

TABLETENNIS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



JILL ROOK one of England's foremost women players, who has switched to Lawn Tennis for the summer

Tribute to Marcel Corbillon

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Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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SPONGE BAN CONTINUES

ANYONE who had hoped that the sponge bat ban would be lifted at the annual general meeting was doomed to disappointment. The experiment of pimped rubber only continues for another season.

By that time it will have come before the World Congress and this controversial question should be settled to universal satisfaction.

No one could have reasonably expected the E.T.T.A. to go back on last year's ruling, after the way other nations had followed our lead. It would have amounted to a climb down.

The vote has been taken, and, although this has brought some criticism—a selection of letters with a reply from Ivor Eyles, who was chairman at the time, are published on pages 12 and 13—there is no point in prolonging the arguments.

RUNNER-UP AGAIN

The summer is here once again and for most players it means a well earned rest and a change of sport. Many like Ann Haydon and Jill Rook have already got down to serious lawn tennis and with a measure of success.

Miss Haydon in fact has already been runner-up for the British Hard Courts Championships, losing in the final to Britain's No. 1, Shirley Bloomer, who is also champion of Italy and France.

Unfortunately for Ann, a poisoned hand put a brake on her activities or she may well have now been a British champion, for she had also reached the women's and mixed doubles finals before being forced to withdraw.

It seems that an unlucky gremlin dogs her footsteps whenever she is in sight of major sporting honours.

Maybe that will change soon and pave the way for her to win a world table tennis title at Dortmund next season. Yes, Ann will be there. She wants that elusive title and nothing will

persuade her to give up her table tennis yet.

Margaret Fry has also been around the lawn tennis courts and so has Bob Griffin, but for the likes of Johnny Leach, Diane Collins, Helen Elliot, it is off to the Holiday Camps for the summer to teach and encourage others in the arts of table tennis.

Diane, also looking forward to the world championships, is hoping that practice against all comers will help her to reach peak form next season. "I am determined to train hard," she told me.

Like the majority of players "*Table Tennis*" will also be taking a four months rest. Our next issue will not be until October. See that you renew your subscriptions now, or make certain of your copy through your league.

Remember this is your magazine and it needs your support. Don't just borrow a copy from a friend, buy one of your own.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE

Are you satisfied with the contents of "*Table Tennis*," which at ninepence is the biggest bargain in sports publications? If not, then let me have your criticisms.

I have heard some objections to Area Notes, but it is only through these that local news can be brought to readers, and you should see the complaints if they are omitted through lack of space or because they have arrived too late for publication.

Let me know the type of articles you would prefer to read and I will do my best to provide them.

Contributions from readers are also welcome, but please send them typed in double line spacing. It makes it so much easier for the printer.

Meanwhile, a pleasant holiday. See you again next season.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official News:

ON April 26, 1958, the Annual General Meeting of the Association took place in the Lecture Hall, Kingsway Hall, London, W.C.2. The result of the ballot for the election of Officers and members of the National Executive Committee for 1958/59 was as follows:—

Officers.

Chairman: A. K. VINT, O.B.E., Unopposed. Treasurer: T. BLUNN, Unopposed.

National Executive Committee on the Regional Basis:—

Midland Region. Two members.

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

North Eastern Region. One member.

Elected: REAY, E. (Unopposed).

North Western Region. Two members.

Elected: COOK, N., JONES, L. W. (Unopposed).

Southern Region. Two members.

Elected: JASCHKE, C., 41., MANNOCH, F. G., 29. Not Elected: Thompson, 20.

South Western Region. One member.

Elected: NORTHCOTT, P. H., 12. Not Elected: Newell, F. C., 2.

Eastern Region. Two members.

Elected: WOOLLARD, L. S., 34., WALKER, H., 26.

Not Elected: Fairhead, E. J., 13, Constable, L. R. J., 10, Durrant, A. E., 7.

London Region. Two members.

Elected: JAMES, G., 32, CLEMETT, C. J., 23.

Not Elected: Bulport, L. C. T., 18, Hoddy, S. R., 17.

Yorkshire Region. One member.

Elected: FORREST, L. E. (Unopposed).

National Executive Committee on a National Basis:—

Elected: CARRINGTON, J., 192, SENESCALL, J., 87, FERGUSON, Miss L., 83.

Not Elected: Lightfoot, Miss, 73, Benson, Miss K., 59, Bateman, F. H., 49, Bromfield, L. M., 43, Haydon, A. A., 37, Thompson, L., 32, Waines, Miss K., 24, Wendon, D., 12, Rix, G. F., 8, Durrant, A. E., 6.

THE HON. I. G. S. MONTAGU was elected President of the Association. Vice-Presidents re-elected were as follows:—

F. A. AMIES, C. E. BARTHOLOMEW, H. M. BUNBURY, MRS. D. L. BUNBURY, A. F. CARRIS, E. F. CHRISTOPHER, R. C. HURFORD, F. S. B. LAWES, H. R. MACDONALD, D. W. POUPART, W. H. PRITCHARD, J. SIDDON, MISS A. TARRANT, J. THOMPSON, P. E. WARDEN,

Messrs. Spain Brothers & Company, Chartered Accountants, were re-elected Auditors.

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

Standardisation of the Racket.

A resolution proposed by the National Executive Committee read as follows:—

"That the standardisation of the Racket by Pimpled Rubber Covering (undertaken in accordance with the I.T.T.F. 1957 Stockholm Congress recommendation that member countries should undertake trials of Racket Standardisation measures) for the purpose of play in this Country in all events during season 1957/58 except and specially exempted by the National Executive Committee, SHOULD CONTINUE during season 1958/59, unless altered at a Special General Meeting which may be called (under the terms of Rule 20) in the light of any new decisions or recommendations by the International Table Tennis Federation."

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

President: Hon. I. G. S. Montagu.

Chairman: A. K. Vint, O.B.E.

Honorary Treasurer: T. Blunn.

Honorary Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

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

Mr. J. Carrington moved and explained the points at issue for the National Executive Committee and Mr. G. James seconded his resolution. The Resolution was carried by a large majority.

A resolution proposed by the Stockport & District T.T.A. on this subject read as follows:—

"That the Stockport Association view with apprehension the so-called experiments with the laws of Table Tennis, viz—double lines, racket standardisation and the height of the net. They consider these experiments cause uncertainty

amongst players and are detrimental to the game. They therefore wish to propose the following:—

"The Laws of Table Tennis as adopted by the International Table Tennis Federation to be adhered to without alteration until such time as any alterations are finally approved and passed by the International Table Tennis Federation."

"Football Pools Scheme."

A resolution proposed by the National Executive Committee read as follows:—

"That, in view of the controversial nature of the suggestion that funds be raised for the E.T.T.A. by the introduction of a "Football Pools" Scheme by an outside body, a vote be taken at this Annual General Meeting to decide the following questions:—

- (i) *Whether it is desirable to raise funds for the E.T.T.A. by the introduction of a "Football Pools" Scheme.*
- (ii) *Whether the sum of money (thought to be in the region of £300) to commence such a scheme should be advanced from the Funds of the E.T.T.A."*

Mr. I. C. Eyles moved and explained the various points connected with this resolution for the National Executive Committee and replied to the debate. Mr. L. S. Woollard was the seconder of the resolution.

By a show of hands the Annual General Meeting agreed that the National Executive Committee's resolution be considered at the Meeting and by block voting parts (i) and (ii) were carried by 774 votes for, 343 against and 645 votes for, 472 against respectively.

Office Administration.

It was with regret that the Annual General Meeting were told that Mrs. Pegg-Lewis had left the service of the Association on April 11, 1958. The meeting instructed the Hon. Secretary to convey to Mrs. Pegg-Lewis their appreciation of all the work she had carried out on their behalf over the past twelve years and to say how sorry they were that she had made the decision to leave the Association's service.

"Open" Tournaments.

An alteration to Rule 28 (c) concerning "Open" Tournaments was proposed by the National Executive Committee and read as follows:—

"Delete the present rule 28 (c) and insert—

All competitors other than those in Junior events shall pay a fee of 1s. to the E.T.T.A. The Tournament Secretary shall remit the fees collected to the Association together

with a summary of the number of entrants in each event and a record of the results of each event including details of the final and semi-finals matches, within 14 days of completion of the Tournament. A County Association shall be entitled to a refund of a sum equivalent to one fifth of the competitor's fees paid to the Association in respect of tournaments played in the area of the County concerned."

This amendment to rule was carried.

"Invitation" Tournaments.

An alteration to rule was also carried which brings into line with "Open" Tournaments all "Invitation" Tournaments. The result of this alteration means that "Invitation" Tournament Organisers must comply with the regulations as laid down for "Open" Tournaments during season 1958/59.

Two meetings of the National Executive Committee took place on April 26, 1958, in the Lecture Hall, Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2, one prior to the Annual General Meeting and one afterwards. Some of the matters discussed were—

"News of the World" Coaching Scheme in association with Messrs. Butlin's, Ltd.

Approval was given to the above

named scheme to operate at five of Messrs. Butlin's Ltd.'s Holiday Camps during the 1958 Summer Season. The arrangements for the coaching scheme will be controlled and supervised by Mr. J. A. Leach.

National Executive Committee Appointments—Season 1958/59.

The following appointments were made by the newly elected National Executive Committee—

Deputy Chairman of the Association: MR. I. C. EYLES.

Hon. Press Officer: MR. C. JASCHKE.

Hon. Director of Coaching: MR. J. H. CARRINGTON.

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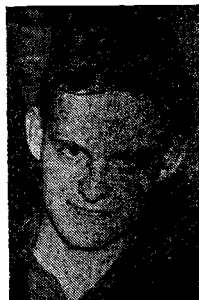
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A Remarkable Record

Willesden are justifiably proud of Laurie Landry, who has played a major part in helping them win the Middlesex Inter-Leagues Competition for the first time ever.

Landry went through the competition unbeaten and with the remarkable record winning all 12 of his matches and dropping only one game in 25. He also scored a total of 530 points to 345 against.



Laurie Landry

The players he has beaten are Len Adams, Ken Cragie, Alan Rhodes, Eddie Hodson (all internationals) Ron Etheridge, Paul Brook, Roy Sterlini, Michael Close, R. Burbridge, Roy King, Ken Whetlor, and Alan Lindsay.

Perhaps his best win was against Cragie in Willesden's final match against Acton. The state of the match was 4-all and Landry lost the first game but fought back brilliantly.

Other members of the Willesden team who played their part were Jimmy O'Hara, Stanley Jacobson, Mary Stafford and Joan Williamson.

MORE THAN 90% OF ALL COMPETITORS at the WEMBLEY CHAMPIONSHIPS wore



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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP - - - By CONRAD JASCHKE

THE AVERAGES

LAST year I got into hot water over my calculations of players' averages, and in particular Frank Bateman, Essex county-proud match secretary complained, with ample justification, that there were 2 or 3 mistakes . . . all to the disadvantage of Essex players as it happened.

This time Frank has very kindly agreed to take off my hands what is undoubtedly the N.C.C. publicity secretary's most laborious job of the season, and he has prepared the averages for me.

Premier Division

It was to be expected that Middlesex players would head the list, and indeed Diane (Rowe) Collins is the only unbeaten player in the Division, while Derek Burridge heads the men's section with 92 per cent.

Kathleen Best, of Yorkshire, is second in the Women's list, but in the men's, the surprise is that the 2nd and 3rd places go to players from lowly Lancashire and Essex, for whom Ron Allcock and Johnny Leach dropped only one set each.

More striking is the fact that relegated Sussex can boast that their No. 1 Peter Shead recorded a victory in every match, while to the second relegation candidates, Glamorgan, goes the distinction of having an undefeated women's doubles pair in Shirley Jones and Betty Gray.

To Bryan Merrett (Glous.), and Tony Miller (Surrey), goes the questionable distinction of having played the only time limit in the championships this season. Bryan winning on this occasion.

Second Divisions

In working out Division II North averages, the two sets conceded to Cheshire by Northumberland are not taken into consideration.

It is interesting to see that there is one unbeaten player in each section: Pam Mortimer (Warwicks.) for the North; Joyce Fielder (Kent) for the South, and David House (Somerset) for the West.

Regional Division

In the Midland Division Mrs. B. Webster (Derby), has the only 100 per cent. record, while the Southern Division is the only senior one with two undefeated players: Alan Payne and Betty Landimore, both of Kent.

Juniors

George Livesey (Lancs.), did best in the North section, winning all his 6 singles, and to the Durham pair Eddie Taylor W. Barker, goes the distinction of 6 wins out of 6 in boys' doubles.

In the Midland section, two Warwickshire boys had 100 per cent. records with M. Tubb winning every match in two straight!

Ann Charman (Staffs.), was unbeaten not only in singles, but also in doubles.

In the South, Chris Gosling and Jean Harrower, English "Open" singles winners, both have 100 per cent records.

An encouraging sign in this section is how well the youngsters have done. Next to Miss Harrower is even younger Mary Shannon, of Surrey.

In the Boys' section, 14-year-old Ractliffe, of Herts., is probably the youngest boy, not only in the averages, but possibly in the championships. I think we'll hear a lot more of him before his remaining three junior seasons are over.

A player whom I must mention, though she does not qualify for the list, is Mary Hicks. Mary played two singles and ten doubles for Middlesex, and won the lot!—Gosling, incidentally, won all his singles two-straight, while Essex pair Jim Nicholls and Trevor Leverno won all their 6 boys' doubles the same.

Averages are as follows: (Qualification—minimum 50 per cent. appearances)

PREMIER DIV.

| | P. | W. | Av. |
|------------------------------|----|----|------|
| D. Burridge (Mddx) | 12 | 11 | 92% |
| R. Allcock (Lancs) | 10 | 9 | 90% |
| J. Leach (Essex) | 8 | 7 | 87% |
| B. Merrett (Glous) | 14 | 11 | 79% |
| K. Craigie (Surrey) | 14 | 10 | 71% |
| J. Ingber (Lancs) | 10 | 7 | 70% |
| B. Kennedy (Yorks) | 12 | 8 | 67% |
| M. Thornhill (Mddx) | 12 | 8 | 67% |
| A. Simons (Glous) | 14 | 9 | 64% |
| H. Venner (Surrey) | 14 | 9 | 64% |
| I. Harrison (Glous) | 14 | 8 | 57% |
| A. Rhodes (Mddx) | 14 | 8 | 57% |
| Mrs. D. Collins (Mddx) | 6 | 6 | 100% |
| Miss K. Best (Yorks) | 6 | 5 | 83% |
| Miss S. Jones (Glam) | 7 | 5 | 71% |
| Mrs. J. Head (Surrey) | 6 | 4 | 67% |

DIV. II NORTH

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|---|------|
| D. Schofield (Ches) | 9 | 8 | 89% |
| E. Johnson (Ches) | 8 | 7 | 87% |
| P. Skerratt (Lincs) | 8 | 7 | 87% |
| M. Shearer (Lincs) | 8 | 6 | 75% |
| V. Hankey (Ches) | 7 | 5 | 71% |
| K. Burton (Warwick) | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| G. Carrigill (Yorks) | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| H. Gallagher (Warwick) | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| Miss P. Mortimer (Warw) | 4 | 4 | 100% |
| Mrs. P. Clark (Northumb) | 5 | 4 | 80% |
| Miss L. Bown (Ches) | 5 | 3 | 60% |

DIV. II SOUTH

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|---|------|
| A. Piddock (Kent) | 10 | 9 | 90% |
| R. Etheridge (Kent) | 6 | 5 | 83% |
| L. Wise (Berks) | 6 | 5 | 83% |
| B. Barnes (Berks) | 8 | 6 | 75% |
| D. Whittaker (Kent) | 10 | 7 | 70% |
| P. Morecroft (Berks) | 6 | 4 | 67% |
| J. Hunt (Herts) | 8 | 5 | 62% |
| P. Cole (Suffolk) | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| Miss J. Fielder (Kent) | 4 | 4 | 100% |
| Miss D. Wightman (Hants) | 5 | 4 | 80% |

DIV. II WEST

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|------|
| D. House (Somerset) | 10 | 10 | 100% |
| D. Backhouse (Staffs) | 12 | 11 | 92% |
| J. Lindsey (Somerset) | 12 | 10 | 83% |
| J. Robbins (Staffs) | 10 | 8 | 80% |
| M. Hawkins (Worcs) | 12 | 9 | 75% |
| R. Lush (Worcs) | 12 | 8 | 67% |
| J. Osborne (Staffs) | 12 | 8 | 67% |
| D. Smith (Somerset) | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| R. Dale (Dorset) | 12 | 7 | 58% |
| R. Goods (Worcs) | 12 | 7 | 58% |
| Mrs. M. Lindsey (Som) | 6 | 5 | 83% |
| Mrs. B. Shannon (Worcs) | 6 | 5 | 83% |

MILDAND DIV.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|------|
| C. Deaton (Derby) | 6 | 5 | 83% |
| B. Vilunas (Staffs) | 4 | 3 | 75% |
| R. Hallsworth (Derby) | 6 | 4 | 67% |
| R. Warner (Warwick) | 6 | 4 | 67% |
| Mrs. B. Webster (Derby) | 3 | 3 | 100% |

SOUTHERN DIV.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|------|
| A. Payne (Kent) | 4 | 4 | 100% |
| R. Coussens (Kent) | 8 | 7 | 87% |
| J. Cornwell (Cambs) | 6 | 5 | 83% |
| C. Crowe (Beds) | 8 | 6 | 75% |
| P. Holroyd (Beds) | 8 | 6 | 75% |
| H. Buist (Kent) | 4 | 3 | 75% |
| W. King (Herts) | 4 | 3 | 75% |
| B. Melsel (Kent) | 6 | 4 | 67% |
| J. Bryant (Herts) | 8 | 5 | 62% |
| J. Thurston (Cambs) | 8 | 5 | 62% |
| Miss B. Landimore (Kent) | 2 | 2 | 100% |
| Miss M. Turner (Norfolk) | 3 | 2 | 67% |
| Mrs. J. Whiting (Beds) | 3 | 2 | 67% |

JUNIOR NORTH

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---|------|
| G. Livesey (Lancs) | 6 | 6 | 100% |
| H. Jacobson (Lancs) | 6 | 5 | 83% |
| E. Taylor (Durham) | 12 | 8 | 67% |
| G. Lynch (Yorks) | 6 | 4 | 67% |
| J. Keogh (Lancs) | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| W. Barker (Durham) | 12 | 7 | 58% |
| Miss L. Gordon (Lancs) | 6 | 4 | 67% |
| Miss D. Wright (Ches) | 6 | 4 | 67% |

JUNIOR MIDLAND

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|------|
| M. Tubb (Warwicks) | 8 | 8 | 100% |
| P. Bratt (Warwicks) | 4 | 4 | 100% |
| D. Branson (Staffs) | 4 | 3 | 75% |
| C. Swallow (Staffs) | 8 | 5 | 62% |
| Miss A. Charman (Staffs) | 4 | 4 | 100% |

JUNIOR SOUTH

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|------|
| C. Gosling (Mddx) | 12 | 12 | 100% |
| J. Martin (Mddx) | 12 | 11 | 92% |
| B. Hamill (Mddx) | 12 | 10 | 83% |
| C. Warren (Surrey) | 12 | 10 | 83% |
| A. Cornish (Kent) | 12 | 8 | 67% |
| R. Ractliffe (Herts) | 12 | 8 | 67% |
| R. Clode (Surrey) | 10 | 6 | 60% |
| Miss J. Harrower (Mddx) | 4 | 4 | 100% |
| Miss M. Shannon (Surrey) | 6 | 5 | 83% |
| Miss S. Hession (Essex) | 6 | 4 | 67% |

Owing to an error, Lancashire were omitted from last month's premier table. The final table, including the Middlesex v Gloucestershire 9-1 result, is as follows:

PREMIER DIV.

| | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Middlesex | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 54 | 16 | 13 |
| Surrey | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 46 | 24 | 10 |
| Gloucestershire | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 39 | 31 | 8 |
| Yorkshire | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 37 | 33 | 8 |
| Essex | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 33 | 37 | 7 |
| Lancashire | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 31 | 39 | 6 |
| Glamorgan | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 23 | 47 | 2 |
| Sussex | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 17 | 53 | 2 |

Div. II play-off: Cheshire (North) beat Staffs (West) 6-3; Staffs lost to Kent (South) 3-6.

Cheshire and Kent promoted to Premier Division. (Glamorgan and Sussex relegated.)

JACK CARRINGTON'S NOTEBOOK

COACHES ARE NOT MAGICIANS

I WOULD like to congratulate Ron Crayden on his excellent statement of the problem of producing top-level players for England. I agree entirely that coaching is only one part of the process, and an early part at that.

There are a number of misleading "parrot-cries" heard about coaching. Such as "E.T.T.A. should see that there is a top-line coach in every town." Unfortunately the sheer mathematics of the problem defeats this; a coach of the calibre to be found in every town is unlikely to be a top-line one. "Top-line" implies "not to be found everywhere" and this goes for players as well as coaches.

However, good Basic Coaches everywhere — which is our aim — can help future top-line players. This brings us to another parrot-cry: "Basic Coaches cannot coach top youngsters."

I would say that *only* Basic Coaches can coach top material; after the basic period the top material does not need continually telling what to do and nursing and sympathy. Certainly quite a number of top prospects are ruined by

poor basic coaching, therefore our efforts to improve the Basic Instructors must help a little.

Mind you, the problem is nearly always with us; it is wrong to think that it is so different now, as regards men, from what it has been over the years. Apart from Johnny Leach, what world figure has our men's game produced since Haydon, etc., in 1929 or thereabouts? The material just doesn't spring up often in this country, be it due to lack of temperament, talent, or what else.

After studying this problem for years, it still remains a mystery to me.

It is true that Japanese players are far fitter and more gymnastically tuned; but their temperament is superior too. It is not strictly true even that the top Continentals are always fit and personally well-disciplined. They are, however, generally stronger in physique than our champions, and I feel that this must be due to better early training in gym work or physical exercises at school.

Rising players in this country should pay attention to this matter if they wish

to become stars on the world stage. If their personal physical training has been sketchy or non-existent in early years, no amount of coaching and will to win can last out international tournaments at top pressure, without physical training *now*.

Ian Harrison is now nearly at the same point as was Johnny Leach at the same age so perhaps we shall soon have another world-ranker. The task ahead of Harrison is even harder than when Leach broke through, because so many well established stars are "ready for" such new challengers, and the entry of Japanese, Chinese, etc., complicates the matter too.

Summing up, it is true, as Ron Crayden says, that our Coaches can and must only point the way; that is still a big job if they are to ensure that all promising players receive helpful attention when they need it, and that a generally high level is maintained in as many centres as possible, to create a climate of strong competition in which the hardiest will flourish by becoming harder still.

Grace Means Ease... By J. CORSER

I BELIEVE it was Plato who described a graceful movement as being one which achieved the maximum result with the minimum effort. This could of course be a definition of efficiency and the similarity between physical grace and physical efficiency is both interesting and informative.

To-day, the words grace or graceful are to an extent in disrepute—there is a tendency in some quarters to regard them as effeminate or unnatural.

To describe a player as being graceful will suggest to many people flowing exaggerated strokes. Nothing however could be further from the truth—the maximum result from the minimum effort is economy not exaggeration.

EASY WAY

Graceful players make the game look so easy. So it appears that ease of movement and efficiency of movement must be fairly closely related. I think it is true to say that the best way to play is the easy way. This sounds rather clever and too simple but it is a lot more profound than much of the gratuitous advice one can hear any day of the week on how to play.

Nobody nowadays says you must play an orthodox style (be it penholder or European) but there is this much to be said for it. Orthodox means something which is established or accepted as correct or sound. In table tennis an orthodox style is one which is established simply because most players, particularly the top players have found it the best or easiest way to play.

Every time a player accepts an unorthodox stroke or plays in an unorthodox manner he is voluntarily handicapping himself. It may be, of course, that by some combination of virtues he manages to extract more advantage than he loses by the handicap. That is for each player to decide according to his knowledge of himself (or else he can seek expert advice).

The advantage of orthodox play is that it is an easy and proven way to succeed. Of two people with similar ability the one who handicaps himself least is likely to go furthest, all other things being equal. There are of course so many other factors which have a bearing on a player's ultimate success, such as physique, temperament, reflexes, etc., and each one has to be brought as near to perfection as possible, to achieve the maximum success.

In these notes I am concerned

with style and only in a general way. The actual strokes are not really relevant but it is important that they are executed easily and that the player is able to make successive varying strokes with ease and poise.

This introduces another aspect of style which, to my mind, has received comparatively little attention from the writers on the game—poise or balance.

Most of the more knowledgeable experts stress the need for good footwork, and quite rightly. However, footwork is only a means to an end, and that end is mobility, stability, and balance.

Balance is in fact the key to both mobility and stability for if strokes are performed when the body is poised correctly one should have the best possible chance of getting to and playing the next return.

DON'T EXAGGERATE

Any young player whose game is still developing should examine his play periodically and endeavour to eliminate any awkward, abbreviated or exaggerated strokes which might be weak in themselves or perhaps spoil the rhythm of an otherwise sound game. Of course anyone who has been playing a number of years will find these observations of limited value as regards their own game, but it might help with a stroke which causes trouble or a weakness which has been difficult to overcome.

EAGLE/GIRL TOURNAMENT

By KENNETH WHEELER

From Runners-up to Champions

ON April 10th a packed and enthusiastic crowd at The Friends House, Euston, and B.B.C. Television viewers saw the 1958 EAGLE/GIRL British Junior Championship titles go to **Paul Racey** and **Susan Thomas** of the South and **David Stanley** and **Lynda Gordon** of the North.

Tall, relaxed Paul Racey, who now lives in Bedford and was representing the Letchworth T.T.C., went right through his Qualifying rounds, the South of England Regional rounds and the Grand Finals without conceding a single game.

Although **Ronnie Brass**, of Scotland, and the defeated finalist **Jackie Keogh**, of Burnley, brought the best out of him, Racey was never in any real trouble and kept up the tradition in this tournament whereby the previous year's runner-up succeeds at his next attempt. Racey was runner-up to **Chris Gosling** last year, Gosling to **Grant** in 1956, and **Grant** to **Twigg** in the first Finals held.

It was a case of fourth-time lucky for Lynda Gordon, the bespectacled young lady from Manchester, who won the under-15 event from **Hilde Brautigam** without having to call too much on those powers of determination and fighting spirit that we know her to possess, for in truth Hilde was a mere shadow of herself on this occasion.

Lynda has been North of England champion for the last four years, and in 1957 when she failed at 20-20 in the decider to win the under-13 championship it seemed that she would for ever be "the girl who couldn't quite."

David Stanley had his toughest test in the under-13 semi-final when left-handed **Richard Broad**, from Chard, Somerset, failed to become rattled by his opponent's fierce hitting and gave the 12-year-old Burnley boy plenty to think about in three sparkling sets. With this obstacle overcome, however, David went on to outclass little **Gary Brass** from Scotland and thus win his first EAGLE title.

Table Winners

By beating **Elizabeth Grove**, the Midlands champion, left-handed **Ann Brown** gained for her team, **Ainthorpe High School of Hull**, the ten points that they needed to become "top team in Britain" and win the special Match Table for the club with the best playing results in the tournament. Regional tables were won by the **Willesden Schools League (South)**

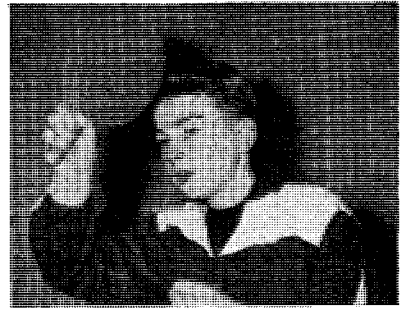
Birmingham Central Grammar School (Midlands), **Glasgow Maccabi (Scotland)** and **Doncaster Youth League (North)**.

In an above-average under-13 final, however, **Susan Thomas**, the tall butcher's daughter from **Sidcup, Kent**, put so much meat into her drives that **Ann Brown**, with her more delicate style, could not cope.

Going On

In formally opening these, the fourth annual finals, **Marcus Morris** the Editor of EAGLE and GIRL said that this year's tournament in which 5,500 boys and girls had taken part was the best yet, and that it would continue on similar lines next season. He announced the names of twenty-four competitors who had been selected for special coaching by **Johnny Leach** and other international players at a holiday camp this summer. They included all sixteen Regional champions plus **Robert Ractliffe**, **David Creamer**, **Graham Blankley** and **Anthea Sutton (London)**, **Robert Rutherford (Edinburgh)**, **Colin Archbold (Northumberland)**, **Brian Marsden (Burnley)** and **Sheila Griffiths (Birmingham)**.

Replying on behalf of the E.T.T.A. **Bill Vint**, honorary referee of the tournament, thanked **Marcus Morris**



DAVID STANLEY

for his keen interest in the game and for providing such excellent facilities for schoolboys and schoolgirls to gain their first experience of competitive play. The youthful and eager audience supported him by giving three rousing cheers, a refreshing note on which to conclude a tournament which has been happy and enjoyable from start to finish.

In conclusion I would like to express my personal thanks to everyone in table tennis who has rallied round with their advice and practical assistance to make things go with a swing. I know of no other sport in which one could count on such wholehearted co-operation, and I take my hat off to you, ladies and gentlemen.

CRESCENT TOURNAMENT GROWS

THE Crescent Club, Sittingbourne, is becoming well known throughout the country for its sporting activities and not the least of these is their invitation table tennis tournament.

Confined to girls this consists of four singles events in age groups of under 12, 13 and 15, and doubles under 15.

Originally organised to give Crescent members the opportunity of playing against other girls in the county it has now grown to the extent that for this season's tournament on May 3, there were 176 entries coming from all the Home Counties, and including some girls whose homes are in France, Belgium, Italy, Poland and even Mexico!

In fact the entry overflowed the club's headquarters and another room was borrowed for the occasion. Six tables were used and the whole programme which started at 10 a.m. was completed by 8 p.m.

Remarkable feature of the Crescent Club is that apart from chairman **Jimmy Mannooch**, the well-known Kent County official, it is run by a committee of girls all under the age of 16!

Mary Shannon, of Surrey, was successful in retaining the under 15s singles cup and also the doubles trophy with **Carole Bagshaw**.

Kent girls, **S. Thomas**, of Sidcup, and **K. Stokes**, of Folkestone, won the other two trophies.

RESULTS

Under 12s. Singles: Semi-finals: C. OWEN (Ramsgate) bt E. Wyles (Broadstairs) 21-18, 19-21, 21-9. K. STOKES (Folkestone) bt J. Jones (Sittingbourne) 21-5, 21-1.

Final: STOKES bt Owen 21-9, 21-4.

Under 13s. Singles: Semi-finals: S. THOMAS (Sidcup) bt V. Field (Folkestone) 21-13, 21-12. P. MARTIN (London) bt K. Stokes (Folkestone) 23-21, 21-11.

Final: THOMAS bt Martin 21-17, 21-19.

Under 15s. Singles: Semi-finals: C. BAGSHAW (Chessington) bt A. Taft (St. Albans) 21-16, 15-21, 21-17. M. SHANNON (Worcester Park) bt P. Martin (London) 21-13, 21-14.

Final: SHANNON bt Bagshaw 21-18, 21-18.

Under 15s. Doubles: Semi-finals: A. TAFT (St. Albans)/J. WILLIAMS (Hatfield) bt K. Stokes/V. Field (Folkestone) 17-21, 21-15, 21-15. C. BAGSHAW (Chessington)/M. SHANNON (Worcester Park) bt S. Thomas (Sidcup)/H. Brautigam (London) 21-19, 21-14.

Final: BAGSHAW/SHANNON bt Taft/Williams 21-9, 22-20.

Personality Parade

THE BACK-ROOM GIRL

MOST large sporting organisations have their back-room boys—those behind-the-scenes workers who toil tirelessly to ensure that everything runs smoothly for their players. For the past 12 years the E.T.T.A. have been blessed with the presence of Mrs. Kathie Pegg, a back-room girl whose highly efficient handling of the Association's complicated administrative work has brought praise from all quarters of the game. Now, although her heart is still in Room 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square—the Association's headquarters—Mrs. Pegg has decided her loyalties lie with her family in Barnet and so has resigned to take a post nearer home.

It was in February 1946 that Kathie first joined forces with table tennis, working as a part-time shorthand typist to that well-beloved figure Bill Pope, then hon. secretary.

When Mr. Pope passed away—Mr. Bill Vint became hon. secretary and Mrs. Pegg was appointed administrative secretary. Documentary work covering foreign tours and international matches, the fixing of players' accommodation and travelling arrangements, handling and banking of leagues' affiliation fees; collating of information for the

Of the stars who would frequently pop into her office for a friendly chat, or on business, Kathie says: "I shall always remember those grand girls Ros and Di, the former Rowe twins, for their lighthearted, happy chatter and bubbling good humour; Richard Bergmann for his colourful tales of foreign climes and quickfire 'Have you heard this one, Kathie?'; the courteous Victor Barna and Johnny Leach, two of the best friends I had in table tennis; and Jack Carrington for his solid reliability in all matters appertaining to the game." Continues Kathie: "My table tennis life has been constantly linked with the comings and goings of these great players. I have

always followed their achievements with great personal pride.

Of Ivor Montagu, England's "Mr. Table Tennis," Mrs. Pegg recalls, "I have never known his equal for spontaneous wit, clarity of mind and incredible mastery of the English language." Bill Vint, too, she remembers "for his attention to detail and uncanny knack of pouring oil on troubled table tennis waters."

Signing off with best wishes to all the thousands of the game's enthusiasts, Kathie's last request to the Association she now leaves is "Please do your utmost to bring back the old carefree, happy spirit that abounded in table tennis during my early days with you just after the war. Good humour breeds good players."

ENGLAND WELL BEATEN

England were well beaten by both Hungary and Yugoslavia in the internationals that followed the English "Open." We won only seven of 32 ties in the four matches with Hungary, and 15 out of 29 against Yugoslavia, against whom the match at Norwich was drawn.

ENGLAND 2, HUNGARY 6

(at Leeds)

E. Kennedy lost to Z. Berczik 17-21, 21-14, 18-21. M. H. Thornhill lost to E. Gyetvai 11-21, 11-21. A. Rhodes lost to Berczik 21-15, 14-21, 14-21.

Miss P. Mortimer lost to Miss L. Mossoczy 18-21, 14-21. Miss C. K. Best bt Miss E. Koczian 21-18, 21-17.

Rhodes/Thornhill bt Berczik/Gyetvai 21-16, 12-21, 22-20. Miss Best/Miss Mortimer lost to Miss Koczian/Miss Mossoczy 13-21, 20-22. Kennedy/Miss Best lost to Gyetvai/Miss Mossoczy 14-21, 16-21.

ENGLAND 3, HUNGARY 5

(at Birmingham)

I. Harrison bt F. Sido 21-13, 12-21, 21-13. J. A. Leach lost to Gyetvai 21-14, 14-21, 11-21. Kennedy lost to Berczik 12-21, 18-21.

Miss D. Rowe lost to Miss Koczian 19-21, 19-21. Miss Mortimer lost to Miss Mossoczy 20-22, 18-21.

Kennedy/Harrison bt Sido/Berczik 21-8, 22-20. Miss Rowe/Miss Mortimer bt Miss Koczian/Miss Mossoczy 21-16, 21-9. Leach/Miss Rowe lost to Sido/Miss Koczian 19-21, 21-13, 21-23.

ENGLAND 0, HUNGARY 8

(at Leicester)

Rhodes lost to Berczik 12-21, 15-21. Harrison lost to Gyetvai 15-21, 10-21. B. Merrett lost to Berczik 22-20, 9-21, 12-21.

Miss J. Rook lost to Miss Mossoczy 14-21, 10-21. Miss J. Fielder lost to Miss Koczian 15-21, 11-21.

Merrett/Harrison lost to Berczik/Gyetvai 21-16, 16-21, 18-21. Miss Fielder/Miss Rook lost to Miss Koczian/Miss Mossoczy 13-21, 13-21. Rhodes/Miss Fielder lost to Gyetvai/Miss Mossoczy 10-21, 14-21.

ENGLAND 2, HUNGARY 6

(at Cheltenham)

Merrett lost to Berczik 13-21, 15-21. A. Simons lost to Gyetvai 9-21, 15-21. Harrison lost to Berczik 13-21, 16-21.

Mrs. Collins bt Miss Koczian 23-21, 21-14. Miss Fielder lost to Mossoczy 12-21, 22-20, 15-21.

Simons/Merrett lost to Berczik/Gyetvai 22-24, 19-21. Miss Fielder/Mrs. Collins bt Miss Koczian/Miss Mossoczy 21-15, 21-11. Harrison/Miss Fielder lost to Gyetvai/Miss Mossoczy 22-24, 16-21.

ENGLAND 3, YUGOSLAVIA 7

(at Tottenham)

J. A. Leach bt D. Osmanagic 21-19, 16-21, 21-15; lost to V. Markovic 21-10, 27-29, 15-21.

L. F. Landry lost to Z. Hrbud 16-21, 15-21; bt Osmanagic 21-12, 13-21, 21-10.

E. Hodson lost to J. Vogrinc 13-21, 11-21; lost to Hrbud 8-21, 21-19, 19-21.

R. Alcock lost to Markovic 12-21, 14-21; lost to Vogrinc 19-21, 17-21.

Hodson/Landry lost to Vogrinc/Hrbud 10-21, 19-21. Alcock/Leach bt Markovic/Osmanagic 21-9, 16-21, 21-16.

ENGLAND 5, YUGOSLAVIA 5

(at Norwich)

Kennedy lost to Vogrinc 21-11, 20-22, 13-21; lost to Hrbud 14-21, 21-17, 18-21.

Merrett lost to Hrbud 14-21, 12-21; bt Vogrinc 21-16, 21-15.

Hodson bt Osmanagic 14-21, 21-14, 21-9; lost to Markovic 6-21, 9-21.

J. Ingber lost to Markovic 22-20, 14-21, 16-21; bt Osmanagic 21-16, 21-19.

Kennedy/Hodson bt Vogrinc/Hrbud 21-11, 17-21, 21-17. Merrett/Ingber bt Markovic/Osmanagic 18-21, 21-13, 21-7.

ENGLAND 3, YUGOSLAVIA 6

(at Camborne)

Leach lost to Hrbud 21-15, 19-21, 15-21; bt Markovic 21-15, 21-15.

R. Stevens bt Osmanagic 21-16, 16-21, 21-19; lost to Vogrinc 20-22, 18-21. D. Burridge bt Osmanagic 21-16, 21-18; lost to Vogrinc 19-21, 9-21.

D. House lost to Hrbud 11-21, 21-14, 18-21; lost to Markovic 8-21, 15-21.

Leach/Stevens lost to Hrbud/Vogrinc 14-21, 21-13, 15-21.

ENGLAND 4, YUGOSLAVIA 6

(at Exeter)

Leach bt Vogrinc 12-21, 21-18, 21-15; lost to Hrbud 22-24, 23-25.

Stevens bt Osmanagic 12-21, 21-17, 21-17; lost to Markovic 23-21, 11-21, 19-21.

House lost to Markovic 19-21, 16-21; lost to Osmanagic 21-9, 19-21, 19-21.

Burridge lost to Hrbud 22-24, 21-23; lost to Vogrinc 21-18, 9-21, 12-21.

Leach/Stevens bt Hrbud/Vogrinc 21-19, 19-21, 21-14. Burridge/House bt Markovic/Osmanagic 21-18, 24-22.



handbook and magazines—all those duties and many others fell to Mrs. Pegg, duties which often kept her at her desk for many extra hours. Yet because of domestic commitments she was seldom able to accept invitations to major events outside London. She did manage a trip to Utrecht for the 1955 World Championship finals and "thoroughly enjoyed" the brilliant play—and her first trip in an aeroplane.

LESLIE WOOLLARD INTRODUCES TWO MORE LIFE MEMBERS

A. K. (Bill) Vint

"Bill" Vint took the Hon. Treasurer's job in 1931 when it was a matter of coppers, and to him goes the chief honour of building a truly remarkable balance. And not only building, but retaining it, which is even more difficult.

But he "balanced" people, as well as accounts. Whatever passions have surged around him, whatever his own views or temper, he remained calm and serene.

Bill Vint was called to a more dominant office on the death of Bill Pope. Rather, he married the jobs. The new rôle was out of character, but, if it did change his outlook more than somewhat, he somehow changed the job to fit his new self and the new times. And what times they were! We are still too close for that story yet to be told.

1956-7 was Bill's 25th year as the Association's Hon. Treasurer and it was memorable.

In the Queen's New Year's Honours for 1957, he was awarded the O.B.E. for services for the E.T.T.A., an honour which,

characteristically, he regards as being a representative one for the Association.

Bill closed his long run as Treasurer at the April annual meeting and has now moved up to chairman, an onerous office, which only three other



A. K. VINT

men have held since the inauguration of the E.T.T.A.

By profession Bill Vint is a prominent Public Relations Officer. In the late '30s he was, in fact, a founder member of the Institute of P.R.O., and first treasurer of that organisation, a position which he has held with quiet distinction ever since.

Godfrey Decker

No frills about Godfrey Decker, the Practical Man. He saw what wanted doing and DID it. He was the pioneer who adapted and developed electric lighting and other gimmicks of equipment. Nowadays, he's still happiest "messin' about with equipment" with the same fundamental efficiency that has made the name "Decker" a criterion of standards.

Without affection for paper-work, he was Assistant Secretary, All-England Club, 1922-24, and twice Association Secretary, 1924/5 and 1932/3.

As a player, his vigorous penholder worthily earned him an England badge in the First International Match, 1922. Godfrey's, in fact, was that gleaming white evening dress shirt and twinkling diamond studs, which shocked the opposition into a request that it be covered. Even today, his game can stagger opponents half, or even a quarter, of his age.

Godfrey has been lighting and equipment "wizard" for five World and 23 England Championships.

"Dear old Warden," the late Bill Pope said, "is one of my earliest recollections of Table Tennis. He was the most selfless worker I ever know. He was the pride and joy of any exhibition we ran to popularise the game. Crowds used to get ecstatic at his long range defence."

REVISED ENGLISH RANKING LIST

(Figures in parenthesis denote
January 1958 ranking)

MEN

- 1 (6) I. Harrison (Glos.)
- 2 (2) B. Merrett (Glos.)
- 3 (7) M. Thornhill (Mddx.)
- 4 (4) J. Leach (Essex)
- 5 (1) B. Kennedy (Yorks.)
- 6 (3) A. Rhodes (Mddx.)
- 7 (10) D. Burridge (Mddx.)
- 8 (5) J. Somogyi (Surrey)
- 9 (9) K. Craigie (Surrey)
- 10 (-) R. Allcock (Lancs.)

GROUP A

- (12) D. House (Somerset)
- E. Hodson (Mddx.)
- J. Ingber (Lancs.)
- (12) L. Landry (Mddx.)
- M. MacLaren (Surrey)
- R. Raybould (Essex)
- D. Schofield (Cheshire)
- A. Simon (Glos.)
- (11) R. Stevens (Essex)
- (8) H. Venner (Surrey)

WOMEN

- 1 (1) Miss A. Haydon (Warwicks.)
- 2 (2) Mrs. D. Collins (Mddx.)
- 3 (6) Miss K. Best (Yorks.)
- 4 (4) Miss J. Fielder (Kent)
- 5 (8) Miss P. Mortimer (Warwicks.)
- 6 (3) Miss J. Rook (Surrey)

GROUP A

- (9) Miss Y. Baker (Essex)
- Miss L. Bown (Cheshire)
- (12) Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex)
- (5) Miss M. Fry (Mddx.)
- Miss J. Harrower (Mddx.)
- (7) Mrs. J. Head (Surrey)
- (11) Miss P. Piper (Surrey)
- (10) Miss L. Whitbams (Surrey)

EAST LONDON'S SILVER JUBILEE

This year being the East London League's Silver Jubilee it is an appropriate time to gloss over some of its past and present successes.

The league records of pre-1939 were destroyed by bombing but some details have now been obtained and from these it can be noted that St. Marks, still one of the leading clubs were league champions three times in those years; Eton Manor, the only other surviving club being Div. II winners in 1936-7.

Pre-war individual champions still playing in the league are Jack Carrington, Wally Little, Arthur Groome and Sid Good, the last named who

won the Handicap Singles way back in 1935-6 was the winner this year of the Veterans' Singles.

The league's post-war record includes being six times winners and four times runners-up in the Premier Division of the Essex Leagues Championships, and winners every year of the Junior Division. In the Wilmott Cup they reached the semi-final last year and the quarter-final this year.

Present players in the league—28 clubs with 50 teams—who have represented England or their County, senior or junior, include Johnny Leach, Bobby Stevens, Bobby Raybould, Ivor Jones, Brian Brumwell,

Peter Pudney, Les Sawyer, Ray Dorking, Ken Beamish, David House, Terry Densham, Jack and Blaise Carrington, Yvonne Baker and Barbara Milbank.

The league have a practical and active president, Mr. Harry Walker, general secretary of Essex and member of the E.T.T.A. Executive, while the eight vice-presidents have all actively assisted the league. The chairman, Mr. George Eagle, is also vice-chairman of Essex and was secretary of the league for four years.

The present general secretary Mr. D. Leakey says that with these and the present committee each doing their own individual jobs so well it is not surprising that the league is successful and functions so easily.

Letters to the Editor

RACKET STANDARDISATION

Bitterness at A.G.M. Vote

THE continuation of the experimental ban on sponge-covered rackets has sparked off a feeling of great bitterness in table tennis judging by letters I have received on the subject.

It is not because sponge is still ineligible but because of the methods employed at the Annual General Meeting to force the decision through.

Nothing in my term of editorship has caused so many readers to write on one subject and they all have the feeling they were misled by clamping down on discussion.

Mr. Ivor Eyles, who acted as chairman during this important item, gives his reply at the end of the readers' letters.

Editor.

SCRUB AROUND THE A.G.M.

I SHOULD be interested to see which League has the courage to propose at next year's A.G.M. that the N.E.C. be permitted to carry on without reference to subsequent A.G.M.'s.

It is freely admitted that only approximately one quarter of the leagues are represented, but nevertheless once in a while a subject worthy of discussion appears on the agenda.

Such was the case on the question of the Standardisation of the racket. And how were members treated?

As I see it, the Deputy Chairman of the E.T.T.A., who took the chair for this item, was so loathe to exercise his newly acquired powers that he

(a) ruled that no speech should exceed five minutes—except that by the N.E.C. proposer, of course;

(b) allowed one speech against the motion;

(c) submitted to a put up clamour that the discussion be closed;

(d) declared the motion carried by a show of hands;

(e) left the chair.

His action no doubt suited the N.E.C. in achieving the object of the proposal but never again will he be accused of being impartial—the first duty of a Chairman.

L. G. Adams
(Middlesex and England).

AMAZED

I WAS very disappointed and, quite frankly, amazed at a question so vital to the future of Table Tennis being closed so quickly without the rank and file being given the chance to air their views. The result might very well have been the same, but it appeared to me, and to many other people, that the decision was cut and dried before the vote was taken.

My own personal view, after playing for 35 years, and being an organiser for 25 years, is that pimped rubber on sponge is the only racket that can save table tennis from deteriorating to the "ping-pong" class.

Leo Thompson
(Bucks.).

UNSAVOURY EPISODE

THE decision to continue with the pimped rubber only racket in England has now been taken by the Annual General Meeting.

We can now only await events and decisions at World level to overtake us.

One unsavoury episode should be recorded lest it occurs again. In the debate on the racket the Chairman, Ivor Montagu, vacated the Chair in favour of Ivor Eyles as he wished to speak on the racket question.

The N.E.C. spokesman then moved the motion for continuation of pimped rubber only and I spoke against it.

Then before you could say "Jack Robinson" and before Ivor Montagu or anybody else had time to say a word somebody nipped in and moved that the proposal be now voted upon which was done.

This method of stopping discussion was an eye opener to me and must have been an edifying spectacle for our now eminent President!

It is true that Mr. Montagu had a chance to put his point under "any other business" but that was some hours later, and too late to influence the vote. It's the principle of the thing that is of vital importance.

There is something **fundamentally wrong** with the only game in which spectators can go to National or World Championships and be faced with a series of tables with massed batteries of clocks and timekeepers in action to deal with top-class players who have found that defence only, mainly ploys, or like have found that their attacking strokes are reduced to impotence by chop players.

The fault is not with the players for after all they play to win in serious matches and not to lose gracefully by attacking.

Expedite rules and/or time limit rules do not solve the fundamental defect—they merely make a little more bearable

than what it might be, something which should not be there at all.

There is only one solution: make mainly defensive play unprofitable so that players so inclined cannot reach top rank and form an example to others. There appears to me only two ways of doing this.

The first is to widen and/or lengthen the table so as to give wider scope to the attacking player even if using pimped rubber. Unfortunately this would mean scrapping all tables in existence.

The second is—let me whisper it!—to allow an adequate measure of sponge in the racket for more potent attack.

Denis Offer.

DISCUSSION STIFLED

AT the E.T.T.A. Annual General Meeting, I was astonished when the discussion on Racket Standardisation was stopped so quickly. Why such a rush to take the vote?

Like a number of others at the meeting, I had a feeling that the ban on sponge was pushed through at all costs. A very bad precedent has been created for the future.

Let us hope that English Table Tennis does not regret it.

Frank Thomas
(Stockport).

EXTRAORDINARY

AT the recent E.T.T.A. A.G.M., I was amazed (as were many others present) at the extraordinary way in which the N.E.C. motion on standardisation was pushed through. After the proposal had been moved and seconded only one person spoke and then a proposal was made by a member of the N.E.C. that a trial vote be taken to see whether any further discussion was worthwhile. A show of hands for the motion was not counted as the Chairman (Ivor Eyles) thought it would be easier to count those against. Thirteen hands showed against and he ruled that the motion was therefore carried.

At a rough estimate I would say that thirty hands showed for the motion but as block voting is the rule and as, also, it is necessary to secure a two-thirds majority it seems to me that this ruling was out of order, particularly as most of the delegates thought that a proper vote was to be taken if the trial vote proved decisive. There is also the point that many delegates were prevented from speaking, including Mr. Ivor Montagu, who had vacated the Chair in order to speak on this matter.

Last year many people were disgusted at the way certain members of the N.E.C. deliberately aroused anti-sponge feeling in this country and the ban was passed after considerable lobbying had

taken place. Now this handling of the matter at the A.G.M. gives official sanction to these bulldozing methods.

In the consternation which followed no one thought to challenge this decision but it is clear that the N.E.C., if they support the Chairman in this, are inviting doubts as to their own integrity.

John Corser
(Watford).

IS IT LOGICAL ?

AT the commencement of a game the Umpire calls "Smith serving—love—all." The first two words indicate who is to serve, the second two, the call of the score, are the signal to start.

BUT when we come to a service-change the procedure is altered.

Although for approximately four-fifths of the game the score being called is the signal that the server may serve, at a service-change the players must wait after the call of the score to hear the name of the server—"Five-all—Smith." If Jones (who should be striker-out at 5-all) is holding the ball ready to serve, the call "Smith . . . Five-all" will put matters right without any disruption, as Jones, on hearing "Smith," will send the ball to the other end, and by the time "Five-all" has been called Smith will be ready to serve.

It would seem to me that the "official" way is not only ILLOGICAL but less efficient. I wonder what reason caused those who drew up the Umpires' code to decide on this difference between the commencement of a game and service-changes. What do other Umpires think? If one uses the same order throughout one is wrong either way—must not say "Love-all—Smith serving" or "Smith—Five-all."

Perhaps the newly-formed "Table Tennis Umpires' Association will give this matter some attention.

A. J. H. Wickens
(Buckingham).

NO REGRETS

IN your report of the Mixed Doubles Final of the English "Open" you refer to the so-called hallabaloo caused when a cameraman was prevented from taking a picture of the injured Sido.

As the umpire of this match I was primarily responsible for this gross interference with the liberty of the Press, and, I am sorry to say, I do not regret my action in any way. In my interpretation, one of the umpire's duties is to see that players are not subjected during a match to unnecessary distractions, and I consider it no more reasonable to allow a flashlight photograph to be taken during a temporary suspension of play, such as for injury, than to allow the same facility, for example, while the players are changing ends between games.

I find it hard to believe that any of your readers really feels he has been deprived of anything by not being able to see Sido nursing his injured knee, but if there are any whose interest in Table Tennis can only be sustained by "news" items such as this I feel we can very well do without their support.

Colin Clemett.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPLY—THE FACTS

THE letter from Len Adams is to me very interesting and a complete distortion of what exactly happened.

(a) I did NOT as Chairman rule that no speech should take more than five minutes, I SUGGESTED 15 minutes, but the meeting (no doubt remembering the 1957 A.G.M.) ruled otherwise and were completely happy to cut this to five minutes. The N.E.C. proposer, as is customary, took much longer; however the seconder took exactly TWO SECONDS.

(b) It was then thrown open for discussion. Instead of member after member wishing to speak, as last year, no large numbers appeared anxious to speak. The meeting then (what Len Adams suggests was a PUT UP CLAMOUR), all from the members in attendance, NOT FROM ANY ONE MEMBER OF THE N.E.C., appeared to have already made up its mind THAT THE VOTE SHOULD BE TAKEN.

(d) I then took the vote, and bearing in mind that a simple majority WOULD CARRY THE DAY, it was put to the meeting. The voting was so overwhelm-

ing in favour of the resolution, and from the chair noting the members who were against, I saw no reason to have a block vote, which would have given a really bigger majority, and with no two-thirds majority necessary to carry the issue.

I then left the chair.

With regard to the first part of the letter, I am of the opinion that the country, by and large, has for a long time been completely happy and confident in the administration of the game by the N.E.C., and I wonder, if a resolution was submitted voting the N.E.C. into office for a longer period than ONE YEAR, if Len Adams would not have a shock at the result.

To conclude. Was I IMPARTIAL? I am confident that I was completely unbiased. I could, as the Chairman, have spoken and, if I thought it necessary, tried to guide the meeting to the N.E.C. way of thinking, but I LEFT ALL THE DECISIONS TO THE MEMBERS PRESENT. What more can a Chairman do?

Ivor C. Eyles.

NO SUCH REQUEST

YOUR contributor, Sam Kirkwood, has frequently expressed himself with some vehemence on steps which the International Table Tennis Federation ought to take in the matter of racket standardisation. His advice to us is, presumably, well meant, and although it is based on a complete lack of understanding of the substantial problems which confront us, I am usually prepared to tolerate statements which, if for the most part inaccurate, at least spring from a desire as strong as my own to see some progress in this matter.

But his latest utterance is not only so at variance with the truth, but is also calculated to do nothing but harm to the Federation's efforts, that I cannot allow it to go unchallenged.

Mr. Kirkwood says—"INCIDENTALLY, THE I.T.T.F. REQUESTED THAT DELEGATES SHOULD NOT DISCUSS SPONGE, THE FEDERATION CLAIMING THAT THE ISSUE WAS ONE FOR THEM TO DECIDE."

I can state quite categorically that no such request was ever sent to the European Board. Indeed, I can do no better than quote from a letter sent to Mr. Belot, Chairman of the Board, over the signature of our President, the Hon. Ivor Montagu.

"Second is to say that I hope that opportunity may be taken by such of the delegates as are acquainted with the policies of the Associations to exchange ideas on all questions connected with the sport, in the widest possible way. Meetings of Table Tennis Enthusiasts are rare, and every advantage must be taken of them when they occur. In such conversations I hope none will forget the urgent problem now before the Table Tennis world of whether or not to standardise the racket, and if so in what form. I hope very much that you will urge upon the representatives the NECESSITY of their associations PROMPTLY AND AT ONCE replying to the questions on this subject sent out by Mr. Roy Evans and myself on behalf of the I.T.T.F. WHATEVER THEIR OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT MAY BE.

Without the active help and expression of opinion by constituent associations on this subject, our progress towards a solution will be gravely handicapped."

There is surely little need for me to say more. I can only hope that you will

give this letter the same prominence in your magazine that you give to your contributor, since, as Editor, you must acknowledge your share of the blame for publishing a statement so dangerously wrong, without first checking its authenticity.

SAM KIRKWOOD REPLIES: I RECEIVED THE INFORMATION FROM A DELEGATE WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING. I WAS GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THE REFERENDUM FROM THE I.T.T.A. WAS THAT EUROPEAN DELEGATES REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSION ON THE SPONGE ISSUE SINCE IT WAS ONE THEY (THE I.T.T.F.) WERE BEST QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS.

THE EUROPEAN DELEGATES INSISTED IN NO UNCERTAIN MANNER THAT IT WAS A MATTER FOR THEM TO DISCUSS.

H. Roy Evans
Hon. General Secretary.

TOO DEAR

BRISTOL and District Association wish to protest against the high price of table tennis balls. In view of the almost static condition of wages and materials we felt that the increase of 20% is unjustified.

While realizing that it is in the interests of the game to authorize the use of certain balls for important matches, we are wondering if there were not some unexplored avenues where supplies could be obtained at a more reasonable price.

Mrs. P. Archdale.

STRICTLY ILLEGAL

AS the only legal service now in doubles is "diagonal," can anyone explain to your readers why affiliated bodies such as the Wirral League, are allowed by the E.T.T.A. to have "serve anywhere" rules?

J. Watts
(Liverpool).

EDITOR'S NOTE: The experiment of no doubles line was discontinued after the necessary report was made to the International Federation last season. If it is still being carried out in Wirral League it is against rules and should be taken up with the N.E.C. representatives.

STAFFORDSHIRE KNOTS

Champions but no promotion

THE County team rounded off their best ever season with a fine 9-1 win over Devon to clinch the title of the Western Division by virtue of a better sets average than Somerset.

There were many anxious people awaiting the result of the Somerset-Wiltshire match held the same evening and the sigh of relief when the news came through the next day that Somerset had only won 8-2 could be heard throughout the county. Nevertheless it was a fine effort and the whole team must be congratulated on what was undoubtedly a first class "team" performance.

Drawn against Cheshire in the play off for the Premier Division the team made the journey to Birkenhead quietly confident that they had an even chance of victory but, alas, it was not to be and they went under 3-6 after a terrific fight to a team that just had the edge on them.

Only Derek Backhouse managed a singles victory, the other two wins coming in the doubles, where Backhouse once more teamed successfully with John Osborne, and Dorothy Worrall, partnered by Chris Charman, won a hard fought women's doubles.

We were no more successful against Kent in the other play off losing by a similar score. Thus promotion has been missed.

The County Junior side's jubilation at having won the Midland Junior Division was abruptly terminated because after being officially notified of winning the title it was in fact found that Warwickshire had won by virtue of a slightly

superior games average. Hard lines, but a good show all the same.

The semi-finals of the Staffs. club championship were brought to a successful conclusion and resulted in a 6-3 win for Woodfield (W'ton) over Sandford Hill (Potteries) and a 5-4 victory by Y.M.C.A. (W. Brom.) over Longton "A" (Potteries).

As compensation for their defeats in the club championships the Potteries swept the board in the County League programme, taking both the first and second division titles.

Their "A" team had a tough fight in the 1st Division to beat off the strong challenge of Dudley and Wolverhampton, but the "B" team romped away with the Second Division and finished with a 100 per cent. record.

The West Bromwich "Closed" championship was once more the scene of some first class play, especially among the women. Dorothy Worrall continued her season's fine form by taking the Women's Singles and with Kathie Barlow the doubles. Her final with Chris Charman was outstanding and enabled her to equal Marjory Cumberbatch's record of four wins.

With Derek Backhouse not defending his title, the Men's competition was wide open, final victory going to Dick Coley with a 21-12, 21-15 victory over Clive Swallow. Clive, however, made amends by taking the Boys' singles and doubles with D. Carter.

The Men's doubles went to Alan Deeley and K. Williams, while Dick Coley teamed up with Chris Charman to

add the Mixed doubles to his singles trophy.

That promising junior, Ann Charman, disposed of A. Wall in the Junior Girls' final, and after being the losing finalist for the past three years in the Veterans' tournament, George Watkins at last got home with a win over S. Hornibrook.

In the north of the county the Stone Association successfully staged their individual competitions and despite a near midnight finish a large number of players and enthusiasts stayed until the end, a fitting tribute to the high standard of play. Added interest this season was created by a new cup which has been given for the doubles championship by the No. 5 Club, Mill Meece, which has now closed.

First winners were County player, Beryl Broad, and Mr. R. Boone, who defeated Mr. G. Caddy and Mr. V. Kiernan 21-6, 21-8. Kiernan made amends by defeating Boone in the singles championship 21-16, 21-19.

To conclude these notes for this season what could be more fitting than to offer congratulations to Derek Backhouse and John Osborne on their wonderful win over Johnny Leach and Biorne Melstrom in the 3rd round of the Men's doubles in the English "Open."
Alec Backhouse.

Tables Turned in Wilts. League

The most ambitious County League programme ever attempted by the Wiltshire Association has resulted in over 90 players appearing in some 62 inter-league matches.

It is interesting to note that Swindon, who won the Premier Division last season, were pipped into second place by last year's runners-up, Salisbury, while the City regained the Second Division title with an unbeaten record.

An undefeated run of six matches gave West Wilts Juniors the undisputed title of the Third Division, one of their members, G. Oatley, being unbeaten in all his matches.

LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION ONE

| | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| SALISBURY | 10 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 73 | 27 | 18 |
| Swindon (Runners-up) | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 77 | 23 | 17 |
| West Wilts | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 54 | 46 | 9 |
| Devizes | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 39 | 61 | 7 |
| Calne Y.M.C.A. | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 29 | 71 | 7 |
| Chippenhams C.C. | 10 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 28 | 72 | 2 |

DIVISION TWO

| | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| SALISBURY | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 14 | 14 |
| Swindon (Runners-up) | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 55 | 25 | 10 |
| West Wilts | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 43 | 37 | 9 |
| Devizes | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 28 | 52 | 5 |
| Kennet Vale | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 62 | 0 |

DIVISION THREE

| | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| WEST WILTS | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 9 | 12 |
| Devizes (Runners-up) | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 25 | 35 | 5 |
| Swindon | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 24 | 36 | 4 |
| Salisbury | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 20 | 40 | 3 |

D. Hillier.

WEST WILTS. "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: **J. PEARCE** bt A. E. Craymer 21-16, 21-6, 21-9. Women's Singles: **Mrs. P. COLLINS** bt Mrs. J. Hunt 19-21, 21-16, 21-19. Junior Singles: **J. FORD** bt D. Missen 21-15, 21-23, 21-11.

Men's Singles: **C R A Y M E R/T. EDWARD** bt Pearce/W. Griffen 18-21, 22-20, 21-14, 22-20. Mixed Doubles: **A. J. ALEXANDER/Mrs. J. E. HILLIER** bt P. Hunt/Mrs. J. Hunt 21-19, 21-11.

Handicap Singles: **P. HUNT** bt B. Hawkins 21-17, 22-20.

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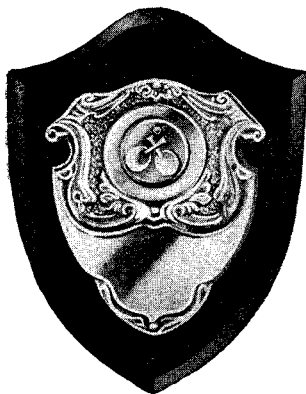


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YORKSHIRE NOTES

MIDNIGHT FOLLIES

HERE is news of Bradford's table tennis night spot. Shows continued well after midnight for two successive nights. The stars were those who remained undefeated to qualify for the finals of the "Closed" championship.

It was nearing 1 a.m. when the last set finished on the first night of the preliminary rounds at Drummond Road School. In six hours 175 sets were played on seven tables—one set every two minutes.

The second night's events finished after midnight, too. The entry of nearly 400 was a record and took officials by surprise.

Maurice Pitts won the singles for the seventh time in nine seasons. One year he was beaten by Curt Skaj from Sweden and another year by ill-health. He beat Hans Soova in a three-game final and shared the doubles with "Sonny" Forrest.

Pitts, Soova and Forrest have boxed all the Bradford honours this season—for they make up the Metal Box team which has completed a hat-trick of league-cup doubles.

Joan Farnsworth won the women's singles and also helped Y.W.C.A. to win the county women's club championship. They defeated Hull British Legion 7-2 in the final.

In the men's section two Huddersfield clubs, Y.M.C.A. and Slaithwaite, will contest the final.

Bradford women finished runners-up to Leeds in the inter-league race. On the final stretch Bradford beat Barnsley 10-0 and Leeds defeated Hull 8-2.

But Hull's men pipped Leeds 6-4 to skip over them into fourth place. Peter Simpson (Leeds) was down 5-10 in the third to Eddie Beedle—but took the next 16 points to win! He also beat Dave Bartlett, while Pete Smith scored two successes for Hull.

Invincible Huddersfield keep the championship for a seventh year with Sheffield runners-up and Bradford third. In Huddersfield's 9-1 win over Bradford, Stuart Dyson was beaten by Soova, his vanquished semi-final opponent in the Yorkshire "Closed."

Huddersfield "B" experimented for their last match by bringing in Gerald Smith and Ken Burgess. Although Castleford/Pontefract won 8-2, Smith scored a singles success and shared a doubles win—with Burgess.

Halifax beat Leeds "B" 6-4 in their last match to snatch the second division title from York on sets average. The Minster men have now been runners-up four times in five years.

Hull won the East Region youths' title for the third year running and meet Sheffield (winners in the West) in the play-off.

Victoria dominate at Leeds. They are again champions and meet G.P.O. "A" in the final of the cup.

Railway Institute dominate at York. The "A" team did not drop a point in 36 matches; the second string were runners-up with 28 points; and the "C" team were second in division two.

Malcolm Hartley.

Western Counties Bulletin

In the 1st Division, Bristol easily defeated Weston 7-1. Weston's only victory was obtained by D. Shipton, who brilliantly beat P. Partos 21-19, 21-19.

Bristol ladies, Misses J. Collier and J. Watts were much too strong for Weston's Mrs. Bull and Miss Francis. Both were well on top in their match against Cardiff at Bath and won 6-2. D. Smith beat B. Dimascio, and A. Goldsack accounted for G. Jones, but Q. Thomas for Cardiff beat J. Lindsay.

Birmingham beat their nearest rivals, Bristol, at Bristol by 5-3, to win the championship.

Near neighbours, Cardiff and Newport, fought a keen 4-4 draw at Cardiff. The outcome depended on the last match in which A. Thomas and Mrs. Phillips narrowly beat the Newport pair, Vera Rowe and B. Evans.

In the under 21s, Bristol beat Weston 6-2 to become joint leaders with Bath, and a play-off is necessary.

Some excellent games were played in the Bristol v Weston match. At one point Bristol led 3-2 and then Bristol ladies, Miss Moger and Miss Bye, won their singles, each match going 3 sets, against Miss Yeates and Miss Millard. In the final game Miss Moger and A. Davis beat J. Liniua and Miss Yeates 21-17, 21-16.

DIVISION 1

| | P. | W. | L. | D. | F. | A. | P. |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Birmingham | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 37 | 11 | 10 |
| Cardiff | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 23 | 20 | 7 |
| Newport | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 25 | 21 | 7 |
| Bristol | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 23 | 17 | 6 |
| Bath | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 20 | 28 | 6 |
| Bristol 2nds | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 17 | 23 | 3 |
| Weston | 6 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 38 | 1 |

UNDER 21s

| | P. | W. | L. | D. | F. | A. | P. |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Bristol | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 10 | 4 |
| Bath | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 11 | 4 |
| Newport | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 12 | 3 |
| Weston | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 15 | 1 |

Grove Motlow.

TAYLOR DOUBLE

Eddie Taylor, Britain's top ranking junior, won both the men's and junior singles titles in the Durham "Closed" Championships held over Easter.

He reached the final of the men's singles with an excellent straight win over Sunderland team mate, Peter Tucknutt, in the semi-final, while in the other "semi" Keith Holland, of Hartlepool, defeated Stockton's up-and-coming Colin Campbell, after a close first end.

The final produced an unexpected one-sided affair with Taylor always well in command of the situation.

Sunderland men's doubles holders, Dennis Gillon and Peter Tucknutt, captured the County title with a narrow victory over club mates Jack Stephenson and Arnold Warentz.

Grace Brown retained her women's singles title after several shocks over Philadelphia's Jean Brown in an aggressive final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: **E. TAYLOR** (Sunderland) bt K. Holland (Hartlepool) 21-12, 21-13.

Women's Singles: **Mrs. G. BROWN** bt J. Brown 16-21, 21-17, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: **P. TUCKNUTT/D. GILLON** bt J. Stephenson/A. Warentz 23-21, 12-21, 21-16.

Women's Doubles: **Mrs. HOLLAND/Mrs. JOHNSON** bt Mrs. Brown/M. Hatfield 21-15, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: **S. DAY/Miss J. BROWN** bt Holland/Mrs. Holland 21-15, 22-20.

Junior Boys: **TAYLOR** bt Barker 14-21, 21-10, 21-11. Junior Girls: **A. JOHNSON** bt M. Coe 22-20, 21-17.

Charles Crisp.

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BETTER IN TOURNAMENTS

With the exception of Johnny Leach, the individual performances of Essex players in the County Championships were disappointing, but they showed a welcome improvement in "Open" tournaments.

Bobby Stevens won two singles titles, while Bobby Raybould, Ray Dorking and Yvonne Baker were well among the prizes.

Raybould had two notable wins over Bergmann and Dolinar, and Jean Page did exceptionally well in the "Kent," only to lost to Joyce Fielder in the final. The juniors also did better in "Opens" than in the County Championships and it is many years since three Essex juniors won singles titles.

First boys from "far away" Clacton ever to enter an "Open" tournament were 15-year-old Dave Sibley and Peter Coleman, who competed in the Middlesex "Open" at Hanwell.

Their enthusiasm and smart turn-out were a credit to their league and they no doubt benefited from the experience.

Despite reverting to pimple rubber, young Tommy Caldwell retained his men's singles title in the Billericay League championships. Winifred Willis,

a player who thoroughly enjoys her game, was a surprise winner of the women's singles.

Men's Singles: T. CALDWELL bt A. White 21-17, 21-12. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. W. WILLIS bt M. Raw 21-15, 21-12. **Mixed Doubles:** CALDWELL/W. PHIPPS bt L. Wernick/M. Wright 17-21, 21-13, 21-15. **Women's Doubles:** Mrs. I. PEACH/Mrs. C. LOVE bt Mrs. W. Willis/Raw 21-14, 15-21, 21-13. **Mixed Doubles:** J. SARGENT/Mrs. WILLIS bt M. Morgan/Mrs. Peach 22-24, 21-18, 21-18. **Boys' Singles:** R. BROOKER bt K. Murray 21-19, 21-23, 21-18. **Girls' Singles:** C. RAWLES bt S. Woodgate 21-17, 21-10. **Veterans' Singles:** S. CALDWELL bt W. Phipps 21-17, 28-26.

Congratulations to Keith Low on passing the National Umpires' test, and to Jean Page who has been awarded her County badge (Class 1), and to Sheila Pickard (Class 2).

Essex Leagues Championship winners: Premier Div.: East London; Second Div. (East): Chelmsford; Second Div. (West): Basildon; Second Teams Div. (East): Southend; Second Teams Div. (West): Ilford; Junior Div.: Romford; Veteran Div. (East): Chelmsford; Veteran Div. (West): Romford.

Frank Bateman

CAMBS. NOTES

CORNWELL WINS SIX

THE Cambridgeshire "Closed" Championships which were held in March provided some very interesting preliminary round and final round matches.

The championships, however, were unique in that John Cornwell succeeded in gaining six trophies—in fact all the events he could enter!

He won the Men's singles title, beating John Thurston in the final, the Men's "Closed" doubles, the Mixed doubles, the Men's "Radius" singles and doubles, and the Handicap singles.

Cornwell had "his finest hour" and nothing could have stopped him that evening. Even in the Handicap singles, in which he was heavily handicapped, he won in two straight sets.

Heather Mitchell won the Ladies' singles for the second year running, beating Avis Pauley in an evenly-contested final. Jack Baughan won the Veterans' title for the fifth successive season, beating Frank Jeffrey in a battle of three sets.

New Chesterton Institute won the Cambridgeshire League championship, with Wesley as runners-up.

Littleport succeeded in winning the Ely and District League title, with Wilburton runners-up.

Michael Grainger, of Sawton, who won the Junior singles in the Cambridgeshire championships (he beat Michael Boland in the final) also plays soccer for Cambridge City at outside-left.

In the Ely and District League championships D. Lane won the Men's singles, M. A. Whetstone and L. Brickwood the Men's doubles, and John Ashman beat R. Burgess in the Junior singles. **Leslie Constable.**

Proud Papa

Former international Ron Crayden, of Surrey, has recently become a father for the second time. His wife gave birth to a son, to be named Martin John, on April 15.



The Craydens already have a daughter Lynda, aged 7½.

Maybe we can look forward to some more talented Surrey juniors in a few years hence.

Norman Reeve.

MIDDLESEX TAKE ALL

MIDDLESEX can feel justly proud of a very successful 1957-58 season. Both the senior and junior teams won their divisions, and the second team won the Bernard Crouch Trophy.

The first team trounced Gloucester in their last match to finish the season with the record of six matches won and one drawn.

The juniors were unmatched in their section and cantered home to easy victory.

The policy of playing the younger players in the Bernard Crouch Trophy is reaping reward, and the county is most pleased to become the second winners of the competition which is played in memory of the popular table tennis and tennis player.

Special congratulations to Jean Harrower and Chris Gosling on their success in the English "Open" Championships. Both have had a grand season individually and as members of the junior team, while Jean has also been a second team regular.

YOUNG IDEA

The affiliation of youth leagues operating under the auspices of the Middlesex County Council has proved a successful venture which will be continued next season. In addition approach is now being made to the boroughs in the county which come under the London County Council, and enquiries are being made with the object of interesting the schools in the county's activities.

The first inter-Borough Youth Competition was won by Harrow, who defeated Willesden in the final held at Messrs. Whitbread's.

In the inter-League Competition Willesden were winners of the Norman Pegg Trophy. Central II won the Second Division, in which relegated Wembley II will be replaced next season by Uxbridge, who headed Division III. The junior competition was won by Barnets.

So to next season. And as a start please note that the Annual General Meeting will be held on July 1st.

Norman Reeve.

SUSSEX GO DOWN AGAIN

THE Sussex Senior team only succeeded in collecting two points this season at the expense of Glamorgan and will again be relegated to the 2nd Division.

John Quilter, however, inflicted on Johnny Leach his only defeat in county matches, and has steadily improved during our year in the Premier Division.

The team has been selected from Peter Shead, Brian Leach, Ian Alexander (Brighton), John Quilter, Jed Holley (Bognor), Wendy Bates, Pat Shead, Pat Turner (Brighton).

Our thanks go to Mr. Francis Riley, of Hastings, who has captained our Juniors this season. He has also shepherded them to "Open" tournaments all over the country at his own expense.

The boys all have another season as Juniors and we hope they have gained experience which will help to improve them next year.

The inter-League competitions have taken place. Crawley beat Hastings in the final of the juniors 6-3.

Brighton won the Ladies' and Men's tournaments. The Men (Shead, Alexander and Baker) beating Bognor 5-4 at Hove. The Ladies (Bates, Mrs. Shead and Turner) beating Hastings 8-1 at Hailsham.

The popular Sussex "Closed" will not be held this season due to the rent of the Corn Exchange at Brighton rising out of all proportion.

The Brighton League, who run the event on behalf of the county, hope to find a new venue for next season.

Sussex have undergone changes in administration due to the resignation of Hon. Secretary R. Kirkup, of Crawley. Chairman Keith Watts has filled the position and is sorting out the problems which have been accumulating.

WELSH CORNER

GEORGE EVANS BOOSTS BARRY

BARRY, one time stronghold of Welsh table tennis, has come back into its own. In addition to a fine performance by its team in the Welsh League, individual honour has come its way by virtue of George Evans winning the Welsh "Closed" Championship over Easter.

There were a lot of new faces in the early rounds, and although the form displayed was not particularly good, it was gratifying to see these newcomers.

George Evans progressed by wins over Godfrey Collins, of Cardiff in Round Two, and another Cardiffian, Martin Bernstein in Round Three. Then he came up against veteran Walter Sweetland, who had shown good form with a win over Cliff Bowden. It was a tough match and Evans just scraped through at 18 in the third.

Evans could not have been confident when he met Alan Thomas for he had lost badly to him in a recent club match. This time with better control of his game Evans won in two straight.

Ronnie Davies, who had done well to eliminate Norman Parker in the quarters, was Evans's victim in the semi-final which went to three games.

In the other half of the draw Alan Morris, almost on the verge of giving up the game, was having the day of his table tennis life. Out went Hanks in Round Two; out went John Simonson, the holder, in Round Three. Then Howel Jones fell before Alan's excellent form, to be followed by the danger man Glynn Bebb, the penholding "exile" from Welwyn.

Meanwhile Glyn Morgan had coasted along nicely, disposing of Bernard Dimascio in the quarters. It was a great fight when he came up against Morris and fortunes swayed before Alan won 24-22 in the third!

Evans played very fine in the final game, using his backhand to open up an attack, and then crashing in many an unstoppable forehand. His defence was not so good, and on the occasions when Alan mustered enough strength to

take the initiative, he looked as if he might win.

Evans, looking fitter, finished strongly in the third, and deserved his success. His play has been anything but consistent this season, but on Easter Monday he played well throughout. To Alan Morris go commiserations in his ultimate failure, but more than anyone his form in all events deserved a better reward.

The entries in the women's event were disappointing, with many well known absentees including Audrey Bates and Gretta Dimascio.

Shirley Jones was given a good game by Shirley Cartwright, but won fairly comfortably against Vera Rowe in the semi-final. Sandra Morgan did well against Vera in the round before. Betty Gray had no trouble with Doreen Curtis or Margaret Phillips, but Margaret Jones, who had done well to beat Audrey Jones, took a game from Betty in the semi-final. The Final was another bitter disappointment for Shirley Jones, for she lost to Betty in three games, rarely looking as if she really knew how to go about beating her team mate. As Shirley's confidence oozes away, so Betty's flowers to such an extent that she finishes these matches getting the most fantastic shots home.

There were some good games in the men's doubles, in which Morgan and Simonson eventually beat Alan Thomas and Norman Parker. Shirley Jones and Betty Gray regained their doubles title from Vera Rowe and Shirley Cartwright, and Betty completed the treble by partnering Alan Morris to victory over Glyn Morgan and Shirley Jones in the mixed.

Sandra Morgan retained her girls' title as there were no contenders.

SURREY NOTES

BOLDNESS BE YOUR POLICY

THIS, is a survey of the closing season coupled with a preview of 1958-9, was the message given the presumptive Selectors by the Surrey Executive.

Although finishing second in the Premier Division we feel we can yet do better. Our second team, losing the "Bernard Crouch" trophy of which they were the holders, do not at first sight appear to have the power to aid the

first. But there are some glimmers of hope.

Lynne Whithams has moved from the stage where her performances were marked by "—and she's only been playing for 3 or 4 years"—to an established player with an "Open" title to her name and a most creditable record against many of the finest players. She is also versatile; playing both singles and doubles well.

Michael MacLaren finished this season with a fine run concluding in his taking a game from the then considered unbeatable Berczik. Mike's weakness has always appeared to be he is too nice a chap to consider getting "stuck in" at any stage of the game. Only very occasionally has a killer instinct been apparent. It is hoped his present form will encourage him to develop this side of his game.

"The Big Hit" Terry Kirby, since first blasting the "big boys" off the table has become a far better stroke player but has, like some boxers we know, appeared to lose the thing that brought the results—the knock-out smash. Lack of high-class practice, and lesser movement nowadays, may be contributory causes. Well Terry the chance is yours: for next season the field is open.

Mary Shannon is a little young to bring in when we speak of the Senior team, but her intelligent play keeps our glimmer extending to the further horizon.

Four only have room for mention, others there are, known and even perhaps as yet unknown. Next season can well be YOUR season.



LYNNE WHITHAMS

Reserve Wins

Dennis Cooke, selected as First Reserve for the Junior side, beat Derek John, of Merthyr, in the final. Derek, a left-handed hitter had previously beaten Probert, of Abergavenny, in an exciting game, after the latter had scraped home against Ian Gibson. Cooke beat Keri Cutler in his semi-final, and in the final let Derek have little or no chance to hit.

The two semi-finals of the Club Team Championship of Wales produced good matches. Port Talbot Y.M.C.A., with John Simonson in brilliant form, beat Overseas 5-2, and Roath Road "A" beat Barry Central by the same score. Stan Jones initial defeat of Graham James must have done much to set Roath Road on the victory road.

In the Welsh League, Swansea have definitely won Division One, Eastern Valleys, Division Two North, and Newport the Junior Division. Port Talbot's outstanding matches are confusing the issue in the Southern Section, whilst there is doubt also in the Women's Section where Swansea beat Cardiff in one game, but the other is under discussion by the Management Committee.

OUT OF STEP

by "IVOR BADGE"

WHAT a pleasant surprise to see the article "Are Umpires Necessary?" by my old friend "A. Scorer" in the March issue. I am sure I am speaking for my fellow-umpires when I say how refreshing it was to read such a carefully-considered appreciation of our activities.

It is, of course, quite true that the whole conception of having qualified umpires is ridiculous while we have so many keen and able youngsters ready to take over the job. Having shown a rudimentary knowledge of the game by umpiring a first-round match in a tournament, why, indeed, should they not umpire the final? It is time we adopted this principle and gave a lead to those other sports whose organisations still insist on such outdated conventions as having qualified officials to umpire Test Matches or to Referee Cup Finals.

I am sure Mr. Scorer's alternative method of becoming an umpire will give new heart to those who, like him, were unable to pass the County Umpires test. It is a little unfortunate that "Open" Tournament organisers are not allowed to make losers umpire the following set, but as far as I know this rule has not been specified for County or International matches.

APPEARANCES SAKE

The first set of such an event could always be supervised by any school-boy who happened to be free at the time, or possibly the players in the last set of the programme could toss a coin for the job. Perhaps for the sake of appearances, it would be better to have someone sitting in the umpire's chair to keep the public

informed of the latest score as agreed between the players, who would then be free to exploit their natural abilities in gamesmanship.

A simple incident like a return hitting the side of the table would then become a fascinating contest between the striker, saying "Sorry," and his opponent saying "Bad luck!", the point going to the player whose tactics were most readily accepted by the audience.

The other solution proposed by Mr. Scorer, of allowing the "Number Twiddlers" to control the game, presents even more interesting possibilities. As those who have attended events at Wembley will know, the "Twiddlers" do not always agree on the score when there is an umpire calling it out, and they would be even less likely to do so if they had complete independence.

This could mean taking a majority vote, when an odd number of officials would be an obvious advantage, but the mathematically-inclined might prefer to take an average value of disputed scores. This would need some slight re-drafting of the Laws which are not at present framed to cover the scoring of half-points, although, since these Laws are never enforced, to insist on the alterations would savour of pedantry.

While we consider these matters, we could take the opportunity to drop the stifling "Time Limit" rule which so unfairly penalises the well-trained player, who cannot make the most of his powers of endurance if he is given only twenty minutes or so to wear down his opponent.

It is common knowledge that

boxing has deteriorated as a spectacle since fights were limited to a pre-determined number of rounds, and that Test Matches were far more interesting when there was no obligation to rush to a decision in only five days' play.

All of these ideas would undoubtedly add to the excitement of Table Tennis and their introduction might be the means of reviving public interest in the game. I am very glad that Mr. Scorer has had the courage and wisdom to throw light on what has been one of the dark corners of our sport, and I agree whole-heartedly with most of his suggestions.

I cannot, however, accept his final proposal that the umpires should form themselves into coaching squads to improve the playing standard of our younger players. Keen, able, efficient and enthusiastic as we are, we realise that we are not really capable of anything more difficult than simple and pedestrian chores such as umpiring, but there is a way in which our limited capabilities could be used to improve at least the appearance of Table Tennis matches.

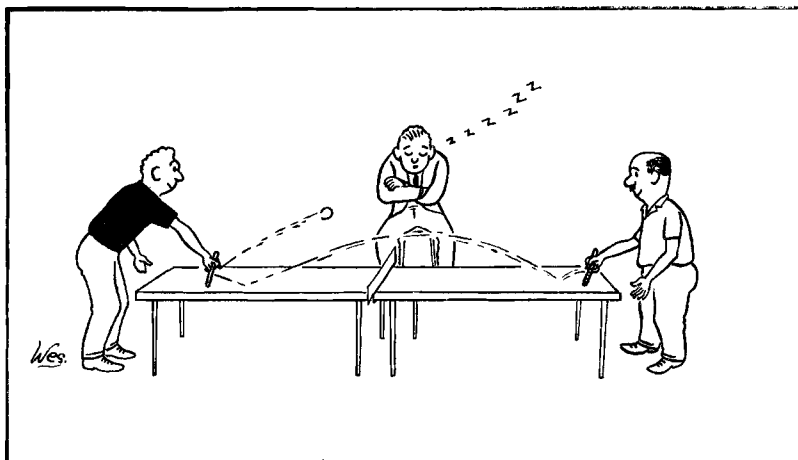
My suggestion, which I am sure has occurred to many umpires, is to eliminate the major cause of disputes and upsetting incidents, the players. An international match, instead of consisting of players pushing a ball monotonously over a net, with occasional pauses for self-condemnation, would consist of smartly-dressed umpires answering hypothetical questions put to them by representatives of the competing national associations.

If properly conducted, on the lines of a television panel game, such an event would surely be a far bigger attraction than many of the current international fixtures and would be far cheaper to stage since no table or lighting would be needed. The scheme might later be extended to include Swaythling Cup matches, which could be played entirely by post, with an enormous saving in travelling expenses.

I am sure Mr. Scorer's obvious depth of perception will enable him to foresee the possibilities of the idea far better than I can, and I look forward to read a lucid appraisal in a future article by him.

Seriously, Mr. Scorer, why waste time, ability and notepaper in trying to write nonsense?

NO COMMENT



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UMPIRES —

"A. SCORER" REPLIES

FIRST of all let me say with all sincerity how much I regret that any article of mine should cause hurt to anyone.

I knew that it was provocative. I believe that argument is good for Table Tennis, good for the wits, and good "Magazine." What would happen to the daily circulation of an Opposition newspaper, if the Editor decided not to criticise the Government any more, in case he provoked them.

I had written a provocative article—I expected to be counter-attacked, I expected to be well and truly taken to pieces and probably, to lose the argument. What I did not expect was to be made to feel that I had invaded a convent, as it were, and was regarded with silent loathing by a lot of lachrymose and hysterical nuns.

Tear my argument to shreds, by all means, but for heaven's sake, do not take offence where none is intended. Would you expect a heavy-weight boxer, getting a light tap on the nose, to go whimpering to his seconds that the referee should not allow such things.

I know Mr. White by repute and respect all that he means to Table Tennis. I am not at all sure that it promotes good inter-departmental relations to suggest that the Coaching section is jealous of the Umpires Section. Anyway, those are not my words. There is, of course, no comparison between the two. I could pick a dozen teenagers at a contest, who would umpire a match efficiently, but I could not pick out one capable of giving an hour's coaching.

I just think that if these efficient, capable and enthusiastic gentlemen were to put the time into this work instead of forming yet another Umpire's Association, it would be time better spent. To suggest that the Editor should not publish a provocative or contentious article, is just nonsense. That is what periodicals thrive upon. If I had written an objectionable article, I should be thoroughly ashamed of myself, and I am quite sure it would never have been published.

As regards writing under a Nom-de-plume—I did say in my covering letter that I did not like doing so, but as I personally knew and respected many umpires, I should not like any one of them to think that I had him or her in mind. I prefer to remain anonymous, because I feel that if I have given offence, I should like to let the matter drop, and unreservedly apologise.

However, fair play's a jewel, and, should this reply be published, the Editor is at liberty to send my name and address to Mr. White, as I feel that, as this is the last issue of the Season, I should not like to grab, anonymously, the last word.

Perhaps then, my education may commence—and again, perhaps, the education will not be all one-sided. Whichever way the education proceeds, I am sure that we shall finish up good friends, I should not like it any other way.

Obituary

Death of Marcel Corbillon

A Tribute from Ivor Montagu

The sudden and lamented death of Marcel Corbillon, briefly reported in the last issue of Table Tennis, and following so soon on the death of Karl Eckardt, completes the removal, within a tiny space of only several weeks, of the two men who had served the international federation as vice-president for Europe, and has lost Table Tennis one of the most glamorous and enterprising personalities that has ever decorated any port.

To most followers of the game today he was simply a name, one of the two—the other being Swaythling, renowned through our perpetual team competitions for the championship of the world. Few of the young moderns, though they may have chanced to glimpsed the slim, trim, slight figure with the expressive eyes, half anxious and half humorous, or chanced to hear one of the speeches of his latter days, full of earnest, slightly eccentric exhortation to ameliorate our sport, delivered with a wagging of the little red goat-beard, guessed half the value of the romantic dynamo that dwelt within.

He was born in Amiens 68 years ago. A real "sportif," when such a character was far rarer in France that it is now. This tiny, gentle man not only played football for Amiens and the Parish Club Levallois but became expert at wrestling, boxing, fencing, weight lifting, as well.

WAR HERO

At an age, during the last war, when many begin to think of firesides, Monsieur Corbillon on the contrary was playing an heroic part. Refusing to queue for any decoration, he none the less could not escape the Croix de Guerre and the ribbon of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, conferred upon him on the battlefield by his commanding officer and he finished the campaigns a major in the artillery.

Between times, he not so much invented French Table Tennis (it had already existed, a latecomer on the international scene and a neglected poor cousin at home, for a short while before his appearance), as picked it up by the scruff of the neck and put it on the map.

He brought the great Hungarians to France, toured the country, founded and developed local organisations all over the place, captured the machine, squared the government sports organisations and ministries to secure official recognition, organised world championships in the basement of a great motor car sales establishment of the Champs Elysées that was then but one of his activities, dragooned the International Federation into accepting his cup for a world team contest for women, thus forcing us into an act of justice Lawn Tennis has never brought itself to perform in all its years, the placing of them on an equality with men.

After five years one of those earthquakes so common in French table tennis as in French political life, displaced him, but he never lost the affec-

tion and regard of his successors, any more than he abated one jot his interests and interventions in the sport on either home or international plane. Nor could he relax his energy; he was busy making famous and fashionable the little watering place of Criel to which he had "retreated" with his wife when his lively heart failed suddenly and he left us in a moment.

None could have filled as he did the post of I.T.T.F. Deputy President and I was happy and honoured while we were together. I dare believe that we were friends. He was always alert and often critical. Plan succeeded plan: now he was devising means to secure obedience to the rule of service within table-side limits, now drafting a simplified ABC of the laws for enlightenment of beginners, now seeking my advice on a trip by Trans-Siberian railway, now in search of a ticket for the Cup Final. Once he suspected me of chairman's hanky-panky in the procedural sequence of a resolution and its amendment. Disquieted, I was able to quote him Erskine-May and Citrine both in my favour, only to discover he was quite as right as I, they order these things oppositely in France. I am still upset because he told me once that my methods were too Cartesian for him; I will do anything to find out what he meant and mend my ways—for his judgment always had its kernel even when it seemed wildest—do anything, that is, except read Descartes.

It was easy (especially if you did not know him) to dislike Marcel Corbillon. At moments, he could exasperate his friends. But it was impossible, if you did know him, not to love him. In him, table tennis has lost a treasure and we share his family's grief.

ENGLAND 6, FRANCE 3

Thornhill bt S. Cafero 21-10, 21-11; bt G. Amouretti 21-16, 21-13; bt G. Chergui 21-12, 21-10.

Harrison lost to Amouretti 21-16, 20-22, 18-21; lost to Chergui 15-21, 24-22, 19-21; bt Cafero 21-19, 21-16.

Rhodes bt Chergui 21-11, 15-21, 21-19; lost to Cafero 23-21, 17-21, 18-21; bt Amouretti 21-12, 18-21, 27-25.

JACK CARRINGTON'S HOLIDAY TRAINING WEEKS, 1958

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SHATTER THAT INFERIORITY FEELING

By HERBERT STONELEY

YOU know it don't you? You have possibly made the excuse yourself that you cannot always practice. After all, runs the inferiority formula, you have no one to practice with. To get the best out of you, there must be someone to take your shots, and to return the ball over the net.

You are indeed, deep in the mire of inferiority. But there is a way out of it, a way which would produce more and better players for every team in the country, not to mention more and better players for the national side in the future.

Practice

Let us take a look at other sports. Many an international footballer for example could have made the same excuse and said "I need someone to push the ball to me to practice this or that shot . . ." But we know that many have practised hours on end with an old tennis ball heading it against the side of a house.

Again, how many leading golfers have done their stints alone just swinging their clubs on a strip of grass behind the house that would not even give them a ten yards putt. As for practising putting, they all keep in on the sitting room carpet.

At Home

Returning to table tennis. There are not so many experts as there should be and the reason is far too many players suffer from that inferiority feeling about places to practice. A little thought and there are tons of places to practice at home. A small table put against the wall. You don't even need a net. You can practice this shot or that on a small card table, but surely there is the dining table in addition.

Then, have you got the best grip of your tool? Sure? Why not experiment with that, trying this grip, that one, or the other. All at home on a small table banging a ball against the inside wall? It may be

that for you, a change of grip would take you to the top. Why not try it and find out?

Compromise

Are your screw shots really as hot as you fondly think they are? Here is a type of shot you can improve, or even make perfect on a small table at home.

And net practice. A string across the small table. A line on the wall-paper, and you can practice to just clear, even to a fraction with simple shots, with screw returns, and high ones, low ones . . . When you come to think of it, no wonder we have not the host of players we ought to have out of 50,000,000 of our population when the majority only practice on proper tables in the club-room down town.

Practice, we are told, makes perfect, and there is no excuse for lack of practice, for with everyone who has a home there is enough opportunity for practice of most kinds. Get to it right now!

MIDDLESEX "OPEN"

Jean Beats the Seniors

FIFTEEN years old Jean Harrower, the English junior champion, is more than a match for all but our very top seniors. She proved this by carrying off the women's singles in the Middlesex "Open," her first tournament of the season.



JEAN HARROWER

The opposition may not have been quite so strong in the earlier rounds, but her victim in the final was Shirley Jones, one of the few home girls to have beaten Ann Haydon.

Jean showed a cool calculating brain and a fine fighting spirit as she came back after losing the opening set to win 19-21, 21-17, 21-15.

However, after battling her way through a series of senior matches the re-action set in and she surprisingly lost to Mary Shannon in the semi-final of the girls' singles. This paved the way for Sheila Hession, so often a runner-up to Miss Harrower, to win the title.

David House, the Somerset exile—he now works in London—carried off the men's singles beating Tony Miller in the final by 21-9, 13-21, 21-15.

Middlesex apparently hit a bad date for the revival of this meeting for most of their own county players were missing for one reason or another.

Men's Singles: D. HOUSE (Somerset) bt A. Miller (Surrey) 21-9, 13-21, 21-15.

Women's Singles: J. HARROWER (Middlesex) bt S. Jones (Wales) 19-21, 21-17, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: K. CRAIGIE/H. VENNOR bt R. Dorking/House 21-19, 21-14.

Women's Doubles: P. PIPER/JONES bt S. Pickard/Mrs. I. Sawyer 21-12, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles: R. RAYBOULD/Miss JONES bt Craigie/Miss D. Ellis 21-15, 21-17.

Boys' Singles: D. GRANT (I.O.W.) bt A. Cornish (Essex) 21-17, 21-19.

Girls' Singles: S. HESSION (Essex) bt M. Shannon (Surrey) 21-15, 12-21, 21-19.

Hampshire "Closed" Championships

Men's Singles: G. STEVENS bt F. Bradley 17-21, 21-17, 21-10.

Women's Singles: Mrs. S. FOSTER bt W. Wightman 21-10, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: STEVENS/B. JAMES bt Bradley/R. Henderson 21-18, 22-20.

Women's Doubles: WIGHTMAN/R. WELCH bt I. Poffley/A. Taylor 21-11, 21-9.

Mixed Doubles: STEVENS/Miss WIGHTMAN bt Henderson/Miss Welch 21-9, 21-15.

Junior Singles: B. MIDGELEY bt D. Grant, 21-15, 15-21, 21-16.



DIANE COLLINS

YUGOSLAVS RECALLED

Blow to N.E. England "Open"

BARNA WINS AGAIN



IAN HARRISON

"OLD MAESTRO," VICTOR BARNA, out of the tournament scene for the past three years, made a welcome return in the North East Of England "Open" at Scarborough over Easter and made it a winning one. He carried off the men's doubles in partnership with Johnny Leach.

They beat Brian Kennedy and Michael Thornhill 21-19, 21-19, in the final.

Barna is not so fast as he used to be—quite understandable—but it is still an education to see him play. That famous backhand flick was in evidence and helped to pile up winning points.

Not only is Barna a model for play, but also for turn out. His immaculate appearance is something many of our players would do well to copy.

Barna had originally gone to Scarborough with a representative team to meet Yugoslavia but this broke down when an urgent cable arrived from Belgrade ordering their players to return home immediately.

Walter Mitton, the Scarborough secretary, who had journeyed to York on the Friday evening to pick up the Yugoslavs by car, and had quite a struggle with the holiday traffic before getting them safely in their hotel, was naturally taken back when greeted with the cable on his arrival at tournament HQ.

"I immediately made my way back to their hotel, naturally wondering what it was all about," he said. "They spoke little English and it eventually transpired after they phoned Belgrade that they had to return for their National team championships.



VICTOR BARNA

"It was a big blow, but Popovic, their non-playing captain, although withdrawing his players from the tournament, decided to let Hrbud and Osmanagic play in an exhibition on the Sunday, while sending off Marcovic to Brussels to locate Vogrinc another of their party.

"Immediately after the exhibition I had to rush them to York again to catch the night train.

"It was quite a hectic week-end and somewhat knocked the bottom out of our plans."

Despite this disappointment of the overseas challenge being withdrawn the tournament was a success from the playing point of view and attracted its biggest-ever entry—264 individuals. There were 186 entries for the men's singles and 90 for the youths' singles.

Ian Harrison, of Gloucester, who has been one of the outstanding players of the season, carried off both these titles beating Brian Kennedy, the local idol in the senior final, and Laurie Landry, of Middlesex, in the youths.

His toughest challenge, however, was in the men's semi-final where he beat Bobby Raybould of Essex 21-9, 24-26, 22-20. Harrison came near to winning this two straight, then in the end it was touch and go.

Harrison beat Kennedy in straight games 21-18, 21-19, and Landry in the youths' final 21-12, 21-16.

Diane Collins showed good form in winning the women's singles with a straight games victory over Joyce Fielder at 21-13, 21-14. She then went on to win two more titles in the women's doubles with Kathie Best, and the mixed doubles with Leach.

The Exhibition

Ian Harrison and Mickey Thornhill came in for Markovic and Dolinar in the exhibition match against Barna's team. Playing in the doubles they beat Barna and Leach 21-19, 21-17, but Barna marked up a success in the mixed doubles with Diane Collins. They beat Hrbud and Kathie Best 21-23, 21-19, 21-13.

Harrison received his only set back of the weekend in this when he lost to Landry 21-23, 21-14, 12-21.

Landry also beat Osmanagic 21-16, 21-18, while Hrbud beat Leach 21-16, 14-21, 21-19.

Results

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: I. HARRISON (Glos) bt R. Raybould (Essex) 21-19, 24-26, 22-20. B. KENNEDY (Yorks.) bt M. Thornhill (Middx.) 9-21, 21-10, 21-13.

Final: HARRISON bt Kennedy 21-18, 21-19.

Women's Singles: Final: Mrs. D. COLLINS (Middx.) bt J. Fielder (Kent) 21-13, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: Final: V. BARNA/J. LEACH bt Kennedy/Thornhill 21-19, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Final: COLLINS/K. BEST bt Y. Baker/Fielder 21-15, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles: Final: LEACH/Mrs. COLLINS bt R. Dorking/Miss Baker 21-11, 24-22.

Boys' Singles: Final: D. McGEE bt J. Nicholls 21-12, 21-9.

Girls' Singles: S. HESSION bt M. Hicks 21-15, 21-16.

Youths' Singles: I. HARRISON bt L. Landry 21-12, 21-16.

Veteran Singles: G. ATKINSON bt E. A. Brown 21-18, 21-13.

Unranked-Beats National Champion

JIM NICHOLLS'S GREAT FEAT

THE first Sussex Junior "Open" Championships, at the Badminton Hall, Littlehampton, were a huge success (*writes Conrad Jaschke*).

The resourceful organising committee, headed by Bill Goldfinch and with Bill Vint as hon. referee, did not allow themselves to be stumped by any of the problems arising, one of which was space, because of the very large entry received. This was overcome by placing two tables in rooms adjoining the main hall. The main control room was upstairs, and as the small control point was tucked away in a corner downstairs, score sheets and completed cards were lowered and raised in a sand bucket on a string. Mrs. Bobby Harrower was busy all day "string-pulling."

There is no doubt that Sussex County can be proud of the results. Miss Lilian Rymill, hon. secretary of the Worthing and District League, did a great deal of the spade work as organising secretary, while Mr. M. J. Joyes acted as tournament secretary... a division of tasks which I feel always has beneficial results on the running of a tournament.

A full set of trophies has been donated by various individuals and organisations, which enabled the Sussex Junior "Open" to start off at a point which most tournaments reach only after some years (if ever!). The biggest surprise was Jim Nicholls's victory in the boys' singles. On his way to the final, Nicholls, who is not on the England junior ranking list, had close matches with David White (Bedfordshire) and Malcolm Ellis (Kent), and a hard fought semi-final against Brian Hamill.

Chris Gosling, holder of the English "Open" boys' singles, did not reproduce his brilliant form of Wembley. I am sure he is capable of showing it again, and even improving upon it next season.

ROMFORD v NEW BARNET

Gosling did not have things all his own way against Surrey's No. 1 boy C. Warren, and Sussex's Stephen Buble, who took a game off him. There followed an easy-quarter final victory over young D. Offenbach, but in the semi-final Gosling had a very tough struggle before overcoming Derek Grant. In the final, Gosling found no answer at all to Nicholls's whirlwind hitting, and, in fact, allowed the Romford boy to dictate matters throughout.

In the girls' singles, all four seeds got through to the semi-finals, in which 13-year-old Mary Shannon did extremely well to take a game off the redoubtable Jean Harrower. In the final, Miss Harrower proved too strong for Shelagh Hession, who has shown a welcome return to her best form recently.

An interesting point is that a Romford boy beat a New Barnet boy in the boys' singles, while New Barnet got their own back when Jean defeated Shelagh Hession, of Romford, in the girls' final! In the under-15 girls' singles, it was Jean Harrower v Mary Shannon in the final, and this time Jean won easily.

In the under-15 boys' singles, local hope A. Jindani, from Pakistan, almost knocked out fancied Paul Racey, losing only 20-22 in the third. Jindani was particularly anxious to win the trophy, as it had been donated by Mr. W. B. Cornish, President of the Worthing and District T.T.A., who is the Principal of Goring Hall Public School where Jindani is a pupil!

Jindani tried his hardest to keep the trophy "at home", with undoubtedly his best ever performance, but it was not to be. Racey went on to win the title after a fine finals match against J. Keogh.

An excellent performance was that of 12-year-old Pauline Martin, from Essex, who defeated county juniors Linda Gordon (Lancashire) and Alan Taft (Hertfordshire), losing to Jean Harrower in both under-15 and under-17 girls' singles.

Derek Grant and Shelagh Hession, who have been practically unbeatable in mixed doubles since teaming up as a scratch pair in the Kent Junior "Open" two years ago, added the Sussex Junior mixed doubles to the English Junior "Open" and Gloucestershire Junior "Open" titles they already hold.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles. Semi-finals: J. NICHOLLS (Essex) bt B. Hamill (Middx.) 21-11, 15-21, 21-16; C. GOSLING (Middx.) bt D. Grant (Hants.) 21-15, 18-21, 21-15. **Final:** NICHOLLS bt Gosling 21-16, 21-8.

Girls' Singles. Semi-finals: J. HARROWER (Middx.) bt M. Shannon (Surrey) 18-21, 21-14, 21-15; S. HESSION (Essex) bt A. Jacobs (Kent) 21-19, 21-17. **Final:** HARROWER bt Hession 22-20, 21-7.

Under-15 Boys' Singles. Semi-finals: P. RACEY (Beds.) bt A. Jindani (Sussex) 20-22, 21-11, 22-20; J. KEOGH (Lancs.) bt D. Stanley (Lancs.) 21-14, 21-16. **Final:** RACEY bt Keogh 21-15, 17-21, 21-9.

Under-15 Girls' Singles. Semi-finals: J. HARROWER (Middx.) bt P. Martin 21-8, 21-11; M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt J. Williams 21-16, 21-17. **Final:** HARROWER bt Shannon 21-11, 21-14.

Boys' Doubles. Final: A. CORNISH (Kent)/C. WARREN (Surrey) bt J. Nicholls/T. Leverno (Essex) 21-8, 12-21, 22-20.

Girls' Doubles. Final: J. HARROWER (Middx.)/ S. HESSION (Essex) bt A. Jacobs (Kent)/M. Shannon (Surrey) 14-21, 21-12, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles. Final: D. GRANT (Hants.)/Miss HESSION (Essex) bt C. Gosling/Miss Harrower (Middx.) 23-21, 21-13.

WEST MIDDLESEX "OPEN"

SURREY players took chief honours in the West Middlesex "Open" at Ealing, with Ken Craigie and Mrs. Jean Head winning the singles crowns. The home county however swept the board in the under 21's and under 17's singles, where Jean Harrower, the English junior champion captured both girls' titles.

Men's Singles: K. GRAIGIE (Surrey) bt D. House (Somerset) 21-18, 19-21, 21-17.

Women's Singles: Mrs. J. HEAD (Surrey) bt P. Piper (Surrey) 18-21, 21-10, 21-10.

Boys' (under 21): E. HODSON (Middx.) bt M. MacLaren (Surrey) 12-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Women's (under 21): J. HARROWER (Middx.) bt J. Butcher (Middx.) 21-18, 21-17.

Boys' (under 17): C. GOSLING (Middx.) bt J. Martin (Middx.) 21-6, 21-6.

Girls' (under 17): J. HARROWER (Middx.) bt S. Hession (Essex) 21-12, 22-20.

Men's Doubles: R. RAYBOULD/R. STEVENS bt L. Adams/D. Burrige 21-19, 12-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: L. WHITHAMS/J. WILLIAMSON bt M. Fry/J. Harrower 21-19, 23-21.

Mixed Doubles: ADAMS/Miss FRY bt Burrige/Miss Whithams 21-11, 18-21, 21-13.