

TABLETENNIS



JOHNNY LEACH with a group of "Eagle/Girl" contestants from Birmingham

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

Published by Walthamstow Press, Ltd., Guardian House, 644 Forest Road, London, E.17

Vol. 14

FEBRUARY, 1956

No. 5

SECOND THOUGHTS FOR ANN

WITH the world title dangling before her like a tempting bait it is understood that 17 years old Ann Haydon after consultation with her parents, has reconsidered her earlier decision about going to Tokio and will now be available for selection.

Ann had originally declined the invitation because of the calls of schools and examinations but following her victories over Angelica Rozeanu, champion for the past six years, and Linde Wertl-Rumpler to win the French "Open" has been persuaded to give the matter second thoughts.

Having beaten Mrs. Rosalind Cornett in the Welsh "Open", Miss Haydon claimed the World's top three ranking woman players as her victims in little over a week, making the prospects of a world title more than a mere pipe-dream.

England has never won the women's singles and it will be a great pity to let such a golden opportunity slip now.

England's team (See Page 4) is announced as *Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach, Brian Kennedy, Mrs. Rosalind Cornett, and Diane Rowe.*

It is a bare team, with no reserves but even these are not certain of making the trip unless there is more support for the "Travelling Expenses" Fund.

NOW FOR ENGLISH

Meanwhile, it is over to the English "Open" at Belle Vue, Manchester, from February 28 to March 2, and the prospects of another title for Miss Haydon. She must start favourite for the title being defended by Mrs. Cornett.

Linde Wertl-Rumpler, that fiery red-head from Austria, who held the title in 1951-52 and 1953-54, and Mrs. Gizi Farkas-Gervai, of Hungary, former world champion, and English "open" winner in 1946-47 and 1947-48 head the overseas challenge.

With Eva Koczian (Hungary) and Diane Rowe

also taking part it means that at least seven of the top ten women in the world will be seeking the title.

Sweden, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and of course, Scotland and Wales, will all be represented to make this the biggest international meeting of the season outside the world championships.

Hungary have in fact decided to concentrate on the English "Open" and not send a team to Tokio.

VACANT TITLE

Zarko Dolinar, of Jugoslavia, the reigning men's champion is under suspension by his national Association, and with no previous winner taking part a new name will go on the champions' roll.

The title has of course been dominated by overseas players since Percy Bromfield was champion in 1923-4, and once again the inevitable question is asked, "Can the 'hoodoo' which has hung over home born-players, since the title was opened to the world be broken?"

Johnny Leach is of course our chief hope, and Brian Kennedy, since he took to the sponge bat is a dominating force, but both will have to produce something extraordinary if they are to beat the Hungarian challenge, headed by Ferenc Sido, the former world champion, and Josef Koczian.

The home prospects as far as the men are concerned do not look particularly bright, and we will not have Richard Bergmann either.

HARRISON EDWARDS

Due to the dispute in the printing trade we have regretfully been forced to cut back the size of this issue.

For the same reason we must apologise for the lateness of the issue.

Some of our normal features have had to be cut and others omitted.

We hope to return to normal size for the March issue when we shall carry a full report on the English "Open".

Official News :

THE National Executive Committee held a meeting lasting over 6 hours in the Council Chamber of the Royal Empire Society, London, on Saturday, January 7th 1956, when there was a full Agenda for discussion. Some of the matters discussed were:—

Publicity and Public Relations Committee: Arising from the report of the Sub-Committee to examine the question of Publicity for the Game a standing Sub-Committee was appointed consisting of I. Montagu, A. K. Vint, T. Blunn, C. Jaschke, S. Kempster and D. P. Lowen.

'News of the World' Table Tennis Coaching Scheme: Permission was granted to the 'News of the World' to organise, as last season, the coaching scheme in the various Butlin's Holiday Camps up and down the country.

Visit to Rumania: An invitation was received from the Rumanian Association for Mrs. R. Cornett, Miss D. Rowe and Miss A. Haydon to visit Rumania from the 10th—14th February 1956. The Association has accepted the invitation for the Twins but Ann Haydon was unable to accept owing to her school studies. J. A. Leach will act as non-playing captain.

G. V. Barna Award: As already reported in these columns the winner of the Victor Barna Award this season was Miss Diane Rowe. The presentation of the Trophy will be made to her at the Finals of the English Open Championships in Manchester on 2nd March 1956.

Wilmott Cup Competition: The Acton and District Table Tennis League agreed to stage the Semi-Finals and Final of the Wilmott Cup Competition on Saturday, 25th Feb-

ruary, at Sperry's Sports Club, Great West Road, Brentford, Middx. Application for tickets should be made to Mr. R. W. Boorer, 50 Southdown Avenue, Hanwell, W.7. Price of tickets 1/- (Afternoon Session), 2/6d ALL ONE PRICE (Evening).

J. M. ROSE BOWL COMPETITION: The North West Kent Club undertook to organise the Semi-Finals and Final of the J. M. Rose Bowl Competition on Saturday 25th February at the Barnehurst Residents Club, Barnehurst, Kent. Application for tickets should be made to Mr. C. Jaschke, 22 Sidcup Hill Gardens, Sidcup, Kent. Price of Tickets 1/- (Afternoon Session), 3/- and 2/- (Evening Session).

Election of Officers and Members of the National Executive Committee 1956/1957: The Annual General Meeting of the Association was fixed for SATURDAY, 28th April 1956 and it was agreed that the dates for the Annual Election of Officers and Members of the National Executive Committee should be as follows:—

Nomination Papers to be dispatched on or before February 15th 1956.

Nomination Papers to be returned on or before 1st March '56

Voting papers to be dispatched on or before March 15th '56

Voting papers to be returned on or before March 29th 1956.

NOTE: Only those Leagues whose Affiliation Fees are fully paid are entitled to nominate and vote.

The Proportional Representation Society will conduct the Elections and Messrs. G. W. Decker and D. Poupard have kindly agreed to act as Scrutineers. Nomination papers and ballot papers will be sent to the appointed County and League E.T.T.A. Representatives. If any Representative does not receive his papers by the dates in question he should notify the Administrative Secretary of the Association immediately.

"Eagle"/"Girl" Clubs Tournaments: The Finals of the "Eagle" and "Girl" Clubs Tournaments for under 15's and under 13's will take place on Saturday February 25th 1956 at the Friends House Hall, London, N.W.1. The members of the Club and their parents are being invited to apply for admission tickets to the Finals.

English Open Championships 1955/56: May we again remind our members that this season the Championships are being played at Belle Vue Manchester from the 28th February to the 2nd March. A big contingent of players from Hungary will be taking part in addition to entries from Austria, Belgium, France and Germany.

Prices for the Finals-night tickets are 9/6d, 7/6d, 5/- and 3/6d (all re-

served seats) and applications should be sent direct to Mr. N. Cook, 7 North Avenue, Stalybridge, Cheshire.

Registered Members: Applications from the following members were approved:—

L. G. Adams (Middx), S. R. Basden (Kent), D. C. Burridge (Middx), J. E. Burton (Middx), L. G. Carter (Kent), Mrs R. Cornett (Middx), K. R. Craigie (Surrey), R. Etheridge (Kent), Miss M. Franks (Essex), R. E. Griffin (Gloucester), A. A. Haydon (Warwick), Miss A. Haydon (Warwick), J. Hitchcock (Yorks), Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey), B. H. Kennedy (Yorks), B. Merrett (Gloucester), N. Nicholson (Middx), A. Rhodes (Middx), Miss J. Rook (Surrey), Miss D. Rowe (Middx), T. E. Sears (Middx), H. W. Sweetman (Surrey), Mr and Mrs A. Thompson (Yorks), M. Thornhill (Middx), D. A. Thrower (Middx), G. S. Wheeler (Essex), C. Corti Woodcock (Essex).

Team Selections: Team selections and nominations have been made as follows:—

v. Wales (Mixed) January 27th at Weymouth: D. C. Burridge (Middx), B. Kennedy (Yorks), M. Thornhill (Middx), Miss A. Haydon (Warwick), Miss D. Rowe (Middx), Non-playing captain H. J. Amery (Devon).

V. France (Junior Boys) January 29th at Beauvais: I. Harrison (Glos.), E. Hodson (Middx), L. Landry (Middx), Non-playing Captain A. A. Haydon (Warwick).

V. France (Women) January 30th at Rouen: Mrs. R. Cornett (Middx), Miss A. Haydon (Warwick), Miss D. Rowe (Middx), Non-playing Captain I. Montagu (Herts).

French Open Championships, January 31st, February 1st and 2nd at Paris: J. A. Leach (Essex), B. Kennedy (Yorks), I. Harrison (Glos) E. Hodson (Middx), L. Landry (Middx), Mrs. R. Cornett (Middx), Miss A. Haydon (Warwick) Miss D. Rowe (Middx).

Belgian Open Championships, February 4th and 5th Brussels: J. A. Leach, (Essex), Mrs. R. Cornett (Middx), Miss A. Haydon (Warwick) Miss D. Rowe (Middx)

Swiss Open Championships, February 4th and 5th at Basle: B. Kennedy (Yorks)

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Published on the 10th of each month October to May inclusive. Postal Subscription 7s. 6d. for eight issues.

WELSH EDITION with special Official Table Tennis Association of Wales Section, 10d. monthly, from Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Penylan, Cardiff.

Circulation: The Walthamstow Press Ltd., Guardian House, 644, Forest Road, London, E.17 (LARKSWOOD 4301).

Advertisements: E.T.T.A., 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (TRAFALGAR 2165).

Editorial: W. Harrison Edwards, c/o Sports Press, 149, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. (FLEET STREET 9951).

English Table

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Tackle Boredom Problem

SUGGESTIONS REQUIRED

by TOM BLUNN

THE January issue of 'Table Tennis' was one of the most interesting for many years. Time and again the theme behind articles and letters made it perfectly clear that people were thinking on revolutionary lines.

Late night finals, time limit games, and long drawn out matches; they are becoming too frequent and organisers are at last realising they will eventually undo all the good work which has been put into the game during the past twenty years.

They constitute the menace to the game, not sponge; sponge is only a red herring and we should forget it and tackle immediately the more urgent problem of boredom.

Why should we inflict three to four hours of pushing on to people who have paid good money and deserve better treatment? Why should people be expected to wait for Open Tournament finals to begin when they have faithfully arrived at the advertised time? We are continually breaking

faith with the public so can we wonder when the public refuse to stand it no longer.

Blame sponge if you like, blame the net, blame the players for unenterprising play but after all the rules of the game are not being broken. Several suggestions have been put forward in recent years which were designed to speed up the game, control the length of a match and reduce unenterprising playing methods. They are not enough. A campaign has to be started and in last month's issue the seeds of such a campaign appeared to be forming. Can we go on from there and do something? Can this magazine encourage the reformers by publishing their ideas?

There is no need to fear that panic methods will be taken. The control of the rules is in the hands of sensible level-headed men and changes in rules require much more than a simple majority to be in favour.

So send your suggestions to the Editor and all readers will then be able to study and criticise them.

If a good idea is forthcoming this could be put into practice during the closed season and further experiments made on an official basis next season.

Only if there is sufficient demand will any official action be taken.

I would suggest that the basic equipment be left alone for the time being and concentrate on length of matches, presentation of matches, and the elimination of unenterprising play by the positive method of rewarding enterprise rather than the negative method of penalising unenterprise.

And do not forget to deal with the Open Tournament Regulations.

Has not the time come to restrict entries to players affiliated to the E.T.T.A. and so adjust the regulations to suit our own requirements?

Control the number of entries to guarantee a start at 7 p.m. on finals night; control the number of sets on finals night to guarantee a finish by 10 pm; and "warn-off" the referee if the regulations are broken—he will only do it once!

A golden opportunity has been lost to reduce the length of matches in the National County Championship by the absence of any suggestion to alter the playing rules for next season.

So don't miss this opportunity. Get down to it and think it out, try it out, and write it out!



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THE TEAM, AND AN APPEAL

by IVOR MONTAGU, Chairman E.T.T.A.

The National Selection Committee's choice for Tokio has been announced as follows:—

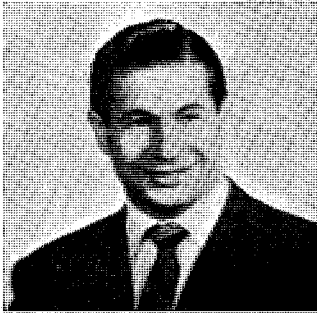
Swaythling Cup Team: **R. Bergmann, B. Kennedy, J. Leach.**

Marcel Corbillon Cup Team: **Mrs. R. Cornett (Rowe), Miss D. Rowe.**

Miss A. Haydon was unable to accept an invitation owing to the calls of school and examinations.

We still need to raise a considerable sum to be able to send our teams to Japan!

If we are to receive your support in this project, it can be only



RICHARD BERGMANN

on the basis of your confidence that we are proposing to do the right thing. I should like, therefore, to tell you the full facts and to share our thoughts with you.

The Tokio World Championships are specially important. The eyes of all Asia, and of other parts of the world, will be on what happens there; not only in the playing sense, but in respect to which European teams are fair enough to try to reciprocate the sporting effort made by Asian teams in participating in Europe.

Much will be learned of questions vital to the game's future, sponge, for instance. Then there is the proposal that, now the game is so world-wide, world championships should be held only biennially, not annually, and so reduce expenses (with perhaps continental championships, in the intervening years).

At Table Tennis, England occupies—still—the unique and pre-eminent position which it has lost, or is losing, at many other sports. The recognised founders of the game, our organi-

sation, equipment standards, regulations are widely respected; our players occupy a leading place, and have won their share currently of world titles, both among men and women.

Not to be there, and with the best we can manage, would be to abdicate our leading position, and abandon what is in some sort, however modestly, a national responsibility. So the Annual General Meeting agreed, in directing that every effort should be made to send our teams.

NOT ENOUGH

The original target was £3,000, which we hoped would cover four men, three women, a Captain and a delegate. It is not working out quite like that. The response to our appeal has been splendid, but even with a substantial contribution from reserves, the maximum sum we shall be able to afford will be nearer £2,000.

To avoid running into debt we have moderated our target. Neither the regular men's team of women's team captains (Haydon and Sears), available for such a long journey. We hope to arrange these appointments in such a way as to reduce the expenditure on officials. By cutting the men's and women's teams to minimum three and two we may still just be able to manage.

I should like to add just a few words on the prospects and worthiness of the teams we now hope to send:



BRIAN KENNEDY

Bergmann only four years ago was unbeaten in his tour of Japan, and he has always done extremely well against Japanese players. He does not play so much competitive Table Tennis nowadays. That this affects him was evident last year, but even so, in a short period he defeated the ranking No. 1s. of Japan (and the World) **Tanaka**, Czechoslovakia **Andreadis**, Rumania **Reiter**, France **Roothoof**, U.S.A. **Miles**, Germany **Freundorfer**, a record no English players, and few others, could exceed. He has undertaken this year to keep in training with a special fitness programme.

Mrs. Cornett and Miss D. Rowe have been in the last five World's



JOHNNY LEACH

Women's Doubles finals, winning twice. Their two decisive victories over the present holders this year (in Vienna and Belgrade) showed that, in their best form, they are in a class by themselves. In the same tournaments Rosalind with Stipek and Diane with Leach showed that these pairs must be first and second favourites for the World's Mixed title.

In singles they both did enough, without yet reaching their peak, to show that their World's ranking positions of No. 3 and No. 6 respectively are fully justified.

DOUBLES OUTSTANDING

Leach is in the middle of changing his game, hitting more and harder. At present he is not quite so sure in singles as in his best days but he has won this year over Gyetvai (the Stockholm Finalist) and Andreadis, and reached the semi-final in the strongest tournament of the year so far (Belgrade).

In Mixed and Men's Doubles he is quite outstanding, and won in Stockholm with Flisberg against the best pairs of Europe.

Kennedy has an outstanding record

this season among younger English team players, having won all four home tournaments in which he has competed. His record abroad includes wins over Tereba, Vyhnanovsky, Vana, Tokar, Pesch, Vogrinc, Grujic, reaching the last eight in both Vienna and Belgrade and two very close games with the current European No. 1 (Szepesi).

These players, if entered would be out there, not just as symbols, but to win. With luck, they should give a very good account of themselves.

EXTRA BURDEN

Of course, minimum teams must bear heavy extra burden. The two girls we cannot help—but it must be noted that, before now, a minimum two has proved able to carry off the women's team cup.

The men's ordeal can be more strenuous.

I am happy however, to be able to say, that G.V. Barna, who expects to be in Tokio anyway, has agreed to accept nomination in the team—to help out in case of need.

He will not emerge from retirement, unless it becomes necessary, by some mishap to one player, as the only way in which the other two can complete the matches. He has only agreed to do this to help our Association and the team after it has become abundantly clear that there is no alternative, and that in so doing he is not enabling us to leave out someone else whom otherwise we might afford to send.

Now to matters that have aroused controversy. First, the choice of Bergmann.

Harry Walker and others have done a service in bringing this question to open discussion. (See January issue).

It should, however, be made clear that the choice of the Selection Committee is not a decision on policy (it is not policy making) but is based on an N.E.C. instruction that Bergmann was to be considered equally eligible with all other E.T.T.A. players, and selection be on merits.

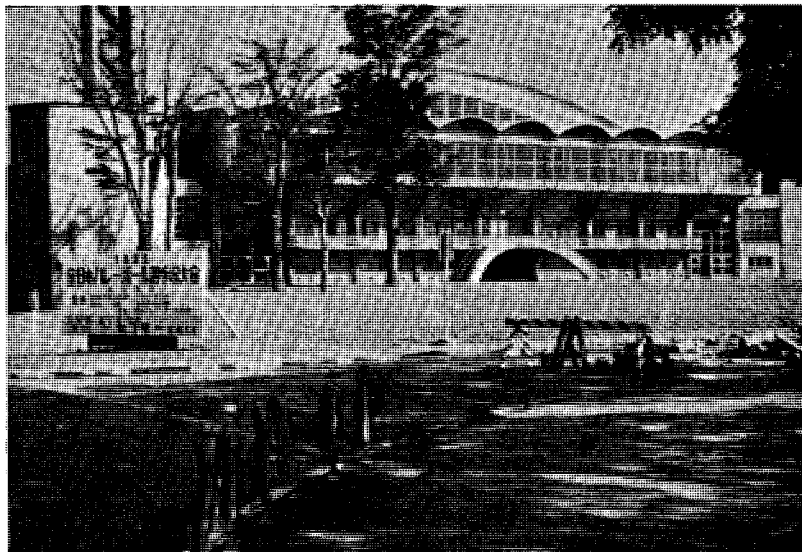
This is a hard question with a great deal of rightness on both sides.

CONFLICTING VIEWS

One view is that only those who play in England and are available throughout the season should be eligible.

Against this, is the view that any E.T.T.A. player who keeps to E.T.T.A. rules should be treated on an equality with others. And we have no hard and fast rule like in the U.S.A. where a player has to total a minimum number of points by participating in the big events, before being eligible for selection.

Then there is the feeling that some players in the running, resent being



VENUE OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

passed over for a player who spends his time abroad, even though he may be their superior. Others feel that to be chosen because a stronger player was abroad, would be an empty honour.

Obviously this matter has to be thrashed out and it is important we should find out the real feelings of the county, both of players and fans. Harry Walker's letter may open the way for doing this.

Meanwhile, it is surely right that we should consider the interests of the sport rather than individuals.

CHANGES COMING

But the time must soon come when the building up of a new team and experience for youngsters must take precedence over the still existing superiority of older players.

Because, as is done with Olympic selection and as was only right (the Tokio trip being of five week duration) we took certain steps to advise some "possibles" early, to find out if they would be available, and help plan their tuning up. It has been said that our minds were made up from the start of the season. It is as unfair to say this, as it would have been to do it.

It has been clear from the start to the players notified as "possibles" that they would be selected only if form was maintained; and it has been in the minds of selectors throughout that consistent or exceptionally promising form by any other player must result in supplanting early ideas.

In fairness, however, can it be claimed that anyone has shown merit so outstanding as correctly to require their preference to those named, or alternatively to justify the expense

involved in adding to the minimum?

So we explain our conclusions. We know that the players concerned appreciate our difficulties, and will do their best as would no doubt any whom we sent, to carry the extra burden and prove worthy of the sacrifices made to send them, as well as the confidence shown.

We do not want to fail in our duty. England has always led in this sport, and we have managed to do so off our own bat, without subsidy, simply by the strength and keenness of the players, the fans, the clubs, the leagues, the sympathisers (including our good friends the manufacturers). If you think we're on the right track; if you think the two proposed teams ought to be there; if you think they can help keep us in the forefront—please play your part with a donation to the "Travelling Expenses" Fund. If you had not beforehand thought of so doing, think now, and send us half a crown (the price of a cigarette packet or a cheap cinema seat), or a note, cheque or I.O.U. (we're not proud), or even sixpence and thank you for that.

Or how about organising a Club Competition?

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THE HUNGARIAN CHALLENGE

by JOHNNY LEACH

THE hunt for that elusive men's singles title in the English "Open" will be on again at Manchester at the end of the month. And once again we home players face a strong overseas challenge, led by the Hungarians.

Along with other members of the English team I have had first hand experience of the Hungarians this season and the Editor has asked me to let you have a preview of them.

Of course at the time of writing we do not know the definite compo-

sition of their side so I shall deal generally with those I expect to make the trip.



KALMAN SZEPESEI

Undoubtedly the most successful Continental player this season has been Kalman Szepesi, winner of the Yugoslav and Scandinavian "Opens". He is not a newcomer, nor a youngster, being in the region of 30. He has been in the Hungarian team for the past three years as their No 3, but to my mind was the weakest No. 3 of all top nations. A switch to sponge has rejuvenated his game and he is now one of the hardest players to beat.

His service is a most potent weapon, which all players find difficult to take.

Szepesi, a left hander, appears to have a nervous approach to a match, almost as though frightened as to what will happen, but he is consistent. He bases his game on pushing the ball around then putting the it away with a one time hit.

It would be interesting to see him clash with Andreadis, for the Czech

has always had a certain contempt for sponge.

Incidentally, Szepesi has a withered arm and as a result has to serve by throwing the ball between his fingers instead of with a flat hand.

While Szepesi is I know strongly fancied for the title I regard Elemer Gyetvai as the "dark horse" of the Hungarian team. He is to my mind the hardest hitter in the world today and uses the soft rubber or sandwich bat. He has the ordinary pimped rubber—reversed so that the smooth side is showing—stuck over the top of sponge and a deadly weapon it has proved.

Gyetvai, believing that attack is the best form of defence, can score with deadly accuracy on both wings. He used to be known as a forehand hitter but he has now developed a backhand of equal ferocity.

It is almost impossible to counter-hit him and on the two or three occasions I have seen Andreadis, one of the best counter-hitters in the world, attempt to swap punches with Gyetvai, it has always been the Hungarian who has come off best.

Still the Best

But while these two "spongers" are building up a big reputation, I still feel that Ferenc Sido, the former world champion, is Hungary's best player.

He may not be getting such good results but his allround play is far superior, though he is defending



EVA KOCZIAN

more, using attack as a one time kill rather than consistently.

Sido still sticks to the orthodox pimped rubber bat though he did

try sponge for a period but was unable to adapt it to his style.

Josef Koczian may well be another member of the Hungarian team and like Sido prefers the orthodox bat. In his recent tour of India I am told he has shown a most welcome return to form. The English will be his first appearance of the season in an international championship.

His sister Eva Koczian is almost certain to be a member of the team and on the present world ranking is Hungary's top woman player.

She is very much improved and is one of the best fighters among the women players and will be recalled as having beaten Angelica Rozeanu in that memorable Corbillon Cup match in the Wembley world championships.

Eva has a lot of wrist action in her



ELEMER GYETVAI

strokes, especially in defence where she gets excessive chop on the ball. Her opponents never know where the ball is going from these unorthodox shots.

Eva must be regarded as one of the chief rivals for the women's title being defended by Mrs. Rosalind Cornett.

Mrs. Giza (Farkas) Gervai, ex-world champion and former holder of the English title, is still a very clever player, but her game lacks its former stings. Nevertheless, she is still a great worry to all the top world players.

It is always a great pleasure to meet our Hungarian friends and even more so after the recent trip to their country where the hospitality to us was second to none.

Incidentally, I understand that the Hungarians are not going to Japan for the world championships. This will be a great loss to the meeting, so may I wish them every success at Manchester.

Geoff Harrower reports on

Junior International Trials

The Junior International Trials were held at London University on January 8th, and it is perhaps unfortunate that the dictates of expense and travel demand that this event shall be rushed over in a few hours, less than four hours in fact. During this short period some players are called upon to play five times, a considerable strain on youngsters. Of course, it may be that the Selection Committee had made up their minds before the trials!

They certainly had regarding Eddie Hodson and Laurie Landry, who were there, it seemed, merely to try out some of the other boys, although Hodson was given the opportunity to avenge his defeat by George Gladwish, in the Sussex Open earlier in the season.

IMPROVED

Nevertheless, the youngsters seemed to enjoy themselves, and several impressive performances were noted. Gladwish has improved his all-round game, although he still looks far from a complete player. Nevertheless he works hard at the game, and if his reward is a "cap" against Wales later in the season, he will have earned it. His successes at the trials included victories over Tindale, Cole and Collins, and his only loss was to Hodson.

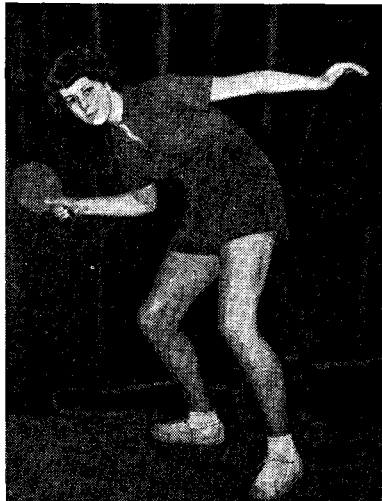
Third place in the Junior team to play France went to Ian Harrison, a compact player who beat Piddock, Stoddart, Bradford, Cole and Collins all in straight games. The selectors did not match him against Gladwish, no doubt preferring his more composite game.

Harrison's Cheltenham compatriots, David Griffiths and Keith Tarling, both impressed. Tarling beat Cole, Collins and Bradford, but crashed against Hodson, whilst Griffiths might easily have brought off a major surprise by upsetting Landry.

The two Suffolk boys, Peter Cole and John Collins, disappointed. Cole reckoned as the better of the two, displayed form well below his best, whilst Collins did his best to get over an unfortunate start, losing heavily to Tarling. Later he extended Landry and Gladwish to three games, but

made no impression against Harrison.

None of the balance of thirty one boys can have made much impression on the Selectors. Against this huge total there were only seven girls, and it was known that two of these had been nominated with an eye to the future. It had been expected that



LORNA BOWN

Dorothy Worrall, with two years experience in Staffordshire's Second team, would come through with the best record, but Dorothy was below her best, and after just beating Micky McKeekin and Shelagh Hession, lost easily to Jean Harrower.



with courtesy of "JUNIOR MIRROR"

JEAN HARROWER

Shelagh Hession, with two seasons to go as a Junior, was the surprise of the trials, and fully justified Essex's confidence in her. She beat McMeekin and had a match point against Worrall, before losing to Harrower and Lorna Bown.

Lorna Bown, a junior next year, paid her first visit to London and showed that she was not behind the standard of the other girls. Opening with a win over Jean Harrower, she beat Hession and Julie Johnson, and fully extended Sheila Pickard.

Micky McMeekin disappointed, her only win being a repeat of the preceding days North West Kent final, over Pickard. The selectors must know, from her tournament record, that she can do better than this.

WHIRLWIND

Sheila Pickard, the Essex No. 1, was doing well, having beaten Bown and Johnson, until she struck a whirlwind in the shape of Jean Harrower. When these two last met Sheila had been a clear winner, but on this occasion it was Jean who did the attacking, and a devastating rain of blows left poor Sheila trailing 1-10 and 4-16 in the final game.

Julie Johnson has another year as a junior, and whilst not yet able to challenge the other girls she showed that, with further improvement during the Summer, she will be a force to be reckoned with next season.

Finally, Jean Harrower. Only 12 years old, the youngest ever to take part in International trials, she finished with the best record. Called upon to play more matches than any other girl, she beat Pickard, Worrall, Hession and Johnson, and lost only to Bown at 19 in the third. Perhaps it is an understatement to say she seems a good prospect for the future.

HARRY VENNER

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BUDDING "EAGLE/GIRL" CHAMPIONS

Looking for personalities? We'll have thirty-two of them on parade at the "EAGLE"/"GIRL" National Finals at the Friends Meeting House, Euston on February 25th, next—and not one will be fifteen years of age.

It takes character, as well as ability, to win your way through the Area and Regional Finals of this increasingly competitive event, and this year's finalists have been thoroughly tested and found worthy in these respects.

In the audience, watching them fight out the final stages will be dozens of gallant, and sporting losers who competed and showed great promise, but lacked the extra vital spark that would have put their names in the programme.

Exciting Final

"When you see youngsters play like that it gives you fresh heart", said general Liverpool secretary, Billy Stamp.

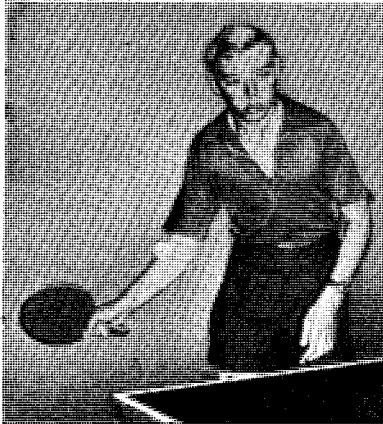
We had been watching the Boys' Under-thirteen Regional Final at Liverpool—the 'match of the season' in any language. It had fireworks, tactical skill, drama, suspense . . . and surprise, for though he lost the first leg local boy **Peter Keating** proceeded to win the next two from deuce and thus knock-out **Roger Cardwell**, a Yorkshire lad who, by his showing the previous week at Nottingham, had caused Johnny Leach to remark: "Here's a boy who could give Ronnie Brass a run for his money!"

A large audience of parents and officials, naturally sympathetic towards the efforts of their own representative, quiet, undemonstrative Peter Keating, were soon on a tip-toe of excitement as these youngsters stood up to the table and hit it out. Defence was spurned, for each had his 'eye in' and decided that hits were meant to be a counter-hit.

by KENNETH WHEELER

But Peter is not just a wild hitter. He uses his brains; and it was through his spotting, early in the second game, Roger's backhand weakness, and relentlessly plugging that wing, that Peter Keating lives to challenge the holder, **Ronnie Brass**, of Scotland, for his National title.

On the whole, with a greatly increased entry figure, the standard of play has been even higher than last year. Seven of last year's finalists



DEREK GRANT

have come through again, a tribute to the special coaching of Johnny Leach at Skegness last September, but there are plenty of discoveries too, some of them with a real chance of upsetting the 'favourites'.

There's **David Stanley**, of Manchester, for example. "Take it easy, son" says his father Ken, the well-known international. But David has his own ideas. He knows only one way out of trouble—to hit your way out—and David's forehand clout has carried him through to the last stage with a fierce resolve to make his own contribution to the Stanley Collection of Trophies.

Keen Challenge

More trouble in store for you, Ronnie Brass, in the shape of 'sponger' **Michael Kraitt**, a competitor who could squeeze you out of the honours by his sheer unorthodoxy. Then, by contrast, there is the other London champion **Clive Bloy**, an elegant all-round stroke player whose elder brother, Douglas, reached the senior final last year.

That's not the end of it, Ronnie, because what they lack against your skill and experience, the other under-thirteens make up for in never-say-

die endeavour.

In the over thirteen event, **Derek Grant**, of Ventnor, Isle of Wight, will be tilting once more at the title he so narrowly failed to gain from Donald Twigg last year. Donald is now over age, but Derek's path is far from clear. Against him, for one, is the much-improved **Chris Gosling**, selected by Johnny Leach to appear on a recent T.V. instructional programme.

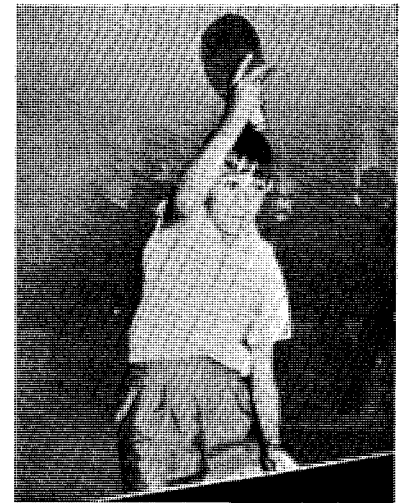
Two newcomers with an equal chance are **Alan Holden**, the Manchester champion, who plays a steady, all-round game and refuses to be rattled, and **Alan Chelmers**, of Scotland, who has the ability and possibly the right temperament.

Neither **Paul Racey**, (Bristol), runner-up to Ronnie Brass in the Juniors last time, nor **Michael Dainty** Leeds can be lightly dismissed.

An encouraging feature of this year's tournament has been the much larger entry of girl competitors, and again fighting spirit and courage has been the keynote in their events.

In the Senior Finals, pretty **Pat McKenzie**, of Scotland, is one to watch; while **Madeleine Strasser**, of Birmingham, can be relied upon to give anyone a fight.

Jean Darling (the holder), **Lynda Gordon** (who has shorn much of her nervousness, as well as her pigtails)



PAUL RACEY

and vivacious **Susan Sharp** will be appearing in the Junior Finals for the second year in succession. All have improved, but newcomer **Carole Reeves** (of Nottingham) could prove too strong for any of them.

Strong contenders for honours were

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expected to emerge from the London tournaments at St. Bride's Institute on February 4th. Among the names of over two hundred girls who entered was that of **Jean Harrower**.

All in all, I think you'll agree, we have the makings of a really exciting



CHRIS GOSLING

day's play at Euston on February 25th. Two sessions will be held—from 10 to 1 in the morning, and from 4 to 6 in the evening.

Table Tennis officials throughout the country are unanimous in their praise for Messrs. Hulton Press Ltd. for having inaugurated and continued this highly successful children's tournament which fills a long-felt need. But it's success is largely due to the wholehearted co-operation of those officials themselves, and I would like to take this opportunity once more of thanking them for the splendid manner in which they have rallied round to help us with the organisation of the many events.

AUBREY SIMONS introduces

THE SPINS AND DRIVES

SO far in this short series of articles we have mainly dealt with advice to the young player about his general approach to the game, Dress, Training etc., but now down to more technical details and an analysis of the basic strokes.

We emphasised in the last article the need for constant practice of the push stroke to get the feeling of the ball. Firstly, however, let us really try to understand the spin which can be imparted to the ball by both rubber and sponge faced bats. Lack of understanding will probably do more to hold a promising player back than any other single factor.

What are the main "spins" to mark, learn and inwardly digest. Firstly "TOPSPIN", since this is automatically applied to almost every orthodox attacking shot in various degrees. It applied by an upward and forward "brushing" movement of the bat which causes the ball to rotate towards an opponent. The spin itself will cause the ball to drop more quickly after passing the net and bounce faster.

First and foremost Topspin will enable the ball to be struck harder without sending it off the table.

Backspin or Chop.

This in execution and effect is the complete opposite of Topspin. It is produced by a downward stroke of the bat and causes the ball to "hang" on the return. Its immediate effect is to reduce speed, and if this is not counteracted the chopped ball will inevitably be returned into and not over the net.

Most of the defensive players today

use liberal "chop" against an attacking opponent. Properly executed it is one of the safest methods of control and most important of all it makes a sustained attack by an opponent very difficult.

Sidespin

Although not widely used by the top notcher this can be a very effective 'variation' to be introduced at the right moment. Against relatively inexperienced player it can be deadly.

Here the chief effect on the flight of the ball is to cause it to swerve rather than to alter its trajectory. Unlike topspin the ball is rotated in THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION to the stroke of the racquet. Thus if we hit across the ball from left to right the ball will swerve from right to left and vice-versa.

VARIATIONS

All other spins are variations of these three basic ones. Remember Topspin, returns must be "flattened" out to prevent the ball going off the far end of the table. CHOP or BACKSPIN must be lifted to get the ball over the net. SIDESPIN, must be returned with the racquet aimed in the OPPOSITE direction to the stroke of an opponents racquet across the ball.

Forehand Drive.

Assuring that the racquet is held in the orthodox flat hand grip already described and treated as an extension of the arm, the surface of the bat should approach the ball at an approximate angle of 40-45 degrees. This will impart the necessary topspin to the ball to make it drop over the net. The smaller the angle of the face of the bat to the horizontal the greater amount of topspin imparted.

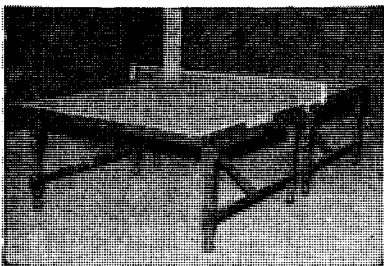
For the forehand drive the left foot should be in front of the right, with the left shoulder forward, but with the right shoulder moving forward when making the stroke. As the shot is played it will be seen, therefore, that the body turns as the stroke follows through. At the commencement of the stroke the left shoulder is towards the table, and at the finish the right.

Backhand Drive.

This is merely a repetition of the forehand drive in reverse and from the left side of the table. The angle of the bat is thus the same as for the forehand. The bat swings upward and forward in an arc with its centre below the level of the table. The right foot is in front of the left with the right shoulder towards the table.

Next month we will deal with the forehand and back hand chop, the dropshot and half volley.

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Area News:

STAFFS ROUND UP

THE move by the E.T.T.A. to further the Umpire's Scheme with the introduction of a higher grade to be known as National Umpires is welcomed by Staffordshire as something to again stimulate interest.

There has been a growing feeling in the area that the glamour of being a County Umpire is being dulled, for many have complained that once the written and practical test has been passed there is little scope for County Umpires locally.

Staffs have approximately eight home matches at which three umpires are deemed sufficient, and, as one of these is usually a man taking his practical test, it means that out of a score of available umpires only 16 are required in the season.

It is appreciated that more Umpires makes for better County, Town and Club play, but these officials do not want to feel they are being wasted.

FIRST WINNER

Letting the New Year in with a tournament, was a unique idea of the Oak Club of West Bromwich. The scheme was first suggested at 5pm on New Year's Eve and within five hours was under way with about 16 speedily invited players with ages ranging from 10 to 52 years.

Played on the American tournament principle it ended at 4 a.m. so that 12 years old Ann Charman can surely claim to be the first tournament winner of 1956.

Staffordshire's ten-nil trouncing of Northamptonshire in the Midland Division of the County Championship was their best win to date, and in fact the visitors won only two games.

Staffs had the unique experience of playing a home match over their opponent's borders when they lost narrowly 4-6 to Worcestershire at Dudley.

Dudley, who are members of the Staffs Association, are actually in Worcestershire but their town is entirely surrounded by Staffs territory.

The present Staffs junior side are a fair representation of the County. V. Dereza comes from the Potteries, B. Dent from Wolverhampton and S. Ward from West Bromwich. They are a strong combination of boys who would give any county a good game.

Marjorie Warner and Joyce Hayward have been Staffs Ladies Doubles representatives in county games for many years and except for one or two opening matches four years ago, have never been parted and seldom beaten.

They are not only a good combination but two of the most attractively dressed girls in the team.

Derek Backhouse, last season's junior international and holder of both senior and junior titles in West Bromwich, has dropped out of all club play this season, to concentrate on his studies. However he still plays No. 1 for West Bromwich at weekends and represents the Staffs senior side. He has taken to sponge this season, although just over twelve-months ago he used to argue forcibly against it.

Well to the front in the "Daily Mirror" tournament are the three inter-league players Kathleen Barlow (16), Barbara Wall (15), and Christine Charman (15). Clashes in successive rounds of the girls tournament have left Barbara, who reached the semi-final last year, as the only survivor, but all three are still going strong in the women's competition. Inevitably they must meet within a round or so.

Dorothy Worrall (16), a semi-finalist in the Women's section of the "Mirror" last year, was selected for the recent English Junior trials and we await to hear the constitution of the next England team.

Meanwhile, she has paired up with Ann Haydon for the forthcoming English Open.

A.A.Wall.

MERSEYSIDE MEMO

The qualifying rounds of the "Eagle" and "Girl" National Junior Championships for the North West Area were organised by the Liverpool League and played at Bootle Y.M.C.A. The four finalists met the Nottingham area winners to decide who should go forward to the Final stages to be played in London on February 25th.

Johnny Leach was present throughout the day giving help and advice to more than 70 entrants of varying ages between 11 and 15 years.

The Liverpool winners were Linda Haves, Diana Foster, Alastair Long and Peter Keating. In the finals, the Nottingham girls won rather easily, and Long lost in the 3rd game, but the real highlight was the Junior final between Peter Keating (Bootle Y.M.C.A.) and Roger Cardwell the Notts finalist.

The standard was good and they played with their heads which is quite refreshing these days. Cardwell had a few mannerisms he would do well to forget, and he became over confident, which ultimately led to his downfall.

The Wirral League have just concluded their Closed Championships with a larger entry than last year, attributed to the Singles events being

played on the group system thus giving each player at least six sets before being eliminated. This system has of course been very popular in some Southern Leagues for many years.

The Championships were staged over a full week at Livingstone Street Baths Birkenhead

Frank Varty, who last year startled the natives with his sponge bat and won all three titles, lost them all this year. The new singles champion Don Bruce is also a convert to sponge.

Mrs. Beryl Waterson retained the Womens singles title by defeating Mrs. Gladys Rimmer.

Results:— W. S. Mrs B. Waterson bt Mrs G. Rimmer 22/20; 21/15 W.D. Mrs P. Mahan & Miss J. Barton bt Mrs P. O'Connell & Mrs B. Dixon 21/19; 16/21; 21/19 M.S. D. Bruce bt W. Pierce 21/19; 21/19 M.D. N. R. Jones & W. Pierce bt A. Smith & B. Townsend 18/21; 21/16; 21/19. Mx N. R. Jones & Miss Woods bt Mr & Mrs J. Rimmer 22/20; 15/21; 21/16.

The week of Table Tennis was concluded with a Junior County match when Cheshire beat Lancashire by 7 sets to 1. Local representatives were John Stoddart of Wirral and Ian Rogerson of Liverpool. notwithstanding the final score, there were many hard fought matches the return at Burnley should prove very interesting.

Balfour, who have made a habit for the past 5 years of being Liverpool League champions are again leading by three points at the half way stage. In the Womens division, present champions Bohemians are very closely followed by Anfield who, although 2 points behind, have a match in hand.

LEAGUE TABLES

First Division

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Balfour	13	12	0	1	110	20	25
Bohemians	13	10	1	2	89	41	22
Rafters	13	10	2	1	88	42	21
Victoria Park	13	7	3	3	76	54	17
Oakhill	13	5	5	3	69	61	13
Linnets	13	5	5	3	68	62	13
Anfield	13	4	4	5	63	67	13
Liverpl Y.M.	13	5	5	3	63	67	13
Balfour A	13	2	8	3	41	89	7
Nomads	13	2	10	1	44	86	5
Rafters A	12	2	10	0	30	90	4
Lucem	12	0	11	1	28	92	1

Women's Division

Bohemians	13	11	0	2	98	32	24
Anfield	12	10	0	2	92	28	22
Rafters	13	9	1	3	96	34	21
Balfour	13	8	5	0	76	54	16
Waterloo Park	13	7	4	2	74	56	16
Bibbys	13	7	5	1	68	62	15
Oakhill	13	6	5	2	65	65	14
Littlewoods	13	5	6	2	63	67	12
Osterley	13	2	10	1	46	84	5
Aigburth	12	2	10	0	33	87	4
Cadwa	12	0	9	3	36	84	3
Linnets	12	0	12	0	13	107	0

Bill Stamp

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YORKSHIRE NOTES

ALTHOUGH not possessing the largest league membership the broad acres of Yorkshire call for probably the greatest administrative problems that face any county. Yet, despite its three Ridings, each larger than the average English county, the officers and Executive Committee and nine sub committees endeavour to carry out a most comprehensive programme.

By virtue of its geographical position Leeds is the centre for all week-night Executive Meetings, while for the past two years delegates have journeyed to the ancient city of York for the A.G.M.

Yorkshire is proud of the fact that it is the only County to publish a magazine, appropriately known as "*White Rose*", capably edited by Colin Slater, with the circulation in the hands of enthusiastic Mrs Carrie Cook.

ONLY SECONDS

In the National County championship none of the three teams, with perhaps the exception of the "seconds" in Second Division (North) have come up to expectation.

With six points secured from five matches, the Premier side, even if

they get maximum points from the remaining fixtures with Warwickshire away, and Sussex at Dewsbury on March 24, will fall behind last season's best ever record of eleven points when we finished as runners-up.

Let's face it, we had no fixed ideas of winning the championship at the beginning of the season, but at least hoped to do as well as last year.

After losing to Surrey, hopes soared high with that great 8-2 win over Middlesex and a good win over our traditional rivals from Lancashire. Then they crashed with a defeat by Gloucestershire at Sheffield.

FATHER AND DAUGHTER

The popular Knaresborough official George Preston took over as non-playing captain, in the absence of Alan Thompson, for the match with Essex, and his daughter Jean made her Premier Division debut in the same match.

We got the points after a hard fight and our thanks to Essex for their hospitality and making the team feel the journey was worth while.

On the same day the "seconds" lost 4-6 to Northumberland at Newcastle.

Marjorie Rhodes moved up to take the singles in place of Jean Preston,

and the Leeds player Joan Walker came in for the doubles. Unfortunately Maurice Pitts, the Bradford singles champion sprained an ankle, and at short notice "Sonny" Forrest came in, playing his part by winning one of the singles.

WINNING WAY

Congratulations to Brian Kennedy, who is unbeaten in the Premier Division, on winning three titles in the Welsh "Open" and also gaining his first open championship win over Johnny Leach.

Our thanks to Mr and Mrs Cook, of Barnsley, who have launched a coaching course for junior girls to assure a steady supply of lady players for the county teams.

The popular players Grading Scheme, now in its fifth season, finds a total of 79 graded players (56 men and 23 women). Feature of last month's list are the promotions of Jean Preston (Knaresborough) and Maurice Pitts (Bradford) to the Grade 1. They are the first players from their areas to achieve this status.

Huddersfield are Yorkshire sole survivors in the Wilmott Cup and following their Zone 1 final win by 6-3 at Scunthorpe now visit Manchester in the Quarter Final.

Leslie Forrest.

New Table Tennis Talent *discovered by EAGLE and GIRL*

The EAGLE and GIRL National Junior Table Tennis Tournament Finals, which take place on Saturday, 25th February, at Friends House, 173/177 Euston Road, N.W.1, promise to reveal some really outstanding talent. Table tennis is just one of the many activities catered for by EAGLE and GIRL, Britain's most popular comics.

How to join the EAGLE club and the GIRL Adventurer's Club

It's very simple. Every issue of EAGLE and GIRL contains a membership form which gives all details. Membership costs only 1/6d and entitles boys and girls to enjoy all club benefits up to their seventeenth birthday.

EAGLE AND GIRL COME OUT EVERY WEDNESDAY

HULL and EAST RIDING NOTES

NUMERICALLY, this is the best ever season for Hull and East Riding Association. The introduction of a new rule, whereby teams were reduced from five to four players, resulted in many clubs entering additional teams.

Two extra divisions had to be formed bringing the number up to ten, and 115 teams compete for the various championship titles.

Unfortunately the Association's playing strength has not kept pace with increased numbers and the men's and women's inter-league teams are both weak.

During the summer the men's team lost junior international R. Jackson, and Yorkshire junior champion A. Teal to the forces, while D. Smith left the district.

A new team has had to be formed around E. Beedle, and P. Smith, L. Hunter, D. N. Bartlett and L. Rosenthal have all been played.

The women's team comprises Mrs K. King, Miss S. Train, Mrs P. Close, and Miss G. Dutton, but along with the men they have yet to win an inter-league match this season.

Hull are better placed where the young players are concerned, the Youth's side topping the Eastern Region League table with an unbeaten record. D. N. Bartlett, M. Sothcott, B. Short, T. M. Bosworth, C. Pollard and Mein have all played their part in this successful run, and Hull Y.P.I. must be proud at providing four of these players.

League champions Argyle "A" head the First Division followed by Hull

Judeans, who are only two points behind

Judeans however have lost the services of "Abe" Abrahamson, who has had to retire for health reasons, and this may affect their championship prospects in the second half of the season.

D. E. Gladwin

KENT NOTES

Kent look forward to Premier Division status next season. With victories over Hampshire (9-1) Bedfordshire (9-1) and Hertfordshire (6-4) they are assured of a place in the promotion play-off against winners of the North and West sections of the Second Division.

Since Kent were promoted to the Second Division (South) four years ago they have been on the brink of the Premier Division and it now looks as though the goal will be reached.

Mrs Rosalind Cornett is a very welcome new member of the Sturdee Club, in Gillingham. Practice there is provided by Mrs Beadle, her husband George, Roy Coussens and Barry Meisel, all Medway Towns representative players.

There is also news of Mrs. J. Faulkner and her husband moving to this area, making it one of the strongholds of the ladies game in England.

Ron Etheridge, a regular member of Kent's county team for many years, has started a coaching class at Sidcup County Boys Club, Hatherley Road, Sidcup. This is a fortnightly affair, with an average attendance of 16 or so. Pupils vary between the ages of

12-16, and Etheridge hopes that at least one of his flock will make the junior county team next season.

It is with deep regret that I learn of the death of Alec Gorman, vice-chairman and men's team captain of the Woolwich & District T.T.A. Mr. Gorman was one of Woolwich's best liked and respected officials, and he made a come-back to their committee this season after a serious illness.

Conrad Jascke

IRISH SCENE

Dublin player Mick Behan recorded a grand win in the Limerick Open Championships defeating H. McCarthy, of Munster, in a straight sets final.

In the semi-finals, McCarthy eliminated the fancied Tom Seacy while Behan ousted another Munster interprovincial S. Cummins.

Behan who has turned over to sponge since January is playing really well, the new surface lending much more pace to his attack.

In the women's decider another Dublin entrant May Phillips took the title when accounting for Miss J. Whelan of Wexford in the semi, and the youthful Una Cassin in the final.

Miss Phillips is definitely one of the coming players as is demonstrated by this success and also by her performance in beating Mrs. Pappin in the Leinster Open.

There were several surprise results in the Leinster League Individual Divisional championships. In Division I. A. Donald Mahony (Anglesea) defeated the more fancied G. Maher and Behan defeated the enigmatical Tommy Taylor. Behan then went on to beat Mahony but lost the final against his clubmate Sean Clarkin, who had previously ousted Wesley Pappin.

The Anglesea club tournament is another recent event to produce a quota of surprises. Clarkin retained his men's title beating G. Maher in the final after Maher had previously defeated Taylor.

In the women final Deirdre Fearon turned the tables on Joy Owens winning in straight sets.

The Anglesea Men's "A" team suffered yet another defeat on their second visit up North. They went under 5-4 to Mountpottinger, whose team consisted of Ernie Allen, Colin Senior and Brendan McClusker.

Clarkin won all his three singles. Behan beat McClusker and Mahony only failed to beat the same player after a tremendously hard fought tussle which went to deuce in each set.

Anglesea will be meeting Ards in Dublin on February 18th. and Mountpottinger on February 25th. Both matches will be played in the Sandy-mount Hall.

S. Dignam

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ENGLAND MISSED THE BOAT

BEFORE leaving for India with his wife, Suzie, on January 5, Victor Barna told me it was almost certain that he would accompany the India Swaythling and Corbillon sides to Tokyo as official coach.

Overtures had been made to him to act as non-playing captain of our Corbillon team, but he had previously half-promised the Indians to go to Japan on their behalf.

Had the English invitation been extended when he was a free agent, he would have been delighted to accept, for it has long been his ambition to help this country's players on a national scale.

Victor, who is in India under a Government-sponsored sports scheme, is undertaking coaching assignments of three weeks' duration each in Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, and is also responsible for the training of the country's World teams.

His four-month sojourn in India last year is already bearing fruit, by the way. One of his star pupils, Solomons, an 18-year-old Indian Jew, not long back beat Josef Koczian, the Hungarian who rates No. 6 in the World list and who was a World finalist in the 1952 Bombay series, in the quarter-finals of the East of India Championships. Later, in an India v. Hungary Test match, he gave Sido a close run losing 16-21, 21-23.

Other young pupils of Victor's have also been performing exceptionally well and winning titles and tournaments.

OLYMPIC PRIORITY

The Hungarians and Czechs may be missing from the World Championships in Tokio.

It is reported that these two countries are saving hard for the Melbourne Olympic Games and may decide to cut down on T.T. expenditure.

If Hungary and Czechoslovakia do compete in the World's, Sido and Koczian will later again tour India, while Andreadis and Stipek will visit Australia and Hong Kong.

SPONGE FALLING

The sponge-using population in Japan has fallen considerably. A letter from a Japanese official states that

there are now some 50,000 fewer sponge adherents than there were last season. Further interesting item of news is that the four finalists of both Singles events of the All-Japan High School Championships used orthodox rubber bats.

* * *

In the All-Union Championships played in Riga, and organised by the Spartak Society, 12 of the 70 competitors played with sponge bats.

The team event, contested by 12 republics on a "round robin" basis, was won by Estonia, who were unbeaten. Lithuania, champions for the past five years, were second, with nine wins.

Men's Individual title was won by Abba Gelvans, of Riga, who beat fellow-countryman Algimantav Saunoris, in the final. Both men are Masters of Sport. E. Lestal, a Master of Sport and Soviet champion in 1952-3-4, won the women's singles.

IN THE STATES

In an inter-city tournament, held in Worcester, Mass., New York beat all comers. The New York side comprised Bob Gusikoff, Bernard Bukiet and a sponge player whose name isn't specified.

Swaythling Cup player Johnny Somael failed in the pre-tournament trials and lost his place in the N.Y. team. He has since told friends that he is through with competitive play.

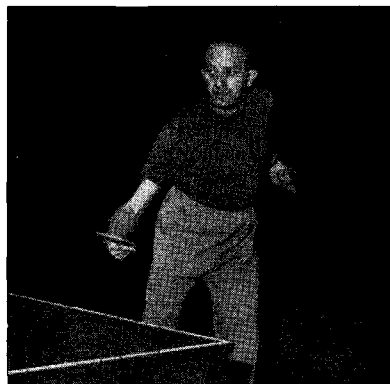
Gusikoff had the best individual record, suffering only one defeat,—at the hands of 15-year-old Norman Van De Waldo, of Chicago.

Waldo, a rubber-bat user, went to America four years ago from Belgium and is already considered worthy of No. 8 ranking in the national list.

Bukiet was second best, with two defeats against him.

Current tournaments and championships are being played under a new regulation. Every game may last 15 minutes, after which time the Expedite Rule is applied. Richard Bergmann suggested the innovation last year to the U.S.A. Association and latest reports indicate that the rule is a success.

Bergmann writes to say that he has been showing his exhibition paces



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with the Harlem Globetrotters in New Mexico, Washington, Baltimore, Detroit, Montreal, Chicago, Toronto, Quebec, Philadelphia, Salt Lake City, California, Reno, Texas and Hollywood. By the time his tour ends will have played in more than 120 major cities in Mexico, the United States and Canada.

An average of 10,000 spectators nightly watch his act. Gusikoff is his partner.

Bob took over from Rene Roothoft at the tour's beginning, when the Frenchman had to back out at the last minute owing to domestic troubles.

CANADA WIN

Former Czechoslovakian and Yugoslav star, Max Marinko, is Canada's No. 1 player. He lost 3-2 to Bukiet in the semi-finals of the Canadian Open, but several days prior to the tournament won all his three games in the Test match against U.S.A.

Canada pulled off a big surprise by winning the match, although it is fair to say that the Americans, who apparently underrated their opponents, didn't field anything like their strongest team.

Max is now a sponge-user with a similar style to Dolinar.

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SURREY—NEW CHAMPIONS

SURREY, after being runners up to Middlesex four times in the last eight years, have at last achieved their ambition of being County Champions and have put paid to the long and successful run of Middlesex.

The hopes of the reigning champions faded when they met their second defeat of the season at the hands of Surrey at Guildford, who followed this win with a 7—3 victory over Gloucestershire at Gloucester. Surrey retain their unbeaten record with still one match outstanding against Lancashire. This will have been played by the time these notes appear but win or lose, Surrey are the champions.

Gloucestershire's unbeaten record fell to Middlesex at Staines. Both teams were at full strength and the doubles games, all won by Middlesex, decided the issue. This result, following the defeat of Middlesex at the hands of Surrey virtually decided the Championships. Had they beaten Middlesex what a fight their meeting with Surrey would have been. As it was it proved an anticlimax although 4 of the 7 sets won by Surrey went to 3 games.

The 6—4 win of Yorkshire over Essex at Plaistow brings the northern county within striking distance of the runners-up position but this will probably not be determined until March when Middlesex meet Essex, and Gloucestershire play Warwickshire.

In the Second Division North Cheshire's outstanding match against Lincoln will determine the winner of

this Division. Lincolnshire have three more matches to play and if they win all three go into the lead. Cheshire have only to tie this match with Lincolnshire to make their position unassailable and they are favourites for this title.

Both Northumberland and Yorkshire have now completed their fixtures in this Division, Northumberland beating Yorkshire 6—4 in their last match at Newcastle. Both counties finish with equal points, but Yorkshire have the better average. The strength of Northumberland appears to be in their women players, both Miss P. Heppell and Mrs. Ormond being undefeated in singles.

Kent's Second Division South 6—4 win over Hertfordshire, at Letchworth now ensures their participation in the challenge play off for promotion to the Premier Division although it is doubtful whether they will finish above fourth position. Their only outstanding match is against Surrey and even if they lose this, as I imagine they will, they are assured of finishing above Hampshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, the only other counties in this Division without teams already in the Premier Division.

Kent supporters are jubilant at their success and are confident that they will overcome the challenge from the North and West and look forward to playing in the Premier Division next season.

Middlesex continued their all conquering success in this Division with a 7—3 win over Essex at Dagenham followed by a 10—0 victory over

Hampshire at Bournemouth, Rhodes, having played in all five Middlesex matches, retains his unbeaten record although against McCree and Sawyer in the Essex match both his sets went to three games.

Glamorgan, with a 7—3 win over Somerset at Cardiff, now have a two point lead over Devonshire in the Second Division West but the latter county still has a match in hand. Both teams are so far unbeaten and it looks very much as though the eventual leadership of this Division will be decided on games average.

Worcestershire beat Staffordshire 6—4 at Dudley and the pottery county still have yet to win a match in this Division.

Cheshire met Lancashire for the first time in the Junior North Division at Birkenhead and inflicted a 7—1 defeat. The only set won by the Lancashire side was Rogerson's 23—21, 21—19 victory over Fryer. This set, incidentally, is the only set Cheshire have dropped and there is little doubt they will "walk away" with this Division.

In the southern section of the Junior Division Hertfordshire again failed with a 1—9 score against Sussex at St. Leonards on Sea and have only won three sets in three games.

SUFFOLK LEAD

Suffolk's 6—4 win over Cambridgeshire in the Eastern Division fixture at Heston gave them the lead in this Division. Cambridgeshire's four wins came from J. D. Cornwell and J. A. Thurston in their mens singles matches. Paired together, they lost their mens doubles match against Cole and Collins 21—23, 21—23.

The leaders of the Midland Division, Warwickshire and Staffordshire, both had easy wins in their recent matches. Staffordshire beat Northamptonshire 10—0 at Wolverhampton and Warwickshire overcame Derbyshire 7—3 at Derby. Staffordshire have completed their fixtures but Warwickshire still have to meet Worcestershire and if they lose this match the leadership of this Division will be decided by games average.

Wiltshire were the first of the Southern Division counties to complete their fixtures when at Farnham Royal they defeated Buckinghamshire 6—4 in a closely fought match. Hertfordshire at present top this Division but are closely challenged by Berkshire and their forthcoming clash at Baldock should decide the leadership.

Devonshire inflicted another heavy defeat on Cornwall in the South

FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION

February 11 Sussex v Lancashire. St. Augustines Hall, Stanford 7.00 p.m.

March 10 Lancashire v Warwickshire. Avenue, Brighton.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

February 11 Durham v Lincolnshire. Hartlepoons. 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

March 3 Surrey v Kent. Higgs & Hill Canteen, Crown Works, Lawn Lane, Vauxhall. 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

March 10 Worcester v Devon. Shirehall, Worcester. 7.15 p.m.

EASTERN DIVISION

March 10 Norfolk v Suffolk. The Corn Hall, Diss. 7.15 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

February 18 Essex v Hertfordshire. Loughton Club, 2 Station Road, Loughton. 3.30 p.m.

February 25 Essex v Kent. Southern United Telephone Cables, Dagenham. 6.00 p.m.

JANUARY RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION : Surrey 6, Middlesex 4; Essex 4, Yorkshire 6; Middlesex 6, Gloucestershire 4; Gloucestershire 3, Surrey 7. **SECOND DIVISION NORTH** : Northumberland 6, Yorkshire 4. **SECOND DIVISION SOUTH** : Essex 3, Middlesex 7; Hampshire 0, Middlesex 10; Hertfordshire 4, Kent 6. **SECOND DIVISION WEST** : Glamorgan 7, Somerset 3; Staffordshire 4, Worcestershire 6. **JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH** : Cheshire 7, Lancashire 1. **JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH** : Sussex 9, Hertfordshire 1. **EASTERN DIVISION** : Cambridgeshire 4, Suffolk 6. **MIDLAND DIVISION** : Staffordshire 10, Northamptonshire 0; Derbyshire 3, Warwickshire 7. **SOUTHERN DIVISION** : Buckinghamshire 4, Wiltshire 6. **SOUTH WESTERN DIVISION** : Devonshire 10, Cornwall 0.

Western Division when they took all ten sets at Bideford on January 7th and are now in an extremely strong position. Devonshire introduced two new sponge players in this match, Lambell and Fletcher who won both their singles and their doubles matches.

An analysis of the results of sponge v rubber singles matches in the first half of the season produces some interesting reading. Of the 66 sets played 44 were won by the sponge players; 22 sets went to three games, 14 of these being won by sponge players thus maintaining the two thirds average. Sponge was used in six of the ten Divisions appearing in four counties in the Premier Division, three in the Second North, Second West and Southern Divisions, two in the Midlands and one in the Second South.

Kennedy and Ann Haydon had

100% records in the Premier Division while Leach (Sussex) Dove and Allcock lost, on the average, two out of three sets. Both Kennedy and Ann Haydon lost their sets in the representative match against the Champion County.

In the Second Divisions Hoffman of Middlesex appeared twice and won all four sets. Finneran of Lincoln and Kerlake and Squire of Devonshire all won three out of four sets. Devonshire on their two appearances turned out an all sponge team on each occasion, beating Somerset 7-3 and tying 5-5 with

Glamorgan who also had two sponge players in their team.

Lush (Worcestershire) and Hunt (Derbyshire) have both made a single successful appearance in the Midland Division together with Thompson (Buckinghamshire) in the Southern Division. Mrs. Horn (Wiltshire) also recorded wins on her two appearances.

These results are interesting but no definite conclusions can be arrived at until the completion of the season when it will be possible to examine all the averages of both sponge and rubber players.

DETAILED RESULTS OF PREMIER DIVISION MATCHES

Surrey 6, Middlesex 4

Craigie bt Adams 21-17, 21-16; bt Burridge 22-20, 21-15. Venner bt Burridge 24-22, 21-17; bt Thornhill 21-17, 21-15. Miller bt Thornhill 21-19, 21-16; lost to Adams 21-23, 17-21.

Mrs. Head lost to Miss D. Rowe 21-18, 14-21, 13-21.

Mrs. Head and Miss Piper lost to Miss Rowe and Mrs. Cornett 9-21, 21-13, 20-22.

Venner and Craigie bt Burridge and Adams 21-11, 21-17.

Miller and Miss Isaacs lost to Thornhill and Mrs. Cornett 13-21, 21-17, 13-21.

Essex 4, Yorkshire 6

Sawyer bt Dyson 21-19, 20-22, 21-18; lost to Hinchliff 21-17, 13-21, 14-21. Brumwell lost to Hinchliff 21-14, 12-21, 9-21; lost to Kennedy 16-21, 17-21. Jones lost to Kennedy 11-21, 4-21; bt Dyson 17-21, 21-19, 21-15.

Miss Baker bt Miss Preston 21-14, 21-16.

Miss Milbank and Mrs. Carrington lost to Miss Preston and Miss Wright 16-21, 23-21, 14-21.

Brumwell and Jones lost to Kennedy and Dyson 21-11, 16-21, 19-21.

Stevens and Miss Baker bt Hinchliff and Miss Wright 21-17, 21-15.

Middlesex 6, Gloucestershire 4

Adams bt Griffin 18-21, 21-18, 21-19; lost to Simons 22-20, 19-21, 16-21. Thornhill lost to Simons 19-21, 21-14, 14-21; lost to Merrett 23-21, 12-21, 12-21. Burridge bt Merrett 22-20, 21-13; lost to Griffin 19-21, 11-21.

Miss D. Rowe bt Miss Jones 21-16, 21-13.

Miss Rowe and Mrs. Faulkner bt Miss Jones and Miss Davis 21-14, 21-19.

Adams and Burridge bt Simons and Merrett 21-19, 21-10.

Thornhill and Mrs. Faulkner bt Griffin and Miss Davis 15-21, 21-8, 21-14.

Gloucestershire 3, Surrey 7

Griffin bt Craigie 16-21, 21-16, 22-20; lost to Miller 21-17, 13-21, 18-21. Merrett bt Miller 21-10, 21-19; lost to Venner 20-22, 21-17, 11-21. Simons lost to Venner 12-21, 21-19, 17-21; bt Craigie 21-16, 12-21, 21-14.

Miss Jones lost to Miss Isaacs 16-21, 22-20, 23-25.

Miss Jones and Miss Davis lost to Miss Rook and Miss Piper 17-21, 10-21.

Merrett and Simons lost to Craigie and Venner 12-21, 14-21.

Griffin and Miss Davis lost to Crayden and Miss Rook 16-21, 15-21.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

P. W. L. D. F. A. P.

PREMIER :	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Surrey	6	6	0	0	42	18	12
Gloucestershire	5	3	2	0	32	18	6
Essex	5	3	2	0	32	18	6
Middlesex	5	3	2	0	28	22	6
Yorkshire	5	3	2	0	27	23	6
Warwickshire	4	4	0	3	14	26	1
Sussex	4	0	3	1	7	33	1
Lancashire	4	0	4	0	8	32	0
SECOND NORTH :							
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Yorks ire	4	2	2	0	22	18	4
Northumberland	4	2	2	0	19	21	4
Lincolnshire	2	1	1	0	11	9	2
Durham	3	0	3	0	7	23	0
SECOND SOUTH :							
Middlesex	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Surrey	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
Kent	5	3	2	0	31	19	6
Essex	4	2	2	0	23	17	4
Hampshire	5	1	3	1	16	34	3
Hertfordshire	4	0	3	1	13	27	1
Bedfordshire	3	0	3	0	4	26	0
SECOND WEST :							
Glamorgan	3	2	0	1	20	10	5
Devonshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	3
Worcestershire	2	1	0	8	12	2	2
Somerset	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Staffordshire	2	0	2	0	7	13	0
JUNIOR NORTH :							
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	23	1	6
Lancashire	2	1	1	0	6	10	2
Yorkshire	3	0	3	0	3	21	0
JUNIOR SOUTH :							
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Suffolk	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
Essex	2	1	1	0	9	11	2
Kent	2	1	1	0	8	12	2
Sussex	4	1	3	0	19	21	2
Hertfordshire	3	0	3	0	3	27	0
EASTERN :							
Suffolk	3	2	0	1	18	12	5
Cambridgeshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Norfolk	2	0	2	0	7	13	0
MIDLAND :							
Warwickshire	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Staffordshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	6
Worcestershire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Derbyshire	4	1	2	1	18	22	3
Northamptonshire	4	0	4	0	7	33	0
SOUTHERN :							
Hertfordshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Wiltshire	4	2	2	0	17	23	4
Berkshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	3
Buckinghamshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Oxfordshire	2	0	2	0	6	14	0
SOUTH WESTERN :							
Devonshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Dorsetshire	2	1	1	0	10	10	2
Cornwall	3	0	3	0	5	25	0

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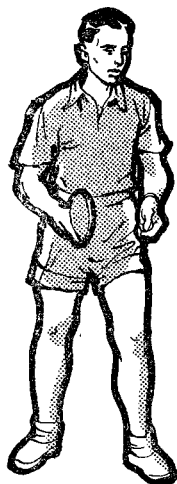
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 Scottish Mixed Doubles 1949/53 Scottish Women's Doubles 1946/53
 English Open Mixed 1950/51

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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. In specified junior tournaments they are additional to the normal under 17's events. The closing date for entries is shown in brackets after the title. Suitable entries are inserted in this diary without charge but all organisers should send information to the Editor at the earliest date possible.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details and Venue</i>	<i>Extra Events</i>	<i>Organising Secretary</i>
Feb. 17-18	Midland Open (Feb. 4) Friends' Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.
20-24	Surrey Open (Feb. 4) Municipal Baths Hall, East Street, Epsom.	B.D., V.S. 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, Ealing London, W.7.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. S. Riddick, 29, Thorney Hedge Road, London W.4.
3-5	Hastings Closed Lower Hall, White Rock Pavilion, Hastings		
Mar. 14-24	IRISH OPEN Dublin.		
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.
17	Cheshire Junior Open Livingstone Street Baths, Birkenhead.	Under 15's B.S., G.S., B.D.	Mr. W. H. Gawne, 9, Eric Road, Wallasey.
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.		
23-28	Essex Closed Y.M.C.A. Plaistow		



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WELSH "OPEN" CHAMPIONSHIPS

ATTRACTING the strongest entry of the season in Britain, the Welsh "open" at Cardiff on January 20-21 lived up to its reputation for providing upsets.

And what shocks they were! Brian Kennedy and Ann Haydon, the two left-handed sponge bat exponents each gained their first ever win over England's respective No. 1's, Johnny Leach and Mrs. Rosalind Cornett.

Kennedy, playing right on top of his game, hit his way through all opposition, then hit his way out of trouble in the final against Leach after being 1-2 down.

Leach has previously beaten Michael Thornhill in an entertaining semi-final, which provided a happy relief from the long drawn out "quarter" in which Thornhill had overcome Bryan Merrett.

Aubrey Simons, after beating B. Bucknell, made little impression on Kennedy in the other semi-final.

Kennedy went on to scoop the pool by winning the men's doubles with Simons and the mixed doubles with Mrs. Cornett.

Ann Haydon had a great day out. She not only gained her first ever win over Mrs. Cornett in a three sets semi-final but also beat Diane Rowe, with whom she shares joint No. 2 ranking, in the final.

The Rowe twins gained some measure of revenge when she took the women's doubles to end a run of three successive wins by Miss Haydon and Jill Rook.

The mixed doubles, a tiring event for those who came

through, provided a one-sided final, with Leach and Miss Rowe unable to cope with Kennedy's sponge. While Mrs. Cornett kept the ball in play Kennedy administered the kills.

Laurie Landry beat his regular rival Eddie Hodson in the boys final after being a game down, and "Mickie" McMeekin proved much too strong for all her opponents in the girls' event.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: J. LEACH (Essex) bt M. Thornhill (Middx) 21-19, 21-13; B. KENNEDY (Yorks) bt A. Simons (Glouc.) 21-15, 21-19.

Final: KENNEDY bt Leach 21-11, 15-21, 16-21, 21-13, 24-22.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss D. ROWE (Middx) bt Miss B. Gray (Wales) 21-12, 21-18; Miss A. HAYDON (Warw.) bt Mrs R. Cornett (Middx.) 21-15, 20-22, 21-17.

Final: Miss HAYDON bt Miss Rowe 23-21, 21-17.

Men's Doubles: Final: KENNEDY and SIMONS bt P. Cruwys and R. Griffin 21-14, 22-21.

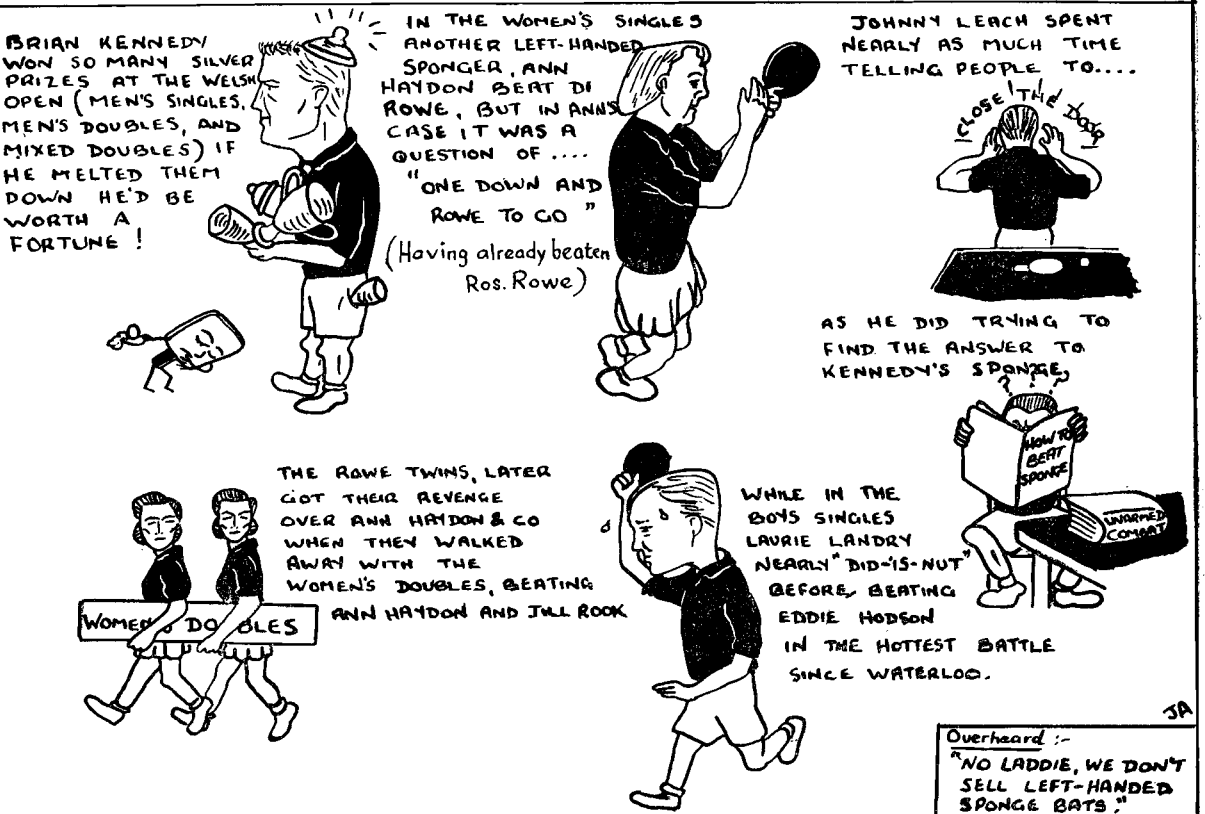
Women's Doubles: Final: Miss ROWE and Mrs. CORNETT bt Miss Haydon and Miss J. Rook 21-19, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles: Final: KENNEDY and Mrs CORNETT bt Leach and Miss Rowe 21-4, 21-16.

Boys Singles: Final: L. LANDRY (Middx) bt E. Hodson (Middx) 17-21, 21-18, 21-15.

Girls Singles: Final: Miss M. McMEEKIN (Kent) bt Miss M. Thomas 21-11, 21-18.

THE WELSH OPEN BY J. ATKINS



ENGLAND 10 WALES 0

ENGLAND made a clean sweep winning all ten ties in the international against Wales at The Sidney Hall, Weymouth, on January 27, but it was not quite such a walk-over as the scores would suggest.

Several matches were keenly and closely contested and the "Full House" of more than 600 were treated to some first class entertainment.

Michael Thornhill, re-appearing in the England team after a break of five years, beat both Donald Norris and John Simonson, the 16 years old junior from Port Talbot. His all round play and great retrieving powers carried the day although he was given some anxious moments by Simonson, before winning at 14 in the third.

Simonson, a sponge bat player, did well, but was swept off the table in ten minutes of "biff bang" play when he came up against the Yorkshire "sponger" Brian Kennedy. This was almost farcical with hardly a rally, which once again emphasised the poor spectacle of Sponge v Sponge.

Kennedy was seen at his best against Glyn Morgan, after dropping the first set. His power and direction amazed the spectators and the Welshman is to be congratulated for the fine way he stood up to the barrage.

Derek Burrige was taken to 19 in both games by Morgan but was not unduly worried in beating Norris at 19 and 14.

Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe were out on their own in the women's singles. Miss Haydon shattered Shirley Jones at 9 and 12, while Miss Rowe beat Audrey Bates 8 and 14. Then when the four girls came into opposition in the doubles the English pair were never put to any real test winning 12 and 16.

In the men's doubles Kennedy and Thornhill coasted to an even easier win over Morgan and Norris.

Detailed results (England names first):

M. Thornhill bt D. Norris 21-12, 21-18; bt J. Simonson 15-21, 21-16, 21-14. D. Burrige bt G. Morgan 21-19, 21-19; bt Norris 21-19, 21-14. B. Kennedy bt Simonson 21-15, 21-14; bt Morgan 19-21, 21-11, 21-12.

Kennedy and Thornhill bt Morgan and Norris 21-11, 21-11.

Miss A. Haydon bt Miss S. Jones 21-9, 21-12. Miss D. Rowe bt Miss A. Bates 21-8, 21-14.

Miss Haydon and Miss Rowe bt Miss Jones and Miss Bates 21-12, 21-16.

WALES 7 SCOTLAND 3

UP to the halfway stage of this match at Pontypool Town Hall on January 20, it looked as though the packed crowd would see the first ever Scottish victory over Wales.

Now weak on the men's side, Wales were in an anxious mood until Alan Morris and Glyn Morgan eased the tension and tipped the balance by beating Vic Garland and Tommy Gilmour in the men's doubles.

Most of the honours, however, must go to the Welsh girls Shirley Jones and Audrey Bates, who each won their singles then teamed up for a doubles win over Helen Elliot and Helen Houlston.

Miss Jones dealt Scotland their biggest blow as she crashed her way to a straight sets win over a strangely passive Miss Elliot.

Scotland drew first blood when Tommy Gilmour beat Morris over three games. The Welshman attacked stylishly but failed to penetrate Gilmour's stubborn defence.

Some incredible retrieving from Eddie Still featured

the next match where Glyn Morgan levelled matters for Wales.

Scotland went ahead again when Vic Garland gained a narrow win over John Simonson, the Welsh junior playing in his first international. Then came the doubles win of Miss Jones and Miss Bates, to be followed by the vital doubles win of Morris and Morgan, which put Wales ahead for the first time.

It was at this stage that Miss Jones pulled off her shock win over Miss Elliot. Still tried to keep Scotland in the picture with a comfortable win over Morris, but that was the last of the Scot's resistance. Audrey Bates beat Helen Houlston, young Simonson gained the winning margin by defeating Gilmour, and Morgan wound up with a comfortable win over Garland.

Detailed Results: (Welsh names first): A. Morris lost to T. Gilmour 21-16, 17-21, 18-21; lost to E. Still 11-21, 10-21. G. Morgan bt Still 21-9, 17-21, 21-19; bt V. Garland 21-18, 21-15. J. Simonson lost to Garland 21-17, 17-21, 19-21; bt Gilmour 21-10, 21-19.

Miss S. Jones bt Miss H. Elliot 21-15, 21-14. Miss A. Bates bt Miss H. Houlston 21-6, 21-12.

Morgan and Morris bt Garland and Gilmour 19-21, 21-14, 21-17.

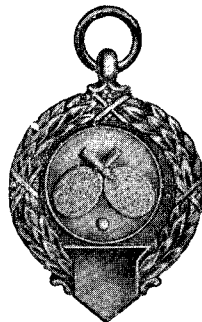
Miss Jones and Miss Bates bt Miss Elliot and Miss Houlston 13-21, 21-19, 21-11.

STAFFORDSHIRE "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: D. BACKHOUSE bt C. Davies 21-12, 21-15. Women's Singles: Mrs. R. HADEN bt Miss B. Wareham 20-22, 21-18, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: BACKHOUSE and J. OSBORNE bt J. Robbins and W. D'Arcy 21-14, 21-15. Women's Doubles: Miss M. BATCHELOR and Miss B. WALL bt Miss D. Worrall and Miss K. Barlow 21-18, 21-19. Mixed Doubles: ROBBINS and Mrs. M. WARNER bt R. Woolley and Miss Wareham 21-15, 17-21, 21-17.

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NORTH WEST KENT "OPEN"

FOR the second successive year the men's singles in the N.W. Kent "Open" at Barnehurst on January 7. was won by a left handed sponge bat player. Brian Kennedy, of Yorkshire, is the new champion, marking up his fourth "open" title of the season.

Lew Laza, of Australia, last year's winner, lost his title by default, being scratched when delayed by bad weather.

Kennedy, who tore through Ken Craigie 21-17, 21-11 in the semi-final was even more devastating against Derek Burridge in the final, winning 21-9, 21-16. Burridge could find no answer to the Yorkshireman's hard hitting.

Alan Lindsay, of Middlesex, was the surprise packet of the early rounds, beating Ken Beamish (Essex), who had earlier eliminated Alan Rhodes (Middlesex), then reaching match point at 21-9, 20-16 in the quarter-final against Craigie only to retire, as his Service call-up would prevent him playing in the semi-final.

Burridge reached the semi-final with a great win over Len Adams (Middlesex), then with a sound defensive game beat Harry Venner (Surrey) 21-16, 17-21, 21-16.

Jakie Head (Surrey) and Brian Brumwell (Essex) both went out to Craigie, while Laurie Landry (Middlesex) was surprisingly beaten by Roy Coussens, the Kent No. 7, who in turn lost to Brumwell. Micky Thornhill (Middlesex), a former holder, lost to Venner, after having accounted for Bobby Stevens (Essex).

The women's singles also changed hands, Ann Haydon (Warwickshire), another left handed sponge bat player, beating Diane Rowe (Middlesex) 21-15, 22-20 in the final. She had earlier overcome Jill Rook (Surrey),

Belle Wirekoon (Ceylon) and Betty Isaacs (Surrey) in straight games.

Mrs Rosalind Cornett (Middlesex) winner for the past two years, did not defend.

The major upset was provided by Mrs Joan Beadle (Kent) with a clear cut victory over Mrs Jean Head (Surrey) 21-16, 16-21, 21-15. Mrs Beadle then beat Joyce Fielder (Kent) only to lose in straight games to Miss Rowe.

That most successful partnership of Ann Haydon and Jill Rook, landed their third title of the season with a 21-9, 21-11 win over Mrs Elsie Carrington and Barbara Milbank in the final. They had however a narrow escape in the semi-final against Diane Rowe and Joyce Fielder, when with two match points against them Miss Haydon hit four successive winners for a 22-20 win in the third.

Burridge and Adams had no trouble in winning the men's doubles against Laza and Ronnie Hook, while Kennedy completed a double by winning the mixed doubles with Betty Isaacs against Adams and Mrs Carrington.

Laurie Landry easily beat Eddie Hodson in the boys final, and "Mickie" McMeekin, kept one title in Kent when she beat Sheila Pickard, of Essex, in the girls final.

Men's Singles: semi-finals: D. BURRIDGE (Middx) bt H. Venner (Surrey) 21-16, 17-21, 21-16; B. KENNEDY (Yorks) bt K. Craigie (Surrey) 21-17, 21-11.

Final: KENNEDY bt Burridge 21-9, 21-16.

Women's Singles: semi-finals: Miss D. ROWE bt Mrs J. Beadle (Kent) 21-13, 21-15. Miss A. HAYDON (Warw.) bt Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey) 21-19, 21-9.

Final: Miss HAYDON bt Miss Rowe 21-15, 22-20.

Men's Doubles: semi-finals: BURRIDGE and L. ADAMS bt Venner and L. Thomson 21-11, 20-22, 21-11. L. LAZA and R. HOOK bt Craigie and A. Rhodes 23-21, 12-21, 21-19.

Final: BURRIDGE and ADAMS bt Laza and Hook 21-15, 21-9.

Women's Doubles: semi-finals: Miss HAYDON and Miss J. ROOK bt Miss D. Rowe and Miss J. Fielder 21-14, 19-21, 22-20; Mrs. E. CARRINGTON and Miss B. MILBANK bt Mrs Beadle and Miss J. Robeson 21-17, 18-21, 22-20.

Final: Miss HAYDON and Miss ROOK bt Mrs. Carrington and Miss Milbank 21-9, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles: semi-finals: KENNEDY and Miss ISAACS bt A. Rhodes and Mrs. J. Head 25-23, 21-10. ADAMS and Mrs. CARRINGTON bt M. Thornhill and Miss Rook 21-12, 21-14.

Final: KENNEDY and Miss ISAACS bt Adams and M., Carrington 21-14, 21-17.

Boys Singles: semi-finals: L. LANDRY bt J. Bradford 21-15, 21-16. E. HODSON bt G. Gubb 21-15, 21-12.

Final: LANDRY bt Hodson 21-12, 21-12.

Girls Singles: semi-finals: Miss S. PICKARD bt Miss J. Butcher 21-8, 21-15. Miss M. McMEEKIN bt Miss M. Hicks 21-15, 22-20.

Final: Miss McMEEKIN bt Miss Pickard 21-19, 21-11.

SUSSEX "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: J. P. HEAD bt M. Petter 21-15, 21-8, 21-12. **Women's Singles:** Miss W. BATES bt Mrs. A. Woodford 21-13, 23-25, 21-10.

Men's Doubles: SHEAD and I. ALEXANDER bt B. Leach and Petter 21-12, 21-19, 14-21, 26-24. **Women's Doubles:** Miss BATES and Mrs. C. LUNDSLEY LEAKE bt Miss P. Turner and Mrs. Woodford 21-16, 14-21, 21-18. **Mixed Doubles:** SHEAD and Mrs. SHEAD bt Alexander and Miss Bates 21-9, 21-15.

Boys' Singles: E. RAINES bt J. V. Dobell 19-21, 21-16, 22-20. **Girls' Singles:** Miss J. SOUTER bt Miss S. Isted 21-12, 21-9. **Veteran Singles:** C. SEAMAN bt G. B. Fretwell 18-21, 21-14, 21-18. **Veteran Women's Singles:** Mrs. B. RIND bt Mrs. R. Bass 21-13, 21-14.

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SOUTH YORKS "OPEN"

THERE was a repeat of last year's final for the men's singles in the South Yorks "Open" at Sheffield on January 21, Ray Hinchliff, of Huddersfield, again beating Arnold Shepherd, of Manchester. This time, however, Hinchliff overcame Shepherd's "stonewalling" in straight games, 21-14, 21-19.

Hinchliff went one better this time by also winning the men's doubles with B. Pennington. In a long three games match, that provided plenty of thrills, they beat D. Schofield and S. Dyson 21-10, 24-26, 21-15.

Mrs B. Cassell, of Kings Lynn, took a further lease of the women's singles, defeating the Manchester player Mrs J. Braddock 21-5, 10-21, 21-19, and also reached the finals of the women's doubles (with Miss J. Walker) and the mixed doubles (with K. Park).

The Yorkshire pair of Miss Florence Wright and Miss M. Lightfoot retained the women's doubles.

FINALS RESULTS:

Men's Singles: R. HINCHLIFF (Huddersfield) bt A. K. Shepherd (Manchester) 21-14, 21-19.

Women's Singles: Mrs. B. CASSELL (Kings Lynn) bt Mrs J. Braddock (Manchester) 21-5, 10-21, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: HINCHLIFF and B. PENNINGTON bt D. Schofield and S. Dyson 21-10, 24-26, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: Miss F. WRIGHT and Miss M. LIGHT-FOOT bt Mrs. Cassells and Miss J. Walker 21-16, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: R. DOVE and Miss LIGHTFOOT bt K. Park and Mrs Cassell 21-15, 21-16.

Junior Singles: C. T. DEATON (Chesterfield) bt M. Lambert (Sheffield) 21-18, 21-19.

Men's Singles: semi-finals: M. MACLAREN bt P. Curtis 21-14, 22-20; L. SAWYER bt D. Miller 21-16, 21-15.

Final: SAWYER bt Maclaren 21-14, 21-12.

Women's Singles: semi-finals: Miss I. BUSH bt Miss D. Price 21-10, 21-15; Miss D. WIGHTMAN bt Miss S. Ball 21-16, 14-21, 21-14.

Final: Miss BUSH bt Miss Wightman 21-17, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: SAWYER and P. PUDNEY bt L. Hoffman and D. Miller 21-17, 22-24, 21-17; G. HOLDEN and D. HOUSE bt J. King and M. Sugarhood 21-5, 22-20.

Final: HOLDEN and HOUSE bt Sawyer and Pudney 21-15, 22-24, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss BALL and Miss WIGHTMAN bt Miss Y. Corb and Miss E. Gilbert 21-19, 13-21, 21-10; Mrs. P. SHEAD and Miss W. BATES bt Mrs. G. Veneer and Miss M. Morecroft 21-12, 21-12.

Final: Miss BALL and Miss WIGHTMAN bt Mrs Shead and Miss Bates 21-19, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: semi-finals: D. HOUSE and Miss PRICE bt A. Goldsack and Mrs. B. Mill 21-12, 21-17; I. ALEXANDER and Miss BATES bt W. Pryor and Miss Corb 19-21, 21-15, 21-14.

Final: ALEXANDER and Miss BATES bt House and Miss Price 21-15, 21-17.

Boys Singles: semi-finals: E. HODSON bt R. J. Knight 21-12, 21-17; L. LANDRY bt R. Henderson 21-13, 21-19.

Final: LANDRY bt Hodson 21-6, 11-21, 21-16.

SUFFOLK "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: P. COLE bt A. Clarke 23-21, 21-18, 21-15. **Women's Singles:** Miss B. NUGENT bt Miss P. Garrett 21-18, 21-18. **Junior Singles:** COLE bt J. Collins 22-20, 21-15. **Veteran Singles:** D. MADELL bt G. Lipscombe 22-20, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: COLE and COLLINS bt A. Nickels and G. Trumpess 21-7, 21-23, 21-11, 21-11. **Women's Doubles:** Miss V. MARTIN and Miss E. BEECH bt Miss Garrett and Miss Nugent 21-14, 21-13. **Mixed Doubles:** COLE and Miss MARTIN bt R. Purnell and Miss Garrett 21-18, 21-7.

SOUTHAMPTON "OPEN"

LES SAWYER, of Essex, in the men's singles, and the Hampshire pair Miss S. Ball and Miss D. Wightman in the women's doubles, were the only holders to retain their titles in the Southampton "Open" on January 22.

Facing 158 challengers Sawyer, making full use of a steady defence, proved a worthy winner, beating Denis Miller, the former international, in the semi-final, and M. Maclaren in the final, both in straight games.

Sawyer just failed to land a second title in the men's doubles where partnering Peter Pudney they just lost at 19 in the third against David House and G. Holden.

This proved one of the best finals of the tournament, being full of sparkling play, and the result in doubt right to the end.

Miss I. Bush, showing good consistent form, won the women's singles, dismissing Miss D. Price and Miss D. Wightman in straight games in the semi-final and final respectively.

It was left to Miss Wightman and Miss S. Ball to provide Hampshire with their only title. They dropped a game to Miss Y. Corb and Miss E. Gilbert in the semi-final, but proved far too strong for Mrs. P. Shead and Miss Wendy Bates in the final with a straight games win at 21-19, 21-15.

Miss Bates had the consolation of winning the mixed doubles with I. Alexander, defeating House and Miss D. Price 21-15, 21-17 in the final.

England's top two junior players Laurie Landry and Eddie Hodson, both of Middlesex, met in yet another junior final and although it went to three games, Landry maintained his superiority.

With more than 200 players taking part and the tournament carried through in one day, there was another near midnight finish. This is not good enough, for most of the players had long journeys before them. Something must be done to ensure an earlier finish in future.

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KENT "OPEN"

MAKING her first appearance in Kent, Helen Elliot, the Scottish international, carried off the women's singles in the Kent "Open" at Folkestone on January 28-29, and also reached the finals of the women's and mixed doubles (writes Conrad Jaschke).

Miss Elliot beat Birmingham's Pam Mortimer 21-12, 21-16 in the final, but had her most difficult match in the first round where she dropped the first game to Mrs Joan Beadle of Kent. Levelling at game all Miss Elliot found it difficult to penetrate the Kent player's forehand chop defence, but switched the attack on to her opponent's back-hand and had no further trouble.

Joyce Fielder, the Kent "Closed" champion, had a good win over Mrs Joyce Faulkner, before going out to Betty Isaacs, while Peggy Piper defeated the defending champion Barbara Milbank.

Essex players dominated the men's singles with Brian Brumwell beating Ivor Jones in the final 21-17, 23-21. Brumwell's intelligent variation of pace and length proved too steady for the whirlwind hitting of Jones, who later had the consolation of winning the mixed doubles with Betty Isaacs.

Ron Etheridge had a good run with wins over Alan Rhodes, Jim O'Hara (Ireland), Bobby Raybould and Jack Carrington, before losing to Jones, while Terry Densham put up his best senior performance in winning through against Jackie Head and Bobby Stevens, to the semi-final where he lost to Brumwell, who had earlier accounted for Ken Craigie and John Hunt.

Densham and Hunt caused a sensation in winning the men's doubles, their first open title. They gained a runaway win over Jones and Stevens, who never touched their best form.

In addition to winning the mixed doubles with Jones,

Miss Isaacs partnered Miss Mortimer to victory in the women's doubles.

As an answer to recent criticism of late finishes in the finals session was completed in two-and-a-half hours. It was all over by 9.30 p.m.

Men's singles: semi-finals: I. JONES bt D. Burrige 21-14, 21-19; B. BRUMWELL bt T. Densham 21-15, 21-11.
Final: BRUMWELL bt Jones 21-17, 23-21.

Women's Singles: semi-finals: Miss P. MORTIMER bt Miss M. Piper 21-12, 21-13; Miss H. ELLIOT bt Miss B. Isaacs 21-16, 19-21, 21-10.

Final: Miss ELLIOT bt Miss Mortimer 21-12, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: Final: DENSHAM and J. HUNT bt Jones and Stevens 21-11, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: Final: Miss ISAACS and Miss MORTIMER bt Miss Elliot and Miss Rook 21-18, 26-28, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: Final: JONES and Miss ISAACS bt Craigie and Miss Elliot 21-17, 21-15.

Mixed Junior Singles Final: G. GLADWISH bt A. Pidcock 21-17, 19-21, 21-16.

LANCASHIRE "OPEN"

Slick organising saw the Lancashire Open, a one day tournament attracting 220 individuals, at Bolton, on January 28, all over by 10.15 p.m.

Marcel Barouh, the young French player who is living in Manchester while over here to study English, won the men's singles beating the holder Arnold Shepherd, also of Manchester, 21-16, 21-15 in the final. Barouh also beat Ron Allcock in the semi-final.

The big shock was the semi-final defeat of Adele Wood, the women's champion, by Mrs B. Cassell, who went on to beat Mrs D. Wilkinson 11-21, 21-11, 22-20.

Miss Wood had the consolation of winning the women's doubles with Mrs Wilkinson, and the mixed doubles with Allcock. Allcock also captured a second title in the men's doubles with Colin Booth.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: M. BAROUH bt R. Allcock 21-18, 17-21, 21-14; A. SHEPHERD bt R. Hinchliff 18-21, 21-12, 21-15.

Final: BAROUH bt Shepherd 21-16, 21-15.

Women's Singles: Final: Mrs. B. CASSELL bt Mrs. D. Wilkinson 11-21, 21-11, 22-20.

Men's Doubles: Final: ALLCOCK and C. BOOTH bt G. Brook and S. Dyson 21-6, 21-16.

Women's Doubles: Final: Miss A. WOOD and Mrs. WILKINSON bt Mrs. G. Mansley and Miss S. Threlfall 21-15, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: Final: ALLCOCK and Miss WOOD bt G. Cowgill and Mrs. M. Dyson 21-15, 21-15.

Boys' Singles: Final: J. STODDART bt J. Chadwick 21-12, 21-15.

Veteran Singles: Final: H. G. NEEDLES bt E. A. Brown 21-19, 21-19.

MIDLAND "CLOSED"

ANN HAYDON took all three titles in the Midland "closed" at Wolverhampton on January 15, beating Pam Mortimer after a closer struggle than expected in the singles, partnering the same player to win the women's doubles, and Arthur Hatfield to win the mixed.

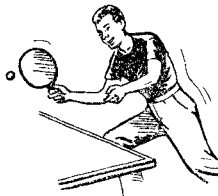
Bob Griffin won the men's singles and the men's doubles with Peter Cruwys.

FINALS:

Mens Singles—R. GRIFFIN (Cheltenham) beat M. Kriss (B'ham) 21-18, 14-21, 21-19. **Women's Singles:** Miss A. HAYDON (B'ham) beat Miss P. Mortimer (B'ham) 21-7, 14-21, 21-18. **Boys Singles—J. HARRISON** (Cheltenham) beat D. Griffiths (Cheltenham) 21-19, 21-13. **Mens Doubles—GRIFFIN** and P. CRUWYS beat M. Hawkins and A. Goode (Worcs) 21-12, 21-13. **Womens Doubles—Misses HAYDON** and MORTIMER beat Miss J. Mackay and Mrs. Cumberbatch 21-14, 21-7. **Mixed Doubles—Miss HAYDON** and A. HATFIELD beat Miss Mortimer/J. Harrison 22-20, 19-21, 21-16. **Intermediate Singles—M. SPICER** (Cheltenham) beat B. Parkes (B'ham) 20-22, 21-13, 21-14. **Junior Doubles—K. TARLING** and D. GRIFFITHS (Chelt) beat I. Harrison and E. Edwards (Chelt) 21-11, 21-15. **Veteran Singles—H. SPIERS** (B'ham) beat F. Smith (B'ham) 21-14, 21-6.

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