



# Table Tennis Times

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

**Issue 26**

**Editorial**

**Spring 2022**

There really is only one place to start this edition and that is to express our solidarity with the table tennis players and indeed every citizen of the Ukraine. I am sure we all have our own thoughts on what the war is about, how it started, and what will be the outcome but there can be no doubt that the human cost is unacceptable.

We apologise that this issue is a little late. We both attended the TTE Centenary Gala Dinner where Diane picked up Covid-19. Somewhat inevitably, I picked it up from her just as she was getting better. I am happy to say I only had the mild version although Diane took longer to recover from the effects. It meant that our plans for this issue were put back but we hope it is worth the wait.

In this edition is a comprehensive report on the National Championships, the continuing Ken & Karenza Mathews story, an article on the Centenary Gala Dinner with some excellent photographs of people dressed for the occasion instead of in tracksuits – even Cliff Carder wore a proper shirt!

There are also reports from the Cadet National Cup, the Europe Top 16 as well as some WTT and domestic events.

Part 3 of Nora Vint's Chinese Diary is a further brilliant insight into 1950's China.

Our usual features, 'What Was Happening' looks at 1987 and 'In Memoriam' remembers two Sussex stalwarts, Derek Bunday and Colin Hyland, who have recently died.

Our three main photographers, Michael Loveder, Alan Man and Mike Rhodes were all at the National Championships and we express our thanks to them and all others for the use of their images.

So, another edition is completed and we sincerely hope it gives you some enjoyment as spring seems to be properly here, and the weather a little milder.

Best wishes  
Diane and Harvey Webb

## National Championships Qualification Tournament

It is two years since the last Qualification Tournament for the National Championships took place and the action this year was at the University of Nottingham from 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

There was a good entry of 114 in the Men's Singles with inevitably fewer in the Women's Singles at 37. The top 14 in each event were to go through to the finals weekend. There were large groups in both the Men's and Women's Singles which were played on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022, with the top 32 men and women going through from the groups to the knock-out stage on the Sunday.

The top 16 players in the national rankings did not have to take part in the tournament as they automatically qualified due to their ranking. However, as the ranking list for the Qualification Tournament is different to that for the National Championships, if a player moves out of the top 16 between the two events he or she could be disbarred from playing in the Finals. As well as those from the ranking list and those who qualify from this tournament, two wild cards are to be given in each of the Men's and Women's Singles making 32 in total for the finals in the two main events.

The number 1 men's seed was Andrew Baggaley. As Baggaley had dropped off the ranking list, he had to play in order to be able to enter the main event and have a shot at regaining his title.

### Saturday:

**Men's Singles:** Most of the top ranked players' results were according to ranking although inevitably there were a few surprises. At the group stage the two most notable players who went out were Jack Bennett, seeded 4, and Alim Hirji, seeded 10. Conversely, there were some excellent and surprising results from some junior players – Joseph Hunter, Krish Chotai and Aaron Geung all ranked last in their respective groups went on to the knockout stage, Chotai beating Jack Bennett and Hunter defeated both Ethan Walsh and Will Bayley. There were a few absentees with the most prominent being Sam Wilson, seeded 2, which left his group wide open.



*Joseph Hunter by Alan Man*



*Krish Chotai by Alan Man*



*Aaron Geung by Mike Rhodes*

**Women's Singles:** With a much smaller entry than the men and only 34 on the day competing for 32 knock-out round places, all who played on Saturday bar two went through to the next stage. There were five groups and ten seeds and so plenty of matches for the ladies.

The top seed was Scarlett Anders who was ranked 11 on the England Women's list and so automatically had qualified for the finals anyway.

### Sunday:

**Men's Singles:** As could maybe have been predicted, it was Andrew Baggaley who won the day and the Qualifying Tournament, dropping only three games all weekend. Baggaley defeated Connor Green in the battle for first and second place.

The three youngsters who had played so well on Saturday also went through to the finals. The seeds took rather a battering with only five of the 16 making it through; the seeded players who missed out were Gabriel Achampong seeded 3, Joe Cope seeded 5, Ethan Walsh seeded 6, Joshua Weatherby seeded 8, Rhys

Davies seeded 9, Umair Mauthoor seeded 12, Naphat Boonyaprapa seeded 13 and Shaquille Webb-Dixon seeded 14.



*Andrew Baggaley by Alan Man*



*Connor Green by Alan Man*

The 14 qualifying for the finals in order of their final position were:

Andrew Baggaley, Connor Green, Graeme Barella, Toby Ellis, Shayan Siraj, Ben Piggott, Krish Chotai, Oliver Cornish, David Gofton, James Hamblett, Naphong Boonyaprapa, Howard Onweng, Joseph Hunter, Aaron Geung. Felix Thomas was the first reserve.

**Women's Singles:** The Women's seeds fared better than the men although of the ten seeds, three failed to qualify for the finals, they were Gemma Kerr seeded 4, Sara Williams seeded 5 and Mya Sultan seeded 7.

It was the number 1 seed, Scarlett Anders, who triumphed over Millie Rogove, seeded 2, to top the list of players who made it through to the National Championships finals.



*Scarlett Anders by Alan Man*



*Millie Rogove by Mike Rhodes*

The qualifiers in order of placings:

Scarlett Anders, Millie Rogove, Bethany Ellis, Lisa Rinnhofer, Erin Green, Stefania Popa, Amy Marriott, Charlotte Weatherby, Rebecca Savage, Megan Jones, Jodie Morris, Isabelle Lacorte, Anna Green, Rachel Iles.

Evelyn Pace and Eve Witterick were placed 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> and so will be able to go to the finals if there are any available spaces.

Congratulations to all who qualified. It will be interesting to see how some of the younger and lower ranked players fare at the main event which for many will be the first time they have played in the major TTE event each season.

## National Championships

A welcome return to Nottingham for the National Championships, last held here in 2020. Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 9am was when the first balls were hit in the group stages of the Under 21 Men's and Women's events.

There was a big disappointment for Paul Drinkhall who was unable to play due to injury and tough on David McBeath who he was due to partner in the Men's Doubles. It would have given Drinkhall the chance to win his seventh Men's Singles title, 13<sup>th</sup> Men's Doubles title and 24 titles in total. He is already the second most decorated player after Desmond Douglas and it would have taken him one step closer to Des's total of 11, 15 and 30. Liam Pitchford was also absent as he chose to play in the WTT event in Doha which was on at the same time. Very disappointing that WTT decided to stage a major event on the same weekend designated by the ETTU for European Associations to hold their domestic National Championships and surprising that the ITTF ratified the decision. It gave most European top players a difficult choice to make.

**Under 21 Men's Singles:** A restricted field of 16 players saw an emphatic win for 20-year-old Shayan Siraj, the number 2 seed, over 17-year-old Louis Price, seeded 3, by 6, 7, 5 in the final. A new champion and a well-deserved title but credit too to Price, who is honing his craft in Germany and has several more years to go in this event.

Connor Green at number 1 went out in his first match, ie Round of 16, to Rhys Davies and it was Davies along with Joe Cope who were the two semi-finalists.



*Shayan Siraj by Mike Rhodes*



*Louis Price by Alan Man*

**Under 21 Women's Singles:** As with the Under 21 Men there were 16 players in this event and like the men it was the number 2 seed, 19-year-old Charlotte Bardsley, who triumphed in the final, overcoming Mollie Patterson, also aged 19, with a score of 6, -6, 7, 5. Bardsley had beaten Mari Baldwin in her semi-final and Patterson, also a finalist in 2020, defeated the number 1 seed, Denise Payet, in her semi-final match. Another new name on the trophy.



*Charlotte Bardsley by Mike Rhodes*



*Mollie Patterson by Mike Rhodes*

**Mixed Doubles:** Friday also saw the Mixed Doubles played to a conclusion and Sam Walker & Maria Tsaptsinos justified their number 1 seeding, only dropping one game to hold the cup aloft, the first time they had played together and the first time Tsaptsinos had won this title; Walker was a four times winner having previously won with Tin-Tin Ho. Walker & Tsaptsinos beat Josh Bennett & Lois Peake 4, 3, 3 in the final; the Sussex duo had played exceptionally well to defeat number 2 seeds, David McBeath & Ho, in their semi-final match. Naphong Boonyaprapa & Millie Rogove were the other losing semi-finalists.

A great pity that the doubles semi-finalists in all events no longer receive medals. For some players it will be their greatest playing achievement but they will have no permanent reminder of it.



*Runners-up Josh Bennett & Lois Peake with Champions Maria Tsaptsinos & Sam Walker  
Photo by Mike Rhodes*

**Men's Doubles:** As the number 1 seeds Drinkhall & McBeath had to withdraw, the top half of this event was wide open and Chris Doran & Joe Cope took full advantage. Doran was the only player playing to have previously won the Men's Doubles title along with Danny Reed, 11 years ago in 2011. He also has two silver Men's Doubles medals and two bronze and three silver in the Mixed Doubles to go alongside four bronze – so quite a formidable doubles player.

Jarvis & Walker had a relatively comfortable route to the final but they had to fight to take the title in that match with great credit going to Doran & Cope who nearly created one of the big upsets of the weekend. Final score 5, -9, -9, 2, 5: Walker & Jarvis, two new names for this trophy. Semi-finalists were Ben Piggott & Graeme Barella and Josh Bennett & Shayan Siraj.



*Men's Doubles Runners-up Joe Cope & Chris Doran with Champions Tom Jarvis & Sam Walker  
Photo by Alan Man*

**Women's Doubles:** 15 entrants in the Women's Doubles and as expected Ho & Tsaptsinos, seeded number 1, comfortably took the title with Bardsley & Emily Bolton the runners-up, score 6, -6, 6, 6 in the final. Patterson & Peake and Payet & Jasmin Wong were the losing semi-finalists.



*Runners-up Emily Bolton & Charlotte Bardsley with Champions Tin-Tin Ho & Maria Tsaptsinos  
Photo by Alan Man*

**Women's Singles:** The eight seeds all reached their allotted places in the quarter-finals where Mari Baldwin had to face Tin-Tin Ho as she had back in the final in 2020. Denise Payet took on Lois Peake while Charlotte Bardsley faced Emily Bolton. Finally, Mollie Patterson met number 2 seed, Maria Tsaptsinos. It was the top four seeds who prevailed all with a 4-1 scoreline. So, the semi-final matches were Ho v Payet and Tsaptsinos v Bardsley.



*Women's Singles Semi-finalists Denise Payet and Charlotte Bardsley  
Both photos by Alan Man*

Again, the seeding proved to be the indicator as Ho and Tsaptsinos met in another final. It had been three years since they had faced each other and on that occasion it was Tsaptsinos who was the victor and so it was once again as she became the Women's Singles Champion for the second time with a straight 4-0 result.



*Women's Singles Champion Maria Tsaptsinos by Michael Loveder and Runner-up Tin-Tin Ho by Mike Rhodes*

**Men's Singles:** This was going to be an interesting event. There were some old familiar faces taking part. After a number of years' absence it was a pleasure to see Andrew Baggaley, the only player to compete who had previously won the title and that was way back in 2010, with no-one except Drinkhall or Pitchford having won it since then. Top player Darius Knight also hadn't played for several years so it was good to see him once more playing in his National Championships. The big question on everyone's lips was whether a new name would be on the trophy and if so, who?

The quarter-finals saw Louis Price (ranked 17) up against Sam Walker (ranked 1), wild card, Gabriel Achampong against Andrew Baggaley, Connor Green facing David McBeath and Shayan Siraj against Tom Jarvis. In all cases it was the higher ranked player who triumphed. There was a buzz of expectation around the playing hall as Sam Walker faced Andrew Baggaley in one semi-final. They had last met at the excellent Heritage Oil Open in the BT Studios at the Olympic Park in 2014, a tournament Walker won despite being ranked at 13. This time Walker was the higher ranked player and he made the win look easy giving him his fourth Men's Singles final appearance. In the bottom half of the draw David McBeath met Tom Jarvis, who were both looking for a first-time finals slot. It was Jarvis who made it to the final with a 4-2 win.



*Men's Singles Semi-finalists David McBeath by Mike Rhodes and Andrew Baggaley by Michael Loveder*

What a feast the final promised and it did not disappoint. Walker came blasting out of the blocks to win the first game 11-3 and then Jarvis took over winning the next three. Walker seemed to gather his energies with another 11-3 win in the fifth end but that was his last win and so it was an ecstatic Jarvis who emerged triumphant winning -3, 8, 8, 4, -3, 6.

It is always hard on the loser and especially when both had played so well together in the doubles and as they train and play at the same club in Germany. Two of the nicest young men on the circuit who are a credit to themselves and the sport they have served so well.



*Men's Singles Champion Tom Jarvis by Mike Rhodes and Runner-up Sam Walker by Alan Man*

How good it was to be back and meet so many old friends and make new ones. Three years on since I last visited Nottingham and youngsters just starting university have now finished, cadet and junior players have developed and become charming young men and women, the next generation of players is emerging. Without exception every player I spoke to was courteous and friendly, it was so nice to be able to chat to some of the up-and-coming youngsters.

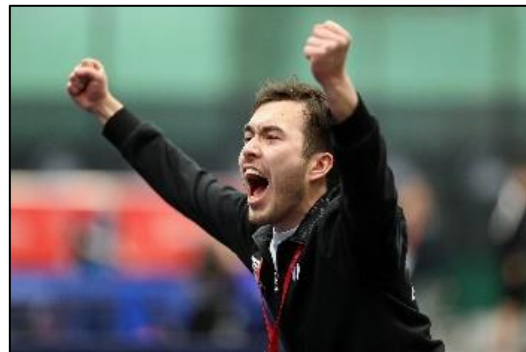
## The Agony and the Ecstasy



*Coach Chris Doran by Mike Rhodes*



*Triple Champion Maria Tsaptinos with Dad, Dimitris  
By Alan Man*



*A delighted Liam McTiernan by Mike Rhodes*

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## TTE Governance



Adrian Christy, who had been appointed as the Interim CEO, has been appointed as the permanent CEO after a successful interview. Two other candidates were interviewed. We wish him well in his new post where he faces a considerable number of challenges.

The TTE AGM is to take place on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022, it is not yet known if this will be held virtually or if Company Members will be able to attend or indeed if it will be a hybrid meeting. Notification will be made later.

The Board presented seven proposed resolutions for consideration at the TTE AGM to National Council in March 2022. As a result of discussion some amendments to these have been made and nine propositions are being put by the Board to the AGM.

These include a) increase the number of Member Elected Directors from 3 to 4, b) the Board's Nominations Committee to review and recommend nominations for the Member Elected Directors, according to the rationale all who apply will be presented to the Members although this is not embedded in the proposition, c) increase of affiliation fees for Compete and Club Player Members, d) a change from the AGM to set affiliation fees to the Board setting the fees, e) the other propositions can be categorised as of a minor nature or slight change in wording.

Several of the proposed resolutions are to ensure Sport England funding is retained and so TTE has to jump through their ever-changing hoops. As Table Tennis Wales have recently lost their funding from Sport Wales due to them not complying with conditions imposed it shows the consideration for the membership is a serious one.



## Swaythling Club International (SCI): English Branch and TTE Reception

As is usual on the last day of the National Championships, the English branch of the SCI met to discuss the past year's happenings and consider the nominations for the SCI Fair Play Award. A warm welcome was given to Beverley Godfrey at her first meeting and apologies were received from new member, Matt Stanforth, who was unable to attend as he had caught Covid-19 on holiday, apologies were noted too from Desmond Douglas and Brian Kean, Brian although representing Scotland at international level had recently joined the English branch. There were no nominations of sufficient merit for the SCI Fair Play Award to be awarded this year, so no presentation was made.



*Back: Alan Hydes, Stuart Sherlock, Harvey Webb, Alan Ransome OBE  
Front Beverley Godfrey, Jose Ransome, Jill Parker MBE, Karen Tonge MBE  
Photo by Diane Webb*

Sunday lunchtime saw a reception for the sponsors, Mark Bates Ltd and China Taiping, along with Honorary Life Members, plus Vice-Chairmen from the local area and other dignitaries, including the Mayor of Nottingham. During a very pleasant hour it was a great pleasure to see Peter Charters be presented with the Keith Ponting President's Memorial Trophy for Lifetime Achievement as well as Mary Wright receive her Vice-President's badge – both awards being held over from last year's TTE AGM which was held virtually. Richard J Hudson was also presented with a certificate of appreciation as he has retired from organising the Schools National Championships after 17 years. The presentations were made by TTE Chairman, Sandra Deaton.



*Peter Charters and Sandra Deaton*



*Sandra Deaton and Mary Wright*



*Sponsors China Taiping and Mark Bates Ltd Peter Charters, Doreen Stannard, Martin Clark*



## The Ken and Karenza Mathews Story: continued

1974

**Karenza:** The English Closed was held once again at Crystal Palace on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> January. I lost in the semi of the Women's Singles to Linda Jarvis. Not all bad though as I went on to win the Women's Doubles with Linda and the Mixed with Denis Neale. Unfortunately, next day, I dropped in the England ranking list to number three. Denis lost to Chester Barnes in the final of the Men's Singles - which resulted in him getting very wet as he had vowed that he would throw himself into the swimming pool off the high board if he lost. He kept his promise!

On the 11<sup>th</sup> I did some filming at Pickett's Lock, the sports centre in East London. Anyway, I cannot remember what this filming was for; Ken gave some details earlier about the only film that he has so far been able to obtain.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> we went to another training camp at Lea Green. During the rest of the month - coaching and practise, coaching and practise! Our friend Barry Hill had started a new coaching class at Purley Oaks Primary School at South Croydon. This was on Mondays and Tuesdays and, at about this time, we started to help him with the coaching. This picture is of Barry and me showing some pupils a complicated table tennis shot!



I had also been asked to start coaching at the Saddlers Sports Centre which was part of the City University. The sports centre was in Goswell Road in the City - a bit of a journey.

The Basingstoke Three Star was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Again, I lost to Linda! She was becoming a very fast attacking player and I lost to her 17 in the third. Linda and I lost in the final of the Women's Doubles to Shelagh Hession and Judy Williams - but Denis and I won the Mixed.

Two weeks later, the long journey up to Teesside for the Teesside Three Star! I lost to Judy in the quarters - well I didn't really lose, I got thrashed 21-14, 21-8. Oh dear! Denis and I won the Mixed but Linda and I lost in the semi of the Women's Doubles.

Another interesting coaching engagement! This time it was at St. Brides and my pupil was an actress called Doremy Vernon. She was due to play a part in a television series called, 'Within These Walls'. The series was set in a women's prison. She was a prisoner and had to be able to play table tennis. I coached her a few times; we saw her in the programme and she didn't look too bad!

On the 27<sup>th</sup> we travelled down to Brighton for the English Open. This year was election year; as the Dome and Corn Exchange was needed for voting the tournament was switched to the exhibition halls of the Metropole Hotel - not an ideal venue. In this tournament I played in the England second team with Judy Williams. We played Rumania in the first round and although I beat Eleonora Vlaicov, we lost the match. After that we went down 3-0 to Sweden. Jill Hammersley and Linda were the first team and they lost to Sweden 3-2 in the semi. I reached the quarters of the Singles where I lost to Radberg of Sweden. Jill reached the final but lost 17 in the fifth to Maria Alexandru of Rumania. In the Women's Doubles Linda and I lost in the quarters and in the Mixed, Denis and I lost over four games to the top Swedish pair - who won the event.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March we were in Southend for the annual European League match against the Czechs. We lost 5-2, our only wins coming from Jill who won her Singles and Denis who won one of his Singles. Denis and I lost the Mixed 17 in the third. The next day we travelled down to Cardiff for the Welsh Open. I went out in the quarters to Zizkova, a Czech girl – but Jill won the Singles beating Grofova in the final. I partnered Leslie Radford in the Women’s Doubles; we lost in the semi. I think I may have been going to play with Chester in the Mixed but he didn’t arrive and so we were scratched!

I'm pretty sure that we played a Dutch team - maybe in the quarter-final of the Europe Club Cup. I'm not sure where or when it was played but this is a photo of the two teams; I do not know the names of the Dutch players but Judy is on the left and the four on the right are Shelagh, Di Simpson, me and Jill. Judy was able to speak to the Dutch girls in their own language as she was a brilliant linguist; she worked for Shell Oil as an interpreter.



On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March we, that is Gainsford, played a Hungarian Club in the semi-final of the Europe Club Cup. It was played at Gainsford. Our team consisted of Jill, Judy Williams and me with Di and Shelagh Hession as reserves. We won 5-1, Judy losing one of her Singles.

A training camp started at Lea Green on the 17<sup>th</sup> and ran through to the 30<sup>th</sup>. There followed a week’s break and then we flew to Novi Sad in Yugoslavia for the European Championships. We did well in the team event beating Yugoslavia 3-1, Bulgaria 3-1, West Germany 3-2 and France 3-0. (**Ken:** I have to put in a note here about my modest Karenza - who had a great win over Wiebke Hendricksen, the West German champion, to win the match against West Germany when the match stood at two all!)

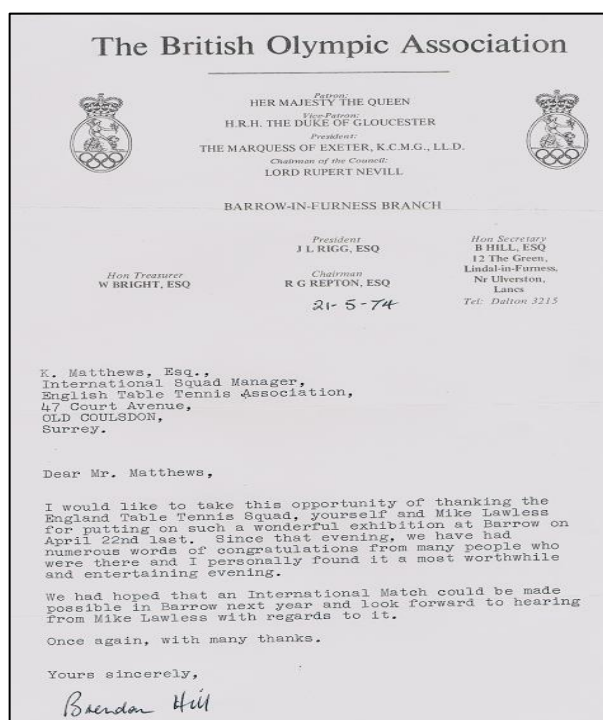
**Karenza:** Our only loss in the team group stage was to Russia 3-0. We played off for third and fourth place against the Czechs and lost 3-0; ending up fourth in Europe was still pretty good. As George Yates reported in The Guardian Newspaper on 10<sup>th</sup> April, ‘...to finish fourth in front of such countries as Rumania, West Germany, Yugoslavia, Sweden, Poland, Bulgaria and France was quite an achievement’. Jill played a leading part in that success winning eight out of her eleven singles matches. I won one and lost one; Linda played six but lost five of them. Linda and I won two out of our seven doubles matches. The England men had some good results as well, ending up sixth in Europe.

In the singles, ‘Karenza Mathews, as always, gave her all, but in the elite company of Europe’s best it proved insufficient’. That was according to the magazine report. Well, I did lose in the first round to Antonyan of Russia, who reached the quarters. Linda and I suffered the same fate in the doubles and, just to keep things neat and tidy, Denis and I went out in the first round to Stipancic and Alexandru of Rumania – who lost in the semi. Jill lost in the quarters of the singles to Magos of Hungary.

**Ken:** The April issue of the magazine carried a tribute, written by Mary, to Connie who was retiring at the end of this season. He had played over a hundred times for Surrey and 25 times for England. His best performance was winning the Welsh Open in 1967. Connie had been a member of England’s Swaythling Cup Team that finished eighth in the World Championships in 1967. In the European Championships in 1966 he and partner Stuart Gibbs had reached the last 16 in the men’s doubles. He had also reached the last 16 in the English Open Championships in 1973. Always a strong contender in the National Championships, Connie was runner-up in the men’s singles in 1967 and reached the semi-finals in 1964, 1966 and 1969; he also reached the quarter-finals on another four occasions. But



Mary pointed out that winning and losing at table tennis was only one aspect of Connie's story; the best part was the entertainment he brought to the game for all the spectators and all his friends. He was a real character and there was always likely to be an incident of one sort or another when Connie was around. (Like when he lost his trousers at the final's night party in Lubech!) A great character, a great competitor and a great career!



On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April the squad played an exhibition for the British Olympic Association at Barrow-in Furness. This was probably the best one we ever did. The hall was packed, maybe about six or seven hundred people. The team was Karenza, Jill, Denis, Nicky Jarvis, Desmond Douglas and Donald Parker. All parts of the programme went well - the final match between Nicky and Denis raised the roof. So also did the one-game challenge match when Denis played their local champion for the £100 prize. Thankfully I didn't have enough money with me but Denis did and he put the money on the table under the net. Well! This guy played out of his skin; he was a very useful local league player – but he excelled himself that night. The crowd was going frantic when he levelled the score at 20 all! We had never seen Denis sweat so much – even playing in World Championships – but this was his own money at stake! Denis won the game 22-20 but their man got huge cheers from the crowd. I often wondered whether Denis would have

been quite so panic-stricken if it had been my money on the table! Mike Lawless, who had recently been appointed Development Officer of the ETTA, was there to see a great evening.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> we did another exhibition on the dance floor of the Rainbow House Hotel in Torquay. There were just four players for this one: Karenza, Jill, Nicky and Alan Hydes who was then ranked six in England. Unfortunately, the dance floor was very slippery which made it difficult to do spectacular play!

And the next day we were back in Croydon, Surrey, where we did an exhibition at the Stewart and Arden Motor showrooms. This was a long-drawn-out affair as we had to do three sessions during the afternoon. The same four players took part from yesterday; by the end of the day they had had enough of exhibitions!

This is a picture of Karenza and me taken this year.

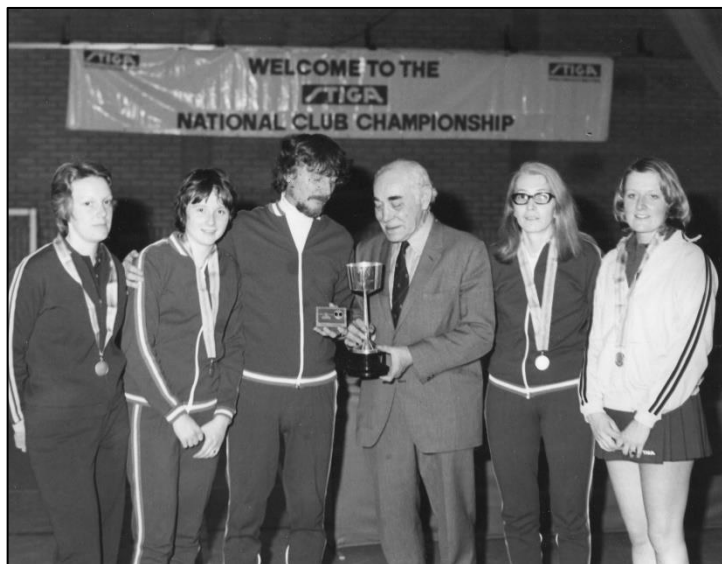
The new England Ranking List was published in May. Jill was at number one, Linda at two and Karenza at number three. At the same time, the leading averages for county matches played during the 1973-74 season was published. Karenza came top of the women's averages, a 100% record with seven out of seven wins.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May the squad played an exhibition match at Lyme Regis. This was to celebrate the twelve hundredth year of the founding of that town. We played at the Woodroffe School before a big crowd. Karenza, Jill, Denis, Desmond and Nicky took part.



The final of the Stiga Club Championships took place at Loughborough on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Karenza was representing Gainsford, together with Jill, Shelagh and Di. Gainsford won the competition beating Gatley Y.M.C.A. (should it have been Y.W.C.A.?) in the semi and

Fellows Cranleigh, a team from the club by that name in Essex, in the final. The photo shows Jill on the left, then Karenza, Adrian Howard who was the club captain, Maurice Goldstein who was one of the ETTA officials from Birmingham, Shelagh and Di on the right.



A much harder proposition was the match on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June, when Gainsford played in the final of the Europe Club Cup. Despite having Jill, Judy and Karenza in the team we lost 5-1 to Statisztika of Budapest, the club that had won the competition for about the last four years – and had beaten us the previous year. But at least it confirmed that Gainsford was the second strongest women’s club side in Europe.

August saw the end of Les Greswell’s captaincy of the England Team. During his period which had lasted from the beginning of 1972 until now the team had done very well; they had certainly been fitter as a squad of players than they had ever been before. Another England international who’d gained a degree in fitness training would now take over - his name was Brian Burn.

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### Colin Wilson’s Website



With the English Table Tennis Association celebrating 100 years and with many leagues and counties also reaching landmark anniversaries it was with much pleasure that Colin let us know that he has created his own website with his table tennis history a star feature as well as information on his company.

Colin is of course still very much involved in table tennis and his son, Sam, is one of the top under 21 players in England.

There are a number of table tennis photographs from Colin’s early days until more recent times, they include Colin’s appearance at the Commonwealth Championships in 1989 where he was a member of the Men’s Team which won silver along with John Dabin, Alan Fletcher and Jimmy Walker. He also won a silver in the men’s doubles with Jimmy Walker – heady days. It was interesting to read about his hot air ballooning exploits too. It is well worth looking at.

Website address: [ColinWilson.online](http://ColinWilson.online) will take you there.



*Don Parker, Jimmy Walker, Colin Wilson, John Dabin, Alan Fletcher*

## Centenary Gala Dinner

Sunday was a full day not only with the semi-finals and finals at the National Championships but with the SCI meeting and reception during the day followed by the much-anticipated Centenary Gala Dinner in the evening.

260 past and present members of the Association attended along with three representatives from the ITTF: President, Petra Sorling, Foundation Director, Leandro Olvech and Head of Operations, Wiebke Scheffler, plus from the ETTU their Deputy President, Pedro Moura. A number of past and present National Singles Champions were present as well as a smattering of former internationals and para players along with a number of Honorary Life Members, Vice-Presidents and National Councillors. Also in attendance was Honorary Past President, Doreen Stannard, and current President, Jill Parker. Members of the Board and the newly appointed CEO, Adrian Christy, and a number of staff were also there, plus those who were on the short list for the Pride of Table Tennis Awards, interspersed with a handful of current members.

There was a quiz, a live auction, promotion of the Centenary Raffle and silent auction (over £4,000 of the £8,365 from the raffle and auction went to the Centenary Legacy Fund), announcement of the initial Centenary Hall of Fame Members, presentation of the Pride of Table Tennis Awards and speeches as well as the food and good company.

There were 10 inductees into the Centenary Hall of Fame (the original Hall of Fame was set up in 1982 to mark the Association's Diamond Jubilee) – in chronological order: Fred Perry, Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach MBE, Diane Rowe/Scholer, Rosalind Rowe/Cornett, Mary Shannon/Wright, Jill Shirley/Hammersley/Parker MBE, John Hilton, Desmond Douglas MBE, Will Bayley MBE.

The star of the show who brought the house down had to be John Hilton. He was one of those inducted into the Centenary Hall of Fame but when his video clip got muddled with Desmond Douglas, his quick repartee was an absolute joy.

The best comment must surely go to Mary Wright who, when asked if she regretted giving up playing at 26 after her huge success, gave a very short "No", qualified a little later by saying her family was more important to her.

Matthew Syed at the end of the evening gave a wonderful after dinner speech in which he expressed his admiration and paid a fulsome tribute to Peter Charters for setting him and so many others on their table tennis paths.

Finishing an hour behind schedule and as midnight approached, the guests retired to the hotel next door to while away an hour or two more, reminiscing about past exploits and revelling in the company of old friends.

With thanks to Michael Loveder for some superb photos.

### Today's Players



*Gavin Evans, Paul Drinkhall, Sam Walker, Darius Knight*



*Lois Peake, Maria Tsaptinos, Tin-Tin Ho*

## Former Internationals



*Darius Knight, Darren Blake, Skylet Andrew, Richard Hyacinth Katy Parker, Georgina Walker, Natalie Bawden, Kate Steward*



*Beverley Sayer, Diane Pearce, Karenza Mathews*

*Jackie Bellinger Lisa Bellinger, Alison Gordon*

## The Style



*Chris Beckley with his lady, Karen Whiltshire*

## The Quizzers



*Alan Hydes, Tin-Tin Ho, Paul Day v Brian Wright, Paul Drinkhall, Alison Gordon/Broe*

## The Centenary Hall of Famers



*Mary Wright with Doreen Stannard*



*Richard Yule with Jill Parker*



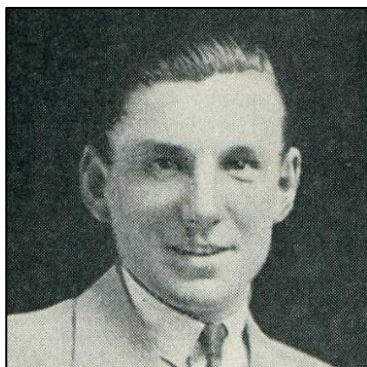
*Marguerita Carmichael & Desmond Douglas*



*John Hilton and Alex Murdoch*



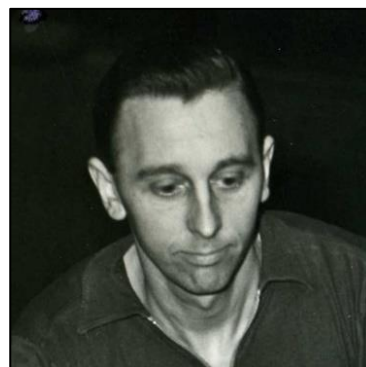
*Will Bayley, right*



*Fred Perry*



*Richard Bergmann*



*Johnny Leach*



*Diane Rowe*



*Rosalind Rowe*

Note: Ladies names are those by which they were most commonly known during their playing days.



## The Guests



*Gavin and Emily Evans*



*Ritchie & Susie Venner*



*Neil Brierly, Cliff Carder*



*Jan Johns, Gail Johns*

## The Dignitaries



*Petra Sorling, Adrian Christy*



*Pedro Moura, Sandra Deaton*

## The Speaker



*Matthew Syed*

## WTT Feeder: Dusseldorf, 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> January 2022

The first WTT senior tournament of the new year took place in Dusseldorf with two Englishmen taking part – Louis Price and Sam Walker.

Price went out at the first time of asking in the round of 64 against a higher ranked opponent, Mahmoud Helmy of Egypt (WR 330). Price, still a junior aged 17 has a youth ranking of 188 but no senior ranking, yet. By playing in these events, he will be building up his points to enable him to enter the lists.

As number 8 seed, Walker had a bye in the first round and then met German, Tobias Hippler (WR 233), against whom he had a comfortable 4-0 win. The round of 16 saw another decisive 4-1 victory against his second German adversary, Kilian Ort (WR 148), followed by an excellent 4-1 win against the higher ranked player, Alberto Mino of Ecuador (WR 76).

Walker was now in the semi-finals and faced the number 1 seed, Robert Gardos from Austria. With a World Ranking of 26, the Gardos challenge proved too much for Walker as he lost the match but with a respectable score of -9, 4, -9, -7, -9.



*Sam Walker and Tom Jarvis. Photos courtesy of WTT*

## WTT Contender: Muscat, 27<sup>th</sup> February-5<sup>th</sup> March 2022

England's numbers 3 and 4, Sam Walker and Tom Jarvis, participated in this event in the Men's Singles and in partnership in the Men's Doubles.

Walker's tournament in the singles ended at the first hurdle as he lost in a close match to Indian, Sanil Shetty (WR 242) -7, 8, 11, -3, -8 in the second qualifying round. Jarvis (WR 175) went one better with a win against Oman's Salem Reyemi, 3, 3, 3, and then an excellent result against Harmeet Desai of India (WR 79) -7, 7, -7, 6, 9, before going down to Xu Yingbin, China (WR 127) in the third qualifying round -8, -10, 5, -5.

The Men's Doubles saw Jarvis and Walker in the main draw but they lost their first match in the round of 16.

## WTT Grand Smash: Singapore, 7<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 2022

The first of the highest level WTT tournaments, Grand Smash, began in Singapore on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Sam Walker (WR 86) was the first English player on court but his tournament was short lived as he was defeated in his first match by Iranian, Amir Hossein Hodaei (WR 152) -7, 9, 9, -7, -6.

Due to his ranking, Liam Pitchford (WR 15) started his campaign in the round of 64 where he had a comfortable victory over Marcelo Aguirre of Paraguay (WR 53) 7, -12, 5, 2. The next round was a more difficult challenge against Wang Chuqin of China (WR 13), not one of Pitchford's favourite opponents, and so it proved as he lost 8, 8, 5.

## Europe Top 16: 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> February, Montreux, Switzerland

The tournament was staged in that delightful city of Montreux, Switzerland, over the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022. England's Liam Pitchford should have played but owing to injury was unable to compete; Dimitrij Ovtcharov also had to withdraw due to a recurrence of his ankle injury. Matias Falck also had to pull out which left a place for Truls Moregard as although he is ranked European number 7, only two players from each country are permitted.

The two-day event is now a straight knock-out tournament with the players starting in the round of 16 after a free draw, day one also saw the quarter-finals being played. This set up four very tasty looking semi-finals on day two: Sofia Polcanova, Austria v Polina Mikhailova, Russia; Bernadette Szocs, Rumania v Ying Han, Germany; Timo Boll, Germany v Truls Moregard, Sweden and Darko Jorgic, Slovenia v Patrick Franziska, Germany. The Women's final saw Germany meet Russia and it was Ying Han at 38 years and 10 months who took the honours, winning 8, 12, 11, 7, the oldest winner of the women's trophy.

The Men's final had the two exciting young talents from Sweden and Slovenia taking over from the old guard of Germany's Boll and Franziska and what a treat it was. Just turned 20, Moregard led 3-1 with some sublime play but Jorgic, three years his senior, fought back with some canny play, stepping back from the table slightly and gradually drawing level. The seventh end was a pulsating game with a few net cords thrown in to add to the tension. It was so close but the eventual winner was last year's runner-up Jorgic by the closest of margins: -8, -5, 9, -10, 1, 10, 10.



*Europe Top 16 Champions Ying Han and Darko Jorgic. Photos courtesy of the ETTU*

Although England didn't make an appearance playing it was a pleasure to see Nico Caltabiano umpiring the men's final in his usual impeccable style. Currently living in Switzerland, England's loss is their gain.



*Umpire, Nico Caltabiano. Photo courtesy of the ETTU*

The new SCI Executive Committee met, for the first time, in Montreux, after the championships had finished. Two new Executive Committee Members, Lilamani de Soysa and Oivind Eriksen, joined President - Claude Bergeret, Deputy President - Reto Bazzi, Treasurer - Richard Scruton and Secretary - Harvey Webb. A brief respite between meetings saw them pose in the late winter sunshine.



*Reto Bazzi, Harvey Webb, Claude Bergeret, Oivind Eriksen, Lilamani de Soysa, Richard Scruton*

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## ETTU and ITTF on Ukraine



The ETTU President, Igor Levitin, has self-suspended from his role on the ETTU Executive Board. Vladimir Samsonov and Polina Mikhailova have also self-suspended. No Russian or Belarusian players or officials will be invited or allowed to participate in events hosted by the ETTU until further notice. This follows the recommendations set by the International Olympic Committee and ITTF. No

Russian or Belarusian national symbols, flags or anthems will be displayed at ETTU events until further notice.

Igor Levitin is described on Wikipedia as an Aide to the President of the Russian Federation since September 2013 and Class 1 Active State Advisor of the Russian Federation. He previously served as the Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation commencing 2004. In view of his apparent close contact with Mr Putin, is self-suspending sufficient?

*Diane has already written to the ITTF, ETTU and TTE – with no response from any of those organisations.*

The ITTF statement updated on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 reads: The ITTF Group remains highly concerned by the outbreak of war in Ukraine. It expresses its solidarity with the people of Ukraine and wishes to send a powerful message of peace and unity to the entire world.

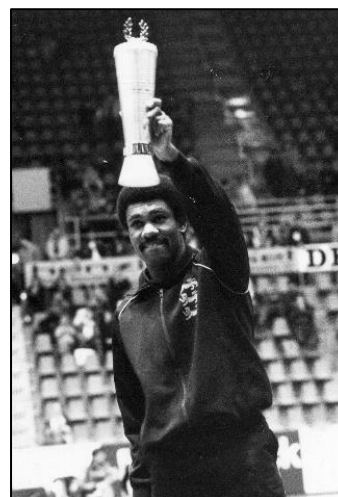
The ITTF Executive Committee met on March 1st, 2022, after consulting with the sport community, and took the decision to follow the recommendations made by the IOC Executive Board with immediate effect. Therefore, until further notice, no Russian or Belarusian players and officials will be invited or allowed in events hosted by the ITTF Group, and no Russian or Belarusian national symbols, colours, flags, or anthems will be displayed. Please note no ITTF Group events are currently scheduled in Russia or Belarus.

The ITTF Athletes' Commission also expressed their deep concern and sympathy, and fully support these decisions.

The ITTF Group will continue to monitor the situation and will review its decision in light of future developments.

## What was Happening 35 Years Ago? 1987

- It was the year of the 'Big Storm' and Desmond Douglas decimated most of England and Europe as he blitzed his way through the year. Starting on 4<sup>th</sup> January, Douglas won the Europe Top 12 although it was a nail-biting finish as the title depended on the result of the last match between Jan-Ove Waldner and Andrezj Grubba. Fortunately for Douglas, Waldner won that match and so Douglas became Champion of Europe, previously being the runner-up on three occasions. Carl Prean finished 10<sup>th</sup> and Lisa Bellinger 9<sup>th</sup> in the Women's event.
- Lisa Bellinger took part in the Euro-Asia Tournament which was played over 13 venues in seven days.
- The National Championships were held 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January at Crawley; nearly 1,000 spectators saw a new Women's Champion in the form of Fiona Elliot who defeated Lisa Bellinger in the final whilst Desmond



*Desmond Douglas with the Europe Top 12 Trophy*



*New National Champion, Fiona Elliot*

Douglas took his tenth title with Alan Cooke the runner-up. That excellent doubles pair, Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason, went home with the gold medals in the Men's Doubles and sisters, Jackie and Lisa Bellinger, became the Women's Doubles title holders. Skylet Andrew and Fiona Elliot stood on the top of the podium for a second time when they won the Mixed Doubles.

- Derek Baddeley, Coordinator of ATTP (Association of Table Tennis Players), protested about the non-selection of Joy Grundy for the World Championships, she was considered to be the best female player at the time, only three women were selected.

- The World Championships in New Delhi were held from 19<sup>th</sup> February-1<sup>st</sup> March. The England team were plagued by Delhi-belly with only two of the 22 contingent not succumbing to some form of sickness, other teams were affected as well. Ron Crayden ended up with dysentery and there was more than one player who had to be flown home early. England's men finished 12<sup>th</sup> with Douglas winning 12 of his 14 matches. The Women's team finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place. Fiona Elliot travelled the 5,000 miles only to be too ill to play in the individual events. To add to the England team's woes, Skylet Andrew and Desmond Douglas were involved in an accident when they were travelling in a motorised rickshaw, although shaken they were not injured but one man involved did suffer serious injuries.
- England's superstar, Desmond Douglas, was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, a richly deserved award and reward.
- In April there was an eight match China Tour of England played on eight consecutive days; Chinese player and World Championships Men's Singles semi-finalist, Chen Xinhua, was the top attraction. Over 7,000 spectators watched the eight matches with England winning one match, drawing three and losing four.

- The new broom of the John Prean era began to take effect with several changes, the first ETTA Chief Executive was appointed from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1987. Ted Wallbutton had previously been the Marketing Manager of the Squash Rackets Association. Resignations came from Deputy Chairman, George Yates, and Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, Aubrey Drapkin; Vice-Chairman, Keith Ponting, also stood down from his position. Alan Ransome took over the reins as Deputy Chairman and Peter Hillier as Treasurer. There were major changes in the coaching department too, as David Fairholm and Peter Simpson were made redundant, the Selection Committee was disbanded and Don Parker made the sole selector.
- The County Championships saw a record breaking 167 teams with 1,100 players involved in over 500 matches. For the sixth consecutive year Middlesex won the Senior Premier Division.



*The Leeds Permanent Building Society launch with Fred Perry*

- The Leeds Permanent Building Society provided sponsorship of £500,000 over three years. The launch took place in London with Fred Perry who generously donated his World Championships winning bat to the ETTA Archives. A number of events bore the Leeds name including the English Open, Masters, National Championships, internationals, County Championships, National Team Championships and the British League.

The first of these events was the Leeds Masters where Andrej Grubba of Poland beat Desmond Douglas. The matches were played on blue tables leading to an uncertain bounce. Nevertheless, a pay day of £3,000 and £1,000 respectively was a welcome return for a couple of days' play.

- The National Junior and Cadet Championships saw Bradley Billington win the Junior Boys' Singles and Claire Potts the Junior Girls' title. Cadet titles went to Neil Bevan and Ellen Meddings.



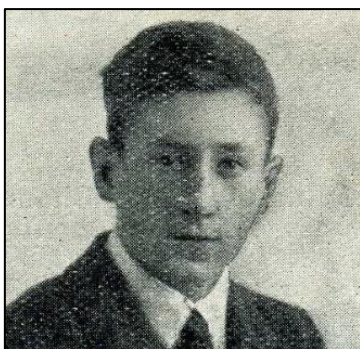
*Bradley Billington and Claire Potts*

- At the European Youth Championships, the Junior Boys finished 8<sup>th</sup>, Junior Girls 8<sup>th</sup>, Cadet Boys 13<sup>th</sup> and Cadet Girls 13<sup>th</sup>. In the individual events, Matthew Syed reached the farthest stage losing in the quarter-finals of the Junior Boys' Singles to Jean-Michael Saive of Belgium. Andrea Holt with E Noor of the Netherlands also had a quarter-final place in the Junior Girls' Doubles.
- The first U11 National Championships were held with Darren Blake and Nicola Deaton the victors. Over 500 entry forms were circulated but returns were poor with only 23 boys and 12 girls participating.

- At the ITTF AGM former World Champion, Ichiro Ogimura, replaced H Roy Evans, MBE as the ITTF President. New rules were approved with two minutes between games allowed and the ball having to be thrown up at least 16cm from the free hand.
- Many notable players and administrators passed away during the year. Internationals from the 1920s and 1930s, Maurice Armstrong, Benny Casofsky, Andy Millar, Edward Rimer, Brenda Somerville and Margaret Osborne, the latter also being England Women's Captain including the two years when England won the Corbillon Cup in 1947 and 1948. Honorary Life Member, England Junior Captain, excellent coach and administrator, Leo Thompson died in November and Vice-President John Mulcahy, Promotions & Publicity Deputy Director for IPC Newspapers, passed away in April, also Vice-President and former Suffolk County Chairman, Dennis Barrett, in November.



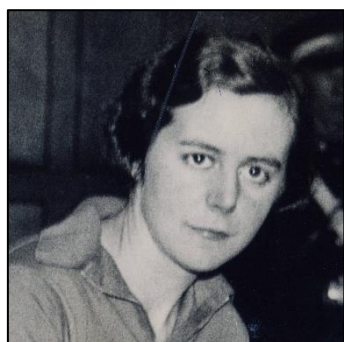
*Benny Casofsky*



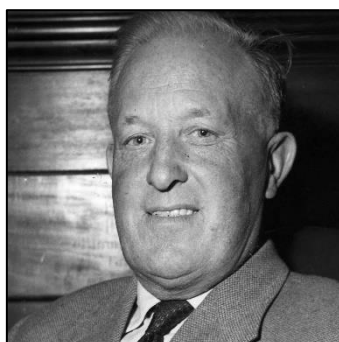
*Andy Millar*



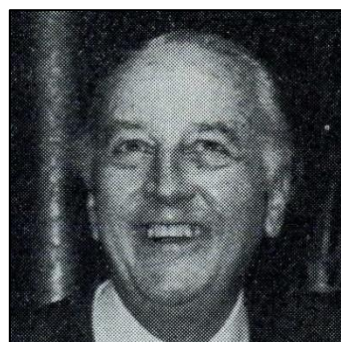
*Brenda Somerville*



*Margaret Osborne*



*Leo Thompson*



*Philip Mulcahy*

### **WTT Star Contender: Doha, 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Liam Pitchford (WR 16) was the sole English competitor in this tournament which for some reason was put on at the same time as the weekend allocated by the ETTU for European Associations' National Championships.

Pitchford had the choice as to whether he defended his National titles or played in the WTT event. He chose the latter, to the disappointment of many in England. Pitchford had a bye in the round of 64, beat Jonathan Groth of Denmark (WR 39) in the next round but then lost in the round of 16 to Lim Jonghoon of Korea (WR 48).



*Liam Pitchford.  
Courtesy of WTT*

## Cadet National Cup St Neots: 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March 2022

The cream of England's cadet players met at St Neots Table Tennis Club to compete in the hardest domestic tournament in the calendar. Ten boys and ten girls challenged for the title in the all-play-all competition.

At the end of the first day after five rounds only four players remained unbeaten, the first and the third seeds in both events – Maliha Baig and Sienna Jetha, Jakub Piwowar and Larry Trumpauskas.

Day two saw the four unbeaten players whittled down to two as Sienna Jetha and Larry Trumpauskas went through the tournament unbeaten, tremendous results for them which is not only a credit to their play but their stamina as well. Sienna Jetha, the youngest in the tournament at only 12 years old, looks an exciting prospect whilst Larry Trumpauskas seems to be following in his father, Lorestas's footsteps. Runners-up were the two number 1 ranked players, Maliha Baig and Jakub Piwowar, with the bronze medals going to Bethany Ellis, ranked 2, and Ralph Pattison ranked 4.



*Cadet National Cup Champions Sienna Jetha & Larry Trumpauskas*

	<b>Cadet Boys</b>	<b>Cadet Girls</b>
1	Larry Trumpauskas	Sienna Jetha
2	Jakub Piwowar	Maliha Baig
3	Ralph Pattison	Bethany Ellis
4	Joseph Dennison	Ella Pashley
5	Fred Jones	Rachael Iles
6	Oliver Maric-Murray	Naomi Coker
7	Joseph Cooper	Connie Dumelow
8	Isaac Kingham	Mia Lakhani
9	Benjamin Dunkley	Mabel Shute
10	Francesco Bonato	Kate Watkinson

Congratulations to our two new champions and indeed all the medallists as well as to all the cadet players who gained the privilege of being selected to play in this tournament.



## Plymouth Junior & Cadet 4\* Open

Run by some of the friendliest people in table tennis, the Plymouth Junior & Cadet 4\* Open took place on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2022. It was a tournament which showcased some of our youngest up and coming players. There was a good entry of 98 players for the six events.

Starting early on Saturday morning it was Charles Donald who became the Under 11 Mixed Singles Champion. The Under 15s were on next and it was Tianer Yu of Middlesex, seeded 1, and Gavin Yuan of Scotland, seeded 3=, who became the respective champions of the Girls' and Boys' events.



*Charles Donald, Tianer Yu, Gavin Yuan.  
Photos courtesy of Joola Plymouth TTC*

Sunday morning started with the Under 13 Boys and success came to Leo Nguyen in a close final against Max Radivan. There was no Under 13 Girls' singles.

The biggest entry was for the Under 19 Boys with 49 players entered and it was a delighted Nahom Goitom of Surrey, seeded 2, who went home with the trophy after defeating Kent's Josh Bruce, seeded 3=.

Tianer Yu, seeded 2, took her second title when she defeated Devon and England's Mari Baldwin, seeded 1 in the Under 19 Girls' Singles. An excellent weekend for the young Middlesex player.



*Leo Nguyen and Nahom Goitom.  
Photos courtesy of Joola Plymouth TTC*

Junior and Cadet 4\* tournaments are the highest level individual open tournaments for our younger players in which they can pit themselves against each other as opposed to team events in the Junior British League and County Championships. They are run by clubs or leagues as opposed to TTE and are an essential part of the calendar so appreciation must be expressed to those organisations who take on the responsibility of organising and running them.

## WTT Youth Contender: Spa, Belgium, 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Seven English juniors took part in this tournament with Louis Price and Sienna Jetha achieving the best results. The players' final positions were as follows:

Under 19 Boys' Singles: Louis Price: Round of 16

Joseph Hunter: Round of 32

Under 19 Girls' Singles: Amy Marriott, Scarlett Anders: Round of 64

Anna Green, Megan Jones: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

Under 17 Boys' Singles: Joseph Hunter: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

Under 17 Girls' Singles: Megan Jones, Amy Marriott: Round of 64

Scarlett Anders, Anna Green: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

Under 13 Girls' Singles: Sienna Jetha: Round of 16



*Louis Price, Sienna Jetha, Joseph Hunter. Photos courtesy of WTT*

## WTT Youth Contender: Metz, France, 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Five boys played in this tournament which was held at the same time as the WTT Youth Contender in Spa. Their results were:

Under 19 Boys' Singles: Connor Green: Round of 64

Toby Ellis: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

Ben Piggott: 4<sup>th</sup> in group

Under 17 Boys' Singles: Ben Piggott, Connor Green: Round of 32

Toby Ellis: Round of 64

Under 15 Boys' Singles: Jakub Piwowar, Kacper Piwowar: Round of 64

Under 13 Boys' Singles: Kacper Piwowar: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group



*Benjamin Piggott, Connor Green, Kacper Piwowar. Photos courtesy of WTT*

## WTT Youth Contender: Vila Real, Portugal, 26<sup>th</sup> February-4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Following almost immediately on from the Youth Contender events in Spa and Metz was a third tournament for the younger players. It meant digging deep into the pockets of the parents of the England players for those not receiving funding.

Under 19 Boys' Singles: Connor Green: Round of 32  
 Joseph Hunter: Round of 64  
 Adam Dennison, Toby Ellis, James Hamblett, Max Stevens, Felix Thomis: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group  
 Ben Piggott: 4<sup>th</sup> in group

Under 19 Girls' Singles: Mari Baldwin: Round of 16  
 Amy Marriott: Round of 32  
 Scarlett Anders, Anna Green, Megan Jones, Jasmin Wong: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

U17 Boys' Singles: Toby Ellis, Connor Green, Joseph Hunter, Felix Thomis: Round of 32  
 Adam Dennison, Jakub Piwowar: Round of 64  
 James Hamblett, Ben Piggott: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

Under 17 Girls' Singles: Scarlett Anders: Round of 32  
 Anna Green, Megan Jones, Amy Marriott: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

U15 Boys' Singles: Jakub Piwowar, Kacper Piwowar: Round of 32

U13 Boys' Singles: Kacper Piwowar: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

Mari Baldwin is proving the best English junior player abroad, reaching the Round of 16 match where she met the second seed and world number 16 ranked junior.



*Mari Baldwin, Amy Marriott, Scarlett Anders. Photos courtesy of WTT*

### **WTT Youth Contender: Tunis, 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

There were seven youngsters from England who competed in yet another WTT Youth Contender tournament, this time in Tunis.

The tournament was dominated, certainly in number, by players from the home country along with the United Arab Emirates and Algeria. Certainly not the strongest entry in either number or quality in most events.

Under 19 Boys' Singles: Connor Green, Toby Ellis: Round of 16  
 Ben Piggott, Louis Price: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

Under 19 Girls' Singles: Evelyn Pace

Under 17 Boys' Singles: Connor Green: Semi-final  
 Jakub Piwowar: Quarter-final  
 Ben Piggott: Toby Ellis: Round of 16

Under 17 Girls' Singles: Evelyn Pace

Under 15 Boys' Singles: Jakub Piwowar: Runner-up  
 Kacper Piwowar: Round of 16

Under 13 Boys' Singles: Kacper Piwowar: Winner  
 Theodore Kneip: 3<sup>rd</sup> in group

Under 11 Boys' Singles: Theodore Kneip: Semi-final

## Chinese Diary by Nora Vint: Episode 3



**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 1959**

Breakfast at 7am! Then to visit sanatorium set on the mountainside – a most beautiful building used for treatment of nervous disorders and other complaints not infectious in character. We were received by the Administrator and given green tea!! He told us how this former Summer Residence had been converted into a sanatorium and given to the Trade Unions of Shanghai in 1954. There were 250 beds (230 were occupied at the moment), in rooms taking two, three and sometimes four patients – but not more. The staff consisted of eight doctors, 32 medical workers and about 30 others (domestic, administrative, etc). Minimum rest period was about nine weeks and patients contributed half the cost of the food. We were shown the patients' rooms, dining hall, reception rooms, lounge and the treatment rooms which included dentistry, massage, Chinese treatment with pins, electrical treatment for mental disorders and water treatment, medical baths, etc. All very interesting.

Then to the famous tea house where the green tea is made from the water from the mountain spring and the tea is grown on the hillside. Very difficult to drink as the green leaves would insist on floating on top of the pot! When the water from the spring has settled a sort of plastic film forms across the top. We climbed to the top of this particular hill (or mountain!) to see the Buddhist temple and a menagerie side by side!! In one cage in the menagerie were living a tiger and a dog – in another a cat and a rat – in another a rabbit and a ferret – peaceful co-existence!!

Then to the biggest Buddhist temple in Hangchow where has been restored an enormous Buddha. This temple is still looked after by monks and it was very interesting to talk to them. Incense sticks were burning in all the temples and obviously there was still a large Buddhist community in Hangchow. After lunch to the textile factory to watch Chinese silk being made, embroidered and painted. Many old skilled workers here among the young workers. The administrative director who received us (and gave us green tea, of course!) was 28.

We concluded our brief but crowded visit to Hangchow by having a boat trip on the West Lake – it was peaceful and beautiful.

We returned to Shanghai by train in the evening – the hotel had packed us a delicious picnic supper.

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 1959**

Morning free so we went to the hairdresser. A stupendous wash and set which took over two hours and turned out most beautifully. Cost 1 yuan – Bill and Mr Kao had a hair-do too. We all had it done in the same salon at the same time – the most noticeable thing was the concentration of the barbers – there was no chatter at all.

In the afternoon to a joint private and state enterprise factory, making scientific precision instruments. Shown around by capitalist owner, Mr Ting, and entertained to afternoon tea in his house with Mrs Ting. He was an ex-Rotarian and had been a member of the Shanghai Club for 20 years. He is 63, retained by the State at a salary of 500 yuan a month (about the same salary as Chairman Mao-tse-tung) and is allowed 5% of the profit. He reckoned he was making about £10,000 a year. Quite philosophically accepted the position and had to admit there was a vast improvement in conditions everywhere, and it was working out very well. On leaving Mr Ting's house we were surrounded by children from the school next door and a policeman had to be fetched to enable us to reach our cars.

While we were walking around the factory we were somewhat surprised to encounter seven young factory workers marching around the workshops with a drum, cymbals and other instruments beating out a rhythmic noise. Apparently they had just completed an invention and were so overjoyed they were going around to let their workmates know what they had achieved.

In the evening we went to the pictures to see a new film made in Shanghai.

### **Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> September 1959**

A visit to a turbine factory. 6,700 employees, average age 20-25 years, 12% women. Taken over from capitalists in 1953. No bosses remained but skilled workers from previous regime still remained and had become key men. The same story of incredible increase in production and the same cup of green tea! Great industrial estate being developed here on the outskirts of Shanghai. On Saturdays and Sundays free transport is provided for the workers into the city.

After lunch to an exhibition of export articles. These now number 6,500 and include articles from practically every sphere of trade (including honey)!

Then on to the Children's Palace. A recreational centre for middle school children aged from seven to seventeen years. Here they could have classes in many different subjects including embroidery (a beautiful Chinese art), puppetry, photography, modelling, dancing (we were given an impromptu performance by five young students), music and art. Meetings were held addressed by writers etc., and discussions were many. Recently 10-year-olds had been in conference to discuss ways and means of improving their status. One hall was devoted to gifts from different countries including England. In the English showcase we found a silk handkerchief and a small plate from Brighton. The long foyer was illuminated with lanterns and symbols of many different legends and folk-lore traditions and stories. It was a beautiful sight – at one end the illuminated tableau was of peacocks and the other end had a 'set piece' of white doves.

In the evening we went to dinner with Mr Koa and other representatives of the Shanghai Branch of the All-China Athletic Federation on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor of the International Hotel overlooking festive and illuminated Shanghai. Preparations for National Day celebrations were in full swing and searchlights, bands and other rehearsals were in progress. Room in which we were received (with green tea!) was rather like Uncle Tom's Cabin and we had a very gay evening during which the Sino-British Drinking Club was formed! The Secretary of the Shanghai Branch of the All-China Athletic Board was elected President and our interpreter, Mr Kao, was appointed Secretary! (He being practically teetotal!) The evening ended in Roy and Nancy's sitting room with brandy all round for our two good friends Miss Wong and the Secretary of the Shanghai Table Tennis Association. Miss Wong had been acting as interpreter for Roy and Nancy during the day as Mr Chao had had to return to Peking the previous day.

In this hotel the rooms were unlocked by floor control in a reception desk at the top of the stairs and by the lift stop. As you smiled at the fellow in charge of the floor reception desk so he pressed a button and your room door opened!! Chinese magic!

### **Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> September 1959**

Left Shanghai at 8am for Peking. As we drove to the airport at 7.15 in the morning we saw long crocodies of children off to the cinema. A special film show is held for children at 7.30am and 10am on Sunday mornings! A very pleasant flight with stops at Nanking and arrived Peking at 2.17pm having completed within a week about 2,000 miles round the three cities we had visited. The plane after ours brought the USSR Government representatives to the Celebrations and we saw the official reception on the tarmac by President Chou-en-lai. He arrived at the airport with a few comrades but quite without any fuss or bother. It was brilliant sunshine and a very well organised reception with representatives of the services and civic life and the children with flowers. Back to the Sin Chow Hotel for afternoon tea, a bath and supper. Then to the finals of the Table Tennis Championships with the closing ceremony of the tournament. Teams from 27 different provinces and cities had taken part and trophies presented to the first 12 in both team and individual events. Many of the players were around 17-18 years of age. During the playing session all competitors sat around the arena but all were in track suits.

## Commonwealth Games, Birmingham: 28<sup>th</sup> July-8<sup>th</sup> August 2022



*Karen Tonge, MBE*

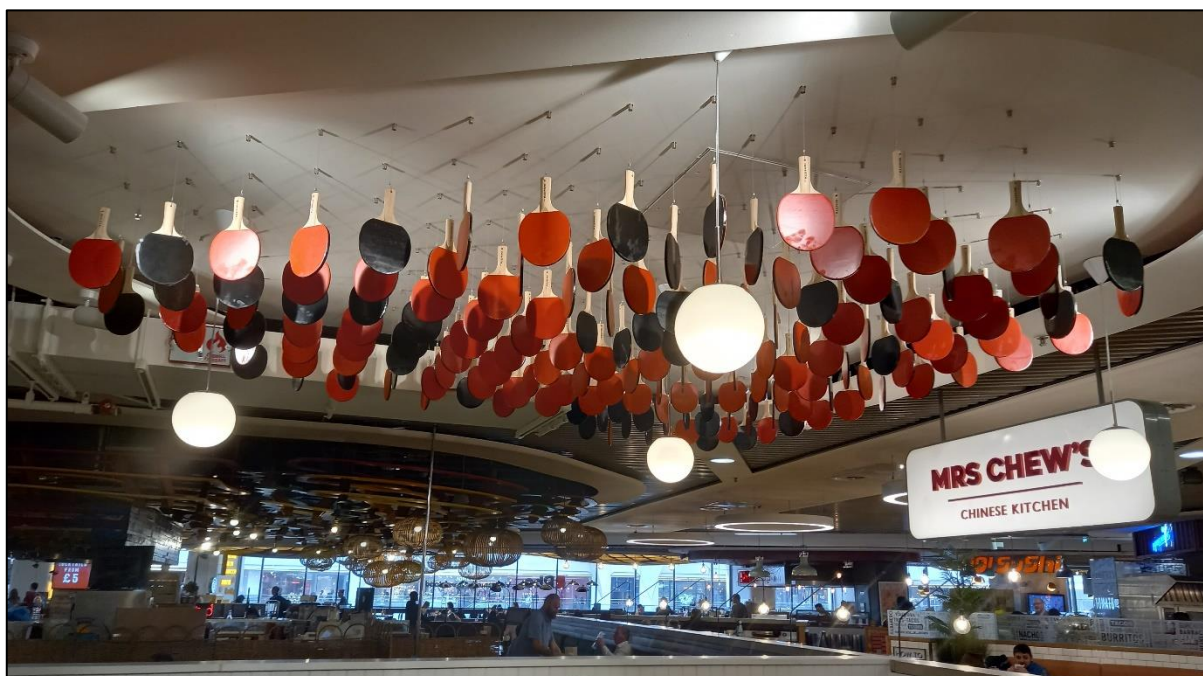
The Games draw closer and it has been announced that Karen Tonge, MBE, will be the referee for the table tennis and para table tennis events. 18 English umpires have also been selected and Chris Newton has been appointed as Field of Play Manager which makes up a little for the disappointment of not being able to go to the Tokyo Olympic Games.

England are holding trials in May 2022 to decide who will be part of the four-person team in the men's and women's events.

At the time of writing tickets were still available for the table tennis that is being played at the NEC which, of course, was the venue for the 1977 World Championships.

We are looking forward to our second city putting on a tremendous show in all sports which cover a wide area of the Midlands. There should be a considerable number of medals for the English table tennis players, let us hope some will be gold. Good luck to all and although the location isn't quite as dazzling as the Gold Coast at least we won't have to stay up until the bewitching hour to watch the matches.

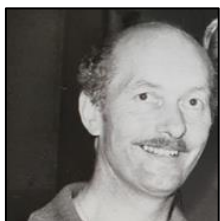
And while we are talking about Birmingham, how about dropping in to Mrs Chew's at Birmingham Central Station (formerly New Street) to see the amazing display of table tennis bats as photographed by top international umpire, Brian Watkins, on a recent visit.



New Street Station in Birmingham can possibly claim the title of the most unusual place to play a match. During the petrol shortage in 1957 a County Championships match between Warwickshire and Derbyshire was due to be played. As transport was difficult to arrange the Derbyshire team asked if the match could be played as close to New Street Station as possible.

Warwickshire obliged by arranging the match on Platform 1.

## In Memoriam



**Derek Bunday:** Sussex County Table Tennis Association lost one of its stalwarts when Derek Bunday died on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022, two days after his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Born in Isleworth, London, on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1932, Derek first started playing table tennis for his firm's team, Lloyds Register Shipping TTC, in London and carried on playing for them when they relocated to Crawley, designated a New Town, in the 1950s. Later the club amalgamated with Foresters in the Crawley/Horsham League at which time Derek signed for Horsham TTC and continued playing into his late 70s.

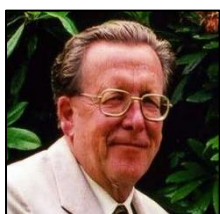
Derek was awarded the ETTA Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy in 2004 for his contribution as Sussex Senior Match Secretary for 15 years. He was a member of the ETTA British League Committee from 2005-11 and held numerous positions for Sussex County over a 30-year period, ranging from President, Vice-President, Chairman, Selection Committee Chairman, County Veterans Secretary to Appeals/Disciplinary Committee Member. It was during his time as Senior Match Secretary that Sussex twice won the County Championships Senior Premier Division title in 2005/06 and 2006/07, they were also runners-up twice.

Lloyds Register Shipping TTC in the Reigate, Redhill & DTTL was where Derek's administrative career began, as Secretary in 1974. He went on to hold positions in the Crawley/Horsham League being honoured as their President as well as Chairman for 30 years, plus numerous other posts. He also contributed to the administration of Horsham TTC, Dolphins TTC, Horsham Angels TTC and Horsham British League Club.

For good measure, Derek qualified as a County Umpire in 1979.

On the playing front, Derek was a hard bat defender who was renowned for not being able to hit a ball. This often led to long matches, one of which took place in the Crawley/Horsham League for Lloyds Register Shipping TTC in their purpose-built room, the club being one of the best two or three in the league. The match against Paymasters started at 7.45pm and Derek was first on playing a player with a similar style to his own. The players didn't think about expedite and so the players settled down for a long evening. Team member, Dave Edwards, tells how he sat reading his club table tennis book while the match progressed, two hours later it neared its end and eventually Derek won 21-19 in the third. Dave was next on and duly went on to win his match in three. Knowing it was not going to be an early finish, Dave went to his home nearby to watch the last episode of Monty Python which started at 10.15pm whilst team captain, Brian Antram, was on the table. Dave returned to watch the remaining matches and play his other two – eventually leaving the hall just after 1am.

Good and long-time friend, Dave Edwards, described Derek as one of the most competitive players that anyone was likely to encounter, a fierce competitor who knew all the tricks – and used them. Dave and other table tennis friends had visited Derek on Monday to help celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and took with them a card signed by many former colleagues and friends.



### Colin Hyland

Hastings, Sussex and England lost one of their most senior and respected members when Colin Hyland passed away on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in his home town of Hastings where he was born on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1934.

Colin had a tremendous influence on the organisation and development of table tennis in Hastings and Sussex as well as being one of the county's top players in his earlier days.

At local level Colin held many senior positions on the Hastings & District Table Tennis Association – President 1983-84 and 1990-91, Chairman 1976-98, Treasurer 1960-68, General Secretary 1967-76. He was made a Vice-President in 1992. That, however, barely covers the surface of his involvement which included the

Dordrecht sports exchange from the 1960s onwards, participating in matches representing the town with perhaps the most memorable one between Hastings and the Province of Normandy held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1966 to mark the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. It is not recorded who won that battle! Colin, also, was the organiser of many tournaments within the town.

On the playing front Colin was a one club player, playing for NALGO, and with his team won the Division 1 League championships on many occasions as well as holding the Hastings Closed Men's Singles and Doubles titles.

Sussex County benefited from Colin's knowledge and wisdom in the numerous posts he held from Chairman 1984-92, Deputy Chairman 1981-84, Treasurer 1973-84, also having been on the Coaching Committee and Appeals/Disciplinary Committee as well as its Honorary Auditor and Umpires Secretary. He was made a Vice-President and later an Honorary Life Member in 2001. Colin's expertise at organising led him to run the Sussex Open for ten years from 1976, one of the most popular and prestigious Opens in the country.

Moving on to national level Colin had a major influence on the Trade Committee; he was a member from 1991-2004 and again from 2006-14. He was also a valued member of the Tournaments Committee from 1988-2004.

A top official, Colin's qualifications took him around the world. He became a qualified coach in 1970, County Umpire 1976, National Umpire 1982 and an International Umpire in 1984. He was also a Tournament Referee 1976 and National Referee 1985. His journeys led him to umpiring or refereeing at World Championships, European Championships, European Youth Championships, foreign and English Opens, Commonwealth Championships, European League matches at home and abroad as well as numerous domestic tournaments around the country.

Colin's most memorable experience was umpiring, with Mick Strode, the Men's Team Final in the European Championships in Gothenburg in April 1990. The match was Sweden (Jan-Ove Waldner and Mikael Appelgren) against Germany (Jorg Roskopf, Stefan Fetzner and Georg Bohm) and you can't get much better than that.

In recognition of his achievements Colin was awarded the ETTA Merit Award in 1986 and an ETTA Vice-President in 2000. In 1988 Colin received the Hastings Sports Council Elka Hillier Shield for services to local table tennis.

Colin was still very interested in all that went on even when he wasn't quite so active and attended as many local events as he was able, a familiar and welcome presence at the Hastings Closed.

On a personal note, I remember how welcoming Colin was to me when I moved to Hastings in 1975 and joined the NALGO TTC, we used to play in a former nuclear bomb shelter! I had the pleasure and privilege to play with Colin in South East NALGO tournaments and so for over 40 years have appreciated his knowledge, guidance and wisdom as well as enjoying his company and welcoming his sage advice. An unassuming man but one whose influence and presence has left its mark on many people. We will miss him.

*From Dave Watters, Chairman of Hastings & DTTA: As Chairman of the Hastings and District Table Tennis Association I would like to say how saddened we all were to hear that Colin had passed away. His influence and commitment to Hastings Table Tennis was an example to us all, holding all the key offices on the Executive Committee over many years. Colin was an excellent player and sportsman and liked nothing better than to encourage all players to achieve their potential.*

*I have known Colin since 1976 when I moved to Hastings and started playing league table tennis, and I have enjoyed a few games against him, usually (if not always) with me coming second! On behalf of the H&DTTA Colin will be greatly missed, and we would all like to extend our sympathy to his wife and family.*



## Forthcoming Events

### Domestic Events:

**Cadet, U17 & Junior National Championships:** 30<sup>th</sup> April-1<sup>st</sup> May 2022, Nottingham

**St Neots/Cambridge Junior & Cadet 4 Star Open:** 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**ELCC Qualification, Senior:** 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022, various locations

**ELCC Qualification, Junior:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022, various locations

**London GP:** 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Redbridge

**U11 & U13 National Championships:** 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Wolverhampton

**Junior National Cup:** 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Perry Barr, Birmingham

**Gloucester GP:** 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June 2022

**ELCC Finals:** 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Draycott

*NB: The Women's & Girls' TTE event due on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022 and the Senior National Cup planned for 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July 2022 have both been cancelled.*

### International Events:

**European Youth Championships:** 6<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Belgrade, Serbia

**Commonwealth Games:** 29<sup>th</sup> July-8<sup>th</sup> August, Birmingham

**European Championships:** 13<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> August 2022, Munich, Germany

**U21 European Championships:** 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Cluj Napoca, Romania

**World Championships:** 30<sup>th</sup> September-9<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Chengdu, China (changed May 2022)

**Europe Youth Top 10:** 30<sup>th</sup> September-2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022, Tours, France

**ITTF World Youth Championships:** 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> December 2022

There are also several World Table Tennis events.

### Veterans Events:

**European Veteran Championships:** 25<sup>th</sup> June-2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022, Rimini, Italy

**World Veteran Championships:** 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> January 2023, Oman

**European Veteran Championships:** 26<sup>th</sup> June-1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, Sandefjord, Norway

Entries are open for all three Veteran Championships for the over 40s only. More details can be found on the VETTS website.

**STOP PRESS: Junior, U17 & Cadet National Championships:** A full report in our next issue but congratulations go to all the champions: Junior Girls' Singles – Anaya Patel, Junior Boys' Singles – Larry Trumpauskas, U17 Girls' Singles – Megan Jones, U17 Boys' Singles – Naphong Boonyaprapa, Cadet Girls' Singles – Maliha Baig, Cadet Boys' Singles – Larry Trumpauskas, Junior Girls' Doubles – Anaya Patel/Millie Rogove, Junior Boys' Doubles – Benjamin Piggott/Thomas Rayner, Junior Mixed Doubles – Connor Green/Erin Green, U17 Girls' Doubles – Anna Green/Megan Jones, U17 Boys' Doubles – Naphong Boonyaprapa/Connor Green, Cadet Girls' Doubles – Naomi Coker/Sienna Jetha, Cadet Boys' Doubles – Oliver Maric-Murray/Jakub Piwowar

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