

TABLE TENNIS



By courtesy of the Mainichi Newspapers

THE NEW CHAMPIONS — Ichiro Ogimuru and Miss Tomi Okawa, the new World Singles Champions seen with K. Hasegawa, non-playing captain of the Japanese Swaythling Cup team

Table Tennis

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English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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PROMISE AND DISAPPOINTMENTS

THE curtain has fallen on yet another season and along with many of the players "Table Tennis" now takes four months rest, until October.

It has been a season, which promised so much yet has been tinged with the disappointment of our team coming back empty handed from Tokio. Perhaps we expected too much, particularly from Ann Haydon, after her early season success over Angelica Rozeanu.

Nevertheless, she acquitted herself well, came the nearest to winning a title when she reached the mixed doubles final with Andreadis, and has done enough to show that she is a world champion in the making.

After all Ann is only 17, with her senior career still before her, and the experience of Tokio may well pave the way for her to become the "Queen" at Stockholm next year.

Yes, Stockholm is the next venue for the World meeting, and it will mark the end of an era. After next season the World championships become a biennial affair, and subject to certain investigations, Germany may launch the new series in 1959.

The problem of Germany as I see it is that there are two distinct associations, East and West Germany.

Egypt, who staged the championships in 1939, and U.S.A., who have yet to run a "World's" have shown interest in future meetings.

SPONGE STAYS

Continental championships, which for England means European, will probably fill in the intervening years.

I am pleased to see that Congress have wisely arranged these alternative year championships so that they do not clash with the Olympic Games. Thus nations will not be able to use this as an excuse for staying out when the championships are a long way away, as was the case this year.

Congress have once again avoided a ban on

sponge and as this question has now been before them for the last three years perhaps they will leave it to find its own true level. They have I am sure taken the wisest course.

Back to the home scene and once more to Ann Haydon, who complete with her sponge bat, has been the most successful tournament player, with six "Open" titles and almost certain to head the ranking list when it is announced.

The reign of the Rowe twins, Rosalind and Diane, has ended. With Rosalind expecting a baby, her future in table tennis must be in the balance, but rest assured Diane will be even more determined to put the name of Rowe back at the top of the list.

TOP MAN

Brian Kennedy, also with a sponge bat and also with six "Open" titles, has been the most successful man, but whether or not he will get the Premier position in the ranking list is open to speculation.

With Middlesex having lost the County Championship to Surrey, it looks as if there may well be a change all round.

Up till April 30 a total of 348 Club Competitions were arranged in connection with the Travelling Expenses Fund for the World Championships. Middlesex, who came through with a late rush, headed the table with 38, while Essex and Lancashire tied for second place with 36, just pipping Yorkshire, 35.

Only ten out of 35 counties reached double figures, while six failed to run a single competition. Such apathy is not befitting of the sport.

I would like to thank all those correspondents who have helped to make the magazine possible this season, and, in particular, the writers of the Area News. If your area has not been mentioned, then you must look nearer home for the reasons.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official News :

On April 28, 1956 a meeting of the National Executive Committee took place in the Kent Room of Caxton Hall, London, S.W.1. At this meeting, which preceded the Annual General Meeting, the Chairman of the Association, the Hon. Ivor Montagu, presented to Mr. A. K. Vint, the retiring Hon. General Secretary, on behalf of the Administrative Secretary (Mrs. K. Pegg) and all members of the National Executive Committee, a gift of appreciation for all the duties which he had carried out so capably at all times for the Association.

Following the National Executive Committee meeting the Annual General Meeting of the Association took place. The result of the ballot for election of Officers and the members of the National Executive Committee for 1956/57 was as follows:—

Officers:

Chairman: Montagu, Hon. Ivor, unopposed; Treasurer: Vint, A. K., unopposed.

National Executive Committee on the Regional Basis:

Midland Region. Two members.
Elected: GOLDSTEIN, M.; SCOTT, M. E. (Unopposed).

North Eastern Region. One member.
Tie: REAY, E. 7; WAUGH, J. R. 7.

North Western Region. Two members.
Elected: COOK, N.; STAMP, W. (Unopposed).

Southern Region. Two members.
Elected: JASCHKE, C. 26; MANNOOCH, F. G. 22.

Not Elected: Goldfinch, W. G. 18; Grace, K. 17; Thompson, L. 8; Bromfield, L. M. 7.

South Western Region. Two members.
Elected: AMERY, H. J. 24; EYLES, I. C. 20.

Not Elected: Northcott, P. H. 12.

Eastern Region. Two members.
Elected: WOOLLARD, L. S. 36; WALKER, H. 25.

Not Elected: Fairhead, E. J. 15; Merryweather, Mrs. 15; Constable, L. R. J. 9.

London Region. Two members.
Elected: JAMES, G. 27; GOOD, R. St. G. 24.

Not Elected: Hoddy, S. R. 22; Clemett, C. J. 17.

Yorkshire Region. Two members.
Elected: FORREST, L. E. 28; SENESECALL, J. 21.

Not Elected: Rushton, N. 9.

National Executive Committee on a National Basis:

Elected: CARRINGTON, J. 154; BLUNN, T. 99.

Not Elected: Thompson, L. 48; Bromfield, L. M. 40; Jones, L. W. 39; Haydon, A. A. 37; Merryweather, Mrs. 36; Rushton, N. 26; Clemett, C. J. 17; Constable, L. R. J. 14; Durrant, A. E. 12; Wall, A. A. 10.

The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E., was re-elected President of the Association. Vice-Presidents were re-elected as follows:

F. A. Amies	H. R. MacDonald
C. E. Eartholomew	D. W. Poupard
H. M. Bunbury	W. H. Pritchard
Mrs. D. L. Bunbury	J. Siddon
A. F. Carris	Miss A. Stevens
E. F. Christopher	O. W. Tarrant
R. C. Hurford	J. Thompson
F. S. B. Lawes	P. E. Warden

Messrs. Spain Brothers & Company were re-elected Auditors.

Under Rule 19 (k) of the Association's Rules the National Executive Committee nominated for election as Hon. General Secretary of the Association, Mr. D. Peter Lowen. This nomination was endorsed by the Annual General Meeting.

Honorary Life Members:

Under Rule 11 the Annual General Meeting approved that the following be made Honorary Life Members of the Association—

The Dowager	I. G. S. Montagu
Lady Swaythling	A. K. Vint
A. F. Carris	P. E. Warden
G. W. Decker	C. C. Woodcock
L. E. Forrest	

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION (Congress). The Chairman, Hon. I. Montagu, and the Secretary, A. K. Vint, attended the A.G.M. of the I.T.T.F. in Tokio in April, 1956, as delegates of the E.T.T.A. Mr. Barna attended as E.T.T.A. observer and also helped by

and abolition of doubles line. Only five replies—two for abolition and three against—had been received in respect to the latter experiment. There was a discussion on the racket, all Associations represented noting their views and experience, but no support for an immediate change in rule was expressed from any source, although one or two Associations reserved their decision for the future.

Ten makes of ball, including the Barna Three Crown, Halax Three Star and Villa XXX were approved. The E.T.T.A. proposal for modifying the procedure for ball testing and notification of results is to be back for later discussion.

A simple time limit clock in prototype was exhibited.

The Table Tennis Associations of Ecuador and Syria were accepted into membership, making a total of 70 Associations in the International Table Tennis Federation. A new proposal was adopted for dealing with further applications. It was decided unanimously to revert to the position whereby competition between I.T.T.F. members and the S.A.T.T. Union members is permissible only with the approval of the S.A.T.T. Board or on appeal to the I.T.T.F. Advisory Committee.

The World Championships for 1957 will be held in Stockholm; subject to certain investigations that for 1959 may be held in Germany. Applications for future Championships have been notified from Egypt and the U.S.A.

Mr. Montagu was re-elected President of the I.T.T.F. and is now a member of the following committees: Rules, Equipment, Classification, Membership and Technical. Mr. Vint was re-elected Treasurer of the I.T.T.F. and Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee; Mr. T. Sears is a member of the Junior Committee and Mr. J. Carrington of the Development Committee. Mr. H. Poy Evans (Wales) was re-elected Honorary Secretary of the Federation.

In the team classification the English Men's team was placed fifth, and the Women's team second, in the respective first categories.

A Handbook of the I.T.T.F. is to be published in the English language next season.

23rd WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, TOKIO. The Association's delegates reported that our many ideas on the game in general were received by other country's delegates with great interest and respect and it was obvious that the English Table Tennis Association was held in great esteem in foreign lands. Our players, Miss A. Haydon, Miss D. Rowe, R. Bergmann, B. Kennedy, and J. Leach acquitted themselves well and although they did not bring back any

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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

Chairman: Hon. Ivor Montagu.

Honorary Treasurer: A. K. Vint.

Hon. Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Kathleen Pegg.

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service on the commission to study the set-up and terms of reference of the proposed Development Committee. Thirty-two Associations were represented at the A.G.M. in person or by proxy. A notable item of business was the adoption of the system of biennial World Championships by 50 votes to 6 with 6 abstentions. It was recommended that Continental Championships, e.g., European Championships should be held in the intervening years. Several E.T.T.A. proposals were adopted, notably; minimum lighting to be obligatory in international competition instead of merely recommended; regulations to be adopted for major Open National Championships; permitted number of national seeds for Open National Championships to be the same as at World Championships; World Championships prizes and medals to be regularised.

It was decided to continue experiments of warning call for time limit

titles or awards, they were always in the picture.

WILMOTT CUP AND J.M. ROSE BOWL COMPETITIONS. The opinion was expressed that the great distances which had to be covered by certain teams in these National Competitions were becoming a great deterrent to the entering of teams. Regionally run sections of each competition were becoming more and more popular with the entrants.

INVITATION TOURNAMENTS. It was pointed out that certain Invitation Tournaments, were fast becoming small and select Open Tournaments, as Entry Forms were being circulated to a great number of members of the Association. This appeared to be out of order with the rules covering Invitation Tournaments.

NATIONAL UMPIRES. Certain E.T.T.A. Representatives were not satisfied in full with the working of the new National Umpire Scheme and their various opinions were duly noted. One suggestion made was that there should be a training course arranged for bringing candidate Umpires up to the County Umpire Level.

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE "TABLE TENNIS." Generally it was felt that more controversial articles should be

included in the Magazine and also better reports of the Open Tournaments.

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK. The date of the distribution of the Handbook was felt to be rather late in the season and various ideas for bringing that date nearer to the commencement of the season were put forward. It was appreciated that many problems were connected with this matter and that earlier distribution could involve the elimination of certain detailed information.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION. It was with great acclamation that the delegates at the meeting learned that the Administrative Secretary, Mrs. K. Pegg, would be continuing as full-time Administrative Secretary for the 1956/57 season.

THANK YOU "BILL." Mr. E. G. White felt it would not be right to close the meeting without expressing the feeling of the great debt which was owed to the retiring Honorary General Secretary—Mr. A. K. "Bill" Vint. Everyone in their own particular fashion understood only too well just what this meant, and there was little more one could say other than "THANK YOU BILL."

C.C.P.R. The Central Council of Physical Recreation came of age on April 30, 1956, and to mark the occa-

sion the Duke of Edinburgh made a televised broadcast on "Active Leisure," from the Park Lane Hotel where a banquet was held. The hon. Treasurer of the English Table Tennis Association, Mr. A. K. Vint and his wife attended this function.

"DAILY MIRROR" NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FINALS. The area finals and national finals of all the events in the "Daily Mirror" National Table Tennis Tournament were played on Saturday, April 21, 1956, at the Liverpool Stadium, Liverpool.

TABLE TENNIS

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THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Japan Take Major Honours

PLAYING on their home ground for the first time it was only natural that Japan should take most of the honours in the World Championships in Tokio from April 2 to 11.

Following their success in the Swaythling Cup, Japan won the men's singles for the third successive year, **Ichiro Ogimura** regaining the title from Toshiaki Tanaka, the women's singles for the first time through unseeded **Tomi Okawa**, and the men's doubles with **Ogimura** and **Yoshio Tomita**.

Rumania, who had earlier won the Corbillon Cup, won the women's doubles when **Angelica Rozeanu** and **Ella Zeller** retained their title, while the mixed went to the Americans **Erwin Klein** and **Leah Neuberger**. England had a blank hand.

After their success in the Swaythling Cup the Japanese men were obviously expected to carry off the Men's

Singles Title. T. Tanaka, the reigning Champion, was unbeaten in the Swaythling Cup and by winning all three games against Rumania had been mainly instrumental in the Japanese victory in this vital match. Chief opposition was expected from I. Ogimura, the 1954 World Champion, Ivan Andreadis of Czechoslovakia, believed by many good judges to be the finest player never to win a World Singles Championship, and Richard Bergmann.

The first major surprise came in the second round when Ladislav Stipek, of Czechoslovakia, was the first seeded player to fall, being beaten by Ahio Nohira, an unseeded Japanese player who went on to reach the semi-finals before being beaten by Tanaka.

In this round Brian Kennedy also went out to Richard Miles, of United States, after a hard fought five games match. Kennedy, who played throughout with a blistered hand and had shown fluctuating form, was far from his best in this match.

The next seeded player to be defeated was Johnny Leach, who lost to an unknown Indian player, Nagaraj, in the third round. This round also provided a match between two players who have long been among the most unpredictable in the game—Richard Miles and Ivan Andreadis, which Miles unexpectedly won in straight games.

As has so often happened in the past, Andreadis played very much better in the Swaythling Cup than in the individual singles.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals: OGIMURA (Japan) bt Miles (United States) 16, 14, 13; TOMITA (Japan) bt Bergmann (England) 15, —18, 13, 19; NOHIRA (Japan) bt Nagaraj (India) —15, 22, —16, 14, 20; TANAKA (Japan) bt Kawai (Japan) —18, 8, 13, 19.

Semi-finals: OGIMURA bt Tomita —19, 9, —17, 17, 22; TANAKA bt Nohira 13, —17, 6, 18.

Final: OGIMURA bt Tanaka 13, —22, 18, —18, 13.

Men's Doubles — Quarter-finals: ANDREADIS/STIPEK (Czechoslovakia) bt Chin-Sing/Cheung-Lin (Hong Kong) —13, 19, 3, 20; TANAKA/TSUNODA (Japan) bt Leach/Bergmann (England) —19, —21, 11, 15, 11; TEREBA/VYHNANOVSKY (Czechoslovakia) bt Flisberg/Mellstron (Sweden) 14, 10, —19, 10; OGIMURA/TOMITA (Japan) bt Reiter/Gantner (Rumania) 14, 12, 21.

Semi-finals: ANDREADIS/STIPEK bt Tanaka/Tsunoda 20, 18, —19, 17; OGIMURA/TOMITA bt Tereba/Vyhnanovsky 13, 13, —19, 14.

Final: OGIMURA/TOMITA bt Andreadis/Stipek 13, 10, 11.

Women's Singles — Quarter-finals: OKAWA (Japan) bt Sang-Suk (Korea) 16, 17, 10; EGUCHI (Japan) bt Haydon (England) 13, 20, 16; ZELLER (Rumania) bt Rowe (England) 8, 8, 17; WATANABE (Japan) bt Wong (Hong Kong) 12, —17, 24, —12, 19.

Semi-finals: OKAWA bt Eguchi 17, —16, 15, —17, 13; WATANABE bt Zeller —16, —14, 21, 16, 15.

Final: OKAWA bt Watanabe 15, —13, 21, —9, 16.

Women's Doubles — Quarter-finals: ROZEANU/ZELLER (Rumania) bt Prisca (India) / Robinson (United States) 10, 8, 13; TANAKA/OKAWA (Japan) bt Narahara/Yamakawa (Japan) 9, 16, —16, —18, 16; HAYDON/ROWE (England) bt Namba/Tasaka (Japan) 20, —18, 18, 16; WATANABE/EGUCHI (Japan) bt Neuberger/Flam (United States) 10, 9, 11.

Semi-finals: ROZEANU/ZELLER bt Tanaka/Okawa 13, 14, 15; WATANABE/EGUCHI bt Haydon/Rowe 21, —14, 13, —18, 16.

Final: ROZEANU/ZELLER bt Watanabe/Eguchi 14, —14, —15, 19, 9.

Mixed doubles—Quarter-finals: ANDREADIS (Czechoslovakia) / HAYDON (England) bt Hirose/Yamamoto (Japan) 18, 18, 16; REITER/ZELLER (Rumania) bt Ogimura/Watanabe (Japan) —11, 10, —17, 9, 14; KLEIN/NEUBERGER (United States) bt Tanaka/Okawa (Japan) 19, 16, —13, 4; FUJII/TANAKA (Japan) bt Tomita/Eguchi (Japan) 11, —18, 16, —16, 21.

Semi-finals: ANDREADIS/HAYDON bt Reiter/Zeller 13, 20, 14; KLEIN/NEUBERGER bt Fujii/Tanaka 16, —15, 20, 18.

Final: KLEIN/NEUBERGER bt Andreadis/Haydon 18, —17, 18, —17, 14.

Time Limit

The most extraordinary game in the third round was that between Richard Bergmann and Maivanhoa, of Vietnam. The score at the end of twenty minutes of the first game was 4—4 and Bergmann eventually won the vital point. After taking the second game easily at 21—4, Bergmann kept easily ahead in the long drawn out third game which finished on the time limit at 16—3.

In the next round Bergmann met Matei Gantner of Rumania, who had greatly enhanced his reputation the previous week by victories over Tomita and Ogimura. Fortunes fluctuated in this match but eventually Bergmann won in the fifth game.

Meeting Tomita in the Quarter Finals after having played two previous rounds the same day, Bergmann's amazing defensive play enabled him to win the second game, but his stamina gave out before the brilliant attacking game of Tomita who took the next two games for the match.

Richard Miles proved no match for Ogimura and lost in straight games. The match between the "giant-killers" Ahio Nohira, of Japan, who had defeated both Stipek (Cz.) and Klein (U.S.) and the Indian conqueror of Johnny Leach, Nagaraj, was hard fought throughout with victory eventually going to the Japanese player when he took the fifth game 22—20.

In the other quarter final, Tanaka was too good for his unseeded countryman Kaguo Kawai, who had defeated Tereba in the previous round.

What the all-Japanese semi-finals lost in international competitive interest they made up for by the tenseness of the matches. Not until the score reached 24—22 in the fifth game was the effervescent Ogimura able to

clinch the issue against Tomita, whom he has met so often before.

In the other semi-final, Tanaka, after unexpectedly conceding the second game, made sure of the next two. As anticipated, the final between the 1953/4 and 1954/5 World Champions, Ogimura and Tanaka, went to five games, but this time Ogimura just had the edge on his fellow countryman and won by 21—13, 22—24, 21—18, 18—21, 21—13.

When Angelica Rozeanu, who won the Women's Singles in 1955 for the sixth successive time and was undefeated in all her Corbillon Cup singles and doubles matches this year, was sensationally beaten in the second round in three straight games by Kiyoko Tasaka, an unseeded Japanese player, the prospects of England's two girls appeared bright. True, they had a strenuous time the previous week in becoming runners-up for the Corbillon Cup, but Ann Haydon, especially, was playing extremely well, reaching the quarter finals without the loss of a game.

Stumbling Block

In the quarter-finals Ann met Fujie Eguchi, who had beaten her in the Corbillon Cup. Although she fought hard in the second game, Ann was obviously far from her best and lost in straight games.

Diane Rowe, also well below her best form, was completely outclassed by Ella Zeller in the first and second games, and though she fought back in the third, the Rumanian girl ran out an easy winner.

The other semi-finalists were both Japanese, Kubo Wanatabe, the number two seed, and Tomi Okawa, an unseeded player who had defeated Tasaka, the conqueror of Rozeanu, in the third round.

The all-Japanese semi-final between Okawa and Eguchi had an unexpected result when the unseeded player ran out a worthy winner after five games.

Ella Zeller started off her match in great form by winning the first two games. She seemed all set for victory but Wanatabe, great fighter that we know her to be, won the thrilling third game at 23—21 and went on to win the other two games for the match.

Everyone was wondering whether the unseeded Okawa could bring off the sensation of the championships by defeating Wanatabe, who is generally recognised as the best woman player in Japan. After losing the third game 23—21 to become 2—1 down, Wanatabe was well on top in the fourth which she took to nine to square the match. However, Okawa came right back in the final game and amid tremendous excitement she won the game at 21—16 to become World Champion.

Many people are wondering how those responsible for the official World Ranking list are going to tackle the problem which has been set them by an unseeded player winning the World Championship, but few would deny that on her form in the Corbillon Cup matches and in the Women's Doubles, Angelica Rozeanu must still rank as the number one player.

In the Men's Doubles, Leach and Bergmann were seeded while Brian Kennedy teamed up with Conny Fruendorfer, the young German player who has not quite lived up to the promise he gave as such a brilliant junior.

In the second round Kennedy and Fruendorfer met Tatsuo Tsuno and Akio Nohira, the Men's Singles semi-finalist. At the end of three strenuously fought games they had established a 2—1 lead but then fell right away to lose the final two games. The Japanese pair were beaten in the next round by the No. 1 seeds, Andreadis and Stipek.

Leach and Bergmann, fortunate in receiving two byes, reached the quarter finals where they met the Japanese pair Tanaka and Tsunoda. The Englishman won the first two games but they fell away badly and eventually the Japanese players won fairly easily.

The two semi-finals were each Japanese/Czechoslovakian matches with Andreadis and Stipek beating Tanaka and Tsunoda. The other Czech pair Tereba and Vyhanovsky were no match for Ogimura and Tomita. The final was disappointing with the Japanese pair winning easily in straight games and thus avenging their defeat in last year's semi-final.

Champions Again

In the Women's Doubles, the holders Rozeanu and Zeller majestically pursued their way to the final round without losing a game. In the lower half of the draw Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe beat two Japanese pairs to reach the quarter finals, where after a tense match they were beaten by Watanabe and Eguchi, whom the English girls defeated the previous week in the Corbillon Cup.

In the Final, the Japanese girls established a 2—1 lead but the holders fought back in the vital fourth game which they won after a dramatic struggle and proceeded to take the fifth game and the match at 21—9.

Ann Haydon paired with Andreadis in the Mixed Doubles and, they too reached the final round without dropping a game. In the semi-final they had disposed of Reiter and Zeller of Rumania, who had fought back to defeat the fancied Japanese pair of Ogimura and Watanabe in the quarter final.

In the third quarter Tanaka and Okawa, who were not seeded, came back to defeat the other Rumanian

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pair of Gantner and Rozeanu in the third round, but were well beaten by Erwin Klein and Leah Neuberger of the United States.

Johnny Leach and Diane Rowe were unexpectedly beaten by Matoo Fujii and Yoshiki Tanaka in the third round and the Japanese pair had a further success when in a thrilling and fluctuating game they reached the semi-final by defeating Tomita and Eguchi. This, however, was the limit of their success, for the American pair reached the final by a 3—1 victory.

By their play in the earlier rounds Andreadis and Haydon were expected to win the Final. Lack of concentration in vital games has so often been a tragic feature of Andreadis's play and in the early games it was largely through Ann's steadiness that they gained a 2—1 lead.

The Americans squared the match in the fourth game. Andreadis and Haydon went to a 12—7 lead in the vital fifth game but the strain had been too much for the English girl and she too became erratic with the result that the American pair lost only two more points, winning the final game at 21—14.

Emulates Sister

It is axiomatic in the game that brilliant individual players do not necessarily make good teams and here was an instance where the United States had successfully combined youth and experience. Klein, the 17-year-old American had proved himself a capable doubles player in last year's Junior Championships at the English Open. Leah Neuberger, the elder of the Thall sisters, has been playing in world class table tennis for a number of years and although she has won the United States Championship this is her first World title and at last she has been able to emulate her sister Thelma, who won the World Mixed Doubles title as far back as 1947/48 in partnership with Richard Miles.

BRITISH PLAYERS' RECORDS

MEN'S SINGLES

Kennedy: bt Poon Wen Choe (Singapore) 22, 12, 17; lost to Miles (U.S.) 18, —18, —16, 13, —14.

Bergmann: bt Tsui Cheung-Lang (Hong Kong) 20, 14, 5; bt Maivanhoa (Vietnam) 5—4 (time limit), 4, 16—3 (time limit); bt Gantner (Rumania) 19, —18, 11, —13, 13; lost to Tomita (Japan) —15, 18, —13, —19.

Leach: bt Michigami (Japan) —15, —11, 9, 15, 20; lost to Nagaraj (India) —11, —12, 12, —18.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Leach/Bergmann: bt Hirose/Mizohata (Japan) —19, 23, 11, 18; lost to Tanaka/Tsunoda 19, 21, —11, —15, —11.

Kennedy/Freundorfer (Germany) lost to Tsuno/Nonira (Japan) —20, 21, 19, —10, 18.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Haydon: bt Shidara (Japan) 19, 12, 12; bt Yamakawa (Japan) 7, 6, 6; lost to Eguchi (Japan) —13, —20, —16.

Rowe: bt Yamamoto (Japan) 18, —16, 11, —17, 13; bt Namba (Japan) 12, 9, 21; lost to Zeller (Rumania) —8, —8, —17.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Haydon/Rowe: bt Suda/Shidara (Japan) 12, —21, 16, 16; bt Namba/Tasaka (Japan) 20, —18, 18, 16; lost to Watanabe/Eguchi (Japan) —21, 14, —13, 18, 16.

MIXED DOUBLES

Leach/Rowe: bt Mizohata/Sato (Japan) 18, 14, 11; lost to Fujii/Tanaka (Japan) —18, —11, 20, 14.

Andreadis (Czechoslovakia) / Haydon: bt Mellstrom (Sweden) / Shidara (Japan) 16, 19, 9; bt Tsunoda/Narahara (Japan) 14, 19, 19; bt Hirose/Yamamoto (Japan) 18, 18, 16; bt Reiter/Zeller (Rumania) 13, 20, 14; lost to Klein/Neuberger (United States) —18, 17, —18, 17, —14.

SCOTTISH "OPEN" CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GORDON WALKER

HELD in the Murrayfield Indoor Sports Stadium in Edinburgh, these championships were a great success.

In the boys' singles' title two Scots boys, Barclay of Edinburgh and Carswell of Hamilton, who, between them, have won all the Scottish Junior titles this season, were well beaten by two "invaders," Stoddart of Cheshire and Crowley of Wales. Barclay put up the better performance, taking one game from Stoddart, while Carswell was beaten in straight games by Crowley.

The women's singles was a stately procession, and Miss Elliot had no difficulty in retaining the title.

In the women's doubles, we had the rare experience—in play at home events anyway—of watching the two Helens lose a set, although not the match, to Miss Hepple and Mrs. Craigen.

Irish Success

Tommy Gilmour of Dundee tried to play Johnny Miller the way he should be played—by attack—in the semi-final of the men's singles, but Miller kept a cool head and won. It was perhaps a little unfortunate that Miller's late conquerer, Monty McMillan, who achieved his recent success by all-out offensive, was beaten by Edinburgh's Alistair McLeod in the quarter-final. The final attempt to oust Miller was left to an old campaigner, Ireland's Harry O'Prey, and a fine job he made of it. Although obviously at a loss in the first game, he rallied magnificently at 14—20 in the second and won finally at 21—19 in the third. The whole performance reflected great credit on both players, and O'Prey's determination and well-mannered behaviour in face of the nerve wracking sponge was a much needed example.

In the men's doubles final the greater consistency of McMichael and Gilmour earned them the title against Campbell and Metcalf.

The mixed doubles final started off in orthodox fashion with a first-game win for Elliot and Miller against young Barclay and Helen Houlston. From the start of the second game the two youngsters decided to attack at all costs and Elliot and Miller failed to stand up to a barrage the like of which we have not seen for many a day. This sparkling victory will give the youngsters a great boost and was a suitably lively note on which to end the tournament.

RESULTS

Girls' Singles : Miss **BLACK** (Dundee) bt Miss McKenzie (Edinburgh), 4, 9.

Boys' Singles : **CROWLEY** (Wales) bt Stoddart (Cheshire), 18, 16, 10.

Men's Singles : **O'PREY** (Ireland) bt Miller (Edinburgh), 11, 22, 19.

Women's Singles : **ELLIOT** (Edinburgh) bt Houlston (Edinburgh), 14, 10.

Men's Doubles : **McMICHAEL** (Edinburgh) and **GILMOUR** (Dundee) bt Campbell and Metcalf (Glasgow), 20, 13.

Women's Doubles : **ELLIOT** and **HOULISTON** (Edinburgh) bt Hepple (England) and Craigen (Edinburgh) 16, 7, 14.

Mixed Doubles : **BARCLAY** and **HOULISTON** (Edinburgh) bt Miller and Elliot (Edinburgh), 12, 16, 17.

Tokio — Secretary's Eye View!

by H. Roy Evans

General Secretary of the I.T.T.F.

IT is a long time since I travelled to a tournament worrying whether the tables suited my game, or the light was good enough for my eyes, and while more illustrious folk than I pondered such things in the plane to Japan, my concern was the administrative set-up which awaited me.

During the post war years, the International Federation has spread amazingly, and with 70 Associations now in membership it rivals any other organisation in the World. And with this growth has come a considerable change in our methods of procedure.

Years ago, all the business of our Annual Meetings was conducted verbally, and with every speech necessitating translation at least twice, the meetings were long and frustrating. No written reports were produced during the week of the World Championships, and the Minutes came along some time later.

WEEKS TO HOURS

The complications of our present organisation demand a more positive control. Now reports are all submitted in writing, and minutes of the many sub-committee meetings published in at least three languages within a matter of hours. Moreover, the actual Minutes of the Annual Meetings, both Sessions, are usually available before delegates go home.

All this necessitates more preparation before Congress, the availability of a very efficient staff during Cham-

pionships, and the provision of the instantaneous translation system at the two actual sessions of Congress.

Since the provision of this system at Utrecht, with the quite striking advantages it offers, all Associations organising the World Championships are recommended to provide such a facility.

Some months before Congress, when giving assistance to the organisers about all manner of matters, I usually state the type of clerical help we require, at least, to one efficient shorthand typist, two or three copy typists, and a corps of translators!

A pretty tall order, you'll agree, but one which, to our relief, the Japanese Association succeeding in providing.

LAZY BRITISH

The British are notoriously lazy when it comes to learning languages: We always expect everyone else to speak ours!

Our secretary spoke perfect English, and took down shorthand in English or Japanese with equal facility. Her copy typists rattled out innumerable stencils with an ever present smile, and the translators, university students studying languages, spent hour after hour bent over our reports, their heads showing over a mountain of dictionaries.

Meetings are held at all hours, and inasmuch as our President seems to manage with a minimum of sleep, the organisation attunes itself to his monumental appetite for work.

Congress itself was held in the Sankie Hall, a beautifully appointed place where meetings of national and supranational importance are held.

The very tone of the hall lends an atmosphere of weighty import to the proceedings, while the magic of the instantaneous translation system speeds our deliberations.

Two Meetings of the Full Congress, meetings of the Advisory Committee, the Standing Orders Committee, the Equipment Committee, the Rules Committee, the Classification Committee, the South Africa Committee, the Development Committee, all with their problems of translation, and each with a report for publication in three languages. These are the practical problems which have to be faced during the time when the game of table tennis, in its highest manifestation, is being played out in the Stadium.

From the days when all our business was done within the hours of the actual Congress Meetings we have come a long way. Now, by a system of delegation to sub-committees our work has become infinitely more comprehensive and more efficient, and progress at Congress itself is smoother and more easily understood.

EFFICIENT JAPS

But all this demands a quick and efficient secretarial system, and, looking back at Tokio, I have nothing but praise for the team of secretaries, typists, translators and duplicators who never quailed before the mountain of paper work I seemed to be forever handing out.

To the satisfaction of having this work so well done was added with the pleasure of meeting for the first time so many of the Asian officials who, hitherto, had been but names on a letter heading.



TABLE TENNIS U.N.O. — WORLD CONGRESS IN SESSION

VICTOR BARNNA says . . .

(in an interview with SAM KIRKWOOD)

Sponge No Answer to Sponge

SINCE returning from Tokio, quite a few people have asked me about my reactions to the various types of bats used at the championships. It would take a lot of time and technical talk to go into the matter thoroughly, so I'll merely say that my main impression was that sponge is no answer to sponge.

I have always believed that: what I saw in Japan confirmed my view.

Generally speaking, when a sponger meets a sponger it's a question of which player spins the better and gets in the first hit. An example of that was provided by the sponge-users Erwin Klein, of America, and Brian Kennedy.

Although leading stars in their own countries, they hadn't the necessary ball-control to overcome the Japanese, who, apart from anything else, had far more experience of sponge and knew how to master their comparatively raw white rivals.

On the other hand, the Rumanian "rubber" boys, with their heavy chop and well-timed and well-placed hits, plus ball-control, proved themselves accomplished players and can be considered a trifle unfortunate not to have taken the Swaythling Cup.

They lost 5-4, after Gantner had beaten both Ogimura and Tomita and lost 23-21 in his third and decisive game against Tanaka after leading 20-14, when the match stood at 3-all.

This again indicated that rubber has more value than some are inclined to believe.

PENHOLDER HANDICAP

I was tremendously surprised, and really thrilled, by the play and players in the all-Japanese semi-finals and final of the Men's Singles.

The Japanese know as well as anybody else that their penholder grip is a severe handicap on the backhand wing, and the way in which they overcame this was a revelation to onlookers.

From service on, and including the service itself, they sparred for an opening, using their brain for every stroke and watching each other like hawks. Every single movement had a purpose, and their footwork, agility, speed and stamina were just out of this world.

At times they looked like acrobats. No wonder

the top Japanese are youthful—they need to be the way they play!

It was frequently said that the Japs had most of the luck going in matches at the 19-all or 20-all stage. As I saw it, it wasn't luck that saw them through so many tight games—it was that little extra bit of concentration. Concentration, plus a knowledge of how to do the right thing at the right time.

In my opinion, this is what paid them dividends of the most acceptable kind. LUCK? Forget it.

T. Okawa, winner of the Women's Singles, was a shakehand-grip player who showed how to overcome the penholder school, as represented in the final by K. Watanabe.

The Japanese are very quick to learn, and I was not surprised to hear that many of them are going to adopt the orthodox grip, which they know offers added advantages.

“ROSE”

TABLE TENNIS TABLES

need no further introduction.

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En Route from Tokio

by BILL VINT

DURING the 10,000 mile return journey from Tokio on the aero-bus with fifty of the participating players, it was pleasant to while away the time to record some of the interesting sidelights of one of the most successful Championships in the history of the game.

It is natural to cast one's mind back to recall something of what happened before we were able to make the journey.

Firstly, the frantic and strenuous efforts to raise £2,000 to ensure that England was represented in Japan, done only after much banging of the big drum and generous support from some of our friends in the trade, to whom we are greatly indebted, as also to those Leagues and Clubs who made donations.

Secondly, the tortuous problem, which at one time became a hideous nightmare, trying to arrange a charter party by air—a contract involving many thousands of pounds which meant our facing the situation that if only one person dropped out, £300 had to be made up!

The Chairman of the Association (Ivor Montagu), at one time almost working day and night, was tireless in his efforts to overcome the hundred and one problems to enable fifty people to board the plane for Tokio. It was a vast relief to us all to find the aeroplane leaving London en

route for Dusseldorf, Geneva and Bombay to pick up the full complement of teams and officials.

The journey itself could be a story, but one must be content by saying that it was arduous and tiring but good humouredly and cheerfully enjoyed by all.

In Bombay, Ranga Ramarajan, with other officials of the Table Tennis Federation of India, met the party and kindly arranged during a short break for changing of planes, for all to visit the beach for rest and sea bathing (for those who were tempted).

A gay, friendly and enthusiastic welcome awaited our arrival at Tokio Airport from all the leading Japanese players and officials. Radio, television, films, cameramen and newspapermen were there by the score and I am sure table tennis players have never before experienced such a barrage of cameras!

It was very nearly the dawn before anyone got to bed but it was grand to slip between the sheets after 50 hours' travelling!

The games were played in the Tokio Municipal Gymnasium Hall, very similar in construction to the Wembley Stadium, with a composite floor. The organisers however built a first class wooden floor giving more than adequate room for 10 tables which were placed in two rows of five.

Around the Hall there was good seating for over 5,000 people and additional seating was added which,



DIANE ROWE, VICTOR BARNA (N.P.C.)
ANN HAYDON

together with standing room, gave a capacity for nearly 10,000 spectators.

In each playing arena was provided the usual facilities for the Umpires and Scorers with the Umpire's chair slightly raised above the scorers but with no table in front of him.

The scoring machines were specially made, easily manipulated and an improvement on those already known to us.

The opening ceremony was indeed an impressive affair. Sharp at 10 a.m. on the Monday morning each country marched separately into the players arena led by a school child in uniform.

The children had been well drilled and lined up all the competitors alphabetically in order of country facing the dais, on which were Prince Takamatsu, the Patron-in-chief of the Championships, the Governor of Tokio, members of the Government including the Minister of Education, City Councillors, officials of the I.T.T.F. and representatives of the Japan Table Tennis Association.

Official welcomes were given by the Governor of Tokio, the President of the Japan Table Tennis Association and the Minister of Education.

The President of the I.T.T.F., the Hon. Ivor Montagu, in his response said:—

"It is my honour and privilege, as President of the International Table Tennis Federation, to thank you and speak not only for the players of the seventeen countries, who have made the journey here from near and far, not only for the delegates and proxies

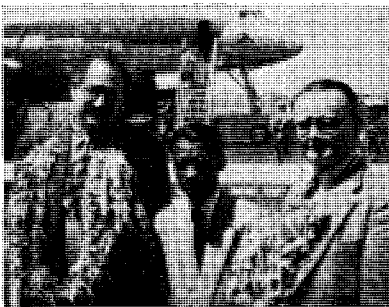


BRIAN KENNEDY, IVOR MONTAGU (N.P.C.)
RICHARD BERGMANN, JOHNNY LEACH

of the thirty-one associations directly represented here, but for all our sixty-eight members, spanning all the continents.

"We, who are here, are happy to have come. We had already made acquaintance with Japanese players, their skill, their energy, their sportsmanship and youth. Now we shall, with equal advantage, learn to know Japanese Table Tennis Organisers, their ability and helpfulness, together with the public which, by its enthusiasm, contributes to their success. Those of us whom distance or cost has prevented from coming wish good fortune to these championships no less than those who are here.

"Friends all! We are about to begin ten days of striving. But our strife is sport, it has absolutely nothing in common with war. Our victories are those of modesty, our battles, of friendly emulation, our defeats—means of winning honour by a demeanour of sportsmanship. I recall the unanimous summons to all Table Tennis players and enthusiasts everywhere, already adopted by our Federation several years ago: "... so to conduct our sport that, by modesty, tolerance, keenness and understanding,



IVOR MONTAGU and BILL VINT, complete with garlands greeted by **RANGA RAMANUJAN,** Secretary of the Asian Federation

we help to increase friendship and peaceful sentiments among all peoples without exception. This is the spirit we shall try to bring to this meeting."

Play commenced in the afternoon with the opening games of the Swaythling and Corbillon Cup Competitions.

It was nothing unusual to find each morning by 9.30 practically all the seats taken with keen public support all day and during the evenings full houses were a regular feature. It was not uncommon for spectators to stay all day bringing their meals in neat little boxes, chopsticks and all!

Each day there was a full television programme and radio reports. Over 300 representatives of the Press and films were present during the Championships sending out reports

and photographs to all parts of the world.

The Crown Prince Akihito attended some of the sessions and Prince Takamatsu made a number of visits with other members of the Royal Family. On one evening the British Ambassador to Japan, Sir Esler Denning, visited the Championships and was introduced to our Men's team (the Women's Team were engaged in play against Japan at the time of the visit).

The social side was well looked after, including an interesting coach trip to see some of the sights of Tokio, a reception given by the Governor of Tokio, a garden party provided by Prince and Princess Takamatsu at their Korin Mansion, and after the Championships all our players and officials were invited to a Luncheon by the Prime Minister of Japan at his official residence.

The Japan/British Society also specially arranged a cocktail party for our players to meet Princess Chichibu and other members of the society.

Two hundred and fifty university students undertook the duty of playing control, umpires, scorers, stewards, office staff, etc. This vast army worked enthusiastically and nothing was too much trouble for them. They were anxious to please.

Umpiring was in English and well carried out. Apart from a reluctance to ensure that play was continuous, there always seemed to be a courteous desire to let the players themselves decide about this.

It was interesting to note that if a ball came into the playing arena from another court, the umpire stopped the game by raising both his hands above his head and then he proceeded to run and throw the ball back to the other court! The umpire would also adopt a similar action for his arms if he were calling a net!

One cannot hope to recall all the incidents, humorous and otherwise, but the one which caught everybody's imagination and will be talked about in table tennis circles for many years to come, was caused by that brilliant showman, Richard Bergmann.

Bergmann, during his game in the Quarter Finals of the Men's Singles with Tomita of Japan missed an easy shot after Tomita had lobbed the ball high in the air. In exasperation he leaped on to the table, walked over the net, jumped down on the other side and returned to continue play and win the game!!

Full marks to the photographers for catching Richard in his strange act.

The closing ceremony was carried out by all the winners, runners-up and semi-finalists being assembled together behind a schoolgirl holding a board indicating the event. The gold, silver and bronze medals awarded by the Japanese Table Tennis Associa-

tion for the individual events bore engravings of Mount Fuji, a cherry blossom tree and Fudo Nyo-o, a Buddhist God of Fire.

After a day's rest at the conclusion of the Championships our players with others made a visit to Osaka and one or two other centres for some exhibition matches which gave them further opportunities to see Japan.

It was hoped that the return journey would be uneventful, but circumstances decreed otherwise.

On arrival at the Tokio airport it was discovered that there were so many souvenirs and presents to be brought back that the plane was in excess of the prescribed weight. Hurried arrangements had to be made



(With courtesy of The Mainichi Newspapers)

BERGMANN WALKS THE TABLE

for some baggage to be transported by another plane to Hong Kong where the Rumanians were due to leave for a tour of China. Hong Kong was reached but owing to weather conditions landing was not possible, so on to Bangkok where arrangements were made for the Rumanians to return to pick up baggage and their Chinese hosts!

It was disappointing not to be able to return to England with even half an honour—but I feel that lessons learned on this occasion will stand us in good stead for future efforts in next year's World Championships to be held in Stockholm.

JACK CARRINGTON'S HOLIDAY TRAINING WEEKS, 1956

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PREPARE LIKE BOXERS

by RICHARD BERGMANN

JAPAN'S feat in winning four of the Tokio titles has inevitably led to the question: Is the penholder superior to the orthodox grip? The answer is NO!

The reason for the Japanese triumphs is a simple one. They are top of the tree because of their fitness, youth, stamina, fleetness of foot, agility and fine powers of concentration. And because of the tremendous fighting spirit which helps them to win matches in spite of the handicaps that come from the penholder grip.

Playing ability? It need hardly be said that they have an abundance of that too.

What grand fighters they are—and what clever tacticians! Anyone who believes that the Orientals owe their successes to sponge, knows nothing about the game and even less about the Japanese aces. They were sterling value for their wins and are worthy World champions.

A Lesson

The Japanese pressed home a lesson which I hope wasn't lost on Westerners. It was that now, more than at any other time in the history of the sport, there is a vital need for tip-top physical condition. Gone are the days when an occasional run and a few weeks' lay-off from smoking and drinking was deemed the only training needed by a star.

Today a Table Tennis player, if he hopes to make a serious challenge for World honours, must prepare himself like a champion boxer. If he doesn't, he is only wasting time.

The Japanese were 100 per cent fit, an object lesson to everyone. Not only that, they had a trainer in constant attention.

After a game a Japanese player was towelled and hustled to a room and given the works—ice, rub-down, massage, embrocation and linament, and then rested in quietness. The athlete emerged for his next match smelling, looking and no doubt feeling like a fresh daisy. And he played like a fresh man.

The comparatively half-fit Westerners played their games and stood around the arena, still sweating, signing autographs or talking. They had no trainers to tend to them, nor had they facilities for cleaning up and resting. All I, myself, could get was a head-wash in the public toilet

room, with people bustling in and out.

The ping-pong era is past and every team needs the attention of a trained masseur, as well as properly equipped quarters where in addition to being freshened up they can take a recuperative sleep or rest.

The Japanese stayed fresh to the very last day of the strenuous nine-day tournament. Visitors, on the other hand, deteriorated in condition day by day. It was weariness that beat Rozeanu, who had played herself out in the Corbillon matches, in the Singles.

I myself was fit following months of training and weighed 20 pounds less than I did last year. Even so, it was tiredness more than anything else which cost me the quarter-finals match against Tomita, whom I played shortly after a very strenuous five-setter against Gantner.

I think that had I beaten Tomita I might have had a chance of taking the title, for I would have had a 24-hour break before playing in the semi-finals and another day's rest before the final. Still, it's all part and parcel of the game and I'm not cribbing.

I again thought it a pity that a World tournament has to be crammed into nine days. This makes the playing schedule too tight and the demand on players too great.

Ideally, a series should be spread over three weeks, so allowing reasonable rest periods between games. Playing tough matches in close succession is an ordeal which has to be endured to be believed.

Stupid Regulation

Perhaps the three-week tournament isn't practical, but what could be rectified and never is, is the I.T.T.F. regulation about runback.

As at other World venues in the past, the Tokio stadium in the opening stages was crammed with tables and, understandably, only the minimum of space was to be had. But in the later stages, when most of the tables were cleared away, and even on Finals Night, when only one table was in use, no (or very little) extra runback was permitted.

The Japanese organisers were in no way to blame for this, for they conformed to rules.

I.T.T.F. reason for this stupid regulation is that it isn't fair to those who lost while playing with the minimum runback, for others to have more space!

It is well known that I can't have too much runback, but, speaking impersonally, I fail to see how refusing players some of the available space going to waste around them, can possibly affect those who have already been beaten.

It's bad enough when a player can't have more room because none is available, but to deny it to him when there's plenty going just doesn't make sense.

NATIONAL COACHING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The following official ETTA Coaching events are now being arranged:

1. SHORT COACHING COURSE FOR DIPLOMA CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL COACHES. A one-day Course in London on a Saturday in June or July, and a similar Course in a Northern Centre at a slightly later date.

It is expected that some of the more advanced Diploma candidates will be able to complete their passing-out on these Courses. Other candidates and any interested players who wish to see "how the Diploma Scheme works" are invited to attend.

In each case the one-day Course will be linked with a follow-up practical Course in the autumn so that candidates who are not quite ready on the first occasion may have a chance to qualify without undue delay.

2. YOUTH COACHING RALLIES. This is a new departure, designed to help local Coaches to "spread the net wider" in attracting young talent into their instructional groups. The general plan is to start with an "Open Day" at which youngsters of all standards will be welcomed and given general instruction; certain of them will then be selected for follow-up instructional sessions by the local Coaches, (who will themselves be instructed where necessary).

At least two such Rallies are contemplated during the coming winter season. The Hon. Director of Coaching (Jack Carrington, 24, Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex) will be glad to hear from local Coaches, Youth Officers or leaders, or any person interested in developing young players, with a view to arranging functions of this type in areas where a good response may be anticipated.

Senior players in any area interested in starting instructional groups or working towards the Coaching Diploma qualification are also invited to write direct to the Director of Coaching, who will be pleased to advise them.

Actual arrangements for any Courses or Rallies will of course be made through County and League channels as usual.

WILL ROZEANU RETIRE?

WILL Angelica Rozeanu retire now that she has lost the World-crown at long last? For the first time the Rumanian girl has hinted that she is seriously thinking of giving up competitive play. Many think, however, that since her services are vital to her Corbillon Cup-holding country, she may decide to stay on for at least one more year.

Expert opinion is that Angelica is as good a player as she ever was, but that she is finding the nervous strain of match play too much for her.

The ex-champion's avowed ambition was to beat Barna's total of 22 World titles (15 individual, 7 Swaythling). For the record, Rozeanu's tally is 17 (12 individual, 5 Corbillon). In this respect we might remember that Hungary's Maria Mednyan-szky collected 19 titles—all individual

Australians Geoff Jennings and Arden Robinson hope soon to come to England for a few months. They are said to be playing very well indeed, but lack confidence due to insufficient international experience. They expect to learn a lot during their stay in Europe.

The Rumanian authorities are staging an all-out campaign to encourage the use of rubber. Big help for them is the fact that Swaythling star Toma Reiter is to discard the sponge he adopted a year or two back. The Rumanian World team, incidentally, played in China on their way home from Tokio.

Taking time off to speak about an event nearer home, let's turn the spotlight on Harry Edwards, that quiet and efficient Middlesex County official. Harry has just been awarded the "Sam Parry Shield" by the Film Renters' League.

The trophy, given annually in memory of a league executive, who was killed in a motor accident two years back, and after whom it is named, is presented to the man deemed to have done the most during the season for the CinemaScope-Technicolor lads and lasses who wield a bat.

Harry has been associated with and worked for the league with undiminished energy and devotion since its inception in 1934 is currently chair-

man—and as near indispensable as it is possible for any man to be.

Players who have the chance of annexing all sorts of trophies merely by enjoying ourselves at various competitions, might well remember that without behind-the-scenes worker like Harry Edwards there would be no organised Table Tennis, nor the fun, prizes and honours that go with it.

In his description last month of the American Open championships, Bergmann omitted to mention that he and Erwin Klein, the Singles winner who beat him in the semi-finals, retained their Men's Doubles title. Strange indeed for a player to linger on a defeat he suffered and overlook a victory. Usually it's the other way round.

World Series Sidelights

English girls desperately unlucky not to win the Corbillon Cup. After beating the Japanese on merit, they had all the bad breaks going against the Rumanians. Good to report that the girl's didn't whine.

Bergmann's performances with the English team proved how nonsensical were those who protested that he had no right to represent us. He was far and away our best player and but for him, so all who were present flatly state, England would have been near the bottom of the table instead of near the top.

Victor Barna, Corbillon Cup non-playing skipper, won the toss seven times out of seven. He insists, however, that he has no special "how to do it" secrets for England's Test captain.

Konrad Freundorfer, Germany's young No. 1 player, disappointed with his showings. By contrast, Sweden's "Closed" champion young Bjerne Mellstrom, revealed that he has made marked progress and is a worthy successor to Tage Flisberg as his country's top man.

The Czechs seem to be in need of an entirely new team. Current stars are, so one observer put it, "too old and too heavy."

Talk by English officials of fielding a new team of youngsters in next year's Swaythling event, met with the terse and relevant question: "What youngsters?"

RICHARD BERGMANN

ON

THAT BALL INCIDENT

Since that ball-changing episode of mine in Tokio has been discussed at length and obviously misunderstood, perhaps an account of what really happened might clear the air. Also, as I have been accused of malingering, of attempting to put my opponent off his game, of being "temperamental," I think it only fair to followers as well as myself that the truth should be known.

Here goes, then. Tsui Cheung Ling, of Hong Kong, was my opponent, in the second round of the individual Singles. Ling used a bat one side of which was leather and the other side crepe, but even so I knew that the freakish tricks the ball played couldn't altogether be due to the racket, astonishing though that implement was. I tested the ball and, sure enough, discovered that it wasn't up to scratch.

With Ling's consent, I stopped play to find a truer ball. After all, this was a World match and I had no inclination at all to take unnecessary chances. I tested the balls on the umpire's table but found none of the standard I needed. At my request, other boxes of balls were produced for my inspection, and still I found none I considered to be perfect.

At this stage I might say that I have been playing top-class table tennis for 20 years and submit that I know the difference between a good ball and a not-so-good one.

In my opinion the balls on this occasion fell short of perfection, and that's the long and short of it.

Talk of "malingering" and all the rest of it is so much nonsense. Others may carry on regardless of the equipment they use, but I'm not like that and never have been, particularly in the sport's most important tournament.

Eventually, Ivor Montagu warned me that if I didn't get on with the game I'd be scratched. I told him that any player was entitled to a round ball. However, since I had no wish to be "scrubbed" I carried on with the best available pill—and even that was one which normally I would have preferred not to use.

I have heard it said that some have condemned my action as "un-British" and that I made a bad impression on the host Japanese. That, if I may say so, is far-fetched to the extreme.

The Japanese, as we all know, use every legitimate trick in the game in their quest for victory—and good luck to them. Certainly some of them spoke to me in an unfriendly way about my search for a quality ball.

Also, since when it is "un-British" to demand a good ball? Is it bad taste to try to get an unwobbly, perfectly sound ball in a World meeting?

It is my private view that had I lost against that little-known leather-and-crepe player, many of those now criticising me would have been the first to contend that I had let down British Table Tennis.

SUMMER PASTIME

by ELSIE CARRINGTON

★ *Elsie Carrington this month tells what some women players will be doing in the summer.*

MAY . . . As I write this, the evenings are drawing out, summer is on the way and the table tennis season, apart from a few closed tournaments, is at an end. No more frantic rushes from work to get to the tournaments on time; no more friendly week-end jaunts to the 'tournaments-by-the-sea.'

On the whole, most of the players with whom I have spoken are glad the season is at an end and are looking forward to a rest. Nobody, however, seems to want to put down there bats altogether. "Practice once a week" seems to be the favourite programme. All the girls, while still

"keeping their eye in" on the table, are looking forward to doing something different in the summer.

Diane Rowe of course, will have a very short rest indeed, as, from the end of May until September, she will be working at Butlins Holiday Camp as a Table Tennis Coach. This is also **Helen Elliot's** idea of relaxation after her heavy season!

Jill Rook will be working hard at her tennis and will be playing in tournaments about every other week-end, as well as County Matches. She has already played in one tournament and gave a very good account of herself, losing narrowly to American Darlene Hard, 7-5, 6-4.

For **Joy Faulkner** it will be a very hectic summer. She and husband Dennis are having a house built at Chatham in Kent, which they hope will be ready in June. She says she will be playing tennis as well as the weekly table tennis, but I have an idea that she will find herself with her

nose to the sewing machine, making curtains and covers for the new house!

When Joy moves to Chatham, she will be only 15 minutes ride from **Rosalind Cornett**. As a doctor's wife and with a baby coming in the autumn, Ros will not be having any summer practice this year.

Peggy Piper tells me she is going to "tootle," by which she means she is going to spend her week-ends cycling around the countryside as the fancy takes her. I understand she is going to try out the "sponge" this summer.

Yvonne Baker wasn't quite sure what she was going to do this summer, apart from playing a little tennis. Last year she tried horse riding and gliding.

HEAVY LANDINGS

I rather gather that the horse's will was stronger than Yvonne's, and that although the gliding was fun, having to pull the gliders out of ditches when they crash-landed was too much of a good thing.

Swimming is the summer choice for **Betty Isaacs**. She will be taking part in Galas, swimming for her firm. She is also an expert diver.

Betty tells me that swimming was her one and only love before she started chasing the little white ball.

I couldn't ask **Pam Mortimer** what

Sir
Kreemy
Knut



the word for Toffee



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she would be doing this summer, as at the time of writing she is on honeymoon in Italy. She was married on 18th April and is now Mrs. Lake. We wish her every happiness.

When I asked **Barbara Milbank** what she planned to do this summer, she said "Play a little tennis—and sleep!" She says she has so many late nights during the season due to tournaments and matches, that it takes her a month or two to catch up on her sleep!

Jean Head didn't know what she would be doing. She just wanted to relax and play table tennis about once a week.

Peggy Franks, of course, will have a busy summer, looking after her new baby, due in June. Incidentally, Peggy



JILL ROOK

is just recovering from an operation for appendicitis and I am glad to report she is making good progress.

I have news of **Doreen Spooner** who went to Canada for a couple of years. She is enjoying life there and at the moment is working as a Secretary/Receptionist at a Ski-ing Lodge in the middle of the big forests, about 160 miles north of Toronto.

She likes her job immensely and manages to do quite a bit of ski-ing herself. She has broken a leg—but then I am told one is not a true skier until one or both legs have been broken!

Doreen is still playing table tennis and has been practising with Max Marinko the ex-Czech player, who is now in Toronto. She played in the Canadian Nationals and, I understand, reached the semi-finals.

TIBBY WEGNER* plumbs for

THE "W" LINE

FIRST it was the "A" line.

After that the "H" and "Y" lines. Before the fashion dictators use up every other letter of the alphabet, let me stake my claim.

This is for the "W" (for waist) line the only line that is suitable for table tennis and similar strenuous athletic activities. Why?

Bizarre and extreme lines are all very well for the dictates of fashion. By all means, let them hustle waist lines up and down the female form like so many elevators. But when famous dress designers force their fashion fads into the field of sports, why, that's just crazy . . . and for a very simple reason.

The reason is that the muscles in the human frame are practically the same in every human being. We all have our muscles anchored in the shoulders, and from there they run down into the waist line, where they are anchored again. From this secure base they stretch to other points throughout the body.

Except at the anchor points, these muscles expand and contract. The more strenuous the action, the more work they do. For this they have to be free and unhampered.

In the top part of the body are situated the heart, lungs, kidneys and other vital organs. These have to be protected.

DON'T MOVE

Regardless of what designers think up, all those muscles and organs, together with the waist, stay just where they are.

Thus for table tennis and other active sports, strict adherence to fashion is plain idiotic. The only efficient and comfortable style is the "W" line.

For practical sports, clothing must be designed according to the basic anatomic rules of the human frame. The waist line is the pivot point of the body, from which it sways and bends backwards, sideways and forward.

Therefore, the sports garment, whether for man or woman, must fit securely but comfortably around the waist. From there it must hang freely, without any restrictions whatsoever.

The material is important and should be either cotton, wool or a mixture of both; and preferably knitted for stretching.

★ **The famous Viennese dress designer and chief of the Fred Perry Sportswear organisation.* ★

A knitted garment acts as a second skin, protecting the body and vital organs from wind or cold and, at the same time, absorbing perspiration. Woven material is out, because it does not stretch.

I am, therefore, against all extremes and all fashion trends for sport. Clothing for sport has practically nothing in common with that used for everyday wear.

It would be just as stupid for a nurse to assist at an operation hampered in movement by an "A" line costume. The doctors would think her crazy. Similarly, no miner would dream of hewing coal in an Edwardian suit.

FASHION USELESS

The same simple rule applies to men and women in sport. Their clothes must be designed for the job. And if the latest fashion trends cramp their muscular movements, then they become useless.

Basically, sports clothing should fit firmly and comfortably around the waist, should be loose below it and of skin hugging but elastic, knitted, natural fibres above it. The skilled scientific designer accepts these facts, and still produces clothes which are pleasing to the eye.

This brings us to the psychological factor of fashions in sportswear. And here the emphasis should be on moderation.

BE SENSIBLE

Players who take the court in peculiar, sometimes crazy, fashions, frequently run into psychological difficulties. They become self-conscious by the crowd's reactions.

For this reason sensible girls should choose simple but well-designed sports clothes that fit the human frame, and are scientifically designed to be in harmony with the anatomy of the body, and the play of the muscles.

Selecting the right clothes can often spell victory. And, after all, we all like to win if we can.

National Umpires

by BILL GOLDFINCH

AS this is the last occasion for some months that I shall have of writing on the subject of umpiring, I have taken the opportunity of writing on a topical, and in some quarters controversial, subject—the second and latest stage of the Umpires Scheme—*The National Umpires*.

The first examination for this qualification has now been held and eight of the candidates who sat for the Tests have been approved and registered as National Umpires—F. Bate-man (Essex), S. Dane (Middx.), S. R. Hoddy (Middx.), D. Ingrey (Herts.), R. Markwell (Essex), E. T. D. Offer (Middx.), G. A. Owen (Kent), A. W. Pickford (Essex).

Not everyone has been happy that a higher grade of Umpire was necessary, or if so, that the method of selection and testing them was the best. Indeed, since the first practical steps were taken by the National Umpires Committee to implement the Scheme, considerable criticism has been forthcoming. Fortunately, most of it is well intended and constructive, but here and there a little bit of bitterness has crept in.

NOT NEW

The idea of a grade of Umpire of higher proven standard and qualification than that laid down for the County Umpire is of course not new. The Committees of 1949 and 1950, who at the instigation of the National Executive Committee examined the whole field of umpiring technique and made the early reports and recommendations on which the present Umpire Scheme is based, recognised the necessity to allow for progression from County Umpire to one or more higher grades.

One of their conclusions is well worth repeating here:—

"We are of the opinion that no arrangements for training and appointing first-class umpires can operate satisfactorily unless provision is made for progression through lower grades to the top grade. Accordingly, we have interpreted our terms of reference as authorising us to make recommendations for the definition and ultimate provision of other grades of umpires as well as first class.

The first five years of the Scheme

were mainly devoted to the building up a large corps of County Umpires. The organisation and results of that part of the Scheme, carried out with the support and keenness of the County Associations, appear to have been reasonably satisfactory—not that the total of 500 County Umpires is sufficient—5,000 would be nearer the mark. The present number however was considered sufficient to allow the second part of the Scheme to be implemented.

EXPERIMENTAL

At the commencement of the current season the National Umpires Committee, with the approval of the National Executive Committee, drew up plans for the first National Umpires Examination. It was realised that much of the examination would be in the nature of experiment and might therefore have to be drastically revised for future occasions so it was decided to hold only one examination this season in London.

County Associations were requested to nominate candidates who had at least three years experience as County Umpires and had officiated at events of National character such as internationals, English or world championships, and Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl matches.

Thirty names were received from 12 different counties and from these 19 were selected to take the examination at Southall, Middlesex, on February 19th (10.0 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.).

THREE STAGES

Eight members of the N.U. Committee acted as examiners and were divided into three panels for the different parts of the examination:

(a) *A written test of 21 questions, all of which had to be answered in 90 minutes.*

(b) *A Practical Test at which each candidate had to umpire all or part of a singles and doubles game, and*

(c) *An interview/oral test at which candidates were questioned on subjects not covered by other parts of the examination and given an opportunity to implement or correct previous answers and decisions.*

At the planning stage there were those who asked with sincere conviction "What possible value can there be in making a candidate undergo a test before examiners but without a public audience when he has had

similar test or to qualify as a County Umpire?"

On the other side it was claimed, it would be entirely wrong to conduct a National examination purely on theory without the Examiners being satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt that the practical application of knowledge was of the high standard required for such a qualification.

The main criticism arising after the examination was that the Practical Test was conducted under conditions which could not normally arise at public events and that far too many deliberate mistakes were introduced by the players on the instructions of the examiners.

This is fair, and to a large extent justifiable criticism and the N.U. Committee have already discussed the matter and placed on record recommendations for future examinations. At the same time not one of the candidates failed the whole examination by failing the Practical Test alone. In other words, if every candidate had achieved a "pass" grade in the practical Test the overall results of the examination would have been the same.

PRACTICAL EXAMINER

Incidentally, one of the players in the Practical Test is a member of the N.U. Committee and was a member of the panel of examiners conducting this part of the examination.

Well, there it is, the first National Umpires Examination has been held. Eight candidates are now approved and registered National Umpires—a further two passed the examination and will in due course, following further experience on their part, be recommended for approval as National Umpires. Eight candidates did not pass but the standard displayed by all was high and in no case less than that first class standard expected from County Umpires.

Failure on the examination was no discredit and the N.U. Committee are confident that most, if not all, of those who were unsuccessful on this occasion will before very long be knocking on the door again.

At least two such examinations will be held next season—one in the North of England—and as a result of the trial and error of this season's effort, and of the constructive criticism received, many of the ragged edges should be removed and the full value of the second stage of the Umpires Scheme begin to be felt.

A final note for County Umpires—the new stock of Blazer Badges is now to hand—same design but slightly smaller in size—and these can be obtained from me by application through your County Umpire Secretary. The price remains at 10/6.

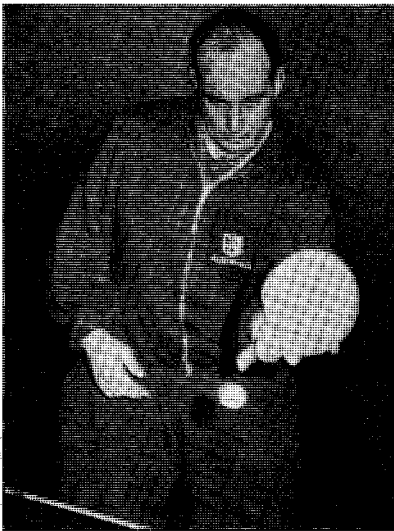
THE CHEEKIE CHAPPIE

"I SHALL win the World table tennis singles title in Stockholm in 1957."

Made by some sportsmen, this prediction would rouse us to swift anger for its blatant egotism and cheek, but from the lips of that bright and breezy character Lew Laza, the likeable, left-handed Aussie with the infectious grin, it is nothing more than the good-humoured conviction of a player abounding in energy and optimism, who knows his words will not be taken too seriously.

And yet when we consider how Laza has so improved over the past two seasons that in the recent English Open singles he managed to topple French ace Michel Haguenuaer and then world No. 6 Josef Koczian of Hungary, it can be seen that it is not beyond him to substantiate this nonchalant prophesy.

Until he was 12 years old, Lew had never seen or heard of the game of table tennis. Then looking round for mischief one day with a friend



LEW LAZA

in the Police Boys' Club in Sydney, he watched two men carry in a couple of trestles, place a flat, green board marked with white lines on them and then proceed to fix posts, holding a green net, to each side of the table.

One of the men left two small, rubber-faced bats and a white celluloid ball on the table and then both walked out of the club.

Now Laza is affectionately nicknamed "the crab"—not because he walks badly, but because of a freakish grip. Let Lew explain how he acquired it.

"As soon as those two chaps left after rigging up the table, I picked up a bat and began having a bash with my friend. Being only 12, and a bit gormless, I held the bat by the top edge of the hitting surface and completely ignored the handle—and from that day I have kept the same peculiar grip—despite the many bruised knuckles I have suffered from cracking them against the table's edge."

Undefeated Champion

It took Lew but two years to become the proud holder of the New South Wales singles title. Then followed a string of successes, including being the undefeated doubles champion of Australia in 1951, 52 and 53 and runner-up in 1953 in singles to Phil Anderson.

In 1954, Laza came to England as captain of the first official Australian Swaythling Cup team. His colleagues were Geoff Jennings and Bill Hodge and although the team did not set the Wembley world championships alight, it was the beginning of real big things for the Aussie captain.

For soon after, the great Yugoslavian Zarko Dolinar persuaded Laza to change to a sponge bat of Dolinar's design and with it in his first open tournament over here—the North-East England at Scarborough—Lew slammed his way through to the singles quarter-finals.

His first singles title came in the North-West Kent at Barnehurst last season, since when his fierce, unorthodox hitting has brought victory in several of our contests. And then, of course, followed his great triumphs in the recent English Open in Manchester.

Laza now uses a special thin, hard sponge covering which, he claims, gives him the speediest bat in England.

Apart from his prowess at table tennis, Lew is a professional cricketer and an orthodox left-handed one, at that. For the past two seasons he has played regularly for the Lancashire Northern League club of Furness. Not only is he a swift and polished batsman—in 1954 he hit a total of 119 in 73 minutes—but also a useful slow spin bowler.

Lew is at present living in London and each Saturday coaches at Alf Gover's cricket school. He plans to go north again this summer for some more cricket.

Recently, Laza has been pairing in doubles with 25-year-old Norma Buckland. In contrast with the effer-



NORMA BUCKLAND

vescent Laza, Norma is a quiet and unassuming girl who hails from the Australian State of Victoria. But like him, she is a good player and is the current singles champion of her country. Although she arrived in England only the day before the English Open championships began, Norma helped Laza beat former world champions Kalman Szepesi and Eva Koczian (Hungary) in the mixed doubles event, to bring off the shock of the tournament.

Miss Buckland, who is a comptometer operator, hopes to stay here for 18 months or so, to improve her game.

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An Innocent Looks at Table Tennis

by MARTIN LEE

"Sunday Graphic" Sports Columnist

WHEN the Editor invited me to write this article, he gave me permission to discuss table tennis as I saw it.

To be honest, I don't see it very often. But in the last few years I've seen enough to form one or two very definite conclusions. And by the time I've finished, I doubt if the Editor will ever ask me to be a contributor again.

First and foremost, I admire the people who run the sport for having the honesty and realism to classify the players in a Twentieth-century fashion. For them, there is no expression of mock horror or indignation over the question of amateurs or professionals.

To the officials, players are either Registered Members or not. And a Registered Member is sensibly allowed to cash in on his or her talents, as long as it does not offend the code of conduct which frowns on such things as allowing their names to appear on articles they have not written or equipment they have not designed.

Right. That means there are no 'Ghosts' in table tennis. But from what I've seen, there are quite a few ogres. The laws of libel being what they are in this country, they will of necessity remain anonymous, but to an innocent looking in from the outside, I marvel at their continued existence

In what other sport would star players be allowed to dictate to officialdom about where and when they play? In what other sport would doubtless well-meaning parents be allowed to play ducks and drakes with representative teams with the welfare of their offspring coming before all else?

And in what other sport would there be a complete lack of agreement about standardisation of equipment?

This last point is a sore one with yours truly. In the last few years, the question of 'to sponge, or not to sponge' has become the all-powerful gimmick.

A Gimmick

Yes, I regard sponge bats as little more than a gimmick. The increase in the number of them being used—and manufactured by star players who presumably HAVE designed them themselves—is a natural result of successes said to have been gained by a player using a sponge-covered bat.

But in fact, I classify this outlook as purely psychological. To me, it's the same as giving a rather worried patient a box of pills in a doctor's surgery. If the patient is told the pills will make him better, he believes it, and the fact they are completely harmless and useless escapes him. So with sponge rubber.

But the strange thing is the lack of uniformity about size and shape of bats. In the rules, there is nothing to prevent a player using a frying pan, as long as he doesn't blind his opponent with a reflecting metal handle. And while we don't actually see frying-pans used in The

Open at Belle Vue, it only needs a player who wants a bit of publicity to produce one to make a complete mockery of the game.

The recent discussions during the World Championships in Tokio did not get any nearer either a ruling on sponge or size of bats. The only concrete findings seemed to be a sensible move to cut down future world championships by half—and a bitter realisation that we are not, after all, top-dogs at the sport.

Amateurish

As I see it, the sport is rather TOO amateurish in this country. By that, I mean shoddy presentation of events with little ideas of showmanship.

In the past few years, apart from the World Championships at Wembley, when the organisers did a really first-class job, the only major event that has not appeared—to me—to have been thrown together at the last minute was the recent English Open in Manchester.

Matches went on to schedule, there was a distinct slickness about the whole business and the spectators were kept informed of what was going on. **And until more tournament officials forget they are unpaid slaves and begin to adopt a professional approach to their jobs, I'm afraid table tennis will continue to be regarded as something that's great fun only when you're playing.**

And believe me, that attitude can kill off the sport as a paying spectacle quicker than I can say Ichiro Ogimura.

This is the last

issue of "Table Tennis" this season

Please do not wait

until the beginning of next season
before sending in your subscrip-
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Make sure

that you receive your October issue
on time

TACTICS

FROM the point of view of winning matches, the importance of studying, and subsequently using, the correct tactics cannot be over-emphasised. It is true that the "naturally good" player will no doubt win the majority of his games merely by his innate ability and 'ball sense,' but against players of equal skill he will not go far unless he uses his head as well as his racket.

Meeting opponents with widely different styles of play requires varying tactics to bring success.

How many times do we see the young player, with unquestionable ability, easily beaten by an opponent with far less natural skill, but much more experience?

The man who always 'plays his own game' without taking into account the tactics of his opponents will have limited success. The successful player learns by his mistakes, and having learnt, adopts his own game accordingly.

Every young player should welcome the appearance of a 'bogey man.' It should be a challenge to his own skill and ingenuity. Too often we hear the excuse that a particular type of opponent is "not worth playing."

How frequently, if the truth were told, does it merely mean that an awkward player has shown up the limitations of the lamentor's own game? It is true that even amongst top class players, "A" will often find "B" harder to beat than "C" although "C" is a better all-round player than "B."

BEAT THE BOGEY

We all have our 'bogey men' but the serious aspirant must not avoid such an opponent, but study the problem and tackle it again and again until he has solved it, even when to do so, means that he has to abandon his own natural game altogether.

It is amazing that once having beaten his man and discovered the right tactics, how often it is found that what has previously seemed an insuperable obstacle, thereafter ceases to become more than a gentle hurdle.

The study of tactics, therefore, is really worth while and even a player of the highest natural ability will sooner or later have to apply himself to this department of the game if he is to progress far on the road to success.

For the first few points of any game, therefore, I would suggest that the best policy is to try to discover the weaknesses of one's opponent. Try to visualise how that opponent wants to play, and by adapting your own

game, try to force him to do the opposite.

Ask yourself whether he is stronger on the backhand or the forehand. Does he like to "chop," is he slow footed or is he the sort of player to 'beat himself'?

The kind of 'gallery player,' who produces spectacular shots but misses one out of three, should be left to 'show-off' to his heart's content. By the simple laws of arithmetic YOU will win the game.

Far more often, however, you will meet the player who will beat you IF YOU LET HIM PLAY HIS USUAL GAME. The chief objective then is to stop him doing so and to break up that game at all costs. Vary your own returns in length and speed. Don't let him settle down. He will not 'beat himself,' but by adapting your own game you can beat him.

DON'T WORRY

At a very conservative estimate a minimum of 10% of all the players you meet will be unorthodox in their play. These no doubt will be chiefly sponge bat players, who, at first meeting, are probably more capable of producing a hopeless inferiority complex in orthodox opponents than any other. The variety and venom of the spins such an artist can produce can often be so demoralising as to make usually efficient players look, and feel, quite futile.

The first step in overcoming this helpless feeling is, I think, to remember that the rules of the game WERE MADE WITH PURPOSE AND HAVE GREAT EXPERIENCE BEHIND THEM. Don't be unduly worried. Try to work out what the disadvantages are.

When met for the first time these unorthodox players invariably have the initiative because they break up your own game and the average player is more likely to beat himself.

Try varying your own returns from 'topspin' to 'chop' and remember that whatever the disadvantage in spin, which your opponent derives from the surface of his racket, for him the ball is also more difficult to control than with an ordinary bat. HELP HIM TO MAKE MISTAKES.

Don't be half-hearted and scared because the first few of your returns go off the table at the most surprising angles.

Don't panic. Use your own ingenuity to find the type of play disliked by your opponent. Once you have beaten the 'awkward player' you will be surprised to find how easy it is to repeat the dose.

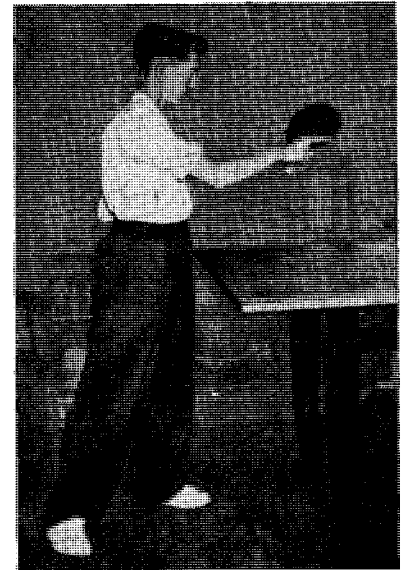
HANDICAP OVERCOME

BY MALCOLM HARTLEY

RODNEY TURNER is a lad of courage. He may not be a table tennis champion—but he captured the admiration of everyone at the new Bradford Schools' championships. He was defeated in the first round of the under 14 event—but he put up a spirited fight. Why all the applause, then?

Rodney has two artificial legs.

He was unable to use his legs from birth and after several unsuccessful



By Courtesy of "The Yorkshire Observer"

RODNEY TURNER

operations both limbs were amputated when he was four. So he had to have a wheelchair.

Some years ago he was fitted with artificial legs and, encouraged by his parents, tried all kinds of sports to get as much fun out of life as other boys.

It was television that introduced table tennis to Rodney. He practised at school and at home and read books about the game from the school library. Then he decided to enter the schools' tournament.

Afterwards he told me: "I won't let this defeat disappoint me. I'm going to enter all the contests I can—and win them."

Rodney is a 13-year-old commercial art student at Bradford College of Art and lives at Buttershaw, Bradford.

Area News:

KENT NOTES

FOR the first time in their history, Kent have won promotion to the premier division of the County Championship. The withdrawal of Devon from the challenge play-off, has let Kent and Cheshire go up without a fight.

There is plenty of talent amongst the up-and-coming young players, and to encourage them and give them experience, Kent will be running an extra team, in a regional division, next season. Just how close the youngsters are on the heels of our county players was shown in the recent Woolwich Closed Championships. Eight ranking players including the top three were in the men's singles, yet all failed before the semi-finals.

Roger Coverley (Barnehurst) accounted for Kent No. 1 Ron Etheridge (Bromley), Henry Buist (Welling) K.O.'d No. 2 Ray Syndercombe (Woolwich), while No. 3 Dennis Whittaker (Woolwich) went out to Brian Hellberg (Barnehurst), who in turn lost to Gordon McCullagh. Bobby Thorn (Bromley), the other man to play for Kent this year, went out to Ken Jarvis (Woolwich). Ken, 18 years old, ranked No. 3 in Woolwich, was called up the week before the final, but got special leave, and took the title after an exciting struggle with McCullagh by 3-2.

Joyce Fielder, incidentally, won 3 events in this tournament, while Etheridge/Thorn took the doubles, after the Kent champion pair, George Elliott/Jarvis, had to scratch.

Ron Etheridge and Joyce Fielder head the Kent League averages, with Joyce the only player in either section to have a 100% record.

N.W. Kent have ended Maidstone's five years reign as champions of the Kent League ladies division. They beat Maidstone 7-3.

Woolwich, who had seemed right out of the running after dropping three points early on, came with a late run to pip Bromley on the post, and retain the First Division title.

And so, as another season comes to an end, I should like to thank all those who have helped me by supplying information to keep this column going throughout the season.

KENT LEAGUE FINAL TABLES, SEASON 1955-6 MEN: DIVISION 1

	P.	W.	D.	F.	P.
Woolwich	8	6	1	54	13
Bromley "A"	8	5	2	52	12
Medway "A"	8	4	2	48	10
Folkestone "A"	8	5	0	46	10
Beckenham	8	4	1	47	9
North-West Kent "R"	8	3	2	41	8
North-West Kent "A"	8	3	2	38	8
Gravesend "A"	8	0	1	20	1
Tunbridge Wells "A"	8	0	1	14	1

Men: DIVISION 2 — NORTH

Bromley "B"	6	6	0	51	12
Medway "B"	6	5	0	42	10
Tunbridge Wells "B"	6	3	0	31	6
Maidstone	6	3	0	27	6
Gravesend "B"	6	1	2	23	4
Tonbridge	6	1	1	15	3
Tunbridge Wells "C"	6	0	1	18	1

MEN: DIVISION 2 — SOUTH

Thanet	7	6	1	48	13
Sittingbourne "A"	7	6	0	48	12
Folkestone "B"	7	4	1	44	9

Canterbury "B"	7	2	3	39	7
Sittingbourne "B"	7	2	2	36	6
Deal "A"	7	2	1	27	5
Canterbury "C"	7	0	3	25	3
Deal "B"	7	0	1	13	1

LADIES

North-West Kent	9	8	0	63	16
Maidstone	9	7	1	63	15
Woolwich	9	7	1	59	15
Gravesend	9	7	0	51	14
Tonbridge	9	4	1	44	9
Folkestone	9	4	0	49	8
Medway	9	3	1	43	7
Tunbridge Wells	9	2	0	37	4
Bromley	9	1	0	32	2
Canterbury	9	0	0	9	0

JUNIORS

Folkestone	4	4	0	36	8
North-West Kent	4	3	0	23	6
Woolwich	4	1	1	18	3
Sittingbourne	4	1	1	15	3
Bromley	4	0	0	8	0

For the first time, the Kent Junior Closed Championships were run on similar principles to the Junior Open, with 13 events for age groups of 17, 15 and 13 years. This event showed just how much the junior strength has shifted south, with 10 of the events going to players from Folkestone and Sittingbourne. The entry of 300 was fully representative of all parts of Kent.

The Kent Junior Open has become too big to run on one day, so the Herne Bay Pier Pavilion has been booked for a whole weekend next season. Geoff Owen and Bill Lewis have joined the organising committee, and although there will again be 14 events, plans are being made for an early finish. It is hoped four foreign teams, Belgium, France, Germany and Holland, will take part.

Conrad Jaschke.

SCOTLAND SPEAKING

WEST of Scotland league championships are all decided now, and the winners in the three major divisions were Div. 1: Glasgow Central Y.M.C.; Div. 2: Knightswood Community

Centre A.; Div. 3: Shettleston F.C. "A"; and among the ladies, Div. 1: Western Y.W.C.A.; Div. 2: Ferguslie. Cup competitions finished as follows: Maxwell-Wilson Cup: Central Y.M. beat Hamilton 5-4; House of Harris. Cup: Hamilton beat Maccabi Institute 6-3; Peter Coia Cup: Western Y.W. beat Camphill 8-1.

Glasgow's Central Y.M.C.A. are first division champions for the sixth year in succession, but this season the championship was very closely contested, and Central had to fight to the last game to retain their title, against strong opposition from old rivals, the Hamilton Cross Club.

One of Scotland's home internationals is to be played next season at Dunoon. The Scottish Association will no doubt be running a summer school in boating so that fans desirous of attending will be sufficiently knowledgeable to transport themselves across the water to see the match. The policy of encouraging local leagues by bringing the occasional International to their doorstep is a good one, but the wisdom of carrying the match and the principle to these lengths is doubtful.

The Hamilton Cross Club is no newcomer to Table Tennis eminence in Scotland, being the only club so far to have at one juncture provided the entire Scottish International team (Peter Coia, Harry Baxter, and Dr. Robert Burns). The club was originally founded in 1936 as a billiards saloon by Peter Coia, a local café proprietor, purely as a business venture, and latterly extended to table tennis, football and boxing. Coia himself became one of the best known men in Scottish Table Tennis, both as a player and as an administrator and his tragic death, in an air crash in 1946, was a great loss to the game in Scotland. The club is now purely a private social club, non-profit making and run by a voluntary committee.

Gordon Walker.

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CHAMPIONSHIPS

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GLoucestershire Snippets

THE County League draws to a close, and Cheltenham have again won the title by beating Dursley by 8-2 in both the home and away games, and their near rivals Gloucester 6-4, and finally inflicting a 10-nil defeat of Bristol. It was interesting as at the request of Bristol, Cheltenham fielded a full Junior side of Harrison, Taring and Griffiths, in order that Bristol could fully assess their own Juniors.

TABLE

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cheltenham	6	6	0	0	50	10	12
Bristol	6	3	3	0	23	37	6
Dursley	5	1	3	1	19	31	3
Gloucester	5	0	4	1	18	32	1

Turning to the local news, the Bristol team of the year has undoubtedly been Alfred Sports, for the sixth successive season they won the Division 1, the Gilbert Belsten Memorial Cup by beating Weston Y.M. in the final 8-1, and only lost to the Exiles Club in the Coronation Cup final by 5-4. The strength of the Exiles was in their two county players Terry Pomroy and Joan Collier.

GLoucester League "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: B. Merrett bt R. Morley 21-11, 21-16, 16-21, 21-9.

Women's Singles: S. Davis bt L. Thorne 21-17, 21-18.

Junior Singles: E. Stephens bt D. Gladwin 18-21, 23-21, 29-27.

Veteran Singles: H. Gladwin bt J. Yandell 21-17, 18-21, 22-20.

Division 1 Singles: D. Selway bt A. Preece 21-19, 19-21, 27-25.

Division 2 Singles: J. Walke bt L. David 22-20, 21-19.

Division 3 Singles: D. Gladwin bt L. Davis 21-18, 21-9.

Division 4 Singles: T. Peters bt M. Richards 21-10, 21-18.

Men's Doubles: N. Parker and D. Woodcock bt B. Merrett and R. Morley 11-21, 21-19, 27-25.

Women's Doubles: S. and P. Davis bt S. Hotehkins and D. Long 25-23, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles: B. Merrett and S. Hotehkins bt D. Woodcock and P. Davis 21-19, 21-12.

Minor Doubles: J. Walke and S. Wells bt J. Emery and S. Wells 21-8, 21-15.

Cheltenham have again had a most successful year, in other columns of the magazine one reads of their triumph over Birmingham in the play off for the Western League Championship, and the Midland League also looks like coming their way.

The Divisional Championships have been won by Nomads in the 1st Division, Victory "C" in Division 2, St. Paul's College "B" in the third, Cavendish Club in the fourth and St. Paul's College "D" in the fifth.

The annual Dinner and Presentation of awards was again very well attended. So these notes close for 1955/56, but administration goes on, applications already being sought for the 1956/57 season, by all the various leagues in the county, and one hopes that old friends in the Stroud and Cirencester league will again be affiliated. This will make the county league, primarily run for Junior teams that much stronger.

Ivor Eyles.

IRISH SCENE

FOR the second season in succession the Irish Open Men's Singles title has gone to England. Last year in Belfast Brian Kennedy was the winner and in the O'Connell Hall, Dublin last month Derek Burridge captured the trophy.

In a thrilling final he defeated Ireland's leading player Seam Clarkin in straight sets. It was the best final I have seen since Johnny Leach and Clarkin contested the Lemater Open decider in the National Stadium several seasons ago.

The standard of play was high, and it was Burridge's brilliant defence and quick hitting that won the day. Clarkin strangely erratic and seemingly nervous found it extremely difficult to adjust his game to the Englishmen's speed.

Clarkin did not seem to be hitting the ball as hard as he might, and relied on acutely angled shots to win his points.

The women's final was a one-sided affair, Joy Owens carrying far too much power for Joy Anderson. Mrs. Pappin and Mrs. N. C. Mahony are a very capable doubles combination, but, after a close match were beaten by internationals Joy Owens and Margaret Lyons.

The men's doubles was also one-sided. Clarkin and Behan easily defeating Pappin and Kerr, who had previously caused an upset by eliminating Burridge and Stoddart, in an exciting tussle.

The mixed completed a double for Burridge and Miss Lyons when they defeated Clarkin and Miss D. Fearon. The latter pair had a substantial lead in the first set but subsequently went under 20-22, 11-21.

Once again the Anglican "A" team has swept the boards in Div. I of the Leinster League. They have won the league proper and must meet Leinster-Stratford in the Cup final. Unless something miraculous happens they are certain to retain the trophy.

In the I "B" division Glasnevin and Balbriggan are the two outstanding teams. They met in the final, Balbriggan winning after an exciting tussle. Glasnevin led 6-3 in the singles but Balbriggan recovered well to win the three doubles to level the scores, then won the deciding doubles. Glasnevin will have a chance to avenge themselves when the teams meet in the league final.

Sean Dignam.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

WE have now completed our Season and the championships have been decided. In Division One both Cheltenham and Birmingham were level on points after a splendid year. Neither team had lost and when they played each other earlier in the season, the result was 5-5 after a thrilling match.

The replay took place at Bengeworth Church House, Evesham, and I tender my grateful thanks to all who organised the match. After a first class encounter Cheltenham won by 6-3.

For the winners young Ian Harrison played brilliantly to beat Maurice Kriss in the third game 21-12 and easily accounted for K. Burton, 2-0.

Bristol heavily trounced "wooden spoonists" West Wilts. West Wilts' only victory was that of Pearce, who beat B. Bucknell 21-19, 18-21, 21-18.

Newport, worthy champions of the Second Division were held to a draw in their last match by lowly Taunton at Newport 5-5. Taunton fully earned their point. For the visitors D. Hebden played brilliantly and won both his matches against T. Jones and B. Evans.

During the season Bryan Merrett Gloucester won his ten matches and Miss Pam Mortimer of Birmingham won all her five matches. Miss Greta Holden of Cardiff won all her four matches and Mrs. Vera Rowe of Newport won all her six matches. Miss Shirley Davis the young Cheltenham player only lost one of her six matches.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cheltenham	7	6	0	1	52	17	13*
Birmingham	7	5	1	1	42	25	11*
Gloucester	6	3	3	0	29	31	6
Bath	6	3	3	0	26	34	6
Cardiff	6	2	4	0	28	30	4
Bristol	6	2	4	0	27	31	4
West Wilts	6	0	6	0	13	47	0

* Includes play-off match.

DIVISION 2

Newport	6	4	1	1	39	21	9
Bristol	6	3	2	1	32	28	7
Weston	6	3	3	0	28	32	6
Taunton	6	0	4	2	21	39	2

Grove Motlow.



MANCHESTER'S WILMOTT CUP-WINNING TEAM—(L to R) ARNOLD SHEPHERD, RON ALLOCK, LES JONES, (n.p.c.) GEOFF. PULLER

YORKSHIRE NOTES

IN winning the Yorkshire inter-league men's first division championship without loss of a point Huddersfield won the title and the "Yorkshire Evening Post" Cup five seasons in a row.

At the bottom of the table the place of Hull relegated will be taken by Castleford-Pontefract.

A keen struggle for the 3rd Division championship in which three Leagues have each ten points has resolved itself into Rotherham coming up on a slender games average—two ahead of Harrogate II. Scarborough, without a point in the second division will next term hope for a change of fortune in Division 3.

Leeds have once again won the Women's first division and with it the "Frank Green" Shield.

Compensation for the relegation of the Hull Men's team in the first division may be sought in the success of their Youths' East Region team and the promise of their schoolgirls who now form the mainstay of the Women's team.

Sheffield are champions of the Youths' West region with Dewsbury their strongest rivals only a point behind.

Men's Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Huddersfield	7	7	0	0	52	18	14
Sheffield	7	5	1	1	50	20	11
Bradford	7	3	1	3	38	32	9
Leeds	7	4	2	1	35	35	9
Huddersfield II	7	3	3	1	37	33	7
Barnsley	7	1	5	1	31	39	3
Halifax	7	1	6	0	15	55	2
Hull	7	0	6	1	20	50	1

Men's Division 2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Castleford/Pontefract	7	6	0	1	53	17	13
Harrogate	7	5	0	2	49	21	12
York	7	4	2	1	41	29	9
Leeds II	7	3	2	2	35	35	8
Dewsbury	7	2	4	1	25	45	5
Keighley	7	2	5	0	22	48	4
Barnsley II	7	1	5	1	24	46	3
Scarborough	7	0	7	0	22	48	0

Men's Division 3

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Rotherham	7	5	2	0	46	24	10
Harrogate II	7	4	1	2	44	26	10
Castleford/Pontefract	7	3	0	4	41	29	10
Wharfedale	7	4	3	0	36	34	8
Brighouse	7	3	3	1	35	35	7
Halifax II	7	3	3	1	34	36	7
Knaresborough	7	1	5	1	29	41	3
Wakefield	7	0	6	1	15	55	1

Women's Division 1

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Leeds	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Bradford	7	6	1	0	48	22	12
Huddersfield	7	3	2	2	35	35	8
Hull	7	3	3	1	33	37	7
Knaresborough	7	2	3	2	35	35	6
Barnsley	7	2	4	1	30	40	5
Sheffield	7	2	5	0	37	33	4
York	7	0	7	0	3	67	0

Women's Division 2

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Dewsbury	6	3	0	3	34	26	9
Huddersfield II	6	2	2	2	33	27	6
Wakefield	6	2	2	2	32	28	6
Halifax	6	1	4	1	21	39	3

HARRY VENNER

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The first Schools Individual Championships to be held in Yorkshire and organised by the Bradford Association were played under ideal conditions at the Drummond Road School, Bradford, on April 7th. Entries for the four events were received from no fewer than 32 schools in Bradford and District, with the ages of competitors ranging from 11 to 17.

RESULTS

Boys under 17.—M. S. Throup (Bradford Grammar) bt D. Robinson (Hanson Grammar) 23—21, 21—17.

Girls under 17.—Miss G. A. Walker (Grange Grammar) bt Miss A. Fryer (Belle Vue Grammar) 21—15, 11—21, 24—22.

Boys under 14.—D. A. Brown (Bradford Grammar) bt E. C. Sones (Epworth Prep.) 21—15, 16—21, 21—12.

Girls under 14.—Miss S. Haggas (Belle Vue Grammar) bt Miss A. E. Cawthra (Bolling High School) 21—14, 21—13.

Leslie Forrest

ESSEX NOTES

THE County Executive Committee have endorsed a scheme submitted by the Coaching Sub-committee which it is hoped will bring more junior talent to light.

First two rallies are to be held, open to all promising juniors, one in the Metropolitan Area, and the other in North Essex. This will be under the charge of Jack Carrington and will be followed by intensified weekly coaching on Fridays at Plaistow Y.M.C.A. for a selected number of not more than 16.

The Chelmsford and Romford Leagues both have their own schemes working well. Fred Hayman looks after Chelmsford "cubs", while David Pigeon does a similar job at Romford.

Elsie Carrington has been awarded her county badge (Class I). Jean Latty and Fred Kershaw have been awarded Class II badges.

Essex "Closed" Championships.—Men's singles: B. Brumwell bt T. Bailey 22—20, 14—21, 21—16. Women's singles: Miss Y. Baker bt Miss J. Page 21—11, 21—13.

Men's doubles: Brumwell and R. Dorking bt R. Stevens and R. Raybould 21—14, 21—15. Women's doubles: Mrs. E. Carrington and Miss B. Milbank bt Miss Baker and Miss Page 22—20, 21—16. Mixed doubles: L. Sawyer and Miss I. Eush bt Stevens and Miss Baker 21—18, 20—22, 21—19.

Boys' singles: R. Bradford bt R. Katternhorn 21—19, 21—9. Girls' singles: Miss S. Pickard bt Miss S. Hession 21—10, 21—18. Veteran singles: R. Markwell bt C. Wheeler 21—11, 21—15.

It was all change in the Harlow Divisions of the West Essex League individual championships at Harlow on April 17, with a new crop of champions.

Men's singles: G. Atkins bt L. Whitby 21—15, 21—13, 22—20. Women's singles: Mrs. P. Porter bt Miss P. Mobbs 20—22, 21—16, 21—9. Veteran singles: Atkins bt F. Lambert 21—18, 21—18.

Men's doubles: Atkins and G. Hedge bt Lambert and A. Young 21—17, 19—21, 21—19. Women's doubles: Miss Mobbs and Mrs. B. Yates bt Mrs. Porter and Miss B. Gaunt 21—18, 18—21, 21—16. Mixed doubles: J. Edwards and Miss M. Sheppard bt Lambert and Mrs. Yates 21—17, 19—21, 21—19.

Jack Carrington presented the trophies at the Billerica League final, where Charlie Wheeler retained the men's singles, and Jean Latty, a newcomer to the league, won the women's singles.

Peter Oglvie won the Braintree title for the fourth successive year.

Frank Bateman

CAMBRIDGSHIRE NOTES

INSTEAD of finishing on top of the Eastern Division of the County Championship, Cambs. had to be content with second place to Suffolk, who beat them in a crucial match at Impington Village College.

For their last match of the season Cambs. sent an almost complete reserve side against Norfolk and were well beaten 10—0.

I think this is Norfolk's first victory for six years and certainly their first over Cambs. May they have more victories. Eric Fairhead, their competent secretary, deserves this success for all the hard work he has done for this county.

Coaching has been in full swing during the season and there are many promising juniors from the villages, including two 11-year-olds, Alastair Hazell and Tony Sharpe, and 13-year-old John Ashman, from Wilburton.

Here's to a successful 1956/7 season!

Leslie Constable

WEST BROMWICH NOTES

NEVER before have spectators at the West Bromwich table tennis championships witnessed such a surprise as the result of the men's doubles final where George Mason, who at 15 is one year older than his partner Clive Swallow, beat the much fancied 'Steel Parts' pairing of Cyril Page and Reg Bowen.

These two Y.M.C.A. youngsters entered table tennis seriously for the first time this year and have had much early success with their sponge rubber bats. Both were members of the Y.M.C.A. 'H' team that won the Division Seven championship while Swallow is the holder of the individual title.

The applause of the good-sized crowd went wholeheartedly to Reg Bowen for his wonderful but unsuccessful effort in the men's singles final against the holder, Derek Backhouse.

The battle between Dorothy Worrall and Marjorie Cumberbatch brought back the championship to Dorothy for the second time by 21—19, 21—16. This was Marjorie's seventh appearance in the final.

A. A. Wall.

The East of England "Open" will again start off the new season at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Skegness, on September 15 and 16. There will be the usual senior events, plus boys' and girls' singles.

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CHAMPIONS AT LAST ATTEMPT

by Peter Laker

THEY were great, really great.

Their skill and snap in victory, their courage and simplicity in defeat charmed us all on that memorable April 21 at Liverpool.

Sixty-four of 'em, fighting survivors of 11,424, buckled down to the final battles of the 1955-56 Daily Mirror National Tournament as though their very lives depended on it. There could be only four champions, more's the pity. But not one of the sixty losers would begrudge them their success . . . because the way of the champion had come hard.

So let's give two heroes and two heroines a really big hand. Jolly well done **Marcel Barouh** (men's), **Winifred Swift** (women's), **Jimmy Carswell** (boys'), and **Jean Harrower** (girls'). You did British table tennis proud.

Curiously, three of those four "Mirror" champions were winning at their **VERY LAST ATTEMPT**.

Marcel Barouh, 22, of Manchester, who holds dual citizenship (French and British) won his title in the nick of time. He returns to his home in Nice later this month to join the French Army . . .

Winifred Swift, 27-year-old Wigan schoolteacher, would have been no

longer eligible to compete in the tournament as she was awarded her first Lancashire county cap this season . . .

Jimmy Carswell, 17, of Hamilton, has completed his last season in the junior ranks.

That leaves Jean Harrower, of New Barnet, Herts, at thirteen, quite the finest prospect the "Mirror" tournament has produced since Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe. In fact, on a progress-for-age basis, Jean is **POTENTIALLY** the finest prospect the game has ever known.

We must face the fact that this amazing youngster who has not yet been introduced by father Geoff to the backhand flick—that comes this summer—won her title with something approaching ridiculous ease.

Admittedly, she dropped the second set 18-21 to Barbara Peisley, 16, of Didcot, in the girls' final. But she took the remaining three, 21-15, 21-15, 21-9, with a cool assurance that was simply astonishing in one so young.

Marcel Barouh, sleek exponent of every single shot in the book, disposed of London's strongly fancied junior international, 17-year-old Terry Densham, even more convincingly. To express it literally, young Densham hardly got a "look-in." He fought

like a tiger against the all-round wiles of Barouh—but still tumbled to defeat in straight sets, 12-21, 16-21, 16-21.

Winifred Swift's hard-earned victory, by 21-13, 21-18, 21-18, over Diana Black, 17, of Dundee, in the women's final was a blazing triumph of sheer doggedness rather than extreme skill. After having the title snatched from her grasp by Kent star Joyce Fielder in last year's Royal Albert Hall, London final, Winifred started all over again . . . and did exactly what she set out to do.

The acid test came in the National



JEAN HARROWER

semi-final against June Hodson, 18, of Hornsey, the hard-hitting Middlesex county junior. The match dragged on for ninety-five minutes before the chopping, chiselling Winifred finally broke down the resistance of the Hornsey girl.

Throughout the marathon, I sat with Winifred's father, a cheery fellow who confessed: "I have never known anyone so set their heart on a thing. Winifred won't give in, you know."

How right you were, Mr. Swift!

Finally to Jimmy Carswell, happy 21-8, 21-14, 21-19 winner of the boys' title. He beat Worksop's Brian Wesley with slick precision to record the victory he wondered would ever arrive. You see, he reached the last sixty-four in BOTH men's and boys' events last season—and then came to a halt.

But this time we saw a more matured youngster, a Jimmy determined not to go down a second time.

We trust that others who tried and failed last year, the year before, this year, any year, will profit by this lesson. Keep trying . . . it may be your turn to win.

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THE INDIVIDUAL AVERAGES

DEVON do not consider Premier Division play worth their while. That is the assumption following their withdrawal from the promotion play-off with Cheshire and Kent.

Devon, who won the Second Division West following Staffordshire's unexpected win over Glamorganshire, are the best judges of their decision for they had experiences of the Premier Division in the 1952-53 season, and apparently found the financial commitments too much.

Thus Kent and Cheshire move up to the Premier Division for next season. It will be Kent's first experience of the higher grade, while Cheshire, who were relegated last year, have won their way back after only one season in the Second Division.

Hundred Per-centers

Examining the singles averages of the various players who have represented their counties throughout the season, playing in 50 per cent or more of the possible ties, we find that no less than ten men and ten women achieved 100 per cent unbeaten records. Of these, four players, A. L. Shepherd, Cheshire (Second North), L. Landry, Middlesex (Junior South), Miss L. Bown, Cheshire (Junior North), and Miss J. Winter, Devonshire (South Western), obtained their maximum points while playing throughout the whole season and appearing in all possible fixtures.

Landry, Miss Bown and Miss Winter not only won all their matches but won them all two straight; Shepherd, in eight sets lost three games.

Special mention must also be made

of A. Rhodes (Middlesex), who leads the Second South averages with a 100 per cent record. After playing in the first five Middlesex ties in the Second South Division he was transferred to his first team and played in their two remaining fixtures in the Premier Division. In his seven appearances for his county he won all fourteen singles, having only eight games scored against him.

Reference must also be made to Juniors who also appeared in senior teams. L. Landry, also of Middlesex, played throughout the season for the Juniors finishing unbeaten without losing a game, and made four appearances for his second team in the Second South Division, losing only one match to Rogers of Hertfordshire.

Collins and Cole, both of Suffolk, appeared continuously in their Junior and Senior teams. In the Junior South Division they both lost two matches. While in the Eastern Division Cole lost four and Collins five. Miss Nugent also played for both teams, appearing four times in the Junior South and twice in the Eastern.

Gladwish, of Sussex, made three appearances for his Junior team, with 75 per cent success, then appeared three times for his senior team in the Premier Division but only won one set. **He was the only junior player to appear in the Premier Division.**

Sponge Leads

Sponge players, Kennedy (Yorks.) and Ann Haydon (Warwickshire) lead the averages in the Premier Division with unbeaten records while other "spongers" who head their divisions are A. Squire (Devon) Second Division West with 87 per cent, D. Fletcher (Devon) South Western Division

100 per cent, and L. Thompson (Berks) Southern Division 87 per cent.

Dove (Yorkshire) 58 per cent, and Allcock (Lancashire) 50 per cent, also achieved some success with the use of sponge in the Premier Division, but B. Leach (Sussex) only won two games in five matches.

In the Second North the three players to use sponge all finished with averages of 50 per cent or more and in the Second West, where eleven of the thirty-one players used sponge, all finished with an average of 50 per cent or better except K. Pittard (Glamorgan), who appeared against Devonshire and lost both his matches against sponge players Squire and Kerslake, and D. Buckhouse (Staffordshire) who won three matches but lost four, three of them against sponge players.

In this Division sponge proved superior to the orthodox rubber.

Fifty-Fifty

In the Second South Division Hoffman (Middlesex) appeared twice, used sponge, and was unbeaten in four matches. Thorn (Kent), playing sponge against Middlesex and Essex was not so successful and lost all four matches.

Of the forty-seven Juniors, who played in the Championships, only one, A. Sidders of Kent, used sponge. He was not very successful, winning only two out of ten matches played.

This would appear to indicate that the more promising of our younger players are ignoring the trend to change over to the sponge bat—satisfying news to those supporters of the orthodox bat who have condemned sponge since its introduction.

In the Regional Divisions three of



SURREY — THE CHAMPIONS — (L to R) TONY MILLER, HARRY VENNER, JEAN HEAD, JILL ROOK, PEGGY PIPER, RON CRAYDEN, BETTY ISAACS, KEN CRAIGIE

the seven players who used sponge, Hunt (Derbyshire), Lush (Worcestershire), and Fletcher (Devonshire) were unbeaten. Thompson of Buckinghamshire only lost one match in eight and Mrs. Horn (Wiltshire) one in four.

Lambell (Devon) won two and lost two, while Head (Oxfordshire) lost five out of six and Mrs. Snell (Cornwall) was beaten two straight, at her only appearance.

Reverting to the averages among the orthodox rubber players and the general policy of the various counties, Gloucestershire played Merrett,



BRYAN MERRETT

Simons and Griffin unchanged throughout the whole season. All three appear among the six leading players in the Premier Division.

Venner (Surrey) also played in all seven ties, losing only to Kennedy and Brumwell. He was runner-up to Kennedy with an average of 86 per cent.

Brumwell and Jones (Essex) and Miller (Surrey) played throughout and finished with a 75 per cent average. Allcock (Lancashire) and Burridge (Middlesex) with 50 per cent and Shead and Wendy Bates (Sussex) with 43 per cent also represented their counties in all their ties.

Among the ladies, Diane Rowe's only defeat was at the hands of her young rival Ann Haydon.

While Gloucestershire relied upon only three men and Sussex only one woman to play all their singles matches, Warwickshire, in their efforts to retain their position in this Division, were represented by no less than eleven men and three women. The men met with little success but the women, Ann Haydon, Pat Mortimer and Jean MacKay were all unbeaten.

In the Second Division twenty-six men and five women appeared for their counties throughout the season, nine of the men and two of the women finishing with averages of 50 per cent or more. Lincolnshire, in the Northern Section, played Merryweather, Finneran and Skerratt throughout, while Shepherd and Schofield, who represented Cheshire in all their fixtures, topped the averages in this Division.

Schofield, runner-up to Shepherd, lost only to Park, while the only defeats suffered by Hillyer and Worsley were at the hands of Merryweather and Lumsden (Durham).

Surrey in the Southern Section played Kirby and MacLaren in all their matches while Rogers with 58 per cent and Hunt with 50 per cent represented Hertfordshire.

Kent also relied continuously upon two players, Etheridge, 58 per cent, and Syndercombe 50 per cent to help them to the Premier Division. In this section Mrs. E. Carrington and Miss J. Page both made two unbeaten appearances for Essex.

In the Western Section, Devonshire, Somerset, Staffordshire and Worcestershire all played more or less unchanged throughout the year. Squire and Ofield played continuously for Devon, while Keslake and Mrs. J. Willcocks appeared three times. For Somerset, House and Holden (38 per cent) and Mrs. Bonner (25 per cent) appeared in all four ties, Smith (33 per cent) playing in three of them.

Staff Trio

Staffordshire played only three men, Robbins, Davies (both 38 per cent), and Backhouse (43 per cent). Worcestershire had Lush (50 per cent), Hawkins, and Mrs. Shannon (both 25 per cent) playing continuously, while Devereux (50 per cent) made three appearances.

Glamorgan in this Section called upon seven men and two women.

Squire, leading this Division, lost only to House, who also defeated Morgan. House himself was beaten by Simonson, who in turn was defeated by Squire. Mrs. Willcocks' only defeat was by Shirley Jones.

In the Junior Divisions, all counties, with the exception of Hertfordshire, played at least two players in all fixtures. Cheshire played unchanged throughout with Fryer, Stoddart and Miss Bown. Lancashire had Hill (25 per cent) and Miss Chadderton, who failed to mark up a win. Yorkshire kept to Moorhouse (13 per cent) and Miss Hamilton, while Essex retained Caldwell (30 per cent), Bradford (50 per cent), and Miss Pickard.

Kent made only one change, bringing in Bloy for Hart for their final match against Suffolk, Pidcock (50 per cent), Sidders (20 per cent) and Miss McMeekin played in all ties.

Middlesex had Landry and Miss Harrower at all fixtures while Suffolk kept to Collins and Cole, and Sussex to Dobell and Miss Hammond (20 per cent).

Stoddart, in the Northern section lost only to Forbes of Lancashire at 25-23 in the third game, while in the Southern section Jean Harrower lost to Micki McMeekin, who was in turn

beaten by Betty Nugent, beaten by Sheila Pickard. Lamprell made only two appearances for Middlesex but was unbeaten on each occasion.

In the Regional Divisions twenty-three players, including five women, appeared in all matches. Both Suffolk and Hertfordshire put their faith in three main players, Nickels, Cole and Collins playing for Suffolk, and A. Smith (50 per cent), Johnson (25 per cent), and Miss Boarder for Hertfordshire.

Hallsworth (38 per cent) and Miss Bannister appeared for Derbyshire, while Wooley and Osborne played continuously for Staffordshire. Berkshire relied upon Barnes and Morecroft, who topped the Southern Division averages. Thompson, and Miss Williams appeared in all Buckinghamshire's fixtures. Wiltshire kept to Lindsay (50 per cent) and Mrs. Horn, while Dorset had two constant players in McQuade (50 per cent) and Wellstead.

Other continuous appearances in these divisions were Hippinson (50 per cent) for Norfolk, Baddeley for Warwickshire, Lait (13 per cent) for Oxfordshire, Perriam, for Cornwall, and Miss Winter, unbeaten for Devonshire.

In the Midland Section Wooley lost his only set to Baddeley, while Parkes



RON ETHERIDGE

went down to Morgan of Worcestershire. Another Worcestershire player Goode was responsible for the only defeat suffered by Poyner.

Miss Bannister lost her one set to Mrs. Griffiths but in her turn inflicted the only defeat suffered by Miss Worrall.

Thompson in the Southern Section lost only to Lindsay, of Wiltshire. Morecroft's one defeat was by Thompson, while Barnes went down to Umsworth. The leading ladies of this section inflicted their only defeats among themselves, Miss Boarder beating Mrs. Horn, Mrs. Horn defeating Miss Williams, who in turn beat Miss Boarder.

LEADING AVERAGES

(Players who have appeared in at least 50% of possible matches)

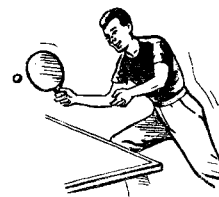
	Matches. Games.				%		Matches. Games.				%
	W.	L.	W.	L.			W.	L.	W.	L.	
PREMIER :											
* B. Kennedy	Yorks.	8	0	16	2	100					
H. Venner	Surrey‡	12	2	24	9	86					
B. Merrett	Glos.‡	11	3	24	8	78					
A. W. C. Simons	Glos.‡	11	3	23	12	78					
R. Hinchliff	Yorks.	9	3	18	12	75					
R. E. Griffin	Glos.‡	10	4	22	14	71					
S. Dyson	Yorks.	6	4	16	12	60					
* R. Dove	Yorks.	7	5	17	11	58					
K. Craigie	Surrey	7	5	18	13	58					
F. B. Brumwell	Essex‡	8	6	18	13	57					
A. R. Miller	Surrey‡	8	6	17	14	57					
I. Jones	Essex‡	8	6	18	15	57					
* Miss A. Haydon	Warwick	5	0	10	1	100					
Miss B. Isaacs	Surrey	4	0	8	2	100					
Miss D. Rowe	Middlx.	4	1	9	4	80					
Miss M. Jones	Glos.	2	2	5	6	50					
SECOND NORTH :											
A. L. Shepherd	Cheshire‡	8	0	16	3	100					
D. Schofield	Cheshire‡	7	1	14	5	87					
J. Hillier	Northumb.	3	1	7	3	75					
J. Worsley	Cheshire	3	1	7	4	75					
G. Brook	Yorks.	4	2	8	4	66					
K. Park	Yorks.	5	3	12	8	62					
D. Merryweather	Lincs.‡	5	3	12	9	62					
* B. Finneran	Lincs.‡	5	3	11	9	62					
Miss P. Heppell	Northumb.	3	0	6	0	100					
Mrs. D. Wilkinson	Cheshire	1	1	3	2	50					
* Mrs. K. Holland	Durham‡	2	2	4	5	50					
* Miss E. Grimstone	Cheshire	1	1	2	3	50					
SECOND SOUTH :											
A. Rhodes	Middlx.	10	0	20	6	100					
L. Landry	Middlx.	7	1	15	6	87					
C. Kirby	Surrey‡	10	2	12	6	83					
F. Kershaw	Essex	4	2	8	4	66					
M. MacLaren	Surrey‡	8	4	19	10	66					
L. Sawyer	Essex	4	2	9	5	66					
R. McCree	Essex‡	8	4	19	11	66					
I. Redfearn	Middlx.‡	8	4	19	15	66					
P. Curtis	Essex	5	3	13	8	62					
Miss J. Fielder	Kent	3	0	6	0	100					
Mrs. J. Beadle	Kent	3	0	6	2	100					
Miss M. Fry	Middlx.‡	4	2	10	6	66					
SECOND WEST :											
* A. Squire	Devon‡	7	1	14	5	87					
D. House	Somerset‡	6	1	13	5	85					
* G. Morgan	Glam.	3	1	7	2	75					
* J. Simonsen	Glam.	3	1	6	5	75					
* L. C. Kerslake	Devon	4	2	9	5	66					
* P. Ofield	Devon‡	5	3	12	7	62					
M. Hawkins	Worcs.‡	5	3	10	8	62					
Miss S. Jones	Glam.	3	0	6	0	100					
* Mrs. J. Willcocks	Devon	2	1	4	3	66					
EASTERN :											
J. Thurston	Cambs.	6	0	12	1	100					
J. Cornwell	Cambs.	4	0	8	2	100					
A. Nickels	Suffolk‡	5	3	10	9	62					
Miss B. Nugent	Suffolk	2	0	4	1	100					
Miss P. Dyball	Norfolk	1	1	3	2	50					
Miss V. Martin	Suffolk	1	1	2	2	50					
MIDLAND :											
J. Harrison	Warwick	4	0	8	1	100					
R. Wooley	Staffs.‡	7	1	15	5	87					
B. Parkes	Warwick	5	1	10	3	83					
R. Poyner	Staffs.	3	1	6	3	75					
D. Baddeley	Warwick‡	5	3	12	8	62					
J. Osborne	Staffs.‡	5	3	12	9	62					
Mrs. D. Griffiths	Warwick	2	0	4	0	100					
Miss P. Bannister	Derby‡	3	1	6	3	75					
Miss D. Worrall	Staffs.	2	1	4	3	66					
SOUTH WESTERN :											
* D. Fletcher	Devon	4	0	8	2	100					
D. Wellstead	Dorset‡	6	2	13	7	75					
Miss J. Winter	Devon‡	4	0	8	0	100					
SOUTHERN :											
* L. Thompson	Bucks.‡	7	1	15	3	87					
P. Morecroft	Berks.‡	7	1	14	3	87					
B. Barnes	Berks.‡	7	1	15	4	87					
L. Wise	Berks.	5	1	10	4	83					
A. Boone	Oxford	3	1	7	2	75					
T. Moriarty	Herts.	4	2	9	4	66					
J. Umsworth	Bucks.	4	2	9	7	66					
Miss S. Boarder	Herts.‡	3	1	6	2	75					
Miss J. Williams	Bucks.‡	3	1	7	3	75					
* Mrs. G. Horn	Wilts.‡	3	1	6	4	75					
JUNIOR NORTH :											
G. Forbes	Lancs.	4	0	8	2	100					
J. Stoddart	Cheshire‡	7	1	15	5	87					
E. Fryer	Cheshire‡	6	2	13	4	75					
Miss L. Bown	Cheshire‡	4	0	8	0	100					
Miss L. Hamilton	Yorks.‡	2	2	4	5	50					
JUNIOR SOUTH :											
L. Landry	Middlx.‡	10	0	20	0	100					
E. Hodson	Middlx.	8	0	16	1	100					
J. Collins	Suffolk‡	8	2	17	4	80					
P. Cole	Suffolk‡	8	2	16	8	80					
G. Gladwish	Sussex	6	2	12	5	75					
R. Hart	Kent	6	2	13	7	75					
S. Rose	Middlx.	5	3	11	7	62					
J. Dobell	Sussex‡	6	4	12	11	60					
Miss J. Harrower	Middlx.‡	4	1	8	2	80					
Miss M. McMeekin	Kent‡	4	1	9	3	80					
Miss B. Nugent	Suffolk	3	1	6	3	75					
Miss S. Pickard	Essex‡	3	2	7	4	60					

* Sponge Bat players.

‡ Played throughout season in all ties.

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NORTH EAST ENGLAND

"OPEN"

CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Helen Elliot and condolences to Miss Jill Rook for their displays in the North East England "Open" at Scarborough over the Easter weekend.

Miss Elliot won three titles, the women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles, while Miss Rook was runner-up in the same events.

Although Miss Rook could muster little effective opposition to the astute subtlety of the more experienced Scot in the singles before losing 6-21, 13-21, she proved much more formidable in the doubles.

Harry Venner, fresh from his exhilarating display in the English "Open" was the subject of the main shock. Seeded No. 2, he was expected to reach the final with little difficulty but Mickey Thornhill had other ideas and won their quarter-final encounter with ease at 21-11, 21-16.

Thornhill then gave a fine display in the semi-final, but could not quite compete with the stamina of Derek Burridge who went on to make his first visit to Scarborough a successful one by winning the title with a 21-15, 21-14 defeat of Ron Allcock in the final.

The men's doubles provided the best match of the championships with Laurie Landry and Eddie Hodson overcoming the experience and maturity of Venner and Ken Craigie in two straight games by 21-18, 21-17.

However Landry and Hodson failed to meet with the same success in the final and went down to Michael MacLaren and Terry Densham 21-12, 18-21, 21-18.

Miss Elliot partnered Yvonne Baker in the women's doubles and Burridge in the mixed.

Men's Singles : Semi-finals : D. BURRIDGE (Middlesex) bt M. Thornhill (Middlesex) 21-15, 12-21, 21-14. R. ALLCOCK (Manchester) bt L. Laza (Australia), 21-19 23-21. **Final:** BURRIDGE bt M. Allcock 21-15, 21-14. **Women's Singles : Final :** Miss H. ELLIOT (Scotland) bt Miss J. Rook (Surrey) 21-6, 21-13.

Men's Doubles : Final : M. McLAREN and T. DENSHAM bt L. Landry and E. Hodson 21-12, 18-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles : Final : Miss ELLIOT and Miss Y. BAKER bt Miss Rook and Mrs. C. K. Thompson 21-14, 12-21, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles : Final : BURRIDGE and Miss ELLIOT bt Thornhill and Miss Rook 21-12, 21-18.

Junior Singles : Final : I. HARRISON (Cheltenham) bt Landry (Middlesex) 21-16, 21-15.

Youths' Singles : Final : HARRISON bt Densham (Surrey) 21-14, 21-16.

Veteran Singles : Final : R. MARKWELL bt E. Turton 21-15, 21-15.

KENT JUNIOR "CLOSED" CHAMPIONSHIPS

Under 17's: Boys' Singles: A. Piddock bt D. Ball 22-20, 21-18; Girls' Singles: Miss M. McMeekin bt Miss J. Johnson 21-19, 21-12; Boys' Doubles: D. Bloy and I. Pepper bt R. Hart and Piddock 21-10, 21-15. Girls' Doubles: Miss Johnson and Miss McMeekin bt Miss M. Ashby and Miss A. Jacobs 15-21, 21-14, 21-10; Mixed Doubles: Piddock and Miss McMeekin bt Hart and Miss Johnson 21-16, 21-19.

Under 15's: Boys' Singles: M. Pass bt K. Stokes 21-16, 17-21, 21-17; Girls' Singles: Miss A. Jacobs bt Miss M. Ashby 21-11, 21-14; Boys' Doubles: Stokes and C. Bloy bt Pass and P. Hopper 21-19, 16-21, 21-15; Girls' Doubles: Miss Ashby and Miss Jacobs bt Miss K. Beal and Miss S. Benton 20-22, 21-11, 21-18.

Under 13's: Boys' Singles: M. Pass bt C. Bloy 21-19, 21-15; Girls' Singles: Miss K. Beal bt Miss B. Smith 21-13, 21-13; Boys' Doubles: Bloy and Pass bt A. Elliott and J. Davidson 21-18, 19-21, 21-14; Girls' Doubles: Miss G. Corden and Miss D. Downing bt Miss Beal and Miss K. Prothero 21-15, 21-16.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: B. MERRETT (Gloucester) beat R. Morley (Gloucester) 21-14, 21-10.

Men's Doubles: R. GRIFFIN and P. CRUWYS (Cheltenham) bt B. Merrett and R. Morley (Gloucester) 21-13, 21-16.

Women's Singles: SHIRLEY DAVIS (Cheltenham) bt Molly Jones (Cheltenham) 21-13, 21-8.

Women's Doubles: S. DAVIS and M. JONES (Cheltenham) bt M. Davies and J. Cruwys (Cheltenham) 21-10, 21-9.

Mixed Doubles: Miss S. DAVIS and R. GRIFFIN (Cheltenham) bt. Peter and Joan Cruwys (Cheltenham) 21-14, 21-13.

Boys' Singles: I. HARRISON (Cheltenham) bt K. Tarling (Cheltenham) 21-10, 21-17.

Boys' Doubles: I. HARRISON and K. EDWARDS (Cheltenham) bt D. Griffiths and K. Tarling (Cheltenham) 22-20, 21-11.

Girls' Singles: LESLEY THORNE (Gloucester) bt Adrienne Cox (Cheltenham) 21-16, 21-13.

Under 15 Juniors: G. PHILPOTTS (Gloucester) bt J. Redmond (Bristol) 22-20, 19-21, 21-19.

Veterans Singles: R. HENDY (Bristol) bt S. Yandell (Gloucester) 20-22, 23-21, 21-17.

CORNWALL "CLOSED" CHAMPIONSHIPS

Redruth, March 24th, 1956.

Men's Singles : Semi-finals : A. POWNING bt W. Northcott 23-21, 21-17; G. PERRIAM bt R. Bunt 21-16, 21-13. **Final :** A. POWNING bt G. Perriam 21-19, 21-15, 21-13.

Women's Singles : Mrs. B. HATTER bt Mrs. E. Snell 21-14, 21-10.

Men's Doubles : H. GILL and A. POWNING bt A. Brobson and R. Ollerenshaw 21-18, 21-10.

Women's Doubles : Mrs. B. HATTER and Mrs. A. CHARLESWORTH bt Miss M. Gill and Mrs. E. Snell 21-10, 24-22.

Mixed Doubles : Mr. and Mrs. R. CHARLESWORTH bt G. Cornelius and Mrs. Hatter 21-13, 21-14.

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