DECEMBER, 1955 SIXPENCE

TABLE TENNIS

BELLE WIREKOON, of Ceylon, and HELEN ELLIOT examine ANN HAYDON'S sponge bat during the Sussex open

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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TOO LATE FOR JUNIORS

TABLE tennis is growing and we want it to become an even healthier baby, but here I must issue a word of warning.

Unless something is done about these late night finishes to matches involving juniors the game is in danger of losing youngsters.

The matter has been brought to a head by the recent Kent junior open. This went on so late—some finals were played after midnight—that the competitors were arriving home anything up to 4 a.m.

No self respecting parents are going to tolerate their children, some of whom are still at school, staying out until all hours of the night.

A breakdown of organisation was responsible for this fiasco, not merely the question of a huge entry which meant something like 480 matches. Efficient organisation could have got this through much earlier, but on at least three occasions eight tables were lying empty at the same time.

This could surely have been avoided by having table managers to keep things moving.

It will be argued by the Kent officials that some players were involved in too many events, thus holding up following matches. Be that as it may there is no excuse for matches being held up because a contestant was engaged as an umpire!

Kent have seen the red light and a move is already afoot to have the tournament spread over two days next year and limit the number of events in which a player may take part.

Kent are taking the knock now. But they are not alone in keeping the youngsters up. What about the county junior matches? Plenty of these do not end until very late and the players have to get home afterwards.

Essex are quite perturbed about the matter and are trying to arrange for all matches in which they are involved to start not later than 6 p.m.

I feel that it is up to the National Executive Committee to take up this matter seriously in all its aspects.

A Merry Christmas

to Table Tennis folk everywhere and good rallies for 1956

This issue marks the end of an era for *"Table Tennis"* for increasing costs have now caught up with us and the price goes up to ninepence from the January issue. However, there will be at least eight more pages for the extra threepence.

But you can still get a subscription at the old rate of five shillings for eight issues, providing you make the application before December 31.

Why not take out a subscription as a Christmas present to your friends?

★

Air Bus to Tokio

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Looking for ways and means to get players to the World Championships quickly and cheaply next April, plans are afoot for an International Excursion by charter plane which can pick up Continental teams en route.

It follows a similar scheme to that undertaken by the Indians for the Bombay championships. They are, I understand, prime movers in this new venture and the International Federation will be acting as a co-ordinating body.

The suggestion is for a 50-seater plane and England's party at the moment is expected to be nine.

The expenses of such a project are estimated at somewhere between £15,000 and £20,000. The E.T.T.A. are budgeting for our costs being around £3,000 and throughout the length and breadth of the country clubs are now running special competitions to help raise the money.

This latest scheme is typical of the initiative which has enabled table tennis to grow from a parlour pastime to an international sport played by millions in the short space of under 30 years.

HARRISON-EDWARDS

Official News :

Rumanian Tour. For the first time, apart from appearances in the World Championships, a Rumanian team is visiting our country. They play representative matches at High Wycombe (10th December), Tottenham (12th December) and Norwich (13th December). The Tottenham encounter is a full International, with the High Wycombe match being played versus the South of England and the match at Norwich versus The Rest of England. Our visitors will be:—

Angelica Rozeanu, Ella Zeller, T. Harastozi, M. Gantner, P. Pesch, M. Popescu.

All leagues have been supplied with information regarding these matches.

Official Handbook. The official Handbook for season 1955/56 is now being despatched. We are most grateful to our printers for their whole hearted co-operation in the publication of this Handbook.

English Open Championships. As all our members no doubt realise, the English Open is to be played this year at Belle Vue, Manchester, from the 28th February to 2nd March, 1956. Entry forms will be sent out shortly. It is early days to know who is likely to take part but invitations have been sent to the Czechs and Hungarians for their players to visit England for this event, in addition to the French, Austrian and Jugoslav players normally taking part in the Championships.

Official Badges. There are still a number of official badges left for sale. They are of an attractive design, affixed to a pin and can be worn equally well by our male as well as female members. Price 2/3d. each or 24/- per dozen from the E.T.T.A. Office, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Books. In addition to our already comprehensive list of table tennis books have been added the recently published books of the Rowe Twins, "The Twins on Table Tennis," price 8/6d. each, and "Table Tennis My Way," by Johnny Leach, price 2/6d. each. All enquiries should be made to the E.T.T.A. Office, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Team Selections. Team selections for November/December were made as follows:—

v. Belgium (Junior Boys), Chatham, 12th November, 1955—E. Hodson (Middx), L. Landry (Middx), P. Tindale (Northumberland). Non-playing Capt., T. E. Sears (Herts).

v. Ireland, Belfast, 1st December, 1955—J. Lowe (Middx), A. W. C. Simons (Glos), H. T. Venner (Surrey), Mrs. R. Cornett (Middx), Miss D. Rowe (Middx). Non-playing Capt., A. K. Vint (Sussex).

v. Scotland, Glasgow, 2nd December, 1955—D. C. Burridge (Middx), R. Hinchliff (Yorks), B. Merrett (Glos), Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey), Miss P. Mortimer (Warwicks). Non-playing Capt., K. Stanley (Lancs).

v. Rumania, Tottenham, 12th December, 1955 — B. Kennedy (Yorks.), J. Leach (Essex), B. Merrett (Glos.), H. Venner (Surrey), Mrs. R. Cornett (Middx.), Miss A. Haydon (Warw.), Miss D. Rowe (Middx.). Non-playing Capt., A. A. Haydon (Warw.).

South of England v. Rumania, High Wycombe, 10th December, 1955—B. Brumwell (Essex), L. Landry (Middx.), J. Lowe (Middx.), A. Rhodes (Middx.), Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey), Miss B. Milbank (Essex), Non-playing Capt., T. Sears (Herts.).

Rest of England v. Rumania, Norwich, 13th December, 1955— D. Burridge (Middx.), B. Kennedy (Yorks.), B. Merrett (Glos.), A. W. C. Simons (Glos.), Miss A. Haydon (Warw.), Miss D. Rowe (Middx.). Non-playing Capt., J. Carrington (Essex).

Scandinavian Championships. Ann Haydon and Johnny Leach were invited to take part in the Scandinavian Championships in Stockholm from the 4th/7th December, 1955.

World Championships Guarantee Fund. A letter has been received enquiring as to the sum transferred from the 21st World Championships "Guarantee Fund" to the "Travelling Expenses" Fund for the 23rd World Championships in Tokio. Thanks to the generosity of the Clubs and members concerned the sum of £460 is credited to the new Fund.

English Table Tennis Association

Patron : Her Majesty The Queen.

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

Chairman : Hon. Ivor Montagu.

Honorary Secretary/Treasurer : A. K. Vint.

Hon. Assist. Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

Administrative Secretary : Mrs. Kathleen Pegg.

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

WORLD RANKING 1955-6

The English ranking of Johnny Leach above Richard Bergmann, which has caused plenty of controversy, has been confirmed by the world's ranking list issued by the I.T.T.F. Leach moves up from 13th place last season to seventh, while Bergmann drops back from fourth to ninth.

Sixteen players have been listed, with world champion T. Tanaka (Japan), who appears for the first time, rightfully occupying the premier position, followed by Z. Dolinar (Yugoslavia) holder of the English "Open."

Angelica Rozeanu (Rumania) continues her reign at the top of the women's list, where it is encouraging to find England's three representatives have all moved up, Rosalind Cornett (Rowe) to third from sixth, her twin sister Diana Rowe to sixth from tenth, and Ann Haydon to tenth from twelfth.

MEN

1. **T. Tanaka (Japan) (-)**
2. **Z. Dolinar (Yugoslavia) (7)**
3. **I. Andreadis (Czecho.) (2)**
4. **F. Sido (Hungary) (5)**
5. **I. Ogimura (Japan) (1)**
6. **J. Koczian (Hungary) (-)**
7. **J. LEACH (England) (13)**
8. **L. Stipek (Czecho.) (14)**
9. **R. BERGMANN (England) (4)**
10. **S. Cafiero (France) (-)**
11. **Y. Tomita (Japan) (6)**
12. **V. Tereba (Czecho.) (11)**
13. **T. Flisberg (Sweden) (3)**
14. **T. Reiter (Rumania) (15)**
15. **J. Vogrinc (Yugoslavia) (-)**
16. **K. Freundorfer (Germany) (-)**

WOMEN

1. **A. Rozeanu (Rumania) (1)**
2. **L. Rumpler (Wertl) (Austria) (3)**
3. **R. CORNETT (Rowe) (Eng.) (6)**
4. **K. Wantanabe (Japan) (7)**
5. **E. Koczian (Hungary) (8)**
6. **D. ROWE (England) (10)**
7. **F. Eguchi (Japan) (2)**
8. **G. Gervai (Farkas) (Hun.) (4)**
9. **E. Zeller (Rumania) (-)**
10. **A. HAYDON (England) (12)**
11. **Y. Tanaka (Japan) (5)**
12. **C. Watel (France) (11)**
13. **I. Kerekes (Solyom) (Hun) (-)**
14. **T. Pritzi (Austria) (9)**
15. **G. Simon (Almasi) (Hun.) (-)**

Figures in brackets denotes last season's position.

TABLE TENNIS

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WORLD CHAMPION 1960?

By CONRAD JASCHKE

WHEN we encounter a junior in whom we can see a future world champion, it is always advisable to go easy on our predictions, for many brilliant juniors fail to fulfil their promise in later years. Bearing this warning in mind, I cannot help but say that in Germany's Heide Dauphin I have seen a player who will win the women's world title.

Heide, at 13, was the youngest member of the German party that came over for the recent Kent Junior Open, and amazed everyone by carrying off both the under 15's and under 17's girl's singles.

Not particularly grown up for her age, Heide has mastered every stroke in the book, chops harder on forehand and backhand than any other player under 20 I could name, and has an attack which varies from steady top spin to a hard hit, as the occasion demands. She seems to have no nerves, and takes victory or crisis in her stride. In fact, she seems to be born with the attributes which great players acquire over the years.

If Heide does not win a world title before 1960 it will be surprising; if she becomes the youngest ever holder of the world singles title, it would not come unexpected.

I had an interesting talk with Herr Morhard, the German team manager and he, too, is convinced that Heide is a future world champion. He was most happy about the prospects of the German senior team in the next few years—a team of under twenties. Konny Freundorfer, their No. 1 is 18, Erich Arndt, who has just moved up to No. 2 is not quite 18, and Dieter Kohler, who won the under 17's singles at the Kent meeting, is already bidding strongly for the No. 3 berth.

JUNIORS FIRST

Why this rapid rise of the German junior game? "We put the juniors first," was Herr Morhard's terse reply.

These German youngsters have unlimited confidence in their captain and the way he handled the rather nervous Kohler and coaxed him to a 22—20-in-the-third win over Eddie Hodson was an eye opener.

The Germans started their tour with a 7—2 win over Essex and finished with a 6—1 victory over Kent. Dieter Kohler and Heide Dauphin were undefeated in all their singles games on the tour.

JUNIORS WIN

THE first junior international match of the season saw a convincing 9—0 win for England's boys over Belgium, at Chatham, on November 12th. Belgium's M. Cornil, A. Cussac and A. Valentin were no match for Laurie Landry (Mddx.), Eddie Hodson (Mddx.), and Pat Tindale (Northumberland). England captain Tommy Sears was very pleased with his team, and considered the Belgians nervous start set the tempo of the match. It was gratifying to see our boys tackle their task so coolly.

In the afternoon, a Belgian under-15 team met a side selected by Kent secretary F. G. Mannooch, and in a ding-dong battle the Belgians won 5—4. Of their team, R. van den Eede, A. Mathonet and P. Juliens, the last named played best. On Mr. Mannooch's side, C. Gosling (New Barnet) and D. Grant (Ventnor), both showed much promise, winning two games each.

RESULTS (England names first): Hodson bt Cornil 21—7, 21—12; bt Valentin 21—8, 21—18; bt. Cussac 21—12, 21—9. Landry bt Cussac 21—14, 21—14; bt Valentin 21—16, 21—11; bt Cornil 21—17, 21—9. Tindale bt Valentin 22—20, 12—21, 21—17; bt Cussac 21—12, 21—14; bt Cornil 21—8, 13—21, 21—10.

UNDER 15's MATCH (Mr. F. G. Mannooch's side first): Grant bt v. d. Eede 21—16, 21—15; lost Juliens 13—21, 21—16, 16—21; bt Mathonet 21—14, 21—13. Gosling bt Mathonet 21—14, 21—11; lost v. d. Eede 16—21, 21—19, 16—21; bt Juliens 21—15, 15—21, 21—16. Racey lost Juliens 16—21, 19—21; lost Mathonet 8—21, 16—21; lost v. d. Eede 18—21, 17—21.

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TABLE TENNIS BELLE

ALTHOUGH England has a tough time these days in world competition, she is still regarded as second to none by many overseas table tennis players when they find they need expert tuition in the game's finer points.

Take, for example, the case of 27-year-old **Belle Wirekoon,** a tall, slender girl who gave up a good post in her home town of Colombo and travelled just on 7,000 miles for the express purpose of improving her game under the expert guidance of Jack Carrington, honorary director of coaching to the E.T.T.A.

Ever since this quietly-spoken, well mannered girl won the first of four successive Cingalese championship titles in 1951, she nursed a secret ambition to learn all she could about the English style of play. Each week she would put something away towards the costly trip, and after saving for four years, arrived quietly in London at the beginning of September.

Belle has been here less than four months, yet already she reveals great possibilities, has a keen eye for the ball and an insatiable thirst for practice. "But I have still so much to learn," she answers with a wistful smile and flash of white teeth, when asked how things are going.

With the help of Essex international Barbara Milbank, Miss Wirekoon has found a job with an advertising agency in London and comfortable lodgings in Ilford.

She has already tried the game competitively, competing in the East of England, Sussex and Eastern Suburban open tournaments. Each time she gave a good account of herself, in two events losing only after a hard fight, to Welsh international Shirley Jones and her newly-made friend, Barbara Milbank.

Last year, both Brian Kennedy (Yorkshire and England) and five times world champion Victor Barna each spent four months in India, coaching, at the invitation of the Indian Government, the top players of that country and Ceylon. Miss Wirekoon was unlucky enough to miss both visits, but still displayed sufficient skill to be ranked eighth woman player in India, at the time of her departure for this country.

Belle's ambition? To really do well against our top players during her anticipated three years' stay over here, and then be able to return to her homeland, armed with the knowledge which might well enable her to earn title of "No. 1 woman player in India."

Good luck, Belle. May you enjoy success on this really ambitious and, I hope, worthwhile trip.

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EUROPEAN TOUR

ENGLAND'S quartet of Johnny Leach, Brian Kennedy, Rosalind Cornett and Diane Rowe had their first taste of international competition this season with a strenuous mid-European tour which took in two national championships and six matches including two full internationals.

Rosalind and Diane showed championship form by winning all 13 of their matches and these included the finals of the Austrian and Yugoslavian championships, where world champions Angelica Rozeanu and Ella Zeller were their victims in both finals.

Rosalind further took the mixed doubles titles at both in partnership with L. Stipek of Czechoslovakia with twin sister Diane and Leach as losing finalists.

England did not fare too well in the international with Hungary, the Rowe twins in the women's doubles and Diane and Leach in the mixed, being our only winners in the eight rubbers. Fortunes were, however, better against Czechoslovakia where the ten rubbers were shared.

One of the best performances here was the defeat of Andreadis by Leach, who throughout the tour appeared to have more power in his attack and more accuracy.

England won all other matches on the tour, defeating Bratislava 8—2, Czech Trade Union 7—3, Usti District 9—1, and Czechoslovakia "B" 8—2.

Records of the players were Leach won 11, lost 8; Kennedy won 13, lost 7; Leach/Kennedy won 6, lost 5; Mrs. Cornett won 15, lost 4; Miss Rowe won 13, lost 4; Mrs. Cornett/Miss Rowe won 13, lost nil; Leach/Miss Rowe won 8, lost 2. In addition Mrs. Cornett, partnering Stipek, won all their nine matches.

Middlesex Beat The Rest and Sponge

Middlesex have done it at last. For the first time in eight meetings as champion county they beat the Rest by 6—4 in the annual challenge match at Lime Grove Baths, Shepherd's Bush, on November 30 (writes Harrison Edwards).

No one can begrudge them their victory. It was thoroughly deserved, yet curiously enough it has come at a time when they are in danger of losing the Premier Division title, having been beaten 8—2 by Yorkshire.

And here is a cheering thought for those critics of sponge. It was this surface that let the Rest down.

Brian Kennedy had his unbeaten home record this season broken by both Michael Thornhill and Len Adams, while the only other "sponger" in the match, Ann Haydon, was decisively beaten by Rosalind Cornett in straight sets.

Both Kennedy and Miss Haydon were below form, and the fact was emphasised by the use of sponge as their timing went to pieces.

Thornhill started Middlesex on the road to success with his 21—10, 12—21, 21—15 win over Kennedy, and they sped to a four-love lead. Johnny Leach checked the slide with a straight games win over Derek Burridge.

Then came two severe blows to Middlesex hopes. A nervous Diane Rowe—she has a poor record in this series—was surprisingly beaten by Jean Head, and Adams and Burridge, after holding an 18—13 lead in the second game and two match points at 20—18, lost to Leach and Kennedy by 21—17, 20—22, 20—22.

A very determined Adams, who had already beat Bryan Merrett, then saved the day with his 21—17, 12—21, 21—18 win over Kennedy, and Burridge clinched the issue by defeating Merrett at 16 and 12.

The Middlesex win has provided quite an upset for English ranking for Kennedy and Merrett, and Nos. 3 and 4 respectively each lost both their matches, whereas Adams and Thornhill do not figure on the list, while Burridge is at No. 6.

Results (Middlesex names first): L. G. Adams bt B. Merrett (Glos.) 21—19, 21—9; bt B. Kennedy (Yorks.) 21—17, 12—21, 21—18. M. Thornhill bt Kennedy 21—10, 12—21, 21—15; lost J. A. Leach (Essex) 16—21, 19—21. D. C. Burridge lost Leach 13—21, 12—21; bt Merrett 21—16, 21—12.

Miss D. Rowe lost Mrs. J. Head (Surrey) 21—10, 19—21, 18—21. Mrs. R. Cornett bt Miss A. Haydon (Warwick) 21—12, 21—17. Miss Rowe and Mrs. Cornett bt Miss Haydon and Mrs. Head 19—21, 21—17, 21—12.

Adams and Burridge lost Leach and Kennedy 21—17, 20—22, 20—22.

BERGMANN MUST GO TO TOKIO

Says

SAM LEITCH of the "Daily Express"

I HAD a greetings card the other day from Richard Bergmann. It was from Mexico City. As I read it I wondered if Richard really appreciates the situation that is developing at home in relation to next year's world championships as a result of his lucrative jaunts in the Americas.

Already there are backstage suggestions favouring an England side in Japan without Bergmann.

Arguments supporting this: he has put cash before country; he won't be fit for Tokio because of lack of match play; he is too old now.

Let me make it quite clear that, as an admiring Bergmann fan, I think any attempt to play without him next April would be sporting suicide for English table tennis.

CASHING IN

Have the critics really a case? Consider first their view that Britain's most controversial player has succumbed to £-s.-d.

Now Bergmann is around the middle thirties. Table tennis is his life and his livelihood. He lives by the bat. He is a professional in every correct sense of the term as applied so wisely to table tennis.

The choice before him after last season was either to go back to America where he had been touring with the famous Harlem Globetrotters or to remain in or near this country and "do" the British tournaments with a view to becoming fighting fit, etc., and etc., for Tokio.

Bergmann chose America. Because, as a player, he has not too many seasons ahead of him which will allow him to earn good money.

If he had stayed in England he would probably have beaten most people. Nothing inspiring or lucrative in that for him. And there was the occasional defeat to be risked.

You know the tremendous upsurge of victory by some enthusiastic youngster who has everything to gain by beating the Bergmanns and nothing to lose.

There was that risk. In these circumstances we always tend to boost and praise the young victor. Rarely do we think of the vanquished . . . and an experienced character like Bergmann probably didn't relish the picture of the hero going downhill with a rose in his teeth.

So he decided on America. While he has been treated well by table tennis he has not extracted the cash from the game as others have. Good luck to him.

If he's not in England drop him for Tokio. It's as simple as that to some folk. Bergmann out . . . youth in.

But it's not so simple. No one is a more ardent supporter of youth in sport than me. Youth is vital. But, in the case we are discussing, there is not, in my opinion, a young table tennis player in this country who would achieve more for England in Tokio than Richard Bergmann.

BOX OFFICE

Consider, too, the feelings of the Japanese. They are host nation for the first time in the history of the world championships. To them Richard is a fine character, a great and established international . . . but he is essentially big box-office.

Often I get the impression that Bergmann's talents are least appreciated in England. Foreigners never cease to applaud Richard. To them he is the complete, natural instinctive player, a fighter, a poised professional.

And, of course, they are so right. Richard has shown his cold genius as a "boss" player so often. Few have his patience to wait in a game; few have his sureness in striking.

Whatever it is that Bergmann has —call it flair, class or style—there is not so much of it around today in table tennis, or for that matter in sport.

And the Japs want him. The last time the championships were held outside Europe was in Bombay in 1952. I was the only British press man to accompany the English teams. And how the Indians loved Bergmann.

In the lavish programme produced for the championships here is what was written about Richard:—

"Holder of the world men's singles title in 1937, 1939, 1948 *and* 1950—*is the acknowledged master of defence. His footwork is an education; his retrieving propensities astounding, and his judgment exemplary.*

"His accurate half-volley drive is most intriguing to the onlooker and disconcerting to his opponents; this, linked with an accurate occasional forehand and a stoical determination have carried him through the years in the very highest company."

So true.

To return to our critics. They say he will be lacking in match practice. Why should he be? Bergmann is no fool. He obviously wants the opportunity to win a fifth world singles title. So he wants a place in the Tokio plane. So he keeps fit. So he finds opponents wherever he may be and gets the competitive zest so necessary in modern table tennis.

How much fitter and sharper and keener might he be for playing in Skegness, Manchester, London or Birmingham?

Next criticism. He is too old now.

The question is posed because the critics have in mind, quite properly, the sleek and swift teen-age panthers from Japan.

Surely Bergmann's record in world championships is a good enough answer. He has never disgraced an England shirt. While sponge has proved him suspect, Japanese players have not. It is up to Bergmann—as it is up to Johnny Leach and the Rowe twins—to use their undoubted skills to master the intricacies and uncertainties of sponge by next April.

APPRECIATION

Bergmann received an illuminated address prior to the Utrecht world championships from the English Table Tennis Association in which the controlling body recorded its appreciation of Richard's sterling team work in past world championships.

Don't worry about age, Bergmann, like Matthews in soccer and Hutton in cricket, can reveal unexpected sources of brilliance. For all have that something which raises artistry to greatness in sport.

Bergmann loves the fight. He has played a lot in a losing cause and it has suited his temperament.

This article is meant to be a complete defence of a brilliant player who all through his career has been sustained by an important basic attitude—*he loves table tennis.*

So make him a MUST for Tokio.

AUBREY SIMONS introduces

The Bat

WHEN starting to advise a young player of today how to best go about developing his game in the very early stages it is essential not to overlook the all important part of his equipment—*his bat.*

I would suggest our young player visits any large sports store and goes completely through their stock until he finds one which fits easily into his hands, is well balanced and is not too heavy. *And be sure to choose one faced with medium rubber.*

The bat should fit easily into the hand for the orthodox flat hand grip.

To find this take hold of the bat as though shaking hands with it, letting the forefinger rest on the lower part of the actual playing surface with the thumb slightly curled around the top end of the handle. This grip gives perfect control.

I can fully appreciate the modern youngster asking, why a rubber faced bat and the orthodox grip when the Japanese have won the world title for the last two years using sponge and the pen-holder grip.

They are not easy questions to answer briefly, but in spite of the Japanese successes I would insist that the youngster in this country must accept the flat hand orthodox grip as the best for him. As he progresses in the game he will appreciate my reasons.

One cannot be so dogmatic about the use of the pimpled table tennis sheeting as opposed to sponge. Sponge covered bats are not new. They have been used for many, many years.

Many players have gone over to them, a few very successfully, but the greater majority have gone back to ordinary sheeting, chiefly, I think, because they have found the bat so difficult to control using sponge rubber.

This is certainly not the time to argue the merits for or against sponge rubber but, as a young player, learns the game thoroughly with a rubber faced bat. Then if you feel at some later stage you would like to try sponge, the decision must be entirely your own.

Before starting out then on the road to learning the very enjoyable game of table tennis let us summarise the important points to date.

1. *Although an indoor sport, table tennis is common with all the great outdoor sports, requires complete physical fitness. Just half-an-hour's skipping a day is not asking too much of any youngster.*

2. *Dress: An outfit of shorts or slacks, neat coloured shirt (not white), white socks, and white shoes, is certainly not more expensive, and in most cases, much cheaper than the majority of other sports.*

3. *A bat of your own choice; varying in price from 4/6d. to not more than 10/- or 11/-.*

JACK CARRINGTON PHOTO TIP

Several good points of modern technique can be seen in this shot of JOHN HUNT (ex-England junior and now Herts County man) as he shapes for a "deep forehand drive from backhand corner".

Feet well apart, shoulder sideways, the torso rather crouched ready to spring into the hit. Note the trailing bat as used by almost all power hitters, and the free hand unconsciously "measuring" the focus of the punch.

CLUB COMPETITION CORNER

Over 200 competitions have already been promised in connection with the 23rd World Championships "Travelling Expenses Fund." Although we appreciate this is only about 2½ per cent. of our total club strength it is encouraging to get such an early response. After all the leaflets were sent out barely a month ago, and there are still five months ahead in which other clubs can show their support.

To Clubs who have not yet returned the BLUE Card; please do so without delay. You can then play your own Club Competition in 1955 and arrange many others in 1956!

If you have mislaid the leaflet and/or Card (it may have even gone astray in the post and therefore you have not read the details) write to the E.T.T.A., 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2., and the relevant details will be sent to you by return of post.

The Club we must single out for recognition as a "very fine example" of enthusiasm is the Lapwing, of Bognor Regis. They have arranged to stage 13 of the 15 different types of competition suggested on the Blue Card.

Another very fine gesture from one of our Clubs was in the shape of a letter received from Miss Johnston, of Shoreham, who stated that her Club was too small to run a Club Competition but she enclosed a donation to the "Travelling Expenses" Fund. To Miss Johnston and her Club may we say—Many thanks for your contribution—for much finance is still needed to assure our players going to Tokio next April.

To give our members an idea of where our response is coming from most in the country, we have prepared a table "Countywise" for the first 216 Competitions promised. The table reads as follows:—

25 : Essex, Yorkshire. 22 : Sussex. 19 : Middlesex. 18 : Lancashire. 9 : Kent. 8 : Warwickshire. 6 : Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Surrey. 5 : Hampshire, Norfolk. 4 : Berkshire, Devonshire. 3 : Dorsetshire, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire. 2 : Buckinghamshire, Somerset, Worcestershire. 1 : Cambridgeshire, County Durham, Northumberland, Shropshire, Suffolk, Wiltshire. Nil : Bedfordshire, Cornwall, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire.

Others — Directly affiliated bodies 27. Total : 216.

WESTERN STARLETS

THREE of the four competitors, who will represent the Western Region in the Grand Finals of the "Eagle/Girl" National Junior Tournament, reached a similar stage last year, while the fourth the much improved **Ian Gibson,** repeated his success in the Cardiff round, then went one better by defeating the Bristol champion Martin White.

Ian, who hails from Tonyrefail and has just celebrated his 12th birthday, shows a much greater freedom of stroke and so dictated the course of the final that White was thrown out of his stride.

Paul Racey, of Swindon, runner-up in the Grand Finals last year, showed that he has made some splendid progress, when winning the senior boys final against the over-impetuous Norman Trounce (Cardiff).

Sandra Morgan, of Cardiff, has graduated to league standard since last year, and her greater experience enabled her to get the better of the Bristol girl Valerie Targett in the regional final.

WESTERN REGION (CARDIFF, Nov. 26):

Boys' Senior: Paul RACEY (Bristol) bt Norman Trounce (Cardiff) 21—19, 21—17.

Boys' Junior: Ian GIBSON (Cardiff) bt Martin White (Bristol) 21—8, 21—15.

Girls' Senior: Sandra MORGAN (Cardiff) bt Valerie Targett (Bristol) 21—15, 21—17.

Girls' Junior: Susan SHARP (Bristol) bt Gillian Hunt (Cardiff) 21—11, 21—16.

Area News:

ESSEX NOTES

ANY doubts that existed at the selection of Percy Curtis (ninth in the county ranking) for the Essex "seconds" were quickly dispelled when the East London player celebrated the news by winning the men's singles in the Eastern Suburban "open." Collecting, among others, the scalps of Jimmy Lowe, the international, and Australian Lew Laza, he provided the biggest tournament upset for years.

Sheila Pickard, playing in her first "open" of the season, marked up another Essex success by winning the girls' title.

Other Essex players among tournament winners last month, were Ronnie Hook, who took the men's doubles with Laza in the South of England, and Shelagh Hession, who won the under 15's mixed and girls' doubles with Derek Grant and Jean Harrower respectively in the Kent Junior "Open."

Although without Johnny Leach and Bobby Stevens, Essex beat Warwickshire 7—3 in the Premier Division of the County championship. Essex "seconds" beat Bedford without loss of a game.

Essex juniors found themselves outplayed by the visiting German junior side, who were later to beat Kent and also collect a good share of the trophies in the Kent Junior "Open."

Entries are ten up on last year, with 56 teams for the Essex three-a-side knock-out competition.

Although Bobby Stevens is back in training after his knee operation, he was not included in the East London side, (Ivor Jones, Bob McCree, Percy Curtis, Yvonne Baker and Jean Page) when they beat the holders Ilford (Brian Brumwell, Fred Kershaw, Roy Markwell, Betty Bassett, Jean Latty and Doreen Lock) 6—4 in the Premier Division of the Inter-Leagues championship.

Frank Bateman

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE maintained their good start in the Premier Division of the County championship decisively beating Sussex at Bognor Regis without loss of a game, and now look forward to visiting Sheffield to meet Yorkshire on December 10.

We should like, at this moment, to congratulate Yorkshire on handing out such a beating to Middlesex that it looks as though the champions' stranglehold on the Premier Division may at last be broken.

Changes in the side for Yorkshire find the young Gloucester player Shirley Davis playing the singles and pairing in the women's doubles with Terry Pomroy, who will in turn partner Bob Griffin in the mixed. Bryan Merrett, Aubrey Simons and Griffin play the singles.

It was indeed a pleasant surprise to learn on reading the E.T.T.A. handbook that Peter Cruwys has passed his Diploma of Coaching. Congratulations, Peter.

The international match with France at Cheltenham Town Hall on February 27 provides the highlight of our season in Gloucestershire and with our President and his wife, the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, already accepting invitations, a full house is expected. Applications for tickets have already started coming in so would-be spectators are advised to write quickly to county officials or local leagues and avoid being disappointed.

Bristol have won through two rounds of the Wilmott Cup, beating West Wilts and Bath, and hopes are entertained that they may make further progress. Bristol Ladies, however, went under to Plymouth in the Rose Bowl.

Alterations have been made in the Junior County League following the resignation of Forest of Dean. Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham and Dursley will now meet each other home and away in the same season, and in alternative seasons as in the past.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Gloucestershire "closed" championships have been altered from March to April 7 at the Montpelier Pavilion, Cheltenham. The Bristol "closed" takes place at Wills Hall, Bedminster, Bristol 3, on January 27 and 28. The first day will be devoted to the Junior singles and mixed doubles.

Gloucestershire's next home match is against Surrey at the Wagon Works Canteen, Bristol Road, Gloucester, on January 19 (7.15 p.m.).

Ivor Eyles

KENT NOTES

KENT **League** secretary Dennis Webb is very pleased with the smooth running of the Kent League competition this season. Allied to the transfer rule, which was further elaborated at the last A.G.M., the new registration rule has been found to work very well. Leagues register their representative players with the county, and pay a fee of 1/- per player.

So far just over 200 players have been registered, an average of five per competing team, though only three are required.

Increased team entry plus the new income from registrations should enable the competition to pay for itself for the first time this season.

N.W. Kent "A" did Woolwich a good turn when they unexpectedly held Bromley to a 5—all draw. Woolwich, the champions, and Folkestone, the now only sides with a one hundred per cent. record in the First Division.

In Division II (North) Medway Towns "B" look well placed, having beaten Maidstone and Gravesend "B", while Woolwich have taken up the challenge to Maidstone in the ladies' division, with full points so far.

The best table tennis ever staged in Sittingbourne is expected when the Wyvern Sports Club put on a series of exhibitions in aid of the Polio Fund campaign at the Town Hall. The Rowe twins, Victor Barna and Alec Brook have all promised to give their services.

The Rose Bowl semi-finals and final will take place at Barnehurst in February under the auspices of the N.W. Kent Club who have entrusted me with the arrangements. Tickets will be available shortly.

Conrad Jaschke.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

IN the First Division, Birmingham, at home, beat Cardiff 6—4 in a very close and exciting match, six of the games going to three sets. Stan Jones, of Cardiff, was a convincing winner against Maurice Kriss, who later gave Birmingham the winning margin with a three sets win over Alan Thomas.

Birmingham's chief strength lay in the women's events where Pam Mortimer and Jean MacKay won their singles against the Welsh internationals Audrey Bates and Gretta Holden respectively, then joined forces to beat the same rivals in the doubles.

Birmingham also beat West Wilts 7—3.

Bath had a close call before beating West Wilts 6—4 in their home match, and followed up with an 8—2 win over Gloucester, who missed their star player Bryan Merrett. R. Morley gained both Gloucestershire victories, his 19—21, 22—20, 23—21 win over David House, proving the highlight of the evening.

Bristol, last year's champions, crashed heavily at Cheltenham where their only winners were Terry Pomroy (who beat international Molly Jones) and Basil Bucknell.

Cheltenham further strengthened their position by defeating Gloucester 6—4. Merrett was back in the Gloucester team for this match and beat both Bob Griffin and Peter Cruwys, who took their revenge when they beat Merrett and Morley in the doubles.

Bristol "seconds" marked up two good wins in the Second Division, beating Newport 6—4 and Weston 8—2. Both Newport and Weston, however, proved much too strong for Taunton, each winning by 8—2.

Blow to Weston has been the loss of George Philpott, who has been called up for his National Service.

Grove Motlow.

MIDDLESEX MUSINGS

MIDDLESEX hopes of becoming Champion County for the ninth consecutive season received a sharp setback recently with the 8—2 defeat handed out by Yorkshire, last year's runners-up. Let no-one write off their chances, however. This reverse has merely made the Middlesex stars more determined, and they will be fighting with renewed vigour to build up a good games average in case it is needed at the end of the season.

This season's policy for the second team is to use it for grooming young players who will form the first teams of the future. The intention will be normally to select two or more players of under 25 together with one or two seasoned campaigners whose experience will be of great help to the newcomers.

As part of general policy, Middlesex have given consideration to the problem of waning interest in table tennis throughout the county (and indeed the country) and intend, if possible, to arrest the present apathetic trend by reviving public interest. Efforts are being made to publicise activities more widely, and above all to promote greater interest from the numerous youth organisations throughout the county; in this aim the co-operation of Local Authorities is being sought.

Special efforts have been and are being made to draw large audiences to the Premier Division. matches against Lancashire at Ultra Electric Co., Western Avenue, W.3. on December 10; Gloucester at Maclarens Ltd., Staines, on January 14, and Essex at Tottenham Town Hall, on March 22.

The Middlesex Closed Tournament has been arranged for February 4-5, at Ultra Electric Co.

Norman Reeve.

MERSEYSIDE MEMO

LIVERPOOL, represented by E. J. Rumjahn, L. Davies and L. Mulholland, beat the Potteries 6—0 in the Wilmott Cup to avenge last year's 5—4 defeat by the same team, and what is more, they gained their victory at Stoke.

Eileen Mansell, Bluey Casselman and Beryl Waterson also kept the Liverpool flag flying in the Rose Bowl with a 6—3 win over Blackpool.

Both teams have to travel for the next round, meeting Manchester and Burnley respectively.

In the First Division Balfour continue to head the table as they have done for the past three years, and have a 100 per cent. record, but it is sad to find one of our oldest clubs, Lucem, at the bottom of the division without a win. They have lost one or two good players recently, the latest being Don Foulis, the Veteran English International.

Within the space of five days we lost two well-known officials and players. George Burgoyne, who had been the secretary of the Osterley Club since 1947, collapsed and died at a match almost immediately after completing his second set.

Jack Neill died on October 31 after an illness lasting nearly two years. He had been connected with us both as a club secretary and a member of the committee since 1936 and he will be very much missed by the North Regional clubs, whose fortunes he so jealously guarded throughout the years.

Bill Stamp.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

TABLE Tennis has suddenly taken on a new life in Cambridgeshire, and a large entry can be expected for the County "closed" championships at the Cambridge Corn Exchange from March 13 to 16.

I cannot, however, see anyone seriously challenging John Cornwell or John Thurston for the singles titles, or for that matter Jack Bangham in the veterans.

Cambs. entertain high hopes of promotion to the Second Division (South) following their good start in the County championship where they beat Norfolk 6—4 (while including two reserves) and drew 5—all with Suffolk.

Cambridge miss Pat Inglis (Mrs. Kemp) former County No. 1 woman, who has now moved to Dovercourt. However, two young players who should distinguish themselves with a little more experience are Jacqueline Taylor and Avril Turvill.

Bill Rogerson, Cambs. magazine secretary, is now playing again following his leg injury. Chris Reeve is back from National Service and already made two appearances for the county.

Leslie Constable.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

With the thousands of coloured workers now employed in the Black Country, it was inevitable that some of them be drawn into table tennis teams and clubs. The biggest and best effort so far is at Brinsford Lodge, Wolverhampton, where the Malayan Government have housed a great number of their students.

The Malayans have put two teams in the Wolverhampton League and their captain was recently selected to play for Wolverhampton in the intermediate section of the Midland League against Cheltenham.

Staffs officials are doing all they can to help Shropshire County in their efforts to build up enthusiasm in the county. There has always been friendly relations between the two associations and Mr. Croydon, of Shrewsbury, was for some years President of the old South Staffs Area League.

For the first time in the memory of league officials, a score card has been returned to Division II showing every one of the nine sets going to the best of three games. Y.M.C.A. "C," who beat Oak "B" 7—2, were the teams involved, but the result could quite easily have gone the other way.

Ex-junior international Derek Backhouse, complete with sponge bat, made history by being the first triple winner in the Woodfield Charity tournament.

A. A. Wall.

IRISH SCENE

SEAN CLARKIN and Miss Dierdre Fearon have been holding the limelight in Irish table tennis during the past month, winning the main events in the Co. Dublin championships and the Ulster Open at Warrenpoint.

Using a sponge bat, Miss Fearon defeated her old rival, and Ireland's number one woman player, Miss Joy Owens in the final of the Co. Dublin, and completed a treble by winning the mixed doubles with Clarkin and the women's doubles with Joy Anderson.

Clarkin, never in danger of losing his men's title, defeated the up-and-coming Donald Mahony in the semi-final and W. Pappin in the final. He also won the men's doubles partnered by M. Behan.

The Ulster Open championships held at Warrenpoint, produced some of the best table tennis seen so far this season, and, in keeping with the tournament, several first-rate surprises. As in the Co. Dublin, Sean Clarkin once again stood head and shoulders above the other players, and captured three titles —the Men's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

This is the first time the men's title has left Ulster since 1945, when it was won by Harry Thuillir.

Miss Fearon recaptured the women's title for Leinster, the last player from that province to hold it being Miss C. Egan in 1950.

History was made in the men's doubles event when Clarkin and M. Behan defeated O'Prey and Griffiths in straight sets to bring the title outside Ulster for the first time.

Taken all round, Ulster's stock received a severe blow, as they only managed to register one success in a tournament they have dominated for countless seasons. On the other hand great praise is due to coach Alec McKay of Leinster. He has been putting his pupils through their paces all during the summer months and their hard work is now paying dividends.

They took all five titles at the Co. Dublin championships and four out of five from the Ulster Open—surely a wonderful record, and a fitting tribute to the hard work and patience of Mr. McKay, not forgetting of course the undoubted skill of his protégés.

The Ulster Open was not a very happy tournament for many of our leading players, and no fewer than four of the eight seeded failed to reach the quarter finals. Griffiths was beaten by Peter Kelly of Belfast. Percy Walker (Lisburn) chalked up the last win of his young career by defeating M. Behan, and his brother Ernie caused another upset by ousting D. Mahony in one of the closest games of the night.

The biggest surprise, however, was the success of boy champion Ray Linden over Colm Senior in the third round. Other well-known entrants who made an early exit were Ernie Sterne, Noel Kerr and Tommy Taylor.

S. Dignam.

CLUB BADGES

Attractive cloth badges can now be supplied in any quantity from six upwards at low prices and with quick delivery. Made entirely to your own design and suitable for wear on blazers or sweaters, etc. Free assistance given in designing your badge if required. Details from S. A. CORY AND COMPANY, 5, Worbeck Road, LONDON, S.E.20

Take a good look at this happy bunch of players at Lilleshall. You will hear plenty of them in the future—hope the England selectors. Back row (from left to right): Ian Harrison (Glos.), Peter Cole (Suffolk), John Collins (Suffolk), Jimmy Lowe (England and Middx.), Laurie Landry (Middx.), Eddie Hodson (Middx.), Cliff Booth (Lancs.), Ray Dove (Yorks.), Derek Burridge (England and Middx.). Bottom row: Sheila Pickard (Essex), Betty Isaacs (England and Surrey), Joyce Fielder (Kent), Dorothy Worrall (Staffs.), June Chadderton (Lancs.), Wenday Bates (Sussex), Florence Wright (Yorks.).

THE BATTLE OF THE FRINGE

The local bus conductor remarked to me the other morning : " Saw some of your Table Tennis on T.V. last night." " Oh, glad you enjoyed it," says I. " Yes, it was pretty good, very fast," he said—" Of course, it wasn't called Table Tennis in my young days, you know." I could see the anticipatory smiles of my fellow passengers. Who was I to spoil their fun ? So as innocently as I could, I replied, " You don't say ! What was it called then ?"

" BADMINTON," announced my friend ! I suppose that's what comes of running a " shuttle " service every day of your life !

THIS TRUE TALE reminds us that whatever the triumphs of our big spectacles and the improvements of our administration, there is always a vast crowd to whom Table Tennis culture is a closed book.

And to keep our sport virile and expanding, we shall always have to work and fight to draw new recruits from the fringe of that vast crowd.

Valuable Allies

Lately we have acquired some valuable allies in this "Battle of the Fringe." the Daily Mirror Tournament, spreading notions of correct match-play into small unattached clubs and even family groups; the News of the World Coaching Scheme, firing the enthusiasm of thousands of young teenagers; the Eagle and Girl national tournaments tapping even tenderer ages, all these must enrich the game considerably during the coming seasons.

The Courses and Coaching Holidays arranged by the Central Council of Physical Recreation at Lilleshall and Bisham Abbey, also held to attract "fringe" fans into the official circle.

Less publicised, but of wide impact, are the opportunities offered by London County Council to young players within its vast administrative area. It provides facilities and instructors for some ninety-odd groups each week, at a negligible cost.

I had the task of lecturing on Coaching Theory and Methods to the L.C.C. instructors last summer. Many valuable ideas were exchanged, and it was an eye-opener to me to realise how much "front-line" missionary work was being done amongst the "fringe" players—these youngsters who must be wooed if they are ever to be won into our fraternity.

Surely before long other local authorities will follow the example of the L.C.C. In the meantime our Coaching Diploma Scheme is helping to fill the gap in many places.

The E.T.T.A. Basic Coaching Diploma has already been awarded to 28 candidates. In addition 30 others are working towards qualification.

Encouragement Not Reward

Perhaps I should remind readers that the idea of the Diploma Scheme is not merely to reward Coaches for proficiency. It aims also to encourage and strengthen the experienced Coach in his local efforts, and to provide opportunities for the less experienced Coach to improve his powers.

The arrangements for Coaching Schemes and Courses of a national standing, or of widespread influence, such as those mentioned above, are considered and approved by the National Coaching Committee. In addition, assistance is given to local schemes when requested and a series of "Area Coaching Demonstrations," is organised each year. (Recent venues include Southsea, Exeter, Weymouth, London, Birkenhead, and St. Ives, Huntingdon).

In all these events, the object of all official instruction is to send the pupils home qualified, not merely to win more matches, but also to send a bigger ripple of instruction running through their own local pool.

The Battle of the Fringe must always be an Advance.

The Kent Junior Open in full swing was a wonderful sight, with hundreds of young eyes shining with enthusiasm, and many older eyes shining with pride at the efforts of their proteges.

It was impressive to note not only how many kids could play a well-founded game of table tennis, but also how many were smartly and properly dressed, and knew how to behave in a match. (One little pair were so polite to each other that they shook hands after each game and as they changed ends at 10 in the 3rd!)

A few questions here and there soon confirmed that the local coaches had been hard at work in such centres as Folkestone, Lowestoft, and Sittingbourne, where keen and sympathetic seniors, resigning their own ambitions, have formed coaching groups for boys and girls.

Coaches Day Too

This Junior "Open" was **their** day too. Now they could see the result of their work; how the clever little stroke players reacted "under fire." Sometimes they were surprised by the unexpected fire and match sense shown by one of their less impressive pupils.

All agreed that it was a rewarding experience, seeing their little "nursery" plants coming out, so to speak.

But in too many areas still it is just impossible to answer a kid who asks you "Where can I learn to play properly?"

Are you satisfied in YOUR area? Can you do anything about it yourself? Or with some of your pals?

It can be great fun, if you form your own little coaching school of serious youngsters; before long somebody else will have a go too, and that little bit of competition gives a spice to the job.

Many of the present successful "centres" of youthful striving have sprung from an official coaching demonstration or from the efforts of a Diploma student on his return from a Course.

If you think something of this sort would produce a response in your area, I shall be happy to answer any questions relating to coaching problems.

UMPIRES WANTED

George Yates, of Bolton who has been appointed by the combined Lancashire and Cheshire Associations as captain of the Umpires for the English "Open" at Belle Vue Manchester from February 28th to March 2nd, is appealing for officials to see that the meeting is fully manned.

"We need a full team of County Umpires and assistants to make this meeting a success," he writes, "and I would like to appeal through your columns for volunteers."

Owing to the heavy expenditure in running the "English," Yates regrets they are unable to meet travelling and accommodation expenses, but official badge, and entry permits together with restaurant meals will be provided.

Interested umpires are advised to write to Mr. G. R. Yates, 32, Briarfield Road, Farnworth, Lancs, stating on what dates and at which times they will be available.

STAN KEMPSTER reviews the COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

MIDDLESEX CRASH TO YORKSHIRE

MY apologies to Lancashire Juniors for reporting in my last article that they had been beaten by Yorkshire. At the time of writing I had not received the score sheet and was informed by telephone that Yorkshire had won 6—4. Subsequently I discovered that Lancashire had won the match 5—3.

For this game Yorkshire turned out their youngest ever team, each player being only 15. The same team, John Moorhouse, Michael Seeley and Lilias Hamilton also appeared against Cheshire but were overwhelmed 8—0.

In the Premier Division their senior team created a sensation by defeating Middlesex—the Champion County—by 8—2 at Barnsley. Middlesex were without the Rowe Twins, on tour in Czechoslovakia, but Yorkshire were also weakened by the loss of Kennedy, absent for the same reason. The two Middlesex wins were Thornhill's victory over Hinchliff and the men's doubles.

Following this match Yorkshire, with Kennedy back, defeated Lancashire 7—3 at Blackpool. Essex, with a 7—3 win over Warwickshire at Braintree, are now undefeated in three games and lead this Division.

Cheshire with an 8—2 win over Northumberland at Stockport lead the Second Division North.

Middlesex, with two wins in the Second Division South, take second place to Surrey, one of their victims, who have now played four matches. Surrey's latest 9—1 win over Hertfordshire at Waltham Abbey gives them a two point lead. Bedfordshire failed to win a match in their home tie at Bedford against Essex.

The Second Division West are away to a slow start, Staffordshire not having played a match yet. Glamorgan and Devonshire are both unbeaten and their forthcoming match in December will decide the leadership of this Division.

In the Eastern Division, Suffolk defeated Norfolk 7—3 at Mutford and lead Cambridgeshire on games average. Norfolk's strength appears to be their women players—for against Suffolk they won the women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

Warwickshire remain unbeaten in the Midland Division but are closely challenged by Staffordshire whom they beat at Birmingham. The Pottery county had a good 7—3 victory over Derbyshire at Stoke-on-Trent although five of their men's singles wins went to three sets. At Kettering Northamptonshire went down to Worcestershire 3—7.

Wiltshire, beaten by the Southern Division leaders Hertfordshire at Waltham Abbey, were too strong for Oxfordshire at Melksham and now take second place in this Division. Oxfordshire, however, put up a struggle, five of their losing matches—three men's singles, the women's singles and the women's doubles—going to three sets.

A similar tussle was witnessed in the South Western Division at Paignton where Devonshire beat Dorsetshire 6—4. Only four of the ten matches were settled in straight sets, Dorsetshire's four wins were in the men's singles matches, all in three sets. Dorset No. 1, Wellstead, did well to beat both Rowe and Gilbert. At Falmouth, Cornwall went down to Devonshire 1—9. Perriam scored Cornwall's only success, beating Anson. He also took Rowe to three games.

Middlesex retain their leadership of the Junior South Division with yet another 8—2 win. Suffolk were their victims this time. Both Landry and Hodson have an unbeaten record in this Division; Landry has yet to drop a game.

FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION		
December 10	Middlesex v Lancashire, Ultra Radio, Ltd., Western Avenue, Park Royal, London, W.3.	7.15 p.m.
December 10	Yorkshire v Gloucestershire, Attercliffe Hall, Attercliffe Road, Sheffield.	7.00 p.m.
December 10	Warwickshire v Sussex, Valves, Ltd., Coventry.	7.15 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION NORTH		
December 10	Cheshire v Durham, Stanley Hall Annexe, Stanley Street, off Market Place, Macclesfield.	7.15 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH		
December 10	Hampshire v Hertfordshire, The Grosvenor Club, Wimbledon Park, Southsea, Hants.	6.30 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION WEST		
December 10	Devon v Glamorgan, Pitts Memorial Hall, Gibbon Street, Plymouth.	7.00 p.m.
December 10	Somerset v Staffordshire, St. Peter's Hall, Dorset Street, Twerton, Bath.	7.15 p.m.
MIDLAND DIVISION		
December 10	Worcestershire v Derbyshire, Cripplegate Pavilion, Tybridge Street, Worcester.	7.30 p.m.
January 7	Staffordshire v Northamptonshire, Goodyear's Sports Pavilion, Wolverhampton.	7.30 p.m.
SOUTHERN DIVISION		
December 10	Wiltshire v Berkshire, Sanford Street School Hall, Swindon.	7.00 p.m.
SOUTH-WEST DIVISION		
January 7	Devon v Cornwall, Bideford.	7.00 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH		
December 10	Yorkshire v Cheshire, Albion T.T.C., Bethel Walk, off Cambridge Street, Sheffield.	3.00 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH		
December 10	Suffolk v Essex, Drill Hall, Finborough Road, Stowmarket.	
December 10	Kent v Sussex, Borstal Institution, Rochester.	5.00 p.m.

NOVEMBER RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION: Yorkshire 8, Middlesex 2; Lancashire 3, Yorkshire 7; Essex 7, Warwickshire 3. **SECOND DIVISION NORTH:** Cheshire 8, Northumberland 2. **SECOND DIVISION SOUTH:** Hertfordshire 1, Surrey 9; Bedfordshire 0, Essex 10. **EASTERN DIVISION:** Suffolk 7, Norfolk 3. **MIDLAND DIVISION:** Staffordshire 7, Derbyshire 3; Northamptonshire 3, Worcestershire 7. **SOUTHERN DIVISION:** Wiltshire 6, Oxfordshire 4. **SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION:** Cornwall 1, Devonshire 9; Devonshire 6, Dorset 4. **JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH:** Suffolk 2, Middlesex 8. **JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH:** Cheshire 8, Yorkshire 0; Yorkshire 3, Lancashire 5 (correction).

LEAGUE TABLES

(as at November 25)

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
PREMIER :							
Essex	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Gloucestershire ...	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Surrey	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Yorkshire	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
Middlesex	2	1	1	0	9	11	2
Sussex	2	0	2	0	1	19	0
Warwickshire ...	3	0	3	0	9	21	0
Lancashire	3	0	3	0	7	23	0
SECOND NORTH :							
Cheshire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Lincolnshire	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Yorkshire	2	1	1	0	12	8	2
Northumberland ...	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Durham	2	0	2	0	4	16	0
SECOND SOUTH :							
Surrey	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
Middlesex	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Essex	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Bedfordshire ...	2	1	1	0	7	13	2
Hertfordshire ...	1	0	1	0	1	9	0
Kent	2	0	2	0	7	13	0
Hampshire	2	0	2	0	6	14	0
SECOND WEST :							
Glamorgan	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Devonshire	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Somerset	1	0	1	0	3	7	0
Worcestershire ...	1	0	1	0	2	8	0
Staffordshire ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JUNIOR NORTH :							
Cheshire	1	1	0	0	8	0	2
Lancashire	1	1	0	0	5	3	2
Yorkshire	2	0	2	0	3	13	0
JUNIOR SOUTH :							
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Essex	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Suffolk	2	1	1	0	11	9	2
Kent	1	0	1	0	2	8	0
Hertfordshire ...	1	0	1	0	1	9	0
Sussex	2	0	2	0	6	14	0
EASTERN :							
Suffolk	2	1	0	1	12	8	3
Cambridgeshire ...	2	1	0	1	11	9	3
Norfolk	2	0	2	0	7	13	0
MIDLAND :							
Warwickshire ...	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Staffordshire ...	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
Derbyshire	2	1	1	0	10	10	2
Worcestershire ...	2	1	1	0	9	11	2
Northamptonshire .	3	0	3	0	7	23	0
SOUTHERN :							
Hertfordshire ...	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Wiltshire	2	1	1	0	8	12	2
Berkshire	1	0	0	1	5	5	1
Buckinghamshire .	1	0	0	1	5	5	1
Oxfordshire	1	0	1	0	4	6	0
SOUTH WESTERN :							
Devonshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Dorsetshire	2	1	1	0	10	10	2
Cornwall	2	0	2	0	5	15	0

AROUND THE LEAGUES

A long needed want for more competitive practice in East Anglia is now supplied by the formation of a new league for league teams. It is called the **Fenland Alliance,** and leagues competing this season include Boston, Desborough, Ely, Huntingdon, King's Lynn, Peterborough and Wisbech.

The new league came into being largely through the efforts of Cyril Shaw (the enterprising secretary and champion of Wisbech). He is the hon. sec. of the Fenland Alliance with Mrs. Betty Cassell, of King's Lynn as chairman.

* * *

Approximately 190 registered players represent the 43 teams from 21 clubs playing in the four divisions of the **Winchester League.** To cater for more teams the Ladies' Division has now become a Mixed Division, each team having to include at least one lady member. The ladies should benefit from the sterner opposition.

Winchester now have their own sports centre complete with three tables at the Guildhall. A Beginners' Club with H. A. Richards as the prime mover has been formed and leading players are lending their services as coaches.

* * *

Derek Grant, the brilliant 14-year-old "veteran" played a big part in helping Ventnor St. Wilfreds beat Cowes St. Mary's Guild, for several years the First Division champions of the Isle of Wight League.

Young Grant further showed his skill by winning the Sandown Invitation Tournament, from a record entry of 90. He beat P. Freeman over three games in the final. Freeman, ex-Hants and Notts County player, has recently joined Shanklin "A".

* * *

Two **Exeter and District** players suffering their first defeats in the past month were Nanette Horn (Exton), beaten by Mrs. Marjorie Amery (Heavitree), and Ken Newton (Gaflac), who crashed to both Len Brooks and Arthur Vellenweth (Centre B).

Centre B and Heavitree took the lead in the Second Division and Women's First Division respectively.

* *

Jack Crookes has resigned as coach to **Sheffield League,** and will in future work as a free-lance. Trouble arises because Crookes was not informed of selection meetings, and teams were chosen in his absence.

Sheffield Y.M.C.A. have lost Ken Uttley to the forces, but it has not stopped the champions from retaining an unbeaten record in the **Sheffield** First Division with 14 points from their first seven matches.

Incidentally Sheffield are planning their own league blazer.

York League have a woman secretary for the first time in their history, Mrs. R. C. Reed.

North Middlesex have started their own League magazine. The league are running two ladies divisions with 12 teams in each, instead of three smaller divisions as last season.

* * *

Looking for fixtures are the "Valiants", a **London** team who play friendlies only. "We are prepared to travel anywhere in England for competition preferably against good club standard or better still county class," says secretary Val Ewell, of 169, Hale Drive, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

Bishopsgate T.T.C., who run four teams in the **Central London League** are looking for new members. The club is located at Bishopsgate Institute (opposite Liverpool Street Station) and offers facilities from Mondays to Fridays.

* * *

Due to Dagenham Cables Canteen not being available, the preliminary rounds of the **Romford League** championships have been brought forward a week to January 9 and will be played at various clubs in the centre of the town, with the finals at the Red Triangle on January 21. This should please players who did not enter previously owing to travelling difficulties.

* * *

Maidstone have new joint secretaries in Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Fuller. They are the only husband and wife combination acting as leagues secretaries in Kent.

* * *

Less teams in the league, but an increase in entries for the cup competitions. That is the unique experience of **West London** this season. Entries have jumped six to 85, but Northfields, last year's senior winners are not defending.

With a game in hand **East London** share the top bracket with **Ilford,** the holders, in the Premier Division of the Essex Inter-Leagues championship.

Founded in 1930, the **Wembley** and **Harrow** League maintains its strength this season with 163 teams from 62 clubs competing in 12 men's and three ladies' divisions. Teams are entered in the Rose Bowl and Wilmott Cup Competitions and in the Premier, Third and Junior divisions of the Middlesex inter-League Championships.

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FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

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

Date	*Details and Venue*	*Extra Events*	*Organising Secretary*
Dec. 10	**South of England v Rumania** High Wycombe.		
12	**South of England v Rumania** Town Hall, Tottenham, London, N.		
13	**Rest of England v Rumania** Norwich.		
Jan. 1-7	**N. W. Kent Open (Dec. 5)** Barnehurst Residents' Club, Parkside Ave., Barnehurst, Bexleyheath, Kent.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. J. Pickering, 187, Bedonwell Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.
7	**Yorkshire Junior Open (Dec. 28)** Fenton Street Barracks, Leeds.	Under 15's Singles	Mr. J. Hancock, 73, Lady Pit Lane, Leeds 11.
8	**Sussex Closed (Dec. 10)** Corn Exchange, Church Street, Brighton.		Mr. R. D. Weeks, 111b, Ditchling Road, Brighton.
14-15	**Flintshire Open** (Welsh Tournament).		
21	**South Yorks Open (Jan. 14)** Edmund Road Drill Hall, Sheffield 2.	B.S.	Mr. R. D. Renshaw, 7, Luna Croft, Gleadless, Sheffield 12.
20-21	**Welsh Open**	B.S., G.S.	Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llyn-y-Grant Road, Penylan, Cardiff.
22	**Southampton Open (Jan 7)** Royal Pier Pavilion, Southampton.	B.S.	Mr. K. H. Miles, 46, Bevois Valley Road, Southampton.
27	**England v Wales** Sidney Hall, Weymouth		Mr. P. H. Northcott, 31, Hillcrest Road, Weymouth.
28	**Lancashire Open (Jan. 21)** De Havilland Works Canteen, Lostock, Bolton.	B.S.	Mr. A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Lancs.
28-29	**Kent Open (Jan. 14)** Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	J.X.S.	Mr. J. Trigg, 21, Marler Road, Folkestone.
Jan. 31/ Feb. 2	**French Open**		
Feb. 3-4 & 9-11	**South London Open (Jan. 23)** Manor Place Baths, Walworth Road, London, S.E.1.	B.S. G.S.	Mrs. E. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
11	**Gwent Open** Standard Telephones, Newport, Monmouthshire.		Mr. G. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Monmouthshire.
17-18	**Midland Open (Feb. 4)** Friends' Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.	B.S. G.S. B.D., V.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Brimingham 12.
20-24	**Surrey Open (Feb. 4)** Municipal Baths Hall, East Street, Epsom.	B.S.	Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
Feb. 28/ Mar. 2	**ENGLISH OPEN (Feb. 1)** Belle Vue, Manchester.		Mr. Norman Cook, 7, North Avenue, Stalybridge, Cheshire.
Feb. 28 & Mar. 2	**West Middlesex Open (Feb. 14)** West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road,	B.S. G.S.	Mr. S. Riddick, 29, Thorney Hedge Road, London W.4.
5-10	Ealing London, W.7.		
17	**West of England Open (Feb. 24)** Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay	B.S. G.S.	Mr. L. R. P. Westaway, 69, Quinta Road, Babbacombe, Torquay.
Mar. 31/ Apr. 2	**North East England Open (Mar. 21)** Burniston Barracks and Westborough Concert Hall, Scarborough	J.S. Y.S. V.S.	Mr. E. Moorhouse, 26, Sherwood Street, Scarborough.
2-11	**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.** Tokio.		

EASTERN SUBURBAN "OPEN"

HAIL to Percy Curtis, ninth ranking Essex player yet winner of the men's singles in the Eastern Suburban Open at Ilford on November 5. Eleven internationals took part (*writes Geoff Harrower*) yet not one reached the semi-final. What is more, Percy won without playing any of them.

Overshadowing all other shock results — enough to go round a whole season's tournaments—was the third round victory of the 16-year-old Willesden schoolboy Laurie Landry over England's No. 5, Harry Venner.

Here's how the eleven internationals fell: Round 1: Lou Laza (Australia) beat Keith Hurlock 21—12, 21—15; Ray Syndercombe (Kent) beat Jackie Head 21—15, 14—21, 21—13; John Hunt (Herts) beat Ken Craigie 21—13, 8—21, 21—17; Peter Pudney (Essex) beat Len Adams 14—21, 21—12, 21—14; Michael Thornhill beat Tony Miller 21—19, 20—17 (time limit). Round 2: G. Taylor (Surrey) beat Ron Crayden 21—15, 21—19; Jimmy Lowe (Middx.) beat Alan Rhodes 22—20, 21—11; Brian Brumwell beat Thornhill 21—12, 12—21, 21—18. Round 3: Landry beat Venner, scores above. Round 4: Len Wise (Berkshire) beat Derek Burridge 21—19, 17—21, 21—14; Lowe beat Brumwell 18—21, 21—14, 21—10.

Curtis advanced to the semi's by beating Pudney, Hunt and Taylor. At this stage he proved too good for Lou Laza, who had disposed of Landry in the previous round. The other finalist was Jimmy Lowe, who nearly came unstuck against Len Wise.

We all expected a long drawn out final, but Curtis, hitting far more than usual, frequently wrong-footed Lowe, to run out a good winner.

In comparison, the other events were sober, although Jean Page did well to beat Jean Head-Winn, and Pam Mortimer overcame Barbara Milbank in three games. The final of the women's singles was by far the best match on finals evening, Helen Elliot just winning after some wildly fluctuating scores against Betty Isaacs.

The Junior events were noteworthy for a great effort by young Bradford, who became the first boy this season to take a game from Laurie Landry, in junior events. Score to Landry 13—21, 21—15, 21—13. Eddie Hodson emulated this feat in the final. Jean Harrower had her revenge over Micky McMeekin, but found Sheila Pickard too good for her in the final of the girls' singles.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: P. CURTIS (Essex) bt L. Laza (Australia) 21—18, 21—16. J. LOWE (Middx.) bt L. Wise (Berks.) 26—24, 21—13.
Final: CURTIS bt Lowe 21—19, 13—21, 21—18.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss H. ELLIOT (Scot.) bt Miss P. Mortimer (Warw.) 21—19, 21—10; Miss B. ISAACS (Surrey) bt Miss J. Rook (Surrey) 21—10, 21—14.
Final: Miss **ELLIOT** bt Miss Isaacs 21—19, 16—21 23—21.
Men's Doubles: Final: L. ADAMS and **D. BURRIDGE** (Middx.) bt B. Brumwell and R. Markwell (Essex) 21—16, 23—21.
Women's Doubles: Final: Miss **ISAACS** and Miss **MORTIMER** bt Mrs. J. Head (Surrey) and Mrs. J. Faulkner (Middx.) 21—14, 21—10.
Mixed Doubles: Final: M. THORNHILL (Middx.) and Miss **ROOK** bt Burridge and Miss M. Piper 21—13, 19—21, 23—21.
Boys Singles: Final: L. LANDRY (Middx.) bt E. Hodson (Middx.) 19—21, 21—13, 21—16.
Girls' Singles: Final: Miss **S. PICKARD** (Essex) bt Miss J. Harrower (Middx.) 21—12, 21—18.

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BIRMINGHAM "OPEN"

TABLE tennis received a black mark at the Birmingham Open. The paying customers, on whom tournaments rely for their income, were sent home without seeing the finals of the men's singles, men's doubles or the mixed doubles. All of which were completed behind closed doors.

Long matches threw the already overloaded programme so far behind that it was impossible to get through by 10 p.m. when the Friends' Institute must be closed.

But that was not all of this farce. The men's semi-final between Brian Merrett and Len Adams developed into a defensive marathon and after 40 minutes' play was taken off the main arena and completed in a near-by gymnasium !

Merrett eventually beat Adams, 21—12, 21—23, 21—17, then somewhere in the region of midnight beat Derek Burridge in the final by 21—17, 21—16.

Adams and Burridge gained their revenge when they won the men's doubles against Merrett and R. Morley, but Merrett gained a second title when he won the mixed with Ann Haydon.

Miss Haydon took the women's singles, and the women's doubles in partnership with Jill Rook.

Men's Singles: B. MERRETT (Glos.) bt D. Burridge Middx.) 21—17, 21—16.
Women's Singles: Miss **A. HAYDON** (Warw.) bt Miss H. Elliot (Scotland) 18—21, 21—16, 21—18.
Men's Doubles: L. ADAMS and **BURRIDGE** bt Merrett and R. Morley 21—13, 21—15.
Women's Doubles: Miss **HAYDON** and Miss **J. ROOK** bt Mrs. D. Wilkinson and Miss A. Wood 21—12, 21—9.
Mixed Doubles: MERRETT and Miss **HAYDON** bt I. Jones and Miss S. Jones 21—10, 21—12.

KENT JUNIOR "OPEN"

UNFORTUNATELY an after midnight finish somewhat spoiled the Kent Junior Open at Herne Bay on November 13, but critics of slow organisation, etc., must remember that no county other than Kent arrange such a comprehensive programme for juniors. Let us hope that criticism is constructive and will help the organisers for next season.

Overseas players were well to the fore, taking four of the 14 titles. Deiter Kohler, a 16-year-old defensive player, who beat both Laurie Landry and Eddie Hodson, in the senior boys' singles and 13-year-old Heide Dauphin in the senior and intermediate girls' singles, provided German successes, while the Belgian pair A. Van den Eede and A. Mathonet won the intermediate boys' doubles.

The senior girls' singles became somewhat top heavy after the scratching of Micky McMeekin and the withdrawal (due to the late hour) of Dorothy Worrall, who had already beaten Sheila Pichard, leaving Miss Dauphin a clear winner.

The young German girl found tougher opposition in the intermediate final against 12-year-old Jean Harrower before winning 24—22, 8—21, 21—15. Jean had two game points in the first game, losing both on edge balls, otherwise she would have won in straight sets. However, Jean cleaned up in the under 13's events and also took the intermediate doubles with Shelagh Hession.

UNDER 17's:

Boys' singles: Semi-finals: D. KOHLER (Germany) bt L. Landry (Middx.) 21—13, 21—15; E. HODSON (Middx.) bt A. Valentin (Belgium) 21—17, 21—10.
Final: KOHLER bt Hodson 21—18, 8—21, 22—20.
Girls' Singles: Semi-finals: Miss H. DAUPHIN (Germany) bt Miss J. Harrower (Middx.) 21—12, 21—18; Miss M. VON BEHM (Germany) bt Miss B. Nugent (Suffolk) 21—17, 22—20.
Final: Miss DAUPHIN bt Miss Von Behm 21—10, 21—8.
Boys' Doubles: Final: HODSON and LANDRY bt P. Cole and J. Collins (Suffolk) 21—12, 21—10.
Girls' Doubles: Final: Miss J. JOHNSON and Miss M. McMEEKIN (Kent) bt Miss S. Hession and Miss S. Pickard (Essex) 21—14, 21—18.

UNDER 15's:

Boys' Singles: Final: C. GOSLING (Middx.) bt D. Grant (Isle of Wight) 21—18, 21—17.
Girls' Singles: Final: Miss DAUPHIN bt Miss Harrower 24—22, 8—21, 21—15.
Boys' Doubles: Final: A. VAN DEN EEDE and A. MATHONET (Belgium) bt P. Parr and G. Robbins (Middx.) 21—12, 21—18.
Girls' Doubles: Final: Miss HARROWER and Miss HESSION bt Miss M. Ashby and Miss A. Jacobs (Kent) 21—14, 21—11.
Mixed Doubles: Final: GRANT and Miss HESSION bt Gosling and Miss Harrower 21—18, 14—21, 21—16.

UNDER 13's:

Boys' Singles: Final: P. RACEY (Wilts.) bt M. Pass (Kent) 21—15, 21—13.
Girls' Singles: Final: Miss HARROWER bt Miss K. Beal (Kent) 21—12, 21—10.
Boys' Doubles: Final: J. SYMONDS (Sussex) **and RACEY** bt R. Barton and C. Bloy (Kent) 21—12, 21—9.
Girls' Doubles: Final: Miss B. ELVEY (Kent) **and Miss HARROWER** bt Miss D. Downing and Miss G. Corden (Kent) 24—22, 18—21, 21—8.

HARTLEPOOLS "OPEN"

IN company with many other titles this season and last, the premier title in the Hartlepools "Open" was again won with the help of sponge. But all credit to Ron Allcock, of Manchester, the new champion. He played a bold attacking game, showing good control over the ball, and completely crushed B. Pennington (Huddersfield) in the final by 21—6, 21—16.

Pennington tried gallantly to cope with Allcock's sizzling back hand attack but was not equal to the task. Few players in the country would have been able to get to a ball hit by sponge with such power.

S. Dyson (Huddersfield) made a very determined but unavailing effort in the semi-finals to out-hit Allcock, but went down at 14 and 14. The other semi-final in which Pennington beat L. Mullholland over three sets was slower in contrast but more interesting.

Miss P. Heppell (Northumberland) retained the women's singles but only after a great recovery against Miss J. Preston (Knaresborough), who held five match points in the second set but failed to clinch them. Miss Heppell eventually won 19—21, 23—21, 21—17. The two finalists then joined forces to win the doubles.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: R. ALLCOCK (Manchester) bt S. Dyson (Huddersfield) 21—14, 21—14, B. PENNINGTON (Huddersfield) bt L. Mulholland (Liverpool) 13—21, 21—16, 21—13.
Final: ALLCOCK bt Pennington 21—6, 21—16.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss P. HEPPELL (Northumberland) bt Miss P. Morris (Harrogate) 26—24, 21—16, Miss J. PRESTON (Knaresborough) bt Mrs. E. Dodds (Stanley) 21—18, 21—16.
Final: Miss **HEPPELL** bt Miss Preston 19—21, 23—21, 21—17.
Men's Doubles: Final: MILNER and **SLADDIN** bt Pennington and Dyson 21—17, 21—16.
Women's Doubles: Final: Miss **HEPPELL** and Miss **PRESTON** bt Miss Rhodes and Mrs. Dyson 21—14, 21—17.
Final: Miss **HEPPELL** and Miss **PRESTON** bt Miss Rhodes and Mrs. Dyson 21—14, 21—17.
Mixed Doubles: Final: PARK and Miss **RHODES** bt Allcock and Miss Heppell 21—15, 22—20.
Final: PARK and Miss **RHODES** bt Allcock and Miss Heppell 21—15, 22—20.
Junior Singles: Final: J. SPENCER (Leeds) bt P. Tucknutt (Sunderland) 21—17, 21—19.

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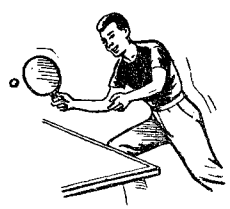

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PETERBOROUGH "OPEN"

WHEN Ray Dove, Yorkshire's established Premier Division player, arrived for the Peterborough Open on November 26, and found that he was not seeded in the men's singles, whereas Beamish, Landry, Maclaren and Raybould, none of them Premier Division men, were, he gritted his teeth and sponged his way through the entry, with determination, if not over-attractive play.

Peter Skerratt was involved in probably the two best matches of the tourney, against Raybould and then, in the semi, a great fight with the holder Beamish. The Lincs. boy led a game and 18—11, but Beamish played cleverly, overhauled Peter, and just got home. Another fine match was Beamish's narrow win over Colin Crowe from Beds. But the same could not be said of the final where Dove beat Beamish 19—21, 21—17, 21—12.

In the women's singles a new personality, Mrs. Griffiths, of Birmingham, was a clear winner. She has only been playing two seasons, and more will be heard of her. Jean Latty did well to reach the final, securing a narrow victory over the holder, Mrs. Cassell, whilst the 12-year-old "terror", Jean Harrower, not only won the girls' singles with ease, but reached the semi-final of the women's singles.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: R. DOVE (Yorks.) bt E. Johnson (Cheshire) 21—10, 16—21, 21—9. K. BEAMISH (Essex) bt P. Skerratt (Lincs.) 11—21, 24—22, 22—20.
Final: DOVE bt Beamish 19—21, 21—17, 21—12.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Mrs. D. GRIFFITHS (Warw.) bt Miss J. Harrower (Middx.) 21—13, 21—15. Miss J. LATTY (Essex) bt Mrs. B. Cassell (Norfolk) (holder) 24—26, 21—14, 21—15.
Final: Mrs. **GRIFFITHS** bt Miss Latty 21—13, 21—14.
Men's Doubles: Final: P. PUDNEY and **R. RAYBOULD** (Essex) bt Skerratt and A. Holmes (Lincs.) 21—15, 22—24, 21—16.
Women's Doubles: Final: Miss **LATTY** and Mrs. **S. BEAMISH** (Essex) bt Miss J. Walker (Yorks.) and Mrs. Cassell 16—21, 21—15, 21—19.
Mixed Doubles: Final: JOHNSON and Miss **LATTY** bt Dove and Miss Walker 15—21, 21—14, 22—20.
Boys Singles: Final: L. LANDRY (Middx.) bt P. Cole (Suffolk) 21—6, 21—16.
Girls' Singles: Final: Miss **J. HARROWER** (Middx.) bt Miss J. Chadderton (Lancs.) 21—17, 21—10.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND "OPEN"

SHOCK results appear to have become quite commonplace this season and the South of England Open at Croydon, where Alan Rhodes gained his first title of the season was no exception.

Michael Maclaren and Eddie Hodson proved the giant killers. Maclaren beat internationals Harry Venner and Michael Thornhill on his way to the semi-final, where he eventually found Rhodes too strong for him, while Hodson accounted for Bobby Raybould, Derek Burridge and Len Sawyer, before falling to Len Adams in the "quarters".

Rhodes, who had some hard games with Brian Brumwell and Lew Laza, improved as he went along and showed his best form of the season in beating Maclaren 12 and 15 in the semi-final, and Adams at 17 and 19 in the final.

Betty Isaacs, after narrowly scraping home at 22—20 in the third against Margaret Fry, took the women's singles with a straight game's win over Peggy Franks.

The junior singles final provided one of the high spots of the evening with Eddie Hodson inflicting on Laurie Landry, his first defeat of the season by another British junior. Hodson's superior defence carried the day.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: A. RHODES (Middx.) bt M. Maclaren (Surrey) 21—12, 21—15; L. ADAMS (Middx.) bt K. Craigie (Surrey) 21—12, 16—21, 21—18.
Final: RHODES bt Adams 21—17, 21—19.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss M. FRANKS (Essex) bt Mrs. J. Seaman-Faulkner (Middx.) 21—23, 21—14, 21—13; Miss B. ISAACS (Surrey) bt Miss P. Mortimer (Warw.) 21—18, 21—15.
Final: Miss **ISAACS** bt Miss Franks 21—18, 21—14.
Men's Doubles: Final: LAZA and **HOOK** bt Lowe and Venner 21—19, 18—21, 22—20.
Women's Doubles: Final: Mrs. **HEAD** and Mrs. **FAULKner** bt Miss Isaacs and Miss Mortimer 21—18, 23—21.
Mixed Doubles: Final: LOWE and Miss **ISAACS** bt Rhodes and Mrs. Head 21—14, 21—17.
Boys' Singles Final: E. HODSON (Middx.) bt L. Landry Middx.) 21—16, 21—17.

HULL "OPEN"

Marcel Barouh, the young French player over here studying English, took most of the honours in the Hull Open on November 5 when all six titles changed hands.

Barouh reached the final of the men's singles where he lost to Ray Hinchliff, then carried off the men's doubles with Arnold Shepherd and the mixed doubles with Mrs. D. Wilkinson.

Mrs. Wilkinson took the women's singles, while the new doubles champions are Miss M. Rhodes and Miss P. Ingleson.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: R. HINCHLIFF (Huddersfield) bt B. Milner (Pontefract) 21—10, 23—21; M. BAROUH (Manchester) bt M. Simpson (Rotherham) 21—17, 21—11.
Final: HINCHLIFF bt Barouh 16—21, 21—15, 21—15.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss J. PRESTON (Knaresborough) bt Miss F. Wright (Barnsley) 22—20, 22—24, 21—16; Mrs. D. WILKINSON (Manchester) bt Miss M. Lightfoot (Leeds) 21—18, 16—21, 21—17.
Final: Mrs. **WILKINSON** bt Miss Preston 21—11, 21—15.
Men's Doubles: Final: A. SHEPHERD and **BAROUH** bt E. Still and R. Allcock 21—15, 21—16.
Women's Doubles: Final: Miss **M. RHODES** and Miss **P. INGLESON** bt Miss J. Preston and Miss K. Holland 21—14, 19—21, 21—16.
Mixed Doubles: Final: BAROUH and Mrs. **WILKINSON** bt S. Dyson and Miss Rhodes 12—21, 24—22, 21—18.
Junior Singles Final: J. STODDART (Wallasey) bt M. Lambert (Sheffield) 21—11, 18—21, 22—20.

DORSET "OPEN"

DAVID HOUSE, of Bath, went one better than last year, by winning the men's singles in the Dorset Open at Weymouth, on November 26 and, in landing the triple crown, helped prevent a husband and wife monopoly of the titles.

House beat Jack Carrington 18 and 19 in the final, and with Joan Wilcocks beat Jack and Elsie Carrington in the mixed. He took the men's doubles with J. Lindsay.

Mrs. Carrington won the women's singles, then partnered her defeated finalist Barbara Milbank to win the women's doubles.

Several youngsters caught the eye. Ian Harrison won the junior singles and reached the semi-final of the senior event where he took a game off House, while K. Edwards (Cheltenham), Brian Woodforde (Weston-Super-Mare) and Billy Knight (Bournemouth) produced a nice aggressive game.

FINALS RESULTS

Men's Singles: D. HOUSE bt J. Carrington 21—18, 21—19.
Women's Singles: Mrs. **E. CARRINGTON** bt Miss B. Milbank 21—18, 21—11.
Men's Doubles: HOUSE and **J. LINDSAY** bt P. Brooks and J. Gregory 20—22, 21—15, 21—16.
Women's Doubles: Mrs. **CARRINGTON** and Miss **MILBANK** bt Mrs. J. Crosby and Miss M. Wilcocks 21—17, 21—17.
Mixed Doubles: HOUSE and Miss **J. WILCOCKS** bt Carrington and Mrs. Carrington 21—17, 17—21, 21—15.
Junior Singles: I. HARRISON bt K. Edwards 21—11, 19—21, 21—21.

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