



Table Tennis Times

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

Issue 23

Editorial

Summer 2021

With the Covid Vaccination programme going well we have reached the point when the government has lifted most restrictions and we can move to the new normal – whatever that may turn out to be - and table tennis can start again.

In this issue of our magazine, we are pleased to be able to report on several events that have already taken place in June and July as well as a belated report on the European Olympic Qualifying Tournament that took place in April, which is particularly relevant as Tokyo starts in a few days. No doubt like many of you, we will be spending much time in front of the television and our computers over the next few weeks. This is nothing new to Harvey who has spent hours watching the Tour de France over recent days in between Wimbledon and then the European Football Championships.

We also have the next installment of the Ken & Karenza Mathews Story, which we know is enjoyed by many of our readers. There is also another guest contribution from Brian Kean who tells us of his return to coaching in his own inimitable style. We hope this amuses you but the article does make some serious points.

Perennial favourites, “The Good News Page”, and “What Was Happening” also appear, the later looking at 1991 which, quite unbelievably is 30 years ago!

Thanks to all photographers with special thanks to Alan Man and Michael Loveder who once again have given their permission to use their images which certainly enhance the tournament reports.

There is also a short article from Richard Scruton promoting a book that Ian Marshall and Richard are putting together to celebrate the life of Angelica Rozeanu which will go be published in September. The book can be pre-ordered for a very reasonable 20 euros. All profits will go back into table tennis, so we would urge you to get a copy as it promises to be a memorable read.

As the summer has finally arrived we hope you can enjoy it a little before the season takes over our lives once again.

Best wishes

Diane and Harvey Webb

Junior National Cup 19th-20th June 2021, Widnes

The first national competition for fifteen months, the Junior National Cup, took place on 19th-20th June 2021. Formerly known as the Junior Masters or Junior Top 10/12 the competition is perhaps the most difficult and demanding of any to win as the players meet each other over an intense two day period – all playing all. 10 players in each category were given their places according to ranking plus two wild cards were allocated in each event making twelve players in all with 11 matches to play with a full complement.

At the end of day one the two top seeds Mollie Patterson and Louis Price remained undefeated, the only players to do so. Patterson having played six matches and Price five, one less due to the late withdrawal of one player.

Day two saw Patterson drop one match to the eventual second placed player, Anaya Patel. Patel had an excellent tournament to receive the silver medal winning nine of her matches, in bronze position was Mari Baldwin who also won nine matches losing out to Patel on games ratio.

This was the second Junior National Cup title for Patterson who had previously won the trophy in 2018, on that occasion she was undefeated throughout the tournament.

Junior National Cup 2021 - Girls															
	MP	JW	MB	AP	MR	GK	AM	EG	SA	AG	SU	LP	Wins	Posn	
Mollie Patterson	X	3-1	3-0	0-3	3-0	3-2	3-0	3-1	3-2	3-1	3-0	3-0	10	1	
Jasmin Wong	1-3	X	2-3	3-1	2-3	3-0	3-1	3-1	2-3	3-2	3-0	3-0	7	6	
Mari Baldwin	0-3	3-2	X	1-3	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-1	3-0	3-1	3-1	3-0	9	3	
Anaya Patel	3-0	1-3	3-1	X	1-3	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-0	3-1	3-2	3-0	9	2	
Millie Rogove	0-3	3-2	1-3	3-1	X	3-1	2-3	1-3	3-0	3-2	3-2	3-2	7	4	
Gemma Kerr	2-3	0-3	0-3	1-3	1-3	X	2-3	3-1	0-3	1-3	3-0	3-1	3	8	
Amy Marriott	0-3	1-3	0-3	1-3	3-2	3-2	X	3-1	1-3	3-1	1-3	3-0	5	7	
Erin Green	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	3-1	1-3	1-3	X	1-3	3-0	3-2	1-3	3	9	
Scarlett Anders	2-3	3-2	0-3	0-3	0-3	3-0	3-1	3-1	X	3-1	3-2	3-1	7	5	
Anna Green	1-3	2-3	1-3	1-3	2-3	3-1	1-3	0-3	1-3	X	2-3	1-3	1	12	
Samadhi Udumulla	0-3	0-3	1-3	2-3	2-3	0-3	3-1	2-3	2-3	3-2	X	3-2	3	10	
Lois Perryman	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	2-3	1-3	0-3	3-1	1-3	3-1	2-3	X	2	11	


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Final Standings: 1 Mollie Patterson, 2 Anaya Patel, 3 Mari Baldwin, 4 Millie Rogove, 5 Scarlett Anders, 6 Jasmin Wong, 7 Amy Marriott, 8 Gemma Kerr, 9 Erin Green, 10 Samadhi Udumulla, 11 Lois Perryman, 12 Anna Green



Susie Venner with Junior Girls Singles Champion Mollie Patterson

In the boys event Price won nine of his ten matches with the one loss to Amirul Hussain who ended up fifth, four players finished on seven wins and after count-back it was Ben Piggott who scraped into second place, an excellent result as he was ranked eighth, Joe Cope was third just ahead of the unlucky Connor Green, who also had a good tournament. Hussain who just missed out on a podium place.

Junior National Cup 2021 - Boys



	LP	JC	RD	AH	JW	OC	DG	BP	RP	MS	JFT	CG	Wins	Posn
Louis Price	X	3-0	3-2	1-3	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-1	-	3-1	9	1
Joe Cope	0-3	X	3-0	3-2	3-2	3-2	2-3	0-3	3-0	3-0	-	3-0	7	3
Rhys Davies	2-3	0-3	X	2-3	3-2	2-3	3-1	1-3	1-3	3-1	-	2-3	3	8
Amirul Hussain	3-1	2-3	3-2	X	1-3	3-1	3-0*	3-1	3-0	3-1	-	1-3	7	5
Josh Weatherby	1-3	2-3	2-3	3-1	X	3-0	2-3	3-0	3-0	3-0	-	2-3	5	6
Olly Cornish	0-3	2-3	3-2	1-3	0-3	X	0-3	0-3	3-0	3-2	-	0-3	3	7
David Gofton	0-3	3-2	1-3	0-3*	3-2	3-0	X	0-3	0-3*	0-3*	-	0-3*	3	11
Ben Piggott	0-3	3-0	3-1	1-3	0-3	3-0	3-0	X	3-0	3-0	-	3-2	7	2
Robert Pelc	0-3	0-3	3-1	0-3	0-3	0-3	3-0*	0-3	X	1-3	-	0-3	2	10
Maxim Stevens	1-3	0-3	1-3	1-3	0-3	2-3	3-0*	0-3	3-1	X	-	1-3	2	9
Jie Fu Tham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-
Connor Green	1-3	0-3	3-2	3-1	3-2	3-0	3-0*	2-3	3-0	3-1	-	X	7	4



© Table Tennis England 2021

Final Standings: 1 Louis Price, 2 Ben Piggott, 3 Joe Cope, 4 Connor Green, 5 Amirul Hussain, 6 Josh Weatherby, 7 Olly Cornish, 8 Rhys Davies, 9 Maxim Stevens, 10 Robert Pelc, 11 David Gofton – retired injured



Jill Parker, MBE with Junior Boys Singles Winner Louis Price

Trophies were presented, at a distance, by Board Members, Susie Venner and President, Jill Parker, MBE. No spectators were allowed at the tournament but two matches each session were live streamed and so it was possible to watch some play.

Congratulations to the two champions and on commendable performances from many of the other players.

European Olympic Singles Qualifying Tournament

It seems a long time ago now but the final qualifying tournament for the Olympics for European competitors took place from 21st-25th April 2021 in Guimaraes, Portugal. In the guise of GB, two male and two female players were able to have one last shot at gaining a place. Liam Pitchford and Paul Drinkhall were the top two GB players who could have entered. However, Pitchford was bound to qualify due to his world ranking and so declined to play, preferring to train in Germany. The positive from this was that it gave Sam Walker the opportunity to take part. A difficult call as if he and Drinkhall both qualified in this event then Walker would not be going to Tokyo as only two players were allowed from each country.

With Covid-19 still being a serious issue precautions were strict and regular testing undertaken to help ensure the safety of all players, officials and those involved.



Covid-19 testing. Photo courtesy of the ETTU

Stage 1

Tin-Tin Ho from England and Charlotte Carey from Wales were the two women's entries. The ladies both started well. Ho (WR 94) easing comfortably past her first opponent, Ana Tofant, from Slovenia 4-0 in her first group match. Carey on the other hand had a more difficult challenge. World Ranked at 151 she faced Debora Vivarelli of Italy (WR 71) in her first match. Playing superbly Carey overcame her much higher ranked opponent 4-2, an excellent way to start her campaign.



Tin-Tin Ho. Photo courtesy of the ETTU

The men had mixed fortunes. Paul Drinkhall (WR 57) came out of the starting blocks raring to go and had an easy 4-0 win against Turkey's, Ibrahim Gunduz 4-0. Sam Walker, although World Ranked 96, was

coming back from injury and not fully fit and this showed in his first group encounter where he would have been disappointed to lose against underranked Eric Glod (WR 210) of Luxembourg by 4-1.

The second round of group matches resulted in a defeat for Ho against Serbia's Sabina Surjan (WR 137) by 4 games to 2. Carey had no second match on the first day as there were only three players in her group which meant at the end of day one she was in a good position to go through to the knock-out rounds. Ho with one win and one defeat was a little less secure.

Drinkhall had a good win in his second group match on day 1, although starting a little slowly he gathered pace throughout the match to make it a comfortable 4-1 win over Rares Sipos (WR 149) which set him up well for his third and final group match on day 2. Sam Walker's second match saw his first win, against Florent Lambiet of Belgium (WR 104) by 4-2.

Day 2 started well as Charlotte Carey had her second excellent win against another higher ranked player, Slovakia's Tatiana Kukulkova (WR 139) with a 4-0 score line. Carey was well behind in the first two ends but battled and fought for every point to gradually reduce the deficit and so finished top of her group which put her in a good position in the Stage 2 knock-out. Unfortunately, the same was not so for Ho who had a rather dismal game against Bulgarian, Polina Trifonova (WR 408) going down without winning a game and so was out of the competition.

Drinkhall's last group match was a very comfortable 4-0 win against the young Latvian, Daniels Kogans (WR 1,064), which put him in the pole position in the group whilst Walker's last group match was against Alex Naumi of Finland (WR 265) which he won 4-1. Walker finished second in his group having a slightly poorer games ratio of 9:7 against Glod's 9:6 but it was sufficient to progress.

Stage 2

The numbers were reduced to 20 men for the 2nd Stage of the competition. Drinkhall had a bye into the second round but Walker faced Rares Sipos beaten by Drinkhall on day one. Walker could not get the same result and lost 4-0. This still gave him the opportunity to have one final fling in Stage 3.



Sam Walker. Photo courtesy of the ETTU

Drinkhall on the other hand went through to the Quarter-finals of this stage with a good win against Pole, Jakub Dyas (WR 65). It was Alvaro Robles of Spain (WR 63) who won the Quarter-final match 4-1, he went on to be one of the winning Semi-finalists thus going through to Tokyo. Drinkhall like Walker now entered the 3rd and final stage for one last chance to qualify. It certainly was a complicated process.



Charlotte Carey. Photo courtesy of the ETTU

24 female players entered the Second Stage knock-out rounds with four places up for grabs for Tokyo. As one of the four group winners Carey entered the fray in the second round along with the four seeded players. Carey was possibly having the best tournament of her career as her wins continued beating Katarina Strazar, Slovenia, (WR 303) 8, 9, 10, 8. She next had to face Jieni Shao of Portugal (WR 63) who was playing on home turf. Carey, playing with as much passion, flair and fire as I have seen from anyone in a long time must be considered the most hard done to player in the tournament. Battling for every point the game see-sawed one way and then the next against an opponent ranked nearly 100 places above her. The seventh game was so tense for GB supporters as Carey went into a 10-6 lead but she was unable to convert the next four points. Score 10-10. The next point went to Carey in an unbelievable 54 hit rally. 11-11. Then disaster. The next point was disputed as Carey firmly thought the ball hit her opponent's shirt during the rally but it was not called. Understandably, this had an adverse effect upon Carey who lost the next point with the ball bouncing long off the top of the net and so the match, which lasted over an hour, went to Shao. Huge disappointment for Carey but she should be so proud of her achievement in reaching this far and an inspiration to any youngster who was watching her.

Final Stage

For the women, the same players except for the two who had now qualified for Tokyo from Stage 2 were all put back into the hat, 22 players in total. Carey as a losing Quarter-finalist had a first round bye and met Trifonova of Bulgaria, who had beaten Ho 4-0 in a group match, in round two. Another close match but it was Trifonova who won 4-3 and so continued in the tournament.



Paul Drinkhall. Photo courtesy of the ETTU

18 men went into the Final Stage with Sam Walker the first Brit on court facing Mihai Bobocica, Italy, (WR 123). All close games but it was Bobocica who was the victor thus ending Walker's dream.

Drinkhall was due to meet Belarussian, Aleksandr Khanin (WR 154) in his first match in Round 2 of Stage 3 but due to a positive Covid test Khanin was not able to play which left Drinkhall meeting Glod, winner over Walker, in the Stage 3 Quarter-final, a match Drinkhall won 4-0. Up next was Romanian, Ovidiu Ionescu in the Semi-finals but Drinkhall suffering from an injury could not effect the win. This left him with one last chance as the winner of the two losing Semi-finals now met with the winner taking the final Olympic place. Within touching distance of that place Drinkhall was not able to cross the line and it was Pavel Sirucek of Czech Republic with a 4-2 who was Tokyo bound.

After five intense and arduous days there was disappointment for all the GB players. It looked as if Liam Pitchford would be the only one going to Tokyo. One factor that was disappointing from a Great Britain perspective was that although the players were representing GB, as in the World Qualifying Tournament, the players wore either England or Wales shirts and not GB ones.

Qualifiers

Men: Alvaro Robles (Spain), Kou Lei (Ukraine), Panagiotis Gionis (Greece), Pavel Sirucek (Czech Republic), Ovidiu Ionescu (Romania)

Women: Prithika Pavade (France), Yuan Jia Nan (France), Yana Noskova (Russia), Maria Xiao (Spain)



For the Qualifiers. Photo courtesy of the ETTU

After the Tournament:

There was subsequently good news for two of the GB squad when the twists and turns of table tennis saw Tin-Tin Ho selected due to her world ranking of 93 in June and finally Paul Drinkhall got a call as late as 7th July to play in the Men's Singles. He was first reserve and when Vladimir Samsonov had to withdraw due to a long term injury on what would have been his seventh Olympic Games appearance, Drinkhall stepped into his place.

This will be Ho's first Olympic Games, Pitchford's second in the singles event but third overall and Drinkhall will equal Carl Prean's record of three consecutive singles appearances.

We wish them all well and can see many late nights and early mornings when the competition starts in Tokyo on Saturday 24th July 2021. Pitchford is ranked 11th, Drinkhall 36th and Ho 51st with 65 men taking part and 70 women.

Ken and Karenza Mathews Story: Continued

1973

Ken: On 12th January the England Squad played an exhibition at Bolton. Unfortunately, we don't have the details of that one. On the 19th we played another, this time at Shenfield which is near Brentwood in Essex. The team was Karenza, Jill, Linda, Denis Neale, Nicky Jarvis and Les Haslam.

The English Closed Championships were held at the Crystal Palace. Karenza lost in the final of the Women's Singles to Jill, lost in the semi-finals of the Mixed Doubles partnering Denis – but she won the Ladies' Doubles title partnering Linda Howard.

Table Tennis

BRAVE ENGLAND WOMEN BEATEN IN FINAL

By D. J. RUTNAGUR

ENGLAND, who have had a lean season, redeemed themselves yesterday in the team events in the Norwich Union international table tennis championships, at Brighton, the women reaching the final before losing 3-1 to the highly-accomplished Sweden.

Outstanding for the women, who beat Rumania 3-1 in the semi-finals, was Jill Hammersley, only just recovered from an eye injury.

The Swedes completed the double by winning the men's event as well.

A great prestige blow was struck for England in the early minutes of the tournament, when the junior champion, Jamaican-born Desmond Douglas, playing for England III, beat Sweden's Kjell Johansson, the world's No. 5.



Desmond Douglas, of England III, in action yesterday.

RESULTS

WOMEN

1ST RD.—N. Zealand vs Belgium 3-0; France vs Ireland 3-0; W. Germany vs Denmark 3-1.

2ND RD.—Sweden vs Hungary 3-1; Czechoslovakia vs N. Zealand 3-0; Rumania vs W. Germany 3-0; England vs France 3-2; J. Hammersley vs Y. Lecler 21-14, 21-19; K. Mathews lost to C. Bergerer 21-15, 12-21, 15-21; Mathews & L. Howard lost to Lecler & Bergerer 21-14, 14-21, 10-21; Hammersley vs Bergerer 21-19, 21-11; Mathews vs Lecler 21-17, 16-21, 21-19.

SEMIFINALS.—Sweden vs Czechoslovakia 3-0; England vs Rumania 3-1 (Hammersley vs E. Vlasovic 21-14, 21-14; Mathews vs N. Alexandru 21-15, 21-15; Mathews & Howard beat to Vlasovic & Alexandru 16-21, 24-22, 17-21; Hammersley vs Alexandru 21-11, 21-10).

FINAL.—Sweden vs England 3-1 (B. Radberg vs Mathews 21-16, 21-11; J. Andersson lost to Hammersley 18-21, 10-21; Radberg & Andersson vs Mathews & Howard 21-17, 21-19; Radberg vs Hammersley 21-19, 21-14).

SKIING

VANONI TROPHY (Copperto, Italy).—Special Slalom (2 runs, Italian rules started): G. Carradi 37.15sec. 1; F. Radici 37.05 2; F. Bieher 38.58. 3; R. Schuster (Austria) 39.50. 4; A. Scherzer 43.19 5.

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION (Lake Placid, N. York).—J. Smisak (Poland) 1h 12m 4.07s. 1; F. Potter (G. Germany) 1-13-55.01. 2; S. Obrochta (Poland) 1-14-58-59. 3.

Karenza: On 26th January the squad flew via somewhere (I can't remember where) to Viasim in Czechoslovakia to play in the Czech Open. Jill, Linda and I lost to Hungary in the team event and I lost to Di Scholer in the Singles. Not much better in the Doubles where Linda and I lost to the number one Russian pair, and Nicky Jarvis and I lost to the number one seeds in the Mixed.

On the 31st we travelled to Karlovy Vary to play the Czechs in our next European League match. In the banners advertising the match I was listed as Mathewsova and Linda Howard as Howardova. I can't remember how far Karlovy Vary was from Viasim – but we didn't have long to rest as the match was played that same evening. Maybe some excuse for England losing 5-2. I partnered Nicky Jarvis in the Mixed Doubles which we lost to Milan Orlovski and Ilona Vostova. We arrived home on Thursday 1st February.

On 24th February we went up to Teesside for the Teesside Three Star Tournament. There were team events – which were a bit of a non event as there were only teams from the UK involved. Anyway, England 1 beat Middlesex in the final. I won the Women's Singles beating Susan Howard in the final.

On Wednesday the 28th we went down to Brighton for the English Open which ran from 1st - 3rd March. In the Women's team event we did well to beat Rumania 3-1 in the semi-final – I

had a good result (**Ken**: Brilliant result!) in that I managed to beat Maria Alexandru 21-15, 21-13. She was their number one; she was a defensive player and I always had trouble with her sort! We then went on and managed to lose to Sweden in the final. In that match I lost to Birgitte Radberg.

I lost to her again in the Women's Singles – she won the tournament. At least Denis Neale and I got to the final of the Mixed Doubles by beating the holders, Anton Stipancic and Maria Alexandru - but we lost to the No.1 Czech pair, Milan Orlovski and Ilona Vostova.

This photo (right) was taken at the English Open. Me, Linda and Jill are pictured with Team Captain Bryan Merritt. We had just been awarded our silver medals for reaching the final of the Women's Team Event.



Karenza Mathews, Linda Howard, Jill Hammersley,
Captain Bryan Merritt

We travelled to Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire on 4th March where, on the 5th, we played France in a European League match. We won the match 5-2. I didn't play in the Singles and Denis and I lost to Jacques Secretin and Claude Bergeret in the Mixed Doubles.

The next day, the 6th, we played them again. It was either at Dorking or Hastings – and we can't find the result either! The photo below is of the English Team and shows some new faces. As well as me, Jill and Linda



Karenza Mathews, Les Gresswell, Jill Hammersley,
Les Haslam, Linda Howard, Denis Neale,
Desmond Douglas

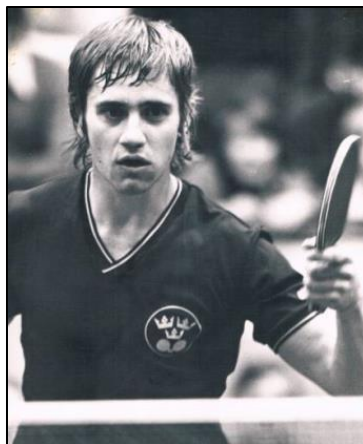
in the front row, the boys at the back are Les Gresswell who was now Team Captain, Les Haslam, Denis and, standing beside Linda, Desmond Douglas. Both Les and Desmond's families were originally from Jamaica; now they had become very successful players for England. Desmond would become the England number one and would win the England Men's Championship title no less than eleven times – a record that is unequalled and may never be beaten.

Off to Lea Green for a long training camp which ran from the 7th - 23rd. I had to return on the weekend of the 10th - 12th as I was playing in a County Match for Middlesex against Kent at Sittingbourne – which we won. Then, back to Lea Green. The South Korean Team joined us from 17th - 21st. On the 22nd Ken arrived at the camp with the new uniforms for the squad.

On the 24th we travelled to Cardiff for the Commonwealth Championships which ran from 26th - 31st. I managed to lose to Jill in the final of the Women's Singles and, together with Linda Howard, we lost to Jill and Susan Howard in the final of the Women's Doubles. Denis and I won the Mixed Doubles; we beat Alan Hydes and Linda in that event. Earlier, England won the Women's Team event. We beat Canada in the final; I beat their No.1 whose name was Violetta Nesukaitis.

There were two other good things about the tournament. One was that at the finals night party, Acker Bilk and His Paramount Jazz Band played – they were great! The other was that we went to a dinner given by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff at the City Hall on the 29th. The Welsh Roast Lamb was lovely!

On 3rd April we flew to Sarajevo in Yugoslavia for the World Championships. In the team events we beat Austria (I beat Eva Bogner 2-0). We lost to Japan – I lost my Singles. Then I lost to Zoja Rudnova in our match against the USSR – which we lost 1-3. Then I managed to lose to Beatrix Kishazi in our match against Hungary. Then – oh, dear – I lost to Alica Grofova in our match against Czechoslovakia. I won my Singles in our match against Indonesia. Then we reached the play-offs. We beat Yugoslavia 3-1; here, Jill won her two Singles and Linda and I won the Doubles. We then beat France 3-0; in that match I beat Lecler. Finally we lost to Sweden 2-3. England women ended ranked 9th in the world.



In the Singles I lost to a Bulgarian 3-2. Linda lost to Radberg of Sweden and Jill lost to a South Korean. In the Women's Doubles, Linda and I lost to a pair of North Koreans, although Jill, partnering Kishazi of Hungary did well to reach the quarters. Denis and I reached the last thirty-two before losing to a pair of Russians. These are some pictures from those championships: The first is Stellan Bengtsson from Sweden: he had been World Men's Singles Champion in 1971. Another great player was Istvan Jonyer (pronounced Yonyer) the Hungarian number one. (He is seen below playing Men's Doubles with Tibor Klampar, also of Hungary.) Although it is skipping forward slightly, Jonyer would go on to win the World Men's Singles title at Calcutta in 1975.

After our return from Sarajevo we played a visiting Japanese team at Torquay on 18th April. I lost to Yakota and Linda and I lost the Doubles. We drew the match 4-4.

England played Japan again on the 20th although I didn't play in that match. One more match on the 22nd at the Crystal Palace Recreation Centre. Again, we lost 3-4. Fortunately, one of our wins was me beating Tomie Edano 21-18 in the third – and Denis and I won our Mixed Doubles.

On Saturday 6th May we performed an exhibition for the Downham and District Youth Leaders Association; this was at the Southery Village Hall, Southery being a village near Downham Market in Norfolk. This was a full team exhibition with Karenza, Jill, Team Captain Les Greswell, Desmond



Karenza Mathews, Jill Hammersley, Captain Les Greswell, Local Official, Tony Clayton, Nicky Jarvis

Douglas, Tony Clayton and Nicky Jarvis. Ken was out front with the microphone as usual!

On Wednesday 23rd May I went with some of our lady friends to Sue Howard's Hen Party. Lots of laughs and drinks - a lovely, chatty, girl's night out with everyone behaving themselves! This was on the same night as Colin Henderson's Stag party.



Nicky Jarvis in action

25th May saw the team back at Oswestry in Shropshire. Well, at least Ken and I were back there - we had been to Oswestry in 1966 when, with Mary and Brian, we had played an exhibition there. Now we were back with the same team that had played at Downham Market a couple of weeks ago.

More from the pen of Ken and Karenza Mathews next issue

Table Tennis England Information

In line with the ITTF who have recently changed their junior age group from under 18 to under 19, Table Tennis England have also changed their junior category from the start of the 2021/22 season so anyone born before 1st January in the qualifying year will have an extra year as a junior. In view of this consideration is to be given to have an under 17 event at the Junior and Cadet National Championships and National Cups so there will be events for under 15 (Cadet), U17 (new category) and under 19 (Juniors). It will seem a little odd calling a 19 year old a junior!

Due to the pandemic the ranking system has been suspended and although there have been a few intermittent tournaments, the ranking system will not restart until 1st August 2021 so no ranking points will apply to any events which take place prior to that.

Following the resignation of Tony Catt as the members' elected Board Member in January 2021 an election took place for his replacement. There were three candidates, Mike Bishop, Darren Morgan and Ritchie Venner. The closing date was 11th May 2021 and the poll saw Ritchie Venner receive 52% of votes so a decisive win. For the first time there is a husband and wife combination as voting members on the TTE Board as Susie Venner (formerly Hughes) has another two years to serve. I hope they have as many interesting and diverse discussions as Harvey and I do – and as many differences of opinion. Congratulations to Ritchie who we have known for many years having played in the Hastings League at the same time but in rather different divisions. We know he will be a great asset to the Board and TTE, known for his sound judgement and equable temperament.

Three new Appointed Directors have also taken up their positions with Dr Emma Vickers, Ray James and Kwadjo Adjepong replacing Doug Livingstone, Dee Patterson and Mark Quartermaine.

With the Board refreshed, with two of the new appointments having a table tennis background, we look forward to some new perspectives and ideas.

U10-U13 National Championships: 3rd-4th July 2021, University of Warwick

All photos by Michael Loveder

The youngest generation battled it out for the eight titles on offer at the University of Warwick. There were 73 boys and 39 girls in total with singles events only this year, no doubles due to Covid-19.

Under 13 Singles: The U13s started the ball rolling on Saturday with 42 boys and 29 girls enjoying the return to play. Number 1 seed, Ralph Pattison, won the event with Isaac Kingham the Runner-up – the same standings as in the U11 event two years previously. For the girls, Sienna Jetha, also the Number 1 seed took home the gold medal winning the final 3-0 against Naomi Coker.



U13 Champions Ralph Pattison and Sienna Jetha

Under 11 Singles: 23 boys were split into six groups followed by the knock-out rounds. Kacper Piwowar just pipped Abraham Sellado 13-11 in the fifth end in the final with both lads having match points, a close contest. The U11 girls saw a victory for Alyssa Nguyen, one of three from her family who played over the weekend. Hannah Saunders was the Runner-up, a small entry of 13 in this event.



U11 Champions Alyssa Nguyen and Kacper Piwowar

Under 12 Singles: Sunday morning, bright and early, saw 37 boys start the day in 10 groups. There were some fierce battles before Kacper Piwowar took his second gold of the weekend defeating Hugo Nguyen in the final 6, 10, -7, 9 having earlier beaten his twin brother, Leo in the Quarters. It meant another medal for the Nguyen family as well. A yellow card for Piwowar for throwing his bat rather spoiled the victory. It was another double gold for Sienna Jetha as she overcame Brooke Morris -7, 8, 7, 7 in the final.



U12 Champions Kacper Piwowar and Sienna Jetha

Under 10 Singles: The youngest of all the age categories had 15 boys and eight girls vying to become champion. A delighted Alyssa Nguyen earned her second gold medal with a 3-1 win over Amber Lemmon 4, 8, -9, 7. The corresponding boys' champion was Teagan Khazal with Charles Donald in silver medal position.



U10 Champions Teagan Khazal and Alyssa Nguyen

Congratulations to all the new champions and well played to all the young players, the stars of the future!

ITTF AGM

It seems things are not at their best at the ITTF with power and authority issues within their Board of Directors, Officers and staff. The Executive had called for the ITTF AGM to be held in September 2021 and not at the World Championships which are to be held in Houston in November. However, after a challenge from former President, Adham Sharara, following legal advice on both sides, the status quo has remained and the AGM will take place at the World Championships as required by the constitution but as a hybrid meeting.

At the AGM, elections will be held for the position of President and Sweden's Petra Sorling will be standing against incumbent, Thomas Weikert. There may be other candidates as the closing date has not yet passed.

Back To School Coaching

By Brian Kean

The first point I need to make clear is that table tennis and other sports and activities beyond, have an overwhelming duty of care to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all youngsters who attend our classes.

To this end it is essential that all coaches undergo the necessary checks ensuring they have an unblemished history and are fit to care for the most valuable possession any parent has.

So yes DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service), safeguarding courses and governing body qualifications provide parents with comfort knowing that their charges are in the hands of trusted individuals.

That said, I have to ask at what point does over zealousness and box ticking hold court over commonsense and respect, and come into the equation for the many volunteers who devote countless hours into the development of youngsters.

I, like many coaches, have had our coaching activities curtailed throughout the pandemic. However, I was pleased to receive the call from one of my local schools inviting me to recommence coaching activities in their after schools clubs twice a week.

I was advised by the head of PE (who interestingly as a 13 year old played for the soccer team I used to manage) that they had a new head teacher and human resource manager who had introduced new regulations for all specialist coaches of which details would be forthcoming .

The starting point was to attend an hour long meeting with the site manager who would guide us through the school to where we would be working thus avoiding any unnecessary wanderings into areas that we should not be in. That was problem one... I was unavailable to attend the meeting due to holiday. I pointed out that as I had been involved in the school off and on over a period of 10 years and I knew exactly where I needed to be. Not good enough...they would provide me with a site plan and a declaration form which would require signing stating presumably that I would not deviate from the stipulated route.

Step two was to meet the HR manager and present my credentials i.e: DBS...Safeguarding....First Aid... Governing Body Insurance....Coaching Qualifications. This for me consisted of three Safeguarding Certificates, a VALID DBS and a slightly dated First Aid Certificate. NOT ACCEPTABLE

This however highlighted the expiry of my TTE license as yet again the Safeguarding needed updating. (But courses were not being run) OK - I learn TTE have outsourced this to UK Coaching and it can be completed on line. After countless fruitless on-line attempts in which I was either timed out or simply thrown out, I frustratingly abandoned the idea. It poses the question that once having attended countless courses and gained certificated qualifications how many times is it necessary to complete the process?

I only sat my 11 plus once...I only sat my GCSE (equivalent) once.....I only sat my driving test once... I only attended one course to receive my Institute of Marketing certificate once...similarly, my National Freight Transport certificate once. Sure, things change but the care and attention I afford my grandkids varies little from that which prevailed when their parents were a similar age.

Despite being only two days from the first session it's back to school to explain to HR my difficulty. OK if that's the case HR advised they would email me their 43 page A4 document which I would print out read and sign the declaration advising that I had read it. I politely ask, "is it any different to the three Safeguarding books and certificates I had submitted from previous courses" ...no joy (ouch and if looks

could kill) still had to adhere to their procedure. Additionally they would provide a link to the school 40 minute Audio/Video which I would need to listen to on all matters to do with safeguarding, sign the declaration and advise that it was duly understood.

The next issue they needed to address was my DBS as it wasn't acceptable and would require updating. WHOAtrigger...it was renewed 15 months previously by a neighboring school within the same borough's education authority and was the exact same document they accepted prior to pandemic. CLEARLY and despite a clean bill of behavioral health over 50 years I was not a man to be trusted, who knows what I could have been up to in the last 15 months!

So, I reluctantly complied and completed yet another DBS form which would be processed by them, albeit I did so with some trepidation worried by some remote chance it highlighted in 1953 a local Edinburgh resident "daubed" Tam Peake and I into the school headmaster for helping ourselves from a fruit tree that was well blessed with copious amounts of Granny Smiths.

So, two days later fully equipped with my personal insurance and enthused by the opportunity to return to a modicum of normality I pitch up ready to commence the session only to be told by the receptionist that the HR Manager needed to see me before I proceeded to the TT room. I was advised that the DBS hadn't been received so I would be unable to "Fly Solo" until it came through. What this meant was that the HR lady kicked off her "Jimmy Choos" donned a pair of "Skecher's best" and almost frog marched me through the building (albeit with a few wrong turns.....well she was new!) and handed me over like a BLOODY ROYAL MAIL PARCEL (well not quite as I wasn't late and didn't leave a note stating that I could be collected five miles away from the depot) to the head of PE who would embarrassingly escort me to the TT room where I would be supervised throughout the session by a 20 something year old teaching student who in fairness sussed my mood and kept his eyes firmly fixed on his iPad and lapped up various episodes of Pepper Pig, Bing and good old Thomas the Tank Engine.

The following day's session was an action replay of day one. In a quiet, confidential chat with Head of PE (remember he that was one of my soccer charges 25 years previously) that as a 75 year old father of two, (with all my own teeth) grandfather of four, with 50 years unblemished dedication to youth development I have never felt such humiliation in all my life. The online stuff is pure box ticking as it cannot be audited and has become a cheap way of avoiding running proper face to face courses (yeah I know Covid has necessitated some of it).

I did say had it not been for our personal history I would have walked away but was aware how difficult it had been for him to go through similar procedures with seven other external coaches.

This illustrated an overly zealous new team trying to make their mark in a new school and were devoid of any commonsense and respect for the willing sports people who by and large are volunteers who on occasions receive scant remuneration relative to the number of hours they devote to the cause.

On the issue of safety I have witnessed a prevalence of sheer hypocrisy. I advised this same school previously that a couple of tables were in need of repair and were not safe. Lo and behold, on my first session with student teacher as witness, one table collapsed and but for the fleet of movement of the youngster on the table it could have resulted in serious injury. (...and yes I duly completed an accident report of which I received no written receipt/ acknowledgement).

That is just one of many risk factors I have encountered in schools and have reported to staff who take on board my comments but within weeks the same issues rear their ugly heads yet again.

I am of no doubt many of my fellow coaches will have countless tales to tell of the barriers that are encountered and must on many occasions wonder why we tolerate the stress and grief that often comes our way. Without wishing to be dramatic my humiliating experience of being escorted through the

school with a stern faced HR lady (younger than my sons) was akin to a convict marching side by side with a prison warder (in fairness without the shackles) and left me quite upset for a number of days. But then again maybe I am too sensitive for my own good.



Figure 1 Brian Kean (far right), part of the Cheshire County Team 1969 with Roger Hampson, Mike Johns and Derek Schofield

The Good News Page

Table tennis is back! With lockdown lifted, whatever we may think about the rights and wrongs, it has meant table tennis is back with no restrictions. Clubs, leagues and counties can start preparing for the next season.

ITTF World Championships: These are now planned to take place in Houston, USA from 23rd to 29th November 2021. The 2020 Championships which were due to be held in Busan will not be reinstated.

European Veteran Championships: have been announced for 2022 and are to be held in Rimini, Italy from 25th June-2nd July 2022. Harvey and I aim to be there, all being well (should we have put that bit on the Good News page!). In 2023 the date is set for Sandefjord, Norway from 26th June – 1st July. Time to get the train timetables out.

Para European Championships: A bid has been put in to host these championships in 2023 at the EIS, Sheffield where the British Para Factor 40 Open was held in 2012.

Paralympic Games: There will be 13 GB participants in Tokyo when the Paralympics start on 24th August – Aaron McKibbin, Ashley Facey Thompson, Billy Shilton, David Wetherill, Jack Hunter-Spivey, Joshua Stacey, Megan Shackleton, Paul Karabardak, Rob Davies MBE, Ross Wilson, Sue Bailey (Gilroy) MBE, Tom Matthews, Will Bayley MBE.

ETTA Centenary: Plans are in hand to celebrate 100 years of the English Table Tennis Association. A Gala Dinner is due to be held on the Sunday evening after the National Championships in March 2022. Colin Clemett and I have been tasked with writing a book to cover the 100 years, most of the research has been carried out but we are still looking for additional photos. So, if you have anything tucked away of national or international importance, please do get in touch. Contact details are on the last page.

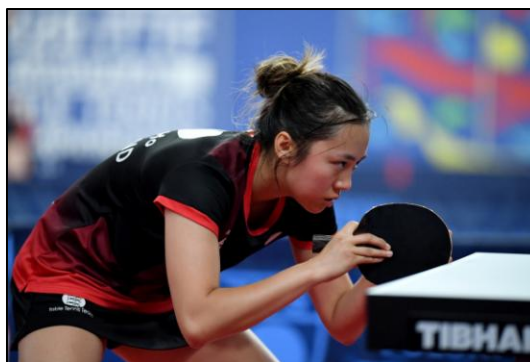
European Championships

The delayed European Championships started on 22nd June 2021 in Warsaw. England was allowed five men and three women players, variations in numbers were according to results in the previous Championships team events. However, England selected three men – Paul Drinkhall, Liam Pitchford and Sam Walker and two women – Charlotte Bardsley and Tin-Tin Ho.

Things did not go well for England and the withdrawal of Liam Pitchford just before the Championships started, due to being in close contact with someone who had tested positive for Covid-19 on a flight from Russia, was a severe blow. It was also disappointing for Paul Drinkhall who, therefore, lost his doubles partner and had just the one event to compete in.

Women's Singles

This was Charlotte Bardsley's first major tournament on the senior stage where she finished third from four in her group, losing to a Pole and Hungarian but beating Alexandra Chiracova of Moldova. Tin-Tin Ho was seeded and went straight through into the main draw where she had a comfortable 4-1 win in her first match against Slovenian, Ana Tofant (WR 243). The luck of the draw was not in Ho's favour as her second match was against second seed, German, Petrissa Solja (WR 20). A brave effort by Ho who took one end off Solja but could not sustain her effort, eventually, going down 4-1.



Tin-Tin Ho. Photo courtesy of the ETTU

Men's Singles



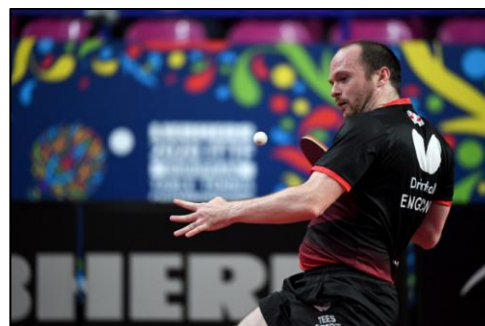
Sam Walker. Photo courtesy of the ETTU

Sam Walker had a close first match in his group losing 3-2 to Serbian, Dimitrije Levajac. His second group match saw a reverse in fortune as he had a 3-2 win against Pole, Samuel Kulczycki which put him through into the Preliminary knockout round. Day 2 saw a good win against Eric Glod (WR 210) of Luxembourg in the 1st Qualification Round.

Walker then had to face Tobias Rasmussen (WR 208) in the 2nd Round, for those of you with good memories it was with Rasmussen that Walker had such an excellent

campaign in the Men's Doubles in the European Championships in 2018 reaching the Quarter-finals, the first time an English player had got that far since 1990. Unfortunately, for Walker, there was no success against Rasmussen, the end for him in this event.

Paul Drinkhall, as a seed, started in the main draw and had a very closely contested match against Adam Szudi of Hungary (WR 115) in his first match, just nicking the win in the



Paul Drinkhall. Photo courtesy of the ETTU

seventh end 11-9. Next up, third seed, Timo Boll (WR 11). Drinkhall came out of the blocks with guns blazing taking the first end 11-8, lost the next three ends, gained a win in the fifth but Boll's superiority showed when he won the match 4-2.

Mixed Doubles

Bardsley and her Danish partner, Martin Andersen, did not last long when they went down 3-1 to a pairing from Moldova and Croatia. Walker and Ho were pipped at the post in their first match losing 20-18 to the Belarussian pair, Vladislav Rukletsov and Katsiaryna Baravok.

Men's Doubles

With no Pitchford then Drinkhall did not have a partner which left Sam Walker was the sole English representative in the Men's Doubles. He partnered Croatian, Filip Zeljko, and they picked up a 3-0 win in their first match. This was their only success as they went down in the next round, Round of 32, to the Polish pair, Samuel Kulczycki and Maciej Kubik seeded 14.

Women's Doubles

There was a successful start to Bardsley and Ho's campaign, winning 3-2 to Estonian, Alina Jagnenkova and Chiriacova of Moldova. A very tough draw for the English girls in the next round, the Round of 32, where they met Nina Mittleham and Sabine Winter of Germany, seeded 15, where they lost 3-0. The German's were the eventual Runners-up.

For the Record

A tournament dominated by the German squad winning four of the five gold medals and three silvers. Evergreen Timo Boll at 40 won the Men's Singles title for the eighth time – his first was in 2002, Dimitrij Ovtcharov was the Runner-up. In the Women's Singles, Petrissa Solja, beat fellow German, Xiaona Shan 4-1 and gained a further gold medal when partnered by Shan defeated Nina Mittelham and Sabine Winter in the all German Women's Doubles final. Mittelham, partnered by German born Dang Qiu, took gold when they pair had a 3-0 win over Slovaks, Lubomir Pistej and Barbora Balazova, in the Mixed Doubles final.

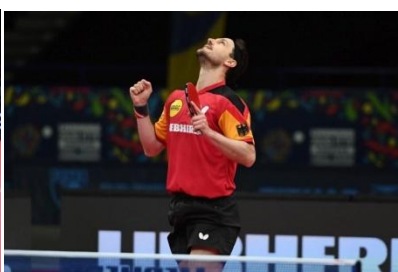
The only event there was no German representation was the Men's Doubles where Russians, Lev Katsman and Maksim Grebnev, stood on the top of the podium with Pole, Jakub Dyjas and Belgian, Cedric Nuytinck in the silver medal position.



Petrissa Solja



Maksim Grebnev & Lev Katsman



Timo Boll

What was Happening 1991? 30 Years Ago



Andrea Holt and Carl Prean

- ❖ Carl Prean as the winner of the National Championships received £800.00, he defeated Desmond Douglas in the final, Des was aiming for his 12th victory. Andrea Holt took the Women's Singles title with a win over top seed and England Number 1, Lisa Lomas, in a match that lasted nearly an hour with a final scoreline of -10, -14, 16, 19, 18.
- ❖ Smoking was banned at National Council.
- ❖ England finished 3rd in their group at the new tournament, the European Nations Cup and received £3,750. They men beat Hungary and Germany but lost to Russia. There was an outstanding win by Michael O'Driscoll and Carl Prean in the doubles against Germany when they beat the World Champions, Stefan Fetzner and Jorg Rosskopf.
- ❖ Alan Ransome became ETTA Chairman with 191 votes, others vying for the position were Richard Scruton and Ralph Gunnion; Stuart Sneyd was elected Deputy Chairman.
- ❖ An ITTF rule change prohibited expedite at 19 all.
- ❖ At the Commonwealth Championships in Nairobi there were gold medals for Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield in the Men's Doubles when they overcame their compatriots, Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason, in the final. Bronze medals went to Skylet Andrew in the Men's Singles, Nicola Deaton and Alison Gordon in the Women's Singles, Nicola Deaton & Sally Marling in the Women's Doubles, also to Alison Gordon with her Hong Kong partner, Chan Suk Yuen, and, Michael O'Driscoll & Nicola Deaton in the Mixed Doubles. A further gold went to England in the Men's Team event whilst the women finished in 4th place. Impeccable Doug Young was the referee for the Championships.
- ❖ Closely following on from the Commonwealth Championships were the World Championships in Chiba where the men finished 10th and the women 12th. There was an outstanding win for Alan Cooke when he beat Swede, Mikael Appelgren, in the first round of the Men's Singles. Europe dominated the Men's team event with all four semi-finalists from the continent with Sweden the winners. There was a further gold for Jorgen Persson in the Men's Singles where he beat team mate, Jan-Ove Waldner. Englishman, Harry Spraggs had the honour of umpiring the final.
- ❖ Japan toured England in October with two men's and two women's matches. December saw China tour playing seven matches.



Michael O'Driscoll & Chris Oldfield

- ❖ A stellar year for Sally Marling who was the England Number 1 Cadet and Junior Girl and at the European Youth Championships was Runner-up in the Cadet Girls' Doubles with Nicola Deaton. Marling also won a bronze medal in the Cadet Girls Team event with Deaton, winning 10 out of her 11 matches whilst Deaton won 5 from 10. At the English Junior Open there was more success for Marling who reached the final of the Cadet Girls' Singles losing out to Russian, Svetlana Ganina. At the inaugural U18 and U21 Championships she won the U18 title whilst Grant Solder won the corresponding Men's title. Jonathan Taylor and Andrea Holt won the two U21 singles events.



Sally Marling

- ❖ Desmond Douglas retired from international play.
- ❖ The Dunlop Skills Award scheme was re-launched in November, 17 years after the original.
- ❖ Alex Perry and Nicola Meddings won the National Junior titles and Adrian Vincent and Nicola Deaton the Cadet titles. There was an excellent entry of 264 for the Junior & Cadet National Championships.
- ❖ Lancashire won the County Championships Senior Premier Division and Yorkshire the Junior and Veterans Premier Divisions.
- ❖ Elaine Shaw was appointed Chief Executive.
- ❖ 98 leagues received a total of £40,000 from the ETTA League Development Fund for grass roots development.
- ❖ Alan Hydes gave his fourth coaching course in Cairo, he had also given coaching courses in the West Indies, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia.
- ❖ A new ranking scheme was introduced based on the match result between two players with the winner gaining points and the loser losing points proportional to their ratings.



Carl Prean, Matthew Syed, Chen Xinhua, Alan Cooke

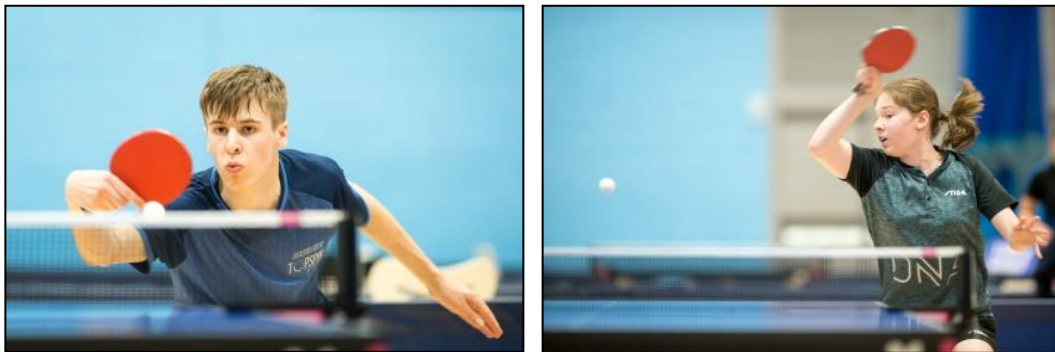
- ❖ At the ITTF World Team Cup England Men's Team of Alan Cooke, Carl Prean, Matthew Syed and Chen Xinhua reached the Quarter-finals before being knocked out by North Korea. The Women's team beat Australia in their group but lost to Hungary and North Korea so Fiona Elliot, Alison Gordon, Andrea Holt and Lisa Lomas did not progress.

Junior & Cadet National Championships: 10th-11th July 2021

University of Warwick
All photos by Alan Man

Two weekends on the trot at the University of Warwick as the Junior and Cadet National Championships saw 32 youngsters in each category – 28 invited by ranking plus four wild cards selected by TTE. 32 was the plan but Covid-19 decimated the field with 11 of the 32 Junior Boys withdrawing, including five seeds – 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 – plus six in the groups. A redraw was required and the number of seeds reduced to four from eight, numbers were further reduced on Saturday morning when two more players were unable to attend.

The event appeared wide open and the new seeds in a good position to take advantage of others' misfortune. However, this was not meant to be as two of the seeds were eliminated in the first knock-out round and the remaining two in the Quarter-finals. It now appeared to be the survival of the fittest as well as the challenge of skill as all remaining players had come through the group stages playing two, three or four group matches followed by knock-out matches every half hour, no break between rounds. Naphong Boonyaprapa, playing his seventh consecutive match of the morning, just missed out to Toby Ellis in one Semi-final whilst the other was a straight forward win for Maxim Stevens 7, 1, 10 over Joshua Bruce. The final went the way of Stevens 8, -6, 2, 5 for a well deserved title.



Junior National Champions: Maxim Stevens and Charlotte Bardsley

The Junior Girls had only one seed withdrawing from the competition and two in the group matches, unfortunately both in the same group. As could perhaps have been predicted, the more experienced Charlotte Bardsley, being part of the England elite squad, and so able to train during lockdown, won the event with Mollie Patterson the Runner-up. The two Semi-finalists were, Erin Green, and a special mention for Megan Jones who came through her group and then continued to have an excellent afternoon beating number 8 and 3 seeds and taking Patterson to five.

Sunday morning was a better start with only three Cadet Boys, two from the same group, not attending. The draw was slightly revised with three as opposed to the original two going through from each of the four groups – a great advantage to those in the group of four! As with the Junior Boys, it was not a good tournament for the top seeds with both the first and second ranked players going out in the first knock out round.

Just one seed was left by the Semi-final stage, Joseph Hunter, who went on to win the event in a very tight match -8, 9, -13, 4, 7 over Aaron Yuk Shing Geung. Well played too, to the two Semi-finalists who came through the group stages, Adam Dennison and Ralph Pattison, who played seven and eight

matches respectively to reach the podium and defeated the Number 2 seed on the way. A very long morning for these younger players. Pattison in particular has had two very busy weekends winning the U13 title the previous Saturday.

There was a shuffle in the draw in the Cadet Girls' competition as Number 1 and 2 seeds, Anna Green and Maliha Baig, withdrew. Not so many surprises in this event as the new Number 1, Bethany Ellis, went on to take the title defeating Sienna Jetha 7, 5, 7 in the final. Saskia Key and Isabelle Lacorte were the losing Semi-finalists and spare a thought for Connie Dumelow who at Number 3 ended up meeting the Number 2 seed at the Quarter-final stage due to a blip in the revised draw.



Cadet National Champions: Bethany Ellis and Joseph Hunter

Congratulations to the new champions, three new names on the trophies with some very competitive matches. It was a second win for Charlotte Bardsley who also took the Junior Girls Singles title in 2018.

Great Triumphs, Great Pain – The Life of Angelica Rozeanu



Angelica Rozeanu and Ella Zeller
1956 World Championships

Great triumphs, great pain, the life of Angelica Rozeanu will be published in September 2021 to celebrate the centenary of the great champion's birth.

October 2021 is the centenary of the birth of one of the greatest Table Tennis players, Angelica Rozeanu, Romania, six times Women's Singles World Champion 1950 to 1955.

To remember her and celebrate her life, Ian Marshall, ITTF's long serving editor and expert, has written a biography of Rozeanu with contributions from the World Champion Fujie Eguchi, Japan, and Rozeanu's World doubles and team partner Ella Zeller Constantinescu. With many photographs from the Rozeanu family collection and the archive of Ella Zeller Constantinescu, the book also provides a record of Rozeanu's World and European Championship matches.

The book will be published in September 2021 during the 2021 European Team Championships in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. If you wish to purchase a copy of the book (for 20 euro including delivery) and to have your name listed as a subscribing patron within the book, please contact Richard Scruton <richardofyork187@outlook.com>, before Wednesday 21st July 2021.

In Memoriam

HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh



The husband, to the ETTA Patron, Her Majesty, the Queen, died on 9th April 2021 and was mourned by the nation.

Although not directly involved with table tennis Prince Philip did show an interest as can be seen in this photograph with a group of youngsters at a London Boys Club. The late Ken Marchant of Northamptonshire also had the privilege of being presented with the Torch Trophy by the Duke of Edinburgh.



Eileen Allison

English table tennis is the poorer with the loss of Eileen Allison, one of our few female referees and certainly the most loved who officiated at many ETTA Grand Prix and for over 30 years at VETTS tournaments.

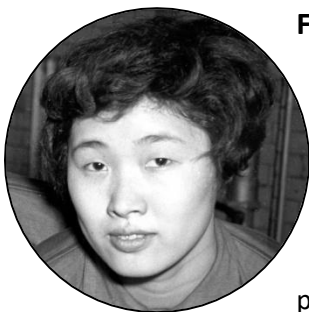
The many fine tributes which have appeared on the VETTS website and Facebook page show the affection and respect Eileen was held in by their members and are a testament to her commitment.

With a unique sense of authority and always a twinkle in her eye, Eileen, ruled the top table and managed the players with a firm hand and a wicked sense of humour. At a time when the Grand Prix series had huge entry lists it was reassuring to know that Eileen was one of the referees who could be relied on to get the tournament finished on time.

Harvey worked with Eileen over several years at numerous Grand Prix and cannot recall a cross word between them. Harvey did, however, know when he failed to keep Eileen's coffee cup replenished – she only had to hold up the empty cup and fix him with a stare, and he knew he had to fill it immediately!

We both spent many a delightful hour in Eileen and her husband, Brian's, company on a Saturday evening after a long day at a tournament, and were regaled with numerous stories in an atmosphere of good friendship.

A bundle of energy in her killer heels, always on the go and incredibly positive even when battling cancer several years ago, Eileen was a unique presence and a remarkable lady. All who knew her will have wonderful memories.



Fujie Eguchi

Fujie Eguchi, Japanese multiple World Champion, died on 28th May 2021. From an English perspective, Eguchi is perhaps best known for her triple gold in 1957 at the Stockholm World Championships where she disappointed Ann Haydon (later Jones) in the Women's Singles and Mixed Doubles. After being 19-16 down in fifth game Eguchi won the next five points to take the singles title, she also won the Corbillon Cup making it three golds at those Championships. Three other World Championships titles came her way in the 1950s, added to which were ten more World Championship medals, five silver and five bronze.

Table Tennis England AGM

The TTE AGM was held on Saturday, 17th July 2021, by Zoom for members and with some Board Members and staff in person at the Milton Keynes office. Originally, there were 25 Rule Change Propositions but the Board withdrew one on no fee increase, prior to the meeting. It was going to be a long day and ended up around seven hours in all.

Of the Board's 14 propositions only five passed which were mainly around bringing the Articles of the Association in line with Company Law or of a relatively minor change. The bulk of their proposals concerning governance changes did not meet the required 75% majority.

There has been considerable concern for some time over the performance of England's junior and cadet players and dissatisfaction with the performance department. As a result there were several member led propositions to try and address this by having members with considerable knowledge and experience in elite performance being more involved. Some of these were passed.

The financial report was presented and a few queries raised, despite all the difficulties with Covid there was a small surplus this year.

David Hockney was re-appointed to the Standing Orders Committee as it was his turn by rotation, Neil Le Milliere continues in post and June Watts, the third member of the team, resigned. The three have had tremendous challenges over the last two years and the amount of work they have undertaken has been considerable. They should be thanked by all members for keeping as much as possible on track. June, a former JP, has been the backbone of several national committees - Board of Appeal Member 1980-2016, Disciplinary Committee Member 1987-2013 (including Chairman for 13 years), Rules Committee Member 1979-95 and Standing Orders Committee Member 2005-21. Her sound judgement and knowledge is going to be missed.

The nicest part of the AGM is always when Honorary appointments are announced and this year five new Vice-Presidents were added to the list, three former top international players - Diane Scholer (Rowe), Mary Wright (Shannon) and Lisa Lomas (Bellinger). Additionally, Blue Badge Umpire and member of several committees, John Mackey, was accepted along with Don Davies, formerly Liverpool League Chairman (no photo).



The Annual Conference to discuss the Annual Report is to be held on 10th August 2021 and the other awards, usually presented at the AGM, will be made then, these include the Keith Ponting President's Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement, Ivor Montagu Award, Malcolm Scott Award, Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy and Victor Barna Award.

Future Events

What a pleasure it is to be able to say 'Future Events'!

International Events

The European Youth Championships are being run in two sections. The Juniors (now Under 19s) are at this moment taking place and run from 18th July-24th July 2021. The Cadets are from 27th July – 2nd August 2021, both in Varazdin, Croatia. The Juniors could have five players in the team events and up to six in the individuals whilst the Cadets allowed up to four in both the team and individual events. England places were allocated by automatic qualification, qualifying play-offs and wild cards. Due to Covid positive tests or isolation several players were unable to go to Croatia. Two replacements for the Junior Boys were named but it was too late for replacement in the Junior Girls events.

Original England's squads were:

Junior Boys: Joe Cope*, Amirul Hussain, Ben Piggott, Louis Price*.

Replaced by **Naphong Boonyaprapa and Toby Ellis**

Junior Girls: Mari Baldwin, Charlotte Bardsley, Amy Marriott*, Jasmin Wong*

Cadet Boys: Connor Green, James Hamblett, Jakub Piwowar

Cadet Girls: Maliha Baig, Anna Green

*Withdrew

Olympic Games: 23rd July – 8th August 2021, Tokyo. Table Tennis Men's and Women's Singles Preliminary Rounds start on Saturday, 26th July 2021.

Paralympic Games: 24th August – 5th September 2021, Tokyo.

European Championships (Team): 28th September – 3rd October 2021, Cluj-Napoca, Roumania.

Europe Youth Top 10: 15th-17th October, Tours, France

European Under 21 Championships: 10th-14th November 2021, Spa, Belgium

Home Countries International: 12th – 14th November 2021, tba

World Championships: 23rd – 29th November 2021, Houston, USA

Domestic Events

Crawley Grand Prix: 18th – 19th September 2021

Preston Grand Prix: 30th – 31st October 2021

Cardiff Satellite Grand Prix: 18th – 19th December 2021

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