

FEBRUARY, 1955

SIXPENCE

TABLETENNIS



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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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Vol. 13

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No. 5

Have You Got a Water Bottle?

A SMALL water bottle appears to be the standard equipment of certain table tennis players these days. They use them to spray water on what they consider are slippery floors.

Some appear to have adopted the attitude that they must put water down irrespective of the state of the floor. And they are doing so without consulting anyone.

This practice has been causing some concern among referees and there are likely to be repercussions. At one tournament a player literally soaked the floor and the umpire immediately called a halt to the game.

The matter came to a head in the Metropolitan "Open" and referee Jack Kurzman severely censured the players concerned.

Referee's Job

"The referee is the only person who can decide on playing conditions," said Kurzman, "and players must not take the law into their own hands. A player who sprays water on the floor must remember that his opponent is also due to play at his end of the table for part of the match. Then other matches are due to come to that table, and players concerned in them would be quite within their grounds in objecting to a damp floor.

"It is the referee's job to see that conditions are as ideal as can be obtained and when all is said and done they apply to all contestants. We cannot make exceptions for the few.

"If we let individuals please themselves there is no knowing where it will stop."

On this question of etiquette there is a growing feeling among some of the older officials that some players are being "molly-coddled" too much and pandered to by organisers anxious to have stars at their tournaments. Consequently disci-

pline is getting lax, players are not available when called, and want programmes arranged to suit themselves.

One official commenting on this matter said: "The lesser lights are just as important as the stars. Without them there cannot be a champion. If a reigning holder is out then those that are left will throw up a new champion and the public always likes to see a champion whether his name is Bill Brown or Harry Green."

Comparing the Past

It is, of course, a modern tendency for older officials to compare the present day with their own playing era. Thus it is not surprising that many of them have the growing feeling that referees have a tendency to be too lax. Time and again I hear the phrase "That would not have been allowed in our day." But these same people must realise that the answer is within their power for they are after all responsible for running things and should set the standards from their own experiences in the past.

TITLES GO ROUND

For those who feel that "open" titles are monopolised by the few it is interesting to make a review of the season so far. The titles appear to have been well shared around, for the first 22 tournaments produced 15 men's winners and 14 women's.

Harry Venner, fighting hard for a place in the Swaythling Cup team leads among the men with three titles, the South of England, South London, and Metropolitan.

Four players have each claimed two, Arnold Shepherd (Cheshire), Les Sawyer (Essex), Ken Craigie (Surrey) and Brian Kennedy (Yorks).

Helen Elliot, of Scotland, is out on her own among the women with four titles, while Rosalind Rowe (Middlesex), who has been busy enhancing her reputation abroad, Shirley Jones (Wales) and Ann Haydon (Warwick) have two each.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official News :

THE National Executive Committee held a six-hour meeting in the Council Chamber of the Royal Empire Society, London, on Saturday, January 8, 1955, when there was a full Agenda for discussion. Some of the decisions made and matters discussed were:—

Germany. It was agreed to accept an invitation from the Deutscher Tisch Tennis Bund to send Juniors (Boys and Girls) to take part in a Junior International Tournament in Stuttgart in June, 1955.

Belgium. The Belgium Federation invited some players to take part in their Liege International Tournament October 15/16, 1955. Subject to settlement as to travelling costs, it was agreed to accept in principle.

Poland. A communication was received from the Polish Federation giving details of an International Tournament from August 1—14, 1955, on the occasion of the Warsaw Youth Festival, to be open to all players affiliated to the International Table Tennis Federation. In the event of any English players wishing to take part the necessary permission to be given.

Conference of County Secretaries. It was agreed to hold a Conference of all County Secretaries to discuss some of the problems concerning the organisation and promoting of events, especially to ascertain if the present calendar is too full, and if so the steps required to be taken to limit and re-arrange existing events.

International Matches.

v. Wales (Junior Boys). The Honorary Secretary—Mr. A. K. Vint—was appointed E.T.T.A. Representative for the match v Wales (Junior Boys) at Worthing, on February 18, 1955. Mr. W. Goldfinch agreed to act as Honorary Referee.

Wilmott Cup competition. The Acton & District T.T. League agreed to stage the Semi-Finals and Final of the Wilmott Cup competition on Saturday, February 26, 1955, at Sperry's Sports Club, Gt. West Road, Brentford, Middlesex. Applications for tickets should be made to R. W. Boorer, 50, Southdown Avenue, Hanwell, London, W.7.

J. M. Rose Bowl competition. The Committee were informed that at the moment there was no decision arrived at with regard to a venue for the Semi-Final and Final of this competition. The Honorary Secretary was authorised to continue to make enquiries.

Election of Officers and Members of the National Executive Committee 1955/6. It was agreed that the dates for the annual election of the Officers and Members of the National Executive Committee should be as follows:

Nomination papers to be despatched on or before February 15, 1955. Nomination papers to be returned on or before March 1, 1955. Voting papers to be despatched on or before March 15, 1955. Voting papers to be returned on or before March 29, 1955.

The Proportional Representation Society to conduct the elections and Messrs. G. W. Decker and D. Poupard were appointed to act as scrutineers. Nomination papers and ballot

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

President: The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E.

Chairman: Hon. Ivor Montagu.

Honorary Secretary/Treasurer: A. K. Vint.

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Kathleen Pegg.

Office of the Association: 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Telephone: TRAFALGAR 2165).

papers will be sent to the appointed County and League E.T.T.A. representatives. If any representative does not receive his papers by the dates in question, he should notify the Administrative Secretary of the Association immediately.

International Table Tennis Federation Congress. I. Montague and A. K. Vint were appointed delegates to attend the meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation Congress in Utrecht in April.

Dress. The recommendation of the Dress Committee proposing that Blazer badges should be available for members of the National Executive Committee and for official representatives appointed by the E.T.T.A. for International matches and other events, and non-playing Captains, was approved. It was also agreed to accept the proposal of the Dress Committee with regard to dress for official teams as follows:—

“Players selected to represent the E.T.T.A. to be advised that the standard dress is the official shirt with E.T.T.A. badge, grey trousers, shorts or skirts, white socks, white shoes. If a cardigan or pullover is worn it should be of the same colour as the shirt. Where players are sent abroad as a team, a royal blue track suit with ‘England’ embodied on the back of the suit will be provided by the Association. If Junior players, the letter ‘J’ after ‘England.’”

World Championships, Utrecht. Applications for joining the official party are still being received. The date of departure is now settled for Friday, April 15, 1955, returning on Monday, April 25, 1955. The official entry forms have been received from the Dutch Association with a request that full details of requirements (hotel and tickets) should be made at once. If any member wishes to join the official party, he or she should communicate with the Administrative Secretary of the Association immediately.

Central Council of Physical Recreation, Table Tennis, 1955, Summer Courses and Coaching Holidays. The 1955 Summer Courses and Coaching Holidays arranged by the Central Council of Physical Recreation for men and women not under 17 years of age are as follows:—

Lilleshall Hall. Saturday, July 2 to Saturday, July 9. Fee £7 0. 0.

Saturday, July 23 to Saturday, July 30. Fee £6 10. 0.

Bisham Abbey. Saturday, August 13 to Saturday, August 20. Fee £6 10. 0.

Saturday, August 27 to Saturday, September 3. Fee £6 10. 0.

All enquiries should be addressed to the General Secretary, Central Council of Physical Recreation, 6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

Eagle and Girl Clubs Tournament. The Finals of the Eagle and Girl Clubs Tournament for under “15’s” and under “13’s” will take place on Saturday, March 19, 1955, at the Friends House Hall, London, N.W.1. The members of the Clubs and their parents are being invited to apply for admission tickets to the Finals.

Registered Members. An application from R. Warner (Warwicks) was approved.

Team Selections. Team selections have been made as follows:—

v. Wales (Junior Boys). February 18, 1955.

L. Landry (Middx.), T. Densham (Surrey), I. Harrison (Gloucs.), A. Cornell (Essex).

Non-playing captain: T. Sears (Middx.).

ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 29th—2nd April, 1955

Players Entry Form

The entry form for the English Open Championships is now available and players wishing to obtain a copy may do so by writing to the Administrative Secretary. The opening rounds, including the Junior events of the Championships, will be played in the Main Restaurant Hall at the Empire Stadium, Wembley, on the 29th/30th March, 1955, and the concluding rounds and the Finals will take place in the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley, on the 1st/2nd April, 1955.

Play

The best news we have had this month is the decision of the *Czechoslovak* Table Tennis Association to send their Men's team to the Championships. *Yugoslavia, Sweden, France, Germany, Scotland* and *Wales* are sending players. We still have to hear from China and U.S.A.

Of course, our own Johnny Leach, Richard Bergmann, Aubrey Simons, Di and Ros Rowe, and other leading International players will be in the various events.

For many years now Saturday night at Wembley has been a gathering of the clans. Coaches, trains, buses, motor cars, motorcycles, pedal-bicycles are used to bring supporters from all parts of the country to this well known table tennis Mecca. Year after year each Championship brings new enthusiasts, but none can go away without being duly thrilled and impressed with the strength and vigour of the support given to our game.

Will you be there?

Tickets of admission

Daily admission tickets to all sessions will be available at the door, but tickets for the Friday and Saturday evenings are on sale and orders should be sent to the E.T.T.A. office.

Arrangements have been made for party reductions (12 persons or more) on all prices of tickets, other than the lowest. It is not necessary that the tickets should be of one price to obtain this concession. They can be made up of any price provided the total number is 12 or more. Seats are available as follows:—

Friday, April 1. 15/- for 12/6d., 12/6d. for 10/6d., 10/6d. for 8/6d., 7/6d. for 5/-.

Saturday, April 2. 21/- for 17/6d., 15/- for 12/6d., 10/6d. for 8/6d., 8/6d. for 6/6d.

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News from all quarters is warmly welcome. Please send direct to the Editor: W. Harrison Edwards, c/o Sports Press, 149, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. (Central 9951).



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AN INQUEST ON STYLES

On behalf of the National Coaching Committee I have just completed an interesting task — the production of the 16mm. film of the 1954 World Championships at Wembley.

This is a 22-minute film with English sound commentary which we believe will have a positive instructional value in addition to its "news" interest as a record of the five big Finals.

In the opening sequences the following players appear at the practice tables: Miss Watanbe and G. Kawai (Japan), V. Tereba and L. Stipek (Czechoslovakia), K. Craigie, R. Dorking, Miss Joy Seaman (England), M. Hagenauer, R. Roothoft, A. Ehrlich (France), Miss Sultana (India), Miss Lauber (Austria). M. Marcel Corbillon is seen greeting competitors from Sweden, U.S.A., Egypt and Nigeria.

These are followed by scenes from the Finals of Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Mens' Doubles, Mixed Doubles and Womens' Doubles.

The film shows some good close-ups of the main strokes of the game and especially of the Japanese style which proved so effective on this, its first European outing.

FREE TO CLUBS

The full cost of the new E.T.T.A. film has been borne by Messrs. Halax of London, E.4 (to whom overseas enquiries should be addressed).

Copies are now available for loan, free of charge, to bona fide Clubs or organisations who can guarantee an audience of 50 people, and can provide a skilled operator.

Applications to borrow the film (allowing at least one month's notice) should be sent either to E.T.T.A. office or to me at 24, Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

The comparison between Japanese and European styles which is seen in our new film revives the enquiry "Is the Penholder style a thing of the Future—or of the Past?"

The National Coaching Committee believe it is impossible to lay the law down on such a point. The field is open for any style which proves effective, and although our Coaching Dip-

loma holders and all established English Coaches teach the "tennis" style, they are not expected to discourage any budding stars from trying their hand at the penholder approach.

It is probably true that a penholder style is more difficult and less satisfying to teach than the "all round" game, but if anybody finds it effective, good luck to him.

The renewed interest in "penholder" style is brought about by the successes of the Japanese teams last season, and more recently of Zoltan Dolinar (Yugoslavia).

PEN-HOLDER

For the benefit of Coaches who are faced with this debate, let us review the facts.

The old-time penholder game differed from the tennis style in these particulars:—

1. Only one face of the bat played the ball.

2. The basic approach to the ball was *straight down the line* of the ball and almost invariably *forward into* the ball. This gave the advantage of aggression and decisiveness in attack but caused a lack of flexibility in defence.

3. The head of the bat stayed downwards, even at the end of a driving follow through. The handle remained pointing upwards through the fingers and thumb.

The Japanese style is true penholder in respect of No. 1 only, and because the handle rests through the fingers and thumb. As for points 2 and 3, the Japanese employ the orthodox devices of circular rhythmical swinging in attack, with typical "Western" acceleration of the bat-head until it finishes pointing upwards and over the head.

Our new film clearly shows this when Craigie, the very successful English hitter takes over the picture from Miss Watanabe.

PLEASES SPECTATORS

Is there any advantage in using rhythmical swings as opposed to the older straight-jab approach of the penholder? Apart from the far greater spectator appeal of rhythmical stroke-

play—a point not lightly to be ignored in a sport needing a playing public—the advantage of rhythm is flexibility of muscle-changes. Adaptability of driving strokes and easy change to pushing play or even defence.

The Japanese make use also of the orthodox technique of *retreating foot-work* when playing the ball defensively. They do not, of course, retreat far from the table as a chop defender would do, but they do allow the body to give and the feet to skip back to cushion the speed of the ball. This is another aspect in which their technique is more flexible than the old time pen-holder game in which defence usually meant standing one's ground and blocking the ball sharply.

In the case of Dolinar his triumphs may fairly be credited to the penholder supporters, but must be tempered with the memory of his very feeble showing in the world championships at Wembley against Richard Miles who "executed" the Yugoslav giant with his classic short and strong chop.

ORTHODOX TAKES OVER

Another interesting point is that in Chile, for years a land of penholder players, the championship was won this year, for the first time by an orthodox "tennis" style player, Olazarri.

There is much more to be said before these arguments are exhausted, but I think our final conclusions would be the same as may be derived from the present short resumé viz:

Although there is enough evidence to show that the penholder game is far from out dated—especially in its modified rhythmical form—and must be highly respected when exploited by a talented performer, there is also an abundance of evidence to maintain our confidence in the efficiency of the orthodox all round style. For this reason our coaches will continue to teach all angles of the game and to insist on a study of both classic defence and attack, while leaving the eventual choice of style to the pupils.

When all is said and done, we must remember that style is not the only factor in the problem. Very often the other fellow wins because he is the better player!

TEXT BOOK PLAYERS QUESTION

I must cross swords with B. D. Scovell (January issue) who objects to the orthodox all-round style of playing table-tennis. I wouldn't like his article to discourage any of our promising youngsters at present being trained in this style.

Mr. Scovell repeats a popular fallacy that players such as Vana, Bergmann and Barna were one-stroke exponents. Far from it. Vana stayed in command of the game most of the time by virtue of the colossal power of his attack allied with footwork that earned him the title "The Electric Man", but he was quite capable of using a top class defence when needed.

Then there is Bergmann, of the legendary defence, but what a table-blistering attack he produces for a crucial point! Finally, Barna, a name always linked with backhand attack, although his real strength lay in a defence that was well nigh impenetrable in the era of the high net.

PRACTICAL WAY

Orthodox strokes are not just whims of the coaches. They are the most practical way from the stand-points of economy of effort, ease of production and extent of control . . . all evolved from long experience.

A player under tuition is taught all the strokes in the orthodox manner. If he is destined to become a player of however mild repute he will soon find his own niche or particular ability and develop that aspect of his game. If the coach tries to change that natural bent, then he's a bad teacher. And there are quite a few of those.

Mr. Scovell states that top-spin and back-spin are things of the past, outdated by the Japanese who rely on angling and hard-hitting. Friends, let me tell you that if you set a ten ton steam-hammer behind the table and fixed it so that it hit the ball in the same place that the Japanese hit it, i.e. shortly after the bounce, with the equivalent force of a hundred Japanese attackers rolled into one, that ball would never clear the net unless you fixed your steam-hammer to hit with top-spin. Try it if you don't believe me.

As long as any player wants to hit a ball with more than push strength and reasonable consistency he must use top-spin to clear the net and send the ball dipping down to the other side. And as long as Mr. A is going to use top-spin, then Mr. B will have to use back-spin to avoid giving Mr. A the chance to dispense entirely with top-spin by using a flat kill!

According to Mr. Scovell the Japanese have shown our style to be antiquated, and when a top-class orthodox player comes up against the Japanese he is lost and doesn't know what to do. Now, I can remember the Czechoslovakia v. Japan match at Wembley last year. Ivan Andreadis, the impeccable genius and copy-book stylist emerged undefeated. Many times in course of his matches he made the Japanese look just silly when they ran themselves hopelessly out of position to hit a forehand off their backhand corner and then could only stand and watch as the imperishable Ivan calmly smote it back down the opposite side.

Admittedly, the Japanese made a

clean sweep of everybody else, but this was no credit to their styles.

The credit is due to them for their almost superhuman agility, reflexes and control.

In the Japanese these three factors combined to overcome the limitations that made the less athletic Europeans give up the same style over a quarter of a century ago.

PERFECTLY ORTHODOX

One would hardly call Andreadis an "Electric Man," so what enabled him to soundly defeat the quicksilver Japanese whilst hardly moving from the table? Why, nothing but his supreme mastery of a perfectly orthodox game, the subtlety and flexibility of which had the barn-storming Japanese utterly baffled. Antiquated? Outdated? That suggests that all Europeans would be well advised to change to the "new" style. I can just imagine some of our well-built experts darting about like the tiny sons of Nippon.

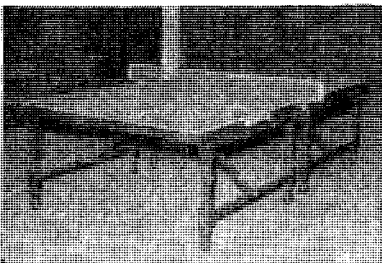
No, Mr. Scovell, the Japanese taught us nothing new about table tennis. But they made us realise just how much physical and mental condition can mean in this game. Unfortunately, theirs is an example we cannot emulate . . . we just aren't made that way.

If the Japanese ever successfully apply their extraordinary speed to an orthodox style of game, then—to borrow the immortal phrase of the fire-work manufacturers—retire to a safe distance!

* * *

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PETERSSON LOSES JUNIOR TITLE

Early in January, at the Swedish Championships, reigning junior singles champion Hasse Petersson lost his title to Reidar Ljungstrom in the final. The result was a surprise, but I hear that Petersson has been having bat trouble. No, not the inevitable sponge! Whilst on tour here last year he bought an English bat which he used ever since until just before the Swedish Championships, then it was broken during a match. He sent a frantic S.O.S. to England and a replacement was rushed off post-haste. Cruel fate . . . the postman delivered the bat to the Petersson home the very morning after he had played, and lost, the final.

EYES ON THE BALL

by SHIRLEY LEWIS

(Editorial Staff *The Optician and Manufacturing Optician*)

PRACTICE, practice, practice . . . that's the advice we get when we say we want to become skilled at table tennis. But only last month Lance Tingay said in an article in *Table Tennis* that there was yet another essential for a good player—a good eye! There was never a truer statement.

Eighty per cent of all we learn comes to us through vision and in a game as fast as table tennis quick, clear sight is essential.

What is a 'good' eye? Lots of people have the mistaken idea that players who wear glasses can't possibly see as well as those who don't. That isn't true, for most spectacle wearers have 'good' eyes—with their glasses on. The lens prescription they wear brings their sight to normal . . . that is, for normal tasks.

But table tennis can hardly be called a normal task and spectacle wearers must make certain their lens prescription is apt for the game.

SEE THEY FIT

Just as it's natural and wise to wear the right kit, so is it natural and wise to wear the right glasses. Spectacles for table tennis must not hinder the field of vision, block the view of a quick return or of an opponent's give-away movements. Day-by-day frames are not table tennis frames.

Make sure your spectacles fit pro-

perly. Some of the glamorous frames to be had nowadays are lovely in their proper setting. But they usually have what is called hockey-end sides and are not ideal for vigorous wear.

The best type for sport have sides which curl around the ear, securing them against slipping down the nose and perhaps diverting your attention from the game at a crucial moment.

Make sure the frames are strong—all metal types are ideal. As for lenses, have them large and curved so that you get the widest angle of vision and, just to be on the safe side, have them made in unsplinterable glass or plastic.

GOLDEN RULE

Another golden rule is to make sure you always have spare glasses. If you forget your one-and-only-pair or have a mishap with them, you can be forced to withdraw from an all-important match—simply because without them you no longer have a 'good' eye for the game.

Another thing. Make sure you have an eye-test at regular intervals. A recent survey has shown that most people wait about three years between tests. This really isn't as frequent as it should be, especially for sports lovers who give their eyes little rest.

Whatever kind of glasses you have, be fair to them—and give them every chance to help you. Have them regularly checked for good fitting. This is most important for a spectacle frame isn't just a pretty accessory—it's an important part of an intricate



MARTIN REISMAN

optical prescription. Measured expertly in terms of millimetres, it has the vital job of holding the lenses in their precise position before the eyes.

Finally, as a matter of interest, did you know that the average woman spends nine times as much on hair-dressing and make-up as she does on eyecare? And the average man? He spends *one hundred and seven* times as much on smokes and drinks! Surely you will agree that *your eyes* are worthy of better treatment than that. For where would you be without your eyes? Certainly not around the championship table.

UNSUITABLE

Aubrey Simons and Martin Reisman, pictured here, are two bespectacled players whose glasses are, I consider, wholly unsuitable for their recreation.

Those of Reisman, though having a wide and unobstructed field of vision, are hardly the strongest frames to be worn for sport, though, of course, they are ideal for other pursuits.

Aubrey Simons looks as if he has to keep putting his finger to his nose to push back into position his frame, the lenses of which are too small, thus giving him a too confined field of vision. The joints of the sides are also wrongly positioned for him—if they were at the top of the lenses he would have a far less obstructed view of the game.



AUBREY SIMONS

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MAINLY ABOUT GIRLS

and girls from Kent in particular

By

F. G. MANNOOCH

(Jimmy Mannooch, a bachelor in his fifties, has been Secretary of the Kent County Association since its inception in 1936. Most of his time these days is devoted to developing juniors and his work in this direction has been officially recognised with his appointment as Chairman of the National Junior Sub-Committee.)

NO doubt there will be quite a few witty remarks about my choice of title, particularly from Kentish sources, but, having been representative of the Juniors on the National County Championships Committee for a number of years. I have always the excuse that it is part of my job to take an interest in the girls!

What has perturbed me for some time, and probably has given food for thought in many quarters, is the apparent dearth of young girl players. The shortage is noticeable right from the International level to the Club level and the question is, "What can we do about it?" We must somehow find successors for the girls in our National and County teams at least and we must do it quickly.

Some time ago I was told that a certain County had no idea where they would find a second girl for their

Junior team. I replied that we could lend them half-a-dozen, none of whom would disgrace themselves in a County team.

I was naturally told we were lucky, but I don't agree. Young girls are there in every county, but they have got to be found.

I don't say that we have hit on the perfect solution to the problem but we have gone a long way towards it, and other Counties may like to know how we set about it.

The two pictures show a few of our coming young stars, and represent two different methods of producing girl players.

The charming Folkestone quartet are all members of a local club which can cater for only a few junior members, but they concentrate on giving these youngsters as much coaching as possible. Results were evident in the Kent Junior "Open" where Sheila Benton reached the under 13's final.

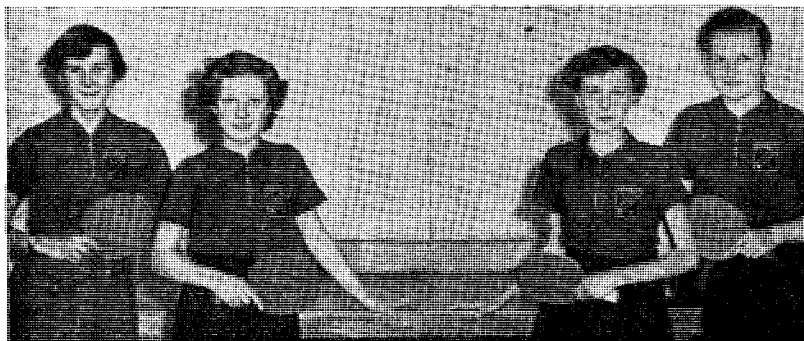
The other picture shows the result of an experiment at Sittingbourne where a club has been formed solely for the benefit of schoolgirls, and the emphasis is on practice.

No matter how much coaching is given to a coming player it is felt that this is of little value unless there is also the opportunity for practice.

LEARN TO HIT

Our method, which may possibly call for criticism from some quarters, is to concentrate on teaching the new player how to hit the ball and how to make a reasonably good service, following this with bags of practice until they can be reasonably sure of getting the ball back and not missing the table too many times!

At this stage they are given a certain amount of individual coaching, but, when one realises that the Club has a membership of well over 60 girls, it will be obvious that individual coaching must be very limited. Our answer, therefore, is still more practice, but it is certainly to the credit of our coach, and also to the theme of "practice," that, in less than



West Kent Gazette

Top: FOLKESTONE QUARTET (left to right): Heather Tanner, Sheila Benton, Carol Watson, Kathleen Beal.
Bottom: SITTINGBOURNE PRODIGIES. Front row (l. to r.): Margaret McConechy (12), Christina McLeod (11), Betty Elvey (11), Glynys Corden (11), Pat Baldock (11), Eileen Evetts (11), Andrea Deverson (11). Back row (l. to r.): Suzanne Vallance (14), Ann Jacobs (14), Janet Spenceley (14), Ann Bryden (11), Pat Mowbray (11), Karen Protheroe (11), Ann Isaacs (11), Rosemary Hampshire (11), Sandra Woodfine (14), Pat Butler (11), Wendy Beal (12).

a year, four girls from this Club obtained positions on the County ranking list, Sheila Ivory (4), Jill App (5), Ann Jacobs (7), and Christine Boorman (8).

What is more, it was necessary to have preliminary trials to decide which girls should take part in the County trials, and there was very little to choose in the first eight or nine.

Membership of the Club, by the way, is restricted only as far as the upper age is concerned, the normal Junior age of 17. There is no restriction on the lower age and many of our better players are only 10 or 11 years old!

There are girls from some eight or nine schools and a most pleasing feature is the amicable way in which they mix with each other, the better players help the novices by giving them games.

Unfortunately, even with three tables going all the time, there must be a limit to the number of girls who can become members. It should be emphasised, however, that over 60 girls have joined without the Club having been advertised in any way. What the number would be if it were advertised is difficult to say, but it does seem to prove the contention that the girls are there—but must be found!

I am not presuming to say that other Counties would be able to follow our example, but I feel sometimes that very little effort is made to provide suitable facilities and I would appeal to others not to say such things cannot be done until they have put themselves out in their efforts to overcome all the difficulties.

MIXED DOUBLES

Surrey internationals **Jackie Head** and **Jean Winn** have announced their engagement. They plan to marry in a year's time.

Both are members of Surrey's Premier Division side, but while frequently competing in the same tournaments, they seldom form a partnership.

Jackie, a sports salesman, is 31; Jean 24.

TABLE TENNIS BABY

Eric and **Peggy Marsh**, well known table tennis players, are now proud parents of a daughter, **Jane Susan**, born at University College Hospital, on January 8. Mrs. Marsh is perhaps better known as **Peggy Allen**, a frequent contributor to "Table Tennis" in the past.

Million-and-a-Half Spectators But Basketball the Draw

says **RICHARD BERGMANN**

FOLLOWING my Australian tour with Johnny Leach, I went on to play in New Zealand, then took off by air via the Fiji Islands, Hawai (spent four glorious days in Honolulu on Waikiki Beach) and San Francisco to New York, to start my nation-wide North American tour with **Dick Miles**, the American champion.

The tour started in October and by the time it ends we shall have played at something like 150 venues.

We are performing every night to an average crowd of 10,000 people. At Madison Square Garden we played three times, each before 18,000 spectators, and the two shows in Chicago each attracted a capacity crowd of 21,000.

There are packed houses everywhere. We are accompanying the famous Harlem Globetrotters basketball team and it is they who are of course the draw. Nevertheless, the fact remains that by the time the tour is over about a million-and-a-half people will have seen the matches between Miles and myself, which should certainly put table tennis on the map in U.S.A.

As far as match practice is concerned I have been able to fix in two evenings for the local table tennis leagues. The first time was in the "Lion's Den," the New York Club, which is situated on Broadway and has for the past 20 years been the breeding ground of all American world class players like Blattner, Schiff, Pagliaro, Cartland, Miles, Reisman, and Somael.

Expedite Favoured

In front of a small crowd of "old faithfuls" I beat Gusakoff, the American junior champion and present U.S. No. 5, 3—1, Somael 3—2, and Miles 3—2. Most of the last match was under the American expedite rule.

The second occasion was in Toronto, at the invitation of the Canadian Association. Max Marinko, the former Yugoslav Swaythling Cup star, who has now settled in Toronto, provided the opposition. Miles and I both beat him after some exciting games, and I once again beat Miles 3—1, after the expedite rule had been enforced.

On the subject of the expedite rule



LOOKING UP: BERGMANN greeted by 7 ft. 1 in. tall **WALTER DUKE** the Globetrotters' Giant

I feel that this is the real answer to the pushing menace and I should like to see it adopted by the International Federation with the modification that it be enforced automatically after a game has been in progress for 18 minutes.

Under this rule players serve alternately and unless the server scores a winning shot within 12 strokes the point is awarded to the receiver. However, the Americans leave it to the discretion of the Referee to apply the rule only if he feels the game to be uninteresting.

All games go the full 21 points and it avoids those annoying unfinished games with scores like 5—2, 8—7, or 15—12, as happens when the time-limit is brought into operation.

Although I am finding the tour most interesting I am looking forward to playing in proper championships once more. There is a chance that I shall compete in the American "Open" championships at Rochester, from March 18 to 21. Dick Miles is the present champion.

I shall definitely be back in London for the English "Open" and will be available for the coming World Championships in Utrecht.

Meanwhile I would like to wish all Table Tennis players a Happy and Successful New Year.

Letters to the Editor

CRITICISM

1. National County Championship: In the January issue these championships, which are of interest to readers all over the county receive one page (less advertising space), yet two pages are devoted to local gossip which is of much more restricted interest. Surely first things first. If the space available in a monthly publication is insufficient, why not come out weekly?

2. Training for Table Tennis: Ron Etheridge does not convince me that gardening is good training. It does not improve stamina, speed of foot, suppleness, or keep weight down. The opposite is the case. Athletics are the basis of all active sport, and offer the finest basic training. Half an hour's cross country run would do more good than two days' cricket.

3. Umpires at Open Tournaments: Mr. Meyern does not mention that in the London District County umpires are ten-a-penny. While tournament organisers are glad of their services for five nights per week, on Finals night (and at County matches) only the favoured few—always the same few—are wanted. This does not encourage keenness among the others.

4. Too Many Text-Book players: Mr. Scovell does not appear to realise that the orthodox text-book style has evolved in practical use as the most efficient yet found possible. He defeats his own argument by comparing table tennis with football, for the lesson which English footballers are now learning the hard way is simply that they had forgotten the need for the text-book style and the perfect ball-control which it alone can give.

N. K. S. BAKER,
(C.U. Harrow).

VOUCHERS AS PRIZES

May I suggest that Table Tennis tournament organisers take a line from Lawn Tennis and award vouchers as prizes instead of bits of silver and glass. The vouchers could be made payable on recognised sports firms such as Alec Brook, Eric Filby, or Hurlock's.

In this way players would be able to replenish their wardrobes with such things as shirts, shorts, socks and shoes. I feel this would be much more beneficial. After all, a good pair of shoes cost in the region of 30s. these days.

It would be interesting to hear other views on this matter.

JOAN ROOK
(Merton Park)

SERVICE RULE SUGGESTION

If as George White asserts in his interesting article on Service Law (December issue), "it is the policy of the game that service should be a means of putting the ball into play—not as a means of producing a point-winning ace at will," surely the only certain rule which will achieve this desirable end is one which will not permit a point to be won directly from a service.

I suggest a rule on the lines of "the ball must be struck at least once by

the server following the striker-out's return of service before a point may be given."

Such a rule has the obvious disadvantage that the striker-out is debarred from producing a winning return of service, but this would be shared equally by both players and would be outweighed by the overwhelming advantage that the service bogey would be laid once and for all.

W. T. POTTER,
(Customs and Excise).

PULLING POWER

As a regular advertiser in "Table Tennis," I am most gratified at the response my advertisement brings. To date I have had letters from Holland, Sweden, France, Ireland, and quite recently from an American soldier in Germany, apart from numerous people at home.

I intend to keep my advertisement in all issues of the magazine, as I have made so many friends through this medium.

HARRY VENNER
(Surrey).

PUBLICITY

In answer to Miss Barbara Milbank's plea for more publicity for table tennis, may I suggest that many of our "local" newspapers do publicise table tennis in their area very well, and that many more papers would be very pleased to give publicity to local table tennis if the information were given to them.

From mid-August to the end of 1955, the Billericay and District League had over 800 single column inches of editorial publicity in the five newspapers which cover our area. Surely this speaks for itself. Even if some of the "Nationals" seem to regard table tennis as unimportant, we can rely on the "Provincials" for support.

JIM SARGENT
(Wickford).

ABOUT THIS SPONGE

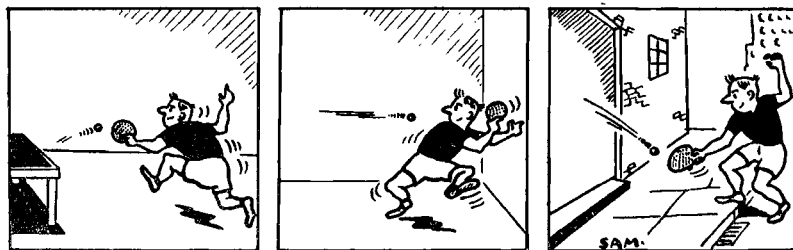
We are pleased to see Johnny Leach feels confident of adjusting his play to combat sponge, but think he is being over-dramatic in using the word "menacing" and saying it will die a natural death.

If a player finds sponge improves his game it is up to his opponent to find a suitable answer.

As for taking the spectacle out of the game, what about "Time Limit matches between players using orthodox rubber.

Spectators who consider they are not getting value for money should watch exhibitions and not championships.

STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL



We heartily agree with Mr. D. B. Scovell in his article "Too Many Text-book Players."

DON TURNER
(Woodford Green).
ALAN HIGGS
(Plumstead).

STOP PRESS

The Rest beat Middlesex

A MISSED "sitter" by Alan Rhodes, when holding match point against Ken Craigie, and the surprise defeat of Diane Rowe by Ann Haydon, were major factors in the 6-4 defeat of Middlesex, the County champions, in their annual challenge match against The Rest of England at Tottenham Municipal Hall on February 1.

These were the two opening ties and when Aubrey Simons beat Michael Thornhill to put The Rest 3-0 up it looked like being a runaway win. Middlesex, however, made a fighting recovery to pull up to 3-4 and 4-5, leaving everything depending on the final tie.

Thornhill raised high hopes of forcing a draw when he took the first game from Johnny Leach but was unable to maintain the pressure in the next two games, leaving the Essex player to give The Rest victory.

The highlight was undoubtedly Miss Haydon's win over Diane Rowe, revealing the Birmingham junior as a player who never gives up.

Miss Rowe led 17-13 in the final game when she appeared to relax her concentration. Miss Haydon stepped in with a blistering, deeply-angled forehand attack on to Miss Rowe's back-hand to catch and pass the Middlesex player for one of her best wins yet.

Rosalind Rowe, only unbeaten player in the Middlesex side, was much too powerful for Kathie Best, and the Rowe twins also beat Miss Best and Miss Haydon in the women's doubles.

For those who are statistically minded, seven of the ten ties went the full distance of three games, and Middlesex actually finished the contest winning 14 individual games to 13 by The Rest.

Detailed results (Rest names first): J. Leach (Essex) bt L. Adams 21-11, 17-21, 21-12; bt M. Thornhill 17-21, 21-11, 21-11. A. Simons (Glos.) bt Thornhill 21-8, 20-22, 21-18; bt A. Rhodes 19-21, 22-20, 21-12. K. Craigie (Surrey) bt Rhodes 18-21, 26-24, 21-11; lost to Adams 21-14, 10-21, 18-21.

Miss A. Haydon (Warw.) bt Miss C. K. Rowe 25-27, 21-13, 21-19. Miss C. K. Best (Yorks) lost to Miss R. Rowe 17-21, 9-21.

Craigie and Leach lost to Adams and D. Burridge 17-21, 14-21.

Miss Best and Miss Haydon lost to Misses R. and D. Rowe 19-21, 13-21.

* * *

ROSE BOWL: Semi-finals (2.30 p.m.) and final (7 p.m.) at Newmark Watches, Purley Way, Croydon, February 26.

Area News:

GLUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

IN the Junior County League, Cheltenham met their near neighbours Gloucester, and won very easily by 9 sets to 1. For the winners, D. Griffiths and K. Edwards won all their singles and, pairing, won the doubles; Gloucester's only success was notched by D. Thomas.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Forest of Dean	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Bristol	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Cheltenham	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Gloucester	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Dursley	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Cirencester	1	0	0	1	1	9	0

A very successful "Closed" Championships was very ably staged at the Baths, Gloucester. Under ideal conditions, 14 feet between tables, saw the return to form of the County captain, Aubrey Simons, who easily beat Bryan Merrett for the men's singles title.

Men's Singles — A. W. C. Simons (Bristol) beat B. Merrett (Gloucester) 21—17, 21—16.

Men's Doubles — P. Cruwys and R. Griffin (Cheltenham) beat B. Merrett and R. Morley (Gloucester) 21—18, 25—23.

Women's Singles — Miss E. Pomroy (Bristol) beat Miss J. Collier (Bristol) 21—14, 21—14.

Women's Doubles — Miss E. Pomroy and Miss J. Collier (Bristol) beat Miss M. Jones and Mrs. H. Dowding (Gloucester) 21—13, 21—13.

Mixed Doubles — Miss S. Davis (Gloucester) and R. Griffin (Cheltenham) beat Miss M. Iles and R. Wood (Bristol) 21—7, 21—9.

Junior Boys — I. Harrison (Cheltenham) beat D. Griffiths (Cheltenham) 21—13, 21—13.

Junior Girls — Miss P. Davis (Gloucester) beat Miss M. Eyles (Bristol) 21—16, 21—14.

Junior Doubles — I. Harrison and R. Nelmes (Cheltenham) beat S. Field and K. Tarling (Cheltenham) 20—22, 21—11, 21—11.

Veteran Singles — J. Yandell beat H. Gladwin (both of Gloucester) 21—14, 21—15.

Will all intending competitors in the West of England Open please note that the closing date of entry is **1st March** and not 9th March as previously published in the tournament diary.

Ivor Eyles

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

THE Christmas recess brought a lull to activities in the Western Counties League, but as can be seen from the tables there is keen rivalry throughout and the position wide open.

Bristol kept in the championship hunt—they share the lead with Birmingham and Cheltenham—following a 6—4 home win over Gloucester. A grand tussle, in which Bryan Merrett beat Aubrey Simons over three games, provided the highlight of this exciting match where rivalry ran high.

Merrett marked up another success by winning the doubles in partnership with

M. Morgan against Simons and R. Haydon.

Young Shirley Davis gave a good account of herself against Miss E. Pomroy before acknowledging defeat in the third game.

Greater strength in the women's matches tipped the scales when West Wilts. beat Newport's II 6—4 in the Second Division. Mrs. D. Neech and Miss M. Doonham winning their singles in fine style. Fifteen-years-old Myrna Thomas was impressive when losing to Miss Doonham.

Graham Ponting provided two of Newport's wins.

League Tables up to and including January 15th.

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Birmingham	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Bristol	3	2	1	0	15	15	4
Cheltenham	4	2	0	23	17	4	
Cardiff	2	1	1	0	11	9	2
Newport	2	1	1	0	8	12	2
Gloucester	3	1	2	0	14	16	2
Bath	3	1	2	0	10	20	2

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bristol II	4	3	1	0	24	16	6
West Wilts	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Taunton	4	2	2	0	15	25	4
Weston	4	1	2	1	23	17	3
Newport II	4	1	3	0	17	23	2

The second half of the First Division programme promises some interesting matches which may well change the situation considerably.

Gloucester have to play Birmingham, Newport, and Cardiff; Cheltenham face Newport and Cardiff; Bristol are left with Bath, Birmingham, and Newport; and Cardiff have Newport, Gloucester, Bath, and Cheltenham.

Bath still have fixtures with Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, and Newport; while Newport are left with Cardiff, Cheltenham, Gloucester, and Bristol.

In the Second Division, the teams have already played each other once, but the return matches promise exciting tussles.

Grove Motlow

MEMO FROM MERSEYSIDE

THE re-organisation of the Liverpool League this season to prevent clubs with multiple teams dominating the First and Second Divisions, thus strangling the competitive spirit has, despite the forebodings of a few pessimists, been a big success.

The competition is providing keener rivalry and the fight for leadership in the four Premier Divisions is greater than it has ever been, while there are some stern struggles in the Fifth and Sixth Division.

Moreover the battles to avoid relegation are providing some equally thrilling meetings at the other end of the tables, particularly in the Second and Third Divisions.

We are in the midst of the only Singles Handicap events we organise, and there are 172 men's and 39 women's entries for the "Maxwell Fyfe" and "D. M. Fouis" Cups respectively. Ronnie Rumjahn is the back marker in the men's singles.

The Wirral League have just completed their Closed Championships, the singles events being played under the group sys-

tem, with four players in each group, making a total of six sets, best of three games.

Judging by the comments of competitors, this system (which has been favoured by some Southern Leagues for many years) was very successful and should be reflected in next year's entry.

The Tournament was a triumph for Frank Varty, the 37-year-old Birkenhead Y.M.C.A. and African Oil Mills player, who has adopted the sponge rubber bat and had been practising secretly three to four hours per day for a month.

Frank would be the first to admit that he has never set the Mersey on fire (in fact, Wirral did not even seed him), but he had mastered the technique of sponge to such good effect that he went through his opponents like "the devil went through Athlone."

He won all three events without conceding a game, notwithstanding the fact that his Mixed partner had no Tournament experience. In the Singles, having come through his group, he accounted for K. Gaulton 21—13, 21—11, Bill Pierce 21—15, 21—14, R. Grayson 21—20, 21—12, and N. R. Jones in the final 21—16, 21—10.

I wonder whether they would agree with his five-year-old daughter, who, going through his case one night, said: "Look, Mummy, Daddy has got a marshmallow bat."

WINNERS:

Men's Singles: F. Varty. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. B. Waterson. **Men's Doubles:** Varty and J. Rimmer. **Women's Doubles:** Mrs. Rimmer and Miss L. Rimmer. **Mixed Doubles:** Varty and Mrs. R. Nicoll. **Junior Singles:** J. E. Griffiths. **Birkenhead Boys' Championship:** J. Kelly.

Matches have been arranged on a home and away basis for Juniors between Cheshire, Lancashire, and Yorkshire, and the first of these was staged at Birkenhead, at Livingstone Street Baths, between Cheshire and Lancashire, the home county winning 5—3.

Bill Stamp

"BEEDLE"

TABLE TENNIS SHADES,
The Cheapest and Finest in
the Country!

Owing to increased cost of Raw Materials, these shades of will cost 7/6 each plus carriage, with effect from Feb. 1st, 1955. They will however, have a special white enamel finish, giving added brilliance, and also ensuring longer service.

Made by

EDDIE BEEDLE,

6 FLORAL AVENUE,
KIMBERLEY STREET,
HULL, E. YORKS.

YORKSHIRE NEWS

AT long last, Yorkshire's Premier Division team has now attained the standard long desired by the officers of the Association, and in particular by the County Championships and Coaching Committees.

Despite the inspiring form of the Premier Divisionists, Yorkshire are not standing still. They have their eyes well trained on the future, and recently the Coaching Committee asked all affiliated Leagues and Associations in the County to supply the names and addresses of young players who, with properly developed and sustained coaching, could reach the top flight.

The response has been highly satisfactory, for 76 candidates' names have been received. Three trials are to be held at geographically-suitable points in Yorkshire for the purposes of discovering the best 25 to 30 juniors, who will then go on to receive proper coaching.

Colin Slater

PORTSMOUTH POINTERS

UNBEATEN records have gone overboard in the Portsmouth League in the past month. Grosvenor Free-Lance, beaten 6-4 by Copnor North, suffered their first defeat and hand over leadership of the Senior Division to The Den. of Chichester, last season champions. An even bigger surprise was Southsea's 6-4 win over Copnor West in the Third Division (East).

Brian Smith (Southsea), playing at the top of his form ended the unbeaten run of Derek Eneas (Copnor W.) with a 21-14, 18-21, 21-18 win, to leave R. Coughlan (R.O.A.C.) alone with a hundred per cent record.

Winchester and District League have extended invitations to two of Portsmouth's leading women players, Mrs. S. Ball and Miss D. Wightman to take part in exhibition matches against the Rowe Twins on March 18, at Winchester.

Stuart Jackson appears to be making a regular place for himself in the Hampshire County team. His impressive play, both with a strong defence and hard driving on both sides of the table, helped Hampshire to take over the leadership of the Southern Division from Hertfordshire achieve a 9-1 win.

Among the most consistent players in the Portsmouth League this season are G. Stevens and S. Jackson (Grosvenor Free Lance), M. Petter (The Den), A. Goldsack (St. Mary's), G. Clay (Cowplain Blue), R. Henderson (Grosvenor Grey), D. Eneas (Copnor West), A. Bland (Grosvenor Buff), H. Brewerton (Mercury B), D. Old (Deaf Club), R. Coughlan (R.A.O.C. I), Pinner (R.A.F., Titchfield A.), Mrs. S. Ball, Miss D. Wightman (Grosvenor), Miss S. S. Mason (Taxes), and Mrs. W. Loveridge (Grosvenor).

Portsmouth were hosts to Jack and Elsie Carrington on a bleak Sunday in January when the Hon. Director of Coaching to the E.T.T.A. gave talks and

demonstrations of modern coaching methods to a small but highly interested audience.

Taking advantage of this sponsored afternoon and evening programme, the proprietor of the Grosvenor Club, Mr. G. R. Cooper invited the Carringtons to add a morning session and brought in some of his most promising youngsters for personal coaching.

A long day for the Carringtons, but a treat to watch them work, and even though the Grosvenor Table Tennis Room is not heated no-one attempted to leave this interesting demonstration.

Mr. Cooper has already booked the Carringtons again for May 1, with the comment, "If any County or Town Association has a chance to see the Carringtons at work they will get full value for the efforts."

C. H. Staples

KENT NOTES

KENT'S progress in the county championship raises distinct possibilities of promotion to the Premier Division next season, but it is a jump that could bring financial difficulties because of the increased travelling expenses.

To keep in the clear, county matches must be made to pay, and with this in mind the Executive have appointed Charles Wyles, of Broadstairs, and Conrad Jaschke (N.W. Kent) to work out a detailed plan to put county matches on a paying basis.

Now recovered from a recent leg operation, Vic Atterano (Woolwich) is busy trying to regain the form which gave him No. 1 position in the county rankings last season. He had a good win over Keith Hurlock in the match against Surrey.

Dennis Webb, of North West Kent, has been appointed to supervise the running of the five divisions of the Kent League.

Dennis Whittaker (Woolwich), ranked No. 12, shares with Ron Etheridge (Bromley) the distinction of being the only men players in the Kent League with a hundred per cent average. Five women players, Mrs. Joan Beadle (Medway), Mrs. Val Fuller (Maidstone), Miss Joyce Robeson (Maidstone), Miss Joyce Fielder (N.W. Kent), and Mrs. Mayr Davies (N.W. Kent) also have full marks.

Whittaker, a greatly improved player, should gain a much higher place when the next ranking list comes out.

Miss Robeson gets her first chance of the season in the county match against Berkshire replacing Joyce Fielder, who will be playing for the juniors against Sussex.

Miss Julie Johnson, 15 years old Broadstairs schoolgirl finds a place in the junior team where a newcomer is Roy Hart of Folkestone. Hart, like the other two boys in the team, Tony Pidcock (Folkestone) and Mike Smith (N.W. Kent) will still be a junior next year.

Conrad Jaschke

WILMOTT CUP

Zone Finals Results

ZONE 1 (A) & 1 (B)
Lincoln 2, Huddersfield 7.
ZONE 2 (A) & 2 (B)
Manchester 9, Southport 0.
ZONE 3 (A) & 3 (B)
Birmingham 6, Cambridge 3.
ZONE 4 (A) & 4 (B)
North Middx. 2, Ilford 5.
ZONE 5 (A) & 5 (B)
East London 2, South London 7.
ZONE 6 (A) & 6 (B)
Bromley 0, Staines 6.
ZONE 7 (A) & 7 (B)
Brighton 5, Bournemouth 4.
ZONE 8 (A) & 8 (B)
Slough 2, Gloucester 7.

Quarter Finals of Competition Proper
(on or before February 13, 1955)

1. Brighton v Ilford
2. Huddersfield v Manchester
3. Birmingham v Staines
4. S. London v Gloucester

ROSE BOWL

Zone Finals Results

ZONE 1 (A) & 1 (B)
Barnsley 3, Leeds 6.
ZONE 2
Manchester 9, Chester 0.
ZONE 3 (A) & 3 (B)
Kings Lynn 0, Birmingham 9.
ZONE 4 (A) & 4 (B)
Ilford 5, North Middx. 4.
ZONE 5 (A) & 5 (B)
East London 2, South London 6.
ZONE 6 (A) & 6 (B)
Staines 5, Maidstone 0.
ZONE 7
Bournemouth 1, Brighton 8.
ZONE 8 (A) & 8 (B)
Slough 1, Bristol 8

Quarter Finals of Competition Proper.
(on or before February 13, 1955)

1. Bristol v S. London
2. Leeds v Manchester
3. Birmingham v Brighton
4. Staines v Ilford

The Semi-Finals and Final of the Wilmott Cup will take place on February 26 at Sperry's Sports Club, Great West Road, Brentford. J. M. Rose Bowl:—To be arranged.

BORN 1874

—Still going strong

Table Tennis, while primarily a young man's sport, can boast many veterans, some even in their sixties and seventies. But R.H. ("Pop") Primavesi, who still turns out occasionally for Corinthians in the Bournemouth League, must surely be the "Daddy" of them all. He will be celebrating his 80th birthday this month.

Is there anyone to better the claim that Mr. Primavesi is Britain's oldest player?

AROUND THE LEAGUES

Wessex "A" and "B" teams started the New Year as leaders of the **Newbury League** First and Second Divisions respectively.

R.A.F. "A" were the only one of the 103 teams playing in the various divisions of the **Portsmouth League** to reach the half way stage with a 100 per cent record.

Mrs. Joan Crosby (Division I) and Miss Mary Bradford (Division II) were the only undefeated players at the half way stage of the **Exeter League**. Emmanuel B, Centre C, and Heavintree C were joint leaders in the Third Division, each having lost two matches.

Dick Shaw, former **York** champion, is due for a cartilage operation and will probably be out of the game for the rest of the season.

Central YMCA A. St. Julian's "A," Pontnewydd B, Whiteheads, and Cwmbran, British Railways, Young and Lovells, are respective leaders of the six divisions in the **Newport and District League**. G.P.O. and Whiteheads head the two women's divisions.

The half way stage finds the **Carlisle and District League** championships wide open. Only four points separate Civil Service A, YMCA A and Morton B in the First Division, while second division leaders Denton Home and No. 14 M.U., have Laing's A hot on their tails. Only six points separate the top six teams in Division III.

All quiet on the transfer front in the **Norwich League**. C. Moore, from Sprowston Road Methodists to YMCA was the only application when the deadline for this season was reached. All must stay put now.

Norwich come of age next season.

Marlborough B suffered their first defeat of the season when they crashed 8-1 to Overton in the **Marlborough and District League**.

The Time Limit was invoked when T. Gilmour (Dundee) beat Eddie Still (Glasgow) in the **Murrayfield Championship** 17-21, 21-13, 10-5. First point in the final game took ten minutes. Gilmour also won the doubles with T. McMichael (Edinburgh). Helen Elliot (Edinburgh) beat Helen Houliston (Edinburgh) in the women's singles, partnered her to win the women's doubles, then went on to complete the treble by winning the mixed doubles with J. Miller (Edinburgh).

Bitterne Park A with a game in hand top **Southampton League** on

games aggregate over Western Sports A. Both have 22 points.

The first tournament organised by **Rhyl Youth** proved a big success, attracting more than 100 contestants. Winners: Men's Singles: G. Stott (Conservative). Women's Singles: Mrs. P. Halsall (Quay). Men's Doubles: Stott and P. Halsall (Conservative). Women's Doubles: Mrs. H. G. Needles and Miss B. Settle (Clwyd).

There is keen competition for leadership in the ten divisions of the **Sheffield and District League**. Sheffield YMCA are just hanging on to their lead in the First Division. Sheffield award their Month's Oscar to young David Wallis (Sports Fans) who won both his singles in his first match for Sheffield against Barnsley.

Ravensbourne are so proud of Betty Isaacs, their first post war international, that they have decided to pay her entry fee to the World Championships in Utrecht from April 15-24, as a token of their appreciation.

Ron Crayden and Ron Sharman were the club's pre-war internationals.

Any increase on 82 points for the longest game of the season? That was the distance of the second game when Doug Matthews beat Jim Crowley 21-17, 42-40 to reach the

quarter-final of the **Romford League** Championships.

New Romford champions are: Men's Singles: D. Marsham (Red Triangle), Women's Singles: Mrs. E. Horsham (Red Triangle), Men's Doubles: Marsham and N. Lodge, Women's Doubles: Mrs. M. Brown and Miss I. Ross, Mixed Doubles: A. Older and Miss H. Collings, Boys' Singles: H. Bottomley, Girls' Singles: Miss S. Hession, Veterans' Singles: H. Thomas (Hornchurch).

Cheltenham and Birmingham, each with maximum points, headed the men's and women's Divisions respectively at the half-way stage of the **Midland League**. West Bromwich were Junior leaders, and Cheltenham at the top of the Intermediate Section.

Birmingham and District are planning their own trip to the World Championships at Utrecht, at an inclusive figure of £18 10s. (plus £2 for those wishing to take full board). The party will travel by air.

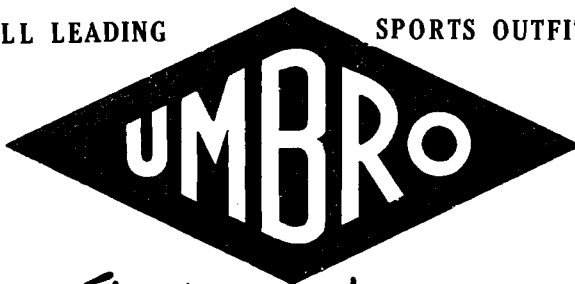
At the half-way stage in the **Billicay & District League's** programme, only Runwell Youth Centre "A," at the head of Division One, are unbeaten. They are five points clear of their nearest rivals, Hutton Wayfarers' "A."

Hutton Wayfarers' "B" lead Division Two, and Ramsden Heath Y.M.C.A. are at the top of Division Three.

The League's junior team recently had their first win in two seasons, beating near-neighbours Laindon 10-nil.

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INFANT PRODIGY

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FATHER AND SON,
TEDDY GRANT AND DEREK

AS the son of a table tennis player, 13-year-old Derek Grant of Ventnor, was destined to play the game almost from the cradle and such is his progress that his Dad, Ted Grant, chairman of the Isle of Wight League must indeed be very proud.

Almost from the time he could first walk, a ball has been Derek's constant companion, and when he was old enough to hold a bat dad started his table tennis training on the dining room table.

In a very short time he became an infant prodigy and can probably claim to be the youngest player ever to have

taken part in a League match, for he was only seven years old when first called upon.

At the age of thirteen Derek is in his third successive season in the Isle of Wight League where he plays with his father and has the proud boast of being the youngest player in the First Division.

PROUD RECORD

And what a proud record this youngster has on the Island! Along with Dad he has helped their team win the Third and Second Divisions in successive seasons, and now they are bidding for First Division honours.

Young Derek's League record last season shows him to have won 28 out of the 30 games he played.

The biggest success of this "young veteran" came last season when he reached the zone semi-final of the "Daily Mirror" tournament and also set a record by reaching the quarter-finals of the men's singles and doubles in the Island championship.

A snub-nosed happy-go-lucky youngster, Derek is again chasing the honours this season and won the under 13 singles in the Kent Junior "Open" where he also reached the semi-final of the under 15 singles.

And that is not all. He handed out the biggest shock of the Isle of Wight League by beating in straight games the present "closed" singles champion, K. Wyatt, when they met in a League fixture.

Derek is out of the "Daily Mirror" tournament this season, but in the other national talent spotting tournament run by the "Eagle" he has won his region to qualify for the final rounds in London on March 19.

ALL-ROUNDER

Table tennis is not his only sport; all games come easy to him. He was commended at school for cricket, and is a junior member of the Ventnor C.C. He also plays football, cycles and swims, and is now developing running which, it is hoped, will improve his footwork.

Until his voice broke he was a member of the parish church choir.

Sport runs in his family, for his grandfather was a one-time marathon champion of the Island, while both Mum and Dad are lawn tennis players.

Undoubtedly here is an infant prodigy who may one day be one of the big names of table tennis.

SUCCESS STORY

JUST over twelve month ago, the members of the Grosvenor Lawn Tennis Club, Upminster, Essex, decided to form a table-tennis section. The difficulties were many and the older members of the tennis club were highly sceptical, but a few enthusiasts got together and laid the foundations of one of the most successful clubs in the area.

The first set-back was the most straightforward of all. There was no table available—so the members set about making one. Two keen carpenters were found and in no time at all they had erected a fine tournament table that has met with the approval of all who have played on it. The stage was set for the launching of the Grosvenor Table-Tennis Club.

Entered for the Romford and District League championship, the success of the Grosvenor team in its first season exceeded all hopes. They won the fourth Division without losing a match, and also carried off the

coveted Norman Eastoe Cup in competition with over sixty teams, beating a first division team in the final. As if this was not enough, Grosvenor also won the Cross Cup for three-a-side teams.

In the Romford Championships, Simon Small won the Boys' Singles title, his victim in the final being an Essex County player, and Gill Arnold was runner-up in the Girls' Singles.

This season Grosvenor are doing as well as ever. Promoted to the second division of the League they head the table, having suffered only one defeat.

All this is due to the enthusiasm of the few who maintained that they could make a success of their sporting venture. They have had reward for their endeavour—the satisfaction of seeing their club become a real power in local table-tennis.

C. J. MOORE.

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SUSSEX BY THE SEA

by LESLIE BROMFIELD

Since its formation seven years ago, the Sussex County Association has made steady progress. The game is still expanding and the standard of play is improving.

The county is of course difficult to administer satisfactorily due to the long coastline and distance between component leagues from Bognor and Chichester in the West to Hastings in the East. Most of the meetings and important championships are therefore held on Sundays when it is easier for players and officials to make the necessary journeys.

MIDNIGHT PLAY

Brighton is the strongest league in the county, providing nearly all the individual champions and the backbone of the county senior team. They are also organisers of the Sussex "closed" championships, a marathon one-day tournament, always played at the Corn Exchange, Brighton, and which usually keeps 16 tables on the go from 9 a.m. to midnight.

Ever-green international Charlie

Seaman, has won the men's singles more times than any other player, and in partnership with Bert Fretwell had an undefeated record in the doubles for many years. In recent years however, he has had to give way to youth and the present champion is Peter Shead, the county's first post-war international.

YOUNGER SCHOOL

Stan Moore, another recent holder of the singles, has one of the most powerful forehand drives in the South, while players of the younger school now coming to the fore include Ian Alexander, Brian Leach, Brian Brooks and Mickie Petter.

Mrs. A. Woodford is the present women's champion, but faces a strong challenge this season from Wendy Bates, new junior international, and reigning senior champion of Brighton.

Sussex entered the County championship in 1947, and after several mediocre seasons in the Southern Division won promotion to the Second Division (South), then the Premier Division. However, they

found the Premier too hot, and slipped back, but experiments with a team that blends experience with youth, raise hope of promotion again this season.

On the Junior front there is every prospect of Sussex repeating their 1952/3 season success by winning the Junior title, for the team is nicely placed, with such youngsters as George Gladwish, Jimmy Moore and Rosalind Davis (Bexhill), John Quilter (Bognor and Chichester), Brian Brooks, Garry Levene and Wendy Bates (Brighton). Jean Hammond and Ted Raines, from Chichester and Crawley respectively are newcomers this season.

VETERANS' CHALLENGE

But while the county is teeming in youngsters, the local air also appears to have something to do with a long table tennis life, for many players remain active long after their normal retirement age. Thus Sussex can boast a team of veterans capable of withstanding a challenge from any other league's veterans. Any challengers?

Sir Kreemy Knut



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Seventeen

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

PREMIER DIVISION

ESSEX are making a determined bid to wrest the title from Middlesex, and they took a step forward when beating the full Surrey team by 7-3, after trailing 2-3 at the interval. Key matches were the two following the break, when Barbara Milbank beat Jean Winn, in the best match of the evening, by 20-22, 27-25, 21-19, and then Ivor Jones defeated Ken Craigie 24-22, 21-11.

Surrey suffered a further reverse later in the month when they lost 4-6 to Middlesex, notwithstanding a great effort by Jean Winn, who celebrated her engagement to Jackie Head by beating Diane Rowe, 21-18, 11-21, 24-22. All the Middlesex players contributed to the win, but none more than Michael Thornhill, who beat Ken Craigie 21-17, 19-21, 21-9. A change in defensive tactics in the third game forced Craigie to overhit, and Michael was a clear winner. Burridge and Adams also did well to defeat Craigie and Venner at 18 in the third.

Yorkshire are making a strong bid to finish in their highest ever position, and had a good 7-3 win at the expense of Gloucestershire. Brian Kennedy, back to his best form, made a major contribution by beating both Aubrey Simons (21-17, 21-16), and Bryan Merrett (18-21, 21-12, 21-9).

At the other end of the table Cheshire seem doomed to enjoy only one season in the Premier Division, but there will be a struggle for survival between Lancashire and Glamorgan. These two counties drew at Bolton, after Lancs. had gone away to a 3-0 lead. Shirley Jones and Betty Gray retrieved the situation, and Glyn Morgan took the last game with a close win over Geoff Pullar.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Although Middlesex beat Surrey earlier in the season, they cannot afford to relax, as Surrey are now going great guns, and had two further big wins, this time over Essex and Kent. Elsie Carrington saved a blank sheet for Essex when she beat Peggy Piper 21-19, 21-17, whilst Kent had to thank Etheridge and Thorn, who beat Craydon and Hurlock in the men's doubles by 15-21, 21-13, 21-15, and Vic Atterano, who overcame Hurlock 21-16, 21-17, for their two games. This result was a blow to Kent's promotion hopes.

Middlesex had to struggle to beat

Hertfordshire, for whom Tony Rogers was again in top form, overcoming Bernard Crouch, whilst Janet White put up her best performance of the season when beating International Joy Seaman.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

With only five matches left to play in this section, absolutely anything can happen. In fact, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that five counties may finish with 6 points each! How, you ask? Well, assume Warwickshire and Staffordshire drawing their key match, and then Lincs. beating Staffs. and Durham, Yorkshire beating Northumberland and Northumberland beating Warwickshire!

Perhaps the above speculation is unlikely, but there is no doubt that this division is providing the best struggle in the Championships. Warwickshire lead the way, fractionally from Staffs., but they were hard pressed to earn a point against Yorkshire. Joan Bycroft almost won the match for Yorkshire when she just failed to defeat Pam Mortimer 15-21, 21-19, 19-21. The following day Warwick had an easy win over Durham, only Duncan coming close to a win when he lost to Bob Mackey 18-21, 21-18, 16-21.

Staffordshire had a harder fight before beating Durham 9-1, Miss Clark and Miss Waites scoring for the Northern county at the expense of Mrs. Hayward and Mrs. Warner—a good win, this—21-18, 21-14. Derek Backhouse, the Junior International, now No. 1 for Staffs., played impressively to win his matches.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hertfordshire's second team hopes of winning this section collapsed when they were well beaten by Hampshire, at Winchester. Only Brian Barr made any substantial contribution for Herts, sharing in the only win with Moriarty over Jackson and Wilding in the men's doubles, and extending both Jackson and Wilding to three games in his two singles. Muller returned to the Hants team and won his matches convincingly.

Buckinghamshire still await their first win, but they were extremely unlucky to lose the services of Jean Williams (down with 'flu) who can usually be relied upon to win her ladies' singles. Four of the matches were extremely close, two being 22-20 in the third. G. Head was

particularly unlucky for Oxon., losing to Catchpole at 19 in the third and then Unsworth at 20 in the final game.

EASTERN DIVISION

Only a miracle can now deprive Bedfordshire of the Championship of this Division. They made sure by beating Cambridgeshire 8-2, after losing the first two games. Meanwhile Cambridgeshire and Suffolk struggle for the runner-up position, whilst Norfolk seem once again doomed to occupy the last place. Norfolk, however, can count themselves somewhat unlucky not to take a point from Suffolk. It is nice to see Suffolk playing two juniors, John Collins and Peter Cole, in their senior team, and although Collins was not successful in singles the youngsters had a good win over Holdom and Ewlesin in the men's doubles 22-20, 21-12.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

It looks as though Devon seconds will win this section, and they made no mistake against Cornwall, although Cornwall staged a good recovery after losing the first five matches, all in straight games. Mrs. Hatter did well for the losers to win the ladies' singles and the mixed doubles in partnership with G. Perriam.

Dorset and Somerset are fighting it out for second place, and they shared the points at Parkstone. Five of the matches went to three games, and four of these were won by Somerset. David House, the former Junior International, won all his matches for Somerset.

JUNIOR DIVISION

Although Sussex have a 100% record, Middlesex and Suffolk have not given up hope, and each won during January to take first and second places respectively, although both have played two matches more. Beds. did well to take two games from Middlesex, Goodman beating International Laurie Landry 21-15, 7-21, 21-15, and Daphne Hughes put up her best performance to date when she accounted for Beryl Spooner 21-13, 18-21, 21-19.

Suffolk were hard pressed by Essex, the losers taking all the three girls' games, whilst D. Wilmington impressed when beating John Collins 22-20, 21-19. Cornell had the unusual experience of losing both his singles for Essex, being beaten by Peter Cole 21-13, 15-21, 21-15, and Collins 21-9, 15-21, 21-11.

COUNTY RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION - - - - -	Yorkshire 7, Gloucestershire 3 Lancashire 5, Glamorgan 5 Chester 2, Essex 8 Essex 7, Surrey 3 Middlesex 6, Surrey 4
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH - - -	Surrey 9, Essex 1 Middlesex 6, Hertfordshire 4 Kent 2, Surrey 8
SECOND DIVISION NORTH - - -	Staffordshire 9, Durham 1 Warwickshire 5, Yorkshire 5 Warwickshire 10, Durham 0
SOUTHERN DIVISION - - - - -	Buckinghamshire 5, Oxfordshire 5 Hampshire 9, Hertfordshire 1
EASTERN DIVISION - - - - -	Suffolk 6, Norfolk 4 Cambridgeshire 2, Bedfordshire 8
SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION - - -	Cornwall 3, Devon 7 Dorset 5, Somerset 5
JUNIOR DIVISION - - - - -	Essex 4, Suffolk 6 Bedfordshire 2, Middlesex 8

NOTE.—There have been no matches in the Midland Division during the period under review (both were postponed due to bad weather), The league table is therefore the same as last month.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION	
February 12th	Cheshire v Lancashire, The Stanley Hall Annexe, Stanley Street, Macclesfield 7.30 p.m.
March 5th	Surrey v Gloucestershire, St. Saviours Hall, Woodbridge Road, Guildford 7.00 p.m.
March 5th	Middlesex v Glamorgan, Sperry's, Great West Road, Brentford 7.15 p.m.
March 5th	Cheshire v Yorkshire, Stockport
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH	
February 14th	Middlesex v Essex, Johnsons of Hendon, 335, Hendon Way, N.W.4 7.15 p.m.
February 19th	Middlesex v Devon, British Railways Hostel, Old Oak Common Lane, Willesden 7.15 p.m.
February 19th	Kent v Sussex, Trinity Hall, Spring Street, Sittingbourne 7.30 p.m.
February 19th	Berkshire v Surrey, Maidenhead
February 19th	Hertfordshire v Essex, Water Lane Institute, Bishop's Stortford 7.15 p.m.
March 5th	Sussex v Middlesex, Edwards Hall, Manor Royal, Crawley 7.00 p.m.
March 5th	Essex v Devon, Dagenham Y.M.C.A., Bennets Castle Lane, Dagenham 7.15 p.m.
March 5th	Kent v Hertfordshire, Victoria Club, Broadway, Sheerness 7.30 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION NORTH	
February 12th	Yorkshire v Northumberland, Railway Institute, York 7.00 p.m.
March 5th	Lincolnshire v Durham, Boston 7.15 p.m.
March 5th	Northumberland v Warwickshire, Rutherford Hall, Newcastle 7.00 p.m.
SOUTHERN DIVISION	
February 15th	Hertfordshire v Buckinghamshire, Co-op. Hall, Letchworth 7.30 p.m.
March 5th	Buckinghamshire v Hampshire
EASTERN DIVISION	
March 4th	Cambridgeshire v Norfolk, New Chesterton Institute, Holland Street, Cambridge 7.30 p.m.
MIDLAND DIVISION	
February 26th	Warwickshire v Derbyshire, Birmingham 7.15 p.m.
March 5th	Staffordshire v Leicestershire, Featherstone, near Cannock 7.15 p.m.
March 5th	Worcestershire v Warwickshire, Barnsley Hall Hospital, Bromsgrove 7.30 p.m.
SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION	
February 19th	Devon v Somerset, Pitts Memorial Hall, Gibson Street, Plymouth 7.00 p.m.
February 19th	Cornwall v Dorset, Thornton Hall, Redruth 7.00 p.m.
March 5th	Somerset v Cornwall, Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium, St. James's Street, Taunton 7.00 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION	
February 15th	Essex v Middlesex, Selo Recreation Club, Woodman Road, Brentwood 7.15 p.m.
February 19th	Suffolk v Bedfordshire, I.C.I. Canteen, Lime Tree Road, Stowmarket 7.15 p.m.
February 19th	Kent v Surrey, Trinity Hall, Spring Street, Sittingbourne 3.00 p.m.
February 26th	Hertfordshire v Sussex, St. John's Hall, Hertford 7.30 p.m.
March 5th	Kent v Hertfordshire, Victoria Club, Broadway, Sheerness 3.30 p.m.

LEAGUE TABLES

(as at February 1)

PREMIER DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Essex	4	4	0	0	29	11	8			
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	21	9	6			
Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6			
Gloucestershire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3			
Surrey	3	1	0	2	17	13	2			
Lancashire	4	0	2	2	15	25	2			
Glamorgan	4	0	1	3	15	25	1			
Cheshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0			
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Surrey	4	3	0	1	28	12	6			
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	18	12	6			
Sussex	2	2	0	0	12	8	4			
Devon	2	1	0	1	11	9	2			
Hertfordshire	3	1	0	2	17	13	2			
Kent	2	0	0	2	6	14	0			
Essex	2	0	0	2	5	15	0			
Berkshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0			
SECOND DIVISION NORTH										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Warwickshire	3	2	1	0	22	8	5			
Staffordshire	3	2	1	0	21	9	5			
Northumberland	3	1	2	0	17	13	4			
Yorkshire	4	1	2	1	21	19	4			
Lincolnshire	3	0	2	1	13	17	2			
Durham	4	0	0	4	6	34	0			
SOUTHERN DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Hampshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6			
Hertfordshire	4	2	1	1	19	21	5			
Oxfordshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	3			
Buckinghamshire	4	0	2	2	17	23	2			
EASTERN DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Bedfordshire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8			
Suffolk	4	2	0	2	20	20	4			
Cambridgeshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4			
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	13	27	0			
SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Devon	3	3	0	0	19	11	6			
Dorset	3	1	1	1	18	12	3			
Somerset	3	1	1	1	15	15	3			
Cornwall	3	0	0	3	8	22	0			
JUNIOR DIVISION										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Middlesex	5	4	0	1	33	17	8			
Suffolk	5	3	1	1	32	18	7			
Sussex	3	3	0	0	21	9	6			
Essex	4	2	0	2	22	18	4			
Kent	4	1	1	2	19	21	3			
Surrey	4	1	0	3	14	26	2			
Hertfordshire	2	0	1	1	6	14	1			
Bedfordshire	5	0	1	4	13	37	1			

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FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are additional to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., and X.D. in every case. The closing date for entries is shown in brackets after the title. Suitable entries are inserted in this diary without charge but all organisers should send information to The Editor at the earliest date possible.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details and Venue</i>	<i>Extra Events</i>	<i>Organising Secretary</i>
Feb. 12 & 19	Midland "Open" (Feb. 5) Friends Institute, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.	B.S. G.S. B.D. V.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.
18	England v. Wales (Jnr. Boys) Assembly Hall, Worthing.		Miss L. E. Rymill, "Imatome," 192, Goring Way, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex.
21-25	Surrey "Open" (Feb. 5) Municipal Baths Hall, East Street, Epsom, Surrey.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
23	Bedfordshire Closed Liberal Club, Luton.		Mr. D. W. Ironmonger, 47, Ryecroft Way, Luton, Beds.
26	WILMOTT CUP Semi-finals and Final. Sperry's Sports Club, Gt. West Road, Brentford, Middx.		Mr. R. W. Boorer, 50, Southdown Avenue, Hanwell, London, W.7.
27	Lincolnshire Closed Youth Centre, Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe.		Mrs. F. A. Merryweather, c/o Ruston- Bucyrus Ltd., Lincoln.
Feb. 28/ Mar. 12	West Middlesex Open (Feb. 22) West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, West Ealing, London, W.13.	B.S.	Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Riddick, 29, Thorney- hedge Road, Chiswick, London, W.4.
Mar. 5	Northamptonshire Closed (Feb. 19) Drill Hall, Northampton Road, Kettering.		Mr. I. T. Freeman, 317, Windmill Avenue, Kettering.
12	Cornwall "Closed" Climax Engineering Works Canteen, Carn Brea, Redruth.		Mr. R. D. Charlesworth, 72, The Rope- walk, Penzance.
12	Yorkshire Junior Open (Mar. 2) Messrs. Blakeborough's Canteen, Brighouse, Yorks.		Mrs. B. Senescall, 64, Monkgate, York.
18-19	West of England Open (Mar. 1) Bristol South Baths, Southville, Bedminster.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. B. J. Bucknell, 29, Eastfield, West- bury-on-Trym, Bristol.
19	Lancashire "Open" (Mar. 11) De Haviland Works Canteen, Lostock, Bolton.		Mr. A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Lancs.
19	"Eagle" and "Girl" Finals Friends House Hall, London, N.W.1.		
26	Grimsby Open (Mar. 19) Pier Pavilion and Town Hall, Cleethorpes.	B.S.	Mr. J. Browne, 245, Yarborough Road, Grimsby.
Mar. 29/ April 2	ENGLISH "OPEN" Empire Pool, Wembley.		Secretary, E.T.T.A., 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.
9-11	North East England Open (Mar. 30) Burniston Road Barracks, Scarborough, Yorks.	B.S. V.S. Y.S.	Mr. E. Moorhouse, 26, Sherwood Street, Scarborough, Yorks.
9-11	Essex Closed Ekco Works Canteen, Southend-on-Sea.		Mr. P. L. Bunten, 11, Baxter Road, Ilford, Essex.
15-24	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS		Utrecht, Holland.
25-30	Thameside Open (Apr. 12) Hydro Hall, Y.M.C.A., Greengate Street, Plaistow, London, E.13.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. R. Markwell, 61, East Avenue, Manor Park, London, E.12
27	"Daily Mirror" Finals Royal Albert Hall, London, S.W.7.		

METROPOLITAN "OPEN"

SHIRLEY JONES, the "Mighty Atom" of Welsh table tennis, hit her way to three titles in the Metropolitan table tennis championships at the London Polytechnic on January 8. She won the women's singles, the women's doubles in partnership with Welsh colleague Betty Gray, and wound up a successful evening by partnering Ivor Jones, of Essex, to victory in the mixed doubles final.

Miss Jones showed most convincing form in the singles semi-final, overcoming English international Jean Winn 21—13, 21—17, in a spectacular encounter with the whole emphasis on attack. In the final she beat Birmingham international Pam Mortimer 22—20, 21—19, finishing in a blaze of glory after being 16—19 down in the second game.

Shocks of the women's singles were the defeats of the holder, Yvonne Baker, by Jean Page in the first round, and Barbara Milbank by Jill Rook, last year's English Junior champion.

In the women's doubles Miss Jones and Miss Gray were too strong for the international pair, Jean Winn and Joy Seaman, while Miss Winn was again a losing finalist in the mixed doubles when she partnered Alan Rhodes against Miss Jones and Ivor Jones.

The "Met" title appears to hold a "hoodoo" for Johnny Leach. He has several times reached the final but once again the title evaded him when he was surprisingly beaten by Harry Venner 22—20, 21—19.

Venner hit with great power and was right on top of his form, generally outpacing Leach who failed to make the most of his opportunities when he led 20—19 in the first game and 14—9 in the second.

Leach had to be content with the men's doubles title where he partnered Jack Carrington to a 21—11, 19—21, 21—8 win over Derek Burrige and Micky Thornhill.

Louis Hoffman, using a new type of bat which had the ordinary pimped rubber over the top of sponge provided one of the upsets of the men's singles with a first round win over Jimmy Lowe, however he crashed when he came up against Len Adams, who was in turn beaten by Alan Rhodes.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: J. LEACH (Essex) bt. B. Merritt (Gloucester) 21—18, 21—13; H. VENNOR (Surrey) bt. A. Rhodes (Middx.) 21—11, 21—10.

Final: VENNOR bt. Leach 22—20, 21—19.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss P. MORTIMER (Warw.) bt. Miss B. Gray (Wales) 23—21, 16—21, 21—11; Miss S. JONES (Wales) bt. Miss J. Winn (Surrey) 21—13, 21—17.

Final: Miss JONES beat Miss Mortimer 22—20, 21—19.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: LEACH and J. CARRINGTON bt. R. Crayden and L. Adams 21—15, 21—3; D. BURRIDGE and M. THORNHILL bt. B. Crouch and P. Cruwys.

Final: LEACH and CARRINGTON bt. Burrige and Thornhill 21—11, 19—21, 21—8.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss JONES and Miss GRAY bt. Mrs. E. Carrington and Miss B. Milbank 30—28, 11—21, 21—18; Miss WINN and Miss Y. SEAMAN bt. Miss Y. Baker and Miss P. Piper 22—20, 21—19.

Final: Miss JONES and Miss GRAY bt. Miss Winn and Miss Seaman 21—14, 21—17.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: I. JONES and Miss JONES bt. J. Head and Miss Seaman 21—16, 21—12; RHODES and Miss WINN bt. J. Lowe and Miss B. Isaacs 21—15, 21—18.

Final: JONES and Miss JONES bt. Rhodes and Miss Winn 21—14, 23—21.

Boy's Singles: Final: L. LANDRY (Middx.) bt. D. Densham (Surrey) 21—17, 19—21, 21—19.

Girl's Singles: Final: Miss W. BATES (Sussex) bt. Miss J. Fielder (Kent) 21—14, 11—21, 21—16.

SOUTH YORKS "OPEN"

Ray Hinchliff of Huddersfield and Mrs. B. Cassell, of Kings Lynn, were the singles winners in the South Yorkshire "Open" tournament at Sheffield.

Hinchliff beat Arnold Shepherd of Manchester 21—18, 20—22, 21—14, while Mrs. Cassell beat Miss P. Heppell, of Hepburn-on-Tyne, 21—19, 21—19.

Biggest surprise of the day was the defeat of Ray Dove (Sheffield) the men's title holder who lost in the fourth round to A. Murphy, another Sheffield player.

The much fancied partnership of Hinchliff and Miss Florence Wright was surprisingly beaten in the third round of the mixed doubles by R. Hallsworth and P. Slater (Derby).

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-final: A. SHEPHERD (Manchester) bt. R. Newton (Stockport) 21—9, 14—21, 21—7; R. HINCHLIFF (Huddersfield) bt. P. Skerratt (Scunthorpe) 21—16, 21—18.

Final: HINCHLIFF beat Shepherd 21—18, 20—22, 21—14.

Ladies' Singles: Semi-final: MRS. B. CASSELL (King's Lynn) bt. J. K. Walker (Leeds) 21—10, 21—18; MISS P. HEPELLE (Hepburn-on-Tyne) bt. M. I. Lightfoot (Leeds) 21—11, 21—13.

Final: MRS. B. CASSELL beat Miss P. Heppell 21—19, 21—19.

Junior Singles: Final: J. SPENCER (Leeds) bt. A. Teal (Hull) 21—12, 17—21, 21—18.

Men's Doubles: Final: J. CROOKES and R. DOVE (Sheffield) beat A. Holmes and P. Skerratt 21—18, 20—22, 21—17.

Ladies' Doubles: Final: M. LIGHTFOOT and F. WRIGHT bt. P. Ingleson and M. Rhodes 21—15, 23—21.

Mixed Doubles: Final: P. SKERRATT and MISS HEPELLE bt. R. Dove and Miss Lightfoot 17—21, 21—19, 22—20.

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ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE absence of the Japanese team did not lessen the interest in the Third Asian championship played at the Singapore Badminton Club from December 11 to 19, and large crowds attended each session (*writes Pilot Officer A. H. R. Tucker, R.A.F.*).

Hong Kong carried off both the men's and the women's team titles and also provided the winners of the women's singles and doubles.

Baguio Wong beat Han Yong Ja (Korea) 22-24, 21-18, 21-9, 21-16 in the women's singles, then partnered **Lau Wai Lim** to beat the Korean pair, Wee Sang Suk and Han Yong Ja 8-21, 21-8, 21-15, 19-21, 21-11 in the doubles.

Mai Van Hoa of Vietnam retained the men's singles title but only after a terrific battle against D. Aguesin of the Philippines. Relying on a strong defence, Mai Van Hoa won 17-21, 21-12, 21-17, 11-21, 21-13.

In the final of the men's doubles the two Singapore players **Lou Heng Chew** and **Poon Weng Ho** triumphed in a thrilling fight featuring their attack and the defence of their opponents Mai Van Hoa and Tran Cahn Duoc. The score was 21-12, 21-16, 15-21, 21-15.

The mixed doubles title was taken by **Rhee Kyong Ho** and **Wee Sang Suk** (Korea) who beat the Indian pair Y. Vyas and Meena Parande 21-13, 21-12, 21-15.

Up to the final match when they met Singapore, **Hong Kong** were undefeated in the men's team championship. After losing the first game Hong Kong took the remaining five to finish deserving champions.

Play in the women's team event reached a poor standard. Only Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Malaya competed, India and Taiwan having withdrawn at the last moment.

Hong Kong finished up unbeaten with a 3-1 victory in the final match against Korea who were the runners-up.

Significant point of the championships was that none of the successful Hong Kong team used sponge bats which were favoured by the Singapore players, Loh Heng Chew and Poon Weng Hoe, who won the men's doubles.

Loh Heng Chew finished top of the individual placings in the team championship, having won 30 of the 33 games he played.

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

DIANE and Rosalind Rowe, the world champions, atoned for their defeat by Angelica Rozeanu and Ella Zella in the Scandinavian championships, with a semi-final win over the Rumanians in the French Championships in Paris last month.

In an all-British final they beat Betty Isaacs and Ann Haydon, 21-12, 21-13, 22-24, 22-20, to win the French title for the fourth time.

The match with the Rumanians was a tense struggle, extending the full distance of five games. After losing the first game at 17, the twins took the second at 22-20, lost the third at 15, again levelled at two-all and finished with a clear cut decider.

Diane helped bring another title England's way when she partnered Johnny Leach to win the mixed doubles. Once again Mrs. Rozeanu was on the losing end, playing with Tiberiu Harastazi. This was another great five-games match with the British pair literally snatching the title in the last game when all seemed lost.

Leading at 10-7 Johnny and Diane fell away until the Rumanians were left holding four match points. Disregarding any ideas of "safety first" they hit out and Leach made it 21-20 for Diane to follow up with the winner.

Ann Haydon took the girls' championship, beating Greta Leurs of Holland in straight games.

The English players did not fare too well in the singles. Leach crashed to Michael Lansky and Ken Craigie lost to Alex Agopoff in the early rounds.

Mrs. Rozeanu disposed of Betty Isaacs in the quarter-finals, and Rosalind Rowe in the semi-final. Diane went out in the quarter-final to Christine Watel, of France.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Final: R. ROTHOFT (France) bt M. Gantner (Rumania) 21-16, 21-18, 16-21, 21-19.

Women's Singles: Final: A. ROZEANU (Rumania) bt C. Watel (France) 21-13, 21-9, 21-8.

Men's Doubles: Final: S. CAFIERO and J. C. SALA (France) bt R. Roothoft and M. Lansky (France), holders, 21-19, 14-21, 21-16, 16-21, 21-17.

Women's Doubles: Semi-final: R. ROWE and D. ROWE (England) bt A. Rozeanu and E. Zella 17-21, 22-20, 15-21, 21-11, 21-17.

Final: R. and D. ROWE bt B. Isaacs and A. Haydon, 21-12, 21-13, 22-24, 22-20.

Mixed Double: Final: J. LEACH and D. ROWE bt A. Rozeanu and T. Harastazi 18-21, 21-14, 21-16, 12-21, 22-20.

Girls' Singles: Semi-final: A. HAYDON (England) bt A. Moktari (France), 21-4, 21-4, 21-6.

Final: A. HAYDON bt G. Leurs (Holland), 21-11, 21-4, 21-5.

ENGLAND DOUBLE OVER FRANCE

CHRISTINE WATEL, the brilliant young French player proved much too strong for the English trio of Diane Rowe, Ann Haydon and Betty Isaacs, providing all her country's successes, when England won the international 6-3 in Paris on January 13. She dropped only one game, to Miss Rowe.

The other two French girls, C. Freville and C. Rougagnou were not in the same class, so that England won with comparative ease.

Scores: English names first: A. Haydon bt C. Freville 21-5, 21-9; lost to C. Watel 21-23, 18-21, bt. C. Rougagnou 21-16, 22-20. D. Rowe bt Rougagnou 21-9, 21-8, bt Freville 21-8, 21-12, lost to Watel 21-17, 17-21, 15-21; B. Isaacs lost to Watel 12-21, 13-21, bt Rougagnou 20-22, 21-17, 21-12; bt Freville 21-7, 22-20.

* * *

WHILE the girls were busy winning their match England's men were gaining a similar 3-1 victory at Rennes.

Johnny Leach was in good form and won all his three matches, though he dropped a game to his old rival Rene Roothoft and also to Cafiero, who gave him his closest shave, for they were 20-all in the third before Leach got the vital two points for victory.

Cafiero beat both Ken Craigie and Brian Kennedy. Craigie also lost to Roothoft but was much too strong for Sala.

Scores: (English names first): Craigie bt Sala 21-17, 21-8; lost to Roothoft 20-22, 18-21; lost to Cafiero 15-21, 17-21. Leach bt Cafiero 9-21, 21-15, 22-20; bt Sala 21-19, 21-18; bt Roothoft 21-16, 19-21, 21-19. Kennedy bt Roothoft 17-21, 21-12, 21-12; lost to Cafiero 19-21, 16-21; bt Sala 21-11, 24-22.

NORTH WEST KENT "OPEN"

IN the midst of a series of shocks in the North West Kent tournament at Barnehurst last month, two players emerged with flying colours, Lew Laza of Australia, and Bobby Stevens of Essex.

Laza, of the unorthodox grip—he holds the side of the bat instead of the handle—and a new convert to sponge, won the men's singles to record his first "Open" title since coming to this country as captain of the Australian team last year. On the way to the final Laza beat the Middlesex trio, Len Adams, Derek Burrige and Alan Rhodes. He had a narrow squeak against Derek Burrige, winning 22—20 in the third with two net balls in the last few critical points.

In the final he came up against Stevens and ran out an easy winner by 21—13, 21—9. The Essex player never approached his "giant killing" feats of the previous rounds where he eliminated first Michael Thornhill, the holder, then internationals Keith Hurlock, Ken Craigie, and Brian Kennedy in successive rounds.

Another shock of the men's singles was the defeat of Aubrey Simons, beaten 21—10, 22—20 by Rhodes.

The women's Singles was more straightforward, Rosalind Rowe beating twin sister Diane 21—15, 21—14 in the final. Title holder Jean Winn was beaten 23—21, 21—6 by Diane in the semi-final.

As expected the twins retained the women's doubles, though they were well tested in the final by Barbara Milbank and Yvonne Baker.

Craigie and Rhodes obtained some consolation for their singles defeats by winning the men's doubles while Kennedy partnered Rosalind Rowe to win the mixed.

Terry Densham once again proved a little too strong for Laurie Landry in winning the boys' singles, while Joyce Fielder celebrated her 17th birthday by becoming the first Kent player to win a N.W. Kent title when she won the girls' singles.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: L. LAZA (Australia) bt A. Rhodes (Middx.) 22—20, 21—16, R. STEVENS (Essex) bt B. Kennedy (Yorks.) 14—21, 21—11, 21—8.

Final: LAZA bt Stevens 21—13, 21—9.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss D. ROWE (Middx.) bt Miss J. Winn (Surrey) 23—21, 21—6, Miss R. ROWE (Middx.) bt Miss B. Milbank (Essex) 21—13, 21—14.

Final: MISS R. ROWE bt Miss D. Rowe 21—15, 21—14.
Men's Doubles: Final: K. CRAIGIE/A. RHODES bt A. Simons/B. Kennedy 21—12, 14—21, 21—13.

Women's Doubles: Final: Misses D. and R. ROWE beat Miss B. Milbank/Miss Y. Baker 21—11, 22—20.

Mixed Doubles: Final: KENNEDY/Miss R. ROWE bt I. Jones/Miss B. Isaacs 21—16, 21—17.

Boys' Singles: Final: T. DENSHAM (Surrey) bt L. Landry (Middx.) 21—18, 21—16.

Girls' Singles: Final: Miss J. FIELDER (Kent) bt Miss S. Pickard (Essex) 21—17, 21—10.

SOUTHAMPTON "OPEN"

AN increased entry of nearly 250 competitors led to play in the Southampton "Open" going on until after midnight.

Lew Sawyer of Essex took his second Hampshire title of the season—he won at Portsmouth—when he won the men's singles after a 33 minutes' final against the young Bath junior international, D. A. House.

Essex also claimed the women's singles, with Miss Jean Latty beating Miss E. Pomeroy. Yet a third Essex player took a share in a title when M. Darlington won the men's doubles with K. Shoaib.

The only local success was gained by the Misses D. Wightman and S. Ball, of Portsmouth in the women's doubles. A Brighton pair took the mixed, P. W. Brooks and Wendy Bates, the junior international.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: L. SAWYER bt I. Jones 21—18, 22—20. D. HOUSE bt W. Prior 21—17, 21—14.

Final: SAWYER bt House 12—21, 21—19, 21—19.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss J. LATTY bt Miss D. Price 15—21, 21—15, 21—10. Miss E. POMEROY bt Miss W. Bates 21—16, 21—15.

Final: Miss LATTY bt Miss Pomeroy 21—23, 21—13, 21—13.

Men's Doubles: Final: M. DARLINGTON and K. SHOAB bt P. Pudney and I. Jones 21—18, 21—12.

Women's Doubles: Final: Miss D. WIGHTMAN and Miss S. BALL bt Mrs. and Miss Willcocks 21—9, 19—21, 21—11.

Mixed Doubles: Final: P. BROOK and Miss W. BATES bt D. House and Mrs. Willcocks 21—18, 21—16.

Junior Singles: Final: K. TARLING bt B. Harvey 21—13, 21—18.

KENT "OPEN"

Derek Burrige marked up his second open title of the season in the Kent "Open" at Folkestone, beating Alan Rhodes in an all-Middlesex final 21—14, 21—8. In an earlier round Burrige had overcome Michael Thornhill. A big surprise was the defeat of Australian Lew Laza in the first round.

Barbara Milbank took the women's singles, confirming a recent victory over Jean Winn of Surrey. Once again these two rivals fought a touch-and-go match with the Essex girl recovering after losing the first game to win 14—21, 21—19, 21—18. Miss Winn, however, had the consolation of winning the mixed doubles when partnering Alan Rhodes to beat Jack Carrington and Miss Milbank.

Mrs. J. Beadle and Miss J. Robeson became the first Kent players to win a senior title in their county "Open" by bringing off the surprise of the tournament to win the women's doubles, beating Miss Betty Isaacs and Miss Doreen Spooner in the final.

D. BURRIDGE bt A. Rhodes 21—14, 21—8; MISS B. MILBANK bt Miss J. Winn 14—21, 21—19, 21—18; P. PUDNEY and M. THORNHILL bt I. Jones and R. Stevens 18—21, 21—14, 21—13; MRS. J. BEADLE and MISS J. ROBESON bt Miss B. Isaacs and Miss D. Spooner 21—15, 20—22, 21—17; A. RHODES and MISS WINN bt J. Carrington and Miss Milbank 13—21, 21—13, 21—18. Boys: G. GLADWISH bt T. Piddock 21—14, 21—11.

* * *

CHESHIRE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (at Chester).—**Finals:** A. SHEPHERD bt K. Stanley 15—21, 21—19, 21—18; MISS A. WOOD bt Miss Trelfall 21—16, 21—11.

* * *

SWANSEA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS. — **Finals:** A. MORRIS bt D. Phillips 21—15, 11—21, 21—19; MISS B. GRAY bt Miss A. Bates 10—21, 21—14, 21—14.

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DEVON CHAMPIONSHIPS (at Torquay).—**Finals:** P. OLD-FIELD bt R. Anderson 21—16, 21—14, 21—14; MRS. J. WILCOCKS bt Miss J. Winter 18—21, 21—19, 21—18.

* * *

IRISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (at Belfast).—**Finals:** B. KENNEDY bt B. Merrett 21—10, 13—21, 16—21, 21—19, 21—19; MISS S. JONES bt Miss M. Lyons 21—18, 21—8.