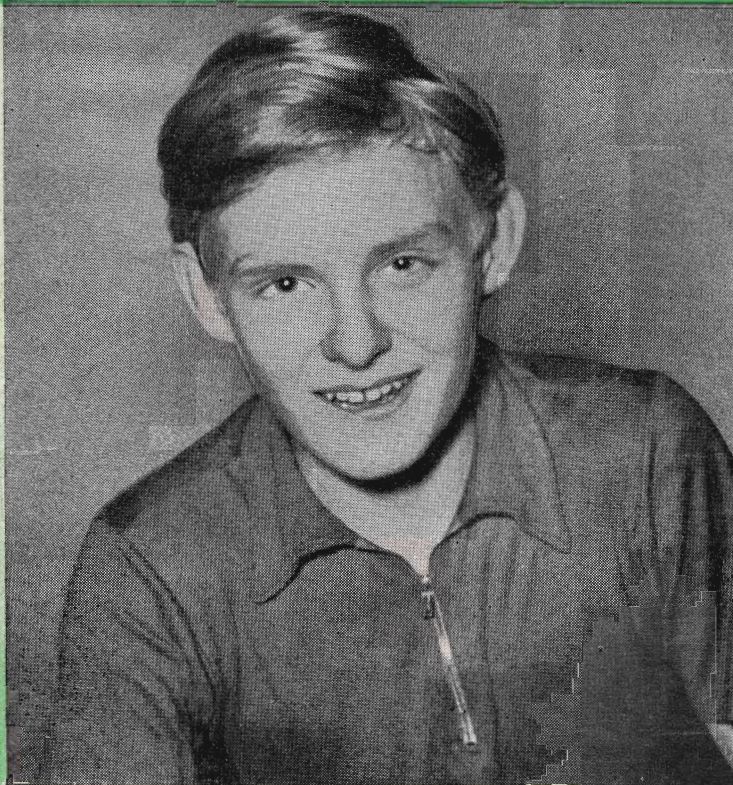


TABLE TENNIS



LAURIE LANDRY,
the brilliant Middlesex junior.
(See Personality Parade)

BERGMANN
CONTROVERSY

★

AREA NEWS

★

AROUND THE
LEAGUES

★

AUBREY SIMONS
INTRODUCES

★

REPORTS OF
RUMANIAN VISIT

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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No. 4

CLASH OF RULES

ALL IS NOT WELL with the county championship, and Kent, with an intense publicity campaign, have been spotlighting what they term "a contradiction of rules."

It concerns promotion from the Second to Premier Division.

Rule 3 states: "In each Second Division the team finishing nearest to the top, having no team in the Premier Division, shall be eligible to challenge for a place in the Premier Division."

But Rule 4 says: "... In no circumstances shall a county finishing fourth be promoted."

Placed as they are in the Second Division South with the Second teams of Essex, Middlesex, and Surrey, and the prospects of finishing fourth, Kent are naturally anxious to know where they stand.

Teams in the Second North and Second West have no such worries, for with the exception of Yorkshire, these divisions are composed of first teams.

Kent are forwarding proposals to the Championships Executive Committee that the relevant part of Rule 4 be deleted.

OVERLOOKED?

When the matter is eventually thrashed out I think it will transpire that this is what was originally intended when the rules were amended at the Council Meeting, but that it was overlooked.

In this respect, Kent, who were one of the prime movers in having the rules altered, must share the responsibility for any clash. It was up to their two representatives to watch these points and bring them up at the time.

The promotion rules have long been a source of trouble, for it is hard to please everyone. The question of a team finishing fourth not being promoted was introduced when it was found that teams were going up one year and down the next.

In those days there were only two Second

Divisions with one team going up from each. The inauguration of the Second West this season has altered the whole aspect and the leading sides from each of the three divisions are now required to play off so that one is eliminated.

Obviously, then, if a fourth placed team were to win this challenge and be denied promotion while the second team went up it would make the whole position ridiculous.

CHANGE ZONING

Another team competition that is apparently causing some discontent is the Wilmott Cup.

G. N. Harding, the Folkstone secretary, writes, "Having just played against Bromley in the Wilmott Cup for the fourth time in four years, I should like to fire off a salvo in support of a change of the present zoning."

He puts forward the following suggestion, which he feels would give weaker leagues more incentive to enter; a minimum of two matches; a chance to watch better teams; and reduce expenses.

Teams divided into groups of three, all play all, at a venue with four tables available making it possible to play off four groups plus semi-finals and final over a week-end.

This scheme would allow for all rounds up to the quarter finals to be completed on one week-end, thereby relieving the present congestion of fixtures.

I have no doubt that Harding can expect strong support from the Gloucestershire area, who campaigned last season for a change of zoning.

Cheltenham and Gloucester boycott the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl as a protest when the old spread-eagle system was continued.

It would be interesting to hear other league's views on this.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official News :

BERNARD CROUCH. It is with very great regret that we have to record the death of Bernard Crouch, the International and Swaythling Cup player, in the recent Barnes railway accident. As all our members know he was also a regular County player for Middlesex and he was known to all as a very modest and loyal sportsman. We extend to his family our most sincere and deep sympathy in their great loss. A floral tribute was sent on behalf of the Association.

Rumanian Tour. A most successful tour of three matches was arranged for the Rumanian team who recently visited this country. Rumania was represented by Angelica Rozeanu, Ella Zeller, and Messrs. Harastoszi, Gantner, Pesch and Popescu, with non-playing captain Mr. G. Bianu. Before the International match a luncheon was given in their honour by the Mayor of Tottenham. In addition, Civic Receptions were arranged at High Wycombe and Norwich.

English Open Championships 1955/56. Entry forms are now available and applications should be made to the E.T.T.A. office if any player wishes to receive one. May we remind our members that this season the Championships are being played at Belle Vue, Manchester, from the 28 February to 2 March, 1956.

Prices for the Finals-night tickets are 9/6d., 7/6d., 6/6d., 5/- and 3/6d. (all reserved seats) and applications should be sent direct to Mr. N. Cook, 7, North Avenue, Stalybridge, Cheshire.

French Open Championships. The French Open Championships are to take place in Paris from January 31

to February 2, 1956. The E.T.T.A. will shortly be nominating players to represent the Association at these Championships.

Belgian Open. The Belgian Open Championships are to take place in Brussels on February 4 and 5, 1956. An announcement will be made in the near future as to the players representing the E.T.T.A. at these Championships.

E.T.T.A. Representatives. For the purpose of nominating and electing Officers of the Association and members of the National Executive Committee, each County Association, League or Local Association is entitled to appoint "E.T.T.A. Representatives."

Under Rule 12 it is the responsibility of a County Association, League or Local Association to inform the Hon. General Secretary of the Association in writing not later than January 31 of the year in which the election takes place, the full name and address of the appointed Representative or Representatives.

The majority of Associations and Leagues have informed the E.T.T.A. as to the names of their Representatives, but those which have failed to inform the Association should do so by the last day of this month.

Official Handbook. Copies of the Official Handbook for season 1955/56 are on sale at a cost of 2/3d. per copy post free and can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. Office.

Books and Publications. The following publications are also available from the E.T.T.A. Office:—

Rules of the Game, in cardboard, size approx. 21½in. x 14½in., with hanging cord attached (suitable for hanging in club rooms)	1/6d.
Know the Game—Table Tennis	2/3d.
Table Tennis—I. Montagu	10/-
Table Tennis Tips—J. Carrington	1/6d.
Modern Table Tennis	
—J. Carrington	7/6d.
Table Tennis for All—J. Leach	9/6d.
Table Tennis My Way—J. Leach	2/6d.
Table Tennis—L. S. Woollard	2/6d.
Table Tennis Quiz—A. Brook	1/6d.
Rules of the Game in Booklet form	4½d.
The Twins on Table Tennis—D. & R. Rowe	8/6d.

Official Badges. A reminder is given that the official badge of the Association is still available for sale and can be obtained at 2/3d. each or 24/- per dozen from the E.T.T.A. Office. It is of attractive design, affixed to a pin.

International Contacts. We would like to draw our affiliated members' attention to the Regulation No. 1 covering International contacts (page 29 of the Official Handbook) and in particular other Countries' National Open Championships. The regulation reads as follows:—

English Players outside England
1. *Players duly affiliated to the*

E.T.T.A. may take part in the Open National Championships of other Associations only by permission of the E.T.T.A.

We would point out that the above Regulation applies to players taking part in the Open Championships of the Home Countries, i.e., Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as to other Associations in the International Table Tennis Federation.

Television. It would be as well to remind members once more about the position in connection with television—either B.B.C. or Independent. The regulation reads as follows:—

"No affiliated player may take part in a televised event in connection with table tennis, unless sanction has first been obtained from one of the Officers of the Association."

TABLE TENNIS

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YORKSHIRE TAKE LEAD

Typical of the great rivalry existing between Lancashire and Yorkshire is the race now going on between these two great counties for the honour of staging the most Club Competitions for the World Championships "Travelling Expenses" Fund.

Yorkshire, who shared the lead with Essex last month with 25 competitions, have now taken a clear lead with 33 in the "Countrywise" Support table.

Lancashire, however, with an increase of 11 over the past month have now booked 29 to move up into second place, Essex third with 28.

The full table is: 33: Yorkshire. 29: Lancashire. 28: Essex. 24: Sussex. 22: Middlesex. 11: Warwickshire. 10: Kent. 7: Norfolk, Staffordshire, Surrey. 6: Berkshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Hampshire. 5: Gloucester, Leicester. 4: Devon. 3: Buckinghamshire, Dorset. 2: Durham, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire,, Somerset, Suffolk, Worcester. 1: Cambridgeshire, Northumberland, Shropshire, Nil: Bedfordshire, Cornwall, Huntingdon, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire.

Others—directly affiliated bodies 31.

The total of 270 competitions may appear to be good going, but the money raised so far would not take one player to Japan, let alone home again.

Thus it needs a much more concerted effort on the part of clubs. Remember there are at least 8,000 clubs, in the country, so the results in comparison are very small.

There are still some four months to go, so why not make a New Year Resolution for your club to run at least one competition.

Remember that in running one of these events you are not only helping to send our team to Tokio but also helping yourselves.

Plaques will be awarded by the National Association for all events in the ratio of one of each singles and two for each doubles.

The plaques incorporate the English Badge in colour and are a prize of which all winners can be proud.

There are 15 suggested types of competitions:

Men's Singles and handicap singles. Women's singles and handicap singles. Mixed singles and handicap singles. Junior singles and handicap singles. Men's doubles and handicap doubles. Women's doubles and handicap doubles. Mixed doubles and handicap doubles, and Extraordinary handicap doubles (i.e. two men or two women in a mixed handicap doubles).

It is a great chance for players in your club to get extra tournament experience.

Details have already been sent to all club secretaries, but if you want further information just get in touch with the E.T.T.A. at 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London W.C.2.

If you already have one of the Blue Cards in your possession then return it to the E.T.T.A. and authority to run your first Club Competition will be forwarded together with a White Card asking you to run more and more Competitions.

Now, wake up you players in those counties which have nil return so far, and see that you are not left in the cold.



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Shirt, Popular, Saxe Blue, Maroon, Royal, Pink, Style A	15/0
Skirts, Pleated Cotton, Royal and Navy	39/6
Shorts, Rayon, Grey only	22/6

* AS WORN BY TOP RANKING PLAYERS

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ENGLAND'S BEST JUNIOR

FAIR-HAIRED Laurence Landry has much in common with the young Birmingham table tennis ace Ann Haydon. Both are 17, still at school, invariably topple their table tennis opponents with all-out, scorching attacks and are at their scintillating best when faced by older, more experienced rivals.

In the recent thrashing handed out to established England stars by the Rumanian aces, both Laurie and Ann recorded solitary victories to save our faces in two of the three contests.

Much has already been written about the phenomenal progress of the young daughter of England's captain Adrian Haydon, so let us look back over the rise in table tennis of the fresh-faced lad from Hampstead, a pupil of William Ellis Grammar School, who likes mathematics and whose scholastic ambition is to finish his education at a university.

Young Landry played his first game of table tennis on a dining-room table in a friend's house at the age of 12. With him at that time was his eldest brother Tom, better known as an expert chess player. Tom represented England as a junior at chess and now plays regularly for Oxford University.

Within a few weeks, Laurie was beating his young colleagues and decided to join the Tennyson Club in the Willesden League in 1951. It took but one season for the league to recognise his potentialities; at the end of it they found a place for him in their junior team.

Steady Progress

Since then, young Landry has never looked back. He captured the league's junior singles title and reached the men's singles semi-final—the youngest player ever to do so. That performance took him into the Middlesex trials and then came his first match for Middlesex juniors—against Sussex juniors in October 1953.

Last season, Landry had his first taste of winning junior open tournaments, in fact he won six singles events to top the season's list of junior winners.

But it was in November of last year that he first caught the eyes of England's selectors. They teamed him with Terry Densham and Derek

Backhouse for a junior international with Belgium. England trounced their opponents 9-0, and so Landry came through his first big test with flying colours.

This season has been a great one so far for this modest lad from Hampstead. In the period to Christmas, he captured seven out of nine junior singles titles, beat fifth-ranked Harry Venner in the Eastern Suburban, reached the semi-finals of the Herga



PEGGY FRANKS

open men's singles event disposing of Surrey international Tony Miller on the way, again helped England trounce Belgium's juniors 9-0, was promoted to the senior Middlesex second county team, and then crowned all by thrashing Rumania's former junior champion Mircea Popescu in the South of England v Rumania representative game at High Wycombe.

Here is a record worthy of any player.

Although Landry gets very little spare time these days, he still manages to play some chess with his brother and have an occasional game of lawn tennis. He also competes in cross-country runs at school.

His table tennis ambition? Obviously, a senior England badge and an eventual place in our Swathling Cup world team.

Table tennis has to take a back seat for **Peggy Franks** these days, at least as far as competitive play is concerned. She is busy preparing for her first baby expected in June.

In private life she is Mrs. Ronnie Hook, wife of the Essex second team player. Their marriage in January 1950 was a table tennis romance, for they first met through the game when Ronnie used to give her advice and encouragement.

Later they became mixed doubles partners. Then they entered a business partnership in a toy factory, and later became husband and wife. They spent their honeymoon at the 1950 World's championships in Budapest.

Peggy has been one of England's leading players since the war and in 1947-8 season achieved her big ambition by winning the world doubles title with Vera (Dace) Thomas. She was also a member of the England team that won the Corbillon Cup in 1946-7 and 1947-8.

Her only national success was in 1949-50 when she partnered Johnny Leach to win the English mixed doubles title. Last season she ranked No. 5 among England's woman players.

Peggy plans to return to table tennis next season. Meanwhile her temporary retirement has been a big blow to the Essex County side in their bid for County championship honours.

* * *

Jill Rook, twice English junior table tennis champion, is showing an increasing interest in lawn tennis. She is now training regularly with the young squad under Mary Halford, the Wightman Cup captain, and this could be the first step to international honours in the big court game.

In the past Jill has always left lawn tennis alone in the winter, but now feels that mixing the two will help her to keep tuned up for both games.

Jill has formed a formidable table tennis doubles partnership this season with **Ann Haydon**, who is reigning British Junior lawn tennis champion, and their first two appearances brought them the South of England and Birmingham titles.

* * *

Wendy Blades, who has for two seasons been Lincolnshire's number one lady player has temporarily retired from competitive table tennis. She is at present in Mansfield Orthopaedic Hospital with a back injury. Her 24 trophies include the Lincolnshire and the North of England Junior Championships.

TIME, GENTLEMEN PLEASE

By

A FLEET STREET REPORTER

TABLE TENNIS, with its legion of clubs and players up and down the country, can hardly be termed a Cinderella sport. I wish it were. Before I am branded a "traitor" for writing such subversive propaganda (and in the sport's own magazine, too!) let me hasten to add that I only wish it would emulate the heroine of the Fairy Tale in one respect—go home by midnight!

I make this somewhat drastic plea less from selfish motives than in a genuine affection for the game. For as a Fleet Street sports journalist I am frequently asked by players at international, county and club level—and the ordinary paying man-in-the-street—why many newspaper sports editors tend to disregard all but the "show-piece" events.

I can tell you why. Usually because of the tendency for big-time matches to rarely finish before 11 p.m. and in many cases, approaching midnight.

You will tell me that table tennis bears favourable comparison in the amount of publicity it gets in relation to other sports. Agreed. But even so I know, and agree with, the E.T.T.A. view that it cannot have too much publicity. How can we get more? they ask.

I'll tell them, in one succinct sentence: See that matches end at a reasonable time, and cut out this midnight and later lark that has become all too prevalent in representative games.

OFFICIAL CONCERN

A top ranking official of the E.T.T.A. told me: "It is true that we are concerned at the way representative matches in which there is the greatest amount of public—and therefore newspaper interest—are finishing so late. But a match can go to three or five sets, or take almost an hour even allowing for a time limit to be imposed."

All right, so the length of a game cannot be pre-judged. But how is it that big London boxing promotions often advertise a show of 64 rounds, yet finish by 11 p.m.? And let me

remind you that the duration of a boxing contest cannot be pre-judged any more than can table tennis.

But there is one vital difference. Boxing programmes invariably start on time, unnecessary "frills" are cut out, and there is little or no time-wasting between bouts.

EXAMPLES

I give you two recent examples of this nocturnal table tennis. At Norwich on December 13th, we had the important and news-worthy representative match between the Rest and Rumania. The last ball was struck a few minutes before midnight in a practically deserted hall. Deserted because spectators—and they paid, remember—had long since gone to catch the last bus or train home.

Yet here was the rare personal appearance in Eastern England of the greatest woman player in the game, Mrs. Angelica Rozeanu, winner of the world crown for the last six years. By an odd twist of fate she it was who was destined to play out the final game of the night—not in the atmosphere of an arena full of excited spectators, but playing out time in which only the click of ball on bat broke the silence.

Surely a ridiculous and fantastic situation. Can you imagine the Wimbledon lawn tennis singles champion playing before an empty Centre Court?

An isolated example? Not so, unfortunately. Cast your mind back to November 30th. On that evening, Middlesex played the annual challenge match against The Rest at Lime Grove Baths. It was another late finish. The result? A mere paragraph in the newspapers.

Don't tell me the E.T.T.A. care. Publicity is the life-blood of sport. Yet again, the promoters failed to cash in on a first-class event.

Surely these two instances I have highlighted lost the sport a certain amount of good will by making it impossible for spectators relying on public transport home to see the end—and often the most interesting and vital stage. Moreover they certainly lost some valuable publicity.

I know from bitter experience that a reporter telephoning his paper with "copy" after 11 p.m. can expect it to

be more harshly cut by sub-editors than an earlier story.

In my own office, we had inquiries from at least four national and provincial morning newspapers at 10.30 p.m. asking when they could expect over the teleprinters the result of the Norwich match. When it was finally put out within minutes of the end, most papers throughout Britain had put their sports pages "to bed." And take it from me, to re-make a sports page is the last thing.

Newspaper trains have to be caught, and they don't wait for anything—not even newspapers.

I exonerate such events as the World and English Open. With their vast entry, an early-morning finish is more often than not inevitable, even with 16 or so tables in play simultaneously. These are the exceptions. Let them remain so.

HAPPY LIAISON

Finally, a deserved tribute. At these two "National" events, and particularly the "Open," press relations are probably the best in the business. Stan Kempster, Bert Etheridge and Margaret Rowntree do a grand job, and keep Fleet Street happy.

Table tennis is a big-time sport now; gone are the days when it was a hit-or-miss affair called "ping pong," with little public interest. I like to think the Press has helped. So please, tournament promoters, gear your organisation to merit your new status of Big Business.

FIRST STROKES and STANCE

OUR young player has now reached the stage of taking his first lesson in table tennis, and, although the time spent learning the game on the table is extremely important, almost equally so are the preparations off the table.

It is essential to keep at a peak of physical fitness, so set aside half an hour a day for skipping, running and P.T. This is not asking too much.

The 16- or 17-year-old may not take this very seriously, but he will find this training invaluable, especially as he gets older.

Fitness cannot be stressed too strongly. What better example is there than Stanley Matthews of football fame. He has stayed at the top for so long because of his strict training, for even his genius would not be enough without the stamina required for a soccer match. And that goes for table tennis as well.

Before we actually approach the table—and I appreciate how anxious any young player is to get on with the game—let us take a look at that bat and study the effect its pimpled sheeting will have on the ball.

Your success at table tennis will largely depend on ability to judge the spin imparted by an opponent's bat and to make allowance for it when playing your own shot. It is just the same as in cricket where the most successful batsman is the one who is able to judge from the bowler's wrist action whether he is to receive a leg break or off break, etc.

So much could be written about the various types of spin, but of necessity we must be brief. The two main types are top spin and back spin, and to a much lesser degree side spin.

This may sound complicated to the newcomer, but in fact it is not. It is possible to pick up a bat for the first time and in knocking the ball backwards and forwards automatically play top spin and back spin strokes.

At this stage we will leave it at that, because at the start the young player must realise he cannot indulge in very spectacular play, nor must he attempt to do so.

The essential thing is to get the feel of the ball on the bat and use the push stroke to keep the ball going for as long as possible. And this is where I recommend medium rubber sheeting as it gives you the best feel of the ball in the early stages.

In this you will need the co-operation of a friend who is at least

The left leg should be slightly in front of the right leg with feet reasonably well apart.

Put the ball in play by holding the bat almost vertically and pushing the ball over the net. Practice this until you can keep the ball in play for half an hour.

In the next issue we will discuss a few more of the main basic strokes.

Note: In these articles for the newcomer to table tennis Aubrey Simons is dealing only briefly with various



AUBREY SIMONS

capable of keeping the ball in play with you.

The comfortable stance will be facing the table and standing approximately half a yard away from it, holding the bat firmly with the orthodox grip described last month.

aspects of the game. It may be claimed by the experienced players that he is omitting several important points, but it must be realised these articles are not intended to replace any of the 20,000-word books written on the subject.—EDITOR.

THE PAST WERE THE REAL CHAMPIONS

By LEN ADAMS

WHILE admiring the efficiency of the Japanese in winning three world men's singles titles in three attempts, I don't think any of them will live long enough in the game to compare in stature with Barna, Bergmann and Vana.

To me these names are magic, yet I did not see them play in their youth. I have not yet seen, and perhaps will never see, the present world champion Tanaka in action, but I venture to suggest that for me he is not a great champion.

Let me put my case. If memory serves, since the war ended both Vana and Sido have won the world singles title in addition to winning all their Swaythling Cup matches in the same week. I think Bergmann may have lost only one cup match when notching his third or fourth title.

This year Tanaka lost three times

in cup matches, his conquerors being Sido, Andreadis, and Vogrinc. Now we have this to decide. Was he saving himself for the singles or was he beaten by more experienced, more accomplished players? I prefer to think the latter.

LUCK OF DRAW

How then did a person whose style should be more effective in a best of three, romp home in best of five matches? The answer must surely be the extreme luck of the draw.

Who did Tanaka beat to impress on us his greatness? Dolinar? Perhaps, but only one to win a world championship.

I admit that Tanaka could not do more than gain the title and that any winner is a worthy champion. But a great champion? Not yet, I think.

Michael Thornhill writes

An Appreciation to Bernard Crouch

NORMALLY this is not the type of article with which I would like to make my debut in "Table Tennis," but I do indeed feel extremely honoured in being asked to write an appreciation to my great friend and team companion, Bernard Crouch, a victim of the Barnes train disaster.

Bernard first appeared on the table tennis scene as a boy of 14, joining a local club at Egham. His name

for the English Swathling Cup team competing in the World championships in Budapest. Thus he deservedly attained the highest honour that a team player can enjoy.

Bernard also excelled at Lawn Tennis, being a regular member of the Surrey County side. He was a well-known and respected tournament player, and several times played at Wimbledon.

But table tennis and lawn tennis were not his only sports. He was an all-rounder, being an above average amateur footballer, playing for



BERNARD CROUCH (second from left) seen with Jimmy Lowe, Reg Spooner (non-playing captain) and Michael Thornhill, after helping Staines win the Wilmott Cup last season.

was not widely known until the post-war period after he had served in the Fleet Air Arm.

I well remember meeting Bernard, for the first time. It was at a friend's house in Ashford, where we gathered on Sundays for table tennis. He was then an established Staines League representative, but was only too keen to help us beginners.

Gradually we all improved and it is very obvious now that the Staines League owe a great deal to Bernard for the position they enjoy today.

Shortly after this, Bernard was asked to play for Middlesex in their second team and, of course, eventually obtained his first team position. He held his place for several years and played a big part in establishing the Middlesex team spirit which has helped them win the county championship for the last eight successive seasons.

In 1950-51 Bernard was selected

Staines Town, and a useful club cricketer with the Laleham C.C.

Bernard had a somewhat shy manner and it was only his intimate friends and fellow team members who were permitted to appreciate his full worth.

He will always remain in my memory not only as a great friend, but as a person who played the game as it should be played.

Players of any sport, and I say this particularly for the younger generation, could do no better than to emulate his fine example.

From the L.C.C. (Staff) T.T.C. comes this tribute

It was with profound sorrow that we heard of Bernard Crouch's tragic death at the age of 30.

As a player, his hard hitting style was most attractive to watch and his

demeanour both on and off the table, was an example to all.

Always keen to put back into the game some of the enjoyment he got out of it, Bernard has coached at L.C.C. Evening Institutes and served on the club committee for several seasons.

Rather shy and unassuming, he was a first class sportsman in every way and was particularly popular with contemporary first-class players.

He will be greatly missed by his friends in table tennis and at the County Hall.

L.B.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

from MARGARET FRY

RESOLUTIONS—a dangerous word to bandy about on the brink of a new year.

As 1956 looms ahead let us spare a thought or two and see if the Table Tennis players can make a few resolutions that would improve the game as a whole.

Let us begin with punctuality at matches—whether they are humble Club games, County fixtures or the Championship itself. Don't take it for granted that "someone" saw you arrive. Make sure and report yourself.

Appearance at the table is important to the spectator, and to yourself. Dirty shoes and creased flannels or shorts are not the sign of the casual genius. Track suits look fine worn correctly, but when the top half only is removed the effect is lost and one is reminded of children in pantaloons!

Track suits worn during competitive matches also give the impression that your opponent is not going to extend you, and can be disposed of with ease.

Good manners seem to indicate the removal of the suit in deference to all concerned, including spectators.

Let's face it, **UMPIRES LIKE THE REST OF US HUMAN BEINGS DO MAKE MISTAKES.** Take them as part of the game. After all, the law of averages is inexorable.

Remember, too, that the man who sneezed at Bisley was committing no more serious a crime than the competitor walking thoughtlessly behind and between tables during rallies. You would be the first to complain if it happened to you, so **DON'T DO IT TO OTHERS.**

Lastly, let us treat this great game as a wonderful opportunity to put skill against skill in good sporting combat, and don't allow it to develop into a fight to the death struggle.

Good hunting in the New Year.

PUT A SPARKLE IN IT

by J. PELOW

A GREAT deal has been written, and a great deal more will be written, about the "dwindling attendances," "dry rot setting in" etc., of Table Tennis as a form of public entertainment.

Competitive Table Tennis is no doubt losing favour as a box office attraction. No none, however, seems to have reached the core of the matter. Most spectators of any kind of sport want to see the end of the contest and join in the partisanship of a possible "near" finish.

A recent Inter-League match was timed for 7.30 p.m. Quite reasonable, in these times, by 7.40 the visitors were at the Hall and had changed ready for play.

"Changing" of course varies with the individual. In some cases it is indeed a change into playing shirt and shorts and in others the barest formality of changing from outdoor shoes to grubby plimssoles.

In this particular match, both sides were well turned out and the audience re-action was immediately apparent and favourable (Please, players, take note of this—it is so important). Then came the inevitable "knocking up" all round and the first game started at 7.55.

This was an interesting game between a good attacking player and an astonishingly good defensive player. It went to three legs and eventually finished at 8.35. The second game went to three legs finishing at 9 p.m. Nine o'clock—2 games played and 8 to go.

At 9.30 there was a short break for tea and biscuits and at 10 p.m. the contest was not half way through. With 'buses to catch, and husbands and wives to appease, what spectators there were, left about 10.30, leaving the players to battle on, unhonoured, unsung, unseen and unapplauded until well into the night.

The star players, the ones the spectators particularly wanted to see in action, battled it out under the baleful eye of the Hall keeper, who was eventually appeased out of the private pocket of a committee man.

How long would football attract spectators if they had to watch until one side had scored say five goals. What housewife would placidly see her man off to "the match" being told that it might finish at 4.30 or it might go on to 6.30—what about tea, and "Sports Report."

Desperate ills need desperate remedies, and this matter must be approached in a new and visionary

manner. Three legs or five legs and 21 up must go.

Each game should be eight minutes each way of the table, and the total points scored by each team to decide winners or losers. Each game would take 16 minutes, ten games 160 minutes plus say 20 minutes for between times and refreshments. Three hours—everyone having played, the result known, and the spectators out by 10.30 having seen every player in action.

Of course it would speed the game up—like a relay race. At the end of the first 16 minutes, one side would say three points up and the others

Kenneth Wheeler comments on

THE EAGLE TOURNAMENT

The future of Scottish table tennis looks very bright indeed.

Last season, somewhat unexpectedly, they produced both Junior Champions in the *Eagle/Girl* Nation Finals. In this season's Edinburgh tournament not only did the reigning champions again succeed but the senior events provided, in Alan

three down. Those that were up would battle to increase the lead, and those that were down would battle just as hard to retrieve the position.

There would be no communal chiselling—there would be no point in it, and indeed no points.

Let all thinking T.T. players and officials give this suggestion serious consideration. Scrap the old ideas and let the public see a fast contest with a definite time factor. They'll come back when they know that they will see the finish of the match and still be well in time for the last 'bus home.

Would anyone buy a Detective story if he knew that the last ten pages were missing. How can the public be expected to "buy" the equivalent.

all four titles in the Grand Finals to be held next February 25.

Ronnie Brass, the Junior champion, was again the outstanding player present, and had little difficulty in disposing of all his rivals.

In fact, the only boy able to produce shots against Ronnie was his younger brother Gary. Playing in his first tournament a few days before his tenth birthday Gary, who unlike his brother is a left-hander, smashed his way impressively into the final and may become an even better prospect than the 12½-year-old Ronnie.

Of Alan Chalmers, the 13-year-old winner of the Senior event, Johnny Leach, who flew back from Sweden in time to be present, said: "Alan is a good all-round player with an excellent forehand attack. In my opinion he will give the others a good run in London."

Jean Darling, who hold the *Girl* Junior title, had a much harder passage in the keenly contested under-13 event, and 11½-year-old Elizabeth Huggins, of Joppa, Edinburgh, came very near to beating her.

Pat McKenzie is, with her mother, a member of Edinburgh's famous Gambit Club, and the coaching she has received from Helen Elliot and Bob Dykes gave her the edge over all her opponents in the *Girl's* Senior event.

SCOTTISH REGION, EDINBURGH

(December 10)

Boys' Senior Final: Alan CHALMERS (Edinburgh) bt Victor Silverstone (Glasgow) 21—8, 21—15.

Boys' Junior Final: Ronnie BRASS (Glasgow) bt Gary Brass (Glasgow) 21—8, 21—12.

Girls' Senior Final: Pat McKENZIE (Edinburgh) bt Kathleen Beaton (Edinburgh) 21—10, 21—5.

Girls' Junior Final: Jean DARLING (Edinburgh) bt Elizabeth Huggins (Edinburgh) 26—24, 21—7.



RONNIE BRASS

Chalmers and Pat McKenzie, two new champions capable of helping Scotland to make a clean sweep of

"Butterflies"—How to Pin Them Down

By FRANCIS THORNE*

MOST players have experienced "butterflies in the tummy" and I am often asked if anything can be done to control it.

This particular sensation is bound up with the whole question of emotional disturbance in the athlete. Every coach knows that it can wreck the most promising pupil, and that "nerves" may appear only at the most testing time, ruining months, or even years of careful preparation.

Every player who is keen should feel some excitement before a match. Indeed this "sparking" is thought by some to be essential to top performance; lack of it may be the ruination of a player superbly equipped in every other respect.

It is when this "spark" spills over into anxiety or fear it is damaging. Thus the champion is one who is better equipped technically, physically and emotionally.

In recent years many new ideas have emerged concerning emotional stress. One thing is quite clear—a coach must view his charge as a whole person, taking into account his emotional make-up and understanding what makes him "tick". It is almost certain that no good will come from telling a nervous or anxious player to pull himself together.

Different emotions react on the body in various ways. Panic or extreme fear will root a man to the spot; great anger may lead to impulsive and violent movements. Gen-

erally intense emotion destroys logical thinking, which means a player may lose his sense of tactics and react confusedly to situations.

Some people are fortunately born with the right sort of emotional make-up for participating in competitions in which stress is high. For the rest can anything be done to minimize the effects of emotional impact?

I think the problem can be discussed under five headings:

Technique and Skill

Excessive emotional strain can play havoc with technique and skill—both can be lost in a welter of nervous apprehension, especially when they are dependent on conscious effort.

Therefore, if these can be perfected in practice so that the necessary movements become automatic, the effects of emotion will be reduced.

Further, the knowledge that he possesses a good technique and a high level of skill will provide a player with confidence which will also help to offset emotional strain.

Study of the Individual

The coach should study his charges individually. No human beings react the same way. Some can be soothed by one method, others by an entirely different approach. Where a team is concerned, it is useful to use the confidence and excitement of one to ignite the others.

In choosing doubles pairs it may well be as important to consider the

players' emotional integration as their playing skill. If tension can be tackled before it has become too deep it can be dissipated.

It is important to watch for a crisis in susceptible people and apply appropriate measures, which will of course vary. Some need sympathy; others bantering or joking. Some can be jockeyed out of trouble; others need their attention drawn to something outside the game.

It is for the coach to discover the best approach.

Games Playing Outlook

The player who can develop a philosophical outlook on winning, losing and playing is less likely to suffer from excessive emotional tension. For him the game takes its proper perspective in the whole pattern of his life.

Feeding

Emotional stress can upset digestion. Generally the person who is upset will not settle down to a full meal and should be tempted with attractive and nutritious snacks. Don't try to force such a person to eat a hearty meal on the grounds that it will "do him good." It won't—it may even make him sick, or worsen matters considerably.

Glucose is sometimes successful in quietening "butterflies in the tummy" and is, of course, a source of energy.

Relaxation

This is probably the biggest single factor in tackling emotional stress. Some people cannot sleep before an important match and the result is that through their minds and muscles being in a state of hyper-tension they are mentally and physically exhausted.

Numerous methods have been employed to induce relaxation. Light recreation or even a car drive have been known to be useful.

I have found, paradoxically perhaps, that a conscious effort to relax produces a good result in me and in those who have been in my charge.

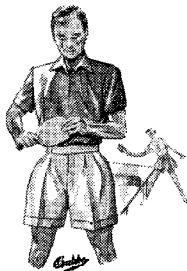
It is essential to choose a quiet spot in which to lie down flat on the back, eyes closed. One then relaxes systematically, starting with the neck, then the shoulders, chest, arms, and so on to the toes. Then some really deep breaths and start again. It is surprising how often after a few repetitions, relaxation is obtained.

* Director of The Crookes Athletes Advisory Service.

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AROUND THE LEAGUES

Birmingham players are watching the boys in blue. The combined City Police team are busy arresting rivals in the Fourth Division and have gone to the top of the table with a 100 per cent record. It is the first time the City Police have got together for a representative team. In the past they have entered under their respective divisions.

Liverpool and District have shelved their coaching scheme until the end of the season.

The First Division of the **Derby League** is wide open with Railway Institute, St. Andrew's and Celanese all having dropped only one match each. Celanese took Railways unbeaten record with a 5-4 win.

R.A.F. Kirkham are making a bold bid for honours in the **Blackpool and District League**, with the "A" team heading the Fifth Division, and the "B" side in second place in the Sixth Division.

Leeds with a 6-4 win over Huddersfield "seconds" took the lead in the **Yorkshire Inter-Leagues** championship with six points from their first three matches. Huddersfield, with a game in hand, and Bradford, who have drawn two matches each have four points.

First Division table (as at December 13):

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Leeds	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Huddersfield	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Bradford	3	1	0	2	16	14	4
Huddersfield II	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Sheffield	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Barnsley	4	1	2	1	19	21	3
Hull	3	0	2	1	11	19	1
Halifax	3	0	3	0	6	24	0

Jackie and Jean Head made a family affair of the **South London "closed."** Jackie won the men's singles, while Jean took the women's singles and doubles with Joy Faulkner.

Finals: Men's singles: J. Head bt T. Densham 17-21, 21-19, 21-13.

Women's singles: Mrs. J. Head bt Miss B. Isaacs 21-16, 21-17.

Women's doubles: Mrs. Head and Mrs. J. Faulkner bt Miss Isaacs and Miss L. U. Withams 21-19, 21-15.

Men's doubles: R. Crayden and F. Goodwyn bt J. Head and T. Densham 21-17, 21-19.

Mixed doubles: Crayden and Mrs. Faulkner bt D. Littlewort and Miss Isaacs 21-14, 21-19.

Norman Cooke's run of 138 consecutive appearances over the past five years for Bath Street in the **Liverpool League** has now come to

an end. He will be playing for the second team in future.

Bournemouth gained a triple success over Southampton in the **Hampshire League**, winning the men's tie 9-1, the women's 7-3 and the juniors 9-1.

Weston Sports "A" and "B" teams, each with a 100 per cent record for their first ten matches, head the First and Second Divisions of the **Southampton League**.

Phoenix "A", languishing at the bottom of the **Worthing** First Division without a win from their first seven matches, are hoping that the return of Ray Little from National Service will improve their fortunes.

Exeter "A", so far unbeaten, head the men's section of the **Devon League**, with Exmouth, last year's champions in second place. Plymouth "A" are again at the top of the women's section.

Roy Millis, of **Coventry**, won the All-England singles for the deaf. He plays No. 1 for Deaf Social in the Fourth Division.

The Reg White Cup in the Old Drakonians' tournament at **Plymouth** changed hands, but stayed in the Turner family. C. R. Turner beat his brother P. V. Turner, last year's winner 19-21, 21-16, 21-16 in the final.

A record entry of 50 for the **Cambridge and District League** includes several new clubs. Last

season's champions, Newham Institute, have, however, disbanded and three of their players, John Cornwell, John Thurston and Ron Neem have joined Wesley, Y.M.C.A., and New Chesterton Institute respectively, thus making the First Division championship more open than for several seasons.

Proud boast of Cambridge is that all their officials are active players. President L. R. J. Constable and League secretary J. W. Bangham, who is also veteran champion, reached the semi-finals of the men's doubles, County secretary Mrs. M. Cornwell won the women's "closed" singles, and with her match secretary husband John, (singles title holder) won the mixed doubles. Chairman F. Lanter was a semi-finalist in the handicap singles.

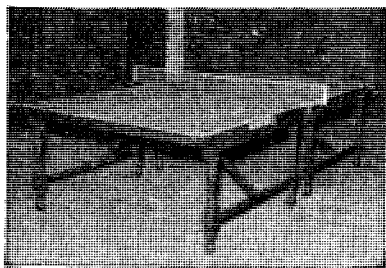
Charlton's famous footballer John Hewie plays regularly in the **Woolwich** league, having been a founder member of Decagon T.T. (1949/50), whom he helped to promotion to Division I last season.

Beckenham are becoming the sponge stronghold of Kent. They are the only league in the county who are regularly represented by sponge players, including J. Nixon and D. Eagan.

At the half-way stage in the **Billericay and District League's** programme Marconi "A" in their first season lead Division I, Runwell Youth Centre "A" with Wickford "A" are second and third respectively.

A tense battle is going on at the foot of the table between Hutton Wayfarers "A", Billericay British Legion "A" and Stock "B". Hutton Social "B" and Stock "C" lead Divisions two and three respectively.

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A FUTURE WORLD CHAMPION

says **JOEL HASKEL**, of Sweden

I HAVE seen a lot of table tennis in Europe since the war, internationals, national and open championships and world meetings, but I cannot remember a game like the women's singles final in the Scandinavian Open in Stockholm at the beginning of December.

Those who know me as captain of Swedish teams and the fact that there was no Swedish player involved may well ask why? Well folks, let me tell you.

There was Angelica Rozeanu, six times world champion, on one side of the net faced by Ann Haydon, blonde 17-year-old English girl, whom no one gave a chance—no one but herself.

Ann started playing as if she was the world champion, took the first two games easily and went to 18—15 in the third. The champion was almost thrown out of her throne and we in Eriksdalshallen were prepared to shout "The Queen is dead; long live the Queen!"

But Angelica Rozeanu was not beaten yet. She called on all her experience and fighting spirit, and started to come back.

Ann wavered and for the first time looked a little uncertain of herself. She changed her tactics and stopped those untakeable fore-hand smashes. Mrs. Rozeanu saw her chance and did not miss it. She snatched the game, did not ask for the normal five minutes interval, and went on playing with great power and speed to win 12—21, 15—21, 21—19, 21—18, 21—17.

Ann Haydon did not win the Scandinavian Championship but she gained a lot of experience. She learned the lesson so many have had to learn before her: no match is won until the last shot.

When leading 18—15 it looked to me as though she suddenly started to think about what was going to happen—beating the world champion. And that is where Angelica caught her out.

LOST BUT WON

As I told my friend Johnny Leach after the final, I think Ann won more by losing to Angelica than if she had won the title. She gained in experience and had her possibilities revealed. I do not think there has been any more promising girl since 1945, and she seems certain to become a world champion if she keeps on working, and if the E.T.T.A. give her all the chances to which she is now entitled.

If I were to choose the English Tokio team (I'm glad I'm not) my

first choice (men included) would be Ann Haydon, the new darling of Eriksdalshallen.

It is true she has no backhand yet, but she will learn. And when her back hand is only half as good as her forehand, she will take a lot of beating.

Good luck to Ann in Tokio!

* * *

There are two more things I would like to mention from this tournament, where 43 foreign players from 13 nations competed with the Swedish top players.

1. The fourth Hungarian generation is ready to take over from Sido and Koczian. Kalman Szepesi and Gyetvai played a marvellous final, demonstrating and the technique inherited from the days of Victor Barna, Bellak, and Szabados. I think the two Hungarians are Europe's greatest hope of wresting the world title from the Japanese.

2. There has been no international tournament since the war where



ANN HAYDON

Swedish players have done so well, excluding Tage Flisberg. Lennart Johansson and Bo Malmquist were beaten in the doubles by Szepesi and Gyetvai only after five games, while the blonde youngsters Elizabeth Thorsson and Birgita Tegner came near to reaching a final before falling to the French pair Christine Watel and Monique Albert. Then to round it off Sweden finally landed a title to win the men's doubles.

The way these two old friends outplayed the Hungarians Szepesi and Gyetvai made us dream about them playing together in Tokio. But—dreams I know, never come true.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

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KENT ANSWERS BACK

WHY is it that one gets very little comment on one's activities all the time things go right, but the moment anything goes wrong it is shouted from the house-tops?

For several years now the Kent Junior Open Championships have run fairly smoothly, but have we ever seen an Editorial to say: "Well done, Kent!"? Now that something has gone wrong, what do we get? An Editorial emblazoned with a title in letters of about half an inch and glibly talking of "this fiasco," "a breakdown of organisation," etc.

We, in Kent, do not object to criticism, even if it is not exactly constructive, but I think we can rightly object to the phrases quoted above, i.e., "this fiasco" and "a breakdown of organisation." These are hard words and, in my opinion, entirely unjustified. Just imagine, Mr. Editor, the colossal amount of work we in Kent had got through—the visit of two foreign teams, involving all their travel and accommodation arrangements; the staging of an International match, a semi-International match, and a County versus foreign team match; followed by the Championships, with over 200 keen competitors taking part. Even if there was a late finish, does that turn it into a "fiasco"? Ask two hundred enthusiastic young players! Does it indicate a "breakdown of organisation"? Ask the hard-working Organising Committee!

Yes, we did have a late finish, and we are well aware of the fact that it was much too late for the youngsters. Does anyone think we view this with complacency and are going to do nothing about it? Everyone concerned can rest assured that we are already considering ways and means of improving the situation next season.

We know that "efficient organisation" could get through the Championships on time, if by "efficient organisation" one means the rigid application of all the regulations. This, sir, is a Junior event, and one must at least be a

little tactful and human in one's outlook. Don't forget that many of the competitors are much too young to even understand the regulations, and allowance must be made for their failings.

If anyone has some really constructive ideas, by all means let them come forward with them.

I note that you say that a move is already afoot to limit the number of events in which a player may take part. Your information appears to be a little ahead of mine. I know of no such move and, in fact, I would certainly oppose it most strongly. To my mind one cannot tell any individual that he or she must not enter certain events, when they are all open to anyone in the wide world. If a very young player is particularly brilliant, then we have no right to debar him or her from attempting to gain every title.

No support

With regard to your paragraph on the subject of Junior County matches, might I point out that a couple of years ago Kent proposed that all Junior matches should be played in the afternoons? Unfortunately, this idea did not get much support from the other counties; in fact, if my memory is correct, **no other county fully supported the idea.** Does this indicate that Kent is unmindful of the welfare of the youngsters?

Now we want our Open Junior Championships to be a success. Ours are the only such Championships in the whole country, and possibly in the world, and we feel that they are supplying the youngsters with a splendid opportunity to launch out into the competitive world.

We feel that, nationally, we are doing the younger players a great service by providing the medium for International matches and competitive play against the better foreign Juniors. So please do rally round us rather than kick us in the pants when we slip up a little!

F. G. MANNOOCH,

Hon. Secretary, Kent County T.T.A.

NO BREAKDOWN

Regarding your Editorial in the December issue of Table Tennis.

I entirely agree that tournaments and matches in which juniors take part should finish early, and this should be a prime aim of all organisers of these events. I have, for some years, advocated finishing these events as early as possible and in any case not later than 10 p.m. Unfortunately, this is not always as easy as it sounds, as any organiser of a popular one-day tournament, where it is impracticable to time schedule the games will, I think, agree. As the Hon. Referee of the Kent junior open tournament, I must, however, disagree with your statement that the late finish of this year's event was a "fiasco" and that "a breakdown of organisation was responsible." There were, perhaps, flaws in the organisation, but no breakdown, and certainly it was not a fiasco. The late finish was, of course, due to several reasons—not one only.

There were, as is often the case, not enough helpers available, although a number of officials and players from other counties willingly assisted. Other factors were the large number of events and entries and, as usual, the same few competitors contesting the 28 semi-finals and 14 finals. It is true that a certain amount of "table time" was lost, perhaps unnecessarily, but this happens, I have observed, at other one-day tournaments.

I might also point out that officials (all volunteers, be it noted) get tired towards the end of a trying day, during which they have worked hard and often seen practically nothing of the play.

The problem of an early finish at junior tournaments and matches is not

an easy one to solve, and I am inclined to agree that the N.E.C. might examine this problem generally, perhaps at the same time as they consider the playing conditions.

So far as next year's Kent junior open is concerned, we are determined to find a solution, and have the matter already in hand.

F. TREW,

(Chairman, Kent County T.T.A.).

EXAGGERATED

Nobody else seems to be anxious to stage an event comparable to the Kent Junior Open—an event staged with equipment as used for senior tournaments, for juniors paying nominal entry fees; 14 events played on 12 tables in a day; participation of two or three foreign countries, with Kent bearing all expenses; and a gate few senior tournaments could equal.

We have had a tremendous amount of encouragement and praise from players and officials of many countries, and from the competitors from across the Channel.

Many tournaments have run late, this season more than ever. If juniors are concerned, that is even more unfortunate, we all agree. But running late is one thing (and even this aspect has been grossly exaggerated in last month's Editorial); a "fiasco" and "breakdown in organisation" quite another. We in Kent have every confidence in the Editor's sense of fair play, and we know he has been misinformed.

However, preparations are now in hand which will ensure a smooth and perfect running next year.

CONRAD JASCHKE,

(Press Officer and E.T.T.A. Rep., K.C.T.T.A.).

CRITICISM JUSTIFIED

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Table Tennis late nights affecting teen-age players . . . well enough has been said last month and much more will be said in this month's issue of "Table Tennis."

But what about late nights affecting the Press? For quite a few years now I have been stressing to organisers throughout the country the folly of midnight finishes.

No sport is a more regular late finisher than table tennis.

And because of this hundreds of inches of valuable newspaper space have been lost. Sports Editors assemble their pages late but not late enough to cope with this midnight madness.

The only solution for more newspaper space, is 10 p.m. finishes AT THE LATEST.

SAM LEITCH

(Daily Express)

PARENT'S VIEW

The finishing time of the Kent Junior Championships was certainly not before midnight.

In my opinion the lateness of the tournament was due to lack of organisation in the early hours of the day, and I am confirmed in this view by friends who also attended, that for very long periods many of the tables, particularly from No. 7 upwards, were vacant for upwards of 10 minutes to half an hour.

It must be remembered that our coach leaving time was 6.45 a.m., and it was necessary to get up at approximately an hour earlier. Having regard to the fact that the home-coming time was approximately 3.30 a.m., the children were in no fit state to attend ordinary schooling the following day.

Children of this age are preparing for examinations which are of tremendous importance to them in later life, and one has naturally to choose between table tennis and schooling at this age if the tournament organisers are unable to keep the hours within reasonable limits.

E. HESSION (Mrs.),

(Hornchurch).

ESSEX CONCERNED

I understand that your Editorial last month has caused some concern to the organisers of the Kent Junior Open Tournament, but I feel that after careful reflection they will realise that it was something that had to be said, sooner or later, and I am confident that eventually they will be only too appreciative of its value to them.

In my own county, we are also very much concerned, as we feel that, in a small way, we have always endeavoured to assist our colleagues in Kent in their sterling work for the Junior game. At a recent County meeting, when the tournament was discussed, it was reluctantly

decided that unless an approximate time of finishing was stipulated on the entry form, it would not be possible for us to recommend our Junior players to take part.

This does not mean that we do not want the tournament to continue—we do—but we would like a little more consideration given to those players who are keen enough to enter and are willing to travel a considerable distance. We realise that this may be a difficult problem, but it must be the responsibility of the organisers to ensure that the players are given the opportunity of arriving at their homes at a reasonable time.

So to all my good friends in Kent I would like to say, please do not be too harsh on your critics, but simply try to look at it from the players' point of view, and I feel sure that it will be possible for a solution to be found and that next season we shall see the Kent Junior running once again in all its glory. Good luck.

HARRY WALKER,

(Essex).

MORE LIKE BARBARA



Top marks to Barbara Milbank for being "Table Tennis" most enthusiastic magazine secretary. She can always be found at any Essex event—and sometimes outside the County—pushing the sales of the magazine.

More enthusiasts like Barbara are required through the country.

EDITOR REPLIES

KENT have taken umbrage at last month's editorial, calling them to task because of the late finish to their Junior "Open."

The criticism was not because it was a Kent affair—it would have been the same for any county. For this disgraceful business of keeping schoolchildren out to all hours of the night must be shown up.

It has got to stop. It is harmful to the game and parents will think twice before allowing their children to take it up.

I appreciate all that Kent have done for the junior game and would like other counties to take similar interest.

I also appreciate the hard work that must have gone into the organisation, but that is no excuse. The answer is don't be over ambitious, in tackling more than can be handled.

The Kent officials claim there was no breakdown in organisation. Surely failure to keep to a schedule constitutes a breakdown?

Mr. Jaschke goes so far as to say I was misinformed and that I have grossly

exaggerated the lateness. I leave him to read the letter from Mrs. Hession, one of the parents who attended the meeting. This doesn't suggest I exaggerated in saying play went on until after midnight.

Moreover my information came from several different sources. It was not the question of relying on one person.

I don't for one moment think that Kent view this matter with complacency. But the lesson of late finishes has got to be driven home otherwise it may spread.

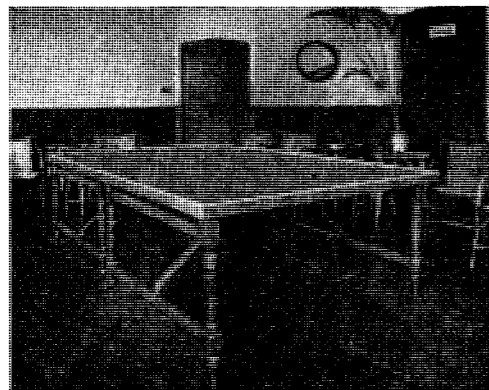
No doubt many youngsters did enjoy their play, but did they enjoy getting up for school the next morning, after only a few hours sleep? And it is not so much the children's feelings, but those of their parents.

This is indeed a serious matter, and I shall not hesitate in criticising any junior event which goes on so late, whether it be a tournament or county fixture.

The E.T.T.A. should look into the whole question.

HARRISON EDWARDS

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Tournament Table

- ¶ 1in. Birch Ply top
- ¶ 8 folding legs.
- ¶ A Superfast defect-free surface
- ¶ Self aligning stubs and plates.
- ¶ Rigid when erected
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Also Club models ½in. top and tables suitable for home play.

H.P. & Rental Terms

JOHN G. TOMS

18, Norbett Road, Arnold, Notts.

THE BERGMANN CONTROVERSY

I have read with interest the articles in recent issues of the magazine in which direct and indirect reference has been made to Richard Bergmann, and in spite of all the opinions and advice offered I would like to suggest that they spare a thought to the players who take part in table tennis in *England* — without whom and their parent associations it would not be possible to send a team to Tokio!

I do not profess to be an expert—

my job is simply administrative—but it seems to me wrong when a player can be out of the country for roughly two years and still be considered as a probable for the team.

Do these experts ever contact any of our leading players who are fighting throughout the season to achieve recognition and are doing so much for the game in England? Their views may be interesting to them.

We are told a lot about prestige and

all that sort of thing, but it is not getting us very far, and what does it mean to the players? Very little, I can tell you.

I would say, from a man in the street's point of view—pick our team from those who take part in table tennis in England, even if they are not so good. Give them a chance to play against some of the best players in the world, and maybe they will gain experience which will help us to get somewhere.

While the focus is on Bergmann at the present time, it is within the bounds of possibility than many other players may act in the same way, and one day our team would be comprised entirely of players who do not play in England.

The views expressed above are personal and are in no way connected with my office as County Secretary or as a member of the N.E.C.

HARRY WALKER,
(Essex T.T.A.).

I, too, am of the opinion that Richard Bergmann must go to Tokio. Of course he is unparalleled in his defensive work and outstanding footwork, which is most disconcerting at times to his opponents (even the Japanese).

Without him our Swaythling Cup team might well call it a day, as I think by his mere presence we can get that cup, and after all that is our object.

Play the best men, faithful or otherwise, and you will find that the younger players will automatically assume control at the appropriate moment.

LESLIE CONSTABLE,
(President, Cambridge T.T.A.).

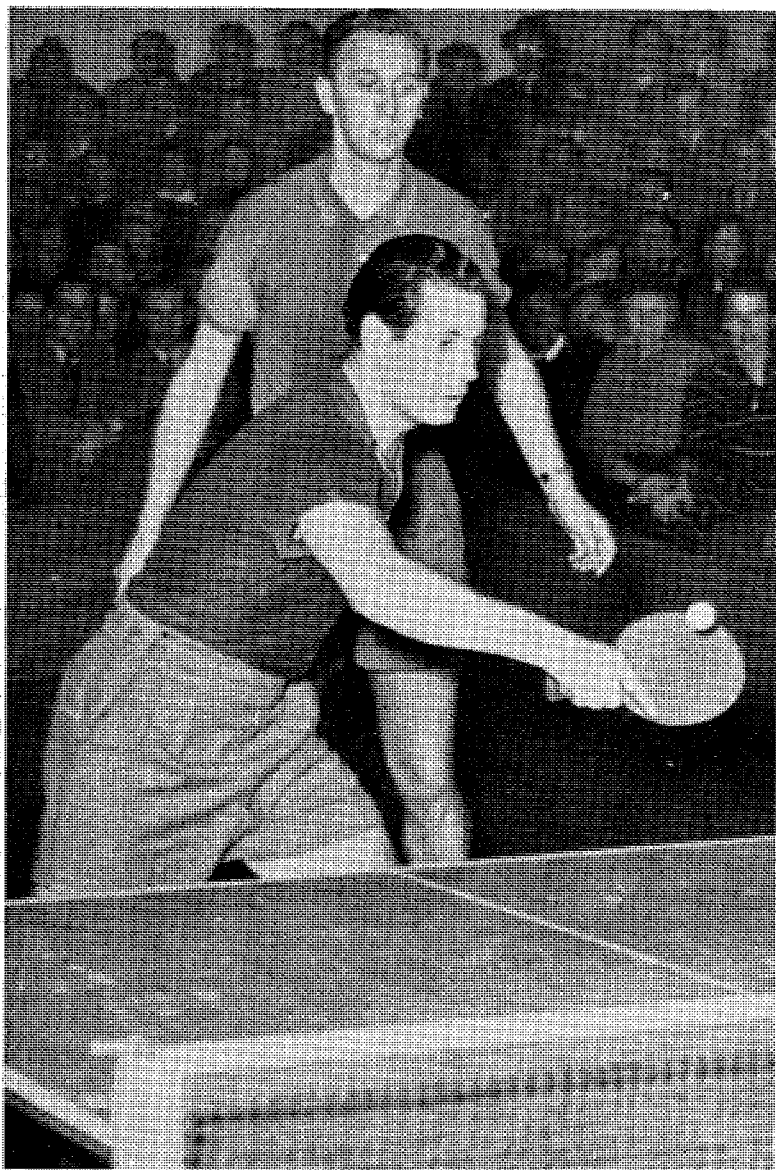
Johnny Leach's and Richard Bergmann's respective places as first and second in the official ranking list surprised me almost as much as they did Richard himself. One indisputable advantage which Richard has, is a fiercer fighting spirit.

One thing we shall admire in Richard is his fine sporting spirit! While obviously smarting with resentment he was able to inform Mr. Sam Kirkwood "I don't want favours, thanks or sympathy, but I have a right to expect fair play and nothing will convince me that I have not been unjustly thrown out of the No. 1 place."

P. E. WARDEN,
Taplow.

While my esteem for Richard Bergmann runs very high what about Harry Venner, who, as Richard states, has the best home record for last season, yet has been placed No. 5. Surely Venner deserves higher rating. I should suggest at least No. 3. What do other readers think about this?

R. GARLAND,
Paddington.



Area News:

DORSET NOTES

ALTHOUGH only in their third year, the Dorset T.T. Association have been allocated the England v Wales international. This will be played at the Sidney Hall, Weymouth, on January 27.

The county trials discovered two new players in D. Wellstead, who is now No. 1, and Doris Grinley, who has returned to the game after an absence of more than a year. This pair have greatly strengthened the side and, with Joe Biles, Paddy McQuade, Eve Davis and Peggy Northcott, make a very happy combination.

Biggest loss had been that of Jack Rose, last year's captain, due to business commitments.

Dorset have recorded a home win against Cornwall, but went down 4-6 to Devon at Paignton.

The Dorset "Open" proved very successful, and was run under ideal conditions at Weymouth, but unfortunately drew little support from the county.

Owing to travelling difficulties it has been decided not to run the County League on a home and away basis, but to play the competition on the knock-out principle.

The county "closed" championships leave Weymouth for the first time this season. New venue will be Poole: probable date, early February.

Weymouth and District League continue to hold top place in Dorset, running five divisions with a total of 44 teams, an increase on last year.

The ladies' division is going strong, with the top women players competing in the men's divisions.

Leading players in Dorset for many years, Bill Pryor and Johnny Dale are still at the top of their form and are helping Park T.T.C. stay at the top of the league; Y.M.C.A., greatly strengthened by the return of Derek Chambers from National Service, only two points behind.

Welcome addition to the First Division is the Admiralty Gunnery Establishment team.

Joe Biles, of the Pilgrims, has won the League individual championship, while Miss Barbara Leaf, of Barnsley, who plays in the local college team, beat Mrs. Peggy Northcott in the women's final. Both Biles and Mrs. Northcott are in the county side.

Peter Northcott.

CAMBRIDGSHIRE NOTES

CAMBS. have launched a big drive to train more women players up to county standard and strengthen the county team in their bid for promotion to the Second Division South. About 14 girls, some of them well-known county athletes, have come into the scheme, and we are hoping for a big improvement.

Meanwhile, Cambs. face their biggest test in the return matches with Suffolk in the Eastern Division at Histon on Friday, January 13. We are confident it will be a lucky date, for the away

match ended in a draw after Thurston and Cornwall had lost their doubles when appearing to be right on top. If Cambs. can win this match the way should be clear to win the division.

Plans are being made to have county matches played outside of Cambridge in such places as Wisbech, March, and Chatteris, but as yet nothing has been settled, although March and Wisbech will claim priority as leagues in both those places are flourishing.

Of the three players who represent Cambs. in the men's events in the county championships, John Thurston is as yet unbeaten in cup and league matches. He has played consistently throughout the season, and it will take a very good player to get the better of him.

A record entry is expected for the Cambs. closed championship to be held at the Cambridge Corn Exchange in March. John Cornwall will be defending his singles title.

Leslie Constable.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

IN the First Division of the Western Counties League, Bath, without the services of David House, were trounced 1-9 in their away match with Cheltenham. Their only win was gained by G. Holden, who beat P. Cruwys 21-15, 21-12. Holden also had a good game with Bob Griffin, but lost over three sets.

Shirley Davis and Mollie Jones were



BRYAN MERRETT

in great form for Cheltenham, winning their singles matches easily.

Bristol, last year's champions, weakened by the absence of Aubrey Simons and Miss E. Pomroy, were beaten 4-6 in their away fixture with Gloucester.

Bryan Merrett was in good form for Gloucester, beating both R. B. Wood and B. Bucknell in straight sets, while Roy Morley marked up wins over Wood and F. Wiggins.

Mrs. Watts, who replaced Miss Pomroy, and Miss Jean Collier each won their singles, then combined to win the doubles.

With Simons and Miss Pomroy back in the side, Bristol beat Cardiff 8-2 at Bristol. Miss Pomroy, however, was beaten by Miss Greta Holden in a close match which could easily have gone either way, the scores being 21-18, 25-23. Simons had no trouble in

winning his two singles against S. Jones and A. Thomas.

There was plenty of excitement in the women's doubles, where Miss Pomroy and Miss Collier beat Miss Holden and Miss Cotton 26-28, 21-19, 21-17.

In the Second Division, Newport marked up a 6-4 win over Weston-super-Mare, the highspot being the 21-18, 21-19 win for Basil Evans (Newport) over D. Bates. There were also plenty of thrills when Trevor Jones lost in the third set to D. B. Shipton.

Newport were all conquering in the women's events, Mrs. Rome and Miss Harris winning their singles and doubles against Mrs. Bull and Miss J. Saunders.

Bristol "seconds" had a close call against Taunton, P. Harris forcing a 5-all draw when he beat J. Garland in the last match.

Heartiest congratulations to Mr. R. Marshall, the Gloucester secretary, on his recent marriage.

Grove Motlow.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

CHELLENHAM and Birmingham share all the honours between them in the Midland League. In clashes between the two leagues, played at Birmingham, the scores were (Birmingham first): Men 4-6, Ladies 5-5, Intermediate 9-1, Juniors 0-10, Veterans 10-0.

MIDLAND TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

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

Men (Division 1)

Cheltenham	...	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Birmingham	...	4	3	1	0	27	13	6
Coventry	...	3	2	0	1	20	10	5
Wolverhampton	...	4	2	0	0	18	22	4
Northampton	...	2	1	0	1	12	8	3
West Bromwich	...	3	0	1	2	13	17	2
Leicester	...	3	1	2	0	12	18	2
Nottingham	...	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Worcester	...	3	0	3	0	8	22	0
Derby	...	3	0	3	0	6	24	0

Men (Division 2)

Birmingham "B"	...	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Nottingham "B"	...	3	2	1	0	15	15	4
Leicester "B"	...	1	0	1	0	4	6	0
Wolverhampton "B"	...	1	0	1	0	3	7	0
Kidderminster	...	2	0	2	0	6	14	0

Ladies' Division

Cheltenham	...	4	3	0	1	29	11	7
Birmingham	...	4	3	0	1	28	12	7
Coventry	...	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Wolverhampton	...	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
West Bromwich	...	2	1	0	1	11	9	3
Leicester	...	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Nottingham	...	3	0	2	1	10	20	1
Derby	...	2	0	2	0	5	15	0
Worcester	...	3	0	3	0	5	25	0

Veterans' Division

Birmingham	...	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
West Bromwich	...	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Nottingham	...	2	1	1	0	11	9	2
Wolverhampton	...	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Worcester	...	1	0	1	0	3	7	0
Cheltenham	...	2	0	2	0	2	18	0

Intermediate

Birmingham	...	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Nottingham	...	2	1	1	0	13	7	2
Cheltenham	...	2	1	1	0	9	11	2
Wolverhampton	...	2	0	2	0	3	17	0
Worcester	...	1	0	1	0	1	9	0

Juniors

Cheltenham	...	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
Birmingham	...	4	3	1	0	22	18	6
West Bromwich	...	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Nottingham	...	2	1	1	0	9	11	2
Leicester	...	3	1	2	0	10	20	2
Worcester	...	2	0	2	0	7	13	0
Wolverhampton	...	3	0	3	0	7	23	0

MERSEYSIDE MEMO

Ellesmere Port report that the number of teams in their League remain the same as last year but they have lost two clubs, including the last remaining Youth Club. The League is now entirely composed of Works teams. Their experience is a lack of promising youngsters, which they put down to the demands of National Service, and the fact that most Youth Clubs have the use of their hall for only one or two nights a week, in which case their wide range of activities prevents them obtaining practice or entering League competitions.

Wirral, however, are in the happy position of having the use of Livingstone Street Baths with six tables every Saturday evening, lent to them by the Birkenhead Youth Committee, and in five weeks the attendance has grown from one to 60. Ages range from 12 to 18, and under the guidance of Mr. Cliff Swindells, competitions and varied events are arranged each week. Promising youngsters will be helped and persuaded to join clubs in the Wirral League, who, while they have lost some clubs, have increased the number of teams to 90.

Bill Stamp.

GLOUCESTER SNIPPETS

PRIDE of place this month goes to the county team. Visiting Sheffield to join battle with Yorkshire, fresh from their triumph over Middlesex, Gloucestershire, in typical West Country fashion, proceeded to hand out a 7-3 beating to the "Tykes."

And all honour to the ladies, Molly Jones and Shirley Davis, who rose to the occasion in fine style and had the women's singles, doubles, and mixed "in the bag" in no time.

Bob Griffin had a personal triumph. He had the crowd on its toes with a thrilling game against S. Dyson, followed up by handing out a beating to the "sponge" of Ray Dove, then joined Shirley Davis for the mixed victory.

It was a wonderful weekend in Sheffield, thanks to the hospitality of the local officials and, of course, Les Forrest. Only black spot was the breakdown of one of the cars carrying the Bristol party. It had to be towed to Burton-on-Trent, and the journey home completed by train.

Yours truly had plenty to say about the car, but Aubrey Simons, in his quiet, chuckling manner, remarked: "It could have been a lot worse, Sec. We could have lost."

So, with a hundred per cent record it is now "Middlesex, here we come," for the next match at Staines on January 14. This is a visit that conjures up memories of our only win over the champions, by 5-4. We are calling on the same team that beat Yorkshire, and here's hoping for another winning thriller.

In the first county league game, Bristol Juniors entertained Gloucester Juniors, and won 6-4 after a close struggle. M. Priday and C. Feltham won all six singles for the homesters, but the play of young J. Miles for Bristol was most encouraging.

For Gloucester, J. Miller, R. Paulton

and G. Philpott each won a singles, while Philpott and J. Simmonds took the doubles.

Cheltenham are again running their Sunday tournaments (one per month), and invite all affiliated members in the county to take part. Full particulars can be obtained from any Cheltenham official.

Congratulations to young Edwards, of Cheltenham, who so impressed at the recent Dorset "open" that, along with other Cheltenham boys, Harrison, Tarning and Griffiths, he was invited to the Junior trials in London.

The way Cheltenham have turned out juniors speaks well for their coaching system, and I hope that the mammoth Bristol League will in the near future take a leaf from their notebook. I feel that coaching for juniors in the Bristol area is long overdue, and the low standard of the game in the West Country capital warrants some special interest in its junior game.

Ivor Eyles.

KENT NOTES

NEVER have the top divisions of the Kent League been so wide open as this season. In Division 1 (Men), champions Woolwich lost 3-7 to Folkestone, thus suffering their first defeat in three seasons. Last year's runners-up, Bromley, have also dropped two points, by drawing with N.W. Kent "A" and Medway Towns, so the issue is still very much in doubt, with Folkestone having full points so far. In the ladies' division, Tonbridge are the surprise leaders with full points, but they have yet to meet the strongest sides. Maidstone, winners of the division for the past five years, drew with Woolwich, but must be favourites for the title by virtue of their all-round strength. In the junior division, Folkestone and Woolwich have full points, while a stern battle for promotion is going on in both second divisions.

Men, Div. 1

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Folkestone ...	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Bromley ...	4	2	2	0	25	15	6
Beckenham ...	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Medway Towns ...	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
N.W. Kent "B" ...	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Woolwich ...	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
N.W. Kent "A" ...	4	0	2	2	18	22	2
Canterbury ...	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Gravesend ...	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Tonbridge Wells ...	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

Ladies

Tonbridge ...	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
N.W. Kent ...	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Maidstone ...	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Woolwich ...	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Medway Towns ...	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Gravesend ...	4	2	0	2	16	24	4
T. Wells ...	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Folkestone ...	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Bromley ...	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
Canterbury ...	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Juniors

Woolwich ...	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Folkestone ...	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Sittingbourne ...	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
N.W. Kent ...	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Canterbury ...	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Bromley ...	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Medway Towns ...	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

Promotion Rule Muddle. — Probably most people know by now that a serious error was made in the current handbook of the N.C.C. Rules 3 and 4 completely contradict each other; rule 3

states: "in each second division, the team finishing nearest the top, having no team in the premier division, shall be eligible to challenge for a place in the premier division." Rule 4 says: "... in no circumstances shall a county finishing fourth be promoted."

Now, in Division II (South), it is quite likely that the second teams of Surrey, Middlesex and Essex will finish in the three top positions, and thus the fourth county becomes eligible to challenge for promotion according to rule 3, but is barred under rule 4.

This matter should have been given immediate attention, instead of which it is still unresolved in mid-season.

There is a keen struggle going on for promotion in Division II (South) at this very moment, and the counties battling there are entitled to know how many games they have to win to be able to challenge.

Conrad Jaschke.

ESSEX NOTES

ESSEX hopes of winning the Premier Division of the National County Championship received a severe set-back when they lost narrowly 4-6 to Surrey at Kingston.

The result of the clash between Surrey and Middlesex on January 11 is therefore eagerly awaited, for a win for Middlesex could mean the championship being decided on games average after the Middlesex and Essex match at Tottenham Town Hall on March 22.

It is unlikely that the Rowe twins or Johnny Leach will be available for this important match, as they will almost certainly be on their way to Tokio for the World Championships.

Meanwhile, Essex have two stiff home games, against Yorkshire and Gloucestershire.

A sad blow to the East London League has been the death of their President, Mr. R. Q. Adams. He was also connected with the Central London League.

Peter Bunten, co-founder of the Grove Sunday Club with Arthur Pickford, is severing his connections with the club. His place is being taken by Ron Parmenter.

County badges (second class) have been awarded to Bob McCree and Percy Curtis.

Chelmsford League have received a record entry for their championships (finals January 21). Veteran Charlie Wheeler is not defending his singles title, but Edna Stith, the women's champion, is again competing and can expect a strong challenge, from an entry which includes county junior player Paula Songer.

Paula looks all set to win the "Daily Mirror" Zone final for the second successive year, having defeated her chief rival, Brenda Oliver, 3-2 in a very good match at Witham.

Table tennis is obviously flourishing in the Chelmsford area. Besides entering two new teams (veteran and junior) in the Essex League championship, their first team are unbeaten in the Second Division.

The well-known Ilford players Jack Anker and Pam Palmer were married recently.

Frank Bateman.

IRISH SCENE

THE most sensational news in Irish table-tennis for some time is the announced retirement from representative games of Ireland's number one, Sean Clarkin, and also Miss Deirdre Fearon. These players have certain differences with the Leinster Branch, and until such times as these matters are cleared up they will not be available for selection.

Ulster once again proved itself to be the top province in the country when winning the inter-provincial championship at Limerick. In the deciding match they defeated old rivals Leinster 13-7, but I have no doubt that had Leinster been at full strength, positions would have been reversed.

The weakened Leinster side, however, did not go down without a fight, and several of the games were so close that they could quite easily have gone in their favour.

The most improved player in Ulster this season must be Colin Senior. He went through the whole contest without losing a match, a feat equalled only by Harry O'Prey. The surprise of the tournament was Leinsters' Tommy Taylor. He certainly justified his unexpected selection by producing some devastating hitting. He won all his matches against Munster, and also defeated the Ulster number four, Ernie Walker. Walker, incidentally, made a most disappointing début.

Munster had two very promising newcomers in T. Clancy, of Waterford, and Miss U. Cassin. Both played well

throughout, Clancy capturing the "scalps" of Allen, Sterne, and G. Maher. If given the chance to play against top opposition, both could well develop into first-class players.

Ireland, even though they were defeated 10-0 by England in their first international of the season at Belfast, were not disgraced; for, in spite of the fact that this was an exceptionally strong English side, several of the games could quite easily have gone in Ireland's favour.

H. O'Prey is playing better than ever this season, and gave Aubrey Simons quite a shock in the singles.

New cap Colin Senior put up a creditable performance against Jimmy Lowe. He took the first set, a thriller, at 22-20, lost the second, then came back again to gain a 10-5 lead in the third. At this point, however, Senior lost his touch, and Lowe levelled at 10 all, and went on to win 21-16.

Ernie Allen, too, performed commendably, and with a bit of luck could have accounted for Lowe. Having lost the first set, he led 19-16 in the second, but made a bad tactical mistake by changing his attacking policy, and Lowe pulled up to win 22-20.

The Leinster Open championships provided some first-class table-tennis, and also several surprises. Tommy Taylor, hitting the ball very hard and accurately, defeated Wesley Pappin in straight sets. Then Ray Killock, of Garda, ousted M. Behan after a thrilling encounter.

In the women's section the up-and-coming May Phillips defeated Mrs. Pappin rather easily. Perhaps the best

and most exciting game of the early stages, however, was the semi-final of the boys' singles, in which the diminutive S. Clince, of Ballymoney, defeated N. Martin, of Dundalk. The popular Wexford boy was beaten in the final by Ray Linden, of Rostrevor.

Sean Clarkin emerged an easy winner of the men's singles, without dropping a set in the event. Many thought that the Englishman, J. E. Head, who had previously eliminated Killock and E. I. Sterne, would pull something extra out in the final, but Clarkin knocked him completely off his game with his quick hitting and fleetness of foot.

The Englishman did, however, prove his worth by partnering his wife, formerly Jean Winn, to victory over Clarkin and Miss Fearon in a very close mixed doubles decider.

Mrs. Head, an English international and ranked number six, has a most deceptive and unorthodox style, which incorporates a deadly forehand, features that were amply demonstrated in the women's singles final against Helen Elliot.

By virtue of her earlier displays, Miss Elliot had established herself a firm favourite with the crowd, but when up against Miss Winn's sound defence and half-volley, her attack cracked up and the English girl went on to record a straight sets victory.

The men's doubles proved to be one of the best matches of the night, with Clarkin and Mick Behan producing the steadier play to defeat Head and Pappin. The one disappointing feature about the finals' night was the poor attendance.

S. Dignam.

Sir Kreemy Knut

Sharps

the word for Toffee

EDWARD SHARP & SONS LTD. OF MAIDSTONE, KENT "The Toffee Specialists."

The advertisement features a cartoon character named Sir Kreemy Knut, depicted as a man in a dark suit and bowler hat, sitting on a table and holding a round toffee. To his left, several pieces of Sharps Toffee are shown in various stages of being unwrapped, with some pieces already broken. The brand name 'Sharps' is written in a stylized script inside a dark, rounded rectangle. Below the toffee pieces, the text 'the word for Toffee' is written in a decorative font. At the bottom left, there is a small circular logo with the Sharps Toffee name and a signature. The company name and address are printed at the bottom of the advertisement.

SM3-5.

SURREY TAKE THE LEAD

SURREY, with wins over Sussex and Essex, now take the lead in the Premier Division and with Gloucestershire are now the only unbeaten teams in this Division. Middlesex following their disastrous defeat at the hands of Yorkshire succeeded in beating Lancashire 9-1, but the score gives no indication of the hard fight put up by the Northerners. Six of the ten sets went to three games, Allcock taking Bur-

ridge to three deuce games in a match which lasted 23 minutes.

The forthcoming ties between Surrey, Gloucestershire and Middlesex, which all take place this month, should give some indication of whether Middlesex will succeed in becoming the Champion County for the ninth year in succession. At this stage the odds are in favour of Surrey and Gloucestershire.

Surrey deposed the previous leaders Essex, with a 6-4 win at Kingston.

Essex, without Leach and Stevens, could not hold either Venner or Craigie. Both Jones and Brumwell won their singles matches for Essex.

Gloucestershire, with a 7-3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his two singles, but both Dyson, who in the Middlesex match beat Burrige, and Adams, and Dove, who defeated Thornhill and Adams, lost their singles in this match. Dyson did, however, take both Griffin and Simons to three games.

Both Sussex and Warwickshire gained their first point when they played a 5-all draw at Coventry, but Lancashire in this division still have yet to gain a point. They play both Sussex and Warwickshire this month.

In the Second Division North Cheshire retained their leadership and undefeated record with a 7-3 win over Durham at Macclesfield and having already beaten Yorkshire, present runners-up in this Division, appear to be in a strong position to challenge for their return to the Premier Division.

Lincolnshire failed to hold their place in the table when they lost to Yorkshire 4-6 at Northallerton in a hard fought match. Five of the men's singles went to three games and all three Lincolnshire players, Skerratt, Merryweather and Finneran could only pull off one of their two sets. Lincolnshire's fourth win was registered in the women's doubles by Miss Clark and Mrs. Lammin.

Kent, in the Second Division South, had convincing 9-1 wins over both Hampshire and Bedfordshire and now hold fourth position in this Division behind Middlesex, Surrey and Essex. They have already been beaten by both Middlesex and Essex and do not meet Surrey until March.

Middlesex took over the leadership of this Division with a 9-1 win over Hertfordshire to retain their unbeaten record. Alan Rhodes has not been defeated in this Division having played in all three Middlesex matches.

Hertfordshire gained their first point in this Division when they drew their away game with Hampshire at Southsea. Newly promoted Bedfordshire, still without a win and with outstanding ties against Hertfordshire and the Divisional leaders Middlesex

FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION		
January 11	Surrey v Middlesex, St. Saviour's Hall, Guildford	7.15 p.m.
January 14	Middlesex v Gloucestershire, McLaren's Social Centre, The Causeway, Staines	7.00 p.m.
January 14	Essex v Yorkshire, British Moulded Plastics, Walthamstow	7.00 p.m.
January 19	Gloucestershire v Surrey, Wagon Works Canteen, Bristol Road, Gloucester	7.00 p.m.
February 4	Sussex v Middlesex, Drill Hall, Ivy Arch Road, Worthing	7.00 p.m.
February 4	Warwickshire v Yorkshire, Flavell's Canteen, Leamington	7.15 p.m.
February 4	Surrey v Lancashire, Sutton Adult School, Ben Hill, Sutton	7.00 p.m.
February 4	Essex v Gloucestershire, Ekco Works Canteen, Southend	7.00 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION NORTH		
January 14	Northumberland v Yorkshire, Rutherford College Hall, Bath Lane, Newcastle-on-Tyne	7.00 p.m.
January 14	Durham v Lincolnshire, Hartlepool	7.00 p.m.
February 4	Lincolnshire v Cheshire	
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH		
January 11	Essex v Middlesex, Y.M.C.A., Dagenham	7.30 p.m.
January 14	Hertfordshire v Kent, Co-operative Hall, Letchworth	7.00 p.m.
January 14	Hampshire v Middlesex, Y.M.C.A., Westover Road, Bournemouth	7.00 p.m.
February 2	Essex v Hertfordshire, Y.M.C.A., Eton Manor	7.30 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION WEST		
January 14	Glamorgan v Somerset, Cardiff	7.00 p.m.
January 14	Staffordshire v Worcestershire, Wesley Hall, Tinchbourne Street, Dudley	7.30 p.m.
February 4	Devon v Staffordshire, Exeter	7.00 p.m.
February 4	Worcester v Somerset	
MIDLAND DIVISION		
January 14	Derbyshire v Warwickshire, St. Peter's Churchyard, Derby	6.30 p.m.
February 3	Warwickshire v Worcestershire, Wright's Ropes, Ltd., Garrison Street, Birmingham	7.30 p.m.
SOUTHERN DIVISION		
January 14	Buckinghamshire v Wiltshire, The Village Hall, Farnham Royal	7.15 p.m.
February 4	Oxfordshire v Buckinghamshire, SS. Philip and James Church Hall, Leckford Road, Oxford	7.30 p.m.
February 4	Hertfordshire v Berkshire, Baldock	7.00 p.m.
EASTERN DIVISION		
January 13	Cambridgeshire v Suffolk, Impington Village College, Histon	7.30 p.m.
February 4	Norfolk v Cambridgeshire	
SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION		
February 4	Cornwall v Dorset, Redruth	7.00 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH		
January 21	Cheshire v Lancashire, Livingstone Street Bath, Birkenhead	7.00 p.m.
February 4	Lancashire v Cheshire, Ken Stanley's T.T. School, Burnley	2.30 p.m.
February 4	Lancashire v Yorkshire, Ken Stanley's T.T. School, Burnley	4.00 p.m.
JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH		
January 14	Sussex v Hertfordshire, Christchurch Parish Hall, St. Leonards-on-Sea	7.00 p.m.
February 4	Hertfordshire v Kent, Y.M.C.A., Clarendon Road, Watford	7.00 p.m.
February 4	Sussex v Suffolk, Haywards Heath	7.00 p.m.

DECEMBER RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION: Sussex 1, Surrey 9; Surrey 6, Essex 4; Middlesex 9, Lancashire 1; Yorkshire 3, Gloucestershire 7; Warwickshire 5, Sussex 5. **SECOND DIVISION NORTH:** Yorkshire 6, Lincolnshire 4; Cheshire 7, Durham 3. **SECOND DIVISION SOUTH:** Kent 9, Hampshire 1; Hertfordshire 1, Middlesex 9; Kent 9, Bedfordshire 1; Hampshire 5, Hertfordshire 5. **SECOND DIVISION WEST:** Devon 5, Glamorgan 5; Somerset 7, Staffordshire 3. **JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH:** Yorkshire 0, Cheshire 8. **JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH:** Hertfordshire 1, Middlesex 9; Suffolk 7, Essex 3; Kent 6, Sussex 4. **MIDLAND DIVISION:** Worcestershire 5, Derbyshire 5. **SOUTHERN DIVISION:** Oxfordshire 2, Hertfordshire 3; Wiltshire 3, Berkshire 7.

and Surrey now appear to be doomed to relegation.

The tie between Devonshire and Glamorgan in the Second Division West, which was expected to decide the leadership of this Division, resulted in a 5-all draw. So, Glamorgan retain the lead on a set average. Staffordshire's first appearance in this Division at Bath against Somerset gave the latter team their first points with a 7-3 win. Six of the nine sets played in this match went to three games and Blackhouse gave House a walkover in the last set of the evening.

Cheshire Juniors continue their all-conquering success in the new Junior North Division, again beating Yorkshire 8-0 this time at Sheffield. Cheshire played an unchanged team, but Yorkshire brought in Lambert in place of Seeley and succeeded in in-

creasing their points average by 11 per cent.

In the Southern section Middlesex increased their already strong position with a 9-1 win over Hertfordshire at Rickmansworth. Landry, with two more wins to his credit, has yet to drop a game. Suffolk beat Essex 7-3 at Stowmarket and now occupy the runners-up position. Both Hertfordshire and Sussex, who lost to Kent at Rochester (played at the Bortsal Institution), have yet to win a point.

In the Midland Division the position of the teams remains unchanged, the tie between Worcestershire and Derbyshire at Worcester resulting in a drawn game.

Hertfordshire still lead the Southern Division with an 8-2 win over Oxfordshire at Thame, but Berkshire now hold second place by virtue of

their 7-3 win over Wiltshire at Swindon.

No fixtures were played in the Eastern and South Western Divisions during December.

Half way through this season and with the present sponge controversy raging, it is interesting to note that in the 67 Championship matches played, 564 players have used rubber bats and 52 sponge, approximately 8.4 per cent of the total. The average game lasted about 6 minutes, 446 games taking 5 minutes and 276 games 6 minutes. No time limit matches have yet been recorded although 5 games took 15 minutes and 4 games 14 minutes. At the other end of the scale 38 games were over in three minutes or less.

Space does not permit a survey to be made of the success of the sponge players, but further details will be given at a later date.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.P.
PREMIER :						
Surrey	4	4	0	0	29	11 8
Gloucestershire ...	3	3	0	0	25	5 6
Essex	4	3	1	0	28	12 6
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	18	12 4
Yorkshire	4	2	2	0	21	19 4
Warwickshire ...	4	0	3	1	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
Yorkshire	3	2	1	0	18	12 4
Lincolnshire ...	2	1	1	0	11	9 2
Northumberland ...	3	1	2	0	13	17 2
Durham	3	0	3	0	7	23 0
SECOND SOUTH :						
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	22	8 6
Surrey	4	3	1	0	26	14 6
Essex	3	2	1	0	20	10 4
Kent	4	2	2	0	25	15 4
Hampshire	4	1	2	1	16	24 3
Hertfordshire ...	3	0	2	1	7	23 1
Bedfordshire ...	3	0	3	0	4	26 0
SECOND WEST :						
Glamorgan	2	1	0	1	13	7 3
Devonshire	2	1	0	1	12	8 3
Somerset	2	1	1	0	10	10 2
Staffordshire ...	1	0	1	0	3	7 0
Worcestershire ...	1	0	1	0	2	8 0
JUNIOR NORTH :						
Cheshire	2	2	0	0	16	0 4
Lancashire	1	1	0	0	5	3 2
Yorkshire	3	0	0	3	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
Hertfordshire ...	2	0	2	0	2	18 0
Sussex	3	0	3	0	10	20 0
EASTERN :						
Suffolk	2	1	0	1	12	8 3
Cambridgeshire ...	2	1	0	1	11	9 3
Norfolk	2	0	2	0	7	13 0
MIDLAND :						
Warwickshire ...	2	2	0	0	16	4 4
Staffordshire ...	3	2	1	0	18	12 4
Derbyshire	3	1	1	1	15	15 3
Worcestershire ...	3	1	1	1	14	16 3
Northamptonshire .	3	0	3	0	7	23 0
SOUTHERN :						
Hertfordshire ...	2	2	0	0	16	4 4
Berkshire	2	1	0	1	12	8 3
Wiltshire	3	1	2	0	11	19 2
Buckinghamshire ...	1	0	0	1	5	5 1
Oxfordshire	2	0	2	0	6	14 0
SOUTH-WESTERN :						
Devonshire	2	2	0	0	15	5 4
Dorsetshire	2	1	1	0	10	10 2
Cornwall	2	0	2	0	5	15 0

DETAILED RESULTS OF PREMIER DIVISION MATCHES

Sussex 1, Surrey 9
 Leach lost to Craigie 20-22, 20-22; lost to Miller 24-26, 14-21. Shead lost Miller 11-21, 13-21; lost to Venner 17-21, 21-18, 7-21. Alexander lost to Venner 7-21, 12-21; lost to Craigie 19-21, 21-13, 15-21.
 Miss Bates lost to Miss Isaacs 21-18, 16-21, 9-21.
 Miss Bates and Mrs. Lindsley-Leake lost to Misses Isaacs and Piper 14-21, 16-21.
 Leach and Alexander lost to Venner and Craigie 14-21, 13-21.
 Shead and Mrs. Shead bt Crayden and Miss Piper 21-14, 21-9.

Surrey 6, Essex 4
 Craigie lost to Jones 16-21, 16-21; bt Stevens 21-14, 14-21, 21-15. Venner bt Stevens 21-14, 21-17; lost to Brumwell 22-24, 15-21. Miller lost to Brumwell 16-21, 18-21; bt Jones 21-16, 21-19.
 Miss Isaacs bt Miss Milbank 27-25, 21-10.
 Mrs. Head and Miss Piper bt Misses Milbank and Baker 17-21, 21-13, 21-19.
 Craigie and Venner bt Brumwell and Jones 21-16, 21-13.
 Crayden and Mrs. Head lost to Stevens and Miss Baker 13-21, 21-16, 17-21.

Middlesex 9, Lancashire 1
 Adams bt Booth 21-11, 21-19; bt Pullar 21-15, 21-16. Thornhill bt Pullar 21-7, 26-28, 22-20; bt Alcock 21-19, 17-21, 21-10. Burridge bt Alcock 24-22, 20-22, 22-20; bt Booth 21-16, 21-14.

Miss D. Rowe bt Miss Wood 21-8, 16-21, 21-8.
 Mrs. Cornett and Miss Rowe bt Misses Wood and Threlfall 21-11, 21-16.
 Burridge and Adams lost to Alcock and Booth 21-15, 13-21, 17-21.
 Thornhill and Mrs. Cornett bt Pullar and Miss Threlfall 21-14, 13-21, 21-17.

Yorkshire 3, Gloucestershire 7
 Dyon lost to Griffin 10-21, 21-16, 19-21; lost to Simons 15-21, 21-19, 10-21. Kennedy bt Simons 21-9, 21-14; bt Merrett 20-22, 21-16, 21-16. Dove lost to Merrett 9-21, 21-19, 6-21; lost to Griffin 16-21, 9-21.
 Miss Wright lost to Miss Jones 21-15, 16-21, 12-21.
 Misses Ingleson and Wright lost to Misses Davis and Jones 13-21, 13-21.
 Kennedy and Dyon bt Merrett and Simons 21-17, 21-11.
 Dove and Miss Ingleson lost to Griffin and Miss Davis 11-21, 14-21.

Warwickshire 5, Sussex 5
 Moseley lost to Leach 19-21, 18-21; bt Alexander 16-21, 21-14, 21-17. Poole bt Alexander 21-18, 21-15; lost to Shead 11-21, 9-21. Harrison lost to Shead 2-21, 12-21; lost to Leach 15-21, 15-21.
 Miss Haydon bt Miss Bates 21-8, 21-11.
 Misses Haydon and Mortimer bt Miss Bates and Mrs. Shead 21-15, 21-11.
 Moseley and Vickers lost to Alexander and Leach 21-16, 20-22, 19-21.
 Harrison and Miss Mortimer bt Shead and Mrs. Shead 22-20, 21-18.

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NATIONAL CUP RESULTS AND DRAW

THE Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl national team championships have now reached the zone finals, and the respective holders Staines and Birmingham are still going strong in their efforts to win again.

Staines suffered a severe blow to their prospects by the tragic death of Bernard Crouch in the Barnes railway disaster, but veteran Leo Thompson has come in to fill the vacancy and they enter the Zone final at home to Folkestone full of confidence.

Birmingham, the women's champions are at home to King's Lynn.

WILMOTT CUP Third Round Results

Leeds 3, **Huddersfield** 5
 Southport 5, **Burnley** 4
 Stockport 3, **Manchester** 6
 Leicester 3, **Coventry** 5

ZONE 1 (A)
 ZONE 2 (A)
 ZONE 2 (B)
 ZONE 3 (A)
 ZONE 3 (B)

Cambridge 5, **Wisbech** 1
 Watford 4, **Hitchin** 5
 Wandsworth 3, **South London** 6
Wembley 6, North Middlesex 3
 Leatherhead 0, **Staines** 5
 Canterbury 2, **Folkestone** 5
 Brighton 4, **Bognor** 5
Reading 5, Maidenhead 2

ZONE 4 (A)
 ZONE 5 (A)
 ZONE 5 (B)
 ZONE 6 (A)
 ZONE 6 (B)
 ZONE 7 (A)
 ZONE 8 (A)
 ZONE 8 (B)

Zone Finals Draw

(on or before January 22, 1956)

Scunthorpe v **Huddersfield**
 Southport v **Manchester**
 Cambridge v **Coventry**
 Hitchin v **Ilford**
 Wembley v **South London**
 Staines (holders) v **Folkestone**
 Bournemouth v **Bognor**
 Bristol v **Reading**

ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B)
 ZONE 2 (A) and 2 (B)
 ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B)
 ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B)
 ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B)
 ZONE 6 (A) and 6 (B)
 ZONE 7 (A) and 7 (B)
 ZONE 8 (A) and 8 (B)

ROSE BOWL Third Round Results

Norwich 3, **Kings Lynn** 6
 St. Albans 1, **Watford** 8
East London 5, London Business Houses 2
South London 9, Wandsworth 0
 Staines 5, **Leatherhead** 2
Maidstone 5, North-West Kent 4
Slough 6, **Newbury** 3
 Salisbury 1, **Plymouth** 6

ZONE 3 (B)
 ZONE 4 (A)
 ZONE 5 (A)
 ZONE 5 (B)
 ZONE 6 (A)
 ZONE 6 (B)
 ZONE 8 (A)
 ZONE 8 (B)

Zone Finals Draw

(on or before January 22, 1956)

Grimsby v **Northumberland**
 Manchester v **Liverpool**
 Birmingham (holders) v **Kings Lynn**
 Iford v **Watford**
 South London v **East London**
 Staines v **Maidstone**
 Plymouth v **Slough**

ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B)
 ZONE 2
 ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B)
 ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B)
 ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B)
 ZONE 6 (A) and 6 (B)
 ZONE 8 (A) and 8 (B)

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ENGLAND HUMILIATED

by HARRISON EDWARDS

English table tennis slumped badly last month when the Rumanian national team swept all before them in their first ever tour of this country.

They opened the tour by defeating the South of England 8-1 at High Wycombe, then trounced England 7-1 at Tottenham and wound up with a 6-3 win over the Rest of England at Norwich.

ENGLISH table tennis suffered its most humiliating reverse since the war with a 7-1 defeat by Rumania in the first ever mixed international between the two countries at Tottenham on December 12.

Ann Haydon was the only member of the English team to emerge with any credit, marking up the solitary win when she beat Ella Zeller over three games. The rest of the side appeared to have left most of their fighting spirit at home. They were out-paced, out-hit, and generally routed.

For some of the players like Bryan Merrett, who started promisingly against Paul Pesch in the opening tie, it was almost as though the occasion was too big. Merrett relied too much on defence and would probably have done much better had he come out and hit.

Ann Haydon levelled the match at one-all, though she fell away badly in losing the second game to Miss Zeller. However, she was grimly determined in the decisive third set as she crashed her way to victory, with powerful forehand smashes.

Harry Venner was next on the list and took a hiding at the hands of Mircea Popescu. Mistakes flowed from his bat and he seldom hit a ball over the net.

Enter twins Rosalind Cornett and Diane Rowe, and with recent wins over world champions Angelica Rozeanu and Ella Zeller in the Austrian and Yugoslavian championships, a ray of hope. They started well, leading throughout to 17-14, then Ros went to pieces. Diane tried hard to carry her through, but they quickly lost the game and the next.

And so it went on. Leach found himself carrying Brian Kennedy in the men's doubles against Gantner and Harastoszi. His astonishing returns repeatedly put the English pair on top, but after they had held a match point at 20-19 in the third game, Kennedy bungled things and Rumania had the winning margin at 4-1.

Rosalind Cornett was just as ineffective in her singles with Mrs. Rozeanu, as in the doubles, and was summarily dismissed 14 and 12. Leach fought strongly against Gantner but lost narrowly, then Kennedy was soundly demolished by Harastoszi.

It had become little more than a procession and it was happy relief when it was all over.

Detailed Results (English names first): B. Merrett lost to P. Pesch 21-14, 17-21, 15-21; H. Venner lost to M. Popescu 13-21, 7-21; J. Leach lost to M. Gantner 21-23, 18-21; B. Kennedy lost to T. Harastoszi 11-21, 11-21.

Miss A. Haydon bt Miss E. Zeller 21-11, 19-21, 21-11; Mrs. R. Cornett lost to Mrs. A. Rozeanu 14-21, 12-21. Leach and Kennedy lost to Gantner and Harastoszi 13-21, 21-18, 21-23.

Miss D. Rowe and Mrs. Cornett lost to Mrs. Rozeanu and Miss Zeller 18-21, 14-21.

THEY FOLDED UP

WITH isolated exceptions, the South of England players beaten 8-1 by Rumania at High Wycombe on December 10, reminded me of the bad old days when Englishmen "folded up" against anyone with a foreign name (writes Geoff Harrower). Agreed our girls

were up against it, but better things were hoped for from the men.

Only the 16-year-old, Laurie Landry, brightened our evening. After an understandably shaky start, he hit with determination (not shared by some of his colleagues), and emerged a clear winner against Popescu.

Jimmy Lowe struggled, hard, long, but unavailingly against Harastozi, Gantner was too good for Alan Rhodes, whilst Brian Brumwell could make little of Pesch, except in the second game when his backhand had the Rumanian equally nonplussed.

Barbara Milbank should have beaten Ella Zeller. She was a game up, and had a real sitter for a three point lead at 15-12, in the second. Carefully running round the table, she missed it, and Zeller gradually pulled the deficit back, and never looked like losing the third.

Barbara, with Betty Isaacs, took the first game off Angelica Rozeanu and Zeller, the World Champions, in the women doubles, which was more than we hoped, but poor Betty will not want to remember her treatment against Rozeanu in the singles. Not that she played badly, she just wasn't allowed to play at all.

Conclusion: Our next to top girls need hard competitive practice against Continental opposition.

Detailed Results (South of England players first): L. Landry (Middlesex) bt M. Popescu 13-21, 21-12, 21-16. J. Lowe (Middlesex) lost to T. Harastozi 15-21, 21-19, 7-21. A. Rhodes (Middlesex) lost to M. Gantner 19-21, 17-21. B. Brumwell (Essex) lost to P. Pesch 14-21, 21-10, 13-21. Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey) lost to Mrs. A. Rozeanu 8-21, 10-21. Miss B. Milbank (Essex) lost to Miss E. Zeller 21-18, 19-21, 12-21. J. Jones (Essex) and Rhodes lost to Gantner and Harastozi 21-19, 10-21, 14-21. Lowe and Miss Isaacs lost to Harastozi and Miss Zeller 21-15, 15-21, 14-21. Miss Isaacs and Miss Milbank lost to Mrs. Rozeanu and Miss Zeller 21-18, 10-21, 15-21.

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THE REST SHOW FIGHT

The Carrington Notebook moved over to East Anglia last month, primarily for the purpose of the representative match with Rumania at Norwich on December 13, but at the same time to take an opportunity of looking at the activities of the enterprising Norwich League.

Rumania, continuing their winning way, beat the Rest 6-3, but the Rest had the satisfaction of the best record against the visitors.

Good fighting spirit and general alertness was evident in this match from both sides—a welcome change from the showing of the English team the previous evening at Tottenham.

Ann Haydon must be excepted from the Tottenham criticism. There she was our only winner; at Norwich she lost, but her losses seemed almost like victories, so excellent were her performances against Rozeanu in both singles and doubles.

In her singles she rushed a shaky Rozeanu first game, then played a little loosely in the second. In the third she showed fine understanding of the need to change tactics at various intervals. At 14-19 down she hung on to every ball until Rozeanu obliged by over-pressing the matter. Ann came up from 17-20 to have a match point on the second deuce!

In this crisis Rozeanu showed supreme genius time and again before winning 24-22. The fact that she was compelled to, speaks volumes for the English girl's achievement.

In doubles, Ann Haydon found brilliant attacking support from Jill Rook and when Jill had temporarily shot her bolt, changed the situation single-handed many times. Jill Rook lacked just a little in adaptability to a surprise ball, but showed courage, skill and intelligence in attack.

I "apologised" to Jill for bringing her all the way to Norwich for one doubles match. Her reply, "Not at all, I have learned a great deal," shows the right spirit.

Diane Rowe played with utmost determination. Her first deuce game v Zeller was a classic. Zeller just would not lie down and it was clear that whoever won the deuce would take the match. The score 27-25 for Diane showed how well she kept her head.

The position was reversed when Rozeanu stole the first game from Diane at deuce. A sequence of brilliant winners alternating with lucky netcords gave Rozeanu an unbreakable lead in the second game, but Diane went down fighting.

All four Rumanian men played well above their Tottenham form, and this should be borne in mind when reading the following comments:

Derek Burridge showed signs of conquering previous "International nerves," playing more freely and retrieving some wonderful balls. Too acquiescent, however, in retreating as soon as the attack was mounted—which in Pesch's case, means the second ball of the rally! Burridge still gets so keyed up to fight each ball that he does not "see" the battle situation clearly.

Bryan Merrett played well and even scored a few bonus points from attacking strokes. Gantner, however, showed his superiority by cutting out all previous errors and punching extra hard to defeat Merrett's deuce challenge.

Johnny Leach was in pretty good form, hitting crisply many times. Unfortunately for him, Harastozi switched

a world-beating blend of heavily-dragged defensive returns with piercing hits in Sido-Slar technique on both wings.

Aubrey Simons, drawing obvious confidence from the concerted pep-talk of our whole team, had to battle like—well, like the Simons of three years back, to beat a very dangerous Popescu.

Leach and **Di Rowe** looked very powerful as they won the mixed. Harastozi and Rozeanu mixed like oil and water!

In spite of the inevitable fatigues of a hectic 5-country four, the Rumanians showed themselves very willing to be sociable and in fact naturally so, and on the last



Sabena Airways Picture

THE RUMANIANS LEAVE FOR HOME

night in London they invited all who had contributed to the playing and staging of their southern matches to a cocktail party at the Rumanian Legation.

If any tensions or inhibitions had remained they were well and truly washed away at this pleasant function.

SCORES (English names first) :

Burridge lost to Pesch 21-16, 13-21, 8-21. Merrett lost to Gantner 13-21, 20-22. Leach lost to Harastozi 10-21, 16-21. Simons bt Popescu 21-19, 19-21, 21-19.

D. Rowe lost to Rozeanu 20-21, 12-21. D. Rowe bt Zeller 27-25, 21-17. A. Haydon lost to Rozeanu 21-19, 16-21, 22-24.

Haydon and Rook lost to Rozeanu and Zeller 21-14, 17-21, 9-21.

Leach and D. Rowe beat Harastozi and Rozeanu 21-15, 21-16.

About the Norwich and District League

This is the 21st Birthday Season of the League, and I found ample evidence of a mature table tennis organisation, which has had its struggles, but in reaching the age of 21 has acquired many friends and built many loyalties. It can afford to look back on quite a number of proud achievements.

From the original 10 teams in 1935, they now have nearly one hundred. Three of the 1935 founder clubs have maintained unbroken membership, as have three who joined in 1936.

The present secretary, Harold Betts, has held office since 1938, working closely with Gerald Rix, the present chairman, and Eric Fairhead (now of course the County Secretary). There are many other "old faithfuls"—the whole atmosphere of Norwich breathes dependability and a respect for the building of the past combined with a healthy forward outlook.

Norwich fans have flocked to six major international exhibitions and now some 850 have savoured international match-play at the Lads Club. This Club, by the way, was founded and is organised by the Police of Norwich, and I understand they are well satisfied that "Prevention is better than Punishment."

The 1938 champion of Norwich, Bill Hicks, is now a famous Sports Editor of the "News Chronicle," and was probably the first to give table tennis a prominent and regular place in the London dailies.

The city league even has its own Umpires' Scheme. To become a "Norwich Umpire" you must pass both a written and an oral examination.

Other leagues of comparable standing may wish to compare:— this league favours the 5-a-side match, each playing two opponents; a draw is thus possible. A 2s. 6d. transfer fee is charged to any player wishing to change clubs.

Players can aspire to earn "Norwich City Colours"—not too easily, since only seven have been awarded since their inception in 1947.

So far Norwich and Norfolk have not produced any international players, although they have been honoured by having two famous internationals, Jean Nichols (Mrs. Bostock) and Eric Filby as immigrant members. However, they have fostered local coaching schemes, often in conjunction with their Suffolk neighbours, and Billy Minors, holder of the E.T.T.A. Diploma, gives most of his time to the youngsters nowadays. Probably the chief trouble is distance from centres of hot competition, but you will have gathered that the Norwich Committee is a go-ahead team . . . hence the words "so far" at the start of this paragraph.

OLDHAM SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

TH**ERE** is plenty of promising talent around Oldham way judging by performances in the first ever Oldham Schools Championship promoted by the Oldham League in conjunction with the *Oldham Chronicle*.

Played as a mixed singles, Derek Senior came through as the winner out of an entry of 73. He beat J. Littleford in the final by 21—18, 21—11.

Littleford, a fine all-round stroke player, was the favourite, but had to play with his wrist bandaged following a nasty burn, and his defence was not equal to the aggressive attack of Senior, who is also a Lancashire Schoolboy cricketer.

Greater experience had helped to carry both these lads to the final, for both are already playing in the



Oldham Chronicle Picture

Derek Senior, watched by a bunch of admiring youngsters, receives his prize from Sid Little, the Oldham and Cumberland Rugby League forward.

league, Senior as a member of the Chamber Road Baptists, and Littleford with Townfield Y.C.

J. Maxson, who lost to Senior in the semi-final was the only non-league player to reach this stage.

The last survivor of the girls was Margaret Schofield, who put up a really great show against Senior in the quarter-finals before being beaten 20—22, 15—21. This was in fact Senior's toughest fight in the final rounds, which were played at the British Legion Club.

The Committee were agreeably surprised at the high standard set by these youngsters and there is no doubt that many of them will be giving a good account of themselves in League play within the next two or three years.

Results: Semi-finals: J. LITTLEFORD bt J. Ingham 13—21, 21—15, 21—13; D. SENIOR bt M. Schofield 21—10, 21—15.

Final: SENIOR bt Littleford 21—18, 21—11.

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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>
Jan. 14-15	Flintshire Open (Welsh Tournament).		
15	Midland Closed Wolverhampton.		
21	South Yorks Open (Jan. 14) Edmund Road Drill Hall, Sheffield 2.	B.S.	Mr. R. D. Renshaw, 7, Luna Croft, Gleadless, Sheffield 12.
20	Wales v Scotland Pontypool.		
20-21	Welsh Open Dumfries Place Drill Hall, Cardiff.	B.S., G.S.	Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llyn-y-Grant Road, Penylan, Cardiff.
22	Southampton Open (Jan 7) Royal Pier Pavilion, Southampton.	B.S.	Mr. K. H. Miles, 46, Bevois Valley Road, Southampton.
27	England v Wales Sidney Hall, Weymouth		Mr. P. H. Northcott, 31, Hillcrest Road, Weymouth.
28	Lancashire Open (Jan. 21) De Havilland Works Canteen, Lostock, Bolton.	B.S.	Mr. A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Lancs.
28-29	Kent Open (Jan. 14) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	J.X.S.	Mr. J. Trigg, 21, Marler Road, Folke- stone.
Jan. 31/ Feb. 2	French Open		
Feb. 3-4 & 9-11	South London Open (Jan. 23) Manor Place Baths, Walworth Road, London, S.E.1.	B.S. G.S.	Mrs. E. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
4-5	Belgium Open		
4-5	Swiss Open		
11	Gwent Open Standard Telephones, Newport, Monmouthshire.	J.S.	Mr. G. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Monmouthshire.
17-18	Midland Open (Feb. 4) Friends' Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.	B.S. G.S. B.D., V.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.
20-24	Surrey Open (Feb. 4) Municipal Baths Hall, East Street, Epsom.	B.S.	Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
Feb. 28/ Mar. 2	ENGLISH OPEN (Feb. 1) Belle Vue, Manchester.		Mr. Norman Cook, 7, North Avenue, Stalybridge, Cheshire.
Feb. 28 & Mar. 2	West Middlesex Open (Feb. 14) West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, Ealing London, W.7.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. S. Riddick, 29, Thorney Hedge Road, London W.4.
3-4	Hastings Closed Lower Hall, White Rock Pavilion, Hastings		
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.		

ENGLAND v SCOTLAND

BEFORE a crowd of nearly 400 enthusiastic supporters at Woodside Public Halls, Glasgow on December 2, England romped away to another convincing 9-1 victory over Scotland. With the exception of Helen Elliot, the Scots were outclassed although they tried hard.

Miss Elliot scored Scotland's only success when she beat Betty Isaacs in straight games. Although the Surrey player fought tenaciously she lacked the class to combat the pace and changes of this great Scottish player.

However, Miss Isaacs, had some measure of revenge when she teamed up with Pam Mortimer, of Birmingham, for a similar win over Miss Elliot and Helen Houliston in the doubles. Miss Mortimer won her singles against Miss Houliston.

England's male trio of Bryan Merrett, Derek Burrige and Ray Hinchliff were up to expectations, although Burrige was at first taken out of his stride by Garland's half volley and hitting. But after the loss of the first game he came back with grim determination to take the next two.

Merrett's defensive tactics involved him in two time limit games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19-15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett would have been better to at this stage. As it was only one further point was scored in the game . . . by Still. The second game found both sparring for an opening and it ended at 6-4 in Merrett's favour.

Hinchliff, by carrying the game to his opponent after a cautious start, left little doubt as to the ultimate result of his match with T. Gilmour, the weakest of the Scottish team.

Conditions for the match were ideal, and wonderful hospitality made it a most enjoyable trip.

Results: (England names first): B. Merrett bt E. Still 19-16 t.l., 6-4 t.l.; bt V. Garland 21-13, 21-14. D. Burrige bt V. Garland 15-21, 21-13, 21-12; bt T. Gilmour 21-7, 21-14. R. Hinchliff bt T. Gilmour 21-17, 21-14, bt E. Still 21-14, 21-12. B. Merrett and D. Burrige bt V. Garland and E. Still 21-13, 21-14. Miss B. Isaacs lost to Miss H. Elliot 14-21, 16-21. Miss P. Mortimer bt Miss H. Houliston 21-17, 21-8. Miss B. Isaacs and Miss P. Mortimer bt Miss H. Elliot and Miss H. Houliston 21-12, 21-19.

England 10 v Ireland 0

WELLINGTON Hall, Belfast, packed with nearly 1,000 spectators was the home venue for the annual match between England and Ireland which, in spite of the overwhelming score, was greatly enjoyed by the public and without question the Irish players gave a very good account of themselves.

J. Lowe, newly capped for this event, opened the match by defeating the Irish No. 3, E. Allen in two straight games. Aubrey Simons in his game with H. O'Prey had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 10 and 13.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with O'Prey and C. D. Senior and remained the master throughout.

This Irish girls Joy Owens and Mary Wilson both gave good performances in their singles and doubles with the Rowe Twins, but at no time were the results in doubt.

Prior to the commencement of the match, the President of the Irish Association (Mr. R. Greer), welcomed the English team who received a great ovation from the audience. Later in the evening the teams were most hospitably entertained by the Ulster Branch, and the

Hon. Secretary of the E.T.T.A. (A. K. Vint), expressing thanks for their warm and generous welcome, paid tribute to the sterling work of Norman Wilson, the Hon. Secretary of the Irish Association in maintaining the friendly and happy relations existing between the two Associations.

RESULTS (English names first):

J. Lowe bt E. Allen 21-11, 21-20; bt C. D. Senior 20-21, 21-10, 21-16. A. W. C. Simons bt H. O'Prey 11-21, 21-10, 21-13; bt E. Allen 16-21, 21-14, 21-12. H. Venner bt C. D. Senior 21-18, 21-12; bt H. O'Prey 21-16, 21-15. Mrs. J. Cornett bt Miss J. Owens 21-15, 21-12. Miss D. Rowe bt Miss M. Wilson 21-15, 21-7. Mrs. Cornett and Miss Rowe bt Miss Owens and Miss Wilson 21-16, 21-13. Venner and Simons bt O'Prey and Allen 21-16, 21-11.

EAST OF SCOTLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE big shock of the East of Scotland championships was the defeat of the internationals Helen Elliot and J. Miller in the Mixed doubles final by the young Edinburgh pair I. Barclay and Helen Houliston, who won over three sets.

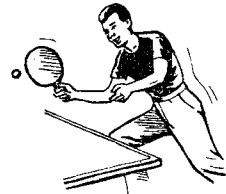
Miss Elliot had her revenge in the women's singles final with a straight sets win over Miss Houliston. The two players then joined forces to win the women's doubles.

FINALS RESULTS:

Men's Singles: E. STILL (Glasgow) bt J. Weatherstone (Glasgow) 21-14, 15-21, 21-12.
Women's Singles: Miss H. ELLIOT (Edinburgh) bt Miss H. Houliston (Edinburgh) 21-15, 21-5.
Men's Doubles: T. GILMOUR and T. McMICHAEL bt S. Callaway and D. Hollingdale 21-6, 21-13.
Women's Doubles: Miss ELLIOT and Miss HOULISTON bt Mrs. O. Hawkins and Miss D. Black 21-8, 21-13.
Mixed Doubles: I. BARCLAY and Miss HOULISTON bt J. Miller and Miss Elliot 21-18, 18-21, 23-21.
Junior Singles: J. CARSWELL (Hamilton) bt I. Barclay (Edinburgh) 21-19, 15-21, 21-14.

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HERGA "OPEN"

ENTRIES for the Herga Open at Harrow (November 8th to December 3rd) showed a 30 per cent increase over last year—a most welcome sign. Although attracting few players of note from outside Middlesex, it is run in a friendly efficient way by the young and not so young.

Michael Thornhill retained his singles title with wins over Redfearn, Sheldon, Adams, Craigie and in the final Alan Lindsey, and also took the mixed doubles with Jill Rook, who made a clean sweep of the women's events.

The men's final was prolonged but, on the whole, well received by the crowd, and there was very nearly a major upset. Lindsey, who had earlier beaten Alan Rhodes, R. Raybould and Laurie Landry, used sponge, and made such good use of the half volley that he led by a game and 16-7. But could not clinch one out of eight match points and was eventually beaten at 14 in the third.

Jill Rook, in sparkling form, proved much too strong for Margaret Fry in the women's final, then with Janet White took the women's doubles and followed with the mixed paired with Thornhill.

Len Adams and Tony Miller were surprise winners of the men's doubles with wins over K. Craigie, Alan Rhodes and Thornhill, Raybould.

Young Landry notched up his seventh junior title at the expense of A. Giles, while in the senior event he accounted for the internationals Ron Sharman and Tony Miller before falling to Lindsey.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: A. LINDSEY bt L. Landry 21-14, 21-16; M. THORNHILL bt K. Craigie 21-8, 11-21, 21-12.

Final: THORNHILL bt Lindsey 15-21, 24-22, 21-14.
Women's Singles: Semi-finals: J. ROOK bt J. Williamson 21-14, 21-9; M. FRY bt J. White 21-17, 21-14.
Final: Miss ROOK bt Miss Fry 21-8, 21-19.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: L. ADAMS and A. R. MILLER bt K. Craigie and A. Rhodes 21-17, 21-14; THORNHILL and R. RAYBOULD bt A. Landry and Franklin 21-10, 21-12.
Final: ADAMS and MILLER bt Thornhill and R. Raybould 21-19, 14-21, 21-14.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss ROOK and Miss J. WHITE bt Miss J. Lewsy and Miss L. Murray 21-11, 21-13; Miss J. HARVEY and Miss I. GASTON bt Miss M. Stafford and Miss P. Ingram 22-20, 17-21, 22-20.
Final: Miss ROOK and Miss WHITE bt Miss Harvey and Miss Gaston 21-11, 21-13.
Mixed Doubles: Final: THORNHILL and Miss ROOK bt Adams and Miss Fry 21-15, 10-21, 21-19.
Boys' Singles: Final: L. LANDRY bt A. J. Giles 21-14, 21-16.

BATH "OPEN"

HOPES that a local player would win the men's singles for the first time in the Bath Open (Dec. 3) crashed at the last hurdle. David House was beaten 12 and 19 by the defending champion Ray Morley (Gloucester) in the final.

Morley took command from the start, and House was always fighting an uphill battle though he came within a couple of points of getting the second game.

House and Morley then joined forces to take the men's doubles with a straight sets win over the Bristol pair J. H. Bucknell and R. Haydon.

House landed a second title in the mixed with Jean Mackay of Birmingham. It was also a double for Miss Mackay, who won the women's doubles with Marjorie Cumberbatch.

Miss E. Pomroy, a regular contender for the Bath's trophies, won the women's singles for the first time, staging a fine recovery after losing the first game to beat Mrs. Cumberbatch 13-21, 21-8, 21-15.

The young Welsh youth P. J. Crowley gave a most impressive display in beating J. G. Woodforde in the Boys' final by 21-18, 21-18.

FINALS RESULTS

Men's Singles: R. MORLEY (Gloucester) bt D. House (Bath) 21-12, 21-19.
Women's Singles: Miss E. POMROY (Bristol) bt Mrs. M. Cumberbatch (Birmingham) 13-21, 21-8, 21-15.
Men's Doubles: MORLEY and HOUSE bt J. H. Bucknell and R. Haydon 21-14, 21-13.
Women's Doubles: Mrs. CUMBERBATCH and Miss J. MACKAY bt Miss Pomroy and Miss J. Collier 21-19, 26-24.
Mixed Doubles: HOUSE and Miss MACKAY bt D. Woodcock and Mrs. Cumberbatch 17-21, 21-14, 21-14.
Boys' Singles: P. J. CROWLEY (Cardiff) bt J. G. Woodforde (Weston-Super-Mare) 21-18, 21-18.

NORFOLK "CLOSED"

RESULTS

Men's Singles: L. HOLDOM (Norwich) bt J. Ewles (Norwich) 21-16, 20-22, 14-21, 21-10, 21-19.
Women's Singles: Mrs. B. CASSELL (King's Lynn) bt Miss M. Turner (Norwich) 21-13, 21-15.
Men's Doubles: J. and M. EWLES bt Holdom and R. Pegg 21-17, 14-21, 21-15, 21-16.
Women's Doubles: Mrs. CASSELL and Miss TURNER bt Miss P. Nickalls and Miss B. Robson 22-20, 21-18.
Mixed Doubles: M. EWLES and Mrs. CASSELL bt G. Whittaker and Miss P. Dyball 21-17, 21-11.
Veteran Singles: R. DUNSTAN (Norwich) bt R. Gale (Gt. Yarmouth) 21-18, 21-18.
Youths' Singles: D. MINNS (Gt. Yarmouth) bt W. Gooch (Gt. Yarmouth) 21-17, 22-20.
Girls' Singles: Miss P. DYBALL (Norwich) bt Miss P. Dearling (Norwich) 21-7, 21-6.

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