

TABLETTE TENNIS



With the World Championships in Sweden we hand over the cover picture to a group of their players: TAGE FLISBERG, ELIZABETH THORSSON, BERGITTA TEGNER, BJORNE MELLSTROM.

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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JAPS SEEK PROFESSIONAL BAN

BRITISH sports legislators are frequently criticised for their "true blue" attitude towards amateurism. While many nations now rely on State-aided teams for Olympic Games and the like, Britain remains faithful to the unpaid performer.

The result is that Britain all too often has to take a back seat in the international sphere, for with the interpretation of an amateur differing widely from country to country it has become little short of hypocrisy.

After the Melbourne Olympics there was the usual flood of requests for a more modernistic outlook towards this vexed question and always we found table tennis held up as a shining example of what should be done.

Table tennis has neatly side-stepped the amateur-professional problem, steadfastly refusing to discriminate.

In table tennis all are players, though there is of course the registered list of players, who can receive remuneration from coaching, exhibitions and writing about the game. **But they are not paid for playing in tournaments and matches.**

It comes therefore as something of a shock to hear that Japan are proposing to the World Congress that "professionals" be barred from amateur tournaments.

RETROGRADE STEP

Apart from the fact that there is no such person as a professional in table tennis, any alteration to the present ruling would be a retrograde step. It would mean squashing much that table tennis has stood for in the eyes of the rest of the world sports.

Japan may have the world's leading players at the moment, but I shall be surprised if motions like this are favourably received by those nations who have built the sport up to what it is today.

Meanwhile, Japan are also seeking to have table tennis incorporated in the Olympic Games. This ties up with the ridiculous proposed "professional" ban but there is as much chance of this being accepted by the Olympic Committee as there is of snow settling in the Sahara Desert.

Efforts in this direction were made before the war, and rather than looking for new sports the Olympic people are concerned with what they can leave out.

The big subject of the World Congress is, of course, sponge. Everyone is naturally wondering what will be the outcome of the proposals for a standardisation of the bat, which would eliminate this controversial surface. If the proposal meets with the same fate as the past three years, what will England do then?

It is a matter of grave concern as letters from readers show, for there is increasing feeling that a "home" ban would put our players at a disadvantage.

HIGHER NET

One suggestion I have received as a means of combating sponge, without interfering with the bat, is to raise the net to 6½ inches.

It is believed that this would bring back the more interesting rallies, force the "sponger" to a change of tactics, and generally level the varying bat surfaces.

Jack Carrington, the National Director of Coaching, originally made a suggestion on these lines in March, 1955, and he still favours it.

Would this be practicable? Snags as I see it: every club would need new net posts. **(Incidentally, Carrington tells me he does not manufacture net posts.)**

Johnny Leach and several other players with whom I have discussed this suggestion, feel it would be well worth trying out.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official Notes

THE National Executive Committee held a meeting in the Council Chamber of the Royal Empire Society, London, on Saturday, 9th February, 1957, which lasted over eight hours. There was a full Agenda for discussion, including a number of items brought forward from the previous meeting and some of the matters discussed were:—

Official E.T.T.A. Tie

The N.E.C. have authorised the adoption of an official E.T.T.A. Tie and these will be on sale within the next few weeks at 12s. 6d. each. All, but only, members of the Association will be entitled to wear the tie, orders for which should be sent to the E.T.T.A., 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.

Television

Discussion took place regarding the presentation of table tennis events on television. All members are requested, when applying for permission to take part in a television programme, to give full details of the nature of the presentation.

Open Tournaments

It was reported that the West of England and the Grimsby tournaments had been cancelled for this season, the latter due to petrol rationing.

Meeting of County Secretaries

It had been hoped that a meeting of County Secretaries might be arranged on the morning of the 27th April, 1957, the date of the Association's Annual General Meeting. After discussion it was agreed not to hold this meeting, but to arrange for a County Secretaries Conference to be held on a Saturday in May or June, 1957.

County Boundary

A member of the Association had raised the question of the exact boundary between Middlesex and

Essex in the "E" postal district areas of London. This boundary was agreed as follows:

Middlesex.—E.1, 2, 5 and 8.

Essex.—All other "E" districts.

Coaching

The following candidates were nominated by the National Coaching Committee as suitable to receive the Coaching Diploma Award:

S. D. Sugden (Leicestershire), **K. H. Beamish** (Essex), **M. Close** (Middlesex), **L. Fraser** (Middlesex), **E. J. Johnson** (Cheshire), **J. Clayton** (Lancashire), **P. H. Norman** (Derbyshire).

These nominations were accepted and endorsed.

ENGLISH OPEN 1957

The draw for the English Open Championships will take place on the 11th March, 1957 by kind permission

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).

of the Mayor in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Leyton. A first class Souvenir Programme is being prepared, copies of which will be on sale during the Championships at a cost of 2s. Copies will also be available on application to the office (2s. 3d. post free). Mr. F. G. Mannooch who was the Editor of the 1953 programme and also did such an excellent job in producing the 1954 World Championships Programme has again agreed to undertake this task.

Election of Officers and National Executive Committee for 1957/58

Final reminder to the E.T.T.A. representatives that ballot papers will be dispatched on or before the 15th March, 1957 and must be returned to the Proportional Representation Society by the 29th March, 1957.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.1 on Saturday, April 27th, 1957.

National Umpires Examination

The second examination for National Umpires was held on Sun-

day, February 24th, 1957 at the Southern Electricity Sports and Social Club, 2-6, Windmill Lane, Southall, Middlesex.

Club Competitions

The total number of Competitions now arranged to be run and duly permitted is 112. We are very gratified by this response from our members. If your Club has not run a Club Competition then ask your Club Secretary to organise one straightaway. Full details of how the Competitions run can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. office at 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. With so many Closed Championships being run off at the end of the season, perhaps Club Secretaries could add an additional event this year; Singles or Doubles, Handicapped or not, for the Club Competitions can take any form and the permission to stage can be obtained by completing the BLUE Card.

Registered Members

Additions during the month to the list of Registered Members are **Mrs. R. Cornett** (Middx.), **K. R. Craigie** (Surrey), **B. H. Kennedy** (Yorks.), **K. J. Piercey** (Essex), **A. L. Shepherd** (Cheshire), **D. A. Thrower** (Middx.).

Team Selections

The following teams have been selected:

v. France (Men) Chateauroux—19th February, 1957: **I. Harrison** (Glos.), **B. Kennedy** (Yorks.), **J. A. Leach** (Essex). Non-playing Captain, **G. V. Barna** (Middx.).

French Open Championships Rouen—16th and 17th February, 1957: **I. Harrison** (Glos.), **J. A. Leach** (Essex), **B. Kennedy** (Yorks.), **Miss J. Fielder** (Kent), **Miss A. S. Haydon** (Warwicks). Non-playing Captain, **G. V. Barna** (Middx.).

v. Wales (Juniors) Sutton—9th March, 1957: **D. Bloy** (Kent), **P. Cole** (Suffolk), **A. Pidcock** (Kent), **Miss J. Harrower** (Middx.). Non-playing Captain, **A. W. C. Simons** (Glos.).

Wilmott Cup/J. M. Rose Bowl. Respective winners London Civil Service (bt Manchester 9—0), Birmingham (bt South London 5—3) in finals on February 23, 1957.

TABLE TENNIS

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SIR ARTHUR J. ELVIN

It is with very great regret that we have to record the death of Sir Arthur J. Elvin, the Managing Director of Wembley Stadium, Ltd. We extend to Lady Elvin our most sincere and deep sympathy in her great loss. The Association's Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. K. Vint, O.B.E., and Mr. D. P. Lowen respectively represented the Association at the Memorial Service held at Wembley Town Hall on Monday the 25th February, 1957.

ENGLISH "OPEN"

WITH Japanese players entering for the first time, and other challengers expected from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, France and the Home Countries, this season's English "Open", finals of which are at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on April 6, is expected to be one of the best yet.

Already tremendous enthusiasm is being created and applications for tickets have been pouring in from all over the country. There is no doubt that finals night at Wembley is a "must" for all T.T. followers. The thousands of fans roaring support in that vast arena is something one never forgets.

The strength of the overseas challenge indicates that the "hoodoo" that has hung over a home born player winning the men's singles for the first time since Percy Bromfield in 1923-4, will be continued.

However, Johnny Leach, Brian Kennedy and Alan Rhodes, and Micky Thornhill will do their best to break the overseas monopoly. Then of course, Richard Bergmann may bring the title back to this country although he was not born here.

Home prospects in the women's

singles are much brighter, with Ann Haydon being a firm favourite to take the title now held by Gizi Farkas. Diane Rowe must also be seriously considered.

The championships will also mark the return of the Rowe twins partnership in the women's doubles, though this time they will appear as Mrs. Diane Collins and Mrs. Rosalind Cornett.

Ann Haydon, who won the title with Diane last year has to find another partner.

Diane also holds the mixed doubles with Leach.

Venues of Play

April 2, 3 and 4, 1957: Manor Place Baths, Walworth, S.E.17.

April 5 and 6, 1957: Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley.

Tickets of Admission

Daily admission tickets to all sessions will be available at the door (2/6d. per session at Manor Place Baths and 3/6d. per session at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley) but tickets for Friday, April 5, and Saturday, April 6 evenings are on sale and orders should be sent to the E.T.T.A. Office.

All cheques, money orders, postal orders must be made payable to Wembley Stadium Limited.

Arrangements have been made for party reductions (12 persons or more) on all prices of tickets other than the lowest. It is not necessary that the tickets should be of one price to obtain the concession.

They can be made up of any price provided the total number is 12 or more. Seats are available as follows:—

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

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

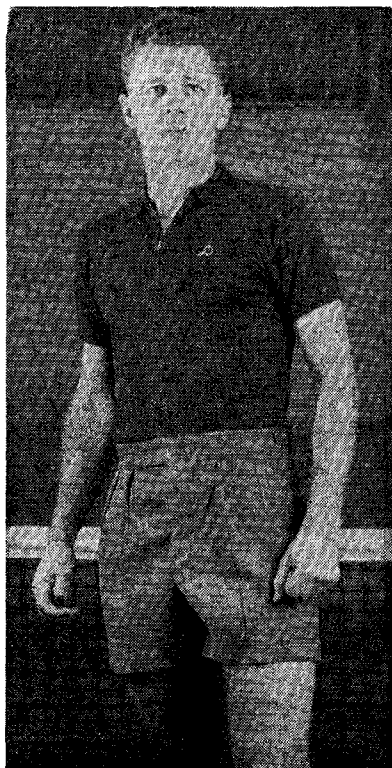
Travelling Conditions

It is appreciated that petrol rationing makes travel to WEMBLEY perhaps a little more difficult for many of our members. However, the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley, is most accessible and served well by buses and trains of London Transport. Details are as follows:—

Buses: Nos. 18 and 92 run into the Empire Pool and terminate there: No. 83 stops outside the Empire Pool.

Trains: Metropolitan Line and Bakerloo Line (Stanmore) to Wembley Park Station, turn right out of the station and a few minutes walk. Wembley Park is only 15 minutes from Baker Street by Metropolitan Line trains. Bakerloo Line (Watford) to Wembley Central, cross the road, thence by Nos. 18, 83, 92 buses to the Empire Pool.

Trolleybuses: No. 662 to the Triangle at Wembley Hill Road, walk up Wembley Hill Road, the Empire Pool is on the right hand side.



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LOOK FOR THE TABLE TENNIS BAT MOTIF

ANTI-SOCIAL COMPLAINTS

by ELSIE CARRINGTON

I HAVE been reading a very amusing article in the Lensbury Club Magazine written by a Mr. George Mitchell, in which he complains bitterly of the anti-social conditions which prevail at league matches.

He asks if you enjoy your matches and says, "Have you just started to tell one of your mates that hilarious story you heard at lunchtime about the commercial traveller and then received a deathly glare from your No. 1 on the table (who has just failed to reach a net and an edge ball), and had the umpire (taking his job seriously) look you in the eye and shout 'Quiet please.'?"

"Have you sat through an evening and the only time you've spoken to an opponent is to say (rather superfluously) 'Oh—do I play you now?'"

Mr. Mitchell suggests that apart from the requisite playing conditions, there should be an ante-room with large windows, where players can stretch their legs, talk over the games just played, and yet still be able to follow the game going on outside.

He has certainly got something there! This would put an end to the infuriating "tutting" of husbands and

boyfriends, etc., every time one loses the point; knitting needles could be dropped with reckless abandon with no inconvenience to the players, and the smokers could get up as much fag as they liked without interfering with the play.

There are drawbacks, of course. think how disconcerting it would be to see a row of faces through the window, apparently watching your game, suddenly break into laughter and not know what it was about. Could it be that your zip-fastener has given way—or your shoulder strap—or perhaps it was that story about the commercial traveller after all!

Most Comfortable

One of the most comfortable and tasteful clubrooms I have visited recently, is that of Messrs. Wiggins Teape. Their clubroom is housed on the top floor of Gateway House, that new and imposing building in Queen Victoria Street, thrusting like a prow of a ship towards St. Paul's.

The room is decorated in contemporary style, with soft shaded lights, and soft comfortable chairs in reds and blues and yellows and greens. At one end (far enough away so as not to interfere with the play), is a very modern bar, where one can either

drown one's sorrows or celebrate success, as well as imbibe endless cups of tea.

Smartest girl at the South London Open was Joy Fielder. How nice she looked in her pink shirt, with the chocolate brown skirt edged and lined with exactly the same pink as her shirt.

Who is the table tennis girl with the smallest waist?

Micki (McMeekin) Jones is the proud possessor of a 2½ inch waist.



MICKI McMEEKIN

Somebody asked, "Why are you always writing about Pam Mortimer?" Obviously because Pam is always making news. Now she makes news again. Playing in her first tournament since the birth of her baby in November she won all three titles in the Midland Open. Notable wins in the singles were her victories over Shirley Jones and Audrey Bates. Well done, Pam.

Names Changed

One of the ladies' doubles pairs in the English Open will be Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Cornett. Who are they? Why, the famous Rowe twins.

Diane is marrying Desmond Collins on March 23 at St. Andrew's Church, Sudbury. It will not be a white wedding—Di will wear pink. Rosalind will be Matron of Honour.

After her marriage Di will be living in Gosport and says she will continue to play whenever possible.

I am sure all readers would like to join me in wishing Diane and Desmond every possible happiness.

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OGIMURA WAS RIGHT

says Alec Brook

WHEN Ichiro Ogimura launched his attack on the "old men" of table tennis and claimed that the likes of Bergmann and Leach are too old, he hit right at the root of the trouble with the game in England today.

I agree with him 100 per cent. that Bergmann and Leach are too old and if I were a selector I would not have considered them for the Swaythling Cup team.

I will go so far as to say I do not expect either of them to reach the last eight in the World Championship.

Speed is essential for top class table tennis, and the older you get the slower your reflexes.

With 25 years of T.T. behind me, I feel I am well qualified to criticise our present team.

I am not digging at Richard because he has been out of England. That is another story. But because his play since the last world meeting has been purely exhibition.

Exhibition and tournament play are two entirely different styles. Here again I know what I am talking about having played thousands of times with Bergmann, Leach, and, of course, Victor Barna.

Exhibitions kill the fight in a player. He becomes a showman, all the time playing to the gallery. It is not easy to get back to the serious side.

Balancing Age

You learn to put the ball up higher, all the time fencing for the spectacular. And that just doesn't pay off when you come up against the likes of the fleet footed Japs.

Their speed is fantastic. They are almost feline as they cover the table.

Bergmann and Barna — surely two of the greatest players ever — were in their hey day teen-aged youngsters and could cope with this sort of thing. It was once claimed "You are too old at 25". Bergmann and Leach are both well into the 30's.

Selectors have gone to the other extreme in picking Ian Harrison, last year's junior champion. Seems almost like they are trying to pull down the age average.

In my view Harrison, although he has had some good results is too young and has too little experience.

This may sound contradictory, for while I agree experience and youth should be blended, I feel that there are other players young enough who should come before him. Micky Thornhill, one of the most neglected

players in the game, is one. His record over the season justifies a place and he has the experience.

System Wrong

To my mind it would too much a risk to play Harrison in any of the Swaythling matches and I can see him being relegated to little more than a "baggage man".

There can be few grumbles about Kennedy and Rhodes, though I cannot see them covering themselves with glory.

Trouble is our players as a whole lack speed. But don't blame them. Blame the system. They just haven't been taught the speed of the game.

Put up the net to what it used to be and more skill and speed will have to be taught.

The lower net gives a "biff bang" style. With the higher net you have to angle the ball better and be quicker on your feet and with your movements to get the opponent out of position.

I have torn the team to pieces. Now I shall sit back and wait results. If the championships prove me wrong then so much the better, for we all want to see England hold her own with the rest of the world.

Meanwhile I have high hopes of our girls. Player for player they are much better than the men.

THE NATIONAL CUPS

NO one can dispute the fact that London Civil Service and Birmingham are worthy winners of this season's National Cup competitions.

London Civil Service won the Wilmott Cup for the first time but with such overwhelming superiority that they gave the impression of having been champions for many years.

Their fantastic record illustrates their consistent dominance throughout the competition. They lost only two of the 54 individual matches in their seven rounds, one against London Business Houses in the second round and the other against North Middlesex in the Zone Final.

The most amazing performance given by this team of Ken Craigie, Len Adams and Spike Sheldon was, however, the drastic way in which they dealt with the holders, Manchester. They won 9-0 with the loss of only four games.

Birmingham (Ann Haydon, Pam Mortimer and Mrs. D. Griffiths) were almost as dominant in winning the Rose Bowl for the third successive year.

It was not until the final where they met South London (Jill Rook, Mrs. Jean Head and Betty Isaacs) that they met any troublesome opposition, for until this stage they had dropped only two individual matches.

The key to the final, where South London led 2-1, was the doubles in which Miss Haydon and Miss Mortimer just managed to scrape home at 18 in the third against Jill Rook and Miss Head.

With the loss of that match died

what hopes South London had of regaining the trophy, for Birmingham held the trump card in Ann Haydon who gained the winning margin when she walloped Jill Rook 21-4, 21-8.

Both Civil Service and Birmingham deserve full praise for their fine displays, for few teams in any sport can boast such consistency throughout.

ROSE BOWL

Quarter-Finals: LEEDS 7, Liverpool 2; SOUTH LONDON 7, Watford 0; BIRMINGHAM 8, North West Kent 1; BRIGHTON 6, Bristol 3. **Semi-Finals:** BIRMINGHAM 8, Brighton 1; SOUTH LONDON 7, Leeds 2.

Final: BIRMINGHAM 5, South London 3.

Details (Birmingham first): Miss A. Haydon bt Mrs. J. Head 21-15, 21-7; bt Miss J. Rook 21-4, 21-8; Miss P. Mortimer lost to Head 22-20, 15-21, 14-21; bt Miss B. Isaacs 21-11, 22-20; Mrs. D. Griffiths lost to Rook 15-21, 11-21; lost to Isaacs 21-10, 10-21, 21-23; Haydon and Mortimer bt Head and Rook 16-21, 21-11, 21-18; Griffiths and Haydon bt Isaacs and Rook 21-18, 21-10.

WILMOTT CUP

Quarter-Finals: MANCHESTER 5, Huddersfield 3; GLOUCESTER 5, Brighton 3; EAST LONDON 5, Staines 4; LONDON CIVIL SERVICE 9, Norwich 0. **Semi-Finals:** LONDON CIVIL SERVICE 5, East London 0; MANCHESTER 5, Gloucester 0.

Final: LONDON CIVIL SERVICE 9, Manchester 0.

Details (Civil Service first): L. Adams bt R. Allcock 21-17, 21-23, 21-18; bt J. Ingber 21-14, 20-22, 21-17; bt G. Pullar 21-11, 21-19; K. Craigie bt Allcock 23-25, 21-15, 21-17; bt Ingber 21-16, 21-12; bt Pullar 21-16, 23-21; K. Sheldon bt Allcock 21-17, 22-20; bt Ingber 17-21, 21-12, 21-12; bt Pullar 21-16, 23-21.

Reflections on Sponge

by Emyln Jones

The Well Known T.V. Commentator

SPONGE, a harmless word, was used until fairly recently to describe an innocuous marine plant.

In its synthetic form, when placed on the surface of a bat, it can cause as much apprehension in the mind of a table tennis player as does the bathroom sponge when brought face to face with a member of the younger generation.

It is reasonable and logical to assume that the more a player sees of it, the less of a problem it becomes. After all, a year or two ago, the user of a sponge bat — all things being more or less equal — had the equivalent of a few points start in any game. It is doubtful if that state of affairs exists today since so many players have conditioned themselves to playing against sponge.

The real problem arises as a direct outcome of the introduction of sponge, namely the combination and variety of bat surfaces which can be devised. The number of permutations means that it is the bat rather than the player which presents the problem. The result is the recent proposals to standardise the bat and in the process to ban span.

MALIGNED RACE

Sports legislators are, in general, a much maligned race since they never seem able to achieve the impossible by pleasing all of the people all of the time.

Any international sports body is a heterogenous group, representing many nationalities drawn from a variety of backgrounds. The fact that the laws of the game are uniform throughout the world does not mean that the viewpoint on the character

and traditions of the game is equally uniform.

We, in this country, having taught the world how to play — speaking generally and not necessarily in a table tennis sense — are rather jealous of the traditions of our games. Other countries, having started later, do not regard these traditions as sacrosanct.

Bearing this in mind, it is not surprising that opposition to the proposed sponge ban has sprung up in the Asiatic countries. After all, it was introduced and has been used most successfully by players from this part of the world.

NOT GUILTY

Traditionalists are notoriously difficult people to move, especially when it is not at all clear that a proposed change is for the better. Their weakness is a tendency to retain the old principle and reject the new without trial, but the governing body is not guilty on this charge.

Sponge has had a fair trial in this country, and has been weighed in the balance and found wanting, but it may well be that due to international opposition crabbed aged and youth may have to travel side by side for a few more years.

Some advocates of standardization have made comparisons with other sports to support their argument. In practice, these give support to their case, but if the rules of the other racket games are examined, it can easily be seen that the standardization of the racket is due to a process of trial and error on the part of the manufacturers rather than on a careful definition by the governing bodies.

Neither the laws of lawn tennis

nor badminton contain a definition of the racket, but so far neither sport has had any problems as a result.

In some other sports the implements are more clearly defined than in the racket games. It is also true to say that the introduction of new materials and better manufacturing processes have produced more efficient implements and, therefore, better performances.

At first, there was resistance to the introduction of some of these new materials. Metal javelins, although never banned, have only comparatively recently become common place in competitions, and, until 1929, steel shafted golf clubs, which have had such an influence on the game, were banned.

Over the years, the changes which have taken place in the missiles used for the various games have, in some cases, affected the character of the games. Modern tennis tactics, by comparison with thirty years ago, may to some extent be accounted for by a less resilient ball; the efficiency of the modern golf ball is constantly increasing; and badminton can now be played with a plastic shuttlecock as well as the tradition 'feather'.

New materials are not bad because they are new, but their acceptance has to be carefully considered in case the character of the game is destroyed.

After all the original intention was that table tennis should be a contest of skill between opposing players and not a test of the ingenuity of players and/or manufacturers to produce a new type of bat. If other factors affecting the character of the game are clearly defined — the height of the net, dimensions of the table and the specifications of the ball — why not state the requirements for the bat?

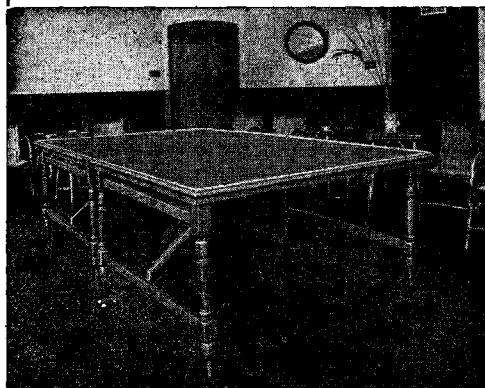
The definition can be such that it still leaves room for individual idiosyncrasies; it does not necessarily mean that sponge has to be banned, but the extremes could be eliminated.

COMPROMISE POSSIBLE

In this way it might be possible to compromise with the East and return to the game as it has been known in this country for over a quarter of a century.

The fact that standardisation has been achieved in other sports, occasionally by law, but in the main by trial and error, indicates that it is desirable. To jettison sponge in the process will naturally cause opposition from overseas countries, but it is less easy to see how the principle of standardisation itself can be argued against.

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Letters to the Editor

AN INDICTMENT

I HAVE been immensely gratified to hear of the actions being taken to ban sponge bats nationally and internationally, and hope that all voting members will flock to the E.T.T.A. Annual General Meeting and take the first step — getting rid of these bats in England.

I have opposed these bats for some years, and in 1955 wrote as follows:— “During the last year or two a great threat to the popularity of the game has arisen — the sponge bat. During the years of development of the game, the standard pimped rubber bat, which superseded the old styles of plain wood, sandpaper, vellum, gut strung and other varieties, proved to be one of the main factors in developing the game to the modern form of rhythmic strokes and long-distance play.”

The sponge bat, actually a revival of other old-fashioned bats which died years ago, have plywood blades faced with sponge. The sponge is sometimes thin, sometimes thick and sometimes corrugated, and some adherents even have sponge on one side and plain rubber or crepe on the other. The latest horror bats have sponge faced with standard pimped rubber.

It is certain that these bats impart excessive spin, and being almost noiseless further assist in upsetting the timing of the opposing player, as well as the user. They assist many players of indifferent but unorthodox styles to become more difficult to beat.

My personal objection is that due to the excessive and assorted spins, the proper way to play table tennis, with rhythmic driving and long-distance spectacular defence, tends to be lost, and to a keen enthusiast, it is disturbing to watch a match without the sound of the ball being hit by the bat.

Half-volley exponents and close-to-the-table players generally achieve the best results, and when one “spongist” meets another the result is generally a debacle. Such a match was the men’s final in the 1954 World Championship between I. Ogimura (Japan) and T. Flisberg (Sweden), one of many veterans who has taken on a new lease of life with sponge. Rallies were almost non-existent, and I am convinced that if there were many such matches table tennis would lose its great appeal.

In fairness to Ogimura, I think he would have won the championship with almost any type of bat, due to his great speed and fitness. In top play, the all-rounder can often provide the answer to sponge, but nevertheless the game tends to lose its appeal as a spectacle.

In 1957, having seen the effects of sponge on the game, my opinion for banning is even stronger. Having been connected with table tennis for 25 years as a player and administrator, I must confess that I derive no enjoyment from watching sponge duels, and I think the present authorisation of these bats is the greatest retrograde step in the history of the game, and even more dangerous than the lengthy “chiselling” battles of the 1930’s.

I just cannot understand why the I.T.T.F. countenance the use of so many

varied materials for the bat, when tournament success does not depend on the development of skill and stroke play, but the ability to adapt one’s game to a bat which will give the maximum number of freak ball reactions.

What would happen to lawn tennis and badminton and other sports if players used a variety of materials for their rackets. So far as I am concerned, I have little interest in playing now in local league matches — even though as a veteran I expect to go down a division each year! — and if sponge bats are allowed to continue, I shall confine my exercise and enjoyment to lawn tennis and badminton where success still depends on skill and on not being a conjurer with a freak bat!

LESLIE BROMFIELD
(Sussex).

RIDICULOUS

So the E.T.T.A. wants to ban sponge. This is foolish enough in itself but what is even more ridiculous is the suggestion that sponge be banned in England even if the I.T.T.F. continue to allow it.

We should then have the absurd position that players in this tiny island would play a stereotyped game under this handicap while a much faster and more varied game is being played throughout the rest of the world.

D. A. TURNER
(Woodford Green).

FIRST DUTY

What will happen if the I.T.T.F. still supports the use of sponge? Will the A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A. turn down their Committee’s recommendation thus giving their nominees’ vote of no confidence or shall we go ahead and keep our word giving a moral and practical lead to the rest of the world and hang the unpreparedness of our players in international competitions.

The answer surely should be: Each national association owes its first duty to itself and the interests of its own members. Its second chief concern is perhaps, to the interests of world table tennis.

J. BROCKLEBANK PARTLEY,
(Surrey).

NOT SINKING IN

Being General Secretary of a small league comprising some 250 members it is evident that there are many players who are not very well versed with the aims of the National Executive Committee regarding sponge.

We have taken steps to rectify this by contributing to the local Press, but generally, publicity dealing with the possibility of the I.T.T.F. refusing to alter the existing law and the E.T.T.A.’s proposition to alter it in any case, is not “sinking in.”

I am told that referendums among local leagues are taking place. If this is so I hope that secretaries are allowed to tell their members that this is not merely a straight question of “Do you or don’t you want sponge banned” but “Do you want sponge and other unorthodox coverings banned irrespective of the International Table Tennis Federation’s ruling on the matter.”

This is so important. We all know that there is a grave doubt that the rest of the world will agree with us. If they don’t our top players will be faced with the prospect of playing sponge without having had the necessary previous experience and practice.

And I’m not thinking of the Johnny Leach-Richard Bergmann types, but those future English Internationals who are not yet in long trousers.

LESLIE DAVIS,
(Brockworth, Glos.)

DON’T BLAME US

I would like to comment on Dennis Offer’s letter (February) in which he says “Wales astonish me,” and goes on to give as the reason for this astonishment the fact that for some years the legislators of the Table Tennis Association of Wales prohibited the use of rubber covered bats.

This is a statement used by the English delegate at the 1954 London World Championships in an attempt to discredit the Welsh proposal to ban sponge bats.

History records that the English Association successfully led a move against the Welsh proposal, and also succeeded in defeating a similar proposal made by the Belgians and supported by Wales at Utrecht.

Mr. Offer is at least consistent in his attitude, but surely he can not honestly believe that succeeding generations of legislators must for ever carry the blame for action of their predecessors, subsequently shown to be misguided?

My wife and I have been consistently opposed to sponge throughout the last few years and as the leading officers of the Welsh Association we have enjoyed the support of our colleagues. Not one of the present legislators of the game in Wales was in office during the time of the great anti-rubber campaign: in fact we were nearly all amongst the players who agitated to be allowed to use rubber, to abandon our game of 50 up in favour of the present method, and generally to oust the officials of that time, a task we eventually succeeded in doing.

To be blamed now for their shortcomings is irony indeed!

We deplored the use of this unfair statement in Congress in London, and we can only assume that Mr. Offer now repeats it in ignorance.

Whatever the outcome of the present moves against sponge, I think your readers ought to know that most of the reasons now advanced in England were detailed by us three years ago! But we welcome the change of heart without seeking to make capital out of it. Presumably Mr. Offer is prepared to accept the new view in England as the reasoned, although in his opinion misguided, attitude arrived at by competent people, many of whom said the opposite three years ago. But the Welsh, whose forefathers did some extraordinary things, must go to their graves with a wooden bat stuck adjectly in the mound of their history!

Come now, Dennis, I thought you knew us better than that.

H. ROY EVANS,
(Chairman, Table Tennis Association of Wales).

JACK CARRINGTON

HITS BACK

THIS month's contributions will not affect I.T.T.F. deliberations, but we have still to make important decisions at our own A.G.M. in April.

In these matters of domestic administration I do not think we should be swayed by views from New England nor by alleged statements from Japan that the game is lovely there, etc.

New England is a tiny fraction of a tiny Association (U.S.T.T.A. has less players than Wales or Ireland); Japan is big enough, but Japanese

can have very different ideas of enjoyment from ours.

In England and most Anglo-Saxon countries the enjoyment of the game has always counted as much as the efficiency of results, and we are entitled to have our game how we like it—if we can find out what we like, some will say!

Does the letter from Mr. Kilpatrick in this issue help us to find out what we like? I fear not, because his horizon is so limited and quite different from ours.

AMERICAN LETTER

I HAVE watched statements about sponge go the distance from constructive comments, to some of the most absurd statements I have ever read. I do not feel that such radical statements represent the truth of the matter at all.

There was Sam Kirkwood's story about sponge being "proven" the deadly enemy of table tennis. Here, with no authorities to back him up, Mr. Kirkwood stated that sponge is responsible for all the troubles of table tennis all over the world. Such a naive picture is certainly far from the truth of the matter I'm sure; for as Daisuke Daimon, Honorable Secretary of the Japanese T.T.A. stated on March 23, 1955, "Whether or not Table Tennis is to become popular, and how much room there is for its prosperity, is dependent on the now-existing rule, any size and any weight."

Victor Barna's remarks about coaching spongers seem to me to be somewhat confused, but it seems that he at least mentioned some of the answers to his own problems in his article about coaching spongers.

It is possible that the use of thick sponges by many English players is causing most of your problems with sponge. As Victor mentioned, since the Japanese use the thin (3mm. or less) sponge, and have the best ball control, it would appear reasonable that coaches, looking for the best ball control possible with sponge, should ask players starting to play with sponge to use a thin covering.

The use of top spin ball control, with high top spin returns in place of low chopped returns, seems to be the natural "Sponge game." This would eliminate many of the problems the present spongers have trying to chop with a surface not made for chopping.

Finally, the use of an up-over-and-down forehand stroke, especially against chop, with the wristed down motion at the end of the stroke more or less cupping the ball over the net has given many of New England's sponge hitters the consistency to produce long volleys against a good defensive player.

It would seem to me that Jack Carrington might more constructively investi-

gate along these lines, instead of just screaming about sponge.

Even Johnny Leach, after accusing the Japanese and others of winning world titles because they have the "best gimmick," which I'm sure Bergmann and Barna would dispute, ends up by admitting that he feels some sort of sponge will finally "Lead to a higher standard of play than we have ever seen before."

Johnny ends his article by relegating pimped rubber to a position of use as a training surface for beginners. There is a lot in what he says, and he shows much less rigidity in his thinking than many of the writers of other articles about sponge.

Here in New England the introduction of the sponge hat has resulted in more players entering organised play, more spectators, who came to see what sponge was like and stayed to see one of the world's most exciting sports, and creating intense interest in the theory side of the sport among sponge users and non-users alike.

Because sponge has created such interest here in New England I cannot believe that white is black just because one lives on the other side of the Atlantic.

I consider the stubborn refusal of many people to utilise the constructive potentials of sponge to be, along with attempts at sponge banning, indications of the static attitude which is hampering the growth of table tennis in America and, I have gathered, in England as well.

I certainly hope that the radicals will not gain the upper hand in England and force some type of change in the basic rule which has helped to guide table tennis to its present popularity, and will continue to do so in the future. The rule I mean, of course, states that the racket may be of any material, size, shape, and weight.

A great deal of poor sportsmanship has been allowed to be publicised under the guise of "stopping the sponge danger."

Now is the time to show up this poor sportsmanship for what it is, by defeating all the radical propositions for sponge banning, from whatever source they may be directed from.

NORMAN KILPATRICK.

As Mr. K. is so free with his criticisms, it is fair to cut him down to size (which the Editor does not appear to have done with his letter!)

I do not disagree with Mr. Kilpatrick's technical deductions, but with his judgment of the desirability of the effects of sponge play.

He dismisses the authority of such as Victor Barna, Sam Kirkwood, and myself, whose experience and opportunities to get at the heart of matters must be greater in one month than his own in a lifetime; he then blithely adopts selected parts of reported comments by Leach, Daimon, etc., not hesitating to attribute opinions to Barna and Bergmann where it suits.

One need not be surprised then to find his thinking based on faulty planks.

Mr. K. cannot believe that White is Black . . . on t'other side of Atlantic. BUT White can appear Black when no light is thrown on it. Recent Anglo-U.S. relations have shown us only too painfully that this White-is-Black phenomenon does exist!

However I will help Mr. K. to believe this regrettable state of affairs with some examples from table tennis thinking:

White is Black: Example No. 1

In England, one can encourage a young player and make him work hard by suggesting that he will one day be in the running for an England badge. When I applied this incentive to young players in New England and other parts of U.S.A., the usual response was a horse-laugh, and the question "How much dough will that get us?"

If readers think I am exaggerating, observe the attitude of the U.S.A. men in Stockholm this year, who propose not to play for U.S.A. in the team championships so that they can concentrate on the individual events.

Let us not judge others, but agree that one man's White is another's Black.

White is Black: Example No. 2

It is not difficult for sponge to give a tonic to New England table tennis. In my experience, short enough but longer I think than Mr. K's experience of this country, the addition of 20 new players or spectators to a New England tournament would be a sensation. We know the Americans do "go for" novelties and gimmicks—and tire of them quickly too.

But, except to watch the Japanese who are exotic attractions and the world's best to boot, we have not noticed these eager crowds which Mr. K, innocently assumes are flocking to see (and not hear!) the heroic sponge-users over here. If there ever was such a phase it was gone in a flash of black light.

White is Black: Example No. 3.

On the matter of Sportsmanship, I suggest Mr. K. thinks again. Which is more sporting, to take your chance with the same weapon as your competitors, or to scout around to find a more effective tool

to overcome the superior skill of one's rivals? This latter I call **Spongemannship**—the urge to possess all possible material advantage—and of course it leads beyond sponge to a future of tool versus tool.

If this is your idea of White, Mr. Kilpatrick, for many it is a Black outlook.

White is Black: Example No. 4.

Mr. K. clearly does not like "Radicals". But here he is doing a Black-White on himself! For who are the Radicals? NOT the anti-freak school, who want a measure of standardisation in order to **retain** the values that have grown into the game and which they love.

The Radicals are of course his sponge friends, who for mainly personal short-term advantage want "liberty" to revolutionise the game every so often with whatever material takes their fancy.

"Adjust the game," they say. But too much **adjustment** becomes **distortion** . . . and too much **distortion** becomes

DESTRUCTION!

A word or two prompted by the February letter from my friend Dennis Offer, whose ageing penholder game received a shot-in-the-arm from his first sponge bat, since when he has pursued every probable and improbable variety with the tirelessness of an inspector of patents—which he is!

That we are not yet cluttered up with sponge players is chiefly because hundreds of keen players are deferring a change-over in the hope that we shall do something to stabilise the position, and many, from that much-despised "sporting instinct" do not wish to play an unattractive form of the game. If the floodgates are opened, don't say you weren't warned.

Technically there is another Black-White question of the use of words. I have said sponge has less control. Quite the reverse. Those who say so, mean, I think, that sponge-users can get by with less muscle control and less nervous control.

This in fact cheapens the game. Skills which are easy to come by are not much valued.

It is NOT illogical to restrict development of the bat. One may in time agree that a speed-limit of 30 m.p.h. is better than one of 15 m.p.h. It does not follow that one should accept an increase to 50 m.p.h.; it is a matter of what constitutes comfortable existence.

On "Going it Alone"

Discounting those whose personal prospects are concerned, there are still some who wonder whether we should risk making our own standardisation rules without complete agreement at I.T.T.F. To assist balanced thinking I mention these points:—

1. No moral stigma attaches to playing to one's own rules. It is quite permissible for any country.
2. Almost certainly others would follow suit, some at once and some after the various arguments at Stockholm had been digested "back home".
3. Certain Open events and international matches would still be subject to I.T.T.F. regulations.
4. E.T.T.A. decisions would clearly be open to review each year. As there are no World Championships

"EAGLE" & "GIRL" FINALS

by Kenneth Wheeler

In his welcoming address the Editor, Mr. Marcus Morris, promised us 'fireworks' and a still higher standard of play in the 'EAGLE' and 'GIRL' Finals to follow. We were not disappointed.

The Girls' under-thirteen Final, which opened the programme, could not have been closer. Victory went to the attractive little stroke player **Janet Roberts**, from Birmingham, and bespectacled **Lynda Gordon**, from Manchester, had to be content, for the second year in succession, with the runners-up award. The score: 22—20, 18—21, 22—20.

Despite the opposition of such talented under-thirteen boys as David

Stanley, Nigel Ive and Gary Brass, that chunky little livewire from Tonyrefail, **Ian Gibson**, armed with a brand new sandwich bat, smashed his way through to the title, and took the trophy home to Wales for the first time.

Undoubtedly the outstanding achievement of the afternoon was that of Mary Shannon, from Worcester Park, who won the Girls' Senior event. The reigning Junior champion, and still eligible by age for that event, Mary was forced by the new rule to tackle the older girls and still managed to beat the best of them.

In the final she was opposed by hard-hitting Betty Kinsley, from Hull, and gave a magnificent display of all-round ability to win 22—20, 21—16. Earlier she dismissed another girl of very much more than average ability in Ann Charman, of Birmingham.

Fierce Display

The afternoon's play had a conclusion as dramatic as any "EAGLE" strip, when **Chris Gosling**, of New Barnet, met Paul Racey, of Swindon, for the Boys' Senior championship. I have never seen Paul play better, and there was no stigma for him in defeat. After saving a match point in the second game he fought back from 20—16 to 20—19 in the third. Gosling's winning shot coming at the other end of a fierce display of hit and counter-hit, clipped the table edge by courtesy of a chip of white paint.

The audience rose to its feet to applaud both boys as they received their trophies, and Chris Gosling's expression, as he clutched the Cup wrested from him last year by Derek Grant, told the whole story of the bitterness of the struggle, and the joy of conquest.

Boys' (under 13). Semi-finals: I. Gibson (Cardiff) bt D. Stanley (Manchester) 23—21, 21—19. G. Brass (Edinburgh) bt N. Ive (N. London) 21—13, 21—18.

Final: GIBSON bt Brass 21—11, 21—14.

Boys' (under 15). Semi-finals: P. Racey (Bristol) bt R. Brass (Edinburgh) 21—15, 23—12. C. Gosling (S. London) bt G. Livesey (Leeds) 21—11, 21—13.

Final: GOSLING bt Racey 21—17, 20—22, 21—19.

Girls' (under 13). Semi-finals: L. Gordon (Manchester) bt H. Brautigan (N. London) 21—18, 21—14. J. Roberts (Birmingham) bt C. Reeves (Nottingham) 21—17, 12—21, 21—11.

Final: ROBERTS bt Gordon 22—20, 18—21, 22—20.

Girls' (under 15). Semi-finals: M. Shannon (S. London) bt A. Charman (Birmingham) 21—9, 21—17. B. Kinsley (Leeds) bt C. Bagshaw (N. London) 21—9, 18—21, 21—13.

Final: SHANNON bt Kinsley 22—20, 21—16.



CHRIS GOSLING

for two years, we should not lose much by maintaining an island of stability here, while watching developments elsewhere.

Personally I find that those who oppose standardisation most vehemently include a large proportion of individuals who have benefited in personal play, and some who benefit financially, from the development of sponge and novel bats. Some others are liberal-minded theoreticians with little or no practical experience of current forms of play.

In favour of standardisation and/or limitation of novelty bats are many thousands of average players who cannot put their views into words but who feel that the new bats are taking something away from the game. As to coaches it is natural that they should be jealous of the older traditions of the game; they would hardly be willing to give back their time to the game if they were made otherwise.

If we should find after a couple of years that we are the "only ones in step" it will be an easy enough matter to go down the slope to "unrestricted bat warfare."

JAPS ABSENT

MINOR sensation in the 4th Asian Championships, played at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, Manila, on January 24—31, was the non-entry of the Japanese, naturally hot favourites to scoop the team and individual titles. No one seems to know the reason why the world's No. 1 T.T. nation did not play, although it is generally believed that Japan preferred to concentrate on the Stockholm tournament to the exclusion of everything else.

Seven sides participated in the men's team event, Vietnam and India coming out best with five wins each. India lost 1—5 to Vietnam, whose solitary defeat was suffered against Taiwan (Formosa), 3—5.

At first it was agreed that Vietnam and India should play each other a deciding match for top place, but this decision was squashed and after many arguments, protests and reference to old and new rules relevant to the situation, Vietnam was given the championship on the strength of her 28—12 games' aggregate, which was infinitesimally superior to India's 26—13.

Third was Taiwan, with Hongkong, Philippines, Korea and Cambodia following behind in that order.

Ladies' team event went to undefeated Taiwan, with Korea second, Hongkong third, Vietnam fourth and Philippines last.

Lau Sek Fong, of Hongkong, won the individual men's singles. He beat Shu Long Shung (Taiwan) in the final, — 13, 18, 16, 11. Choi Kyung Ja, of Korea, took the ladies' singles, her victim in the final being Ui Ssang Sook, of Korea, to the tune of 10, 18, 15.

The Peace Cup

The Vietnamese pair, Mai Van Hoa and Tran Canh Duoc, won the men's doubles, defeating fellow-countrymen Nguyen Kim Hang and Tran Van Lieu 16, 20, —14, —11, 13 in the final. Taiwan pairs Ching Poa Poe—Chang Chai Wung and Yao Li Llian—Yao Chu fought out the ladies' doubles final, the former twosome coming through 15, 14, 18.

The mixed doubles trophy was donated by Red China, and on this account three teams—Korea, Vietnam and Taiwan—refused to have anything to do with the event. Name of

the bauble which caused the schemozzle? The Peace Cup! The event was won by Su Chu and Baguio Wang, of Hongkong

Ivan Andreadis's recent month's coaching tour of India was, according to a leading Indian official, a striking success. So much so, that plans are afoot to invite the Czech to engage on a three-month tutoring engagement.

When the current world rally is over, it will mark the end of an era, particularly in the record-breaking department. For instance, in the tournament-every-two-years era, if anyone is to eclipse Victor Barna's feat of winning 15 individual titles and seven Swaythling Cup medals, he must win every available individual



ANGELICA ROZEANU

and team event over a period of eight years, and after that must be a member of three more winning teams, which means another six years of play.

A girl player must annex all but one of the individual titles over a minimum period of 12 years to beat Hungarian Maria Mednyanszky's tally of 19 individual championships.

It is also extremely improbable that any girl can win the singles title on seven successive occasions (minimum period 12 years) to overshadow Angelica Rozeanu's six-in-a-row total.

In short, there can be no real comparison between the just-ending era and that to come, starting in 1959, in assessing title-gathering feats.

Speaking about records, it is quite incredible that Hungary, who, apart from countless individual honours, have won the Swaythling Cup eleven

times, have never once scooped the Corbillon Cup.

What is behind Japan's proposal to ban players who earn money from the game by competing in so-called "amateur" tournaments? Can it be, as some whisper, that she is a little bit afraid of Bergmann, that Globe-trotting warrior, and Andreadis, who also earns his corn via his skill at the table?

Richard and Ivan have in recent seasons caned many of Japan's top stars in no uncertain fashion—and that even though the pair are "old dodderers" (as Ogimura would have it) in their thirties.

And why should Japan want table tennis to be included in the Olympic Games schedule, when the sport organises its own world championships? More honours and gold medals, perhaps?

No holding this new Hungarian sensation, Zoltan Berczik. In Milan last month he "cake-walked" the Italian Open, annihilating ex-world champ Ferenc Sido in three straight—all under 10! That makes four national titles in a row for Zoltan, the other three being, of course, the Rumanian, Yugoslavian and Austrian.

Small wonder that so many top Continentals, including Sido, Andreadis and Stipek, all of whom he has 'belted' in straight games in recent months, are betting that Zoltan will take the world title.

In the Italian Open another ex-world champion received a thrashing: Angelica Rozeanu. Girl who beat her decisively in the final was her friend and countrywoman, Ella Zeller, who has previously scored over her this season.

Chinese Crackers

Communist Red China's world team indulged in a spot of Europe-traveling last month and shook the Rumanians. In Bucharest, their men beat Rumania's leading aces 5-2. That was a bit of a shocker, but an even bigger one was provided by the Chinese girls, who defeated Rumania's Corbillon Cup-holding team 3—0. In the singles of the latter match Rumania was represented in the doubles by world title-holders Rozeanu and Zeller, and in the singles by Zeller and Maria Galopentza, 17-year-old who won the junior international title in the Paris tournament last September.

China happens to be in England's section of the current Corbillon tournament. Makes you think, doesn't it?

Australians Phil Anderson and Arden Robinson met and beat a French team 4—1 in Evreux last month. French representatives were ex-French champion Caffeiro and Duboille.

The Belgium "Open"

ALTHOUGH I was one of the first players to introduce table tennis as a sport in Belgium, in the far away days of 1933, strangely enough I have hardly ever played there since and certainly have never attended a Belgian Championship, even as a spectator.

Therefore it was all the greater pleasure to lead the English contingent for this year's Open in Brussels and to renew my acquaintance with the hard working secretary M. Bulens and with Monsieur and Madame Roland, who are still the mainstays of Belgian table tennis.

Our party, consisting of Ann Haydon, Jill Rook, Joyce Fielder, Johnny Leach and Alan Rhodes, seemed to be heading for trouble when we left for Ostend in stormy weather: but either the sea was not so rough or we must be better sailors than we thought, because we were very fit and full of beans when we arrived.

Groundless Anxiety

The boys and girls were rather afraid of the playing conditions, which in previous years were said to be slow. Their anxiety, however, proved groundless, because conditions in the Stadium turned out to be quite satisfactory.

Our players were in good spirits and remained so right to the end, because we did well and, with the exception of Ann Haydon, possibly better than expected.

In the Men's Singles Johnny had three easy rounds, then disposed of Amouretti in the quarter-final without any trouble. His semi-final opponent was our old friend, the Yugoslav, Vogrinc, always a hard nut to crack.

In the first game, Vogrinc was leading 20—16 and it was good to see Johnny, like old times, fighting back to level the game 20—all, and then win it 26—24. Vogrinc won the next game but that was all he could do, as Johnny's superior fitness and mounting confidence was too much for him.

Without in any way detracting from Johnny's success, it is only fair to Vogrinc to say that he and Harangozo arrived very late in the early hours of the morning, and prior to playing Johnny, he had a very tough battle lasting nearly two hours against the German sponge-player, H. Gomolla. Vogrinc won 16—14, on

time-limit in the fifth game, and had very little time for a rest.

It's funny how the Yugoslavs always seem to find some trouble and arrive very late for their tournaments. This time, their captain, who had all the passports, missed the train from Belgrade.

The Championship was full of surprises. First, Chergui, the young French hope, was defeated by Goudsmith of Holland: then, to the crowd's delight, the 20-year-old Belgian boy Dugardin, beat the holder Harangozo in a long and most exciting battle. Dugardin had two match points in the fourth game, but Harangozo survived them, and in the fifth established a 17—12 lead. But he had not learned his lesson: he eased up, lost his concentration, and was beaten on the post, 21—19.

This was a very good effort by the talented Dugardin, who is capable of making a lot of progress.

Of course, he is very inexperienced, which showed up clearly in the next round when he faced another of the Gomolla brothers, E. Gomolla, who also uses sponge.

Meanwhile, Alan Rhodes progressed quietly but surely, beating among others, Goudsmith, Schneider—the East German champion—and then, in the semi-final, Gomolla, all without losing a single game.

The final between him and Johnny produced quite a good struggle. Alan won the first and led throughout the next three, but Johnny's greater experience prevailed in the end.

Fighting Fit

Johnny played better than I have seen him play for a long time. He was physically very fit and fought hard for every point.

Alan was the revelation of the tournament and improved with every round. If he can control himself a little more, and learn how and when to slow down, his possibilities would be almost boundless.

Ann Haydon, of course, started a strong favourite in the Women's Singles and she proceeded to carve her way through all her opponents—like a knife through butter—until the final. There, too, against Helen Elliot, the Scottish champion, she looked like skating in, winning the first game to 9, and leading 12—5 in the second. Then something seemed to happen to Helen who began to play as I have never seen her play before.

Retrieving impossible hits, chop-

ping heavily and attacking with great power and accuracy, she recovered to win that second game, and after losing the third narrowly, 21—19, she won the fourth and then the decider, after being 12—17 down. I do not know what possessed Helen, but if she could always play like that, there would not be many who could give her a decent game, far less beat her.

The other English girls also lost to her, Joyce Fielder in the quarter-final, and Jill Rook in the semi.

Joyce and Jill did well in the previous rounds, Joyce beating the German Mielenhausen, and Jill, first the French girl, Alber, who is progressing fast, and then Madame Roland.

Further Victories

The doubles, except for the Men's, brought us further victories. Johnny and Ann won the Mixed, though Vogrinc and Elliot gave them some anxious moments.

Ann, in partnership with Helen, easily took the Women's, but the super defence and chop of the Yugoslav pair, Harangozo and Vogrinc was too much for the Leach-Rhodes combination. Joyce and Jill, beginning to get used to each other, did well to reach the final.

The Challenge Cup, presented to the nation scoring the most points (5 for a win, 3 for the finalist and 1 each for semi-finalists) was easily won by England. Actually, we scored more points than all the other countries put together.

The whole tournament was a very pleasant affair. Our hosts did everything possible to make us happy and comfortable and the reception held after the finals was a most enjoyable finish to a successful championship.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: Leach bt Vogrinc 26—24, 16—21, 21—8, 21—15; Rhodes bt E. Gomolla 21—17, 21—19, 21—16.

Final: Leach bt Rhodes 17—21, 21—17, 21—18, 21—17.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Elliot bt Rook 21—19, 21—11, 21—11; Haydon bt Paulsen (Germany) 21—5, 21—10, 21—9.

Final: Elliot bt Haydon 9—21, 21—18, 19—21, 21—17, 21—19.

Men's Doubles: Final: Harangozo/Vogrinc bt Leach/Rhodes 22—24, 21—17, 21—9, 21—15.

Women's Doubles: Final: Haydon/Elliot bt Rook/Fielder 21—11, 21—13, 21—12.

Mixed Doubles: Final: Leach/Haydon bt Vogrinc/Elliot 21—14, 12—21, 21—11, 20—22, 21—17.

THE FRENCH "OPEN"

by SAM LEITCH

(*"Daily Herald"*)

FROM a small, hard seat six rows back and placed at a most desperate angle—that's evidently how important the French Table Tennis Association regard the Press!—I TRIED to report the finals of the French championships in the Rouen Swimming Stadium.

It was a finals night which began at 9 p.m. and was dominated by Ann Haydon.

But don't forget the five-strong official English contingent was involved in all five finals, except the men's singles.

It was a competent performance from our team which, I must report, was sternly but shrewdly skippered by Victor Barna.

What was the crack made by genial Jean Belot, the Secretary-General . . . "I liked Barna better when he came here as a player!" Obviously sufficient comment on how Barna refused to have his English flock pushed around.

To the play. The two-day event was sliced into two phases as far as Johnny Leach, Brian Kennedy, Ian Harrison, Ann Haydon and Joyce Fielder were concerned.

We disappointed in the Saturday singles when all but Ann Haydon were eliminated. We dominated the Sunday when Ann won the singles, doubles (with Joyce Fielder) and mixed doubles (with Ivan Andreadis, of Czechoslovakia). They beat Brian and Joyce in the mixed event; while Johnny and Josip Vogrinc were losing finalists in the men's doubles.

The disastrous singles spell began on Saturday with the defeat of Joyce Fielder. She played badly, nervously, well below her Belgium form and went out three straight, 21—12, 22—20, 22—20 to the long-legged Simone Tarlet, a persistent French girl who has been dealt with quite emphatically in the past by the Rowe twins and Ann Haydon.

However Joyce must be credited with a spirited recovery in the second game, from 9—20 to 20—20.

First of the men out was Kennedy. But one cannot be too critical here for his conqueror was finalist Vogrinc. If any comment is needed it is simply this: Kennedy led the cagy Yugoslav

by two games to one and had a small but vital lead in the fourth game. Vogrinc won 21—13, 16—21, 19—21, 21—15, 21—14.

In all fairness to our players I must emphasise that the conditions were not good. The lighting was poor. The walls and floor had an identical colour. The tables were their usual lifeless destroyers.

Young Harrison was a most confident and talented winner against Guy Amouretti, that able Frenchman. The score: 21—18, 21—5, 16—21, 21—14. Then this apparently nerveless young man from Cheltenham proceeded to take a game off Bjoerne Mellstrom, Sweden's No. 1 who was playing world-class stuff at the time.

I would say that Harrison is an



ANN HAYDON

excellent young man for the selectors to persevere with. He has the strokes and he has the correct manner abroad.

Too often in the past we have had players accumulating astounding results in home tournaments and then going to European tournaments to be ruthlessly trimmed down to almost novice status.

Johnny Leach was the victim of a last-minute shuffle in the draw. The Czechs, Andreadis and Stipek, were not expected and were not in the draw.

Had the draw been in its original form Leach would have enjoyed the easy passage to the semi-final which

Zarko Dolinar received. As it was Leach sweated and strained against that fit Aussie, Phil Anderson, then one of his own Swedish "pupils," 19-year-old Toni Borg.

Anderson, who was successful against Johnny (he says) in his last two practice games in England before leaving for Rouen, won the first game 21—18, lost the second after leading, lost the third after leading, then called for the five-minute rest.

Leach thankfully accepted the temporary stop. For he told Anderson later that had he carried on playing in the same vein as the third game he might have had Leach in serious trouble.

Johnny is probably playing better than at any time in the last two years but costly lapses of concentration, absence of self-confidence at the critical period and the missing "killer" edge reduce his sound and technically proficient game to the level of his semi-final exit against old rival Vilmos Harangozo.

Sufficient to give the score of that drubbing from the poker-faced Slav: 21—11, 21—11, 21—17.

For the rest of the men's singles (three Slavs and a Czech in the semis) I would only report that the smiling Stipek did to Vogrinc in the final what Kennedy could have done.

Ann Haydon had nowhere near the calibre of opposition in the women's event that our men had. But the fact that in this event and in both the doubles events, she **NEVER DROPPED A SINGLE SET**, is a most graphic illustration of her purposeful play.

Her doubles play, I thought, was much superior to her singles games where she produced some quite uncharacteristic "rushes" at the table. These served only to upset her rhythm.

Congratulations to Miss Fielder on winning her first international title in the women's doubles.

What did these championships throw up . . . that Ann Haydon, given some luck, could get into the women's singles final at Stockholm.

FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles: L. Stipek (Czechoslovakia) bt J. Vogrinc (Yugoslavia) 21—18, 19—21, 21—18, 21—17.

Women's Singles: A. Haydon (England) bt C. Watel (France) 21—10, 21—15, 21—13.

Men's Doubles: T. Flisberg/B. Mellstrom (Sweden) bt J. Leach (England)/Vogrinc 13—21, 22—20, 21—19, 21—16.

Women's Doubles: A. Haydon/J. Fielder (England) bt C. Watel/C. Rougnagnou (France) 21—17, 21—14, 21—11.

Mixed Doubles: I. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia)/A. Haydon bt B. Kennedy/J. Fielder (England) 21—14, 21—13, 21—15.

LINCOLNSHIRE LOSE—BUT WIN

A TRIPLE tie in Division II (North) with Lincolnshire coming out champions on a "photo finish". That has been the highlight of the past month of the County championships.

Lincolnshire got the verdict over Yorkshire II, not on points, not match average, but **games average**. The final analysis was Lincs. 59 for and 36 against; Yorks 58 for, 37 against! It could not have been any closer.

Having already lost to Lincs earlier in the month Yorks had to sit back as spectators for the final drama of this exciting finish—the outstanding match between Lincs and Warwickshire.

Warwickshire need an 8—2 win to clinch it, while Lincs could afford to lose but not by a wider margin than 4—6. And how they struggled for those four. Peter Skerratt eventually clinched it in the last match, beating R. Moseley 26—24, 26—24!

In the Premier Division, Middlesex need one point from their remaining match, with Essex, to regain the championship which they have won eight times out of nine.

Yorkshire will surely not slip against Cheshire, so Middlesex must get that vital point, or the title will go north for the first time.

Lancashire's 0—10 defeat at the hands of the now top form Surrey, has left them floundering in second relegation place so that their fate hangs on the clash with Kent, who did not improve their chances by losing 2—8 to Yorkshire.

Berkshire pulled off a real shock 6—4 win, over Hertfordshire in Div. II (South), easily their best performance to date. Previously Herts had strongly fancied their chances of a place in the promotion play-off, but after this set-back they will need to beat Suffolk and Sussex convincingly. Odds are on Sussex to beat them to it.

Consolation

Hampshire registered their first win, at the expense of Suffolk, who appear booked for relegation.

Warwickshire receive some consolation for their bad luck in Div. II (North), by winning the Midland Division with their second team. They clinched it by beating Worcestershire.

Northamptonshire registered their first win in this division since 1953/54, when they beat Staffordshire 7—3 at Stamford. This was the first county match ever staged at this venue by Northants, and the crowd saw the home team go off to a 4—0 lead, only for Staffs to fight back to 4—3, before Northants made it safe.

The Midland Junior Division is also over with Staffordshire winning the title by their 5—4 win over Warwick, and 6—3 over Northants.

Yorkshire are well away in the Junior North, but as this division is played on home and away basis, Cheshire could theoretically still catch them.

The Junior South division has every appearance of being decided by slide rule, as a result of Kent's sensational defeat by 4—6 at the hands of Essex.

Kent No. 2 boy Paul Lancaster chose a bad time to arrive—45 minutes late at a match—Essex captain Frank Bateman promptly claimed a walk-over in the third tie, in accordance with rules.

Kent never recovered, after losing the first two matches despite another

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fine performance by Julie Johnson, who beat Shelagh Hession, and who also struck a winning girls doubles partnership with Ann Jacobs against Miss Hession/Ann Stevens.

The outstanding Essex performance was that of David Wiggins who became only the second English boy to beat Tony Piddock this season.

The Essex win has put Middlesex back into the picture, and the Kent Herts and Middlesex Surrey clashes now hold the key. If, as is possible, Kent and Middlesex win by similar scores, games average would decide in Middlesex's favour—both have identical match averages. So Kent will be anxiously watching Surrey, hoping for them to take a few sets off the champions.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

(at 1.3.57)

PREMIER DIVISION :

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Middlesex	6	5	0	1	47	13	11
Yorkshire	6	5	1	0	39	21	10
Essex	6	3	2	1	34	26	7
Gloucestershire	6	3	2	1	32	28	7
Surrey	6	2	3	1	36	24	5
Kent	4	1	3	0	10	30	2
Lancashire	5	1	4	0	14	36	2
Cheshire	5	0	5	0	8	42	0

DIV. II (NORTH)—FINAL :

Lincolnshire	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
Yorkshire II	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
Warwickshire	4	3	1	0	24	16	6
Northumberland	4	1	3	0	19	21	2
Durham	4	0	4	0	5	35	0

Lincolnshire win the championship on games 59 for and 36 against, with Yorkshire 58 for and 37 against.

DIV. II (SOUTH) :

Surrey II	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Sussex	4	3	1	0	27	13	6
Berkshire	5	2	1	21	29	5	
Hertfordshire	4	2	2	0	21	19	4
Kent II	5	1	2	2	25	25	4
Hampshire	5	1	3	1	20	30	2
Suffolk	3	0	3	0	7	23	0

DIV. II (WEST) :

Glamorgan	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Devon	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
Worcestershire	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Staffordshire	4	1	2	1	20	20	2
Dorset	5	1	4	0	10	40	2
Somerset	4	0	3	1	12	28	1

SOUTHERN DIVISION :

Buckinghamshire	4	2	0	2	24	16	6
Bedfordshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	5
Hertfordshire II	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Wiltshire	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Norfolk	2	0	0	2	10	10	2
Cornwall	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Cambridgeshire	3	0	3	0	7	23	0

MIDLAND DIVISION—FINAL :

Warwickshire II	4	4	0	0	32	8	
Staffordshire II	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Derbyshire	4	2	2	0	21	19	4
Northamptonshire	4	1	3	0	13	27	2
Worcestershire II	4	1	3	0	12	28	2

MIDLAND JUNIOR—FINAL

Staffordshire	2	2	0	0	11	7	4
Northamptonshire	2	1	1	0	9	9	2
Warwickshire	2	0	2	0	7	11	0

NORTH JUNIOR

Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	14	2	4
Cheshire	1	0	0	1	4	4	1
Lancashire	3	0	2	1	6	18	1

SOUTH JUNIOR

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Suffolk	6	4	1	1	36	24	75
Middlesex	5	3	1	1	35	15	77
Kent	5	3	1	1	35	15	79
Essex	5	3	1	1	32	18	69
Surrey	5	2	3	0	21	29	4
Herts	4	0	3	1	9	31	1
Sussex	6	0	5	1	12	48	1

New draft rules, prepared by N.C.C. treasurer Tom Blunn, were fully discussed and amended, at the recent Championships Council Meeting and now go forward to the A.G.M. in June. These go a long way towards streamlining the competition, and Tom Blunn is to be congratulated on his effort.

The N.C.C. Executive have agreed to make substantial grants, in respect of excessive travelling, to Cambridgeshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, out of the travelling fund. A

similar application by Derbyshire was turned down, as their distances were not sufficient to qualify them.

Incidentally, a chart drawn up by Tom Blunn shows Kent as the county having to do most travelling this season . . . more than 2,000 miles altogether.

Surrey are to be congratulated on handing over a good profit on the Champions v. The Rest match. Previous season this event showed a loss, though Middlesex more than made up for this by television fees.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

March 23	Essex v Middlesex, Ekco Works Canteen, Southend	6.45 p.m.
	Kent v Gloucestershire, British Ropes Ltd., Woolwich	7 p.m.
March 30	Cheshire v Yorkshire, Fairey Aviation Works Club, Derby Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport	7.15 p.m.
	Kent v Lancashire, Bromley	7 p.m.
April 27	Surrey v Kent, St. Saviours Hall, Guildford	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

March 16	Sussex v Hertfordshire, Boys' Club, Bognor Regis	7 p.m.
	Suffolk v Surrey, Stowmarket	5 p.m.
March 23	Suffolk v Sussex, Ipswich	7 p.m.
	Berkshire v Hampshire, Western Hall, Forlease Road, Maidenhead	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

March 23	Glamorgan v Staffordshire, Cardiff	7 p.m.
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SOUTHERN DIVISION

March 23	Cornwall v Cambridgeshire, Canteen, Primrose Dairies, St. Erth	7 p.m.
	Wiltshire v Norfolk, Youth Centre, Sanford Street, Swindon	7 p.m.
March 30	Cornwall v Hertfordshire, Church House, Waterloo Street, Torpoint	7 p.m.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

March 30	Cheshire v Yorkshire, Macclesfield	3 p.m.
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SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

March 16	Kent v Hertfordshire, County Police Headquarters, Maidstone	3.30 p.m.
March 19	Surrey v Middlesex, Putney T.T.C., Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15	7.30 p.m.

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Gloucestershire 5, Essex 5
 1. Harrison beat F. Kershaw 16, 21, lost I. Jones —14, —22. B. Merrett lost Jones —13, —19, beat B. Brumwell —14, 16, 16, A. Simons beat Brumwell 19, —17, 15, beat Kershaw 12, 15.
 R. Griffin/R. Morley lost Brumwell/Kershaw —19, —14.
 Miss S. Davis beat Mrs. E. Carrington —18, 13, 13.
 Miss Davis/Miss S. Hotchkins lost Mrs. Carrington/Miss Y. Baker —17, —17.
 Morley/Miss Hotchkins lost Jones/Miss Baker —16, —5.

Middlesex 10, Cheshire 0

L. Landry beat E. Johnson —19, 19, 16, beat J. Worsley 13, 14. D. Burridge beat Worsley 12, 15, beat D. Schofield 14, 17. L. Adams beat Schofield 18, 18, beat Johnson 11, 17.
 Landry/E. Hodson beat Johnson/Worsley 16, 15.
 Miss D. Rowe beat Miss L. Bown 12, 16. Miss Rowe/Miss M. Fry beat Miss Bown/Miss M. Young 17, 21.
 Adams/Miss Fry beat Schofield/Miss Young 10, 6.

Lancashire 0, Surrey 10

J. Ingher lost K. Sheldon —11, 16, —19, lost K. Craigie —15, —18. R. Alcock lost Craigie —12, —16, lost H. Venner —13, —18. G. Pullar lost Venner 15, —11, —19, lost Sheldon —14, —19.
 Ingher/Pullar lost Craigie/Venner —14, 19, —19.
 Miss W. Swift lost Mrs. J. Head —15, —13.
 Miss Swift/Miss S. Threlfall lost Mrs. Head/Miss M. Piper —15, —12.
 Alcock/Miss Threlfall lost Sheldon/Miss Piper —14, —17.

Yorkshire 8, Kent 2

M. Simpson beat B. Meisel 13, 14, beat D. Whittaker 18, 10. B. Kennedy beat Whittaker 18, 15, beat R. Etheridge 18, 17.

R. Hinchliffe beat Etheridge 20, 9, beat Meisel —17, 17, 20.
 Hinchliffe/Simpson beat Etheridge/Whittaker —18, 14, 15.
 Miss C. K. Best beat Mrs. M. Dodd 17, 8.
 Miss Best/Miss F. Wright lost Mrs. Dodd/Miss L. Selway 15, —14, —18.
 Kennedy/Miss Wright lost Meisel/Miss Selway 15, —8, —19.

DIVISION II (NORTH)

Lincolnshire 7, Yorkshire 3
 Yorkshire 7, Northumberland 3
 Warwickshire 6, Lincolnshire 4

DIVISION II (SOUTH)

Hertfordshire 4, Berkshire 6
 Hampshire 8, Suffolk 2

DIVISION II (WEST)

Staffordshire 4, Devon 6
 Somerset 3, Dorset 7
 Dorset 3, Staffordshire 7

MIDLAND DIVISION

Worcestershire 1, Warwickshire 9
 Northamptonshire 7, Staffordshire 3

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Northamptonshire 3, Staffordshire 6

JUNIOR NORTH

Lancashire 1, Yorkshire 7

JUNIOR SOUTH

Surrey 0, Kent 10
 Suffolk 6, Sussex 4
 Kent 4, Essex 6

WILTSHIRE CLOSED

Men's Singles: J. LINDSAY bt G. Berzins 21-9, 14-21, 21-19.
 Women's Singles: Mrs. G. HORN bt Mrs. G. Rushen 26-24, 21-12.
 Men's Doubles: T. CASH/A. WARD bt Berzins/F. Williams 21-18, 21-10.
 Mixed Doubles: LINDSAY/Miss M. DOONHAM bt J. Candy/Mrs. Horn 21-14, 18-21, 21-15.
 Junior Singles: K. CHARLTON bt P. Racey 22-20, 21-18.

Is The Hunt Over ?

by Alan Lake

EVER since Adrian Haydon was a lad, Birmingham have been hunting for top-class men players. Now their search may be over.

Two boys who may put an end to those headlines—"The Men let the side down"—are 17-year-old apprentice sheet metal worker Brian Robinson and 16-year-old grammar school-boy Michael Tubb.

Let's take Brian first. And this bright-eyed youngster might never have played table tennis if his school hadn't been decorated when he was eight. Brian explains:

"The whole class went to a camp while the school was being decorated. Before then, I'd scarcely seen a table tennis table let alone played the game. But there was a table at the camp and I started having a go."

He's been having a go ever since—and with a large chunk of success.

Odd point from Brian's record: he actually played for Warwickshire juniors before he was picked for the Birmingham side.

This season he has been a regular in both sides but the real highlight came last month when he won the Midland Open boys' singles.

The manner in which he won really gave this hard-hitting Hall Green Y.M.C.A. boy the chance to ask for

a larger size in hats—but Brian's not that type.

He whipped Clive Arkell, the Welsh wonder from Abergavenny, in the semi-final and then went on to blast Colin Deaton, one of England's top juniors, in the final.

This is Brian's last season as a junior but he intends to make the best use of it.

"I'm going to every tournament I can," says Brian, "I don't expect you'll hear of me again this season."

Take it from me, we will—and I'm not the only one that thinks so.

Better Prospect

Then we come to Michael, and some rate him a better prospect than Brian. In fact he has been No. 1 in the Birmingham junior side this season—and they won the Midland League junior section, something Birmingham didn't do even when Ann Haydon was in the team.

Michael is almost exactly a year younger than Brian and naturally enough he has not the same power in his game as yet—though he always tends to be more of a defensive player.

How did young Tubb start? That's an easy one. Michael is a pupil at the table tennis-crazy Central Grammar School and the game is all part

and parcel of the school programme.

After school hours, Michael races off to the South Birmingham Club where he receives quite a lot of coaching from the Haydon family.

But if you see Michael with his nose buried in a pile of books in between games, don't be surprised. "I've



B. ROBINSON



M. TUBB

got a lot of swotting to do if I'm to pass my General Certificate of Education," explains the slim South Birmingham boy.

So look out for these names—Brian Robinson and Michael Tubb.

MIDLAND LEAGUE (as at February 17)

MEN						
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
1. Cheltenham	6	5	1	0	47	13 11
2. Wolves	7	5	0	2	42	28 10
3. Leicester	7	4	1	2	39	31 9
4. Birmingham	7	4	1	2	39	31 9
5. West Brom.....	7	2	3	2	35	35 7
6. Coventry	5	2	2	1	30	20 6
7. Gloucester	6	3	0	3	30	30 6
8. Worcester	7	1	2	4	30	40 4
9. Kidderminster ..	5	1	0	4	16	34 2
10. Notts	8	1	0	7	19	61 2

WOMEN						
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
1. Birmingham	9	9	0	0	78	12 18
2. West Brom	9	8	0	1	54	36 16
3. Coventry	8	5	2	1	46	34 12
4. Notts	10	5	2	3	54	46 12
5. Cheltenham	7	5	0	2	49	21 10
6. Kidderminster ..	8	3	1	4	42	38 7
7. Wolverhampton ..	8	3	1	4	41	39 6
8. Worcester	8	2	2	4	31	49 6
9. Gloucester	8	2	0	6	29	51 4
10. Derby	8	2	0	6	28	52 4
11. Leicester	7	0	2	5	21	49 2
12. Hereford	7	0	0	7	17	53 0

JUNIOR						
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
1. Birmingham	7	7	0	0	53	17 14
2. Nottingham	6	5	0	1	41	19 10
3. Worcester	6	4	1	1	36	24 9
4. West Bromwich ..	6	2	2	2	33	27 6
5. Cheltenham	5	1	0	4	16	34 2
6. Leicester	5	1	0	4	16	34 2
7. Hereford	3	0	1	2	10	20 1
8. Wolverhampton ..	5	0	0	5	11	59 0

DERBY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Individual Championship Results

Men's Singles: R. HALLSWORTH bt A. Hough 19—21, 21—16, 21—12, 21—16.

Women's Singles: Mrs. B. WEBSTER bt J. Gilbert 21—9, 21—17.

Junior Singles: J. COPE bt R. Dowding 19—21, 21—17, 21—16.

Mixed Doubles: HALLSWORTH/WEBSTER bt Webster/Caughey 21—16, 21—8.

Men's Doubles: MATTHEWS/BLACK bt Squires/Daniels 21—17, 21—17.

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Area News:

DURHAM NEWS FARE

THE main news from Durham this month is Arnold Warentz's win in the Pontefract "Open" on February 9th. This is his first "Open" title, and judging by the way he is improving, it will not be his last.

Warentz has been playing for only two seasons, but he practises for at least three hours five nights a week, and was rewarded last season by winning the Durham "Closed" junior championship. He now uses a "sandwich" bat which makes his attack more deadly, and he is now reserve choice for Sunderland senior team.

In the Durham Senior League's junior division Sunderland Juniors head the table, with wins over Philidelphia, Hartlepool, and Middlesbrough, losing only one game in 27.

Philidelphia were recently beaten by Stockton in the Durham "Senior" league recently, but Phil's doubles pairing of Bob Sutherland and Sid Day still retain their unbeaten record this season.

Durham, who are thinking of including a Junior side in the National County Championships, will still have two outstanding juniors next season, Wilf Barker (15) and Eddie Taylor (16).

Barker plays for S.U.M. "A", in the first division of the Sunderland leagues, and Taylor played for Y.M.C.A. "A" until recently when he obtained a transfer to T.L.F. in the second division. Last year in the "Daily Mirror" area finals at Liverpool Taylor went out to the eventual winner, Jimmy Carswell, of Hamilton, but he had the satisfaction of taking a game from him. Taylor is now in the sixth round of the Boy's event, and is still eligible next season.

Although Newcastle is not in Durham, congratulations to Johnny Hillyer (Northumberland) who plays for "Revac" in the Northumberland League Div. 1, on winning the Area 2 District Police singles final on January 30th. The winners will take part in the National Police Championships at Eastbourne later on in the season.

Frank Johnson.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

BRISTOL, who last season evaded relegation by only one position, are the new champions of the Western Counties First Division.

In their all-important clash with Cardiff, who were one point ahead, Bristol gained a decisive 8-2 victory. However, in fairness to the Welsh town it must be said they were unfortunately below full strength as Bernard Dimascio and Alan Tunnas were on international duty against Ireland while Miss Audrey Bates was also unable to play.

Newport in their last match of the season, made a gallant effort against Birmingham but after winning the first two matches lost the following eight and so after gaining promotion last year are

now wooden spoonists and due for relegation to the Second Division.

Weston maintained their unbeaten record in the Second Division by defeating Taunton 8-2 and are now two points ahead of their nearest rivals, Bristol.

West Wilts, who were relegated from the First Division last season, have had a poor season winning only one match, and are second from the bottom of the table.

Grove Motlow.

KENT NOTES

ONE of the important events in the Kent table tennis calendar which receives very little prominence is the Kent Schools' Team Championships, at the Sittingbourne West Secondary Schools on the 23rd March. There is every indication of a record entry.

Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone, determined to retain the main boys' trophy with the aid of Tony Piddock, will probably meet some fairly stiff opposition from the London schools.

In the under 13 boys' event, the holders, Cliftonville School, Margate, have entered four teams, but they will get some determined challenges from Sittingbourne West Secondary School, who also enter more than one team. The Chatham schools, Luton, Highfield and the Technical School will also put up good opposition in both the under 13 and under 15 events.

Other probable entrants are Borden Grammar School, Sittingbourne, Aylesford Secondary School, Hereson School, Ramsgate, and Herne Bay Secondary School.

So far as the girls are concerned, there does not appear to be much opposition to Sittingbourne West Secondary School, holders of all three trophies. Christchurch School, Chatham, has lost nearly all their best players. Canterbury Technical School will probably present the biggest problem, although Sittingbourne Grammar School can field some strong teams if they are permitted to enter.

Meanwhile the Committee of the Kent Schools' Association are looking forward to a busy day and are wondering whether they will be able to provide sufficient tables!

In the junior world Sittingbourne are gaining more prominence and the recent local tournament saw junior entries jump from 94 to 144. Tony Sidders took the main boys' singles and the doubles with clubmate Malcolm Roots, while Ann Jacobs achieved similar honours among the girls. Her doubles partner was Pat Mitchell.

Other promising players were M. Cheesman (West Secondary School), who won both the under 13 and under 15 singles, and Margaret Thomas, who won the under 15 singles and was runner-up in the main event to Ann Jacobs, after first having beaten Pat Mitchell.

Glenys Cordon won the girls' under 13 title, and with Karen Prothero was runner-up in the doubles.

With the A.G.M. looming in the distance proposed amendments to rules have been coming in from various associations. Several deal with subscriptions and it

seems to be generally agreed these must go up.

Kent provide at least one candidate for the National Umpire's examination, Conrad Jaschke.

Meanwhile a number of test papers are being submitted for the County Umpire scheme, but the new test paper has upset the hopes of several candidates.

The main failure, and this may well apply throughout the country, appears that questions are not fully answered. At the same time some of the questions have brought rather startling answers.

Incidentally, the printed leaflet recently distributed throughout Kent in an effort to secure more recruits, has been commended by the National Umpires' Committee, who are considering a national distribution of a similar leaflet.

And now an appeal to Kent. Let us have a lot more candidates and show the rest of the country we can hold our own in the umpiring field.

Jimmy Mannoch.

HERTFORDSHIRE NEWS

THE County Junior Girls' Scholarship trials produced a 12-year-old who is completely new to County circles—Judy Williams of Hatfield. Her father, Mr. W. A. Williams was so delighted at his daughter winning a scholarship that he insisted on paying her expenses himself.

This kind offer has enabled the County to increase the number of scholarships to four, and Judy will be joined by 12-year-old Carole Monks (Letchworth), Sally Eade and Kay Weston (Watford), both 15. All four will be members of the County Junior Coaching Course to be held at Easter, at Lilleshall under the direction of Geoff Harrower.

It is understood that the Letchworth League have some 10- and 11-year-olds who are coming along nicely.

A party of 12-year-old boys from Two Waters Methodist Table Tennis Club, Hemel Hempstead, have entered the County Senior Closed.

The County Junior team, including 12-year-old Ratcliffe of St. Albans, gained their first point against Sussex, so all in all, the juniors have given every satisfaction and great hope for the future of Herts. table tennis.

Tony Rogers returns to the County scene for the Closed which has attracted increased entries. The men's singles is 40 up on last year.

Congratulations to the Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield League who continue the issue of the *Table Tennis Taler*, and increased the size to a 12-page effort. The League owes much to the work of Roy Wilson in producing this publication. Well done, Watford ladies, too. Their efforts in the Rose Bowl can only be praised.

D. H. Williams.

HARRY VENNER

England and Surrey

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

THIS is a poor season for Cambs. table tennis. So far we have been unable to field our strongest team and the latest news about John Thurston's knee suggests he will not be fit for re-entry into the championship game until next year.

At present we are lying without points at the foot of the Southern Division but with a little luck and determination we hope to have vacated this position before the end of the season.

Cambs. latest defeats were inflicted by Herts (8-2) and Beds. (7-3). The margin between these results gives rather a false impression of the strong competitiveness that surround these encounters, in which many of the matches went the full distance.

John Cornwall was in particularly good form and proved himself to be the mainstay of the Cambs team by being undefeated in the singles.

Coaching sessions this month have been few and far between owing to petrol rationing, but local efforts have been made with success.

In the Cambs. League three teams, Wesley, Telephones and N.C.I. are going neck and neck for the First Division honours. Littleport head the Ely and District League, with Wilburton close behind.

Leslie Constable.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

MIGHTY Leeds Victoria dropped a league point recently. That's news because the last time it happened was during the 1953-54 season, when they surrendered two points on default.

Central Y.M.C.A. provided the shock and Stuart Laycock was the hero. He beat city players John Spencer and Peter Simpson to climb into grade one of the Leeds grading scheme.

Leeds are holding a sponge referendum. The 800 registered players will be asked their views and the result will be reported to the annual meeting of the E.T.T.A.

Leeds men are having a bad season in the inter-league competition. First Barnsley and then Bradford scored first-ever wins over them by 6-4. Park, Lofthouse and Spencer could not win a singles between them against Bradford, but Kennedy won his pair (as usual).

On the other hand Leeds women rocket forward like an irresistible force. They shattered rivals Barnsley 9-1 and in four inter-league matches have conceded only three games.

Huddersfield, Yorkshire's leading men, went down in the Wilmott Cup quarter-finals to Manchester but Gordon Cowgill had a splendid match, beating both Ingber and Pullar.

He was rewarded with a place in Yorkshire's Second Division team which beat Northumberland 7-3 at Knaresborough. Bradford closed champion Maurice Pitts won a doubles place after he and Doug McGarry had won the Pontefract Open title.

The Barnsley boy has moved from ungraded to Yorkshire's grade one in twelve months, a very fine performance.

A big surprise in the Huddersfield

Closed Championships was the eclipse of Hinchliff and Pennington, doubles title-holders for three years, by Alan Land and Dicky Bedford. Mrs. Mavis Dyson played extremely well to win three titles. Winners: Singles—Ray Hinchliff; Mrs. Dyson; Dave Barber (youths); Bedford (veterans). Doubles—Stuart Dyson and Geoff Brook; Gordon Cowgill and Mrs. Dyson; Mrs. Dyson and Margaret Scaramuzza.

Slaithwaite lead the Huddersfield League, chased by Y.M.C.A. and Kirkheaton.

Finally, news of three handicap tournaments. The first at Wakefield was to help the E.T.T.A. world championship funds and was won by Trojan, Ralph Clover. The York event was won for the second year running by the man with the biggest points advantage. It was 16-year-old John Dinnington (Railway Institute) who beat singles champion Trevor Foster to become the youngest to win the cup.

In contrast to York it was back-markers who reached the final of the Huddersfield handicap. Ray Hinchliff won it for the first time, beating holder Brian Pennington 26-23, 26-21 in the final while conceding three points.

Ray had some narrow escapes on the way. Each game he played was 26 up. He was losing the third 15-25 to Joyce Armstrong but won on deuce. And he gave Yvonne Robinson 20 start and won.

Malcolm Hartley.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

GLoucestershire rounded off their home programme in the County Championships by drawing 5-all with Essex. The spectators were indeed fortunate in that Aubrey Simons, and visitors, Ivor Jones and Brian Brumwell were in top form.

Full marks to Jones, who, after putting his sponge bat to good purpose, commented after the match that "Sandwich and Sponge" should be banned.

Two Hungarian refugees, G. Muranyi and P. Partos completely eclipsed the local players in the Bristol Closed Championships and between them won the Men's Singles and Doubles and were on opposing sides in the final of the mixed doubles.

Both Muranyi and Partos are, I understand, settling in Bristol and will be a great asset to the West Country.

As in many previous years Terry Spokes (nee Pomroy) dominated the women's section of the Bristol Closed. She won the women's singles for the sixth time and made the women's doubles title her property for the seventh successive year, this time with Nellie Mason.

Unfortunately the championships were marred in that they were a financial loss and also that the finals were not held separately.

Bristol are the first members of the county to agree to increased fees brought about by having to cope with the raised E.T.T.A. fees, players registrations going up by 6d. to 3s. 6d. As Alf Norman said at their Rules meeting "Increased costs must be met." And like a good treasurer he had his way.

Gloucestershire complete County Championship programme against Kent who being dangerously near the relegation zone, should put up some keen opposition.

Ivor Elyes.

ESSEX NOTES

RELEGATION from No. 1 to No. 4 in the Essex junior ranking has acted as a spur to Hugh Molloy, of Southend. A last minute choice, he won both his singles in Essex surprise 6-4 win over Kent at Sandwich then moved on to the West Middlesex "Open" the following day for another good display.

He eliminated the holder Ian Redfearn in straight games in the youths' singles before going out to Ray Dorking after having led 16-13 in the third. In the boys' singles he accounted for Roy King, leading Middlesex junior, only to lose to Chris Gosling in the semi-final.

As if this was not enough he partnered Douglas Bloy to reach the third round of the men's doubles where they took a game off J. Somogyi, the Hungarian refugee, and Jimmy O'Hara, the Irish international.

Shelagh Hession landed a senior and junior double in the Romford "closed" championships, winning the women's and girl's singles. She also won the mixed doubles with K. Piercy.

H. Thomas won both the men's and veteran singles. Other winners were: Men's Doubles: K. Beamish and R. Parmenter. Women's Doubles: Mrs. Panker and Mrs. S. Beamish. Boys' Singles: I. MacDonald.

Frank Bateman.

SURREY NOTES

SURREY have at last found their form although too late to retain the County championship. Following the draw with Middlesex, they gained a 10-0 win over Lancashire. Spike Sheldon, promoted on the strength of his unbeaten record in the Second Division, won both his singles and the mixed doubles with Peggy Piper.

The "seconds" dropped their first "brick" of the season when they lost the return match with Middlesex in the Bernard Crouch trophy. They must now beat Essex in their remaining match to win.

The Surrey "Closed" takes place at the Assembly Hall, Surbiton, from March 18-21, and with the first team players wobbling there should be some keen competition.

Congratulations to Terry and Peggy Kirby on the birth of a daughter.

Jim Forrest.

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WELSH CORNER

THE IRISH SCENE

IT has been a busy month, but the hard work of raising funds to send Welsh teams to the World Championships has been eased by the very many expressions of goodwill we have received from clubs all over the Principality.

Only a very small number of table tennis players can ever hope to reach the top, and enjoy the thrills of going abroad to play for their country, but this knowledge has not stopped the many hundreds of ordinary club players from doing their bit to see that Wales is in amongst the starters at Stockholm.

Our sincere gratitude is due to all of them, and we can only hope that the Welsh teams will prove worthy of this support.

Our women's team picked itself, and the old firm of Shirley Jones, Betty Gray and Audrey Bates once again does battle for the Red Dragon.

It has never been easy to rank these three, and its a brave man who tries it. Suffice it to say that all have done yeoman service for Wales, and it will again be dependent on their collective efforts if Wales is to maintain its high ranking.

Gretta Holden is reserve, and it gives us great pleasure to say that she is suddenly playing better than ever before.

Despite a somewhat disappointing display against Ireland, the men retain the confidence of the selectors. John Simonson, who could not be blamed for the Belfast disaster, is easily our No. 1, and it will be interesting to see how his play fares in World Class. I feel he is going to upset more than a few calculations.

Alan Thomas and Bernard Dimascio both displayed pre World Championships nerves in the Irish match, and it may well be that the knowledge that the Stockholm trip depended on a good show in Belfast gave them extra jitters. Yet they are both conscientious and keen players of the game, and should benefit from their experiences.

Norman Parker, our "exile" in Gloucester, was not available, and was not considered.

David Parry, the Abergavenny boy, has been picked as First Reserve, thus gaining recognition for his getting to the semi-final of the French Junior Open earlier in the season, and for subsequent tournament performances.

Mrs. Roy Evans, Secretary of the Welsh Association, goes as Manager and Non-Playing Captain, and Mr. Roy Evans will accompany the team, although he goes, of course, as Secretary of the I.T.T.F.

For the Junior match with England at

Sutton on March 9th, Wales picked David Parry and Clive Arkell, both of Abergavenny, Howell Jones, Port Talbot, and Helma Norris, Ebbw Vale. Helma is a sister of Donald Norris who has already been capped for Wales.

As there is now no suitable date before the end of the season, it has been decided to abandon the Welsh Open for this year. The Welsh Closed will be held, as usual, on Easter Monday, at the Llandaff North Drill Hall.

Our match against Ireland certainly was a disappointment. Shirley Jones had to withdraw because of illness at the last moment, and then first reserve Audrey Bates was not available. Gretta Holden came in, and although she played better than expected, she lost to "sponger" Dierdre Fearon, and also went down in the doubles.

Betty Gray, returning to pimpled rubber, came back to form with a rush in the singles, but the burden of losing



BETTY GRAY

two women's games instead of winning three was too much for the men, particularly Thomas and Dimascio, who both did less well than could have been expected. So we lost 6-4.

Betty Gray's recovery was even more exemplified in the tense Swansea/Cardiff women's Welsh League match. She was brilliant in victory against Gretta Holden and Audrey Bates, and although the latter beat Shirley Jones, neither Margaret Jones nor Jean Beer could beat Audrey Coombs-Jones, so victory, and the Championship, went to Swansea.

In other Welsh League struggles, Cardiff went down to a strong Mumbles side, thus increasing Swansea's chances of a come-back, whilst in the Southern Section, Cardiff Public Services recently beat Cardiff Seconds, and are now vitally interested in what happens to Aberdare Seconds, who have begun to slip. A most interesting promotion and relegation problem lies mixed up with the fortunes of Aberdare's two sides, and Cardiff Public Services.

The return of Victor Mercer to the international scene has certainly strengthened the Irish team for he led them to a fine 6-4 win over Wales, and they thus gained revenge for last season's defeat.

Ernie Allen is playing really well of late and he scored a splendid win over A. Thomas. Colin Senior also did very well defeating B. Dimascio, who went under to Mercer in three games. B. Simonson, the Welsh number one, however, won both his singles, and Mercer and Allen paired successfully in the doubles.

The Irish women Miss Fearon and Miss Owens did really well to win their doubles, whilst the former followed up her international win over Helen Houliston of Scotland by defeating Mrs. Dimascio.

Ireland's international results for the season shows wins over Scotland and Wales, and a crushing 10-0 defeat at the hands, or should I say bats, of England.

The Leinster Junior championships once again proved to be the most eagerly contested of our tournaments, having a really large entry. This event certainly gives our youngsters a chance to show their paces, and upon it, rests the future of Irish table tennis.

The standard is improving each year, and in A. Timmons, the winner of the Men's event we have a real prospect. Timmons defeated a Malayan student S. Quadros, who is studying in Dublin, in straight sets. He thus repeated his performance in the Dublin Junior, when he beat the same player in the final. Quadros held set point twice in the first set but could not press home his advantage and Timmons went on to take the second after being 10-6 down.

In a thrilling teenage Women's singles decider, Miss Rosaleen Howe of Birr, Co. Offaly, holder of the Leinster League, Div. II title, defeated her Dublin opponent, Miss Peggy Cranks, in straight sets.

Miss Deirdre Fearon and Miss Joy Owens have been selected to represent Ireland in the World Championships at Stockholm, and they will also comprise the women's section of the Irish Corbillion Cup team.

In the singles Miss Owens will meet L. Crafkova of Czechoslovakia while Miss Fearon takes on A. Spranger of Finland. In the doubles they oppose the Welsh pair Miss A. Bates and Mrs. Dimascio.

S. DIGNAM

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SCOTLAND SPEAKING

SCOTLAND'S team for the World championships in Stockholm is drawn entirely from the rich resources of Edinburgh's Gambit club, who are to be congratulated on this unique achievement. It is a fine reward for the many a long season of coaching by Helen Elliot and her husband Bob Dykes, and many other of similar calibre who have gone before them.

The team is: R. Kerr, M. McMichael, I. Barclay, Helen Elliot and Helen Houliston.

Gambit are certainly a power in the land but there are doubts in some quarters about the wisdom of selecting such a youngster as Barclay. His recent failure in the junior title at the West of Scotland "open" has done little to increase confidence in his selection.

The players are all training hard for the trip and special facilities have been granted to the men at the Hearts of Midlothian football stadium. This serious approach to fitness is most welcome.

The recent victory of Helen Elliot over the much vaunted Ann Haydon has done

much for morale and shows that in at least one title we can look forward to holding our own.

WEST OF SCOTLAND "OPEN"

The stirring story of the Hungarian refugee who arrived in Scotland knowing nothing about the country except that Helen Elliot played table tennis and came from Edinburgh, lies behind the appearance of A. Kerekes in the men's singles semi-final in the West of Scotland Open.

Within three days of arriving at Middleton Camp, Ayreshire, he presented himself at Helen's club, The Gambit, Edinburgh, where he soon showed he was on familiar terms with a table tennis bat.

Entering the West of Scotland Open he caused quite a stir among the seeds, disposing of both Barclay and Kerr before narrowly losing to A. Metcalfe, of Glasgow.

Metcalfe crowned an inspired days play by beating Tommy McMichael, the Scottish confined champion, in the final. Surprise results were the defeats of

John Miller by R. Levitus, Glasgow Mac-cabi second team player, and McMichael and McCandlish in the doubles by the Glasgow University pair J. Arthur and F. Ireland.

Miss D. Black, of Dundee, the women's champion, lost her title to Miss Helen Houliston, but it was a close thing, 18 in the third.

Barclay, suffering possible reactions from his senior defeat, also went down in the junior final to K. Farrar, another of Edinburgh's promising youngsters.

Men's Singles: A. METCALFE (Glasgow) bt T. McMichael (Edinburgh) 21-16, 21-14.

Women's Singles: H. HOULISTON (Edinburgh) bt D. Black (Dundee) 21-13, 20-22, 21-18.

Men's Doubles: METCALFE/J. CAMPBELL (Glasgow) bt M. McMillan/J. Braithwaite (Glasgow) 21-17, 21-8.

Women's Doubles: HOULISTON (Edinburgh)/Mrs. O. HAWKINS (Glasgow) bt Mrs. I. Fleming/E. Brown (Edinburgh) 21-12, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: I. BARCLAY/Miss HOULISTON (Edinburgh) bt J. Hillan/Mrs. Hawkins (Glasgow) 21-17, 21-19.

Junior Singles: K. FARRAR (Edinburgh) bt I. Barclay (Edinburgh) 15-21, 21-18, 22-20.

GORDON WALKER.

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.

Date	Details and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
March 16	Cheshire Junior Open (Mar. 2) Livingstone Street Baths, Birkenhead, Wirral, Cheshire.	Under 15's. B.S., G.S.	Mr. W. H. Gawne, 9, Eric Road, Wallasey, Wirral, Cheshire.
18-21	Surrey "Closed" Assembly Hall, Town Hall, Surbiton.		Mr. C. J. Clements, 49, Windermere Road, Coulsdon, Surrey.
23	N.S.P.C.C. Charity Show (Exhibitions), Civic Hall, Croydon.		
25-30	Essex Open Hydro Hall, Y.M.C.A., Plaistow, London, E.13.	B.S. G.S.	R. Markwell, 61, East Avenue, Manor Park, London, E.12.
29	Civil Service Championships Gunningham Room, K.E.B. Hall, G.P.O., London, E.C.1.		Mr. A. J. Hancock, 18, Somerhill Avenue, Sidcup, Kent.
April 1	ENGLAND v JAPAN Central Hall, Corporation Street, Birmingham.		Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.
2-6	ENGLISH OPEN Manor Place Baths, London, S.E.17, and Empire Pool, Wembley, Middlesex.		Secretary, E.T.T.A., 214 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.
2	ENGLAND v. FRANCE (Women) Waltham Abbey Town Hall, Waltham Abbey, Essex.		Mr. A. W. Dale, 9, Paternoster Close, Waltham Abbey, Essex.
13	Daily Mirror National Tournament Finals		
20-22	North East England Open (April 10) Burniston Barracks, Scarborough and Westborough Concert Hall, Scarborough.	J.S.B. J.S.G. Y.S. V.S.	Mr. E. Moorhouse, 26, Sherwood Street Scarborough.

SOUTH LONDON "OPEN"

HUNGARIAN refugee, Josef Somogyi, has quickly developed a liking for the "Sandwich Bat" (writes Harrison Edwards). He changed to this surface after his defeat in the Kent Open and with only a fortnight's practice swept all before him in the South London Open at Bermondsey on February 9.

He won the men's singles beating Alan Rhodes in the final, and the men's doubles in partnership with Irish international Jimmy O'Hara. In addition he was also runner-up in the mixed doubles with Lynn Whithams.

Somogyi, who will always be remembered for his defeat of Ichiro Ogimura, then reigning champion, at the Utrecht World Championships, produced an almost impregnable defence, retrieved fantastically, and scored with vicious flicks as he took Brian Brumwell, Ken Craigie and Rhodes in his stride.

He easily beat Craigie 14 and 13 and while Rhodes did succeed in taking a game from him in the final there was never any doubt as to which way the match was likely to go.

Rhodes had a fairly comfortable passage into the final, while Craigie, in reaching the semi-final had beaten both Phil Anderson of Australia and Michael Thornhill.

Rhodes and Craigie both wilted before the Hungarian's defence again in the final of the men's doubles. It was left to the partnership of Thornhill and Ann Haydon to spoil Somogyi's record when they won the mixed doubles final at 21-4, 21-16.

Ann Haydon went through the meeting without defeat. She completely crushed Joyce Fielder 21-11, 21-8 in the women's singles final, after having beaten Betty Isaacs 21-16, 21-16 in the previous round, and then partnered Miss Fielder to beat Mrs. Elsie Carrington and Barbara Milbank in the women's doubles final.

Shelagh Hession repeated her Central London success when she beat Jean Harrower in the final of the girls' singles. This proved a rare battle with everyone kept on tender hooks until Miss Hession gained the final point to win 21-15, 21-23, 24-22.

Tony Piddock, of Kent, won the boys' title comfortably, beating D. A. White 21-10, 21-11 in the final.

Bermondsey Baths is a new venue for table tennis and met with the praise of everyone. Conditions were ideal, the floor first-class and refreshments room available with cooked meals.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: J. SOMOGYI (Hungary) bt K. Craigie 21-14, 21-13; A. RHODES bt A. R. Miller 21-8, 21-15.

Final: SOMOGYI bt Rhodes 21-18, 12-21, 21-12.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: A. HAYDON bt B. Isaacs

Final: HAYDON bt Fielder 21-11, 21-8.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: RHODES/CRAIGIE bt M. Thornhill/R. Raybould 21-14, 21-17; SOMOGYI/J. O'HARA bt R. Stevens/I. Jones 21-19, 14-21, 21-5.

Final: SOMOGYI/O'HARA bt Rhodes/Craigie 21-15, 16-21, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: HAYDON/FIELDER bt M. Stafford/J. Williamson 21-15, 21-10; Mrs. E. CARRINGTON/B. MILBANK bt Mrs. J. Head/B. Isaacs 21-19, 21-19.

Final: HAYDON/FIELDER bt Carrington/Milbank 21-18, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: SOMOGYI/Miss L. WHITHAMS bt Stevens/Miss Y. Baker 16-21, 22-20, 21-17; THORNHILL/Miss HAYDON bt Rhodes/Mrs. Head 21-11, 21-15.

Final: THORNHILL/HAYDON bt Somogyi/Whithams 21-4, 21-16.

Boys' Singles: Final: A. PIDDOCK bt D. A. White 21-10, 21-11.

Girls' Singles: Final: S. HESSION bt J. Harrower 21-15, 21-23, 24-22.

SURREY "OPEN"

ALAN RHODES came back to winning form in the Surrey "Open" at Mitcham Baths on February 16 carrying off the men's singles at the expense of Harry Venner, the holder, in the final. This was an all-"sandwich" affair, which never reached great heights, mainly due to the slippery state of the floor.

Venner appeared to lack his old confidence and Rhodes was quick to take advantage of his mistakes winning 21-12, 21-12.

In the semi-finals Rhodes avenged his previous week's defeat by Hungarian Josef Somogyi, winning 21-17, 15-21, 21-16. This was full of good play, with Rhodes having just that shade of luck with edge balls in the deciding game.

Venner beat Ivor Jones in the other semi-final, a scrappy affair in which points were lost rather than won.

The best of the finals was the women's singles, where Jill Rook staged a remarkable first game recovery to beat Margaret Fry 26-24, 21-15. Miss Rook trailed 4-12 and 15-19 and went ahead for the first time at 25-24.

Both girls showed fine control and produced many interesting rallies with a variety of all-round play.

Last season's juniors Laurie Landry and Eddie Hodson provided the upset of the evening when they won the men's doubles, beating Michael Thornhill and Bobbie Raybould in the final 10-21, 21-13, 21-17. These two youngsters are settling down to a nice team and in the semi-final comfortably beat Venner and Somogyi.

Somogyi had the consolation of winning the mixed doubles with Lynn Whithams, after an interesting final tussle with Jackie Head and Jean Page. They won 21-13, 16-21, 21-16.

Earlier Miss Whithams had partnered Miss Page as the unsuccessful finalists in the women's doubles. They lost to Mrs. Jean Head and Betty Isaacs 13-21, 15-21.

That great junior rivalry between Jean Harrower and Shelagh Hession was again in evidence when they reached the final of the girls' singles. It was Jean's turn to win this time, but once again it was a three game affair, 21-10, 10-21, 21-13.

The boys' singles also went the full distance with David Bloy beating Mike Westoby 21-19, 18-21, 21-17.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: A. RHODES (Middx.) bt J. Somogyi (Hungary) 21-17, 15-21, 21-16. H. VENNEN (Surrey) bt I. Jones (Essex) 19-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Final: RHODES bt Venner 21-12, 21-12.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: J. ROOK (Surrey) bt Y. Baker (Essex) 21-11, 21-18. M. FRY (Middx.) bt M. Piper (Surrey) 21-13, 14-21, 21-17.

Final: ROOK bt Fry 26-24, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: M. THORNHILL and R. RAYBOULD bt I. Redfern and A. Lindsay 16-21, 21-19, 21-13. L. LANDRY and E. HODSON bt Venner and Somogyi 21-16, 21-16.

Final: LANDRY and HODSON bt Thornhill and Raybould 10-21, 21-13, 21-17.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: L. WHITHAMS and J. PAGE bt M. Caswell and Mrs. M. Know 21-12, 21-18. Mrs. J. HEAD and B. ISAACS bt Fry and Piper 17-21, 21-17, 22-20.

Final: HEAD and ISAACS bt Whithams and Page 21-13, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: J. HEAD and Miss PAGE bt Jones and Miss Baker 21-18, 21-18; SOMOGYI and Miss WHITHAMS bt Thornhill and Miss Rook 14-21, 21-18, 21-18.

Final: SOMOGYI and Miss WHITHAMS bt Head and Miss Page 21-13, 16-21, 21-16.

Boys' Singles: Final: D. BLOY (Kent) bt M. Westoby (Kent) 21-19, 18-21, 21-17.

Girls' Singles: Final: J. HARROWER (Middlx.) bt S. Hession (Essex) 21-10, 10-21, 21-13.

PONTEFRACT "OPEN"

by E. Barry Crofts

THE Pontefract "Open" last held in 1952 was revived at the Lister Baths, Featherstone, on February 9. Possibly due to petrol rationing the entry was down to 120 competitors, but this in no way dimmed the rivalry and there were plenty of keenly contested matches.

Top honours went to the men's singles winner, Maurice Simpson, of Rotherham, but he was run very close by Derek Schofield, of Stockport, who reached three finals but was successful only in the mixed doubles.

Ray Hinchliff was surprisingly beaten by Schofield in the singles semi-final after leading 19-16 in the third. This produced one of the best matches of the meeting and atoned for the somewhat disappointing final.

Another fancied player Peter Skerratt, of Scunthorpe, fell in "quarters" to Simpson, who went on to account for George Carrigill in the semi-final.

The best of the local players was P. Sladdin who reached the "quarters" before going down to Hinchliff.

Flo Wright, of Barnsley, won the women's singles beating Mrs. E. Cassel, of Kings Lynn 22-20, 18-21, 21-19 in the final. But it was a touch and go affair, in which Mrs. Cassel missed her big chance when she led 20-15 in the first game only to drop the next seven points.

A. Warentz, of Sunderland, was in fine hitting form in the Youths' Singles, comfortably winning the final against J. Lyon, of York, who had accounted for Colin Deaton, the junior international in the semi-final.

Doug. McGarry and Maurice Pitts, after surviving several tough earlier matches, gave a sound display to beat Schofield and G. Temperton in the men's doubles final, while Miss P. Lammin and Mrs. P. Chadwick were comfortable winners in the women's doubles.

The keenest struggle was reserved for the mixed doubles final where 146 points were scored before Schofield and Miss C. Moore beat McGarry and Miss Wright 28-26, 25-27, 21-19.

Schofield and Miss Moore, who had each been on the losing side in previous finals, looked like going down in this one too. They trailed 10-15 in the final game, but won through by sheer determination.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-final: D. SCHOFIELD (Stockport) bt R. Hinchliff (Huddersfield) 21-13, 18-21, 21-19. M. SIMPSON (Rotherham) bt G. Carrigill (Dewsbury) 22-20, 21-13.

Final: SIMPSON bt Schofield 14-21, 21-17, 21-18.

Men's Doubles: Semi-final: D. McGARRY (Barnsley) and M. PITTS (Bradford) bt B. Finneran (Grimsby) and B. Crofts (Pontefract) 21-16, 16-21, 21-17. SCHOFIELD and G. TEMPERTON (Cheadle) bt Hinchliff and G. Brook (Huddersfield) 22-20, 17-21, 21-17.

Final: McGARRY and PITTS bt Schofield and Temperton 16-21, 21-19, 21-16.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: F. WRIGHT (Barnsley) bt C. Moore (Manchester) 21-18, 23-25, 21-17. Mrs. E. CASSELL (Kings Lynn) bt M. Rhodes (Leeds) 21-12, 19-2, 21-11.

Final: WRIGHT bt Cassell 22-20, 18-21, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: P. LAMMIN (Grimsby)/Mrs. P. CHADWICK (Cleethorpes) bt Dutton (Hull)/Clough (Bradford) 21-19, 23-21; J. CHADDERTON (Manchester)/MOORE bt Senior/Woodhouse (Dewsbury) 21-17, 21-6.

Final: LAMMIN/CHADWICK bt Chadderton/Moore 21-17, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: SCHOFIELD/Miss MOORE bt Senior (Dewsbury)/Miss Woodhead 18-21, 21-11, 21-14; D. McGARRY (Barnsley)/Miss WRIGHT bt Wood (Bradford)/Miss Clough 22-20, 17-21, 22-20.

Final: SCHOFIELD/Miss MOORE bt McGarry/Miss Wright 28-26, 25-27, 21-19.

Youths' Singles: Semi-final: A. WARENTZ (Sunderland) bt D. Mein (Hull) 21-17, 21-15; J. LYON (York) bt C. Deaton (Chesterfield) 21-15, 18-21, 21-14.

Final: WARENTZ bt Lyon 21-19, 21-17.

Veterans' Singles: Final: E. MOORHOUSE (Scarborough) bt E. Turton, Snr. (Featherstone) 21-10, 9-21, 21-18.

Leslie Broomfield reports

PETER SHEAD AGAIN WINS SUSSEX TITLE

INTERNATIONAL Peter Shead has given an amazing display of consistency in again winning the Sussex men's singles title at Brighton on February 17. It was his seventh consecutive win.

This tournament is indeed the survival of the fittest, being played on 19 tables over 13 hours on one day, and Shead finished a comfortable winner in the final over the near-veteran hitter and ex-holder, Stan Moore by 21-10, 21-19.

Mrs. Pat Shead completed the family double in singles by taking the women's event by 21-12, 21-19 over the holder, ex-junior international, Wendy Bates, but in mixed doubles, partnered by Peter, lost this title of which they were the holders. The eventual winners were Bryan Leach and Wendy Bates who in the final beat L. Gunn and Mrs. B. Rind 21-16, 21-19.

Mrs. Rind is Pat Shead's mother, and this lady also retained the women's veteran singles over Mrs. R. Bass, 21-7, 21-11. She must be one of the best ladies of her age in the country.

Other finals: Women's doubles: Miss W. Bates and Mrs. C. Lindsey-Leake (holders) bt Mrs. Rind and Mrs. Shead 21-10, 22-20; Men's doubles: B. Leach and M. Petter bt J. P. Shead and I. Alexander (holders) 21-13, 21-18; Veteran Men's singles: C. A. Seaman bt B. G. Fretwell 11-21, 21-13, 21-10; Junior Boys Singles: S. Bublely bt C. Sayer 20-22, 21-12, 21-18; Junior Girls Singles: Miss M. Ashby bt Miss J. Hammond 19-21, 21-18, 21-19.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE "CLOSED" CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles: S. Hogg bt B. A. Bond 21-13, 21-18.

Women's Singles: Mrs. N. Jones bt S. Taylor 21-14, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: J. W. Jones/N. Blincow bt A. Porsz/E. Kent 21-11, 18-21, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. Jones/E. M. Tye bt Mrs. G. Hooper/Mrs. V. M. Grubb 21-18, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles: Bond/Mrs. Grubb bt Porsz/Miss Taylor 21-17, 21-19.

Boys' Singles: D. S. Obee bt D. Jennings 21-16, 21-10.

Girls' Singles: R. Ingram bt E. Harris 21-14, 21-19.

Veterans' Singles: M. A. Symons bt R. Spencer 21-10, 21-8.

LONDON BUSINESS HOUSES CHAMPIONSHIPS

K. Sheldon retained his singles title in the London Business Houses championships at Manor Place Baths, London, on February 13th, but Barbara Milbank, the women's champion, lost in the final to Peggy Piper.

Men's Singles: K. Sheldon (holder) bt G. Taylor 21-16, 16-21, 21-17, 23-21.

Women's Singles: M. Piper bt B. E. Milbank (holder) 21-23, 21-18, 21-17.

Men's Doubles: D. C. F. Crisp/R. J. Gregory bt Jayanta De/L. A. McLachlan 21-15, 18-21, 21-18, 21-16.

Women's Doubles: M. Piper/J. Coleman bt S. Bonner/P. Douglas 21-10, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles: Sheldon/Miss M. Cherry (holders) bt T. Glass/Miss J. Clark 21-14, 21-16.

Junior Men's Singles: P. Lancaster bt B. Scott 21-12, 17-21, 21-17.

Junior Women's Singles: Bonner bt P. Boyd 21-5, 21-9.

Veteran Singles: McLachlan bt S. E. Straker 21-19, 21-13.

THE MIDLAND "OPEN"

by A. Backhouse

INTERNATIONAL and County calls deprived the Midland Open of its usual quota of stars in Birmingham on February 1-2, and cut down the entries by a considerable number. None of the senior titles were defended but the spectators were well satisfied with the evening's entertainment, the finals being interesting and varied with an almost complete absence of sponge.

David House succeeded in taking the Men's Singles without any difficulty from D. Baddeley, Birmingham's first representative in the final of this event for many years. David was content to rely on his excellent defence and let his opponent make the mistakes.

Baddeley tried hard enough but his attack lacked the power and accuracy to worry House who took only eight minutes to clinch the title.

In the Semi-finals House had a surprisingly easy win over Tony Miller who seemed unable to do anything right, either in attack or defence. Baddeley quickly disposed of sponge wielder Vaughton who could never cope with the winner's attack.

Colin Deaton did well to reach the quarter-finals where he went down to House after giving him his toughest fight of the tournament.

Pam Mortimer celebrated her return to competitive play, following the birth of her baby son, by winning the Women's Singles, and in partnership with Audrey Bates the Women's Doubles.

Pam started rather nervously in the Singles final, obviously trying to find her old touch, but fortunately for her Shirley Jones never managed to get her forehand attack operating efficiently. They were neck and neck

up to 14 all in the first game at which point Pam clicked into action and from then on looked a winner all the way despite some great retrieving by the Welsh girl.

The Men's Doubles was the scene of some terrific hitting by the Worcestershire pair R. Lush and M. Hawkins who swept House and K. Edwards right off the table. Lush, in particular, unleashed a series of forehand drives that left his opponents standing, and although the losers pulled back a 14-12 deficit to 20-all in the second game the result was never in doubt.

Jean MacKay and Marjory Cumberbatch proved unexpectedly easy opposition for Pam Mortimer and Audrey Bates in the Women's Doubles while the latter in partnership with Tony Miller surprised House and Miss Jones in the Mixed Doubles after three very entertaining games.

It was left to the Juniors to provide the high spot of the evening with one of the best Boys' singles finals seen in this tournament. Local boy Brian Robinson delighted the crowd with a surprise but well deserved win over International Colin Deaton. After the first game in which Colin easily coped with Robinson's attack it looked odds on a victory for the Chesterfield boy. Brian, however, recovered magnificently and in the next two thrill-packed games, despite fine retrieving and two good recoveries by Deaton, ran out a worthy winner.

In the Girls' Singles final Barbara Wall reversed the Birmingham Open result by defeating Christine Charman, who had a match point in the second game.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: D. HOUSE bt A. R. Miller 21-13 21-12; D. BADDELEY bt B. Vaughton 21-14, 21-13.

Final: HOUSE bt Baddeley 21-9, 21-6.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: P. MORTIMER bt A. Bates 21-16, 21-15; S. JONES bt B. Gray 21-12, 19-21, 21-16.

Final: MORTIMER bt Jones 21-17, 21-18.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: M. HAWKINS/R. LUSH bt E. McLeish/Harrison 9-21, 21-13, 21-15; HOUSE/K. EDWARDS bt A. Hatfield/R. Morris 21-13, 21-16.

Final: HAWKINS/LUSH bt House/Edwards 21-11, 24-22.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: M. CUMBERBATCH/J. MACKAY bt Jones/Gray 21-19, 21-19; BATES/MORTIMER bt G. Warner/D. Griffiths 21-9, 21-11.

Final: BATES/MORTIMER bt Cumberbatch/Mackay 21-12, 21-8.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: HOUSE/Miss JONES bt W. Messenger/Miss Cumberbatch 21-8, 21-15; MILLER/Miss BATES bt Campbell/Miss Mortimer 21-16, 23-21.

Final: MILLER/BATES bt House/Miss Jones 21-17, 14-21, 21-17.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals: B. ROBINSON bt C. Arkell 21-14, 21-17; C. DEATON bt D. A. White 21-17, 21-13.

Final: ROBINSON bt Deaton 12-21, 23-21, 23-21.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals: C. CHARMAN bt C. Reeves 21-7, 21-9; B. WALL bt J. Roberts 21-7, 21-9

Final: WALL bt Charman 17-21, 23-21, 21-11.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-final: DEATON/F. LYNCH bt R. Edwards/White 21-9, 21-10; T. ROWBOTHAM/K. FIRKIN bt H. Jones/C. Arkell 21-19, 16-21, 22-20.

Final: DEATON/LYNCH bt Rowbotham/Firkin 21-6, 21-23, 21-18.

BRISTOL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles: G. MURANYI (Alfred Sports) bt P. Partos (Alfred Sports) 21-14, 22-20.

Women's Singles: Mrs. T. SPOKES (Central) bt Mrs. M. Davies (Ebenezzer Methodist) 21-18, 22-20.

Men's Doubles: MURANYI/PARTOS bt R. B. Wood/T. Dimambro (Alfred Sports) 21-19, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. SPOKES/N. MASON (Bristol) bt Mrs. M. Gigg (Alfred Sports)/Mrs. Davies 20-22, 21-18, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: MURANYI/Mrs. DAVIES bt Partos/Miss S. May (Alfred Sports) 21-9, 16-21, 21-17.

Boys' Singles: R. NICHOLLS (Shirehampton Y.C.) bt G. Drew (Shirehampton Y.C.) 16-21, 21-16, 24-22.

Girls' Singles: M. EYLES (Bristol) bt G. Curtis (J.O.P.) 21-16, 15-21, 21-13.

Boys' Doubles: NICHOLLS/DREW bt K. Alderman/G. Griffiths (Montpelier) 21-12, 17-21, 21-14.

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