

JANUARY, 1950

SIXPENCE

# **TABLE TENNIS**



**HARRY VENNER**  
Surrey and England

*Contributors include:*

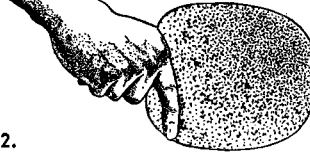
**BENGT GRIEVE**  
**SAMIR CHATTERJEE**  
**JACK CARRINGTON**  
**KEITH WATTS**  
**GEOFF. HARROWER**  
**MORRIS SHAFFNER**

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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1950

# TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine  
of the  
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
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## INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY

*with a Free Exchange.*

A PLEASANT item in our Christmas mail took the form of a "cheque" from Fernando Olazarrí de Castro, the Chilean international player.

Drawn on the "Banco Feliz Pascua Y Ano Nueva S.A." (Bank of Happy Christmas and New Year), it reads:—

**Pay to the Order of the English "TABLE TENNIS" magazine, The Amount of . . . One Happy Christmas and 365 Days of Complete Happiness after the New Year.**

The capital of the Bank is declared as:—

**Prosperity and 1,000,000 of Happinesses.**

Such kind thoughts are indeed welcome from across the seas. If there were space enough on the cheque, we feel certain that every one of the 120,000 affiliated "shareholders" of English Table Tennis would like to endorse it personally.

## THE ONE AND ONLY

IN a season of ever-improving tournament play and arrangements, we may rely as always upon the ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS to crown them all. With three weeks in which to recover from their travels abroad, our own top-rankers will be ready to prove that English Open titles do not *have* to be exported, while their challengers from U.S.A., Sweden, France, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, etc., will try to prove them wrong, each in their own stimulating style.

The season had hardly opened before Bill Pope had a pile of letters and cash on his desk asking for tickets for the English Open finals—this even before negotiations had been made with Wembley!

All league secretaries have already received full details and many are arranging special train and coach parties.

Individual applications should be sent in promptly, *with remittance*, to English Table Tennis Association, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

## ENGLAND TEAMS FOR BUDAPEST

The International Selection Committee have selected the following teams to represent England in the Swaythling Cup, 1949/50 World Championships, to take place at Budapest, Hungary, from January 28th-February 4th, 1950:—

### Swaythling Cup Team:

J. A. LEACH, R. BERGMANN, A. W. C. SIMONS, H. T. VENNEN, B. CROUCH.  
Reserve: R. CRAYDEN; non-playing captain, A. A. HAYDON.

### Marcel Corbillon Cup Team:

MRS. V. THOMAS, MRS. D. DEVENNEY, MISS M. E. FRANKS, MISS L. R. BARNES.  
Reserve: MISS E. M. STEVENTON.

G. V. BARNA will partner R. BERGMANN, and J. H. CARRINGTON will partner J. LEACH in the Men's Doubles.

It is hoped that our teams will be able to take part in the Vienna Championships just prior to the World's events, and to send a team to compete in the annual Danube Cup competition which will be held this year at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, from February 9th-12th.

## BON VOYAGE . . . ET BONNE CHANCE

WE know we are expressing the feelings of all table tennis fans in England and the home countries, and of many abroad, in wishing Good Luck and Good Hunting to JOHNNY LEACH, who travels this month to defend his World Singles title in Budapest, and to his colleagues, our representatives in the team contests, in their quest for sporting honours.

## ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1949-50

### Playing sessions and admission prices

At PADDINGTON BATHS HALL, Queensway, London, W.2

Mainly Junior Championship events, with some Senior matches on the Wednesday

**Tuesday, 7th March, and Wednesday, 8th March, 1950**

ADMISSION AT DOOR

Full day session, 2s. 0d. Evening session, 2s. 6d. and 4s. 0d.

At EMPIRE POOL & SPORTS ARENA, WEMBLEY

**Thursday, 9th March**

Morning or Afternoon session (Pay at Door), 2s. 6d. and 5s. 0d.

EVENING—NO PLAY

**Friday, 10th March**

Morning or Afternoon session (Pay at Door), 2s. 6d. and 5s. 0d.

Special—Evening session (Semi-finals, etc.)

Tickets from E.T.T.A. office: 3s. 6d., 6s. 0d., 7s. 6d., 10s. 6d., 21s. 0d.

(special Club tickets for affiliated members, 6s. 0d. reduced to 3s. 6d. in batches of 20)

**Saturday, 11th March**

Morning or Afternoon session (Pay at Door), 3s. 6d. and 6s. 0d.

FINALS: EVENING SESSION

Tickets from E.T.T.A. office: 3s. 6d., 6s. 0d., 7s. 6d., 10s. 6d., 21s. 0d.

(all reduced Club tickets have been sold already)

NOTE: Saturday evening tickets are disappearing rapidly; by the time this appears in print they may all be sold. Applications for Friday evening will have a better chance of being allotted in full.

## NATIONAL TRIALS IN LONDON

IT seems to be generally understood by now that no sport can hold its trials on a "guaranteed results" basis. The day-to-day variations in each individual's capabilities are such that it would be unreasonable to allow one single day's performances to write the verdicts.

Subject to this mental reservation it can be said that this year's trials were more useful and informative than in many past seasons. Held in the near-perfect conditions of the Central London tournament hall, they certainly called forth a good standard of play from the men, of whom some dozen senior candidates had eyes on the two places left vacant in the Swaythling team after the selection of the "Big Three"—Leach, Bergmann and Simons.

Outstanding in results on the day were HARRY VENNER, and BERNARD CROUCH, followed very closely by Crayden and Brumwell; the first two placings confirmed the rising tide of recent form, which Venner underlined still further by reaching the Central London semi-final the same afternoon.

Amongst others who played well was Ron Allcock, reviving hopes that wider experience will mould his game into a winning weapon of really high class.

Prominent in a small band of "*This-year-Next-year-Sometime . . . ?*" prospects were the three Lancashire youths ELLISON, PIERCE, and DALY. Their subsequent showing in the tournament must have been rewarding both to them and to the official responsible for bringing them specially to London.

Of the women's trial matches, held on the Friday afternoon, it must be said that the ball-play was only moderate, but the match-spirit was strong throughout, and as this is rather typical of Corbillon Cup contests, the session was probably very useful to the selectors.

Of the senior players, DORA DEVENNEY and VERA

THOMAS showed mastery—sufficient to suggest that another month's serious training would make them, with PEGGY FRANKS, into an England team capable of bringing back the Cup.

PINKIE BARNES appeared to regain last season's world form, while BETTY STEVENTON also produced excellent form.

The younger candidates perhaps need another year or so for the class to sink into their game a little more deeply; in ADELE WOOD this process is already taking place and she should soon be ready to "move forward" again.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The above is an unofficial report by an experienced but independent observer. It is *not* an official report.]

## OUR COVER PICTURE

This picture of HARRY VENNER, newly selected for the England Swaythling Cup team, conveys an impression of his pet shot—a going-away forehand drive produced by a round-arm action reminiscent of a swerve bowler in cricket. Harry is in fact a very useful cricketer and footballer, but has lately sacrificed other activities to attain his ambition at table tennis.

Stocky and fast, he has for the past two seasons produced some "shock" results in Surrey and the south; now that he has blended clever short play with his fierce attack his results are consistently good.

Starting the season with a win over Leach, he has since won the Eastern Suburban singles and with added confidence can become a serious challenger to any international champion.

He sticks closer to a table tennis table than the point—and lasts nearly as long! Recent opponents are inclined to the view that Harry's initials "H.T." stand for "High-Tension" Venner!

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## OUR FEBRUARY ISSUE

In order to include up-to-date reports from the World Championships, which do not conclude in Budapest until February 5th, publication of our February issue may be delayed a few days. We expect to "come out" on February 10th, so our Circulation Manager suggests that urgent "S.O.S." telegrams will not be necessary before the 11th!

February "TABLE TENNIS" will contain 20 pages of news, photographs and articles.

# BENGT GRIEVE will make you think with his IMPRESSIONS OF ENGLAND

THERE are some performers in any kind of sport who have that touch of genius which places a man above the ruck.

Such a man is Johnny Leach, your World Champion. Players all around the world are still discussing his victory in Stockholm, and the general opinion is that he must conceal something in his game. Johnny has not got that hard chop which made Dick Miles so difficult to play, he cannot hit through an opponent like Sido, he has not Reisman's speed, nor can he force the game like Vana.

But yet he is the Champion, so he must have something of equal value to all these. Leach will often lose matches, to good players, of course, because he has that sort of style, but when it is very important he is going to show this unfathomable power of his.

Clearly second man is Aubrey Simons, and I think he will still improve much. Areadis is not the only good man he will beat.

I have seen so many good junior players here in England that I dare say you will soon have a new man among the upper ten in the world. I will not mention any names especially because I am afraid to forget one of those dozen little chaps.

Now I would like to tell you a little about our table tennis in Sweden. It is a very popular sport there and you will find a lot of good players. And you will perhaps not believe me when I tell you that we are the No. 2 nation in the world!

Well, I do not mean that we are so strong in play, but according to the number of players Sweden comes second only after England.

Since before the war our best player has been Tage Flisberg, who has been the "Champ in the North" numerous times.

**But in our country people do not care so much about individuals' records as about what happens in the League. This may surprise you, but to win the team title is our most important championship.**

There are 16 teams in our national 1st division, divided into North and South equal sections. The winners of each section play off against the other, not once, but *twice*, for the final honour. We play three players to a team, and with one doubles match this makes 10 matches.

Our club fans follow these matches with just as much excitement as the supporters of Huddersfield, Tottenham or Arsenal show for their footballers, and the players of course are deadly serious.

When a youngster makes his first appearance in



SWEDEN'S  
No. 2  
AT THE  
TABLE

★ BENGT GRIEVE, Sweden's second-ranking player, selected again this year to go to Budapest for the World Championships, recently spent some weeks in England. Playing in one or two of our tournaments, he disappointed a little by his form, compared with what we have seen of him in Swedish matches. His article may contain the answer; only in a team match can he really feel inspiration. He actually cut short his stay here to return to Stockholm for a League match. Photo shows Bengt executing his vigorous baseline drive, which he mixes with a very neat dropshot. ★

the first division league he is humbly proud of the honour, and would not change place with any junior international.

Our newspapers give much space to table tennis, especially about league matters; it ranks the same with football and ice-hockey. So long as there is a fight for two points, hundreds and often enough thousands will go to watch a table tennis match.

Talking of spectators, I have noticed one important thing. Your English crowds are very well-mannered and more sporting to both players than many Continental crowds; but they forget that players must breathe fast, and they fill the atmosphere with their smoking!

**I have enjoyed my stay in your country and thank all the friends who have been so nice to me. But for one thing I shall be glad to be back in Sweden . . . I shall be able to have my steam-bath twice a week again!**

# Simons beats Leach

WELSH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS  
(At Cardiff, December 9th-10th, 1949)

**G**OOD conditions, smart organisation, and a most inspiring atmosphere of hospitality and friendly reunion characterised this national meeting, and it was not surprising that the players responded with some excellent form. The only minor complaint was that the girls had to play in a separate hall from the men. This complaint came from the distaff side, of course!

From the Welsh viewpoint the most cheerful sign was the performance of Walter Sweetland, that pleasant stylist who has been in "domestic retirement" lately.

Employing his late-action backhand flick to both corners, he beat an international in each of the first four rounds. First, Alan Metcalfe (Scotland), then the Swede, Grieve, next his fellow-countryman Monty Smith, and finally the Englishman, Ken Craigie. In the semi-final Walter built up a lead of 9-3 against Simons, but the Bristolian's heavy chop tired his arm before long and he lost his backhand sting.

Simons indeed was the star of this show. Beaten by Stan Jones at Liverpool a week earlier, he made a last-minute decision to seek revenge in the lion's own den. Sure enough, we had Simons v. Jones in the quarter-final; this time Stan Jones could not surprise Aubrey by his looking-the-other-way flat forehand and backhand hits, nor could he panic him by his close defence.

With this out of his system, Simons opened up in the final against Leach in a manner which we have never seen before.

His noted chop defence was as effective as usual, while his hitting was extremely fast. He managed to hold Leach's baseline driving without yielding any openings for a kill, whereas he got so much speed on his own first hit (usually following a drop shot), that the second or third ball was inevitably an untakable smash at the champion's body. Really great play.

Glyn Morgan, much improved from his junior days, nearly gave the Welsh crowd a holiday by reaching match point against Casofsky and by some tremendous hitting in the Mixed against Leach/Franks. Those odd points will come his way very soon.

The women's play was good without being inspiring.

Nearly 1,200 people watched the finals in the majestic Cardiff City Hall. From their cheering one suspects that Welsh fans feel they own a half-share in the West Countryman Simons!

## RESULTS:

### SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. J. Leach beat B. Casofsky: 21-18, 21-15.

A. Simons beat W. Sweetland: 21-14, 21-13.

### FINALS:

M.S. Simons beat Leach: 21-19, 21-16, 17-21, 21-13.

W.S. Miss P. Franks beat Miss B. Steventon: 21-13, 21-15.

M.D. Leach and J. Carrington beat J. Davies and S. Jones: 21-17, 13-21, 21-9.

W.D. Miss A. Bates and Miss Steventon beat Miss B. Pithle and Miss R. Tolan: 21-17, 21-10.

X.D. Leach and Miss Franks beat Simons and Miss Steventon: 21-14, 16-21, 22-20.

Boys' S. S. Jackson beat M. Leach: 21-14, 21-18.

Girls' S. Ann Howell beat M. Cotton: 21-18, 21-14.

## INTERNATIONAL MATCH

### DETAILS (Wales names first):

J. Davies beat A. Glass: 21-11, 21-18.

Miss B. Gray beat Miss R. Tolan: 21-13, 21-12.

S. Jones and M. Smith beat R. Forman and A. Metcalfe: 21-18, 21-13.

G. Morgan beat J. Hillan: 21-17, 21-16.

Miss A. Bates lost to Miss B. Pithle: 17-21, 23-21, 7-21.

S. Jones beat R. Forman: 21-15, 21-13.

Miss J. Beer and Mrs. V. Rowe beat Misses Pithle and Tolan: 21-14, 21-19.

M. Smith beat A. Metcalfe: 21-14, 22-20.

Davies and Morgan beat Hillan and Glass: 21-12, 21-16.

# ENGLAND turn tables on FRANCE

**I**T is three years since the first post-war international match was staged in the delightful Civic Hall at Wolverhampton, and Malcolm Scott and his colleagues had spared no effort to make this meeting on December 16th as pleasant as the last.

Wolverhampton's hospitality to both teams, including a mayoral reception, was as fine as ever, while playing conditions had been considerably improved.

The score reflects the strength of an England team in which Aubrey Simons is playing up to the standard of the leader, Johnny Leach. France were without Amouretti, but Alex Agopoff fought admirably to beat young Miller and snatch a game from Simons.

Haguenuer, starting rather uncertainly, found his touch against Leach, and their spectacular clash "raised the roof." The B.B.C. broadcast a commentary and interviews with several of the players.

ENGLAND 7: FRANCE 2

### Detalled Scores:

J. A. Leach beat M. Haguenuer: —17, 21, 19:

beat A. Agopoff: 19, 16;

beat G. Roothoft: 15, 12.

A. W. C. Simons beat M. Haguenuer: 13, 14;

beat A. Agopoff: 16, —17, 13;

beat G. Roothoft: 13, 14.

D. A. Miller lost to M. Haguenuer: 13, —14, —20;

lost to A. Agopoff: 15, —11, —17;

beat G. Roothoft: 20, —11, 17.

## WALES 9, SCOTLAND 1

**A** PLEASING "sideshow" of the Welsh Open Championships was the visit of the Scottish national team for the annual mixed match. The hosts on this occasion were the Rhymney Valley League, who had gone to great pains to stage the match in the most modern surroundings of the James Smith canteen. Table tennis has been played in these remote valleys for many years, but winter travel is difficult and this has its effect upon the standard of local play.

Nevertheless there is no doubt that the fans appreciate the real thing, and their applause of players showed that they understood fine tactical points as well as the obvious smashes.

The two teams travelled together through the snows in a coach which at times suggested an air-trip, so far below were the twinkling lights of the mountain villages.

To a neutral observer—a mere Englishman—the genial friendship between the opposing teams was most striking. As John Brown, the Scottish treasurer, remarked in a witty speech after the match, there is a genuine bond of understanding between the two national associations which speaks of mutual hospitality given and accepted naturally and sincerely.

In play Wales was on top, deservedly, except for the solitary victory of Betty Pithie over Audrey Bates. Betty is the much improved partner of Helen Elliot, who herself is resting for the world championships. However, in Alan Glass, Scotland have a thoughtful, well-knit 'lad whose fluent game can easily make big advances, while Ron Forman's Bergmann-like defensive instinct hints at big possibilities.

## STOP PRESS

### ENGLAND v WALES

The International match originally arranged for Plymouth on January 14th has been postponed. It will now take place at the Town Hall, Cheltenham on February 20th, 1950. Address for tickets or enquiries—D. H. Thompson, 59, Rodney Road, Cheltenham, or direct from the Town Hall.

# The "Two B's" Inspired us

Says SAMIR CHATTERJEE



Many readers will remember those days before the German bombs did their work in Gower Street, when the Indian Students' Club was a centre of first-class table tennis in London—in fact, the original and traditional venue of the London Open Championships.

Some may have noticed the small and solemn-faced Indian boy who was somehow always in the front row when a good match was on; who usually "earned" his place of privilege by his ability to retrieve the ball with uncanny speed from the forest of chair-legs which encroached each year more closely upon the playing area.

That was Samir Chatterjee. Such intensity was bound to bring results, and in to-day's contributor we salute not only an old but young friend of table tennis, not only a charming writer, but also the new Singles Champion of Bengal.

May the day soon come when he and other Indian sportsmen will once more add interest to the World Championships by their active participation.

IT was in June we were just chatting over a cup of tea in our Table Tennis parlour at Y.M.C.A., Calcutta, when Sree Munish Chatterjee, former Secretary of Bengal and All India Table Tennis Associations, startled us with the news that the two uncrowned kings in Table Tennis, Barna and Bergmann, had expressed their desire to visit India during November on their way back home.

\* \* \*

I had already seen the nimble-footed, "electric-man" Vana in December, 1947, at Calcutta, and had the opportunity to play against him in the exhibition match Bengal v. Czechoslovakia. So when I got the news of Barna-Bergmann tour, my heart was filled with joy and with a restless mind I was just counting for the day when All India Table Tennis Association would confirm the sponsoring of the tour.

Though heavily handicapped by the financial repercussion due to the catastrophe by fire in April just after the East India Championship, our Bengal Table Tennis Association, the pioneer Association in India, decided not to let go this rare opportunity in spite of such telling odds against them.

\* \* \*

The University Institute Hall became the pilgrimage of all Table Tennis enthusiasts for the period, November 9th to 14th, when some All India Table Tennis talents arrived to participate in the Exhibition Matches, second Annual East India Championship and the second Test Match between India and England.

Prior to this, they played exhibition matches at Ishapur and Batanagar (a few miles off Calcutta) on the 7th and 8th respectively and as ill luck would have it, Barna, after his Ishapur matches, had an attack of dysentery and had to be removed to the nursing home, where he was detained till November 12th.

So on Bergmann alone rested the responsibility to satisfy the spectators for the first four days. With his leech-like tenacity, spring-like fitness and foot-work with poetical harmony, he kept them spell-bound. It is really amazing to see Bergmann returning drop shots with perfect placement, while defending the earlier "kill" some 15 feet away from the table. Even he turns the table

in his favour against net and edge shots! Believe it or not, playing against a "rock" you might make a hole in it, but the "moving rock Richard" seldom allows his defence to be pierced!

\* \* \*

The chief attraction of the 13th evening was the second Test Match between INDIA and ENGLAND, where victory again came to the "Roses" by 5—0, but though beaten we fought till we lost.

The following and the concluding day, came the semi-finals and finals of different events. Bergmann won the coveted "triple crown." Convalescing Barna, who stood the strain the previous night, played 24 hard-fought games in three different events. When he started his cup-tie Singles Final against his younger compatriot, Bergmann, he looked almost fatigued and surrendered the first two games without any opposition. But in the third game, through sheer determination and will-to-snatch, he took the upper hand over his opponent with his charming flicks till 19 all, where the dour Austro-English suddenly flashed two whizzers to conclude the match.

\* \* \*

This is all about their game. But unless I say a few words about them as "Man," nothing is told. Grave Richard, the tenacious fighter over the green board with the celluloid ball, is completely a different man off the table. A perfect gentleman, talks less, but is full of wit and humour and is very nice in pointing out merits, demerits and their remedies in the game. Mrs. Barna is not a serious contender of the game but an able company of her husband with her jolly and smiling face. And about Victor the only suitable word I find is "Superman." It is really a shock to me like others that such a personality is retiring from the first-class Table Tennis, specially singles. As players, Victor and Richard have captivated the eyes of the spectators and as sportsmen they will be reigning for ever in the hearts of those who have come in contact with them,

\* \* \*

I feel proud with the comment of Barna and Bergmann that India's general standard has gone much higher and the three top rankers, viz., Shivaraman, Bhandari and Chandarana are just below world class—not a courtesy platitude. I sincerely hope that the tie of friendship between INDIA and ENGLAND will be tightened more and more with these types of tours from time to time, and we heartily expect that it is not long way to see INDIA as a serious contender for the World Title.

# FORM UNCERTAIN AT MERSEYSIDE

MERSEYSIDE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS  
(November 30th-December 3rd, 1949)

**T**he Merseyside Open ran "true to form" in these respects: it attracted a powerful field of competitors; it provided lots of good but slightly scrambled play in the time-hallowed Gordon Institute; it produced attractive finals in an attractive setting . . . and it poured with rain.

The men's play did not run true to form. Far from it, if by "form" we mean that a county first-team player ought to beat an opponent from a lower team, that a new international ought to beat an old international or at least any non-international.

The tournament was poorer for the absence of the usual enthusiastic Yorkshire contingent—busy settling the issues of Pontefract—but variety was there, in the presence of Bengt Grieve from Sweden, Joe Fox from Ould Oireland, the whole of the Essex team, and half a dozen Welsh international men and women.

Lancashire selectors were left to puzzle these results out:

Teddy, the eldest Rumjahn brother, beat Eli Goodman and Ken Stanley. Ken's hitting was harmless this day, but he punched his way to duce from 16-20 in the final game. All credit to the "oldster" for then holding firm after some endless rallies.

Doug Shaw beat Ronnie Rumjahn; Bob Roberts eclipsed Deryck Heaps. Derek Ellison exploited his "new toy" hitting against world champion Leach and won the first game 21-14, as though this sort of thing happened every day!

Surrey's Jackie Head was deuced out by Bolton, that sturdy young man who explains: "I'm nowt to do with the Bolton from Nottingham (now Lincoln)—I'm the Bolton from Bolton!" Fair enough.

Ron Allcock passed Casofsky right and left, conceding only 25 points in two games, but was then completely unsettled by Carrington's tactical variations, scoring 13, 14.

Monty Smith (Wales) accounted for Wally Poole, and his countryman Stan Jones inflicted on Aubrey Simons his first loss (18-17) for many weeks.

Quietly working through some tough opposition was Brian Brumwell (Essex). He displayed fine speed in defence and improved judgment in attack, to beat Bengt Grieve, who had defeated McCave, and Maurice Kriss, conqueror of the lively Hurlock.

At the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Brumwell maintained this high level by a clear win over the experienced Stan Jones and a worthy struggle against Leach's all-round superiority. The Leach-Carrington semi-final was a hectic exchange which the "Phil" fans appeared to

regard as good medicine; they also showed their generous appreciation, as did all the players present, to the two Lancashire laddies, Bill Pierce and Derek Ellison for their great doubles play.

Pierce's hitting had precision and a fierce bite, while Ellison's placings were really clever; this combination put out two international pairs, Leach-Carrington and Stan Jones-Monty Smith, and gave the third international team, Simons-Grieve, all the opposition they could cope with, as the score below shows.

\* \* \*

Women's results brought few surprises; the final was remarkable for some uncannily brilliant play by Peggy Franks. Copy-book stuff it was, and Margaret Fry could but struggle bravely.

## RESULTS

### SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. J. Leach beat J. Carrington: 14, 19.  
B. Brumwell beat S. Jones: 18, —16, 13.

### FINALS:

M.S. J. Leach beat B. Brumwell: 14, 14.  
W.S. Miss M. Franks beat Miss M. Fry: 9, 9.  
W.D. Miss M. Fry and Miss E. Weaver beat Miss D. Rivett and Mrs. E. Adams: 15, 18.  
X.D. Miss Franks and J. Leach beat Miss Rivett and B. Brumwell: 20, 19.  
M.D. A. Simons and B. Grieve beat D. Ellison and W. Pierce: —9, 15, 18.  
J.B.S. E. Strulavich beat W. Booth: 16, 19.

## CIVIL SERVICE v. R.A.F. & W.R.A.F.

The R.A.F. have taken the lead among the Services in organising table tennis since the war, and, for their match with the Civil Service at Adastral House on December 2nd, had a very strong men's team available. The fine form of both Thornhill and Kennedy encouraged all those interested in England sides of the future, and they were largely responsible for the narrow R.A.F. victory. Close, junior Civil Service champion of three years ago, also played very well, and the C.S. selectors will no doubt be noting the date for his demob.!

Results (C.S. players first):—

Craigie lost to Thornhill —12, —11; beat Kennedy 15, —18, 18.

Adams lost to Thornhill 19, —18, —15; lost to Kennedy —18, —16.

Sawyer beat Runchman 22, 12; lost to Close —21, 11, —14.

Scarsbrook beat Runchman 15, —19, 19; beat Close 7, 16.

Adams/Craigie lost to Kennedy/Thornhill —18, —20.

By contrast the Civil Service team (Misses Steventon, Mace, Wiegand and Swatman) were much too strong for the inexperienced W.R.A.F. side (F/O Paddock, Sgt. Dearlove, Cpl. Spencer and A.C.W. Harness) and gained a 9-0 victory.  
G. A. OWEN.

## Middlesex Players do well at Bournemouth Open 10-12-1949

by R. Atherton

The tournament held in the Town Hall at Bournemouth on Saturday, December 10th, provided a Field Day for Middlesex players. An immense programme faced the organisers, to whom congratulations are due for managing to arrange all finals so that they were completed by 11 o'clock, in spite of a break when the hall was being rearranged—a break much appreciated by the players.

The only early surprise was the defeat of W. Muller in the 3rd round by S. M. Davies, a local player who represented his school in the final of the schools' team competition last year. However in the following round Davies tamely submitted to the game of J. Morris, another local player, who achieved the distinction of reaching the semi-finals of all three events.

The semi-finals of the ladies' singles provided a fire-work display between Rosalind Rowe and Peggy Piper, whilst Diane Rowe was mystifyingly worried by the high defence of Mrs. Langrick, a local player.

The finals were a little dull, except for the juniors. Pete Smith, who had just played the semi-final of the senior event against Les Adams apparently in his sleep, was galvanised into life by the hitting of Burridge.

## RESULTS

### SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. L. Adams beat P. Smith: 21-14, 21-19.  
M. Thornhill beat J. Morris: 21-16, 21-9.

### FINALS:

M.S. Thornhill beat Adams: 21-18, 22-20, 19-21, 21-13.  
W.S. Miss R. Rowe beat Miss D. Rowe: 21-19, 21-9.

W.D. Misses R. and D. Rowe beat Miss B. Hewlett and Mrs. C. Whitren: 21-15, 21-18.

M.D. Thornhill and B. Crouch beat Adams and E. Marsh: 21-12, 21-10.

X.D. Thornhill and Miss R. Rowe beat Marsh and Miss D. Rowe: 24-22, 21-17.

Boys. P. Smith beat D. Burridge: 14-21, 21-7, 22-20.

# YORKSHIRE Plans for Future

by Maurice D. Shaffner

Chairman of Yorkshire T.T.A.

IN some Yorkshire quarters, it is felt that the E.T.T.A. administrative headquarters are separated from part of the country by more than geographical reasons, and to most young players, the E.T.T.A. officials are only names. It was a great disappointment that meetings which the English Association intended to hold in Yorkshire had, unfortunately, to be cancelled. It is felt that personal contact between London and Yorkshire would do very much to explain "What the E.T.T.A. does for us."

A certain degree of controversy has arisen in the North over the Barna Testimonial Fund because the purpose had not been clearly appreciated. It is now understood that no monetary payment is to be made to Victor. While there may be difficulty in defining the precise objects of the fund, a much healthier atmosphere would undoubtedly be created if such an attempt were made.

### County Badges for Juniors

Two distinct County Badges are now awarded by Yorkshire for three representative appearances in county matches. The Senior badge is for men and ladies playing in the Premier Division, and a Junior badge for those qualifying in the Midland or Northern Divisions. This procedure confers a higher status on county representations, and the rest of the country might well follow Yorkshire's example.

### Training Ground for Juniors

The Midland and Northern Division teams are being used as training grounds for young players, and in one

team alone, no less than four players were selected for their first appearance. An average team age of "under twenty" is now no uncommon thing in Yorkshire, and this policy is proving fruitful, since Yorks are undefeated in the Midland Division, and have lost only one match by the narrow margin of 4-5 in the Northern.

### George Mitton Near International?

The picture is not quite so rosy in the Premier Division, where we still have to register our first victory, although Warwickshire were very glad when their match came to an end.

Young players who have been coached in the orthodox style were surprised to find two penholder players in the Gloucestershire team, but this did not prevent them from offering their warmest congratulations to the men who wielded their bats with such skill, and in particular the wizard of the sponge bat, Dawes.

Although humbled by Middlesex stars, George Mitton notched two good wins against Gloucestershire (including a clever win over Dawes), and two splendid wins against Warwickshire. George was also prominent in the Yorks Open, and Manchester's young Ron Allcock (the new international) only just managed to scramble home against him in the semi-final. George has been knocking at the door for a long time and **on present standards** cannot be far removed from international status.

### That Controversy Again

The Women's Finals at the Yorkshire Open provoked a good deal of comment as to the responsibility of a person reaching the finals of an open event in relation with the way he, or she, plays. Some take the view that a player is unquestionably entitled to adopt whatever tactics are considered necessary to win. Others claim that a duty is placed, on a player to play the sort of game best calculated to satisfy the spectators.

It should be borne in mind that at many open tournaments spectators are watching table tennis for the first time and little imagination is needed to appreciate the effect that negative play may have upon them. There seems to be common agreement among most enthusiasts, however, that players should at all times endeavour to play an open, attractive type of game, and that other games are not worth watching.

Meanwhile, while many of our young players are now in the Forces, Yorkshire continues to plan and build for the future.

*Note: As Mr. Shaffner indicates that there has been some doubt as to the objects of the Barna Testimonial Fund, it is perhaps desirable to explain again that this Fund is intended to provide for a memento—not a cash gift—to be given to Victor Barna, and for a trophy, to bear his name, to be purchased and allocated to an appropriate competition.—Ed.*

Our sincere congratulations go to Miss "Pinkie" Barnes on her recent engagement to Mr. Sam Kydd—an actor who has completed 35 films since his release from a prisoner-of-war camp in Poland.

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# What! Do The Girls Do All The Work?

WELL, folks, these are rather special girls you see. Below is Vera Dace, World Finalist, 1948, and on the right is Dora Beregi, English Champion of 1946. Both are charming and sedate off the table, and both are left-handed tornadoes on the table.

Can you wonder, then, that English Internationals Eric Filby (right) and Jack Carrington (left) appear to be content to act as the "back-

at that photo of Vera's drive. How clearly you can see the harmonic wave of energy. It originated when her left foot was on the ground, and has passed smoothly through all the muscles into the bat.

One more thing, in spite of all this movement, you can see Vera's **head is steady** and her **eye still following the ball**. Thank you, Vera. Now what can you show us, Dora?

## HOW THIS ARTICLE CAME TO BE WRITTEN

The Picture Lesson "The Snapper Snapped" in the November TABLE TENNIS aroused many favourable comments and also suggestions that the same idea be used with acknowledged stars. Since we have also been asked for an Instructional Article on Doubles Play, we thought it would be a good idea to combine the two.

These really classical doubles pictures were ideal, and it was then that a little imp of mischief entered our mind. Jack Carrington was obviously the man to write on Doubles Play, why not get him to write it as the Coach and include himself (as illustrated) as one of the subjects! After various degrees of persuasion on a somewhat reluctant Jack, here is the result.

L.W.

room boys" in this battle? For it was a battle—you are looking at action pictures of an English Open Mixed Doubles Final at Wembley.

No posing here . . . all out for blood! And yet . . . the patient advice we get from our Coach is underlined in these studies of the four experts intent on their jobs. So let us see what lessons we can learn to improve our own play in moments of crisis.

Take first the two girls. Vera is making a cross-court drive, left-hand corner to left-hand corner. You will notice immediately the **follow-through of the bat** in the attacking stroke; equally plain is the **bracing of the body on the right foot**. (Left foot is the drill for right-handers.)

What else is it the Coach tells us? "As you drive, the **weight** of the body should be **moving forward** through the ball." And is it? Just look

**Follow-through?** Yes, there it is. **Body braced on the right foot?** Why, of course! **Head steady and eye still following the ball?** Well, well, so it is!

Now comes a slight difference. Vera's shot was a steady positional drive, not quite all-out; Dora's is a slightly more drastic stroke. It is a "going away" drive, from right-hand corner to right-hand corner, and probably an attempt to win the rally.

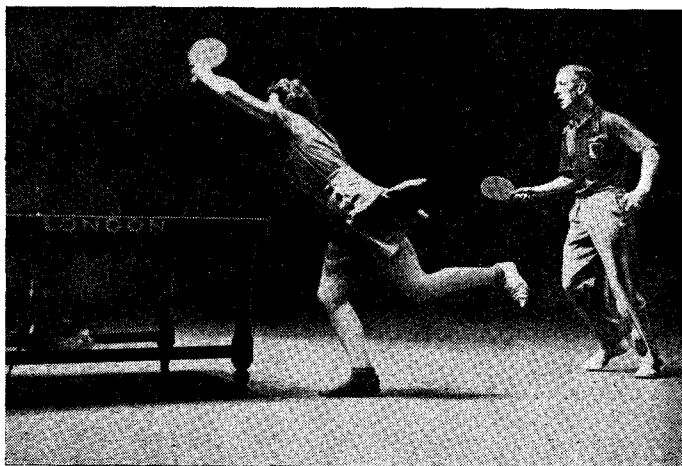
To get the necessary **forward** speed, Dora has dropped her right shoulder and allowed her back muscles to reinforce the swing of her arm, and the whole effort has been directed more decidedly forward than Vera's drive. To balance this forceful trunk movement Dora has had to brace her right leg firmly away to the rear.

**Balance, did I say?** Isn't that one of the things the Coach is always harping on, too?



## THE CLASSIC DRIVE

" . . . these are rather special girls," says our author. Indeed they must be, because both Vera (partnered here by Carrington), and Dora (on next page, partnered by Filby) have once again been selected to represent England in the Corbillon Cup, although both have only just returned to match play after a season's absence.



# A "By Request"

## Picture Lesson

from

JACK  
CARRINGTON

★ ★ ★



Thinking it over, perhaps it isn't all luck that these are the two greatest attacking girl players in the world.

\* \* \*

Now . . . what about those two men in the pictures? Eric Filby and Jack Carrington are both noted for playing "correct" Table Tennis. Both have remarkably complete stroke equipment, and (possibly because of this) a string of doubles titles.

They **should** be able to tell us something about Doubles, but what can we learn while they both stand there doing nothing?

Ah, but that is the point—they are **not** doing nothing; they are **playing Doubles**. Let us compare them as we did the two girls. Where are the men standing? In the **strategic position, central** to the table and **behind** the active partners. Have their partners room enough to make their fullest swing? And space to move out sideways from the table? Yes, and yet both men are **not an inch further** from the table **than is necessary** for that purpose.

**Eyes on the ball? Bats held in front** of the body, ready to play on either wing? Why yes, they think of everything!

**What was that other thing . . . was it balance?**

### SWEDISH JUNIORS' VISIT

In continuance of the "exchange" policy, which has already brought such beneficial results to our young players, a Swedish junior team-of-three will tour in England from February 15th to March 14th, 1950.

They will play a Junior international match v. England; the venue and date have not yet been decided.

The finale of their tour will, of course, be the English Open Championships from February 7th-11th; meanwhile other dates are being arranged with County associations to ensure not only varied match experience for all concerned, but also the fullest possible opportunities for our guests to see our country and know our people.

Detailed fixture list will appear in next month's magazine.

Well, what do you know! Full marks to the boys again. See the weight on the ball of the foot? Knees bent, for quick spring in any direction? Even the left arm balancing the right in each case?

Not bad for two chaps "doing nothing." But isn't there something else these Internationals are doing to justify their badges and their titles? Yes, listen folks, **THEY'RE THINKING . . . HARD!**

Follow through? Weight forward in attack? Eye steady on the ball? Strategic position? Knees bent? **BALANCE? BALANCE? THINKING? . . . THINKING? . . .** Do you know, I do believe that old Coach knows what he is talking about, after all.

### HARTLEPOOLS OPEN

November 19th, 1949

By ARTHUR F. PITT

The third post-war Open produced some enterprising play, a few surprises, and resulted in a wide distribution of the honours.

Probably the biggest surprise was G. STAFFORD'S two-straight win over MARCUS BISHOP, but though Stafford fought through to the Final in great spirit, his reserves of energy were not quite up to beating strongly playing K. PARK, of Leeds.

Both the Ladies' and the Junior Singles were excellent matches, and both losers must be commended for their vigorous attack, which was not quite strong enough to match the much more experienced defence.

#### Results :

##### MEN'S SINGLES

##### SEMI-FINALS:

G. Stafford (Sunderland) beat M. Roberts (Stockton): —15, 12, 16.

K. Park (Leeds) beat J. Stephenson (Sunderland): 17, 10.

##### FINAL:

K. Park (Leeds) beat G. Stafford (Sunderland): 15, 16.

##### LADIES' SINGLES

Mrs. Bishop (Hull) beat Miss Robson (Middlesbrough): 11, 19.

##### MEN'S DOUBLES

Halmshaw and Park (Leeds) beat Bishop and Abrahamson (Hull): —14, 10, 11.

##### LADIES' DOUBLES

N. Bishop (Hull) and E. Robson (Middlesbrough) beat L. Svensson and K. Docherty (Hartlepoons): 6, 13.

##### MIXED DOUBLES

C. Bishop and N. Bishop (York) beat E. Reay and E. Dodds (Durham): 16, 15.

##### JUNIOR SINGLES

B. Robinson (Stockton) beat M. Mackley (Hull): 18, —18, 12.

## County Championships

# STANLEY beats SIMONS

**J**ANUARY is the month which should virtually decide the Premier Division. If Middlesex can beat Gloucester and Surrey, then it is all over "bar the shouting." If Middlesex slip up, however, then either Surrey or Gloucestershire can emerge as favourites, with Essex, having got over most of their strong matches, ready to take advantage of any loophole.

Surrey play Middlesex at the Coronation Hall, Kingston-on-Thames, on Wednesday, January 18th, and this match is followed by Middlesex v. Gloucester, at McLaren's, Staines, on Saturday, January 21st. Readers in the London area could do worse than support both these matches, as a look at the present table will show.

Middlesex	3	3	0	20	7	6
Gloucestershire	3	2	1	17	10	4
Essex	3	2	1	16	11	4
Surrey	3	2	1	16	11	4
Warwickshire	4	2	2	16	20	4
Lancashire	5	1	4	16	29	2
Yorkshire	3	0	3	7	20	0

During December Essex beat Lancashire at Blackpool by 7-2; Lancashire beat Gloucestershire at Cheltenham by 5-4; and Surrey beat Warwickshire at Coventry by 6-3.

Ivor Eyles writes on Gloucester's defeat: "The Gloucestershire team had high hopes of beating Lancashire at Cheltenham and bringing the County Championship within their grasp. They found Lancashire on top form, and the visitors won by five sets to four. The second game between Bristol's Aubrey Simons and Ken Stanley, the Lancashire International, saw Stanley play a magnificent game to win in straight sets, this was quickly followed by a steady display by the Lancashire girls Adele Wood and Peggy Allen, who always appeared to have the Gloucester pair, Molly Jones and Margaret Fry, in difficulties.

**DECEMBER 17. PREMIER DIVISION**  
**GLOUCESTERSHIRE 4, LANCASHIRE 5**  
 A Simons beat B. Casofsky 16, 16; lost to Stanley -19, -19.

## Geoffrey Harrower's Monthly Review



W. Dawes lost to Casofsky -14, 16, -12; beat R. Alcock -11, 14, 18.  
 R. Griffin lost to Stanley -8, 19, -13; beat Alcock 16, 17.  
 Miss M. Jones beat Mrs. P. Allen 12, 15.  
 Miss Jones and Miss M. Fry lost to Mrs. Allen and Miss A. Wood -16, 19, -17.  
 Griffin and Miss Fry lost to Stanley and Miss Wood -21, -19.

**DECEMBER 2. PREMIER DIVISION**  
**LANCASHIRE 2, ESSEX 7**  
 B. Casofsky lost to J. Leach 7, -14; beat B. Brumwell 2-, -11, 17.  
 K. Stanley lost to Leach -14, -16; beat W. McCave 10, 9.  
 L. Cohen lost to Brumwell 19, -17, -16; lost to McCave -23, -19.

(Continued on page 11)

## THE GAME AT THE VARSITIES

Cambridge won in, 1948. Oxford won in 1949. With improved standards of play on both sides, and an ever-increasing following, considerable interest and speculation focuses on the annual inter-Varsity match which is to be played in the Public Corn Exchange, Cambridge, on Saturday, February 11th.

### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

By **E. M. HALLWORTH** (Emmanuel)  
 Match Secretary, C.U.T.T.C.

Three years ago Table Tennis in Cambridge University had hardly risen above the status of a parlour game. A few Colleges had tables of varying vintage on which players of low standard and less ambition had a brief "bash" after Hall (dinner) about once a week.

Then, largely due to the efforts of ALI AKBAR, T.T. developed by leaps and bounds. As President of the C.U.T.T.C. he was largely responsible for the formation of the inter-College League, which musters about 1,200 players in the 20 College clubs, into 52 teams organised in five divisions within the University.

The University T.T. Club is in the peculiar position of being a club without premises, satisfactory halls so far proving too expensive, but great efforts are being made to improve on the temporary match headquarters. The University Club itself consists of the best 20 players in the

## Annual Oxford v. Cambridge Match provokes greater interest than ever

University, who are selected to play in two teams in the Cambridge League.

It is from these players also that selections are made for representative matches such as against Birmingham University, Bedford and Luton Leagues, and our great annual battle with Oxford University. Standard of play in the inter-College League is not high although steadily improving, while that of the representative team is roughly up to Minor Counties standard. The number of followers of the game is ever-increasing, and Table Tennis is already beginning to rival the popularity of Rugby and Soccer.

The three best players are at present PETER BURROWS (University Captain), GRAEME KING, and JOHN HOLMES, all of Trinity. Dr. MARK PRYOR, also of Trinity and a probable Lacrosse Blue, should be in the team, but is going to Canada this Christmas.

R. E. HAWKEY (Vice-President) narrowly missed a Squash Blue this year, and also played against New Zealand at cricket as an opening bat and medium pace bowler.

Dr. KIPPING, Ph.D., is President of both the University Lawn Tennis and the Table Tennis sections, and was also President of the County Association from 1937 to 1949. Although no youngster, he still plays Lawn Tennis for the University, but does not now play competitive Table Tennis. His work for Table Tennis has been especially praiseworthy, and among the residential staff he has always been the game's greatest advocate.

### OXFORD UNIVERSITY

By **STUART GILBERT** (Wadham College)  
 Publicity Secretary, O.U.T.T.C.

The Inter-Collegiate League of Oxford University organises its 20 teams into three divisions, and next term we are running inter-collegiate tournaments consisting of singles, doubles and a team knock-out competition: "CUPPERS."

The most important step we have taken this year is, however, our entry into Division 2 of the Western Counties League, where we have met with varying fortune. We met the strong Cheltenham side in our first match, losing 0-9 to a side which included GRIFFIN, CRUWYS, and MOLLY JONES. We beat Gloucester 8-1, and Birmingham University 7-2, but lost to Oxford City 2-7 (on an "off-form" night).

The experience gained has been invaluable, and we feel will give us a good chance of beating Cambridge. We are also trying to arrange some coaching.

The four regular players in the Western Counties League are JACK HURST (University Captain), DAVID RAMKESON, WERNER WOLF, and myself.

Jack Hurst was one of the young stars from Newport, and was runner-up of the J.S. in the Welsh Closed of 1946. Ramkesson, who comes from Trinidad, last year became University Champion and was also finalist in the Oxford Championships. The Secretary, Werner Wolf, played little table tennis before he came up, but he improved so rapidly during last season, that he reached the semi-final of the Oxford Tournament, and played in the annual match against Cambridge University, and has now secured himself a permanent place in the first team.

STUART GILBERT, the writer of these notes, comes from the Devon stronghold of Torquay, where he was ranked No. 3, giving place to ARNOLD NUTTALL (County Champion) and LOUIS DEVEREUX, the junior international, and has a fine tournament record in the West of England, particularly in doubles.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS—Cont.

Mrs. M. Allen lost to Miss M. Franks —17, —14.  
 Mrs. Allen and Miss E. Mansell lost to Mrs. Adams and Miss Rivett —20, —12.  
 Stanley and Miss Mansell lost to Leach and Miss Franks —5, —19.

### DECEMBER 10. PREMIER DIVISION WARWICKSHIRE 3, SURREY 6

Maurice Goldstein says: "Rather disappointing from our point of view, for we had no luck—Hall leading all the way against Hurlock only to lose in the third game. Hall made up for it by beating Venner two straight quite comfortably. Haydon/Mackay leading 18/13 in second game (after winning the first) but couldn't clinch it. Miss Mackay—Miss Barnes, another might have been for Warwick. Poole off form, but Kriss played magnificently."

SCORES:—W. Poole lost to R. Crayden —18, —16; lost to H. Venner —20, —18.  
 M. Kriss beat Crayden —13, 17, 20; beat K. Hurlock 17, 19.  
 W. Hall beat Venner 18, 19; lost to Hurlock 13, —15, —18.  
 Miss J. Mackay lost to Miss L. Barnes —10, 15, —19.  
 Mrs. Cumberbatch and Mrs. Smith lost to Miss Barnes and Mrs. George —10, —19.

A. Haydon and Miss Mackay lost to Crayden and Mrs. George 17, —20, —10.  
 Space is short this month, so let's look closely at three other Divisions where results warrant a table, and deal with the other three divisions next month, shall we?

### JUNIOR DIVISION

This division seems a "good thing" for Middlesex, as they have already beaten their strongest challengers, Kent. During December, Essex lost

at home to Middlesex 2—7, but derived considerable satisfaction by the good display of their girls, the Misses Baker and Clark, who were by no means outclassed by the Rowe twins. The other feature of this match was Jimmy Lowe's defeat of Peter Smith, the first match that Smith has lost to a junior this season. In the other match played, Kent proved much too strong for Hertfordshire by a score of 8—1, J. Hunt scoring Herts lone success over S. Brocklebank.

Table:—

Middlesex	3	3	0	22	5	6
Kent	3	2	1	16	11	4
Essex	3	1	2	14	13	2
Bedfordshire	2	1	1	9	9	2
Surrey	3	1	2	7	20	2
Hertfordshire	2	0	2	4	14	0

### NORTHERN DIVISION

In this section, Northumberland lead the way, and stand a good chance of winning the title for the first time, although Yorkshire can easily win if Northumberland slip up. During December Yorkshire had an easy 9—0 win over Cumberland, whilst the other match was between Northumberland and Durham, and, in the words of A. Wilson: "A large crowd of spectators very often showed their appreciation at the high standard of Table Tennis produced in a ding-dong battle of two old rival counties, when Northumberland overcame Durham by 6—3, this being their first victory over their close neighbours since the formation of the County Championships. The match of the evening was between Alan Punshon and Roberts which had the crowd on their toes at the very hard counter hitting between

these two, with Punshon proving to be a difficult player to beat this season, as also Miss Doreen Smith in the ladies' singles."

Table:—

Northumb'riand	3	3	0	20	7	6
Yorkshire	3	2	1	18	9	4
Durham	3	1	2	15	12	2
Cumberland	3	0	3	1	26	0

### EAST ANGLIAN DIVISION

Middlesex are already in an almost unassailable position, and their superior games average leaves them only one match of the last three to win in order to take the title. This month, they had no difficulty in beating Cambridgeshire 8—1. Two other matches were played in December, Cambridge beating Norfolk 6—3 at King's Lynn, and Norfolk got the better of Suffolk in the "East Anglian Derby" by a similar score at Beccles. English International Eric Filby suffered a defeat in each of these matches, losing deuce in the third to Weintraub and easily to young Cornwell.

Table:—

Middlesex	3	3	0	24	3	6
Cambridgeshire	4	2	2	17	19	4
Norfolk	4	1	3	14	22	2
Suffolk	3	1	2	8	19	2

Next month we will deal more fully with the three remaining divisions—the Home Counties, North Midland, and Southern. Here, for the moment, are the scores:—

**NORTH MIDLAND**  
 Lincolnshire 9, Leicestershire 0  
 Yorkshire 7, Derbyshire 2

**SOUTHERN**  
 Sussex 8, Kent 1  
 Kent 3, Hampshire 6  
 Sussex 2, Surrey 7

**HOME COUNTIES**  
 Berkshire 0, Hertfordshire 9



Miss MARGARET FRY, Gloucestershire. One of the young players who have derived great benefit from their County Championship experience. Thameside Open Champion last year.

## Xmas Prize Dream

Some 200 entries were received for this contest, of which less than one quarter gave the correct solution:—

**NIL. A game can be brought to a legitimate conclusion without the ball being struck at all.**

Still less entrants gave correct and foolproof reasoning; the author of the first completely correct solution opened by the E.T.T.A. Hon. General Secretary was:—

**J. WALLS, SOUTHPORT,**

who therefore qualifies for the prize of two free seats for the English Open Championships at Wembley.

A number of the entries raised points of interest to all readers. Full summing-up will appear next month.

# CAUTIONARY TALES

## That Backhand Flick

WHEN he was really quite good, he began to save up, and after a long, hard struggle bought himself a full-size table, which he set up in the kitchen. He started to teach his family the game. The two elder boys took to it very well, especially Harry, who had a quick eye. Even his wife took an interest. Bill developed a strong forehand, which won him a lot of points, though it was a considerable danger to the kitchen windows. At the club he was hailed as a champion and the following year took his place at the head of the team. He dreamt of becoming a county player. He was very happy. Then they went on holiday to Blackpool, fought their way through the crowds and paid stupendous prices for everything with the greatest joviality.

The only fly in the amber of Bill's contentment was the lack of a table tennis table at "Cliffe View," where they were staying, so his happiness was complete when he found that two ex-world champions were giving an exhibition match. And how they played!!! What terrific smashes, what glorious returns!!! Mouth agape, he followed every move. One chap had a peach of a back-hand flick. He waited for it and carefully noted the position and movement of body, arm and wrist, and determined to practise until he could reproduce it exactly. The rest of the programme passed unnoticed. That back-hand flick! The perfection of movement! The glorious flourish at the end of the completed stroke! Over and over again he went through it in his mind's eye. He knew exactly how to take it, and just what degree of force had to be put into it.



The train could not travel fast enough for him to get home and try out the stroke. The moment they

By Elizabeth Oddy

had unpacked, he pressed the family into service and the table was set up. The first four or five attempts were complete failures. However, by the end of the set, he could see a faint shadow of what it should be, and comforted himself that it would only need practice, wearing out the whole family trying to prove it. The next day he went down to the club again, and although it improved perceptibly, the number of people made it impossible to practise with any consistency. He determined to stay at home and devote himself to perfecting it. He did so, and there was 'no improvement. It was the same the day after; and the day after that. Soon he stopped going to the club altogether and was dropped from the team. This was a great disappointment to him, but he assured himself that when he had mastered the back-hand flick he would return in triumph.

He began to skimp his work to get home early enough to put in more practice. He became worried about his inability to improve it. He knew he had the exact movement right, but the ball did not have the same action.

Night after night he practised; night after night he went to bed miserable. Gradually his work deteriorated until he lost his job, but his resolve to conquer the back-hand flick was unaltered.

### THE PONTEFRACT OPEN

(At Pontefract, December 3rd, 1949)

By STANLEY HANSON

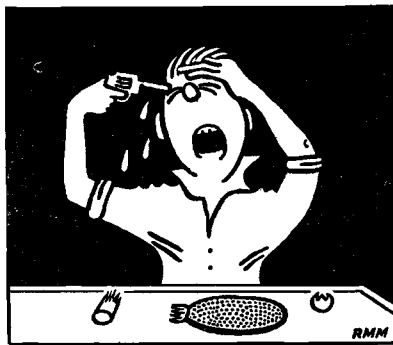
We had a record entry of 813 for our third year of running; old and new friends appeared to be enjoying themselves more than ever, and the friendly atmosphere conveyed itself to the spectators too. At the same time the play was very determined throughout the day, and six of the eight finals were only decided by the third game.

The Kennedy v. Hinchcliffe semi-final was really grand. The Mitton v. Whiteley semi, however, was just another "Mitton v. Whiteley"—nice table tennis but lacking in excitement.

Kennedy proved an easy winner in the final against Mitton, setting the pace all the way and making brilliant finishing strokes more or less when he wished.

No "chiselling" in the Women's Singles final here; Eileen Grimstone's continuous hitting and Nora Senior's magnificent fight made this the highlight of the programme.

Summing up we had hundreds of full-



Soon he became obsessed by the necessity for it, and everything else took second place. His family became almost non-existent, but in response to their urgings he began, indifferently, to look for another job. He found one with difficulty, but after persisting conscientiously for a while, began to slack, until one day he trailed home with the news that he was again out of work.

He regarded his weeping wife with remorse. She looked at him in despair and said that she had decided to leave him; and, in spite of all his frantic pleadings, she left the same evening. Bill stood at the door, watching her go, then slowly went upstairs and, taking a revolver from a drawer, shot himself neatly between the eyes.

"Of course, you know," said Constable Richardson, who rather fancied himself as an expert on table tennis, "there was only one thing wrong with that back-hand flick of his. The table was four inches too high. Makes all the difference, you know; all the difference . . . !"

scale battles with every possible technique in use.

I understand our catering earned special commendation, all done by volunteer ladies. High quality, first-class service, with low prices . . . that's our keynote.

#### RESULTS

##### SEMI-FINALS :

M.S. G. Mitton bt. C. Whiteley : 17, —19, 17.

B. Kennedy bt. R. Hinchcliffe : 17, —17.

##### FINALS :

Kennedy bt. Mitton : 9, 14.

W.S. Miss E. Grimstone bt. Miss N. Senior : 20, 25.

J.B.S. G. Pullar (Oldham) bt. B. Cartwright (Sheffield) : 15, —19, 16.

J.G.S. Miss D. Munnings bt. Miss S. J. Wood : 19, —13, 17.

Vets. L. E. Jones (Manchester) bt. C. Munnings (Scunthorpe) : 13, —17, 11.

M.D. Mitton and Whiteley bt. S. Curtis and E. Taylor : 8, —19, 14.

W.D. Miss Grimstone and Mrs. N. Bishop bt. Mrs. V. Taylor and Mrs. D. Rae : —16, —14, 19.

X.D. Kennedy and Miss S. Wood bt. Skerratt and Miss K. Peake : 17, —13, 20.

# Practice is NOT Enough

ONE swallow does not make a summer, and in spite of Johnny Leach's magnificent justification of English table tennis, we have had to admit the supremacy of the Czechs. I think we can compete on level terms with other countries *only* if we are prepared to change our attitude to the game.

Aubrey Simons diagnosed the reason for the Czech success as "... in the beautiful fluency of their stroke play, which comes from extra practice. . . . Not just club practice, *but practice on the highest level available.*" This has never been challenged, and the truth is indeed incontestable. Yet while we know the reason and the solution, we do nothing about it.

Practice perfects, perhaps, but only at the level of those players. However diligent, the haphazard practice one meets in clubs against such varied opposition cannot lead to that essential "fluency of strokes" underlined by Simons, and I'm going to suggest a more positive action.

At present, a large proportion of our affiliated clubs are sections of social, youth or other organisations, who treat the game merely as another pastime. All too often, committees regard table tennis as a side interest which must not be allowed to interfere with other activities, and consequently play is confined to one or two evenings which are further curtailed by League matches.

How then, can the better class player obtain that extra practice he needs to get out of the rut? His already limited scope is probably further diminished by spending half his practice games playing with the male and female rabbits in these clubs, who are admittedly (and I am not criticising them) only out for an hour or two's fun.

The best players in the leagues usually, therefore, only meet when opposing each other in matches, when they are expected to win their quota of games for the team. These needle matches are obviously not the times to practise strokes, and often produce quite the opposite of fluent stroke play.

The consequences are doubly unfortunate, for they encourage players to drift into one or two of the best clubs and make one team far too strong, and also deprive beginners in their former clubs of many chances. The ideal solution, to my mind, is for the good player to remain in his club for match play, and split his

thinks KEITH WATTS  
(Vice-President of Hastings League)

normal practice periods between the club and a central venue (where he can obtain the higher-grade opposition).

This does happen in some towns, but far too many clubs take a narrow view and make rules or other obstacles to prevent their players joining other bodies for fear of losing them.

Few leagues, I imagine, are lucky enough to possess premises of their own, but it should be possible to secure the co-operation of one club prepared to loan its facilities for one or two of the least crowded evenings, or at week-ends, to permit organised practice among players selected by the league or county.

At the least, it should always be possible for a league to hire or beg a hall, say once or twice a month, and bring their best players together without the atmosphere of the match, which kills any experimenting or persevering with a shot which is not quite so smooth as it might be.

World-ranking players usually come from areas of concentrated enthusiasts, and are further concentrated into places which permit practice at a very high level. If something on these lines were attempted in more centres, it should be possible not to upset the easy-going outlook of the vast number of social clubs (apparently peculiar to this country), at the same time developing an efficient, match-winning outlook among the best that these clubs can throw up.

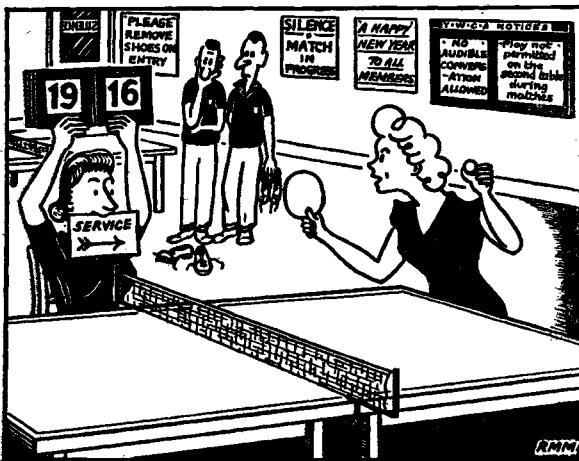


**THE French Open Championships** will be held in Paris, January 7th-10th, 1950. Johnny Leach and Peggy Franks (women's title holder) will take part; Richard Bergmann, who holds the men's crown, is now back from India and will defend his title.

**THE Dutch Open Championships** will again be staged at Utrecht, on January 21st-22nd. An English girl, Pinkie Barnes, holds this championship, too, and it is hoped that she will be able to travel to defend it. Men's holder—once more!—is Bergmann, who hopes to compete as a tuning-up for the world's campaign a few days later.

The Dutch Table Tennis Association will welcome any further English players who would like to take part. Interested folk should apply quickly to E.T.T.A. office, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.1.

**IRKUTSK**, in Central Siberia, recently held an inter-school tournament for indoor sport. Each school had to put out a triple team, playing Chess, Draughts and Table Tennis. The event, which is claimed to be the first of its kind, aroused great keenness; it is certainly interesting to note the combination of the athletic with the intellectual activities, which should commend itself to educational leaders.



*"Very temperamental, our ladies - the slightest noise upsets them!"*

# FRENCH CHALLENGE SPURS LEACH

## The Central London Open

(held at Kentish Town, London, N.W.1)  
December 12th-17th, 1949

**T**HIS was a dish designed to tickle the most jaded tournament palate.

The International Trials, held during the week, attracted a good many of the country's best players and the French match on the 16th brought the two teams (minus Aubrey Simons) into the lists, making the tournament a "miniature English."

It was a stiff hurdle for Mrs. Vera Thomas to choose for her return to the game but she surmounted it with surprising ease, beating Miss Steventon in straight games and Miss Peggy Franks 19 and 11 in the final. Mrs. Thomas seemed to lack (not unnaturally) some of her former fire and agility, but her results indicate that she is as effective against her English rivals as ever she was. She also beat Mme. Betling 13 and 11, while Miss Franks beat Miss Barnes and Mrs. Crosby quite comfortably.

The Men's Rounds were packed with interesting games, at one time six were on the tables, each deserving close attention. Bernard Crouch battered Haguenuer for all he was worth but that walking "totem-pole" was too strong in the third game of a tense struggle. The vest-pocket tornado, Harry Venner, playing at the top of his form pursued his allotted path to the semi-final, remaining unperturbed by the swarthy, stocky Agopoff's desperate services and reputation, winning 2-1. He also beat Brian Brumwell—16, 5, 9, who had earlier done well in beating Ron Crayden. It was perhaps, unfortunate for Venner that he should have met a Leach who is rapidly nearing his best form.

Of the younger players, W. Pierce showed great promise with accurate chopping and crisp hitting, beating a Craigie lacking his usual gusto, and succeeded in taking a game from M. Haguenuer. In between these two efforts he beat another international, Eric Filby, and a county man, Howard Walton

### RESULTS

#### SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. M. Haguenuer beat G. Roothoft:  
—14, 20, 17.

J. Leach beat H. Venner: 22, 14.

#### FINAL:

M.S. J. Leach beat Haguenuer: 15,  
9, —15, 17.

#### SEMI-FINALS:

W.S. Miss M. Franks beat Mrs. J.  
Crosby: 16, 17.

Mrs. V. Thomas beat Miss E.  
Steventon: 18, 16.

#### FINALS:

W.S. Mrs. Thomas beat Miss M.  
Franks: 19, 11.

M.D. B. Brumwell and K. Collar beat  
E. Filby and R. Crayden: 14,  
16.

W.D. Miss D. Rowe and Miss R. Rowe  
beat Miss Franks and Mrs.  
Thomas: 20, 14.

X.D. K. Craigie and Miss D. Rowe  
beat H. Venner and Mrs.  
Thomas: 17, 14.

J.B.S. J. Lowe beat D. Burridge: 11,  
—17, 10.

J.G.S. Miss Eileen Smith beat Miss  
Spoozer: 17, —16, 19.

Men's Consolation: E. Marsh, winner.

Women's Consolation: Mme L. Giraud,  
winner.



Even in "mufti," KEITH COLLAR'S left hand seems to be itching to send over some of those express-speed swerving drives which brought the Central London doubles title to him and Brian Brumwell, his clubmate of Fellows Cranleigh T.T.C. Keith is quiet in speech but a demon in action; his football prowess for Clapton deprives table tennis of his full brilliance. He is seen here discussing tactics with Major Eric Isley, who helped to build up the Central London League to its present eminence.

The tall, fair haired Daly of Liverpool measured a good length with his two-wing attacking but found Poole of Birmingham too steady in the third. (Poole afterwards losing to A. R. Miller.) Wally Hall also beat Kennedy in a match which produced stylish table tennis.

For most of us M. Roothoft was a fresh face, and he produced that brand of table tennis, full of sang froid and English phlegm which seems the inexplicable possession of the Frenchmen visiting us. He has no mannerisms, no Reisman-like excitability. He wields his bat from the handle only. There seems nothing remarkable about his game, but his steadiness and concentration are excellent. He has the habit of getting more points than his opponents.

Venner/Adams after beating Beamish/Smith, Crouch/Thornhill, Craigie/Sharman, and Pierce/Daly, lost to Filby/Crayden 17 in the third, who later lost 14 and 10 to Collar and Brumwell in the final of the Men's Doubles. The Rowe twins won their ninth successive Women's Doubles beating a world class pair in Mrs. Thomas and Peggy Franks, 20 and 14. A fine record. Diane, partnered by Craigie was also successful in winning the Mixed Doubles, beating Mrs. Thomas and Venner.

## JOIN THE ARMY AND SEE SOME TABLE TENNIS!

**C**OMPETITORS in this month's Hampshire Open Championships will "join the Army" for the day (Saturday, January 14).

They are being held in the novel venue of Tidworth Camp on Salisbury Plain; in the Garrison Theatre, to be precise.

Organising Secretary is Mr. J. C. B. Carr, secretary of Tidworth Camp Y.M.C.A., which is believed to be the largest in the world apart from Centymca. Mr. Carr has done wonderful work for table tennis by bringing it to the attention of the military sports authorities and by providing home-from-home facilities for young servicemen.

Entries have closed, but spectators in search of a really good "day out" may wish to take advantage of the special coach laid on by Mr. Carr to take metropolitan fans down to Tidworth. It leaves The Grove, Hammersmith, at 9.0 a.m., travelling by way of Staines, Camberley, etc., and returning after the tournament late Saturday night.

Fare is 12s. return; urgent inquiries to Mr. Carr, c/o Y.M.C.A., Tidworth Camp.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1950	Event	Venue	Details and Tickets from
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	Blighmont 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	SCOTLAND v. ENGLAND	St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow	R. W. Stewart, 45, Hope Street, Glasgow, C.2.
Feb. 13-18	Middlesex (Herga) Open (JB, JG)	Herga L.T.C., Harrow	Miss A. Fowler, 196, East Lane, North Wembley, 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.
Mar. 4	Yorkshire Junior Open	Mechanics' Institute, Bradford.	A. P. Cook, 54, Limesway, Barnsley.
Mar. 7-11	ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS.		See special notice in this issue.
Mar. 17-18	West of England Open (JBS, JGS)	Palace Hotel, Torquay	T. I. Gill, "Ellington," Shirburn Road, Torquay, Devon.
Mar. 25	Grimsby Open	Pier Pavilion, Cleethorpes	J. Browne, 331, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby, Lincs.
Apr. 1-2	Buckinghamshire Open	Community Centre, Slough	Leo Thompson, "Auchmead," The Avenue, Wraybury, Bucks.

### SOME LATER LANDMARKS

April 8-10	North-East England Open.	April 1	WALES v. ENGLAND JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL (in Wales).
12-14 and 17-22	West Middlesex Open.	May 1-6	Thameside Open.

## THE WILMOTT CUP and J. M. ROSE BOWL

The national team competitions are now well advanced. Here are some of the 2nd round results. Possibly the keenest men's match was that in which South London League (Venner, Crayden, Head) beat Fellows Cranleigh, the East London club team (Brumwell, Langner, Collar) by 7—2. Venner and Crayden won all their games.

In the 1st round match against Sutton Valence, Stan Coles had to admit defeat for only the second time in a run of 22 Wilmott Cup matches. His conqueror was C. Wyles. Beckenham, however, ran out winners, 7—2.

### WILMOTT CUP—Round 2

(Results not yet to hand left blank)

#### ZONE 1

North Middx. 7, Maidenhead 2  
Central 9, High Wycombe 0  
Staines 4, Wembley 5  
London Civ. S. v. Willesden

#### ZONE 2

NALGO 4, Manhattan T.T.C. 5  
London Postal Reg. v. East London  
West Essex 1, London Banks 8  
Fellows Cranleigh T.T.C. 2, Sth. London 7

#### ZONE 3

Byfleet 1, Woolwich 7  
N.W. Kent lost to Beckenham

#### ZONE 4

Welwyn Garden City 2, Bedford 7  
Luton 9, Watford 0

#### ZONE 5

Peterborough 2, Newark 7  
Lowestoft v. Lincoln  
Norwich v. Cambridge  
Boston 2, Grimsby 7

#### ZONE 6

**NORTH**  
Northumberland 7, Sunderland 2  
**SOUTH**  
Burnley 1, Halifax Lge. 8  
Sheffield 5, Huddersfield 3

#### ZONE 7

**NORTH**  
Nelson v. Bolton Sunday Schools  
Manchester 6, Blackpool 3

#### **SOUTH**

Dudley Temp. 3, Ashbourne T.T.C. 6  
Kidderminster v. Birmingham

#### ZONE 8

**SOUTH**  
Southampton Civ. S. 7, Grosvenor Sps. C. 2  
Brighton 8, Horsham 1

#### **WEST**

Reading 1, Bristol 8

## J. M. ROSE BOWL—Round 2

#### ZONE 1

Wembley 7, South West Middx. 2  
Wilkesden 1, West London 8  
Staines 2, North Middx. 6  
London Civ. Serv. v. High Wycombe

#### ZONE 2

London Bus. Hs. 2, London Banks 7  
Southend 1, South London 8  
NALGO 0, ILFORD 9  
East London 9, Film Renters 0

#### ZONE 3

Grimsby w.o., Cambridge scr.  
Kings Lynn 4, Lowestoft 5

#### ZONE 4

Byfleet 5, North West Kent 4  
Beckenham 1, Woolwich 8

#### ZONE 5

**NORTH**  
Hartlepool 0, Northumberland 9  
**SOUTH**  
Blackpool 9, Burnley 0  
Manchester v. Liverpool

#### ZONE 6

Barnet 3, Luton 6  
Watford 2, St. Albans 7

#### ZONE 7

**ZONE FINAL**  
Bournemouth 2, Brighton 7

#### ZONE 8

**ZONE FINAL**  
Birmingham 3, Bristol 6

NOTE: Each geographical zone produces one quarter-finalist for the concluding stages of the competition.