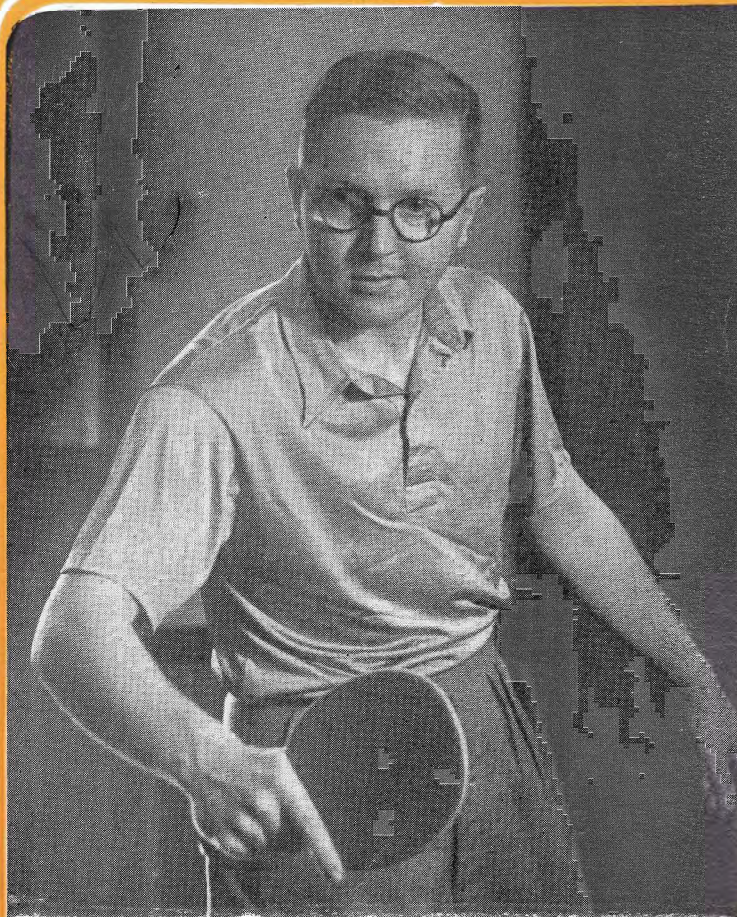


DECEMBER, 1948

Sixpence

TABLE TENNIS



AUBREY SIMONS asks
"Is it Czechmate?"
(Page Seven)

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine
of the
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
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DECEMBER, 1948

MORE ABOUT THE REGISTERED PLAYER SITUATION

by IVOR MONTAGU

DURING the war there took place in London a much-advertised "Challenge Match" between two first-class players. At first the promoters and players tried to proceed without contact or assent of the E.T.T.A. In the end they were obliged, to make it a success, to fall back once more on the Association for contacts, for volunteers, for supporting players; and they undertook to observe regulations which we on our part made elastic for this war-time occasion.

Financial conditions were either not as advertised to the public, or not as undertaken to us (for indeed these differed from each other), and to this day, notwithstanding the promoters' written undertaking to furnish us with the accounts, from which we might see that the promised proportion of receipts had been given to the Red Cross, no such accounts have been forthcoming.

I am convinced that any similar commercial enterprises would degenerate likewise; that any players or promoters who determine to stake their fortune on public table tennis competition for money will fail.

If I am wrong, good luck to them!

WHAT money is there in table tennis? Hardly enough, possibly, to give a good living to any player, however skilled, as his sole profession. Combined with trade in table tennis goods and other forms of income, not more than three or four players to-day live from table tennis.

For perhaps 20-30 persons playing (exhibition or coaching) is a substantial source of pocket-money, a means of earning something towards what it cost them in time or money to play wholeheartedly. That is all.

Our regulations are designed to meet these circumstances, which at present show no signs of changing.

THE original distinction between amateurs and professionals as typified by the traditional cricket terms "Gentlemen versus Players" obviously has no basis to-day. But some sports keep the distinction alive for a more modern reason—the feeling of many of their players that the professional has an unfair advantage in open competition because of his greater time and facilities for perfecting his skills. Hence the segregation which often occurs.

In English table tennis we have always set our face against such segregation of the "professors." It leads to two possibilities of abuse: (1) the "shamateur" who takes professional advantages in time and money without admitting it, and (2) the pressure of the money interest against the genuineness of results in professional competition.

In other words, segregation can lead to deceit of the public and away from sport.

(continued on page 2)

REGISTERED PLAYERS—

(Continued from page 1).

IN our first international years we were purely amateur—for the good reason that there was no money in the game at all.

Charlie Bull, a professional cricketer, paid his own expenses to represent England at the first World Championships abroad. Yet foreign associations, richer and actually paying all expenses for their players, questioned his status, as being a sports professional.

It was soon obvious that this attitude was losing the English game much brilliant young talent, while their foreign rivals were being given opportunities in jobs which did not infringe the letter of the law, such as "junior book-keeper" in a table tennis salon. (*In similar fashion, full-time Army fencing instructors have competed in the Olympic Games, because their "profession" is soldering, not fencing.*)

We of the English Table Tennis Association did not like this. We did not object to professionalism, **but we did object to calling a professional an amateur.**

Foreign associations could not always help themselves in this matter; some received subsidies from their national Olympic organisations, others tax concessions which applied only to amateur sports.

The solution we hit upon might commend itself to other sports. **EVERY COUNTRY IS ENTITLED TO MAKE ITS OWN RULES CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO ITS OWN PLAYERS AND IN ITS OWN TERRITORY. AND EVERY COUNTRY IS ENTITLED TO NOMINATE WITHOUT QUESTION OF PAID OR UNPAID STATUS, WHICHEVER PLAYERS IT LIKES, TO REPRESENT IT INTERNATIONALLY.** Provided that for the actual participation in events open internationally players may not receive payment.

To avoid embarrassment in certain cases and with other sports, countries endeavoured to avoid the specific words "amateur" and "professional" in framing their own regulations.

The above principles have held good for many years now without the slightest trouble arising, and it is thus that we have arrived at the present position in English table tennis, in which all affiliated players, paid or unpaid, are equally welcome members of our Association, providing they observe the rules which have been framed by elected representatives on behalf of all.

"ENGLISH OPEN"

The Yanks will be here!

Good news is that Richard Miles and Marty Reismann will join the Czechs, French, Hungarians, Swedes, Austrians, and other European wizards in the quest for English Open honours in February. (See notice on page 20.)

The Americans will also play some special matches in England between 13th and 18th January, en route for Stockholm and the World Championships.

OUR COVER PICTURE

Our picture shows AUBREY SIMONS, of Bristol, whose first article appears in this issue.

And we shall not be surprised if Aubrey continues to make news for a long time, because after an "obscure" table tennis past, he has burst into the limelight.

Overseas R.A.F. service during the war years accounts for the time-lag in his rise to fame, but last year he swept all before him in the West, and scored Trials wins over Bergmann and Barna.

This mild, bespectacled young fellow of 27 has hidden depths in his game. The essential strength in his play is a tightness, a dourness of close defence which has been possibly as much a deterrent to watching selectors as to his struggling opponents.

Simons uses more wrist and less footwork than most good players. He appears to operate from a base situated about 18 inches behind the table which he only leaves with the utmost reluctance. His specialities are a loose-wrist forehand chop and a sharply jabbed backhand chop, both taken very early and resulting in a seemingly harmless return in reality carrying an unusual amount of backspin. His exceptionally good eye, improved, no doubt, by county cricket experience for Gloucestershire, enables him to hold even the best attackers in this way.

When in trouble he calls upon a forehand half-volley return which he follows up with ferocious wristy forehand drives. It is this unorthodox part of his game which has won him games against great players and lost him games against the plodding types.

EUROPE CUP NEWS

ENGLAND 5, ITALY 0

J. Leach beat L. Sturani 21-5, 21-6, 21-7.

A. Simons beat S. di Giorgi 21-13, 21-9, 21-8.

Leach/Barna beat Sturani/di Giorgi 21-9, 21-10, 21-9.

J. Leach beat S. di Giorgi 21-10, 21-6, 21-8.

A. Simons beat L. Sturani 21-8, 21-12, 21-14.

Over 700 people saw England gain an easy win over Italy in the Men's Europe Cup at the Jubilee Hall, New Hythe, on 24th November, with a score of 5-0, all in straight sets. Only two Italians were able to travel, Lucio Sturani and Sigfrido di Giorgi, and even allowing for their obvious nervousness, they were quite outclassed by the strong English team of Barna, Leach and Simons, captained by Jack Carrington.

After the presentation of an E.T.T.A. inscribed banner to the Italian captain, Mr. Cini, Johnny Leach led off, opposed by Sturani, a left-hander with a rather gawky style, and after a few points to size him up, Johnny found his weaknesses and steadily drew away. Sturani seemed to know little about spin, and tried to defend with a dead bat close to the table, thus making it comparatively simple for Leach to pass him by swinging the attack from either wing at the third or fourth drive. On the few occasions the Italian tried to attack, he used a peculiar "punched" backhand, or an erratic forehand "wipe," but without disturbing Leach.

The 18-year-old Giorgi followed against Aubrey Simons, and, clearly overawed by the task, he was all at sea with the Bristol man's close-to-the-table tactics. His only method of dealing with Simon's chop was another chop, which was lofted in such a way as to make the kill inevitable.

The English Doubles pair, Barna and Leach, always had plenty in hand and were rarely in a hurry, as the Italians never tried to take up the attack and so gain the initiative.

Young Giorgi found Johnny Leach's style much more to his liking than Simon's had been, and put up a far better show.

The last match saw some of the longest and most exciting rallies of the evening, with Sturani and Simons indulging in some quite fast half-volley exchanges.

The Italians have a great deal to learn, and no doubt this visit has been of immense benefit to them. The teams were presented with plaques by Colonel

Shelton on behalf of the organisers of the event, the Aylesford Paper Mills Sports Club. The Hon. Treasurer of the E.T.T.A., Mr. A. K. Vint, who acted as Referee, in his closing remarks congratulated the Aylesford Paper Mills Sports Club, headed by their Hon. Sec., Mr. L. G. Sadler for their admirable staging of the event. **K. W.**

EAST ZONE RESULTS

MEN: HUNGARY beat AUSTRIA 5-1, and now meet JUGOSLAVIA in the Zone final.

WOMEN: HUNGARY beat CZECHOSLOVAKIA 5-3, and now meet AUSTRIA in the Zone final.

WEST ZONE

MEN: ENGLAND'S opponents in the Zone final will be BELGIUM (who defeated IRELAND).

WOMEN: BELGIUM will meet SCOTLAND in the Zone final.

BELGIUM girls beat FRANCE 6-3, in spite of two wins by Miss Beolet of France. She lost to Mme. Detournay, who won all three games for Belgium; Mme. Roland and Mlle. Wouters made up the much improved Belgian team.

SCOTLAND beat NETHERLANDS by 6-3.

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Special E.T.T.A. Official shirts in Royal, Navy Blue, Maroon and Green, Zip fronts, 26/6d., plus six coupons.

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Write for brochure describing our new tournament T.T. tables. Acclaimed by internationals and leading players as the finest post-war table.

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Let us solve your Xmas problems.

36, EAST STREET, HORSHAM, SUSSEX

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE!



by W. J. POPE

SWEDISH TOURS

A team of three players with a non-playing captain, will tour Sweden from December 8 to 18, playing an International match at Gothenburg. Our Juniors will also tour Sweden, reciprocating the visit of their youths to us last year. This tour starts January 17, the players remaining to take part in the World Championships which begin February 4, in Stockholm.

The Senior team has now been selected as follows: J. A. Leach (Essex), captain; A. W. S. Simons (Gloucestershire); R. Sharman (Surrey).

TENANCY OF 69, VICTORIA STREET

We are sub-tenants of the A.B.A. in our offices at Victoria Street, and recently our three years' tenancy expired. We had an option for a further three years, but discussing this with the A.B.A. officials we found they badly wanted possession of the rooms in view of their own great developments. Whilst agreeing to the continuation of our tenancy for the time being, our rent has been increased, and after consideration of the position, the Committee decided to accept the position and to take immediate steps to look for other premises.

SUPPLY OF TABLES

The following Question and Answer are reported in the proceedings of the House of Commons, dated 4th November, 1948.

Mr. Lipson asked the President of the Board of Trade if he is now able to grant licences for the import of the special timber required for the manufacture of table tennis tables.

Mr. H. Wilson: "No. Plywood is available for table tennis tables from stocks in this country provided the necessary licence is obtained."

It's Sound Tactics

to consult the

THE ALBION SPORTS SHOP
(and Table Tennis School),
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MORDEN, SURREY

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Retail Manager: **JOHNNY LEACH**

Catalogue sent on request.

NOW AVAILABLE! Attractive new design of Club Tables, conforming to E.T.T.A. regulations and satisfactory for league play.

REGISTERED PLAYERS

The National Executive Committee of E.T.T.A. have approved the Registration of the following players (in accordance with the "Regulations for Registered Players") for Season 1948/49.

- G. V. Barna, 28, Elm Park Court, Pinner, Middlesex.
- Miss L. Barnes, 14, Edenfield Gardens, Worcester Park, Surrey.
- Mr. S. Boros, 21, Porchester Square, London, W.2.
- Mr. A. D. Brook, 103, Rusham Road, Horsham, Sussex.
- Mr. J. Carrington, 25-26, Morden Court Parade, Morden, Surrey.
- Mr. R. Crayden, 58, Corrance Road, Brixton, S.W.2.
- Mr. E. Filby, "Four Winds," 80, Wells Road, Fakenham, Norfolk.
- Mr. B. Fretwell, 103, The Highway, Moulscot, Brighton, 7.
- Mr. G. Frischer, 17, Burgess Hill, N.W.2.
- Mr. J. Haigh, 101, Palmerston Road, N.22.
- Mr. G. R. Harrower, 34, Gallants Farm Road, E. Barnet, Herts.
- Mr. A. A. Haydon, 14, Valbourne Road, Birmingham, 14.
- Mr. D. S. Heaps, Highfield House, Buxton Road, Disley, Cheshire.
- Mr. B. H. Kennedy, 28, Kirkdale Crescent, Leeds, 12.
- Mr. M. Kriss, 72, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, 12.
- Mr. J. Leach, 286, Lynmouth Avenue, Morden, Surrey.
- Mr. W. Livey, 132, Wolmer Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex.
- Mr. E. Marsh, Berry View, Lawn Avenue, W. Drayton, Middlesex.
- Mr. K. Merrett, 132, Commonwealth Road, Caterham, Surrey.
- Hon. I. Montagu, Knowle, Bucks Hill, King's Langley, Herts.
- Mr. D. A. Miller, 97, Garner Road, Walthamstow, E.17.
- Mr. C. E. Richards, 527, Caledonian Road, Holloway, N.7.
- Mr. R. E. Roberts, 4, Pinehurst Road, Liverpool, 4.
- Mr. S. Rosenberg, 110, Hyde Park Road, Leeds, 4.
- Mr. E. Rumjahn, "Richmond," 64, Church Road, Roby, Nr. Liverpool.
- Mr. P. Rumjahn, 77, Queens Drive, Walton, Liverpool, 4.
- Mr. T. E. Sears, 25, Arlington Crescent, Waltham Cross, Herts.
- Mr. R. Sharman, 27, Coval Road, East Sheen, S.W.14.
- Mr. A. W. C. Simons, "Aubreycot," Down Road, Portishead, Nr. Bristol.
- Mr. K. Stanley, 18, Worcester Avenue, Leyland, Preston, Lancs.
- Mr. H. Swetman, "Woodens," Stag Leys, Ashtead, Surrey.
- Mr. A. Thompson, 22, Methley Grove, Leeds, 7.
- Mr. C. Corti Woodcock, Theydon Croft, Epping, Essex.

NORTHERN NOTABILITIES

ANOTHER PROFFITT PROFILE OF A WELL-KNOWN MERSEY- SIDE PERSONALITY

THE odour of a choice Copes Court Cheroot, or for those without a keen sense of smell, a dense cloud of smoke issuing from a ring-side seat at any important table tennis function, is significant to thousands of fans that Billie Stamp is on the premises.

Round featured, with a thick crop of hair and a toothbrush moustache, no pen-picture of this energetic personality is complete without mention of his horn-rimmed spectacles.

TO-DAY, age 50, he stands as Czar of all Merseyside table tennis activities. A business-like Czar, too, for when he took over the reins from founder-



BILLIE
STAMP
—
"Genial
Dictator"

secretary Leslie Forrest, the Association had no money and seven divisions, whereas nowadays 16 divisions, including two women's and two youth sections, are the current assets, reinforced by ample funds.

BY no means were his former colleagues lacking. In fact, Billie is the first to admit that when he became an ordinary club secretary in 1933 the foundations were already laid. First important move up the ladder was to be placed on the league management committee, and when the decision arose to merge the office of secretary-treasurer, Billie stepped right in and has held the position ever since. Thus it is doubtful whether the Liverpool affairs would ever have been so prominent on the table tennis map without the Stamp influence and acumen.

IT did not take the Lancashire clubmen long to recognise his organising ability, and in 1940 he was uplifted to the exalted ranks of the National Executive Committee, on which his council has been highly respected.

TWICE the English team have been steered to victory under his (non-playing) captaincy, v. Ireland at Liverpool, and at Glasgow v. Scotland.

Billie says, "Despite opposition, I decided to run the League throughout

the war by organising matches on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The object was to avoid players being caught out in air-raids at night and allow the A.R.P. and N.F.S. to enjoy the fun. We commenced with 2 and ended with 4 Divisions throughout the duration, printing a handbook each season; though it was only small—it was a handbook."

A STICKLER for league headquarters, with an ambition to inaugurate a coaching scheme for young enthusiasts, Billie plugged the idea for many years. In 1947, Merseysiders had the option of an ideal place in the city capable of housing ten tables. The members, however, turned the proposition down, much to Billie's disgust at their short-sightedness (in his view).

A pleasant family memory relates to 1937 when the "Three Musketeers," Barna, Szabados and Bellak, were engaged in a grim tussle against a North of England team at the Picton Hall. The air was electrified by tension when Bellak cracked the ball during play. He straight-away smacked the "pill" high over the crowd to the Officials, obviously concerned only with a replacement. There ensued a scuffle on the platform, and to Bellak's consternation, the cracked ball was hurled back to him by Billie's son (then aged 8), who thought he had done a good job of work.

Out of the mist of time happiest recollections are the pre-war needle matches between Liverpool and Manchester when Ken Hyde and Hymie Lurie, the respective No. 1s, were at their peak. There was great rivalry in these inter-city fixtures and the finest example of true sportsmanship one could wish to see.

In debate, Billie's habit of calling a spade a spade is a constant source of concern to his friends. His ability to force a viewpoint by well chosen oratory is, however, to be admired even by the opposition.

DESPITE the loss of a leg in the first world war debarring him from active participation in most games, his high spirit, happy smile and genial well-being, coupled with supreme optimism, form an object lesson to his more fortunate fellow men.

HASTINGS MEET THREAT TO SUNDAY

TABLE TENNIS SHOWS by KEITH WATTS

WITH only eight days to go to the Sussex Open Championships and a record entry of 260, Tournament Secretary Cliff Senior was justified in thinking that the fact that this was the thirteenth Championship Meeting had no significance. But nobody knew on Friday, 22nd October, of the contents of a registered letter which was lying in the Piermaster's office addressed to the Association Secretary.

IT was from the Southern Divisional Organiser of the Lord's Day Observance Society informing us that it appeared from a ticket in his possession that we were holding a Tournament on Sunday, 31st October, and that the public was to be charged for admission. 'It pointed out that a serious breach of the law would thus be committed, and asked for an assurance that it would not be held.

After hurried telephone consultations, the Tournaments Committee decided to seek legal advice on the legality of the following methods of running the Sunday sessions :

1. Closing the hall to all but competitors and members of the Association.
2. Admitting the public free and taking a collection and selling souvenir programmes.
3. Admitting the public free and charging for reserved seats.

THE E.T.T.A. was informed of the situation at once, and Bill Pope kept in constant touch with us until he arrived in Hastings for the Tournament. It was with relief that we heard of the E.T.T.A.'s offer to assume responsibility for the legal charges in view of the wider implications of this local attack on our activities. Critics of affiliation to the parent body may now see some value in unity.

The solicitor (the local Coroner !) attended the Tournaments Committee on the 26th carrying several dusty tomes dug out from the Town Hall archives and containing the Act of 1781 which we were offending. It was clear, he said, that our original arrangements made us liable to a penalty of £50 for advertising and £200 for running the show if we charged the public, but there were ways

out. We could take a collection and sell programmes (as the Corporation had done the week before to evade a similar ban on their Hypnotist performance). But the best solution was to follow the lead of a concert promoter who had in 1896 won a court case by printing his tickets—"Admission Free. Reserved seats 1s." Unfortunately we had only three days to print and distribute new tickets, and a collection was voted to be the only practicable course. **It is a fact worth noting that in all these discussions no time was wasted in drawing up plans to cancel the Championships.**

WHEN the dismal job of refunding money for tickets sold was started on Wednesday the holders were given free tickets for reserved seats. *But so many applications were made for them by regular patrons and members that by Thursday the whole house of 600 seats had been covered by free reservations.* The fairness of thus looking after our supporters is obvious and the advantages were equally obvious when the collection was made.

Naturally the Press took a great interest in the progress of events and were extremely helpful. One enterprising photographer wanted a shot of the Committee making the final decision to carry on with the Tournament.

The lure of a free show attracted a larger crowd than usual to the preliminary sessions on Sunday and some difficulty was found in clearing the hall of "squatters" at 5 p.m. to set up for the Finals. By 6 p.m. a large queue had formed in the foyer partly composed of ticket holders and the rest ready to scramble for the best standing room.

AT the interval the Hon. Referee, C. Corti Woodcock, explained the reasons which made a collection necessary, and the highest estimates were exceeded when £34 2s. 6d. was finally counted.

And in spite of the headaches of the week described above, the Hastings Association counts this as its most successful Championship yet: we kept faith with our competitors, we provided local fans with a first-class show, and **even the Tournaments Committee enjoyed the week-end when it became evident that the Sussex Open was very much alive and would not provide another corpse for our friend the Borough Coroner.**

ODD



SHOTS

by "The Umpire"

THE record claimed by the "B.T.H." factory (this page, June, 1948) has soon gone by the board, it seems.

The Willesden League club reported an entry of 29 teams in their inter-departmental competition, an impressive enough total, one might think.

Now here comes Mr. Len Sadler, secretary of the Aylesford Paper Mills table tennis club, near Maidstone: "... we started our inter-departmental competition last month, comprising A and B leagues for men with 11 and 10 teams respectively, and a ladies' league of 18 teams."

Well, this really must be a record—but then we said that before, so let's be careful! What we do feel sure about is that this kind of record-breaking is excellent for table tennis and a valuable tonic to industrial team-spirit.

WOLVES ASTRAY ?

THE occasion was the Birmingham Open Tournament. One of the visitors, anxious to make an enquiry about an address in Wolverhampton, asked the Committee to introduce him to a competitor from that town. Reply was "*we have no entries from Wolverhampton.*"

Distance from Wolverhampton to Birmingham: $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Number of clubs in the Wolverhampton and District T.T. Association, as per last year's handbook: 36.

What went wrong ?

NATIONAL trials for juniors, being held as we go to press, should point the way to the trio to tour Sweden in January, and perhaps also to junior international badges in the New Year.

Sombre reflections; old men Thornhill and Kennedy, who passed the dreaded 17 marks before the D-Day of July 1st, are thinking of buying a gramophone record for the Selection Committee. Chorus: "*This Year's Love and Kisses . . . don't mean a Thing to Me!*"

AT the present time, it seems that the Wembley Open will not take place this season.

Unfortunately, the Wembley Town Hall which has of recent years been the very cosy venue of this tournament, will not be available.

Reason, we understand, is the difficulty encountered in rendering the highly polished floor surface fit for play. The local authorities suggested a loose or "false" floor, but the tournament committee could hardly be expected to face the cost—about £280! Alternatives are being explored, but so far with no luck.

OFFICERS of the newly founded Dartmouth (S. Devon) and District Table Tennis League evidently have an eye for the future. One of the teams playing in the League this season is composed entirely of boys under 14 years of age. They are members of the local cinema club.

Our correspondent tells us that the match system of "3 versus 3" has been adopted, to ensure that teams from outlying villages can catch the last bus home.

(The Dartmouth League are in good company. The Swaythling Cup international matches are played on the "3 versus 3" basis, although it is not considered that the whims of the bus companies had any real influence in the matter.)

NEWS from OVERSEAS

● AUSTRALIA

MIKLOS SZABADOS, Barna's shadow in the old Hungarian days, and now a naturalised Australian, claims to be the only male World Champion to possess a son.

* * *

WE all know what happens to the stumps at the end of a Test Match, but who knows what happens to the table at the end of a World Championship at Wembley? Fortunately, they are not torn limb from limb by souvenir-hunters, and most of us would feel that they deserve a dignified fate. Well, one at least of these famous tables is doing good service, far away in Australia.

Through the generosity of an English businessman, the actual table on which the 1948 World Finals were played now belongs to the Victorian Table Tennis Association over there. It arrived in Melbourne just in time to be used in the State Championships, and, of course, held the place of honour at the Australian Table Tennis Carnival during September.

Local stars who have now returned from Melbourne to Adelaide, Hobart, Townsville, Toowoomba and Broken Hill are heard to say: "*Well, no, I didn't actually win a title, but I played on the World's Finals table—after Vana was knocked out, too!*"

* * *

● SOUTH AMERICA

SIX nations took part in last season's South American Championships, which appear to have been conducted on the "repechage" system used in some of the Olympic sports.

Final placings in the team championships were:

1. ARGENTINA; 2. CHILE; 3. BRAZIL; 4. BOLIVIA; 5 and 6. URUGUAY and PARAGUAY.

The appearance in these far-distant teams of some well-known European names

helps us to get a line on the general form. For instance, Chile was led by **Blahoslav Pazdirek**, the popular Czechoslovak winner of several of our war-time tournaments here; Bolivia could call upon **V. Heksner**, the former Yugoslav international who used to do impossible things (including beating Vana once!) with his big wooden bat.

In the Argentine colours was ex-Austrian **E. Kohn**, the "chop merchant" who used to upset pre-war tournament schedules with his time-less tactics. Many will remember his 20 minutes for one point at South Kensington in 1935 (who was his opponent?), and his monopolising of the end table at Paddington Baths for a whole session to settle his private quarrel with Maurice Symons over the destination of the honours in the Consolation Singles.

In the face of such experienced and varied opposition we must certainly respect the winner of the South American Singles, **Lieut. R. Riveros** of Chile, and the runner-up **E. Consentino** of Argentina.

Almost all of these S.A. stars manipulate the wooden "paddle" with terrific speed and energy; samples of the rubber-faced bat were taken home as *curiosities* by at least one of the South American athletic teams returning from the Olympic Games recently.

* * *

● FRANCE

ALEX AGOPOFF, pictured below, has recently put his Table Tennis experience into a book, *Ping Pong, Mes*



Amours. Although copies have not yet reached us, we hear it is likely to become a classic on the game in France.

CANDIDLY SPEAKING

A FREE FORUM

conducted by

JACK KURZMAN

THE new regulations for Registered Players have at last been issued, and I think they are just about the poorest set of rules that the E.T.T.A. have ever devised. Not only are many of the rules themselves poor, but they are all so wordy and written in such bad English that a person new to our game and seeing them for the first time would think us a very illiterate lot of people. I know there are members of the National Executive Com-

EDITOR'S NOTE

Readers are reminded that CANDIDLY SPEAKING expresses the personal views of the author only.

mittee who can write brilliantly and I am amazed that they should pass anything like this.

TO turn to the rules themselves, they seem to infer that Registered Players are, like the poor, always with us, and that if we must have them they should be kept strictly in order. Take the note appended to Rule 3:—

"Registered Players are expected to make themselves available whenever possible when invited to represent not only their Country but their County as well, in Representative Matches and Open Championships. A persistent refusal to make reasonable contributions in this respect may affect the views entertained by the responsible authority towards subsequent applications for Registration."

Now we all know that a Registered Player would not refuse to play for his Country. The number of International Caps he receives is, in itself, a help to him in obtaining engagements, but as regards County Matches and Open Tournaments, surely the former must select players willing to play and the latter stand on their own feet.

I have never contributed to the view that a tournament cannot be successful without so-called "stars," but obviously such players will compete if they can; they well know that their winning of open tournaments is, in itself, a step to an International Cap, and that if they refrain from playing in competitive events too long, the public will forget them and their services will no longer be required even for exhibition play. And again, we want good coaches; we need them badly. A player may feel that his play is not going to improve, and that his energies are best devoted to coaching. He may be a brilliant coach; why should his registration be refused because he does not wish to play in County Matches or Open Tournaments?

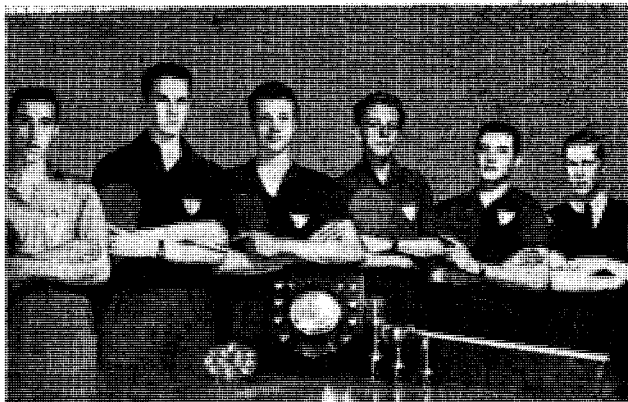
THESE rules will be read by all Registered Players, but I would urge all Clubs and League Secretaries to read them very carefully because they control not only Registered Players but also the activities of clubs and leagues. Rule 3 (g) states that they (Registered Players) may accept any engagement for an exhibition, for coaching or for participation in a Closed or Invitation Tournament... from any authorised Club, League or Association affiliated to the E.T.T.A., providing that the sponsoring Association, League or Club, if within the area of a County Association, has obtained the consent of the County Secretary, or if not within the area of a County Association, has obtained the consent of the Secretary of the E.T.T.A. Now what does this mean? Previously if your club decided that a little coaching would be useful it approached a coach, agreed terms with him, and the coaching proceeded. But you can't do that now, oh, no! You must go to your County Secretary and say, "Dear Sir—Is it all right if we engage Mr. White to coach us at such-and-such a fee?" and the County Secretary can say, "Oh, no! If you want any coaching you will have to have Mr. Black." But you don't want Mr. Black, so your only recourse now is to appeal to the National Executive Committee of the E.T.T.A. and by the time all these formalities have been completed you can forget all about your coaching until next season.

Alternatively, a League or a Works Organisation may run a Closed Championship, and they may feel that the finals are not sufficiently attractive, and should be bolstered by an exhibition. But you cannot go ahead and engage the players you want unless your County Secretary or the Secretary of the E.T.T.A. grants his permission, and I do know it to be a fact that in one County they won't grant permission to engage Registered Players outside the County unless you engage the same number of players at the same fee from within the County. All this may be too expensive, your sole reason for wanting players from outside the County being that, as the local people see less of them, they would be a bigger attraction.

During all my years in the administration of table tennis, I have always felt that the fewer rules the better, and have constantly expressed the view that clubs and leagues should have the utmost autonomy. This until now has been the view of the E.T.T.A., but the years change and I see with great regret that the Association is now interfering in domestic matters by compelling a Club to ask permission to engage

KENTISH COLTS

Forthcoming junior events may well bring one or more of these youngsters into the limelight. Representing the NORTH END JUNIOR TABLE TENNIS CLUB of Dartford last season, they won the Dartford and North Kent Youth League Shield and the Erith Silver Lining Youth Cup; in addition, Derek Driver (the lad with his arm on the shield) won the junior singles and, with Jack Dawson, the junior doubles of the Dartford and North Kent T.T.A.



Left to right: DEREK FITZHENRY (17), JACK DAWSON (17), DEREK DRIVER (16), PETER HORTON (15½), STANLEY FOOTER (15), FREDERICK HARRIS (15½).

CANDIDLY SPEAKING—contd.

players it pleases for coaching or exhibitions. This I consider to be a retrograde step.

THE rules state that panels are to be set up to be called "Approved Coaches Panel" and "Approved Exhibition Players Panel." Under rule 5 (b) they tell you how the applicant shall apply to go on the panel, and as I think this special section is the tit-bit of the whole set of rules, I will quote it in full—

"The Applicant shall specify name, address, telephone number, age (number of years playing, number of exhibitions played during year, with whom, etc., or names of players coached), league played for. He shall also enclose testimonials from individual pupils, leagues, county authorities, also Press cuttings, etc."

I won't comment on the phrasology, it is too bad to be true.

Now, why all these questions? Won't the panels commission which is going to be set up have enough experience and knowledge of players to put a person on the panel without all this palaver?

One last point on this panel business. It is proposed to set up each season a Panels Commission which will consist of three members of the National Executive Committee and two Registered Players—one from the North and one from the South, elected by the Registered Players themselves. Under rule 5 (c) it states that all decisions of this Panels Commission shall be endorsed by the National Executive Committee. Now we see for the first time that a decision of a sub-committee shall automatically be endorsed by a full committee. I have never been on any committee where the decision of a sub-committee cannot be overruled, and have never seen it yet in the rules of any Association.

I sincerely hope that the E.T.T.A., perhaps under pressure from Registered Players, some of whom I know feel most bitter about the new regulations, and from Clubs and Leagues who feel that encroachment on their rights is a step in the wrong direction, will take heed and bring speedy amendment to these rules, treating the Registered Player as an essential part of the game and not a necessary evil, and not by such regulations force into being a Professional Association. If there is anything likely to do this, it is the new Registered Players regulations.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

JUNIOR PLAYERS

Sir.—Suggested schemes for encouraging promising juniors are constantly being put forward, usually linked up with some form of coaching.

One aspect of this matter, which I regard as extremely important is the question of appropriate publicity (or lack of same) that should be afforded to individuals.

This is in the hands of independent correspondents, who have their own ideas, but I feel that they are sometimes activated by considerations other than the interests of the junior concerned.

The aim should be to encourage the player to improve his standard of play, sportsmanship and general behaviour, to discourage conceit, and avoid any suggestion of high expectation in any particular event or season.

To imply that he must reach a set standard can easily defeat this object. It is bad for the morale of a youngster to know beforehand that a standard has been set against his play to which he feels he must rise, and thus carrying an implied threat in case of failure.

The experienced player knows the vagaries of the game, and appreciates the value or otherwise of publicity, but not so the inexperienced junior.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF. HARROWER

CHAMPIONS WELL BEATEN

Essex strengthened their chances of winning the Premier Division of the Championships by overwhelming Middlesex by 7—2. Chief reason for this was the complete failure of the Middlesex girls to reproduce form remotely up to normal. Ken Craigie, playing as substitute for Geoff. Harrower (ill), also had a bad day, losing to Brumwell after being in a winning position by hitting a stream of backhands off the table.

Highlight of the match was the Barna-Leach duel, which proved a classic, nailing the lie that Table Tennis to-day cannot be as spectacular as before the war. Johnny just got home at deuce in the third, and it was really a pity that one of these two great players had to lose:—

Scores:—J. Leach beat G. V. Barna 15, —18, 22; beat B. Crouch 16, 22. R. Langner lost to Barna —13, —20; beat K. Craigie 16, 19. B. Brumwell lost to Crouch —16, 23, —17; beat Craigie 18, —19, 17. Miss M. Franks beat Miss G. Mace 8, 15. Leach and Miss Franks beat Barna and Mrs. Lentie 17, 17. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Davis beat Mrs. Lentie and Miss Fowler 15, 10.

Gloucestershire, newcomers to the Championships, are also going great guns, and followed up their last month's win

over Lancashire by disposing of Yorkshire by 7—2, after Yorkshire had led 2—1. For Yorkshire, the Misses Senior and Lightfoot again won the ladies' doubles, whilst Mitton did well to defeat Dawes in straight games. Kennedy was disappointing; although making a big effort against Simons, he unexpectedly lost to young Griffin. Griffin is obviously a player to watch.

Scores:—A. Simons beat B. Kennedy 9, 28; beat S. Rosenberg 15, 10. R. Griffin beat Kennedy —16, 18, 17; beat G. Mitton 16, —18, 11. W. C. Dawes beat Rosenberg 14, 12; lost to Mitton —19, —19. Miss M. Jones beat Miss N. Senior —22, 12, 17. Simons and Miss Jones beat Mitton and Miss Lightfoot 13, 12. Miss Pomroy and Mrs. Pickett lost to Miss Senior and Miss Lightfoot —13, —13.

Lancashire again lost at home, this time to Surrey. At the time of writing, the official score card has not been received, but it is understood that Stanley, Casofsky and Goodman were disappointing, whilst Adele Wood ran Pinkie Barnes to deuce in the third. Surrey played Head in place of Merrett, who was unable to travel.

HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

Playing a team with an average age of 20, two members being only 15, Middlesex 2nds established a clear lead by defeating Essex 2nds 6—3. For Essex, only Keith Collar shone, gaining good wins over Glickman and Thornhill. The 15-year-old Rowe girls, playing for their county for the first time, just lost the ladies' doubles at 19 in the third, after being behind all the way and then pulling up to 17 all.

Hertfordshire gained their first win in the championships by just getting the better of Cambridgeshire. Cambridge won four of the six men's singles, the 16-year-old Cornwall winning both his matches, but the Hertfordshire girls proved much too strong.

Hertfordshire, however, did not do so well against Buckinghamshire, and lost 2—7. Leo Thompson, the old Middlesex player, proved the mainstay of the Bucks. side.

Buckinghamshire, however, lost their unbeaten record when they went down 4—5 to Bedfordshire, although Leo Thompson again played his part nobly, beating Randall and Ironmonger, and, Miss O'Reilly, getting the better of Fossey and Miss Swales. The all-round strength of the Beds. side proved too much in the long run, however.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Lancashire 2nds played an experimental side against Cumberland, and

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proved successful by 6 games to 3, the 3 representing the biggest score that Cumberland have so far achieved, and it is to be hoped that they will be spurred on to even greater effort. Dixon and Yates both won singles for them, whilst Yates, in partnership with Arrowsmith, was successful in the men's doubles.

Northumberland, runners-up in this division last season, went down 4-5 to Cheshire, their second successive defeat by this score. They are in dire need of fresh blood in the men's department, and lack of promising material in this direction may mean them finishing lower this season.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

This division again looks like being a struggle between Surrey 2nds and Hampshire. Following their 6-3 win over Sussex, Hampshire were successful by 7-2 against Kent at Portsmouth, Kent being winners in only the ladies' singles and mixed doubles. Surrey just got the better of Sussex 5-4 at Brighton, after Sussex had led 3-2. Head, who played brilliantly against Lancashire for his first team, lost to both Seaman and Fretwell.

SUPPLEMENTARY DIVISION

The very fact that the opening fixture in this division was played at all can be hailed as a triumph. The fact that Derbyshire lost at home 2-7 to Nottinghamshire is incidental to the efforts made by Notts to arrive at the match at all. On the night in question, there was thick fog, and the taxi driver who had been engaged to take the team to Buxton refused to undertake the trip. Nothing daunted, Mr. Nichols telephoned right and left until he found a car to take them (costing £7, incidentally) and they arrived for the match after 9 p.m., finished at midnight, returned to Nottingham at 2.30 a.m.

CLASSIFIED RESULTS

Premier Division:			
Essex	7	Middlesex	2
Lancashire	3	Surrey	6
Yorkshire	4	Warwickshire	5
Gloucestershire	7	Yorkshire	2
Home Counties Division:			
Hertfordshire	2	Buckinghamshire	7
Middlesex 2nds	6	Essex 2nds	3
Hertfordshire	5	Cambridgeshire	4
Bedfordshire	5	Buckinghamshire	4
Northern Division:			
Lancashire 2nds	6	Cumberland	3
Northumberland	4	Cheshire	5
Southern Division:			
Kent	4	Sussex	5
Sussex	4	Surrey 2nds	5
Hampshire	7	Kent	2
Supplementary Division:			
Derbyshire	2	Nottinghamshire	7

THE NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

1st Round Wilmott Cup Results:

Southend 5	L.B.H.A.S.A. 4
University of London 2	Central 7
Film Renters ... 1	London Banks ... 8
Wanstead and Woodford 0	East London ... 9
Fellows Cranleigh Club 8	N.A.L.G.O. ... 1
Barnets 3	Wembley and Harrow 6
Staines 0	North Middlesex ... 3
South-West Middlesex 6	Reading 3
North-West Kent ... 1	Croydon 8
Bromley 2	South London ... 7
Woolwich 2	Beckenham 7
Sutton Valence ... 5	Medway Towns ... 4
St. Albans 6	Bedford 3
Horsham 5	Bournemouth ... 4
Portsmouth ... ser.	Brighton ... w/o.
South Devon ... 4	Bristol 5
Lowestoft 4	Cambridge 5
Ipswich 4	Kings Lynn 5
Boston 3	Spalding 6
Chester 4	Nelson 5
Manchester 9	Leek 0
Chesterfield ... 4	Blackpool 5
Southport 1	Birmingham ... 8
Ellesmere Port ... 9	Chorley 0
Sheffield 2	Bolton
West Craven ... 0	Sunday Schools 5
Carlisle 4	Halifax
West Cumberland .. 3	Red Triangle 9
	Northumberland ... 5
	Sunderland 6

1st Round J. M. Rose Bowl Results:

Civil Service ... 9	London Banks ... 0
North-West Kent ... 6	Sutton Valence ... 3
L.B.H.A.S.A. ... 7	Film Renters ... 2
North Middlesex ... 9	Southend 0
Willesden 7	Cheshamford ... 0
Croydon 8	South-West Middlesex 1
Slough 2	Sallsbury 7
Reading 2	Bournemouth ... 7
South Devon ... 2	Bristol 7
Ipswich 6	Kings Lynn 3
Bedford 3	Cambridge 9
Manchester 8	Birmingham ... 4

WOMEN'S TRIAL MATCH

"South" beats "North"

In the special match at Newcastle-on-Tyne on November 22nd, the three Southerners, Miss L. Barnes, Miss G. Mace and Miss M. Jones, won 6 matches to 3 against the Northerners, Miss J. Purves, Miss M. Smith and Miss A. Wood.

Best effort for the losers was by Miss Adele Wood, who defeated Gwen Mace and Miss M. Jones, and only narrowly lost to Miss Pinkie Barnes.

CUTTING RETORT

Heard in the dressing-room:—"Oh, I'll beat him—he couldn't hit through a paper bag."

"No, but perhaps he could chop through one!"

THE YORKSHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

By kind permission of Mr. L. Holdsworth, a Vice-President of the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association, this tournament was once again staged at Holdsworth's Welfare Club, Drighlington, on Friday and Saturday, 12th and 13th November, 1948.

A record number of entries was received—well over 600—and there were players from various parts of England, including an especially large contingent from the neighbouring county of Lancashire. Scotland's International, Helen Elliott, was also present, paying her first visit to a Yorkshire tournament.

There were many outstanding games in the Men's Singles, with Lancashire providing the four semi-finalists, E. Rumjhan, K. Stanley, Shepherd, and B. Casofsky. Retaining his title for the third successive year, Casofsky played brilliantly and was never in real trouble throughout the tournament, although B. Kennedy (Leeds) and Shepherd (Bolton) took him to three games.

In the Ladies' Singles, Nora Senior (Sheffield) gave Helen Elliott a real shock by taking the first game in the semi-final 21-12, but after a terrific struggle Helen won through to the final. Betty Steventon, after a fairly easy

passage through the tournament, accounted for Mrs. Bate (Leeds) in the other semi-final, but was no match for the Scottish girl in the final.

The holders of the ladies' doubles title, Nora Senior (Sheffield) and Marjorie Lightfoot (Leeds), were defeated in the semi-final by the ultimate winners, Betty Steventon and Peggy Allen (Blackpool), after leading 19-14 in the third game. The latter pair went on to beat Helen Elliott and Adele Wood (Manchester) in the final, although it must be said that young Adele was labouring under difficulty after being ill all day.

Yorkshire had only two representatives in the finals—B. Kennedy and A. Thompson (Leeds)—who put up a very good fight against B. Casofsky and K. Stanley, although defeated in two games.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Casofsky beat Stanley 21-16, 21-19.

Women's Singles: Miss H. Elliott beat Miss B. Steventon 21-15, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: Casofsky and Stanley beat Kennedy and Thompson 21-16, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Miss Steventon and Mrs. M. Allen beat Miss Elliott and Miss A. Wood 19-21, 22-20, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles: B. Casofsky and Miss B. Steventon beat K. Stanley and Mrs. M. Allen 21-19, 32-20.

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THE EASTERN SUBURBAN OPEN

Sharman Defeats Leach

The spectators, crowding into the spacious Ilford Baths Hall, were eagerly discussing the possibilities of the latest instalment of the Barna-Leach serial.

They were rudely awakened from this wishful thinking by the sight of Ron Sharman, patiently chopping his way into the final by the narrowest of narrow margins over the said Leach.

That Sharman must develop his attacking spirit was emphasised in his finals match with Victor Barna.

Cleverly, though unexcitingly, Barna flicked and dropped his relentless way through Sharman's defence, knowing full

SCORES :

Men's Singles Semi-Finals—

Barna beat Carrington 15, 16.
Sharman beat Leach 23, —14, 20.

Finals—

Barna beat Sharman 13, 13, 20.

Women's Singles Finals—

Miss F. Franks beat Miss P. Barnes 17, —19, 6.

Women's Doubles Finals—

Barnes - Franks beat Mrs. Adams - Mrs. Bennett 17, 18.

Mixed Doubles Finals—

Barna - Miss Barnes beat Hook - Miss Franks 7, 17.

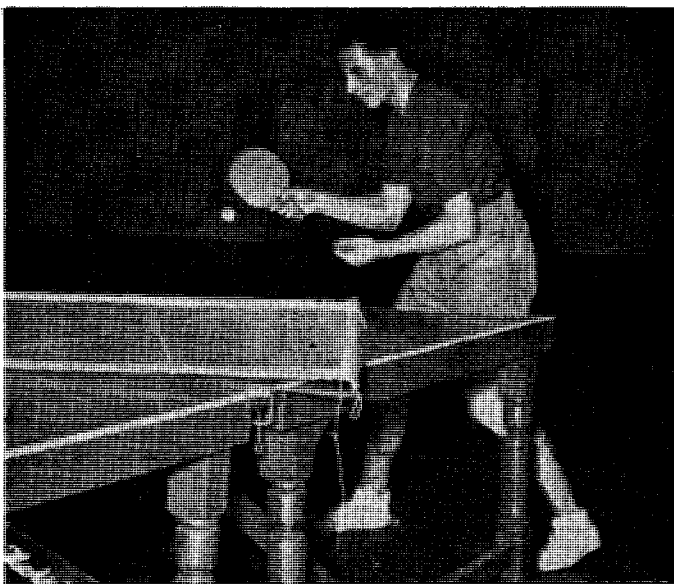
Men's Doubles Finals—

Leach - Carrington beat Thornhill - Crouch 10, 11.

(At Ilford, 6 Nov., 1948)

BERNARD CROUCH

After a good performance at Birmingham, Londoner Bernard Crouch with young Michael Thornhill beat Barna and Brook in the Eastern Suburban Men's Doubles Semi-final.



well that the Londoner would very rarely attack his hittable drop shots. Thus Victor Barna won the cup he himself presented to the Tournament two years ago, in straight games.

Earlier on the same night, young Michael Thornhill backed up his more aggressive partner Bernard Crouch to the extent of a two straight win over Barna and Alec Brook, that after being 20—17 and 20—18 down in the first and second game respectively. Their smooth offensive, however, met an even smoother one in the shape of the Leach and Carrington combination and the Middlesex pair were hard put to reach double figures in each game.

Peggy Franks started well against Pinkie Barnes in the women's singles finals. Taking the first game at 17, she nervously lost the second, but plucking up courage, Peggy's stylish backhand took over and despite Miss Barnes' surprise forehand attack raced to an 8—2 lead in the third and held it comfortably.

Special Credits:

Miss Dakin's (Southend) convincing win over international R. Lentle (15, 15). Keith Collar's good win (21—14 in the third) over Ron Crayden, and last, but far from least, 16-year-old D. Marko's performance in winning the Consolation Singles. If handled properly he should do well in the future.

CZECHS TAKE ALL SUSSEX TITLES

The lure of table tennis at the end of a pier, the group system (with even a consolation event for runners-up) and the well-known Saturday evening "social," brought the quantity—a record number—to Hastings, whilst the Czech tourists led the "quality."

Medal of the month goes to Keith Hurlock for storming the middle game 21-14 against Vana in his group; inspired by this he went on to win the Consolation by ferocious hitting against his Wimbledon team-mate, Jackie Head.

In the semi-final, Leach/Carrington, after a slow start, overhauled the world champions Vana/Stipek, only to lose the 2nd game 24-26 following many rousing exchanges.

Leach and Peggy Franks did well to beat Andreadis/Fuerstova (16, -20, 17) in the semi-final Mixed, but the strength of Hruskova made all the difference in the final.

Ron Sharman slowed down the menacing attack of Crouch in clever fashion, although the Ashford hitter can blame himself for not clinching a 18-14 lead in the 3rd game. Is Crouch conscious of the reputation of his opponents in the critical stage—he lost his chance against Simons at Birmingham in the first game?

The Junior Boys' Singles was notable for the fine natural play of 13-year-old D. Eagles, of Sittingbourne; big brother P. Eagles appeared certain to win the final with his flowing forehand drives, only to crack against the exceptional tenacity of 16-year-old Peter Smith, of Leyton.

The Sunday evening finals were attended by Mr. W. J. Pope, the E.T.T.A. Secretary.

Johnny Leach had earlier disposed of Tokar by a splendid show of continuous hitting with frequent switches between backhand and forehand corners; his semi-final hopes were soon dashed when Vana ran into devastating hitting form right from the first point.

A sluggish Andreadis had Stipek to thank for waking him up before the final in which he looked a certain loser to the energetic little man. The scores show 3-0 to Andreadis, yet Vana led in every game (by 17-11, 17-14, and 17-15 respectively!). By some strange lapse Vana allowed Ivan to fall into his continuous attacking rhythm each time. Having decided that he could not out-hit his man, Vana then made the tactical mistake of chopping from the short position.

This carried risks without rewards, for

of all players Andreadis is least worried by either the heaviness of the chop or the more-quickly returning ball. The only thing that worries him is having time to think about his drives (... *what was that fellow's name at Wembley? Bergmann?*).

RESULTS

- M.S. Semi-Finals—
Vana beat Leach 12, 9.
Andreadis beat Stipek —16, 12, 11.
M.S. Finals—
Andreadis beat Vana 20, 17, 23.
W.S.—
Hruskova beat Fuerstova 10, 8.
M.D.—
Andreadis/Tokar beat Vana/Stipek —21, 12, 17.
W.D.—
Hruskova/Fuerstova beat Franks/Weaver 11, 17.
X.D.—
Vana/Hruskova beat Leach/Franks 15, 10.
Junior Boys'—
P. Smith (Leyton) beat P. Eagles (Sittingbourne) —21, 19, 13.
Mens' Consolation—
K. Hurlock (Epsom) beat J. Head (Wimbledon) 14, —8, 19, 13.
Womens' Consolation—
Miss E. Weaver (Morden) beat Miss E. Sacker (Eastbourne) 13, 8.
(Played 30-31 October, 1948)

MIDDLESEX NOTES

A total of nearly 800 entries has been received for the Closed Championships, being held at the Paddington Baths from the 7th to the 11th December. Included in the entry are eight internationals, headed by Victor Barna, and over 20 county players. Secretary Geoff. Harrower, having to start at 5.30 each night to get through the programme, would be only too pleased to see volunteers, especially umpires.

Although held in thick fog, all but one of the nominated boys turned up for the junior trials, and play was continuous from 2 until 7 p.m. Eventually four lads, Lipitch, Isaacs (South of England Junior Champion), Greenbury and Allen, were nominated for inclusion in the International Junior Trials.

In the inter-league Championships, North Middlesex are being strongly challenged by Staines, in the premier division, whilst South-West Middlesex, for so long wooden spoonists, now lead in the West Zone. This re-distribution of assets, as it were, is doing a lot of good, and it is hoped that still more leagues will enter next season.

The Middlesex Club Championships are well under way, and although, of course, there were a number of byes in the first round, it must be something of a record to find every match played by the date appointed, with no scratchings?

DARK HINTS FOR THE FAIR SEX



Revealed

by

MISS M ALL

WESTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

Men's Section, Division 1

Results: Newport 5, Swindon 4; Worcester 5, Newport 4; Cardiff 6, Worcester 3; Birmingham 6, Bristol 3; Swindon 1, Worcester 8; Birmingham 8, Cardiff 1; Bristol 3, Cardiff 6; Birmingham 8, Newport 1; Worcester 0, Cardiff 9.

	Plyd.	Wn.	Lst.	Pts.
Birmingham	3	3	0	6
Cardiff	4	3	1	6
Worcester	4	2	2	4
Newport	3	1	2	2
Swindon	2	0	2	0
Bristol	2	0	2	0

Division 2 (North)

Results: Swindon 5, Weston 4; Weston 2, Cheltenham 7; Bath 7, Swindon 2; Bristol 7, Gloucester 2; Cheltenham 4, Bristol 5; Oxford 3, Bristol 6; Cheltenham 0, Bath 9; Gloucester 3, Weston 6; Swindon 3, Cheltenham 6; Bath 7, Gloucester 2; Weston 4, Oxford 5.

	Plyd.	Wn.	Lst.	Pts.
Bath	3	3	0	6
Bristol	3	3	0	6
Cheltenham	4	2	2	4
Oxford	2	1	1	2
Swindon	3	1	2	2
Weston	4	1	3	2
Gloucester	3	0	3	0

Division 2 (South)

Results: S. Devon A 6, Taunton 3; S. Devon B 2, Exeter B 7; Exeter A 7, S. Devon A 2; Exeter B 5, S. Devon B 4; Taunton 2, Exeter A 7.

	Plyd.	Wn.	Lst.	Pts.
Exeter A	2	2	0	4
Exeter B	2	2	0	4
S. Devon A	2	1	1	2
Taunton	2	0	2	0
S. Devon B	2	0	2	0

Women's Division (North)

Results: Birmingham 3, Bristol 6; Birmingham 8, Cardiff 1; Bristol 7, Cardiff 2.

	Plyd.	Wn.	Lst.	Pts.
Bristol	2	2	0	4
Birmingham	2	1	1	2
Cardiff	2	0	2	0

Women's Division (South)

Results: Exeter B 2, Exeter A 7.

	Plyd.	Wn.	Lst.	Pts.
Exeter A	1	1	0	2
Exeter B	1	0	1	0
S. Devon A	0	0	0	0
S. Devon B	0	0	0	0

This time girls, I am going to assume that you have reached a fair standard of proficiency and will advise you on how to win matches in tournaments.

You know, girls, far too many of those who play Table Tennis try to win by superior play—they neglect the psychological side entirely, and so I am going to give you a few wrinkles which have served me well.

We will start with the approach to the table. Your name is called — Don't hurry, let your opponent get there first—a little waiting will make her impatient; just wait until your name has been called twice—a smile of apology will appease any official.

When you get to the table you will probably find that the other girl has been having a "knock"—and very probably with the ball the umpire has brought for the game. Give this ball two real "bashes" and then announce that it is too heavy or too light (it doesn't matter which) and ask for another. You can produce one from your bag, but this doesn't often succeed. Having got rid of the ball and therefore discounted the value of your opponent's "knock," don't let her get used to the new one. Serve short so that she can't hit it, but hit the return as hard as you can, and preferably off the table. When she serves, do it again. She will then be fairly wild at continually picking the ball up. When she is ruffled sufficiently, suggest that you start; she will be only too willing.

(To be continued)

Mr. Leslie Forrest, secretary of the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association since the war, virtual founder of the Liverpool and District T.T.A., and one-time Assistant Secretary of the English Table Tennis Association, is soon to be married to Miss Aranka Wilcsek, a cousin of Victor Barna.

Leslie has decided that he must now relinquish some of his numerous administrative responsibilities, although it is hardly likely that he will stray far or long from the scene of his life-long enthusiasm.

We wish him happiness and full enjoyment of the leisure which he has so unselfishly denied himself for many years.

YOUR SEASON'S DIARY

Tournaments marked thus * include events specially for Juniors.
It is hoped that all young players will take every chance of gaining experience in these events.

Date	Tournament or Event	Venue	Tickets or Information from :
*Dec. 13-18	Central London Open ...	Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.	G. R. James, 17, St. Ann's Villas, London, W.11.
1949			
Jan. 3-8	Metropolitan Open ...	The Polytechnic Annex, Little Titchfield Street, W.1.	Mr. C. McKenna, The Polytechnic, 309, Regent Street, London, W.1.
*Jan. 15	Hull Open ...	East Hull Barracks ...	H. Flinton, 28, Albert Avenue, Anlaby Street, Hull.
Jan. 15	WALES v. ENGLAND	Swansea ...	Mrs. Roy Evans, The Rise, 16, Tymawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.
*Jan. 16	Hampshire Open ...	Blighmont Drill Hall, Milbrook Road, Southampton ...	Miss L. Ferguson, 20, Atherley Road, Southampton.
*Jan. 20-22	Lancashire Open ...	Drill Hall, Hyde Road, Manchester	Mr. E. Worsley, 13, Nursery Road, Manchester.
Jan. 30	Kent Open ...	R. E. Gymnasium, Brompton, Chatham.	S. E. Groves, 12, Lancelot Avenue, Strood, Rochester.
Feb. 4-10	THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	Stockholm ...	E.T.T.A. Office.
*Feb. 16-19	THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS	See Special Notice below.	
*Feb. 24-26	Midland Counties Open	The Indoor Sports Stadium, Birmingham.	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 15.
*Mar. 1-4	Surrey Open ...	The Baths Hall, Epsom	C. A. Bourne, 46, Elm Park Gardens, Selston, Surrey.

SOME LATER LANDMARKS

Mar. 11	ENGLAND v. IRELAND (at Liverpool).
*Mar. 19	West of England Open.
* 19	Grimsby Open.
* 21-26	West Middlesex Open.
*Mar. 31-	
April 2	North of England Open.
*Apr. 4-9	Middlesex (Herga) Open.
* 16-18	N.E. England Open.
*May 2-7	Thameside Open.
* 21	Bucks Open (finals).

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS

(2/- per line. **Box Nos. 1/- extra.**)
PRE-WAR "Jacques" Tournament Table, £35. Has only been used for Exhibitions. — 129, Park Road, East Barnet. Phone Barnet 3917.

TABLE Tennis Table (Championship model), good condition, £35. — Apply Chapman, 211, High Road, Streatham, S.W.16.

JACQUES Tournament Table; perfect condition, £30.—FLA 5465.

THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

16-19th February, 1949

Early rounds will be played at:
PADDINGTON BATHS HALL
PORCHESTER PLACE
LONDON - W. 1

Later rounds and finals at:
THE EMPIRE POOL
WEMBLEY STADIUM

on FRIDAY, 18th, and SATURDAY, 19th FEBRUARY, 1949

Details from your Club Secretary or from English Table Tennis Association, 69, Victoria Street, S.W.1.