

JULY/AUGUST, 1948

Sixpence

TABLE TENNIS



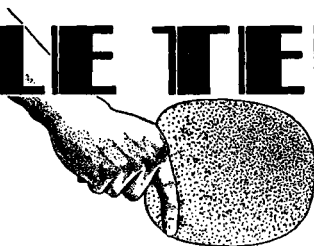
MISS L. R. ("PINKIE")
BARNES

Concentrating for
the Attack

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine
of the
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
69, Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1



Publishers :
VAWSER & WILES
(LONDON), LTD.
Guardian House,
London, E.17

Edited by JACK CARRINGTON

Vol. VI. No. 10

JULY/AUGUST, 1948

From the Editor's Chair

Are the champions of today inferior to those of pre-war? Are our youngsters really so poor? No amount of figures, timing machines, or photo-finishes will ever convince an Englishman who has reached the "Comfortable age" that the stars of his youth are being eclipsed, so that argument will never be settled.

But there will surely be few dissenters when we suggest that the season just ended has seen a notable improvement in the play of the "Middlemen"—the great mass of tournament players who have no hopes of becoming internationals, either senior or junior, but whose ambitions centre around the inter-league or inter-town teams.

Good table tennis may be seen in almost any round of a competition now; internationals can no longer stroll through their matches, but must settle down to tactical winning of points and more than a little honest sweat of the brow.

For this very healthy sign we must thank the increase of tournaments, inter-city and inter-county competitions.

Although these may be the cause of staleness in a few of the top-liners there is no doubt that they are just the right medicine for the average performer.

And so we may fairly say to our Organisers, one and all, thanks

again for a good season—your work really is worth while.

With this issue of *Table Tennis* the second post-war volume is completed. After a short break, the 1948/49 series will begin with our next number, to be published on 7th September.

The paper situation still makes us envy the fellow who can put those quarts into the pint pots; nevertheless we plan to have 10 issues again next season and shall make special efforts to ensure that for each reader there is at least more meat than poison in every copy!

To our contributors, readers, and especially to those League Committees who lend us their official support, our sincere thanks. We shall look forward to your renewed support in September and hope that more and more of the individual members of E.T.T.A. will realise the great satisfaction of having a direct link with their Association and with the larger affairs of the table tennis world, by means of the official journal.

**WHY NOT RESERVE YOUR
COPY FOR NEXT SEASON,
NOW — BEFORE YOU GO ON
HOLIDAY ?**

*5s. 10d. will cover the 10 issues,
post free.*

THE WEMBLEY "OPEN"

by
**BILL
PARKER**

These Made News—

CROUCH, HYAMS and SINGER, BRUMWELL, MACE,
MILBURN

And These Watched the Finals—

!! BERGMANN, BARNA !!

The best match of the Tournament did not take place on Finals Night, for the Draw provided for **Johnny Leach** to meet **Bernard Crouch** before the Semi-Final. Crouch had just beaten **Ron Crayden** and then **Ken Merrett**, and having tasted international blood, he gave a wonderful display against Leach. He won the first game on merit—and that is indeed praise. The second game he lost after a great struggle, but in the third he fell away towards the end. His game is a mixture of hard forehand hitting, top spin, and early-taken, rather unorthodox, backhand—his footwork is of first class speed.

A year ago, in reporting this same tournament, I included **Thornhill** and **Crouch** (then comparatively unknown) among those deserving of credits. To pass off **Crouch's** performance against **Leach** in this year's tournament with a credit would be miserly. If he can maintain that form he is a certain international of the future.

* * *

At least a "credit" goes to **Brian Brumwell** for the manner in which he neutralised **Aubrey Simons'** game. If he had not missed that first deuce set, a 2—0 victory would have been likely. As it was, he faded rather in the 3rd, just as he has done before against **Harrower** and **Leach**. **Brian**, recently demobbed, certainly means one long job of work for his top-class opponents.

* * *

The most surprising result of the earlier rounds was the Men's Doubles defeat of **Victor Barna** (who did not play in the Singles) and junior international **Louis Devereux** of Torquay, by a hitherto unknown pair, **A. Hyams** and **L. Singer** (who, that walking encyclopædia, **Geoff Harrower**, tells me, play for Stamford Hill Old Boys, in the North Middlesex League). **Devereux** is obviously capable, but was, it seemed, nervous, and has much to learn about the Doubles game. However, with a few more open tournaments behind him, he will undoubtedly make considerable progress.

* * *

Women's "upsets" were the defeat of

"**Pinkie**" **Barnes** by **Gwen Mace** and **Eileen Adams'** win over **Jean Mackay**. Still, this sort of thing is good for the game.

* * *

The general organisation and conditions of play were very good and **Harry Lentle** had produced for Finals Night another of his attractive illustrated programmes. The standard of umpiring was poor and this must be attributed to the apparent absence of an umpires' organisation. The tournament organisers will, I am sure, overcome this difficulty in the future.

* * *

Friday, 11th June, being Finals Night meant a lazy evening for the many and warm work for the few who had survived the gruelling rounds.

The first semi-final between **Ron Sharman** and **Aubrey Simons** consisted chiefly of safety play, brightened now and again by a burst of hitting by **Simons**, who could have won the match, but had to be satisfied with the middle game only, against an opponent who gave nothing away. The second semi-final, between **Johnny Leach** and **Ernie Buble** was undoubtedly the match of the evening, being a succession of exciting rallies throughout the three games. Both players were taking the ball very early on the backhand and going for anything that might be a winner, but **Leach** was unable to make enough forehand kills to pull off the match. A deserving victory, and **Buble** too must be congratulated for an entertaining display.

In the Women's Doubles Final, the local girls, **Rene Lentle** and **Audrey Fowler** opposed the Corbillion Cup reserves, **Jean Mackay** and **Pinkie Barnes**. I rated this the second best match of the evening, for every one of these girls was there to "have a go" without playing foolishly. **Jean** and "**Pinkie**" took the first game easily, then lost the second equally so. The third game was a "dog-fight" and just as most people were "giving it" to the internationals, **Rene** and **Audrey** upset calculations and hit through their opponents to take the match.

The Women's Singles Final was contested by "**Pip**" **Milburn** and **Gwen Mace**, both of whom have enjoyed a good season. "**PIP**" won the first game comfortably, but her powerful backhand was not working so well in the second, which she lost easily. In the decider, **Gwen** used her forehand drive, which was coming off the table very quickly, to great effect.

A **Leach v. Sharman** Men's Singles Final produced what it promised—plenty of clever, sound play but little in the way of "fire-works." **Sharman** built up a long lead in the first game and went on to win by a generous margin. The second game, however,

(Continued on next page)

THE BIG BASH ●

World Champion has plans
—and maybe some after-
thoughts

for ●

Miles v. Bergmann
35 times!

● THE BIG CASH

The summer-dressed crowd on Finals Night at the Wembley Open was smaller than usual, but one paying customer was Richard Bergmann, the World Singles Champion.

Leg-pullers suggested that he had come along to see just how his favourite rival, Johnny Leach, was shaping; all that Richard would commit himself to say was, "well, it's always interesting to see Bublely play."

He did see him play, and very well indeed in patches; also saw him in the doubles final, an unusual occasion.

Richard confided that in one and the same month he had both won the World's Singles and an Irish

wife! Ample enough reason for congratulation—and ample enough justification for taking a short rest from the hurly-burly of match-play!

RICHARD WILL WIN . . . BUT
WHICH RICHARD?

Very soon he will be off to America, where a barn-storming tour with Richard Miles has already been organised. They will play at least 35 times, on a strictly "all-out" basis, best of 5 games every time. The thought of trying to beat Miles or Bergmann at least 18 times in a best-of-5 is depressing in the extreme, but according to my mathematics, one of them will do just that!

(Did you ever hear about the firm of Jones & Smith Unlimited? They started up full of enthusiasm; Jones had the money and Smith had the experience. Unfortunately, it was rather short-lived, and when it wound up, Smith had the money—but Jones had the experience).

* * *

Autograph-hunters prowled around the Town Hall that evening. By a rough logic they worked it out that anybody wearing playing-kit on finals night was a "big-shot." Ron Sharman obliged and afterwards passed one lad's book across to the Champion, sitting there cool and smart in his grey chalk-stripe. The book was hastily snatched back with the classic remarks "No, I only want the players!"

Who said, "Out of the mouths of Babes and Sucklings . . ."? At all events, there is more than mere humour in that boy's remark; I think the chances are pretty good that Bergmann will be defending that title at Stockholm next February.

INKSPOT

THE WEMBLEY "OPEN" (cont'd.)

saw Leach in a more war-like spirit and Sharman only just managed to get double figures. The third and fourth games were similar, Leach top-spinning to Sharman who chopped patiently, only occasionally using his fine backhand flick. Johnny, however, waited patiently for the right ball, which presented itself often enough for him to make winners necessary to take the match and regain the title he lost last season.

The Mixed Doubles Final saw Bobby Mackay and sister Jean, prepared for battle with Ron Crayden and Rene Lentle. Safety tactics were strictly "taboo" in this happy-go-lucky affair and by virtue of being more of a combination, the couple from "Brum" were just about value for their win by two games to one.

In the Men's Doubles Final the "old firm" of Jack Carrington and Johnny Leach enjoyed a three straight victory over Ernle Bublely and Jack Gilckman, who fought gamely against a stronger combination.

* * *

RESULTS:

- M.S. Semi-Final—R. Sharman bt. A. Simons 19, —19, 15. J. Leach bt. E. Bublely 17, —20, 13.
- M.S. Final—J. Leach bt. R. Sharman —14, 10, 17, 18.
- W.S. Final—Miss G. Mace bt. Mrs. P. Milburn —12, 13, 15.
- M.D. Final—J. Leach and J. Carrington bt. E. Bublely and J. Gilckman 15, 8, 17.
- W.D. Final—Mrs. I. M. Lentle and Miss A. Fowler bt. Miss L. R. Barnes and Miss J. Mackay —8, 8, 19.
- X.D. Final—R. Mackay and Miss J. Mackay bt. R. Crayden and Mrs. I. M. Lentle 17, —16, 17.

NORTHERNER'S NOTE-BOOK

Northern Prospects *Encouraging*

Reviewing the season we raise our best hats to Northumberland who made a gallant bid for the double in the jointly staged Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl competition held in London recently.

No one can deny that the Ladies accomplished a magnificent performance in lifting the Rose Bowl from the grasp of the more experienced Birmingham team. Particularly as there are geographically situated where little or no first class practice can be had. In fact, I'm told, form was all topsy-turvy here inasmuch that Birmingham's Jean Mackay, who was at school during the war years, upset the calculations of noted stars, then she herself suffered the same fate to the ultimate winners.

What is all this leading to?

Is it that in future the selectors will be compelled to turn their eyes North when choosing a representative team? It may well be, for the claims of young talent in these counties has never worn a more rosy hue. Apart from Misses Smith and Purves, Lancashire's Adele Wood is in serious training for the winter months and has already improved beyond all realisation. A trip over the Moors and potential Swaythling Cup talent springs to mind immediately in Brian Kennedy and Ron Thompson, whilst those on the brink of recognition are Kelly, Forrest, Shaw, Parry, etc. Whatever be the outcome it all points to the National competition becoming immensely keen, adding interest and improving standards.

* * *

The Importance of *the "Spectacle"*

But having thus written, by far the thorniest problem which confronts the promoters of the game is how to make the budget balance during the interim period of these starlets developing into great artists . . . if ever.

Each event, be it only an inter-city fixture, is staged with the hope of returning a profit or leastways ensuring that there is not a deficit after clearing the "overheads." That's only elementary business, but you see what I'm leading up to.

With the present home-bred talent it is well nigh impossible to give the public entertainment value. It is no secret and

by STAN PROFFITT
(English International)

was indeed evident in the majority of big affairs that the public were not receiving their money's worth. Unimaginative presentation and lack of artistry was the cause in the main. Even the English Championships fell short of expectations and many would-be followers left even before the big-time games. I'm not pinning the blame on any individual player, for there was a title at stake, though had we not been so scrupulously fair in the draw, it would have had more polish and possibly glamour.

Southerners Show the Way

Again, although the showpiece on the occasion of the *Evening Chronicle* Novice Finals was the "stars" congregated to display their prowess, the only game having the resemblance of catching the imagination came from the Novice competitors. **Yet Jack Carrington and Johnny Leach, in the self-same hall a fortnight later, appearing on the Spotlight on Sport programme, brought the 5,000 crowd to their feet with a single exhibition game.** What a presentation! Great stuff, boys. There was showmanship and artistry in every movement. Just the sort of propaganda to encourage the followers.

All the pioneering work accomplished by the Barna-Szabados-Bellak trio is being asphyxiated by the lifeless displays of to-day. They—the Three Musketeers—always considered the public first even at a time of a Wembley table tennis festival. And did we, the spectators, clamour to have another dose? We'd have paid three times the price in those days to get a glimpse of the English finals.

Manchester to revive the *"Arts"*

If they could do it, so can you in your church halls, Y.M.C.A.s, etc. Always aim as they did at entertaining those present. On a long-term policy it shows dividends.

A serious effort to lift the game off its weary knees and carry on the good work is being attempted in Manchester. Very soon the registered players are to commence to practise and dress the act in an effort to restore the lost arts. They will get every available help from the Lancashire Association and I, for one, wish them all the luck.

Those "D.P.'s" Again!

I was extremely pleased to see Mr. S. D. Greenwood's article on "D.P.s" in the May issue of TABLE TENNIS. I entirely agree in all he said, but I must admit that my case is a good deal different to his.

I am 14 years old, and am continuously being taunted for my defensive play. Some boys I know attend our local Y.M.C.A., and because they have the ability to attack, they are always on at me for my "stone-walling."

There is a definite art in defensive-play, and I only wish more people would realise that. In cricket, soccer, tennis, etc., we always have the defensive player, and why shouldn't we have a defensive table-tennis player? The skill in following the flight of the ball and returning it at the right angle and position is more than meets the eye.

If table tennis is going to be limited to the attacking game, I for one will not play the game again. I am not suggesting that such a thing will happen, but it certainly seems that such a phase of the game is being trodden down, and almost paralysed. What is wrong with the "D.P." I am confident that such a question will never be answered to my ultimate satisfaction.

← Teen-ager J. B. CLARKE, of Kenton, supports veteran GREENWOOD.

But "Senior Junior" A. R. MILLER, of Wimbledon, isn't so sure.



Throughout the interesting discussion on the subject of "D.P.s" there has been no mention of the effect of temperament and personality on one's game.

Table Tennis, like all games where there is considerable mental and physical activity, is an expression of personality, and a cautious person will betray his timidity with indecisive strokes and lack of enterprise; while a person of robust disposition will invariably wallop the ball whenever he can.

Naturally too, a player who has been playing for many years will become obdurate and dogged in style and since he has been playing for so long will, like Mr. Greenwood, hold that his is the best of all possible games. Each player does best what he can.

But, whatever your opinion on "D.P.s" there is no doubt which type of player makes the game interesting and enjoyable.



DO
YOU
REMEMBER
HER
?

JEAN BOSTOCK, Wimbledon Lawn tennis star, won her way into our hearts when, as 18-year-old JEAN NICOL, she took the English Open Singles (1938-39).

Now she is President of the Suffolk County T.T.A.; there are few men to beat her in that part of the world.

Who said "Fiasco"?

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE

by Geoff. Harrower

Last month we published a critical article by Ivor Eyles on the staging of the Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl finals.

There were obvious flaws in the criticisms; here we have Geoff. Harrower, the Organising Secretary of the competition, to give you the "Headquarters" angle on the matter.

The letter by Mr. Eyles published in the last issue contains so many statements which are capable of other interpretations, that it is only fair to the E.T.T.A. that I should present another side.

That the final and semi-finals were too late in the season, and that there was a poor attendance, are points bound up in one another, but Mr. Eyles neglects to inform you why the semi-finals and final were too late. The original intention was to play the finals on April 10th, four weeks earlier, as the quarter-finals were scheduled to be completed by March 15th.

Who held us up?

However, Bristol failed to play their home quarter-final until April 10th, **26 days after the last day for playing the match.** They failed to apply for an extension in accordance with the Rules, and the first notice I had that the match would not be played in time came from their opponents, London. I saw the representative from Bristol at the General Council meeting on March 13th, and he admitted his mistake, asked for a postponement, which I gave, as London had no objection.

Of course, I see now that the best interests of the competition would have been served by recommending to the sub-committees that Bristol should be scratched, but I was more interested in bringing the competition to a friendly and successful conclusion, and was swayed in Bristol's favour.

The next convenient date to all parties for the finals was not until May 8th, which turned out to be a swelteringly

hot day, no doubt keeping the prospective audience away. The E.T.T.A. had done their best to encourage a good attendance, with notices in the press, a special circular to clubs, and attention drawn to the match at both the General Council Meeting and the Annual General Meeting. No doubt a much bigger audience would have been possible at Bristol, as Mr. Eyles now suggests playing future events there.

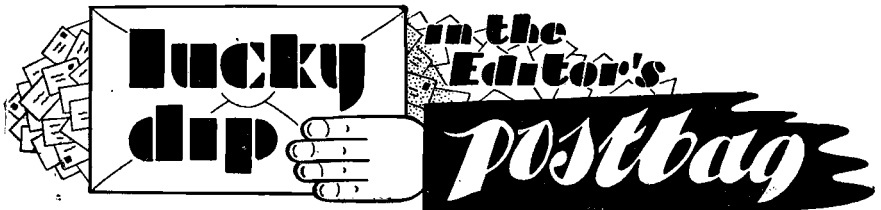
It would have been more helpful if Bristol had offered to stage the event before it was concluded. A note was sent out to every competing league, including Bristol, in January, inviting them to stage the semi-finals and finals. **No reply was received from any league or organisation outside London!**

Possibly Mr. Eyles was unaware of the above circumstances, but no doubt he could have made an effort to find out before writing a letter which could easily damage the prestige of the E.T.T.A. considerably.

Mr. Eyles' other points are also easily disposed of, but the Editor of this magazine has not unlimited space, so I must mention here briefly that Bristol knew in advance that theirs was the second semi-final, and had acknowledged same, that it was Bristol who asked for tickets (they were sent tickets at all prices, and chose the dearest price); that tickets were not sold to Bristol on the door, they were all asked for and supplied in advance to Mr. Hodge, the match secretary; that the presence of Mr. Christopher was unexpected and that he obtained a ticket from Mr. Hodge, presumably of his own free will (he could have easily written to the E.T.T.A. intimating his probable attendance), when, of course, he would have been invited; that refreshments were available for the players and officials, and that I wrote to the Bristol Match Secretary on 14th April offering, in view of the long journey of his party, to reserve a meal in a nearby restaurant, but did not get any reply to this until two days before the match, and then stating that their attendance in the evening probably depended upon the result of the semi-final (Bristol lost).

And so I could go on, but let me close by denying that the hall chosen was "totally unsuitable." This "totally unsuitable" hall had previously housed a European Cup International match and two big County matches, with complimentary remarks from the competitors. Upon the occasion of the Wilmott Cup matches, the conditions were improved slightly by the provision of a table used at the World Championships, and worsened slightly by the daylight, but not worsened in the way that Mr. Eyles describes. The windows on the West side of the hall were completely blacked out, shutting out the sun, and the windows on the other side were left, in order that the players and spectators did not suffocate.

In conclusion, no doubt Mr. Eyles does not blame the E.T.T.A. for the ages of the players on view. I wonder who played the oldest team on view. My guess is Bristol, with no young players at all.



From ILFORD

How many will agree with my idea of a World Ranking List for men, based on the season just closed?

1. **Bergmann** (England).
2. **Andreadis** (Czech).
3. **Vana** (Czech).
4. **Miles** (U.S.A.).
5. **Reisman** (U.S.A.).
6. **Amouretti** (France).
7. **Barna** (England).
8. **Leach** (England).
9. **Nash** (U.S.A.).
10. **Sido** (Hungary).
11. **Soos** (Hungary).
12. **Flisberg** (Sweden).

I honestly do not think numbers 6-11 can be put in order of merit. Koczian, Haguenaer, Tokar and Stipek just miss the first 12. I doubt if any other U.S.A. player would make the grade, but of course we have not seen them all during the past season.

W. J. PARKER.

From MANCHESTER

The English Association, in agreement with the International Federation, has laid down that a boy or girl under 17 on 1st July is a "Junior" for the whole of the subsequent season.

This new definition is a very desirable clarification, which will, I trust, be adopted throughout English table tennis.

I would, however, like to see an intermediate class introduced to encourage the "in-betweens," who now make a big jump, straight from junior to senior play.

Four classes appear to be practical and justified, all determined by age

on 1st July prior to the season:—

- (1) **Juniors** : Under 17 years.
- (2) **Youths** : Under 20 years.
- (3) **Seniors** : Under 40 years.
- (4) **Veterans** : 40 years and over.

Juniors allowed to enter Junior and Youth's singles, but not Senior Singles.

Youths allowed to enter Youths' and Senior Singles.

One can imagine the terrific keenness in the youth's grade as they approach full International honours.

W. E. WOOD.

From HORSHAM

In your last issue E. Pink mentioned ways of overcoming the table shortage and E. Christopher, professionalism.

Christopher says: "*If a person makes money from the game he/she should definitely be classed as a professional. I would certainly not bar any professional player from a tournament or penalise him in any way as compared with an amateur.*" Agreed! Do not penalise him, but why then the necessity for classing him as a professional? Isn't that penalising him? At the recent A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A. it was proposed to raise the limit of prize money from £3 to £6. This is only a matter of degree. Why not remove the limit altogether and render unnecessary those objectionable terms, "professional" and "amateur"?"

Already Richard Bergmann looks like being lost to the competitive game. We cannot afford to split our ranks as lawn tennis has done. We need all our top rankers to make the game the spectacle it ought to be and to fill our coffers so that we can provide such amenities as an E.T.T.A. building of which Mr. Vint has come near to despairing. We should not grudge the leading performer his fee if it will enable him to devote his life to providing that spectacular table tennis which will draw the crowds and give us and Mr. Vint not only our building, but who can say, perhaps facilities surpassing our wildest dreams.

S. R. GLANVILLE.

Horsham.

Astronomy - - the study of the Stars

by Jack Carrington

Star No. 4 ★ ANN TODD

Caption on this picture, issued by the J. Arthur Rank Organisation, reads:—

Lovely Ann Todd's unseen opponent was her husband, Nigel Tangye.

She trounced him 21—15.

Hard lines, Nigel! We know just how you feel. But seriously, what a pity that this young lady, whose every movement before a camera is normally perfectly executed, should fall victim to such an awkward and inefficient table tennis style.

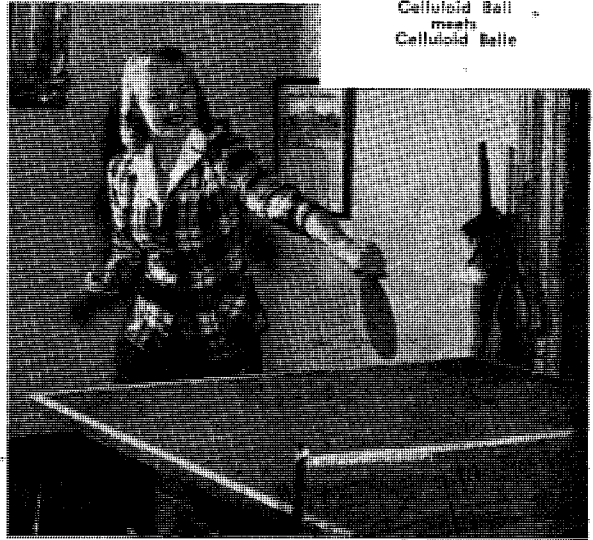
Any coach will tell you that it is a cardinal sin to meet the ball with arm stiff in front of you and muscles rigidly braced. *That is the way to push the lawn-mower, lovely Ann, but not to deal with the spinning, volatile pillule of the table game.*

Lead with the Elbow

For the latter purpose, a cautious advancing of the bent elbow is a very good first move; then you will find it easy to bring that shapely forearm smoothly forward with bat roughly parallel to the net.

Now, coming up to the ball thus smoothly, a small adjustment of the wrist at the last moment will enable you to cope successfully with any spin that crafty fellow Tangye may send over.

Of course, Ann, you will be handicapped somewhat by that "hammer" grip you favour. For



Celluloid Ball meets Celluloid Balls

added delicacy of touch almost all modern players place the index finger along the lower rim of the blade, too. Only Haguenuer of France has achieved a high standard with your type of grip—and his game is noted more for willingness to work like a warhorse than for delicacy of touch.

Shake Hands with it!

If you will try this finger-and-thumb business, you will find that you are in a sense "shaking hands" with the handle of your bat. And that is a good thing, because now your bat will no longer project from your arm at a strange angle; instead it will be a simple extension of the line of your arm, an artificial hand in fact, capable of being controlled by easy natural movements of your muscles.

As it is, what with the rigid muscles and the "upside-down"

(Continued on next page)

The Study of Ann—cont.

grip . . . well, confidentially, Ann, I dread to think what sort of performer Nigel must be. No wonder they leave *him* out of this picture! Poor chap, perhaps he is longing to get cracking with those golf clubs over there in the corner?

Perhaps he was Dazzled?

Incidentally, I think hubby could fairly claim a replay under Regulation 23 of the English Table Tennis Association. (. . . **players are prohibited from wearing white or light-coloured clothes that might tend to unsight an opponent . . .**)

Well, Ann, I hope you don't mind our friendly criticisms for the good of those who are prone to model themselves on their favourite film-stars? And if you should want a mixed doubles partner any time... well, I can give you some 'phone numbers.

FRIENDSHIP MAIL

Coming from Holland, that land of perfect hosts and delightful guests, this tribute is especially valued:—

Summing up my impressions of the World's Championships 1947/48, I would say: **"THERE CAN BE NOTHING BUT PRAISE FOR THE ORGANISERS."**

Having only recently been responsible for the organising of the Netherlands Open Championships for the first time, we know at first hand just how many difficulties must be overcome before the competitors can start their first match. Conscious of the relatively small scope of our own efforts, we are all the more appreciative of the selfless work of the hundreds of workers whose co-operation ensured such great success for these World's Championships.

The members of our Netherlands contingent enjoyed their stay in London and have brought back many pleasant memories of the "World's" of 1948.

(Signed) N. HOGENDOORN
(Team Leader)

THAMESIDE "OPEN"

24th-29th May, 1948.

The Thameside Championships, run by the Fellows Cranleigh Club, at Plaistow, proved once again that end-of-the-season tournaments have much to commend them. Competitors, free from the "cut throat" quest for representative honours, produced a good deal of entertaining table tennis and the whole tournament was thoroughly enjoyable.

Johnny Leach again proved himself supreme and—almost as usual—took three titles. He won the singles without dropping a game although he took quite a time to overcome Sharman's steady defence in the semi-final. In the final Bublely and he hit and counterhit throughout but the result was inevitable.

* * *

Yorkshire's Brian Kennedy made the trip to London and was unfortunate in being in Leach's quarter, but earlier he had a good if narrow victory over the much improved Venner, of Surrey.

* * *

Peggy Franks took the ladies' singles after dropping her first semi-final game to Mrs. Adams (Eileen McBride) and being 15—20 down in the final to Pinkie Barnes who had earlier scored a very easy win over Rene Lentle 21—11, 21—18.

* * *

The only real sensation of the tournament was the defeat of Markwell and Mrs. Lentle by young Thornhill and Marion Marston in the 3rd round of the mixed doubles. Marion, a neighbour of Thornhills at Ashford (Middlesex), is a 16-year-old with a forehand drive and "poker-face" reminiscent of Vera Dace in her first season, albeit right-handed.

Results:

M.S. semis.: Bublely bt. Carrington 14, 15.
Leach bt. Sharman 17, 16.

M.S. Final: Leach bt. Bublely 14, 19, 11.

W.S. Final: Miss M. Franks bt. Miss L. Barnes 15, 20.

W.D. Final: Miss Barnes and Mrs. Milburn bt. Miss A. Fowler and Mrs. Lentle 21, 17.

X.D. Final: Leach and Franks bt. Sharman and Mrs. Adams 10, —14, 16.

M.D. Final: Carrington and Leach bt. Sharman and Miller (D.) —19, 17, —14, 12.

OUR COVER PICTURE

Miss "Pinkie" Barnes, as our photo shows, puts all she knows into her attacking play. She has, however, a good range of defensive shots in reserve, being especially clever on backhand half-volley play over the table.

"Pinkie" has represented England several times, and is present joint holder of the English Women's Doubles Championship.

She is, of course, a regular Surrey County player, and was the winner of the Consolation Singles in the World Championships this year.

INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS

The latest Rules explained

At a time when economic troubles are tending to prohibit travel outside our own land, it may seem a little superfluous for a special committee of the E.T.T.A. to sit down and thrash out a new document entitled "Regulations to cover International Contacts."

But on second thoughts, it must be agreed that sports travel is for English people one of the first concessions likely to be allowed whenever the pressure is eased.

So, overcoming our initial impatience, let us delve a little more closely into the rulings produced by our elected representatives. (*Remember that they have to take into consideration not only outward and inward travel from and to England, but also the wishes and requirements of the other National Associations who are equal co-members with us of the International Table Tennis Federation.*)

Affecting the ordinary rank-and-file E.T.T.A. member, we find these rulings:—

1. If you are abroad temporarily, for any reason, and wish to take part in any organised table tennis match or event, it is *your* responsibility to make sure that the event has been duly sanctioned by the national association of that country.

If it is a properly sanctioned event, you do not need to ask permission of your own Association, unless the matter of a refund of your expenses arises.

This brings us to—

2. If in any such event you wish to receive any expense payment or remuneration (this latter applying, of course, only to Registered Players of the English Association), then you must first obtain written permission for each event from the English T.T.A.

3. Still another situation may arise: you may find yourself concerned in playing in some event in a country where there is no national association affiliated to the I.T.T.F. In such cases you must ask the English T.T.A. to obtain written sanction for you from the International T.T.F.

Perhaps the point of these rules will come home more clearly when it is explained that the word "ABROAD" means: "OUTSIDE ENGLAND," and thus the rules will affect you directly if you wish to play in IRELAND, SCOTLAND, WALES, or CHANNEL

ISLANDS, just as much as in any "foreign" country.

You see, all these "home" countries have their own Associations responsible for developing the game fully and fairly in their own territories, and an impossible situation would arise if "outside" players could sail in and play in all sorts of semi-organised events without the local Association knowing what was going on.

At the least it would lead to confusion; but it might cause actual harm to the game. **Imagine an organiser in Wales or Scotland, outlawed by the national association because of some unfair or unsporting conduct. He might try to tempt English players to play for him, and organise events to clash with the official functions, thus flouting the elected authorities of the game in his country.**

Of course, more "incidents" are due to accident than to deliberate intention, but you can see the need for the national officers to have the power to control such international contacts strongly and clearly.

Foreign Players in England

These clauses affect mainly those who wish to organise any function involving foreign players:—

Such foreigners may play in any Competition sanctioned by E.T.T.A., provided they have the permission of their own Association, and that they enter at their own expense.

It is the **organiser's responsibility** to check this.

Before such foreigners may receive expenses or remuneration for playing or giving exhibitions in England, they must have BOTH:—

- (a) the permission of their own Association, and
- (b) previous written consent of E.T.T.A.

Both the players and the organisers are held responsible for ensuring that these permissions are in order.

EXCHANGE OF TEAM MATCHES BETWEEN ENGLAND AND OTHER COUNTRIES

These clauses affect anybody who wishes to organise team matches, either "Home" or "Away" with representative teams of other countries:—

(Summarised) . . . Permission must be requested from E.T.T.A., who will assure themselves that the matter is in order, "internationally speaking."

They're Not Asleep in Beds.—

The Little County with a Future

A midget among England's counties, Bedfordshire's progressive development should be a spur to under-developed counties.

There are only the two really large towns of Bedford and Luton and the border citadel of Leighton Buzzard organised into leagues, and these must link the sparsely populated rural areas in times of difficult transport conditions. Each of these leagues has made a solid advance and has now an aggregate of nearly 1,000 registered members. A good foundation for a really strong county.

The County Association was born in a blaze of battle, and it sowed as though parochial and individual handicaps could never be surmounted. On the contrary, however, the mutual tolerance and goodwill of the delegates of leagues enabled the county to achieve early success which, comparatively, can be equalled by few county bodies.

Inaugurated just before Christmas, the Executive Committee have been far from dormant. The Constitution has been hammered out, two county matches and a county tournament have been staged.

Sweden v. Bedfordshire (Junior Match) must surely be the first Junior International v. County match ever staged? (*Editor's Note.*—No, Surrey claim the honour, by one week!) Thanks to the

generosity of Electrolux Ltd., who presented hospitality, the hall and much of the organisation, this resulted in a very welcome contribution to the county treasury.

A friendly inter-county match with Herts, which resulted in a 3-7 defeat, but since three of the matches were decided by match point and the Herts. team of Strauli, Bebb and Sewell were considerably strengthened by A. Hall (a Premier Division player), Bedfordshire feel reasonably happy about entering the County Championships in 1948/9.

The county can call on D. Ironmonger, able tactician and hard-hitting penholder, D. Randall, Peter Holroyd, Cliff Rosson, one-armed left-handed Archie Fossey, and several redoubtable fighters.

The ladies have not had considerable experience outside the county, but led by Mrs. E. Aldridge (who recently beat the Herts. Closed Champion, Mrs. Cubitt), Mrs. H. Coles, Mrs. Payne, Miss Swales and promising youngsters such as Richardson and Cosby, they shouldn't let the men down.

One favourable aspect of the Executive Committee is its determination to give youngsters a chance and every encouragement and assistance, without tolerating any "swollen-headedness." The county has several first-class youngsters who should do well, including Crow, I. Barnett, Jones, Levinsky, Feldman and King. (The first three played against the Swedish juniors.)

COUNTY TITLE WINNERS, 1947/48

Men's Singles: D. Randall.

Women's Singles: Mrs. E. Aldridge.

Men's Doubles: Randall/Ironmonger.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. Aldridge/Miss Coles.

Mixed Doubles: A. Fossey/Miss Swales.

Junior Boys: I. Barnett.



ARCH-RACKETEERS

are Luton players rallying around Roy Whitbread, of Vauxhall T.T.C., and his bride, Miss Connie Peck.

Eye-ing camera, in light sports coat, is Archie Fossey.

Photo by Arthur Laye.

E. F. Christopher indulges in some more

THINKING ALOUD

I was especially interested in one or two items in the May issue of "Table Tennis." In passing may I ask if our Editor is contemplating a "Chinese" edition? When we have to stand on our heads to read "Score Board" on page 12 "it makes you think."

(But perhaps that's the idea!—Ed.)

Stanley Proffitt in his interesting article mentions Aubrey Simons the Western star. I would point out that actually Aubrey is 27 years of age, and had he the opportunity to continually meet players of international class I am convinced would be an automatic choice for his Country.

I think the solution in picking an English team is a mixture of Youth and Experience. Trial matches are of little use I consider, and it would be far better to have official "Talent Spotters" appointed. They could follow up any suggestions of likely players, and if possible arrange special coaching. So many players would improve if they had their faults pointed out to them, perhaps of the most simple kind.

Incidentally, closely watching Dora Beregi the other day, I noticed how she continually alters the grip of her racket when making a stroke. This is the sort of thing an expert could advise a youngster during coaching.

I note Mr. S. D. Greenwood's article re defensive play, and whilst he puts forward a sound argument, I think that when spectators are concerned they should be considered. If we are to attract the general public who form the main portion of support at matches, we must do something to entice them to attend. We have a player in Bristol who is usually spectacular, and I have had people say to me after a match, this player was the best of the evening, although he is not as good as say, Aubrey Simons. Stone-walling can be very wearisome, and as far as I am concerned gives me a "pain in the neck."

FOR SALE

TABLE TENNIS TABLE, Spalding match; condition as new. £18 10s., or near offer.—Knott, 30, Cleveland Road, New Malden.

STOP PRESS

Next season's divisions in the National County Championships will be:

PREMIER	NORTHERN
ESSEX *	CHESHIRE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE*	CUMBERLAND
LANCASHIRE	DURHAM
MIDDLESEX	LANCASHIRE 2nds
SURREY	LINCOLNSHIRE
WARWICKSHIRE	NORTHUMBERLAND
YORKSHIRE	YORKSHIRE 2nds
SOUTHERN	HOME COUNTIES.
HAMPSHIRE	(a new Division)
KENT	BEDFORDSHIRE*
SURREY 2nds	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE*
SUSSEX	CAMBRIDGESHIRE*
	ESSEX 2nds*
	HERTFORDSHIRE
	MIDDLESEX 2nds

* Indicates new team

Getting it Right

Apropos the recent I.T.T.F. recommendation that umpires should announce "change service" when reversing the scores at each 5 points, Bill Parker, of Ilford writes:

"To my mind we should copy the American method. For example if the score is 8-6 and the server wins the next point, the umpire will then say '6 serving 9.' This is surely the simplest way to follow and does not give the umpire any nightmares."

TOMS

for the finest
TABLE TENNIS BATS AND TABLES

Bats Re-rubbered

Write for current price list.

JOHN G. TOMS,
18, Norbett Road, Arnold, Notts.

SELF-HELP FOR BRITISH SPORT

An organisation which may prove helpful to local Table Tennis bodies is the **Central Council of Physical Recreation**. This, in its typical British way, is in some measure the answer to the foreign system of the sponsoring of sport by government departments. Membership of the C.C.P.R. is voluntary, but its affiliations include governing bodies of practically every sport known to Englishmen. Great work was done during the war in introducing

*That's What the
"Central Council"
Means*

physical recreation of all kinds to factory workers and youth organisations and the Trustees of the Central Council feel that the good work should be carried on in peacetime, with the object of spreading the love of physical recreation throughout the country and eventually producing exponents of all games who will raise our international prestige.

WORCESTER ON THE WAY UP by D. J. ROWLEY

Without any idea of "trumpet-blowing" I may say that our City team's entry into higher spheres of the Western Counties League has brought about unprecedented results; not so much from a tangible point of view perhaps but we feel we have definitely gained in publicity and status.

After finishing second to Birmingham in the Midland Counties League last season we aspired to bigger things with some misgivings and not a little criticism.

Illness weakened our team in the stronger League but with the material available we feel we have not done too badly.

We have travelled something like a thousand miles in this League and have crawled home at all hours of the night (and morning) in all sorts of weather . . . but we've had a lot of fun even out of our defeats.

Home matches took a lot of work in preparing the lighting and seating for the largest building in Worcester, the Shirehall. This however gave us amenities and conditions which were favourably commented upon by all visitors.

Crowds have averaged upwards of 300 per match. It is especially pleasing to report that we have attracted not only the younger element, but also an older and staid clientele—and what is more, we have retained their enthusiasm.

The League's Finals Night at Pump Street Methodist Hall was again a great success despite the regretted absence of last year's spectacular finalists Dick Gulise and Ron Weston. This time the singles went to Harry Hewlett in a 3-0 win over the better-fancied Henry Allison.



He won
"against the book."

WORCESTER
SINGLES
CHAMPION.

Thrill of the evening—and a glimpse of the future?—was provided by the triumph of 17-year-old Gerald Green in the Tyler Handicap Cup.

And so it is all over for yet another season and the rubber bat and the small white ball are relegated to the cupboard in favour of larger summer weapons.

I hope these few lines will suggest to other small towns what can be done, as in Worcester, by a few energetic enthusiasts and Committee.

The National Fund

During the war, the Central Council received grants from various Ministries but now its work has to be self-supporting. With this object a permanent fund has been started—the National Sports Development Fund, the proceeds of which will be used not only for the administration of sport, but also to build a chain of communal recreational centres. Some of the larger organisations, such as the Football Association and the National Greyhound Racing Association, and many prominent citizens, headed by the Lord Mayor of London, have contributed to the Fund, but in the case of the less productive sports, the Fund will eventually be able to help them.

Idea for Local Organisers

In the case of Table Tennis, the Fund organisers have suggested that functions could be arranged on a mutual aid basis. They are prepared to place their ability and organising facilities at the disposal of the local Table Tennis Organisers for any functions arranged in aid of the National Sports Development Fund. Such functions would be exempt from entertainment tax and it is suggested that the proceeds could be shared 50-50 between the fund and the local official body. In districts where there is not an established following for Table Tennis functions, it may well prove that the supporters of the Central Council will turn the scale and make a doubtful venture into a success. Organisers who require further details may obtain these from the local representative of the Central Council or from the Head Office, Central Council of Physical Recreation, 6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

A. J. Wilmott, Veteran International,
denounces

UNINTENTIONAL CHEATING

I have known very few players who deliberately cheated, that is, broke the rules in order to take advantage of their opponents, and of those few I can at once say that none of them were British. But there are two ways in which players do frequently break the rules and gain an unfair advantage over opponents who keep to the rules. And that is what I mean by unintentional cheating.

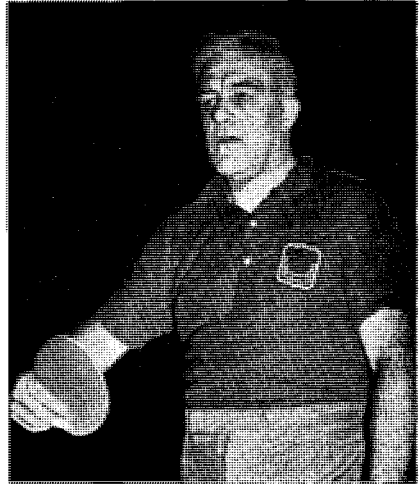
The first group of offenders are those who do not take the trouble to serve in accordance with the new rule. The new rule is, admittedly, somewhat of a nuisance. **It owes its origin to those cheaters who found ways of giving finger-spin without being detected; please remember that!** To give a proper service now means that you must *pay attention* to your service. And if you do that you have—momentarily—to take your attention off the rest of your game.

PUT YOURSELF OFF!

You have for a split second to *put yourself off your game*. Your opponents, serving properly, have to do this; why should you be exempt from it and leave all your attention devoted to the rest of your game? I know you are not trying to gain any unfair advantage from your service itself, but all the same you are, by paying none of your attention to serving fairly, *actually gaining an unfair advantage*, and once that is realised, I feel sure you will see that you should not do it and will stop doing it.

FAULTING IN DOUBLES

The second group of offenders has existed ever since I returned to the game. They are those doubles players who persist in ignoring the rule which (now) says that when you serve, the ball must be inside the continuation of the side-line of the table. If you think about the new service rule you will see that when the ball leaves the hand it must, in a fair service, move vertically. So many servers still throw the ball towards the bat. If you try to do this with the ball in the palm and the hand flat you will see that you cannot do that. Keep your hand flat and move it sideways and the ball will be left behind!



So I think it is correct to put it as I have done; the ball must be within the continuation of the side-line when service is made and cannot be thrown sideways or backwards. **(Incidentally very many good players still throw the ball sideways or backwards in serving, and in doing so still impart a small amount of spin to the ball which assists their variation of service, although they may not realise it.)**

But to return to the doubles service. The aim of these “foul” services from outside the continuation of the side-line is to start the break-up of your opponents’ position by “spread-eagling” them. And remember that the main aim in doubles play *is* to break up your opponents positioning so that you can get a winner when they have been forced out of position. It is unfair to do this by foul services against opponents who are denying themselves such an advantage by serving fairly. If you take this unfair advantage you are again guilty of what I am calling “unintentional cheating,” and I do not believe that you wish to do this.

A WORD TO UMPIRES

In conclusion I would add a few words to umpires. It is not fair for you to put on the players, fully occupied with
(Continued foot of next page, col. 1)

WESTERN NOTES

Dennis Thompson returned to National Executive of E.T.T.A.

Following the tie at the first count between Mr. Gill of Torquay and Mr. Thompson of Cheltenham, a fresh ballot was taken, as a result of which Mr. D. H. THOMPSON was re-elected to represent the SOUTH-WEST Region for the coming year.

Gloster Get-Together

At a meeting in Gloucester on 5th June, 1948, the Gloucester County Table Tennis Association was formed, with the following as officials:—

President: E. F. Christopher (Bristol).
Chairman: D. H. Thompson (Cheltenham).
Hon. Sec./Treasurer: I. C. Eyles (Bristol).
Executive Committee: A. E. Richards, W. Bevin (Bristol); W. E. Griffiths, F. J. Winnen (Cheltenham); H. A. Vickery (Gloucester).

Leagues in membership are: BRISTOL, CHELTENHAM, STROUD, FOREST OF DEAN, GLOUCESTER.

The county will take part in the National County Championships next season. The Secretary's address is 115, Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol, 4.

Western Counties "Closed"

Results

Men's Singles:—

A. W. C. Simons (Bristol) beat W. Sweetland (Cardiff) 21—17, 21—11.

Men's Doubles:—

G. Chugg and M. Smith (Cardiff) beat W. C. Dawes and D. E. Shipton (Bristol) 18—21, 21—13, 21—17.

Women's Singles:—

Miss D. Beregi (Exeter) beat Mrs. J. Crosby (Exeter) 21—10, 21—3.

Women's Doubles:—

Miss D. Beregi and Mrs. J. Crosby (Exeter) beat Miss C. Bullock and Mrs. D. Haydon (Birmingham) 21—15, 21—17.

Junior Singles:—

A. Morris (Swansea) beat A. Saunders (Cardiff) 21—14, 21—14.

Mixed Doubles:—

Simons (Bristol) and Miss Beregi (Exeter) beat Sweetland and Miss Bates (Cardiff) 12—21, 21—13, 21—16.

Applications are now invited for season 1948-49. Full particulars and entry form from the Secretary at 115, Wick Road, Brislington, Bristol, 4.

playing their games, the job of complaining about anything. It upsets their play if they are forced to do this. It is your job. If you enforce the rules you will be improving the standard of table tennis. If you have any trouble in this way, call the Referee and ask him to assist you. Rules are made deliberately and should not be ignored; if they are bad they should be altered, but ignored, never!

So please, both players and umpires, do try to get the rules played to, whenever you are on the job.



"FIRST LADY"
of
CUMBERLAND

MARGARET MARTIN
Singles
and
Mixed Doubles
winner

CUMBERLAND T.T.A. Over 150 players competed in this season's championships. Left-hander J. Baird once again took the Men's Singles and a notable effort was made by 43-year-old W. Athersmith who reached this final and the Mixed too.

Great hopes were raised by the success of 14-year-old Alan Preshaw in the under-16 Junior Singles. In style he is almost a smaller edition of the senior winner.

They Marched for You

Table tennis was represented in the march-past of 60-odd sports associations at the National Festival of Youth, staged in the Empire Pool, Wembley, on 5th June.

H.R.H. Princess, Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh took the salute of this colourful battalion, in which the marching and bearing of the table tennis contingent were reported as "well above average."

Perhaps our youthful "rankers" from home counties leagues were inspired by their England royal blue shirts, subscribed for the occasion by prominent London internationals.

It is hoped that the inspirational effect will convey itself to the play of our young volunteers, so that they will not have to borrow their England shirts much longer!

SOUVENIR PROGRAMMES of the World's Championships, 1947/48, are still available from E.T.T.A., 69, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, price 2s. 0d. each, plus postage.

They are fully printed with complete scores of every match, and contain no less than 60 photographs of the stars of every nation.

REDUCED PRICE of 1s. 6d. post free per copy FOR ORDERS TOTALLING 12 OR MORE COPIES TO ONE ADDRESS.

The National County Championships

A promising first year

In a season which contains the greatest World Championships of all times, other events are somewhat naturally overshadowed, and it is fitting that at the conclusion of this season we should review a new National competition, the County Championships.

Of course, there was a County Championship on a regional scale before the war, but this season was the first in which an effort was made to bring the county game into line with other major sports, such as cricket. It says much for the organisation behind the county movement that nineteen teams, representing fifteen counties, competed in three divisions in the first season.

Notwithstanding the many counter attractions, audiences were good in the premier division; over 2,000 people watched the five matches in which the Champions, Middlesex, played. Smaller audiences attended the Northern and Southern Division matches, although the 200 mark was several times exceeded. At the conclusion of the season, Middlesex played the Rest of England at the Seymour Hall before 700 spectators; the match was televised and sufficient funds were raised not only to buy special commemorative medals for the winners of the three divisions but also to pay a dividend to each of the competing counties equivalent to the amount they had deposited in entry fees at the beginning of the season.

Many counties spent money in developing their younger players. Yorkshire were prominent in this direction, and Brian Kennedy, virtually unknown at the beginning of the season, became a full International at the end. Middlesex encouraged Michael Thornhill and sent him to the English Championships in Manchester, where he duly obliged by winning the junior singles, and was unbeaten by any junior player right up till April.

Other players, too, besides the under 18's benefited by the first class match experience gained in County events. The Northumberland girls, virtually geographically isolated, improved their play by those few points necessary to make them a real force, and won the "J. M. Rose" Bowl; A. Hall, of Grimsby, had a 100% record in the Northern Division, and showed his

mettle by reaching match point against Jack Carrington in the Birmingham Open. Many other players seized the chance that county matches gave them to improve their game against a wider variety of players than usual, and to improve their match temperament under nerve conditions only slightly below that of an international match.

What of the future? Although, at the time of writing, entries for next season have not closed, already Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire and Essex 2nds have applied to join those already in membership. Especially important is the advent of Gloucestershire, the first county from the West Country to join. Indications are that in another twelve months there will hardly be a county in England not playing in the Championships.

With nearly all the leading English players in the "veteran" stage, we look to the county movement to encourage the youngsters, and blood them as soon as possible in county matches, for assuredly those successful in county matches are the type of players that England needs for her internationals.

FINAL TABLES

	P	W	L	Games		P
				F	A	
Premier Division :						
Middlesex ...	5	5	0	29	16	10
Surrey ...	5	4	1	27	18	8
Essex ...	5	3	2	30	15	6
Lancashire ...	5	2	3	21	24	4
Warwickshire ...	5	1	4	16	29	2
Yorkshire ...	5	0	5	12	33	0
Southern Division :						
Hampshire ...	5	5	0	29	16	10
Sussex ...	5	3	2	26	19	6
Surrey 2nds ...	5	3	2	23	22	6
Middlesex 2nds ...	5	2	3	26	19	4
Kent ...	5	2	3	21	24	4
Hertfordshire ...	5	0	5	10	35	0
Northern Division :						
Lancashire 2nds ...	6	6	0	37	17	12
Lincolnshire ...	6	4	2	35	19	8
Northumberland ...	6	4	2	34	20	8
Durham ...	6	3	3	25	29	6
Yorkshire 2nds ...	6	2	4	31	23	4
Cheshire ...	6	2	4	25	29	4
Cumberland ...	6	0	6	2	52	0

SURREY CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

A correction

We regret that in the report of the above event contained in our May issue, our correspondent inadvertently reversed the result of the Junior Boys' final.

The correct result was:—

J. L. COLE beat D. Morris 21—11, 17—21, 21—18. Our apologies, Master Cole—we do hope your friends will now refrain from the eyebrow-raising tactics when they see that trophy on your sideboard!