

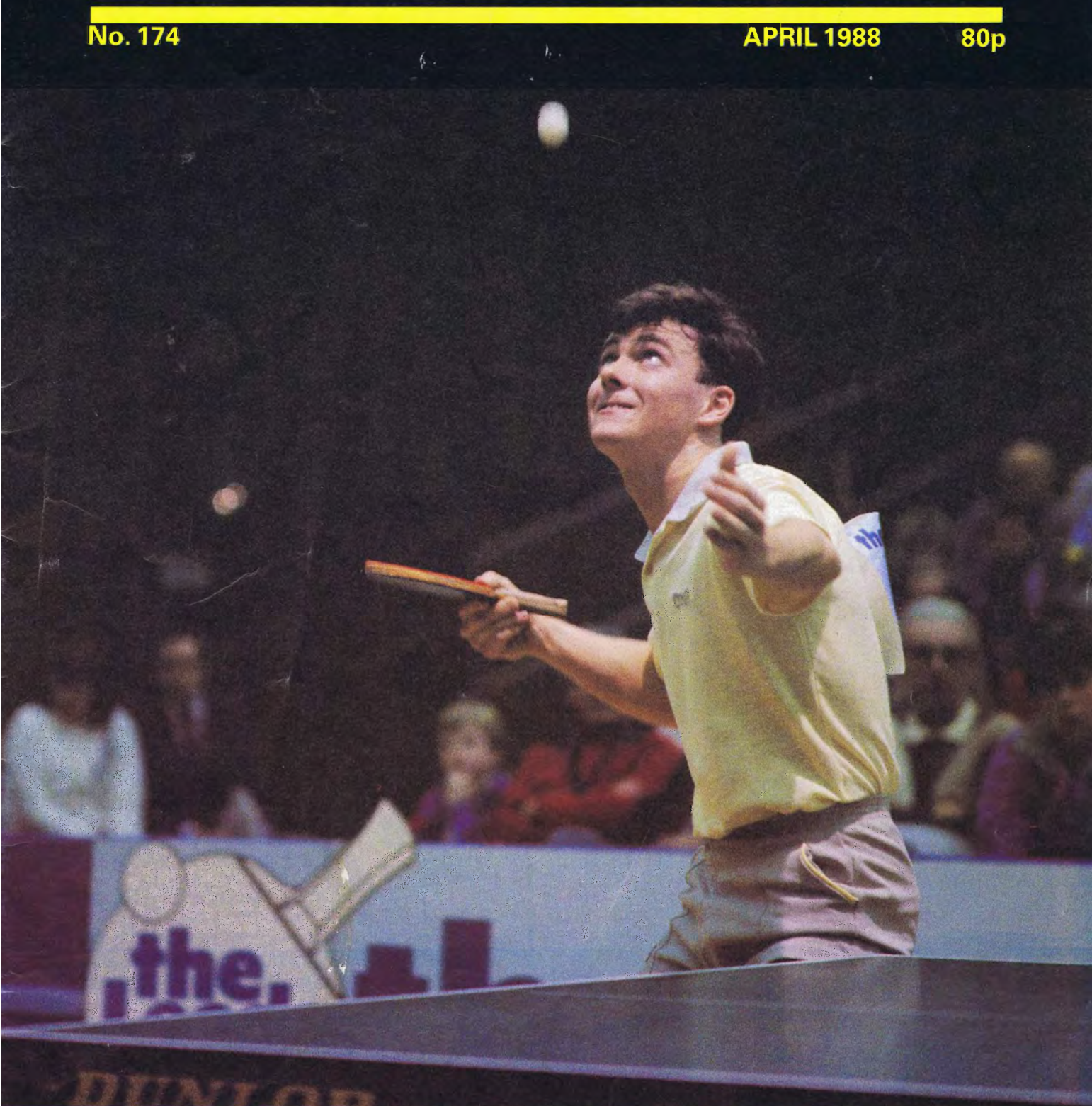


# Table Tennis News

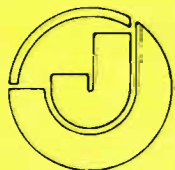
No. 174

APRIL 1988

80p



"DESMOND'S GOOSE IS COOKED" — GO GOOSE COOKING with



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and DOUBLE FISH  
TABLE TENNIS BALLS**

**John  
Jaques**

# Escape plan — one class lady

PARTIALLY deafened by the tumult of up to 17,000 fans at the Palais de Omnisports in Paris, England fans were able to weigh up carefully, before their eyes, precisely what is keeping England in Division 1 of the European League, whilst the men's team have risen to the level we knew they were capable of reaching — second only in Europe to Sweden — and at this moment in time there is a sign of weariness in the Swedish camp.

A team of brilliant young players, it could be England, it could be Russia or Yugoslavia or even France, might just topple Sweden from the top branch of the European tree before much longer, just like Alan Cooke took the England crown from Desmond Douglas, earlier than expected by some. However, Carl Prean was the star of the show in Paris. At times he looked strong enough to beat everyone in sight. Alan Cooke did not play as well as he did in Norwich and Des Douglas was delighted to contribute a supporting role, playing 1, 5, 9, giving him ample rests between his games and for England to have such experience on hand for the ninth game was a Parker mastermind coup, both France and Russia fell into the ninth game trap as Douglas powered home and the pressure was too great for the opposition.

But, it is highly unlikely that success is going to be recorded either in the Super Division or the Division 1 of the European League without a really first class woman player. Example — France took the European title from Sweden 4-3, thanks to the efforts of the Chinese girl Xiao Ming Wang, the new French No 1. Holland stopped England in Norwich largely through the strength of Bettine Vreisekoop.

Competition is so fierce in the top divisions of the European League that it is almost impossible for the men to win all the singles and the men's doubles. Teams like England are almost two down before they start when there is a player of the Vreisekoop class in opposition.

Since her astounding form at Brighton, Andrea Holt has failed to scale other mountains because she has such a tremendous amount to learn. She went through another stage of her apprenticeship in Paris, losing to lesser players than she rocked in Brighton. We can only hope that she, or one of the other three ladies in our squad, can rescue England next season.

A more tranquil situation is in prospect in the ETTA corridors of power. John Prean, the chairman is putting forward almost the same team of re-election of his vice-chairmen, with the stunning but welcome addition of George Yates, the former resigned deputy chairman, who is returning as a candidate for vice-chairman without portfolio.

**JOHN WOODFORD**

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★ **THE  
COVER  
PICTURE**

ALAN COOKE 21, from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, is the new champion of England. His move to the top was predicted widely, but not so many thought he would topple Desmond Douglas this year. His open, athletic approach makes him an ideal rival for Carl Prean who is also aiming to be the England No 1. Picture: PETER BARNES.

## Reading man wins at Hornchurch

### 30th ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Magnificent Stokes halts Skylet

by RON MACKENZIE

THE 30th Essex 3-Star Open Table Tennis Championships took place at the new venue of Harrow Lodge Sports Centre at Hornchurch. 295 entries were accepted but many were refused due to their late arrival, including Scotland's No 1 and 2 Dave Hannah and John Broe.

Saturday saw the men's and ladies groups played off with no major surprises. There were 60 groups of 4 players in the mens and 18 ladies groups of 3.

One thing about the venue became obvious at an early stage and that was the three flights of stairs and about 80 yards of corridor that separated the control tables from the playing area. Some of the older umpires booked taxis for the Sunday others wondered whether it would be safe to throw ropes over the balcony to the floor below and slide to their matches. Referee Dave Miller claimed he had no road map and refused to move!

The ladies were well represented with only Joy Dean missing from the top 11 English ranked players. The men unfortunately were minus Des Douglas, Alan Cooke and Carl Preat but the next 15 ranked were present.

The ladies' doubles went according to ranking up to the final then the No 2 seeds Fiona Elliot and Lisa Lomas toppled the favourites Alison Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury in two straight.

#### Upset

The men's doubles saw an upset in the quarter-finals when favourites Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason went under to

Steve Dorking and Adrian Dixon, but this pairing was defeated in the semi-finals by John Souter and Colin Wilson the No 4 seeds. Graham Sandley and Philip Bradbury, who had ousted Bradley Billington and Sean Gibson, in the final. This hard hitting tactical match was eventually won by Souter and Wilson 22-20 in the third.

In the ladies' singles semi-finals Alison Gordon beat Andrea Holt and Fiona Elliot came through against Lisa Lomas. The final was a hard fought match as Fiona Elliot No 2 seed just managed to edge out Alison Gordon 21-17 in the third.

The semi-finals of the men's singles saw Skylet Andrew scrape home against Nicky Mason in 3 games and Jimmy Stokes powering his way to victory over Kevin Satchell also in 3 games.

The final was a classic for young Jimmy, still in brilliant form following his victory in the Middlesex 3-Star Men's Open, the match see-sawed from one to the other until Stokes's passing wins saw him home.

## RESULTS

**Men's Singles:** Semi-finals: Skylet Andrew (Essex) b Nicky Mason (Surrey) 17, -7, 16; Jimmy Stokes (Berkshire) b Kevin Satchell (Wilts) 12, -20, 11.

Final: Stokes b Andrew 19, 20.

**Ladies' Singles:** Semi-finals: Alison Gordon (Berks) b Andrea Holt (Lancs) 18, 16; Fiona Elliot (Staffs) b Lisa Lomas (Beds) -15, 15, 15.

Final: Elliot b Gordon 14, -17, 17.

**Men's Doubles:** Final: J. Souter and C. Wilson b P. Bradbury and G. Sandley -16, 14, 20.

**Ladies' Doubles:** Final: F. Elliot and L. Lomas b A. Gordon and M. Sainsbury 16, 16.

**Veterans' Singles:** Final: J. Hilton b R. Gunnion 18, 13.

The first finals played were the class 2 men's and ladies' singles. The ladies was won by Sue Collier beating Helen Lower in two closely fought games. Chris Oldfield took the men's from Joe Kennedy in a hard hitting three games scraping home 24-22 in the third.

The veterans' final was contested between John Hilton the No 1 seed and Ralph Gunnion No 3 who had put out No 2 seed Henry Buist in the previous round. John coasted home in two straight games.

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Jimmy Stokes from Reading, unlucky not to be at the European Championships in Paris must have made his bid too late, winning first the Middlesex Open and then the Essex. Mike Loveder captured one of the best action shots of the year with his cameras that have been very busy for Table Tennis News this campaign.

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## Dutch win promotion at Norwich

# The end of the road

by MIKE WATTS

ENGLAND's battle for a place in the European Super Division for next season is over. At Norwich on 2 March they fought hard in front of a capacity crowd that roared them on at every opportunity, but to no avail as the Netherlands just held out getting the verdict — and promotion 4-3.

It was indeed sad that the man who has done most for English table tennis over the past decade should have one of his very rare off-nights as Desmond Douglas lost the opening singles of the night to the Netherlands No 1 Paul Haldan and then when England fell behind for the third time at 3-2 he lost to Henk Van Spanje 19 in the third, having recovered from a 20-13 deficit. England captain, Donald Parker, kept the opposition guessing right through the evening as he gave all of his five players matches in tactical switches designed to disrupt the Dutch. His introduction of Carl Preat to partner Alan Cooke at 2-1 down was an immediate success as the two young players extracted themselves from early deficits in both games to snatch victory from under the noses of their more experienced opponents. Bringing Lisa Lomas in to partner Carl in the mixed doubles appeared to unsettle the Dutch as the English pair captured the first game but it was not to be as Haldan and the vastly experienced European No 2 Bettine Vriesekoop came back to win 18 in the third. Earlier Alison Gordon had fought gamely against Bettine but had gone down two straight.

### Revelation!

Alan Cooke was a revelation. Following on his first Men's Singles national title at Crawley the previous weekend, he played with a maturity far beyond his expectations taking out Van Spanje in the second game of the night and in the final 'dead' rubber, Haldan without dropping a game. With Desmond having already announced his intentions to retire from European league play from next season it now appears as if England have a natural successor to wear Des's crown.

### And now Hungary

What of the future? Well, next season it will be even harder to gain promotion. Belgium proved they are a force to be reckoned with in England's previous fixture and it is now known that Hungary have been relegated. They have been the most successful country in the 20 years of the competition, having won the Premier Division title five times and have finished second on four occasions. This is also the first time that they have been relegated in the history of the competition. There are also strong rumours that the USSR are returning to the scene and that they will start in the First Division.



ETTA events manager Mike Watts is a most industrious professional working for the Association. His work often goes far beyond the call of duty.

### THE DETAILS

#### Results

D. Douglas l P. Haldan -21, 14, 14; A. Cooke b H. Van Spanje 10, 19; A. Gordon l B. Vriesekoop -15, -12; Cooke/C. Preat b Haldan/Van Spanje 20, 19; Preat/L. Lomas l Haldan/Vriesekoop 19, -13, -18; Douglas l Van Spanje 19, -16, -19; Cooke b Haldan 17, 12.



England champion Alan Cooke was unbeaten at Norwich winning both his singles games against Haldan and Henk Van Spanje, but it was not enough to get England back where they belong in the Super Division of the European League. The requirement is two men winning most of the singles and some help from a lady! Sweden cannot win the Super Division, neither can England gain promotion without a strong lady.

## THE SPANISH OFFER FOR DESMOND



THE first offer for next season for the services of Desmond Douglas has come from Spain. Des who has an apartment in Denia, Alicante region is unlikely to accept the offer. Latest news from Denia is that the town water supplies are under threat and it looks like water from street standpipes until next October.

## THE LATE TOURNAMENT

THE East Anglian 2-Star Open will be held at the Waveney Leisure Centre, Lowestoft on Saturday and Sunday, 7 & 8 May promoted by the Lowestoft League. The organiser is Russell King, 37 Grampian Way, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 3EP and the closing date is 17 April. Len Pilditch and Doris Moors are the referees, and the prize money is £730.

It is a tournament with a difference: wide range of events for all standards of play; if you enter the Men's or Ladies' Singles plus one other event you would play a minimum of four matches; wide range of other sporting facilities at the venue; holiday accommodation from £7; promotion package available on the complete Waveney area, including Pleasurewood Hills American Theme Park only two miles from the venue; Oulton Broad also only two miles from the venue.

## The Daily Telegraph

THE coverage given to table tennis in *The Daily Telegraph* this season has continued on a grand scale. It is the only national newspaper with a weekly table tennis column (Tuesdays) and in addition we have averaged two or more stories a week. Mid-week is the best time to buy the Telegraph for our sport, better still place a regular order with your newsagent! The pressures on the sporting coverage is greatest at weekends. My weekly review has appeared every Tuesday since last September and will continue, hopefully, through to the end of May and recommence early September, probably 8 September. J.W.

# Swedish domination weakens

A POPULAR winner Mikael Appelgren, a magnificent stadium, crowds up to 15,000 at peak times are just a few of the features of the 1988 European Championships at the Palais de Omnisports, Bercy, south-east Paris from 18-28 March.

Many of us have seen European and even World Championships organised in a sloppy fashion. The French were having none of that! The organisation was run on military lines. The officiousness of some the gatekeepers had to be seen to be believed.

To the table tennis — Appelgren, a popular Swedish winner in 1982 did it again; in the final he stifled the Russian challenge from Andrei Mazunov 15, 14, -18, 12 without a great deal of trouble.

**Bounced back**

The fireworks came in the preceding semi-final when Appelgren after losing the first two games, bounced back to beat Jan-Ove Waldner, the man who most people thought would win the title.

Every time Jean-Philippe Gattien, the successor to Jacques Secretin came into the arena, the noise was quite deafening — how the other players managed to retain their concentration is a mystery to me. But then in these huge stadiums some can play easily with all the noise and distractions, for others it wrecks their play completely at worst, or forces them into all sorts of errors at best.

Jorgen Persson was of course, the other young Swede who was well-fancied to win the European crown, but he was beaten in Round 3 by Gattien, a happening that was greeted with the greatest acclaim I have ever heard in Europe.

Eastern Europe continues to expand its monopoly over Western and Northern European players in the women's competitions. Looking through the quarter finals of the women's singles it is difficult to see an eastern name, let alone British.

The really classic chopper Fliura Bulatova is the new women's champion of Europe. She moves so fast to apply the backspin and usually succeeds in making her opponents overhit.

But watch out for the losing finalist — Otilia Badescu (Romania) is only 17, the same age as our Andrea Holt. Badescu was only subdued at 12 in the fifth game of the final.

**Fighting on**

When England men stormed through the event and severely testing Sweden in the final, there were hopes that another fairytale was soon to emerge in the individual events.

Carl Prean obliged as Alan Cooke never really got to grips with the best parts of his game in Paris. The Saarbrücken man, hitting harder than ever with the Lentec rubber long pimples, suddenly ran into trouble just before playing David Hannah.

**Surprised**

A Czech umpire, a member of the ETTU technical committee spotted that the rubber had disappeared from the official long list of approvals. Everybody looked surprised during the 35-minute delay as Carl changed his rubbers to something less lethal. He played on and beat Hannah with some discomfort and then hammered out Erik Lindh quite easily.

**A great run**

But the next day, Prean failed to handle Paul Haldan and just missed his place in the quarter finals after a great run. Prean had never lost to Haldan before, but always with his favourite rubber. At the stage in the fifth game of the eighth-final when Prean led 18-17, it looked as though he would do it, but Haldan is an improved player and he showed his class by stopping the English star who has now shown that he is a member of the young group of European men emerging to the top. So far, Sweden have not got a youngster in that class, or if they have, he is being kept under wraps!



*On the winners podium.*



*Winning Swedish players all of 'em.*

**THE RUBBER TROUBLE — THE FACTS**

LENTEC long pimples marketed from Coventry by Stan Lenton's organisation has been registered and approved by the ITTF for several years. For some reason best known to Mr Lenton the annual fee was late, very late, arriving at the Hastings office of the ITTF. When it did arrive, the cheque was returned as being 'out of time'. I guarantee that anywhere else in the world, with the two associations offices in the same town, a friendly phone call advising that the Lentec rubber was off the list would have saved all the trouble before it started. But no such luck, the England squad went to Paris with 'illegal' rubber on three players bats — no-one in the England administration had realised the sad outcome. Whether Carl Prean would have been the European champion now if this had not happened we will never know. What is quite certain is that for seven days he was hitting the ball harder and more accurately than his opponents. He swept aside top world players like Waldner and Lindh and yet without the proper rubber he said his bat 'felt light', and that let Haldan through and not Prean.—JW.

STOP PRESS: The sequel — the ETTA telexed the ITTF president Ichiro Oigimura in Tokyo. As a result the ban was lifted on 5 April in time for the England juniors in the Belgian Open to use Lentec coverings. The rubbers will be 'legal' until the new list is issued in June or July.

'TABLE TENNIS NEWS'  
Reporting team in Paris included:  
JOHN WOODFORD,  
JOHNNY LEACH, RICHARD EATON, BRIAN SPICER, RON CRAYDEN AND ALAN RANSOME

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# Silver medals for England men's team best for ten years

by JOHN WOODFORD

ENGLAND's outstanding performance, the best in Europe for ten years, in defeating six countries and then dragging Sweden through a desperate fight before the holders won 5-3 in the final, is the sort of happening that was always on the cards, although only the most optimistic observers believed it possible.

The achievement of Carl Prean, Desmond Douglas and Alan Cooke who played unchanged throughout the four days of the team event is quite remarkable. Winning the silver medals will also reflect on the successful tactics employed by England captain Don Parker, who skilfully guided his three men to victory.

Parker's decision was to play Douglas in the 1, 5, 9 order, giving him two games rest between each visit to the table and an 'ace on the table' if the situation climaxed at 4-4 as it did twice, against France and Russia. In both cases, Douglas's experience seemed to unnerve his opponents from France and the Soviet Union.

occasions the best order of play — that suited him to such an extent that he won a splendid 14 wins and only four losses, two of them to Sweden in the final, although like Alan Cooke, they both defeated Jan-Ove Waldner.

Two years ago in Prague when Jorgen Persson won his European crown, I had doubts on his ability to maintain the pace, but those doubts proved to be without foundation. It was Persson who held his side together in the final against England with a maximum, a feat against England achieved only by Jean-Philippe Gaten in the opening game against France.

## Pressure

Giving Desmond the No 3 role, put more pressure on Alan Cooke, who often faced the opposing No 1 first, whilst Carl Prean seemed to have on most

## THE WINNERS

<b>Men's Singles</b> MIKAEL APPELGREN	<b>Women's Singles</b> FLIURA BULATOVA
<b>Men's Doubles</b> WALDNER/APPELGREN	<b>Women's Doubles</b> BATORFI/URBAN
<b>Mixed Doubles</b> LUPELESCU/FAZLIC	
<b>Men's Teams</b> SWEDEN	<b>Women's Teams</b> RUSSIA
<b>runners-up</b> ENGLAND	<b>runners-up</b> CZECHOSLOVAKIA

## PHOTOS IN PARIS by BRIAN WEBSTER

Who paid £100 to take photographs, was rarely allowed on the floor and was literally pushed around by French officials.

### MEN'S FINAL

**England 3 — Sweden 5**  
Douglas D. v Persson J. 15-21, 12-21; Prean C. v Waldner J.-O. 21-13, 21-5; Cooke A. v Lindh E. 18-21, 9-21; Prean C. v Persson J. 21-11, 15-21, 18-21; Douglas D. v Lindh E. 21-18, 21-15; Cooke A. v Waldner J.-O. 21-18, 21-16; Prean C. v Lindh E. 13-21, 21-10, 16-21; Cooke A. v Persson J. 18-21, 11-21.

### WOMEN'S FINAL

**Czechoslovakia 1 — Russia 3**  
Hrachova M. v Kovtun E. 21-13, 16-21, 15-21; Safarova A. v Bulatova F. 21-15, 15-21, 13-21; Kasalova R./Safarova A. v Kovtun E./Bulatova F. 21-13, 21-15; Hrachova M. v Bulatova F. 18-21, 15-21.

### ENGLAND MEN'S SIX VICTIMS

**England 5 — France 4**  
Douglas D. v Birocheau P. 21-11, 21-13; Prean C. v Marmurek O. 21-17, 21-17; Cooke A. v Gaten J.-P. 16-21, 18-21; Prean C. v Birocheau P. 15-21, 21-8; Douglas D. v Gaten J.-P. 13-21, 21-23; Cooke A. v Marmurek O. 23-21, 21-13; Prean C. v Gaten J.-P. 16-21, 21-14, 17-21; Cooke A. v Birocheau P. 17-21, 13-21; Douglas D. v Marmurek O. 21-17, 21-11.

**England 5 — Hungary 1**  
Douglas D. v Harczy Z. 21-8, 21-13; Prean C. v Somosi M. 21-13, 21-16; Cooke A. v Kriston Z. 21-18, 21-12; Prean C. v Harczy Z. 21-9, 17-21, 16-21; Douglas D. v Kriston Z. 21-15, 21-12; Cooke A. v Somosi M. 21-18, 21-19.

**England 5 — Bulgaria 1**  
Douglas D. v Stoyanov I. 21-10, 21-11; Prean C. v Stefanov S. 21-9, 27-29, 21-12; Cooke A. v Loukov M. 18-21, 21-18, 17-21; Prean C. v Stoyanov I. 21-17, 25-23; Douglas D. v Loukov M. 21-10, 20-22, 21-16; Cooke A. v Stefanov S. 21-14, 21-17.

**England 5 — Russia 4**  
Douglas D. v Rozenberg B. 21-14, 11-21, 18-21; Prean C. v Dvorak V. 21-10, 22-20; Cooke A. v Mazunov A. 12-21, 15-21; Prean C. v Rozenberg B. 21-15, 21-19; Douglas D. v Mazunov A. 21-16, 18-21, 24-26; Cooke A. v Dvorak V. 20-22, 21-7, 14-21; Prean C. v Mazunov A. 21-12, 21-13; Cooke A. v Rozenberg B. 21-15, 21-19; Douglas D. v Dvorak V. 21-18, 21-17.

**England 5 — Yugoslavia 1**  
Douglas D. v Primorac Z. 21-15, 14-21, 17-21; Prean C. v Lupulesku I. 21-13, 14-21, 21-14; Cooke A. v Kalinic Z. 16-21, 21-7, 21-18; Prean C. v Primorac Z. 21-13, 19-21, 21-15; Douglas D. v Kalinic Z. 21-10, 21-12; Cooke A. v Lupulesku I. 21-16, 21-15.

**England 5 — Czechoslovakia 0**  
Douglas D. v Janci T. 21-7, 21-13; Prean C. v Javurek J. 21-18, 21-16; Cooke A. v Pansky J. 21-18, 21-12; Prean C. v Janci T. 14-21, 21-13, 21-16; Douglas D. v Pansky J. 21-23, 21-19, 28-26.

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3. Russia
4. Hungary
5. Czechoslovakia
6. West Germany
7. Yugoslavia
8. Poland
9. France
10. Bulgaria
11. Romania
12. Belgium
13. Holland
14. Austria
15. Turkey
16. Finland
17. Italy
18. Switzerland
19. Denmark
20. Norway
21. Wales
22. Scotland
23. Luxembourg
24. Greece
25. Spain
26. Ireland
27. Portugal
28. Iceland
29. Malta
30. Guernsey

**Women**

1. Russia
2. Czechoslovakia
3. Holland
4. Yugoslavia
5. West Germany
6. Hungary
7. France
8. England
9. Romania
10. Poland
11. Bulgaria
12. Denmark
13. Sweden
14. Italy
15. Belgium
16. Finland
17. Spain
18. Norway
19. Austria
20. Switzerland
21. Scotland
22. Greece
23. Portugal
24. Turkey
25. Ireland
26. Wales
27. Malta

IN JANUARY at the Leeds Euro-Asia in Cleveland and at the English Open in Brighton, it was clear that the gap between Asia and Europe in men's table tennis terms had eroded or perhaps even disappeared altogether which in itself is a very healthy sign for European table tennis. A second encouraging signal came out of the European Table Tennis Championships in Paris in that a new breed of young European players is emerging led by Carl Prean and Alan Cooke.

England did magnificently in the men's team event to win the silver medal. The team no longer relied on Desmond Douglas in fact if anything Carl Prean produced the best performance although all three clearly played a vital part in the success.

In the final both Carl and Alan beat the European No 1, Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden. In the semi-final against the USSR Prean excelled to win three including a victory at 4-2 down against Andrei Mazunov. Cooke produced good wins beating Jindrich Pansky, Zoran Kalinic and Boris Rosenberg in the team matches. In the singles Prean beat Erik Lindh despite the rubber fiasco.

From a European viewpoint it is not just England that are producing the future top stars. France, the host country, have a brilliant player, Jean-Philippe Gattien who won three in the team event against both England and Yugoslavia. Russia have a very attractive young team with great potential shown by Andrei Mazunov's younger brother, Dmitri. Yugoslavia have two emerging stars in Zoltan Primorac and Ilija Lupulesku whilst Hungary have Zsolt Harczy and Czechoslovakia has Tomas Janci. West Germany has Jorg Roskopf as their new big hope. He reached the semi-final of the men's singles. Another talented youngster Steffen Fetzner is backing him up.

All of these players come from a country with a traditional history of strong table tennis but



Alan Ransome

another emerging nation with great potential is Belgium with Jean-Michel Saive and former Hungarian Andras Podpinka. Saive in fact beat Mikael Appelgren the eventual singles winner in the team event.

With all this talent around and the Asian gap bridged the future for European table tennis looks rosy. But what about Sweden?

The Swedes clearly had a marvellous championship having four players in the last eight of the men's singles and winning the team event plus of course Appelgren winning the singles for the second time.

Although the current squad have been around for some time Appelgren beat Waldner in the final of the European Championships in Budapest in 1982, they are still quite young, with Waldner 22 and Persson only 21. They are setting the standard for the rest of Europe to aim at. That standard is high but it is my guess that in two years time when the Swedes host the Europeans, they will have their work cut out to repeat these successes in Paris.

## Russians, Czechs in command

AS EXPECTED Russia and Czechoslovakia dominated the women's team event with the Soviet Union winning the final 3-1 against the Czechs.

England women's team started off at a great pace. On the first day they were unbeaten, halting Romania 3-2 and Denmark 3-0, two very respectable wins but there the winning stopped for the English ladies, starting with a four 3-1 defeat by West Germany. There were some bright spots — Lisa Lomas beat Valentina Popova, the former European champion from Moscow — but it became all downhill.

At the end of the team event

England playing for seventh place lost 3-2 to France and finally finished eighth, further proof it it were needed that English women's table tennis is way behind the men, similarly European women are far behind the standard of the Asians.

Almost every team in Europe has people from other countries in their teams. Not content with two Romanians — Georg Bohm and Olga Nemes — in their national team the Germans have now come up with a useful Korean player Jin Sook Cords, but she was beaten by England champion Alison Gordon in the team event.

# Magnificent England!

by Johnny Leach

I SAW every point involving England's men's team in the European Championships and I cannot recall any other table tennis event that was more exciting to watch. England were magnificent. Des, Cookie and Carl played their hearts out and the team spirit on the bench from Skylet Andrew and Donald Parker, in addition to the resting pair, was such that each opponent found himself fighting five Englishmen at once. The play was superb and the atmosphere so tense and electric one could not help becoming emotionally involved.

We came so close to winning the European title against Sweden, now considered at least on a par with world champions China, that our team can now tackle any opponents with a good chance of success. I give Don Parker a lot of credit for this. He prepared a fit, confident, fighting outfit with a team spirit second to none.

## Time for Change

I think the time has come for the European Championships to be split so that Team and Individual events have an interval between them possibly as long as one year. The suggestion was made to me in Paris by Jacques Secretin and I agree with him.

The reason is that the general standard of play in Europe has improved to such an extent that it is no longer possible for players to raise their game for two major events in the same week.

In my day, we could afford to rest our leading players against such countries as Holland, Austria, Bulgaria and the Scandinavians and win without difficulty. But now players are under pressure from the first point because there are no weak teams in the top two groups. Paris provided a good example.

Apart from Mazunov of the USSR, who wilted in the final, not one of the eight men with best results in the team events was able to progress further than the last 8 in individual events. The 1990 European Championships are due to be staged in Gothenburg. I urge the European TTU Executive Committee seriously to consider one year's break between team and individual events. This would enable players to be at their peak for both, it would be a treat for the public and also provide two bites at the cherry from a financial point of view. If the ETTA were to propose this I think that most other countries would support them.

## Lessons

Carl Prean just might be European singles champion today if his bat had not been banned. The



Johnny Leach

only thing wrong with the brand of rubber Carl was using — and has used for the past five years — was that the manufacturer had somehow failed to pay Approval Fee when it was due so the ITTF withdrew it from its list without the knowledge of most of us.

In these circumstances, were the ITTF right in mid-season to penalise players who had spent up to £40 for their bats? Surely 6 months notice should be allowed before making a rubber illegal? And what about the method of announcing the ban? This could scarcely be called adequate. If the son of the ETTA chairman didn't know he was using an illegal bat covering, how should anyone else from international to club level be expected to know?

I'm not blaming anyone in particular. Frankly, I don't think the powers-that-be realised the extent of the problems they were creating by banning a particular brand of rubber without sufficient notice. The least we might have expected would be a prominent advance notice displayed in *TABLE TENNIS NEWS*. This must not happen again.

Ichiro Ogimura, the former world champion and current President of the ITTF, and his colleagues, have always been most considerate and sympathetic towards players of all standards throughout the world. I am confident that now with hindsight, they will produce a new, fairer rule which will quite correctly penalise the manufacturer without sabotaging the players interests.

# SWEDISH RHAPSODY

by RON CRAYDEN

IN THE palatial POPB Sports Stadium of Paris — Bercy, the exciting players from Sweden dominated the men's competitions winning three titles — the men's singles, the men's doubles and the team event. The supremacy of the Swedes can be gauged by the fact that four of their players reached the last eight of the singles.

The semi-final between Mikael Appelgren and Jan-Ove Waldner was a classic that brought the crowd to its feet and made the eldest forget their varicose veins. Table tennis at this level is something to be experienced rather than explained, there was tension, excitement, inspiration, frustration, joy, athleticism and breath-taking brilliance. We are now becoming accustomed to the Swedish players turning up at a tournament, just doing what comes naturally and walking away with the top prizes. The semi-final we witnessed in Paris however, was something special and although it made the final pall in comparison its impact was a marvellous advertisement for table tennis. The winner of this epic was Mikael Appelgren at 19 in the fifth and he went on to bewilder and tame the spirited Russian, Andrei Mazunov, in the final. It says much for the strength in depth of the Swedish team, when it is realised that Mikael Appelgren, the European champion was not even selected for the team event final. It is my considered opinion that Sweden has the finest team of 'shake-hands' grip players in the world and even the whirlwind 'pen-holders' from China will have to look to their laurels at next year's World Championships.



Ron Crayden

It would be remiss of me not to mention the performance of the English men's team and in particular the outstanding results achieved by young Carl Prean.



Carl Prean

The combined efforts of Carl, Desmond and Alan in the team matches were nothing short of magnificent, especially against the might of the USSR and the ultimate champions Sweden. In the team final, Carl played like one possessed against the No 1 seed Jan-Ove Waldner absolutely destroying him 21-13, 21-5, but the overall strength of the Swedes proved just too much in the end.

## Superior

The young ladies of the USSR showed their superiority by winning the team event, the women's singles and the silver medal in the women's doubles. Much of their success centred around the talented Fliura Bulatova whose patience and immaculate defence tamed the more venturesome 'loopers', top-spinners and all out hitters. The final of the women's singles was another crowd pleaser in which a young Romanian girl, Otilia Badescu, with a style in many ways reminiscent of the former Czech champion, Marta Luczova, made a terrific fight of it for four games, only to find the resilience of Miss Bulatova just too much in the fifth and final game. Sadly our girls met with mixed fortunes, they performed adequately but their challenge in the team championship fell lamentably short when they finished in eighth position.

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INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES

Waldner J.-O. SWE	Waldner J.-O. SWE	Waldner Jan-Ove SWE	
Wosik R. FRG	20, 12, 18	21, 20, 17	Appelgren M. SWE
Bengtsson U. SWE	Bengtsson U. SWE		-19, -19, 16, 20, 19
Rozenberg B. URS	19, -17, 12, 17		
Appelgren M. SWE	Appelgren M. SWE		
Loukov M. BUL	16, -15, 14, 17	-16, 12, 16, -13, 17	
Carlsson U. SWE	Carlsson U. SWE		
Primorac Z. YUG	-19, 21, 20, 16		
Appelgren M. 15, 14, -18, 12			
Persson J. SWE	Gatien J.-P. FRA	Mazunov A. URS	
Gatien J.-P. FRA	18, 19, -10, 17	10, 16, 16	
Saive J.-M. BEL	Mazunov A. URS		
Mazunov A. URS	-16, 11, 11, 14		
Ding Yi. AUT	Roskopf J. FRG	Roskopf J. FRG	
Roskopf J. FRG	-15, -17, 9, 21, 17	16, 11, 6	
Haldan P. HOL	Haldan P. HOL		
Prian C. ENG	-19, 18, 17, -21, 18		
Mazunov A. URS 15, 10, 17			

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Bulatova F. URS	Bulatova F. URS	Bulatova F. URS	
Kloppenborg N. HOL	11, 12, -20, 16	19, 16, 21	Bulatova F. URS
Safarova A. TCH	Nemes O. FRG		-19, 18, 19, 20
Nemes O. FRG	14, 9, 16		
Keen G. HOL	Kasalova R. TCH	Kasalova R. TCH	
Kasalova R. TCH	10, 17, 15	18, 9, 12	
Fazlic J. YUG	Fazlic J. YUG		
Guergueltcheva D. BUL	17, -11, 14, 17		
Bulatova F. -15, 10, -16, 15, 12			
Batorfi C. HUN	Popova V. URS	Popova V. URS	
Popova V. URS	-9, 17, 21, 21	19, -16, 18, 19	
Perkucin G. YUG	Perkucin G. YUG		
Wirth G. HUN	19, 18, 10		
Badescu O. ROM	Badescu O. ROM	Badescu O. ROM	
Kovtun E. URS	8, 20, 12	18, -20, 17, -8, 11	
Viktorsson B. SWE	Viktorsson B. SWE		
Vriesekoop B. HOL	-17, -8, 18, 11, 16		
Badescu O. ROM 18, 15, 15			

MEN'S DOUBLES

Waldner J./Appelgren M.	Waldner J./Appelgren M.	Waldner J./Appelgren M.	
Gatien J./Birocheau P.	-18, 16, 17	15, -17, 16	Waldner J./Appelgren M.
Gaman M./Javurek J.	Grubba A./Kucharski L.		
Grubba A./Kucharski L.	15, 17		
Lindh E./Persson J.	Lindh E./Persson J.	Lupulesku I./Primorac Z.	
Renverse P./Marmurek O.	11, 14	-17, 18, 14	
Roskopf J./Fetner S.	Lupulesku I./Primorac Z.		
Lupulesku I./Primorac Z.			
Waldner J./Appelgren M. -13, 13, 14			

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Bulatova F./Kovtun E.	Bulatova F./Kovtun E.	Bulatova F./Kovtun E.	
Lippens B./Godes A.	15, 15	10, 13	Batorfi C./Urban E.
Nemes O./Nolten K.	Hrachova M./Kasalova R.		
Hrachova M./Kasalova R.	14, 20		
Guergueltchev/Popova V.	Badescu O./Alboiu M.	Batorfi C./Urban E.	
Badescu O./Alboiu M.	19, -14, 19	14, 13	
Fazlic J./Perkucin G.	Batorfi C./Urban E.		
Batorfi C./Urban E.	-14, 15, 17		
Batorfi C./Urban E. 19, 17			

MIXED DOUBLES

Pansky J./Hrachova M.	Primorac Z./Perkucin G.	Carlsson U./Urban E.	
Primorac Z./Perkucin G.	19, -11, 19	-19, 12, 20	
Dryszel S./Calinska K.	Carlsson U./Urban E.		
Carlsson U./Urban E.	-19, 12, 13		
Saive J./Bogaerts K.	Gatien J./Wang X.	Lupulesku I./Fazlic J.	
Gatien J./Wang X.	21, 20	14, -16, 17	
Van Spanje H./Kloppenborg M.	Lupulesku I./Fazlic J.		
Lupulesku I./Fazlic J.	14, 11		
Lupulesku I./Fazlic J. 12, 18			
Kalinic Z./Guergueltchev	Creanga C./Badescu O.	Creanga C./Badescu O.	
Creanga C./Badescu O.	15, 16	-15, 15, 11	
Nemeth K./Wirth G.	Grman M./Kasalova R.		
Grman M./Kasalova R.	15, 6		
Rozenberg B./Popova V.	Rozenberg B./Popova V.	Grubba A./Vriesekoop B.	
Andrew S./Elliot F.	18, 20	-15, 17, 15	
Fetner S./Nemes O.	Grubba A./Vriesekoop B.		
Grubba A./Vriesekoop B.	21, -18, 11		
Grubba A./Vriesekoop B. 16, 10			

PARIS POPULAR WITH THE JOURNALISTS

A RECORD number of journalists, 267, were accredited in Paris. Worried by the large numbers the French tried to get the AIPS (Association Internationale de la Presse Sportive) to apply a closed shop (professionals only, which is contrary to ITTF policy. Alan Ransome and Brian Spicer were amongst a group who filed copy for British papers but were without the AIPS cards. But after negotiations the British Press Corps — Eaton, Woodford, Ransome, Spicer was installed.

PREAN ALMOST WINS JOOLA

CARL PREAN's stunning play that startled everyone in the team events almost captured for him the Joola Trophy — he came second to Andrei Mazunov — with 52 points against Mazunov's 57. The trophy is presented by the AIPS (Association Internationale de la Presse Sportive), which is the organisation for professional sports writers.

The points system is 3 points for a win in the first stage of the team event with increased points for the later stages.

Fiura Bulatova (USSR) won the Joola women's trophy with 41 points, easily from Bettine Vriesekoop with 34. A second win in the final against Sweden would have given Prean the Joola cup.

EMOTIONAL EUROPEAN OCCASIONS

TABLE TENNIS played at such a high level in a huge stadium can have a surprising affect of people's emotional state. Weeping is of course, medically, a natural release of tension.

Three Britons wept in Paris at least, there may have been more — Skylet Andrew was overcome when he lost to Ulf Carlsson in Round 3 in the fifth game 26-28, after holding a match point seconds earlier. Jill Parker was in tears as England were beaten in the men's team final.

Dundee-based photographer Brian Webster wept in his hotel after he had been roughly handled by security staff trying to obtain entrance to the Press Centre to take a photograph of Carl Prean at a press conference. Webster paid £100 to take photos and was only allowed on the floor on three occasions. He has vowed never to return to the tournament.

# Southern and South West Regions, London

## SOUTHERN REGION

### Cippenham still leading

by  
**BRIAN LAMERTON**

IT WILL need more than miracles for the two teams currently leading the regional leagues not to be still there at the seasons end but what does still remain of interest is will Cippenham complete the first season of the Leeds Regional men's league without losing a match to be the first title winners and recipients of the £170 first prize money and will Generation 11 win the ladies league without losing a set.

It was apparent early in the season that Cippenham's only serious rivals were Kingfisher and when the Buckinghamshire lads Steve Buckley, Frank Earis and Alec Watson thumped the Reading side by 7 sets to 2 the contest was over.

All matches have been keenly contested with considerable fluctuation in form adding to the interest; Generation lost their first 3 matches, won the next 3; Hursley won their first 3 but only 1 of the next 3 whilst the Isle of Wight who lost the first 3 have won 3 out of the next 6.

All the ladies will have gained from the experience, none less than Generations Sarah Turner who starting as an unknown has been so well guided by Sarah Hammond that she now stands one place higher in the computer rankings than her better known and vastly experienced player partner.

### Leeds Southern Region Men's League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cippenham A	9	9	0	65	16	27
Kingfisher A	7	5	2	41	22	15
Hursley	6	4	2	34	20	11
Generation II	6	3	3	26	28	10
Isle of Wight	9	3	6	31	50	8
Cippenham B	9	1	8	22	59	4
Kingfisher B	6	1	5	15	39	3

### Southern Region Ladies' League

	W	L	F	A	Pts
Generation 11	5	5	0	25	0
Cippenham	5	3	2	14	11
Isle of Wight	6	0	6	1	24

Now is the time to consider your entry for next season — remember any 3 men (2 ladies) affiliated players who are not registered British league players and can provide adequate facilities can enter a team — be it club, works, town, city, league whatever. Obviously numbers of entries determine the size of each league — ideally it would be 6 teams — 10 matches — to each division. Mick Strode (9 Hart Close, Cove, Farnborough; 0276 31926) will gladly provide further details.

Mick will also tell more of his remaining plans for this season; A Veteran, Over 50s and Class 4

tournament at Redbridge, Southampton on Sunday 24 April and a Cadet team event at Frimley (yes in the adjacent region, thanks to Bernard Rowley) on Bank Holiday Monday 2 May.

Over 60 travelled to Redbridge for the Leeds Youth Cup when the Leeds Table Tennis logo crested winners plaques were presented by the local Leeds manager, Phil Ahern and shortly every competitor will receive a Leeds account pass book with the first £1 credited to their name.

## SOUTH WEST REGION NEWS

by **ALF PEPPARD**

A COACHES course for student coaches, teachers, sports leaders and club coaches will be held at Launceston College, Launceston, Cornwall on Saturday 4 June starting at 9.30am until 5.30pm and also on Sunday 5 June from 10am-4pm.

All enquiries to: Valerie Clack ETTA Senior Coach, 101 Churchward Avenue, Swindon, Wilts SN2 1NW.

The course fee is £15 (exclusive of ETTA coaching manual and registration) see form NCS 693. Closing date for applications is two weeks before the course commences. The number of places are limited.

I have long felt a sincere feeling of sympathy for the great amount of enthusiasm which exists for table tennis in what I shall term as — 'The Cornish Peninsula', that particular part of England for many TT players and administrators geographically represents total chaos in specific terms of travel and costings.

### Terrific

During the Leeds National Youth Cup Regional Finals in February at Stroud, Glos — Bob Bevan (Neil's father) mentioned the terrific financial implications facing not only individuals but teams as well, small wonder then that the White Hart Hotel (Headquarters of the Launceston League) generously disposed of their mini-bus to enable travel requirements to be made a little easier.

Perhaps those of us in the SWR who are infinitely better off travel and distance wise should count our blessings.

### Homage

Still on the Cornish scene, I would like to pay homage to two of its well known personalities, the first an administrator — and the second a player of considerable renown.

The former is Peter Hancock, Launceston & District League Gen-Secretary, also Chairman of

the Cornish Selection Committee, Secretary of Duchy Windows (Leeds Nat British League) and if that isn't enough a sincere and genuine person into the bargain, wherever in England you see Cornish teams/players you invariably see Peter — the mini-bus and all.



Neil Bevan

Our Cornish player — well, he requires no introduction, formerly coached by Bryan Merrett and current No 1 Cadet in England, ranked No 6 as a Junior (at the time of writing) possibly between 60-70 as a senior player.

I talked to Neil Bevan in Stroud last February, he told me that he began playing some five years ago and became England Schoolboy Champion Under-19, also England Schools International Under-16 — Eng-Ireland.

Neil got as far as the last 16 in the European Championships in Athens in the extreme heat of summer '87, and became player of the month in the Nat British League during December 1987.

One of the most level-headed lads that I have ever interviewed — Neil has no illusions of grandeur regards table tennis, he fully realises at 14 years of age that as a player, you have to be very very good to make even a decent living out of the game, thus it did not surprise me at all when he mentioned the possibility of entering banking as a chosen career. This hardened old pen-pusher most certainly wishes you Neil — all the success in the world — both in your chosen career and in table tennis.

## JERMYN LONDON CHAMPION

LONDON's Thames Insurance Central League held their Annual Closed Championships in March at the Brixton Recreation Centre.

Peter Harry was the Men's Singles No 1 seed with Mike Hammond at No 2. However, Hammond's non-arrival left the bottom half of the draw open to surprise results. Richard Beckham beat No 3 seed Joey Kennedy 14, -14, 17; and Mike O'Leary beat Percy Collino 10, 17. Beckham went on to beat O'Leary only to lose to Steve Davis in his semi-final. In the top half Peter Harry had a tough draw having to beat Clifford Grant and Dave Svenson in his group. Nevertheless he reached the semi-finals with a win over Peter Norcott from Essex.

Middlesex veteran Trevor Campbell beat Surrey veteran Frank Hams only to be knocked out by the in-form Richard Jermyn. Both Harry and Davis fell to Jermyn as he took the title comfortably.

The four Men's Doubles seeds were Kennedy/Jermyn, Collino/Hammond, Beckham/Harry and Norcott/Campbell. Last year's runners-up, Mike O'Leary and Mike Loveder were unseeded but reached the final again with wins over Brian Garroway and Steve Davis and Dave Svenson and Bernd Vogelmann in the closing stages. However, the No 1 seeds had little trouble taking the trophy winning 12, 12.

Nineteen veterans competed for the Tony Miller Memorial Trophy. In the semi-finals Trevor Campbell beat Albert Wood and Frank Hams beat Frank Murphy. Again Campbell beat Hams narrowly with an entertaining display of attack vs defence.

### Men's Singles

Semi-finals: R. Jermyn b P. Harry 11, 6; S. Davis b R. Beckham -16, 20, 19.

Final: Jermyn b Davis 16, 12.

### Men's Doubles

Final: J. Kennedy and R. Jermyn b M. O'Leary and M. Loveder 12, 12.

### Women's Singles

Final: L. Clemett b G. Colenutt 11, 19.

### Women's Doubles

Final: L. Clemett and H. Payce-Drury b G. Colenutt and S. Hughes 8, 19.

### Veterans' Singles

Final: T. Campbell b F. Hams -22, 15, 17.

### Mixed Doubles

Final: J. Kennedy and S. Hughes b R. Beckham and J. Payce-Drury -13, 14, 13.

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# A magnificent come-back

'IT MAY have been the end of our promotion hopes, but I am confident it will prove a new beginning.' So I ended my Notes last month. It seems a good way to start today. Defeat against Holland WAS a bitter pill. In Paris our players picked themselves off the canvas and staged a magnificent come-back.

I was proud of our girls. Both Alison and Lisa had excellent wins, the former's against Otila Badescu (Finalist in the singles), the latter's against Valentina Popova (a former European champion) and the team victory against Rumania being particularly good. Plenty of hope for the future and plenty to think about, to find the difference between winning regularly and occasionally at this level.

### The 'Blue Riband' . . .

Our men's silver medal in the blue riband event, the men's team championship, gave us some unforgettable days. After a desperately difficult match against the hosts, France (5-4), some of Europe's top nations were swept aside by big scores, finally Yugoslavia (in the semi-finals of the World Championships last year) by no less than 5-1. There followed that epic against Russia, a 5-4 semi-final win after being 4-2 down. Only Sweden defeated us in yet another midnight classic. We were closer than the score suggests. The door seemed to open, but we did not quite manage to walk through it.

### The Chinese of Europe . . .

However, our men had played quite superbly. This time we must maintain the momentum and then go on to even greater things. Success brings both new dangers and opportunities. One recalls Tokyo where we reached the semi-finals of the World Championships in 1983 and how everything then fell apart. This time we must keep moving forward.

Some years ago I described the Swedes as the Chinese of Junior Europe. One can now add 'Senior Europe' as well. The new champion Mikael Appelgren was not even in their team, at any rate not in the closing, important matches. One presumes the first four positions in Europe's ranking list will be occupied by Swedes and two more will not be too far behind. Some think they may now be even better than the real Chinese. Dortmund next year will see a real contest.

### Ticket to a high class party?

How good is our team? Will we have a ticket to that high class party where Swedes and Chinese fight for the supremacy of the table tennis world? I hope so, but we shall have to do an awful lot right in the meantime. We tend to be distracted by a lot of minor diversions en route to the main events and targets. The players can't do it all. They need support from all of us, from a united sport.

### Worthy Champions . . .

Appelgren and Sweden were worthy champions. Both deserve our admiration as winners and entertainers. I hope very much we shall be able to present these great players to our public next season. They are a credit to the game.

I have already mentioned Carl Prean for which, I hope I shall be forgiven. I would like to pay tribute to both our new champion Alan Cooke and to Des Douglas for their skill and dedication in these championships. It was a real team effort. Each played an indispensable part, each deserves an equal share in our victories. A special word of praise for Skylet who had to sit on the bench for day after day and then came out with world class performances in the singles. He is quite right. Our players are being consistently under-ranked in Europe, but perhaps that will end now.

### How goes the 'Revolution'?

On my return the Editor sent me a copy of Pat Snoxell's unusually interesting letter, which you can, indeed should read (see *Mailbox*).

The drop in membership of 4.6% he lists merely establishes a possibly more hopeful *trend*, since earlier years have shown bigger drops. That 57 Leagues have increased their memberships at least shows this can be done.

When I ran for election I listed three major points. Membership was one of these. It has remained an absolute priority. The main contribution the governing body can make on that front is to give the sport a higher national profile. This will be achieved by greater media, particularly TV exposure. Two sports shop managers told me that the day after our TV appearances there was a 'run' on bats. The purchasers bought these to play table tennis, one hopes within our clubs and leagues. Equally I hope that each time the sport is in the public eye, more and more people will begin to take an interest in the sport. The results of years of neglect, of failure in the market place certainly will not be reversed overnight. I can see some hopeful trends. Much remains to be done. We CAN claim a 'marvellous recovery' in terms of publicising and advertising our sport. We compete with at least a hundred sports for TV time. We have made a great start in my terms of office. Both the English Open (BBC) and Euro-Asia (Channel 4) were outstanding successes. The latter blazed new trails in sheer artistic excellence. It made the sport look good, something many of our own members doubted at one time.

### Unity?

I return from time to time to this recurring theme. It takes two to tango. I have always said that the sport has room for all people of goodwill who want to work for it. It is self-evident that the sport has made considerable progress in a short time. In my own mailbag the positive letters outnumber the negative ones by at least 20 to 1. However, the latter usually write to the magazine, the former to me personally, which creates the illusion of a coherent 'opposition' when, in fact, there is none, as two consecutive elections have shown. It is right that there should be free criticism, but equally that the sport should move forward, so that it satisfies our own members and attracts new ones. If it does not do this then, as Pat says, it will have been a false dawn and I shall have worked many thousands of hours for nothing. I do not think this for a moment. The future has never looked brighter.

### Lacking in Warmth

Our teams apart, it was not an event which will long stay in my heart. To list a long string of complaints would be all too easy, but boring to my readers. What was missing can be expressed in one word: WARMTH.

It was a magnificent stadium. Every day, no matter how unimaginative the scheduling, there were thousands of spectators, perhaps as many as 12,000 on peak occasions, but the enthusiasm and friendships of Cleveland and Brighton were missing. It was a chilly and often officious occasion. It was not a good one for Table Tennis, except that the event inevitably generated its own grandeur and this rescued it from the mistakes and irritations.

Deputy-Chairman Alan Ransome and I did good business for the Association and a number of promising initiatives are now in the pipeline. Our trips will not cost the members one penny.

### Another cause celebre . . .

You will have read about the sudden banning of a bat rubber as the tournament was nearing its closing stages. There was, of course, nothing wrong with it except that someone was alleged not to have paid registration or renewal fees. Be all that as it may, it seems very odd to cut off my neighbour's electricity if I don't pay my bill and that, roughly, appears to be how that matter was dealt with. Three English players had to change their bat rubber at short notice. One of them had at that point been thought by some experts as having a fair medal hope. That we shall never know, but it seems a very strange way to decide major championships. Very strong protests will go to the ITTF. In our view, innocent players got a raw deal as a result of clerical formalities outside their control. That is no way to run a sport or to gain the respect of our fellows.

### The vanishing defender . . .

I could not see a single defender in the Men's Category 1 matches, the result of the red/black rule change earlier — much applauded then, but were these predictable consequences considered or foreseen? Is anyone thinking about how we shall find the next Bergmann or Takashima or will future generations of men do nothing but topspin at each other?

Most of today's great players defend well from the barriers, none more so than the Champion Appelgren. Waldner, Persson and Carlsson are not far behind.

The hero of Cleveland, Waldner, had a strange tournament, including a 13 and 5 beating from Carl Prean which must have been painful before perhaps 10,000 spectators, but suddenly he again looked a winner as he led Appelgren by two games to nil in the semi-finals. It was not to be. The Russian Mazunov had a superb tournament, though he had little left in the Final. He won the Joola Trophy (based on points awarded in the team events). Carl Prean was second in that one, having led on the penultimate day. He was certainly the unluckiest player of the event, losing both the Joola Trophy (and the 5,000DM prize) to be followed by the rubber incident, but he will long remember his three against Russia in the team semi-final and that explosive defeat of the No. 2 seed Erik Lindh. Plenty to be hopeful about in the future . . .

JOHN

## EVENTS COMING UP . . .

16-17 Apr	South of England 3-Star, Woking	7-8 May	Leeds English Junior Open, Bridlington
23 Apr	Lancashire 2-Star, Bolton	7-8 May	East Anglian 2-Star Open, Lowestoft
23-24 Apr	Yorkshire Junior 2-Star, Halifax	14-15 May	Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-Star Open
30 Apr	ESTTA Individual Championships, Mansfield	30 May	Leeds Youth Cup Finals, Crystal Palace
1 May	English National Under-11 Championships, Mansfield	4-5 June	Six-Nation Cadets' International Tournament, Bletchley
1 May	Hollington 1-Star, Hastings		

## Women in table tennis 1988

by JOSE RANSOME

THE Leeds Euro-Asia in Cleveland contest highlighted the gap between the European and Asian women's game, whilst the European men clearly demonstrated that they are now on a par with the Asians. Furthermore, apart from a few spirited individual performances, our women did not feature at all in the final contests.

Both the president, Maurice Goldstein, and the chairman, John Prean, have individually expressed their concern about our apparent lack of progress in the women's game and therefore I have agreed to undertake a project to consider what can be done to bring our performance closer to the Europeans and Asians.

This will necessitate assessing the situation at the grass roots level through to the national teams and formulating a plan of action to encourage greater participation and to provide better opportunities for women players.

The role of women in the sport has always been a subject dear to the heart of Jose Ransome. This is another attempt to whip up some enthusiasm and to try and find out why in England and Europe we are so far in arrears of the Asian ladies — J. W.

### QUESTIONNAIRE

I shall shortly be mailing a questionnaire to all women whose names appear in the ETTA address list and to as many competitors in senior and junior events as possible.

If you are not included in these categories but would like to participate in the study, whether you are a man or a woman, please contact me for a copy of the paper. Whilst we are aware of participation at the tournament level, we are particularly interested in hearing about any local initiatives for women's programmes so that we can properly form an overall picture of the existing situation.

JOSE RANSOME (Mrs)  
'Conifers', Church Lane  
Ormesby, Middlesbrough  
Cleveland

### TOURNAMENT CANCELLED

THE Altrincham Festival Cheshire 2-star has been cancelled for this year.

## TRAGEDY FOR MANDY

MANDY Sainsbury, singles finalist at the Leeds English Championships at Crawley, was seriously injured and her mother killed in a road accident at Basingstoke just before TTN went to press. Latest from the hospital on Mandy was that she was "comfortable".

## TREASURER RE-ELECTED



Peter Hillier

LIKE other top jobs, there is never a queue to be honorary treasurer of the ETTA. Peter Hillier is amongst the executive officers elected unopposed. He seems to be getting to grips with the difficulties of the overdraft inherited. Members will be fascinated to see his part of the annual report and to anticipate a more peaceful and pleasant AGM in London in July.



Alison Gordon (Reading) beat singles finalist Badescu in Paris.

# THE NEW COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

by STUART SNEYD, Vice-chairman selection and coaching.

WITH effect from 1 April, 1988, the old coaching qualifications will be superseded by new ones as shown below:

<b>OLD</b>	<b>NEW</b>
Club coach	ETTA assistant coach
League diploma coach	} ETTA coach
County diploma coach	
Diploma 2 Star coach	} ETTA senior coach
Diploma 3 Star coach	

### Strong links

The new qualifications, borne partly out of a need to 'professionalise' the art and partly out of a desire to remove the 'boxes' of club, league and county, will have strong links with the Leeds-based National Coaching Foundation. Student coach registration will cost more but the package which drops through the letterbox will be well worth the money and will include seven NCF booklets covering the whole of the coaching scene. Twelve hours theory and 12 hours practical will be required (no change) prior to assessment for the award of assistant coach.

### Written paper

The next level, that of coach, will require 12 months service as an assistant coach, 12 hours advancement theory, attendance at three half-day or evening NCF courses and the purchase of an NCF booklet dealing with physiological aspects. Assessment for the coach award will include a written paper to be submitted in advance.

### Two years service

The highest award, senior coach, will require two years service as a coach during which time it will be necessary to attend two NCF weekend courses. This award, along with its NCF attendance, will be by way of nomination only.

The majority of the NCF courses chosen have a strong psychological bias in a deliberate attempt to cover a serious weakness within the coaching scheme. Psychological aspects are becoming significantly more important and must figure predominantly in our future development.

### The date changes

Syllabuses for the new awards are available from the coaching administrator at Hastings.

From 1 April 1988 all existing league and county diploma coaches will become ETTA coaches. Similarly, existing Diploma 2 and 3 Star coaches will become ETTA senior coaches. New badges will be available at £3 each. Existing club coaches will be given a year's grace in which to qualify (without any NCF input) as ETTA coaches. If this option is not taken up, automatic regrading to ETTA assistant coach will take effect from 1 April 1989.

## NICKY JARVIS

NICKY Jarvis has resigned as National staff coach. His decision has been based on a number of factors but, contrary to a comment made in the *Daily Telegraph* has nothing whatever to do with the national coaching situation.

Just prior to his departure Nicky stated 'I have worked well with Stuart Sneyd and Donald Parker in restructuring the national coaching scheme and prospects for the future are exciting. I am looking forward to continuing my involvement with the association as a volunteer.'

Vice-chairman, selection/coaching, Stuart Sneyd, has already offered Nicky the job of coach education officer. This has been accepted and from the start of the new season he will be responsible for running all ETTA courses for the new ETTA coach qualification.

STUART SNEYD

# Opening of Kingfisher Club

TABLE tennis took one small but significant step forward last month when the latest addition to the meagre number of purpose-built clubhouses in England was opened in Berkshire.

Lack of adequate playing facilities remains table tennis' greatest problem as a participation sport in this country and every additional building acquired for table tennis is crucial.

The new Kingfisher Club building was formally opened by Johnny Leach, MBE in front of many honoured guests including John Redwood, MP for the Wokingham district in which the clubhouse is situated. The building was the culmination of four years hard work, in the first instance the ambition of the old Omega Club and (when Omega found they had bitten off more than they could chew) from the half-way stage combined with Woodley table tennis club. Friends from past and present of both these now wound-up clubs were at the opening to celebrate a major achievement. Reg Hart, co-founder with myself of Omega, came from Derbyshire for the evening and was amazed at the quality of the self-help building.

Where previously had been a lawn, there was a four match (six practice) table venue with coffee bar, rest room and toilets; all warm and comfortable and well decorated.

### Exhibition

The opening evening passed extremely well and was enjoyed by all. Buffet and wine were supplied in quantity, a commemorative programme was supplied, an entertaining table tennis video was screened and the whole evening was capped by some great exhibition match play by members, Dave Barr, Matthew Syed, Sean Gibson, Chris Oldfield, Alison Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury. Dave Fairholm was the MC and the exhibition organiser.

Presentations were made to Jim Hodder and his wife Jean in acknowledgement of their contribution to the building of the clubhouse and to Johnny Leach for

taking the time and trouble to be our guest of honour for the evening.

The 'main man' behind the finished article has been Jim Hodder. As a long-time member of both Woodley and Omega he helped bring them together to form the new club but more than that he was the architect, the builder and a good proportion of the labour force in getting the clubhouse erected. Literally, without him there would be no Kingfisher Club premises.

He would acknowledge, I am sure, that without the energy injected into the project by Woodley at a time when the impetus was flagging, there would have been nothing to open last month.

### Proud chairman

Equally, without the provision of the land by Berkshire County Council, the project would not, quite literally have got off the ground. Many other people and organisations too numerous to mention helped along the way. It is now hoped that Kingfisher becomes a club in the spirit of its

members as well as a club with a superb headquarters.

I am proud to be Kingfisher Club's first chairman and to see an ambition come to fruition — I hope the players take advantage of the facilities available. John Fenton (president), Colin Dyke (secretary), and John Witt (treasurer) complete the officers of this brand new club. These and the rest of the committee, Sue Stoute, Mike Bullock, Mike West, Brian Halliday, Jim and Steven Hodder, Derek Crombie and Shane Kirton are treading pastures new with such a building to administer but are hoping to set Kingfisher on the path for a successful future.

The combination of Omega's skill at producing a succession of national and international standard players; Woodley's expertise of running a large, well organised and friendly club, together with the talents of new Kingfisher members augurs well for the future of a club which provides table tennis for all.

PETER CHARTERS  
(chairman, Kingfisher Table Tennis Club)



ALAN COOKE



JOHN HILTON



ALISON GORDON

## 1988 Coaches

ALAN RANSOME  
JOHN HILTON, BOB WILEY  
ALAN COOKE  
ALISON GORDON  
DAVID HANNAH



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## Former England stalwart on his own

# Alan Hydes goes solo in business

by JOHN WOODFORD

ALAN HYDES, after 12 happy years with Dunlop has now severed his links with the company and has set up in business on his own account at Durrington, Worthing, West Sussex.

Hydes, capped one hundred times in the late sixties and seventies, is rated one of the most popular men in the sport. A gentleman, on court and off he will be more active in the sport than ever before.

We have heard a lot about high-priced bats recently, so it is interesting that as the exclusive UK distributor for Lion International Table Tennis equipment, Hydes will be retailing an approved bat at £5.99 — the lowest cost approved bat available here.

Lion also produce bats under other companies names including, would you believe, Dunlop.

Recent ITTF approval has been given to the Lion 3-star ball, produced on technically advanced machinery. It is priced lower than all the other 3-star balls.

Alan Hydes started his career with England juniors in 1964 and in 1967 made his debut for the England senior team.

In Munich in 1964 at the world championships, England came sixth with Hydes in the team and in critical matches he beat Istvan Jonyer and Tibor Klampar.

### Went to 50 countries

Alan conducted a number of coaching tours for the ITTF and visited fifty countries. The new ITTF president Mr Ichiro Ogimura is already asking him to 'accept further coaching tours on behalf of the ITTF'.

'I am available for coaching in Sussex and am working as a regional coach with Father Bernard Rowley for the ETTA,' he said.

The new company is Alan Hydes Sports Ltd with Alan the director and his wife Jenny as company secretary. Seems like a winning combination and it's — welcome back to the South!



*It is not often that a chance arises of picturing the President of the ETTA Mr Maurice Goldstein. He has known Alan Hydes for many years and is seen here congratulating him on his new venture. Alan will be based in West Sussex.*

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*Harold Albery*  
(H. Albery)  
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# British League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association



## GIBSON GETS GOING — and Reading beat Cardiff

by MIKE LOVEDER & JIM BECKLEY



Kevin Satchell, Wilts

WHILST the Premier and Division 1 titles are virtually decided, Division 2 South is far from decided. Plymouth Bulldogs look to be marginal favourites having overcome Rejects I unbeaten home record and erased any lingering title hopes they may have had.

Mike O'Leary's win over Gary Wilson was not enough to prevent a 5-3 defeat with Mike Short and Tony Sweet in excellent form. C&L Ruislip crushed Team Ramlosa Essex to remain in contention and Doleq Carpets are still hovering as they beat Gunnersbury Triangle 6-2 without Brian Jeanes. Fellows Cranleigh did well to draw with Plymouth Bulldogs in a match which could have gone either way on the day. Peter Norcott beat Mike Short 23-21 in the third and Tony Sweet beat Mark Wicker by the same margin. A good win for Alex Abbott over Gary Wilson in this match. C&L Ruislip could only manage a draw with Rejects I as Gary Spencer and Richard Beckham won two each and both beating Dave Tan. Andy Cunningham played well for Ruislip while the England No 36, John Taylor, caused some difficulties playing at No 4 for Ruislip. It appears that the only certainty in this Division is that Kingfisher Reading II will be relegated.

Ashford I have already won

Division 1 though not without a slight hiccup to blot their copy book as they drew with Byker Newcastle. Eddie Smith won his two, Glen Barker lost both games at deuce in the third and Dave Godbold beat David Goode for the points to be shared. However, David Goode excelled as he beat Keith Richardson and Mick Harper when Ashford whitewashed St Neots. A three-man Trebor Dagenham team drew with TSP Larkhall I with two wins a piece from Des Charley and David Dodd. Dagenham beat St Neots 6-2 with Richard Jermyn beating Mick Harper 25-23 in the third. When Dagenham drew with Bradford it was Richard Jermyn who starred, first beating John Holland and then recording an amazing 21-10, 21-8 win over Steve Sharpe.

Ian Gunn starred in West Warwickshire's 7-1 defeat of TSP Larkhall I with Mike Hammond beating Barry Johnson to prevent the whitewash treatment. Hosham Dolphins recorded a useful 8-0 victory over Byker Newcastle. Andy Dodd beat Max Crimmins, and Ritchie Venner beat Kenny Jackson as the Dolphins lost 2-6 to Ashford I. Bradford beat Dolphins 8-0 to keep a respectable position. St Neots recorded a draw with West Warwickshire to keep things interesting at the foot of the table.

Sean Gibson has been making great strides in the Premier Division this period. Kingfisher Reading I lost 7-1 to Ormesby, but it was Gibson who beat Nigel 'Good Boy' Eckersley. Dunlop Express also beat Reading 7-1 and this time Gibson beat Phil Bradbury. The highspot came as Sean Gibson beat Alan Griffiths and Nigel Tyler, both 21-14, 21-13, to help Reading record a 5-3

win over Butterfly Cardiff. Dave Barr also won his two in this match which left veteran Wally Allanson to win the last game against Byron Davies. Rotherham beat Reading 5-3 with Chris Oldfield beating John Hilton and Tony Taylor. Bath and Grove drowned Butterfly Cardiff 7-1 although Alan Griffiths beat Jimmy Stokes in straight games. Grove beat Ormesby 5-3 in what looks to be a memorable match. Bradley Billington won his two. Graham Sandley won his two though he beat Denis Neale 22-20, 23-21. Dave Hannah won his two but he could only beat Jimmy Stokes 21-19 in the third game. The surprise seems to be John Broe's win over John Souter.

Bath had little trouble beating Ormesby even without Kevin Satchell. Des Douglas found his form as he romped home against Dave Hannah 21-16, 21-8. Chan Construction pieced together a 5-3 win over Dunlop Express. Phil Bradbury won his two which included a 21-19 in the third victory over Carl Morgan. Phil Gunn had two useful wins while Chu Van Que made his presence known with his two victories although two of his games were gained by the score of 26-24.

### Division 2 (North)

City of Leeds go marching on this time with an emphatic 8-0 win over Well Connected. But there were close games, none more so than the one between Richard Whiteley and Rafe Miller when the first game ended 27-25 in Whiteley's favour.

As expected Grove collected two points when they beat EAE Waveney 5-3. Two sets for Jill Harris but Neil Pickard beat Grove's other lady Claire Potts.

All matches two straight.

March picked up their biggest win of the season when they beat Ormesby II 7-1. Doubles for Geoff Davies, Gary Jordan and Peter Holliday with David Fewsdale picking up Ormesby's only set.

Ruston Marconi kept in touch with the leaders in a close match at the Sports Club with Wolverhampton. The match was evenly balanced with the final score always in doubt until Steven Yallop beat Steve Dunning in the last match to give Ruston a 5-3 win.

### Division 2 (South)

Nick Williams led the way for Doleq's 6-2 win over Gunnersbury, a win that keeps them in touch with the leaders. A match that might have changed the result saw Peter Simmons finally beat Andrew Evans in three games.

Two welcome points for Fellows Cranleigh who beat Kingfisher Reading 6-2 whilst Plymouth Bulldogs kept their noses in front by beating Rejects 5-3.

Three matches that went to three games all finished in favour of C&L Ruislip. But they fully deserved their 6-2 win over Team Ramlosa and keep in touch with the leaders.

### Division 3 (East)

Not a good day for super veteran Henry Buist who lost both his matches in Trebor Dagenham's defeat to A. H. W. Pioneer. Neither side should have any problems with relegation though.

Brittania maintain their unbeaten record — just. Chelmsford OC's pitched in right from the start and led 3-1 before Britannia got their act together and forced a 4-4 draw. Watched by 120 fans it was the biggest crowd of the season.

### NEW APPLICANTS

Any club wishing to join the Leeds British League for the 1988/89 season should contact the Administrator, Les Wooding at 8 Maundsey Close, Dunstable, Beds LU6 3LZ (0582 608461) without delay.

### SUSPENDED

Brian Jeanes, Doleq Carpets, Division 2 (South) has been suspended by The Table Tennis Association of Wales for one year commencing 7 March, 1988.



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly







## Cooke jets home — Derbyshire champions

by DOUG MOSS

SENIOR Premier — Middlesex, after 6 successive years as champions are deposed. The scene was set at the Railway Institute, York when Middlesex and Derbyshire, both unbeaten, met in the last match of the series. And what a finale! The match score stood at 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4! Final set of the final match and it was down to Colin Wilson (Mddx) and Bradley Billington (Dy). Bradley got on top and won 15 and 16 to dethrone Middlesex and clinch the title for Derbyshire.

A vital factor for Derby was Alan Cooke returning from Sweden to represent his county. Alan convincingly won all his singles events and the mixed doubles with Julie Billington. Bradley Billington, who played in both series of matches, was also great — he lost only one singles event, to John Souter. Julie Billington had a vital win in the match v Middlesex beating Lesley Tyler 23 and 13. John Holland also played his part with 6 singles wins of the 10 he played and, with Bradley Billington, won 5 of their 7 doubles.

In an earlier match Middlesex had been 1-4 down to Lancs but made a great fight back to win and keep their hopes alive.

There were some tense struggles in the relegation zone. When the last round of matches began 4 teams were in danger of relegation with Yorks at the foot of the table. Yorks, with 3 junior players in their team, then had a fantastic 8-1 over Leics. This left Essex and Surrey for relegation — Essex after just one season. It was hard luck for Surrey who lost 3 matches at 4-5.

The best individual performer must be Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) who won all 7 singles events — a repeat of last season's performance! Chris Oldfield (Y) had a great weekend being unbeaten in singles — most of his opponents being ranked well above him. Top junior Andrea Holt (La) played very well to win her 4 singles events.

### Results

Lancs 5, Leics 4; Surrey 4, Derbys 5; Berks 7, Essex 2; Yorks 2, Middlesex 7; Essex 3, Yorks 6; Leics 3, Berks 6; Surrey 3, Middlesex 6; Derbys 7, Lancs 2; Surrey 4, Essex 5; Middlesex 5, Lancs 4; Derbys 8, Leics 1; Yorks 4, Berks 5; Middlesex 4, Derbys 5; Leics 1, Yorks 8; Berks 5, Surrey 4; Essex 2, Lancs 7.

### Final Table

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Derbys	7	7	0	44	19	14
Middlesex	7	6	1	42	21	12
Berks	7	5	2	35	28	10
Lancs	7	4	3	34	29	8
Yorks	7	2	5	27	36	4
Leics	7	2	5	22	41	4
Surrey	7	1	6	26	37	2
Essex	7	1	6	22	41	2

SENIOR 2A: N'berland 5, Yorks II 5; Worcs 3, Warwicks 7; Cheshire 4, Suffolk 6; Staffs 8, Lancs II 2.

Both Staffs and Warwicks are remedying their poor start to the season. This brings pressure on Cheshire and Worcs in the relegation stakes, whereas Suffolk is secure at the top of the table.

SENIOR 2B: Avon 3, Sussex 7; Wilts 4, Hants 6; Devon 9, Middlesex II 1; Kent 7, Somerset 3.

Devon and Sussex both had good wins but Devon have that championship look. At the other end of the table, despite Kevin Satchell getting 3 wins for Wilts, the Hants team got their first points with a 6-4 win. Mark Wilding (Ha) won his 2 singles events.

SENIOR 3A: Cumbria 7, Worcs II 3.

Cumbria got their first win. Julie McLean and Karen Backhouse (Cu) got 3 good wins. Ken Walton (Wr) won his 2 singles events and, with Paul Garner, continued their good run in doubles.

SENIOR 3B: Cornwall 6, Dorset 4; Herefords 7, Dorset II 3; Avon II 2, Glos 8; Cornwall II 0, Dorset 10; Somerset II 1, Devon II 9; Dorset 8, Glos 2.

Cornwall put an end to Dorset's unbeaten run. Esme Stevenson and Cara Rowe (Co) won 3 events and Neil Bevan got his 2 singles, including the first defeat of Tony Clayton. Herefords got their first points with Mark Owen and Michael Owens winning their 5 events and Alison Hine being involved in 2 wins.

SENIOR 3C: Beds II 2, Cambs I 8; Northants I 7, Herts II 3; Northants II 2, Herts I 8.

Cambs I are carrying all before them. Mick Harper (Ca) was involved in 3 wins and Joanne Pettitt and Hilary Finch won their singles and doubles.

SENIOR 3D: Berks II 6, Sussex II 4; Oxfords 7, Hants II 3; Bucks 6 Hants II 4; Herts 6 Essex II 4; Surrey II 5, Bucks 5.

Herts got a vital 6-4 win to take over from Essex at the top of the table. Keith Samuels (He) held on to his unbeaten singles record and won the doubles with John Taylor. Bucks got their first win and followed up with a great

fight back from 3-5 to get a draw with Surrey.

JUNIOR 2A: Yorks II 7, Hunts 3; Beds 3, Yorks II 7.

Yorks ended Beds unbeaten run and, with a win over Hunts, take over at the top of the table. Mark Stephenson (Y) continues his unbeaten run including an 18, -12, 14 win over Peter Bowler (Bd).

JUNIOR 2B: Somerset 4, Surrey 6; Sussex 5, Kent 5; Essex II 1, Middlesex 9; Herts 8, Glam 2.

The top 2 teams — Sussex and Kent — made a draw. With Middlesex getting a convincing win they forge to the top of the table. Tim Cutler (Mddx) continues to lead the field. In Sussex/Kent clash both boys doubles pairings started with a clean sheet. A. Houghton/B. Mileham continued their winning ways with a 17, 16 win over S. Greenbrook/A. Cole.

JUNIOR 3A: Cheshire II 2, Derbys 8; Leics 5, N'berland 5; Clywd 8, Lancs III 2.

The Leics/N'berland drawn match leaves Durham in a strong position. Leics came back from 3-5 down to force the draw. Liz Bryant and Jayne Freer won 3 events for Leics.

JUNIOR 3B: Hunts II 6, Norfolk II 4; Cambs II 2, Northants 8; Oxon 7, Warwicks II 3; Norfolk I 3, Berks I 7.

Berks win over Norfolk I puts them in an invincible position. Martin Adams and Karen Slatford have won all their singles events for Berks. Rebecca Ledwith (Wa) had her first loss against Sally Hughes (Ox) but, with Angela Stych, won the doubles 18 and 20 against Sally and Dawn Barnett.

JUNIOR 3C: Cornwall I 9, Wilts 1; Cornwall II 5, Wilts 5; Dorset 5, Cornwall I 5; Glos 5, Hants 5; Cornwall I 9, Cornwall II 1; Cornwall II 3, Dorset 7; Dorset 9, Wilts 1; Avon 6, Worcs 4.

A busy weekend in this section — and 3 drawn matches. Cornwall I are the team to 'upset the applecart'. Having beaten Avon they followed up by taking a point off Dorset. Dorset and Avon meet in the last series which should decide the champions. John Menzel (Co) won his



Chris Oldfield, Yorks

2 singles against Dorset. Dale Saunders (Gs) looked invincible in this section so it was a surprise when Geoff Giles (Ha) beat him 18 and 10! This inspired Hants to come back from 1-5 down to get a draw!

JUNIOR 3D: Herts 3, Kent II 7; Berks II 6, Sussex II 4; Middlesex II 4, Bucks 6; Surrey II 2, Essex III 8.

Middlesex, storming ahead in this section, met defeat by Bucks. Four teams now in the lead — each with 10 points! Teams are Middlesex II, Kent II, Bucks and Essex III so it is down to final matches — Essex III v Mddx II and Bucks v Kent II!

VETS 2A: Notts 6, Essex II 3; Cheshire II 6, Notts 3; Warwicks 6, Worcs 3; Essex II 2, Yorks 7; Norfolk 4, Leics 5.

Yorks are now 'home and dry'. But the relegation stakes leave Essex II and Cheshire II in a vulnerable situation. Leics had a good win with Steve White 'man of the match' with 3 wins. There 19 in 3rd wins for Warwicks gave them a good win over Worcs.

VETS 2B: Dorset 8, Herts II 1; Berks I 4, Middlesex II 5; Hants 5, Kent II 4.

Hants pulled away from the relegation zone with a good win over Kent II — after being 1-4 down! Ray Lush (Ha) won his 2 singles events.

VETS 3A: Lincs II 4, Clywd 5.

Clywd got their first win on visiting Lincoln. Barry Robertson and Peter Williams (Cw) won their 4 singles and with Christine Watkins, Barry won the mixed doubles.

VETS 3B: Essex III 6, Berks IV 3; Beds 2, Norfolk II 7; Herts III 5, Hunts II 4.

Essex unbeaten and in the lead. But Northants still in with a chance. Essex visit to Norfolk II will be vital because Northants expected to win their last match v Hunts II.

VETS 3C: Oxon 5 Bucks II 4; Herts IV 6, Surrey III 3; Berks III 7, Herefords 2; Wilts II 2, Glos 7.

Oxon got a vital win over Bucks II, who were previously unbeaten.



## Fresh air on Channel 4

WHAT a breath of fresh air graced our TV screens on 28 February when we witnessed the highlights of the European/Asian table tennis tournament which recently took place at Thornaby-on-Tees.

This must be the best presentation of table tennis ever produced in this country and portrayed the game as never before.

Splendid lighting, clever camera angles, a great background of colour, and no doubts about seeing the ball.

Players came to life so that it seemed that we were seeing real characters for the first time, and one felt that we would like to see more of them in the future.

It may seem naive in retrospect but highlighting is tailor made for table tennis, and using such methods makes it no different from any other sport that you care to mention on TV.



Donald Parker

A big thankyou also to Donald Parker for his knowledgeable comments. So often we have seen him in a huddle with a player in between sets, giving advice, but not knowing what he was saying or advising, and no way of finding out.

Finally, I must say that by using six cameras Channel 4 is the first TV channel to get its angles the closest yet to reality. At last one felt that one was close to the action and the enthusiasm and appreciation of the Cleveland spectators must certainly convey what an entertaining game table tennis can be.

S. JOHNSTONE  
28 Stanway Road  
Benhall, Cheltenham, Glos.

### OMITTED

TWO letters have been omitted from this edition because the handwriting was so bad the Editor could not decipher the messages and he had no intention on calling on the printers to suffer such headaches. Double-spaced, typewritten letters receive priority.

## Press officers are hard-pressed

THANK you for another interesting *TT News* February 1988. Having received the magazine since 1953 up to 1968 with Kent in mind and up to the present with Avon, I must agree with the South-West Region news by Alf Peppard. Caving represented Weston-Super-Mare TTA on the Avon Management Committee over many years, it is a disappointment that Avon has only had 1 suggest 5 at the most Counties' reports (I stand to be corrected on the exact number) but you have to know the background. In the past offers have been made to do press officers post but at the AGM (or even before) its been turned down.

The gentleman who holds this post has two positions on the County Committee and, may I add, he does one of these with first class honours, but in all fairness this means that the press officers job suffers.

I feel very strongly that one position should be filled by one person only (especially if there are volunteers about). But with all groups of people, personalities and other aspects, these take their place and TT suffers.

It must be remembered that if you stand at the AGM you are expected to stand together despite personalities and to be seen to fulfil your role, with only one aim in mind, the furthermore of our sport.

I do realise unless information is forthcoming to the press officer, to some extent it does not help, but on the other hand information has to be sought.

One important factor regarding my statement of one person one position does mean more people are involved in the administration at county level and should, if possible, be drawn from all the leagues within the county structure (officers as opposed to delegates). Thus spreading the load all round the county, not relying on the few to do all the work, which so often happens.

There is no doubt about this situation too few people doing too many jobs, which in the end result that certain aspects must suffer, also excepting the fact all the people concerned do this hard work on a voluntary basis, getting pleasure out of giving others on organised sport and the enjoyment that goes with it.

JOHN M. BURTENSHAW  
President  
Weston-Super-Mare TTA  
'Southlands'  
17 Tormynton Road  
Worle, Weston-Super-Mare

## Mr Shepherd has this to say . . .

IN the manner of the Test and County Cricket Board, our own ruling body, the ETTA has always been in the habit of shooting itself in the foot. The much loved Charles Wyles was at the helm in 1977 when Denis Neale was thrown out of the England team on the eve of the World Championships and then meekly reinstated following legal action on behalf of the player. The late lamented Tom Blunn spent most of his period of office attempting to defend his policies against the onslaught of our present leader.

Now that we have 'John' the friend of the people in charge, we have successfully seen the 'redundancies' of two of our finest coaches, the resignation of yet another, and the imposition of a swingeing fine upon our No 1 player for an alleged breach of contract. Following hard upon the heels of this has come failure to win promotion from Division 2 of the European League due largely to the inability of our disgruntled top player to beat Dutch players ranked miles below him in the European Ranking List.

Coming to the domestic scene, I have gone carefully through the monthly articles of the chairman in the hope of finding some mention of the steps he might be taking to revive the County Championships and/or the British League. After all, everything which happens in table tennis in this country stems from the administration of the game by the County Associations.

Without them there would be no coaching, no umpires and no organisation of the many facets of the game. So is it too much to ask that the County Championships should be allowed to take place with the best players available.

I have just discovered that at the final weekend of the County Championships my own county (Essex) and Surrey were relegated. It is not sour grapes to point out that Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason were unable to represent these two counties because the ETTA, heavily in the red if 'John's is to be believed, had seen fit to send them off to play in a minor international open tournament in the Middle East. As far as I know the counties mentioned were not even asked if they minded. I cannot help commenting that the main impression one gets of the Chairman's articles is one of self-congratulation which does not appear to be justified.

ALAN SHEPHERD  
Flat 6, 32 Green Road,  
Southgate, London N14

*Editor's note:* Most letters to *TTN* are short on facts. Nicky Mason and Skylet Andrew as professionals could hardly be expected to turn down an invitation to play (and win) an international open to play in the county championships instead, unfortunate that both their counties being relegated. The chairman will answer Mr Shepherd's other missiles:

### Chairman's reply:

*Mr Shepherd is certainly an expert at shooting himself in the foot and must be listened to with respect on that topic. I thank him for his topical recollections (circa 1977, Charles Wyles and Denis Neale). The implication that a top player lost matches because he was 'disgruntled' I find insulting to the player. He played his heart out against Holland when he lost and against Belgium when he won. I was there on both occasions.*

*I have said all I want to say on the honouring of contracts and redundancies. Both topics were fully aired and in this magazine and National Council. One thousand players play in the county championships. A few years ago I was one of them and I had a very happy time. Similarly the British league is in very good shape. We found good sponsorship for both of them. It is not clear why Mr Shepherd should think either is in need of 'revival'. Both are cornerstones of the ETTA and will have our best endeavours. As for his great 'discovery', I am afraid his facts are at fault. The 'minor . . . tournament in the Middle East' to which he refers is the Israeli Open to which English players have gone for three years. The decision whether to play or not was that of the players. The trip was not funded by the ETTA. It is correct that we were 'heavily in the red' when I arrived. With my team I have worked energetically to put this right and some success will be reported. As for 'self congratulation', it seemed ironic that on the day I first saw Mr Shepherd's unpleasant little letter, another member wrote that there had never been a chairman who sketched so clearly and openly the many problems facing the Association and yet helped to keep morale high both as a result of attitude and achievements. You pays your money and you takes your choice.*

### 12 hours a day

*The achievements of the sport during my time as chairman have been substantial and that is why the members have re-elected me. I work 10-12 hours per day unpaid and with very great enthusiasm. I leave false modesty to those who have, as Churchill put it, much to be modest about.*

## Brighton: as the ATP co-ordinator saw it . . .

AS a *spectacle*, Well Done! Lay-out was good, viewing also, our Sponsor's banners displayed at every opportunity, the Officials as smart as ever in their blazers, and the hotel superb as usual.

But oh! The scheduling of important matches! What on earth is *wrong* with the Tournament Committee, that despite all their preparation and hard work, they can still carry on with the same old system that has been complained about so many times?, and still make bad judgements in specific placing of good matches?

An interesting Men's singles, last 16 or quarter-final (I can't remember which) was first called for table 11, at the far corner of the hall, right away from either main grandstand or small stand viewing, when two or three front tables were free! Thankfully, someone saw, or was made to see, sense, and switched the match to one of the free tables before it started; yet earlier the Referee had several times called for spectators *not* to stand in the aisles to watch matches on those distant tables! What does he expect, if some of the most interesting singles matches are played there?

There are still too many of these men's last 16 matches, which everyone wants to watch, being put on *at the same time*, so that one doesn't know which one to concentrate on, and misses a great deal of the action; this is very disappointing, and we cannot accept the necessity. I noticed Alan Pascoe stalking the hall and viewing from every vantage point, no doubt he will have some comments to make.

### Irritating?

The ATP has previously put a complete tournament scheduling system, including the later stages, to the ETTA, devised after much thought by David Parr some years ago. Of course, this had the usual effect of irritating the 'powers that be'.

However, this was before the new regime, and perhaps John Prean's sweeping changes and business-like approach will bring a change of heart in committee.

The worst piece of scheduling I saw was undoubtedly the shabby way an obviously injured World Champion was forced to play first a three-set Mixed Final, then almost immediately a five set last 16 v Des, and 10 minutes later the five-set Quarter-Final with Persson. In my view this contributed greatly to his defeat.

For me, and many others, Jiang was actively and potentially the best player on view, and I would have reached that conclusion even had I not known he was World Champion. His sheer speed and athleticism had to be seen to be believed; his concentration so intense that I got the impression that he often wasn't aware of the score!

And what a sportsman! — Twice at crucial stages, once v Des and once v Persson, he deliberately gave away a point when an edge was claimed against him, but the Umpire would not award it (*why*, when both players *agree*?), and received a loud, appreciative ovation from the crowd each time. His happy, smiling personality was likewise a joy to behold, both on and off the table.

In company with many other players, I was once again very disappointed with *what* was televised, and the quality (or lack of) commentary.

Surely we can make representations to the TV companies to allow us to make a positive contribution towards a successful format, which will project our game to the viewing public in the most interesting way?

### Prepared

The BBC has recently been *asking* for viewers comments on all sports presentation, and the ATP is quite prepared to tackle this very important part of all our ambitions for increasing the popularity of the game, if the ETTA is disinclined to do so.

Likewise, we would be pleased to provide a knowledgeable player to advise the TV commentator, and to give informed comment when required. Table tennis is now a very deceptive, as well as a fast and exciting game to watch, and some explanation is needed when apparently unforced errors are made by world class players, and how different styles of play affect each other. In particular, the 'sleight of hand' used in services employing spin and non-spin, and the interaction of Asian 'penhold' and European 'shakehands' strokeplay.

Why *do* the TV companies always spend most of the airtime on the Men's singles *finals*, which are almost always a complete anti-climax and 'turn-off' (literally) as this one was?

True, they did on this occasion first show more exciting semi-final between Song Hui and Waldner, but why on earth couldn't they have had a camera there earlier to record the terrific five-set fighting performances from English players? I'm quite sure that Des v Jiang, Alan Cooke v Waldner, or Andrea Holt against No 3 seed Jiao Zhimin

would have provided much more interest and excitement.

Similarly, there was several other superb men's matches in the last 16 and Quarter-finals of which a compilation of the most exciting rallies would have really shown our sport and its top players to best advantage.

It seems to me that we *must* persuade the TV companies to either provide a video camera and technician during the later rounds of major events such as this, or allow *us* to do it ourselves, and provide them with film to edit, preferably in consultation with ourselves.

DEREK BADDELEY  
ATTP Co-ordinator

## The New world: will it ever arrive?

THE revolution of John Prean was long overdue but there is real danger that the years of gentle stagnation may have resulted in irreparable damage to the game. John and his team deserve great credit for the real achievements of the Leeds Building Society sponsorship and the vastly improved TV and Press coverage.

The recent tournaments at Brighton, Thornaby, and Crawley were all successful and the organisers deserve full credit. The Cleveland Tournament backed by the traditional enthusiastic supports unique to the North East and Donald Parkers expert TV commentary was particularly outstanding.

As a result everybody's talking about a 'new world in the morning' which may never arrive. It is easy for calm reason to be swept aside in a mood of euphoria but excess hype will be counter productive. Richard Eatons claim that 'English Table Tennis is making a marvellous recovery' is premature and we all remember previous false dawns which have been quickly followed by disillusionment.

### Analysis

The real guide to the true state of the game is provided by the membership figures and I have compared the values for the same Leagues using the ETTA electoral registers for 1987 and 1988. Analysis of the membership figures for the 40 counties and the one non-county group show that only three increased in number — Wilts and Lincs, each by 1 and Surrey by 4 teams. The total number of teams declined over the year from 13,097 to 12,498 and the 599 fall represents a further 4.6% drop. John states

that 'numerous Leagues have increased their membership' and according to my calculations, 57 out of a total of 252 showed an increase but this is more than offset by the majority still in a state of decline.

### Influenced

It is unlikely that the new team's decision to join was influenced by changes at the top but it is due to the efforts of a small hard working minority at grass roots level. John is correct in stating that 'expanding Leagues have active youth schemes' but many are more concerned with veterans activities. In my own experience, there is generally apathy regarding declining numbers amongst the average once a week players who are not concerned for the future.

### Crisis

With low membership, the game will be in a permanent state of financial crisis and there will be nothing to spare for the Table Tennis centres that would attract new players. This is the dilemma that will continue to plague the game and it will need a tremendous effort to reverse the decline within the next five years but I hope that I am over pessimistic.

Membership fell in Cleveland from 94 to 84 teams during the past year and the degree of success of the recent Tournament should be assessed not by the volume of applause but the 1989 entry.

### Essential

Unity is essential if Table Tennis is to stand a chance of real and not cosmetic recovery. Inevitably, John Prean has upset some individuals during the period of transition but past feuds should be forgotten in the cause of progress. There is still a long way to go but at last, we are at the end of the beginning.

PAT SNOXELL  
19 Gade Avenue,  
Watford, Herts.

## Humorous blue card?

I should like to ask Andrea Holt what she found 'humorous' about a fellow England player receiving a 'blue card' from an umpire in an international tournament (*TTN* February).

PAUL WHITTAKER,  
Club coach  
24 Surlingham Close  
Thamesmead  
London SE28 8NE

## Counties 2

Open Singles: R. Stewart (SC 'Free Traders') b J. McLean (TM Windows) 23-21, 19-21, 21-11.

Open Doubles: S. O'Neill (RM Windows) and C. Powell (SC 'Spartans') b M. Tickner and J. McLean (TM Windows) 18-21, 21-17, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles: K. Dymond and J. Dymond (Chapelcross) b M. Tickner and J. McLean (TM Windows) 21-18, 10-21, 21-19.

Ladies' Singles: J. McLean (TM Windows) b J. Gallagher (Infirmary) 21-8, 21-9.

Under-17 Singles: M. Temple (SC 'Free Traders') b P. McQuire (Dumfries) 21-15, 21-16.

Under-15 Singles: M. Harkness (Sands Centre) b P. Dawson (Sands Centre) 21-12, 21-10.

### ESSEX

Alan Shepherd

MY column this month ought to be edged in black since, after one season only back in the Premier Division of the County Championships, our Senior Men have finished bottom of the league and tragically drop back to Division 2. In the absence of Skylet Andrew, our team at the second weekend was always fighting a losing battle. Why he was absent is a question which perhaps should not be gone into here, except to make it quite clear that the county has no complaint whatsoever against the player. I have, however, raised the problem in a letter to the Editor.

Despite our relegation there were redeeming features about the weekend. George Netley, our man in charge, tells me that the team as a whole put in a tremendous effort, and were a credit to the county. One player not often mentioned in dispatches seems to have discovered that he can play at this level successfully, namely John Dennison. He recorded wonderful wins over Max Crimmins and Michael Hammond in the Surrey match but lost 19-21 in the third to David Barr (Berks) and 23-25 in the third to Michael O'Driscoll (Yorks)! Steve Dorking had a brilliant weekend, losing only to Glenn Baker (Surrey) -20/22 in the third — and to Nigel Eckersley (Lancs) — again in the third. His wins came against Max Crimmins, Jimmy Stokes, Andy Wellman, Steve Mills, Michael O'Driscoll and David Carse. Des Charlery rendered gritty support, winning two singles and two doubles, but Elaine Sayer and Kim Mudge were always having problems against the very high standard of female opposition, ie Andrea Holt, Mandy Sainsbury and Debbie Joole to name but a few.

Our Senior second team just failed to beat Herts I in Division 3D and so the championship will almost certainly go to Herts, and congratulations go to them. At least they will be able to enjoy promotion to Division 2 which our second team would have been unable to do!

In Junior Division 2B our second team lost 1-9 to the powerful Middlesex I but, by all accounts put up a creditable performance. Nadine Barthee made her debut and if nothing else the match was no doubt memorable for her because she forgot to take her bat! Relegation now looms large but we have not given up hope since victory in our last two matches could still avert the drop.

Junior Division 3D has developed into a very exciting battle between Middlesex II, Bucks I, Kent II and Essex III, following the latest round of matches. All four teams have lost but once and on 26 March we play Middlesex II while Bucks I play Kent II. How about that for a climax? Our team had a good win over a very young Surrey II on 5 March with Gary Tendler again unbeaten as were our girls Martina Hicks and Ann Faber. Keith Buers and Matthew Reid won a singles each and also took the doubles. On the Surrey side I was very impressed by the 11 year-old Darren Blake, unbeaten in singles, and by the excellent tea served up by Peter Corner and Gail McCulloch (Veterans of the kitchens at the Littlehampton Training Camp, it must be said).

Finally, I was delighted to be present at ESTTA Area Finals at Croydon when Mayflower School, Billericay (Under-16 Boys) Penill Academy, Brentwood (Under-16 Girls) and Buttersbury Junior School, Billericay (Under-11 Girls) qualified for the National Finals at Mansfield in May.



Skylet Andrew

### DORSET

Martin Hughes

IN THE Leeds County Championships, Dorset are coming to the end of a very successful season, with promotion being gained by the senior first team, and also very likely for the juniors. A resounding 10-0 victory over Cornwall seconds was enough to clinch promotion for the first team.

This was their seventh straight victory in Division 3B and means Dorset make an immediate return to Division 2 after being relegated due to their inferior games average last season.

Dorset's games average this season is such that Devon, who are the only other challengers, are unable to overhaul them even if they win their remaining two fixtures.

Tony Clayton, Hakan Sigrell and John Robinson have been in sparkling form this season and with backing from Cheryl Skevington and Joyce Coop, they have been almost unbeatable.

The 10-0 scoreline put Dorset far enough ahead in the league table that their final encounter, against Cornwall's first team, was almost irrelevant.

Consequently Dorset were unable to give the match their full concentration and they narrowly lost 4-6.

The match against Cornwall's first team was not played in the most sportsman-like of fashions, due in part to the attitude of some of the younger players taking part.

Although they are developing into excellent players with good skills, perhaps some attention should be paid to the art of etiquette and manners if they are to progress further.

The senior second team have not had such a successful time, and they are struggling near the bottom of 3B.

Their latest match saw them lose 7-3 to Herefordshire with Chris Budden and Martin Tate both beating Hereford's number 3 Dave Saer, and Mae Allen winning 21-17, 21-9 against Miss Powell for their only successes.

Dorset juniors meanwhile, are having their best season for years, and they remained unbeaten after playing a block of three matches in Cornwall. They came away with two wins and one draw to add to their three previous victories, and remain firmly in with a chance of gaining promotion to Division 2.

The two victories were over Wiltshire firsts and Cornwall seconds, 9-1 and 7-3 respectively, and a 5-5 draw was achieved with Cornwall's first team. Dorset are now the only

team to remain unbeaten in Division 3C.

I am told that Paul Bickell, ranked 2, looked a very good prospect and this was borne out by him winning all six of his singles and all three doubles he took part in.

The other successful juniors over that weekend were Kevin Smith, Clayton Fitzpatrick, Mark Chandler, Debbie Applin and Samantha Dench.

Jolliffe Poole's Latest match saw them cruise to a comfortable 8-0 victory against an under-strength Duchy Windows Launceston to retain second place in the Third Division West.

Duchy Windows Launceston were without the Bevan brothers, Neil and Andrew who were required to represent their school in the regional final of the English Schools competition.

Jeremy Williams, their number two, was also unavailable, and Duchy Windows Launceston therefore had to field their reserves.

Although they fought gallantly right to the end, they proved to be not up to the rigours of the Leeds British League and Tony Clayton, Hakan Sigrell, John Robinson and Martin Hughes all won with ease for Jolliffe Poole, only one game going to a deciding end.

Jolliffe Poole have three tough matches remaining, but they will be hoping to keep on the winning trail and emulate their second place finish of last season.

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

WHEN I first began broadcasting table tennis on Severn-Sound Local Independent Radio my boss at the time (January 1981) was head of sport — Nigel Dean; Nigel left sound radio a few years later and joined Southern TV at Southampton whereupon he has done a considerable amount of interesting travel in pursuit of news reporting.

We have always kept in touch and I received a letter from him a short while ago informing me that all being well he had been chosen as part of ITV Sports production team to cover the Olympics in Seoul, next September for Southern TV.

Congratulations Nigel — and for everyone concerned may I express the thought that when the time comes to depart these shores, then hopefully much of the political hassle that has dogged that country of late — will have cooled down.

continued on next page

continued from page 23

## County teams

At the time of writing none of our three respective teams are ever likely to gain promotion for next season. The seniors in Division 3B fell victims to a 10-0 whitewash v Devon prior to Christmas, and more recently we lost 2-8 to Dorset's big guns of Tony Clayton and company.

The juniors in Division 3C have had an up and down season — doing quite well upon occasions and not so good upon others.

I do not wish to offend the fairer sex in both senior or junior teams, but their overall strategy to win games has not been any too apparent this season.

The Veterans in Division 3C have financially paid their own way, just when perhaps many of them thought that their playing days were perhaps — well and truly over, we see former county player Lorna Bell ranked at No 66, Frank Jones at No 50, Alan Giles at 123, and a whole new spectrum of exciting table tennis awaiting them next season.

## ESTTA, Regional Finals

The English Schools TTA National Team Championships Regional Finals — were held at the 'Stroud Leisure Centre' in the Under-13 team event, local lads Raymond Powell, Tim Dewick, Paul Morley and Russell Ramford who all represented the Crypt Grammar School, Glos, crashed out of the championships to Budehaven School of Bude, Cornwall, despite this loss the Gloucester team put up a great fight, they beat three teams at Northampton (to qualify) and one team at Stroud before losing to the more all round play of the young cornishmen.

## Gloucestershire Schools Individual Championships

With a little help from county members — plus a lot of work from the Hon Referee Peter Cruwys of Cheltenham — Secretary Steve Taylor was able to stage the above at Cheltenham College on the afternoon of 28/2/88, and what a success these championships were — not only in actual play but attendance as well.

There were eight events all told — here are the finals.

**Under-11 Boys:** Mark Kambities (Cashes Green) beat Steven Need (Danalley).

**Under-11 Girls:** group winner Michelle Hogarth (Picklenash), R. U. Clare Peebles (Danalley).

**Under-13 Boys:** Raymond Powell (Crypt) beat Lawrence Simpson (Kings Glos).

**Under-13 Girls:** Beth Walker (Archway) beat Elaine Bassett (Archway).

**Under-16 Boys:** Jeremy Hyatt (Newent) beat Matthew Oliver (St Peters).

**Under-16 Girls:** Wendy Nicholls (Maidenhill) beat Alison Cox (Bournside).

**Under-19 Boys:** Adrian Stalley (Pates Grammar) beat Alex Tomczyk (St Peters).

**Under-19 Girls:** Cheryl Fannin (Kings Glos) beat Penny Wyatt (Maidenhill).

The writer has one comment to make upon these championships — in the Under-16 Girls the diminutive Miss Alison Cox very nearly beat the more experienced county junior player Wendy Nicholls; Miss Nicholls only got home -22 in the first and 16 in the second, a very close shave indeed. All county selectors should keep a wary eye out for Miss Cox, she's well worth watching.

Gloucester City hold their final's night on 29th March at the CEGB Glos — here are some of the finalists.

**Open Singles:** Semi-final — William Dawe v Darren Griffin (holder); Steve Moreman v Dave Harvey.

**Open Doubles:** Final — Steve Moreman/Graham Slack v William Dawe/Sylvester Callum.

**Mixed Doubles:** Final — W. Dawe/Miss Heather Colwill v Roy and Judy Morley.

**Ladies' Singles:** Miss Heather Colwill (holder) v Mrs Judy Morley.

**Boys' Singles Under-17:** Raymond Powell v Jeremy Hyatt.

## HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

THE county have continued their run of defeats with both senior teams having lost their five matches to date. I rely on Tony Catt for reports on the county teams as he is the only one actually to give me information. In most county matches, all the opposition have ranked above our top player. While other teams have been strengthened, we struggle even to put out a team. This is the root of our problem. People are not interested in travelling to matches or playing at all for the county. Against Kent, the late withdrawal of Cheryl Buttery resulted in us playing the unregistered Mandy Broughton, at two hours notice, and Sarah Turner. Andy Ely and Sarah Turner have been the mainstays of our second team with nine players filling the other three places. The women this season have been particularly difficult, with only four out of our top ten making themselves available for the county. On the credit side, good individual results include Ramish Bhalla over Richie

Venner (Sussex) and Gary Lambert (Devon), Graham Toole against Joey Kennedy (Kent) and Andy Ely over Dave Harding (Surrey). Sarah Hammond has won most of her singles. In the Rose Bowl, Southampton almost brought off a surprise win over the strong Plymouth team. Sarah Hammond excelled with wins over Carol Giles, Elaine Short and Susan Butler. Cheryl Buttery ranked way above Sarah, beat Elaine Short, but in the crunch game at four all, she lost to the Plymouth number three, Susan Butler. Cheryl never seems to play to her ranking when it matters to her team. Sarah Turner, for Southampton, was unfortunately rather out of her depth in this company, although ranked above Sarah Hammond by the computer. Tony poses the question I have often asked 'How high up the rankings could Sarah Hammond go, with a modicum of effort?'

In the Southampton closed, surprise packet in the men's singles was Tony Briscoe, currently at Southampton University, who put Tony Catt out in the groups, then beat Jeff Mitchell in the quarters. At the same stage, Terry Bruce put out John Roberts, Bill Moulding pulled back from 10-16 down in the third to beat Mike Pond, and Andy Ely accounted for Maurie Shave 5 in the 3rd, after dropping the first. In the semi-finals, played on a resurrected finals night, two rather one-sided sets with Tony Briscoe continuing his fine run with a 21-4, 21-18 win over Bruce and Andy Ely accounting for Bill Moulding 22-20, 21-12. The final was a big disappointment, for the quite good sized crowd with Briscoe unable to repeat his earlier form and Andy Ely winning his third consecutive title by 8 and 8. Poor entries in the women's events. The two entries in the singles contested the final with Sarah Hammond comfortably beating Sarah Turner 16 and 13. No women's doubles and again the only two entries contesting the mixed final where Tony Catt and Sarah Hammond beat juniors, Jeff Giles and Tina Caws 15 and 17. Ken Giles had a good 17 and 10 win over Maurie Shave in the veterans and son Jeff beat Matthew Parris to retain his junior title. Jeff Mitchell and John Roberts beat Andrew Ely and Tony Catt in the men's doubles 17 and 13. Divisional winners were Division 1, Terry Jenvy; Division 2, 'Robbie' Roberts; Division 3, Mark Adams and Division 4, Alex Swannell. A well run event as usual with Brian Lamer-ton in control, ably assisted by City Treasurer, John Fhithyan and County Secretary Harold Albery.

## ISLE OF WIGHT

Brian Lamer-ton

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Angus, Sharon Urry and Ian Urry. All of the Rookley club who are this season's men's, ladies' and junior champions.

Chris won his first Island title during a purple patch when he had the 'Indian sign' on Sandown's Roger Hookey, the season's leading Island league player. A 21-13 third game singles final success was followed by the doubles title with Martin Mitchell against Hookey and Mike Turner and then in the crunch first division league match Hookey's 100% record went — but on this latter occasion the Sandown man had the last laugh as his team mates Mike Turner and Ian Smith saw Sandown home by 8 sets to 2 and almost certain retention of the championship shield.

Miss Urry also had a hat-trick to celebrate — the ladies' doubles title with Michelle Angus and the open junior doubles with Ian.

Since our last report things have looked up in the Southern Regional League with 3 wins out of 6 matches after an opening 3 match spell when we thought we were going to be swamped.



Carl Preen, IoW

Since Roger Hookey took over the running of the team at the turn of the year, and led it from the front, he, Angus and Keith Taylor have all turned in some outstanding wins.

No joy yet for the girls but they keep plugging away and will all be richer in experience for it.

We are now planning for our annual Island Festival of Table Tennis when separate competitions are played for 1st year juniors, 4th & 5th division, veteran, hard-bat and handicap with all the finalists coming together for the 'big night' at Newport Vics on Thursday 28 April.

## LINCOLNSHIRE

Chris Bryan

THE Spalding League kindly arranged for the use of the town's excellent Castle Sports complex for the Lincolnshire County Closed Championships played there on 6 March. The new venue found favour with the players with entries, happily well up on 1987.

Dave Skerratt (Scunthorpe) was a popular winner of his third men's singles title proving too good for everybody on the day, winning without dropping a game. In the quarters he disposed of Brian Allison 11, 7, following this with a 16, 17 win over holder and No 1 seed, Stuart Worrell and had the edge on Chris Bryan in the final in two close games. Bryan had come through via a quarter-final against Brian Hill and a close 18 in the third semi-final against Jim Brewster (Boston).

The best game of the earlier rounds had been provided by Andy Thompson and Matt Shearer, seeded 2. The third game saw Andy's 19-11 and 20-15 lead dwindle away until Matt stood at 21-20 up only to find himself on the receiving end of three unreturnable loops. Thompson then lost to Brewster in the next round.

### Not easy

The ladies' singles was won by Sue Radley of Lincoln who needed three games to beat both former champion Jean White of Spalding in the semi-final and Jane Strawson (Grantham) in the final. Jane had reached the final with a three game semi-final over another former champion Beryl Voss of Mablethorpe.

Jim Brewster paired with Stuart Worrell finally won the men's doubles facing Simon Pullen and Chris Bryan for the third final running but on the losing side in 86 with Brian Hilliard 87 with Pete Taylor. It was, though, far from easy with Jim and Stuart forcing their way home at 25-23 in the decider.

### Connie and Kath

The counterpart ladies event was comfortably retained by Connie Moran and Kath Fisher who beat the two ladies' singles finalists in the final.

The mixed doubles went to the unseeded pairing of Simon Pullen and Jane Strawson. In the semi they came back from 20-18 down in their third to beat Kevin Adlington and Beryl Voss and in the final overcame last year's runners-up Jim Brewster and Helen Stephens (Grantham) at 16 in the third.

### Results

**Men's Singles:** D. Skerratt b C. Bryan 19, 20.

**Ladies' Singles:** S. Radley b J. Strawson 17, -12, 15.

**Men's Doubles:** J. Brewster/S. Worrell b S. Pullen/C. Bryan -17, 7, 23.

**Ladies' Doubles:** C. Moran/K. Fisher b J. Strawson/S. Radley 17, 8.

**Mixed Doubles:** J. Strawson/S. Pullen b H. Stephens/J. Brewster -11, 14, 16.

**Veteran's Singles:** B. Hill b M. Shearer -20, 11, 20.

**Boys' Singles:** J. Rowson b L. Robinson.

**Girls' Singles:** H. Stephens b S. Johnson 8, 10.

## LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Brown

JUST like the rest of the country over the past few years, Leicestershire table tennis has suffered a decline in popularity towards young players coming into our game. Short of staging the World Championships again what can be done? The answer, I feel, is sheer hard work by volunteer individuals giving up their spare time in an effort to attract the young blood which is vital should our game continue to flourish. We are particularly pleased here in Leicestershire of the efforts of each of our leagues — Hinckley, Loughborough and Leicester — in tackling this major problem.



Chris Rogers

The breakthrough in the Leicester league came last season when they managed to get a school interested in table tennis. Pat Pickles, the Leicester league's general secretary, is a teacher at the Overdale Junior School and she used her very substantial influence to persuade an understanding headmaster that table tennis would be beneficial to the children. This has now culminated with the school having five

tables with coaching sessions in and out of school time. Over 20 boys and girls are now coached by Pat with Knighton Park stalwart Harry Ward between 12.15pm and 1.30pm then from 1.30pm to 3pm. Harry then does stints on his own, and in his own time, taking 20 plus children. Several of these youngsters have now joined the Knighton Park Sunday morning sessions for further coaching. It is particularly pleasing to note that of those 20 or so youngsters, seven are girls.

Many of these children are now enjoying competitive table tennis in the newly formed Leicester league's junior division which was set up by Steve Zanker, Pat Pickles and Peter Arscott, amongst others, who must very pleased with the progress which has been made. Knighton Park currently dominate at both ends of the division. The first team look almost certain to gain their first Junior League Championship and it will be well deserved as the team has played consistently all season. The thoughtful play of David Thomas and the aggression of Yatish Cgahan, Alan Passingham and, top girl Helen Griffiths have proved too much for the others. Overdale II have forced themselves into second place with William Cull the star after his transfer from other teams. Trevor Billam and Ben Horsburgh have supported him well.

British Shoe have found themselves in trouble since Chris Sylvester's skiing accident although Daniel Orton and Karen Brewin have begun to improve rapidly. Ben Shepherd has played well for Overdale III but has lacked sufficient support to win any matches. Nicholas Young has carried on his good form for Overdale III with some aggressive play but Rachel Steps progress has really caught the eye in this team. For Knighton Park II, Kathryn Free is really showing well and she must have been pleased with her counter-hitting to dispose of Mark Zanker.

## KENT

Hazel Etherington

THIS year the Kent Junior Closed was held at the Westborough Sports Centre in Maidstone and a special thank you to the Leeds Permanent Building Society who donated time and money to enable the event to be a great success. The trophies were presented by Mr David Priestley of the Leeds Permanent who we hope had an enjoyable day.

The Under-17 boys singles final was contested by A. Houghton and B. Mileham in a

very closely fought match with Brian winning 21-16 in the third and was also the winner of two other events. Other notable performances were from D. Illing beating I. Felton in a quarter-final, also M. Henderson and D. Rand who played well.

### Thanks

A special thanks go to Bob Walton and Bill Lewis who in spite of the encouragingly large entry organised the tournament well making it a day to remember.

### Results

**Under-17 Boys' singles:** B. Mileham b A. Houghton -18, 17, 16.

**Under-15 Boys' singles:** B. Mileham b S. Thompson 10, 17.

**Under-13 Boys' singles:** M. Hewill b R. Bull 6, 16.

**Class 2:** I. Felton b M. McKonkey 8, 17.

**Under-17 Boys' doubles:** B. Kellard/A. Houghton b B. Mileham/S. Thompson 21, 20.

**Under-15 Boys' doubles:** B. Mileham/S. Thompson b S. Taylor/I. Felton 15, 15.

**Under-17 Girls' singles:** L. Hollingworth b R. Butcher -20, 12, 12.

**Under-15 Girls' singles:** D. Joseph b L. Hollingworth -17, 19, 23.

**Under-13 Girls' singles:** L. Hollingworth b N. Duke 8, 10.

**Class 2:** N. Coleman b J. Amos -19, 10, 18.

**Under-17 Girls' doubles:** R. Butcher/T. Clements b K. Ackerley/H. Eastwood 14, 12.

**Under-15 Girls' doubles:** L. Hollingworth/S. Garlinge b K. Ackerley/H. Eastwood 8, 13.

## The Kent rankings

### Men

1. J. Kennedy
2. D. Dodd
3. J. Burleton
4. A. Dodd
5. A. Cunningham
6. I. Kenyon
7. G. Spencer
8. R. Tilling
9. H. Buist
10. M. Brown

### Women

1. J. Houghton
2. L. Popkiewicz
3. T. Stewart
4. M. Garlinge
5. M. Dignum
6. M. Dudgeon
7. J. Mersh
8. C. Brown
9. S. Collins
10. S. Long

## NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

GRAEME McKim's record sixth Kettering Men's Singles title hung in the balance as his well connected team-mate Andy Edmonds dictated proceedings in the early stages of the final end of their recent final.

During the day, McKim and Edmonds had so dominated a 63-strong field, that the 30 points Keith McLaren had gleaned from Edmonds in one of the group matches was the most either player had surrendered as they steadily annihilated an array of talented opposition.

When McKim and Edmonds finally met in a repeat of the previous week's Northampton final, McKim got quickly into his stride, and an Edmonds win seemed as remote as an Eddie Edwards gold medal.

### Not hungry

However, with the first end under his belt, McKim appeared to lose his appetite for the destruction of a long-time colleague and Edmonds, riding his luck, gradually came to terms with the situation levelling the match with a flourish.

With former record holder, Dick Cole a close observer, Edmonds continued in similar vein to take a 5-1 lead in the third and then maintained a narrow advantage as McKim struggled to find his true form. Trailing 17-16, McKim faced his moment of truth and was not found wanting, as he reeled off the final five points with some superb attacking play to complete a sixth successive victory.

McKim and Chris Handshaw also repeated a Northampton success in the Men's Doubles, having more difficulty with Rafe Miller and Richard Elliott in the semi-final than they did with Steve West and Steve Kendall in a one-sided final.

### Lenient

A third success went McKim's way when he took advantage of a lenient mark to win the Premier Division Handicap. Playing off minus nine, he eased his way into the final where he met Kristina Cox, who starting with a 17-point advantage played with so much flair that the resulting duel stirred the emotions of the respective supporters, but at the end of it all there could only be one winner, and that was McKim.

Miss Cox featured in three other finals, going down to Alison Boxall — the sixth name to go on the Ladies' Singles trophy in the last six years, partnering her conqueror to victory in the dou-

## COUNTY PICTURES

PICTURES have been found for nine counties in this edition. Counties without them — please try to find photos of your players so that we can build up the TTN picture library. — JW.

bles, and finally joining Steve Brown to win an absorbing Mixed Doubles against the No 1 seeds Handshaw and Miss Boxall.

It was not a day for the retention of titles, and the Veterans' Singles was no exception. Gerald Finney and Dennis Millman re-enacted their county closed semi-final but this time Finney came out narrowly on top before going on his first season of eligibility, to deprive Geoff Atkinson of the title he has held for the past three years.

Robert Filik was another player to have an excellent tournament, becoming the first player to retain the Consolation Singles title since it was introduced 14 years ago. Additionally he also reached the final of the Junior Under-17 Singles, where pride of place finally went to David Evans, who completely demoralised Filik after the Corby boy had taken the opener in confident fashion. Evans then joined forces with Neil Atkinson to take the Junior Doubles he also won last year in partnership with Richard Ambrose.

Neilsen's Wayne Toft was another player to impress throughout the long day and his performance culminated in a winning Mystery Doubles final in tandem with Stephen Rouse, but overall the outstanding achievement was that of Phil Slade whose organisational skills packed 300 matches into 14 hours of a memorable day.

McKim's second tournament win in successive weeks enabled him to take over the lead in the County Performance List for the first time this season at the expense of long-time leader Rafe Miller.

Leading positions: 1. Graeme McKim — 6,254 points; 2. Rafe Miller — 5,814; 3. Chris Handshaw — 5,590; 4. Andy Edmonds — 4,944; 5. Steve Brown — 4,641; 6. Keiron Dabbs — 4,421; 7. Richard Elliott — 3,995; 8. Steve West — 3,876; 9. Steve Kendall — 3,334; 10. Mick Edwards — 3,199; 11. Keith Jones — 3,113; 12. Mark Nannery — 3,072; 13. David Elliott — 3,035; 14. Tim Chamberlain — 3,008; 15. John Sanders — 2,977.

## NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long



Ian 'Bennie' Robertson a leading player in Northumberland and the north-east. Picture: Mike Loveder.

AN excellent entry of nearly 50 competitors contested the Northumberland Junior Championships, which were held at Blaydon Youth Club on 13 February. Results were as follows.

### Junior Boys' Singles:

**Semi-finals:** M. Curry b G. Sanderson 15, -14, 12; S. Riggins b M. Cavender -12, 16, 20.

**Final:** Curry b Riggins 19, 17.

### Junior Girls' Singles:

**Semi-finals:** A. Cowan b J. Grady 22, -18, 17; C. Flynn b A. Cassidy 18, 12.

**Final:** Cowan b Flynn 14, -11, 17.

### Junior Boys' Doubles:

**Final:** S. Coverdale/B. Forster b Curry/P. Robson 19, 19.

### Junior Girls' Doubles (Group):

1. Cowan/Flynn; 2. Grady/D. Cartmell.

### Mixed Doubles:

**Final:** Riggins/Cowan b M. Roughley/Flynn -8, 11, 13.

### Class 2 Singles:

**Final:** Cavender b Sanderson 19, 13.

### Cadet Boys' Singles:

**Semi-finals:** Forster b Robson 14, 15; Sanderson b Coverdale -20, 17, 18.

**Final:** Forster b Sanderson -16, 11, 14.

### Cadet Girls' Singles:

**Final:** Cartmell b J. Donnelly 11, 10.

### Cadet Doubles:

**Final:** Coverdale/Forster b Robson/S. Jones 15, 15.

### Under-11 Singles:

**Semi-finals:** O. Court b C. Sangster 10, 13; C. Dodd b S. Clark 13, 10.

**Final:** Court b Dodd 16, 11.

In the latest round of county matches, the seniors drew 5-5 at home to Yorkshire II, while the juniors also shared the points in their away match against Leicestershire. Eddie Smith, Ian Robertson, Mark Christie, Clare Mouzon plus Smith/Robertson in the men's doubles got the senior team's sets, while the junior successes were Michael Curry (2) Barry Forster (2) and the boys' doubles pairing of Curry and Stephen Coverdale.

The veterans lost 3-6 at home to Lancashire in their final match, which will probably ensure fourth place in Division 3A. Fred Short, Pauline Long and Short and Maurice Cheek in the men's doubles won the sets. The league knock-out cup team of Short (2), Cheek (2) and Larry Cartmell beat Bishop Auckland 5-1, but have since been knocked out by Wakefield 1-5, with Short winning the only set.

Byker Newcastle got an excellent 4-4 draw in their latest Leeds British League match against league leaders Ashford, which ended the latter's 100% record. Smith (2), Robertson and Dave Godbold were the successes. The second team beat Ormesby III 5-3, with Short and Peter White-man each taking 2 sets and Bob Dodds 1.

In the recent Leeds Youth Cup at Thornaby Sports Centre, Barry Forster beat Stephen Coverdale in the regional Under-14 boys' singles final, but lost to Michael Nesbitt in the Under-17 final. Both winners will go to the National Finals on 28-29 May.



# Counties 6

## SURREY

Terry Vance

SURREY have been relegated from the premier division. This is due, in my opinion, to three of our top players being unavailable through international duty or injury. In the last two seasons we have only avoided the drop by the mammoth efforts of our reserves. On this last occasion Nicky Mason (Surrey) and Skylet Andrew (Essex) were in Israel. (Congratulations to Nicky on winning the tournament in Israel). I believe this tournament finished on the Thursday but the flight back was not until the Sunday. Is it coincidence that the two teams relegated were Surrey and Essex? Derbyshire are the new champions and I can see them struggling to retain their title due to the calls of international play. There now appears to be an International Tournament every week of the season and the county championships committee have an unenviable task trying to find a weekend when the majority of players might be available.

Enough of my criticisms, but I hope constructive, now to the other items of news in Surrey.

The veteran's tournament at Hinkley was a great success for Bryan Simmonds who reached the semi-final. I also understand that in Frank Hams' group of three everybody was kept fully awake even though it lasted 2½ hours.



Glen Baker

The Surrey junior 1st team are still hoping for promotion as are the 3 Surrey veterans teams. The Surrey junior promotion challenge has been hampered by Jeremy Krzstyniak giving up table tennis after being rested for a county match.

Finally my thanks and hopes for a speedy recovery to Janice Seabrook who has decided through illness, to give up all her involvement in table tennis.

## SUSSEX

Paul Elphick

### TSB Sussex Closed Championships

IT is a firm belief now in Sussex table tennis that Phil Smith, for so long a top name in the county, will never win the coveted All Sussex crown. This follows his latest attempt at the title when seeded number one he lost to Bexhill's Stephen Moore in the final round, 21-19, 21-16.

In fact it was the first time Smith, 32, had ever reached the final whilst Moore was trying to regain the crown he lost in 1985. This clash gave Smith the chance for revenge after losing a semi-final in that year after leading 20-17 in the final game.

At the outset Smith seemed more determined playing aggressively down the Bexhillian's backhand, but then Moore slowed the pace down with clever topspin mixed with a long chopping game. Smith still led 19-16 before Moore played some spectacular shots to pinch it 21-19. Smith was clearly distraught at the start of the second game and despite some excellent rallies he fell 15-5 behind. It was only then that Smith really threw caution to the wind with some blinding counter hitting to grovel back to 19-16 down. Once again though Moore found his composure and range to clinch the match 21-16. So in the absence of his brother, Adrian, Stephen had put the cup back on the Moore mantelpiece.

Both the top seeds reached the final with victories over the 3rd and 4th seeds. Smith hammered and dethroned the 1987 champion Ritchie Venner 21-11, 21-14, gaining revenge for his West Sussex defeat earlier in the season. Moore had a fight before seeing off Hayward Heath's Paul Elphick 26-24, 21-18 in an encounter which saw Elphick lead all the way through deuce and 7-1 in the 2nd only to blow his chance. In earlier rounds 16 year-old Alan Cole produced the real shocks of the day defeating both Robin Stace and the 6th seed Tony Murrell before being subdued by Venner.

To make the day complete for the Moore family Teresa won the Women's title for the first time since 1985 — and what a way to win it with a final victory over the top seed and Scottish International Janet Smith, 24-22, 21-17.

Moore was as psyched up as I have seen her for this final and she was as fiery as ever with her shots on the table neutralising the Scottish girls big attacking forehand. Despite trailing in the first game Moore pegged Smith down the backhand to go 20-15 ahead. Smith reacted with some



Stephen Moore

good serving to level at 20-20 before Moore held her nerve to win 24-22. Tactically Moore played as well as I have ever seen her play and the same pattern followed in the 2nd game with Moore exploiting Smith's backhand flank to take the title at 21-17.

Over the last two years both Stephen and Teresa have sacrificed their table tennis for studying — Stephen has just qualified as a certified accountant whilst Teresa is at Bedford College.

**MS Final:** S. Moore b P. Smith 19, 16.

**WS Final:** T. Moore b J. Smith 22, 18.

## WORCESTERSHIRE

Dave Roden

CONGRATULATIONS this month go to Sandra Roden, our County No 1 lady, and to Lee Horton, our top cadet.

Sandra had her best 3-star tournament to date, reaching the quarter-finals of the Essrc 3-star on the weekend of 13-14 February. Her victims included Leslie Tyler, Sally Weston and Carol Giles, Sandra finally bowing out to Alison Gordon.

Lee won the Cadet Boys event in the Regional Youth Cup at Market Drayton on 20 February, and now progresses to the National Finals in London. Well done both.

The Malvern, Bromsgrove, Worcester and Dudley Leagues have all held their individual tournaments recently. The Malvern League Championships were held on 28 February, at the Winter Gardens, Malvern. Sponsored by the Malvern Gazette, there was an entry of 72. From a small league with only three divisions, this was a splendid entry.

### Results

**Men's Singles Final:** Richard Pratley b Willie Ahearn 10, 17.

**Ladies' Singles Final:** Janet Hunt b Carol Milnes 7, 15.

**Veterans' Singles Final:** Malcolm Dicks b John Meredith 18, 10.

**Junior Singles Final:** Richard Pratley b Jason Gagen 12, 9.

**Men's Doubles Final:** Willie Ahearn/Brian Powell b Ray Page/Alan Sainsbury -18, 17, 20.

Results from Bromsgrove, also played on 28 February:

**Men's Singles Final:** Mark Fiddian b Tim Schafer.

**Veterans' Singles Final:** Ron But-terton b Sam Lloyd.

**Junior Singles Final:** David McNaught b Craig Ward.

**Handicap Final:** Alan Colley b Ken Dzousa.

**Doubles Final:** Martin Madkins/Michael Kendal b Ken Dzousa/Brian McNaught.

Main results from the Worcester tournament, played on 20 February, were as follows:

**Men's Singles Final:** Simon Claxton b Keith LeMilliere, 9, 7.

**Ladies' Singles Final:** Alison Westwood b Linda Reid 20, -22, 14.

**Intermediate Singles Final:** Richard Pratley b Mark Jones.

**Veterans' Singles Final:** Ron But-terton b Malcolm Dicks.

**Men's Doubles:** S. Claxton/Tim Murphy b R. Pratley/Paul Ashcroft.

**Ladies' Doubles:** Janet Hunt/Nicola Jones b Helen Pogmore/Beryl Shammon.

**Mixed Doubles:** Linda Reid/Nick Mytton b Nicola Jones/Simon Claxton.

Dudley held their tournament on 6 March at Pensnett, with the finals to be played on Finals and Presentation Night on 29 April.

Through to the final stages are: Open Singles: Paul Garner, Ray Dixon, Steven Horton and Steve Hammond.

Open Doubles: Maurice Harris/Chris Robinson and Paul Garner/Steve Horton.

Restricted Singles: Andy Hartland and Jason Thompson.

Restricted Doubles: M. Harris/C. Robinson and A. Hartland/S. Hammond.

Veteran Singles: Mervyn Wood and Ray Dixon.

Intermediate Singles: Mark Roden and Jason Thompson.

Junior Singles: J. Thompson and Lee Horton.

The one event which was played out to a finish was the Bob Kirkham Memorial Handicap, in which Steve Horton, off scratch, did well to get through to the final, in which he beat Garry Webster.

5 March proved to be a disastrous day for our four County championship teams. The Senior I's lost 7-3 at home to Warwickshire in Division 2A. Highlight of this match was Phil Gunns set with Worcester No 1 Murray Jukes, Gunn winning in the deciding game. Jukes, Malcolm Green and Trevor Washington won one singles each for Worcester.

The Senior II's made the long journey to Whitehaven to play Cumbria, and also lost 7-3. Ken Walton won his two singles and the men's doubles with Paul Garner.

## YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

THE Yorkshire League is building up to a thrilling finish with Premier Division champions Harrogate and nearest challengers Bradford, led by Mick Stead, both unbeaten and level on both points and sets. They are set to meet in Harrogate on the final weekend of the season, and the sparks should be flying.

In Division 1 promoted Northallerton, for whom Stephen Cooper is in great form, need just two points from their remaining two matches to pass straight through the division and into the Premier section for the first time in their history.

Accompanying the North Yorkshire men into the top flight could be Bradford II, the draw specialists with five 'no decision' games in their six outings to date. Their hopes were boosted when Sheffield II went down to defeat in the local 'derby' at the hands of relegation threatened Rotherham.

There was another setback for the steel city in the Ladies Division when Cathy Johnson returned an unbeaten card to earn Leeds a point. Challengers Hull,

with Ruth Bray unbeaten, will have taken note and, with the boost of a 9-1 victory over a Bradford side in the throes of rebuilding, will have all to play for at Sheffield in the final match of the season.

Veteran Division 1 remains very open, with Huddersfield possibly favourites after beating early front runners Northallerton 6-4 but, with defending champions Wakefield and a strong Hull side still to be met, anything can happen.

In the Yorkshire Club championship the semi-final draw has thrown up a Huddersfield 'derby' with ICI due to meet Brook Motors, the winners taking on either Clayton Heights Trimda (Bradford) or Castle (Sheffield).

All the quarter-finals were hard fought, and it must be unique for each of the losing sides to have provided an unbeaten player. Former Scottish international Keith Rodger (Appleton Wiske), Mick Stead (Hermits, Bradford), Nicky Davies (Harrogate Wanderers) and Clive Guest (Saint Albion, Sheffield) all



Joanne Shaw

kept a clean sheet, only to finish on the losing side.

The first Closed championship results of the season are to hand with Yorkshire League man Steve Stringer taking both the Open Singles and Division 1 Singles at Dewsbury, as well as reaching the Doubles final with Stewert Milnes.

Trevor Watson — Richard Cooper claimed that title, with the other winners being: Veteran

Singles — Garry Crossley, in his first season as a veteran; Division 2 Singles — Gordon Cooper; Division 3 Singles — Ronnie Walker; Bevan Walker Handicap — Guy Rothery.

The Dewsbury League were saddened by the death of Sam West, 50 years a regular player, only a few weeks before the Sam West Veteran Handicap Trophy was contested for the first time.

Sam's name will be perpetuated by the competition for the trophy presented in recognition of the many years of pleasure he had enjoyed in table tennis. First winner was David Firth, who beat Barry Lightowler in the final — a consolation for defeat in the prestigious Burton Cup at the hands of Richard Cooper.

Finally congratulations go to: the Leeds Permanent Building Society, who field five teams in the Leeds Boston Office League. The A team (Division 1) are having an indifferent season, but B (Division 2), D (Division 5B) and E (Division 7) all lead their sections and could be playing in higher company next term, while C are well placed for a promotion push in Division 4A.

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## THE LENTEC NATIONAL RANKING LIST

### JUNIORS GIRLS as at 1 February 1988

— in conjunction with the ETTA



1. Andrea Holt (Ramsbottom)	1315	43. Joanne Webber (Bridgwater)	107	27. Robert Sharp (Northallerton)	119
2. Claire Potts (Chester)	1065	44. Nicola Cracknell (Reading)	101	28. John Shipman (Plymouth)	113
3. Deborah Toole (Normanton)	906	45. Sharon Norman (Birkenhead)	99	29. Martin Dawson (Sheffield)	110
4. Kerry Hall (Chesterfield)	777	46. Nicola Meddings (Birmingham)	96	30. Graeme Sanderson (Washington)	103
5. Julie Norman (Newbury)	718	47. Nicola Jones (Worcester)	94		
6. Joanna Roberts (Leeds)	711	48. Sally Johnson (Lincoln)	91		
7. Julie Billington (Chesterfield)	654	49. Rebecca Ledwitch (Birmingham)	89		
8. Caroline Buckley (Renhold)	627	50. Sally Hughes (Banbury)	88		
9. Nicola McGrath (Preston)	601				
10. Jane Wright (Plymouth)	431				
11. Kate Gower (Ingatstone)	426				
12. Helen Potts (Chester)	410				
13. Helen Wright (Plymouth)	379				
14. Ellen Meddings (Harrogate)	368				
15. Katherine Goodall (Leeds)	355				
16. Andrea Ambrose (Ipswich)	319				
17. Julie Forster (Loughborough)	309				
18. Alison Gower (Ingatstone)	301				
19. Karen Perkins (Ipswich)	284				
20. Susan Lawton (Ormesby)	282				
21. Helen Stephens (Grantham)	276				
22. Joanne Keighley (Shipley)	270				
23. Maria Thornley (Chorley)	269				
24. Julie Brion (Aylesbury)	255				
25. Linda Radford (Upminster)	249				
26. Tina Sadler (Yeovil)	236				
27. Sarah Pengelly (Paignton)	234				
28. Tracy Scott-Pawson (B'mouth)	222				
29. Maria Williams (Herts N3)	216				
30. Rebecca Fisher (Tottenham)	208				
31. Karen Richardson (Oldham)	183				
32. Sarah Williams (Hillingdon)	181				
33. Emma Hurling (Berkhamsted)	173				
34. Anne Pashley (Guisborough)	169				
35. Caroline Seaholme (Watford)	168				
36. Samantha Marling (Hull)	166				
37. Sally Marling (Hull)	160				
38. Alison Ledwitch (Birmingham)	146				
39. Lisa Crick (Maidenhead)	141				
40. Tracey Cole (Crawley)	136				
41. Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield)	122				
42. Barbara Smallwood (Formby)	114				

### CADET BOYS

1. Neil Bevan (Bude)	1390
2. Brian Mileham (Margate)	857
3. Gary Knights (Barton u/Needwood)	668
4. James Patterson (Hatfield)	482
5. Jason Blake (S Croydon)	482
6. Darren Howarth (Droylsden)	411
7. Ian Collier (Sunderland)	401
8. Martin Vickers (Bradford)	363
9. Karl Horsfield (Selby)	343
10. Martin Adams (Ascot)	341
11. Barry Forster (Whickham)	338
12. Alexander Perry (Crediton)	333
13. Gareth Jones (Selby)	319
14. Gavin Yates (Thame)	294
15. Nicholas Bradfield (Maidenhead)	288
16. Stephen Coverdale (Greenside)	280
17. Andrew Nicholls (Selby)	260
18. Marc Priddle (Maidenhead)	233
19. Darren Blake (S Croydon)	233
20. Matthew Greenwood (Amersham)	216
21. Jonathan Maggs (Bude)	210
22. Spencer Thompson (Rainham)	195
23. Paul Davison (Workshop)	161
24. Christopher Sladden (Southend)	161
25. David Baker (Heston)	147
26. Adam Cole (Lowestoft)	146

### CADET GIRLS

1. Ellen Meddings (Harrogate)	1197
2. Helen Wright (Plymouth)	845
3. Helen Potts (Chester)	732
4. Katherine Goodall (Leeds)	662
5. Maria Thornley (Chorley)	603
6. Nicola Meddings (S Coldfield)	468
7. Alison Gower (Ingatstone)	455
8. Tracey Cole (Crawley)	335
9. Sally Hughes (Banbury)	330
10. Linda Radford (Upminster)	327
11. Sally Marling (Hull)	309
12. Gail Ottolini (M Drayton)	287
13. Sara Williams (Hillingdon)	285
14. Nicola Deaton (Chesterfield)	260
15. Sarah Creasey (M Drayton)	239
16. Elizabeth Creasey (M Drayton)	235
17. Karen Richardson (Oldham)	177
18. Deborah Newman (Selby)	170
19. Nicola Cracknell (Reading)	168
20. Dawn Barnett (Banbury)	153
21. Caroline Watt (Barrow in Furness)	141
22. Nadine Barthee (Brentwood)	136
23. Karen Ashley (Surrey SW20)	132
24. Sarah Seaholme (Watford)	121
25. Clare Hand (M Drayton)	120
26. Rebecca Ledwitch (Birmingham)	120
27. Claire Marshall (M Drayton)	119
28. Esther Baggaley (M Keynes)	110
29. Claire Pengelly (Paignton)	106
30. Zoe Buchanan (Stockport)	102

## BOOK REVIEW

# The Lentec Table Tennis Manual

by RON CRAYDEN

ALTHOUGH classified as a minor sport, table tennis, over the years, has had a surprising number of books written about it, in fact my own private collection is now approaching the 400 mark. Most of these literary outpourings however, have been 'teach-ins' directed towards the development of an individual's game. Valuable as such books can be, they do of course have limitations.

#### Refreshing

It was therefore, most refreshing to receive the Lentec TT Manual, a unique publication devoted exclusively to equipment and its usage. As far as I know, something never previously attempted or indeed achieved.

When asked to review the manual, I envisaged myself ploughing through a dull and boring text of technical theories, but I was mistaken as from the beginning I found it to be interesting reading. I must point out however, that the manual is essentially for the table tennis enthusiast and its main purpose is to impress upon the reader the most important things to know about the properties and use of blades, rubbers and sponges.

#### Concise

It covers the subject in a concise and forthright manner. The complete text has been written with considerable forethought and skill and reflects the needs of players with different styles and abilities. Although it could be

described as a product of scientific research it describes the equipment in understandable terms and never becomes a boring exposition of technical details.

#### Recommendation

This is a publication that I would recommend to any table tennis person, whether an aspiring beginner or an experienced, campaigner.

#### Available direct

It is available direct from Lenton (Holdings) Ltd, 138 Foleshill Road, Coventry CV1 4JJ and is reasonably priced at £7.95, which includes packing and postage.



Ron Crayden



## Desmond Douglas sees ninety enrol

### TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS — WOULD YOU HELP SPORT AID?

TABLE TENNIS will play a major role in the SPORT AID '88 programme which launches on 7 April and aims to help children worldwide fight hunger, poverty and disease.

The entire world of table tennis — from top internationals to local clubs, fans, and big sponsors — is being invited to support the campaign to raise money for children in the UK and help save the lives of 15 million children who die each year throughout the world.

SPORT AID '88 is a year of sport, music and carnival which culminates in the 10km simultaneous, global RACE AGAINST TIME on Sunday, 11 September 1988.

After the success of 1986 — when 20 million people in 89 countries joined the RACE AGAINST TIME and raised over US\$36 million for African famine relief and rehabilitation — SPORT AID '88 is widening the focus to help children wherever they are in need.

And it is aiming to involve people in all 218 countries and inhabited territories worldwide.

As well as trying to put together major matches, SPORT AID '88 is encouraging clubs, players and fans at every level in the sport to stage special events or dedicate existing events to the campaign.

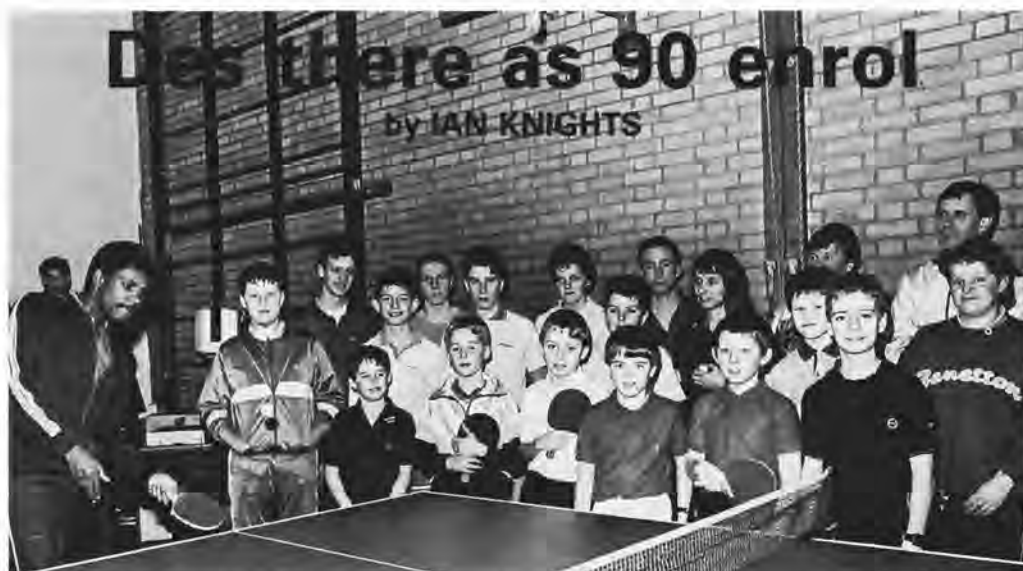
And anyone joining the worldwide effort will receive their own unique registration number as a symbol of their involvement, whether they organise their own table tennis event, run in the RACE AGAINST TIME, or even both!

For information or to offer an event, please send details with a large SAE to SPORT AID, '88, UK Events, 140 Battersea Park Road, London SW11.

## THE DUTCH BALL COLLECTOR

A DUTCH table tennis enthusiast, a Mr Adri Van Drielen has a collection of over 700 table tennis balls and has produced a printed booklet containing line illustrations of each one.

He is interested in contacting anyone else with a similar interest with a view to exchanges of balls etc! His address is: Thomas a Kempisstratt 5, NL 8021, BG Zwolle, Holland.



Desmond Douglas appeared in person for the opening of Advanced Training Centre for the West Midlands Coaching region at Barton-Under-Needwood. 200 youngsters turned up to take part and see Desmond Douglas and 90 enrolled.

ENGLAND No 1 Desmond Douglas was guest of honour when the West Midland Coaching Region opened its eastern area Advanced Training Centre in the premises of John Taylor High School, Barton Under Needwood last month.

The establishment of the centre results from sports council support and fund raising activities organised by local coach Ian Knights. The venue will serve a dual role, facilitating an ATC for the Walsall, Tamworth, Lichfield and Burton leagues whilst on another evening providing beginner and intermediate coaching for young players from the immediate area.

The much publicised opening by Des proved a huge success with almost two hundred youngsters watching the first ATC session and ninety of them enrolling for the introductory courses.

The centre will be staffed by Burton coaches Ian Knights, Cheryl Fisher and Graham Carlton with Shrewsbury's Malcolm Green and Derby's Ivor Warner providing the advanced playing standard expertise.



ITTF President Ochiro Ogimura

### ANNUS SIPOS

THE Hungarian Association have informed the ETTA of the death of Annus Sipos at the age of 80. She had been eleven times a World Champion — 1929 mixed doubles in Budapest, 1930 women's doubles in Berlin, 1931 women's doubles in Budapest, 1932 women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles in Prague, 1933 women's singles and women's doubles in Baden, 1933 women's doubles in Paris and 1935 women's doubles and mixed doubles in Wembley.

Table tennis enthusiasts everywhere will want to join us in sending our condolences to the family and friends of this great player.

## Ogimura spends few hours in Paris

ICHIRO OGIMURA, President of the International Table Tennis Federation flew into Paris to visit the European Championships. After talking to a few people he held a press conference and flew out again. He is clearly making progress in his target of visiting eighty countries.

With the Olympic Games only months away, the pace of life is extremely high. He told journalists 'Juan Samaranch (President of the IOC) needed assistance from the ITTF with the Korean issue, we were able to help him try to solve some of the problems concerning the political situation between the North and the South.'

'For a decade the Olympic movement suffered from the Munich killings — a decline boycott started from Munich. The IOC needed new and enthusiastic recruits — table tennis is one of them,' he said.

On Seoul he said, 'There are some problems with the sun getting in through the roof of the gymnasium and the floor needs some attention. The quarter finals onwards will be televised live.'

'I am very impressed with the enthusiasm for table tennis worldwide. We are setting up a seminar in June. I am asking for a number of expert lecturers including Mr Albert Shipley of the ETTA,' he said.

Amongst a host of other interesting points Mr Ogimura mentioned the setting up of a new event for the future, the China Open and that in Japan, table tennis is the No 1 participant sport, above all others.

## OFFICIALS ROBBED

PARIS appeared on the surface to be a fairly safe place at night. But Hans Gabe, president of the West German Association was robbed in Paris; fortunately he was not hurt by a street gang.

On the way to the tournament on a night train a Swedish official taking cash to the tournament to pay for the Swedish party's expenses was robbed.

His brief case was taken by a dawn thief as the train rolled into Gotenburg from Stockholm. The Swedish official gave chase in his night attire along the platform but the robber got away!

# Picture Parade in Paris!



## PICTURES BY DENIS GEORGE

*This picture gives some idea of the size of the Palais de Omnisports at Bercy: 17,000 seats were available. Estimates varied on the crowds. There were 15,000 present on one occasion and a good average of 5,000 on other days with more in the evenings.*

*The last night farewell party excluded the media, a fact that was duly noted by the journalists — an invitation for one press man from each country would have been excellent public relations. Few people were made to feel welcome by the French table tennis hosts and that must be bad for the sport.*



\*



\*

*The players enjoyed their last night at the plush Pullman St Jacques hotel. On the left Andrea Holt, Fiona Elliot enjoying a joke with Alan Cooke and Alison Gordon as they face the camera. In the bottom picture Skylet Andrew always the joker with Nicky Mason and Desmond Douglas is the man wearing a tie. Above, Lisa Lomas and Jill Parker graced the occasion.*

# The schools teams at Matlock

## ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

# No shocks at team finals

by DAVID LOMAS

RESULTS went very much as expected when the National Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships took place at Lea Green, Matlock, on 19 March.

Two schools — Kesteven & Grantham Girls and Cumnor House, Croydon — successfully defended their titles, Brookhouse (Girls' Under-13), Parkview (Boys' Under-13) and Selby High (Boys' Under-16) were new names on the trophies, whilst The Grove, Market Drayton (Girls' Under-16) chalked up their ninth national title.

Ifield Community College, winners of the Leach-Carrington (Boys' Under-16) trophy last season stepped up a gear to lift the Boys' Under-19 title for the first time. Their match against Budehaven — led by England Under-14 champion and No 1, Neil Bevan, was expected to be close but the Sussex boys all played well. Even though Alan Cole was one of Bevan's victims this was the Cornish boys only success. Highlight of the 7-1 encounter was Scott Greenbrook's 25-23 win over Bevan, fighting back from a 15-20 margin.

Kesteven & Grantham Girls were head and shoulders above their opponents, Luton and Stoke Sixth Form Colleges, holding on to their Girls' Under-19 Crown with 8-0 and 6-2 verdicts.

### Opportunity seized

Selby High became North Yorkshire's first-ever finalists and seized their opportunity well with 6-2 wins over Mayflower and Brislington.

Cumnor House, led by the talented Darren Blake, raced to their third successive victory in the Boys' Under-11 event — a considerable achievement.

Last year three Barrow-in-Furness teams finished in runners-up places but this year Parkview and Yarlside Primary (Girls' Under-11) made no mistake.

The closest contest came in the Under-13 Girls' event where Brookhouse, Bucknall (one of three Staffordshire girls' finalists) had some anxious moments before No 2 Julie Bickerton clinched the decisive fourth set, going on to win 5-3 over debutantes, Bredbury.

### How to join in

Details of how to enter the 1988/89 Championships can be obtained from ESTTA Team Championships Secretary, Geoff Gardiner, 36 Froom Street, Chorley, Lancs PR6 0AN (see please).

## THE DETAILS

### Boys' Under-19:

1. Ifield Community College, Crawley (West Sussex)
2. Budehaven Comprehensive, Bude (Cornwall)
3. Caistor Grammar (Lincolnshire)  
Caistor 3, Budehaven 5; Ifield 8, Caistor 0; Budehaven 1, Ifield 7.

### Girls' Under-19:

1. Kesteven & Grantham Girls (Lincolnshire)
2. Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College (Staffordshire)
3. Luton Sixth Form College (Bedfordshire)  
Luton 0, Stoke 8; Kesteven & Grantham 8, Luton 0; Stoke 2, Kesteven & Grantham 6.

### Boys' Under-16:

1. Selby High (North Yorkshire)
2. Mayflower, Billericay (Essex County)
3. Brislington, Bristol (Avon)  
Mayflower 5, Brislington 3; Brislington 2, Selby 6; Mayflower 2.

### Girls' Under-16:

1. The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
2. Peniel Academy, Brentwood (Essex County)
3. Kesteven & Grantham Girls (Lincolnshire)  
Peniel 1, The Grove 7; Kesteven & Grantham 3, Peniel 5; The Grove 8, Kesteven & Grantham 0.

### Boys' Under-13:

1. Parkview, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria)
2. Cumnor House, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan)
3. Budehaven Comprehensive, Bude (Cornwall)  
Budehaven 0, Cumnor House 8; Parkview 7, Budehaven 1; Cumnor House 2, Parkview 6.

### Girls' Under-13:

1. Brookhouse, Bucknall (Staffordshire)
2. Bredbury, Stockport (Greater Manchester)
3. Hillcross Middle, Morden (Surrey Metropolitan)  
Hillcross 3, Bredbury 5; Brookhouse 7, Hillcross 1; Bredbury 3, Brookhouse 5.

### Boys' Under-11:

1. Cumnor House, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan)
2. Marymead Junior, Bristol (Avon)
3. Yarlside Primary, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria)  
Yarlside 1, Holymead 7; Cumnor House 8, Yarlside 0; Holymead 2, Cumnor House 6.

### Girls' Under-11:

1. Yarlside Primary, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria)
2. Marychurch Primary, Bucknall (Staffordshire)
3. Buttsbury Junior, Billericay (Essex County)  
Buttsbury 3, Marychurch 5; Yarlside 8, Buttsbury 0; Marychurch 2, Yarlside 6.



Girls' Under-19 winners, Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School, with ESTTA president, Tom Matthews.



Boys' Under-16 winners, Selby High (North Yorkshire) with ETTA vice-chairman, Malcolm Allsop.



Parkview School, Barrow-in-Furness, winners of the Boys' Under-13 event, with ESTTA Vice-President, John Reed.



The ESTTA Annual General Meeting is due to take place at Walsall on Sunday, 8 May.

The ESTTA's Officers have prepared a 3-year Forward Plan, which has been submitted to the Sports Council for consideration.

Provisional dates for 1988/89 season:

Dunlop National School Team Championships.

Area Finals: Saturday/Sunday, 21/22 January 1989.

Regional Finals: Sunday, 19 February.

National Finals: Saturday, 11 March.

Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships: Saturday, 29 April.

For information re ESTTA activities please write to: L. C. Henry, Engelberg, Badger Lane, Wooley Moor, Derby.

## Euro-Asia: Full marks again . . .

TABLE tennis became a great sport once again over the weekend of 16-17 January when the stars of both Europe and the crack Asian countries converged on Middlesbrough for the Euro-Asia spectacular. I was one of the lucky ones — I was there.

What I saw that weekend was in a word unbelievable. Everything from the breathtaking play to the organisation of the event was first class. On the organisation side it would be unfair to single out one person yet referee Tony Chatwin and the organiser Alan Ransome must take enormous slaps on the back. One person whom many people did not see but were always reading his thoughts was Les Wooding on the electronic scoreboard. All weekend his nimble fingers were working away at messages which brought news of joy, frustration, results and encouragement — mainly for our English players who performed with such distinction over the weekend.

Carl Prean could not have started the tournament off better when early on Saturday morning when many people were still drifting in he defeated the world champion Jiang. This result must have inspired not only the English players but also the Europeans who threw all they had at the Asian players — despite the fact that three Asians reached the semi-finals.

### First rate

The effort of our English players was first rate but in particular both Prean and Nicky Mason came out with the honours — both reaching the knockouts stages. Mason's victories over the two Japs to qualify were brilliant. Our two top juniors Bradley Billington and Matthew Syed performed with great maturity and will be a force for the future years. Alan Cooke had a tough group (but who didn't!) but he also performed well before succumbing to the top German Bohm. Our ladies performed as well as any of the other European women there but Alison Gordon had the best result beating Daniela Guergueltcheva in her group. The Asian women are at this moment in a class of their own in world table tennis and this was shown at both Middlesbrough and later in the week in Brighton.

### Ice-cool

At the end of the day talent shone through when the ice cool Swede Jan Ove Waldner threw

the Thornaby Pavilion into frenzies of excitement, firstly to come from the brink of defeat to win against Kim Song Hui and then thrash the chopper extraordinaire Lu Hung Sang. What was to follow has seldom been seen in this country as he took on Yoo Nam Kyu in the final. Clapping and cheering was usually the limit but as well as this we had shouting, stamping of feet on the wooden floors and whistling — mostly when Waldner won a point. Some of the table tennis the Swede played when he had established a lead in the final game was breathtaking. At the end the crowd went berserk and a standing ovation followed as the Swede raised his arm to salute the crowd who had supported him so well. When the tournament had finished my hands were red and my voice was gone but it had been more than worth it.

The exhibition which followed between Jiang and Teng Yi fell flat on its face following what had gone before it — mainly thanks to a Swede called Waldner who had entertained us beyond belief. A European upstaging the Asians — unheard of until that weekend!

PAUL ELPHICK  
29 Franklynn Road,  
Haywards Heath  
West Sussex.

## Umpires are not cracking down

I WRITE as head coach for the Norfolk County Association and the Norwich and District League, also as a county umpire. To express my concern at the lack of consistency by umpires in respect of the service rule.

The two worst aspects are flat hand (or lack of it) and the height the ball is projected upwards. The law is clear. It states the hand shall be *flat!* and the ball shall be projected upwards at *least 16cm!*

Umpires do not have discretion to decide whether or not players are gaining advantage or not the facts are that these are not complying with the law, therefore illegal and should be called.

It makes our task as coaches extremely difficult when our players see county matches, international matches and tournaments where the service law is being broken and players not being faulted.

Umpires, the requirements of the service law are simple, please enforce them!

STAN HONOR  
378c Dereham Road  
Norwich

## Derbyshire's Chesterfield shows the way

CHESTERFIELD is a relatively small mediaeval market town known mainly for its Crooked Spire, and certainly not for its football team, but it can be justifiably proud of its achievements in the table tennis world in recent years.

Everyone in the closed circle of our game, and certainly all subscribers to our magazine are well aware of and grateful for the tremendous help now forthcoming from the Leeds Permanent Building Society on a National level. The Leeds Head Office asked the local branches to arrange presentation of the £1,000 special awards made to five English players at this year's Open for performances of distinction. Alan Cooke from Chesterfield was one of those players. The Chesterfield League Committee decided to make an effort to spread the publicity, which the Leeds deserve, onto a more local level.

Accordingly, and with the willing co-operation of the local Leeds Manager Colin Barrett and Regional Manager Pat Moore, we organised a PR exercise at a Chesterfield Hotel on 3 March to coincide with Alan's presentation, at which we introduced the local Press not only to Alan but also to the rest of our growing number of International players — Bradley and Julie Billington, Kerry Hall and not forgetting England's team captain for the Polish Open Derrick Marples. The latest recruit to the ranks, Nicola Deaton, was unfortunately unable to attend due to illness.

The result was an evening of self-gratification and a resounding success, and we hope to build further on the local involvement with Mr Barrett. We believe that we, the local organisers of the game, should help wherever possible to spread the word to the public at large. We owe that to our sponsors, and Chesterfield is showing the way — but then we do have more ammunition than most!

ERIC HALL  
38 Littlemour Crescent,  
Newbold, Chesterfield

*Editor's note: Full marks to Chesterfield. Many towns and cities would be grateful to possess some of the 'ammunition' at Chesterfield. Incidentally, I understand that our sponsors opened nearly 200 personal accounts during the tournaments at Brighton and Crawley.*

## Too much rancour, not enough jokes

I MUST confess to some mild amusement that an article headed 'Waldner gifted but vulnerable' should end with reference to me. As the author is Ken Muhr perhaps I should not be surprised. I am not sure whether the words are kindly meant, but I thank him if they are.

'John Prean', I read 'must not let personal differences with individuals get in the way of bringing everyone in Table Tennis this next step forward. He must combine magnanimity and conciliation with real leadership . . .'

Since my election I have permitted myself no 'personal differences'. Like Mr Roy Jenkins, addressing an unruly SDP Conference, I concluded that in the past there had been 'too much rancour and not enough jokes'. I have therefore tried to treat all opposition with humour and that includes Ken's theories on topics such as coaching and accounting in respect of which, when there was a stick to grasp, one could rely that he would get hold of the wrong end.

I have persistently accepted all olive branches. I desire conflict with no one, I want everyone to work together.

That is what the sport needs, it is what the overwhelming majority of the members want.

JOHN PREAN

## JIM BECKLEY



Vice-chairman of the ETTA Public Relations Committee is in charge of the advertising for this magazine. He is interested in hearing from anyone who has information that could lead to new advertisers. Jim is professional media man and offers advice on advertising and publicity for large or small businesses. His address is: JIM BECKLEY, c/o Sports PR, PO Box 8, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire SK8 7RG. Tel: 061-439 6001 business and home number.

## The new Leeds competition

### LEEDS YOUTH CUP

## Pickard wins East region

by MIKE WATTS

LONG Stratton Sports Centre is not a well-known place for a table tennis tournament but it gained its place in history when it became the venue for the first ever Leeds Youth Cup Eastern Region Championships on Saturday 20 February 1988.

With 10 tables and an entry of 83 competitors the competition ran smoothly thanks to the vigilance of husband and wife team Dennis and Margaret Calver from Norwich as referee and control table assistant. The Norwich 'team' gave their expertise this time in setting up and breaking down of the venue and everyone went away satisfied after a great day's play.

There were many fresh faces obviously playing in their first tournament and it was a delight to watch their endeavours as they strove for glory. I saw one young competitor who didn't realise he had to put his players number on the back of his shirt so had attached it to his tracksuit; another even started to put it on the front of his shirt. There was a cadet with his Ipswich football club shirt on and another young cadet who turned up at the table with a red-and-red bat. When I explained to his father he couldn't use it dad produced his own bat with the words 'he'll never be able to use it, the rubbers are too fast', but use it he did and gave a creditable performance against a lad who was obviously a much better player.

#### Pickard pick-up

Oh yes, I forgot to mention there were some top ranked players present with Neil Pickard (Norfolk) picking up the major title — the Junior Boys' Singles and Andrea Ambrose (Suffolk) winning the Junior Girls' Singles beating Caroline Buckley the top seed in the final.

In the main cadet events, James Patterson (Norfolk) won the Boys' Singles and Sarah Seaholme (Hertfordshire) the Girls.

Mr David Burton, branch manager from the Leeds Permanent Building Society in Norwich made all the presentations.

#### RESULTS

**Junior Boys' Singles — Semi-Finals:** N. Pickard (Nk) b I. Black (He) 17, 17; C. Bowler (Bd) b A. Hawkes (Nk) 13, 12.

**Final:** N. Pickard b C. Bowler 15, 12.

**Junior Girls' Singles — Semi Finals:** C. Buckley (Bd) b E. Hurling (He) 16, -14, 16; A. Ambrose (Sk) b K. Perkins (Sk)

**Final:** A. Ambrose b C. Buckley -10, 19, 10.

**Cadet Boys' Singles — Final:** J. Patterson (Nk) b M. Dawson (Sk) -19, 12, 12.

**Cadet Girls' Singles — Final:** S. Seaholme (He) b H. Beaumont (Bd) 20, 11.

**Class 2 Junior Boys — Final:** J. Collins (CA) b J. Patterson (NK) 12, -13, 9.

**Class 2 Junior Girls — Final:** M. Canham (NK) b R. Bullock (SK) -15, 18, 20.

**Class 2 Cadet Boys — Final:** A. Cole (SK) b A. Watts (CA) 15, 12.

**Class 2 Cadet Girls — Final:** S. Seaholme (He) b H. Beaumont (BD) 15, 16.

**Boys' Doubles — Final:** J. Collins/M. Loughlin (CA) b N. Pickard/P. Wilson (NK) 15, -17, 21.

**Girls' Doubles — Final:** C. Seaholme/E. Hurling (HE) b H. Beaumont/C. Buckley (BD) 8, 14.

### FROM OTHER REGIONS

Bill Pigram (West Midlands) reports a very good day with fine sporting performances all round capped by some very good wins by Grove players. Mr Arthur Miller, assistant manager from the Leeds Permanent Building Society at Wellington came for nearly all of the finals and showed a great interest and amazement at the standard of play.

Qualifiers for the West Midlands together with Northern and North West were as follows:

#### WEST MIDLANDS

**Junior Boys' Singles,** D. Morris; **Girls' Singles,** S. Creasey; **Cadet Boys' Singles,** L. Horton; **Girls' Singles,** E. Creasey.

#### NORTHERN

**Junior Boys' Singles,** M. Nisbet; **Girls' Singles,** A. Pashley; **Cadet Boys' Singles,** B. Forster; **Girls' Singles,** C. Watt.

#### NORTH WEST

**Junior Boys' Singles,** J. Taylor; **Girls' Singles,** N. McGrath; **Cadet Boys' Singles,** D. Howarth; **Girls' Singles,** M. Thornley.

#### SOUTH WEST

**Junior Boys' Singles,** N. Bevan; **Girls' Singles,** J. Wright; **Cadet Boys' Singles,** J. Maggs; **Girls' Singles,** R. Boon.

The finals of the Leeds Youth Cup were due to be played during Easter week but have now been put back to the last weekend in May 1988.



Neil Pickard



David Morris

### THE LEEDS YOUTH CUP: WEST MIDLANDS REGION

## Grove's David Morris: cup victory

by IAN MARSHALL

GROVE Table Tennis Club made the most of home advantage in the West Midlands Region of the Leeds Youth Cup as three of the four major titles on offer at Grove School on 20 February went the way of Market Drayton based players. It was to be Worcestershire's Lee Horton who prevented the whitewash winning the Cadet Boys' Singles title to join David Morris, Sarah Creasey and Liz Creasey on the winners rostrum.

The irrepressible Grove twins Sarah and Liz Creasey contested the final on the girls' side of the tournament, with Sarah ousting top seed Nicola Meddings of Warwickshire at the semi-final stage of the Junior Girls' Singles whilst Miss Meddings was to prove the victor over Sarah in the Cadet Girls' Singles only to fall at the penultimate stage to Liz, who proceeded to outwit clubmate Claire Marshall to take the title. Meanwhile the Girls' Doubles title went the way of the Creasey duo over the luckless Nicola Meddings in harness with Grove's Jane Barnett whilst Liz Creasey captured the Class 2 Girls' Singles reversing the Junior Girls' Singles result to beat sister Sarah who had emerged runner-up in the Cadet Class 2 event with the combination bat of Potteries girl Julie Bickerton posing a host of problems.

On the boys' side David Morris gave the most impressive of performances to win the Junior Boys' title with the Grove player the victor without the loss of a set, as his excellent form displayed in the Leeds British League was repeated in the Leeds Youth Cup as clubmate Adrian Thorp was beaten in the semi-finals and Birmingham's

Leigh Jeffries outthit in the final with the Shropshire lad gaining in confidence as the match progressed. However, there was consolation for Jeffries in partnership with Burton's Garry Knights as the Boys' Doubles title was captured at the expense of Grove duo Mark Turner and David Morris. The dedicated Turner was rewarded for his splendid attitude by capturing the Class 2 event over the defensive skills of Potteries junior David Savage.

A determined Worcestershire boy emerged as a well deserved winner of the Cadet Boys' Singles title in the guise of Lee Horton who accounted for Birmingham's Stuart Taylor in a hard hitting final, the latter having ousted the talented Sutton Coldfield youngster Steven Meddings at the semi-final stage in a tooth and nail struggle whilst Pontesbury's Allister Corfield had been the victim of Lee Horton. However, there was to be success for Stuart Taylor in the Class 2 Cadet event as the Birmingham boy overcame Grove's much improved Matthew Alexander in an excellent final with the victor of the main event, Lee Horton, having been Taylor's victim in the group matches.

Finally, congratulations to tournament organisers Penny and Bill Pigram who scheduled the competition for 84 players with the utmost efficiency completing the 10 events on 11 tables ahead of time enabling players and presenters the luxury of leaving at a reasonable time, a notable achievement when one considers that the Creasey twins contested five finals whilst Leigh Jeffries, David Morris and Mark Turner contested two each.



## Over the Border, Youth winners

### NORTH WALES COUNTIES TTA

by C. T. Bayliss

The LEEDS County Championships — Junior Division 3/A  
Held at Castell Alun Sports Complex, Hope, nr Wrexham

Clwyd 3 v Northumberland 7

Gary Jones 1 Michael Curry -8, -17; Martin Furber 1 Barry Foster -14, -10; Spencer Harris 1 Stephen Coverdale -19, -20.

#### Girls' Doubles

Justine Thomas & Natasha Williams bt Joanne Grady & Diane Cartmel, 7, 7.

#### Boys Doubles

Spencer Harris & Gary Jones 1 Michael Curry & Barry Foster, -7, 17, -13.

Gary Jones 1 Barry Foster -4, -9; Natasha Williams bt Diane Cartmel 6, 1; Spencer Harris 1 Michael Curry -12, -20; Justine Thomas bt Joanne Grady 10, 17; Martin Furber 1 Stephen Coverdale -11, 17.

Clwyd against Northumberland found their opponents boys too good for the home team and their boys trio of Spencer Harris, Gary Jones and Martin Furber all lost, it was left to Clwyd's girls Justine Thomas and Natasha Williams to win their singles and doubles and bring some respectability to the final score of 3-7

Leeds Glamorgan Open Tournament  
Held at the National Sports Centre, Cardiff,  
on Saturday 30 January 1988.

North Wales players did quite well at this event with Justine Thomas retaining her Junior Singles title. Natasha Williams won The Cadet Girls beating Susan Lees from East Flintshire in the final.

Andrew Jones lost in the semi-final of the Cadet Boys' Singles and Spencer Harris at the same stage in the Junior Boys' Singles.

#### Welsh League — Ladies' Division

East Flintshire beat Newport by six sets to one set and Cardiff B by seven sets to nil at the National Sports Centre, Cardiff.

Both Justine Thomas and Natasha Williams going through both of the matches unbeaten and Susan Lees just losing one set.

Tameside 2-Star Junior Open  
Held at Copley Sports Centre, Stalybridge

Natasha Williams won the Girls' Age 12 Singles with a win in the final by two games to one game against Caroline Watt from Cumbria.

Natasha also reached the Girls' Cadet Singles semi-final losing out to Kate Goodall from Yorkshire.

### LEEDS YOUTH CUP WINNERS



Junior Girls singles winner at the Leeds Youth Cup, West Midlands Region area finals: Sarah Creasey (Grove), presenter Mr Arthur Miller, Leeds — Wellington branch. Pictures Geoff Twiss.



Grove finalists — Organiser: Bill Pigram; Jane Barnett, Liz Creasey, Mark Turner, Sarah Creasey, Claire Marshall, Arthur Miller (Leeds), David Morris, Ian Marshall (Grove Coach).

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# The Centenary of Table Tennis

by GERALD GURNEY

TABLE TENNIS is about a hundred years-old, but when exactly should we celebrate its centenary? The game was probably first played — with improvised equipment and no formalised rules — in the 1880s, but this is too vague to count as its 'invention'.

No firm dates are known before the 1890s when several patents were registered, the earliest being David Foster's cricket/football/lawn tennis parlour game of 24 December 1890. It was long thought that this item might never have been put into production, but one example has been found and is now in the Gurney Collection. It is mostly in very good condition — and remarkably complete, with only one piece missing from a total of 53.

## Service direct

As the photograph shows, this game is very much lawn-tennis-on-a-table, with tennis markings (on a baize surface), strung rackets, about 18 inches overall, and a 'fence' to prevent the balls going too far astray. No rules survive, but it is almost certain that service was direct over the net. This is the first miniature variation of lawn tennis for the table in a manufactured form, but can it be regarded as table tennis?

In 1891 John Jaques & Son registered their 'Gossima', but there is no evidence that this was put into production then (or

later) though some examples of their 'Gossima or Ping-Pong' sets (with rules) have survived. This is certainly the 'modern' game, the cloth and 'fence' now having been dispensed with — though the 'one-bounce' service continued for some time. But we have no firm date for Jaques' production of these sets.

## Game formalised

In December 1901, within a few days of each other, the Table Tennis and rival Ping-Pong Associations were formed. The game was then formalised, most unfortunately with two separate codes, but it had definitely arrived.

Perhaps the 1990 English Open should be declared the special event to mark the first hundred years; and no doubt there will be plenty of other ideas for celebrating the occasion.

## Coming shortly . . .

*'Table Tennis — The early Years' by Gerald Gurney will be published by the ITTF later this year.*



Gerald Gurney pictured with a part of his collection of early table tennis racquets. His book 'Table Tennis the early years' will be published by the ITTF later in 1988.

## CALENDAR OF WORLD EVENTS from the ITTF . . .

### 1988

- May 20-May 22 Czech Junior Open Championships
- June 6-June 11 4th Veterans World Championships, Zagreb
- June 10-June 12 Italian Junior Open, Verona
- June 11- ETTU/Nancy Evans Cup Finals, Baden Bei Wein
- June 17-June 19 Hungarian Junior Open Championships, Keskemet
- June 22-June 26 US Open Championships, Miami Beach
- July 8-July 10 Spanish Junior Open, Alicante
- July 30-Aug 7 31st European Youth Championships, Bergen
- Sept 14-Sept 18 Turkish International Youth Tournament, Izmir
- Sept 23-Oct 1 **TABLE TENNIS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES, SEOUL**
- Oct 7-Oct 14 1988 Bicentennial Open Australia Championships
- Oct 27-Oct 30 Italian Open Championships, Arrezzo
- Nov 17-Nov 20 Yugoslav Open Championships
- Nov 24-Nov 27 Dutch Open Championships, Hertogenbosch
- Dec 1-Dec 4 French Open Championships, Nantes
- Dec 4th Oceania Championships, Noumea, New Caledonia

### 1989

- Jan 7-Jan 8 5th European Junior Top-12, Switzerland
- Feb 3-Feb 5 European Top-12, Belgium
- Feb 23-Feb 26 Czechoslovak Open Championships
- Mar 19-Mar 25 9th Commonwealth Championships, Cardiff
- Mar 29-April 19 **40th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, DORTMUND**



This apparently, is an artist's impression of how it all started on the dining room table. Some of the earliest tournaments were played in London and in Eastbourne at the Devonshire Park Pavilion.

# Final crossword of the season . . .

## Crossword Compiler

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## CLIVE OAKMAN Table Tennis

### RESULTS OF CROSSWORD No. 10

February issue

Winner: A. L. Seward, 40 Wren Close, Frome, Somerset.

Runners-up: (1) John Hatfield, Mousehole Forge, Malin Bridge, Sheffield S6 5FF.

(2) Sarah Pigram, 56 Chestnut Road, Loggerheads, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 4RE.

(3) Michael Nisbet, 4 Abbots Way, Fairfield, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS19 7SR.

## SOUTH WEST REGION

by MIKE LEWIS

WITHOUT doubt the South West Leeds Cup qualifying tournament was an unqualified success, having first class conditions, venue and organisation, made possible by the Leeds financial support. There were over 100 entries which included players travelling round trips of 300 miles to attend.

Publicity was reasonably good and we were pleased to have the local Leeds agency representative to present the prizes.

I think the certificates were a disappointment and medallions all round would have been better received, entry forms had a few grey areas, which caused confusion with players and officials and it was noticeable that we did not attract many 'New Faces' except from the immediate area, I would suggest we consider starting this competition lower down at County level by running an

event for, schools, youth clubs, uniformed organisations and the like's members of which the nucleus of a class III (or II) event on the regional qualifying day.

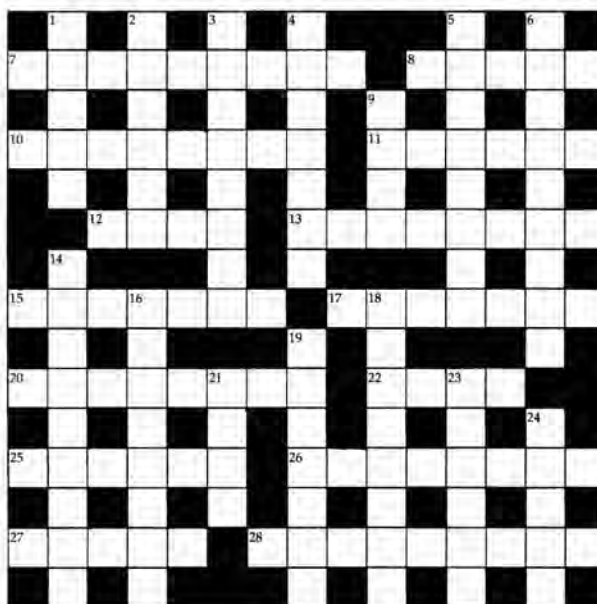
This would promote The Leeds at county level and directly involve those outside ETTA affiliation.

Plymouth's junior table tennis squad of players were in action at Stroud with Jane and Helen Wright, Sean Gaylard, Gregory Bridgett and Jonathan May all reaching finals.

Sean Gaylard and Gregory Bridgett won the Boys' doubles event when they gained a hard-fought victory over S. Bettison and H. Green of Avon (19-21, 21-18, 26-24) coming from well behind in the third before securing victory.

Sean also reached the final of the Boys' Under-17 where he lost to English cadet champion Neil Bevan of Bude (22-20, 21-13).

## CROSSWORD No. 11



Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

### CLUES

#### ACROSS

7. See 10
8. Ed comes back chewing gum to find Essex Lady (5)
10. 7, 5, 15. Benefactor to change rich Table Tennis money pledged? Use it! (3, 5, 9, 8, 7)
11. Crowned Head of Detectives? (6)
12. Find Rupert with Miss Derek and the French (4)
13. Dig treat arranged for Ian (8)
15. See 10
17. Illumination inside as one leaves bus (7)
20. Is Al a clone of a Sussex Junior? (4, 4)
22. Dismiss broken down red light district (4)
25. Weapons in Author's words can be mightier than the pen! (6)
26. Dark warm mixture of young Northern talent (4, 4)
27. Deceitfully supine? (5)
28. Wild colt Carey is related to 20 (5, 4)

#### DOWN

1. Rivulet he found in Hell? (5)
2. Distribute alms to bits of coloured glass (6)
3. Reset tin deposit gains benefit of joining 10 etc (8)
4. Strange conclusion from United Nations, though with normal ending (7)
5. See 10
6. Make scrambled egg, a great concoction, all considered (9)
9. Tony rides into the sunset (4)
14. Wally and Rosa combine in moving tables (9)
16. Canadian No 1 took mixed ration, and didn't know why! (8)
18. Eric ails terribly to find clue for Hampshire Junior! (4, 4)
19. Study foreign currency in adjoining country (7)
21. Achieve coup with vicious takeover? (4)
23. Veteran Coach shows tricks, with without super-star training rota system initially (6)
24. Debbie used to reach new heights. Fantastic! (5)

Entries should be sent to Mr Eric Hall, 38, Littlemoor Crescent, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 8QJ.  
Closing Date: 16 APRIL. Answers published: MAY.

The sport needs you to . . .

## WATCH THESE EVENTS:

### THE SECOND ENGLISH NATIONAL UNDER-11 CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUNDAY 1 MAY

Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, Notts  
Tel: (0623) 646081

9am — Groups  
Noon (approximate) Rounds  
Afternoon — Finals and coaching session with Donald Parker (director of coaching) for 16 quarter finalists.

### KLEINWORT GRIEVSON TUNBRIDGE WELLS JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 14/15 MAY

The Angel Leisure Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge, Kent  
Tel: (0732) 359966

Play starts 9am each day  
Saturday — Under-12 Boys and Girls Singles, Boys and Girls Cadet Singles Finals Under-12 at 1pm. Finals 7pm.  
Sunday — Mixed Class 2 Singles Junior Events Finals 7.30pm.

## THE LEEDS ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN

SATURDAY 7th SUNDAY 8th MAY 1988

The Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington, East Yorkshire  
Tel: (0262) 678007



Play commences 9am both days with team finals at 7pm (Saturday) and individual finals at 5.30pm (Sunday).  
£1 (children and OAPs) both days.

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