

MARCH, 1955

SIXPENCE

TABLETENNIS



TONY CORNELL,
of Essex, England's Newest Junior International

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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No. 6

WEMBLEY BOUND

TABLE TENNIS enthusiasts from all over England will be Wembley bound at the end of the month, some to play, the majority to watch, but all to experience that annual thrill of the English "Open" championships.

The sorting of the wheat from the chaff, will, as usual, take place in the Main Restaurant Hall of the Empire Stadium on March 29-31, with the survivors moving over to the Empire Pool on April 1-2 for the grand finals.

The Empire Pool has become to table tennis what Wimbledon is to lawn tennis and it is the ambition of every player, not only from home but overseas as well, to play in that magnificent arena with its ten-thousand seating.

Yes, ten-thousand, and such is the pulling power of the English "open" that it can pack the place. In foreign eyes it ranks second only to the World Championships.

Export Only ?

Such has been the overseas challenge that we have to go back to 1923/4 for the last home-born winner of the men's singles—Percy Bromfield.

Since then the world singles has been brought to this country three times, by Fred Perry in 1928/9, and Johnny Leach in 1948/9 and 1950/1, but it is almost as though a "hoodoo" hangs over the English title.

Can the spell be broken this year and that "export-tag" removed? Let us admit it. Our prospects are slim. Leach has not a particularly impressive record this season, and Aubrey Simons has also slipped badly, while our up-and-coming stars like Bryan Merrett and Alan Rhodes hardly have the experience.

It looks then as though we shall once again have to pin our hopes on the former Pole, Richard Bergmann, the defending champion, for a home success. But even Bergmann's form is a closed

book, for he has been touring in America all this season and has no tournament results.

Vana Back

What of the overseas challenge? It is as big as ever. Burly Ivan Andreadis, one of the world's most stylish players, heads the first Czechoslovakian team to compete for several years and will probably start favourite. Accompanying him are Tereba, Stipek, a newcomer Vyhnanovsky, and that former champion Bo Vana, making a welcome return to the Championship scene.

Sweden are sending, among others, Tage Flisberg, last year's runner-up for the world title, and Dolinar, winner of the Scandinavian title, represents Yugoslavia.

Two former holders Ehrlich and Haguenuer, together with Roothoft and Lanskoj are among the French contingent. Then U.S.A. are sending a full team, which, it is hoped, will include Dick Miles.

There is a much brighter picture on the women's side, for the overseas entry is not so strong. Linde Wertl, of Austria, has left the singles vacant.

Rosalind Rowe has a great chance of regaining the title she held in 1952/3, while her twin sister Diane, and Ann Haydon are serious contenders as are Helen Elliot, of Scotland and the Welsh tornado Shirley Jones.

Sponge or Rubber ?

And what of sponge? This controversial subject is likely to provide the background to the whole meeting. Flisberg is a "sponger"; so is Dolinar; and like many others since the world championships, most of the Czech's, with the exception of Andreadis, have switched over to the new surface. Nevertheless, I am quite prepared to see orthodox rubber come out top.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

OFFICIAL

News

World Championships 1955. A record number of supporters will be going to Utrecht for the World Championships. Apart from the official group, plans have been made for a special party to travel from the Midlands during the Championships and others have made private arrangements. In addition it is known that as a result of a visit by some Dutch players to Wandsworth last year, a return visit is being made to Amsterdam by members and friends from that League at the same time as the World Championships. There are still a few seats vacant in one of the E.T.T.A. planes, so if any member is interested application should be made to the Administrative Secretary at the office. The draw for the Championships takes place in Utrecht on Sunday, March 20.

England v Ireland. The Irish Association found it extremely difficult to send a strong enough team for a match to be played at Southampton on February 18, so the fixture was reluctantly cancelled. So as to avoid disappointment to the public, the Selection Committee arranged for a match England v The Rest to be played in place of the Irish match.

England v Australia. We are glad to welcome the Australian Swaythling Cup team which arrived in England on February 20. They hope to take part in some of our Open Tour-

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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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).

naments and it is proposed to arrange an England v Australia match on Wednesday, March 16, at Waltham Abbey. The organiser is Mr. A. W. Dale, Hon. Secretary of the Cheshunt & District League, 9, Paternoster Close, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

Election of Officers and National Executive Committee for 1955/6. Final reminder to E.T.T.A. Representatives that ballot papers will be dispatched on or before March 15 and must be returned to the Proportional Representation Society by March 29, 1955.

English Open Championships 1955. The draw for the English Open Championships took place once again by kind permission of the Mayor of Leyton in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Leyton, on Monday,

March 7. A first-class Souvenir Programme is being prepared, copies of which will be on sale during the Championships at a cost of 2/-. Copies will also be available on application to the office (2/3d. post free). Mr. F. G. Mannooch, who was the Editor of the 1953 Programme and also did such an excellent job in producing the 1954 World Championships Programme, has found it impossible for family illness reasons to undertake the task this year. Mr. W. G. Goldfinch, a member of the National Executive Committee and Secretary of the Sussex T.T.A., has kindly undertaken to fill the breach.

Registered Members. Additions during the month to the list of Registered Members are R. E. Griffin (Cheltenham), B. Merrett (Glos.), D. A. Thrower (Middlesex).

Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, on Saturday, April 30, 1955.

Daily Mirror National Table Tennis Tournament. The Finals of all the events in the Daily Mirror National Table Tennis Tournament are to be played on Wednesday, April 27, at the Royal Albert Hall, commencing at 7 p.m. Special priced tickets for members of the E.T.T.A. will be available and also a limited number of free tickets for the afternoon matches may be obtained on application to the E.T.T.A. Office.

Team Selections. The following teams have been selected:—

Swaythling Cup—Utrecht: R. Bergmann (Middlesex), J. Leach (Essex), B. Merrett (Glos.), B. Kennedy (Yorks.), A. Rhodes (Middlesex). Non-playing captain: A. Haydon (Warw.).

Marcel Corbillon Cup—Utrecht: Miss R. Rowe (Middlesex), Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex), Miss A. Haydon (Warw.), Miss J. Winn (Surrey). Non-playing captain: T. Sears (Middlesex).

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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).

ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 29th—2nd April, 1955

The entry for the English Open Championships which closed on March 1 is an all-time record. Included are players from *Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Sweden, France, Germany, Scotland and Wales*. It is also indeed welcome news to know that the Australians are sending a team to the World Championships—better still that they will take part in the English Championships. The Australian team has as captain Phil. Anderson, the present holder of the Men's Singles in Australia.

It has been most gratifying to note from the applications for tickets the distances from which some of our supporters are coming. Looking through the list at random we note organised parties are travelling from—Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Leamington, Liverpool, Lowestoft, Manchester, Southend and Wolverhampton. There is no doubt the thrill of being in the vast Arena on Finals night with thousands of fans roaring support for the players is something one never forgets.

On Saturday, April 2, commencing at 2 p.m. the finals of all the Junior events will be played. Those who have attended this session in the past have witnessed some really first-class play and it is hoped good support will be given for the Juniors by all who can be present during Saturday afternoon.

Tickets of Admission

Daily admission tickets to all sessions will be available at the door, but tickets for Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2, evenings are on sale and orders should be sent to the E.T.T.A. office.

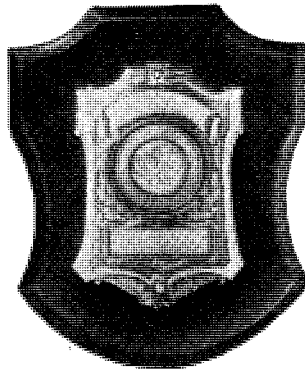
Arrangements have been made for party reductions (12 persons or more) on all prices of tickets, other than the lowest. It is not necessary that the tickets should be of one price to obtain this concession. They can be made up of any price provided the total number is 12 or more. Seats are available as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

By HARRISON EDWARDS

ENGLAND selectors have laid themselves wide open and brought a storm of criticism about their ears with the announcement of the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams for the World Championships in Utrecht from April 15 to 24.

To say their sweeping changes, where the men are concerned, has been a shock is putting it mildly.

Aubrey Simons, Harry Venner and Ken Craigie have received the order of the boot and into their places come **Brian Kennedy** (Yorks), **Bryan Merrett** (Glos.) and **Alan Rhodes** (Middx), to join the old regulars **Johnny Leach** and **Richard Bergmann**.

Simons and Craigie have had an indifferent season, but Venner has been the most successful tournament player, winning four of the seven titles for which he has challenged. His record in the county championship has also been good.

I can sympathise when he asks, "What more could I do to retain my place?"

"I cannot understand it," said a very disgruntled Venner. "If it was a question of age, why do Leach and Bergmann get their places. Like me they are both over 30. It would have been much happier for all concerned if we had a proper trial."

Badly Timed

Like most other people Venner assumes that the selectors have based their choice on the England v Rest match in which he was beaten by Merrett and Kennedy.



ALAN RHODES

Yet, prior to the match the players concerned received a letter stating the match was not to be treated as a trial. Thus it would appear the selectors timed their team announcement badly.

Such is the indignation in Surrey circles, at Venner's omission that I understand a private fund is being raised to send him to Utrecht.

Meanwhile over in Middlesex they are trying to puzzle out how it is that Rhodes should be chosen in preference to Michael Thornhill, the county's No. 1.

Looking Ahead?

Selectors can expect to be shot at, for no matter what their choice they cannot please all. So let us try and look at it from their angle.

I assume they are looking to the future in the choice of Merrett and Rhodes, Both are of the younger school, while Kennedy provides the happy medium between them and age in the shape of Leach and Bergmann.

Only three players are necessary for the individual matches. Thus Leach and Bergmann provide the backbone, leaving Kennedy for the extra man for the stiffer tasks, and the opportunity to blood the two youngsters in



BRYAN MERRETT

the easier matches.

If this is the case then the selectors are to be congratulated on such a bold move. But a word of explanation would have helped to kill those nasty rumours now in circulation.

There has been only one change in the women's team, **Jean Winn** (Surrey) joining twins **Rosalind** and **Diane Rowe** and **Ann Haydon** in place of **Kathie Best** who is not available. It is not that the Yorkshire girl has been dropped as most followers assumed.

THE REST HOLD ENGLAND

ALTHOUGH disappointed at the late cancellation of the England-Ireland international, Southampton had a worth while substitute on February 18 in the shape of England v The Rest (writes *Jack Carrington*).

To enable each player to meet his four opponents, an afternoon session was held. The Rest tackled their seniors with such spirit they shared the honours at eight-all.

Anchor-man for the "young 'uns" was Bryan Merrett, youngest of all, who turned in three excellent wins, a feat equalled only by Johnny Leach. And he has reaped full reward with a place in England's Swaythling Cup team.

Brian Kennedy, greatly improved in balance and judgment—possibly a fraction too diffident in attack now—nearly stole Leach's 3rd credit when he led 20-18 in the decider. The exchanges at this stage brought admiring applause from all other "candidates."

Aubrey Simons was clearly out of confidence, and often out of luck, but sheer nervous effort brought him two wins and nearly a third, when he led Stevens 10-4 in the final game.

Bobby Stevens, although only winning this one match, played well against all, pany. His game has a stormy character,

liable to swamp a nervous opponent,

but there are still lulls when he doesn't seem to know what to send down next.

Alan Rhodes is maturing into a flexible all-rounder, a waspish menace to defenders (he beat Leach and Simons) but is still rather quickly rattled by the counter-attackers.

Harry Venner showed the solid form, which has made this a good season for him, with amazing strength on the backhand half-volley and counter-hits. These talents, however, against Merrett's low chop and dabs-and-dabs, were about as useful as a bicycle on a spiral staircase.

Ken Craigie, conscious of a less-than-impressive record lately, strove mightily, and as the games wore on, worked his speed and sting up to international level.

Scores (England names first): J. Leach bt R. Stevens, 18-21, 21-18, 21-13; bt B. Merrett, 12-21, 21-13, 21-6; bt B. Kennedy, 21-18, 19-21, 22-20; lost to A. Rhodes, 20-22, 18-21.

H. Venner bt R. Stevens, 21-17, 21-16; bt A. Rhodes, 18-15, 17-21, 21-14; lost to B. Kennedy, 18-21, 21-11, 18-21; lost to B. Merrett, 22-24, 21-17, 11-21.

K. Craigie bt R. Stevens, 16-21, 22-20, 21-16; bt A. Rhodes, 21-19, 21-12; lost to B. Kennedy 15-21, 21-15, 15-21; lost to Merrett, 22-24, 21-17, 11-21.

A. Simons bt B. Kennedy, 24-22, 21-12; lost to R. Stevens, 18-21, 21-19, 19-21; lost to A. Rhodes, 16-21, 18-21; lost to B. Merrett, 18-21, 21-19, 14-21.

The Eagle Tournament is Finding the Talent

On Saturday, March 19, at The Friends' Meeting House, Euston, the **EAGLE/GIRL Clubs' National Junior Table Tennis Tournament** reaches its final stage. From 12 to 3 p.m. the Quarter and Semi-Finals of the four events will take place; and from 5.30 the Finals, presentation of the trophies by The Reverend Marcus Morris (Editor of "EAGLE" and "GIRL") and special exhibition matches by Johnny Leach, Tage Flisberg and the Rowe Twins. Play will be conducted by the Middlesex T.T.A. Admission is by invitation only.

This Tournament—the first of its kind—started in November last and, almost every Saturday throughout the winter, in some part of the country, children have been competing for prizes, and for the honour of playing in the Grand Finals.

The main object of the competition has been to encourage very young players, and to enable them to enjoy in many cases their first taste of keen match-play under championship conditions. There can be no doubt that this objective has been achieved, and that the Tournament has secured a firm foundation. Furthermore, as a means of spotting and developing young talent its contribution to the game as a whole is particularly significant, and it could have an increasing value in future years.

In order to ensure in its initial year the closest possible supervision, entry was restricted to Club members of under fifteen years of age (on April 1, 1955). Through the columns of "EAGLE" and "GIRL," boys and girls were invited to enter either for a Senior (over 13) or Junior (under 13) Singles' event.

Originally eight centres were chosen: South London, North London, Edinburgh, Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham, Southampton and Bristol, but a ninth centre was added at Cardiff, following enthusiastic response from South Wales.

UNDERSTANDING RULES

Despite the restrictions imposed, an entry nearly a thousand strong was realised, a healthy indication of what can be expected in future years if the Tournament becomes established as an annual event.

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says

KENNETH WHEELER

(Organiser of the **EAGLE/GIRL Clubs' National Junior Table Tennis Tournament**)

A feature has been the very real progress made towards a better understanding of the rules of the game. Wisely, in early rounds official umpires were lenient in their interpretation, tightening up as play progressed. Occasionally Johnny Leach, in his capacity of Chief Coach, stopped play in order to explain service and volleying rules which generally caused the most trouble.

Now, about the talent we have helped to discover: **Timothy Flint**, winner of the Boys' Senior event at Birmingham,



DOUGLAS BLOY

comes from Kimbolton, Hunts. His mother drove 100 miles so that he could take part. But the most impressive performer of that day was **Barbara Wall**, of West Bromwich, who won the Girls' Senior event. Johnny Leach offers his opinion that "she could become another Rosalind Rowe!"

The South London Tournament, held at two Boys' Clubs in the Kennington area a fortnight later, had a particularly large and enthusiastic entry, and many close and exciting duels were fought in

the Boys' Senior event before **Douglas Bloy**, a fine all-round player from Folkestone, won his way through to the Finals.

The Edinburgh round, ably conducted by Bob Dykes, brought to notice a really promising 12-year-old in **Ronnie Brass**, of Glasgow, who is going to take some beating in the Junior Finals. Here, also, we staged an exciting exhibition match between Helen Elliot and Johnny Leach, which had everyone cheering.

Thirteen-year-old **Derek Grant**, of Ventnor, made rings round the Senior opposition at Southampton, and Ted Grant, his father, and Chairman of the Isle of Wight League, was there to watch him do it. Just as well he was, perhaps, since Ken Grace, the Southampton Chairman who organised play, kept casting covetous eyes in Derek's direction!

At Manchester, Les Jones and Co. worked all one Friday evening to erect six match-play tables and lighting at the Openshaw Lads' Club, and first-class playing conditions led to a high standard of play in all events. Here we met the 14-year-old **Farrall Twins**, from Liverpool, members of the Oak Hill Club whose ambition it is to follow in the footsteps of the Rowe Twins. In their case it is the left-handed Sylvia who is the steadier player (she won the event after beating her sister in the semi-final), and the right-handed Hazel who has the more brilliant, though more erratic strokes.

GOOD TIP

The standard at Sheffield was not so high as at some other centres, but on the other hand dogged determination characterised the efforts of all competitors, and kept Ted Brownhill and his associates who handled the play busy with notebook and pencil.

At Cardiff, Mrs. Roy Evans suggested that we should keep an eye on **Clive Arkell**, an entrant in the Senior event. It was a good tip. Revealing lightning footwork, and a devastating backhand flick, Arkell easily won through to the Regional Final at Bristol where, later, he continued his progress by beating the local winner.

But the local winner, young **Edmund Peacock**, of Kingswood School, Bath, the son of the Methodist Minister at Taunton, was the real hero of the day. His age, of 12½, made him eligible for the Junior event, but by mistake he entered amongst the Seniors. By the time his error was discovered he had already won through the first round of the Seniors, so he elected to remain in that event and proceeded to fight his way into the Bristol Final where he caused the upset of the entire Tournament by defeating **V. Zaslavsky**, a most

impressive stroke player, by 7-21, 21-17, 23-21.

And so to the last, and far the biggest of the qualifying rounds, the North London, which was held at St. Bride's Institute, on February 26, and proved a veritable goldmine of talent.

Because of the highly competitive nature of the play in this, as in all rounds, some players of real merit failed to reach the Finals. They will not, however, be forgotten. Johnny Leach has been present at every round, and has seen them all in action, and he is to arrange special coaching not only for the eventual champions, but for those who showed particular promise at any stage.

In inaugurating this Tournament, Messrs. Hulton Press Limited have done the game a real service, and it is to be



BARBARA WALL

hoped that it will be found possible to run it as an annual event. Whether or not it should take exactly the same line next time is something to be considered. There is a feeling that all restrictions could now be removed, though it is worth noting that, were the competition to be thrown open to all readers, the potential entry would number well over a million!

If I might be allowed in conclusion to strike a personal note I want to thank those grand T.T.A. folk all over Britain who have helped to make my task as organiser a genuine pleasure to perform.

It was with some trepidation that I entered the hall at Birmingham, at least an hour before the "kick off," to make preparations for our first round. Inside, a jovial character I had never seen before was already coping with the first bunch of schoolboy entrants.

"I'm Fred," he announced, not a bit bothered. "Maurice Goldstein asked me to pop in and see that everything was all right."

Fred stayed all day, and everything

NEW TABLE TENNIS TWINS



JOHNNY LEACH sorts out an identity puzzle with The Farrall Twins of Liverpool. HAZEL (left) is right handed, while SYLVIA, Manchester area winner, is left handed.

was all right. Since then I've met big-hearted "Fred's" all over the country, each of them anxious to help in every way possible, and to use their long experience to iron out the snags that inevitably arise.

Because of them—and again, thank you "Fred's"—everything about this Tournament has been very much "All Right"!

The draw for the Quarter Finals of the four events is as follows:

BOYS SENIOR: T. Flint (Birmingham) v C. Sudworth (Manchester), D. Bloy (South London) v M. Watkinson (Edin-

burgh), D. Grant (Southampton) v J. Hall (Sheffield), C. Arkell (Cardiff) v D. Twigg (North London).

BOYS JUNIOR: D. Scott (Southampton) v G. Creed (Birmingham), R. Brass (Edinburgh) v P. Parker (Sheffield), D. Johnson (South London) v T. Nelson (Manchester), P. Racey (Bristol) v B. Pinkerton (North London).

GIRLS SENIOR: B. Wall (Birmingham) v R. Gleeson (Edinburgh), S. Morgan (Cardiff) v J. Butcher (North London), J. Sharp (Southampton) v H. Taylor (Sheffield), W. Threlfall (South London) v S. Farrall (Manchester).

GIRLS JUNIOR: C. Holdsworth (Birmingham) v S. Sharp (Southampton), J. Darling (Edinburgh) v S. Ryder (North London, 1), S. Miron (South London) v L. Gordon (Manchester), H. White (North London, 2), walkover (both entrants from Western Region scratched).

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THE EARLY DAYS

RECALLED BY

W. J. HICKS

(Sports Editor "NEWS CHRONICLE")

AGE has its compensations. I felt a little old but extremely proud the other day when the "Cornish and Devon Post" published in its "Looking Back" column the following extract from the paper of February 22, 1930:

"A Launceston and District Table Tennis League was formed at a public meeting at the Y.M.C.A. on Friday. Mr. F. W. Blank was elected chairman, Mr. W. J. Hicks secretary and Mr. E. C. Saunders treasurer."

I wrote, as secretary, to the Mayor of the town at that time—he happened to be my uncle—asking him to become associated with this new sporting venture. He never bothered to reply. His attitude reflected the general feeling—in that part of the country, at any rate—to what was regarded just a parlour game.

We had been playing table tennis in the Y.M.C.A. at Launceston, and in Maurice Prout's garage for two or three years and, in our small world, we had, with our wooden bats and in cramped space, become expert—almost, we thought, beyond challenge.

In Plymouth they already had a league and I was foolish enough to write an article in the "Western Evening Herald" about the might of Launceston table tennis and, in effect, threw down the gauntlet to any who happened to read it.

An Eye Opener

I did not challenge in vain. The Plymouth League sent a team to Launceston and in only one of 25 games did any of our players reach double figures. Two gentlemen in particular, Messrs. French and Gunn, showed us by their control of the ball, their hitting, their spin, their long-distance defence and their service that they played a game almost unknown to us.

When it was all over Mr. Gunn said: "Now, if you really want to see this game played you had better come to Plymouth next month. We've

Bill Hicks is not a newspaperman merely looking on Table Tennis as a source of news, but a wholehearted supporter of the sport and a player of experience. He was one of the founders of the Peterborough League and also the Norfolk County Association, and is now a Vice-President of the West Essex and Peterborough Leagues. As a player he was singles champion of Norwich and District League 1937-8.

got Szabados, Barna, Bellak, and others coming down to play us and to give an exhibition."

We went to Plymouth—and came home realising that, in fact, Messrs. Gunn and French really knew nothing about table tennis of the standards of Szabados, who was world champion that year, Bellak and Barna. They will correct me in Plymouth if I am wrong but I don't think anyone managed to reach double figures against any of the visitors.

Spreading the Gospel

It was an unforgettable night. The exhibition made a spectacle that rivalled in precision anything you see at a circus. No wonder table tennis afterwards spread like a prairie fire in the West. Everyone of us who had watched Szabados, Barna and Bellak went home with the inspiration that made us missionaries.

I saw little pockets of interest in many parts of the country in later years grow into five leagues and competitions. The spectacle provided by the great players of the day almost always laid the foundations. Purely exhibition matches would fill the largest halls in provincial cities.

The success story needs no amplification here. The facts and figures of the E.T.T.A. are an eloquent example. But many were still asking in the middle thirties: "Can it last? Is it a novelty which will fade as ping-pong faded earlier?" I tried to persuade a publisher to launch a magazine for the game in 1936. He just laughed. "Why," he said, "everybody will have forgotten table tennis in ten years."

I confess I too, feared there might, in time, be a reactionary decline of interest when the novelty of the spectacle had worn thin—when table tennis had become deglamourised and had to stand on its own feet as a game. We have seen such a happening in speedway and have no doubt we shall see it in stock car racing.

Unfounded Fears

But every fear in table tennis has been ill-founded. The game's existence and its future are now quite remote from exhibitions and spectacles. Like cricket, which could live without a county championship, table tennis has roots by the thousand in the little clubs of cities, towns and villages in every corner of these islands and in most places overseas.

As a hard-bitten newspaperman I no longer want reports of the exhibitions we saw in Plymouth back in 1930. I want the story of the young player who is making his way through his league and county teams towards an England badge and the story of the match between Surrey and Essex.

We now appoint table tennis experts to comment on the game; in days gone by the star writer of the paper would be sent to describe the game as a piece of entertainment very much as he would describe ballet or a pantomime.

In twenty-five years I have seen table tennis complete the full circle of interest. Mr. Gunn, I am sorry to say, is dead, Mr. French, I thank you for the inspiration and the new interest you gave me on that winter's night a long time ago!

HARRY VENNER

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One Hundred Years Ago

IN 1902 when the Ping Pong Association was formed, the Y.W.C.A. was already 47 years old.

Beginning in 1855 with a hostel in Charlotte Street which housed Florence Nightingale's nurses on their way to the Crimea, it opened its first club for women in 1865 providing a reading room and library in Great Portland Street. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that by 1902 the club amenities, which by now included lectures, classes in French and singing lessons, also provided a little genteel ping pong. It is known that ambulance classes were arranged "for possible victims of the Wheel" in the days when a bicycle ride was a real adventure.

To-day the British Y.W.C.A. is part of a World Movement which has work in 62 different countries. It has over 400 centres in Great Britain, catering for young women working in all sorts of jobs in its hostels and for boys as well as girls in its clubs. It is safe to assert that in 95% of those 400 centres there is to be found one or more table tennis tables. Undoubtedly this activity is one of the most popular, and there are many keen and successful teams in all parts of the country. Even the "married members groups" have their table tennis enthusiasts.

Y.W.C.A. THERE

Once on Mersyside in the war-time black-out the cheerful sound of table tennis balls provided the only indication that the Y.W.C.A. was still standing after a particularly nasty visit from Jerry.

Perhaps it was the war that brought the Y.W.C.A. to the notice of a great number of people who previously had thought of it—if at all—as "the Women's part of the Young Men's" as someone once described it. The sign of the Blue Triangle on mobile canteens, hostels and leave centres in every theatre of war, was a heart-warming guarantee of a welcome and a bit of home. To the mothers of daughters going overseas Lady Churchill said, "Don't worry, the Y.W.C.A. will be there." It still is—meeting the needs wherever they are, of Services and civilians at home and overseas.

Like so many British voluntary organisations the work which it pioneered is now an accepted part of the social pattern, and much is State provided. Yet there is always something, sometimes an intangible something, which marks the difference be-

tween the statutory and the voluntary association. For instance a club for young people run by the local authority will have a better building, more facilities, and no worries about raising money to buy a new table tennis table.

OUR CLUB

Yet it definitely does not mean as much to the youngsters as the old house with a small hut in the garden, where the equipment is ancient, the carpet shabby and the second best table tennis top is supported on the backs of four chairs. It's the difference between "the club" and "our club."

Youngsters in Y.W.C.A. clubs though they may behave as irresponsibly as any, know that if they break up the game equipment they will have to raise the money to replace it.

Further, and even more important, the Y.W.C.A. by its very nature and name, says to these youngsters—Christianity's important. Club services and prayers, whether held in a room specially used as a chapel or in the hall when the dancing has stopped, are part of every club programme. The members may not all stay, making excuses or openly calling it "soppy," but nevertheless it is there—a witness to the importance of things unseen in a materialist world.

Again, the Y.W.C.A., in a time of nationalist and racial tension, stands for friendship and understanding between the peoples of the world. Girls of all colours and creeds live together

and learn they are all "sisters under the skin." If you have shared the breakfast marmalade, the Sunday prayers, and after dinner game in the recreation room with a girl from Nigeria, one from Germany and another from Malaya, you are less likely to dismiss all "foreigners" as impossibly uncivilized!

It is a far cry from the young woman of a century ago sitting on a horsehair sofa reading an improving book to the noisy teen-ager of to-day returning a smashing serve across the table tennis table to her boy friend. But for them both, and the thousands in between, the Y.W.C.A. can justly claim it has given a century of service.

LANCASHIRE "OPEN"

THE Lancashire "Open" at one time in danger of being cancelled through lack of a suitable venue has been saved, thanks to the co-operation of the Bolton League. Contrary to the usual practice, however, it will only be a one day affair.

De Havilland Propellers Ltd., have kindly offered the use of their canteen and adjoining badminton court, so everything has been fixed for Lostock, Bolton, on March 19, start at 10 a.m.

Entries are due to close on March 11, to A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Lancs. The organisers are hoping that the "reprieve" will bring forth entries from some of the leading Southern players.



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TEEN-AGE SPOTLIGHT

FOCUSED BY PETER MADGE

Tournament regulars have noticed the absence of Ray Dorking from most tournaments this season. This has given rise to much speculation, the most popular theory being that he has left the country with the numerous silver trophies he collected last season.

The truth is Ray's doctor has ordered him to take several months' rest from all sporting activities. No cause for alarm, I hasten to add, it's just that the works are a bit run down after all the exertions of the last few seasons.

Results of the enforced lay-off are already beginning to show. The Dorking household has profited to the extent of a couple of re-decorated rooms.

* * *

TEAM DRESS

I'm more than glad to see that the E.T.T.A. has decided to adopt my suggestion (November issue) that our juniors playing abroad be equipped with team uniform. I suggested that they be given windcheaters, but the Dress Committee has gone further and recommended that complete track-suits be supplied.

The plan is for the juniors to have "ENGLAND" emblazoned across the back of the top half of the suit. Well done. But one more suggestion from me. It is intended that the letter "J"

should follow "ENGLAND" to denote the inferior status of the wearer! There are already seven letters in "ENGLAND" to be spread across the back, the addition of a space and "J" will necessitate the letters being reduced to an oddly small size. Therefore, let "ENGLAND" remain as it is on the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup track-suits but add the full word "JUNIOR" in smaller letters centrally beneath. Much neater.

* * *

At Briar Clyffe School . . . as you read this, an essay competition will be in full swing. Naturally enough the subject is table tennis. Headmaster Harry Levine is sending me all the entries and by next month I hope to have picked the winning essay to appear on this page. The school's leading player, Peter Cole, just 15, recently won the Men's Singles of the Lowestoft closed tournament. He beat the Suffolk No. 1, Johnny Pearson, in the final, but only just . . . the score was 24-22 in the fifth. In the semi-final Peter beat another County player, Terry Williams.

* * *

Revenge is sweet . . . but it often takes quite a while to accomplish. At the Kent Open Terry Densham was beaten in straight games by the Kent junior, Tony Piddock. Terry looked forward to the Kent v. Surrey junior match when he would have a



RAY DORKING

chance to get his own back. The match came round and Terry and Tony went to the table for their singles. Terry took the first game at 15 and was determined to win in straight games. Tony was equally determined that he shouldn't. The resulting tooth-and-nail strife terminated at 35-33 . . . to Terry!

ENGLAND SWAMP WALES

IAN HARRISON, the young Gloucester player, made a successful debut by winning both his singles, and the doubles in partnership with Tony Cornell of Essex, when helping England defeat Wales 9-1 in the junior international at Worthing on February 18. Harrison beat Patrick Crowley, in the opening tie of the match, then Graham Ponting.

Cornell, like Harrison, appearing in his first international, lost narrowly to Ponting, but having overcome his obvious "nerves" beat Crowley later in the programme.

Apart from Ponting's win the best Welsh performance came from Donald Norris, the Welsh "Open" junior champion, who took Terry Densham to 18 in the third game.

Results (English names first): I. Harrison bt P. Crowley 21-9, 21-19, bt G. Ponting 21-16, 17-21, 21-11. A. Cornell lost to Ponting 19-21, 18-21, bt Crowley 22-20, 21-17. T. Densham bt D. Norris 24-26, 22-20, 21-18, bt J. Simonson 21-16, 21-9. L. Landry bt Simonson 21-11, 21-9, bt Norris 21-16, 21-13. Cornell and Harrison bt Crowley and B. Lewis 13-21, 21-14, 21-18. Landry and Densham bt Norris and Simonson 21-8, 21-16.

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ANY QUESTIONS?

Mr. W. F. Handley of Nuneaton, has a problem. He writes:

"I practice my forehand attack time after time, but when I get to the table I rarely succeed with it.

"(1) Please tell me what approximate distance is best for the forehand attack. That is, how many inches at the side of you should the ball bounce?"

"(2) Also, should you watch the ball on to the bat when forehand attacking?"

* * *

First let me say that no Coach can give precise advice in writing to a player he has never seen. As so much depends upon the physical proportions of the player, I would be justified in asking Mr. Handley, "How tall are you?" "How long is your arm?" etc.—not to mention "How old are you?"

But as the problem is probably shared by many readers, I must risk my reputation and answer as follows:
Question (1):

The best striking distance for attack is the one which provides the best combination of Power with Control.

If you merely wished to deliver maximum Power, you would probably stiffen your arm and deliver a full-arm sweeping shot, possibly pivoting on the shoulder but quite often with the body joining in the action.

A good player will do this only when he is absolutely sure of the ball and the risk is small.

For a learner, the risk is great—the arm has no "feel" of the ball; the eye is too far from it, and is usually moved out of focus by the vigour of the action. It virtually is a case of "hitting with your eyes shut."

Should you then, strike very close to your body? You would certainly see the ball well, but until you have learned some quite advanced things about circular rhythm and acceleration, you will get little power into this stroke.

For the novice, the happy medium is a swing somewhere between half-and-three-quarters arm's length. Concentrate on a "smooth approach"; this will make your muscles supple and allow of many variations as your experience grows.

Question (2):

Reading between the lines above, you will deduce that it is rather important to watch the ball all the time.

But don't let it hypnotise you; if

you are attacking, remember that the bat has got to hit the ball, not vice-versa.

Here again there are exceptions, but personal coaching would be needed to explain them.

ANY MORE QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL?

* * *

The Basic Coaching Diploma

The National Coaching Committee will meet on March 25, 1955, when outstanding applications for this Diploma will be reviewed.

Letters to the Editor

ARE WE TOO ORGANISED?

Are the County Championship matches really necessary? I write with feeling, for we in West Bromwich have been seriously affected by the activities of Staffordshire.

It is grand to see the County "on the map" in having teams in the Second and Midland Divisions, but it is the privilege rather than the enjoyment of playing that draws players to these teams.

On no less than five occasions out of seven matches in the Midland League the West Bromwich side have been without their leading players because of Staffordshire commitments.

Individuals only, benefit from these County fixtures, perhaps graduating into internationals, but the various Leagues can never take advantage of their good players' abilities.

The County tell us that clashing of matches can be overcome. But can it? Cheltenham and West Bromwich have tried in vain for weeks to fix a date that did not clash with Gloucestershire or Staffordshire fixtures.

Whether a player may decide for town or county is a matter of opinion, but I do not think it will be long before a player must make his choice at the beginning of the season.

I am sorry if this appears a little parochially minded, but in my opinion County play carries little glory, causes a lot of expense and undermines more than a little the strength of a town team.

A. A. WALL,
(West Bromwich)

THE BOTTLE MEN

Jack Kurzman should have done his job properly at the Metropolitan "Open" and he would have had no need to be horrified at international players sprinkling water in trying to improve a floor that was hardly conducive to international standards of play. (February Editorial.) His argument that other

Applications forms may be obtained from the E.T.T.A. Office.

Brighten Up That A.G.M.

Do you have difficulty in attracting members to your General Meeting? Why not "lay on" a T.T. Film Show to follow the business session?

The 16mm. sound film (22 minutes) of the 1954 World Championships is now available, free of charge (except postage) to all who can provide an audience of 50 people.

Applications to: Jack Carrington, 24, Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex. About 3—4 weeks' notice is required.

players might object is fatuous. Is anyone likely to object to playing on a damp but non-slippery floor instead of on a kind of wooden ice-rink?

It is all very well for officials to trumpet from the safety of the platform. They should get down on the floor and try it.

In all fairness I must say that I have yet to see one of the sprinklers request permission to use his little bottle. But players pay not inconsiderable entry fees and they are entitled to expect reasonable playing conditions. Fortunately most tournament committees hire the inimitable Godfrey Decker to provide lighting and tables but it is a pity that his good work is so often marred by a bad floor.

PETER MADGE
(Sydenham).

A YEAR OLD

In Ivor Eyles' excellent report on the England v. Germany International Match at Winchester, in the January issue of *Table Tennis*, a note was made inferring that a new table was used for this match. My company had the honour of installing the table and lighting for the match, but I would like to take this opportunity of stating that the table installed was just over one year old. Perhaps our tables retain their new appearance somewhat longer than other makes.

LESLIE BROMFIELD,
Managing Director,
Bromfield and Eggar (Sports) Ltd.

VOUCHERS AS PRIZES

Joan Rook's suggestion of vouchers as prizes has my wholehearted support. This procedure has been adopted almost exclusively in my club, with the exception that we pay the amount of receipted bills for purchases made up to the value of the prize. We feel that in this way the limited funds available for prizes are spent to the best advantage of the winners.

J. T. ANDERSON
(Chairman, St. Alfege's
Hospital Social & Sports
Club, Greenwich).

IRISH SCENE

FOLLOWING successive defeats by Scotland and Germany, Ireland regained some of her lost prestige by scoring a well merited 5-4 victory over Wales at the Abbey Lecture Hall, Dublin. Previous to this international the Irish players, with the exception of Sean Clarkin, gave most disappointing displays, but against the Welsh they really struck top form and the narrow winning margin in no way reflects their superiority.

True, the Welsh side was not that country's best, but this certainly did not detract from the merits of the victory as the home men did not drop a set in the singles, though, surprisingly, our leading doubles pair Clarkin and O'Prey lost to Jones and Phillips. The other doubles pairing of Martin and Pappin struck up a happy partnership and even the fact that the final result rested on their game did not overawe them.

The Misses Jones and Gray really lived up to their reputations, though Joy Owens—Ireland's No. 1 woman, gave Shirley Jones a rare fright by winning the first set; and it took all the Welsh girl's experience and ability to take the next two.

Results (Irish names first): W. Pappin bt A. Morris: 21-18, 21-14; I. E. Martin bt A. Thomas: 21-14, 21-19; S. Clarkin bt M. Jones: 21-13, 21-15; H. O'Prey bt D. Phillips: 21-13, 21-13;

Miss J. Owens lost to Miss S. Jones: 22-20, 14-21, 18-21; Miss M. Lyons lost to Miss B. Gray: 16-21, 13-21; Clarkin and O'Prey lost to Jones and Phillips: 18-21, 21-16, 18-21; Martin and Pappin bt Thomas and Morris: 21-17, 22-20. Misses Owens and Lyons lost to Misses Jones and Gray: 10-21, 21-16, 12-21.

In the Irish Open Championships played in Belfast, visiting stars completely eclipsed the home players. Brian Kennedy of England had a most successful visit, winning both the men's singles and doubles—partnered in the latter by Brian Merrett.

The final of the men's event produced a most entertaining struggle, and if the standard of play never reached the heights expected, this was amply compensated by the tenseness of the atmosphere. Attacking strongly, Kennedy won the first set to 10, but gradually Merrett's rock-like and, at times, spectacular defence gained the upper hand. The Gloucester man won the next two 21-13, 21-16.

The fifth set produced some of the best table tennis of the night with each player exercising all his wiles to wear down his opponent. Scores were level at 19-19 but Kennedy proved the steadier of the two, winning the next two points to give him his first Irish title.

A big surprise was created in the semi-finals of the women's singles when local girl Margaret Lyons deservedly beat 16-year-old Helen Houliston of Scotland, she was, however, well beaten in the final by the dynamic Shirley Jones of Wales.

The final of the women's doubles almost produced another big upset when Ireland's Misses Owens and Fearon, having won the first set from Misses Jones and Houliston, led 20-15 in the second, but the Welsh girl showed her worth by producing a stream of dazzling forehands to take the set 23-21, and they went on to win the third.

Details—Men's Singles, Semi-finals: B. Kennedy bt H. O'Prey: 21-18, 21-11, 21-18; B. Merrett bt S. Clarkin: 21-13, 21-16, 21-16.

Final: KENNEDY bt Merrett: 21-10, 13-21, 16-21, 21-19, 21-19.

Women's Singles, Final: Miss S. JONES bt Miss M. Lyons: 21-13, 21-18.

Men's Doubles, Final: KENNEDY and MERRETT bt O'Prey and C. Senior: 21-13, 18-21, 21-13, 21-16.

Women's Doubles, Final: Misses JONES and HOULISTON bt Misses Owens and Fearon: 19-21, 23-21, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles, Final: MERRETT and Miss JONES bt Kennedy and Miss Houliston: 21-18, 21-8.

The team to represent Ireland at the World championship at Utrecht in April has been selected as follows:—

S. Clarkin (Leinster); H. O'Prey (Ulster); I. E. Martin (Ulster); Miss J. Owens (Leinster); and Miss M. Lyons (Ulster).

S. Dignam



"I wish I could have joined EAGLE CLUB"

says Johnny Leach (WORLD CHAMPION, 1948-9 AND 1950-1)

"The EAGLE/GIRL National Junior Table Tennis Tournament gives the best opportunity I know to boy and girl players to develop their ability and have the chance of competing with each other under full championship conditions

for National Awards. That's why I say I wish I could have joined EAGLE CLUB when I was the right age—it does so much for its members. This goes for girls too—they can become ADVENTURERS in GIRL CLUB."

Area News :

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

WE are now in full swing for the second half of the Western Counties League and look forward to some hard and keen struggles.

Birmingham picked up four valuable points to maintain their lead in the First Division when they beat Bath 7—3 at home and won their away match with Gloucester 9—1.

Against Bath, Maurice Kriss figured in an exciting match with David House, eventually winning in the third game. The position was, however, reversed in the doubles where House and G. Holden beat Kriss and R. Moseley in the third.

Gloucester sadly missed Brian Merrett, and Roy Morley provided their only success when he beat Bob McKay in straight games. Shirley Davis gave a good account of herself when taking a game from Ann Haydon.

Birmingham did not win as easily as the scores suggest, for Gloucester put up a stubborn defence and several of the matches were exceptionally close.

Merrett returned to the Gloucester side for their 7—3 win over Newport. One of the best performances here came from Shirley Davis, who keeping up her good form beat Vera Rowe, the Welsh international at 18 in the third.

Without House, Bath crashed 1—9 against Bristol, L. Parmentier being the

only winner when he beat R. Haydon in a tensely-fought match 21—18, 22—20. G. Holden took a set from Aubrey Simons, a good performance.

West Wilts, making a bold bid for Second Division honours jumped to the top of the table with wins over Weston and Taunton, both by 7—3. J. Pearce tipped the balance against Weston with two exciting third set wins over G. Philpott and Mick Bennett.

Fifteen-year-old Myrna Thomas gained a great win over Miss J. Cook, but could not prevent Newport's "seconds" going down 2—8 to Bristol "seconds."

Results: First Division: Gloucester 7, Newport 3; Bristol 9, Bath 1; Cheltenham 7, Cardiff 3; Gloucester 1, Birmingham 9.

Second Division: Weston 3, West Wilts 7; Bristol II 8, Newport II 2; West Wilts 7, Taunton 3.

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Birmingham	5	4	1	0	35	25	8
Bristol	4	3	1	0	24	16	6
Cheltenham	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
Gloucester	5	2	3	0	22	28	4
Cardiff	3	1	2	0	14	16	2
Newport	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Bath	5	1	4	0	14	36	2

Second Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
West Wilts	6	4	1	1	35	25	9
Bristol II	5	4	1	0	32	18	8
Taunton	4	2	2	0	15	25	4
Weston	5	1	3	1	26	24	3
Newport II	5	1	4	0	19	31	2

Bristol are in a strong position in both leagues, being in the runners-up positions with a game in hand over the leaders. Their match with Birmingham should decide the First Division. It completes Birmingham's programme, whereas Bristol still have to play lowly Newport.

Bristol II and West Wilts are also due to clash in the Second Division.

Grove Motlow.

SUSSEX BY THE SEA

PETER SHEAD, after a close shave in the singles semi-final, being taken to 22 in the third by Stan Moore, carried off three titles in the Sussex "Closed" championships at Brighton on February 6. He beat junior George Gladwish in the final 21—15, 21—14, then went on to take the men's doubles with Ian Alexander, and the mixed doubles with his wife Pat.

The women's singles changed hands when Wendy Bates, the junior international, beat Mrs. Anne Woodford 21—10, 21—10 in the final. Miss Bates also won the girls' singles, and the women's doubles with Cynthia Rose.

John Quilter beat Gladwish in the boys' singles final, while Charlie Seaman and Mrs. B. Rind won the men's and women's veterans' titles respectively.

L. Bromfield

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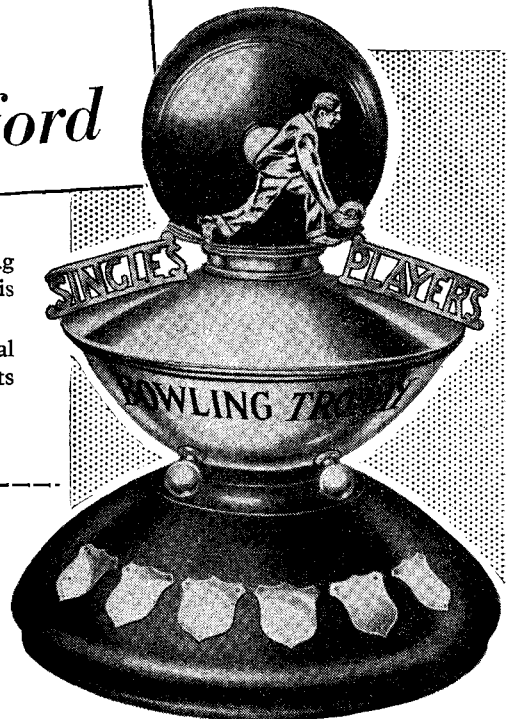
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Area News :

PORTSMOUTH POINTERS

THE Grosvenor Club, Southsea, will be the venue for two championship meetings this month, the Hampshire "closed" on March 20 and the Portsmouth "closed" from March 21—26.

Portsmouth players swept the board in the county championships last year with the exception of the men's singles won by N. Wilding, of Bournemouth. However, with Stuart Jackson, the Portsmouth champion, now elevated to Hampshire No. 1, there are high hopes of this title finding its way to Portsmouth.

The Portsmouth championships have eight events, including a junior mixed singles and veteran singles. The veterans title is to carry with it a new trophy being specially purchased, and can expect a larger entry than usual as a number of local players have now passed the dividing line. Frank Moore can expect stronger opposition.

The women's singles promises plenty of thrills with Miss D. Wightman, now at the top of her form likely to wrest the title from Miss S. Ball. Roy Henderson should keep his junior title.

In the league programme Grosvenor Free Lance have regained the First Division lead at the expense of their nearest rivals, The Den, whom they defeated 6-4.

Competing in the various divisions are three teams entered by the Portsmouth Deaf Club. The first team, Deaf Red (Third Division West) have drawn no fewer than eight of their first 16 games, but are in second place with a possible chance of promotion.

R.A.F. "A" Titchfield surrendered their first points at the commencement

of the second of the season, leaving Judean Boys' Club (Fourth Division East) the only undefeated side, though they have been held to a draw four times.

A popular tournament just getting under way is the Conslad Cup, a competition between teams of three playing nine singles. The divisions of the league are divided into three groups. Those in the lower section play off first with two teams going forward to compete with the next section, which in turn send two teams forward to the higher group, from which the ultimate winners are decided. B.J.S. (Fred Bradley, Brian James and George Stevens) have won the trophy for the past two seasons and are now out for the "hat-trick."

C. H. Staples

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

PRIDE of place this month goes to two of our "North Country" boys, Peter Cruwys, of Cheltenham, and Bryan Merrett, of Gloucester, but for totally different reasons.

Peter, popular player, coach and county umpire, goes to his match on Saturday, March 19, but no table tennis table will be there. He is taking that short walk into matrimony. His bride is charming Joan Ratley, another of Cheltenham's players and workers. Bob Griffin, Peter's doubles partner will be in attendance, so that these three popular Cheltenham stars will be missing from the West of England Championships.

Best of luck, Peter and Joan, from the County Officials and all table tennis players in the county.

And now to Bryan. He has just accomplished what is probably his finest spell. He just missed the Irish "Open" title, losing at 19 in the third to Brian

Kennedy, handed out a heavy defeat to both Mickey Thornhill and Derek Burridge in the County match against Middlesex, and partnered Aubrey Simons to a convincing win over Len Adams and Burridge in the doubles.

As if this wasn't enough he became the hero of Gloucester's brilliant win over South London (holders for the past five years) in the Wilmott Cup by winning all three of his matches.

So impressed has Aubrey Simons been with Merrett's record that he swayed County selectors to play him at No. 1 in the match against Surrey.

It looks as though at last Bryan is fulfilling his junior promise.

No matches have been played in the Junior County League since last month, and March will see the final stages being fought out.

Bristol "closed" championships are being played at Will's Gymnasium, Bedminster, Bristol, on April 16. The usual keen play is expected.

Gloucestershire have disappointed in the County championships this season, due in the main to a deterioration in the men's play, which has always been our strength. The older girls, while always giving of their best, are not really up to County Championship standard. After making sure of not being relegated, such juniors as Shirley Davis and Bob Morley may be considered by the selectors for an extended trial for the last two matches.

The West of England Championships on March 18 and 19 will see a very strong entry in the men's singles. Challenging Simons for his title will be Merrett, Kennedy, Burridge, Ken Craigie, Harry Venner, Thornhill, Alan Rhodes, and Adams.

The entry for the women's singles, however, is disappointing. Other attractions are the Zone finals of the "Daily Mirror" tournament at Birmingham, and such players as Ann Haydon, Kathie Best, Jean Winn and Joyce Seaman, prefer playing there to competing in the West.

Ivor Eyles.

MEMO FROM MERSEYSIDE

WHEN re-organisation took place in the Liverpool League this season, a rule was inserted that Clubs with more than one team in the League must register their teams in order of merit, viz.:— First five for the first team, second five for the "A" team, etc., but the order of play in each team would be left to the discretion of the Captain, as he may require to vary it according to the current form of the players, or for tactical reasons. A few Clubs have adopted team switching tactics that would suggest they wish to win at all costs, when they play a reserve at No. 1, because they find their No. 5 is not available, so they sacrifice a reserve and all move down a place.

Some of the better class players have been appearing at three, four and five. It is not particularly enjoyable for the good players to be frequently opposed to the "rabbits" when they are aware that players of their own calibre are

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WEDDING BELLS

playing further down the list. One Club Secretary sums it up very well when he states, "To be beaten by a better player can be exhilarating, particularly if it is touch and go. To swamp someone far below one's level gives little satisfaction."

An argument can be put forward as to who decides the order of strength. There could be many arguments for example as to who should be 1, 2 and 3 of the Rumjahn Brothers, who all play for the same Club, but with Peter No. 1, Ted No. 3, and Ronnie No. 5, opposing teams would have every reason to think this poor sportsmanship—and they would be quite right. Their Club would not countenance such tactics, but I am sorry to say there are others who are doing so, and it is not to their credit. It may cause the opponents of playing teams in order of strength, to have second thoughts. In the Wirral League the matches consist of eight singles and two doubles sets and a team comprises not less than four, and not more than eight players. No player may play in more than two single sets and one doubles set, so that with a team of four, each player is engaged in three sets.

Whilst the introduction of Doubles was welcomed in some quarters, doubts were expressed whether some clubrooms would have sufficient room to make it a practicable proposition, but I am informed that the Committee have received no complaints, so it must be assumed that the original fears were groundless.

Jack Carrington has recently conducted a short Coaching Course at Livingstone Street at the invitation of Mr. Richards, the Birkenhead Youth Organiser, and during the period of their Closed Championships, the Liverpool League officials have arranged for Ken Stanley to conduct a week-end Coaching course, which is the continuation on a larger scale of a recent visit of seven youngsters to Ken's Academy in Burnley.

Bill Stamp

KENT NOTES

IT is understood that the Thanet T.T.A., one of Kent's most important Leagues are putting forward a proposal to abolish the Block Vote. Under this procedure, Leagues have a vote equal to their number of affiliated clubs at the County A.G.M., which naturally means a bigger say for the bigger Leagues. Thanet are believed to favour one vote per League, but their proposal will itself be subject to a Block Vote at the A.G.M., and therefore could only be passed with the agreement of the bigger Leagues. County Selector Charles Wyles is chairman of the Thanet Association.

N.W. Kent Association which persuaded the County to adopt their successful Transfer Rule is now putting forward further proposals designed to streamline the County League competition, and, incidentally, to provide extra funds for the County body. They propose that



JOY SEAMAN, the Middlesex International, was married to **DENNIS FAULKNER**, a county umpire at Feltham on January 22nd. They are now living at Norwood.

each League register all the players which belong to it under the Transfer Rule at the start of the season and pay a registration fee of 2s. per player. Players not tied to any League under the Transfer Rule would also be registered by any League which wants their service, and once a player agreed to represent a League and the relevant fee is paid to the County, such players would be subject to the Transfer Rules as if they had actually represented the League in question.

This method would put Kent table tennis on similar lines to football, with each player having a definite affiliation.

The flexibility of the Kent Transfer Rule makes it unlikely that any hardship to players would result.

Woolwich & District T.T.A. have lost the services of H. E. Johnson as secretary, and Stan Pike, their vice-chairman, has agreed to be acting secretary until a successor is found. Stan is one of the stalwarts of Woolwich and Kent table tennis, with which he has been associated for nearly 20 years. Alan Showler, Woolwich Secretary last season, is now doing his National Service, after having finished his studies and obtained his degree.

Conrad Jaschke

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AROUND THE LEAGUES

Formed in 1923, the **Isle of Wight** Table Tennis League has advanced considerably in the post-war years. There are now four divisions, two of these being sub-divided, making in all 48 League teams from 20 clubs. Ventnor St. Winifrid's, one of the founder clubs now have the youngest team in the First Division with 13-year-old Derek Grant its youngest player.

Barring a miracle, **Isle of Wight**, Division I champions this year will be Cowes St. Mary's Guild. They need only two points from their three remaining games to win the title for the fourth successive time. In that time—a record for the Island—they have been unbeaten.

Closest call came this season when the previous champions, Shanklin, were leading them 5—3. But the Guild drew that match, and also the return. Their team this year, as last is: Ken Wyatt, the current Isle of Wight singles holder, R. Hayter, a previous winner, and G. Hayden.

Eton Manor and St. Mark's, each with 14 points, and Albion, with 12 points, but a game in hand, were fighting neck and neck for leadership of the **London League** Premier Division at the middle of February. Albion's team includes Terry Densham, John Hunt, Ivor Jones and Jack Carington. Eton Manor have Ken Beamish, while St. Mark's call on Bobby Stevens and R. Raybould.

Old Boys, with a hundred per cent record from their 12 matches, head the First Division, followed by North London Senior, a new team, assisted by Barney Peters, of Australia.

A close fight is developing between Civil Service and Y.M.C.A. "A" for the **Carlisle** and **District** First Division championship. Civil Service held a two points lead at the end of January but Y.M.C.A. had a match in hand.

Two Second Division players, F. Bridges and D. Howitt, both of Denton Holme, head the averages with 100 per cent records in the **Carlisle** and **District** League. Bridges had played 30 matches to Howitt's 18. The club nevertheless were being kept in second place behind No. 14 M.U.

Recent visitor to **Watford and District** was their former Doubles champion, "Mac" Passant, home on leave from South Africa.

High Wycombe have every reason to be well pleased with their performances in the Bucks "Closed." Sheila Rose carried off the women's singles, and Richard Bristow, the boys' singles. Both are members of the Admiral Memorial Silver Club, Bradenham, whose secretary Charles Bristow, is Richard's father.

Husband and wife partnership in the Sussex inter-leagues are John and Anne Woodford, members of the Shoreham Club. Anne is better known as Anne Davies, ex-Sussex singles champion.

Leek and **District** boast a mother and daughter partnership, Mrs. M. Kirkland and Irene.

Success blows hot and cold for the Y.M.C.A. teams in the **Derby County** League. The club's first team are favourites for the Division I championship, but down in Division IV the Y.M.C.A.'s fourth string are in the running for the wooden spoon.

Tom Bosworth, a 16-year-old, has played a large part in the revival of Beverley O.M.A. in the First Division of the **Hull** League. His reward came recently when he was chosen for the Hull Youth team against Doncaster.

By beating Exeter 6—4 in a recent match, Exmouth became the first team in the **Devon** League to do so since the League was formed in 1948. Exmouth also ended Exeter's proud record of being undefeated by another Devon town in over 25 years of play.

A party of 28, mainly from the **Wandsworth** League are flying to Amsterdam in April as guests of the Dutch players they entertained for a week last August. Is it coincidence that the trip is at the same time as the "World's"? At any rate, trips to the championships finals and Swaythling and Corbillon Cups have been arranged.

Top of the **Cannock** and **District** League and also the local Youth League is the remarkable performance this season of Hednesford Torchbearers. Formed only three years ago, they quickly swept all before them in the Youth League, winning the Second Division and the First Division (twice).

Encouraged by their successes, they entered the District League for the first time this season, and having lost only one of their 12 matches, head the table on games average from Chasetown Ins. "A," last year's champions.

The Torchbearers, who show grand team spirit under the captaincy of G. Benn, supported by M. Baskeyfield, J. Baskeyfield, D. Turner and E. Dawes, are determined to carry off that District and Youth double.

In their first season of competitive table tennis Grove Road Methodists have won Division III of the **Harrogate** and **District** League. In contrast Electricity "A" have gained Division II honours for the first time since their formation. Wesley "A" have retained the Division I championship.

Three times in recent years **Walthamstow** League have reached the Premier Division of the Essex League only to be relegated again. This year, however, Walthamstow, composed entirely of members of the Walthamstow Speedway Club, are making a determined effort to remain in the higher sphere.

Advantage of coaching was emphasised by the recent defeat of Northern Hibs who head Division VI of the **Sheffield** and **District** League. Their conquerers, Park Youth Club who are halfway in the Division have made full use of the League's coaching scheme. This 6-4 defeat spoilt the Hib's 100 per cent record.

With four teams entered in the various divisions of the Essex League championships, **Romford** are having their most successful season ever. Out of five matches the Premier team has suffered only one defeat, while the Juniors are assured of second place in their division. Both the "seconds" and the Veterans have excellent chances of winning their respective divisions.

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THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

PREMIER DIVISION

YORKSHIRE accomplished a splendid performance when they defeated Essex by 7-3. Only Johnny Leach won his games for the losers, and he was hard pressed by Brian Kennedy before winning at 19 in the third. Nevertheless Essex can count themselves as distinctly unlucky. Stevens and Jones lost to Hinchliff and Dove at 22-20 in the third, whilst two other matches went to 19 in the third.

Not only do Yorkshire seem destined to finish in their highest ever position, but if Essex were to beat Middlesex by a big score, Yorkshire could even win. Middlesex, however, are sailing serenely on, and made no mistake against Gloucestershire. Bryan Merrett won both his singles for the losers, beating Thornhill and Burridge, but to counter this both Thornhill and Adams beat Aubrey Simons.

At the other end of the table Cheshire seem destined only to spend one season in the Premier Division. They made an effort against Glamorgan, but the Welsh county's great superiority in the ladies' games saw them through. Even so, it seems as though Glamorgan must be relegated unless they can get at least one point from either Surrey or Middlesex—a tough proposition!

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Staffordshire improved their chances of promotion, when they beat Lincolnshire by 7-3. Derek Merryweather shone for the losers, beating both Backhouse and Robbins, but Backhouse did well to beat Peter Skerratt in the final match.

Yorkshire finished any hopes that Northumberland may have entertained when they won 7-3 at York. B. Pennington shared in three wins for the home county.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Essex strengthened their team to good effect and nearly brought off the surprise of the month when they led Middlesex by 4-1, but determined effort by Margaret Fry to push off Elsie Carrington, and effective play by Lou Hoffman, in his first match for Middlesex, enabled them to struggle to a 5 all draw.

Later in the week Essex overwhelmed Hertfordshire, and now seem safe from relegation. Hertfordshire, in turn, may have saved themselves with a narrowest of wins over

Devon. John Hunt caused heart failure to Herts supporters by first losing to Ofield at 19 in the third, then winning the men's doubles with Tony Rogers at 22-20 in the third, and eventually winning the match when he struggled home against Lionel Kerslake at 23-21 in the third. Bad luck Devon.

It looks as though Sussex will return to the Premier Division. They did well to get a point from Surrey, Peter Shead again taking his three matches.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hampshire made sure of winning this section when they overwhelmed Oxfordshire. The losers forced four of the matches to three games, but that was the extent of their success.

Herts and Bucks drew for the second time this season, Bucks star being once again Leo Thompson, with his three wins. Johnson had an encouraging debut for Herts, winning both his singles.

EASTERN DIVISION

Suffolk and Cambridgeshire had an exciting draw at Ipswich. Three times Cambridgeshire held the lead, yet Suffolk led 5-4 before Cornwall convincingly beat Pearson to save a point. John Collins, now No. 2 for Suffolk, did well to beat Nunn, and take a game from John Cornwell.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Derbyshire seem to have made sure that Worcestershire win this division. First of all they lost 7-3 to the leaders, and then they beat closest challengers Warwickshire by 6-4. The Derby/Worcs. match was closer than the score indicated, for after Worcester had led 3-2, their final four victories went: 19 in the third, 20 in the third, 18 in the third and 19 in the third—a war of nerves! Hawkins and Devereux were the stars, winning all their singles.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

Devon made no mistake when they crushed Cornwall by 10-0, but they had a rude awakening a fortnight later when they lost at home 4-6 to Somerset. Stars for the winners were David House (as usual!) and G. Holden, who won four singles and, together, the men's doubles. As Somerset beat Dorset by 7-3, Holden and House again winning their singles, they are now real challengers for the top position.

Cornwall improved when losing only 4-6 to Dorset. Eight of the ten sets went to three games. J. Dale played consistently for the winners, winning both his singles, whilst W. J. Pape gave an excellent display in the mixed and men's doubles for Cornwall. G. Perriam, playing his first singles for the losers, did well to beat the Dorset No. 2, J. Rose, at 22-20 in the third.

JUNIOR DIVISION

Matches in this section went much as expected, although Sussex, potential Champions, had a shock when trailing 1-3 to Kent. This was the extent of the Kent successes, however, although M. Smith and Miss J. Johnson were very unlucky to lose the mixed doubles at 21-23 in the third.

Essex fought well against Middlesex, although Cornell, new English International, was beaten in straight games by both Landry and Hodson. Bradford played impressively for Essex, beating both Hodson and Lindsay, whilst Miss Pickard chalked up a good win over Beryl Spooner. Miss Pickard is still a junior next season, and is an obvious candidate for junior International honours.

Kent just got home against Surrey, notwithstanding Terry Densham taking his usual two singles for the losers. He was hard pressed in the second game against A. Piddock, before winning 35-33!

Sussex increased their chance by crushing Hertfordshire in a one-sided match. Only one set went to three games.

LUCKY ESCAPE

MEMBERS of the Bedfordshire team had a narrow escape from serious injury when travelling to the county match with Norfolk. The car, driven by Colin Crowe, and containing Ethel Aldridge, Betty Carter, Sidney Lawson and Peter Holroyd, had a tyre burst just outside Newmarket, and rolled over twice before finishing on its side.

All were trapped inside until Crowe managed to get out through the windscreen and, with the help of bystanders, force one of the rear doors.

Mrs. Carter had a badly bruised arm, but apart from a shaking, the others were none the worse. The match however, was cancelled.

COUNTY RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION - - - - -	Gloucestershire 3, Middlesex 7 Glamorgan 6, Cheshire 4 Lancashire 4, Surrey 6 Yorkshire 7, Essex 3 Cheshire 4, Lancashire 6
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH - - -	Hertfordshire 6, Devon 4 Berkshire 4, Kent 6 Surrey 5, Sussex 5 Middlesex 5, Essex 5 Middlesex 8, Devon 2 Kent 4, Sussex 6 Berkshire 3, Surrey 7 Hertfordshire 1, Essex 9
SECOND DIVISION NORTH - - -	Staffordshire 7, Lincolnshire 3 Yorkshire 7, Northumberland 3
SOUTHERN DIVISION - - - - -	Hampshire 10, Oxfordshire 0 Hertfordshire 5, Buckinghamshire 5
EASTERN DIVISION - - - - -	Suffolk 5, Cambridgeshire 5
MIDLAND DIVISION - - - - -	Derbyshire 3, Worcestershire 7 Warwickshire 4, Derbyshire 6
SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION - - -	Devon 10, Cornwall 0 Somerset 7, Dorset 3 Devon 4, Somerset 6 Cornwall 4, Dorset 6
JUNIOR DIVISION - - - - -	Surrey 3, Essex 7 Sussex 7, Kent 3 Essex 4, Middlesex 6 Kent 6, Surrey 4 Hertfordshire 0, Sussex 10

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

March 12th	Glamorgan v Surrey, Y.M.C.A., Swansea	7.15 p.m.
March 12th	Gloucestershire v Essex, Montpelier Pavilion, Cheltenham	7.15 p.m.
March 25th	Lancashire v Middlesex, Ken Stanley T.T. Saloon, Burnley	7.15 p.m.
March 26th	Surrey v Yorkshire, Croydon Adult School, West Croydon	7.00 p.m.
March 26th	Essex v Middlesex, Clacton Town Hall	7.00 p.m.
March 26th	Cheshire v Gloucestershire	

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

March 12th	Sussex v Devon, Sussex Room, King Alfred, Kingsway, Hove 3	7.00 p.m.
March 13th	Essex v Kent	
March 16th	Berkshire v Middlesex, N.A.A.F.I. Canteen, R.A.F. Station, White Waltham, near Maidenhead	7.15 p.m.
March 17th	Surrey v Hertfordshire, Higgs and Hill Canteen, Crown Works, South Lambeth Road, S.W.8	7.15 p.m.
March 19th	Essex v Berkshire	
March 26th	Sussex v Berkshire, St. Mary's Hall, Glamis Street, Bognor Regis	7.00 p.m.
March 26th	Devon v Kent, Torquay	

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

March 12th	Warwickshire v Staffordshire, Co-op. Hall, Rugby	7.15 p.m.
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SOUTHERN DIVISION

March 12th	Oxfordshire v Hertfordshire, SS. Philip & James Church Hall, Leckford Road, Oxford	7.30 p.m.
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EASTERN DIVISION

March 26th	Bedfordshire v Suffolk	
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MIDLAND DIVISION

March 12th	Derbyshire v Leicestershire	
March 19th	Northamptonshire v Staffordshire	

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

March 12th	Dorset v Devon, Easton Wesleyan Methodist Hall, Easton, Portland	7.00 p.m.
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JUNIOR DIVISION

March 12th	Suffolk v Sussex, Lads' Club, Arcade Street, Ipswich	7.15 p.m.
March 19th	Hertfordshire v Essex, Dunlop Canteen, Lea Road, Waltham Abbey	6.00 p.m.
March 21st	Middlesex v Hertfordshire, Village Hall, Potters Bar	7.15 p.m.
March 26th	Surrey v Hertfordshire, Jones Memorial Hall, The Causeway, Wandsworth, S.W.18	3.00 p.m.

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES

(as at 1st March)

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	28	12	8
Yorkshire	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Essex	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Surrey	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Lancashire	6	1	2	3	25	35	4
Gloucestershire	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Glamorgan	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Cheshire	5	0	0	5	11	39	0

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Middlesex	5	4	1	0	31	19	9
Sussex	4	3	1	0	23	17	7
Hertfordshire	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Essex	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Devon	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Kent	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Berkshire	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Staffordshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Yorkshire	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Warwickshire	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Northumberland	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Lincolnshire	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Durham	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hampshire	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Hertfordshire	5	2	2	1	24	26	6
Buckinghamshire	5	0	3	2	22	28	3
Oxfordshire	5	1	1	3	18	32	3

EASTERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedfordshire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Suffolk	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Cambridgeshire	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	13	27	0

MIDLAND DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcestershire	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Warwickshire	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Derbyshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Leicestershire	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Staffordshire	3	0	2	1	13	17	2
Northamptonshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devon	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Somerset	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Dorset	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Cornwall	5	0	0	5	12	38	0

JUNIOR DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Middlesex	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Suffolk	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Essex	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Kent	6	2	1	3	28	32	5
Surrey	6	1	0	5	21	39	2
Bedfordshire	5	0	1	4	13	37	1
Hertfordshire	3	0	1	2	6	24	1

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>
March 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.
16	England v Australia Waltham Abbey, Essex.		Mr. A. W. Dale, 9, Paternoster Close, Waltham Abbey, Essex.
18	Civil Service Championships, Gunningham Room, G.P.O., London.		
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 Havilland Works Canteen, Lostock, Bolton.		Mr. A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Lancs.
19	"Eagle" and "Girl" Finals Friends House Hall, London, N.W.1.		
20	Hampshire "Closed," Grosvenor Club, Southsea.		
21-26	Portsmouth "Closed," Grosvenor Club, Southsea.		
26	Ogmore "Open," Memorial Hall, Nantymoel, Glamorgan.	J.S.	Mr. W. Leighton Williams, 80, St. John Street, Ogmore Vale, Glamorgan.
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.
16	Bristol "Closed," Will's Gymnasium, Bedminster.		
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.		

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THE NATIONAL CUPS

THE National team championships have changed hands. Birmingham are new holders of the Rose Bowl while Staines have marked up their first success in the Wilmott Cup.

South London, last year's double winners, lost the Wilmott Cup in the quarter-finals when they were beaten by Gloucester, while Birmingham beat them in the semi-final of the Rose Bowl.

The thirteenth final proved lucky for Staines in the Wilmott Cup for they gained a convincing 5-2 win over Huddersfield, after having disposed of Ilford 5-1 in the semi-final at Sperry's Sports Club, Brentford, on February 26. Their triumphant trio were Michael Thornhill, Bernard Crouch and Jimmy Lowe.

Huddersfield, who were represented by Ray Hinchliff, Geoff Wadsworth and Stuart Dyson, had disposed of Gloucester in the semi-final, found themselves outplayed in the final, where Thornhill and Lowe were unbeaten for Staines.

The Rose Bowl final was played the same day at Newmarks Canteen, Croydon. Birmingham, with Ann Haydon, Pam Mortimer and Jean Mackay, had to fight hard to overcome South London in the semi-final, but swamped Manchester 8-1 in the final. Manchester had earlier beaten Staines 5-1.

ROSE BOWL

Quarter-finals: Bristol 1, S. London 8. Leeds 4, Manchester 5. Birmingham 5, Brighton 4. Staines 6, Ilford 3.

Semi-finals: Birmingham 5, South London 4. Manchester 5, Staines 1.

Final: BIRMINGHAM 8, MANCHESTER 1 (Details—Birmingham players first): Miss A. Haydon beat Miss A. Wood

21—9, 21—11; beat Mrs. D. Wilkinson 21—16, 21—14. Miss J. Mackay lost to Miss Wood 13—21, 21—23; beat Mrs. J. Braddock 21—12, 21—9. Miss P. Mortimer beat Mrs. Wilkinson 25—23, 21—17; beat Mrs. Braddock 21—13, 21—10. Miss Haydon/Miss Mortimer beat Mrs. Wilkinson/Mrs. Braddock 21—8, 21—12. Miss Haydon/Miss Mackay beat Miss Wood/Mrs. Wilkinson 21—6, 19—21, 21—16. Miss Mackay/Miss Mortimer beat Miss Wood/Mrs. Braddock 22—20, 21—18.

WILMOTT CUP

Quarter-finals: Brighton 2, Ilford 5. Huddersfield 5, Manchester 4. Birmingham 1, Staines 6. S. London 4, Gloucester 5.

Semi-finals: Staines 5, Ilford 1. Huddersfield 5, Gloucester 2.

Final: STAINES 5, HUDDERSFIELD 2 (Details—Staines players first). M. Thornhill beat S. Dyson 21—16, 18—21, 21—10; beat G. Wadsworth 21—14, 21—17. J. Lowe beat R. Hinchliff 15—21, 21—11, 21—17; beat Wadsworth 21—16, 21—10. B. Crouch beat Wadsworth 21—9, 21—19; lost to Hinchliff 12—21, 17—21; lost to Dyson 21—14, 17—21, 18—21.

MIDDLESEX (HERGA) "OPEN"

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Final M. THORNHILL bt A. Rhodes 21—14, 11—21, 21—19.

Women's Singles: Final: Miss M. FRANKS bt Miss D. Ellis 21—9, 21—9.

Men's Doubles: Final: K. CRAIGIE and RHODES bt. D. Burridge and Thornhill 21—15, 21—10.

Women's Doubles: Final: Miss ELLIS and Miss M. FRY bt Miss P. Ingram and Miss M. Stafford 21—17, 21—11.

Mixed Doubles: Final: L. ADAMS and Miss FRY bt Rhodes and Miss D. Spooner 22—20, 16—21, 21—17.

Boys' Singles: Final: L. LANDRY bt A. Lindsay 21—15, 21—13.

SPONGE

Since the World Championships many players have found success with sponge.

Dolinar, Champion of four countries; **Andreadis & Tereba**, the Czechs;

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SURREY "OPEN"

HARRY VENNER collected his fourth singles title out of the seven tournaments in which he has entered this season, when he won the Surrey "Open" at Epsom Baths, on February 25. This one gave him more satisfaction than the others put together for it provided an effective answer to the selectors for dropping him from the Swaythling Cup team.

It was one of the newcomers, Alan Rhodes, of Middlesex, that he beat in the final, 10-21, 21-12, 21-18.

Seldom has the Surrey man played with more determination, yet he may well have thrown the match away through being over anxious in the first game when after leading 8-5 he collected only two more points as Rhodes took the game at 21-10, with a spell of hurricane hitting.

Venner, steadying himself from this stage, got the next game at 12, then in a tensely fought final game got home at 21-18.

The women's singles final provided plenty of thrills before Diane Rowe beat Jill Rook, 21-12, 20-22, 24-22. Miss Rowe led 20-17 in the final game, only to be caught and passed by Miss Rook, who in turn let two match points slip from her grasp.

Upset of the earlier rounds was the defeat of Jean Winn, new Corbillon Cup player by Peggy Franks, who later went down to Miss Rook.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: H. VENNER beat A. R. Miller 15-21, 21-11, 21-15. A. RHODES beat I. Jones 21-15, 15-21, 21-18.

Final: VENNER beat Rhodes 10-21, 21-12, 21-18.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: MISS D. ROWE beat Miss J. Fielder 21-16, 21-13. MISS J. ROOK beat Miss M. Franks 21-18, 21-16.

Final: MISS ROWE beat Miss Rook 21-12, 20-22, 24-22.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: RHODES and K. CRAIGIE beat I. Jones and R. Stevens 21-14, 21-17. VENNER and D. MILLER beat R. Crayden and D. Burridge 15-21, 21-13, 21-15.

Final: RHODES and CRAIGIE beat Venner and Miller 21-18, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: MISS FRANKS and MISS FIELDER beat Miss Y. Baker and Miss M. Piper 22-20, 16-21, 21-15. MISS J. WINN and MISS ROOK beat Miss M. Baker and Mrs. D. Heading 21-11, 21-14.

Final: MISS FRANKS and MISS FIELDER beat Miss Winn and Miss Rook 26-24, 21-2.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: STEVENS and MISS Y. BAKER beat R. Raybould and Miss Franks 20-22, 21-6, 21-16. M. THORNHILL and MISS PIPER beat J. Head and Miss D. Spooner 12-21, 21-18, 21-10.

Final: STEVENS and MISS BAKER beat Thornhill and Miss Piper 21-18, 17-21, 21-18.

Junior Singles: Final: L. LANDRY beat T. Densham 21-16, 21-16.

MIDDLESEX "CLOSED"

Finals, at Ultra Radio Canteen, Park Royal, W.5, 6th February, 1955.

Men's Singles: A. RHODES beat D. Burridge 21-18, 21-17.

Women's Singles: MISS B. ISAACS beat Miss M. Fry 21-18, 21-10.

Men's Doubles: L. ADAMS and D. BURRIDGE beat B. Crouch and R. Sharman 21-4, 18-21, 21-12.

Women's Doubles: MISS FRY and MISS D. ELLIS beat Miss L. Murray and Miss J. Lewsey 21-15, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles: K. CRAIGIE and MISS M. CHERRY beat J. Lowe and Miss B. Isaacs 21-19, 19-21, 21-13.

Boys' Singles: A. LINDSAY beat E. Hodson 21-11, 21-18.

Girls' Singles: MISS J. HARROWER beat Miss B. Spooner 12-21, 23-21, 21-18.

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MIDLAND "OPEN"

DEREK BURRIDGE marked up his third "Open" title of the season when he was the surprise winner of the Midland "Open" at Birmingham, on February 19. Accounting for Alan Rhodes, the new Swaythling Cup player, in the semi-final he went on to beat Aubrey Simons at 21—17, 21—16 in the final.

The Rowe twins were once again all-dominating in the women's events, Rosalind beating Diane in an exciting singles final, which went the full distance of three games. In the semi-final Rosalind beat Ann Haydon while Diane proved too strong for Helen Elliot. The twins combined to beat their singles semi-final opponents in the final of the women's doubles.

Miss Haydon had some share of revenge when she partnered Ken Craigie to win the mixed doubles, beating Diane Rowe and Johnny Leach in the final. Craigie also won the men's doubles in partnership with Rhodes.

It was not a happy meeting for Johnny Leach. He fell victim to Rhodes in the singles and partnered by Simons was beaten in the doubles by the local pair Bob Mackay and R. Moseley. Perhaps that all-night drive from Southampton, to get to the tournament on time, had something to do with the indifferent form of Leach and Simons!

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: D. C. BURRIDGE bt A. Rhodes 21—15, 14—21, 21—11. A. SIMONS bt L. Bucknell 21—11, 21—15.
Final: BURRIDGE bt Simons 21—17, 21—16.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss R. ROWE bt Miss A. Haydon 21—11, 21—15. Miss D. ROWE bt Miss H. Elliot 21—17, 21—12.
Final: Miss R. ROWE bt Miss D. Rowe 21—17, 19—21, 21—13.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: I. JONES and R. STEVENS bt R. Mackay and R. Moseley 21—17, 14—21, 21—14. K. CRAIGIE and RHODES bt A. Holland and R. Allcock 21—17, 21—16.
Final: CRAIGIE and RHODES bt Jones and Stevens 21—9, 21—14.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: Misses R. and D. ROWE bt Miss P. Mortimer and Miss Y. Baker 21—16, 21—17. Miss HAYDON and Miss ELLIOT bt Miss P. Franks and Miss J. Mackay 21—10, 21—13.
Final: Misses R. and D. ROWE bt Miss Haydon and Miss Elliot 25—23, 21—10.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: J. LEACH and Miss D. ROWE bt Jones and Miss Mortimer 14—21, 21—11, 22—20. K. CRAIGIE and Miss HAYDON bt Burridge and Miss R. Rowe 20—22, 21—14, 22—20.
Final: CRAIGIE and Miss HAYDON bt Leach and Miss D. Rowe 21—17, 13—21, 21—19.
Boys' Singles: Final: I. HARRISON bt L. Landry 26—24, 21—18.
Girls' Singles: Final: Miss D. HUGHES bt Miss P. Davies 21—7, 21—19.
Boys' Doubles: Final: LANDRY and D. BACKHOUSE bt Harrison and K. Tarling 21—11, 22—20.
Veteran Singles: Final: L. KINSEY bt F. Smith 21—16, 21—19.

GWENT "OPEN"

ANN HAYDON, now running into her best form in preparation for the English "Open" at the end of the month, carried off a triple crown in the Gwent "Open" championships on February 5, winning the women's singles, the doubles with Helen Elliot, and the mixed with Bryan Merrett.

The singles final was somewhat an anti-climax, for she overwhelmed Shirley Jones, the Welsh international, 21—7, 21—10.

Miss Jones had been expected to put up much stiffer opposition, particularly after her brilliant semi-final win over Miss Elliot, who has been one of the most successful tournament players this season. Miss Jones, with her rapid fire attack, beat the Scots girl 21—13, 21—17, but her bold play did not offer any serious trouble to left-hander Miss Haydon.

Merrett was much too steady for the tempestuous Ivor Jones in the men's singles final, winning in straight games 21—16, 21—17.

Ian Harrison celebrated his selection as a new England junior international by retaining the junior singles with a straight games win over Ebbw Vale international Don Norris.

It was pleasing to note that there were no withdrawals from the original entry, and it was a tribute to the Newport organising officials that they completed the programme of 380 matches in 13 hours, starting at 10 a.m. and finishing at 11 p.m.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: B. MERRETT bt R. Griffin 21—15, 21—17; I. JONES bt R. Haydon 23—21, 21—10.
Final: MERRETT bt Jones 21—16, 21—17.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss A. HAYDON bt Miss B. Gray; Miss S. JONES bt Miss H. Elliot 21—13, 21—17.
Final: Miss HAYDON bt Miss Jones 21—7, 21—10.
Men's Doubles: Final: P. CRUWYS and R. GRIFFIN bt A. Philpott and G. Philpott 21—14, 21—16.
Women's Doubles: Final: Miss HAYDON and Miss H. ELLIOT bt Miss Jones and Miss B. Gray 14—21, 23—21, 21—16.
Mixed Doubles: Final: MERRETT and Miss HAYDON bt Griffin and Miss Elliot 21—7, 11—21, 21—15.
Boys' Singles: Final: I. HARRISON bt D. Norris 21—15, 21—17.

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CHESHIRE "OPEN"

ARNOLD SHEPHERD, local county player won the men's singles in the Cheshire "Open" at the Drill Hall, Chester, on January 29, but honours for putting some life into the final went to the loser, Ken Stanley, of Burnley.

It was a battle of contrasting style, the dour Shepherd being content to sit back on defence, while Stanley was the attacker. Shepherd won only two points in the three games final by anything other than pure mistakes.

It seemed unfortunate under the circumstances that Stanley has to be the loser, for he made all the running and added the entertainment to the final.

Shepherd's negative play on the way to the final was something of a headache to the organisers as several of his games came near to invoking the "time limit" rule. Players of his mould are a constant reminder that if the game is to progress, a more definite answer to the problems of negative play must be evolved.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: semi-finals: K. STANLEY (Burnley) bt D. G. Ellison (Bolton) 15-21, 21-19, 21-18. A. L. SHEPHERD (Manchester) bt. J. Robbins (Wolverhampton) 21-12, 21-13.

Final: SHEPHERD bt Stanley 15-21, 21-19, 21-18.

Women's Singles: semi-finals: Miss A. WOOD (Manchester) bt Miss G. Edwards (Chester) 21-13, 21-15. Miss S. THRELFALL (Bolton) bt Mrs. J. Braddock (Manchester) 22-20, 21-9.

Final: Miss WOOD bt Miss Threlfall 21-16, 21-11.

Men's Doubles: Final: STANLEY and W. DEVINE bt Ellison and C. Booth 21-19, 17-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: Final: Mrs. BRADDOCK and Miss F. WRIGHT bt Miss Wood and Mrs. D. Wilkinson 20-22, 21-16, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles: Final: R. ALLCOCK and Miss WOOD bt R. Hinchliffe and Miss Wright 22-20, 23-21.

Boys' Singles: Final: D. HOLDEN bt K. Goodwin 22-20, 21-12.

Girls' Singles: Final: Miss WRIGHT bt Miss I. Haney 21-13, 21-10.

Veteran Singles: Final: N. SUMNER bt C. H. Renshaw 21-11, 20-22, 21-19.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: J. D. CORNWELL bt J. A. Thurston 21-12, 21-15.

Women's Singles: Mrs. M. A. CORNWELL bt Mrs. A. Pauley 21-12, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: CORNWELL/THURSTON bt J. Coteman/R. Nunn 21-15, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. J. LARTER/Mrs. A. PAULEY bt Mrs. Cornwall/Mrs. P. Sleight 21-17, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: J. D. and Mrs. CORNWELL bt R. Nunn/Miss J. Taylor 21-14, 21-7.

MIDLAND "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: R. GRIFFIN (Cheltenham) bt M. Kriss (Birmingham) 21-15, 19-21, 21-10.

Women's Singles: A. HAYDON (Birmingham) bt J. Mackay (Birmingham) 21-17, 18-21, 21-9.

Men's Doubles: R. MACKAY and R. MOSELEY (Birmingham) bt Hawkins and Goode (Worcs.) 21-14, 16-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: J. MORTIMER and A. HAYDON (Birmingham) bt S. Hayward and M. Warner (Wolverhampton) 29-27, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles: R. and J. MACKAY (Birmingham) bt A. Hatfield and A. Haydon (Birmingham) 22-20, 21-14.

Boys' Singles: I. HARRISON (Cheltenham) bt. K. Tarling (Cheltenham) 21-18, 21-16.

Girls' Singles: D. WORRALL (West Brom.) bt B. Wall (West Brom.) 21-14, 21-19.

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