



Table Tennis Times

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

Issue 27

Editorial

Summer 2022

Whilst Diane and I were in Rimini for the European Veterans Championships at the end of June we enjoyed the warm weather, and on one day in particular, when we had temperatures of 34°C, I commented to a friend from Sweden that we never had temperatures like that in England! I should have known better as my track record on predictions is not good. As a habitue of the Earls Court Coffee Bar scene in the early 1960's I confidently predicted that the band played incessantly on juke boxes of the day, and which the girls in my crowd raved about, would be a five-minute wonder – yes, you guessed it, The Beatles!!

This is unbelievably our 27th Issue and is set to be the biggest ever with many hours spent on researching and reporting all that has gone on in the last three months.

In this issue we continue the ever-popular Ken & Karenza Mathews story which takes us through to Karenza's retirement from competitive play, but this is not the end of their story – see next issue.

We also feature the final instalment of Nora Vint's Chinese diary which is a fascinating glimpse into 1950's China.

"What Was Happening" looks at 1952 and as ever unearths some little-known facts as well as highlighting how popular our sport was back then.



Harvey and Ian

To return briefly to the European Veterans in Rimini, Harvey partnered Ian Whiteside in the Men' Doubles and whilst they had only limited success on the table, they enjoyed the experience. Ian was a member of the ETTA Management Committee in the 1980s and they had not seen each other for 30 or 40 years before they bumped into one another at the World Veterans Championships in Alicante where they hatched the plan to play together. As ever, table tennis provides friends for life.

We hope you are all enjoying the great summer of sport as much as we are. We are just recovering from late nights watching the World Athletic Championships from the USA, in between following all the women's European Football matches and earlier tennis at Wimbledon and have the Commonwealth Games to look forward to next.

Before you know it, another table tennis season will be starting, so enjoy the rest of the summer, the warmth (whilst we still have it!) and finally we hope you enjoy reading this bumper edition.

Best wishes
Diane and Harvey Webb

Junior (U19), U17 & Cadet National Championships 30th April-1st May 2022: Nottingham All photos by Michael Loveder

Nottingham is becoming a familiar venue for National Championships of various ages and it was a return there for the Junior (now under 19), U17 and Cadet National Championships held on 30th April and 1st May 2022. The Cadet and U17 events took place on the Saturday and the Juniors on Sunday.

With the extra age group, the Under 17s, four more events were competed for over the weekend making 13 in total, this gave more youngsters the opportunity to play in a major event. As with the Senior National Championships, there was a restricted entry with 32 in each of the singles and up to 16 in the doubles events.

Cadet Girls Singles: All but one seed finished top of her group but with two players per group going through to the knock-out stages all seeds progressed to that stage. There were several close matches with three going close in the fifth end. Three seeded players reached the semi-finals with top seed Sienna Jetha meeting Jonabel Taguibao, ranked 10th, whilst second seed Maliha Baig met fourth seed, Connie Dumelow. It was the higher ranked player who came out on top in both cases and both in three straight. The final was a much tighter affair and in the end it was Baig who triumphed 8, -8, 3, -6, 2.



Maliha Baig



Larry Trumpauskas

Cadet Boys Singles: Unlike the girls, the Cadet Boys, was an event with lots of upsets. The two Piwovar brothers, Jakub and Kacper, seeded 1 and 2 both went out in their first knock-out match leaving the field wide open. So, it was down to the other seeds to battle for the title. It was Larry Trumpauskas seeded 3, versus Oliver Maric-Murray seeded 4, in the one semi-final and Ralph Pattison seeded 5 versus Yiannis Kazantzidis, seeded 7 in the other. Trumpauskas won in four and Pattison in three to set up a final which 14-year-old Trumpauskas won 10, 7, 8.

Under 17 Girls' Singles: With the exception of one player all those ranked first and second in their groups went through to the knock-out rounds, Lianna Shilani Touse being the player who also achieved a round of 16 place. The number 1 seed, Amy Marriott, had a comfortable win in her first knock-out match but then went out to Saskia Key in the quarter-finals in a very close match. Key has been having some excellent results of late including in the Senior National Championships. Number 2 seed, Megan Jones, also made it through to the semi-final stage although she was pushed hard in her quarter-final by Scarlett Anders. Another rising star, Sienna Jetha earned her semi-final slot with a three straight win over 4th seed, Evelyn Pace. The final semi-finalist was the unseeded Ella Pashley with a three straight win over 7th seed, Rebecca Savage.

It was Pashley who had the victory over Key in the one semi-final 8, -9, 5, 11 whilst Jones had another very close five setter 10, 6, -6, -8, 7 against Jetha in the other semi-final. The final saw Jones as the victor winning 5, -7, 6, 4 but huge congratulations too to Pashley who defeated four seeds on her way to the silver medal.

Under 17 Boys' Singles: All the eight seeded players went through to the knock-out rounds although three were in the runners-up slot and only four of the eight reached the quarter-finals where it was Connor Green, number 1 seed, who defeated Bertie Kelly, Felix Thomis with a win over Jakub Piwovar, Ben Piggott victorious

over James Hamblett and Naphong Boonyaprapa, the fourth semi-finalist, overcoming Georgios Gerakios. Green went on to reach the final with a win over Thomis 8, -10, 7, 10 whilst club mate Boonyaprapa beat Piggott 6, -13, 8, 8.

It was Boonyaprapa, seeded 5, although having the third highest ranking points in this age category, who celebrated the win in the final with a 7, 5, -9, 2 scoreline relegating his doubles partner, Green, to the runner-up spot. It was a good day for the Draycott Club who had both winners in the U17 singles events plus one runner-up.



Megan Jones



Naphong Boonyaprapa

Junior (U19) Girls' Singles: The only seed to fall in the group stage was Gemma Kerr at number 8 and it was Saskia Key who won that group. This did not give Key much advantage however, as fourth seed, Anaya Patel, had come second in her group although seeded top and these two young ladies met in the first round with Patel comfortably winning the fixture. Patel was joined in the quarter-finals by Mari Baldwin, Erin Green, Jasmin Wong, Anna Green, Megan Jones, Millie Rogove and Amy Marriott, all the seeds from 1 to 7 with Anna Green the one unseeded player.

It was Baldwin, the Number 1 seed, who was victorious against Erin Green 4, 9, 6; Patel over Wong 8, -9, 6, -4, 7; Jones over Anna Green 10, -7, 9, -8, 8 and Marriott, at number 2, defeating Rogove 7, 2, 7. The semi-finals were set with Baldwin meeting Patel and Jones playing Marriott. After a shaky start at the beginning of the event, Patel went from strength to strength to beat Baldwin 7, -5, 8, 8 whilst in the lower half of the draw Marriott had a real battle against Jones just coming out on top 6, -11, 12, -8, 10. So, onto the final and it was Patel who won the crown with a 9, 5, -8, 11 win over Jones. An excellent victory.



Anaya Patel



Larry Trumpauskas

Junior (U19) Boys' Singles: The group stage resulted in a much more topsy-turvy set of results than the girls with Toby Ellis (seeded 2), Nahom Asgedom (seeded 7) and Josh Weatherby (seeded 8) all going out. It wasn't plain sailing for some of the other seeds either but well done to Owen Brown and Joseph Dennison who, although ranked fourth in their groups, did make it through to the knock-out stage.

There were some close matches in the round of 16 which saw Brown losing to Naphong Boonyaprapa 11, 3, -13, 10 whilst Tom Rayner beat number 2 seed, Ben Piggott 10, -5, 9, -4, 9 and Larry Trumpauskas defeated Joseph Dennison -7, 6, 9, 11. The other quarter-finalists were Connor Green, number 1 seed, Felix Thomis, Joshua Bruce, Louis Price and Maxim Stevens.

In a repeat of the U17 Boys' Singles final Green and Boonyaprapa met again in the quarter-finals and this time it was Green who won in a very tight match -12, 8, 7, -9, 5. Bruce defeated Thomis in another five setter 11, 5, -9, -3, 4. Meanwhile Price overcame Rayner 7, -10, 10, -8, 7 and Trumpauskas beat Stevens -6, 7, -10, 8, 10.

The semi-final matches saw Green defeat Bruce -10, 4, 3, 8 whilst Trumpauskas had another five set victory this time over Price -6, 7, -3, 7, 7. The final was set with 15 year-old Green facing the young star from Saturday, Trumpauskas at only 14. A long day on Saturday for Trumpauskas who had only just arrived back in England in time for these Championships, his bag was delayed on the way home with his kit in but fortunately he had kept his bat with him.

After the disappointment of Saturday, Green must have been looking to take this title but Trumpauskas was having none of it and in a fine display of skill, as well as stamina, he made it look easy with an 8, 8, 9 win. A disgruntled Green threw his bat on the floor and was appropriately shown a yellow card. A disappointing end to an excellent tournament.

Doubles Results:

Junior Girls' Doubles: Anaya Patel & Millie Rogove beat Mari Baldwin & Amy Marriott 10, 12, 8

Junior Boys' Doubles: Ben Piggott & Tom Rayner beat Toby Ellis & Louis Price -9, 8, 9, 8

Junior Mixed Doubles: Connor Green & Erin Green beat Ben Piggott & Anna Green 8, 14, 10

Under 17 Girls' Doubles: Megan Jones & Anna Green beat Amy Marriott & Saskia Key -8, 8, 11, -6, 6

Under 17 Boys' Doubles: Naphong Boonyaprapa & Connor Green beat Joseph Hunter & James Hamblett 6, 9, 9

Cadet Girls' Doubles: Naomi Coker & Sienna Jetha beat Connie Dumelow & Kate Watkinson 7, 8, -5, 12

Cadet Boys' Doubles: Ollie Maric-Murray & Jakub Piwowar beat Larry Trumpauskas & Yiannis Kazantzidis



Millie Rogove & Anaya Patel Ben Piggott & Tom Rayner Connor Green & Erin Green



Megan Jones & Anna Green Connor Green & Naphong Boonyaprapa



Sienna Jetha & Naomi Coker Jakub Piwowar & Oliver Maric-Murray

Junior National Cup **18th-19th June 2022: Perry Barr, Birmingham**

In the lead up to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham the Junior National Cup was held in the district of Perry Barr. This competition was formerly known as the Junior Top 10 and then Junior Masters.

It was unfortunate that although intended for the top players at junior level, only five of the top 10 boys and four of the top 10 girls attended. This is the elite competition for this age group and more challenging than the Junior National Championships as the players battle it out amongst their peers. Nonetheless, there was still a high-quality field in both events.

At the end of the first day with five rounds played there were only two players with a 100% record and they were the top two seeds, Louis Price and Jasmin Wong. It wasn't plain sailing for Price who twice won by 12-10 in the fifth – against Felix Thomis and Jakub Piwowar. Wong, too, was taken close by Rebecca Savage who nearly claimed an impressive scalp but just lost by 11-8 in the fifth game.

Benjamin Piggott finished with nine points, Felix Thomis, Joseph Hunter and Larry Trumpauskas on eight, Jakub Piwowar and Joshua Bruce on seven and Nahom Asgedom, Oliver Cornish and Thomas Rayner on six.

In the Junior Girls' event only nine played over the weekend, so some girls had four matches on Saturday and some five. Jasmin Wong was undefeated winning four from four, Scarlett Anders won four and lost one so had the second best set of results for the day. Amy Marriott, Darcie Proud and Megan Jones all won two and lost two whilst Bethany Ellis won two and lost three. Evelyn Pace and Lauren Loosemore both won one and lost three and Rebecca Savage won one and lost four.

Day 2 saw the first hiccup for Price as he lost his first match to Joshua Bruce in three straight but then went on to win the next two setting up a grand finale with Ben Piggott who had also only lost one match and that too, was to Bruce. Price was not to be done out of successfully defending his title and on top form went through Piggott 10, 4, 4 to hold the cup aloft for the second year running – and still with one more year to go.

Thomis was in third place just pipping Hunter, both players having won six matches. Trumpauskas and Bruce had four wins apiece, Cornish and Rayner won three and Asgedom and Piwowar two wins.



*Felix Thomis, Louis Price, Ben Piggott Megan Jones, Jasmin Wong, Scarlett Anders
Photos courtesy of TTE*

Wong, on the other hand, never looked like losing the advantage she had gained on day one and won all her nine matches with the loss of only four games, a very impressive performance. Anders finished in second place with Jones in third, both with six wins, Marriott, Proud and Pace finished with five wins, Savage with four, Ellis with three and Loosemore with two. A very long weekend for all players but two well deserving champions.

London Grand Prix: Redbridge 28th-29th May 2022

Excellent news that the London Grand Prix went ahead after the cancellation of the Wolverhampton Grand Prix earlier in the year. There was a high entry of 215 men which included some of England's top players as well as players from Wales, Nigeria, Ireland, the Netherlands, France, Scotland, Gibraltar, Sweden and China. Disappointingly, only 27 women entered although there was an international flavour as players came from Ireland, Hong Kong and United Arab Emirates but there were very few top English players.

As is usual with the Grand Prix circuit the banded events were on Saturday whilst the Men's and Women's Singles, Under 21 Singles, Veteran Singles and Mixed Restricted event took place on the Sunday.

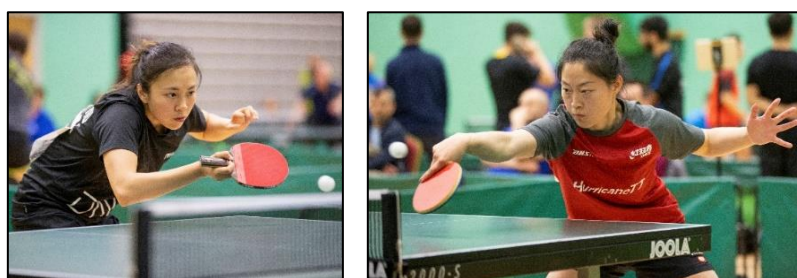
The Men's Singles final was a match between two of the best, Sam Walker v Chris Doran, and eagerly awaited by all who were there. It wasn't a staged match but the eyes of nearly everyone in the hall were focussed on the two players who produced some superb play. First blood went to Walker 12-10, Doran equalised 11-9 and went ahead in the third 11-8 only for Walker to draw level with an 11-5 score. Then Doran pulled ahead and took the fifth 11-8 to win the match and the title.

A popular winner who has been a regular on the Grand Prix circuit for many years. Walker had beaten fourth seed, Callum Evans from Wales in his semi-final match and Shaquille Webb-Dixon at the quarter-final stage. Doran had beaten Josh Bennett in his semi-final, so neither had an easy route to the final.



Chris Doran and Sam Walker. Photos by Michael Loveder

The Women's Singles saw four groups with 11 players in total compared with the 39 groups in the Men's event. Three of the top four ranked players reached the semi-finals. Tin-Tin Ho, at number 1, had a struggle against Mollie Patterson, who is playing so well at the moment, and just scraped through 11-13, 11-4, 11-5, 7-11, 11-5 in her semi-final, Ho had a more comfortable match in the final where she beat the Chinese player Jiaqi Meng 3-0, Meng having beaten Mia O'Rahilly Egan 3-0 in the previous round.



Tin-Tin Ho and Jiaqi Meng. Photos by Michael Loveder

The Under 21 titles went to Joshua Bruce and Mollie Patterson with Louis Price and Tianer Yu the runners-up; Yu, like Meng, is another Chinese player living in England. Patterson also won the Women's Band 1 and as with the Under 21 Singles it was on countback.



Louis Price, Joshua Bruce



Tianer Yu, Mollie Patterson



Alim Hirji, Ismaila Akindiya



Eric Hammond, Nana Ansah

Mixed Restricted Singles went to Ismaila Akindiya with victory over Alim Hirji and the Mixed Veterans resulted in a win for Eric Hammond defeating Nana Ansah in the final.

There is no end of season prize fund now and so the enhanced winnings were £500 for the Men’s Singles winner with £250 for the runner-up and £100 apiece to the semi-finalists. With a lower entry in the Women’s Singles the figure was reduced to £320 for the winner, £130 for the runner-up and £65 for the semi-finalists. The Under 21s, Restricted, Mixed Veterans and all Bands below Band 1 earned £65 and £30 whilst the Band 1 was equal dibs at £130 for the winners and £60 for the runners-up.

Gloucester Grand Prix 25th-26th June 2022

The final Grand Prix of the season took place in Gloucester on 25th and 26th June 2022 and it was a win in the Women’s Singles final for Jiaqi Meng of China who defeated Danielle Kelly.



Jiaqi Meng and Callum Evans. Both photos by Michael Loveder

Wales saw Callum Evans overcome Irishman, Paul McCreery, in the Men’s Singles final, McCreery having beaten Chris Doran in his semi-final match whilst Evans had beaten Sam Mabey at the same stage.

It was Danielle Kelly who took the honours over Tiana Dennison in the U21 Women’s Singles and Nahom Asgedom with the win over Joseph Hunter in the U21 Men’s Singles event.



Danielle Kelly. By Mike Rhodes



Nahom Asgedom. By Michael Loveder

The Restricted Singles resulted in victory for Umair Mauthoor over Joe Killoran whilst the Veterans’ was a win for Jaroslav Chrzanowski over Simon James.

More of the Ken and Karenza Mathews Story

1974 continued:

Ken: We had a long drive on 13th September, right down to St. Ives in Cornwall to play an exhibition for the St. Ives Table Tennis Club. This was the first of the England Squad exhibitions that Karenza had not taken part in - I have no idea why! Jill (Hammersley), Linda (Howard), Denis (Neale), Nicky (Jarvis), Donald Parker and Jimmy Walker - who was ranked seven in England - took part. As we noted earlier, only players who were at the time members of the International Squad would be offered a place in an exhibition evening.

As usual the new season started with the North Middlesex at Alexandra Palace on 15th and 16th September. Karenza reached the semi where she lost to Linda. Partnering Denis they lost in the final of the Mixed but she won the Women's Doubles with Linda.



The next tournament was the Sussex Open down at Hastings which Karenza won by beating Shelagh (Hession) in the final. Partnering Sue Henderson (Linda's sister who had married Colin Henderson) they won the Doubles and, partnering Alan Hydes of Yorkshire, they won the Mixed. A good tournament made that much more fun because we were able to take our new boxer puppy, Rocky with us. Needless to say he was very popular with all the players – and the local press. A picture of Karenza with Rocky, taken by the Hastings Observer in the stars dressing room, appeared on the cover of the December issue of Table Tennis News - the headline said 'New Partner for Karenza'

In October the new European Ranking List was published. This put Jill at number four and Karenza at number eighteen. Number eighteen in the whole of Europe! Brilliant!

And so, Brian Burn now took over as National Team Trainer and coach. Brian had represented England at junior and senior international level. It meant that I would be working quite closely with Brian concerning issues about the national squad and teams.

Karenza: 8th November was the date fixed for the 5th Nissen Invitation Tournament at Picketts Lock. I lost to Jill in the semi – who beat Linda in the final.

Ken: In the Midland Counties Three Star the next day, Karenza lost 2-1 in the semi to Jill. She won the Women's Doubles with Linda beating Jill and Susan Lisle of Cheshire in the final – but she and Nicky lost in the semi of the Mixed to Linda who was partnering Desmond Douglas.

On 14th November Karenza flew out to take part in the Hungarian Jubilee Invitation Tournament. This was an odd weekend for her as she was the only English player there. She travelled with George Yates, Deputy Chairman of the Association, who went to represent the official side. She lost in the first round to a Hungarian girl, Henrietta Lotaller, who was ranked two places above her in Europe. In the Women's Doubles she partnered Ann-Christian Hellman of Sweden; they lost 16 in the fifth to the pair that lost in the final.

On 21st November Karenza flew over to Paris for the French Open which was held at the Stade de Courbertin. She went with Carole Knight, a player who had been getting some very good results at home culminating in her selection for England, also with Nicky and Trevor Taylor. In the team event, Karenza and Carole beat the West German second team in the first round but then lost to France 3-1, Karenza beating Brigitte Thiriet, the French number two. In the Singles Karenza had the misfortune to meet – and lose to - the West German number one, her old adversary, Weibke Hendrikson. Partnering Donald Parker, they lost to a French couple and in the Women's Doubles she and Carole lost in the quarters to the top Rumanian pair.

December brought the Middlesex Open at Picketts Lock on 7th and 8th of the month. Once again Jill got the better of Karenza in the semi; Jill won the final. Karenza reached the final of the Women's Doubles partnering

Carole Knight but they then lost to Jill and Linda. Denis and Karenza lost in the semi of the Mixed to Desmond and Linda. A training camp followed from 9th to 13th after which Karenza had a rest for a few days!

Like many other players, Karenza was now finding it increasingly difficult to beat Jill but, to get things into perspective, Jill had developed into a world class player; she was now ranked number four in Europe and number fourteen in the world.

The new England Ranking List was published in December. Jill was at number one, Linda at number two and Karenza at number three.

1975

The tournament programme for 1975 was considerably changed as the Commonwealth and World Championships were to be held much earlier in the year than usual. The Cleveland Three Star, re-branded as the Cleveland Festival of Table Tennis, was the first event, held at Teesside on 4th and 5th January. Karenza and Jill both lost to Chinese players in the quarters. Karenza and Carole had a great run in the Women's Doubles beating a Chinese pair in the semi and Jill and Linda two straight in the final. Denis and Karenza lost in the semi of the Mixed to Li Ching-Kwang and Yen- Kui-Li.

Karenza attended a reception at the Chinese Embassy on 8th January before travelling down to Brighton on the 9th, for the English Open – now called the Norwich Union International Championships. The reception was in honour of the team from China, which was here to play in some of the tournaments. There was a great victory in the final of the Men's team event when the England second team (Nicky Jarvis and Trevor Taylor) beat China. Linda and Jill lost in the semi of the Women's team event. (Karenza and Carole had lost 3-2 to West Germany in the quarters; Carole won her two singles.) Both Karenza and Jill lost in the first round of the Singles, Karenza to a Hungarian and Jill to a Chinese. Linda did the best by reaching the quarters. England was represented in both semis of the Mixed, not by Karenza and Denis, but by Jill and Nicky and Linda and Des; both pairs lost at that stage. Not a bad tournament for England – particularly good to win the Men's team event.

Karenza: On 16th January, Ken had a half day to take me to Heathrow where I joined the team for the flight to Melbourne; we were on our way to play in the Commonwealth Championships. We arrived there at 10.30 in the morning on the 18th – completely out of time with the clocks! We then had a meal in the evening and awoke at 6.00am the next day. We had been given quite a bit of time to recover as the Championships didn't start until the 25th. We had a pretty good week! The weather was great which meant that, after practice in the morning, we could go for walks, run on the beach and have parties and barbecues – oh, and do a bit more practice in between!

On Friday the 24th, we went to a reception at Melbourne's Parliament House, given by the Governor of Victoria. Very nice! And then on the 25th the fun and games were over as we actually had to play!

This is a picture of me with Carole Knight, Jill and Linda outside our hotel. The weather was very hot!

We won both the Men's and Women's team events without losing a match. In the Women's Singles I was seeded two – and reached the semi, where I lost to Linda 18 in the fifth. In the Women's Doubles Carole and I lost to a New Zealand pair in the semi; Jill and Linda won the final. Denis and I lost to an Indian pair in the quarters. (On the 28th we went to another reception, this time given by the Lord Mayor at the Melbourne Town Hall.)



On 1st February we flew from Melbourne and landed at Singapore in the evening. The next day we went shopping and then, in the evening, we flew to Bombay where we stayed overnight before flying on to Calcutta for the World Championships.

On our arrival we were told that we had all been made Honorary Members of the Calcutta Swimming Club! Apart from that my recollections of Calcutta are not good. Everywhere seemed to be smelly and crowded. The streets were packed with cars, bicycles and rickshaws with everyone hooting and yelling at each other. The pavements were packed, mainly with grubby children and beggars. We could not go anywhere without a trail of children behind us all begging us to give them something. It was very depressing.

I don't want to make any excuses but, by this time I was suffering from a pain in my right calf – old age creeping on! It didn't get much better and by the 12th I had to get some physiotherapy for it. In addition to my little problem it wasn't long before all of us – I don't think there were any exceptions – were suffering from tummy trouble, what they poetically call Delhi Belly. (Although we were in Calcutta.)

The men didn't do well in the team event ending up twelfth. The women did very much better ending up fifth, an improvement of five places since the last World Championships. I can't claim any credit for that result as I played in only one of the matches, in the Doubles with Carole when we lost to a Chinese pair. (China went on to win the Women's team event – and also the Men's.)

I managed to get myself drawn against Huang Hsi-Ping and lost to her in the first round. Unfortunately, the same thing happened to all of us – all out in the first round. Jill came nearest to winning her match but lost to the really annoying Yung Sun Kim of North Korea, annoying because she squeaked like a wild bird every time she won a point – and also stopped to take advice from her coaches between points, a practise that was subsequently to be outlawed by the powers that be.

Denis and I did the best of the English pairs in the Mixed Doubles – but that wasn't much to write home about (in fact I didn't) as we lost to an Australian pair in the first round. (The others went out in the qualifying competition.) Carole and I lost in the first round of the Women's Doubles – all our pairs did! More excuses – the hall was filled with dust and was stiflingly hot. On one occasion play was held up for quite a long time as there was a monsoon and rainwater came pouring through the roof. But, as someone once said, excuses are useless, as things were the same for everybody. The fact was that we all, apart from Jill in the team event, had a really bad tournament. We had a few days off after the tournament finished. We had a look round Calcutta but we were glad to be on the plane home on Wednesday the 19th.

Even the journey wasn't wonderful! On the tarmac at Calcutta Airport there was a long delay which was apparently caused by the plane hitting an elephant! We weren't told what happened to the elephant. And then, on the flight, we became aware of a really strong smell - a pretty nauseating smell - which everyone was moaning about. The stewardess told us that this was caused by the hold being half full of a batch of monkeys that were coming to a zoo somewhere in Europe. We were pleased to get off the plane at Heathrow!

Ken: The day before Karenza and Jill were due to land, I had spent the evening with Nick Hammersley, Jill's husband, at their house. We were really looking forward to the girls getting back after such a long trip. Nick had installed quadrasonic sound attached to their record player – great sound quality! Well, we listened to the music which sounded that much better when Nick produced the first bottle of scotch. We got through that one and best part of the way through a second before we collapsed at about four or five in the morning. The plane landed at 10.30 and somehow we managed to get to Heathrow. But the girls had had that wretched flight with all the monkeys and hadn't slept at all on the plane. When we met them in the arrivals hall we were all so bleary-eyed and hung over – well, it wasn't quite the cheery greeting we had all been looking forward to!

The April edition of Table Tennis News carried a picture of Karenza. Underneath it said: 'Karenza Mathews - who announced her impending retirement prior to the Norwich Union English Championships.' The cutting is from the Times dated 3rd April.

The championships were duly held at the Crystal Palace from 3rd to 5th April. Karenza lost in the first round of the Singles - the magazine didn't report who she lost to; perhaps it wasn't important.



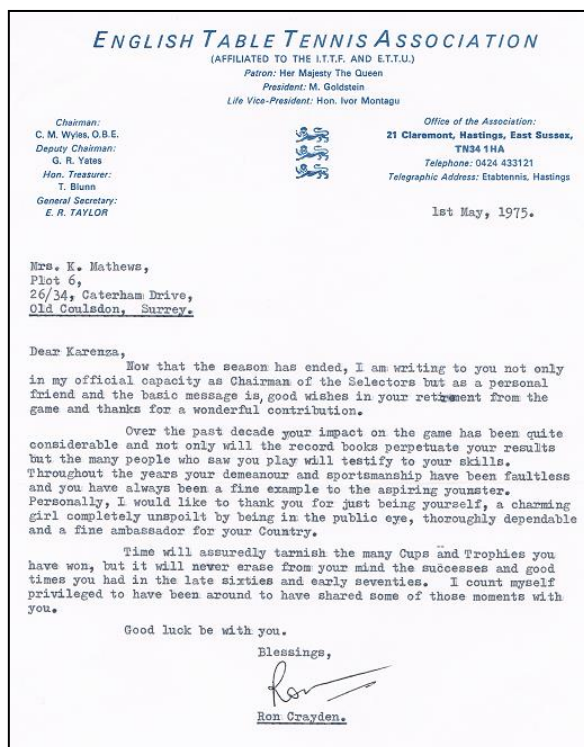
True to the record she had as a fine doubles player, she reached the semi of the Mixed with Denis where they lost to Paul Day and Melody Ludi, two young players. But, partnering Carole Knight, they won the Women's Doubles beating Jill and Linda in the final. As the prizes were presented at the end, George Yates, the Deputy Chairman of the Association presented Karenza with a bouquet and said that her retirement would mean the loss to the game of one of England's great players.



The Table Tennis Magazine report said:

'...Karenza Mathews who has now retired from the competitive arena in favour of table tennis coaching and possibly squash. 231 appearances for England is an amazing record...and one that must gain great respect, especially from coaching pupils.'

Ron Crayden had been England Captain for many years especially back in the period when Karenza was partnering Mary in international tournaments. Ron had also given Karenza away when we were married. Ron Crayden wrote a wonderful tribute to Karenza in the Table Tennis magazine, 'A tribute to Karenza.' He also sent this letter to Karenza:



During her career: In the English National Championships, Karenza won the Women's Singles title twice, the Women's Doubles title eight times and the Mixed Doubles title five times. Her total of fifteen National titles put her at number five on the all-time list of players winning titles at the English National Championships. Mary (Wright) was at number four with sixteen titles.

In the Commonwealth Championships 1971 Karenza won Gold Medals in the Women's Team Event and in the Women's Doubles and a Silver Medal in the Women's Singles. In 1973 she won Gold Medals in the Women's Team Event and in the Mixed Doubles and a Silver Medal in the Women's Singles.

In her career Karenza also represented Middlesex in the County Championships on more than forty occasions. She received a letter from the Middlesex Chairman in which he said:

We are extremely grateful to you for the many occasions on which you have contributed to our team's victories and also to the time when, despite your efforts, things just haven't gone our way. We can find other players but it will be difficult to find another Karenza. Your sportsmanship and quiet pleasant manner have shown some of our younger players the way table tennis should be played and we are very proud that you have played so often in our colours. We hope that you have enjoyed playing for the County as much as we have enjoyed having you play for us, and we hope that if ever you decide to return to competitive table tennis you will remember that Middlesex is 'your' County as well as 'ours'.

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Under 13 & Under 11 National Championships 11th-12th June 2022: Wolverhampton All photos by Michael Loveder

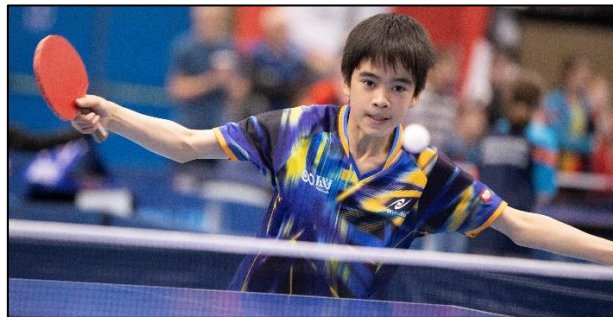
The National Championships for the youngest age groups. This year the Under 10s and Under 12s were dropped, leaving six events, singles in the Under 11s and Under 13s and boys' and girls' doubles in the Under 13s.

Saturday was exclusively the four Under 13 events with 47 boys and 27 girls participating in the singles. They played in large groups of five or six giving the youngsters plenty of matches.

Under 13 Boys' Singles: All the eight seeded players in the eight groups finished first in their groups with an assortment of positions for the group runners-up spot. The accuracy of the seeding followed into the round of 16 matches where all the seeded players progressed to the quarter-finals with the number 1 to 4 seeds making it through to the semi-final stage. Here things were not as predicted, as number 1, Kacper Piwowar, was defeated by fourth seed, Max Radiven. In the other half of the draw second seed, Leo Nguyen, after beating his brother, Hugo, in the quarter-finals and then Abraham Sellado in the semis also got through to the final. It started off very close with Radiven winning the first 12-10, followed by Nguyen winning the second end 11-9 but then Radiven went further ahead and took the title winning 10, -9, 3, 4.



Max Radiven



Leo Nguyen

Under 13 Girls' Singles: Seven groups with all seven group top ranked players proceeding to the knockout rounds along with the seven runners-up. The first and second seeds, Sienna Jetha and Eva Eccles, had a bye in the first knock-out round and so first matches at this stage were the quarter-finals. Both had comfortable wins which took them into the semis where Jetha met Millie Noble and Eccles faced Isabella Turner-Samuels. Again, it was the favourites who triumphed to meet in the final which Jetha won 8, 4, 6 leaving Eccles in the silver medal position and Noble and Turner-Samuels taking home the bronze. Jetha went through the day without losing a game.



Sienna Jetha



Eva Eccles

Under 13 Boys' Doubles: 16 pairs in this event and the top four as expected, reached the semi-finals. It was Number 1 seeds Kacper Piwowar & Abraham Sellado who defeated Janak Shah & Nishil Shah whilst Number 2

seeds, brothers Hugo & Leo Nguyen, had a straightforward win over Max Radiven & Adam Alibhai. The final was a close run thing but went according to seeding with Piowar & Sellado taking the title 8, -9, 14, 10.



Abraham Sellado & Kacper Piowar



Sienna Jetha & Alisha Dutta

Under 13 Girls' Doubles: Eight pairs which saw the seemingly, unconquerable Sienna Jetha, with her partner, Alisha Dutta lift the trophy although the semi-final match against Alyssa Nguyen & Hannah Saunders was a close run thing they just crept past the post -10, 6, -9, 6, 6. Second seeds, Millie Noble & Melissa Withers, were the other finalists, they had a tough semi-final match against Eva Eccles & Isabella Turner-Samuels 12, 2, -4, -2, 7 but came through and so eventually took the silver medal.

Sunday, with only two events was a very short day particularly as there were only 23 boys and 24 girls who took part.

Under 11 Boys' Singles: Four groups with the top two from each group moving on to the quarter-finals saw all bar one of the top eight ranked players reach the knockout stage. It was top seed Pablo Ramirez Rioja who met third seed Teagan Khazal in the one semi-final whilst unseeded Nishil Shah met Lewis Wu in the other. Khazal, last year's winner, was determined not to relinquish the title and he defeated Rioja in a very close match 4, -10, 7, -7, 10. Wu, meanwhile, took his chance against Shah with a 1, 6, -12, 10 victory. The final was another five set match and it was Khazal who came out as champion -6, 4, 8, -5, 8. A long morning for him playing eight matches.



Lewis Wu, Teagan Khazal, Nishil Shah, Pablo Ramirez



Laura North, Alyssa Nguyen, Amber Lemmon, Cindy Xiao

Under 11 Girls' Singles: Four groups in this event too, with some lower ranked players making it through to the quarter-finals. It was an unlucky day for third seed, Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska, who did not make it out of her group. number 1 seed, Alyssa Nguyen progressed into the final with wins over Chloe Kniep and Amber Lemmon whilst unseeded Laura North played well to beat second seed Hannah Saunders 12, -7, 5, -6, 11 in the quarter-finals before defeating Cindy Xiao in her semi-final match. The final saw Nguyen take the title with a 4, 8, 7 victory. This meant all the young players from the Nguyen family took home medals, there must be something in the genes as their grandfather was England coach and men's team captain, Les Gresswell.

Celebrating 50 Years On

50 years ago, Ormesby Table Tennis Club achieved one of the best results in any tournament by an English team when they won the European Club Cup in May 1972. The club team consisted of England's top three players, two local lads – Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale – plus Trevor Taylor, who had moved to the area to be where the best practice was.

It was an outstanding achievement for Alan Ransome's team, whose players along the way beat some of the cream of Europe. In the second round they defeated KSC Maccabi Antwerp, Belgium by 5-0. The quarter-final match was a home fixture against the holders Spartacus Budapest and a close 5-3 resulted with Neale winning his three singles, Taylor won two with both Neale and Taylor winning against Istvan Jonyer.

The semi-final was against the Yugoslavian team of Olimpija Ljubljana and there was a 5-1 home win for Ormesby with opponents Edvard Vecko (Gorazd's father), Istvan Korpa and Uros Rak, Neale and Taylor with two wins and Jarvis with one.

The hardest matches of all were against Falkenbergs BTK of Sweden in a two-legged affair. Playing away on 27th April 1972 saw a crucial win for the England club by 6-3 with Stellan Bengtsson winning the three for the home side. Jarvis, Neale and Taylor all won their other two matches against Tommy Andersson and Anders Johansson. The team were definitely in the driving seat for the home fixture on 11th May. First up was Jarvis who had a 2-0 win against Andersson, next Neale beat Lars Nilsson, also in two straight and then the result of the competition when Taylor beat Bengtsson 14, 19. A three love lead on top of the first leg win put Ormesby in a more or less insurmountable position and so it proved as Neale then beat Andersson 2-0 before Jarvis had the only loss of the evening to Bengtsson with Taylor concluding with an emphatic 16, 17 win against Nilsson to give Ormesby the title.



Nicky Jarvis, Trevor Taylor, Mrs Nancy Roy Evans (ETTU Secretary General), Alan Ransome (Captain), Denis Neale

The anniversary was celebrated by the Ormesby Club on 7th May 2022 after the club's British League match against Ormeau, the resulting win gave Ormesby this season's Premier Division title. Attending the celebration were two of the players from that historic win in 1972, Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale, and enjoying the celebration were TTE President, Jill Parker, MBE, husband Don Parker, ETTU Secretary General Richard Scruton and numerous guests.



Chinese Diary by Nora Vint: Final Episode

Monday, 28th September 1959

Bill went to a meeting of the Table Tennis Committee, so I had the morning off!!

In the afternoon to the auditorium of the People's Congress Hall for the opening of the Celebrations. A most impressive building completed in ten months, seating 10,000 people with simultaneous translation in 12 languages for 7,000 seats, 4,000 of which were desks. 40,000 building workers had taken part in building this beautiful modern assembly hall and this meeting was the first event to be held in it. On the platform were 300 representatives of Government Departments, International organisations and Communist Parties from all over the world. In the front row sat the Chairman of the People's Republic of China, Premier Liu Shao-Chi, the Chairman of the Communist Party of China and the most loved man in China, Mao Tse-Tung, the Prime Minister, Premier Chou-en-lai, the Mayor of Peking, Mrs Sun-Yat-Sen, the Pandit Lama, Dr Ho Chin Minh and other dignitaries. During the afternoon 29 speakers brought messages from their various countries, and the speeches went on till 7.30pm. Decided to postpone our dinner and go to the Chinese ballet 'The Corsair' at the Chen Chow Theatre. Performed by the Peking School of Dancing, this was a delightful performance. Very young, but very accomplished dancers.

We had our supper when we got back to the hotel at the end of the performance. It must have been 10.30pm but the staff were still quite cheerfully serving food to anyone who came in!

Tuesday, 29th September 1959

Breakfast 7.30am. Left for Exhibition of Industrial Development at 8.30am. This was staged in the new Peking Exhibition Hall and displayed every subject of China's big leap forward in every field of industry. Saw the new Chinese car "The Red Flag" made in North East China. It was a large car holding six people including the driver and could rise to a speed of 100mph. Another car was called the 'Peking' and would be manufactured in Peking. Also some small 3-seater cars to be used as taxis etc., to replace the trike-shaw which at the moment is the most common form of transport. These little cars will be made in Shanghai. Another interesting exhibit was a seven diorama display of Post Office work. Learned that the Post Office are responsible for delivering newspapers. A prototype of a machine into which you put a coin and a newspaper was released was another interesting exhibit. Many interesting models and statistics showing rapid advance in many forms of industry and ways of life were well displayed. One of the best was a model of Peking as the city will be in years to come – with the buildings completed in cream and the ones to be built in white.

In the afternoon another session of the Congress in which 32 speakers brought messages. These included representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions (95,000,000 members), Chairman of the World Peace Council, the Women's Democratic Federation, World Federation of Democratic Youth, International Union of Students, International Association of Lawyers (D N Pritt). Every speaker coming to the rostrum was provided with a fresh cup of tea! Although some speeches lasted only 2-3 minutes and only about one speaker had a sip!

Within 15 minutes of the last speaker concluding, the Chairman of the People's Republic of China, Premier Liu Shao-Chi gave a vote of thanks to all foreign visitors, delegates and organisations for their encouraging messages. THREE HUNDRED bouquets were presented by 300 Young Pioneers who marched from the back of the auditorium to the platform, stood by the delegates and sang their hymn and the meeting was declared closed!! It was 6.15pm.

In the evening we went to the Palace of National Minorities to see a performance of classical music, songs and dances performed by members of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. (See programme).

Wednesday, 30th September 1959

Left hotel at 8.30am for picnic on the Great Wall of China. It was a beautifully warm sunny day and we had a lovely ride through the mountains to Badaling where we climbed 400 feet up the Great Wall. Originally it was 2,000 miles long and much of it still remains today. The spot where we climbed has been restored and is 70 feet high x 20 feet wide. Picnic lunch with Me and Mrs Chen Hsien and Nan Su, interpreters and drivers. A

grand 'do'. After lunch to the Underground Palace, the entrance to which had only been discovered within the last two years. Here Emperor Wan-Li, the 13th Emperor in the Ming Dynasty was buried with his first and second wives 90 feet below ground. The palace was built mostly of marble and many treasures buried with them had been recovered and were on show, including two Empresses headdresses. After the Ming tombs the Shih-Shan-Ling Reservoir and Dam. This took six months to complete and during the building period Chairman Mao-tse-tung, Premier Chou-en-lai and other government ministers all spent a week living, working and generally sharing their lot with the building workers on the dam. In the area are many buildings constructed by office workers who spend anything up to one month a year doing voluntary work building pig-pounds, planting trees, erecting canteens etc. Each government department or office has its own particular unit.

In the evening to the banquet!! Nearly 5,000 guests all seated at round tables enjoyed a magnificent feast of seventeen Chinese dishes together with wine. Overlooking the Banqueting Hall and stretching all around it was a balcony from which three orchestras played classical music during the evening. No top table as we know it in the West but VIP guests also sat at round tables for ten guests – the main one included Mao-tse-tung, Chou-en-lai, Lui Shao-Chi and Honoured Guest Comrade Khrushchev from the USSR. When the VIPs entered the hall they were applauded with the customary slow handclap and they themselves responded by clapping their hands as is customary everywhere in the country. Welcome speech was made by Chou-en-lai at the commencement of the banquet. Later President Khrushchev also spoke. The party at our table included World Table Tennis Champion, Jung-Kao-Tuan and two winners of the recently completed National Games Table Tennis Tournament, Wang Chuan-Yao and Miss Sun Mai-Ying. Each table carried out its own toasts and proceeding were closed at 8.30pm with Chou-en-lai toasting World Peace with the traditional Chinese words "Gan Bai" which translated means "Empty Glass".

When we returned to the hotel we discovered a surprise party had been prepared. Nancy had chanced to remark during the first week in Peking that it was her father's birthday on October 1 and our host had remembered this and bottles of wine and birthday cake were produced like magic. Two delightful gifts were given to her to take back to her parents. One an old man carrying a peach (a sign of longevity) and the other a silver pendant for her mother. Also present at the party was another guest to China, a Swedish journalist with whom we sat talking and singing until after midnight.

Thursday, 1st October 1959 – NATIONAL DAY!

All through the night participants were arriving in the City of Peking. Small groups with bands, large groups with bigger bands and mechanized transport trundled through the streets all night getting into position for the Big Parade. A gloriously sunny day greeted the 10th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China and with immaculate precision of organization which we had come to expect of the Chinese people the cars from the Sin Chow Hotel left at exactly 8.30am to process to the Square. It is hard to describe the scene. Massed in the Square were representatives of the Services, massed bands and thousands of young people holding paper flowers of many different colours with which they formed many different patterns. At precisely 10am the Ceremony of Reviewing the Troops commenced. Just above us on the Balcony of the Gate of Heavenly Peace were the VIPs including Khrushchev. After the Review of the Troops the parade led by the Army, Air Force, Navy and Mechanised Troops and followed by tableaux and pictures by children releasing white doves, balloons, Chinese lanterns and all carrying coloured flowers. For two hours the procession passed, factory workers, university students, middle school students, people's communes, folk dancers, sportsmen – altogether about half a million people took part in the amazing spectacle. It was carnival at its best. China was celebrating.

Back to the hotel for lunch at about 2pm. Then a rest and then to the fireworks. A violent thunderstorm broke about 5.30pm bringing vivid lightning and rain but the people celebrating were unperturbed and continued their singing and dancing. We had the honour to share the Balcony of the Gate of Heavenly Peace with the VIPs for the evening celebrations. We were overlooking the Square where thousands of people were singing and dancing in their own little groups. Fireworks filled the sky for miles around and we ate fruit and chocolates and drank tea and enjoyed ourselves. Immensely. Unfortunately rain forced us home by 10pm but it was an evening we shall never forget. Indeed a DAY we shall never forget.

Friday, 2nd October 1959

Roy and Nancy went to Agricultural Exhibition and the Station. Bill had meeting with Chen Hsien re visit of the Chinese Team to England. I tried to sort out the packing!! Chinese lunch with Chen and Kao. Then to the bazaar for the last piece of shopping and so to the traditional farewell supper. Held in a Mohammedon Restaurant in the back streets of Peking with food cooked by chefs who were once in the employ of the Emperor. The kitchen was in a courtyard and rooms arranged all around. We were greeted with the traditional cup of green tea and then came the most exquisite dishes imaginable – chicken, shark, mushrooms, kidney etc., - all leading up to the speciality of the restaurant which was thin slices of tender beef cooked on the table on a charcoal stove, then dipped in sauce and eaten (with chopsticks). After the meal had been cooked the shredded vegetables were then cooked in the juice – then the soup from all these ingredients was eaten! A most fascinating performance and a delicious meal! The evening, and our last night in China, concluded with the presentation of the most delightful gifts to all of us from our Chinese hosts. And, of course, a cup of green tea!

Saturday, 3rd October 1959

Up at 4am to get to the airport. Breakfast in the airport. Our flight took off at 6.30am and we waved goodbye to our wonderful Chinese hosts and to China.

We had a 12 hour flight to Moscow by jet plane in very good weather. Irkutsk and Omsk were very cold – and it was snowing in Moscow when we arrived. We put our watches back five hours and spent the remainder of Saturday and Sunday in Moscow in a temperature of 36 degrees! We were very tired and very cold but were compensated for these discomforts by a visit to the Bolshoi Theatre to see the ballet “Swan Lake”. Our Russian friends were extremely generous and kind to us.

Monday, 5th October 1959

Back to the sunshine and warmth of England – back to the evils (?) of the Western World – back HOME!

In three weeks we had travelled some 18,000 miles – we had made sixteen (or was it seventeen?) take-offs and the same number of landings – we had been half-way round the world in 23 days!



Bill and Nora Vint during their visit to China enjoying a toast with President Chou En-Lai in the Great Hall of the People in Peking

Commonwealth Games Qualifying Tournament

For the first time for some time there was a qualifying tournament for England places in a major tournament. This was held on 21st May 2022 behind closed doors. Four places in total in both the Men's and Women's squad were up for grabs.

Players in the top 100 in the World Ranking list were exempt from playing in the Qualifiers, so, Paul Drinkhall, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker and Tin-Tin Ho did not have to participate. Invitations were sent to the other top 10 players in England for the remaining one men's place and for the three women's places.

Both our National Champions, Tom Jarvis and Maria Tsapsinos, being outside the world top 100 had to play in the qualifiers much to their chagrin but both performed well and so will be at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham later this month. The remaining two female places went to Charlotte Bardsley and Mollie Patterson. It would have been Patterson's first senior cap and a big stage for her to gain her first colours and a place that was well deserved. However, the fates were against her and she subsequently suffered a shoulder injury which has put her out of the Games. She has been replaced by Emily Bolton. Let us hope Patterson returns to playing soon and that she is awarded her senior England cap in the future.



Paul Drinkhall, Tom Jarvis, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker



Charlotte Bardsley, Emily Bolton, Tin-Tin Ho, Mollie Patterson, Maria Tsapsinos

The players will be joined by para players Sue Bailey MBE, Daniel Bullen, Jack Hunter-Spivey, Fliss Pickard and Ross Wilson.

We wish them all a wonderful tournament.

Michael Loveder at the Commonwealth Games

One of England's best table tennis photographers, Michael Loveder, has been granted the privilege of accreditation at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. However, it is at Michael's own expense, estimated to be in the region of £3,000. Consequently, Michael has set up a Crowd Funder page to help offset some of the costs.

We are very appreciative of the use of Michael's photos – and all the other photographers – who let us use their images in our magazine at no charge. It would be a lot poorer without them.



If you feel you can help towards Michael's costs at the Commonwealth Games you can do so through his Crowd Funder page <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/table-tennis-at-the-commonwealth-games-birmingham>

English Leagues Cup Competitions (ELCC) Zonal Rounds and Finals

All Photos by John Upham

Zonal Rounds: The Zonal Rounds for the ELCC took place on 7th and 15th May 2022 in various parts of the country. 107 teams entered the four different events in the national inter league tournament: Wilmott Cup (senior men), J M Rose Bowl (senior women), Carter Cup (junior boys) and Bromfield Trophy (junior girls). These 107 were whittled down to 32 for the finals, eight for each competition.

Finals: A return to Draycott & Long Eaton Club after several years at Westfield TTC in Wellingborough saw some top-quality play. Saturday, 9th July 2022 saw the senior competitions with Stockton's team of Jack Ferguson, Joe Ferguson and Tom Rayner go home with the Wilmott Cup – the oldest domestic trophy in England - the first time this league had won the competition. They defeated Plymouth in the play-offs for first and second place by 3-2, Plymouth had previously won the trophy in 1987/88 and 2017/18. Leeds took the bronze over Wembley & Harrow with Norwich A in fifth place, Leamington in sixth, Guildford A and Guildford B finished equal seventh.

The J M Rose Bowl saw the successful Norwich team of Ella Barnard and former international, Lauren Charles (Lauren Spink), win the precious trophy with a 3-0 win over Liverpool in the first and second play-off places. A first time win for Norwich whilst Liverpool had won it twice previously in 2002/03 and 2005/06. Plymouth were this year's bronze medallists, Leicester fourth, Halton fifth, Worthing sixth and Wembley & Harrow seventh. Due to Covid the eighth team, Stockton, were unable to play.



*Wilmott Cup Champions Stockton
Joe Ferguson, Tom Rayner, Jack Ferguson*



*J M Rose Bowl Champions, Norwich
Ella Barnard, Lauren Charles*

Sunday was the turn of the juniors. The Carter Cup went to Plymouth with their team of Bailey Page, Olly Cornish and Herbie Sage who beat Birmingham, previous winners in 1966/67 and 2009/10, for first place. This was Plymouth's sixth win having previously been successful in 1995/96, 2002/03, 2005/06, 2008/09 and 2017/18. Nottingham were the bronze medallist having beaten Glossop in the third and fourth place play-off match whilst Wembley & Harrow A triumphed over their B team for fifth place with Norwich seventh and Southport eighth.

The Bromfield Trophy saw further success for Norwich with Ella Barnard winning her second event along with Eva Eccles. Halton were the runners-up with Derby third, Loughborough fourth, Plymouth fifth, Liverpool sixth, Great Yarmouth seventh and Luton eighth. It was the first time Norwich had won the trophy.



*Carter Cup Champions Plymouth
Olly Cornish, Bailey Page, Herbie Sage*



*Bromfield Trophy Champions Norwich
Eva Eccles, Ella Barnard*

What was Happening 70 Years Ago: 1952

- A New Year coaching course took place at Lilleshall with Jack Carrington as Chief Coach assisted by wife, Elsie, and Harry Venner. There were 35 attendees with another 36 turned away. Jack was later appointed National Coaching Director. There was further coaching by Jack and Elsie, in Sweden, where they ran two summer schools as well as other coaching sessions they left England on 11th August and returned via Denmark in mid-September. Harry Venner too was busy opening his Coaching School with Jackie Head in March 1952, at the YMCA Wimbledon.



Jack Carrington, Skane TTA Training Course

- There was huge success at the French Open in January as Richard Bergmann won the Men's Singles, Diane and Rosalind Rowe won the Women's Doubles and Ros beat her sister in the Women's Singles final. Brian Kennedy with Ros won the Mixed Doubles to make it a hat trick for Ros. The Men's Doubles went to Victor Barna and Frenchman, Michel Haguenaer. At the Netherlands Open it was a hat trick this time for Di, beating her twin sister in the Women's Singles final, winning the Women's Doubles with Ros and the Mixed with Rene Roothoft of France. Richard Bergmann added to his string of titles winning the Men's Singles.
- The first international match to include girls in a team was played against Wales on 11th January at Aberdare. Philomena Heppell, Jill Rook and Doreen Spooner were the female contingent while the boys were Cliff Booth, Ivor Jones and Bryan Merrett. England won 9-0. A further junior English international took place against Germany on 31st March at Clapham Baths with England winning 8-2, our team was David House, Billy Knight, Bryan Merrett, Jill Rook and Doreen Spooner. Another junior match against France played at Berck-Plage on 10th May was won 5-4.
- A mixed senior international took place on 19th January 1952 in Liverpool where 1,500 spectators saw a 7-2 win for England with Johnny Leach, Brian Kennedy, Bryan Merrett, Ken Stanley, Diane and Rosalind Rowe. England beat France on 8th May in Paris, and Belgium on 9th May in Brussels. More internationals in the autumn and winter as England met France on 25th November in Maidstone and another fixture against Wales on 4th December which England won 8-1.



Di Rowe and Kathy Best, World Championships, Bombay

- Table tennis was the first of any sport to hold a World Championships in Asia. The Championships were from 1st-10th February 1952 in Bombay. There were numerous other firsts: it was the first time a penhold player had won in the modern era, the first world champion to use sponge with a 'soft, spongy, aerated rubber about 5/16ths thick', Hiroji Satoh of Japan was also the first to win wearing glasses. It was the first time Japan had won any events and they did it in style with three individual golds and the Corbillon Cup. The use of sponge was a very big issue.

England's teams were: Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach, Aubrey Simons, Harry Venner and Kathy Best, Peggy Franks, Diane Rowe, Rosalind Rowe. Adrian Hayden was non-playing captain of both teams. Trials were held in which Harry Venner was described as being in brilliant form. In the Swaythling Cup England beat Germany, Cambodia, France, Japan, Portugal, India and Pakistan to finish top of their group but lost in the final by the closest of margins

to Hungary 5-4 after Aubrey Simons suffered an injury and had to concede a match. The Women's team beat Rumania, Hong Kong, India and Hungary but lost 3-0 to Japan and 3-1 to Austria; they finished joint second with Rumania. Richard Bergmann & Johnny Leach won a silver in the Men's Doubles and Victor Barna & Adrian Haydon were bronze medallists. Diane & Rosalind Rowe also got a silver in the Women's Doubles. The Mixed Doubles, too, saw England take another silver medal with Johnny Leach & Diane Rowe whilst Victor Barna & Ros Rowe received a bronze. Rosalind Rowe took home a bronze in the Women's Singles. Victor Barna defeated Adrian Hayden in the Jubilee Cup. An impressive haul and so very close to winning the coveted Swaythling Cup for the first time.

- The Table Tennis Federation of Asia was formed at the World Championships in Bombay with 12 countries joining.
- The ITTF's stated ethos was that table tennis is a "Sport which admits no distinction between class, creed or colour", this effectively solved the pro-am problem.
- The English Table Tennis Association's Patron, His Majesty King George VI, died on 6th February 1952. He had been Patron since 1937, a regular player at Buckingham Palace who had a table installed at Balmoral for Princess Elizabeth. As Queen Elizabeth II the royal patronage continued when she accepted the office of Patron in June.
- Diane and Rosalind Rowe give a special exhibition before the Swedish Royal Family at the Royal Palace, Stockholm. There is a good relationship with Sweden as their junior team toured England from 7th March to 1st April with a junior international played on 18th March in Hull which England won 5-2, Cliff Booth, Billy England and Bryan Merrett being the team.
- Richard Bergmann won the Men's Singles at the Jubilee English Open 25th-29th March, beating Johnny Leach in the final. Austrian, Linde Wertl, beat Ros Rowe in the Women's Singles. Di and Ros won the Women's Doubles beating Peggy Franks and Joyce Roberts in the all England final. Jill Rook won the Junior Girls Singles defeating Sharon Koehnke of the USA.
- Bill Stamp of Liverpool had conceived a plan for running a special train from Liverpool to Wembley for the English Open providing he could get enough interest from 300 fans; an instalment payment was to be set up to spread the cost.
- Ken Stanley was appointed the New Zealand official coach for six months from 1st April 1952; he visited 22 towns during his stay.
- To celebrate the ETTA's first 25 years there was a special lunch at 17/6d on 26th April, this was followed by the AGM and then a Silver Jubilee Celebration dance and social, tickets 3/6d. All took place at Caxton Hall, Westminster.
- Donations for the Bill Pope Memorial Chair were received and the chair and a framed portrait were presented to the Association at the AGM.
- The Wilmott Cup had 106 entries and the J M Rose Bowl had 68, teams included those from the Universities of London, Oxford and Cambridge. South London League won the Wilmott Cup for the



Richard Bergmann receiving the Men's Singles Trophy from Miss Florence Harbrough

third successive year with Ron Crayden, Jackie Head and Harry Venner beating the Staines team of Bernard Crouch, Jimmy Lowe and Michael Thornhill. All six players were England internationals. The J M Rose Bowl was won by West London with Dot Ellis, along with Di and Ros Rowe, the winning team, Bristol were the Runners-up with players Margaret Fry, Terry Pomroy and Joan Collier.



Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann in Kumamoto

- Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach started a six-month world tour on 4th May, going to France, Portugal, London, Pakistan, Karachi, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. There were two international matches against Japan which the pair won but they lost to Hong Kong.

- The need for a National Centre in Central London was considered a necessity.

- There were over 12,000 entries for the Daily Mirror National Table Tennis tournament when it closed on 29th September. Special full-time staff were used to work on handling the entries and sending out the first round draw.

- In the South London Open there were over 600 entries.

- Jimmy Mannooch led a team in a match against the inmates of Maidstone Prison in front of 150 prisoners.

- The Birmingham League with over 5,000 members celebrated its 30th anniversary.



Busy workers at the Daily Mirror, Bill Vint, Kathy Pegg, Di and Ros Rowe look on



Daisy Leach, Di Rowe, Johnny Leach and Ros Rowe on their way to Austria

- In November, Johnny Leach with Diane and Rosalind Rowe undertook a tour of Austria and Yugoslavia which included Opens of the two countries and three internationals. Richard Bergmann joined the group in Austria, Daisy Leach was also a member of the party. Perhaps, as expected Di & Ros won both Women's Doubles in the Austrian and Yugoslav Opens and Johnny Leach & Di won both Mixed Doubles beating Richard Bergmann & Ros on both occasions. Bergmann won the Men's Singles at the Yugoslav Open and Ros the Women's Singles in Austria. England's ladies won the international against Austria and it was further success against Yugoslavia in both the Men's and Women's international matches.

- The deaths were recorded of Herbert Anning Bennett, England international who played for England v Wales in 1923, and J Morris Rose, Vice-President, one of the founders of the ETTA who donated the J M Rose Bowl for the Women's Team competition in the National Team Championships. He was the referee at the 1948 World Championships, several English Opens and many other major tournaments.



J Morris Rose

WTT Feeder: Fremont, USA

5th-8th May 2022

All photos courtesy of WTT

Men's Singles: Tom Jarvis and David McBeath were the two England entries in this tournament. Jarvis (WR 247) had an amazing tournament to reach the final going through Kao Cheng-Ji of Taipei (no ranking), Harmmeet Desai, India (WR 122), Vincent Picard, France (WR 210), Marcelo Aguirre, Paraguay (WR 63) and in the semi-final Mizuki Oikawa of Japan (WR 234) before eventually succumbing to Hiroto Shinozuka of Japan (WR 88) in a closely fought final -8, 10, -6, 11, -2, 9, -3. David McBeath (WR 406) went out in the Round of 64 to Jordy Piccolin (WR 374). Jarvis's results meant he moved up the world ranking list by a considerable amount to just outside the top 100 when the next list was produced.



Tom Jarvis & David McBeath at the WTT Feeder, Fremont

Men's Doubles: Jarvis and McBeath teamed up in the Men's Doubles; they won their first qualifying round match against Wei Wang and Jihai Wang of the USA but went out in the next round to the Taipei pair, Kao Cheng-Hui and Chuang Chih-Yuan 3-1.

WTT Feeder: Westchester, USA

11th-15th May 2022

Not an auspicious tournament for the three Englishmen as Tom Jarvis & David McBeath lost their first match in the Men's Doubles to India's Kiranjoy Pushilal & Omkar Vaman Torgalkar in three straight.

In the Men's Singles, Paul Drinkhall was seeded 10 (WR 76), coming back from injury he didn't perform at his usual level and went out in his first round of 64 match to American, Jishan Liang (no ranking). Jarvis (WR 247) had to concede to Shunsuke Togami due to injury, whilst McBeath put up a good fight and had an excellent result versus Manav Vikash Thakkar of India (WR 115). Although trailing in the seventh end he got over the line after his third match point to win -8, 9, -4, 5, -3, 9, 9. Next up was Benedek Olah of Finland (WR 56) in the round of 32 but this time it was the Finn who succeeded 9, -5, 10, 5, 11.

WTT Contender: Zagreb, Croatia

13th-19th June 2022

Tom Jarvis (WR 101) was the only English player to participate in this event. He had a bye in the 1st Qualifying Round and met Mihai Bobocica (WR 169) of Italy in Round 2. It was the Italian who came away with the victory 5, 14, -9, 5, so short but not so sweet for Jarvis.

WTT Contender: Lima, Peru **14th-19th June 2022**

A long journey for Sam Walker (WR 89) and Liam Pitchford (WR 17). Walker had a bye in the first qualifying round, a 3-1 win against Carlos Ishida of Brazil (no ranking) but then he came up against Korean, Chen Chien-An (WR 171) and went down 7, 3, -14, 7. A tough draw for Walker against an opponent who had not so long ago been ranked 17 in the world. A win would have put him into the main draw.

Pitchford, ranked fifth in the tournament, met Japan's, Ryichi Yoshiyama (WR 667), who had come through the qualifying stages, in the Round of 32, his first match. As with Walker, it was not a successful outcome and Pitchford lost 9, -7, 9, 10.

It is worth making a comment about the revised World Ranking list which has resulted in drastic changes in ranking positions in many cases. It is not easy to understand, although one fact is that a player can no longer lose ranking points irrespective of who they lose to. It is how far a player gets in a tournament that is the deciding factor and with the top players automatically entering at the later stages there is a significant advantage to them – even if they lose every time in their first match.

WTT Feeder: Otocec, Slovenia **20th-26th June 2022**

Tom Jarvis, Shayan Siraj and Sam Walker were the three men to take part in this tournament. A first senior tournament for Siraj and although he lost in his 1st qualifying round to Choy Chun Kit of Hong Kong (WR 574) it would have been a good experience for him to partake on the senior stage at this level. Both Jarvis and Walker went out at the round of 64 to higher ranked opponents, Jarvis to Marcos Freitas, Portugal (WR 32) and Walker to Lubomir Jancarik, Czech Republic (WR 74).



Tom Jarvis



Sam Walker

Three women, also, were due to play but Mollie Patterson had to withdraw due to injury. Charlotte Bardsley and Maria Tsaptsinos both proceeded to the second qualifying round, Tsaptsinos (WR 424) with a bye and Bardsley (WR 510) by defeating Blazka Harkai, Slovenia (No ranking). The second qualifying round saw them both exit. Bardsley to higher ranked opponent Margo Degraef, Belgium (WR 361) and Tsaptsinos to Maria Yovkova, Bulgaria (no ranking).

The Men's Doubles saw better success as Jarvis & Walker won their round of 16 match against Alexander Chen & David Serdaroglu, Austria, by 3-2 but lost the quarter-final 3-1 against Chan Baldwin Ho Wah & Wong Chun Ting, Hong Kong.

The Women's Doubles saw a new partnership with Bardsley & Tsaptsinos pairing up but they lost their 1st qualifying round match to Slovaks, Dasa Sinkarova & Nikoleta Puchovanova 3-1.

Mixed Doubles and Walker & Tsaptsinos lost their first qualifying round to Norwegians, Borgar Haug & Rebekka Carlsen 3-2. Jarvis & Bardsley were more fortunate as they got a walk over in their first qualifying round and although they lost their second match to the Polish pair, Samuel Kulczycki & Katarzyna Wegrzyn, they went through into the main draw as lucky losers. In the round of 16 they were unable to get the result against the more experienced Lubomir Pitej & Barbara Balazova of Slovakia.



Tom Jarvis & Charlotte Bardsley

WTT Star Contender European Summer Series: Budapest, Hungary 11th-17th July 2022

Four Englishmen took part in this tournament in singles and doubles. Liam Pitchford (WR 18), Paul Drinkhall (WR 79), Sam Walker (WR 91) and Tom Jarvis (WR 102). Tin-Tin Ho (WR 145) was the sole representative on the distaff side.

In the Men's Singles Drinkhall and Walker both won their first qualifying round matches but Jarvis lost out to his higher ranked opponent, Cho Daeseong of South Korea (WR 89). Ho, too, lost her opening match to higher ranked Indian, Ayhika Mukherjee (WR 115) by 3-0.

The second qualifying round saw an excellent result for Drinkhall as he comfortably beat Liu Dingshuo of China (WR 48) 3-0 but Walker had a tough draw against Frenchman, Emmanuel Lebesson (WR 41), and went down 3-1. In the third qualifying round Drinkhall played Shunsuke Togami, Japan (WR 42), and again performed well for a 3-2 victory putting him through to the main draw at which stage Pitchford entered the fray.

So, on to the round of 64 where Drinkhall met Marcos Freitas of Portugal (WR 33) and Pitchford faced Tamas Lakatos of Hungary (WR 179), a fortunate draw against the home country player for Pitchford. Drinkhall was unable to get over the line against Freitas but Pitchford secured a win against Lakatos, -8, 6, -8, 3, 6, setting him up for a round of 32 match against Timo Boll (WR 12). That was as far as Pitchford went as he succumbed 3, 7, 7.



Paul Drinkhall



Liam Pitchford

A shock result for Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford in the Men's Doubles as they lost 3-1 to the young French brothers, Alexis & Felix LeBrun, in the first qualifying round. However, it proved a propitious result as the



Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford

French pair went on to face China's Ma Long & Wang Chuqin. The Englishmen progressed by good fortune as lucky losers and next met Wong Chun Ting & Ho Kwan Kit of Hong Kong whom they beat 3-2 in the round of 16 and so they progressed to a quarter-final match against Cho Seungmin & An Jaehyun of South Korea, again they won in 8, 8, 8. Moving on to the semi-finals where they met Chinese Liang Jingkun & Lin Gaoyuan but here their luck ran out losing -8, 8, 7, 6.

**WTT Champions European Summer Series: Budapest, Hungary
18th July- 23rd July 2022**

A tournament for the top 32 players in the world. Liam Pitchford (WR 18) was the only English player eligible to play and he lost his first match, round of 32, to German, Patrick Franziska (WR 13) -10, -6, 13, -8. Nevertheless, a good pay day for one match, taking home 4,250 US Dollars and also receiving 15 ranking points. The winners of the Men's and Women's Singles received 30,000 US Dollars and 1,000 ranking points. It was Tomokazu Harimoto, Japan, and Wang Manyu, China, who benefitted from the money and the points. Franaiska after defeating Pitchford went on to beat Ma Long before losing to Harimoto in the semi-finals.

**WTT Feeder European Summer Series: Budapest, Hungary
18th July- 22nd July 2022**

Running at the same time as the competition for the higher ranked players was the WTT Feeder tournament. Tom Jarvis (WR 102) was the sole Englishman whilst Tin-Tin Ho (WR 145) and Maria Tsaptsinos (WR 415) entered the Women's Singles with the ladies playing together in the Doubles.

Jarvis's first match, in the main draw, was against Indian, Manav Vikash Thakkar (WR 123), in the round of 64, a close match but one he just lost 6, -8, -7, -11, -9.

Tsaptsinos had to play in the qualifying draw and won her matches against Katerina Tomanovska, Czech Republic (WR 189) by -3, 8, 8, 9 and Chau Wing Sze of Hong Kong (WR 545) by 8, 9, -6, 6 to take her place alongside Ho in the main draw. Playing against Cheng Hsien-Tzu of Taipei (WR 130), Tsaptsinos lost -9, -5, -4, 5, -5. Ho, also, did not proceed past the round of 64 having a tough draw against the Number 2 seed, Kuai Man, China (WR 30) losing 6, 4, 5, 6.



Maria Tsaptsinos



Tin-Tin Ho

Tsaptsinos & Ho in the Women's Doubles also saw a loss at the first time of asking against the Germans, Chantal Mantz & Yuan Wan.

TTE Governance

Two appointed directors came to the end of their allotted time on the TTE Board, Tom Purcell and Simon Griew. One vacancy was filled by the Board with Richard Ayers being appointed. He is a Local League player in London who has a digital, data and commercial background. The other vacancy was held over until the result of the AGM vote on the proposed change in member elected directors was known.

TTE Conference and AGM

These were both held on Saturday, 16th July 2022 at Cranfield, Bedfordshire for those attending in person and by Zoom for those who wished to take advantage of this option. The Conference was in the morning and the AGM followed at 1.30pm.

Conference: This started with a welcome by the Chairman, Sandra Deaton. The Annual Review was then gone through and questions and queries raised. There was also the opportunity to note any inaccuracies or raise queries and put questions in writing to TTE by midday, Monday, 18th July.

Matters raised at the meeting were concern about the weight of number of veteran players as opposed to other categories, lack of link and information at Ping Pong Parlours with Local Leagues and clubs, succession planning, TT Kidz, how to convert social players into competitive players, a more promising performance at the European Youth Championships, lack of report on the Senior British League and no mention of forthcoming Commonwealth Games, request for more financial information as to what is ring fenced of Sport England money and what membership fees income is spent on, concern that junior players playing in WTT events are dependent upon parents' financial support and ability to pay rather than on talent – it should be the most talented players and not those with the richest parents.



Adrian Christy

The recently appointed CEO, Adrian Christy, then presented his vision of how he would like to see TTE develop in his Strategy Reset presentation. This covered strategy, finance and structure and will be presented to the Board for approval later in the summer. Some of the key themes were: why we do what we do, make evidence based decisions, concentrate on areas where a difference can be made, one size doesn't fit all. Some of the more controversial points were not putting table tennis into schools unless the schools are linked to a club, questioning why a player has to be a member in order to play, the need to remove barriers with the thought that as long as something is paid someone doesn't necessarily need to be a member to play competitively, the need for a national training centre. The big questions are - how these aims are to be achieved and where the money is going to come from. Other points were a change from 1st April 2023 in the way TTE will manage their own money and funded money, the structure to be led by capacity and the governance structure to be thinned.

At present there are 42 committees and the aim is to considerably reduce this number, although the CEO did say he didn't know what all the committees did. The present system will be replaced by a two tier system with advisory and standing committees with a Board Member chairing each of the advisory committees – Finance & Audit, Governance & Risk, Talent & Performance, Competition and Development, these to be supplemented by four Standing Committees – Nominations, HR, Disciplinary and Honours.

TTE AGM: A lengthy meeting lasting nearly six hours with most of the time taken with discussion on the 13 rule change propositions.

The meeting started with a minute's silence for table tennis members who had died over the past twelve months. This was followed by the report of the Standing Orders Committee's and the adoption of the Standing

Orders for the meeting and declaration of business interests. The minutes of last year's AGM were accepted with the amendments to add in the rule changes propositions in full and not just as a link to the TTE website which didn't work anyway - and to add in full the names of all those who had received honours and awards in 2021.

The main body of the meeting then commenced. Several rule change propositions were presented from the Board which had failed to pass last year but which had been amended this time around taking into account views expressed at last year's meeting.

The main propositions which were passed were increasing the number of member elected directors from three to four, that the Board's Nominations Committee would consider all member elected director applications and advise on those who met the requirements of the skills matrix but that all candidate's would be put to the membership, these were both passed. The proposition to increase affiliation fees to £18 for seniors and £9 for juniors for 2022/23 was also passed after discussion. The most contentious proposition was for the Board and not the AGM to set the affiliation fees from 2023 onwards. There was a lot of discussion on this as it was felt by a number of representatives that TTE is still a members' organisation and as such it should be the members who set the fees and that it was against the democracy of the Association for the Board to do so. Although a number of people were unhappy about the change, the potential stated loss of Sport England funding was considered too big a consideration not to agree to the change. It was said by the CEO that he would ensure there would be consultation with the membership about any future increases.

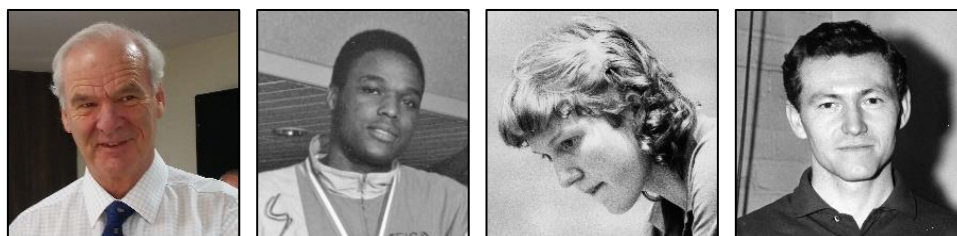
A National Council Governance Select Committee had been in force for a while and they put forward several resolutions following their conclusions. The first was that members should be considered as the key stakeholders, this was passed. The second of their proposals concerned volunteers and there was considerable disquiet about the number of opportunities which now exist for volunteers who have proven themselves to progress from club to league to county to national level, there was also concern about the loss of knowledgeable and experienced volunteers in recent years and a certain amount of lack of respect shown in some cases. The proposition was to increase the opportunities for volunteers and to better use the knowledge and experience of more senior volunteers. This was passed. The third proposition from this group was that it should be a requirement that staff, in particular senior staff in the most table tennis oriented departments, should have good table tennis knowledge and passion for the sport. This proposition failed as it was felt that although some knowledge and interest would be desirable it need not be essential. The last proposition by this group was withdrawn with the consent of the Chairman and in line with Standing Orders.

The 13th and final proposition was presented by Peter Charters and Jos Kelly. This was to dispense with the ITTF override for the TTE ranking lists for all age categories. The override can give preferential ranking to those who play in ITTF/WTT events as opposed to domestic competitions. With the current system a player who plays abroad and loses can end up ranked higher on the England ranking list than a player who wins against their compatriots in England. It is a severe disadvantage to several players, not only on their ranking on the England lists but also in obtaining sponsorship and with seeding at events. This has resulted in such anomalies as a junior boy with the second highest number of ranking points being fourth on the ranking list, the player with the third highest number of points being ranked 5th. It is even more anomalous in the Cadet Boys where one player who was ranked third had only the 13th highest number of ranking points.

This resolution was put as a special resolution but before discussion had begun the Board informed the meeting that legal advice had been taken and this resolution could only be considered as an ordinary resolution which would need 50% and not 75% of the votes to be passed, it also meant it would be advisory to the Board and not an instruction. The Standing Orders Committee had not been informed of the change, as is required, and after their deliberations it was stated that this change could not be made as it was against the AGM's Standing Orders. The Talent & Performance Committee had already said they will dispense with the override from next season for junior and cadet players but it was considered that it should apply fully to all age categories. With 70% voting in favour the proposition failed.

The financial report was presented and the reappointment of the auditors was confirmed. Rob Sinclair was added to Neil Le Milliere and David Hockney on the Standing Orders Committee and the best part of the meeting - the presentation of honours and awards – took place.

The highest honour of Honorary Life Member went to Estyn Williams, Chairman of National Council and Warwickshire. New Vice-Presidents were Skylet Andrew (former England international and Olympic Games player, National Doubles Champion), Alison Broe, nee Gordon (former England international and Olympic Games player, National Champion, coach), Ian Harrison (former England international player, the only player to hold both National and English Open titles at the same time), Harry Jutle (ITTF Blue Badge umpire, member of Technical Officials Committee), Noel Charles Sewell (National Councillor for Wiltshire), Brenda Stephenson (of the Ormesby Club), Sara Sutcliffe, MBE (former Chief Executive), Gorazd Vecko (British Para Table Tennis Association Performance Director). Lisa Lomas was also presented with her Vice-President’s badge from 2021.



Estyn Williams, Skylet Andrew, Alison Broe (Gordon), Ian Harrison



Harry Jutle, Noel Sewell, Sara Sutcliffe, MBE, Gorazd Vecko

Other awards were granted as follows: Keith Ponting President’s Memorial Trophy for Lifetime Achievement – Mike Holt, Malcolm Scott Award – Simon Griew, Ivor Montagu Award – Richard J Hudson, Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy – Stuart Seaholme, Hertfordshire, A K Vint, OBE Staff Award – Paul Stimpson, Victor Barna Award - the 2022 Paralympic Table Tennis squad, Special Awards for their contribution to the centenary book and other centenary projects went to Colin Clemett, Diane Webb and Victoria Weiglib.



Mike Holt, Simon Griew, Richard J Hudson, Paul Stimpson



Colin Clemett, Diane Webb, Victoria Weiglib

The meeting was then closed at around 7.15pm.

WTT Youth Contender: Berlin
16th-22nd May 2022
All photos courtesy of WTT

With the recent domestic successes of some of our younger players there were some different names taking part in this and several other WTT events.

U17 Boys' Singles: Group: Ralph Pattison
Round of 64: Felix Thomis
Round of 32: Larry Trumpauskas, Ben Piggott.

Trumpauskas (WR 362) had a good win in the round of 64 when he beat Austrian, Petr Hodina (WR 111) 3-1. Thomis had a tough draw in his round of 64 match facing Stepan Brhel of Czechoslovakia (WR 45) and only just lost 3-2.

U13 Boys' Singles: Group: Abraham Sellado came third from four, Sellado doesn't yet have a ranking and his one win was against Tien Nghia Phong of Germany (WR 499).

WTT Youth Contender: Wladyslawowo, Poland
16th -22nd May 2022

Only two girls played in this event, Evelyn Pace and Sienna Jetha. Pace (WR 246) was third in her group in the U19 Girls' Singles and so did not qualify for the knock-out rounds. In the U17 Girls' Singles she qualified in her group but went out in the first knock-out round, the round of 64 to Gaetane Bled of France (WR 80).

Sienna Jetha (WR 376) played in the younger age categories where she got through her group in the U15 Girls' Singles but lost in the round of 32 to Lena Gottschlich, Germany (no ranking). In the U13 Girls' Singles there were only 10 entries and the girls were put in three groups. Jetha came second in her group and progressed to the quarter-finals where she met Iarina Precup, Romania (no ranking) but lost 3-2.

WTT Youth Contender: Platja D'Aro, Girona, Spain
24th-30th May 2022

U19 Boys' Singles: Group: Krish Chotai, Ben Piggott, Louis Price, Felix Thomis

U19 Girls' Singles: Group: Scarlett Anders
Round of 64: Mari Baldwin



Scarlett Anders



Mari Baldwin

U17 Boys' Singles: Group: Krish Chotai, Joseph Dennison, Isaac Kingham, Jakub Piwowar
Round of 64: Larry Trumpauskas, Benjamin Piggott, Felix Thomis

U17 Girls' Singles: Group: Scarlett Anders

U15 Boys' Singles: Group: Joseph Dennison

Round of 64: Max Radiven, Kacper Piwowar, Abraham Sellado, Isaac Kingham, Adam Alibhai

Round of 32: Larry Trumpauskas

Round of 16: Jakub Piwowar



Jakub Piwowar

U15 Girls' Singles: Round of 32: Sienna Jetha

U13 Boys' Singles: Group: Adam Alibhai

Round of 32: Kacper Piwowar

Round of 16: Abraham Sellado, Max Radiven



Abraham Sellado



Max Radiven

U13 Girls' Singles: Quarter-final: Sienna Jetha (first knock-out round match)

WTT Youth Contender: Havirov, Czech Republic:

6th-12th June 2022

U19 Boys' Singles: Group: Max Stevens, Krish Chotai

Round of 64: Benjamin Piggott, Louis Price

U19 Girls' Singles: Group: Amy Marriott, Jasmin Wong, Rebecca Savage

U17 Boys' Singles: Group: Benjamin Piggott, Krish Chotai, Isaac Kingham

Round of 64: Jakub Piwowar

U17 Girls' Singles: Round of 64: Amy Marriott, Rebecca Savage

U15 Boys' Singles: Group: Max Radiven, Adam Alibhai

Round of 64: Jakub Piwowar, Isaac Kingham

U13 Boys' Singles: Group: Adam Alibhai

Round of 16 (first Round): Max Radiven

There were some very small entries in some events, seven in the U11 Girls' Singles with three from the Ukraine and four from the Czech Republic and six in the U11 Boys' Singles with four from the Czech Republic, one from Spain and one from India. It makes it questionable as to the value and the viability of running these categories and whether the ranking list gives a true representation of ability. The list favours those countries who contribute significantly towards their players' costs and/or whose parents pay for their children or those who receive significant sponsorship.

Another issue is that players can have the same ranking points but are given different ranking positions as every player is given a unique ranking number, so if twenty players have the same points there will be a range difference of twenty places.

* * *

ITTF World Championships Chengdu, China: 30th September-9th October 2022

It will be four years since an ITTF Team World Championships have taken place as the one planned in 2022 in Busan, Republic of Korea, was cancelled due to Covid-19.

This time around there will be 40 Men's and 40 Women's Teams participating. In both events there will be eight groups of five teams with the winners and runners-up in each group going through to the knock-out stages. There will be no Russian or Belarusian teams.

England's Men are world ranked 8th and so qualify under the Continental Stage criteria which allows 11 teams from Europe. They are currently third in Europe behind Germany and Sweden.

However, the Women's Team will not be going to China. They are world ranked at 62nd as at July 2022, sandwiched between Uganda and Congo Brazzaville. A big disappointment when it is considered there will be teams from such countries as Vanuatu (WR 35th), Mauritius (WR 43rd), Fiji Islands of (WR 46th) and Iran (WR 47th).

* * *

Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Paris, France: 26th July-11th August 2024 & 28th August-8th September 2024

Although it is still two years away, that time will disappear very quickly. As in the last Olympic Games in Tokyo there will be five events in Paris - Men's Team, Women's Team, Men's Singles, Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles.

It will be 12 years since the Games were last held in Europe when Great Britain hosted in 2012. For those of us who experienced that wonderful occasion and visited not only table tennis and para table tennis but many sports, with Paris so accessible there must be many who are looking forward to once again seeing the best in the world perform.

Maybe see you there!

European Veterans' Championships (EVC) 27th June-2nd July 2022: Rimini, Italy

There were 123 English players who entered these championships along with several accompanying persons making it a good contingent who went to Rimini.



Some of the English contingent. Photo by Pawel Meryn

It was a real pleasure to catch up with so many friends, home and abroad, after such a long time away from the circuit. We were delighted, too, at the number of medals won by English players from the 3,500+ entry.

Simon Heaps was the first English medallist, winning gold in the Para Men's Singles Over 40 Class 1-5, it was the first time a dedicated para event was run. It made Heaps a double European medallist - 51 years since his first win in the Cadet Boys' Singles at the European Youth Championships in 1971. Although not entered in the Men's Doubles, Heaps was allowed to play in the Consolation event if he found someone to play with. Photographer, Pawel Meryn, stepped up and the two played in the Over 40s. A first time for Pawel to play with a wheelchair player and as the rules are different in several respects, including not having to hit the ball alternately, it took some adjusting too. They didn't win but at least it gave them both another game. Shortly after the EVC, Heaps went on to play at the Para tournament in Buenos Aires, Argentina where he picked up a silver medal in the Men's Class 5 Singles.



Simon Heaps. Photo by Pawel Meryn



Simon Heaps & Pawel Meryn (from Pawel's camera)

Betty Bird, who first played for England in 1954, flew in from Australia, to win a gold in the Over 85 Women's Doubles with Marianne Blasberg of Germany and a silver in the Over 85 Women's Singles, just pipped at the post 11-9 in the fifth by her doubles partner.



*Betty Bird Betty Bird & Marianne Blasberg
Both Photos by Pawel Meryn*

Sally Bax stood at the top of the podium as well, in the Over 80 Women's Singles, with an excellent 3-2 win over Michelle De Santa Barbara of France in a closely fought final finishing with an 11-9 fifth game triumph. Bax with Margaret Dignum also took home a silver medal in the Over 80 Women's Doubles.



*Sally Bax Margaret Dignum & Sally Bax.
Both photos by Mike Rhodes*

Margaret Welsman had a brilliant tournament to get to the final of the Over 75 Women's Singles where she won the silver medal whilst Lorestas Trumpauskas with his Latvian partner, Sandijs Vasiljevs, had a comfortable win in the in the Over 50 Men's Doubles final to take the gold.



Margaret Welsman. Photo by Mike Rhodes Sandijs Vasiljevs & Lorestas Trumpauskas. Photo by Diane Webb

Bronze medals went to Audrey Robinson (WS 85), Audrey Robinson & Pam Butcher (WD 85), Marjorie Dawson & Di Pearce (WD 70), Phil Cawser & Raymond Hurst (MD 65), Carol Eckersley & Helen Shields (WD 65), Paul Giles & Paul Whiting (MD 60). Dawson and Pearce could, maybe, have gone farther but Pearce had to withdraw as she became ill with Covid during the tournament. An injury to Paul Giles in his semi-final match with Paul Whiting hampered their progression, the semi-final match was one of the highlights of the tournament with some superb and superbly entertaining play.



Audrey Robinson



Pam Butcher & Audrey Robinson

Both Photos by Mike Rhodes



Diane Pearce & Marjorie Dawson



Phil Cawser & Raymond Hurst

Both photos by Mike Rhodes



Helen Shields & Carol Eckersley. By Diane Webb



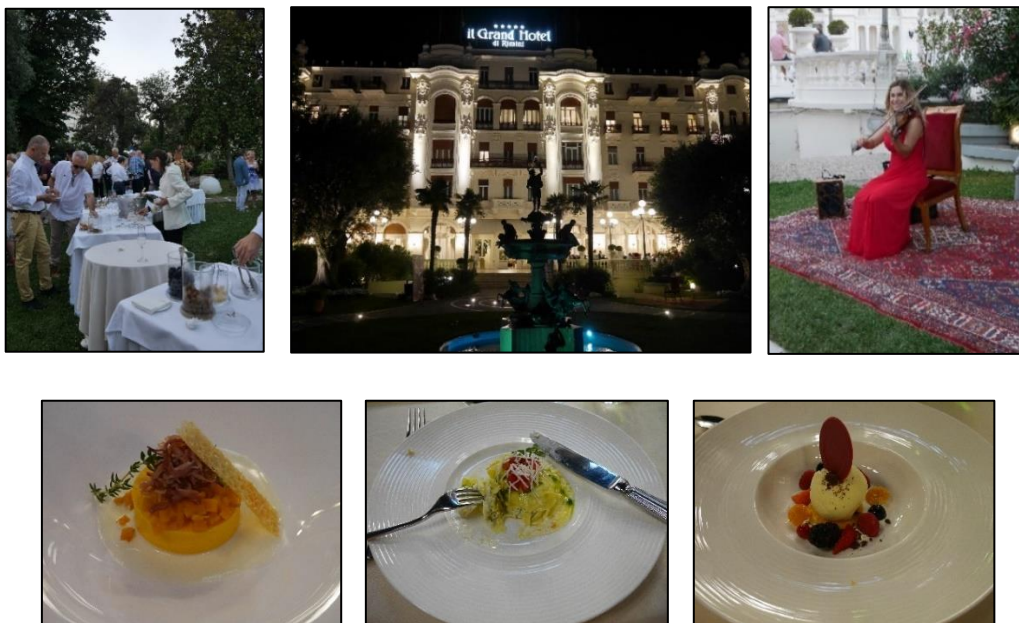
Paul Giles & Paul Whiting. Photo by Pawel Meryn

In the Consolation events Marjorie Dawson took gold in the WS 70, John Poysden silver in the MS 65, Marilyn Bawden & Linda Simpson silver in the WD 65. Bronze medals went to Phong Luong with German Anit Deb (MD 40) and Bill Grant & David Rayner (MD 65).

The tournament was generally well run and apart from the transport there appeared no major problems.

Wednesday was the free day and many took themselves to San Marino which was an hour's journey out of Rimini, others took the chance to wander around the streets of Rimini or visit the marina whilst the die-hards went to the venue and the practice hall.

Wednesday evening saw the gala dinner which Harvey and I attended. It was fabulous. Set in the grounds of the majestic Grand Hotel there were drinks in the gardens before a beautifully presented dinner on the terrace where we were royally entertained by a charming violin player throughout the evening. Certainly, the highlight of the whole trip.



Many of the English contingent went to the alternative ‘Colourful Quiz Night’ run by Ritchie and Susie Venner held at the Rose and Crown, the oldest British pub in Rimini. Over 70 contestants making up 12 teams competed for the honour of becoming champion and the title went to ‘Four Candles’ (shows it was a veterans event!) led by Peter Bartram. Friday evening saw the farewell beach party but Harvey and I decided to give that one a miss and had a very pleasant evening having dinner with a few friends instead.

If you think you have had a bad day!

Travelling by train always has its hazards but getting to Rimini seemed to stretch the bounds somewhat. Having planned to leave England by Eurostar, the train strikes left it uncertain as to whether we could get to London or if the Eurostar would run. Deciding we didn’t want to get stranded in London we opted to get the ferry from Dover instead – which meant getting to Dover before we had to leave. Getting to Dover caused the first problem when our first train to Hastings was cancelled, signal failure, and so it meant a taxi for leg one.

The crossing to France was smooth but problem two was getting off the ferry, a new skywalk and new crew weren’t compatible and so we had to wait until all the vehicles had disembarked before we could get off, it took an hour and a half from when the ferry docked until we reached Calais town centre, bang went that nice French lunch we had been planning and were left with a rather tasteless sandwich at the station. Got to Paris, stayed overnight and then a seven-hour journey to Milan. No taxis at the station, waited, still no taxis, eventually, after over half an hour we were told they were on strike. Phoned the hotel who told us how to get there via Metro, carted bags and cases down several flights of stairs, managed to thwart some pick pockets.

Lovey day at Lake Como, not so good in Milan, hideously overcharged for meals, still no taxis three days later. Arrived in Rimini on 24th July and we were met by the shuttle bus which took us to the venue for accreditation and then onto our hotel – right name, wrong town! It took 65 euros and five hours from leaving the station to get us to our proper hotel, we missed the opening ceremony which we had been told was the best yet.

Going home, train delayed to Milan, our connection to Basel was held for us but a five-minute dash to catch it and then the train to Paris was delayed en route due to a car broken down on a crossing, arriving in Paris we had fifteen minutes to get from Gare de Lyon to Gare de Nord, taxi driver made it with seconds to spare. Glad to be back in England – eventually!

European Youth Championships 6th-15th July 2022: Belgrade, Serbia All photos courtesy of the ETTU

A full squad was selected for this prestigious and long running tournament. The first event was held in 1955 in Stuttgart, Germany and was retrospectively named the European Youth Championships. England did well in that first tournament when they won gold in the Junior Girls' Doubles with Wendy Bates and Joyce Fielder. The Junior Boys' Team reached the semi-final with Derek Backhouse, Terry Densham and Laurie Landry in the team. There were just five events: Junior Boys' Team, Junior Boys' Singles, Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Singles and Junior Girls' Doubles.

Nowadays it is probably the most demanding international tournament our juniors and cadets play in stretching over ten days of intense competition so not only a challenge of skill but of endurance as well.

All four teams were placed in the second tier of knock-out groups with three of the teams gaining a place in the top 16 in the knock-out stages.

Junior Boys Team: Connor Green, Ben Piggott, Louis Price and Felix Thomis were the four English players and they finished 16th overall with wins in the group matches against Lithuania and Latvia both 3-0. The play-off match to decide if they went forward into the top 16 or the bottom 16 was against Portugal and the lads did well to win 3-2. Next up was France with a 3-0 loss followed by another loss, 3-1, to Sweden. There was no joy against the Czech Republic either, another 3-0 defeat and their last match against Netherlands to decide 15th/16th place also resulted in a loss 3-1. Green won 5, lost 5, Piggott won 2, lost 2, Price won 2, lost 5 and Thomis won 2, lost 2.



Felix Thomis



Connor Green



Louis Price

Junior Girls' Team: Going one better than the boys', Mari Baldwin, Amy Marriott, Anaya Patel and Jasmin Wong, finished in 15th place with group wins over Bosnia-Herzegovina 3-0, Iceland 3-0 and Finland 3-1. Their play-off match to compete for a top 16 place was against Hungary which was won 3-2, the girls then faced Sweden. A first defeat for them as they lost 3-0 with a similar scoreline against Portugal in their next match, followed by a 3-1 loss to Lithuania but they finished on a high note with a 3-2 result against Serbia. Baldwin won 6, lost 5, Marriott won 2, lost 1, Patel won 2, lost 3 and Wong won 6, lost 5.



Mari Baldwin



Jasmin Wong



Anaya Patel

Cadet Boys' Team: The best result of the England teams as Ralph Pattison, Jakub Piwowar and Larry Trumpauskas had an excellent tournament to finish 11th. A different format for the cadets compared to the juniors, the latter playing five singles whilst the cadets played four singles and a doubles. Group stage wins over Serbia, 3-2 and Luxembourg 3-0 put the team in the play-off match to decide if they would compete for one of the top 16 places. An emphatic result against Turkey 3-0 achieved that. Meeting Hungary in their next match the boys suffered their first loss, 3-0, but had a more successful encounter against Belgium, 3-0, which gave them a chance to finish as high as ninth. However, Germany were up next and proved too strong winning 3-1. England's last match against Spain was not played and so the two teams finished 11th=. Pattison won 4, lost 1, Piwowar won 2, lost 1, Trumpauskas won 4, lost 3, Pattison & Piwowar won 0, lost 3 and Piwowar & Trumpauskas won 3, lost 0.



Ralph Pattison



Larry Trumpauskas

Cadet Girls' Team: Maliha Baig, Sienna Jetha and Ella Pashley failed to progress to the higher tier of the competition although they beat Norway 3-0 in their group, they went down to Moldova 3-1 and Italy 3-2. The second stage of matches for 25th to 30th position was also played as a group and England did well with four wins - Montenegro 3-0, Estonia 3-1, Switzerland 3-1 and Norway 3-0. However, with one loss to Sweden 3-1 they finished in 26th place. Baig won 3, lost 2, Jetha won 7, lost 5, Pashley won 3, lost 2, Baig & Jetha won 1, lost 1 and Jetha & Pashley won 5, lost 1.



Ella Pashley

Singles: None of the players got past the Round of 64 in any of the four events and only five players got this far, Connor Green, Jasmin Wong, Jakub Piwowar, Larry Trumpauskas and Sienna Jetha.

Doubles: Larry Trumpauskas is certainly a player who has come into his own this year and his success continued as he reached the quarter-finals of the Cadet Boys' Doubles with Swede, Noa Dahlstrom, the best result by any English player, nearly but not quite on the rostrum. The round of 16 saw Ralph Pattison & Jakub Piwowar, Maliha Baig & Ella Pashley, Sienna Jetha & Hannah Silcock (Jersey) and Jakub Piwowar and Kendra Molnar (Hungary) all reach this stage.

All in all, a better performance from the young players and five years since a quarter-final place was reached when Tom Jarvis reached that stage in the Junior Boys' Singles. The Junior Girls' Team and the Cadet Boys' Team will be in the top tier next season after their good results this year. The Junior Boys' Team just missed out on a top tier place as they finished in 16th position. There were several very impressive performances from some of our players and the future looks more promising than it has for some time.

Forthcoming Events



The biggest event in England for a number of years is the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in and around Birmingham from 29th July to 8th August. With 26 sports there is something for everyone. Tickets are still available and refreshingly there are no fees when you buy tickets.

Several events are free including the Triathlon and Para Triathlon which is being held in Sutton Park. For those of you who haven't visited, the park is well worth going to and where Diane spent many happy hours when she was younger, Sutton Coldfield being her home town. The Commonwealth Games website gives loads of details of where and when all events are taking place.

We not only wish all participants well, table tennis and otherwise, but also Paul Stimpson, TTE's Communications Officer, who has been appointed as a Press Officer at the Games and Michael Loveder who has been given accreditation as a photographer, we look forward to seeing some of his images in our next issue.

Domestic Events:

Crawley Grand Prix: 17th-18th September 2022

Preston Grand Prix: 5th-6th November 2022

National Championships Qualifiers: 7th-8th January 2023, Nottingham

Wolverhampton Grand Prix: 18th-19th March 2023

National Championships: 24th-26th March 2023, Nottingham

International Events:

Commonwealth Games: 29th July-8th August 2022, Birmingham

European Championships: 13th-21st August 2022, Munich, Germany

U21 European Championships: 14th-18th September 2022, Cluj Napoca, Romania

World Championships: 30th September-9th October 2022, Chengdu, China (changed from May 2022)

Europe Youth Top 10: 30th September-2nd October 2022, Tours, France

ITTF World Youth Championships: 5th-11th December 2022, Tunis

Europe Top 16 Cup: 25th-26th February 2023, TBC

There are also several World Table Tennis events.

Veterans Events:

World Veteran Championships: 15th-21st January 2023, Muscat, Oman

European Veteran Championships: 26th June-1st July 2023, Sandefjord, Norway

Entries are open for both Veteran Championships (over 40s). More details can be found on the VETTS website.

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