

# TABLE TENNIS



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(Middlesex)

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ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS NUMBER

# Table



# Tennis

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## *Only YOU can decide this*

**S**HALL we, can we, have the World's Table Tennis Championships in England in 1954?

This question is placed squarely before the Table Tennis players of this country—who alone can answer it—in a letter recently sent by the E.T.T.A. to every club secretary.

Gone are the days when the World Championships could be paid for by a few private enthusiasts, or out of entry fees or seat sales. Our sport is one of the widest in the world, embracing more than 50 countries. Catering properly for the event, in the sense both of sport and hospitality, involves nowadays a loss of about £4,000. In England, we do not enjoy the possibilities of municipal or state subsidy that are sometimes available abroad. Only our own fans can bring the event here. Is it worth while?

England's place in the Table Tennis world is a proud one. In no sport is our word and example more generally respected. The active national organisation in county, league and club is envied as a model. The standard of equipment and conditions is regarded as the highest. The playing standard, senior and junior, is also justly respected. In this year's World Championships—the first for several years from which we returned without a title—English entries won runner-up places in 5 out of 7 events, and a 19-year-old was a semi-finalist in a 6th event.

Our tournament regulations and umpiring interpretations are recognised as fair and unbiassed. Our contributions to such ticklish questions as the amateur-professional problem, and the maintenance of universal sporting friendship amidst the international tensions of the present day have not been small.

How much have hundreds of thousands of our people gained from Table Tennis and how much have we given to the world, since the time, 25 years ago, when, together with the late Mr. Pope, we founded the E.T.T.A. in its present form and the international game!

Can we keep this up? Do we wish to do so? The World Championships are an indispensable means. On the one hand they represent the chance to show the best of English ways, English sportsmanship, to the half of humanity now newly entering our sport since Bombay. On the other, they represent the chance to show the best new skills of all the world as inspiration to our country's youth.

Is this worth a sacrifice? Officials cannot answer. Only clubs, only players—by telling us if they will raise, during the next two years, £1 guarantee contributions—can give a decision. These times are difficult, but may the response be worthy of our country and the game we love.

**IVOR MONTAGU,**

Chairman, English T.T.A.

### ★ IMPORTANT ★

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#### WELSH EDITION

All enquiries for the Welsh Edition of Table Tennis, which incorporates all the latest news of Welsh activities in addition, should be sent direct to Mrs. N. Roy Evans, "The Rise," 16, Ty-Mawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.

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# Random Shots

by A. R. (Tony) Miller

**A** PART from occasional broken legs caused by slippery floors and bangs on the head from a violent partner, table tennis may be considered a fairly safe game unlike, for instance, chess. In the far-off days when huge boards were used, Renaud of Montauban killed Bertolai, nephew of Charlemagne with one after he had been checkmated. Nowadays we endeavour to control our feelings a little more.

★ ★ ★

**I**T is not true that the tracks attributed to the "Abominable Snowman" were left by "Barefoot Bill" McCave who had lost his way *en route* to Canvey Island after playing in a northern tournament.

★ ★ ★

**A**N old acquaintance in my Surrey club recently told me that, being dissatisfied with the results (i.e., painful lack of) he had obtained playing with his natural right hand style he had now changed to the left hand side. He claims to have ironed out all his right hand bad strokes and to be playing ten times better than before. He is not ambidexterous either, but, unfortunately for our story he is not a good player.

★ ★ ★

**"D**OUR BUT FIRM," "A STEADY RALLY," "QUIETLY STEADY," "LONG RALLIES," "A HEAVY DAY," "GOOD CONDITIONS" "BRISK ACTIVITY," "STERN COMPETITION." From last month's *Table Tennis*? Not quite. Stock Exchange headings from a leading newspaper.

Page Two

**W**ITH the advance of table tennis as a national sport, so the number of players increases who are prepared to give it their whole time and to depend on it for their livelihood. Tournament results indicate that these players—professionals in all but name—will win, and their occasional defeats by amateurs only illustrates that they have insufficient practice with other professionals to maintain their form. Though it may never be necessary to separate professionals from amateurs in the monetary sense and certainly never the ridiculous ostracism practised by some other sports, it may eventually prove useful to hold occasional tournaments confined to amateurs.

★ ★ ★

**G**EOFF COULTHREAD, contributor to the table tennis magazines, is both hard-working and versatile. His T.T. activities include administrative work in the South London and the Wandsworth Leagues, county umpiring (here his ability to count up to 21 is a great asset) and being Secretary of the Wimbledon Y.M.C.A. teams. His interests are wide, and have included broadcasting, writing, and stage-work, while his Admiralty post has enabled him to see the East. He is a first-rate club cricketer and represents the Y.M.C.A. at Billiards, Snooker and Badminton. After a long spell in Singapore Geoff is quickly getting used to English conditions and is so far unbeaten in the Wandsworth League. Those who knew him before he went "East" wondered what effect these strange and mysterious places might have on him. They need not have wondered. To the delight of his friends, Geoff is still as Coultheadian as ever.

A. R. Miller

## UMPIRE'S CORNER

### I 'faulted' Haguenuer

**A**T the recent International match between England and France at Bristol I had the honour to officiate as one of the Umpires.

My first game was between Aubrey Simons and Michel Haguenuer. The latter's third service was delivered from an almost cupped hand and in a backward direction towards the right shoulder! I immediately "faulted" Haguenuer as, in my opinion, apart from being a bad service, more "chop" can be imparted on a ball delivered in a backward direction.

During an animated (but quite friendly!) discussion after the game, Michel assured me that the Service Rule is not strictly or rigidly adhered to by umpires in France. I am afraid that, if such conditions are prevalent on the Continent, the International Service Rule is a farce.

As the evening at Bristol continued, it was obviously apparent that Michel Haguenuer's remarks were correct. All the Frenchmen served from almost cupped hands and, in numerous instances, threw the ball in a backward direction. Whilst no point was won direct from a service, it does seem a queer state of affairs that visiting players of international status do not even attempt to serve to rule.

County umpires in this country are frequently being told to enforce the rule very strictly on every occasion. It, therefore, seems pointless to be harsh with British club players who, in most cases I find, are *trying* to serve correctly, if such a position prevails on the Continent.

It would appear that the I.T.T.F., who, after all, made the rule, are somehow not "putting it over" amongst their member countries.

I would, therefore, welcome the opinion of the I.T.T.F. Executive (and county umpires!) on this—(the Umpires' Nightmare!)—the Service Rule.

D. N. Andrew,

County Umpire No. 50.

# London holds both Cups for Third Year

**WILMOTT CUP ... SOUTH LONDON**  
**J. M. ROSE BOWL ... WEST LONDON**

## The Wilmott Cup Final

By R. St. G. GOOD

Birmingham, 8th March, 1952

**I**N the first semi-final CHARLIE SEAMAN (Brighton), veteran Swaythling Cup international caused a surprise by beating Harry Venner in the opening match.

Ron Crayden, after playing well in the afternoon, had a bad final, and lost three games for the first time in one Wilmott Cup match. Jackie Head has won all his matches in the quarter, semi and final of the competition, beating no less than 5 internationals including 3 Swaythling Cup players. Bernard Crouch is showing a return to form and regaining his confidence, while Thornhill fought all the way but only touched top form against Venner.

Jimmy Lowe started off in storming style with a two straight win over Crayden, then Jack Head levelled against Thornhill with a mixture of heavy chop and top-spin attack and never allowing his opponent to settle down. Crouch caused Head trouble with his backhand in their first game, but Head changed his game and chopped Crouch off in the second and third.

With South London leading 4—2 VENNER v. THORNHILL presented the finest table tennis seen in this series with fierce counter-hitting rallies through three games that had the audience fairly on their toes. Venner took the first game at 18, and with Thornhill leading 20-18 in the second came a tight battle, in which the silence was electric, Thornhill finally settling at 24-22. In the third game, Thornhill built up a 15-10 lead, and Staines supporters raised the roof, but then—throwing everything into attack—Venner, hitting like a bomb, blasted his way to a grandstand 21-19 victory, making a fitting end to a grand match which gave South London the Wilmott Cup for the 3rd successive year.

R. Good

# Table Tennis Fans



An unconventional portrait of Hon. Ivor Montagu, Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association and President of the International Table Tennis Federation, with Pandit Jawarhalal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, at a Table Tennis Match in New Delhi

## J. M. Rose Bowl Details

Semi-Final:

**BIRMINGHAM 9—BEDFORD 0**

Details

**Birmingham:** Mrs. M. Cumberbatch, Miss J. Mackay, Miss P. Mortimer.  
**Bedford:** Mrs. B. Carter, Mrs. E. Aldridge, Mrs. K. Collings.

Cumberbatch bt. Carter 18, 11; bt. Aldridge 9, 9. Mackay bt. Carter —17, 11, 13; bt. Collings 15, —18, 17. Mortimer bt. Aldridge 16, 10; bt. Collings —19, 7, 16. Cumberbatch/Mortimer bt. Aldridge/Collins 20, —19, 18. Cumberbatch/Mackay bt. Aldridge/Carter 13, 17. Mackay/Mortimer bt. Carter/Collings 16, 17.

Semi-Final:

**WEST LONDON 7—BRISTOL 2**

Details

**West London:** Miss R. Rowe, Miss D. Rowe, Miss D. Ellis.  
**Bristol:** Miss M. Fry, Miss Pomroy, Miss Collier.

R. Rowe bt. Collier 15, 18; lost Pomroy 19, —20, —10. D. Rowe bt. Fry 14, 15; bt. Collier 20, 14. Ellis bt. Collier 16, —18, 16; lost Pomroy 12, —11, —11. R. & D. Rowe bt. Fry/Pomroy 20, 9. Ellis/R. Rowe bt. Collier/Pomroy 16, 16. Ellis/D. Rowe bt. Collier/Fry 14, —15, 11.

FINAL:

**WEST LONDON 6—  
BIRMINGHAM 3**

Details

R. Rowe bt. Mackay 8, 12; bt. Cumberbatch 19, 20. D. Rowe bt. Mortimer 17, —15, 18; bt. Cumberbatch 14, 16. Ellis lost Mackay —19, 14, —16; lost Mortimer —15, —19. D. & R. Rowe bt. Cumberbatch/Mackay 12, 20. Ellis/D. Rowe bt. Cumberbatch/Mortimer 9, 18. Ellis/R. Rowe lost Mackay/Mortimer —19, —15.

## Wilmott Cup Details

Semi-Final:

**SOUTH LONDON 5—  
BRIGHTON 1**

Details

**South London:** H. Venner, R. Crayden, J. Head.  
**Brighton:** C. Seaman, S. Moore, P. Shead.

Venner lost Seaman—19, 15, —14; bt. Shead 14, —18, 16. Crayden bt. Seaman —15, 15, 17; bt. Moore 10, 12. Head bt. Moore 9, 14; bt. Shead 19, 14.

Semi-Final:

**STAINES 7—HUDDERSFIELD 1**

Details on Page 10

FINAL:

**SOUTH LONDON 6—STAINES 3**

Venner bt. Crouch 13, —11, 14; bt. Lowe 14, 13; bt. Thornhill 18, —24, 19. Crayden lost Lowe 19, 16; lost Thornhill 18, 8; lost Crouch —16, 16, —14. Head bt. Thornhill —17, 13, 11; bt. Crouch —16, 11, 14; bt. Lowe 17, 17.

## Midland Open Championships

Report on Page 10

Birmingham, March, 1952

**M.S. J. LEACH** bt. B. Kennedy 17, 18, 14.

**W.S. R. ROWE** bt. D. Rowe 16, —14, 12.

**M.D. E. FILBY/J. LEACH** bt. P. Cruwys/R. Griffin 11, 6.

**W.D. D. & R. ROWE** ht. Y. Baker/E. Grimstone 15, 13.

**X.D. J. LEACH/D. ROWE** bt. B. Kennedy/C. Best 9, 17.

**B.S. B. MERRETT** bt. W. England, 18, —11, 19.



# JUBILEE ENGLISH OPEN

RESULTS ON PAGE 13

## REPORTS BY

Jack Carrington . . . Pinkie Barnes  
A. R. (Tony) Miller . . . Peter Madge

## MEN'S SINGLES

By A. R. (Tony) Miller

(who reached the 4th Round of the M.S. for the second year running)

THE early rounds were remarkable mainly for the dearth of "surprises." Rene Roothoft below his best, found the Wembley tornado Alan Rhodes in top form and lost narrowly in an exciting match. This effort sapped Alan's reserves and he never looked like beating Gloucestershire's Bob Griffin, who, seizing his opportunity with both hands, beat a nervous C. Osterholm of Sweden in the quarter-final and went on to oppose Leach in the semi-final round, and gave a good account of himself without ever extending the former world champion.

Leach, playing as well as he has ever done in this country chopped an over-hasty Dolinar to rapid destruction in their quarter-final match, and showed his best counter-hitting skill in some fine rallies.

Bergmann, obviously resolved to get his match with Ehrlich over with all possible speed, hit well on both wings and a novice might have been excused for supposing that both were attacking players.

Vilmos Harangozo maintained a brilliant all-round standard of play in beating Amouretti with surprising ease. The Yugo-Slav has a forehand drive and side-spin kill which is most deceptive in its hidden power. He is now one of the greatest players in the world; his one weakness appears to be an uncertain temperament. Bryan Merrett, after a time-limit picnic with Thornhill, made no impression on Michel Lansky, who himself lost to Dolinar in a later round. Roy Turner beat international Ronnie Baker and then lost a thriller 17 in the fifth to Lancashire's Ronnie Allcock. Jack Carrington beat Adams and made Amouretti work hard for his win. Derek Burrige played a sound tactical game and controlled his exuberance well against the still dangerous Bubley. Burrige went on to beat Malmquist 3-0 and lose an excellent battle 1-3 to Amouretti, who had beaten Venner 3-0 in a first round clash. Thornhill once again exercised his superiority over Ron Crayden, Harrower beat Eric

Filby 3-1 and Leach beat Brian Kennedy. The last two matches exhibited four players whose strokes are clean and attractively produced.

Bergmann's semi-final with Harangozo was a really excellent match with many superlative exchanges. Bergmann began somewhat nervously and throughout the match treated Harangozo with great respect, for the Slav's forehand side-spin kill often left him standing. Bergmann seemed a fraction less speedy in defence, a shade heavier in movement—now and again a drop shot beat him—an incredible happening. Bergmann counteracted this by hitting brilliantly forehand and backhand—one backhand after a solid defensive game remains vividly in the memory. In the end Harangozo grew impatient and lost his best control, but not before a stern contest had been witnessed. The Bergmann-Leach final was another brilliant display of world class table tennis. Bergmann began by hitting Leach off, game 6, but Leach matching Bergmann in consistency, fought back and won the next at 18. The third game saw Leach's concentration relax momentarily and Bergmann, exerting terrific pressure and HITTING whenever possible won at 12. The next game was also a great struggle, resulting in an 18 win and the title for the fifth time for Bergmann, thus equalling Barna's long-standing record. Leach was, however, a most worthy loser and was great in defeat, showing his best form ever seen here.

## MEN'S DOUBLES

IN this event Harangozo and Dolinar swept all their opponents away in three straight games. Defence proved ineffective against them and none of their opponents could sustain a strong enough attack to counter-hit them off the table. Their strength at doubles is their great speed, difficult services and the unusual fact that both can kill the ball from a variety of angles. Craigie and Venner beat Barna/Bergmann 3-2, mainly through Bergmann's failure to follow-up his partner's attacking shots.

Roy Turner and Paul Brook of Surrey did extremely well to demolish Amouretti/Ehrlich and Craigie/Venner in straight games. Lowe/Thompson beat Crayden/Filby 3-0, and Roothoft/

Lansky of France beat Leach/Carrington 3-2 after the English pair had looked like winners.

## MIXED DOUBLES

THE most brilliant of the many tense struggles in this event was that of Barna/Rosalind Rowe and Harangozo/Wertl in the semi-final. Two games down and 16-19 down Barna/Rowe yet fought back to 9-9 in the fifth. The change of order favoured Harangozo/Wertl and his services baffled Ros. The stronger hitting pair won but not until a splendid exhibition of doubles had been seen, in many ways better than any men's doubles in the championships.

Craigie/Roberts beat Crayden and Winn (conquerors of Ehrlich/Bates) and Carrington/Carrington, and led Leach/Diane Rowe 2-1 before losing a good match.

The final between Harangozo/Wertl and Leach/D. Rowe was excellent, both pairs hitting well with Leach/Rowe the more accurate.

## ESSEX CLOSED

Plaistow, March 22nd, 1952

Jack Carrington, original holder of the Men's Singles, in first season of this competition, 1938-39, entered for the second time after an interval of 13 years.

He recaptured his title in convincing style, beating County players Bill McCave and Brian Brumwell in straight sets, and clinching a marathon battle with Bergmann-esque Les Sawyer, in the final by 3-2.

The final lasted 55 minutes, with Jack sweeping through the first two games by all-out attack, only to find Sawyer's tenacity pinning him down to slow driving in the next two. Experience and tactics enabled the international to outwit the rising County star in the 5th game by a contrast of slow-motion and "blitz".

Yvonne Baker, last year's Junior winner, claimed the women's singles title by a hard-punching victory over Barbara Milbank.

56-year-old Harry Melnick, terror of the early 1930's in the London League, contested the veterans' final against England ex-veteran champion Harry Sugarhood, whose speed won the day.

## The Women's Events

by PINKIE BARNES

WE Englishwomen still have a lot to learn. We become petrified by penholders from Japan and then our leading lady player is taken by surprise by a young Austrian's whirlwind tactics. The Women's Singles Final was spoilt for me because Rosalind Rowe was so obviously put out by the onslaught. The ebullient Linde bubbled over so much that every time she served the ball neither the umpire nor Rosalind quite knew what was happening. When the rallies did get under way Linde's hitting was superb and Rosalind had brilliant patches of counter-attacking. But her copy-book defence, beautiful to watch, was no match for the aggressive Linde who soon blotted it effectively. Rosalind was definitely upset by the speed of the attack. The point is, should the umpire himself have used aggressive tactics and pulled Linde up for her service? I must admit that Rosalind's game seems to have altered in the last year—she relies on her defence much more than in the past. But in this particular case the speed of the game was too much for her.

There were one or two notable achievements in the earlier rounds. I give bouquets to the following players: Joy Seaman (well in the running for International honours) who took Linde Wertl to four games and won the second by counter-attacking; the amazonian Audrey Bates who also fought desperately against Linde and only lost 21/16 in the fifth. Lastly, Peggy Franks who beat Trudi Pritzi at her own game and won the last two games on a time limit, 9/8, 5/2. When she was 2-1 down, Peggy gritted her teeth and dug in. She said the thought of my marathon with Trudi last year flashed through her mind. She decided an English girl had just got to beat her in the English Open. While I still hold firmly to my views about time limits, I'm very glad Peggy broke the Trudi hoodoo.

The Women's Doubles went rather as one would expect, although Doris Atherton/Peggy Piper deserve mention for their win against the Welsh pair A. Bates/J. Beer. And the Joy Seaman/Jean Winn combination performed mightily against the Rowe twins.

The final was fought out between the Rowe twins and Franks/Roberts. The first game started off rather shakily, and when Peggy's backhand began to work about half-way through, the twins lost some valuable ground and finished up with the score 21/16 against them. This set-back galvanized the twins into action and in the next three games they showed better form, winning 5, 16, 11. But it was a great pity the audience were unable to see these four in top form.

## "Winners' Wake"

by JACK CARRINGTON

(The Path to the Titles)

Championships can be decided in various ways. Sometimes the winners can be seen from the first round, striding boldly down the broad highway, brushing aside the opposition as it reveals itself. At other times a winner's progress resembles that of a traveller in a hostile jungle, slipping precariously through the gaps and snatching thankfully at unexpected respites.

RICHARD BERGMANN, our 1952 Men's Singles Champion, wins because he's so eminently adaptable. He knows just when to press boldly along the highway, and when to revert to stalking tactics. Elsewhere you will read of his mighty clash of honour with Leach at the Final cross-roads, of his complete bamboozlement of the gallant and could-be-dangerous Harangozo in the semi.

Before that, in the quarter-final, the obstacle of Ehrlich loomed up. And, believe me, Ehrlich can be some obstacle. He has specialised in being an Obstacle for 20 years.

Bergmann assaulted him head-on. With a snappier backhand drive than he has ever shown before, he pressed Ehrlich's classic backhand defence until the opportunities came for "execution" with his cross-court forehand. Every so often he allowed Ehrlich to "have a go," but this was decidedly a Bergmann with a difference—the legendary defender was looking for attacking openings nearly all the time.

One suspects that this new, all-round stroke policy, is part of Bergmann's plan to flier back at the Japanese top-spin attackers. Richard has always maintained that every defeat is a free lesson.

Earlier stepping stones to the quarter-final were:—

**1st Round—v. I. Shifrin (21-6, 21-8, 21-5).**

The young South African student with the Rabbinical beard looked over-awed but grateful for the experience.

**2nd Round—v. M. Kriss (21-7, 21-10, 21-16).**

This was not quite the tenacious Maurice Kriss whom we knew before his recent injury to his back, but his placed chops called forth respectful concentration from the Champion.

His few drives looked what they were—gambling against the Bank. But... what would you do, chum?

**3rd Round—v. M. Isaacs (21-12, 21-8, 21-14).**

Diminutive Maurice Isaacs, star Middlesex junior a couple of years back, was playing good stuff. He had beaten two pre-war internationals in Hugh Jones and Alec Brook in his previous rounds.

Bergmann, while obviously master, played every ball on its merits, leaving one more young opponent with that feeling of having been put in his place but not discouraged.

**4th Round—v. K. Collar (21-5, 21-11, 21-19).**

The unpredictable Keith, Essex County team man and Clapton Orient footballer, looked very dangerous when beating the greatly-improving young Swede Rönmark. Accordingly Bergmann showed a glint of the steel in the first game, just to forestall any argument.

Collar's 19 in the 3rd game was, however, well-earned by his remarkable wide-angled (left-hand) forehand driving mixed neatly with drop-shots.

Richard won through his 4 "straight-forward" rounds in a way which few can emulate. Facing weaker opponents, he somehow always resists the twin temptation of either (a) making the opponent look small, or (b) stacking off his own play before 21 is recorded.

LINDE WERTL, Women's Singles winner, has no such magic reputation nor uncanny ball control as Bergmann, to help tame her opponents. For her it was a clear-cut victory of youthful speed and fight. Her stepping stones were:—

**1st Round—v. S. Tegner (21-11, 21-10, 21-11).**

Signhild Tegner, Swedish junior champion, did well to notch so many points, answering ferocity with serenity.

(continued at foot of col. 3)

## Junior Events

by PETER MADGE

### BOYS' JUNIOR SINGLES

Surprise feature of this event was the early elimination of the Swedish players. Bo Malmquist (holder) lost in the first round to Ivor Jones by 7, 20, 19. Jeff Ingber waited 13 months for his revenge of Curt Skaj, and got it in the second round by 19, 18, 13. Gerhard Rönmark squeezed past Ray Dorking by 20, 24, 17, and lost to Merrett in the quarter-final 14, 20. Other quarter-finals, with names of previous victims in brackets, were: England (Darts) bt. Jones, 19, 19; Freundorfer (Knight) bt. Hous (Sugarhood) 15, 5; Inzber (Eagles, Wickelholz) bt. Raybould (Stauermann) 15, 12, 19.

**Semi-Finals:** Billy England failed to stem the tidal wave of attack that flowed from Konrad Freundorfer and went down by 8 and 17. The German boy maintains an incredibly fast tempo and hits with equal facility on either wing. In the other semi Bryan Merrett won two spirited games against Jeff Ingber, tenacity telling where strategy failed.

**Final:** A combination of speed and angles gave Freundorfer victory over Merrett by 12 and 14. None of the Englishman's defensive tactics affected his opponent and Merrett could only wilt before the onslaught.

### GIRLS' JUNIOR SINGLES

Only surprise here was Sharon Koehnke's win over Doreen Spooner by 18 and 15 in the semi-final. In the other half Jill Rook dealt quite efficiently with Philomena Heppell to enter the final; earlier Jill had beaten Ulla Paulsen, German junior champion.

**Final:** Jill played a patient attacking game and chose the right ball to punch through Sharon's defence. There were tense moments at the end of the second game but the more complete player won through.

### BOYS' JUNIOR DOUBLES

Ingber/Newton breathed again after beating Freundorfer/Stauermann 24-22, 21-19 in the quarter-final and went on to defeat House/Merrett by 19 and 15. Narrow squeaks seemed to be the order of the day... Darts/Dorking got home by 19, 10, 20 against Malmquist/Skaj and then lost the semi-final to Danton/Eagles 20, 13, 19, after leading 19-16 in the third.

**Final:** Danton and Eagles appeared the smoother combination and out-generated Ingber and Newton; the latter pair playing rather nervously on this occasion.

(continued from col. 2)

**2nd Round—v. Y. J. Seaman (21-19, 21-23, 21-17, 21-16).**

Joy Seaman of Middlesex, agile, strong attacker with an exceptional control of length, at times looked the Perfect Table Tennis Player. Only tremendous fighting spirit on Linde's part kept those Exit doors closed.

**3rd Round—v. M. Fry (21-13, 21-8, 21-9).**

International Margaret Fry held down the biting top-spin drives quite well so long as they came to the same spot each time. But she was oh-so-vulnerable to the Wertl cross-over slap kick, and must be thinking hard now about improving her anticipation and lateral movement.

**4th Round—v. D. Rowe (21-12, 21-11, 21-17).**

A simple story. England's No. 2 ranking girl was defeated by superior speed and "fire," despite some good retrieving. Tom-boy beats Lady.

**5th Round—v. A. Bates (15-21, 21-19, 21-18, 8-21, 21-16).**

This was the match. Audrey Bates, with her long reach, subtle half-volley touch, and tactical driving, appeared at first to have solved the problem of confining the Austrian Genie in a Welsh bottle.

Short jabs to the backhand corner allowed neither time nor space for Linde's miracle-whip forehand drives.

Miss Wertl demonstrated her graduation from the "good youngster" class when she slowed down, re-organised her half-volley play, and finally lured Audrey to exhaust herself in her own speed trap.

The Final is described elsewhere.

# What Table Tennis is Costing You

by TOM BLUNN

Chairman, Lancs. T.T.A.

IT MAY seem a little late in the season to be considering the financial accounts of the E.T.T.A. for the 1950/51 season, but as the accounts are published only in the official Handbook one has to await the publication of the latter. This year the handbook is later than ever and one begins to wonder if it is really worth while to publish a handbook with four of the seven months' season over and done with.

The accounts were actually prepared and audited by the 19th September, 1951, which is earlier than in any previous; a fact which calls for hearty congratulations to the treasurer.

I feel that it is necessary to extend the scope of this article to cover the future financial position of the Association in addition to considering the published accounts. I have made a brief summary of the main items with the comparative figures for the previous year and these are printed below.

First a word of warning. This year's accounts are by no means as healthy as last year's and I cannot see that next year's are going to be much better. The saturation point seems to have been reached for affiliation fees, with the present rate of subscription, and the maximum revenue from this source, after deducting the county rebates, will remain at about £2,800. But the essential cost of administration continues to grow and this year has reached the sum of £3,388. There is, therefore, an ever-increasing gap which has to be closed by other income. This other income is subject to varying conditions which could affect materially the amount raised. To cut down the expenditure is a difficult task and indeed there is every indication that it will be heavier again next year. Salaries have accounted for £1,010 and this figure will certainly be higher if, and when, incorporation takes place. Travelling expenses are up from £316 to £438 and the recent increases in rail fares and hotel accommodation will not help matters in the future. The rent has now been fixed at £420 p.a., which is more than treble the rent of the old offices. Such items as light, heat, postages, telephones and stationery have remained constant at about £900 in total and this figure will probably be maintained.

As the Association is under an obligation to provide each member with an official handbook each season I have shown the cost of the handbook as an addition to the cost of administration. The cost this year works out at a little over one shilling and sixpence each. This is a heavy burden to bear and the future position wants serious consideration.

The gap, however, between the cost of administration and the receipts

from affiliation fees continues to widen: 1948—£111, 1949—£134, 1950—£317 and now 1951—£625. Hitherto the gap has been closed by the Association's unearned income from ball and shirt rebates and Open Tournament fees. These sources are now bringing up to £1,000 a year and have become a major factor in the Association's budget. The English Open usually accounts for the surplus of income over expenditure each season, but this year there is no surplus. In fact, last year's surplus of £1,579 has been turned into a deficit of £169. This deficit would have been even more had not the treasurer crept behind the iron curtain and brought back £52 due from Europe Cup matches some years previously. Thus there has been a swing over of about £1,800 and the reduced profit on the English Open only accounts for £950 of this. The widening of the gap has accounted for a further £300 and the remainder has arisen out of the normal course of the Association's business. A particu-

lar disappointment is the reduced surplus on the international matches which has fallen from £129 to £35. Other activities have produced less profit or cost more money, and two new items of expenditure, Coaching and Umpire Schemes have cost £230, but most people will agree that this is money well spent.

Although the cost of sending our teams to the World's has remained around £500 it is expected that the cost of the Bombay trip during the current season will be double that amount.

Where do you, the player, come in. Well, to put it simply, it costs the players 5½d. each in affiliation fees and out of that sum the county takes 3d. Out of the balance comes one penny per player for the cost of the handbook, leaving 3½d. to administer the game. Not very much when you realise that the fixed rent of the offices alone works out at 3d. per player.

The Balance Sheet which is summarised below contains no special problems and there is every reason to believe that the assets will realise at their book values. Although the stock of umpires badges is shown the stocks of stationery and office equipment have not been taken into account and to that extent there is a hidden reserve.

## THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for the year end 30th June, 1951

	1951.	1950.		1951.	1950.
	£	£		£	£
Administration ... ..	2,879	2,480	Affiliation Fees ... ..	3,171	2,937
Add: Cost of Handbooks ...	509	409	Less: County Rebates ...	408	365
	<u>£3,388</u>	<u>£2,889</u>		<u>£2,763</u>	<u>£2,572</u>
World Championships ... ..	519	552	Registered Players Fees ...	90	81
Other Tournaments, etc. ...	136	85	Open Tournament Fees ...	294	253
Visits abroad, etc. ... ..	168	272	Ball and Shirt Rebate ...	691	780
Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl	60	111	Donations ... ..	12	14
Trials ... ..	32	47	Interest ... ..	38	3
Dress ... ..	150	21	Publications ... ..	67	65
Testimonial Funds ... ..	42	150	International Matches ...	35	129
Coaching Scheme ... ..	163	—	English Open Championships	515	1,462
Umpires' Scheme ... ..	68	—	Europe Cup (1948/49) ...	52	187
Profit on Season ... ..	—	1,579	Daily Mirror Tournament ...	—	160
	<u>£4,726</u>	<u>£5,706</u>	Loss on Season ... ..	169	—
				<u>£4,726</u>	<u>£5,706</u>

Summary of Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 1951

Liabilities		Assets			
	£	£			
Income and Expenditure Account:			Cash at Bank ... ..	1,971	3,849
Balance at 1st July, 1950...	3,270	1,691	Cash in Hand ... ..	42	83
Add/Deduct: Balance for			Investments ... ..	1,000	—
the year ... ..	—169	+1,579	Sundry Debtors ... ..	1,041	277
Balance carried forward ...	<u>£3,101</u>	<u>£3,270</u>	Umpires Badges ... ..	91	—
Sundry Creditors ... ..	676	398			
Magazine Fund ... ..	50	50			
Comity Cup Fund ... ..	30	30			
Testimonial Fund ... ..	288	452			
	<u>£4,145</u>	<u>£4,200</u>		<u>£4,145</u>	<u>£4,200</u>



# E. & O. E.\*

(\*Errors and Omissions Excepted)

**H**APPY may be the man who can, with supine serenity, mark his bills E. & O.E. Even calculating machines can err and accountants can qualify the accuracy of their work. But not an Editor. He is like a football referee with whom at least one spectator must disagree. Perhaps it is this similarity of hazard that causes most Editors to remain anonymous, and remote from the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune!"

The Editorship of *Table Tennis* is a trusteeship to be administered in the best interests of the game. It seeks to give truth, knowledge, instruction and entertainment, and to provide the fullest possible access to the truth and the widest divergencies of view-point. It is partial to those things of good repute; intolerant of those customs which would harm or stultify the game. It is conscious of the traditions of English sportsmanship and the significance of the word *amateur*.

It welcomes constructive criticisms; they are signposts of progress. When errors are made, as they must in the nature of things be made, then we like to be told so that they can be corrected. When you are fortified by truth and sincerity you are not afraid of making mistakes (and profiting by the experience) and neither are you scared of admitting or apologising for that mistake.

## Correction Corner

To illustrate the things which can happen to the most zealous of editors, three black marks in the March issue:—

**No. 1.** The article "In The Open" and the cartoon accompanying it—credit to Doreen and Beryl Spooner—were in actual fact the work of

### DOREEN LEVY and BERYL PURKISS

to whom we thus pay belated acknowledgment. The Misses Spooner knew nothing about it.

**No. 2** came from my friend Malcolm Scott, Staffs. County Chairman, telling me that the item entitled "Staffs. Championships" was NOT the Staffs. County Closed (which is to be held at Yarnfield on April 12th) but only a restricted invitation tournament.

**No. 3.** Mr. F. Bromley of Bolton has really caught me out. I said that Satoh was the first bespectacled World Singles Table Tennis Champion. I overlooked the Czech Stanislav Kolar who won the title against Ehrlich in 1935-6 (year of "The Great Chisel").

Apologies to all concerned, and thanks for letting us know.

Sincere apologies also for not having been able to answer all of the many letters, etc. I hope to remedy this in due course. Meanwhile, thank you all, so much, for writing.

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD,

The Editor

## Editorial Notice

*Table Tennis* has introduced the following usage in publishing the results of Men's Doubles and of Women's Doubles events:—

The names of partners are given in alphabetical order of their surname, thus Algernon/Blackwood or Carleton/Hobbs and not *vice versa*.

In Mixed Doubles, the Man's name precedes the Woman's.

Send this by **JUNE 1st**

(or Copy)



To The Hon. Secretary,  
English Table Tennis Association,  
214, Grand Buildings,  
Trafalgar Sq., London, W.C.2

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS,  
ENGLAND, 1954**

**WE guarantee to raise a minimum  
of £1 by January 1st, 1954, for the  
above Fighting Fund.**

**Club/Individual**

**I**F the E.T.T.A. receives a Guarantee (similar to the above) from each club **IN THE NEXT SIX WEEKS**, the 1954 World Championships **WILL** be held in England.

— **B U T** —

IF a number of clubs forget, leave it, or don't bother, the World Championships do **NOT** come here. It is not necessary to send the Cash now, but the Guarantee is **URGENTLY REQUIRED**. You have nearly 2 years to raise the £1; it is only a matter of coppers from club members.

Don't let your Club or England down. Insist on something being done now. It may only be done if **YOU** do it.

The £1 has been computed as an average per club. If it can be more, so much the better.

## Mr. Bernard Shows HOW

**M**R. F. H. BERNARD of Plaxton's Social Club, Scarborough is organising an Easter Whist Drive and Social Evening (in conjunction with the N.E. Open Championships). The entire proceeds, estimated at £5, will go to England's Fighting Fund. A few more enterprising clubs like that, and England will be top o' the world.

**REMEMBER**—the E.T.T.A. **MUST** hear from you **within the new few weeks**.

**NOW is a GOOD TIME**

to send a P.O. for 5/6d. for yourself or friend, and receive *Table Tennis* on the first of the month for a Year's issues. **Be first with the NEWS**



## PART 2 OF A NEW PICTORIAL T.T. COURSE

# Peggy Franks

Famous England and Essex Star

### Acknowledgments

This instructive course was recently featured in *GIRL*, and we gratefully acknowledge the courteous co-operation and permission of The Editor and The Hulton Press Ltd.



BACKHAND TOP-SPIN ATTACK

The backhand top-spin drive is produced in the same way as the forehand (see *May Table Tennis*). Watch your footwork. You must "change feet" with a quick jump, getting your right leg in the lead before attempting the backhand drive. When the ball is at the top of its bounce strike it from slightly below with an upward sweep, swaying your body forward and following through. The famous backhand flick shot is developed from this stroke.



THE HALF VOLLEY

A useful surprise and defence shot, Perfect timing and correct angle of bat are essential. The dotted line shows the path of the ball and where I aim to make contact just as it bounces.



BACKSPIN (FOREHAND)

The counter to top-spin is back-spin, achieved by striking the ball from above and downwards, causing it to rotate in a backward direction. Known as the "Chop Stroke" it is the main defensive stroke and can be used against the hardest of drives. To learn this stroke, do the simple "push" stroke at the net and then move backward, increasing the downward chopping movement of your bat as you go. In the pictures above, I am defending against a fairly hard top-spin drive about two yards from the

table. I move my bat back and as the ball begins to drop I push my forearm downward and forward, slicing the ball from underneath.

My weight shifts forward to my leading foot so that my whole body sways forward to direct the ball. Note that I keep my wrist firm, my eyes firmly fixed on the ball all the time and after striking, my arm and body continue in a natural follow-through.

PART 3 IN MAY TABLE TENNIS

## A Modest Champion from Staines



Miss **DOREEN SPOONER** (Middlesex)

**DOREEN SPOONER**, 5 ft. 9 ins. well-built brunette from Staines is a secretary in an engineering company and is playing in her third year (and last as a junior). Very pleasant, modest and unassuming she has achieved a most astonishing record of junior triumph more than meriting her award of an England Junior International badge this season. She holds 13 Junior titles (including 2 nationals) and shares 9 senior doubles titles. At Staines League finals presentations she was called—as winner—6 times, and then, just for good luck, a 7th time as winner of the raffle! Six months later, in the same hall, she was playing in the Middlesex Closed in 4 finals and winning 3. Before she was 17 years old she had actually reached the final of the W.S. in 3 Opens AND the Middlesex W.S. She is, we think, the only player to have played in each of the 3 Middlesex teams, standing-in for Di Rowe in the Premier Division once and playing regularly in the 2nd and Junior teams.

Father, Reg Spooner, is a well-known sportsman and keen T.T. enthusiast with many honours in athletics and football, and has done much to help his daughters' progress. Doreen's sister, 14-year-old, left-handed Beryl is rising steadily. The Spooner's went to Sweden last summer and Doreen renewed acquaintance with Lasse Pettersson, her partner in winning last year's English J.X.D.

She is also very keen on tennis, and while having a high hope of an England senior T.T. "cap," is also hoping to reach county standard in more than one game. Incidentally, she is also a promising pianist with honours in examinations at the Royal Trinity College of Music.

Altogether, there seems to be a very solid foundation for future success for this talented all-rounder with the orthodox style, and possessing a nice forehand smash for her pet shot.

**JOY SEAMAN**, 23-year-old ledger machinist in a London bank is a rising young player it is a JOY to meet; she intends to let T.T. remain a really enjoyable sport and not a worrying obsession. Although she started playing 7 years ago, no serious interest intruded until 1948. With a little coaching from Ken Craigie last year, she won the Kent and the Southampton Open singles, and this season has taken the Middlesex Closed W.S., Southampton W.D. (with Dorothy Ellis), Surrey Open W.D. (with Joyce Roberts) and the real highspot wvs in reaching 3 finals in the Metropolitan Open, winning the W.S. and the X.D. (with Tony Miller).

She thinks one should really enjoy a game, win or lose, or there is no sense in playing, but that doesn't stop her from going all out to get 21 points before the other player. She plays in 3 London leagues and her

twin sister Jill (before her tragic death) was a big influence, as they used to encourage each other. Now Joy intends to play the harder to make up for them both.

When on holiday in Majorca, Spain, last year she was delighted to find T.T. tables at almost every bar and hotel (usually on the terraces) and says they had many enjoyable games of mixed doubles. (No double entendres intended!)

She is also keen on tennis, cycling and knitting. Father and brother know nothing about T.T., and it was mother who had to enlighten them on why the umpire held the ball under the table before the game began! This charming Londoner has, so far as we could find, only one "dislike": it's the observer who comes up after a gruelling "deuce" in third" and says: "Now IF ONLY you had . . . ."

## COVER GIRL

Joy Seaman

(Middlesex)

## Wilmott Cup Finals

Other Details on Page 3

Semi-Final:

**STAINES 7—HUDDERSFIELD 1**

Details

**Staines:** M. Thornhill, B. Crouch, J. Lowe.  
**Huddersfield:** R. Hinchliff, G. Wadsworth, S. Dyson.

Thornhill bt. Dyson 13, 17; bt. Wadsworth 19, 16. Crouch lost Hinchliff —15, 17, —17; bt. Wadsworth 8, —22, 16; bt. Dyson 15, 16. Lowe bt. Dyson —14, 14, 13; bt. Hinchliff —15, 15, 17; bt. Wadsworth 19, —19, 11.

## Midland

### 'Open' Championships

By **MAURICE GOLDSTEIN**

Birmingham, March, 1952

**T**HERE was little to enthuse over at the Finals of the 23rd Midland Counties Open Championships at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Birmingham. Although most of the stars in the country were competing, play was never brilliant, Leach having no difficulty in taking three titles. In the men's singles, he beat Allcock in two games and Brian Kennedy in the final in three straight games.

Cruwys and Griffin of Cheltenham were too nervous to extend Leach and Filby in the final of the men's doubles, although previously they had brought off a first-class win against Haydon/Mackay.

**M.G.**

**DETAILS**

**M.S. Semi-Finals:**

B. Kennedy bt. B. Casofsky 11, 15. J.  
Leach bt. R. Allcock 15, 10.

**W.S. Semi-Finals:**

R. Rowe bt. P. Mortimer 13, 13. D.  
Rowe bt. Mrs. M. Cumberbatch 14, 12.

**Finals Results on Page 3**



"It **WOULD** happen to us!"



# ABOUT TOWN

with

**Peggy Allen**

**T**HE period between the middle of February and the end of March seems to be a strangely quiet one since the events held are inevitably dwarfed by the just completed World's in Bombay and the eagerly awaited English at Wembley.

However, things *have* been happening although they may not be world-shattering and during this period, Surrey's JEAN WINN has notched another two good wins (forgive the pun!!) namely the Middlesex Herga and Surrey Open titles.

To my mind Jean is just about the most consistent and least appreciated player in England to-day. With a positive string of open singles titles won since last December she still cannot find a place in the Surrey Premier Division team. We know this county is lucky in having five or six well-known women players, three of whom are internationals, but these kinds of results cannot be ignored for ever and it would seem high time that Jean was given her chance.

In the Herga tournament she beat Elsie Carrington and in the Surrey Open both Joyce Roberts and Pinkie Barnes. All these girls have played for Surrey this season but Jean remains bewildered as to just what one must achieve to win a place in the county side.

★ ★ ★

**A** KENT player about whom we have not yet heard a great deal is JOAN BEADLE, *nee* Cuss, who won the Kent Closed Championship at Herne Bay last month.

Since the county team plays in the Southern Division she does not often meet the best English women players but she has not been beaten in Kent league matches for the last two years and has held the women's singles title of the Midway Towns for the past five years.

Possessing both a sound defence and strong forehand attack, perhaps her greatest asset is her temperament and, in spite of nerves (which often result in an annoying rash when big matches are imminent), she has been known to pull up from an impossible position, thus showing her tremendous fighting power.

Joan is a school-teacher married to another table tennis enthusiast. These two form a formidable mixed doubles combination and I'm quite sure we shall be hearing more of the Beadle family soon.

★ ★ ★

**M**AIN interest of the month has centred around young SHARON KOEHNKE. Surely no-one's arrival has been so eagerly awaited since Gizi Farkas first graced our shores in 1947.

It is a pity that all this preliminary ballyhoo and sensationalist journalism caused so many of us to expect too much, for Sharon is really only a girl, a very pretty little girl with a charming figure and sweet personality, but, as she soon discovered, the average standard of table tennis in this country is so high that any one of 15 or 16 girls in the London area could probably beat her without too much difficulty.

She has a good long defence in addition to her short, push strokes but her footwork is slow and her attack too unsteady to be useful on difficult occasions.

By the time you read this we shall have the English Open results before us. I may be doing a "Sam Kirkwood" and live to rue my prophecy, but I shall be very surprised if Sharon becomes the 1952 English Junior Champion.

Since everything has already been written about her numerous activities and extensive wardrobe, I asked her if there was any news of her compatriots Peggy McLean and Thelma and Leah Thall. She told me that Leah is playing better than ever and is, without doubt, the U.S.A. Number One. Peggy and Thelma now have babies to care for and find their table tennis activities considerably restricted.

★ ★ ★

**V**YING for the limelight with the young American girl was the Chilean Champion, VICENTE GUTIERREZ who also made his tournament debut in the West Middlesex Open at West Ealing. His almost oriental inscrutability and amazing trick shots proved to be the downfall of the elder Sugarhood of Romford who, prevented from performing his own brand of unorthodox "specials," seemed unable to find the answer to the agile Latin.

It would seem that many shots being performed late and below the level of the table, anticipation must be well nigh impossible. However, he proved "easy meat" to young Taylor of the Putney Club who "saw him off" in no uncertain manner.

Like Sharon, Gutierrez isn't a world-beater yet, but my, how these players add colour and interest to the game!

Peggy Allen

## ANSWERING MR. MANNOCH

"*TABLE TENNIS* is the official magazine and should confine itself to giving advice and information about the sport. The cover picture should be for the outstanding feat of the month and show the player doing a characteristic stroke. I am sure that nobody is concerned with the player's drawing room appearance. If people want pin-ups there are numerous magazines to choose from . . ."

P. Mascall, Castle Hill T.T.C.

## FORCES FAVOURITE ?

"FROM time to time we hear of promising juniors doing so well up and down the country in leagues and tournaments, and then get a short piece on the teenagers page telling us they are entering the R.A.F. . . . could we have a monthly Spotlight on a player in the Forces?"

R. McCree, A.C.11, Lancs.

## AND ANOTHER

"NEWS of Matt Sheader, Scarborough born Yorks. County player, now serving in the Technical Air Force in Germany. He recently won the Men's Singles Title of the T.A.F. in Germany, beating Dutton of Grimsby (Lincs. County player) in the Final, 3 straight games. He is chosen to play for the R.A.F. in Germany versus R.A.F., England on 22nd March, also against the B.A.O.R."

E. Moorhouse, Scarborough

## ABSENCE IMPROVES !

"I WAS surprised (and somewhat disgusted) to read in the February *Table Tennis* of a well-known player, arguing with the Referee for 14 minutes . . . Whilst congratulating the Referee on his adroit handling of the situation, I do think he would have been justified in disqualifying the player . . . Officials have sufficient to do in ensuring the smooth running of tournaments without being called upon to tolerate such incidents . . . Players who cannot bear to lose should refrain from entering tournaments. The game can do without them—and would be improved by their absence."

Philip Reid, Leicester

"MY sincere congratulations on your production of such a splendid magazine as *Table Tennis*. The extra pages have made all the difference and the articles are most interesting . . . Although this institution is not famous for its players, I have managed to get 4 or 5 people sufficiently interested in the game to buy *Table Tennis* regularly. They have strict instructions not to lend their magazines to other people but to encourage them to buy it!

Having been fortunate in being able to have played table tennis in foreign countries, I am naturally tremendously keen on knowing just how table tennis is progressing in those countries . . ."

F. K. Smith, Trinity College, Carmarthen

## JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL

ENGLAND 5—SWEDEN 2

Hull, 18th March, 1952.

DETAILS (England names first)

B. MERRITT bt. B. Malmquist 8, —17, 12; bt. C. Skaj 13, 9; bt. G. Ronnmark 17, 17.  
C. BOOTH bt. B. Malmquist 19, —14, 19-17 (time limit); bt. G. Ronnmark 11, 8. W. ENGLAND lost B. Malmquist —8, —19; lost C. Skaj —12, —10.

# OFFICIAL News

English Table Tennis Association,  
214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square,  
LONDON, W.C.2

Administrative Sec.: Mrs. K. PEGG  
Phone: TRAFALGAR 2165  
Telegraphic: ETABTENNIS, RAND

## Silver Jubilee Celebrations

On the 24th April, 1927, the Table Tennis Association formally became the English Table Tennis Association. This year, therefore, marks the 25th birthday, the Silver Jubilee, of the E.T.T.A. The day noted for the Official Birthday is

**SATURDAY,**

**26th APRIL, 1952,**

which is also the date of the Annual General Meeting.

The National Executive Committee hope that members, players and league officials from all over the country will join them in the Jubilee Celebration and make the greatest social get-together in the history of Table Tennis.

### THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY IS:

**12.30 p.m., LUNCH.** St. Ermin's Hotel (almost next door to Caxton Hall, Westminster). Tickets 17/6d. each, from Mrs. Pegg.

**3.0 p.m., ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** Caxton Hall, Westminster.

A Wall Exhibition illustrating the expansion of the game and other interesting items (arranged by Mr. Leslie Forrest) will be on view to all visitors, and the W. J. Pope Memorial Chair (specially commissioned from Mr. Joyce) should be available.

**8.0 p.m. (to 11.45 p.m.), DANCE AND GRAND GET-TOGETHER,** Caxton Hall. Tickets 3/6d. Members of the General Council attending the A.G.M. admitted free. Informal Dress.

It is suggested wherever possible that leagues and clubs make up mixed parties and arrange to meet at 8 p.m. at Caxton Hall.

### SELECTION COMMITTEE NOTIFICATION

THE following Juniors have been selected to play against the Swedish Juniors at Hull on the 18th March, 1952:—  
B. MERRETT (Glos.), C. BOOTH (Lanes.), W. ENGLAND (Notts.). Reserve: D. HOUSE.  
Non-playing captain: T. SEARS.  
(6th March.)

## England on World's Parade



The England World Championship Team 1952 in the Parade in the vast Brabourne Stadium of the Indian Cricket Club, Bombay. From left to right: A. Simons and H. Venner, R. Bergmann (in dark glasses) and J. Leach, M. Franks and C. Best, D. and R. Rowe, A. A. Haydon (carrying standard. The French team follow with Haguenuer visible behind Simons. Dr. Eckhardt leads the German team in the background. It is interesting to note the smart outfits

### FRENCH ANNIVERSARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Paris, 17th March, 1952

The French Association staged an International Tournament in Paris in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of their foundation. BRIAN KENNEDY was beaten 19, 18, 20 by Harangozo (Yugoslavia). In the quarter-finals, JOHNNY LEACH was beaten 15, 15, 15 by Rene Roothoft (France), and RICHARD BERGMANN by Michael Haguenuer (France)—22, 15, 19,—16, 16. In the final Roothoft beat Haguenuer —13, 16, 16, 12.

### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

M.S. R. G. MILLS (Jesus) bt. P. M. Eagles (St. John's), holder.  
M.D. R. G. MILLS/R. M. SINCLAIR (Jesus) bt. G. Roth/S. G. Whitehall (Christ's).

### 77-YEAR-OLD TAKES UP CHALLENGE

IN the March *Table Tennis*, Scarborough League presented a Challenge to any player in the world (over 60) to meet their Chairman, Mr. A. Harrison, in match play in the North-East England Open, Scarborough at Easter. The challenge brought two contenders: Mr. GEORGE HURLOCK (61-year-old father of Keith Hurlock) and 77-year-old, Mr. R. H. PRIMAVESI, President of the Bournemouth Corinthians' Club. Both gentlemen have been invited to Scarborough, and the League are quite prepared to include an extra event—"The Over Sixties" if there is any more interest.

### YORKS JUNIOR OPEN

8th March, 1952

B.S. G. INGBER (Manchester) bt. R. Newton (Manchester) 14, 18.  
G.S. F. BURNETT (Barnsley) bt. J. Preston (Harrowgate) 8,—12, 19.  
Y.S. G. INGBER bt. A. F. Hanson (Pontefract) 16, 13.  
Y.D. R. NEWTON/P. SIMPSON bt. D. H. Crosland/J. M. Killick 15, 28-26.

### WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN

Bristol, 22nd March, 1952

M.S. B. KENNEDY bt. H. Venner 17,—20, 10, 16.  
W.S. Miss B. GRAY bt. Miss A. Bates 17, 15.  
M.D. P. CRUWYS/R. GRIFFIN bt. B. Kennedy/M. Thornhill —17, 18, 17.  
W.D. Misses A. BATES/B. GRAY bt. Misses P. Baird/P. Mortimer 22, 15.  
X.D. R. CRIPPIN/P. MORTIMER bt. M. Thornhill/S. Koelmke (U.S.A.) —12, 12, 11.

### 16th March, 1952—Cardiff IRELAND beat WALES 5—4

### TRAINING HOLIDAYS AND WEEK-ENDS

I regret no vacancies on weeks or week-ends up to end of June.

#### Some places still free for:

Holiday Training Week, East Coast, 20-27th September.

Week-ends, London, during July.

Full week, London, July 14-19th.

Apply: JACK CARRINGTON,

"Albion," Clayton Avenue,  
Upminster, Essex

# Kent Junior Open

Gillingham, 16th March, 1952

There were 88 boys and 18 girls taking part, including entries from every county in the Junior Championships. Ten tables were in use. The Open Championships commenced at Noon and were all over before 9.0 p.m., despite the fact that the singles events were run on the group system.

## RESULTS

**B.S.** I. Jones bt. R. Dorking 14, 20; D. M. Eagles bt. W. England 13, 14.  
D. M. EAGLES bt. I. Jones 15, 15.

**G.S.** P. Inglis bt. J. Rook —18, 19, 15; L. Selway bt. J. White 19, 15.  
P. INGLIS bt. L. Selway 10, —18, 9.

**B.D.** A. Danton/I. Jones bt. P. Badder/W. England 18, 13; H. Buist/B. Hellberg bt. T. Atkinson/S. Raynaud 19, 7.  
A. DANTON/I. JONES bt. H. Buist/B. Hellberg 14, 13.

**G.D.** P. Inglis/B. Spooner bt. S. Brocklehurst/J. Rook 16, 13; L. Selway/J. White bt. H. Collings/M. Howell 21, 18.  
P. INGLIS/B. SPOONER bt. L. Selway/J. White —16, 9, 16.

**J.X.D.** D. M. Eagles/L. Selway bt. R. Dorking/J. Page 12, 12; H. Buist/J. Fielder bt. M. Sugarhood/B. Spooner 13, —19, 20.  
EAGLES/SELWAY bt. Buist/Fielder 14, 19.

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# English Championships Results

## MEN'S SINGLES (from the 4th Round)

A. Rhodes	{ Griffin	} Griffin 22, 17, 19	} Leach 10, 16, 8
R. E. Griffin	{ 16, 19, —10, 13		
K. Spychalski	{ Osterholm	} Osterholm 15, —19, 16, 17	
C. Osterholm (S)	{ 15, —19, 16, 17		
M. Lansky (F)	{ Dolinar 18, 22, 17	} Dolinar 18, 22, 17	
Z. Dolinar (Y)	{ Dolinar 18, 22, 17		
J. A. Leach	{ Leach 22, 17, 14	} Leach 22, 17, 14	
B. Kennedy	{ Leach 22, 17, 14		
G. Amouretti (F)	{ Amouretti	} Harangozo 11, 10, 15	} Bergmann —11, 16, 12, 16
J. Carrington	{ 18, 13, 20		
A. Miller	{ Harangozo 7, 7, 12	} Harangozo 7, 7, 12	
V. Harangozo (Y)	{ Harangozo 7, 7, 12		
R. Allcock	{ Ehrlich	} Ehrlich —16, 13, 18, 8	
A. Ehrlich (F)	{ —16, 13, 18, 8		
K. Collar	{ Bergmann	} Bergmann 17, 8, 17	
R. Bergmann	{ 5, 11, 19		

R. BERGMANN  
(England)  
6, —18, 12, 18

## WOMEN'S SINGLES (from the 4th Round)

G. Pritzi (A)	{ Franks 15, —9,	} R. Rowe 17, 23, 17	} L. WERTL (Austria) 17, 9, 18
M. Franks	{ —8, 9/8, 5/2 (time limit)		
B. Gray (W)	{ R. Rowe 12, 15, 22	} R. Rowe 12, 15, 22	
R. Rowe	{ R. Rowe 12, 15, 22		
C. Watel (F)	{ Bates 9, 6, 15	} Bates 9, 6, 15	
A. G. Bates (W)	{ Bates 9, 6, 15		
D. Rowe	{ Wertl 12, 11, 17	} Wertl —15, 19, 18, —8, 16	
L. Wertl	{ Wertl 12, 11, 17		

## MEN'S DOUBLES

**Quarter-Finals:** Z. Dolinar/V. Harangozo beat B. Crouch/I. W. Jones 14, 16, 14; P. Brook/R. Turner beat K. Craigie/H. Venner 16, 15, 20; M. Lansky/R. Roothoft beat R. Mackay/M. Mohtadi 16, 18, 18; J. Leach/J. Carrington beat J. Head/K. Hurlock 16, 10, 11.  
**Semi-Finals:** Dolinar/Harangozo beat Brook/Turner 11, 11, 16; Lansky/Roothoft beat Leach/Carrington —17, 12, —14, 19, 11.  
**Final:** Dolinar/Harangozo beat Lansky/Roothoft 14, 12, 19.

## WOMEN'S DOUBLES

**Semi-Finals:** M. Franks/J. Roberts beat D. Atherton/M. Piper 16, 17, 13; D. Rowe/R. Rowe beat G. Pritzi/C. Watel 12, 18, 16.  
**Final:** Rowe/Rowe beat Franks/Roberts —16, 5, 16, 11.

## MIXED DOUBLES

**Semi-Finals:** V. Harangozo/L. Wertl beat G. V. Barna/R. Rowe 19, 19, —20, —10, 14; J. Leach/D. Rowe beat R. Roothoft/G. Pritzi 15, 16, —11, 17.  
**Final:** Leach/D. Rowe beat Harangozo/Wertl 25, 11, 16.

## MEN'S VETERANS' SINGLES

**Final:** A. D. Brook beat G. W. Marshall 17, —13, 19.

## WOMEN'S VETERANS' SINGLES

**Final:** Mrs. S. Betling beat Mrs. D. Ball 14, 16.

## MEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES

**Semi-Finals:** L. G. Adams beat R. Sharman 18, 14; E. J. Filby beat P. Cruwys 13, —15, 17.  
**Final:** Adams beat Filby 11, 7.

## WOMEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES

**Semi-Finals:** M. Cumberbatch beat J. Lauper 19, 17; J. Roberts beat J. Beer 14, 14.  
**Final:** J. Roberts beat M. Cumberbatch —14, 21, 20.

## BOYS' SINGLES

**Quarter-Finals:** W. England beat I. D. Jones 19, 19; K. Freundorfer (G) beat D. A. House 15, 5; J. Ingber beat R. F. Raybould —15, 12, 19; B. R. Merrett beat G. Rönmark (S) 14, 20.  
**Semi-Finals:** Freundorfer beat England 8, 17; Merrett beat Ingber 17, 18.  
**Final:** Freundorfer beat Merrett 12, 14.

## GIRLS' SINGLES

**Semi-Finals:** J. Rook beat P. Heppell 21, 13; S. Koehnke (US) beat D. Spooner 18, 15.  
**Final:** J. Rook beat S. Koehnke 16, 20.

## BOYS' DOUBLES

**Semi-Finals:** J. Ingber/R. Newton beat D. House/B. Merrett 19, 15; A. Danton/D. Eagles beat C. Darts/R. Dorking —20, 18, 19.  
**Final:** Danton/Eagles beat Ingber/Newton 19, 14.

## GIRLS' DOUBLES

**Final:** U. Paulsen/H. Walz beat S. Koehnke/J. Rook 15, 17.

## JUNIOR MIXED DOUBLES

**Semi-Finals:** K. Freundorfer/U. Paulsen beat C. Campbell/J. Page 16, 13; B. Merrett/D. Spooner beat B. Malmquist/S. Koehnke 15, 11.  
**Final:** Freundorfer/Paulsen beat Merrett/Spooner 23, —12, 18.

# "The Sponge Man"

## and the Japanese World Championship Players

by K. S. Varadachari

**H**IROJI SATOH, the new World Champion, a watchmaker by profession, is nicknamed "The Sponge Man". He attributes 50% of his success to his bat which has aroused more curiosity than the player himself. It is made of soft wood, barely an eighth of an inch thick, squarish in shape; on one side only it has a sponge padding half an inch thick. It is kept in a special plastic case which also holds 4 balls. Six months ago in Japan, he told me, he was beaten by a player named Asano who used this type of bat, and has used one himself ever since.

Satoh started playing 14 years ago, modelling his game on that of an old Japanese champion, Takashi Kon. He says that "The very thin wood and the very thick sponge takes the sting out of the most vicious shot and imparts a terrific side-spin to the ball. Perhaps the complete silence disconcerts the opponent also."

The sponge bat is a "New Look" in Japan—a controversial one—and only about 50 of the many thousands use it. Satoh and his sponge bat, however, are not invincible; Fujii told me—and Satoh ungrudgingly admitted it—that he can beat Satoh very easily any day.

Satoh mainly chop-pushes, holding the bat almost horizontally in front of his body he moves it from side to side, which according to Reisman (who lost to him in the second round) imparts the terrific side spin. When the opponent hits really hard, Satoh uses his "scoop de luxe". This is executed by holding the bat in front of his body at an angle of about 45°, moving it in a big, low-swept arc that cannot well be seen beneath the table. The silence and high degree of invisibility mystifies the opponent who finds the ball back on his side without any idea of how it got there.

Satoh is also a skilful half-volleyer, keeping his returns very low and close to the net, he maintains a brilliant control over the direction of his returns. But that is not the worst, for his ace "kill"—with a flat action—though not really hard, comes when one least expects it. On the third day of the Championships, the Silent Bat took its greatest toll by claiming Bergmann and Leach; it was, incidentally, Satoh's 28th birthday.

### "The Cannon Ball Driver"

27 years old NORIKAZU FUJII, another "penholder," is known as the

"Cannon Ball Driver. Japan's No. 1, he has won 5 of the last 6 Japanese Nationals. He did not compete in the 6th. He has a terrific smash from the forehand side, and the speed with which he positions himself from either side of the table is remarkable. When he is out of position for his "forehand" he hits "backhanders" with a peculiar twist of his arm (near the shoulder) and wrist. He has been playing since he was 10, regularly has a couple of hours practice daily, and works in a technical college where he coaches a number of youngsters. His defensive ability is unknown because, in Bombay, he attacked constantly.



**HIROJI SATOH'S BAT**, showing his "penholder" grip. The sponge rubber is on the front face (top picture)

After Fujii was leading Bergmann 20-16 in the Swaythling Cup and then lost, I asked him why. "My blood was almost boiled," he replied in halting English, "I had to hit and couldn't help hitting . . . but if I meet him in the Open, I will beat him." And he did. His terrific speed and directional control often caught the great Bergmann at the wrong corner, and beat him again by beautiful drop shots.

**TADAAKI IYAYASHI**, 31-year-old clerk, was the Japanese Champion, 1951 (the year Fujii didn't play). He also is a fast, consistent attacker, but without the extra speed and force of Fujii. A first-rate doubles player.

**SHIZUKA NARAHARA** was in Hiroshima when the A-Bomb was dropped, but luckily escaped a few minutes before the explosion to her suburban school. She is just 5 feet tall, weighs 100 lbs. and is the Japanese No. 1. She hits with tremendous force with a "penholder" style. Her sister, using a sponge bat is already school champion and Shizuka hopes to see her at the top in the near future.

**TONIE NISHIMURA** is still in her teens, but has a beautiful top-spin and length control. Her bat has ordinary rubber on one side (not the normal playing face), and she imparts a vicious spin to all her strokes. She also scored innumerable points with an ace service.

In doubles, Nishimura sends her top-spins high over the net, and Narahara "kills" high returns with a shot like a bullet. With this strategy, they were not beaten in doubles in the whole championship.

K. S. Varadachari

### ★ NEXT MONTH ★

The Hon. Ivor Montagu, President of the International Table Tennis Federation and Chairman of the E.T.T.A. writes a Special and Authoritative article on

### THE SPONGE BAT

with particular relationship to the Japanese players

## The Annual Varsity Match

### OXFORD BEAT CAMBRIDGE

by R. G. MILLS

Cambridge, Feb. 16th

**B**Y beating Cambridge University 7-3, Oxford increased their winning lead to 4-2 (one match drawn), in their post-war series of annual inter-varsity matches.

Under ideal conditions in the new gymnasium at Fenners, the Cambridge captain, S. G. Whitehall, gave his team the lead by beating D. Buchanan with fierce hitting on both wings. After Oxford had taken the next three singles, R. G. Mills/R. M. Sinclair combined well in a bright doubles win over S. W. Gilbert/J. Hurst in straight games. The climax of the match came when Cambridge was 3-5 down. Losing 9-14 in the third, Whitehall pulled up to 15-all, but still could not quite break through Hurst's clever defence.

The match showed again that the playing standards of Table Tennis is rising steadily in the major universities, and it is certainly time that this popular sport was granted blue status.

### DETAILS (Cambridge names first)

P. M. Eagles bt. S. W. Gilbert 14, —11, 15; lost P. Burnett —12, 10, —14. R. G. Mills lost P. Burnett —14, 17, —19; lost S. W. Gilbert —18, 14, —10. S. G. Whitehall bt. D. Buchanan 19, 15; lost J. Hurst —17, 12, —18. R. M. Sinclair lost J. Hurst —15, —13; lost D. Buchanan —16, —18. Mills/Sinclair bt. Gilbert/Hurst 19, 19. G. Roth/Whitehall lost Buchanan/Burnett —16, —18.

# Spotlight on YOUTH

FOCUSED BY PETER MADGE

## OPEN TOURNAMENTS

**B**OBBY RAYBOULD (Essex) lifted his first Open title at the Surrey tournament; in the final he beat Essex team-mate Ray Dorking —15, 17, 19. A ding-dong semi-final gave Bobby victory over Ivor Jones by 13, —18, 19. In the other semi Doug.



Bobby Raybould (Essex)

Brunt (Middx.) yielded to Dorking in straight games.

At the Midland Open, Bryan Merrett pursued his expected path to victory but not without some close calls. Nearest challenge came from Billy England in the final, scores 18, —11, 18. Ray Dorking went almost as close in the semi-final but let slip a lead in the third and lost —15, 12, —17. Willie Knight appeared in the other semi having beaten David House in the quarters by —18, 17, 6. Willie went down to Billy —14, —12. Other quarter-final results: England bt. Campbell 17, 20; Dorking bt. Newton 10, 13.

IVOR JONES (Middx.) took the Middlesex Herga title at the expense of Carpenter (Middx.) in the final and Campbell, Smith and Raybould en route. Carpenter passed Carrol (Essex) in the semis. The Yorkshire

### ENGLAND v. SWEDEN

Billy England certainly has lots of self-confidence, but don't let the heading of this paragraph mislead you — It refers to Messrs. C. Booth, B. Merrett and W. England who formed the English team to play Sweden. Congratulations, Billy, on a well-deserved "cap".

Junior Open is reported elsewhere but credit must go to Jeff. Ingber for winning both boys' and youths' singles.



### Sins and Omissions Dept.

MR. FINCH, of Wembley, writes to tell me that in the February Spotlight I should not have referred to the Single COLOUR dress rule—I should have said Single SHADE. The only excuse I can offer is that my electronic hair-splitting machine was under repair at the time and I tender my apologies to the many who must have recoiled in horror at such a soul-searing misstatement.

Peter Madge

## Bedfordshire Junior Review

**BRIAN PHILLIPS**, 16-year-old electrical engineering apprentice, has one more season as a junior and is now in his first for the county team. Started playing 2 years ago and has developed a strong attacking game based on a hard-first-time forehand hit that bears a striking style resemblance to that of Ron Crayden. Likes to see similarly dressed doubles pairs. Favourite star—Johnny Leach.

**ROYSTON GILL**, 15, possesses a most impressive name—but his friends, with a fine disregard for anticlimax, call him "Gumber"! Anyway, Gumber also has an exceedingly stylish game and plays with a calm assurance that promises well. He defends mostly but will attack at the not-so-critical stages of a game. Has two more seasons as a junior and has been playing for just on two years. Favourite star is Bergmann.

**RON GRAY**, 16, is studying to become an engineer. Has played the game for 3 years and looks forward to one more junior season. Like "Gumber" (can't resist that name!) he is a defender and names Richard Bergmann as his favourite star. Also plays football and cricket but wants to go farthest in T.T. Ron would like to see visits to this country arranged for the star Czech and Hungarian men players; there he has something.

\***ERIC BASTERFIELD**, 17, is in his last junior season and third playing year. Has an all-round game with the accent on attack. Favourite star is Ken Craigie. Has dabbled in most common sports at one time or another, with a slight preference for football and tennis. Likes players who stick to their guns and won't be shaken off their game.

\***MAUREEN HOWELL**, 16, Bedford High School student. She has held the Junior Championship of Beds. for the last two years. Builds her game round a good forehand attack. Favourite star is Peggy Franks and her ambition is to join Heather in a winning Rose Bowl team. Maureen plays lacrosse and good class tennis and last year completed a double by winning the County junior title.



L. to R.: B. Phillips, H. Collings, R. Gill, R. Seymour, R. Gray

**ROSANNA SEYMOUR**, 15, from a remote Beds. village, attends Luton High School. Has played for two years and has one more season as a junior. Attacks all the time in matches but devotes most of her practice time to defending. The Rowe Twins are her favourite stars.

**HEATHER COLLINGS**, 16, Bedford High School student, has two ambitions: one to play for Beds. Seniors and another to help Bedford win the Rose Bowl. Started playing two years ago and has developed an all-round game. Vera Thomas is her favourite star. Also plays hockey and representative tennis.

\* Players not shown in photograph

## J. M. Rose Bowl Finals

By LESLIE BROMFIELD  
Worthing, 8th March, 1952

**A**LTHOUGH retaining the women's national team championship of England, the J. M. Rose Bowl, West London's famous team did not have things all their own way.

**West London beat Bristol 7-2.** Considerable interest was shown as to how the new International, Miss M. Fry, would show up against the Rowe Twins, but although playing well (now in spectacles, by the way), the Bristol girl fell to Diane 14 and 15 and to Rosalind 15 and 18. The great feature of the tie was, of course, Terry Pomroy's gallant win over Rosalind—19, 20, 10, Terry hitting everything at the beginning of the third game to pile up a great lead.

**Birmingham beat Bedford 9-0.** Bedford deserved a better score than 0-9, and looked dangerous at the beginning of the match when Mrs. E. Aldridge and Mrs. K. Collings took Mrs. M. Cumberbatch and Miss P. Mortimer to 20-22, 21-19, 18-21, and Mrs. B. Carter then only lost to Miss J. Mackay 21-17, 11-21, 13-21. Birmingham then ran straight out, but Bedford never gave up trying.

**FINAL. West London beat Birmingham 6-3.** After Miss D. Rowe and Miss D. Ellis had taken the opening event over Mrs. Cumberbatch and Miss Mackay in straight games, Miss R. Rowe defeated Miss Mackay 21-8, 21-12, scarcely making a mistake in the process. Birmingham's attractive Miss Mortimer then raised her supporters' hopes by taking the middle game off Miss D. Rowe and only losing the third game to 18. Miss Ellis then fell to Miss Mackay, and then came a spirited battle between the attacking Mrs. Cumberbatch and Miss D. Rowe, just won by Diane 21-19, 22-20. The Rowes beat Mrs. Cumberbatch and Miss Mackay, and Miss Ellis lost comfortably to Miss Mortimer, whilst Miss D. Rowe accounted for Mrs. Cumberbatch. In the last event, Miss R. Rowe and Miss Ellis surprised by losing to Miss Mackay and Miss Mortimer.

Top marks to Birmingham for a great fight. All hard hitters, and I shall watch Miss Mortimer's progress with interest. She has a fine attack and once she steadies down may well provide a new International for the Midlands.

Leslie Bromfield

Detailed Results on Page 3

## England Juniors Lack Enterprise

By ABE ABRAHAMSON (Abridged)  
Hull, 18th March, 1952

**E**NGLAND beat Sweden 5-2 in the Junior International match, and though it reversed last year's defeat in Sweden, it was a disappointing display. Stolid defensive play with but rare glimpses of attacking strokes. The 45-minute Booth v. Malmquist match, decided on a time limit, was of the type which can do nothing but harm to the game. England led 3-1 and Malmquist was in the position of having to win the tie to give Sweden a chance of victory. His attack was not confident against Booth and he decided to defend; Booth, displaying a fine defence, showed no inclination to attack. This is the first, and I hope the last occasion in a Junior International in which the time limit was imposed.

The most attractive Swedish player was CURT SKAJ, whose nice backhand attack easily disposed of Billy England, but crumbled in his earlier match with Merrett. England rallied in his second game with Malmquist but nerves obviously handicapped his best performance.

Among those present were the Lord Mayor of Hull and his Lady, the Swedish Consul, the Hon. Ivor Montagu, Mr. S. Hanson and Miss M. I. Lightfoot (Chairman and Secretary of the Yorks. T.T.A. respectively). Presentations were exchanged by the non-playing captains, Mr. Ake Eldh and Mr. T. Sears.

Abe Abrahamson

Scores on Page 11

## England Juniors 8 German Juniors 2

At Clapham Baths, Monday, 31st March, 1952

**H**IGHLIGHT of this match was the final tie in which Konrad Freundorfer, who seemed invincible at Wembley last week, was beaten in straight games by Bryan Merrett. Although it was the final tie, and Germany had already lost, nevertheless much of the credit for the win must go to Tommy Sears, who planned the campaign of "how to win".

The match was marred by the very slippery floor, the Germans having protested before the commencement of the match, but the Baths authorities at first refused to have anything done. After Stauvermann had taken off both shoes and socks in the opening tie in an endeavour to get a better foothold, they consented to the putting down of soap flakes, but this only slightly improved conditions.

Most exciting match was the boys' doubles, in which the lead fluctuated many times before the German boys just got home.

### Details :

B. Merrett beat K. Freundorfer 19, 13; beat H. Lechel 11, 9.  
D. House lost to Freundorfer—15, —9; beat J. Stauvermann 5, —18, 15.  
W. Knight beat Stauvermann 14, 11; beat Lechel 19, 14.  
Miss J. Rook beat Miss U. Paulsen 20, —16, 7.  
Miss Rook and Miss D. Spooner beat Miss Paulsen and Miss H. Walz 17, 13.  
Knight and House lost to Lechel and Stauvermann—17, 22, —19.  
Merrett and Miss Spooner beat Freundorfer and Miss Walz 6, —18, 14.



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Scottish Women's Doubles	...	...	1946/51
English Open Mixed	...	...	1950/51

Miss Elliot wears "Umbro"  
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**OF ALL THE LEADING OUTFITTERS**

# NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF. HARROWER

## Middlesex Are Champions Again — Amazing Finish

No writer of popular fiction would have dared to have invented such a finish to the Premier Division, for fear that people would say he was straining what was possible. Just imagine! The last two matches to decide which of four counties should be relegated and which of three counties should win the Championships! And all out of only eight competitors.

To deal with the five matches played since our last issue: First, the chances of Essex, the leaders, quickly disappeared when Middlesex soundly beat them by 7-3. On the following day, Surrey journeyed to Cheltenham, and seemed to have the title in their pocket, for poor Aubrey Simons was out of the game for the rest of the season, and so it seemed when Surrey led 5-2. Only one more match and the title was theirs for the first time.

It did not come. The mixed doubles was lost; Griffin beat Crayden, and it was 5-4. Surrey were still not worried, for they had Harry Venner to play the last match against the junior "hope," Bryan Merrett. Just think of it. The tried and seasoned International, one of the country's leading players, against the young boy who had just left school. Shades of the "Magnet," it was the boy that won. And what a victory, for it meant that his county could still take the title.

Gloucestershire v. Warwickshire, with Warwickshire needing one point for safety and Gloucestershire needing both to retain an interest in the cup. Warwick led 4-2, but once again the West Country lads pulled the match out of the fire, and a 6-4 win meant that their hopes were still alive, whilst Warwick knew that they would have to play off with Glamorgan for the right to remain in the Premier Division.

Lancashire v. Yorkshire, with the losing county to be relegated! It was a great fight all the way. Youth seemed to play a big part in these final matches, for young Ronnie Baker was brought in, and he won both his singles, but still Lancs. found themselves 5-4 down, with Ken Stanley versus Brian Kennedy to decide who played in the second division next season. Again it was thriller stuff: One game all and 19-all. Stanley wins the next point, and only one more point needed for safety. Amidst tremendous excitement Brian Kennedy won the next three points, the match, and safety for his county. Poor Lancashire, early

season leaders, with, on paper, one of the strongest teams.

Last match of all, Middlesex v. Gloucestershire. Gloucestershire had to win 8-2, whilst Surrey supporters were there hoping Gloucestershire won 7-3 or 6-4, or even a 5-all draw would give the title to Surrey. This was Len Adams' match. Never sure of his place in the first team, he won both his singles in straight games to pave the way for his team. Victor Barna was not at all well, lost first to Griffin and then to Merrett, and Thornhill also lost to Merrett, and at one stage it looked as though the impossible might happen. But, besides Len, there were Diane and Rosalind Rowe, and Middlesex were Champions once again.

The play-off between Warwickshire and Glamorgan will be in Birmingham on the 5th April.

Middlesex	7, Essex	3
Gloucestershire	5, Surrey	5
Gloucestershire	6, Warwickshire	4
Lancashire	4, Yorkshire	6
Middlesex	7, Gloucestershire	3

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Middlesex	7	5	0	2	44	26	10
Surrey	7	4	2	1	40	30	10
Essex	7	4	1	2	43	27	9
Gloucestershire	7	3	2	2	35	35	8
Yorkshire	7	2	1	4	30	40	5
Glamorgan	7	2	1	4	28	42	5
Warwickshire	7	2	1	4	28	42	5
Lancashire	7	1	2	4	32	38	4

### SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Devon	5, Cambridgeshire	5
Bedfordshire	2, Essex	8

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Middlesex	6	5	0	1	47	13	10
Surrey	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Essex	6	4	0	2	33	27	8
Gloucestershire	6	3	0	3	27	33	6
Devon	6	1	2	3	21	39	4
Cambridgeshire	6	0	2	4	20	40	2
Bedfordshire	5	0	2	3	16	34	2

### SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Lancashire beat Cheshire 8-2 in the replayed match, so still carry off the title.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Lancashire	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Lincolnshire	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Cheshire	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Yorkshire	5	2	0	3	28	22	4
Northumberland	5	1	0	4	19	31	2
Durham	5	0	0	5	5	45	0

### EASTERN DIVISION

Buckinghamshire just managed to carry off this section, by the narrowest possible margin, and it was fitting that this victory was secured by their chief campaigner, Leo Thompson, in the final match of the division.

Cambridgeshire	4, Buckinghamshire	6
Suffolk	6, Cambridgeshire	4
Buckinghamshire	8, Bedfordshire	2
Bedfordshire	1, Hertfordshire	9

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Buckinghamshire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Norfolk	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Suffolk	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Hertfordshire	5	2	0	3	25	25	4
Bedfordshire	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Cambridgeshire	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

### JUNIOR DIVISION

Kent finished worthy champions, and, to set the seal on their success, it is pleasing to see that Danton and Eagles have carried off the boys' doubles at the English Open Championships. Middlesex finished a good second, and, remembering that their games average suffered from the 1-9 defeat to Kent, makes one wonder how that defeat could have been so large. Essex just wrested third place from Notts., on games average, deservedly, but I am old-fashioned enough to have wished to see the enterprise of the Midland county in entering rewarded by a slightly higher position.

Cambridgeshire	1, Middlesex	9
Hertfordshire	5, Bedfordshire	5
Essex	9, Hertfordshire	1
Middlesex	9, Surrey	1
Kent	7, Nottinghamshire	3

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Kent	7	7	0	0	57	13	14
Middlesex	7	6	0	1	49	21	12
Essex	7	4	1	2	45	25	9
Nottinghamshire	7	4	1	2	39	31	9
Surrey	7	3	0	4	32	38	6
Hertfordshire	7	1	1	5	21	49	3
Bedfordshire	7	1	1	5	18	52	3
Cambridgeshire	7	0	0	7	19	51	0

Final tables of the MIDLAND, NORTHERN and SOUTHERN Divisions were published last month. To refresh your memory, Warwickshire, Yorkshire and Sussex, respectively, were the Champions.

Next month the averages of the players will be published.

# West Middlesex Open

By GEOFF COUTHREAD

THIS tournament gave Londoners the opportunity of seeing Miss Sharon Koehnke in action almost immediately after arriving from the U.S.A. Perhaps she had not settled down but, though winning the Junior Girls, I should be surprised to see the English title leave England this year.

The best non-finals-night match was, it was generally agreed, the M.D. Semi-final between Crouch/Thornhill and Ivor Jones/Dennis Miller. If Jones and Miller decided to make a regular pairing, they will certainly win tournaments in the future and as it was they led 19—17 on the third, only to see Thornhill make four winners from his partner's slow top-spin services. In the final Adams/Crayden were unable to make any impression on the immaculate style of the winning pair who were giving as good a display of mutual aid as could be wished for in a doubles match.

The M.S. semi-finals again brought Ken Craigie into the final of a major tournament but this time he opposed Jimmy Lowe, who is at the moment showing a very welcome return to form. Ken beat his county team-mate Ron Crayden and Jimmy had a close win over Harry Venner who has been

just below his best since returning from India, although this result was a reversal of their previous Saturday's Wilmott Cup final match.

In the final Lowe was two games up on Craigie and only lost the third at deuce and also the fifth at deuce. This was one of the few really touch-and-go finals that have been seen this season and a win which includes three deuces indicates the measure of the evenly matched opponents.

The Rowe twins resumed their serial in the finals and on this occasion Ros beat Di once again on a series of deuce games. The twins also won the Ladies doubles from Betty Bassett/Jean Winn. Consolation for Jean Winn came in the mixed doubles which she and Micky Thornhill won from Venner/Peggy Piper.

Geoff Couthread

## DETAILS

M.S. K. Craigie bt. L. Adams 15, 16. J. Lowe bt. Spychalski 11, 9. H. Venner bt. A. R. Miller 12, 17. R. Crayden bt. B. Crouch 15, 18.  
K. CRAIGIE bt. Crayden 18, —13, 14. J. LOWE bt. Venner —12, 20, 19.  
Final: K. CRAIGIE bt. J. Lowe —16, —21, 20, 14, 21.  
W.S. R. Rowe bt. J. Roberts 13, 10. D. Rowe bt. M. Piper —20, 14, 12.  
R. ROWE bt. D. Rowe 18, —22, 20.  
M.D. B. CROUCH/M. THORNHILL bt. L. Adams/R. Crayden 12, 16.  
W.D. D. ROWE/R. ROWE bt. B. Bassett/J. Winn 17, 14.  
X.D. M. THORNHILL/J. WINN bt. H. Venner/M. Piper 13, —13, 14.  
B.S. A. E. SMITH bt. I. D. Jones —17, 10, 17.  
G.S. S. KOEHNKE (U.S.A.) bt. R. Robbins S, 9.

# Portsmouth Open

Portsmouth, 2nd March, 1952

By GEOFF COUTHREAD (Abridged)

AN excellent tournament. Entry of 171 from 21 centres; 7 tables; ended at 10.20 p.m., good organisation; high standard of play.

PAT STREETER, with "new length" skirt, was one of strong Chichester contingent who propose to run a weekly subscription next season to attend as many tournaments as possible. Pat gave Doreen Spooner a tight game, losing 21—23 in the third.

Miss Briggs (Brighton) beat Peggy Piper, but could not match Doreen Spooner in the final. Burridge eliminated M. Muller and Paul Brook. L. Devereaux (now of Portsmouth), S. Minter, J. Shead, I. Alexander, Burridge, Head, P. Brook and D. Barontini reached the quarter finals. Head beat Shead after a hard game of tenacity and tactics.

Although Derek Burridge tried all variations in his final against Head he could make no impression, and Jackie retained the M.S. title for the second year. Easy is the "Head" which wears this crown. Both Head and Doreen Spooner achieved treble victories. While her daughter lost in the first round, Mrs. I. Rind (Brighton) did very well to reach the semi of the W.S.

Nicest thing was referee K. WILLIAMS showing 17-year-old R. GANDER (Worthing) the "ropes" of an Open. Good to see teenagers interested in organising as well as playing

Geoff Couthread

## DETAILS

M.S. D. Burridge bt. I. Alexander 12, 6. J. Head bt. P. Shead 22, 18.  
J. HEAD bt. D. Burridge 14, 14, 16.  
W.S. D. Spooner bt. Miss Briggs 15, 11.  
M.D. D. BURRIDGE/J. HEAD bt. Griffin, Tyrell 11, 17.  
W.D. M. PIPER/D. SPOONER bt. Brown/Pugh 8, 19.  
X.D. J. HEAD/D. SPOONER ht. D. Burridge/M. Piper.

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# The SCHOOL CLUB of LOWERSTOFT

By ARTHUR DURRANT  
Hon. Sec., Suffolk County



**B**RIAR CLYFFE, standing in its own grounds and overlooking the sea, is the former residence of the late Mr. H. Hollingsworth; and it is in the Assembly Hall (the erstwhile billiards-room of the millionaire philanthropist) that 58 schoolboys relax after their day's studies, and play table tennis.

On the wall of the Assembly Hall, with its beautifully ornate ceiling, hangs the School Escutcheon bearing the words "*Amicitia Laetitiam Auget*" (Friendship redoubleth joy). A most appropriate motto which reflects through the whole school.

To those who know the Principal, Mr. Harry Levine, it is not so very surprising that upon this same escutcheon is embodied a design of T.T. bats and balls, for the Headmaster expounds the belief that table tennis, more than anything else, builds up the character and personality of a boy.

For two years the Head has been developing his table tennis "class" with remarkable success. Last season his own son, Antony (now at Carmel College), reached the Final of the Lowestoft Junior Championship.

Most of the boys—from 15 years old School Captain David Bardsley to the "baby" Max Geller, aged 8—learn the game for the first time when they arrive at Briar Clyffe. They have expert coaching from Mr. A. F. G. Nickels (the Suffolk County player), who has, this year, joined Mr. Levine's staff.

Boy star of the moment is David Bardsley who hails from Harleston. He reached the zone final of the County Junior Singles and only lost after a brave display. But Bardsley is not alone; stars in embryo are common enough at Briar Clyffe. The most improved players are 13 years old John Collins and Peter Cole, two of the Day boys' team. They arrive at school 45 minutes early each morning to improve their game.

Many other boys' names are well-known in Lowestoft League circles—Keith Goff, Trevor Reddish, Fulcher, Nixon, Singer, Bauman, Chase—they're too numerous to mention. If only there were a Girls' School run on similar lines to supply Lowestoft with future Town and County Players!

Arthur Durrant

## Challenge

**BRIAR CLYFFE SCHOOL** issues a challenge to any school in London or Birmingham to play a friendly match on Wilmott Cup lines, home or away.

**MR. HARRY LEVINE's** interest in Table Tennis goes back to the foundation of the Birmingham T.T.A. 20 years ago with A. A. Haydon and Maurice Goldstein, and he remembers M. Kriss as a promising junior of 10 years of age. Although he only went to Lowestoft in 1949, he was Chairman of the League last year and Hon. Treasurer of

Suffolk T.T.A. In addition to Mr. Nickels (County No. 2) on the staff the visiting Music Teacher is Miss Eunice Beech, No. 1 for Lowestoft and Suffolk ladies. Briar Clyffe School is used as the headquarters of the Norfolk and Suffolk Counties Coaching Scheme under Jack Carrington (and with the C.C.P.R.).

## Relative Values

by HOWARD C. RICHARDS

**S**URELY the Editor was over-rating the advance table tennis has made when he said, in the February Magazine, that it had not only become the Sport of the age, but also the most international of all sports?

I agree that table tennis has become one of the major sports, but I am convinced that not many people outside the game realize this. I fail to see, therefore, how the superlatives the Editor uses can apply to table tennis.

Let me qualify those remarks. International Open Championships are a good guide, and serve as an excellent illustration to judge a sport's international strength. Comparing last

year's Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships with the last English Open (or the "Table Tennis Wimbledon of the World"), there was a substantial difference in the amount of international competition. Wimbledon attracted 140 overseas competitors, representing 34 countries, while Wembley drew 30 visitors, from 9 countries.

Further, both lawn tennis and table tennis have the same number of countries affiliated to their respective international federations.

These facts prove, firstly, that although not necessarily being superior to other sports in international representation, table tennis most certainly compares favourably, and, secondly, they help fans to view the great game in its true perspective during this, its Silver Jubilee Year.

H. C. Richards

# Appeal to Juniors

By F. G. MANNOOCH  
Hon. Sec., Kent County

**A**LTHOUGH having passed out of the "junior" stage several years ago, I feel that, as the representative of the juniors on the County Championships Committee, I may be allowed to express my views on junior matters.

What I want to do mostly is to appeal to all the juniors in the country to come into the limelight a little more and make the voice of the younger members heard at League, County and National Meetings throughout the country. A lot is being done in the interest of the juniors today, and nobody appreciates that more than I do, but there are many corners of the country where very little, if anything, is done for them. I am not even going to excuse my own County! Although the Kent juniors get a very fair share of activities in comparison with some counties, there is a vast amount more that could be done for them, especially in the way of coaching, and my voice on this subject is often a "voice in the wilderness".

I know the question of finance is a very real problem and, if there is no answer to this aspect, then it is futile to continue pressing; but I do feel that not enough consideration is given to the question of how to raise the funds for such a deserving purpose.

I do think that the juniors themselves can at least make known their wants and insist that the question of coaching should be seriously considered, not just shelved until next time. And what about the Junior Division of the National County Championships? When one considers the comparatively small counties now taking part, it makes one wonder why the larger counties cannot do likewise. The travelling in the present Junior Division is considerable, but this could surely be lessened if the number of teams was increased to the extent that regional sections could be formed. To win the present Division must be an honour, but it does not prove that the winning team is the best that could be produced. Or does it? So what about it, you lads and lassies from Lincs., Lancs., Yorks. and Glos.?

F. G. Mannoch

## The Scottish Open

will be staged at Murrayfield Indoor Sports Club, Roseburn Street, Edinburgh on the 12th and 13th April, 1952. Particulars : Mr. R. D. Dykes, 99, Henderson Row, Edinburgh 3.

★ ★ ★

## A Ha'penny Tip

from A. A. WALL

**I**N my new capacity as coach to my eleven-year-old daughter, I have discovered a new method of training, so will professional (sorry, should it be registered?) coaches please note.

In teaching her to hit, I could not get her to use her full powers, so jokingly suggested a halfpenny for every shot she got past me without my touching it. She won 4d. in the first half-hour! It may prove expensive, coaches, especially if older Juniors raise the hitting price, but it works.

# FIXTURE BOOK

In the Open Tournaments below, the Events shown are **ADDITIONAL** to **M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D.,** and **X.D.**, in every case. All organisers are asked to check information and to advise The Editor of any amendments. The **CLOSING DATE** for Entries, where known, is shown in brackets after the Title.

Date(s)	Details and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
<b>1952</b>			
April 5-6	<b>BUCKS OPEN (Mar. 20)</b> Slough Community Centre, Farnham Road, Slough.	B.S. G.S.	L. Thompson, "Auchmead," The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraysbury, Bucks.
12-14	<b>NORTH-EAST ENGLAND</b> Burniston Road Barracks, (Apr. 2) Scarborough, Yorks.	B.S. G.S. Y.S. V.S.	E. Moorhouse, 26, Sherwood Street, Scarborough. (See Note in Col. 1, this page).
17-19	<b>LANCASHIRE OPEN (Apr. 5)</b> Squire's Gate (Blackpool) Holiday Camp, St. Anne's-on-Sea, Lancs.	B.S. G.S. Y.S.	W. E. Wood, 44, Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester 9.
20-26	<b>NORTH-WEST KENT OPEN</b> Barnehurst Residents' Club, (Mar. 17) 152a, Parkside Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.		F. T. Burvill, 2, Lime Avenue, Northfleet, Kent.
Apr.28- May 3	<b>THAMESIDE OPEN (Apr. 7)</b> Hydro Hall, Y.M.C.A., Plaietow, London, E.13.	B.S. G.S.	L. R. Norminton, 12, Der- ham Gardens, Upminster, Essex.
May 6	<b>FRANCE v. ENGLAND.</b>		Paris.

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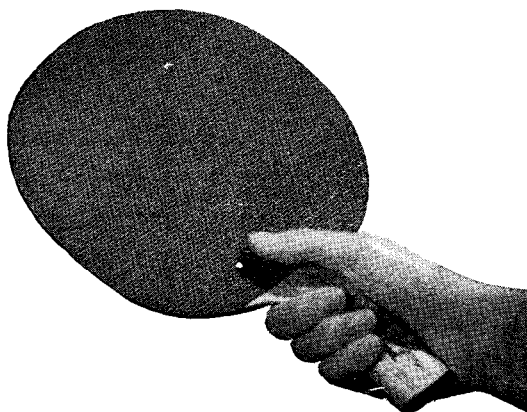
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