

EURO MEDAL FOR SALLY

A Singles Bronze for Sally Marling

**START OF
WOOLWICH
JUNIOR
LEAGUES**

**ATTACKING THE
JUNIOR SCENE**

**DENIS NEALE
JOINS THE TEAM**

NEW LOOK!



Great Scott!

**It's a Record 10 titles
for Scott Friday**

Table Tennis

NEWS



ISSUE 224
SEPTEMBER 1994



COVER STORY;
Jubilant Sally Marling after beating opponent Martine Hubert of Belgium.

Full Story on P17.

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The ETTA would like to thank the following companies for the support they give to English Table Tennis



Denis Neale joins the team

DENIS NEALE, the former six times champion, was appointed as Mens Team Captain on the 5th August 1994.

Neale, who retired from the National Team in 1977, after 495 appearances for England, has played continuously ever since.

Denis, who is still ranked in the top 50 of the England Senior Mens Ranking List, reached the quarter-finals of the World Veterans Championships in Melbourne in April, in the over 50 Singles event and won a bronze medal in the doubles with Brian Hill.

Will this appointment mean the possibility of Des Douglas becoming Denis' righthand (or left) man? Des always looked up and admired Denis when he was England's No.1 Player. His first goal was to emulate

Denis Neale is England's new Mens Team Captain.



Denis and then beat his record, which he did!

It's a perfect role for Denis as

he is renowned for his table tactics and his aggression is ideal for this position.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hope you like the new-look Table Tennis News. It has been redesigned by Rainbow Press Limited, our new printers.

I would like to hear your comments on our new modern image, so please do write to me.

Since our last issue in June there has been a change at the helm of Public Relations, Jim Beckley has retired and Richard Habgood has become the new Vice-Chairman.



Richard Habgood the new Vice Chairman of Public Relations.

Alan Ransome's Chairman's Report details changes plus the appointment of our first Marketing Manager.

This issue is predominantly a junior issue, with the main feature on the centre pages 'being Barry Granger's report on the European Youth Championships in Paris. I personally enjoyed my trip to these Championships held at INCEP, but was disappointed that we didn't win more medals. The standard of play was very good and the fact that the rest of Europe play with glue and we don't, was obviously to our player's disadvantage.

But this was not the only reason that we didn't do better, it's also due to the fact that countries such as France, Germany, Belgium, Belgium, Sweden etc., with Government financial backing have something like as many training camps in a month as we have in a year. Plus the top players in Europe also assist with their country's national coaching camps. Despite our lack of resources we managed to win bronze with Sally Marling's true 'English grit' performance.

12 year old Scott Friday created a new national record by winning his 10th national title in the U10/11/12's at Milton Keynes in June.

John Wood, Editor.

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Creaming the Fairways

DAVID CREAMER the former Middlesex player won the National Mens Doubles title with Johnny Leach in 1964.

Then he was 21, now he's 51 and winning big money on the Senior Professional Golf circuit when he is not teaching at a new course in Germany. We had a phone call from a golf writer at the Telegraph enquiring about David's Table Tennis past. When Journalist Bob Rodney rang me, David was leading the PGA Seniors at Sunningdale, but eventually finished 2nd (70, 66, 69).

French Leave

Bradley Billington, the England No.7 has signed to play for French Club ACS Fontenay near Paris, who play in France's National League Division 1.

Junior Open

To avoid a clash with the '95 Worlds, the date of the next English Junior Open has changed from April 27th to the 29th October 1994.

ATTACKING THE JUNIOR SCENE

ONE OF THE MOST WORRYING ASPECTS OF THE SPORT IN ENGLAND OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS BEEN THE DETERIORATION OF THE JUNIOR GAME, BOTH IN THE TERMS OF THE STANDARD OF PERFORMANCES OF THE LEADING PLAYERS AND THE NUMBERS OF NEW YOUNGSTERS COMING INTO THE GAME, WRITES ALAN RANSOME

Both these problems are being addressed with positive programmes for the coming season. To Bring the standard of the Junior and Cadet game up to a higher level, at the beginning of July the Association appointed a new full time junior coach, JAI YI LIU. In China Liu was the personal coach of our current No.1, Chen Xinhua and built up his reputation as an effective coach by producing a number of other world class players. We have some very good prospects in both the boys and girls sections and it will be Jai Yi Liu's role to work with these players, their coaches and parents and the England team coaches in order to maximize their improvement.

At the other end of the junior scale, I am delighted with the response that we have received from our leagues with the formation of WOOLWICH Junior Leagues. To date a total of 74 leagues have already decided to run a junior league and a further 120 leagues have requested and received all the information and are looking into the feasibility of starting a Woolwich Junior League.

In addition to attacking both the top of the ladder with a special coach for the England Junior Squad players, and at the bottom rung with the Woolwich Junior Leagues, the Woolwich Junior British League will embark on its second season in 1994/95 providing two very good weekends of junior play for the majority of the players on the junior ranking lists. This, coupled

with the move towards banded tournaments, should assist the overall junior standard to improve.

“ One high point was Sally Marlings performance in the Junior Girls Singles ”

Our results overall at the European Youth Championships in Paris were only moderate. The one high point was Sally Marling's performance in the Junior Girls Singles in which she won the bronze medal after beating the No.2 seed, Steff of Rumania in the last 16. Sally was beaten narrowly by the eventual winner, Ganina of Russia in the Semi-Final. Our hopes of medals in the Junior Girls Team Event faded at the second stage and our team had to be content with 13th place. Our Cadet Girls did one better finishing 12th, whilst the Cadet Boys finished in 21st position and the Junior Boys were 24th ●



Welcome to Dina Stanley, 32 (this month), our new Promotions and Marketing Director. Dina's outstanding track record in selling qualifies her well for the sponsorship search role for the Association. No stranger to Table Tennis, Dina is an ex Avon County player and has also played in the Women's British League for Sun Life Bristol.

England Team Captain Changes

Carole Moore and Jenny Heaton, our two girls coaches both decided to retire from their positions at the end of last season and this, coupled with the retirement of Jill Parker as the Women's team coach, means that there will be some major changes in the England captaincy for the coming season. Thanks go to Jill, Jenny and Carole for their considerable efforts with the England teams.

Donald Parker, the National team Manager and sole selector, whilst retaining overall charge of the England teams, will switch from the Men's team captain to the Women's team captaincy for the coming season. This has created an opening for a new Men's team captain and this will be filled by the 6 times England champion Denis Neale. Denis was our leading player for more than a decade during the 60's and 70's and much of his success was due to his shrewd tactical game and his ability to identify



Alan Ransome

the weaknesses of his opponents. Denis has the potential to become an important asset to the England team again in his position of Men's team captain.

Another former English Champion to join the England coaching staff is Alison Gordon who will take over the responsibility for the Cadet Girls team. Alison will continue to be a regular member of the England Women's squad, but at the same time is looking forward very much to passing on some of the experience she has acquired as an England international over the last 17 years.

ETTA President Re-elected

At the Association's AGM held in Birmingham in June, Johnny Leach MBE was unanimously re-elected as the ETTA President for his third term of office. Johnny is an excellent ambassador for the Association both at home and abroad. In addition to being the ETTA President, Johnny is also the current President of the Swaythling Club. Johnny's experience and Guidance as President have proved invaluable and we are delighted that he is prepared to take on a further 3 year term.

Following the retirement at the Annual General Meeting of Jim Beckley, National Council approved my nomination of Richard Habgood as the new Vice Chairman of Public Relations. It is Richard's intention to increase the publicity for the sport - a hard task but another area that needs urgent attention. My thanks go to Jim Beckley for his work as Vice Chairman PR over the last 7 years, and as Press and Publicity Chief for the Euro Championships in April.

English Open Next Attraction

THE BIGGEST EVENT TO HAPPEN IN ENGLAND THIS YEAR WILL BE THE ENGLISH OPEN IN JANUARY '95

The main Table Tennis event in England this season will be the English Open, which, with substantial sponsorship from Cleveland County Council, will be played at the Thornaby Pavilion from 4th to 8th January 1995.

Several major championships have been played at Thornaby in the past, including the European Youth in 1970, the English Open in 1977, the World Student Championships in 1980, The European Top 12 in 1983 and the Euro-Asia in 1988.

It is likely that this season's Open will take on an entirely new look. Under the Chairmanship of Colin Clemett, The ITTF have produced a new

“the open will attract many of the worlds best players”

format for major international open championships which promises much improved events for the leading players, TV and spectators. Providing that discussions which are currently

taking place come to fruition, The English Open will be the first international championships to run under this new system. It is likely that the Open will have a significant prize fund for the first time and will attract many of the world's best players.

Further information will be published in this magazine as it becomes available. However, I am pleased to announce that the Chinese Men's team have already accepted an invitation to play in the Open and a six match tour of England between Christmas and the Open ●

New Marketing and Promotions Executive Appointed

On the professional staff side, I am pleased to announce the appointment of a new Marketing and Promotions Executive, Dina Stanley. Elaine Shaw's resignation after the Euro Championships gave the Management Committee the opportunity to review the role of the Chief Executive and we decided that the greatest need at the moment is for sponsorship and the attraction of revenue into the sport. Therefore, our search for an Executive to replace Elaine was heavily weighed in favour of

marketing and promotions. In addition to her strong sales and marketing background, Dina has a solid commitment to Table Tennis and may be better known in Table Tennis under her maiden name of Geraldine Sanford. Dina has represented Avon in the County Championships, played in the Women's British League and competed in many tournaments throughout the Country. Her father, is the current Treasurer of the Bristol League.

Sports Council Restructuring

Ian Sproat, the Minister for Sport, announced a restructuring of the sports Council in July. This will bring about the introduction of a UK Sports Council responsible for British Governing Bodies and for attracting major sporting events to this country. A new English Sports Council will take over the role of the existing Sports Council but will focus much more closely on governing body sport and will relinquish its grass roots and promotion campaign activities relating to health and fitness. Perhaps the most important aspect of the announcement from a Table Tennis viewpoint is

that from next year the Sports Council will drastically reduce the number of sports that will receive significant support, down from approximately 100 at the moment to between 24 and 36. This allows a greater opportunity for Table Tennis to enjoy on-going benefits from association with the Sports Council provided that we are selected as one of the chosen sports. Not to be selected and left out in the wilderness would be a disaster and would mean an end to the ETTA work at the national level as it is currently organised as the Sports Council are our biggest single supporter in

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General News & Update

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Friendly Hotels British League

FILE 3

Future Events & Other Information



Congratulations to our General Secretary, Robert Sinclair, promoted to General Manger of the Office, in Hastings, form the 1 Sept 1994.

Success for the Isle of Wight

ISLE OF WIGHT CENTRE GETTING £60,000 GRANT

With regard to the facilities programme, I am pleased to be able to report that the Isle of Wight Table Tennis Centre is progressing well. The Foundation for Sport and the Arts have notified John Preat that they will approve a grant of £60,000 from the £500,000 allocated to Table Tennis for the Isle of Wight Centre. The Sports Council, Southern Region, and the Isle of Wight County Council are both strongly committed to the project and in total funds in the region of £150 - £160,000 will be forthcoming.

Mike Lewis, Vice Chairman of development and Paul Baker, the new Facilities Officer, have been particularly active with John Preat in bringing this important project to fruition. It is likely that the new centre will be open next year. Congratulations!

As I have written previously, the opportunity for local Table tennis organisers to produce their own facilities project and to obtain funding has never been better. In addition to the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and the Sports Council, the National Lottery commences in November and the amount of funding from this source alone for facilities will be very extensive.

This coming season promise a lot of activity and development and I wish all our members a happy and successful 1994/95 season.

Alan Ransome, Chairman.

Hull Sandhill & Kingfisher first Woolwich Champions

THE WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE COMPLETED ITS FIRST SEASON, APPROPRIATELY ENOUGH, AT THE WATERFRONT LEISURE CENTRE, WOOLWICH OVER THE SPRING BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND WHEN THE GIRLS OF HULL SANDHILL AND KINGFISHER BOYS BECAME THE FIRST **WOOLWICH PREMIER DIVISION CHAMPIONS** AND AS WITH THE WINNERS OF ALL DIVISIONS, TOOK FIRST POSSESSION OF THE MAGNIFICENT ENGRAVED WOOLWICH CRYSTAL TROPHIES WRITES **BRIAN LAMERTON**.

Both Hull and Kingfisher had to avoid defeat by BFL Grove teams in the final session to clinch the titles. For Hull this was no great problem, winning 5 - 1, although Michelle Martin took both Sally Marling & Zoe Fisher to a third game and Debbie Peska caused a slight hiccup when in maintaining her 100% record (later lost to Schwartz) she defeated Fisher, also in 3. Sally Marling, who received the girl's 'Woolwich Player Award' and Gemma Schwartz remained unbeaten.

In the Boy's match after Terry Young had beaten Adrian Cadman Grove came back to lead 3 - 1 with Jun Tsuji defeating both boys 'Woolwich Player Award' winner Ben Johnson & Young in 3 but with Gareth Herbert defeating Cadman & Johnson overcoming Paul Robertson, in a nail-biter 18 & 19, Kingfisher were home and dry. Derwent's Michael James (6 from 10) and Linda Farrow's Leeroy Pye (5 from 10) led their teams to Premier survival; a service which Joanna Bush-Harris (5 from



Winners of the Girl's Premier Division Hull Sandhill. (Left to Right) **Zoe Fisher, Gemma Schwartz and Sally Marling** are presented with their magnificent trophy by Woolwich's Marketing Manager Robert Ham.

10) also rendered Gonerby in the girl's Premier.

As the Irish Girls drop out of the Premier, Irish Boys won promotion to the Premier (much bantering on the return plane no doubt!), Paul Fitzpatrick's brace, maintaining his 100% record, providing the edge in the last session 3 sets all draw with Sedgefield, it being games difference in this match which finally separated the two. The Irish played unchanged throughout, Gerald Boyle and Brian Fitzgerald completing the team. Lennox House who



Kingfisher's **Terry Young** who finished top of the averages with 94.44%, having played the maximum matches.





PLAYER OF THE WEEKEND, Kingfisher's **Ben Johnson** being presented with his trophy by Woolwich's Marketing Services Controller Jane Adams

would appear to have been left hopelessly adrift together with Brabar Humberside at the foot of Division 1. probably could not believe their misfortune in the final 'crunch' match with Launceston, the first 3 sets in a 5 - 1 defeat all being lost at 'deuce' in the third.

The Irish Boys team were presented with the

'Woolwich Special Award' as coincidentally were the winners of Girl's Division 1. Cannon Girls whose 4 - 2 final match win over Dumfries relegated their opponents to third place after leading throughout the weekend. Clare Newsns with 10 from 10 was Cannon's star ably backed by Caroline O'Leary and Alison Smith.

Launceston for whom Joanne Barraclough & Lucy Perry each won 7 out of 10 owe their place in next season's Premier to a 7 point margin (260 to 253) advantage in their drawn match with Dumfries - surely a lesson that no matter how far you are behind in a match situation - keep going.

St Mary's Trevor Griffiths would have been disappointed at the time to lose 21 - 18 in the third to Edmonton's John O'Leary in a Division 2A match which left Edmonton needing one set for promotion but as Paul Smith came to St Mary's rescue it was Griffith's odd leg which was the difference in a drawn match and which takes his team into Division 1. Scott Dawtry who lost only one to De Vere's Paul Owen (23 - 21 in the 3rd) led St Marys successful challenge.

Although Progress hold the top 2 positions in Division 2B individual averages in Jason Sugrue & Albir Mathur it was the allround strength of Darren Wright, (8 from 10), Wesley Holland & Mark Brook which took Clayton Heights to the top; Wright's 21 - 17, 21 - 17 defeat of Sugrue as Clayton Heights won 4 - 2 being the decisive set at the time of reckoning.

The St Marys v Edmonton match was one of nine where 4 sets went to the third game (I searched in vain for one with 5!) whilst the closest individual sets saw Linda Farrow's Simon Jablon defeat David Smith (Derwent) 19 - 21; 21 - 19; 23 - 21, Lucy Perry (Launceston) beating BFL Grove's Trudie Bloor 19 - 21; 21 - 19; 21 - 19, and the Irish Paul Fitzpatrick overcoming Martyn Sims (Lennox House) 22 - 20; 21 - 23; 21 - 19.

Thanks to some spade work by Graham Carter at Hastings the league press office made 12 local radio contacts around the country during the weekend, many of them live inserts into Saturday afternoon sports programmes including an interview by BBC Radio Sussex with Lennox House manager Dave Berryman.

Councillor Vicky Fox, three days into her year as Mayor of the London Borough of Greenwich opened proceedings on Saturday and Roger Ham & Jane Adams of sponsors The Woolwich Building Society took charge of Sunday's presentations.

A new venue for a national event; thanks are due in no small measure to a very large number of very helpful staff.

WOOLWICH JUNIOR BRITISH LEAGUE

Premier Division Boys - Final Result

TEAM	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher A	5	4	1	0	23	7	9
BFL Grove 1	5	3	1	1	20	10	7
Linda Farrow	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Derwent	5	2	0	3	12	18	4
Stiga Fellows Cranleigh	5	1	1	3	13	17	3
Falkirk	5	1	0	4	8	22	2

First Division Boys - Final Result

TEAM	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	F	A	Pts
Irish Boys	5	3	2	0	23	7	8
Sedgefield	5	3	2	0	20	10	8
Burton Uxbridge	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Launceston	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Lennox House	5	0	1	4	5	25	1
Brabar Humberside	5	0	1	4	9	21	1

Second Division Boys A - Final Result

TEAM	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	F	A	Pts
St Marys	5	4	1	0	21	9	9
Edmonton	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
De Vere Britannia	5	3	0	2	18	12	6
Bristol	5	2	0	3	18	12	4
BFL Grove 2	5	1	0	4	8	22	2
Kingfisher B	5	0	0	5	3	27	0

Second Division Boys B - Final Result

TEAM	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	F	A	Pts
Clayton Heights	5	4	1	0	20	10	9
Progress	5	4	0	1	22	8	8
Milton Keynes	5	3	1	1	18	12	7
Seasiders	5	2	0	3	15	15	4
Amity Generation	5	1	0	4	10	20	2
Rejects	5	0	0	5	5	25	0

Premier Girls - Final Result

TEAM	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	F	A	Pts
Hull Sandhill	5	5	0	0	26	4	10
Stiga Fellows Cranleigh	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
BFL Grove 1	5	3	1	1	19	11	7
Gonerby	5	1	1	3	11	19	3
Irish Girls	5	0	2	3	7	23	2
De Vere Britannia	5	0	1	4	8	22	1

First Division Girls - final Result

TEAM	Pld	Won	Drw	Lost	F	A	Pts
Cannons Girls	5	4	1	0	22	8	9
Launceston	5	2	3	0	18	12	7
Dumfries	5	3	1	1	22	8	7
BFL Grove 2	5	1	2	2	13	17	4
Kingfisher	5	1	1	3	11	19	3
Progress	5	0	0	5	4	26	0

Douglas in charge at Norbeck

There were no surprises in the main events when Blackpool's Norcalympia hosted the 3 Star Tournament, Desmond Douglas made it three wins in a row in the Men's Singles, while England International Andrea Holt triumphed in the Ladies.

Douglas beat No.2 seed Bradley Billington quite comfortably in the Final 17 and 12. Lancashire Junior Kevin Dolder gave Billington a scare in an earlier round when taking the second game to 24-22. A notable performance for an up and coming player.

In the Ladies Final Andrea Holt tackled Kate Goodall and emerged a winner by 16 and 20. Lancashire teenager Maria Thornley was rather unlucky to go out to Goodall in the Semi-Final. In one of the best matches of the event, she led 20-19 in the third but lost match point after a somewhat mis-hit shot from her opponent.

The seeds came through in the Veterans with No.1 Ian (Benny) Robertson beating No.2 Richard



Desmond Douglas... You're once, twice, three times a winner.

Yule 14 and 14.

Top ranked Junior Steve Meddings was Junior Boy's Champion after beating Cheshire's Ian Eaton 8 and 12.

The Girl's Final was an all-Leeds affair with Nicola Smith

defeating schoolmate Nicola Silburn 11 and 21.

Des Douglas and Manchester's Johnathan Taylor won the Men's Doubles event with an overwhelming victory against Yorkshire duo Richard Potter and

Richard Smith 14 and 14.

Blackpool player Tamar Connolly and partner Maria Thornley reached the Final of the Ladies Doubles but lost out to Andrea Holt and Grove's Clare Marshall -19, 19, -17 in an entertaining match.

Miss Holt completed a successful weekend when with partner Jon Beer she lifted the Mixed Doubles title, beating Kate Goodall and Clive Carthy 19 and 19.

Flamboyant Malcolm McEvoy of Liverpool won the Class 2 Men's Singles beating Clive Carthy 13, -16, 17 in a tight contest.

The Class 2 Ladies Singles was won by Maria Thornley who edged out Helen Shields- 18, 11, 13.

The Class 3 Mixed event produced some interesting Table Tennis. Michael Brown cruised through the first game of the Final against Richard Whiteley 11, only to lose the second 20, but came through a battle royal in the third 21. A notable win for Claire Marshall in this event, taking the scalp of Lancashire County player Keith Williams.

Sadly the event has lost its sponsor and unless one can be found fairly shortly, it is unlikely that the event will continue a further year.

Woolwich Junior Leagues Start

SEPTEMBER IS THE MONTH WHEN ONE OF THE BIGGEST DEVELOPMENTS IN TABLE TENNIS GETS UNDERWAY — THE START OF THE WOOLWICH JUNIOR LEAGUES.

Following the two official Woolwich Junior League launch days held at the National Indoor Arena during Euro '94, a challenge was made to local leagues all over the Country to set up their own Junior Leagues as part of the national Woolwich sponsorship programme.

The response so far has been superb - 59 leagues confirmed at time of going to press and more announcing their intention to form Woolwich Junior Leagues every day.

The main aim of them is to

give our youngsters the opportunity to step on the first rung of the competitive ladder, but doing so in a way more suited to young people.

“The response so far is superb - 59 leagues confirmed at the time of going to press”.

Woolwich Building Society fully support the junior initiative, and are providing Trophies and Certificates to

League winners. Jane Adams, Marketing Services Officer of the Woolwich is encouraged by the enthusiasm in the regions and looks forward to the scheme going from strength to strength.



Literally thousands of Juniors will be taking part, mostly in two-person teams in multi-table central venues. The ETTA is planning for the Leagues to develop each

year, attracting more and more players into the game.

If you would like to join in, ask your local Table Tennis League for details. If you would like to know where your nearest Woolwich Junior League is, ring the English Table Tennis Association on 01424 722525.

Stamco Sussex Open 2 Star Tournament

This Year's Tournament will be on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th October at Hasting's Sports Centre. The closing date for entries is 15th September and entry forms can be obtained by phoning 01424 425540 (eves) or 01424 752596.

THRILLS IN STORE

SOME THRILLING TABLE TENNIS IS IN STORE FOR FANS OF THE INTERNATIONAL GAME THIS SEASON. THE OPENING GAME WILL BE A WOMEN'S CLASH ENGLAND v POLAND AT HOME ON SEPTEMBER 20TH- THEY ENTER THE SUPER DIVISION, PROMOTED AS DIVISION 1 CHAMPIONS

England's next home match will be October 18th when the Women entertain Sweden. This will be the first opportunity of seeing Marie Svensson on British soil since she was crowned European Champion in Birmingham last Easter. This should be a great game, against

**European Womens League
SUPER DIVISION
GROUP A
ENGLAND, Sweden
Netherlands, Poland
GROUP B
Hungary, Romania
Germany, Belgium**

equally matched sides: Sweden finished joint 3rd in the European League to England's

2nd place.

Xinhua and the England lads begin with two tough away matches against strong opposition, then finish with an Easter home game. Their 1st is in Austria on September 27th. We didn't play them in the League last time, but visitors to the NIA will remember the daunting super-sharp reflexes of former Chinese Ding Yi, No.10 in Europe, who stopped our own Desmond Douglas in 5 nail-biting games.

At Euro '94 England lost 4-2 to the Austrians, but this was a stage when Chen Xinhua was plagued with what is claimed to be a back injury, and he withdrew from the match.



World No.8, Sweden's Marie Svensson in action.

Belgian Battle

On October 25th the men battle against the reigning European League Champions, Belgium. They are a difficult proposition as they possess the current World No.1 Jean-Michel Saive. However they finished 7th at Euro '94, so are not unbeatable.

**Joola European Mens League
SUPER DIVISION
GROUP A
Germany, Sweden
France, Poland
GROUP B
Denmark, Austria
ENGLAND, Belgium**

England followers may recall Chen Xinhua defeated Jean-Michel Saive at Mansfield in February as England beat Belgium 4-3 in the European League Semi-Final 2nd leg - (Belgium went through on aggregate).

The international spotlight turns to Whitwick in Leicestershire for the Men's match against the European League 1st Division Champions, Denmark, which is to be held at the Hermitage Leisure Centre on November 8th.

European League Fixtures List ENGLANDS MATCHES

- 20th September
WOMEN England v Poland (H)
- 27th September
MEN Austria v England (A)
- 18th October
WOMEN England v Sweden (H)
- 25th October
MEN Belgium v England (A)
- 8th November
MEN England v Denmark (H)
Whitwick Leicester
- 15th November
WOMEN Netherlands v England (A)
- 6th December
MEN 2nd Stage 1st Leg (H)
- 13th December
WOMEN 2nd Stage 1st Leg (A)
- 10th January
MEN 2nd Stage 2nd Leg (A)
- 17th January
WOMEN 2nd Stage 2nd Leg
- 11th February
MEN Final/Regulation Play Off
1st Leg
- 14th February
WOMEN Final/Regulation Play Off
1st Leg
- 25th February
MEN Final/Regulation Play Off
2nd Leg
- 28th February
WOMEN Final/Regulation Play Off
2nd Leg

EUROPEAN RANKINGS

MEN		WOMEN	
1. Jean-Michel Saive	Belgium	1. Jie Schopp	Germany
2. Jan-Ove Waldner	Sweden	2. Otila Badescu	Romania
3. Zoran Primorac	Croatia	3. Csilla Batorfi	Hungary
4. Jean-Philippe Gatien	France	4. Nicole Strusse	Germany
5. Peter Karlsson	Sweden	5. Bettine Vriesekoop	Netherlands
6. Andrzej Grubba	Poland	6. Xiaoming Wang-Drechou	France
7. Jorgen Persson	Sweden	7. Fliura Abbate-Bulatova	Italy
8. Jorg Roszkopf	Germany	8. Marie Svensson	Sweden
9. Chen Xinhua	England	9. Yong Tu	Switzerland
10. Yi Ding	Austria	10. Emilia Ciosu	Romania
11. Erik Lindh	Sweden	11. Elena Timina	Russia
12. Mikael Appelgren	Sweden	12. Olag Nemes	Germany
13. Peter Korbel	Czech Republic	13. Jasna Fazlic	Yugoslavia
14. Patrick Chila	France	14. Mirjam Hooman	Netherlands
15. Carl Prean	England	15. Daniela Gergeltcheva	Bulgaria
16. Steffen Fetzner	Germany	16. Alean Suchankova	Czech Rep
17. Jianhua Yang	Luxembourg	17. Galina Melnik	Russia
18. Vladimir Samsonov	Bulgaria	18. Asa Svensson	Sweden
19. Thierry Cabrera	Belgium	19. Lisa Lomas	England
20. Paul Halden	Luxembourg	20. Krisztina Toth	Hungary
29. Alan Cooke	England	36. Allison Gordon	England
46. Matthew Syed	England	39. Andrea Holt	England

EDEN & GOODALL STAR



Andrew Eden and Kate Goodall, winners of this year's U21 Champs.

ZOE FISHER



Yorkshire's Zoe Fisher who has only been playing for a couple of seasons has risen up the ranking list rapidly. She is now coached by Pete Garvey in Hull after being discovered by George Greenfield. Fisher, now 16, lost to Claire News of Cheshire in the QF's of the U18 Womens, narrowly missing out in the 3rd, 23,-16, 19. Zoe topped her season by winning the Woolwich Junior Girls British League title, in partnership with Sally Marling & Gemma Schwartz.

ANDREW EDEN AND KATE GOODALL ARE THIS YEAR'S WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL U21 CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD AT BRIDLINGTON IN MAY WRITES JOHN WOOD.

Meddings in Major Upset

The major upset of the weekend was Steven Meddings' victory over Alex Perry in the Under 18 Men's Final.

This was a real tense battle with the first leg going to Meddings 17, then the second was taken by Perry 15.

But the real excitement was reserved for the third and deciding game, which saw all the way to the end with 15 year old Meddings from Warwickshire taking the trophy, 22-20.

Earlier Meddings also won the Boy's U15 when he beat local boy Michael James from Bridlington, 16 and 21.

The Under 18 Women's Final was expectedly between England's two top Juniors, Sally Marling and Nicola Deaton from Derbyshire, with Marling winning a three-

setter -15, 10, 15.

Cheshire's Kathryn Woodward won the Girl's Under 15 title when the girl

from Cheshire, with her long pimped bat out-foxed Essex's Tracy Davies in a thrilling Battle, 12, -19, 10.

English National U15 / 18 / 21 Championships 1994

- SINGLES**
 M U15 S. Meddings bt M. James 21-16, 23-21
 W U15 K. Woodward bt T. Davies 21-12, 19-21, 21-10
 M U18 S. Meddings bt A. Perry 21-17, 15-21, 22-20
 W U18 S. Marling bt N. Deaton 15-21, 21-10, 21-15
 M U21 A. Eden bt A. Perry 21-17, 21-10
 W U21 K. Goodall bt S. Marling 21-13, 21-17
- DOUBLES**
 M U18 M. Smith/A. Wilkinson bt M. James/S. James 21-17, 21-13
 W U18 N. Deaton/S. Marling bt G. Ashison/S. Ruocco 21-19, 12-21, 21-10
 M U21 A. Eden/G. Solder bt C & S Thompson 17-21, 23-21, 21-13
 W U21 N. Deaton/S. Marling bt K. Goodall/J. Roberts 21-16, 21-16
 U21 Mixed A. Eden/K. Goodall bt A. Perry/S. Marling 21-19, 21-15

Victors Steven Meddings and Sally Marling



This victory for Eden followed on from him winning the Men's Singles crown at the Wintur Thur Open Championships in Switzerland the previous month.

In the Final at Bridlington he faced Devon's Alex Perry, where Lancashire's Eden won in style 17 and 10.

Eden teamed up with Essex's Grant Solder to win a tense three-setter against the Thompson brothers, Spencer and Christian-17, 21, 13.

Goodall's Greater experience was too much for new European Youth Girl's Singles Bronze medallist Sally Marling, as she out-hit the girl from Hull, 13 and 17.

Friday Stars with 10 Titles

SCOTT FRIDAY WAS THE STAR OF THE NATIONAL UNDER 10, 11 & 12 CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE BLETCHLEY LEISURE CENTRE, MILTON KEYNES LAST JUNE, WHEN HE FINISHED HIS TIME IN THE UNDER 12 AGE GROUP WITH A RECORD 10 TROPHIES WRITES JOHN WOOD.

Kent's Friday won the Boy's Single crown when he defeated Peniel's Tim Yardey 18 and 18 in the Final and also took the Boy's U12 Doubles trophy in partnership with local Milton Keynes boy Andrew Baggaley, when they beat Tim Yardey and Tim Cleminson 14 and 15.

Record breaker Friday, who won all his games two straight over the weekend, has now won 10 national singles and doubles titles. Friday's doubles partner Andrew Baggaley had a good weekend too, winning the boy's U11 Singles trophy, beating Tim Yardey in the Final 15 and 11. The boy from Milton Keynes also took the U11 Boy's Doubles crown with David Porter from Avon, overcoming the challenge of Oliver and James Wakelam 15 and 19.

Winner of this year's Girl's U12 Singles was Cheshire's Karen Lockwood who won a thrilling three-setter against Cumbria's Katherine Swann. Lockwood took the first in style, but Swann fought back magnificently with aggression to take the second 17. The third stood at 15-15 before Lockwood's heavy chopping won the next 4 points, then the girl from Cheshire took the title with

a great forehand drive. Lockwood also won the Girl's U12 Doubles Final in partnership with Shropshire's Trudy Bloor, beating Sarah Nouch and Geraldine Booth from Yorkshire 20 and 7.

The Girl's U11 crown went to Hannah Yardy from Essex, who defeated Katy Parker from Lancashire in a close Final 18 and 19. Young Parker, the daughter of Don and Jill Parker, bounced back to win the U10 Final where she dominated her opponent Stacey Collins from Nottingham, winning with all action topspin attack 10 and 9, which is totally opposite to her mum Jill's super defensive style. Perhaps her dad Don has also had some influence.

Katy's brother Adam also had a good day, reaching the U10 Boy's Final where he lost to Lincolnshire's Stephen Davies -19, -14.

These Championships are part of a major new project to assist our young players to reach their full potential and hopefully win International honours. So a special thankyou must go to

Pictured below is Milton Keynes boy Andrew Baggaley and pictured right is jubilant mum Jill Parker with daughter Katy.



Scott Friday and Karen Lockwood

Milton Keynes Borough Council for their continued help towards our sport, as they provided the Bletchley Leisure Centre for these Championships.

RESULTS:

- U10 Boys** S. Davies bt A. Parker
- U10 Girls** K. Parker bt S. Collins
- U11 Boys** A. Baggaley bt T. Yardy
- U11 Girls** H. Yardy bt K. Parker

- U11 Boys Doubles** A. Baggaley/ D. Porter bt J&O Wakelam
- U11 Girls Doubles** H. Swierkowski/ B. Joshi bt J. Lambert/K. Jal
- U12 Boys** S. Friday bt T. Yardy
- U12 Girls** K. Lockwood bt K. Swann
- U12 Boys Doubles** S. Friday/ A. Baggaley bt T. Cleminson/T. Yardy
- U12 Girls Doubles** K. Lockwood/ T. Bloor bt S. Nouch/G. Booth



FUTURE STAR

Up and coming CHRISTIAN HANYS from Folkestone, who is the Kent Under 11 Champion, showed lots of promise for the future at Bletchley. His coach Malcolm Francis said, "Christian's a naturally talented player who should develop into an England player. He's only been playing properly since Christmas!"



Border raiders attack Grantham

ON JUNE 12, CARLISLE, COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF SCOTTISH PLAYERS FROM DUMFRIES TRAVELLED SOUTH TO GRANTHAM IN Lincs AND SHOWED THEMSELVES TO BE ONE OF THE STRONGEST JUNIOR CLUBS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BORDER WRITES **GRAHAM CARTER.**

The record breaking Wolverhampton ladies, left to right are Helen Lower, Jan Dunning (Capt), Jill Harris and Sandra Roden.



They came away winners in 2 out of 3 National Team Finals they contested. They were lead by Scottish glue expert Dr Keith Powell, the man's whose demonstration persuaded National Council to ban glue just over 18 months ago. However at Grantham it was Keith's daughter Tamara, rather than the technical expert, who was making the headlines.

Powell, the Scottish No.1 Cadet was unbeaten in the Hammersley Cup Final against Bournemouth, which Carlisle won comfortably 5-1.

Tamara's team mate Emma Sloan who is the Scottish Junior Champion, caused a shock when she defeated Shelly Ruocco in straight games. This 21-17, 21-19 victory against the England Junior No.4 clinched the Bromfield Trophy for the Northerners. Carlisle beat Chelmsford 5-2, with 3 out of 3 for Sloan.

Hull Hat-trick

Hull completed a superb hat-trick when they retained the Carter Cup. In a close match they pipped Bromley 5 - 3, with Simon James taking the decisive 5th point by out manoeuvring Lee Smith. This is the 3rd year in a row that Hull have won a National Team Championship! Carter Cup this year and last, plus the U14 Trophy, the Leach Cup in 1992. Congratulations to Simon James, Andrew Sugarman and Wayne Marsh.

The Gainsford Cup, the competition for women's clubs, was settled in a most unsatisfactory way. The Grantham club, South Kesteven Sovereigns, on home soil, retained their trophy by virtue of a walkover against Ellenborough, who failed to appear. I understand members of the team were on holiday!

Crawley and Horsham's

contingent of Mike Hammond, Ritchie Venner and Scott Greenbrook put in two creditable performances which were much appreciated by Grantham Table Tennis Centre's spectators. They appeared in two finals, and came away with one trophy. Representing the Ifield club they lifted the Ormesby Cup for a jubilant 4th year in a row, defeating Harrogate Wanderers 5-0.

Harrogate conceded 2 points due to the lurking hamstring injury suffered by Dennis Neale the previous day when they had won their Semi-Final clash against Milton Keynes. However, this was not before Sussex's most improved player Scott Greenbrook, 24, had the satisfaction of beating the former England No. 1, 21-14, 21-15.

Ritchie Venner was attempting to emulate his father, the former England International Harry, who had previously won the Wilmott Cup (7 times!). However, Crawley and Horsham had not banked on having to face the England No. 6 Bradley Billington, who was representing their opponents Northumbria.

As expected, Billington reigned supreme. Representing Northumbria, Bradley, Ian (Benny) Robertson, and Eddie Smith were too much for the South Coasters, and they won 5-0. However, both Greenbrook and Hammond took Billington to three games and Scott in particular did not look out-classed when recovering from 19-18 down to win the 2nd game, despite a difference of 40 places on the ranking list.

Ali Subhan was the linchpin for the Reading cadets who scooped the Leach Cup, 5-3 against Carlisle. He scored all 3 points including a crucial win,

over Scottish No.1 cadet Stuart Wilson, who is also the Carlisle Senior Champion!

Wilson had caused the strong Reading trio a few problems, beating both Robert Pountney and England No. 1 Gareth Herbert 21-18 in the third. I'm sure we will hear a lot more of the Carlisle, or rather Dumfries youngsters during the next couple of years.

In a good demonstration of female sporting prowess, Wolverhampton took the 8th successive Rose Bowl Trophy thanks to a record breaking 5-0 performance against an attractive Plymouth trio.

Jill Harris, Helen Lower and E.T.T.A. Regional Development Officer Sandra Roden looked a real "together" team. All but one of their points were taken in straight games. Jill continued her record of remaining unbeaten in all 8 Rose Bowl Finals.

The Team Finals ran very smoothly, with thanks to Ian McDonald of the South Kesteven Centre, Doris Moors, Mick Strode and Liz Wilson, who organised throughout the season, plus Ken Eliot. The day also signalled the return of Clive Oakman to his role as the English Table Tennis Associations's National Events Manager, as this was his first event since rounding off the massive task of running Euro '94.

National Team Championships Finals Results CARTER CUP

Hull 5 Bromley 3
A. Sugarman bt L. Smith 15, 15. W. Marsh bt R. Waller 12,17. S. James lost to C. Hall -17, 11, -17. W. Marsh bt L. Smith 9, 12. A. Sugarman bt C. Hall -17, 18, 18. S. James lost to R. Waller -17, -21. W. Marsh lost to C. Hall -13, 17, -15. S. James bt L. Smith 18, 13.

GAINSFORD CUP

South Kesteven bt Ellenborough (Walkover)

ORMESBY CUP

Ifield 5 Harrogate Wanderers 0 (Crawley/Horsham)
M. Hammond bt N. Davies 12, 19.
S. Greenbrook bt D. Neale 14, 15.
R. Venner bt R. Whitely 14, 19.
M. Hammond bt D. Neale (Walkover).
R. Venner bt D. Neale (Walkover).

HAMMERSLEY CUP

Carlisle 5 Bournemouth 1

N. Bentley bt T. Young 19, 16.
T. Powell bt G. Poulton 7, 12.
L. Brown lost to E. Moore 24, -13, -17.
T. Powell bt T. Young 13, -10, 13.
N. Bentley bt E. Moore 21, 10.
L. Brown bt G. Poulton 7, -20, 17.

BROMFIELD TROPHY

Carlisle 5 Chelmsford 2

C. Bentley bt S. Davison -17, 19, 20.
E. Sloan bt K. Mason 11, 8.
T. Powell lost to S. Ruocco -6, -15.
E. Sloan bt S. Davison 13, -11, 18.
C. Bentley lost to S. Ruocco -13, -14.
T. Powell bt K. Mason 15, -20, 10.
E. Sloan bt S. Ruocco 17, 19.

WILMOTT CUP

Northumbria 5 Crawley & Horsham 0

I. Robertson bt S. Greenbrook 13, 19.
B. Billington bt M. Hammond -16,10,10.
E. Smith bt R. Venner -10, 16, 14.
B. Billington bt S.Greenbrook 19,-19,18.
I. Robertson bt R. Venner 17, 13.

J. M. ROSE BOWL

Wolverhampton 5 Plymouth 0

H. Lower bt S. Buddell 10, 8.
S. Roden bt H. Wright 20, -16, 13.
J. Harris bt J. Swabey 17, 16.
H. Lower bt H. Wright 14, 18.
J. Harris bt S. Buddell 15, 12.

LEACH CUP

Reading 5 Carlisle 3

R. Pountney lost to A. Marchetti 19,-15,-13.
G. Herbert bt K. Craig 7, 7.
A. Subhan bt S. Wilson 18, 16.
G. Herbert bt A. Marchetti 17, 6.
R. Pountney lost to S. Wilson -9,-13.
A. Subhan bt K. Craig 12, 6.
G. Herbert lost to S.Wilson 12,-12,-18.
A. Subhan bt A. Marchetti 20, 18.

Holland best player

ENGLAND NUMBER 14 MAN, JOHN HOLLAND, REPRESENTING RAINBOW PRESS LTD OF LOUGHTON, WAS BY FAR THE BEST PLAYER IN THE TABLE TENNIS EVENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND CORPORATE GAMES HELD AT THE MILTON KEYNES TABLE TENNIS CENTRE 18TH AND 19TH JUNE WRITES KEN MUHR.

In the Open Men's Singles the Peniel Club man trounced Haringey's Eddy Grant, a surprise conqueror of Clive Carthy, Newham, 21-11, 21-18 in the Semi-Final and then Joe Kennedy, Barking, by an easier margin, 21-10, 21-13. Although it might have been considered that the former Kent player Kennedy, here representing George Wimpey, would give Holland a

closer Final, the younger man was too quick getting in and showed up Joe's lack of competition at the top level. In his Semi-Final, Kennedy had beaten Mark Simon (Newstead Primary School) by the relatively narrow scoreline of 21-18, 21-19. The Two-a-side Mens Team event saw Clive Carthy getting revenge for his Singles defeat in beating twiddler Eddy Grant

21-19, 21-16 in the Hong Kong & Shanghei Bank versus Texaco Final. His colleague Soumen Bose from Ilford then narrowly bettered Enfield's Les Fagan 21-16, 12-21, 19-21 for a 2-0 victory.

Local Milton Keynes interest was fired when Toby Wright, playing for accountants Touche Ross, took the Gold medal in the Under 30 Men's Singles, beating Steve Leven (George Wimpey) from Harrow 21-19, 21-15. And Chelmsford's Steve Kerns (Unibank) celebrated his 30th Birthday in taking the Men's Singles 30-39 title, with a Final 12-21, 21-19, 21-16 victory over Bromley's David Davies (Sedgwick).

Former Welsh International Dave Welsman from Twickenham was in a class of his own in the Men's Singles 40-49, easily beating Vetts Premier Division players from Colchester, Derek Wood (Jerram Falkus) 21-10, 21-8. But Welsman's boss at Exporters Robert Claire, Bill Brookman of Heston went down 16-21, 17-21 to Ruislip's Tony Taylor (Barclays Bank) in a fiercely fought Men's Singles 50-59 event.

However the Robert Claire duo took Gold in the Two-a-side 40+ Team event in beating Milton Keynes Civil Service 2-0, Middlesex veteran Brookman beating David Wackrill (Bucks) 21-11, 21-14 and then hitter Welsman overcoming Bedfordshire defensive veteran Brian Mayfield 21-8, 21-16. In this latter clash there were many spectacular smash-chop rallies - but Welsman won most of them!

Cliff Bull of Northampton gave Barclays Bank a second title when he beat Milton Keynes' Derrick Harris (DJ Pat's Safety Services) 21-14, 21-15 in the Men's 60+ Singles. But Northampton colleague Margaret Maltby (Nationwide Building Society) had to settle for Silver in the Women's Singles 40-49 in losing 12-21, 21-23 to Bucks County Veteran Jackie Thomas (BPB Industries) from Maidenhead.

On her 75th Birthday on the Saturday, Leighton Buzzard's Dolly Harmer, representing the Games' Official Charity, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, took Gold in the Women's over 60's Singles. Dolly was the oldest of over 3,000 competitors from all sports in the Corporate Games.



A triumphant John Holland with his glass medal.

In the unfortunate absence of the Table Tennis competition President, Johnny Leach MBE (who had had an ear operation), Dolly kindly agreed to make the presentations for the Singles events.

Sandra Rider, from Farsley near Pudsey, also struck Gold, when competing for the Leeds Permanent Building Society (of Leeds), she won the Women's Open Singles in defeating Margaret Pavitt (Tate & Lyle) 21-17, 21-14. There being no other competitors, Monique Farez (George Wimpey) was awarded the Gold Medal in the Women's Under 30s Singles.

John Jermyn - Competition Director, Gerald Hammond - Referee, Di Jermyn - Officials & Protocol, Christabel Hammond - Results, the Umpires, Bernard Green and Bill Clark and their team of helpers from the Milton Keynes Table Tennis Centre, and most of all the players themselves again made the Table Tennis event a successful and enjoyable occasion. A pity more local players did not enter. And irritating that my Montego car was again broken into - my fault for having such an upmarket model? The games move to Peterborough next year.

Mens Singles Open 1 John Holland, 2 Joe Kennedy, 3 Mark Simon
Womens Singles Open 1 Sandra Rider, 2 Margaret Pavitt
Mens U30 1 Toby Wright, 2 Steve Leven, 3 David Ayinde
Womens U30 1 Monique Farez
Mens 30-39 1 Stephen Kerns, 2 David Davies, 3 Steven Jan Kolodzins
Womens 40-49 1 Jackie Thomas, 2 Margaret Maltby
Mens 40-49 1 David Welsman, 2 Derek Wood, 3 Michael Pond
Mens 50-59 1 Tony Taylor, 2 William Brookman, 3 Brian Mayfield
Womens 60+ 1 Dolly Harmer
Mens 60+ 1 Cliff Bull, 2 Derek Harris, 3 Charles Taylor
2-a-Side C. Carthy/S. Bose
2-a-Side 40+ 1 W Brookman/ D Welsman

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Streetfighter Sally Wins a Bronze Medal



ENGLAND'S HAUL OF ONE BRONZE MEDAL FROM THE 1994 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS WAS A BOOST FOR THE LARGER THAN USUAL NUMBER OF ENGLISH SPECTATORS WHO ATTENDED, FOLLOWING ON FROM OUR POOR SHOWING IN THE TEAM EVENTS WRITES BARRY GRANGER PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN F. WOOD.

Sally Marling, the Hull Junior almost pulled off the upset of the 1994 European Youth Championships by coming within 4 points of reaching the final of the Junior Girl's Singles event. Seeded to reach only the last 16, at that stage she faced the monumental task of beating Steff of Rumania (the No.2 seed) to get to the Quarter Finals. The English supporters could not believe Sally's superb play as she overpowered Steff 21-11, 23-21 despite being the victim of a disputed edge at the end of the 2nd game. Her next contest was the Quarter Final against Martine Hubert of Belgium whom she had beaten by the narrowest of margins at Bridlington at the English Junior Open in April.

The match swung between both players, 21-17 to Sally, 22-20 to Hubert before Sally, at 13-17 down in the 3rd, called upon her last reserves and

“a match that had the spectators on both sides screaming”.

triumphed 21-19 in a match which had the spectators on both sides screaming.

9am Sunday morning and the scene was set for a Semi Final with Svetlana Ganina of Russia, the defender who was only a Cadet in 1993, but was seeded above Sally. Excellent hitting by Sally in the 1st rewarded her with the game 21-16 and, as in the 1st, Sally came from behind in the 2nd to reach 16-16 and

17-17 but could not find a way through Ganina's defence and lost 18-21. Behind again in the 3rd, Sally came back to 11-14 and 13-15 but Ganina's solid defence became more and more impenetrable and Sally went down 14-21. A marvellous performance by Sally who, at 17-17 in the 2nd, was only 4 points from a place in the Final.





England's Cadet girl
Debbie Pestka



New successful
doubles pairing
of Tracy Davies
(left) and Lyndsey
Thornton



Cadet boys team
with new Chinese
Coach Jai Yi Liu



Junior Boys
doubles pair
Terry Young
and Darren Blake

Cadet Girls Shine

A major disappointment in Paris as our teams finished lower than 1993, except for the Cadet Girls. In comparison to the rest of the teams, the Cadet Girls performed extremely well. They started with a 3-2 win over Turkey (2 singles for Debbie Pestka and the doubles) but then lost 1-3 against a strong French side. However, they bounced back immediately to record a 3-1 win over Belarus and 3-2 over Denmark before falling 1-3 to the eventual champions Germany. This left the girls fighting for places 9 to 12. They suffered two 1-3 defeats - Poland and Croatia - which left them in 12th position. Debbie Pestka fared best in singles and Lyndsey Thornton, who only played singles against Croatia, picked up our only win there. Lyndsey, however, teamed up in doubles with Tracy Davies to win 4 out of 7, including a victory over the Germans.

The Junior Boys were not expected to do as well as the 6th position achieved last year, pulled off some unexpected wins individually, but could not make any impact on the stronger nations. An initial 4-2 victory over Finland (Blake 1, Meddings 2 and the doubles) was followed by successive defeats at the hands (bats?) of Croatia (2-4), Slovakia (1-4), Turkey (2-4), Belgium (2-4) and Belarus (2-4) before a well deserved victory by 4 matches to 3 over Norway for 23rd place.

There were high hopes for the Junior Girls who, after last year's 7th position, were seeded at 7. They won their first group of three very comfortably and were then drawn in to a group of 5 teams with Slovenia, Sweden, Czech Republic and the 1993 silver medallists Lithuania. Although not an exceptionally strong group, it was not going to be easy. And so it turned out as, in the first match, Sally and Nicola went down 1-3 to Slovenia, a match they might possibly have taken to 2-2 with a little

luck in the doubles and then all on the last game. This was followed with a 3-0 against Sweden, who had the European No.8 in the team. At this stage, because of the other results in the group, the girls could still have won the group by beating Lithuania and Czech Republic. This was, however, beyond them and they went down 1-3 to both teams. Playing for 13 to 16, the girls defeated both Poland and Slovakia 3-0 to end 13th. At the end of the day, they were let down by their results in doubles.

Finally, the Cadet Boys, 16th last year, fell to 21st, but there were some fine individual performances by all three boys - Gareth Herbert, Christian Thompson and Jason Sugrue. Starting with a 3-0 against Latvia (wins in singles for Gareth Herbert and Christian Thompson and the doubles) they then lost 0-3 to Romania and 1-3 to Slovakia to leave them fighting for places 13 to 24. Successive defeats by Ukraine 3-0 and Austria 3-2 meant a highest place of 21, which they duly achieved by defeating Portugal 3-0 and Slovenia 3-1. Jason Sugrue, who was only brought in for singles once the team had played 4 matches, won a singles against Austria. In the Slovakia match, all games lost were 18, 19 or 20 and the result could have been different with a little luck.

Ray of Sunshine

As indicated in the opening paragraphs, the only ray of sunshine was Sally Marling's bronze medal in the Girls Singles. However, two boys reached the third round of their respective sections - Steve Meddings firstly defeated T. Rocha (Por) and then F. Spassor of Bulgaria -17, 18, 19 before going down to the No. 14 seed D. Torres of Spain (who beat Simon Angel the No. 3 seed in the next round) -16, -19. Also, Gareth Herbert beat

England's two umpires Richard Avent (middle left) and Bill Lavis, line up to take charge of the Cadet Boy's Final, Eric Illas (left) of Slovakia and the winner Sweden's Magnus Molin.



England's Junior Boy Ben Johnson



The untouchable winner of the Boy's Singles crown Kostadin Lengerov of Austria



Jean Devys of France welcomes a special guest to Paris, the Record Holder of the longest point in a world championship Farkas Paneth. His 1936 record of 2 hours and 15 minutes was the 1st point of the 1st match in the team event at a Hall in Wenceslas Sq. on Friday 13th!





Derek and Josine Tyler, now of Belgium, who met at the European Youth Championships in August 1971 in Ostend. Derek was there leading a team of twelve English Umpires. Derek was in Paris as an observer for the ETTU.

Champions of Europe-1994 Youths

Boys Singles

K. Lengerov (Aut) bt T. Schroder (Ger) 14, 15

Girls Singles

S. Ganina (Rus) bt T. Logatskaya (Belarus) 20, 12

Cadet Boys Singles

M. Molin (Swe) bt E. Illas (Slovakia) 10, 16

Cadet Girls Singles

P. Dermastija (Slovenia) bt C. Fili (Gre) 18, -20, 11

Boys Doubles

A. Smirnov (Rus)/D. Gavrilov (Rus) bt K. Lengerov (Aut)/V. Dolezel (Czech) - 18,16,17

Girls Doubles

A. Manac (Rom)/M. Stef (Rom) bt S. Ganina (Rus)/V. Pavlovich (Belarus) - 9, 17, 20

Cadet Boys Doubles

J. Lundqvist/H. Nyqvist (Swe) bt M. Molin (Swe)/U. Giardina (Ita) 16, 18

Cadet Girls Doubles

R. Strbikova (Czech)/E. Odorova (Slovakia) bt A. Stepankova/M. Vondrakova (Czech) 17, 17.

B. Presslmayr of Austria 21, -16, 12 and J. Apolonia (Por) -14, 14, 16 before bowing out to the No. 14 seed from Sweden H. Nyqvist -10, -9.

Darren Blake lost in round 2 of the singles after an easy victory over a Latvian. He lost to P. Monostosi of Hungary -14, -15. Terry Young and Ben Johnson were both defeated in their first singles and Jason Sugrue was unlucky to go down to the French boy J. Boisard -17, 19, -20. Christian Thompson, however, beat H. Pettersson of Sweden, -19, 16, 19 before losing to M. Jensen (Den) -17, -17.

On the girls side, Debbie Pestka defeated the Welsh girl J. Furber 12, 10 before suffering a defeat by the No. 14 seed from Germany T. Hofmann -16, 16, -19 in a close match. Tracy Davies beat the Croatian B. Poljak 16, 19 before losing -16, -19 in the last 32 to J. Gajic of Sweden. First round defeats for Nicola Deaton against E. Abaimova of Russia 21, -13, -20, Lyndsey Thornton v. R. Agardi (Hun) -10, -13 and Gemma Schwartz 14, -19, -14 v V. Matus of Poland, although it was not surprising as she had only played 1 singles in the previous 5 days of team events!

Very little success in doubles - Nicola Deaton playing mixed with the Spanish

No. 1, V. Sanchez, won 2 rounds before losing to M. Grezo and A. Frtalova of Slovakia -11, -18. Jason Sugrue and Tracy Davies in the Cadet Mixed reached the third round before losing to the No. 6 seeds Lundqvist/Gajic from Sweden 21, -14, -11.

All in all, the players did as well as could be expected given the level of training received compared to that of some of the other European

nations. One last word, there was English representation in the finals as Messrs. Lavis and Avent, the two English umpires, took charge of the Cadet Boys singles final.

Team Event Winners

Junior Boys Denmark

Junior Girls Romania

Cadet Boys Sweden

Cadet Girls Germany.

England's Juniors Gemma Schwartz and Steven Meddings



A BUSY YEAR

**NEW PRESIDENT,
CHINESE GUESTS, THE
KENT JUNIOR OPEN
AND MUCH MORE. THE
1993/94 SEASON WAS A
BUSY ONE WRITES**

ADRIAN HALL

The 1993/94 season started with the election of a new president Mr Fred Coleman, and the re-election of the County's driving force Mr Reg Thompson as Chairman and things have gone from strength to strength under his guidance and ambition. August 1993 saw the arrival in Kent of 12 Chinese coaches and players who were to be the house guests of the Thompson's and Hall's for a month, and what a memorable month it was. The first week was spent in coaching and practice with the Kent players with the following two weeks as an open summer training camp on 32 tables. Our guests took part in two International Exhibition challenge matches against Kent local league players and England ranked guests, the matches attracted over 800 spectators. The highlights involved matches against Skylet Andrew and Sean Gibson, an exhibition of multi-ball, never before seen by the English public and an attempt on the world speed hitting record. The Chinese brought a new dimension to our families and friends, a

Eating the Chinese way. Young Dominic Hall having some problems with the chop sticks!



renewed enthusiasm to the Table Tennis people of Kent and were truly great ambassadors of both table tennis and their country.

During the season Scott Friday and Christian Thompson made the transfer to the National Squad and have subsequently represented England on several occasions, with Christian participating in the European Junior Championships.

The Kent Junior Open, with groups of size proved a great success, and attracted an entry from Belgium, who played a Cadet International on the Friday evening at the Larkfield Club, and once again the support was excellent with over 100 spectators for the match. The coverage we receive from the Kent Press, Radio and TV is excellent and for

the coming season we will have a regular weekly spot on Radio Kent. In addition over 3,000 Kent News Letters are distributed at least 4 times a year.

The relationship with our sponsor, KENT RELIANCE BUILDING SOCIETY, THAKE STORAGE, LENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL, TONBRIDGE AND MALLING COUNCIL, BRIBAR SPORTS, S & G CONSULTANTS, KENT SPORTS DEVELOPMENT, D. B. CONSTRUCTION AND K. K. SERVICES (without whose help a lot of Kent's ambitious programmes would not be possible) continues to flourish and additional support has been gained during the year. In conjunction with Claire Hunter our S. E. Regional Development Officer a £1,500 grant was gained from Sans Frontier (K. C. C.) to be used for European player and coach exchange. With the aid of Sports Match and K. K. Services major sponsorship was obtained for grass roots coaching in Kent and this is being developed to encourage our next generation of players. During the season we have extended our friendship with the Belgium's with four training camps in Kent and Belgium with their National Coach Wang Da Young and their national squad players and coaches.

Invitations were accepted to participate in Generation Atlanta, a French speaking nations tournament, and a party of six

players and two coaches were selected in conjunction with the ETTA who funded the visit. Similarly a Kent organised England team of six players and two coaches took part in the 10th Luxembourg 18 nations tournament prior to the European Championships.

The level of practice we have been able to obtain for our County Squad players along with residential training weekends, has been rewarded by 5 of our representative teams claiming medals this season, with the Senior first team winning their division and the Junior first gaining promotion to the Premier division. Two Vets sides also gained promotion.

And what for the coming season. A week long training camp under the guidance of the Belgium national Coach, and Belgium Senior National Squad players and English national coaches will take place during the 3rd week in August followed by a further week in Belgium. The Kent Junior Open has been granted select status and has attracted several International team entries and with the International team events on the Friday promises to be one of the highlights of the season. Our dream of a County Centre has made considerable progress with a site agreed with KCC and planning applications made.

Our thanks to all who make it possible. - Adrian Hall (County Press Officer)



Action shot of Christian Thompson who has now represented England on several occasions

Blake & Ashison visit Sweden

July and August is traditionally the time for summer training camps. This year the opportunity arose for me to take 2 players - Darren Blake and Glenda Ashison - to train in Sweden writes Gail McCulloch.

The following is Glenda's impression of the training:- "The day was divided into 2 practice sessions, one in the morning from 9.00 - 12.00 and another in the afternoon from 5.00 - 7.00 (the interim time was spent recovering!). Concentration was maintained at a maximum throughout the sessions by 5 minute breaks every ½ hour.

The physical aspect of the training was difficult to start with, but gradually got easier, flexibility exercises (not Darren's strong point) and 4.6 k runs everyday (not

Darren Blake and Glenda Ashison (pictured centre front row) climbing the steps of success at a Swedish Summer Camp.



mine) were at first the biggest difference from out normal training at home.

Practice sessions were intense especially when training with the likes of Philippe Saive and Marie

Svensson!

It has to be said that Saive was quite a clown with his "morning" at all times of the day and his mickey-taking e.g. his 73 year old grandma has faster footwork than Darren, and his copying of Gail's famous saying of "you listening?"

We also met the Swedish version of Skylet Andrew in the form of Kayode Kadin - black, good looking, athletic and very flexible.

Throughout the 2 weeks stay at the Lyckeby Club, Glenn Osth was most hospitable especially in directing us to the ice cream

parlour! He also invited everyone to his home on Saturday afternoon for ball games on the lawn. Here, Gail got a little competitive whilst ice-cool Blake strolled into the heated final of the "mini-bowls" competition, only to lose in straight sets.

It was unfortunate that several players had to leave for a national training camp, 3 days before we returned to England but Glenn's vigorous multi-ball training and 4 k runs through the forest certainly made up for this loss.

We would like to thank Glenn for a most enjoyable stay at the Lyckeby Table Tennis Club, Sweden and for the insight that it has given us into training at the highest level."

From a coaching point of view, I also learnt a great deal. It is not surprising that the Swede's are so successful, if what we experienced was the norm of Swedish club table tennis training.

It is likely that there will be an opportunity for more players to train in Sweden next summer. Anyone who is interested should contact me for more details.

County Championships

The County Championships programme starts on 24th September with a record entry of 198 teams for the 1994/5 season.

There are more Senior teams - bringing the total to 62. This includes newcomers Cleveland and it is good to welcome back teams from Norfolk and Northants, who did not complete last season. Bucks, Lincs and Wiltshire have entered second teams. There are 2 withdrawals - Avon 2nds and Gwent.

It is disappointing to note a reduction of 3 teams in the Junior Section bringing the total entry to 57 teams. But it is good news that, as a result of the success with development of Junior activities in the area, a team is entered from

Herefordshire. However, Cheshire have withdrawn their 2nd team and sadly Gwent, Northumberland and Staffs have withdrawn their only team in the competition.

The Veterans Section continues to expand. There are 3 extra teams making a total of 79. Devon, Wiltshire and Yorkshire have added a team and there is a new entry from Suffolk.

The first round of Senior Premier Division matches will be played over the weekend 24/25 September. Champions Essex will meet Lancashire, Devon and Staffordshire. The other matches are:

DY v. DV, BK v. MI, DY v. BK, MI v. ST, ST v. DY, MI v. LE, LE v. BK, LA v. LE, LA v. DV.



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SILVER FOR THORNTON

A KENT-ORGANISED ENGLAND SELECT TEAM PARTICIPATED IN THE LUXEMBOURG 18 NATION TOURNAMENT WRITES ADRIAN HALL.

This event is considered to be the most important European event prior to the European Championships. Pride of place went to Lindsey Thornton who came away with a Silver medal in the Cadet Girl's category.

The party, organised by Reg Thompson, left Kent on the 8.00am Dover-Calais ferry and made the long drive via France and Belgium to the National Sports Centre of Luxembourg by 3.30pm ready for a 5.30pm start to the matches. The schedule of matches and organisation were 1st class, at no time did a match start late and players from all countries were at the table waiting to commence the next match.

One thing that did take us by surprise initially was that all matches started at 5-5, not only did this help keep the matches on

time to the 20 minute schedule but also ensured that players concentrated right from the start. Each participating Nation produced a team of 3 boys & 3 girls, covering U12 (Mini), U14 (Cadet) and U17 (Junior). The playing schedules were such that 2 boys or girls were never on together allowing the team captains to coach each player individually. Play commenced in 2 groups of 9, with all playing all in the 1st stage, which finished in time for lunch on the Saturday.

The afternoon session saw the 1, 4 & 5 from one group combine the

2, 3 & 6 of the other group, where again all played against those they had not previously played. The bottom 3 of each group formed a 3rd group played on the same basis to determine places 13 to 18. By the Saturday evening everyone had played 11 matches. Sunday saw the Play-Offs for 1st to 12th place.

Everyone performed creditably, but without doubt Terry Young and Christian Thompson were at a disadvantage playing without glue, and Terry was better than his 13th place. Christian did well to achieve 4th and perhaps could have done

better but has a habit of failing to win from good positions. Scott Friday's 7th place was below his own high expectations and he must learn to be more consistent with spin when his quick-fire game is not in full flow, having said that, there were no bad players, and every win was a good result.

Glenda Ashison was unbeaten on the Friday, but failed to keep it up the next day, to finish in a creditable 10th position. The opposite was the case in Lindsey Thornton's programme, from only winning 1 on Friday, she fought her way courageously to a Silver.

The biggest cheer from the Kent delegation was for the 1st victory for 10 year old Katy Parker in the Mini Girls when she won a nail-biter 22-20 in the 3rd against Belgian Melanie Leupe.

What a pleasure it was to see the Girl's Captain Jill Parker (Ex World No.6 and past Euro Champion) cross knocking on the same table as daughter Katy making her International debut, it certainly had the cameras clicking.

Our thanks go to the Luxembourg TTF for their hospitality, splendid food and organisation.

Junior Boys Terry Young 13th
Cadet Boys Christian Thompson 4th
Mini Boys Scott Friday 7th
Junior Girls Glenda Ashison 10th
Cadet Girls Lindsey Thornton 2nd
Mini Girls Kate Parker 18th

England's Select Team (left to right) Glenda Ashison, Kate Parker, Lindsey Thornton, Scott Friday, Christian Thompson and Terry Young.



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NORTH WEST REGION

Karen Tonge

The North West Youth Cup 1993-94 was held at Kingsway Centre, Widnes sponsored by Cheshire County Council Sport and Recreation and organised in conjunction with the North West Region Development Committee of the ETTA. The participants were from all over the Region travelling including Blackpool, Liverpool, Crewe and Stockport at the extremities. The overall Club Trophy was retained by Gautby Road, Wirral due to the good performances returned by their strong Girl's section. This well supported event was attended by Don Parker, Director of Coaching for the ETTA. He was very pleased with the amount of match practice the day provided and the promising performances especially by some of the younger competitors. **Results:** **U12 Girls** Terri-Anne Nolan (Gautby Road Wirral) bt Katy Parker (Deepdale Club Preston) 16, 19 **U12 Boys** Christopher Dunn (G. Rd Wirral) bt Andrew Rushton (Walkden Conservative Club, Farnworth, Manchester) 8, 14. **U14 Girls** Alice Howard (G. Rd Wirral) bt Terri-Anne Nolan (G. Rd Wirral) 20, 19. **U14 Boys** Gregory Lee (Wingates, St Johns, Bolton) bt Christopher Dunn (G. Rd Wirral) 16, - 18, 14. **U17 Girls** Alice Howard (G. Rd Wirral) bt Terri-Anne Nolan (G. Rd Wirral) 9, 19.

U17 Boys Kevin Dolder (St Helens) bt Gregory Lee (Bolton) 21, 10.

U21 Girls Alice Howard (G. Rd Wirral) bt Kirsten Williams (Park Rd Club, Blackpool) 14, - 17, 18.

U21 Boys Kevin Dolder (St Helens) bt Stephen Jones (Birkenhead LTC) 15, 9. **U17 Boys Doubles** K. Dolder/C. Cronin (St Helens) bt G. Lee (Bolton) and A. Harvey (Castlefields Runcorn) 18, 19.

U17 Girls Doubles K. Parker (Pretton) and K. Williams (Blackpool) bt R. Nolan (G. Rd Wirral) and P. Jones (Runcorn) 13, 21.

U14 Class 2 Boys G. Lee (Bolton) bt E. Tully (St Helens) 13, 13.

U14 Class 2 Girls K. Parker (Preston) bt G. Lloyd (G. Rd Wirral) - 21, 18, 16.

U17 Class 2 Girls A. Howard (G. Rd Wirral) bt K. Williams (Blackpool) 19, 19.

U17 Class 2 Boys Finalists G. Lee & C. Dunne to be played.

A new event of an over 21 with an under 21 produced some family partnerships with the winners from Chester, father Geoff Rushton with son Andrew beating father Frank Sorrentino with daughter Annabelle (G. Rd Wirral) 14, 9.

Overall Result

Obtained from Clubs gaining points for reaching Semi-Finals / Finals.

1st Gautby Road, Wirral 159pts

2nd St Helens Juniors 20pts

3rd St Johns Wingates, Bolton 18pts

The trophies were presented by Ken Williams, Sports Development

Promotions Officer of Cheshire County Council.

SOUTH WEST REGION

Alf Peppard

Coaching Congratulations to John Menzel of Cambourne who recently qualified as a ETTA Level 3 Coach - a fine achievement which has taken considerable time, work and cash flow to complete. Besides doing a huge amount of coaching at the moment, John is now as a tutor and can pass budding coaches through their basic qualifications, yes, the West Cornwall TTL do need more coaches, any interested persons should contact John Menzel on Cambourne 711456 (H), and remember, you don't have to be a good player to be a competent coach.

Cambourne School is open every Monday evening to any interested players for summer coaching and practice - coaching is from 6pm - 8pm and practice is from 8pm - 10pm at just the cost of only £1.

WC Table Tennis League

Presentation Evening

The change of venue this past season certainly did the trick as an all time record of ninety people attended the Annual Presentation Evening held at Crossroads Hotel, Scorrier, Nr. Redruth on Friday May 13th with more again attending the subsequent presentation of trophies, Clubs that were represented were Cambourne, Falmouth Docks, Godolphin, Peoples Palace, Penryn RFC, Redruth Highway, RNAS Culdrose, St Ive and Truro.

Special thanks must be extended to

the League's sponsors for once again taking the trouble to attend and assist in presenting the trophies - the League were pleased to welcome Mr Trevor Huntley (Kessells Garages), and Mr David Harris (National Westminster Bank), and to acknowledge their generous support to our game, thanks must also be extended to Roger Jacobs for yet another superb role as MC.

I end this report on a sad note, long before last season ended I heard rumours that Bathwick Tyres in the Friendly Hotels British League were in serious trouble, so, without further ado I telephoned Mr Bob House to seek out just what was going on. Mr House the long standing Secretary of Bathwick Tyres duly confirmed the very worst, that he had indeed once had 3 teams registered, and that Bathwick Tyres had won the Premier Division (when Des Douglas was in the team), but now, owing to lack of funds (£120 required for 3 teams participating in one afternoon's session at the Bath Sports & Leisure Centre), this plus the withdrawal of sponsorship by the main benefactors, had indeed proved a crippling blow to the Club's financial moral. Mr House was emphatic that for this forthcoming season he was forced to withdraw all of his teams, and in further discussion with me, he mentioned that OVERALL a sum of around £3,000 per annum was required to keep the teams on the road, other as yet not mentioned expenses involved were payment for Umpires and Players travelling expenses.

We concluded our discussion by Bob House courageously, saying that we hoped that Bathwick Tyres would perhaps one day arise again like a phoenix from the ashes, and knowing Bob House's TT pedigree, it could well do.

EAST MIDLANDS REGION

Gordon Oke

The East Midlands Region based their Summer Training Camp at the beautiful Derbyshire setting of Lea Green, in a very large period built stone house where 56 persons can be accommodated. This enabled everyone to have a single bed (not sleeping bags).

The sports facilities consisted of a very large sports hall in which video equipment was used to identify development of the players together with a conference room, modern showers and changing rooms and a large sports field. Breakfast consisted of cereals together with 4 cooked items. Lunch and dinner were of a high quality and the total cost for 5 full days was £175.00.

The players worked hard to a very structured routine so although there relaxation periods, no time was wasted.

The staff of Myself, Derrick Marples, Dennis Worrell, Stuart Worrell and Linda Collins were assisted on the Tuesday by Alan Cooke, and on the Thursday by Alison Gordon, giving a strong insight of play at international level. All the course members played both players as well as being coached by them.

Mailbox

Ban?

Table Tennis manufacturers have taken the harmful elements out of speed glues, and there are many ITTF approved glues available on the market, so the case for banning glue because it is so detrimental to health is now redundant. So why hasn't the ban been lifted?

During Euro '94 where ITTF approved glues were in use, Don Parker told the Observer that he agreed with the ban because many English internationals defend and glue makes the defensive style of play difficult. In other words 'ban glue because our players struggle against it'. Is this the hidden agenda behind the glue ban? I don't see Tennis coaches calling for the ban of Carbon Fibre rackets, because their players struggle against the faster ball and style of play.

In the Semi-Finals of Euro '94 Waldner and Primorac proved that glue doesn't destroy rallies, and most of the shots from that encounter could not have been achieved without speed glue. I'm sure that the spectators enjoyed the match as well. Spectators will not come flooding in because rules have been changed or glue has been banned, but they might if the ETTA change their attitude towards the game and stop patronising its players.

Tiggy Conteh Leicester

From New Zealand

Ron Wells, former Chairman of Newbury and District Laegue, left for New Zealand earlier this year and we are delighted to receive the following letter a few weeks ago:

My apologies for not writing sooner, I always intended to wait until I had a permanent address, delayed by vendors deciding not to sell at the last minute and similar 'snow-ball' effects. In addition, our goods, including necessary address information, did not arrive until Good Friday morning!

First of all may I thank the Newbury TTA for the tankard presented to me by Robin Burns on your behalf, it will always remind me of the almost 40 years play I enjoyed in the Newbury League.

As far as Table Tennis is now concerned, I arrived here towards the end of the summer season. I did eventually make the acquaintance of a couple of vets who were intending to go to Melbourne for the World Veterans Championships, with only makeshift practice facilities available for preparation. Because of both lack of TT and 80 packages to sort into a new home I decided against going to Melbourne!

However, over the Easter weekend, I went with them to the New Zealand Veterans Championships. I 'over-did' it in the team events, though with reasonable success, but then could hardly move in the individual events. Team events consisted of 2 players making a total of 4 singles and a doubles in a round robin arrangement. After six matches in the

first day I was stiff, after the 2nd day of 2 more matches and 3 singles groups (2 of four and 1 of five) - 2 of them being played simultaneously - I could hardly move! However, I did come back with a Gold in the over 60's team event and a Silver from the over 50's team Competition I do not think there will be anything like league table tennis over here as the population density, except perhaps in the bigger cities e.g. Auckland, is too low, I will keep in touch.

Best wishes to you all and hope

93/94 season has gone well,

Ron Wells Napier, New Zealand.

Serious Matter

A SERIOUS MATTER has been brought to the attention of the Tournaments Committee that certain players are entering 2 tournaments on the same day in different parts of the Country, with obvious intentions of not being able to play in both.

On 2 occasions, the same players did not appear at either event. Hopefully the players are aware that not only could the seeding be affected, but they are letting down the sponsors, organisers and the referee. There have been several occasions when players have not turned up and have not had the common decency to let the organiser or referee know. We believe that it should cease immediately. Let's have some good manners and consideration to a band of officials who willingly give up their weekend to organise tournaments on your behalf **G. Hammond** Sec. Tourn. Committee.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Paul Baker is the English Table Tennis Association's first ever Facilities Officer. Employed in a new two year post, Paul is six months into the job. He is now fully immersed in implementing the facilities programme for the future. But what exactly is the role of the Facilities Officer?

It was identified by the ETTA that table tennis needs specialist professional expertise in the sphere of facilities. As part of the Focus Sport plan, technical information needs to be gathered and given out in order to carry out the huge improvement programme for table tennis facilities.

Enter Paul Baker. A rare breed: qualified architect and former British League Player. Paul is from Camberley, and is based in an architect's office in the beautiful surroundings of Henley-On-Thames, Oxfordshire. His position, like that of the Regional Development Officers, is made possible by Sports Council funding.

Mobile Consultant

However, Paul is far from 'Stuck' in his office. In a typical week he could be out three or four days, all around the country attending meetings with local groups working on facilities projects.

What exactly does he do? I'll allow him to tell you this in his own words:- "I see the role as working in four areas".

1. Facilities - helping to co-ordinate the planning required to build brand new Regional Centres, which are purpose built for table tennis.

2. Facts - Gathering together a body of information in order to produce a bank of data sheets and provide materials advice.



The English Table Tennis Association's first Facilities Officer, Paul Baker, now fully immersed in a programme for the future.

(These will keep people informed long after Paul's two year contract is completed.)

3. Architectural advice - Providing professional expertise to help those who are planning improvements to existing buildings or even complete new centres. Typically the areas in which information could be useful are:- flooring, lighting and layout of the building itself.

4. Promoting the European club set-up - It is ETTA policy to encourage the setting up of multi-table clubs, where both competitive and non-competitive play can flourish.

Can the Facilities Officer do all the plans and drawings required to get a project designed? No, he offers help and guidance, but a lot of work and initiative needs to come from the people who want the development to happen. "I can do preliminary sketches which will help people picture what a project could look like".

Facilities Panel

Paul Baker is part of the recently formed Facilities Panel. This is composed of the ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome, Treasurer Peter Hillier, Vice Chairman for Development Mike Lewis, National Development Manager Diccon Gray, and Paul. They have carefully studied many worthwhile schemes from around the country.

Much of the work of the panel has been to direct grants from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts towards seven major projects to build table tennis centres.

Forming Partnerships

In each case the ETTA member organisations are entering into partnership with other parties, like the Sports Council or local authorities, to get a significant project agreed. The list is:- Isle of Wight, (6 table centre), Deer Park School, Cirencester (9 table), Bishop Reindorp School, Guildford (8 tables), Mossford

Table Tennis Centre Ltd. Ilford - part funding towards private scheme which was built and opened in September 1993, Cippenham, Slough a massive 12 table venture, Hyndburn, Lancashire (6 tables), Hull Young Persons Institute (5 tables).

It should be stressed that with exception of Ilford, the above schemes are in planning stages and still have a long way to go before being built.

As well as the large projects, Paul visits groups who have been referred by the Regional Development Officers. They may need guidance in deciding what type of facility development best suits their needs and aspirations.

Type of Facility Development

There are 4 main types of table tennis facilities development:-

*Purpose Built - Specialist centre for table tennis.

*Bolt On' - Adding a table tennis hall to an existing building/sports centre.

*Dual Use' - Building a hall which can be shared for other uses e.g. by a school.

*Conversion - A building already exists, but needs upgrading in order to house table tennis.

Focus Sport

How important are facilities to the future of sport?

Crucial, according to ETTA Chairman Alan Ransome, "The provision of improved playing facilities, including the building of permanent table tennis centres is the single most important part of the Focus Sport programme. With our Facilities Officer in place, we have a unique chance to benefit from architectural and technical expertise which will help our members to take full advantage of the opportunities currently available."

"The Foundation for Sports and the Arts has already allocated over £1 million to table tennis, and with the National Lottery commencing in November, the largest fund for facilities in the history of sport is available. With table tennis being the Sports Council's first Focus Sport, we are in pole position."

Access to Paul Baker is generally made via the nine full time Regional Development Officers, but if you need to discuss anything on the technical side of facility development ring him on 0491 579113.



Table Tennis champion Skylet Andrew shows Srina Papini, 11 years, some useful table tennis tips when he launched Hounslow Council's Table Tennis Centre of Excellence at Heston Sports Hall on Saturday 7th May.

Good Sport!

Hounslow Council has joined forces with the ETTA and the Sports Council to open the centre, which is the first of its kind in the borough to encourage more people to take up the sport.

The European champion took on fellow table tennis champion Desmond Douglas and local TT fans in a special star challenge at the centre in New Heston Road, Heston during the free open day.

More information from Patricia Hicks at Heston Sports Hall on 081 570 6544.

England fade after clean sweep in Team Events

ENGLAND BOYS AND GIRLS MADE A CLEAN SWEEP IN THE TEAM EVENTS, BUT BADLY FADED IN THE INDIVIDUALS, WHERE ENGLAND'S ANDREW WILKINSON WAS OUR ONLY SUCCESS DESPITE THE FACT THAT ENGLAND REACHED 5 OUT OF 6 SINGLES FINALS WRITES REA BALMFORD.

For the first time, the Schools International Tournament moved across the Irish Sea to Dublin, during the first week in July, where the sense of occasion at the Dublin City University was something special.

And something special where all the England teams in the Team Events, where they boys won all three age groups without the loss of a game.

Wales were the stars of the Individuals winning three trophies, Ryan Jenkins the Boys under 16, Natasha Williams the Girls under 18, and Bethan Dauton the Girls under 14.

Hosts Ireland were not left out, as their Michelle McGreevy won the Girls under 16.

Yes, competition at the top is becoming tighter and the gap is narrowing, although whether it will ever close completely is open to question.

The reason for its existence is, I am sure, purely geographical - large cities and urban industrial areas throughout England giving young players a competitive stage on which to perform from their earliest years in the sport, while the other home countries have to contend with long travelling distances between isolated and often only small centres of population.



Welsh hero Ryan Jenkins who won the Boy's U16 final beating Ireland's Paul Fitzpatrick.



England's Andrew Wilkinson.

My mind goes back a number of years to when Scotland fielded two girls from Orkney in their squad - what an exercise in logistics to bring them down to join the main party on the mainland, never mind organizing pre-tournament 'get-together' and practice.

Although many English youngsters do not appreciate it, practice, coaching and match facilities are relatively easy to come by compared with the problems experienced by other Home Countries and 'guest' team Iceland.

Yes - Iceland - some two years ago I was watching little Gudmunder Stephenson and think

ing what a find prospect he could be with the right opportunities. And, obviously, he has left no stone unturned to avail himself of those opportunities as he earned a top seeded spot in the B14 event and went on to justify it with a three set win over England's Gareth Brown.

It was Andrew Wilkinson, like Brown, a Tyneside boy, who pulled off England's only Individual win the B18 with a final victory over Ian Eaton, who had taken out English Junior National Champion Jun Tsuji in his second outing.

Shock in the Boys Individuals was the dismissal of top seed and England No. 2 Steven Meddings at the first time of asking by Scotland's Craig Brown. It must have been something of a shock for Meddings to play in the Consolation Event, but no excuses were made - play he did, and duly reached the final, getting the better of Irish boy Brian Fitzgerald in a tight three setter.

England girls Jennifer Coleman (G18), Claire News (G16) and Emma Smith (G14) all reached the final, but all fell at the last hurdle, with Natasha Williams (Wales), Michelle McGreevy (Ireland) and Beth Daunton (Wales) taking the titles.

As we have seen, strength in depth showed through in the Teams Competition with the Boys' teams never dropping more than one game other than in the B14 semi-final against Scotland where, after Robert Svensson (2), Robert Abbotts and Gareth Brown had chalked up singles wins, it needed the Brown - Gerald Ashison pairing to carry the final doubles to earn a point from a 5-5 draw.

The girls were equally convincing with the only G18 final against Wales seeing more than two games conceded, but the result had already been settled at 6-1 before the match was played out to a finish at 7-3.

But, while everybody gives of his (or her) best on the table, it is not all about winning, and the friendships built in this atmosphere of healthy competition are something that will last long after the scoreline of 21-? has been forgotten.

Thank you, Ireland, once again for playing hosts to our young T. T. enthusiasts - I personally missed renewing the friendships made over the years, but I shall look forward to meeting you all again in the years to come - roll on, Schools International 1994/5.

Results Summary

Team Events Finals

B18 England bt Iceland 6-0.
B16 England bt Ireland 6-0.
B14 England bt Ireland 6-0.
G18 England bt Wales 7-3.
G16 England bt Ireland 10-0.
G14 England bt Scotland 6-2.

Individual Events Finals

B18 A. Wilkinson (Eng) bt I. Eaton (Eng) 18, 16. B16 R. Jenkins (Wal) bt P. Fitzpatrick (Ire) 17, 17. B14 G. Stephenson (Ice) bt G. Brown (Eng) 12, -17, 15. G18 N. Williams (Wal) bt J. Coleman (Eng) 12, 16. G16 M. McGreevy (Ire) bt C. News (Eng) 18, -22, 19. G14 B. Daunton (Wal) bt E. Smith (Eng) 17, 14.

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Lisa & Jackie just fail in their World Record bid...

**LUTON SISTERS FAIL
WORLD RECORD
BREAKING ATTEMPT
BUT THEIR SHOW IS A
BIG HIT!**

Lisa Lomas from Luton, England's number 1 table tennis player and English Champion 1994, and Jackie Bellinger (England coach) failed to break their own world record speed hitting of 173 shots per minute, but the table tennis exhibition in Stopsley last Thursday turned out to be a marvellous top table tennis performance.

A fluorescent display of table tennis in darkness, never before performed for public, a demonstration of skills with the crowd being involved, an exhibition match between Lisa Lomas and England number 2 Andrea Holt (which was won by Lisa 21-18 and 25-23) and the official world record breaking attempt were the perfect ingredients for the event combined with a good mix of commentary, sound and lighting effects.

The only disappointment on the night was that Lisa and Jackie did not succeed in breaking their own world record speed hitting. In their first attempt they hit 161 shots per minute, followed by 166 shots at second attempt, only 8 shots and less than 3 seconds away from a new record. After this nerve wrecking and concentrated effort, the Luton girls made one last attempt and started off well, to see their decisive rally end with one unfortunate miss of the table.

Nevertheless, there was not the slightest grudge from the public



**Women in action
(left to right)
Lisa Lomas,
Andrea Holt and
Jackie Bellinger.**

..but their show was still a big hit!

as Lisa, Jackie and Andrea managed to serve table tennis at it's best and as pure entertainment. Furthermore, all proceeds from ticket sales, donations and a raffle on the night went towards charity, the Cardiac Appeal of the Luton and Dunstable Hospital. And last but not least, Lisa Lomas had taken the initiative to support the Women in Action program launched by Luton Borough

Council.

The response from the crowd was very positive. "A perfect display of top sport" and "An ideal family event, I wish my kids were here" are just a few of the comments recorded on the night.

Lisa completely staged the event in Stopsley herself to support the above causes. Full support was however given by a number of sponsors, Coopers & Lybrand (Chartered Accountants and Management Consultants), the Luton based company Premier Print, Butterfly (Suppliers of sports equipment), Curver (Plastic household products), the Luton based IBIS hotel and ESP Lighting. These sponsors provided assurance that all revenue on the night could go

to the Cardiac Appeal.

With the exhibition in Stopsley a format has been tested successfully to entertain a wide public with the "art of celluloid". The exhibitions will be promoted throughout the UK during the coming months. The team has prepared an attractive package to organisers, which includes all of the stage management (by Clive Oakman) and the supply of equipment and promotional materials. Additionally, a complete action plan will be made available to the organiser.

If you are interested in staging an exhibition, contact Ron Veldhuizen, 8 Farmfiled Close, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN15 5PR, Tel/Fax 0536-725530 (evenings).

**Coopers
& Lybrand**

NEWS FROM THE COUNTIES

BERKSHIRE ROUND-UP

• JOHN CUNNINGHAM

A season dominated by the juniors with Ben Johnson in his last year as a junior leading Berkshire to the Premier title. It was no one man band however with all the squad performing with credit.

Ben was also involved with the kingfisher side that won the Woolwich British Junior League. Joined by Ali Subhan, Terry Young and Gareth Herbert they swept all before them to take the title. An inspired Ali Subhan led Reading to the Johnny Leach cadet title, aided and abetted by Gareth Herbert, and the Poutney brothers, Robert and Paul. Earlier they had beaten a brave Bracknell trio in the zone final.

On the local scene the spotlight is on the Newbury League, starting with the 1994 Junior Closed held at AWE Aldermaston. Pavan Rajah had a great tournament treble including an outstanding win over his great rival David Burns in the boys under 15 event.

Under 15 Boys Singles

P. RAJAH, Runner Up D. Burns

Under 15 Girls Singles

No Event (lack of competitors)

Under 15 Doubles

P. RAJAH / D. BURNS

Runners Up R. Hudson / C. Arkill

Under 15 Graded Doubles

R. HUDSON / G. ABEL

Runners Up C. Arkill / D. Wise

Under 13 Girls Singles

E. HUDSON, Runner Up R. Thomas

Under 13 Boys Singles

P. RAJAH, Runner Up J. Shally

Under 11 Mixed Singles

R. HUDSON,

Runner Up G. Carruthers

Under 11 Con Singles

I. CRITCHELL, Runner Up N. Abel.

There was a shock result in round two of the Under 15 Boys Singles when Iain Brownlee lost 11 - 21, 21 - 14, 19 - 21 to Jonathan Shally, whilst it was good to see young Brian Gambell, who has had such a hard baptism in Division 4, winning some matches in these Championships.

The most enthusiastic and excited competitor with his own performance was Grant Curruthers of Enbourne Lodge in the Under 11 Singles. Grant beat

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Berkshire's Kingfisher side that won the Woolwich Junior British League (Left to right) Ben Johnson, Gareth Herbert, Ali Subhan and Terry Young.



Ian Critchell in the semi-finals 21-15, 21-8, and then finished runner-up in the final to the No. 1 seed. Grant's team manager Neil Webster was delighted with his achievement.

Youngest player in the tournament was nine year old Rebecca Thomas and she deserves a pat on the back for her efforts.

Newbury and District Senior Closed Championships Roll of Honour

Mens Singles

C.PAYNE, Runner Up D. Jones

Ladies Singles

B.LEE, Runner Up J. Parker

Mens Doubles

C.PAYNE / T.REYNOLDS

Runners Up R.Etridge / D.Jones

Ladies Doubles

B.LEE / J.BARRATT

Runners Up J.Parker / S.Purton

Mixed Doubles

B.LEE / A.DUKE

Runners Up J.Parker / M.Record

Division One Singles

J.PARKER, Runner Up A.Duke

Intermediate Singles

J.THAKURDAS, Runner Up S.Morris

Veteran Singles

C.WILKES, Runner Up A.Duke

Under 21 Singles

S.WISE, Runner Up J.Barratt

Division Four Singles

N.BROWN, Runner Up J.Barratt

Handicap Singles

N.BROWN, Runner Up J.Mead

Handicap Doubles

T.REYNOLDS / M.RECORD

Runners Up D.Jones / P.Benham

STOP PRESS

Thanks to Brian Latham the Berkshire Intertown did run Final Scores: Maidenhead 29 points, Newbury 26, Reading 25, Bracknell 15.

Also well done to coach Jim Stokes who this week has foals from his stable, Gemma Schwartz, Ben Johnson, Terry Young and Gareth Herbert, who played in the European Youth Championships in Paris.

CUMBRIA

• GORDON BROWN

STEPHEN DIXON, of Kendal, officially took over as Cumbria Association match secretary at the annual meeting at Brathay Hall, Ambleside, on Thursday

June 23rd. He succeeds long-serving John Taylor, of Millom.

Other officials were re-elected, vis., chairman: Bob Gale (Kendal); vice-chair: Clarice Rose (Ambleside); secretary: Colin Taylor (Barrow); treasurer: Richard Johnstone.

The association hope to organise a county trial at Park View Table Tennis Centre, Barrow, in October. The county team will again play in the county championship division 2a, which for 1994-95 comprises nine teams with Cleveland and Lincolnshire providing fresh opposition compared to last season.

Kendal and District League will change their formula for awarding league points when the new season starts. Instead of awarding four points for a 10-0, 9-1 or 8-2 victory, three points for 7-3 or 6-4 and two points for a 5-5 draw, they will give one point for each set gained by a team. For example a team winning 10-0 would receive 10 points.

Congratulations to North Lancs on winning last season's first division championship and to their players, Colin Pratt and Carl Stebbing. Colin won the open singles, beaten by Carl, who beat him in the veterans' final. Carl and son Paul Stebbing won the open doubles.

League officials for the coming season are:-Chairman: Bob Gale; secretary: Charles Usher; treasurer: Mick Taylor; match secretary: Dave Phillips.

Individual tournament results

Open singles: Colin Pratt (North Lancs) beat Carl Stebbing (North Lancs); women's singles: Abigail Robertshaw (Natland) beat Jeanette Bannister (Natland); under 17 singles: Mark Webster (Burton) beat Howard Pimblett (QKS); under 13 singles: Zac Dixon (QKS) beat Nye Jayne (Natland); veterans' singles: Carl Stebbing (North Lancs) beat Colin Pratt (North Lancs); handicap singles: Peter Rushton (Natland) beat Zeke Dixon (QKS); open doubles: Carl Stebbing (North Lancs) beat Mark Webster and Daniel Thomas (Burton); mixed doubles: Abigail Robertshaw (Natland) and Mark Webster (Burton) beat Jeanette Bannister and Phil Petts (Natland)

● Kendal & District Table Tennis League - League tables for 1993/94 Season

DIVISION 1 - Final	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTH LANCS	14	13	1	0	125	15	52
NATLAND A	14	11	1	2	107	33	46
IBIS	14	8	1	5	73	67	31
ROYAL MAIL A	14	7	1	6	68	72	29
NATLAND B	14	6	1	7	64	76	25
NATLAND C	14	5	0	9	53	87	20
BURTON A	14	3	1	10	47	93	15
ROYAL MAIL B	14	0	0	14	23	117	6

DIVISION 2 - Final	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NATLAND D	14	13	0	1	118	22	50
QUEEN CATHERINE A	14	12	0	2	106	34	47
NATLAND E	14	6	3	5	80	60	32
CROOK	14	7	3	4	71	69	30
QUEEN CATHERINE B	14	5	1	8	67	73	25
NATLAND F	14	3	3	8	55	85	19
CARTMEL SCHOOL	14	3	4	7	50	90	19
BURTON B	14	0	0	14	13	127	2

DIVISION 1 LEADING AVERAGES
 Carl Stebbing (N.Lancs) 97%, Colin Pratt (N.Lancs) 96%, Paul Stebbing (N.Lancs) 94%, Peter Rushton (Natland A) 94%, Paddy Maher (N.Lancs) 85%, Alex Winter (Royal Mail B) 80%, Trevor Nicholson (Natland A) 79%, David Stragngwick (Natland B) 77%, Alan Hyde (Royal Mail A) 70%, Bob Gale (Natland A) 67%.

DIVISION 2 LEADING AVERAGES
 Phil Petts (Natland D) 100%, Jeanette Bannister (Natland D) 97%, David Lavelle (QKS A) 94%, Elliott Dawson (QKS A) 92%, Abigail Robertshaw (Natland E) 80%, Sarah Langstaff (Natland D) 77%, Bill Gosling (Cartmel School) 71%, Philip Dixon (QKS B) 67%, Janette Dixon (QKS A) 63%, Bernard Pickthall (Natland F) 63%.

CHESHIRE'S BACK!

● JOHN APPLETON

SOME may notice that this is the first County note from Cheshire in some considerable time and hopefully the first of many.

Over the 1993/94 season the County teams had a mixed season. The junior 1st team just holding onto their Premier place by beating Lancashire in a tight 6-4 win although Lancashire were without their strongest player. The Junior 2nd team had a season of mixed blessings especially being a young team did very well up in their division.

The Vets again did well only to lose their title by one set. The Cheshire Closed Championships were held for the first time in seven years and the results are as follows:

- Under 12 Mixed Singles**
Chris Dunne beat Thomas Kennedy
- Cadet Girls Singles**
Alice Howard beat Yvonne Slinger
- Cadet Boys Singles**
Chris Dunne beat Thomas Kennedy
- Junior Girls Singles**
Clare Newsns beat Alice Howard
- Junior Boys Singles**
Ian Eaton beat Ian Gerrard
- Ladies Singles**
Clare Newsns beat Doreen Schofield
- Mens Singles**
Bernie Wentworth beat Ian Eaton
- Mixed Veteran Singles**
Dave Roberts beat Roger Moss
- Mixed Restricted Singles**
Jeff Craighill beat Dave Setton
- Mens Doubles**
Dave Roberts / Bernie Wentworth beat Ian Johns / Ian Eaton
- Ladies Doubles**
Jill Schofield / Doreen Schofield beat Clare Newsns / Alice Howard

● Congratulations to Clare Newsns and Ian Eaton who both won Gold medals for the team events and Silver for the individual events at the recent Schools International event held in Dublin.

For those in Cheshire would you please pass any information to myself on 0744 814999 or to Campbell Eaton on 0606 871117 for inclusion in Cheshire County notes.

PLEASE NOTE:
 Would county correspondents please note that in future would they please send their copy for County Notes to:
 John Wood,
 5 The Brackens,
 Hemel Hempstead,
 Hertfordshire,
 HP2 5JA.



Essex's Ryan Savill

ESSEX NOTES

● STEVE KERNS

THIS year's Essex Closed tournament was again held at the Clacton Leisure Centre over the weekend of 14/15 May 1994, and again 30 events were run. Surely this must constitute some kind of record.

Top honours went to Damian Holland (Dagenham) the 22 year-old right-handed looper who won the Mens Singles, and to Sue Hickman (Brentwood) the most consistent of attackers who took the ladies title. Damian overcame top-seeded Chris Sladden (Southend) 19,14 after a rumbustious all-action final, whilst unassuming Sue's final opponent was fellow veteran Shirley Carroll (Burnham) who she beat 11,15.

Sue in particular enjoyed a great weekend as she also annexed the Mixed doubles with Ian Attridge (Dagenham), the Veterans Mixed doubles with Stuart Gibbs (Ilford) and ladies doubles with Joyce Bassett (Brentwood). Her one blemish was in the Veterans Ladies Singles which was won by Marilyn Bawden (Burnham).

The Veterans Mens doubles produced arguably the weekend's best final as Harlow's Dave Wright and Neil Brierley scored a tremendous win over Gibbs/Mike Watts 19, -15,20. A similarly titanic struggle in the mens doubles saw Sladden/Ryan Savill beat Holland/Attridge -20,18,19.

The Junior events were a personal triumph for Chelmsford's Karen Mason. She used her much-improved fast top-spin game to beat Nikki Kennard 17, -11,20 in an excellent girls final, after having survived a major scare in the semi-final against regular doubles partner Laura Bawden who only succumbed 14, -18,19. She also took the U21 Girls singles crown and retained her Junior Mixed doubles title, this year paired with Chelmsford's Steve Joslin. They beat Thurrock's James Wickens and Miss Kennard in the final.

Steve Joslin has the enviable habit of playing well in the big occasion, and this he did here as he took the junior boys title with a 16, 17 final win over Wickens. James will have been highly satisfied with his 20, 19 semi-final success over the top-seeded Reagan Nettleingham.

The Cadet events were won by Paul Lucas (Burnham) and Catherine Woodcock (Chelmsford), whilst Stuart Gibbs retained his Veterans title, and

Mike Hayes took the restricted singles title (for players not ranked in the men's national top 200) from a large field of 51 competitors. For good measure Mike also reached the Mixed Doubles Final with Alison Gower.

The Corti-Woodcock award, the County's top award for service to the game was this year awarded to Phil Gower, the well-known international umpire, national referee, senior coach, current Brentwood League Chairman and current County General Secretary, member of various County sub-committees... Phil has been involved in the game for 35 years and needs no introduction around the County. A hugely deserved recipient strangely lost for words when presented by Board Member Bobby Stevens at this year's AGM.

Now to the upset of the season, where little-known Gordon Donnegan stepped out of the anonymity of the Chelmsford League 4th Division to beat mighty Barry Johnson (Warwickshire) at the VETTS English Closed at Bracknell.

The status of the County's Inter-League competition has declined slightly as the popularity of the National League continues to increase. Players in the higher divisions prefer to play for computer points so its pleasing to see that the Vets competition remains as popular as ever with 11 divisions. It is also pleasing to note that the strength of the winners of the top divisions remain strong as the following teams indicate:

- Mens: Southend A**
C Sladden, R Savill, S Woods, R Lawrence.
- Ladies: Brentwood A**
J Coleman, T Davies, V Cleminson.
- Veterans: Ilford A**
S Gibbs, J Hoble, J Tendler.
- Juniors: Brentwood A**
D Yardy, B Linecar, D Coleman, T Davies, V Cleminson, A Cheeseman.
- Mixed: Ilford A**
John & Jason Tendler, S Liebig, P Rogers.

Other teams who created some interest were Thurrock A (T Guymer, R Murray and S Willis) who won Veterans Division 2 and Brentwood D who won Veterans Division 11 with the all-female line up of S Hickman, J Bassett, J Hand and A Gilliam.

On a less satisfactory note it has to be reported that the administration of the Inter-League competition remains a major head-ache, and this year a record number of fines had to be imposed for non-compliance with the competition rules. The message is clear to all leagues for next season: make sure your team captains are fully versed with the job they are undertaking.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

● ALF PEPPERD

WRITING this Gloucestershire County report in early July amid the current mountain of speculation that has now been amassed, like it or not, upon one of our County's most prestigious residents, namely, HRH, The Prince of Wales, whose innermost thoughts and ideas have been stripped bare by Mr Jonathan Dimbleby, this event coupled by other Gloucestershire news (indeed of a very different nature), concerning the infamous Frederick West and his equally infamous wife Rosemary, makes my first report of the season appear very dull and boring.

Perhaps Readers, you may ask, what has the aforementioned got to do with our sport? The answer of course is absolutely nothing at all, but turning to this report at this time of year, it's exceedingly difficult to conjure up much TT news, especially when one has very little 'Up-to-date' material to work on. However, as the County Executive Committee

always hold their AGM in or around mid-June every year, at least for a start I can name the Officers for the forthcoming season - they are:

President: Mr MJ Reeves
Chairman: Mr LJ Smith
Vice Chairman: Mr PF Cruwys
Treasurer: Mr K Bridle
Secretary: Mr G Slack
Min. Secretary: Mrs J Smith
Coaching/Development: Mr D Dean
Selection: Mr P Humble
Press/Publicity: Mr AF Pepperd

Three representatives from each of the four leagues may also serve on the County Committee and will perhaps be chosen later by their respective leagues.

Elected Vice-Presidents for the forthcoming season are: AWC Simons, K Jackson, R Morley, M. Hawkins, RE Griffin, BR Merrett, AH Haines, J. Golding, JM Bunn, LJ Smith, PH Jackson, AF Pepperd and PF Cruwys.

The Gloucestershire Ex-Committee have decided to enter a total of four teams in the

County Championships for this forthcoming season, they will consist of one senior team, one junior team and two veteran teams, the latter both possibly in the same division.

Although last seasons first ever Gloucestershire 1 Star Graded Open did not attract quite as many entries as anticipated, it has been decided to run a further 1 Star on the 8th of October 1994 at Maidenhill School at Stonehouse and it is hoped that attendance will be greatly improved.

At Cheltenham's 1994/5 AGM Veteran player Dave Harvey was made a full life member of the Cheltenham Table Tennis Association in full recognition of his long services to Cheltenham, both as a player and administrator.

In conclusion I had hoped to gather news from all around the four Gloucestershire Leagues, unfortunately only one league tendered the appropriate news media so I will endeavour to get the other three to contribute at least something and report on it in next month's TT News.

HAMPSHIRE

● BRIAN LAMERTON

WHILST there was never any real fear of extinction, we emerged from Winchester's historic Guildhall after this year's Annual General Meeting a Much Stronger Association than had looked likely only a few weeks previous. With David Turner (Bournemouth) and Lionel Whytton (Andover) 'volunteering' to fulfill the Chairman and Treasurer seats, General Secretary Harold Albery agreed to carry on for a 20th season with the promise of more help with the many and various jobs which have been tagged onto the normal expectations of a General Secretary throughout those many years. We shall see! The elevation of immediate past Chairman Ron Wilshere to President sees the active end, at his own request, of 35 years continued service to the County by Ray Yates who throughout that period has carried out most duties starting with County Team Manager when we only had one team. Ray already a Vice-President of the ETTA, was added to the exclusive list of Hampshire's Honorary Life Members. The meeting confirmed the entry of a total of 8 teams into the County Championship and for the first time in many seasons, were able to name a full squad of team secretaries prior to the season's start; step forward Derek Seager, Ken Burton, Mauri Shave and Gordon Burns. It was good to see a representative of the Alton League at the AGM in the person of Norman Way, now retired and promising to take a more active role in future and confirming that intention by taking on the Auditors role.

The coming season will see a new name in the County, the SHAW League. This is because of the amalgamation of the St Albans & District League and the Hatfield & Welwyn League. For the 1994/95 season the officers of the old leagues will share the duties for their first year, then hold elections for the 1995/96 season.

Congratulations to Elaine Moore, Tina Young and Georgina Poulton who carried Bournemouth's colours to the final of the National Girls Competition for the Hammersley Cup; recollecting many fine past performances of Bournemouth in the J.M. Rose Bowl Competition; perhaps in a few year's time we shall see this same squad prominent in the Senior Competition.

Best wishes to friend and foe alike, for a new season which promises much and in which we hope for many things including, success for our County teams including retention of our Veteran's newly won premier status, an increase in playing membership, another major event in Hampshire, advancement of Portsmouth and Basingstoke's facility plans and completion of their facility by friends and neighbours in the Isle of Wight.

HERTFORDSHIRE

● JOHN WOOD

HARRY STEVENS, Hertfordshire's most well known table tennis personality has retired from one of his administrative roles on the County committee.

will represent us on the National Council. Brian, who moved to Potters bar in 1961, joined the Barnets & District League in 1963 as player and in 1984 became the League's General Secretary. He also took over the General Secretaryship of the North Middlesex League in 1993.



Hertfordshire's New National Councillor Brian Freer.

Brian has been County representative for Barnets for the past eight years. He is not just an administrator because Brian is still an active player in both Barnets and North Middlesex Leagues.

The coming season will see a new name in the County, the SHAW League. This is because of the amalgamation of the St Albans & District League and the Hatfield & Welwyn League. For the 1994/95 season the officers of the old leagues will share the duties for their first year, then hold elections for the 1995/96 season.



Kent's Spencer & Christian Thompson

Harry, the strength behind Boreham Wood table tennis, was one time treasurer of Hertfordshire and for many years represented the County on the National Council of the ETTA. On behalf of the County I would like to thank Harry for all his past loyal services to Hertfordshire as National Councillor. Harry continues to serve the County at local level as President and Organiser of the 100 Club. Taking over from Harry is Brian Freer from Barnet, who



Hertfordshire's Harry Stevens (right) pictured here during his busy County days, presenting a trophy to Barnets John McCance.

KENT COUNTY NOTES

● ADRIAN HALL

MY apologies to the England and Belgium Cadet sides and to those players that supported the 1994 Kent Junior Open, for Table Tennis News not publishing the reports and to the players of Medway, Ashford and Tunbridge Wells leagues whose Closed Tournament results were omitted by the TTN NEWS editor in the June edition.

A special Kent County News Letter will be sent out with entry forms for the next Junior Open with all the results.

So we'll try again.

Medway Towns Table Tennis League

Neil Harris and Marion Garlinge lifted all the major honours in the Medway Closed Tournament. Harris seeded 10 upset the applectart by securing the open singles title while Marion Garlinge made a clean sweep in the Ladies events as she won the singles, paired up with daughter Shelley to bag the doubles and teamed up with Spenser Thompson for a mixed doubles success.

Mens Singles Semi Finals

Neil Harris beat Peter Watts 21 - 18, 21 - 14, Graham French beat Martin Hewett 16 - 21, 21 - 7, 21 - 16

Mens Singles

Neil Harris beat Graham French 17 - 21, 21 - 16, 21 - 15

Ladies Singles

Marion Garlinge beat Tina Clements 21 - 11, 21 - 18

Junior Boys Singles

Christian Thompson beat Scott Friday 13 - 21, 21 - 12, 21 - 15

Veteran Mens Singles

Mike Ling beat Graham French 25 - 23, 12 - 21, 21 - 13

Veteran Ladies Singles

Marion Garlinge beat Mary Ball 21 - 13, 21 - 13

Mens Doubles

Spencer Thompson & Bob Smith beat Mark Buckley and Peter Watts 21 - 13, 14 - 21, 21 - 17

Ladies Doubles

Marion Garlinge & Shelley Garlinge beat Tina Clements & Becky Butcher 21 - 19, 15 - 21, 21 - 15

Mixed Doubles

Spencer Thompson & Marion Garlinge beat Peter Watts & Tina Clements 21 - 18, 21 - 17

Lambeth Building Society Ashford Closed

Mick Jones won the Men Singles title for the sixth time and the third in succession, but was upstaged by Helen Garlick

who took all three ladies event titles.

Mens Singles

Mick Jones beat Paul Smith

Ladies Singles

Helen Garlick beat Carly Riggs

Junior Boys Singles

Paul Smith beat Colin Quinn

Junior Girls Singles

Crystal Hall beat Amanda Bateman

Veteran Mens Singles

Dennis Cannon beat Clive Hollingsby

Mens Doubles

Kevin Read & Fred Coleman beat

Mick Jones & Neil Brocklebank

Ladies Doubles

Helen Garlick & Denise Glenister beat

Carly Riggs & Crystal Hall

Mixed Doubles

Arthur Martin & Helen Garlick beat

Neil Brocklebank & Kristina Brocklebank

Tunbridge Wells Closed

Andrew Houghton won the Open Singles title for the second year running with some powerful hitting against Ian Brown who defended splendidly. Played at the Hugh Christie School the tournament attracted a good entry with 14 events including some special ratings events.

Open Singles

Andrew Houghton beat Ian Brown

21 - 17, 21 - 17

Junior Singles

Lee Howes beat Ashley Steers

21 - 13, 21 - 10

Veteran Singles

Roger Pingram beat John Davison

17 - 21, 21 - 12, 22 - 20

Open Doubles

Roger Pingram & Ron Terry beat Les

Etheridge & Ian Brown 17 - 21, 21 - 9, 21 - 16

Sittingbourne Closed

Peter Watts made it two in a row when he won the Peter Millington sponsored Sittingbourne Closed in March 1994, but was upstaged by Lesley Hollingworth who made it a hat-trick of titles.

Mens Singles

Peter Watts beat Mark Buckley

Ladies Singles

Lesley Hollingworth beat Bernadette

Austin

Junior Singles

Mark Buckley beat Benn Jennings

Veteran Mens Singles

John White beat Dennis McConkey

Mixed Doubles

John White & Lesley Hollingworth beat

Dennis McConkey & Bernadette

Austin

Kent Junior Open Goes Select

The 1995 THAKE TRANSPORT KENT JUNIOR OPEN has been granted SELECT Status and already confirmation has been received that several International Teams will be taking part. Put the date in your diary 18/19th February 1995. Be part of it.

10th Luxembourg International Tournament

A Kent organised England Select side participated in the annual Luxembourg 18 Nation tournament considered to be the most important European event prior to the European Championships. Pride of place went to Lindsey Thornton who came away with a Silver medal in the Cadet Boys - Christian Thompson 4th, Mini Boys - Scott Friday 7th, Junior Girls - Glenda Ashison 10th, Cadet Girls - Lindsey Thornton Bronze Medal, Mini Girls - Kate Parker 18th.

Belgium National Squad Coach In Kent

Three National Coaches and six members of the National Junior squad paid and exchange visit to Kent for a five day coaching and match play session with Kent's County Squad players in May 1994. Exchange sessions were organised as a result of sponsorship awarded from the SANS FRONTIERS festival in association with KENT COUNTY COUNCIL.

Well known to the Kent players were past English Open Champion Kevin Vissers who recently was so impressive in an International match against England at the Larkfield Club and who went on to win both the Junior and Cadet events at the Kent Junior Open, although he was not the best player on show from a very talented Belgium squad.

MBE for Tunbridge Wells League Chairman

We are pleased to report that John Butler, Chairman of the Tunbridge Wells League and a County Umpire has been awarded the MBE for services to the community. John who still plays in the league is the father of a table tennis family. - Our congratulations to you John.

Rainham 83 Win Champions Cup

Rainham 83 Champions of the Medway League became the inaugural winners of the COLEMAN CUP a competition organised by the Kent County Table Tennis Association for the league champions of all the registered leagues in Kent and played at the Sterling Centre, Rochester on Saturday 21st may 1994.

The 83 team of Andy Cunningham, Spencer Thompson and Christian Thompson beat Laterns (P. Saxby, R. Porter, P. Kemp) of the Folkestone League 4-0, Goldsmiths (P. Rainford, C. Ross, A. Olando), Bromley 4-1 and in the final play offs Swalecliffe (I. Mileham, R. Rowley, B. Chapman) of the

Canterbury league 4-0 & Phoenix Royals (P. Smallman, S. Dawtry, C. Smallman), Dover 4-1. Swalecliffe beat Phoenix 4-2 to take the runners up spot.

Champions - Rainham 83, Runners Up - Swalecliffe, 3rd - Phoenix, 4th - Goldsmiths, 5th - Larkfield, 6th - Rotherfield, 7th - Lanterns, 8th - British Legion, 9th - North School TTC, 10th - Dartford Sports, 11th - North bourne.

Friday National Schools Champion

Scott Friday (Rainham Grammar) added yet another National title to his already impressive collection when he won as expected the U13 Boys title beating Robert Svensson (Devon) 21-15, 17-21, 21-16 in the final. Justin Dodd (Painter Ash, Gravesend) reached the semi-final of the Primary Schools event before losing to the No1 seed Tim Yardy (Essex County) 12-21, 16-21.

The next most successful player was Crystal Hall (Maidstone Grammar) (Girls U16) who went out in the quarter finals to No1 seed Glenda Ashison (Surrey Metropolitan) 13-21, 15-21. Scott Dawtry (Harvey, Folkstone)(Boys U16), Craig Hastie (Norton Knatchball, Ashford)(Boys U19) and Christopher Hall (Kent Metropolitan)(Boys U19) all successfully won out of their group round matches but then lost in the first round proper to highly nationally ranked players Michael Isherwood (Derbyshire) respectively.

Gemma Alcorn (Northborough, Maidstone) won three of her five group matches (Girls U11) as did Hannah Frarey (Invicta Girls Grammer, Maidstone)(Girls U13) and Tristan Newman (Kent Metropolitan)(Boys U13) but failed to qualify for the knockout rounds, but will have learned much from playing outside the country.

Free start to Beginners a Great Success

Coaches Andy Cuunningham and Spencer Thompson gave a start to 30 budding new stars at the Rainham 83 Table Tennis Club when Kent County Table Tennis Association launched its grass roots coaching that commenced on 2nd June 1994.

Youngsters and beginners from all over Kent will benefit from the joint financial award made by KK SERVICES and SPORTSMATCH who together have provided £4000 for this first of its kind venture. The Lady Mayor of Gillingham Mrs Sheila Clark met the players and coaches and watched an exhibition of stroke play.

Obituary

It is my sad duty to have to report the deaths of three well known personalities within Kent TT circles. Mrs Valerie Fuller a member of the Maidstone League for many years and a representative at both town and County level, and latterly a life Vice-President of the MWMC TT section. Mr John Burnett affectionately known as 'Bingo' died in a tragic accident and will be sadly missed in the Folkestone League. A County Umpire and Coach plus General Administrator John will leave a big gap particularly at junior level. Mr Gordon Ritchie, whose only connection was as father to Kent No 1 Junior Glen, but Gordon was always there when help was required and contributed more to the game than he took out. All three will be sadly missed and our condolences go to their family and closest friends.

Kent County A G M

There were only minor changes and additions to the Kent County Committee with Reg Thompson unanimously voted in as Chairman for another season.

LEICESTERSHIRE

•DEREK BUTT

The Leicestershire & District Summer League Competition, the Elbow Tankard is now well underway with all four sections almost completed but many teams are still in with a chance of progressing to the quarter final stages. Where it will be a straight knock-out competition.

Group A leaders Kingfisher have accumulated enough points to see them into the next stage. The second team to join them is between Casualties and Birstall. I'm going for the Birstall side, because Casualties have to play Kingfishers. The previous encounter between these two resulted in a close 11-9 scoreline, but Kingfishers never had the services of Mick Meredith who has played well, and I expect him to play in the next match. Whereas Birstall have an easy looking fixture against the side at the bottom of the chart, and they beat them in their first encounter. Watch them prove me wrong.

Group B leaders are the Blessed Dead (St Cuthberts) who also are already in the last eight and have a strong side in Alex Mason, Kelvin Herbert and Dave London. The second spot will be between Variety and Shoe 2

Variety have completed their fixtures and are in the last eight frame I think they will make it. Shoe Two have 2 games to play, they must win them and have a better sets average to go through, a tough task indeed.

In Group C Cols Colts lead at the moment and have completed their fixtures, but are not certain to go through as Ironmen (lasts year's runners up) have 2 games left as Belgrave WMC have also. So it's still any two from three at the moment. I'm sure Ironmen will be there but I'm not committing myself on the second team. Ironmen and Belgrave have to play each other twice so it's going to be pretty interesting this one.

The final Group D has been another close affair between the top three teams. Shoe One lead the Group at the moment and definitely qualify. Rushey are in second spot and look good for the second slot, with a number of young and good handicap players. So I expect them to go through, with their remaining fixture relatively easy, if there is such a thing.

But last year's winners, Good Bad Ugly, are not technically out yet, but something like a miracle is needed to see them proceed any further this time round. So to recap on the teams already in the last eight: Kingfishers, Blessed Dead and Shoe One.

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kingfisher	7	5	0	2	86	54	10
Casualties	7	3	2	2	72	68	8
Birstall	7	3	1	3	65	75	7
Villagers	7	3	0	4	62	78	6
Gaspers	6	1	1	4	55	65	3

GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Blessed Dd	7	6	0	1	80	40	12
Variety	8	5	0	3	90	70	10
Park Kprs	8	4	0	4	79	81	8
Shoe Two	6	3	0	3	66	54	6
Wetts	7	0	0	7	32	108	0

GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Cols Colts	8	4	2	2	89	71	10
Ironmen	6	4	1	1	73	47	9
Belgrave	6	4	1	1	64	56	9
Villagers	7	3	0	4	69	71	6
Sparks	7	0	0	7	45	95	0

GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Shoe One	8	4	4	0	99	61	12
Rushey	7	3	4	0	90	50	10
GBU	7	2	4	1	73	67	8
Hali Bi	7	2	1	4	56	84	5
Belgrave	7	0	1	6	42	98	1

The Leicester and District Table Tennis League will again have ten divisions and it is hoped we will have a Junior Division in the Woolwich Junior League which will probably be played on Saturday morning. We are all hoping this will encourage players for the future. In June the annual presentation evening took place and again turned out to be an enjoyable

evening. Although several people failed to turn up to collect their trophies which really surprises me. I was very pleased and honoured to receive the Phil Reid

Memorial Trophy and to join the list of respected people already named on this very important trophy. My thanks to everyone concerned.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

•KATH FISHER

Tetney Table Tennis Club (which was formed with help from the E.T.T.A) held a summer competition for Grimsby League players which went very well, players were divided into groups of 3, each of a different standard to make all groups even overall, everyone played each other and all wins gained a point which led to some close and interesting results with most matches being won 5 - 4. Andrew Smith who plays in one of the lower divisions of the Grimsby League got a shock when it was decided, because he had improved so much to throw him in as a No 1 and see how he coped which he did very well winning 21 games out of 30 and with good back up

from Dave Braithwaite and Val Winslow they won the competition from (Colin Woodford, Kevin Knowles and Eileen Allison) by 1 point. It was so close, being won on the last game of the last match.

Steve Welch won the Top No 1 award winning 27/30 a very good performance, the Top No 2 went to two players Dave Braithwaite and Bob Want, both had some excellent results getting games against No 1 players and finished joint top 24/30. Young Simon Knowles who got better and better as the competition went on won the No 3 award.

Overall a very good competition played in a good friendly spirit.

MIDDLESEX

•LORNA TAYLOR

THE CANNONS team from Edgware have won the 1st Division of the Woolwich Junior British League, the star Middlesex player being Caroline O'Leary and the team managed by her father, Colin. Caroline has now graduated from the Junior to the Senior ranks and has been presented with her Senior County Badge at the last County AGM. We have high hopes for her in the future in becoming a valuable asset to the country and to glide up the Senior Ranking Lists.

We are very fortunate to have an adequate replacement in the Junior ranks in Yukki Greswell who has had some outstanding results, beating players such as Sarah Horsnell and Claire Plumridge. Yukki, being the daughter of Les Greswell, an ex-England Coach. They have just recently come to this Country from Japan.

Another star of the future is Jason Sugrue who in July played in the European Youth Championships held in Paris. The results will be given in the next issue.

There was a West Ealing Club Reunion hosted by John and Rosemary Sutehall at their beautiful house at Meopham in Kent. Attending were many great Middlesex players from the past. Amongst them were Len Adams, Derek Burridge, Mike Creamer,

Stan Jacobson, Laurie Landy, Alan Lindsay, Dianne Scholer (Rowe) and Brian & Mary Wright. They made a catalogue of the top class players that have played there over the period it was open. They were celebrating the 30th Anniversary since the club closed.

Next season the London Junior Table Tennis Scheme is holding regional tournaments. The dates have yet to be finalised, but below are the provisional dates: North 17th or 18th September, West 8th or 9th October, East 22nd or 23rd October, West 28th or 29th October, Grand Final 4th December.

All enquiries to the above events should contact: Colin Wilson, Greater London Region Development, Officer for Table Tennis, London Borough of Fulham, Community Recreation, 181 King Street, London W6 9JU.

Inter-League matches all continue to be played on weekdays. However, if teams wanted to get together to play at weekends they could. They are in line with procedures adopted in County Championships.

Norfolk

● RAY HOGG

WHAT are we looking forward to this season? Red/black arguments, glue problems, 11 up or not? Maybe we should let the EEC decide and then we would have some years to get legislation through.

Norfolk have re-entered a senior team as without one there seemed something missing. In spite of my appeal for someone to organise this team, not one applicant was forthcoming, so a couple of phone calls later Steve Annisson together with dad Ron as assistant agreed to do the necessary and already has been engaged in sifting through possible players. I can only ask through this magazine that all players give him the support if and when asked to play. The important criteria for this season is that those players who want to play for their County will be required. The same thoughts go toward the 2nd Veteran team which Mary Sawyer has volunteered to organise to save it folding, your support is required and for both teams if there is anyone out there who wishes to be considered please contact me in the first instance. 3 Junior teams continue in spite of the early retirement of our number 2 and the possible departure of our number 1 doing a 'Chris Sutton' without the £5 million. There are plenty of up and coming Juniors waiting for their chance and full

teams will be fielded despite the possibility of defeats. This will sort out the men from the boys looking forward to season 1995-96.

Well in advance book the date(s) April 8th/9th 1995. Closed Championships at Lynnsport. Juniors Saturday, Seniors Sunday. Suggestions are required as to new or different events such as restricted singles keeping out all ranked players for both Juniors and Seniors or anything else you may wish to have considered. Also a disabled event for both sitting and standing players has been suggested.

Leagues are considering entering the Woolwich Junior League and it will be interesting to see the result. Norwich are competing with a proviso they play to 21 up. Talking of Norwich, I gather that 1995 is their Diamond Jubilee Year - Secretary Ken Edwards was at the inaugural meeting I expect.

British League - Alan Pickard tells me that with all the problems of last season there will only be one team from Norwich Foxwood this season. There is some doubt as to whether some players may not be prepared to play in the lower division so, like the County Seniors above, play those keen to represent Norwich and not so much worried about their ranking position ●

Was the surprise package in the Northampton Closed Tournament. Dixon who spends most of his spare time operating the highly complex and effective Computer Ranking System operated by the County Association, obviously used his specialist knowledge to excellent advantage, as he despatched 7th seed Paul Adams and 4th seed Ray Kingston on his way to the Semi-Final. Then he took the first end off top seed Steve Silk but all good things come to an end and Silk drew on his vast experience to go through to the Final.

Meanwhile Ryan Keates was beginning a fine run of form that was to take him to his 1st major title and after accounting for Gary Webb at the Semi-Final stage, he made no mistake against Silk. Then not content with the Open Singles, he also partnered Silk to Success in the Men's Doubles beating the successful veteran combination of Kingston and Mick Edwards at deuce in the 3rd after dropping the 1st end. For Kingston it was a day of near misses and he was again on the receiving end in the hard bat event, where Keates completed his hat-trick of titles by the narrowest of margins. With Keith Jones not amongst the entries, Kingston and Edwards still had some difficulty in taking the Veteran's Doubles, but Doubles partner Edwards denied him in the Veteran's Singles, while Edwards again, partnered by his wife Maggie, took the Mixed Doubles with Kingston and Clem Little narrowly beaten 21-19 in the decider.

Margaret Maltby was a notable absentee leaving a cluster of ladies attempting to be on the trophy for the 1st time in a round robin event contested by Clem Little, Sue Armstrong, Cath Walsh, Maggie Edwards and Sue Maloney. This was so close that Little, Armstrong and Edwards all ended 3 wins each, Little beating Edward, who beat Armstrong, who beat Little 16, 17, 12. On the countback it was Clem Little who took the title, and partnered by Edwards, also took the Doubles.

David Birch and Bill Fletcher met in the final of Division 1 and 2 Singles and it was Birch who completed a narrow win, while another close call came in the U14 Singles with Majid Soorty beat brother Imran. Fletcher earned his major honours when he beat Richard Kitchener in the Over 50's event, while the lower divisional Singles went to Steve Summers and the U17 to Paul Adams. On the Administrative side at County Level, Ryan

Keates takes on the onerous duties of Senior Match Secretary - a young player already prepared to put something back into the game, while at the other end of the scale, Ken Bussey becomes the new Umpires Secretary and Dave Marsh again takes over as Coaching Officer, an important task he has fulfilled so capably in the past. A successful season to them all.

SOMERSET

● ANDY SEWARD

THE SOMERSET Senior Closed, played as usual at the end (or was it off the end?) of the season, was held at the Wellington Sports Centre under the usual top table control of Brian Reeves and Brenda Thorne. Lots of group matches for Senior Men, Women and Veterans and thus some tired players by the end of the day Summary of Winners:

Mens Philip Paye, Womens Tina Sadler, Mens Doubles Phil Payne/Steve Palmer, Womens Doubles Shirley Dark/Judy Craig, Mixed Doubles Rob Millard/Tina Sadler, Veterans Brian Reeves.

The Junior Closed was held at Chilton School, Bridgewater on Cup Final Day. An unfortunate clash but the FA wouldn't change their date. The winners were Man U., oops, I mean:

U12 Boys Mark Gitsham, U12 Girls Claire Gibbs, U14 Boys Michael Ong, U14 Girls Claire Gibbs, U14 Doubles Chris Filer/Sam Reynolds, U17 Boys Michael Ong, U17 Girls Christine Cowell, U17 Doubles Michael Ong/Chris Sayers.

And so to Part 2 of the History Lesson.

Yeovil & District League

The years from 1965 to 1980 were years of wine & roses, of continuous growth. The League had 47 teams spread over 4 divisions. Interestingly, there were no dominant male players during this period, a different person winning the Men's Singles title almost every year. However, on the Ladies Cup, a new name was beginning to appear with regularity, that of Shirley Dark, who won on 8 occasions until passing it over to a young lady whom she had encouraged and coached.

A downward trend followed from 1980 until 1992, reaching an all-time low in 1992 of 24 teams. What a pity that this drop in membership should coincide with the period when Yeovil TT had such a fine crop of players representing Somerset at Senior, Junior & Veteran levels. Yeovil won the Somerset & Avon Inter-Town League on 3 consecutive

NORTHANTS NOTES

● DENNIS MILLMAN

THE SUN is high in the sky, the temperature is more than 30° in the shade and its time for me to begin to writing my 22nd year of Northants Notes. Sally Russell Ended her junior days with a flourish when she completed a hat-trick of titles in the Queensbury Scimitar Top Eight Ladies event at Wellingborough's Glamis Hall. She won all 7 of her matches and was only once extended - by the 1991 winner Margaret Maltby. Sally took the opener 21-9 and seemed in full control until a mixture of heavy chop and accurate forehand attack gave her talented opponent the second end at 22-20. The decider was equally close but Miss Russell kept her nerve and ran out a 22-20 winner. Mrs Maltby finished in 2nd place after winning all her other matches, dropping just a solitary end to Clem Little, who finished 4th behind Muriel Cox, who gained

revenge for her 2 defeats in the County Closed Tournament, and also settled a score with Helen Watts who had beaten her on the way to the Kettering Singles title. Mrs Cox did go down to Donna Furniss but nevertheless went on to take 3rd place for the 2nd successive year. Final Placings: 1 Sally Russell, 2 Margaret Maltby, 3 Muriel Cox, 4 Clem Little, 5 Helen Watts, 6 Donna Furniss, 7 Gabrielle Evans, 8 Cath Walsh.

Sally's season had still not run its full course, for having represented her Country at both Junior and Cadet level, she was due to travel to Dublin to make her bow in the Senior ranks. This she did to such good effect that the English team she represented took Gold, but despite a valiant effort, Sally just failed to repeat the feat in the Individual Competition and had to be content with Silver.

Scott Dixon (Dodderidge Div 2)

years in the mid-80s and were so dominant that in order to make the competition more competitive the committee decided that current County players should not compete. All 4 members of the Yeovil team were current County players!

Special mention must be given during this period to the Sadler family for their contribution to Yeovil TT just like that of the Bonner's of earlier. Father Jim has no claim to fame other than being a stalwart of the League for many years without glory! Son Lee however, appeared in 15 consecutive Open Singles Finals from 1980-94 winning 10 and daughter Tina has won the Ladies Singles for the last 9 years. Together, they have teamed up to take the Mixed Doubles for the last 7 years. Some Record.

Finally, can any other league match Yeovil or is this a 1st? Yeovil has a lady Chairperson (Lin Addicot) and also a lady Vice Chairperson (Shirley Dark), formidable ladies both. Already there is a small but not insignificant increase in numbers and the future of the Yeovil and District league looks a little more rosy.

Surrey

● TERRY VANCE

Unfortunately I have 3 deaths to report. Frank Clay who was a Vice President of the ETTA, Fred Skilton who was President of the Byfleet League from 1970 and Vic Oddin who helped sponsor the South of England Tournaments.

On the brighter side Gail McCulloch has won the Ivor Montague Award for new administrators in recognition of her services as Vice Chairman of Coaching. Congratulations to Adam Laws on being selected for the British Team at the North American Maccabi Youth Games. Also Anna McNamara, Glenda Ashison, Gery Ashison and Darren Blake were selected for English Schools at the International held in Dublin.

SURREY SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
MS M. Crimmins bt P. Collino; WS J. Barella bt M. McGovern; RS R. Tanner bt S. Davis; VS D. Crowley bt M. Pearson; MD M. Crimmins/S. Davis bt R. Bates/M. Lowe; WD K. Ashley/G. Blanch bt J. Barella/K. Hart; XD F. Rasul/K. Wilde bt S. Campbell/G. Blanch.

WANDSWORTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
Open Singles S. Campbell bt S. Holloway; **Open Doubles** S. Holloway/D. Bangerter bt K. Falconer/A. Hird; **Handicap Singles** H. Quartey bt I. Cooper; **Handicap Doubles** S. Holloway/A Quartey bt V. Tyk/E. Baker; VS B. Leach bt V. Tyk; VD A. Benning/A. Foley bt J. Aylesford/E. Sanders

LEATHERHEAD LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Singles P. Matthews bt R. Denman; **Doubles** S. Hunt/G. Green bt R. Denman/G. Brown; VS S. Hunt bt T. Morse, RS M. Dorrington bt P. Ruperti.
DULWICH LEAGUE TOURNAMENT
MS I. Brown; VS I. Brown, MD I. Brown/A. Stevens. In the Open Singles (including some of the Japanese Univ. Touring Team) K. Otaki bt J. Payne deuce in the 3rd.

Only one Inter-League competition was completed, the other 2 being cancelled due to lack of entries and time. The Percy Johnson Cup was won by Wandsworth with Guildford who have returned to this competition after several years, coming 2nd. John Llewellyn has resigned from running these competitions but I understand that Steve Davis is willing to run the Percy Johnson Cup.

SUSSEX

● JOHN WOODFORD

KEITH JACKSON, the 47 years-old veteran player is the new Chairman of the Sussex TTA. In an historic precedent situation, Mr Jackson, President of the Haywards Heath League made a last second bid to defeat the Brighton League Chairman John Trusser by 25 votes to 13 at the AGM on July 24th. The Chair has never been contested in Sussex since the Association was formed by Bill Vint and other elder statesmen over 40 years ago. Peter Wales had been holding the wheel since the sad and sudden death of Dennis Reed last April. He stepped back into the Deputy Chairman's spot.

Ray Forder (Lancing) is the new mastermind behind the Sussex Junior set-up, taking over from Ian Brown. Laurie Holland continues as Treasurer, still with plenty of problems - how to offset a deficit of £817 on last season - strict economies will be placed on the travelling for the 10 Sussex Teams in the County Championships. Bill and Hazel Bradley have now officially retired as County Secretaries due to Bill's health problems. Hazel received substantial cheques (presented by President Bert Fretwell) from leagues and individuals at a presentation at the AGM. Peter Wales paid a glowing tribute to the work put in by Bill and Hazel.

On the playing front, Scott Greenbrook is still the rising star at the 24 age level. Robert Abbotts from Hastings is without doubt the Junior who has made the most progress so far and despite having shoulder problems, recovered in time to play well for the English Schools in Dublin.

Horsham Angels start the season with a new signing, Sussex Champion Adrian Moore from Bath in the Premier Division of the Friendly Hotels British League. Nigel Tyler, Adrian Moore, Ritchie Venner and Mike Hammond will be a tough quartet to overcome in the months ahead.

WORCESTERSHIRE

● JOHN BARBER

GREETINGS and best wishes for the new season. It's nice to be back after 6 pleasant years in Lincolnshire. Thanks to Steve Horton who previously penned these notes. This was the only change in office at the AGM held in June all others being re-elected. A summary:

President Vera Royal, **Chairman** Doug Young, **Vice Chairman** Peter Bird, **Secretary** Linda Reid, **Treasurer** Ken Jukes, **Match Secretary** Dave Roden. **Secretaries:** **Coaching** Roger Stephens, **County League** A. Westwood, **Tournaments** Janet Hunt, **Umpires** Doug Young, **County Team** Bernard Leech, **Assistant Secretary** Barbara Jukes.

National Councillor Doug Moss. Fees, fines and deposits remain the same as last season. A few events were too late to be reported in the June edition, and thus are reported now: The junior Team Competition was won by Kidderminster A who beat Kidderminster C 5-1. Earlier in the group stages the C Team defeated the A Team 4-2. The Cadets Team Competition was won by Dudley who won 4-1 against Kidderminster A in the Final. The County Team Knockout Competitions results:

Handicap Semi-Finals Old Elizabethans B (+250) bt Astwood Bank A (scr) by 56pts. Upton Sports Club A (+280) bt WGCC B (+280) by 123pts. **Final** Upton Sports A bt Old Elizabethans B by 96pts. **Scratch Event Semi Finals** Bromley bt Aston Bank A 9-0, Redditch Roamers bt Himbleton C 9-0. **Final** Bromley bt Redditch Roamers 8-1

The appeal made in the June issue is reiterated. All teams are encouraged to enter these tournaments. They provide opportunities to compete against teams in other leagues, often with close and exciting encounters.

YORKSHIRE

THE FINAL month's County Notes are probably always the most difficult to pen - somewhere a balance has to be struck noting the successes and disappointments of the closing weeks when leagues are finalized, individual champions settled, etc, and the look ahead into the future and the new season. Only Dewsbury

one of our smaller leagues with just 2 divisions but they usually can be relied upon to keep in touch with the latest news, have provided 'end of term' statistics and Heckmondwike outfit Back Lane WMC have been their outstanding team of '94. The keynote was consistency, and skipper Jim Allen, new signing Tony Akeroyd and long service Stuart Milnes, back after a season out, lost only once in taking the Championship of Division 1 by 5pts over Harrison B, who include British League man Richard Lightowler. Back Lane also won the Harding Team Handicap Trophy (v 3rd placed Williams) but fell to Harrison A in the Rose bowl, whose Phil Thompson was the architect of victory with an unbeaten return. Milnes, winner of the Yorkshire League Div 2 Merit Award shared with Alan Senior (Williams), dominated with wins in Open Singles and Doubles with Allan, who had his share of glory beating Milnes in the Veterans Open Singles. Div 2 Champions are St James A - League Chairman Bob Slocombe, Mike Maguire and Brian Batley, and they will be accompanied into next season's Div 1 by Wellman Bibby. Finally congratulations to my old friend Frank Lockwood, a well deserved recipient of the President's Award for many years service to the Dewsbury League.

The Yorkshire League tables have now been finalized with Sheffield claiming the Men's Premier Div Championship 2pts clear of Huddersfield and Bradford, while Halifax (Div 1) and Northallerton (Div 2) are promoted as Champions with Barnsley and York II in 2nd. Unbeaten Bradford top Veteran Div 1 from Sheffield, with Sheffield II (R-Up Dewsbury) and Harrogate (R-Up Hull II) claiming the honours in Div 2 and 3.

Merit Awards: Men Prem. Div. S. Wathey (Don), Div 1 R. Shirt (Barns), Div 2 I. James (Northall), Vet Div 1 R. Priestley (Brad) & K. Burgess (Hudd), Div 2 S. Milnes (Dews), Div 3 L. Heaton (Wharfedale-Airedale). **Junior Boys** Premier HULL D. Ashall (Wake), M. Smith (Brad). Div 1 DONCASTER G. Hinds (Don), N. Silburn (Leeds) **Junior Girls** SELBY E. Smith (Sel) **Cadet Boys** Div 1 HUDDERSFIELD P. Booth (Hudd), Div 2 KEIGHLEY o. Collingbourne (Keig) **Cadet Girls** LEEDS C. Spink (Leeds).

Wakefield had a 'taster' day at the Lightways Leisure Centre to bring together youngsters who will form the basis of a Woolwich Junior League in the city for the coming season, while in Hull, Vince Marsh has ambitious plans well in hand for a Woolwich Junior League for early in the new season.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE SUPER DIVISION

ENGLAND v. POLAND

20TH SEPTEMBER 1994

Ashford Table Tennis Centre, Middlesex.

Ticket Hotline: 01784 244563 or 01424 722525

ENGLAND v. SWEDEN

18TH OCTOBER 1994

Kingston Table Tennis Centre, Milton Keynes

Ticket Hotline: 01908 373801 or 01424 722525

COME AND SUPPORT THE GIRLS!

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PREMIER WEEKENDS

SENIORS

24th - 25th

September 1994

Idsall Sports Centre
Shifnal, Shropshire

Organiser:

Geoff Taylor

Tel 0203 678632

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PREMIER WEEKENDS

JUNIORS

8th - 9th

October 1994

Armley Table Tennis
Centre,
Leeds

Organiser:

Geoff Taylor

Tel: 0203 678632

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
PREMIER WEEKENDS

VETERANS

15th - 16th

October 1994

Vymura Int. Ltd.,
Sports Hall, Hyde,
Cheshire

Organiser:

Derek Schofield

Tel: 061 483 4744

Full Details of England matches to be on the Table Tennis Information Line as soon as possible.
Tel 0891 664300 (Calls cost 36p per minute cheap rate and 48p per minute at all other times).

JOOLA EUROPEAN MEN'S LEAGUE SUPER DIVISION

ENGLAND v. DENMARK

8TH NOVEMBER 1994

Hermitage Leisure Centre, Whitwick, Leicestershire

Telephone the Ticket Hotline on 01424 722525