

NOVEMBER, 1957

NINEPENCE

TABLE TENNIS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



ALAN RHODES, of Middlesex,
the new Sussex "open" champion

SPECIAL FEATURE by

IVOR EYLES ON SELECTION

Table



Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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LIVE WIRE SELECTORS

A PAT on the back for the new English selection committee, ably led by chairman Ivor Eyles and secretary Peter Northcott. They have shown they mean business with a realistic approach to a job that makes them the "Aunt Sallies" of all.

Their new policy to search the country out and see that no talent is allowed to slip through their fingers is fully evident in the drawing up of a Junior Ranking List. It has let the youngsters see that they are not forgotten.

This, of course is a break with tradition, for I do not recall any previous ranking of juniors.

First fruits has been the discovery of Eddie Taylor, of Sunderland, who although nationally unknown came out top among the boys. *Would he have had the same chance of making himself known so early in the season had it not been for area and final trials?*

Apart from the junior trails there was the Lilleshall course for established internationals and those on the fringe. These were not trials as in the case of the juniors, but planned training, which opened the eyes of many. As one international remarked, "The training on this course has done me a lot of good. I could do with more of them. Moreover they have given me a system of training which I can carry on at home."

GETTING AROUND

Then there is the issue of log books, whereby leading players will record their match results and forward them to Northcott so that selectors will have the known form of all players before them.

But this does not mean that selectors will sit back and go by paper work alone. Arrangements have already been made for at least one selector or representative to attend every tournament—restricted and unrestricted.

They will certainly be on the ball. It is good to find such a live committee instead of one that merely exists and is never heard of except for the issue of teams.

Why this sudden lease of life? Have the criticisms of the past at last struck home? As much as anyone I feel we can thank the newcomer, Northcott, whose election has been like a blood transfusion.

Northcott, secretary of Dorset, one of the least fashionable counties, has tried for years to get a seat on the National Executive Committee and has eventually succeeded, following the retirement of Harry Amery, whose place he has also taken as secretary of the selectors.

It makes you wonder if other go ahead administrators are also being kept in the cold.

Incidentally, Eyles and Northcott were originally selectors for the seniors with the juniors being handled by a separate committee. It was later decided that it would be better for everyone concerned for Eyles and Northcott to double up on both committees.

WHAT NEXT?

Just how ridiculous can this "freak bat" menace become. Latest invention is the "balloon bat" from Germany.

This is an inflatable plastic bag on a bat frame which can be blown up to any required degree. It can be made so limp that it would not return the ball, or so tight that it would rebound the ball with tremendous force. I suppose the idea is to control the pressure according to the shot to be played. What will they think of next—a ball under remote control?

Of course it is a farce. It is intended to be, to bring home to the World Congress the ridiculous position that can arise while they allow the non-standardisation of a bat to continue.

This never ending search for new material has got to stop before some crank discovers something which will make it absolutely impossible to return a ball, and kills the game stone-dead.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official News:

Lord Aberdare, G.B.E.

It is with great regret that we report the death of Lord Aberdare, G.B.E., whilst on holiday in Yugoslavia recently. Lord Aberdare will be remembered by many of our members for he had attended the English Open Championships on many occasions, and had presented the prizes at Wembley on Finals night. His funeral took place in North Wales, and a memorial service was held at St. Michael's, Chester Square, London, S.W.1., at which the Association was represented by the President, The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E.

Standardisation of the Racket

It is thought desirable to again inform our members of the experimental rule now in operation in this country for the year commencing 1st July, 1957. This rule reads as follows:—

"The racket, though it may still be of any size, shape or weight, must be dark coloured, and its blade must be continuously and evenly rigid. IF ANY COVERING BE APPLIED TO THE SURFACE, THIS MUST BE OF ORDINARY PIMPLED-STUDDED RUBBER NOT MORE THAN 2mm. IN TOTAL THICKNESS. Only the necessary quantity of adhesive may be used."

Ordinary pimped studded rubber will be defined as follows:—

"A single covering with pimples outwards, evenly distributed, not fewer than 60 nor more than 330 to the square inch, of rubber which, whether natural or synthetic, is non-cellular, and of which the total thickness, includes not only the height of the pimples but also the thin textile backing, if any, to the rubber sheet."

Note for general guidance: A measurement of 2 millimetres is for practical purposes equivalent to one-twelfth of an inch, and is almost identically the thickness of the rim of a newly-minted penny.

County Membership

From time to time questions arise as to whether it is imperative for a League to belong to a County Association or not. E.T.T.A. Rules 21 (a) (i) and (b) cover the point:—

21 (a) (ii) *"Where a majority of affiliated local Leagues or local Associations in any County agree, a body shall be set up for the purpose of administration in the County."*

21 (b). *"Membership of such County body to be compulsory*

on all affiliated leagues and local Associations, directly affiliated Clubs, and individuals in the County, except that any League, Association Club, or individual has the right to appeal to the National Executive Committee to contract out."

Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl Competitions.

There were 90 entries received for the Wilmott Cup competition and 63 for the J.M. Rose Bowl. The draw took place at the E.T.T.A. Office on October 2, 1957, in the presence of Mrs. K. Pegg-Lewis, Messrs. C. J. Clemett, G. James, D. P. Lowen and C. Corti Woodcock. Zones 8 (a) and 8 (b) of both competitions are being played on a Zone one day basis, the arrangements being made by Mr. I. White and Mr. I. C. Eyles respectively. Full details of the draw are now with those taking part.

C.C.P.R. Coaching Holiday

The Central Council of Physical Recreation are arranging a Table Tennis Coaching Holiday in co-operation with the E.T.T.A.'s Hon. Director of Coaching, Mr. J. Carrington, from Saturday, December 28, 1957, to Thursday, January 2, 1958. This holiday is for both men and women aged 17 and over, and the fee payable is £6. Any of our members who are interested in attending should write to: The General Secretary, C.C.P.R., 6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, for fuller particulars.

Publications

The following publications can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. Office for those members who desire literature regarding table tennis:—

(i) Laws of the Game in Card-board,, size approx. 14½in. x 21½in. with hanging cord attached suitable for club rooms 1/6 each.

(ii) Know the Game Table Tennis 2/6 each.

(iii) Modern Table Tennis, J. Carrington 7/6d. each.

(iv) Table Tennis for All, J. Leach 9/6d. each.

(v) Table Tennis My Way, J. Leach at 5/- and 2/6d. each.

(vi) Table Tennis Tips, J. Carrington 1/3d. each.

(vii) Table Tennis Quiz, A. D. Brook 1/6d. each.

(viii) The Twins on Table Tennis, D. and R. Rowe 8/6d. each.

(ix) Laws of the Game in Booklet form, 4½d. each.

Badges

Have you bought your official pin badge? We have them at the reasonable price of 2/3d. each or 24/- per

dozen. The badge is very neatly made, and with the letters E.T.T.A. on a blue background.

Ties

Many of our members have already purchased the Association's official tie. Have you bought one yet? This attractive tie which bears the Association's crest in gold on a blue background is available to only the Association's members and is priced at 12/6d. each. Orders to the E.T.T.A. Office, at 214 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Triangles

For the lady members of the Association we have triangles for sale at 17/6d. each. The triangle bears the Association's crest in gold on a blue background and is, like the Men's tie, only available to Association members. Orders to be sent to the E.T.T.A. office please.

Club Competitions

We have already had requests for information about the Club competitions, which are again being run in the coming season in aid of the Travelling Expenses Fund for Future World Championships. Official literature will soon be available and will be circulated to our members, but, if you have any enquiry to make please write to the E.T.T.A. office for information now.

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

Germany DBR

The German Junior players are taking part in the Kent Junior Open (Unrestricted) Championships at Ramsgate on Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10, 1957. Arrangements are in hand for a **Junior International Match** with the Germans to be staged at the Astor Theatre, Deal, Kent, on Monday, November 11, 1957. Full details from Mr. J. W. Martin, "Coondahs," Herschell Road, Walmer, Kent.

Team Selections

v Germany DBR (Juniors), at Deal, November 11, 1957. E. Taylor (Sunderland), C. Gosling (Mddx.), Miss J. Harrower (Mddx.), Miss S. Hession (Essex). Non-playing Captain, L. Thompson (Bucks.).

SHIRLEY COMES TO TOWN

By BRIAN CUTRESS

LOOK out Birmingham! Your hold on the Rose Bowl is being threatened.

Shirley Jones, the 21-year-old bespectacled little bombshell from Port Talbot has moved to London to seek her fortune—and more table tennis practice against top class opposition.

She is working for Ultra Radio where a colleague is Margaret Fry, and joined by Peggy Piper they form a formidable all-international trio to represent London Business Houses.

Shirley and Margaret, who represent Ultra in the North Acton League, plan a regular doubles partnership around the tournament circuit this season, so it looks as though a few titles may

well come their way.

Incidentally, Shirley's move to London looks like raising the ban on her, as a Welsh girl, competing in the restricted tournaments. Asked about her position, E.T.T.A. secretary

Peter Lowen said, "She is now affiliated to the E.T.T.A. so she should have the full privileges of affiliation. That is my personal opinion, but it will be for the N.E.C. to decide."

JILL ENGAGED

Congratulations to Corbillon Cup player Jill Rook, of Surrey, on her recent engagement to Lancashire's Alan Mills of lawn tennis fame. This is a romance inspired by lawn tennis and not table tennis, for they first met on the grass courts of Surbiton some 18 months ago.

They have formed a regular mixed doubles partnership in the past summer, collecting six "open" titles. This mixed "two-some" may also be seen around some of the table tennis tournaments this season, for Mills, whose home is at Formby, has played in the Lancashire League.

However, he has no intention of taking up table tennis seriously. His first love is lawn tennis and, now considered among the top half-dozen players in the country, his ambition

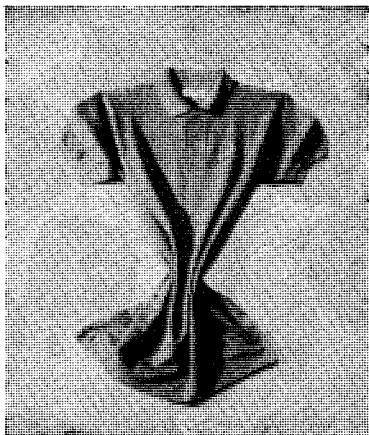
is to win a place in Britain's Davis Cup team.

Jill tells me there are no immediate plans for the wedding. "We shall have to wait until Alan completes his national service with the R.A.F. in a year's time," she said.



JILL ROOK and ALAN MILLS

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ABOUT FACE . . . by Fred Beadle

FRED LETT is *not* a member of the Swaythling Cup team—nor is he every likely to be. For one thing, he is short, tubby, flatfooted and shortsighted. He is also by way of being a very execrable performer—which is, perhaps, to be expected. Such things often go together.

For many years now, Fred has toiled at Number Four in the Hackenslashe Social Club 'B'; a position precariously shared with Mrs. Scourge, the caretaker's wife; a gaunt, pincenezed woman with a bun, a lisp and a penholder grip in that order. Alas, even then, Fred only plays when the good lady's fibrositis is troublesome.

But, for even the humblest of dogs, there are days—and Fred's particular day is just around the corner . . .

Our story begins—and ends—in an ill-lit side street, down which lies the clubroom, a dingy, unpainted building containing two tables, several indifferent nets and a decrepit tea urn. It is practice night, and members are hacking busily away at cracked, inferior balls—amongst them, a certain Rupert Cringe, the club Number One. Cringe is a county player with sibilant red sponge on his bat, a man whose rapid rise to fame has coincided with his adoption of this dreaded, noiseless terror.

A tall, lean saw-toothed figure clad in a heliotrope sweater and a patient smile, Cringe is gently toying with a haggard-looking 'A' team Number Five. As usual he has a slight lead of some fifteen or twenty points, and as usual a fawning crowd are gathered around watching the execution.

But wait—what it this? All at once his public is deserting him and flocking towards the shabby, two-ply table in the far corner where Fred Lett and Mrs. Scourge are joined in weekly battle. The score stands at 17-6—and for once, the caretaker's wife is on the wrong end of it. The light glints menacingly on her pince-nez and stainless steel teeth as she strives to quell the rampant Fred.

MYSTERY BAT

They notice with interest the absence of noise from Lett's bat. Instead, only a gentle Phhht! Phhht! comes from the strange, greenish honeycombed material covering his bet.

Mrs. Scourge can make nothing of it; her nerves are in shreds, and with the score at 6-20 she utters a fiendish screech and serves into the net. The applause is great, for Fred is popular at the club—as are all habitual losers.

Jabez Floggs, a crony of Cringe's—and the 'A' team Number Three, steps forward. "Care for a quick twenty-one up, Fred?" he says, exchanging leers with Cringe. A bit of good, unwholesome fun with Fred will be right up his street.

"Aye," replies the imperturbable Fred, and leaving Mrs. Scourge to her well-

earned hysterics they walk over to the best table.

Now Floggs, somewhat belying his name, is the possessor of a soul-destroying half-volley that has brought many a dusty alarm clock out of retirement. The spectators begin to yawn in anticipation.

But, in five minutes it is all over, 21-10, 21-6, and the infuriated Floggs is hurling his bat through the nearest window. Fred is surrounded by well-wishers. But it is the bat they are mostly interested in. They ply him with questions. Clearly, a bat that can work such wonders with a stodge like Lett is worth inspection. However, Fred shakes his head, his native caution coming to his aid. "Nay," he says. "Ah'm saying nowt." And nowt he says.

Soon, the very cry that Cringe has been dreading goes up.

"Give him a game, Rupert!"

"Go on, Fred—have a go!"

FORCED CHALLENGE

But Cringe is not at all keen on the idea: anyone who can dispose of the redoubtable Floggs with such ease is not to be taken lightly. However, public opinion prevails and in a matter of minutes the reluctant Number One is facing Fred across the polished surface of the match table. The atmosphere is tense. Which will triumph, the dreaded red sponge—or the honeycombed green?

The match begins? Phhht—Splat! Phhht—Splat! Phhht—Splat! 3-love to Fred. Phhht—Splat! Phhht—Splat! 5-love. Cringe forces a jaunty titter and tries a devilish top-spin serve down the backhand wing.

The rallies grow shorter and less sweet. The sweating Cringe tries everything he knows, but it is no use.

Sensing the toppling of a champion the spectators become noisy—a blood-thirsty, baying sound. Cringe loses his head completely and begins to chisel. Too late. The ball writhes and twists its way through his demented guard. Phhht! Phhht! Phhhttttt! The winning shot 21-4. A long pent up sigh echoes through the room. No need for a best of three. Cringe's bolt is irrevocably shot!

Cringe stands for a moment, head hanging—face putty-coloured. Flinging down his bat, he turns away and stumbles blindly out into the night.

They watch him depart in silence, and then the tea urn is lit and Fred is plied with drinks and questions. But the strong tea does not loosen his tongue. He smiles and answers "Nay," and back goes the bat into his case . . .

* * *

The little man's victory is no fluke. Soon he has the mastery of the entire club, and within a week, a subdued-looking Cringe is playing at Number Two. Lett's league form is a revelation and with half the season gone he is in the county side.

But Cringe is no fool. He knows full

well that the secret of Fred's success lies in the strange covering on his bat face. If Lett can win county honours in less than a season with no apparent change of style, what could he, a ranking player, hope to achieve?

Under the strain Cringe's game wilts still further, and he now finds himself in danger of being superseded at Number Two by Floggs. The crowning blow comes at the Roughfordshire Open when he is knocked out by Mrs. Scourge in the preliminary round, whilst Fred goes on to beat the Yugoslavian star, Vzlgozitch in the final, 21-10, 21-8.

* * *

A few evenings later, Cringe pauses on his way to the club and might have been seen—although he wasn't—holding a long and earnest conversation with a group of youths in the velvet-collared jackets and drainpipe trousers of a by-gone age.

At the club that night Fred is in excellent form, Cringe suffering rather more severely than usual at his hands. But this time, his good-humoured smile is a genuine one. He is the first to leave, wishing everyone—particularly Fred—a cordial goodnight. Stepping out into the darkness he moves furtively over to the other side of the street, where a number of glowing cigarette ends in a doorway betray the presence of the Edwardians.

At long last, the door of the clubroom opens and a tubby, squat figure is seen silhouetted against the light.

Fred is still blinking in the darkness when four, crepe-soled figures rush him. Nevertheless, as befits a gentleman of such rotundity, he puts up a stout fight. He wields his only weapon—his case—with telling effect. But the case, not being designed as an offensive weapon and also being of the open and shut variety, flies open under the impact on nose and chin and scatters its contents all over the pavement. Fred forgets himself, stoops—a myriad stars explode in his head, and he knows no more.

SECRET REVEALED

A moment later a large bobby pounds up. His size thirteens trip over the prostrate Fred, and he stoops to examine him. Out cold—and with a bump like a small egg on the back of his head! The bobby flashes his torch around for possible clues, and the beam comes to rest on two circular pieces of green, honeycombed material lying in the gutter. They have fallen off the face of Fred's bat—but of this the bobby is unaware.

He retrieves them, and as anyone else would do in similar circumstances—takes a tentative sniff, holding them gingerly between thumb and forefinger. He sniffs again, and scratches away a flake or two of green paint with his nails. Now, the bobby is a Lancashire man—he knows that familiar, pungent smell.

Yes, you'd probably know it too, because it's TRIPE . . . Just like the rest of this little tale!

"THE KNIGHTHOOD OF TABLE TENNIS"

The First "Honours List"

By LESLIE WOOLLARD, Chairman of the E.T.T.A., Life Members' Trust

THE highest distinction which the E.T.T.A., can bestow is Honorary Life Membership. This Award can be considered as the "Knighthood" of the game.

The Award is governed by Rule 11 (page 18, E.T.T.A., Handbook, 1956-57). Nominations for the distinction are made by a three-man Trust: Ivor Eyles, Leslie Forrest and Leslie Woollard (Chairman), whose recommendations must be confirmed by both the National Executive and by the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

The first 8 recommendations for Honorary Life Membership made by this Trust were approved by the A.G.M., held in April, 1956. They were:—

The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E.

Austin F. Carris.

Godfrey W. Decker.

Leslie E. Forrest.

Ivor G. S. Montagu.

Arthur K. (Bill) Vint, C.B.E.

P. E. Warden.

C. Corti Woodcock.

Each of these has served the game for an average of 35 years apiece. Pen pictures of each of these will appear in this and following issues of "Table Tennis."

All candidates will be selected by us with the same honesty, impartiality and certainty as these. The criterion is Personal Performance of exceptional merit (in a national sense).

Opinions alone are not enough. Sheer length of service is not a yardstick. Nor will a person necessarily be disqualified because he/she has had at some time some advantageous interest in the game. Nor because his/her enthusiasms may have involved him/her in occasional "upsets."

We, of the Trust, intend to consider the WHOLE record in every single case, with all merits and demerits. In this, we need your confidence and help, because—for some of our "candidates"—there is too little factual information. We are selecting

not for a single match but for a lifetime.

Your comments, suggestions and evidence will ever be welcome in our difficult but proud task of selecting those to be awarded England's highest table tennis honour.

The Dowager Lady Swaythling

For over 45 years, Lady Swaythling has given more for the game than anyone will ever know.

The Swaythling Cup was her endowment. She surrendered her house for the very first Congress of the International Federation, thus in a sense, Kensington Court was the "maternity home" of the I.T.T.F. She has been our President since 1954.

In the more rip-roaring, propagandising days of the '20's, she wrote articles on the game for the popular press and herself played exhibition matches. The classic of the latter was her match against Joe Beckett, England's popular boxing champion of the day. And what were the headlines when she beat him?

Yes, indeed, she is the First Lady of world table tennis.

P. E. Warden

Warden, dear "PEW," a golden thread linking the entire history of the game. Warden was a young man when T.T. emerged. He was a champion, a pioneer of chop defence and dress reform before Montagu was born! He was there when the five Bromfields (including great Percy) arrived. In the Revival of 1921, Warden was the ONLY continuing link between those cauldrons of turmoil—the several formative Executives—out of which the Association painfully emerged.

He was one of the best players of this era, twice reserve for England. In 1923 he was a founder member of the Civil Service League with Sir Noel Curtis Bennett, Captain Hey, Sturt and Fox. He was (with Montagu and Pope) one of the Referees or Chief Stewards of all those first English Opens, and the First World Championships.

When the E.T.T.A. Constitution was hammered out, the three men who did the job where Montagu, Warden and his great friend, the English Olympics athlete, George Ross.

Warden was above average in a dozen sports. In Lawn Tennis, he

could give such as Lacoste, Doust, Brugnion and Boussers a hard game. At 43, he was semi-finalist in the All-England Badminton Championships.

But, as he has said, "I think I got more FUN out of table tennis than any other game."

This remarkable man was still playing table tennis enjoyably at the age of 80. That was five years ago. And it was not Anno Domini that beat his unconquerable spirit: it was failing sight.

Austin F. Carris

Young, sport-loving journalist Carris came to learn and love table tennis in the Manchester of the 1900's. He came upon London in 1921 and took ping-pong out of its poky backrooms and put it on Main Street. Debonair, dapper, and dynamic, he recruited the celebrities of the day to his cause. He would go anywhere, anytime, without fee, to play exhibitions or otherwise promote the game. One of his 24-hour tours covered Leicester (playing with England's great cricket captain, the late Lord Tennyson) and on to Coventry and Birmingham, with half-a-dozen games at each, "full of pep and unconventional antics."

Carris arranged the first International match v. Wales in 1922, and, as runner-up English Champion to Donaldson, was also one of the team. He organised several big Junior Championships. In fact, the first England Junior Championships, in 1922, was won by his eldest son, Harold.

Carris secured the first table tennis "broadcast" and many National newspaper write-ups. He was the prime inspiration of the first great "Daily Mirror" United Kingdom Championships of 1923 with nearly 40,000 entries and which, for the first time, really got isolated groups into contact and had them playing under one set of rules. He re-introduced his beloved "doubles"—the "Manchester Doubles" they called it—the style we know today.

Today Carris lives on the South Coast, a short distance from his old friend Jack Hobbs (who was a member of the first Executive), but his benevolent patronage and enthusiasm of many sports has never waned. The greater perpetuation of this interest now reposes on the world famous Carris Trophies for junior golf.

HARRY VENNER

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MAID OF ALL WORK By ELSIE CARRINGTON

WHAT constitutes the duties of a League Match Secretary? Chasing players, who apparently cannot write letters, arranging travelling, booking halls—all these are among his chores.

But burly George Mortimore of Bristol and District takes on even more than that.

At the recent E.T.T.A. Coaching Rally held in Bristol, he not only organised the venue and set up the tables, but also organised the food for 20 people as well!

Around lunchtime, he could be seen busily stirring pots on the stove and carving up meat. When tea time came, there he was again buttering bread, opening cans, and making tea.

And what was George doing when we left at 9 p.m.? Why, washing up!

Sixteen-year-old Diane Wright of Stockport is the proud owner of a badge presented in Portugal for football!

She toured there in the summer, with Oldham Ladies F.C., playing Exhibition Matches in aid of the Portuguese Red Cross Society.

Diane says she finds that football is good training for her table tennis—and she is certainly fast on the table. In recent area junior trials she lost only one set.

* * *

The Secretary of the National Selection Committee, has sent me (and a few dozen others too) a most delightful little book headed "Players Record Book."

This is to record one's own personal record of County and tournament matches and the sheets are to be

torn out and sent every month to the Secretary so that records of every ranked player are kept up to date.

Now there is not a chance of one's best wins being ignored, nor, incidentally, of one's worst losses. Even if we "forgot" to record our loss, our opponent would certainly have recorded her win.

The sheet is marked off into columns headed, Date, Event, Opponent, Scores, and the last column is for "Remarks."

What a heaven-sent opportunity for recording just how unlucky we were, and giving all those excuses! "The conditions were very poor" (thereby implying that they were not the same for your opponent!), "the match was already won by then," (of course, we wouldn't have lost the set otherwise).

Then, of course, there is the wonderful opportunity to give oneself a real boost. Having recorded the fact that you beat Miss X by 21-9, 21-10, you can add "Miss X played brilliantly throughout."

Eagle/Girl Tournament

WHO SAYS NO PERSONALITIES

asks KENNETH WHEELER

ASK any sporting giant of a bygone era: "What's wrong with big-time sport today?" and he will answer: "There aren't the personalities that there were in my day."

It's true of most sports, I find. But in table tennis at least the outlook is bright, for amongst the crop of talented youngsters the *Eagle/Girl* Tournament is helping to raise are enough "characters" to fill the stage of the London Palladium and keep it buzzing with entertainment.

I am thinking of the irrepressible little bundle of energy and good humour Ian Gibson, built like a rugby hooker (which he is, by the way) yet as agile as a cat on a red-hot rooftop. Ian is our reigning under-thirteen champion, and has his Welsh eyes set on the under-fifteen title this season. Of plump, jolly Pauline Martin for whom every point is a death-or-glory struggle, and of cocky, wee Gary Brass, looking as if he needs taking down a peg but proving in the event the gamest and most gracious of losers. And of many others.

There's a feather in the cap of fifteen past competitors already, for they figured amongst the 31 under-seventeens selected for the final England Junior International trials at Wolverhampton last month.

Congratulations to Jacqueline

Butcher, Ann Charman, Jean Harrower, Mary Hicks, Betty Kinsley and Mary Shannon; and to Michael Dainty, Chris Gosling, Derek Grant, Brian Hamill, George Livesey, Mark White, Howard Jacobson, G. Robbins and David Stanley. At 12 years of age, David Stanley must surely be the youngest boy ever to achieve this honour.

What fresh talent will come to light as a result of this season's championship? Prospects are exciting, for our final entry figure was no less than 5,501, which shatters all previous records.

Eighty-six decentralised qualifying rounds have been authorised in schools and clubs throughout Great Britain, and play in many of these has already started to decide the Regional finalists.

Northern Ireland are represented in our tournament for the first time by Waterside Boys' Club of Derry City.

So large is the London entry, that three tournaments will now take place at St. Bride's Institute, off Fleet Street, with Qualifying Rounds on February 1 and February 8, and the London Regional Finals on February 15.

At the Regional Finals survivors of the London Qualifying rounds will meet winners of events in 42 decentralised competitions held in the South of England.



DIANE WRIGHT (left)
seen with footballing colleague

Many of the girls who play table tennis also pursue some other sport. Some play tennis, some badminton; some like netball and some hockey. But how many ladies can boast of being footballers?

LOOKING FOR SCAPEGOATS

Rumania Blames Trainer

THE Rumanians, still smarting over their lack of success in last season's World Series in Sweden, have started the new season looking round for scapegoats on whom to pin the blame. Angle they've thought up and are stressing is that their three trainers—Nico Naumesco, Angelica Rozeanu and Toma Reiter—are devotees of the defence cult, the inference here being that the trio instilled the wrong tactical notions into the country's Stockholm representatives.

Yet not so many moons back, when Rumania was doing nicely in the picking up of honours, thank you, everyone was apparently most happy about the work being done by the same trainers. *And the coaching methods they used then were precisely the same as they were for the 1957 rally.*

The French magazine, "Tennis de Table," reports at length on the Russians' hatred of sponge bats. It seems the semi-final match between Hungarian Josef Berczik and Czech Ivan Andreadis, in the Third Youth Festival Games tournament at Moscow last summer, when both used sponge in their interest-shattering set-to, was responsible in no small measure for the "anti" feeling existent behind the Iron Curtain.

A three-man American team of Bill Gunn, Bernard Bukiet and Fields has been touring India, where it played a series of matches with a measure of success.

Currently in India, under the aegis of the Rajkumati Sports Coaching Scheme, is Victor Barna, performing another tutoring stint on behalf of the country's senior and junior stars. Victor returns to England next month (December). His wife, Suzie, is with him.

The boys' individual singles final of the international youth championships in Germany, between a Yugo-Slav and a Swede, both "spongers," was a dreary "no-hit" affair in which the ultimate game went to the time limit. It is reported that the match was boring in the extreme, and there is little doubt that it helped to get sponge banned in Germany.

In the tournament, incidentally, home girls dominated and annexed all titles. Surprising feature was the eclipse of the Hungarian boys and girls, who normally win most of the honours.

The 1958 Central American championships are to be held in Venezuela. There is a very large entry, symptomatic of the growing interest in the game in countries south of the United States.

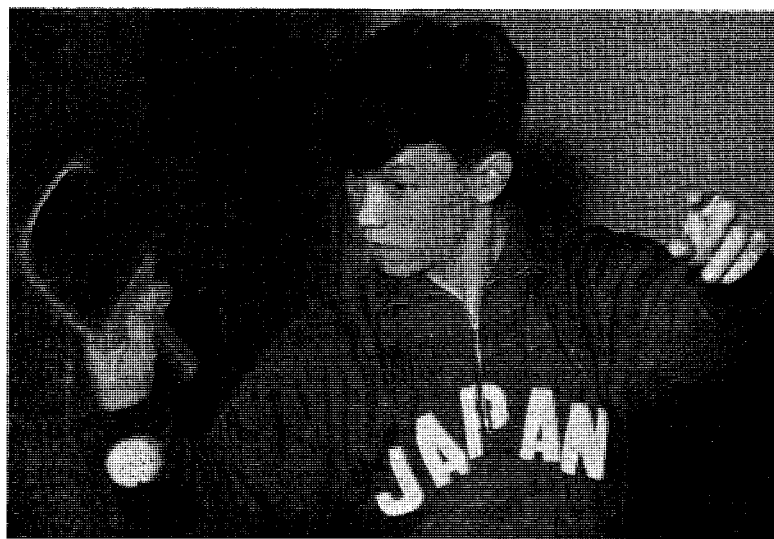
Japanese twosome of Ichiro Ogi-mura and "Tosh" Tanaka, touring New Zealand and Australia, played

Jennings, Bill Hodge, Alec Cassavetis, John Klesman. **WOMEN:** Jean Mulconry, Pat Hill, Arlene Jennings, Sherry Irvin, Aldona Snarskis, Maisie Keating.

Commenting on the standardisation of the bat to the maximum thickness of 5mm. "down under," Arden says sponge would almost certainly have been banned if some officials hadn't seen the Japanese in action.

Top men and women in the German ranking list are: **MEN:** Freundorfer, Arndt, Seiz, Holusek, Kohler, Seifert; and **WOMEN:** Schlaf, Fiedler, Brell, Thole, Graf, Mielenhausen.

Konnie Freundorfer, incidentally, was suspended for going to Russia to



"TOSH" TANAKA

Daily Herald picture

six "Tests" without dropping a match, winning every one of them 5-0. Four matches were against New Zealand, the others against Australia.

The death has been announced of Jan Schouweron, a stalwart of the Netherlands T.T. Association.

Arden Robinson, recent winner of the Australian national singles, has recently taken to wearing spectacles. "I don't know what's going to happen now," he says a little apprehensively. At the moment, however, he heads the Aussie ranking list, which reads: **MEN:** Arden Robinson, Geoff

compete in the Youth Games tournament without permission to do so.

Nikolau won the men's title and Cebeci the women's title in the Turkish national championships.

Finally, on a topical note and with the crazy sponge set-up in mind, it is to be hoped that the Russian "bleep-bleep" satellite doesn't give any scientifically-minded nation with T.T. ambitions the idea of a "loaded" ball which can be controlled by a manager to behave in favour of his players. . . .

SELECTORS BREAK WITH TRADITION



GEORGE LIVESEY

Junior Rank For First Time

UNKNOWN HEADS LIST

ALMOST unknown 16-year-old Eddie Taylor, a product of the T.L.F. Club, Sunderland, was the surprise packet in the England Final Junior Trials at Wolverhampton. An apprentice electrician, Taylor suffered one defeat, at the hands of *News of the World* "boy of the year" George Livesey, but beat each of the other fancied candidates in turn.

He showed great courage and determination when under pressure, and employed a match winning counter hit to good purpose.

The selectors had no hesitation in deciding that Taylor had earned top ranking and he makes his international debut against German Junior at Deal on November 11.

Chris Gosling (Middx.), Jean Harrower (Middx.) and Shelagh Hession (Essex) complete the side.

[ALL-ROUNDER]

Taylor is something of an all-round sportsman, playing cricket and football. He used to play badminton, but has wisely given this up to concentrate on table tennis.



CHRIS GOSLING

Taylor has modelled his play on Edgar Reay, an international of yesteryear, noted for his rapid counter-hit attack.

Incidentally, Reay, now 52, plays second string to Taylor for T.L.F. in the Sunderland League.

George Livesey, though only 14 years old, was the most complete all-round player on view, and the selectors thought highly of his future prospects. Indeed, he might have

BY CONRAD JASCHKE

attained a much higher ranking than the No. 5, had he reproduced the form he showed on Saturday, (when he beat Taylor) on the following morning. However, Sunday saw Livesey lose to Hamill and Gosling.

Chris Gosling played well throughout, losing only to Taylor, and fighting back miraculously when hopelessly down by 13-19 in the third to Livesey. Still inclined to put the ball back rather high, Chris showed considerable improvement compared with last year.

Let us hope, though, he soon gets out of the habit of constantly talking to himself when under pressure.

It is most disconcerting to his opponents, and surely not a great help to himself either!

Brian Hamill lost two matches out of eight, and the other ranked boys each lost three. On their performances, there was very little between Nos. 3 to 7.

[FAMOUS NAMES]

Among the boys who failed to get a ranking, 12-year-old David Stanley (Burnley) the youngest competitor, impressed by his very mature game, though only winning two out of six matches.

David is the son of former England international Ken Stanley.

Graham Lynch (Sheffield) 16, was not far behind the ranked boys, and 15-year-old Stephen Bubleby—nephew



JEAN HARROWER

of famous Ernie Bubleby — showed himself the possessor of a educated backhand attack. Although winning only three out of six matches Bubleby will surely be heard of in the not too distant future.

Fourteen-year-old Jean Harrower came out on top of the girls as expected, and was the only unbeaten competitor in the Trials.

[FUTURE STARS]

Shelagh Hession and Ann Jacobs each lost two matches, and there was very little to chose between them. Diane Wright, who packs a terrific wallop on her forehead, could with a little luck have achieved even better than No. 4. Like Jean, Diane has time on her side, and must surely be a future junior international.

The same can be said of Mary Shannon, who at 13 is the youngest ranked player.

Among the unranked girls, 15-year-old Betty Kinsley (Hull) and 14-year-old Ann Charman (Birmingham) also did well, while 12 year old Susan Thomas (Orpington) is an obvious future prospect. Betty and Susan each got two wins out of five, while Ann got three.

The arrangements for the Trials were excellent in every respect, with Wolverhampton League president Malcolm Scott doing all the running around to make everyone happy, leaving his co-selectors on the junior panel to concentrate on the play.

The facilities at the Good Year Club could not be faulted, and ex-Staffs county secretary J. Hesford weighed in with an excellent lunch at the Woodfield Club before departure on Sunday.

The staging of this Trials weekend marked a definite step forward in the development of the junior game. **THE SELECTORS' POLICY IS TO "CATCH THEM YOUNG" AND TO HELP PROMISING JUNIORS WITH ALL THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE.**

I feel that the selectors' decision to rank juniors—a break with tradition—is excellent, providing extra incen-



DAVID GRANT SHELAGH HESSION

to the players concerned, and to those who want to catch them.

Junior Rankings :

Boys

1. **Eddie Taylor** (Sunderland) 16 years.
2. **Chris Gosling** (New Barnet) 16 years.
3. **Brian Hamill** (Feltham) ... 15 years.
4. **Derek Grant** (Ventnor) ... 16 years.
5. **George Livesey** (Burnley) 14 years.
6. **Bill Northcott** (Torpoint) 16 years.
7. **David White** (Leighton Buzzard) 15 years.

Girls

1. **Jean Harrower** (New Barnet) 14 years.
2. **Shelagh Hession** (Hornchurch) 17 years.
3. **Ann Jacobs** (Sittingbourne) 16 years.
4. **Diane Wright** (Stockport) 15 years.
5. **Mary Shannon** (Worcester Park) 13 years.
6. **Jackie Butcher** (London) 16 years.
7. **Mary Hicks** (London) 17 years.

Why Don't We Wake Up!

By R. G. N. BACON, (National Umpire and Glos. County Umpires Secretary)

FOR a long time I have felt that there has been little consideration given to easing the difficult task of umpiring. I know that many readers feel that there is little in this umpiring "lark"—just sit on a chair, count up to 21 and that's that! But is it really so?

A conscientious umpire is the sole judge of a game in progress, has to be impartial, and where there are spectators, has to ensure that the game is presented in such a way as to bring credit to the game. Yet during Internationals and Major Tournaments very little has been done in the past to assist Umpires in carrying out these obligations particularly during doubles play.

BUSY BEE

Is it fully appreciated exactly how much is expected of an Umpire during a doubles match? Let us examine his obligations when a service is about to take place, and immediately after.

- (1) *Ensure correct player is serving.*
- (2) *Ensure correct player is receiving.*
- (3) *Ensure the serve is a good one (flat hand, etc.)*
- (4) *Ensure that the Law regarding serving between an imaginary continuation of the side lines is observed.*
- (5) *Ensure Ball is served from behind end lines.*
- (6) *Ensure Ball bounces in server's half court.*
- (7) *Ensure Ball does not touch net or supports.*
- (8) *Ensure Ball bounces in receiver's correct half court.*
- (9) *Satisfy himself that no violation of the Laws takes place by ANY player (such as hand on table or volley).*

So before play really gets under way, and in a matter of seconds, an Umpire

has to decide on at least nine conditions of play!

In view of the recent drive for more Umpires, I am wondering if it would not be a good idea for the Umpires Committee to examine the whole structure of the Umpires Scheme with a view to readjusting the responsibilities. By doing this I feel sure that many recruits could be obtained.

Many must have seen the recent Wembley and last summer's Wimbledon Tennis Championships, either in person or on T.V., and I am confident that the efficiency of the Umpires and his team of officials was apparent to all.

With all this in mind, I recommend to the National Umpires Committee that the following proposals.

"That the appointments of Net Judges and Side Line Judges should be obligatory in doubles matches during Internationals and Major Events."

The Net Judge would be responsible for net serves and ball striking the edge nearest to him, and the Side Line Judges for the ball being served within the imaginary continuation of the side line (it is probable that this Law is contravened more than any other). This would leave the Umpire to judge on the service being otherwise good, ball bouncing in correct half courts and, of course, general play.

REFEREE'S DISCRETION

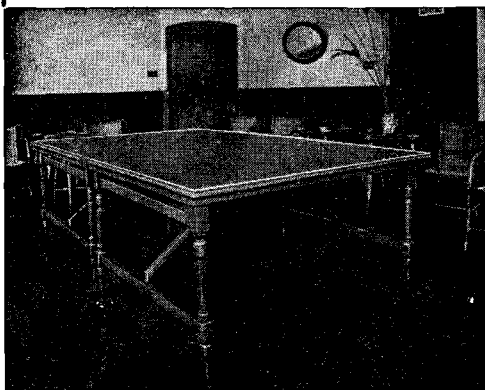
Apart from the Net Judge (who in effect is an Edge Ball Judge with additional duty) the proposal is not new and in fact is covered in the Rules relating to Umpires and other Match Officials, but the position at the moment is that the appointment of such Judges is at the discretion of a Referee, who has the added responsibility of deciding whether such appointments interfere with the view of the spectators.

I am not unaware of the importance of the financial reward gained by admission charges, and the general responsibility by Tournament Organisers to give the best possible view to all spectators. Nevertheless, I maintain, emphatically, that the *first* duty is to those actually concerned with the match, the Players and Officials.

The inconvenience of extra Officials from a viewing angle would be more than balanced by the fact that the match would be controlled more efficiently. Furthermore, the obligation of presenting Table Tennis creditably would be better achieved.

In addition to the above points, I feel that the recommendation for an Umpire to stand for doubles, whilst necessary under the present system, is not very desirable and surely Tournament organisers could arrange for the Umpire's Chair and Table to be raised by 12 inches. This would enable the Umpire to follow the movement of the ball much better. The ideal of course would be a modified chair similar, but not as high as that used by the Lawn Tennis Association.

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WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

By IVOR C. EYLES, Chairman of the National Selection Committee

CAN England regain her former greatness in world table tennis? If so, how can this be achieved?

These two serious questions have been poised before the England selectors ever since our teams took those beatings at Stockholm last spring.

The problem is not quite so difficult where the girls are concerned, because among them we have a wealth of young talent in Ann Haydon, the second best player in the world, Di Collins (Rowe), Jill Rook and Joyce Fielder, who were by no means disgraced at Stockholm, and time is on their side.

The picture is much less rosy amongst the men. The next world championships at Dortmund (Germany) in 1959, will see an England side from which the famous Bergmann/Leach/Simons trio which won the 1952/53 Swaythling Cup maybe missing.

Father time must catch up on them and leave that burly Yorkshireman, Brian Kennedy, our only young player with worldwide experience. Thus it may well be that a completely new team will have to be built and trained.

The selectors are very conscious of their task, and their problem falls into two categories:

(1) *To obtain the cash that will enable us to coach and train young players, and*

(2) *To find the right type of player, who is eager to take advantage of any facilities provided, and who is prepared to get down to some really hard work, without which the money spent on players is completely wasted.*

The National Executive have shown

much understanding of these problems and although rapidly rising costs make for a bleak financial outlook, they have made an immediate grant of £200 for the training of players.

In the long-term planning, which includes our own premises for offices and a playing Hall, the National Executive have set up a committee to explore means of raising cash.

Following area trials, from which I sincerely trust all promising youngsters were brought to the notice of selectors, some 30 boys and girls took part in final trials at Wolverhampton. Thus we have a picture of all our junior talent from the age of 13 upwards.

So much for the juniors. What of the seniors? Some twenty of them, either established internationals or players on the fringe, were recently put through a very stiff week-end course at Lilleshall, under the guidance of Victor Barna, Adrian Haydon and Len Adams (who deputised for Jack Carrington).

This course included loosening up exercises, and plenty of ball practice, with the coaches trying to iron out weaknesses, under the stress of competitive match play all results were noted and listed. In due time, a team of world size will be selected, to receive individual coaching from Victor Barna and Adrian Haydon.

The selectors are convinced that such courses are vital to the raising of our playing standard. I was therefore, pleased to hear several players express their appreciation, and their willingness to contribute something towards the cost of any further courses they may be asked to attend. **THIS IS THE SPIRIT WE MUST HAVE.**

The selector's lot is never a happy one. Has any team in any sport been published without some sort of criticism? So the encouraging remarks made by players on this course were most heartening.

If I may take you into the selection committee's confidence, in plain straightforward words: we expect 100% co-operation from the players. All must learn that **ENGLAND COMES FIRST**, and that team spirit is more important than individual ambition.

Today's players can learn a great

World's No. 1 woman lawn tennis player meets world's No. 2 table tennis player at table tennis. Shock result: Wimbledon champion Althea Gibson beat Ann Haydon. It happened in a "friendly" when Ann visited America for the Wightman Cup.



Trainees and coaches at the Lilleshall course

Photo: Edward D. Arden

deal from the habits of Victor Barna and Adrian Haydon; easily the fittest persons at Lilleshall.

Early to bed, no smoking or drinking, but practice, practice and more practice, plus an iron determination to succeed, is the only way to world honours.

We must improve things on the administrative side too. We need a planned international programme, in addition to the usual Home Countries Internationals. Strong foreign teams, in addition to providing good practice for our players, can also be the means of raising funds. The players must have these as incentives for all their efforts, and it is hoped that ways and means will be found of sending teams to the European Championships at Budapest next March.

There will be changes, both on the administrative and playing side, and we must utilise the abilities of old and young in our efforts. New N.S.C. secretary Peter Northcott must be encouraged, as he has the difficult task of following Harry Amery who held the post for many years.

Our policy is to improve the playing standard by all the means at our disposal. We want to get back into the World Championship hunt, so players, the ball is passed to you. We will do our part, will you give us your undying efforts?

DEATH OF KARL ECKARDT

Big International Loss

The untimely death of Karl Eckardt, President of the Deutscher Tischtennis Bund, the Table Tennis Association of the German Federal Republic, announced on October 21st, 1957, is not only a grave loss to our sport but has saddened all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

As D.T.T.B. President he must be honoured for three great achievements.

First, he took the initiative in the post-war revival of Table Tennis in West Germany, whose Association is now one of the largest and most efficiently organised in the world. It pays especial attention to juniors and the standard of play is as high as, or higher than, it has ever been in that country.

Second, his guidance and patience succeeded in maintaining good relations, despite all strains, and an organisational co-operation, with the East German body, that of the Democratic Republic, on a basis that has subsequently become a model for many other German sports.

Third, his tact and common-sense succeeded in gradually restoring the German Table Tennis voice to a position of respect in the international field, no easy task after the stresses of the Second World War.

GREATLY RESPECTED

It is, however, in the International Table Tennis Federation that his loss will be most keenly felt. He had made a great mark during the few years that he was able to participate in its work. Few had gained, in so short a time, so great a measure of respect. While never forgetting the proper interest of his own players and association, he approached questions with due regard to wider considerations and the necessity for

fair conciliation of differing points of view. His integrity was widely recognised and led last year, after service for several seasons on two of the most difficult I.T.T.F. committees—Equipment and Standing Orders—to unanimous election as the Vice-President for Europe.

It was largely due to the confidence he enjoyed that the responsible task of organising the next World Championships (1959) was accorded to the Arbeitsausschuss Deutscher Tischtennis Sport (the Joint Board for German Table Tennis, east and west).

Such men are hard to find, still harder to replace.

He was a great friend of Table Tennis players in this country, and had become a regular and favourite guest together with his young team, both senior and junior, at our big championships. His immediate colleagues—I know I speak for my brother officers—will miss him especially for his personal qualities.

Herr Eckardt had been in difficult health for several years. His unsparing and energetic efforts for Table Tennis were given despite bouts of severe illness. The last World Championships at Stockholm were followed by pneumonia. Scarcely had he recovered when, this summer, he was escorting Mr. and Mrs. Roy Evans round the accommodation planned for the 1959 World Championships, his fond dream that he has not lived to see. Immediately after, he was in hospital again, with internal trouble.

Eckardt was 48. He married only a year ago. Sympathy will go out to his widow and all his relatives.

IVOR MONTAGU,
President I.T.T.F.
Chairman E.T.T.A.

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Letters to the Editor

WEST HAM EXPLAIN

MAY I be allowed to correct any misleading impressions which may have been created by the brief announcement of this League's dis-affiliation from the Essex County T.T.A. in the Area News section of the October issue of TABLE TENNIS?

Unfortunately, Mr. Bateman, has quoted parts of my remarks out of context and I feel the result is unfavourable to our League. I should explain that the West Ham Y.O.C. Table Tennis League is a section of a larger body which organises the sporting activities of members of youth clubs within the Borough of West Ham. It is not composed of single-activity table tennis clubs and the players are mainly in the 15-19 age group.

All our players play table tennis as one of a number of sports and their interest in it is purely one of recreation and enjoyment. Our objection to the new E.T.T.A. rule was simply one of principle.

We feel that how a player enjoys himself is a matter of individual taste and if a boy can find greater inner satisfaction from playing with a sponge bat than he can with a rubber one, nobody has the right to tell him he cannot use it. For this reason alone, we felt the only logical way to reconcile our convictions with the new E.T.T.A. rule was to dis-affiliate, and this decision was taken in exactly the same manner as was the decision to introduce the new rule—by a democratic vote.

Ron Negus,

(Hon. Secretary, West Ham Y.O.C. Table Tennis League)

WASTED JOURNEY

WITH reference to the county fixtures in the October issue.

I noted the following in the South Junior Division: Surrey v. Hertfordshire, October 19th, Putney T.T. Club, Upper Richmond Road, S.W.15. 3 p.m.

On my arrival at 2.55 p.m., I found the place deserted. After waiting around until about 3.15 p.m. there were still no signs of life, so I left.

I appreciate that matches could be cancelled or postponed after *Table Tennis* goes to press, but this match was advertised in the *News Chronicle* on October 19th., so one would assume it would be played as scheduled.

It would help if "organisers" could notify the press if matches are not going to take place, instead of allowing advertisements to be printed.

I most certainly will be dubious about going along to Putney T.T. club in future to see an advertised match, as I prefer to see some table tennis not an empty hall!

G. R. Green,
(Hanwell, W.7)

Note: The match was postponed to 6 p.m. and the Press duly notified.—Editor.

WHICH RECORD ?

IN the October issue of "Table Tennis" (page 23, column 3) Frank Bateman refers to Shelagh Hession needing only three more appearances in N.C.C. matches to equal the junior record of 19 at present held by Sheila Pickard.

Perhaps Mr. Bateman was referring to the girls or, perhaps, Essex players but he did not make this clear. If he was referring to juniors generally in N.C.C. matches, then he has probably forgotten that Peter Cole played for Suffolk Juniors 24 times over four seasons.

Although I am not sure, I believe this is the record but, with young players such as Jean Harrower of Middlesex and Robert Ractcliffe of Herts, truly established in their respective teams, Peter's 24 will, doubtless, be passed in due course.

Arthur E. Durrant,

(Lowestoft)

Note: Mr. Bateman was referring only to Essex.

REALITIES OF THE SPONGE QUESTION

ANY hope in the foreseeable future of sponge being abolished at International level is now dead. We have banned it in England and our lead has been followed by Austria, France, Germany, Wales, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and South Africa, but we should need the support of between 50 and 60 to get the ban through the I.T.T.F.

Moreover the big names of Europe—Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Sweden and Yugoslavia — are not supporting us.

Any type of racket will be allowed in the 1958 European championships in Hungary and the same applies to the World championships in Germany in 1959 so it is obvious that those countries where sponge is still permissible will not make any change before then.

By banning sponge completely, England has lost a golden opportunity of making her voice heard in any international discussions on standardisation by thickness. In fairness we could give no advice on the matter.

If we allowed some maximum thickness of sponge this season we could obtain valuable information to put before the I.T.T.F., but we can learn nothing by a complete ban. We have had dozens of years' experience of pimped rubber play so surely we have nothing more to learn in this direction.

On the night of the brilliant sponge play in the quarter-finals of the English Open I observed to an N.E.C. member that we should be committing suicide if we banned sponge in comparative isolation and I see no reason to change that view.

Some of our top players appear to be playing nearly as well with rubber which shows that sponge itself was not the reason for their successes last season, but it does not indicate they will be allowed

to play as well against foreign sponge players.

For one reason they will not be able to obtain the necessary experience against them.

What should we do now? The E.T.T.A. have made the gesture. Now I suggest the N.E.C. reconsider the position in the light of present harsh realities and call a special general meeting at which they would sponsor the allowing of sponge to some maximum thickness for the remainder of the season. The N.E.C. should bear in mind the small majority at the last A.G.M. in favour of complete ban, and the number of abstaining votes.

By doing this they would only be anticipating what appears to me to be inevitable at next year's A.G.M. and would allow our top players to gain the necessary experience against sponge.

Dennis Offer.

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

The season has opened with mixed fortunes. From the playing viewpoint the news is not too good because Eunice Beech, Brenda Nugent, Simon Pearson and Alan Hawkes are no longer available.

Two 8-2 defeats opened the playing programme — one taken by the juniors from Herts at St. Albans and the other by the seniors also from Herts at Lowestoft. Both matches were played in the very best traditions of sportsmanship and the officials who took the juniors to St. Albans are anxious that I refer to the wonderful hospitality and the excellent playing conditions at the E.A.C., St. Albans. Thank you, Herts.

Although the self-inflicted suspension of the Bury St. Edmunds League for 1957/58 is a blow, the affiliation of two new leagues, the Sudbury and the Peasenhall, and a Directly Affiliated Club, the Ipswich Convent, gives those behind the scenes great encouragement.

Sudbury League, formed only last season, has two divisions and a membership of 13 clubs and 18 teams. Peasenhall League embraces seven towns and villages somewhat widely scattered, and has seven clubs and eleven teams in two divisions.

It is hoped that Ipswich Convent will later prove a source of supply for junior girls in much the same way as Lowestoft's Briar Clyffe School supplies junior boys.

The membership of the Suffolk Association has increased from last season's figures of: 5 leagues, 74 clubs and 152 teams to this season's figures of: 6 leagues, 100 clubs and 186 teams and 1 Directly Affiliated Club.

The Suffolk Association has just published its first Handbook for several years. It has 64 pages and a photographic supplement.

The Suffolk Inter Town League is functioning again with Sudbury taking Bury's place. A new post of S.I.T.L. Secretary has been taken over by Michael Rogers of Ipswich. Ipswich, incidentally, are also participating in the East Anglian League of Leagues to which they were elected recently.

A. E. D.

NATIONAL CUPS

WILMOTT CUP First Round Results

Northumberland ser., Leeds W.O.
Sunderland W.O., Castleford ser.

ZONE 1 (A)
Chesterfield 2, Sheffield 7.

ZONE 2
Nelson 4, Burnley 5.
Southport 3, Chester 1.

ZONE 3 (A)
Birmingham 7, Wolverhampton 0.

ZONE 3 (B)
Cambridge University 0, Norwich 9.

ZONE 4
St. Albans 9, Mid. Beds. 0.
Leighton Buzzard 0, Barnets 9.

ZONE 5
Wembley 5, Crawley 0.
Leatherhead 5, Nalco 4.
London Banks 1, S.W. Middlesex 5.
East London 9, Insurance Offices 0.
Wandsworth 6, Travel Trade 3.

ZONE 6
Woolwich 1, London Civil Service 8.
Thames Valley 5, Beckenham 2.
Dagenham 4, Sutton 5.
Willesden 6, Croydon 1.
Basilton 1, Romford 8.
Southend 2, London University 5.

Second Round Draw

(on or before November 24, 1957)

ZONE 1 (A)
Dewsbury or Halifax v Sunderland
Leeds v Huddersfield

ZONE 1 (B)
Grimsby or Gainsborough v Grantham
Sheffield v Lincoln

ZONE 2
Liverpool v Ellesmere Port
Burnley v Bolton
Mid Cheshire v Southport
Manchester v Stockport

ZONE 3 (A)
Birmingham v Leicester

Shrewsbury v Stoke or Northampton

ZONE 3 (B)
Cambridge v Norwich
King's Lynn v Wisbech

ZONE 4
St. Albans v Letchworth
Barnet v Watford or Luton.

ZONE 5
East London v Ilford or Lon. Bus. Hses.
S.W. Middlesex v Wandsworth
Barnes v Wembley
South London v Leatherhead

ZONE 6
Romford v London University
Willesden v Bromley
Thames Valley v Sutton
London Civil Service v North Middx.

ZONE 7
Southampton v Bournemouth or Bognor
Portsmouth v Worthing

ZONES 8 (A) and 8 (B)
Being played off on one day—date and venue not yet fixed.

ROSE BOWL

First Round Results

ZONE 1 (A)
Northumberland 5, Sunderland 4.

ZONE 2
Manchester 6, Burnley 0.
Stockport 5, Liverpool 4.

ZONE 3 (A)
Birmingham 9, Northampton 0.

ZONE 3 (B)
Wisbech 1, Cambridge 8.
Kings Lynn 5, Norwich 4.

ZONE 4
Luton 0, Barnets 9.

ZONE 5
Woolwich 3, Willesden 6.
Beckenham 8, Leatherhead 1.

ZONE 6
Romford 0, London Business Houses 9.
Bromley 7, Insurance Offices 2.
North Middlesex 7, Southend 2.

BEAT WORLD CHAMPIONS

VICTORIES over world champion "Tosh" Tanaka, and ex-champion Ichiro Ogimura, during their recent tour, have enabled Bob Jackson to wind up the New Zealand season with a most remarkable record.

He has been undefeated in New Zealand or in Australia since 1954.

Needless to say Jackson, who uses a sponge bat, has won his national title for the sixth time, and brought his wins in the North Island championship up to eight in a row. He was Australian champion last season, but did not defend this year.

Meanwhile, the Kiwi's top woman player, Miss M. Hoar has won the New Zealand women's title seven times, and recently added the Australian "open" title.

Singles winners in the New Zea-

land national and Provincial championships were:

New Zealand: R. V. Jackson; Miss M. Hoar.

North Island: Jackson; Miss Hoar.
South Island: B. Foster; Mrs. P. M. Purdon.

Auckland: A. Tomlinson, Miss Hoar.

North Taranaki: P. J. Thompson, Mrs. P. Sutton.

South Taranaki: Thompson, Mrs. Sutton.

Hawkes Bay: Thompson, Mrs. J. Cox.

Wellington: M. Dunn, Miss J. E. Brown.

Nelson: Thompson; Miss A. Eden.
Westland: Thompson, Miss L. Butts.

Marlborough: R. W. Mercer; Mrs. Purdon.

Canterbury: N. Brightwell; Mrs. Purdon.

Orago: W. T. Scott; Mrs. J. E. Magorian.

Competition Round Two

To be played on or before
November 24, 1957.

ZONE 1 (A)
Northumberland v Leeds or Dewsbury

ZONE 1 (B)
Sheffield or Grimsby v Huddersfield

ZONE 2
Manchester v Stockport

ZONE 3 (A)
Birmingham v Leicester

ZONE 3 (B)
King's Lynn v Cambridge

ZONE 4
Watford v Barnet

Letchworth v St. Albans

ZONE 5
Beckenham v Ilford

Sutton v Wembley
Thames Valley v North West Kent
Willesden v Croydon

ZONE 6
North Middlesex v East London
London Banks v Bromley
South London v Dagenham
London Bus. Houses v London Civ. Ser.

ZONE 7
Southampton v Crawley or Portsmouth
Brighton or Maidstone v Worthing

ZONES 8 (A) and 8 (B)
Being played off one day.

DURHAM START BADLY

ONCE again the county team have started the season badly, taking only one game off Warwickshire.

This sole success came in the women's doubles where Sally Ripon's piercing chop and the strong hitting of Grace Brown made an effective combination against Miss Mortimer and Mrs. Griffiths.

The junior trials were a great success, although several players, including Carol Dollin, were unable to play.

In an American tournament, W. Barker won his eight games, E. Taylor, seven, and N. Wright, six, which emphasises the Sunderland strength. Barker and Taylor were also called to the junior international trials.

Darlington expected to have the services of Dennis Gillon when he recently returned from National Service, but this 23-year-old ex-county junior and Hartlepool's Youth singles champion now works in Sunderland, so is unable to play in the Darlington League. However, he has joined Sunderland Y.M.C.A. and turns out for the "A" team in the Sunderland and District League.

Arnold Warentz.

THE BISHOPSGATE TABLE TENNIS CLUB 230 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2

have a few vacancies. The Club meets at 6.30 p.m. every Monday and Friday. Write Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. A. Green, 11 Tell Grove, East Dulwich, S.E.22.

IRISH SCENE

A PAT on the back for the Anglesea club, who, for 20 long years have dominated all senior events. They have split up their team of the past few seasons. Number one, Sean Clarkin will combine with brothers L. and S. Quinn to form one team, while his old teammates Don Mahony and Michael Behan will be joined by Miss Deidre Fearon.

This is indeed a sporting, and a no doubt wise move from Deidre Fearon's point of view. It will give her an opportunity to play against the top-ranking men in the province, and her game is bound to improve with this kind of play.

This move is particularly significant as Ireland's No. 1 woman player Joy Owens has emigrated to Canada during the close season. Miss Fearon is obviously being groomed to take her place, and withstand the strong challenge from the Northern Ladies.



JOY OWEN

The loss of Joy Owen is a big blow to Irish table tennis. To mark her exit from the home scene the Irish Association arranged a party, and presented her with a gold bracelet.

The fact that sponge has been banned across the channel does not seem to have affected matters here. The Irish Association has not yet issued any statement on their attitude to its use in this country. I feel, however, that sooner than later they will decide to conform with the English ruling on the matter.

- S. Dignam.

CAMBRIDGE NOTES

AMERICAN challengers in the Cambridge League this season are the U.S.A.F. team from Lakenheath. Judging by their keenness they should give a good account of themselves.

The league has a record number of teams, so that new secretary Alan Spilman can expect a busy time.

Meanwhile another "knee" casualty is ex-junior champion Keith Chapman.

From time to time players of first class calibre are resident in Cambridge and I am glad to see that they are able to join local clubs and provide keen competition.

Ely and District have opened their league programme and it is expected that Wilbrenton and Littleport will be among the top clubs. Wilbrenton beat the Army 10-0 in the opening game.

John Cromwell and Ron Nunn both represented Cambridge in the Minor Counties cricket championship in the summer. Both did justice to themselves, Cromwell as a batsman and Nunn as wicket-keeper.

Big problem for Cambridge at the moment is finding suitable venues for the county matches.

Leslie Constable.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

TWO YORKS. LEAGUES FOLD

THE two tiny leagues of Yorkshire have disbanded. Out go four-year-old Goole (five clubs) and eight-year-old Ripon (six clubs). And on to the scrapheap with them go Whitby (eight clubs) and Mexborough (13).

Cause of the collapse: no officials and, it seems, insufficient determination by those left. Goole crashed when secretary Mr. G. J. Bernfeld left for South Africa and of the others only Mexborough can foresee reorganisation.

Into the gap marches the Rotherham and District League, a new and separate body from the works league, which was formed in the town seven years back.

Weakened by 'flu, Brian Kennedy and Kathie Best withdrew from the Yorkshire team to play Gloucester, and in the consequent reshuffle, both Premier and Second Division sides lost.

Slender Stuart Dyson, Slaitwaite's skipper of the second team, stepped up to join the premier people and stole the show against Gloucester. After an exhilarating display of all-out attack — which beat Harrison, took Simons to three and helped win the mixed—this rubber loyalist was a must for the next match against Lancashire.

Stuart was a Premier Division regular in 1955-56 before losing his place.

Promoted with him was his wife, Mavis. They were the first husband and wife to play in the same Premier Division team — and it was Mavis's first county appearance at any level.

Yet she already had a county badge.

Maurice Pitts was top board man in the second team against Northumberland. But despite his two singles and mixed

wins the team lost 4-6. Hull's Kath Whinham reached the side at 16 without having represented the juniors.

The junior Roses match gave opportunities to two new boys of 15, Michael Dainty, whose father is a keen worker for juniors in Doncaster, and Dave McGee, a Hull boy who qualified as a county umpire at the end of last season.

Malcolm Hartley.

ESSEX NOTES

Bobby Steven's victory in the men's singles at the Portsmouth Championships was the first "Open" singles win by an Essex player in England since Brian Brumwell won the Kent title in January 1956.

Bobby, whose knee was badly swollen in the County trials, also won the men's doubles with Ken Beamish.

Johnny Leach was unable to take part in the trials and Ivor Jones and David Wiggins could not complete their matches because of 'flu. However, neither did very well and so were not included in the ranking list which has been made as follows:

MEN: 1, J. Leach; 2, R. Raybould; 3, L. Sawyer; 4, B. Brumwell; 5, R. Dorking; 6, P. Pudney; 7, R. Stevens; 8, R. McCree; 9, P. Curtis; 10, A. Condon.

WOMEN: 1, B. Milbank; 2, Y. Baker; 3, E. Carrington; 4, J. Page; 5, S. Pickard; 6, S. Beamish; 7, S. Hession.

BARBARA MILBANK BACK

It was good to see Barbara Milbank, who was out of the game for most of last season, back to international form.

Mark Sweeting, conveniently born on July 2, giving him another two seasons as a junior, is the first Chelmsford boy to play for the county.

Frank Bateman

Bukta Action Tailored

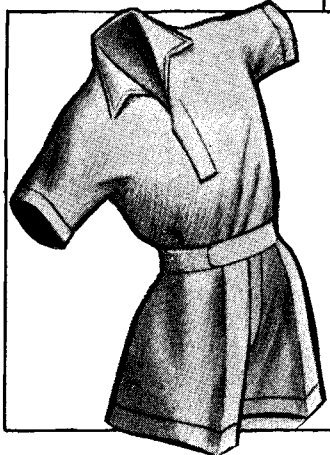


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AMBITIOUS BIRMINGHAM

Plan To Buy Own H.Q.

BIRMINGHAM T.T.A. are planning to buy their own headquarters to house a full-time staff and playing centre—but at the moment it's not much more than a wonderful dream.

The obvious snag is—CASH. The association's funds are not increasing rapidly enough through the usual table tennis events, so now they are organising a numbers tote.

Football sweeps and totes have proved a "life saver" to football and cricket clubs up and down the country and as the Birmingham Association has over 7,000 members they seem to be on a good thing.

Perhaps it's not such a dream after all. The sponge ban doesn't seem to have stopped any of Birmingham's top-liners from playing table tennis—but it has caused one or two shock results.

Ann Haydon, the 19-year-old England No. 1, turned out for South Birmingham against Tall Green Y.M.C.A. in a League game and lost two of her three matches.

First, she lost to up-and-coming Brian Robinson and then crashed to another defeat against Pete Turner. There is little doubt she would have beaten both players last year.

At the moment, the switch from sponge to rubber seems to have knocked the edge off Ann's game.

"Ann is going to play with rubber for three months or so—then, if she finds she's slipping, she will turn back to sponge and just play on the Continent," says Ann's mother, Mrs. Doris Haydon.

With victories over Durham and Yorkshire II, Warwickshire have taken two

smart steps towards the Premier Division—but there was quite a lot of foot-slogging attached to the second county game.

Two cars containing the Warwickshire team and a few supporters left Sheffield after the match—but only one reached home that night.

It was a nightmare journey for secretary Maurice Goldstein, his son, David, Pam Mortimer, Arthur Hatfield and Roger Morris.

First they got lost somewhere outside Sheffield. Then after they had hit the right route, the car broke down!

Being stranded miles from home in the early hours of the morning is no joke as the Warwickshire crew soon found out. They walked about six or seven miles before they managed to thumb a lift and eventually arrived home just in time for breakfast.

QUICK HITS . . .

Geoff Alderton, the chappie with the Jimmy Edwards moustache, had intended to retire but, with the banning of sponge, and the City Club so desperately short of players, he has decided to have another season.

Nomads, rescued from disbandment by Gordon Rowley and Pam Mortimer, are now fielding three young schoolboys—Derek Allen, Bill Cox and Colin Cadwallader—in their Five-a-side League team.

Bill Gallagher, the young Leamington player who is Warwickshire's No. 2, has joined the Birmingham Central Club. He now plays in three different Leagues—Birmingham, Leamington and Coventry.

Alan Lake.

WOOLWICH LOSE STARS

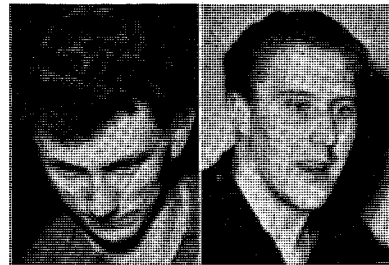
WOOLWICH League have suffered a double loss through the retirement of Ray Syndercombe, Kent's No. 2 at the end of last season, and the transfer of Dennis Whittaker, current county No. 3, to N.W. Kent.

Undaunted by these losses, Woolwich, who defeated the strong Folkestone side in their opening Kent First Division match, will be attempting to win the title for the fifth successive year.

They can expect tough opposition from N.W. Kent, who, incidentally are hoping to complete a "hat-trick" of wins in the ladies' division.

Youngest recruit to the N.W. Kent side is 12-year-old Susan Thomas, of Orpington. She will be played in some of the easier matches for experience.

Although entries for the N.W. Kent



RAY
SYNDERCOMBE

DENNIS
WHITTAKER

"Open" do not close until December 2, they are already assured of a star-spangled entry. Johnny Leach, entered for the first time, will join Brian Kennedy, Ann Haydon, Diane (Rowe) Collins, Joyce Fielder, and Shirley Jones.

Thanet League intend to help Julie Johnson attend more open tournaments this season. Thanet senior champion since she was 15, Julie, who is now 18, has greatly benefited from the recent Lille-sall course.

The Kent Executive have decided to disband the six-year-old Kent County Umpires' Association. Falling into line with other counties they are appointing an Umpires' Committee to operate under the county executive. Geoff Owen has been appointed County Umpires' secretary.

Promotion seeking Gravesend scored a great victory over Woolwich "B," newcomer Geoff Bathurst, weighing with two singles wins.

Medway Towns nearly missed the bus in the new Kentish Men's T.T. Federation, being late with their entry of two teams. Fixtures had by then already been made, but as there was a vacancy secretary Don Mitchell compromised by accepting one team.

All eight leagues comprising the Federation are now represented.

Michael Pass, of Folkestone, is at 15 believed to be Kent's youngest ever junior No. 1.

Beckenham have obtained the transfer of Jim Harris from Bromley. They want him for the first team.



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



OBTAINABLE FROM ALL LEADING SPORTS OUTFITTERS

NO SPONGE SULKS

THE sponge ban has had little or no effect on West Country clubs because most "ex-spongers" have spent the summer being either suitably "educated" to, or sent on "refresher courses" for, pimply rubber.

Even the "daddy of 'em all," Charlie Dawes, has continued in the First Division of the mammoth Bristol League and is, according to reports, giving a good account of himself with the standard surface.

Already over 1,100 players have registered for the league. No sign of sponge sulks here!

The Bristol "Classes for Coaches" scheme is still going strong and a recent visit by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Carrington was greatly enjoyed by the Bristol coaches and their guests from all parts of the county. Elsie and Jack did not spare themselves and the candidates were full of praise for their instructive efforts.

At a recent county trial for Juniors, a good crowd of enthusiastic youngsters battled for places in the English trials which were held at Wolverhampton.

Four lads and two girls claimed this honour. They were: "Snowy" Philpott and George Mitchell, of Gloucester, Maurice White and Adrienne Cox, of Cheltenham, and Mary Eyles (daughter of the County Secretary) and Bob Nichols, of Bristol.

Gloucestershire players and officials who attended the match against Yorkshire came back with glowing reports on the organisation at Bradford. Take a bow Tykes.

Gloucestershire are also trying some new ideas. As an incentive for Leagues to stage county matches, a novel arrangement governing the gate receipts is being tried.

A reasonable target figure has been set for profit on each home match and, any profit above that figure will be divided equally between the league staging the match and the county. The latter will be responsible for any loss.

Once again a county match will be staged at Stonehouse by the progressive Stroud League. The match will be against Lancashire on November 16 and the visitors can be assured of ideal conditions in the large works canteen.

Congratulations to Ian Harrison on his recent open tournament successes. Bob Griffin, whom he has recently displaced in the County side, has had a grand season for Gloucestershire at lawn tennis.

How many table tennis fans can claim to have spent their honeymoon in Moscow? Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Merrett had this unusual, but enjoyable, start to married life when they joined the recent table tennis tour of Russia.

Incidentally, I understand that the weird parcel they brought home was not a Russian secret table tennis weapon but merely a balalaika souvenir purchased by Shirley.

D. N. Andrews.

WELSH CORNER

GLAMORGAN CRASH

Glamorgan's defeat by Sussex in their opening County match of the season was a severe setback to hopes of remaining in the Premier Division.

To be honest, however, the results of our Invitation American tournament at Port Talbot gave little reason to be unduly optimistic about beating Sussex.

John Simonson, showed he is not the power he was now that sponge is denied him, and if he hopes to return to his old position he must improve his defence. Alan Thomas, Alan Morris, Donald Norris, Glyn Morgan and Betty Gray were also well below form.

On the credit side were Shirley Jones, far too good for any one else in the women's section, and Norman Parker.

Parker, who eventually won the men's section, gave a steady and accurate performance to beat Ron Davies (Pontypridd) in the final after the latter had beaten Simonson.

Davies, promising as a junior but disappointing when he came out of the



BETTY GRAY

R.A.F., showed that his getting to the *Daily Mirror* Finals last season was no mere "flash in the pan," and it was his own fault that he did not beat Simonson in two straight games. In the final he gave Parker a good run in the first game, but fell away in the second.

Parker's semi-final victim was George Evans (Barry), who also had a good day. "Giant Killer" of the day was little-known Dennis Davies from Eastern Valleys, who beat both Alan Thomas and Alan Morris, but was tamed by a much improved Dick Hopkins of Rhiwbina, and by Ronnie Davies.

In the women's section, Lilian Coombs this time beating Betty Gray, played well as did Audry Coombs-Jones, Mavis Edmond and Shirley Evans.

In fairness, let it be said that Bernard Dimascio, Stan Jones, David Parry, Audrey Bates and Gretta Dimascio were not present.

Against Sussex the Glamorgan team was Parker, Dimascio, Davies and Shirley Jones, for the singles, with Dimascio and Davies, Parker and Betty Gray, and Shirley Jones and Betty Gray as the doubles pairings.

Shirley was brilliant, giving a great display of controlled hitting and defence. She blotted out Wendy Bates to such an extent that the latter looked utterly lost.

Parker played well, coming from behind in the third to beat both the formidable Peter Shead and Bryan Leach.

Unfortunately, however, the rest of the Glamorgan side could not rise to this form. Dimascio and Davies failed to take an event.

Davies was unlucky that his debut was in a match so important to us. He started well enough, and undoubtedly has the making of a good player, but lack of tightness about his game proved his undoing in singles and doubles.

Dimascio hit better than he has been doing, but it was all too automatic and in the same place, so that the defensive Shead and Quilter found they had plenty of time to defend well.

POOR OUTLOOK

Shirley and Betty Gray won the women's doubles in the third, but Parker and Betty could not hold the Shead family partnership in the all important latter half of the deciding game. So we lost 6-4. Unless we can play much better than this we have little chance of picking up any points.

There have been some surprises in the Welsh League, where Cardiff failed to beat Barry in the opening match, and followed that by going down to Eastern Valleys with a team weakened by Western County calls against Weston-super-Mare.

Barry, back in Division I by reason of Mumbles' withdrawal, look like having quite a formidable side.

Aberdare are having some exciting matches, only losing to Swansea by the odd game despite bringing in a last moment substitute, and beating Newport by the odd event. In Division II, Bridgend defeated Cardiff Seconds in another close encounter.

From North Wales comes news that the popular Flintshire Open is to be revived, the date being Saturday, January 11th.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP - - - By CONRAD JASCHKE

LANCS. WIN ROSES BATTLE

FOR the first time since 1949, Yorkshire lost the "Battle of the Roses," going down 3-7 to Lancashire at Oldham.

Brian Kennedy, now forced to revert to pimped rubber, was well below his best, losing to both Ron Allcock and Geoff Pullar. Whether this was due to the change of surface or the fact that he was recovering from 'flu is open to speculation.

Yorkshire, last year's runners-up, have made an almost disastrous start to the season for they also lost their opening match being beaten 7-3 by Gloucestershire at Bradford. On this occasion they were without Kennedy and Kathie Best, both 'flu victims. Stuart and Mavis Dyson deputised.

Meanwhile, Gloucestershire, after this encouraging start crashed to Surrey, the margin again being 7-3. Ken

Score sheets and communications for Mr. Jaschke should now be sent to his new address, 35, Eynswood Drive, Sidcup, Kent (Telephone unchanged, FOOTscray 5845).

Craigie was outstanding in the Surrey success, scoring wins over both Ian Harrison and Aubrey Simons.

Bryan Merrett, who had beaten both Ray Hinchliff and Maurice Simpson in the tie with Yorkshire, was again unbeaten against Surrey, accounting for both Harry Venner and Tony Miller, the latter match being a time limit affair with the scores 15-13, 6-5.

Champions Middlesex started with a runaway 9-1 win over Sussex, but the seaiders brought home two important points when they pipped Glamorgan 6-4 at Worthing. Two

close wins by N. Parker, and a singles and doubles win by Shirley Jones, failed to save the Welsh side, for whom the outlook is now bleak.

In Div. II (North), Warwickshire got off to a cracking start with a 9-1 win over Durham and a 6-4 success over Yorks II.

Lincolnshire, for whom both P. Skerratt and M. Sheader were unbeaten in singles and doubles, just got home by 6-4 against Northumberland after trailing 3-4.

Since Northumberland had already beaten Yorks II by the same margin, the Lincolnshire victory looks good.

When Lincs and Warwickshire meet on December 7 we shall know a little more about the fate of this usually closely-fought division, but not until January 11 when Warwicks meet Cheshire will there be a clear indication of who is likely to win it. Before that, Cheshire only have one match, against Durham, which looks easy for them.

In Div. II (South), Suffolk went a lot closer against Herts than the score of 2-8 suggests. Herts were without their No. 1 John Hunt.

WHITEWASHED

Newly promoted Bucks found it hard going against Hampshire, failing to win a single tie. Veteran Leo Thompson came closest to success, losing 19-21 in the third to F. Bradley.

Berkshire gave the fancied Kent team a real shock when spirited play by Les Wise, Mike Darlington and Percy Morecroft put them 3-0 up and went to 4-1 after dropping the women's doubles. After Joyce Fielder had scored an easy women's singles win, Kent's men pulled themselves together to save two valuable points, 18-year-old Tony Piddock clinching the issue with a close win in a ding-dong battle with Les Wise.

Cornwall newly promoted to Div. II (West) showed much improved form on their round trip to Dorset and Wiltshire, collecting two points from Dorset.

Northamptonshire have had a bad start, their seniors losing 1-9 to Derbyshire and the juniors, 1-7 to Warwickshire.

In the Junior South Division, Middlesex, the reigning champions, will take some stopping, judging from their runaway wins over Sussex and Kent.

Lastly, a word about another piece of Yorkshire enterprise. Yorks this

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

November 13	Surrey v Essex, Coronation Hall, Kingston-on-Thames	7 p.m.
November 16	Yorkshire v Glamorgan, Mechanics Institute, Bridge Street, Bradford	7 p.m.
	Gloucestershire v Sussex, Hoffmans Ltd. Canteen, Stonehouse, Gloucester	7 p.m.
November 23	Surrey v Lancashire, Y.M.C.A., Wimbledon Common, Surrey	7 p.m.
November 27	Surrey v Middlesex, St. Saviour's Hall, Guildford	7 p.m.
December 7	Essex v Yorkshire, Standard Telephone Co., Harlow	7 p.m.
	Gloucestershire v Lancashire, Community Centre, Warmley, Gloucester	7 p.m.
	Sussex v Surrey, Edwards Hall, Manor Royal, Crawley	7.15 p.m.
	Glamorgan v Middlesex.	

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

November 16	Warwickshire v Northumberland. POSTPONED.	
	Cheshire v Durham.	
December 7	Northumberland v Durham, Vickers Sports Club, Scotswood Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne 4	7 p.m.
	Lincolnshire v Warwickshire, Blenkin Memorial Hall, Wormgate, Boston	7.15 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

November 16	Hampshire v Berkshire, Messrs. Johnson Ltd., Southampton Road, Cosham, nr. Portsmouth	7 p.m.
	Hertfordshire v Kent, Oxhey Hall Community Centre, Lane, Oxhey, Watford	7 p.m.
November 20	Berkshire v Buckinghamshire.	

SECOND DIVISION WEST

November 16	Somerset v Devon, St. Peter's Hall, Dorset Street, Lower Bristol Road, Bath	7.15 p.m.
	Dorset v Wiltshire, Portland Red Triangle, Reforme, Easton, Portland	7 p.m.
	Staffordshire v Worcestershire, B.R.D. Ltd., Dumblederry Lane, Aldridge, nr. Walsall	7.15 p.m.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

December 7	Hertfordshire v Kent, The Greenhills Club, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead	7 p.m.
	Norfolk v Cambridgeshire, Youth Centre, Kings Lynn	7.15 p.m.

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

November 16	Staffordshire v Warwickshire, Central Fire Station, Walsall	7.15 p.m.
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NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

November 16	Cheshire v Durham.	
December 4	Lancashire v Cheshire, Greengate & Irwell Rubber Co., Greengate, Salford 3	7 p.m.
December 7	Lancashire v Durham, Ashton-under-Lyne	7 p.m.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

November 16	Sussex v Surrey, Christchurch Parish Room, London Road, Hastings	4 p.m.
November 30	Suffolk v Essex, Stowmarket.	
December 7	Kent v Sussex, Bowaters Club House, Remembrance Avenue, Sittingbourne	6 p.m.

season play all their premier home matches at one venue, the Mechanics Institute, at Bradford.

They have issued season tickets at 15s. and 10s. for the series, and match secretary Leslie Forrest tells me the 15s. ones are sold out! How's that in this era of falling gates!

I have been taken to task over the remark I made in last month's issue when I called Devon the "form" team in Division II West.

Mr. D. J. Moss, match secretary of Worcestershire, points out that his county finished runners-up last season, beating Devon which they mean to do again this year.

We shall have to wait and see.

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Yorkshire 3, Gloucestershire 7

S. Dyson beat I. Harrison 19, -9, 17, lost A. Simons 18, -13, -17. R. Hinchliff lost Simons 18, -11, -17, lost B. Merrett -14, -11. M. Simpson lost Merrett 19, -6, -6 lost Harrison -10, -9. Hinchliff and Simpson lost Merrett and Harrison 20, -15, -12.

Mrs. M. Dyson lost S. Davis -21, -16. Mrs. Dyson and J. Preston beat S. Davis and Mrs. T. Spokes 14, 15. Dyson and Miss Preston beat Simons and Mrs. Spokes 19, -1, 17.

Sussex 1, Middlesex 9

J. Quilter lost L. Adams -10, -15, lost D. Burridge -15, -15. P. Shead lost Burridge -12, -17, beat A. Rhodes 23, -20, 17. B. Leach lost Rhodes -10, -13. lost Adams -12, -11.

Leach and Quilter lost Burridge and Rhodes -12, -11.

Miss P. Turner lost Mrs. D. Collins -8, -13.

Miss Turner and Mrs. P. Shead lost Mrs. Collins and Miss M. Fry -13, -7.

Mr. and Mrs. Shead lost Adams and Miss Fry -15, 17, -10.

Gloucestershire 3, Surrey 7

B. Merrett beat H. Verner 21, -18, 18, beat A. Miller 15-13 (time limit), 6-5 (time limit). A. Simons lost Verner -18, -12, lost K. Craigie -20, 18, -18. I. Harrison lost Miller -19, 10 -13, lost Craigie -18, -19.

Harrison and Merrett lost Craigie and Verner -20, -10.

Simons and Mrs. E. Spokes beat Miller and Miss L. Whithams 21, 12.

Miss S. Davis lost Mrs. J. Head -14, -16.

Miss S. Davis and Miss E. Spokes lost Mrs. J. Head and Miss Whithams -22, 19, -11.

Sussex 6, Glamorgan 4

P. Shead lost N. Parker 16, -19, -19, beat B. Dimascio 10, 9. B. Leach and Parker -16, 22, -18, beat R. Davies 17, -20, 16. J. Quilter beat Dimascio 8 20, beat Davies 17, -14, 11.

Leach and Quilter beat Davies and Dimascio -18, 19, 11.

P. Shead and Mrs. P. Shead beat Parker and Miss B. Gray -14, 12, 19.

Miss W. Bates lost Miss S. Jones -11, -8.

Miss Bates and Mrs. Shead lost Miss Gray and Miss Jones 15, -15, -12.

Lancashire 7, Yorkshire 3

R. Allcock beat B. Kennedy 19, 8; beat R. Hinchliff 15, -14, 12. G. Pullar beat Kennedy 8, -11, 15; beat S. Dyson 15, -21, 18. J. Ingber beat Hinchliff 19, 18; beat Dyson 9, 11.

Allcock and Pullar beat Dyson and Kennedy 23, -18, 17.

Miss W. Swift lost to Miss C. K. Best -13, -12.

Miss Swift and Miss I. Haney lost to Miss Best and Miss J. Preston -15, -14.

Ingber and Miss Haney lost to Hinchliff and Miss Preston -16, 15, -19.

DIVISION II (NORTH)

Warwickshire 9, Durham 1, Northumberland 3, Yorkshire II 4, Lincolnshire 6, Northumberland 4, Yorkshire II 4, Warwickshire 6.

DIVISION II (SOUTH)

Suffolk 2, Hertfordshire 8, Buckinghamshire 6, Hampshire 10, Kent 6, Berkshire 4.

DIVISION II (WEST)

Dorset 4, Cornwall 6, Wiltshire 6, Cornwall 4, Worcestershire 7 Dorset 3.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Derbyshire 9, Northamptonshire 1.

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

Warwickshire 7, Northamptonshire 1.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Lancashire 7, Yorkshire 1.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Middlesex 10, Sussex 0, Hertfordshire 8, Suffolk 2, Kent 0, Middlesex 10, Surrey 7, Hertfordshire 3, Essex 8, Sussex 2.

University Commentary

OXFORD CHALLENGE DURHAM

By P. CHAPLIN

OXFORD UNIVERSITY have thrown down the gauntlet to Durham. They dispute the Northerner's claim to being top table tennis university after winning the U.A.U. knock-out tournament last season.

The Dark Blues, like Cambridge and London, did not compete in this event, but they went through the season unbeaten, winding up with their first win over Cambridge since 1952.

Durham have taken up the challenge and tentative arrangements have been made for the match to be played at Oxford in February. Meanwhile, Oxford have given some indication of their strength with a 8-2 win over Loughborough.

Big surprise in the Midland Division of the U.A.U. championship has been the defeat of Leicester by Nottingham. Last year's finalists found that, man for man, Nottingham, who quickly rushed to a 5-0 lead, were much too good. Only Phillips and Bulsack saved Leicester from complete rout, the final score being 10-5.

Valentyk, the Nottingham No. 1, went through without defeat and on this form stakes a strong claim for a place in the U.A.U. team against the R.A.F. in March.

In an earlier friendly at Sheffield, Nottingham lost 7-8, but only two first team men appeared.

Plans are afoot for women's inter-university matches. Margaret Nevison, the Leicester secretary, is most keen and with a few more like her such a scheme is assured of success.

MIDDLESEX HOLD REST

BRIAN KENNEDY and Johnny Leach, England's two top ranking players, must bear the brunt of the Rest being held to a four-all draw by Middlesex in the annual challenge match at Tottenham on October 24, writes Harrison Edwards. They failed to win a match between them.

Kennedy, just recovering from 'flu and in the throes of switching from sponge to rubber, lost to both Michael Thornhill and Derek Burridge. Leach went down to Alan Rhodes in the all important last match on the programme, and in the doubles Kennedy and Leach succumbed to Burridge and Len Adams.

Kennedy was well below his best, lacking the ability to consolidate even when in front. He led Thornhill 14-7 in the first game only to lose 18-21, 16-21, while he was 9-2 up in the second game against Burridge yet lost 23-25, 18-21.

It was the same in the doubles. Leach and Kennedy should have won in straight games. They let the first slip through their fingers after being 20-18 up. All credit to Adams and Burridge for the way they fought back to take four points in a row, with splendid attacking play, eventually winning 22-20, 13-21, 21-18.

Leach was never allowed to take the initiative against Rhodes, who combined



BRIAN KENNEDY JOHNNY LEACH

attack and defence brilliantly to win 21-14, 21-14.

This match provided some of the best play of the evening, and there can be no excuse that Leach has had to change his bat, for Rhodes was also a "sandwich" player last season.

Ann Haydon appeared to have conquered the change of bat judging by her display when beating Diane (Rowe) Collins 21-14, 14-21, 21-18. Ann, possibly due to her lawn tennis in the summer, looked speedier in moving into her shots. She had one critical period in the second game, but for the main part was supremely confident.

Jill Rook, making her first appearance of the season, also gave a solid display in beating Margaret Fry 21-16, 21-11.

So evenly matched were the two teams that at no time did more than one tie separate them. A draw was a fitting result.

Detailed scores (Rest names first): B. Kennedy (Yorks) lost to M. Thornhill 18-21, 16-21; lost to D. Burridge 23-25, 18-21. B. Merrett (Glos.) beat L. Adams 21-16, 22-20. J. Leach (Essex) lost to A. Rhodes 14-21, 14-21.

Miss A. Haydon (Warw.) beat Mrs. D. Collins 21-14, 14-21, 21-18. Miss J. Rook (Surrey) beat Miss M. Fry 21-16, 21-11.

Leach and Kennedy lost to Adams and Burridge 20-22, 21-13, 18-21.

Merrett and Miss Haydon beat Thornhill and Mrs. Collins 21-15, 13-21, 21-14.

FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are additional to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., and X.D., in every case. Tournaments not marked with an "R" are unrestricted. The closing date for entries is shown in brackets after the title. Suitable entries are inserted in this diary without charge but all organisers should send information to The Editor at the earliest date possible.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details and Venue</i>	<i>Extra Events</i>	<i>Organising Secretary</i>
Nov. 11	England v Germany (Juniors) Astra Theatre, Deal.		Mr. J. W. Martin, "Coondahs," Herchell Road, Walmer, Kent.
16	Hartlepoons Open (Nov. 6) Hartlepoons Trading Estate Canteen, West Hartlepool.	J.S.	Mr. E. Laughton, 1a, The Green, Seaton Carew, West Hartlepool.
23	Peterborough Open (Nov. 11) Messrs. Baker Perkins Ltd., Canteen, Westwood Works, Peterborough.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mr. E. Kent, 14, High Street, Eye, Nr. Peterborough.
24	Bournemouth Open (R) Nov. 11) Drill Hall, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.	J.S.	Mr. C. B. Cashell, 16, Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth.
Nov. 29- Dec. 1	Scandinavian Open		
Nov. 29-30	Birmingham Open (Nov. 18) Friends' Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.	J.S.B. J.S.G. J.D.B. V.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
30	Bath Open (Nov. 15) St. Peter's Church Hall, Bath.	J.S.B.	Mr. B. D. George, 1, Forester Lane, Bathwick, Bath.
30	Yorks Open Drill Hall, Huddersfield.	V.S.	Mr. K. W. James, 25, Hallfield Road, Bradford.
Dec. 5	Ireland v England Belfast.		
30-	North West Kent Open (Dec. 3)	J.S.B.	Mr. L. J. Pickering, 187, Bedonwell Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.
Jan. 4	Barnhurst Residents' Association Club, 152a Parkside Avenue, Barnhurst, Kent.	J.S.G.	
4	Yorkshire Junior Open Madeley Street Baths, Hessle Road, Hull.	Under 15 S.	Mr. K. W. James, 25, Hallfield Road, Bradford.
11	Flintshire Open Ffrith Pavilion, Prestatyn.		
17-18	Welsh Open		
25	Lancashire Open (Jan. 18) De Havilland Propellers Ltd., Lostock, Bolton.	J.S.B. J.S.G. V.S.	Mr. A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Lancs.
25-26	Kent Open (Jan. 6) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	Y.S.	Mr. F. Betts, Elmsmycdene, 88, Surrenden Road, Folkestone.
31-	Polish Open		
Feb. 2			
Feb. 1	Gloucestershire Junior Open (Jan. 10) Public Baths, Gloucester.	Under 15 J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mr. I. C. Evles, 26, Allison Road, Brislington, Bristol, 4.
1-2	Belgium Open		
7-8	Midland Open (Jan. 27) Friends Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.	J.S.B. J.S.G. J.B.D. V.S.	Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
10-15	South London Open Central Baths, Bermondsey.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mrs. E. G. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

SUSSEX "OPEN"

THE switch from "sandwich" to rubber does not appear to have worried Alan Rhodes. If anything it has added more power and control to his game, judging by his performance in the Sussex "Open" at Hastings on October 26-27.

The Middlesex international and England's current No. 3 carried off the triple crown, beating Johnny Leach in the singles final, partnering Michael Thornhill to win the men's doubles, then taking the mixed with Mrs. Jean Head.

Rhodes' cleverly angled driving proved most effective as he went on to win 21-11, 14-21, 21-11, thus proving that his victory over Leach in the Champion County v. Rest challenge match a few days earlier was no "flash in the pan."

If Rhodes can keep up this form he will be bidding strongly for top ranking before the season is out.

Mickey Thornhill, last year's winner, crashed in the first round to Peter Shead, of Sussex, in a tense duel lasting an hour.

Ian Harrison, the Gloucester international had a good tournament, but appeared nervous in his semi-final against Rhodes and faded in the third game.

The shock of the meeting was provided by Shirley Jones, the diminutive Welsh international, who is now resident in London. She summarily dismissed Ann Haydon at 13 and 13 in the semi-final.

Shirley had earlier disposed of Margaret Fry, Peggy Piper and Joyce Fielder, and after such a great run



JOYCE FIELDER

looked all set for the women's title. It was not to be. She lost her touch in the final, Mrs. Diane (Rowe) Collins proving much too steady for the Welsh girl's erratic attack to win 21-16, 21-16.

Miss Jones had some measure of revenge when she partnered Miss Haydon to beat Mrs. Collins and Jill Rook in the doubles final.

Ironical cheers greeted Miss Haydon's appearance in this event. She was missing when it was originally to have been played and the slow handclap was in evidence while the other three girls knocked-up for ten minutes. The match was then put back on the programme while a search was made for Miss Haydon.

When the final eventually got underway Miss Haydon and Miss Jones looked well below their best, but salvaged the match with a great fighting recovery to

take seven points in a row after trailing 14-18 in the final game.

The mixed doubles also went to three games and if Lynn Whithams had shown more confidence in support of Harry Vennor they might well have snatched the title from Rhodes and Mrs. Head, who eventually won 21-11, 18-21, 21-17.

The most entertaining of the finals was the men's doubles with Rhodes and Thornhill beating Len Adams and Derek Burridge 21-15, 21-14.

RESULTS

Men's Singles : Semi-finals : A. RHODES bt I Harrison 21-9, 19-21, 21-12 ; J. LEACH bt I. Jones 21-15, 21-13.

Final : RHODES bt Leach 21-11, 14-21, 21-11.

Women's Singles : Final : Mrs. D. COLLINS bt S. Jones 21-16, 21-16.

Men's Doubles : Final : RHODES/M. THORNHILL bt L. Adams/D. Burridge 21-15, 21-14.

Women's Doubles Final : A. HAYDON/JONES bt. Mrs. Collins-J. Rook 12-21, 21-12, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles Final : RHODES/Mrs. J. HEAD bt H. Vennor/L. Whithams 21-11, 18-21, 21-17.

NORTH OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

ALL titles changed hands in the North of England championships at Manchester on October 10-12, when David House and Joyce Fielder carried off the respective singles. For Joyce it was her first major singles title and indicates she will be making a bold bid to climb higher than her fourth place in the national ranking.

Flu prevented Brian Kennedy defending the men's singles, while Scotland's Helen Elliot was barred from defending the women's singles as she refuses to change from her "sandwich" bat which is still allowed in Scotland.

Ray Hinchliff, top seed for the men's singles crashed to Peter Skerratt, who went on to reach the semi-finals where he found Ian Harrison too strong, losing 21-23, 13-21. House, meanwhile, easily beat D. Whitlow in the other semi-final.

Dashing through the first game of the final with the loss of only seven points, Harrison looked well set to add the North to the East of England title he had won the previous month. However, House revealed wonderful powers of recovery and went on to win 21-9.

Highlight of the tournament was Joyce Fielder's semi-final victory over Shirley Jones. It was the first time she had beaten the Welsh international, and she did so handsomely, winning 21-14, 21-14.

After such a fine performance it was not surprising that she went on to beat Margaret Fry in the final by 21-13, 21-19.

Miss Fielder collected a second title when she won the mixed doubles with Colin Deaton, last year's junior international.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: D. HOUSE (Som.) bt D. Whitlow (Cheshire); I. HARRISON (Glos.) bt P. Skerratt (Cheshire).

Final: HOUSE bt Harrison 7-21, 21-18, 21-9.

Women's Singles: Final: J. FIELDER (Kent) bt M. Fry (Mid dx.) 21-13, 21-19.

Men's Doubles : Final : P. STRULAVITCH/J. INGBER (Lancs.) bt C. Pullar/B. Casofsky (Lancs.) 23-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: Final: S. JONES (Wales)/M. FRY bt P. Mortimer (Warw.)/J. Walker (Derby) 23-21, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles : Final : C. DEATON (Derby)/Miss FIELDER bt D. Schofield (Ches.)/Miss C. Moore (Lancs.) 21-18, 21-15.

PORTSMOUTH "OPEN"

MMARGARET FRY, the Middlesex international, caused the surprise downfall of Mrs. Diane (Rowe) Collins on her way to winning the women's singles title in the Portsmouth "Open" Championship last month.

Playing on top of her form, she met Mrs. Collins in the semi-finals and after losing the first set fought back strongly to win 12-21, 21-17, 21-14.

In the final it was Miss Fry's turn to receive a shock. After winning the first game against the Hampshire No. 1, Miss D. Wightman, who had previously accounted for Peggy Piper, she was confronted with a suddenly more determined opponent who won the second game by 21-18. In the deciding game, however, Miss Fry's greater experience began to tell and she quickly overcame the spirited Hampshire player.

Miss Fry was involved in yet another three game encounter in the final of the women's doubles when partnering Miss Piper to beat Mrs. Collins and Jill Rook 21-18, 16-21, 21-19.

Bobby Stevens (Essex) had two most creditable wins in the later stages of the men's singles before taking the title and becoming the first Essex player to win an "Open" men's singles event since Johnny Leach way back at the beginning of 1956.

In the semi-finals he beat the North of England champion, David House (Somerset) in straight games 21-18, 21-17 and in the final, after recovering from a first game deficit, he defeated Laurie Landry (Middlesex) 9-21, 21-10, 21-19.

Later Stevens paired with Ken Beamish to win the men's doubles easily beating Les Sawyer and House 21-16, 21-13.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Final: R. STEVENS (Essex) bt L. Landry (Middx.) 9-21, 21-10, 21-19.

Women's Singles: Final: M. FRY (Middx.) bt D. Wightman (Hants.) 21-15, 18-21, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: Final: STEVENS/K. BEMAISH (Essex) bt L. Sawyer (Essex)/D. House (Som.) 21-16, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: Final: M. PIPER (Surrey)/ **M. FRY** bt Mrs. D. Collins (Middx.)/J. Rook (Surrey) 21-18, 16-21, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: Final: R. DORKING (Essex)/ **Mrs. COLLINS** bt Landry/ Miss Fry 22-20, 21-23, 21-16.

Boys' Singles: Final: B. HAMILL (Middx.) bt S. Bubley (Sussex) 21-13, 21-8.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

NEW TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

THE interest shown in the Staffs T.T.A. new restricted tournament exceeded all expectations. Over 150 entries were received from all parts of the county so the organisers, faced with the problem of completing the tournament in one day, decided to stage two separate competitions. The first was held on October 13 and the second will take place on November 17.

At the first of these (played on the group system, ensuring all players at least three games) the honours were shared by Wolverhampton and the Potteries, nineteen-year-old V. Dereza (Potteries) put up a fine show to take the Men's Singles title in a thrilling final against the experienced F. Owen (Wolves) by 14-21, 22-20, 22-20. It was a welcome return to the limelight by this Potteries' boy who showed great promise as a Junior.

DOUR FINAL

The Women's Singles developed into a dour all Wolverhampton final in which Miss P. Harness beat Miss J. Waterhouse by 20-22, 21-11, 21-18.

There seems great possibilities for this type of tournament, everyone agreeing that it was well worth travelling a distance if they could be assured of at least 3 games.

At the conclusion of a successful day,

former County player, Mrs. Joyce Hayward (who donated the trophies) made the presentations to the winners.

Determined not to let her older sister Christine take all the limelight 13-year-old Ann Charman brought further honour to the County by winning a place in the final England Junior Trials at Wolverhampton. The father of these promising girls, J. Charman, also wields a useful bat being a member of the West Bromwich Veteran team.

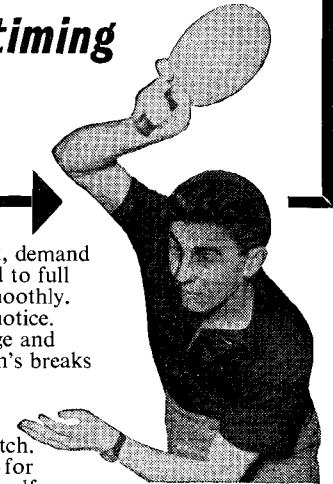
The Staffs closed tournament breaks new territory this season. By kind permission of the Commanding Officer, the excellent facilities of the R.A.F. Camp, Cosford have been put at the disposal of the County who will certainly have no worries now about having sufficient room.

Missing from the Wolverhampton scene this season will be those colourful boys from the Malayan Teachers College, who in their two seasons of competition carried all before them. The "A" Team were 100% in both seasons. They return to their native country in November and all who knew and played with them will join me in wishing them "bon voyage."

In conclusion, congratulations to Rhoda Haden, former County No. 1 player, on the birth of a son.

Alec Backhouse

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