

TABLET TENNIS



BRIAN KENNEDY
Season's First Open Winner (See Personality Parade)

AN OPEN LETTER
TO ALL SELECTION
COMMITTEES



GUEST CRITIC
Frank Butler



DIARY OF A
GERMAN TOUR
Elsie Carrington



SMALL TIME
CLUB DEVELOPS
C. J. Hoare



AREA NEWS

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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No. 1

LEAGUES UP : TOURNAMENTS DOWN

WELCOME to a new season, a season which we confidently hope will bring to light new stars, see a further improvement in the general standard, and perhaps see the return of a world title to this country when our team goes to Tokio in April.

Already the season has made an encouraging start, and reports from the leagues show that the game is more popular than ever. Increased entries mean that many leagues have had to extend their programmes, while the first tournament, the East of England, saw entries take a jump of around 50. This is a good sign, particularly as many of the newcomers were younger players.

Twenty-six "open" tournaments are scheduled for the season, but six of the big ones have disappeared. The Grimsby, North Midlands, Pontefract, Metropolitan, Thameside, Central London, and Merseyside have all been cancelled due to increased costs or difficulties over finding a suitable hall.

"Table Tennis" will again bring you full reports of the various tournaments and internationals, the Around the Leagues and Area News features will look after the lesser activities, and we plan to give you more articles of a wider variety.

GOING UP

At the request of many readers, "Table Tennis" will be bigger than ever, but increased size means increased costs, and we regret that the price will also have to go up . . . to ninepence.

The new price will come in with the January issue, when the size of the magazine will be increased to at least 28 pages. It will still be among the cheapest magazines in the sports field.

To avoid complications with the accounts, all subscriptions received before January will be at the old rate of five shillings for eight issues, post free.

Remember, this is your magazine and it is up to you to support it. Do your friends take a copy, or do they just borrow yours? Many copies, we know, go through six and seven hands, and even more.

If every club in the country took one copy per month it would assure the financial success of the magazine. Why not persuade your club to take out a subscription now?

FITNESS WINS

Table tennis has come a long way from those far off "ping-pong" days. It is no longer a gentle pastime to be played on the dining room table, but has developed into a highly athletic sport, requiring the physical fitness of the boxer or footballer as well as playing skill.

It is not good enough merely to go down to the club and practise on the table. Go out into the open and work out a schedule of physical jerks and running to increase stamina and breathing. And don't forget that all-important footwork.

Physical fitness will pay its dividends in the end. Many is the time I have seen players lose matches they have appeared to have in their pocket, merely because they became weary and lost their zip when going beyond three sets.

One of the reasons Johnny Leach became a world champion was that he paid just as much attention to fitness as to stroke production. He trained both with Crystal Palace and Tottenham Hotspur.

Richard Bergmann is another with a similar outlook. Just watch him dance his way through a tough match. Many players have envied his fantastic speed of recovery, and it all comes from being perfectly tuned up.

As you go forward to the season's tournaments, make certain that you are not going to be beaten through lack of fitness.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official News :

Since the Annual General Meeting, two meetings of the National Executive Committee have taken place both in the Council Chamber of the Royal Empire Society, the first being held on June 18 and the other on Saturday, September 17, 1955. Many matters were discussed, the most interesting being:—

Television: With the introduction of independent and commercial television it was felt desirable to draw the attention of all organisers and players to the E.T.T.A. Rule concerning television.

“Rule 25.—No affiliated player may take part in a televised event in connection with table tennis unless sanction has first been obtained from one of the Officers of the Association.”

It was also emphasised that the same decision arises in the making of films:

Rule 22 covers this point: “No affiliated player may permit a cinematographic record of himself or herself to be taken on standard stock in connection with Table Tennis unless sanction has first been obtained from one of the Officers of the Association.”

Equipment Advisory Panel: The following were appointed members of an Equipment Advisory Panel: Messrs. T. Blunn, J. Carrington, N. Cook, G. W. Decker, with power of co-option subject to approval of the National Executive Committee.

Swedish Juniors: It was announced that the Swedish Table Tennis Association did not wish to arrange a tour of their Juniors in England for the coming Season.

Honorary Assistant Secretary: In view of the great increase in the E.T.T.A.'s activities, Mr. D. P. Lowen has been appointed Honorary Assistant Secretary.

Co-option to the National Executive Committee: Mrs. F. A. Merryweather (Lincoln) was co-opted to the Committee in accordance with Rule 12(a).

Club Competitions: Approval was given to the organisation of Club competitions similar to those arranged in 1953/54 during the coming Season to assist in the raising of funds to enable teams to be sent to Tokio for the World Championships. The Officers were authorised to consider ways and means of other fund-raising ideas.

“Daily Mirror” National Table Tennis Tournament: Approval was

given to the “Daily Mirror” National Table Tennis Tournament to be played during the Season 1955/56. As in previous Seasons arrangements were made to cover unaffiliated entrants.

“Eagle” / “Girl” Clubs Table Tennis Tournament: Sanction was given to the “Eagle” and “Girl” Clubs National Table Tennis Tournament to be organised during the coming Season.

Victor Barna Award: The “Victor Barna” Award for the season 1954/1955 was made to Miss Diane Rowe for her two wins in the match against Roumania in the World Championships in Utrecht.

Approved Balls: The following balls were approved for season 1955/1956: Villa “XXX” and “XX,” Dunlop Barna “Three Crown” and “Two Crown,” Halex “Three Star” and “Two Star,” Tema “Three Star” and “Two Star,” Haydon “Three Star” and “Two Star”.

English Open Championships: In view of the complications arising

English Table Tennis Association

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Chairman: Hon. Ivor Montagu.

Honorary Secretary/Treasurer: A. K. Vint.

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Kathleen Pegg.

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

from the World Championships taking place in Tokio, April 2 to April 11, 1956, with the consequent absence of the players for about four weeks, it was decided to hold the English Open Championships at Belle Vue, Manchester, from February 28 to March 2, 1956.

International Matches: International matches have been arranged as follows: v. **Wales**—Mixed Seniors, Weymouth, January 27, 1956; v. **France**—Men—Cheltenham, February 27, 1956.

Publicity: A small Committee was set up consisting of the Officers and C. Jaschke, S. Kempster, D. P. Lowen,

L. S. Woollard, to consider the question of publicity for the game, and to make a report to the National Executive Committee.

E.T.T.A. Badge: Approval was given to the production of an official badge with the letters E.T.T.A. on a blue background for sale to members. These are available from the Administrative Secretary at a cost of 2/3d. each, post free, or 24/- per dozen.

County Umpires Scheme: Mr. W. G. Goldfinch, 11, Colebrook Close, Worthing, Sussex, has been appointed Honorary Secretary to the National Umpires Committee.

ENGLISH RANKING LIST

MEN

1. J. A. LEACH (Essex)
2. R. BERGMANN (Mddx)
3. B. H. KENNEDY (Yorks)
4. B. MERRETT (Glos)
5. H. T. VANNER (Surrey)
6. D. C. BURRIDGE (Mddx)
7. A. W. C. SIMONS (Glos)
8. K. CRAIGIE (Surrey)
9. A. RHODES (Mddx)
10. R. HINCHLIFF (Yorks)
11. R. J. STEVENS (Essex)
12. J. W. LOWE (Mddx)

WOMEN

1. MISS R. ROWE (Mddx)
2. MISS A. S. HAYDON (Warwicks)
3. MISS D. ROWE (Mddx)
4. MISS C. K. BEST (Yorks)
5. MISS M. FRANKS (Essex)
6. MISS J. WINN (Surrey)
7. MISS B. ISAACS (Surrey)
8. MISS B. MILBANK (Essex)

TABLE TENNIS

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News from all quarters is warmly welcome. Please send direct to the Editor: W. Harrison Edwards, c/o Sports Press, 149, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. FLEet Street 9951.

England Wins

SWAYTHLING AND CORBILLON CUPS

in 1956?

IF the above became a reality in April, 1956, there is no doubt that each and every player, official or well wisher of the game in this country would feel justly proud. It would be a great honour for our Association and for all our members.

The 23rd **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS** for the coming season are taking place in **TOKIO**, and at the Annual General Meeting held last April, the National Executive was instructed to commence making arrangements to send players and officials to Japan.

The meeting felt that **ENGLAND** must be represented at these championships, for our Association and its representatives are held in high esteem by the whole of the world, and our absence would be most regretted.

We want, therefore, to be able to send a minimum number of representatives to Japan next April. The

cost of this venture will be in the region of £2,500 to £3,000, so we have to find ways and means of raising this huge sum in rather similar ways as when the World Championships were held in London in 1954.

You "did the impossible" then: We know we can rely on you to do it again.

We will be forever grateful for your wonderful efforts in staging various events which raised the "Guarantee Fund" for the 21st World Championships. Now we ask your help again by running "Special Tournaments" in Your Own Club which will enable us to start a "Travelling Expenses" Fund to send a team to Japan next April.

Every club in the country is being invited to run a special competition, either men's or women's singles, men's, women's or mixed doubles, or even handicap events. In fact, any form of competition which the club committee feel will be most enjoyed by their members, and the winner will

be presented with a specially designed and engraved plaque by the National Association.

The plaques will incorporate the English Badge in colour and will be something that any international or beginner will be proud to win.

There are 8,000 clubs in the country, and all can run as many different competitions as they like. Each event brings a plaque to You and YOUR CLUB.

Whether you belong to a very strong club packed with leading players, or one which figures at the bottom of the lowest division in your local league, **HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO TAKE PART**, and your chance to win a prize.

Club secretaries will already have received literature giving complete details of how to apply for permission to run a **CLUB COMPETITION**. So please see your secretary about it or write to: The English Table Tennis Association, 214, Grand Buildings, London, W.C.2.



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"A MATTER OF GUTS"

by FRANCIS THORNE*

I THINK it can, with justification, be claimed that the word "guts" is no longer a slang expression, but one which has through common usage become a legitimate part of the athletic vocabulary. We know perfectly well what is meant when it is said that a player lacks "guts".

When we refer to "guts" we mean it to connote stamina and courage, the ability to dig in one's heels and not give in. It also implies the ability to give a good performance under very difficult conditions. It means, too, the resolve to fight back, and perhaps win a losing battle.

When we speak of a player having no "guts," we suggest that he is to some extent a physical, and possibly a moral, coward, who for example, when in a tight corner, would crumple up. Indeed, it is very severe criticism to say of an athlete that he has no "guts."

However, the decision is not quite so clear-cut as it may seem from the above, and the problem is worth closer consideration.

It is not satisfactory to say that people either have or have not got "guts"; we have to try to understand why, and whether this courage is buried beneath layers of inhibitions.

It is necessary to understand the behaviour of people, and this is particularly important when dealing with adolescents; we have to decide whether they are basically in the "plus guts" or "without guts" category.

PHYSICAL CONTROL

A highly strung child may have a great deal of physical courage, but lack the emotional control necessary to exploit it; in other words, he is irresolute in his decisions as to when to use his physical courage. This, then, is a question of dealing with the individual, who has his own background of experience and environment, which will very largely condition his outlook on any situation he meets in sport.

For example, some people are born with fears, such as of injury, and because the risks have never been properly explained nor understood, this fear tends to grow throughout a playing career, and may finally result in a player "pulling his punches."

Another may have been at an early age affected by the fear of losing,

and this will also affect his play; whilst on the other hand, it may stimulate in him superficial aggression.

It is in these sort of circumstances that the coach has a very important part to play in getting to understand the early experiences and the physical and emotional reactions of his proteges. The coach may, at this stage say, what can I do to help, how can I assist pupils to gain confidence and exercise dominance over these fears?

First, is to understand the points given earlier, and to realise that throughout adolescence, certain adjustment processes are constantly in action. Then, through exercising understanding and patience, physical fears can be removed, after which an introduction has to be made to a fairly severe test of both physical and mental courage to discover how much "fight-back" or "guts" the individual has.

SELF CONFIDENCE

From this point on the severity of tests may be built up—but not brutally—so that self confidence is gained as each obstacle is overcome and the magical quality of "guts" begins to emerge more fully.

One other point worth consideration is that quality of physical courage fluctuates to some extent. It is quite understandable that even the most courageous person must occasionally lose his nerve, and because this happens once in a while, it does not justify the label "no guts"; possibly it is that at this particular moment some of the old fears have risen to the surface and have gained temporary dominance, but in due course, if training has been of the right kind, they become submerged, perhaps never to appear again.

This immediately brings into consideration the part that emotions have to play in regard to physical fear. All of us who have played games remember the increased breathing and pulse beat before competition, and it is known that there is also accelerated activity in the glands.

Physical and emotional fears are very closely bound up, and it can be safely assumed that where physical fear is present, there are some emotional disturbances as well.

To overcome this, the coach has to exercise much patience and understanding, and perhaps even go through the test grading process again, before finally writing off his pupil as a bad prospect from the

point of view of the possession of "guts."

There is also another point to remember. Because a pupil lacks this attribute in one sport, he does not necessarily lack it in another. It may merely mean that his emotional courage and physical fibre are not the type required for that particular game.

Furthermore, the possession of "guts" is not in any way connected with size or strength, although the possession of these two factors often helps to build self-confidence.

Finally, it should be remembered that the young person has few experiences to fall back on, and may not even be emotionally stabilised. Therefore, he may be very dependent upon his coach for making the grade in his sport.

I do not pretend that this short article has exhausted the subject, but I hope it may stimulate others into thinking about the problem.

**Director of The Crookes Athletes Advisory Service.*

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Looking for Champions

by **FRANK BUTLER**

"News of the World" Columnist

TABLE TENNIS is one of Britain's healthiest sporting babies. Each year more and more boys and girls are taking up the game, and I am certain that one of the best boosts this sport for the young of heart and limb has had was the "NEWS OF THE WORLD" National Coaching Scheme staged in association with Butlin's Holiday Camps.

The finals at Skegness from September 3 to 10 made up a terrific table tennis festival week in which 115 of more than 5,000 boys and girls between 11 and 18, who received professional coaching at Holiday Camps this Summer, competed.

It was unanimously agreed that the scheme was a success. It was approved by the English, Scottish and Welsh Table Tennis Associations, and the young would-be champions had the cream of the sport's coaches to put them on their pathway to fame.

Leader of the talent scouts was Johnny Leach, world champion in

1948-9 and 1950-1. Making up the team were the Rowe Twins, winners of the world ladies doubles title in 1951 and 1954, Phil Anderson, the Australian champion, Brian Kennedy and Harry Venner, English internationals, and Helen Elliot, the Scottish title-holder.

IMPRESSIVE

The finals produced a crop of budding talent, and some of the young hopes really impressed our top professionals. So much so that Johnny Leach confessed it was a really tough task coming to the conclusion who should receive the trophies for the most promising boy and girl of the year.

Two thousand were present when the awards went to **George Fearnley** a 14 year old Yorkshire boy from Exley, Halifax and **Jacqueline Butcher**, a London girl from Cricklewood Road, who is also 14, and most onlookers seemed to agree that the professionals had made a good choice.

Jacqueline Butcher took up table tennis at school, and is already the

Willesden Borough Schools champion, and also collected the senior title of the championships organized by "Girl." She is an all-round athlete, and represents her school at swimming and running.

Fearnley is a keen player, who recently reached the semi-final of the All-Halifax Under Eighteens tournament.

Johnny Leach is confident that from the likes of **Jacqueline Butcher**, **George Fearnley** and the six other promising starlets who also received trophies **BARBARA DUFF** (Scunthorpe), **CAROLE BAGSHAW** (Chessington), **PATRICIA TAYLOR** (Cheltenham), **KEITH GOODWIN** (Oldham), **IAN MACDONALD** (Rainham) and **STUART GODWIN** (London), Britain could one day produce a champion.

Brian Kennedy was particularly pleased with the play of **Patricia Taylor**, an 11 year old grammar schoolgirl from Cheltenham. She was on holiday at Ayr when she won her preliminary heat, and was so keen to take part in the finals that she persuaded her father, a garage owner, to take time off to travel to Skegness.

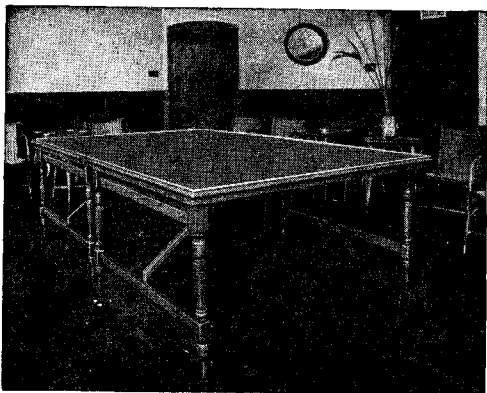
NATURAL TALENT

Said Kennedy: "Although Patricia never handled a table tennis bat until three weeks before the final week she shaped up like a little expert. I could see she had natural talent when I first watched her, and in the end she turned out even better than I expected."

Carole Bagshaw, from Chessington, Surrey, travelled alone because her father, who is a farmer, could not spare time to make the journey, but before she left home she managed to persuade Mr. Bagshaw to have a games room built for her with all the necessary equipment for table tennis provided she got through to the finals. Phil Anderson, who coaches at Clacton, is impressed by Carole's keen ball sense.

The whole festival was one long

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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story of enthusiasm and keenness by Britain's young table tennis players, and is cheering news for the future of this sport which gains in popularity each year. Take 11 year old **Hilda Brautigam**, from Highbury, London. Hilda learned the game when only 8 by playing with the nurses in the recreation room of the Nurses Hostel which her mother manages at Highbury. She went for a holiday to Clacton, and in three weeks, Australia's champion had helped her to improve her game beyond belief.

YOUNG TRAVELLER

And there is little **Ann Simpson**, a 12 year old from East Ewell, Surrey, who travelled to Skegness on her own after doing well under the coaching of Harry Venner at Pwllheli in North Wales.

Others I am told to watch are **Norman Seabright**, of Clayton, Manchester, who learned to be a better player at Filey under Rosalind and Diane Rowe. An apprentice fitter with the British Railways at Manchester, he plans to join the Crossley Boys Club in order to keep up his table tennis.

Then there is **Anthony Harold Levine**, a 17 year old from Briar Clyffe Schcol at Lowestoft. He learned the game at the school of which his father, Mr. Harry Levine, is the principal. It is the Maths master, Mr. A. F. G. Nicholls, a Suffolk senior player, who encouraged the sport, and the school is now turning out some of the County's finest players.

Anthony Levine is a Suffolk junior County player and has received his badge after playing five times for Suffolk. In the Kent junior tournament, Anthony and his partner reached the doubles, finals, only to be beaten by John Collins and Peter Cole, both pupils at his father's school.

A mighty performance was put on also by 12 year old **Gloria Tolladay**, of Rochester, Kent. Although she had only played an occasional game on the dining room table with her father — she won her preliminary heat at Clacton.

It all goes to show that there are hundreds of boys and girls throughout Britain who could be champions or near-champions if given the opportunity. The "NEWS OF THE WORLD" and the Butlin's Holiday Camps have made such an opportunity possible for many with this successful National coaching scheme.

Next year the standard may be even higher. The scheme will have a great bearing on Britain's bid for world championships in the future.

Personality Parade

"THE NEW SPONGER"

FIRST round in this season's rubber v sponge battes went to sponge, wielded by 23-year-old, tousle-haired, heftily-built Brian Kennedy, pride of Leeds and Yorkshire and a brightly-shining star of international table tennis.

In the East of England championships at Skegness — the first open tournament of the season — Kennedy, playing competitively with sponge for the first time, smashed his way through the field to capture the "ingles title and share, with Australian Phil Anderson, in winning the men's doubles.

This left-handed player, who first became acquainted with a table tennis bat in the Leeds Y.M.C.A. at the age of 14, has made fine progress in his nine years of competitive play against both British and Foreign stars.

At 16, he was chosen, along with Ronnie Thompson and Michael Thornhill to play in the first-ever junior international; this was at Wembleton Y.M.C.A. against Sweden and young Brian, I understand, won two of his three matches. Then a few months' later came his greatest chance — selection for England in a senior international against Ireland at Manchester.

Since that time, Kennedy has represented England on numerous occasions in matches both here and abroad and three times has given able support to our spearheads, Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach in world Swaythling Cup contests. He was one of the five-man team that competed in the world events at Utrecht last April.

India thought so much of Kennedy's prowess that in 1953 they invited him to spend four months coaching

their leading players for world-class experience. Brian accepted the chance, which included return passage by air to Bombay (the cost met by the host government) and a substantial financial reward. During the tour, Kennedy advised hundreds of India's up-and-coming youngsters.

This likeable, slow-speaking player lives with his family in Kirkdale-crescent, Leeds. Apart from Brian and brother David, who has recently joined a local league, no-one else in the family plays table tennis.

Brian is as good at replacing broken springs and spreading material over chairs as he is at whipping the ball to an opponent's backhand. For by trade he is a furniture upholsterer and works for his uncle in a family business. Consequently, he finds little trouble in getting time off to play table tennis.

Kennedy was so impressed by the Japanese champions and their sponge bats at Utrecht that he decided to give sponge a thorough try-out during the past months. He made such progress with it that, unless he strikes a really bad patch, I expect Kennedy to become a permanent convert to sponge.

* * *
Latest recruit to the ranks of table tennis mothers is **Kathie Best**, the Yorkshire international. In private life, Mrs. Alan Thompson, wife of the Leeds coach, she gave birth to a son, Christopher Paul, on August 14.

"He is definitely a Thompson," says Kathie, who it is hoped will make a welcome return to the tournament scene later in the season.

* * *
Godfrey Halmshaw, Leeds player and official, was married to Miss Shirley Kinsey on September 3. Victoria clubmates Bill Harrison and Ken Park acted as ushers.

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DIARY OF A GERMAN TOUR

Elsie Carrington, triple Essex champion, captained England's two-girls' team of Wendy Bates and Joyce Fielder, at the German Youth Championships in Stuttgart in June. She has written this diary of their experiences of a most pleasant trip which saw Wendy and Joyce win the girls' doubles.

Sunday, June 19. Left London at 8 p.m. in high spirits, Wendy carrying a case larger than herself. Sailed from Harwich 11 p.m.

Monday, June 20. Arrived Hook of Holland 6 a.m. then took the train for Cologne, where we started a cross-country journey for Ransbach, our first port of call.

A mix up between Sunday and Monday train schedules found us stranded at a wayside halt after chugging up the mountains in a small diesel train, somewhat like two single decker buses joined together. We were eventually rescued by the driver of the Ransbach "express," which must have been the oldest train in Germany.

The two girls had lots of fun waving to the driver from an open connecting platform, and the driver joined in the spirit by blowing his whistle and clanging his bell the whole way to announce our eventual arrival at Ransbach, where we were met by a little band of officials, headed by Herr Muller, President of the T.T.A.

Played a match the same evening against the junior girls and won 5-0.

Tuesday, June 21. Taken on a tour of a local Pottery in the morning, and spent the afternoon swimming. Our hosts could not speak English, and we did not understand German, but got by after inventing an extremely good sign language.

Played another match in the evening against the senior girls and again won 5-0. Wound up the day with a sing-song.

Wednesday, June 22. Left on the 8 a.m. train for Stuttgart. Beautiful coun-



JOYCE FIELDER and WENDY BATES in track suits seen with the Hungarians JANSKO and MOSOCZI

try along the banks of the Rhine with its neat little farms and orchards.

Arrived Stuttgart at 4.30 p.m. and met by "Smiling Ursula," our name for the Librarian of the Sports School at Ruit, where we were to stay. Joined up with the British boys captained by Leo Thompson. They had already been there three days.

An evening sing-song became a riot owing to language difficulties with ten different countries represented.

Thursday, June 23. Free day for the girls, but a hard one for the boys who had to play Sweden, and lost.

Met Mr. Vos, the Dutch captain, who proved to be a wonderful pianist. An impromptu dance started and we taught everyone the "Hokey Cokey."

Friday, June 24. Paid a visit to the Mercedes-Benz Motor Works. Saw the "original car" and motor bike and the first racing cars in the museum, but interest flagged when we were taken to the blast furnaces and smelting ovens. The grease played havoc with our spotless white sandals and crisp fresh blouses.

Saturday, June 25. This was the day of the tournament. The first event for the girls was the doubles, and they got through to the final after some close shaves and some very fine play. The match of the morning was the semi-final in which they beat the Hungarians Jansko and Mosoczi at 26-24 in the third game after being 2-9 down!

Wendy lost to the 15-year-old German Miss Koch 18-21, 18-21 in the singles, while Joyce was unfortunate in losing to Miss Jansko 19-21 in the third. An umpire's mistake at 18—all cost Joyce her concentration.

Conditions were spoilt by lack of proper lighting, making it difficult to see the ball clearly.

Sunday, June 26. This was finals day and they were played at Ludwigsburg. First came a parade of nations, then a speech of welcome by the Burgermeister.

The individual finals were played first, then Wendy and Joyce romped home with the girls' doubles, beating the German pair Kuchler and Limrunner in two straight games.

The final of the boys' team followed, with Germany beating Sweden 5-4. A good match, but dragged on for a long time owing to several time-limit games.

A grand party followed in the evening at Stuttgart. How different everyone looked out of T.T. clothes, and how nice were our girls in their party dresses. No wonder they earned the title of "sweetest team."

Monday, June 27. It's goodbye to Ruit and all our new friends. Shopping, a cinema, then the train for home at 9 p.m. and straight through to Ostend.

Tuesday, June 28. A perfect day on the boat—stayed on deck the whole time—and so to Victoria, tired but happy.

Wendy and Joyce are a good advertisement for English Table Tennis, showing good manners and good sportsmanship at all times. I was proud to be their captain.

An Open Letter to all Selection Committees

The chief topic of the past season was "sponge." Almost every player and organiser delivered judgment from personal experience or theoretically.

Although no general ban on this surface exists, it is still possible that the attitude of selection committees at all levels in the game can severely censor the "sponge" player.

Success is not the only yardstick on which selection depends. Style, potential, age, and appearance receive due consideration. Will the type of bat be added to this list?

As yet no English sponge player worthy of international recognition has emerged, but the coming season may present the selectors with the

problems of new "spongers" or established players who have changed to this surface.

It is therefore of great importance to all ambitious players whatever their standard that evidence be collected from as many selection committees as possible on this issue. Local policy may differ from County or National policy, and if these are in any way restrictive, it should in all fairness to the players be stated at an early date.

LEN ADAMS.

Note: I am authorised by the National Selection Committee to state its policy: The type of bat used will not in any way restrict a player's chances of selection.

Editor.

BIGGER THAN EVER

By CONRAD JASCHKE

ROLL up, roll up, for the greatest junior show on earth. No. 1 is not "Barnum and Bailey's" circus, but the Kent Junior Open Table Tennis Tournament at the Pier Pavilion, Herne Bay, on Sunday, November 13.

It is bigger than ever this year, with the addition of two new events, boys' and girls' doubles for the under "thirteens." Added to the five events for "regulation" juniors, five for the under "fifteens," and the under "thirteens" boys' and girls' singles, this brings the total up to 14 events and the whole lot has to be run off in one day on 12 tables.

The man behind this colossal piece of organisation is Jimmy Mannooch, of Sittingbourne, who has done so much for the encouragement of juniors.

This is not a local affair. Hundreds of youngsters with ages ranging from seven to 17 come from all over Britain, and it is hoped that Belgian, French and German juniors will again figure among the entrants as they did last year, when Erich Arndt took the senior boys' singles to Germany.

Most of last year's winners, including Arndt, Joyce Fielder (Kent),

Laurie Landry (Middlesex), Terry Densham (Surrey), Wendy Bates (Sussex) and Florence Wright (Yorks.), are too old to defend their trophies, but that will not deflect from the interest.

One girl who hopes to take a further lease of her trophy is 12-year-old Jean Harrower (Herts.), daughter of the Middlesex international Geoff Harrower.

She defends the under thirteens singles and will take a lot of stopping not only in this group, but also in the "older" events judging by her performance of taking Micky McMeekin, Kent's No. 1 girl, to 19-21, 20-22 in the final of the East of England girls' singles.

Micky is considered good enough to have been put forward for an England junior trial.

Although the tournament has to be subsidised it is the pride and joy of Kent officials, for it has paid its dividends in the shape of large numbers of juniors coming along in the county.

Kent have a wealth of junior talent and it is the encouragements of tournaments of this kind that have helped foster the young idea.

SCHOOLBOYS WIN

East London juniors had their sequence of wins in their annual close season challenge match with Briar Clyffe School, Lowestoft, ended this year, the school winning 6-3. With East London represented by Tony Cornell, Johnny Bradford and Mickie Doody, and Briar Clyffe by John Collins, Peter Cole and Anthony Levine, (all county players) it was in fact an unofficial match between Essex and Suffolk.

The standard in consequence was the highest ever, each tie being keenly contested. Seven of them went to three games.

The defeat of Cornell, last year's junior international, by both Collins and Levine was the surprise of the match.

Harry Levine, the principal of the School, was responsible for the staging of the match, and is proving a great friend of Table Tennis. Harry Walker, the League President, and match secretary Peter Bunten, accompanied the East London boys.

Details (Briar Clyffe first)—Peter Cole beat John Bradford 19-21, 21-18, 21-17; lost to Anthony Cornell 17-21, 21-13, 18-21; beat Michael Doody 21-17, 19-21, 21-17. John Collins beat John Bradford 21-7, 21-19; beat Anthony Cornell 21-13, 21-16; beat Michael Doody 21-6, 16-21, 21-14. Anthony Levine lost to John Bradford 17-21, 21-18, 9-21; beat Anthony Cornell 9-21, 21-16, 21-16; lost to Michael Doody 21-15, 6-21, 20-22.



Back Row: CORNELL, COLLINS, BRADFORD. Front Row: LEVINE, DOODY, COLE.

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Letters to the Editor

APPRECIATION

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the E.T.T.A. as an organisation and to all of the fine and most competent individuals who comprise your efficient Association. It is seldom that I have the opportunity to meet such consistently kind and hospitable people. Being a guest in your great country provided me with a life-time of wonderful memories and I shall never forget them. My great wish now is to be able in some future year to once more clasp hands with all of you and renew friendships with your gracious people.

If any member of your Association or any of your fine players should journey to my country and visit the city of Chicago, I would consider it both a privilege and a pleasure if they would be our guests during their stay.

Please extend my thanks and very best regards to all members of the English team. They certainly are fine players and sportsmen and wonderful representatives of their country.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) SALLY GREEN PROUTY,
Winnetka, Ill., U.S.A.

TEAM SPIRIT

I would like to contradict your May Editorial in which you stated that the Middlesex monopoly of the County Championship was mainly due to the brilliance of the twins Ros and Di Rowe. The continued success of Middlesex is due to a wonderful team spirit added to the ability of the individuals, as I am sure the twins would be the first to agree.

I would also point out that had the championship been played without women, Middlesex would still have won every match: 4-3 against Yorkshire, Surrey and Gloucester; 5-2 against Essex and Glamorgan; and 6-1 against Lancashire and Cheshire.

LEN ADAMS,
Ealing.

TABLE TENNIS NOT TOPS

It was with indignation that we read in the May issue of your magazine that Table Tennis at St. Peter's takes superiority over cricket and football. Nothing is further from the truth.

We concede that table tennis does take a high place among the school's sports; we play it ourselves. A large number in the school do play table tennis but the number of those who prefer football and cricket, even though they may not take part in them, must be infinitely greater. No school that wants to keep up a good sports tradition would hardly say that it has reared good table tennis players. It would rather be football or cricket, or rugby.

W. M. VENTHAM,
(Upper VI arts), captain of football,
P. J. ALISON,
(Lower VI Sc.), captain of cricket.
St. Peter's, Southbourne.

BARBARA MILBANK reports on

WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

(Warsaw, August 1 to 12, 1955)

WHEN in years to come I am asked what was the most memorable occasion of my table tennis career, the answer will most likely be: The World University Games.

The trip to Warsaw last August provided me with the double thrill of my first visit abroad and also my first flight in an aeroplane. It was a wonderful experience, which I shall long remember.

We were fêted everywhere, given many concessions, and we came home with our share of the honours in the shape of a gold, silver and bronze medal.

Under the captaincy of Ken Craigie (Surrey) the team was completed by Jimmy Lowe (Middx.), Ivor Jones (Essex), Bobby Stevens (Essex), Ray Syndercoombe (Kent), Helen Elliot (Scotland), Shirley Jones (Wales), Yvonne Baker (Essex), and Betty Isaacs (Surrey).

Our big adventure started when we left Gatwick on Saturday, July 30, and with a brief stop at Frankfurt, flew direct to Prague, where we were taken on a short sight-seeing tour and to supper before taking the midnight train to Warsaw. The first-class sleepers were most welcome, for we had been on the go since 5.30 a.m., and were thankful to snuggle down to sleep.

We arrived at the Polish border at 6.30 a.m. and our first experience of Polish hospitality came when we were welcomed by a band and invited to join in dancing with the "locals." It was great fun.

We eventually arrived in Warsaw at 4.30 p.m. and were quickly installed in a Students' Hostel which became our home for the next two weeks.

Monday saw the grand opening of the sports meeting at the great Central Stadium seating over 70,000.

I am sorry to say, however, that the British contingent looked the least smart in the march-past over the 35 countries taking part.



WOMENS DOUBLES MEDALISTS—GRAFKOVA and KROUPOVA (Czechoslovakia) ELLIOT (G.B.) and ROZEANU (Roumania), JONES and MILBANK (G.B.)

The Table Tennis championships took place at the Stalin Palace of Culture and Science, a gift from Russia to Poland. This is a magnificent building, towering over the centre of the city and housing the departments of the Polish Academy of Science, libraries, theatrical and cinema halls, gymnasias and athletic halls.

The Palace, like the Central Stadium, had been opened only a fortnight previous. Unfortunately, we were unable to spare the time for a complete tour of the Palace, which we were given to understand would take about six hours.

Helen Elliot was the star of the British team. She collected a silver medal as runner-up to Angelica Rozeanu in the final of the women's singles, and partnered the Roumanian world champion to win the women's doubles, where Shirley Jones and myself received a bronze medal after

winning the play-off between the losing semi-finalists.

On her way to the singles final Helen beat Kroupova (Czech) and Ciu Drium Huj (China), who plays with a sponge bat.

An unfortunate second round clash saw Yvonne Baker eliminate Shirley Jones, only to find the Chinese sponge players too strong, as did Betty Isaacs. I lost to Rozeanu.

Jimmy Lowe was the best of the men, losing narrowly to Tsunodo, of Japan at 17 in the fifth game. Bobby Stevens went out to Stipek (Czech), the eventual winner, Ray Syndercoombe was beaten by Vyhnanovsky (Czech), while Ken Craigie and Ivor Jones, were both disappointing, losing in the first round to Posejpal (Czech) and Pietraszak (Poland) respectively.

The finals took place on Sunday, August 7, so until the following Thursday we were free to please ourselves. Much of the time was taken up in shopping for souvenirs, but oh, those fantastic prices. To give an example, a woollen sweater cost around 400 Zlotych, and the official rate of exchange is 11 Zlotych to the pound! Thus most things were beyond our reach even though we had been given 399 Zlotych as pocket money.

BIRMINGHAM OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY, NOV. 12th at the Friends' Institute, 220 Moseley Rd., Birmingham 12.
Entry forms from Mr. M. GOLDSTEIN, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12. Doubles Events to be played under the proposed amended ruling (abolition of centre line).

Incidentally the average top wage in key industries in Poland is 500 Zlotych per week.

On the Monday we were entertained at a reception by the British Ambassador, and we were also invited to use the British Embassy Club whenever we wished.

Among the personalities of the Games were the Olympic champions Zatopek and Shirley Strickland, who celebrated the occasion with a new world 100 metres record of 11.3 seconds.

Helen returned home on the Wednesday, while Ivor, Bobby and Ray took advantage of staying on for a few more days. The remainder of us travelled home on the Thursday, but this time had a rough air passage from Frankfurt.

We had a wonderful time in Warsaw, but it was good to drink a real cup of English tea once more!

FINALS RESULTS:

Men's Singles: **Stipek** (Czech) bt. Cran Jun Nin (China) 21-14, 21-18, 21-17.

Women's Singles: **Rozeanu** (Roumania) bt Helen Elliot (G.B.) 21-14, 21-13, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: **Reiter/Gantner** (Roumania) bt Stipek/Posejal (Czech) 21-10, 21-23, 24-26, 27-25, 21-17.

Women's Doubles: **Rozeanu/Elliot** bt Grafkova/Kroupova (Czech) 21-17, 21-14, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles: **Stipek/Rozeanu** bt Wan Huan Jao/Sun Mej Fu (China) 21-11, 21-7, 21-8.

TWICE AS MANY

by KENNETH WHEELER

THE 1955/56 National Junior Table

Tennis Tournament for under-fifteens, promoted by "Eagle" and "Girl" Magazines has got off to a bumper start with an entry of **over 1,500**—nearly double that received last year. This is despite the fact that most of last year's Senior competitors are now ineligible to enter because of the age limit.

Playing Centres have been chosen by the majority vote of readers, and Qualifying Rounds will be held at the following venues: **North London, South London, Birmingham, Manchester, Bristol and Cardiff, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Leeds and Nottingham.**

October Dates.

1st October—London (North) Boys' Senior and Junior at St. Bride's Institute, London.

8th October—London (South) Boys' Senior and Junior at St. Bride's Institute, London.

15th October—Birmingham, at The Central Y.M.C.A.

22nd October—Manchester, at The Openshaw Lads' Club.

The Grand Finals will take place on Saturday, February 25th, at The Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London.

Thirty children selected for special coaching as a result of the promise they showed in last year's tournament attended Butlin's Holiday Camp, Skegness, during the first week of September and greatly benefited from the tuition of Chief Coach Johnny Leach, assisted by Peggy Franks and Ken Stanley.

Jacqueline Butcher, the "Girl" Senior Champion, extended her stay at Skegness in order to compete in The "News of the World" Coaching Competition, and was awarded the main Trophy in this competition as "The Most Promising Girl of the Year."

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B R I T I S H E U R O P E A N A I R W A Y S

Area News :

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

NEW ground is being broken in the National County Championship by Staffs, the senior team playing in the Western Division. Their matches are: December 10 v. Somerset at Bath, January 14 v. Worcestershire at Dudley, February 4 v Devon at Exeter, March 24 v. Glamorgan at Walsall. With the exception of Worcester all are new opponents.

The long journeys to Bath and Exeter will tax the county's resources, but it is felt that the prestige of strong opposition will be worth it.

The "B" team also play four matches in the Midland Division: October 5 v. Warwickshire at Birmingham, October 29 v. Worcestershire at Kidderminster, November 19 v. Derbyshire at Stoke, January 7 v Northamptonshire at Wolverhampton.

Whenever possible County junior teams will play on the same dates and give chances to budding county players.

In the Staffs County League teams will be as last season, except for Cheadle, who have withdrawn.

The county team championship held for the first time last year and won by Wolverhampton will again be held. Additional entries are expected.

Y.M.C.A. have entered nine teams for the West Bromwich League. This is a record for the league and possibly for the county. Big disappointment is the absence of Church Army, original mem-

bers in 1933 and the only club with continuous membership.

Highway Club will miss the services of junior international Derek Backhouse, busy with examinations, while Wellington will be without Colin Davies. This should even things in the First Division.

The West Bromwich League are running eight divisions this season, one more than last year.

A. A. Wall.

MERSEYSIDE MEMO

THE Liverpool and District League commences the season with the same number of Divisions and Regions (9) for the Men as last season, but there is only one Women's Division this year instead of two as in 1954-55.

This to my mind is rather surprising as the girls' game has had such wonderful publicity the last two or three years on the accomplishments of the Rowe twins, Kathie Best and Ann Haydon, that one might have been led to expect an influx of the female of the species instead of a decline. Could it be that Cupid has taken a hand?

We welcome six new clubs, Douglas Youth Club, Ebani, Harold House, Lussac, Orrel Wardens Y.C., and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, and hope their stay with us will be a long and happy one.

I am very sorry to announce that there will be no Merseyside Open this season as we cannot obtain a suitable venue. The hall we have had for the last few years has new tenants, and was only available for Friday night and Saturday, which was useless unless we re-

stricted entries (when it would have ceased to be an open tournament).

We have inspected many other premises, but having in mind the new regulations regarding side space and run back, and the fact that we would need to be there from Wednesday to Saturday inclusive, we were unable to find anything to fit the bill. Rather than forfeit the good will built up over the years, it was better to cancel the "Merseyside" than organise it under any but first class conditions. We feel sure our friends, who have supported us in the past, will agree with us.

The Wirral League commences its fourth season with the loss of a few clubs, among them Cosco, Wallasey Motors and the Y.W.C.A. These three clubs were members of the Liverpool League before Wirral was formed, but with call-up problems they have found it too difficult to obtain replacements.

Five new clubs have joined, Prices Sports Club, Greasby Community Association, Deeside Boys' Club, Mount Tabor Y.C., and there is the welcome return of Birkenhead Co-op. Centre.

Although there has been an overall loss of five clubs, there are 88 teams, an increase of two over last year. The Women's division has again suffered and consists of only eight teams. The girls seem to prefer to play in mixed teams claiming that they get better games, possibly because of the shortage of good women players. Under these circumstances it is quite probable that this division will disappear altogether in the near future.

Bill Stamp.

Sir Kreemy Knut



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WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

THE new season is now under way and we confidently expect the First and Second Divisions to be as keenly contested as they were last year, when the results were in doubt until the end.

Bristol are all out to retain their First Division title, while West Wilts, who as Second Division champions gained promotion at the expense of Newport, are determined to maintain First Division status.

Although they will find much stronger opposition they are enthusiastic over their prospects, and their opponents will find them a dour team.

Bath, Bristol, Birmingham, Cardiff, Cheltenham, Gloucester and West Wilts make up the First Division. Bath, who narrowly missed relegation last season, will make a determined effort to climb higher up the table.

Newport are anxious that their stay in the Second Division should not last more than one season, but will not find the opposition easy to overcome. Their strongest rivals are likely to be Bristol "seconds."

Weston are going to miss the services of Mick Bennett, who has now emigrated to Canada. They are busy looking for a replacement. Taunton make up the complement of the Second Division.

If there is a league in the area who would like to join the Western Counties League, and they care to contact the Secretary, Mr. G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon. (Tel. 71964), arrangements might be made for them to be included in the Second Division.

At our recent Annual General Meeting, Mr. Ivor Eyles was re-elected chairman, and myself as secretary/treasurer. In the absence of our President, Mr. Monty Mendeleon, Mr. Eyles presented the cups and plaques to Bristol and West Wilts. He had a special word of praise for West Wilts on their first major triumph.

Grove Motlow

IRISH SCENE

THE season here has not as yet properly commenced, but most of our leading players have got down to some serious practise. It is to be regretted, however, that only a hard core, consisting of about half-a-dozen, played during the summer months.

Granted, the weather was abnormally warm, but surely it is during the close season that real practise can be done. However, we can only wait and see if this criticism is misplaced and whether the lay-off will have proved beneficial or otherwise.

The Leinster Championships last year resulted in overwhelming success for the home province, and now many are of the opinion that Ulster's long standing supremacy is at an end. This trend has been coming for some time, as there is no disputing the fact that sooner or later those two Ulster stalwarts, O'Prey and Martin, must give way to the younger Clerkin and Pappin.

Of course, it is generally acknowledged that Leinster's Joy Owens is Ireland's foremost woman player.

Talking to some of the Leinster officials, they told me they expect this to be Leinster's year. We will have to wait and see, for who knows, maybe some new star will emerge from the Northern firmament.

Ireland will have three internationals this season—against England in Belfast on December 1, Scotland at Bangor on February 9, then travel to Wales on a date still to be arranged.

The Irish Open Championships will be held in Dublin on March 14-24, and it is expected that all the leading players will take part, plus several visitors.

Organisers of the Leinster "Open" booked for Dublin on December 2-10, are launching an all out effort to give the tournament a truly international flavour.

S. Dignam.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

ANOTHER season is upon us and looking around one finds the tall figure of the late county chairman Dennis Holmes missing. In his place Frank Newell, of Cheltenham, ably fills the vacant chair. All the others are, I am glad to state still with us. We look forward to well filled and constructive executive meetings.

Bristol with their massive league of 16 divisions, Cheltenham (quality not quantity), Gloucester, Dursley and the Forest of Dean, make up the county's small but highly efficient administrators who will keep Gloucestershire in the front of keen and well developed counties.

The county league, primarily run for the juniors, will see all make efforts to

wrest supremacy away from Cheltenham Juniors. Bristol are already holding trials for that purpose.

The highlight of the season will no doubt be the England v France (men) match at the Town Hall, Cheltenham, on February 27, prior to the English "Open" at Manchester.

The County season opens with a visit from Lancashire at Cheltenham, and other home matches will be against Surrey at Bristol and Warwickshire at Dursley.

Already the county players have been practising together, and a welcome return to form of Aubrey Simons, fresh from a successful cricket season, could make us dangerous opponents.

The County "closed" championships are returning to Cheltenham after a lapse of several years. March 10 is the most likely date.

Chairman Frank Newell is hoping that we may be able to organise a Gloucestershire Junior "Open" in the near future, an event which is keenly anticipated by our wealth of junior talent.

Local players have been busy in other sports during the summer months. Bob Griffin gained a county "cap" for Lawn Tennis, thus achieving the double of Basil Bucknell.

"Rusty" Wood, chose cricket, and opening the innings for Imperial Tobacco Co., scored lots of runs, while his wicket keeping was of the high standard that earned him a county trial a few years ago.

Congratulations to Bristol on their very well organised dance, on the occasion of their prize presentation last June. Some 500 players and friends thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Finally it is good to hear that the popular Dennis Andrews has now had his wife restored to health after a long stay in hospital.

Ivor Eyles.

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ESSEX NOTES

THE cancellation of the Thameside "open" has paved the way for the Essex "closed" championships to return to the Metropolitan area after two years at Southend. They take over the vacant dates at Plaistow Y.M.C.A. from April 23-28.

Increasing interest is emphasized with a record entry for the Essex League championship. Thameside Industries have been promoted to the First Division at the expense of Dagenham.

The Veterans' Division has proved so popular that it has now been divided into two divisions. Welcome newcomers to the Junior Division are Chelmsford.

Forced to play the rôle of spectator for the start of the season is Jean Page, regular member of the County second team for the past two years. She is recovering from an arm injury sustained in a motor cycle accident.

Fred Kershaw, former Staffordshire County No. 1, may be newcomer to the Essex side this year. He was invited for the county trials as he is now living in the area. Kershaw helped Ilford reach the semi-final of the Wilmott Cup last season.

Wedding bells will be ringing shortly for the East London players Ken Beamish, former junior international, and Shirley Evans. They marry at the end of the month.

Essex are well represented in the English ranking list with Johnny Leach at No. 1 and Bobby Stevens at No. 11 among the men, and Peggy Franks and Barbara Milbank are Nos. 5 and 8 respectively among the women. In addition Brian Brumwell, Ivor Jones and Yvonne Baker are all classified in Group "A."

The formation of a County Supporters' Club; coaching schemes, and the need for a smarter turn-out by players in Inter-League matches, were among matters discussed at a highly successful League Secretaries' conference in August. The conference also wanted larger zones in the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl, as leagues were apt to play the same opponents year after year.

Frank Bateman.

PORTSMOUTH POINTERS

PORTSMOUTH and District start the new season with seven complete divisions of 12 teams, plus two women's divisions of ten and 11 respectively, making a grand total of 105 teams.

The committee is once again being led by Mr. W. Killner as Chairman, assisted by Messrs. R. Pearse (Vice-Chairman), C. H. Staples (General Secretary and Treasurer) and Mrs. L. Moore (Asst. General Secretary), as the other officers.

Mrs. Moore has succeeded Miss Joyce Smith, whose retirement, due to pressure of other business, after five years as Assistant General Secretary was marked by the presentation of a travelling suitcase.

Looking back to last season, we find that we have lost the service of Ray Lush, the Portsmouth "closed" singles champion, who has now moved to the Worcester district. However, M. Coughlan (R.A.O.C., Hilssea), is still with us

and will be out to maintain his undefeated league record of last season.

One of our young stars of last season, Derek Eneas, has been distinguishing himself on the tennis courts during the summer months, carrying off several local junior titles.

The Portsmouth "Special" Tournament is once again being held on December 4 and 11, when a new event will be a junior mixed singles. As First Division players are barred from the "Special," Roy Henderson, Portsmouth's No. 1 junior is unable to compete in the new event.

The Portsmouth "Open" has been arranged for Sunday, October 23 at the South Parade Pier, Southsea.

C. H. Staples

KENT NOTES

KENT League have made a good start to the new season with a record entry of 43, an increase of six over last year. A welcome sign is the increase in the junior division where Bromley and Thanet are newcomers, bringing the strength up to eight.

Canterbury are the first league to enter five teams, having one each in the men's, women's and junior divisions and two in the Second Division (South).

Kent experiment by staging their opening home matches in a theatre, for the first time. On October 15 they put on Kent v. Middlesex Juniors (3 p.m.), at the Canteen Theatre, R.N. Barracks, Chatham, followed by seniors against Essex in the evening.

Bobby Thorn, who has many times represented Kent at lawn tennis, has long had a burning ambition to do so at table tennis. Last year, by virtue of his good understanding with Bromley team-mate Ron Etheridge, he was selected for the county team at doubles, and the Bromley pair won four out of five matches. Last year's No. 8 ranking was

Bobby's highest ever, but at the Kent trials last month he caused a sensation in going through the event without defeat, beating, amongst others, the Woolwich pair of Ray Syndercombe and Dennis Whittaker, and Kent champion Stan Brocklebank of Canterbury, to earn No. 2 ranking behind Etheridge, who was unable to attend the trials. Ranked behind them are Syndercombe, Whittaker, and Brocklebank, L. Plant (Folkestone), G. Savage (N.W.K.), D. Collins (N.W.K.), R. Harris (Woolwich) and G. Harding (Folkestone) in that order.

In a ding-dong battle for position of No. 1 woman, Mrs. Joan Beadle (Medway Towns) got the better of Joyce Fielder (N.W.K.), the Kent champion. They proved themselves well ahead of the field, with Joyce Robeson (Maidstone) being a good third.

In the junior trials, 15-year-old Tony Piddock, of Folkestone, gained No. 1 ranking as expected, by winning throughout but, the surprise was another 15-year-old, Tony Sidders, of Sittingbourne, who moved up from No. 11 to No. 2. He is a recent convert to sponge. Roy Hart (Folkestone) is No. 3.

For many years attempts have been made to amend the block voting system; used at Kent county A.G.M.s, but these had always been defeated by the large leagues, who had the major say under the system. At the last A.G.M., Thanet League put forward a proposal which greatly narrowed the gap in the voting power of small and large leagues.

To everybody's surprise, this proposal was passed unanimously, and now every league has ten votes, plus one for every ten affiliated clubs. Previously the rule was one vote per affiliated club, which meant some leagues had as little as five votes, and some as many as 48. Now the smallest will have ten, the largest 15 votes.

Conrad Jaschke

Like the winning teams

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AROUND THE LEAGUES

THE past month or two has been a busy time for the League officials. They have been burning the midnight oil drawing up the various programmes and generally doing the back-room work which ordinary players take as a matter of course.

But the main spade work has been done and all over the country thousands of clubs in hundreds of leagues have now embarked on their rivalry.

Bournemouth had 11 teams withdraw this season, but with 12 new ones they soar to new record figures of 104 teams representing 45 clubs, playing in seven divisions. Their entries have gone up every year since the war.

Plymouth, who cater for 112 teams in eight divisions, have inaugurated two new club pairs competitions, one for juniors under 19, and one for women playing in Division Three or below.

Thirteen has proved a lucky number for **Ranmoor Ladies**. **Sheffield** have extended the strength of their Ladies' Division to 13, so that Ran-

moor should not be refused entry. **Sheffield** run eight other divisions.

Women registered with men's teams have been barred by WEST OF SCOTLAND from playing for any women's team in league or cup play.

New centre for the **Leeds** and District will be at St. James' School-room, Cross York Street. Four tables are available and all Inter-City matches will be played there.

Competition will be keener than ever this season for places in the **Romford League** team now that Mike Darlington and Denis Jenkins are available. Big improvement in the standard of the Ladies' Division has forced selectors to hold women's trials for the first time for many years.

Bucks table tennis players need not be in the dark as to what is going on in their county. They now have their own magazine, "From Sand to Sponge," edited by C. K. Dimmock, of **Bletchley**.

Incidentally **Bletchley's** new headquarters are almost ready to open and

two tables will be available to members 24 hours a day. Looks as though "We Never Close" should be their slogan.

Folkestone have a new secretary in George Harding, one of their stalwarts, at present ranked No. 10 in the county. **N.W. Kent** also have a new secretary—Bernard Carrier, former county selector, taking over from Conrad Jaschke, who is now devoting his energies to the county.

Woolwich show a further increase in entries, and their membership is estimated at least double that of any other Kent league.

Medway Towns have acquired a useful recruit in Barry Meisel, doing his National Service at Strood. An unorthodox attacking player, he has the beating of many of the county's top players.

Len Browning, Sheffield United centre-forward, who has spent the last 20 months in a sanatorium, is back home, and although there will be a delay before he can resume football, he expects to be playing table tennis this season, complete with a sponge bat.

Look out for these New Books!

'The Twins' on Table Tennis

by **Diane and Rosalind Rowe**
(Ranked Nos. 2 and 1 by the E.T.T.A. for 1955-56)

Table Tennis My Way

by **Johnny Leach**
(Ranked No. 1 by the E.T.T.A. for 1955-56)

and don't forget this older one!

Table Tennis for All

- The famous Twins reached the top so young, and have remained there so long, that at the age of only 22 they are regarded as veterans. Here, in their official biography, they describe how they have done it—it is a story of great human interest to all who follow this world-wide sport, especially to women. With added chapters on equipment, technique (the remarks on doubles play are, of course, of particular value), 'sponge' and present-day personalities, it is one of the most stimulating books the game has produced
- 16 photos, 34 drawings. 8s. 6d.

- At a fantastically low price this outstanding player—twice World Singles Champion—here offers the beginner at table tennis basic advice on all aspects of the game, from equipment to the notorious 'sponge' question, and in a 'flicker' sequence of action drawings demonstrates some of the tactics he describes.
- With 50 drawings and 8 pages of photos, 2s. 6d.

- Johnny Leach's masterly handbook to the game, reckoned by many to be the best manual ever written on it. Now in second impression.
- 168 pages, 18 photos 9s. 6d.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

THIS season, for the first time since its inception in 1947, the County Championships are without its founder-secretary Geoff Harrower, and a new name appears at the top of these notes.

Geoff, who was apparently inexhaustible, couldn't say "no" where T.T. was concerned; consequently the jobs piled up on him. Following the extraordinary amount of additional work that he put in on the organisation of the World Championships in 1954, he had a breakdown and has now found it necessary to resign from his many T.T. positions.

Genial Ivor Eyles is the new secretary, unanimously elected at the recent A.G.M., and we wish Geoff, in his well-earned retirement, and Ivor, in his new and unenviable position, every success in the future.

The growth of the County Championships has been a feature of post-war table tennis. They were inaugurated eight years ago with 15 counties providing 19 teams playing in three divisions. Junior divisions were introduced two years later, and last season a total of 40 senior and seven junior teams from 32 counties played in eight divisions.

The increase has been continued this season with entries soaring to a record of 50 teams from 32 counties and the formation of two more divisions has become necessary. They are a Second Division to cover the Western Counties and a Junior North Division.

At this early stage, with playing strengths as yet unknown, it is difficult to attempt any forecast of results but an examination of the present structure of the various divisions proves interesting.

Leicestershire, after seven years continuous membership in the North Midland and Midland Divisions, have found it necessary to withdraw from the competition entirely, and Surrey have pulled out their Junior team. To offset this Worcestershire, the only Senior team apart from Middlesex, the County champions, to retain a hundred per cent record last season, have entered an additional team, and Wiltshire enter the Championships for the first time.

The Premier Division has two newcomers in Sussex, from the Second

Division South, and Warwickshire, champions of the Second Division North, Cheshire and Glamorgan being relegated.

Cheshire return to the Second Division North after one season in the Premier Division without winning a match, whereas Glamorgan, after four seasons in the Premier Division, now play in the newly formed Second Division West, with Devonshire transferred from Second Division South, Somerset promoted from the South Western Division, Staffordshire transferred from Second Division North and Worcestershire, champions of the Midland Division, promoted with an unbeaten record.

The Second Division South lose Berkshire to the Southern Division, but gain Hampshire, Southern Division champions, and Bedfordshire, champions of the Eastern Division.

The Southern Division is strengthened by the inclusion of the new team from Wiltshire, and Worcestershire's new team joins the Midland Division, replacing Leicestershire.

The most encouraging aspect of the new season is the formation of the Junior North Division. True, only three teams, Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire have entered, but it is a

most promising start and is the first occasion on which juniors from these areas have been given an opportunity of playing inter-county matches on an official basis.

The line-up of the various divisions is:

PREMIER

Essex, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Yorkshire.

SECOND SOUTH

Bedfordshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey.

SECOND NORTH

Cheshire, Durham, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Yorkshire.

SECOND WEST

Devonshire, Glamorgan, Somerset, Staffordshire, Worcestershire.

SOUTHERN

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire.

EASTERN

Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk.

MIDLAND

Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire.

SOUTH WESTERN

Cornwall, Devonshire, Dorsetshire.

JUNIOR SOUTH

Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Suffolk, Sussex.

JUNIOR NORTH

Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

October 22 Sussex v Gloucestershire, Congregational Church Hall, Linden Road, Bognor Regis. 7.00 p.m.

October 22 Warwickshire v Middlesex, Parish Church Hall, Vicarage Street, Nuneaton. 7.00 p.m.

October 22 Lancashire v Essex, Y.M.C.A., Deansgate, Bolton. 7.00 p.m.

October 22 Yorkshire v Surrey, Shipley, Bradford. 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

October 22 Northumberland v Durham, Rutherford College Hall, Bath Lane, Newcastle. 7.00 p.m.

October 29 Yorkshire v Cheshire, Police Boys' Club, Halifax. 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

October 15 Kent v Essex, R.N. Barracks Theatre, Chatham. 7.00 p.m.

October 20 Middlesex v Surrey, A.I.D. Test House, Harefield. 7.15 p.m.

October 22 Bedfordshire v Hampshire, The Co-Partners Hall, Bedford. 7.30 p.m.

October 27 Essex v Surrey, Beckton Products, Ltd., London, E.16. 7.30 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

October 22 Glamorgan v Worcestershire. 7.15 p.m.

October 29 Somerset v Devon, Y.M.C.A., High Street, Weston-super-Mare. 7.15 p.m.

EASTERN DIVISION

October 22 Suffolk v Cambridgeshire, Stowmarket. 7.15 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

October 22 Northamptonshire v Warwickshire, Peterborough. 7.15 p.m.

October 29 Worcestershire v Staffordshire, Kidderminster. 7.45 p.m.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

October 15 Hertfordshire v Wiltshire, Dunlop Racket Factory Canteen, Lea Road, Waltham Abbey. 7.00 p.m.

October 29 Berkshire v Buckinghamshire, Y.M.C.A., Friar Street, Reading. 7.00 p.m.

SOUTH-WESTERN DIVISION

October 22 Dorset v Cornwall, Wesleyan Methodist Hall, Easton, Portland. 7.00 p.m.

November 5 Cornwall v Devon, Silley Cox, Ltd., Canteen, Falmouth. 7.00 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH

October 22 Yorkshire v Lancashire, Ovenden School, Ovenden, Halifax. 3.30 p.m.

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

October 15 Kent v Middlesex, R.N. Barracks Theatre, Chatham. 3.00 p.m.

October 22 Essex v Sussex, Hutton Residential School, Shenfield. 6.00 p.m.

SMALL TOWN CLUB DEVELOPS

by C. J. HOARE

SOME time in July, 1946, two young men met in their "local" for the first time since their war service. The outcome was the formation of the *Alresford Table Tennis Club* just a month later.

As playing accommodation was scarce the new club was more than pleased to make use of a room just large enough to hold one table for twice weekly meetings.

Alresford is quite a small town in Hampshire. The nearest league is at Winchester seven miles away, but as several of the competing teams came from Eastleigh, a further nine miles afield and infrequent public transport made travelling difficult, they had to be content with playing friendlies for their first four years.

The time was not wasted. They brought together a small but happy band of players and a wonderful team spirit was built up, which was fully emphasised when in 1950 two members purchased cars and put them at the disposal of the club.

The travelling problem solved, Alresford were able to compete in the Winchester League for the first time and were accepted straight into the First Division, where they finished fifth. The next season was also uneventful, then in 1952-3 season, with two sides competing, came their first success. Their "A" team carried off the League title, toppling Hiltingbury "A" who had been champions for the previous four seasons.

A celebration dinner was held and the following season their "B" team gave an excuse for another dinner by winning the Second Division title. Then last season the "hat-trick" was completed with the "C" team carrying off the Third Division at first time of entry.

PROUD RECORD

To win three titles in successive seasons is a unique record of which the club is justly proud.

This season finds the club with an average membership of 18 which includes a grocery manager, motor mechanic, postman, estate agent's clerk, garage clerk, gardener, railway

porter, a farmer and a National Serviceman.

Such is the keenness of the Alresford members that they do not let distance stand in their way. Three, who live at Alton, make a round journey of 20 miles for practise and home matches, another regularly made a return journey of 85 miles while doing his National Service; but the record goes to the player whose business had taken him to Camberley, and made a 95 miles motor cycle journey in order to fulfill a fixture at Eastleigh.

It would be interesting to hear of other small clubs whose members travel such long distances.

This article has been written in the hope that it may lift a small club out of obscurity for a short time and, perhaps, to the notice of the more important clubs so that they may realise a little of how a small club exists and "does its bit" towards the furtherance of the game of Table Tennis.

Would the game have reached its present state of efficiency both in organisation and play, without the help of we "little 'uns"?

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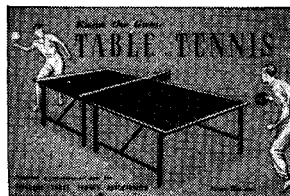
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Partners for life : Jean Winn and Jackie Head, the Surrey internationals, were married at St. Mary's Church, Merton, on September 10. Jean will in future play under her married name.

YOUNG players coming into table tennis today must realise that although we are gaining prestige as a national sport we are still a long way from being compared with the great outdoor pastimes such as football and cricket and although they are given every encouragement in the early days they must chiefly rely on themselves.

There are no talent scouts, as in football, waiting to sign them on for fashionable clubs with a job to tide them over until they are ready for the big time game.

At the start providing kit for oneself would appear to be an inexpensive task, a bat and a pair of shoes being the bare minimum. At this point I would like the young player to pay very close attention to my words—when you go on the table for a match, however minor, please dress properly and neatly. By this I mean clean white shoes, neatly pressed shorts and shirt (or long trousers perhaps, if preferred).

Unfortunately our game is done infinite harm by those players, some of them very near to top standard, who go on to the table wearing filthy shoes and very creased clothing

Another point. If you really want to succeed at table tennis don't imagine that it can be done by combining it with other sports. By this I do not mean that one should confine himself to the indoor atmosphere of the game for twelve months of the year as it absolutely essential to get as much fresh air and exercise as possible, but you cannot successfully play football in the afternoon and then a stiff table tennis match in the evening and give of your best. Injury can never be ruled out and a hurried replacement might be needed for you to the detriment of your side.

Entering League and competitive table tennis must be your first aim and although it is not always easy to get into a leading club, make every effort to join a club where the opportunity arises of playing the senior players with the chance of promotion to the higher teams when it is deserved.

Practice for many youngsters today is a very big problem. Clubs are generally overcrowded and often League matches occupy three or four evenings of the week. It is possible, however, to get adequate practice if you are keen enough, and above all keenness is the greatest essential.

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FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details and Venue</i>	<i>Extra Events</i>	<i>Organising Secretary</i>
Oct. 13-15	North Of England Open Drill Hall, Norman Road, Rusholme, Manchester 14.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Burnage, Manchester 19.
23	Portsmouth Open (Oct. 15) South Parade Pier, Southsea, Hants.	J.X.S.	Miss B. P. Wilson, 32, Winter Road, Southsea, Hants.
29-30	Sussex Open (Oct. 13) White Rock Pavilions, Hastings.	B.S.	Mr. G. A. J. Peddlesden, 26, Quarry Road, Hastings, Sussex.
Oct. 29/ Nov. 1	Austrian Open Vienna		
Oct. 31/ Nov. 5	Eastern Suburban Open (Oct. 10) Y.M.C.A. Hydro Hall, Plaistow, and Baths Hall, Ilford.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. H. D. Olley, 67, Hastings Avenue, Ilford.
5	Hull and East Riding Open (Oct. 27) Madeley Street Baths, Hull	J.X.S.	Miss S. Train, 94, Kenilworth Avenue, Cottingham Road, Hull, Yorks.
4-6	Yugoslavia Open , Belgrade.		
12	Birmingham Open (Oct. 29) Friends Institute, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.	B.S., G.S. J.X.D., V.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.
12	Hartlepoons Open (Nov. 6) Hartlepoons Trading Estate Canteen, West Hartlepool.	B.S.	Miss J. Metcalf, 1, Goldsmith Grove, West Hartlepool.
13	Kent Junior Open (Oct. 22) Pier Pavilion, Herne Bay.		F. G. Mannooch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.
18-20	South of England Open (Oct. 31) Powers Samas Welfare Hall, Aurelia Road, Croydon.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. C. A. Bourne, 15a, Red Down Road, Coulsdon, Surrey.
26	Dorset Open (Nov. 16) Sidney and Trinity Halls, Weymouth.	B.S.	Mr. P. Northcott, 31, Hillcrest Road, Weymouth.
26	Peterborough Open (Nov. 14) Baker Perkins Canteen, Westwood Wks., Peterborough.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. J. Wildman, St. Davids, 8, Eastgate, Deeping St. James, Nr. Peterborough.
30	Champion County v. The Rest Lime Grove Baths, London, W.12.		
Nov. 28/ Dec. 3	Middlesex (Herga) Open (Nov. 7) Herga L.T. Club, Courtfield-avenue, Harrow.	B.S.	Mr. P. France, 53, Rickmansworth Road, Pinner, Middlesex.
Dec. 1	Ireland v. England , Belfast.		
3	Bath Open (Nov. 21) Drill Hall, Lower Bristol Road, Bath.	B.S.	Mr. L. Le Cren, 4, Newark Street, Bath.
4-7	Swedish Open , Stockholm.		
Jan. 7	Yorkshire Junior Open (Dec. 28) Fenton Street Barracks, Leeds.		Mr. J. Hancock, 73, Lady Pit Lane, Leeds 11.
15-21	N. W. Kent Open (Dec. 5) Barnehurst Residents' Club, Parkside Ave., Barnehurst, Bexleyheath, Kent.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. J. Pickering, 187, Bedonwell Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.
21	South Yorks Open (Jan. 14) Edmund Road Drill Hall, Sheffield 2.	B.S.	Mr. R. D. Renshaw, 7, Luna Croft, Gleadless, Sheffield 12.
10-11	Welsh Open		
22	Southampton Open (Jan 7) Royal Pier Pavilion, Southampton.	B.S.	Mr. K. H. Miles, 46, Bevois Valley Road, Southampton.

EAST OF ENGLAND "OPEN"

BRIAN KENNEDY, of Yorkshire, and Shirley Jones, of Wales, are the first tournament winners of the season, carrying off the singles titles in the East of England "Open" at Skegness on September 17-18.

It was Kennedy in a new role, a convert to sponge, which he wielded to such good purpose that he crashed his way through to the title.

In the semi-final Kennedy avenged last year's defeat by beating the defending champion Bobby Stevens, of Essex, 21-14, 21-19.

Kennedy completed a double when he partnered Phil Anderson, of Australia, to an easy 21-9, 21-12 win over Stevens and Ivor Jones in the men's doubles final.

Shirley Jones reversed the Warsaw result of August when she beat Yvonne Baker in the semi-final, and followed up by beating Barbara Milbank 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 in the final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: R. HINCHLIFF (Yorks.) bt D. Schofield (Cheshire) 21-15, 19-21, 21-11. B. KENNEDY (Yorks.) bt R. Stevens (Essex) 21-14, 21-19.

Final: KENNEDY bt Hinchliff 21-16, 18-21, 21-14.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: B. MILBANK (Essex) bt G. Burns (Essex) 21-5, 21-14. S. JONES (Wales) bt Y. Baker (Essex) 21-9, 21-15.

Final: JONES bt Milbank 18-21, 21-17, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: I. JONES and R. STEVENS bt L. Landry and E. Hodgson 21-14, 20-22, 21-19. B. KENNEDY and P. ANDERSON bt C. Carroll and A. Gazely 21-10, 21-16.

Final: KENNEDY and ANDERSON bt Jones and Stevens 21-9, 21-12.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: S. JONES and Y. BAKER beat D. Wilkinson and J. Braddock (no score available). E. CARRINGTON and B. MILBANK bt. J. Chadderton and B. Wirekoon 21-9, 21-10.



A PACE picture

Conrad Jaschke, Kent's live wire publicity secretary, is seen here serving twins Rosalind and Diane Rowe, Joyce Fielder, and E.T.T.A. secretary, Bill Vint, at the informal cocktail party he gave at his Sidcup home to members of the Press.

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Final: JONES and BAKER bt Carrington and Milbank 21-16, 12-21, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: L. ADAMS and E. CARRINGTON bt R. Stevens and Y. Baker 17-21, 21-6, 21-14. I. JONES and S. JONES bt C. Booth and W. Blades 22-20, 21-13.

Final: ADAMS and CARRINGTON bt Jones and Jones 22-20, 16-21, 21-17.

Boys' Singles: Final: L. LANDRY (Middlesex) beat J. Simondson (Wales) 21-19, 21-14.

Girls' Singles: Final: M. McMEEKIN (Kent) bt J. Harrower (Herts.) 21-19, 22-20.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles: M. DARLINGTON (U.C.) bt C. Burman (U.C.) 21-11, 21-14, 10-21, 21-18.

Women's Singles: S. BECKETT (I.H.R.) bt J. Carter (Furzedown) 21-15, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: DARLINGTON and K. SHOAB (I.C.) beat D. Bloomer (Q.M.C.) and R. Carpenter (U.C.) 21-18, 21-17, 16-21, 21-14.

Women's Doubles: BECKETT and S. SEYMOUR (Bedford) bt D. J. Pine and D. L. Pine (West Ham) 21-14, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: SHOAB and CARTER bt N. Mistry (W.P.) and D. L. Pine 21-18, 17-21, 21-10.

Late Results.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Premier Division: Gloucestershire 8, Lancashire 2; Warwickshire 3, Surrey 7; Sussex 1, Essex 9. **Second Division, South:** Middlesex 6, Kent 4; Surrey 7, Hampshire 3. **Second Division, North:** Lincolnshire 7, Northumberland 3; Durham 2, Yorkshire 8. **Eastern Division:** Cambridge 6, Norfolk 4. **Midland Division:** Derbyshire 7, Northamptonshire 3. **Junior Division, South:** Middlesex 8, Sussex 2; Hertfordshire 1, Suffolk 9.