

60 YEARS ON.....

THE HISTORY OF THE WEST WILTS TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

1935 - 1995



COMPILED BY JOHN V. FORD



JOHN FORD

Born Westbury, Wilts in 1941.

Currently Chairman of the West Wilts Table Tennis League having held various administrative positions dating back to 1958.

Started playing table tennis as a 12 year old at the West End Baptist Youth Club in Westbury. Played for various clubs in the League and at present for Trowbridge I in the Premier Division.

Represented the League as a Junior, Senior and Veteran and has held all three singles titles (the only player to date in the League's history to do so). Gained County recognition at Senior and Veteran level having also won the County Junior and Veteran singles titles and was the first Wiltshire player to be nationally ranked as a Veteran.

INTRODUCTION

This history of the West Wilts Table Tennis League was first conceived some 15 years ago and at one time it was intended to be completed for the 50th anniversary in 1985.

However 10 years on and here it is!

Research has been made through the minute books of the league, thankfully passed on from secretary to secretary, through the medium of the press via cuttings, weekly notes and articles from the Wiltshire Times, and the old Wiltshire News (mentioned in Acknowledgements) and through the league handbooks from my own personal collection and others passed on prior to my involvement with the League

These Handbooks have of course contained the details enabling comprehensive records to be compiled of clubs, teams and secretaries also in conjunction with the minute books the rules of the League and other articles including the advertisers over the years.

Whilst '60 years on' is an official record of the League's activities over this period, throughout the book reference will have been made of my personal recollections and views and as such do not necessary reflect any official view of the League.

Errors will I am sure appear and omissions too, but every effort has been made to ensure authenticity from the records that have been available but I will be pleased to hear from anyone following this publication who might be in a position to fill in any gaps in the various records.

With any history as each season goes by new history will be created and it is hoped that in the future, updated lists will be kept and possibly published to enable an ongoing permanent record of the League's activities to be made available.

John V. Ford
March 1995

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To everyone who have contributed in one way or another to enable this history of the League to be compiled. In particular the late Don Hillier whose records from weekly notes that appeared in the old 'Wiltshire News' have been inherited and have proved invaluable in compiling records through the 50's & 60's. Also to Roy Hazell the current President of the Wiltshire Table Tennis Association for various County records and last but by no means least to Richard Culverhouse for his painstaking work in setting up from my hand written notes a task undertaken so willingly and nothing has been to much trouble.

Finally to my wife Jeannette for all the inconvenience that the household has been put to over the past many years and the time that I have spent in the preparation and writing of this history, a special '*thank you*' for her support. And to the business of Reg Smith & Ford Sports which have been a point of contact again over the many years for contributions to this history by telephone or in person.

Origination by Paxcroft Print, 65 Paxcroft Way, Trowbridge, Wilts. BA14 7DQ (Tel: 01225 777606) and printed by The Cromwell Press, Broughton Gifford, Melksham, Wilts. SN12 8PH (Tel: 01225 782585).

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Formation of the League	4
Administration of the League	5
Officials of the League	8
History of the League	23
Team Statistics	37
Divisional, Team and KO Championships	43
Representative Matches/Apearances	52
Individual Championships	55
Special Occasions	81
International Match (Sweden)	82
Wiltshire Table Tennis Association	83
Wiltshire County Championships	85
Top 10 Men	88
Top Ladies	91
Honorary Life Members	92
International Players	95

Formation Of League

The West Wilts Table Tennis League came into being at the Central Liberal Club, Trowbridge on April 8th 1935 with the election of the late Mr. Doug Reynolds representing the United Dairies, Trowbridge as Chairman. It was resolved that the radius for clubs entering be five miles from Trowbridge - the area thus embracing Westbury Bradford and Melksham. Messrs. N.H.B. Connor and A.E. Merrett (County Offices) became joint secretaries. Mr E.W.Lewis Treasurer and a committee comprising Messrs. Westlake & Owen (Ushers), Ingram (Westbury West End) & Carter (Bradford Town). An interesting minute from this first meeting stated that 'no stipulation should be made regarding tables for the first season apart from them being full size!

Incidentally the first minute book from which the above was taken is in extremely good condition having been passed on through the years from secretary to secretary.

At a following meeting held on September 16th 1935 the undermentioned clubs formed the two divisions of the league for the first season.

Division 'A' Bradford Church Army, Bradford Town Club, Hilperton Institute, Trowbridge Labour Club, Clarks Social Club, Wilts County Offices 'B' Trowbridge United Dairies 'A' and Westbury West End 'A'.

Division 'B' Melksham United Dairies, Trowbridge St James, Ushers Social Club, Wilts County Offices 'A', Trowbridge United Dairies 'B', Westbury West End 'B' Westbury Lower Congregational & Westbury Upper Congregational. At this meeting a letter dated 16th June 1935 from the Hon. Sec. of the English Table Tennis Association was read inviting affiliation - but it was resolved that the league should not affiliate for the first season and that the matter be further considered at the first A.G.M.

At a following meeting a proof copy of the first handbook (unfortunately no trace of one can be found) was produced and reported that the cost would be £2.16.0. for 150 copies. However a copy of the 1936-37 League Handbook has been located and amongst the advertisers were **Pinkers Sports Depot**. 40 Roundstone Street, Trowbridge - **Roses Sports Shop** Trowbridge and **Rileys of Accrington** offering tables from 32/6 to £8.5.0 **Jaques**, still a force in table tennis supplies today, were offering the **Tema Extra** championship selection ball at 4/3 per dozen and the **Haydon** bat at 3/6 each not to mention the **Tema Posts** (as used at the World Championships) for the princely sum of 3/- pr.

The league was re-formed after the war at a Special General Meeting held at the Community Centre Trowbridge on Monday 14th October 1946. Doug Reynolds as he had done at the first meeting took the chair and the following clubs were represented County Hall, Community Centre, Holt Congregational, Westbury Upper & Lower Congregational, Avon Sports Club, N.H. Engineering, War Agriculture & Wilts United Dairies. Mr R.R. Young became secretary and Mr. R.C.Darch treasurer.

Administration of the League

It says much for the administrators of the league during the early days that the rules then compiled still form the basis of league rules today. There were four players in a team then each player playing his opponent one game (set) making a total of sixteen games (sets) during an evenings play. With one point at stake for each game won the now unlikely looking match score of 14-2 or 8-8 would have appeared on the result card. Without question of the pre war years most progress was made at the 1937 A.G.M. Besides the three players a team alteration (there being no doubles still) the league affiliated to the English Table Tennis Association and clubs were requested to use only E.T.T.A. approved balls.

The objects of the league remain as originally instituted although the rule that only allowed clubs within a 5 mile radius of Trowbridge to affiliate to the league has for some time been relaxed and of course the league now embraces clubs from as far afield as Bath, Devizes & Chippenham and in past years to 'outposts' at Mere and Hullavington.

Affiliation fees in keeping with inflation have risen steadily over the years (back in 1937-38 the registration to the league for a team cost 7/6d and 5/- for every additional team) and in the 1948/49 season the league funds were not in a too healthy position and a 2d levy per player per match was introduced.

A substantial portion of the affiliation fees still goes to the E.T.T.A. and whilst this is considered necessary to assist the game at National level, more than once has the matter been raised at A.G.M.'s and infact disaffiliation was almost considered at one time. Executive committees in the early days comprised one representative from each club and this was the case up to the 1953/54 season when elected representation came in (compiled list of Executive Committee members can be found under 'Officers of the League').

The 1951-52 season brought about a major change when a doubles match was introduced into league competition making the now familiar system of 10 games in the evening.

The next major change of rules was to happen in the 1954/55 season when the two points for a win 1 point for a draw scoring system was introduced - a rule change that was to become a 'hardy annual' at future General meetings with the ten point system currently in operation.

Players competing in our league over the many years will also have played in other leagues at the same time and whilst this would not normally pose a problem feelings obviously were evident in the early fiftes. In 1953-54 Rule 13 of the league read:- No player is allowed to play in any other league unless he plays regularly in the West Wilts League. The West Wilts League insists on their fixtures having precedence over other leagues fixtures.

The following season (1954-55) Rule 13 then read:- No West Wilts team is allowed to play in the Bath and District Table Tennis League. However this rule did not re-appear! The Leagues official Scorecard introduced back in 1950/51 in its present form -remains as it was then.

In the 1978-79 season a rule was introduced to prevent Senior County players ranked up to No.8 playing in the same team or those players who had represented the County at senior level the previous season. This rule still being in force at the present time. A rule that all clubs must send a representative to the Annual General Meeting otherwise incurring a fine had been in operation for many years but in 1991-92 this was extended to a team representative.

In 1989-90 after many years of consideration a group scheme for personal accident cover for all registered players was introduced for that season.

The printing of the league original handbook was entrusted to F.A. Slugg & Co. of Trowbridge and this continued to be the case through to the early fifties when Massey &

Officials of the League

In the appendix will be found a list of everyone who has held an office of administration within the League since its formation but quite obviously over the past 60 years the 'workload' has at times fallen on the shoulders of a few and no history of the League would be complete without particular mention of these 'servants of table tennis' in West Wiltshire.

The first name to come to mind must be that of **Doug Reynolds** now alas no longer with us. Doug was the League's first Chairman and I suppose could be said to be the 'father' of the League, holding the position of Chairman until season 1951/52 when he accepted the position of President. Although not appearing in an official position then until the Presidency again in 1972/3 shortly before his death. Doug will always be remembered as the League's elder statesman.

Shortly after the war **T.N.T. (Tom) Gaylard** was to take over Secretaryship of the League a position he held prior to moving away from the area, a sound administrator whose contribution to the League was recognised when life membership was conferred upon him in 1956/57. Tom is now back living in the area and takes a keen interest in the League's activities.

At about this time **Norman Hiscocks** a Director of J & T Clarks became the League's President and I know that his help and guidance of the League was very much thought of by Officials then, sadly a fatal car accident early in the sixties took Norman's life but he will be well remembered by all who knew him.

Presidency in the 1961/62 season was taken by **R.H.L. (Dick) Rees** the year in which the League celebrated its 21st anniversary. Dick a former Welsh Junior International and stalwart of the old Christchurch Club at Warminster was succeeded as President in 1967 by **Ron Shipley** whose administrative capacity had started back in 1937/38 when he was joint Secretary of the League.

Alec Cramer was to become the League's second life member, a wise administrator to hold positions of Chairman and Secretary prior to leaving the district in the mid-fifties.

John Neech, Russell Harris and Maurice Beaven were to hold the Secretaries position during the 1950's at which time **Jack Pearce** Treasurer from 1949/55 and a life member in 1973 was to become the League's Chairman through to 1965. Jack's successor as Chairman in 1965 was **C.R. (Chick) Chandler** who was honoured at the League's Golden Jubilee Dinner in 1985, as the only founder member of the League still playing. Chick then became President in 1975 (following life membership in 1973), a position he had held with distinction through to the present day.

However we have raced ahead of ourselves and must make mention of **Margaret Wickham, Vic Missen, David Jones and Tony Clark** who looked after the League's financial affairs during the late fifties and then on to the position of Results and Registration Secretary (originally known as Press Secretary). This was always where the day to day workings of the League took place, positions that previously mentioned **Tom Gaylard** and **Chick Chandler** held. In the mid fifties **Keith Jones** and **Ken Mundy** looked after the League's interests in this capacity, to be followed by **Keith Ponting** and **Tony Rushforth** and then **John Ford** and **Vivian Hooper-Greenhill** and **John Smith** in the mid sixties. Also at this time another name appeared on the League's Officials list, one which was to serve the League for more than 25 years as Secretary and Treasurer and to whom the League owes an enormous debt of gratitude. I refer of course to **John Cleveland** no mean performer on the table of course but John's forte was his organising ability and formed a formidable team off the table in the early sixties with the other Johns' Ford and Taylor who looked after the Individual Championships particularly at the old St. James

Hall. John much deserved his life membership in 1984 when his departure to Alton for business reasons left the League a lot poorer for his parting but very much richer for the benefit of his experience over the years. (Not to mention the fact that the writer had to find a new doubles partner). John was succeeded as Treasurer by **R.R.(Jim) Reeves** a Unigate Colleague carrying on this position in the efficient 'W.J.C.' way.

Peter Harford took over Chairmanship of the League from Chick Chandler in 1973 and the benefit of his presence amongst a changing scene of Secretaries was to hold the League together throughout his term of office. We will affectionally remember **Mark Thorne's** short term as Secretary to be followed by **Colin Harrison** and then **Lawson Bonser** during which time **John Ford** relinquished his position as Results and Registration Secretary, a post he had held on and of since 1959. **Brian Cole** and **Dave Garrett** enjoyed short spells in this office as did **Tony Jordan** from 1978/81.

Lets go no further than to make mention of the enormous gratitude the league owes to Tony who first played back in the late forties at the St. Johns club along Wingfield Road to be followed by a short spell at Conigre until moving to St. Georges which continues through to the present day. Tony's keenness on the table probably comes second only to his keenness to get drinks in after but seriously a more generous man you could surely never have met and if for no other reason Tony's organisation of the leagues end of season presentation dinner/dances in recent years will always be long remembered by all who attend. Furthermore Executive Committee meetings could never be the same without Tony's hospitality.

In more recent years the league has been most fortunate to have the services of **Malcolm Phillips**. During Malcolm's period of office both as Hon. Secretary and Results & Registration Secretary not to mention his coaching activities - the leagues numbers somewhat dwindled but it is in no small way due to Malcolm's enthusiasm that the storm has been weathered and numbers are now on the increase. We all owe Malcolm the very biggest 'thankyou' for the hours he puts in over a season and we all very much hope that his association with the league will continue throughout the ninties and into the new century for no league could wish to have a more hardworking or efficient person at the 'helm'. **Peter Harford's** 14 years of Chairmanship terminated in 1987 to be succeeded by **John Ford** and in recent years the treasurership of the league passed on to **Paul (Kipper) Kember** who's efficient presentation of the accounts at the A.G.M.'s continues the leagues fortunate position of Treasurers which only numbers three in the past 30 years.

OFFICIALS

	PRESIDENT	CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER
1935-36	Lt.Col Sir Reginald	D.B. Reynolds	N.H.B. Conner	E.W. Lewis
1936-37	Blake TD, JP	"	A.E. Merrett	R.C. Darch
1937-38	"	A.E. Merrett	"	R.C. Darch
1938-39	"	A.E. Merrett	R. Shipley	
			D.C. Sloper	R.C. Darch
			D.C. Sloper	
			P. Roberts	
			WAR	
1939-46	"	D.B. Reynolds	R.R. Young	R.C. Darch
1946-47	"	D.B. Reynolds	P.J. Higgs	R.C. Darch
1947-48	"	D.B. Reynolds	T.N.T. Gaylard	J. Scott
1948-49	W. Washbourne	D.B. Reynolds	T.N.T. Gaylard	A.J. Pearce
1949-50	W. Washbourne	D.B. Reynolds	T.N.T. Gaylard	A.J. Pearce
1950-51	W. Washbourne	D.B. Reynolds	T.N.T. Gaylard	A.J. Pearce
1951-52	D.B. Reynolds	D.B. Reynolds	A.E. Craymer	A.J. Pearce
1952-53	N. Hiscocks	A. Craymer	J. Neech	A.J. Pearce
1953-54	N. Hiscocks	A. Craymer	R. Harris	A.J. Pearce
1954-55	N. Hiscocks	A. Craymer	R. Harris	A.J. Pearce
1955-56	N. Hiscocks	A.J. Pearce	R. Harris	Mrs. M. Wickham
1956-57	N. Hiscocks	A.J. Pearce	R. Harris	V.E. Missen
1957-58	N. Hiscocks	A.J. Pearce	M.T. Beaven	D.E. Jones
1958-59	N. Hiscocks	A.J. Pearce	M.T. Beavan	D.E. Jones
1959-60	N. Hiscocks	A.J. Pearce	W.J. Cleveland	T.S. Clark
1960-61	N. Hiscocks	A.J. Pearce	W.J. Cleveland	T.S. Clark
1961-62	R.H.L. Rees	A.J. Pearce	W.J. Cleveland	T.S. Clark
1962-63	R.H.L. Rees	A.J. Pearce	W.J. Cleveland	T.S. Clark
1963-64	R.H.L. Rees	A.J. Pearce	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1964-65	R.H.L. Rees	A.J. Pearce	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1965-66	R.H.L. Rees	C.R. Chandler	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1966-67	R.H.L. Rees	C.R. Chandler	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1967-68	R. Shipley	C.R. Chandler	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1968-69	R. Shipley	C.R. Chandler	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1969-70	R. Harris	C.R. Chandler	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1970-71	R. Harris	C.R. Chandler	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1971-72	R. Harris	C.R. Chandler	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1972-73	D.B. Reynolds	C.R. Chandler	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1973-74	D.B. Reynolds	P. Harford	W.J. Cleveland	W.J. Cleveland
1974-75	D.B. Reynolds	P. Harford	M. Thorne	W.J. Cleveland
1975-76	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	C.P. Harrison	W.J. Cleveland
1976-77	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	C.P. Harrison	W.J. Cleveland
1977-78	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	L.W. Bonser	W.J. Cleveland
1978-79	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	L.W. Bonser	W.J. Cleveland
1979-80	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	L.W. Bonser	W.J. Cleveland
1980-81	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	L.W. Bonser	W.J. Cleveland
1981-82	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	L.W. Bonser	W.J. Cleveland
1982-83	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	L.W. Bonser	W.J. Cleveland
1983-84	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	M. Phillips (acting)	W.J. Cleveland
1984-85	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	M. Phillips	R.R. Reeves
1985-86	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	M. Phillips	R.R. Reeves
1986-87	C.R. Chandler	P. Harford	M. Phillips	R.R. Reeves
1987-88	C.R. Chandler	J.V. Ford	M. Phillips	R.R. Reeves
1988-89	C.R. Chandler	J.V. Ford	M. Phillips	R.R. Reeves
1989-90	C.R. Chandler	J.V. Ford	M. Phillips	R.R. Reeves
1990-91	C.R. Chandler	J.V. Ford	M. Phillips	P. Kember
1991-92	C.R. Chandler	J.V. Ford	M. Phillips	P. Kember
1992-93	C.R. Chandler	J.V. Ford	M. Phillips	P. Kember
1993-94	C.R. Chandler	J.V. Ford	M. Phillips	P. Kember

	HON. AUDITOR	E.T.T.A. REP.	ASS'T HON. SEC.	INT LEAGUE SEC
1935-36	Mr Axford			
1936-37	Mr Axford			
1937-38	Mr Axford	A.E. Merrett		
1938-39	V. Connor			
1939-46			WarYears	
1946-47	P. Hemingway			
1947-48	P. Hemingway			
1948-49	A. Alley	T.N.T. Gaylard	P.J. Higgs	
1949-50	A. Alley	T.N.T. Gaylard	R. Meech	
1950-51	A. Alley	T.N.T. Gaylard	Miss V. Beaven	W. Griffin
1951-52	S. Mills	A.E. Craymer		F. Cordy
1952-53	S. Mills	J. Neech		F. Cordy
1953-54	S. Mills	J. Neech		R. Harris
1954-55	S. Mills	A. Rushforth		R. Harris
1955-56	S. Mills	A. Rushforth		R. Harris
1956-57	N. Hiscocks	A.E. Craymer		D.E. Jones
		A. Watts		
1957-58	N. Hiscocks	C. Chandler		M. Beaven
		A. Watts		
1958-59	V.E. Missen	K. Ponting		W. Griffin
		A. Rushforth		
1959-60	V.E. Missen	W.J. Cleveland		J. Smith
1960-61	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		J. Smith
1961-62	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		
1962-63	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		W. Moore
1963-64	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		W. Moore
1964-65	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		C. Chandler
1965-66	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		J. Smith
1966-67	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		J. Smith
1967-68	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		
1968-69	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		
1969-70	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		J.V. Ford
1970-71	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		J.V. Ford
1971-72	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		J.V. Ford
1972-73	B. Perry	W.J. Cleveland		Jnr. - J.V. Ford
				Mixed - D. Rigby
1973-74	B. Perry			Jnr. - R. Edwards
				Mixed - D. Rigby
1974-75	B. Perry			Jnr. - R. Edwards
				Mixed - D. Rigby
1975-76	B. Perry			
1976-77	B. Perry			
1977-78	B. Perry			
1978-79	B. Perry			
1979-80	B. Perry			
1980-81	B. Perry			
1981-82	B. Perry			
1982-83	B. Perry			Snr. - N. Daniels
				Jnr. - M. Phillips
1983-84	B. Perry			Snr. - N. Daniels
				Jnr. - M. Phillips
1984-85	B. Perry			
1985-86	B. Perry			
1986-87	B. Perry			
1987-88	B. Perry			Snr. - N. Daniels
				Vet. - J.V. Ford
1988-89	B. Perry			Vet. - J.V. Ford

HON. AUDITOR

B. Perry
 B. Perry
 B. Perry
 B. Perry
 S. Chandler

**LEAGUE UMPIRE VICE CHAIRMAN IND'V COMP SEC TEAM COMP SEC
SEC**

		T.S. Clark	V.E. Missen
		J.M. Taylor	J.V. Ford
		J.M. Taylor	J.V. Ford
		J.M. Taylor	J.V. Ford
		J. Ottembratt	J.V. Ford
		J. Ottembratt	J.V. Ford
		W. Moore	J. Smith
		W. Moore	J. Smith
B Pendle	C: Chandler	J. Smith	J.V. Ford
W. Moore	C. Chandler	J. Smith	J.V. Ford
W. Moore	A.J. Pearce	J. Smith	J.V. Ford
W. Moore	A.J. Pearce	P. Harford	J.V. Ford
	A.J. Pearce	P. Harford	J.V. Ford
		P. Harford	B. Cole
		N. Crees	M. Thorne
		D. Danks	
		A. Merritt	
		A. Merritt	
		A. Merritt	
		R. Culverhouse	J. Cleveland
		R. Culverhouse	J. Cleveland
		R. Culverhouse	J. Cleveland
		R. Culverhouse	J. Cleveland
		R. Culverhouse	R. Culverhouse
		R. Culverhouse	R. Culverhouse
		R. Culverhouse	R. Culverhouse
		J.V. Ford	J.V. Ford
		R. Culverhouse	R. Sims
		R. Culverhouse	R. Sims
		R. Culverhouse	R. Sims
		R. Culverhouse	R. Sims
		R. Culverhouse	P. Kember
		R. Culverhouse	P. Kember

LEAGUE SEC. RESULTS & REG. INT TOWN SEC. COMP. SEC.
SEC./PRESS SEC.

1951-52	A. Watts	T.N.T. Gaylard	
1952-53		C. Chandler	
1953-54		C. Chandler	J. Birks
1954-55		K. Jones	J. Birks
1955-56		K. Mundy	
1956-57		K. Jones	A. E. Craymer
		K. Mundy	
1957-58		K. Jones	D.E. Jones
		K. Mundy	B. Hawkins
1958-59		K. Ponting	K. Jones
		A. Rushforth	B. Hawkins
1959-60		J.V. Ford	
		V. Hooper-Greenhill	
1960-61		J.V. Ford	
		V. Hooper-Greenhill	
1961-62		J.V. Ford	
1962-63		J.V. Ford	
1963-64		J.V. Ford	
1964-65		J.V. Ford	
1965-66		J. Smith	
1966-67		J. Smith	
1967-68		J.V. Ford	
1968-69		J.V. Ford	
1969		J.V. Ford	
1970-71		J.V. Ford	
1971-72		J.V. Ford	
1972-73		B. Cole	
1973-74		M. Thorne	
1974-75		C. Harrison	
1975-76		D. Garrett	
1976-77		D. Garrett	
1977-78		W.J. Cleveland	
1978-79		A. Jordan	
1979-80		A. Jordan	
1980-81		A. Jordan	
1981-82		M.J. Phillips	
1982-83		M.J. Phillips	
1983-84		M.J. Phillips	
1984-85		M.J. Phillips	
1985-86		M.J. Phillips	
1986-87		M.J. Phillips	
1987-88		M.J. Phillips	
1988-89		M.J. Phillips	
1989-90		M.J. Phillips	
1990-91		M.J. Phillips	
1991-92		M.J. Phillips	
1992-93		M.J. Phillips	
1993-94		M.J. Phillips	

VICE-PRESIDENTS

1936-37	H. Butcher	A. Lester	F. J. Collett	L. Maggs	A. Goddard	T.C. Usher	R.V. Grimston MP
1937-38	Major R.F. Fuller JP	A. Lester	F.J.Collett	L. Maggs	A. Goddard	T.C. Usher	R.V. Grimston MP
1938-39	Major R.F. Fuller JP.	C. Rowe	F. J. Collett	L. Maggs	C.H. Couzens	T.C. Usher	R.V. Grimston MP
1939-46							
1946-47		NO	RECORDS	War Years AVAILABLE			
1947-48	Major R.F. Fuller JP.	C. Rowe	E. Hull	L. Maggs	A. Goddard	Canon Hudson	R.V. Grimston MP
1948-49	Major R.F. Fuller JP.	G.S. Seward	N. Hiscocks	L. Maggs	A. Goddard	Canon Hudson	R.V. Grimston MP
1949-50		NO	RECORDS	AVAILABLE			
1950-51	Major R.F. Fuller JP.	C. Rowe	E. Hull	L. Maggs	C.H.Couzens	Canon Hudson	R.V. Grimston MP
1951-52	Major R.F. Fuller JP.	C. Rowe	E. Hull	L. Maggs	C.H. Couzens	Canon Hudson	R.V. Grimston MP
1952-53	Major R.F. Fuller JP.	C. Rowe	J. McIssacs	L. Maggs	D.B.Reynolds	P.W. Inglis	R.V. Grimston MP
1953-54	Major R.F. Fuller JP.		J. McIssacs	L. Maggs	D.B Reynolds	P.W. Inglis	Sir R.V Grimston Bart MP.
1954-55	Major R.F. Fuller JP.	W Sanderson	R. Shipley	L. Maggs	D.B Reynolds	Miss L.A. Swanborough	Sir R.V.Grimston Bart MP.
1955-56	Sir P.E. Millbourn		R. Shipley	L. Maggs	D.B Reynolds	Miss L.A. Swanborough	Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1956-57		T. Wilson		L. Maggs	D.B Reynolds	Miss L.A. Swanborough	Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1957-58	R. Harris (Hon)	T. Wilson		L. Maggs	D.B Reynolds		Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1958-59	R. Harris	H. Lambert		L. Maggs	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1959-60	R. Harris	H. Lambert		L. Maggs	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1960-61	R. Harris	H. Lambert			D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1961-62	R. Harris	Mrs M.E. Salisbury			D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1962-63	R. Harris	Mrs M.E. Salisbury		J. Hayes	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1963-64	R. Harris		R. Shipley	J. Hayes	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1964-65	R. Harris	Mrs S. Morrison	R. Shipley	G. Wishart	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	Sir R.V. Grimston Bart MP.
1965-66	R. Harris	Mrs S. Morrison	R. Shipley		D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	D. Walters MP
1966-67	R. Harris		R. Shipley	E. Jackman	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	D. Walters MP
1967-68	R. Harris	J. Brindley	D. Hillier	A.G. Phillips	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	D. Walters MP
1968-69	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	A.G. Phillips	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	D. Walters MP
1969-70		Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	A.G. Phillips	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	D. Walters MP
1970-71		Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	A.G. Phillips	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	D. Walters MP
1971-72		Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	A.G. Phillips	D.B Reynolds	J. Ladd	D. Walters MP
1972-73	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	A.G. Phillips	J. Pearce	J. Ladd	D. Walters MP
1973-74	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	A.G. Phillips	J. Pearce		D. Walters MP
1974-75	R. Harris	Mrs D Ford	D. Hillier	J. Pearce	P. Dunn	M. Thorne	D. Walters MP
1975-76	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	J. Pearce	P. Dunn	M. Thorne	D. Walters MP
1976-77	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	J. Pearce	P. Dunn	M. Thorne	D. Walters MP
1977-78	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	J. Pearce	P. Dunn	M. Thorne	D. Walters MP
1978-79	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	D. Hillier	J. Pearce	P. Dunn	M. Thorne	D. Walters MP
1979-80	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	A. Watts		P. Dunn	M. Thorne	D. Walters MP
1980-81	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	A. Watts	J. Pearce	P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1981-82	R. Harris	Mrs D. Ford	A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1982-83	R. Harris		A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1983-84	R. Harris		A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1984-85	R. Harris		A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1985-86			A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1986-87			A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1987-88	H.I. Williams		A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1988-89	H.I. Williams		A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1989-90	H.I. Williams		A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1990-91	H.I. Williams		A. Watts		P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1991-92	H.I. Williams	E. Weston	A. Watts	P. Chandler	P. Dunn		D. Walters MP
1992-93	H.I. Williams	E. Weston	A. Watts	P. Chandler	P. Dunn	J. Poyner	R. Griffen
1993-94	H.I. Williams	E. Weston	A. Watts	P. Chandler	P. Dunn	J. Poyner	R. Griffen

VICE PRESIDENTS (cont)

1947-48	W. Washbourne	Rev. Jones				
1948-49				Mrs Swanborough		
1949-50			NO	RECORDS AVAILABLE		
1950-51	G. Sheppard	F. Thompson		Mrs Swanborough		
1951-52	G. Sheppard	F. Thompson		Mrs Swanborough		
1952-53				H. Haddon		
1953-54				H. Haddon		
1954-55	G. Nichols					
1955-56	G. Nichols	Geo Meggison				
1956-57	G. Nichols	Geo Meggison				
1957-58	G. Nichols	Geo Meggison				
1958-59	G. Nichols	Geo Meggison	R. Rees			
1959-60	G. Nichols		R. Rees			
1960-61	G. Nichols					
1961-62	G. Nichols					
1962-63	G. Nichols					
1963-64	G. Nichols					
1964-65	G. Nichols	G. Applegate				
1965-66	G. Nichols	G. Applegate				
1966-67	G. Nichols	G. Applegate				
1967-68	G. Nichols	G. Applegate	R. Rees	Mrs M.S. Shipley		
1968-69	G. Nichols	G. Applegate	R. Rees	Mrs M.S. Shipley		
1969-70	G. Nichols	G. Applegate	R. Rees	Dr S. Henry		
1970-71	G. Nichols	G. Applegate	R. Rees	Dr S. Henry	G. Allden	W. Griffin
1971-72	G. Nichols	G. Applegate	R. Rees	A. Easton	H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1972-73	G. Nichols	G. Applegate	R. Rees	A. Easton	H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1973-74					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1974-75					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1975-76					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1976-77					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1977-78					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1978-79					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1979-80					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1981-82					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1982-83					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1983-84					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1984-85					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1985-86					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1986-87					H.J. Ford	W. Griffin
1987-88					H.J. Ford	
1988-89					H.J. Ford	
1989-90					H.J. Ford	
1990-91					H.J. Ford	
1991-92					H.J. Ford	
1992-93					H.J. Ford	
1993-94					H.J. Ford	

History of the League

Teams competing in the league originally embraced the towns of Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge, Melksham and Westbury (see formation of league) and of the teams competing in the first season only one club (United Dairies of Trowbridge) laterly Unigate had been in continuous membership of the league bearing in mind of course the league closed down during the war years (1939-46). However with the closure of the Unigate Club at the end of the 1987-88 season this continuity was broken but members reformed for the 1988-89 season as the new Trowbridge Table Tennis Club.

Table tennis pre war was dominated by the Westbury Lower Congregational Club but the distinction of becoming the first winners of the West Wilts Table Tennis League were infact County Offices 'A' who won Divison 'B' of the 1935-36 season and beat Divison 'A' winners another Westbury team West End 'A' in the play off. Pre war Westbury in addition to the strong Lower Congs Club and West End were also represented with teams from the Upper Congregational, Territorial Club and a Young Mens Club. Bill Butler was the listed secretary of the Lower Congregational Club in those days and other players who would have figured prominently there were Jack Newman, Ernie Milton, Bert Grist, Gilbert Perrett, Geoff Knott, Reg Veal, Reg Dyer, Stan Hayward, Doug Wheeler & of course Chick Chandler, Jack Pearce and Wally Griffin. Further mention of Chick, Jack and Wally will many times be made in this publication whilst Chicks brother Pete still playing in our league was instrumental in the formation of the Territorial Club side just prior to the war. Early secretaries at the Upper Congregational Club were Edwin Hiscox and Les Elkins whilst Dennis Elkins and Eric Weston would also have played there in the pre war years. Bradford on Avon were well represented with teams from the Church Army and the Town Club as were Melksham with the Avon Club which was to figure so prominently through to the fifties and the United Dairies. Hollywood Club, Labour Club, J&T Clarks, County Offices, Wilts United Dairies (previously referred to) St James, Ushers were all Trowbridge pre war clubs and with the exception of the first named were all to enjoy post war connections with the league as were village clubs Hilperon Institute and Holt Congregational. Many playing members will have appeared during those early days of the league - some of course will still be with us others have passed on but memories remain and long after this publication in addition to those who are mentioned either by holding office or by appearing in championship lists they will always be remembered from the outset of the West Wilts Table Tennis League.

The immediate post war table tennis restarted at the Community Centre, Innox Road, Trowbridge when a special General meeting was convened on Monday, 14th October 1946 (see formation of league). No teams from Bradford on Avon were to be found but a ladies division was formed. Clubs entering that season were County Hall (3 Gents & 1 Ladies), Post Office (1 ladies), Community Centre called Recreational Centre (2 Gents & 1 Ladies), Holt Congregational (1 Gents), Westbury Upper Congregational (1 Gents), Westbury Lower Congregational (4 Gents), Avon Sports Club (2 Gents & 1 Ladies), N.H. Engineering (1 Gents), War Agricultural (1 Ladies) & Wilts United Dairies (1 Gents & 1 ladies). Of these participating teams County Hall and War Agricultural were to stay in the league but only for a few seasons but N.H. Engineering or St. Georges Social Club as they became known were to commence their long association with the league originally playing at their Silver Street premises in Trowbridge and continuing there until 1958 and then reentering in the 1961-62 season at the factory along Bradley Road which was of course used for the leagues individual championships for many seasons, a 'twist of fate' brought them back to the Silver Street premises now occupied by the Trowbridge Snooker Centre in the 1993-94 season when the factory closed. Tony Jordan (mention of whom will be made elsewhere) will of course have been associated with St. Georges since

the early days along with Eddie Grant his long time team mate whilst Keith Chalmers during the early period and then Pete Jones were secretaries at the club. The Post Office team continued through to the mid-fifties playing on the top floor of the Old Post Office building in Fore Street and associated with the club during this time would have been Brian Wickham (still playing up to the 1992/93 season) Stan Mills and Gladys Spencer. The Holt Congregational team after the war were represented at the Special General Meeting previously referred to by Tony Watts now a League Vice President - so by the time this Diamond Jubilee year is here Tony will have played in the league for nearly 50 years. Despite his disability Tony has been a match in his time for all but a few and his close to the table pen hold style coupled with a gritty determination made him a very competitive player and no ones easy prey. Following the first two seasons after the war with Nelson and Jim Mortimer at Holt when the premises had to be vacated for safety reasons Tony moved on to the Community Centre and then to the newly formed Trowbridge Club in the Central Liberal Club at the Conigre, Trowbridge. A spell at Westbourne Trowbridge followed then in 1967-68 on to Studley until a final move to the Bradford Club in 1976-77 where he still plays today. The Community Centre in Innox Road (now known as Innox Hall) was the 'hub' of table tennis activity in Trowbridge during the late forties and early fifties with Dick Rose as its secretary and its demise coincided with the formation of the Trowbridge club in the 1952-53 season. John & Doreen Neech who will be mentioned elsewhere would have been very much involved here. The Wilts United Dairies Club of which mention has already been made of their continuous membership of the league played in their social club hut at Bythesea Road later to move to new premises at their sports ground along Bradley Road alas to be no longer in the late eighties when it was to be developed upon. Names to be associated with the club in the early post war days would have been Doug Reynolds, Alec Craymer (see separate article) his brother Laurie and then John Cleverland, Tony Clark, John Taylor, Michael Smith, Viv Usher, Norman Crees to mention but a few of the many players who would have played for Unigate (as it was to become known) over the years. Avon Sports Club at Melksham were to make their premises at Melksham House available for Championship finals, County and Exhibition matches during their time in the league but actual league matches were played in a rather small room just off of the main hall and from those days readers will recall Mrs Adams, Molly Muggleworth, Peter Higgs, Johnny Holbrook, Bill Cleverly, Ken Satchell, Roy Griffen & Peggy Collins to mention a few of the many players who would have appeared for the club who at one time fielded no fewer than six teams. However for some reason table tennis club ceased to function there in the mid fifties. The Lower Congregational Club at Westbury continued through to the 1955-56 season as undefeated Division One Champions with of course Jack Pearce, Chick Chandler Tom Gaylard and Wally Griffin who was their secretary throughout. In the early days their playing venue was the hut in the grounds of the Church in Warminster Road and in the later years in the Church Schoolroom. The Upper Congregational Club always I suppose the poor relation in terms of playing standard to their 'Lower' neighbours but until its closure in the early sixties was a very thriving well supported club of which table tennis played its part. Post war secretaries at the club included John Denman, David Oatley and David Freestone. Several other Westbury clubs joined the league briefly in the early days after the war namely Westbury GWR, Oak Sports Club (the licensee John Hartshorn was secretary), British Legion, Western Sports & Nomads and in the following season the rules were amended to allow Frome Recreational Club into the league with Jack Scott as their secretary and Bob Meech together with Ron Difazio as team members. The 1948-49 season and the first service team R.A.F. Melksham joined the league and were to remain in membership until the camp closure in 1964 - and I'm sure older players will remember playing in the R.A.F. Gym (now Christie Miller Sports Centre) although more often than

not matches were played in the Table Tennis Hut - but either way NAFFI hospitality afterwards was always to hand. Quite a few top players passed through the camp in those years including Brian Kennedy a full England International, Graham Holden an Irish International and Ken Uttley a Northern County player but definitely the best known to play regularly in our league was Richard (Dick) Clode who was the R.A.F. Champion for many years and became of course our own singles winner and also County Singles Champion on numerous occasions. Other clubs had commenced their association with the league at this time in particular the Dilton Services Club who were to remain in membership through to 1975 and then continue as Old Diltonians for a further 12 seasons. The Dilton Club throughout their long stay with the league provided many local players with the opportunity to play table tennis in the village and at one time fielded as many as six teams but obviously it was their first division side of Jack Pearce, Tommy Edwards and Derek Taylor (the old 'Lower Congs' team) that moved across in the 1956/57 season that will be best remembered - and were to retain the top division title for so many years. However when one thinks of Dilton one name comes to mind and that of course being Eric Weston. From the early playing days when Eric's team mates were Harold Douglas and Bill Alford, Eric has been and still is one of the keenest table tennis fans and indeed was no mean performer on the table - well do I remember to my cost when I first started playing. Trowbridge Westbourne joined the league for the first time of three separate periods in the 1948/49 season with a Mr & Mrs A. Merritt and Ken Gibbs as secretaries. They came out of the league at the end of the 1953/54 season - to start up again in 1963/64 with Chick Chandler, John Smith, Graham Mayne and Ray Broadley being involved, then after finishing in 1966/67 returned for just one more season in 1977/78 again Chick running a side which included his son Jon.

In the 1950/51 season the Upper Studley Club came into the league to stay for over 3 decades and their premises were used for many inter league matches - alas no longer having been developed on many years ago. Over the period of time many of the leagues top players appeared for Studley teams particularly in the late sixties through to the seventies but in the early days Johnny Birks was their hardworking secretary and in his standard a very awkward player to beat on the table, then there was Frank Cordy and the then juniors Rodney Bush, Bob Wyatt and Brian Baden.

Over at Westbury the West End Youth Club came into the league the same season providing the writer with his first introduction to table tennis and a 'baptism' into the league at the start of the 1953/54 season. In what would now seem rather cramped conditions at the West End Baptist Church Schoolroom Hut my colleagues in those days were Vivian Hooper, John Chapman, Michael Young, Dave Ingram and George Ingram.

During the early fifties teams from Westwood Youth Club, Wilts Agricultural Committee, Emmanuel Youth, Gremlins, Staverton and St. Johns Trowbridge all came into the league all be it for a short period. The following season (1952/53) no fewer than six teams came into the league, one was Adcroft School of Building and many a future player commenced their table tennis there - also Jacobites whose original venue was the old St. James Hall and then the Old St. James Rectory on the corner of Church Street and Union Street in Trowbridge. John Cleveland played there as did Tony Rushforth and Keith Ponting who subsequently held administrative office with the Devon T.T.A. and with the English Table Tennis Association of which he is now an honorary life member. Lavertons the Cloth Mills in Westbury entered teams for several seasons playing in the canteen of Bitham Mills, Len Pinchin was their secretary and Pat Cunningham one of the few lady players at that time played there. Sadly Pat passed on in July 1994. This season also welcomed into the league stalwart clubs to be Spencers, Melksham and the Trowbridge club. Spencers who were at one time fielding as many as six teams in our league played of course at their Social Club, H/Q in Beanacre Road. So many players from Melksham would have played for them over

the years but in those early days one recalls the Sharrington Brothers Brian & Eddie, Robin Longdon, Charlie Green, Roy & Kaye Sharp, Alan James, Barrie Hawkins and Geoff Broom the latter of course to be their secretary and driving force for many years to come. Joe Analts (see Trowbridge TTC) also played at Spencers for many years then there was Brian Bailey and Margaret Doonham one of our leading ladies in her time who was to marry Jack Lindsay and emigrate to Australia, and the Vance brothers Michael & Terry the latter still very much involved in Table Tennis circles in Surrey

I am indebted to Brian Perry who was the secretary of the Trowbridge Table Tennis Club throughout their 11 years association with the league for records of the club. It was due to the impending closure of the community centre that the founder members of the club obtained premises over the Old Central Liberal Club at the Congre in Trowbridge and the club was formed early in 1952. That first season the club entered two teams in the league and the players representing the club in their very first matches were in the 'A' team Keith Brown, Bill Satchell and Andy Chalmers and the 'B' team David Wickham, John Smith & Bert Loft. Other players in those initial years at the club were 'Chick Chandler Paul Beresford, Alec Craymer, Dick Rose, Tony Watts, Bryan Perry, John Neech, Doreen Neech, Richard (Tinker) Bell who won the clubs first annual championships & Brian Wickham. Also in the early days of the club Indulus (Joe) Analts and Vic Zaslowski used to cycle across from Corsham to play for the club in our league and of course Joe is still very much part of the table tennis scene today and surely is one of the most liked and certainly one of the true sportsmen to have played in our league.

In the 1959/60 season the club moved to new headquarters in the rooms above what is now 'Cheers' Wine Bar in Roundstone Street and by then they were fielding 5 teams in addition to Bath League sides. Players representing the club now included Roy Griffen, Neville Webb, Keith Brewer, Muriel Ford, Dick Stephens, Brian Jarrett, Roly Hill, Graham Bull (who would have also been associated with the Bradford club) & John Ford my namesake, Brother of Muriel who was to pass away at such a young age.

Queries, S.E.B. Melksham, Waldens, No.2 Wing Corporals Club, Vickers and Melksham Baptist all came into the league in the 1953-54 season all to stay but for a few seasons with the exception of the 'Baptist'. Vickers used to play matches in the ballroom (subsequently converted into offices) on the first floor of their factory along Bradley Road and George Bence was their secretary during their stay in our league.

Melksham Baptist enjoyed a 16 season term in the league and David Jones later to play for Spencers was their first secretary with Barrie Hawkins & Brian Jones following in that position. The venue was of course the Baptist Schoolroom in Old Broughton Road but it will always be Vic Missen that we will associate with the club together with his son David in later years. The following season (1954/55) and the K.S.M. club started their long association with the league entering two teams from the Polish Hostel at Steeple Ashton shortly to move their headquarters to St. Johns R.C. Hall along Wingfield Road, Trowbridge and then in the 1957-58 season to share the Trowbridge T.T. Club premises until the move to their own Polish Association Club in Bond Street and then Waterworks Road firstly playing in the room which was subsequently converted into the lounge bar and then the main hall. Stan Garlak, Adam Bielecki, Adolf Gnyp, John & Bill Ottembrajt, Stan Miszta, Joe Murias, K. Zukowski were members of the club to be followed by Kaz and Freddie Potem, Bob Gronski, George Pieczko. Bill Ryzop & Wieslaw Wysocki. Incidentally K.S.M. (Koto Sportowe Mtdzierzy) translated into English reads 'A Youth Club'.

1954/55 also bought into the league for a short spell Co-op Social Club with Roy Wiltshire as their secretary also Melksham Methodist and Westbury Methodist Y.C. Trevor Dolman was secretary of the latter team and recalls playing over at Melksham and not wishing to concede any games missed the last bus back to Trowbridge for the connection to Westbury and having to walk back - 'those were the days'. Three more clubs were to join

the ranks the following season Bratton Boys Club, Christchurch (Warminster) and Literary Institute (Devizes).

Brian Rogers who was to pass away so suddenly whilst playing tennis years ago was the secretary for many of the years over at Bratton who enjoyed two spells in the league playing at the Church Institute in the village.

Christchurch were the first Warminster side to come into the league and for all of their 14 year stay played at the Reading Rooms opposite Christchurch - up the stairs and 'God help you' if you were a defender. Gordon Harrison was their first secretary and one of their leading players together with his brother Tom and Dick Rees our subsequently president. Other players who come to mind were Geoff Warren, Hue Turner, Len Tanner, John (Archie) Cundick, Laurie Power, Len Bendall, Pete Lacey and the then promising juniors Geoff Mullen, Roy Smith & Dave Garrett. Penny Bonner played for the club in the season or two before the club finished and was one of the strongest ladies to play in our league. Penny was to play for Wiltshire at that time and has come to the fore in recent years as one of Englands leading veteran women having won the National title and her son Alex Perry was Englands No.1 junior player a season or two ago and now highly ranked as a senior. This season also was to see a team from Devizes enter our league from the Literary Institute and their first secretary was John Revell who was to play in our league for many seasons to come - probably one of the more underrated players of his time John possessed a sound defensive game and a decisive 'kill' on both wings. Alan Alexander also was to appear in our league for the first time (more of Alan in other articles) and Brian Bond who only played in the league for a short time made the Literary Institute a very strong side. The following season 1956-57, the Leagues 21st, and Westbury Youth Club made quite an impact with their junior team of John Ford, Vivian Hooper and Graham Oatley playing at their youth club premises in one of the units at the Regular Commissions Board in Warminster Road - gaining promotion from Division Two and quickly establishing themselves in the top division the following season.

1957-58 was to see the reemergence of J&T Clarks Social Club who had been founder members of the league and their premises in Stallard Street were used regularly at the time for league representative matches and Individual Championship evenings. Wally Griffin Roger Hillier, Eric Smith and Tony Merritt were playing for Clarks at this time and Tony I recall caused some interest for a while by playing with a very small bat. N.A.L.G.O. came into the league that season playing in the canteen of the County Hall and a team from St. James, Trowbridge were to reappear for a few seasons however more significantly was the formation of the Conigre Youth Club - 'The All Blacks' of the local table tennis scene. Playing in the schoolroom of the Conigre Church in Towbridge (now long since pulled down) the club soon built up a very enthusiastic playing membership. Bill Pickett still playing today was the clubs first secretary but Bill Moore was to take over and continue until the club folded in 1970. At their peak in the mid sixties the club was fielding four teams and players at that time included Brian Lloyd, Dave Morgan, Roger Whiting, Melv Andrews, Stuart Shipley and Bernard Pendle. The following season Christchurch were to be joined by St. Johns T.T.C. from Warminster and their membership of the league continues through to the present day albeit under a name change. Their venue at St. Johns Parish Room, Boreham Road remained unchanged for over 30 years until an unwise move as it turned out was made to the Joint Social Club in Imber Road but then alternative premises were quickly found at the Lakeside Centre in Warminster Park. In the early eighties sponsorship was obtained from Lord Bath and the clubs name was preceded by Longleat and the club teams were named after animals on the estate. Quite an innovation in local table tennis circles when names of teams appeared as Lions, Tigers, Stags, Zebras etc. instead of the usual A,B,C,D. The Longleat St. Johns name was dropped in 1989 in favour of the Warminster T.T. Club but the animal names have remained. However back to the early days and the first secretary was Les Charlton to be succeeded

by Ray White and then by Ray Sims a founder member and still so actively connected with the club. Pete Owen, Brian Whitty, Tony Burden would have been names involved with the club during the early days to be followed by the likes of Mike Tilley, Ray Edwards, Kevin Edwards, David Thomlinson, Clive Sims, Roy Smith, Ron Parsons to the present day players of Nigel Daniels, Phil Macey and of course dear John Macey who passed on a few seasons ago and is so sadly missed.

The 1958-59 season also marked the entry of the White Horse Club from Westbury into the league and its first secretary was Vic Oram (now sadly no longer with us) the playing venue being the Conservative Club in Alfred Street in the Old Snooker room which now forms part of the main bar area. Trevor Dolman then took over as secretary and in the 1963-64 season the club moved up to the Cricket Ground at Leighton and there remained but for a name change in the 1972/73 season to Leighton Sports who continued through to the 1982/83 season. However in name only the White Horse Club continued for one season (1972/73) fielding no fewer than 8 teams at the White Horse Engineering Company at Fairwood Road, Dilton Marsh but unfortunately the premises did not work out and all the players brought together moved to other clubs the following season. However back to the original White Horse Club and from the early days there was always a predominance of cricket players in the various teams fielded over the years the likes of Colin Cooper, Dave Waters, Gerald Walter, Denis Elkins (who was of course playing in the league many years before) Derek Green & Keith Walter who teamed up with Les Taylor & Derek Mahoney to form a useful side. In the later years as Leighton the club had a Premier division team comprising John Ford, Roger Whiting & Ian Potheary with Tony Merritt and Roger Hillier also playing there - but probably the lasting impression of the Leighton Cricket Pavilion premises was the 'Spartan' conditions experienced particularly in mid-winter!

In the 1959/60 season a team from Holt reentered the league as White Hart playing at the Public house now the 'Tollgate'. Throughout the sixties as White Hart and then as Holt Congregational the team comprised Clive Ingham who was to emigrate to Australia, Geoff Fish who's sudden death in 1993 was such a great shock to everyone and Geoff Moody with an occasional appearance from Rodney Moody. The APC Troop Warminster appeared in the league for one season (1960/61) but the village club Rowde were to enjoy a longer spell in our league and who will forget old Jack Pearce (no not the Jack Pearce) but a namesake who was a true character and of course Don Hillier (to whom reference will be made elsewhere in this publication). Jack was their secretary for many seasons to be succeeded by Barry Barrett.

Melksham Forest Methodist Youth Club, C.Y.P.C. Westbury (the Congregational Youth Pilot Club) and 70cc Wesley Road Trowbridge all came into the league for a short spell in the early sixties as did Innox TTC playing at the Innox Hall (previously of course the Community Centre) with Pete Steel as their enthusiastic secretary. Then in the 1963/64 season Bradford TTC commenced their long association with the league and at one time fielded no fewer than 8 teams. The Harford brothers Peter, Tony & Geoff will always be remembered for their connections with the club and indeed Tony was the club's first secretary when their venue was 'The Baths' in the centre of town. Peter was to take over as secretary and in the 1965/66 season the club moved to the Youth Centre Newtown first in the upper room of the lower building and then in the main building a few years later. This venue remained through to the late seventies when the club moved to the Rowing Club (next to St. Margarets Hall) and then for one season two sides played at the Southwick & North Bradley Scout Hall, Frome Road, Southwick and two sides played at the Ushers Club in Trowbridge before moving to their present premises at the Westwood Parish Church Room in Lower Westwood. So many players would have appeared for Bradford teams over the last 30 years, Brian (Binny) Bishop was their treasurer for a long time, George Elder, Terry Holbrook, Bernard Perry & Graham Mayne in the early days. Keith

Harford (Peters son) and Richard Harford (Keiths cousin) were prominent juniors and before them Kevin Mayes. Lawson Bonser has played for the club for so many years and in more recent times Tony Mileham, Cliff Benson and of course their now enthusiastic secretary Noel Sewell. Avon Sports reentered the league again playing at Melksham House and stayed for five seasons - Roger Gunstone, Nigel Dunford, Chris Hussey and Dave Earney were amongst their players.

Whilst mentioning Chris Hussey we must remember Brian (father of Chris) who played in our league for quite a few seasons. The 'Mad Major' as Brian was known unfortunately passed on several years ago but we will affectionately recall his involvement not only as a player but as an entertainer in his own right and who will ever forget Brians 'floor show' which included a TV appearance in later years.

Also in the 1963/64 season another club in Westbury was formed using the function room above the Angel Public House as their premises, Bruce Wheeler was their secretary and they subsequently moved down to the Westbury United Football Club hut in Meadow Lane calling themselves J. Flowers TTC. (old Westbury residents will understand the name connection) Another team to join the league that season was R.A.F. Hullavington but the leagues 'Outpost' were only to stay for a couple of seasons as did a team from Tabernacle Youth Club with Douglas Pike as their secretary and Richard Culverhouse as one of their players. Urchfont also came into the league that season and although it was only a short stay it did bring into our league as their secretary Brian Cook who's association remains to the present day - a very popular player and friend to everyone.

1964/65 now, and new club Butler & Tanner from Frome appeared for a short spell later to re-join and continue their membership of the league through to the present time. The leagues outpost transferred to Mere with their entry in this season and if for no other reason (with respect to all their members over the years) it bought Richard Arney into our league - more of Richard in other articles. The clubs original venue was the Prince of Wales Club but in later years moved to a purpose built hut in Clive Hoopers garden at Duchy Cottages. The club produced several good juniors such as Richard Norris and the Trim brothers but their regular 'A' team of Richard Arney, Terry Kelly and Clive Hooper will best be remembered.

The Unicorn TTC playing above the Unicorn Inn bought most of the top Devizes players into our league during this 1964/65 season with Jon Stroud as their secretary. After two seasons the club moved and reformed as Nursteed TTC playing at the Devizes Town Football Club in Nursteed Road first in the social club and then in the Devizes TT league purpose built two table premises. Alan Alexander was of course their leading player, then there was his brother Mick, his wife Margaret (nee Fielding), Derek Yates, Bob Pollard, & Kenny Welsh the latter pair being former junior opponents of mine, the previously mentioned Brian Cook and Brian Stanley. The club continued through to the mid eighties and many of the Devizes league players would have represented Nursteed in our league including John Revell (previously mentioned) and two of their leading lady players Alison Boyce & Helen Webb (nee Rusby).

Westbury Youth Club came back into the league for a couple of seasons at this time playing first at the then Youth Centre premises in the Old School at the junction of Bratton Road and Newtown and then at the New Youth Centre at Eden Vale. Conroy Knapp, Dave Drewett and Jeannette Missen would have represented the club during this time. Manvers Street Youth Club run by Geoff Crucefix entered a team for one season in 1965/66 and Roy Griffen now a league vice president was secretary of the Trowbridge Association Football Club 'A' team for a season with Doug Pike running the 'B' team - both playing at the supporters hut on the Frome Road ground. Roy with his wife Rita started playing in the league at the Community Centre then following the move to the Trowbridge Club in the early fifties played for the Avon club at Melksham Roy then played for Studley, Unigate, J&T Clarks, Clarendon and more recently Avon Bradford and of

course for many years now, has played as a team with his son Andrew and long time friend Roly Hill.

1966 - 67 and Atworth Youth Club joined the league and stayed for six seasons playing originally at the Institute, Bath Road and the New Mendip Engineering works just along the road and then at the Youth Centre - their secretary for several seasons being Danny Drewitt. Melksham DAA entered this same season playing at the S.E.B. Social Club premises in Spa Road and their secretary during the four seasons in the league was R. Davies. Old Grammarians from Frome made up the compliment of new teams entering in 1966/67 playing in the gymnasium of the then grammar school, Bath Road (now Frome College). Jack Scott was their secretary for two seasons followed by Dennis Joyce. Lloyds Bank brief encounter with the league was somewhat unique as in the 1966/67 season they played the second half of the season only in division four - their venue was Court Mills Youth Centre in Trowbridge and Ian Morrison was their secretary.

1967-68 came with another Devizes Team competing in our league - Devizes Congregational playing at the church in Northgate Street with Pauline Hawkins (nee Skittrell) as their secretary. In the 1974-75 season they became St. Marys (the St. Marys United Reform Church) Pauline continuing as secretary with Bernard Humphries as their 'B' team secretary. The club remained in our league through to the 1985/86 season and Michael Rogers, Mike Oliver, Alan Carter together with the afore mentioned Brian Cook and Brian Stanley would have been associated with the club.

Nestles also joined the league this season playing at their social club at Staverton. K Mckechnie was their first secretary to be followed for many years by Alistair Inglis and then Bill Pickett. The club ceased to function in 1979-80 but have come back into the league in recent seasons with Richard Feetenby as their secretary and Joe Analts as one of the members.

Poulshot playing at their Village Hall joined the league in 1967-68 and stayed for five seasons with Dave Perrett as their secretary for the duration. The village club enjoyed one season in the Premier - their final season 1971-72 when their team was Dave Perrett, John Revell and Dave Rigby who had started in our league with Devizes Congregational and then moved over to Spencers for many seasons. St. Michaels Youth Club from Melksham enjoyed a brief spell in our league at this time and one of their players, Bodan Gardyj was the first recipient of the League Merit Trophy.

Wesley Road Methodist with Geoff Crucefix as their secretary entered the league for one season but this 1967-68 season welcomed three clubs from Westbury. West End Baptist came back into the league with Graham Taylor as their secretary and John Chapman as another team member whilst Viv Best was secretary at All Saints Youth Club for a season and then a name change to the Parish Youth Fellowship for the following season. More significantly however was the formation of the Westbury Table Tennis Club with John Ford as secretary playing at the 'Castle' clubroom Bratton Road. Although only lasting five seasons the club quickly built up to no fewer than seven teams. This was the first season that Divisional team K.O. competitions were held and the Westbury 'A' team at that time John Ford, Alan Nicholas. Roger Whiting & Paul Moody (from Bath) won the Premier Division version and the 'B' team of Tony Merritt, Roger Hillier & Bryan Perry the Division One equivalent.

1968-69 and four new teams came into the league but only for one or two seasons. Canberra Youth Club Melksham, Court Mills Youth Club, Trowbridge, Tesco Social Club, Westbury and Enfield Sports Club from Westwood for whom Jim Fielding was their enthusiastic secretary.

1969-70 was significant more for the clubs that the league was to lose rather than gain. Melksham Baptist were to be no more and Christchurch from Warminster were missing and it was to be the last season for the Adcroft School, K.S.M. were also missing but to return in later years and the league were to say goodbye to the Conigre Club.

The following season 1970-71 the league welcomed teams from Bath in the form of Newbridge TTC and Percy Old Boys. The latter only lasted a season but Newbridge were to remain in membership through to 1988/89 and brought into our league many new faces over those years Paul Wilmot was their first secretary to be succeeded by Brian White and in the later years by Colin Dowding. Don Morris a former Wiltshire County Veteran colleague of mine would have been one of the more prominent Newbridge players over the years and in 1976/77 won in partnership with Roddy Watts the Leagues Mens Doubles title. The clubs original venue was the Horstmann Gear Company premises along the Upper Bristol Road then for one season the Sportsman Bar at the Bath City Football Ground, then Manvers Street Baptist Church to be followed by the Weston Scout Hall. The village club Etchilhampton also came into the league that season playing at Devizes TTA H/Q at the Devizes Town Football Ground and we welcomed of course two of our leading lady players to be Alison Boyce and Helen Rusby as she was then and although Etchilhampton as a team was to disappear Alison and Helen Webb as she was to become were to play in our league for many seasons to come. Another Bath team Pitman Press came into our league the following season (1971/72) with Brian White as their secretary and for the first time teams from Chippenham entered - the Bridge Centre although they were to only last for one season and Westinghouse Apprentices who remained through to the 1981/82 season with Hue Payton, Tim Pitman and Stuart Griffiths as their team most of the time.

The 1972/73 season and no fewer than seven new clubs entered the league although Leighton Sports was just a name change from White Horse (see 1958/59 season). Another team from Chippenham - the Post Office joined the league with Ken Burrage as their first secretary and throughout their long association with the league Bob Hitchings, Graham Akerman & Ken Heseltine (now sadly no longer with us) played regularly. Box T.T.C. appeared with three teams for just one season with Jim Fielding ex Enfield as their secretary playing at the Methodist Church Schoolroom and St. Peters, Bath also came into the league for a couple of seasons with Mike Hawkins running the club from St. Peters Hall, Lower Bristol Road. Nelson Haden Boys to become Clarendon entered the league and remained in membership through to the 1990/91 season when the cost of hiring the small gym at the school became prohibited and competitive table tennis ceased to function. Throughout most of this time Roly Hill was their secretary and of course devoted so much of his time in organising table tennis at the school whilst we will affectionally remember Frank Lea-Gerrard who was also involved with table tennis at the school as he was previously at Adcroft. North Bradley entered the league at this time playing initially at the Progressive Hall and then at the Peace Memorial Hall. John Pridham was their first secretary to be followed by John Stebbings and then Alf Moreton through to the 1983/84 season and two of the leagues most prominent players to be both played at North Bradley as juniors Kevin Satchell and Dave Richards. Synchronome Sports from Westbury also came into the league for a couple of seasons at this time with Stan Flukes as their secretary playing at the factory in Station Road.

On now to the 1973/74 season and Bovis from Westbury playing at their premises in Station Road/Brook Lane entered several teams through to the 1982/83 season with Derek Pike as their initial secretary to be followed by Kim Fricker. Bradford Youth who also came into the league this season and for their six season stay were looked after by John McLeod who also served on the executive committee at the time whilst Christie Miller came into the fold for just one season-Colin Harrison who was of course to become the leaguesecretary was the Sports Centre's secretary as he was of Hilperton 'A' the following season whilst Roger Whiting previously of Conigre & Westbury also played at Hilperton during their two seasons in the league (1974-76) the venue being the Village Hall, Whaddon Lane. Over at Spencers Melksham Geoff Fish, Derek Mayall & Dennis Joyce were running teams at this time and at the Studley Club in Trowbridge John Cleveland,

Chick Chandler and Tony Watts were team secretaries. A further team from Devizes calling themselves Moonrakers entered for one season as did a team from R.A.F. Colerne. St. James TTC returned for a brief spell playing in the Upper Vestry at the St. James Churchyard-Roger Kalton was their secretary for a while to be succeeded by Monica Rollitt who was also to serve on the executive committee. Percy Boys Club re-entered for a season with Ian Currie as their secretary.

As mentioned previously Dilton Services Club came out of the league at the end of the 1974/75 season but reformed as Old Diltonions playing at the Wesley Institute in Frome so Eric Weston, John & Viv Webb continued their long association with the league as did Terry Cresswell for a short period. The Club moved to premises at Portway Methodist Church and then to the Literary Institute, North Parade for a couple of seasons prior to disbanding in 1987. Mention must be made of Roger Johnson a long time colleague of John & Viv whose life was taken so prematurely.

Avon Bradford playing in the club hut at the Trowbridge Road Football Ground started up in the 1975/76 season with Pete Chandler and Geoff Crucefix as their first secretaries. Pete was later joined by his brother Chick whilst Geoff continues his association with the club. Keith Westlake and Pete Daniells were involved from the early days as were John Taylor and Terry Dyke in the eighties and more recently Roly Hill, Roy Griffen and son Andy.

Ushers had re-entered teams round about this time with Bernard Wickham as their secretary followed by Dave Clark then Bill Pickett and in the early eighties Bill Williams. Also this season one of the Studley teams run by Tony Watts called themselves Studley Exiles and it was about this time that leading Bath players Mike Baker, Colin Tinknell and Bob Murray were playing for the club.

Although no new clubs entered the league in the 1976/77 season K.S.M. & Westbury Youth Club re-entered.

Freddy Potem recontinued as secretary at the Polish Club and during this second spell in the league Mike Heather, Joe Analts and Adolf Gnyp were amongst their players.

Westbury Youth Club came back into the fold with two teams and their association with the league continues through to the present day. Malcolm Cook, Roland Hall and John Penney would have been connected with the club during the late seventies/early eighties and in more recent years Nigel Bond and the Rossiters Paul, Mary & Cora. Mention should also be made of the assistance given to the league by virtue of the Youth Centre premises for coaching over recent years thanks to Pat Nicol at the Centre and of course Jimmy Lowe (see separate article).

This season we also finally saw the closure of the Studley Club which had been part of the league for over 30 years and their last secretary was fittingly Chick Chandler who would of course have remembered the club in its tennis days- and the league aquired through Chick and Rex Hunt a trustee of the Tennis Club two trophies which were to be used as perpetual ones for the Leagues Individual Championships. The Studley Club was also responsible for introducing into the league two of the most promising juniors of their time and subsequent top seniors Jon Chandler (son of Chick) and Duncan Cleveland (son of John).

1977/78 and a team from the A.T.C. Trowbridge came into the league albeit for one season with their secretary Rodney Bush (previous stalwart of the afore mentioned Studley Club)

The Bustard club entered teams for several seasons following on from the N.A.L.G.O. teams of the sixties playing from their County Hall club premises - Richard Culverhouse was actively connected and was secretary for many seasons. Leigh Rangers playing at the Westbury Leigh Church Hall joined the league for a brief spell in the 1978/79 season with Peter Shore and Gordon Pearce (both to be associated with Westbury Youth Club in future years) acting as secretaries with John Chapman and Graham Taylor as team

members. Also that season Post Office Sports returned after a lengthy absence with Rodney Bush and his son being involved, whilst over at Frome a John Webb breakaway for a season as Frome W.W.A. appeared. Spafax were to enter the league playing at their country premises at Cheney Court, Ditteridge, Box - Geoff McArthur being their first secretary to be succeeded by Bill Turner, whilst Brian Townley would have been one of their regular players. Unigate at the time were still fielding many teams in the league and Tony Griffin, Brian Lambert & Ray Osborne would have been amongst the regular team secretaries

Into the eighties now and in the 1979/80 season Waldens entered a team for one season playing at the Ushers Club in the Premier division with Jon Chandler as the team secretary and Steve Gregory as one of the team members. (Jon and Steve were Mens Doubles Champions for that season). Team 27 came into the league for a few seasons playing at the REME Workshops in Warminster.

1980-81 and Trowbridge Fire Station came into the league with Hue Cook as their first secretary to be followed by Colin Colton and a Watneys Team appeared for just one season run by Bill Pickett.

1981-82 and no new teams were to be seen but at Westbury-Leighton were fielding six teams with John Ford, Paul Rossiter, Derek Pike, Colin Atkinson, Derek Green and Colin Knight as team secretaries. Whilst over at Warminster we had the Lions, Wolves, Stags, Zebras, Seals & Cubs being run by Nigel Daniels, Phil Macey, Ray Sims, Ian Willmore, Ray Edwards, Richard Gabb and Nick Jones. John Heppel was one of the team secretaries at North Bradley and Ryland Richards was secretary of the two teams at Spencers, Melksham.

1982-83 and no fewer than five clubs joined the league. A team from Calne entered for the first time playing at the John Bentley School and this brought into the league the 'Oxleys' Mike senior of course still playing today and his three sons, Mike junior, Andrew and Graham all of whom at some time making their presence felt particularly in the Individual Championships of the time. Ryland Richards was then to become secretary for a season or two and his son David would have been playing for the club then. Their membership then lapsed but in recent years as Calne and then P.A. Oxley Antique Clocks playing at the Devizes TT Association H/Q Mike senior has been joined by Basil Thompson, Andy Butt, Terry Parkins and for the 1991/2 season by Nationally ranked Chris Holley.

Teams from Swindon but using the Devizes TT Association H/Q at Nursteed Road as their playing venue made a brief appearance at this time. Nomads run by Alan Duke and Swindonians by Ray Hughes. This of course brought into our league for this short spell a number of Wiltshire County players such as veteran John Bright, Steve Davies and ladies, Tracy Watkins & Claire Maisey the latter being highly ranked in the National list.

J.P.2. Youth Club run initially by Mike Heather playing at the St. Augustine School came into the league this 1982-83 season as did Dowty Sports from Atworth with Steve Lewis then father Pete as secretaries whilst a team called Exiles played for one season at the Leighton Cricket Pavilion Westbury with Graham Coombes as secretary and then continued as Airsprung for a further few seasons playing at the Jubilee Club. The following season 1984-85 (Airsprung being the only addition the previous season) and another Bath team joined for two seasons-Snow Hill playing at Longacre Hall along London Road and the village team Great Hinton came into the league using the rather confined! space at the Memorial Hall- just down the lane from the 'Linnet'. Ernie Wickham & Stuart Wickham looked after the initial teams and of course the leagues past treasurer Paul 'Kipper' Kember would have started his table tennis there and one of our leading ladies Ginny Sherman has always been associated with the village club. St. Barnabus commenced their association with the league in 1985-86 playing at the Church Room Beanacre and Barry Scarlett was their first secretary to be followed by Ian Holbrook, George Gibbs, Richard Cotton, Pete Galea and in the 1993/4 season to be joined by Steve Wakeley and England ranked lady Michelle Cohen.

Butlers & Tanners re-entered the league in the 1986/87 season playing at the Caxton Club in Frome and the following season Ravenscroft School from Farleigh Hungerford mainly due to the efforts of Ian Wilton came into the league for a short spell.

Country Gents and Spinners a club formed by ex International Jimmy Lowe came into the league in the 1988-89 season playing at the Heywood and Hawkeridge Village Hall and brought together leading players such as Dave Richards, Mark Paul and Jeremy Musslewhite. The club was re-named P.A.Oxley Antique Clocks in 1990/91 and reverting to just plain old Heywood for a couple of seasons including 1992/93 when former England Veteran Champion Dave Harvey from Cheltenham played several games for the club, until the now Heywood Hubies upon moving to the Trowbridge Snooker Centre premises in 1993/94 by which time Alastair Pearson had joined ranks.

Teams from Hilperton re-entered the league at this time playing at the Tin Church, Horse Road. Ken Mitchelmore and Dennis Jones looked after the original teams whilst Ian Gray and Martin Burge have been the subsequent secretaries, Ken incidentally came into our league as a near veteran in the mid-seventies having previously played in good class table tennis in Yorkshire and quickly established himself as a hard hitting and strong viewed player.

Melksham T.T.C. was formed in 1989/90 under the guidance of our 'homebred' international Kevin Satchell playing at the Christie Miller Sports Centre but unfortunately only lasted one season. The Rising Sun also came into the league at this time 'no not at the pub' but at the Progressive Hall, North Bradley for a few seasons with Alf Moreton and then Bob Brown as secretary.

A team calling themselves Westinghouse Strays (more or less the previous Chippenham Post Office team) entered in 1989/90 and then the following season the Westinghouse Club - strong Supporters of the Bath League came in with two teams and brought into our league keen players from the north of the county such as Ray Cordery, Roy Cary, Ben Sage & Charlie Dawes (sadly no longer with us) as the 'A' team and a 'B' team run by Graham Akerman. For the two following seasons Swindons Alan Duke was responsible for an 'A' side which in 1992/93 included County players & nationally ranked Gary Baldwin and Brenda Lee

Dowty returned for a couple of seasons with Trevor Wakeley as their secretary prior to the formation of Atworth Albion in 1991/92 playing at the Institute in the village with the Wakeley Brothers Steve and Stuart being involved.

With the final closure of the Unigate Club in 1988 the new Trowbridge club came into being in the 1988/89 season fielding six teams Trowbridge 1,2,3,& 4 as they were called with secretaries Ian Pothecary, Jim Reeves, Roly Hill and Adrian Phillips played at the West Ashton Village Hall whilst Trowbridge 5 & 6 secretaries Keith Purnell & Brian Lambert played at the Tin Church Hilperton. The club continues to field a similar number of teams and over the past years Trevor Lloyd has looked after the first team of Ian Pothecary. Dave Bartlett and in more recent seasons John Ford whilst other team secretaries have been Paul Cunningham, Robin Longdon, Neil Phillips & Dave Jones. Steve Woodham was club secretary to be succeeded by Brian Lambert and of course league secretary Malcolm Phillips has always been a playing member together with the more recently league treasurer Paul 'Kipper' Kember. The original premises are still utilized but for a season Trowbridge 1 played at the Heywood and Hawkeridge Village Hall and Trowbridge 2 in the 1993/94 season at the Trowbridge Snooker Club. Grittleton Cricket Club playing at Grittleton House School joined the league in the 1991/92 season with Adrian Shipp as secretary whilst in recent seasons two more teams from Devizes have entered the league. The 'Dynamos' with Jamie Smith as secretary and our old friend Brian Cook playing and the 'Demons' with Dave Chelford as secretary - both teams using the Devizes TT Association premises.

In the last two seasons we have had Bill Pickett, well known to everyone in local table tennis circles forming teams, first at the Twelve Bells and then as the Wanderers at the Bethesda Baptist Church in Trowbridge.

1992/93 and Trowbridge Snooker Club entered two teams in the league. An 'A' team which brought back Dave Earney, Roger Gunstone and Steve Gliddon into the league and a 'B' team of Terry Shanley, Terry Sims and John Hussey. The significance of the Snooker Club has been their premises and besides offering at the present time a venue for several teams, possible further development as a table tennis centre makes an exciting prospect for the league through the nineties and into the 21st century.

Divisional, Team & K.O. Championships

At the first meeting of the 1935-36 season club representatives decided that the sixteen teams entered should be drawn into two divisions without regard to strength but that where two teams were entered from one club they should be put in different divisions (see formation of league and history of clubs). It was further decided that the first four teams in each division should form the first division for the following season. Therefore in the 1936-37 season there was a First and Second division which continued through to the 1962-63 season. As mentioned in other articles Division One was totally dominated by the Westbury Lower Congregational Club through to 1956 when the club team moved to Dilton Marsh Services Club to continue their run of title successes. Silver cups were purchased by the league for the two divisions and of course are still being contested for today.

In the 1963-64 season a Premier Division was formed and a Trophy was presented to the league for this competition by Don Hillier of whom references will have already been made. The trophy was simply called 'The Don Trophy' and the first winners were Wilts United Dairies of Trowbridge whose team was John Cleveland, John Ford and Richard Clode. Dilton 'A' came runners-up that season but were to win the Premier Division on five future occasions. A comprehensive list of all winners and runners-up in the team competitions can be found later on in this history of the league and obviously space would not allow to name the composition of the successful teams but within the league records many will be found and would always be available to anyone interested.

Three divisions came into being in the 1950-51 season, a fourth division was to follow in 1954-55 and a fifth division in the 1967-68 season. Incidentally it was the 1972-73 when the league reached its peak numerically with 70 teams from 25 clubs in six divisions. For a few seasons directly after the war, there was a Ladies division which was discontinued when Division Three came into being and at that time there was a Trowbridge Youth League in progress and contact was made at that time with a view to its affiliation to the West Wilts League.

A Team K.O. Competition had been in operation during the pre-war years and this was to become known as the Goddard Cup - but in 1958 the trophy fell into disrepair and David Jones & Barrie Hawkins from Melksham, officials of the league offered to present a shield to replace it and the 'Melksham Shield' came into being. However this trophy also became 'worse' for wear and a new shield was purchased by the league in the early eighties and of course the competition and the shield is still being played for today.

In the 1947-48 season a Junior Team K.O. Competition was introduced for second division teams only but only seemed to last for that season but in 1953-54 a similar competition came into being again called the Junior Team K.O. but this time for 2nd & 3rd Division sides. This latter competition was replaced in the 1960-61 season by the Handicap Team K.O. and a shield was purchased by the league for the event which is still being competed for. Incidentally the first final was between Conigre 'B' & Dairies 'D' which the former team of Vic Ford, Brian Lloyd & Bill Moore with a handicap of +11 beat the latter on +13 seven games to two, Dairies being represented by Tony Harvey, Ted (Bomber) Mills & Richard Ledbury. This final was played at St. James Hall on Individual Final night and in those days all sets started on the given handicaps therefore the final did not of course last to long ie. each set starting at 13-11. This handicap system was used for many seasons that is each team being given a handicap and each player in the team played of their respective team handicap throughout the competition. However this resulted in some very short evenings table tennis and the system subsequently changed to each match being handicapped with the stronger team on scratch. This system widely used and

favoured still by many did not cater for the quite often gap in the playing abilities of individual members of a team and after much lobbying by certain Executive Committee members at the time the system of individual handicapping was devised which is used to the present day even though it has prolonged the evenings play which many of us have found to our cost.

In the 1967-68 season Divisional Handicap Team K.O. Competitions were introduced and the league purchased six identical shields for the then Six divisions and named them after six of the stalwart members of the league namely Chick Chandler, Tom Gaylard, Doug Reynolds, Wally Griffin, Alec Craymer & Jack Pearce.

1986-87 season and the 'Phillips Shield' donated by the league secretary Malcolm Phillip re-introduced a K.O. Competition for the 2nd & 3rd Division clubs. The Premier/Division One title and the K.O. Team competition has been won by the same team on many occasions - the coveted 'double' and likewise the 'treble' of the titles mentioned plus the Divisional Team K.O. have also been won by several teams but to date no team has won all four team titles open to them. The nearest came in 1987-88 when the Warminster Lions team of Roy Smith, Nigel Daniels & John Ford won the Melksham Shield, Handicap Shield and Premier Division and in the 1991-92 season when the Heywood 'A' team of Jerry Musslewhite, Dave Richards & Mark Paul won the same three competitions. Whilst in 1990-91 the Warminster Lions team won the Melksham Shield, Handicap Shield and the Premier Division K.O. but came runners-up in the Premier Division to P.A. Oxley Antique Clocks.

Three individual trophies are awarded each season to individuals or teams for performances in the league or services to the league.

The 'League Merit' trophy was given to the league in 1968 by Peter Harford & John Ford to be awarded each season for the most meritorious performance during the league season and the first recipient of the trophy was Bodan Gardyj of St. Michaels Youth Club, Melksham who in the fourth division of the league that season was undefeated. The Vice Presidents Trophy a silver cup was presented to the league during the 1969-70 season by Mrs Dorothy Ford to be awarded each season for 'Service' to the league or for outstanding contribution to the league in administrative capacity or exceptional circumstances. The first recipient of this trophy was Ralph Barker of the Bradford-on-Avon club who overcame the adversary of Hemophilia to become a promising Junior player.

The third annual Trophy is the J.C. Trophy presented to the league by John Cleveland upon Johns departure from the area in 1983 and this trophy at Johns request is awarded each season to a player who turns out each week without possibly winning many games but makes up for this with 100% effort contributing so much to the week in week out structure of the league.

Leading averages of players in all divisions have been kept each season in detail particularly over the past ten years or so, unfortunately prior to then only a few seasons records have been in their entirety located and much the same applies to the final league tables. Therefore as such they do not form part of this record of league activities but the current secretary will have in his possession and readily available to anyone interested such records that are to hand.

PREMIER DIVISION (From 1963/64)

DIVISION ONE

	Winners	Runners-Up	Winners	Runners-Up
1935-36			County Offices	West. West End 'A'
1936-37			West Low Congs 'A'	
1937-38			West Low Congs 'A'	Avon Sports 'A'
1938-39			West Low Congs 'A'	
1939-46				
	(Ladies Division)		WAR	
1946-47	Avon Sports	Trow. Post Office	West Low Congs 'A'	West Low Congs 'B'
1947-48	Avon Sports	Trow. Post Office	West Low Congs 'C'	Trow. C.C. 'B'
1948-49			West Low Congs 'A'	
1949-50	Trow. Comm Centre	Trow Westbourne	West Low Congs 'A'	Trow. Dairies 'A'
1950-51			West Low Congs 'A'	Trow. C.C. 'A'
1951-52			West Low Congs 'A'	Trow. C.C. 'A'
1952-53			West Low Congs 'A'	R.A.F. Melk. 'A'
1953-54			West Low Congs 'A'	R.A.F. Melk. 'A'
1954-55			West Low Congs 'A'	Trow. T.T.C. 'A'
1955-56			West Low Congs 'A'	Trow. T.T.C. 'A'
1956-57			Dilton 'A'	Lit. Inst. Devizes
1957-58			Dilton 'A'	Spencers 'A'
1958-59			Dilton 'A'	Lit. Inst. Devizes
1959-60			Dilton 'A'	Lit. Inst. Devizes
1960-61			Dilton 'A'	Spencers 'A'
1961-62			Dilton 'A'	W.U.D. 'A'
1962-63			Dilton 'A'	Spencers 'A'
1963-64	W.U.D. 'A'	Dilton 'A'	W.U.D. 'B'	Christchurch
1964-65	Dilton 'A'	W.U.D. 'A'	St Johns Warminster	Conigre 'C'
1965-66	Dilton 'A'	Unicorn 'A'	Avon 'A'	Melk. Bapt. 'A'
1966-67	Dilton 'A'	Spencers 'A'	Chritchurch 'A'	St. Johns 'A'
1967-68	Spencers 'A'	Nursteed 'A'	Mere	Old Grammarians
1968-69	Dilton 'A'	K.S.M. 'A'	White Horse 'A'	Westbury 'B'
1969-70	Dilton 'A'	Mere 'A'	Nursteed 'C'	Bradford 'A'
1970-71	Studley 'A'	Mere 'A'	Poulshot	Newbridge
1971-72	Studley 'A'	Mere 'A'	Nursteed 'A'	Spencers 'B'
1972-73	White Horse 'A'	Mere 'A'	Pitman Press	Dilton 'A'
1973-74	Unigate 'A'	Mere 'A'	Unigate 'B'	Spencers 'A'
1974-75	Studley 'A'	Bradford 'B'	Bradford 'C'	Hilperton 'B'
1975-76	Studley 'A'	Bradford 'A'	Unigate 'A'	St. Georges 'A'
1976-77	Bradford 'A'	Unigate 'A'	Bradford 'C'	Studley 'A'
1977-78	Unigate 'A'	Bradford 'A'	North Bradley 'A'	Spencers 'A'
1978-79	Unigate 'A'	Mere	P.O. Sports 'A'	Ushers 'A'
1979-80	Bradford 'A'	St. Johns 'A'	Bovis 'A'	St. Marys 'A'
1980-81	St. Johns 'A'	Bradford 'A'	Spencers 'A'	Bradford 'C'
1981-82	Bradford 'A'	Longleat Lions	Longleat Tigers	Bradford 'C'
1982-83	Longleat Lions	Bradford 'A'	St. Marys 'A'	K.S.M.
1983-84	Longleat Lions	Nomads	Longleat Tigers	Longleat Stags
1984-85	Spencers	Longleat Lions	Longleat Seals	Longleat Wolves
1985-86	Longleat Lions	Unigate 'A'	Longleat Wolves	Dowty 'A'
1986-87	Longleat Lions	Unigate 'A'	Unigate 'C'	Bradford 'B'
1987-88	Longleat Lions	Longleat Seals	Longleat Wolves	St. Barnabas 'A'
1988-89	Bradford 'A'	Country Gents & Spinners	Longleat Wolves	St. Barnabas 'A'
1989-90	Country Gents & Spinners 1	Warminster Lions	Country Gents & Spinners 3	Warminster Stags
1990-91	P.A. Oxley Antique Clocks 1	Warminster Lions	St. Barnabas 'A'	Bradford 'C'
1991-92	Heywood 'A'	Trowbridge 1	St. Barnabas 'A'	Warminster Wolves
1992-93	Heywood	Warminster Lions	Warminster Tigers	Bradford 'A'
1993-94	Heywood Hubies	Trowbridge 1	Westinghouse 'A'	Warminster Tigers

	DIVISION TWO		DIVISION THREE	
	Winners	Runners-Up	Winners	Runners-Up
1935-36	Westbury West End			
1936-37	West.Low Congs 'B'			
1937-38	West Low Congs 'C'	West Upp Congs 'B'		
1938-39	Brad Chur Army 'B'			
1939-46			WAR	
1946-47	West Low Congs 'C'	Trow Labour Club		
1947-48	West G.W.R. 'A'	Avon Sports 'B'		
1948-49				
1949-50	Trow. Westbourne	R.A.F. Melk 'B'		
1950-51	Trow C.C. 'B'	Upper Studley 'A'	Westwood Youth	Westbourne Ladies
1951-52	Trow. St. Johns	Post Office 'A'	Emmanuel Youth	Trow. Dairies 'B'
1952-53	R.A.F. Melk 'B'	Upper Studley 'B'	Melk. Bapt. Boys	Laverton .S.C.
1953-54	Spencers 'A'	Dilton Services	Melk. Bapt. 'B'	Wilts A.E.C.
1954-55	Spencers 'B'	Dairies 'A'	Spencers 'C'	Dairies 'B'
1955-56	Spencers 'C'	Melk. Bapt 'A'	K.S.M.	Upper Studley 'B'
1956-57	R.A.F. Melk 'B'	West.Youth Club	Melk Baptist	Dairies 'B'
1957-58	Christchurch 'B'	Melk.Bapt 'A'	Spencers 'C'	Melk Bapt 'B'
1958-59	K.S.M.	Spencers 'C'	Christchurch 'C'	J&T Clarks
1959-60	Upper Studley 'A'	Christchurch	Conigre 'A'	White Horse T.T.C.
1960-61	St. Johns War'm.	White Hart 'A'	Rowde	Upper Congs 'A'
1961-62	Melk. Baptist	J&T Clarks 'B'	Dilton 'C'	Conigre 'C'
1962-63	Lit Inst Devizes	St. Johns	Conigre 'C'	Avon Sports
1963-64	J&T Clarks 'B'	Avon 'A'	White Horse 'B'	Urchfont
1964-65	W.U.D. 'C'	Unicorn 'C'	Avon 'B'	Tabernacle 'A'
1965-66	Unigate 'D'	Bradford 'A'	Unigate 'E'	Upper Studley 'B'
1966-67	St. Georges 'A'	K.S.M. 'B'	K.S.M. 'C'	Bradford 'C'
1967-68	White Horse 'A'	Christchurch 'B'	Poulshot	Atworth Y.C. 'A'
1968-69	Bradford 'B'	Unigate 'C'	Devizes Cong.	White Horse 'C'
1969-70	Devizes Cong	White Horse 'B'	Westbury 'C'	Nestles 'A'
1970-71	Westbury 'C'	St. Georges 'B'	Unigate 'E'	Enfield
1971-72	Pitman Press	Etchilhampton	Dilton 'C'	Devizes Cong 'A'
1972-73	Nestles 'A'	Nursteed 'B'	Rowde	Nestles 'B'
1973-74	Unigate 'C'	Unigate 'D'	Leighton 'B'	Unigate 'E'
1974-75	Unigate 'C'	Unigate 'B'	Ushers	St. Johns 'C'
1975-76	Spencers 'B'	Unigate 'D'	Avon 'A'	Nestles
1976-77	North Bradley 'A'	Neatles	Clarendon 'A'	St. Johns 'C'
1977-78	Unigate 'C'	Bradford 'D'	Nestles 'B'	St. Georges 'E'
1978-79	St. Johns 'A'	Spafax 'A'	K.S.M. 'B'	Bustard 'A'
1979-80	K.S.M. 'B'	St. Johns 'B'	Team 27 'B'	Nursteed 'B'
1980-81	Unigate 'C'	Bustard	Chippenham P.O.	Spafax 'A'
1981-82	Avon 'A'	Ushers 'C'	Ushers 'C'	Bradford 'D'
1982-83	St. Marys 'B'	Old Diltonians	Spencers 'B'	Leighton 'B'
1983-84	Snow hill	Spafax	Longleat Zebras	Trow. Fire Station
1984-85	Unigate 'E'	Bradford 'C'	Calne	Clarendon 'A'
1985-86	Longleat Zebras	Snowhill	St. Barnabus	Unigate 'H'
1986-87	Bradford 'C'	St. Barnabus 'A'	Clarendon 'A'	Unigate 'H'
1987-88	Clarendon 'A'	Trow. Fire Station	Unigate 'G'	Butler & Tanner
1988-89	Trowbridge 'A'	Great Hinton 'A'	Trowbridge 5	Melksham 'B'
1989-90	Hilperton	Avon	No Competition	No Competition
1990-91	Clarendon 'A'	Trowbridge 5	No Competition	No Competition
1991-92	Bradford 'D'	Bradford 'C'	Westinghouse 'C'	Butler & Tanner 'B'
1992-93	Hilperton 'A'	St. Barnabus 'B'	Trow. Snooker Club	Butler & Tanner 'B'
			'A'	
1993-94	Warminster Zebras	Devizes Demons	St. Georges	Avon 'B'

**TEAM K.O. (GODDARD CUP)
MELKSHAM SHIELD
FROM 1958/59**

**SECOND DIVISION K.O. (47/48)
2nd/3rd DIVISION K.O. 1953/54
JUNIOR K.O. 1954/60**

HANDICAP SHIELD FROM 1960/61

WINNERS

RUNNERS - UP

WINNERS

RUNNERS-UP

1937-38	West. Low Congs 'A'	West Low Congs 'C'		
1938-39				
1939-46			WAR	
1946-47	West Low Congs 'A'	West Low Congs 'C'		
1947-48	West Low Congs 'A'	West G.W.R. 'A'	West G.W.R. 'A'	Trow. Dairies
1948-49	West Low Congs 'A'			
1949-59	West Low Congs 'A'			
1950-51	West Low Congs 'A'			
1951-52	West Low Congs 'A'			
1952-53	R.A.F. Melk. 'A'			
1953-54	West Low Congs		Dilton Services	
1954-55	Trow. T.T.C. 'B'		Spencers 'C'	
1955-56	West Low Congs		Upper Studley 'A'	Melk. Baptist 'A'
1956-57	Lit. Inst. Devizes	Trow. T.T.C. 'B'	Westbury Y.C.	R.A.F. Melk. 'B'
1957-58	Lit. Inst. Devizes	Spencers 'A'	Melk. Bapt. 'A'	St. James T.T.C.
1958-59	Dilton 'A'	Spencers 'B'	Christchurch 'C'	Dilton 'B'
1959-60	Dilton 'A'	Trow. T.T.C. 'B'	J&T Clarks S.C.	Christchurch 'B'
1960-61	W.U.D. 'A'	Spencers 'A'	Conigre 'B'	Dairies 'B'
1961-62	Spencers 'A'	Dilton 'A'	W.U.D. 'A'	Trow. T.T.C. 'F'
1962-63	Dilton 'A'	W.U.D. 'A'	W.U.D. 'A'	Trow. T.T.C. 'F'
1963-64	W.U.D. 'A'	Dilton 'A'	W.U.D. 'E'	Avon 'B'
1964-65	Spencers 'A'	Unicorn 'A'	Tabernacle 'A'	K.S.M. 'C'
1965-66	Dilton 'A'		W.U.D. 'E'	
1966-67	Upper Studley 'A'	Dilton 'A'	K.S.M. 'C'	White Horse 'A'
1967-68	Upper Studley 'A'	Spencers 'A'	Westbury 'D'	Conigre 'B'
1968-69	Dilton 'A'	Spencers 'A'	Westbury 'E'	Bradford 'C'
1969-70	Mere 'A'	Unigate 'A'	Studley 'C'	White Horse 'D'
1970-71	Studley 'A'	Dilton 'A'	Unigate 'E'	Studley 'A'
1971-72	Unigate 'A'	Not Awarded	Nestles 'A'	Devizes Congs 'B'
1972-73	White Horse 'A'	Nursteed 'A'	St. Johns 'D'	Bradford 'B'
1973-74	Unigate 'A'	Mere 'A'	Christie Miller	St. Peters 'A'
1974-75	Studley 'A'	Bradford 'B'	Bradford 'F'	North Bradley
1975-76	Studley 'A'	Bradford 'A'	Unigate 'A'	Avon 'A'
1976-77	Bradford 'A'	Unigate 'A'	St. Johns 'C'	North Bradley 'A'
1977-78	Unigate 'A'	Bradford 'A'	Clarendon 'A'	St. Marys 'A'
1978-79	Unigate 'A'	Mere	K.S.M. 'B'	Westbury Youth 'A'
1979-80	Unigate 'A'	Bradford 'A'	Unigate 'C'	Bradford 'A'
1980-81	St. Johns 'A'	Unigate 'A'	Westbury Y.C. 'A'	Watneys
1981-82	Bradford 'A'	Longleat Lions	St. Georges 'C'	Longleat Lions
1982-83	Calne	Unigate 'A'	Trow. Fire Station	Bustard
1983-84	Longleat Lions	Calne 'A'	Spencers 'B'	Spafax
1984-85	Spencers	Longleat Seals	Unigate 'G'	Longleat Stags
1985-86	Longleat Lions	Unigate 'B'	Bradford 'C'	Longleat Stags
1986-87	Longleat Lions	Unigate 'A'	Longleat Wolves	St. Barnabus 'A'
1987-88	Longleat Lions	Unigate 'A'	Longleat Lions	Westbury Youth 'B'
1988-89	Country Gents & Spinners	Bradford 'A'	Hilperton 'B'	Gt. Hinton 'A'
1989-90	Country Gents & Spinners 1	Warminster Lions	Trowbridge 5	Trowbridge 7
1990-91	Warminster Lions	Trowbridge 1	Warminster Lions	Trowbridge 1
1991-92	Heywood 'A'	Warminster Lions	Heywood 'A'	Butler & Tanner 'B'
1992-93	Westinghouse 'A'	Heywood	St. Barnabus 'B'	Trow. Snooker Club 'B'
1993-94	Heywood Hubies	Trowbridge 1	Devizes Demons	Westbury 'B'

PREMIER DIVISION KO

DIVISION ONE KO

	Winners	Runners-Up
1967-68	Westbury 'A'	Nursteed 'A'
1968-69	Dilton 'A'	Spencers 'A'
1969-70	K.S.M. 'A'	Dilton 'A'
1970-71	Studley 'A'	Nursteed 'B'
1971-72	Unigate 'A'	Not Awarded
1972-73	Mere 'A'	White Horse 'A'
1973-74	Unigate 'A'	Mere 'A'
1974-75	Studley 'A'	Bradford 'B'
1975-76	Bradford 'A'	St. Johns 'B'
1976-77	Bradford 'A'	Unigate 'A'
1977-78	Unigate 'A'	Nursteed 'A'
1978-79	Unigate 'A'	Mere
1979-80	Leighton 'A'	St. Johns 'A'
1980-81	Leighton 'A'	Unigate 'A'
1981-82	Bradford 'B'	Spencers 'A'
1982-83	Nomads	Bradford 'B'
1983-84	Bradford 'A'	St. Marys 'A'
1984-85	Longleat Tigers	Spencers
1985-86	K.S.M.	Unigate 'B'
1986-87	Longleat Wolves	Longleat Lions
1987-88	Unigate 'A'	Longleat Seals
1988-89	Warminster Lions	Bradford 'A'
1989-90	St. Barnabus	Country Gents & Spinners 1
1990-91	Warminster Lions	P.A. Oxley
1991-92	Trowbridge 1	Antique Clocks 1
1992-93	Trowbridge 11	Heywood 'B'
1993-94	Trowbridge 1	Westinghouse 'A'
		Heywood Hubies

	Winners	Runners-Up
	Westbury 'B'	Holt Cong.
	White Horse 'A'	Poulshot
	Nursteed 'C'	Unigate 'B'
	Bradford 'B'	Newbridge
	Bradford 'B'	Mere 'B'
	White Horse 'D'	St. Georges 'A'
	Studley 'B'	Unigate 'B'
	Unigate 'A'	Bradford 'C'
	Unigate 'A'	Studley 'B'
	Studley 'A'	Bradford 'D'
	Spencers 'A'	Leighton 'A'
	Bradford 'B'	Ushers 'A'
	Nestles	St. Marys 'A'
	Ushers 'A'	Nursteed 'B'
	Bustard	Unigate 'C'
	Avon 'A'	Unigate 'B'
	St. Marys 'B'	Old Diltonians
	Bradford 'B'	Longleat Seals
	Unigate 'F'	St. Marys
	Unigate 'D'	St. Marys
	St. Barnabus 'A'	Hilperton 'A'
	Trowbridge 2	Warminster Stags
	Dowty	Country Gents & Spinners 3
	Hilperton	Bradford 'B'
	Warminster Stags	Atworth Albion
	Warminster Tigers	Devizes Dynamos
	Warminster Tigers	Devizes Dynamos

DIVISION TWO KO

DIVISION THREE KO

	Winners	Runners-Up
1967-68	White Horse 'A'	Dilton 'B'
1968-69	Bradford 'B'	Bradford 'C'
1969-70	Atworth Y.C. 'A'	White Horse 'B'
1970-71	Westbury 'C'	Bradford 'D'
1971-72	Pitman Press	Nestles 'A'
1972-73	Box 'B'	Nestles 'A'
1973-74	Unigate 'D'	Devizes Cong. 'B'
1974-75	Unigate 'C'	St Georges 'B'
1975-76	Unigate 'D'	Spencers 'B'
1976-77	Ushers	Nestles
1977-78	Bradford 'D'	Leighton 'B'
1978-79	St. Johns 'A'	St. John's 'B'
1979-80	St. Georges 'B'	St. James
1980-81	St. Georges 'B'	Team 27 'B'
1981-82	Leighton 'B'	Synchrone
1982-83	Longleat Seals	Spafax 'A'
1983-84	Spencers 'B'	Airsprung
1984-85	Unigate 'F'	Chippenham P.O.
1985-86	Calne	St. Georges
1986-87	Avon	Dowty 'B'
1987-88	St. Barnabus 'C'	Avon
1988-89	Warminster Zebras	Chippenham P.O.
1989-90	Gt. Hinton 'B'	Ravenscroft School
1990-91	Westinghouse 'B'	Trowbridge 6
1991-92	Westbury 'A'	Bradford 'D'
1992-93	Hilperton 'B'	St. Barnabus 'B'
1993-94	Trowbridge Snooker Club 'A'	Devizes Demons

	Winners	Runners-Up
	Poulshot	Dilton 'C'
	Nestles 'A'	Rowde
	Westbury 'C'	Nestles 'A'
	Enfield	Dilton 'C'
	St. Johns 'B'	Spencers 'D'
	Rowde	St. Johns 'C'
	Christie Miller	Leighton 'B'
	North Bradley	Ushers
	Avon 'A'	Westinghouse
	Clarendon 'A'	Spencers 'B'
	Nestles 'B'	St. Georges 'E'
	KSM 'B'	St. Johns 'C'
	Nursteed 'B'	Unigate 'C'
	N. Bradley 'B'	Westbury Y.C. 'A'
	Spencers 'B'	Westbury Y.C. 'A'
	N. Bradley 'A'	Spencers 'B'
	Unigate 'E'	Longleat Zebras
	Clarendon 'A'	Gt. Hinton 'B'
	J.P.2 YC.	Gt. Hinton 'B'
	Gt. Hinton 'B'	Unigate 'H'
	Butler & Tanner	Gt. Hinton 'B'
	Melksham 'B'	Ravenscroft School
	No Competition	No Competition
	No Competition	No Competition
	Butler-Tanner 'B'	Trowbridge 5
	Butler-Tanner 'B'	Trowbridge Snooker Club 'A'
	St. Georges	Avon 'B'

Representative Matches/Appearances

Unfortunately detailed records of representative matches played by the league have not always been kept and therefore any list of appearances by players representing the league is bound to be incomplete. However searching through the old minute books and press cuttings I have been able to at least give a reasonable accurate account of Interleague activities through to 1963/64. For the reason stated it is not possible to list everyone who might have represented the league over the past 60 years but I hope that the following account will bring back many happy memories of matches played by our league.

In the early days there would have been a selection committee who met regularly to consider the merits of various players and to select the teams to represent the league and in those days it would have been an honour to play for West Wilts. However and perhaps inevitably over more recent years with the increased commitment of players both on and off the table it has become more of a case of who might be available than who would be selected.

The first InterLeague match as far as I can trace was against the Bath League on Saturday April 4th 1936 and the team chosen was as follows, D. Reynolds (Captain), D. Bristow, N. Connor, R. Grist & E. Milton with R. Chandler (our current President) as travelling reserve - unfortunately no records appear of the result so I trust it was played! A further match was arranged against Bath on the 13th February 1937 and resulted in a win for our league by eight games to four and we were represented by Messrs. Connor, Dyer, Griffin, Milton & Shipley.

Later that year matches were played again against the Bath League and it was decided that all travelling expenses be paid by the league but that the players should pay 1/3d each, and be asked to wear blue shirts and grey flannel trousers. Representing the league by then were Jack Newman, Wally Griffin & Jack Pearce from Westbury Ron Shipley & Don Sloper from Avon Sports Melksham.

There was mention of the possibility of a Junior Inter League match with the Bath League during the 1938-39 season at home as a return match of the previous season - but no record of these matches having taken place seem to appear. Further matches were played during this season against Bath, Salisbury and also the Swindon League in February 1939 also home and away fixtures versus the Midsomer Norton League.

At the A.G.M. of 1938 the league received an invitation from the Western League to enter a team - but declined due to the date that entries had to be in by. Interest in InterLeague would appear to have re-kindled at the start of 1948-49 when in the minutes of September 20th 1948 the secretary reported he had written to the Salisbury, Midsomer Norton, Central Somerset & Bath Leagues. Matches were subsequently arranged against Salisbury at Westbury on November 11th the selected team being Jack Pearce, Chick Chandler & Wally Griffin (Lower Congs) Tom Gaylard (Frome Rec. Club) & Alec Craymer (Trowbridge Dairies) with Jeff Knott (Lower Congs) as reserve. The same team was selected to play versus Midsomer Norton at Frome on November 25th with Laurie Craymer replacing his brother, Dick Rose (Trowbridge Community Centre) in place of Tom Gaylard and Doug Wheeler (St. Georges Social) as reserve.

A ladies InterLeague match versus Bath was also mentioned in minutes at this time but no record of such a match taking place can be found.

During the 1949-50 season friendly fixtures were played against Devizes on the 12th January 1950 at Roundway Hospital the league team of Alec & Laurie Craymer, Dick Rose, Tom Gaylard & Dick Rees won 9-1 and in a return encounter at the end of the season our league team again won this time 8-2 at the Lower Congregational Club in Westbury and we were represented by Wally Griffin, Jack Pearce, Tom Gaylard, Jeff Knott & M. Sloper. Matches were also played home and away against Devizes the following season and also in 1951-52.

There was reference to a Wessex League in the minutes of October 11th 1951 in so far as the league teams be withdrawn and that the friendly fixtures with other league teams be arranged and in the following meetings minutes the possibility of entering a league team in the Western Counties League the following season was discussed. This was confirmed at a later meeting as was the entry into the Wilmott Cup (the National Mens Team K.O. Competition) & the J. M. Rose Bowl (the Ladies equivalent).

1953-54 and a newly formed Wilts League comprised teams from West Wilts, Devizes, Salisbury & Swindon in both Mens and Ladies divisions as did our entry into the Western League which brought us into opposition from Bath, Weston, Taunton, Worcester & Newport 2nds.

1954-55 and a championship success for our Western League team who won the Division Two title against opposition from Weston, Taunton, Bristol 2nds & Newport 2nds. The backbone of the team that season was Jack Pearce, Alec Craymer, Margaret Doonham & Doreen Neech with appearances from Dick Rose, Chick Chandler, Bill Satchell, Tommy Edwards and a B. Cartwright who I recall was stationed at R.A.F. Melksham. Most of the home matches were played at the St. James Hall to quite large attendances although the match played versus Weston-Super-Mare resulting in a 5-5 draw was played at Melksham House and was watched by a record crowd of 100.

The Wiltshire League introduced a junior section that season to supplement the Mens and Ladies divisions and West Wilts won this competition to set a standard for the Juniors which was to continue for many seasons. Barrie Hawkins, Brian Bailey, Brian Jones & Dick Stephens formed the basis of the Championship team that season.

In the National team competitions the men lost to Gloucester and the Ladies to Bristol but more locally an Inter Town League was formed within the West Wilts League consisting of teams from Melksham, Trowbridge, Westbury & Devizes - the thought behind the competition were for players who did not appear in Wilts. or Western League matches to compete and John Birks of the Studley club became secretary of the league.

1955-56 season and competition in the first division of the Western League proved much to strong for our league team but despite losing all the matches came up against several International players such as Brian Merrett from Gloucester & Aubrey Simons from Bristol, however consolation was obtained when our mens team in the Wiltshire league won their divisional title and no fewer than 15 players represented the league team that season. Doreen Neech & Margaret Doonham were again the mainstay of our ladies team who were also represented by Pat Cunningham, Muriel Ford, Kaye Sharp & Sylvia Taylor. The Juniors also retained their County divisional title with Barrie Hawkins & Brian Bailey again the backbone of the side but debuts that season for Dave Colcombe, Roy Sharp, Vic Zawlowski and the writer a then up & coming 14 year old.

1956-57 was of course the leagues' 21st season but it will also be remembered for petrol rationing which caused our teams to be withdrawn from the County League. This was due mainly to financial circumstances and I well remember the League financing a taxi to honour our away fixtures with Swindon - the best part of three teams crowding into one taxi including yours truly.

The Western League team playing back in 2nd Division completed their fixture with some difficulty - but it was certainly a disruptive season.

With no team entered into the Western League the 1957-58 season representative matches were confined to the Wiltshire League which introduced a Mixed Division for the first time. This comprised three men & two ladies (although smaller leagues at that time Kennet Vale & Warminster were given special dispensation to field five men due to the absence of lady players) made up of six mens singles, one ladies singles and three doubles, Mens, Ladies and Mixed.

The Juniors again won their division with a 100% record being represented by the Westbury Youth Club Team of Graham Oatley, Vivian Hooper & John Ford.

1958-59 and again it was left to the Juniors for County honours and Alan Nicholas, Dave Missen, Terry Vance & Gerry Mullen joined John Ford to hold on to their divisional title in the Wiltshire League in which our league again competed in the Mens & Mixed Divisions.

The Majority of home Inter League matches at this time were played on a Saturday evening in Trowbridge at the various clubrooms that were being made available to the league and refreshments were normally provided at one of the venues which resulted in a regular get together of Table Tennis players in the county - sadly missing from today's game.

1959-60 brought a hat-trick of junior Wiltshire League titles to our League - Alan Nicholas from the previous season being joined by John Ottembrazt, Terry Vance & Graham Bull. The Mens team being represented at that time by Jack Pearce, Tommy Edwards, Derrick Taylor, Brian Wickham & Doug Matthews amongst others were just missing out to Swindon and Salisbury.

The following seasons 1960-61 & 61-62 the league only entered Mens & Junior teams without any measure of success.

After an absence of five seasons the league re-entered a team in the Western Counties League for the 1962-63 season which brought us into opposition with Cheltenham, Swindon, Weston-Super-Mare, Bristol 2nds, Bath, Bristol 1sts, Newport & Abergavenny. Alan Alexander was the mainstay of the side that season ably supported by John Cleveland, John Ford, Joe Analts and for one appearance Geoff Broom. I well remember travelling down to Abergavenny with Alan & Joe playing in a not to special venue and coming up against Welsh Junior International John Mansfield - however we won 5-4 that day.

1962-63 was also a successful season in the Wiltshire League our Mens 1st team comprising our Western League players won Division One and the Mens 2nd team became the first winners of the Mens Division Two and were represented that season by Adolf Gnyp, John Ottembrazt, Brian Lloyd, Dave Morgan & Bill Moore. From records I have been able to locate no fewer than 31 players appeared for the league in representative matches during the 1963-64 season in which we entered two teams in the Mens (Division One) of the Wiltshire League - the 'A' team finishing as champions with Dick Clode supplementing the previous seasons side as he did in the Western Counties League when we were in competition against Weston-Super-Mare, Bath, Newport, Cardiff, Plymouth & Cheltenham. Incidentally we visited Cheltenham that season and our team of John Ford, Alan Alexander & John Ottembrazt came up against Ian Harrison English International and ranked No. 1 in the country at that time.

1964-65 and our Junior strength was again evident and the leagues team of Michael Smith, Vic Usher, Peter Harrison & Richard Culverhouse won the Junior section of the Wiltshire League and whilst we fielded five teams in the County League we came out of the Western Counties League for good.

Unfortunately detailed records from now on have been difficult to locate but as mentioned in the chapter on Wiltshire Table Tennis Association and through to the present time the League regularly entered teams in various divisions of the Wiltshire League in addition to the National team K.O. Competitions ie The Wilmott Cup for Mens teams, The Carter Cup for Junior Boys, The J.M. Rose Bowl for Ladies and in more recent years the Veterans team championship. In the latter Mens competition in the 1989-90 season the league team of John Ford, Alan Maidment and Royston Smith reached the National Quarter-finals losing to Birmingham 5-1 beating Bournemouth, Maidenhead & Swindon on the way.

In more recent years several of our top players have represented the sponsored Bath team in the National League competition.

Individual Championships

Individual Championships of the league were organised from its inception in the 1935-36 season- only Mens Singles and Mens Doubles it would appear in those days a far cry from the present day championships held on one evening/day with so many events.

Records unfortunately are rather incomplete for the pre-war and early post war years and information gathered has come from the old minute books, handbooks, press cuttings and word of mouth and I am indebted to Chick Chandler, Tony Watts and Tom Gaylard amongst others for information from their memory banks.

The first mention of a Individual Knock-out Competition appears in the minutes of the Executive Committee on 3rd December 1935 when it was decided to hold a singles event and the following rules were adopted a) The entrance fee should be 6d per person. b) Matches to be played the best of three sets except semi finals and final when the best of five sets shall be played. c) entries must be sent to the league secretary by 31st December and must be restricted to registered league players or bona-fide members of league clubs.d) There shall be no handicapping.e) The first drawn player shall have choice of table except in the final and semi-final which shall be played on neutral tables as decided by the Executive committee.

So much then for the early rules incidentally there were 39 entries that first season and the semi-finalists were E. Milton (Westbury Lower Congs) v D. Bristow (County Offices) and Doug Reynolds (Trowbridge Dairies) v N. Connor (County Offices). The final was arranged to be played on the Trowridge Dairies table-but no record can be found of this match. A complete list of everyone who has won an individual event (including later league awards) from 1935 through to the present day has been compiled (see appendix to this chapter) this includes runners-up but a few gaps do appear as already mentioned from those early days due to the lack of detailed records from those times.

The first holder of the Mens Singles trophy a handsome silver cup given by the then President Lt. Col. Sir Reginald Blake was the 1936/37 winner Wally Griffin of the Westbury Lower Congregational Club. That season a Doubles Knock-out competition was organised with an entry of 18 pairs-the semi finalists were Reynolds & Rolf (Trowbridge Dairies) v Hann & West (Westbury West End). Merritt & Connor (County Offices) v Milton & Griffin (Westbury Lower Congs). The finals that season were played on Wednesday 24th February at the Avon Sports Club, Melksham House admission was 6d and a match between the league Champions and the rest of the league was held to make up a full evenings table tennis.

The following season 1937-38 and players from the Westbury Clubs dominated the Championships Jack Newman (Lower Congs) won the singles and Jack Pearce together with Reg Veal (representing Westbury Young Mens Club) the doubles-the finals were held at the Trowbridge Dairies Club early in April 1938.

The immediate post war year 1938-39 and we were to see the name of Jack Pearce on the Mens Singles Trophy (or the Individual Championship Trophy as it was known) - Jack having beat his club colleagues Wally Griffin in the semi-finals and then Stan Hayward in the final. The doubles that year went to Chick Chandler & Reg Veal who beat Jack Pearce and M. Randall.

The League recommenced its activities following the war in the 1946-47 season and Jack Pearce was to dominate the Mens Singles Championship beating Chick Chandler in each of the three finals following the enforced break of the league. No records of doubles during that time but it would appear that these were held, but the Ladies Championship was held for the first time and Peggy Robbins of the Avon Club was the initial winner. 1946-47 also saw the first handicap event and the final was between Wally Griffin and Gilbie Perrett both from the Westbury Lower Congs. Club.

Peggy was to retain her title the following season then in 1948-49 Doreen Neech appeared on the scene and was to dominate the event for several seasons. A division two individual

event was introduced in the 1947-48 season the first winner being Doug Matthews of the Avon Club.

The finals during these years were played either at the Trowbridge Dairies, The Avon Sports Club, Melksham House or the Community Centre, Innox Road, Trowbridge which was to become the hub of table tennis activity at this time. All rounds up to the final stages had always been played at club venues - the respective players contesting the match by mutual arrangement of date & time. This system was to continue through to the 1953-54 season a period that Jack Pearce was to continue to dominate the Mens Singles event with the exception of 1949-50 when the popular Dick Rose won the event at his then home venue of the Trowbridge Community Centre. The mixed doubles event had commenced in the 1949-50 season with Doreen Neech winning five of the first seven titles initially with Dick Rose and then Jack Pearce. Other lady players appearing at that time were Gladys Spencer (Trowbridge Post Office) who won the Singles in 1952-53 and the mixed the same season with Brian Wickham and Peggy Chant who won the mixed with Tom Gaylard in 1951-52.

The Junior Singles Championships had commenced in the 1949-50 season although I believe this was more of a continuation of the lower divisions tournament from 1947-48 and it was not until the 1951-52 season with the donation of the J&T Clark Trophy that the Junior Singles became originally an under 21 age group event then an under 19's with Richard (Tinker) Bell of the Trowbridge Club amongst the early winners.

1954-55 brought about a major change in the organisation of the championships in so far as all matches were played at one venue all be it on separate evenings. The venue was to be the old St. James Hall in Union Street (now J&J Carpets Showroom) and on Thursday January 20th the Mens Singles, Mens Doubles and the Junior Singles were held, on the Friday the Mixed Doubles, Ladies singles and Handicap Singles and on the Saturday all the finals bearing in mind that the Mens Singles and Mens Doubles were still the best of five sets.

Tommy Edwards was to win the first of his four singles titles and with Alec Craymer the first of his seven doubles successes. Margaret Doonham's name was to appear on the Ladies Singles Trophy whilst Jack Pearce and Doreen Neech were to hold on to their Mixed Doubles crown. Barry Hawkins won the junior title that year beating his Melksham colleague Brian Jones.

The following season 1955-56 and again at St. James Hall Jack Lindsay came onto the scene to win the Mens Singles whilst Margaret Doonham and Doreen Neech were still dominating the Ladies events and interestingly the Junior Singles was contested between two expatriots Vic Zaslawski and Indulis (Joe) Analts. Incidentally a Wednesday evening was added to the championship week - making four consecutive nights of table tennis. 1956-57 the 21st anniversary season of the league and St. James Hall was unavailable so the early rounds of the championship were held at the Trowbridge Club and J&T Clarks Social Club with the finals being held at the Drill Hall, Bythesea Road - a venue which was to be used by the league for staging of the first Wiltshire Closed Tournament in February 1957. Jack Lindsay retained his Mens Singles title as did his wife to be Margaret Doonham the Ladies. Tommy Edwards and Alec Craymer retained their Mens Doubles crown and from the strong junior contingent at Westbury Vivian Hooper won the J&T Clark Trophy (which by now had become an under 17 event) beating his clubmate Graham Oatley in the final.

The 1957-58 Championship were played on a similar basis to the previous seasons' with again the finals being played at the Drill Hall. Jack Lindsay & Margaret Doonham had married and emigrated to Australia leaving the way open for Jack Pearce to win what was going to be the last of nine singles titles and Tommy Edwards and Alec Craymer the last of their four doubles championships. Devizes were well represented that season Jean Hunt came runner-up in the Ladies Singles whilst the Mixed Doubles was an all Devizes affair between Alan Alexander/Jean Hillier and Pete/Jean Hunt. The Westbury dominance of

the Junior event continued with John Ford beating David Missen in the final. The preliminary rounds of the 1958-59 championships were played at St. James Hall with the finals being staged at the J&T Clarks Clubroom where Tommy Edwards was to win his second Mens Singles Title beating Doug Matthews in the final and then in partnership with Derek Taylor the doubles.

Mary Bishop from Warminster won the Ladies Singles and also appeared in the Mixed Doubles final with Gordon Harrison the popular Christchurch secretary whilst Warminster were also represented in the Junior Singles final by Gerry Mullen who lost to Alan Nicholas.

The 1959-60 championships were organised on a similar basis to the previous year with Tony Clark as Tournament Secretary. Tommy Edwards retained his singles title beating Brian Bond from Devizes in the final who teamed up with Alan Alexander to take the Mens Doubles. Alans' sister in law Margaret won the Ladies singles that year whilst Muriel Ford who later was to marry Dick Stephens of the Trowbridge Club was runner-up in the Ladies event and teamed up with Tommy Edwards to take the Mixed. Terry Vance still actively connected with table tennis in the Surrey area won the junior title beating Roly Bennett of the Adcroft school who incidently I met up with a few seasons ago playing for Hampshire Veterans - my how time flies.

St. James Hall was again used for the 1960-61 Tournament through to and including the Saturday evening for the finals which included the Handicap Shield final between Conigre 'B' and Unigate 'D'. John Ford won the first of his three mens singles titles beating Brian Wickham 21-16,21-16,21-16 in what was to be the last of the best of five set finals and became the first player to win the junior title and then the Senior. John Taylor had taken over as organising secretary a position he was to hold for the following two seasons - and such was the entry that play on the Thursday and Friday evenings went on to the early hours.

Consolation came for Brian Wickham on the finals evening when teaming up with Chick Chandler they won the Mens Doubles. Sadly there were no Ladies events that season but a quite enthralling junior singles final took place between John Ottembrazt who later on was to emigrate to Canada and Dave Garrett from Warminster.

1961-62 and again at St. James Hall but still no Ladies events. Tommy Edwards won what was to be the last of his singles titles and also won the doubles that year with Derek Taylor. A Handicap doubles event was introduced and the first winners were Clive Ingham later to emigrate to Australia and Geoff Fish so sadly taken from us a few years ago.

1962-63 and whilst the early rounds of the championship were played at St. James Hall the finals for the first time were held at the Tabernacle Gym (The United Reform Church Hall in Church Street, Trowbridge). Dick Clode from R.A.F. Melksham was to appear on the scene to win the first of his four titles beating Joe Analts in the final. Joe partnering Alan Alexander was also on the losing end of the doubles that year going down to Tommy Edwards and Derek Taylor whos appearance was to be their last on a finals night. Ladies events were still conspicuous by their absence but Consolation events were held for the first time. Geoff Broom had the dubious honour of becoming the first winner of the Singles event for the first round losers and Brian Lloyd pairing up with Dave Morgan the first winners of the doubles equivalent beating surprised first round losers John Ford and John Cleveland. Mick Smith won the first of his two junior titles whilst the Handicap Singles that year was an all Conigre contest between Roger Whiting and Melv Andrews.

1963-64 and John Ottembrazt took over from John Taylor as Tournament organiser and the last time that the old St James Hall was used for championships and likewise the Tabernacle Gym for finals until more recent times. Alan Alexander won his only singles title beating Barrie Hawkins who was making his only final appearance. John Ford and John Cleveland were to win the first of their six doubles titles (still a record!) whilst Mike Smith and Peter Harrison dominated the Junior events.

1964-65 and the first one day championships were held at the Drill Hall at least up to the finals which were held the following Saturday at the Dairies Canteen just along the road. John Ford won the second of his singles titles surprisingly beating Dick Clode in the final whilst holding on to the doubles crown with John Cleveland. The Ladies events were again held and Viv Bradley from Frome won the singles beating Catherine Shipley (daughter of Ron Shipley a previous League President)-whilst Catherine was again on the losing end in the Mixed partnered by Bill Moore going down to John Cleveland & Sylvia Taylor. The juniors still with Mike Smith & Peter Harrison involved were joined by Vic Usher who stopped a 'hat trick' of wins for Mike by winning the singles.

One day tournaments were now here to stay and the Drill Hall was again the venue for the 1965-66 championships with the finals at Dairies as in the previous season. Bill Moore became tournament secretary but there was no change for the main titles - Dick Clode clearly the No. 1 player duly won the singles and in partnership with Don Morris the doubles. Catherine Shipley turned the tables on Viv Bradley who was now Viv Webb but went down again in the Mixed this time to Viv and John Smith. Steve Robinson was successful in both the Junior events whilst the 'Trowbridge Merit Shield' donated by the Trowbridge club for the most meritorious performance of the championships went for the first time to Roger Whiting.

The venues remained the same for the 1966-67 tournament and Dick Clode still remained supreme in the singles and held on to the doubles title with Don Morris. No Junior Doubles that season but George Pieczko won the junior singles with victory over Norman Crees. Viv Webb reversed the previous years result against Catherine Shipley in the ladies and after two years in runners-up position Bill Moore & Catherine finally won the mixed. A Veteran event (then for over 35's) was introduced at these championships and Don Morris was the first winner.

1967-68 with John Smith as tournament secretary was to be the last season that the championships were to be staged at the Drill Hall and Dairies Canteen and it marked the departure of Richard Clode from local table tennis circles with his fourth title but a third success in the doubles came to an end in the final against John Ford and John Cleveland who registered their third success in this event.

Penny Bonner playing in our league for just one season whilst living at Warminster lifted the Ladies Singles title and together with Dick Clode the mixed doubles. As previously mentioned, Penny now residing in Devon as Penny Perry won the National Ladies Veteran Championship in 1992 and her son Alex was Englands top junior and is now highly ranked in the senior list, also that seasons championships marked the appearance of Richard Arney whose junior singles title was the first of so many successes.

N.H. Engineering Canteen was to become the venue for the championships from the 1968-69 season until the mid-seventies and for that first season Don Morris won his only singles title whilst John Ford & John Cleveland retained their doubles crown. Pauline Hawkins became ladies singles champion and also won the mixed in partnership with Dave Rigby. Don Morris retained his Veterans title to become the first and only player to date to hold the Mens & Veterans title at the same time whilst Richard Arney held on to the junior title with a final victory over Bob Gronski. The handicap events that season were held on the Saturday evening and all other events on the Sunday including the finals. Probably all who played throughout the years at Newman Henders would agree how well the championships settled into their new venue with four tables in continuous use and not forgetting the running 'hot meals' bar manned by Joe and Dolly Ford and helpers and of course the facility of the licensed bar in the evening.

1969-70 and the Individual Championships were split into separate parts with the introduction of Divisional Handicap events (their being six divisions at the time) and these were held for the first time in November 1969 at Newman Henders. The second part of the championships were again held in the January and remarkably Jack Pearce reached the

final of the Mens Singles 30 years after winning the event for the first time. Jack lost to John Ford in the final and this was Johns' third and last singles title and a doubles success with of course John Cleveland was their third in a row and fifth in all. Viv Webb made her sixth successive appearance in the Ladies Singles Final with a win over Jeannette Missen who combined with Brian Lloyd to victory in the Mixed. Richard Arney in his last season as a junior completed a 'hat trick' in the singles beating clubmate Peter Norris who he combined with to win the Junior Doubles.

Jack Pearce deservedly was awarded the Merit Shield. Peter Harford took over as Individual Championship Secretary for the 1970/71 season and two young ladies from Etchilhampton came onto the scene and were to figure prominently in the championships until the early eighties. Alison Boyce was to win the Ladies Singles every season through to 1982/83 with the exception of 1973/74 when she lost in the final to Margaret Alexander her Devezes compatriot in addition to her many appearances in Mixed Doubles finals and Ladies Doubles with her friend and colleague Helen Webb (nee Rusby). Roy Smith from Warminster highly ranked in the County at that time won the Singles title - Richard Arney with his teammate from Mere Terry Kelly the doubles whilst the Junior Singles also stayed with Mere via Peter Norris and the Veterans to Devezes player John Revell. Dave Hill from Westbury was a surprise finalist in the Mens Singles and was awarded the Merit Shield for his efforts during the Championship.

1971/72 brought Richard Arney his first seniors singles title and again in partnership with Terry Kelly retained the Mens Doubles against the strong Bath pairing of Mike Baker and Colin Tincknell and that season Mike and his wife Lynne won the Mixed Doubles whilst Mere again held on to the Junior trophy with Steve Broughton being successful. The Individual Divisional Handicap tournament was still going strong and the Division Four final was contested between old friends then but sadly both having now passed on Brian Hussey affectionally known as the 'mad major' and what entertainment Brian has given us over the years and the one and only Don Hillier who services to table tennis will never be fully appreciated.

1972/73 and Richard Arney retained his Mens Singles championship but came second best in the doubles with Terry Kelly, losing out to the Bath pairing of Bob Murray and John Williams. Kevin Edwards from Warminster prevented another Mere success in the Junior singles by defeating Colin Trim but with brother Richard the Trims took the junior doubles. Bob Gronski had a very successful championship and was awarded the Trowbridge Merit Shield.

The strong junior contingent in the league was to make its mark in 1973-74 and continue for several seasons. Kevin Edwards became the first player to win both the Junior Singles and Mens Singles in the same season whilst a Ladies Doubles event was held for the first time with Margaret Alexander and Alison Boyce beating Helen Rusby and Joan Warrington (Warminster St. Johns). Norman Crees was Championship secretary for that season.

1974-75 and Doug Danks took over as tournament secretary to see Kevin Edwards win his second Mens Singles title and in partnership with Jeremy Musslewhite the doubles. The junior events were dominated by Jon Chandler (son of our president), Duncan Cleveland (son of the then league treasurer John) and Bradfords Kevin Mayes and Phil Norman whilst the Bradford club also produced the Veterans winner that season in Ken Mitchelmore who previously played in top class table tennis in his native Yorkshire. Tony Merritt commenced a four year stint as Championship secretary in 1975-76 which was still being held over a weekend at the Newman Henders Factory. Kevin Edwards made it a hat trick of singles titles whilst John Ford and John Cleveland won the last of their six doubles titles but most significantly were the Junior Singles and Doubles success of Kevin Satchell who was soon to move on to a higher level of table tennis and of course become the leagues one and only to date home bred International. The ladies events were

still very much in evidence with Alison Boyce retaining her singles title and Helen Rusby, Viv Webb and Pauline Hawkins still around.

1976-77 was unique in championship history when the Mens Singles and Junior Singles were both contested by the same players with Jon Chandler winning the Mens and Duncan Cleveland the Junior and teaming up in the Junior Doubles to beat cousins Richard and Keith Harford in the final.

1977-78 and Kevin Satchell was to emulate Kevin Edwards feat a few years previous by winning the Mens and Junior Singles whilst the scratch pairing of Duncan Cleveland and Lawson Bonser won the Mens Doubles. Swindon players Alan Duke and Claire Maisey won the Mixed against brother and sister Jon & Jenny Chandler whilst Don Morris was still winning the Veterans title.

1978-79 was the last year that the championships were held at Newman Henders and Jon Chandler won the second of his titles beating Richard Arney in the final whilst Richard retained the Doubles with Terry Kelly this was to be the last time we were to see Richard or Terry playing in the championships. John Higgs from Bath teamed up with his wife to be Judy Pillinger to take the Mixed whilst John Cleveland won the Veterans title for the first time.

Richard Culverhouse took over as Individual Championship secretary in 1979-80 (when the venue moved for just one season to the new St. James Hall) and continues in this position through to the current times - and how fortunate the league has been to have Richard in this capacity not only for his organising ability but also for his access to producing the finals night programme which would be the envy of most leagues. John Higgs won the Mens Singles title that season beating Jon Chandler in the final but Jon teamed up with Steve Gregory to win the doubles. Keith Harford runner-up the previous season won the Junior Singles and John Cleveland retained the Veterans title.

The 1980-81 Championships were held as a one day event again, this time at the Christie Miller Sports Centre and Jon Chandler regained his Mens Singles title but in partnership with Roy Smith lost in the final of the doubles to first time winners Jeremy Musslewhite and Keith Harford. Dave Richards then playing for North Bradley came on to the scene to take the Junior Singles and Don Morris was to win his eighth and last Veterans title dating back to the 1966/67 season.

St Augustine School in Trowbridge was a late arranged venue for the 1981-82 tournament and Jeremy Musslewhite took the Mens title with a victory over surprise finalist Terry Parkins. Jon Chandler & sister Jenny now Davies finally won the Mixed Doubles crown and young veterans Joe Analts and John Ford contested the Vets. final with the popular then K.S.M. player just coming out on top.

The Dorothy Ford trophy donated to the league by Joe & John Ford in memory of a very enthusiastic supporter of West Wilts Table Tennis was to be awarded each championship for the best individual performance went for the first time to David Richards who had beaten Jon Chandler in the Mens Singles whilst still a junior.

The 1982-83 championship were taken over to Warminster for the first time being held at the Kingdown School Sports Hall again as a one day event and Mike Oxley and his family dominated the tournament Mike (junior) such a talented but oh so laid back player became the third player in the history of the league to win both the Mens Singles and Junior Singles in the same season and for good measure took the Junior Doubles with brother Andrew and also came runner-up in the Handicap Doubles besides not suprisingly being awarded the Merit Shield Andrew also came runner-up in the Junior Singles and Mike (senior) not to be left out won the Consolation Singles and Mens Doubles with Dave Richards in addition to coming runner-up in the Handicap Singles. 'Quite a day for the Oxleys'. These championships were also the last for Alison Boyce who had dominated the ladies events for 13 years and Alison 'signed off' by beating Tracey Watkins in the final of the singles and teamed up again with John Ford to win the Mixed.

Kingdown School Sports Hall was again the venue for the 1983-84 tournament and the Calne club players together with a strong contingent from Swindon were very much in evidence. However Jon Chandler again won the Mens Singles and the other Oxley (Graham) appeared on the championship scroll by winning the Handicap Singles. 1984-85 and in the leagues Golden Jubilee year the Championships moved to Clarendon School Sports Hall and to celebrate 50 years association with the league as a founder member President 'Chick' Chandler donated an over 50's cup for annual competition. Quite a few of the Leagues older players turned up and H.T.V. covered the occasion on its Newsnight programme. Trevor Lloyd was to commence his stronghold on the Mens Singles Championships and Julie Mills appeared on the winners rostrum for the first time. During this time the organisation of the tournament was still in the more than capable hands of Richard Culverhouse and the continuity of this position did so much to make the West Wilts Championships a continuing success story and the envy of most other local leagues.

Clarendon School was again the venue for the 1985-86 championships and Jon Chandler was to appear in his last tournament in West Wilts. - a playing career spanning over 12 years and Jon won his third Mens Doubles title in partnership with Steve Gregory. Royston Smith from Bristol the initial winner of the over 50's held on to this title and also took the Veterans for good measure.

1986-87 and the last time in the modern era that the Championships were played through to a conclusion on the day. Trevor Lloyd made it three in a row Mens Singles victories whilst a rare senior title again for John Ford in partnership with Nigel Daniels to win the Mens Doubles some 24 years after a first success with John Cleveland. Surprise finalists in the doubles were Ray Sims and Simon (Danny) Wilds from Warminster who were awarded the Dorothy Ford Trophy for their performance. A new event the Intermediate Singles for Divison One, Two and Three players was introduced - the first winner being Ken Mitchelmore from the Bradford Club. Clive Sims retained his Junior Singles title whilst brothers Neil and Adrian Phillips were awarded the Merit Shield for their all round performances.

The 1987-88 Championships again took place over a weekend at Clarendon but the finals were staged the following Saturday at Holy Trinity Hall, Newtown, Trowbridge and Trevor Lloyd emulated Jack Peares achievement in the early fifties by winning the Mens Singles for the fourth time in succession. Surprise runner-up was Ian Potheary who was awarded the Merit Shield for reaching the final. Alistair Pearson won the Junior Singles and Doubles in partnership with Stuart Wakeley. Club colleagues from Bristol Royston Smith and Pete Dominey won the veterans and over 50's Singles. Trevor Lloyd also won the Handicap Singles and in partnership with Alan Cummings the Mens Doubles & Handicap Doubles the latter event now having a perpetual trophy donated to the league by Stan & Yvonne Gabb in memory of their son Richard such a keen and enthusiastic player who so tragically lost his life in a road accident. There were no ladies events in 1988-89 but Ginny Sherman made up for this by winning the Handicap Singles and Division One Handicap Singles. David Richards took the Mens Singles beating Veteran ex International Jimmy Lowe on finals evening which reverted to the United Church Hall, Church Street. Stephen Wakeley was to win the first of his three Junior titles whilst Chris Dunn unranked reached the Mens Singles Semi-finals picking up the Dorothy Ford Trophy en route.

Trevor Lloyd collected his fifth Mens Singles title in 1989-90 and Ladies were again on the programme with Trevor collecting his only Mixed title to date with his wife to be Dawn Whatley. Brian Wickham who would have appeared in the championships some 40 years previous won the Handicap Singles and together with fellow veteran campaigner Tony Watts won the Handicap Doubles - their performances on the day deservedly winning them the Merit Shield. Another 'old timer' to appear in a final was Pete Chandler who's

association with the league started before the war - and on this occasion Pete was runner-up in the Division Two Handicap event.

The format for the 1990-91 championships continued with Clarendon and United Church Hall being used. Players from the Warminster Club dominated the main events with Richard Morgan winning the Mens Singles, the Mens Doubles with Mark Holt and the Mixed with Alison Hunt who also won the Ladies Singles. Basil Thompson from Swindon representing P.A. Oxley Antique Clocks was involved in no fewer than five finals dominating the Veterans events and finishing runner-up in the Mens Singles - not surprisingly also being awarded the Merit Shield.

Over the many years that the championships were held as a weekend event tables were originally transported from the various clubrooms for the occasion and returned invariably late on the Sunday an undertaking which always put considerable strain on the organising committee. However sponsorship was obtained from Audience Systems, Westbury for the 1991-92 Championships which enabled the league to hire tables and surrounds which not only provided first class tables all similar but of course relieved the work load of the tournament organisers. Nationally ranked Chris Holley inflicted a first finals night defeat for Trevor Lloyd to take the Mens Singles and with Mark Cotton the Doubles. Julie Dean although losing in the Ladies final to Lynne Stanbridge appeared in five finals winning the Ladies Doubles and the Division One Handicap Singles a combined effort that earned her the Merit Shield.

1992-93 and another England ranked player Gary Baldwin took the Mens Singles and the Mixed with Nationally ranked Brenda Lee who also won the Ladies Singles and Doubles with Ginny Sherman. A Cadet Singles had been introduced the previous season and this seasons winner was Chris Macey son of Stalwart Warminster club player Phil and grandson of John who so sadly and suddenly passed away earlier that season. The intermediate Singles event (for players other than Premier status) introduced in 1992 was subsequently named in memory of John. A Cadet Doubles had also been staged in 1991-92 whilst an under 12's singles was brought in this 1992-93 season reflecting the numbers coming into the game at this age level - the first winner being Robert Fox who also won the Cadet Doubles with Tim Goodship. The Dorothy Ford Trophy was awarded to the leagues President Chick Chandler who despite giving away many years to his opponents won the Division Three Handicap Singles event whilst the Merit Shield went to the family Goodship - father Dave and sons Mark and Tim for their all round performances during the championships.

The 1993-94 Championships were quite a family affair the Handicap Doubles Final was contested by father and son combinations of David & Mark Goodship against Malcolm & Adrian Phillips whilst brother and sister Chris and Hayley Macey were runners-up in the Cadet Doubles. Trevor Lloyd regained his Mens Singles title beating Veteran John Ford in the semis (this appearance by John being some 35 years after his first semi final) and then first time finalist Mark Paul. However young Cora Rossiter stole the show by becoming the first girl to win the Junior Singles title, in partnership with Gavin Burton the Junior Doubles and with Sandy Esson the Ladies Doubles beating her mother Mary who was in partnership with Jan Rowsell, not surprisingly Cora was presented with the Merit Shield for her outstanding performances.

MENS SINGLES		LADIES SINGLES	
Winner	Runner-Up	Winner	Runner-Up
1935-36	(S/Finals) E. Milton v D. Bristow (S/Finals) D. Reynolds v N. Connor		
1936-37	W. Griffin	N. Connor	
1937-38	J. Newman	D.C. Sloper	
1938-39	J. Pearce	S. Hayward	
1939-46		WAR	
1946-47	J. Pearce	C. Chandler	Miss P. Robbins
1947-48	J. Pearce	C. Chandler	Miss P. Robbins
1948-49	J. Pearce	C. Chandler	Mrs D. Neech
1949-50	R. Rose	W. Griffin	Mrs D. Neech
1950-51	J. Pearce	C. Chandler	Mrs D. Neech
1951-52	J. Pearce	A. Craymer	Mrs D. Neech
1952-53	J. Pearce	C. Chandler	Miss G. Spencer
1953-54	J. Pearce		Mrs D. Neech
1954-55	T. Edwards	R. Rose	Miss M. Doonham
1955-56	J. Lindsay	J. Pearce	Mrs D. Neech
1956-57	J. Lindsay	J. Pearce	Miss M. Doonham
1957-58	J. Pearce	A. Craymer	Mrs P. Collins
1958-59	T. Edwards	D. Mathews	Mrs M. Bishop
1959-60	T. Edwards	B. Bond	Mrs M. Alexander
1060-61	J.V. Ford	B. Wickham	No Competition
1961-62	T. Edwards	J. Cleveland	No Competition
1962-63	R. Clode	J. Analts	No Competition
1963-64	A.J. Alexander	B. Hawkins	No Competition
1964-65	J.V. Ford	R. Clode	Miss V. Bradley
1965-66	R. Clode	J. Cleveland	Miss C. Shipley
1966-67	R. Clode	G. Broom	Mrs V. Webb
1967-68	R. Clode	J. Cleveland	Miss P. Bonner
1968-69	D. Morris	M. Smith	Mrs P. Hawkins
1969-70	J.V. Ford	J. Pearce	Mrs V. Webb
1970-71	R. Smith	D. Hill	Miss A. Boyce
1971-72	R. Arney	C. Tincknell	Miss A. Boyce
1972-73	R. Arney	M. Baker	Miss A. Boyce
1973-74	K. Edwards	R. Murray	Mrs M. Alexander
1974-75	K. Edwards	J. Analts	Miss A. Boyce
1975-76	K. Edwards	R. Murray	Miss A. Boyce
1976-77	J. Chandler	D. Cleveland	Miss A. Boyce
1977-78	K. Satchell	J. Higgs	Miss A. Boyce
1978-79	J. Chandler	R. Arney	Miss A. Boyce
1979-80	J. Higgs	J. Chandler	Miss A. Boyce
1980-81	J. Chandler	J. Musslewhite	Miss A. Boyce
1981-82	J. Musslewhite	T. Parkins	Miss A. Boyce
1982-83	M. Oxley Jnr.	N. Daniels	Miss A. Boyce
1983-84	J. Chandler	R. Hughes	Miss T. Watkins
1984-85	T. Lloyd	K. Harford	Miss J. Mills
1985-86	T. Lloyd	M. Holt	Miss J. Mills
1986-87	T. Lloyd	N. Daniels	Mrs G. Sherman
1987-88	T. Lloyd	A. Maidment	Mrs S. Bruton
1988-89	D. Richards	J. Lowe	No Event
1989-90	T. Lloyd	N. Daniels	Mrs A. Delve
1990-91	R. Morgan	B. Thompson	Miss A. Hunt
1991-92	C. Holley	T. Lloyd	Mrs L. Stanbridge
1992-93	G. Baldwin	T. Lloyd	Miss B. Lee
1993-94	T. Lloyd	M. Paul	Mrs J. Dean
			Miss C. Rossiter

MENS DOUBLES

MIXED DOUBLES

	Winners	Runners-Up	Winners	Runners-up
1935-36				
1936-37	Reynolds & Rolf Merrett & Connor	v Hann & West Milton & Griffin		
1937-38	J. Pearce & R. Veal	S. Hayward & R. Dyer		
1938-39	C. Chandler & R. Veal	J. Pearce & M. Randall		
1939-46		WAR		
1946-47				
1947-48				
1948-49				
1949-50	J. Pearce & J. Knott	A.E. Craymer L.H.Craymer	R. Rose & Mrs D. Neech	S. Mills Miss G. Spencer
1950-51	T. Gaylard & A. Craymer		R. Rose & Mrs D. Neech	
1951-52	J. Pearce & W. Griffin		T.N.T. Gaylard & Miss P. Chant	
1952-53	A. Craymer & C. Chandler		B. Wickham & Miss G. Spencer	
1953-54	J. Pearce & W. Griffin		J. Pearce & Mrs D. Neech	
1954-55	T. Edwards & A. Craymer	J. Pearce & W. Griffin	J. Pearce & Mrs D. Neech	A. Craymer & Miss M. Doonham
1955-56	T. Edwards & A. Craymer	J. Pearce & W. Griffin	J. Pearce & Mrs D. Neech	A. Craymer Miss M. Doonham
1956-57	T. Edwards & A. Craymer	C. Chandler R. Stephens	A. Craymer & Miss M. Doonham	M. Dobson & Miss P. Cunningham
1957-58	T. Edwards & A. Craymer	J. Pearce & W. Griffin	A. Alexander & Mrs J. Hillier	P. Hunt & Mrs J. Hunt
1958-59	T. Edwards & D. Taylor	G. Broom & D. Matthews	A. Craymer & Mrs P. Collins	G. Harrison & Mrs M. Bishop
1959-60	B. Bond & A. Alexander	G. Broom & D. Matthews	T. Edwards & Miss M. Ford	C. Chandler & Mrs P. Collins
1960-61	C.Chandler & B. Wickham	G. Broom & J. Analts		No Competition
1961-62	T. Edwards & D. Taylor	J. Cleveland & J. Ford		No Competition
1962-63	T. Edwards & D. Taylor	J. Analts & A. Alexander		No Competition
1963-64	J. Cleveland & J. Ford	J. Analts & J. Pearce		No Competition
1964-65	J. Cleveland & J. Ford	G. Broom & B Hawkins	J. Cleveland & Miss S. Taylor	W. Moore & Miss C. Shipley
1965-66	R. Clode & D. Morris	A. Gnyp & J. Analts	J. Smith & Mrs V. Webb	W. Moore & Miss C. Shipley
1966-67	R. Clode & D. Morris	M. Smith & V. Usher	W. Moore & Miss C. Shipley	J. Ford & Miss J. Missen
1967-68	J. Cleveland & J. Ford	R. Clode & D. Morris	R. Clode & Miss P Bonner	B. Lloyd & Miss J. Missen
1968-69	J. Cleveland & J. Ford	M. Smith & V. Usher	D. Rigby & Mrs P. Hawkins	R. Johnson & Mrs V. Webb
1969-70	J. Cleveland & J. Ford	D. Morris & J. Blanchard	B. Lloyd & Miss J. Missen	R. Johnson & Miss V. Webb
1970-71	R. Arney & T. Kelly	J. Cleveland & J. Ford	J. Ford & Miss H. Rusby	R. Smith & Mrs J. Warrington

	VETERAN SINGLES		Trowbridge Merit Shield	Dorothy Ford Trophy
	Winner	Runner-Up		
1965-66			R. Whiting	
1966-67	D. Morris	J. Pearce	J. Analts	
1967-68	D. Morris	B. Wickham	J. Cleveland	
1968-69	D. Morris	C. Chandler	M. Smith	
1969-70	D. Morris	J. Blanchard	J. Pearce	
1970-71	J. Revell	D. Morris	D. Hill	
1971-72	J. Revell	D. Morris	J. Ford	
1972-73	J. Revell	K. Mitchelmore	B. Gronski	
1973-74			K. Edwards	
1974-75	K. Mitchelmore	J. Cleveland	R. Murray	
1975-76	D. Morris	P. Harford	K. Satchell	
1976-77	D. Morris	L. Bonser	M. Chappelle	
			J. Kalton	
1977-78	D. Morris	P. Dominey	J. Higgs	
1978-79	J. Cleveland	T. Kelly	J. Kalton	
1979-80	J. Cleveland	P. Harford	D. Richards	
1980-81	D. Morris	P. Dominey	K. Harford	
1981-82	J. Analts	J. Ford	T. Parkins	D. Richards
1982-83	J. Ford	J. Bright	M. Oxley (Jnr)	S. Gregory
1983-84	J. Bright	M. Oxley (Snr)	R. Hughes	M. Holt
1984-85	J. Ford	Royston Smith	K. Harford	K. Harford
1985-86	Royston Smith	J. Ford	Miss J. Mills	I. Pothecarry
1986-87	J. Ford	L. Bonser	A. Phillips	R. Sims
			N. Phillips	S. Wilds
1987-88	Royston Smith	A. Mileham	I. Pothecarry	Not Awarded
1988-89	Royston Smith	J. Ford	D. Bull	C. Dunn
1989-90	Royston Smith	M. Oxley (Snr.)	A. Watts	A. Mileham
			B. Wickham	
1990-91	B. Thompson	R. Smith	B. Thompson	A. Phillips
1991-92	M. Oxley (Snr.)	J. Ford	Mrs J. Dean	A. Phillips
1992-93	A. Duke	B. Thompson	D. Goodship	C. Chandler
			M. Goodship	
			T. Goodship	
1993-94	B. Thompson	M. Oxley (Snr.)	Miss C. Rossiter	B. Sage

	OVERS 50s		VETERAN DOUBLES	
	Winner	Runner-Up	Winners	Runners-Up
1984-85	Royston Smith	K. Mitchelmore		
1985-86	Royston Smith	R. Hopkins		
1986-87	Royston Smith	P. Dominey		
1987-88	P. Dominey	Royston Smith		
1988-89	J. Lowe	Royston Smith		
1989-90	B. Sage	J. Macey	Royston Smith & P. Dominey	J. Ford & J. Lowe
1990-91	B. Thompson	J. Lowe	Royston Smith & A. Maidment	J. Ford & J. Lowe
1991-92	B. Thompson	R. Smith	M. Oxley & B. Thompson	N. Daniels & J. Lowe
1992-93	B. Thompson	M. Oxley	M. Oxley & B. Thompson	C. Benson & A. Mileham
1993-94	M. Oxley	J. Ford	M. Oxley & B. Thompson	J. Ford & A. Mileham

INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - TROPHIES

EVENT	NAME	DONOR	SEASON OF ORIGIN
MENS SINGLES	INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP	Lieut-Col Sir Reginald Blake	1936-37
MENS DOUBLES	THE LESTER CUP	Trustees Studley Tennis Club	1969-70
LADIES SINGLES	W.W.T.T.L. Trophy	West Wilts Table Tennis League	1946-47 1981-82
LADIES DOUBLES	THE BRADFORD CUP	Bradford T.T.C.	1981-82
MIXED DOUBLES	THE HILLIER ROSE BOWL	Mr & Mrs Don Hillier	1981-82
JUNIOR SINGLES	J&T CLARK TROPHY	J&T Clarks Ltd	1951-52
JUNIOR DOUBLES	THE REG SMITH & Ford Sports Trophy	Reg Smith & Ford Sports	1981-82
CONSOLATION SINGLES	W.W.T.T.L. Trophy	West Wilts Table Tennis League	1962-63
CONSOLATION DOUBLES	TONY WATTS TROPHY	Tony Watts Esq.	1991-92
HANDICAP SINGLES	THE McISSAC CUP	Trustees Studley Tennis Club	1969-70
HANDICAP DOUBLES	THE RICHARD GABB TROPHY	Mr & Mrs S.W.R. Gabb	1987-88
DIVISION ONE H'CAP SINGLES	TONY JORDAN TROPHY	Tony Jordan Esq.	1987-88
DIVISION TWO H'CAP SINGLES	TONY JORDAN TROPHY	Tony Jordan Esq.	1987-88
DIVISION THREE H'CAP SINGLES	TONY JORDAN TROPHY	Tony Jordan Esq.	1987-88
VETERAN SINGLES	THE SLUGG TROPHY	Richard Culverhouse Esq.	1981-82
VETERAN DOUBLES	THE REG SMITH & FORD Sports Trophy	Reg Smith & Ford Sports	1988-89
OVER 50's SINGLES	'50' CUP	Chick Chandler Esq.	1984-85
CADET SINGLES		Richard Culverhouse Esq.	1991-92
CADET DOUBLES		Richard Culverhouse Esq.	1991-92
UNDER 12 SINGLES		Richard Culverhouse Esq.	1992-93
BEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE	THE DOROTHY FORD TROPHY	Joe Ford & John Ford	1981-82
BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE	The TROWBRIDGE MERIT SHIELD	Trowbridge Table Tennis Club	1965-66
INTERMEDIATE SINGLES	JOHN MACEY TROPHY	West Wilts Table Tennis League renamed in memory of John Macey	1991-92

TOP 10 MEN

Over the 60 years of West Wilts Table Tennis it has not been very difficult to select ten players whose performances over their playing involvement with the League, singles them out for special mention. Whilst many will agree with the selection some may not but the list has been compiled by the writer from personal knowledge and achievements from the record books and the only criterion has been they have been Mens Singles Champion of the league and have represented their County. In addition to the following players listed many other quality players have appeared in the league particularly those representing R.A.F. Melksham albeit for short spells whilst of course stationed there. In more recent times Dave Harvey from Cheltenham a former National Veteran Champion played for Heywood in the 1992/93 season whilst Chris Holley and Gary Baldwin both Mens Singles Champions have been highly placed in the National Senior rankings and in Gary's case now in the Veterans equivalent.

1. JACK PEARCE

Almost a legend in West Wilts Table Tennis circles. Although not a founder member of the league came on to the scene soon after its inception and won the first of his nine Mens Singles titles in the immediate post war season (1938/39). Dominated individual championships in the late forties and early fifties and as a member of the Westbury Lower Congregational team and then as Dilton 'A' won the Leagues Division One title from 1936 through to 1963 and then followed on with five Premier Division titles. Jack's unorthodox grip and his consistent hitting ability was the hallmark of his success on the table which brought him County Representative honours during the mid fifties. Jack who was playing regularly through to the early ninties, finally for the Bradford club, won a total of 16 Senior titles (9 Mens Singles, 4 Mens Doubles and 3 Mixed Doubles) and appeared in the final of the Mens Singles in the 1969/70 season some 30 years after winning his first title and of course played many times in representative matches for the league.

Made a life member in 1973 Jack put a lot back into the game on the administrative side holding the position of Chairman from 1955 to 1965 and Treasurer from 1949-1955 and for a time was Chairman of the County Association.

2. TOMMY EDWARDS

Probably one of the most stylish players the league has ever seen and certainly one of its true characters. Consistent hitter on both forehand and backhand with a good defence when called upon. Shared in the same league team success as Jack Pearce but came later on the scene (in the early fifties). Won a total of 12 Senior titles (4 Mens Singles, 7 Mens Doubles & 1 Mixed Doubles - forming a formidable partnership with team mate Derek Taylor (probably one of the most underrated players around at the time). Represented the league on many occasions and gained County recognition during the mid-fifties. Gradually took a back seat when the reversible rubber bats came on to the scene and moved away from the area during the sixties.

3. JACK LINDSAY

Only played in our league for a couple of seasons but established himself during that time as No.1 West Wilts player winning the Mens Singles in 1955/56 and 56/57. A good all round player with few if any weaknesses. Represented the league and Wiltshire and became the first Wiltshire Mens Singles Champion in the 1956/57 season also winning the mixed title the same year with Margaret Doonham whom he was to marry and emigrate to Australia soon afterwards.

4. ALAN ALEXANDER

Incredibly only won our Mens Singles title once (in the 1963/64 season) but played regularly in our league throughout the fifties and sixties. Alan from Devizes was one of the hardest hitters in local table tennis circles and whatever he lacked in mobility around the table more than made up for in non-stop attacking table tennis on both wings and possessing the most devastating forehand 'kill' in the game. Won a total of three Senior titles (1 Mens Singles, 1 Mens Doubles & 1 Mixed Doubles) representing the league and Wiltshire on many occasions and 3 times County Champion.

5. JOHN FORD

The first and only player to date to have won the Junior Singles (1957-58) the Mens Singles (on three occasions the first in 1960/61) and the veteran Singles (on three occasions to date the first in 1982/83). Still a force in West Wilts table tennis today having started as a 12 year old at the Westbury West End Club. Was a member of the Wilts United Dairies team who won the first Premier Divison title in 1963/64 and represented the league at all levels. A current tally of 14 senior titles (3 Mens Singles, 7 Mens Doubles - six times with his long standing partner John Cleveland, & 4 Mixed Doubles). A sound defensive player with a decisive backhand 'Kill' made the transition from hard bat to modern rubbers without too much trouble. Twice Wiltshire Junior Champion, Senior & Veteran player and became the first Wiltshire player to be nationally ranked at Veteran level and the only player to date to have won the County Junior and Veteran titles. Administratively has held various positions in the league from Results & Registration Secretary in 1959/60 through to ongoing Chairmanship from 1987/88.

6. RICHARD ARNEY

Perhaps the most natural gifted player to grace the West Wilts table tennis scene. Appeared in the league from the late sixties for the Mere club and quickly established himself as one of the leagues leading players. After winning three Junior Singles Championships stepped up as Mens Singles title holder for the following two seasons and with Terry Kelly formed a formidable doubles partnership also assisting his club team to no fewer than six runner-up spots in the Premier Divison. Won a total of 6 Senior titles (2 Mens Singles, 3 Mens Doubles & 1 Mixed Doubles). Many times played for Wiltshire at Junior & Senior level winning the County Junior title twice and Senior Doubles title on 6 occasions. Finished playing in the late 70's but will be remembered for his pure 'talent', a player of quick reflexes and fluent hitting ability.

7. RICHARD CLODE

Another true stylist in the Tommy Edwards mould. First came into the league when stationed at R.A.F. Melksham in the early sixties and went on to win 7 Senior titles including a hat-trick of Mens Singles Championships from 1965-68 Dick's service commitments made his stay in our league a comparative short one but he will be well remembered for his fluent almost classical style of play. Three times Wiltshire Mens Singles Champion and former R.A.F. Singles title holder.

8. KEVIN EDWARDS

The first player in the league to hold the Junior Singles & Mens Singles titles in the same season (1973/74)-subsequently held by Kevin Satchell and Michael Oxley Jnr. Dominated the Mens Singles event from 1973-76 also winning 1 Mens Doubles & 1 Mixed Doubles titles. After Richard Arney the first of the modern game players - up to the table heavy topspin attacking style. Represented Wiltshire on many occasions and became nationally ranked at Senior level.

9. JONATHAN CHANDLER

In the same era as the Kevins' with a similar style of play. Won a total of 9 Senior titles (4 Mens Singles, 3 Mens Doubles and 2 Mixed Doubles - with his sister Jenny). Son of the League President & founder member. Chick Chandler, Jon together with Richard Arney possessed such tremendous natural ability and only a lack of temperament prevented Jon from adding to his tally of titles. Represented the league on many occasions and appeared for the County at Junior and Senior level. Now married and living in Long Beach, California. He has recently become a father.

10. TREVOR LLOYD

Last but no means least of the West Wilts table tennis league 'Top Ten'. Mens Singles title holder from 1984-88 and twice since also three times Mens Doubles Champion. A left hander with a modern game dominated by a heavy topspin forehand and very quick around the table. Although perhaps there had been a lack of depth in quality of opponents over Trevors four year dominance of the Mens Singles Championship his true quality was shown by reaching the final of the Wiltshire Mens Singles in 1987/88 only losing to Kevin Satchell and then winning the County Tournament in 1991/92 and successfully defending it the following season. Represented the league on many occasions and currently captains the County Senior team.

THE LADIES!

Although always somewhat short in numbers even going back to the early days of the league and indeed the first mention of lady players appears in the minutes of the meeting on September 16th 1935 - minute 9 read

Question of lady players

The question of lady players being allowed to play in the league was raised by Miss Webb (Melksham Dairies). It was decided to allow lady players in league matches.

A further interesting minute came from the meeting on December 4th 1936 which read as follows

'The secretary reported the receipt of a letter from Ushers Social Club to the effect that, as ladies were not admitted to their clubroom, difficulties had arisen regarding the home fixtures with teams who wished to play ladies. It was suggested in the letter that the league should ask clubs visiting Ushers not to play ladies or alternatively that Ushers should in such cases play both matches away'. So much for equality of the sexes!

Three ladies appear to warrant special mention namely the undermentioned.

1. MARGARET DOONHAM LINDSAY

Playing for the Spencers Club, Melksham Margaret dominated ladies table tennis in West Wilts during the mid-fifties winning a hat trick of titles from 1954-57 and would surely have added many more but for her emigration to Australia following her marriage to Jack Lindsay. Played five times for Wiltshire and won the County Mixed title with Jack in 1956/57.

2. DOREEN NEECH

Without a doubt the leagues leading lady following the war years through to Miss Doonham's emergence. Wife of the League and County administrator John Neech and unfortunately her best years came before the formation of Wiltshire County table tennis. However Doreen played eight times for the County and of course many times with Margaret for the league in the old Western Counties League when the best players in the West of England were to be seen in the West Wilts area. Passed away a few years ago.

3. ALISON BOYCE

Won no fewer than 24 titles from 1970, through to her somewhat premature retirement from the game in 1983. Although Alison's opposition from the ladies over the years was somewhat limited this should in no way detract from her performances for Alison could well hold her own with the best of men in the league and took many a scalp during the years playing in the leagues Premier Division for Nursteed (Devizes).

Other ladies who deserve a mention over the years must include Peggy Collins (nee Robbins), Gladys Spencer and Muriel Ford from the forties and fifties and then through to the sixties Viv Webb (nee Bradley) still playing in the league up till a few seasons ago, Catherine Shipley, Penny Perry (nee Bonner), Pauline Hawkins (nee Skittrill), Helen Webb (nee Rusby), Margaret Alexander (nee Fielding), Jenny Davies (nee Chandler) and in more recent years Tracey Watkins and Claire Maisey from Swindon Ginny Sherman, Julie Dean (nee Mills) and very recently nationally ranked ladies Wiltshire County Player Brenda Lee and Avon County lady Michelle Cohen.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Life membership has not been easily gained in West Wilts table tennis and to date this ultimate recognition has been awarded to six persons - T.N.T. (Tom) Gayland 1956-57, A.E. (Alec) Craymer 1960-61, A.J. (Jack) Pearce & C.R. (Chick) Chandler in 1973-74, W.W. (Wally) Griffin in 1979-80 and W.J. (John) Cleveland in 1984-85.

Many references have been made to each and everyone of our life members throughout this publication and follows a short C.V. of each and their association with the West Wilts Table Tennis League. (For Jack Pearce see 'top Ten' players)

PRESIDENT C.R. (CHICK) CHANDLER

Chick was honoured at the Leagues Golden Jubilee Dinner in 1985 as the only founder member of the league still playing and ten years on and Chick is still very much a part of West Wilts table tennis. In this Diamond Jubilee year of the league our President will be 79 years old and will look back to 1935 when with his brother Pete started playing at the Westbury West End Club. Chick moved on to the Lower Congregational to join up with Jack Pearce and Wally Griffin prior to the war and recalls that at one time they only had one Barna bat between them and when it came to the doubles had to borrow a bat.

Following the war Chick played a season for the Territorial Club in Westbury (at the Drill Hall in West End) formed by brother Pete but then moved back up to the Lower Congs representing them also in the Bath League. In the early fifties Chick moved over to Trowbridge to play for the Upper Studley Tennis Club and then to the Community Centre before becoming a founder member of the Trowbridge T.T. Club in 1952. Up to this time all table tennis had been played with a hard rubber bat but 'sponge' was coming on to the scene and Chick was the 'first' player in our league to use a sponge bat (more or less as we know it today). However legislation was brought in by the governing body which banned the use of sponge albeit temporary, so it was back to hard rubber bats for a time until the modern day bats came into being from the early sixties.

Upon the Trowbridge Club finishing in 1963 Chick joined the reformed Westbourne Club for several seasons then moved back to Studley (where his son Jonathan started playing) through to 1977 and then back to Westbourne for just one season with son Jon. Chick then joined the Unigate Club until the loss of its premises then to become a member of the reformed Trowbridge Club until re-uniting with brother Pete at Avon, Bradford. Although not holding an administrative office in the early years Chick was Press Secretary for two seasons in the fifties, County Representative on and off for many seasons from 1957, Chairman from 1965-73 and President from 1975 through to the present day.

One thing that did not materialise that Chick had wished for was that himself and two of his children that played regularly Jon & Jenny would play in the same team - but unfortunately the league never accommodated this due to the differences in playing ability at the time. By the way the question is often asked how did 'Chick' obtain this name that everyone has known him by since his association with the league. Chatting to Chick and his wife Jean who has always been so enthusiastically supportive over the many years - it would appear that this was given to him a long time before his involvement with table tennis - going back to his childhood.

Wherever table tennis is mentioned or discussed in local or county circles the name of 'Chick Chandler will always be remembered for many years to come.

W.J. (JOHN) CLEVELAND

John started playing in our league during 1950 with the Jacobites Club, playing initially in the 2nd Division and also in the 1st Division when the Jacobites gained promotion.

John later became a playing member at the very successful Wilts United Dairies team initially in the 1st Division and then in the Premier in its first season in the championship winning team with John Ford and Richard Clode. In addition Johns team success included the Melksham Shield, Handicap Shield and Premier Division K.O.

Individually John in partnership with John Ford won the Mens Doubles on six occasions, the Mixed Doubles, the Handicap Singles on two occasions, the Handicap Doubles and the Veteran Singles twice - only the Singles title eluded him, reaching the final on three occasions.

John represented our league in the County League both in the Mens & Mixed Teams also in the Western Counties League and although not having represented the County, reached the Final of the Mens Doubles with John Ford in 1965/66 and won the Wiltshire Veterans title for four successive seasons in the 70's.

However Johns forte was his administration skills - he became League Secretary in the 1959-60 season (this was a somewhat 'forced' office) when he took over, as at the A.G.M. in 1959 there was no nomination forthcoming for this onerous position and John was 'persuaded' by the then Chairman Jack Pearce to take the position on a short term basis - so much for short term John was in fact Secretary for 15 years. Treasurership followed in the 1963/64 season and John served in this position for 21 years! during this time John also served for short periods as Press Secretary and Team Competition Secretary.

John represented the West Wilts League as their representative on the Wiltshire T.T.A. Management Committee for several seasons and was honoured with Life membership of the County Association upon leaving the district John needless to say richly deserved the Life membership of the league conferred upon him in 1984.

T.N.T. (TOM) GAYLARD

Tom first came into association with the league soon after the war with the Westbury G.W.R. teams and then joined the Lower Congregational Club. Although he played for the league in representative matches and was a Mens & Mixed Doubles Champion of the league it was as an administrator that Tom will probably be best remembered.

Tom was secretary of the League from 1948-51 also holding the position of Press Secretary & E.T.T.A. representative and upon his departure from the area to Reading was presented with a mounted Silver Table Tennis Bat by the then League President Norman Hiscocks -in recognition of his services to the league and indeed Life membership was conferred in 1956-57.

Tom continued his table tennis both as a player and administrator in the Reading League but returned a few years ago now to live in the area and takes a keen interest in the Leagues activities.

A.E. (ALEC) CRAYMER

Alecs involvement with the league spanned no more than 10 years but in that time both on and off the table played a very important part in the development of the league at that time. Indeed Alec was no mean performer on the table - a very stylish player representing Wiltshire six times in the mid fifties, twice reaching our Mens Singles final and appearing

in numerous Mens Doubles finals the first in 1949/50 with his brother Laurie who emigrated to Australia in the fifties and was tragically killed in a road accident only a few years ago. However it was as an administrator that perhaps Alec will be most remembered for becoming Secretary of the league in 1951-52 followed by three terms of Chairmanship (1952-55) and County Representative in 1956-57. Life membership was conferred upon Alec in 1960/61 rich reward for loyal service to the league and to the Wilts United Dairies which was Alecs only club.

W.W. (WALLY) GRIFFIN (1916-1987)

Wallys name will always be remembered in West Wilts Table tennis circles firstly as a founder member of the league and the first name to go onto the Mens Singles Championship Trophy. A stalwart member of the successful Westbury Lower Congregational Club before and after the war, Wally moved over to play for the J&T Clarks Club of Trowbridge in later years and following his retirement from active play retained a keen interest in the game until his death in 1987. Life membership was conferred upon Wally in 1979/80 and he will always be remembered for his competitive spirit and his classic backhand in the 'Barna' mold.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS

Over the long history of the league only two players have gained International recognition Kevin Satchell and Jimmy Lowe.

Kevin was born and still lives in Melksham with his wife Trish having been brought up by his parents Ken and June who have been so supportive throughout his career.

Jimmy moved to the West Wilts area in the early eighties from London and lives in Trowbridge with his wife Bridget and family.

The following section has been compiled in the case of Kevin, from detailed information submitted to the writer and for Jimmy by his personal recollections of a career which started way back in 1948.

KEVIN SATCHELL

Kevin started playing table tennis in 1973 at 11 years of age and joined the West Wilts Table Tennis League the following year playing with the North Bradley team in Division 3. Kevin won the Junior Singles & Doubles in our league in the 1975/76 and 1977/78 season and the one Senior title to Kevins credit was that of Mens Singles also in 1977/78 but of course Kevin quickly moved onto higher levels. However the league can take some credit for starting Kevin on his table tennis career which of course reached International status. Throughout his career Kevin has remained unspoilt by any success that has come his way a credit to himself and to his family particularly to Ken his father and coach who's time, effort and devotion assisted Kevin through to his professional status today.

At 13 Kevin joined Spencers of Melksham and played in Division One alongside his father and coach Ken. That year he retained the Wilts U13 Cup and also won the U15's

At 14 Kevin became England ranked No.5 at U14 level won the Wilts U15 title and came runner up in the U17's. The following season Kevin joined the Unigate Club in the Premier Division of our league and at the age of 15 won the Wilts U15 & U17 titles, played for the Wiltshire Senior County Team as well as representing England at Under 16 Schools level. At the age of 16 Kevin became ranked No.4 in Englands U17 and won the Wilts Singles, Doubles and Mixed Events at both U17 and Senior level also playing for Englands U19 at Schools level.

At 17 he again won the Wiltshire Singles, Doubles and mixed titles, played for England, won the Welsh Junior Open title on his debut and during that year reached his highest Junior Ranking of England No.3.

As a senior Kevin has won the Wilts Senior title on 8 occasions, reached his highest Senior Ranking at No.8 at age 25 and represented England at Senior level in Russia, Germany & Finland.

In 1989 Kevin won a Commonwealth Bronze Medal when the championships were held at Cardiff whilst he also signed to play in the Norwegian and Belgium National League and assisted the Bath team in the English National League for many seasons. Kevin was forced out of the game in 1991 at the age of 29 for one year due to an Achilles Tendon operation but has in more recent years coached the England Junior and Senior teams as well as the Olympic Squad and captained Junior and Senior teams in England and abroad.

In 1993 Kevin was again forced out of the game due to a serious back injury which required surgery which he is currently recovering from.

JIMMY LOWE

I remember, as yesterday, leaving a venue where I had just seen two of Englands leading players contest the Staines & District Mens Singles Final I was absolutely bitten, little knowing that 3 or 4 years later, I would join those two players in winning the Wilmot Cup (All England Team Championship) for the Staines League.

I was 15 and had only played a few times at my local Youth Club, nevertheless I joined the best club in Staines, where I was certainly the worst player, being beaten 21-1 by a good henholder called Colin Miller (probably my greatest defeat). Eventually I secured a place in my clubs 'C' team, and at the end of the season won the Staines Junior Singles title. Throughout the following summer, I practised regularly and improved in leaps and bounds. I got off to a good start to the new season, when sponsored by a local newsagent, I won the Sussex Open Junior Singles, my first ever open championship. Winning a few more Open Junior Titles and playing for Middx Juniors, I was invited to the England Junior trials, where undefeated I was named at No.1 for the Junior International versus Sweden. I finished the season winning the English Open Junior Singles & Doubles Titles, and The Daily Mirror U.K. Boys Singles Title.

No longer a junior player I was pleased to be placed at No. 17 in the senior ranking list, and although very fit - I was at Loughborough College - was unable to practice and travel as before, and only improved my ranking slightly during this period.

Leaving Loughborough and returning to the London area, I was able to practice once more. Big club such as West Ealing and Putney had some 10 or more Internationals and numerous County players as members. I began to make my mark at this higher level, receiving England Camp invitations and regular Middx practices, where Victor Barna was ever present and very helpful. Nevertheless it was very difficult to obtain an international place at senior level. Johnny Leach had been twice World Champion, Richard Bergmann 4 times world champion, and Aubrey Simons was ranked World No.4 These three players had won the World Team Championship for England, and as the Chinese players had yet to emerge, England was leading the table tennis nation in mens events.

Eventually the breakthrough - although late in the season, I managed to win 3 of 4 major Singles titles, reaching the quarter finals of the English Open with a 3-0 win over Bergmann, and narrowly losing to Richard Miles, the American Champion.

The following season I received my first senior cap versus Ireland, followed by a European Tour with Internationals against Hungary, Germany & Poland. On tour the England players took part in the World Festival Games where I played well, losing to the Japanese Champion 3-2 in the quarter final.

I only played in one World Championship losing 3-1 to Ogimura, the eventual winner. However, I reached the English Open Quarter Final on a second occasion, won several major singles and doubles tournaments, and obtained a national ranking of number 5. Finally, I retired (probably unwisely) at the tender age of 23, resurfacing many years later in the West Wilts T.T. League, where I am now the Coaching Officer. This presented a challenge, as only a certain amount of constructive coaching had been done over a lengthy period, resulting in the average age of West Wilts players being far too high. After 2 or 3 years, some younger players are now emerging, and if this trend continues, it may well be we shall see some younger players making their way to the top of the sport.