

MAY, 1957

NINEPENCE

# TABLE TENNIS

*The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association*



*"Daily Mirror" Pictures*

**BILL VINT** seen with his wife and Peter Lowen, E.T.T.A. secretary, leaving Buckingham Palace after receiving his O.B.E.

ENGLISH

"OPEN"

SPECIAL

# **NEWS OF THE WORLD NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS COACHING SCHEME**

**:: 1957 ::**

In conjunction with Butlin's Holiday Camps  
and approved by the Table Tennis Associations  
of England, Scotland and Wales

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*YOUR STAR COACHES WILL BE:—*

CLACTON - - JOYCE WILLIAMSON

SKEGNESS - - BRIAN KENNEDY

FILEY - - - PHIL ANDERSON

AYR - - - - HARRY VENNER

PWLLHELI - - HELEN ELLIOT

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*All under the personal supervision*  
**of JOHNNY LEACH**  
**(Former World Champion)**

# Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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Vol. 15

May, 1957

No. 8

## IT'S BACK TO RUBBER AGAIN!

**SPONGE and other freak bats are banned in this country for next season. It is back to orthodox pimped rubber only.**

Such was the decision of the annual meeting of the E.T.T.A. at Westminster on April 27.

While there was an overwhelming majority for some form of standardisation, the voting shows that the decision on pimped rubber has clearly split the country into two camps.

I don't think the defeated side are going to take this lying down. There may well be repercussions.

The first vote was for standardisation and the figures were: 972 for, 358 against, 120 abstentions.

Once this had been decided came a further vote as to what form the standardisation should take; 828 votes were cast in favour of pimped rubber, 625 for standardisation by thickness (which would have allowed "sandwich" or thin sponge), and 26 abstained.

### BLOCK VOTING

Voting was on the "block system," with each delegate having a specified number of votes according to the number of clubs represented.

*While it is agreed that some form of standardisation is necessary, to legislate that players can use pimped rubber only appears too dogmatic. There should surely be some give and take if we want to get the rest of the world to follow suit.*

The ban on sponge will operate for next season in all home tournaments with the exception of the English "open" where it will be lifted to allow for entry of overseas players. Neither will it apply to international matches unless by agreement.

It has been stressed that this is an experiment for one year only and that the whole position will be reviewed at the next A.G.M. in the light of the international situation.

What effect will this have on the players who

use the sponge or sandwich bat? This includes Ann Haydon, Brian Kennedy, and Johnny Leach.

Miss Haydon's first reactions were: "I might as well give up the game. I have trained to use sponge and play against it for two years, now that time has been wasted."

A few days later, after she had time to sleep on the matter, she said: "To give up the game would be like cutting off my nose to spite my face. It is likely, however, that most of my play will now be overseas. In any case I will not be playing until September and can think of the matter then.

### CANNOT EXPERIMENT

"Nevertheless I think it is a backward step, for this stipulation as to pimped rubber means we cannot experiment with new surfaces and I cannot see the Japanese following our lead."

Johnny Leach described the move as a retrograde step. Some form of standardisation is necessary, but to describe going back to pimped rubber as an experiment is ridiculous. Pimped rubber has been used for 30 years, so we all know what to expect."

Kennedy has made no comment since, but when he heard that thick sponge was likely to be banned he described it as "ridiculous."

Meanwhile, the arguments are now on up and down the country, and we shall have to wait and see what happens next year. It may well be a season of tournaments without the stars.

Richard Bergmann is off on his travels again. A tour of Europe, then South America. Once again the old arguments come up about whether or not he should be ranked over here. Richard provides the answer himself.

*"I don't want to be ranked. I shall be away for two years so it is pointless."*

**HARRISON EDWARDS.**

# Official Notes

## E.T.T.A. Official Notes. May 1957.

On the 27th April, 1957 the Annual General Meeting of the Association took place in the Bishop Partridge Hall, Church House, Westminster, S.W.1. The result of the ballot for the election of Officers and members of the National Executive Committee for 1957/58 was as follows —

### Officers.

Chairman: Hon. Ivor Montagu unopposed. Treasurer: A. K. Vint, O.B.E., unopposed.

### National Executive Committee on the Regional Basis:

#### Midland Region. Two members.

Elected: GOLDSTEIN, M.; SCOTT, M. E. (Unopposed).

#### North Eastern Region. One member.

Elected: REAY, E. (Unopposed).

#### North Western Region. Two members.

Elected: COOK, N. 42; JONES, L. W. 40.

Not Elected: Howcroft, A. 8.

#### Southern Region. Two members.

Elected: JASCHKE, C. 37; MANNOUCH, F. G. 32.

Not Elected: Thompson, L. 25; Cooper, G. R. 10.

#### South Western Region. Two members.

Elected: EYLES, I. C.; NORTHCOTT, P. (Unopposed).

#### Eastern Region. Two members.

Elected: WOOLLARD, L. S. 39; WALKER, H. 27.

Not Elected: Fairhead, E. J. 11; Merryweather, Mrs. F. A. 11; Constable, L. R. J. 10.

#### London Region. Two members.

Elected: JAMES, G. 40; CLEMMETT, C. J. 26.

Not Elected: Hoddy, S. R. 22.

#### Yorkshire Region. Two members.

Elected: FORREST, L. E. 30; SENESCALL, J. 22.

Not Elected: Flinton, H. 12.

### National Executive Committee on a National Basis:

Elected: CARRINGTON, J. 160; BLUNN, T. 116.

Not Elected: Cooper, G. R. 62; Thompson, L. 62; Bromfield, L. M. 43; Grimstone, Miss E. 41; Mitton, W. 33; Merryweather, Mrs. F. A. 25; Rushton, N. 23; Craymer, A. E. 5.

The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E., was re-elected President of the Association.

Vice-Presidents were re-elected as follows:

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

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

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

### Honorary Life Members.

Under Rule 11 the Annual General Meeting approved that the following be made Honorary Life Members of the Association—M. Goldstein, W. Stamp.

## STANDARDISATION OF THE RACKET

The National Executive Committee's proposals for experimental racket standardisation were then discussed. The Chairman pointed out that there was no procedure laid down in the Constitution for changing the Laws of the Game; in this case, however, the Laws were not proposed to be changed, but that an experiment be carried out for a period, and the National Executive Committee had decided that the matter be dealt with under Rule 32.

Mr. J. Carrington moved and explained the various proposals for the National Executive Committee and replied to the debate.

## 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).

The National Executive Committee resolution:

"That, in accordance with the recommendations of the International Table Tennis Federation (Stockholm Congress 1957) that member Associations should undertake trials of Racket Standardisation measures, the racket shall be standardised for purposes of play in this country at all events during season 1957/58 except any specially exempted\* by the National Executive Committee."

(\*Noted that the National Executive Committee proposal included the English Open as one of the exempted events).

The Resolution was carried by 972 votes for, 358 against and 120 abstentions. On the question whether the standardised racket covering should be ordinary pimped rubber of a maximum thickness of 2 millimetres, or, rather of any rubber material of a thickness to be decided by a further vote, there voted 828 for ordinary pimped rubber and 625 for rubber limited by thickness.

It was stated by the Chairman that, accordingly, the Rule to be promul-

gated would be based on that already submitted to the International Table Tennis Federation and publicly known. Wording might be modified for verbal improvement, but its meaning would not be substantially altered.

It was further noted that the rule applies to international matches in England only where the opposing Association agrees; that the decision would be communicated to the International Table Tennis Federation and all other Associations, that every endeavour would be made to secure an I.T.T.F. agreement to standardisation by mid-1958; and that the Association would have to review the position, at its next meeting, in the light of the then prospects in the situation. The rule would apply from July 1st, 1957.

**MAGAZINE.** The resolution proposed by the National Executive Committee "that the affiliation fee of 9/- be increased to 15/- in the 1958/59 season so as to include a free copy of the Official Magazine TABLE TENNIS to each and every affiliated club in the country" was LOST. The delegates present unanimously expressed the view that to increase the affiliation fees in this way would not have the support of any of the Leagues represented at the meeting.

**INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION.** The Chairman and the Treasurer attended the A.G.M. of the I.T.T.F. in Stockholm in March 1957, as delegates of the E.T.T.A. Mr. Carrington attended as a member of the I.T.T.F. Development Committee, and Mr. Barna as consultant on the racket questionnaire. Forty-three Associations were represented in person or by proxy. A notable item of business was the consideration of the E.T.T.A. and T.T.A. of Wales resolutions proposing a standardisation of the racket. A resolution was adopted unanimously (a) noting that, while opinions were divided a majority seemed to hold that some degree of standardisation, if possible, is desirable; (b) setting up a Commission to draft feasible standardisation formulae and recommending that Associations interested

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to experiment with them; (c) noting the necessary under rule for a 3/4 majority for any change of law and authorising the calling of a Special General Meeting next year if it should appear that such a majority exists.

Points arising from discussion in the Laws: (i) proposals to abolish the doubles line and to authorise a warning before time in time limit games will be brought before the next General Meeting; (ii) so also will be proposals designed to remove ambiguity in the Law on error in sequence of service; (iii) all Associations are asked to experiment with re-raising the height of the net to 6½ or 6¾ inches.

All Associations are requested to pay special attention to public presentation of events and to help in compiling an international catalogue of Table Tennis films. Views were divided on the advisability of segregating Junior events from Senior.

The Advisory Committee took note of the betting incidents during the Championships and issued a warning against them.

Dr. K. Kunodi (Austria) was elected a Life-Member on his retirement. A cup, to be called the Egypt Cup, was accepted from the Egyptian T.T.F. to pass from one country holding the Championships to the next so

doing. In his Presidential report Mr. Montagu pointed out that he had now served as President for 30 years, that is, ever since the foundation of the I.T.T.F. and emphasizing the need to find an early successor.

Thirteen makes of ball, including the Barna Three Crown, Halex Three Star and Villa XXX were approved.

The English Men's team was classified 9th and the Women's team 4th, each in their respective 1st categories.

The Table Tennis Associations of Korea (People's Republic) Malta and Turkey having been added to membership, and the Saar having terminated membership, to combine with D.T.T.B. (Table Tennis organisation of the German Federal Republic) the I.T.T.F. membership is now 72.

The next World Championships will be held at Dortmund, March 28th to April 8th, 1959. The next following (1961) are to be held outside Europe. (Note. At discussions, held simultaneously with the I.T.T.F. meeting, on the holding of European Championships in 1958 opinion favoured a system of qualifying team matches on a regional basis, and a final pool of team qualifiers to be played off at the same time as some national open championships; no offer of a venue was, however, yet forthcoming. A Committee was elected to pursue the

matter, Mons. Belot (France) to be its convenor).

Mr. Montagu was re-elected President of the I.T.T.F. and to membership of the following Committees:—Classification, Equipment, Development, Membership, Rules, Technical; Mr. Vint was re-elected Treasurer and Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee. Mr. T. E. Sears a member of the Junior Commission and Mr. J. Carrington a member of the Development Commission. Mr. H. Roy Evans (Wales) was re-elected Honorary Secretary of the Federation. A Handbook supplement in English will be produced next year.

### JACK CARRINGTON'S HOLIDAY TRAINING WEEKS, 1957

1. South Coast: 1—7 June  
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2. Clacton: 21—28 September  
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# ELSIE CARRINGTON'S NOTEBOOK

AS I write this the season is nearing its close, and I am back in my own house again after spending a fortnight away as escort-come-hostess to the Japanese team.

Having lived with these little wonder-players for a fortnight, I came to know them very well—and what a happy band they were!

When they arrived in this country on March 31, they had already played in five countries since the World Championships in Stockholm, and were feeling very tired, and not a little homesick, but in spite of this they were always cheerful and made the necessary journeys and broadcasts and T.V. appearance without complaint. I am sure that great credit was due to Mr. Minami, the team manager, whose kindly discipline and ready wit kept the team cheerful and amicable. No light feat this when your team consists of eight such brilliant players.

I think what impressed me most about the Japanese players was their patience. When the team consists of 10 people it is almost impossible for all to be ready at the same time, and we were invariably waiting for at least one person to arrive, but the

calm patience of those waiting really was something.

Ogimura was nearly always the last to arrive, and frequently the rest of the party had to be hustled in order to catch a train or bus. My continual exhortations earned me the nick-name of "Come-on Carrington" from Tanaka!

Did you notice the perfect relaxation of these players when taking their five-minute rest during matches? Such a neat way of sitting on the chair and in absolute stillness. No fidgeting with towel or hair or shoelaces—just getting every ounce of value from that five minutes.

Did you notice too, those of you who went to Wembley, the gracefulness of the girls as they received their trophies from Lady Swaythling?

There were so many little instances I could tell you about, but space doesn't permit, so I will recount only a few.

Miss Eguchi was so fond of ice-cream that she used to eat it with her soup—and indeed with almost anything. Ogimura used to eat three of everything—three soups, three steaks and three fruit salads! And his weight—under nine stone.

Then there were riotous card games the girls played on the long train journeys, and each round seemed to end in hysterics.

And what a neat way they had of eating an orange. I always feel that an English person needs to eat an orange only in private as it is such a hazardous business, but not so these young ladies. They made an art of it. First the skin was peeled down in about eight sections, so that the orange rested on a sort of petal-plate of peel, looking rather like a water-lily. Then the sections were removed one by one and every piece of pith and skin and pip removed, without any mess or stickiness.

I have since tried it in the seclusion of my kitchen, but without success. I still managed to get the oil from the peel in my eye and the juice from the flesh down my skirt.

I recall the visit to the Opera House in Manchester to see the Mikado and the girls laughter at the supposedly Japanese costumes—and customs.

## Such Is Life

We also went to see Manchester City play Preston North End, but the Japanese found the Al Read remarks of the crowd much more fun than the football.

Finally, the hectic dash to London Airport in the early hours of Sunday morning. Hectic because the train from Manchester was late, and we were left with only an hour from Euston before the plane took off from London Airport.

We made it eventually, and sadly waved them off, but not without a last minute hustle for Ogimura, true to form, brought up the rear.

Tired as they were, they would yet have to stop off for matches in Egypt, Pakistan, and Hong Kong, before facing a triumphal landing in Tokyo on April 25.

Laurie Landry was at Euston to meet us with the coach; having been signed on by Jack as Chief Luggage Officer.

This involved, literally, sleeping on the 20 suitcases in one of the small single rooms at the Royal Hotel, and more important, waking up at 5 a.m. to bring them down! Laurie's problem was complicated by the 22 odd parcels of souvenirs which were to be retained for following on by sea. These were mostly wrapped in beautiful silk scarves, knotted like Dick Whittington's bundle.

Quotation from Jack—"Laurie's handling of this mission marks him out for a brilliant future. His table tennis is promising too!"



are the makers of the official E.T.T.A. shirts which are worn by the English International Teams and the principal players in table tennis. You should wear one as well.



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# JAPS CAN BE BEATEN

## BERCZIK WINS MEN'S SINGLES

*Japan Take the Other Titles*

**T**HE invincible myth that has grown up around the Japanese table tennis players was blown sky high in the English "Open," even though they carried off four of the five titles. They were dealt shattering blows in the men's singles where **ZOLTAN BERCZIK**, the 19 years old Hungarian shepherd boy became the new champion.

From England's point of view this has been our most disastrous meeting ever, the first time that home players have not had at least a share in a title. Ann Haydon, of course, came close, reaching two finals and can now claim the title of "champion runner-up."

*But do not dismay. Out of the gloom of the finals there is a silver lining that promises well for the future. Brian Kennedy showed he is not far off the highest honours in a great semi-battle with Ichiro Ogimura. Alan Rhodes accounted for one of the Japs, Toshihiko Miyata, and Richard Bergmann beat world champion Toshiaki Tanaka.*

World champions generally had a rough handling at Wembley. Apart from Tanaka's defeat at the hands of Bergmann, Ivan Andreadis and Ladislav Stipek, of Czechoslovakia, lost to **Ogimura** and **Tanaka** in the men's doubles final, while Ogimura

and Fujie Eguchi crashed in the semi-final to **Keisuke Tsunoda** and **Taeko Namba**, who went on to win the mixed doubles.

Miss **Eguchi**, who repeated her Stockholm triumph over Ann Haydon, only this time more easily,

by

**HARRISON EDWARDS**

was the only reigning champion to come through unscathed.

The winners of the women's doubles were **Tomi Okawa** and **Taeko Namba**.

Josef Somogyi, the Hungarian refugee who is now living in Surrey, showed the way to overcome the Japs when he slammed Tsunoda 18—21, 24—22, 21—16, 21—11 in the second round.

It took the tall Somogyi, who the Japs had every reason to remember from Utrecht in 1955 when he beat the then reigning champion Ogimura, a game and a half to find the answer to the pen-holder style. Using a heavy chop with long range defence he made his openings and with a vicious two wing attack, completely demoralised Tsunoda, who was unable to play his usual forceful game.

### Rhodes Learns The Way

British players had paid particular attention to the performance and in the same round Alan Rhodes raised a terrific cheer from supporters by handing out similar treatment to Miyata to win 21—17, 21—10, 21—13.

Before there was time to recover from this shock Bobby Raybould, of



"Daily Herald" Picture  
**ZOLTAN BERCZIK**

Essex, gave Tanaka a severe mauling, taking the second game on his merits, and making a terrific fight of the next two games before going down 7—21, 21—11, 17—21, 17—21.

In the fourth game, **Raybould**, with nothing to lose and playing inspired stuff led 17—13 before the world champion put in a storming finish to take eight points in a row.

### Re-action

Maybe it was the re-action of these wins over the Japanese, but Somogyi and Rhodes were both out of the singles an hour later.

Rhodes was humbled before a devastating display from Berczik, going down 8—21, 14—21, 10—21. He could perhaps gain some small measure of consolation in that Berczik went on to take the title and only Bergmann and Ogimura were able to take a game from him.

Somogyi fell victim to the sponge bat of Brian Kennedy at 21—16, 19—21, 18—21, 21—15.

It was an outstanding win for the Yorkshireman, who before the meeting was over established himself as the best of the home-born players.

Kennedy polished off Lou Laza in straight games in the next round and followed this up by beating Stipek, who had been seeded as a likely semi-finalist, 21—19, 9—21, 21—12, 17—21, 21—18.



"Daily Herald" Picture  
**TOMI OKAWA**

He eventually fell to Oigimura in the semi-final, but what a great fight he put up. The Japanese ex-world champion was indeed a very relieved player when he scraped through at 21-17, 27-29, 21-11, 21-18, to find his place in the final.

### A New Kennedy

Kennedy's form was a revelation. He put aside that usual chiselling, which has become so monotonous, to turn on a vicious attack which had Oigimura falling over the surrounds in his attempts to retrieve. The playing area was just not large enough for him and in the third game he asked for the side boards to be removed. This request was refused by referee George White on the ground that it would cause a hold up which might upset the concentration of the players.

**One significant point thrust out by this match is that the modern game has become so fast that the present playing area is not large enough.**

Most of the thrills were of course in the second games which Oigimura was six times within a point of winning. It was Kennedy's terrific hitting down his opponent's forehand wing that enabled him to pull through.

Kennedy never figured in the third game but led 10-9 in the fourth where he saved four match points before eventually going down.

Bergmann, dubbed the "King of Gimmick," came out complete with alarm clocks, to warn him of the time limit, and went through the rituals of dusting the table and inspecting Berczik's sponge bat, when

they came out for their semi-final.

After his win over Tanaka the previous night, the crowd were tense with expectation, for Richard, a born showman is always at his best in the vast Wembley arena.

*But he might just as well have left the clocks behind. They weren't necessary. He left the court well inside time, battered and bewildered by the clever tactical play of the Hungarian who is no respecter of reputations. Berczik's winning score: 21-17, 21-11, 12-21, 21-4.*

Berczik showed he had the patience to wait his time, and Bergmann was being forced to attack with dire results. But Berczik also showed how to turn on the heat when necessary as he crashed his way through that fourth game with the loss of only four points.

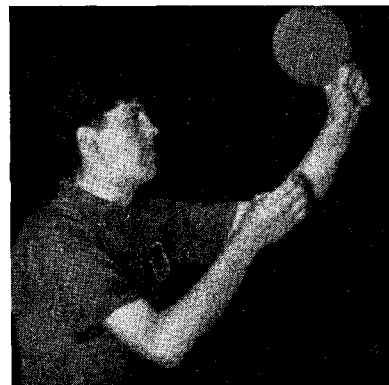
I cannot recall Bergmann ever having suffered such humiliation. His one consolation: he was the first player in the meeting to take a game from the Hungarian.

### Berczik Learns Lesson

So to the final: Remembering Berczik's failure against the Japanese in Stockholm, we were all prepared to see the title go to Oigimura. But Berczik had learned his lesson and was not to be caught out this time, even though suffering from a heavy cold, which as he admitted as he sat shivering in the dressing room afterwards "made my head buzz." He won 21-10, 21-16, 20-22, 21-19.

With heavy chop and a two wing attack he took command from the start, quickly polished off the first two games and just missed winning three straight when in the third he

pulled up from 15-20 to 20-all. Here Oigimura revealed just how good he can be in a crisis. A splendid



BRIAN KENNEDY

drive took him to 21-20, and with a clever service he forced Berczik to net the return.

Came the five minutes interval and Berczik departed to the dressing room to change his blue shirt for the national red of Hungary.

Oigimura went off to a flying start with a 5-1 lead in the fourth, only to lose the next five points in a row. He went ahead again to 7-6 but from that stage it was Berczik all the way although Oigimura, game to the last made a desperate effort and saved three match points in pulling up to 19-20. The effort for the last point however was just too much and Berczik followed in the line of other great Hungarians such as Victor Barna and Szabados, as winner of the English crown.

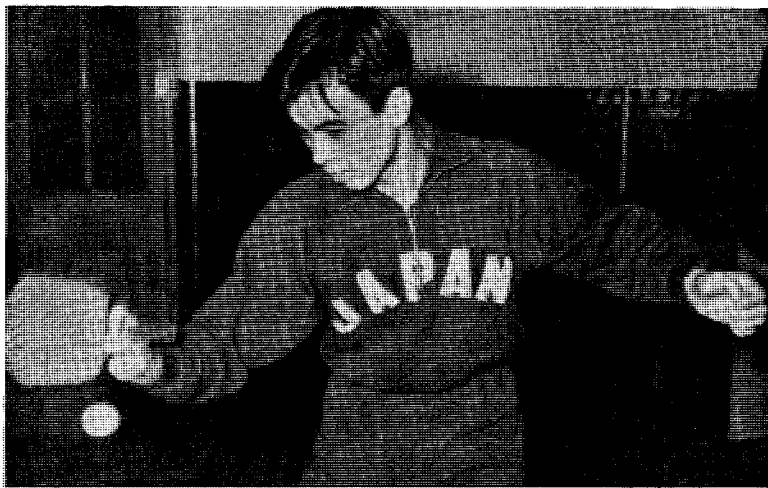
*Berczik has this season won the national titles of Italy, Rumania, Austria, Yugoslavia, and England. Only the world title has evaded him.*

With youth on his side he has every prospect of becoming one of the great names of the game.

### "Tigress of Tokio"

Fujie Eguchi left little doubt as to her right to the mantle of table tennis queen. "The Tigress of Tokio," as she has been dubbed by Sam Leitch, of the "Daily Herald," decisively beat Ann Haydon in the final 11-21, 21-18, 21-13, 21-19.

In Stockholm Miss Eguchi had won 21-14, 24-22, 19-21, 21-23, 21-19, and Ann was the first to admit afterwards that the Japanese girl had made a big improvement in the three weeks that separated the two finals.



ICHIRO OIGIMURA

"Daily Herald" Picture

## ENGLISH "OPEN" SPECIAL

Miss Eguchi, a shapely 22 years old Tokio textile worker, is the more slightly built but twice as fast, and hits harder and twice as often.

**So much had been expected of this repeat of the world final, but it**



FUJIE EGUCHI

**fizzled out into a disappointing affair with none of the dramatic tenseness of that memorable Stockholm final.**

Yet, Ann had started in great style, cantering through the first game, running neck and neck in the second and holding a 7-2 lead in both the third, and fourth games. But Miss Eguchi always gave the impression of being able to score points when required.

Ann tired, and the further the match went the more flat-footed she became.

### Nearly All British Final

Give Ann her due. She had been faced with the tough task of taking on almost the whole of the Japanese team single handed for in the two previous rounds she had beaten first Kiiko Watanabe 21-12, 15-21, 21-13, 17-21, 21-11, and Tomi Okawa the ex-world champion, 19-21, 21-16, 23-21, 21-19.

**At one time there had promised an all British final for Scotland's Helen Elliot gave Miss Eguchi her toughest match in the semi-final. Helen, a picture of grim determination, had sent the home stock soaring high when she took a two games to one lead, by means of her brilliant defence.**

She kept up a constant chop, chop, chop, which somewhat subdued the champion. However, Helen was un-

ble to force home her advantage after the five minutes interval and Miss Eguchi eventually forced her way through to win 21-18, 16-21, 18-21, 21-15, 21-13.

Miss Elliot had previously accounted for the other Japanese challenger Taeko Namba who she beat 21-12, 13-21, 17-21, 21-14, 21-13.

### The First Upset

Jill Rook provided the first upset of the women's singles with a second round win over Shirley Jones of Wales at 21-11, 21-14, 19-21, 21-15, and went on to reach the last eight before falling to Helen Elliot.

What of England's other two Corbillon Cup girls? Joyce Fielder went down to Miss Okawa in straight games, while Diane Rowe was soundly beaten by Miss Eguchi in the quarter finals.

Margaret Fry did well in reaching the last eight before also falling victim to Miss Okawa, but she had the satisfaction of taking a game from the ex-world champion, being beaten 21-17, 13-21, 21-13, 21-13.

England's main hopes in the men's doubles were ended in the third round by the scratch partnership of Berczik and Richard Miles who were to become known as the Uss (pronounced "oosh") and Vedj (pronounced "Ved") boys. "Oosh" means attack and "Ved" chop, and these were the only two words that Berczik and Miles had in common. "I guess

that's why we got on so well: we couldn't speak each other's language," said Miles, after their 16-21, 21-15, 21-15, 21-11 win over Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann. They well and truly had the English pair tied down.

### A Near Thing

Berczik and Miles continued their successful run until the semi-final when they were narrowly beaten at 19 in the fifth by Ogimura and Tanaka the eventual champions.

Three British pairs reached the last eight, Ken Craigie and Ken Sheldon, who went down to Ogimura and Tanaka, over four games, Len Adams and Derek Burridge, who fell to Tsunoda and Miyata, and Ivor Jones and Alan Rhodes, who found Andreadis and Stipek the world champions much too strong.

**The final brought a repeat of the world final, only this time the tables were turned with Ogimura and Tanaka beating Andreadis and Stipek 15-21, 22-20, 21-17, 21-16.**

### The Vital Mistakes

Andreadis proved the weak link of the Czech pair and it was four successive bad shots from him which cost the second game and changed the whole issue of the match. At the time the Czech's were a game up and leading 20-17.

Andreadis was completely put out by this lapse and despite some grand play by Stipek, never found his real touch again. Ogimura and Tanaka were quick to take the initiative and were never headed again.



TOSHIKI TANAKA

"Daily Herald" Picture

**ENGLISH "OPEN" SPECIAL**

World champions also met with defeat in the mixed doubles when Ogimura and Miss Eguchi went out in straight games 21—19, 21—17, 21—12 in the semi-final to Tsunoda and Miss Namba, who went on to take the title. Their victims in the final were Andreadis and Miss Haydon. The score: 16—21, 21—11, 21—19, 21—19.

**More Consistent**

*This was a reversal of the world championship semi-final and although the last two games were touch and go the Japanese pair were deserving winners. They combined better together and were more consistent.*

Tsunoda and Miss Namba by no means had an easy path for in the quarter final they beat Aubrey Simons and Miss Elliot, generally regarded as one of the finest partnerships in the world, while in the previous round they beat Kennedy and Kathie Best.

This was one event in which there had been high hopes of a home success. Leach and Diane Rowe had shown brilliant form in the quarter-final where they beat another Japanese pairing, Miyata and Miss



"Daily Herald" Picture

**TAEKO NAMBA**

Okawa, but they failed to shine in the semi-final against Andreadis and Miss Haydon.

Incidentally, Mrs. Rosalind (Rowe) Cornett making her first appearance in the English championships since 1955, came near to upsetting the

world champions when she partnered Stipek against Ogimura and Miss Eguchi, losing narrowly 10—21, 21—13, 14—21, 21—17, 12—21.

Miss Namba figured in another title upset in the women's doubles which she won with Miss Okawa from an unseeded position to become the only double champion of the meeting. They beat their team mates Miss Eguchi and Miss Watanabe in the final 21—14, 21—18, 21—10, and just as easily as the scores suggest.

**Youngest Star**

Both hit with power and accuracy and Miss Namba, who was the youngest member of the Japanese team, has by these performances established herself as one of the finest doubles players in the world.

The new champions accounted for Miss Haydon and Joyce Fielder in the semi-final in straight games without any difficulty, while the other home pair, Mrs. Cornett and Miss Rowe, went down to Miss Eguchi and Miss Watanabe also in the semi-final.

It was good to see the Rowe twins back together again, although Rosalind's long break has slowed her down and there was not quite the

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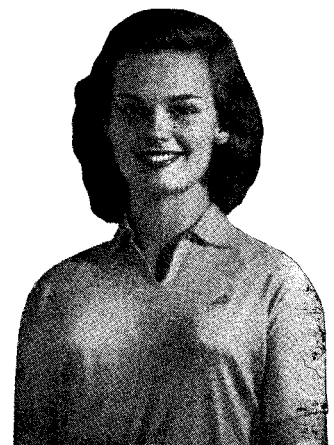
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Eight

## ENGLISH "OPEN" SPECIAL

same old precision in the partnership which won the title six years in succession.

Diane won the title last year with Ann Haydon, so this is the first time for seven years that her name has not gone on the trophy.

**What is the future of the Rowe twins? That is anyone's guess, but now that Diane has also married there is a strong feeling developing that this may have been their last English "Open."**

This report would not be complete without a word of praise for the organisation. Referee George White and his helpers carried out their duties slickly and without any hitches. The only complaints: the slippery state of the floor at Manor Place Baths, where the earlier rounds took place. But that was something beyond the referee's control. The local council quite understandably would not allow their dance floor to be scrubbed entirely free of polish.

And one point not perhaps generally appreciated: *the continuous play with its hundreds of matches also had the effect of polishing the floor even more.*

These difficulties, however, disappeared when the meeting moved over to the Empire Pool. What a pity that the whole championship could not be played in that fine arena, which offers large playing space, first class dressing accommodation and better viewing for the spectators.

## DETAILED RESULTS

### ENGLISH OPEN RESULTS

**Men's Singles, Second Round:** I. OGIMURA (Japan) bt M. Craigie (Surrey) 18, 6, 13. E. STILL (Scotland) bt W. Moran (Lines) 17, 16, 15. M. THORNHILL (Midxx) bt D. Littlewort (Midxx) 13, 10, 19. J. INGBER (Lancs) bt A. Hill (Midxx) 12, —10, 14, 19. J. DRESSLER (Czecho) bt D. Groenewald (S. Africa Bd.) 10, 8, 17. K. SHELDON (Surrey) bt K. Lipscombe (Midxx) 4, 18, 14. J. LEACH (Essex) bt G. Clay (Hants) 10, 16, 17. F. SIDO (Hungary) bt R. Miles (U.S.A.) 9, 13, 8.

L. STIPEK (Czecho) bt L. Hoffman (Midxx) 14, 10, 17. S. THACKERSEY (India) bt C. Williams (Glos) 14, 10, 13. G. AMOURETTI (France) bt K. Smith (Essex) 17, 10, 13. S. JACOBSEN (Midxx) bt A. Simons (Glos) —16, 19, 11, —11, 21. J. SOMOGYI (Surrey) bt K. Tsunoda (Japan) —18, 22, 16, 11. B. KENNEDY (Yorks) bt J. Veness (Midxx) 9, 8, 15. L. SAWYER (Essex) bt J. Harrington (Surrey) 9, 16, 14. L. LAZA (Australia) w.o. E. Gyetvai (Hungary) scr.

T. TANAKA (Japan) bt R. Raybould (Essex) 7, —11, 17, 17. H. VENNER (Surrey) bt G. Bebb (Herts) 12, 16, 15. G. MURANYI (Glos) bt M. Haguenaer (France) 15, 21, 19. I. CROWE (Beds) bt J. Unsworth (Bucks) 7, 15, 15. T. DENSHAM (Surrey) bt M. Close (Midxx) 8, 10, 15. P. PARTOS (Glos) bt N. Biswas (Midxx) —17, 20, 19, —16, 19. A. MILLER (Surrey) bt R. Allcock (Lancs) 21, —10, 17, 20. R. BERGMANN (Midxx) bt R. Crayden (Surrey) 13, 11, —15, 18.

I. ANDREADIS (Czecho) bt K. Harris (Wales) 4, 12, 14. B. MERRETT (Glos) bt D. Applebee (Midxx) 8, 10, 10. B. BRUMWELL (Essex) bt J. Head (Surrey) —18, 19, 13, 18. J. O'HARA (Midxx) bt B. Meisel (Kent) 14, 15, —16, 22. G. TAYLOR (Surrey) bt E. Clark (Beds) 17, —16, 10, 15. R. HINCHLIFF (Yorks) bt D. Burrige (Midxx) 13, 16, —14, —16, 17. A. RHODES (Midxx) bt T. Miyata (Japan) 17, 10, 13. Z. BERCZIK (Hungary) bt E. Bublely (Surrey) 8, 10, 8.

**Third Round:** OGIMURA bt Still 7, 11, 10. THORNHILL bt Inger 14, 17, 8. DRESSLER bt Sheldon 11, 15, —19, 21, 14. SIDO bt Leach 17, 12, —16, 14. STIPEK bt Thackersey 19, —15, 14, 10. AMOURETTI bt Jacobsen —21, —16, 15, 9, 13. KENNEDY bt Somogyi —16, 19, 18, 15. LAZA bt Sawyer 11, 19, —13, —17, 12.

TANAKA bt Venner 8, 13, 20. MURANYI bt Crowe 16, 18, 17. PARTOS bt Densham 19, 21, 16. BERGMANN bt Miller 17, 7, 11. ANDREADIS bt Merrett 6, 9, —22, 17. BRUMWELL bt O'Hara 11, 16, 15. HINCHLIFF bt Taylor 15, 15, 19. BERCZIK bt Rhodes 8, 14, 10.

**Fourth Round:** OGIMURA bt Thornhill 15, 19, 17. SIDO bt Dressler 15, 14, 16. STIPEK bt Amouretti 16, 11, 19. KENNEDY bt Laza 7, 8, 20. TANAKA bt Muranyi 14, 15, 15. BERGMANN bt Partos 18, 12, 13. ANDREADIS bt Brumwell 14, 20, 16. BERCZIK bt Hinchliff 10, 10, 13.

**Quarter-Finals:** OGIMURA bt Sido 20, 16, 11. KENNEDY bt Stipek 19, —9, 12, —17, 18. BERGMANN bt Tanaka 9, 23, —18, —19, 19. BERCZIK bt Andreadis 8, 17, 12.

**Semi-Finals:** OGIMURA bt Kennedy 17, —27, 11, 18. BERCZIK bt Bergmann 17, 11, —12, 4.

**Final:** BERCZIK bt Ogimura 10, 16, —20, 19.

**Women's Singles, Second Round:** F. EGUCHI (Japan) bt A. Bates (Wales) 19, 19, 15. C. BEST (Yorks) bt J. Mackay (Warwick) —18, 17, —18, 11, 12. S. DAVIS (Glos) bt M. Piper (Surrey) —16, 14, —21, 14, 14. D. ROWE (Midxx) bt J. Latty (Essex) 17, 17, 15. J. ROOK (Surrey) bt S. Jones (Wales) 11, 14, —19, 15. N. BUCKLAND (Australia) bt M. Alber (France) —19, 13, 9, 14. T. NAMBA (Japan) bt B. Millbank (Essex) 16, 17, 10. H. ELLIOT (Scotland) bt P. Mortimer (Warwick) 5, 12, 10.

T. OKAWA (Japan) bt E. Gray (Wales) 12, 13, 14. J. FIELDER (Kent) bt I. Webster (Essex) 15, 2, 15. M. FRY (Midxx) bt B. Wirekoon (Essex) 14, 10, 13. C. ROUGAGNOU (France) bt D. Spooner (Midxx) 9, 15, 8. K. WATANABE (Japan) bt C. Rose (Surrey) 15, 6, 10. Y. BAKER (Essex) bt J. Page (Essex) 12, 16, 13. J. WILLIAMSON (New Zealand) bt G. Burns (Essex) 4, 11, 6. A. HAYDON (Warwick) w.o. J. Riddick (Midxx) scr.

**Third Round:** EGUCHI bt Best 4, 16, 13. ROWE bt Davis 16, 17, 18. ROOK bt Buckland 19, 16, 14. ELLIOT bt Namba 12, —13, —17, 14, 13. OKAWA bt Fielder 13, 17, 12. FRY bt Rougagnou 13, 15, —17, 20. WATANABE bt Baker 21, 18, 8. HAYDON bt Williamson 18, 11, 13.

**Quarter-Finals:** EGUCHI bt Rowe 16, 18, 8. ELLIOT bt Rook 19, 20, 13. OKAWA bt Fry 17, —13, 13, 13. HAYDON bt Watanabe 12, —15, 13, —17, 11.

**Semi-Finals:** EGUCHI bt Elliot 18, —16, —18, 15, 13. HAYDON bt Okawa —19, 16, 21, 19.

**Final:** EGUCHI bt Haydon —11, 18, 13, 19.

**Men's Doubles, Third Round:** OGIMURA/TANAKA bt Hodson/Landry 11, 17, 15. CRAIGIE/SHELDON bt Moran/Shearer 14, 18, 17. ANDERSON/ROBINSON bt Biswas/Jacobsen 12, 14, —17, 19. MILES/BERCZIK bt Bergmann/Leach —16, 15, 15, 11.

TSUNODA/MIYATA bt Haguenaer/Sido 17, 9, 13. ADAMS/BURRIDGE bt

Muranyi/Partos 8, 13, —14, 20. JONES/RHODES bt Joyce/Lindsay —19, 16, 9, 16. ANDREADIS/STIPEK bt Lewis/White 10, 12, 11.

**Quarter-Finals:** OGIMURA/TANAKA bt Craigie/Sheldon. MILES BERCZIK bt Anderson/Robinson 16, 11, 21. TSUNODA/MIYATA bt Adams/Burridge 18, 19, —15, 16. ANDREADIS/STIPEK bt Jones/Rhodes 17, 15, 17.

**Semi-Finals:** OGIMURA/TANAKA bt Miles/Berczik —15, 8, 19, —20, 19. ANDREADIS/STIPEK bt Tsunoda/Miyata —19, 22, 16, 19.

**Final:** OGIMURA/TANAKA bt Andreadis/Stipek —15, 20, 17, 16.

**Women's Doubles, Second Round:** EGUCHI/WATANABE bt Hughes/Burns 3, 14, 6. ALBER/TARLET bt Best/Rook 14, 19, 7. CARRINGTON/ROUGAGNOU bt Page/Whithams 17, 13, 13. CORNETT/ROWE bt Ellis/Riddick 16, 11, 13. ELLIOT/HEAD bt Millbank/Piper 13, 13, 16. OKAWA/NAMBA bt Cassell/Wirekoon 7, 8, 6. BATES/MORTIMER bt Clark/Welch 10, 16, —19, 19. HAYDON/FIELDER bt Baker/Fry 7, 6, 11.

**Quarter-Finals:** EGUCHI/WATANABE bt Alber/Tarlet 11, 11, 8. CORNETT/ROWE bt Carrington/Rougagnou —18, 14, 9, 9. OKAWA/NAMBA bt Elliot/Head 11, —11, 18, 17. HAYDON/FIELDER bt Bates/Mortimer 10, 11, 8.

**Semi-Finals:** EGUCHI/WATANABE bt Cornett/Rowe 13, 16, —19, 12. OKAWA/NAMBA bt Haydon/Fielder 14, 12, 15.

**Final:** OKAWA/NAMBA bt Eguchi/Watanabe 14, 18, 10.

**Mixed Doubles, Third Round:** ANDREADIS/Miss HAYDON bt Rhodes/Mrs. Head 21, —13, 15, 18. TANAKA/Miss WATANABE bt Amouretti/Miss Rougagnou 10, 15, —17, —18, 12. MIYATA/Miss OKAWA bt Berczik/Mrs. Carrington 14, —16, 10, 18. LEACH/Miss ROWE bt Burrige/Miss Spooner 13, 18, 14.

OGIMURA/Miss EGUCHI bt Haguenaer/Miss Tarlet 15, 9, 18. THACKERSEY/Miss BAKER bt Lindsay/Mrs. Riddick —14, 17, 9, 17. TSUNODA/Miss NAMBA bt Kennedy/Miss Best 17, 12, 18. SIMONS/Miss ELLIOT bt Robinson/Miss Bickland 14, 4, 8.

**Quarter-Finals:** ANDREADIS/HAYDON bt Tanaka/Watanabe —14, 13, 17, 19. LEACH/ROWE bt Miyata/Okawa 20, 14, 16. OGIMURA/EGUCHI bt Thackersey/Baker 16, 14, 12. TSUNODA/NAMBA bt Simons/Elliot 17, 19, 15.

**Semi-Finals:** ANDREADIS/HAYDON bt Leach/Rowe 8, 14, —16, 13. TSUNODA/NAMBA bt Ogimura/Eguchi 19, 17, 12.

**Final:** TSUNODA/NAMBA bt Andreadis/Haydon —16, 11, 19, 19.

**Men's Veteran Singles, Final:** L. KERSLAKE (Devon) bt R. Markwell (Essex) 14, —13, 14.

# JAPS LEARNED FROM US

says

## VICTOR BARNA

**SEVERAL** so-called experts, including myself, thought that this year the Japanese might lose their superiority and get beaten by either Hungary or Roumania. Well, though the Japanese players had some very narrow escapes, they have emerged as undisputed masters of table tennis and collected more titles than ever before.

Where, and why, were we wrong? Speaking for myself, I based my hunch (that's all it was) on what I saw last year in Tokyo during the World Championships.

There, the Japanese girls were beaten both by Roumania and England, and their men were saved from defeat only by a "near miracle" when Tanaka was down 14-20 against Gantner in the decisive last game.

I thought that a little improvement on that, either by the Roumanians or the Hungarians, who did not go to Tokyo, would do the trick, especially as the Europeans seemed to be getting used to the style of the Orientals.

**What nobody could foresee was that instead of the Europeans learning from the Japanese, exactly the reverse happened. The fact is that while the Japanese learned a lot from us, we learned nothing from them.**

What did they learn? Firstly, how to keep the ball in play and "push," as and when necessary. A year ago, Eguchi (who, by the way, is the most improved player of the season), Watanabe, Okawa, Tsunoda and to a certain extent Tanaka, were players of the "hit or bust" type.

### ONE EXCEPTION

Today, you can see the difference for yourself. Believe it or not, in Stockholm Tanaka beat Berczik by pushing — a tactic which Ogimura tried to repeat in the final of the English Open — against the same player. It did not work, because the young Hungarian is an exception in that he learned more from the Japs in a month than the rest of the European players in five years.

Secondly, the Japs learned how to handle chop. Until recently, they played every ball, chopped or not, in exactly the same way. Now they know which one they can hit, which one they can't, how much lift is needed for different chops, and which one is O.K. for the kill.

They have learned the importance of chop, and you can see them occasionally, especially on the backhand, chopping back a chop, to keep the ball low.

*Above all, they have learned the strength and the weakness of what we call "modern" table tennis.*

The main thing that we have failed to learn from them is that every ball should be played on its merits.

How often do we see players poking a "sitter," just because they missed one a moment ago? Or the reverse; attempting an impossible kill, simply because they have hit two good ones and wanted to carry on while the going was good?

If a ball should be hit, the Japs hit it. They will not stop hitting, because they have missed one or two, or more, previously. They play to a plan throughout the game and temporary setbacks make no difference to them.

### NOT LUCK

Then there is what we call "Japanese luck." They seem to be so lucky at about 19-all, or at extra points, or when trailing near the end of a game.

Is it luck? Of course not! For many years, I, too, was considered a lucky player because I seemed to be unbeatable at 20-all.

*I based my theory and my tactics at that stage of a game on simple arithmetic. The percentage of an average player's hitting is about 50-50: that is to say, when he hits, the chances are that about half of them will go in. The percentage of a champion's hitting is certainly much higher, definitely over 80.*

When I found myself standing at 19-all or thereabouts, I always had a go. I felt that I must not leave it to my opponents to have a bash, when my chances would be less than 50-50. So I took my chances first, and, as a rule, I was "lucky" enough to get away with it.

No doubt the Japanese have the same sort of philosophy, supported by the fact that when playing among themselves, defence pays little or no dividend.

Our players must learn to abandon caution—I mean *excessive* caution—when the outcome of a game hangs on a slender thread.

Another thing we must realise is

the importance of service. All the Japs score a great number of points outright from service, however strong the opposition. I repeat, "a great number."

Any of my pupils will tell you how much I concentrate on practising service, with variations between fast ones down the line and gentle ones just over the net; and how important it is to watch the opponent and catch him off balance when you can.

Finally, there is one thing I want to talk about, which closely concerns the Japanese and should concern us.

I have heard and read a lot about their "unfair gamesmanship;" when between points, they waste time, play with the ball, take long rests, towel themselves, etc., all for the purpose of upsetting their opponents.

I have no intention of defending them, because I have myself seen a lot of their play-acting — really bad, sometimes.

**However, there is another side to it, which has nothing to do with gamesmanship or sportsmanship. It is only common sense that if a long rally has left you a little puffed, you must not begin the next rally before you are breathing evenly again. If you are still out of breath when re-starting, the next point is as good as lost already.**

The Japs apparently know this full well, and that is why they take their time. Who can blame them? To cover the whole table with their characteristic penholder grip is a very exhausting business — a very big strain on physique.

### DON'T HURRY

So when you are out of breath or puffing a bit, don't be in too much of a hurry to get on with the game. Just imagine a sprinter who has run a hundred yards and then starts his next heat, without pausing to regain his breath. What chance would you give him?

Remember — whatever your opponent does — don't let it rattle you. It may be exactly what he wants to happen!

In any case, a really good player never gets upset, whatever the opponent or umpire may do. Instead, smile. Yes, just smile! It will keep you calm!

# JAPAN WIN TWO DRAW ONE

**T**HE pessimists who had forecast a swift and shattering defeat for the England team at Birmingham were eating their words before the match was half over. With the score standing at 3—3, and the scent of possible victory in the air, the packed Central Hall was agog with excitement. Unfortunately it was not to be. Japan ran out winners by 5—3, but what a great fight the whole of the England side put up.

Brian Kennedy started the evening sensationally by taking the first game 21—14 against world champion Tanaka. Going into the lead at 6—5 he attacked brilliantly, Tanaka appearing to have no effective counter. In the next two games however the champion's spinning and deceptive services pulled him through by 21—17, 21—17 despite two fine recoveries by the Yorkshire man.

Making a welcome return to the International scene Kathie Best was faced with the unenviable task of tackling Miss Fujie Eguchi in the second match and although she went down in two straight games she was certainly not disgraced.

It was left to Johnny Leach to draw first blood for England with a great 21—12, 18—21, 24—22 win over Tsunoda. Taking complete command in the first game Leach de-

fended and counter-hit in great style and it looked odds on an easy English victory. Tsunoda, however, came back to take the second game despite a fine recovery by Leach from 11—19 down and lead all the way in the third. At 19—15 he appeared to have the match in his pocket, but Leach pulled back to 20—all and took the match 24—22 with an edge ball.

In the Ladies' Doubles Ann Haydon and Kathie Best flattered to deceive. After taking the first game confidently 21—19 from Katanabe and Eguchi they unaccountably fell right away, going down 15—21, 21—21 to put the Japanese into a 3—1 lead.

## “Old Men” Win

It was at this crucial point that Leach and Bergmann took the floor against Tanaka and Ogimura, both determined to prove that they were anything but “old men”. How well they did so can be judged from their score 21—16, 18—21, 21—15. Even a collision followed by wholesale demolition of the surrounds failed to put them out of their stride, and it was a very worried Japanese pair that hit six slams in succession off the table at the end of the final game to give England a well deserved win.

The Lion's tail was now well and truly up as Ann Haydon swept aside Tomi Okawa 21—9, 21—13, in an orgy of fast and furious hitting that was all over in 10 minutes.

Could Richard Bergmann repeat his doubles success and ensure at least a draw by defeating Ogimura? Alas he just fell short in a match which from the exhibition point of view was the highlight of the evening. Rally followed rally with Richard retrieving impossible slams, but Ogimura always appeared to have something extra in hand as he proved at the end of each game.

## A Great Effort

It was now left to Joyce Fielder in the last match of the evening to try and salvage a draw, and she put up a great fight, winning the first game against Kiiko Watanabe. However, the Japanese girl stepped up the tempo and literally swept Joyce on one side with the second. She started the third game in the same style, but Joyce appeared to have weathered the storm and held on up to 10—all. From that point Watanabe went into a 16—12 lead, but the English girl, with the crowd willing her to victory, pulled up to 15—17. Unfortunately she was unable to hold Watanabe's final effort and victory went to Japan by 5 matches to 3.

Detailed results: B. Kennedy lost to T. Tanaka 21—14, 17—21, 17—21. J. Leach bt K. Tsunoda 21—12, 18—21, 24—22. R. Bergmann lost to I. Ogimura 19—21, 16—21.

Miss K. Best lost to Miss F. Eguchi 22—24, 11—21. Miss A. Haydon bt Miss T. Okawa 21—9, 21—13. Miss J. Fielder lost to Miss K. Watanabe 21—12, 7—21, 15—21.

Bergmann/Leach bt Ogimura/Tanaka 21—16, 18—21, 21—15. Miss Haydon/Miss Fielder lost to Miss Watanabe/Miss Eguchi 21—19, 15—21, 12—21.

## OUR BEST DOUBLES PAIR

**T**HE most significant feature of the second international against Japan at Tottenham on April 8 was the renewal of the doubles partnership between Ann Haydon and Jill Rook. Together again for the first time for nearly 18 months they thrashed Tomi Okawa and Taeko Namba, within 48 hours of the Japanese girls winning the English championship.

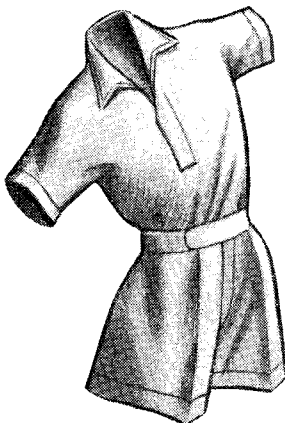
There was no fluke about it either. Miss Haydon and Miss Rook were far too strong, winning 21—15, 21—16, but they were unable to prevent Japan winning the match 6—2.

What a pity that the Haydon-Rook partnership was ever broken up. If they could do this after more than a year apart, how good would they have been with a year's regular

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tournament play? They would possibly have been the world champions.

**The parting was not the fault of the players. That must be laid at the feet of the selectors.**

When Rosalind (Rowe) Cornett retired Miss Haydon was taken to partner Diane Rowe. Two left-handers is not exactly an ideal doubles pairing. Maybe common sense will now prevail.

The Japanese players were in a very lighthearted mood and there was an air of the exhibition about most of the events. But not the singles tie between Ann Haydon and Fujie Eguchi.

The Japanese girl confirmed her world and English championship finals wins, only this time even more easily. She won 21—12, 21—15; Ann never looked like winning.

England's only win apart from the women's doubles, was gained by Diane Rowe, who showed some of her old top form in beating Kiiko Watanabe 21—14, 21—14 in the opening match. Diane defended brilliantly, using a heavy chop, which caused her opponent to mistake badly and make many mistakes.

### Missed Sitters

Johnny Leach should have given England another win, but only flattered to deceive when he led world champion Toshiaki Tanaka 7—2, 12—9, and 14—12 in the final game. He became too tense missed a couple of sitters and before he knew where he was, lost six points in a row, and the match at 13—21, 16—21, 17—21.

There was one fantastic rally in the first game when Tanaka put over a series of shots which rose high off the table but Leach could not get over the top of them to make a real "kill" and was eventually driven back until he fell over the surrounds at the back of the court.

Richard Bergmann will not wish to be reminded of his match with Keisuke Tsunoda where he was slammed off the table 21—15, 21—18. Tsunoda showed his best form yet and hit with terrific power, harder than any other member of the Japanese team. He was putting his whole body behind his shots, so much so that sometimes the effort would take him half way up the table.

Ogimura's defeat of Michael Thornhill at 21—10, 21—23, 21—11 was like a cat playing with a mouse. He always gave the impression of being able to score a point whenever he liked.

Jill Rook put up a bold show against Miss Okawa but was not good enough, while the new partnership of

Eddie Hodson and Laurie Landry being tried out in the England team for the first time was most promising even though they lost 21—15, 17—21, 19—21 to Tsunoda and Miyata, the English champions. It was touch and go right to the end.

Detailed results: M. Thornhill lost to I. Ogimura 10—21, 23—21, 11—21. J. A. Leach lost to T. Tanaka 13—21, 21—16, 17—21. R. Bergmann lost to K. Tsunoda 15—21, 18—21.

Miss A. S. Haydon lost to Miss F. Eguchi 12—21, 15—21. Miss J. Rook lost to Miss T. Okawa 19—21, 15—21. Miss D. Rowe beat Miss K. Watanabe 21—14, 21—14.

Miss Haydon and Miss Rook beat Miss T. Namba and Miss Okawa 21—15, 21—16.

E. Hodson/L. Landry lost to Tsunoda/T. Miyata 21—15, 17—21, 19—21.

## BERGMANN SLAMS TANAKA

**R**ICHARD BERGMANN made Toshiaki Tanaka look a poor world champion when he slammed him 21—7, 21—11 to give England a draw in the third of the three internationals against Japan before a packed house at the Town Hall, Cheltenham, on April 11.

It was Bergmann's second victory over Tanaka for he had also beaten him in the English "open." This time Bergmann accomplished the feat much more easily as the scores show.

Tanaka was never in the picture as Bergmann combined an immaculate defence with some forceful attacking play.

Another great home win was provided by Johnny Leach and Alan Rhodes when they beat Keisuke Tsunoda and Toshihiko Miyata in the doubles 21—19, 18—21, 21—19. It was an evenly contested match with the English pair showing fine understanding.

Rhodes also marked up another win for England by beating Tsunoda in the opening singles, making a great

recovery after losing the first game to win 16—21, 22—20, 21—19.

Ann Haydon scored England's other win, beating Kiiko Watanabe 21—19, 10—21, 21—9, but she failed to produce her best form in the doubles where she partnered Jill Rook. They lost 19—21, 15—21, to the English champions Tomi Okawa



RICHARD BERGMANN

and Taeko Namba, who they had beaten in the previous rubber at Tottenham.

England might well have won the match at Cheltenham for Johnny Leach was pipped by Ichiro Ogimura at 23—21 in the third.

However England were well beaten in the other two remaining women's singles, Jill Rook losing 9—21, 13—21 to world champion Fujie Eguchi and Pam Mortimer going down 16—21, 15—21 to ex-world champion Tomi Okawa.

Detailed Results: A. Rhodes bt K. Tsunoda 16—21, 22—20, 21—19. J. Leach lost to I. Ogimura 21—14, 20—22, 21—23. R. Bergmann bt T. Tanaka 21—7, 21—11.

Miss P. Mortimer lost to Miss T. Okawa 16—21, 15—21. Miss A. Haydon bt Miss K. Watanabe 21—19, 10—21, 21—9. Miss J. Rook lost to Miss F. Eguchi 9—21, 13—21.

Rhodes/Leach bt Tsunoda/Miyata 21—19, 18—21, 21—19. Miss Haydon/Miss Rook lost to Miss Okawa/Miss Namba 19—21, 15—21.

## CIVIL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The most exciting match in the Civil Service championships was the mixed doubles final, an all Yorkshire clash, which resulted in K. Mitchelmore and Jean Preston surprisingly beating the firm favourites M. Pitts and Miss Rhodes by 16—21, 23—21, 25—23.

After dropping the first game Mitchelmore and Miss Preston lagged 18—20 in both the following games and only by staging brilliant recoveries in both cases did they go on to take the title.

Ken Craigie won the men's singles but was fully extended by Len Adam before eventually clinching the match at 21—18, 21—17, 15—21, 21—11.

Although both Miss A. Austin and

Miss B. Bull are below county standards both gave fine displays in the women's singles final which Miss Austin won by 21—13, 21—18.

Men's Singles: K. R. Craigie bt L. Adams 21—18, 21—17, 15—21, 21—11. Women's Singles: Miss A. D. Austin bt Miss B. D. Bull 21—13, 21—18.

Men's Doubles: Adams/K. Sheldon bt Craigie/N. White 21—19, 21—15, 25—23. Women's Doubles: Miss W. Dakin/Miss J. Preston bt Miss M. Caswell/Mrs. Know 21—11, 21—11. Mixed Doubles: K. Mitchelmore/Miss Preston bt Pitts/Miss Rhodes 16—21, 23—21, 25—23.

Girls' Singles: Miss Caswell bt Miss K. Tipler 17—21, 21—5, 21—9. Boys' Singles: A. Price bt G. K. Spencer 21—17, 21—18. Veterans' Singles: D. Light bt L. Prior 21—10, 21—14.

# THE BEST—NOT BEAST

LET'S give Zoltan ("The Beast") Berczik, the sport's newest world personality as well as the new English "Open" champ., a special lead-off pen-picture. The young Hungarian has earned it.

We've seen him in action and know what makes him tick — probably the severest chop in the game, effective hits on both wings, a cagey and agile defence, the dour determination of Bergmann in his youth, bags of patience and grit, a genius for "spoiling," and a hatred of his opponent.

That last is not the least of his assets. He not only lusts to win, but

as he's still in his teens, strong and expends an enormous amount of energy via his countless hours per day at the table, is this so surprising?

Practice — he can't get enough of it.

**He considers eight hours a day commonplace, and likes a spot of knock-up, lasting no more than two hours, before playing a match.**

This "Zatopek of Table Tennis" is a railway office worker in Budapest — although how he works and plays so much daily has yet to be explained. He began his sporting career as a boxer, which he gave up after receiving a nasty gash on the head. He took up football, but called it a day after sustaining a severely cut leg. Asked what he'd do if he was injured at T.T., he said he'd play safe and take up billiards!

I said he was modest. Judge for yourself from this one story of many similar true ones.

Asked if he fancied his chances of being world champion in 1959, he said humbly, "If a great player like *Andreadis* has failed time and again to win the title, who am I to forecast what might happen in two years' time?"

Story No. 2. Victor Barna, interested in testing for himself Zoltan's powerful chop, had a bout at the table with him at Wembley. After the knock-up, the young star said to Victor, "What a heavy chop you have."

I have a fancy it won't be long before that "a" is dropped from Zoltan Berczik's current nickname.

\* \* \*

From Hungary's bright young star to England's Ann Haydon, who needs no introductory pen-picture but protection from her "friends."

When she was beaten by Fujie Eguchi in the world final it was claimed on Ann's behalf that she was exhausted by the many previous games she had played on the same day. In the English final, Ann was fresh — yet Eguchi beat her even more easily than she did in Stockholm. And, a couple of days later, in the international against Japan at Tottenham, London, the world champion scored another easy win — and again the "tiredness" plea was entered on Ann's behalf.

**In both the English matches Eguchi looked twice as fast as our girl and hit twice as hard and three times**

as often. At the moment there can be little doubt that the Japanese girl is the No. 1 player, with Ann a definite also-ran.

These alibis of tiredness are not fair to the buxom Birmingham lass, who never publicly makes excuses for herself and takes her defeats in sporting spirit, and certainly derogatory to Eguchi.

*Incidentally, no-one saw fit to mention that the champion had been playing almost continuously on the Continent following the World Series and before coming to England.*

Ann is only 18 and has time to improve. She's good, but not good enough. If she has it in her she'll win that world title. Let's accept that with good grace and not attempt to play down her defeats, and her conqueror, with cry-baby "explanations."

Meanwhile, she can look forward with the utmost confidence to being voted winner of the Victor Barna Trophy as "Player of the Year" for the second successive year.

\* \* \*

The Russians are planning to stage their biggest T.T. tournament in Moscow during the Third World Youth Festival at the end of July. Top stars of non-Iron Curtain as well as I.C. countries are being invited to compete, I understand that amongst those certain to play is Berczik. Among the English personalities invited to Russia are Ann Haydon and Vic Barna.

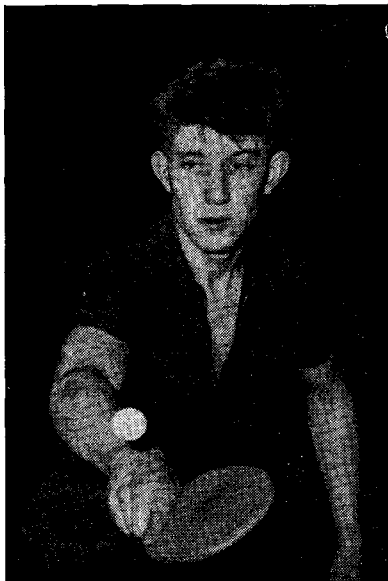
## PLOT MISFIRED

Tale of the plot that misfired. The Rumanians, determined to find the answer to the penholding Japs in Stockholm, invited the penholding Chinese to stay in Bucharest for a month and practice against them. The Chinese accepted the offer.

At the end of their stay the Orientals played the Rumanian World team and whacked them 5—2. This so unnerved the Rumanian boys that when they met China in their Swaythling group they faltered badly and lost, again 5—2, and so had no need to worry about Japan after all.

\* \* \*

*Venue for the first European Cup tournament, to be played next year in lieu of the World Series, may be Budapest. Hungary has the first option on organising the rally and must*



BERCZIK

seems to want to annihilate the chap at the other end of the table. He begrudges every point he loses, even when he's a mile in front, does this gangling, hatchet-faced, impressive, thatch-haired youth, who is surely destined for world honours.

He's by no means an attractive player to watch, but he's a match winner.

What's he like off the table? So far from being a "beast," he's likeable, pleasant and modest. He is dedicated to the game — and doesn't think the game is dedicated to him.

Certainly he has a big appetite (like most Hungarian players). But

say "aye" or "no" within the next few weeks. *Straw in the wind is that the Hungarian players are confident the meeting will take place in their home country.*

\* \* \*

The 1957/58 Canadian Open is to take place at Toronto, Ontario, on September 5-6-7. Bob Gusikoff and Mildred Shahian, of the United States, are the reigning singles champions.

\* \* \*

Tour of Germany which brought playing successes as well as comfortable financial returns, was enjoyed by the Australian Swaythling trio, Phil Anderson, Arden Robinson and "Crab" Lou Laza (nickname is, of course, relevant to Lou's style, not his personality). In some 14 matches played, they won ten.

In their one international fixture they scraped through to a 5-4 win, though in all fairness it must be pointed out that the Germans fielded a team of young up-and-comers—Arndt, Siefert and Kohler.

#### FRANCE TRIED IT

Those who regularly these past few seasons have been howling for our veteran stars—you know who!—to be sacked in favour of young blood, may have noted how the French team fared in the Swaythling series.

Long-service players Haguener, Amouretti, and Roothoof were dropped *en bloc* in favour of youthful players, who flopped in the most miserable fashion.

France has never put up such a bad show since she entered the international field over 25 years ago. She even lost to Lebanon, who, with due respect, simply don't rate in world play.

The moral is plain for all to see: dump the old 'uns by all means—if you have players more deserving of a place.

\* \* \*

Claim that the "sandwich" bat is just the job, racket-wise, in these revolutionary, controversy-torn days, was given the lie in no uncertain manner, as proved by the record of "sandwichers" in the World and English rallies.

Ferenc Sido, that sound Hungarian player and observer, hit the nail on the head when he said: "THE 'SANDWICH' BAT FALLS DOWN IN THAT IT IS NEITHER FISH NOR FOWL. BECAUSE OF THE RUBBER ELEMENT, THE SPEED OF THE SPONGE IS LESSENER. AND THE SPONGE PORTION HAS THE EFFECT OF REDUCING THE ACCURACY AND CONTROL OF THE RUBBER."

\* \* \*

Owner-coach of the Harlem Globetrotters, Abe Saperstein, who for some years now has been featuring table tennis exhibitions in his shows, with Bergmann as the star player, has been presented with a pearl-studded tiepin by the United States T.T.A. The presentation took place at the Pan-Pacific Auditorium, Los Angeles, "in honour of the Globetrotters' 30th anniversary (pearl) and as a token of recognition and appreciation toward promoting the sport, from the table tennis players of America."

Erwin Klein, top American player who, as reported last month, has denied he is through with the game, recently raised 43 dollars for Hungarian refugees in America by playing all-comers at a charity show staged at the Californian T.T. Centre. He played 16 challengers, all of whom had to make a donation to the Red Cross before going to the table for their 21-up game. Erwin, of course, had little trouble in tanning all and sundry.

## "JILL OF SPORTS"

by BRIAN CUTRESS

AUDREY BATES, a Cardiff Schools Games Mistress, thinks that table tennis is the best game in the world.

This remark made by almost any other person would be treated lightly and passed off probably with the comment that anyone who is good at a sport will naturally think it is the best.

However, Miss Bates is not an ordinary sportswoman. She is one of those gifted people to whom all sports come as second nature and to list those at which she shows above average skill is akin to listing the sports on the back page of a morning newspaper.

She can claim international honours at Table Tennis, Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets, represented South Wales at Cricket and would probably have done the same at netball if she had had more time.

She is also equally adept at Lacrosse and was selected for the Welsh team but, as was the case when picked for a Welsh Hockey trial, she unfortunately had other commitments.

Miss Bates started her career by playing table tennis during the war while working as a welfare officer in a munitions factory. That was perhaps an insignificant start to such a fine career but from then on she would spend all her spare time on learning a new sport, perfecting her technique, gaining experience and then turning to another game, and adding that to her repertoire.

Her sporting instincts were probably inherited from her father Charlie Bates and stimulated by her twin sister Barbara.

Charlie Bates is, both a well known

Cardiff golfer who used to play down to scratch and a first class cricketer, while Barbara although not now interested in sport has been the lawn tennis champion of Wales and the Squash Rackets champion of Cardiff.

With the name Bates cropping up so often in Welsh sport many people think that Audrey and her sister share the honours, but this is not so.

"My sister now has other interests away from sport," Audrey told me, "though I must agree I can well understand people being confused for I have a dual personality. In table tennis I am known as Audrey but in



AUDREY BATES

squash and lawn tennis I am called Glen, which is my second name."

This "Jill of all sports and mistress of many," is just back from Stockholm where she has been playing in the world championships. She loves travelling and confesses this is one of the reasons she prefers table tennis, which has taken her to most Continental countries since the war.

# SPONGE—RUN BACK—LIGHTS

by

**RICHARD BERGMANN**

**SPONGE** has gained too powerful a following to be banned and despite the E.T.T.A. decision, is I feel here to stay. However, I hope the International Federation will do the next best thing—standardise the racket. And quickly, before it is too late.

It is obvious to me, as it must be to a lot of other people, who have the interests of table tennis at heart, that sponge, by its very nature, must produce farcical matches. So-called matches between top-class players have been little short of burlesques.

Even world finals have been ruined by sponge and the sport in general is declining as a spectacle. I wonder how much longer the public will pay to see the sort of stuff being served up today?

Table tennis should be a *sport* combining skill and movement, agility as well as ability. Sponge-users (or some of the better ones) show skill but not, by and large, that athletic agility, speed of foot and willingness to work in earning a point which was part and parcel of an active sport.

Many of us remember Barna, Bellak, Szabados and others like them in action, and recall with pleasure how colourful, exciting and spectacular, as well as skilful, they made table tennis look.

Contrast many of today's sponge wonders who stand close to the table, are casual in the extreme and indulge in so little movement that a bead of sweat never sullies their brow. They show skill — but is this sort of thing *sport*?

My remark applies to many I like and respect as persons, Ann Haydon and Brian Kennedy, for instance, thick-sponge users who are surely capable of setting English youngsters a better example.

## JAPS EXCEPTED

*It goes without saying that I exempt the Japanese from criticism on this score. They are the world's most agile and spectacular players. There's nothing lethargic or pudding-footed about those little wonders!*

Does sponge make the Japs more effective than they might otherwise be? Ogimura recently told me he had forsaken thick sponge in favour of thinner material and said he was now more capable of controlling his strokes. It is also important to re-

member that not all the Japanese use sponge.

It's easy to be wise after the event, but I have always felt sponge should have been banned in 1952, after Japan's Satoh, using thick sponge, won the title in competition against vastly superior players.

**Had the Federation heeded the warning contained in that victory they'd have had the support of the Japanese Association, which was then eager to prove that its players could gain results without sponge.**

There was some talk about banning sponge, but nothing more than talk, and the evil was allowed to creep into the game. Naturally, many followed Satoh's example, trusting to sponge to help them overcome their lack of ability.

## A THIN BAT

However, what's to be done about the current situation? I suggest standardisation. To cut out freak spin and pace, the overall thickness of the racket should not exceed one-third of an inch. The thin bat would compel players to rely on skill and movement, and not, as is now the case with thick sponge, on pace and spin imparted by the bat.

Maybe players might in time evolve freakish thin bats — but we could worry about that and take necessary action (I hope!) if and when it happened. In the meantime, let's get rid of those thick sponge weapons which are doing the game a tremendous amount of harm.

I love table tennis and want to see it remain a great *sport*. That's why I hope there will be no delay in standardising the racket.

For years now I have protested that the regulation run-back is insufficient and prevents players returning hits they could get back if they had more room to move around. This was highlighted most emphatically by the Japanese at the recent World and English tournaments. Time and again they chased the ball in the outer regions, only to be frustrated by the barriers. Protests that the barriers should be removed were ignored by officials.

**It is also time something was done about the regulation height of lights over the table. The Japanese often return a hit by lobbing it high into the air, and the ball gets lost up in the lights. As one who has experien-**

**ced gazing up into the blazing lights looking for a tiny white sphere, I can assure officials that higher lighting is absolutely essential.**

## FEW BETTER

Finally, a word in the ear of those gloom merchants who persist in depressing themselves, and others, with their allegation that England as a world T.T. power just doesn't rank and is quite hopeless.

Our record since the war would suggest this is very far from the truth. Let me clarify that sentence. Each world tournament attracts an entry of roughly 35 nations, and there are only seven individual and team titles to be won. Since the war our girls have won the Corbillon Cup twice and our men the Swaythling Cup once — and there have been several "near misses" in both competitions.

We have won the men's singles title four times, and the women's doubles three times. Also we have had quite a few losing finalists, including Ann Haydon's five gallant efforts, Betty Blackburn in the Paris singles, Vera Dace in the 1948 singles and the Rowes in the 1952 doubles.

There are possibly more that I have not checked, but, forgetting the losing finals, can anyone honestly say that 10 world titles in ten years is a sign that England is "hopeless?"

In fact, can anyone name any other sport in England which has done so well in the world sphere since the war?

The truth of the matter is, of course, that in both the individual and team spheres we have had a post-war record very few nations indeed can better.

## KEN STANLEY'S

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Burnley, Lancashire.

Telephone 6263.

MIDDLESEX CHAMPIONS AGAIN

CONGRATULATIONS to Middlesex for regaining the Premier Division championship, their ninth success in ten years, and also for winning the Junior Division South for the second year running.

Congratulations also to Lincolnshire and Glamorgan for winning Div. II North and West respectively, both for the first time, and to Surrey for winning Div. II South, leaving runners-up Sussex to join in the promotion play-off.

A big hand also to Buckinghamshire for winning the Southern Division for the first time and thus gaining promotion to Div. II South, though I am puzzled by Norfolk's action in conceding Wiltshire a walk-over, when a 9-1 win would have given Norfolk promotion instead of Bucks.!

Warwickshire have won the Midland Division for two years in succession now, while Staffordshire have become the first champions in the

new Midland Junior Division, with Yorkshire succeeding Cheshire as Junior Division North champions.

At the other end of the scale, Cheshire and Kent, promoted last season, make the drop into Division II, and this also means relegation for Kent's second team from Div. II, which could prove a boon to Suffolk, who could now apply for re-election.

Durham and Dorset could also apply for re-election to their respective second divisions, as under existing rules no Midland Division team earns promotion.

In Yorkshire's last premier match of the season, against Cheshire, two of their players, Marjorie Lightfoot and Ray Hinchliffe, completed their 50th county appearance, an unique double.

May I "sign off" by thanking all the Press Officers and County Secretaries who have helped me during the season, and express my appreciation to Ivor Eyles for his invaluable help without which the publicity secretary's job would be a nightmare. Thanks are also due to Geoff. Harrower and Leslie Woollard, for the specialist services which they render the County Championships in the national newspaper world.

APRIL RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Essex 3, Middlesex 7

B. Brumwell lost D. Burrige -13, -16, bt M. Thornhill 18, 19. R. Stevens lost Thornhill -19, -13, lost A. Rhodes 14, -14, -8. I. Jones lost Rhodes -13, -10, lost Burrige -20, 8, -18.

Miss Y. Baker lost Miss M. Fry -13, 18, -17.

Miss Baker/Miss J. Page bt Miss M. Stafford/Miss J. Williamson 20, 14.

Brumwell/Stevens bt L. Adams/Burrige 18, -12, 19.

Jones/Miss Page lost Adams/Miss Fry -11, -15.

Kent 0, Gloucestershire 10

A. Piddock lost I. Harrison -15, 15, -13, lost A. Simons -10, -7. R. Syndercombe lost Simons -20, -15, lost E. Merrett -9, -8. R. Etheridge lost Merrett -7, -11, lost Harrison -12, -13.

Miss J. Fielder lost Miss S. Davis 17, -14, -15.

Miss Fielder/Miss L. Selway lost Miss Davis/Mrs. T. Spokes 18, -7, -11. Etheridge/D. Whittaker lost Harrison/Merrett -15, -18.

Syndercombe/Miss Selway lost Simons/Mrs. Spokes -18, -16.

Cheshire 2, Yorkshire 8

E. Johnson lost M. Simpson 21, -12, -11, lost R. Hinchliffe -23, -14. A. Shepherd lost Hinchliffe -10, -19, lost B. Kennedy -5, -15. D. Schofield lost Kennedy 16, -14, -17, beat Simpson 17, 19.

Miss L. Bown lost Miss K. Best -14, -14.

Miss Bown/Miss M. Young bt Miss Best/Miss M. Lightfoot 20, 17.

Johnson/Schofield lost Hinchliffe/Simpson 17, -16, -8.

Shepherd/Miss Young lost Kennedy/Miss Lightfoot -13, -15.

Kent 5, Lancashire 5

B. Meisel bt D. Cartwright 15, 13, bt P. Strulovitch -17, 9, 16. R. Syndercombe bt Strulovitch 19, -19, 19, lost C.

LEADING AVERAGES

In the averages listed, I have had to ignore doubles, but I should like to mention four pairs who have achieved a hundred per cent. record in the Premier Division, B. Brumwell/R. Stevens (Essex) 5-0(MD), Miss M. Fry/Miss D. Rowe (Mddx.) 6-0(WD), L. Adams/Miss M. Fry (Mddx.) 7-0(XD) and J. Leach/Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex) 3-0(XD).

I must apologise for omission of Southern Division averages, but a number of unreadable score sheets made it impossible to calculate these accurately.

PREMIER DIVISION

	W. L.	%
K. Craigie (Surrey) ... ..	7-1	87
B. Kennedy (Yorks) ... ..	12-2	85
A. Rhodes (Mddx) ... ..	10-2	83
J. I. Harrison (Glos) ... ..	5-1	83
J. Leach (Essex) ... ..	5-1	83
B. Merrett (Glos) ... ..	11-3	78
M. Simpson (Yorks) ... ..	6-2	75
R. Hinchliffe (Yorks) ... ..	10-4	71
A. Simons (Glos) ... ..	8-4	67
D. Burrige (Lancs) ... ..	9-5	63
J. Ingber (Lancs) ... ..	6-4	60
H. Venner (Surrey) ... ..	6-4	60
Miss D. Rowe (Middx) ... ..	5-1	83
Mrs. J. Head (Surrey) ... ..	5-2	71
Miss K. Best (Yorks) ... ..	5-2	71
Miss J. Fielder (Kent) ... ..	4-2	67

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

	W. L.	%
J. Hillyer (Northumb) ... ..	6-0	100
J. D. Baddeley (Warwicks) ... ..	4-0	100
M. Simpson (Yorks) ... ..	4-0	100
M. Shearer (Lincs) ... ..	7-1	87
D. Skerratt (Lincs) ... ..	6-2	75
B. Parks (Warwicks) ... ..	3-1	75
S. Dyson (Yorks) ... ..	4-2	67
D. Merryweather (Lincs) ... ..	5-3	62
Mrs. P. Clarke (Northumb) ... ..	3-0	100
Miss J. Preston (Yorks) ... ..	3-1	75

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

	W. L.	%
B. Leach (Sussex) ... ..	11-1	91
J. A. Piddock (Kent) ... ..	7-1	87
J. Quilter (Sussex) ... ..	7-1	87
P. Shear (Sussex) ... ..	10-2	83
K. Sheldon (Surrey) ... ..	10-2	83
M. Maclaren (Surrey) ... ..	8-2	80

F. Bradley (Hants) ... ..	3-1	75
R. Crayden (Surrey) ... ..	3-1	75
J. Lowe (Surrey) ... ..	3-1	75
Miss M. Austin (Surrey) ... ..	6-0	100
Miss W. Bates (Sussex) ... ..	4-0	100
Miss J. White (Herts) ... ..	4-2	67

SECOND DIVISION WEST

	W. L.	%
D. House (Somerset) ... ..	6-0	100
E. Dimascio (Glam) ... ..	4-0	100
E. Still (Glam) ... ..	5-1	83
P. Ofeld (Devon) ... ..	8-2	80
J. Simonson (Glam) ... ..	8-2	80
A. Nuttall (Devon) ... ..	3-1	75
N. Parker (Glam) ... ..	3-1	75
M. Hawkins (Worcs) ... ..	7-3	70
A. Squire (Devon) ... ..	4-2	67
A. Thomas (Glam) ... ..	4-2	67
Miss S. Jones (Glam) ... ..	3-0	100
Mrs. B. Shammon (Worcs) ... ..	3-2	60
Mrs. J. Willcocks (Devon) ... ..	3-2	60

MIDLAND DIVISION

	W. L.	%
D. Baddeley (Warwicks) ... ..	8-0	100
J. K. Burton (Warwicks) ... ..	3-1	75
B. Parkes (Warwicks) ... ..	3-1	75
B. Bond (Northants) ... ..	5-3	62
Mrs. D. Griffiths (Warwicks) ... ..	4-0	100
Mrs. B. Webster (Derby) ... ..	3-1	75

JUNIOR DIVISION MIDLANDS

	W. L.	%
M. Tubb (Warwicks) ... ..	4-0	100
D. Obee (Northants) ... ..	3-1	75

JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH

	W. L.	%
J. Moorhouse (Yorks) ... ..	6-0	100
D. Poole (Yorks) ... ..	6-0	100
G. Lynch (Yorks) ... ..	3-1	75
Miss L. Bown (Cheshire) ... ..	4-0	100
Miss L. Hamilton (Yorks) ... ..	2-1	67

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

	W. L.	%
P. Cole (Suffolk) ... ..	12-0	100
C. Gosling (Middx) ... ..	4-0	100
P. Rudd (Suffolk) ... ..	11-1	91
A. Piddock (Kent) ... ..	10-2	83
B. Donnelly (Middx) ... ..	8-2	80
R. King (Middx) ... ..	9-3	75
D. Bloy (Kent) ... ..	7-3	70
J. Nicholls (Essex) ... ..	4-2	67
D. Wiggins (Essex) ... ..	4-2	67
P. Lancaster (Kent) ... ..	6-4	60
Miss J. Harrower (Middx) ... ..	6-0	100
Miss J. Johnson (Kent) ... ..	5-0	100
Miss S. Hesson (Essex) ... ..	4-2	67
Miss A. Baldry (Suffolk) ... ..	4-2	67
Miss G. Cooper (Surrey) ... ..	3-2	60

Booth —17, —19. R. Etheridge lost Booth 16. —16, —16, lost Cartwright —17, —17. Miss J. Fielder bt Miss S. Threlfall 5, 11. Miss Fielder/Mrs. M. Dodd bt Miss Threlfall/Miss I. Haney 15, 10. Etheridge/D. Whittaker lost Booth/Strulovitch —11, —14. Syndercombe/Mrs. Dodd lost Cartwright/Miss Haney —15, 16, —17.

Surrey 6, Kent 4.

**DIVISION II (SOUTH)**

Suffolk 0, Sussex 10.  
Berkshire 4, Hampshire 6.

**DIVISION II (WEST)**

Glamorgan 8, Staffordshire 2.

**SOUTHERN DIVISION**

Hertfordshire 8, Cambridgeshire 2.  
Wiltshire WO Norfolk.

**JUNIOR NORTH**

Cheshire 3, Yorkshire 5.

**NATIONAL COUNTY**

**TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
(Final Tables)

PREMIER	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Middlesex	7	6	0	1	54	16	13
Yorkshire	7	6	1	0	47	23	12
Gloucestershire	7	4	2	1	42	28	9
Surrey	7	3	3	1	42	28	7
Essex	7	3	3	1	37	33	7
Lancashire	7	2	4	1	29	41	5
Kent	7	1	5	1	19	51	3
Cheshire	7	0	7	0	10	60	0

**DIV. II (NORTH). FINAL**

Lincolnshire	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
Yorkshire	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 won championship	on games.						

**DIV. II (SOUTH). FINAL**

Surrey	6	6	0	0	46	14	12
Sussex	6	5	1	0	47	13	10
Hertfordshire	6	3	3	0	29	31	6
Hampshire	6	2	3	1	26	34	5
Berkshire	6	2	3	1	25	35	5
Kent	6	1	3	2	28	32	4
Suffolk	6	0	6	0	9	51	0

**DIV. II (WEST). FINAL**

Glamorgan	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Worcestershire	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Devon	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
Staffordshire	5	1	3	1	22	28	3
Somerset	5	0	3	2	17	33	2
Dorset	5	1	4	0	10	40	2

**SOUTHERN DIVISION. FINAL**

Buckinghamshire	4	2	0	2	24	16	6
Wiltshire	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Hertfordshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Bedfordshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Norfolk	4	1	1	2	16	24	4
Cornwall	4	1	1	2	22	18	3
Cambridgeshire	4	0	4	0	7	33	0

**MIDLAND DIVISION. FINAL**

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

**SOUTH JUNIOR. FINAL**

Middlesex	6	4	1	1	45	15	9
Kent	6	4	1	1	44	16	9
Essex	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Suffolk	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Surrey	6	2	4	0	21	39	4
Hertfordshire	6	0	5	1	12	48	1
Sussex	6	0	5	1	12	48	1

**NORTH JUNIOR. FINAL**

Yorkshire	4	4	0	0	26	6	8
Cheshire	4	1	2	1	13	19	3
Lancashire	4	0	3	1	9	23	1

# WIN A TABLE TENNIS TABLE

by KENNETH WHEELER

Speaking at the *Eagle/Girl* National Junior Tournament finals this year Marcus Morris, the editor of the two magazines concerned, said:

*"We are naturally proud of the fact that our third annual tournament has again produced a number of young players of outstanding possibility, but I would like to emphasize that our interest is not directed solely at the good player. Rather we want to encourage every boy and girl, however weak his or her standard, to enter our tournament in order that we may help them to improve, and to enjoy the fun of playing this fine, athletic sport in a friendly competition with each other."*

*"With this in mind we have big plans in hand for the development of our tournament. Ideally, we would like to make it possible for children to enter from every part of Great Britain; and we are also considering the possibility of introducing a team element, so that everyone — weak and strong alike — can play the fullest possible part. You'll be reading more about this soon, in 'Eagle' and 'Girl.'"*

As the national organiser of this competition, I am now in a position to tell you a little more about the HULTON PRESS plans, and I believe that they should be of great interest to those officials particularly concerned about the development of the game amongst the younger generation.

## 3,500 TARGET

Our target for next season's tournament is 3,500 entrants, more than double the entry for 1956-57, and we aim to reach this figure by early October, 1957, when the qualifying rounds are due to commence.

**Entry is Free, and forms will be printed in the two papers throughout the summer.**

Every player, whatever his or her standard of play, can help to win a table tennis table for his or her school or club.

This is the team element about which Marcus Morris spoke. Each entrant will be invited to nominate a school, or club, which he wishes to represent in the competition and, on 'reporting in' for his first match he will automatically score one point for his school or club.

Should he succeed in reaching the Regional Final, from that stage onward he will score 5 points for his club for each game that he wins. Thus, by winning a match he can score 10 points.

At the end of the championships, the school or club in each of the regions with the highest number of points will be awarded with a special Club table.

The school or club with the highest number of points for games won by their representatives will be awarded with a table of Championship standard.

Here's an innovation that should interest all league and club officials. Next season, a qualifying round may be organised by any club or individual whose application is approved by the Honorary Referee, and a per capita expense grant will be made to all authorised bodies organising qualifying rounds with an entry of 16 or more players.

If you would like further details, why not drop me a line c/o the Editor?

Winners of events in qualifying rounds (there are four events—under 15, and under 13 for boys and girls respectively) will be eligible to compete at their nearest Regional Centre Final Round, and those with particularly long journeys will receive a grant towards their travelling expenses.

Regional Finals will take place from January 4, 1958, in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh, and from that stage onward our normal organisation will operate, culminating with the Grand Finals in London next March or April.

We hope to be able to accommodate children who enter from all parts of the country in a properly organised tournament, but to do so we shall need still more of the help and willing co-operation that table tennis officials have so generously given us in the past.

Can we count on YOUR support for this scheme which, I venture to suggest, opens up great possibilities for the future development of the game?

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## CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

TO go to a country where table tennis is played but not organised; where there is a great language barrier and where there are the usual local snags, then attempt to form an Association is a challenge only to be accepted by the most able and keen player. Such a challenge has been taken up by Geoff Coulthred, formerly of the Wimbledon Y.M.C.A.

Coulthred, now with the British Embassy in Bangkok, has made great strides in an effort to organise the sport in that great city, and hopes it will eventually lead to the formation of a Thailand Association.

**He has written out a constitution based on E.T.T.A. rules, with of course, local necessary adaptations, and has already gained the interest of 33 clubs.**

In all his administrative activities Coulthred has local officials working with him so that they can step into his shoes when he leaves next year.

Coulthred is also taking a major part in the physical side of the game and is busy coaching players at Thamasett University. He does not lack experience in this direction for while in England he took the Jack Carrington coaches course and also had three years as an L.C.C. coach.

He is also a qualified County umpire, and he also hopes to introduce a similar scheme in Bangkok ... **"to teach umpires that there is more to it than counting up to 21," he says.**

Coulthred is to be congratulated on his initiative and we trust he will reap the reward by seeing Thailand as new members of the I.T.T.F.

## 25,000 MATCHES

FIVE years ago Bob Atherton, former Surrey secretary, and his charming wife, Doris, decided there was a need for a club where the county players could meet regularly and thereby improve their game. They had been reading about Czechoslovakia, where all the stars play regularly together.

The more they discussed the matter between themselves, the more enthusiastic they became, and soon they were looking around for a suitable hall. They found one at the Putney Working Men's Club.

They had the premises, and now came the task of forming the club. Jack Carrington aided them in the purchase of equipment, and many leading players promised to join. So the Putney Table Tennis Club was launched.

Soon, players seeking higher competition in practice began to converge on Putney, and from being a local club opening one night a week, it quickly transformed into what might almost be called an International Club, opening four nights a week, plus a regular Sunday tournament for members and friends.

### STAR STUDDED

Members now come from all over London and the Home Counties, and include 22 internationals, fifteen county players and nine junior county players. There are also several overseas members.

Its popularity cannot be disputed. Look at these statistics. Since its inception, Putney has run over 250 Sunday tournaments.

**Each tournament, which lasts six or seven hours, comprises at least 100**



DORIS & BOB ATHERTON

**matches, giving a total of approximately 25,000 matches in five years!**

All praise for this rise is due to the husband and wife partnership of Bob and Doris Atherton. Their foresight and initiative has made Putney universally known as one of the best places to have a good game under ideal conditions.

Despite having to deal with such a cosmopolitan membership, Bob still remembers Surrey. He has offered to look after the Surrey Juniors, taking them to away matches by car with the help of N. R. McLaren, the County chairman. He has also loaned the Putney club for their home matches. Thus, although no longer an active County official, Bob is playing a vital part in fostering the game by providing first-class facilities.

Since Bob and Doris Atherton started the Putney Club in April, 1951, they have paid £2,000 in rent for the hall. What a pity this could not have been used to erect a hall of their own.

### BOOK REVIEW

Table Tennis takes its place among the 19 sports listed in the new Nicholas Kaye publications "Official Rules of Sports and Games 1957/8," price 18s. The rules together with the "Knotty Points" appendix occupy 12 pages and fully cover all that the T.T. fan wants to know.

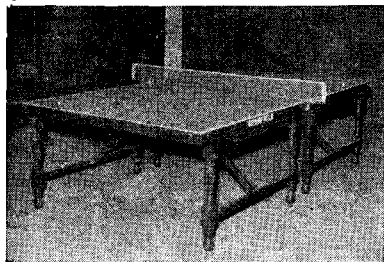
The book is ideal for the sports all-rounder and offers a wonderful comparison of the rules covering the various sports.

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# Area News:

## MIDDLESEX NOTES

THE season ends on a very happy note for Middlesex, proud winners of both the Premier Division and Junior Division County Championship titles. Congratulations to all the players concerned and also to Match Secretary Harry Edwards, and to Non Playing Captain Victor Barna whose guidance and tuition has been such a contributory factor.

The feats of individual players throughout the season are no longer news but as these notes are being written we are pleased to hear that Mary Stafford, Alan Lindsay and Barry Donnelly have won titles in the Daily Mirror Tournament. These victories portend well for the future.

To further the talents of young players and to build teams for the coming seasons it is intended to extend the usual junior coaching scheme and plans are now being formulated. The trials for junior players will be held as usual, followed by the annual coaching programme.

A longer term project is the co-operation with the Youth Organisations of the Middlesex County Council in order to create a wider following for table tennis by the youth of the county. Possibilities are being examined with the authorities concerned and it hoped to formulate plans for next season.

In the inter-League championships North Acton head the Premier Division for the first time ever after an unprecedented struggle in which up to the last games at least four leagues were running neck and neck for the title. The much improved Barnets team, with its balance of experience and youth leads the Second Division and will move up to take the place of Staines who will drop from the Premier Division next season.

In the Junior Division, Willesden and North Middlesex fought for the title in the last match of the season and at the end of an exciting match Landry beat Hodson in the last game of the evening to regain the title which Willesden had lost to North Middlesex the previous season.

Norman Reeves

## YORKSHIRE NOTES

HUDDESFIELD, strong men of Yorkshire table tennis, have not lost an inter-league match for six years. They trounced Bradford 9-1 to make sure of retaining the championship, which has been their exclusive property since 1951-2. And their second team finished third. Sheffield were runners-up.

Other winners: Hull (Div. II and Youth's East), Halifax "B" (III West), Doncaster (III East, Sheffield (Youths' West), Leeds (Women's Div. I) and Huddersfield "B" (Div. II).

Victoria lost the Jaques Shield Leeds League knock-out competition for the first time since 1950-51 when G.P.O.

No. 1 — runners-up to Victoria in the league — slipped home by 6-4.

Two Bradford divisional titles go to Salem War Memorial Institute. The "A" team won Division II and Duncan Clayton was unbeaten in 78 trips to the table. The "B" team headed Division IV.

The Senescalls figured prominently in the York Closed. Jack, who is Yorkshire treasurer, became the first player to win the men's singles for a second time and he also took the men's doubles with Trevor Foster and the mixed with his wife, Betty, who was a beaten women's singles and doubles finalist. B.R.S.A. "A" won York's First Division and the Shepherd Handicap Trophy. Rowntree's "A" topped Division II.

At the Hull Closed Shirley Train and Dave Bartlett won the singles and took the doubles, partnered by Pat Close and Clive Pollard respectively. Betty Kinsley won the girl's event and the mixed with Pete Smith.

Winners at the Leeds Closed: singles — Ken Park and Marjorie Rhodes; doubles — P. Simpson and J. Spencer (men's), M. Lightfoot and S. Riley (women's) and Simpson and P. Ingleson (mixed).

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held on June 22 at Albion Hall, Leeds (6 p.m.). I hear there may be a controversial proposal about venues for next year's county matches.

Malcolm Hartley.

## DERBY NOTES

DERBY players dominated in the recent Derbyshire championships with R. Hallsworth (Y.M.C.A.) and Mrs. B. Webster (Celanese) adding the county singles to their recently won City titles. They also teamed up to win the mixed doubles while Mrs. Webster gained a third title in the women's double with Miss Gilbert.

Junior international Colin Deaton, who did well in reaching the men's singles semi-final, had the consolation of winning the boys' singles, beating last year's champion, R. Dowding, in straight games.

Derby have won both divisions of the County League, the "seconds" going through without defeat.

### FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles: R. Hallsworth bt P. Kenyon 19-21, 21-16, 21-9, 17-21, 23-21.

Women's Singles: Mrs. B. Webster bt J. Walker 6-21, 21-11, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: M. Yallop/Kenyon bt Hallsworth/Hough 22-20, 23-21, 17-21, 13-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: Webster/Gilbert bt Walker/Mattrass 22-20, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: Hallsworth/Mrs. Webster bt Hough/Miss Roffey 21-12, 21-14.

Boys' Singles: C. Deaton bt R. Dowding 21-8, 21-8.

Walter Reeves.

## WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

Congratulations to Weston on gaining promotion to Division One of the Western Counties League for the first time.

They have often previously been near to winning the Second Division but have always been "pipped on the post."

In their all-important match with Bristol, who were only two points behind, Weston narrowly won by 6-4, the final result being in the balance until the last game.

The First Division programme wound up with Birmingham beating Bath 6-4, to take third place behind Bristol and Cardiff in the Division table.

### FINAL DIVISION ONE TABLE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Bristol	4	3	0	1	32	8	7
Cardiff	4	3	1	0	20	20	6
Birmingham	4	2	1	1	23	13	5
Bath	4	1	3	0	15	25	2
Newport	4	0	4	0	10	30	0

Grove Motlow

## DURHAM NEWS FARE

THE Durham Senior League system of awarding three points for a 6-3 or larger win, and two points to the victors and one to the losers in a 5-4 result, has re-acted against Sunderland, last year's champions. They have to be content with third place behind Stockton and Hartlepoons, both of whom they have beaten 5-4 in the past month. Sunderland's only defeat in the season has been to Middlesbrough who took all three points.

Sunderland's consolation: their women's and junior teams have won their divisions with maximum points.

Arnold Warentz.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

Congratulations to Betty Jackson and Roy Morley on their wedding on March 16th. Wedding bells will also be ringing for Brian Merrett who marries the popular County Minute Secretary, Shirley Hotchkins, shortly.

The Bristol presentation of awards will take place at the Association's Dance at Victoria Rooms, Bristol on May 31st.

In Bristol the final stages of the Gilbert Belsten Memorial Cup found Alfred Sports just beating Weston Y.M.C.A., by 5 seats to 4 in this 3-aside competition. They have now won the trophy 5 times, a record only beaten by Wills (Staff.) Club who won 6 consecutive times, 1932 to 1938.

Since these notes last appeared in the February edition all the matches have been completed in the County League, and Gloucester by beating Stroud, Cirencester and Bristol have just pipped Cirencester for the Championships.

### FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Gloucester	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Cirencester	4	3	1	0	20	20	6
Cheltenham	4	1	3	0	18	22	2
Bristol	4	1	3	0	17	23	2
Stroud	4	1	3	0	14	26	2

Ivor Eyles.

## HARRY VENNER

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MITCHAM, SURREY.

## News in brief:

### ESSEX

ESSEX have finished up in the County Championship with the same record as last season, seven points out of 12. Brightest feature has been the unbcaten men's doubles partnership of Stevens and Brumwell, but the ladies have been disappointing in the singles — a solitary win over Cheshire at the beginning of the season.

The juniors have had their best season of all, scoring the same points as Middlesex, the champions, but were forced into third place on games average.

The Bernard Crouch competition has been a success, providing the second team with strong opposition at comparatively little expense.

Frank Bateman.

### HERTFORDSHIRE

The question of an open league in the Stevenage New Town Area was deferred at the last Executive Meeting until it is known how many clubs want a local league and any clubs interested should write to D. H. Williams, 41, Homestead Moat, Stevenage, Herts.

The Annual General Meeting of the County Association will take place at Ken Sewell's Pavilion, Hatfield Road, St. Alban's, Herts., on June 17 at 7.30 p.m.

Dennis H. Williams.

# THE IRISH SCENE

IS table tennis on the decline in Ireland?

This question has been bothering quite a number of people closely associated with the game in this country.

Attendances at practically all our championships during this season, and indeed, last season as well, have fallen far below expectations, with the result that they have, for the most part, been financial failures.

Take for example the unbelievably small numbers that turned up to see Sido and the other Hungarian stars in action a few months ago: the actual number of players present could almost be counted on the fingers of one hand.

This apathy has been reflected in the fact that the Irish Association decided, for financial reasons, not to send a team to the World Championships at Stockholm. They could not afford the expense.

While realising that I am not closely acquainted with the internal workings of the Association, it does seem strange that no effort whatsoever was made to raise the funds necessary to send a team to Sweden and, as a consequence, our prestige has definitely received a severe blow.

All the more credit and admiration, therefore, to our two leading women

players, Joy Owens and Deidre Fearon for travelling to Stockholm at their own expense, and for giving such fine performances. Full marks too, to Joe Veselky who, many years ago captained Czechoslovakia at the World Championships, for paying his own expenses in order to represent the Irish Association in Stockholm.

In the East of Ireland championships, at the Anglesea, Joy Owens and Sean Clarkin between them swept the board in the finals. Clarkin registered his fifth success in these events, and in the women's final Miss Owens beat her old rival Deidre Fearon, and then partnered Soida Howard to a doubles triumph.

Sean Clarkin disposed of Tommy Caffrey in the men's semi-final, and in the final—a really enjoyable game—he beat his team-mate, Don Mahony.

The Caffrey brothers from Belbriggan have been making quite a name for themselves this season. They completely dominated the men's singles and doubles in the Louth Open. Tommy won the men's singles—defeating his brother in the final, and then the two combined to take the doubles event.

Mrs. Margaret Dowd won the women's singles, beating Isolda Howard.

S. Dignam.

# BETWEEN FRIENDS

by DORIS TANNER

I PACKED my "Barna" and a few pills—just in case—in pleasurable anticipation.

I am no chicken, but I do love a game of table tennis. I have seen my nephew, Geoffrey, with whom at one time I played a gentle game of ping-pong, grow up to be a menace who cuts and spins pretty much at will, and leaves me—no, not standing, for I leap about too much for that, but limp—yes, that's the word, limp, and triumphant if I get a set here and there.

This was to be very different. I was off to the Isle of Man for the first time and, the weather being, well, what it is, my thoughts turned to tennis of the table type as a likely form of recreation should sunbathing continue to be right out. My companion was to be Guelder, a new friend who had played very little table tennis—or any other game, come to that—but was willing to have a bash at anything, if you follow me.

Well, when we had been at The

Hydro for a couple of days, we found a fairly good table standing in the hall leading to the steps down to the sea. The light was rather poor, but it was airy, and to me that was quite something. Have you noticed how painfully stuffy most table tennis clubrooms are? A wintry game for the seasonal player, it's true, but with the curtains drawn—phew!

But to return to the Isle of Man. When we found the table, an exciting men's doubles was in progress, and I thought we had had it for that evening anyway, so we lingered over coffee and wrote a P.C. or two, and tried again. They recognised our eloquent but silent interest, and said did we want the table? They would be packing up after that set.

Now I do not like to play games in unsuitable kit—and high-heeled shoes and semi-evening dress are not my idea of the right garb for T.T., so I dashed up to my room and changed into a cotton dress (it's shorts or jeans at home) and returned, my beloved bat in hand.

Guelder looked surprised. "Oh!" she said. "Have you changed?"—stating the obvious, I grant you—and adding, "Fancy bringing your own bat!"

"But I always take it with me on holiday," I explained, weakly, and almost in self-defence.

"You do? Well, I hope I can give you a game. I've only played so little. Will you help me with the scoring?"

"Certainly," I said. "Let's have a knock-up first."

We had the odd surprisingly brisk rally, but there were many shots not found in any text-book—on both sides, let me add!

"Shall we play?" I asked. Guelder was dead keen to get on with it—and promptly took two straight sets off me.

"Beginner's luck!" she said, to save my face—and how that can sting!

\* \* \*

We've played several times since, but only the other day she asked, "Do you remember when you changed, and all that? I thought it was funny!"

But, do you know, I don't think I did!

# NORTH EAST ENGLAND "OPEN"

**H**UNGARIAN refugee Josef Somogyi stole the thunder in the North East England "Open" at Scarborough over Easter carrying off the men's singles from an unseeded position. To those who have seen Somogyi this season that is not surprising for since he fled his own country he has built up a steady string of tournament successes over here.

After a narrow escape against Alan Rhodes in the quarter final (Rhodes led 20-17 in the third, but failed to win another point) Somogyi won a thrilling semi-final against Derek Burridge 21-7, 13-21, 21-19 then polished off Bryan Merrett in straight games in the final which proved something of an anti-climax. The result was never in doubt despite the 21-18, 21-18 score.

Merrett had beaten a somewhat lethargic Brian Kennedy in the other semi-final, his defence proving much too good for the Yorkshireman.

Early shocks included the second round eclipse of seeded Ron Allcock by Yorkshire second team player Ken Park, and the fourth round defeat of Australian Lou Laza by the much improved D. Schofield of Stockport.

The women's singles produced some excellent play and Kathie Best showing fine form regained the title she previously won in 1951. She beat Peggy Piper in the final 21-19, 21-18.

Kathie went on to complete a treble winning the women's doubles with Pam Mortimer and the mixed with Kennedy.

A new combination of Rhodes and Micky Thornhill proved much too good for all opposition in winning the men's doubles where they beat Bryan Merrett and Maurice Simpson in the final 21-16, 21-18.

Peter Cole and Betty Kinsley were respective winners of the boys and girls singles, with Ian Harrison taking the Youths' title.

**Mens' Singles: Semi-finals:** B. MERRETT bt B. Kennedy 17-21, 21-19, 21-17; J. SOMOGYI bt D. C. Burridge 21-17, 13-21, 21-19.

**Final: SOMOGYI** bt Merrett 21-18, 21-18.

**Women's Singles: Final: C. K. BEST** bt M. Piper 21-19, 21-18.

**Mens' Doubles: Final: A. RHODES/M. H. THORNHILL** bt M. H. Simpson/B. Merrett 21-16, 21-18.

**Women's Doubles: Final: BEST/P. MORTIMER** bt Y. Baker/M. Piper 21-23, 21-16, 21-18.

**Mixed Doubles: Final: KENNEDY/Miss BEST** bt K. R. Craigie/Miss Mortimer 21-13, 21-18.

**Boys' Singles: Final: P. J. COLE** bt C. T. Deaton 21-15, 21-12.

**Girls' Singles: Final: B. KINSLEY** bt D. Wright 21-7, 21-17.

**Youths' Singles: Final: I. HARRISON** bt E. Hodson 21-10, 15-21, 21-12.

**Veteran Singles: Final: E. A. BROWN** bt G. F. Atkinson 21-17, 21-16.

## ESSEX "OPEN"

**T**HE entry in the Senior events in this, the first Essex Open for 20 years was rather disappointing—mainly due to clashing with other events (*writes Frank Bateman*).

Josef Somogyi—more efficient than spectacular—was far too good for Alan Rhodes in the semi-final of the men's singles and had a comfortable win in the final over Michael Thornhill, who had beaten Brian Brumwell in the other semi-final.

Yvonne Baker was given a fright by Jean Harrower in the ladies singles before losing to Helen Elliot in the final. Joyce Williamson (New Zealand) created a good impression in her first open in this country with wins over Elsie Carrington and Jean Head, but was no match for Helen Elliot in the final.

After wins over Landry and Somogyi it seemed that Ivor Jones and Bobby Stevens would record an Essex victory in the men's doubles, but they were beaten by Ron Crayden and Jackie Head in the final.

It was left to Jean Page, partnered by Jackie Head, to score the lone Essex success in the mixed doubles.

The ladies doubles went much as expected. Sheila Pickard and Shelagh Hession confirmed that they are the best of the younger pairs with a good win over Jean Page and Lynn Whithams, before falling to Yvonne Baker and Elsie Carrington in the semi-final. However, Helen Elliot and Jean Head had little difficulty in winning the event.

Nearly 60 boys, including all this season's junior internationals except Colin Deaton, entered the junior singles. Even those who have grown accustomed to shock results by Essex boys were mildly surprised by Bob Sheldrake's wins over Derek Grant and Peter Cole. In the other half it seemed as though David Wiggins was going to have a repeat win over Tony Piddock—but the Kent boy's experience told in the end. The final was disappointing, Sheldrake failing to reproduce his earlier form.

Barbara Persley again beat Shelagh Hession in a sixteen strong junior girls entry, but Jean Harrower was a very easy winner of the final.

**Mens' Singles: Semi-finals:** J. SOMOGYI bt A. Rhodes 21-16, 21-11; M. THORNHILL bt B. Brumwell 25-23, 21-16.

**Final: SOMOGYI** bt Thornhill 25-23, 21-10.

**Women's Singles: Final: H. ELLIOT** bt J. Williamson 21-10, 21-13.

**Mens' Doubles: Final: R. CRAYDEN/J. HEAD** bt I. Jones/R. Stevens 18-21, 21-19, 21-14.

**Women's Doubles: Final: ELLIOT/J. HEAD** bt Y. Bader/E. Carrington 21-10, 21-9.

**Mixed Doubles: Final: J. HEAD/Miss J. PAGE** bt A. Rhodes/Mrs. Mead 17-21, 21-18, 21-10.

**Boys' Singles: Final: A. PIDDOCK** bt R. Sheldrake 21-17, 21-12.

**Girls' Singles: Final: J. HARROWER** bt Miss B. Persley 21-13, 21-14.

## CHESHIRE JUNIOR "OPEN"

**W**ALES were well among the titles in the Cheshire Junior Open at Birkenhead in March with Clive Arkell winning the boys singles, and David Parry sharing the mixed doubles with Lorna Bown, of Manchester, who had previously won the girls' title.

Arkell was consistent throughout and his workmanlike approach paid dividends against Colin Deaton, the English junior international, in the semi-final and against J. Thomas, of West Ealing, in the final. Thomas had pulled off the main surprise of the tournament when he beat David Parry, of Wales, in the second round.

Lorna Bown used her backhand and half volley to good purpose in the girls final against Mary Hicks, of West Ealing.

H. Jacobson, of Manchester, and Miss D. Wright of

Stockport were respective winners of the boys and girls under 15's title.

### RESULTS

**Boys Singles: Semi-finals:** C. ARKELL (Wales bt C. Deaton (Chesterfield) 21-16, 13-21, 21-14; J. THOMAS (W. Ealing) bt D. Butterworth (Liverpool) 19-21, 21-18, 21-18.

**Final:** ARKELL bt Thomas 19-21, 21-18, 21-10.

**Girls Singles: Final:** L. BOWN (Manchester) bt M. Hicks (W. Ealing) 21-19, 21-16.

**Boys' Doubles Final:** C. DEATON/G. LYNCH bt G. Livesey/J. Keogh 21-14, 21-17.

**Girls' Doubles: Final:** J. BUTCHER/M. HICKS bt B. Wall/C. Charman 21-15, 21-19.

**Mixed Doubles: Final:** D. PARRY/Miss L. BOWN bt T. Thomas/Miss Butcher 21-13, 21-15.

**Boys' Singles (Under 15): Final:** H. JACOBSON (Manchester) bt G. Livesey (Burnley) 21-12, 21-19.

**Girls' Singles (under 15): Final:** D. WRIGHT (Stockport) bt L. Gordon (Manchester) 21-15, 21-18.

*This is the last*

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## MIDLAND CLOSED

CHIEF honours in the Midland "Closed" at Wolverhampton on March 31st went to Bob Griffin who carried off the triple crown. Last year's holder of the three titles, Ann Haydon had to be content with the Ladies' Singles and doubles.

The majority of the games ran true to form, but the men's singles provided a real shock with the quarter-final defeat of Ian Harrison by C. Jaques (Leicester) 22-20, 22-20.

For the third year in succession the Men's title went to Bob Griffin who was in top class form.

Ann Haydon had no difficulty in retaining her singles title and the doubles with Pam Mortimer. Upset of the Men's doubles was the semi-final defeat of Midland Open champions Hawkins and Lush by Spiers and Hill.

**Men's Singles:** R. GRIFFIN (Cheltenham) bt C. Jaques (Leicester) 21-12, 21-17. **Women's Singles:** A. HAYDON (Birmingham) bt Mrs. D. Griffiths (B'ham) 21-9, 21-12.

**Men's Doubles:** GRIFFIN/P. CRUYWS (Cheltenham) bt H. Spiers/B. Hill (B'ham) 21-13, 21-13. **Women's Doubles:** A. HAYDON/P. MORTIMER (B'ham) bt M. Cumberbatch/J. Mackay (B'ham) 21-13, 21-18. **Mixed Doubles:** GRIFFIN/Miss S. DAVIS (Cheltenham) bt A. Hatfield/A. Haydon (B'ham) 21-14, 21-14.

**Veterans' Singles:** H. SPIERS (B'ham) bt F. Harris (W'nton) 21-9, 21-14. **Intermediate Singles:** A. GRIFFIN (Cheltenham) bt E. McLeish (Leicester) 21-19, 21-17. **Junior Singles:** C. DEATON (Chesterfield) bt C. Swallow (W. Brom.) 21-12, 21-19. **Junior Doubles:** COPE/DOWDING (Derby) bt Carter/Swallow (W. Brom.) 21-12, 21-16.

### DORSET

**Men's Singles:** R. BASSETT bt W. Bryer 21-18, 16-21, 21-16.

**Women's Singles:** E. DAVIS bt L. Coleman 21-13, 21-18.

**Men's Doubles:** T. McQUADE/R. CRIBB bt Pryer/J. Dale 21-15, 22-20.

**Women's Doubles:** DAVIS/W. NORTH-COTT bt V. Moody/Coleman 21-11, 21-15.

**Mixed Doubles:** McQUADE/DAVIS bt Cribb/E. Matthews 21-9, 21-17.

## CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

### HARTLEPOOLS

**Men's Singles:** K. HOLLAND bt R. Dollin 21-15, 21-10. **Women's Singles:** L. SVENSSON bt M. Henderson 27-25, 21-17.

**Men's Doubles:** HOLLAND/J. KENNEDY bt W. Howey/R. Snowdon 21-14, 20-22, 21-14. **Women's Doubles:** J. METCALFE/SVENSSON bt Henderson/M. Hatfield 21-17, 18-21, 21-15.

**Boys' Singles:** J. DOUGLAS bt A. Hatfield 21-16, 17-21, 24-22. **Girls' Singles:** C. DOLLIN bt W. Yeoman 15-21, 21-14, 21-10.

### SOUTHEND

**Men's Singles:** W. McCave bt T. Dickenson 21-6, 21-11. **Women's Singles:** W. Dakin bt M. Porter 17-21, 21-7, 21-10. **Men's Doubles:** McCave/W. Phipps bt D. Lewis/A. Lighton 21-18, 13-21, 21-18. **Women's Doubles:** I. Sandford/Porter bt Dakin/J. Wood 12-21, 21-12, 21-17. **Mixed Doubles:** McCave/Dakin bt H. Molloy/B. Jones 21-11, 21-17.

**Junior Singles:** D. Wiggins bt H. Molloy 19-21, 22-20, 21-15.

**Veterans' Singles:** T. Normington bt W. Phipps 21-10, 21-14.

### HERTFORDSHIRE

**Men's Singles, Semi-finals:** M. Williams (St. Albans) bt A. Rogers (Stevenage) 21-18, 21-9. **J. A. Hunt** (Bishop's Stortford) bt G. Bebb (Welwyn Garden City) 21-19, 15-21, 21-16.

**Final:** J. A. Hunt bt M. Williams 21-17, 21-19.

**Ladies' Singles:** Mrs. Dosty Magor (Watford) bt Mrs. Jesse Hayward (Watford) 21-7, 22-20.

**Men's Doubles:** G. Bebb/J. Edwards (Watford) bt R. Wilson/J. Bryant (Welwyn Garden City) 21-10, 21-19.

**Ladies' Doubles:** Mrs. J. Hayward/E. Green (Watford) bt Mrs. J. Mackean/B. David (Watford) 22-20, 20-22, 21-13.

**Mixed Doubles:** Hunt/Janet White (Watford) bt M. Passant/Mrs. J. Hayward (Watford) 22-20, 21-9.

### BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT LEAGUE

**Men's Singles:** G. Collins bt A. Wickens 21-16, 18-21, 21-17, 21-18. **Women's Singles:** M. Peasley bt M. Cully 21-13, 21-6.

**Men's Doubles:** Collins/B. Pullin bt Wickens/G. Herring 21-17, 18-21, 21-10.

### SCARBOROUGH DISTRICT

**Men's Singles:** N. Moss bt J. Moorhouse 23-21, 21-16. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. P. Maynard bt Mrs. P. Cowton 21-16, 21-18.

**Men's Doubles:** Moorhouse/L. W. Poole bt R. Dargue/K. King 21-10, 21-15. **Women's Doubles:** Mrs. Cowton/Mrs. J. Smithson bt Mrs. Maynard/Mrs. N. Burden 21-19, 21-19. **Mixed Doubles:** G. S. Smith/Mrs. Smithson bt E. Lester/Mrs. Maynard 9-21, 21-15, 21-17.

**Junior Singles:** J. Moodhouse bt C. Graer 21-13, 21-15. **Veterans' Singles:** E. Moorhouse bt P. Williamson 19-21, 26-24, 21-19.

### INGLEWOOD LEAGUE

**Men's Singles:** R. Shepherd bt P. Jones 21-11, 19-21, 22-20. **Women's Singles:** M. Thomas bt Mrs. M. Thirsk 21-8, 21-16.

**Men's Doubles:** B. Bell/E. Fryer bt G. Drinkwater/P. Thomkinson 21-14, 21-16. **Mixed Doubles:** J. Mason/E. Tanner bt D. Shaw/Thomas 21-14, 13-21, 21-18.

**Junior Singles:** G. Gough bt G. Newman 22-20, 17-21, 21-19.

**Veterans' Singles:** G. Overend bt H. Desborough 21-16, 13-21, 21-11.

### SWINDON AND DISTRICT

**Men's Singles:** F. GARRETT bt G. Townsend 21-9, 21-10, 22-20. **Women's Singles:** N. RIDGE bt N. Payton 21-15, 15-21, 21-19.

**Men's Doubles:** A. MORRIS/D. GODSELL bt A. Baker/Townsend 21-15, 21-7. **Women's Doubles:** RIDGE/D. LEAHY bt J. Coleby/M. Holmes 19-21, 21-15, 21-13. **Mixed Doubles:** MORRIS/Mrs. RIDGE bt Garrett/Mrs. M. Beale 22-20, 21-19.

**Junior Singles:** P. RACEY bt T. Davies 21-16, 21-13.

### EAST LONDON

**Men's Singles:** R. Stevens bt I. Jones 9-21, 21-8, 21-18. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. E. Carrington bt S. Pickard 21-12, 23-21. **Men's Doubles:** F. Brumwell/R. Dorking bt L. Sawyer/P. Pudney 21-15, 20-22, 21-18. **Women's Doubles:** Carrington/B. Milbank bt Pickard/I. Webster 21-17, 19-21, 21-14. **Mixed Doubles:** R. Raybould/Mrs. I. Sawyer bt P. Kattenhorn/Mrs. Carrington 17-21, 23-21, 13-21.