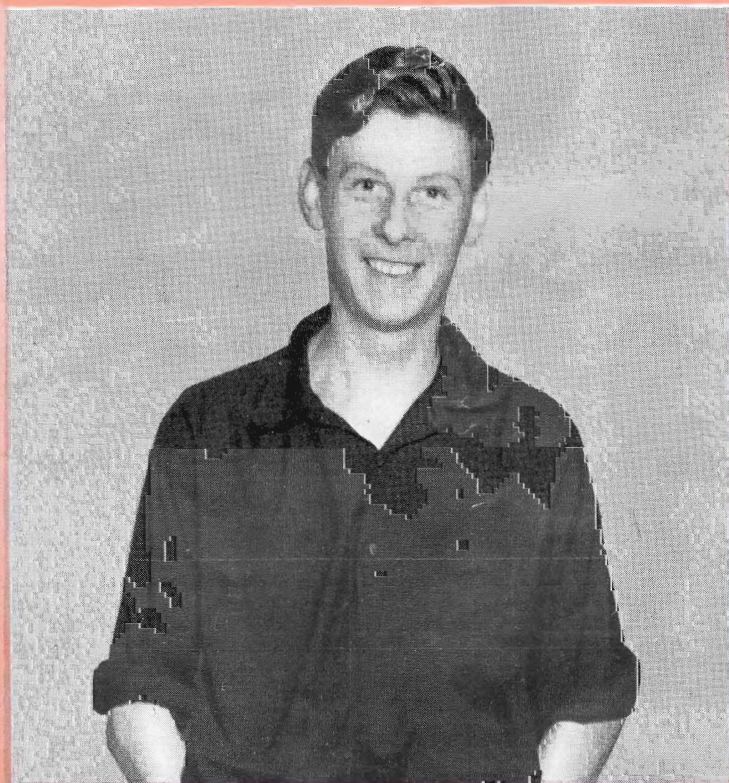


TABLE TENNIS



DENNIS MILLER
Returning to form

Contributors include:

- MICHEL LANSKOY
- JACK CARRINGTON
- ALEC TODD
- FRANK HYSBART
- GEORGE EAGLE
- "INKSPOT"

Vol. VIII. No. 3
NOVEMBER,
1949

TABLE TENNIS

Official Magazine
of the
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
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LADIES FIRST

In 1947-48 the English women's team was first in the world. Can we find the players and maintain that position?

THE English women's team finished second in the two major competitions last season.

Second to U.S.A. in the Corbillon Cup and second to Hungary in the Europe Cup.

Good? Yes, especially when we realise that of our players, FRANKS, BARNES, CROSBY, STEVENTON and WOOD, only the first-named had previous experience of the highest opposition, because the others had previously been swamped by the supremacy of the three world-beaters, DACE, BLACKBOURN and BEREGI.

* * *

The fact that our team could lose all these three players at one blow provided at once a consolation and a warning.

A consolation that our next reserves had kept their morale and their play at such a high level, in spite of continued frustration, that they could produce nearly the same wonderful results in the next campaign.

A warning that the women's competitive "field" is far more fluid than the men's (*who could imagine the top three men vanishing in a season?*)

Therefore, because of this "fluidity," we ought to take constant care to bring on new battalions of girls at the various age levels.

* * *

Has the English Table Tennis Association taken note of this warning, as a wise government should?

Indeed it has, and what is more, the National Executive Committee have agreed that, creditable as second place may be, it just isn't good enough.

We want that first place back, and that, no less, is the stated objective of the N.E.C. for the women's game.

In this we could be helped by the return to full action of Vera Dace (Mrs. Thomas) and Dora

Beregi (Mrs. Devenney). These could possibly both reach their previous peak form, and thus, with Peggy Franks, constitute a ready-made all-star team.

* * *

But taking a broader view, it is our duty also to build up those reserves we mentioned above, and as a first step all local organisers have been asked to include events for junior girl players in their programmes whenever possible.

Most Open tournaments now run a girls' singles, some have also a junior mixed doubles, while possibly the most effective move is the formation of at least seven junior county teams each needing girl players.

But so far the accent is on the "needing." Instead of selecting girls from a crowd of applicants, it is a fact that some counties have actually had to appeal for girls to come along more or less to "make up the number." There is room for improvement here, and possibly you are one who can help by introducing some wee lassie to the game, or encouraging another to overcome her shyness.

•

OUR COVER PICTURE

LEFTHANDED DENNIS MILLER at first sight appears to be rather too slow in moving to achieve success against top-class players, but he has shown an unusual ability to make the play run at the pace which suits him.

Junior Champion of England in 1946, Denis has since varied considerably in form, but has lately showed signs of settling down to a confident game. His surprise victims last season included Hagenauer and Simons in the English Open, and in last month's Middlesex v. The Rest he defeated both Simons and Sharman.

Played for England last year against Ireland, Wales, and France, and is now in Czechoslovakia with our touring team. This will be a big test for him as he has up to now found difficulty in holding speedy attacking players.

NEWS FROM E.T.T.A. HEADQUARTERS

The National Executive dug into a huge pile of work on Saturday, 22nd October. Here are some of the things that were dealt with in the course of two long sessions.

English Open. Junior Events—singles and doubles this year—will be held at Paddington Baths on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 7th and 8th, the later rounds being played at Wembley later in the week. One round of men's singles will probably be played at Paddington on Wednesday, but the remainder, together with the whole of the women's singles and all the doubles, will be at Wembley on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 9th to 11th. L. R. Preston, who made such a success of the referee's job last year, cannot undertake it this time, and the N.E.C. has appointed George White to fill the vacancy, with Geoffrey Harrower in the new post of Tournament Organiser.

Approved Balls. The first and second grades of the following makes of ball were approved for the current season: *Halex, Villa, Haydon* and *Barna*.

Umpires. The first report of the Sub-Committee on Umpiring was adopted. Under this report, detailed plans will now be made so that all umpires who reach a satisfactory standard both in their knowledge of the laws of the game and in their methods of umpiring in public can be registered as "County Umpires." The idea is that these people will have badges which will readily show their status to both players and organisers. Further details will be published as the scheme develops.

Affiliations to Counties. An unusual case concerned a local organisation, not affiliated in any way to the E.T.T.A., which had been "specially affiliated" by a County Association for a locally-determined fee. The N.E.C. had to point out that no body can join a County Association unless it is affiliated to the E.T.T.A.; and that "special affiliation" is, by rule, the prerogative of the National Executive itself.

Coaching Scheme. The scheme for a National Table Tennis Coach, to train local coaches, is now before the Ministry of Education.

Trials. Trials for Swaythling Cup and Corbillon Cup teams will probably take place in mid-December. Trials for a Junior International team will be arranged early in the new year.

Service Rule. The very popular leaflet explaining the service law is to be brought up to date and reissued.

E.T.T.A. EDITORIAL BOARD

General Editor: JACK CARRINGTON.

Associate Editors: GEORGE WHITE and
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East Meets West

BY GEORGE EAGLE

WHEN the Committee of the East London League decided that a pre-season tour would be a novel idea and of use to their players, they immediately looked around to see where to go. Gloucestershire sprang to mind, for had they not some of the best scenery in England, and also some of the best opposition for the matches?

Various players were approached with the suggestion that they should devote a week of their holiday to make a trip, and the response was wonderful, not a single player hesitating a moment before giving an emphatic "Yes." A letter to Ivor Eyles, the Gloucestershire Secretary, followed, and he gave the scheme his blessing, and put in a lot of hard work at his end.

Leagues in Gloucestershire followed his lead, and matches were arranged with the GLOUCESTER, CHELTENHAM and BRISTOL Associations.

The hospitality afforded to the visitors was absolutely overwhelming, and if any person has a grouse against England as a holiday centre for tourists, may I suggest that he packs a table tennis bat in his bag, and makes a trip to Gloucestershire. He will never regret it. We started with a week-end together in Weston-super-Mare.

I think that if teams making bigger tours than this could get together beforehand in such an atmosphere as we had, where no strong accent was placed on the reason for their being together in such a place, it might have a profound bearing on the rest of the tour when the real "work" was being done.

At Gloucester Y.M.C.A., the County President, Mr. Allen, with other officials, welcomed the players, and a very pleasant match followed. The home side lost 1—8, their only success being recorded by the hard-hitting Dawe, whose sudden bursts were too much for Alan Payne. An important sign, however, was the performance of G. Reeves, a Junior, who was matched against our own Peter Smith. Reeves played very well, and the impression he created was upheld by all the other Juniors whom we met in Gloucestershire.

Next day our party moved off to Cheltenham. DENNIS THOMPSON greeted the visitors, and took them all to the Y.M.C.A. to meet their opponents of the following evening, but for the present it was entertainment, and as guests of the Cheltenham Association, both teams and officials were taken to the Theatre, this being followed by a pleasant supper. The tables in the Y.M.C.A. were opened to the visiting players for the day of the match, and the chance of good practice so provided was eagerly taken. The match took place at the Empire Hall, and play reached a very good standard.

East London won 6—3, the highlight being young MAURICE LEACH'S spirited duel with our Peter Smith.

And so to Bristol and what we knew, with due respect to our other opponents, would be our toughest fight.

Ken Beamish and Keith Collar had the instructive experience of playing against international AUBREY SIMONS. Bristol's 16-year-old VALERIE HARVEY, playing in her first public match, defeated Eileen King, three years her senior.

We returned a victorious team, but the feeling of victory is not the one which is uppermost in our minds, nor indeed is it near the top. Those we had played had put out sides to match us, player for player, entering into the full spirit of the idea. We had gone to a county on the other side of England, few of us knowing any of those we were going to meet. We left feeling that our lives were richer by many friends.

ODD



SHOTS

QUITE a number of readers have written to point out that WALLY MULLER, (Hampshire), was not without a defeat in the last two years of the Southern Division of the County Championships (our cover picture caption for September credited Wally with this achievement).

The man who spoiled Wally's two-season record was JACKIE HEAD, playing for Surrey on February 27th, 1948. Head won 21—9, 21—15.

* * *



BILL
POPE

Brains Trust Recruit

MR. W. J. POPE represented table tennis on a "Sports Brains Trust" at Hammersmith Town Hall on 13th October, at which other prominent sports personalities included JACK DURSTON, the Middlesex and England cricketer, and JACK CRUMP, captain of the A.A.A. teams.

Among the questions was the hoary "chestnut" "Has the lowering of the net spoiled or ruined the game?" But Bill has not been at the E.T.T.A. headquarters for 21 years without learning the diplomatic answer that turns away wrath.

Only question which was a bit of a tease was: "Why can't you produce a perfectly spherical table tennis ball?"

To which our worthy Secretary (might have) answered: "Wot, take away our best excuse for losing?"

* * *

LANSKOY'S article on deaf players reminds us that we often receive letters from players with other types of disability. One-eyed, one-armed, one-legged, or otherwise handicapped folk, seem to be able to adapt their game surprisingly well, and one and all pay tribute to the mental stimulation of their table tennis activities.

APROPOS our October picture of SHELAGH WOOD with DENNIS COMPTON, several correspondents have asked: "Why cricketers names on the young lady's jumper? Has Shelagh no table tennis idols?"

Yorkshire's star junior confesses: "My first idea was to embroider it with table tennis names, but owing to the number of tournaments and matches I had to play in, I couldn't get it finished until the start of the cricket season. So—it had to be cricket names, to be in the fashion!"

Sailors, please note: embroidery has one distinct advantage over tattooing—last year's favourites can be quickly and painlessly replaced!

•

A TEAM rejoicing in the name of NEVER-DOWN has this season been promoted to the first Division of the Dutch national league. This will be their chance to live up to their name.

Some of these Dutch names have a much more romantic or provocative sound than the usual run of team titles over here. Of the eight teams in the top ranks, no less than four have English names. In addition to NEVER-DOWN, there are QUICK, WELL SHOT and the BATSWINGERS. Oh, for the wings of a bat . . . sorry, it's the swing of a bat!

THE SNAPPER SNAPPED . . .

THE photos on the next page are well-timed action pictures of table tennis. To you, dear readers, this may not imply anything of special significance, but if it happens to be your job to find good action pictures of table tennis, you will know that they are few and far between.

These particular precious specimens have another claim on our attention. Not only were they taken by PETER MADGE, the young R.A.F. man who took those fine cover pictures of Leach, Simons and Barna, but they are actually pictures of Peter himself!

Just how the TABLE TENNIS photographer has managed to produce action shots of himself is a trade trick I cannot divulge now. Perhaps he will tell us something about his tricks in later articles; meanwhile, I have seized on the pictures as useful examples of stroke play by typical youngsters in the "improver" class.

Taking a good look at picture No. 1 and casting aside any pleasurable reflections on such an ideal

attacker's court, with a certain amount of backspin on it.

For the more advanced pupil, what particular type of chop stroke does Peter favour? Fortunately, the picture shows us quite clearly. It is obviously not the short, wristy chop employed by AUBREY SIMONS to such good effect. Nor is it the forearm-plus-wrist true "chopper" action preferred by MILES and BARNA.

No, this is a *full-arm chop stroke*. I think really it is an attempt at the relaxed sweeping chop action à la JOHNNY LEACH, but by reason of a slight over-tensioning of the arm, the stroke has become an ANDREADIS full-arm "scoop" chop.

The over-tensioning of the arm is apparent from the braced biceps and the locked wrist of the defender. I prefer to see the arm relaxed in defence to allow the necessary "give," but the player in this case will make a well-controlled return because of the excellent footwork and positioning.

Note the positioning, ideal for long defence on the forehand; ball taken on the drop, trunk well sideways to allow a true forward follow through of the full-arm scoop.

Most important of all, feet well apart for good

Table Tennis and its Personalities

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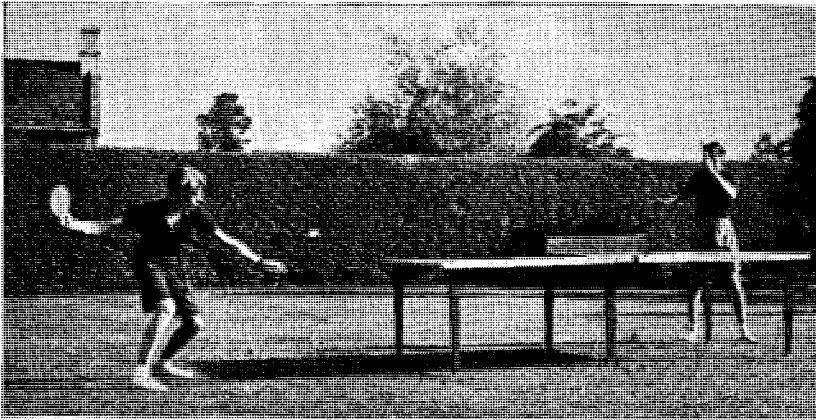
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... A Picture Lesson

By Jack Carrington



Both youngsters earn
full marks
for footwork here

balance and knees well bent to allow of last-minute corrections.

In fact our friend Peter here, having committed himself to a full sweep of the arm, will *depend* on his knee movement to adjust his stroke as the ball comes near.

Anything else to be learned from the first photo? Yes, the youngster on the right gives us a neat example of correct follow-through for a medium-paced forehand drive.

He is standing in a typical left-hander's driving position, has passed his weight forward in hitting, on to his right foot (right-handers, of course, on to the left foot). Note the economy of energy in the forehand drive by following through from the elbow instead of with the full arm. A good point, too, is the free arm exactly balancing the thrust of the striking arm. (*This is also brought out well by the defending player executing his chop stroke*).

In the second picture we see our photo-minded friend, Peter, in different mood. I have extracted it from a doubles photograph (*ruined one of his best pictures, I suppose he'll say!*). This accounts for the forehand drive being carried out from what some readers may call "out of position."

In doubles a rather exaggerated "running round" for the forehand drive can be risked, as the partner is there to cover any angled return.

As to the arm stroke itself, it has been quite well carried out, but its effectiveness has been hampered by a misjudgment of position. In choosing his attacking stance, our subject has not been quite so successful as he was in his defensive positioning.

The fault? He was rather too close to the ball. This is evidenced by (1) the falling-away of the trunk and (2) the cramping of the right shoulder behind the head—both being last-minute

instinctive attempts to correct the mistaken position into which his feet have led him.

No wonder Peter wears a troubled look—or is that merely concentration?

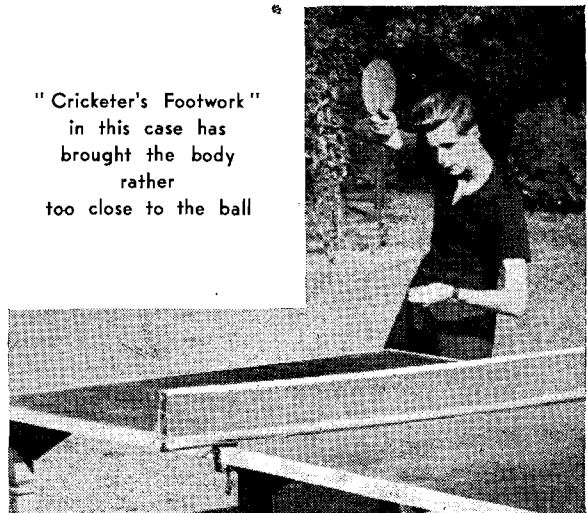
What happened was this: he planted both feet in a direct line with the on-coming ball, as a cricketer might. The table tennis forehand hitter gets a free-arm swing by placing his left (i.e., front) foot, rather to the left of the striking position.

Actually, in a doubles game, our player-photographer has not weakened his team by his slight miscalculation, but in singles he might have to pay the penalty of being off balance for the next shot.

Well, it has been fun scanning our cameraman through his own lens. If anybody would like to have their own action pictures scanned, I'll be pleased to try.

By learning how to study still-life in this way you can learn to study that venomous form of active life, your opponent.

"Cricketer's Footwork"
in this case has
brought the body
rather
too close to the ball



Simons' Attack Wins Birmingham Open

Leach loses title

AS always this tournament attracted an excellent entry—in numbers and in the wealth of talent on view.

Almost every player of note in the country competed and a magnificent day's play was seen. The total entries approached 300, the whole of the local entries being reduced the previous Sunday so drastically that only 16 Midland players competed in the Men's Singles out of a total of 64. The standard of the other events was equally high. In this way it was possible to run the whole tournament strictly to time table with the finals programme starting promptly at 7.30 p.m., before a full house of about one thousand spectators.

These were good matches from the start, the two Welsh internationals, JOHN DAVIES and GLYN MORGAN lost to English stars SIMONS and CROUCH in the first round, though not without a struggle. Davies took one game from Simons by using his strong forehand attack, but could not maintain his accuracy in the final game. Last year's junior international, BAKER, scored a magnificent victory over POOLE, Birmingham's leading player at the moment and winner of the recent North Midlands Open. HEAD beat his county team-mate VENNOR, but lost easily to LEACH.

Men's Singles Semi-Finals: Leach's consistency and magnificent retrieving was too much for Casofsky, whose drives, did not seem to be as fluent as usual. Simons gradually wore down Adams' forehand attack and eventually finished comfortably. Adams had previously retrieved his match with Ron Baker from the position of 11—19 down in the 3rd!

Finals :

And so to the final and another surprise—the defeat of Johnny Leach by Aubrey Simons by 3 games to 2. This was almost a repeat of last year's final, Simons winning the first two, Leach the next two but this time the Bristol man won the all-important fifth game.

Simons' tactics were to wait patiently for the opportunity to counter-hit on the forehand and then make a first-time winner either to the forehand corner or down the middle of the table. In the first games when Simons did attack continuously then he seldom won the point but he gained many points with these surprise hits. In the 3rd and 4th games Leach curbed this counter-attacking by concentrating on Simons' backhand and increasing the pace of his shots to the forehand. Now when Simons attempted to counter-hit he usually lost the point.

In the final game by steady play Simons quickly established an 8—2 lead and then started to use his forehand drive to

Report by FRANK HYBART

very good effect. Hitting mostly to the backhand but occasionally to the forehand corner he managed to pierce Leach's sound defence to win the game 21—12.

After many excellent games, Betty Steventon and Peggy Franks emerged as finalists in the Women's Singles. However, in the final Betty produced nothing like her best form and so lost her title rather easily to Peggy Franks.

P. Smith, the Junior Boys' Singles, defeated D. G. Ellison, last year's junior winner, in the men's singles. Does this show an improvement in the Junior standard?

In the doubles events were more surprises—neither Peggy Franks nor Johnny Leach figured in a doubles final. It must be some time since Leach played in a tournament with only British players competing and yet failed to win an event.

The Casofsky/Simons combination in the men's doubles was too steady for Hurlock/Head, who had recorded a good win over Haydon/Mackay in the semi-final. Hurlock's very fast forehand drive is most effective in doubles play but against Casofsky/Simons the latter's heavy chop prevented him using it to such a great advantage.

Margaret Fry (Bristol) had a good day, winning both doubles events. Her West Country pairing with Bob Griffin proved most successful, their victims including Leach/Franks, Simons/Allen as well as Casofsky/Bates in the final.

Miss Pomroy and Mrs. Pickett (Bristol), though losing in the final to Weaver/Fry, put up a grand performance in beating such strong pairings as Franks/James and Allen/Steventon.

From a rather disappointing entry in numbers the finalists in the girls' singles were D. Banks (Crewe) and A. James (Liverpool), who showed that they are both capable of an all-round game of a high standard.

RESULTS

SEMI-FINALS :

- M.S. J. Leach bt. B. Casofsky : 12, 10.
 A. W. C. Simons bt. L. G. Adams : —17, 8, 14.
 W.S. Miss P. Franks bt. Miss M. Jones : 21—17, 21—17.
 Miss E. Steventon bt. Miss M. Fry : 21—17, 21—10.

FINALIS :

- M.S. A. W. C. Simons bt. J. A. Leach : 20, 17, —19, —15, 12.
 W.S. Miss P. Franks bt. Miss E. Steventon : 17, 10.
 M.D. B. Casofsky and A. Simons bt. K. Hurlock and T. Head : 18, 8.
 W.D. Miss E. Weaver and Miss M. Fry bt. Miss E. Pomroy and Mrs. M. Pickett : 14, —18, 19.
 X.D. R. B. Griffin and Miss M. Fry bt. B. Casofsky and Miss A. Bates : —19, 14, 10.
 J.B.S. P. Smith bt. D. C. Burridge : 18, 8.
 J.G.S. Miss D. Banks bt. Miss A. Jones : 21, —15, 19.
 J.D. M. Goldman and D. Burridge bt. H. Watkins and D. Spiers : 12, 20.
 Vets. S. Buckingham bt. L. Kinsey : 17, 11.

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AROUND THE WORLD

English Team In Czechoslovakia

START of the international season is signalled by the departure on 31st October of the English team to tour in Czechoslovakia.

The E.T.T.A. Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. K. ("Bill") Vint is leading the team, which consists of :

A. W. C. SIMONS, K. CRAIGIE, D. A. MILLER, L. DEVEREUX, MRS. J. CROSBY, MISS R. ROWE.

Before leaving from Northolt, the party were the guests of the Hastings T.T.A. for the week-end, and took part in the Sussex Open championships.

Report of the tour (and of the Sussex Open) will appear in our next issue.

SWEDEN

About the same time as the official party took off for Czechoslovakia, JOHNNY LEACH and RON CRAYDEN headed north for Stockholm, where they will start their short tour, which includes international invitation tournaments and matches.

FRANCE

GUY AMOURETTI, dark-eyed chop specialist from Nice, is back in the game now, after a three-month suspension imposed by the French Table Tennis Federation for failure to observe regulations.

SOUTH AFRICA

THE South African table tennis season runs from March to September, the coolest months of the year, and reports have just been received of the Port Elizabeth & District T.T. League who have just completed their first season.

Twenty-four men's and ten ladies' teams have been grouped in four divisions, and though no claims are made for a high standard of play, they make up with intense enthusiasm, a fine team-spirit and a keen eagerness to improve.

Several immigrants now playing in the League have given Port Elizabeth some tantalising accounts of Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington playing doubles, and spurred on local ambitions.

The League were lucky in getting some first-class match tables before the import control, since those of local manufacture leave much to be desired.

Keen Secretary A. W. Morris has been heard bemoaning the difficulties of enforcing the Flat Hand Service Rule. It would seem that the problems of administration are the same the table tennis world over.



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HARD OF HEARING ?

I AM especially interested in encouraging deaf players to take up our sport, as this is a matter which touches me very closely.

True, there is quite a difference in playing technique between two players of whom one is deaf, but I would not say this difference is enough to constitute a serious handicap to the latter.

Clearly the deaf person may at first hesitate before launching himself into a sport so essentially governed by the reflexes, but although he lives in a world deprived of the warnings and meanings of sound he has usually the compensation of other reflexes becoming more highly trained than the average.

His eye, for instance, is often extra keen, and allied to this is a constant "alertness" in his muscles.

I think, too, that he develops, as an additional "security reflex" in everyday life, a delicate sense of touch—which is again an essential for table tennis.

In defence, as in attack, it is necessary to sense the ball as it touches your bat, and this impression is undoubtedly in part registered by the ear, enabling you to vary the angle of your bat accordingly. Also in judging the strength of your opponent's stroke, hearing plays a big part—as anyone can confirm by playing a game or two with his ears plugged.

Our deaf friend loses the advantage of these sound signals given out by the ball and bat to help him judge his lift and chop. Nevertheless he can become a good player if he will seek always to make his strokes technically perfect and to mould his style to take advantage of his delicacy of touch.

I emphasise the perfection of stroke action, because the more precise and confident his style, the less he will worry about the ball as it arrives.

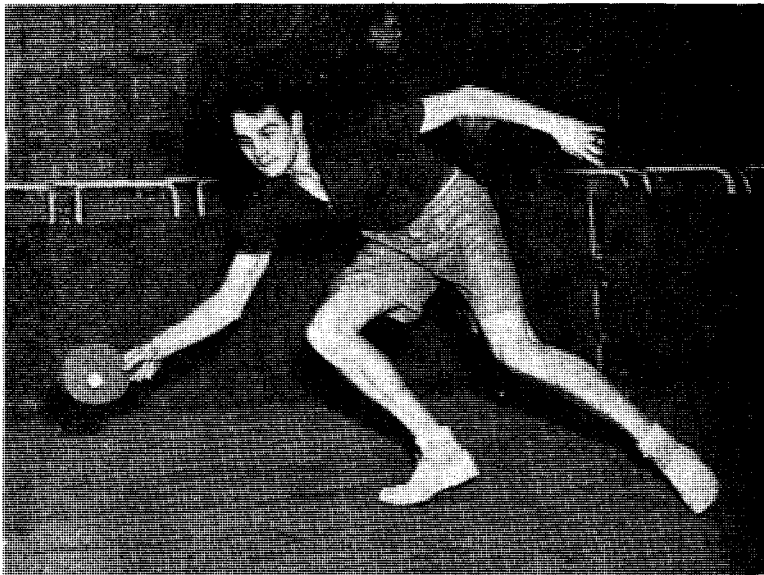
In other words, more than anyone else must the deaf player aim at a perfect "automatism." Although he knows in fact a little bit less about each ball than the man who can hear it, he can thereby cast aside the hesitation which so often affects the ordinary player in making his decisions what to do with the ball.

Thus from the start he may acquire a legitimate audacity—which certainly has its place in the modern table tennis game.

To audacity may I add, that most valuable gift—concentration. To be without hearing is to be without quite a number of distractions which can disturb the best of players in their tournament matches !

DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU

advises
**MICHEL
LANSKOY**



MICHEL LANSKOY IN ACTION

Note the tricolour belt, worn by all French internationals

THOSE who suffer from the disability of deafness could hardly have a better inspiration than MICHEL LANSKOY, brilliant young international hope of France. His crisp timing and fluent attacking rhythms show that he has lost nothing of the enjoyment of table tennis, and lend real weight to his encouraging words.

Deaf clubs and organisations have long been working in close co-operation with the E.T.T.A. for the advancement of table tennis as their most valuable form of recreation.

One of their members, C. G. Mase, of Walthamstow, represented England in the Swaythling Cup in 1927/28; the words of Lanskoy, who represented France last year and during the season claimed victories against Bergmann and Barna, will surely inspire others to follow in his footsteps.



Johnny Leach

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chooses a

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LANCASHIRE LINES

By STANLEY PROFFITT

AT last Northern fans have something to shout about.

Ronnie Allcock is not only stealing the spotlight, as foreshadowed in this column two months ago, but is hitting the headlines with such force that representative honours must surely be around the corner. His latest triumph was helping himself to the Yorkshire Open Championship at Bradford. I'm told it was a magnificent display. His ability to oust Benny Casofsky from the throne he has occupied for three successive years speaks for itself. After winning the East of England tournament at Skegness, Ronnie had a partial relapse, failing both in the North Midland Open and in his county debut against Warwickshire. Now he's on top again, and this young man of 21 summers possesses the capabilities to ensure a rosy future in the years ahead.

It's a pity the team to tour Czechoslovakia was selected prior to these storming performances. It would have been a grand experience and, who knows, perhaps would have acted as a finishing course for the World Championships in February. There are, as a matter of fact, many harsh words being spoken in the North on the Czechoslovakian set-up. Outspoken types are suggesting that as the team selected some weeks ago was obviously based on last season's form, and as two juniors have been included, why weren't the respective champions in this department (Adele Wood of Manchester and Derek Ellison of Bolton) the first choice?

My answer is that a decline in form of the Northerners at the bitter end of last season, plus a stolid improvement of the Southerners, swayed the vote in favour of both Rosalind Rowe and Louis Devereux.

These are early days in the table tennis line-up but, mooning around, it is very satisfactory to note that titles are changing hands—and there is every indication that they will continue to do so. It gives me great pleasure to record Peggy Allen's win at Bradford.

Whilst we are handing out back-slaps there is, however, time for reflection. And the reflection that these old eyes have seen is slightly perturbing. Allow me to explain. You see, whilst the vast 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 perfect defensive armour, the all-important link between these two factors is missing.

The link, of course, is comprised of the basic strokes—those particularly which bring into play the half-volley, the push and a host of asides which spring from these branches. **It is the knowledge of how and when to employ these strokes which is the essential difference between the world-ranking star and the regular tournament player.**

Experience counts for a whole lot, but, mark my word, unless the players earmarked for stardom pay attention to what appear at the moment to be small details, they will never reach the glittering heights. Now is the time to commence practising the "middle" game and thus be in a better position to dictate the trend of your game in future.

The recent defeat of Lancashire by Warwickshire in the National Counties Championship has done more good than harm to the Cotton County. Since then the committee have got their heads together and arrangements have been made for the team and potential county

players to have a weekly practice at the New Woodlands Club in Manchester. This is a step in the right direction. Middlesex commenced a similar scheme at the outset of the county championship, and for them it has paid dividends. Here's luck to Lancashire, who have a big task on November 18th-19th opposing Surrey and Middlesex respectively, in the South. All the Lancashire contingent are to take part in the South of England Championships. Maybe I'd be sticking my neck out too far if I forecast that a Northerner would bring back the coveted trophy?

Kirkwood Rides White Hobby Horse

—says "Not so Well Known Journalist"

Mr. Sam Kirkwood's rebuff to Surrey County Secretary, Mr. R. Atherton, in the October issue of "TABLE TENNIS" cannot go without some sort of reply.

Mr. Kirkwood is so sincere and sensitive about his reformist schemes that he tends to see only his side of the argument. He sees no good in retaining a system which allows (within certain clearly defined rules) some degree of choice in colours. He calls this "laxity." *I call it sensible freedom.*

Mr. Kirkwood would have us believe that players who wear plain coloured shirts are dirty, but should they don white would become virgin pure. No such metamorphosis would occur.

Those players who already pay small heed to their looks wouldn't scrub their clothes more carefully if they wore white. They would look infinitely worse in far quicker time.

Mr. Kirkwood must realise that Dirt and "Dirty Daniels" have little to do with the core of the argument, which is: *"Are whites better as a table tennis dress than coloured shirts?"*

He complains of the "clash of colours and styles which has given an indescribable air of garishness to halls."

Only an extreme sensitivity or desire to convince at all costs could have prompted that remark.

There doesn't seem much doubt that the principal objection to whites is that of vision. Mr. Kirkwood does not trouble to mention this formidable drawback. One can imagine the difficulties of facing a really quick penholder against a moving background of white shirts (quite apart from the ball coming from the centre of a white area).

What would a batsman say if the white sight-screens were painted red or black?

By all means let Mr. Kirkwood (if he must) lecture us on cleanliness, and let him strive with evangelical fervour after smarter appearances, but the only complete answer to this debate will be that of a tournament played in white.

The Champion County v. The Rest match did not provide the white spectators element which is essential in drawing any conclusions. From conversations with players, however, I think that Mr. Kirkwood is a Crusader who will not find many to don white and march behind him.

CHAMPION COUNTY (MIDDLESEX) 4; THE REST 5

DETAILED SCORES ("The Rest" names first):—

In order of play.

- R. Sharman lost to D. Miller, —21, —16.
A. Simons beat G. Harrower, 13, 15.
R. Mackay and Miss J. Mackay lost to B. Crouch and Miss R. Rowe, —15, —16.
R. Sharman lost to K. Craigie, 14, —16, —18.
A. Simons lost to D. Miller, —16, 16, —19.
Miss M. Franks beat Miss J. Roberts, 20, 18.
J. Leach beat K. Craigie, 14, 16.
Miss M. Franks and Miss L. Barnes beat Misses D. and R. Rowe, 17, —21, 9.
J. Leach beat G. Harrower, 11, 10.

White Clothing: First Reactions

HALF the match was played in white clothing as part of the official tests to be carried out before reporting back to the International Federation's Congress on this topic. The second part of the programme reverted to customary regulation clothing, which is better suited for television purposes.

As usual in controversial matters, few converts were made by either school of thought. The general impression gained while the white-clad "flannelled fools" (Kipling said it, not us!) were in action, was quite favourable, but when the colours came back to the scene, supporters rallied strongly around the "status quo".

We should not attempt to anticipate Official reactions yet; possibly more exhaustive tests will be made. But here is a selection of actual comments made and noted during and shortly after the match:

- Several of the Match Players:** It didn't seem to make any difference to us — we could see the ball O.K.
- One Player:** Yes, but don't forget these television lights focus 40 times more light on the ball than we usually get.
- Two Badminton Fans:** We found it a strain to follow the ball as it crossed the player's white body. In badminton you don't have much trouble seeing the white shuttle because few shots come at you in a straight line from the opponent's body.
- At least six Women spectators:** If they want to have white, it's got to be proper T.T. shirts, not flopping cricket shirts... close and fitting shirts and white shorts are best—but a man needs the figure to wear them.
- A Veteran of Ping-Pong days:** White's all right, but so is colour, if uniformity of teams and pairs is maintained.
- A Semi-Veteran Organiser:** Why try to ape Wimbledon? The varied hues of table tennis are part of the fun, our own private tradition.
- Club Player's Wife:** Some of them wouldn't be so keen on these fancy new ideas if they had to wash their own T.T. clothes.

BY "INKSPOT"

THOSE—and they included most of the 800 spectators at Paddington Baths—who thought that Middlesex would suffer badly at the hands of the pick of the other counties were soon raising their eyebrows at each other.

As Middlesex piled them up, 1—0, 1—1, 2—1, 3—1 and finally 4—1, it is a moot point which went up higher: the doubters' eyebrows or the home supporters' voices!

BENNY CASOFSKY, business-bound in Manchester, would likely have chalked up two for the Rest against KEN CRAIGIE and DENIS MILLER; as it was, these two found the reserve man, SHARMAN, in decidedly untrained condition.

Then, owing to the exigencies of the television service, the Rest had to delay playing their "Banker" card—LEACH, until the 7th match. Give credit, however, to Miller, who with his slow-roll tactics, bluffed SIMONS into making bad shots at critical stages in their match.

A score of 4—1 made every match a "final," and the ladies nerves were well in evidence. Experience told in both the singles and doubles, although in the latter an almost impassioned effort of will and skill on the part of DIANE ROWE came near to carrying the sister team through to victory.

Gallant "Chinstrap" CRAIGIE obviously relished his slogging match with Leach as much as the crowd, who roared approval. *(One particular young lady in the front row nearly made a tele-show all on her own. She turned red and white in rapid succession as Ken won or lost his points, winced as Leach belted the ball, prayed as Craigie served, and generally executed a sort of chair-borne Hokey-Cokey as the rallies progressed.*

(A Middlesex supporter, we dare hazard).

MR. A. K. VINT, chairman of the National County Championships Committee, presented the Premier Division trophy to GEOFF HARROWER; in replying, the Middlesex captain paid tribute to VICTOR BARNA'S prominent part in this and the previous season's championship victories.

VENNER BEATS LEACH

First Shock In County Championships



Cambridge Juniors Out

ONE final casualty: Cambridge have had to withdraw from the Junior Division, finding themselves unable to put out a representative team under the age limit, and preferring to build up for next season.

With the increased size of the Championships this season, and the extra space available in our Magazine, the most practicable way of presenting the results to you is to give reports of the earlier matches, in date order of playing, and then have the usual "classified results," which will include late matches upon which it is not possible to report. These classified results will be found

Geoffrey Harrower's Monthly Review

by Ken Stanley in the mixed doubles. It was not a happy debut for Ronnie Allcock. Nevertheless expert authorities are convinced that he will make the grade.

SCORES:—B. Casofsky beat M. Kriss: 10, 18; beat R. Mackay: 12, 15.

K. Stanley beat Kriss: 16, 12; lost to W. Poole: —19, 12, —20.
R. Allcock lost to Mackay: —13, 14, —21; lost to Poole: —17, —13.

Miss A. Wood lost to Mrs. C. Thompson: 9, —13, —15.
Casofsky and Allcock lost to A. Haydon and Mackay: —15, —15.

Stanley and Miss Wood beat Haydon and Mrs. Thompson: 16, 14.

Oct. 10th: SURREY 4, ESSEX 5

(Report by Jack Carrington)

SURREY may fairly be proud of their showing at the first county match of the season. Both the setting and the play gave full satisfaction to the 500 audience at Wimbledon Baths.

Pride of place must be given to HARRY VENNER'S well-earned victory over the world champion LEACH, at a moment when his side was losing 1—2.

Venner achieved some astonishing angles with his patent brand of sidespin-topspin driving and was in many cases simply too fast for his famous opponent. He was actually losing 14—16 in the third game when he summoned up one last reserve of energy and determination, and, keeping Leach on the move all the time, ran out winner for the loss of only one more point! This was not "crazy" hitting; a hot pace but cool tactics, might be the right summing up.

Venner's supremacy this evening was underlined against McCave, who had originally set Essex one up by a fighting recovery in his opening tussle with Jackie Head. Head, however, kept his head, if we may say so, to defeat Brian Brumwell and level the score at 4 games each.

Leach, by now well on his guard, faced Ron Crayden in the decider. Ron, by no means in such fighting form as his team mate Venner, yet showed what is in him by leading Leach 18—14 in the second game. Over-eagerness then allowed superior skill to assert itself and Essex claimed the match which may well turn out to be the decider of the Premier Division championship title.

Outstanding among the ladies was little Doris Rivett, whose first-time driving clinched the women's doubles for Essex. This Rivett was a nail in Surrey's coffin!

MORE MATCHES LIKE THIS ONE, PLEASE!

SCORES:—R. Crayden lost to J. Leach: —14, —19; beat B. Brumwell: 22, 13.

H. Venner beat Leach: 16, —18, 17; beat W. McCave: 14, 6.
J. Head: beat B. Brumwell —18, 22, 18; lost to W. McCave: —18, 11, —18.

Miss L. Barnes lost to Miss M. Franks: —6, 10, —13.
Miss Barnes and Miss Weaver lost to Mrs. Adams and Miss Rivett: —16, —12.

Crayden and Miss Weaver lost to Leach and Miss Franks: —16, —14.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS—continued.

Oct. 14th, Home Counties Division : BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 6, HERTFORDSHIRE 3

Hertfordshire began their third season in the championships where they left off the previous two seasons; winning all the girls' games and losing the men's. Although with a new side of A. Silverthorne, R. Islip and R. Sacki, they did not succeed in taking a single game from the three Bucks players, L. Thompson, C. Wilson and F. Richens. Mrs. Cubitt and Miss Emdin, however, proved a little too strong for Mrs. Robey, Miss O'Reilly and Miss Baxendale.

Oct. 15th, Northern Division : CUMBERLAND 0, NORTHUMBERLAND 9

Last season Northumberland specialised in winning 9—0 and losing 4—5, and they certainly look as though they intend to keep at least to the first half of those scores this season. Luckless Cumberland were unable to win a single game, McDonald being the nearest to achieving this feat, taking Kertzman to 22—24 in their second game. A new name appearing in the Northumberland team is that of Mrs. J. Hewitt, wife of the No. 1 singles player from the same county, but this name "hides" the identity of Miss Purves, wedding bells having rung during the summer.

Oct. 15th, Junior Division : KENT 3, MIDDLESEX 6

It was fitting that the very first match ever to be played in the Junior Division should be played in Kent, Kent having had much to do with the formation of this section of the Championships, and equally fitting that they should be opposed by Middlesex, champions of the Premier Division.

Over 150 spectators were treated to a fine display, in which

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the six youths' singles were equally shared, S. Brocklebank, D. Eagles and J. Stringer all winning one event for Kent, whilst Derek Burrige (2), and R. Bernstein (1), scored for Middlesex. The difference in the two sides lay in the different class of the girls, not surprising when Middlesex can call on the famous Rowe twins.

Oct. 19th, Junior Division : SURREY 6, BEDFORDSHIRE 3

In their first Junior Championship match of the season, Surrey youngsters delighted a Weybridge audience with a 6—3 victory over Bedfordshire.

All three Surrey boys adopted the policy of "attack is the best method of defence," and they gained the first four singles matches with a display that augurs well for Surrey table tennis in years to come.

Fred Goodwyn, in his maiden appearance before a crowd, out-generalled the Beds No. 1, Barnett, who even last year made a mark in the national trials.

Oct. 20th, North Midland Division : LEICESTERSHIRE 6, DERBYSHIRE 3

Twice last season Leicestershire beat Derbyshire, once 6—3 and once 5—4, and they made a good start to the season by again being successful. Excellent form was shown by the Leicester City goalkeeper, G. Bradley, who, besides playing No. 1 and winning both his singles, also scored in the men's doubles in partnership with P. Burnett. One of Bradley's wins was over D. Walker, who had such a good record last season. For Derbyshire, improved form was shown by R. Tomlinson, who won both his singles.

October 21st : CAMBRIDGESHIRE 4, SUFFOLK 5 (Report by Leslie Constable)

Cornwall played extremely well for Cambs and won both his games comfortably. He has improved considerably since receiving coaching from Ken Craigie. Lawrence was disappointing and with a little more ingenuity would have made the match safe for Cambridge, who at one time were 5—1 down but recovered to 5—4. Williams played well for Suffolk and Miss Martin was very consistent. Mills had an "epic" struggle against Bean (Suffolk) and was warmly applauded after winning in the 2nd after some excellent defensive play. Cornwall and Miss Lawrence played well to win the mixed doubles for Cambridge, but the Cambridge ladies are still the weak link and must improve considerably to compete with other counties on level terms.

October 22nd, Northern Division : DURHAM 4, YORKSHIRE (N. and E. Riding) 5

An extremely close match was only decided on the final game, when Sheader just got the better of Jeal 22—20, 21—19. The six men's singles were shared equally, Roberts winning two for Durham, whilst Sheader, Bishop and Beadle all contributed one for Yorks. Although Mrs. Dodds got the better of Mrs. Bishop in the ladies' singles, Yorkshire won both doubles comfortably, to record a good win.

October 22nd, North Midland Division : LINCOLNSHIRE 4, YORKSHIRE (West Riding) 5

Not to be outdone by their North and East Riding side, the Yorkshire West Riding team also scraped home against Lincolnshire. "Scraped" is the operative word here, for no less than five of the nine ties went to three games, Yorkshire being successful in three of them. M. J. Pitts, making his first appearance for Yorkshire, played well to win both his singles, a feat equalled by the Lincs man Merryweather, who is in great form just now. He was not supported, however, by Skerratt and Runchman, who failed to score a win, although going close. The new Rest of England Champion, Miss Smurthwaite, proved too good for the young Lincoln girl, Miss Munnings, although the second game went to deuce.

Young Giant Killers at Yorks Open

Poor performance by Women finalists

by **ALEC TODD**

Yorkshire Sports Editor

SURPRISES were the order of the day at the Yorkshire Open, when favourites for both the men's and women's singles events were eliminated before the semi-finals.

Winner of the Men's Singles, Ronnie Allcock (his second Open win of the season), reached the final at the expense of Manchester colleague and three consecutive times Yorks champion, Benny Casofsky.

In an evenly matched set, during which Allcock had the best of the hitting exchanges, Benny was beaten on the third game at 21-14 by the 20-year-old Manchester man.

Surprise No. 2 was soon forthcoming when young Yorkshire hope Peter Walton beat Ken Stanley (another strong challenger for the Singles), on the third game at 21-19.

Mrs. Claire (Bullock) Thompson accounted for the Women's Singles favourite Adele Wood in two straight games, 21-19, 21-17, and Peggy Allen (Blackpool) beat Betty Steventon (Nottingham) in two straight games, 21-18, 22-20.

17-year-old Joan Bycroft (Shipley) showed promising form when she beat Jean Smurthwaite (Sheffield), who won the East of England Open and recently played in her first county match. Miss Bycroft later went out, however, to Claire Thomson in the third game.

Youngest entrant, 13-year-old Wendy Blades (Leeds), won her first round of the Women's Singles, and with her coach, Stanley Rosenberg, reached the third round of the Mixed Doubles.

I feel that the less we say about the Women's Singles final, the better. Never have I witnessed a more podgy, uninteresting final. The audience were disgusted with the standard of play shown by the two finalists, when Peggy Allen finally beat Nora Senior (Sheffield) to 13 and 8. Any of the younger players who were knocked out by these two would have put on a much more interesting show.

Indeed, so utterly boring was the performance of these two ladies that the announcer had to call for silence from the audience, who were not paying the slightest interest to the farce in the centre of the floor.

No, if we are to make this game of ours one of the most popular winter sports, we must cut this type of dilly-dallying right out, or the sport loses its name as a spectacle.

The Men's Final, on the other hand, provided a very entertaining match between 17-year-old Bill Pierce (Liverpool) and Ronnie Allcock. Both these young men are very fast hitters, and some forceful rallies were seen. Allcock proved just a little too strong for his younger opponent, however, and won in the fourth game.

The men again provided the thrills in the doubles, when Dougie Shaw and A. T. Holland (both of Manchester) played brilliantly against the strong combination of Stanley and Casofsky, who managed to scrape home at deuce in the third game.

Yorkshire Open (Senior), October 14th-15th.
Played at Thos. Holdsworth Welfare Club,
Drighlington, Bradford. Organised by Yorkshire
T.T.A. Tournament Secretary: A. P. F. Cook.

Coming International?



R. ALLCOCK, Yorks Winner

The Women's Doubles was a big improvement on the singles, Adele Wood and Nora Senior (a new combination) beating Jean Smurthwaite and Jean Davidson on the third game.

Nora Senior featured in her third final with Benny Casofsky when they beat Bobby Roberts (Liverpool) and Betty Steventon on deuce of third game.

Marred only by the Women's Final, the tournament was a great success with over 300 entries, well organised, and the last event being completed soon after 10 p.m.

RESULTS

SEMI-FINALS:

M.S. R. Allcock (Manchester) bt. G. Mitton (Halifax): 19, —15, 19.

W. Pierce (Liverpool) bt. R. E. Roberts (Liverpool): —13, 19, 18.

W.S. Miss N. Senior (Sheffield) bt. Mrs. C. Thomson (Birmingham): 18, 9.

Mrs. P. Allen (Blackpool) bt. Miss M. I. Lightfoot (Leeds): —19, 5, 7.

FINALS:

M.S. R. Allcock bt. W. Pierce: 18, —18, 18, 19.

W.S. Mrs. P. Allen bt. Miss N. Senior: 13, 8.

M.D. B. Casofsky and K. Stanley bt. D. Shaw and A. T. Holland: —15, 21, 21.

W.D. Miss A. Wood and Miss N. Senior bt. Miss J. Smurthwaite and Miss J. Davidson: 19, —15, 18.

X.D. B. Casofsky and Miss Senior bt. R. E. Roberts and Miss B. Steventon: 19, —15, 23.



DENIS IRONMONGER
County Champion

Bedfordshire Beanstalk

Pocket-sized Bedfordshire packs a lively wallop into its David and Goliath act, and is a beehive of progressive ideas, teamwork, rousing rivalry, and nothing but the highest standards. County Chairman, TED PAYNE, has encouraged the county spirit by fine example and hard work.

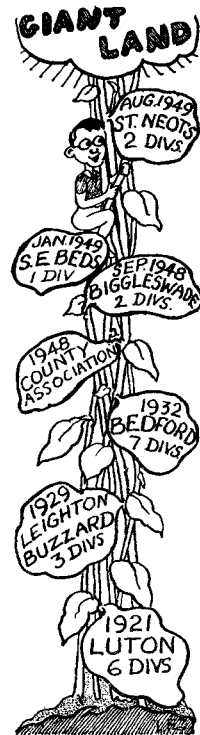
First season in County Championships, Beds was beaten only by Middlesex and Essex, and got the finest home gate records of the Division. Membership quadrupled, and even without all three new leagues, county membership *per capita* is easily highest for whole country. Standards of conduct, dress and umpiring are very high, and developing with the promotion of an Umpire's Code. *Flat hand service was so scrupulously enforced that scores of players started off the same way on the Lawn Tennis courts!*

The three senior leagues each published a monthly news sheet. Bedford offered a prize for a title; and got *The Belfry* as one suggestive hint! Both Bedford and Luton have opened a fund for the building of headquarters, the latter already having over £50. Money-making ideas include dances, socials, exhibitions, draws and mammoth whist drives, conducted with energy and support.

Typical enterprise is shown in Tournaments (four league and County Closed). All Beds Leagues include Divisional events in which players of higher divisions are not eligible to play in a lower division, while the lower division player is encouraged to play not only in his own, but in as many of the higher events as he can. These events prove much more popular than Consolations or Handicaps. Generally improved playing standards made results unpredictable, and each tournament turned out really big surprises and will make the "top boys" redouble their efforts.

Bedford again held their final in the giant Corn Exchange, with the Mayor presenting the prizes for an event which produced a handsome profit, having an entry big enough for an Open. Leighton Buzzard miraculously produced 72 silver cups, a miniature being presented to each member of winning teams.

Biggleswade (first of new leagues), had a similar idea, the Council Chairman presenting a special certificate to each member of winning teams. Three fine new cups had been donated, but the big attraction was in the Singles Champion, FRANKIE BIRD, playing World Champion JOHNNY LEACH, and the Finalist, hard-worked Hon. Sec. RON CRUMMEY, playing JACK CARRINGTON, which was followed by a masterly and popular exhibition. Under the inspiring lead of JIM CODD and RON CRUMMEY, Biggleswade illustrates what *can* be done in a first season with the surprisingly high 21 teams.



PETER HOLROYD
3-Sport County Player

As a footnote, it is worth mentioning that nearly everyone in Bedfordshire seems to read TABLE TENNIS as well as playing it.

A "REGAL" PERFORMANCE

Spotlights on a Lively League.

Few, if any, leagues can have had the opportunity of having a cinema premiere, but Beckenham is a very lively 4-year-old prepared to make the most of any chance. When the Regal Cinema celebrated its 19th birthday recently, the League were invited to put on a 30-minute performance, and must be congratulated on the great care taken to ensure that equipment and staging was up to the highest standards.

Secretary Cecil Burton snatched a few minutes for some healthy propaganda, and managed to include a Men's Doubles, Mixed Doubles and a Men's Singles of exhibition play, before an audience of 2,000 odd. The singles match between Stan Straker and Stan Coles, a vivid contrast in styles, provided some thrilling and spectacular rallies, which were loudly applauded. Without doubt, this exhibition will do a great deal to popularise the sport and aid Beckenham's own expansion, which is already fielding 59 teams in 6 divisions.

LADIES LEAD THE WAY IN BYFLEET

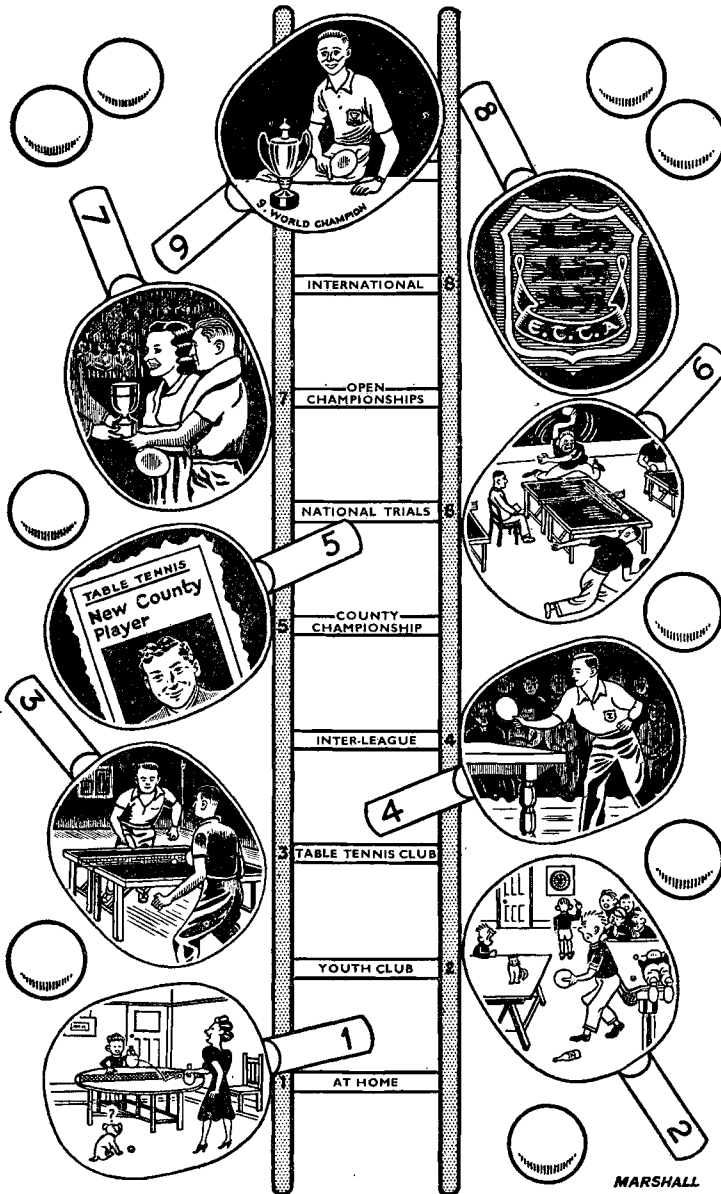
Two-year-old 40-team Byfleet League has already made a big impression on Surrey's activities, with the unusual distinction of the ladies being comparatively the stronger players. Led by Mrs. GEORGE, Hants Open Champion and Surrey, there is valiant support from Mrs. Cox, Miss Chennell and Mrs. McGrath.

The Airscrew T.T. Club staged the County Junior match against Beds with such success that it is expected that Byfleet will be invited to arrange a Premier Division match to still further aid local expansion.

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Mackay, the well-known Birmingham and Warwickshire players, are to be congratulated on the birth of a son to be christened Andrew.

LADDER OF FAME: YOUTH'S INCENTIVE



This is the ladder which exists for any to climb. How far are you going? Are you trying to jump two rungs at one time? Do you realise that the space between each pair of rungs represents practice and study?



OLD BRIGADE HOLDS ITS OWN IN GLOS

IVOR C. EYLES

Numerically small, Gloucestershire is proud of its past year's performances, among which it showed the world how to organise County Matches. It paid away £50 to visiting teams, and yet received only £12.

The "Old Brigade" still holds its own against the many up-and-coming youngsters. In the County Trials at Bristol recently, SIMONS was just SIMONS, never spectacular, but beating everyone up with the greatest of ease. Then came the ageless DAWES, whose polishing off of the Sharman-Head-Crayden combination in last season's Willmott Cup must keep him in the top flight. BOB GRIFFIN (Cheltenham) and CLIFF PICKETT (Bristol) complete the ranking, with no new blood of equivalent standard.

MOLLY JONES (Cheltenham's international) will have to fight hard to keep Bristol's two keen youngsters, MARGARET FRY and TERRY POMROY, from usurping her place.

Cheltenham and Gloucester will both be participating in the Western Counties League, but the strongest playing member, Bristol, had, alas, to withdraw. This misfortune was occasioned by a triple resignation at the A.G.M. of its Treasurer, Match and Tournament Secretaries and no takers, a serious problem for a league of 13 divisions; and with one volunteer at a later date, Art Robinson and I have had to stand again.

WHY NOTTS MUST GO UP

"Get up them stairs" might be the match challenge of Nottingham enthusiasts, who have to climb 94 steps to play in the County Table Tennis Hall, which is run by Mr. Cox, a keen local player. While a small charge is made for a table, there is no extra for the keep-fit exercise entailed.

The hall is open from 1 to 10.30 p.m., and its ten tables soon become booked for the evening, players from every club getting in some first-class practice with one another. One cannot help wondering if this enterprise is not partially responsible for Nottingham's solid and improving strength in this Midland area

WATFORD ENTERPRISE

Joan Ellis, of West Watford, and a keen group with progressive ideas, are determined to push up playing standards in Watford, and recently opened what they call the first "Open" club in the neighbourhood, with the idea that it shall be open to all players.

Eric Edmonds officiated at the ceremonial opening, which may be said to have been HALL-marked with an exhibition match by Wally Hall, who followed this up with individual coaching, which has inspired senior members to coach the juniors. A great and popular start to an enterprise which brings along new members every week.

BIRMINGHAM COLLECT N. MIDLAND HONOURS

Leslie Woollard sums up :

BRISK, COLOURFUL AND LIVELY

THE spirit of Robin Hood and his Merry Men lives on in Sherwood. Robin would have loved the eager, aggressive dare-devilry with which home players challenged the formidable invaders from Birmingham, London, Manchester, Cheltenham, Liverpool and anywhere else in the kingdom.

We loved it, too. It was a brisk, colourful clash of arms. Occasionally, perhaps, one or two of the ladies took the traditional dawdle down Chisel Avenue, but there were still 12 tables for others to batter up the ball bill. And when one hears folks referring to "Green Knicks" and "Pink Pants" as sported by some of the lads, you know it was certainly colourful. It helped to identify players, too.

The Nottingham Juniors were a credit to Cliff Draper's coaching organisation, and look like going places in the future. D. C. BURRIDGE (London) confirmed earlier impressions of determined and enterprising play, and thoroughly merited the Junior title. B. ROBINSON, B. STORER and M. LEACH might be noted. DOROTHE MUNNINGS had no difficulty in the Junior Girls, but showed a tendency to ease against weaker opposition.

Bobby Roberts' protégée, junior A. JONES (Liverpool), showed considerable promise. D. Munnings put her out of the L.S. after losing one game, but, well partnered by ELSIE WEAVER, she reached the doubles final.

D. WALKER (Ashbourn) excited supporters with a shock win over RONNIE ALLCOCK, but anything could happen in this tempestuous tourney. E. G. ANDERSON put GRIFFIN (Cheltenham) out. Then after quieting a fierce HOWARD WALTON, CARRINGTON was shaded by an inspired and berserk D. MERRYWEATHER, who just couldn't do wrong.

Our young friends from Scunthorpe gave us two of the most dramatic and thrilling matches of the tournament in the Semi-Finals of the Ladies and the Mixed Doubles respectively, when Mrs. D. (Newey) Smith and Miss B. Steventon narrowly beat Miss K. Peake and junior Miss D. Munnings 20, —7, 26, and immediately after, then Mr. and Mrs. Smith beat Peter Skerratt and Miss Peake 15, —17, 21. Tremendous and exhilarating.

The semi between LEN ADAMS and HARRY VENNER was full of life and interest. Both are improving players

5th North Midland Open, September 30th—October 1st. Organised by the Nottingham and Mansfield Leagues and played at Eriksson's Telephone Works, Beeston. Tournament Secretary : H. Vickers. Referee : M. Goldstein (Birmingham). 13 tables. Run-back 13 ft.

who will knock off a few cardboard crowns when they acquire that final match-winning bit of confidence, and the result was unpredictable until the last point.

The final, starring WALLY POOLE, of Birmingham, against LEN ADAMS, of London, was a tough and elastic battle going all the five games. Adams, attacking with fire and fury, jumped to a quick 21—8 win in the first game, looking a cert winner all the way. Then the imperturbable Poole appeared to take an interest; with Simons-like calm and effect he took the next two games. The fourth game gave the customers their money's worth with a ding-dong storm and calm, which Adams finally clinched at 25—23 with a really lovely placed drive, to make two games all. Adams had already had a tough 3-game semi with Venner before these four rip-snorting games, and this was not an ideal physical state to fight against a Poole capable of upsetting the best, who rarely lost an opportunity. Even to the last, however, it was a game, heroic contest that pulled no punches to Poole's winning point at 21—15.

The Ladies' Final between BETTY STEVENTON and CLAIRE THOMPSON was a battle of wills, wit and technique. Claire had played impressively throughout the tournament, and lost the first game at 7 through over-enterprise against the traditionally dour wall that is Betty. Then came a conflict of wills that one could sense, and a subtle blending of placing and angling for an opening that finally brought a very worthy victory to Claire Thompson on the second game. Then the score see-sawed point by point, each snatching a lead in turn like jealous rivals, until a cutely placed return from Steventon brought her the odd point needed to keep the trophy.

RESULTS

SEMI-FINALS:

- M.S. W. Poole (Birmingham) bt. D. Merryweather (Lincoln): 10, 13.
L. Adams (London) bt. H. Venner (Surrey): —13, 19, 17.
L.S. Mrs. C. Thompson (Birmingham) bt. Miss E. Weaver (London): 19, 18.
Miss E. M. Steventon (Nottingham) bt. Mrs. Cumberbatch: 24, 17.

FINALS:

- M.S. W. Poole bt. L. Adams: —8, 19, 17, —23, 15.
L.S. Miss E. M. Steventon bt. Mrs. C. Thompson: 7, —18, 20.
M.D. H. T. Venner and L. Adams bt. L. Skins and D. Merryweather: 16, 14.
L.D. Miss E. M. Steventon and Mrs. D. Smith bt. Miss E. Weaver and Miss A. Jones: 14, 17.
X.D. Mr. A. G. Smith and Mrs. D. Smith bt. M. Kriss and Mrs. C. Thompson: 19, 22.
J.S. D. C. Burrige (London) bt. B. T. D. Robinson (Boys) (Stockton-on-Tees): 14, 11.
J.S. Miss D. Munnings (Scunthorpe) bt. Miss S. Eley (Girls) (Nottingham): 10, 20.
J.D.B. B. Storer and A. Watkin bt. G. Paling and J. Ayres: 16, 14.

Tailpiece.

Civil Servants seem to have done very well in this tournament.

Betty Steventon, winner of two events, is Civil Service champion; so is Len Adams, Singles finalist and doubles winner. Finally, Junior winner, Burrige, was Civil Service Junior finalist last April.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1949	Event	Venue	Details and Tickets from
Nov. 7-12	... Eastern Sub-urban Open	North Ilford L.T.C., with finals at Ilford Baths Hall	A. J. P. Leeks, 21, Rutland Road, Ilford, Essex.
Nov. 19-20	... South of England Open (JB, JS)	A.C.C. & T.A.B., Aurelia Road, Croydon	C. E. Bourne, 46, Elm Park Gardens, Selsdon, Surrey.
Nov. 30-Dec. 3	Merseyside Open	Liverpool	W. Stamp, 3, Farmdale Close, Liverpool, 15.
Dec. 2-3	Pontefract Open	Town Hall, Pontefract	S. Hansen, 22, St. Bernard's Avenue, Pontefract.
Dec. 9-10	Welsh Open	Cardiff	Mrs. H. Roy Evans, 16, The Rise, Tymawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.
Dec. 10	Bournemouth Open	Town Hall, Bournemouth	S. F. Brown, 124, Bournemouth Road, Parkstone, Dorset.
Dec. 12-17	Central London Open (JB, JG)	Prince of Wales Baths, Kentish Town, N.W.5	Mrs. E. G. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
Dec. 16	... ENGLAND v. FRANCE	Civic Hall, Wolverhampton	R. H. Colclough, Beaconside, Springhead, Sedgley, Wolverhampton.
1950			
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, Cudwick, 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	Brotherhood Hall, Knights S.E.27	R. 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.

SOME LATER LANDMARKS

Jan. 29-Feb. 5 THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (at Budapest). Feb. 11 North of England Open. 13-18 Middlesex (Herga) Open. 23-25 Midland Open. 27-Mar. 3 Surrey Open. Mar. 4 Yorkshire Junior Open. 7-11 THE ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (in London).	Mar. 17-18 West of England Open (at Torquay). 25 Grimsby Open. April 1-2 Buckinghamshire Open (at Slough). 8-10 North-East England Open. 12-14 West Middlesex Open. and 17-22 WALES v. ENGLAND JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL (in Wales). April 1 May 1-6 Thameside Open.
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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Yorkshire 1; Middlesex 8.
 Lancashire 4; Warwickshire 5.
 Surrey 4; Essex 5.

JUNIOR DIVISION

Essex 8; Surrey 1.
 Surrey 6; Bedfordshire 3.
 Kent 3; Middlesex 6.

NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION

Lincolnshire 4; Yorks (W. Riding) 5.
 Leicestershire 6; Derbyshire 3.

HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

Buckinghamshire 6; Hertfordshire 3.
 Bedfordshire 9; Berkshire 0.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Kent 3; Surrey 6.
 Devonshire 6; Hampshire 3.

EAST ANGLIAN DIVISION

Cambridgeshire 4; Suffolk 5.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Cumberland 0; Northumberland 9.
 Durham 4; Yorks (N. and E. Riding) 5.

NOVEMBER FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION

Middlesex v. Essex (November 22nd, Paddington Baths).
 Surrey v. Lancashire (November 18th, Epsom).
 Yorkshire v. Gloucestershire (November 12th, Leeds).
 Warwickshire v. Yorkshire (November 26th, Birmingham).
 Middlesex v. Lancashire (November 19th, Uxbridge).
 Gloucestershire v. Warwickshire (November 19th, Gloucester).

JUNIOR DIVISION

Bedfordshire v. Hertfordshire (November 17th, Luton).
 Middlesex v. Surrey (November 24th, Paddington Baths).
 Kent v. Essex (November 26th, Gravesend).

NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION

Yorkshire v. Leicestershire (November 19th, Keighley).
 Derbyshire v. Yorkshire (November 12th, Ashbourne).
 Leicestershire v. Lincolnshire (November 12th, Leicester).

NORTHERN DIVISION

Durham v. Cumberland (November 12th, Sunderland).
 Yorkshire v. Northumberland (November 26th, Hull).

HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

Hertfordshire v. Bedfordshire (November 26th, St. Albans).
 Essex v. Buckinghamshire (November 26th, Chelmsford).

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hampshire v. Surrey (November 12th, Bournemouth).
 Kent v. Devonshire (November 12th, Broadstairs).
 Devonshire v. Surrey (November 26th, Plymouth).

EAST ANGLIAN DIVISION

Suffolk v. Middlesex (November 3rd, Lowestoft).
 Norfolk v. Cambridgeshire (November 26th, Kings Lynn—provisional).