks has 100% singles wins, Middx 1st team improved their position with a 6-3 win over Surrey 3rd team. John Holland (M1) won his 2 singles and the men’s doubles. In his first singles event he certainly had a hard fight before beating M. Fisher 16-17, 20. Kent 3 beat their 4th team, who were without a lady player, 7-2. Nova Sayadian (K3) lost both his singles matches.

VETERANS DIV 2B:

NK1 8 E4 1. HE2 9 BD2 0. HU 6 BU2 3. BD1 7 CA 2.

VETERANS DIV 3A:

Y2 9 ST1 0. CH3 5 BD3 4. HE4 6 NP1 3.
The top 2 teams - Yorks 2nds and Staffs 1st - met at Bradford and the home side got an emphatic 9-0 win. After 4 matches the Yorks team has maximum points and has won 25 of the 36 events played. Ches. 3rds also have a maximum win over Beds. 3rd team. An important factor of the win was Ches. winning the 2 doubles events, Phil Luxon/Eileen Edwards (Ch) won the mixed doubles against Alex and Val Murdoch 20 and 19. Suffolk met Norfolk 2nds at Brittania Dome, Ipswich and with Norfolk 2nds leading 3-1 the match had to be abandoned as the floor had become very slippery. Herts 4th team got their first win of the season at the expense of Northants 3rd team. Keith Hartridge (He) was involved in the winning of 5 events.

VETERANS DIV 3B:

SX4 3 HE3 6. BK3 2 HA4 7. HA3 6 DO3 3. WI2 9 WI4 0.

After this round of matches there are still 3 unbeaten teams - Herts 3rds, Hants 3rds and Wills 2nds. The Herts and Hants teams meet in February. Herts 3rds visited Hove and beat Sussex 4th team 6-3 with Tony Tofi (He) winning both his singles events. Wills 2nds had a maximum win over their 4th team. Hants 3rds had a 6-3 win over Dorset 3rds when Ray Lush remained unbeaten this season. Hants 4th team visited Kingfisher Club, Reading and came away with a 7-2 win. Just 1 event went to a deciding match when Richard Mole (Ha) beat Geoff Cill 15-17, 12.

VETERANS DIV 3C:

HE5 4 OX2 5. DV4 4 DV3 5. W3 0 B3 9. HR 2 SO2 7.
The 2 unbeaten teams in this Division met at Barnet. Oxon 2nds did well to win 5-4 and take over the lead. George Pullin (Ox) won his 2 singles events and Sue Gogker (Ox) won her singles and the mixed doubles with Dave Horse. Devon 4th team put up a good fight against their 3rd team before going down 4-5. Wally Walton (DV4) won both his singles and the mixed doubles with Madeline Pittman. Somerset 2nds visited Hereford and won 7-2. The men’s doubles was a close contest with Alan Maitland/Andy Seaward winning 17, 19, 20. Berks 3rd team got a maximum win on their visit to Swindon to meet Wiltshire 3rds.

SENIOR DIV 2A:

(Late Result) L12 2 WA2 8.
Warwicks 2nds continue unbeaten after their visit to Lincoln 2nds. They came away with an 8-2 win. It was Simon Upson (WA) who dropped the 2 events. It was a close contest the respective No. 1’s when Andy Wignall beat Simon Upson 17-19, 17-19.

February 1995 TABLE TENNIS NEWS 27
Jean-Michel Saive in the semi-finals.

The sweetheart of many a female spectator, had looked to be fighting spirit to topple the early exit from Euro '94. Champion Jan-Ove Waldner in a World Class potential has his position as the World's best.

Pauline, 11th and 25th February. The Circuit event, beating Wang Tao on leaps and bounds. He has won dispatch, in the quarter finals.

Unfortunately his chance to scalp English player. Well, I'm sure Andrew Eden will have something to say about that!

JEAN-PHILIPPE GATIEN, FRANCE’S FAMED WORLD CHAMPION, HAS ADDED THE INDIVIDUAL WORLD CUP TO HIS LIST OF INDIVIDUAL TRIUMPHS.

Writes Graham Carter.

Playing in the 1994 Koos Group World Cup in Taipei just 1 week before Christmas, Gatien showed a true fighting spirit to topple the World No. 1 Jean-Michel Saive (Belgium) 21-18 in the 5th, after being 2 games to nil down in the final.

During the last year Gatien, the sweetheart of many a female spectator, had looked to be ousted from the super elite, after having gone down to 6 in the World rankings and making an early exit from Eurol '94. However at the World Cup, the hard work that he must have been putting in paid off as he dispatched, in the quarter finals. World No. 2 Wang Tao deuce in 21-2 to Zoran Primorac in 21-18.

China’s Wang Tao showed there is little or no gulf left between the top Europeans and the Chinese when he won the World All Stars Circuit in Lisbon on 29th - 30th October, against Jean-Michel Saive in the final.

Wang Tao also won the World All Star event in Charleroi, Belgium on 15th November, but it was Saive who had opened the account two days earlier in Barcelona when he took the 1st Circuit event, beating Wang Tao in the semi and Sweden’s Peter Karlsson in the final.

England’s own Matthew Syed had the honour of being invited to compete amongst such illustrious company. Unfortunately his chance to scalp famous heads did not quite happen: he went down 21-10, 21-11 to Saive in Barcelona and 21-8, at the Dome in Doncaster (report in December issue). The 2nd leg matches of these play-offs were due to be played on 17th January.

PERRY’S SWEDISH ADVANCES

Alex Perry, who has been playing full time in Sweden this season, has been making real advances. Since joining Gronby - the same club as Waldner, Perry has come on leaps and bounds. He has won 5 Swedish domestic tournaments, including a major tournament in the Under 21’s. In the words of his English coach, Malcolm Francis, “the way Alex is playing now, he is definitely the 6th best English player.” Well, I’m sure Andrew Eden will have something to say about that!

Fredrik Hakansson, one of the younger Swedish stars, became Nordic champion, when he beat the better known Erik Lindh in the final.

In the Joola European men’s League Super Division, Germany and Belgium finished top of groups A and B, but by very close margins. In the second stage matches, the reigning champions Belgium stopped France (European men’s team at the Dome in Doncaster (report in December issue). The 2nd leg matches of these play-offs were due to be played on 17th January.

The play-offs for relegation amazingly featured Sweden. They walloped Denmark 4-1, with Erik Lindh (2 points) and Hakansson unbeaten. In the other group, Poland unexpectedly beat Austria 4-3. The super fast reflexes of Ding Yi held true for Austria with 2 points, but Schlagter and Qian Qianli drew a blank.

Germany and Sweden made progress in the European Women’s League Super Division stage 2 (semi-final) matches, 1st leg.

Gatien bt Waldner 19-17, 13,18, 14

Z Primorac (Cro) bt J Huang (Can) 13, 15, 19, 18, 12

J-P Gatien (Fra) bt W. Tao (Chi) 15,18, 19, 20

J-O Waldner (Swe) bt K Linghui (Chi) 13, 18, 8, 13, 17

Semi Finals:

Saive bt Primorac - 18, 19, 12, 18

Gatien bt Waldner - 19, 17, 13, 10, 12

Finals:

GATIEN BT SAIVE - 17, 15, 18, 24, 19

JEAN PHILIPPE GATIEN

21-2 to Zoran Primorac in Belgium. Still, the England star’s World Class potential has obviously been spotted by the European organisers.

JEAN-PHILIPPE GATIEN

BARCELONA 12 NOVEMBER 1994

WP Gatiens (BEL) bt Matthew Syed (ENG) 10, 11

WP Wang Tao (CHN) bt Kim Taeck Sux (KOR) 15, 16, 17

WP Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA) bt Zoran Primorac (CRO) 14, 20

WP Peter Karlsson (SWE) bt J-O Waldner 22, 13

SAIVE bt Wang Tao 12, 13, 17

SAIVE BT Wang Tao 12, 13, 17

WORLD ALL STAR CIRCUIT

Barcelona 12 November 1994

WP Gatiens (BEL) bt Matthew Syed (ENG) 10, 11

WP Wang Tao (CHN) bt Kim Taeck Sux (KOR) 15, 16, 17

WP Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA) bt Zoran Primorac (CRO) 14, 20

WP Peter Karlsson (SWE) bt J-O Waldner 22, 13

SAIVE bt Wang Tao 12, 13, 17

SAIVE BT Wang Tao 12, 13, 17

Charleroi, Belgium 15 November 1994

WP Wang Tao (CHN) bt Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) 12, 18

WP Zoran Primorac (CRO) bt Matthew Syed (ENG) 8, 7

WP Peter Karlsson (SWE) bt J-O Waldner 22, 13

WP Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) bt Peter Karlsson 19, 15, 20, 15

WP Wang Tao (CHN) bt Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) 12, 18

WP Zoran Primorac (CRO) bt Matthew Syed (ENG) 8, 7

WP Peter Karlsson (SWE) bt J-O Waldner 22, 13

WP Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) bt Peter Karlsson 19, 15, 20, 15
T.T.T.V.?

Anyone who saw the 60th English Open on Cable TV over this month should do as I did, which was to write to Cable Magazine thanking Wire TV for their coverage and hoping we will be blessed with more table tennis, maybe even a regular spot. Unless we form a united front and acknowledge these events then they will go unnoticed. We have more chance seeing more table tennis than we do winning the National Lottery, so remember the next time you fill in your ticket and wait to win of Saturday evening then cursing, ‘I’ve lost again, but at least that letter I wrote ensures that table tennis is the telly again this week’.

Come on people put pen to paper, promote your sport yourselves or be subject to endless hours of snookers and darts. Do winning the National Lottery, Wire TV for their coverage and anyone who saw the 60th English Open has he been blessed with these events then they will go unnoticed. We have more chance seeing more table tennis than we do winning the National Lottery, so remember the next time you fill in your ticket and wait to win of Saturday evening then cursing, ‘I’ve lost again, but at least that letter I wrote ensures that table tennis is on the telly again this week’.

Vouchers!

I would like to know what your readers think of the variety of vouchers that are given to the players as prizes to the community throughout the country. As I feel there is a lot of confusion over where they can be used and how. Plus the time allowed for the players to spend them.

After the Cadets and Juniors played hard tournaments all over the country. It seems very unfair that they are given pieces of worthless paper as their reward that they cannot use as and when they see something that they need at the venues that they play at.

FOOTBALL

As a member of the Cirencester Table Tennis League I noticed that in previous issues of the Table Tennis News you have reported on the software products that might ease the Table Tennis Manager from Reverb Software.

This is a dedicated package, costing £25 (inclusive), which not only produces instant league tables and individual Player Team fixtures lists to be ready produced (as well as the full League Fixtures schedule).

A Woolwich league can be accommodated it required and either the 10 point scoring system or the 4 points for a win system, can be chosen at the start of each new season.

For further information or to order a free demo disc contact Reverb Software on 01285 633574. Mike Cotes, Swindon.

CAPACITY CROWD

Congratulations to the English and Chinese teams who provided excellent post Christmas fare for the capacity crowd at the Woking Leisure Centre.

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FUTURE OF OUR SPORT

The Christmas festivities and the tour of the year have come round again and, although, because of 'deadline' dates they will appear very late, it is time to wish all friends, old and new, in table tennis all the very best as I look forward to 1995.

But, and I am not criticising any individual, I do not like what I see as I look at the future of our Sport, and I ask where are the Counties - not only my own Yorkshire going? At one time there was a clearly defined path in our sport, dependent on competitive performances at each level of the ladder - the top players in the club at local level selected to represent the league in the 'Inter Town' league, from which the top bracket were considered for Colours and, finally, the last move from County to International honours.

But the ladder has had to many of its rungs broken - it is no longer in a fit condition for players to climb - the way to the top is now personal coach, sponsor, club - not the table tennis club with half a dozen teams playing a different levels of the local League, the British League club which pulls in its players from all corners of the country - all expenses paid by the sponsor.

But these are not the clubs to which a youngster comes and receives basic coaching from some of the old hands, not so much in tactics etc., but in the very basics of play and playing and equally important, club pride and 'team spirit'.

No, today's club could well be the end of a 100 - 200 mile drive, 'League game' for some of the older players, playing in the right spirit.

SOFTWARE

As a member of the Cirencester Table Tennis League I noticed that in previous issues of the Table Tennis News you have reported on the software products that might ease the Match Secretary's load (e.g. the letter from Sally Russell (York, and District TTA) in the June issue.)

In answer to this appeal, I would like to draw your attention to a product called TABLE TENNIS MANAGER from Reverb Software.

This is a dedicated package, costing £25 (inclusive), which not only produces instant league tables and individual Player Team fixtures lists to be ready produced (as well as the full League Fixtures schedule).

A Woolwich league can be accommodated it required and either the 10 point scoring system or the 4 points for a win system, can be chosen at the start of each new season.

For further information or to order a free demo disc contact Reverb Software on 01285 633574. Mike Cotes, Swindon.

SPECIAL MENTION

May I through you excellent magazine thank the ETFA for giving the Table Tennis Players in the Chester area the opportunity to see top class table tennis.

England v China played at the Northgate Arena Chester was excellent entertainment played in the right spirit.

A special mention should be made of Clive Oakman and his excellent team who ensured that everything went smoothly from start to finish.

I hope that Chester will be the venue for a similar event in the future.

B. BUTTERFIELD
Secretary Chester and District TTA.
This is done at the head quarters at Hastings. After seeing the planned scheme and after getting to know something of the people putting it through, the ETIA can state that the scheme and organisation are bonafide. This is important to the F.S.A., who need to be sure that the money they are providing is being put to good use.

WHAT DOES AND F.S.A. APPLICATION NEED?
1) Concise covering letter.
2) Written background to the organisation, including club/league constitution.
3) A proposal - the number of people who will benefit, a background description of the people on the committee, costs of the project, including 3 tenders (if appropriate). Also, details of own fund raising schemes and any other grants.
4) A copy of your organisation’s accounts.
5) Letters of Endorsement from other agencies such as your local M.P. - support from him/her is very influential and can make all the difference. Alternatively from your local authority or local Sports Council!

WHAT TYPES OF SCHEMES DO BEST?
The schemes gaining the most 'yes' votes are the ones which involve young people, dual use of premises/facilities and projects from very local committees.

CONTACT YOUR R.D.O. AND APPLY.
The ETIA encourages every club in England to make an application. There is no minimum amount you can ask for, but the maximum is £100,000.
Please be patient: the Foundation receives up to 500 applications per week from all sports, so it may take a little time to process - perhaps 5 months. If you've got poor facilities at your club, why not speak to your R.D.O. and apply? To quote another old phrase: "Nothing ventured, nothing gained!"
KINGFISHER WIN
BATTLE OF BOSWORTH

KINGFISHER TABLE TENNIS
CLUB IN READING HAVE
WON THIRD PRIZE IN A
NATIONAL COMPETITION
TO SELECT ENGLAND’S
BEST CLUBS OF THE YEAR.

ominated by the
ETTA as table tennis
representative,
Kingfisher were
presented with a
plaque and cheque for £1000 by
Gratton Endicott, the Secretary to
the Trustees at the CCPR annual
conference at Bosworth Hall on
24th November.

Brian Halliday and Colin Dyke
received the prize on behalf of
the Kingfisher club, who had
finished third out of clubs from
127 different sports who were
contesting the competition.

This is the second year in a row
that table tennis nomination has
effectuated honour at the CCPR
awards: last year Ian Marshall
collected a similar prize on behalf
of BFL Grove, who also achieved
third place.

The contest is based upon good
club administration, running a
coaching and development
programme, organising
competitions.

"Kingfisher’s achievement is
outstanding. They are a great
eexample for other clubs to
follow", said ETNA National
Development Manager Dillon
Gray, who attended the
conference.

South West
REGIONAL
NEWS

In the final (ETTA South West
Regional Trials), which were held
at Wellington Sports Centre of
Saturday 17th of December, the
following Junior Cadet/Players
qualified for the National Trials
at Whitchurch on Sunday 21st
January 1995 writes Alf Pepperd
Cadet Girls, Suzzy Robinson (Gs)
who qualified as No1., Gemma
Loughran (Av) who qualified as
No2. Cadet Boys, David Porter
(Av) who qualified as No1.,
Daniel Nelmes (Gs) who
defined as No2., Paul Adams
(Av) who qualified as No3,
Junior Girls, Ann Humble (Gs)
who qualified as No1., Elizabeth
May (Dv) who qualified as No2.,
Melanie Garlick (Gs) who
qualified as No3. Junior Boys,
Tim O’Maloney (Wi) who
qualified as No1., Tom Orlick
(Av) who qualified as No2.,
Graham Worth (Co) who
qualifies as No3., Andrew
Rumary (So) who qualified as
No4.

The first SWR meeting took place
under the chairmanship of Andy
Steward at Andy’s home on 11th
December 1994. Those present were:
Andy Steward, (Chairman ETIA
(SWR)). Doug Parsons,
(Treasurer), Les Smith,
(Competition), Val Clack,
(Coaching). John Burtershaw
(Avon), Ron Chapman, (Wilts).
Peter Hancock, (Cornwall). Keith

The success and failures of the
various competitions that were
organised by the region over the
past few years, it was agreed that
a woman’s team tournament
should be held again this season,
everybody agreed that the new
purpose built facility at Deer
Park School Cirencester, would
be an appropriate venue, with
May 1995 as the possible date for
opening.

THE WAY
FORWARD

Keith Ponting stated that the
only way forward could only be
achieved if all and sundry
worked together, i.e.:
Communications should be
improved and relevant
information passed on the
Counties.

It was agreed that there should
be a further Regional Committee
Meeting (Hosted by the
Chairman), possibly in May 1995.
**COUNTY NOTES**

**AVON**

**COMING SEASON**

Only the Veterans have been in action since my last report, maintaining their unbeaten start to the season with an 8-2 victory over Gloucestershire 2nds. Gary Baldwin and Bob Murray won both their singles and teamed up to take the men’s doubles. John Higgins and Linda Porter won one set each and also teamed up to take the mixed. The County Closed Championships were held at the beginning of December. Top seed Andy Creed took the men’s title with some comfort and Linda Porter beat Gillian Beer to take the ladies crown. Results were as follows:

- **Junior Boys Singles:** T Orlik bt G Lang
- **Junior Girls Singles:** J Orlik bt G Loughran
- **Junior Doubles:** G Iong/T Orlik bt B Reeves 11-9, 11-6
- **Junior Boys Doubles:** G Beer/J Porter 11-6, 11-9
- **Ladies Doubles:** G Beer/J Porter 11-6, 11-9
- **Veteran Singles:** B Murray bt D Price 13-8, 10-12
- **Junior Boys Singles:** T Orlik bt G Lang 14-16
- **Cadal Boys Singles:** M Loughran bt P Adams 15-17, 19-19, 11-6
- **Junior Girls Singles:** J Orlik bt G Loughran 18-10, 20-10
- **Junior Doubles:** G Loughran/J Orlik 17-9, 15-17
- **Junior Boys Doubles:** G Beer/J Porter 11-6, 11-9
- **Junior Girls Doubles:** J Orlik bt G Loughran 14-11, 14-11
- **Junior Doubles:** T Orlik/G Loughran 13-11, 11-13
- **Veteran Singles:** B Murray bt D Price 13-8, 10-12
- **Junior Boys Singles:** T Orlik bt G Lang 14-16
- **Cadal Boys Singles:** M Loughran bt P Adams 15-17, 19-19, 11-6
- **Junior Girls Singles:** J Orlik bt G Loughran 18-10, 20-10
- **Junior Doubles:** G Loughran/J Orlik 17-9, 15-17
- **Junior Boys Doubles:** G Beer/J Porter 11-6, 11-9
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- **Junior Doubles:** T Orlik/G Loughran 13-11, 11-13
- **Veteran Singles:** B Murray bt D Price 13-8, 10-12
- **Junior Boys Singles:** T Orlik bt G Lang 14-16

From this schedule, senior matches are on the weekend of 18th and 19th February.

The veterans have also made a good impression in Division 2B. On the 24th M Stennett (2), J Turner (1), R Fenson (1) and a doubles win for M Stennett and J Turner secured the result.

The 15th October Hunts were the visitors to St. Neots and a good all round performance saw Cambs with a 7-2 win. The team consisted of M Stennett (21/12), B Hagger (11/12), C Gay (11/12), and J White (11/12). Two weeks later Buckinghamshire visited St. Neots only to fall foul of a whitewash result. M Stennett, B Hagger, J Turner and J White were the games veterans inflicting the damage. The fourth veterans match took place at the 19th November but details were not available at the time of writing.

The recent Eastern Region Junior Trials at St. Neots saw only one of Cambs juniors progress to the second stage. James Walton confirmed his status as the top junior in Cambs and went on to complete on December the 18th, again at St. Neots.

Although as mentioned in the November issue we do not have a Cambs junior side, the youngsters at Wisbech thoroughly enjoyed their first venture in the St. Neots Junior Invitation League. Indeed Wisbech seems to be giving the junior scene a boost at present with numbers increasing every week at the regular Monday evening coaching sessions.

The English Junior National Championships were held at the Bushfield Sports Centre, Peterborough on the 3rd and 4th December 1994. James Walton represented Cambridgeshire and in the U17 singles event won his group with comparative ease beating Mark Forder of Sussex, a much higher ranked competitor. James was eventually defeated by Andrew Sugarman of Yorkshire (ranked 25) in a close three rubber. On Sunday in the gudie championship James (ranked 12) adopted a more attacking game and played his way through to the quarter final stage without losing an end. The draw then saw him drawn against the No. 1 seed Gareth Herbert (the eventual winner). James went down 21-12, 21-16 but was not disappointed with his performance.

The 17th of December saw the second stage of the Eastern Regional Junior Trials to the final stage which will be held on the 21st and 22nd January 1995 at Whitchurch Sports Centre at Bristol.

On the 18th December the Wisbech junior side of James Walton, Matthew Knoop, Matt Suiter and Ben Worley were in action in the second round of matches in the St. Neots Junior Invitation League. Again results were mixed but although being defeated 6-3 by Kettering, wins of 5-4 against Hunts Central and 7-2 against Pembury means they are in a good position half way through the
The annual Derbyshire Closed event was again held at the Mackworth Tertiary College, Derby and a good entry was received with perhaps a record entry in the Junior events. This aspect is particularly pleasing and shows the coaching commitment appears to be paying some dividends. These were the results from these championships.

MEN'S SINGLES
S Show (Borton) bt J Bamford (Derby) 13,11,13
N Deaton (Chesterfield) bt S Cooke (Chesterfield)
MEN'S DOUBLES
R Haydard/ lw (Isherwood) bt H/Vickors (Derby)
VETERANS SINGLES
A Cooper (Matlock) bt D Still (Derby)
JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES
H Rainford (Eastwood) bt S Merrick (Bolton)
JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES
M Isherwood (Chesterfield) bt S Habberon (Chesterfield)
WOMEN'S DOUBLES
R Hogwood/Horton vs Vickers/Davo (Derby)
N Deaton/Chesterfield/S Miles (Chesterfield)
MIXED DOUBLES
S Show/N Deaton vs Vickers/Davo (Derby)
R Hogwood/Horton
As expected both Steven Shaw and Nicola Deaton retained their respective Singles titles and both collected their second title winning the Mixed Doubles event.

How pleasing it has been to see the Derbyshire players in the limelight over the Christmas and New Year period.

Alan Cooke has played some superb table tennis whilst playing in the Test matches against China and in the process, picked up some valuable computer ranking points. The wins he gained may well see him deservedly, we think, gain promotion in the National Ranking List.

Another success in the same test series was the form of Bradley Billington who displayed some of the table tennis we know he is capable of.

Both players could well be featured in the next edition of Stars for the future and with the Commonwealth and World Championships forthcoming, both Bradley and Alan may have further International recognition.

Nicola Deaton played in both the Test Matches against Russia. The first one against Russia, played at Hull where they lost 9-1. Witnessed Nicola playing really on top form gained the sole win for England and performance against the World Ranked Russian Galina Melnik where the score stood at 17 all in the third and final game before the experienced Russian took the game.

So the performance of Cooke, Bradley, Nicola kept Derbyshire well and truly on the map on the International front and all their progress in the future will be monitored with real interest.

It was also encouraging to observe that Lorraine Groves has joined the Derbyshire squad as a qualified umpire. She recently qualified her umpires certificate alongside County Secretary Les Allwood.

These newly qualified umpires are very active, not just on the Derbyshire scene. We congratulate them both on their new umpires qualifications.

By contrast it was disappointing to hear of the attack suffered by Burton supremo Terry Cashby prior to Christmas.

Terry is, without question, one of the guiding lights in Derbyshire Table Tennis and the news that he has been ordered to rest at home will be a big body blow for Burton and Derbyshire table tennis.

It is no surprise that he is to resign as the National Councillor for Derbyshire and a successor is already being sought. We wish the injured Terry a speedy recovery because table tennis Derbyshire would not quite the same without him.

Chesterfield's Mick Thorley, I am delighted to say, is back after quite a long illness. Mick, who had a quadruple bypass is now playing again in Matlock, Chesterfield and Sheffield and playing again, I am reasonably informed, with the same sort of determination and enthusiasm that we all experience prior to his illness.

Finally, Derbyshire's handgun County Cup Competition has produced a very close encounter in the first round where Castle Donnington of Derby beat Watnagroves of the Eastwood League by the slender margin of twelve points.

Also, the Derby League are again promoting the annual popular Derby Junior event. This event has matured to become one of the most popular Junior events in England and again it is to be staged at the Moorways Centre. A good entry is anticipated.

The Brentwood League may have a case for boasting the strongest singles event in the country this season. The teams battling it out for the title are: Brentwood TT Club A (Steve Rand, Paul Sawyer, Steve Robinson and Jon Stokes) followed by Buttsbury A (John Holland, Dave Finlayson, Steve Willis and Eliza Cooper) and Brentwood TT Club B in the other half Robin Price and Scott Nichols from Gloucester, beat the unseeded pair of Jon Bunn (Strood) and Aaron Mortimer (Gloucester) in straight games 15, 17, 19.

This victory took 15-year-old Robin Price to the final of the reigning champion 14 year old Ann Humber from Higham Glos, Humber who was the defending champion beat young Sue 12 and 16 to retain her singles title.

There were no major upsets in the early stages of the boys U17 singles, with all four seeds successfully reaching the semi-final stage.

Jos Roberts (Cheltenham) the current title holder, beat Gloucester's Aaron Mortimer for a place in the final, while in the other half Robin Price disposed of Jon Bunn over three games.

So, it was a Roberts V Price final: Roberts the No. 1 seed, took the first game at 15, but Price fought back well in the second, clinching it at 14, and so we came to the third and final game in a power struggle between two very evenstandard players, Price got off to a very good early start, and when they changed ends Price was 10-2 up, Roberts however was far from beaten and from this seemingly impossible position fought back to level the scores at 18 all. Robin Price however managed to retain his composure and eventually put a worthy winner at 21-18 in the third.

The Gloucestershire Closed Senior Championships were both played off just past before Christmas, and commencing with the Junior event here are the results. This event was dealt a severe blow by the lack of entries in the U12 and U14 section, the Organisers eventually cancelled both of these age groups, leaving the three main championships to be played.

In the U17 Doubles, the number 2 seeds Robin Price and Scott Nicholls from Gloucester, beat the unseeded pairing of Jon Bunn (Strood) and Aaron Mortimer (Gloucester) in straight games 15, 17, 19.

Essex's top performance of the month went to Linda Radford (Dagenham), who at her very best at the Middlesex 3 Star Open tournament, taking the Ladies title with wins over Jennifer Craven and Justine Ross and an emphatic 14, 11 success in the final against Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire). Other Essex players to enjoy good wins this tournament were the unranked Gary King (Dagenham) who had a particularly fine 18, 19 win in Men's Final III over Middlesex's Leanne Gray and James Morris and an emphatic 11, 11 success in the final against Nicola Deaton (Derbyshire).

Another Essex player to enjoy good results this tournament was unranked Mick Smallwood. Also running in the year were the Averley Sports A lead by James Wood and Karl Wills, with last year's champions, Derbyshire's British Open Champions, the British Open Champions, the British Open Champions, the British Open Champions, the British Open Champions, the British Open Champions.
his revenge for the 1993 final by beating Harvey 15,13. The Ladies singles was a foregone conclusion as Natasha Williams the Welsh Number 1 was now resident in Gloucester. She proved herself head and shoulders above all other female opponents, easily beating the then number two seed Dennis Cheltenham's Sue Laburn 7,12 to take the title.

The Veterans singles boosted a large entry for the County League Champions, when they won the tournament. Holland withdrew owing to an arm injury, so the coast was clear for the number two seed Dennis Holland who won the title.

Gloucester Champions Bill Dawe and Peter Wilson were the then runners-up.

A disappointing low entry for the Hampshire Junior Inter-Town Men’s section when Gloucester’s Alex Fannin put up a great show of beating Harvey 15,13. Sylvester Callum lost 16,17, to the entry, the number two seed Dennis Mortimer who ran out eventual winner, 8,6, 15,13. Miss Williams did not drop one single game.

In the minor singles event, which is closed to all division one players, one of the most exciting matches took place when Gloucester’s Alan Robinson found himself 12-18 down to the number one seed. He came back to force a draw, which Miss Williams did not drop one single game.

In the opening singles Hertford’s David Giblet took the lead, but when he lost a crucial point before that you now get more points for turning up and losing in the first round of way, the Grove Star became the name of the title. Batted players continue to vote with their feet, but too few open their mouths in support of the system.

Junior tournaments seem to have arrived at a point of no return to improve the quality. The system is good in the face of such "impossibility". The team will have to play better to hang on to the title and games average is likely to be decisive.
A new era in the development of KENT JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS began at the weekend when 440 teams of budding stars began their campaign to become champions of Kent.

Sponsors Bribar Table Tennis have pledged £12,000 to fund the Junior Table Tennis Competition over the next three seasons, and enthusiastic Kent youngsters showed their thanks by turning out in spectacular fashion to contest the Bibrak Kent Junior League.

Youngest from all over Kent will benefit from the joint financial award made by Bibrak Table Tennis and matched by Sportmatch pound for pound, providing a total of £24,000 over three years.

SEASON REPORT

Bromley A are on course to win the Maidstone presentation One Cup on which the Kent League being unbeaten after four matches, the clash win N W Kent who are also unbeaten should be interesting. Chris Knight with 12 wins out of 12 leads the averages. There is no clear favourite in division two, but forth placed Ashford are still unbeaten and with Paul Smith, Alan Proven and Fred Coleman prominent in the averages should finish well. East Kent League Folkestone and Thanet are leaders in Division three. N W Kent A are clear leaders in League One with the top team leading players Jackqueline Mersch and Sandra Collins on 100% records. Maidstone B and N W Kent B are neck and neck in division two, but with yesterday’s unbeaten N W Kent will be favourites to take the title.

N W Kent A lead the Veterans Division One with Paul Crisp and Dave Emery on 100% records. Bromley A, winners of this division for the past thirteen seasons are in forth place and the clash with N W Kent may determine the final positions. Bromley C and Medway A lead the second division with Neil Le Milliere (Medway) and Dave Wilkins (Bromley) unbeaten. Sittingbourne B and Canterbury B are joint leaders of the third division but it is Ron Terry (Tunbridge) and Terry Harris (Canterbury) that lead the averages.

£24,000 SPORTING BONANZA GETS UNDER WAY

The Kent girls have a bright future. There is a wealth of talent to choose from and with the right backing we could compete on the national scene. The Kent girls have a bright future. There is a wealth of talent to choose from and with the right backing we could compete on the national scene.
Veteran Steve Pickles picked up a six-three win over Notts after losing the first game of his singles. In the Division 1A play-offs held at Barnet during the weekend of 3/4 December, Kingstonlevelled the scores when his fast attacking play proved too much for Nick Peck.

The third singles was vital and in the early stages the visiting John Ellis held the upper hand, but in a tactical battle with John Jones led to a losing expedite, and then proceeded to win the match with some shrewd attacking tactics.

He and Muriel Cox took the mixed doubles and with Mrs Cox making the transition from Thirls to First with composure ease, the ladies singles was added in fine style.

The men’s doubles was narrowly lost Northants to take one of the reverse singles for the match. Thereupon, Mick Edwards came back to win comfortably against Peke and the match was won.

Jones went down heavily to some tremendous hitting from Terry Bull, but Kingston played out the final singles with patience to scrape through at deuce in the third against Ellis, and so enhance the final scores of an exciting match.

County Development Officer G.K. Evans and Northants Junior Match Secretary John Russell have invited sixteen juniors and sixteen cadets to attend training sessions under the guidance of John Evans.

This comprehensive list of players will give some indication of the current upsurge of enthusiasm at this level, and a further series of coaching sessions during spring and summer, will pave the way for selection of a team in each age group to compete in next season’s County Championships.

Ian Howes, who is also number one on the Northants Queensberry Seminar Computer Rankings, holds pole position in the Kettering League ranking list. Chris Handshaw is second, followed by Ryan Kinnin, Richard Elliot, Julian Marshall, Steve West, Mark Nanny, Terry Linton, Steve Brown and Gordon Shaw.

Wellow House School have three players in the top six – Howes, Manhall and West, Team Electric, who currently find themselves at the top of Kettering’s Premier Division, are still without a home venue but appear to be thriving in unfamiliar territory. However, they will still have difficulty in staving off Holders Higham Band, who presently lead Wellington’s Premier Section, closely pursued by Old Grammarians A, Westfield A and Glamis A.

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

**SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A total of seventeen teams entered the Notts Schools Table Tennis Championships, which were held at Wellow House School recently. This figure was higher than those entered by our near neighbours Derbyshire and full credit for this must be relayed to the organisers Mr Brian Jones and John White. The senior boys events were dominated by Ashfield School who were managed by Paul Linfield. They completed wins in both the Under 16’s and Under 18’s events by an impressive 8-0 margin. The biggest contest of the evening was for the Boys Under 18’s title where all the pre-match half-sets and three out of the odd game or set. The eventual winners were Fairham Community College who defeated Wellow House by a 6-2 margin.

The remaining events were a tribute to the Wolvee League with Valley School, Colchester and Bury St Edmunds who won by a 4-1 margin.

**SOMERSET**

**ANDY SEWARD**

**CHRISTMA S DAY IN THE WORKHOUSE**

It is Christmas Day in the workhouse and the chief washer-upper has finished his chores. Whilst the manager of the house and assorted guests settle down to the usual 3 o’clock television viewing, what exercises the mind of the chief washer-upper is studying TT/ County Notes of course!

Did Santa give the chief washer-upper any presents which would resist in the writing of these County Notes? Unfortunately, no. Even the 1995 edition of the Guinness Book of Answers has no answers extended by the odd game or set. The eventual winners were Fairham Community College who defeated Wellow House by a 6-2 margin.

The biggest contest of the evening was for the Boys Under 18’s title where all the pre-match half-sets and three out of the odd game or set. The eventual winners were Fairham Community College who defeated Wellow House by a 6-2 margin.

The book does have a section on table tennis, but Somersett, not a word.

What information and comment. It is now six o’clock and nearly time to return to the more mundane tasks. Pass the turkey sandwiches. Happy New Year.

**SUSSEX**

**JOHN WOODFORD**

**SEARCH FOR TALENT**

The search for talent continues in Sussex as everywhere else. My best player for improvement in 1994 is Joanna Bush-Harris of Brighton, who in her last year as a junior and winning many games at both junior and senior levels.

One of her latest successes has been in the Rose Bowl, when her pair of victories, put Brighton on the victory path, winning 5-2 against a strong Crawley team, led by Sally Weston.

The clash between Brighton and Crawley contained some almost bizarre results, highly unpredictable might also be an apt description of several of the scores.

I would have bet heavily against Miss Weston losing all three to the Brighton side of Teresa Bennett the Sussex champion, Mrs Bush-Harris and Sara Stedman of Arundel. But that is what happened. Then came two huge shocks by Crawley. Why this match is of great interest, it contained the two leading seniors - Bennett and Weston - and the up-and-coming juniors Bush-Harris and Stedman. Probably the biggest shocks of the campaign came when Marie Campbell, the Crawley No 5 who plays her table tennis only in the Crawley League, Division 2 beat Miss Stedman 13-21, 22-20, 21-15 and then Jill Green the Crawley housewife who plays Sadler, playing in all the matches, trounced Teresa Bennett 21-16, 21-12. However, two from Joanna, two from Teresa and one from Sarah took about the team this season with Phil Payne, Bob Millard, Steve Palmer and Tina Sage to name but a few. A number of individual successes are worthy of mention. Against Dorset, four wins for the ladies (Tina Sadler and Christine Cowell) were instrumental in the 6-4 victory. Phil Payne’s win -20,19,24 against Tony Sweet (Dorset 3) gave Somersett another 6-4 win. A comfortable victory 9-1 against Cornwall 2 was followed by a strong Gloucestershire team led by Darren Griffin and Dave Harvey. The double fixture in February both Wiltshire 1 and Wiltshire 2 could well determine the Division winners.

Can Phil ‘stamp’ his authority on these matches. Just as Northants have recently won a match or two, so remarkably have the Somersett men, well, one to be hoped for.

The chief washer-upper was allowed out of the workhouse, made an appearance against Herefordshire and won both of his singles matches, but he is always in a state of mind of the future. For one, captain Kevin Lum and two doubles successes.

Along with all these games enough information and comment. It is now six o’clock, and nearly time to return to the more mundane tasks. Pass the turkey sandwiches. Happy New Year.
Brighton through, but what a match that was. Robert Abbots is my choice for the Roy of the Year, despite being dogged by injuries, he has a new personal sponsor - 15 Cradocks, who have provided him with a back injury problem earlier in the season. Playing 5-a-side soccer at school he sustained what seemed to be a badly sprained wrist. This turned into a fracture - he now has his arm in plaster for six weeks. He is hoping to be fit for the forthcoming national trials.

In the Junior National Trials at New Malden, Abbots was joined by Kevin C Doyle and Chris Hancock and Harry McCartney of Lewes. By the time this appears in print, Sussex will have we hope overcome a major problem - no venue, no date for the all-Sussex senior championships - Roger Gillett the East Sussex tournament organiser from Bexhill is the man in the hot seat searching for a venue. Meanwhile, at times I despair that we can ever get real co-operation between coaches. I know it happens all over the country. Local coaches quite naturally are unhappy when their promising juniors move upwards, but that is life, surely.

In Sussex, there are two coaches making life difficult for the Sussex TTA/. There are two others who want to do their own thing, without working with the county. It appears that they all want to work independently, but surely, that is not possible if junior talent is going to blossom and be fed into the right channels.

**WARWICKSHIRE**

**PETE WALDEN**

**ALL CHANGE**

It's a case of all change for the Stratford and District League this season. A slight fall in team entries, at the start of the season prompted the committee to try to restructure the league into a format similar to that introduced in Leamington. Four divisions each consist of six teams who play each other twice before Christmas with promotion and relegation taking place at the start of the New Year, thereby making in effect two winter seasons.

In Division One, Shottery A have claimed the title with the runners-up spot going to either West Warks A or Astwood Bank. Gary Stewart of Shottery Hall looks set to take the top average with 93%. Royal Mail A are top in Division Two followed by Stratford Foods A. Roy Birles of Stratford Foods leads the averages with 93%. West Warks B look set to win Division Three, chased home by Arden and Church Lench. John Mytton from Church Lench is the top player here with a 95% average. Division Four looks like a tight finish with Royal Mail B favourites to edge home in front of Stratford Foods B and West Warks C. Good to see Mary Rose of West Warks leading the averages here with 93%.

The Leagues only Cup competition, the Stana Cup, will continue to be run just once a year, starting in January. Another new initiative in Stratford has been the introduction of coaching sessions for juniors at the King Edward Grammar School. It is hoped that these sessions will lead eventually to the formation of a Worcestershire Junior League in the area.

**WILTSHIRE**

**LAURIE SELBY STEPS DOWN**

Hello everybody in Wiltshire, welcome to my first articles for the Wiltshire News. Firstly I wish to thank Laurie Selby my predecessor, article writer who has stepped down after many years of superb news writing for this magazine. As you may be aware, this season was appointed Secretary of the County Association, in my new role I have been concentrating hard on press coverage in all areas of the County Leagues. From my distribution of County match reports and league results to Newspapers, local Cable TV stations and indeed local radio stations. I have secured a radio spot on the George and the Tea every Friday evening, the show is on between six and seven with the Table Tennis News. We would like to thank our advertisers for their support throughout the year.

At the beginning of October and I have been able to give reports on County fixtures as well as a round up of all league positions. During November I gave two live broadcasts from the County Junior Championships, as you may have been aware, there have been no County match pictures for quite a while and news has been rather thin on the ground. As a result I wish to thank, Ernie Howell, Jimmy Lowe, Ron Chapman and Vic Clark for assisting in featuring their coaches and facilities on the radio in a hope of recruiting new players to the sport.

Trevor 'Kit-Kat' Lloyd has kept me well informed on West Wilt events, including the Diamond Jubilee event that is taking place in April at Trowbridge Snooker Centre. The wool is in casting the sight of the 50th anniversary of the inception of the county league, ticket details can be obtained from Malcolm Phillips 0249 76612. John Ford has also produced a calendar of the league to celebrate the event.

In Trowbridge league Bill Bailey and Ernie Howell are a constant source of information, for which I thank them, Big Ron in Salisbury along with Alan Cooke also give me little snippets to talk about. Now this is not an exclusive club, and anything to tell me do so, my number is 0249 81576 and I will get the info published or broadcast if I possibly can.

In the next issue I hope to have great news concerning our Table Tennis Centre in Devizes to talk about which has been set up a steering committee to decide on our next step and in conjunction with Steve Ward our new West South Regional Development Officer, a series of meetings are planned.

Concerning the Centre at Devizes a working party of Alex Collar, Eddie Roope, Trevor Lloyd and myself over a five hour period have installed twenty Halogen Lights, for four courts in the gymnasium, after running power lines from Devizes Town Hall. Our thanks to you all.

Congratulations to Swindon's Tim O'Mahoney on making it through to the National Finals, good luck in Bristol Tim.

**WORCESTERSHIRE**

**JOHN BARBER**

**THANKS TO OUR LADIES**

Our first team visited Northumberland in the County Championships and came away with a creditable draw thanks to our ladies who were undefeated. Both teams were without their No. 1 players, and Worcestershire had Janet Hunt deputising for Mandy Myton. Our winners were Sandra Roden (2), Janet Hunt (2) and Steve Horton (1), who played very well.

Our Junior team visited Cheltenham to play two matches on the same day against Gloucestershire juniors and Herefordshire. They achieved a meritorious victory over Gloucester, who were previously unbeaten, 7-3. Ian Wood took 2 as did Stephanie Price, with Tim Evans, Alex Hill and Laura Vanghan taking one each. The only player defected Hereford 9-3, the only loser being Hill against Chris Jones.

The Juniors also scored a creditable 8-2 win over Cornwall whose boys were always in close contention taking three sets to the third. Worcestershire's winners were Ian Wood (2), Alex Hill (1), Tim Evans (1), Stephanie Price (2) and Laura Vanghan (2).

Worcestershire Senior 2nd team have also played well to achieve second place in their division. Against Wiltshire 1st team they lost 6-4, their winners being Lewis Siket (1), David Rogers (2) and Joanne Hill (1). Against the same County's 2nd team they won 8-2. Jason Thompson (2), Siket (1), Evans (1), Hill (1), Harper (1). Showdown was unbeaten. Another good victory was recorded against Dorset winning 8-4 the ladies being undefeated. Thus Joanne Hill with another two wins is greatly improved. Other winners were Siket (2), David Rogers (1) and Lewis Siket (1).

**COUNTY JUNIOR CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Cadet Girls - There were six entries playing in 2 groups of 3. The group winners were Alison Rathbone and Kate Hughes who contested the final which was won by A Rathbone 10-17, 20-17.

Cadet Boys - Twenty-one entries played at the weekend. ST Alex Hill beat Loan Rees 14-13, Stephen Jackson beat Lewis Cook 18-19, Final Hill beat Jackson 15-13. Under 12 Junior Girls - Ten entrants played in 3 groups (4,3,3). The biggest upset of the tournament was when Jenny Bunting beat Loan 11-9. ST Alex Hill beat Jenny Ponsford and then won her group.

She was beaten in the semi-final by Rozalind Sedman-Smith, and another group winner 18-12, 15. The third group winner No. 1 seed had a bye to the final. Final Stephanie Price beat R Sedman-Smith 15-11.

Junior Boys - 35 entries played in 11 groups. SF Tim Evans beat Lewis Cook 16-17, 13, Ian Wood beat Alex Hill 20-20. Final Wood beat Evans 17-8. Ian Wood was in top form to beat County Rankings 1 and 2. The losing Semi-Finalists are both coaches.


The championships were staged at Christopher Whitehead School Worcester. The referee was John Myton.

Entries for the county team competition are again disappointing for this season. Six have been received for the scratch event and ten for the handicap.

The County Closed Championships have been fixed for 22 January 1995 at Druswich Sports Centre. In the Veterans section of the County Championships, 16 matches were played at Batter TT Centre during the first weekend in December, Worcestershire were involved in four of them as follows.

Against Lincolnshire they lost 5-4. Lines clinked it when K Phillips beat Eric Hardman in the 9th set 20-17. Worcs winners were Roy Norden (1), Trevor Washington (1), Janet Hunt and Hunt/Norton in mixed doubles.

Against Warwickshire, they beat their neighbours 8-3, R Norton winning (2), T Washington (1), E Hardman (1), Janet Hunt playing her singing best winning against Hardman winning men's doubles. That was the only Worcs victory. Herts fielded a strong team to win 7-2. It was a rare event for Washington to lose both singles. Worcs successes were R Hardman and Washington. R Hardman in men's doubles which they just managed at 18-7 and 19.

Finally, Leicestershire beat Worcs 5-4 after they had taken a 3-1 lead. In the encounter Washington won 2, Hardman 1 and Norton 1.
Sally Bax swung first one way then the other.

Crowley beat Outrim 17-21, 21-10, 21-19, and fought back to 20-19, only to lose the next point in an excellent final. There was an excellent win for Mike Outrim over twice tournament veteran Derek Holman.

In the second round Beck beat Isaacs. Outrim marched on with a first-round win over Blackwell, then with Blackwell beat Hurrey and Wood beat Streak. There was an excellent win for Mike Outrim over twice tournament veteran Derek Holman.

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With the edge trimmed with tape of unrestricted substance it can be used for hitting the ball, and could assist a player to do that without the power of the rubber. With the rubber trimmed, it can be used for hitting the ball, and could assist a player to do so.

Mr Walton that in smaller towns with small sports shops many people agreed with David Lancaster that the use of red and yellow cards could not find a shop selling two coloured plastic discs. This was endorsed by Cyril Whiting and several other members.

Two transparent pockets in which red and yellow cards were slipped in a pocket.

With an entry of 57 players for the tournament, 9 am start was necessary in order to finish play prior to the start of a bonfire party at 7.30 in the evening. (The last final was completed at 7.40).

As a surprise to some to learn that although there was a loss covering the thickness of the rubber, there were none governing the thickness of the blade. With the edge trimmed, tape of unrestricted substance it can be used for hitting the ball, and could assist a player to do so.

If that is true, it is up to the player to arrange the alteration.

The use of red and yellow cards could assist a player to do more than just serve or hit the ball. It could also be a problem because Cyril Whiting had found out it was possible to ruin a league match by strictly enforcing the law, but Mr J Jones said that this was not so as tournaments, especially with juniors, where umpires were falling coaches if the rules were not seen to be at least making a real effort to serve correctly.

Discussion of the expedite law again raised the subject of equipment. Every umpire needs a stop-watch, many cheap but efficient ones can be purchased, but could be bought in bulk and so be purchased even more cheaply.

Mike Hawkins said that he could not find a shop selling two coloured plastic discs. This was endorsed by Cyril Whiting and several other members.

It was agreed that the organiser (Mrs Pat Archdale) should make enquiries re: an umpire’s pack—which disc, net measures and black ball points.

Then clutching a copy of the laws and/or a best paper everyone headed home.