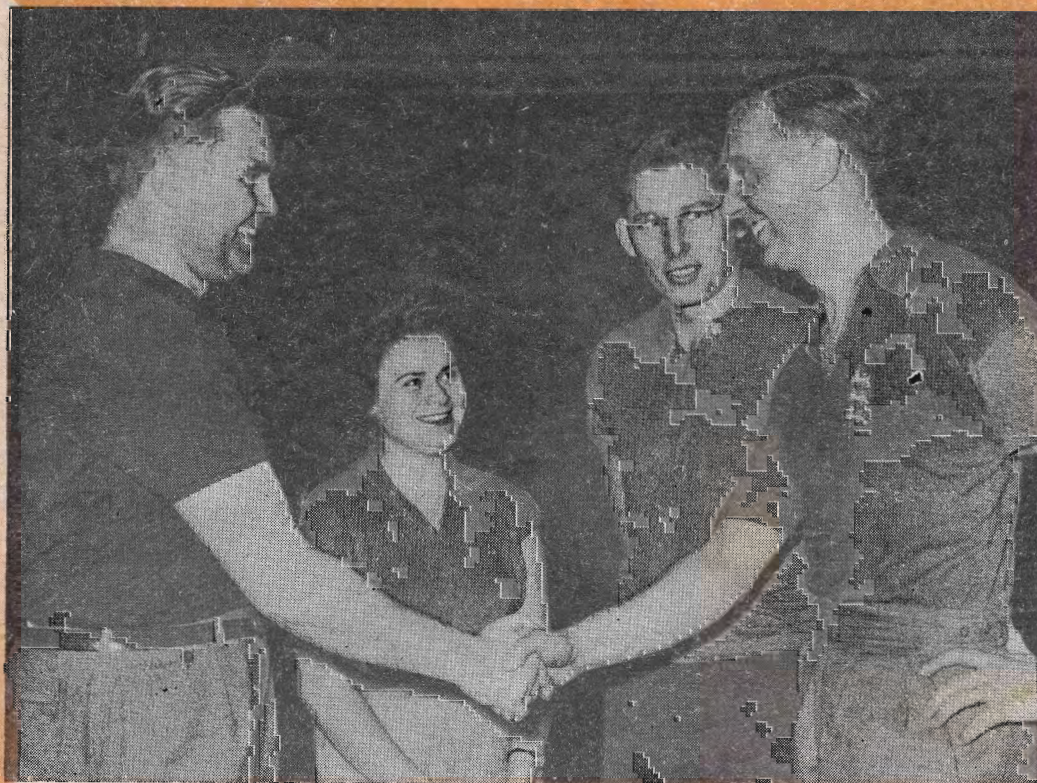


# TABLE TENNIS



JOHNNY LEACH welcomes the Hungarians SIDO, EVA KOCZIAN and FOLDI at the Ocean Hotel, Brighton where they were the guests of Mr. Billy Butlin

# Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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

Vol. 15

JANUARY, 1957

No. 4

## SPONGE TO BE BANNED

**T**HE death-knell of the sponge bat was sounded at the January meeting of the National Executive Committee. They were unanimous in their agreement to propose:

(1) to the I.T.T.F. a *standardisation of the racket calculated to eliminate sponge and other "freak" materials*, (2) to recommend to the Annual General Meeting of the E.T.T.A. measures to effect this result so far as this country is concerned next season, irrespective of the decision of the I.T.T.F.

The way paved by Gloucestershire last month, backed up by Yorkshire and also a petition of the players has thus made itself felt.

Although the final decision rests with the A.G.M., it is pretty certain that sponge is finished.

Meanwhile, the Welsh Association are also forwarding proposals to the I.T.T.F., which coupled with those of the E.T.T.A., should help persuade the rest of the world to erase sponge.

However, controversy will no doubt continue to rage for a long time to come on this vital question.

**For the first time in the history of Table Tennis, the sport has been recognised in the New Year's Honours List. Treasurer Bill Vint has been awarded the Order of the British Empire.**

It has been given for his services to Table Tennis.

In congratulating Bill on his award players everywhere will be quick to see that although one man has been singled out, it is the sport as a whole that has been honoured.

Her Majesty the Queen is of course the Patron of the E.T.T.A., as was her father before her.

Few men have done so much as Bill Vint in helping the growth in popularity of Table Tennis, and it was indeed a great day for the sport when some 26 years ago, as an almost unknown young enthusiast from Hastings, he was appointed Honorary Treasurer, a post he still holds.

Taking over when the finances were in a shaky

position, his tight hold on the purse strings has helped to build up a substantial balance.

But he has not only been the bookkeeper. On the death of Bill Pope in 1951, Bill Vint was called to an even more dominant office, that of Honorary Secretary. He married the two jobs and did sterling work until handing over the secretaryship to Peter Lowen last year.

Some concern has been expressed by leading officials at recent criticism in *Table Tennis*. They feel that as the official magazine these will be taken as the Association's views.

Such is not the case and all articles express the view of the writer without any official endorsement.

This is not an attempt to suppress criticism. *Table Tennis* is your magazine. Let it be your Forum, a place where your views can, within reason, be expressed publicly and brought to general notice.

The E.T.T.A. will welcome criticism, for it is no good merely moaning among yourselves about some pet subject and leaving it there. Write to *Table Tennis* and make your points known.

But don't criticise merely for the sake of it. Do try and be constructive.

A sign of the times is new names in England's team for the World Championships in Stockholm in March. Ian Harrison, last year's junior champion, has been picked for the Swaythling Cup; will Jill Rook and Joyce Fielder win places in the Corbillon Cup side? The full teams are:

**Swaythling Cup:** R. BERGMANN (Middx.), J. LEACH (Essex), B. KENNEDY (Yorks.), I. HARRISON (Glous.). Reserves: M. THORNHILL (Middx.), B. MERRETT (Glous.). Non-playing captain, G. V. BARN (Middx.).

**Corbillon Cup:** A. HAYDON (Warw.), D. ROWE (Middx.), J. ROOK (Surrey), J. FIELDER (Kent). Reserve: M. FRY (Middx.). Non-playing captain: T. SEARS (Middx.).

**HARRISON EDWARDS.**

# Official Notes

## Visit of Hungarian Players

A party of Hungarian players, namely Miss E. Koczian, F. Sido, and L. Foldi, accompanied by Mrs. Sido, arrived in this country on December 10, 1956, to play various matches in aid of the Hungarian Relief Fund specially arranged for them whilst awaiting their return to Hungary. The matches were held at:—

- December 28. Putney Club, London.
- December 29. Leamington Spa.
- January 1. Tottenham Town Hall, London.
- January 2. Hastings.
- January 3. Bristol.
- January 4. W. Staffordshire.

From December 10 to 18, 1956, they were entertained at the Ocean Hotel, Saltdean, Brighton, by Mr. Billy Butlin; whom we thank most sincerely for his hospitality. Our sincere thanks are also due to all of our members who have made the Hungarians stay in this country so pleasant and entertaining.

## English Open Championships 1957.

The Entry Forms will be available very shortly. Applications should be made to the E.T.T.A. office if any player wishes to receive one.

The allocation of tickets for the Finals applied for by Leagues is being dealt with after January 14, 1957. Club and individuals may now make direct application to the E.T.T.A. if they failed to approach their League in time for the first allocation.

There are special rates for orders of 12 or more tickets (this number can be made up of any price) as under—

### Saturday, April 6, 1957.

21/- for 17/6d., 15/- for 12/6d., 10/6d. for 8/6d., 8/6d. for 6/6d.

### Friday, April 5, 1957.

15/- for 12/6d., 12/6d. for 10/6d., 10/6d. for 8/6d., 7/6d. for 5/-.

## E.T.T.A. Representatives.

For the purpose of nominating and electing the Officers of the Association

## TABLE TENNIS

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

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

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

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

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

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

The majority of Associations and Leagues have informed the E.T.T.A. as to the names of their Representatives, but, those who have failed to

## Official Badges

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

## International Contacts.

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

### English Players outside England

1. Players duly affiliated to the E.T.T.A. may take part in the Open National Championships of other Associations only by permission of the E.T.T.A.

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

## Television

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

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

## Registered Players

In addition to the list of Registered Members published on Page 2 of the October, 1956 issue, the following members have now been registered:—

S. R. BARDEN (Kent), MISS C. K. BEST (Yorks.), D. C. BURRIDGE (Mddx.), L. M. BROMFIELD (Sussex), R. E. ETHERIDGE (Kent), L. F. LANDRY (Mddx.), A. R. MILLER (Surrey), MRS. A. PETTIFER (Lancs.), MISS D. ROWE (Mddx.), J. P. SHEAD (Sussex), J. H. TABBENOR (Kent), A. THOMPSON (Yorks.), M. THORNHILL (Mddx.).

## Club Competitions

The total number of Competitions now arranged to be run and duly permitted is 94. We are most gratified by this response from our members.

It is hoped, however, that more Clubs will return the BLUE Card to the E.T.T.A. office, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2, asking permission to stage one, two or more Club Competitions.

The Competitions can take one of 15 different types, singles and doubles, details of which are as follows:—

Men's singles, Men's handicap singles, Women's singles, Women's handicap singles, Mixed singles,

## 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, O.B.E.

Hon. Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Kathleen Pegg.

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

inform the Association should do so by the last day of this month.

## Official Handbook.

Copies of the Official Handbook for season 1956/57 are on sale at a cost of 2/3d. per copy post free, and can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. office.

## Books and Publications.

The following publications are also available from the E.T.T.A. office—

<i>Rules of the Game, in card-board, size approx. 21½ in. x 14½ in. with hanging cord (suitable for hanging in Club rooms)</i> ... ..	1 6
<i>Know the Game — Table Tennis</i> ... ..	2 3
<i>Table Tennis—I. Montagu</i> ... ..	10 0
<i>Table Tennis Tips—J. Carrington</i> ... ..	1 6
<i>Modern Table Tennis—J. Carrington</i> ... ..	7 6
<i>Table Tennis for All—J. Leach</i> ... ..	9 6
<i>Table Tennis My Way—J. Leach</i> ... ..	2 6
<i>Table Tennis—L. S. Woollard</i> ... ..	2 6
<i>Table Tennis Quiz—A Brook</i> ... ..	1 6
<i>Rules of the Game in Booklet Form</i> ... ..	4½
<i>The Twins on Table Tennis—D. and R. Rowe</i> ... ..	8 6

Mixed handicap singles, Junior singles, Junior handicap singles, Men's doubles, Men's handicap doubles, Women's doubles, Women's handicap doubles, Mixed doubles, Mixed handicap doubles, Extraordinary doubles (two men or two women in partnership competing in one event).

If your Club has not run a Competition then ask your Secretary to organise one. Alternatively, if your Secretary does not know certain of the details of how the Competitions work then please ask him or her to write to the E.T.T.A. office without delay.

Each Competition helps to gather further finance in the World Championships travelling Expenses Fund, which will doubtless be needed when our players next have to travel to Asia to compete in the World Championships. Also, and this is a main factor in running the Competitions, it gives you and your Club members experience of competitive play in your own Club room and at the same time the E.T.T.A. will present to the winner(s) of each Singles/Doubles Competition, specially designed plaque(s) suitably engraved and with the E.T.T.A. crest as a centre piece.

## BILL VINT O.B.E.



We take great pleasure in reporting the award of the O.B.E. to Mr. A. K. Vint, Honorary Treasurer of the Association, in the New Year's Honours List published on the 1st January, 1957.

## HUNGARIANS WIN

"VICTOR BARNÁ was too big a handicap for Barna's team." Thus said Victor after his side were narrowly beaten 4-3 by the Hungarian touring side at Tottenham on January 2.

Victor, making his first competitive appearance since 1954, lost both his doubles matches, first with Di Rowe against Ferenc Sido and Eva Koczian, then with Johnny Leach against Sido and Laszlo Foldi.

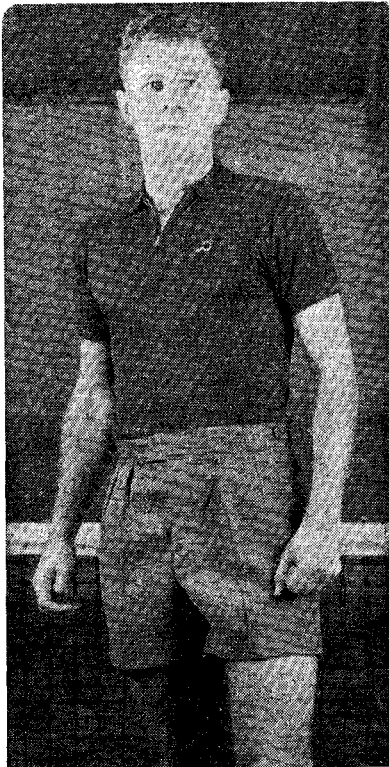
The match could not have been closer. It went to an advantage final game in the last event. Sido just beating Leach 21-15, 11-21, 23-21.

The highlights were Alan Rhodes' win over Sido, after saving a match point, and Michael Thornhill's defeat of Foldi, when he fought back from 5-10 down in the final game to win 21-18, 14-21, 21-19.

Detailed Results (Barna's team first): A Rhodes bt F. Sido 12-21, 21-11, 23-21; lost to L. Foldi 13-21, 19-21. M. Thornhill bt Foldi 21-18, 14-21, 21-19. J. Leach lost to Sido 15-21, 21-11, 18-21.

Miss D. Rowe bt Miss E. Koczian 14-21, 23-21, 21-17.

G. V. Barna and Leach lost to Sido and Foldi 15-21, 17-21. Barna and Miss Rowe lost to Sido and Miss Koczian 16-21, 16-21.



Styled by specialist designers together with Victor Barna and Fred Perry.

Tested by champions from all over the world. Each garment meets every practical requirement before released to the public.

That's why it's "Once Victor Barna Table Tennis Sportswear, always Victor Barna Table Tennis Sportswear," for players the world over.

Our very latest novelty are royal-blue cushion socks that last longer than any sock you ever wore.

Have you ever seen Barna play? If so, you must have noticed that he always plays with sweatlet, to get rid of the perspiration on his face and to keep the palm of his playing hand dry. Why not try the same?

### MEN'S WEAR

Shirt, De Luxe, Royal, Maroon, Style 3...	23/6
Shirt, De Luxe, Royal, Maroon, Style 4...	21/6
Shirt, Popular, Royal, Maroon, Navy, Bottle, Zip	16/6
Shorts, Grey Rayon Flannel, T/U Button Front	30/-

### WOMEN'S WEAR

Shirt, De Luxe, Royal and Maroon, Style A & C	20/6
Shirt, Popular, Saxe, Royal, Maroon, Pink, Bottle, Style A	15/6
Skirts, Pleated Cotton, Royal and Navy	39/6
Cotton Interlock Briefs, Royal and Navy	5/6
Shorts, Rayon Repp, Grey only	24/6

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LOOK FOR THE TABLE TENNIS BAT MOTIF

# The Swervis Line

by ELSIE CARRINGTON

THE scene was a Premier Division County Match; the time, the fourth event, Ladies' Doubles. The ladies knocked up, the umpire was announced and after a few moments asked if the players were ready. They were, but as one of them pointed out, there was no doubles line. Panic! Nobody had any chalk and string! The M.C. announced that he was sorry for the delay, but the table had been delivered without a doubles line!

Eventually, a stately procession of three officials made its way across the hall. One carried a piece of chalk; one carried a six inch ruler; and one carried a broom. The broom handle was laid along the centre of the table and chalked along but as this fell about 15 inches short of the net, the six inch ruler then came into its own for the finishing touches. We could really have done with a T-square too, as the broom handle was warped and the completed doubles line had a gentle curve. *The Swervis Line?*

## Di Engaged

*Congratulations to Diane Rowe on her recent engagement to Desmond Collins, of Gosport. The wedding is expected to take place this year, but not before the World Championships.*

Once again it was left to the ladies to provide the most entertaining table tennis in the Central London Finals. The "spongy" and silent men's

singles events hardly raised a clap. Indeed, I think the gum-chewing of one of the players produced the most noise. (What a horrible habit it is—we saw it again in the junior boys' final. Maybe it was the same packer?)

The girls, however, brought a lot

## RECOGNISE THEM ?



SEE NEXT COLUMN

of sparkle to the game and I think the girls' singles event was the best of the evening. In this event, She-lagh Hession, playing in her first open

tournament final ever, beat Jean Har-rower at deuce in the third game.

It was good to see Di Rowe back to her old form again; she defeated Helen Elliot in the semi-final and capped this by beating Ann Haydon in the final.

## Lost Car and Title

It was altogether a bad day for the Haydons. Ann lost her title and her father had his car stolen. Ann had the Ladies' Doubles title (which she won with Diane) to console her and Adrian's car was recovered later by the police—with all petrol intact!

After the Ladies Singles event in the Premier Division County match, Essex v Surrey, in which Yvonne Baker lost to Jean Head, Yvonne was to be seen sitting in a corner hacking the sponge off her bat with a borrowed penknife. Many remarked that it was the best thing she'd done this season!

Baby with a famous mother, christened on December 2nd, has equally famous god-parents. The baby, Martin John; the mother, Rosalind (Rowe) Cornett; the god-parents, Diane Rowe and Victor Barna.

## Early But Late

My tournament card stated that I was due to play on Saturday morning at 11.45. It also stated that players who were not ready to play at the time stated would be scratched.

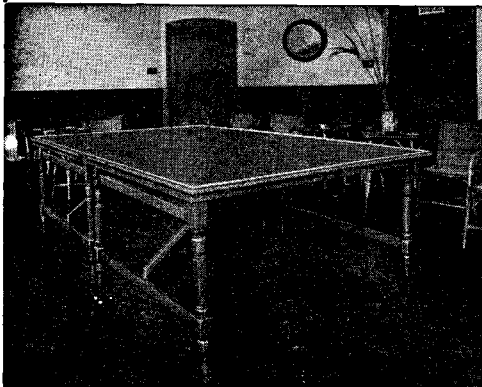
I arrived at the hall at 11 a.m., having travelled 5 miles and was requested to hand in my card at the door, which I did. Then, having three quarters of an hour before I was due to play, I chatted with a few people and was in the throes of changing when at 11.20 a voice announced reproachfully over the mike, "we are waiting for Mrs. Carrington on Table 4." Twenty-five minutes before time!

So what's a poor girl to do? I arrived early so that I would have time for a chat, a leisurely change, and a knock-up, but because I am punctual these are denied me. And I have gained nothing by being early. Another time I will have that extra half hour in bed.

*Answer to Picture Problem:*

Elsie Carrington and Peggy Piper provide a variety turn.

## THE BEST TABLE TENNIS TABLES AT ANY PRICE



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Club Model similar to above except it has  $\frac{1}{2}$ " top - - - - - £21

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# CLEAN UP SCRUFFINESS

by TIBBY WEGNOR

I READ with interest Sam Kirkwood's article, "Eight Years Later" in the October issue, and fully agree with all he says. I would like to assist him with the following article, which I hope will not be taken as an advertisement for me as a sportswear manufacturer, but as a matter-of-fact report which, I believe, should be of interest.

I used to be an active sportsman many years ago, and played for a small football club in Austria. Our finances were such that we could not afford really first-class equipment and sportswear and, when I look back at some of my pictures, I must say we looked like a bunch of hoodlums.

Then came the day when we played against the Junior Teams of a First League Club and, during the match, I could not help but compare their smart turn-out to our own.

Although I later joined the First League club, that first match made a lasting impression. It all came back to me when, about six years ago, I went to see the Wimbledon Tennis championships. I was shocked to see all these great players dressed in all kinds and all shapes of rags they could possibly find.

I made a special survey after this on many tennis courts, and was appalled at the poor turn-out.

## THE SWETLET

As a result of seeing players at Wimbledon bothered by perspiration to such an extent that many of them lost important points, if not whole matches, I designed the Swetlet.

When this was placed with one of the biggest sports goods manufacturers in this country, I made the acquaintance of Fred Perry, and went to one of the foremost tennis clubs in this country to play tennis with him.

Walking down the stairs of this very exclusive club, I again noticed that most of these people were dressed as if they were doing some dirty, unimportant job in the back garden. I remarked to Fred that this was something that I just couldn't understand. He answered, "The

reason for this is two-fold: first of all, people don't care; secondly, there are only very few firms who make sports clothing, and most of the sports clothing produced is of a very low standard."

Then and there, Fred Perry decided to go into the sports clothing business in order to clean up lawn tennis.

Whoever goes to Wimbledon these days will probably admire the first-class type of shirts and shorts that these players are now wearing. This applies not only to the male players, but also to the female players. I believe that Fred and I can claim a large share of this improvement.

What Mr. Sam Kirkwood started eight years ago for table tennis, when he embarked upon a campaign to "get rid of table tennis tramps," we have done for lawn tennis. Following a discussion with Victor Barna three years ago, we attempted to clean up the "table tennis tramps."

## ORGANISERS HAVE REMEDY

I have recently been to a few table tennis tournaments, and I must say that the improvement in the appearance of the players is very,

very slight indeed, and I believe that the organisers of tournaments are largely to blame.

There is no need to-day, with all the sportswear that is on the market, for players to be shabbily dressed. The organisers should insist on players wearing clean and properly fitting clothing.

It may also help if you, as the leading paper in Table Tennis, would have a few articles on sports clothing, and if you were to comment on certain tournaments at which competitors played in first-class attire.

## POOR FACILITIES

One has to acknowledge the fact that most of the tournaments are played in halls where there are hardly anything like modern and up-to-date dressing rooms, and there are only a very few places where players can have showers, or even a wash afterwards. To my mind, this is bad organisation, which compares very unfavourably with tournaments on the Continent.

I believe that a general clean-up is most desirable, and that many players will agree.

## JEWISH MEN AND WOMEN PLAYERS

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# SECRET WEAPONS

by MALCOLM HARTLEY

**MY** team prefers playing at home. We are just three average players playing in an average league against other average players. But experience has taught us to look out for above-average handicaps.

Every team, we have found, has its own Secret Weapon.

At some clubs, for instance, they stoke up the boilers until the thermometer registers 90 deg. The home team usually comprises two West Indians and a Zulu.

Some go to the other extreme. Their standard equipment includes hot water bottles. We, the unsuspecting visitors, find there is no heating at all and icicles are hanging from the table. We freeze to defeat.

*One club played on a ballroom floor. I'm not sure whether they had spikes in their shoes but the way we floundered we might as well have been on roller skates. Smarting under a heavy defeat we left talking angrily about an appeal to the league. Then we found that if the appeal failed we had to forfeit 7s. 6d. There was no appeal.*

Another Secret Weapon we have met is the home captain's dog. He is unleashed at deuce in the third game, gets tangled with our legs and causes a nasty fall. Sometimes the poor, dumb animal sinks his teeth into our ankle for good measure. After that disturbance we haven't a chance.

At one club the lighting is so bad that it is not until we are losing 0-12 that we realise we have been serving to the umpire since the start.

## Mixed Sports

Then there is the institute with a snooker table adjacent to the table tennis table. We are just making a perfect backhand flick when the butt of a cue appears in front of the bat. There are round curses as the man in the cloth cap and clogs goes in off black.

One or two clubs have platforms cunningly placed to trap us. As soon as we move back to return a smash we trip over the platform and twist a knee.

The most potent Secret Weapon we have encountered is that of a works team who brought as spectators six of the most beautiful private secretaries in the north. They sat at our end of the table and showed a lot of shapely leg. When we were losing 0-5 they left for a dance. Is it a coincidence that we drew 5-5?

The most popular Secret Weapon is The Inaccessible Place for table

tennis balls. We have spent hours grovelling on hands and knees, searching under chairs, poking under pipes, moving massive, heavy bookcases, delving behind cupboards, to retrieve balls. The most remarkable instance was a club with a kind of loft over the table. The ball became lodged up there and we had to climb 20 ft. up a ladder before we could resume the game.

But we trap them all when they

come to our club for the return fixture. Our Secret Weapon is the piano. It stands just to the right of one end of the table and years of practice has enabled us to crack forehand drives that bounce straight for it. Our opponents, with misguided enthusiasm, go for a return and smash their hand into the piano. After that it's a walk-over.

Mind you, I am not suggesting there is any poor sportsmanship in table tennis. After all we have yet to come across the Superior Secret Weapon, such as The Table on Wheels—or The Crack in the Floor—guaranteed to sprain at least six visitors' ankles a season.

But we still prefer to play at home.

## "NORTH SEA" CUP

**A**FTER the World championships at Wembley in 1954 the Norwegian team stayed on Tyneside for a few days and had such an enjoyable time that they arranged an annual series of matches between the Heros Club, Bergen and a Newcastle side.

The first of these matches was played a few weeks ago when a Newcastle party went to Bergen to compete for the "North Sea Cup" presented by the Bergen Shipping Lines for annual competition between the two teams.

Newcastle men were unfortunately soundly beaten 5-0—possibly due to the match taking place shortly after a rough crossing—but the women gave a far more impressive display, losing narrowly at 4-5.

In the Heros Jubilee Tournament, Newcastle gave a much better account of themselves. Mrs. Robson won the

women's singles, S. Lawson and R. Patterson reached the semi-finals of the men's singles, and H. Dignan and A. Morpeth just failed to reach the final of the men's doubles.

Mr. Robson, one of the party of nine, said "We were all living in private homes and the hospitality had to be experienced to be believed. On the last evening the Heros gave us a farewell party which lasted until the early hours of the morning and later when we embarked on the homeward journey about 40 people went to the quay to wave us goodbye."

The next series of matches will be played at Newcastle in either November 1957 or February 1958.

Let us hope that the Heros will receive as much hospitality as the Newcastle party and leave with as many pleasant memories.



The Newcastle Team: R. Patterson, Miss D. Bell, Mrs. E. Robson, Mrs. Y. Patterson, H. Dignan, A. Morpeth. Front Row: H. Lawson, D. Robson, F. Hannay.

# England Again Too Strong

**A**LTHOUGH Scotland were convincingly beaten 8-2 by England at Barnehurst on November 29, they undoubtedly provided the star of the evening in Helen Elliot (*writes Bryan Cutress*).

She was concerned in both their wins, beating Diane Rowe 21-15, 21-11 in the singles, then partnering Helen Houliston to beat Miss Rowe and Joyce Fielder 21-14, 19-21, 21-14 in the women's doubles.

Complete with a "sandwich" bat, Miss Elliot revealed great penetration of shot and her powerful forehand smashes repeatedly had Miss Rowe well beaten. The scores speak for themselves, particularly in that second game.

*The best match of the evening however, was the other women's singles in which Joyce Fielder, making her senior international debut on her "home" table beat Helen Houliston 21-15, 21-19. There was never much between these two and so well did the young Scot fight back that the result was in doubt until the last point.*

Miss Houliston played a strong attacking game throughout, but the Kent girl just had the edge with her

strong back-hand and more subtle play.

More matches like this and table tennis would have fewer worries about dwindling "gates."

Unfortunately Scotland men were much inferior to their women and Johnny Leach, Micky Thornhill and young Ian Harrison were never fully extended by the Scottish trio of Eddie Still, Monty McMillan and Bert Kerr.

Both Kerr and McMillan might have taken a game off Leach and Thornhill respectively, but the English pair always looked to have matters well in hand.

*A special word of praise for Harrison, last season's English junior champion. He was obviously being "blooded" for the future, and came through the test with flying colours, beating both Still and McMillan comfortably. Many of the Kent crowd seeing him for the first time went away most impressed.*

What a pity an overlong interval spoilt an otherwise well-organised evening. Many people were forced to leave before the final match between Leach and Kerr in order to catch their last train.

Detailed results (England names first):  
J. Leach bt M. McMillan 21-13, 22-20; bt R. Kerr 21-9, 21-18. M. Thornhill bt Kerr 21-12, 22-20; bt E. Still 21-15, 21-7. I Harrison bt Still 21-14, 21-14; bt McMillan 21-12, 21-12.

Miss D. Rowe lost to Miss H. Elliot 15-21, 11-21. Miss J. Fielder bt Miss H. Houliston 21-15, 21-19.

Leach and Thornhill bt Kerr and McMillan 21-13, 21-9.

Miss Rowe and Miss Fielder lost to Miss Elliot and Miss Houliston 14-21, 21-19, 14-21.



## ENGLAND 10, IRELAND 0

Results (England names first): R. Griffin bt C. D. Senior 21-12, 19-21, 21-18; bt W. Pappin 21-6, 21-13. B. Kennedy bt Pappin 21-8, 21-9; bt E. Allen 21-6, 21-10. R. Hincliffe bt Allen 21-15, 21-19; bt Senior 21-9, 9-21, 23-21. Kennedy and Griffin bt Pappin and Senior 21-16, 21-11. Miss A. Haydon bt Miss J. Owens 21-9, 21-11. Miss J. Rook bt Miss D. Fearon 21-11, 22-24, 21-8. Miss Haydon and Miss Rook bt Miss Owens and Miss Fearon 17-21, 21-14, 21-11.

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# DOUBLE LOSS FOR BIRMINGHAM

By ALAN LAKE

(EVENING DESPATCH T.T. CORRESPONDENT)

**MAURICE** KRISS and Bobby MacKay, for many moons the mainstays of the Warwickshire and Birmingham sides, have both decided to retire from competitive table tennis.

Their reasons? Taking Maurice first . . . "I didn't want to fizzle out," says the 32-year-old estate agent who made his debut in the Birmingham senior side at the tender age of 13.

"I promised myself years ago that when I began to slip from the top grade, I'd retire. I'd no intention of becoming a table tennis 'punch drunk.'

"I've finished with competitive playing completely but, a bit later on, I

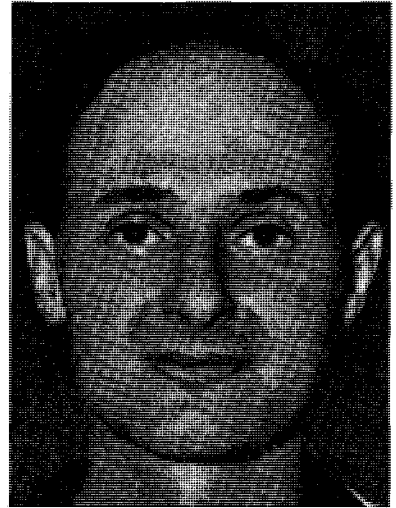
1950? When Maurice walloped Brian Kennedy and Harry Venner before going down to France's "old war-horse," Michel Haguenaer, in the semi-final.

Yet international honours still eluded him though he did get the reserve place against France once.

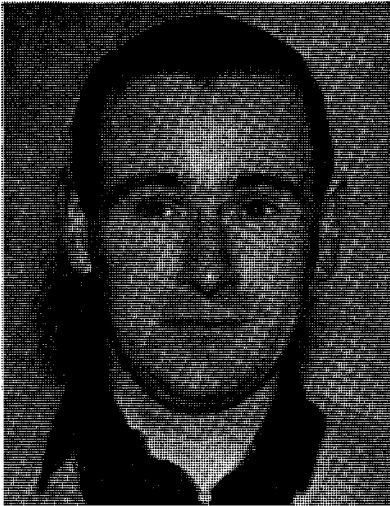
**Bobby, too, missed the game's highest honours, but Richard Bergmann once said of him, "He could become England's No. 1 overnight if only he would keep his impatient temperament under control."**

Let's wish Bobby and Maurice the best of luck with their coaching.

Optician Tommy Farmer has a novel way of testing his table tennis-minded customers' eyes—he gives them a game in a spare room above his shop. Apart from being a useful player, Tommy is secretary of Ridgmere, the South Birmingham League club.



MAURICE KRISS



BOB MACKAY

intend to build a games room on to my new house and do a little coaching."

Then Bobby's case . . . "I've been pestered with leg trouble for a long time. I haven't played much during the past year yet my leg is swelling up again now.

"I may be able to play the odd game for the Central Club in the Birmingham League and perhaps coach some of the youngsters, but you'll never see the real MacKay again," says Bobby, whose doubles partnership with his sister, Jean, was one of the best in the business.

So it's farewell to two near-great players—Bobby the attacker and Maurice the defender.

Remember the English Opera of

## Where are the Jewish T.T. Players?

By LOUIS HOFFMAN

**WHAT** has happened to all the Jewish players in Table Tennis? Before the war they dominated the game, providing at least ten of the 20 best players in the country.

Such has been the swing of the pendulum, that it is doubtful if there is one Jew among the top twenty today.

This has been my discovery as I look around to find players to represent Britain in the International Tournament held in connection with the Fifth Maccabiah (World Jewish Sports Festival) in Israel next September.

The game still thrives among the Jewish Youth Clubs, but they do not appear to be producing players of sufficiently high standard. I can only hope that there is hidden talent, still to come to light, and for this purpose a series of trials will be held at various centres a little later in the season.

Jewish players are therefore requested to apply for the necessary entry forms to the Secretary, Maccabiah Organising Committee, 357, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

Trials will be arranged when the entry is known, and successful candidates can look forward to a trip of around two weeks to Israel.

The plan is for Britain to send three men and three women.

Looking back to the talent available in 1939 we find such players are Ernie Bubley, Hymie Lurie, Leo Baron, Benny Casofsky, Harry Rosen, Benny Marcus, Stanley Rosenberg, Leslie Cohen, Morry Phillips, and Jack Glickman. What memories they bring back. Between them they appeared in many "Open" finals, and also filled places in the international team. Bubley and Lurie were in Cairo in 1939 as members of the Swaythling Cup side.

It was easy in those days to find players for the Maccabiah. The resumption of the Games in 1950 found Bubley, Lurie and Casofsky chosen for the trip, but in 1953, only two players were sent, Ron Baker and Alan Sherwood.

Now the Games are round again, with places for a larger team, but we must find the players.

Let us hope this appeal will show that the game is still alive among the Jewish Fraternity.

# MORE REFUGEES

**SOMOGYI**, one of Hungary's top ten players, was, at the time of writing, in a refugee camp in Britain, and I understand is likely to become domiciled in this country.

Never heard of Somogyi? In the 1955 World Series at Utrecht he reached the quarter-finals of the singles, and one of his victims was the title-holder, Ogimura, whom he defeated in three straight.

Josef Koczian, another top Hungarian, also succeeded in escaping from Budapest, and the last news of him was that he was in the vicinity of Frankfurt, Germany. Josef, of course, needs little introduction. Possibly his greatest feat was reaching the singles final of the Bombay World meeting in 1952, when he succumbed to Japan's Satoh. His sister, Eva, is touring with other members of the Hungarian team.

### Barna's Nieces

Also numbered amongst the Hungarian refugees are two little nieces of Victor Barna. The girls are in London and their famous uncle is doing all he can to help them.

Victor, by the way, is still hoping that he will be able to accept the invitation to go on a three-month coaching tour of India to help Swaythling and Corbillon players and, just as important, promising youngsters. Pressure of business, however, may make it impossible for him to go.

If he cannot find the time for the joust abroad, Ivan Andreadis may be asked to go in his place.

From Sweden comes a report that to date 27 nations have entered for the World Championships in Stockholm next March.

*To coin a cliché, some people have all the luck. Burmese table tennis officials accompanied their country's Olympic team as official representatives. For the record, and as a matter of interest, Burma sent nine competitors—and 11 officials of various sports, including T.T.! And if that doesn't warrant an exclamation mark, I don't know what does.*

After many years in the international wilderness, due to the two-ruling-bodies set-up in their country and through no fault of their own, South Africa's coloured players are now eligible for the World Series,

and, of course, official international play.

Although, as reported last month, the Australian Association nominated six men and six girls for the forthcoming World Series, I hear that only two men are travelling to Europe. They are Phil Anderson and Arden Robinson. The time and expense involved accounts for the non-appearance of the other nominees. Phil and Arden are scheduled to arrive in England on January 10.

### Same Team?

The Aussie Swaythling team is likely to be the same as that which competed in the 1955 Utrecht rally, namely, the two aforesaid travellers plus Lou Laza.

The Russians have invited an Austrian team to play in Moscow in



LOU LAZA

mid-February. The Austrians, however, have let it be known that they have a crowded playing programme and may be unable to accept the trip.

Japanese players may not be the only Far East exponents to pay a visit to England. Malaya, India, Communist China, Korea and Singapore are likely Stockholm contestants and several have intimated that they'd like to show a racket here either before or after the Stockholm rally. And we, for our part, would be far from adverse at entertaining them.

Final entries for Stockholm, by the way, must be received by February 1, with the draw taking place on February 9. Which means that the English teams will be selected any day now.

In the Swiss ranking Urchetti has been named top man and Jaquet top woman. The Swiss Association also announce that Cheseaux Gobriel has been suspended from September 7 until further notice.

In an international versus Austria, Germany's men won 5-2, but her girls lost 0-3. Against Sweden, Germany's men won 5-0 and the girls 3-1. Sweden did better against Denmark, her men winning 5-1 and women 3-0.

### Corti III

Corti-Woodcock unfortunately had a spell in hospital with heart trouble. At the time of writing it was reported that he was progressing well. Let's hope that by now he is home and fully recovered.

The following item was published in the *Daily Express* during the Prime Minister's holiday in Jamaica. "Sir Anthony lay in a deck-chair and took in the headlines . . ."

None brought any comment from him. Then he noted an item in the society column . . . "The Prime Minister of Britain enjoyed a game of ping pong . . ."

Sir Anthony rose without a word, strode into Goldeneye, the house loaned to him by author Ian Fleming. And he was about to say sharply to a police security officer: ". . . and I don't play it, anyway."

The reader is at liberty to draw his own conclusion from this tropical titbit.

Ranking list of the South African T.T. Union. **MEN:** Edwards, Paitaki, Riggier, Phitidis, Fry, Wall, Zeidel, Morris, **WOMEN:** Chiat, Wilmot, Althuler, Bass, Rademan, van Jaarsveld, Mullen, Roberts.

Top players of China, as determined by the Chinese National Championships: **MEN:** Wang Chuan Yao, Chiang Yung-ning, Chuang Chia-fu, Hu Ping-chuan, Wang Hsi-tien, Liang Chik-tao, Lin Ching-yuan, Liu Kuo-chang. **WOMEN:** Sun Mei-ying, Yeh Pei-chun, Chin Chung-Lui, Chang Pao-ti, Yang Chi-wen, Wang Chi.

# DON'T WASTE SERVICE

by JOHNNY LEACH

**DO** you pay sufficient attention to the service? Answer that question honestly and I think many of you will find you just treat the service as a means of putting the ball into play.

At least that has been my impression after studying various players. Generally speaking serving lacks imagination, even among some of the best players, who often sacrifice an advantage by playing the shot carelessly. Yet, in these days of intense competition no one can afford to throw points away.

For an example of service used to best advantage we have only to turn to the Japanese. Played with a fast top spin it rarely fails to open up the play for their hard attacking game.

Now, I don't recommend you to try to win the point outright with service, but I do advise you to use services which are most likely to produce the kind of return you want in order to gain the initiative.

For example, a speedy top spin service, or a short heavy backspin will invariably produce a return which will enable you to get on the attack. On the other hand, a medium length backspin service, or a slow topspin service is likely to entice your

opponent to become aggressive without leaving him an easy "kill."

Don't use the same service all the time. This only makes things easy for your opponent and is apt to make you careless. Develop a variety of services by varying the speed, the direction and the amount of spin you apply.

Two very important points to remember:

(a) *Before serving make sure that you are settled and composed, and that your opponent is ready.*

(b) *Don't serve haphazardly. Think before you put the ball into play.*

## Your Problem, Too?

Problem that has been worrying several top players is that they are unable to reproduce practice form in actual match play. Len Adams, the Middlesex international, although playing with more confidence since he adopted the "sandwich" bat, tells me he has been experiencing this, and Surrey's Jackie Head is in a similar plight.

Both put it down to the nervous tension which big championships seem to create.

**Mild attacks of nerves are not unusual, and will normally disappear**

through regular match play as the season progresses. But sometimes nerves get out of hand. Then a player begins to get really worried.

Harry Venner, for several years one of our top players, in going through this ordeal. He confesses he is going through a particularly bad spell of nerves.

## Nothing Right

No one practices harder, and no one pays more attention to physical fitness than Harry, yet he does not seem able to produce his true form this season. In an all-out effort to stop the bad run he has stepped up his practice and training still further, but still nothing goes right for him.

Many players have no doubt experienced these symptoms. They indicate you are over-tense, over-anxious or over-played.

What then is the answer? In Harry's case, I would suggest he is suffering from an excess of determination, causing match-play nerves. In his efforts to overcome this he is playing too much table tennis. Being a top class player, however, it is possible for Harry to get out of his rut by continuing his present match-play programme. Sooner or later he is bound to have a good win which will give him the confidence to relax in his play once more. This in turn will solve his psychological worries and his over-anxiety.

*However, my advice to most players in a similar plight would be: give the game a rest for two or three weeks. A break will enable you to get over your obvious staleness, and you will return to the game fresh, keen and free from mental strain, which is the only way to play successful table tennis.*

## Relax

Meanwhile to overcome nervousness, which causes your playing arm and your legs to feel as heavy as lead, you must force yourself to relax when playing. You can only do this by giving up all ideas of winning for a time. Simply try to enjoy the game and ignore the scores.

Set yourself the task of playing a few tournaments during which you treat every ball on its merits, win or lose. In this way you can gradually key yourself up to win points without getting over-tense, or over-anxious.

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# CHARLIE WHEELER

AT the end of last season a short note in the Area News section of "Table-Tennis" recorded a remarkable achievement. It stated that **Charlie Wheeler**, of the Marconi Club, Chelmsford, had a record which is probably unequalled throughout the country—being undefeated in Chelmsford League matches since the war, having played nearly 450 games.

The story behind that record—the Charlie Wheeler story—will interest most table-tennis players.

Born in Chelmsford in 1912, he moved to Scarborough at a very early

**national. Charlie regards this as his best ever performance.**

Like many other sportsmen, Charlie was destined to have his career cut short at its peak, for the outbreak of war saw him in the Army. Posted to Nottingham, he found time to win the Nottingham Open and while in India the former trialist won twelve tournaments. These he says, were small and insignificant affairs, but at least they served to keep him fit.

The war over, Charlie returned to Chelmsford in 1946 and celebrated by winning the Essex Closed in the following year. The occasion of the Essex match with Surrey proved to be his final bow in first-class table-tennis.

But the story was not yet over; indeed the most remarkable phase of his career was only just beginning. In mid-Essex Charlie became Mr. Table-Tennis.

The Chelmsford singles title was his property for eight consecutive seasons, until he retired undefeated from the competition to let someone else have a chance of winning. Fourteen other

Chelmsford titles have fallen to this amazing player and since his arrival in Essex the former county player has taken thirty-seven singles and doubles titles.

During his long career, Charlie has won seventy-six championships and thirty team awards, not to mention being runner-up on eleven occasions. This record does not include the minor victories in India.

**What does this veteran, who has played with Barna, Leach and Filby, think of the sponge bat? His views are very emphatic. "It should be banned," says Charlie, "as it spoils the game for both players and spectators."**

This, then, is the Charlie Wheeler story. If he had been an actor, he would have been called a great trouper. He never quite hit the heights, but without Charlie and many others like him, table-tennis would be much poorer.

Who knows—that record number of unbeaten games may reach five-hundred before he's finished.



CHARLIE WHEELER

age and first took up the game at 16. The following season, he won a local tournament and before moving to Brighton in 1935, this promising young player had won five open tournaments, four Scarborough singles titles and several team awards.

In 1933 Charlie took the Yorkshire title and two years later reaped the reward for his success when picked for Yorkshire against The Rest, at Leeds.

To Charlie, Brighton was another happy hunting ground, and in addition to winning the Sussex title, was twice runner-up in the Sussex Closed and won over twenty local events.

**1937 proved to be the big year in Charlie Wheeler's life. Picked for the final England trials in London, he beat Eric Filby who was famous as both a table-tennis and lawn tennis inter-**

## THE NATIONAL CUPS

### WILMOTT CUP

#### Third Round Results

ZONE 1 (A)  
Leeds 3, Huddersfield 5.  
ZONE 2 (B)  
Manchester 9, Chester 0.  
ZONE 3 (A)  
Coventry 5, Leicester 2.  
ZONE 3 (B)  
Norwich v Wisbech (Extension).  
ZONE 4 (A)  
Luton v St. Albans (Extension).  
ZONE 4 (B)  
East London 5, Ilford 3.  
ZONE 5 (A)  
South London 0, London Civ. Ser. 5.  
ZONE 5 (B)  
North Middx. 5, Wembley 4.

#### Zone Finals Draw

(on or before January 20th, 1957)

ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B)  
Sheffield v Huddersfield  
ZONE 2 (A) and 2 (B)  
Burnley v Manchester  
ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B)  
Coventry v Norwich or Wisbech  
ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B)  
East London v Luton or St. Albans  
ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B)  
North Middlesex v London Civil Service  
ZONE 6  
Croydon v Staines

### ZONE 7

Bognor v Brighton

### ROSE BOWL

#### Third Round Results

ZONE 4 (A)  
Watford 6, St. Albans 2.  
ZONE 5 (A)  
London Banks 0, South London 9.  
ZONE 5 (B)  
East London 6, Wembley 3.  
ZONE 6 (A)  
Croydon 4, Leatherhead 5.  
ZONE 6 (B)  
N.W. Kent v Maidstone (Extension).

#### Zone Finals Draw

(on or before January 20th, 1957)

ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B)  
Leeds v Grimsby  
ZONE 2  
Liverpool v Manchester (already played  
Liverpool won 6-3)  
ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B)  
Birmingham v Boston (Birmingham  
walk over)  
ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B)  
Ilford v Watford  
ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B)  
East London v South London  
ZONE 6 (A) and 6 (B)  
N.W. Kent or Maidstone v Leatherhead

# SHINING BRASS

by KENNETH WHEELER

DECEMBER 15 was "bairns' day" at The Pleasance in Edinburgh, and a large gathering of table tennis personalities, parents and supporters saw a gusty "family double" by the Brass brothers in the *EAGLE* events, and a champagne-class exhibition by Helen Elliot and Johnny Leach.

Twice *Eagle* Junior champion of Britain, Ronnie Brass swept to a further success in his first year as a Senior, and left the way clear for his 11-year-old brother Gary to annex the Junior title.

The brothers were opposed in the finals by players whose talent was at least the equal of their own, but in both cases their supreme confidence gave them the edge. That same confidence is going to give them a decided advantage when they appear in London next month for the Grand Finals.

Although eighteen months older than Ronnie Brass, Alan Chalmers was clearly burdened by the responsibility of defending the title he won last year. He was failing to follow-through with his drives—a sure sign of "nerves"—and this cost him his vital points.

Ronnie, on the other hand, hardly made a mistake and, though he com-

plains that he is unable to get sufficient match practice at home in Glasgow, has still managed to improve quite a bit since we last saw him. He won the first game 21—11 and, after trailing 15—10 in the second, turned on the heat at the right moment to take the match by 21—18.

Opposing wee Gary in the under-thirteen final was 11-year-old Colin Hepburn, a very promising, all-round stroke player from the Gambit club. Now Gary, a left-hander, either pushes or hits on the forehand wing, and when he hits (which is as often as possible) he is usually on target. Using this simple, but very effective technique he ran out a surprisingly easy winner by 11 and 18.

It was good to have nearly fifty entrants for the girls' events, and one had to admire the courage of the ten- and eleven-year-olds for "having a go" when many of them had only a rudimentary knowledge of the game. The main thing was that they did come along, and this gave Johnny Leach the opportunity to give them some elementary coaching and encouragement for the future.

The best of the girls' matches was the Senior Final, in which reigning champion Pat Mackenzie defeated former *Girl* British Junior champion Jean Darling, 21—13, 21—15. With a little more spirit in her play Pat,

who is another Gambit club member, could reach top-class.

In the Junior event, red-headed Elizabeth Huggins, who was runner-up last year to Jean Darling, deservedly qualified for the London Finals. In the Edinburgh final she beat 11-year-old Eileen Johnston by 14 and 16.

The Cardiff winners met the Bristol winners at Bristol on December 8, and as a result the four finalists from the Western Region are Paul Racey (Bristol), Ian Gibson (Cardiff), Susan Sharp (Bristol), and Elizabeth Osmond (Cardiff).

## Hat-Trick

The ever-improving Paul Racey, from Swindon, won his third trophy in *Eagle* Area Championship play after a game of very high standard against little Kerry Cutler from the Rhondda.

At the start Cutler did well by concentrating on long-range defence with an occasional counter-hit: then he grew impatient and changed his tactics to all-out attack which failed to come off against his steady, and more experienced opponent. Nevertheless, scores of 13 and 8 against him scarcely did justice to the Cardiff champion who is definitely one to watch for the future.

In the under-thirteen event the irrepressible Ian Gibson, making his third (and final) appearance in this age group, packed far too many punches for 12-year-old David Weale, the Bristol winner, and there was never any doubt about the result.

## Girls Disappointing

The standard in the girls' events at both Bristol and Cardiff was disappointingly low, but what the young ladies lacked in ability they made up for in fight and determination. Susan Sharp from Weymouth, the former under-thirteen champion, came through successfully in her first year as a senior, though she allowed plucky Bridget Ashton from Newport to make the final much closer than one would have expected, remembering that Bridget is an absolute beginner so far as tournament play is concerned.

After a ding-dong battle Elizabeth Osmond from Llanduff beat Jennifer Williams to become the new Junior champion.

So, with the Nottingham and Liverpool tournaments still to take place,



Helen Elliot (centre) with Scottish winners Pat Mackenzie and Elizabeth Huggins.

and to provide us with one more finalist for each event, here is the line-up for the Grand Finals in London on February 23 next:—

**BOYS SENIOR:** Alan Holden (Manchester), Chris Gosling (South London), David White (North London), William Cox (Birmingham), George Livesey (Leeds), Paul Racey (Cardiff/Bristol) Ronnie Brass (Edinburgh).

**BOYS JUNIOR:** David Stanley (Manchester), Roger Storer (South London), Nigel Ive (North London), Derek Allen (Birmingham), Martin Wilson (Leeds), Ian Gibson (Bristol/Cardiff), Gary Brass (Edinburgh).

**GIRLS SENIOR:** Jean Shallcross (Manchester), Mary Shannon (South London), Carol Bagshaw (North London), Ann Charman (Birmingham), Betty Kinsley (Leeds), Susan Sharp (Cardiff/Bristol), Pat Mackenzie (Edinburgh).

**GIRLS JUNIOR:** Lynda Gordon (Manchester), Pauline Martin (South London), Hilde Brautigam (North London), Janet Roberts (Birmingham), Elizabeth Hall (Leeds), Elizabeth Osmond (Bristol/Cardiff), Elizabeth Huggins (Edinburgh).

#### AREA RESULTS

**Cardiff** (Nov. 24).  
Boys Senior: KERRY CUTLER bt Geoffrey Bloomer 21—11, 21—12.  
Boys Junior: IAN GIBSON bt Michael Rees 21—5, 21—3.

Girls Senior: BRIDGET ASHTON bt Jennifer Woodman 21—11, 21—7.  
Girls Junior: ELIZABETH OSMOND bt Susan Ashton 21—9, 21—10.

**Bristol** (Dec. 8).  
Boys Senior: PAUL RACEY bt David Lockwood 21—15, 21—14.  
Boys Junior: DAVID WEALE bt Alan Miles 21—7, 21—16.

Girls Senior: SUSAN SHARP bt Susan Wheller 21—12, 21—12.  
Girls Junior: JENNIFER WILLIAMS bt Kathleen Mullany 21—15, 22—20.

**Western Region Finals** (Dec. 8).  
Boys Senior: PAUL RACEY bt Kerry Cutler 21—13, 21—8.  
Boys Junior: IAN GIBSON bt David Weale 21—10, 21—8.

Girls Senior: SUSAN SHARP bt Bridget Ashton 21—15, 21—15.  
Girls Junior: ELIZABETH OSMOND bt Jennifer Williams 21—17, 21—9.

**Edinburgh** (Dec. 15).  
Boys Senior: RONNIE BRASS bt Alan Chalmers 21—11, 21—18.  
Boys Junior: GARY BRASS bt Colin Hepburn 21—11, 21—16.

Girls Senior: PAT MACKENZIE bt Jean Darling 21—13, 21—15.  
Girls Junior: ELIZABETH HUGGINS bt Eileen Johnston 21—14, 21—16.

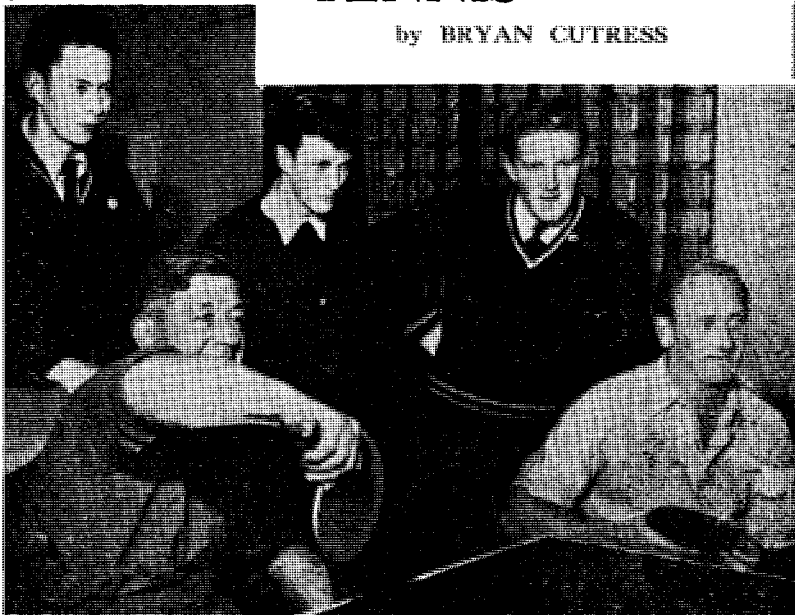
## NEW VARSITY DATE

Date of the inter-varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge has been altered to March 2 at Oxford. It was previously arranged for February 27.

Form pointer: London University beat Oxford 6—4, and Cambridge 10—0.

# WHEELCHAIR TABLE TENNIS

by BRYAN CUTRESS



IT is a strange but wonderful fact that the majority of those unfortunate people inflicted with terrible illnesses or injuries which deprive them of the use of certain limbs, manage to lead as near to a normal life as is humanly possible.

This is particularly in evidence at a little place called Lyme Green Paraplegic Settlement.

Few people living outside Cheshire will have heard of this home and yet here, at any time of the year, can be seen the type of courage that evokes a heartfelt admiration: the courage of paralysed men seeking, among other things, to take part in competitive sports.

Many have already taught themselves a variety of sports ranging from leisurely billiards to . . . yes, even TABLE TENNIS.

Two ex-servicemen, Bob Murrell and George Swindlehurst, both paralysed from the waist downwards and confined to wheelchairs, have shown that guts and determination can overcome any barrier.

With the aid of John Sutton, Lewis Buxton and Melvyn Davies they have formed the Lyme Green Table Tennis Club and entered the third division of the Macclesfield and District League.

These two wheelchair specialists

proved that their displays could not, by any means, be called "ping pong" when Lyme Green met and drew 6—6 with Liberal Club "E" in their first league match. Murrell and "Ginger" Swindlehurst showed surprising skill, producing some powerful forehand smashes and backhand flicks to win two games each.

They certainly do not want sympathy from their opponents who quickly discover they are not to be treated lightly.

One big difficulty for these two remarkable players is, of course, the retrieving of balls that go off the table. Consequently, they often stop the ball that is going "dead" with their bat.

This is not strictly according to the letter of the law, but the Liberal Club set a fine example, which it is hoped other opponents of Lyme Green will follow, by not claiming points on these occasions.

There are many clubs who could take a lesson from Lyme Green not merely for their spirit and enthusiasm but from their immaculate uniformed turn-out of red shirt with white collars and club badge. It rather shows up those players who think that any old rags are good enough for league matches.

# Area News:

## YORKSHIRE NOTES

**YORKSHIRE** have been quick to join the anti-sponge campaign pioneered by Gloucestershire. The feeling against sponge, reported in last month's issue, crystallised at the December meeting of the county association.

The Y.T.T.A. agreed unanimously to support Gloucestershire "in seeking to abolish sponge and other freak bats" and they urge the E.T.T.A. "to take steps to implement this request immediately."

The association have thus reaffirmed a decision to press for standard rackets made by their executive committee at a special meeting in October last year.

Yorkshire also suggest that the E.T.T.A. test the feeling of all affiliated leagues in the country by a referendum.

**CONSIDER** the remarkable case of Maurice Simpson. He is a Rotherham sponge-man who is unbeaten in six county singles—yet has still to qualify for a county badge.

His story begins in October. He has two wins against Durham in the Second Division and follows this with another "double" against Warwickshire. One more Second Division appearance gives him a badge.

But then comes rapid promotion to the Premier Division for the match at Gloucester.

What player would not quail at the thoughts of meeting, in only his third county match, Aubrey Simons and Bob Griffin? Maurice was certainly apprehensive—but at the same time immensely determined. And he beat Griffin in two straight and scored over Aubrey 21-14 in the third.

Yorkshire's victory over previously unbeaten Gloucestershire was of considerable merit. Who will now give them a hand by beating Middlesex?

Non-playing captain Alan Thompson was disappointed to miss his first away match for a long time. And Yorkshire almost started without Kathy Best, too. Baby Christopher was taken ill 48 hours before the match and Jean Preston was asked to stand by. Luckily Christopher had no more than a cold so Kathleen went south-west, leaving husband Alan to look after the baby.

Kathleen is gradually fighting her way back to form. Since losing her first two county sets and first four Leeds League singles she has not been beaten.

Petrol rationing is going to hit county matches. For the next Second Division match Yorkshire travel to Boston to play Lincolnshire and unless a very early start can be arranged there will be an overnight stay to pay for.

Talking about travelling, 13-year-old Colin Thomas came 180 miles from his home in Llandudni to play in the Hull Open.

There were some interesting results in this tournament. Most encouraging performance was that of our future women stars, Betty Kinsley (14) and Lilius Hamilton (16) who won the women's doubles event. On their way they beat such not-

able partnerships as Flo Wright and Jean Preston, and Mrs. Phyllis Lammin and Miss C. Clark (Lincolnshire).

In the singles—won by Flo Wright—Lilius rather surprisingly lost to June Chadderton (Manchester), whom she beat comfortably in last year's county match.

Matt Shearer, who won the men's title, will be remembered as a Scarborough League player who made five county appearances. Now he lives as Grimsby.

A new Bradford women's league is under way with six teams. Edna Gray, one of the keenest of enthusiasts, has presented a championship shield.

Indications at the half-way mark of the inter-league Championships are that several titles will be retained. Sheffield, however, are giving Huddersfield—champions for five years—a hard fight in Division I. The pair drew in October, so every set will count from now on. Huddersfield "B" have an outside chance, for they, too, have dropped only one point. But they have still to play the other two leaders.

Hull, relegated last year, are unbeaten in Division II with a two-point lead over York and Leeds; holders of the youths' championship, Hull again lead the East Region table. And Leeds women—champions eight times since the war—have a good chance of further honours.

The battle of the Division I Leeds League leaders ended in a convincing 8-2 win for Victoria over G.P.O. Phil Sladdin, G.P.O.'s new man from the Castleford and Pontefract League, beat Ken Park to record his side's only singles win.

Three teams top Division I of the Bradford League with 18 points from 10 matches. They are Nomads "A", Metal Box "A" and Y.W.C.A. "A".

**Malcolm Hartley**

## JACK'S BAG

**Jack Carrington's carrier-bag was the talk of the Hull Open. Every time he went to the table he looked as if he was on a shopping spree.**

**Jack's next move was to see what kind of bat his opponent was using. Then he delved into his bag and chose his weapon. . . rubber to play against rubber, sponge against sponge, and so on.**

**If Jack's idea is developed I foresee the time when players will be pausing before every serve and, like golfers, deliberating over a bag of bats held by a caddy before choosing between a No. 5 sponge and a sandwich server!**

**Seriously, though, it was a pleasure to see Jack in action again, for it is several years since he entered an open tournament in Yorkshire.**

**He put out two county players from Huddersfield—Geoff Brook and Brian Pennington—before he succumbed to the sponge of Ray Dove in the fifth round.**

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

**THE** experiment of playing all Zone 8 matches in the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl Competitions on the same date and at one venue was largely defeated by the withdrawal of Slough, Newbury, Reading, Aylesbury and High Wycombe.

Had the criticisms which took place been brought forward earlier, they could probably have been ironed out, and the experiment made worth-while.

The chief objection raised was the original date and venue (December 29 at Bristol). Although all the West Country Leagues offered to play anywhere, no effort was made by any other Leagues to find a venue.

It is interesting to note that Plymouth, who have by far the longest journey, wrote "Whatever time we have to play in the morning, we shall be there, if need be travelling all night."

What a contrast to such as Newbury and Reading who are only 80 miles away.

Gloucestershire have once again flattered to deceive in the County Championship. They were all at sea against the "spongers" of Yorkshire and were decisively beaten 7-3. The only player to emerge with honours was Bryan Merrett, who beat Kennedy and Hinchliff, and with Simons won the men's doubles.

**The only credit on the home side other than this was good staging and organisation by Les Davis of the Gloucester League, with a nice profit of £21.**

By the way, Bryan Merrett, after finishing his apprenticeship with the well known Wagon Works of Gloucester takes his medical on January 2 for his National Service. Good luck Bryan, and here's hoping you get a posting near home.

Gloucester must beat Middlesex at Bristol on January 12 if they hope to remain in the hunt for the Premier Division title. The changes for this match see Ian Harrison making his debut for the county, with Bob Griffin again dropping out in the singles. Shirley Davis pairs up with Bob in the Mixed Doubles and in the Women's Doubles Molly Jones partners Terry Spokes. Merrett and Simons complete the team.

The Bristol Association have already made preparations for their annual dance and presentation of awards. Many well known people have accepted invitations, among them the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort.

Efforts of Bristol and Gloucestershire to stage the West of England have been defeated by that "bogey" petrol rationing. Exeter, who were unable to obtain a hall, have had to cry off, and it looks as though another tournament will be missing this season.

I have been requested to make a special announcement for The Rudford and Highleadon Table Tennis Club who are playing off their tournament in conjunction with the E.T.T.A. World Championships' travelling fund for the usual plaques. The date, February 14, 1957. The club is approximately 4 miles outside Gloucester, and runs three teams in the Gloucester League. The events are Men's Open Singles, Men's Handicap Singles, Men's Doubles and Junior Handicap Singles. Added attraction is an exhibition by those Swaythling Cup players Aubrey Simons and Bryan Merrett.

**Ivor Eyles.**

## DERBY NOTES

Derbyshire have not yet been troubled by the sponge bat mainly because our leading players do not use it. The former county champion Tony Hunt is a "sponger" but he is at present on National Service and does not, therefore, influence the younger players.

Sandwich bats, however, are making some impression. Two Matlock first team players are using them and a number of Derby players have already changed over though some are using two layers of pimped rubber.

In the county league Derby's first and second teams are both undefeated in their respective divisions and could well take both championships this season.

### Good Recovery

Our ladies in the Midland League are having a poor season having lost 0—10 to Birmingham and 4—6 to Kidderminster. In this latter match we did well to pull back from 2—5 down to 4—5 before losing the vital last match.

Mrs. Webster had a good match in winning both her singles and the doubles, in which she was partnered by Mrs. Caughey.

The men's "B" and Intermediate teams also lost to Birmingham by 2—8 and 3—7 respectively.

Mechanics came near to losing their record as the only unbeaten team in the First Division when scraped home 5—4 against lowly placed Railway "seconds". The match stood at 4—all and 1—all before B. Black clinched it.

Derby champion Ron Hallsworth has suffered two league defeats at the hands of A. Hough (Railway) and P. Whitehall (Mechanics) but his team Y.M.C.A. are having a better season since being strengthened by B. Squire, the former Sheffield league player.

Derby championships already underway have provided a number of upsets in the early rounds. G. Webster, D. Black and P. Whitehall, all Derby team players have fallen by the wayside in the singles, as have the doubles favourites Hallsworth and Hough. Then a new face is assured in the women's final, following the defeat of Mrs. Caughey, who has appeared in the final with Mrs. Webster for several years. Mrs. Webster, however, is still going strong in defence of her title.

The County championships are being held in Derby early in March.

Walter Reeves

### The Batter Bat

"You cannot eat your cake, and have it."

A saying often sweetly told; They say of sponge, you cannot beat it,

Such jammy shots, so de-controlled.

## IRISH SCENE

Practically every Irish table tennis fan will remember the name Victor Mercer, that tall genial Ulsterman, who, until his retirement five years ago was Ireland's number one player. Well, now I can announce that Victor has decided to return to the game which made him famous.

Mercer has won over 50 caps for Ireland and was one of our outstanding representatives for many years. His return must indeed gladden the hearts of the Ulster selectors, for he was the mainstay of their teams against some really strong Leinster sides, and following their near defeat in this season's inter-provincial championship they will be delighted indeed to have his services to call upon should he recapture any of his former brilliance.

**Ireland suffered yet another resounding defeat by England at Stoke last month. It could not have been averted even had O'Prey and Clarkin been available. This emphasises the long way that Irish table tennis has to travel before it can reach the English standard.**

We had a glimpse during the last few weeks of what world standard is like when the star Hungarian trio of Sido, Foldi and Eva Kaczian paid us a visit, playing a series of exhibitions in aid of Hungarian Relief. At the National Stadium they defeated an Irish selection comprised of Clarkin, Pappin, Miss Owens and Miss Fearon 7—0. The following night they recorded a similar victory in Belfast against a Northern selection.

Highlights of these nights were the exhibitions between Sido and Foldi. Sido won, but not without a very close struggle. He also won a special Invitation tournament in Dublin, again defeating Foldi in the process.

It is interesting to record that Sean Clarkin defeated Foldi in a later country exhibition and that Miss Koczian had

wins over both Clarkin and Pappin to her credit.

The Anglesea club scored a notable double in the Leinster Team Championships winning the Men's and Women's Division I titles.

After some really interesting play at Cork, Tom Seacy and Miss Florrie Dawkins emerged with the chief honours in the singles. Seacy beat T. Taylor the Munster interprovincial in the final and Miss Dawkins accounted for her younger sister Marcia in the Women's event. This was a complete reversal of the recent Munster Open form.

The Dublin Junior Championships provided their usual large entry and A. Timmons (Dun Laoghaire) brought off a big surprise when winning the men's singles, at it had been expected that the Malayan student at U.C.D., O. Quadros would have captured the title.

Miss A. Mahony, sister of Leinster interprovincial, Don Mahony, won the women's event.

The remaining championships decided last month was the Leinster Closed, and this went to Sean Clarkin who defeated Tommy Taylor in the final. Miss M. Phillips was a worthy winner of the women's singles.

Tommy Caffrey of Ballriggeran has been having a busy time of it recently. He recorded some exceptionally fine performances in the recent English Junior Championships. He won the under 13 Boys' event after some hectic tussles and later was concerned in the finals of three other events—the Boys' Doubles under 13, the junior all-age doubles and the under 15 doubles. He was on the losing side, but showed up well in each.

Nor have his activities been confined to these championships, for at home he walked away with the Irish Closed Boys' Singles and the Collins (Schoolboy) Cup.

**Caffrey has certainly made quite a name for one so young, and there is no doubt that he is one of the best prospects Ireland has produced for several years, as many of our seniors know to their cost.**

S. Dignan.

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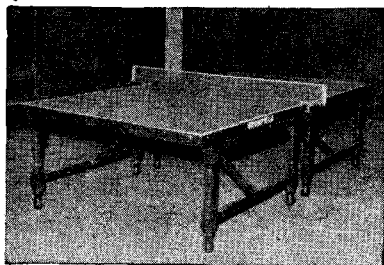
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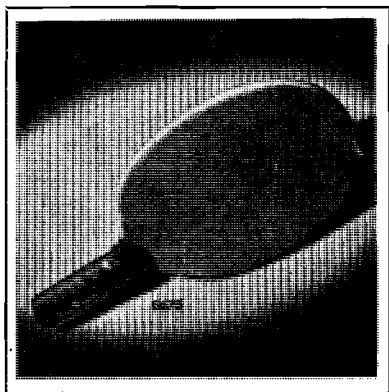
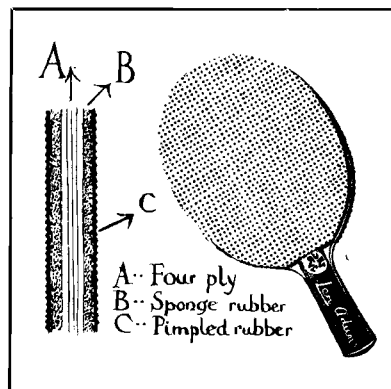
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## HERTFORDSHIRE NEWS

**P**ETROL rationing has taken its toll with the withdrawal of Letchworth from the County Junior Inter-League Championship. One of the richest areas for junior talent, they feel that the financial strain of using public transport would be too great.

It is hoped Letchworth will be back next year for their absence leaves North Herts without a representative in the Junior Championship.

Meanwhile West Herts have gained a new league in the Bushey Youth who registered after the County Executive Committee had decided to offer Youth league special terms of entry.

The County junior coaching scheme is progressing well and there will be keen competition for the three Girls Coaching Scholarships under Geoff Harrower at Lilleshall over the Easter holidays.

St. Albans and Watford are again setting a hot pace in the County Senior Inter-League Championship and are the only two teams left with a one hundred per cent. record. The results last month do not show any surprises, but the fact emerges, that Bill King, of Stevenage, has greatly improved and is knocking at the door of the County team. His record during the month shows victories over County players Alan Smith and R. Lothian and a good showing against Glen Bebb.

Congratulations to the Welwyn Garden City League who have produced a very nicely laid out Bi-monthly news sheet, the "Table Tennis TATLER." It is well done and carries full County as well as local news. I hope that other leagues will take note and keep the players informed by this method.

Inter-league results: Hertford 4, Stevenage 6; Watford "B" 3, St. Albans 7; St. Albans 8, Stevenage 2; Bishop's Stortford 4, Watford "B" 6; Stevenage 4, Watford "B" 6.

### Senior Division Table

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
St. Albans	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Watford "A"	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Watford "B"	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Letchworth	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Bishop's Stortford	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Welwyn Garden City	2	1	0	1	7	13	2
Stevenage Inter Wks.	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Hertford	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Cheshunt	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

Dennis H. Williams.

## SUSSEX NOTES

**T**HE Sussex county senior team is very hopeful of regaining its place in the Premier Division of the National County Championships, from which it was relegated last season.

At the time of writing, Sussex are standing 3rd in the Second Division (South) table, and have beaten Kent II by 6-4 and lost to Surrey II by 3-7. The latter match could well have gone the other way, as four of Sussex's losses were in the third game. The Sussex No. 1, Peter Shead, was involved in a series of marathons, beating M. Maclaren by 22-24, 21-18, 29-27, but losing to K. Sheldon 14-21, 21-19, 19-21. In the mixed doubles, partnered by Mrs. Pat Shead, he beat J. Gregory and Miss L. Witham 24-26, 21-12, 21-19.

The junior team is having a rough time, and has lost all three matches played to date.

One of the most promising is Stephen Buble, nephew of the famous pre-war Swaythling Cup player, Ernest Buble, and if young Stephen can reach his uncle's standard, his team may well win high honours again.

The Sussex Inter-League Championship, which has been won by the Brighton League since the inception in 1948 has this season been split into three sections, men, women and juniors.

The men's competition was won by Brighton, who with Peter Shead, Stan Moore, Fred Gillam and Ian Alexander proved too strong for the opposition. They beat Bognor and Chichester 7-1 in the final between the Group winners.

Quarter-finalists in the Inter-Club Championship (Seniors) are Dental Board, Eastbourne v. N.A.L.G.O. Hastings; Regency, Brighton v. Polegate "Knives"; County Oak, Crawley v. Hove "A"; Hove "B" v. Eastbourne Y.M.C.A. Alpha. In the junior competition, Longleys of Crawley have reached the final by beating Hastings Tigers "B" by 5-4, and will oppose the winners of Hastings Tigers "A" and Shoreham.

The annual marathon, the Sussex Closed Championships, will be held at the Corn Exchange, Brighton, on February 17th, 19 tables being used. All events are played, and this tournament is indeed the survival of the fittest. Peter Shead will be defending his men's singles title, and perhaps his strongest opposition will be from the greatly improved Bryan Leach and George Gladwish.

Leslie Bromfield

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

**L**EG injuries helped to put a premature end to the Cambs bid for the Wilmott Cup men's national team competition.

Both John Thurston and John Cornwell were forced to withdraw from the team for this reason and a much-weakened side were not surprisingly eliminated 3-5 by Wisbech.

The Cambs junior champion, Keith Chapman, made his initial appearance in this competition, but, although far from disgracing himself, he obviously found the occasion rather too much for him.

Cambs also fared badly against Buckinghamshire whom they met earlier in the National County championships at Impington. Leo Thompson with his sponge bat proved to be the Cambs stumbling block, disposing of Ron Nunn and John Cornwell in straight games.

Avis Pauley and Margaret Cornwell gained a good doubles win and partnered by her husband, John, Margaret was also on the winning side in the mixed doubles.

Incidentally, all praise to Avis Pauley, who, owing to the indisposition of Heather Mitchell, and at very short notice, played against Bucks while her husband, at equally short notice played "mother," getting the children bathed and into bed.

Coaching sessions have been given to nearby villages and clubs by local players and many young aspirants are making good. One name to watch in this season's junior section of the Cambs Championships will be that of K. C. Warren of Reach, who has a useful two wing attack.

Wesley, New Chesterton, Institute and Telephones are having a tussle in Division I for the league honours while Shire Hall are struggling at the bottom. All the new teams in the league are adapting themselves well to conditions.

Leslie Constable.

## ESSEX NOTES

**E**SSEX recovered well after losing the first two games to beat Surrey 6-4 in the Premier Division of the County Championships at Romford Y.M.C.A. It was a closely fought match which produced much entertaining table tennis, and deserved a larger crowd than the 150 spectators present.

The match was given excellent publicity by the local Press and was well supported by players throughout the county, but it is doubtful whether the posters, which were displayed prominently throughout the town, attracted more than half-a-dozen spectators from the general public.

On the other hand nearly a hundred turned up at Chelmsford Y.M.C.A. to see Essex Juniors draw 5-5 with Suffolk. It was the first county match to be staged by the Chelmsford League for many years and the arrangements were excellent.

Essex Seconds were beaten 7-2 by Surrey in a Bernard Crouch Competition match. Several games went the full distance, but the only Essex players to win were Ray Dorking and Jean Latty.

The latest model in "fancy" bats is designed by Ivor Jones—"sandwich" one side and ordinary rubber the other. Although he failed to win a game against Surrey II, it seems to have brought him several good wins in Open tournaments.

More Essex Juniors are supporting open tournaments than ever before. In the Central London Open Shelagh Hes-sion defeated Jean Harrower to win the Girls' singles and Hugh Molloy was runner-up in the boys' singles.

Two of the most widely travelled juniors are Mickey Hutton and Ann Stevens and it is hoped that their keenness will soon be rewarded. After her display at Croydon against Barbara Peasley, Ann's chances in the "Daily Mirror" tournament look particularly bright.

### PREMIER DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE (as at December 15th)

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
East London	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Ilford	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Romford	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Walthamstow	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Barking	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Southend	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Chelmsford	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

Results to date: East London 8, Southend 2; Romford 9, Chelmsford 1; Ilford 9; Walthamstow 1; Southend 5, Barking 5; Chelmsford 1, East London 9; Walthamstow 7, Romford 3.

Frank Bateman

## DURHAM NEWS FARE

ONCE again Durham find themselves pointless at the foot of the Second Division (North) in the National County Championship, following heavy defeats by Northumberland, Yorkshire 11, and Warwickshire.

Keith Holland, of Hartlepoons, who marked up our sole win against Warwickshire, is generally agreed Durham's No. 1, but some people are wondering when 18-years-old Peter Tucknutt of Sunderland will get his big chance. His best performance so far was reaching last season's county men's singles semi-final, with wins over Alan Carter, Leslie Tolchard, and Joe Whittingham, all county players.

Only a leg injury has prevented another Wearsider, Gordon Lumsden, former junior international and 1953 "Daily Mirror" boys singles winner, playing in the last two matches. Both Lumsden and Tucknutt should command regular places in next season's team.

Incidentally Mrs. Holland (formerly Olive Thaites) is sadly missed from the county side. She is expecting a happy event.

Durham players did not fare too well in the senior events of the Hartlepoons "Open" but it was a different story in the under 18 singles, where A. Warentz, Durham junior champion, Eddie Taylor and Wilf Barker—all from Sunderland—reached the semi-finals. However, the title went to the odd man out, Northumberland's Jimmy Tindale, who beat first Warentz, then Taylor.

The Northumberland Durham Area junior trials saw Taylor, Barker, and Tindale, with another Sunderland lad, Frank Johnson, come through from an original entry of 20. They will be invited to the England junior trials later in the season.

One of the main upsets of the Durham Senior League was the 6-3 defeat of Sunderland, the reigning champions, by Middlesborough, last year's runners-up. Middlesborough however, suffered an earlier defeat at the hands of Stockton.

A.W.

## WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

WESTON are setting the pace in the Second Division of the Western Counties League with two recent victories, 8-2 against West Wilts and 7-3 against Taunton.

The match with Taunton provided a rare tussle, five of the events going to three games. Ray Philpott beat S. Ewens narrowly 21-18, 21-16, but lost 12-21, 21-12, 16-21 to D. Hebden. D. Shipton won both his matches, but J. Garland and Ewens ran him close.

Weston were well on top in the women's events, Mr. Bull and Miss Francis winning their singles and the doubles.

Against West Wilts, Weston did not have things all their own way despite the 8-2 victory. Six matches went the full distance of three games, and generally it was one of the best matches seen for a long time.

Mrs. Bull, revealing brilliant form against Miss M. Doonham, and Miss

Francis again won their singles matches but were beaten in the doubles by Miss Doonham and Miss Ford.

It was good to see G. Philpott playing again while home on leave, and he partnered R. Philpott for a good doubles win over A. Craymer and J. Lindsay at 21-16, 23-21.

Lindsay provided West Wilt's only other win, beating R. Philpott in the singles.

Grove Motlow

## SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

THE Suffolk Inter-Town League results have shown no real surprises during the first half of the season's programme. Match results are as follows:

Lowestoft 9, Stowmarket 2; Bury St. Edmunds 5, Stowmarket 6; Ipswich 10, Bury St. Edmunds 1; Lowestoft 6, Ipswich 5; Ipswich 1, Lowestoft 10.

As may be seen from these scores Lowestoft and Ipswich are the two strongest teams in this competition and, bearing in mind that Lowestoft regard this league as a nursery, their overwhelming superiority may easily be gauged.

Against Ipswich, however, Lowestoft usually strengthen their team without calling on more than one of their first string players. The Ipswich visit nearly spelled disaster for Lowestoft who crept home by 6-5.

In the return at Ipswich a week later Lowestoft strengthened their team in L. S., J. S. and M. D.—hardly enough to warrant the complete rout of Ipswich. In fact it was one of these ties which gave the home team its only win—Pam Garrett taking the L. S. Let us compare the following M.S. results in both matches. (Lowestoft names first):

AT LOWESTOFT P. Rudd lost to P. Morley 19-21, 16-21; J. Collins lost to A. Hawkes 18-21, 21-17, 16-21; P. Rudd lost to A. Hawkes 21-10, 18-21, 15-21.

AT IPSWICH P. Rudd beat P. Morley 21-12, 21-16; J. Collins beat A. Hawkes 21-6, 21-9; P. Rudd beat A. Hawkes 21-16, 25-23.

What a difference a week can make! Same players, with very similar conditions but with the travelling players (surely a disadvantage) winning on each occasion. This, perhaps, is a perfect illustration of why selectors should not choose players on the result of one match.

The East Anglian League of Leagues is the competition to which Lowestoft pays most importance. For the past four seasons the "A" team has proved themselves Champions of the 1st Division. The "B" team also participates in this division with more than fair success but there is no pandering to the "A" side in an effort to help them win the title. None of the "B" players consider it beyond the team's ability to take the title from the more polished "A" players.

Altogether Lowestoft has four inter-town teams, two of which are nursery sides: plenty of opportunities for any who show promise during their tender years.

## MIDDLESEX NOTES

UNDER this season's nonplaying captain—Victor Barna—the Middlesex team have made a great start to their campaign to regain the champion county title. It would indeed be a gambler who would wager against their chances. The only unbeaten team in the Premier Division Middlesex have already defeated bogey team Yorkshire by a 9-1 margin, and now boast an average of 24 sets to 6.

The second team have not been so successful in the Bernard Crouch Trophy Competition, having lost their first two matches against Essex and Surrey by the same margin of 7-2. In each match, however, their opponents were much more experienced players. Despite lack of years and experience the Middlesex boys and girls put up good performances and it is intended to continue playing our young team in this competition. It is particularly pleasing to remember that it was Bernard Crouch himself who was so interested in the progress of young people in the game.

The even younger players, the junior team, have been giving a good account of themselves in their Division with two decisive wins and an exciting draw against Kent. The second half of the season's programme gives meetings with Suffolk, Essex and Surrey and the Middlesex youngsters have their sights set on the top target.

Middlesex players continue to do well individually, and particularly Alan Rhodes and Barry Donnelly.

Alan has won the singles in the South of England, Central and Herga tournaments, while Barry has already won two junior titles and continues to improve at every appearance.

The Inter League Championships are well under way, North Acton having caused surprises in the Premier Division by beating both Acton and Staines, and later causing a surprise reversing in their recent defeat at the hands of Wembley.

In the Second and Third Divisions Barnet and South West Middlesex respectively lead the way, while in the Junior Division Willesden "A" already look to be a good bet to retain the Junior Championship title.

The Middlesex Closed Tournament takes place on 2nd and 3rd February at the Ultra Electric Canteen, Western Avenue. Entries should be sent to Geoff. James not later than January 23rd.

The Executive have been giving much thought to the question of affiliating to the County Association and the E.T.A., the hundreds of youngsters who are playing under the auspices of the Middlesex County Council Youth Organisation. It is felt that these players should be affiliated via their clubs and leagues by means of a block fee and the National Executive will consider the matter in January.

The action will be of interest to every county since what is happening in Middlesex is happening in every other area.

Norman Reeves

## WELSH CORNER

**WALES is back in the anti-sponge fight once more! That is the news following a recent meeting of the National Executive when it was decided that a proposal to standardise the bat should be put before Congress at Stockholm in March.**

In 1954, the Welsh Association proposed the banning of sponge at the Annual Meeting in London, but the English Association led a successful move which defeated the proposition.

Again in Utrecht, in the following year, Wales seconded a similar motion by the Belgians, but an English proposal for a period of study won the day.

In Tokyo, it was evident that no-one was prepared to make any further concrete proposals, but Welsh officials firmly believe that valuable time has been lost, and that the increasing use of sponge has become a scourge that must be eradicated without further delay.

It is not suggested in Wales that the fall in spectator appeal, apparent not only in the Principality but in England, too, is due entirely to sponge.

Table Tennis, in common with many other sports, has suffered by television and the impact of the high cost of living. But it has done practically nothing to fight back, and at a time when the dynamic play of former years could retrieve our fortunes, all we can offer is more and more of the unspectacular and often uncontrolled play of the "spongers."

### Public Count

Some players claim that we should not worry about the crowds. This could be a solution, if all affiliated players were prepared to pay about 10/- each registration fee! But we find it difficult enough to collect the small dues now asked, and so activities which the players are continually asking for must be financed by the public.

### Welsh Open Postponed

Another decision of the National Executive, taken after long and serious discussion, was to postpone the Welsh Open. It was felt that petrol rationing would prevent the entry of many players who had made this event such a success, in the past and keep away many spectators.

Therefore it was decided to hold the event later.

The North Wales and Flintshire Opens have also been postponed.

The Swansea Open was a successful affair, although women's entry was disappointingly small. John Simonson, despite some long struggles, did well to take the men's title, beating Newport's Stan Jones in the semi-final, and David House in the Final. House had previously beaten Alan Morris.

Ex-Welsh Champion Stan Jones made a good come-back, his best performance being to beat Louis Devereux, whose slow play suited Jones' present stamina.

Audrey Bates retained her title, beating Betty Gray in three games in the semi-final, and Shirley Jones by straight games in the final.

Thomas and Devereux won the doubles from David House and Eddie Still, Miss Gray and Miss Jones beat Audrey Bates and Gretta Holden, and Glyn Morgan and Shirley Jones beat House and Audrey Bates.

The Junior was an all-Abergavenny affair, in which David Parry beat Clive Arkwell.

At Milford Haven, on December 20th, in a friendly match hurriedly arranged by Joe Ackroyd and his colleagues, John Simonson, Alan Morris and Shirley Jones lost 9-0 to the Hungarians Sido, Foldi and Eva Koczian. Simonson took a game from Foldi and Alan and Shirley won a game in the mixed.

## SCOTLAND SPEAKING

**H**EARTENING feature of the international match against England was the victory scored by Helen Elliot against Diane Rowe. Then her win in the doubles with Helen Houlston made the final score smaller than it has been in past seasons.

Outstanding result in the Scottish Inter-League Championships to date was the 5-4 win over Elgin by which Aberdeen scraped their way into the third round. Elgin came close to glory and only a one hundred per cent. performance by Victor Garland saved the Aberdonians from a shock defeat.

The East of Scotland Open Championships were again staged in Murrayfield's spacious but freezing precincts.

Only eight couples thought fit to enter the women's doubles event, presumably because of a widespread fear that Misses Elliot and Houlston would be playing together. Miss Elliot, however, was an absentee and Miss Houlston in partnership with Mrs. Candlin defeated Miss Black and Miss Dunbar of Dundee in an uninspiring final.

The only unexpected entrant to the semi-final stage of the Men's Singles was Alex Laidlaw, of Edinburgh, who did extremely well to stop Bertie Kerr in the "Quarters." Garland and Miller were respectively too good for their opponents and we had the promise of an interesting final which regrettably did not materialize. Miller had little difficulty in taking the title.

In the Men's Doubles Kerr and Barclay, of Edinburgh, happened to hit more drives on the table than off and so scored a narrow victory over Hamilton's Braithwaite and Baxter.

In a closing word may we ask the small favour of audibility from umpires in general and those officiating in the final stages in particular.

### FINAL RESULTS

**Men's Singles:** Miller beat Garland 21-14, 21-14.

**Men's Doubles:** Kerr and Barclay beat Braithwaite and Baxter 21-12, 18-21, 21-12.

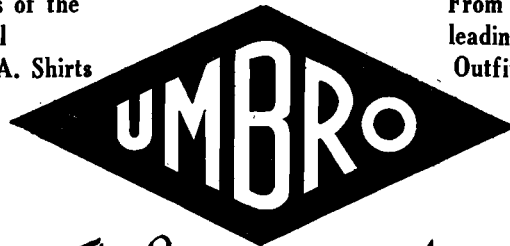
**Women's Singles:** Miss Houlston beat Mrs. Graigen 21-13, 21-17.

**Women's Doubles:** Miss Houlston and Mrs. Candlin beat Miss Black and Miss Dunbar 21-12, 21-15.

**Junior Singles:** Barclay beat Farrar 21-19, 21-9.

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# MIDDLESEX HEAD FOR TITLE

**FOUR** counties are locked together at the top of the Premier Division table, with six points each, as a result of December's matches. Middlesex, however, have gone to the top on games average, and are well placed to recapture the championship.

In the away match against Lancashire, at Bolton, Micky Thornhill lost two singles, a very unusual occurrence. Non-playing captain Victor Barna is not unduly worried, particularly as the sparkling form shown by Alan Rhodes has added still greater strength to the side.

Gloucestershire's lead was short-lived. They crashed to Yorkshire, at Gloucester. Newcomer Maurice Simpson was the big success of the Yorks.

team, defeating both Bob Griffin and Aubrey Simons. Simpson had been playing for the second team, where he has a 100% record, and on this showing may have displaced Raymond Dove for the rest of the season.

Strong man of Gloucester was Bryan Merrett, who beat Ray Hinchliff and Brian Kennedy, and took the doubles with Simons.

*In these notes, I always try to give a boost to good organisation, whenever I encounter it. So take a bow, Frank Bateman, for a perfectly staged show at the Red Triangle Club in Romford. This compact hall, with raised seating and excellent playing conditions, provided an ideal venue for the Essex v Surrey thriller.*

Surrey, desperately in need of points, started with a 2-0 lead, but lost the next three ties. Jean Head

put Surrey level by beating Yvonne Baker, but Bobby Stevens, the idol of the crowd, put Essex back on the winning trail by out-hitting Jackie Head, who had caused an early sensation by disposing of Johnny Leach. The mixed doubles made it 5-3 to Essex, but Ken Craigie once again gave Surrey the chance of a point by just getting home against Brumwell. However, Leach made no mistake in the final tie against Tony Miller.

## FREAK BATS

If anything was to be deplored in this match, it was the preponderance of "freak" bats. Sponges and sandwiches abounded, and I wonder if it was a coincidence that the biggest cheers were reserved for Bobby Stevens, playing with orthodox rubber?

Anyway, it was hard luck on Ron Crayden and his team to go away without a point, after this evenly fought struggle.

Kent have got away from the bottom of the table, with a sterling 7-3 win over Cheshire, at Birkenhead. This was another very well staged match, though the crowd was not as large as one would have hoped. The N.C.C. treasurer Tom Blunn gave the Kent party a very warm reception, and thoughtfully looked after everyone's needs. What a difference this made to our enjoyment of the trip.

The standard of play belied the lowly position of the teams in the league table, and it is fair to say that only the fact that Kent found their top form just at the right time enabled them to get the points, and what luck there was went to the away team.

## FIRST TIME LIMIT

*This match saw the first time limit in the County Championships this season, when Ron Etheridge out-generalled Cheshire's Arnold Shepherd 22-21(T), 11-10 (T). It provided a titbit for the table tennis connoisseur, and the high dramatic impact was increased by the first-class handling of the complicated new "time" procedure, by the local umpire.*

Shepherd showed himself a real sportsman, completely hiding the disappointment he must have felt at losing after such a titanic struggle, and congratulating Etheridge in a most hearty manner.

Derek Schofield was perhaps the best all-round player on view, and he

## COUNTY DIARY

### PREMIER DIVISION

January 12	Cheshire v Surrey, Townley St. Sunday School, Macclesfield	7.15 p.m.
	Yorkshire v Essex, Y.M.C.A., Little Horton Lane, Bradford 5	7 p.m.
	Gloucestershire v Middlesex, Old Boys' Club, Oldfield Road, Hotwells, Bristol	7 p.m.
January 22	Middlesex v Surrey, Municipal Hall, High Road, Tottenham	7.30 p.m.
February 2	Middlesex v Cheshire, Ultra Radio Ltd., Western Avenue, Park Royal, London, W.3	7 p.m.
	Gloucestershire v Essex, Cheltenham	7 p.m.
	Lancashire v Surrey, St. Luke's Parish Hall, Blackpool	7 p.m.
	Yorkshire v Kent, Elland Cricket Club Pavilion, Elland, Yorkshire	7 p.m.

### SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

February 2	Lincolnshire v Yorkshire, The Memorial Hall, Wormgate, Boston	7.15 p.m.
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### SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

January 12	Kent v Hertfordshire, Maidstone	7 p.m.
	Sussex v Hampshire, Drill Hall, Arch Road, Crawley	7 p.m.
January 19	Sussex v Berkshire, Edwards Ltd. Canteen, Manor Royal, Crawley	7.15 p.m.
February 2	Hertfordshire v Berkshire, St. Saviour's Hall, Culver Road, S. Albans	7.15 p.m.

### SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

January 12	Somerset v Glamorgan, St. Peter's Hall, Dorset Street, Lower Bristol Road, Bath	7.15 p.m.
January 18	Worcestershire v Staffordshire, Brintons Factory Canteen, Kidderminster	7.30 p.m.
February 2	Staffordshire v Devon	7.15 p.m.
	Somerset v Dorset, Y.M.C.A., Bath	7.15 p.m.

### MIDLAND DIVISION

January 12	Derbyshire v Worcestershire, Y.M.C.A., Holywell Cross, Chesterfield	7 p.m.
January 26	Warwickshire v Derbyshire	7 p.m.
February 8	Worcestershire v Warwickshire, Bengeworth Club, Evesham	7.30 p.m.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

January 12	Buckinghamshire v Wiltshire, Village Hall, Farnham Royal	7 p.m.
January 19	Norfolk v Bedfordshire, C.E.Y.M.S. Rooms, Norwich	7 p.m.
January 18	Hertfordshire v Cambridgeshire, Hitchin	7 p.m.
February 2	Wiltshire v Norfolk	7 p.m.

### NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

January 19	Cheshire v Lancashire, Livingstone St. Baths, Birkenhead	3.30 p.m.
February 2	Lancashire v Cheshire, Ken Stanley's T.T. Academy, Burnley	7 p.m.

### SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

January 12	Hertfordshire v Sussex, E.A.C. Canteen, New Barnes Avenue, St. Albans	7 p.m.
	Essex v Surrey, St. Marks Club, Rosebank Rd., Leyton, E.10	6 p.m.
January 19	Kent v Suffolk, Rowing Club, Deal	7 p.m.
January 26	Essex v Middlesex, Cleveland Road School, Ilford	6 p.m.
February 2	Surrey v Kent, Putney T.T.C., Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15	3 p.m.
	Suffolk v Sussex, Lads Club, Ipswich	7 p.m.

just got home against Kent's Ray Syndercombe and Dennis Whittaker. He was also on the winning side in the men's doubles.

Kent, as expected won all the women's events. Although Mrs.

Beadle was absent through illness, young Linda Selway, in her first premier match, proved a first-class substitute. Joyce Fielder had a fairly easy time, despite good performances by all three Cheshire girls, of whom Miss M. Young showed promise on her debut.

**It looks like Cheshire are booked for relegation, with Kent, Lancashire, and, yes, Surrey, in danger of accompanying them.**

**In Div. II (West), Glamorgan should have ensured themselves a place in the promotion play-off, following their 8-2 win over Devon.**

*Somerset have become the first victims of the new rule penalising counties who field unregistered players. In their match against Staffordshire, G. Woodford won two ties for them, but was later found to be absent from the Somerset ranking list. This meant that his two wins were awarded to Staffs, and a 5-5 draw transformed into a 7-3 win for Staffs. Hard luck Somerset, now still looking for their first point.*

**In Div. III (South), the championships issue can be regarded as practically settled in Surrey's favour. Kent have jumped into second place with a win over Suffolk, who are still without points.**

**Kent's second team players are now wondering if they would become eligible for promotion if they finish second, and the first team is relegated from the premier division!**

Actually, Kent's position here flatters them as they have played extra matches. Sussex and Hertfordshire should make a strong challenge, while Berkshire are playing better this season than in the past.

There have been no matches in the **Midland Division**, but in the **Southern Division** the issue becomes more complicated with every match that is played.

Yet another draw, this time between Bucks and Norfolk, means that four out of seven matches in this division have been drawn.

### INTERESTING POSITION

The Northants. and Staffs. match will have decided the **Midland Junior** division by the time these notes appear, but in the **Junior North** only one match has been played so far.

The **Junior South** division presents a very interesting situation, and at the risk of being accused of partiality, I think that leaders Middlesex have most to fear from Kent, now joint fourth. These two sides drew early on, and their all-round strength should see them triumph over Suffolk and Essex, despite the individual brilliance of Peter Cole and Shelagh Hession respectively.

**To show their strength, Middlesex have so far been unable to find a place for Chris Gosling, while Kent rank new Middlesex Open boys' champion Douglas Bloy at No. 4.**

### DIVISIONAL TABLES

(at 31.12.56)

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
<b>PREMIER DIVISION :</b>							
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Essex	4	3	1	0	27	13	6
Gloucestershire	4	3	1	0	23	17	6
Yorkshire	4	3	1	0	23	17	6
Lancashire	4	3	0	14	26	2	0
Kent	3	1	2	0	8	22	2
Surrey	3	0	3	0	11	19	0
Cheshire	3	0	3	0	8	22	0
<b>DIV. II (NORTH) :</b>							
Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Lincolnshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Warwickshire	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
Northumberland	3	1	2	0	16	14	2
Durham	4	0	4	0	5	35	0
<b>DIV. II (SOUTH) :</b>							
Surrey	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Kent	4	1	1	2	22	18	4
Berkshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Hertfordshire	2	1	1	0	10	10	2
Sussex	2	1	1	0	9	11	2
Hampshire	3	0	2	1	11	19	1
Suffolk	2	0	2	0	5	15	0
<b>DIV. II (WEST) :</b>							
Glamorgan	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Devon	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Staffordshire	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Worcestershire	2	1	1	0	11	9	2
Somerset	2	0	2	0	5	15	0
Dorset	3	0	3	0	0	30	0
<b>SOUTHERN DIVISION :</b>							
Buckinghamshire	3	1	0	2	18	12	4
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	3
Bedfordshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	3
Norfolk	2	0	0	2	10	10	2
Hertfordshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Cornwall	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Cambridgeshire	1	0	1	0	2	8	0
<b>MIDLAND DIVISION :</b>							
Warwickshire	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Staffordshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Derbyshire	2	1	1	0	11	9	2
Worcestershire	2	1	1	0	8	12	2
Northamptonshire	3	0	3	0	6	24	0
<b>JUNIOR MIDLAND :</b>							
Northamptonshire	1	1	0	0	6	3	2
Staffordshire	1	1	0	0	5	4	2
Warwickshire	2	0	2	0	7	11	0
<b>JUNIOR NORTH :</b>							
Yorkshire	1	1	0	0	7	1	2
Lancashire	1	0	1	0	1	7	0
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>JUNIOR SOUTH :</b>							
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	24	6	5
Suffolk	3	2	0	1	20	10	5
Surrey	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Essex	2	1	0	1	15	5	3
Kent	2	1	0	1	15	5	3
Hertfordshire	3	0	3	0	4	26	0
Sussex	4	0	4	0	3	37	0

### DETAILED RESULTS

#### PREMIER DIVISION

Gloucestershire 3, Yorkshire 17.  
R. Griffin lost M. Simpson —19, —16, lost R. Hinchliff —9, —17, B. Merrett beat Hinchliff —19, 16, 10, beat B. Kennedy —15, 19, 17, A. Simons lost Kennedy —9, —15, lost Simpson —17, 16, —14.  
Merrett and Simons beat Hinchliff and Simpson 14, 14.  
Miss S. Davis lost Miss C. K. Best —17, 18, —18.  
Miss J. Collier and Mrs. E. Spokes lost Miss Best and Miss F. Wright —9, 14, —18.  
R. Morley and Mrs. Spokes lost Kennedy and Miss Wright —18, —10.

#### Cheshire 3, Kent 7

E. Johnson lost D. Whittaker —14, —12, lost R. Etheridge —19, —20, A. Shepherd lost Etheridge 21,—22 (T), 10—11 (T), lost R. Syndercombe —14, —18, D. Schofield beat Syndercombe 18, —12, 17, beat Whittaker 8, —17, 19.  
Johnson and Schofield beat Etheridge and Whittaker —15, 14, 19.  
Miss I. Bown lost Miss J. Fielder —15, —11.  
Miss E. Grimstone and Miss M. Young lost Miss Fielder and Miss L. Selway —17, —20.  
Shepherd and Miss Bown lost Syndercombe and Miss Selway 19, —15, —18.

#### Essex 6, Surrey 4

R. Stevens lost K. Craigie —18, —16, beat J. Head 16, 16, J. Leach lost Head —14, —16, beat A. Miller 19, 12, B. Brumwell beat Miller 18, —15, 19, lost Craigie —14, 21, —17.  
Brumwell and Stevens beat Head and Miller 21, 13.

Miss Y. Baker lost Mrs. J. Head —20, 18, —15.

Miss Baker and Mrs. E. Carrington beat Mrs. Head and Miss M. Piper —11, 17, 19, Leach and Mrs. Carrington beat Craigie and Miss J. Rook 9, 22.

Lancashire 3, Middlesex 7  
Detailed scores not available.

#### DIVISION II (NORTH)

Durham 1, Warwickshire 9.

#### DIVISION II (SOUTH)

Suffolk 2, Kent 8.  
Hertfordshire 6, Hampshire 4.

#### DIVISION II (WEST)

Glamorgan 8, Devon 2.  
Staffordshire 7, Somerset 3.  
Dorset 0, Worcestershire 10.

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

Bedfordshire 6, Hertfordshire 4.  
Norfolk 5, Buckinghamshire 5.

#### JUNIOR SOUTH

Middlesex 9, Hertfordshire 1.  
Essex 5, Suffolk 5.  
Sussex 0, Kent 10.

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# ... And Now For Stockholm

by CHARLES E. DAVIES

With the World Table Tennis Championships not too far away table tennis enthusiasts are perhaps toying with the idea of making the trip to Stockholm.

To many the thought of actually playing in the world tournament is but a blissful pipe-dream. I made my dream come true in 1955 when the championships were held in Utrecht, Holland. My experiences may prove helpful to those who have decided to go to Stockholm and perhaps stimulating to those as yet undecided.

A friend and I completed the entrance formalities with the assistance of the E.T.T.A. and their able administrative secretary Mrs. Kathleen Pegg. We qualified for entry by possessing the necessary 10/- entrance fee, and limitless cheek. We required also of course funds necessary to get to Utrecht and subsist there for ten days.

The total cost of our trip was approximately £35 each. This covered the luxury of a return air trip and the comparative frugality of ten days at a Youth Hostel.

Two friends accompanied us in a non-playing capacity. Non-playing

because originally they thought we had little chance of having our entries accepted.

*We as players enjoyed many privileges. These included free bus rides to the playing arena, free entry for the duration of the championships and a free daily supply of chewing gum.*

Our less forceful friends were somewhat peeved at all this and were truly annoyed when we introduced them to our Dutch friends as our manager and trainer. Much to their chagrin also we were besieged by boy and girl autograph hunters, who not knowing one player from the next were highly delighted with their captures. And after all were not our names in the official programme listed under the grand but misleading heading "Competing Countries and Their Players." Thus the list read—England,—Bergmann, Kennedy, Leach etc., etc., Davies, Dolan, etc., etc.

As players we mingled freely with the stars, and even on occasion practised with them—that is if you class the Danish Corbillon Cup Girls as stars!

*We had occasion to visit a Kapper—Dutch for barber. His English was unusually limited, but he knew all the top names of the English sporting world—Billy Wright, Denis Compton, etc. When we explained why we were in Utrecht he asked us for our autographs and took careful note of our names. No doubt further English visitors to his establishment are somewhat mystified to hear the names of Davies and Dolan bracketed with Wright, Compton and Co.*

The championship results are now history and of little news value, but for the record here are details of my performance. In the qualifying rounds I had a first round victory, a second round walk-over and a third round defeat. In the consolation singles I also reached the third round with a first round bye, a second round bye and a third round good-bye.

But results apart, the thrill of rubbing shoulders with the table-tennis greats, the glamour of the big sporting occasion and the wonderful hospitality of the Dutch people added up to an unforgettable experience, the memory of which prompts my title . . . And Now for Stockholm?

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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>
Jan. 19	<b>WALES v. ENGLAND (Mixed Seniors)</b>		
19	<b>South Yorkshire Open (Jan. 11)</b> Somme Barracks, Glossop Road, Sheffield 10.	B.S.	Mr. R. D. Renshaw, 7, Luna Croft, Gleadless, Sheffield, 12.
20	<b>Southampton Open (Jan. 6)</b> Royal Pier Pavilion, Southampton.	B.S.	Mr. D. Sheppard, 721, Portswood Road, Portswood, Southampton.
25-26	<b>Irish Open</b> Belfast.		
26-27	<b>Kent Open (Jan. 5)</b> Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	J.X.S.	Mr. F. Betts, 88, Surrenden Road, Folkestone.
26	<b>Lancashire Open</b> De Havilland Works Canteen, Lostock, Bolton.	B.S. G.S.	
Feb. 1-2	<b>West of Scotland (Jan. 14)</b> Palace of Arts, Bellahoustone Park, Glasgow.	J.S.	G. Brown, 2 up, 126, Adamswell Street, Springburn, Glasgow, N.1.
1-2	<b>Midland Open</b> Friends' Institute 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.	B.S. G.S. B.D. V.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
4-9	<b>South London Open (Jan. 19)</b> Grange Road Baths, Grange Road, Bermonsey, S.E.1.	B.S. G.S.	Mrs. E. G. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
9	<b>Pontefract Open (Jan. 28)</b> Town Hall Pontefract.	Y.X.S. V.S.	Mr. E. B. Crofts, 2, Ashwood Villas, Banks Avenue, Pontefract.
9-10	<b>Belgium Open</b>		
11-16	<b>Surrey Open (Jan. 26)</b> Public Baths, London Road, Mitcham.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
16-17	<b>French Open</b> Rouen.		
17	<b>Sussex "Closed,"</b> Corn Exchange, Brighton.		
23	<b>Eagle/Girl National Junior Tournament Finals</b> Friends' Meeting House, Euston, London.		
23-24	<b>Swiss Open</b>		
Feb. 23-	<b>West Middlesex Open (Feb. 9)</b>	J.S.B.	Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Riddick, 29, Thorney
Mar. 2	West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, Ealing, W.13.	J.S.G. Y.S.(B) Y.S.(G)	Hedge Road, Chiswick, W.4.
Mar. 2-3	<b>German Open</b>		
7-15	<b>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS</b> Stockholm.		
16	<b>Grimsbly Open</b> Pier Pavilion and Town Hall, Cleethorpes.	B.S.	Mr. J. Browne, 245, Yarborough Road, Grimsby.
25-30	<b>Essex Open</b> Hydro Hall, Y.M.C.A., Plaistow, London, E.13.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. H. Walker, 80, Dereham Gardens, Upminster, Essex.
April 2-6	<b>ENGLISH OPEN</b> Manor Place Baths, London, E.17, and Empire Pool, Wembley, Middlesex.		Secretary, E.T.T.A., 214 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

## HULL "OPEN"

AN individual entry of 207 taxed the resources of the organising committee to the utmost in the Hull "Open" on December 1, but eventually all was completed without any departure from the "matey" atmosphere for which this long-established tournament is noted up North.

Conditions were very satisfactory, dressing rooms spacious and warm, refreshments ready and reasonable. Only two complaints. The first nobody can help; the last train leaves at 9.15 p.m. But almost every player could have done something more to relieve the second complaint—shortage of umpires.

*The few regular County Umpires cannot be expected to show up for every match of every tournament, and scores of table hours were lost because no-one stepped into the breach.*

All honour to those who did their stint—and more—but in future surely organisers must be permitted to detail the losers to serve their turn automatically.

Incidentally, at about 6.30 p.m. when some 100 young fellows were sitting around watching, an appeal was made for volunteers to help clear the tables from part of the hall. Immediately TWO men stepped forward. They were both members of the Tournament Committee who had been grinding away since the crack of dawn without the pleasure of playing on those tables.

The tournament produced a whole crop of new champions with M. Sheader taking the lion's share by winning the men's singles and the doubles with P. Skerratt, who was the losing singles finalist. Flo Wright won the women's singles, while Miss P. Ingleson

exchanged the women's doubles, which she won last year, for the mixed doubles in partnership with M. Pitts.

The find of the tournament was 14-year-old Betty Kinsey, a product of the Hull junior coaching group started by Mr. A. Abrahamson after his attendance at the Yorkshire County coaching courses. She won the women's doubles with Miss L. Hamilton, to whom she narrowly lost in the girls' singles.

### RESULTS

**Men's Singles: Semi-finals:** P. SKERRATT beat R. Dove 21—8, 21—15; M. SHEADER beat H. Simpson 21—14, 21—18.

**Final:** SHEADER beat Skerratt 21—19, 21—19.

**Women's Singles: Final:** Miss F. WRIGHT beat Miss I. Hainey 21—15, 21—15.

**Men's Doubles: Final:** SHEADER and SKERRATT beat R. Mitton and J. Sladdin 21—7, 21—19.

**Women's Doubles: Final:** Miss L. HAMILTON and Miss B. KINSEY beat Miss M. Rhodes and Miss R. Ingleson 21—14, 16—21, 21—19.

**Mixed Doubles: Final:** M. PITTS and Miss INGLESON beat Skerratt and Miss C. Clark 14—21, 21—18, 21—14.

**Boys' Singles: Final:** C. DEATON beat H. HARRIS 21—18, 21—13.

**Girls' Singles: Final:** Miss HAMILTON beat Miss Kinsey 21—15, 18—21, 21—13.

## DORSET "OPEN"

DAVID HOUSE, of Bath, is finding the Dorset "Open" a happy hunting ground. At Weymouth on November 24, he won both the men's singles and doubles for the second successive year. He beat J. Lindsay, of Wilts., in the singles final at 17 and 10, then partnered the same player to win the men's doubles.

House played consistently throughout and did not appear to extend himself against Lindsay, relying on his brilliant defence and counter-attack to pile up the points.

C. H. Lambell (Devon) played well to defeat P. Ofield, the seeded Devon No. 1, to reach the semi-final where he went down to Lindsay 24—26, 21—19, 9—21.

The men's doubles final, in which House and Lindsay beat P. Brook and M. Close, of Surrey, featured some fine aggressive play from both pairs and the defending champions were fortunate to retain their title at 21—13, 17—21, 22—20.

The women's singles was an all Devon affair. Joan Willcocks beating Joan Crosby 21—15, 21—17, after trailing behind in the first game.

Mrs. Crosby, however, had the consolation of winning the women's doubles in partnership with another Devon player Mrs. M. Wakeley. Brook and Miss B. Landimore (Surrey) won the mixed doubles, while the junior singles went to J. Woodford, of Somerset.

Petrol restriction affected only the Welsh entry, and 130 contestants enjoyed a well organised tournament under first-class conditions.

### RESULTS

**Men's Singles: Semi-finals:** D. HOUSE (Somerset) bt J. Waterhouse (Hants) 21—9, 21—4. J. LINDSAY (Wilts) bt C. H. Lambell (Devon) 26—24, 19—21, 21—9.

**Final:** HOUSE bt Lindsay 21—17, 21—10.

**Women's Singles: Final:** Mrs. J. WILLCOCKS (Devon) bt Mrs. J. Crosby (Devon) 21—15, 21—17.

**Men's Doubles: Final:** HOUSE and LINDSAY bt P. Brook and M. Close (Surrey) 21—13, 17—21, 22—20.

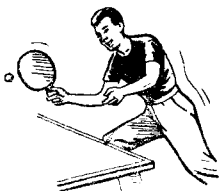
**Women's Doubles: Final:** Mrs. CROSBY and Mrs. M. WAKELEY (Devon) bt Mrs. J. Watts and Miss L. Skidmore (Glos) 21—8, 21—19.

**Mixed Doubles: Final:** BROOK and Miss B. LANDIMORE (Surrey) bt P. Stannard and Miss J. Anstie (Hants) 21—14, 21—16.

**Junior Singles: Final:** J. WOODFORD (Somerset) bt M. Jeffries (Somerset) 21—14, 16—21, 21—11.

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# CENTRAL LONDON "OPEN"

**T**OP ranking players were toppled from their pedestals in the Central London Open, revived after a year's break at Manor Place Baths on December 1. All titles changed hands, with Alan Rhodes and Diane Rowe carrying off the singles crowns.

The first big shock was provided in the men's singles where Johnny Leach, making his first tournament appearance of the season, crashed to Alan Rhodes. Leach, using his new "sandwich bat" took the first game and from that point was completely overwhelmed, Rhodes running out the winner by 16—21, 21—9, 21—12.

Rhodes went on to beat L. Wise 13 and 18, then Tony Cornell 16 and 14 in the semi-final, and Ivor Jones at 13 and 12 in the final.

*Rhodes, who has been experimenting with his grip, showed a welcome return to form and if he can keep up this, will once again be knocking at the door for international honours.*

Meanwhile Jones reached the final with wins over Harry Venner, Jackie Head and Ken Craigie. Craigie had earlier eliminated Len Adams.

Cornell, former junior international, reached the semi-final, via Bobbie Stevens, who in turn had accounted for Derek Burridge. First round shock was the defeat of Surrey's Tony Miller by Fred Kershaw.

The main upset of the women's singles was reserved for the final where Ann Haydon lost her title to Diane Rowe. This was the highlight of the finals evening with Miss Rowe showing scintillating form to win in straight games 21—14, 21—15.

In the semi-final Miss Rowe had beaten the Scottish champion, Helen Elliot 21—23, 21—16, 21—19. Miss Haydon's semi-final victim was Joyce Fielder, who could only offer token resistance after earlier having beaten Jean Head.

## Unbeaten Run Ends

Yet another upset came in the girls' final where Jean Harrower, with her hand heavily bandaged following a finger sprain, suffered her first defeat by a home player for a year. She went down to Shelagh Hession, who won 10—21, 22—20, 25—23. Miss Harrower contributed to her own defeat with overdriving errors when twice holding match point. She appeared too anxious to try and force the issue.

Leach and Venner made a surprisingly early exit in the doubles to Craigie and Rhodes who in turn narrowly lost to Brian Brumwell and Ray Dorking. The title eventually went to Len Adams and Derek Burridge. Leach, however, did not go away empty handed. He partnered Diane Rowe to beat Venner and Miss Elliot 21—13, 19—21, 21—14 in the mixed doubles final.

Miss Rowe landed the treble by also winning the women's doubles with Miss Haydon. They beat Miss Elliot and Margaret Fry in a keenly contested final by 17—21, 25—23, 21—19.

## RESULTS

**Men's Singles: Semi-finals:** I. JONES (Essex) bt K. Craigie (Surrey) 21—12, 21—15; A. RHODES (Middlesex) bt T. Cornell (Essex) 21—16, 21—14.  
**Final:** RHODES bt Jones 21—13, 21—12.

**Women's Singles: Semi-finals:** Miss A. HAYDON (Warwickshire) bt Miss J. Fielder (Kent) 21—9, 21—5; Miss D. ROWE (Middlesex) bt Miss H. Elliot (Scotland) 21—23, 21—16, 21—19.

**Final:** Miss ROWE bt Miss Haydon 21—14, 21—15.

**Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:** B. BRUMWELL and R. DORKING bt Craigie and Rhodes 22—20, 21—19; L. ADAMS and D. BURRIDGE bt R. Crayden and K. Shelden 21—14, 21—17.

**Final:** ADAMS and BURRIDGE bt Brumwell and Dorking 21—18, 21—14.

**Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:** Miss HAYDON and Miss ROWE bt Mrs. J. Head and Miss M. Piper 21—19, 21—10; Miss ELLIOT and Miss M. FRY bt Miss Y. Baker and Miss B. Isaacs 15—21, 21—13, 21—19.

**Final:** Miss HAYDON and Miss ROWE bt Miss Elliot and Miss Fry 17—21, 25—23, 21—19.

**Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:** J. LEACH and Miss ROWE bt Burridge and Miss Haydon 21—21, 21—23, 21—7; H. VENNEN and Miss ELLIOT bt R. Raybould and Miss Fielder 21—16, 21—2.

**Final:** LEACH and Miss ROWE bt Venner and Miss Elliot 21—13, 19—21, 21—14.

**Boys' Singles: Final:** B. DONNELLY bt H. Molloy 21—18, 21—12.

**Girls' Singles: Final:** Miss S. HESSION bt Miss J. Harrower 10—21, 22—20, 25—23.

# MIDDLESEX (HERGA)

## "OPEN"

By LEN ADAMS

**B**ARNA tables and a ten per cent. increased entry were the main features of this season's Middlesex (Herga) "Open." Peter France, ably assisted by willing helpers, stood the strain of a fortnight's organising very well and had the satisfaction of seeing two local league players contest the men's singles final.

Alan Rhodes playing superbly when necessary, swept all before him to win his third open singles title in succession and incidentally won the Herga for the third time.

A subdued Michael Thornhill lost his chance of a hat-trick of singles wins when after beating Ken Craigie he succumbed to the improving Laurie Landry who was, however, no match for Rhodes. Other victims falling to Rhodes included Len Adams (21—10, 21—11) and Tony Miller (21—9, 12—21, 21—6).

On the last month's play Rhodes is now undoubtedly the best player in the country. Selectors please note!

Di Rowe maintained her hat-trick habit, saving her better form for the finals. She had a lengthy tussle in the singles semi-final with Margaret Fry, who, but for one of two injudicious shots, may well have had a surprise 2—0 win. Jill Rook reached three finals, avenging a previous defeat by Joy Fielder, but was only successful in the women's doubles.

Ray Dorking shone as a doubles player and was a somewhat unexpected winner in both finals. A further surprise came in the boys' singles final when after a tough fight B. Donnelly was beaten 19—21, 21—15, 16—21 by D. Bloy.

## RESULTS

**Men's Singles: Semi-finals:** A. RHODES bt L. Adams 21—10, 21—11; L. LANDRY bt M. Thornhill 21—12, 21—19.

**Final:** RHODES bt Landry 10—21, 21—6, 21—9.

**Women's Singles: Semi-finals:** Miss D. ROWE bt Miss M. Fry 11—21, 21—18, 21—16; Miss J. ROOK bt Miss J. Fielder 21—13, 21—13.

**Final:** Miss ROWE bt Miss Rook 21—18, 21—16.

**Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:** R. STEVENS and R. DORKING bt Adams and A. Miller 21—17, 14—21, 21—15; K. CRAIGIE and RHODES bt Thornhill and R. Raybould 21—16, 21—16.

**Final:** STEVENS and DORKING bt Craigie and Rhodes 18—21, 21—17, 23—21.

**Women's Doubles: Final:** Miss ROWE and Miss ROOK bt Miss Fry and Miss Fielder 21—17, 22—20.

**Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:** THORNHILL and Miss ROOK bt Adams and Miss Fry 21—19, 21—11; DORKING and Miss ROWE bt Raybould and Miss Fielder 21—16, 20—22, 21—16.

**Final:** DORKING and Miss ROWE bt Thornhill and Miss Rook 21—16, 19—21, 21—16.

**Boys' Singles: Final:** D. BLOY bt B. Donnelly 21—19, 15—21, 21—16.

# N.W. Kent "Open"

By CONRAD JASCHKE

THE last minute entry of the touring Hungarian players added further colour to an already strong entry in the North West Kent Open Championships at Barmehurst Residents' Club. What a pity that, for once, the finals gate flopped, and the world class table tennis served up was watched by around 100 paying spectators, as compared with the 500 capacity gate achieved in each of the previous 3 years!

In the **men's singles**, Ferenc Sido stood head and shoulders above his opponents, and at no time was he troubled. Both Tony Miller (Surrey) and Derek Burridge (Middlesex) played well against him, but he got home comfortably by 21-16, 21-16 and 21-12, 21-16 respectively. In the quarter-final Sido defeated John Hunt (Herts.) who had eliminated Len Adams (Middlesex) by 21-18, 21-19, but went down to the Hungarian 9-21, 14-21. Lazslo Foldi, the other Hungarian player, had a much more eventful passage to the semi-final. He did not have things all his own way against up-and-coming Henry Buist (Kent), whom he beat 21-17, 21-18, and against Ray Dorking (Essex) he dropped a game, but pulled through 22-24, 21-19, 21-15. In the quarter-final, Alan Rhodes (Middlesex) played a storming game against the Hungarian, whose strong defence at one time looked like wilting in the face of the young Middlesex left-hander's accurate hitting. However, Foldi recovered, and after a lucky break at 21-22 down in the third—when Rhodes must have lost his concentration to play the worst shot I

have seen from him this season—the Hungarian just made it 10-21, 21-16, 24-22. Harry Venner (Surrey) had an easy quarter, reaching the semi-final via John Dawson (Kent) and Tony Piddock (Kent), the Kent junior No. 1 doing well to reach the quarter-final after defeating Jack Carrington (Essex).

Bobby Stevens (Essex) became the fourth semi-finalist, beating Ken Beamish (Essex), Ian Redfearn (Middlesex), Michael Maclaren (Surrey) and Eddie Hodson (Middlesex). In the semi-finals, Foldi beat Venner and Sido defeated Stevens, and in this game the former world champion treated us repeatedly to the most delicate of drop-shots which even the quick-footed young Essex player could not often get back. The final was not very dramatic, as it was always obvious that Foldi stood no chance against his opponent, but Sido's skill, and devastating hitting on both wings, were well worth seeing.

## Home Success

In the **women's singles**, Ann Haydon (Warwicks) struck a blow for England with a clear cut semi-final win over Eva Koczian (Hungary), who was never in it once Ann got into her stride. Previously Miss Koczian had defeated Shirley Jones (Wales) 21-14, 21-10, and beaten Joyce Fielder (Kent)—(who had disposed of Barbara Milbank (Essex) 21-15, 21-19) by 21-11, 21-14. Jean Page (Essex) received an easy passage into the semi-finals when Jean Head scratched, but Yvonne Baker (Essex) surpassed herself by beating Diane

Rowe (Middlesex). Earlier Elsie Carrington (Essex) put up another sterling performance—the kind that has earned her No. 1 Essex ranking for the first time ever—in beating Betty Isaacs (Surrey) 21-15, 21-12, but she went down to Miss Baker 15-21, 10-21.

## Hungarians Beaten

Honours in the **men's doubles** belonged to the Middlesex pair Adams/Burridge long before the final . . . when they knocked out the Hungarian pair Sido/Foldi 16-21, 21-15, 21-15! Thereafter they never considered any idea of defeat, and romped home against E. Hodson/L. Landry (Middlesex) and A. Miller/H. Venner (Surrey), who had defeated Ken Craigie (Surrey)/A. Rhodes.

In the **women's doubles**, Ann Haydon/Di Rowe had a shock in the first round, where they met Eva Koczian who had been paired with England and Kent junior Ann Jacobs. The scratch combination caused many a flutter before the English No. 1 pair scraped through 10-21, 21-19, 26-24! In the other half, Joyce Fielder/Shirley Jones had a good win over Yvonne Baker/Betty Isaacs 21-15, 21-17, but were no match for the England pair in the final.

Shirley Jones was again on the losing side in the **mixed doubles**, partnered by Ivor Jones (Essex). They were no match for Sido/Miss Koczian, who had scraped through 21-19, 20-22, 23-21 against Burridge/Miss Haydon. Despite losing, though, the Jones/Jones pair were good value for entertainment, as they invariably are.

Tony Piddock took the **boys' singles** without loss of a game, while Shelagh Hession carried off the **girls' title**.

## RESULTS

**Men's Singles: Semi-finals:** F. SIDO (Hungary) bt R. J. Stevens (Essex) 21-17, 21-15; L. FOLDI (Hungary) bt H. T. Venner (Surrey) 21-17, 21-16.

**Final:** SIDO beat Foldi 21-12, 21-16.

**Women's Singles: Semi-finals:** Miss A. HAYDON (Warwicks.) bt Miss E. Koczian (Hungary) 21-13, 21-15; Miss Y. BAKER (Essex) bt Miss J. Page (Essex) 21-18, 14-21, 21-10.

**Final:** Miss HAYDON bt Miss Baker 21-8, 21-12.

**Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:** H. T. VENNER and A. R. MILLER (Surrey) bt K. Craigie (Surrey) and A. Rhodes (Middlesex) 21-19, 14-21, 21-18; L. G. Adams and D. C. BURRIDGE (Middlesex) bt E. Hodson and L. Landry (Middlesex) 21-16, 21-18.

**Final:** ADAMS and BURRIDGE bt Venner and Miller 21-7, 21-19.

**Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:** Miss J. FIELDER (Kent) and Miss S. JONES (Wales) bt Miss C. Freville (France) and Miss L. Whittam (Surrey) 21-8, 21-15; Miss HAYDON (Warwicks.) and Miss D. ROWE (Middlesex) bt Mrs. S. Beamish and Miss J. Page (Essex) 21-13, 21-15.

**Final:** Miss HAYDON and Miss ROWE bt Miss Fielder and Miss Jones 21-16, 21-14.

**Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:** SIDO and Miss KOCZIAN bt Burridge and Miss Haydon 21-19, 20-22, 23-21; I. W. JONES (Essex) and Miss S. JONES (Wales) bt R.

Raybould (Essex) and Miss Fielder 21-19, 18-21, 21-14.

**Final:** SIDO and Miss KOCZIAN bt Jones and Miss Jones 21-17, 21-13.

**Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:** A. PIDDOCK (Kent) bt P. Lancaster (Kent) 21-17, 21-20; B. DONNELLY (Middlesex) bt D. L. Bloy (Kent) 21-15, 24-22.

**Final:** PIDDOCK bt Donnelly 21-15, 21-10.

**Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:** Miss S. HESSION (Essex) bt Miss M. Hicks (Middlesex) 21-17, 21-18; Miss A. JACOBS (Kent) bt Miss R. Goodwin (Middlesex) 21-12, 21-15.

**Final:** Miss HESSION bt Miss Jacobs 21-11, 18-21, 21-15.

## BATH "OPEN" RESULTS

**Men's Singles: Final:** B. MERRETT bt R. Morley 21-17, 21-19.

**Women's Singles: Final:** Miss A. BATES bt Miss S. Jones 21-12, 21-14.

**Men's Doubles: Final:** D. HOUSE and MORLEY bt M. Close and A. Hill 21-10, 21-17.

**Women's Doubles: Final:** Miss JONES and Miss B. GRAY bt Miss V. Rowe and Miss Bates 17-21, 21-8, 21-17.

**Boys' Singles: Final:** D. PARRY bt W. Northcote 21-18, 21-12.