

TABLET TENNIS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



GEORGE LIVESEY and CAROL BAGSHAW the "News of the World"
Boy and Girl of the Year with their trophies.

SPECIAL FEATURES by

FRANK BUTLER & LANCE TINGAY

(News of the World)

(The Daily Telegraph)

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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

Vol. 16

October, 1957

No. 1

NEW SEASON RESOLUTIONS

AT last that seemingly interminable four months period between the end of one season and the beginning of the next has come to a close.

The new season, as with the New Year, brings individual resolutions and fresh determination for personal betterment, which is certainly a good thing. But apart from individual aims, players and officials can, with little inconvenience, help to lift the game into the position so fine a sport should command.

At present table tennis in this country is passing through a crisis, with dwindling "gates," and, of course, the sponge question.

Little can be done about the latter until world opinion on the subject is known, but there are many ways of rekindling the enthusiasm of boom years following the war.

SNAPPIER PRESENTATION

Officials must sharpen up matches, put on snappier programmes and eliminate time wasting. Those intervals should be cut out altogether. After all the spectator goes to see table tennis, not drink tea and eat buns for anything up to half-an-hour or more.

With streamlining, visitors would be able to see the whole match without fear of missing the last bus.

The payers' part in this reform is, among other things, to take more pride in appearance. In how many other national sports does one see such an array of varying outfits? True table tennis is democratic, but that is no reason for matches to be turned into either a fashion parade or beggars shuffle, as is often the case.

The sport depends a lot on the playing customer and should, therefore, present them with neatly turned out players as well as well organised programmes.

So at the start of the 1957-8 season let all

officials and players resolve to help the game develop into the position it deserves—one of the most popular in the country.

Australia appears to have added further confusion to the standardisation of the bat. While England, and seven other countries, have laid down pimped rubber only, the "Diggers" have decided to use thickness as their formula. And they have put it at 5 m/m!

This is two-and-a-half times the rubber thickness laid down by the E.T.T.A., and as they do not mention the surface covering, it means little change.

Most of the sponge and sandwich bats come within these limits, so I cannot see what they hope to achieve.

Meanwhile, bitter controversy still rages here, particularly now it is ruled these regulations apply to league fixtures as well as tournaments.

The grading of tournaments is another bitter pill with some sections, and I wonder if the E.T.T.A. have not been too rigid. It hits at some of our best run tournaments, yet others, which are a long way from being efficient, but can provide the necessary space, get away with it.

Only those tournaments with an "unrestricted" label will be able to invite non-English players. Those that are "restricted" will be barred to the likes of Shirley Jones of Wales, and Helen Elliot of Scotland.

ARMCHAIR SELECTION

One popular tournament that disappears from the list as a result is the South of England, one of the oldest on the calendar.

No excuse for selectors not knowing form in future. Top players have been provided with log books to record results of their matches. The books will be called in once a month.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official News:

Since the Annual General Meeting two meetings of the National Executive Committee have taken place both in the Council Chamber of the Royal Empire Society, the first being held on Saturday and Sunday, 29th and 30th June and the other on Saturday 24th August, 1957.

At the first meeting it was recorded that the Association had sustained a very tragic loss through the death of Billie Stamp, of Liverpool, who passed away on the 16th June, 1957. He had been a member of the N.E.C. for many years but owing to ill health, resigned at the last Annual General Meeting. A wreath was sent on behalf of the members of the Association and the Association was also represented at the funeral.

Standardisation of the Racket

For the guidance of our members the wording of the experimental rule which governs the covering (if any) to be applied to the Table Tennis Racket and which is in force in this country for the period of one year from 1st July, 1957, is as follows:—

"The racket, though it may 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 PIMPLE-STUDDED RUBBER NOT MORE THAN 2mm. IN TOTAL THICKNESS. Only the necessary quantity of adhesive may be used."

Ordinary pimple-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 millimeters 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.

Television

Again it is felt desirable to draw the attention of all organisers and players to the E.T.T.A. rules concerning television:—

RULE 26. *No affiliated member, player, or organiser may take part in a televised event in connection with table tennis unless sanction has first been obtained from one of the officers of the Association or the event is one authorised by the Association.*

Also it is desirable to draw the attention to all organisers of Table Tennis events such as:—

- Open Tournaments,
- Representative Matches,
- County Matches, etc.,

that all negotiations with the Television Authorities must be carried out

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."

It should be understood that membership of the E.T.T.A. is conditional on membership with the County Association also being taken up. Where no County Association exists, or permission to contract out has been granted by the National Executive Committee, then the question of such membership does not arise. In no circumstances may any League, Association, Club or individual belong to a County Association without being in membership of the E.T.T.A.

Invitation and Closed Tournaments

It is desirable to draw the attention of all concerned regarding the regulation governing Invitation and Closed Tournaments:—

AN INVITATION TOURNAMENT shall be any Tournament promoted by an affiliated body and approved by the County Association for the area in which the proposed Tournament is to be held of invited affiliated players and for which general invitations to play are not issued. In the event of an Invitation Tournament including players in the area of another County then the invitations shall be given only with the consent of the E.T.T.A. and the County Association concerned. All organisers of Invitation Tournaments must forward to the Hon. Secretary of the E.T.T.A. the names of the players they intend to invite.

A CLOSED TOURNAMENT shall be any Tournament the entries for which are restricted to affiliated playing members of:—

- (i) a particular Club,
- (ii) a particular League,
- (iii) a particular County,
- (iv) a defined area within a County approved by the appropriate County Association, or an
- (v) area approved by the E.T.T.A.

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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

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

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

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

by the English Table Tennis Association. Therefore should organisers of any table tennis event be approached direct they should inform the television body that they should contact the E.T.T.A. direct in all matters of this nature.

County Membership

The attention of all Leagues, Clubs and Individuals is drawn to Rule 21 (b), (Page 23 of the 1956/57 Official Handbook). This rule reads as follows:—

"Membership of such County

APPROVE REGISTERED PLAYERS 1957/8

L. G. Adams (Mddx)
R. Allecock (Lancs)
G. V. Barna (Mddx)
C. Booth (Lancs)
L. M. Bromfield (Sussex)
A. Brook (Mddx)
B. Brumwell (Essex)
Mrs. E. M. Carrington (Essex)
J. Carrington (Essex)
L. G. Carter (Kent)

B. Casofsky (Lancs)
J. Clayton (Lancs)
J. Corser (Herts)
R. J. Crayden (Surrey)
J. W. Crookes (Yorks)
R. E. Etheridge (Kent)
E. G. Evans (Kent)
Miss J. Fielder (Kent)
Miss M. Fry (Mddx)
Miss E. M. Grimstone (Cheshire)

I. Harrison (Glos)
G. R. Harrower (Herts)
Mrs. J. Head (Surrey)
J. E. Head (Surrey)
R. Hinchliff (Lancs)
A. Holland (Lancs)
F. Holman (Kent)
E. T. Johnson (Ches)
S. Johnson (Essex)
L. W. Jones (Lancs)

Miss M. Jones (Glos)
L. F. Landry (Mddx)
R. Markwell (Essex)
Miss B. Milbank (Essex)
Hon. I. Montagu (Herts)
N. Nicholson (Mddx)
R. L. Parmenter (Essex)
L. J. Pickering (Kent)
J. Rogers (Kent)
E. J. Rumjahn (Lancs)

P. U. Rumjahn (Lancs)
T. E. Sears (Mddx)
K. Stanley (Lancs)
A. G. Steggell (Sussex)
H. W. Swetman (Surrey)
L. Thompson (Bucks)
H. T. Verner (Surrey)
Miss A. Wood (Pettifer) (Lancs)
C. Corti Woodcock (Essex)

In addition to the above, J. Corser (Herts) was approved for the season 1956/57.

Co-option to the National Executive Committee

Miss Eileen Grimstone was co-opted to the Committee in view of the fact that a casual vacancy had occurred.

National Executive Committee Appointments

The following N.E.C. appointments have been made:—

Deputy Chairman — Mr. I. C. Eyles.

Press Officer — Mr. C. Jaschke.

Hon. Director of Coaching —

Mr. J. Carrington.

Editor of the Official Magazine

"Table Tennis" —

Mr. W. Harrison Edwards.

Club Competitions

Approval was given to the continuing of the organisation of Club Competitions similar to those arranged last season to assist in raising funds to enable teams to be sent to future World Championships when organised in Asia.

"Daily Mirror" National Table Tennis Tournament

The Association has been given to understand that this Tournament will not be conducted during the forthcoming Season 1957/58.

"Eagle/Girl" Clubs' Table Tennis Tournament

Sanction was given to the Eagle and Girls Clubs' National Table Tennis Tournament to be organised during the coming season.

Victor Barna Award

The Victor Barna Award for the season 1956/57 was made to Miss A. S. Haydon, in view of her performance in the 1957 World Championships in Stockholm.

European Championships

As the World Championships will not be taking place during this coming season, 1957/58, the European Championships are being organised by the Hungarian Table Tennis Association in Budapest from the 2nd to the 9th March, 1958.

English Open Championships

The English Open Championships will be held in London during the 1957/58 season with the Semi-Finals and Finals being staged at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley. The proposed dates of the Championships are the 25th to the 29th March, 1958.

Approved Balls

The following balls were approved for season 1957/58:—Villa XXX and XX, Dunlop Barna "Three Crown" and "Two Crown," Halex "Three

Star" and "Two Star," Haydon Tema "Three Star" and "Two Star."

International Matches

International Matches have been arranged as follows:—

v. Germany (Juniors) at Deal on the 11th November 1957,

v. Ireland (Mixed Seniors) at Belfast on the 5th December, 1957,

v. France (Men) at Folkestone on the 24th March, 1958.

County Umpires Scheme

Owing to the resignation of Mr. W. G. Goldfinch as Hon. Secretary of the National Umpires Committee, Mr. J. Senescall of 64, Monkgate, York, has agreed to undertake these duties.

Open Tournaments

All Open Tournaments have this year been placed into one of two categories (Unrestricted or Restricted) based on the facts supplied by Organisers regarding the playing conditions. The following definitions apply:—

UNRESTRICTED. *The Unrestricted Tournaments are those which have been able to satisfy the Open Tournaments Committee that they are able to comply with the playing conditions as laid down under Regulation 12, page 47 of the 1956/57 E.T.T.A. Handbook and are open to all affiliated members of the E.T.T.A. and I.T.T.F.*

RESTRICTED. *The Restricted Tournaments are those which have not been able to satisfy the Open Tournaments Committee that they are able to comply with playing conditions as laid down under Regulation 12, page 47 of the 1956/57 E.T.T.A. Handbook, and are limited to affiliated members of the E.T.T.A. only, and no other association which includes Ireland, Scotland and Wales.*

Junior Events in Open Tournaments

The attention of Organisers is drawn to the fact that the E.T.T.A. do not now require the 12½% of the entry fees in relation to the Junior events of an Open Tournament (whether Unrestricted or Restricted).

Finance Sub-Committee

A small sub-committee has been set up to consider ways and means of raising Capital. This Capital is to be used in finding suitable accommodation and premises for a Headquarters of the Association. The members of the sub-committee are:—J. Carrington, I. C. Eyles, C. Jaschke, D. P. Lowen, M. Scott, A. K. Vint and L. Woollard.

International Table Tennis Federation—Height of Net Experiment

A Japanese proposal was received at the last Congress asking for

Affiliated Associations to make experiments with the height of the net at either 6½" or 6¾". It was agreed that the experiment should be made in this Country at certain approved matches and any member interested should write to the E.T.T.A. Hon. Secretary for authority to play matches with a higher net.

ENGLISH RANKING LIST

MEN

1. B. Kennedy (Yorks)
2. J. A. Leach (Essex)
3. A. Rhodes (Mddx.)
4. J. Somogyi (Surrey)
5. M. H. Thornhill (Mddx.)
6. B. Merrett (Glos.)
7. K. R. Craigie (Surrey)
8. L. G. Adams (Mddx.)
9. H. T. Vener (Surrey)
10. I. Jones (Essex)
11. D. C. Burridge (Mddx.)
12. R. Hinchliff (Yorks)

GROUP "A"

- R. Allcock (Lancs.)
B. Brumwell (Essex)
R. Griffin (Glos.)
I. Harrison (Glos.)
E. Hodson (Mddx.)
J. Head (Surrey)
D. House (Somerset)
J. Ingber (Lancs.)
L. Landry (Mddx.)
L. Laza
A. R. Miller (Surrey)
G. Pullar (Lancs.)
A. W. C. Simons (Glos.)
A. L. Shepherd (Cheshire)
R. Stevens (Essex)

WOMEN

1. Miss A. Haydon (Warwicks)
2. Mrs. D. Collins (Mddx.)
3. Miss J. Rook (Surrey)
4. Miss J. Fielder (Kent)
5. Miss M. Fry (Mddx.)
6. Mrs. K. Thompson (Yorks)
7. Mrs. J. Head (Surrey)
8. Miss P. Mortimer (Warwicks)
9. Miss Y. Baker (Essex)
10. Miss S. Davis (Glos.)
11. Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex)
12. Miss M. Piper (Surrey)

NOTE: R. Bergmann has stated that he will not be available for play in this country for the coming season, and is therefore omitted from this list.

TABLE TENNIS

Published on the 10th of each month
October to May inclusive. Postal
Subscription 7s. 6d. for eight issues.

Circulation: The Walthamstow Press
Ltd., Guardian House, 644, Forest
Road, London, E.17 (LARKSWOOD
4301).

Advertisements: E.T.T.A., 214, Grand
Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London,
W.C.2 (TRAFALGAR 2165).

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



Tops at Lawn Tennis, too

by

LANCE TINGAY

of "The Daily Telegraph"

SOME time ago I speculated in these columns on the problems confronting Ann Haydon as a games player, whether to concentrate on table tennis, on lawn tennis or on both. She was then obviously good enough to aspire to the highest flights of both. I need hardly enlarge here on her success at table tennis but merely comment how odd it seems to me that one who is presumably the second best player in the world should have to be wondering whether to continue with the game because sponge is to fluctuate between legality and illegality according to the event.

A great player at table tennis Miss Haydon became during the season of 1957 solidly world class at lawn tennis, good enough to rate among the ten best women in the world. Christine Truman stole the limelight but Miss Haydon did better. The unfolding and growth of her talent was perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the season.

She began the season under the handicap of having been engaged at table tennis. Thus it was at the Cumberland Club tournament at Hampstead early on she was unable to cope with the more practised fluency of Miss Truman. But she submitted only after two close sets and all her other opponents she swept easily aside.

BEAT No. 1

Then came Bournemouth and the British Hard Court Championships. Here Miss Haydon had the odd experience of bringing down the top ranking British player, Angela Mortimer, with difficulty occasioned not by her opponent's skill but by her opponent's lack of fitness. She had the embarrassment of finishing off a match against one who was staggering and seemingly likely to collapse at any moment and who yet refused to give in. Had it been a boxing ring the fight would have been stopped.

Miss Haydon finished thankfully, was then a semi-finalist and bowed in the next round to Pat Ward who

played well to beat her and to stress that the younger school of British players, Miss Truman and Sheila Armstrong included, were not at that stage as good as the established leaders.

In Paris, at the Stade Roland Garros, the dusty, hot arena that has been the graveyard of many lawn tennis hopes, where not even the finest servers and volleyers among the men can bluff their way to victory without solid ground strokes, Miss Haydon revealed her stature. She and Shirley Bloomer, who went on to win the title, uplifted British prestige hugely by patience, persistence and court craft.

There was a victory over Mlle. Kermina, the top rated player of France, then one over Mary Hawton of Australia. Miss Haydon's confidence grew amid the exhausting red dust and she reached the semi-final by beating the leading Belgian, Mlle. Mercelis, with the loss of only three games. By now Miss Haydon was not just a player but a competitor of consequence and, indeed, she was playing like an old campaigner.

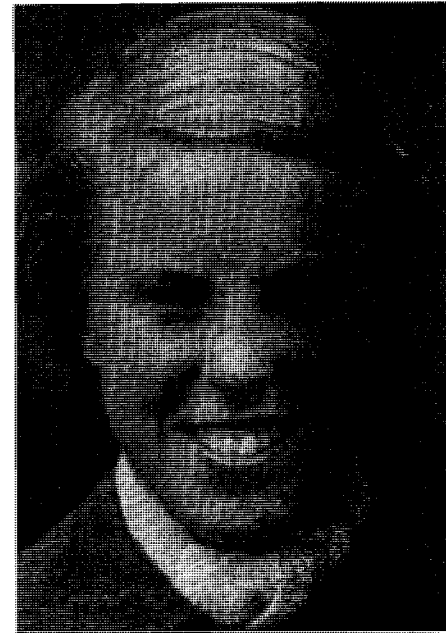
MEMORABLE RESISTANCE

Her resistance in the semi-final to the American Dorothy Knode on the centre court was one of the most memorable things of the year. The court was burning, the atmosphere stifling. My notes are no longer by me, but I believe it was for one hour and three-quarters that Miss Haydon nobly resisted one of the most re-

lentless hard court players in the game, never giving in, fighting to the last inch.

So much for the French meeting where Miss Haydon entered as a relative unknown and emerged as obviously one of the most formidable players in the world on slow, hard courts. The transition to grass courts put Miss Truman to the forefront of the scene and her spectacular progress at Wimbledon, where she reached the last four, echoed round the lawn tennis world. One tended to forget that in Paris Miss Haydon had done as much.

Actually at Wimbledon Miss Haydon did not do badly. In the third round she held the leading German, Edda Buding, to a three set match. In the doubles, partnering Miss Truman, they nearly brought down Miss Bloomer and Betty Pratt.



ANN HAYDON

After Wimbledon there was the interlude of the Welsh championships where Miss Mortimer, then more fit, had revenge for Bournemouth. At inter-county week at Eastbourne Miss Haydon resumed a famous partnership with Valerie Brewer from Warwickshire. They helped win the championship and had victories in fourteen out of the fifteen rubbers they played.

The Wightman Cup — and the selection of Miss Haydon was automatic, more so, in fact, than that of anyone except Miss Bloomer—took place near Pittsburgh. In the main I had a sorry tale to record since we were well beaten 6-1 when Miss Bloomer, out of confidence, did not recover her zest of the early season and Miss Truman did not fill hopes as Britain's number two.

ONLY WINNER

Miss Haydon, as Britain's number three, brought off the only success. She took the difficulties of a strange court and a fiery bounce in her stride. She combined the determination not to lose with the will to win—two facets of games playing which are not at all the same thing—and beat Darlene Hard, the Wimbledon finalist.

Later, in the American championships at Forest Hills, Miss Haydon and Miss Bloomer, were the last British players to survive. In the quarter-final Miss Brough, who went on to reach the final, carried guns too heavy and too many though on a slow hard court I would have backed Miss Haydon.

Where does all this leave Miss Haydon as a lawn tennis player? Not as a great player. There is only one woman in the world today to whom one can possibly pin that label and that is Althea Gibson. The top standard among women is not what it was a few years ago.

Miss Haydon, however, stands securely as a first class performer. She nearly always plays her best and one cannot imagine her being badly beaten by anyone. She is a superb match player who performs to her capacity when it matters most. She is nimble footed and she has fine court sense.

In one season she has topped promise with achievement. I do not know what the official assessment will be but there is no doubt in my own mind that on the season's performance she ranks after Miss Bloomer as the second best player in Britain. Number one at table tennis, number two at lawn tennis, that is games playing ability of no mean order.

Polio Victim's New Hope

By BRYAN CUTRESS

WILL-POWER, determination and table tennis, liberally blended together, appear likely to save 11-year-old John Bowman, of Mansfield Crescent, Arnthorpe, Doncaster, from a life devoid of any type of energetic pastime.

This fair-haired, pleasant looking lad, a pupil at Arnthorpe Secondary Modern School, fell victim to polio five years ago. It left him paralysed in both legs and his back.

Special exercises, religiously carried out, enabled him to regain the use of his right leg and back, but with his left leg in irons, he looked destined to life as a spectator. Then he was introduced to table tennis and given new hope that here at last was a sport in which he could take an active part.

It was at Butlin's Holiday Camp at Clacton. John had been wistfully wandering around watching other children at play when he arrived at the table tennis room where New Zealand champion Joyce Williamson was running a coaching session.

He looked on enviously and was spotted by Joyce. Most people seeing his handicap would have given him little thought, beyond an encouraging smile. Not so Joyce. She took sympathy on him. "Come along and have a game, it might help your leg," she said.

He did not need asking twice and jumped at the chance. For the rest of his holiday he had regular lessons from Joyce each morning and afternoon, and developed a fairly good game. When the time came to go he touchingly thanked Joyce for the thrill of being able to join in with other boys and girls instead of just looking on. "And I can already move my leg quite well now," was his parting remark.

Joyce said afterwards, "If I have been able to give John a new interest I am glad. I hope table tennis is the answer to him regaining the use of his leg. He is a fine little chap and I would like to see him back to full health."



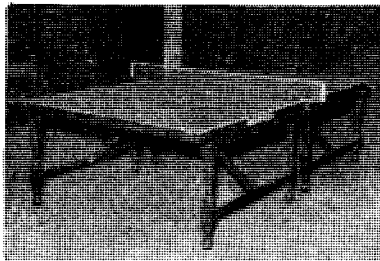
JOYCE WILLIAMSON takes polio victim 11-years-old JOHN BOWMAN, under her wing.

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Nowadays, with our youngsters conditioned by television to a slick presentation of any topic, the Coach needs more than mere knowledge or playing skill. He needs Personality, to sell himself and Table Tennis to newcomers.

CONFIDENCE is half the battle in the presentation of any subject, and I lay great emphasis on this in training our Diploma Coaches.

New Diploma candidates are not merely *tested*; they are actively *helped* to acquire Confidence, in their strokes, their exposition of basic principles, their "management" of players in practice, and their "grip" of an audience.

Such Confidence in an Instructor flows into the pupils; lessons become fun instead of work, for both parties. Thus good coaching is born.

E.T.T.A. Diploma candidates are asked to work up to certain levels in (i) PLAYING ABILITY, (ii) THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE, (iii) EXPOSITION AND ANALYSIS and (iv) PERSONAL PRESENTATION.

Nothing To Lose

They all start at different levels; some pick up quickly; some improve slowly. A few cannot make the grade on one count or another, *but none of them loses by trying.*

At present 47 people hold the Basic Coaching Diploma, which carries with it the right to wear the E.T.T.A. "Coach" badge, and 40 more are working towards the award.

We are out to help any willing senior player who is interested in

passing on his knowledge and love of table tennis.

I shall be glad to hear from anybody who is interested in qualifying. After registration, a candidate is normally invited to an introductory short course, at which a plan of action for further progress can usually be suggested.

Forthcoming events at which potential Coaches may gain experience include:—

BRIGHTON (venue to be announced). Friday, 18th October, at 7.45 p.m. Coaching Demonstration for all members of the local Youth Clubs organisation or T.T. League.

STRATFORD, London, E.15 A Saturday, either 19th October or 9th or 16th November, to be announced. Official E.T.T.A. Coaches' Course for Diploma Candidates and potential candidates. For fuller details apply to J. CARRINGTON, 24, Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

NORWICH (venue to be announced). Eastern Counties Coaching Rally for potential coaches and selected pupils. Apply: J. Carrington, as above.

LEICESTER (venue to be announced). A Saturday in November. Official E.T.T.A. Coaches' Course for

Diploma. Candidates and potential candidates.

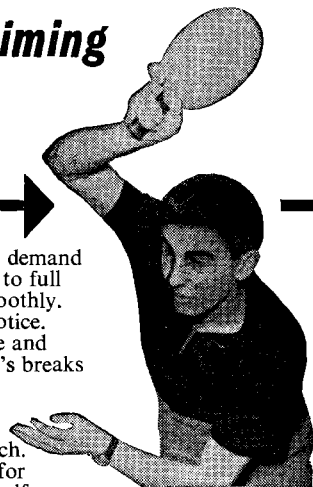
LILleshall, Shropshire. Friday evening 1st to Sunday afternoon, 3rd November, 1957. Open Course for players or assistant coaches. Details from Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 15.

LILleshall, Shropshire. Saturday afternoon, 28th December, 1957, to Thursday morning, 2nd January, 1958. Open Course for players, but a few places are specially reserved for practical instruction of Diploma candidates. Details (for players) from C.C.P.R., 6, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. Details (for coaches, etc.) from J. Carrington, as above.

In conclusion I would like to mention that many of our qualified Coaches first became interested when they attended such functions as the above as *pupils*. They found the process interesting and now want to help pass it on.

I shall be glad to hear from seniors who by reason of age or physique feel that they might not achieve the required playing standard, as it may be possible to stage some helpful theory instruction for them.

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"RACKET STANDARDISATION"

Experimental Season Begins

IT is common knowledge that (except for the English Open) all match table tennis in England this season must be played with the ordinary pimped-rubber covered bat.

Naturally some who fancied their chances with sponge bats, or sandwich bats, may have been disappointed at the decision of the Annual General Meeting last April, but as might have been expected, most players are just "getting down to it" with pimped rubber quite cheerfully.

At the training Courses this summer, a distinct revival of keenness in stroke practice was noticeable, players enjoyed again the thrill of really "feeling" the ball, and the satisfaction of gradual improvement, earned the hard way.

I was especially interested to see how Allan Lindsay would fare on the *Daily Mirror* Winners' Course. Allan had won the Mens' Singles title, and achieved some other impressive results, with a very limited repertoire of strokes and negligible footwork.

NEW APPROACH NEEDED

Now, using a "rubber" bat, his well-known "short defence" was no longer capable of bottling-up an all-round attacker, and once he was forced back from the table he could no longer control the game. How did

Allan react? He certainly had no complaints; instead he persevered gamely in the physical exercise sessions (which so many of our good players ignore) and strove hard to overcome his habitual muscle-tension and leaden feet.

Young Lindsay has tremendous fight and a lightning eye for a quick advantage so I fully expect him to "come back" in due course. If he and others like him, do not, then is it unfair to suggest that they were lucky to get away with it before?

FOLLOWING SUIT

Associations which have adopted a similar experimental Rule to our own include: AUSTRIA, GERMANY, FRANCE, BELGIUM, HOLLAND, WALES, LUXEMBOURG, and the SOUTH AFRICAN TABLE TENNIS UNION.

Various others have expressed their interest in a general standardisation when eventually the International Federation gets to grips with the problem.

At the present time all Associations have been asked by the I.T.T.F. to study certain possible methods of standardisation.

These "possible" rules are, broadly interpreted:

(1) *Restriction of covering to*

pimped rubber, 2-mm. thick, maximum.

(2) *Restriction of covering to "any type of rubber but with maximum thickness of x-mm." (and it is suggested that "x" should be 2, 2½, or 3-mm.).*

(3) *Covering material not restricted, but over-all thickness of racket restricted to maximum 10-mm. if covered on both sides, or 7-mm. if covered on one side only.*

I hope to have space for fuller comment on this important matter next month. In the meantime it seems that the E.T.T.A. Rule is not fully understood in some quarters. For instance, I have encountered two players using a double layer of pimped rubber this month. The Rule stipulates "A single covering with pimples outwards."

MISLEADING

Again, a purchaser was blandly informed by a dealer: "You are entitled to use a sponge bat—it has only been banned in international play."

The truth is of course, almost the exact opposite—the only possible exceptions to the ban might be certain agreed international events!

JACK CARRINGTON

In a lighter vein

Sam's Impact on Modern Table Tennis

*In days of old, when Ping-Pong first began,
There lived an ancient player, name of Sam;
Who introduced the Pimped Granite bat
Into sport then known as "Plonk and Pat."*

*This innovation caused controversy
And threatened to disrupt the unity
Which then existed in some backward lands
Among the players who merely used their hands.*

*The ball, was then a stone encased in gut
Which bounced quite oddly—like a monkey nut;
The hand was used to plonk or pat the ball
Across a seaweed net, just one foot tall.*

*The tables was composed of cured skins
Which stretched across a few belaying pins
Cemented in the ground to make them taut,
And this was the equipment for the sport.*

*The use of spin was not considered nice,
And neither was the thought of Sam's device,
Which made the leading players, white with anger;
It seemed as tho' our Sam, had dropped a clanger.*

*And so, the powers that be, did try to ban it,
And stated that "no bat thats made of granite
Can now be used in matches in this country"
And reprimanded Sam for his effrontery.*

*"Right" said Sam "if that is your decision,
You'll find that you'll be courting some derision,
From nations that think bats have come to stay,
Your narrow minded attitude won't pay."*

*So, the authorities in this fair land
Did pull their heads up from beneath the sand
And after very much deliberation,
Decide upon this new specification.*

*"From this day forth, bats will be made of wood
We feel it will be for the players' good."
"Ah well" said Sam, as he cut down a tree
"I reckon wood is good enough for me."*

*But, sticky stuff did from this tree trunk run
That's very strange" said Sam "it is by gum,
Yes this will make the silly blighters blubber,
Methinks that I have now discovered rubber!!"*

*Sam sailed to other lands to sell his wares
But got caught in a storm off Buenos Aires,
His boat did sink, and Sam did take the plunge,
They found his body, all encased in sponge.*

"Alice in Wonderland"

WHAT a fantastic situation it is, that while some countries allow the use of sponge, to others it is taboo! An outsider would surely be justified in wondering if Table Tennis had an international ruling body at all, and, if it had, what sort of set-up it was that permitted such an "Alice In Wonderland" state of affairs.

In the final analysis, of course, the International Federation must take the full responsibility for what's happening. By deferring, year after year, a positive decision one way or the other, and passing the "can" back to (1) national organisations and (2) the nearly inert "neutral investigating committees", it has dealt a body-blow to the game just at a time when a boost is sorely needed.

If the present Federation members have neither the courage nor the mental enterprise to effect a practical compromise, even if not a complete solution to the admittedly complex problem, they should make way for men who have.

At the time of writing, nine countries Wales, Belgium, Austria, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Holland and South Africa.

How strange it is that the three countries who have been most bitterly opposed to sponge—Rumania, Hungary

and Czechoslovakia—have taken no steps to eliminate it.

The support of this trio of major T.T. powers could well sway the issue, but it is clear that their fear of Japan has made them nervous to take the plunge in favour of rubber.

Incidentally, Ivan Andreadis, who swore he'd never use sponge, is now playing with it—but his results are quite unspectacular. The flat-footed, burly Czech of the gracious style, thinks he'll do better when he's more acclimatised to the new (for him) surface.

Old Star — New Star

George Roland, for years one of Belgium's most successful and popular players, has made international news by discovering a new star. The find, however, has nothing to do with Table Tennis, but the heavens—George is an astronomer. The star is being named after him.

His wife, a successful and popular player in her own right, is recuperating from a recent operation and hopes to resume table tennis activities by the end of November at the latest.

Angelica Rozeanu has hinted that she may have played her last big tournament. The six times world champion, now 36, did not compete in the Rumanian Championships.

It must have been satisfying for her, if not altogether surprising, that her



ANGELICA ROZEANU



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BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS

former Corbillon Cup team-mate and ex-pupil, Ella Zeller, won the ladies' singles.

Harasztosi won the men's title, Gantner and Reiter won the men's doubles, Pitica and Folea the women's pairs, and Gantner and Zeller the mixed.

"Tosh" Tanaka and Ichiro Ogimura have arranged a playing visit of New Zealand. They expect to be there for four or five weeks and hope to look in on Australia.

Ogimura, by the way, was set to accompany Richard Bergmann on a visit to South America but had to bow out at short notice, having been refused permission to travel. The disappointed Richard is off to America later this month for another 5½-month exhibition stint with the Harlem Globetrotters.

Another Briton who may soon be seen in other parts is Victor Barna. He has—again—received an invitation to coach in India. If Victor accepts he will leave almost immediately and will be away for several weeks.

During the summer Hong Kong players, Chung and Lau Sek Fong, toured Australia and emerged with an unbeaten record. Jeff Jennings, no stranger to this country, showed up best against the visitors in Tests.

Friendly Rivals

The Hungarians now training and practising hard for the European Championships in Budapest on March 2-9, favour Josef Berczik to win the singles.

The reigning English Open champ will not, however, have it all his own way. In the Hungarian national championships Josef was beaten 3-2 in the final by Elemer Gyetvai, who, it will be recalled, was prevented from defending his English title last season.

Berczik and Gyetvai are firm friends and practise together incessantly, so that each knows the other's game inside out.

The Hungarian defeat was not the only setback Berczik has suffered since last we saw him at Wembley. He came a cropper in a team match against a Yugo-Slav side, losing two matches in four. Unfortunately I have been unable to get the names of his conquerors, but the Yugo-Slavs are building up a formidable side with eyes on European honours. Perhaps their turn may come in 1960, when it is possible

that the European tournament will be held in their own country.

The French Closed, usually held in the provinces, was staged in Paris this year as part of the French Association's 30th anniversary celebrations. And where better than Gay Paree for "happy birthday to you" festivities?

Guy Amouretti took the men's singles, Claude Rougagnou the women's title, S. Tarlet—M. Alber won the women's doubles, Haguenauer—Dobouille the men's doubles and Agopoff—Tarlet the mixed.

Raymond Verger, that sterling old-timer who almost symbolises French



JOSEF BERCIK

Table Tennis, competed in the Veterans' event, but was beaten in the semi-final, to the vast disappointment of the crowd.

Raymond, Closed champion in 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1932, was the first Frenchman to reach the class of, and give a fright to, the crack players of surrounding Continental countries.

Let's finish with a note of home interest. In his end-of-season "Table Tennis" article, Bergmann said "Nuts!" to those who bemoaned England's alleged low standing in the international sphere since the war, pointing out that we had won ten world championship titles (team and individual). Actually, we've won 10½ titles, the half representing Dora Beregi's share of the 1949-50 women's doubles title with Scotland's Helen Elliot. Dickie could have enumerated further and pin-pointed England as having the world's fifth best post-war record. The only four nations topping us in the world honours list are: Japan (18), Hungary (15), Rumania (13½), and Czechoslovakia (12). All other nations are way behind this quartet—and England. Interesting fact about our wins is that the men and women almost dead-heat for honours, the former notching five against the latter's 5½.

OBITUARY

BILLIE STAMP

Merseyside's big loss

By NORMAN COOK

In June of this year Table Tennis lost one of its most colourful characters with the passing of Billie Stamp of Liverpool.

Billie, who was often likened to Sir Winston Churchill for his outspoken opinions and foresight, came into the sport by purchasing the Wembley Lawn Tennis Club in Liverpool and instituting table tennis during the winter months.

In 1933 he entered a team in the Liverpool League and played for them despite an artificial leg—a relic of his Navy days during World War One.

Three years later, Billie's interest in the League led him to take over the duties of Hon. Treasurer. From then on the finances, which were previously at a low ebb, flourished and in 1937 he combined the position of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Throughout the Second World War he ran the League almost single handed.

In 1946 Billie did some good spade work, calling together the Leagues of Lancashire and Cheshire to take up where the war intervened.

He was one of two representatives on the National Executive Committee for the North West Region and, as such, was given many important tasks, all of which he accomplished with above average results.

Billie's experience and welcome suggestions will be missed on the National Executive Committee, by the County Association of Lancashire, by his colleagues on the Liverpool League Executive Committee, and by players who will in future play in the Open Tournaments without the sound advice which he so generously gave.

The game has surely lost a great counsellor and a firm friend.



SHIP'S CHAMPION

Eileen Grimstone reports on the activities of 64-years-old Jack Livingstone, Lancashire Association and Manchester League President.

While on a recent Mediterranean cruise, he won the ship's table tennis tournament from an entry of 64, that included established league players from various parts of the country. He now has a Silver Cup, presented by the ship's captain, to mark the occasion.

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.

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More Popular Than Ever

By KENNETH WHEELER

THESE days the pipeline to table tennis fame is becoming quite clearly defined. The now accepted starting-off point for talented schoolboys and schoolgirls is the Under-Fifteen *Eagle/Girl* Championship of Great Britain, after which competitors graduate through the Under-Eighteen *News of the World* Coaching Scheme to competitive experience in the *Daily Mirror* tournament and the notice of the County and National Associations.

With the grounding they obtain in local, regional and national competitive play, and the special coaching they receive from world champions, *Eagle* and *Girl* finalists have naturally been well amongst the honours in the *News of the World* Scheme.

Jacqueline Butcher and Margaret Bradnum have secured major awards in previous years, but this September *Eagle/Girl* competitors surpassed themselves. George Livesey and Carol Bagshaw were acclaimed "Boy, and Girl of the Year" respectively, while Pat McKenzie, Hilde Brautigam and Nigel Ive figured amongst the winners of special awards.

This month the fourth annual *Eagle/Girl* Championship begins with a record entry of 5,000 competitors

—three times greater than ever before.

There has been a tremendous response from schools and clubs willing to run their own qualifying rounds, and over seventy of these decentralised tournaments have been



NELL TRUMAN

authorised in centres as far apart as Dundee and Plymouth.

This season, every entrant may

nominate a club which he wishes to represent in the tournament, helping that club to win one of the four regional club tables, or the super match table which is to be competed for nationally. This additional event is causing a great deal of excitement.

Clubs who aim to notch a 'century' of points (one is scored by each entrant) are the Willesden Schools, Forest Gate Junior Boys' Club, Court Less School, Bolton Lads' Club, North Shields Y.M.C.A. and the Doncaster Youth League. However, much will depend on the showing of club representatives at Regional Finals, where each game won means five more points for a player's club. In this way clubs with smaller entries can quickly wipe off any deficit.

All qualifying rounds will be concluded by the end of December. Winners of events in the latter will receive a medal, and assistance with their travelling expenses to Regional Finals which have been arranged as follows:—

- Jan. 18. BIRMINGHAM.
At Friends' Institute,
Moseley Road.
- Jan. 25. EDINBURGH.
At Murrayfield Indoor
Sports Club.
- Feb. 1 and 8. LONDON.
At St. Bride's Institute,
Fleet Street.
- Feb. 22. MANCHESTER.
At Openshaw Lads'
Club.

Regional Finals will be preceded by Qualifying Rounds for those players who have entered direct at the above venues. A special Qualifying round will take place on December 7 at the Bootle Y.M.C.A. for Liverpool entrants.

Holiday Finals

For the first time the Championship of Great Britain Finals at The Friends' House, Euston, will take place on a weekday during the Easter school holidays.

The E.T.T.A. and Welsh Association have ruled that *Eagle/Girl* competitors must abide by the new experimental bat rule, but Scottish competitors will be permitted to use any bat they wish.

Amongst the twenty-five *Eagle/Girl* readers who enjoyed three days' Special Coaching at Skegness this summer (from Johnny Leach, Brian Kennedy and Peggy Franks) was Nell Truman, younger sister of Christine.

Nell returned to London in time to compete in the *Evening News* Junior Tennis Finals and win a major award in that competition also.

Who says that table tennis and tennis don't mix?

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"UMBRO" IS LITERALLY THE CHOICE OF CHAMPIONS!

CHAMPIONS OF TOMORROW

By **FRANK BUTLER**

"News of the World" Columnist



ONCE again the *News of the World* National Coaching Scheme at the Butlin Holiday Camps last summer was a big success. Some of Britain's top coaches report that among nearly 15,000 under-eighteens who entered, there are several boys and girls who may be internationals of tomorrow.

The "Big Two," of course, are **Carol Bagshaw**, a 13-year-old farmer's daughter from Chessington, Surrey, and 14-year-old **George Livesey**, a 4ft. 11in. lad from Burnley, Lancashire. This pair collected the "Girl and Boy of the Year" trophies at the Skegness Camp when they were acclaimed the most promising of the 140 finalists.

Johnny Leach, as good a judge of a player as I know, says: "These youngsters are on the fringe of the super class. Both possess the poise and balance of the natural athlete. Young Carol is an all-round athlete, excelling at roller skating, swimming, running and cycling, while George is an outstanding schoolboy footballer and cricketer."

Family Helped

It should encourage every young table tennis player who may not be fortunate enough to get first-class coaching to know that Carol started her climb towards success by playing ping-pong across a school desk. Aided by regular practice with her brother and two sisters she improved and graduated to good junior competitive standard and is now one of the youngest members of the West Ealing Club.

George Livesey has been playing in competitive table tennis for two seasons and gained much help from the coaching of Ken Stanley and Helen Elliot. He impressed Johnny Leach with his complete strokes, ball control and strong forehand. The only department in which Johnny could fault him is his forehand de-

fence, but so determined is Wee Georgie in making the grade that Johnny Leach had difficulty in persuading this "mighty atom" to stop practising even for meals.

Champions Are Made

Of such material are champions made. That very fine Irish footballer, Peter Doherty, now Doncaster Rovers manager, once told me that determination to practise whole-heartedly at any sport can make a champion of a boy with moderate ability.

"There are a few who are born champions," says the philosophical Peter, "but most of the top men at sport have reached their goal by hard work."

Although Carol Bagshaw and George Livesey so thoroughly deserved their trophies, presented to them by Mr. Leslie Holmes, representing the Chairman of the *News of the World*, and Col. Basil Brown, representing Billy Butlin, there are many other youngsters right on their heels, and six of these were singled out to receive special awards. They were:

Nigel Ive (aged 13), of North London; **Gerald Cohen**, of Manchester;

Colin Cadwallader (aged 15), of Birmingham; **Hilde Brautigam** (aged 15), of North London; **Pat McKenzie** (aged 15), of Edinburgh; **Pat Taylor** (aged 13), of Cheltenham.

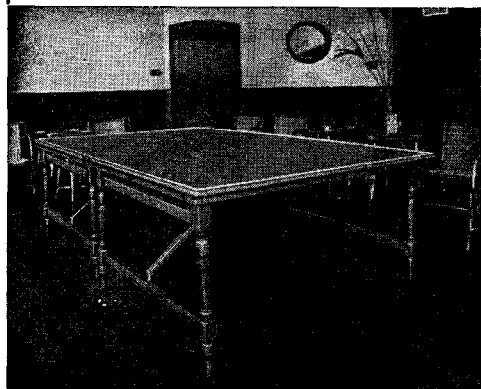
Others who stood out during the five days of intensive coaching were student draughtsman **Clifford Davis** of Carshalton, engineering apprentice **Edward Howarth** of Harrow, electrical fitter **John Whitelaw** of Fife, **Colin Hepburn** of Edinburgh, **John Cooper** of Leeds, and jiving fan **Paul Rothery** of Halifax.

Among the girls who were spotted are **Linda Gordon** of Salford, **Dawn Little** of Burton-on-Trent, and **Cynthia Blackshaw** of Doncaster.

Future Optimism

So we can be optimistic about the future of our table tennis. We know there is plenty of young talent between Land's End and John O'Groats. The *News of the World* has played its part in making it possible for many of these teenagers to get first-class coaching. Now, it is up to the youngsters themselves to put in plenty of hard work and, who knows, one of these "unknowns" may be a champion of tomorrow.

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County Championship Round Up

By CONRAD JASCHKE

AS the National County Championships enter their eleventh season, the withdrawal of Surrey from Div. II (South) reduces the total number of entries to 50—one less than last season's all-time record. There are again 31 counties engaged in the competition.

With play restricted to pimpled rubber, we may see some form upsets in the early part of the season, with those players who have left the change-back from sponge or sandwich to the last minute obviously at a disadvantage.

Middlesex, once again Premier Division champions, have only Michael Thornhill and Diane Collins (Rowe) undisturbed by the new rule. Alan Rhodes, Derek Burridge, Len Adams and Margaret Fry all have to make the change from sandwich. However, with what looks an easy opening match against Sussex, non-playing captain Victor Barna has plenty of time to get his team into shape for their meeting with old rivals Surrey late in November.

Surrey, the only team to take a point off Middlesex last season, have plenty of talent to call on. Ken Craigie may find it hard switching back to pimpled rubber after his highly successful season as a "sponger," but Harry Venner, Tony Miller, Jackie Head, Jean Head, Jill Rook and Peggy Piper, should be off to a good start.

WATCHING KENNEDY

Yorkshire, pipped at the post last season, will be anxiously watching the form of Brian Kennedy and Maurice Simpson, their successful sponge players last season.

The northerners start off with a hard match against Gloucestershire, whose young hope Ian Harrison has already made a grand start by winning the East of England singles title. For Shirley Davis, on the other hand, the loss of her sandwich bat may also spell an end to those shock wins over international players she "dished" up last season.

Essex are a county who should gain from the new rule. Match secretary Frank Bateman tells me that he expects Johnny Leach to be avail-

SCORE SHEETS. Will match secretaries please note that the publicity secretary's copy should still be sent to Mr. Jaschke's address at 22, Sidcup Hill Gardens, Kent. Pending notification of his move, the new address shown on current score sheets is a little premature.

The copy for the selection committee's secretary should be sent to Mr. P. H. Northcott, 31, Hillcrest Road, Weymouth, Dorset, NOT to Mr. Amery.

able regularly, and there is no doubt about Johnny successfully negotiating the changeback to pimpled rubber.

Newcomers to the Premier Division, Glamorgan and Sussex will find it tough. Their respective stars Shirley Jones and Peter Shead should hold their own, but whether or not these two teams have the all-round strength to stand up to the stronger opposition is another question.

Lancashire will not be too complacent either, following last season's

close shave in the relegation stakes.

There may well be another photo finish at the top in Division II (North). Should Cheshire win, I understand it is possible they may not wish to challenge for promotion, but before that happens they have more than one rival to think about.

SHORT STAY

Relegated Kent are determined to make their stay in Division II (South) as short as possible, and with Joyce Fielder in the side they will be a hard team to beat. Herts, Berks and Hants may well have other ideas.

Devon are the form team in Division II (West), but here too it's by no means a foregone conclusion.

Durham are a welcome new addition to the Northern Junior Division.

* * *

Now a word about the rule changes arising from the N.C.C.'s A.G.M.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

October 19	Lancashire v Yorkshire, Hartford Youth Club, Oldham	7 p.m.
	Sussex v Glamorgan, Ivy Arch Road Drill Hall, Worthing	7 p.m.
	Gloucestershire v Surrey, The Public Baths, Gloucester	7 p.m.
November 2	Glamorgan v Essex, Hoover's Canteen, Merthyr Tydfil	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

October 19	Lincolnshire v Northumberland, All Saints' Hall, Heneage Road, Grimsby	7.15 p.m.
	Yorkshire v Warwickshire, Albion T.T.C., Bethel Walk, off Cambridge Street, Sheffield	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

October 12	Suffolk v Hertfordshire, Y.M.C.A., Lowestoft	7 p.m.
October 19	Buckinghamshire v Hampshire, Kings Hall, Chalfont St. Peter	7 p.m.
	Kent v Berkshire, Quadrant T.T.C., Ravensbourne Park, Catford, London, S.E.6	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

October 11	Dorset v Cornwall, Young Men's Club, Leyton Road, Parkstone, Dorset	7 p.m.
October 12	Wiltshire v Cornwall, The Drill Hall, Trowbridge	7 p.m.
October 19	Worcestershire v Dorset, Bengeworth Club, Evesham	7.30 p.m.
October 20	Staffordshire v Dorset, Woodfield S.S. Club, Penn Road, Wolverhampton	3.30 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

October 19	Derbyshire v Northamptonshire, Barron Hill Memorial Club, Chesterfield	7.15 p.m.
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SOUTHERN DIVISION

November 1	Cambridgeshire v Bedfordshire, Impinton Village College	7.30 p.m.
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MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

October 12	Warwickshire v Northamptonshire.	
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NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

October 19	Lancashire v Yorkshire, Hartford Youth Club, Oldham	2.30 p.m.
October 26	Yorkshire v Lancashire, St. Matthew's Schoolroom, West Town, Dewsbury	3.30 p.m.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

October 12	Kent v Middlesex.	
October 19	Surrey v Hertfordshire, Putney T.T. Club, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15	3 p.m.
	Essex v Sussex, St. Mary's T.T. Club, Rosebank Road, Leyton, London, E.17	3 p.m.
November 2	Surrey v Suffolk, Putney T.T. Club, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15	3 p.m.
	Hertfordshire v Middlesex, Club House of the Electrical Apparatus Co. Ltd., St. Albans, Herts.	
October 24	Champion County (Middlesex) v The Rest of England, Municipal Hall, Tottenham, London	7 p.m.

The new constitution, into the making of which Tom Blunn put such a lot of work, does away with one particularly unsatisfactory item, the election of officers by show of hand. Instead, there will be a postal ballot, an innovation long desired.

For the first time since the championships were inaugurated, there is a new chairman, Sidney Hoddy (Middx.) taking over from "Bill" Vint, who has now retired.

Ivor Eyles (Glous.), and Tom Blunn (Lancs.), were re-elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

With a new constitution, it is more necessary than ever that everyone study the N.C.C. handbook carefully. Copies can be obtained from Mr. Eyles at 3/- per dozen.

It was the expressed desire of the committee that fines should be levied in all breaches of rules. Mr. Eyles and his committee would like nothing better than to see this source of income dry up, but it is up to the participants in the championships!

This is the line-up for season 1957-8.

PREMIER DIVISION

Essex, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, Yorkshire.

DIVISION II (NORTH)

Cheshire, Durham, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Warwickshire, Yorkshire II.

DIVISION II (SOUTH)

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Suffolk.

DIVISION II (WEST)

Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Staffordshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire II, Warwickshire II.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire II, Kent II, Norfolk.

JUNIOR MIDLAND

Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire.

JUNIOR NORTH

Cheshire, Durham, Lancashire, Yorkshire.

JUNIOR SOUTH

Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex.

CHAMPION COUNTY

v. REST

The annual challenge match has been arranged for Thursday, October 24th, at the Municipal Hall, Tottenham.

The last time Middlesex were champions (two years ago) they defeated the Rest 7-3, but they will be hard pressed to repeat the feat against an all-international side of Brian Kennedy (Yorks), Johnny Leach (Essex), Bryan Merrett (Glouc.), Ann Haydon (Warwick) and Jill Rook (Surrey).

Tickets can be obtained from Mr. F. R. Smith, Borough Entertainment Manager, Town Hall, Tottenham, N.17. Early application is advised, as the number of tickets is limited.

Eighteen

WELSH CORNER

Same Players; Same Order

AS the curtain rises on another Welsh season, so we find the players ranged in much the same order as when we wrote "Finis" to Season 1956-57.

We start with the usual American Tournament, but instead of being at Cardiff the event will be held at the Port Talbot Y.M.C.A., a move intended to give West Walians a better share of these things, and at the same time help the Port Talbot enthusiasts to re-start their own league, which should never have been allowed to die.

It is doubtful if the Welsh selectors will find that the event produces much that is new, and the selection of the first Glamorgan County side will probably come from those who did service last season.

However, there are prospects of some changes. For instance, we do not know how effective John Simonson will be without his sponge bat. He has been practising hard throughout the summer, and we do most fervently hope that he will have mastered the strokes of the game to a greater extent than he ever needed to do with the sponge.

Donald Norris, of Ebbw Vale, looks like being more available now that his National Service is ending, and although his form was disappointing on the spasmodic appearances he made from the Air Force, he is sufficiently determined to fight his way back to the form which earned him a place in the Welsh Swaythling Cup team in Holland in 1955.

By now, too, most Welsh enthusiasts will know that Shirley Jones has gone

her to look for even greater success from her in International and Inter-County matches this season.

Vital Match

We shall need all the good play we can get from our players in the Premier Division of the County programme, which opens against Sussex at Worthing on October 19. This is a most important encounter for, to remain in the Premier Division, it is essential that we beat Sussex, who were promoted with us. They will be one of the weakest sides in the Division. We shall have all our work cut out to register other victories, and inasmuch as success will depend a great deal on our women, we look forward to improved displays from Shirley and more solid backing up from Audrey Bates and Betty Gray.

Our first home County match is against Essex—Johnny Leach's team—which is likely to be staged by the enthusiastic Merthyr league at Hoover's Canteen.

On the international scene only our match with Ireland has so far been arranged—Friday, January 17, the same evening as the early rounds of the Welsh Open Tournament, at the Dumfries Place Drill Hall, scene of earlier successful Welsh Opens. We are awaiting news from Scotland and England.

A Must

Naturally we shall look forward to having Welsh representation in the first European Championships, to be played at Budapest from March 2-9, 1958. Now that the World Championships are to be held biennially, the European Championships will be held in the intervening years, and there is no doubt they will eventually become as much of a "must" for all countries as have been the World Championships.

We end with congratulations to Shirley Jones for the first tournament successes of the season—three titles at the East of England Tournament at Skegness in early September. It sounds as if her trip to Russia for the Youth Festival Games, and her move to London are already paying dividends!



SHIRLEY JONES

to work in London. This is a big step to take, but Shirley's travelling in the past few years have made her worldly wise, and she is not lacking the bravery to try her luck in the Metropolis. Playing in London should produce that edge to her game that has been just lacking up to now. Although we shall lose the benefit of her presence in local play,

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ANTICIPATION By Elsie Carrington

It seems almost impossible to believe that the season is upon us once more. The summer is past, and somehow all those jobs we left for "when the season is over" are still not done.

Those who put their bats away and vowed not to touch them during the summer, now find themselves practising furiously as cards arrive, announcing County or League trials!

The tournament lists are being scanned; sometimes with nostalgic memories; sometimes with a sick feeling, as one remembers the match lost there; but mostly with anticipation. Anticipation of the visit to this town or that, the renewal of friendships made during the previous season, and the eternal question, "How are you playing?" And, of course, that secret feeling, that maybe *this* is the season when you *really* make a name for yourself.

* * *
One cheery face that will be missed from the tournaments this year, is that of Jean Latty, last season's Essex No. 4. Jean has signed on as a tele-

phonist on the Orient Line ships, and after six weeks hectic training when she learned to call windows, port-holes, and ceilings, bulkheads, she sailed on 24th August on the "Arcadia" for a three weeks Mediterranean Cruise.

Jean expects eventually to go on the "Australian run," but agrees that she is lucky to have a Mediterranean Cruise for her first trip. A postcard received from Venice says she is enjoying life immensely, has a lovely tan, but oh how she misses her "ping"!

Another face missing from at least the Kent tournaments will be that of John Taylor, the gentle giant from Maidstone. John has emigrated to Australia where he hopes to become a farmer.

TIPS FROM THE MEN

Here's a tip for those of you who like to have your badges on press studs to put on your shirts. Sew the top half of the stud to the badge; chalk the points of the studs well, then

press these on to the shirt. This will then mark the exact position on the shirt which to sew the bottom half of the stud. This tip, let me whisper, came from a man—Jack Randall, the ex-secretary of Hampshire.

Another good tip, this time from Len Adams, is for making stained white shoes really white. First damp the shoes, then rub in a little dry Tide or similar detergent, then while still wet, apply the whitener. This does give a really smooth white finish and I strongly recommend it to those of you who have used your white shoes on the tennis courts this summer.

SOCIAL SUCCESS

Interesting venture during London's August heatwave, was the visit of Barry Hodder's team of bright boys from Birmingham. Barry had arranged a small tour of four matches, all of which proved too strong for them in the playing sense, but most enjoyable, socially. He has asked me to publish his sincere thanks to the hosts of the Central League, the Willesden League, the L.C.C. Club and the Bank of England Club for making his players feel at home, and, incidentally, for flattering them by turning out such strong opposition.

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Durham Favourites

by P. CHAPLIN

The beginning of the table tennis season sees a new University Athletic Union team championship launched. Many familiar faces will reappear, but it is the new ones which make this competition so interesting. Each team is something of an unknown quantity.

Because of the great distances between many of the Universities a knockout tournament is impracticable and so a zone system is adopted to limit the travelling. There are four of these, one with two parts, and the winners of each become the semi-finalists of the competition proper. The South have Bristol, Exeter, Reading and Southampton, while in the Midlands, Birmingham, Leicester, Loughborough, North Staffs and Nottingham make a zone. The North is divided into two sections: Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester, and Durham, Hull and Sheffield, so that a quarter-final has to be played here. The remaining zone embraces all the Welsh colleges in the University of Wales.

What of the chances? Well, it must be admitted that last year's winners—Durham—had it pretty much their own way, and with an unchanged side they must start favourites. They met Leeds in the quarter-final last time but reports from Manchester indicate that they have a strong team and may well occupy that place this year. A good scrap in the Midlands looks likely and Leicester, who won there last year, may find a strengthened Birmingham to deal with. They receive the services of Applegarth, who was reserve for Durham last year. In the South the winners, Southampton, only beat Bristol 8-7 last year, so much depends here upon new players. If Daniels gets better support Southampton could be a very good side. The Welsh situation is difficult to assess but it seems probable that Cardiff will again be successful. Much depends upon whether Phillips, their Welsh international, is still available.

Summing up, I take Southampton and Cardiff to meet in one semi-final and Leicester and Durham in the other, the latter match being a repeat of last year's final. However, the best thing about this competition is that one never knows.



Members of the Birmingham Association of mixed clubs and girls' clubs receiving their National Table Tennis Tournament "achievement" trophy from Alderman V. C. Denton, of Coca Cola Southern Bottling Ltd. L. to r.: Doreen Foster, Beverley Packwood, Pat Keen, Alderman Denton and Barry Packwood.

Australian Championships

New Zealand Takes Two Titles

By CLEM M. GRUBER

A LARGE number of players from all states, plus a women's team from New Zealand, contested the Australian Championships in Adelaide from September 16 to 21, when all titles changed hands with the exception of the mixed doubles retained by Geoff Jennings and Miss R. Nichols. Arden Robinson regained the men's singles for Australia, but New Zealand took the women's singles with Miss Hoar.

Several top Australians were absentees, notably Lou Laza and Phil Anderson, both in England, and Barney Peters and Dorli Shipp, the women's title holder, who were in Israel. Another non-starter was the ex-Hungarian Suzy Javor, who is expecting her first baby within a few weeks.

EX-CHAMPIONS

Four former champions were entered for the men's singles, Jennings (S. Australia), Robinson (Queensland), Bill Hodge (N.S.W.) and Vic Matison (Victoria).

The first round of the men's singles went by without upsets, though Robinson was taken to five games by Ted Sokolowski, a former Victorian junior champion.

However, surprises were soon to come. In the third round Bill Bates, the fifth seed, tumbled to Hungarian Moraczy, and Matison, eighth seed,

went down to the Queensland junior Weber.

Moraczy met his fate at the hands of Hodge in the next round where Weber also fell to Jennings.

In the semi-finals Robinson beat Cessavetis (N.S.W.) 11, 17, 20, while Jennings accounted for Hodge—15, 17, 27, 15. Thus the finalists of 1955 came together again, only this time the result was reversed.

Robinson proved the stronger player in a battle that swung like a pendulum and eventually emerged the winner at—8, 15, —13, 18, 15.

Jennings had his revenge in the final of the men's doubles when he partnered Mehaffy to beat Robinson and Shaw—17, 16, —14, 20, 8. The champions had also been taken to five games in the semi-final by Moraczy and Sanders.

The women's singles stood under the sign of New Zealand and N.S.W. players. Victoria, weakened through the absence of Norma Buckland (in England) and Mrs. Javor, could not make any impression.

In the semi-finals the New Zealand champion Miss Hoar beat her fellow countrywoman Miss Packwood 11, 15, 11, and the N.S.W. girl Miss Mulconry overcame New Zealander Miss Magorian—22, 12, 16, 16. The final was dominated by Miss Hoar who won 21, 8, —18, 16.

SECOND TITLE

Miss Hoar and Miss Packwood gave New Zealand another title when they won the women's doubles beating Jennings and Snakis (S. Australia) 15, —14, 15, 14.

N.S.W. provided both finalists for the boys' singles, M. Wilcox beating C. McDonald 17, —10, 20, while Queensland clinched the girls' title with L. Murphy, who beat Miss Langrehr, of S. Australia, 15, 17.

N.S.W. won both the men's and women's team titles.

One indication of the championship potential has now shifted from Victoria, to become more evenly distributed.

DON'T FORGET

BOURNEMOUTH OPEN (restricted)

Sunday, November 24th, 1957, at Drill Hall, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth. Entries close Nov. 11th. Write to Mr. C. B. Cashell, 16, Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth.

THE NATIONAL CUPS

Entries for the National team competitions show a slight decline this season with 88 for the men's Wilmot Cup and 64 for the women's J. M. Rose Bowl. London Civil Service and Birmingham, the respective holders, are defending.

WILMOT CUP

First Round Draw

(to be played by 27th October, 1957)

ZONE 1 (A)

Huddersfield, bye.
Northumberland v Leeds.
Sunderland v Castleford.
Dewsbury v Halifax.

ZONE 1 (B)

Grantham, bye.
Grimsby v Gainsborough.
Chesterfield v Sheffield.
Lincoln, bye.

ZONE 2

Bolton, bye.
Manchester, bye.
Ellesmere Port, bye.
Nelson v Burnley.
Southport v Chester.
Liverpool, bye.
Stockport, bye.
Mid-Cheshire, bye.

ZONE 3 (A)

Leicester, bye.
Birmingham v Wolverhampton.
Stoke v Northampton.
Shrewsbury, bye.

ZONE 3 (B)

Kings Lynn, bye.
Cambridge University v Norwich.
Cambridge, bye.
Wisbech, bye.

ZONE 4

Watford v Luton.
St. Albans v Mid-Beds.
Leighton Buzzard v Barnets.
Letchworth, bye.

ZONE 5

Barnes, bye.
Ilford v London Business Houses.
Wembley v Crawley.
Leatherhead v Nalco.
London Banks v S.W. Middlesex.
East London v Insurance Offices.

Wandsworth v Travel Trade.
South London, bye.

ZONE 6

North Middlesex, bye.
Woolwich v London Civil Service.
Thames Valley v Beckenham.
Dagenham v Sutton.
Willesden v Croydon.
Basildon v Romford.
Southend v London University.
Bromley, bye.

ZONE 7

Worthing, bye.
Bournemouth v Bognor.
Southampton, bye.
Portsmouth, bye.

ZONE 8 (A)

Slough v Aylesbury.
Aldershot v Maidenhead.
Staines v Oxford.
Reading, bye.

ZONE 8 (B)

Bristol, bye.
Salisbury, bye.
Exeter, bye.
Stroud v Cheltenham.
Plymouth, bye.
Devizes, bye.
Bath, bye.
Weymouth, bye.

Letchworth, bye.
St. Albans, bye.

ZONE 5

Woolwich v Willesden.
Beckenham v Leatherhead.
Croydon, bye.
Ilford, bye.
N.W. Kent, bye.
Thames Valley, bye.
Wembley, bye.
Sutton, bye.

ZONE 6

Romford v London Business Houses.
Bromley v Insurance Offices.
North Middlesex v Southend.
South London, bye.
London Banks, bye.
Dagenham, bye.
East London, bye.
London Civil Service, bye.

ZONE 7

Brighton v Maidstone.
Crawley v Portsmouth.
Worthing, bye.
Southampton, bye.

ZONE 8 (A)

Staines v Slough.
Maidenhead v Aldershot.
Reading, bye.
Oxford, bye.

ZONE 8 (B)

Bath v Exeter.
South Devon v Sallsbury.
Cheltenham, bye.
Bristol, bye.

ROSE BOWL

First Round Draw

(To be played by 27th October, 1957)

ZONE 1 (A)

Northumberland v Sunderland.
Leeds v Dewsbury.

ZONE 1 (B)

Sheffield v Grimsby.
Huddersfield, bye.

ZONE 2

Manchester v Burnley.
Stockport v Liverpool.

ZONE 3 (A)

Birmingham v Northampton.
Leicester, bye.

ZONE 3 (B)

Wisbech v Cambridge.
Kings Lynn v Norwich.

ZONE 4

Luton v Barnets.
Watford v Leighton Buzzard.

HARD LUCK

Phil Anderson, the Australian international, looks like being out of the game for the greater part of the season. He is recovering from a fractured knee.

The accident happened at Blackpool during a television show. Playing against George Livesey, the "News of the World" Boy of the year, he fell when going for a wide ball.

PRESS OFFICER

There is no more publicity conscious man in Table Tennis than Conrad Jaschke, of N.W. Kent. It is fitting, therefore, that when the E.T.T.A. decided to appoint a Press Officer he should get the job.



Jaschke has acted in a similar capacity for both Kent and the National County Championships and both have had ample proof of his ability.

Born in Vienna 33 years ago, Jaschke, now naturalised, has been here

since before the war. He has played the game since he was 10, had a season with the Willesden League, then moved to Kent.

Outspoken, and admittedly ambitious, Jaschke has climbed rapidly on the administrative side since his first appointment with N.W. Kent Association in 1953.

Jaschke gives as his hobbies: table tennis, cricket, music, and reading. His pet aversion: T.T. administrators with ping-pong mentalities.

Letters to the Editor

"CHEERIO"

I would like to say "cheerio" for the time being to all my friends (and enemies) as I am leaving for employment in South Africa this month (October).

During the last five years I have been umpiring, playing or watching in my free time and have got to know by sight several hundred people.

I cannot write to them all, but I would like to say that I have very much enjoyed being connected with the game here in one or another during that time.

I hope to keep in touch with the game in England through the magazine while I am away, so if anything controversial crops up you can rely on getting some comment from me.

Jim Blackman,
(Abbey Wood)

THANKS

During my long illness, which kept me out of the game from February until long past the end of last season, I received many letters from well wishers in my leagues, from Mrs. Pegg and many other E.T.T.A. officials.

I am glad to say that I will be playing again next season, having now fully recovered, and wish to thank all who wrote or expressed concern through other members.

A. Nicholls,
(Met. Police and Ravensbourne).

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Area News :

YORKSHIRE'S BOLD SCHEME

YORKSHIRE officials have not been idle in the closed season. Once again they are trying something new. In Britain's broadest county they have decided to play all four home Premier Division matches at one venue—the Mechanics' Institute, Bradford.

This bold scheme deserves success. The hall has been renovated this year and offers ideal playing conditions and tiered seating. Transferable season tickets are on sale for cinema-type seats.

And I also applaud the decision to chop out all intervals, which persistently crawl from the allotted ten minutes to near half an hour. Play at each match starts at 7 p.m. and should finish well in time for spectators to catch trains and buses home.

Slow Response

It is as well that the Bradford officials applied for the Premier Division fixtures—a tempting array, incidentally, comprising Gloucester (October 5), Glamorgan (November 16), Middlesex (February 1), and Surrey (March 22). For the second season running, other leagues have not been falling flat on their faces in the rush to secure a county match.

Hull made successful application for a junior match (v. Durham, January 18), but other leagues had to be approached by county officials before the remaining Second Division and junior matches could be fixed.

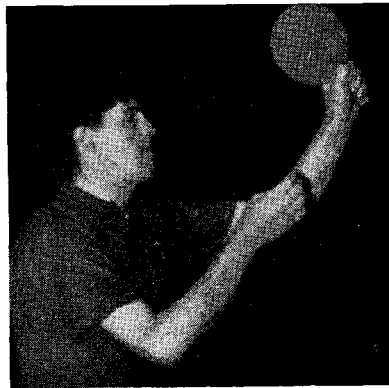
The sponge ban has placed a question mark against third place in the Premier Division side.

It has been considered that Ray Dove

and Maurice Simpson, who filled the place last season, came to the top by courtesy of sponge. So two rubber loyalists who have past Premier Division notches on their bats have been hopeful of joining Kennedy and Hinchliff. They are Stuart Dyson, leader of the Second Division team, and Maurice Pitts, six times Bradford champion.

So to the county trials at Leeds . . . and Maurice Simpson beats all opposition with his rubber bat. He conquers Dyson in three and Pitts 21-19 in the third.

Flu put Brian Kennedy, Ronnie



BRIAN KENNEDY

Ridge (Sheffield) and Jean Preston out of the trials, while Barnsley's Doug

HERTS. GOOD START

HERTFORDSHIRE have made a good start to the season with the junior inter-league tournament and the return of teams from Cheshunt and Letchworth who enter two sides.

This speaks well for the hard work put in by the Letchworth officials in getting local schools to support the league and producing several promising youngsters.

Unfortunately the entry for the Senior Division is down, due to the absence of Hertford. It is sad to lose Hertford from the tournament but it is hoped that this omission will be put right next season.

The new Stevenage and District league is welcomed to the Association. They came into being when the Stevenage Inter-Works league agreed to let the clubs go, and with the other clubs of the town, form an open league. It is understood they will have at least two senior and six junior teams competing.

Two new members of the Executive committee have been appointed during

the close season. Mr. A. D. J. Ratcliffe who takes over the post of Junior Secretary, and Mr. A. Seaholme who guides the Inter-Club tournament. Denis Ingre returns as an Executive Committee member.

Talk of a new North Herts League has died out and again the Letchworth and Hitchin leagues will function as before.

It is sad news to know that one of North Herts personalities, Herbie Palmer has had to retire from playing on doctor's orders. I know that Herbie dearly wanted to complete 25 years as a player, but he is not downhearted and continues in the chair of the Letchworth league where he has played and done so much for the game.

It is too early in the season to know if we have lost any players with the going of sponge, but I understand the Welwyn league do not feel kindly towards this ruling, and this may upset them in inter-league matches.

Dennis H. Williams.

McGarry has started National Service.

There will be newcomers in the county junior team this year, closed champion David Poole (York) and John Moorhouse, Scarborough's regular, both being over age. So is Lilia Hamilton (Barnsley)—but there are Hull's Betty Kinsley and Kath Whinham to bid for her place. Graham Lynch (Sheffield) will be the head boy.

A New Cup

Leeds League have a couple of interesting innovations this season:

1. Since clubs in low divisions have no true chance of winning the Jaques Shield knock-out competition, a new cup has been presented for competition between clubs of Division Four downwards. The lowly lads may still enter for the Jaques Shield.

2. The closed championships have been brought forward from the end of the season to December. Officials reason that by April interest has diminished and summer sports are claiming attention.

Leeds will have 112 teams in the league this season—one more than last year. The Bradford League, which has grown steadily from 28 teams in 1945, climbs to new heights with 134 teams in a ladies' and nine mixed divisions. That's 20 teams up on last year.

WESTERN COUNTIES RE-ORGANISE

TO cater for the youngsters who are unable to get into their town's first team, the Western Counties have decided this season, to completely re-organise their League.

Instead of two divisions, between them working on the promotion and relegation system, they will now be independent with the Second Division comprising solely of players under 21 years old.

It is hoped that this new scheme will stand these youngsters, who are too old for Youth teams and without sufficient experience for their Town Team, in good stead for the future.

The new line-up will be: First Division: Birmingham, Bristol, Bristol Seconds, Bath, Cardiff, Newport and Weston. Second Division: Bristol, Bath, Weston and Newport.

It has also been decided to play both first and second division matches on the same night in order to save expense.

This season teams will comprise of three men and two women playing three Men's singles, two Women's singles, Men's and Women's doubles and a mixed doubles.

What effect the banning of sponge and sandwich bats will have this season is anybody's guess. One thing however, is certain. The players in this area who used these bats in the past have certainly lost no time in practising constantly with the pimped rubber surface in readiness for the start this month. How they will fare against those who remained faithful to the orthodox surface will be interesting to watch.

Grove Motlow.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CHANGES

SEASON 1957-8 finds many changes in Gloucestershire administration, brought about by pressure of national work by Ivor Eyles, coupled with a desire of the committee to make progress.

This is the last column I shall write, Dennis Andrews, having been appointed publicity secretary, while Ron Bacon has taken over secretaryship of the County Umpires, and has set a target of 100 new members.

Stan Brookes has been forced to resign, due to other commitments, and two newcomers, Reg Salway and Ron Milsted, chairman and vice-chairman of the Bristol Association, make their debut on the County committee.

In the Premier Division Gloucestershire have home matches with Surrey at Gloucester on October 19, Sussex at Stonehouses on November 16, and Lancashire at Bristol on December 7.

In addition there are away fixtures with Yorkshire, Glamorgan, Essex, and Middlesex.

The County League, primarily for juniors, consists of Bristol, Cheltenham, Cirencester, and Stroud. Gloucester, due to Midland League commitments, have withdrawn. The four leagues play each other home and away.

NEW JUNIOR OPEN

Gloucestershire break new ground this season in staging a Junior (unrestricted) Open—on February 1 at Gloucester Baths. Full details will be advertised later.

The West of England "Open" has been arranged for March 14-15 at Bristol South Bath, the tournament secretary being D. Rowe, of the Bristol Association.

A loss to the county this season has been the closing down of Dursley League. Fortunately other leagues show a steady rise, particularly Bristol who, I understand, now has 17 divisions, plus one for ladies. Judging by the many requests from girls to play in men's competitions it looks as though they will not need a separate division in the near future.

The Bristol appeal on behalf of Maurice Darbey, victim of a bomb outrage, in which he lost his sight, has met with wonderful response. Maurice received a cheque for £1,000 at the Bristol Association's annual dance last May.

Roy Milsted, the organiser, certainly deserves a pat on the back for a splendid effort.

Ivor Eyles.

CLUB BADGES

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SPONGE BAN COSTS ESSEX A LEAGUE

The first league to leave the County Association because of the sponge ban is the West Ham Youth League. Ron Negus, the League secretary, gave the following three reasons for ending their affiliation.

1. *The boys enjoy their game more playing with sponge and sandwich.*
2. *They have watched the stars play with these bats on television, and have noted the successes of the Japanese team.*
3. *Many have recently spent 15/- on*



SHELAGH HESSION

purchasing these bats and cannot afford to buy any more. It is a pity that the advantages of

affiliation were not fully explained to the club managers before the ballot.

Another league lost to the County Association is Ilford Youth. They have amalgamated with the Ilford League.

The Clacton League, which has about 14 clubs and 30 teams, have entered the Essex League's championships for the first time.

With many leading players forced to revert to pimped rubber, Essex have decided to stage very extensive trials and have invited 13 men and nine women to take part.

Jim Nichols and Shelagh Hession are still available for the county junior team which should again be prominent.

CHASING RECORD

Shelagh, who is in her fourth season as a county junior player, needs only three more appearances in the National County Championships to equal the junior record of 19, at present held by Sheila Pickard.

Many Essex players went to Skegness for the East of England Championships and the most successful was Bobby Raybould, who won the men's doubles with Derek Burridge and the mixed doubles with Shirley Jones.

Chelmsford, with three out of the ten boys invited to the Junior Trials, is fast becoming the centre of the junior game. Chelmsford Y.M.C.A. are also staging a preliminary round of the "Eagle" competition.

Among the greatest obstacles to efficient administration are those people who fail to reply to letters promptly. It is nearly always the same secretaries, players and umpires who are to blame. The Executive Committee are determined to stamp this out. Other counties please note.

Frank Bateman.

STAFFS. NEW TOURNAMENT

DETERMINED that no promising player in the County will be overlooked, the Staffs T.T.A. open the season with a Restricted Tournament at the Woodfield Club, Wolverhampton, on Sunday, October 13.

It will be open to anyone who has not represented the County or who has not won a County Championship event during the past three years. This restriction does not apply to Juniors, and under the expert eye of County Captain, Jimmy Hayward, it is hoped to unearth possible future County Players.

The absence of sponge this season is unlikely to upset the leading players, quite the reverse in fact as they have always been rubber stalwarts. Even Derek Backhouse, who had a short and successful session with sponge in 1955/6 reverted to rubber last season. Judging from some of the comments last season the ban couldn't come soon enough.

It is good to see that interest throughout the county shows little sign of waning with 15 leagues already affiliated and the North Staffordshire Industries League coming in this season.

A full programme of activities has been planned. Apart from the County Championships there are the Staffs County League, Staffs club championships and the Staffs closed championships.

In addition a women's league is being introduced into the Staffs County League.

The county fixtures involve Staffordshire in long trips to the West Country where Devon and Cornwall have to be visited. To try and lessen the inconvenience it is hoped to arrange the two fixtures over the Easter week-end.

The Midland League will once more be contested by Wolverhampton and West Bromwich, and this season Wa'sall, under the able guidance of Don Pritchard, will also enter the fray.

In conclusion congratulations to County Chairman Malcolm Scott on his election to the National Selection Committee of the E.T.T.A. and on his being the first Staffordshire representative to hold such a position.

A. Backhouse.

CLOSE BALLOT FOR KENT SEATS

A keener interest in the administrative affairs of Kent table tennis was evident at the County A.G.M., which turned out to be one of the most controversial on record. County officers, who had looked upon re-election as almost automatic in the past, found they had to fight hard for the seats, with ties and recounts in the voting.

Only the new chairman, Stanley Pike, of Woolwich, succeeding Fred Trew, who did not seek re-election, and Press Officer Conrad Jaschke (N.W. Kent) got in with safe margins.

Obviously the new officers have got to keep on their toes.

A new organisation within the framework of the County body, is the **Kentish Men's T.T. Federation**, formed in July by leagues "West of, or on the River Medway." Eight Leagues are concerned, Beckenham, Bromley, Gravesend, Lewisham Business Houses, Medway Towns, North-West Kent, Tunbridge Wells and Woolwich.

A minor league for players below Kent League Standard, and a closed championship are on the programme for this season.

Bromley provide three new county officers, treasurer Brian Hartley, assistant secretary Don Mitchell, and match secretary Ron Etheridge.

Canterbury are restricting their annual invitation tournament to players from East of the Medway. Deal are to stage the Kent v. Germany match.

Recently married Len Plant, of **Folkestone**, No. 1 in Kent's second team last season, is no longer available.

N.W. Kent Club have handed over nearly £100 to their parent body, the N.W. Kent Association, who suffered financially last season owing to their first loss in four years on the N.W. Kent "Open."



RON ETHERIDGE

Medway Towns star Mrs. Joan Beadle, Kent's "best player without an international badge," is back in harness, following a lengthy lay-off due to illness and injury.

Financial troubles, too, at **Tonbridge**. They have withdrawn their teams from the Kent League. The loss is made good by the return of **Ashford**.

Woolwich bring the Kent Junior

"closed" championships to London area for the first time. They are confident they will save the county money, for the Herne Bay setting of the past invariably resulted in a loss.

Kent League secretary Dennis Webb announces a record entry of 45 teams, two up on last year.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

The Cambridge Summer League, run in two divisions this year, has proved as popular as ever. New Chesterton Institute, after winning "A" Division went on to take the Inter-Divisional title, beating Fire Brigade in the "play-off."

Sixty-two teams have registered for this season's Cambridge League activities—an increase of two over last year—Abingdon joining with two teams.

There will be six divisions with ten teams in each of the first four, and 11 in each of the remaining two.

Mr. A. J. B. Spilman is the new Cambs. League secretary.

Newmarket hold an Invitation Tournament on November 23 at the Turner Hall, Newmarket. Cambs. Closed Championships have been arranged for March 18 to 21 at the Corn Exchange.

Leslie Constable.

DURHAM ENTER JUNIOR SIDE

Durham extend their county activities this season with a junior side in addition to the senior. This should be a big incentive to the younger players and those in the running for places include Eddie Taylor, last year's county junior champion, Wilf Barker, Leslie Hewitt, Neil Wright, all of Sunderland, and the West Hartlepoons boys, A. Hatfield and B. Douglas.

The rapidly improving Alma Johnson, of Sunderland, reigning girls champion, and Margaret Dollin, of Hartlepoons, are chief rivals for the girls places.

Miss Dollin is undergoing the change from sponge to rubber, as is Olive Holland, who was runner-up for the women's singles title. Competition has been keen for places in the senior team.

Mr. B. Long, founder of the Stanley and District League, is the new Durham President, taking over from Mr. J. Sproul.

Entries for the North Eastern Divisional Y.M.C.A.'s championships at Sunderland should be sent on blank paper to Mr. S. Jenkins, Sunderland Y.M.C.A., Toward Road, Sunderland.

Arnold Warentz.

WILTS. NEW LOOK

Wiltshire League have a 'new look' this season with a Premier Division for men's teams of three players, a Second Division for teams of three men and two women players (replacing the former Women's Section) and a Junior Division.

Wilts have lost two of their leading players Jack and Margaret (Doonham) Lindsey having moved to Bath following their marriage.

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FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are additional to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., and X.D., in every case. 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>
Oct. 10-12	North of England Open Drill Hall, Norman Road, Rusholme, Manchester, 14.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mr. L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Burnage, Manchester, 19.
20	Portsmouth Open (R) South Parade Pier, Southsea, Hants.	J.X.S.	Miss J. Anstee, 1, St. Michael's Road, Portsmouth.
24	Champion County v Rest Municipal Hall, Tottenham, N.15.		
26-27	Sussex Open White Rock Pavilion, Hastings.		Mr. G. A. J. Peddlesden, 26, Quarry Road, Hastings.
Nov. 1-3	Austrian Open		
2	Hull Open (Oct. 24) Madeley Street Baths, Hessle Road, Hull.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mrs. R. Abrahamson, 35, Trafford Road, Kingston Road, Willerby, E. Yorks.
8-9	Merseyside Open (Oct. 26) Dunlop's Canteen, Speke, Liverpool, 19.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Miss M. Lindner, 4, Hilltop Road, Liverpool, 16.
9-10	Kent Junior Open (Oct. 19) Granville Ballroom, Ramsgate.	Under 13 Under 15	Mr. F. G. Manooch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.
9-10	Bucks Open (Oct. 21) Slough Community Centre, Slough, Bucks.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mr. L. Thompson, "Auchmead," The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraysbury, Bucks.
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, Barnehurst, Kent.	J.S.G.	

EAST OF ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE EAST OF ENGLAND Championships at Skegness last month were due to take on a special significance. Apart from their usual rôle of providing the guide to early season form, they were expected to give some hint of the effect of the sponge ban on leading players.

This, however, failed to materialise for most of the stars were absent, including both singles holders, Brian Kennedy, of Yorkshire, and Scotland's Helen Elliot.

Kennedy did not consider himself sufficiently used to the change of bat surface, while Helen, with any covering still allowed in her native country, has decided to stick to "sandwich."

Possibly it was due to the ban, but the over-all entry was down this year. Nevertheless, the meeting proved a big success, and provided young Ian Harrison, of Cheltenham, with his first senior "open" title.

It was most encouraging to see Harrison come through in this manner and confirms the selectors' faith in him when chosen for the Swaythling Cup last season.

He played impeccably throughout the meeting. His intelligent and aggressive display was most marked when he beat Derek Burridge, the Middlesex international, 21-17, 22-20 in the semi-final, and Derek Schofield, of Stockport, in the final 22-20, 17-21, 21-13.

Harrison also had a good run in the doubles with Keith Edwards, his partner when they won the English junior titles two seasons ago. They reached the final before going down to Burridge and Bobby Raybould, 15-21, 18-21.



Hello, here's Victor Barna in an unfamiliar rôle as makeshift wicket-keeper behind glamorous "batsman" Anna Neagle, the film star. Occasion was the inauguration of the Christchurch Boys' Club, in N.W. London, when Victor was amongst the celebrities who helped liven things up for the boys and their parents. Apart from the impromptu game of cricket, Victor helped "break in" a new table tennis table and gave the boys and Miss Neagle on-the-spot tuition.

The experts were most impressed with Harrison's form and expressed the opinion that at last we have found a young hope for the future.

Shirley Jones, of Wales, came away with a triple title. In the singles her powerful attack proved too much for Yvonne Baker, whom she defeated 21-18, 21-13. These two then paired up to win the women's doubles beating Mrs. C. Moran and Mrs. P. Lamin.

In the mixed doubles, Miss Jones, partnered by Raybould, had a much more testing time. They were taken the full distance in both semi-final and final before beating Harrison and Miss R. Welch 19-21, 21-12, 21-10, then Burridge and Mrs. Moran 21-17, 20-22, 21-18.

In the Junior events both winners, B. Hamil, of Feltham, Middlesex, and Jacqueline Butcher, of London, met tough opposition in the opening game of their final matches but afterwards easily gained command.

Hamil was taken to 22-20 in the first game of his match with A. G. Cornish (Port Talbot) but finished off with a 21-10 game, while Miss Butcher lost the first set against Miss S. Hession before winning 16-21, 21-14, 21-9.

RESULTS:

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: D. SCHOFIELD (Stockport) bt L. Landry (London) 21-14, 21-12; I. HARRISON (Cheltenham) bt D. Burridge (London) 21-17, 22-20.

Final: HARRISON bt Schofield 22-20, 17-21, 21-13.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Y. BAKER (London) bt I. Haney (Burnley) 21-19, 21-15; S. JONES (Glamorgan) bt J. White (Harrow) 21-15, 21-12.

Final: JONES bt Baker 21-18, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: HARRISON/K. EDWARDS bt Schofield/E. T. Johnson 9-21, 21-16, 21-15; BURRIDGE/RAYBOULD bt A. Condon/D. Wiggins 21-18, 21-17.

Final: BURRIDGE/RAYBOULD bt Harrison/Edwards 21-15, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: Mrs. P. LAMIN/Mrs. C. MORAN bt Mrs. B. Cassell/M. Bradburn 21-10, 21-10; JONES/BAKER bt M. Young/D. Ridgeway 21-8, 21-12.

Final: JONES/BAKER bt Lamin/Moran 21-10, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: BURRIDGE/Mrs. MORAN bt R. Dorking/Miss Baker 21-12, 16-21, 24-22; RAYBOULD/Miss JONES bt Harrison/Miss R. Welch 19-21, 21-12, 21-10.

Final: RAYBOULD/Miss JONES bt Burridge/Mrs. Moran 21-17, 20-22, 21-18.

Boys' Singles: Final: B. HAMIL bt A. G. Cornish 22-20, 21-10.

Girls' Singles: Final: J. BUTCHER bt S. Hession 16-21, 21-14, 21-9.

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