

TABLETENNIS



ROSALIND ROWE
Middlesex and England

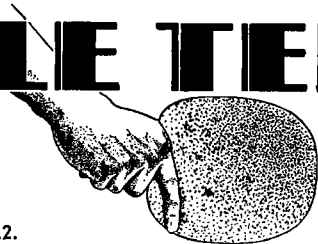
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- A. K. VINT

Special Feature in this issue:
Open Tournaments discussed by Famous Figures

Vol. VIII. No. 4
DECEMBER,
1949

TABLE TENNIS



Official Magazine
of the
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
214 Grand Buildings,
Trafalgar Sq., London, W.C.2.

Publishers :
WALTHAMSTOW
PRESS, LTD.,
Guardian House,
London, E.17

THE DIGNITY OF TABLE TENNIS

SINCE the formation of the English Table Tennis Association, those who love the game, with a devotion beyond personal glory, have striven to establish a dignity, status and traditions in the wide and jealous realm of Major Sports.

* * *

Success has been swift and incredible. In the short span of a young man's majority, Table Tennis has swept the entire civilised world and captured the imagination of millions. The World Championships bring more international representatives together than any other single sport. Its adherents range from royalty to the cheeky lad in the youth club. Press, radio and television have acknowledged the force of the mounting tide. The Ministry of Education have given it the accolade of official recognition, as have many of the public authorities of Europe. It has been named among the many sports meriting a place in the Olympiads, for what other sport more truly practises the ideals of "The important thing is not so much in winning, but in taking part."

* * *

If anything else were needed it could only be official recognition by the great British Universities, those unique and proud institutions, universally appraised by tradition as representative of all that is best in sport and sportsmanship.

It is with pride in our sport and our organisation, therefore, that we hear that Cambridge University has

this year officially recognised Table Tennis, and that representative appearances may qualify for a Half Blue.

This is splendid news and must surely overshadow the patronising or discouraging attitude taken by some educational leaders, notably in public schools. Table Tennis is a Major Sport. A World Sport. It has outlived its humble origin and achieved its prime, to stand youthful and virile, courteously yielding pride of place only to Cricket and Football.

* * *

As we go to press, we have just heard that Cambridge University have some 1,200-odd players organised into a league of five divisions.

* * *

MAKING HISTORY

WE who have grown with the game have tended to forget that we are the makers of history, and on page 16 Corti Woodcock gives us a belated but timely reminder of our responsibilities to posterity, which we earnestly commend to the attention of all.

We should be wise to remember, also, that we are making now the customs and usages which will become the tradition of the future. The controversies over such matters as White v. Coloured shirts, height of the net, personal conduct, etc., assume a new importance when viewed in this light.

A FINAL TRIBUTE

IN the B.B.C. Sports Report for November 18th, *Stewart MacPherson* led a team of sports specialists—**PETER WILSON**, **BILL MCGOWAN** and **ALAN HOBY**—in a discussion on *Professional or Amateur*, and right from the word "Go," Table Tennis came in for big and unanimous acclaim as the only big sport which had successfully solved the problem.

LATE NEWS

ENGLAND v. FRANCE

Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, 16th December

The English team will be :

J. A. Leach, A. Simons, D. Miller.

Non-playing Captain: A. A. Haydon.

French team from:

M. Haguenauer, G. Amouretti, M. Lanskoj,

G. Roothoft.

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68, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts.

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Copy for the January issue should reach Mr. L. S. Woollard at 12, Campbell Road, Bedford, not later than 20th December.

"TABLE TENNIS" is published on the first Thursday of each month, September to May.

Subscription: Single issue, 7d., post free;
Full year (9 issues), 5s. 0d., post free.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN TOUR ARRANGEMENTS

Captain's Statement

At the end of the tour of Czechoslovakia a number of Press reports appeared suggesting political and other motives as the reasons for the last two matches for each team not being played. My impressions of the facts are not in accord with the reports.

It is true that the matches tentatively agreed for the last two days did not take place. On the day of arrival in Prague (31st October) the playing and social arrangements were agreed with the Hon. Treasurer of the Czechoslovak Table Tennis Association. The details varied from those originally given in England—on the first day one team only was expected to play—the fixtures for the other provincial towns were definite up to Thursday, 10th November, but the remainder were indefinite and, in fact, the provisional towns for the last two days differed in some cases from the original list we had before leaving England.

On Thursday, 10th November, I was advised that there were difficulties about arranging the matches for the Friday and Saturday, so the teams returned to Prague where we were most hospitably entertained and arrangements made for sightseeing visits, etc. The two teams played 14 matches, including the International match, in a period of 10 days. After this strenuous tour involving much travelling the teams were more relieved than otherwise that the matches for the last two days did not materialise.

It is quite untrue that political manifestations of any kind were associated with any of the matches. Wherever the teams played they were warmly welcomed (in fact, we made the comment many times "How friendly everybody is"), and the players of both teams were sportingly applauded during play. On occasions our players were besieged for autographs, and at the conclusion of many of the matches some very happy social functions took place.

At each centre we visited short speeches of welcome were made, in which the hope was expressed that sporting relations between the two countries would lead to improved understanding and relations in general, a sentiment reciprocated by the vice-captain (Aubrey Simons) and myself on behalf of the teams. At many of the towns we expressed publicly our thanks for the warmth of the welcome and the great hospitality bestowed on us by those organising the matches.

On the day of departure from Prague I received a personal message from the President of the Sokol organisation congratulating the team on their sporting conduct, which was described as a model for general emulation. In addition, a cordial invitation was given to the E.T.T.A. to send players to take part in the Czechoslovak Open National Championships and other events later in the season.

We received from all the National Officers of the Czechoslovak Table Tennis Association every consideration for our needs—in fact, they all gave much of their personal time during our stay—and I feel we have done much to strengthen the bond of friendship which has existed between our Associations for getting on towards a quarter of a century.

A. K. VINT,

Hon. Treasurer of the E.T.T.A. and
non-playing captain of the Touring Team.

ALL England has now heard of those fine young players, the "ROWE twins," of Sudbury, Middlesex. All the World will hear of them within a season or two.

It is not easy for twins to accept gracefully and comfortably, sudden limelight and almost compulsory glamourising, but these girls have done so. They are so essentially "Sportsmen."

Our cover picture could be *either*, but daddy Rowe assures us that it is ROSALIND, the right-hander, who has just returned from Czechoslovakia. There she won all her matches, including the singles and doubles (with Joan Crosby) in the international match—her first of course.

Defeated on her return to tournament play by Peggy Allen, Rosalind sat eagerly applauding as her sister DIANE "avenged" the family defeat and claimed the South of England singles title. (Naturally they took the doubles together again).

Long may they inspire each other, and all of us!

OUR COVER PICTURE

THE E.T.T.A. HANDBOOK

The Official 1949-50 E.T.T.A. Handbook has now been published and is being circulated to all Clubs, Leagues and other affiliated organisations.

REGISTERED PLAYERS

Fifty-three applicants have been approved by the National Executive Committee as Registered Players for the current year. The list of names is not reproduced here for space reasons; those interested will find the list at page 118 of the E.T.T.A. Handbook.

ALEC. D. BROOK

(International Table Tennis Champion)

We are Complete Sports Specialists & Outfitters.

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- ★ Badminton
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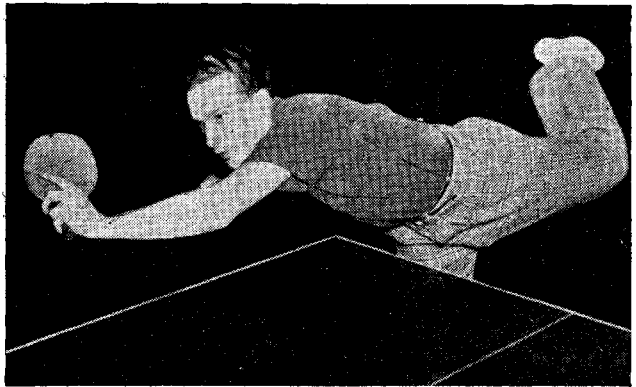
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NEWS from OVERSEAS

Picture shows red-headed American SOL SCHIFF, new Canadian Open Champion, and now ranked as No. 1 U.S. player.



ARRANGEMENTS have been made for a 3-week tour of England by a team of Swedish junior boys, finishing at the English Open Championships, week ending 11th March, 1950.

With memories of some very pleasant matches two years ago, many invitations have already been sent in to E.T.T.A. headquarters.

A Junior International match will be included in the programme—venue to be announced shortly.

* * *

ALEC BROOK, stage partner of Barna, has temporarily teamed up with STEPHEN BOROS for an eight-week stage tour of South Africa. I.T.T.F. rules do not permit them to take part in South African T.T.A. events.

According to recent reports, international RON LITTEN does not have it all his own way, being ranked No. 3 after the ex-Wolverhampton boy, REX EDWARDS, and HYMIE SOFER, who came to London in 1948.

Edwards made a great impression in winning the South African singles championship in October, the Press reports commenting on his fluent style and "poker-face." He is now a partner in a transport enterprise, making gruelling trips with his heavy trucks as far as Rhodesia.

Two days later, the new-crowned champion had to bend the knee to T. PAITAKI, in the deciding match of the inter-province team championships. As Paitaki also beat Litten in this final, it is not surprising to learn that his Western Province supporters carried him shoulder-high from the table.

On the women's side, nobody yet approaches BETTY BLACKBOURN.

* * *

ALTHOUGH NEW ZEALAND are still unable to finance the visit of an official team to Europe, the New Zealand flag will be flown at the coming World Championships in Budapest.

Three of their young men, J. Stewart, J. Crossley and V. Brightwell, have already left New Zealand to work their passages to England. Although not officially selected, they are somewhere in the first dozen on the ranking list and have been given permission to represent their country in the Swaythling Cup and the World's and English Championships.

AUBREY SIMONS' defeat of IVAN ANDREADIS in Prague makes good reading when you consider the form shown by the great Czech stylist just before that match. Leading a determined Czechoslovak "come-back" effort at the Budapest Open Championships, Andreadis beat first SOOS (3-1) and then KOCZIAN (-17, 8, 17, 19), while VANA beat SIDO (-11, 18, 20, 19). In the final, Andreadis beat Vana by 18, -19, 5, -12, 22, after surviving two match points in the 5th.

W.S. final: FARKAS beat HRUSKOVA, -14, 11, 15, 13.

M.D. final: ANDREADIS and TOKAR beat SIDO and KOCZIAN -11, 22, 13, -19, 20 (after the Hungarians had led 14-6 in the 5th!).

Now Czechoslovakia have defeated Hungary, 5-2, in the friendly international match.

JUGOSLAVIA beat the touring SWEDEN team 5-3 at Subotica and 5-2 at Zagreb. V. HARANGOZO won all his matches for Jugo. The home team also beat FRANCE (men) 5-1, and FRANCE (women) 3-2 at Zagreb.

CANADA: winners of all events at the Canadian Open, at Toronto, end August, came from U.S.A. (M.S.: Schiff; W.S.: Leah Neuberger; M.D.: Schiff/McClure, etc.).

U.S.A.: Present official rankings (Miles, Reisman, Cartland being suspended) are, in order:—

Men: SCHIFF, PRICE, NASH, HOLZRICHTER, LASATER.

Women: L. NEUBERGER, MONESS, CHOTRAS, T. THALL.

Thelma Thall was married recently to Norman Sommer, prominent lawn tennis player, of Philadelphia.

IT is amusing to note how the "laurels" of some immigrant players blossom more fully in the South African sun.

Thus Manchester readers will be pleased to learn that Norman Davis is "the complete table tennis player" and "an English International of long standing"! Ron Litten is credited with numerous English and Continental titles.

Even one of our well-known 3-star balls is announced as "Approved for Tournament Play by the English Lawn Tennis Association." Things are looking up!

My Prize Xmas Dream

By JACK CARRINGTON

IT is Xmas Eve, and those deadly rivals, NUTS and CRACKERS, are playing off the final of the Painless Knock-Out Cup at MUCH-FIDDLING-IN-THE-DRAW.

The score is 2-all. One game to play, and the two stars, both undefeated for 10 seasons, are about to settle the issue.

(How can they *both* be undefeated? Well, perhaps I should say *virtually* undefeated. You see, Nuts only won when Crackers had a bad cold, and Crackers only won when Nuts was worried about his business, so they were never really beaten. Really, I mean.)

THEY change ends for the last game, and the crowd settles itself down for a thrilling sleep.

But stay! There is a curious sound about the bounce of the ball. Nuts at once claims that it is cracked, but Crackers says "Nuts!"

"Another ball," orders the Umpire . . . but, alas, all the boxes are empty. You see, there were 150 competitors in this tournament, and a gross of balls doesn't go far amongst that number. Why, it's hardly one each!

Calamity. All shops are shut, no more balls can be found, so the destiny of the Pot must be decided by this frail and solitary spheroid.

THERE is a lengthy conference. The audience can hear the brains of the Committee working overtime in that little back room—they sound just like clinking glasses.

Ah, here comes MR. I. TOSSUP, the Referee, wiping his lips—sorry, I mean his brow.

"Ladies and gentlemen, and members of the MUCH-FIDDLING Table Tennis League," he declaims, "the suspect ball has been handed over for inspection by that famous figure, MR. WILLY

WILL-NOT, the chief Egg-Tester of the Ministry of Fowl Services, and here is his report:—

"Say, folks, I sure have had a dekko at this ball of yours.

"I've weighed it and measured it. I've smitten it and bitten it, washed it and squashed it, compressed it and stressed it.

"I've levelled it and bevelled it, spun it and done it.

"Ladies and gentlemen, and all those who have not yet paid their affiliation fees," says Willy, "like so many of us, this ball ain't cracked—only nearly!

"But I warn you, the slightest blow may cause permanent injury to the ball. It's rather thin, but I've soaked it in gin—so it may hold together when hit with a feather.

"My ruling is, therefore: *THE SHOW MUST GO ON.* All Fiddling fans are waiting to know: Which comes first, the Nuts or the Crackers!"

Mr. Tossup then announced: "Owing to the danger of breaking the ball, Messrs. Nuts and Crackers have agreed to play off the final game on a novel system.

They will endeavour to conclude the match with the smallest possible number of contacts between bat and ball, consistent with the laws of table tennis.

AT this point I awoke, my dreams unfinished . . . Can YOU finish it off, successfully?

It sounds easy, but so far nobody I have asked has given me the correct answer.

Here is the query:—

? WHAT IS THE LOWEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF TIMES A BALL NEED BE STRUCK TO BRING A SINGLE GAME TO A LEGITIMATE CONCLUSION?

Send your solutions, with full reasoning, to:

XMAS PRIZE DREAM,

c/o E.T.T.A.,

214, Grand Buildings,

Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

The sender of the first correctly reasoned answer opened after that date by Mr W. J. Pope, the E.T.T.A. Secretary, will receive free of charge, **TWO HALF-GUINEA TICKETS** for the English Open finals at Wembley, 10th March, 1950.

SIMONS defeats ANDREADIS

WHEN one begins to sort out impressions of the Table Tennis Tour of Czechoslovakia it is natural most vivid of course being the sensational win in that some of the high lights should show up first, the International match at Hradec Kralove—nearly 2,000 spectators, some almost hanging on to windows and ladders by their ears—the playing of the national anthems—an enthusiastic welcome by speech and applause—the defeat of the redoubtable Ivan Andreadis by a very cool and calm Aubrey Simons; Rosalind Rowe in her singles being 20—16 down in the third game and with dogged perseverance winning and so making the match 4—4; and then Dennis Miller and Ken Craigie fighting like old campaigners to put out Mondry and Turnovsky and so giving an English victory over Czechoslovakia for the first time since 1929! Never has teamwork been so well displayed and rewarded.

THE BIG BAND

THE sensation of being welcomed by a band on arrival in a town is usually one for film stars or cup final teams, but Hradec Kralove was determined that we should never forget our visit and so as our train steamed into the station the railway band struck up a lively air and the team getting out on to a flag-bedecked platform was greeted by a large crowd of well wishers, and after speeches and presentation of flowers moved off in triumphant procession to the hotel with martial strains of music and cheers in their ears. At a dinner held after the match, at which both teams were present, together with the national officers of the Czech T.T.A., plaques were given to each member of the team and warm congratulations on our success were extended by the Chairman, Dr. Josef Alster.

Factually, we have jumped some spaces, but a win in the International would send most sensibly arranged ideas haywire.

FLOWERS—INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

Our arrival at the Prague airport was a signal for speeches of welcome and a bouquet of flowers for Joan Crosby—what a help these things are when interviewing customs officers! We were then whisked to the President of Sokol—a charming old gentleman who bade us welcome and invited us to all the joys that sport can give. And so to the Sokolovsky Domov, or in English an hotel entirely for visiting people! In the evening we were invited to a performance of *Madam Butterfly* at the National Theatre.

TABLE TENNIS FIRST—BREAKFAST ALSO RAN!

The next morning one of the teams had a date at Celakovice for a table tennis match at 9.30 a.m.! Four hundred people had turned up at an hour when most people on the day of a holiday would have been contemplating breakfast. *It was a pleasant sight indeed to see our team sprinting to the station to catch the 7.49 a.m.* On the following day we were received with due solemnity by the Lord Mayor of Prague, who asked us to enjoy our stay in his city and to give attention to all we saw or heard. After chatter with the Town Clerk and signing the visitors' book we sped on our way to Hradec Kralove, where some serious practice, or as the Czechs more wisely called it "*training*," was indulged in. These "get-togethers" did a great deal to make the team and made one wish it could happen more often.

PARTINGS AND MEETINGS

AFTER a night of celebration the two teams parted— one to go to the industrial north-east and the other to the beautiful scenery of Bohemia. Thirteen towns were visited—crowds varying from 350 to 650—with playing conditions on the whole quite good and the local organisers as keen as mustard. Our experiences were all similar in respect of the glad welcomes, the charming and hard-working interpreters always ready to help. *Where do they find all these good people who turn up with apples and cakes to delight the inner man?*

We found many friends on these occasions and addresses were hurriedly exchanged—good-byes said and so on to our next centre. Visiting glass works, imitation jewellery exhibitions, town halls, pig compounds, indoor baths with artificial waves, night clubs, dance halls, railway offices, works canteens, were all part of the mixture. The discussions and talks by some members of the team went on to the early hours of the morning—everybody was interested in exchanging thoughts and ideas!

Other passing impressions were Dennis Miller writing a detailed diary; Ken Craigie making a rug; Rosalind Rowe doing the chores; Mr. Sedivy (the captain of the Czech team visiting England last year), who travelled with the London team, always helpful on our journeys and attending to our needs with the patience of a Job. All these and many others went to make up an experience which one would not have missed for all the tea in China.

HEAR, HEAR!

ONE could not have wished for better team mates. Aubrey Simons, as the vice-captain, was a tower of strength, loyal and most practical in difficult situations. Joan Crosby and Rosalind Rowe were typical English girls who captivated their audiences from the start; Dennis Miller, Ken Craigie and Louis Devereux, each with varying skill, gave good accounts of themselves and were most popular with the crowds for their modest and unassuming sporting ways.

It was a privilege to lead such a band of boys and girls. We have been. We have conquered. We are content. So ends the Czechoslovakian tour for 1949.

RESULTS

International Match, 3rd November, 1949, Hradec Kralove:

- A. Simons beat Andreadis: 18—21, 21—18, 21—19.
- K. Craigie lost to Kamenicky: 18—21, 14—21.
- A. Simons and L. Devereux lost to Andreadis and Tokar: 15—21, 21—19, 8—21.
- J. Crosby lost to Kutzova: 19—21, 12—21.
- D. Miller beat Mondry: 13—21, 21—16, 21—18.
- J. Crosby and R. Rowe beat Fuerstova and Kotatkova: 21—18, 21—11.
- L. Devereux lost to Ostravicky: 16—21, 16—21.
- R. Rowe beat Wiesnerova: 21—17, 20—22, 23—21.
- K. Craigie and D. Miller beat Mondry and Turnovsky: 21—19, 21—18.

LONDON TEAM

- v. Celakovice, won 9—0.
- Hradec Kralove, won 9—0.
- Jablonec, won 9—0.
- Novy Bor, won 5—4.
- Horni Litvinov, won 5—4.
- Cheb, won 9—0.

WEST OF ENGLAND

- v. Vamberk, won 8—0.
- Opava, won 7—0.
- Krnov, won 10—0.
- Ostrava, won 6—1.
- Gottwaldov, won 7—0.
- Brno, lost 3—4.

**SUSSEX
OPEN**

**October
29th-30th**

Battles of Hastings 1949

Record Entry . . . Fast and
Spectacular Play

By
**TONY
(A. R.)
MILLER**

HASTINGS is now famous for more than one type of invasion, and this year a record number of 310 warriors armed with bats, high hopes, excuses and good cheer, fell on that pleasant resort.

Although there were no foreign competitors, the play was interesting and everyone seemed imbued with the holiday spirit. At this stage of the season one watches to see what the younger players have done with their summer practice, and whether the older players have retained their skill. The answer is, as always, a little of both.

Three hitters and a close table specialist reached the semi-finals: CROUCH, CARRINGTON, HEAD and SIMONS. The long-range defenders fared ill in the fast and rather slippery conditions. The youngsters, Ken Beamish, Michael Thornhill, Ray Syndercombe, all fell by the way-side. There was no remarkable play and few startling results, and it is a salutary discipline to consider what Messrs. Miles and Vana would have done in the tournament. The English county player and most of our internationals are still separated from the Czechs and Americans by a formidable gulf.

Perhaps the most thrilling game of the tournament was the two straight defeats of KEITH HURLOCK by BERNARD CROUCH. Crouch counter-hit at great speed, sometimes three or four yards from the table. Crouch also beat his partner, the now more robust THORNHILL, in two close games. Crouch's limitations were shown up, however, by JACK CARRINGTON, who, with admirable tactics and by placing the ball with his customary sagacity won 21-17, 21-15. Crouch seemed unable to change his game when he found himself bettered at it and paid the penalty.

In the other semi-final AUBREY SIMONS proved much too strong for Head. Simons showed great determination in competing in the tournament at all. He suffered from a very heavy cold and was to be seen for a good part of the tournament huddled in a corner swathed in scarves and immense overcoat with his face barely visible. He is to be congratulated, therefore, on winning two finals out of three. In the Men's Doubles he and R. HOOK did not blend effectively enough to defeat that fast-rising couple VENNER and ADAMS, Hook's topspin clashing with the more briskly direct Simons. Venner and Adams subsequently scraped home in the final against Beamish and Peter Smith, who had quite comfortably beaten Crouch and Thornhill *en route*.

THRILLING FINAL

The Men's Singles Final was a keenly contested affair with Carrington in fine fettle, producing occasional back-hand kills which left Aubrey helpless and the audience breathless. Aubrey's unrelaxing concentration and severity in the end told on his opponent, who tried throughout to force the pace, and Simons eventually won 21-15, 17-21, 21-16, 21-15.

After beating Pinkie Barnes the previous evening, ROSALIND ROWE faced PEGGY FRANKS in the final and lost an uninspiring game 13 in the third. All credit to Rosalind, but the game itself was nine-tenths chiselling with Miss Franks showing improved generalship and steadier nerves. She had previously beaten

Bristol's MARGARET FRY, whose game lacked her usual bite, 12 and 15.

HARRY VENNER, remembering his win over Johnny Leach, tried his battering-ram tactics on Simons. He was over-eager and it was not until he had lost the first 10-21 and was 13-18 down in the second that he hit more carefully, finally unwinding himself like a catherine wheel to win that game splendidly 21-18. The sparks flew again, but the effort had been too much, and Simons won the third, game 13.

In writing of this tournament we mustn't forget the buffet dance at which we saw that Table Tennis players have other accomplishments, nor the dry, wry, admirable "champagne" speech of Mr. C. CORTI WOODCOCK, who knows that it is far better to say too little than too much.

SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. A. Simons beat J. Head: 5, 7.
J. Carrington beat B. Crouch: 17, 15.

FINALS:

M.S. Simons beat Carrington: 15, —17, 16, 15.
W.S. Miss M. Franks beat Miss R. Rowe: 14, —17, 13.
M.D. H. Venner and L. Adams beat P. Smith and K. Beamish: —15, 20, 13.
J.B.S. J. Lowe beat R. Bernstein: 9, 11.
X.D. Simons and Miss R. Rowe beat M. Thornhill and Miss Barnes.
W.D. Miss L. Barnes and Miss R. Rowe beat Miss Franks and Miss Cuss.



BERNARD CROUCH

had a wonderful week at Paddington Baths, November 21-26. After scoring 2 wins against Essex in the County Match (v. Brumwell and McCave), he went on to take the Middlesex Closed Singles and the Men's Doubles (with M. Thornhill). In the singles he defeated internationals Craigie and Dennis Miller, after being 2 games down to the latter in the final.

LANCASHIRE LINES

By STANLEY PROFFITT

LANCASHIRE County committee have hit upon a scheme which may well revolutionise the game in the eyes of the player near-selection to the National Counties Championship class. *And from the latest results to hand it would appear that this County could do with some new blood.* The scheme, put before the committee by DERYCK HEAPS and enthusiastically received, is an Inter-Zone county competition to take place at Macclesfield (Cheshire), on Saturday, December 17th.

It is history now, but nevertheless very regrettable, that on the eve of the season opening Lancashire, who control the activities of Cheshire, were forced to withdraw from

Proffitt enlarges upon

THE MISSING MIDDLE-GAME

APPARENTLY local gossipers have been discussing my statement in last month's issue on the "middle" game. General reaction is that they consider the nail has been hit on the head. Remember I wrote that, in my humble opinion, whilst the majority of up-and-coming players are spectacular in that they are equipped with scintillating smash hits and have everything it takes to make a long defensive armour, the all-important link (the "middle" game) between these two factors is missing. Friends have asked me to amplify on the point, so here goes.

To my mind the reason this structural part of the game is being abandoned is basically the fault of the 6in. net. *Beginners are at a grave disadvantage to commence on the low net, for they miss that essence of top spin so essential in the years ahead.* The accent nowadays tends to become one of force with no rhyme or reason to back it up. Brainwork is at a premium, thus unless the ball runs well and the conditions are suitable for this type of game the player cannot hope to win, becomes disgruntled, and rarely has the inclination to fight. Furthermore arts and crafts are sadly neglected and the changing of the speed to suit the occasion is conspicuous only by its absence.

Have you ever thought what the outcome would be if overnight the ruling body shot the net up to its former height (6½in.). My guess is that the tournaments would be reduced to travesty in that the veteran of yesteryear, grabbing a dust-covered racket from the shelf, would produce such guile that, despite the discrepancy in age, many surprise results would be forthcoming.

Turning the pages back the old-timer had to scheme in order to draw the opponent into a false position before putting away a winner. Consequently he was compelled to be adept at the "middle game" which is, of course, the "be-all" and "end-all" in out-manceuvring opposition.

Having expressed my views on the net from time to time previously I'm not alone in advocating a height mid-way between the old and the new one. But to end on a happy slant it is pleasing in these troublous years of sport to witness the general standard of table tennis rising yearly. Pay attention to the aforesaid details and I'm convinced it will rise to even greater heights.

the Regional competition on financial grounds. Those who suffered most were the ambitious up-and-coming players whose aim it was to make the senior grade. Now the Inter-Zone event has been supplemented they will have a heaven-sent opportunity to show their paces under ideal conditions. If successful, plans are afoot to stage another such show in Lancashire later in the season.

This event, which will take up the whole of the afternoon and evening, is based on Swaything Cup and Corbillion Cup lines in that each team has a smack at the other, the first one to get five sets being the winner in a 9 set match. Due thought has been given to the selection of the teams (consisting of three men and two women) and it is a unique opportunity not only for the players themselves to obtain intensive practice but for the authorities to judge potential talent. It is a step in the right direction. Let's hope the players make full use of it. *A special cheer for Macclesfield, who have undertaken the task of providing hospitality for those taking part.*

The counties have been sliced in their geographical bearings and for easy reference have been labelled.—LANCS EAST: Power (Manchester), Ellison (Bolton), Schofield (Oldham); Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Raye (Manchester). LANCS WEST: Roberts (Liverpool), Pierce (Liverpool), Gearing (Preston), Mrs. Allen (Blackpool), Miss K. May (Liverpool). CHESHIRE EAST: Heaps, Worsley (Macclesfield); Johnson (Stockport), Miss Grimstone (Marple), Miss Holmes (Macclesfield). CHESHIRE WEST: Devine (Chester), Moreton (Ellesmere Port), Sumner (Ellesmere Port), Misses Banks and Bordell (Crewe).

ONLY silver lining to the dark clouds which descended upon the Lancashire contingent on the Southern tour during the week-end 19/21 November was that PEGGY ALLEN reached the South of England women's singles final. *Peggy is having her best season ever, and in doing so contributing to keep Blackpool on the table tennis map.* On the debit side neither against Surrey (lost 3-6) nor Middlesex (lost 2-7) in their respective county matches did either new-international RONNIE ALCOCK or recent Hull Open Championship winner, ADELE WOOD, reach anything approaching their normal form. Consequently a steep decline in the League table is the net result.

BOOK REVIEW

"TABLE TENNIS COMES OF AGE." By Sol Schiff. Published by Rich & Cowan. Price 7/6d.

Sol Schiff on the table appears to be a somewhat careless player, reacting with instinctive genius rather than according to any deep-laid plan. Sol Schiff on paper, however, reveals himself as a thoughtful student of the game.

In typical American racy style the reader's eyes are opened to the many subtleties of the game and a deal of attention is devoted to that important aspect of match-play—the mental approach. The 40 illustrations are mostly good, although from what I have heard youngsters say, the left-handedness of both the author and his colleague, Douglas Cartland, makes them a little difficult to follow instructionally.

A minor disappointment is that Schiff, an exponent of the old school of full-arm driving, dismisses in a few lines the meteoric rise of his young successors, Miles and Reisman, who have caught the public imagination with their new quick-hitting, wristy style. In spite of their revolutionary technique, they receive less comment than some very pedestrian English players.

Unfortunately, five photos of the service must be ignored, as they show the free hand turning over; the present ruling is that the ball must be projected vertically upwards from the palm of the free hand, straight and open.

The tactical advice in this book is excellent; altogether, it is a good 7/6d. worth.

JACK CARRINGTON.



Minding Our Own Business

by

The Man Who Does It

A. K. VINT, genial, highly placed official of Local Government services, is one of the most outstanding "Boffins" of English Table Tennis. For 18 years his genius has been tied to the job (among many others) of being Chancellor of the E.T.T.A. Exchequer, and in this article he brings a new interest to the problems of high finance.

WITH over 5,000 Clubs in the English Table Tennis Association and each one paying a subscription to the national body, we should all consider the business aspect of organised Table Tennis, for it is an important matter to the administrators.

Our problem is to give the greatest possible return for the least possible payment. Nobody wants to pay more than he can help, yet there is constant demand for an efficient and vigorous organisation.

It is with justifiable pride that we find an ever-increasing membership, with a corresponding jump in affiliation fees, which are the foundation of our regular income.

Since 1939 (excluding the war years) our progress has been a steady and upward one, as the following figures show:—

Year ended the 30th June	Affiliation fees from Leagues	No. of Leagues
1939	£719	214
1946	£387	110
1947	£1,415	178
1948	£1,977	236
1949	£2,388	259

SURPRISING "MISCELLANEOUS" FACTS

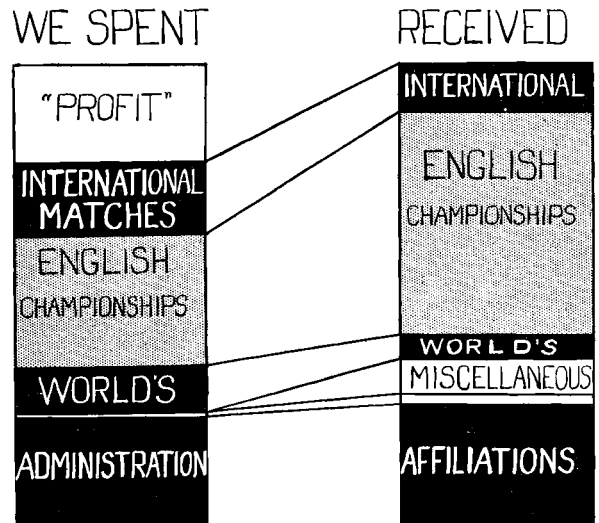
Every year the Association has given approval to certain makes of ball, and in return we are paid what is known as a ball rebate. Last year this yielded the sum of £387; in other words, that means that 1,365,000 official balls were sold!! Ten years ago we received £191, which meant 1,100,000 balls were bought by players. It should be made clear that in the year just ended we gained an increased rebate for every gross of balls sold, and that there is still a restriction on the general supply, but, nevertheless, the comparison is a favourable one.

experiment the semi-finals were played there, in addition to the finals, and this course was obviously justified, since, after paying all expenses, the surplus brought £1,827 into the Exchequer.

WHERE AFFILIATION FEES GO

Now, what do we get for our money is the natural question!

Administration is, of course, our biggest spender. £2,246 was paid out last year covering rent of our office in Victoria Street, salaries of our hard-working staff, telephone, printing and stationery, and a sum of £165 on postages. This means that something like 20,000 communications, circulars and



**ET.T.A.
BILL
FOR
YEAR**

Each Club gets 29/- Service for its 7/6



**TOTAL FROM
AFFILIATION
FEES**

On each Open Tournament we claim a royalty of 12½% on all entry fees charged to competitors. This year we received £213, which means 13,600 players took part in Open Tournaments as against 7,440 in 1939. An interesting item comes from a rebate on the sale of official shirts of £103. 71 players who are coaching, giving exhibitions, writing books, etc., contributed £1 each as a registration fee to indicate that they were receiving, or hoping to receive, money in respect of table tennis activity.

ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS SUCCESS

A substantial profit was made on the English Open Championships which were staged at Wembley. As an

reports were sent out by the Secretary to the Leagues, Clubs, players and other individuals in the course of the year! The Official Handbook, after allowing for advertisement revenue and sales, was published at a loss of £400.

On the playing side we sent teams—men, women and juniors—to compete in the World Championships at Stockholm, at a cost of £541, while our participation in International matches with Scotland, Ireland, Wales (including an International Junior match) and France involved the Association in a charge of £46, in addition to £360 on Europe Cup matches. We spent £74 for "trials" of players, and £147 in sending our Juniors on a tour of Sweden prior to the World Championships.

29/- WORTH FOR 7/6d.

When we feel like grumbling about the amount to be paid in affiliation fees and that they are too heavy, it should be borne in mind that the amount contributed in affiliation fees by Leagues was £2,387 out of a total income of £9,653. Our expenditure for the same period was £8,282, so it will be seen that the amount of service Clubs get from the E.T.T.A. for their payment of 7/6d. is equivalent to 29/- worth of expenditure by the Association. **What national sports organisation in this country can provide for 7/6d. the**

(Continued at foot of next page, col. 1)



It Was
“A Great Adventure”

says Ron Crayden

IF you know that emotional feeling of excitement that a serviceman experiences when going home on leave, you will know something of how JOHNNY and DAISY LEACH and I felt as we left Tilbury in the M/S “Saga” one chilly November day recently en route for Sweden.

To all the excitement of competing in two major international tournaments was the added thrill of a flying tour round the lesser-known Swedish towns and tight battles with top-rank players from the U.S.A., France and Sweden.

The luxuries of the liner made us feel good and we retired in deep content. Morning, however, brought an angry opponent. Even our World Champion could not cope with the heavy chop and rolling topspin of Mr. Ocean, and we were thankful to reach Gothenburg early Monday morning and catch the train to Stockholm.

The Stars Come Out

The *Eriksdalshallen*, scene of the recent world Championships, was the venue of the first Major Tournament, and the stars soon began to come out. From France came two of the world's Greatest Opposites, the gigantic HAGUENAUER imperturbable as the Eiffel Tower, gripping his bat like a chopper, and retrieving seemingly impossible balls with utter contempt for the smiter. Then graceful LANSKOY, with the easy flash of the gazelle but venom in every shot. Lanskoj virtually scorns defence, and with dazzling drives on both wings, seeks to hammer his opponents into submission.

PINNER and SUSSMAN represented the U.S.A. Although comparatively unknown to English audiences, these players are in the top flight, and their doubles play is an education to the tyro. In this event they have won the American Nationals on three occasions.

Ed Pinner is a pocket Richard Miles with a vicious flat backhand chop and fluent forehand drive, while Cy Sussman is tall and bespectacled, with a tight defence and flashing drives.

Twenty-six of Sweden's best players were led by TAGE FLISBERG, left-handed all-rounder with a speciality in counter-attack, frequently ranked among the world's best.

The ease of his stroke production makes him a most attractive player to watch.

(Continued from previous page)

same facilities which are covered in this 29/- worth of expenditure by the E.T.T.A.?

We are part and parcel of a big international sports organisation with 100,000 members affiliated to the International Table Tennis Federation which has 40 countries in membership and as a nation we take a very active part in the affairs of the Federation. We all have a part to play in trying to make further progress. Our volume of output is getting greater and to co-ordinate all our activities demands an efficient and business-like organisation. We are trying to ensure that you get this, and we hope that our efforts in this direction have met with some measure of success.

His friend and partner, BENGT GRIEVE, is resolute, speedy and hard-hitting, and has a terrier-like tenacity. SVEN CEDERHOLM will, with opportunity, develop into a top ranker. He has a crouching, bouncy style, not unlike the famous Czech Stipek.

Finally, from England there was, of course, JOHNNY LEACH, who made an impression beyond superlatives, and his partner, Yours Truly.

Four Nation Tournament

The first surprise was Sussman's defeat against the concentrated hitting of Cederholm, who, exalted, tackled Lanskoj with all the ferocity of an infuriated bulldog. With a 16—8 lead in the fifth game, the crowd rose to him as a man, but with a spate of hitting as murderous as concentrated machine-gun fire, the Frenchman fought back to level scores and emerged the victor.

Johnny played without worry to the semi-final, where he tamed the volatile Lanskoj, and came to play Haguenauger in the final. Without doubt, this was the most memorable match of the tour.

Johnny's tennis was the acme of perfection, controlled driving, immaculate length, really clever short table play and a Tobruk-like defence; Haguenauger played a “blinder.” The rallies were long, spectacular and exciting. Scores were fairly even, until Johnny spurred himself to turn a 19—15 deficit into a winning match 3—1.

In the four-nation team event, “England” beat “Sweden” 3—1. “France” had a ding-dong struggle to beat the American boys, which Haguenauger clinched by just beating Ed. Pinner.

In the Final against “France,” Johnny notched two singles and we took the doubles, and were elated to know and make known that English table tennis is still a force.

The Tour

Neon lights winked us a good-bye from Stockholm, and flushed with success and Swedish fare, we became “Suitcase Susies” for the rest of the week, visiting Katrineholm, Norrköping, Orchbro and Gothenburg. Our life ran to a pattern. We rose late, dined, travelled for several hours, dined again, played and had a late night party.

Sweden is a traveller's paradise. The hospitality was unsurpassable. The average Swede is moderate, calm and rather shy. This shyness, however, is dispelled after a few glasses of burning schnapps and a meal which would make an English housewife's eyes pop!

Farewell Performance

Our farewell performance was the second international tournament held in the *Masshallen* at Gothenburg (affectionately known as “Little London”). Here, both the formidable Frenchmen fell in the quarter finals, making an all-English affair with Johnny beating me in straight games. A truly fitting farewell that kept the old flag flying high.

Vivid in my memory is the complete mastery of our champion and his wonderful adaptability to conditions and styles. While behind the scenes, the patience, fortitude and encouragement of Daisy Leach was a performance hall-marked “solid gold.”

'OPEN' Minds and Strong Convictions Brains Trust Challenges 100,000 Players



J. M. ROSE,
contributor to this page.

Open Tournaments have been the target of some heavy criticism. Not altogether surprising when last year's entries were 80 per cent. over pre-war with no corresponding increase in facilities. Since much of this criticism has not been publicly aired, we invited a number of notable personalities to the "Mike." In fairness to them we should say that none had the chance to say as much as he would have liked. What is your opinion?

★ **"CLASSIFY,"** asserts J. MORRIS ROSE,

probably the most experienced and best-known T.T. Referee in the world. Hon. Referee for World Championships 1935, 1938 and 1948, and Hon. Referee for English Open for 14 years (1935-1949).

The three major reasons for Open Tournaments are: (a) to improve standard of play under match conditions; (b) to help finances of promoting organisation; and (c) to increase interest and enjoyment of keen players. With the tremendous developments in the game it is obviously necessary to amend methods of sanction and organisation.

Tournaments must be divided into classes. That is the first obvious essential.

Natural evolution has already achieved this to some extent. In areas with a high density of table tennis population such as Birmingham, Liverpool, London, Manchester and, possibly, Bristol, one finds the best conditions, and generally (because of longer experience) the best organisation. Each of these areas, therefore, should each have a major (Class I) tournament.

A Class II tournament would be sanctioned to those areas which have always attracted top-class players, but where the organisation and/or conditions are not so good. In some cases, as the Sussex Open at Hastings, it is only because they can only have play extending over the week-ends.

All remaining open tournaments should be Class III, and are vitally essential to encourage and improve the standards of the ordinary enthusiast. Promoters should, therefore, continue to encourage entries from top-class players for the finals, which generally provide the finance to run them.

Conditions, ranging from perfect for Class I and graded for Classes II and III, should be laid down by the E.T.T.A. authority, who should also test and qualify the Referee for any Open. The Referee should be responsible for everything affecting play, and to the E.T.T.A. authority, the promoting body and the players. He must have a complete knowledge of the Rules and Regulations of Open Tournaments and the Laws of the Game, and must be able to plan the complete organisation of the playing side of the tournament.

While Class I Tournaments would be held in different months and Class II should be played during the same periods,

it would be possible to increase the number of Class III, since there can be no objection if one takes place in each of the South, North, East and West at the same time.

At one time, consideration was given to the appointment of a National Referee responsible for furthering the improvements of tournaments and the organisation and education of enthusiasts. I still think that such a position should be created.

★ **"RANKING IS SOLUTION,"** thinks ALEC BROOK,

English International 1935-1937, well-known Exhibition Player, and T.T. Correspondent to the "Sunday Empire News."

I was glad to see the E.T.T.A. taking positive action to clean up the Open Tournament tangles while there is still time. My main point is that people should not stage championships unless they can bring them to a successful conclusion.

One of the biggest general complaints is against the constant refusal of entries in open events (restriction), because of the inability to play off so many games.

Now I contend that a tournament cannot be classed as an "Open" if people are going to be refused entry, and if a Committee cannot cope with an entry they have no right to stage the event. They should be prepared with arrangements that can be adapted according to the strength of the entries. Such plans should permit the preparation of a schedule that will be announced and strictly adhered to. This will avoid late finishing, and no player can have a legitimate grouse should he be scratched through not being present at a given time. There is no need for a tournament to finish up in the early hours of the morning.

I deprecate restriction of entries in Open Tournaments, as I have already declared. At the same time, I recognise that the steadily increasing number of entries without a parallel increase of facilities must necessitate some form of restriction in various tournaments. It is possible that a raising of the entry fees, which are very low now, might replace a general restriction.

Another suggestion is that only the first "so many" will be accepted, but I still don't like this.

I think the happiest solution is to adopt a National Ranking system. With this, one could have a champion-

ship open to certain classes of players, and all open events would have to include all top-class players entering but would correctly exclude those in lower grades when the number of entries became unwieldy.

★ **"PLAYERS MUST DO THEIR PART,"** suggests E. ("Bill") WORSLEY,

Hon. Sec. of Lancs T.T.A. and one of the most experienced tournament organisers in the North.

It is high time that some of the organisers of Open Championships should respond to the many criticisms levelled at them. Players have no idea of the difficulties with which organisers are faced, few do anything to help, and some hinder. A very small minority are even a little dishonest in the matter of balls. I have heard players say that they have more than recouped their entry fee in unreturned balls.

In the North we specialise in One-Day Tournaments. Actually local rounds are played on the Thursday and Friday and the real competition, with a few survivors from what is really a preliminary competition, begins on the Saturday afternoon, giving the organisers a hectic time trying to complete in readiness for an organised final at, say, 7.30. We have booked the largest hall months before, and have planned to ensure the maximum facilities available, although we can never know until a fortnight before how many entries we shall receive.

Yet with intolerant inconsistency, the critic says we should not restrict entries in any way or it cannot be called an "Open" and in almost the same breath declares that it should be organised so that we can get through in time for early timed finals. He conveniently forgets, in his wisdom, to tell us how to achieve this impossibility.

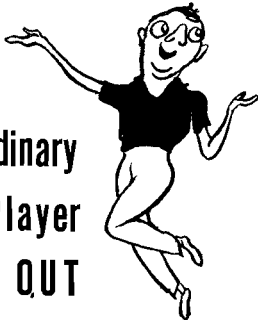
We run tournaments year after year, not to make money, because we spend so much on them that we know beforehand that we are going to lose, or, at the most, get our expenses back again. We cannot help it, because the number of entries we can accept and the capacity of the available halls can hardly cover our known costs, but we do it for genuine love of the game and its advancement. It would be possible to make money, but only by reducing the number of entries and inviting all the stars and splashing a star final or by unrestricted entries and no organised final, but we in Lancashire

try to ensure money value for both players and spectators.

Players are often the cause of upsetting schedules and should accept some of the responsibility: late arrivals and not being available when called; those who take a long knock-up, who are finicky about the ball or tables; who want special concessions; who refuse to do a spot of umpiring at those tournaments where this has been included in the entry rules, etc. Then there is the player who hasn't the guts to make a complaint at the proper time, but seeks to find fault with some condition or other, long, long after—probably as an alibi for his own failure!

In the spirit of the game, let's have less of the destructive criticism and more constructive co-operation, and let's start by trying to see each other's point of view.

and an Ordinary League Player 'OPENS' OUT



We invited an "Ordinary League Player" to give his opinions, but he refused to be drawn. Instead, he sent us this, which makes us wonder if he really is so "Ordinary!" With it came the firm instruction: "Don't use my name—life passes more pleasantly that way!"

THE "OPEN" SCENE

CAN any other sport boast such a Pageant as an Open?

This kaleidoscope of harsh lights and green tables, of colourful shirts and interweaving white balls. A huge, bewildering energy concentrated into days, or even hours, full of pleasures and passions, triumphs and disasters, successes and failures and surprises enough to fill a life.

And the players. Doesn't this great gathering of men and women from near and very far show the scope and might of the game? Of every class and of every age they come. Of every shape and size and style. Dynamic speed, near slow and steady. Here, fine confidence; there, uncertainty. What other sport can equal the contrasts, the virility and the wide appeal of this game?

The ever-changing cavalcade of hitting, chopping, pushing and smashing speeds to the crescendo of the full contest and then the tempo will slacken, only to give way to the tenseness of the Finals.

And very soon, another Open will be over. All will be still. The last light will die and the last harassed Official will leave the great hall to darkness and the echoes of a hundred dreams.

★ "THE PLAYER-ORGANISER'S POINT OF VIEW," by LEO THOMPSON,

Bucks County Sec., Playing Captain and Tournament Organiser. A great-hearted veteran renowned for energetic devotion to the good of the game.

I never did like dictators, but the only way to get things done is to be very firm. As a player, I think some of the most important points are:—

No tournaments should be held on lino or slippery floors; pet aversions of mine, also objected to by majority of players.

Entries should be restricted so that preliminary rounds and finals are completed early and players travelling long distances can return home conveniently.

As an organiser I find that some exemption from the groups is essential, otherwise "stars" will not compete, and they are needed to ensure the good final that will defray expenses. While personally I try to dodge groups, I think there should only be exemption when the competitor lives a very long way away, because the average player would be greatly encouraged if given the opportunity of playing one of the "stars."

Players should not be requested to attend hours before being required. Neither tempers nor play improve with long waiting. Losing players should not be asked to umpire the next game; I am usually far too hot and tired for efficient concentration. But all competitors should be asked to umpire one

game in every event in which they have entered, and failure to comply would mean possible exclusion from tournaments with restrictions on entries.

Players who report and then vanish without permission involve endless delays, and offenders' names should be passed on to all organisers for exclusion where entries are restricted.

I can assure the critics that when one is both a player and an organiser, the many problems appear in a much more difficult light.

★
"STANDARDISE CONDITIONS,"
says IVOR C. EYLES,

Hon. Sec. of the Glos. County, experienced Open organiser, and fearlessly outspoken critic.

Waste less space and breath on white or coloured clothing. Get down to the staging and promotion of tournaments which will give the player a chance.

Such stress is made of individual performances in "Open" Tournaments when selecting international teams, that I think that conditions should be standardised throughout the country. Definite standards must be made for lighting, run-back, and space between tables.

Entries for Open Tournaments should be restricted to the number of players which will enable the tournament to be staged properly, under good conditions, with the finals coming on some time around 8 p.m. Local players could be catered for in a Closed championship. We have, for instance, a West of England "Open" and a West of England "Closed."



GEORGE WHITE sums up

Leslie Woollard, who has compiled this article, has asked me to stick my neck out and give the "official view" on this subject. No easy task, when the contributors include an English International, County Secretaries, a fellow-member of the National Executive, and my old friend Morris Rose, who taught me most of what I know about the management of Open Tournaments. I am not going to attempt it. I will try, however, to give a few background

facts, and my own opinions on some of the points raised.

Facts first. Grading of tournaments has been advocated from time to time in the past. When the idea has been officially examined, it has been found that a substantial number of tournaments which, because of local circumstances, cannot provide the best conditions for play, and would therefore need to be graded in the second or third class, are financially dependent on their finals gate. Low grading, the organisers say, would mean no stars; no stars would mean no gate; no gate would mean no tournament. Local lads and lasses would be starved of their only "Open" opportunity in some areas if this happened. Even if the tournament still ran, the absence of top-ranking players would greatly reduce the benefits derived by local players from the chance to watch at close quarters, and perhaps play against, the really great ones from other parts of the country.

Morris Rose and Alec Brook both plead for more efficient management. My comment on this is that the variation between the best and the worst tournaments is astounding and inexcusable. If some organisers can schedule each match in advance, all should be able to; the system is not difficult.

One final point for organisers. Open Tournaments are sanctioned by the National Executive Committee; one might say they are run by the local organisers on behalf of the E.T.T.A. The Rules that appear in the E.T.T.A. Handbook should not, therefore, be overlooked or ignored; and local amendments to the Laws of Table Tennis should not be introduced without prior authority from the N.E.C.

County Championships

MIDDLESEX "BREAK-THROUGH"—

but 'WARE GLOSTER!

MIDDLESEX BID FOR TRIPLE TITLE

After a month of exciting clashes, in which the full Essex team met defeat for the first time, it looks as though the joint favourites for the Premier Division title are the holders, Middlesex, and Gloucestershire.

The advance of Margaret Fry, especially as a doubles player, the brilliance of Aubrey Simons, and the astonishing form which Charlie Dawes continues to show, make Gloucester a combination to be respected by any county. Middlesex, however, after their great win over Essex, are making a strong bid to take the title for the third successive season.

Middlesex also lead in both the Junior and East Anglian Divisions, and the chances of a triple title seem bright for the "glamour boys."

Each month we seem to have a casualty, and this month is no exception. Yorkshire set off in good time for their match with Derbyshire at Ashbourne, but from the report received it would appear that they travelled in one of Sid Field's stage cars, for after a series of breakdowns they eventually were stranded miles from anywhere, and no match took place. A new date is being arranged in January.

Now for the report of matches in date order:—

November 2nd. East Anglian Division:
NORFOLK 2, MIDDLESEX 7

November 3rd. East Anglian Division:
SUFFOLK 0, MIDDLESEX 9
(Report by Bob Bennett)

A team which might rank as Middlesex 4th found no difficulty in defeating Norfolk 7—2 at Norwich and Suffolk 9—0 at Lowestoft the following day.

Eric Filby, the strength of Norfolk's team, gained two early successes for his side, but met his match in Adams, to whom he lost easily in two straight games.

Suffolk, without Mrs. Bostock, were no match for those whom Mr. Durrant, Suffolk's Secretary, described as "Middlesex's polished players." Weintraub and Bean were Suffolk's best players, whilst, for Middlesex, Adams, Lowen, Easley and Miss Marston all played well.

November 12th. Premier Division:
YORKSHIRE 3, GLOUCESTERSHIRE 6
(Report by Ivor Eyles)

Gloucestershire made the long journey to Yorkshire quietly confident in their ability to avert defeat although without their "star," Simons.

Rising to the occasion in great style, and with the strength of the team lying in the girls, a great victory of 6—3 sees the team's all-round strength. Each man won a set, but the girls swept all before them. The Misses Lightfoot and Senior on last season's form were expected to win the ladies' doubles, but the Gloucester pair played with great skill and had an easy victory. In the mixed the new combination of Margaret Fry and Bob Griffin, fresh from their Birmingham Open win, swept to a resounding success.

SCORES:

B. Kennedy lost to W. Dawes —12, —14; beat D. Griffin 15, 17.
G. Milton beat Dawes 14, —24, 13; beat C. Pickett 8, 12.
S. Rosenberg lost to Griffin —20, —15; lost to Pickett —13, —13.
Miss N. Senior lost to Miss M. Jones —17, —10.
Miss Lightfoot and Miss Senior lost to Miss Jones and Miss Fry —14, —15.
Milton and Miss Lightfoot lost to Griffin and Miss Fry —8 —6.

November 12th. Southern Division:
HAMPSHIRE 2, SURREY 7

Surrey seem to be going all out to win the Southern Division, turning out their strongest team, including two players, Head and Hurlock, who have already played for the first team this season. They are allowed to do this by a rule which permits a player to play once for his first team without losing a second team qualification.

Whatever one's views of this rule, it cannot be denied that Surrey have a strong combination which is going to take a lot of stopping. Nevertheless, pride of place must be given to Hampshire's Muller, who scored great wins over Head and Hurlock, both in straight sets. Tony Miller won both his matches for Surrey, and Miss Plater scored a surprising, but well deserved, win over Mrs. Horn, also in straight sets.

November 12th. Southern Division:
KENT 1, DEVONSHIRE 8

Devon are another county with a good chance in the Southern Division, and it is unfortunate that their first fixture with Surrey is being played too late in the month to include a report.

Although without Louis Devereux, Devon had no difficulty in winning this particular match, although several of the games in Devon's favour were won after 20-all had been called. Squires and Grigg won both their sets for Devon, whilst Dora Beregi proved much too strong for Miss J. Ing. Kent's lone success was scored by R. J. Bush, who just beat R. Mole.

November 12th. Northern Division:
DURHAM 8, CUMBERLAND 1
(Report by Edgar Reay)

Cumberland put up quite a good show and are improving. Although without their No. 1 and 2 lady players, due to illness, three matches lost went to the third game. Miss Bell, brought into the team on the morning of the match, did not let her side down, and with more experience should soon be challenging for a regular place.

November 12th. North Midland Division:
LEICESTERSHIRE 1, LINCOLNSHIRE 8

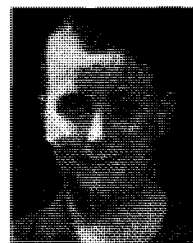
Leicestershire got off to a good start when Burraston beat Curtis, but that was the extent of their success, the young Lincolnshire players proving too good. In Skerratt and Miss Munnings, Lincoln have two good youngsters and are to be congratulated in giving them every opportunity. Other counties please copy.

November 17th. Junior Division:
BEDFORDSHIRE 6, HERTFORDSHIRE 3

Bedfordshire opened their winning account at the expense of Hertfordshire, I. Barnett being the player most responsible for their victory, winning both his singles and sharing in the men's doubles success. Thorley and Hunt each won one singles for Herts, and Miss Stripp was successful in the ladies' singles.

November 18th. Premier Division:
SURREY 6, LANCASHIRE 3

A weakened Lancashire team (minus Casofsky) were unable to hold Surrey, although it should be noted that five of the matches they lost were lost in the third set. The inability of Allcock or Ellison to win a match turned the scale, although Ellison put up a good fight against Hurlock, and with a little luck might have won two straight. Ken Stanley was in great form, encouraging for Lancashire after his early-season reverse.



Geoffrey Harrower's Monthly Review

SCORES:

R. Crayden lost to K. Stanley —16, 11, —11; beat R. Allcock 14, —14, 16.
H. Venner lost to Stanley —18, —19; beat D. Ellison 13, 15.
K. Hurlock beat Allcock 14, —18, 15; beat Ellison —15, 19, 14.
Miss L. R. Barnes beat Miss A. Wood 18, —18, 19.
Miss Barnes and Mrs. Carrington beat Miss Wood and Mrs. Allen —15, 20, 17.
Crayden and Mrs. Carrington lost to Stanley and Miss Wood —12, —13.

November 19th. Premier Division:

MIDDLESEX 7, LANCASHIRE 2

Lancashire, back to full strength with Benny Casofsky's return, were unfortunate to lose by such a wide margin, many of the games being close. Ken Craigie was at his best for Middlesex, just getting home in a thriller against Ken Stanley, and also beating Casofsky. Joyce Roberts had a fright against Adele Wood, being a game and 11—3 down at one stage, but recovering to gain a close decision.

SCORES:

K. Craigie beat B. Casofsky 14, 22; beat K. Stanley 18, —17, 23.
D. Miller lost to Casofsky 19, —13, —16; beat R. Allcock 13, 2.
B. Crouch lost to Stanley —22, —10; beat Allcock 10, 17.
Miss J. Roberts beat Miss A. Wood —11, 19, 20.
Miss D. Rowe and Miss R. Rowe beat Miss Wood and Mrs. Allen 17, 19.
B. Crouch and Miss R. Rowe beat Stanley and Mrs. Allen 17, —13, —13.

November 19th. Premier Division:

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 7,
WARWICKSHIRE 2

Gloucestershire further enhanced their chances of winning the Premier Division with a convincing 7—2 win over Warwick. Only Maurice Kriss put up a show for Warwickshire. Gloucester girls again swept all before them, whilst Aubrey Simons seems to have ten points in hand nowadays.

SCORES:

A. Simons beat W. Poole 7, 12; beat R. Mackay 11, 13.
W. Dawes beat Poole —14, 19, 19; lost to M. Kriss —19, 19, —14.
R. Griffin beat Mackay 15, 18; lost to Kriss —15, —14.
Miss M. Jones beat Mrs. C. Thompson 9, 10.
Miss Jones and Miss Fry beat Miss Mackay and Mrs. Cumberbatch 11, 13.
Griffin and Miss Fry beat Mackay and Miss Mackay 19, 8.

November 19th. North Midland Division:

YORKSHIRE 7, LEICESTERSHIRE 2

Burraston was again the mainstay of the Leicestershire team, beating Pitts in the singles, and partnering Miss Perry to victory in the mixed doubles. Les Forrest's boy, "Sonny," made a promising debut for Yorkshire, winning both his singles after close fights. Alan Thompson scored two easy wins for Yorkshire.

(Continued on page 13, col. 1)

Venner's Eastern Suburban Open Win

(AT ILFORD; FINALS 12th NOV., 1949)

The cramped facilities of this tournament disturb many people—not least the organisers—but do not seem to deter the ever-increasing flow of entries. The lists had, in fact, to be closed before the announced closing date.

In complete contrast to the early sessions was the immaculate layout of the finals evening in the spacious Ilford Baths Hall, graced by a large crowd.

Notable display was PETE SMITH'S classic attacking play against BRUMWELL'S passive defence. Next round Pete met the far from passive KEITH HURLOCK, who treated his smooth chopped returns as though somebody had forgotten to fix a net on the table.

A minor disappointment was the withdrawal of Hurlock and HEAD from the tournament after they had reached the quarter-finals in singles and doubles. The reason was: a Surrey 2nd team fixture on the Saturday evening, preventing their appearance.

Should players in such circumstances refrain from starting, instead of eliminating some competitors who might have gained further experience by progressing to the later rounds? An argument like this is a two-edged sword.

Significant improvement was shown by the Essex girls BARBARA MILBANK and BETTY BASSETT, who beat county opposition in ADAMS/DAKIN and severely tested BARNES/MILBURN.

ERNE BUBLEY played, but showed no snap. His many attacking openings were neglected by TONY MILLER but seized gratefully by LEN ADAMS. The cool and agile

Civil Service champion passed through to the semi-final in which he gave CARRINGTON a lengthy tactical tussle before yielding.

BETTY STEVENTON, hitting more cleanly and earlier than usual, rushed PEGGY FRANKS into mistakes in the semi, winning at deuce in the 3rd. JOYCE ROBERTS, having ousted PINKIE BARNES, won the 1st from Betty in the final, and had match points in the second, but the Nottingham lass somehow staved off the end and ran out easily in the 3rd.

HARRY VENNER, after a calm victory over SHARMAN in the semi, was overhit by Carrington and lagged by 0-2 in the final. Recovering to win a close 3rd, he cleverly slowed the play down and came again with a strong finish before his accomplished opponent could find means of regaining the initiative.

Best spell of enjoyment for the crowd was the 22-point deuce struggle in which HOOK/MACKAY just failed to keep the doubles final open against the CROUCH/CARRINGTON hitting combination.

SCORES

SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. Venner beat Sharman: 11, 15.
Carrington beat Adams: 22, —15, 14.

FINALS:

M.S. Venner beat Carrington: —20, —10, 19, 7, 12.
W.S. Miss E. Steventon beat Miss J. Roberts: —18, 21, 11.
M.D. Carrington and Crouch beat Hook and Mackay: 16, 30.
X.D. Adams and Barnes beat Macey and Mackay: 15, —21, 14.
W.D. D. Rowe and M. Marston beat Barnes and Milburn: 17, —15, 16.
S. D.

(Continued from page 12)

November 22nd. Premier Division:
MIDDLESEX 5, ESSEX 4

Last season Essex failed to win the title because, after easy wins over Surrey and Middlesex, they failed to turn out their best team in the other matches. This year they had their full team against Middlesex, but they just couldn't pull it off.

The strength of Middlesex lies in their apparently inexhaustible string of first-class players. With Bergmann and Barna abroad, and Harrower an arthritis victim, the way was paved for Bernard Crouch to make a return to the singles team. Bernard's form has been a little in and out earlier this season, but you wouldn't have noticed it if you had been at this match when he hit Bill McCave and Brian Brumwell off the table, the Crouch/Brumwell clash being one of the most thrilling matches seen in this country for a long time, moving even hardened officials to enthusiasm.

Brumwell also showed a return to form, scoring a comfortable win over Ken Craigie, and Essex, expecting four from Peggy Franks and Johnny Leach, sat back and relaxed.

That relaxation was soon hit for six by Joyce Roberts, who, after a close first game, hit Peggy Franks all over the hall, to restore the balance to Middlesex. Crouch and Rosalind Rowe nearly clinched the matter with a terrific show against world champions Johnny Leach and Peggy Franks, but just couldn't keep up the barrage for three hard games, so it was left to Dennis Miller to notch the final point in his usual sleepy and apparently unconcerned manner.

SCORES:

K. Craigie lost to J. Leach —13, —16;
lost to B. Brumwell 13, —18, —10.
D. Miller lost to Leach —19, —13; beat W. McCave 21, 16.
B. Crouch beat Brumwell —17, 18, 16;
beat McCave 16, 17.

Miss J. Roberts beat Miss M. Franks 22, 11.
Miss D. Rowe and Miss R. Rowe beat Mrs. E. Adams and Miss D. Rivett 13, 17.
Crouch and Miss R. Rowe lost to Leach and Miss Franks 18, —11, —16.

RESULTS

Premier Division

Middlesex 5; Essex 4.
Surrey 6; Lancashire 3.
Yorkshire 3; Gloucestershire 6.
Warwickshire 6; Yorkshire 3.
Middlesex 7; Lancashire 2.
Gloucestershire 7; Warwickshire 2.

Junior Division

Bedfordshire 6; Hertfordshire 3.
Middlesex 9; Surrey 0.
Kent 5; Essex 4.

North Midland Division

Yorkshire 7; Leicestershire 2.
Leicestershire 1; Lincolnshire 8.

Northern Division

Durham 8; Cumberland 1.
Yorkshire 4; Northumberland 5.

Home Counties Division

Hertfordshire 5; Bedfordshire 4.
Essex 5; Buckinghamshire 4.

Southern Division

Hampshire 2; Surrey 7.
Kent 1; Devonshire 8.
Devonshire 4; Surrey 5.

East Anglian Division

Norfolk 2; Middlesex 7.
Suffolk 0; Middlesex 9.
Norfolk 3, Cambridgeshire 6.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

Men's singles: B. Crouch beat D. A. Miller —16, —11, 19, 18, 12.
Ladies' singles: Miss J. Roberts beat Miss R. Rowe 18, 20.

Men's doubles: Crouch and Thornhill beat Miller and A. Green 18, 17, 16.

Mixed doubles: Miller and Miss R. Rowe beat Harrower and Miss Barnes 15, 19.

Ladies' doubles: Miss D. Rowe and Miss R. Rowe beat Miss Barnes and Miss Benstead 13, 19.

Youth's singles: J. Lowe beat D. Burrigde —19, 14, 21.

Girls' singles: Miss R. Rowe beat Miss D. Rowe —11, 15, 12.

Men's minor singles: R. Sterlini beat H. Alderslade 15, —14, 6.

Ladies' minor singles: Mrs. B. Montgomery beat Miss M. Toombs 10, 7.

BIG MATCH IN AID OF BARN A TESTIMONIAL FUND

On Tuesday, 20th December, an interesting match will be played at the Rotax Canteen, Chandos Road, Willesden Junction, N.W.10. The entire proceeds of the match, without deduction of expenses, will be handed over to the Barna Testimonial Fund.

The match will be between Middlesex and a team drawn from the Acton and West London Leagues, five Middlesex county players being released to play for the league's side, whilst Middlesex resident Pinkie Barnes is to be asked to play for Middlesex.

It is anticipated, therefore, that the composition of the sides will be:—MIDDLESEX: G. V. Barna (if back in time), G. R. Harrower, D. A. Miller, B. Crouch, Miss J. Roberts and Miss L. R. Barnes. ACTON and WEST LONDON: K. Craigie, R. Sharman, L. Adams, Miss R. Rowe and Miss D. Rowe.

Tickets for this match, priced at 10s. 6d., 5s., 3s. and 1s. 9d., can be obtained from Mr. W. R. Luff, 161, Empire Court, Wembley Park, Middlesex. Corinthian 1751.

Diane's turn to win

THESE excellently organised championships were stimulated by the presence of the Lancashire players, namely, Peggy Allen, Adele Wood, Ron Allcock and Derek Ellison. We had hoped to see Messrs. Casofsky and Stanley, but their appearance in Southern competitions continues to be rare.

Only one of them reached the singles final, Miss Allen, losing easily to Miss Diane Rowe. This was a surprise because earlier Miss Allen's cool defence had proved too good for the other twin, Rosalind. In the final, Miss Allen never seemed to find her feet, and it was over very quickly indeed.

Doris Rivett, of Essex, had hit too hard for Adele Wood, winning 17, —9, 17, only to lose to Peggy Allen —22, —19 in two tense games. Another new-comer, from Bristol, Miss Pomroy, caused a surprise in beating Miss Barnes 11, —16, 15 with mixed hitting and pushing, the game which "Pinkie" prefers to use herself. Miss Pomroy then lost to Diane Rowe.

Ron Allcock attracted a great deal of attention and succeeded in puzzling nearly everybody. He hit with abandon, never seeming to care whether his hits went on or not. Although his length was uncertain, he persisted in forcing the pace, and as he wouldn't defend it was no surprise when he lost to Harry Venner —18, 16, —14.

Essex's Ron Langner dismissed Ellison, and the men's singles was left to the South. There were some keen battles. That Falstaffian figure, Tom Rich, led Swaythling Cup player Ron Sharman 8—0, 18—14, 20—18 in the third only to lose 20—22. A very good effort. Young Jimmy Lowe, of Ashford, beat Keith Hurlock 12 in the third with a nicely co-ordinated game. It was a surprise to find Hurlock content for the most part to defend. It was certainly an error of judgment.

Kent's Ray Syndercombe registered a good two straight wins over Eric Marsh, who is playing well considering his debilitating exhibition period on the stage. Crayden found the high ball laced with side spin very effective against Craigie, and won 16 in the third game. Crayden also beat a far-from-confident Filby.

THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND OPEN Reported by Tony Miller

Johnny Leach, although not quite at his best, won the tournament without dropping a game, beating Crouch, McCave, Crayden and Venner. This must be accounted a fine performance. Leach was always master against Crayden, but it was a good spectacle. In the other semi-final Venner, maintaining his improved form, registered what I think was his best win yet.

Beating Ron Sharman —17, 21—18, 21—18 also, Sharman was playing well, and what is more, hitting the occasional ball well. Harry kept his nerves in hand, however, and recovered from 2—8 down in the third to win.

In the final, Leach prevented Venner from achieving any attacking rhythm and won 3—0, though Venner was not disgraced and always demanded full attention.

In the Men's Doubles, Carrington and Leach proved too steady for the more direct methods of Sharman and Craigie. In this game Craigie showed improved form, placing the ball well, only occasionally rushing his kills, and chopping with greater accuracy. Sharman, too, drove well, and Leach returned occasional balls from under the nose of more than one spectator.

The Junior Singles Girls was a keenly fought, fluctuating struggle between Miss Sheila Smith and Miss D. Spooner, of Middlesex. The scores to Miss Spooner, 18—21, 23—21, 21—19, are indicative. The audience rose to their fighting spirits, and, maybe, to their good looks.

The Boys' Singles was another good win for Lowe over Burridge, 15 and 16. Both promising players, a commodity in which Middlesex seems to abound.

SCORES

FINALS:

M.S. J. Leach beat H. Venner: 12, 16, 11.

W.S. Miss D. Rowe beat Miss P. Allen: 13, 11.

M.D. J. Carrington and J. Leach beat K. Craigie and R. Sharman: 17, 19, —17, 18.

X.D. M. Thornhill and Miss P. Barnes beat J. Carrington and Miss E. Weaver: 8, 17.

SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. Leach beat R. Crayden: 11, 9.

Venner beat Sharman: —17, 18, 18.

J.S.B. J. Lowe beat D. Burridge: 15, 16.

J.S.G. D. E. Spooner beat S. Smith: —18, 21, 19.

THESE MAKE NEWS

Although we seldom hear much from Thomas Hardy's country, there has been no little activity behind the scenes, and considerable effort has gone into the organisation of a Wessex Table Tennis League to embrace leagues in Somerset and Wilts. The bringing together of the various leagues in this way should do much to prepare the way for County Associations in this area, and we shall look to hear encouraging news from Leonard Hoare, the Hon. Sec., in the near future.

* * * *

Herts have enticed the charming and illustrious Miss DORIS EMDIN into the secretarial chair of the county association, and have entered the season with a new enthusiasm. A new County Inter-League Championship has been introduced by the Fixture Secretary, Mr. Slade, in which the county is divided into North and South Divisions. Teams are composed of two men and two ladies, with matches consisting of 4 M.S., 4 L.S., and 2 X.D. A unique and interesting combination.

* * * *

After the prizes had been distributed at the recent Yorks Open, the Yorks President, Mr. Maurice Shaffner, on behalf of the Y.T.T.A. presented a handsome barometer to BENNY CASOFSKY to commemorate his achievement in winning the M.S. title three years in succession. In a pleasant response, Benny introduced his recent bride, and it was good

to find that Mrs. Casofsky has quickly learned to become a "good table tennis wife."

* * * *

Meanwhile, from that East Anglian outpost, somewhat isolated Norfolk, County Secretary E. J. FAIRHEAD tells of the great keenness in Norwich, King's Lynn, and Yarmouth, and high hopes that other towns of suitable size will take the plunge of organising a new league soon. Commendable efforts have been made to improve the standard of service by distributing "Sporting Sam" cartoon leaflets.

* * * *

Middlesex have introduced lapel and pin-on three-colour badges with the county Coat-of-Arms, which will be sold to affiliated members. A reader has suggested that this would be an admirable idea for the E.T.T.A. to take up, and would probably result in hundreds of new friendships as well as an additional small profit to the National organisation.

* * * *

In their first fixture against a county side, Civil Service overwhelmed Kent at Adastral House on the 5th November, the score being 9—0. Service team for this match was: L. G. Adams, W. J. Sawyer and J. H. Leeks, with Misses Steventon, Mace and Wiegand. With many other players of similar standard at their command, Civil Service are looking forward to a full programme of matches with counties and the Services.

Opinion

Is Sportsmanship Lacking?

By LESLIE WOOLLARD

The most treasured possession of Table Tennis is the magnificent tradition of true and democratic sportsmanship. Is it in danger?

The suspension of some World Ranking players in recent times lends a somewhat false weight to such an argument. Nevertheless, it is of vital importance to the good of our game that any form of bad sportsmanship be ruthlessly torn out. Examples of bad sportsmanship are much less than 1 per cent. now, but if tolerated will increase like the proverbial bad apple.

An early essential to learning the game is acquiring the will to win gracefully and the grace to lose winningly, or, as I was told early in my career: "Be courteous to those you pass on the way up, for you'll surely meet them coming down." The major complaint is against those clubs or individuals who just can't bear to lose. We all know them.

Only this week I received a letter mentioning how all the pleasure and thrill vanished in the uncomfortable tension when the writer's team beat the league champions. "Never have I met such vile sportsmen as these," he adds.

The solution is drastic and effective. Leagues should ban such teams, and clubs should ban such individuals. Make the small sacrifice now for the much greater benefit of the future. Youngsters learn by example, often that of winning players, and to-day's youngsters are the leaders of the game To-morrow. It is our plain duty to see that the examples they have are the best we can give them.

Sam Kirkwood's article gives a valuable emphasis to this thought.

PRIDE of PRESTON



Left to Right: B. GEARING, T. MORLEY, W. FOX (President), J. BASS, J. LEVER.

For the 15th successive season, the Deepdale T.T. Club have won the League Championships of Preston, a substantial league of seven divisions. Furthermore, they are popular champions. Indeed, it is said of their leader, BOB GEARING, with 20 years in the game, that there is no more popular player and no one held in more affectionate regard throughout mid-Lancs. He is still a redoubtable player, ranking among the league's best.

"Alibi Ikes"

By SAM KIRKWOOD,
the Well-known Sports Writer

Victor Barna's nation-wide testimonial fund is, to my mind at least, a tribute more to the ex-world champion's wonderful sportsmanship than to his playing successes. I am convinced that had Victor been a snooty, "Alibi Ike" type of individual there would have been no fund. We are to pay tribute to a superb sportsman rather than to a great player.

Barna is, in fact, a player who has, and still does, set an example to all table tennis players in the arts of keeping equable under stress, of remaining pleasant no matter how Dame Fortune may frown against one, and of showing courtesy and warm friendliness alike to the beaten and the victorious.

Such virtues are all too scarce in the general run of T.T. exponents. There are too many who, while of unquestionable ability, show qualities which don't endear them to fellow-competitors or those who watch them. These individuals drag the game in the mud.

It is hard to understand why some players, stars and minor club nonentities alike, act as though they regarded T.T. as a religion and not as a game; it is difficult to know what goes on in the minds of those who cannot lose a match without whining, and why they think it is better to be regarded as a good player than a good sport. These folk have the wrong angle, placing the result before all else and in doing so spoiling things for

those who ask no more than to enjoy themselves in company with others similarly minded.

Those who during a game slash their bats against their persons or gesture whenever they lose a point; those who will play none but the best in their particular clubs and ignore those of lower standards; those who think that a smile and acts of common courtesy are only for "saps"; those who always complain, query the decisions of an umpire, and disregard the feelings of opponents; those who are, in short, as divorced from the true spirit of the game as Stalin is from capitalism—where do they think they're going and what do they think they are achieving? It would be interesting to get the answer to that!

When Johnny Leach lost to Alojzsy Ehrlich, the veteran Polish ace, in an early round of the last English Open, he left the table grinning broadly and exclaimed to his many sympathisers around him, "Just a broken-hearted clown, that's me," humorously gesturing with his hands. He must, of course, have been bitterly disappointed in his defeat, affecting as it did his newly won prestige as world champion. I thought more of him for that grin and remark than I did for his triumph at Stockholm in the World Series. How easy it would have been for him to have manufactured excuses, as so many infinitely lesser lights would have done—and how un-

becoming those of us present would have thought it . . .

Take note, you up-and-coming youngsters (and you also, old-timers, if you've read thus far), of how gracefully Helen Elliott accepts defeat; of how sweetly Dora Beregi behaves towards a victorious opponent; of how charming is Vera Thomas in defeat and victory; of the never-failing smiles of Barna and Richard Bergmann after a game. Those are fine examples of table tennis players who play to the letter and the spirit of the law.

Very different are some other stars I could name. There is the young star who openly and on all occasions pooh-poohs the play of Leach, Simons, Carrington, Bergmann, and other big-timers, asserting that they are only cheesey top-spinners and quite over-rated. That he has never beaten one of them and is never likely to does not prevent him airing his ignorant, arrogant opinions in front of strangers.

There is the international girl player who in public wept bitterly and almost went hysterical after being beaten by a girl she termed "a damned unknown." There is a well-known player who is notorious for his never-ending complaints about the lights, balls, table, runback, floor, colour of the walls, umpire, and everything else. This temperamental prima donna never gets beaten by a better player—it is always the conditions which bring about her downfall. At least, that is what she alleges.

Let's not fool ourselves: table tennis can do with a large shot in the arm—a shot of the rare stuff called sportsmanship.

The Short Chop

described by Aubrey Simons

THE short-chop stroke is not only my favourite but also my most effective point-winning shot.

I make this perhaps a little differently from the average player's chop stroke, which is made generally with the arm. Mine is essentially a *wrist* stroke, and I think this enables me to impart stronger chop (i.e., back-spin) to the ball.

The other important essential—for me at any rate—is that I take the ball as near as possible to the table. Of course, the ball is coming harder when you stay close in, but I find that the harder the ball is coming at me, the more chop can be imparted.

Correspondingly, of course, the ball returns to my opponent's side of the table much more quickly from my close position and he hasn't got quite so much time to get into the correct position for another attacking shot.

So far, I have had in mind the short-chop on the forehand side ; in this the weight of the body is mostly on the right foot.

On the Backhand

Although my backhand chop is also a “short” chop stroke, there are certain differences. Naturally, the weight of the body will now be found on the left foot instead of the right, and my body generally will be facing to the left, compared with its inclination towards the right in the case of the forehand short chop.

On the backhand it is much more difficult (at

least in my experience) to bring the wrist right over and round the ball, and consequently there is not so much chop on my backhand return. Perhaps this is actually an advantage, because it means a variation in the amount of chop on my returns, and variation is always a good thing.

A Big Advantage

Another advantage to be gained from using short-chop defence is that it saves a tremendous amount of running about. The further you go back the more ground you have to cover. Richard Bergmann is the classic example of this. Moreover, no one really does the flat hit in this country, and when meeting it abroad and in the international sphere close-to-the-table tactics are much more effective against such attackers.

At one time last season Bergmann himself decided, win or lose, to stay up close to the table against the Americans, but I think he failed to conquer them even then because he does not really *chop* the ball, whether long or short.

A Good Eye Necessary

One thing is certain ; before you consider adopting “short” defence you must be satisfied that you have a very good eye to enable you to take the balls so early. But if you can master the knack you will almost remove the threat of the drop-shot against you, because however well executed by your opponent it will always be within your reach.

WINCHESTER

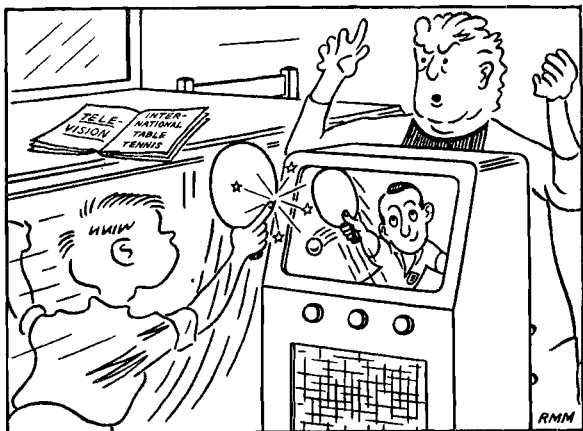
A unique record was created last season when the League championship was won by an all-Polish team, consisting of H. STALA, M. JARECKI, and T. PALYS, all members of the Hiltingbury T.T. Club. They were unbeaten and will be defending their title again this year. On one occasion the three Poles were selected to represent the League and were successful in drawing the match against the strong Portsmouth side.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1949-50

This season's championships, including the Swaythling Cup and Marcel Corbillon Cup team contests, will be held in Budapest, January 29th to February 4th, 1950.

The E.T.T.A. party will probably leave England about January 24th.

Any supporters or players interested in travelling with the team should communicate at once with E.T.T.A. Office.



COUNTER-HIT

History

The Festival of Britain and Table Tennis

by C. CORTI-WOODCOCK

The organisers of the Festival of Britain are already busily engaged on their preliminary plans and are in contact with a number of sporting and other bodies to see which of them can most appropriately be invited to be given a "shop window" at the Festival in 1951. Table tennis, of course, comes into the picture, and our national Hon. General Secretary, Bill Pope, is now in close touch with the authorities.

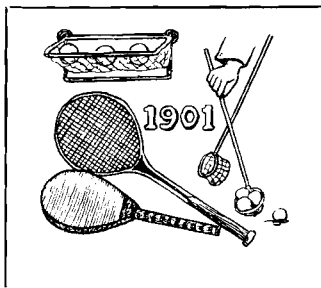
No decision can be expected yet awhile whether our sport will be represented or not: and even if it is, it does not necessarily follow that there will be any facilities for actual demonstration of the modern game, desirable and attractive as it might be. These are very early days, though, and it is impossible to foretell, at this moment, how and to what extent, Present intentions may be changed later on. One decision which appears to be a fixture is that the time allotted to any one sport shall be four days.

Catches the Imagination

In the course of his discussions, Mr. Pope has put forward a suggestion which has apparently caught the imagination of the Festival officials. It is that the E.T.T.A. shall attempt to assemble a collection of museum pieces of table tennis equipment, dating right

back to the ping-pong, film flamm and gossamer era of the Nineties.

Tucked away in hundreds of attics and lumber-rooms all over the country, there must be any number of ancient rackets of vellum, parchment, cork, plain wood and sandpapered: and of all kinds of Victorian and Edwardian accessories, such as balls, nets, score cards, match results, souvenir programmes, photographs of bygone stars and teams, trophies, even — possibly — complete tables.



A Permanent Museum?

These notes could well have been titled "Calling all attics!" because that is really what it comes to.

This is an earnest invitation to everyone to search out all they can find and send their discoveries along

to Mr. Pope. There is an additional objective in mind, too: for quite apart from the prospective display at the Festival, the E.T.T.A. hopes to get the authority of the donors to retain them for permanent exhibition at the H.Q. of the Association.

As a founder-member of the I.T.T.F., it is felt that, though we have left it rather late, an effort in this direction should be made now. We shall naturally include modern equipment in the display, since what we regard as modern to-day will all too soon become regarded as antique.

All Titles change hands in Hull Open

Adele Wood takes 3 . . . Brian Kennedy's narrow win

by A. ABRAHAMSON

Some of Lincolnshire's keen youngsters left home at 4 a.m. to arrive early at this popular northern event which appeals to Lincs, Durham, Yorks and Lancs. Entries were below last year's record because of the limited facilities, and for the first time for many years, the last final was concluded before midnight, actually just about 11 p.m.

P. SKERRAT (Scunthorpe) beat the holder, G. MITTON (Halifax) easily, before being narrowly beaten by BRIAN KENNEDY in the quarter-finals. M. BISHOP, A. THOMPSON, M. SHEADER, and D. MERRYWEATHER also played well. R. HINCHLIFFE (Huddersfield) beat E. BEEDLE (Hull) in one exciting semi, and BRIAN KENNEDY, doffing R.A.F. uniform, beat C. WHITELEY (Halifax) in the other.

In the final, Kennedy, although missing many winners, was hitting powerfully against the inspired defence of R. HINCHLIFFE (Huddersfield), who, after being two games down, fought back with such tenacity, to just lose a most exciting finish at 26--24 in the fifth game. Hinchliffe's performance must merit his consideration for the county team.

Adele Wood was in fine form, taking (or sharing) three titles. Her hardest fight was against Mrs. M. BISHOP, while DOROTHEA MUNNINGS (as in the East of England) knocked out the holder, MARJORIE LIGHTFOOT.

In the Mixed, G. MITTON and Miss M. LIGHTFOOT, holders for three years, were ousted by Mr. and Mrs. M. BISHOP, who were, in turn, beaten by R. BAKER and Miss E. GRIMSTONE.

RESULTS

SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. R. Hinchliffe (Huddersfield) beat E. Beedle (Hull): —16, 17, 16.

B. Kennedy (Leeds) beat C. Whiteley (Halifax): 19, 12.

W.S. Miss A. Wood (Manchester) beat Miss D. Munnings (Scunthorpe): 9, 10.

Miss K. Peake (Scunthorpe) beat Miss E. Robson (Middlesbrough): 23, 13.

FINALS:

M.S. B. Kennedy (Leeds) beat R. Hinchliffe (Huddersfield): 19, 16, —19, —7, 24.

W.S. Miss A. Wood (Manchester) beat Miss K. Peake (Scunthorpe): 13, 19.

J.B.S.: P. Wilson (Scarborough) beat M. Goldman (London): —14, 19, 16.

M.D. M. Sheader (Scarborough) and E. Beedle (Hull) beat G. Mitton and C. Whiteley (Halifax): —12, 15, 14.

X.D. A. Thompson (Leeds) and Miss A. Wood (Manchester) beat C. Whiteley (Halifax) and Miss D. Munnings (Scunthorpe): 12, —18, 13.

W.D. Miss A. Wood (Manchester) and Miss S. Wood (Leeds) beat Mrs. M. Bishop (Hull) and Miss M. Lightfoot (Leeds): 13, —19, 20.

ENTERPRISE NECESSARY TO WIN?

Rule 7 of the Regulations for the Hull Open reads: "Players guilty of deliberately uninteresting play are liable to be disqualified."

New Internationals meet Fighting Irish

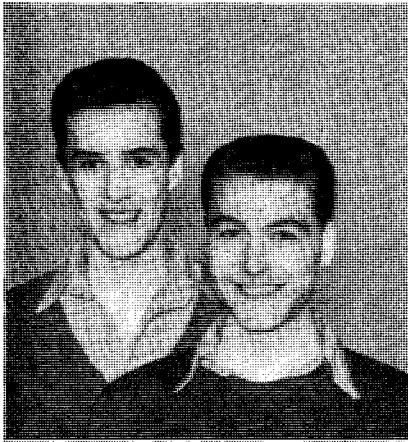
Record Crowd applaud 8-1 English Win

NORMAN M. WILSON

Hon. Sec., Irish Table Tennis Association.

For the first time the full-scale International match between the two countries was staged in Belfast in the well-known Wellington Hall, and took place on Thursday, 10th November.

The demand for reserved seats exceeded the supply, and two days before the match even every unreserved ticket had



IVAN MARTIN and VICTOR MERCER,
stalwarts of Ireland's team.

been sold. Enthusiasts travelled from all parts of Ulster—Londonderry, Strabane, Coleraine, Limavady, Omagh, Cookstown, Magherafelt, all being represented, in addition to the nearer districts of Ballymena, Newtownards, Bangor, Lisburn, etc. Approximately 1,300 "fans" packed every

corner of the hall—the largest audience ever to see table tennis in Belfast.

The match started with the No. 4 Men's Singles—JOE FOX of Ireland v. RONNIE ALLCOCK. After losing the first game to 14, Fox went ahead with brilliant flashes to lead 17-10. Here the Irish impetuosity set in to such an extent that Allcock drew level, took the lead and won 21-18.

Then PEGGY FRANKS disposed of MINA MINSHULL in two quick games.

Next for the hammer were VICTOR MERCER and HARRY O'PREY in the No. 1 Men's Doubles against JOHNNY LEACH and RON CRAYDEN. There were some splendid rallies in this match with the Irish players mainly on the defensive, but always the Englishmen had something in hand.

We then had the match of the night, VICTOR MERCER v. JOHNNY LEACH, with the Irishman playing a very restrained game, awaiting his opportunities and coming in to attack. The machine-like precision of the World Champion delighted the great crowd, and a gallant effort by Mercer ended in another English win by 21-14, 23-21.

HILDA AGNEW in her singles against MOLLY JONES stayed too long on the defensive and lost the first game to 12. Her second game, when she attacked, was much better.

Ronnie Crayden, with his long reach and forearm "flick," mixed his game too well and had no difficulty in defeating Harry O'Prey to 13 and 16.

With eight matches up, England looked to be home without even one defeat, but in the last doubles Ivan Martin and Joe Fox commenced a devastating attack which brought a consolation match to poor old Ireland.

We in Ireland still have much to learn, notably what appears to be a winner over here will almost certainly come back if there is an English player on the other end of the table. Still, it was a splendid night and thoroughly enjoyed by all who were present.

RESULTS (English names first)

R. Allcock beat J. Fox: 21-14, 21-18.
W. Foote beat I. E. Martin: 23-21, 22-20.
R. Crayden beat H. O'Prey: 21-13, 21-16.
J. Leach beat V. Mercer: 21-14, 23-21.
Leach and Crayden beat Mercer and O'Prey: 21-18, 21-15.
Foote and Allcock lost to Martin and Fox: 10-21, 23-21, 15-21.
Miss P. Franks beat Miss M. Minshull: 21-6, 21-12.
Miss M. Jones beat Miss H. Agnew: 21-12, 21-16.
P. Franks and M. Jones beat M. Minshull and H. Agnew: 21-11, 21-12.

Ehrlich holds Irish Open against Leach and Crayden

"Heartbreak" Defence not so old-fashioned?

The National Irish Championships were concluded at the Abbey Lecture Hall, Dublin, on 12th November. Visiting players included JOHNNY LEACH and RON CRAYDEN from England, and A. EHRLICH, the former Polish player, who has been in Ireland for some weeks giving coaching lessons.

As usual, some of the best play was seen in the quarter-finals. Leach and I. E. Martin (Belfast) had a hard-hitting battle which went to three games and brought Leach to the semi-final with the scores 21-8, 12-21, 21-11.

By far the toughest match was that between V. Mercer (Belfast) and Ehrlich, who won the first game 21-16. Mercer gave a splendid display in the second to win 21-15, with Ehrlich obviously worried.

Spectators checked their watches as the third game commenced. Ehrlich, who was the singles holder, played pat ball until he was several strokes in the lead, and steadily kept this lead. Mercer

made desperate efforts to force past him, but lost 17-21.

Mercer and Martin in the doubles defeated Ehrlich and S. Clerkin (Dublin) in the semi-final 21-18, 21-7, 21-16.

In the finals, Leach had no trouble in disposing of Harry Morris (Dublin) in the first semi of the men's singles. Crayden met Ehrlich in the other semi, but the holder stubbornly defended to win by 3 games to 1. The final was "heartbreak house" for Leach.

Much as Johnny tried, he could not get through that rubber wall; could not encourage Ehrlich to take any risk, and seemingly, after being two down, said to himself "Rip it" and had a bang. In the fourth game, Ehrlich had a seven-point lead before he attempted his first aggressive stroke, and eventually won 21-11 to retain his title.

The men's doubles final was good open table tennis and pleasant to watch, with Leach and Crayden winning in straight games against the Irish pair, Mercer and Martin.

Possibly the best final of all was the mixed, when J. Leach and Miss M. Minshull (Dundalk) defeated A. Ehrlich and Miss A. Coombs (Dublin).

SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. J. Leach beat H. Morris: 21-11, 21-14, 21-13.
A. Ehrlich beat R. Crayden: 19-21, 21-15, 21-13, 21-14.

FINALS:

M.S. Ehrlich (holder) beat Leach: 21-12, 18-21, 21-10, 21-11.
M.D. J. Leach and R. Crayden beat V. Mercer and I. E. Martin: 21-17, 21-16, 21-19.
W.S. Miss C. A. Egan (Dublin) beat Mrs. Dartington (Dublin): 21-15, 24-22.
W.D. Misses A. Coombs and D. Fearon (Dublin) beat Mrs. Roberts and Miss A. Jones (Liverpool): 21-15, 22-20.
X.D. J. Leach and Miss M. Minshull (Dundalk) beat A. Ehrlich and Miss A. Coombs (Dublin): 21-17, 17-21, 21-18.
J.B.S. E. Allen (Belfast) (holder) beat F. Woods (Dublin): 21-15, 19-21, 21-12.

Champion League of England?

IT costs half a crown to enter these great competitions, which are comparable with the F.A. Cup (in which every worth-while soccer club in the country automatically makes its annual entry). They have something of the same thrill, glamour and surprises, and we can see the day when every league will enter the competitions as a matter of course.

The essential feature of both Wilmott and Rose Bowl competitions is that they are team events, where a good TEAM can upset good players, and it is possible for comparatively unknown players to get quite a long way. Even the final is possible. The final can be compared to the grand Cup Final, and should have a comparable support. After all, it is a national tournament for teams, so why shouldn't the winners of each event have a right to the claim of being Champion League for 194—?

The Draw for the First Rounds has been published, and shows 94 entries for the Wilmott Cup (Men's Teams) and 60 for the Rose Bowl (Ladies), and since some of these matches are "local derbies" should provide some keen tussles and considerable interest.

WILMOTT CUP and J. M. ROSE BOWL DRAWS

WILMOTT CUP COMPETITION ROUND 1

Zone 1: Maidenhead v. Sheen T.T.C.; London Civil Service v. London Business Houses; South-West Middlesex v. High Wycombe; Wembley v. Film Renters; Willesden v. Slough; Thames Valley v. Central; Croydon v. North Middlesex; Staines v. Phillips Group Sports Club.
Zone 2: Manhattan Sports Club v. Insurance Offices; Thameside Ind. v. South London; Southend v. Fellows Cranleigh; Laindon v. East London; Nalگو v. London Prov. Houses; London Banks v. Wanstead and Woodford Methodists; West Essex, Bye; London Postal Region, Bye.
Zone 3: Byfleet v. Bromley; North-West Kent v. Gravesend; Sutton Valence v. Beckenham; Sittingbourne v. Woolwich.
Zone 4: Barnets v. Luton; Leighton Buzzard v. Welwyn Garden City; Eagle T.T.C. v. Watford; St. Albans v. Bedford.
Zone 5: Lincoln, Bye; Boston, Bye; Lowestoft, Bye; Kings Lynn v. Grimsby; Scunthorpe T.T.C. v. Norwich; Cambridge, Bye; Newark, Bye; Peterborough, Bye.
Zone 6 (North): Northumberland, Bye; Carlisle v. Sunderland.
Zone 6 (South): Halifax v. Halifax Y.M.C.A.; Chesterfield v. Sheffield; Dewsbury v. Burnley; Keighley v. Huddersfield.
Zone 7 (North): Bolton S.S. v. Southport; Chester v. Nelson; Blackpool v. Darwen; Liverpool v. Manchester.
Zone 7 (South): Dudley Temperance, Bye; Northampton v. Birmingham; Burton-on-Trent v. Kidderminster; Ashbourne T.T.C., Bye.

Zone 8 (South): Southampton Civil Service T.T.C. v. Guildford; Brighton v. Bournemouth; Leatherhead v. Horsham; Grosvenor Sports Club v. Reigate.
Zone 8 (West): Chard Recreation Club v. Bristol; Bath v. Reading.
1949/50

J. M. ROSE BOWL COMPETITION ROUND 1

Zone 1: Wembley, Bye; Staines, Bye; Central v. North Middlesex; London Civil Service v. Croydon; Sheen T.T.C. v. West London; Slough v. Willesden; High Wycombe, Bye; South-West Middlesex, Bye.
Zone 2: Film Renters, Bye; Nalگو, Bye; Insurance Office v. Ilford; London Business Houses v. Wanstead and Woodford; Laindon v. South London; Thames Valley v. East London; London Banks, Bye; Southend, Bye.
Zone 3: Cambridge, Bye; Chesterfield v. Kings Lynn; Boston v. Lowestoft; Grimsby v. Scunthorpe T.T.C.
Zone 4: Beckenham, Bye; Byfleet v. Gravesend; Guildford v. Woolwich; North-West Kent, Bye.
Zone 5 (North): Sunderland v. Northumberland; Hartlepool, Bye.
Zone 5 (South): Blackpool, Bye; Darwen v. Burnley; Liverpool v. Sheffield; Manchester v. Huddersfield.
Zone 6: Watford, Bye; Luton, Bye; Bedford v. St. Albans; Barnet, Bye.
Zone 7: Leatherhead v. Bournemouth; Grosvenor T.T.C. v. Brighton.
Zone 8: Bath v. Birmingham; Bristol v. Reading.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Venue	Details and Tickets from
Dec. 12-17	Central London Open (JB, JG)	Prince of Wales Road Baths, Kentish Town, N.W.5	Mrs. E. G. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
Dec. 16 ... 1950	ENGLAND v. FRANCE	Civic Hall, Wolverhampton	R. H. Colclough, Beaconside, Springhead, Sedgley, Wolverhampton.
Jan. 2-7	Metropolitan Open	Polytechnic Annexe, Little Titchfield Street, London, W.1	A. F. Carnegie, The Polytechnic Extension, Little Titchfield Street, London, W.1.
Jan. 14 ...	ENGLAND v. WALES	R.N. Barracks Gymnasium, Devonport	H. Smith, 14, Efford Road, Higher Compton, Plymouth.
Jan. 19-21	Lancashire Open (JB, JG, VS)	Drill Hall, Ardwick, 28, Hyde Road, Manchester, 12	N. Cook, 7, North Avenue, Stalybridge, Cheshire.
Jan. 22 ...	Kent Open	Pier Pavilion, Herne Bay	F. G. Mannooch, 161, Borden Lane, Sittingbourne, Kent.
Jan. 24-28	South London Open (JB, JG)	Brotherhood Hall, Knights Hill, S.E.27	K. Havill, 4, Chestnut Road, West Norwood, S.E.27.
Jan. 29 ...	Southampton Open	Blightmont Drill Hall, Millbrook Road, Southampton	R. Sherry, 7, Thorneleigh Road, Woolston, Southampton.
Feb. 11 ...	North of England Open (JB, JG)	The Drill Hall, Ardwick.	L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Manchester 19.
Feb. 13-18	Middlesex (Herga) Open (JB, JG)	Herga L.T.C., Harrow	Miss A. Power, 196, East Lane, Harrow, Middlesex.
Feb. 23-25	Midland Open (JB, JG)	Birmingham Indoor Sports Stadium	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham.
Feb. 27 - Mar. 3	Surrey Open (JB, JG)	Baths Hall, Epsom	C. A. Bourne, 46, Elm Park Gardens, Selsdon, Croydon.

SOME LATER LANDMARKS

Mar. 4	Yorkshire Junior Open.	Mar. 17-18	West of England Open (at Torquay).
7-11	THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (in London).	25	Grimsby Open.
PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS (2/- per line. Box Nos. 1/- extra.) TABLE TENNIS TABLE, showroom condition, 3 in. top, extremely fast, genuine bargain, 15 guineas. Box 0101, "Table Tennis," Guardian House, Forest Road, E.17.		April 1-2	Buckinghamshire Open (at Slough).
		8-10	North-East England Open.
		12-14	
		and 17-22	West Middlesex Open.
		April 1	WALES v. ENGLAND JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL (in Wales).
May 1-6	Thameside Open.		