



# Table Tennis Times

**A quarterly, independent, magazine from the world  
of English Table Tennis and beyond**

**Issue 35**

**Editorial**

**Late Summer 2024**

We apologise for this edition being a little later than usual but there has been an extraordinary amount of table tennis action and news to cover, and we had two weeks in Rome which was followed by a bout of Covid-19 which we have just about recovered from. Being late also means there will only be one more issue this year but I'm sure will be another bumper issue.

We start this round-up with a report on the table tennis at the Olympic Games which again ended with a clean sweep for China but also had some encouraging results for Europe in the shape of Sweden and France who both had some very impressive younger players. Let's hope they can progress over the next few years.

As usual we report on many tournaments at all levels.

There is a report on the Brighton Table Tennis Extravaganza held in May where an incredible 1,276 people came to see what it was all about and most ended up playing! The adage proved true again "put a table up and people will play". There is a hope to repeat this next year so watch out for the date and come along and be part of something extraordinary.

Our popular "What was Happening" feature looks at 1984, just a mere 40 years ago.

Richard Scruton contributes a nice article on the Yorkshire County Table Tennis Association, its history and centenary celebrations and also the Cheltenham League celebrating its centenary by Richard Comley.

We also have a report on the Table Tennis England Annual General Meeting and an update on their governance of the sport.

We mentioned Rome earlier and we have a comprehensive report on the World Masters Championships which had a record 6,100 players which details the considerable success of several English players.

Regrettably we have several obituaries in this issue as we have lost some more significant figures: Tony Clayton, Judy Williams, Sir Jack Petchey, Clive Morris, Tony Hooper and Hilda Watts. Although this is always a little sad it must also be a celebration of their lives, and they will be remembered.

Best wishes

Diane and Harvey Webb

## Olympic Games: 26<sup>th</sup> July-11<sup>th</sup> August 2024: Paris, France

Photos courtesy of the ITTF

A glittering opening ceremony in a wet Paris started the 30<sup>th</sup> Olympic Games on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Table tennis was one of 32 sports with over 11,000 athletes taking part in France's capital and surrounding areas which including surfing as far afield as Tahiti.

Table tennis had five events, Men's and Women's Singles, Men's and Women's Team and Mixed Doubles. All events were played on a straight knockout basis.

The Olympic Games are one of very few sporting occasions where players represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland rather than their home country. With GB failing to qualify for either of the team events and so having two singles places automatically, it left players having to qualify by another route. Paul Drinkhall and Tin-Tin Ho failed to make it through from the qualification tournaments and so, there was only one English representative, Liam Pitchford, who qualified according to his world ranking of 41. Wales's Anna Hursey also played for GB in Paris as she did make it through one of the qualifying tournaments.

**Mixed Doubles:** The first title of the Games went to China's Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha with a 4-2 win against the People's Democratic Republic of Korea's Ri Jong Sik and Kim Kum Yong in a thrilling final showcasing the best of table tennis. The score 6, -7, 8, 5, -7, 8. The North Korean pair were ranked 16<sup>th</sup> of the 16 pairs who participated. Korea Republic's Lim Johnghoon and Shin Yubin were victorious in the bronze medal play-off match against Wong Chun Ting and Doo Hoi Kem of Hong Kong China 5, 7, 7, 12.



*Mixed Doubles Medallists with both North and South Korea players as well as China*



*Liam Pitchford*

**Men's Singles:** Pitchford had one of the easiest draws in his round of 64 match when he played one of the lowest ranked players in the event, Vicky Wu of Fiji, (WR 276). Pitchford wasn't troubled and won 6, 3, 3, 2. His next opponent was a different prospect, Darko Jorgic of Slovenia, (WR 18) and it was as expected. The Slovenian went through to the round of 16 with a 9, 7, -9, 6, -5, 6 win. The outstanding result of the round of 32 was Sweden's Truls Moregard (WR 26) stunning win 10, 7, -5, -7, 9, 6 over top seed and world number one from China, Wang Chuqin.

As the event progressed there were more unexpected results and at the quarter final stage there were eight players from eight different countries and four continents. The first time any player from South America had reached this stage in the form of Hugo Calderano and also Omar Assar from Africa for Egypt. Moregard beat Assar 4-1, Calderano beat Jang Woojin, Korea Republic, 4-0, Felix Lebrun beat Lin Yun-Jun, Chinese Taipei, 4-3 and Fan Zhendong, China, beat Tomokazu Harimoto, Japan, 4-3.

The two semi-finals saw Moregard continuing his superb run beating Calderano 4-2 whilst Fan kept China's hopes alive with a 4-0 over Lebrun.



*Hugo Calderano and Alexis Lebrun*

After some terrific matches leading up to the medal matches it was no surprise that the quality of play continued to enthral the packed arena. With so much support behind him it was Lebrun who came out on top in the bronze medal match beating Calderano 6, 10, 7, 6. The youngest ever individual table tennis medallist at just 17 years old.

The match to become Olympic champion started well for Moregard beating Fan 11-7 but then the experience of Fan proved to be the deciding factor and he went on to win the next four games 9, 9, 8, 8 upgrading his silver medal from Tokyo to one of gold. However, what a wonderful silver medal for the young Swede who is still only 22 and who has put Sweden back on the Olympic podium after a 24-year break when Jan-Ove Waldner was runner-up to Kong Linghui of China and Jorgen Persson was a semi-finalist in Sydney in 2000. Elite company indeed.

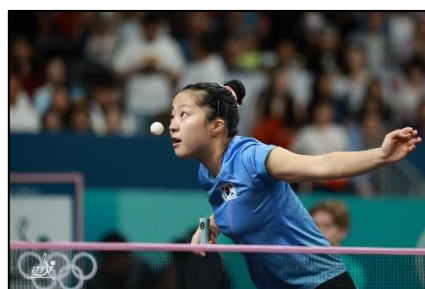
A special mention to Nico Caltabiano who was assistant umpire in the Men's Singles final.



*Fan Zhendong (with Nico Caltabiano umpiring) and Truls Moregard*

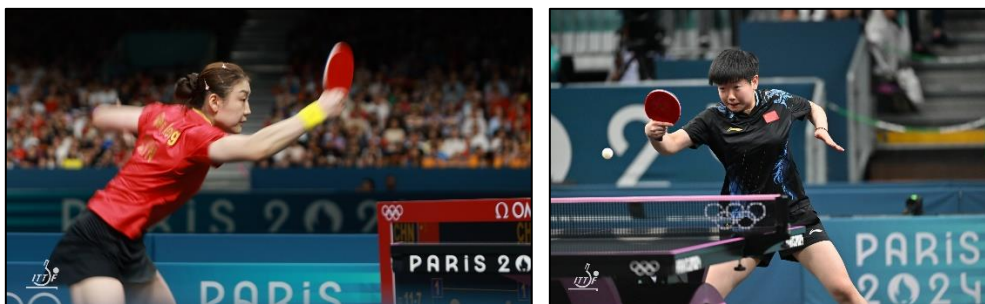
**Women's Singles:** Hursey (WR 103) had to face Manika Batra of India (WR 28) in her first match, round of 64, and although she put up a spirited fight, she went down 4-1 with the score -8, -10, -9, 9, -5.

The Women's Singles was more straightforward than the Men's and went much according to ranking with the top four players reaching the semi-final stage where number 1, Sun Yingsha of China continued her imperious form with her 4-0 win over Hina Hayata of Japan. In the other half of the draw, it was China's second player, Chen Meng, who was also victorious with a 4-0 win over Shin Yubin of the Korea Republic.



*Hina Hayata, Japan and Shin Yubin, Korea Republic*

The final saw the holder Chen take her second title with a 4-2 win over Sun and Hayata became a bronze medallist with her victory in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> play-off match.



*Chen Meng and Sun Yingsha*

**Men's Team:** There were 16 teams in the straight knockout with China the top seeds, Germany at two, France three and Japan four. All four seeds went through to the quarter-finals with 3-0 wins as did Korea Republic, Chinese Taipei and Sweden. The eighth quarter-final place went to Brazil who were the only team to lose a game but went through 3-1 beating Portugal. After some superb results in the Men's Singles the Swedish team continued to impress and play above expectations. Ranked at seven, Anton Kallberg, Kristian Kallberg and Truls Moregard, took a 3-0 win over Germany's Timo Boll, Dimitrij Ovtcharov and Dang Qiu to reach the semi-finals and the chance of a further medal. Their opponents, Japan who beat Chinese Taipei 3-1 at the same stage. The top half of the draw resulted in two 3-0 wins, one for China over Korea Republic and the other a win for France over Brazil.

The prospect of two close semi-finals loomed with several young players in most teams. China versus France and Japan versus Sweden. China, perhaps as expected, were victorious over France 3-0 but there was a real battle in the other semi-final. The first match, the doubles went to Hiroto Shinozuka and Shunsuke Togami 3-1 over Anton Kallberg and Kristian Karlsson. Tomokazu Harimoto then beat Truls Moregard 3-1 putting Japan in a very strong position. However, Karlsson pulled one back for Sweden beating Togami 3-1 before Moregard beat Shinozuka also 3-1 to level the score. The fifth and final match was between Harimoto and Kallberg to decide who would play for the gold medal. Harimoto (WR 9) went into the lead winning the first two games 5 and 5 but then Kallberg (WR 25) playing superbly won the next three 7, 7, 9 to send Japan into the bronze medal play-off match and his Swedish team to play for gold.

More drama was to come as Japan and France faced each other. First up was Simon Gauzy and Alexis Lebrun and the French players started well with a 3-1 victory over Shinzuka and Togami. Match two saw the teams two top players as opponents, Felix Lebrun and Harimoto, and it couldn't have been much closer with Lebrun the winner -11, 4, -9, 6, 10. Older brother Alexis Lebrun, himself only 19 years old, then had a close match against Togami but lost -8, -9, 9, -9 giving Japan a chance. Match number four saw Japan level as Harimoto beat Gauzy 8, -8, 8, 12. The final match went to the wire with Felix Lebrun meeting Shinozuka and it was Felix who took the match 7, 7, -12, 11 to give France the bronze medal amidst rapturous applause, the first time the French had won a medal in the team event at the Olympic Games.

The scene was now set for the gold medal match – China v Sweden – and what a match it was. Looking at the rankings of the players beforehand it would have been thought it would be comfortable for China but it proved anything but that. Although China won 3-0 all three matches went to five and the valiant Swede's came so close to defeating the might of China. The doubles saw Ma Long and Wang Chuqin take the win against Anton Kallberg and Kristian Karlsson -8, 4, 3, -6, 7. Moregard then was beaten by Fan -10, 8, 9, -11, 5 before Wang eventually beat Karlsson 9, 5, -10, -10, 2.

**Women's Team:** 16 teams in this event too, again a straight knockout. China were the top seeds here as well, with Japan two, Korea Republic three and Romania at four. The first round of matches saw one big

shock as India beat the fourth seeds, Romania, three games to two. Thailand beat France by the same score as did Sweden over Hong Kong, China. The other quarter-finalists were China, Chinese Taipei, Korea Republic, Germany and Japan. It was China, Korea Republic, Germany and Japan who went through to the semi-final stage with victories over Chinese Taipei, Sweden, India and Thailand respectively.

The matches for medals were on and again the Chinese ladies dominated in their semi-final match with a 3-0 win over the Korea Republic whilst Japan beat Germany 3-1.

The trio of Shin Yubin, Jeon Jihee and Lee Eunhye for the Korea Republic were the players who took home the bronze medals with Germany's, Yuan Wan, Xiaona Shan and Annett Kaufmann coming a very creditable fourth.

The final table tennis match of the Games saw yet another win for China although Japan's pair of Hina Hayata and Miwa Harimoto took Chen Meng and Wang Manyu close in the doubles just losing 9, -6, 6, -6, -10. The second match was more straightforward for Sun Yingsha over Miu Hirano 11, 6, 6. The final match and it was Wang with the win over Harimoto -12, 10, 7, 6. Gold for China, totally dominant winning all their matches 3-0 and silver for second seeds Japan.

### The Singles Medallists



Two of the greats in the table tennis world signed off at the Games – 43-year-old Timo Boll has now retired. He has brought so much pleasure to so many, not only with his play but with his demeanour on and off court. Ma Long too, has played his last Olympic Games although he will still be playing some tournaments. We thank them both and wish them well in the future.

### Paralympic Games

In case you need a reminder, the Paralympic Games start on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August and go through to Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

There is a strong GB contingent, many of who have won medals in previous Paralympics and they will be looking to add to their collection. There are also a number of first timers at the Paralympics including 14-year-old Bly Twomey from Brighton who trains with gold medal winning Paralympian, Will Bayley, MBE.

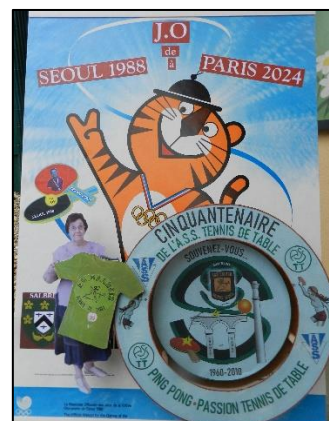
We wish all the players well.

## A Wonderful Table Tennis Exhibition

We have mentioned before about our friend, Didier Andre, who lives in Salbris in France. An avid collector with, amongst other items, over 1,600 table tennis shirts from around 30 countries. To celebrate the Olympic Games in Paris, Didier held an amazing exhibition in May in honour of his late wife, Jacqueline.

Amongst the exhibits on display, as well as the shirts, there was this beautiful wooden sculpture, posters, 1,200 postcards and much more.

I wished we had been close enough to visit.



## ITTF World Cup – Singles: 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April 2024: Macao, China

Photos courtesy of the ITTF

The Singles World Cup returned after three years, partially due to Covid-19, and there was a significant difference to previous tournaments. Prize money totalling 1,000,000 US dollars was up for grabs and the number of entries had increased to 48 players in each of the two singles events. The first stage of the competition was 16 groups of three players with four games played in each match and so a 4-0, 3-1 or 2-2 result was obtained. The top player in each group progressed to the second stage which was a straight knockout with the best of seven games played.

Liam Pitchford was eligible to play due to his world ranking but was still recovering from an injury and so was unable to take part, four German players also pulled out as did Mattias Falck of Sweden.

In the Men's Singles the quarter-final stage was dominated by Asian players with four Chinese, two Japanese and one from the Korea Republic. Anton Kallberg of Sweden was the lone European but lost at this stage. The one semi-final was an all-Chinese affair between Wang Chuqin and Ma Long and the second between Tomokazu Harimoto of Japan and Lin Gaoyuan of China. These matches resulted in an all-China final, one which Ma Long won after a tremendous comeback after being 3-0 down, he defeated compatriot Lin Gaoyuan -9, -9, -5, 8, 6, 4, 8 to take the title for the third time.



*Lin Gaoyuan, Ma Long, Wang Chuqin, Tomokazu Harimoto*

The Women's Singles too, saw Asia dominate and Adriana Diaz of Puerto Rico was the only non-Asian player to reach the quarter-finals but this was where she went out of the competition. The other quarter-finalists were three from China, three from Japan and one from Chinese Taipei. The semi-finals, like the men, ended with China versus China in the shape of Sun Yingsha and Chen Meng and China versus Japan in the shape of Wang Manyu and Miwa Harimoto, the sister of Tomokazu. The final was another 4-3 battle in which Sun Yingsha came out on top defeating her compatriot Wang Manyu by -8, -5, 4, -5, 8, 5, 9.



*Wang Manyu, Sun Yingsha, Chen Meng, Miwa Harimoto*

## Junior National Cup: 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April 2024: BATTS, Harlow

Photos courtesy of Table Tennis England

Ten of the top male and female English juniors (Under 19) took part over the two days at BATTS where all played all.

It was success for the two newly crowned Under 21 Singles champions at the National Championships in March as Connor Green and Tianer Yu took the honours.

Yu won all her nine matches and only dropped two games as she did so, one to Mia Lakhani and the other to Anna Green. Ella Pashley, who played so well at the National Championships and ranked sixth, finished in second place winning seven matches and second seed, Sienna Jetha, was the third placed player with six wins to her name.

Other placings: 4 Rebecca Savage, 5 Mabel Shute, 6 Maliha Baig, 7 Anna Green, 8 Saskia Key, 9 Mia Lakhani, 10 Jonabel Taguibao.



*Ella Pashley, Tianer Yu, Sienna Jetha*

The boys' event was a tighter affair with Green and fifth ranked Joseph Hunter finishing the two days' play with six wins and two losses each with Green getting the nod on countback. Green's losses were to Jakub Piwowar and Ralph Pattison. Hunter lost to Naphong Boonyaprapa and Green.

Similarly, Felix Thomis and Ralph Pattison both finished level on matches won but it was Thomis who took the bronze medal.

Larry Trumpauskas, who was ranked third, was injured after two matches and could not continue which meant only eight matches were recorded for each of the boys.

Other placings: 4 Ralph Pattison, 5 Isaac Kingham, 6 Rohan Dani, 7 Naphong Boonyaprapa, 8 Jakub Piwowar, 9 James Hamblett, 10 Larry Trumpauskas.



*Joseph Hunter, Connor Green, Felix Thomis*



## Cadet National Cup: 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2024: St Neots

Ten boys and ten girls competed for the honour of becoming the Cadet National Champion with nine matches for each player over the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Top seeds were Max Radiven and Sienna Jetha and they both triumphed.



Cadet Cup Champions Max Radiven and Sienna Jetha  
Photo courtesy of TTE

**Cadet Boys:** Radiven had the perfect score, winning all his nine matches, and so made up for his disappointment the previous weekend when he came runner-up in the Cadet Boys' Singles at the Junior and Cadet National Championships which established him firmly as the top cadet. His last match against second seed, Jakub Piwowar, was a resounding 6, 5, 4 win. It was Piwowar's only loss and so left him in silver medal position. Abraham Sellado, last week's Cadet Champion, finished in third place.

Final placings: 1 Max Radiven, 2 Kacper Piwowar, 3. Abraham Sellado, 4 Adam Alibhai, 5 Leo Nguyen, 6 Angad Saggi, 7 Prayrit Ahluwalia, 8 Shahuraj Nimse, 8 Dimitar Dimitrov 10 Pablo Ramirez Rioja.

### Cadet National Cup 2024 - Boys



	MR	KP	LN	ASel	AA	PIR	DD	ASag	PA	SN	Pts	Posn
Max Radiven	X	3-0	3-0	3-2	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-1	3-0	3-0	18	1
Kacper Piwowar	0-3	X	3-0	3-2	3-1	3-0	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-1	17	2
Leo Nguyen	0-3	0-3	X	2-3	0-3	3-2	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-1	14	5
Abraham Sellado	2-3	2-3	3-2	X	3-1	3-2	3-1	3-0	3-1	3-0	16	3
Adam Alibhai	0-3	1-3	3-0	1-3	X	3-2	3-1	3-0	3-2	3-1	15	4
Pablo Ramirez Rioja	0-3	0-3	2-3	2-3	2-3	X	2-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	9	10
Dimitar Dimitrov	0-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	3-2	X	2-3	2-3	0-3	10	9
Angad Saggi	1-3	0-3	1-3	0-3	0-3	3-1	3-2	X	3-1	3-2	13	6
Prayrit Ahluwalia	0-3	0-3	1-3	1-3	2-3	3-1	3-2	1-3	X	3-1	12	7
Shahuraj Nimse	0-3	1-3	1-3	0-3	1-3	3-1	3-0	2-3	1-3	X	11	8

**Cadet Girls:** The medal positions all went according to ranking with Jetha taking the gold, undefeated throughout the two days although more than one match went to five. Eva Eccles took home the silver medal with her only loss to Jetha whilst Alyssa Nguyen at three, won six from eight, her defeats to Jetha and Eccles. Unfortunately, Violet-Lily Marquis had to withdraw due to injury after two rounds.

Final Placings: 1 Sienna Jetha, 2 Eva Eccles, 3 Alyssa Nguyen, 4 Alisha Dutta, 5 Bly Twomey, 6 Mauli Shah, 7 Brooke Morris, 8 Evie Knaapen, 9 Millie Noble.

### Cadet National Cup 2024 - Girls



	SJ	EE	AN	VLM	MN	BM	BT	AD	MS	EK	Pts	Posn
Sienna Jetha	X	3-0	3-1	-	3-0	3-2	3-2	3-0	3-1	3-0	16	1
Eva Eccles	0-3	X	-	-	3-0	3-0	3-1	3-2	3-0	3-0	15	2
Alyssa Nguyen	1-3	-	X	-	3-2	3-0	3-2	3-0	3-0	3-0	14	3
Violet-Lily Marquis	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Millie Noble	0-3	0-3	2-3	-	X	2-3	3-1	2-3	2-3	1-3	9	9
Brooke Morris	2-3	0-3	0-3	-	3-2	X	2-3	3-2	0-3	3-1	11	7
Bly Twomey	2-3	1-3	2-3	-	1-3	3-2	X	2-3	3-1	3-1	11	5
Alisha Dutta	0-3	1-3	0-3	-	3-2	2-3	3-2	X	3-2	3-2	12	4
Mauli Shah	1-3	2-3	0-3	-	3-2	3-0	1-3	2-3	X	3-1	11	6
Evie Knaapen	0-3	0-3	0-3	-	3-1	1-3	1-3	2-3	1-3	X	9	8

# Cheltenham Table Tennis Association

## Centenary Celebration Tournament: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

By Richard Comley, Tournament Organiser

Cheltenham Table Tennis Association, one of the longest running leagues, was founded in January 1923 as Cheltenham Ping Pong Association. Equipment and playing conditions in that era bore little resemblance to those used today. Bats were made of wood and the quality of tables left little to be desired by present standards.

Over the last 100 years the sport has attracted countless children and parents who sought to overcome the challenge of controlling the bouncing, spinning ball across the table as the sport has evolved. Players today require a combination of quick reactions, power and gentle touch during a rally.

One of the founder members of the Association was Cheltenham YMCA and the YMCA is still heavily involved in the sport. They hold regular practice sessions during the day and host Cheltenham Table Tennis Club, the biggest club in the town on two evenings a week. The Association is grateful for their support.

The Cheltenham Centenary Tournament was held at the YMCA Sports Hall, Arle Road, and attracted players of all standards and abilities. The format gave every player the opportunity to win a prize if they played to the best of their ability. Players faced a gruelling schedule of seven or eight games before a knockout decided the winners of each section.

The morning saw everybody drawn into a group of five or six players with the top two in each group going forward to the Main Section, third and fourth progressing into the Consolation Section and fifth/sixth playing for the Plate.

Special mention must be made of Tournament Referee, Dave Harvey, who ensured the tournament ran smoothly on the day. Dave has been playing for over 50 years and, like Darren Griffin, has been one of the County's outstanding players. Dave has won the Cheltenham Closed Championships 30 times and the County Championship 13 times. If it wasn't for a serious injury which has forced Dave into retirement, there's no doubt he would have been competing rather than refereeing. Darren added the Centenary Championship to his 25 County Championships and has been one of the County's outstanding players over the years. In this tournament he showed his class by winning all his matches 3-0.



*Main Singles Winner Darren Griffin, Runner-up Matt Hartwell and Semi-finalists Gordon Shaw and Charlie Davidson*

Players like Darren, Dave and Gordon Shaw show that age is no barrier to success in the sport. It's also exciting to see the next generation of players like 15-year-old Charlie Davidson and his younger brother 13-year-old Jake coming through, and the next few years will see the veteran players struggle to maintain their grip on the trophies.



*Consolation Singles Winner Jon Gaskell, Runner-up Grant Pawsey and Semi-finalists John Tait, Darrell Wiltshire*



*Plate Singles Winner Dave Metcalfe, Runner-up Mike Tyrell and Semi-finalists Tony Murfitt and Hannah Sharpe*

Thanks go to all those who helped make the tournament a resounding success.

To Jon Gaskell, Paul Upton, Julie & Phil Taylor and Tim Mytton who helped set up the tables.

To Cheltenham YMCA and Cheltenham Table Tennis Club for use of the Sports Hall and tables.

To Dave Harvey for running the event on the day.

To Cheltenham Table Tennis Association and Gloucestershire Table Tennis Association for their financial support.

### Can You Help?

**Old Videos:** Eric Hall has been carrying out some amazing work not only transferring old VHS tape onto disc and an external hard drive for TTE – belt and braces – but also keeping track of matches involving England players. He would like to add to the stock so if you come across anything hidden away which I can pass on to Eric, checking beforehand as to whether the footage is already held in the TTE archives, it can then then be added to the records and so preserve a little more history.

**Ormesby Cup/Gainsford Cup etc:** In the days of yore the Ormesby and Gainsford Cups were competed for under the title of National Team Championships, now the ELCC. These, as well as competitions for cadet and veterans' titles, ceased to be run some time ago. Does anyone have any information about who won the trophies in the years the events ran – teams and players – or have any idea where the trophies are today?

**World Veteran Championships:** I have been asked by the Swaythling Club International to write the history of the World Veteran Championships from the first tournament in 1982 until the most recent this year in Rome. I have a number of programmes but I am missing several – Gothenburg in 1982, Vancouver in 2000, Rio de Janeiro in 2008, Hohhot in 2010, Las Vegas in 2018. If you have any which you could let me have that would be much appreciated. I am also looking for any interesting stories from any of the Championships, quirky facts and snippets of information, interesting journeys etc. Additional photos would be useful too, particularly from the earlier days.

If you can help with any of the above it would be appreciated if you could get in touch with me at [DianeK1414@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:DianeK1414@hotmail.co.uk)

## Junior, U17 & Cadet National Championships: 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May 2024: Nottingham

All photos courtesy of Michael Loveder

With juniors now being under 19, the category of Under 17s has become a permanent feature on the calendar. So, three, rather than two, age categories were played for, which meant some of the young players had a very long weekend indeed. Numbers were restricted to a maximum of 32 in the singles events and 16 in the doubles in all age categories.

Saturday saw the culmination of six events at Cadet and Under 17 levels with two singles and one doubles in each of the boys' and girls' events. There were five junior events on Sunday as a Mixed Doubles was included in the mix.

There was a full complement of players in the Cadet Boys' Singles and all the top ranked players in each of the eight groups went through to the knockout stage. In the first round only the seventh seed Prayit Ahluwalia, failed to proceed. In the quarterfinals top seed Max Radiven defeated Pablo Ramirez Rioja, fourth seed, Adam Alibhai beat Angad Saggu, fifth seed Abraham Sellado beat third seed Leo Nguyen and second seed Kacper Piwowar defeated unseeded Shahuraj Nimse. This set up semifinal matches between Radiven and Alibhai and Sellado and Kacper Piwowar. Both matches were won in three with Radiven and Sellado the victors. The final in contrast was a match which challenged both players, one which Sellado eventually won -8, 4, 6, -10, 9.



*CBS Winner Abraham Sellado and Runner-up Max Radiven*

The Cadet Girls' Singles saw 26 players participating, and like the boys, all the top seeds in the groups moved on to the knockout section of the event. Top seed Sienna Jetha and second seed Eva Eccles both had byes into the quarterfinals whilst the other five seeds plus Alisha Dutta, who had won her group, progressed to that stage too. Here, Jetha had a win over Dutta, Brooke Morris, ranked seven, had a victory over third seed Hannah Saunders, fourth seed Alyssa Nguyen defeated Violet-Lily Marquis and Eva Eccles won over sixth seed Millie Noble. Onto the semi-finals and here Jetha and Eccles showed their class with wins over Morris and Nguyen respectively. The final saw a win by Jetha with the score 7, 5, 8.



*CGS Winner Sienna Jetha and Runner-up Eva Eccles*

The Cadet Boys' Doubles event had 12 entries and it was top seeds Kacper Piwowar and Abraham Sellado who took the title with a win, 3, 8, 3, over Theo Kniep and Prayit Ahluwalia. Semi-finalists were Parsa Yamin and Shahuraj Nimse, and Sinan Surensoy and Aarav Parihar.



*CBD Runners-up Prayrit Ahluwalia & Theo Kniep, Winners Abraham Sellado & Kacper Piwowar, Semi-finalists Aarav Parihar & Sinan Surensy and Parsa Yamin & Shahuraj Nimse*

Ten pairs fought it out for the Cadet Girls' Doubles title and it was top seeds Jetha with Mauli Shah who lifted the trophy, courtesy of a win over second seeds Eva Eccles and Alyssa Nguyen in the final by -9, 2, 8, 9. Semi-finalists were Violet-Lily Marquis and Bly Twomey and Alisha Dutta and Assil Sarri.



*CGD Runners-up Alyssa Nguyen & Eva Eccles, Winners Sienna Jetha & Mauli Shah, Semi-finalists Assil Sarri & Alisha Dutta*

The Under 17 events also took place on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024, and all four titles went to the top seeds. Ralph Pattison became the U17 Boys' Singles champion with a win in the final over second seed, Larry Trumpauskas by 8, -9, 9, 6. Pattison had earlier, in the knockout rounds, taken care of Hugo Nguyen and Max Radiven before conquering the unseeded Abraham Sellado in the semifinals. Trumpauskas had knockout wins over Prayrit Ahluwalia and Rohan Dani before a close semi-final match against Isaac Kingham with the score -9, 8, -9, 8, 10. Earlier there had been no surprises in the winners of the groups with all eight seeds progressing to the knockout rounds.



*U17 BS Winner Ralph Pattison, Runner-up Larry Trumpauskas*

Top seed in the U17 Girls' Singles, Tianer Yu, became the new champion with knockout wins against Sophie Ackred and Mabel Shute before a win against Maliha Baig in the semi-final 9, 3, -9, 10 and then victory over Ella Pashley in the final 6, -8, 8, 9. Pashley, seeded four, had her first knockout win against Luna Archard followed by a four game win over Brooke Morris which set her up for a semi-final against second seed, Sienna Jetha, a match she won 10, -7, 8, 9.



*U17 GS Winner Tianer Yu, Runner-up Ella Pashley*

The U17 Boys' Doubles saw a second title for Pattison, who, partnered by Kingham, first beat William Hopkins and Zac Greenhough and then Radiven and Harry Randall in the semi-final before a tight match in the final against Jakub Piwowar and Larry Trumpauskas with the score -7, 4, -7, 8, 10. The losing finalists had beaten Joseph Cooper and Frederick Jones, and then Joseph Dennison and Francesco Bonato. There were nine entries in this event.



*U17 BD Runners-up Jakub Piwowar & Larry Trumpauskas, Winners Isaac Kingham & Ralph Pattison, Semi-finalists Max Radiven & Harry Randall and Joseph Dennison & Francesco Bonato*

There was a small entry of five in the U17 Girls' Doubles and top seeds Ella Pashley and Mabel Shute had two comfortable wins to take the title, first over Parmis Ahsani and Luna Archard 7, 1, 3 and then in the final a win against Rachael Iles and Mia Lakhani 7, 5, 4 who had previously taken out the second seeds Maliha Baig and Jonabel Taguibao.



*U17 GD Runners-up Luna Archard & Parmis Ahsani, Winners Ella Pashley & Mabel Shute, Semi-finalist Maliha Baig (missing Jonabel Taguibao)*

Sunday saw the five junior events take place and there were more than one or two surprises during the day. The Under 19 Boys' groups saw all the seeded players go through to the knockout stage but not necessarily in pole position. The first shock was when number two seed, Ralph Pattison, lost in the first round to Gabriel Schogger and in three straight, 10, 6, 8. Schogger then lost in the next round to the unseeded Jakub Piwowar 8, 19, 6. Piwowar in turn went out to third seed Ben Piggott -7, 5, 8, 9 in the semi-finals. In the top half of the draw, top seed Connor Green, the title holder, took care of Krish Chotai

before beating Joseph Hunter despite losing a game, he then also beat fourth seed Larry Trumpauskas in the semi-final, also losing one end. The final between Green and Piggott went the distance with Piggott winning the first two games, 12 and 8 but Green fought back to take the next three 7, 4, and 8 and so retain his title.



*JBS Runner-up Ben Piggott, Winner Connor Green, Semi-finalists Jakub Piwowar and Larry Trumpauskas*

It was a good day for the Green household, in the singles at least. All eight seeds went through to the round of 16 courtesy of winning their groups in the Under 19 Girls' Singles. Top seed, Tianer Yu, then took care of Rachael Iles before defeating Rebecca Savage. Her semi-final match against Scarlett Anders was another straightforward win. After winning the Under 17 event the previous day, as well as the National Under 21 Women's title and the Junior Cup, she looked pretty unassailable. However, not everything always goes to plan. In the bottom half of the draw, second seed Sienna Jetha, still only 14, started with a close five game win against Eva Eccles, just a year older, the second time they had met over the weekend. Rising star, Ella Pashley, at number four, another 15-year-old, had a fine win over Jetha in three games in her quarter-final match, one better than in the Under 17 event on the previous day. Meanwhile, fifth seed, Anna Green was quietly working her way through the field with wins against Saskia Key and Mia Lakhani before facing Pashley in the semi-final – another win for Green. What a match in the final between Yu and Green. The first went to Yu, the second to Green who pulled ahead in the third before Yu levelled in the fourth. It was down to the deciding fifth game which went in favour of Green to make it a double for the Green twins. Final score -6, 8, 6, -8, 13.



*JGS Runner-up Tianer Yu, Winner Anna Green, Semi-finalists Ella Pashley and Scarlett Anders*

The Junior Boys' Doubles didn't go according to seeding either, although all four seeds reached the semi-finals. Here, Toby Ellis and Felix Thomis at number three took out top seeds Green and Piggott whilst fourth seeds Jakub Piwowar and Larry Trumpauskas defeated second seeds, Isaac Kingham and Ralph Pattison. It was another five-game final which went the way of Ellis and Thomis to give them a national title in their last year as juniors.



*JBD Champions Felix Thomis & Toby Ellis    JBD Runners-up Jakub Piwowar & Larry Trumpauskas*

There was another low entry of six in the Junior Girls' Doubles where it was a win for top seeds, Anders and Yu, with a first match win against Parmis Ahsani and Luna Archard in the semi-final before facing Ella Pashley and Mabel Shute in the final, a match they won 7, 12, 7. Pashley and Shute had first overcome Rachael Iles and Anna Piercey before defeating second seeds Sienna Jetha and Saskia Key.



*JGD Champions Tianer Yu & Scarlett Anders*

The Mixed Doubles saw the biggest shock of the weekend as unseeded James Hamblett and Scarlett Anders became the champions. In the final they defeated top seeds Joseph Hunter and Tianer Yu 6, 10, -3, -5, 10. A well-deserved victory for the pair having started with a win over Francesco Bonato and Maliha Baig, then victory over fourth seeded Trumpauskas and Jetha followed by a three-love defeat of second seeds Connor and Anna Green. Hunter and Yu's path to the final was via Abraham Sellado and Parmis Ahsani, Joseph Marlor and Rebecca Savage and Ben Piggott and Ella Pashley.



*JXD Champions Scarlett Anders and James Hamblett*



## Brighton Table Tennis Extravaganza: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Brighton Table Tennis Extravaganza was held on Bank Holiday Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024, as part of the Brighton Festival, at the recently refurbished Corn Exchange in Brighton, the home of many English Opens and Sussex Closed Championships. It was here and in The Dome that Mary Wright (nee Shannon) won the coveted English Open Women's Singles trophy in 1967 and where at the same event, husband Brian Wright beat the holder of the Men's Singles, Ebby Scholer, in the first round. That year Marjorie Walker (now Dawson) won the Junior Mixed Doubles with Mirjana Resler of Yugoslavia.

It was also where Lesley Bell (now Radford) played in 1962, having told her school she was ill. She won the Junior Girls' Singles and then reached the semi-finals of the Women's Singles beating world champion, Maria Alexandru, along the way. Unfortunately for Lesley, it was televised, and her headmistress saw her playing. When Lesley returned to school, she was informed that she should find another school and so left.



Mary Wright with TTN from 1967  
Photo by Bob Lowe



Marjorie Dawson and Sally Bax  
Photo by Brighton TTC

Brian and Mary, along with Marjorie, returned to the site of their triumphs along with others that had played in the past, whether at the English Open or the Sussex Closed, to revisit the place that held so many good memories for them. Jon Kaufmann came along too; he now helps run specialised weekly sessions on Brighton beach. Jon did amazing work at London Progress and his legacy carries on through such as Tim Holtam, Jason Sugrue, Bhavin Savjani, Eli Baraty and others.

However, it wasn't just the players of the past who turned up on the day. The count was 1,276 visitors, an absolutely incredible number and more than was anticipated by Tim Holtam and Teresa Bennett of the Brighton Table Tennis Club and Alex Epps who co-ordinated everything from the Dome and Corn Exchange side.



Teresa Bennett and Tim Holtam  
Photo by Diane Webb



Off to Paris, Will Bayley and Bly Twomey,  
two of Brighton TTCs star players  
Photo by Bob Lowe

There were hundreds of players from the club including Will Bayley MBE, World Para and Paralympic champion. Ryan Goodier was there having returned early in the morning from the European Under 13 Championships in Bucharest. Bly Twomey who is heading for Paris in the summer at the Paralympics and many others. At least 50% of those who came had dropped in to see what the day was about but nearly all ended up on a table at some point.

The atmosphere was electric and the buzz in the building was incredible, there wasn't a single empty table throughout the day. There were exhibition matches, challenges and the chance to use some old bats with some unusual playing surfaces. There was video footage showcasing the Brighton Club and some old Pathe News footage with, amongst others, Des Douglas, Nicky Jarvis and



*Overview of the Corn Exchange  
Photo by Brighton TTC*

Stellan Bengtsson. There was a display of old photos taken at The Dome and Corn Exchange in its heyday and some other ephemera for all to view.

The enthusiasm, energy, passion and positivity of the day is something that will stay with me for a long time and congratulations to all who made such a fantastic day possible and to those who came along to make it such a success. It truly was a day for everyone from absolute beginners to super stars of the past and present.

The refurbishment of the Corn Exchange was part of the Brighton Dome lottery funded project totalling £38 million. An awful lot of money but the end result is stunning.

Many people shared their memories of their table tennis exploits from Ian Whiteside who went to meet the Russian players at Heathrow with instructions to guide them straight to the venue. The two burly men with the team persuaded him otherwise. After a lengthy journey to the Russian Embassy in London where the party disappeared for several hours the group eventually arrived in Brighton way after the tournament had started.

Colin Wilson fondly remembers the wonderful experiences of seeing his heroes perform “Rubbing shoulders with these players was fantastic. Playing them, getting thrashed, but sometimes scaring them, and occasionally taking games or beating them, was simply a fabulous and blessed period of my young life – and I thank all who put the pieces in place to enable such amazing human experiences.” Tony Catt recalls a similar experience “I played really well against a player whose backhand loop off the bounce was roughly twice as fast as any shot that I could play. I managed to get 11, 12 and 11 and was pretty chuffed. I played very well for some weeks after that on the back of the confidence that I had gained. For me, it had been a great experience. An opportunity to play against top opposition. To see and try to understand what really good players played like.”

Harvey reminisced as a spectator “The most abiding memories from these times were having to queue up on finals day to get in, and the incredible atmosphere, particularly at the Friday evening session. There were no seats in the Corn Exchange and so everyone stood and crowded around the tables which made it very difficult to move.” Then as an Organiser at many English Opens “There was very limited catering available and certainly no spare time in the schedule for the Referees and Tournament Organisers to eat during the day. We were fortunate to get an arrangement with a local restaurant which agreed to stay open and serve us when our day was over. This was often after 10pm. I am pretty sure this would not happen in 2024.” On another occasion “Prize money was pretty much a dirty word in those days, and we had an arrangement with Curry’s who provided prizes. On one of the early visits by the Chinese team they unsurprisingly swept the board but then insisted that the winner and runner-up in the Men’s Singles had the same prize. A panic trip to the local branch of Curry’s to exchange the toaster we had for the runner-up for a digital watch to match that presented to the winner.”

French international Claude Bergeret who went on to become Mixed Doubles World Champion in 1977 in Birmingham with Jacques Secretin “I was very young, 14 years, when I competed in Brighton for the first time. I very much liked the atmosphere... the way the spectators were placed around the table... It gave the impression that they were very close... It was giving more motivation to play even better and improving my fighting spirit! I have very good memories because also it was the only times in my career that I was playing in such a particular and special venue.”

**European Under 13 Championships:  
22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May 2024: Bucharest, Romania  
All photos courtesy of the ETTU**

It was the second year of this tournament which tested some of the younger players in Europe. The tournament started with a Mixed Team event and the players representing England were Dimitar Dimitrov, Ryan Goodier, Pablo Ramirez Rioja, Violet-Lily Marquis and Hannah Saunders.



*Is this what Strictly calls a wardrobe malfunction!*

**Mixed Team:** The five players faced teams from Azerbaijan, Austria and Estonia in their first group where England lost narrowly to Azerbaijan 3-2, beat Estonia 3-2 but then lost 4-1 to Austria. This left them third in their group and put them into Group 7 of eight in the next stage. The second set of matches were against Slovenia, a 4-1 win, Kosovo, a 5-0 win, and Croatia, a 3-2 loss. As a result, England finished second in this group which put them into the play-offs for position 21-24. Their first match was against Montenegro, a match they won 3-0. The final match was against Italy, to decide who finished 21<sup>st</sup> and who 22<sup>nd</sup>. This time it was England who were on the losing end of a 3-0 scoreline and so they finished in 22<sup>nd</sup> place.

**U13 Boys' Singles:** In the Singles Ryan Goodier finished third in Group 6, Pablo Ramirez Rioja finished fourth in Group 9 and Dimitar Dimitrov finished second in Group 13. This put Dimitrov through to the A set of matches and Goodier and Rioja into the B set of knockouts.

Ramirez, playing well, had a good 3-0 win in his first round, round of 64, and another 3-0 in the round of 32. Success continued with a 3-1 result in the round of 16 and another 3-0 win in the quarter-finals. Moving on to a medal place, Ramirez made it to the final with a fine 3-1 win in the semis before succumbing to Pietro Andreoli of Italy -8, 7, -7, -4. Goodier, too, had a good run starting in the round of 32: he won his first match 3-0, his second 3-1 and his quarter-final 3-0. He also fell to the blade of Andreoli in his semi-final with a close score 7, -7, 8, -3, -7.

Dimitrov in the main draw didn't fare so well and went down in his first match 3-1.



Ryan Goodier



Pablo Ramirez Rioja



Dimitar Dimitrov

**U13 Girls' Singles:** Hannah Saunders finished third in Group 6 and Violet-Lily Marquis finished fourth in Group 8. This put both girls in the B set of play-off matches and it was a loss in her first match for Marquis in the round of 64. Saunders started in the round of 32 but fell at the first hurdle, however, all games were close 9, -9, -8, -9.



*Hannah Saunders*



*Violet-Lily Marquis*

**U13 Mixed Doubles:** Goodier and Marquis had a good 3-0 win in their first-round match but then lost their second match 3-0. Rioja partnered Saunders and had a first-round bye which put them through to the round of 64 but it was also a loss at this stage for the pair. Finally, Dimitrov was partnered with Beloslava Balkanska of Bulgaria and they also started in round two and although it was close they lost 3-2.

This event is an excellent initiative by the ETTU which gives some of the younger players the opportunity to represent their country and experience what it is like to play in a major international tournament. The format provided plenty of matches for all the players and I am sure will be very beneficial as they can see the standards in other countries and mix with players from so many different nations.

#### **Results:**

Mixed Team: Winners Germany, Runners-up Spain

U13 Boys' Singles: Winner Gorkem Ocal (Turkey), Runner-up Lukas Wang (Germany)

U13 Girls' Singles: Winner Siri Benjegard (Sweden), Runner-up Eva Lam (France)

U13 Mixed Doubles: Winners Gorkem Ocal & Ela Su Yonter (Turkey), Runners-up Ondrej Moravek & Laura Marsickova (Czechia)

## U10-U13 National Championships: 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June 2024: Wolverhampton

All photos by Michael Loveder

It was the turn for the youngest players to compete in their National Championships and this year saw the welcome return to four consecutive age groups. Under 11 and Under 13 events took place on the Saturday and Under 10 and Under 12 on the Sunday. 12 events in total.

**Under 10 Boys Singles** had 26 entries split into four groups with the winners and runners-up of each group going through to the quarter-finals. The four seeded players all went through to the knockout stage but not necessarily as the group winner. However, it was the number one seed, Saisurya Prasanna Kumar, who became the new champion defeating unseeded Daniel Pavia 7, 2, 8 in the final. Kumar had beaten second seed Jayden Xuan Chen in his semi-final, 8, -9, 2, -9, 8 and Pavia had overcome unseeded Lev Sahnurov 6, -2, 8, 2 in the other semi-final.



*U10 BS Runner-up Daniel Pavia, Winner Saisurya Prasanna, Semi-finalists Lev Sahnurov, Jayden Xuan Chen*

In the **Under 10 Girls Singles** there were only seven entries and so this was played as a round robin with no knockout matches. Top seed Cindy Xiao became the new champion with second ranked player Bethany Yang second and Sakinah Damji, ranked sixth, taking home the bronze medal.



*U10 GS Runner-up Bethany Yang, Winner Cindy Xiao, bronze medallist Sakinah Damji*

The **Under 11 Boys Singles** saw an entry of 42 with the winners and runners-up from the eight groups proceeding to the knockout stage. All eight seeds moved into the knockout round of 16 and it was the top four who reached the semi-final stage. Dimitar Dimitrov, the top seed, beat fourth seed Malek Shamakh 8, 7, 9 in the one semi-final whilst second seed, Li Hao Chen, beat third seed, Saisurya Prasanna Kumar, in the other semi-final in a much tighter match 7, 6, -7, -8, 8. It was Dimitrov who came out on top in the final 8, 8, 7.



*Runner-up Li Hao Chen, Winner Dimitar Dimitrov, Semi-finalists Saisurya Prasanna Kumar and Malek Shamakh*

Two groups of seven players made up the **Under 11 Girls' Singles** entry and here the top four in each group went into the knockout stage. Here too, the top four players moved comfortably into the knockout matches where Phoebe O'Brien got the better of Bethany Yang in the quarters but then was overcome herself by top seed Amber Lemmon at the semi-final stage 6, 2, 1. In the other half of the draw, second seed, Cindy Xiao had a relatively untroubled win against Serene Rahmani-Walentynska in her semi-final 6, 6, 5 to set up the final between herself and Lemmon. It was Lemmon who won that match with a score of 6, 6, 6.



*U11 GS Runner-up Cindy Xiao, Winner Amber Lemmon, Semi-finalists Phoebe O'Brien and Serene Rahmani-Walentynska*

46 players took part in the **Under 12 Boys' Singles** split into seven groups of either six or seven with the top two in each group progressing. All the top ranked players in the groups finished in pole position and the top four seeds were the ones who made it through to the semi-finals where Dimitrov faced fourth seed Zaid Aldilimi and second seed Sinan Surensøy faced third seed Zihan Lin. Dimitrov eventually won his match after quite a battle, 6, -8, -8, 6, 7 whilst Surensøy was victorious winning 5, 6, 5. It was another struggle in the final but Dimitrov eventually came out the winner 3, 7, -9, -6, 11 making him a double champion.



*U12 BS Runner-up Sinan Surensøy, Winner Dimitar Dimitrov, Semi-finalists Zaid Aldilimi and Zihan Lin*



*U12 GS Winner  
Violet-Lily Marquis*

A total of 21 players participated in the **Under 12 Girls' Singles** making up three groups of five and one of six with the winners and runners-up moving into the knockout matches. Here top seed, Hannah Saunders had a good win over unseeded Assil Sarri in the semi-finals 8, 7, 6 and second seed Violet-Lily Marquis also was comfortable against second seed Amber Lemmon 5, 1, 7. The final saw Marquis take the win and the title with a 7, 5, 9 result.

The **Under 13 Boys' Singles** had 54 players making up eight groups with the top two in each going into the knockouts. All eight seeds progressed to the round of 16 but the shock result was when second seed, Ryan Goodier lost in this round to unseeded Teagan Khazal 9, 9, -2, -8, 9. Perhaps Khazal was under ranked as he had previously won the Under 10 and Under 11 titles and went on to reach the final. Here he met number one seed Pablo Ramirez Rioja who had come through two lengthy games in the quarter and semi-finals beating Zihan Lin -6, -5, 10, 12, 8 and then fourth seed Aarav Parihar 16, -9, 8, -7, 6 in the semis. The final also wasn't straightforward but Rioja eventually ended up the new champion with the score 11, 7, -10, 7.



*U13 BS Winner  
Pablo Ramirez Rioja*

Whilst in the **Under 13 Girls' Singles** there were four groups of 24 players with winners and runners-up progressing. Here the four top seeds all won their groups and all reached the semi-finals. It was at this stage that fourth seed Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska beat top seed Hannah Saunders -6, 14, -8, 5, 8 and third seed, Violet-Lily Marquis beat second seed Alyssa Nguyen -10, 2, 5, 6. It was a second triumph for Marquis, after having won the Under 12 Girls' Singles the day before, with a win in the final of 10, 9, 6.



*U13 GS Runner-up Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska, Winner Violet-Lily Marquis,  
Semi-finalists Alyssa Nguyen and Hannah Saunders*

As well as the singles events there were four doubles events for the Under 12s and Under 13s.



*U12 BD Winners Zaid Aldilimi & Sinan Surensay*

The **Under 12 Boys' Doubles** title went to top seeds Zaid Aldilimi and Sinan Surensay when they beat second seeds Zihan Lin and Lewis Wu 9, 12, 9 in the final. Bronze medallists were brothers Malek and Taha Shamakh and Li Hao Chen and Jayden Xuan Chen.



*U12 GD Winners Hannah Saunders & Amber Lemmon*

Top seeds, Hannah Saunders and Amber Lemmon won the **Under 12 Girls' Doubles** defeating second seeds, Violet-Lily Marquis and Maisha Patel 4, 7, 5 in the final. Bronze medallists were Amelia Rothwell and Isabelle Bradly and Assil Sarri and Serene Rahmani-Walentynska.



*U13 BD Winners Teagan Khazal & Theo Kniep*

Theo Kniep and Teagan Khazal became the new **Under 13 Boys' Doubles** champions, seeded three they came through four five game matches winning the first 6, -5, 9, -13, 12 then 10, -9, 6, -5, 5 before taking on the number one seeds Dimitrov and Rioja and again taking the match, -5, 8, 10, -8, 6 before finally beating the unseeded pair of Zihan Lin and Lewis Wu in the final 9, 4, -13, 10, 11. A well-deserved and well fought victory.

The **Under 13 Girls' Doubles** final was another five game battle with sisters Serene and Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska, the third seeds, overcoming Amber Lemmon and Hannah Saunders in the semis 11, 3, 4 and then taking on Alyssa Nguyen and Assil Sarri in the final, winning that match 8, -8, -7, 10, 9. Nguyen and Sarri had reached the final with a win over second seeds Violet-Lily Marquis and Maisha Patel in their semi-final 8, 8, 9.



*U13 GD Winners, sisters, Serene & Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska*

Star of the weekend was Violet-Lily Marquis who won medals in all four events she played in, gold in the Under 12 and Under 13 Girls' Singles, silver in the Under 12 Girls' Doubles and bronze in the Under 13 Girls' Doubles.

## WTT Events

### WTT Smash: 1<sup>st</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May 2024: Saudi Arabia

An excellent result in his first match at the WTT Smash in Saudi Arabia for Paul Drinkhall (WR 121) as he beat world number 65, Yang Wang of Slovakia, 9, 7, 4 in the first qualifying round. Drinkhall's second match was also against a higher ranked player, Lubomir Pistej of Romania (WR 90), and it was another victory, this time in four, -7, 9, 6, 8. Third up for a place in the main draw, it was a close result against France's Jules Rolland (WR 69) which too went in Drinkhall's favour, -12, 10, 8, -8, 10.

Drinkhall, therefore, joined Liam Pitchford (WR 35) in the main draw. Drinkhall's opponent was Ovidiu Ionescu of Romania (WR 50) and Drinkhall started in impressive form winning the first game 11-1 but then Ionescu got back into the match and won the next three 8, 8, 3. Pitchford faced Germany's Ruwen Filus (WR 74) in his first match and it was a disappointing result on his return after injury, never comfortable against defenders Pitchford went down 3, 7, 9.

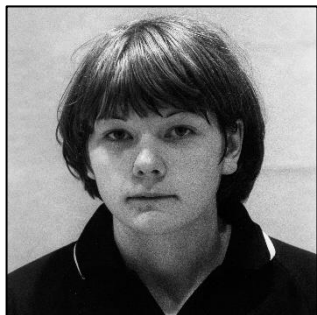


*Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Liam Pitchford. Photos courtesy of WTT*

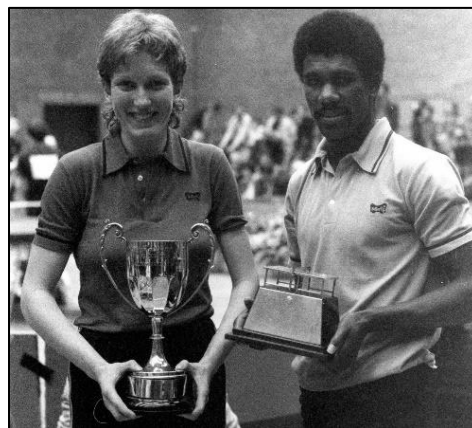
Other English results: Tin-Tin Ho (WR 168) lost to Izabela Lupulesku, Serbia (WR 127) 7, 5, 11 in the first qualifying round. Drinkhall and Pitchford withdrew from the Men's Doubles. Pitchford and Anna Hursey (Wal) lost to Alexis Lebrun & Jia Nan Yuan (Fra) 4, 9, 5 in the round of 32 Mixed Doubles.



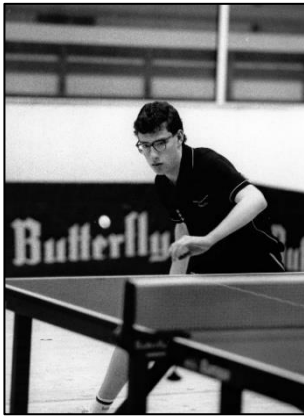
## What was Happening 40 Years Ago? 1984



- \* The year started with Desmond Douglas and Karen Witt as the number one senior players. Carl Prean and Lisa Bellinger were the junior top players and Matthew Syed and Claire Potts the cadet.
- \* The inaugural meeting of the Veterans English Table Tennis Society (VETTS) took place on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 1984 at the Crest Hotel, Hinckley Road, Coventry, and the first National Veterans Championships were played on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May. 97 players took part.
- \* At the English Open at the Brighton Centre in January, Desmond Douglas won the Men's Singles title for the second time despite being 2-0 down against Vladislav Broda of Czechoslovakia. Philip Bradbury had a superb win in the first round when he beat Jacques Secretin of France. Honours too, to Alan Cooke and Graham Sandley who were runners-up to Johnny Akesson and Jorgen Persson of Sweden in the Men's Doubles. Carl Prean did not take part as he objected to the plastic balls which were being used during the tournament. He wasn't the only one who wasn't happy playing with the balls and the controversy continued throughout much of the year.
- \* A Coaching Conference was held in Bolton on 1<sup>st</sup> February and an Umpires Conference at Lilleshall with 57 attendees took place in June. The first County Umpires test paper since 1959 was written. Ten more English umpires became International Umpires making a total of 99.
- \* Desmond Douglas carried on winning major titles as he won his seventh Men's Singles at the English Closed, it was also seven wins in the Men's Doubles partnered by Paul Day. Alison Gordon won the Women's Singles for the first time; she too won another gold when she partnered Mandy Sainsbury in the Women's Doubles. The Mixed Doubles went to Skylet Andrew and Carole Moore and in the Veterans it was a double win for the Scofields when Derek beat Ralph Gunnion and Doreen beat Connie Moran in their respective finals. There was a serious dispute at the tournament when a player conceded a game and then carried on with the rest of the match when he should not have been able to – concede a game, concede a match. Several players refused to continue playing which threatened the event. Things were eventually reconciled with the good sense of referee Doug Young overcoming the problem.
- \* Founder of the ETTA and ITTF, Ivor Montagu celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, he died shortly afterwards.
- \* At the European Championships in Moscow Ulf Bengtsson of Sweden and Valentina Popova of the Soviet Union won the two main titles with France winning the Men's Team event and the Soviet Union the Women's. It was the first time since the championships started that England failed to win a medal and the first time the Men's Team had been relegated since the competition began



*Alison Gordon and Desmond Douglas*



*Carl Prean*

28 years ago. English umpires Pat Archdale, Tony Chatwin and Brian Lamerton were in attendance.

\* Norwich Union sponsorship ceased after ten years. Charles Church began a four-year sponsorship contract to include English Opens to the value of £100,000.

\* The ITTF had initial talks for the inclusion of table tennis in the 1988 Olympic Games.

\* The English Junior Open in Portsmouth in May saw the Republic of Korea take six of the seven titles. England's Carl Prean and Andrew Syed ensured it wasn't a whitewash when they won the Junior Boys' Team event.

\* Andrew Syed and Sue Collier topped the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix standings and as part of their prize were given an award to enable them to go to South Korea to train.



*Korean team with Andrew Syed and Sue Collier, England's Grand Prix winners*

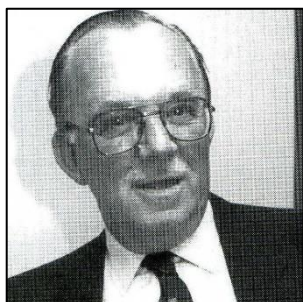
\* The final instalment of £10,000 due to Birmingham City Council for the 1977 World Championships was paid but this left finances very tight with a £25 surplus for the year and reserves standing at £48,996.

\* The National Team Championship trophies went to Willesden in the Wilmott Cup (Skylet Andrew, Philip Bradbury, Nicky Mason), J M Rose Bowl winner was North Middlesex (Angela Mitchell, Sarah Sandley, Marilyn Williams), a second win for North Middlesex in the Carter Cup (Andrew Dodd, Philip Szekeres, Nigel Tyler) whilst Wolverhampton won the Bromfield Trophy (Amanda Hegarty, Jill Powis, Angela Sanders).

\* At the European Youth Championships England's Junior Boys' team finished 4<sup>th</sup> (Chris Bartram, Carl Prean, Jimmy Stokes, Andrew Syed), Junior Girls' 10<sup>th</sup> (Lisa Bellinger, Andrea Holt), Cadet Boys' 10<sup>th</sup> (Bradley Billington, Matthew Syed) and Cadet Girls' 11<sup>th</sup> (Kerry Hall, Clare Potts). In the individual events, Carl Prean was the only medallist winning a silver in the Junior Boys' Singles. Prean was having a good year: he won a Porsche 924 in the Federal German Grand Prix and finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the ITTF World Cup in August, first was Jiang Jialiang who won £12,500. A late entry in the Europe Top 12 in Bratislava where he finished 12<sup>th</sup> with two wins, Jan-Ove Waldner finished

in top spot. Karen Witt was the lone England female player but had to withdraw after five matches due to a recurring back problem; Maria Hrachova of Czechoslovakia took the lady's title.

- \* Soham became National League champions again with their team of Paul Day, David Hannah, Kenny Jackson, Nicky Mason and John Souter.
- \* The second World Veteran Championships took place in Helsinki and Englishman, Les D'Arcy, cycled there and it obviously didn't do him any harm as he came away with a silver medal in the Over 60s Men's Singles. Other silver medals went to Henry Buist in the Over 50s Men's Singles, and Phyllis Lauder in the Over 70s Women's Doubles partnered by L Dahlberg of Sweden. Gold medals were won by Ron Etheridge in the Over 60s Men's Singles and by Derek Schofield and Matt Sheader in the Over 50s Men's Doubles.
- \* The ETTA installed an answering machine in their Hastings office.
- \* Alan Hydes, Alan Ransome and Philip Reid became Vice-Presidents at the ETTA AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> July. The Ivor Montagu Award went to the Rev Bernard Rowley and George White received the Malcolm Scott Award. A special presentation was made to Elsie Carrington on her retirement as Coaching Administrator. Fees were increased to £1.50 per team player plus one reserve. Tom Blunn was returned unopposed as the ETTA chairman, as was George Yates as deputy chairman and Aubrey Drapkin as treasurer.

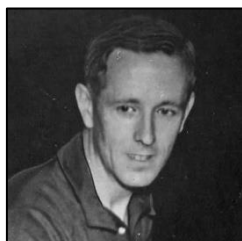


*George Yates*

\* George Yates took over from Nancy Evans as the Honorary General Secretary of the ETTU.

\* England made it an 11<sup>th</sup> successive win at the Quadrangular Tournament in Llandudno: Skylet Andrew, Nicky Mason, David Wells, Fiona Elliot and Joanne Shaw were the winning team.

\* Those who died in 1984: Frank Briggs – ETTA Vice-President, Yorkshire General Secretary, Chairman of the Bradford League, Jack Carrington - ETTA Vice-President and mastermind of the coaching scheme, Ivor Montagu - Founder of the ETTA and ITTF, Phil Reid - Leicester's Mr Table Tennis and ETTA Vice-President, Greta Vasey - English Open champion in 1925/26.



*Frank Briggs, Jack Carrington, Ivor Montagu, Phil Reid, Greta Vasey*

## English Leagues Cup Competitions: 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024

### Draycott & Long Eaton TTC

One of our favourite competitions took place at the Draycott & Long Eaton Table Tennis Club over the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024. There were the usual four events for Local League teams in England – the Wilmott Cup for senior men, the J M Rose Bowl for senior women, the Carter Cup for junior boys and the Bromfield Trophy for junior girls. The senior events took place on the Saturday with a full complement of eight teams and the junior events took place on the Sunday with eight teams in the boys' event and six in the Bromfield Trophy. All last year's champions were there hoping to defend their titles: Plymouth in the two male events with Norwich and Derby respectively for the senior and junior female events. Each event started with two groups with all playing all followed by play-off matches to give every team a final position.

**Wilmott Cup:** It was a close-run thing in the play-off match for first and second place between Central London A and Norwich B. Central London A were 2-0 up but then Norwich B pulled level after winning the doubles and then Chris Cockburn for Norwich B won the third singles. The deciding match between Central London A's Tianyi Yu and Norwich B's Shun Hei Chang resulted in a win for the Central London A player to give his team the victory. Ching Jay Law was Central London B's other player.

Central London B defeated Wembley & Harrow to take the bronze medal place. Plymouth overcame Leamington leaving the teams in fifth and sixth place respectively and the final two places resulted in Nottingham seventh and Hull eighth.

**J M Rose Bowl:** It was a strong team from Norwich who took the title in the J M Rose Bowl with Lauren Charles making it three in a row for her league, assisted by Eva Eccles. Plymouth's mother and daughter, Yuki Gresswell and Alyssa Nguyen, were their opponents in the first and second place play-off matches. Charles won the first match against Gresswell to give her team a good start. Nguyen then beat Eccles to level the score. The doubles, so often crucial, went Norwich's way, and then Charles made it another title for Norwich with a win over Nguyen. Derby took bronze with a win over Leamington in the third and fourth play-offs. Central London finished fifth, Nottingham sixth, Leicester seventh and finally, Isle of Wight, eighth.



*Wilmott Cup Champions Central London A  
Tianyi Yu & Ching Jay Law  
Photo courtesy of TTE*



*J M Rose Bowl Champions Norwich  
Eva Eccles & Lauren Charles  
Photo courtesy of TTE*

**Carter Cup:** It was a second title for Norwich over the weekend as Freddie Wilke, Daniel Chang and Ollie McLean in a 3-0 win over Leamington in the first and second play-off matches. Leamington's players were Rex Wong and Daniel Stone. Wembley & Harrow took home bronze medals with a win over

Derby in the third and fourth place play-offs. Nottingham finished fifth, Northumbria sixth and Plymouth seventh.

**Bromfield Trophy:** Derby successfully retained the trophy but with different players from 2023. This time around it was success for Naomi Coker and Connie Dumelow who beat Norwich 3-0 in the play-off match for first and second place. Eva Eccles for Norwich added a silver to her gold from the day before playing alongside Darcy Brewer. Loughborough were bronze medallists, Nottingham finished in fourth place, Southport were fifth and Leamington sixth.



*Carter Cup Champions Norwich  
Shun Hei (Daniel) Chang, Freddie Wilke,  
Ollie McLean  
Photo courtesy of TTE*



*Bromfield Trophy Champions Derby  
Connie Dumelow & Naomi Coker  
Photo by Phil Coker*

### **Gloucester GP: 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Photos courtesy of TTE**

In the penultimate Grand Prix at Gloucester the Men's Singles title went to Grigory Vlasov when he defeated Ismaila Akindiya in the final. In the corresponding Women's Singles, it was victory for Tsz Yan Nancy Yeh of Wales over Lok Yee Lo.



*MS Runner-up Ismaila Akindiya, Winner Grigory Vlasov*



*WS Winner Tsz Yan Nancy Yeh, Runner-up Lok Yee Lo*

The Under 21 Men's Singles went to Ching Jay Law with a win over Jakub Piwowar. There were only 16 women who entered the tournament compared to 136 men, as a result there was no Under 21 Women's Singles due to insufficient numbers. It was Josh Bennett who was victorious in the Restricted Singles and a triumph for Mircea Neagu in the Veterans event over Ireland's Rory Scott.



*U21 MS Winner Ching Jay Law, R-up Jakob Piwowar Restricted Singles Winner Josh Bennett, R-up Bryan Kwan VS Winner Mircea Neagu, R-up Rory Scott*

## London Grand Prix: 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

All Photos by Michael Loveder

The last ever Grand Prix took place at the Redbridge Sports & Leisure Centre over the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The final champions at Redbridge were Grigory Vlasov and Hannah Silcock of Jersey and the two runners-up of the main events were Radoslav Kamberov and Mabel Shute. Silcock also won the Under 21 Women's Singles with victory over Rachael Iles. The corresponding Men's event saw Larry Trumpauskas defeat Nahom Asgedom.



*The Final Champions: Grigory Vlasov and Hannah Silcock*



*Runners-up Radoslav Kamberov and Mabel Shute*

In the Open Veteran event it was Dad, Lorestas, who made it a double family celebration for the Trumpauskas household whilst the Restricted Singles title went to Mihai Nemaciu who beat Israel Awolaja.



*Larry Trumpauskas and Lorestas Trumpauskas*



*Mihai Nemaciu*

**Banded Results (Winner/Runner-up):**

Men's Band 1: Alim Hirji/Dominic Sussex

Men's Band 2: Jonathan Lancry/Ferenc Horvath

Men's Band 3: Romaine Stewart/Janak Shah

Men's Band 4: Cain Fagan/Romaine Stewart

Men's Band 5: Jaycee Chan/Shاون Chapman

Men's Band 6: Jaycee Chan/Kwun Yin Ng

Women's Band 1: Lok Yee Lo/Maliha Baig

Women's Band 2: Maliha Baig/Kimmy Piu Lai-Brown

Women's Band 3: Tulay Dundar/Clare Styles

Women's Band 4: Chui Lin Kwok/Srishti Laskar

The Grand Prix series was the brainchild of former England international Mike Johns, and the first ball was hit in 1996. The tournaments have proved ever popular as they catered for all abilities with the concept of banded events as well as Open Singles and at various times, Under 21s, Veterans, Doubles, Restricted (21–40-year-olds) and even junior events. Players from every continent have taken part at some point, too. Mick Strode was the overall referee for nearly the entire time that the Grand Prix ran. He also refereed a huge number of the individual events. Mick generously donated two Grand Prix trophies for the winners of the overall end of season champions. He was a firm but friendly hand which helped guide the series to such success. Often innovative, the Grand Prix committee trialled 11-up amongst other things.

As part of the Competition Review a new structure comes into being for the 2024/25 season with the emphasis on clubs or leagues running 4\* tournaments and not TTE. The first was due to be at Cambridge over the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> August-1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 but insufficient entries resulted in it being cancelled. What was the second event and has now become the first is due to be played 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 but no details about this are currently available.

Apart from the organisers changing from being run by local and not the national governing body, there are other significant differences including fewer events in each tournament, higher entry fees and a huge drop in prize funds.

We will wait and see how the changes pan out.

## Yorkshire County Table Tennis Association Centenary

By Richard Scruton

On Wednesday 16th April 1924 at the Leeds Young Peoples Institute a meeting was held to form the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association.

In attendance were Captain TP Marshall (Hull), A James (Grimsby), BL (Bernard) Hookins (Pontefract) and JH (Herbert) Johnson (Whitby).

Three weeks later a second meeting, with representatives from Bradford, Leeds and Ossett also attending, the name was changed to the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Counties Table Tennis Association; the first officials were President: Captain TP Marshall, Secretary: CG Craven, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary: BL Hookins, and committee members: M Barker, W Hewitt, A James, JH Johnson.

In 1928 the name reverted to the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association.



*Bernard Hookins*

Bernard Hookins was a bank manager at Pontefract with the Yorkshire Penny Bank, moving to Whitby with the bank in 1931 and making a major contribution to Whitby as a leading centre of table tennis during the 1930s. He captained the England men's team in the Swaythling Cup competition at the 1930 World Championships in Berlin.

JH Johnson was a successful player winning the Yorkshire Closed men's singles title, leading the Whitby TT Club to the national team final v London at Holborn in 1925 (London won 17-8) and representing Yorkshire v Hungary at Pontefract in 1928 (Hungary won 16-0).

William (Bill) Hewitt from Bradford was Yorkshire's most successful pre-war player and represented England in 1926 and 1928.

Yorkshire was the first county association to be formed, held the first county closed tournament, staged the first county match and produced the first printed county magazine.

The first ever county match was played at Bradford in January 1929. Yorkshire beat Lancashire 15-10 (five a side) and among the players in opposition were Bernard Hookins and LE (Leslie) Forrest – two men who stand among the giants in Yorkshire table tennis history.

From 1947 to 1967 county first team matches were staged at Bradford Mechanics Institute, probably the most well-known of table tennis venues outside London and Brighton.

HN Smith (the nephew of the founder of the famous Smith & Nephew company which began in Hull) was President and later patron of the Association, financially supporting Kathleen Best when she was selected for the 1952 World Championships in Bombay (Mumbai); MD (Maurice) Shaffner OBE was our President for 52 years and also had a prominent legal career as a prosecuting solicitor; Austin Harrison, a native of Leeds, was a Scarborough hotelier, league player, proposer for introducing junior and other age groups for competitions, who became the English Table Tennis Association President in 1967; Baroness Susan Masham, the longest serving female member of the House of Lords, a disability campaigner and medal winning Paralympian in 1960, 1964 and 1968, was our association patron from 1976 to her death in 2023.



*HN Smith*



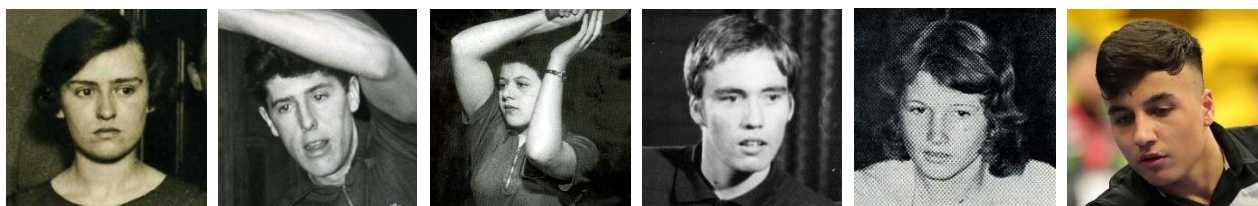
Yorkshire were founder members of the present national county championships in 1947 and won the premier division in 1967, 1973 and 1974, on each occasion led by our number one player Denis Neale, with further successes in 1981, 1998, 2001 and 2002. Our young players have won the junior premier division title on 16 occasions, a record, since its inception in 1972.



January 1969. Denis Neale receiving the English Closed Men's Singles trophy from Austin Harrison

In 1973 our four county teams won their divisional titles and President Maurice Shaffner challenged our players to repeat this feat in our Golden Jubilee year which they duly did.

From Greta Vasey in 1926 followed by Brian Kennedy, Kathleen Best, Denis Neale (our most decorated of champions), Alan Hydes, Melody Ludi, Katherine Goodall, Mary Fuller to Shayan Siraj in 2022 and Jasmin Wong in 2023 our players have won English national titles and many other junior, cadet and veteran national titles have been secured by Yorkshire players.



Some of Yorkshire's Top Players  
Greta Vasey, Brian Kennedy, Kathy Best, Alan Hydes, Melody Ludi, Shayan Siraj

## The 2024 Celebration

100 years to the day since that first meeting, the Yorkshire Association celebrated its centenary with a reception at the Hotel Met in Leeds. More than 60 attended with the guest of honour, TTE President Jill Parker MBE, who proposed the toast. She was reunited with her former England captain, Peter Simpson, and the two cut the cake.

Amongst those who were present were Janet Adams, Richard Crowther, Denis Neale, Sandra Rider, Linda Simpson, Granville Thornton, Margaret Welch and Sylvia Worth who were created Vice-Presidents. This honour was also granted to Geoff Barnes, Alan Hydes, Marcus Hookham, Melody Ludi Svenson, Michael O'Driscoll, Richard Priestley, Sally Shutt and Peter Thompson who were unable to attend.



Jill Parker and Peter Simpson cut the cake

## European Youth Championships: 12<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024: Malmo, Sweden

All photos by Manfred Schillinger courtesy of the ETTU

**Junior Boys' Team:** This team consisted of five players: Connor Green, Isaac Kingham, Ralph Pattison, Ben Piggott and Larry Trumpauskas. They faced Scotland, Wales and Luxembourg in Group 1 and had three wins, 3-0, 3-0 and 3-2 respectively. Following this in their first play-off match they lost to Israel 2-3 and in a second set of group matches beat Serbia 3-1 but lost to Switzerland 2-3. This pitted them against Norway for positions 21-24 and it was another 2-3 loss leaving England in 23<sup>rd</sup> place.



England Junior Boys Ralph Pattison, Isaac Kingham, Connor Green, Larry Trumpauskas



Coached by Wales's Charlotte Carey - Anna Green, Ella Pashley, Tianer Yu

**Junior Girls' Team:** Three junior girls and one cadet age player made up this team. The junior players were Anna Green, Ella Pashley and Tianer Yu and they were supplemented by cadet Sienna Jetha. Group A saw two losses, 2-3 to Italy and 1-3 to Portugal. The team then lost 0-3 to Denmark in their play-off match before facing Israel for positional match 17-24. It was a 1-3 loss and so the girls met Luxembourg for 21-24 place. Another loss, this time 0-3, before a final match against Sweden giving the team their first win, 3-1, and so finishing 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Cadet Boys' Team:** It was a quartet for the cadet boys with Adam Alibhai, Kacper Piwowar, Max Radiven and Abraham Sellado playing for England. Group B saw two losses, Italy 1-3 and Sweden 2-3 before a win 3-1 against Austria. The first play-off match was a loss to Romania, but this was followed by a 3-0 result against Luxembourg putting the team into Level 1 of the draw. The match against Hungary, positional match 1-16, was a success 3-1, moving the players up for a match for a place from 1-8. Turkey was next but a 0-3 loss meant the highest the boys could finish was 5<sup>th</sup>. However, another 0-3 loss to France resulted in a final place of 7<sup>th</sup>. Nonetheless, a very creditable result for the lads where all four played a significant part.



Cadet Boys - Adam Alibhai, Kacper Piwowar, Abraham Sellado

**Cadet Girls' Team:** No England team was entered.

**Junior Boys' Singles:** Round of 16 – Connor Green, Round of 64 – Ben Piggott, Round of 128 – Ralph Pattison and Larry Trumpauskas (w/d), Group – Isaac Kingham. Green lost in the tightest of matches to David Szantosi of Hungary 9, 9, -17, -6, 7, -5, -11.

**Junior Girls' Singles:** Round of 64 – Tianer Yu, Round of 128 – Anna Green and Ella Pashley.



Ben Piggott

**Junior Boys' Doubles:** Round of 32 – Connor Green/Mael Van Dessel (Lux) and Ben Piggott/Larry Trumpauskas (w/d), Round of 64 - Isaac Kingham/Ralph Pattison.

**Junior Girls' Doubles:** Round of 32 - Anna Green/Hannah Silcock (Jey), Round of 64 – Ella Pashley/Tianer Yu.

**Junior Mixed Doubles:** Round of 16 – Connor Green/Tianer Yu, Round of 64 – Larry Trumpauskas/Hannah Silcock (Jey), Round of 128 – Isaac Kingham/Anna Green and Ralph Pattison/Lowri Hurd (Wal), Qualifying Round – Ben Piggott/Ella Pashley.

**Cadet Boys' Singles:** QF – Abraham Sellado, Round of 32 – Kacper Piwowar, Round of 64 – Adam Alibhai, Round of 128 – Max Radiven. Sellado had an excellent run in this event but eventually succumbed to Patryk Zyworonek of Poland -9, -2, -6, 11, -11, the eventual winner.



Max Radiven



Sienna Jetha

**Cadet Girls' Singles:** Round of 64 – Sienna Jetha.

**Cadet Boys' Doubles:** Round of 16 – Adam Alibhai/Kuang Ze Ni (Irl), Round of 32 – Kacper Piwowar/Abraham Sellado, Round of 64 – Max Radiven/Peadar Sheridan (Irl).

**Cadet Girls' Doubles:** Round of 32 - Sienna Jetha/Maya Madar (Rou).

**Cadet Mixed Doubles:** Round of 32 – Abraham Sellado/Liliana Guassardo (Svk), Round of 64 – Kacper Piwowar/Lana Benko (Cro), Adam Alibhai/Kathe De Meyer (Bel) and Max Radiven/Sienna Jetha.

### Winners and Runners-up:

**Junior Boys' Team:** Romania, Germany

**Junior Girls' Team:** France, Romania

**Cadet Boys' Team:** Italy, Romania

**Cadet Girls' Team:** Germany, Poland

**JBS:** Darius Movileanu (Rou), Flavien Coton (Fra)

**JGS:** Bianca Mei Rosu (Rou), Veronika Matiunina (Ukr)

**CBS:** Patryk Zyworonek (Pol), Robert Istrate (Rou)

**CGS:** Hanka Kodetova (Cze), Siri Benjegard (Swe)

**JBD:** Iulian Chirita/Andrei Istrate (Rou), Flavien Coton/Flavien Lam (Fra)

**JGD:** Veronika Matiunina (Ukr)/Nicole Arlia (Ita), Zuzanna Wielgos/Anna Brzyska (Pol)

**CBD:** Patryk Zyworonek (Pol)/Samuel Michna (Pol), Aleks Pakula/Jan Mrugala (Pol)

**CGD:** Nina Skerbinz/Elina Fuchs (Aut), Renata Shypsha/Irina Gimeno Font (Esp)

**JXD:** Daniel Berzosa (Esp)/ Veronika Matiunina (Ukr), Marcel Blaszczyk/ Zuzanna Wielgos (Pol)

**CXD:** Aleks Pakula/Katarzyna Rajkowska (Pol), Jan Skalda/Hanka Kodetova (Cze)

## Table Tennis England (TTE) AGM: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024

The TTE AGM was a virtual only meeting to the disappointment of many as it is an opportunity to meet up with old friends and former colleagues. There were 90 registered to attend including staff, Board Members, Company Members (League and County), the President, Honorary Life Members, Vice-Presidents and members.

The meeting started with a video which encapsulated some of the highlights of the past twelve months.

The CEO, Adrian Christy, then addressed the meeting by giving what can only be described as a fairly damning indictment of the state of the Association when he took over two and a half years ago and giving details of improvements during his tenure.

It was then possible for questions and comments to be made on the Annual Report. Some issues were raised about the content and also about what wasn't included – there was no information giving details of the President, Honorary Life Members or Vice-Presidents, nor of the staffing structure and again no information on the work of the various committees nor statistics for Local League Clubs. There was discussion about the end of Organisations in Good Standing to be replaced by Memorandum of Understanding which could lead to those organisations, and even Clubs and Leagues, running events outside of TTE's control. There were also concerns about the reserves being reduced to £400,000 from £600,000 ten years ago.

The formal part of the meeting followed with acceptance of last year's AGM minutes before 11 resolutions were put to the Company Members, all from the TTE Board. Chairman, Nick Donald, at his first TTE AGM, handled the meeting well. Several of the resolutions were tidying up of wording but there were two resolutions which would have a significant impact on governance for the membership. Resolution 10 gave the Board Nominations Committee the authority to exclude a Member Elected Director applicant from the ballot paper if they decided an applicant did not meet the criteria set by the Board. Resolution 11, to have five Member Elected Directors, would only be voted on if Resolution 10 was passed. The meeting was told that if Resolution 10 was not passed there was the possibility of losing Sport England funding. By some it was felt that the membership should be trusted to elect the right people and that the opportunity by the Board to exclude names on the ballot paper could be abused. Reluctantly, some felt that they had to give up the right to have all applicants on the ballot paper to ensure a fifth Member Elected Director could have a place on the Board. Both resolutions were passed as were the other nine.

Acceptance of the Financial Statement and appointment of auditors was fairly straightforward.

What is usually the most enjoyable part of the meeting, honours and awards, was a very damp squib, however, with names being rushed through with no citations. As the meeting was only virtual none of those who received the honours or awards were present to receive the accolades of their peers, to give thanks or make a speech which often were interesting or amusing.

**Honorary Life Member:** No award.

**Vice-Presidents:**

**Graham Frankel** for his archive and governance work as well as in Essex

**Neil Hurford** for his committee work with MAG, National Council and County Championships

**Mrs Linda Jarvis (nee Howard)** former international European champion

**Matt Kenny** for services to British Para Table Tennis

**Mrs Kim Mudge-Johnson** for her service as an umpire and referee and in the South East region

**Peter Simpson** as former England coach, captain and author

**Steve Smith** for his service as an umpire, referee and committee member



*Graham Frankel, Neil Hurford, Linda Jarvis (nee Howard)*



*Matt Kenny, Kim Mudge-Johnson, Peter Simpson, Steve Smith*

**Ivor Montagu Award:** Steve Pratt for his work on MAG and the Nominations Committee (no photo)

**Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy:** Tony Dias for his work in Middlesex

**Keith Ponting President’s Memorial Award for Lifetime Service:** Richard Scruton for his long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England

**Malcolm Scott Award:** Adrian Christy for his work in helping England gain the 2026 World Championships

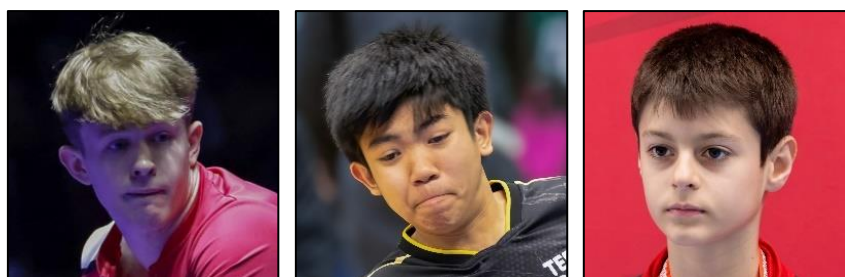
**Bill Vint OBE Staff Award:** Johnathan Driscoll for his work in London especially with Jack Petchey projects



*Tony Dias, Richard Scruton, Adrian Christy, Johnathan Driscoll*

**Victor Barna Award:** Tom Jarvis for beating world ranked 28 Jonathan Groth of Denmark

**Johnny Leach MBE Most Improved England Player of the Year Award:** Abraham Sellado and Dimitar Dimitrov jointly for their success in WT events



*Tom Jarvis, Abraham Sellado, Dimitar Dimitrov*

## TTE News and Governance

**First the Good News:** The dates for the World Championships in London in 2026 have at last been announced. The Championships will start on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026 and go through until 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at the OVO Arena, Wembley. However, a logistical curve has been thrown into the mix. The bid was originally for 80 teams but at the ITTF Summit last year it was subsequently agreed that 128 teams could enter. A significant increase affecting all aspects of the Championships.



*Simon Heaps with his three medals*

Former England International and European Cadet Champion, Simon Heaps, won three medals at the Jordan Para Open. He won a silver medal in Men's Singles Category 4-5, a bronze with Awadh Alharbi from Kuwait in the Men's Doubles and another bronze medal in the Mixed Doubles with Alexandra Stepanova of Kazakhstan. Heaps, coached by Matt Ware in Bournemouth, lost both his legs in the last five years due to diabetes, he is very appreciative for the sponsorship he gets to enable him to play abroad; well supported by his wife Pauline and daughter, Charlotte.

Congratulations to David McBeath as his team Texas Smash won the inaugural season of the Major League Table Tennis tournament in the USA.

Congratulations, too, to Michael Loveder who provides us with so many of his excellent photographs. Michael entered a portfolio of eight table tennis images in the Sports and Games category of the EISA Maestro Competition via the Amateur Photographer magazine and was awarded third prize. A reminder that Michael was been granted accreditation for the Paralympics so we will look forward to seeing more of his work there and at other events. In Paris, Michael is having to meet his own costs so if you would like to support him by making a donation then go to his JustGiving page <https://justgiving.com>crowdfunding>michael-loveder>



*David McBeath with trophy.  
Photo by Jesse Levi Hummell*

A tremendous achievement by Dan Ives and Lloyd Gregory when they broke the world record for the longest rally by one hour and 46 minutes, playing for an incredible 13 hours, 36 minutes and 36 seconds on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 at the PingPod in Bristol. Not only did they break the record but have raised, so far, £7,020 for Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, which is very close to their hearts.

Congratulations to Max Radiven on winning three gold medals in the singles, doubles and team event at the European Maccabi Youth Games in August. Fellow Brit, Kai Shalson, won two golds partnering Radiven in the doubles and team and getting a silver in the singles losing to Radiven in the final.

**Governance:** At the beginning of May, TTE's CEO, Adrian Christy, gave notice to terminate his post and will be leaving in December 2024.

TTE Member Elected Director Don Parker's four-year term of office on the Board ended in June. The vacancy was advertised with an emphasis on high level performance knowledge. Don was the only applicant. The TTE Board and Nominations Committee confirmed Don met the Board's criteria and so he has returned to serve another four years.

The British League which has been running since 1979 has been renamed British Clubs League with new logos for the various components.

Following the death in 2022 of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, TTE still await a new Patron.

## World Masters (Veterans) Championships: 6<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July 2024: Rome, Italy

The biggest Veterans Championships yet took place at the Fiera Di Roma outside the city centre of Rome from 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024. There were 6,100 entrants plus several thousand others - accompanying persons, officials, volunteers, medics and support staff. Play was in five halls which were all adjacent and there was a good exhibition space and fan zone.



*One of the Playing Halls.  
Photo by Diane Webb*

There were some high-quality players, past and present, with Joao Monteiro of Portugal in the O40 MS, currently world ranked 70 on the ITTF list and a former European Men's Doubles champion. He won the event but strangely wasn't seeded. We also saw Denis Neale, former World Championships bronze medallist, and other former top players on the world stage such as Valentina Popova, formerly of Russia and winner of 18 medals at the European Championships.

It was hot, very hot, with temperatures bobbling around 37 degrees, that's around 106 degrees Fahrenheit for our older readers, and the mosquitoes were having a feast as well. However, the halls were kept relatively cool and it was only when you ventured outside the halls and out of the shade that the temperature hit you.

There were some firsts for the tournament which was again run by the ITTF. Mixed doubles were part of the programme as were several para categories with around 50 para players taking part. Two Parkinson players had been invited by the ITTF Foundation and this helped highlight the excellent work the Foundation is undertaking.

The English contingent of 174 had success in both the Championships and Consolation events and several players went home with medals.



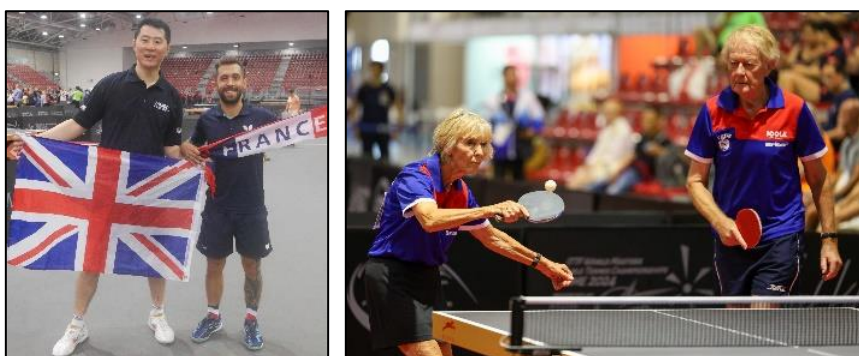
*Some of the English contingent  
Photo by Pawel Meryn*

There was gold in the Championships for Betty Bird and Marianne Blasberg, Germany, who had moved up to the Over 90 Women's Doubles category. Gold too, for Simon Heaps and Davide Scazzieri of Italy in the Para Doubles Class 2-5.



*Betty Bird and Simon Heaps  
Photos by Mike Rhodes*

Silver medals went to Betty Bird in the Over 90 Women's Singles and Simon Heaps in the Para Class 5 Singles (more about that later). There were silver doubles medals for Victor Guang Shi with his partner Thomas Guignat of France in the Over 40 Men's Doubles, and also for Robin Stace and Sally Bax in the Over 80 Mixed Doubles.



*Victor Guang Shi & Thomas Guignat and Sally Bax & Robin Stace  
Photos by Diane Webb and Mike Rhodes*

Three bronze medals were earned by Lorestas Trumpauskas with his American partner Angela Tuan in the Over 40 Mixed Doubles, Marjorie Dawson and Individual neutral Athlete (AIN) player Larisa Ilinskaia in the Over 75 Women's Doubles and Betty Bird and Henri Yahiel of France in the Over 85 Mixed Doubles.



*Lorestas Trumpauskas & Angela Tuan and Larisa Ilinskaia & Marjorie Dawson.  
Photos by Mike Rhodes*

**Consolation Gold:**

- Chris Clinton & Simon Pugh MD55
- Margaret Welsman with Danielle Paoli (Fra) WD75
- Peter France and Kimmy Pui Lin Lai-Brown XD50
- Dennis Gibbs & Penny Perry XD70





*Simon Pugh & Chris Clinton and Danielle Paoli & Margaret Welsman  
Photos by Mike Rhodes*

**Consolation Silver:**

Phil Bowen MS70

Paul Stead with Leif Cruikka (Swe) MD70

Jackie Channell and June Nelson WD75



*Phil Bowen and Paul Stead & Leif Cruikka  
Photos by Mike Rhodes*

**Consolation Bronze:**

Carol Eckersley WS70

Elaine Short WS60

Rebecca Hurrell and Clare Styles WD50

Rebecca Hurrell with Nelson Rinho (Por) XD50

Jackie Channell with Martin Pinto (Chi) XD75



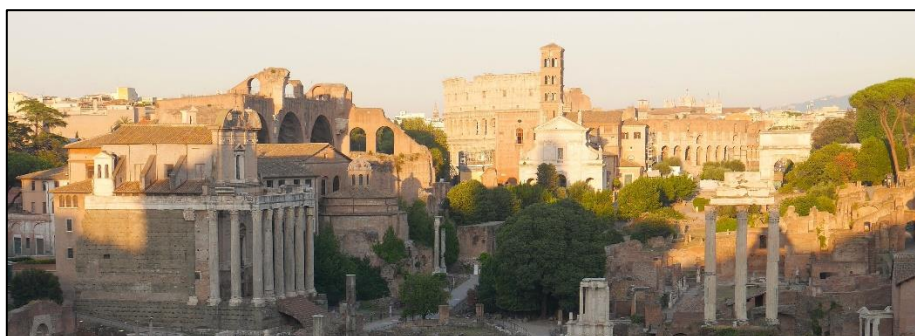
*Carol Eckersley, Elaine Short - Photos by Mike Rhodes    Clare Styles, Jackie Channell with Sally Bax – Photos by Pawel Meryn*

Spare a thought for Simon Heaps in his Para Class 5 singles. He won his two group matches with ease, both 3-0, and then it was another 3-0 victory in his semi-final match. Disaster then struck. Days and timings of the final were changed but messages did not reach Simon and he got back to his hotel only to find out his final's opponent, Italian Davide Scazzieri, had been given a walk-over and the gold medal. A protest was registered and Simon was re-instated, only for his opponent to object, refusing to play and

so the gold medal was his. What made it even worse was that the two finalists partnered each other in the doubles. They won that but it wasn't until after that match that the Italian informed Simon he had the singles title. Sportsmanship!

There were some good things about the Championships and also things which needed improving. Visibility for a large section of attendees at the opening ceremony meant they were unable to see the entertainment, the sound system also caused some problems. The lack of a jury meant there were decisions which shouldn't have happened and issues unresolved. There wasn't enough support for the IT team or for the officials who were sometimes working 16 hours a day with no break for lunch. The SMS system resulted in many players being scratched as messages were being sent but not getting through. The IT team had asked the ITTF, now the organisers, for a paper back up but this was turned down. Being green is fine but it did seem selective. No recyclable paper back up system allowed.

As usual the Wednesday was a free day and, in the evening there was a gala dinner, very costly at 130 euros a head but it was in a stunning setting. The dinner was held in the Capitol building (Palazzo Senatorio), the seat of the City Council, on the terrace and inside the Halls of the Protomoteca. It was a lovely evening and Harvey and I were fortunate to be seated on the terrace which overlooked the Roman Forum and in the distance the Colosseum and other ancient sites whilst we were serenaded by a violinist and saxophonist.



The other social occasions were the Players' Party on Saturday evening and the Swaythling Club (SCI) reception. This was well attended on Saturday afternoon following their AGM.

The 2026 World Masters are to be held in Gangneung, Korea Republic, but before that there is the European Veteran Championships which are to be held in Novi Sad, Serbia (originally in Belgrade) from 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025. Registration for this tournament is now open.

## In Memoriam



**Tony Clayton:** Tony Clayton, former England international who will forever be in the history books, passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 in Bournemouth.

Tony was a member of the England team who took part in what became known as 'Ping Pong Diplomacy' in 1971 along with Alan Hydes, Trevor Taylor, Karenza Mathews, Pauline Piddock and Jill Shirley, they made not only table tennis history but world history.

Tony's table tennis career started a while before that in his home city of Hull. Born on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1950, to an Italian mother and English father, he started playing at his public school, Hymer's College, where his Maths teacher Geoff Underwood, took charge of and developed the table tennis team. This and attending Hull Young People's Institute resulted in Tony winning the Under 15 Hull and East Riding Schools tournament in 1965, then in 1967 with Alan Fletcher, who also went on to be an England international, Geoffrey Coxon and Andrew Petrie became runners-up in the English Schools Under 17 Boys Team event in 1967 and the following year at Under 19 level, Tony with Cliff Boothby, Alan Fletcher and Andrew Petrie won the Under 19 event.

By this time Tony had become a well-respected junior taking several titles in Open tournaments around the country as well as in his native Yorkshire, winning the Junior Boys' Singles title in the Hull Closed in 1967/68 and the Men's Doubles that year with Ray Hinchliff and the Mixed Doubles with Valerie King.

It was in January 1967 that Tony made his Yorkshire County junior debut at Kellingley Miners Welfare, near Pontefract, against Northumberland. A match Yorkshire won 10-0. Two years later he made his county senior 1<sup>st</sup> team debut versus Essex at Chelmsford. It was an unexpected 5-4 win for Yorkshire against Chester Barnes, Stuart Gibbs and David Brown. In all Tony represented his county at senior level 70 times, only bettered by Ray Hinchliff. It was with Ray that he won his one Yorkshire senior title in the men's doubles in 1969 having won the junior boy's title the previous year.

Tony had established himself as a junior international playing against Scotland, Sweden, Wales and West Germany. His best result was against the German players where he beat their number one, winning his three matches and helping the team to a 7-2 victory. There was a bronze medal in the English Open Junior Boys' Doubles in 1968 partnered by Brian Mitchell.

With such good results it wasn't surprising that Tony was selected to play in the European Youth Championships (EYC) in St Petersburg (Leningrad) in August 1969 where at the Yubileiny Palace of Sports the Boys' Team won one but lost their other three matches in their group. By the end of his junior career, Tony had reached a ranking of 3 in England.

Tony moved counties when he attended Liverpool University, crossing the border to rival county Lancashire. He had considerable success winning several singles and doubles titles at UAU and BUSF Championships. This led to being selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> International Universities Championships in Hanover, Germany in February 1973 where the Men's GB Team of Tony, Alan Fletcher and Brian Mitchell finished ninth despite only losing one match due to a rather odd playing system. Tony won the Consolation Singles.

1971 had started with impressive results at the National Championships in January where Tony took runners-up spot in the Men's Singles, losing to Chester Barnes in the final with Laurie Landry in his corner. However, it was his Yorkshire grit and determination which had got him there. Ranked 10 in England at the time he met, holder, Denis Neale in the first round and despite being 0-2 and 19-20 down went on to win that match. Next was Simon Heaps and that was another win. Match three against Les Haslam in the quarter-finals saw Tony fight back from the brink of defeat after being 1-2 and 14-20 down. His semi-final

opponent was David Brown of Essex and here again he was 0-2 down before making a comeback to win -18, -14, 15, 16, 19.

This led to Tony being selected for his first England senior appearance which took place in February 1971 at the English Open. With Alan Hydes and Trevor Taylor, the trio reached the quarter-finals of the Men's Team event. More caps were to follow.

It was while in the geography department at university in April 1971, that the phone call from the ETTA. Pack your bags, you are going to Singapore for the 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Championships and then onto Japan for the World Championships. At the last-minute Chester Barnes and Denis Neale had pulled out of the two Championships due to contractual difficulties. Tony was first reserve and having had all his injections was soon on his way.

What a momentous trip for a young 20-year-old. Tony came away with medals in Singapore, a gold in the team event with Alan Hydes and Trevor Taylor – all left handers – and then a silver with Karenza Mathews in the Mixed Doubles. Moving on to Nagoya in Japan for the World Championships the men's trio finished a creditable 10<sup>th</sup>.

However, it was what happened next that made history. For the first time since the Cultural Revolution which began in 1966, China played in a World Championships. Political manoeuvrings had been going on behind the scenes for some time as relations between China and the West eased. As a result, England were invited to China for fifteen days in what became known as Ping Pong Diplomacy, four other countries were also invited including the USA.

Much of the time in China was spent sightseeing, visiting palaces, schools, communes, steelworks, the Double Happiness ball factory, ballet, opera and of course the Ming Tombs and the Great Wall. The team of Tony, Alan Hydes, Trevor Taylor, Pauline Piddock and Jill Shirley took part in six matches which were played in Peking, Shanghai and Tientsin in front of capacity crowds. 23,000 in Peking and 6,500 in Shanghai and Tientsin with thousands more queuing up to get in. The English team won four of the six matches but the feeling was of friendship first, competition second.

Tony's game suited the fast penholder counterattack having been brought up at Hull's YPI where the concrete floor meant super-fast conditions. He felt his game benefitted enormously by the trip.

Everywhere the players went in China they were crowded by curious onlookers and the girls' mini skirts in particular fascinated Chinese youngsters. When viewing an English lesson at one of the schools the lesson consisted of learning "We have boundless love for Chairman Mao" and "My father is a fighter for the People's Liberation Army"!

A reciprocal visit by China was made in December 1971 and again, Tony was involved in many of the matches as well as other aspects of the Chinese tour, including a reception at 10 Downing Street hosted by Prime Minister Edward Heath and meeting Princess Anne.

In between visiting China and China visiting England, Tony had taken part in a five tests series in Australia in July 1971 with Brian Burn, as well as playing against all the Australian State sides.

At the National Championships it was another medal in 1972/73 when Tony beat Demond Douglas in the quarter-finals of the Men's Singles only to go out to Trevor Taylor, the eventual winner, in the semis. Tony had an amazing partnership with Laurie Landry in Men's Doubles winning over 100 Open titles and nearly making it a national title, just losing to Denis Neale and Trevor Taylor in 1973. The Mixed Doubles was another nearly but not quite in the National Championships when with Susan Howard (Henderson) they lost in the final to Alan Hydes and Susan's sister, Linda Howard (Jarvis), also in 1973, having come through a gruelling expedite match in the semi-finals.

In all, Tony played in over 40 internationals, he won many Open titles, took part in the Sunday Times Super League for elite players, leading his team of Jimmy Walker and junior, Paul Day, to third place in 1973/74 and with Desmond Douglas and junior, Andy Barden, to second place in 1974/75. Tony played in the Senior British League for a number of seasons for teams from Maidenhead, Fareham, Salisbury, Bath and ending up with Joliffe Poole after moving to Dorset.

Tony embraced being a veteran playing in Veteran County matches for Dorset helping his county win the Premier Division in 1994/95. He also played in the Veteran British League and numerous VETTS events. Tony represented England at this age level, when he was selected to play in the Home Countries Championships by VETTS.

At the World Veterans Championships in Manchester in 1998 he was a semi-finalist with David Sharples in the Over 40 Men's Team event.

As well as playing, Tony was England Junior Captain for one season in 1978-79, an ETTA National Selection Committee Member 1978-83, a member of the ETTA Board of Appeal 2014-16 and a Ranking Panel Member 1980-81. When the Players' Association of Table Tennis was formed, he was their inaugural secretary for the first year in 1975. Tony was inducted into the Liverpool University Hall of Fame in 2009, was Chairman of Dorset County TTA from 1997-2005 and President from 2009-18 and also a Vice-President of Hull & District TTA.

However, sadly, in more recent years Tony began to suffer from dementia which began to rob him of much of his memory. Despite this he still carried on playing table tennis and had weekly sessions with Matt Ware whose enthusiasm, love and energy for Tony were incredible. Although Tony couldn't speak very well, he would get seriously annoyed if he lost a point and very pleased with himself if he won one against Matt! Wife, Sanja, is convinced the sessions helped not only prolong Tony's life but also the quality of it. Tony was a wonderful, warm, funny and gentle man with wit and charm who was adored by all the staff at the care home as these qualities shone through despite his illness.

A wonderful player, a wonderful man who fitted so much into a lifetime. However, it isn't always what you do but how you do it and the outpouring of affection for Tony shows the love and respect that so many had for him.



**Judy Williams:** Former England and Netherlands international Judy Williams passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024 aged 80 in the Netherlands where she had lived for a number of years. She was a top player in England in the 1960s and early 1970s winning the National Championships in 1969 and playing for England in the World Championships in 1963, 1967 and 1969.

Judy started playing table tennis seriously in 1957 during the Easter holidays when she won a Hertfordshire County Junior scholarship for a junior coaching course at Lilleshall. In September of that year, she played her first county junior match against Suffolk and a week later played for Dagmar II in the Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield League Division 5.

Judy was coached by Geoff Harrower until 1961 when she became a senior, at which point she had played in every Herts Junior match since her debut, 24 in all, plus one second team appearance and nine first team appearances. In 1959 Judy was one of 7,500 entrants in the prestigious Eagle/Girl Championships of Great Britain. She won her regional final and went on to win the National final in the Senior Girls U15 event, a match which was televised for ITV's "Seeing Sport". In 1960 Judy won the News of the World Coach and Pupil trophy with Bryan Merrett and was Girl of the Year runner-up in 1960 and 1961.

Judy played for three counties – Hertfordshire, Sussex and Warwickshire - winning the Herts County Closed Women's Singles in 1960 and 1961 as well as the Women's Doubles in 1960 with Alma Taft and the Mixed Doubles with Brian Barr in 1961. After the family moved to Sussex, Judy won the Sussex County Championships Women's Singles an impressive nine times, the Women's Doubles five times and the Mixed Doubles four times including with her younger brother Peter who also became an England international. Judy's achievements in Sussex led to her being granted the honour of becoming a Vice-President of the county.

Judy attended St Albans Grammar School, where after gaining good results in her 'A' Levels went to Birmingham University to study languages, hence her stint playing for Warwickshire. Sport was, however, not her only forte as she was an exhibitionist at Guildhall School of Music where she was a "Carroll Levis Junior Discovery" for verse speaking in 1959.

Judy's junior international debut came in January 1960 when she played six matches on tour with Mary Shannon (Wright) in Germany with the pair winning all their matches. At senior level Judy played against teams from Czechoslovakia, Netherlands, Scotland and Yugoslavia as well as in World Championships in 1963 and 1967 in individual events and 1969 in Munich in the team event where England finished ninth. Her senior debut took place in the Quadrangular tournament in 1967 where Judy won all her singles and doubles matches playing alongside Mary Wright, Chester Barnes, Ian Harrison and Connie Warren. Judy also played in the European Championships in Moscow in 1970 as a private entrant with Shelagh Hession.

Judy played in numerous English Open Championships between 1959 and 1971, with her best results achieved at junior level winning the Junior Girls Doubles in 1961 with Mary Shannon having the year previously won a silver medal in the same event with Hilde Brautigian.

The pinnacle of Judy's achievements in England was winning the English Closed (National Championships) in 1969. It was a long and hard route to the title. Facing fellow international, Maureen Heppell in the quarter-final, a match which lasted over an hour and one point in the fifth lasted five minutes. Eventually, expedite was reached at 11-7 in the fifth. Victory in this match went to Judy 16, -13, -16, 12, 14. Her next opponent was Pauline Piddock, another England international, and this too went to five with the final score in Judy's favour 15, -12, 14, -19, 18. The final was another five game match, which lasted nearly an hour, against Jill Shirley (Hammersley/Parker) with Judy winning -14, 9, -9, 12, 15. The resulting win gained Judy a place in the England team at the Munich World Championships.

Judy was a five times semi-finalist in the Women's Singles at the English Closed, was runner-up three times with Shelagh Hession in the Women's Doubles and three times semi-finalist. In the Mixed Doubles she also reached the semi-finals in 1972 with Sussex's Sam Ogundipe.

Playing for the Central London League in the early 1970s, Judy was a four times winner of the J M Rose Bowl partnered at various times by Karenza Mathews, Diane Simpson (Court/Pearce) and Shelagh Hession. Judy was a regular on the Open circuit around the British Isles and won many titles in junior and senior events, singles and doubles with victories coming at the Scotland and Welsh Opens as well as from Bournemouth to Cheshire, Essex and Kent to Lancashire and Teesside.

Judy moved to the Netherlands in the mid-1970s to work as a translator for Shell and remained in that country. She continued playing and won medals at their National Championships as well as at the Netherlands Top 10, playing on 15 occasions.

When she became a veteran, Judy played for several seasons in the Veterans British League for Olton & Warwickshire, Dagenham Ladies and Colebridge BC becoming a runner-up on four occasions in the Ladies Premier Division. She also took part in several World and European Veteran Championships. In Zagreb, Yugoslavia in 1988 Judy was runner-up in the Over 40 Women's Singles category and the Over 40

Women's Doubles at the World Veteran Championships and in the European Veteran Championships took home a bronze medal in the Over 50 Women's Singles in 2001 in Aarhus, Denmark.

Suffering from hip problems which resulted in two hip replacements Judy was out of action for some time, but until 2020 was still playing at the highest level at her club Amsterdam '78 where was described as a long-time indispensable member, not only a Board Member but trainer, coach, tournament organiser, bartender and even chauffeur.



**Sir Jack Petchey:** Sir Jack Petchey died on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at his home in Wapping. He was 98 years old. Awarded an ETTA Vice-Presidency in 2015 for "his generous contribution to table tennis; London Schools Championships and the donation of nearly 700 table tennis tables to over 190 secondary schools and colleges in London and Essex". He was a regular presence at the individual and team London Schools finals for many years.

Sir Jack also supported table tennis throughout the London and West Essex area through the Jack Petchey Foundation, a grant making trust, with many clubs in the area benefitting from financial support. He was knighted in 2016 for services to young people.

### Memories of Clive Morris (1946- 2024)

By Ken Baker



After a long illness, Clive Morris, passed away on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Any number of table tennis players will remember him and his exploits at various events. He had a long playing career continuing right through into his veteran days. There will be official records of his achievements and there will be those with a far better memory than mine of matches won and lost.

As his long-time doubles partner, I probably knew him best of all and my overwhelming memories are of the sheer fun he provided over the years, both on and off the table. The wins and the losses don't seem so important now.

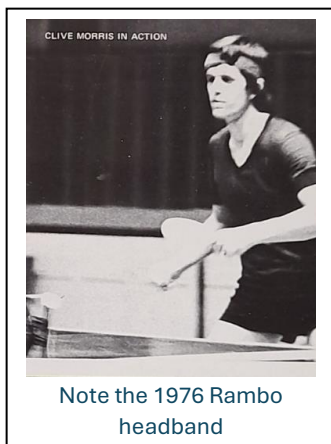
I first met him in the early 60s. This very young man, complete with his immaculate starched shirt and Buddy Holly glasses, approached me, asking if I'd like to play for his team in the Bromley league. I knew he was a left-hander and I'd been looking for a 'lefty' to partner me at tournaments. I was totally useless playing with right-handers so, for a partly selfish reason, I quickly agreed.

Those Buddy Holly glasses eventually became contact lenses, the hard type, not the soft ones of today. This meant I spent an inordinate amount of time searching whenever Clive lost one. Worse was to come when Barry Hill joined Clive and myself in another team in the Beckenham league. Barry wore contacts but changed into glasses to play while Clive did the opposite – glasses for contacts. Nett result – one or the other would lose a lens during the evening and therefore, being the only one who could actually see, I found myself kneeling, often on a floral carpet, while they both stood aside, to avoid treading on and crushing the elusive lens.

Clive and I became a decent doubles pair and played in tournaments locally in Kent and in Opens. We won most of the Kent events but on one occasion we were behind a few points in a final and I remember urging Clive on, saying, "Come on mate, this is one we haven't won, concentrate." Clive said nothing and went off to his holdall to get a towel. He beckoned me over and there in his bag was the silver cup for the event. "We're the \*\*\*\*\* holders, you \*\*\*\*!!"

Clive always did have a nice turn of phrase. Anyway, I relaxed and we came through.

We did in fact win the Bucks Open Doubles one year but we never saw the cup as it was in Les Haslam's possession and he wasn't present. Les never ever did volunteer with the cup and we never asked him. Clive should have done I felt, but anyone who remembers Les will also remember how big he was.



Clive arbitrarily put himself in charge of choosing the colour of our matching shirts for doubles and he certainly came up with some real doozies. He seemed determined to go through the rainbow with his choices. At one time I thought we'd reached a new low with the violent mauve we wore at the Sussex Open. I was wrong.

"You'll love our shirts for the Essex Open," Clive announced. He proudly showed me one in a cellophane bag. He was wrong. Mustard does not suit anyone. At least when we played for Kent the shirt colour was taken out of his hands.

It will come as no surprise to anyone who knew him that Clive liked a drink. Moreover, he could sink a pint in no time at all. This 'ability' came in handy when we were on a golf holiday in France. Staying at our hotel was a group of rugby players who scoffed at us 'poufter' golfers. Somehow, a drinking competition was arranged and I felt it was my duty to put Clive forward in the 'fastest pint' category. I wanted my boy properly prepared, a bit like George Kennedy did with Paul Newman in Cool Hand Luke in the 'fifty eggs' scene. I was a little concerned about my managerial skills when Clive chose to have a large bowl of Black Forest Gateau (with cream) just before the contest started. Clive's opponent, a huge muscle-bound guy, opted to drink a pint of just plain water which apparently was within the agreed rules. That seemed highly sensible to me so I suggested Clive should do the same. I should have known better. "Nah, not for me," Clive said, "I'll have a Guinness." The thought of drinking Guinness following Black Forest Gateau made our lads wonder if we'd backed the wrong horse but before Mr Muscles had got through a third of his water, Clive plonked his empty glass down on the table.

That's my boy! Never doubted him. Cheers all round.

Sometimes a dream scenario actually happens – very rarely, but when it does all you can do is be thankful. The occasion was a local golf match between Hawkhurst and Woodlands Manor. Our team, Hawkhurst, narrowly won the overall match, much to the annoyance of our opponents.

"Well," they said, with a certain smugness, "you might have beaten us at golf but you won't beat us at table tennis." We thought they were joking or being ironic but no, they really didn't know we had three table tennis county players in our golf team – Barry Hill, Surrey ranked, Clive and myself both playing for Kent. Better still, Clive actually had his own bat in his car. What were the chances of any of this?

The table was ready and they put up their best player, an ex – RAF champion, supposedly. I often wonder how many ex – RAF or Army champions we've all met once the subject of table tennis was mentioned. Anyway, after a brief knock-up it was obvious Barry could give RAF man 15 points start without the remotest chance of losing. Of course, the Woodlands Manor lads couldn't believe their man could lose with that start and pound notes started flying about. For the benefit of young readers it **was** a while ago, pound notes **did** exist and table tennis had a different scoring system up to 21 points. After Barry disposed of RAF man Clive and I weighed in and eventually the starts got up to 18 and the pound notes piled up. The beer was flowing and we were called all the unprintable names under the sun. However, it all ended amicably when later, they wiped the floor with us on the snooker table.

The following year it was time for the same golfing fixture. When we asked where the table tennis table was the reply was short and not so sweet: "It's up in the \*\*\*\*\* loft and that's where it's going to \*\*\*\*\* stay."



My wife Sue, and I, spent several holidays in the USA with Clive and Margaret. Will, their 13-year-old son came with them on one occasion. We all liked country music so we found ourselves Tennessee - bound and looking forward to the Grand 'Ole Opry in Nashville. We'd booked our seats in advance and were delighted to find we were only a couple of rows from the stage. We hadn't realised it was actually a live radio show so every now and then, between the acts, someone would narrate advertisements for the local hardware stores, shops and restaurants. The show itself was great fun but we noticed that as each act came on the performers themselves seemed to be getting older.

Grandpa Jones and his Hee Haw Band were apparently Country Hall of Fame legends but their average age must have been in the high eighties. The big star for that evening was Porter Wagoner – the inspiration for Dolly Parton's *I will always Love You*. With our seats being so close to the stage we could literally see the join in his toupée. Will started giggling and mouthed, "Bring back Grandpa." That set the rest of us off and I don't think we stopped laughing, even on the drive back to our apartment. Whenever we got together, sometimes years later, the sheer mention of the Grand 'Ole Opry started us laughing again.

In 2017 Sue and I celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. As a way of introducing the guests to one another I made a short speech. Clive had gone through an untold number of serious illnesses in his life and had always survived as though nothing had happened. I remember jokingly calling him The Indestructible Man.

Seven years later, sadly, I was proved wrong but I thank you Clive for all the fun you put into all our lives.

Rest in Peace my friend.

***Toward the end of his life Clive's eyesight got so bad; he was virtually blind. He relied heavily on the RNIB Talking Books. His family, Margaret, Will, the girls Nicky and Samantha, would really appreciate it you could donate to this organisation that gave him so much comfort at the end - [www.rnib.org.uk](http://www.rnib.org.uk)***

**Tony Hooper:** We also learnt of the death of Tony Hooper who was an International Umpire, many times transport manager at English Opens, tournament organiser of the ETTA Top 12 in 1989 and heavily involved in the Clacton League as a player, tournament organiser and administrator.

**Hilda Watts:** The wife of Mike Watts passed away in June 2024. Mike was the instigator of the VETTS in England as well as having many roles for the ETTA including Events Manger and on their Management Committee. Hilda was ever present in her support for Mike and made her own contribution to VETTS by donating the Mike Watts Memorial Trophy, an annual award for loyal and dedicated service.

Our thoughts and condolences go to all the family and friends of those who have died.

On the TTE website there is an Obituaries section which gives more details of some of these and many others – if you type Obituary in the Search box it will take you there.

## Dates

### Domestic Events:

**U21 National Cup:** 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**National Championships Qualifier:** 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**Cadet & U17 National Championships:** 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**National Championships:** 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

**U10-U13 National Championships:** 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Junior & U21 National Championships:** 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - tbc

**ELCC Finals:** 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Senior National Opens/4\*:** 31<sup>st</sup> August-1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 (Cambridge) - cancelled, 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 - tbc, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 - tbc, 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - tbc, 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 - tbc

**Satellite Grand Prix:** 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024, Cardiff, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Jersey - tbc

**Junior 4\* Open:** Cleveland 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October 2024, Chandlers 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Cippenham 30<sup>th</sup> November-1<sup>st</sup> December 2024, Cambridge 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Plymouth 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### International Events:

**Euro Mini Championships:** 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> August 2024, Schiltigheim, France

**Paralympic Games:** 28<sup>th</sup> August-8<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Paris, France

**European Championships (Individual):** 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October 2024, Linz, Austria

**World Youth Championships:** 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Helsingborg, Sweden

**Mixed Team World Cup:** 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Chengdu, China

There are also a number of World Table Tennis events

### Veterans Events: For the Over 40s:

**European Veteran Championships:** 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025, Novi Sad (changed from Belgrade), Serbia (note it is not possible to get to Serbia by train). Entries are now being taken.

## Our Contact Details

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