

TABLE TENNIS



No. 808

PAM MORTIMER
(Warwickshire)

Contributors include:

ALEC BROOK
R. S. WEERA
A. A. WALL
H. E. PEARCE
E. CROUCHER
PETER MADGE
DENNIS HARLE
D. and R. ROWE
VICTOR BARNA
IVOR MONTAGU
FERENC GYORGY
GEOFF. HARROWER
PAULINE ROBINSON
GEOFF. COULTHREAD
R. D. I. CHARLESWORTH

Table Tennis



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Edited by **LESLIE S. WOOLLARD**

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Editorial OPINION

Wake Up-In the Back Row

NEW YEAR GREETINGS to all and Welcome to Coronation Year—a year that calls for an energetic spirit of enterprise, quest and adventurous endeavour: the New Elizabethan Age.

It is a time to clear mental cobwebs and spring-clean outlooks. It is a time to question whether all the ways that brought Success in the past are in tune with the times? Progress catches up with its own tail and while we are still on a universal upsurge of popularity we ought to be looking into the years ahead—to MAKE circumstances, not wait for them. We must beware the sickness of over-standardisation and the complacency which turns success into mediocrity.

To what point have the years brought your league? Have you got fine playing centres? Are all your events more crowded than ever? Are finances better and strong enough to back any scheme? Are all members active and club secretaries efficient???? We are engrossed and close to the game, too close at times, perhaps, to know whether we have become adynamic.

There are critics who confess their ignorance by asserting that our sport is controlled (at its several levels, by self-electing oligarchies of reactionary diarchs! A tree can only flourish when its roots are healthy; get down to the roots and realities. The PLAYERS ARE ALWAYS RESPONSIBLE for the Administration they get: THEY and no others elect them. Ordinary members (or those of them that have the common decency to attend meetings) elect local officers; these include league E.T.T.A. Representatives who can use the league's vote(s) in the elections for the National Executive. About 60% use that vote.

The progress and authority of the national administration DEPENDS on and can rarely exceed the average efficiency of its local leagues. That average is not so hot. A permanent example is recorded in the current E.T.T.A. Handbook: Despite appeals and head office reminders key officials of 140 LEAGUES FAILED to send the few particulars asked for! A roughly 40% failure at league level!! But the root causes are deeper and come back first, to club secretaries and then to ordinary members—thousands of whom are either too thoughtless (in both senses), too lazy or too selfish to even attend just ONE league meeting in 365 days. Is it surprising then that local Table Tennis facilities cannot match local football, cricket or even bowls?

“WAKE UP there—yes, YOU—in the back row!” as Professor Jimmy Edwards might say. Go out and recruit the fainéants. Let their many numbers enliven meetings with enterprising thought. Free the talents of some of the over-burdened. Stimulate activity with the inspiration of your own effort and support. Table Tennis is team-work and those in the “back rows” should get to know that and take an active, positive interest in their league and its work.

Table Tennis challenges alert minds to give us stimulating new ideas. VICTOR BARNA's article on page 11 suggests several possibilities, and the bold adventure of the World's 1954 (see page 9) is a challenge to English T.T. South London includes a novel item in their Finals Programme (page 23). A league official suggests that counties should give incentives to the host leagues of county matches. (Some counties already allocate a percentage of profits.) But what about animated shop window displays? a Table Tennis Week? a Schools, Hospital and Cinema drive? new types of live exhibitions and Competitions, with features to interest and ENLARGE the local audiences? the establishment of fine local playing centres comparable with other sports? Ladies and Gentlemen, the meeting is open for discussion.

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD, The Editor.

† ALL contributions appearing with the name of the writer are the personal opinions of that writer and are not necessarily those of the Association.

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**LESLIE S. WOOLLARD,
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SPECIAL EDITIONS

A number of Special Editions are published. In each case, they comprise a complete full edition of *Table Tennis*, PLUS an additional Supplement which is Edited in the particular region and contains all the news and notices from that region. These editions are particularly good value, and every player residing in such an area should certainly be a subscriber. Enquiries for the appropriate Edition should be made direct to the following officers:—

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

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

SELECTION COMMITTEE NOTICES

AUSTRIAN AND YUGOSLAV CHAMPIONSHIPS. 30th Oct.-2nd Nov. and 7-9th Nov. Invitations from the respective associations for **JOHNNY LEACH, DIANE ROWE** and **ROSALIND ROWE** were accepted. Mrs. D. Leach was nominated as chaperone. (22nd Oct., 1952).

ENGLAND v. FRANCE (Men). Aylesford, 25th Nov. **R. BERGMANN; J. LEACH; A. SIMONS.** Reserve: **K. Craigie.** (17th Nov., 1952).

ENGLAND v. WALES (Mixed). Newport, 4th Dec., 1952. **A. SIMONS (Capt.); H. VENNER; K. CRAIGIE; B. MERRETT;** Miss **D. ROWE; Miss R. ROWE.** Reserves: **J. Head** and **Miss C. K. Best.** (20th Nov., 1952).

ENGLAND v. FRANCE (Women). Berck Plage, 7th Jan., 1953. **Miss D. ROWE; Miss R. ROWE; Miss C. K. BEST.** Capt.: **A. A. Haydon.** (9th Dec., 1952).

FRENCH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS. Paris, 4-6th Jan., 1953. Men: **R. BERGMANN; A. W. C. SIMONS; B. KENNEDY.** Women: **Miss D. ROWE; Miss R. ROWE; Miss C. K. BEST.** Juniors: **C. BOOTH (Lanc.); Miss A. HAYDON (Warwicks.); Miss J. ROOK (Surrey).** (9th Dec., 1952).

JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL TRIALS for Boys and Girls. Gillingham. 4 p.m., Saturday, 29th Nov., 1952 (held in the same venue and prior to the Kent Junior Open). The International Selection Committee issued a circular to all General and Match Secretaries of County Associations on the 22nd October, inviting nominations for the Trials.

FOCUS ON TABLE TENNIS TOUR 1952-53

By arrangement between the E.T.T.A., the C.C.P.R. and leagues interested, **VICTOR BARRA** and **JOHNNY LEACH** have again been engaged in the popular series of "Focus" Exhibitions.

Performances have already been given with great success at Lowestoft, Cambridge and Yeovil. Future bookings so far include:

January

26th, Lincoln. 21st, Grimsby. 22nd, Leeds. 28th, Sheffield. 29th, York.

February

10th, Reading. 11th, Gillingham. 13th, Oxford. 14th, Shrewsbury.

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ENGLAND beat WALES 8—1

Newport, Mons., 4th Dec., 1952

ENGLAND'S first-ever international match was played against Wales 30 years ago, but considering the high world standards of English play to-day it is doubtful whether Wales have ever had so strong an all-round team as they have to-day. This is doubtless the first fruits of the Welsh Executive's broad, long term policy of development which included coaching, junior encouragement and entering the County Championships (where they have held their own against all but the very top).

They are dour fighters are these Welsh with occasional flashes of aggression that threaten a breakthrough. Six of the nine ties went to 3 games. For Wales, 16-year Shirley Jones (already a junior international) made her debut as a Senior International when she partnered Vera Rowe in the L.D. against the celebrated Rowe Twins, scoring useful points with her quickfire hitting. Walter Sweetland scored the only Welsh win over England's No. 6 player Ken Craigie.

DETAILS—(England names first in capitals): **A. SIMONS** bt. **J. Davies** —16, 18. **H. VENNER** bt. **S. Jones** —22, 12, 19. **K. CRAIGIE** lost **W. Sweetland** 13, —16. —11. **B. MERRETT** bt. **G. Morgan** 13, 17. **Miss R. ROWE** bt. **Miss A. Bates** —12, 10, 13. **Miss D. ROWE** bt. **Miss B. Gray** 17, 14. **MERRETT/SIMONS** bt. **Davies/Morgan** —13, 18, 10. **CRAIGIE/VENNER** bt. **Jones/Sweetland** —15, 13, 19. **Misses D. & R. ROWE** bt. **Miss S. Jones/Mrs. V. Rowe** 15, 18.



PROBATIONARY UMPIRE

I'm on trial—all nerves—

20-19—Smith serves—

"Fault!" I smartly call "DEUCE!"
Oh dear! was my face peuce.

KEITH WATTS.

COVER GIRL

PAM MORTIMER (Warwicks.)

PAM MORTIMER entered Birmingham's Rose Bowl (Final) team last season to prove yet again that "Brum" can usually find good lady players (even if less successful with the men). Vital statistics: Just 20 years; 5 ft. 6 ins. tall, slim and attractive; dark-brown hair; grey-green eyes; bright personality and sense of fun. Attractive open style of attacking play.

Youngest of six (4 brothers, 1 sister). In 1948 Sam Hart spent hours teaching her at the works club. Then she saw Ken Craigie play and so much liked his vigorous style, that she became really keen and spent her annual holidays in 1951 and 1952 at Jack Carrington's school. In Open Tournaments this year, has won Bath W.S. and X.D., Birmingham W.D., and was W.S. finalist in South of England and Portsmouth Opens (losing to Peggy Piper on each occasion in the third game).

Pam's great hope is to see Birmingham win the Rose Bowl this year. Always herself smart in appearance, she would like to see all counties have their own blazers (and more uniformity of dress generally). Other interests (T.T. permitting) include Swimming, Boating, Cycling. Is fond of all things musical, with a love for Opera and Ballet.

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"YOUR SUCCESS IS MY AIM"

THE MYTH OF THE 'YES-MEN'

By IVOR MONTAGU

THE other day one of the selectors dropped me a line. He had just got home after one of our junior trials: a journey of several hundred miles through sleet, snow, rain and fog, hours of cold and damp officiating at the play, extra hours and start all over again when some of the boys and girls turned up late through even worse weather, an argument on which the selection committee split three and three with one abstention and decided to reconsider by letter and telephone rather than make a possibly unjust snap decision, a missed only train through his conscientious sticking to the last, a snail's journey home next day, and arrival there just in time to read about himself in our contemporary, the *Review*—just another of the "Yes-Men".

This legend of the "Yes-Men" of the Selection Committee, sired, I think, by our good friend, excellent Table Tennis enthusiast and journalist, Sam Kirkwood, is becoming part of the game's mythology. When it started I used to think it was a compliment to the charm and eloquence of yours truly; one lifted eyebrow, a smile, or a wink from those brown eyes and everyone gets into line. But, as not a single one of my present colleagues agrees with, or even has the slightest sympathy with, any of my pet principles re team selection, trials, etc., and after every meeting I feel more and more like gravel that has met a steam roller, the allusion must be to someone else. A simple mathematical calculation shows that, while the present Committee of seven includes three rather subtle and quiet ones and four of the most obstinate and stubborn blighters in Table Tennis. While it is true that, if the four domineering types do get together, the other three count for nix, yet since these four have never (or less frequently) been known to agree exactly about anything, it is the subtle ones who usually have their own way.

However, the legend of the Abominable Yes-Man persists and is now being extended. Delving into an article by old Brookie—famous exhibitionist, ex-internationalist and expert tourist, I learned that the designation applies not only to selectors but to almost every national official; "really excellent" people locally have only to be elected to a National Committee, he says, and they go the way of the rest. Yet worse, apparently the 'fluence affects anybody who even comes near Headquarters for a few minutes. Thus, according to Brookie, at the last A.G.M. something so awful was passed over in so complete and sycophantic

silence that "a personage, respected by most of the Table Tennis followers, got up and walked out in disgust." Busy in the Chair, I did not notice this, but I do earnestly ask, if he was disgusted, what was wrong with the respected personage up-and-asking a question instead of up-and-off?

I highly value the *Review*, and am extremely grateful for my free copy. There is bound to be more criticism in an independent paper than an official one, and criticism is always useful. When it is just it teaches one what is right, and even when its sappy it teaches one what others think. But why not criticise, also, within the organisation at the proper times? Come to meetings. Don't be shy. Don't be silent. You, Brookie, as equally any member of the Association, might have been there and put your questions. Then no misunderstanding could have arisen about any matters, and the selectors could have been shot for what they did, rather than what some people (clairvoyantly and even possibly wrongly) think they did. Remember, Brookie, they also "Yes" who always stay away.

Since the matter has been raised so strongly by Sam and Alcc, however, two persons who certainly have the welfare of the game at heart, and since they say that other good persons are seething on the subject—(although I've not noticed it)—and since Brookie wasn't at the A.G.M. and the "personage" wasn't there long (so the question didn't come up), I offer here the facts of the Swaythling Cup team selection last year. I do so the more heartily because these facts redound, I think, very much to the credit of Richard Bergmann's courage and sportsmanship, and—although others may disagree—I do not think they reflect particularly badly on anyone else.

One point first. No one, not even a selector, has the slightest doubt that Bergmann is No. 1 in the English ranking list. No one, not even a crazy coot, has the slightest doubt that he is in the first 5 in England. But the business of the selectors is not just to list "the best" on paper, it is to get the best players to the table at **their best**, and if possible in such a way that they carry public confidence and are fortified by it.

At the A.G.M. at the end of the 1950-51 season, the retiring executive proposed that, despite the cost of

travel to Bombay being nearly twice as high as any World Championship journey ever undertaken before, men's and women's teams should be sent. Following a question from the floor on how much it would cost, the incoming executive was encouraged to agree to send two teams, that of the women to consist of 3, and of the men, 3 plus Haydon, if he could be persuaded to captain both and to break his rule of refusing cup nomination (since the war he has always refused this, preferring to keep the way open for younger players), so that he could be eligible to make up the men's team (as did Gregory last year in the event of the Davis Cup) in the event of an unforeseen accident to one of the other three.

The Executive later adopted this recommendation of the A.G.M. and the Selectors consequently had the task of selecting three in addition to Haydon, only three fares being available by that decision.

When the time for selection approached, it turned out that Bergmann, who had been suspended throughout the preceding season, had not played in one single competitive event in England for eighteen months. He was appearing on the music-hall in Paris, under long contract. His only competitive appearances during the season had been the French "Tournament of Champions" which he had won, but which is in any case of an exhibition nature (being by invitation) and which could shed no light on his speed owing to the nature of the styles of players met, and the Austrian Open, where he was beaten (in 3 games admittedly) by the hitter Dolinar. (We had reason to know, from two years previously, that Bergmann, when engaged in more exhibitions than matches is apt to form a habit of returning the ball much higher than usual to his game.)

What to do? The selectors did not like to choose a man (even though his ability was not and could not be in the slightest doubt), whose current physical condition and match-trim were unknown and whom they had not seen play for eighteen months. Was this wrong? Perhaps. Perhaps not. In any case, I can think of no other sport selection committee which **would** have made such a selection. The officers, whenever Bergmann had applied for permission to play exhibitions abroad, had not liked to refuse on the grounds he must play and train with the rest in England. Was this wrong? Perhaps. Perhaps not. Bergmann is grown up. He was given

(continued on next page)

MYTH OF THE "YES-MEN"

(continued from previous page)

every permission he requested. But the selectors told him they would like to see him play in one English tournament before the selection time. Bergmann's Paris music-hall show was a success. It was extended for many weeks. The selectors intervened with the managements of one or two tournaments, and suggested to Bergmann dates where he could fix participation by only one day's absence from the cast. Suddenly the star of his show fell ill and had to foreseer a day's rest. Bergmann intimated that he could come to England on a certain day, and that one day only, if that were any use. No tournament was available. The selectors decided to hold a trial on that day. The form of everyone else was sufficiently well-known for no trial to be required, except to make certain of Bergmann's form. Was it idiotic to have a trial just for the sake of Bergmann? Perhaps. Perhaps not. The Association had previously suspended Bergmann, for what it considered good reason. The Association is always anxious to fall over itself to show it bears no grudges against those who have taken their medicine.

Very well. The trial took place. Nearly everyone beat Bergmann. Many beat him by a street. Venner beat him by a mile, more thoroughly, probably, than Bergmann had ever been beaten before in his whole career. True, the floor was disgracefully slippery (for which the selectors must carry the can) which handicapped Bergmann badly. True also, however, that he put the ball up high in the air, that he was slow and that he was out of condition.

What could the selectors do? They had a mandate to pick only three (because only three fares were author-

ised). How could they pick him before Leach? before Simons? above all, before Venner—who had up to then been as successful in tournaments as in the trial? Perhaps they should have done—and been unfair to Leach, Simons or Venner? Perhaps not. Perhaps they had got themselves in a spot through silliness, and deserved no sympathy? Perhaps the spot was due, just a little, to their extreme anxiety to be fair to Richard. Richard himself said, what was obvious, that on the day he could not be selected. What did the selectors do? They selected Leach, Simons, Venner and A. N. Other. Richard was told: they had not power to promise his fare, but if he could get fit and show his true form before entry-closing date, and wished to go, he would at once receive nomination.

Richard, with courage and sportsmanship, at once set about making a come-back. He made efforts to raise the fare. He ran round the Bois in Paris every morning. He entered every tournament he could the moment his music-hall show was over, and he won them both. But—it turned out that the entries must be made before the date these tournaments were held. The Selection Committee, however, **knowing the effort he was making**, had decided to nominate him even before the results were available.

To be fair both to Richard and the Association, let the financial position be clearly understood. Richard had to take the responsibility. The selectors had no powers to vary their instructions received from the Executive Committee. Nor did the officers feel able to disregard, by so substantial a sum, the limit strictly set by the Executive Committee, which was not meeting again till after the Championships. The officers did say they were prepared to take responsibility for

assistance to a very small amount, but it was small. And that they would raise the matter as sympathetically as they could, at the first opportunity, in the light of Richard's keenness. But he had to take the risk.

It is known now that Richard went, that he was fit, and that he played with a consistent courage and sportsmanship perhaps greater in that he did not gain the full victory he hoped. At any rate he killed. I hope for good, the malicious story (which has always been untrue), that he cares only for his own singles titles and not for the fortunes of the team. In the light of (a) his conduct, (b) the Treasurer's invariably prudent husbandry, the N.E.C. did decide to make the costs good, so that Richard was not eventually the loser.

I am anxious that this story should be known, because the question has been raised, not, of course, in an unfriendly way but in too simple a way. Selectors are always kicked. It is fun to kick them, and why not? But I am anxious that no one should wrongly hold the mischievous thought that the Association has a grudge against Bergmann. He is a difficult person and does not try not to be. Well, that is his right. When he actually breaks a rule, he has to be bashed, because rules are bigger than people, and—especially when they are good rules—disregard of them can result in unfairness to others. But, otherwise, he is an important contributor to our sport and even if he makes trouble, that's no reason not to go to trouble to meet him as far as possible. We should also destroy the thought that a majority of selectors ever thought him not worth his place. They are dumb, perhaps, but not that dumb, and they are conscientious—the trouble arose through trying hard to be super-fair to him, and fair to others. Did they make mistakes? I am one of them, and cannot judge. But the result turned out well—because all were trying the utmost to be fair to and help each other. And I am not quite sure that the final good result was a mere accident. If we had never had that trial, it is at least possible Richard would not have realised in time how rigorous a discipline he had still to impose on himself. I am not quite sure Sam and Brookie, that he, too, who saw it from the inside, would not say "Yes" to that one.

IVOR MONTAGU.

WARWICKS. LEAGUE

To and including 6th Dec., 1952

Banbury 0—Birmingham 9. Nuneaton 2—Tamworth 7. Leamington 2—Rugby 7. Tamworth 4—Leamington 5. Birmingham 9—Nuneaton 0. Rugby 1—Coventry 8. Leamington 1—Birmingham 8.

Birmingham	3	3	0	26	1	6
Tamworth	2	1	1	11	7	2
Rugby	2	1	1	8	10	2
Coventry	1	1	0	8	1	2
Leamington	3	1	2	8	19	2
Nuneaton	2	0	2	2	16	0
Banbury	1	0	1	0	9	0

M. E. Evans.

NEW MATCH VENUE IDEA

WHILE Liverpool has been holding committees round hospital beds Hull League have for some time been giving T.T. Exhibitions in their local hospital, where they have become very popular with both staff and patients. So much so, indeed, that a new high in benevolent enterprise was established on Dec. 6th when Hull staged its official inter-league match with Bradford actually in the hospital, before an audience which included a number of stretcher cases. Do a good deed and throw it in the sea—it won't sink. A Bonquet to Hull . . . An idle thought envisages bell-banging ambulances speeding T.T. teams to new match venues which might fairly be described as Operational Theatres . . .

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love Table Tennis



Memories of ALEC BROOK

PART 2

Recently we played in a big London charity show. H.R.H. Princess Marie Louise was in one of the boxes. She afterwards sent for us to go to the Royal Box, saying, "It is a long time since I was so excited watching sport and I very nearly fell out of the box." A wonderful compliment which was much appreciated.

In South Africa I had the honour and pleasure of meeting the late Field Marshal Smuts at the House of Assembly. He told me that he enjoyed watching table tennis but was more interested in another table. When I asked which table, he replied . . . Table Mountain and said he kept much of his fitness by walking up part of Table Mountain whenever he could.

Another exciting time was during the filming of the Royal Command film—"A Matter of Life and Death." In the film, two people, Kim Hunter and Roger Livesey, must be able to play T.T. and keep a fairly long rally going. I was commissioned to coach

them for the part and as the time they had available was somewhat limited, it took almost a month as neither had played previously. During that time, Raymond Massey and David Niven—who were also in the film—played quite a lot, and showed their keenness for the game.

To mention celebrities I have met and leave out Fred Perry would be a grave injustice to a great sportsman. I played in the same team as Fred for about three years, during which we were unbeaten for most of that time. Perry was a man who had more confidence than anyone I have ever known, yet how often was that confidence mistaken by the majority for conceit. I find many people cannot discriminate between faith in one's own ability or the inflated ego.

With stage and sport mixed together one meets celebrities in every walk of life and I could go on with my reminiscences. Space is short, so briefly one or two people and events which stand out in my memory . . .



No. 812 ★

Autograph hunters bag a trio. Film star Hugh McDermott, Alec Brook and Victor Barna. Hugh McDermott has been policeman, sailor, lumberjack, golf pro. in America and Mexico, been mixed up in a Revolution, so still has time for T.T. His films include "The Young Mr. Pitt"; "Pimpernel Smith"; "The Seventh Veil"; "No Orchids for Miss Blandish"; "The Huggets Abroad"; "Trent's Last Case," etc.

Jessie Matthews auctioneering an autographed table tennis ball at one of our shows with the ball realising just over £60 . . . Lord Leverhulme enjoying our game so much that he invited us to view the next Grand National from his private box . . . A show for the Bolton Football disaster fund where so many stars appeared, it would have cost a fortune if each had been paid his salary . . . Charlie Kunz, Ivy Benson, Victor and I judging a beauty contest and each differing in his opinion of the winner, and an exhibition we gave during the war for M.P.'s only. ●

A Matter of Life and Death



No. 813 ★

David Niven interrupts Roger Livesey in the Table Tennis game from the first Royal Command Film "A Matter of Life and Death." Table Tennis was chosen—because of its high speed—to illustrate the theme of timelessness—Niven has a full adventure in the "In-Between" and cannot believe it has all happened during the single flight of a T.T. ball. Although Niven and others of the cast were T.T. players, Alec Brook tells how he was called in to coach Roger Livesey and Kim Hunter to ensure authenticity. (Produced in Technicolor for "The ARCHERS," by Powell and Pressburger).

CLAIMS DEPARTMENT

SPARTAN CLUB (4th Div. Central London) won 160 of 162 league games played last season; 3 players gained 100% and the 4th (losing the 2 games) 95%. Can any affiliated team show a better record?

* * *

GLOUCESTER's team secretary Leslie Davis thinks they have the **YOUNGEST SENIOR** teams in the country. Western Counties League (Div. 1): B. Merrett 17, P. Smith about 19, R. Morley 16 and D. Woodcock 19, Shirley Davis 17, Mary Gubbins 17. **AVERAGE AGE** 18½. Their Wilmott Cup team (with M. Morgan 18) has an **AVERAGE AGE** of 17, and like their Rose Bowl team have reached the 3rd Round.

OUR AUSTRIAN & YUGOSLAVIAN TOUR

By

DIANE and ROSALIND ROWE

WITH Johnny and Daisy (Mrs. Leach) we left London Airport on the 29th October and arrived at Vanna some while later to be welcomed by Dr. Konath. Then a good meal and some sleep. The England v. Austria (Women's) match was played the next day. The first stumbling block was that the umpiring was in German, but from the middle of the first game Johnny came and sat next to the umpire to help us out. Di lost the first set against Linde Werthl 18, —15, —17, but Rosalind beat both Werthl (17, 16) and Trudi Pritzi (—17, 11, 16) and we won the doubles 17, 9 to make a 3-1 victory for England. All very happy, we had a little celebration before bedtime.

Friday was free, but we gave an exhibition for the troops who were really appreciative, and then rounded off the day by relaxing at the cinema. The Austrian Open began on the Saturday, and we found that conditions favoured the defensive player. All went well until evening, when the 4 semi-finals were played on the 4 tables: Ros v. Pritzi, Bergmann v. Harangozo, Di v. Werthl, and Johnny v. Roothoft. All the English players lost and were, of course, disappointed. Daisy was really great, helping and encouraging us at every opportunity. The doubles events were played the next day and we all got through to the finals. Rene Roothoft beat Vilim Harangozo in a very exciting M.S. final which went the 5 games and was taken on a 17/16 time limit in the fifth. Harangozo was 0-9 down in

the 5th game but picked up to 13-all. In the W.D. we took a 3-straight win (11, 15, 16) over Pritzi/Werthl. The M.D. final was another exciting match which Bergmann and Leach lost to Dolinar/Harangozo in the 5th game. Linde Werthl beat Trudi Pritzi 3-straight (17, 17, 15) in the W.S. The X.D. was an all-British final in which Johnny and Di beat Richard and Ros 15, 18, 13. Then Dr. Konath took us out for the evening to round off an occasion during which the Austrian Association earned our appreciation for treating us wonderfully well.

The next day, November 3rd, we started our 20-hour train journey to Yugoslavia. At the Russian check point at Semmerling, the French team did not have the necessary official stamps on their passports, and had to return to Vienna and follow on the next day. We arrived at Subotica at 9.30 a.m. on the Tuesday, and it was a meal and straight into bed for us, with a cinema show in the evening.

On Wednesday we played a young Yugoslavian women's team, staged as London v. Subotica, and won 5-0. There was a good crowd, which appreciated both appearance and play, and Johnny played an exhibition singles with a local player which went down very well. Everyone was very nice in Subotica, which we left next day in the train for Belgrade. On the train, one of the Yugoslav's produced a banjo and for 4 hours we lustily sang all the songs we knew; one of the pleasantest ways of spending a long train journey! Several officials

of the Yugoslav Association met us at Belgrade and escorted us to our hotel, where we again caught up with Pritzi and Richard Bergmann. First a meal, then relaxation at the cinema again. (It seems to be generally known abroad that the English always dart into a cinema at every opportunity!!)

On Friday, Richard and Ros played in the afternoon, and the England v. Yugoslavia international match was played in the evening. Richard won a very exciting match against Harangozo in the 5th game. Then Johnny—but not the Johnny that we know—lost 1-3 to Dolinar for the first time ever. Our boys lost the doubles 2-3 to Dolinar/Harangozo; then Johnny beat Harangozo 3-0. It was now about 1.30, and with the score at 2-all, we were all in suspense about the last deciding tie, which to our great relief, Richard finally won 3-2, to give England a 3-2 victory. What a game that last one was!!

The first shock in the Yugo Open (on Saturday) was Trudi Pritzi's coming out to another defensive player. There was some grievance about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played the semi against Linde Werthl. In fast conditions it seemed impossible to stop this whirlwind, and our hopes dropped when Ros lost the first game. She then won the second and the fourth, and with scores very even, Werthl was leading 16-14 in the final fifth. Then Ros suddenly changed her tactics to more attack and ran home the winner 21-17. (While in Belgrade we—thar's Ros and Di—played a young women's team and won 3-0).

Johnny lost to Gabrites, a young lad who had previously beaten Amouretti 3-0 in an earlier round. How the crowd applauded their hero! But it was good to see Johnny still smiling after what must have been a disappointing loss. Richard had an easy win over Vogrinc, while Harangozo and Roothoft came through the other quarters. Richard and Johnny lost a nerve-wracking 5-set semi-final to Cafiero/Vogrinc in the M.D.

On finals night, Harangozo beat Gabrites 3-1; Richard Bergmann beat Roothoft 3-1. Then Bergmann beat Harangozo 3-straight after being 18-20 down in the first. Ros beat Di

(concluded on next page)



GUESS WHO

No. 810 (Left)

"When in Rome... they say, so what more natural than to go to "Dutch" when in Holland? Can you recognise the famous in their "off-duty" dress? They are Vilim Harangozo, Ros and Di Rowe, and Dr. Zarko Dolinar. Like to see them play in those togs and clogs?"

AUSTRIAN TOUR

(From previous page)

in a 5-set final battle, and together they beat Pritzi and Werli. Johnny Leach and Di beat Bergmann and Ros in the X.D. final, and Dolinar/Harangozo beat Cafiero/Vogrinc 3-0 in the M.D.

With the finals over the great hall seemed suddenly extremely quiet and, oh, so cold! On Monday, we played to an enormous crowd at Zagreb, and so to Vienna on Tuesday and on to London on Wednesday. It was a happy tour and everywhere we went, they always remarked how happy we all were, and always seemed to be laughing. Johnny and Daisy were full of laughs. They really are good and cheering company. ●

T.T. CUPS COMPETITIONS

Second Round Results

WILMOTT CUP (Men's)

Zone 1.—HUDDERSFIELD 6—Halifax 3. Northumberland 3—LEEDS 5. Chesterfield 0—SHEFFIELD 9. LINCOLN 7—Barnsley 2.

Zone 2.—LIVERPOOL 8—Southport 1. Chester 3—STOCKPORT 6. Barrow 3—CARLISLE 6. BOLTON 9—Burnley 0.

Zone 3.—NORTHAMPTON 7—Derby 2. Dudley 2—BIRMINGHAM 7. Barnets 4—ST. ALBANS 5. Welwyn Garden City 2—WATFORD 7.

Zone 4.—CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY 7—Peterborough 2. GL. Yarmouth 1—CAMBRIDGE 9. ROMFORD 6—Dagenham 3. Ilford 3—FELLOWS CRANLEIGH 6.

Zone 5.—Old Victorians 0—LONDON CIV. SER. 9. London Banks 1—EAST LONDON 8. Edwasca 0—LONDON BUSINESS HOUSES 7. MANHATTAN 7—Insur. Off. 2.

Zone 6.—Croydon 3—BRIGHTON 6. SOUTH LONDON 9—Sutton 0. Willesden 3—NORTH MIDDLESEX 6. Putney 2—STAINES 7.

Zone 7.—Den T.T.C. 1—SOUTHAMPTON 8. BOURNEMOUTH 6—Portsmouth 3. WOOLWICH 5—Sittingbourne 4. Folkestone 1—BROMLEY 8.

Zone 8.—BRISTOL 6—Weston-s-Mare 3. Bath 0—PLYMOUTH 9. READING 6—Oxford 3. Maidenhead 3—GLOUCESTER 6.

J. M. ROSE BOWL (Women's)

Zone 1.—NORTHUMBERLAND 7—Sunderland 2. Lincoln 2—BARNSLEY 7.

Zone 2.—Blackpool 3—LIVERPOOL 5. Chester 0—MANCHESTER 9.

Zone 3.—BIRMINGHAM w.o. Northampton. Hitchin 2—BEDFORD 7. St. Albans 3—LUTON 6.

Zone 4.—Peterborough 3—KINGS LYNN 6. SOUTHBEND 8—Laindon 1. Dagenham 4—ILFORD 5.

Zone 5.—West London 2—LONDON BUS. HOUSES 7. SOUTH LONDON 5—Insur Off. 0. London Civ. S. 3—CENTRAL 6. ALBION T.T.C. 9—East London 0.

Zone 6.—Byfleet 1—CROYDON 8. Sutton 2—BECKENHAM 7. PUTNEY 5—North Middlesex 4. Willesden 0—THAMES VALLEY 7.

Zone 7.—BRIGHTON 5—Bournemouth 4. WOOLWICH 7—N.W. Kent 2.

Zone 8.—South Devon 3—SALISBURY 6. GLOUCESTER 7—High Wycombe 2. Maidenhead 1—OXFORD 5.

STOP PRESS — FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

A Special Meeting of the Sunday Freedom Association was held in London on Dec. 19th under the Chairmanship of Mr. Corti Woodcock (representative of the E.T.T.A.) Many national associations were represented, including the National Cyclists' Union, Musicians' Union, Concert Artists' Association, and the Variety Artists' Federation.

Mr. JOHN PARKER, M.P. (Dagenham) announced that leave had been granted to introduce, on JANUARY 30th, a Private Member's Bill designed to adjust the anomalies and to repeal the antiquated laws which controlled what British people could and could not do on Sundays. Some of these laws dated from 1625 and many people could—quite innocently—be convicted through doing something which was generally accepted in these days.

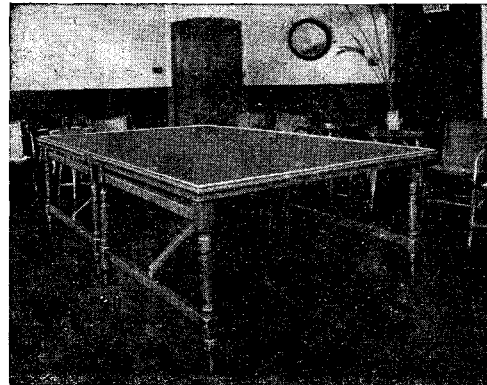
It was made absolutely clear that it was no intention of the Bill to fence abusive use of Sunday freedom; it did not affect the Shops Acts nor the working hours of employees; it was in no way irreligious; it did NO MORE than permit other activities to share equal rights with Sunday cinemas

(which in many areas were supported by religious authorities). In other words, it merely proposed to LET EVERY PERSON HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON WHAT SHOULD OR COULD BE PERMITTED IN THEIR OWN AREA. It enabled every person to know exactly where they stood and gave them the right of letting them decide for themselves.

In some cases it may be illegal to play Table Tennis or other sports on Sunday although some authorities can see much benefit in them to help counter modern youth delinquent trends. The passing of the Bill would still permit everyone to decide by local option. Many Members, on both sides of the House, have enthusiastically welcomed the very reasonable and much needed proposals.

The Sunday Freedom Association appeals to EVERY INDIVIDUAL to WRITE TO THEIR LOCAL M.P. AND SAY THAT YOU THINK THE BILL IS A GOOD THING AND HOPE HE WILL SUPPORT IT. DO THIS NOW. IT MUST REACH YOUR M.P. WELL BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

TOMS for the FINEST TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT



TOURNAMENT T.T. TABLE

- * 1" Birch Ply top
 - * Eight turned folding legs
 - * Finest mat cellulose playing surface obtainable
 - * MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
- Price - £35

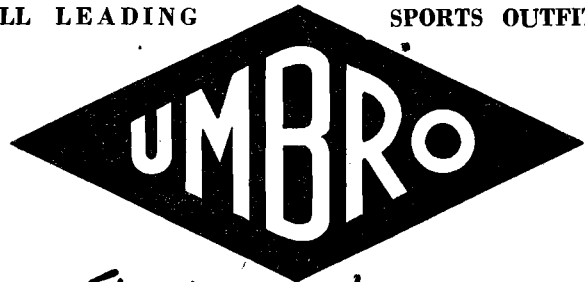
Also T.T. bats to suit all players

Write for further details

JOHN G. TOMS
18, NORBETT ROAD,
Arnold - - - Notts.

OF ALL LEADING

SPORTS OUTFITTERS



The choice of champions

worn in the

Table Tennis World Championships

at BOMBAY by the

SWAYTHLING & CORBILLON CUP TEAM

OPERATION 1954

By GEOFF. HARROWER

TO many players and officials it may seem early to be talking about the 1954 World Championships (Wembley, April, 1954), but let us assure you that for over six months, considerable work has gone into preparing the structure of the Championships.

In June, 1952, a small committee was set up to carry on with all necessary functions. This committee consists of:—Hon. I. Montagu (Chairman), Mr. A. K. Vint (Hon. General Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. G. R. Harrower (Hon. Organising Secretary, World Championships 1954), Mr. M. Goldstein and Mr. W. Stamp.

Even before that early date, however, you had been hearing a lot about "we must raise £4,000 to cover the loss" A Guarantee Fund was set up, and every club in membership of the Association has been invited to guarantee £1 against the anticipated loss. Each month we shall tell you of the Committee's schemes to raise money for the Guarantee Fund, but, before that, let us go into this question—indeed, the fundamental question—**WHY SHOULD THERE BE ANY LOSS AT ALL? WHY NOT A PROFIT?**

Many good supporters of the E.T.A., in conversations with members of the Committee, have brought

home the point that with the increased popularity of the game even bigger audiences can be expected, and, therefore, why cannot we make a profit, instead of forceing this gigantic loss. Are we being too pessimistic?

What is not generally realised is that any National Association undertaking the organisation of a World Championships has to guarantee several things. From the financial standpoint, the important one is that **WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HOSPITALITY (food, hotel, transport, etc.) OF ALL PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS FROM EVERY COUNTRY WHICH CARES TO TAKE PART.**

Each country can send, and we must be responsible for, five men players, four women players, two non-playing captains, and two officials. Additionally, there are members of the International Federation Committees, who also will be our guests. We expect to entertain a minimum of 30 countries; probably the figure will be nearer 40, out of the 60 in membership with the International Federation. Certainly we shall see at least 300 players and officials as our guests. The tournament itself will last for nine days, and because transport from far parts of the world does not run every day we must allow between ten to fourteen days all told for each country. No need to labour the cost of food, hotel accommodation and transport in Eng-



No. 828

land to-day. One can safely assume that each guest will cost us a minimum of £25, and we expect at least 300! We would have to fill Wembley many times over to recoup that amount of money, let alone the other expenses.

That is why we wanted to know from our members, over a year ago... "Shall we run the World Championships?" The answer was overwhelmingly in the affirmative. England leads the way in the organisation of Table Tennis, and it was felt that the immeasurable good that would be done for the game, in drawing new players and supporters, and in increased publicity, would far outweigh the effort which would have to be put in by vast numbers of supporters to "raise the ready cash".

Our only hope of covering all expenses is either by state subsidy or by our own efforts within the game. Unlike other countries, the former is not available to us, so we must concentrate on our own resources.

We do not expect, however, to sit back and wait for the guarantees to roll in. Each member would wish us to raise as much money as possible in other directions, and we have three main plans which it is hoped will help materially. Let us "let you in," briefly, on the first two of these.

Home Counties Tournament

It is planned to launch the World Championship season with a big Open Tournament, to be called the Home Counties Open Championships. This will be staged at the Polytechnic Extension, Little Titchfield Street, London, W.1, from the 31st August to the 5th September, 1953.

No need to extol the playing conditions at the Poly. : they are accepted as the best in the country. What we would like you to know is that it is possible to stage this tournament only by the generosity of the Polytechnic Authorities in giving us the use of their excellent facilities.

We are styling the Home Counties as "The Players' contribution to the World Championships 1954 Guarantee Fund". We hope that all players will support by entering. We are charging a little higher entry fee than usual, but we give you the best conditions and you will be helping the Guarantee Fund—of course, all proceeds will go to the Fund.

ENTRY FORMS ARE READY NOW. Because of the difficulty in gathering entries during the close season, there will be a substantial reduction in entry fees to early entrants—apply to-day for a form from G. R. Harrower, 68, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts.

in YOUR Club

However, it is realised that every player cannot possibly compete in the Home Counties, or the World, Championships.

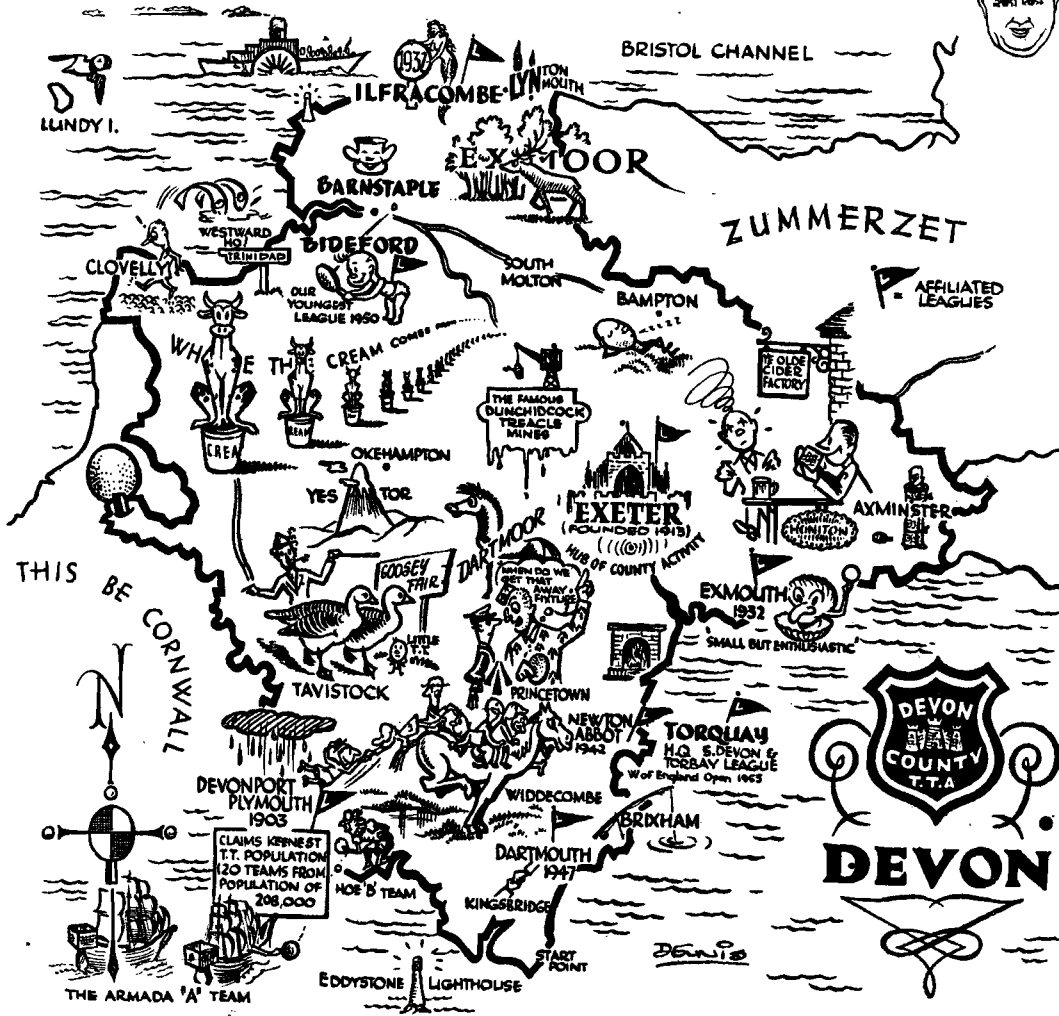
In any case, there are some players who would not stand a lot of chance of advancing beyond the first round. But these players are the backbone of the Association, and naturally we wish to cater for them.

Therefore, from October to December, 1953, we shall be running tournaments in your own club. We hope that EVERY club will arrange one or more competitions for the benefit of their members. This is the idea:—Every club will be invited to run events, whether they be men's or women's singles; men's, women's or mixed doubles; handicap singles or doubles. In fact, any form of competition (or competitions), which the club committee feel will be most enjoyed by their members.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION WILL PRESENT TO EACH WINNER (winners in doubles) A SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND ENGRAVED PLAQUE. This Plaque will have the English Badge in colour incorporated in it. It will not by any means be a cheap plaque, and any player, be he International or beginner, will be proud to win one.

Just think of it. Nearly 8,000 clubs in this country, and all can run as many different competitions as they like. Each event brings a plaque or plaques to YOU and YOUR CLUB. Whether you belong to a very strong club packed with leading players, or one which figures at the bottom of the lowest division in your league, HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL COMPETITION, and your best chance ever to win a prize. There will be more details next month, and every club in membership will receive, during February, full details.

COUNTY GUIDE NO. 3



No. 817

- L. to R.
from top):
Lionel
Kerslake;
Harry Amery;
A. Nuttall;
A. Squires;
E. Davey;
G. Gilbert.

DESPITE the Cream, the Duke and the House, there is no such place as Devonshire . . . there is only DEVON . . . unique, glorious Devon . . . one of the oldest but progressive spheres of English Table Tennis. Its T.T. activity may not go back to the days

"When Adam and Eve were dispossessed
Of a Garden hard by Heaven,
They planted another one down in the
West.

"Twas Devon, Glorious Devon!"

and we are dubious that Plymouth sent its B team to meet the Armada's A, for records say Plymouth League was only founded in 1903. We like the one about Tom Pearce's Old Mare providing the team's transport for the Inter-League between S. Devon and Torbay and Newton Abbot and can readily believe the sincerity with which convicts may volunteer to help the wardens on their away fixtures!

Drake's spirit of courage and gallantry lives still in Devon. Isolated from strong centres they had to fight for entry into County Championships . . . and when there, fought so successfully they earned promotion! Even better, they earned universal tribute for their fine sportsmanship and hospitality.

H. G. Mitchmore is President of county for both Lawn and Table Tennis; has his own Squash Court and an interest in Badminton. Chairman Harry Amery (N.E.C.) is one of the best known and loved men in Western T.T. He was playing for Exeter in 1923 and it is whispered that he can still beat some county players!

Devon is generous with her talent. They lost Dora Beregi to Australia; Betty Blackburn and Ron Litten to South Africa, and so on. Betty, inci-

dentally (now married and a chiropractor in Guildford), was born in New Zealand. Former Junior International Louis Devereux is in Hants. and Ron Giles (ex-Plymouth) is Norfolk's Umpire Sec. and Coach. Torquay's W. Rowe won the English Juniors in 1946-7, and Plymouth's E. C. Gunn won the Veteran's in 1935-6.

48 years are nothing to Lionel Kerslake who's been brought out of "retirement" again to lead the county team. First of his 6 county M.S. championships won over 20 years ago; won again last year. In 1937 was first Englishman to take game from Bergmann. Is now using sponge-faced bat which has brought him wins over Michael Thornhill and Roy Turner.

International Mrs. Joan Crosby has not lately been available but another

(concluded on page 24, col. 3)

★ THIS TEST IS WORTH A TRIAL ★

For "the more imaginative and courageous organisers in England

By **VICTOR BARNA**

The most famous name in Table Tennis

HALF of the season is over and an interesting feature of it is that with the exception of Richard Bergmann and Aubrey Simons, nobody has won more than one tournament. Actually, results have been so topsy-turvey, that it is extremely difficult to make head or tail of them, with the result that the question so frequently asked by Table Tennis players and enthusiasts "who would you select for the Swaythling Cup Team?" produces all sorts of answers.

Although I have a fair idea what I would do, I think it would be premature and unfair to express an opinion at this stage. Besides, I prefer to mind my own business!

How does it come about that many other countries—with much shorter fixture lists than ours—seem to know the comparative strength of their players and are seldom faced with team-selection problems?

I don't think that geography or the number of players or trials has anything to do with it. In America Table Tennis is far more de-centralised than it is here, and many continental countries have nearly as many players as we have. Of course, if you know

the merits of your players, you do not need to bother about trials.

I believe that one reason (probably the main one) why other countries can assess their ranking without much difficulty is that they have a number of tournaments in which the finals are decided on the "Round Robin" principle; with everybody playing everybody else.

In central Europe, a "Round Robin" between, say, eight players (28 matches) is nothing out of the ordinary and some of their big National Championships are also decided in this way.

Now, I am quite familiar with the situation over here and I recognise that the organising of open tournaments with a "Round Robin" final can present certain difficulties. The majority of our open tournaments attract a very big entry; consequently organisers are happy if they can finish their tournaments in time without complicating the schedule by having

to put on extra "Round Robin" matches with possible replays resulting from dead-heats.

However, some of the more imaginative and courageous organisers may yet treat us and the public to something new and interesting.

For example, there is no reason why two tables should not be used for the final session. After all, even at Wembley, the Friday night finals are played on two tables and if this is good enough for the National Championships, surely no other tournament committee should be ashamed to follow suit.

Anyhow, if the "Round Robin" applies to the last four players, it would mean 6 matches in all, instead of 2 semi-finals and a final—an addition of only 3 matches. The programme could commence 45 minutes earlier and play-offs eliminated by making a decision on the best average of wins to losses of games, or even of points.

Something new is not necessarily good—not that there is anything new (except in England) about the "Round Robin" system. Years ago I competed in lots of tournaments of this kind and I firmly believe that its adoption here would be well worth a good trial.

It would certainly add greatly to the general interest, and would benefit the game into the bargain. ●

VICTOR BARNA.

THERE ARE NO "CLOSED SHOPS" IN OPEN TOURNAMENTS

In November's Table Tennis Mr. Weiner expressed concern over an aspect of the Grading Scheme and in a frank and friendly way suggested what he thought might be an improvement. Although Mr. Weiner's assumptions did not coincide with the facts as known to the Open Tournaments and the Grading Committees, it was, of course, examined. Meanwhile, we hoped that many readers would send us their own views and experiences (for against or even related to the Scheme but—and most unusual—we did not receive a single comment! The factus observations which have now been received from the Honorary Secretary of the E.T.T.A. are published below.

★ ★ ★

CLIFF WEINER's fears that Open Tournaments might develop into "Closed Shops" should, quite properly, be examined. This can only be done, however, when we know what the facts are to date.

From our experience of the development of the game in the immediate post-war years we realised that Open Tournaments were becoming increasingly popular and there was a real danger of entries being rejected on a large scale unless we legislated for the future. It will be realised that

without the help of the English Association's Open Tournaments Committee the standard of organisation of tournaments, especially the many new ones which were springing up, could have suffered by becoming swamped by heavy increases in entry.

In the 1950-51 season, therefore, the

that entries, last season, were increasing rapidly. YET IN ONLY 4 OUT OF THE 70 TOURNAMENTS HELD since the new Regulations (and the Graded Players Scheme) came into operation HAVE ENTRIES BEEN REFUSED, AND IN 3 OF THESE CASES LESS THAN 20 PLAYERS WERE REJECTED!

Therefore, Mr. Weiner's statement that . . . "the number of unfortunates who are rejected grows in proportion" is just not true. Had he said . . . "UNLESS the new Regulations for Open Tournaments had been brought into force by the Open Tournaments Committee more players would have been rejected . . ." he would have had something. THE ACTUAL FACTS ARE that FAR LESS ENTRIES have been refused since the Graded Players Scheme and the new Regulations came into force THAN EVER BEFORE.

Perhaps one will say: "If the problem does not arise why legislate for it?" Well, the problem *would* have arisen, but we saw it in time, and acted accordingly. Mr. Weiner says ". . . The chance of the unknown player to break into the elite is becoming endangered . . ." and ". . . There is the possibility that the tendency will be for open tournaments to develop into closed shops for graded players only . . ."

We do not agree with these contentions and feel that all competitors can rest assured that it will not be beyond the powers and capabilities of the Open Tournaments Committee (should either of the above unlikely contingencies arise), to find a solution which will give satisfaction to the great majority of our players and organisers. ●

Pride of Wales



No. 820 Peter Madge
16-year-old SHIRLEY JONES from Llanelly has brought something of the zestful punch of Welsh rugger to Table Tennis. Already Welsh Junior Champion and a Junior International she has just won her Senior International badge (while still a junior) in play against England. Pert and cheery, she zooms into attack like a Spitfire with all guns blazing. The Welsh ladies are an inspired and enterprising force to-day who are making swift but successful raids on our open tournament prizes. They've just about made themselves a Corbillon team. Reminds us that Welsh Secretary Nancy Evans had a world-ranking record that's still going to take some beating.

THREE MEN IN A BOAT—T.T.

WHEN the S.S. *Hindustan* sails the seven seas she carries her Table Tennis room wherever she goes, cramped perhaps for room but in constant use. The "Three Musketeers" that make the ship's T.T. Team are 3 Chinese "penholder" players who emanated from Hong-Kong's famous Sunlight T.T.C. They are Lee Ming (27), Wong Chee and Leung Keung (both 25). They practice whenever possible while at sea, and when coming into port their first thought is to fix one or more matches with local teams. When the *Hindustan* last month entered West Hartlepool for repairs the Hong Kong pongers were in for a "smashing" time with the hospitable local T.T. fraternity whom—despite tight games—the Chinese T.T.-Tars have so far been unable to beat.

THERE are 700 sports clubs on ships of Norway's Mercantile Marine, and the Norwegian T.T.A. are trying to run Inter-Ship matches which will be played when ships meet in port, teams of 4 playing 4 singles. They hope that shore clubs in sea-ports that have facilities will co-operate in staging such matches.

NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

Sat., 10th Jan. Yorkshire v. Devon, Temperance Hall, Princess Street, Huddersfield. 7.00.
Sat., 17th Jan. Lincolnshire v. Gloucestershire, Corn Exchange, Spalding. 7.00.
Sat., 24th Jan. Gloucestershire v. Essex, Baths, Gloucester. 7.00.
Sat., 31st Jan. Yorkshire v. Essex, Bradford.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Sat., 3rd Jan. Cambridgeshire v. Middlesex, Y.M.C.A., Cambridge. 7.00.
Sat., 10th Jan. Essex v. Sussex, Romford Y.M.C.A. 7.00.
Wed., 14th Jan. Surrey v. Buckinghamshire, Gardens Club, Southfields. 7.30.
Sat., 17th Jan. Middlesex v. Sussex, Sperry's, Great West Road, Brentford.
Sat., 17th Jan. Glamorgan v. Essex.
Sat., 17th Jan. Warwickshire v. Cambridgeshire, Nuneaton.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Sat., 10th Jan. Warwickshire v. Yorkshire.
Sat., 17th Jan. Northumberland v. Cheshire, Rutherford College, Newcastle. 7.00.
Sat., 24th Jan. Lancashire v. Durham, Preston.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Sat., 3rd Jan. Kent v. Hampshire, County Police H.Q., Sutton Road, Maidstone. 7.00.
Fri., 16th Jan. Berkshire v. Buckinghamshire, All Saints' Hall, Reading. 7.00.

EASTERN DIVISION

Sat., 24th Jan. Hertfordshire v. Norfolk, Co-op Hall, Letchworth. 7.30.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Sat., 3rd Jan. Worcestershire v. Staffordshire, Methodist School Room, Mill Street, Kidderminster.
Sat., 10th Jan. Northamptonshire v. Leicestershire, Westgate Hall, Peterborough. 7.15.
Fri., 16th Jan. Warwickshire v. Worcestershire.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Sat., 17th Jan. Durham v. Cumberland.
Sat., 24th Jan. Yorkshire v. Northumberland, Halifax.

JUNIOR DIVISION "A"

Sat., 3rd Jan. Kent v. Sussex, County Police H.Q., Sutton Road, Maidstone. 3.30.
Sat., 3rd Jan. Essex v. Sussex, Red Triangle, Plaistow. 7.00.
Sat., 17th Jan. Sussex v. Kent, Courtroom, Town Hall, Worthing. 7.00.
Sat., 17th Jan. Surrey v. Essex, Castlenau Youth Club, Barnes. 4.00.

JUNIOR DIVISION "B"

Tues., 6th Jan. Hertfordshire v. Bedfordshire, Dunlop Rubber Canteen, Waltham Abbey.
Sat., 10th Jan. Nottinghamshire v. Cambridgeshire, Bassford Hall Boys' Club, Cinderhill, Nottingham. 7.00.
Fri., 16th Jan. Bedfordshire v. Middlesex, Luton.
Sat., 31st Jan. Hertfordshire v. Nottinghamshire, Watford Y.M.C.A. 7.00.

A BROTHER FOR SUSAN

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. CORTI WOODCOCK (Essex County Chairman and 3 times past Chairman, E.T.T.A.) on fathering a bonny baby boy on November 6th, 1952. The new arrival is to be christened "Charles Corti". One of the most excited members of the family was his young sister Susan who, being away at prep. school, had to wait until end-of-term before she could see her brother. Susan has already distinguished herself as a scholar/sportsgirl and with such a family it's a safe prophecy that Charles Corti will take his place in the sporting world of the future.

All Manchester —

is delighted at the selection of GEOFFERY PULLAR for the Junior Tour of Sweden. On present form he has few, if any, equals. He plays for Ladybarn House, a leading club, whose members include the energetic league secretary LESLIE JONES, whose kindly interest and watchful eye should do much to benefit Geoff's game and the spirit in which he plays it.

FRANK GEE

CENTRAL LONDON OPEN

Details on Page 14, col. 2

HERE was a battleground to be remembered, my masters, for the stars were as thick as on the American banner, and many eager unknown ambitions had cause to surge at the thought of a worthy "scalp". Conflicts were fierce, mordant, and sometimes dazzling when someone let off a whole box of fireworks... Rhodes fell early to Eric Filby 18, —11, 9. Rare-comer E. Bublely just pipped Dorking, lost to Norton. Carrington blitzed Brumwell, only to be "spiked" by Spychalski. R. Turner overwhelmed J. Lowe, while Burridge, eclipsing Crayden 7, 20, fought hard to a match-point 3rd loss again K. Craigie. E. Marsh won a slogging match over Hurlock. West African Kweku Hudson sent D. Miller's hopes for a "Burton" and thereby hangs a tale, for newspapers changed the "D" to an "A". A. R. Miller (*alias* Tony) read his "obit." thoughtfully and then (with anything but angelic solicitude) proceeded to remove 3 internationals—J. Head, K. Craigie and H. Venner—from his path to the final and a terrific match with Aubrey Simons who finally won 24, 12, —17, 18.

Alas, poor Tony, his most brilliant performance and no selectors to see it! For these wins were not part of the pattern of current form chaos, but were hard-fought contests showing thought, a tighter technique, and a judicious but gratifying (except to the opponent!) attack. Tony has been wandering near the International Quarter for some time... perhaps "They" are only waiting to see this livelier bite in his play... Credits to A. R. Miller; honours to Simons.

Pam Mortimer beat Audrey Bates in a really grand game, and then was beaten (without a mistake) by calm, confident Jill Rook (the junior that holds a senior's place). Ros Rowe (with a weakened ankle) beat Jill 14, —15, 18 and Di Rowe, after losing the first to an aggressive Joyce Roberts went on to take the title against her sister.

Stars include the organisers of this excellent tournament. Be it recorded that the Hon. Sec. (Mrs. Johnson) was a credit to her sex.

BREVITIES—

more of some in next issue... **PETER W. ROBERTS**, 78 years young U.S.A. T.T. Historian recently welcomed on brief visit to England ● Area Finals of *The Daily Mirror* National T.T. Tournament will be March 28th and the Finals at Royal Albert Hall on April 30th... One tie, **KEN KELMERE** (16) of Dudley bt. A. Goodwin 21-16, 17-21, 20-22, 23-21, 32-30 (total points 113-110) ● Former U.S.A. Champ. **REBA MONNESS** (with Joe Louis) were among sports stars who gave exhibitions in support of one of the Presidential candidates... Which? We're non-political, and, anyway, both Eisenhower and Stevenson are reported to be keen T.T. players ● Leagues met to consider forming County T.T.A. in Oxfordshire on December 3rd. ●

Medals of the Month

TWO heart-warming messages that take the Medals of the Month, both concern the World Championships 1954 Guarantee Fund:

1. Miss **PAULINE ROBINSON** of New York (a top U.S.A. player born in England) has sent a donation of ONE POUND for the Fund and feels sure that "everyone in England will be glad to rally round".

2. Sec. of **SLOUGH C. Centre T.T.C., Mr. FRANK DUNHILL**, writes that as a somewhat larger club they thought a contribution of £1 PER TEAM would be fair (instead of £1 a club asked for). They are raising the money by a Penny-in-the-Box, and the first payment has already been made to E.T.T.A. and "... we shall not stop at £4." writes Mr. Dunhill, but will carry on.

Any T.T. Clubs HERE ?

ARE there any T.T. Clubs in the following area? One or two are very keen on playing friendly matches this season with the idea of forming a League next season. Write to The Editor.

District: Pinner, Eastcote, Ruislip, Ruislip Manor, Hatch End, Rayners Lane, South Harrow, North Harrow, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Wealdstone, Kenton, Northwood, Northolt.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Czech. Industry Prize, Prague, Oct. 12th, 1952

Prelims: Slar bt. Vana 2-1; Andreadis bt. Opralka 2-0; Turnovsky bt. Tereba 2-1; Stipek bt. Vyhanovska 2-0. The Final play-off (all-play-all) resulted in the following placings: 1. ANDREADIS (bt. Nos. 2, 3, 4); 2. Stipek (bt. 3, 4); 3. Slar (bt. 4); 4. Turnovsky (nil). Other results:—**W.S. HRUSKOVA** bt. Vyhanovska 2-1. **M.D. ANDREADIS/VANA** bt. Prazak/Vik. **W.D. HRUSKOVA/VYHANOVSKA**. **X.D. TEREBA/HRUSKOVA** bt. Andreadis/Vyhanovska 2-0.

Tyrs. Championships, Cesky Brod, Oct. 19th, 1952

M.S. Prelim.: Slar bt. Stipek 2-0. Placings: 1. ANDREADIS (bt. 2, 3, 4); 2. Vana (bt. 3); 3. Slar (bt. 4); 4. Tereba (bt. Vana). **W.S. HRUSKOVA** bt. Vyhanovska 2-1.

POST SCRIPT FOR PAGE 11

"I should like to make it quite clear that my article was intended to be neither an attack on the E.T.T.A. nor upon the Grading Scheme. The ONLY thing that I feel is wrong is that graded players have preferential treatment; I do not think they should. I am sure that my constructive criticism has been received in the same friendly spirit in which it was written."

A. "CLIFF" WEINER.

9th Dec., 1952.

National Coaching Scheme

Hon. Director of Coaching:

Jack Carrington

THE first 3 official and the "overflow" Courses were over-subscribed. Reports in our next issue.

FEB. 27th—MAR 1st. E.T.T.A. NORTHERN COURSE. Week-end Coaching. Annexe, Royal Conference Hall, HARROGATE. First class accommodation. 35/.

AUG. 15th—21st. E.T.T.A. SUMMER HOLIDAY COURSE. National Recreation Centre, LILLES-HALL.

Early application should be made direct to the Admin. Sec. E.T.T.A.

WILMOTT CUP—Round 3

Leeds 1—LUDDERSFIELD 5. LINCOLN 6—Sheffield 3. Carlisle 0—BOLTON 9. STOCKPORT 5—Liverpool 4. BIRMINGHAM w.o. Northampton. Watford 0—ST. ALBANS 5. Cambridge University 2—CAMBRIDGE 7. FELLOWS CRANLEIGH 6—Romford 3. LONDON C.S. 7—East London 1. LONDON BUS. II. w.o. Manhattan. SOUTH LONDON 5—Brighton 2. STAINES 7—N. Middlesex 2. Southampton 2—BOURNE-MOUTH 5. BROMLEY 7—Woolwich 2. BRISTOL 5—Plymouth 4. GLOUCESTER 5—Reading 4.

J. M. ROSE BOWL—Round 3

BEDFORD 6—Luton 3. Southend 3—ILFORD 6. Central 3—ALBION T.T.C. 5. London Bus. II. 4—SOUTH LONDON 5. Beckenham 2—CROYDON 7. PUTNEY T.T.C. 7—Thames Valley 1. Oxford 0—GLOUCESTER 9.

BOURNEMOUTH OPEN

Bournemouth, 29th Nov., 1952

M.S. A. Sherwood bt. A. Payne 15, 17.; D. A. Miller bt. E. Marsh —16, 13, 13. **A. SHERWOOD** bt. D. A. Miller —9, 20, 20. **W.S. M. Jones** bt. E. Davis 11, 11; P. Allen bt. M. Cherry —15, 20, 19. **M. JONES** bt. P. Allen 20, —20, 16. **M.D. P. CRUWYS/A. PAYNE** bt. L. Devereux/N. Wilding 15, —17, 16. **W.D. M. JONES/R. MEAD** bt. J. Mackay/Mrs. G. Smith 13, —17, 10. **X.D. G. SMITH/J. MACKAY** bt. C. Frecker/M. Cherry —19, 19, 20. **J.S. G. COOKE** bt. P. Hunt —19, 19, 20.

LATE NEWS—Junior Page from Peter Madge

English Junior team for the Swedish tour (leaving Dec. 30th) is G. PULLAR (Lancs.), D. HOUSE (Somerset) and R. DORKING (Essex), n.p.c. LEO THOMPSON. Reserves: R. Morley (Glos.) and J. Ingber (Lancs.). Tommy Sears is unable to accompany the team and his experience will be missed. Leo Thompson has a keen interest in juniors and the boys will not lack sound advice and good companionship. Bon voyage: good hunting!



The TABLE TENNIS ANNUAL

An Official E.T.T.A. Publication

Announcement

IT now looks as though it will be late January or early February before the Annual makes its belated debut, and I cannot say how much I regret the disappointment and inconvenience caused. As Editor I accept full responsibility for the delays—which would need another book to fully explain—and assure subscribers that everybody is doing their level best to secure the earliest possible publication. It will be out in a few short weeks now and I can only hope that the many interesting items and information packed into the 160 pages and the extremely low price of 2/6d. will be some compensation. (If anyone does wish to cancel their order, cash will, of course, be refunded). Meanwhile, orders can still be sent to me at the address below.

GEOFF. HARROWER,

Editor of The Annual.

68, GLOUCESTER ROAD, NEW BARNET, HERTS.



Who? When? What?

INFORMATION—PLEASE



WAR bombs and blast blew smithereens. There are no coming. **THERE SHOULD BE.** still can. It seems a monumental task send me your "bits" and what help **EARNESTLY APPEAL** and will b following kind:—

INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS.

(Who's Who). I hope that many past and present players (Men, Women and Juniors) who have represented England will send me the following particulars of themselves, and I shall be most grateful for any information about players with whom we have lost touch, their present whereabouts, etc.:

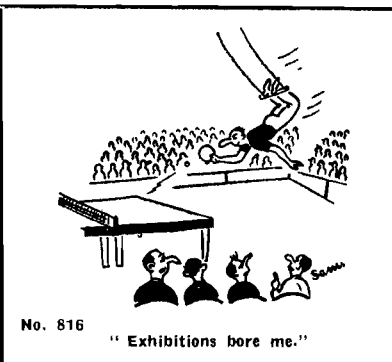
Full names. Date of birth. Birthplace. Address. Club and League played for. Profession. Married (change of name). Family. School(s). National titles won and year(s). International appearances with dates and scores. Notable performances. Other interests, attainments, or brief biographical notes. Style of play, right or left-handed. Physical description (height, complexion, colour eyes, hair, etc.). A photo, head and shoulders, preferably postcard size.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES.

While I have the results of most pre-war International matches, I want the details (scores and names of opponents) of a great many.

I have no record of any war-time international matches played between 1939-40 and 1946. Copy-particulars will do, but original scored programmes can be returned within 10 to 14 days.

Send to **LESLIE S. WOOLLARD,**
12, Campbell Road, BEDFORD



CENTRAL LONDON OPEN

Manor Place, S.E., 13th Dec., 1952

- M.S. A. SIMONS bt. A. R. Miller 24. 12. —17, 18.
- W.S. D. ROWE bt. R. Rowe 20. —13. 17.
- M.D. L. ADAMS/V. BARNA bt. A. Miller/K. Spychalski 11. 17.
- W.D. D. & R. ROWE bt. P. Mortimer/J. Roberts 12. 7.
- X.D. R. CRAYDEN/J. WINN bt. J. Lowe/Mrs. P. Allen 17. 18.
- B.S. D. DOUSE bt. R. Carpenter 10. 12.
- G.S. J. ROOK bt. J. Fielder —12, 10. 12.

WELSH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Cardiff, 7th Dec., 1952

IN a few shining hours of glory Gloucester's 18-year **BRYAN MERRETT** touched the heroic. Busy Cardiff surged outside forgotten while this lean, quiet youngster with the fair tousled hair imperturbably swept his way through Amouretti, Venner and Leach by his quicksilver drives, delicate short shots and a superb will-to-win. It might have been Ivanhoe riding against the flower of King John's knights. There was gallantry, spectacle and thrill, and how the crowd gloried in it. Here was their darling A new champion to cheer.

In a pin-drop hush Merrett came to Bergmann in the final—a terrier to meet a grizzled, man-eating lion, but not one bit abashed... On the contrary, indeed, for he swept through Bergmann to win the first game 21-11. The hush erupted into a roar as the crowd were electrified with excitement hysteria. At 1-1 came a nerve-searing duel of a tensity felt by all with Bryan leading 21-20... a time-limit warning and—for half a second—Merrett's control flickered. Half a second is too much to give this canny old master—and win!

Still, even in these days of crazy chaos in the form book, there is a touch of the epic about Bryan's performances. After them, the other achievements of the day were played in a minor key and are to be spoken of at another time.

DETAILS

- M.S. R. BERGMANN bt. B. Merrett —11. 18. 21. 15.
- W.S. R. ROWE bt. D. Rowe 14. 19.
- M.D. R. BERGMANN/J. LEACH bt. B. Kennedy/A. Simons 18. 18.
- W.D. D. & R. ROWE bt. K. Best/M. Fry 12. —22. 18.
- X.D. B. KENNEDY/R. ROWE bt. J. Leach/D. Rowe 10. 18. 11.
- B.S. D. PHILLIPS bt. D. House 12. 16.
- G.S. S. JONES bt. C. Jenkins 10. 13.

16th MERSEYSIDE OPEN

Noted from **TOM BLUNN'S** Report

ALLCOCK's match with Bergmann actually stopped the tournament in its deciding game... Finals, as usual, at Philharmonic Hall, must represent the finest conditions in the country for players and spectators... The two highspots were the M.S. and J.S. finals. In the latter, Pullar repeated his N. of E. win over Booth, but this time had to go to a third game to do so.

In the M.S. final Simons was really amazing against Bergmann, producing an onslaught against which no player in the world could have withstood. He blasted Bergmann 21-8 in the first game, scoring his first points 8-0 with shots which left Bergmann standing. With Simons less forceful, Bergmann took the second game at 17 and was lucky to hold the third at 22-20. Simons was steaming and could have done with a set of windscreen wipers for his spectacles; he was not able, this time, to pull out just that little extra, and Bergmann took the title.

It was a pleasure to see Billie Stamp back on two feet again.

Detailed Results in December issue.

NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF. HARROWER

BEST PERFORMANCE YET

At their fifth attempt Middlesex, for the first time, held the Rest of England team to a draw, when the match was played in the magnificent Cheltenham Town Hall before a large crowd, including a number of local celebrities.

Whilst it is true that Johnny Leach was not playing for the Rest, against that it must be remembered that they were strengthened by the inclusion of the Welsh girls. In fact, Middlesex would have won but for our friends over the border.

The match was often an exciting one, and spectators got good value for money, yet play was seldom of a high order. I think this was because all the players were out to win. A typical example was the first match, between Alan Rhodes (Middx.) and Harry Venner. Both players took terrible chances, and, naturally, a large number of rallies were over almost before they had started. This was because each player realised that he must not let his opponent settle down—the correct tactics but not as thrilling to watch as it might have been. Venner proved the steadier in the final game.

Kennedy was always just too good for Thornhill, and, although Len Adams played as well as I have ever seen, so did Aubrey Simons, and the Rest took a commanding 3-love lead. Middlesex reduced this margin to 2-3 before the interval, by taking the women's and men's doubles, as expected.

It was the first match after the interval, however, which proved Middlesex's undoing. The National County Selectors had been roundly criticised for picking an allegedly out of form Audrey Bates, but you better not mention "out of form" to Diane Rowe! Audrey hit and counter-hit magnificently to all parts of the table, and was a clear winner.

In previous years Middlesex were always ahead only to fall away at the end and just lose—now they found themselves 2-4 down, and the boot was on the other foot, for the next three matches went their way. The mixed doubles was expected, but Alan Rhodes, in getting the better of Brian Kennedy, in the most exciting match of the evening, and Len Adams, in outlasting Harry Venner, provided something of a surprise.

Michael Thornhill did well to take a game from Simons in the final tie, but the result was never really in doubt, and, on reflection, a draw was a fair result (scores on page 21).

PREMIER DIVISION

Only three matches played this month, but what a bearing on the title! Looking back over the six years since the Championships were first played, I cannot remember a more surprising result than the one that reads—Glamorgan 6, Surrey 4. The failure of the three Surrey men Internationals, Harry Venner, Jackie Head and Ken Craigie to win more than three out of the six singles—one each—and the loss of all the three ladies' games, were the reasons. Chief credit to Walter Sweetland for his fine successes over both Jackie Head and Ken Craigie, and to Stan Jones for again beating Harry Venner. Betty Gray got the better of Joyce Roberts in two close games, whilst the new International pairing of Shirley Jones and Vera Rowe proved too good for Joyce Roberts and Jean Winn.

Middlesex had a somewhat fortunate win over Gloucestershire—fortunate in as much as they found Brian Merrett badly off form. Three days later he was to startle the T.T. world with his performances in the Welsh Open, but against the Champions he just could not find his touch, and lost to both Alan Rhodes and Michael Thornhill. Bob Griffin played splendidly to beat Len Adams, and only just lost to Rhodes at 20-22 in the third game. Aubrey Simons got his usual two with no trouble.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Gloucestershire	4						6
Devon	7						3
Glamorgan	6						3
Middlesex	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Surrey	4	2	1	1	28	12	5
Essex	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Gloucestershire	4	1	1	2	21	19	3
Yorkshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Glamorgan	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Devon	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Lincolnshire	4	0	0	4	3	37	0

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Essex, with a strong all-round team of Bob Stevens, Peter Pudney, Alan Payne, Elsie Carrington and Barbara Milbank, had little difficulty in disposing of Cambridgeshire, only Thurston, who got to 20—all in the third with Payne, putting up any resistance. The February match between Essex and Middlesex should decide the title, with Essex now the favourites. One thing may stop them, and that is if the County selectors decide to promote one or more players to the first team!

Warwickshire came back to form with a decisive win over Glamorgan, but they will have to continue in this form if they are to get ahead of Sussex and win back their place in the Premier Division. These two

counties do not meet until the 7th March, and probably everything will depend on that encounter.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Essex	10						0
Warwickshire	10						0
Buckinghamshire	3						7
Sussex	2						8
Gambridgeshire	0						0
Glamorgan	0						0
Sussex	7						0
Surrey	8						0
Essex	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Surrey	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Sussex	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Glamorgan	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Warwickshire	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Cambridgeshire	4	1	0	3	10	20	2
Buckinghamshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

There seems no reasonable doubt that Lancashire will regain their place in the Premier Division—a convincing win over Cheshire leaves them in a most satisfactory position. It is notable that two younger players, Ronnie Baker and Cliff Booth, have gained regular places in the Lancs. team, and it is hoped that these players will be included when Premier Division status is regained.

Yorkshire 2nds had little difficulty in beating Northumberland, but Philomena Hieppell gained another good win for Northumberland when she scored over Miss J. Bycroft.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Cheshire	2						8
Yorkshire	7						3
Durham	1						9
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Warwickshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Cheshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Durham	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

NORTHERN DIVISION

Northumberland's unexpected heavy defeat at the hands of Durham came too late to be included in my report last month, and it would seem that there is now little to stop Yorkshire again winning this division—they scored their expected double over luckless Cumberland this month.

Northumberland got their revenge against Durham, and I am still trying to work out how they can lose 1-9 one minute and win 6-4 the next, with virtually the same two teams pitted against each other! Outstanding player of both matches was the Durham man J. Whittingham. He took both his singles in each match. For Northumberland, Miss Tully, who scored Northumberland's lone success in the first match, repeated this when she again got the better of Miss Metcalf in three games.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Yorkshire	10						0
Northumberland	6						4
Cumberland	2						8
Yorkshire	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Northumberland	1	2	1	1	22	18	5
Durham	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Cumberland	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Kent marched further towards their first senior title with another big win, this time over the luckless Bucks. 2nd team, who are buying their experience the hard way. Hampshire seemed destined to take second place, and they secured a good win over Berkshire, for whom only Wise scored. Berks. were very impressed with the play of F. Bradley, who only came in at the last moment as a reserve, and won both his singles and helped in the mixed doubles success.

Buckinghamshire	1,	Kent	9				
Hampshire	8,	Berkshire	2				
	P. W. D. L. F. A. Pts.						
Kent	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Hampshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Berkshire	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Buckinghamshire	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

MIDLAND DIVISION

Pride of place this month must be given to the struggling Derbyshire side, usually to be found around the foot of the division, for securing a magnificent 6-4 win over Warwickshire, undefeated winners last season and strong favourites this. Although it is true that Warwickshire did not have their best side out, the county is so strong in players of more than average ability that this should make little difference. For their win Derby

had mainly to thank the Misses Walker and Bannister and A. T. Bird. Bird won both his singles, the only Derby player to score in the men's events, and his final match with S. Higginson, on which everything depended, was a real thriller. Higginson took the first at 13, dropped the second at 9, but then led 11-3 in the decider, and Warwickshire seemed safe to save a point. Bird, however, thought otherwise, and with an amazing run of 18 points against his opponent's 5, ran out a deserved winner 21-16.

Worcestershire, newcomers to the championships, tie for the leading position, and I know that all readers will join me in congratulating them. However, they have still to play their co-leaders, Staffordshire and Warwickshire, and as Staffs. have also to meet Warwicks., it would be foolhardy to predict the eventual champions.

Leicestershire	4,	Staffordshire	6				
Staffordshire	7,	Northamptonshire	3				
Leicestershire	4,	Worcestershire	6				
Derbyshire	6,	Warwickshire	4				
	P. W. D. L. F. A. Pts.						
Worcestershire	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Staffordshire	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Warwickshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Derbyshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Leicestershire	3	0	0	3	12	18	0
Northamptonshire	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

EASTERN DIVISION

There seems no reasonable doubt that Bedfordshire will win this division. Any doubts were dispelled when they beat Hertfordshire by 8-2 in the return match. Herts. were unfortunate that Glyn Bebb was unable to play at the last moment, I feel he would have helped the result to be closer, but no doubt Beds. would still have won. Ironmonger and Holroyd won both their singles for Beds, but Betty Carter unexpectedly went down to Peggy Cubitt, 19-21, 19-21, a fine performance by the St. Albans girl making her first appearance in the County team this season.

Suffolk jumped into second place with two good wins, over Cambridge-

shire and Norfolk, but are too far behind to be serious challengers.

Suffolk	5,	Norfolk	5				
Bedfordshire	8,	Hertfordshire	2				
Suffolk	8,	Cambridgeshire	2				
Norfolk	2,	Suffolk	8				
	P. W. D. L. F. A. Pts.						
Bedfordshire	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Suffolk	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Hertfordshire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Norfolk	4	0	1	3	13	27	1
Cambridgeshire	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

JUNIOR "A" DIVISION

It would be impossible to suggest a closer competition than is being enjoyed in this section. With six matches played two have resulted in draws and the other four have all finished at 6-4! In fact Kent, in the very unusual position of bottom, without a point, can still win the division.

Essex will be handicapped by having to play their next two matches without Dorking, but they will not grudge him his trip to Sweden with the English Junior team. Nevertheless Essex would be strong favourites if they only had two girls who could compete on level terms with the other counties. My fance is Surrey, who seem the strongest all-round side.

Kent	4,	Sussex	6				
Essex	5,	Surrey	5				
	P. W. D. L. F. A. Pts.						
Sussex	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Surrey	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Essex	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Kent	3	0	0	3	12	18	0

JUNIOR "B" DIVISION

Competition is not so close in this section, and it seems certain that Middlesex will oppose the winners of section "A" in the title decider. They strengthened their position at the expense of Hertfordshire. Cambridgeshire put up an improved show against Bedfordshire, and secured their first ties this season. G. Walters was their star, and his two straight win over R. Gill was the highlight of the evening.

Bedfordshire	5,	Nottinghamshire	5				
Cambridgeshire	3,	Bedfordshire	7				
Middlesex	8,	Hertfordshire	2				
	P. W. D. L. F. A. Pts.						
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Bedfordshire	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Nottinghamshire	3	1	2	0	20	10	4
Hertfordshire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	3	37	0

(Advertisement)

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130 minutes

TWO HOURS & TEN MINUTES

- For one point... In which first class match?
- How many players have represented their country in both the Swaythling Cup and Davis Cup?
- A player trips accidentally when serving. What should the umpire do?
- Is a best of three called a "set"?

The answers to these questions, together with nearly 200 others will be found in T.T. Quiz (the first of its kind)

TABLE TENNIS QUIZ

Edited by Alec Brook

If you want to know everything about the game, tricky points of laws and a wealth of information, this is the book

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Teams are TOO SMALL

By H. E. PEARCE

TEAM games are the life of sport, but T.T. has tended to become too individualistic; many players treat a victory over their opposite number as a personal triumph rather than a team victory. Under existing systems one star player can secure 3/5ths of his team's winning margin. To start at the top with the Swaythling and Corbillon competitions, surely three players cannot be representative of a country's talent? Representative matches should be representative, all the way down the scale. That means larger teams. I suggest:

International Matches. Teams of 6. First 3 play 2 sets each of singles; second 3 play one set each.

County Matches. Teams of 5 men and 3 women. Nos. 1 and 2 play 2 singles each; 3 and 4 play 1 each; ladies 1 single each; plus a M.D., W.D., and X.D. (12 ties).

Inter-League. Larger teams, similar to County.

This would not necessarily make it easier to win an International Badge as with larger teams all the way down, I believe the struggle for recognition would be intensified and result in higher standards.

Extra players of representative ability could come from clubs who would play teams of at least 8 in league competitions. Nos. 1-4 playing 3 singles each and 5-8 playing 2 singles each (and possibly 1 doubles). This would require 2 tables for a match, and those clubs that could provide such facilities would be recognised as Top-grade Clubs; the others would either have to seek larger premises or form a Minor Division. At present, clubs tend to organise for more small teams. This means more evenings taken up for matches and thus precludes other members from practice sessions.

The standards of league T.T. might at first deteriorate under this system, but with increasing opportunities for players to participate in competitive matches, the standards and support for the game would improve tremendously. Perhaps there is a lack of balls permitting 2 tables, but T.T. has overcome bigger difficulties, and anyway it might help to take the game away from the cellars and backyard rooms. ●

Bristol Rovers F.A. team recently paid their annual visit to Bristol Boys' Club, where Victor Smith was delighted to demonstrate his backhanded drive to inside-right Bryan Bush.

Chester League recently decided to award a medal to the player in each division who had the best individual record at the end of the season.

Not everyone can beat the police up and get away with it, but this is just what North Kensington's Dale Club did when they met Cannon Row Police recently and beat them 5-3. Highlight was a see-saw match in which Evans (Dale) beat Briubridge 20-22, 22-20, 22-20.

REPORT FROM HUNGARY

By FERENC GYORGY

WHEN Koczian was unable to participate in the country championships at Debrecen, the 200 pound giant Sido with the powerful hit became a "certainty" for the title, but there was no reckoning for a dynamic Gyetvai who, in a marvellous display of all out hitting of a standard rarely seen, put a perplexed Sido out in the final with an easy and amazing superiority. This Gyetvai is a strange player. He has no defence, so he attacks EVERY ball, and he has perfected a kind of machine-gun forehand-backhand drive that makes very few mistakes. For instance, I actually counted Gyetvai hit 97 out of a 100 drives on to the table! But as an illustration of the amazing defence perfection of Koczian (in the team championships) Gyetvai did not score more than 4 points out of those 97 drives. Yet although Koczian won the first game and put up a dazzling and acrobatic defence, he was "shot off" the table by the fierce accuracy of Gyetvai in the next two games. Koczian then beat Sido in a match of fierce counter-attacks.

Probably the biggest sensation of the season, however, occurred in the team championships of Greater Budapest (covering 22 districts), with teams of 3 playing the best of 5 matches. The District 6 Women's team of Gizi Farkas, Roszi Karpati and Mezei (unbeaten for 6 years) were defeated by the "Wonder-girl" team of *Mavag* from District 8, to a score of 5-3; Farkas was the only one to win all her matches. The *Mavag* team comprised Suzy Fantusz, Eve Koczian and Loretta Gyorgy.

The men's team competition also provided a surprise when it was won by the team of Joska Farkas, Szepesti and Varkonyi against the higher ranking one of Gyetvai, Sido and Sebok.

Hungarian Champions on "The Sponge Bat" . . .

THE Hungarian Team claims to have no fear of the Sponge Bat. Comments of the top players were (writes Ferenc Gyorgy):

Elmer Gyetvai: "There is no need to ban sponge bats because players using rubber-covered bats can beat them quite decisively as Bergmann and Leach proved by their recent victories in Japan. When the Japs see the superiority of the rubber, sponge will die a natural death as a bat covering and be found only in the bathroom."

Josef Koczian: "Although we have no fear of the Japanese or the Hong Kong players, I think that the Sponge Bat should be prohibited, because I think that the rule which says 'any material' is now rather out-of-date now Table Tennis has become a real Sport."

Ferenc Sido: "The Japs are very good Table Tennis players, but we are good T.T. players too, and should be able to hold our own whatever they play with, only we must know *how*. . . if Bergmann and Leach can learn, other top players can learn also. No need to prohibit the bat; it will just vanish. The Japs are only dangerous for the Czechs who were not in Bombay."

Laci Varkonyi (Official Coach): "I am convinced that the Sponge Bat will never make a *tabula rasa* in world table tennis. . . it was the surprise element which won at Bombay, yet I do believe that a quiet player with a very reliable long defence—such as our Sebok—would have defeated Satoh." ●



Gyetvai.

October's article on the Varkonyi father-and-son partnership brings news of other combinations. Latest is father-daughter, Adrian Haydon and Ann, the brilliant 14-year-old. . . In Gloucester, hard-hitting Mrs. M. Dowding combines with 21-year-old son Alan, soon to join the R.A.F. Both started from scratch about 10 years ago. . . Romford's well-known S. H. Sugarhood (English Veteran Champion 1948-9 and 1949-50) combines both with 17-year-old son Norman, and 14-year-old schoolgirl Rita who has already earned her place in the Essex junior team.

Thruscoe Club C in the Grimsby League have at last broken the ice. They recently won their first league match for 5 years.

Norman Wilding's first title of the season was the M.S. of the Central Bournemouth Saturday tournament. He then partnered Eileen Gilbert (who won the W.S.) to win the X.D.

Vicente Gutierrez, 29-year-old Chilean star with the Impossible Shots, recently said that his ambition was to marry an English girl who plays table tennis—preferably trick stuff. He smiled when he said it. Was there a twinkle in his eye?



FRIDAY THE 26th

By R. D. I. CHARLESWORTH

A CAUTIONARY TALE

Friday, the 26th, was their best night and that they could manage a 7.30 p.m. start. Would that be O.K.? We decided it would, despite the fact that Blagstone was some 37 miles away.

It was a 5-a-side match (as against the 4-a-side system played in our League). That meant bringing in another player. Looking at the County Handbook, however, we found some solace and satisfaction that Blagstone St. Mary's had achieved the distinction of being bottom of the division last season. With a side of our experience—well! So we all felt unanimously that Bert Sharples should be brought in as our No. 5.

Bert was no table tennis player, mark you. His style at the best had a vague resemblance to a stoker handling a longhandled shovel and the peak performance of his playing career was when he actually reached double figures one night two seasons ago . . . in one game. Nevertheless, he was a useful man to have around was Bert. Yes indeed. No Victor Barna perhaps, but he had one treasured possession which was just what we needed to enable us to meet Blagstone St. Mary's. . . he possessed a car.

Bert's car was not a recent model. "It is," maintained Bert with stout loyalty, "of sound pre-war vintage," and steadfastly refused to be led into any discussion on "which" war.

Friday, the 26th, dawned bright and clear and remained that way until about 4 p.m. when snow began to fall heavily. To allow ourselves plenty of time we had arranged to leave at 5 p.m. and by this time there was already a generous carpet of snow a-foot. Then the windscreen wiper refused to wipe and looked even more discouraged at our efforts to persuade it.

We covered the first ten miles comparatively well, with only a couple of near misses of the ditch when Bert was giving us a vigorous demonstration of his new forehead and all but wrapped us round a telegraph pole. Then Bert decided to stop at the next garage and fill up with petrol. Once having stopped, the car naturally refused to start again, so—apart from Bert—we all got out and pushed it manfully to the top of the hill. Once on the down grade, it started beauti-

fully and moved away in fine style. Unfortunately the brakes were not in the best of form and we probably equalled the half mile track record before we caught up with the runaway Bert.

Comparative calmness lasted for the next 15 miles. Then came the inevitable puncture. The spare was faulty, of course, so we spent a chilly three-quarters of an hour fixing a patch to a partly perished inner tube. By this time, Fred—a true fatalist—had reached the nadir of pessimism.

"That's what comes of travelling on Friday, the 26th!" he moaned.

"What do you mean?" we asked.

"Well, everyone knows that Friday, the 13th, is unlucky, so its obvious that Friday, the 26th, must be TWICE as unlucky!"

We reached Blagstone in time to hear the town clock strike a dismal quarter after 8 p.m. and after various diversions finally found St. Mary's Church down a dimly lit street. The Hall hid in neighbouring shadows, its doors locked. All was darkness.

"Are you sure this is the right place, Bill?" asked Fred in a voice which obviously feared the worse.

"Yes, it MUST be," I answered, as frozen fingers tugged the match card from a resisting pocket, and held it in the dim light of the car light. "Look—it says 'Clubroom—Parish Hall, adjoining St. Mary's Church.'"

They crowded round to peer at the card. Then a howl of anguish echoed down the street. "It's the right place all right, chaps—but LOOK—we're drawn to play at HOME!!"

PONTEFRACT OPEN

Pontefract, 29th Nov., 1952

BRIAN KENNEDY made his first tournament appearance after his recent illness, looking much thinner and not quite at his best. M.S. R. HINCHCLIFFE bt. B. Kennedy 15. —13, 11.

W.S. M. LIGHTFOOT bt. P. Heppell —22. 10, 19.

M.D. R. HINCHCLIFFE/G. WADSWORTH bt. A. Holland/D. Shaw 18, 15.

W.D. Mrs. M. CUMBERBATCH/J. TITTERINGTON bt. M. Lightfoot/G. Wright 14. —13, 13.

X.D. G. WADSWORTH/M. LIGHTFOOT bt. A. Holland/M. Cumberbatch 15, 17.

H.E. and aTomics

By A. A. WALL

IT is no surprise to me to hear that atomic expert Sir William Penney is a keen T.T. player, for I too discovered in an unusual way how Sport and War walked hand-in-hand.

A number of us were taking the very interesting Civil Defence Instructor's Course in which, we later learned, the final exam. included giving 15 minutes and 5-minute summary of a 45-minute lecture. To give us confidence, our leader suggested a practice session in which we could select our own subject. Now what would you have done if you had been steeped in THE GAME from Junior to Veteran?

The whole E.T.T.A. set-up was too vast and not one of my colleagues even played the game. What part could I take that could interest them? I decided "The County Umpire." I prepared a chart showing where the County body came and a rough sketch of 2 players in action.

When my time came, I walked nervously out and fixed my "visual aids" to the blackboard. Then, introducing my subject, I suddenly produced a brand new, shiny frying-pan, bounced a T.T. ball on it and asked them—as potential umpires—what they would allow me to do with it. They told me the answers I deserved! Then I realised my handicap in their knowing nothing of the game. I then explained why the County Umpire exists, the details we should know, the duties of the Umpire, and on to the written and practical tests.

Our leader suddenly astonished me by calling "Time," and from the questions asked and the report of the leader, my effort was quite successful. Had the audience been T.T. enthusiasts, I'm sure they would have bombarded the lecturer with questions to the help of them all. The idea would certainly seem to help more individuals to pass the written test.

Finally, when I came to take the lecture for the Green Certificate C.D. Exam. was it only a coincidence that my subject was "High Explosive Missiles"?? After all, isn't a T.T. ball a missile? It only needs to come under the control of some player like Bergmann or Leach to become HIGH EXPLOSIVE! ●

When Jack and Elsie Carrington moved into their new bungalow at Uminster last year no houses were numbered, so they duly christened it with their club name "Albion." Recently they received a council notice "Your house must now display a number . . ." And the number? TWENTY-ONE—by order of the Council! What's the betting that some wag will put the letters "UP" below the number?

MONTH'S TOP SHOW NIGHTS

Details of the following tournaments have been given in previous issues. Here are the dates of the Finals and the Venues.

- Jan. 3. **Dorset Open**, Sidney Hall, Weymouth.
- Jan. 10. **Metropolitan Open**, Polytechnic Extension, Little Titchfield St., London, W.1.
- Jan. 17. **South London Open**, Clapham Public Baths, Manor St., London, S.W.4 (15 mins. from Charing X).
- Jan. 17. **South Yorks. Open**, Firth Brown Canteen, Savile St., Sheffield.
- Jan. 18. **Southampton Open**, Blighmont Drill Hall, Southampton.
- Jan. 24. **N.W. Kent Open**, Barnehurst Residents' Club, Parkside Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.
- Jan. 23. **ENGLAND v. IRELAND**, Mixed International Match, Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool.

QUEBEC RANKINGS :

1. L. Cloutier, 2. G. Desormeaux, 3. P. Belanger, 4. M. DeSerres, 5. Y. Barette, 6. H. Rochon, 7. J. Poulin, 8. J. Courtois, 9. Y. Talbot.

ROUND THE WORLD

U.S.A. BEAT CAMBODIA THRICE

AT Phnom-Penh, the U.S.A. team of D. Cartland and M. Reisman beat Cambodia 4-1 in 3 successive matches on March 27-29th. Total sets won by U.S.A. were 12, lost 3 sets. Games: for 41, against 22. The 3 sets were won for Cambodia by Tran-Ngoc-Chau and Tam-Var over Reisman 3-1 and 3-2 respectively, and Chau-Ngoc-Tan beat Cartland 3-0.

CAMBODIA beat Viet-Nam 4-1 in an international match at Phnom-Penh on August 2nd. Tam-Var (C) losing to Chu-Van-Sang —14, 19, 17, 21. —15. All sets went to 5 games.

FRANCE beat Sweden 5-3 at Stockholm on October 24th. Tage Flisberg was the star player winning all his 3 sets, beating Haguenauer (15, —19, 11); Genton (13, 14), and Lansky (18, 19). Pettersson and Elmblad completed the Swedish team.

AFTER having had a quick win over Roothoft at Basle earlier in the year, the Swiss champion Urchetti was in splendid form in recently leading the Swiss team (Meyer de Stadelhofen and Vergain) to a 5-3 victory over Belgium (Roland, Buyens and Demollin). Urchetti won all his matches. Switzerland subsequently defeated Luxembourg 5-1.

The T.T. Association of the Shanghai area is reported to have 10,000 members.

FIXTURE BOOK

Date(s)	Details and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
31/Feb. 1	KENT OPEN (Jan. 17) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	B.S.	Mr. G. N. Harding, 7, Joyce Road, Folkestone.
31/Feb. 1	GERMAN D.T.T.B.*		
Feb.	BURMESE CLOSED*		Rangoon.
1/7	MIDLAND OPEN (Jan. 24) Indoor Stadium, Pershore Road, Birmingham.	B.S. G.S. J.D. Vet.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birming- ham 12.
4/5 9/14	MIDDLESEX (Herga) OPEN Herga Lawn Tennis Club, (Jan. 19) Harrow, Middx.	B.S.	Mr. S. W. Martin, 55, Kings Way, Wealdstone, Middx.
14	NEWPORT OPEN*		
6	ENGLAND v. SCOTLAND Baths Hall, Race Street, Barnsley.	Mixed	Hon. Sec. (League) : Mr. F. B. Walker, 72, South Place, Vernon Way, Barnsley.
19/21	CHESHIRE OPEN (Feb. 7) Livingstone Street Baths, Birkenhead.	B.S. G.S. Vet.S.	Mr. W. E. Wood, 44, Hill Lane, Blackley, Manches- ter 9.
21/22	DUTCH OPEN*		At Rotterdam.
21/22	QUEBEC OPEN*		Montreal.
22	HANTS. OPEN		Miss L. Ferguson, 20, Ather- ley Road, Southampton.
23/27	SURREY OPEN (Jan. 31) Municipal Baths Hall, East Street, Epsom.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
28	WILMOTT CUP AND ROSE BOWL		Finals and Semi-Finals.
28/Mar. 1	DANISH CLOSED*		
Mar. 6	FRANCE v. ENGLAND	Men	Paris.
7	WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN Town Hall, Castle (Feb. 23) Circus, Torquay.	B.S. G.S.	Mrs. N. Williams, 42, St. Mary Church Road, Torquay.
7	OGMORE OPEN*		
4/14	WEST MIDDLESEX OPEN West Ealing Club, (Feb. 14) Mervyn Rd., West Ealing, W.13.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. J. Joyce, 7, Croft Gar- dens, Hanwell, London, W.7.
14	YORKS. (Youth & Junior) OPEN	Y.S. Y.D. B.S. G.S.	Mr. J. B. Leyden, "Cliff- oney," Hartley Park View, Pontefract, Yorks.
21	GRIMSBY OPEN (Mar. 14) Pier Pavilion and Town Hall, Cleethorpes, Lincs.	B.S.	Mr. J. Browne, 48, Roberts Street, Grimsby.
20/29	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS*	All Senior	Bucharest, Rumania.
Mar./Apr.	BELGIAN CLOSED*		
Apr. 4	SCOTLAND v. WALES*		Greenock.
4/5	SCOTTISH OPEN* Murrayfield Indoor Sports Stadium, Edinburgh.	B.S.	Mr. R. D. Dykes, 99, Hen- derson Row, Edinburgh, 3.
4/6	NORTH-EAST ENGLAND OPEN (Mar. 25) Burniston Road Barracks, Scarborough.	B.S. Y.S. Vet.S.	Mr. E. Moorhouse, 26, Sher- wood Street, Scarborough.
4/6	WELSH CLOSED*		Cardiff.
4/6	NIGERIAN CLOSED*		

☞ Events marked with an Asterisk (*) are outside the authority of the E.T.T.A.

KENT JUNIOR OPEN

Gillingham, 30th Nov., 1952

B.S. R. MORLEY bt. R. Dorking —6, 16/11, 18.
 G.S. J. ROOK bt. Ann Haydon —15, 8, 11.
 B.D. R. MORLEY/M. SPICER bt. T. Densham/R. Maclaren 15, 18.
 G.D. ANN HAYDON/S. JONES bt. J. Rook/B. Spooner 14, 11.
 J.X.D. D. HOUSE/S. JONES bt. R. Dorking/B. Spooner 14, 15.

KENT JUNIOR (CLOSED)

B.S. A. DANTON bt. L. Munday 12, 11.
 G.S. J. FIELDER bt. J. White 21, 17.

Middlesex Hold "The Rest"

Cheltenham, 2nd Dec., 1952

Names of "The Rest of England" Team are given first in capitals.

A. SIMONS bt. M. Thornhill 13, —23, 12; bt. L. Adams 13, 15. H. VENNER bt. A. Rhodes 20, —19, 14; lost L. Adams —23, —16. B. KENNEDY bt. M. Thornhill 15, 19; lost A. Rhodes 18, —20, —9. Miss A. BATES bt. Miss D. Rowe 14, 18. R. GRIFFIN/B. MERRITT lost G. Barna/M. Thornhill 15, 15. A. BATES/B. GRAY lost D. & R. Rowe 8, 15. A. SIMONS/M. FRY lost G. Barna/R. Rowe 23, 9.

RESULT:

THE REST 5 — MIDDLESEX 5

Note: "The Rest" won 5 out of 7 singles. Middlesex won 2 singles and all 3 doubles.

Former junior-international, 20-year-old Paignton born, Louis Devereux (who is now playing No. 1 for Portsmouth) is reported to have signed a 3-year contract for Worcestershire's professional cricket staff. As an amateur batsman he assisted both Middlesex and Worcestershire before his National Service.

Sports joke of last season in Bournemouth arose when a cup presented by *The Bournemouth Times* was won by a team from the rival newspaper, *The Bournemouth Daily Echo* (which includes reporters John Brown and Ken Williams).

MILES FAILS TO MAKE USA TEAM

By PAULINE ROBINSON

BIGGEST late news in the U.S.A. is the Inter-cities or National Team Championships which are always held whether we are able to send a team or not. Each city has a "try-out" and sends its top 3-5 to the Big Show where a full round-robin of each team is played; best 5 of 9 sets decides the match. SURPRISE of New York's try-outs was the failure of Dick Miles to make the team. He tied for 4th place with junior star Bob Gusikoff. New York's team was Somael, Pinner and Hirschowitz. Nine teams played: New York (placed 1st), Chicago (2nd), and Detroit, Indiana, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Washington, St. Louis, and New England. BERNARD BUKIET (ex-Munich and now Chicago) came out top in individual standings with 10 wins and no losses. No. 2, Tibor Hazi (Washington) 16 and 2. No. 3, Johnny Somael (New York) with 15 and 2. The Swaythling Cup team would probably have been Hazi, Somael and Holzrichter.

Women's matches are run a little differently. The Eastern girls play a round-robin and select the top four; Western girls do the same; then the 8 girls play another round-robin at the Inter-cities. The Corbillon Cup team would have been selected from the following standings: 1. Leah Neuberger 7-0. 2. Pauline Robinson 5-2 (lost 1, 6). 3. Peggy Ichkoff 4-3 (lost 1, 2, 5). 4. Sally Green Prouty (lost 1, 2, 3). 5. Sharon Koehnke (lost 1, 2, 4). 6. Mildred Shaihan (lost 1, 3, 4, 5). 7. Carolee Liechty 1-6. 8. Sharline Krizman 0-7.

The last two little girls, aged respectively 15 and 12, filled in at the last minute for Jean Gere and Lona Flam, 3 and 4 of the East team who were unable to play. Carolee is our Junior Champion, and Sharlene is Indiana State Champion. You will hear more of these two. Tibor Hazi and myself were honoured with the "Outstanding Player's" awards and it was a wonderful thrill to share such a distinction with such an all-time star like Tibor.

It was a 21-hour car journey to South Bend from New York, but it was worth it. It was an excellent tournament. Biggest laugh of the Team matches was the defeat of a good many players by a Sponge Man from Ohio—Dr. Richard Puls. He had the bat working well (NOT penholder) and was placed 7th with wins which included Pinner, Ferris and Hirschowitz among his victims. This was the first time that most of us had seen the Satoh type racket in action.

Peggy McLean Folke is playing again and expects to compete later this season... Former Corbillon Cup star Emily Fuller is getting married at Christmas time... Met Ruth Aarons last week. She is now a slim, attractive theatrical agent and doesn't look a day older than when she was World Champion. ●

Pauline Robinson.

MISS EMILY FULLER



From England we send our very best and sincere good wishes to EMILY FULLER on the occasion of her recent marriage, and our congratulations to her husband.

Miss Fuller was a U.S.A. Corbillon Cup star of great merit, warmly remembered here for her charming personality; she has won numerous U.S.A. Open titles, and written a successful book. Readers may remember her great work in teaching T.T. to polio and paraplegics at New York's Belle Vue Hospital which was reported in *Table Tennis*, October, 1950.

CONGRATULATIONS

also to our charming correspondent, Pauline Robinson, who appears to have earned her way from a No. 4 U.S.A. ranking to a No. 2. Pauline would love to get to this season's English, but is DETERMINED to get to the London World's in 1953-4. We know that she will get a really good welcome here.

THE SURREY CLOSED

Wimbledon Y.M.C.A., 29th Nov., 1952

By GEOFF COULTHREAD (Abvd.)

WINNERS of 7 major open titles of 1952-3 were among the entries. Roy Turner beat Tony Miller by the odd point. Craigie beat Head by varied pace and unreturnable counterhits. The final was full of thrills and hard hitting. Joyce Roberts was her best to take a narrow win over Peggy Piper. Quick-hitting, left-handed Pamela Gall reached 2 doubles finals in a way that promises rapid promotion.

M.S. Venner bet Turner 18, 18. Craigie bt. Head —16, 14, 13.

H. VENNER bt. K. Craigie —14, 22, —20, 11, 17.

W.S. J. ROBERTS bt. M. Piper 22, —17, 19.

M.D. A. R. MILLER/H. VENNER bt. R. Crayden/E. Filby 12, 23.

W.D. P. GALL/M. PIPER bt. K. Burge/B. Isaacs 10, 9.

X.D. K. CRAIGIE/J. ROBERTS bt. R. Crayden/P. Gall —12, 14, 16.

B.S. M. MACLAREN bt. T. Densham 18, 17

G.S. J. ROOK bt. E. Ferebee 18, 15.

NEWS

from

Everywhere



Mr. A. R. FITZSIMONS, Nottingham Chairman just before Christmas to make a new permanent home in Ohio, U.S.A. ● Teams in Worthing League increased by 50% this season ● When BILLIE STAMP was in hospital recovering from his "last leg" injury, Liverpool League Committee meetings were held round his bed. Now, when DES LOUGHREY was in hospital, the Selection Committee followed precedent. Idea seems "infectious." ● Sussex n.p. junior captain, Mr. W. G. GOLD-FINCH (ex-Kent) drove 290 miles in a day to collect and deliver the team for a Junior County match. ● Staines area is a recognised factory for Middlesex talent, but before you're dazzled by the Milky Way of younger stars just remember the "toughness" of the oldsters which signposted the way, e.g., BERT SHUTTLE (Egham) turned out in a plaster jacket because his old team were one man short for a cup match; and though his right arm is in a sling you can't keep a good man like REG. SPOONER (father of Doreen and Beryl) down. Or there's SYD and TINA CARRUTHERS still gallivantin' around and winning. After winning a *Daily Mirror* match, next day saw Tina dashing down to the Winchester Open to win the W.D. title and reach the semi of the W.S. These were representative players some 20 odd years ago, young 'uns! ● Did you hear about the Mighty Marathon County Match at Staines? Middlesex beating Glamorgan 9-1, but finding it such tough going that at 11.35 p.m. JOHN DAVIES couldn't finish his last match and was dragged away to catch the last train still struggling with his trousers. Yet it was sufficiently good to keep a large crowd there to the end. ● Someone tells us that gaberdine trousers are better for T.T. than flannels as they can be sent to the laundry without being any the worse for it. ● BILL GALLAGHER (ex-Southport, Lancs.), ranked Warwick's No. 6, recently played against his old county. 20-year-old Bill now has his home in

Leamington and captains the University team in the Birmingham League and the Leamington Y.M.C.A. in the Coventry League (where he is M.S. champion). He also serves on the local league committee. ● The Dutch T.T.A. was founded on June 23rd, 1935, with 300 members, increased annually to 5,000 in 1947; 10,000 in 1950, and 12,000 in 1951. ● DEREK GLAZER (formerly of Willesden League) is now in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and sends good wishes to all old friends. He has been invited to get a Provincial organisation

Sheila Takes the Cake



No. 817
SHEILA BAKER cuts the cake at her 21st birthday celebrations.

Note that cake: one-half is decorated as a Lawn Tennis and the other half as a Table Tennis court. Significance is that Sheila has won the Horsham, Sussex, T.T. Championship 4 times and the Lawn Tennis Championship twice. Her game is characterised by some really hard-hitting, and as her tactical knowledge improves she may challenge the top rankers.

A TIER FOR DOUBLES

Meanwhile, in Liverpool, Peter Short and Audrey Taylor (both of the Linnet Club) returned from their marriage ceremony to find that their wedding cake was decorated to make a complete T.T. table with net, bats and ball fashioned in icing. It had been secretly prepared by Mrs. Taylor. Congratulations all round.

going and thinks that interest in T.T. is on the upgrade. He sends us an entry form for the Canadian Open in which one regulation insists that All White Clothing MUST be worn. Fees range from \$5.00 (21/-) for the M.S. Open and \$2.00 a pair for Doubles. ● Essex v. Sussex Juniors: first has R. Davis; latter Miss R. Davis ● Cornwall is going ahead with league and inter-league developments; their county team tryout against Plymouth, although a 2-8 loss was more promising than is usual, with one game 29-27 and a sprinkle of match-point scores. R. D. CHARLESWORTH and R. TREWHELA won the 2 ties for Cornwall. ● T.T. is developing in Leinster, Eire, where with the spread of rural electrification, expansion is to be on the lines of league and county rather than the provincial basis hitherto.

● WE are pleased to announce that our regular correspondent, GEOFF. COULTHREAD, ubiquitous and versatile Secretary (*inter alia*) South London League has become engaged to MISS BETTY HOLDWAY. ● In Rumania, site of the 1952-3 World's, players are practising steadily. It is said there are some promising boys and girls. ANGELICA ROSEANU, world champion for last 3 years, is now quite fit and

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for the World Championships... there are so many open tournaments, county, league and Cup matches... Use these results. Forget Trials, which only reduce certain sensitive players to nervous wrecks and flatter others who would crumble in the competitive zest of the championships."

SAM LEITCH, *Daily Mirror*.
T.T. Writer on 30th October.

"... Consider the see-saw of results so far this season and then pity the selectors... Unranked players have beaten the Nos. 3, 4 and 5. No. 5 beat No. 3; No. 4 beat 2; No. 8 beat 6; No. 6 beat Nos. 3 and 4."

SAM LEITCH, a few days later.

"IN table tennis, as in many sports, international trials prove nothing and lead to major blunders. They should be scrapped as useless."

The Star, 28th November.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

focused by

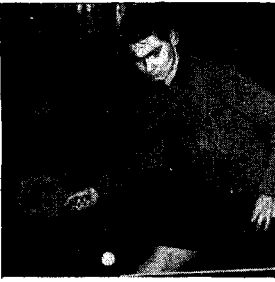
PETER MADGE

who also took the photos



No. 830

L. to R.: Roy Morley; Joyce Fielding; George Gladwish; Geoff. Pullar; David House; Jeff Ingber.



ENGLISH JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL TRIALS Gillingham, 29th Nov., 1952

THE immediate purpose of the Trials was to assist the Selectors in choosing a team of 3 boys to tour Sweden this month and some junior representatives for the French Championships.

Some 4 hours play showed that 5 boys were in a class by themselves, they were: Ray Dorking (Essex), David House (Bath), Jeff Ingber and Geoff. Pullar (Lancs.), and Roy Morley (Glos.).

I feel the team for Sweden can hardly fail to include House and Pullar. There is little to choose between the other three . . . Ingber having already had one trip to Sweden may have to make way for Dorking or Morley. Dorking seems the more consistent and likely to succeed against a wider range of players than Morley, who, though having a crisp and attractive attacking game has a greater tendency to fluctuation of form.

Some results of the "Big Five" were: HOUSE bt. Dorking 17, 19; bt. Ingber 18, 19, 8. MORLEY bt. Dorking 21, —19, 19; bt. Ingber 17, —18, 22. PULLAR bt. Morley 10, 13. These were their only defeats and all had wins over 2 or more other trialists. Ray Dorking was somewhat below par for the whole week-end.

Among the girls, ANN HAYDON had a gala day, emerging without a single defeat, and including a victory over Jill Rook (15, —13, 16) and Wendy Blades in straight games.

KENT JUNIOR OPEN

THIS justly popular junior meeting took place the day after the Trials and in the same hall.

From the quarter-finals of the B.S., Gladwish bt. House 20, 21; Dorking bt. Bradford 11, 18; bt. Gladwish 18, —17, 11; MacLaren bt. Densham —17, 48, 19; Morley bt. Danton 19, 4; bt. MacLaren 18, 16.

Final: R. MORLEY (Glos.) bt. R. Dorking 16, —16, 15.
G.S. J. Rook bt. S. Jones 14, 14; A. Haydon bt. B. Spooner 14, 13.
JILL ROOK bt. Ann Haydon —15, 8, 11.

B.D. Morley/Spicer bt. Flack/Shopper 14, 22; Densham/MacLaren bt. Gundry/Webb 19, 17.

Other Results on Page 21

Very junior Junior 13-year-old GEORGE GLADWISH (Sussex) produced a surprise result by beating House and went on to a classic semi-final with Dorking who recovered something of his customary form. Terry Densham had a good win over Cheltenham's stylish heavyweight Michael Spicer.

Welsh junior champion Shirley Jones found the English junior champion JILL ROOK in fighting trim, while Ann Haydon overcame Beryl Spooner (who had earlier beaten Joyce Fielder. Jill reversed her Trials result by beating Ann Haydon. Shirley Jones had some consolation for her long trip by sharing two doubles wins.

PEACE ON EARTH...?

A Christmas message which arrived too late for December publication came from BILLY KNIGHT, safely away in Australia. He writes with bared teeth and asks me to give his

best wishes to all juniors and to assure them that if he had time he would come home and beat them all up "something horrible"!! Is this your "goodwill to all men" carol for Christmas, Billy? Sounds as though it must be from a not so Silent Knight!

JUST MIST

ODD goings-on at the Central London Open during an evening of The Great Fog. Referee Geoff. James had to send out search parties to find what was happening on the 3 tables which had become totally obscured at the other end of the hall. Certain unscrupulous "gentlemen" took advantage of the situation and (when the umpire momentarily disappeared from view) they emulated British Railways and operated a Fog Service. No praise is too high for a Tournament Committee who hung red lamps on the corners of the tables for the benefit of long-range defenders.

SOUTH LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINALS—SATURDAY 17th JANUARY, 7.15 p.m.

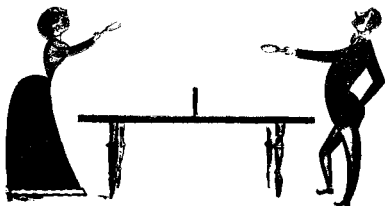
CLAPHAM MANOR STREET BATHS

(2 minutes from Clapham Common Tube, Northern Line)

ENTRANTS INCLUDE THE WINNERS OF EVERY SOUTHERN SINGLES TITLE THIS SEASON
TICKETS: 7/6; 5/-; 3/- (Res.) and 2/- (Unres. and rover) from G. Coulthead, 20a, High Street, S.W.17, or on the door

ADDED ATTRACTION

A display of WHIFF WHAFF—Table Tennis as played in 1901 using the original Vellum battledores, etc.—will be given by leading players . . . This is your only chance to see this fascinating glimpse of the beginnings of Table Tennis . . . so don't miss it!



This Way to Limit Knocking

Replying to John Coerer, December
Table Tennis.

IN Exeter, our capable Referee, Mr. A. W. Bridle, has an effective method for controlling "Knocking" on free tournament tables: A piece of stout card about 10" x 8" is cut for each table, each card being labelled with the Table Number. All of these cards start on the Referee's table. When the Referee issues a Score Card to an umpire he attaches it to one of the large Table Cards which also clearly tells the umpire on which table the match is to be played. When the match is over, the umpire returns the Score Card TOGETHER with the large TABLE CARD.

This means that every Table Card on the Referee's table indicates a VACANT table, so "Knocking" can proceed without hindrance or hold-ups.

H. J. AMERY, Devon County.

A similar method is also used and recommended by LEO THOMPSON, Bucks. County.

4th PUNJAB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lahore, 10th Nov., 1952

M.S. C. N. BALU bt. K. Bidani 15, 12, 15.
W.S. Mrs. TAQI BUTT bt. Miss Bashir —15, 21, 21.

B.S. FAROOQ ZAMAN bt. Riaz Mahmud 15, —18, 14.

Doubles were won by (M.) S. Haroon/G. Zaidi. (W.) Mrs. T. Butt/Miss Bashir. (X.) K. Bidani/Mrs. Ali.

DELHI BEAT PUNJAB

THE first Indian team to visit Pakistan was when Delhi met Punjab at Lahore in November. The hall was packed to capacity and the visit so successful, that regular "internationals" are being arranged. Delhi (Balu, Sabherwal, Bidani) beat Punjab (Zaidi, Zahidi, Menezes) 5-3. K. Bidani won 3-0 for visitors and G. Zaidi 2-1 was the best for Punjab.

Deirdre Fearson, 22-year Dublin bank clerk, needs 2 cabinets to hold all her T.T. trophies. She holds the Irish Open, the Closed and Dublin W.S. titles; gained first international colours last season. Keen on lawn tennis and swimming and is an able Read School pianist. Credits success to Alec McKay (Irish captain) and hard work: T.T. beat piano lessons for practice work.

Leeds National Savings Committee are organising a T.T. competition for the more than 40 local youth clubs. Yorks. Evening News is giving a challenge trophy.

DEVON from page 10

Joan (Mrs. Willcocks of Plymouth) beat Peggy Franks, and "penholder" Roy Jarvis (same league) beat Keith Hurlock in the Devon Open.

Lots of good stuff in Devon . . . apart from Cream, cider, holidays and sunshine . . . see the note on Plymouth elsewhere in this issue. ●

MR. E. W. CAST, Chairman of South London League, has a novel ideal for his League's Tournament Finals. He proposes to stage a T.T. match as it was played 50 years ago using long-handled vellum rackets and with the players wearing the dress of the period (including "sideboards!").

Mr. Cast, incidentally, started printing special forms, stationery, etc., particularly for Table Tennis. By printing large quantities, prices could be low, he reckoned. Then the Inland Revenue walked in and asked for advance tax on the forms printed and held in stock! It doesn't make any difference to his prices, but it certainly seems hard luck to have to pay before you are paid in this way.

RECIPE

"Ping-pong Luncheon: Decorate the table with two ping-pong nets stretched diagonally across the table with 4 rackets in the middle. Menu: Fish balls, French chops *(rolled), cream-cheese balls, vanilla ice-cream balls."

From the American Ladies Home Journal for November, 1952.

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Everything for the player

TABLES	Alec Brook Tournament. Used in many open championships, Wilmott Cup, Rose Bowl, Television, etc.	£35 17s. 9d.		
	Jaques tournament—Table	£47 0s. 0d.		
	The League	£38 0s. 0d.		
	A.D.B. ½" match	£24 4s. 6d.		
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	Hire Purchase terms. Tables carriage paid. Tables in part exchange. Tables now resurfaced.			
CLOTHING	E.T.T.A. Official shirts, Navy, Royal, Maroon and Green	21/-		
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	Shorts: Grey tailored	44/6d. Rayon in five colours	25/6d. Khaki	23/6d.
	Postage extra on clothing only.			
BADGES	Send sketch with number required for quotation.			
BOOKS	21 Up	12/6d. T.T. for All	9/6d. Modern T.T.	6/-
	T.T. by Montagu	10/-	T.T. Quiz	1/6d.
BATS	World Champion, Sponge or Crepe			10/- each
RUBBER	Fast, Medium, Slow or Continental			1/3d. per piece
	Bats re-covered		4/9d.	

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