



Table Tennis Times

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

Issue 36

Editorial

Winter 2024/2025

This is the 36th and last edition of Table Tennis Times which Harvey and I have been writing since 2015. As many of you will know, Harvey passed away in November. This was always a joint project and although I did most of the writing, Harvey did his share and was also a great moderator. I would write and he would tell me “you can’t say that!”

I have had so many cards and messages that it has been quite overwhelming, and I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kindness and support.

I hope you understand why it has taken a while to get this issue out, it was started back in the autumn before Harvey was ill. Although some of the articles do relate to events which happened some time ago, I did want to include all the major tournaments to make as complete a record as possible and they range from the youngest at the Euro Minis to the veterans.

It has been just over 40 years since the Veteran English Table Tennis Society (VETTS) was formed and a brief history is here. Another anniversary is the amazing record of Paul Drinkhall who marked 20 years since he first represented England at senior level and is still going strong, a record of many of his achievements are included, although no doubt I have missed some! It is also 100 years since the Bournemouth League was formed and they celebrated in style in the summer.

What Was Happening in 1954, just over 70 years ago, has some interesting facts. How the game has changed since then and talking of change, there is a new CEO at the helm of TTE, appointed in December 2024, and a new Chairman will be in charge in the not too distant future.

I have started with a tribute to Harvey and later recognise the achievements and contribution by two other prominent members – Jean Head/Winn and Di Jermyn.

Thank you to all who have provided articles and photographs for our 36 issues and thank you to our Proof Readers, Table Tennis Times has been better for your input.

I thank you too, for sharing your time with Harvey and me over the last ten years. I hope you have enjoyed reading this as much as we have enjoyed writing it.

My very best wishes to you all.

Diane Webb

A Personal Tribute to Harvey



2019. European Championships,
Nantes

It all began with Subbuteo. Although born in Potters Bar on 17th May 1944, Harvey moved with his Mum and Dad and older sister, Deirdre, to the Goat in Boots in Chelsea when he was young. The pub had a very eclectic mix of customers from stars of the stage and screen, script writers for the BBC, along with cops and villains, not always easy to tell which were which. However, it was a childhood paradise for Harvey as he had a whole floor above the pub as his playroom. School friends were frequent visitors and Subbuteo one of the favourite games, always the Arsenal team for Harvey, he had been a season ticket holder with his Dad since he was five. One of his friends had a huge kitchen and a table tennis top was usually in place over the kitchen table and so began a lifelong love of the game.

Harvey in his youth played at a social level, mainly at a youth club as so many did in those days. He loved all sport and was in his school football and cricket teams at the elite Eaton House School, as well as playing for clubs in his late teens and early twenties. Cycling was another passion and along with a couple of other members of his cycling club he cycled one year to Annecy in the South of France over the Alps.

It was heady times in central London in the late fifties and early sixties and Harvey was a regular at many concerts and gigs and rubbed shoulders with some of the top musicians of the day, especially at The Marquee which saw the emergence of so many bands, he had a lifelong love of music, especially jazz.

However, table tennis was in the background and when Harvey went to work for NCR (National Cash Registers) he founded a table tennis club there in the late 1960s, winning his first trophy in 1967/68. By 1972 he was playing in the Willesden & District League and became their General Secretary from 1972-76 taking over from the legendary Laurie Landry. Following on, Harvey was soon recruited to the Middlesex County Committee where, amongst some of the greats of English Table Tennis including Doreen Stannard and John Wright, he soon became an integral part of their organisation which resulted in him being selected to be one of the Umpires Control at the World Championships in Birmingham in 1977 in charge of 134 umpires along with Fred Groom and Doreen Stannard, Harvey's first taste of a major tournament.



1977. World Championships, Birmingham

In 1974 Harvey moved to Worthing and for a while continued playing in Middlesex before joining the Local League as both player and administrator taking up positions of Treasurer, Chairman and County Representative, also serving on the Sussex County Committee.

Another move in 1982, a little further along the south coast, saw Bournemouth benefit from Harvey's growing expertise and knowledge and once again he was immersed in club, league and county roles as well as becoming a prominent Tournament Organiser and umpiring many county and British League matches.

He had already made his mark at national and international level; in 1977 he had been appointed as the English Championships Committee Secretary and there followed a plethora of positions within the ETTA – Calendar Working Party Chairman and Member, Grand Prix Committee Chairman, Marketing Committee Secretary, National Championships Committee Member, Sponsorship Committee

Secretary, Trade Committee Chairman and Member, Veterans' Development Committee, British League, European League National Team Competitions Committee positions and many, many more.

One of Harvey's proudest achievements was to introduce, in 1999, a qualification scheme for Tournament Organisers thus putting it on a par with umpires and referees as Technical Officials. By the time of his retirement in 2011 over 150 volunteers had qualified at various levels with Harvey being one of only six who were awarded the elite level 4. Another area he was particularly proud of was the introduction of the Grand Prix series, which went on to become the cornerstone of the ETTA's competition programme and which regularly attracted over 200 competitors. Initially, there were 12 Grand Prix a season along with finals. Harvey organised well over 100 individual tournaments.

In 2000, Harvey had a final move to Hastings when he was appointed as the National Events Manager, a position he held until 2011, his perfect job, to which he was totally dedicated. During his tenure, Harvey oversaw one of the largest domestic competition programmes as well as England's home international matches in the European Nations League. During this period, he was instrumental in organising many other major events including the European Junior Top 10 in 2008 where he was the Tournament Manager, the first ITTF Pro Tour in 2009 where he was the Steering Group Secretary, and author of the bid document and Tournament Manager for the English International Championships in 2011, otherwise known as the English Open.



*2012. National Championships.
Photo by Steve Parkin*

At the World Championships in 1997 Harvey was the Hospitality Director and a year later, Venue Director at the World Veteran Championships, both in Manchester. At the European Championships in 1994, the Olympic Qualifying Tournament in 1992 and the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002 as Deputy Competition Manager. From 1978-2001 he was Organiser or Assistant Organiser at every English Open bar one.

It wasn't only the ETTA that benefited from Harvey's considerable experience, having spent his time from 1984 to 1994 as the Tournament Organiser for the VETTS Southern and National Masters.

Upon his retirement, Harvey did not stay idle. In 2013 he was elected to the ETTA Board as Vice-Chairman of Competitions during that transition year from Hastings to Milton Keynes and all the associated changes which came with the Portas Report. In addition, he was a member of a small panel which looked at how to implement the governance changes. Harvey subsequently became a member of the Network Review Group which aimed at ensuring the changes continued to be relevant and to recommend further modernisation.

Harvey's expertise as a Tournament Organiser continued to be in demand and he was called upon to be the Technical Advisor at the British Open Para Championships in 2011 and the Island Games in Jersey as a Technical Consultant in 2016.

Looking back at so many events, over 100 National Championships at various levels, as well as those already listed and numerous more, Harvey used to say the two events he enjoyed the most were those which were held as part of Matthew Syed's Masters series at the Royal Albert Hall. They were two very special nights in 2006 and 2007 at such an iconic venue, which had seen top table tennis in the past on a number of occasions.

After Harvey's involvement with the ETTA lessened, he was honoured and privileged to be invited to join the Swaythling Club International where he held several positions - Sponsorship Director, Deputy President and latterly Secretary. It is an organisation whose ethos and values strongly mirrored Harvey's own and gave him the opportunity to once again help others and use his sound judgement and knowledge.

Harvey remained a player until last season, when due to injury, he was unable to continue. He had played in ten Local Leagues, several National Championships, two English Opens and a number of World and European Veteran Championships, which gave us the opportunity to travel by train across much of Europe.



2024. World Veteran Masters, Rome.
Swaythling Club Executive



2011. Our Wedding

It was while playing in the Hastings League that Harvey and I first met, I was a Saint and he was a Tiger, those who know our temperaments may say that it should have been the other way around! We had 23 good years together although we didn't get married until after Harvey retired in 2011, we used to joke that he didn't have a weekend off while he was working.

A County Umpire in 1981, a Tournament Referee in 1985 and a Level 4 Tournament Organiser in 1998. Harvey was richly rewarded with several honours by the ETTA – The Ivor Montagu Award in 1981, A Vice-President in 1986, the AK Vint, OBE Staff Award in 2004 and an Honorary Life Member in 2011.

Harvey passed away on 7th November 2024 at St Michael's Hospice in St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. He had been diagnosed with mesothelioma only two weeks before. A cancer that can only be contracted on exposure to asbestos, Harvey had never worked with it and had no idea when or where he may have been in contact, it can lie dormant for 50 years or more. It took successive governments nearly 100 years to ban it after knowing it could be fatal.

Over 60 years of commitment and service to the game Harvey loved. He made many, many friends along the way and was respected by all. When Harvey retired many wrote messages to show their appreciation and a couple are below along with a few of the many condolence messages.

A Couple of Retirement Messages in 2011

Doreen Stannard, Honorary Life Member, former President of the ETTA: *Harvey – My Rock, We have worked closely together for over 40 years – never a cross word – a loyal friend, who has always given support whatever we were doing, from the time we worked together in the Worlds in 1977 to date.*

If you were operating from a Pukka Office or a broom cupboard you coped 101% and always inspired others to do the same. I am aware of the saying that No one is indispensable but with you Harvey the mould was certainly broken!

A friendship I cherish.

Matthew Syed, England International and National Champion: *Harvey is one of the true legends of English table tennis. He has been at the heart of the biggest events in this nation's history; his tireless*

hard work, enduring enthusiasm, and clear-headed judgement have often been the difference between success and disaster.

Always a pleasure to work with, Harvey symbolises much that is most admirable about English table tennis. He has not only been an excellent events manager for the ETTA, but he has also worked as a volunteer, advisor and general counsellor for the sport.

A Selection of Condolence Messages 2024

Paul Day, National Champion and England International: *Harvey will always be remembered by everyone who met him - he loved the game and all the people involved admired him, and loved him. All his awards were richly deserved.*

Martin Clark, former ETTA Treasurer and Honorary Life Member: *Harvey will be remembered as a great stalwart of Table Tennis worldwide although his work and friendship created throughout his time with ETTA stands out in my mind with great fondness. Always there at pertinent times throughout his outstanding times with us with his knowledge and humour.*

Kevin Long, Hastings Committee Member: *I always considered him worthy of the utmost respect, not only for his commitment to Table Tennis but as a fellow human being.*

Colin Wilson, England International: *It will never be the same without Harvey's grin, wit, warmth and respect to greet me – which is what happened to me on every occasion we ever met. What a contribution to humanity he was.*

Sanja Clayton, National Champion and top VETTS player: *Harvey was always so gentle and kind with that incredible aura of calmness.*

Noel Sewell, TTE Vice-President: *Harvey gave so much to the great table tennis game in so many ways and over so many years that he leaves the rarest legacy.*



2023. With Alan Hydes and Bi Haibo at the Chinese Embassy

Bi Haibo, Minister Counselor, Spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in the UK: *I had the privilege of making acquaintance with Harvey. He was a great man of warmth, wisdom and passion. We are deeply grateful for his admirable efforts and contributions to advancing “ping pong diplomacy” and friendship between the two peoples of China and the UK.*

Claude Bergeret, President of the SCI and former World Mixed Doubles Champion: *Harvey was a kind and caring man. Not to mention his skills and love for table tennis. He was always fair and always in favour of discussion and compromise.*

We will not forget his prudent advice and his charisma.

I thank everyone for the overwhelming number of kind and thoughtful messages and for loving table tennis as much as Harvey did. My thoughts are with Harvey's daughter Chloe and her two sons, Logan and Louie, as well as all other family and friends. To my children and grandchildren too, he played a big part in their lives over the last 23 years.

If you would like to make a donation in Harvey's memory, could it be made to one of two charities who have been enormously supportive:

- ❖ HASAG - Help, Advice, Support, Action, Guidance for Asbestos Disease Support, Unit 19 Basepoint Centres, Andersons Road, Southampton SO14 5FE. They support people affected by Asbestos-related diseases in the South, South East, London and the Home Counties, or,
- ❖ St Michael's Hospice, 25 Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0LB.

Paralympics

28th August- 8th September 2024: Paris, France

Photos by Michael Loveder plus one from Alexis Zikria

The Paralympics followed shortly after the Olympic Games had finished in the summer of 2024 and in table tennis Great Britain had 11 players in the various events and categories. Many of the players had won medals previously, including golds, but there were also a number who made their debut.

A reminder that in para table tennis categories 1-5 are the wheelchair classes, 6-10 are the standing classes and 11 is for those with intellectual disability. The lower the number the greater the disability. Doubles events are combined totals of the singles classes and can cover more than one class. This time around there were no team events but mixed doubles was re-introduced. There was another significant change in that all matches were straight knockouts with no groups as there had been previously.



Bly Twomey & Fliss Pickard

Women's Doubles Class 14: Two debutants in the form of Fliss Pickard and 14-year-old Bly Twomey won their opening quarter-final match 3-0 against Nora Korneliussen and Jenny Helene Slettum from Norway. They were then beaten in their semi-final by a highly ranked Chinese pair, Huang Wenjuan and Jin Yucheng, who were the Asian Para Games champions. A bronze medal for the GB pair as Paralympic table tennis awards bronze medals to both losing semi-finalists, unlike the Olympic Games.

Men's Doubles Class 4: It was a tough draw for Rob Davies and Tom Matthews as they faced the number one seeds and Asian champions from Korea Republic, Jang Yeongjin and Park Sung Joo, in their first match, the quarter-finals, having had a bye in the round of 16. Perhaps, unsurprisingly, the GB pair lost 3-0 although they weren't that far off, with the score 9, 9, 7.



Rob Davies & Tom Matthews



Billy Shilton & Paul Karabardak

Men's Doubles Class 14: World champions Paul Karabardak and Billy Shilton played superbly to reach the semi-finals through skill and determination, coached by former England international Andrew Rushton. They won their first round of 16 match 3-0 against an experienced French pair of Kevin Dourbecker and Stephane Messi by 8, 10, 4 and then defeated the two Brazilians, Paulo Salmin and Israel Stron, -7, 9, 9, 5. They fought valiantly against the number one seeds from Thailand in the semi-

finals, players they beat in the World Championships two years ago to take the title. This time it was the players from Thailand, Rungroj Thainiyom and Phisit Wangphonphathanasiri who won the match. It was close and Karabardak and Shilton led by 9-7 in both the first two games but couldn't convert them into a win and also lost the third game. Final score 9, 9, 7. Nonetheless, they took home a bronze Paralympic medal to add to their collection.

It wasn't to be a double in the semi-finals for GB players. Will Bayley and Martin Perry won their round of 16 match by 9, 4, 9 against Germans Thomas Rau and Bjoern Schnake, Perry's Paralympic debut. In their quarter-final they were 2-0 down and it looked like a tremendous comeback might be on the cards as they levelled the



Will Bayley & Martin Perry

score at 2-2. However, playing not only against the two French players, Clement Berthier and Esteban Herrault, who were the European Champions but a stadium full of French supporters they couldn't quite get over the line in the fifth game and so did not progress to a medal position. Final score 6, 9, -9, -7, 9 to the Frenchmen.



Josh Stacey & Aaron McKibbin

Men's Doubles Class 18: Aaron McKibbin and Joshua Stacey were partners in the Class 18 doubles where they had a first-round bye. In the round of 16 they played the Polish pair, Maksym Chudzicki and Igor Misztal. McKibbin and Stacey won the first match, lost the second, bounced back to win the third but the fourth and fifth went to the Poles, -8, 3, -6, 9, 3.

Mixed Doubles Class 7: Tom Matthews and Megan Shackleton (combined classification 5) made an excellent start to their Paralympic campaign when they beat the Australian couple, Jessy Chen and Daniela di Toro who had a combined classification of 7 in the round of 32. Their next match, round of 16, also saw them face two players with a combined classification of 7 but this time it was the German players, Thomas Bruechle and Sandra Mikolaschek who won 9, 3, 3.

There were only two events in the Mixed Doubles and so a wider disparity in disability with the advantage going to those with the highest total classification.



Megan Shackleton & Tom Matthews



Bly Twomey & Josh Stacey

Mixed Doubles Class 17: Playing together for only the second time competitively, Joshua Stacey and Bly Twomey won their first match in the round of 32 against Kayode Alabi and Faith Obazuaye from Nigeria, 6, -7, 6, 6. They then had an excellent win against the Polish pair, Patryk Chojnowski and Katarzyna Marszal 6, 6, 9 and so reached the quarter-finals. Here they met the Chinese pair, Zhao Shuai and Mao Jingdian who between them had six Paralympic gold medals. Although Stacey and Twomey put up a good fight, it proved too much of a challenge against the more experienced players with the score 3, 10, 5.

Men's Singles Class 1: Tom Matthews met world number ten from Cuba, Yunier Fernandez, in his quarter-final match but the win went to his opponent 5, -10, 4, 9.

Rob Davies first match was against the world number three from the Korea Republic, Kim Hakjin, and it was a closely contested match with Davies getting over the line 9, 5, -8, -3, 8. Davies was 5-0 down in the second game and then won 11 points on the trot, in the fifth and final game he was also 5-0 down but fought back for the win. Davies defeated Hungarian Endre Major in the semis, winning 6, 6, -9, 14.

The final was against the conqueror of Matthews, Fernandez, and the Cuban made it a double win over the two GB players defeating Davies 12, 7, 4. A silver for Davies but gold to Fernandez.



Tom Matthews

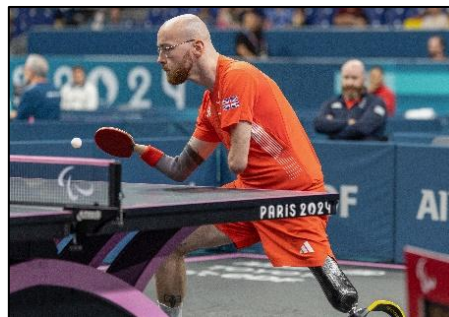


Rob Davies

Men's Singles Class 6: It was a tough draw for both Paul Karabardak playing in his fifth Paralympics and Martin Perry in his first, in their round of 16 matches. Playing against the world number one and former Paralympic and World Champion Peter Rosenmeier from Denmark, Karabardak lost 5, 10, 6, Perry too, fell in the same round with the score 5, 5, 9, to the reigning Paralympic champion from America, Ian Seidenfeld. Due to his short stature, Seidenfeld plays with an extension to his racquet to enable him to receive service. He took it on and off during the match which broke up the rhythm for his opponent as it was continually stop-start and Perry found this difficult. After his match, despite the defeat Perry said “I can now say I am a Paralympian and I always will be and that’s something that fills me with pride and joy.”



Paul Karabardak



Martin Perry



Ian Seidenfeld with his racquet extension

Men's Singles Class 7: Will Bayley started a successful campaign in style against long-time rival Frenchman, Stephane Messi, 2, 5, 6 who was a former Paralympic champion. Any time a French player was on court the crowd had been very voluble, this time a large party from Bayley's club In Brighton helped redress the balance and gave very vocal support. The quarter-final saw Bayley against German, Bjoern Schnake, and he came through that match with the score 5, -9, 6, 5. A medal was guaranteed. Moving on to the semi-final, Bayley was pitted against the world number four, Jean-Paul Montanus from the Netherlands. A player Bayley dispatched fairly quickly 7, 6, 2 to give him a shot to reclaim his title from Rio.



Will Bayley

The final was an outstanding match between two players at the top of their game, facing him was the defending champion from China, Yan Shuo, the world number three. Bayley started slowly and was 9-1 behind in the first game but clawed back to 8-9 before losing it. Game two went a similar way initially and the first five points went to Yan. Determinedly, Bayley pulled back to 5-5 and eventually won that game 14-12. The third game went to Yan game seven and the fourth to Bayley by the same score. Down to the fifth and decisive game. The score stood at 3-1 and then there was conflict. Right at the start of the match Bayley had received

a warning about his serve and later a yellow card was given for a foul serve. At 3-1 in the fifth the umpire considered that Bayley had kicked the ball away and so gave Bayley a red/yellow and a point away. Despite a protest from the Bayley and his coach, Andrew Rushton, the umpire would not move. The referee was called, the decision stood. It did seem a very harsh. It was a disappointing incident which left the feeling that the umpire influenced the result rather than the skill and determination of the two players. Despite the upset, Bayley led at 9-8 but then the Chinese called a time out, it proved valuable as he then won the next two points to retain his title, Bayley again finishing with the silver medal.

Men's Singles Class 8: Aaron McKibbin had a close match in his round of 16 and came through against the very experienced former World number one, and former World champion Richard Csejtey from Slovakia by 3-2. The quarter-final was against Chinese player, Shuai Zhao, three times Paralympic champion and he proved too strong for McKibbin going down 4, 5, 8.

Billy Shilton, also playing in Class 8 lost his first match in the round of 11, -4, -8, -6 against his opponent from Thailand, Phisit Wangphonphathanasiri.



Aaron McKibbin



Billy Shilton



Josh Stacey

Men's Singles Class 9: Joshua Stacey was another player who had a tough draw in his quarter-final match against Ma Lin the world number two, now of Australia and formerly of China. Ma, a former World and Paralympic champion, won the match 9, 7, 9. Stacey had earlier beaten the Ukrainian, Lev Kats, in the round of 16 by 7, 10, -8, 7.

Women's Singles Class 4: It was a successful start as wild card Megan Shackleton had a good win 4, 5, 9 against Ghaliah Alanazi from Saudi Arabia. Shackleton's second match in the quarter-finals was a closely fought affair against the world number one, World and Paralympic champion from Serbia, Borislava Peric-Rankovic, which went to the wire, it was a match where Shackleton couldn't quite get the win, going down -10, 9, -1, 10, 8 but to come so close to such an outstanding player was something to be proud of.

Women's Singles Class 6: Fliss Pickard had a tremendous quarter-final match against the Romanian Camelia Ciripan the world number six and led 2-0. However, her opponent gradually picked up the pace and by hitting the ball wide on either wing where Pickard was unable to reach, she took the next three games giving her the match. Final score -5, -8, 10, 8, 8. It was nonetheless an excellent performance by Pickard and she went home with her doubles bronze medal.

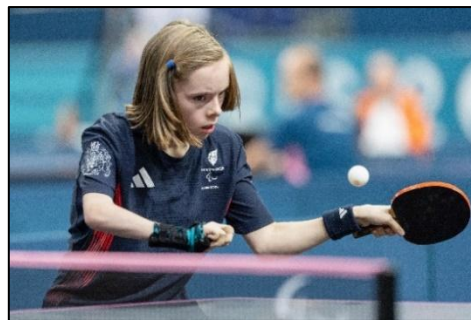
Women's Singles Class 7: Bly Twomey was on fire in her quarter-final match and for the loss of only 14 points in all three games against the world number six, Smilla Sand of Sweden and so Twomey went on to a medal winning round. She started her semi-final match against world number two who was also the World and European champion, Kubra Korkut from Turkiye, in brilliant fashion winning the first two games which she dominated. However, Korkut's experience began to tell. She changed her tactics in the third and fourth game which were close. Korkut picked up pace in the deciding game and ended with the win 9, 7, -6, -5, -5.



Megan Shackleton



Fliss Pickard



Bly Twomey

It was a full house at the venue every day and in the second week Brighton Table Tennis Club were out in force to support their club mates Will Bayley and Bly Twomey as well as the whole GB squad and the very vocal support certainly seemed to lift all the players.



C'mon GB



Allez Les Bleues

Mention must be made of the four coaches in Paris, Head Coach Andrew Rushton along with David McBeath, Matt Kenny and Neil Robinson who was at his 11th Paralympics, seven as a player and four as a coach. They all did a superb job and must be congratulated, along with Performance Director, Gorazd Vecko.



Andrew Rushton with Will Bayley



Mat Kenny with Josh Stacey



David McBeath with Bly Twomey



Neil Robinson with Megan Shackleton Gorazd Vecko

Apart from the players and coaches there were other presences in Paris, Tom Purcell who was umpiring, Don Parker commentating and Michael Loveder with his camera.



Umpire Tom Purcell



Media Guru Don Parker



Michael Loveder by Alexis Zikria

The final medal tally: two silvers, three bronze.



Silver medallists: Rob Davies and Will Bayley



Bronze medallists: Bly Twomey & Fliss Pickard, Billy Shilton & Paul Karabardak, Bly Twomey

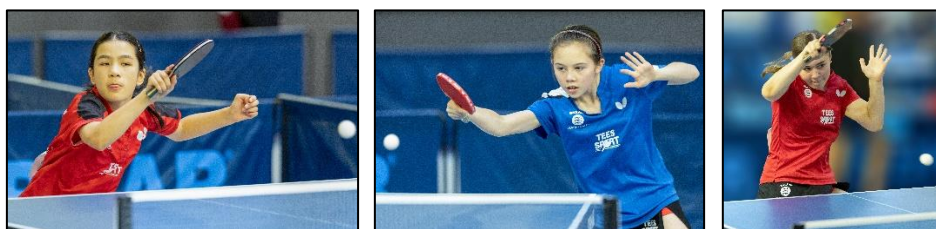
Euro Mini Championships

23rd-25th August 2024: Schiltigheim, France

What has become a fixture in the August calendar, the 18th Euro Mini Championships, took place in its home of Schiltigheim in France and our intrepid photographer, Michael Loveder, was there once again. Youngsters are allocated places for those born on or after 2011 and for England they were Ryan Goodier, Aarav Parihar, Pablo Ramirez Rioja, Violet-Lily Marquis, Alyssa Nguyen and Hannah Saunders. England's entries for those born in or after 2013 were Li Hao Chen, Dimitar Dimitrov and Amber Lemmon. A maximum of ten players per association were allowed and three per event. European youngsters representing their countries were supplemented by a good number of French regional players plus a smattering from Japan.

It is quite a complicated system of play but with plenty of matches for the youngsters. There were three stages of groups in the girls' events and four in the boys. Then 32 went through to the main draw whilst the remaining players take part in the consolation event.

In the 2011 girls' event it was Nguyen who made it through to the main draw and finished 20th. In first place was Mana Shintani of Japan, second was Eva Lam of France and third Siri Benjegard of Sweden. In the consolation event Saunders finished fifth and Marquis 15th.



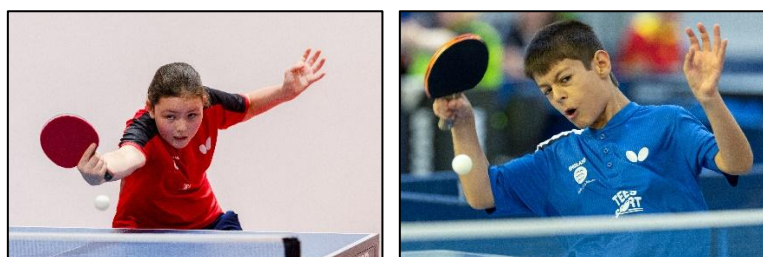
Alyssa Nguyen, Hannah Saunders, Violet-Lily Marquis

No English players qualified for the main draw in the 2011 boys' event. The winner here was David Toro of Romania, second Noah Tessier of France and third Onur Guluzade of Azerbaijan. In the consolation event Rioja finished sixth, Parihar 16th and Goodier 49th.



Pablo Ramirez Rioja, Aarav Parihar, Li Hao Chen, Ryan Goodier

The sole England player in the 2013 girls' event, Amber Lemmon, finished in 26th place in the main draw. Switzerland's Enya Hu finished first, Louise Lounas from France's Ile de France region was runner-up and Romania's Bianca Toma third.



Amber Lemmon and Dimitar Dimitrov

There was one England player in the main draw of the 2013 boys' event, Dimitar Dimitrov, and he finished the highest of any England player at 11. Spaniard Ladimir Mayorov was first, Italian Pietro Campagna second and Ukrainian Mark Voronoi third. It was a ninth-place finish for Chen in the consolation event.

TTE Under 21 National Cup

28th-29th September 2024: BATTS, Harlow

A new competition, the Under 21 Cup was held on 28th-29th September 2024 at BATTS in Harlow with some of England's top Under 21 players battling for the new cup. Disappointingly, not all the top ten players entered the event with Tianer Yu, the current England number one the most notable absentee. Two players not on the ranking list were given places in the form of Sophie Earley and Louis Price.

In the Under 21 Men's event the top seed was Connor Green followed by Toby Ellis at two and Larry Trumpauskas at three. Unfortunately, Oliver Cornish pulled out and Ellis retired at the end of day one leaving just eight competitors. Due to not all top ten players in the men's event competing, Krish Chotai at 14 on the ranking list was able to participate, he was the lowest ranked player.

There was a tie for first place with Connor Green and Ralph Pattison both winning six matches and although Green had a much better games ratio, as Pattison had beaten Green, he ended the two days as champion. Trumpauskas finished in his expected position of third with five wins. Price and Isaac Kingham both won four matches. Price was allocated fourth place and Kingham fifth. Jakub Piwowar won two matches and was sixth, Chotai won one and was seventh and Joseph Dennison without a win was eighth.

In the Under 21 Women there was also one player who was unable to attend on the day, Mabel Shute, leaving nine players to compete. Top seed was Mari Baldwin, followed by Sophie Earley, who had not played in an event in England since the WTT Feeder in Manchester in February 2024. Again, several players in the top ten did not enter and so entrants went down to Bly Twomey at 17 on the ranking list and Mia Lakhani at 18.

It came down to the last match to decide first place as both Baldwin and Earley had won all their matches until then. Earley carried on her form by winning the match between them thus taking the title which left Baldwin in second place. Third was Ella Pashley with six wins, fourth Sienna Jetha with five followed by Rachael Iles fifth with three. Three players ended with two wins, and it was Rebecca Savage who finished sixth, Lakhani seventh, Saskia Key eighth. Twomey was the ninth placed player with one win.

TTE Senior National 4*/Open Tournaments

There has been a slow start to the TTE events taking over from the Grand Prix of previous years. The Cambridge Senior 4* Open 31st August-1st September was cancelled due to insufficient entries and there were no takers to hold the second in the series on 14th and 15th September 2024.

The other dates allocated for these events are 1st-2nd March 2025 (to be confirmed), 3rd-4th May 2025 (Cleveland) and 21st-22nd June 2025 (Nottingham).

The Blackpool Junior 4* has also been cancelled which was due to be held on 21st-22nd September 2024 as has the Senior British League Cup on 31st May-1st June 2025.

What was Happening 70 Years Ago? 1954

- World rankings at the beginning of the year saw Richard Bergmann at 2, Aubrey Simons at 4, Johnny Leach at 6, Rosalind Rowe at 3, Diane Rowe at 5 and Kathy Best at 9. Six in the top ten!
- The Dowager Lady Swaythling OBE accepted the honour to become the ETTA President. She played in the early days in the 1920s, was the mother of Ivor Montagu and donated the Swaythling Cup for the Men's Team Champions at the World Championships.
- The Daily Mirror National Table Tennis Tournament had over 12,000 entries. The finals were played at the Royal Albert Hall on 13th May 1954. It was whittled down to 16 finalists who played for the four titles with exhibition matches by international stars from home and abroad. Scotland's Helen Houliston won both the Women's and Girls' Singles. Eddie Hodson, at only 15, won the Junior Boys' title and David House the Men's. Both Hodson and House went on to gain senior England international caps.
- There was a big debate as to whether or not sponge should be banned and opinions varied. However, the majority of top players were in favour of its use. For the first time sponge players were seeded at a World Championships and for the first time two sponge players were in the final of the Men's Singles. The debate on the use, or not, of sponge led to a resolution at the ITTF Congress to ban it but this was not passed.



The Dowager Lady Swaythling presenting the Swaythling Cup

- The 21st World Championships were held from 6th-14th April 1954 at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley, with 38 Men's Teams and 27 Women's. England were the holders of the Swaythling Cup and their team of Richard Bergmann, Ken Craigie, Johnny Leach, Aubrey Simons and Harry Venner, all over 30, were not able to retain the title, finishing in third place behind Japan and Czechoslovakia. The men lost 2-5 to Japan and 3-5 to Czechoslovakia in a three-way final. Japan beat Czechoslovakia 5-4 to give them the title for the first time.

The England Women's Team of Kathy Best, Ann Haydon, Diane Rowe and Rosalind Rowe also came third. It was another three-way final which started well as the ladies had a superb win against Japan 3-2 after being 2-0 down but then lost to Hungary 1-3. As Japan beat Hungary 3-1 it was a double victory to the Land of the Rising Sun. The Ladies' Team, unlike the men, was a youthful team with Kathy Best the grand dame at 21.



Tage Flisberg and Ichiro Ogimura

The Men's Singles went to 21-year-old Ichiro Ogimura of Japan who beat Sweden's Tage Flisberg in the final, Richard Bergmann was a losing semi-finalist. The Women's title went to Rumanian Angelica Rozeanu who beat Japan's Yashiko Tanaka. Three English ladies, Di and Ros Rowe and Kathy Best, were all losing quarter-finalists in the Women's Singles. In the Men's Doubles the redoubtable Victor Barna with France's Michel

Haguenauer were runners-up to Zarko Dolinar and Vlim Harangozo of Yugoslavia. Barna played in his first World Championships 30 years before and despite smashing his right arm during his playing career, learnt to play with his left and still went on to win world titles, 18 in total. There was another medal for England, a bronze, in the Mixed Doubles for Victor Barna and Rosalind Rowe. Czechoslovak Ivan Andreadis and Hungarian Gizella Farkas were the winners with victory over Japanese Yoshio Tomita and Fujie Eguchi. However, to the delight of the spectators, it was the Rowe twins on their 21st birthday who became Women's Doubles champions for the second time with a win against compatriots Kathy Best and 15-year-old Ann Haydon. An excellent championship for England with medals in every event including the Jubilee Cup when Alec Brook picked up a bronze, with Haguenauer the winner. This event was for those who played in World Championships 21 or more years ago.



Diane and Rosalind Rowe

Not only a top table tennis player, Ann Haydon showed her prowess in lawn tennis when she won Wimbledon's Junior Girls' Singles. She was not the only player to excel in two sports as one of her opponents was Jill Rook who she beat in the semi-finals.



There was a special TT Post Office right next to the tables where 3,124 letters were posted, franked with a special table tennis date stamp, numerous telegrams and overseas mail also went out and there was an 'in' delivery for the players as well. Lloyds Bank too, set up their stall providing financial services within the arena.

The World Championships were considered a great success although they lost £1,991. The cost of putting them on was £15,203 13s 1d.

➤ There was a plethora of international matches during the year, both senior and junior at home and abroad.

Seniors:

Belgium in Antwerp on 14th January, a 9-0 win for Ken Craigie, Bryan Merrett and Harry Venner.

France on 14th January in Bordeaux, a close 5-3 victory for Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach, Aubrey Simons.

Ireland on 21st January in Dublin, a mixed team of Len Adams, Ken Craigie, Bryan Merrett, Harry Venner, Yvonne Baker and Barbara Milbank who were the victors 9-0.

New Zealand on 3rd March in Winchester which resulted in a 10-0 win for England's Ken Craigie, Alan Rhodes, Peter Shead and Harry Venner.

Wales, two days later, on 5th March, England had an 8-1 win in Bradford with a mixed team of Len Adams, Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach, Bryan Merrett, Diane Rowe and Rosalind Rowe.

Scotland on 19th November in London won by England 8-1 with Brian Kennedy, Johnny Leach, Bryan Merrett, Peter Shead, Kathy Best, Ann Haydon.

Wales (women) on 26th November in Bolton won by England 7-2 with Kathy Best, Ann Haydon, Betty Isaacs, Barbara Milbank, Pam Mortimer, Jean Winn.

Germany on 9th December, Winchester, won 5-3 with Derek Burridge, Ken Craigie, Aubrey Simons, Kathy Best, Ann Haydon.

Wales on 10th December, Newport, won 8-1 with Derek Burridge, Ray Hinchliffe, Aubrey Simons, Harry Venner, Kathy Best, Ann Haydon.

➤ **Juniors:**

France in Lille on 14th January, Ray Dorking, Malcolm Maclaren, Ann Haydon, Jill Rook.

Wales on 23rd February.

France on 13th November at Dartford, an England win 8-2 for Derek Backhouse, Terry Densham, Wendy Bates, Joyce Fielder.

Belgium 15th November at Broadstairs won 9-0 by Derek Backhouse, Terry Densham and Laurie Landry.

Germany 16th November at Brentford won 5-3 by England's Derek Backhouse, Terry Densham, Laurie Landry, Joyce Fielder and Florence Wright.

- It was a very close contest in the Wilmott Cup with South London's Ron Crayden, Jackie Head and Harry Venner, defeating Staines players, Bernard Crouch, Jimmy Lowe and Michael Thornhill in a pulsating final that wasn't won until the last point in the fifth game of the last match. Venner was the star of the team winning all his three matches. It was a double triumph for South London as their ladies, Pam Gall, Jill Rook and Jean Winn, had an 8-1 victory over Wandsworth's team of E France, Peggy Piper and Yvonne Seaman. Nearly 600 players represented over 170 leagues in the competition with many top international players taking part.



Wilmott Cup Finalists. Winners South London: Harry Venner, Ron Crayden, Jackie Head

- In the RAF All-England Championships there were 200 stations and 500 players who took part.
- Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann travelled the world in the off-season and covered 45,000 miles before they parted company with Leach returning home and Bergmann going on to the USA where he joined the Harlem Globe Trotters basketball tour to give exhibition matches with American, Dick Miles.
- Jack Carrington wrote an interesting article suggesting the doubles line be abolished as it served no useful purpose.
- Ivor Montagu and Roy Evans, ITTF President and Secretary respectively, were invited to the USSR National Sports Festival in Moscow in July, the USSR having been admitted into the ITTF the previous year. At the time, visits to any country behind the Iron Curtain, and particularly the USSR, were few and far between. One feature which impressed the pair was the use of electronic scoreboards.

- In July, three juniors in the form of Derek Backhouse, Terry Densham and Laurie Landry, accompanied by captain Leo Thompson, played against a combined East and West German team, one from West Germany and a regional team from Bremen. It wasn't the best trip as the England players arrived in Munster for their first match at 7am after a night without sleep and then had to play the same evening. They didn't win. The second match which was meant to be for juniors had one senior German player, another loss but it ended with a win against Bremen.
- Elsie Carrington accompanied the British team of Joyce Fielder of England, Shirley Jones of Wales and Eddie Still of Scotland to the World University Games in Budapest in August.
- 33 Open Tournaments in England were sanctioned for the 1954/55 season.
- Diane and Rosalind Rowe were presented with the ETTA Victor Barna Award by the Dowager Lady Swaythling on BBC's "Sportview" on 18th November 1954. The award is for the most notable performance by an English player. The citation read "*Victor Barna Award for 1953/54. Jointly to the Misses D and R Rowe for advancement of the prestige of English Table Tennis during the season by their skill and conduct in the game at home and abroad, noting particularly:- i) The Australian and New Zealand Tour; ii) Recovery of the World Doubles title; iii) Undefeated in National Women's Doubles competitions; winning in the one season the Austrian, English, French and Welsh titles; iv) In the World Championships comprised the team which defeated Japan, the eventual winners of the Corbillon Cup competition*".
- In the 1953/54 season there were 341 Local Leagues, 8,000 clubs and 170,000 members. Additionally, there were 65 Directly Affiliated Clubs.
- Three England juniors went on tour in Sweden leaving England on 27th November and returning on 11th December 1954. Derek Backhouse, Terry Densham and Eddie Hodson played six regional teams, matches which they won and one international which was a 5-1 loss. The three lads also played in the Swedish Junior Open and Hodson won the Junior Boys' Singles.
- For the first time a coaching qualification was introduced, the first official recognition of coaching ability and standards. Titled the ETTA Basic Coaching Diploma, 18 men and one lady, Elsie Carrington, earnt the award.
- Died: Robert Driscoll ETTA Vice-President (no photo); Lord Charles Lyle ETTA Vice-President and originator of Mr Cube; Charles Mase who first played for England in 1925; Samuel Perry JP, MP, father of Fred Perry.



Lord Lyle, Charles Mase, Samuel Perry

European Youth Top Ten

4th-6th October 2024: Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Poland

Photos courtesy of the ETTU

There were two age categories, Under 15 and Under 19, with 40 of the top young players in Europe vying for the titles. There were no players from England although Abraham Sellado was first reserve in the U15 Boys and Kacper Piwowar was the second reserve in the same event.

Frenchman, Flavien Coton, performed well in the Under 19 Boys' Singles, only losing one match, to become the new champion. His loss was to the second placed German, Andre Bertelsmeier, who lost two. Tiago Abiodun of Portugal was third with three losses. Last time Abiodun had won the Under 15 event so as one of the youngest in this age group looks an exciting prospect for the future.

In the Under 19 Girls, it was Ukrainian, Veronika Matiunina, who held the trophy aloft winning eight of her nine matches. France's Clea de Stoppeleire was second and a second French player, Nina Guo Zheng, was third. Matiunina was ending the year as she had begun after winning the European Under 21 Championships and later gaining two gold and a silver at the European Youth Championships.



Flavien Coton, France



Veronika Matiunina, Ukraine

It was two medals for Italy in the Under 15 Boys' Singles as Danilo Faso took pole position and Francesco Trevisan was third. Sandwiched between them was home player, Samuel Michna. Faso won all his nine matches in a dominant performance. Trevisan and Michna both lost two matches but Michna's 4-2 win against Trevisan gave him the silver medal.

Hanka Kodetova of Czechia was the player who stood on top of the podium in the Under 15 Girls' event. It was down to the last match to decide the title, but Kodetova's win against Koharu Itagaki of Germany proved the deciding factor, up until this point Kodetova had lost one match whilst Itagaki had won all of her previous eight. However, with Kodetova winning that vital ninth match it placed her in first place and left Itagaki in second. Germany's Lisa-Sophie Wang was third.



Danilo Faso, Italy



Hanka Kodetova, Czechia

European Championships
15th-20th October 2024: Linz, Austria
Photos courtesy of the ETTU

The familiar quartet of Paul Drinkhall, Tom Jarvis (WR 206), Liam Pitchford (WR 56) and Sam Walker (WR 281) were originally England's male players for the European Championships in Linz, Austria. However, due to an injury to Drinkhall the opportunity came for Connor Green (WR 407) to make his debut at a major tournament. Tin-Tin Ho (WR 186) was the sole female player to be selected by England.

In the Men's Singles, all except Pitchford, seeded 15, had to play in the initial group stage and it was a successful start for the three men as all moved into the next stage of the competition, a preliminary round. Walker headed his group with three wins whilst Jarvis and Green finished second in their groups with one win and one loss apiece. Green then had to play Benedek Olah of Finland (WR 95) in a Preliminary Round match and although he conducted himself well, he lost a close five game match -9, -4, 9, 9, -8. Jarvis met Ioannis Sgouropoulos of Greece (WR 201) in his Preliminary Round match, and it was another close result. Hampered by his recent ankle injury, by the end of the match Jarvis looked in some discomfort and if he had been fully fit the result could well have been different. As it was, he lost -6, 10, -10, 6, -8. Walker's opponent was Itay Avivi of Israel (no world ranking) and it was a comfortable win for Walker 7, 6, 10. His next opponent in the Main Draw Round of 64 was a different prospect, the defensive Yang Wang of Slovakia (WR 73) and his style proved the undoing of Walker, the score 6, 5, 4, 3. Pitchford too entered the competition at this stage and played against home player Robert Gardos which resulted in a win for the Englishman 7, 9, 7, -3, 7. Next up was the 20 year old Thibault Poret (WR 75), another from the impressive French stable of young players, and it was the Frenchman who got the better of Pitchford with an impressive 9, 10, -10, 7, 9 in the Round of 32.



Connor Green and Tom Jarvis

Ho in the Women's Singles also had to play group matches and she made it into the Qualifying Round with a first-place finish on countback, winning two matches and just missing out on the third when she lost to Sara Tokic of Slovenia -11, 9, -6, 6, -7. Ho's next match was against Shuohan Men of the Netherlands in the Preliminary Round which Ho won 12, 5, 7. Into the Main Draw and an excellent win over seventh seed and World Ranked 44, Poland's Natalia Bajor 7, -4, 7, 9, 9. Another seed in the form of Yuan Wan of Germany (WR 110) in the Round of 32 saw Ho play another terrific match which went to the last game but it was the German who progressed by a score of 6, -3, 7, -4, -8, 3, 8.



Tin-Tin Ho

There was a re-shuffle in the Men's Doubles due to Drinkhall's withdrawal which resulted in Pitchford and Walker playing together in the Main Draw whilst Connor Green was teamed with Isik Hakan of Turkey in the Qualifying Draw and this pair won their first match 6, 4, 9 against Pert Marten Lehtlaan and Madis Moos of Estonia which gave them a place in the Main Draw. In the Round of 32 they lost to top players Tomislav Pucar of Croatia and Darko Jorgic of Slovenia 5, 4, 8. Pitchford and Walker also went out in the Round of 32 to Konstantinos Angelakis of Greece and Yang Wang of Slovakia in a close match losing -7, 7, 10, -7, -8. Jarvis did not play any doubles as he was coming back from injury.

The Women's Doubles saw Ho in the Qualifying Draw partnered with Debora Vivarelli of Italy. They had a first-round bye and won their round two match against Maja Hansen and Jocefin Haagenzen of Denmark 7, 6, -10, 2 which put them through to the Main Draw. Here they fell to 12th seeds Izabela Lupulesku and Sabina Surjan of Serbia by 7, 7, 5.

The long-standing and successful partnership of Walker and Ho in the Mixed Doubles had a first-round bye in the Qualifying Draw and then had Vladislav Ursu and Alexandra Chiriacova of Moldova as their opponents in their first match. They, therefore, progressed to the Main Draw where they met Samuel Arpas and Barbora Balazova of Slovakia, the ninth seeds. A tough match and the England pair were not able to effect the win going down -10, 9, 5, 3. The first match for Pitchford who played with Anna Hursey of Wales, seeded 16, was a Main Draw Round of 32 match against Matteo Mutti and Debora Vivarelli of Italy. The win, 9, -5, 10, 7, secured them a Round of 16 draw against sixth seeds Eduard Ionescu and Elizabeta Samara of Rumania and another win, a close one, -8, 5, -11, 6, 5, saw them move into the quarter-final stage. Here, they met the German pair of Patrick Franziska and Annett Kaufmann but it wasn't a successful result for the British pairing this time as they went down 11, 8, 10.



Sam Walker & Tin-Tin Ho



Anna Hursey, Wales, and Liam Pitchford

There was some outstanding play and several surprise results with a number of young players making their mark. Two young girls aged 14 years and 16 years from France, Leana Hochart and Nina Guo Zeng beat the fourth seeds from Romania, Elizabeta Samara and Andreea Dragoman, in the Round of 16, a superb result for the two young ladies. In the Men's Singles Benedikt Duda of Germany had a tremendous win over top seed Felix Lebrun in the Quarter-finals whilst Felix's brother, Alexis, beat another German and the reigning champion, Dang Qiu, at the same stage. It must have been frustrating for Duda to see his scores negated due to Felix Lebrun getting a red card after the match had finished for kicking the LED barriers and the result shown as disqualification after he had won the match on merit. The other two semi-finalists were Dimitrij Ovtcharov who beat fellow German Patrick Franziska and Truls Moregard who had a win over compatriot, Anton Kallberg. The scene was set for two outstanding Semi-finals and the all-German affair



Leana Hochart & Nina Guo Zeng

between Duda and Ovtcharov certainly lived up to expectations and it was Duda, the lower ranked player, who moved on to the final. The other semi-final between Alexis Lebrun and Moregard turned out to be a master class by Lebrun leaving Moregard stunned with his rapid exit 10, 5, 5, 6. Keeping up his form in the final which was over in the blink of an eye with Alexis Lebrun decimating Duda 5, 8, 6, 2.



Men's Singles Medallists and Female Singles Medallists

The Women's Singles at the latter stages went more according to plan and it was the top two seeds, and doubles partners, Sofia Polcanova and Bernadette Szocs of Romania, who vied for the title. Much to the delight of the Austrian crowd it was their player, Polcanova, who successfully defended her title against the number one seed, 8, -11, 10, 6, 9. Polcanova had beaten Nina Mittelham of Germany seeded four, in the semi-finals and Szocs had the win against Spain's Maria Xiao who played well above expectations, ranked 18.

It was double gold for Alexis Lebrun who with his brother, Felix, had a fairly untroubled run to the final in the Men's Doubles which they won in a straightforward 2, 6, 8 victory over Anton Kallberg and Truls Moregard. The losing semi-finalists were the Austrian/Moldovan pairing of Maciej Kolodziejczyk and Vladislav Ursu, ranked 37, and having come through the Qualification Draw and Mattias Falck and Kristian Karlsson who lost to their Swedish opponents.



Women's Doubles Medallists and Men's Doubles Medallists

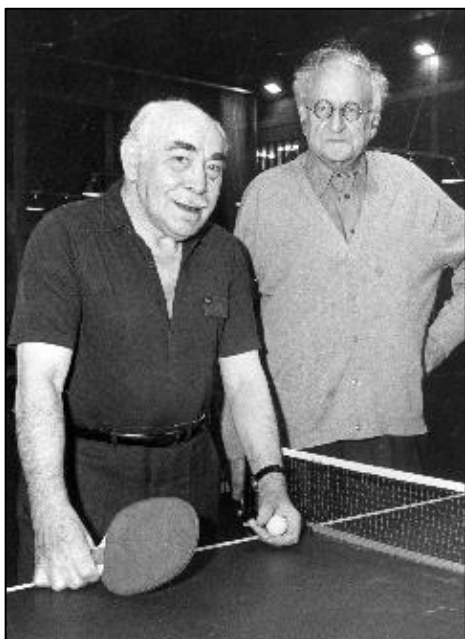
In the Women's Doubles it was second seeds, Barbora Balazova of Slovakia and Hana Matelova of Czechia, who defeated Polcanova and Szocs in an entertaining final 7, -7, 9, -7, 6. Bronze medallists were 12th seeds Izabela Lupulesku and Sabina Surjan of Serbia and third seeds, Natalia Bajor of Poland, and Tatiana Kukulkova of Slovakia, both matches going the distance.

The Mixed Doubles was a title for Alvaro Robles and Maria Xiao of Spain who won the final 8, 9, 10 against Robert Gardos and Polcanova of Austria, giving Polcanova three medals from the Championships. Bronze went to Simon Gauzy and Prithika Pavade of France and Patrick Franziska and Annett Kaufmann of Germany.

Spotlight on Veterans English Table Tennis Society (VETTS)

It was on 15th January 1984 at 2.30pm that a meeting was held at the Crest Hotel in Coventry, called by Mike Watts, to consider setting up an association for veteran players. The catalyst had been the “unofficial” World Veteran Championships in Gothenburg in 1982 followed by a paper written by Watts entitled the “Veterans Scene” in September 1983. Over 150 players responded and so this meeting was set up. It was unanimously agreed by the 35 people present that the answer to the question “Do we want to form a Veterans Association?” was an emphatic “Yes”.

Watts was duly appointed the Chairman to conduct the meeting, with some amendments, a previously circulated list of aims and objectives was agreed. The main thrust was “To form an Association for all veteran players of all standards with the object of promoting friendship and competition amongst players throughout the country”. The formal meeting to elect officers and committee members and a constitution was held later in June 1984. Here Maurice Goldstein OBE was elected as President, Derek Schofield as Chairman, Mike Watts as Secretary, Bill Moran as Treasurer and Gerry Batt-Rawden the Public Relations Officer. Additionally, three regional representatives were elected – Brian Allison for the Midlands, Peter D’Arcy for the Northern area and Doreen Stannard for the Southern area. Fees were set at £10pa with a reduced amount of £5pa for OAPs. 130 joined the Society in that first year.



Maurice Goldstein and Ivor Montagu at the 1st VETTS National Championships in 1984

The first VETTS National Championships were held in Watford 26th-27th May 1984 with one of the 97 participants being Ivor Montagu, the founder of the ETTA and the ITTF. He was partnered in the Over 60 Men’s Doubles by ETTA President Maurice Goldstein, unfortunately they went out in the first round. 70 men and 27 women played in that first National Championships and Goldstein presented two perpetual trophies, the Ivor Montagu Trophy for the winner of the Over 40 Men’s Singles and the Bill Vint Trophy for the Over 40 Women’s Singles. It was double delight for the Schofield household as husband and wife, Derek and Doreen, took home the two trophies with David Seaholme and Margaret Dignum the two runners-up. In all there were 11 events in the Over 40, Over 50, Over 60 and Over 70 age groups. In the evening there was a buffet supper which was attended by over 80. An excellent weekend for all who were there.

In June the first AGM was held and the following year three regional tournaments as well as the National Championships were in the calendar. Later this was expanded to six regional events.

However, VETTS wasn’t just about playing, there was a strong social element too, with dinner dances a common feature; there is also a 200 Club with cash prizes and regular raffles. VETTS had its distinctive logo emblazoned on specially produced kit which has been seen at numerous tournaments around the world making the VETTS players easy to identify. Many friendships have been formed and not just in England.

Recognition has been made to those who have contributed to VETTS as a player, administrator or volunteer with the Mike Watts Memorial Trophy, the Alan Ransome Players’ Player of the Year as well as a list of Honorary Life Members and Vice- Presidents.



VETTS socialising

Since those early days, the VETTS has continued to grow, and its membership has expanded enormously. The regional and National Championships in England are very competitive and they also give players and others the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. There are regular participants from all corners of the British Isles as well as from overseas with Swedish players in particular making regular journeys to England's shores. All are welcome to join VETTS no matter where they live or what nationality they are with the only criteria being 40 or over.

As the VETTS game grew in England it correspondingly did around the world. That first "unofficial" Veteran World Championships in Gothenburg in 1982 soon got the ITTF's blessing and these Championships are now held every two years. There were 26 English players in Gothenburg and two gold, two silver and five bronze medals was the haul from those players. The Swaythling Club International organised the majority of the World Veteran Championships with Hans Westling the brainchild behind its success. Latterly, the ITTF has taken over the organisation which has continued to grow with over 6,000 competitors in Rome last summer for the 20th Championships. Perhaps the highlight was when England hosted the Veteran World Championships in 1998 in Manchester at the G-Mex Centre where there were 80 tables in one hall and 1,364 players from 52 countries. John Jermyn was the referee and Technical Director assisted by two English referees, Mick Strode and Phil Gower plus three from other countries. The Executive Committee included the cream of English organisers and officials with Alan Ransome as Chairman. Mike Watts was the Championships Director, Mike Johns the Operations Director, Harvey Webb as Venue Director, Karen Tonge the Hospitality Director, Brian Halliday the Communications Director, Peter Bradley the Accreditation Director, Aubrey Drapkin the Administration Director, Jim Beckley the Media Director, Derek Schofield the Ceremonies Director, Mike Holt the Swaythling Club Director, Tony Chatwin the VIP Director, Barry Granger the Finance Director, Ken Armson the Personnel Director and Richard Yule the Marketing Director. A veritable Who's Who.



1998. G-Mex, Manchester

Some Veteran World Champions



Molly Jones: Manchester 1998



Gold for Alan Cooke: Bremen 2006



Alicante 2016: Gold for Lorestas Trumpauskas (top left on podium) and Betty Bird



The first Veteran European Championships was held in Vienna in 1995 and this too is held every two years, the alternate years to the Veteran World Championships. The venues for both are chosen as much for the interest and culture of the city where they are held as for the competency of the organisation in those countries and VETTS players have enjoyed such far flung locations as Brazil, Inner Mongolia, Canada and New Zealand. Many other countries have their own veterans' organisations, Germany having one of the largest with Der Club. English representation is strong at both the World and European Veteran Championships as well as at other ad hoc tournaments around the globe – and there has been significant success at all.

Some Veteran European Medallists



Marjorie Dawson & Di Pearce: Budapest 2019



Paul Giles & Paul Whiting: Rimini 2022



Sanja Clements: 2017 Helsingborg



Carol Judson, Margaret Dignum, Ramesh Bhalla, Sally Bax, Geof Bax

A Home Countries Six Nations tournament has been held for many years to add to the ever-growing number of competitions the more senior table tennis players can play in.



VETTS Six Nations Teams 2002 and 2023



VETTS Committee 2015

VETTS continues to be a thriving Society run by a small band of volunteers which still maintains its initial objectives of competitions for all and to promote friendship. The current Chairman is Susie Venner who took over from Jan Johns at the 2024 AGM and former European Champion, John Hilton, is the President.

To mark the 40th anniversary of VETTS, a dinner was held in January 2024 at Alvaston Hall in Cheshire and a further celebration was

held after last year's VETTS National Championships at Wolverhampton Wanderers home ground at Molineux on 11th May 2024. Both celebrations were thoroughly enjoyed by all who were there, including Margaret Dignum, Audrey Robinson and Sylvia Tyler who were there at the beginning.

Here's to the next 40 years.



Audrey Robinson, Margaret Dignum, Sylvia Tyler

Kevin Caldon Tournament

By Susie Venner, VETTS Chairman

Forty table tennis friends enjoyed a wonderful weekend of competition and camaraderie at Kevin Caldon's invitational charity table tennis event at BATTS in Harlow on 25th August 2024.

Now in its third year, Kevin, his family and friends hosted this social weekend and tournament for 40 players including many VETTS members, to raise funds for and awareness of prostate cancer.

Kev made an emotional speech about his own journey of the last four years from the low point of finding out how far the cancer had spread, to the more recent high point of receiving the best news about his recovery - which even surprised the doctors.

He concluded with a message about the importance for men, including all our VETTS members, to have a simple blood test to check their PSA levels - it could save your life.

The event raised more than £1,000, thanks to the generosity of players and the hard work of Kevin, his wife, Carole, his family and the BATTS 'boys', Cliff Carder and Neil Brierley.

At the business end, the main event was won by Costas Papantoniou with Stephen Horsfield as runner-up. In the plate final, Keith Adams beat Samson Bekele.



Can You Help?

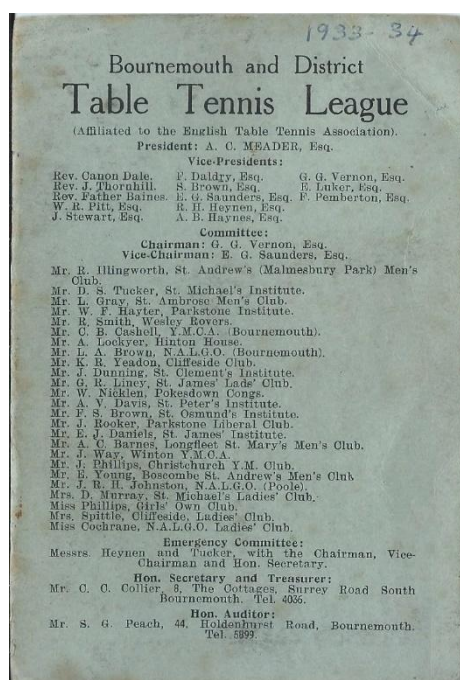
Ray Dorking would like to hear from anyone who was at his millennium reunion in 1999. It was a wonderful gathering of many illustrious players with international players and National Champions amongst them. Many are no longer with us but if you know the whereabouts of anyone who did attend, Ray would love to hear from them and can be contacted at marge.dorking@gmail.com



Ray Dorking, far, right, at the Reunion 1999

Bournemouth and District Table Tennis Association

By Phil Hadley



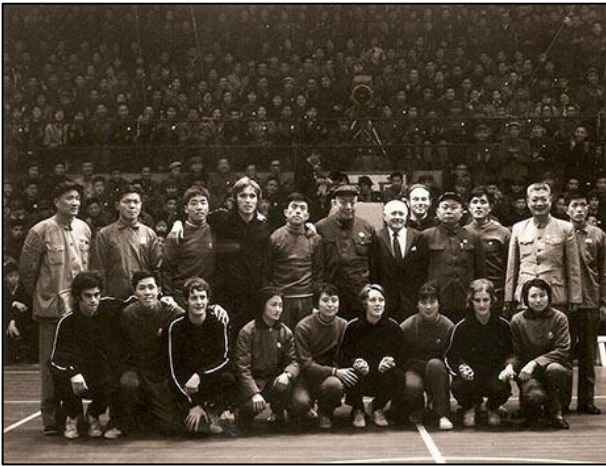
The 2023-24 Season marks 100 years since the Bournemouth & District Table Tennis Association (BDTTA) had its first season. Having scoured archive information, the Association can trace its roots to a group of local hotels in the seaside holiday resort wanting to formalise competitions between each other and organising a local league, only a few years after the start of the National Governing Body. Since then, the Association has played continually, apart from disruptions due to war and of course most recently, Covid restrictions.

The names of many players and clubs have perhaps naturally faded away over time and no longer having the resonance they once did, but we still have the original cup awarded to the winners of Division Two which was introduced in the second season for 1924-1925.

The format of the league has changed over the years. A separate league for ladies and juniors have featured as well as a geographical split of Bournemouth East and West.

Celebrations were held for both the 50th and 75th year anniversaries. Both seem to have been quite formal affairs with toasts and speeches complimenting what was, no doubt, a very fashionable and lavish, dinner. For our centenary season we planned several events which were a memorable experience for all attending. One of those was an exhibition with former internationals, whilst also holding a less formal dining occasion combined with the annual prize-giving presentation, with the expectation of attracting many former players who have hung up their bats for various reasons. In looking at the programmes for the previous dinners, there are names that until recently were still highly active. Whilst it is difficult to pick out individuals as they will all have contributed a lot, for people still playing, **David Turner** was well known as a long-standing Chair and Committee member even after he stopped playing, whilst **Harold Feltham** was a stalwart of the association as both player and administrator, having started playing in the area in 1947, only stopping when Covid happened, but still running a Club with six teams and being a non-playing team captain until his death in February of 2023.

In more recent years, BDTTA has been a staging post for international success for several players, **Matt Ware** and **Hannah Hicks** for England, **Chloe Thomas Wu Zhang** for Wales and currently **Sophie Barcsai** for Hungary.



Other international links include **Tony Clayton**, who was a member of the England team invited to China in 1971 as part of the “ping pong diplomacy” tour that helped open relations with the West and has only recently put down his bat (Tony is third from left kneeling in the front row in the picture left).

One of his long-standing team-mates in the league is ex-England, non-playing captain and author of “The Science of Table Tennis”, **Brian Burn**, who still plays in our Premier Division.

Diversity is very much at the heart of BDTTA, with young and old playing against players from 25 different countries.

Our current roster of players is headed, in terms of age-experience, by “super vet” **Brian Bickell**. At 87 he shows no sign of slowing down. A few seasons ago, he managed the impressive feat of winning individual singles titles in the Association's annual tournaments for the over-40's, -50's, -60's and -70's age groups, with all four finals being held on the same evening.

Shaun Newcombe was for a long time our sole wheelchair player who has been playing since 2000 and more recently, he was (unfortunately) joined by **Simon Heaps** who is rapidly rising through the ranks of international para table tennis. Simon's story is also inspiring in that he had suffered from type1 diabetes throughout his life but it did not stop him representing England at various levels and becoming the 1970 Cadet European champion. After an absence of nearly three decades, he returned to the sport in 2016, winning National Veteran titles before unfortunately losing both legs due to the diabetes.

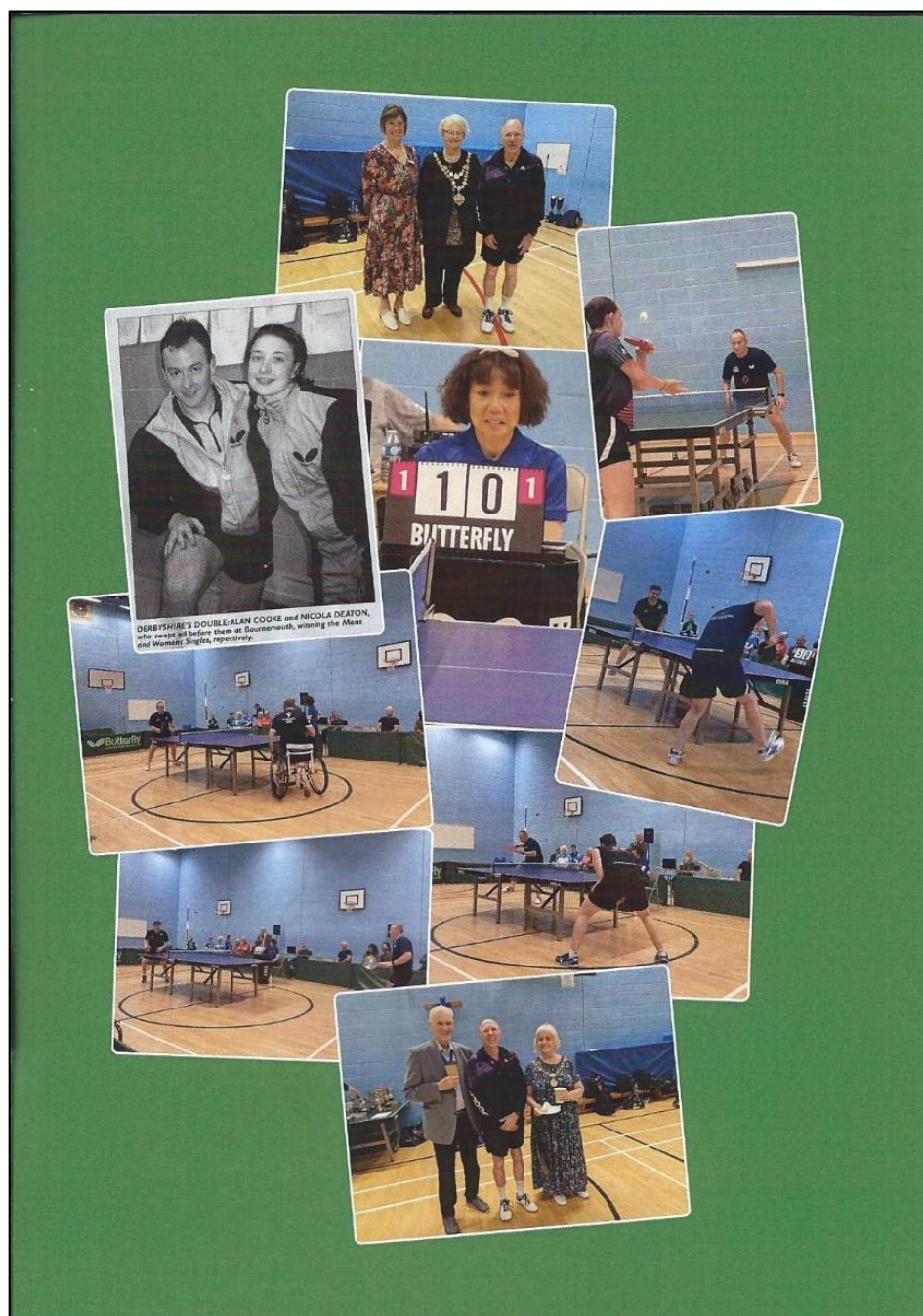
The pictures below show Simon winning the Slough Open Under 15 Boys Singles in 1968 as well as Tony Clayton winning the Under 17 Singles at the same event, with a more recent picture of Simon now in his wheelchair.



Alastair Feltham, along with twin brother **Duncan** (sons of Harold), participated in several Special Olympic World Games, winning silver medals at Singles and Doubles in 2003 and playing each other in the final of the European event in 2014.

Whilst the number of clubs and teams has dwindled somewhat over the decades and the number of divisions changes as different ideas are employed to keep the competitiveness going, the passion to play is as strong as ever.

Our centenary celebrations included a “Play the Pro “and exhibition match hosted by Matt Ware, Alan Cooke and Nicola Deaton. It was attended by Mayor and Vice Mayor of Bournemouth and Christchurch and local MP Tobias Elwood.



Here's to the next 100 years when someone may find this article and reflect on what the local players in the 22nd century have to thank for the platform and history of those that have been before them (and see if that old cup has gained an even bigger base and list of worthy winners !).

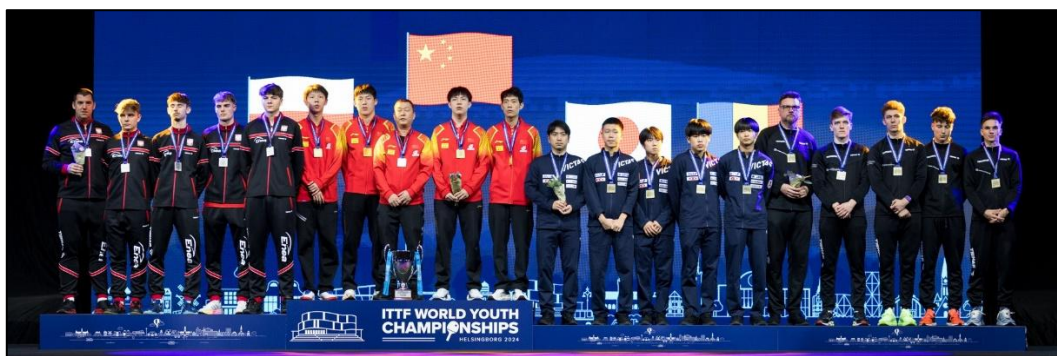
ITTF World Youth Championships

22nd-29th November 2024: Helsingborg, Sweden

Photos courtesy of the ITTF

Two age categories competed for the titles in the Under 19 and Under 15 events in Helsingborg in team, singles, and three doubles. There were 12 mixed teams of up to four players with five continental teams, the host team plus six according to world ranking. Similarly, the singles were made up of 32 players, two from each continent, two from the host country and 20 according to the world ranking list. Male and female doubles entries were for 16 pairs taken from those who participated in the singles events and the Mixed Doubles was for 32 pairings. All 14 events were on a knockout basis. No English players qualified to take part. It was a tournament dominated by Asian players, particularly China, with a smattering of success for Europe, Africa and South America.

Under 19 Boys' Team: The title went to China with Poland creditable silver medallists having beaten Japan in their semi-final. Romania were the other bronze medallists.



Under 19 Boys Team Medallists

Under 19 Girls' Team: A win for Korea Republic over Chinese Taipei in the final with China and France the losing semi-finalists.



Under 19 Girls Team Medallists

Under 15 Boys' Team: A double for China in the Boys' team events with Poland again the runners-up. Italy and Chinese Taipei took the bronze.

Under 15 Girls' Team: A further gold for China, this time it was victory over Chinese Taipei in the final. Hong Kong, China and Germany were the losing semi-finalists.

Under 19 Boys' Singles: China v China in the final with the win going to Huang Youzheng, Wen Ruibo was the runner-up with Yuhi Sakai of Japan and Leonardo Iizuka of Brazil the bronze medallists.

Under 19 Girls' Singles: Victory for Europe as Germany's Annett Kaufmann had an excellent win over China's Zong Geman for the gold. Bronze medals went to Hana Goda of Egypt and Mia Griesel of Germany.

Under 15 Boys' Singles: Another all-China final with a win for Li Hechen over Tang Yiren to take the gold. Bronze to Benyamin Faraji of Iran and Lee Seungsoo of Korea Republic the bronze medallists.

Under 15 Girls' Singles: China again took the gold with Yao Ruixuan defeating compatriot Hu Yi. Germany's Koharu Itagaki and Chinese Taipei's Chen Min-Hsin were the losing semi-finalists.



Singles Champions

Under 19 Boys' Doubles: China continued to dominate the Under 19 Boys' events as they became champions in this event with Wen Ruibo and Huang Youzheng. Kim Gaon of Korea Republic teamed up with Japan's Kazuki Yoshiyama to become silver medallists. Europe got on the podium as bronze went to Flavien Coton and Nathan Lam of France and Tiago Abiodun of Portugal and South American Leonardo Iizuka of Brazil for his second medal.

Under 19 Girls' Doubles: China to the fore with Zong Geman and Qin Yuxuan overcoming Japan's Rin Mende and Mao Takamori in the final. Annett Kaufmann playing with Wales' Anna Hursey and Korea Republic Park Gahyeon and Yoo Yerin were the losing semi-finalists.

Under 19 Mixed Doubles: Huang Youzheng and Zong Geman continued with a very successful tournament with another gold beating Oh Junsung and Gahyeon Park of Korea Republic in the final. Japan's Yuhi Sakai and Mao Takamori and Rin Mende with Kazuki Yoshiyama were the bronze medallists.

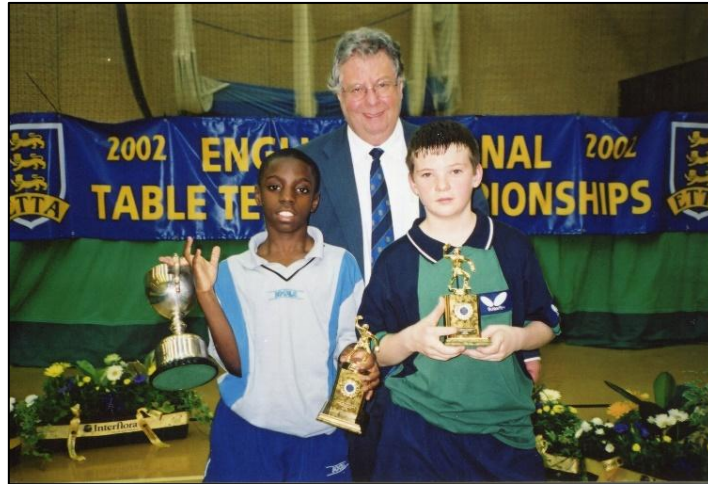
Under 15 Boy's Doubles: China again took the gold with Li Hechen and Tang Yiren, Emanuel Otalvaro of Colombia and Italy's Danilo Faso won silver with France's Noah Vitel and Sandro Cavaille and Korea Republic Lee Seungsoo and Ma Yeongmin the bronze.

Under 15 Girls' Doubles: Still in Asia but this time a win for Korea Republic's Choi Seoyeon and Heo Yerin and Chinese Taipei's Wu Yingsyuan and Chen Min-Hsin the silver. China got a bronze with Hu Yi and Yao Ruixuan, a bronze also went to Portugal's Julia Leal and Poland's Katarzyna Rajkowska.

Under 15 Mixed Doubles: Li Hechen and Yao Ruixuan gained further medals when they won gold in this event with a win over Korea Republic's Lee Seungsoo and Choi Seoyeon. Bronze went to Chinese Taipei players Hung Che-Yen and Chen Min-Hsin, and, France's Noah Vitel and Loy Ming Ying of Singapore.

Paul Drinkhall: 20 Years at the Top

England's most prolific and successful player in recent times has just passed a landmark 20 years since he first donned a senior shirt for his country in a European League match in Barrow-in-Furness on 2nd November 2004. Paul Drinkhall went on the table with the score at 2-2 and won the fifth match to secure the win for England. The fixture against the Netherlands was the start of a remarkable senior career whilst still a cadet. He had already notched up considerable successes at cadet and junior level as well as younger age groups collecting an impressive collection of titles along the way.



2002. Early Days with Darius Knight, trophies presented by Alan Ransome

Rarely out of the top two on the England ranking list and the youngest ever senior number one when only 16 years old, Paul reached a World Senior high of 32, World Under 21 of 6, World Under 18 of 3 and in the 2006/07 season was the only English Junior in the World top 15. Add to that, European junior number 1. Impressive statistics.

Second only to Desmond Douglas with the number of Senior National titles – 26 in all, three Under 21 titles, 11 Junior titles, seven Cadet titles and eight age related titles.



2011. Third National Championships Men's Singles Title

Paul played in 17 World Championships and was a bronze medallist in 2016 in the Men's Team event, he won another bronze in 2018 in the Team World Cup and a bronze in 2008 in the World Junior Championships in the Junior Boys' Team event. There were medals too in the World Junior Circuit Finals.



2016. Delight at the World Championships with Liam Pitchford and Sam Walker
Photo courtesy of the ITTF

Three Olympic Games appearances as well as playing in the 2007 Olympic Youth Festival in Australia where he was the GB flag bearer and won a silver in the Men's Singles and a gold in the Men's Doubles with Darius Knight. It was another gold at the Olympic Test event in Rio in 2015.

On the European stage Paul played in an England shirt at 11 European Championships and numerous European League and European Championships Qualifiers and similar events. At the European Games in 2014/15 he reached the semi-finals of the Men's Singles and was a quarter-finalist in the Men's Team event in 2018/19.

However, it was as a European Junior Paul really excelled winning the Europe Junior Top 10/12 in 2007 and coming third on home soil in 2008. At the European Youth Championships Paul won medals galore – gold in the Junior Boys' Team event in 2006/07, gold in the Junior Boys' Singles in 2007/08, gold in the Junior Boys' Doubles in 2007/08 and silver in 2005/06, gold in the Junior Mixed Doubles in 2006/07 and 2007/08. At Cadet level it was gold in the Cadet Boys' Team event in 2004/05 and silver in 2003/04, gold in the Cadet Boys' Singles in 2004/05, and bronze in 2004/05 in the Cadet Mixed Doubles. In 2007/08 Paul won all his matches in the team and individual matches, undefeated throughout the whole tournament.



2007. A Good Year. European Youth Championships



European Youth Top 12 Champion, Riga
Photo by Harvey Webb

Five Commonwealth Games appearances resulted in three gold (one with wife Jo in 2014), two silver and three bronze medals. He played in numerous other international matches at all levels.



2014. Commonwealth Games Mixed Doubles Champion with wife Jo

Paul achieved many successes at International Open/Pro Tour at all levels from Under 13 to senior, with a particularly impressive win at the China Open in 2008/09 in the Under 21 Men's Singles beating Hung Chieh Chiang of Chinese Taipei in the final. He is the only English player to win two ITTF Pro Tour events, one in Spain and one in Serbia.



*2011. Poster Boy at the English Open, EIS, Sheffield
Photo by Steve Parkin*

Twenty years at the top, now 34 there will be more years to go to create more records and more success. Always a strong team player, Paul showed his strength not only in his play but in his character as well. A supportive teammate who gave of his best for his country and his fellow players.

Many honours and awards have rightly come Paul's way including the recipient of the ETTA Victor Barna Award five times, some held jointly, four times the recipient of the ETTA Johnny Leach Most Improved Player of the Year Award and three times nominated for the BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year Award coming runner-up to footballer Theo Walcott in 2006 and twice placed third, on one occasion behind diver Tom Daley, heady company.

Thank you, Paul for all the pleasure you have given us.

Table Tennis for Cancer Research UK

Greetings to many of our table tennis friends from Karenza and Ken Mathews

We live in the village of Osborne which is just outside Sherborne in Dorset. The village is to stage a twenty-four-hour Table Tennis Marathon in aid of Cancer Research UK.

The fund-raising event will take place at our hotel, The Grange at Osborne, from 11am on Saturday 5th April 2025, ending at 11am the following day.



Play will be led by ourselves. As you may know, Karenza was twice Women's Table Tennis Champion of England and represented England more than two hundred times in many parts of the world. I was Manager of the England Team. We are both Vice-Presidents of Table Tennis England.

Karenza had endometrial cancer but has been fortunate enough to have recovered from it. But we have family and friends who have suffered from other forms of the disease. Many of you will know Diane Pearce. A particularly tragic case was her grandson Thomas who recently died from cancer at the age of nine years. Many of us know of similar stories. We want to do everything we can to help in the fight against this disease.

Our village has come together to try to raise as much money as possible to help Cancer Research UK. Many of Osborne's residents will be taking part in the event. We have emphasised that ability is not important! The main thing is to keep play going for the full twenty-four hours.

Diane Pearce will be here to help out together with Dorset County player Barry Hill. Play will be in one-hour sessions with three or four players taking part in each hour. Tea and coffee will be supplied!

We have a rota for the twenty-four hours. If any players who live in our area would like to take part, we would love to enter your name on the rota. To avoid chaos, we will need to fit players into specified time slots depending on their availability. The hours from 10pm Saturday until 9 am Sunday will be the most difficult ones to fill!

We hope to raise a good amount for Cancer Research UK and ask that all those taking part, or those who would simply like to contribute, to try to get as much support as possible either by sponsorship for the players or by donations.

The address of the hotel is The Grange at Osborne, Osborne, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4LA

If you would like to volunteer for a time slot or would like any other information:

Our telephone number is 01935 671416.

Our email address is: kandkmathews@hotmail.co.uk

The Cancer Research UK Fund Raising page for this event is:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/osborne-table-tennis-marathon>



The QR Code is:

ITTF Mixed Team World Cup
1st-8th December 2024: Chengdu, China
Photos courtesy of the ITTF

Chengdu was again the venue for the second Mixed Team World Cup. 16 teams took part with three or four players per gender. The tournament started with four groups of four teams with all playing all. Stage 2 saw all the winners and runners-up in one large group with all playing all except those who had previously played against each other when the result was carried forward. The third and final stage saw the top four teams from Stage 2 play semi-final knock-out matches leading to the final between the two winning semi-finalists and leaving the losing semi-finalists to fight for third and fourth places. Each match was played to a result starting with Mixed Doubles, followed by Women's Singles, Men's Singles and two gender specific doubles if necessary. Teams participating were from qualification and ranking with at least one team from each continent. It was interesting to note that several countries did not put out their strongest team.

As might be expected, top seeds China finished in pole position in Stage 1, as did Japan, Korea Republic and France. The four second placed teams were USA, Germany, Romania and Hong Kong, China. Moving on to Stage 2, it was again China who finished top of the group, followed by Korea Republic, Hong Kong, China, Romania, Japan, Germany, France and USA.

The knock-out phase saw China versus Romania and Hong Kong, China against Korea Republic with wins for China and Korea Republic, and a further win for China in the final gave them the trophy for the second time. The third and fourth place match went in favour of Hong Kong, China.

One innovation in the tournament was the re-introduction of a Table Tennis Review system (TTR), trialled in 2019. It will be used again at the 2025 World Championships.



Medallists

The ITTF Foundation and Swaythling Club International (SCI) Support

The ITTF Foundation was formed in 2018 and has numerous projects “to promote inclusivity, health, education and peace worldwide”. Amongst other activities they promote World Table Tennis Day, the theme in 2024 was diversity and inclusion, the TT4Health Festival which in 2024 was held in Maizieres-les-Metz, TT Dream Building which supported projects, amongst others, in Somalia, Malawi, India, Bulgaria and Palestine.

The second World Table Tennis for Health Festival which included the World Parkinson’s Table Tennis Championships and the World Alzheimer’s Table Tennis Championships was held from 23rd-27th October 2024 in Maizieres-les-Metz, France. The World Table Tennis for Health Congress was also held during the championships. 156 players took part from 25 countries from all around the world and again it was a very successful and enjoyable tournament.



*The Joy of Winning No Matter What the Competition
Photos by Michael Loveder*

One of the aims of the SCI in more recent years has been to support the ITTF Foundation in its aims. With this in mind, two players with Parkinson’s disease were entered in the World Masters Championships in Rome in the summer of 2024, paid for by the Foundation with a contribution to their travel and accommodation by the SCI. An online fundraising campaign by the ITTF Foundation and donations covered the rest of their expenses and DHS provided their kit. How were the two players chosen? In 2023 the World Parkinson’s Championships were held in Crete and all who played were entered in a raffle for the two places in Rome – one male and one female. The ITTF Foundation wanted to give all players the opportunity and not just select the champions. So, their names were drawn out of a hat!



*Agnes Jan and Stephen Morley
Photo by Diane Webb*

The two players were Agnes Jan from Austria and Stephen Morley who has lived in Ayrshire, Scotland for a number of years but is originally from Hull. Agnes started playing two years ago and formed a club for Parkinson players, originally named Ping Pong X but later renamed Parkinsons TTC. When Stephen was diagnosed with Parkinson’s he searched Google to see what may help and as a result found that playing table tennis was beneficial. So, he found a club near where he lived that had Parkinson’s sessions. He had played table tennis previously but not for 40 years. Once he had started playing again, he caught the TT bug and as well as the Parkinson sessions also played in general sessions and now plays five times a week at two clubs.

Both Agnes and Stephen were enormously grateful to all who supported them, playing table tennis has benefitted them socially and improved their physical health. It meant a lot to them both to be in Rome. A wonderful initiative.

TTE Junior 4* Opens

Cleveland: 26th-27th October 2024

Photos courtesy of Ormesby TTC, Alan Ransome making the presentations

10 singles events - Junior (U19), U17, Cadet (U15), U13 and U11 in boys and girls in every event.

The Junior titles went to Joseph Hunter who beat Adam Dennison in the boys' final and Tianer Yu was successful against Bethany Ellis in the girls. Oliver Chu of France was victorious against Joe Mulhern of Scotland in the U17 Boys' event and Mia Longman beat Brooke Morris in the corresponding Girls' competition.



Joseph Hunter and Adam Dennison



Tianer Yu and Bethany Ellis

Cadet titles went to Kai Lun Chow and Hannah Saunders who overcame Aarav Parihar and Kiishi Adekola of Scotland in their respective finals. It was a double for Saunders as she was also successful in the Under 13 Girls' Singles, this time beating Amber Lemmon. Meanwhile it was a win for Zihan Lin against Peterborough club mate Lewis Wu in the Under 13 Boys. The youngest age group, Under 11s, went to Lusio Wen and Cindy Xiao who had wins against Jayden Chen and Mindy Gao in their finals.



Kai Lun Chow and Aarav Parihar



Adekola Kiishi and Hannah Saunders

The Junior Boys' team title went to Joseph Hunter and Adama Dennison of Urban and the Junior Girls' to the Dumfries duo of Shannon Brown and Maja Wojcicka. There was no Cadet Girls' event, but Sinan Surensy and Aarav Parihar won the Cadet Boys' event.

Cliffdale Chandlers: 11th-12th November 2024

14 events in this tournament which had junior open events as well as banded events, similarly there were banded events in the cadet age group plus an open event and then two Under 13 singles events. The junior events were won by Adam Dennison and Tianer Yu with runners-up Daniel Jones and Hannah Silcock of Jersey. Cadet titles went to Ryan Holland and Chi Yin Pang with Kai Lun Chow and Hannah Saunders in runners-up positions.

Cippenham: 30th November-1st December 2024

Photos courtesy of Cippenham TTC

Another variation in format with junior and cadet singles only. The Cadet Girls' Singles was won by second seed Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska who beat Alyssa Nguyen, the number one seed, in the final. The Cadet Boys' Singles title went to Adam Alibhai who was victorious against the eighth seed Theo Kniep.



Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska



Adam Alibhai

The Junior Girls' Singles final was a battle between the top two seeds, both from Grantham College, and it was Hannah Silcock from Jersey who prevailed over Ella Pashley. The Junior Boys' Singles saw two unexpected finalists as unseeded Harrison Hill won the event; fifteenth seed Dimitar Dimitrov was on the receiving end in the final.



Hannah Silcock



Harrison Hill

News and Governance

Table Tennis England (TTE)

Congratulations to Nico Caltabiano who has earned ITTF Gold Badge status, one of only 23 umpires around the world to do so. Nico, now based in Switzerland, had to be a Blue Badge umpire for two years, pass the ITTF Advanced Rules Exam again and have three assessments in the last two years with at least an 85% pass rate. Well deserved.

Well done to Max Radiven who in recent months has won three WTT Youth Contender titles. Two in the Under 15 category – Boys' Singles and Mixed Doubles with Khulan Khurelotgon of Mongolia - at the WTT Youth Contender in Kosovo and previously the Under 15 Boys' Singles in Georgia. Connor Green was on the podium at the WTT Youth Contender in Tunis in January 2025 as runner-up in the Under 19 Boys' Singles, an excellent result.

England are to host another WTT Feeder event in Manchester from 24th-27th April 2025 and a WTT Star Contender at the Copper Box in London from 20th-26th October 2025.

Organisations in Good Standing are no more. At one time there were around 40 who came under this banner but it went down to two. British Railways Staff Association, National Association of Boys' Clubs, Police Athletic Association, Stedfast Magazine (Boys' Brigade), The Civil Service Table Tennis Association, The Horological Sports Association, The Royal Air Force Table Tennis Association are some of the names from the past. With changes in staff and Board/committees the understanding and value of the status had become lost. Indeed, it was said "it became apparent that there were no clear criteria to what an organisation 'In Good Standing', or indeed, what it actually meant!" The two remaining organisations, VETTS and BUCS, were offered the opportunity to become affiliated to TTE with Memorandums of Understanding. VETTS decided not to affiliate as it compromised their constitution. It was a special and a mutually supportive relationship between the various Associations and the ETТА/TTE, it is a great pity they have been lost rather than nurtured.

Michael Loveder has been appointed as the official TTE photographer for the 2024/25 season and will be at most of the major events where he will be the only photographer allowed to take pictures, although parents will still be able to take images with their phones for personal use only. TTE wish to "extend the reach and visibility of the sport and create more commercial opportunities" which rather seems at odds with reducing the number of photographers allowed. As we know, Loveder takes excellent photos, however, in recent years there have been several different photographers who have attended events, particularly the National Championships. They all have their own style giving a variety of different images and a huge choice. Anyone wishing to have a copy of one of Loveder's photos will have to pay TTE to do so, details are on the TTE website.

CEO Adrian Christy left on 12th December 2024; he announced that he would be leaving back in May 2024. Sally Lockyer, who had been the CEO of Surrey FA, is his replacement. She has made her mark already, creating two new senior posts, Head of Governance and People Manager.

The Chairman of TTE, Nick Donald, announced that he will be standing down from his position by mid-March 2025 to become Chairman of Paddle UK where he has been a Board Member since 2022. He originally took up his post with TTE in October 2023 for a four-year term. There were a number of

propositions at the 2024 AGM which were passed partly due to members' confidence in Donald and his commitment to TTE at the time, so it's very disappointing he is not going to see his term out. The post has been advertised on the TTE website.

The Maurice Goldstein Merit Award which has been in existence for over 40 years, named after the former ETTA President, is now to come under the umbrella of Pride of Table Tennis Awards and so will no longer exist in its present form.

The TTE AGM is to be held on either 19th or 26th July 2025. The final decision to be advised.

In the King's New Year honours, 69-year-old Colin Woodford from Grimsby received the British Empire Medal for services to Disabled People. Woodford founded the North East Lincolnshire Disability Sports Forum over 25 years ago, he won two world table tennis titles in 1997 and 2005, and still plays and coaches as well as being the Chairman of the Forum. Adrian Christy was awarded the MBE for services to table tennis, perhaps a little surprising as he had been in his post for less than three years when he left.

UK Sport has awarded GB Table Tennis funding of £1,375,000 to prepare for the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028, an increase of 2%. TTE administered British Para Table Tennis has been awarded £4,175,000 which is nearly a 10% increase.

The extensive Competition Review which has been in place for a while has been revisited following feedback. Recommendations around Tiered Open Tournaments have been amended and will now be far more flexible removing the periodisation principle. The concept of Local and Regional Tournaments will no longer be relevant and tournament regulations have been reduced in their requirements.

ETTU

At the ETTU Congress held during the European Championships in Linz, Austria, in October 2024, at last Pedro Moura was elected as the President rather than the Acting President role he has held for a number of years. The Russian, Igor Levitin, had been appointed but not allowed to hold the post. Sandra Deaton was returned unopposed as Vice-Chairman Finance. Elected as one of the ETTU Members of the ITTF Council, subject to ratification at the ITTF AGM in 2025 was Richard Scruton, as was Scotland's Phil McCallum. Scruton was also honoured by the ETTU who granted him an Honorary Membership.



Richard Scruton with ETTU President Pedro Moura

Two major changes were approved at the Congress, one was to increase the Europe Top 16 to 20 players and play the best of five instead of seven. The other, was to use the ETTU ranking lists for all ETTU competitions rather than the world ranking list.

Commonwealth Table Tennis

For those who have been following the saga surrounding the next Commonwealth Games they will know that the 2026 Games which were originally to be held in Australia were aborted. Eventually, Glasgow picked up the baton and agreed to hold the Games but with a reduced number of sports. The Games will run from 23rd July to 2nd August 2026. Table tennis which was the scene of much rejoicing for England in 2014 is not included.

As disappointing as this is, it must be borne in mind that there has been no movement on a Commonwealth Championships since Vivek Kohli took over the reins of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation in 2019.



*A full house for England in Mixed Doubles 2014
Silver – Tin-Tin Ho & Liam Pitchford,
Gold -Jo Drinkhall & Paul Drinkhall,
Bronze – Kelly Sibley & Danny Reed*

England Opportunities

There are so few opportunities now for England players to represent their country with many international tournaments taking place less frequently, or not at all. For example, the Home Countries International tournament is now only every two years, England withdrew from the Six Nations a few years ago and as mentioned above, the Commonwealth Championships have not been held since 2019. No Commonwealth Games next time for table tennis players and there are fewer European qualifying matches than there used to be and a long time since any one-off international matches.

World Championships, European Championships, the occasional European Qualifier and the once every two-year Home Countries International are all that are left. This does not give our youngsters and up and coming players much opportunity to gain experience at senior international level or to represent their country as a senior.

In the last ten years on four occasions, 2015, 2017, 2022 or 2024, there have been no England women at the World Championships and none at the European Championships in 2015 and 2019. Tin-Tin Ho has often been our only representative. Apart from Connor Green at this season's European Championships, and that was only due to injury, the male line up has remained more or less static for the last six years. With only a small handful of senior England players entering WTT events, playing at any international event is minimal. With the aim of medals at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028 it is worrying there are so few opportunities to play on the world stage and gain the experience at being at a major event.

National Championships Qualifying Tournament

4th-5th January 2025: Nottingham

There were 128 men and 38 women who entered the qualifying tournament in Nottingham on 4th and 5th January 2025. On the first day, the tournament started with 16 men's groups and five women's groups with the top two from each of the men's groups going through to the next round and the top six from the women's event plus the seventh player from groups 4 and 5. Stage 2 on Sunday saw play-off matches to decide which 14 would be invited to the main National Championships. The full complement of 32 were made up from the top 16 from the ranking list plus two wild cards. Any places not taken up are then to be offered to those from the Qualifying Tournament from places 15 downwards.

Day 2 and the first round was critical. 14 of the 16 winners in this round were guaranteed a place in the National Championships so a tough draw can make the difference between getting that all important invitation and not making the cut.

In the Men's Singles it was top seed, Ben Piggott, who finished in pole position winning against Toby Ellis, seeded two in the first and second place play-off match. The other qualifiers were Joseph Hunter, Rohan Dani, Isaac Kingham, Victor Guang Shi, Max Radiven, Robert Pelc, Jakub Piwowar, Abraham Sellado, Adam Dennison, Nahom Asgedom, Krish Chotai and Bryan Kwan. Below them were Joseph Dennison, Joseph Langham-Ferreira, Gabriel Achampong and Maxim Stevens. Some familiar names but also some new ones. The two wild card places have been given to Leo Nguyen and Kacper Piwowar who finished 24th and 26th respectively but who had good wins over much higher ranked players in the form of James Hamblett and Lorestas Trumpauskas in the group stage.

Second seed, Rebecca Savage, won the Women's Singles with victory over Sophie Ackred in the first/second play-off match. The remaining 12 qualifiers were Holly Holder, Mya Sultan, Alyssa Nguyen, Luna Archard, Maliha Baig, Millie Noble, Sally Hughes, Mabel Shute (seeded 1), Evie Knaapen, Lauren McIndoe, Darcie Proud and Anna Piercey. Overall, a very young set of players so it will be interesting to see how they fare at the main event.

The event was played over the cold and snowy weekend in January and it was tough on Brooke Morris and Megan Shackleton who were not able to get to Nottingham for the second day and so were placed in 31st and 32nd place. It also gave their two first round opponents a bye into round two and so a very good chance of going through to the National Championships. Places 15-18 went to Kelsey Fordham, Saskia Key, Sarah Horsnell, and Catharine Cody. However, Morris was subsequently given one of the wild card places, a good decision. The other went to Eva Eccles who finished in 19th place.



Winners: Ben Piggott and Rebecca Savage
Photos by Mike Rhodes

National Championships Preview

Nottingham is again hosting the National Championships from 21st-23rd March 2025 but there will be senior events only. The Under 21s now have their own dates and are to be combined with Junior events. There are still no Veteran National Championships or events, the last being in 2015.

As has been the case for the last few years the top 16 from the ranking lists were invited and there was the qualification tournament for 14 more places plus two wild cards.

Those invited, in ranking order, for the Men's Singles are Liam Pitchford*, Paul Drinkhall*, Tom Jarvis*, Sam Walker*, David McBeath*, Chris Doran*, Andrew Baggaley*, Connor Green, Shayan Siraj, Larry Trumpauskas, Josh Bennett*, Ralph Pattison, Sam Mabey, Felix Thomis, Ismaila Akindiya* and Louis Price.

The female players: Tin-Tin Ho*, Tianer Yu, Mollie Patterson*, Jasmin Wong, Mari Baldwin, Sophie Earley, Ella Pashley, Letitia McMullan, Sienna Jetha, Lauren Charles (Spink), Lok Yee Lo, Anna Green, Lois Peake, Rachael Iles and Bethany O'Connell.

Asterisks indicate those who have previously won a senior title.

If any of the invited players do not take up their places, then their place will be offered to the next in line from the qualifying tournament.

A reminder of last year's title holders. Paul Drinkhall took his seventh singles title to put him second on the all-time list behind the great Desmond Douglas with 11. Tin-Tin Ho became a six times singles winner, only one behind the impressive Jill Parker (Hammersley).



Paul Drinkhall by Michael Loveder



Tin-Tin Ho by Mike Rhodes

Paul Drinkhall and Sam Walker gained the Men's Doubles title giving them 14 and two titles respectively and Emily Bolton and Tin-Tin Ho were the Women's Doubles champions, a third title for Bolton and a seventh for Ho. Sam Walker and Tin-Tin Ho were re-united to take another Mixed Doubles title, giving them six and seven titles. Ho has won 20 senior titles altogether, the highest number of any female and only bettered in the male ranks by Desmond Douglas with 30 and Paul Drinkhall with 26.



Paul Drinkhall & Sam Walker and Emily Bolton & Tin-Tin Ho by Michael Loveder Sam Walker & Tin-Tin Ho by Alan Man

In Memoriam



Jean Head (nee Winn)

Former England international Jean Head (nee Winn) passed away peacefully on 2nd September 2024 aged 94 years.

Jean was born on 17th June 1930 in Merton, Surrey and the area was a hotbed of table tennis talent. Jean started playing table tennis in 1947 and rose through the Surrey ranks and by 1952 had become the county number two behind Peggy Piper who also went on to become an international. When she was 20, Jean reached one of the four area finals of the renowned Daily Mirror competition, entries were around 10,000 for four events, only to lose to twice world doubles champion Diane Rowe.

Playing in the South London and Wandsworth Leagues and practicing at the famous Putney Club, Jean's progress went from strength to strength and by 1952 she was England number six and her subsequently she reached number three. When you consider England had several players in the world top ten at the time this was quite some achievement. Some quotes from the time "... we suspect her secret ambition is an England badge and that she will play her heart out to justify it" and her style of play as "attack and attack with a wallop forehand kill that shouldn't come back, but don't be surprised if you see her consolidating her defensive armoury occasionally."

It was either playing matches or practising nearly every night of the week and tournaments at weekends which resulted in winning nearly every Open tournament in the south of England and the Midlands. From Bournemouth to Bucks, Kent to Middlesex, the South of England Open and the Metropolitan Open in singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles. As a result, Jean was selected for her first senior international match on 14th November 1953 in Peterborough against France. The team of Jean, Kathy Best and another player making her debut, Ann Haydon, won the fixture 6-3.

Jean played in two World Championships, in 1954 and 1955. 1954 at Wembley she reached the round of 32 in the Women's Singles and the quarter-finals in the Women's Doubles with Joy Seaman. This was the year the Rowe twins defeated Kathy Best and Ann Haydon in the final, England really were at the top of the tree. The following year in Utrecht, Netherlands, as a member of the Corbillon Cup team along with Di and Ros Rowe and Ann Haydon that Jean reached the pinnacle of her playing days when the quartet came third, earning Jean a World Championships bronze medal. She again reached the quarter-finals in the Women's Doubles, this time with Helen Elliot of Scotland.

Jean played in several English Open championships, second only in status to the World Championships, from 1949-1959 and won two medals in the Women's Doubles. It was a silver with Ann Haydon in 1955 only losing to the fabulous Rowe twins and in November 1953 a bronze with Pam Mortimer.

In September of 1955 she married fellow international, Jackie Head, and they carried on playing competitively until 1958 when they both retired. However, with the advent of the English Closed in 1960 Jean was tempted to return, playing in the England Championships from 1960 to 1965, the latter being her most successful year reaching the semi-finals of the Women's Singles.

The National Team Championships were another source of triumph when Jean won the J M Rose Bowl with the South London League in 1953/54 with Pam Gall and Jill Rook and with the Sutton League in 1966/67 with Pauline Hemmings and Mary Wright.

In the Surrey County Closed, Jean won numerous Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles titles, the latter with her husband, Jackie. She represented her county more than 35 times at

senior level and was part of the winning County Premier Division team in 1955/56 along with Ken Craigie, Tony Miller, Harry Venner, Betty Isaacs, Peggy Piper and Jill Rook.

When Jean and Jackie eventually fully retired, they still kept in touch with their many table tennis friends and were two of many who attended Ray Dorking's millennium reunion which was a star-studded mix of international players, county players, league players, coaches and friends.

Ron Crayden, England and Surrey captain on Jean's retirement: "Love of the game, physical fitness and an inflexible determination to succeed have been the main factors of Jean's distinguished career. Unorthodox by accepted standards she was, nevertheless, an efficient craftsman and the power of her forehand drive exceeded that of many top-class men. At the table her behaviour was exemplary and her appearance commendable. For five years she reigned as the first lady of Surrey table tennis. A fighter to the last gasp and as gracious in defeat as in victory, she was respected by the stars and admired by the rank and file."

From Ray Dorking, former Junior International and English Junior Open Champion: "Jean was a long-haired brunette with a whirlwind forehand attack that took her near the top of the English Ladies ranking list. I found her to be very friendly and a nice person." On meeting up again at his millennium reunion ".... everyone that evening was as friendly as if we had just bumped into each other at one of the many tournaments."

An outstanding player and a gracious lady. Thank you, Jean, for your contribution to English table tennis.

The end of the story does not finish there, as succeeding generations of the Head family have made their contribution to table tennis and so the legacy lives on. Daughter, Sue Hayes, a prominent member of Cippenham Table Tennis Club has represented Surrey, Sussex and Buckinghamshire, is a Level 4 Coach and presently sits on National Council. Grandson, David Hayes, went on to become an Irish international and play in a World Championship himself as well as being taking on the role of "Duty Officer" at Cippenham. Granddaughters, Catherine, Rebecca and Naomi also held this role before moving on to university. In addition, Catherine and Naomi both served as Cippenham's Events Officer, Catherine became an English Cadet Girls' Doubles champion in 2005 and was the TTE Young Volunteer of the Year 2006, Naomi followed in her footsteps ten years later by becoming the Southern Region Young Volunteer.

Condolences go to all Jean's family, her daughter Sue, grandchildren David, Catherine, Rebecca, Naomi and four great-grandchildren, Oliver, Joshua, Sophie and Lucas.



Di Jermyn (Miss Millen/Mrs Winmill)

Di Jermyn passed away on 19th September 2024 in Cornwall where she had lived for a number of years St Austell. Originally from Ealing in Middlesex where she was born on 26th August 1939, Di also had connections with the counties of Hampshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

She came to table tennis a little later than most, not discovering table tennis until she was 30 and in her second year playing became Secretary of her Local League, Gosport and Fareham, and progressed via county administration to national administration in 1997. She was secretary of Hampshire County from 1978 for a number of years, League Representative from 1978-87 and ran the Inter-Town League from 1981-87, also being the Secretary for this competition.

After moving to Hertfordshire, Di was the General Secretary of the North Herts League from 1987-2002 and Cup Secretary from 1996-2002. A further move to Cornwall, with husband John, who was a top referee, proved a great benefit to her new county and Di soon became involved in many aspects of the game. At the St Austell Club, Di was Secretary from 2007 and for the Mid-Cornwall League she was General Secretary for ten years from 2008-18. She was also Cornwall's National Councillor from 2009-2020.

At national level, Di was elevated to a position on the Management Committee of the ETTA when she became Vice-Chairman without Departmental Responsibility for one year from 2003-04. She also held other national positions, Calendar Working Party Secretary 2001-07 and 2010-17, Membership Committee Chairman 2003-04, Tournaments Approval Panel Secretary 2017-20, Tournaments Committee entry form checker 1998-2002 (never an easy job) and Secretary 2002-17 and NURC: Umpires Selection Panel Member 1997-2002. For her commitment and hard work, Di was deservedly made a Vice-President of the ETTA in 2013. She had earlier been given the Maurice Goldstein Merit Award in 1998.

An experienced umpire, Di became a County Umpire in 1979, two years later a National Umpire and in 1984 an International Umpire. She was one of the Umpires Managers at the World Championships in 1997 and the World Veteran Championships in 1998, both in Manchester. She was also a Table Manager at Euro'94 and an umpire at the Commonwealth Games on the Isle of Man in 1985.

An excellent organiser, Di ran the North Herts Banded 2* Open tournaments for many years from 2000 when she qualified as a Level 2 Tournament Organiser and later the Cornwall Banded Satellite GP and a Junior 1* as well as a Satellite Grand Prix in 2008 in memory of husband, John. Di was also a Club Coach.

Although coming to table tennis later in life than most, Di reached a good playing level and represented Hampshire at senior and veteran level, Bedfordshire at veteran level with her first county match in the autumn of 1995, she also played for Cornwall at veteran level.

During her period as Membership Committee Chairman, Di's aim was to see individual affiliation for all players with benefits for all in return, that wish was later fulfilled.

Condolences go to all Di's family.

And Finally:

A small handful of people were aware that this would be the last issue of Table Tennis Times and Ken Mathews has written a lovely tribute with which I would like to sign off, with my appreciation to Ken.

The End of Table Tennis Times

Many tributes have been paid to Harvey Webb who so sadly passed away in November. One of the many roles he played was in helping Diane to prepare each issue of Table Tennis Times. Diane has said that one of Harvey's strengths was in moderating her own articles, particularly those in which she might have been critical about the state of the game in England today!

Without Harvey by her side, she will now have more domestic and family responsibilities that will take up her time. Diane has said that it would not be possible for her to continue Table Tennis Times by herself.

We have all enjoyed reading Table Tennis Times. Each edition has been full of interest and kept us up to date with the game in England today. In fact, it has often gone further by bringing news of table tennis from around the world. The only other source of information we have is that included in the bulletins put out by Table Tennis England. Although informative and factual I wonder whether they might be more appealing if they were to move away from the newscast form and take on a more personalised approach as in a magazine format. With Diane and Harvey at the helm, Table Tennis Times did that so well.

As far as I am aware (mainly due to Graham Frankel's excellent work) the magazine 'Table Tennis' started publication in about 1936. Table Tennis magazines continued almost without a break until the last edition of Table Tennis News which was, I believe, in October 2009. These magazines kept us interested and informed about all levels of the game for over sixty years. There was then a gap until Diane and Harvey circulated the first edition of Table Tennis Times in August 2015.

What will happen now? It may be that, with Table Tennis Times going strong, Table Tennis England could, rightly, see no need for another publication. But with the Times coming to an end, I hope that Table Tennis England will see that there *is* now a need for a magazine, with interesting news and views and articles, to keep table tennis players in England in touch with the game on a personal level.

Diane and Harvey's Table Tennis Times will be a hard act to follow. But Table Tennis England surely have the resources to either publish or perhaps circulate a new magazine for the game.

Meanwhile, after ten years of brilliant work on Table Tennis Times I would personally like to thank Diane for all her hard work and wish her many happy years associated with the different aspects of table tennis in which I am sure she will continue to be involved.

Dates

Domestic Events:

National Championships Qualifier: 4th-5th January 2025

Cadet & U17 National Championships: 8th-9th March 2025

National Championships: 21st-23rd March 2025, Nottingham

U10-U13 National Championships: 12th-13th April 2025

Junior & U21 National Championships: 17th-18th May 2025 (change of date from 10th-11th May 2025)

ELCC Finals: 28th-29th June 2025

Senior National Opens/4*: 1st-2nd March 2025 - tbc, 3rd-4th May 2025 (change of date) - Cleveland, 21st-22nd June 2025 (change from 14th-15th June 2025) - Nottingham

Satellite Grand Prix: 19th-20th April 2025, Jersey – tbc, 24th-25th May 2025, Wrexham

Junior 4* Open: Cambridge 25th-26th January 2025, Plymouth 8th-9th February 2025

International Events:

Europe Top 16 Cup: 20th-23rd February 2025, Montreux, Switzerland

ITTF Men's and Women's World Cup: 14th-20th April 2025, Macao, China

WTT Feeder: 24th-27th April 2025, Manchester

European Under 21 Championships: 7th-11th May 2025, Bratislava, Slovakia

World Championships: 17th-25th May 2025, Doha, Qatar

European Youth Championships: 11th-20th July 2025, Ostrava, Czech Republic

European U13 Championships: 24th-28th September 2025, Kosta

European Youth Top 10: 3rd-5th October 2025, Tours, France

European Championships (Team): 12th-19th October 2025, Zadar, Croatia

WTT Star Contender: 20th-26th October 2025, Copper Box, London

World Youth Championships: 23rd-30th November 2025, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

World Championships: 25th April-10th May 2026, Copper Box and OVO Arena, London

There are also a number of World Table Tennis events

Veterans Events: For the Over 40s:

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

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