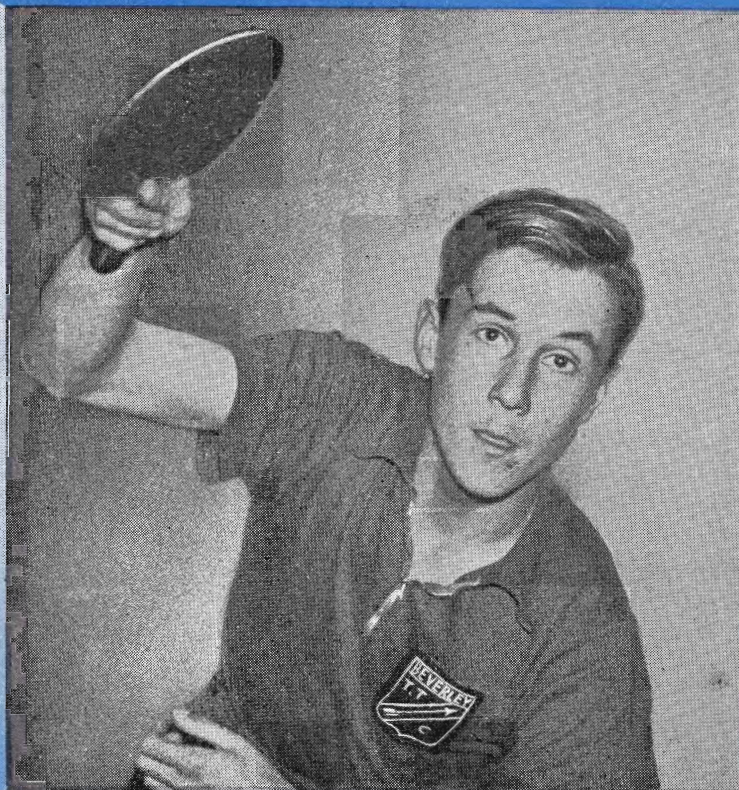


TABLETENNIS



TONY PIDDOCK, of Folkestone one of the new Junior Internationals (see page 14)

THE CUPBOARD IS BARE

says Victor Barna

★

"WE'RE WATCHING THEM"

says Jack Carrington

★

THE NEW JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS

★

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS REVIEW

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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

Vol. 15

November, 1956

No. 2

PLAYERS LAST TO HEAR

ALL sportsmen chosen to represent their country like to receive the first news direct from the governing body. In table tennis, following a change of policy in the release of teams, they are likely to be the last to hear and even then get the news second or third hand.

Take the case of the two recent junior teams. At least two members received the first news at school the following morning from friends who had heard the announcement on the B.B.C.

Just imagine how puzzled they were when 24 hours later they received the official notification with a request, "*Please be good enough to treat this as confidential as possible, until the official announcement is made in the Press at a later date.*"

DISCOURTEOUS

It is not good enough, and I am not surprised that one parent has written :

"My child was pleasantly surprised to learn of international selection, but the first news was from a school friend. We had not heard the B.B.C. announcement and the team did not appear in our paper. Surely it is only common courtesy for the player to be told first."

Until this season it had always been the practice to inform the player first and delay the Press announcement until later. Now the team is released first through the news agencies in the evening, with players notification due to go in the post the same night.

Reason for the change I understand is there had been leakages. If this had been the case surely it must come from inside the selection committee?

Incidentally, the Press are not happy about the method of giving news to the agencies only. Specialist writers are being ignored, and they are the people who give the game most publicity.

Take the case of evening papers. They have

gone by the time the announcement comes over the "tape" and have to rely on picking it up through a morning paper, by which time the news is "dead."

If the specialist could be given prior notice of the teams with an embargo, which would be faithfully respected, they could prepare their comments and thus give the news better space. This used to be the practice, and it gave evening paper writers the chance to run something in their first editions the following morning.

Press matters need better handling with the timing of releases. Here I quote the release of the teams for the Scotland and Ireland matches. They came out the same day as the Champion County v Rest match, which suffered in consequence.

I would suggest the appointment of a Press Officer as a solution to the problem.

LACK OF DIGNITY

And now back to the official announcement to the players. It comes on an ordinary duplicated sheet of paper headed National Selection Committee, and containing a typewritten signature. The only mention of the national body is E.T.T.A. midway through the copy.

Surely official noteheading should be used for such an important matter. It makes the E.T.T.A. look like some street corner club.

The Leaches, Kennedys, Rows and Haydons may not be bothered about what form the notification takes, but a player receiving a first badge wants to be proud of the letter.

As it is, anyone unscrupulous enough could quite easily type out one of these notifications and no one could tell the difference.

The N.E.C. would do well to look into these matters.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official Notes:

AS reported last month the National Executive Council met on September 29, 1956, in the Council Chamber of the Royal Empire Society. Two further matters of interest discussed were:—

Sponge Bat Enquiry.

A report was received from the sub-committee who had been appointed to consider and collate the replies to the questionnaire sent out from the E.T.T.A. office. Members from all over the country had replied regarding the effects of the introduction of the sponge racket and the final view of the sub-committee was that there was not sufficient evidence at the present time to enable them to propose any alteration to the rule which states:—

"The racket may be any material, size, shape or weight provided it is not white, light coloured or reflecting."

The sub-committee of Messrs. W. Goldfinch, J. Senescall and E. G. White are, however, to remain in session to consider any further evidence which might arise.

New Sub-Committee.

A sub-committee consisting of I. Montagu, D. P. Lowen and C. Jaschke was formed to consider ways and means of effecting a stimulant to the game in various areas of the country. Suggestions put forward were:—

- (a) *That proposed tours of foreign players be arranged so that members in all parts of the country have the opportunity of seeing them.*
- (b) *That an International Club be formed.*
- (c) *That meetings be arranged between the Officers of the E.T.T.A. and League officials for discussion purposes.*

This sub-committee will be reporting their findings to the next National Executive Committee meeting.

ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN.

As members are already aware the English Junior Open Championships will be staged in conjunction with the Kent Junior League Open at Herne Bay on November 10 and 11, 1956. Full details regarding tickets can be obtained from Mr. F. G. Mannooch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent. **Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl Competitions.**

There were 92 entries for the Wilmott Cup Competition and 72 for the J. M. Rose Bowl. The draw took place at the E.T.T.A. Office on October 2, 1956, in the presence of Mrs. K. Pegg, Messrs. R. St. Good, G. James, D. P. Lowen, F. G. Mannooch and C. Corti Woodcock. Zone 8 of

both Competitions is being played on a Zone basis, the arrangements being made by Mr. I. C. Eyles, the Gloucestershire County Secretary. Full details of the Draw are now with those taking part.

Open Tournaments.

The N.E.C. is again giving attention and consideration to the organisation and playing conditions at Tournaments. N.E.C. members are being asked to attend all tournaments in their areas this season and make written reports on playing conditions, organisation, facilities, etc., for the consideration of the Committee.

Publications.

The following publications can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. office for

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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

**Chairman: Hon. Ivor Montagu.
Honorary Treasurer: A. K. Vint.**

**Hon. Secretary: D. P. Lowen.
Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Kathleen Pegg.**

**Office of the Association: 214,
Grand Buildings, Trafalgar
Square, London, W.C.2. (Tele-
phone: TRAfalgar 2165).**

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5. *Modern Table Tennis—J. Carrington 7/6d. each.*
6. *Table Tennis for All—J. Leach 9/6d. each.*
7. *Table Tennis—L. S. Woollard 3/- each.*
8. *Table Tennis Quiz—A. Brook 1/6d. each.*
9. *Laws of the Game. In Booklet Form 4½d. each.*
10. *Table Tennis My Way—J. Leach 2/6d. each.*
11. *The Twins on Table Tennis—D. and R. Rowe 8/6d. each.*

Badges.

Have you bought your official pin badge? We have these at the reasonable price of 2/3d. each or 24/- per dozen. The badge is very neatly made with the letters E.T.T.A. on a blue background. Perhaps you would

bring this to the notice of your Club Members.

Club Competitions.

Already plenty of enthusiasm is being shown for the Club Competitions which are being run in aid of the "Travelling Expenses Fund" for Future World Championships. Fifty competitions have already been promised and it is hoped that many more of our members will arrange these Competitions. **Has your Club arranged one yet?** If not, then full details can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. Office, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

The Competitions can take any form you wish, singles, doubles or handicaps. The National Association are issuing specially designed plaques, incorporating the English Badge, to winners. The entry fees are simple and do not vary with the number of competitions. All we ask is 24/- for each singles and 32/- for each doubles competitions held. The scheme, as well as helping the Fund, gives players in your Club experience of Tournament conditions.

Teams Selections.

v. France (Juniors) at Eastbourne. November 9, 1956.

P. Cole (Suffolk), A. Piddock (Kent), Miss J. Harrower (Mddx.), Miss S. Hession (Essex). Non-playing Capt. T. E. Sears (Mddx.).

v. Germany (Juniors) at Herne Bay. November 12, 1956.

P. Cole (Suffolk), C. Deaton (Derbyshire), D. Grant (Hants.), Miss L. Bown (Cheshire), Miss J. Harrower (Mddx.), Miss S. Hession (Essex). Non-playing Capt. J. Carrington (Essex).

v. Scotland (Mixed Seniors) at Barnhurst. November 29, 1956.

I. Harrison (Gloucester), J. A. Leach (Essex), M. H. Thornhill (Mddx.), Miss J. Fielder (Kent), Miss D. Rowe (Mddx.). Non-playing Capt. T. E. Sears (Mddx.).

v. Ireland (Mixed Seniors) at Hanley. November 30, 1956.

R. Griffin (Glos.), R. Hinchliff (Yorks.), B. Kennedy (Yorks.), Miss A. Haydon (Warwicks.), Miss J. Rook (Surrey). Non-playing Capt. A. A. Haydon (Warwicks.).

TABLE TENNIS

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

Tournament Technique

THE table tennis season is here once again with the usual attractive array of tournaments before us, and it is about tournament play that I wish to give some advice. My only qualification for such audacity is that I play in many tournaments, regularly make an early exit, and so have an abundance of time to watch the styles and techniques of the stars.

Here then, are some observations gleaned from the hard field of experience which may prove helpful to any ambitious tournament tyro.

It is wrong to assume that because you are correctly attired and are reasonably proficient in stroke play, you are fully equipped for the occasion. You need something more, as the newcomer will find as he or she makes a hurried first-round withdrawal, bewildered and bemused by the shock of defeat at the hands of an opponent so obviously inferior in the finer arts of the game.

What then has beaten them if not good play? Tournament technique is the answer. "How may I acquire a winning technique?" you ask. My reply—"By experience and by reading on."

Confidence assumed or otherwise seems to be the keynote of success. How, if one is not naturally endowed with this very useful commodity can one acquire it? The use of "gimmicks" is one way.

Here are a few of these "trade" accessories currently used by the stars, in an effort to create that aura of supreme confidence.

A track-suit with one's name or address emblazoned on the back is a good idea. Water bottles—the larger the better—Continental-style head bands, these are naturally large, hair nets, croupier style eye-shields, a varied selection of bats à la lawn tennis, gaily coloured towels with initials, and an occasional eccentricity such as a dressing gown, all serve to create that confident professional air so necessary to win.

A word here on how to use a water bottle to the best advantage.

When knocking up sprinkle your end liberally with water and then, on commencing the game, choose "ends" and invite your opponent to play on the saturated surface.

If perchance your strokes are not up to standard a sponge bat is a useful substitute. This combined with a battery of diabolical services and a comic opera grip can prove most effective.

All the aforementioned accoutrements should be geared to a high-powered publicity campaign. Strive to make a name for yourself. Cultivate the acquaintance of the top tournament types for prestige value. Advertise yourself by engraving your name on your bat handle. This is effective, for when the uninitiated inquire of you "What make is your bat?" you quote your own name and show them the evidence. Do this a hundred times and you are on the way to becoming known. This is important, for if you become known you will add five points to your game.

To this end may I introduce myself. I am **Charles E. Davies**, principally of Putney Table Tennis Club, London and badly in need of those five extra points.



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LOOK FOR THE TABLE TENNIS BAT MOTIF

DON'T MOAN — FIGHT

by Elsie Carrington

THE season seems to be on us so quickly this year that it is hard to realise that at the time of writing, two County matches have been played already! The summer (such as it was) has flashed by, and here we are in the thick of it again.

At this time of the year, there is always a lot of argument among the players about various trials. It is obvious, human nature being what it is, that somebody is going to be disgruntled with the ranking list, be it League, County or National.

Heated arguments ensue as to why X should be ranked higher than B, when B beat X in trials. "Ah, but then B had a bad patch at the end of last season," says one. "Yes, but this is the new season, and it's the present form that counts," says another.

Meanwhile B, covered with gloom, sits muttering in the corner, about giving up the game and asking, "What's the use of trials if the results are not going to be taken into account?"

The answer to that, of course, is "What's the use of a player who can't take a set-back like this and come back fighting?"

GOOD ADVICE

So to those who feel hard done by I would say this: If you consider that you have been ranked unfairly low, let it act as an incentive. Pull yourself together, fight back and show all and sundry by good tournament and match results that you are worth a higher ranking on the next list.

* * *

Congratulations to Barbara Milbank and Betty Isaacs, who in a recent representative match against a young German team shared third place. In a week-end match of six-a-side, all play all, they each won four and lost two.

After the match, the English teams were given presents and as usual were embarrassed by having no gifts to give in return. However, Flo Wright of Yorkshire saved the situation by making them a "present" of a song. It may not be generally known that Flo has a beautiful trained voice and

on this occasion she sang "Ave Maria" to a delighted German (and English!) audience.

* * *

Another English International to join the ranks of mother-to-be is Pam



PAM MORTIMER and BETTY ISAACS

Mortimer. With Ros Rowe and Peggy Franks not playing at the moment, this makes three internationals out-of-the-running, so to speak. Who will be the next batch to replace them? There are so many good girls now on the "second" level, that it is difficult to surmise who will rise above the rest and produce the next crop of internationals.

It is quite a common sight at our "Nursery" T.T. School to see the youngsters slogging through their homework while waiting for their turn on the table. Indeed, Jack is often called upon to help translate Latin, or solve geometrical problems for them.

TRAINING LINES

One night, young Anthea Sutton was writing so furiously and for so long in the corner, that everybody was most intrigued. The subject? Three hundred lines to the effect that "I must not swing on the bars in the Creakroom." In vain did she explain to the mistress who caught her that it was all part of her table tennis training!

* * *

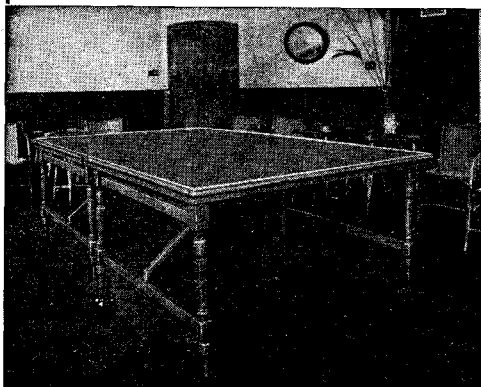
There is good news of Pauline Banister, the Derbyshire player, who has been in a sanatorium since May. The report on her first three months' treatment was most satisfactory and provided she continues to make good progress, has every hope of being home for Christmas.

* * *

Thought for the Month

Did you remember to thank the Umpire? Don't forget that without him (or her) the match could not have been played.

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Area Champions Fall

by Kenneth Wheeler

THE National Table Tennis Tournament sponsored by *Eagle* and *Girl* magazines, is nearly at the halfway stage, and area champions are finding it hard work to retain their titles. This is partly due to the bigger entry, and also to the much higher standard of play.

Christopher Gosling, David Stanley and Lynda Gordon still live to take another tilt at the National titles they narrowly missed last time, but they should be warned that the eight newcomers, already through to the finals to challenge them, have little respect for reputations.

The biggest upsets were at Birmingham, where all four titles changed hands. Both Senior finals were "repeats" of last year, and in both cases the result was reversed.

The greatly improved Ann Charman had little difficulty in avenging her previous defeat at the hands of Madeleine Strasser.

Turning Point

The Boys' Senior final, however, was much closer. After the first game left-handed Chris Hall looked "home and dry," but towards the end of the second game, Bill Cox, getting better control of his new sponge bat, produced a series of backhand services and penetrating drives to break the rhythm of Hall's attack. This proved the turning point.

The red-headed Cox is a pupil at Birmingham Central Grammar, where his schoolmaster, Mr. Hamilton, makes him practise table tennis four hours every evening! Although still uncertain of himself, Cox has attained a higher degree of control with a sponge bat than competitors in other areas, many of whom, looking for a quick and easy path to success, have made the change from hard to soft rubber before mastering the fundamental strokes.

Generally speaking, it is the boys and girls, still concentrating on the achievement of ball control with hard

rubber bats, who are coming out on top.

Competition was particularly fierce in the boys' London tournaments, but the winners thoroughly deserved their success.

In the North London, 14-year-old David White, from Dunstable, a fine all-round stroke player who is able to switch rapidly from defence to attack, gave a most impressive display. After beating his namesake (21-4, 21-5) in the second round, he disposed of Gardner (21-2, 21-6), Millman (21-2, 21-3), Jounings (21-13, 21-8), Leatherman 21-5, 21-10), Bates (21-14, 21-10), Sweeting (21-8, 21-15) and, in the final, 14-year-old Eric Golding, of Kilburn Grammar School (22-20, 21-13).

Nigel Ive, playing on the eve of his 13th birthday, was equally outstanding in the Junior section. Perhaps his hardest game was in the 2nd round against Peter King (21-18, 21-11). Then he went on to beat Goldstein (21-5, 21-5), Schwab (21-7 21-0), Bagel (21-10, 21-2), Robinson (21-7, 21-6), Costello (21-11, 21-9), and finally John Rawson, the 13-year-old runner-up from Southgate County School who, though he put up a very courageous fight, could not break down Ive's steady, all-round ability.

A Tollington Grammar schoolboy, living at Muswell Hill, Nigel lost in the fifth round of this tournament last year. Subsequently he won a *News of the World* award as runner-up to the "Most Promising Junior of the Year."

Tougher Fight

Christopher Gosling came through as expected in the South London Area but had a tougher fight than last time. In the final he met Brian Hamill, of West

Ealing Club, a boy who has fought back from a disease that affected both his legs and kept him in hospital for two years before his tenth birthday.

The Portsmouth N.A.B.C. winner, Brian Stevens, younger brother of George Stevens, Pompey's No. 1, entered this tournament at the quarter final stage where he found himself a little beyond his class. However, Johnny Leach considers that Brian has potentiality.

Roger Storer, just 13, of East Ham, surprised everyone in the Junior event with his unorthodox "Adrian Haydon grip" and left-handed hard hitting style. He appears to be completely "nerveless," and the immaculate title-holder, Clive Bloy, could find no way of getting through with his own orthodox game in the final.

At Manchester, the boy champions, Alan Holden and David Stanley, had a few narrow squeaks in early rounds, but ultimately won through with flying colours. Senior finalist Ronald Batty, who travelled all the way from Whitehaven, Cumberland, to compete, rocketed through his rounds and then went out like a damp squib against the solid wall of Holden's defence.

Restrained

David Stanley, now 11, was very restrained this time, and we saw little of the carefree hitting that earned him fame last year. Undoubtedly his game has improved technically, but

ALAN HOLDEN
Manchester Senior winner being chaired by other enthusiasts



HARRY VENNER

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excess of caution was nearly his undoing in the very first round when Kenneth Burdett took him to 19 in the third.

Lynda Gordon won the Girls' Junior title for the third year in succession, and was never seriously challenged.

Armed with a penetrating attack on either wing, Jean Shallcross, of



CHRIS GOSLING

Stockport, the Senior Girls' winner, is clearly a newcomer of considerable ability who will take some beating in the National Finals.

AREA RESULTS

Portsmouth (Sept. 26) (N.A.B.C. Qualifying round for South London Area):

Boys Senior. **BRIAN STEVENS** bt R. Blitz: 21-10, 21-12.

Birmingham (Sept. 29):

Boys Senior. **WILLIAM COX** bt Christopher Hall (holder): 18-21, 21-17, 21-13.

Boys Junior. **DEREK ALLEN** bt David Thomas 21-10, 21-12.

Girls Senior. **ANN CHARMAN** bt Madeleine Strasser (holder): 21-10, 21-15.

Girls Junior. **JANET ROBERTS** bt Fiona McArthur 20-22, 24-22, 21-15.

North London (Oct. 6):

Boys Senior. **DAVID WHITE** bt Eric Golding 22-20, 21-13.

Boys Junior. **NIGEL IVE** bt John Rawson 21-16, 21-15.

South London (Oct. 13):

Boys Senior. **CHRISTOPHER GOSLING** (National runner-up) bt Brian Hamill 21-12, 21-12.

Boys Junior. **ROGER STORER** bt Clive Bloy (holder) 21-14, 18-21, 21-15.

Manchester (Oct. 20):

Boys Senior. **ALAN HOLDEN** (holder) bt Ronald Batty 21-13, 21-12.

Boys Junior. **DAVID STANLEY** (holder) bt John Koenigsberger 21-10, 21-9.

Girls Senior. **JEAN SHALLCROSS** bt Jean Rawstron 24-22, 21-17.

Girls Junior. **LYNDA GORDON** (holder) bt Sandra Pilton 21-7, 21-5.

Letters to the Editor

RETURN DIVIDING LINE

I HAVE never been a lover of doubles but in company with many other players have tolerated it in order to play in the otherwise very well organised Willesden League.

But the latest idiotic lark of allowing the service to be played anywhere on the table in doubles just about wrecks this department of the game. It completely places the not so young and nimble at an initial disadvantage.

At my age, 51, I am a moderate player, not a ballet dancer flying through the air.

Oh, for a nice long, lovely piece of string and a stick of white chalk to make that line down the centre of the table. Even so, I still only regard that as the lesser of two evils. Clearly the majority of players prefer all singles League matches.

Put it to the vote.

W. HUDSON,
(Kensal Rise, London).

POINT LIMIT

Regarding complaints on late matches, may I suggest a good approach would be to limit the points in a game, say the best of three after deuce (example badminton), or even reducing the number of points from 21 to 18. This would give the player a chance to settle into his game and the edges, net cords, bad decisions etc. to even up.

As regards the "spill over" at finals and exhibitions, surely a second table could be brought into play, to be put into use as required.

In lawn tennis I have often had to play my match on the courts of an adjacent club, the players being taken by cars provided. Would this be possible in some cases.

WALTER B. CROUCH
(Egham).

SPONGE AGAIN

WITH reference to Sponge—A Double Hit and Silence, in your October issue of the Table Tennis, may I, as a player and user of all types of racket since 1925 place forward a humble opinion.

The Sponge if used properly is only just another type of surface, and I do not understand why so much controversy has arisen.

Provided the racket is non-reflecting it can be made from any material.

Now Eric Levett talks of a double hit. May I ask what he does when he plays with a hard surface, does he hit or stroke his ball? If he hits only he does not win many matches. Should he stroke the ball to get top, chop or side spin he does not make a straight hit, but a fast series of small hits as the bat follows the ball.

This is done by a fast stroke with a hard bat and a slower stroke by a softer bat. The sponge being softer and used slower shows up the actions of the

player to the eye. Hence the criticism is raised at what can be seen.

With regard to silence it makes the opponent watch the ball more closely and not play by ear as so many players do.

May I now stick my neck out and challenge the hard bat players with defacing the ball more than the soft or sponge bat players. My experience is that eggs bend or crack easier when dropped on something hard more so than when they bounce on something soft. Therefore they are defaced. For eggs insert table tennis balls.

All the above is taken from experience from the scorer's seat as well as the player's angles.

From the writing angle I will use my non de plume.

FLICK,
(Bath)

STANDARDISE T.T. TERMS

On the question of a glossary of table tennis terms, I was interested to see that such an authority as Mr. Corti Woodcock, considers the word "tie" to be superficial, and not a correct description of individual events in a contest.

In his booklet "Know the Game—Table Tennis" Mr. Jack Carrington states that:

"In regulations governing matches between teams, the games or events which compose them are usually referred to as 'ties.' For example in the . . . Swaythling Cup Competition, three men on each side meet each of their three opponents. The winner of the match is the team which wins five of the possible nine 'ties' between individual men. The winner of a 'tie' is the man who wins two of the possible three 'games,' making his score two games to love or two games to one.

I am of the same opinion that such individual events are "usually referred to" as "ties," but the disagreement on table tennis terminology of which this is an example does indeed endorse Mr. Senior's plea for a standardised glossary.

K. A. G. MARTIN,
(Esher)

SORRY! MIDDLESEX

What nonsense is this written by Jim Forrest about Middlesex never having beaten the Rest?

There must be some very short memories on your staff, because Middlesex beat the Rest only last season, and I for one shall be very surprised if Surrey ever beat Middlesex again, let alone the Rest. However, it is to be hoped that Surrey do a little better than their cricketing colleagues, who couldn't even get a 100 in either innings. Champions indeed!

R. THORPE
(West Molesey)

Mr. Thorpe is quite correct. Our apologies to Middlesex for overlooking their victory over the Rest last year. This is an editorial mistake, and no blame is due to Jim Forrest.

EDITOR.

Don't Worry John— we're Watching Them!

JACK CARRINGTON (Director of Coaching to E.T.T.A.) replies to John Corser's plea to "Shake Up Coaching Methods."

I WOULD like to reassure John Corser that coaching methods—at least as propounded by me on behalf of E.T.T.A.—are subject to a continual "shake-up" process. It was indeed only by such a process that we ever managed to get a Coaching Scheme started at all!

Our shake-up may not be as fast as John Corser thinks necessary, but students attending refresher courses after an interval of three or four years frequently comment upon the changes in method which have taken place since their first studies.

I know, too, from discussions with experienced colleagues that most of our coaching leaders are fully alive to the need for flexible thinking.

I am quite certain I could find a number of coaches capable of teaching pupils to play penholder, if they were interested, and if the pupils were similarly interested.

However, we do try to ensure that all changes in teaching are in the direction of improvement, so a fair time-lag must be allowed before it becomes clear that a change of trend is a step towards efficiency and not just another fashion.

WORLD CHAMPIONS AND TEACHING POLICY:

It is true that the Japanese "penholders" are doing well just now. In my next article I propose to examine their methods more closely. Meanwhile, a review of the male World Champions suggests that we need not switch our teaching ideas around too hurriedly.

For what do we see when we look back?

A penholder era was followed by the great all-rounder **Barna**, who dominated the scene for years with his system of angled backhand attack, infrequent forehand drive, and severe chop on both wings.

The Barna style, as effective as it was attractive, was the envy of all. One might have anticipated a long run of Barna-model Champions.

YET WHAT HAPPENED? NOT ONLY NO CHAMPIONS EVER PLAYING LIKE BARN . . . BUT IN 25 YEARS OF HIS BRILLIANT EXAMPLE, HARDLY ANOTHER PLAYER LIKE HIM AT ALL!

Next to make his mark was **Vana**, with 80% forehand drive, 15% chop and push, say 5% super drop-shot—and not a backhand drive to his name. His unattractive and laborious style, no doubt because of its great courage, produced many imitators, but no more Champions.

Next, **Bergmann**. Completely unlike either Barna or Vana. 90% defence, very lightly chopped as compared

AT LAST ! ! !

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with Barna's "bite," 10% opportunist forehand drives, and no backhand drive (at that time).

Came **Leach**; 70% defensive light chop or push, with 30% attack of the continuous type, exploiting counter-hitting persistently. And **Sido**; different again—50% two-wing attack of the explosive non-continuous type, a great killer of the chopped ball, strangely weak on floating balls and counter-hit, 50% worried-looking but effective shorter defence.

Contemporary with Leach, Sido and Bergmann, the great Czech stylists, **Andreadis** and **Tereba** were mentally bracketed with the Champions by thousands of followers. These two employed more than 80% two-wing attack of continuous type, almost scorning the chop and push, although Andreadis at least was perfectly competent in their use.

Even in recent years when Japanese penholders cleaned up the World titles, their whole team has had to bow the head in one match to the all-rounders Andreadis (twice) and Sido. Last year, in their own land, they were within two points of defeat against Rumania's young men, who now proceed to show us a different recipe still for success! 75% chop, two-wing, of Barna strength but produced with long-arm action, punctuated by explosive hitting, on either wing, frequently from a distance.

WHAT IS THE MORAL?

There is no conclusive evidence that the style or methods of a World Champion will dictate teaching for the next playing generation; IN FACT ONE COULD JUST AS WELL DRAW THE CONCLUSION THAT ONE WINNING SYSTEM DEVELOPS ITS OWN CONQUEROR!

At least it seems clear that, age for age and fitness for fitness, variants of the orthodox tennis style as taught to and by our Coaches, are not yet out-of-date.

WHAT IN FACT ARE OUR DIPLOMA (BASIC) COACHES TAUGHT?

They are taught to understand and demonstrate, on both forehand and backhand:

- i a steady attacking drive.
- ii a relaxed defensive chop stroke.
- iii close-table chop-push, both relaxed and aggressive types.

THESE ARE THE INGREDIENTS OF BALL-CONTROL.

They are expected to be able to recognise and explain the effects of SPIN; BLADE-ANGLES; and WEIGHT IN MOTION.

Their teaching slogans are: "ALERTNESS"; "RELAXED MUSCLE MOVEMENT"; "LIGHT FOOTWORK"; "SPEEDY RECOVERY OF BALANCE"; and "STUDY THE OPPONENT'S ACTIONS."

They are taught to insist upon exact discipline of practice in beginners, but in later stages to encourage variations, where those variations are the expression of talent and thought, and not merely the result of laziness and habit.

None of these precepts is likely to ruin any World Champion material.

However, teaching a pupil to swim does not teach him to win swimming races. For that, specialist coaches must take over the more talented pupils.

Our position is similar and I feel that if the various specialists are allowed to work independently on advanced trainees their best achievements will be better than if they are asked to conform to any official directives.

A good coach always has an open mind, so the good ideas will soon spread around!

ON SPONGE:

As for "Sponge," I personally think it is an evil not to be endured, and that the proper reaction at this stage

is to shake up the laws of the game rather than coaching methods!

However this does not prevent me from studying its technique as closely as possible, in company with a number of other coaching "thinkers" of this type whom John Corser wants to see established.

But give us a chance to think. When you realise the many and varied effects of sponge and anti-sponge play, the flood of experimental surfaces appearing almost daily, the lack of experience of sponge-versus-sponge play in this country, and indeed the short history of sponge successes, can you already expect us to produce an agreed or consistent policy with the weight of official authority behind it?

In such unexplored territory, is it not more proper to leave the probing and advance patrolling to the independent "commandos" of coaching, before committing our "heavy forces" to any experimental line of advance?

* * *

Determined Pupils Needed

The individual coaching experts of this country might become "Franz Stamfl's," as John Corser hopes. BUT THEY WOULD HARDLY GET A CHANCE TO SHOW IT IN ENGLAND BECAUSE THERE ARE ALMOST NO DETERMINED PUPILS.

Where are the (adult) players who will refrain from going to the pictures one night, from eating a favourite food, from playing an exhibition, etc., because their Coach tells them to?

Yet in Athletics, world-class performers accept such orders cheerfully.

Shake Up Coaching Methods by all means . . . BUT FIRST, SHAKE UP THE PUPILS!

Your friend in the Forces

would appreciate a copy of Table Tennis each month. Why not give an annual subscription as a Christmas Present? Just send his name and address with 7s. 6d., and we will post him a copy anywhere in the world immediately on publication each month. Send to Subscription Dept., Table Tennis, Guardian House, 644, Forest Road, London, E.17.

BARNA FOR MOSCOW?

MOST people know that the Russians have issued a tentative invitation to Vic Barna to coach in Moscow, and that if arrangements are finalised "The Maestro" will wend his way behind the Iron Curtain and stay there for three months next summer. Not so well known is the extra special reason why Soviet officials are eager for his services.

Russian players, so it seems, are forehead mad. They believe that only on the forehand wing can attack be effective. The result is that the backhand is almost completely neglected.

So Victor is the boy required to demonstrate at first hand that the backhand can be a very effective weapon both for attack and defence. If he does indeed show his wares in the land of the Bolshoi Ballet, Vic will open many eyes with his "flick," not to mention backhand chop and half-volley, and cause Comrade Boshemova to revise his ideas—pronto.

SHUTTERS UP

The famed Table Tennis parlour in New York, near Times Square, is closing down after 17 years. The building in which it is housed has been condemned as derelict and is being demolished.

This is sad news. The parlour has frequently been described as "the home of U.S. Table Tennis," and its loss will be keenly felt.

Among the many players who developed their games and started their careers within its portals are Sol Schiff, Bud Blattner, Lou Pagliaro, Dick Miles, Marty Reisman, and the Thall sisters. Many visiting players from all over the world have played there, and it was a meeting place for T.T. followers from all over the States.

Herwald Lawrence, manager of the saloon ever since it opened says he will open up elsewhere in New York.

* * *

The German Association have moved their headquarters from Kiel to Frankfurt.

* * *

A Japanese team was set to tour Australia, but their demand that the Australians pay full expenses for a manager they wanted to accompany them, was turned down. Result: no yen for manager, no tour for Japs.

Ten

A suggestion has been forwarded to the Indians that they send a team of young players to this country for coaching and to gain tournament experience. The Indians, ambitious to achieve world status and convinced that they have youngsters of exceptional promise, would love to come—but have to consider the question of expense.

* * *

Andreadis and Stipek, the popular Czechs, recently concluded a tour of Germany. Both report top fitness and anticipate success in the international competitive sphere.

* * *

Rumanians are confident that in 16-year-old Maria Galopentza they have a girl who may well emulate the feats of the great Angelica Rozeanu. They place much faith, too, in Mariana Baras, also 16, as a future world star. Maria beat Mariana in the final of the International Junior tournament in Paris in September. Both girls use rubber bats.

* * *

Dickie Bergmann's assessment of the South American countries he toured during the summer is that Brazil and Chile are the strongest T.T. lands, although several other countries, including Cuba and Argentine, are very close on their heels. Most countries, he says, would love to compete in internationals and, of course, the World Series, but money just isn't available. Many of the South American players are pen-holding sponge-users, and, says Richard, they were generally astonished that he himself used a rubber racket.

* * *

Australian State Championships men's finals results: Queensland: Phil Anderson beat Arden Robinson, 3-2; Victoria: Geoff Jennings beat Barney Peters, 3-2. New South Wales: John Klesman beat Cecil Wheeler, 3-1.

A variety of bats were in evidence at the finals—Anderson with Japanese soft rubber, Peters favouring a "Tanaka"-type rubber, and Wheeler wielding black sponge.

* * *

Arden Robinson, incidentally, arrives in England on January 11. He will play in as many tournaments as possible in an attempt to reach peak fitness for the World Series. Arden says Australia's Swaythling team may comprise Lou Laza, Jennings and himself.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

"AFTER seeing this match, one can understand why the movement overseas to ban sponge is gaining support."

That was the comment of Keith Bowler, of Australian Newsletter, when reviewing the all-sponge final in which Bob Jackson, of New Zealand, beat Phil Anderson 21-11, 21-13, 21-18 in the Australian championships.

He goes on: "It was one of the most unexciting finals seen for some time, both players being content to keep the ball in play waiting for his opponent's errors. Jackson is undoubtedly a fine table tennis player, of the school that believes that every ball must be hit on the table. His poker faced, studious approach to the game could be admired by many Australians, who lose concentration far too easily. However, I doubt if Jackson would fill the table tennis arenas of either Australia or New Zealand unless opposed to a sparkling stroke maker of the Jennings or Robinson type."

The championships were full of upsets, the top seeded players failing in every event. Jackson went through the men's singles without dropping a game and partnered Vic Matison, of Victoria, to win the men's doubles.

FINALS RESULTS

- Men's Singles: **R. JACKSON** (N.Z.) bt P. Anderson (Q.) 21-11, 21-13, 21-18.
- Women's Singles: **D. SHIPP** (N.S.W.) bt S. Irvin (Q.) 21-13, 19-21, 21-13, 21-18.
- Men's Doubles: **R. JACKSON** and **V. MATISON** bt P. Anderson and H. Porter 21-14, 21-23, 21-19, 21-16.
- Women's Doubles: **S. IRVIN** and **D. SELLWOOD** (Q.) bt L. White and J. Tymms (S.A.) 12-21, 23-21, 21-19, 21-18.
- Mixed Doubles: **G. JENNINGS** and **L. NICHOLS** (V.) bt P. Anderson and S. Irvin (Q.) 21-14, 21-15, 21-10.
- Junior Boys': **B. WEBER** (Q.) bt J. Stanaway (Q.) 22-24, 21-19, 21-7.
- Junior Girls': **J. SPENCE** (Q.) bt J. Stanaway (Q.) 21-19, 21-19.

SOUTH AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rex Edwards (Transvaal) won the South African championship for the seventh time beating T. Paitaki 21-11, 12-21, 21-16, 21-16 in the final.

Mrs. E. Chiat (Western Province) regained the women's singles she last won in 1953, beating Miss S. Altshuler 21-12, 21-13, 21-19. She also won the mixed doubles with Paitaki.

E. Ruggier and D. Wall (Natal) won the men's doubles.

The Ranking List

by Ivor Eyles

(Chairman, National Selection Committee)

SOME criticism and worry is apparent by the publication of the current ranking list, judging by letters to the E.T.T.A. and comments in the Press. It might therefore be helpful to explain the origin and purpose of the ranking list.

It arose over organisers of open tournaments requesting the National Body to prepare each season, in order of merit, a list of players eligible for the various Open Tournaments. Organisers thus have a precise clear picture as to how such players should be placed in the draw when they entered, subject of course to the national regulations on seeding.

This was the prime idea, although I must point out it is also a MERIT list as well.

Now to the names appearing on the list, and the old, old story of Bergmann not playing in England last season and again being an absentee.

No one can challenge that he did not play a single home tournament, but in how many of the tournaments did some of the other listed players appear?

At the same time no one can say definitely Bergmann will not play this season. But, and I repeat but, if he was not on the list and did return and enter a tournament he could not be seeded.

Just imagine the reactions of the Leaches, Simons, Kennedys, and Venners, entering a tournament and an unseeded Bergmann appearing out of the blue and drawing one of them in the first round! The tournament organisers would be called all sorts of idiots for producing such a draw, yet he would be correct for he should not seed any player unless on the current list.

It is thus apparent that the ranking list is actually a tournament organisers' seeding list.

The selectors, in their wisdom, have taken all the players who could play in the English tournaments next season and graded them, but Ros Cornett, Peggy Franks-Hook and Kathleen Best have been omitted as there was no knowledge that they would be playing.

At this point I must agree, the explanation published about these players could have been misleading to the public as to the actual meaning of the ranking list.

It used to be the practice to publish "A" and "B" groups of players to give organisers a wider list and also encouraged the younger players.

This season there was such a large number of players, who had at some time or another beaten each other, that the selectors found it impossible to arrive at a given group.

Here I would mention that throughout the season a close watch is made of all players and it becomes the duty of the National Selectors to make any changes from the Ranking list as they may determine.

To sum up, and here I give my own views and not those of the National Selection Committee, what about a Ranking list, based on the actual playing form in England and a separate Seeded players list for tournaments?

To prepare such a Ranking List it would have to be laid down how many tournaments, county matches, Wilmott Cup Rose Bowl events would have to be played before qualifying.

Is this wanted!!!!

I sincerely trust this puts the Ranking List in its right perspective and clears up any misunderstandings.

SILENT STAR

A TEAM of deaf and dumb players are contesting one of the lower divisions of the Leeds League. Leeds Institute for the Deaf have several registered players but the two regulars are the husband and wife partnership of Miles and Margaret Waterhouse.

Margaret, a 23-year-old brunette, has won county honours. She played for Yorkshire Deaf against Lancashire earlier this year, and has also represented the county in the National Deaf Cup, a competition organised by the British Deaf Amateur Sports Association (which is affiliated to the E.T.T.A.).

Margaret, a Doncaster girl, does not let her affliction interfere with her recreation. She also plays a good game of hockey and won a medal as the outstanding actress in this year's National Deaf Drama Festival.

How do deaf table tennis players manage? Each set has two umpires — one to call out the score for his team and the other to signal the score with his fingers to the deaf team.

MALCOLM HARTLEY

REST SCRAPE HOME

THE all-international Rest team found Surrey a much tougher proposition than expected and were lucky to scrape home 6-4 in the annual challenge match against the County champions at Clapham Baths on October 23 (writes Harrison Edwards).

It could not have been closer. It went to an advantage third game in the final match, Brian Kennedy just managing to beat Harry Venner 23-21, 20-22, 22-20.

Venner made a tremendous effort to force the draw and there was a tense air of expectancy on the part of Surrey supporters when 20-all was called in the third. His over eagerness to force the decision proved his failing, for Kennedy remained ice-cool.

It was the only worthwhile thing Kennedy had done in the match for he was beaten by Tony Miller and also lost in the doubles with Aubrey Simons, who had the unhappy experience of going through the match without a win.

The first shock was the defeat of Simons by Ken Craigie in the opening match. It was the inspiration Surrey needed and at the half-way stage they led 3-2.

Ann Haydon, with a devastating 21-9, 21-6 win over Jean Head, squared the match at 3-all and the Rest looked to be home and dry when Johnny Leach beat



TONY
MILLER



KEN
CRAIGIE

Craigie and won the mixed doubles with Diane Rowe against Ron Crayden and Betty Isaacs.

Then came a magnificent fighting come-back by Tony Miller, the Surrey No. 3, to beat Simons 13-21, 21-19, 21-16, after trailing 16-19 in the second.

Miller had at first attempted to hit out against Simons and was as good as beaten when he closed up the game with tight defensive play and pulled through on his backhand.

He was undoubtedly the player of the match.

The Rest can thank Leach, who was unbeaten, and the two girls, Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe, for their success.

Detailed Scores (Rest names first): A. Simons (Glos.) lost to K. Craigie 21-12, 10-21, 14-21; lost to A. Miller 21-13, 19-21, 16-21; J. Leach (Essex) beat H. Venner 21-19, 22-20; bt Craigie 18-21, 21-14, 21-17; B. Kennedy (Yorks.) lost to Miller 16-21, 16-21; bt Venner 23-21, 20-22, 22-20.

Miss A. Haydon (Warw.) bt Mrs. J. Head 21-9, 21-6.

Miss D. Rowe (Middx.) and Miss Haydon beat Mrs. Head and Miss M. Piper 21-15, 22-20.

Kennedy and Simons lost to Venner and Craigie 15-21, 15-21.

Leach and Miss Rowe bt R. Crayden and Miss B. Isaacs 21-18, 21-16.

THE CUPBOARD IS BARE

SAYS **VICTOR BARNA**

IN practically every post-war World Championship, our national teams have been strongly tipped for the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups, and started among the favourites. Not without justification, English table tennis has enjoyed an extremely high reputation all over the world.

But today we must face the hard fact that our top men, Bergmann, Leach and Simons, have passed their best, and that there is no-one to replace them. Particularly since Tokio, the cry has gone up: "We can't win the Championship anyhow — let's build up a new team." Fine. The idea is marvellous, and I'm all for it. But let's face it — WE HAVEN'T GOT ANYBODY, AT THE MOMENT, TO BUILD A NEW TEAM WITH.

It is a very disturbing thought, and no doubt I shall get indignant letters for underestimating our talents. But I'm not, you know!

Passed Their Best

In speaking of Bergmann and Leach as having passed their best, I am talking about their ability to win world titles; and it is in this sense that I want to discuss the prospects of finding champions of the future.

My opinion is that the cupboard is bare, and that we are now paying the penalty for not developing a new squad of youngsters during recent years while we were still at the top.

Yes, I know we thought a lot about

juniors and gave them abundant opportunities for displaying their talents, by creating extra tournaments, international matches, county matches, and so on. But what about coaching: did we show them how, and by what method, they should improve? Not much, I'm afraid.

With very few exceptions, we left them to their own devices, with the result that many of the youngsters slipped, unchecked, into bad habits, awkward strokes, terrible footwork, poor co-ordination and the like: whereas, with sound training, they might have become very different, and very much better, players today.

It could quote names, but I think, perhaps, it's better to keep personalities out of it.

Can We Do Better?

I am not blaming anybody, and besides it is only fair to mention that the E.T.T.A. has woken up and started to get busy on a new plan.

My reason for writing about this serious problem is to see whether we can do something better, much better, than has been done in the past.

There must be a solution, and it must be found quickly if English table tennis is not to remain in the doldrums for years and years.

The Hungarians and Rumanians, in particular, have very good ideas and systems to develop their youngsters and even during this season, you will be surprised to hear the names of their many new young champions.

I realise, of course, that in England we just can't do things the Continental countries take for granted. We have neither the cash, nor the goodwill of the Chancellor, who still takes money out of sport, instead of supporting it.

Also, we still have die-hards in our midst, who maintain: "**What does it matter who wins — the main thing is to play.**"

Maybe: but in that case, why bother to enter World Championships, when it means spending vast sums of money sending teams far and wide?

Sport today is just as important as art, if not more so. In the average overseas newspaper, at any rate, sport is front-page news.

My Remedy

What can we do? Well, I'm going to stick my neck out and make the

following suggestion. The Country should be divided into three areas — North, Midland, South: each area to have its own supervisor, who would be responsible for discovering and training youngsters. These three men would work very closely with a fourth person, the National Supervisor, who would direct the training, development, and co-ordinated coaching, of all the very best material to be found up and down the Country.

I know there are coaches and players who, without financial reward, would be willing to undertake the job, and who have the necessary qualifications and respect needed for the work.

On paper, it looks very simple, I know. But I admit there are snags. Firstly, it would cost money, even if the coaches gave their spare time voluntarily. Expenses would be incurred: they would have to travel occasionally, as not all youngsters, however keen, could afford to pay fares to the training centre.

Secondly, all the coaches involved in the scheme would have to get together and hammer out a common policy as regards a coaching method; for at the moment, the few coaches there are, work independently.

No Co-ordination

Unlike the lawn tennis people, we have no co-ordinated policy: consequently, if a young pupil has to change from one coach to another, he will probably get so confused by contradictory instruction, that he would have been better off without any teaching at all.

The whole idea hinges in finding keen and competent people whose sole aim would be to produce potential world champions. Once we have found them, and provided the E.T.T.A. is willing to finance the scheme, it should not be difficult to work out in detail.

Well, that's my suggestion in a nutshell: and I make it for two main reasons. The first is the hope that it will start people trying to think up a better plan. The second is that surely it's better to do *something*, instead of just waiting and hoping for some more Johnny Leaches and Rowe sisters to pop up from nowhere. We must send out search parties, and find them!

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Monday, 19th November, 1956.

THE UNKNOWN QUANTITY

By C. J. MOORE

IT was four o'clock in Stebton. In Bambridge's, the town's largest department store, business was at its height. In the sports department Freddy Benn worked methodically, frequently glancing at his watch. As the Town Hall clock struck four, Freddy left his counter and dashed up to Mr. Spragg, his supervisor.

"Can I go now, Sir?" he asked. "The Manager gave me permission to leave at four."

Mr. Spragg peered irritably at Freddy. "The Manager gave you permission?" he queried. "Oh, yes, I remember. You're playing in some ping pong game I believe."

"Table Tennis, Sir. It's the County trials tonight."

"All right Benn. If the Manager is foolish enough to let his staff leave half way through the afternoon there's nothing more to say." And having thus terminated the conversation, Mr. Spragg returned to his counter and the futile business of trying to sell cricket bats at the beginning of the winter.

Minutes later Freddie was clear of the store and on his way to the Y.M.C.A., venue of the trials. He was a young man who lived for table tennis. Twice a week he played for his club in the local league and on the remaining evenings practised for several hours. Freddy had achieved a fair amount of success in minor open tournaments but his ambition was a place in the County team and the invitation to play in the trials presented the chance.

He arrived at the Y.M.C.A. and made straight for the dressing-rooms, where 20 or so players were already changed. A few he recognised as County regulars in past seasons, but the majority were untried youngsters like himself. Just as Freddy completed his changing a tall, burly individual appeared in the doorway, and the buzz of conversation ceased. It was Arthur Armstrong, a keen table tennis follower and sports editor of the "Stebtonshire Morning Post." He surveyed the assorted company with assumed nonchalance.

"The usual badly-selected bunch," he drawled mockingly, but his shrewd eyes were examining every player with care. "Well, the County's hard up for players this year, but it's scraping the bottom of the barrel if a couple of you infants have to be chosen."

Most of the players grinned at these remarks, for Armstrong was as well known for his cynical comments as he was for his knowledge of table tennis.

Freddy, with a sinking feeling, recognised his first opponent as Rex Aldridge, the County's number three. Thinking this would be the toughest opposition he would meet, Freddy put everything he had into the game, but still Aldridge ran out an easy winner.

Soon afterwards he had a game with Tom Binyon, the reigning County junior champion, a title that Freddy had held two years previously. Still breathless from the encounter with Aldridge, Freddy took the first game but then collapsed to let Binyon win the second and third, 21—18, 21—16.

By this time the boy from Bambridge's felt pretty disconsolate and said to himself, "I'm hardly likely to make the grade with two defeats to my credit—one at the hands of a junior." Freddy went forward for his third game which to his horror he found was against the County champion, Jim Vetch.

"This makes my evening," muttered Freddy as the game neared its finish. "Two 'lickings' and now down

6—18 in the second having lost the first. "Well, I'll try and give him a run for his money." Freddy then threw himself into an all-out attack. Vetch suddenly found his way to victory barred by a series of devastating backhands mingled with drop shots of amazing guile. This was Freddy at his best. He pulled right up to 16—19 before the champion recovered sufficiently to take the two remaining points for the match.

Scarcely had Freddy pulled on his sweater before the trials secretary approached him. "Would you mind playing one more game? Table three, please. You'll find George Trent, your opponent, already there."

"Never heard of him," said Freddy under his breath. "They've probably put me on with some novice, just to make it worth my while turning up."

George Trent turned out to be a short, rather tubby fellow, about 15 years older than Freddy, and instead of the usual table tennis shirt and sorts he was dressed in an old sweater and corduroy slacks. "This is it. My first victory," muttered the 19-year-old.

Trent, however, turned out to be a player of exceptional ability and took the first game 21—13. Freddy, who had been concentrating on defence, reversed his tactics and took the next game 22—20. The older man had tired visibly and in the third Freddy soon ran up a 10—4 lead, before Trent's impenetrable defence took them to deuce. From then on it was point for point, until at 25—all Trent took the two successive points and the match.

It was a tired and disillusioned Freddy who flopped down in the dressing room. He changed and was on the point of leaving when the secretary entered with a list of names. He read them out and explained that these players should receive further trials with a view to completing the County team. Freddy heard Binyon's name mentioned but not his own, so he slipped out.

The following morning Freddy had a problem. How was he to face Mr. Spragg. That surly individual would be sure to read the paper, and seeing the results of the trials would be able to make Freddy's life a misery for weeks. It was the final defeat against Trent, an unknown, that played on Freddy's mind.

Over breakfast Freddy examined the front pages of the "Stebtonshire Morning Post," hardly daring to look at the sports columns. Finally he plucked up courage, and saw the following.

BENN'S IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE

(by Arthur Armstrong)

Of all the talent on view at the County trials at the Y.M.C.A. last night, it was former junior champion, F. Benn, who took the selectors' eyes. Although he played four games without victory the quality of his play gives promise of a great future. His tremendous revival against County champion Jim Vetch was a magnificent performance. Of even greater merit, however, the narrow defeat at the hands of George Trent, the former Scottish International, who has qualified by residence to play for Stebtonshire. The selection committee is more than justified in picking Benn to fill a vacancy in the County team without further trial . . .

For a few moments Freddy refused to believe his eyes. That little chap was the George Trent, winner of countless open titles and Scottish International for over 10 years. And he, Freddy Benn, had nearly beaten him. A wide grin on his face, Freddy tucked the paper under his arm and left for Bambridge's, ready to face the future—and Mr. Spragg.

STARS OF THE FUTURE

by Bryan Cutress

WITH the passing of each season comes a new crop of juniors to take the places of those who have graduated to the senior ranks. This season is no exception. It is, perhaps, even more pronounced, for all the members of our teams meeting France at Eastbourne and West Germany at Herne Bay are making their first junior international appearances.

This may not, in itself, be unique, but **Jean Harrower** (Middlesex), who plays in both matches, is England's youngest player ever to become an international.

The 13-year-old Jean, daughter of



DEREK GRANT

former international Geoff Harrower, has been playing since she was big enough to hold a bat. She might well have achieved the distinction last year, but for the absence of a girl international.

Shelagh Hession (Essex) and **Peter Cole** (Suffolk) also play in both matches.

Shelagh is 16 years old and will still be a junior next year as her birthday falls on July 11—eleven days inside the deadline.

A good all-rounder with a particularly strong defence, Shelagh has spent the summer trying to speed up her footwork. She also plays cricket in the summer for Romford Ladies.

Peter Cole, nicknamed "Tip" started playing six years ago at the

age of 11 at Briar Clyffe School where table tennis is on the curriculum. Peter's new found sport quickly gained a hold over him, pushing his old loves, cricket and football into the background and also getting him to school an hour earlier each morning so that he could practice.

Peter plays intelligently and does



SHELAGH HESSION COLIN DEATON

not use either defence or attack in excess.

"Tip" Cole has been somewhat overshadowed by his school friend John Collins (an England Junior International last year) for the past two or three seasons. However, with Collins now over the age limit, Cole has come into his own.

Cole owes much of his success to A. F. G. Nickels, one of Suffolk's best senior players.



PETER COLE

Completing the team to meet France is all-rounder **Tony Pidcock**, of Folkestone. He represents his grammar school at football and cricket and has also played for Folkestone Town Junior F.C.

Tony is a sound orthodox player with a fine defence and particularly good forehand attack, but perhaps his best assets are a fighting spirit and an unruffled temperament.

Tony, a product of the Beverley Club, Folkestone, first attracted attention in Kent three years ago when he was ranked No. 2 junior. He is now in his third season in the county junior team.

He is the reigning Folkestone senior champion.



JEAN HARROWER

From the Isle of Wight comes another all-rounder, **Derek Grant**, of Ventnor, whose other sports include football, cycling, swimming and running. Son of Ted Grant, chairman of the I.O.W. League, Derek is another youngster who has held a bat almost since he could walk. He had the remarkable achievement of playing in the I.O.W. League at the age of seven.

There are two Northerners in the team, **Lorna Bown** (Stockport) and **Colin Deaton** (Chesterfield).

Lorna has reached her high standard despite many hours studying for her G.C.E., which she passed in eight subjects, and also representing her school at netball, rounders, swimming, hockey, and lawn tennis.

Lorna comes from a table tennis family. Her father is President of the Cheshire Association, while her

mother was Stockport singles champion in 1948. This is a title Lorna now holds.

Lorna, her mother and sister all play for the same team in the Hyde Men's First Division.

Last month she was given a Civic Reception by the Mayor of Stockport following her selection as a British representative in the French Junior Open in Paris.

Much of Lorna's success has been due to coaching by Eileen Grimston, and also by Jack and Elsie Carrington.



LORNA BOWN

Lorna now partners Miss Grimston in the Manchester League.

Colin Deaton, 16, is the odd man out, being the only one at work. He is an apprentice draughtsman.

Colin started playing at a Youth Centre two years ago and was selected for league coaching. He made rapid progress and is the youngest ever member of the Derbyshire county team.

Further progress was made under Jack Carrington at Lilleshall and he is the present holder of the Yorkshire junior open and Derbyshire junior title.

Colin's other interests are football and yachting.

Have we a future English champion, or maybe even a World champion, among these youngsters? Only time can tell. One thing is certain. These youngsters are now reaping the reward for hours of practice and any other young players who hope one day, to step into their shoes, must remember that although the old saying "practice makes perfect" may not be wholly true, practice certainly improves.

AROUND THE LEAGUES

Table Tennis interest in **Wolverhampton** and **District** shows no sign of waning with 100 teams and 700 players registered for the coming season.

But it is a playing interest. At the Annual General Meeting, there were not sufficient volunteers to form a full committee. One wonders when players will realise that there is more in the game than just playing, and that without the hardworking committees, Leagues would soon go out of existence.

Chief item of interest this season is the formation of a Premier Division which will comprise the six leading clubs of the old Division 1.

A team everyone will be watching is the Malayan Teachers College "A" team. Last season — their first — they won Division 4a with 100% record with the unbelievable games aggregate of 255 for and only five against. It will be interesting to see how these penholders fare against the stronger opposition of Division 2.

Jimmy Hayward the town coach is taking an enforced rest, on medical advice.

Clubs from thirteen Leagues have supported the London Table Tennis Federation knock-out tournaments. There are 64 teams in the mixed, and 16 in the ladies' tournament — a good response to a new venture.

Cambridge League has a record entry of 60 teams and comprises six divisions as against the 50 teams and five divisions of last seasons.

Interest in the villages is now what one might call "acute"—a good sign for the future. Villages such as Cherry Hinton, Girton, Wilbraham, Sawston and Impington, are all going "great guns" and producing good players.

There should be great competition in Division 1 where Wesley are favourites by a slight margin.

Ely and **District** are prospering and have a record entry, while **March** and **District** are also doing well and are anxious to have all possible coaching and encouragement.

For the first time in nine years the **Huddersfield** League has no women's section. The women's teams have been divided between the men's sixth and seventh divisions.

Keighley League officers elected for this season are: Mr. N. E. Taylor (president), Mr. D. Boothman (chairman), and Mr. J. Whitley (secretary).

Chief Yorkshire coach Alan Thompson has started the season's sessions by visits to **York** and **Sheffield**.

Yorkshire player Maurice Pitts, on business in Birmingham, has been main-

taining his game by practice with Ann Haydon.

Extra match play for the 34 teams in the **Newark** and **District** League this season. The league programme has been condensed from three to two divisions. "Our divisions were too small," said secretary T. J. Baker, when presenting his annual report.

Northamptonshire beat Cambridge University 9-1, their first win in six annual friendlies with the Light Blues.

Chippenham Community Centre made a winning debut in the **Wilts** League, beating Calne Y.M.C.A. 9-1.

West Bromwich men took their first point from **Birmingham** in 20 years when they drew 5—all. They nearly made it two, Backhouse and Law just losing their doubles at 19 in the third.

Birmingham, however, won the women's match 9-1, veterans' 6-4, Intermediates 7-3, and Juniors' 6-4.

Coventry beat **Gloucester** 6-4 in both the men's and women's sections of their **Midland** League meeting. Gloucester, however, won the veterans' section 6-4.

Nottingham Juniors made a good start to the Midland League beating **Wolverhampton** Juniors 10-0.

Littlehampton Old Scouts and Littlehampton Church Army are two new clubs in the **Worthing** and **District** League.

Sittingbourne Methodist and Faversham Civil Defence have replaced Delbridge House and Swale Rural Council in the **Sittingbourne** and **District** League.

Cedric Whiteley suffered his first defeat for 18 months in the Halifax League at the hands of John Coward, an aggressive player with a strong forehand attack.

With Alf Bridle not available, and A. Nuttall, now playing for South Devon and Torbay, **Exeter** will be hard pressed to keep the **Devon Inter Leagues** title this season.

Falmouth Docks, Cornish club champions will be without their No. 1 Dennis Williams, this season. He is doing his National Service. West Penwith, who won the leagues' championship last year, going through without defeat, have all their regular players available, but look like facing strong opposition from **Cambourne-Redruth** and **Truro**.

Record entries made it necessary for two divisions in the **Cambs. Summer League** where Telephones (Division B) beat R.A.F. Waterbeach (Division A) in the play-off for the trophy.

Area News :

GLoucestershire Snippets

GLoucestershire opened their quest for the Premier Division of the County championships with a 6-4 win over Lancashire at Bolton, thanks to two great singles wins by Bob Griffin over Colin Booth and Geoff Pullar. Griffin also won the doubles with Bryan Merrett.

In the County League a further entry has been received from Cheltenham Youth League, who are to be commended on entering such strong company.

Cheltenham, on their own table, were defeated for the first time in two years, Gloucester scraping home 6-4. Stroud lost their first ever match 3-7 to Bristol.

A record for "punching?" Only three of the nine games were completed when time was called in the Bristol League encounter between Alfred Sports, last season's champions, and Page club.

Congratulations to Janet Lyle and Tony Dimambro, of Alfred Sports, on their recent wedding. Best man was "Rusty" Woods. Wedding bells for "Rusty" soon?

Arrangements have now been completed for our Zone of the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl to be played at the Barracks Gymnasium, Bristol, on December 29. Let us hope the experiment of playing off on one day will succeed.

Bristol have their first important county match for three years when Gloucestershire entertain Middlesex on January 12. Yorkshire visit Gloucestershire on December 8 at the Public Baths.

Congratulations to Bob Griffin, Ian Harrison, and Aubrey Simons all playing for England against Scotland, Ireland and tour of Hungary.

Ivor Eyles.

MERSEYSIDE MEMO

THE Liverpool League has commenced its 31st season with a slight increase in clubs, but what amazes me is the number of players who appear only for one season, or maybe two, before dropping out. It is always refreshing to have newcomers to any sport, but always in the hope that they retain their interest for a few years at least.

The position in the Wirral League is much the same as last year with 80 teams, for although a few clubs have

resigned others have taken their places. However, Tom Blunn tells me there has been a decline in the Ladies' Division, which has now been disbanded. The women now play only in the main divisions.

This is a direct contrast to Liverpool where the ladies have increased to two divisions.

We were rather alarmed in Liverpool, last season at the falling off of women members, and in an attempt to create more interest and at the same time help the clubs, decided to reduce the number per team from five to four and alter the method of play so that instead of ten singles, matches now consist of eight singles and two doubles. This leaves the possibility of a draw but gives each member three matches instead of two.

According to preliminary reports it has proved very popular and promoted new keenness.

Juniors in Wirral still retain their own division and the Wirral Hornets, a team of Juniors picked from various clubs, are back in the First Division to gain experience.

The Cheshire Junior Open is again being held in Birkenhead, and a good entry is expected, now that the merging of the English and Kent Junior Open has left the juniors a tournament short.

Junior coaching session will again be held on Saturday evenings at Livingstone-street Baths, through the co-operation of the Birkenhead Education Committee.

Liverpool is again in direct contrast to Wirral regarding juniors. For the past two seasons we have had a team of juniors—the "Nomads"—operating in the First Division, and it was intended to run coaching classes during the close season, but due to a "couldn't care less" attitude the scheme has been dropped.

When I look back to the days of Don Foulis and Ken and Eric Hyde, who reached the top through hard practise and NO coaching, I wonder what has come over Liverpool youngsters. Is there anyone with enough ambition to want to try and get to the top? If so, I wish they would contact me. They would receive plenty of encouragement.

Bill Stamp.

KENT NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS are due to Conrad Jaschke for producing our best ever handbook and having it distributed earlier than it has been for many years. It is a credit not only to the producer but also the county and we hope this standard can be maintained in future years.

There is no doubt that Kent now has several very go-ahead sub-committees.

The recently appointed Publicity Committee consisting of Messrs. Betts, Jaschke, Mannooch and Neale, has already evolved a scheme which should very soon produce results all over the County.

Broadly, the scheme is that each of the members of the committee has taken over a certain portion of the County and will concentrate on getting table tennis into all the newspapers in their area.

To make this a success, other officers, such as the Kent League secretary, non-playing captains of County teams, etc.,

will be asked to supply each of the committee with results of matches, interesting events, etc., from which articles of a more local character can be compounded for local papers.

This, it is hoped, will lead to an increased interest in County and National table tennis news in all parts of the County.

The Rules Committee has had a very long session and has drafted proposals for a somewhat drastic revision of rules for submission to the general committee in anticipation of the next Annual General Meeting.

Some of the proposals will undoubtedly evoke considerable comment and criticism but we do hope that all concerned will look upon them in the right perspective, i.e., for the good of the County as well as for their own domestic good.

More of Committee work later on, but here and now let us congratulate Tony Pidcock on his selection to play for England in the England-France match. We wish him all success in this match and many more to come.

Tony has now been selected to play in the Kent 2nd Senior team, and there are many who think that he will eventually be found in even higher spheres.

He is not the first of our Juniors to gain National honours and perhaps we are coming to the stage when the Kent Juniors of today will be the English Seniors of tomorrow.

Here's hoping!

Jimmy Mannooch.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

CAMBRIDGESHIRE, now in the

Southern Division, have suffered a set-back with John Thurston sustaining a leg injury. They will be hard pressed to find a replacement. However, it is hoped some capable players will be coming from the many villages which are showing increasing interest and are keen to improve their standard of play.

Meanwhile, Cambs. are lucky to have such an accomplished player as John Cornwell, who will again be available along with John Cateman, Ron Nunn, Chris Reeve and Tony Lyon.

The women's problem is still acute, but the mainstays of the team, Margaret Cornwell, Avis Pauley, Jacqueline Taylor and Avril Turvill are playing exceptionally well.

Most encouraging is the number of juniors who are now playing in the county and give promise of a bright future. Names to watch are Keith Chapman, Michael Baland, Tony South, Tony Sharp (very young) and John Ashman.

Three leagues are operating in the County, Cambs., Ely and District, and March and District, all of whom have record entries this year.

Leslie Constable.

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SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

SUFFOLK players usually do well in the annual Norwich Y.M.C.A. Invitation Tournament and this year, the Centenary of the local Y.M.C.A., was no exception. Although a Norfolk player—a Malayan spongebatter named Loong—could not be prevented from taking the Men's Singles, Suffolk took the Ladies' Singles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles with Val Martin, Collins/John Clarke and Pam Garrett/John Clarke.

Loong will, no doubt, prove an asset to the Norfolk team which has for so long been in the doldrums; indeed he contributed in no small manner to Norfolk's splendid draw with Herts. Congratulations to our sister county.

Any Better

When Peter Cole, England's newly selected Junior International (and how proud East Anglia is of him) made his 20th appearance for Suffolk Juniors v Surrey it started a talking point: What is the greatest number of appearances a player has ever made for his Junior County Team? Does any County Secretary know of a better performance?

Another Suffolk Junior, Peter Rudd, is showing fine form so far, this season. No one would pretend that he is a Cole but . . . I've a feeling he may be better than most of us have realised. He has certainly established his position as the Junior No. 2 in Suffolk.

There has always been a dearth of junior girls in Suffolk. Each season only a minimum number is available and, as each girl reaches senior age, officials are faced with the same worries of searching the County to obtain replacements.

It was, therefore, pleasing to receive a special request from an Ipswich Con-

vent for advice and guidance on starting a T.T. class on the correct lines. Soon several Suffolk players will visit the Convent to give an exhibition of singles and doubles and offer any advice that may be needed. It is hoped that ultimately the Convent may become a sort of nursery for the Junior team—the girls' Briar Clyffe of Suffolk.

A.E.D.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

BRISTOL, by virtue of their most creditable performance in holding Birmingham, last year's runner's-up, to a 5-5 draw at Birmingham, have re-awakened interest in the outcome of the First Division championship.

It was generally assumed that, with the absence of Cheltenham, last season's winners, and Gloucester, who finished third, Birmingham would almost certainly step on to the championship rostrum.

This assumption could now be quite wrong, and some thrilling encounters are anticipated.

Birmingham's path to victory was blocked by R. Haydon, who was unbeaten, and F. Wiggins who, when Bristol were trailing 4-5, narrowly beat R. Murrell 22-20 in the final game.

Newly promoted Newport made an inauspicious return to the first division being beaten 3-7 by Bath. David House was in good form for Bath and despite some good opposition won both his matches comfortably.

In the Second Division, Weston entertained Bristol II in an excellent match, winning 6-4, after seven of the games had gone to three sets.

Weston's superior strength was shown in the men's singles where they gained

five wins from a possible six. D. Bates and D. Shipton, the ex-Bristol player, were unbeaten, while the women's singles were dominated by Bristol for whom Mrs. J. Watts and Miss S. Gould won both matches.

Heartiest congratulations to Bernard Dimascio and Gretta Holden, Cardiff's international players, who were married on September 29; to Basil Evans, one of Newport's well known players who was married in August to Kathleen Treweek; to John Spokes and Terry Pomroy of Bristol, who married recently; and last but not least to Peter Cartwright and Shirley Harris of Newport, who married during the close season.

Grove Motlow.

DERBY NOTES

THIS season the Derby and District Association have 60 teams competing, forming six divisions with ten teams in each.

R.E.M.E. have dropped out, but new clubs are Park Foundry, Long Eaton Mercury, Derby College of Technology and 126 Squadron A.T.C.

The Division I champions, Railway Institute, have one change in last year's team, R. Dowding, the Junior champion, replacing Derby second team player, D. Dunicliff, who is busy with his studies. The Y.M.C.A. have a new player, B. Squire from Sheffield, and the Mechanics, a welcome addition to our first division, have C. Black from Torquay.

Derby have entered the Midland League once again with an additional team in the Intermediate Men's, making three teams in all. The Men's team was relegated to the "B" division and in consequence have fewer matches this year.

The first games have been played against Cheltenham (away) and West Bromwich, losing three of the matches and drawing one. Against Cheltenham the Intermediate Men's and Ladies' both lost by the same score 8-2, it was left to the two married ladies to record Derby's set. Mrs. Webster and Mrs. Coughy beat Mrs. P. Cruwys. Mrs. Webster took the first game against Molly Jones 25-23, but was well beaten in the next two 21-15, 21-11.

The Ladies put up a good show against West Brom's strong team of Barbara Wall, Dorothy Worrall, Christine Charman and P. Marvis. Again the married ladies won the singles set, Derby losing by 4-6, Barbara Webster beat both D. Worrall and Barbara Wall, a good performance, and Mrs. S. B. Caughey beat P. Morris, Mrs. Webster and Miss J. Gilbert taking the doubles against Worrall and Morris to complete Derby's four.

The Intermediate Men made a draw with West Brom, all the Derby players had one single; win with Still and Cope taking the doubles for the fifth set. West Brom were lucky, taking the other doubles 22-20 in the third. An improved performance by our lads, which we hope will continue.

Congratulations to George Webster, Barbara Slater, Johnny Haynes, and Tom Erhart, all married during the closed season.

Walter Reeves.

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ESSEX NOTES

ESSEX have made an indifferent start in the Premier Division of the National County Championships. After an 8-2 win over Cheshire—the visitors put up a much closer fight than the score suggests—they were beaten 6-4 by Lancashire at Plaistow.

Although Brumwell, playing No. 1 in the place of the absent Leach, showed a welcome return to form, and Stevens appeared to have fully recovered from his recent knee injury, Lancashire were too good. This was undoubtedly the best team they have ever sent to Essex and they are to be congratulated on their win.

The Juniors have started the season with a 10-0 win over Sussex at Hove. They are a nicely balanced side and should do well in the championship.

The Essex Leagues championships get under way this month. Ilford are strengthened by the inclusion of Les and Ivy Sawyer, who played for Barking last season, while Romford have the services of Ken and Shirley Beamish who previously played for East London.

The latest League to run a monthly news sheet is Billericay. George Wenham is their new secretary.

Chelmsford Y.M.C.A. juniors recently defeated Plaistow Y.M.C.A. 8-1 at Chelmsford. The Chelmsford team was Barry Payne (age 14), Mark Sweeting (14), and Nigel Bates (13). Fred Hayman deserves great credit for the way he has managed these Chelmsford "Cubs."

Congratulations to Shelagh Hession for being selected to play for the English Junior team against both France and West Germany.

Frank Bateman.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

THERE'S a hard fight ahead for Kathleen Best. Her aim: to recapture the form of two seasons ago, which elevated her to third place in the E.T.T.A. rankings.

An absentee last season, due to the birth of her baby, Kathy has made an indifferent start to her come-back campaign. After being defeated by some of the top male players she was demoted in the Leeds grading system.

Kathy sought help in sponge. She tried it in a county match for the first time against Middlesex—but lost her singles with Di Rowe and both doubles in straight sets. So away went the sponge.

The rubber bat did little better for her when she met the present No. 3—Jean Head—in the Surrey match. Kathy went down fighting, 11-21, 15-21. Nevertheless, enthusiasts in Yorkshire have great faith in the little dark-haired international and are sure she will play her way back into the England team.

Women are in the news at Leeds. There are more of them this season—72 players compared with 58 last season. But it's farewell to one of the best known—Miss Joan Walker.

Joan, who has left to join a Canadian insurance company, will be missed, for she has been a regular member of the Leeds women's team and played five times for the county.

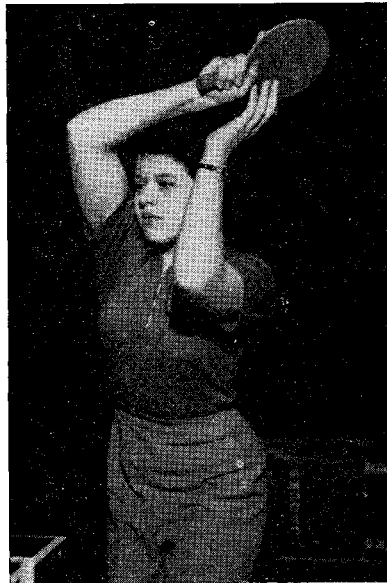
Brian Kennedy had an enjoyable time

at the North of England Open and took three titles back to Leeds. He retained the singles without dropping a game, won the men's doubles with beaten finalist Geoff Pullar (Lancashire) and won the mixed with Scotland's Helen Elliot.

So far Brian is repeating his successful pattern of last year on the tournament circuit. He has more titles to defend than any other player—and he has retained the first two.

Ray Hinchliff and Stuart Dyson reached the quarter finals, and Flo Wright, partnered by Sybil Threlfall (Bolton) made the semi-finals of the women's doubles.

Then there was the highly promising Colin Deaton. This 16-year-old reached the junior singles final and was rewarded with a junior "cap." Colin plays in the Sheffield League but lives across the



KATHLEEN BEST

Derbyshire border and represents their Midland League team.

The Y.T.T.A. are to be complimented on this season's handbook, which contains an abundance of records and statistics, several previously unpublished.

I note from the fixtures that Huddersfield play their last Division I Men's Inter-league match at Bradford. It could be that this event will resolve the title—for last season Bradford's only defeat was to Huddersfield, who became champions.

Finally, a big bouquet to the Premier Division team which pulled off that brilliant—and, let it be confessed, unexpected—victory over champions Surrey. I name Ray Hinchliff's hard-fought win over Harry Venner for special merit.

On the same night as this first victory over Surrey, Yorkshire also gained their second win in the Second Division (North) by beating Warwickshire for the first time. Huddersfield's Stuart Dyson, pressing hard for a Premier Division place, won his singles easily in a 7-3 win.

Malcolm Hartley.

HERTFORDSHIRE NEWS

THE NORTH HERTS leagues appear to be the live wires of the County at the moment, with Letchworth taking pride of place due to their programme for the juniors. Having won the County Junior Inter-league title last season they do not intend to lose it, judging from the plans for a flourishing junior section.

Eddie Cobb, who has done much to foster the sport in North Herts., and make the Letchworth league the largest in this area of the County, is the driving force behind this scheme, and I understand that he has some useful school-age talent under his wing.

It is a pity that the league has had to inform the County Association that owing to league commitments it may not be possible to send any junior players to the Coaching Course. This will surely be put right as this County scheme will benefit both player and league.

Down the hill from Letchworth the rival Hitchin league announce plans for a coaching scheme in which several internationals are being asked to be tutors.

The third North Herts. organisation in the news is the youngest league in the County, the Stevenage Inter-Works League. Secretary, Charlie Bungay, tells me that last season's County star, Tony Rogers, and the newly ranked King have signed for their work's teams and will be available for the league's representative team in their first ever season in the County Inter-league tournament. These two along with league champion, Townsend, and last year's County junior, Miss Wilson, could well cause many upsets in the results.

This is the right approach to foster table tennis in this new town of Stevenage where the population is growing daily. New clubs are now beginning to be formed in the town and it is hoped that they will be allowed to join the works clubs in the league.

Over in West Herts. another new town is taking shape rapidly and the old Apsley league has changed its name to the Hemel Hempstead and District League to take in this development. Part of their policy to boost the sport here is to stage a County match, and there is every possibility that the Second Division South fixture against Hampshire will be held in the new town.

It is now hoped that Hemel Hempstead will come into inter-league table tennis next season. If they do and Hitchin return it will give a 100% membership in the County Tournament.

The Watford league seem to have plenty of junior material. They have so far booked ten places for the County Week-end at Lilleshall during Easter when the players will be coached by Geoff Harrower.

The County Senior Closed Championship moves from Letchworth to Hatfield this season and will be staged at the canteen of Messrs. De Havilland Propellers Co., Ltd., on February 23 and 24, 1957. The arrangements are in the hands of the new championship secretary, D. B. Guildford.

Dennis H. Williams.

WELSH CORNER

Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans, who recently underwent a major operation, is now out of hospital and progressing as well as can be expected.

BEST NEWS of the month past is that Glamorgan got off to a good start in their fight back to the Premier Division of the National County Championships.

By beating Worcestershire 9—1, the Welsh county showed an improvement on their performance against the same opponents at home last season, and Ken Milsom, who captained the side at The Shire Hall in Worcester, was well pleased with the Glamorgan players' showing.

The next County match is against Dorset at The Deymel Sports Club, in Cardiff, on November 17th. This is the first time we have met Dorset players, but we are looking forward to another victory.

There can scarcely be much change in the Glamorgan side, but it has to be borne in mind that Bernard Dimascio is now available, and is evidently playing well.

There have been some early alterations in the Open Tournament programme.

"OPEN" SHUFFLE

Swansea, having fixed on November 10th for their Open, found difficulty over the venue, and had to ask for a postponement. At the same time, Cardiff found that the Llandaff North Drill Hall would not be available on December 15th, so the Welsh Association have agreed to change the Swansea event to that date. Cardiff will probably try to get a date in the New Year.

This shuffle meant that there would be no tournament in Wales during November, so the Welsh Association stepped in, and arranged another invitation American Tournament at The Regal, Cardiff, on the vacated date, November 10th.

The last American Tournament proved very popular, if a bit exhausting, and it was a bit disappointing that some of the men and women stars were absent.

Nevertheless, those who did come showed some good form, although there were no surprises.

John Simonson won the men's event, beating Glamorgan County cricketer Louis Devereux in the Final play off. Louis played against Wales in the first two junior international matches between ourselves and Eng-

land. Although he has not reached the heights attained by Brian Kennedy and Michael Thornhill, contemporaries of his in the same side, Louis has proved a valuable County player, and will undoubtedly be a great asset to Cardiff in its representative teams. He is not eligible for Glamorgan at present.

John Simonson was in good form, and resisted a determined effort by Norman Parker in one semi-final. In the other Louis beat Alan Morris, who had played very well during the day. Alan actually lead Louis 15—11 in the third, then failed to get another point!

Scottish International and Welsh Closed title holder Eddie Still suffered an unexpected eclipse in his group, losing to Alan Morris who played brilliantly against him, and then unaccountably going down to David Bird.

Among the women, we were treated to the sight of a new and more dangerous Betty Gray. Betty now uses a rubber on sponge bat, ideally suited to her flat bat play, and in the final Shirley Jones barely got double figures against her. Shirley beat Audrey Bates in the deciding match in her group, whilst Betty defeated Vera Rowe, also using sponge. Others who played well were Lilian Coombs and Shirley Cartwright.

The Welsh League programme has not produced any shocks yet,

although Abergavenny came nearest to creating the sensation of beating Swansea. The Champions only won 5—4, the Abergavenny "boys" David Parry and Clive Arkell doing great things, and Jack Price beating Ken Pittard.

But Abergavenny themselves suffered a shock, for their junior side, admittedly without Parry, was beaten 5—4 by Cardiff!

Cardiff seem to have the best chance of taking the honours this year, and their strength is proved by a crushing 9—0 defeat of Barry, who looked to be all ready to be big things. Newport, although veteran Trevor Jones is still a thorn in the sides of most Welsh players, are probably not as good.

Mumbles may spring a surprise, for Glyn Morgan and John Simonson are turning out for them. Frankly this looks like stretching the ramifications of Mumbles more than might be expected, and one can only regret that Morgan and Simonson have not tried to assist their own Port Talbot clubs to reform their league.

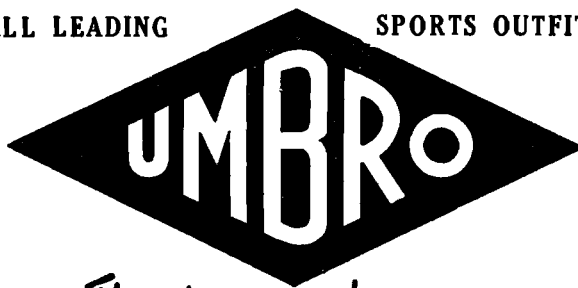
Division 2 South is going to be a battle between Cardiff seconds and Aberdare Seconds, whilst Tredegar will probably fight it out with Eastern Valleys in the Northern Section.

Swansea and Cardiff are much as before in the Women's Section, although Swansea must view their lack of strong reserves with some misgiving.

The Welsh Association dinner and presentation of medals takes place on Saturday, December 18th.

OF ALL LEADING

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IRISH SCENE

TABLE TENNIS here is slowly getting into its stride, and by now most clubs have decided on their teams for the coming league campaigns. Strangely enough very few of our first division clubs have changes in personnel from season to season, and this year is no exception.

Leinster-Stratford, however, can boast of the most outstanding change-over in recent years, for Anglesea's second team have moved over en bloc. Ernie Sterne, Tommy Taylor and Willie Heron are the players involved.

Leinster-Stratford's other Division I team will be made up of Irish international Wesley Pappin, Cecil Turner and Leslie Vard. The latter is a recruit from Garda, whose side is breaking up.

I also learn that Ray Killock, who has been a stalwart with Garda for so many seasons and was reckoned one of the most promising players in Leinster, has decided to retire. Thus Leinster-Stratford will have two very strong sides indeed in Division I of the Leinster League.

I cannot foresee any team even approaching the Anglesea first string which comprises Sean Clarkin, Mick Behan and Donald Mahony. This combination won both league and cup last season, and as all are young and enthusiastic players, they are bound to stay on top for some time.

Balbriggan, who are increasing in

strength each year will have four teams in the Leinster League and their neighbours and close rivals Eagle of Drogheda are making a welcome return.

Diminutive Tommy Caffrey, from Balbriggan, the Irish boy champion, has been selected by the Irish Table Tennis Association to take part in the English Junior Open at Herne Bay on November 10 and 11.

Caffrey is a most promising player who can attack on both flanks and has a tremendous match temperament. I cannot help thinking, however, that his lack of height and reach will be against him when pitted against first-class opposition.

There will be several familiar faces missing from Irish table tennis this season. Bertie Huet of Leinster-Stratford, who represented Ireland in the hey-days of Cyril Kemp, Harry Morris and Co., has decided to retire and his easy-going manner will certainly be missed.

I have already mentioned that Noel Kerr has emigrated to Canada, and that Grosvenor Maher and several others are now in London, but here is an item of interest to any other player from Ireland who may be situated in the London area—both Maher and Jimmy O'Hara from Belfast are members of the Wood Green club in London, and can be contacted there.

Sean Dignam.

VICTOR— GODFATHER

Thomas Arthur Lawton, the baby son of soccer idol Tommy Lawton, who was christened at Kettering on October 14, not only has a famous father, but a godfather of equal renown—Victor Barna, that great maestro of table tennis.

Lawton and Barna, with a mutual interest in football, have been friends for many years. The association started at Chelsea, where Barna used to train for table tennis with the same discipline as a footballer, when he first came over to this country from Hungary.

But for his table tennis, Barna may have gained equal fame at soccer for in his native Budapest he gained junior international honours as a winger. He was coached in those days by Jimmy Hogan, the former Aston Villa player, who built up a world wide reputation as a football coach.

Barna played for the M.T.K. Club in Budapest, whose colours were blue and white. When he came to this country he sought a club with the same colours for training and so went to Chelsea.

SCOTLAND SPEAKING

Good news is that John Miller hopes to become a British subject and so eligible to play for Scotland in time for the Irish match, in January.

The season is not thoroughly under way up here yet, only a few league matches having been played so far, but I have a strong suspicion that when the tournaments do start, a heavy toll of the titles will be taken by the Edinburgh trio, Miller, Kerr and Helen Elliot, all of whom are working hard and playing well.

A young man called Latham had a 100% record in the gruelling Y.M.C.A. trials in Glasgow before the season began, and so has his rightful place as No. 1 in the Glasgow Central "A" team. Team-mates Campbell and Weatherstone make up a formidable combination.

But two rivals at least are not daunted. Central "B" and Hamilton "A" are likely trouble makers, and the fight should be an interesting one. Supremacy in the West is not the foregone conclusion it was once.

The Scottish Inter-League Championship, just published, is:

Aberdeen, bye; Inverness v Elgin; Edinburgh v Dundee; Stirling v Lanarkshire; Bathgate v Dunfermline; Fife v Clackmannan; Rothesay v Dunoon; Greenock v West of Scotland.

The first tournament, at Elgin, will soon be here, and immediately afterwards the team to play England will be picked, so we are ready for the off, and there is much cleaning of shoes and pressing of shirts and shorts (We hope).

Gordon Walker

SCOTS STARS No. 2 — John Miller



JOHN MILLER

He is by no means a flamboyant personality, yet gives the strong impression of latent power.

Forthright, but never offensively so, he displays in every action a natural courtesy reminiscent of a forgotten world.

When the Germans invaded his country, John made his way by Rumania and Yugoslavia to the Polish forces in France, and after being invalided out of the army in Normandy came to Edinburgh to study for a Bachelor of Commerce degree. He has been resident in Edinburgh ever since.

Two years ago, when John introduced the sponge bat to Scottish table tennis, he came in for a lot of unkind criticism. But he is a man who knows what he thinks and doesn't worry what other folks say. He persevered.

Some will tell you that sponge "made" John Miller. Nonsense. Not bat, but mind and temperament make a champion. John's recipe for success has been the addition of hard work to these two qualities.

Two hours table tennis a day is a rule of his life, even if the calls of work mean those two hours do not start until 11 p.m. Success is a hard taskmaster.

Miller played for Scotland in the Swaythling Cup at Utrecht and this season hopes to be eligible for the international nationals, for he has applied for naturalization papers as a British subject.

This will be purely formal recognition for John is already one of us.

VYING at Festival time with the most cosmopolitan cities of the world, Edinburgh derives a certain exotic savour from the number of foreigners who make their home there. For most of these, the hub of movement is International House, where the manager is Polish-born Johnny Miller, reigning Scottish "closed" champion and winner of many other titles.

Table tennis and his work at International House are the main interests of this friendly but quietly determined man.

THE DEADLY ENEMY

By SAM KIRKWOOD

ALONG with many others I have been neutral about bat surfaces. I have never liked playing with or against sponge, but I did not regard that as any reason for the material to be banned. My attitude was a fairly common one: "If I like rubber that's my affair. If other people prefer sponge, that's their business."

But it has become obvious, even to middle-of-the-roaders like myself, that there's much more to the question than was at first thought. It has now come to the point, in fact, when we are forced to regard sponge in the light of what is best for the sport, rather than what is best for certain players.

And what is best for the sport is far and away the more important issue.

What am I talking about? I'll tell you.

Reports from Continental countries tell of falling gates at tournaments and diminishing interest in the game in general. Table Tennis is suffering a decline in countries hitherto numbered among the world's most flourishing and enthusiastic, T.T.-wise.

The reason? Sponge bats. Sponge, say officials, has robbed the game of spectacle, interest, excitement. Players no longer use or care about footwork, but stand almost stationary at the table waiting for a kill. Rallies are so short-lived as to be almost non-existent. Tactics are at a discount, all-round play is not to be seen, styles are crude and ugly. And fighting spirit of sponge-users is almost at zero. If they can't get their hit in they lose heart.

Officials are worried that matters will get even worse. Faster bats, of even more freakish composition than those so far introduced, are coming on to the market. Hits from these rackets, so it is reliably reported, are so fast that the receiver cannot even

see the ball, let alone return it. What this portends needs no explanation.

In England, the game has also taken a turn for the worse. True there are such contributory factors as lack of top-class personalities, growing shortage of money, and so on. But is it not also true that sponge is rapidly making pure, all-round Table Tennis a thing of the past? Is it to be wondered at that coincident with, and resulting from, the lowering standard of play, public interest is declining, or that the game is not the attraction it used to be to ambitious youngsters?

I think the answer to all this is clear. If we hope to breed a race of Table Tennis players as distinct from a crop of slap-happy bashers, sponge must be outlawed—NOW—before it is too late. We have had four years to make up our minds about sponge (and crepe, "sandwiches," leather, etc., etc.), and it has been proved that the game will be all the better without it.

Let's say it again: what matters now, and matters most urgently, is what is best for the game, not what suits a section of players. That being the case, sponge must go, because it has proved itself Table Tennis's most deadly enemy.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP by CONRAD JASCHKE

CHAMPIONS FALL TO YORKSHIRE

CHAMPIONS SURREY beaten at home in their first match. That was the dramatic start to the opening month of the County championships, which leaves Middlesex and Gloucestershire as the only unbeaten teams in the Premier Division.

Yorkshire, who started Middlesex on their downfall last year, have once again proved the giant killers, beating Surrey 6-4 at Wimbledon.

It was a real thriller with everything depending on the last match. Brian Kennedy, giving one of his best ever displays, clinched the two points by defeating Harry Venner 21-10, 21-12. Both Kennedy and Hinchliff,

Please make sure that the publicly secretary's copy of all score sheets is sent to Mr. Conrad Jaschke, 22, Sidcup Hill Gardens, Sidcup, Kent, even though they still bear the previous secretary's name. It will greatly assist him if all sheets could be posted on the night of the match.

who also surprisingly beat Venner, were unbeaten in singles, though they were on the losing end of the doubles.

Yorkshire's victory over Surrey served to emphasize the strength of Middlesex, against whom they could offer only token resistance when they met at Acton earlier in the month and were crushed 9-1. Yorkshire's solitary victory was gained by Kennedy when he beat Micky Thornhill,

after earlier going down to Derek Burridge.

Middlesex, with Victor Barna as non-playing captain, are determined to regain the title, and followed up the win over Yorkshire by defeating newly promoted Kent 10-0. Kent's one bright spot was the display of Joyce Fielder who came close to toppling Diane Rowe, losing at 18 in the third.

Cheshire, the other promoted side, went down 2-8 to Essex. They should have narrowed the margin for D. Schofield led Bobby Stevens 21-14 in the third game, only to be overhauled and beaten 21-19, 14-21, 23-21.

Lancashire soon gained revenge for the North by defeating Essex 6-4 at Plaistow, where the outstanding performance was that of Winifred Swift, of *Daily Mirror* fame, who beat Yvonne Baker, England's No. 6. Miss Swift also had a good win over Miss S. Davis in the previous Lancashire match when they lost 4-6 to Gloucestershire, after holding their own up to 4-all.

Yorkshire "seconds" marked up two good wins in the Second Division (North), beating Durham 9-1 at Northallerton, and Warwickshire 7-3 at Nuneaton. Warwickshire missed the services of Pam Mortimer particularly in the mixed doubles, but Ann Haydon ably looked after the singles and doubles.

ENTERPRISE

Incidentally, Northallerton League showed up some of the more exalted bodies by producing a two-colour printed programme for the Yorks-Durham encounter. This was as good an answer as I have seen to those firm believers in the duplicated sheet who scorn printed programmes and say "it can't be done." With five-eighths of the space taken up by advertisements, I think Northallerton must have found their effort worthwhile.

Durham also suffered a 2-8 defeat at the hands of Northumberland, who in turn were beaten 4-6 by Lincolnshire. It looks as though a rare struggle is going to develop between Lincs., Warwick and outsiders Northumberland, for the right to challenge for promotion. Yorks are, of course, favourites to fill the top position but as a second team they are not concerned with promotion.

In the Second Division (South) Sussex nearly came unstuck against

FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION

November 17	Surrey v Gloucestershire, Sutton Adult School, Ben Hill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey	7 p.m.
November 20	Kent v Essex, Siemens Canteen, Charlton	7 p.m.
December 5	Essex v Surrey, Red Triangle Club, Western Road, Romford	7.30 p.m.
December 8	Gloucestershire v Yorkshire, Public Baths, Gloucester	7 p.m.
	Lancashire v Middlesex, De Havilland, Bolton	7.15 p.m.
	Cheshire v Kent.	

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

November 17	Lincolnshire v Durham, Pier Pavilion, Cleethorpes	7.15 p.m.
December 8	Durham v Warwickshire, Middlesbrough	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

November 17	Berkshire v Suffolk, C.W.S. Printing Works, Elgar Road, Reading	7.30 p.m.
	Hampshire v Kent, Grosvenor Sports Club, Wimbledon Park, Southsea	7.30 p.m.
November 24	Surrey v Sussex, Higgs Hill Canteen, South Lambeth Avenue, London	7 p.m.
December 1	Suffolk v Kent, Y.M.C.A., Lowestoft	7 p.m.
December 8	Hertfordshire v Hampshire, Hemel Hempstead	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

November 17	Glamorgan v Dorset, Deymel Sports Club, Hayes, Cardiff	7 p.m.
December 8	Staffordshire v Somerset.	
	Glamorgan v Devon, Cardiff	7 p.m.
	Dorset v Worcestershire, Church House, Br'dport	7 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

November 17	Worcestershire v Northamptonshire, Cripplegate Pavilion, Tybridge Street, Worcester	7.30 p.m.
November 24	Derbyshire v Staffordshire, Marrow Hill Memorial Hall, Chesterfield	7 p.m.
November 23	Staffordshire v Warwickshire, B.L.D. Co., Dumbledorry Lane, Aldridge, nr. Walsall	7.15 p.m.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

November 17	Cambridgeshire v Buckinghamshire, Impington Village College, Histon	7.30 p.m.
	Bedfordshire v Wiltshire.	
December 8	Bedfordshire v Hertfordshire.	
	Norfolk v Buckinghamshire, C.E.Y.M.S. Rooms, Norwich	7 p.m.

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

November 23	Staffordshire v Warwickshire, B.L.D. Co., Dumbledorry Lane, Aldridge, nr. Walsall	7.15 p.m.
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NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

November 17	Yorkshire v Lancashire, Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough	7 p.m.
December 8	Yorkshire v Cheshire, Police Boys Club, Halifax	3.30 p.m.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

November 17	Surrey v Sussex, Putney T.T.C., 63 Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15	4 p.m.
December 6	Middlesex v Hertfordshire, Johnsons of Hendon Ltd., Hendon Way, London, N.W.4	7 p.m.
December 8	Essex v Suffolk, Y.M.C.A., Victoria Road, Chelmsford	6 p.m.
	Sussex v Kent, Worthing	7 p.m.

Kent II, just scraping home 6-4. True they were without Wendy Bates, but reserve girl Miss Turner upset Kent calculations by beating Joyce Robeson.

Peter Shead easily beat Kent's John Nixon, making his county debut, but found Len Plant a different proposition and went down 16-21, 21-14, 18-21.

Sussex will be fancied to make yet another bid for promotion in this division, with probably most to fear from Hampshire, who lost 2-8 to Surrey II. Both wins were gained by George Stevens who beat both K. Sheldon and Jimmy Lowe, the latter match taking over an hour. Stevens is obviously going to be a difficult man to beat in this division and combines patience with a sound defensive game.

Kent's journey to Reading produced a draw with Berkshire, and the capacity crowd enjoyed every minute of a thrilling match in which Len Wise (Berks No. 1) and Barry Meisel (Kent No. 3) made attacking play pay off with two singles wins apiece.

Devon and Glamorgan opened with decisive wins over Dorset and Worcestershire respectively in the Second Division (West), while in the Midland Region, Northants, after taking a 2-1 lead, fell away badly and lost 2-8 to Derby.

The Junior Division (South) has a wide open appearance, following the 5-all draw between Middlesex and Kent. This was one of the best matches I have seen in years, and any result other than a draw would have been unjust.

With Middlesex leading 5-4, Tony Piddock beat R. King 21-16, 21-19. I predict a lot more will be heard of both these boys, who to my mind are right up to senior county standard.

Middlesex had previously gained a 10-0 win over Sussex, who also lost by a similar margin to Essex. In Hugh Malloy and Shelagh Hession Essex have a couple of youngsters who will take a lot of beating.

FAMOUS UNCLE

Sussex have a promising youngster in Stephen Bubleby, nephew of former Swaythling Cup player Ernie Bubleby.

Suffolk, with Peter Cole at No. 1, defeated Herts 8-2 and Surrey 7-3. Surrey, however, beat Herts 9-1.

It has been a disappointing start for both Herts and Sussex, but both are building for the future.

One Herts youngster to create a big impression among the Suffolk officials was 13-year-old R. Ratcliffe, whose good temperament, solid defence and efficient counter-hitting, stamp him as a junior international of the future.

PREMIER DIVISION

Middlesex	9	Yorkshire	1
Essex	8	Cheshire	2
Essex	4	Lancashire	6
Middlesex	10	Kent	0
Surrey	4	Yorkshire	6
Lancashire	4	Gloucestershire...	6
Gloucestershire...	7	Cheshire	3

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

Yorkshire	9	Durham	1
Durham	2	Northumberland	8
Northumberland	4	Lincolnshire	6
Warwickshire	3	Yorkshire	7

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

Hampshire	2	Surrey	8
Berkshire	5	Kent	5
Kent	4	Sussex	6
Surrey	8	Berkshire	2

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

Worcestershire...	1	Glamorgan	9
Dorset	0	Devon	10
Devon	8	Somerset	2

MIDLAND DIVISION

Northamptonshire	2	Derby	8
Warwickshire	7	Northamptonshire	3
Staffordshire	9	Worcestershire...	1

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Wiltshire	7	Cornwall	3
Hertfordshire	5	Norfolk	5
Buckinghamshire	5	Cornwall	5

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

Warwickshire	3	Northamptonshire	7
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SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Middlesex	5	Kent	5
Hertfordshire	1	Surrey	9
Suffolk	7	Surrey	3
Suffolk	8	Hertfordshire	2
Sussex	0	Essex	10
Sussex	0	Middlesex	10

DETAILED RESULTS OF PREMIER DIVISION MATCHES

Middlesex 9, Yorks 1

M. Thornhill lost to B. Kennedy 13-21, 18-21; bt R. Hinchliff 21-13, 21-17; D. Burridge bt Kennedy 21-8, 16-21, 21-15; bt R. Dove 21-9, 21-10; A. Rhodes bt Hinchliff 21-14, 21-18; bt Dove 21-9, 21-14, L. Adams and Burridge bt Dove and Hinchliff 21-13, 21-13; Adams and Miss M. Fry bt Kennedy and Miss F. Wright 21-17, 22-20; Miss D. Rowe bt Mrs. C. Thompson 21-13, 21-12; Fry and Rowe bt Thompson and Wright 21-13, 21-17.

Essex 8, Cheshire 2

J. Leach bt A. Shepherd 21-7, 21-10; bt E. Johnson 21-12, 21-16; B. Brumwell lost to Shepherd 16-21, 17-21; lost to D. Schofield 10-21, 21-11, 8-21; R. Stevens bt Johnson 14-21, 22-20, 21-10;

bt Schofield 21-19, 14-21, 23-21; Brumwell and Stevens bt Johnson and Schofield 21-11, 22-20; Leach and Mrs. E. Carrington bt Shepherd and Miss L. Bown 22-24, 21-11, 21-8; Miss Y. Baker bt Miss E. Grimstone 21-9, 21-11; Baker and Carrington bt Bown and Grimstone 21-18, 21-18.

Surrey 4, Yorks 6

H. Venner lost to B. Kennedy 10-21, 12-21; lost to R. Hinchliff 22-20, 10-21, 19-21; J. Head lost to Kennedy 19-21, 12-21; bt R. Dove 21-6, 21-15, A. Miller lost to Hinchliff 21-21, 19-21; lost to Dove 21-15, 10-21, 13-21, K. Craigie and Venner bt Dove and Hinchliff 21-12, 23-21, Craigie and Miss B. Isaacs bt Kennedy and Miss F. Wright 19-21, 21-13, 21-19. Mrs. J. Head bt Mrs. C. Thompson 21-11, 21-15. Mrs. Head and Miss M. Piper lost to Mrs. Thompson and Miss Wright 6-21, 21-16, 17-21.

Essex 4, Lancs 6

B. Brumwell lost to R. Alcock 13-21, 19-21; bt G. Pullar 21-11, 21-18; R. Stevens lost to Alcock 13-21, 19-21; lost to J. Ingber 21-19, 17-21, 18-21. L. Sawyer lost to Pullar 21-17, 14-21, 17-21; lost to Ingber 16-21, 21-17, 13-21. Brumwell and Stevens bt Alcock and Ingber 11-21, 21-17, 21-16. Sawyer and Mrs. E. Carrington bt Pullar and Miss S. Threlfall 21-17, 19-21, 21-12, Miss Y. Baker lost to Miss W. Swift 18-21, 17-21, Baker and Carrington bt Threlfall and Swift 17-21, 23-21, 21-19.

Middlesex 10, Kent 0

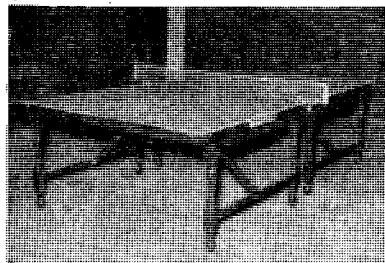
M. Thornhill bt R. Syndercombe 19-21, 21-12, 21-16; bt R. Etheridge 21-10, 21-10; D. Burridge bt Syndercombe 21-11, 21-16; bt D. Whittaker 21-14, 21-12; A. Rhodes bt Etheridge 21-17, 21-17; bt Whittaker 21-18, 21-12; L. Adams and Burridge bt Etheridge and Whittaker 21-12, 21-11; Adams and Miss M. Fry bt Syndercombe and Mrs. J. Beadle 19-21, 21-16, 21-12; Miss D. Rowe bt Miss J. Fielder 21-12 16-21, 21-18; Fry and Rowe bt Beadle and Fielder 18-21, 21-18, 21-12.

Lancs 4, Gloucester 6

R. Alcock bt A. Simons 21-10, 20-22, 21-19, lost to B. Merrett 16-21, 5-21. G. Pullar bt Merrett 15-21, 21-13, 21-13, lost to R. Griffin 14-21, 18-21. C. Booth lost to R. Griffin 8-21, 18-21, lost to A. Simons 12-21, 12-21. Booth and D. Ellison lost to Merrett and Griffin 9-21, 11-21. Alcock and Miss S. Threlfall beat Simons and Mrs. E. Spokes 21-13, 21-17. Miss W. Swift bt Miss S. Davis 21-17, 18-21, 21-12. Miss Swift and Miss Threlfall lost to Miss Davis and Mrs. Spokes 21-23, 11-21.

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FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details and Venue</i>	<i>Extra Events</i>	<i>Organising Secretary</i>
Nov. 10-13	ENGLISH and Kent Junior Open (Oct. 13)		Mr. F. G. Mannooch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.
14-18	Hungarian Open		
16-17	Birmingham Open (Nov. 3) Friends' Institute, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.	B.S., G.S. B.D.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.
23-25	South of England Open (Nov. 10) Powers Samas Welfare Hall, Aurelia Road, Croydon	B.S. G.S.	Mr. C. A. Bourne, 15a, Red Down Road, Coulsdon, Surrey.
24	Dorset Open (Nov. 10) Sidney and Trinity Halls, Weymouth.	B.S.	Mr. P. Northcott, 31, Hillcrest Road, Weymouth.
Nov. 26-	Central Open (Nov. 10)	B.S.	Mrs. E. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road,
Dec. 1	Manor Place Baths, London, S.E.1.	G.S.	Thornton Heath, Surrey.
Nov. 29	ENGLAND v SCOTLAND Barnehurst Residents' Club, 152a, Parkside Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.		Mr. J. Dawson, 140, The Drive, Blendon, Bexley, Kent.
30	ENGLAND v IRELAND Victoria Hall, Hanley, 7 p.m.		Mr. M. Scott, 157, Wolverhampton Road, Sedgley, Nr. Dudley. <i>Tickets from H. E. Smith, 143, Leek Road, Baddeley Green, Stoke-on-Trent.</i>
Dec. 1	Bath Open (Nov. 19) Drill Hall, Lower Bristol Road, Bath.	B.S.	Mr. L. Le Cren, 4, Newark Street, Bath.
1	Hull and East Riding Open (Nov. 22) Madeley Street Baths, Hull.	B.S. G.S.	Mrs. R. Abrahamson, 35, Trafford Road, Kingston Road, Willerby, E. Yorks.
6-7	Middlesex (Herga) Open (Nov. 19)	B.S.	Mr. P. France, 53, Rickmansworth Road, Pinner, Middlesex.
10-15	Herga L.T. Club Courtfield Avenue, Harrow.		
16-22	N.W. Kent Open (Nov. 19) Barnehurst Residents' Club, 152a, Parkside Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.	B.S. G.S.	Mr. L. Pickering, 187, Bedonwell Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.
Jan. 5	Yorkshire Junior Open (Dec. 26) Madeley Street Baths, Hessle Road, Hull.	X.S. (under 15)	Mr. J. Hancock, 73, Lady Pitt Lane, Leeds 11.
18-19	Welsh Open		
19	South Yorkshire Open (Jan. 11) Somme Barracks, Glossop Road, Sheffield 10.	B.S.	Mr. R. D. Renshaw, 7, Luna Croft, Glead'ss, Sheffield, 12.
20	Southampton Open (Jan. 6) Royal Pier Pavilion, Southampton.	B.S.	Mr. D. Sheppard, 721, Portswood Road, Portswood, Southampton.
25-26	Irish Open Belfast.		
26-27	Kent Open (Jan. 5) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	J.X.S.	Mr. F. Betts, 88, Surrenden Road, Folkestone.
26	Lancashire Open De Havilland Works Canteen, Lostock, Bolton.	B.S. G.S.	
Feb. 1-2	Midland Open Friends' Institute 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.	B.S. G.S. B.D. V.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
4-9	South London Open (Jan. 19) Manor Place Baths, Walworth Road, London, S.E.1.	B.S. G.S.	Mrs. E. G. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
9	Pontefract Open (Jan. 28) Town Hall Pontefract.	Y.X.S. V.S.	Mr. E. B. Crofts, 2, Ashwood Villas, Banks Avenue, Pontefract.

SUSSEX "OPEN"

by Conrad Jaschke

THE SUSSEX "OPEN" came of age in really grand style, when it was held for the 21st time at Hastings on October 27—28. Derek Tyler, chairman of the organising committee, and Jack Peddlesden, the tournament secretary, backed by a team of enthusiastic helpers, put on a show that was magnificently run, provided a spectacle to a large crowd and was a real credit to the game. How quickly table tennis would lift itself from its present stagnation, if there were a tournament of this quality in every area!

The players paid their own tribute by turning up in record numbers, to make this appear like the English Open without the foreign entry.

It was not without its shocks and every title changed hands with the exception of the women's singles retained by Ann Haydon (Warw.) with a devastating 21—12, 21—9 win over Shirley Jones, of Wales.

Harry Venner (Surrey) lost his men's singles when beaten by Jackie Head (Surrey) in the quarter-final, 13—21, 21—14, 21—9. Earlier Venner had a tough struggle with Alan Rhodes (Middx.) before getting home 18—21, 21—19, 21—17, and he did not have things all his own way in a 23—21 21—9 win over Eddie Hodson (Middx.).

Head, a greatly improved player with his new sandwich bat, went on to beat Derek Burridge (Middx.) in the semi-final before going down to Micky Thornhill (Middx.) in the final. Thornhill's greater steadiness carried him through, after losing the first game.

Thornhill, had a terrific hour-long battle with Alan Lindsay (Middx.) in the earlier rounds. It became a test of patience, with Thornhill showing plenty of that stamina which some people seem to think he lacks, to outstay his younger and superbly fit rival by 11—21, 21—19, 21—16.

Thornhill also beat Bob McCree (Essex), Jim O'Hara (Ireland), Len Adams (Middx.) and Ivor Jones (Essex).

Australian Lew Laza had a brilliant run disposing of Laurie Landry (Middx.), Tony Miller (Surrey), Tony Cornell (Essex) — who had beaten Jack Carrington — and Brian Brumwell (Essex). Of these, only Landry had taken a game from the Australian, who was finally tamed by Burridge at 21—18, 21—17, in the quarter-final.

By far the most exciting quarter-final was that in which Aubrey Simons (Glouc.) defeated J. Bannerjee (India) 21—14, 17—21, 21—19 after the Indian had just failed to make his magnificent hitting pay off.

It soon became obvious that no other player could live with Ann Haydon in the women's singles. She swept through all opposition without loss of a game, defeating Joyce Fielder (Kent) 21—5, 21—12, Yvonne Baker (Essex) 21—13, 21—11, Helen Elliot (Scotland) in the semi-final 21—14, 23—21, then Shirley Jones (Wales) in the final.

The tiny, bespectacled Shirley—she stands under five feet tall — provided a major upset in the semi-final when she beat Diane Rowe (Middx.) 15—21, 21—15, 21—16. Her other victims included Jill Rook (Surrey) at 22—20, 18—21, 21—17, and Jean Head (Surrey) 21—14, 18—21, 21—18.

There was a minor sensation in the mixed doubles when Jimmy Lowe and Betty Isaacs beat Venner and Miss Haydon. Then Johnny Leach, who had been unable to play in the singles, and Diane Rowe went down to Ivor Jones and Shirley Jones.

Ivor, complete with flaming red beard, and the tiny Shirley gave a grand show of whirlwind hitting when

winning the final against Simons and Miss Elliot, last year's winners.

In the men's doubles Leach and Carrington crashed to Head and Miller, who went on to beat Adams and Burridge in the final. The Middlesex pair looked the more attractive combination, but Head and Miller were always in full command.

Miss Haydon and Miss Rowe, the reigning English champions, were much too good for Miss Fielder and Miss Elliot in the women's doubles final, despite some grand retrieving by the Scot.

Tony Pidcock celebrated his new England junior badge by winning his first open title, when he beat B. Donnelly (Middx.) in the boys' singles final, but he had a close shave against Paul Lancaster (Kent) in the earlier rounds.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: J. HEAD bt D. Burridge 21—11, 18—21, 21—19. M. THORNHILL bt A. Simons 21—11, 21—17.

Final: THORNHILL bt Head 17—21, 21—12, 21—12.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: A. HAYDON bt H. Elliot 21—14, 23—21. S. JONES bt D. Rowe 15—21, 21—15, 21—16.

Final: HAYDON bt Jones 21—12, 21—9.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: L. ADAMS and D. BURRIDGE bt T. Kirby and K. Sheldon 21—18, 20—22, 21—18. J. HEAD and A. MILLER bt S. Jacobson and H. Venner 21—12, 21—19.

Final: HEAD and MILLER bt Adams and Burridge 21—13, 21—14.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: A. HAYDON and D. ROWE bt B. Isaacs and M. Piper 22—20, 21—12. H. ELLIOT and J. FIELDER bt Y. Baker and S. Jones 21—12, 21—15.

Final: HAYDON and ROWE bt Elliot and Fielder 21—15, 21—19.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: I. JONES and Miss S. JONES bt J. Leach and Miss D. Rowe 23—21, 27—25. A. SIMONS and Miss H. ELLIOT bt J. Lowe and Miss B. Isaacs 21—11, 21—10.

Final: JONES and Miss JONES bt Simons and Elliot 21—19, 21—15.

Boys' Singles: Final: A. PIDDOCK bt B. Donnelly 21—18, 15—21, 21—16.

YORKSHIRE "OPEN"

BRIAN KENNEDY, after winning the East of England and North of England titles, received a check to his sequence of tournament successes, when he surprisingly lost his Yorkshire title to Ray Hinchliff at Sheffield on October 27. In a keen exciting final, Hinchliff came back after losing the opening game to win 20—22, 21—17, 24—22.

Kennedy fought back strongly in the climax, but Hinchliff remained steady after 20—all, 21—all and 22—all had been called.

Kennedy, however, did not go away empty handed. He won both the men's doubles with Ray Dove, and the mixed doubles with Jean Preston.

Mrs. J. Braddock, of Manchester, won the women's singles, beating Jean Preston of Knaresborough, 21—17, 21—14.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: B. KENNEDY (Leeds) bt P. Skerratt (Lincs.) 21—14, 21—17. R. HINCHLIFF (Huddersfield) bt M. Simpson (Sheffield) 10—21, 21—10, 21—14.

Final: HINCHLIFF bt Kennedy 20—22, 21—17, 24—22.

Men's Doubles: Final: KENNEDY and R. DOVE bt A. A. Holmes and Skerratt 24—22, 21—15.

Women's Singles: Final: J. BRADDOCK (Manchester) bt J. Preston (Knaresborough) 21—17, 21—14.

Women's Doubles: Final: J. BRADDOCK and L. HAMILTON bt C. Moore and J. Chadderton 8—21, 21—19, 21—16.

Mixed Doubles: Final: KENNEDY and Miss PRESTON bt K. Park and Mrs. J. Braddock 21—13, 16—21, 21—16.

Veteran Singles: Final: E. BROWN bt G. Burgin 21—13, 21—14.

NORTH OF ENGLAND

"OPEN"

By MARGARET FRY

BRIAN KENNEDY and Helen Elliot made a clean sweep of the senior titles in the North of England "Open" at Manchester on October 13. Already winners of the singles at the East of England, they have now won the first two major tournaments of the season.

In the singles finals, Kennedy beat Geoff Pullar 21-13, 21-13, without being really extended, but Miss Elliot was given a hard fight by Joyce Fielder before winning 26-24, 18-21, 21-11.

There were numerous surprises in the early rounds of the men's singles with noteworthy performances from two local "boys" Geoff Pullar and Jeff Ingber.

Pullar had good wins over Ian Harrison, Bryan Merrett, and Geoff Dyson, then beat Ingber 21-16, 21-18, before losing to Kennedy in the final. Ingber on the other hand beat Michael Maclaren, Lou Laza 8-21, 23-21, 24-22, and Ray Hinchliff 11-21, 24-22, 23-21.

Len Adams beat Colin Booth and Bob Griffin, before going down to Eddie Hodson, one of the younger Middlesex players, who lost in turn to Kennedy. Micky Thornhill, Kennedy's semi-final victim had wins over Ray Dorking and Ron Allcock.

The women's singles ran fairly well to form, with Miss Elliot's greater experience pulling her through to victory after a great display by Miss Fielder.

Miss Fielder, however, found Phil Heppell quite a handful in the quarter final, before winning 17-21, 21-17, 21-18. She followed this up by beating Jill

Rook 22-20, 21-10 in the semi-final at which stage I lost 13-21, 21-23 to Miss Elliot.

Kennedy and Pullar, who won a hotly contested men's doubles final, had a terrific tussle with Thornhill and Raybould in the semi-final, coming from behind at 15-18 in the third to win 19-21, 23-21, 32-30. They also dropped a game to Bryan Merrett and Bob Griffin in the final.

There were no real surprises in the women's and mixed doubles, which gave Miss Elliot and Kennedy their hat-tricks.

A word of praise to the organisers, who wasted no time with idle tables during the early rounds and also provided some really worth while prizes such as a Candlewick bedspread, 21-piece tea service, hand towels, writing case, etc.

But what a pity the conditions were not just a little better. The distance between tables was barely six feet, too close for safety in the doubles. Kennedy sustained a nasty bruised ankle in his quarter final of the mixed when colliding with another table which could possibly have been taken down at this stage of the proceedings.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-final: B. KENNEDY bt M. Thornhill 21-16, 21-17; G. PULLAR bt J. Ingber 21-16, 21-18.

Final: KENNEDY bt Pullar 21-13, 21-13.

Ladies' Singles: Semi-finals: Miss H. ELLIOT bt Miss M. Fry 21-13, 23-21; Miss J. FIELDER bt Miss J. Rook 22-20, 21-10.

Final: Miss ELLIOT bt Miss Fielder 26-24, 18-21, 21-11.

Men's Doubles: Semi-final: KENNEDY and PULLAR bt Thornhill and R. Raybould 19-21, 23-21 32-30; B. MERRETT and R. GRIFFIN bt B. Casofsky and A. Holland 21-13, 29-27.

Final: KENNEDY and PULLAR beat Merrett and Griffin 16-21, 21-14, 21-16.

Ladies' Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss ELLIOT and Miss FRY bt Miss F. Wright and Miss S. Threfall 16-21, 21-12, 21-11; Miss FIELDER and Miss P. HEPPELL bt Miss A Pettifer and Mrs. J. Braddock 21-18, 21-9.

Final: Miss ELLIOT and Miss FRY bt Miss Fielder and Miss Heppell 21-8, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: KENNEDY and Miss ELLIOT bt I. Harrison and Miss E. Grimstone 21-13, 21-9; M. THORNHILL and Miss ROOK bt Raybould and Miss Fielder 21-17, 21-12.

Final: KENNEDY and Miss ELLIOT bt Thornhill and Miss Rook 21-13, 21-15.

Boys' Singles: Final: J. WOODFORD (Somerset) bt C. Deaton (Derby) 21-12, 12-21, 22-20.

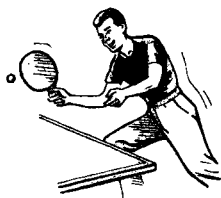
Girls' Singles: Final: Miss L. BOWN (Cheshire) bt Miss D. Ridgeway (Stockport) 21-13, 21-13.

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PORTSMOUTH "OPEN"

(October 21, 1956).

Men's Singles: B. MERRETT (Gloucestershire) bt A. Lindsay (Middlesex) 21-14, 17-21, 21-13.

Women's Singles: Miss M. AUSTIN (Surrey) bt Miss D. Wightman (Hampshire) 20-22, 21-14, 21-11.

Men's Doubles: MERRETT and R. MORLEY (Gloucestershire) bt F. Goodwyn (Surrey) and Lindsay 21-10, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Miss W. BATES (Sussex) and Miss WIGHTMAN bt Miss Austin and Miss C. Rose (Surrey) 20-22, 21-11, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles: L. LANDRY (Middlesex) and Miss BATES bt L. Hoffman (Middlesex) and Miss L. Withams (Surrey) 22-20, 23-21.

Junior Singles: D. GRANT (Isle of Wight) bt D. Butterworth (Lancs.) 21-23, 21-13, 21-19.