

TABLE TENNIS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



VICTOR BARNA and ALEC BROOK
board their plane for Nigeria.

Are You Fit to Play?

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. 17

February, 1959

No. 5

TAKE YOUR PICK

THE England selectors are under fire. In fact, one cannot remember a recent season when it has not been so. As a former Chairman of England selectors used to say: "**Shooting the selector is a traditional English sport.**" And, of course, it is a healthy sign when people show an interest in selection, and interest often takes the form of criticism.

The selectors' task is easiest when there are some outstanding players about. Some years ago it was always safe to select Bergmann-Leach-Simons. Is it perhaps possible that the "safe" course was taken too often, to the detriment of the younger potential topline?

One thing is certain. No such safe methods are available to the present selectors when they come to consider our Swaythling Cup team. There is no better way of illustrating this than to quote this season's "open" tournament men's singles winners (up to January 30, i.e. excluding the Kent "Open").

One man, Ray Hinchliff, has won three titles. all of them from fields below average strength: the Yorkshire, Hull and East Riding, and the Pontefract "Open." Another Yorkshireman, Brian Kennedy, won the North of England, and the Merseyside. Also, at the end of January, he beat Michael Thornhill in the final of the Islam "Open" Championships in Karachi.

AUTOMATIC CHOICE

Only Ian Harrison has won two full strength tournaments, the North West Kent, and the Metropolitan. He looks an automatic selection.

Then we have the amazing picture of 12 different men winning the remaining 12 "opens"—Derek Burridge (East of England), Harry Venner (Sussex), Bobby Stevens (Portsmouth), Len Adams (Essex), Alan Lindsay (South of England), Terry Densham (Birmingham), Bryan Merrett (Cardiff), Peter Skerratt (Peterborough), Josef Somogyi

(Cheshire), Bobby Raybould (Middlesex), Ken Craigie (Welsh), and Jeff Ingber (Lancashire).

Nothing like it has ever been known, and to add to the confusion, it was not one of these, but Johnny Leach and Michael Thornhill, who came out tops in the Top Ten Tournament early this season.

Bitter resentment has been expressed at the absence of Leach and Thornhill, ranked Nos. 1 and 2, from tournaments, by those players wishing to have a crack at them.

OVERSEAS DUTIES

By January 30, 1959, Johnny Leach's only U.K. tournament appearance had been the Welsh "Open," while Thornhill was due to make his first appearance in the Kent "Open" on January 31.

The selectors' task would be much easier had they seen Leach and Thornhill in action against the other players more often, but both have had heavy overseas tours.

One solution may lie in the direction of "nominated tournaments." What if the selectors were to pick a number of traditionally strong tournaments, spread over all parts of the country, and base selection on these?

Turning to the girls, the selectors' task looks much easier. In fact, there appears to be a multitude of talent available.

Ann Haydon did not enter the fray until late, due to tennis commitments, then lost to Pam Mortimer in her first tournament. Since then she has beaten Di Rowe twice (Champions v The Rest match; N.W. Kent final) and Kathie Best after a three-setter lasting 55 minutes. Her most impressive performance, however, was her convincing win over Agnes Simon, reigning English "Open," Austrian "Open" and Scandinavian "Open" champion, in the international with Holland. Mrs. Simon has beaten both Miss Best and Miss Rowe abroad this season.

Pam Mortimer has the best home record next to Ann. Although losing to Jean McCree in her first tournament, she went on to win the South of England, Birmingham, and Welsh "Open" titles, and her scores against ranked players read: 1-0 v Haydon, 1-0 v Best, 1-2 v Rowe, and 1-0 v Jill Rook.

GOOD RECORD

Kathleen Best was unbeaten in the "Top Ten Tournament," but has yet to win an "open" tournament. Her record is good nevertheless: 0-1 v Haydon, 0-1 v Mortimer, 1-0 v Rowe, 2-0 v Joyce Fielder.

Diane Rowe's record, spoiled only by an adverse 1-2 balance against Jean Harrower, reads: 0-2 v Haydon, 2-1 v Mortimer, 0-1 v Best, 2-1 v Fielder, 2-0 v Rook. She won the Metropolitan "Open."

The record of Joyce Fielder, winner of the Sussex "Open" and Essex "Open" titles, is: 0-2 v Best, 1-2 v Rowe, 2-0 v Rook, 2-2 v Harrower, and 0-1 v Betty Bird.

Some newspapers have already picked the Corbillon Cup team. Of course, we welcome the interest shown by the press, and from the above record it is clear that ON FORM it is not difficult to pick the top four.

However, let us make it clear that the Corbillon

and Swaythling Cup teams have not yet been selected, and furthermore, that it is not absolutely certain that five men and four women will be chosen.

The financial position of the E.T.T.A. is precarious; the world championships organisers take responsibility for only seven players altogether (and do not pay any fares). In deciding on the number of players to be sent, the Selection Committee must keep in mind a proper balance of the interests of the whole Association.

It will be noted that in order to save expense, there is only one non-playing captain for the two teams, and to make this saving possible Ivor Eyles, one of our two delegates to the International Congress, has agreed to act as "baggage boy" to ease the burden on the captain.

THANK YOU, JACK

Jack Kurzman, a former Referee of the English "Open," used to be known as one of the most outspoken critics of the magazine TABLE TENNIS. Jack is not officially connected with the game these days, but he could not stay away from the recent Metropolitan finals. And he gave this unsolicited testimonial: "I think the January issue of TABLE TENNIS was the finest I have read for years."

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Official News:

Change of Address: On Monday, January 26, 1959, the offices of the Association were moved to another part of Grand Buildings. The new address of the E.T.T.A. is **652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.** The telephone number is unchanged.

Team Selections: The following players represented England in the junior international match against Wales, at Ultra Sports and Social Club, London, on January 23, 1959: CHRIS GOSLING (Mddx.), DEREK GRANT (Hants.), PAUL RACEY (Beds.), and JEAN HARROWER (Mddx.)

English "Open": The Draw for the English "Open" Championships will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 1959, at Shell Mex House, Strand, London, W.C.2, commencing at 4 p.m. The complete Draw will be made available to invited members of the Press at Shell Mex House that same evening.

Entry forms are now available, and application for these should be made to the offices of the Association. **Entries close on Monday, March 9, 1959.**

Players entering the championships are eligible for free tickets for both finals sessions, or alternatively can obtain some of the more expensive tickets at a reduced fee.

Please write for entry forms to E.T.T.A., 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2, or telephone TRA 2165.

Members wishing to book a block of seats (minimum 12) at greatly reduced rates should write to the E.T.T.A. immediately.

National Umpires Examinations: The National Umpires Committee have made the following arrangements for examinations:

At Wolverhampton (provisional) on February 15, 1959.

In London, on April 11, 1959.

In Manchester, on April 26, 1959.

County Umpires accepted for the National Umpires Examinations are being notified.

Wilmott Cup Competition: The Acton and District T.T.L. are staging

MINE OWN ADMINISTRATOR

No reader was successful in providing the correct moral to Len Adam's article "Mine Own Administrator" which appeared in the November issue. The moral was: **No man is indispensable.**

the semi-finals and final of this event on Saturday, February 28, 1959, at Messrs. Sperry's Sports and Social Club, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

Further details can be obtained from Mr. R. W. Boorer, 50, Southdown Avenue, Hanwell, London, W.7.

Draw for Quarter-Finals (to be completed by February 15):

MANCHESTER OF BURNLEY v CHESTERFIELD; LEICESTER v GLOUCESTER; PORTSMOUTH v LUTON; LONDON CIVIL SERVICE v EAST LONDON.

J. M. Rose Bowl Competition: The semi-finals and final of this event are being staged on Saturday, February 28, 1959, at Messrs. Ultra's Sports and Social Club, Western Avenue, London, W.3.

Further details from Miss Margaret Fry, 3, Montpelier Road, Ealing, London, W.5.

Draw for Quarter-Finals (to be completed by February 15):

MANCHESTER OF BLACKPOOL v GRIMSBY OR LEEDS; PLYMOUTH v BIRMINGHAM; NORTH WEST KENT v WATFORD; SOUTH LONDON v BRIGHTON.

Election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for Season 1959/60: The Annual General Meeting of the Association has been fixed for Saturday, April 25, 1959, at Manchester.

Dates for the Annual Election of Officers and Members of the National

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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

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

Deputy Chairman: I. C. Eyles.

Honorary Treasurer: T. Blunn.

Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

Office of the Association: 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Telephone: TRAFalgar 2165).

Executive Committee have been agreed as follows:

Nomination Papers to be dispatched on or before February 12, 1959.

Nomination Papers to be received back on or before February 26, 1959.

Voting Papers to be dispatched on or before March 12, 1959.

Voting Papers to be received back on or before March 26, 1959.

Nomination Papers and Ballot Papers will be sent to the appointed

County and League E.T.T.A. representatives. Any representative not receiving his papers by the due dates should notify the Secretary of the Association immediately. **ONLY THOSE LEAGUES WHOSE FEES ARE FULLY PAID ARE ENTITLED TO NOMINATE AND VOTE.**

Books and Publications. The following publications are available from the E.T.T.A. office:
Handy Pocket Edition of the Laws ... 4½d. each
How to Win at Table Tennis by Victor Barna 6/0d. each
Know the Game Table Tennis ... 2/6d. each

EXTRACTS FROM I.T.T.F. BULLETIN

International Results

Sweden bt Finland 5-0 (Helsinki); Sweden bt Austria 5-2 (Donawitz); Yugoslavia bt Sweden 5-4 (Zagreb); Sweden bt England 5-4 (Enkoping); Sweden bt Yugoslavia 5-3 (Arborga); Sweden bt Rumania 3-1 (Orebo); Rumania bt Sweden (Women) 3-0 (Orebo); Sweden bt France 5-2 (Landskrona); Hungary bt Sweden 5-1 (Boras).

AUSTRIAN "OPEN." Men's Singles: FREUNDORFER bt Stipek 22-20, 21-11, 16-21, 18-21, 21-16. Women's Singles: SIMON bt Rowe 21-17, 21-7, 21-12.

Men's Doubles: STIPEK/MELLSTROM bt Jozejpal/Polakovic 21-18, 21-23, 22-20, 21-18. Women's Doubles: SIMON/ROLAND bt Rowe/Best 21-13, 21-23, 22-20, 21-18. Mixed Doubles: WEGRATH/SIMON bt Freundorfer/Schlaf 21-10, 16-21, 21-12, 14-21, 22-20.

SCANDINAVIAN "OPEN." Men's Singles: MARKOVIC bt Berczik 21-23, 13-21, 21-19, 21-13, 22-20. Women's Singles: SIMON bt Rowe 21-12, 21-9, 21-8.

Men's Doubles: BERCZIK/FOLDI bt Gyetvai/Sido 22-20, 15-21, 21-11, 21-16. Women's Doubles: B. TEGNER/SIMON bt Schlaf/Matthias 21-10, 21-8, 21-15. Mixed Doubles: COBIRZAN/GOLOPENTA bt Leach/Rowe 15-21, 17-21, 21-19, 21-19, 21-12.

YUGOSLAV "OPEN." Men's Singles: VOGRINC bt Harangozo 3-1. Women's Singles: MOSOCZY bt Koczian 3-2. Men's Doubles: BERCZIK/FOLDI bt Vogrinc/Hrbud 3-2. Women's Doubles: MOSOCZY/KOCZIAN bt Rowe/Best 3-1. Mixed Doubles: SIDO/MOSOCZY bt Leach/Rowe 3-1.

Agnes Simon, formerly of Hungary, and reigning holder of the English "Open" title, heads the Netherlands women's ranking list. Top spot among the men is shared by Onnes, Scheffer, and Schoofs.

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 (LARKWOOD 4301).

Circulation Manager: G. R. Harrower, 68, Gloucester Road, Barnet, Herts. (Barnet 7470).

Advertisements: E.T.T.A., 652, 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).

Associate Editor: Conrad Jaschke.

YOU DON'T THINK

says VICTOR BARNA

THERE can be no doubt that English Table Tennis, on the men's side, is in the doldrums. Our standard at the top has hit a new low level and we are not helping the game by closing our eyes to this fact and doing nothing to remedy the matter.

Relevant question is: What is the cause? More importantly, what can we do about it? This is not an easy question to answer—I only wish it were!

For a long time now I have been trying to put my finger on the trouble and have come to the conclusion that our players' conception of the game is all wrong. **They just play table tennis without trying to understand it. They very seldom think, or try to figure out, why they have lost a point, or why they have scored one.**

When they practice it is just the same: they just play and seldom give a thought to improving themselves, which, after all, should be the reason why they practice.

Always the Expected

They always do the expected, rarely the unexpected. They don't, or won't, realise that if you force your opponent into making an error it is just as much a point as scoring one. And by that I don't mean chiselling, where you wait for an opponent to make a mistake, but forcing him to make one, which is something entirely different.

When I watch a tournament I get the impression that I am back in the 1920's, when I first saw table tennis. Players stand quite close to the table, jealously guarding their position in the middle, and reaching right, left, backward and forward, instead of moving with both feet and using the space available as it should be used—as Richard Bergmann, for example, uses it.

And that square stance! I cannot stress often enough or loudly enough that to execute any stroke you must stand sideways. If you don't believe me, watch the top players in lawn tennis, football, or any other active ball game. Can you imagine a star footballer



VICTOR BARNA

standing square to the ball, or Lew Hoad similarly square when executing a stroke?

You must shift your weight from one foot to the other and have space between you and the ball. Using space—playing sideways—gives you more time to play your shot, which in turn allows you to think more constructively and outplay your opponent.

Players learn from each other and the youngster naturally imitates his senior at the next table or the older men he sees in tournaments. Small wonder that with so many bad examples around our standard is deteriorating!

It seems to me that the reason why the Japanese and Chinese are superior at table tennis is because they are fast on their feet. They turn, twist, make full use of the table space—and use their heads as well as their legs.

And that brings me to the question of coaching. Table tennis is a comparatively young sport and not so long ago there were no coaches. Old players merely faded out of the game once their playing days were over.

Now we have a considerable number of ex-players who devote a lot of time to helping youngsters. It is no accident, for instance, that the Burnley boys are doing so well, since Ken Stanley has been giving them the benefit of his skill and experience. Other players have been doing an equally fine job of work.

Closer Liaison Needed

Unfortunately, some of our coaches have ideas which differ enormously in important aspects. Furthermore, I am sorry to say, they are jealous of each other and care more for their own reputations than for the well-being of their pupils.

I hope I shall not be misunderstood. My only aim in airing these points is to attempt to bring everyone closer together. If they could get together in a selfless spirit and discuss basic matters in a constructive, friendly manner, they would render real service both to the game and to themselves.

HARRY VENNER

England and Surrey

Coaching and Exhibitions arranged

Enquiries 66 TAVISTOCK CRESCENT,
MITCHAM, SURREY.

ARE YOU FIT TO PLAY TABLE TENNIS?

asks JACK CARRINGTON *(Hon. Director of Coaching, E.T.T.A.)*

OF course you, young man, and you, young lady, are fit to play table tennis—of a kind. Maybe even for the kind you play at present.

But . . . are you fit enough for the kind of table tennis you want to play?

For most of you there is no doubt about the answer; the only doubt is whether you have the determination to do something about it.

If you are vaguely hurt by my harsh assumptions, ask yourself these further questions:—

1. *Have you ever complained of not having a long enough pause between matches?*
2. *Do you ever lack the power to "put away" the final set-up ball after a hectic rally?*
3. *Have you ever lost matches by serving "off" at deuce, or pushing weakly into the net?*
4. *Have you ever complained of your doubles partner being "in the way"?*
5. *Have you ever suffered from cramp? (I'll bet it did not happen when you were winning comfortably? Be honest, now!).*

If these things happen to you, then in all probability you are not fit to enter a better class of play.

Of course, if some fairy could wave her wand and give you a ten per cent. improvement in talent, you could do the trick. But suppose that ten per cent. just will not come—or cannot come because your talent is already at full stretch?

Well then, a ten per cent. improvement in "fitness" is your best hope for those extra results. BUT, no fairy waving her wand can achieve this . . . only YOU and the Sergeant-Major. Or in modern terms, YOU and your TRAINING PLAN.

* * *

These stern words are the aftermath of a visit to the two-day Conference on Fitness for Sport at Leeds University last month. Attending on behalf of E.T.T.A.,

I found myself in company with 90 other delegates, including physical education teachers, professional soccer coaches and managers, national and regional coaches in athletics, weight-lifting, swimming, Rugby League, physiotherapists, civic and industrial sports organisers, Army and R.A.F. P.T. specialists, dancers, climbers, etc.

The Central Council of Physical Recreation, who had done such a good job in bringing all these specialists together, made sure that their time was well spent by presenting a really high-level array of speakers and leaders.

The Leeds Professors Hemingway and Noltie, eminent physiologists, set the ball rolling with expositions of the fundamentals of "Heart-Lung Capacity" and "Muscular Efficiency." Both disclaimed any pretensions

that the study of fitness can yet be called a science; there were still many gaps in the various theories.

More, and much more, information of many kinds was needed, and, while some of this would clearly come from the medical research side, the big need was for systematic study by practical sports trainers.

(This sent the same thought running through my mind as it has through yours—that we in Table Tennis have not done much to help!)

Contrasting drastically with the sober discourses of the worthy English (Scottish) professors, the young and genial Dr. Pohnsdorf brought a breath of the Illinois University campus to the delighted audience.

After sparkling demonstrations of various instruments and gadgets and gimmicks,

one felt willing to climb Everest if Dr. Pohnsdorf said the word.

But for all his infectious enthusiasm, the American, too, stressed the need for careful records of performances both in training and competition, so that in good time any useful correlation between training plans, physique, and match results, can be seen.

* * *

By now, taking into account also the valuable discussion groups which followed the lectures, the whole tenor of the Conference had emerged, and could be summed up in the following key questions:—

- (a) **Is there a basic hard-core of physical fitness necessary for sportsmen in general?**
 - (b) **Can such fitness be measured so as to contribute to our knowledge?**
- and of course, the "64-dollar Question":—
- (c) **To what extent can training improve (i) over-all fitness and (ii) specialised fitness.**

I hope to enlarge on these important questions in succeeding articles.

A CHALLENGE

With a view to closer study of the value of Physical Training methods to rising Table Tennis players, I am planning an "EXPERIMENTAL PRESSURE-TRAINING COURSE."

For this I need a squad of 16 youngish men, who feel capable of improving their fitness and their play, and can attend in London on 12 Wednesdays (maybe Thursdays) from April to June this year.

There will be plenty of table tennis but a fair amount of exercise too, which all must faithfully perform and record.

AM I GOING TO GET MY 16 VOLUNTEERS?

Write to me c/o "Table Tennis," stating age, weight and height. Priority will be given to any player nominated by the Selection Committees, senior or junior.

Jack Carrington.

On the second day the proceedings reached a high note both of interest and practical value with the paper delivered by Mr. Walter Winterbottom, the Football Association's Director of Coaching. The extent of his experience and the scope of his Association's research was enlightening to most of his listeners, and greatly helped to reconcile the academic with the practical approach.

Most impressive too, was the description by Bill Slater, the Wolverhampton and England wing-half, of his solo five-day Training Plan which, carried out in dedicated manner, enabled him in his amateur days to hold his place in professional football.

To our surprise the psychology professor, F. V. Smith of Durham University, restored a healthy sense of proportion not by subtle theories and "isms," but by his rich and even earthy presentation of his abstract subject.

He conquered his listeners by a brilliant intellect linked to a warm humanity, and these qualities did much to link together the somewhat jumbled impressions of our two days of debate.

We may not have been exactly crazy mixed-up kids, but we all felt better after seeing the psychiatrist!

* * *

Had our sport anything to offer to these discussions?

I think so; its requirements of rapid reversals of movement, its close interplay of nervous and physical energies, its combination of strength with flexibility, all made it an interesting subject for thought among the teachers of "general fitness."

In addition, some of our coaching devices and training exercises were welcomed by other specialists as useful applications of the up-to-date theories.

And finally, did I, on behalf of Table Tennis, gain from the conference? Yes, indeed.

Some acquaintance with physiology and anatomy was assumed, although not beyond what a coach or trainer on the national level ought to have studied. One learned as always from the expert linking-up of one special subject with another.

One learned anew the lesson that, while the "specialist" can always teach the "general practitioner" something, the reverse may be equally true.

For it was quite clear that in physical education circles there is the same basic divergence that we meet when we discuss table tennis coaching.

The theme "*Fitness for Sport*" meant, for half of the delegates "*Fitness of more and more people to take some part in sports*"; but to the remainder, the specialists, it meant "*More and more fitness for the best performers in my sport*"!

And we learned, as in Table Tennis, that there are worthwhile values in *both* these attitudes. Their methods may have to vary, but they must co-exist.

A fairly general reaction was that our courses, etc., for top performers were not competitive enough; that at higher levels detailed coaching induced a too-acquiescent state of mind and too-predictable patterns of play.

One garnered some good ideas for the planning of advanced training, and of the need for system and research, so that we can preach from experience and not from "hunches."

Above all, one learned, as always, from the beautiful marshalling of facts and ideas by expert teachers in many fields.

UMPIRES CORNER

By Colin Clemett

THE essential qualities of a good umpire may be summarised under three headings — COMPETENCE, CLARITY and CONTROL.

Competence is obviously a primary requirement and a good umpire must know, and be able, to interpret every provision of the laws. Fortunately, the laws of table tennis, although sometimes clumsily worded, are generally straightforward and relatively few in number. It may therefore seem surprising that anyone could fail to understand them after a little serious consideration. Yet at least two of every three candidates are unsuccessful in the written part of the County Umpires Test, although they are allowed to answer in their own time using any reference books they choose.

Why should a candidate, keen enough to become a qualified umpire, be unwilling to acquire the necessary basic knowledge? I believe that many of them, often with many years of umpiring experience, neglect the aspects of the laws which they consider unusual and hence unimportant.

It is true that an umpire may officiate for many years without the full extent of his knowledge ever being tested, but only a complete mastery of the laws can give him confidence to make the correct decision in any circumstances.

The second quality required is clarity, both of thought and of expression. Clarity of thought is a natural consequence of a complete understanding of the laws, enabling the umpire to concen-

trate on what is happening in a match, knowing that when the time comes he will be able to make his decision almost automatically.

Clarity of expression, a combination of good timing and correct enunciation, is acquired only by constant practice in as wide a range of conditions as possible.

Even those fortunate people with naturally good speaking voices have something to learn. It is important to distinguish between clear speaking and loud speaking, since the two do not necessarily go together.

The object is for the umpire's voice to be heard and easily understood only by those for whom it is intended and must be adjusted to suit the conditions. Obviously different levels are required for a tournament match with other matches on adjoining tables and a single match in a large hall with no public address system.

Timing is also dependent on match conditions and allowance must be made, for example, for applause to die down. Most umpires will have noticed in the "*Handbook for Umpire*" that the I.T.T.F. Regulation on Page 32, about the correct time to call the score, is contradicted on Page 27 by the Recommendations to Umpires, although these have been approved by the I.T.T.F.

This is an anomaly which the N.U.C. is hoping to eliminate, and this Committee is firmly of the opinion that the correct time to call the score is immediately before the players are ready

to begin the next rest, as stated in the Recommendations.

We come finally to control, the quality which is the most difficult to achieve and the most difficult to define. It is perhaps the most important of all the qualities, since however knowledgeable and fluent an umpire may be, if he does not have control he cannot do his job properly.

Some umpires try to assert their authority by a dogmatic and almost aggressive manner, but they are no more in control than one who is too timid and unsure of himself.

The impression which the umpire should try to create in the minds of the players and the spectators is one of calm authority. His manner should be pleasant and impartial, firm yet unostentatious.

Unobtrusiveness is an important corollary of control and it is no exaggeration to say that the highest tribute that can be paid to an umpire after a match is that he has not even been noticed.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of the qualities of a good umpire but it may help to dispel the idea that umpiring consists solely of sitting by the table and calling the score. It may even stimulate some, who have hitherto considered umpiring beneath their dignity, to try their hand at it.

If you are one of these people, why not write to your County Umpires Secretary for details of the County Umpires Test?

Even if you do not qualify as a County Umpire I am sure that a little study of the problems of umpiring will increase your respect for a much-maligned official.

ANN HAYDON beats AGNES SIMON

By PETER LOWEN

A FINE all-round performance from the England team gave them a surprisingly overwhelming 8-2 win over the Netherlands in the televised international at Birmingham on January 10.

Ann Haydon, most creditably, snatched the spotlight with her brilliant victory over the former Hungarian Mrs. Agnes Simon, reigning English "open" singles champion by 21-18, 21-14.

Mrs. Simon, already winner of the Scandinavian and Austrian titles this season, is fast establishing herself as one of the foremost women players in Europe, but Miss Haydon was never in any trouble, although occasionally caught out of position by her rival's half-volley backhand defence.

Miss Haydon was always well out in front in the second game where she quickly built up a lead of 15-6 and this gave her the confidence to run round her backhand and get her forehand working with deadly effect.

Ian Harrison set England on the winning path when taking the first match against Bert Onnes 23-25,

21-10, 21-7. Neither player was completely at ease in the first game, but in the following two Harrison began to look his usual self and took complete command with some fine attacking strokes.

Harrison also beat J. Scheffer with reasonable ease 21-7, 21-14. This was another sparkling match. Scheffer attacked strongly while Harrison carefully mixed defence with counter attack which produced many fine winners.

Michael Thornhill had an easy success against Schoofs, whose reputedly good flick promised to bring about a most interesting encounter. But it turned out to be a rather one-sided affair with Thornhill fully exploiting the non-aggression of Schoofs to win 21-14, 21-12.

The match between Bryan Merrett and Scheffer produced some first class play, with the Dutchman always prepared to try and hit his way out of trouble while Merrett was content playing his favourite defensive game.

The meeting between Merrett and Schoofs was a slow pushing affair with neither player taking the initiative, although by this stage England had already gained the winning lead.

Schoofs' mistakes lost him the first game, but Merrett made a disastrous start to the second being 1-7 down, and never made up for that bad patch, eventually losing 21-14, 15-21, 13-21.

Schoofs exposed Merrett's weakness of not being able to hit sufficiently well enough to get through a defensive player of international standard. He would be better off to mix his game more and not rely so much on defending.

In the other men's singles Thornhill beat Onnes 21-13, 21-17.

The men's doubles was a one-sided affair with Harrison and Merrett beating Onnes and Schoofs 21-9, 21-13, but the Dutch provided a major shock when they won the women's doubles.

Mrs. Simon and Miss U. Artz, the reserve who came in when Miss V. Megen was unable to travel, beat Miss Haydon and Diane Rowe 21-14, 16-21, 21-17.

The English pair, who scored only one of the first nine points, were not at their best, although they showed good understanding in winning the second game, and staged a great recovery in the third from 7-13 to 16-17 before a couple of simple mistakes let the Dutch pair in again.

Miss Rowe took her time, picking the right ball to hit away, when win-

ning her singles against Miss Artz by 21-13, 21-8.

The final score of 8-2 showed the superiority of our players over the Dutch.

I travelled back to London with the Netherlands team who had to make an early start the next morning, being due in Amsterdam at 10.10 a.m. for a 120 miles car journey for a Dutch tournament due to start at mid-day.

Detailed results (England names first):
B. Merrett bt J. Scheffer 21-19, 21-6; lost to F. Schoofs 21-14, 15-21, 13-21. I. Harrison bt B. Onnes 23-25, 21-10, 21-7; bt Scheffer 21-7, 21-14. M. Thornhill bt Schoofs 21-14, 21-12; bt Onnes 21-13, 21-17.

Miss A. Haydon bt Mrs. A. Simon 21-18, 21-14. Miss D. Rowe bt Miss U. Artz 21-13, 21-8.

Harrison/Merrett bt Onnes/Schoof 21-9, 21-13. Miss Haydon/Miss Rowe lost to Mrs. Simon/Miss Artz 14-21, 21-16, 17-21.

Successful Debut

BOBBY RAYBOULD made a successful international debut when helping England trounce Ireland 10-0 at snow-covered, busless Leicester on January 3.

This was, however, no test for the Essex player, who before a crowd which would hardly have done credit to an average county match—the bus-strike was obviously to blame — he beat Tommy Caffrey 21-13, 21-17 and C. McBride 21-14, 21-17.

The lack of atmosphere affected both teams but there were still some interesting, if not brilliant, matches despite the one-sided outcome.

Jean Lynn came nearest to winning a game for Ireland when she led Joyce Fielder 20-17 in the first. But even this small success was beyond the reach of the Irish and Miss Fielder fought back to take the game and then the match at 23-21, 21-11.

Harry O'Prey offered plenty of fight against Michael Thornhill but after dropping the first game 19-21, secured only seven points in the second. However, he gave a better all-round performance against Jeff Inber.

The only other Irish player to produce a notable resistance was Mrs Margaret Dowds who, although losing to Jill Rook, had the consolation of scoring the most points in one match—34.

Results (England names first):—
R. Raybould bt T. Caffrey 21-13, 21-17; bt C. McBride 21-14, 21-17. J. Ingher bt H. O'Prey 21-18, 21-14; bt Caffrey 21-14, 21-14. M. Thornhill bt McBride 21-6, 21-13; bt O'Prey 21-19, 21-7.

Miss J. Fielder bt Miss J. Lynn 23-21, 21-11. Miss J. Rook bt Mrs. M. Dowds 21-19, 21-15.

Thornhill/Raybould bt McBride/O'Prey 21-14, 21-17. Miss Fielder/Miss Rook bt Miss Lynn/Mrs. Dowds 21-16, 21-15.

Juniors crush Wales

The Welsh Junior team were outplayed to the tune of 9-0 by England in the Annual Junior International Match, at Ultra, Park Royl, on January 23. In fact, the actual playing time for the nine matches was only a fraction over two hours.

For Wales, Colin Thomas displayed flashes of excellent play, while Ian Gibson could develop into a fine player if he learns to control his counter attacking, especially on the backhand. Sandra Morgan was technically the best of the Welsh team, but she was unfortunate to be opposed by Jean Harrower.

On the English side, Derek Grant played a first class game, and emphasised that the Junior Selectors had made a mistake in not considering him for the past two years. Paul Racey had one of his rare off days, while Chris Gosling won with ease, although not appearing to play as well as last season. Jean Harrower was not extended.

ENGLAND 9, WALES 0

Results (England names first):—

C. Gosling bt C. Thomas 21-13, 21-12; bt K. Cutler 21-11, 21-14. P. Racey bt Thomas 13-21, 21-10, 21-15; bt I. Gibson 20-22, 21-7, 21-15. D. Grant bt Cutler 21-10, 21-5; bt Gibson 21-5, 21-14.

Miss J. Harrower bt Miss S. Morgan 21-7, 21-17.

Grant/Racey bt Cutler/Gibson 21-11, 21-7. Gosling/Miss Harrower bt Thomas/Miss Morgan 21-14, 21-17.

EAGLE GIRL TOURNAMENT

By **KENNETH WHEELER**

BIRMINGHAM SWEEP MIDLAND TITLES

DESPITE the strong challenge of eighteen Midland club champions, all four Regional titles in the *Eagle/Girl* Tournament went to Birmingham winners at The Friends' Institute on January 17.

Doris and Adrian Haydon presented the cups to **David Thomas** (Boys' under 15), **Joseph Allsop** (Boys' under 13), **Sheila Griffiths** (Girls' under 15), and **Rosalyn Gold** (Girls' under 13), and these four players go through for the first time to the All-Britain finals.

There were many thrills and surprises in a full day's play. The best performance came from calm, gum-chewing **David Thomas**, who qualified somewhat unexpectedly in Division "A" at the expense of the highly regarded **Maurice Billington**, and then smashed his way past Lincolnshire's **Brian Hill** into the Regional Final where he met tall, bespectacled "Ginger" **Cadwallader** of Birmingham Central Grammar School.

Up to this stage, only **Bernard Whiting** had scored more than ten

representatives of **Whealers Lane School** who, with 110 points, are the present leaders.

Two players who put up a spirited fight against adversity, and only narrowly failed, were **Rita Daniels** (Y.W.C.A. Oxford) and **Keith Jones** (All-Britain finalist, 1958). **Rita** got up from a sick-bed and finished as runner-up to the very experienced **Sheila Griffiths**, from Cheltenham.

Incidentally, **Sheila** had a tough match to qualify for the Regional Final, beating former *Girl* Junior Champion **Janet Roberts** 9-21, 21-19, 23-21 in a splendid Birmingham Final.

Keith Jones was playing with his fractured left wrist in plaster, and lost the Birmingham Final to **Joseph Allsop** 22-20, 15-21, 21-23, a score which speaks for itself.

RESULTS

MIDLAND REGIONAL FINALS

Boys' Senior: **DAVID THOMAS** (South Birmingham) bt **Colin Cadwallader** 19, -16, 16.

Boys' Junior: **JOSEPH ALLSOP** bt **Nicholas Smith** (Monty Hind) 14, -19, 19.

Girls' Senior: **SHEILA GRIFFITHS** bt **Rita Daniels** (Oxford Y.W.C.A.) 14, 11.

Girls' Junior: **ROSALYN GOLD** bt **Janet Russell** (Shenley Fields) 6, 6.

Three bright sparks who could give Welsh table tennis a decided boost in future years, are 15-year-old **Ian Gibson**, of **Tonyrefail**, 14-year-old **Denis King**, of **Pontypridd**, and 13-year-old **John Mansfield**, of **Abergavenny**.

Ian Gibson, son of a local iron-monger in **Llantrisant**, **Glamorgan**,



JOHNNY LEACH with **IAN GIBSON** (left) and **DENIS KING**, South Wales Senior Finalists

and of **Jamie McWhirter**, lady swimming champion, won the South Wales section of the *Eagle* Championship on January 3 for the fifth year in succession.

Ian is a pupil at **Tonyrefail Grammar** and was *Eagle* under-13 Champion of Great Britain two years ago.

Although impressive in his play, **Ian** did not have matters all his own way. In the final of the Boys' Senior event, at **Cardiff** this time, he only narrowly defeated **Denis King** by -20, 16, 18.

King, who represents **Pontypridd Y.M.C.A.**, has only been playing table tennis for 18 months but, coached by **Roy Evans**, he has already an excellent all-round game with a particularly sound defence and a quick eye for an opening.

John Mansfield, a four feet nothing "pocket rocket" from **Abergavenny**, swept to success in the under-13 event and will thus represent **Wales** in the South of England Finals in **London** on **February 14**.

FIXTURES

February 14th, **London**: South of England Finals.

February 21st, **Manchester** and **North of England** Finals.

March 23rd, **Championship of Great Britain** Finals, at **Handel Street** (Artillery House). To be televised on **ITV's "Seeing Sport"** programme.



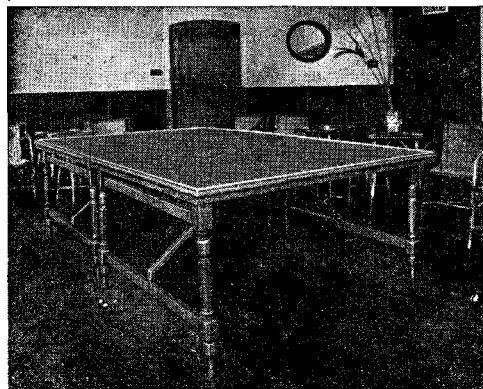
Birmingham winners. **JOSEPH ALLSOP** (left) and **DAVID THOMAS**

points against **Cadwallader** in any game, but **Thomas** was in inspired form.

Cleverly varying the length of his shots he drew **Cadwallader** up and down like a yo-yo, and when the **Grammar** school champion was at full reach at the net, passed him with insolent skill.

David Thomas's fine individual effort has given his club, **South Birmingham**, a total of eighty points towards the club table which *Eagle/Girl* award each year to the top team in each region. By winning four of his games in the **All-Britain** Finals next **March**, **David** could outstrip the

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JOHN G. TOMS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT for a very long time has "Table Tennis" received so many letters as this month. We are not able to print them all, partly because of lack of space and partly because some are not suitable, but the selection which appears is representative of what has been received.

Mr. D. Parodi, of South London, raises the question of availability of Hungarian refugees for England teams. He also feels that Josef Somogyi deserves a higher ranking.

It can be categorically stated that ranking is done on performance. Nationality in no way influences the selectors. The lists are intended for seeding purposes and for guidance of tournament organisers.

Selection for England is another matter. In the past, illustrious players such as Bergmann, Barna and Dora Beregi have represented England after becoming naturalised. Mr. Parodi appears to favour a solution whereby players can be considered for England teams even if they are not naturalised. Readers' views on this subject would be of considerable interest.

CORSER HITS BACK

SINCE Victor Barna descended to a personal attack in his reply to my letter in the January issue I trust that I shall be permitted a chance to defend myself.

I know that Johnny Leach was dropped to No. 5 in the Ranking List last year but this is the only time he has dropped so low and over the previous five or six years his form has not always been as good as his ranking.

Di Rowe showed the most appalling form early in the season but she still represented us in overseas tours. Her recent form has been very much better but maybe we have other girls who could have produced this good form if they had been offered the opportunity and experience given to Di.

In general Johnny and Di have the experience and records to justify the selectors' confidence, but sometimes the loyalty shown by the selectors to a few of the top players seems to blind them to the lapses of those players and also to the possibilities of other players struggling for recognition.

I agree with Victor that Laurie Landry has had some bad defeats but can he show me one player on the men's ranking list, who has played in a home tournament, who has not?

As to the second part of Victor's reply, I mentioned the criticism of the England Men's team partly because it was a further example of the general situation about which I was writing and partly in the hope that my mentioning it would help to ensure that such a thing would not occur again.

I did not mention Victor Barna by name for, although I realised that many people would know who the England captain was, there would be some who did not and I have no wish to harm his good name. However he did describe the team as "pitiful" and although honest and straightforward criticism may be good for a team at times, if it is made by the captain, it should be made to the team and not to the public. In any case I cannot think that the use of such destructive criticism can ever be helpful.

I am surprised that Victor expects me to mention his praise of our ladies—as

they won the cup this was the least he could do—but it does give us a clue to Victor's attitude. *Anything short of complete success is regarded as disgraceful.* Admittedly our men did perform very poorly but maybe this is because Victor sets his sights too high.

I must refute the suggestion that I knew Victor had been appointed England captain for this season. I have attempted to check where (or whether) this information has been published but even the E.T.T.A. office could not tell me.

John Corser.

Ivor Eyles, Chairman of the Selectors, replies: *This is not the occasion to find fault with what has happened in the past. Immediately after the "Europeans" would have been the appropriate time to bring it up. We have the utmost confidence in Barna's captaincy and do not intend to upset the morale of the team by going into the question now.*

Incidentally, Barna's appointment was published in the November issue of "Table Tennis."

DON'T KICK RABBITS

AFTER competing in several of the recent "Open" tournaments I would like to bring the following points to the notice of some of our "stars".

1. *Please remember that your opponent may not have a chance of winning the tournament but does expect a fair game unaccompanied by smirks and pompous demeanour on the table—after all his entry fee enables the tournament to be run.*

2. *Please keep in mind that you would have no tournaments if the entries were composed only of people who thought they had a chance of winning.*

In closing may I also leave a word for tournament organisers? Don't kick the "rabbits" too hard or often otherwise myxomatosis may set in and sadly deplete your future entries.

J. Curtis,

(Hon. Sec. Wembley Institute T.T.C.)

MORE CRITICISM

I CONGRATULATE TABLE TENNIS for printing two letters which are bound to be discussed by countless readers. Trying to view the opposite viewpoints without taking sides is difficult. Mr. Barna has a truly great playing record behind him, but is it his opinion that a good player automatically knows more about table tennis than a lesser player? Mr. Corser is, to my knowledge, an E.T.T.A. coach, a good watcher with a keen analytical eye. Mr. Corser knows too much about the game to be dismissed with "I wonder how much Mr. Corser knows?"

Team selection, as a whole, probably causes as many controversies as any subject. It is something to be faced up to, at the present with an eye to the future. In my opinion, the selectors should say "X has the makings of a first-class player," and select him for representative matches, regardless of his results. One sometimes has to play worse to improve. While there is a limit to this method, it should be used where possible. We must face up to it. Aubrey Simons was the last player of world-class that England produced. It seems the selectors show faith in Ian Harrison, rightly I think.

Team captaincy is probably a more difficult task than playing. One should be, firstly, a member of the team, someone to turn to, when things go wrong. Who, of the last European Cup team, could turn to Mr. Barna now he has said that they were pitiful? Could anyone doubt that they did their very best! Only one team's best, in the whole competition, was good enough.

At the Middlesex v. Lanca-hire match last year, Alan Rhodes lost both his singles matches. After the second of his games, Mr. Barna spoke to Alan Rhodes, in the hearing of spectators. He told him that he had played badly and did not fight. Surely this is something to be "discussed" when the player has had a chance to cool down. Alan Rhodes was playing badly and lost, but he wanted to win, at least as much as Mr. Barna wanted him to win. Alan Rhodes is a very popular player, who is respected by numerous people and should not be "ticked off" in public, in fact, no-one should!

Mr. Barna is proud of not being a hypocrite, this is to be admired, but he should learn that to get the most out of people, some hypocrisy (or, rather, diplomacy) can be very useful.

John Lazarus.
(Wille-den)

Conrad Jaschke, Hon. E.T.T.A. Press Officer writes: "Without taking sides on the main issues contained in Mr. Lazarus' letter, I am intrigued by his question: 'Does Barna think a good player automatically knows more about the game than a lesser player?'"

"I cannot answer for Victor, but from personal experience I know this view is widely held among ex-internationals. Len Adams' Article 'Mine Own Administrator' in the November issue was a typical example of this line of thought."

NO EXCUSE

AT the Yorkshire Junior championships held at Doncaster last Saturday, I heard several youngsters express the hope that they would be eliminated in the next rounds as they had trains to catch.

When will organisers realise that many youngsters travel great distances at great expense to themselves to take part, and that there can be no excuse whatever for starting play 1½ hours later than the advertised time. Nor can there be any justification for keeping players hanging about six or seven hours before playing their first games.

The Yorkshire authorities will have to do better than this if they expect the juniors to "come again".

Incidentally, in all junior tournaments, have you noticed the proportion of titles won either by Ken's (Stanley) Kids or Geoff's (Harrower) Juniors?

Any year now, it may dawn on the County authorities that six hours coaching per year is not quite enough to produce new names and possibly new stars.

S. Gordon

(Salford, Lancashire)

Mr. K. W. James, Hon. Tournament Secretary of the Yorkshire Junior Open, writes:—

The Yorkshire Tournament Committee wish to apologise to all players, especially those who travelled long distances to the Yorkshire Junior "Open" Championships, for the inconvenience caused them by the late start of the tournament. This was caused by the breakdown of the car in which the tournament secretary was due to travel to the tournament. They wish to inform all concerned that in future they will ensure that the draw sheets are left at the venue on the night prior to the tournament, in order that the tournament can commence irrespective of whether the tournament secretary is delayed or not.

NO SMOKING

I WAS very interested to read Mr. Conrad Jaschke's article on smoking, as it has encouraged me to again campaign for non-smoking by an audience attending a table tennis match.

Some years ago, at an "Open" tournament, I umpired the final of the men's singles match, which at that time was the best of five games. This particular match went the full distance and was played in a thick haze of smoke, which must have been extremely unhealthy as well as a handicap to the players concerned.

I passed these observations on to the "Open" Tournaments Committee at the

NOT HARD GOING

I MUST take Mr. Kennerley to task for asserting in his Lancashire and Cheshire Notes last month, that Liverpool is finding it hard going in Division One. On the contrary, at the moment of writing, Liverpool has won two of the three matches played, their only defeat being at the hands of Manchester, the current holders of the Wilmott Cup.

Liverpool may not be able, as in pre-war days, to field a complete international side, but we still possess a very useful team, and I venture to suggest that at the conclusion of the season, Liverpool will have found Division One far from hard going.

J. McCaig.

Match Sec., Liverpool and District League.

time, but received little encouragement. Although matches are now only best of three, players still require plenty of fresh air.

Surely a tournament referee, upon seeing a "fug" created by pipe and cigarette fumes could appeal for a little restraint by the public without being over officious.

Bert Meyern.

(National Umpire, Wembley Hill)

DON'T FORGET THE UMPIRE

I HAVE noted during tournaments that the organisers usually have difficulty getting umpires, and I think the players are partly responsible. Generally speaking I would say the players treat umpires very badly, whereas if they were to treat them with more respect and courtesy I think it would be easier to get people to umpire.

There are a few DON'Ts I would ask the players to consider. When a person has kindly decided to umpire, try not to keep him waiting with a long knock-up. If you think he has given the score incorrectly, ask him politely if it is right and do not shout. If he decides a point should be awarded to your opponent and you think it should have been yours, do not argue or look at him menacingly, remember he is giving his opinion, and, always get the ball for him at the end of the match so he does not have to look for it. Finally, when the game is over thank him properly, not from half-way across the hall.

Please remember the umpires are amateurs, that they are doing you a favour by umpiring, and that they are human and can make mistakes.

I personally detest umpiring, but how about us players making a New Year's Resolution to help tournament organisers by volunteering to umpire at least one match, at tournaments if possible.

B. Brumwell (Essex).

REFRESHING

It is very refreshing to see that a player not absolutely at the top (L. Landry) has the courage to write as he does. I am sure that a lot is said which people would not dare to put on paper for fear of upsetting "one of the high-ups." Despite the strain put on the players by doing organisation, I am all in favour of player-administrators who are really in touch with the game.

A. J. H. Wickens,
Buckingham.

FIRM HAND NEEDED

PRACTICALLY every month we are being told about the dwindling public interest in table tennis, yet nobody in authority has found the real reason although it does not take much intelligence to find it if one reads this magazine every month.

The general public are losing interest because they are thoroughly fed up with the "Prima Donna" antics and bad manners of a vast majority of our leading players.

Why should they pay to see players walk off, sorry retire, because they do not like the ball or even the umpire.

Furthermore, in what other sport are the players allowed to select the ball with which to play, then proceed to spend between five and ten minutes trying it out. Perhaps deciding that they still don't like it.

Surely if a ball is accepted by the chief umpire or referee that should be good enough.

The players should be told: get on or get out. After all if there is a slight fault both players are at the same disadvantage and it is up to them to adapt their game to the conditions, this goes as well for lighting, table and anything else.

Then again in what other game are the players allowed to have a practice run. Can you imagine in boxing what the spectators would say if the opponents were allowed a couple of rounds practice or a batsman in cricket allowed a couple of overs to get used to conditions or even allowed to select the ball they wished to use.

I would suggest to the powers that be, that if they are to get back the following that would make it profitable to run really good tournaments and even get a good crowd for County matches, they must be prepared to take the bull by the proverbial horns and at the risk of making themselves unpopular adopt strong measures to stop this nonsense.

I would suggest that firstly they make a rule that any player guilty of flagrant bad manners, and this includes arriving late at the table, bad language, etc., should be warned firstly and if they continue, ordered off as is done in Association Football. The case could then be heard by a disciplinary committee and judgment passed and if necessary the person concerned suspended.

Secondly, cut out all the time wasting knock n' up, the public pay to see the game played not practised. If the players want to get used to the light and conditions, etc., let them get to the venue early and do it then.

Jack Whitehead
(Dover)

Editor's Note: The many important points raised in Mr. Whitehead's letter will no doubt give officials serious food for thought.

Regarding his reference to "knocking up," I would point out this is a common practice in most court games, particularly lawn tennis, squash rackets and badminton, while footballers always have five minutes kicking around before starting a match.

TALKING POINTS

Conducted by LAURIE LANDRY

Knocking-up facilities should be available



LAURIE LANDRY

The results of last month's *Talking Points* were very pleasing for it is about time that we heard the organisers' point of view. Arising from these I feel that the "South of England" question needs further explanation.

No less than 15 people, both players and spectators, remarked to me on the table used for the finals. I am sorry that Mr. Bourne first heard of the complaint through this column. To have complained at the time, however, probably seemed futile, because out of consideration for the organisers, no individual would have wished to disrupt finals' night by insisting on a new table especially as they did not realise how widespread the complaint was, until much later.

Some few players have raised the point of knocking-up facilities at tournaments.

Mrs. Haydon, herself a former international, says: "I think that facilities for knocking-up should be made available at least to seeded players, for it is these players that organisers want to see in the finals and it is therefore necessary for them to be on top form. Lesser-known players may think this rather harsh and selfish but a lot of hard work and trouble is involved in becoming a player who will be seeded."

Has anyone else anything to say on this subject?

Too Congested

Bryan Merrett is spokesman for many who think that the table tennis fixture list is too congested. He says, "The position is such that I find myself away from home six or seven week-ends in succession and while I have an understanding wife it is a bit much to ask."

The Germans go a long way in solving this problem for they have their tournaments and internationals in the winter while league play takes place in the summer.

While admitting that there should be some break, many are of the opinion that the season is far too short. Practically all the fixtures are congested between October and March.

A reasonably enthusiastic player will play for his club, take part in representative matches and tournaments which often entails an average of up to four days match-play a week.

This means that during the season it is difficult to find time for that most essential part of table tennis—practice.

Six months break from match play cannot encourage a consistently good standard.

Is table tennis a major sport? That is a question which has an answer. The answer is No. Do we want it to be a major sport? This question also has an answer—Yes. This brings us to the North West Kent "Open" which was one of the best-run tournaments of the season. During the big night of the week, when the men's singles quarter-finals were on, a "let" was called and the raffle drawn. Congratulations North West Kent officials on a well-run tournament, but would a raffle be drawn in the middle of the vital stage of a major sport?

The Metropolitan "Open" as one

would expect, was organised flawlessly. I think, however, and I am backed by many, that it was rather much to charge finals' night entry to players who had entered all events. This especially as the entry fees were far from cheap.

The Welsh "Open" re-introduced the question of sponge. Let us hear some collective, up to date, views on the subject.

My reports from the Lancashire "Open" tell me that it was well run but unfortunately that it had to be held on two different floor surfaces which is never advisable. A little difficulty in finding umpires was also apparent.

Incidentally there is no umpire trouble in the U.S.A. I have heard from Shirley Jones and David House that they do not have umpires. Players umpire for themselves.

Northerners and all players and officials who do not have the opportunity of seeing me, please write in and let me know about anything that you feel can be improved in your tournaments.

Organisers' Replies

TWO further replies have been received following the tournament observations raised by Laurie Landry in last month's issue.

From Birmingham, Maurice Goldstein writes: "I agree that Laurie's criticism was fair comment. The difficulty at the Friends' Institute is that we have to play in two different halls, but it could be overcome to some extent by playing separate events in each. We will try this out in the Midland 'Open' on February 14."

On behalf of the organisers of the Sussex "Open," Derek Tyler makes this comment: "The objections to using the stage for the finals have not slipped our critical inspection. When we first contemplated using it our proposals were carefully examined by very experienced officials and players—including those with Swaythling Cup experience, and it was passed as quite satisfactory.

"Actually the White Rock Pavilion is NOT a theatre; it is primarily a concert hall and does not have the usual "theatrical rake" from back to front of the stage that the normal theatre stage has. Some of the trouble is psychological, and finalists may prefer closer contact with the crowd, rather than playing somewhat aloofly on the stage.

"True we are also considering the view of the finals from the balcony. The peculiar laws of this land do not permit us to charge for admission, but we can charge for the seats. The sale of finals session seats is a most vital part of tournament revenue, and any change in existing arrangements must ensure adequate seating with continued good viewing and comfort.

"We are examining the possibilities of using the stage for finals spectators, but will doubtless be restricted owing to the limited access and fire precaution regulations. Further the

setting-up of the finals arena on the floor of the main hall must necessarily make an earlier dead-line for finishing the afternoon matches.

"As tournament organisers we must aim to improve conditions and administration, and intelligent comment or constructive suggestions ought never to be rebuffed, but it is always much easier to see the snags than to offer a foolproof alternative."

Conrad Jaschke writes: "I appreciate the feelings on the question of a raffle being drawn during the big night of the N.W. Kent 'Open.' Obviously it is not an ideal thing from the point of view of public relations. But let me pose some additional facts.

"The only time to make a raffle pay is on the 'big night' when there

are a lot of people about. Those who buy tickets want to know if they have won, hence the draw must be made reasonably early . . . not at 11 p.m. when play ends. As there are only five tables, the schedule is tight, and there is no 'natural break' in play.

"Even after the profit from the raffle, this year's N.W. Kent 'Open' made a loss of £15. If we take away the raffle, that loss would be much bigger.

"Coming now to the Metropolitan 'Open,' Laurie mentions the rather high entry fees. I can say that, though the figures are not yet complete, the 'Met.' will NOT have made a profit. Thanks to two attractive young ladies from Kent who excelled on programme sales, the

tournament may just about break even (admission was free, by the way, and spectators were NOT compelled to buy a programme, though many of them did, thank goodness).

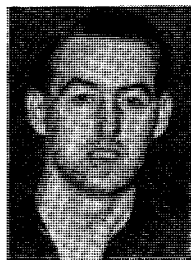
"Players were full of praise for the conditions, the organisation, and the fact that again there was a top-class tournament bang in the middle of London. Now, venues are not to be had cheaply in the centre of London. So what exactly is Laurie's case? Are the E.T.T.A. in their present precarious financial position, expected to BUDGET FOR A FINANCIAL LOSS?"

HELPING HAND

AMIABLE Ray Hinchliff is a star who is not too big to put out a helping hand to those who seek his help.

The Yorkshire stalwart and England international has his own way of encouraging juniors.

At "open" tournaments in the north he takes young players from Huddersfield to partner him in doubles events.



RAY HINCHLIFF

In the North of England he played with 14-year-old David Hirst; in the Hull "Open" with Peter Clowes, who is 15; and in the Yorkshire and Lancashire "Opens" his partner was Bob Hirst, a little older at 21.

Ray has played in some mixed events with Pam Morton (17), who comes from Dewsbury but travels to Huddersfield for concentrated practice.

He explains: "My idea is to encourage young players in my own town. I think it began when I played a lot with Flo Wright and it seemed to help her."

The Huddersfield boys who have had the advantage of playing with the Yorkshire celebrity are very appreciative of his gesture.

JACK CARRINGTON'S HOLIDAY TRAINING WEEK

Booking now for Skegness early September.

Details from:
24 Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex

ENGLAND MUCH TOO STRONG

England once again showed their overwhelming superiority in home internationals when they defeated Wales 6—1, at Newport on January 16.

Despite the handicap of an over slippery floor this match produced a lot of good table tennis for the smallish crowd that braved the thick fog.

It was the same old tale. Up to the late 'teens, there was very often little in the game, but it was nearly always the English who got those all important last few points.

Playing at No. 1 for England, Harry Venner won his two matches, but not without some anxiety. He was down in the first game against Norman Parker, but pulled out a bit extra to win. George Evans, the Welsh No. 1 also gave him a fright, but Harry's greater experience stood him in good stead.

Evans was the only Welsh winner, playing really well in his first international singles, he beat Terry Densham, who also dropped a game to Donald Norris.

Earlier Norris had an astonishing match with Bobby Stevens, winning the first so easily that I suspect he could not quite make out what was happening. Stevens pulled himself together to win the second, and then it was Norris's turn to be out of touch.

Stevens won his second match,

against Norman Parker, with much less difficulty, the Welsh player looking quite out of the hunt.

Audrey Bates kept up a consistent forehand attack against Diane Rowe but although the rallies were good, she lacked sufficient weight of stroke to make the policy pay.

The Pam Mortimer/Betty Gray clash was, as expected, a fast and furious affair. Betty obviously likes the Warwickshire player's quick hitting, and it was only the latter's slowing down of her forehand at the end of the games that gave her a narrow victory.

Gretta Dimascio looked very nervous in the women's doubles, and must obviously be able to play better than she did.

George Evans and Bernard Dimascio raised Welsh hopes with a really impressive first game win over Stevens and Densham. The Welsh pair played well at the start but got very ragged after the England pair had taken the second.

Scores (England players first):

- H. Venner bt N. Parker 21-16, 21-16; bt G. Evans 21-16, 21-19.
- R. Stevens bt D. Norris 10-21, 21-17, 21-15; bt Parker 21-11, 21-13.
- T. Densham lost to Evans 22-24, 15-21; bt Norris 21-11, 18-21, 21-13.
- Miss D. Rowe bt Miss A. Bates 21-16, 21-12.
- Miss P. Mortimer bt Miss B. Gray 23-21, 22-20.
- Stevens/Densham bt Evans/B. Dimascio 13-21, 21-16, 21-11.
- Rowe/Mortimer bt Bates/Mrs. G. Dimascio 21-14, 21-14.

AREA NEWS

MIDDLESEX MATTERS

THE Middlesex "Open" was a great success thanks to the organising abilities of Geoff. James and his team. Iris Moss arranged for a constant stream of umpires, so I don't think there was much to complain of on that count.

Congratulations from Middlesex to Essex on being the only unbeaten side in the premier division. We hope to beat you, Essex, on February 18, so look out, Middlesex are still in with a chance. Willesden, the holders, and North Acton are now the only unbeaten teams in the inter-league championships.

Of the lesser known players who have done well recently, Willesden have Mary Stafford and Joan Williamson, who took the women's doubles for the second year running at the Peterborough "Open," Stan Jacobson, conqueror of Joe Somogyi at the Essex, and Jimmy O'Hara who all but beat Brian Kennedy at the North West Kent.

For North Acton, Ken Whetlor had a good win over Harry Venner, when reverting back to sponge for the Welsh "Open" and Alan Lindsay has had a very good season winning the South of England. He should be in line for an international sooner or later.

Ian Redfearn, who did so well to reach the final of the Middlesex "Open" is back in the County second team for the Bernard Crouch Trophy match against Essex.

The Middlesex Schools Tournament is progressing very satisfactorily and the zone finals will soon be reached. The Youth League tournament for Boroughs of Middlesex has attracted 16 entries, double last year's total and is now under way.

L. Landry.

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SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

AFTER seven years' service as the County Treasurer, Mr. A. F. G. Nickels has given up this position through business and domestic reasons. "Nick" was also one of Suffolk's leading players, wearing the "Green Shirt" 41 times, and was prominent as N.P.C. of the Junior Team which, for three years, was guided to many brilliant victories.

Taking Nickels' place as the "keeper of the coffers," is Michael Rogers, of Ipswich, who has been one of the County "back room boys" for the past three years.

After a period of no change, the selectors introduce a new boy into the Junior Team. He is David Halliday, of Ipswich who, at 14, is considered one of the most promising youngsters for several years in East Anglia.

In winning all three titles open to him for the fourth consecutive time, Peter Cole set up several new records in the Suffolk "Closed" Championships, while Pam Rogers equalled Val. Martin's record of winning the women's singles three times in successive seasons.

Mrs. Doris Fox, winner of the women's doubles, was the only player who had played in the first finals night nine years ago.

SUFFOLK "CLOSED" CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

Men's Singles: Final: P. COLE bt H. Fleck 21-17, 21-17, 21-17.

Women's Singles: Final: Mrs. P. ROGERS bt Miss V. Martin 21-17, 21-10.

Men's Doubles: Final: COLE / J. COLLINS bt B. Cobbold/R. Bumstead 21-14, 21-10, 21-10.

Women's Doubles: Final: Mrs. ROGERS / Mrs. D. FOX bt Martin/B. Maidment 21-14, 11-21, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: Final: COLE/MARTIN bt P. Rudd/Miss A. Baldry 15-21, 21-14, 21-9.

Junior Singles: Final: P. WRIGHT bt D. Halliday 21-12, 21-13.

Veterans' Singles: Final: J. KENWORTHY bt G. Lipscombe 21-13, 12-21, 21-18.

Girls' Singles: Final: C. PHILLIPS bt K. Powell 22-20, 21-10.

There is a movement afoot to start up competitive table tennis at Framlingham. Instrumental in this effort is Mr. M. Allison who is stationed in the police there and who was formerly at Lowestoft.

Mr. G. Buxton, of Ipswich, tells me that he is trying to form a Suffolk N.A.L.G.O League. It is a long term policy he is following and he expects it to operate in the season after next.

A.E.D.

HAMPSHIRE NEWS

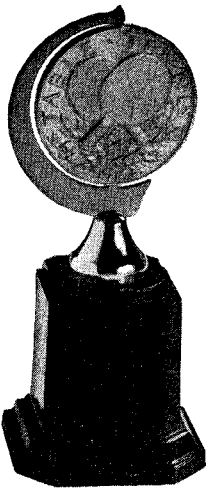
THE centre for table tennis in Hampshire at the moment seems to be Portsmouth who at present supply the entire county team. Na rowing down the area even further, the hub of the Portsmouth game is definitely the Grosvenor Club.

Run by Mr. G. Cooper, the Grosvenor Club certainly pay its own way for not only are they the largest club in the Portsmouth area (they run 10 teams) but they have extensive coaching schemes, a junior club and are open every day of the week.

Members come from far and wide including some from Southampton and London. Bobby Raybould and Laurie Landry occasionally pay a visit.

Just before Christmas the club held its annual interval-handicap tournament. Raybould and Landry came down for this and both of scratch, they reached the final and both of scratch, they reached the final, Landry winning. These two also won the doubles.

The women's singles was won by a 13-year-old Southampton girl, C. Holes (+7) who beat "scratch" player Mrs. Gifford (Portsmouth) in a close match.



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HERTS. ARE CHAMPIONS

FOR the first time in their history, Hertfordshire, following their fine win over Kent, are the new champions of the Second Division South.

The team, unchanged throughout the series, has been unbeaten and has conceded only one point (away to Sussex).

Individual analysis of successes: John Hunt (Bishop's Stortford) 70%; Terry Densham (W.G.C.) 60%; Brian Barr (Watford) 60% and Miss Janet White (Watford) 60%. The doubles produced Hunt/Densham 100%; Miss White/Mrs. Dorothy Magor (Watford) 80% and Barr/Mrs. Magor 80%!

Non-playing Captain, Glyn Bebb, wears a very broad grin these days! Very well done Seniors.

Although the Juniors still have one more match to play (at E.A.C. Club House, St. Albans, on March 7), we cannot forget them in this memorable season. But for the disappointing 7-3 defeat by Kent at Bromley, they might

now be runners-up to Middlesex in the Junior Division (South).

Congratulations to Pat Lindley and Peter Lindley (hard working General Secretary of the Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield League) on the arrival of a bonny baby girl!

The County Junior "Closed" will be held at the I.C.I. Plastics Division Recreation Club, W.G.C., on April 18. This year the Championships will be held under one roof instead of using two venues as in the past.

The Senior "Closed" Championships will be held on February 28—March 1, at the De Havilland Propellers Ltd. Canteen, Manor Road, Hatfield.

Semi-final line up for the County Inter-League tournament is: Waverley (St. Albans) v Water Lane (Bishop's Stortford); K.M.C.A. (Watford) v De Havilland's "A" (Hatfield).

O.B.

Thomas and Yates have decided to take the National Test. Anyone interested in becoming a County Umpire should contact Mr. F. Thomas, 12, Williamson Street, Reddish, Stockport, Cheshire.

In the Premier Division of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, Manchester and Burnley still remain undefeated, while in the lower divisions, the battles for promotion and to avoid relegation still promise to be very keen.

Liverpool, after losing 10-0 to Manchester in the opening match of the season have now moved into third place in Division I following convincing 8-2 wins over Stockport and Bolton. Burnley, well served by juniors Livesey and Keogh in their 7-3 win over Nelson, move into second place.

In Division II South Wirral and Chester both have 100% records as have Ashton-under-Lyne in Division II North.

Southport "A" are well established at the top of Division IIIB with 10 points from five games, and still have to play current runners-up, Mid Cheshire, and bottom of the table, Warrington.

John K. Kennerley.

KENT COMMENTS

ONCE again the Kent League is providing some interesting battles with the men's first division being the most outstanding. At Christmas there were still four teams, Bromley "A," N.W. Kent "A," Beckenham "A," and Woolwich "B," out of the ten competing, with 100% records, a position which as far as anyone can remember has never before happened since the league was first formed in the 1937-38 season.

In the last month these teams have started to meet but even so the results do not make it very much clearer as to who will be the ultimate winners.

Only N.W. Kent are unbeaten but they still have a long way to go. However, if they do succeed it is almost certain that they will make it a double by winning the Women's division as well now that Woolwich have been beaten by Maidstone.

Maidstone fielded their former league championship team of Joyce Reeves, Joan Gilbert and Valerie Fuller (Keeley). Mrs. Fuller, who has hardly touched a bat for the past two and a half years, quickly got into her stride and after losing to Barbara Kenward, deuce in the third, went on to win her other two matches to completely upset the chances of Woolwich.

Medway Towns are the only team left that could upset N.W. Kent's chances, for they are at present trying to sign former Sittingbourne player, Ann Jacobs, and if successful, together with county

No. 2, Joan Beadle, will have a team quite capable of beating N.W. Kent should they be without Joyce Fielder.

Beckenham "B" in the Men's Division II (North) are attempting to regain the place they lost last season in the first division. They overcame one of their three main obstacles when they defeated Medway Towns "B" 7-3.

As expected the Junior Division has developed into a fight between Folkestone and Woolwich which will not be decided until they meet later in the season.

LEADING POSITIONS

DIVISION I	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Bromley "A"	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
N.W. Kent "A"	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Beckenham "A"	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Woolwich "B"	5	4	0	1	29	21	8

Len Pilfold.

LANCASHIRE and

CHESHIRE NOTES

THE Committee of the Lancashire and Cheshire Associations have departed from normal practice by awarding County badges to currently serving members. This is a worthy departure, for the recipients are those well known people, Norman Cook and Tom Blunn.

The decision to make the awards was made before the knowledge of Tom's intended departure and with the award goes our sincere thanks and best wishes for the future.

A warm welcome is extended to Mr. T. Spencer, of Heywood, who has been elected as treasurer to succeed Mr. Blunn.

There has been an upward trend in the number of persons wishing to take the County Umpires' Test. Four County Umpires, Messrs. Fordham, Hardy,

WILTSHIRE WANDERINGS

Arrangements are in hand to stage the Wiltshire "Closed" Championships at The Drill Hall, Trowbridge, in March, when, in addition to the usual men's, women's and junior singles, men's and mixed doubles, it is proposed to hold a women's doubles event, providing sufficient entries are forthcoming.

Difficulties with venues and transport facilities have resulted in the postponement of nine Wiltshire League matches.

Devizes gained their first Second Division points with a splendid 7-3 win at Swindon. Nat Goddard—who was making his debut for Devizes — Mick Alexander and Margaret Fielding were unbeaten in the singles with visiting skipper Derek Yates, partnered by Jean Hillier winning the mixed doubles. P. Short (men's singles), ex-county player Nancy Ridge and Beryl Moody (women's doubles) and county umpire Fred Warman and G. Townsend (men's doubles) replied for Swindon.

A strong Warminster side which included former West Wiltshire champion Tommy Edwards recorded their first win in the Second Division this season by beating Swindon 8-2 while divisional champions, Salisbury, consolidated their position with a maximum over bottom of the league, Devizes.

Only the women's singles event required a decider, former Devizes women's champion, Margaret Fielding, coming very close to beating her county rival, Kathleen Waters.

A maximum by Devizes Junior Champion Ken Welsh laid the foundations of his team's 6-4 double win over their city opponents.

DIVISION ONE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Swindon	2	1	1	0	15	5	3
Salisbury	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
West Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	6	14	2
Devizes	2	0	0	2	7	13	0

Donald Hillier.

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DONCASTER ENCOURAGE JUNIORS

COACH, Alan Thompson is a welcome visitor to Doncaster. He has just completed his third coaching course there in successive years.

Is it just a coincidence that Doncaster have had two juniors in the county team this season? The town's officials, who are so keen to help their youngsters, are in no doubt that Alan's coaching has been of considerable benefit.

Dewsbury is another small league where officials take an interest in young players. They, too, have a county junior and recently trounced Leeds 8-2.

Yet some of the "big guns" like Leeds and Bradford have had no "little stars" for a long time. Without organised coaching they have standard youth sides — although both cities are still, in their senior teams, reaping the results of a county coaching scheme of nearly ten years ago.

At last, however, Leeds are beginning to see the light. A special committee has been formed to go into the prospects of youth coaching and Alan Thompson is likely to be asked to take charge.

I cannot mention juniors without mentioning Hull, who have such an enviable array. A lot of them are discovered while at school—Ainthorpe High School is particularly productive—and the splendid Y.P.I. club does much to foster the right spirit. Abe Abrahamson did magnificent work for years before his health broke down. Now Ray Balmford is the enthusiast.

Sheffield is another centre which believes in coaching—and their boys won the inter-league youths' championship last year.

With more enthusiasts like those at Hull and men like Albert Shirlcliffe and Herbert Dainty at Doncaster, the county's already high junior standards would be boosted yet further.

Huddersfield's eight-year-old unbeaten inter-league record has withstood determined assaults by Bradford and newly-promoted Halifax.

In a shock draw, Ron Thompson (Halifax) and Carrigill (Huddersfield) were unbeaten. Ray Hinchliff was an absentee and Alan Senior, who came into the side, had the remarkable experience of losing two — but returning with Huddersfield "B" and winning two against the same team to star in an unexpected 6-4 triumph!

At Bradford that diligent Estonian, Hans Soova, shocked Hinchliff by winning the opening set after trailing 4-10 in the third, and then fully extended Dyson. An inspired Sonny Forrest hit through Carrigill—who had beaten him easily in the Wilmott Cup — and Bob Hirst.

But Bob won it for Huddersfield with three dynamic drives at 18-17 in the third game of a thrilling evening's final set against Eric Murgatroyd.

Unbeaten Y.M.C.A., who have opened a six-point gap from Slaithwaite, look like retaining the Huddersfield league flag. Much improved player in division two is Stuart Sykes (Y.M.C.A. Juniors). Reinforced by Alan Land, R.A.F.A. "C" are the leaders.

Neck and neck at Sheffield are Rotherham Y.M.C.A. and Crookes. Railway Institute are again dictators at York and lead B.S.C. "A."

Malcolm Hartley.

TRAGIC LOSS

THE sympathy of all in table tennis will go to Terry Miller, Bradford inter-league player and B.A.O.R. champion of 1956, whose fiancée was killed in a road accident only three weeks before their wedding.

Terry had been in hospital for a year, during which Veronica McEvoy had furnished the little home they had bought and made all the wedding preparations.

On January 7 she visited the hospital—30 miles from Bradford—two days before Terry was to be released. Only 300 yards from home she was knocked down by a car.

Both worked at Bradford Co-operative Society, for whose team Terry plays. He was the first British soldier to be given permission by the German Table Tennis Federation to play in a German League when he represented Schwartz und Weiss at Oldenburg.

WICKENS KEEPS NORFOLK TITLE

A. WICKENS (Norwich) retained the men's singles title in the Norfolk Championships when in a repeat of last year's final he defeated town-mate, A. Fox by 21-18, 18-21, 21-15.

Fox made a brilliant recovery from 3-13 down in the second game but could not sustain his telling forehand attacking power in the decider.

The holders also retained their titles in the Youths' and Veterans' singles: R. Syder defeating C. Gerrard and the experienced G. Whittaker eliminating J. Malonowski.

The women's singles proved more open than in previous years due to the absence of holder, Mrs. B. Cassell (King's Lynn).

Miss M. Turner (Norwich) eventually took the title after a close fight with Mrs. E. Allen (Yarmouth) whom she defeated 19-21, 22-20, 21-12.

Men's Singles: A. WICKENS bt A. Fox 21-18, 18-21, 21-15.

Women's Singles: Miss M. TURNER bt Mrs. E. Allen 19-21, 22-20, 21-12.

Men's Doubles: A. HIPPERSON/A. LAUNDER bt J. Ruddock/G. Smith 22-20, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: Miss TURNER/Mrs. J. RODWELL bt Mrs. Allen/Mrs. H. Ewles 15-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: HIPPERSON/Miss J. WADE bt J. Ewles/Mrs. H. Ewles 21-13, 17-21, 22-20.

Youths' Singles: R. SYDER bt C. Gerrard 19-21, 21-12, 21-13.

Girls' Singles: Miss V. HANNER bt Miss J. Evans 21-14, 14-21, 21-16.

Veterans' Singles: G. WHITTAKER bt J. Malonowski 21-16, 13-21, 21-12.

Consolation Singles: W. MINORS bt G. Smith 20-22, 21-8, 21-14.

For the sixth time in seven attempts, Miss M. Turner (St. Faith's Horse) won the women's singles title in the Norwich "Closed" championships at the Lads' Club, on January 17.

In the final she fought back from a one game and 1-9 deficit to beat Mrs. H. Ewles (Y.M.C.A.) by 18-21, 21-18, 21-11.

J. Ewles (Y.M.C.A.) won the men's singles when after one of the most exciting finals seen in Norwich, he beat L. Holden (Gothic) 24-22 in the fifth game.

Surprise of the men's singles was the defeat of county champion, A. Wickens by club-mate A. Hipperson in the third round.

Robin Wickens.

DURHAM DIARY

ONCE again our youngsters must be congratulated for good performances at an important tournament. In the recent Durham Junior "Open," Eddie Taylor, who was runner-up to George Livesey in the youths' singles, produced one of the best displays of the tournament when beating Mike Dainty, of Yorkshire.

Trailing 16-19 in the first, Taylor took the next five points, and then spread-eagled his power-hitting opponent with sparkling counter-drives down both wings to win in straight games.

His form in the final, however, was a little less impressive and Livesey was a fairly easy winner.

Taylor, partnered by Wilf Barker, later gained revenge over Livesey, who was paired with Jack Keogh, by winning the youths' doubles title.

Barker partnered David Stanley in the boys' doubles and they did well to reach the semi-final stage by overcoming Midgeley and Ives, before losing to Paul Racey and Mike Dainty.

Durham's prestige was further increased by Kevin Whittingham's excellent performance in reaching the semi-final of the "under-15" boys' singles where he was beaten by the much more experienced Bob Ractliffe, Whittingham had well beaten Nigel Ives in the previous round.

Arnold Warentz.

Civil Service Championships

(King Edward Building, G.P.O., January 5-9)

Ken Craigie won the men's title for the 7th time while Margaret Cherry staged a fine come-back to take three titles.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: K. R. CRAIGIE bt M. Close 21-12, 18-21, 21-15. L. G. ADAMS bt K. Sheldon 21-14, 18-21, 21-17. Final: CRAIGIE bt Adams 21-12, 21-18.

Women's Singles: M. H. CHERRY bt B. Landmore 13-21, 21-11, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: ADAMS/SHELDON bt K. H. Campbell/D. Light 21-13, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: CHERRY / J. PRESTON bt Mrs. M. Know/Landmore 21-13, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: CRAIGIE/CHERRY bt P. W. Brook/Landmore 16-21, 21-10, 21-13.

Boys' Singles: D. GRANT bt A. D. Brady 21-8, 21-10.

Girls' Singles: W. THRALFALL bt M. Burke 21-12, 21-9.

Veterans' Singles: L. PRIOR bt G. E. Haywood 21-19, 21-11.

ESSEX INTER-TOWNS SUGGESTION

COVERING an area including five of the largest boroughs in the county and with almost every leading player to choose from, the East London League will be their favourites to win the Premier Division of the Essex Leagues Championships once again.

It has been suggested that an inter-towns competition, with residential qualifications, be run instead of this one horse race. This would not only make the competition more open, but enable more top players to participate and consequently raise the standard of play throughout the county.

I have often heard it said by leading players, possibly with ample justification, that it is a waste of time to play in the present competition because the opposition is so weak that they are on "a hiding for nothing."

The weaker leagues, however, look forward to meeting the strong East London side, but if an inter-town tournament was formed, they could expect stronger all-round opposition.

I fully realise that a certain amount of administrative difficulties would have to be overcome, but surely a leading club in each area could be used as an administrative headquarters so as not to throw extra work or expense on the leagues concerned.

Each league has been asked to suggest a suitable memorial to our late president, the well-liked and much respected Corti Woodcock. Perhaps a competition on the above lines might be suitable. I shall be glad to have the views of both players and officials.

ESSEX LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS. Premier Division

Up to January 18, 1959.

	Games				
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F. A. P.
Southend	3	2	1	0	19 11 5
E. London	2	2	0	0	18 2 4
Romford	2	2	0	0	13 7 4
Walthamstow	3	1	1	1	15 15 3
Barking	3	1	0	2	9 21 2
Chelmsford	3	0	0	3	10 20 0
Iford	2	0	0	2	6 14 0

The "District" was well to the fore in the finals of the Romford and District "Closed" Championships, for out of the eight events only the Girls' singles winner Lesley Bell actually lives within the boundaries of the borough.

At the age of 12, Lesley became the youngest ever to win this event; Rita Sugarhood being 13 when she scored her first success and Shelagh Hession 14.

Tony Condon was a convincing winner of the men's singles title, while triple winner Shelagh Hession won the women's singles for the third successive year.

Details

Men's Singles: **A. CONDON** bt K. Beamish 21-13, 21-16.

Women's Singles: **S. HESSION** bt Mrs. S. Beamish 21-21, 23-21, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: **R. DICKINSON/E. KELLER** bt D. Jenkins/R. Linge 19-21, 21-15, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: **Mrs. BEAMISH/HESSION** bt Mrs. B. Richardson/Mrs. F. Stegman 21-11, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: **CONDON/Miss HESSION** bt Beamish/Mrs. Beamish 21-11, 20-22, 21-10.

Boys' Singles: **I. MACDONALD** bt D. Dempsey 21-19, 21-15.

Girls' Singles: **L. BELL** bt J. Gibbons 21-2, 22-20.

Veterans' Singles: **H. THOMAS** bt M. Abrahams 21-14, 16-21, 21-18.

Frank Bateman.

SURREY SURVEY

STAGED at the Putney T.T.C. on January 11, the Surrey "Closed" Championships gave, on a lesser plane, an indication of what the national seeding committee are up against. Form and ranking were blown sky high in some of the most exciting matches ever in this event.

Men's seed No. 1, Joe Somogyi, with a world ranking, was fessed out by veteran Ron Crayden, who then lost two straight to Gordon Chapman who has as yet not appeared in even the "B" team. In the final Tony Miller who, temporarily lost his first team place to Somogyi, defeated perennial Harry Venner in a forty odd minute match of patience and craft.

Jill Rook played a tight, hard game without trimmings in disposing of Joyce Williamson in the women's singles final. Jill gained her place over Lynne Whithams, 16-21, 21-10, 21-12, while Joyce beat Betty Bird (Isaacs) 21-13, 14-21, 21-18. Joyce had earlier beaten recently "capped" Peggy Piper.

Men's Singles: **A. R. MILLER** bt H. Venner 21-12, 17-21, 21-15.

Women's Singles: **J. ROOK** bt J. Williamson 21-18, 21-7.

Men's Doubles: **J. SOMOGYI/R. CRAYDEN** bt T. Kirby/J. Harrington 21-9, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: **ROOK/M. PIPER** bt L. Whithams/Williamson 22-24, 21-16, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: **M. MACLAREN/Miss AUSTIN** bt H. Venner/Miss Whithams 21-10, 21-1.

Boys' Singles: **J. BYSH** bt B. Finucane 21-15, 21-18.

Girls' Singles: **M. SHANNON** bt C. Bagshaw 21-18, 21-12.

LINCOLNSHIRE LOSS

LINCOLNSHIRE and particularly Scunthorpe table tennis circles will be much the poorer by the recent death of Mr. R. E. Whitaker, who was, for many years, a most enthusiastic worker for the game.

Unlucky Cecil Pickwell. Immediately following his selection to take the third position in the County team against Northumberland, he was taken ill with pneumonia and his place had to be taken by Bill Moran.

The Lincolnshire Championships will be held as usual at the Imperial Café, Skegness on February 22. The Grimsby "Open" will take place on February 28.

HAIGH CUP COMPETITION

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Lincoln	4	4	0	0	38	2	8
Gainsborough	3	2	0	1	25	5	5
Scunthorpe	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Boston	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Spalding	3	1	2	0	12	13	2
Skegness	3	0	3	1	5	25	1
Louth	3	0	3	0	2	28	0

BUTLIN CUP COMPETITION

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Spalding	3	2	0	1	21	9	5
Louth	3	2	0	1	18	12	5
Boston	2	1	0	1	14	6	3
Scunthorpe	2	1	0	1	9	11	3
Skegness	2	1	1	0	8	12	2
Lincoln	4	0	4	0	10	30	0

F. M.

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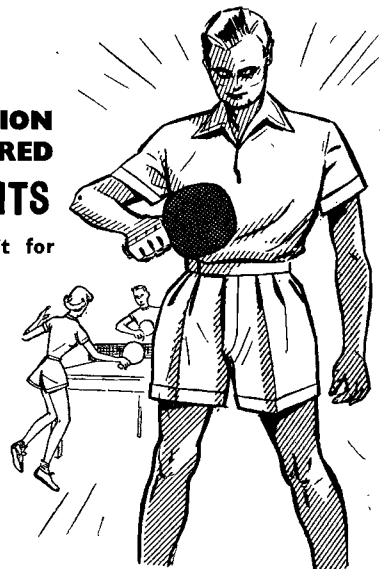
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LEICESTERSHIRE LATEST

LEICESTER have made good progress in the Midland League since Christmas with the men's team having taken three points out of four and the women recording a surprise win over Birmingham.

The inclusion of Paul Newby in the men's team seems to be paying dividends already, while the top class pair of the University pair, Daphne Hughes and Margaret Pittam has been the main strength of the women's side.

The intermediate and junior teams still have maximum points. Barrie Clarke has given some sparkling displays in the junior side and in his first season is undefeated after 10 matches.

Leicester narrowly defeated Cambridge in a Wilmott Cup tie by 5-4. The result depended on the last match in which Charlie Jacques beat John Thurston 24-22 in the deciding game, after leading 17-8.

The Leicester and District League First Division is still very open with little separating Post Office, Hinckley Y.M.C.A., Leicester Y.M.C.A. I and Leicester Y.M.C.A. II.

The Y.M.C.A. "Open" championships produced a crop of surprises with Philip Reid beating Charlie Jacques in the men's singles final, and Pat Kilsby defeating county champion, Pauline Davis in the women's singles final.

Jacques gained some consolation when winning the men's doubles with Johnny Burraston and the mixed with Pauline Davis.

Trevor White won the junior singles at his third attempt and Ivan Atanasoff (Melton) took the under-16 event—held for the first time—defeating Johnny Aston (Great Glen).

Philip Reid.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

NEW Chesterton Institute, last year's winners, jeopardised their chances of retaining the Cambridgeshire League title when they were surprisingly beaten by their own second team.

However they are still at the top of the table but the challenge of Wesley and Press I, now looks much more serious.

Torchbearers and Wilburton are having a most successful time in their first

season in the Cambridgeshire League.

Torchbearers head Division V while Wilburton, who are so far unbeaten, are at the top of Division VI.

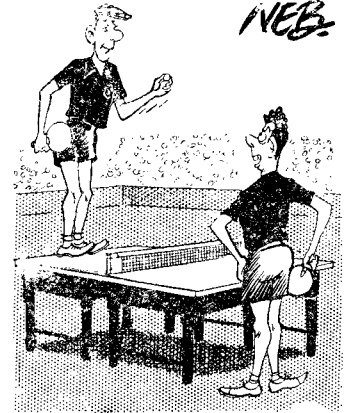
Leading teams in the other divisions are: Great River Ouse Board (Division II); N.A.L.G.O. (Division III); Newmarket (Division IV); St. George's III (Division VII).

The United Cambridge Hospitals' Board of Directors have presented the Association with a Challenge Cup which will take the form of a team challenge knock-out competition.

This event will take place annually with the finals at the Hospitals' Club rooms.

Results of the coaching sessions being held at Impington Village College, Chesterton Youth Centre and Central Youth Centre are very encouraging and already suggest that Cambridgeshire will have a wealth of talent from which to choose in the near future.

Leslie Constable.



"Pardon me, but don't you think you are taking a bit of a liberty?"
Reprinted by courtesy of
Evening News

LEARNING TO PLAY with Joyce Williamson

MY previous article dealt with building up a steady defence and having acquired this you should now be ready to deal with attack. The main stroke is of course the *Topspin Drive*, which enables the ball to be sent into the opponent's half of the table at greater speed.

Here are three pointers to remember for this stroke . . . Topspin, Timing, Force of Impact.

Topspin: With the "chop" we learned to slow the ball by making it spin backwards. Now we want to make it spin forward to give more speed through the air so that on hitting the table it will shoot forwards. The drive is therefore the opposite arm action to the "chop."

Start the stroke slightly below waist level and bring the racket up to approximately head-high, hitting the ball with a brushing action to make it spin forwards.

Timing: To go the easiest way about the stroke with a minimum of effort, take the ball at the *top of the bounce*.

Taking the ball late as in defensive strokes, needs extra effort to lift it.

Force of Impact: Do not try to hit the ball hard until you are quite sure you can keep up a good steady rally with slow drives.

Forehand Topspin Drive: Approach the shot as above, but with the arm

behind the body to give a nice swing. Have the top of the racket tilted slightly forward to make contact at the top of the bounce in line with the body and be sure to follow through. This is most important when driving.

Make sure the racket finishes at least head-high or you will tend to put the ball into the net.

Backhand Topspin Drive. This is similar arm action as for the forehand, which completes the front part of the circle around which all strokes work. Start the stroke practically in line with the body and from waist level without quite as much approach to it as on the forehand.

And be sure to follow through.

Keep your wrist firm while learning these drives, particularly for the backhand or you will find them much harder to execute.

I always find with beginners that the forehand drive comes easiest, but a number have difficulty with the backhand, generally because they try to use the wrist before getting the arm action correct.

Footwork and Body Action: The body should be perfectly relaxed, knees slightly bent, with the weight being transferred from the back to front foot as the arm goes forward. If you do not transfer the weight in this style all force goes out of the stroke.

The sideways stance is most important for the forehand drive. If you stand square to the table your body will go sideways, pulling away from the arm on its forward movement, and you will lose most of the force of the stroke.

To help get a little more force into the stroke, slip the forefinger slightly up the blade of the racket for the forehand and let your thumb go a little more onto the blade for the backhand.

Service: Practising "Drives" offers the opportunity to acquire a "topspin" service. Use the same arm action, but tilt the top of the racket more forward as the ball has to hit your side of the table first.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

THREE fine wins by W. Gallagher enabled Birmingham to beat Cardiff and secure their first points of the season in the Western Counties championship.

Gallagher, who was in brilliant form, accounted for B. Dimascio, A. Thomas and S. Jones. R. Morris scored the other two wins in Birmingham's narrow 5-4 victory.

Bristol Seconds convincingly defeated Weston by 7-2. Both Colin Feltham and Pat Harris were unbeaten while Weston's sole successes were achieved by R. Philpott and J. Limna.

Bristol ladies also gained a 7-2 win over their Weston counterparts.

Miss J. Collier gave a fine display to win her three matches with ease and put Bristol on the winning path but Mrs Bull kept Weston temporarily in the fight by beating Miss J. Moger and Miss P. Wilkinson. However, narrow wins by Miss Wilkinson and Miss Moger over Miss Francis and Miss B. Couch settled the outcome.

Grove Motlow.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP - - - By CONRAD JASCHKE

Middlesex and Yorkshire move up—Herts. win Div. II South

DESPITE fielding weakened teams for last months matches both Yorkshire and Middlesex survived with full points to move in to second and third place behind Surrey. Each of these sides has lost one match, while hard on their heels are Essex, who have full points from three matches, and whose tie against Gloucestershire was postponed.

The Essex v Middlesex clash on February 18, and Surrey v Yorkshire on March 14, appear to hold the key to the fate of the championship.

Essex are obviously in a good position, but they still have Gloucestershire, Lancashire and Cheshire to meet, apart from Middlesex, and much will depend on the availability of Johnny Leach.

Cheshire gave Yorkshire quite a handful of trouble in their match at Bradford... and most of it was from the Cheshire No. 3 V. Hankey, who has the ability to make up in "guts" what he lacks in style.

Hankey crushed Maurice Simpson and Stuart Dyson in straight games, and also brought home the mixed doubles in which he teamed up with Miss D. Wilkinson for the first time in a match this season.

This by the way, was the first mixed doubles Cheshire have won.

Dyson and Ray Hinchliff succumbed to the established Cheshire

men's doubles pair, Johnson and Schofield, but that was the full extent of Cheshire's successes.

Ray Hinchliff lived up to the responsibilities of deputising for Brian Kennedy at No. 1 by winning two singles, Dyson and Simpson added one each, and Kathleen Best saw to it that the women's singles and doubles went to the home side.

For their visit to Blackpool, Middlesex were without Micky Thornhill and Diane Rowe, who were on England duty in Birmingham that day. However they soon established a commanding lead, and were never in real trouble.

Jeff Ingber was Lancashire's outstanding man, defeating Derek Burridge and Alan Rhodes, while Geoff Pullar accounted for Laurie Landry. The Middlesex men each won a singles, and all three doubles went to Middlesex in straight games, while Jean Harrower capably deputised for Diane Rowe in the women's singles by beating Ivy Haney (now Mrs. Kershaw).

With only two premier matches to report, it may be a good opportunity to have a look at some premier results to date. Only two men are unbeaten now, and they have only played in one match! Brian Brumwell (Essex) and Alan Lindsay (Middlesex)... average 2-0 each. Taking the "true"

averages, Jo Somogyi (Surrey) comes out best, 9-1, and Brian Kennedy (Yorkshire) and Bryan Merrett (Gloucestershire) are next... each 7-1.

Then Harry Venner (Surrey) with 8-2, Derek Burridge (Middlesex) 6-2, followed by Johnny Leach (Essex) and Laurie Landry (Middlesex) at 3-1. The only other men with a "plus" average are Bobby Raybould and Bobby Stevens, both Essex at 4-2, and Ian Harrison (Gloucestershire) 5-3.

On the other side of the scale, Peter Partos (Gloucestershire), Henry Buist (Kent) and Tony Piddock (Kent) are the only men without a win, but I shall be surprised if the two Kent boys do not improve on this before the end of the season.

HEAD OF AVERAGES



JOSEF SOMOGYI

Over to the women, and there is the brilliant Miss Best (Yorkshire) way out on her own, with five wins, over Barbara Milbank, Joyce Fielder, Ivy Haney, Mrs. E. Morley and Lorna Bown. Next Diane Rowe (Middlesex) with wins over Joyce Fielder and Jill Rook, then Miss Rook 3-2, Miss Fielder 2-2, Barbara Milbank (Essex) 1-1, and Jean Harrower (Middlesex) 1-1... an unexpected defeat at the hands of Miss Bown early on.

A look at the men's doubles sees seven undefeated pairs, Ian Harrison/Bryan Merrett (Gloucestershire) 4-0, Raybould/Stevens (Essex) 2-0, Rhodes/Thornhill (Middlesex) 2-0, and one win each for Brumwell/Stevens, Dyson/Simpson (Yorkshire), Landry/Lindsay (Middlesex), and Landry/Rhodes.

In the women's doubles, Best/Farnsworth (Yorkshire) lead with 3-0,

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION		
February 18	Essex v Middlesex, The Red Triangle Club, Western Road, Romford	7.15 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION NORTH		
February 21	Durham v Warwickshire, T.L.F. Welfare Institute, Fulwell Road, Sunderland	3 p.m.
	Northumberland v Warwickshire, Y.M.C.A., Church Way, North Shields	7 p.m.
February 28	Yorkshire v Derbyshire, Albion T.T.C., Bethel Walk, off Cambridge Street, Sheffield	7 p.m.
SECOND DIVISION WEST		
February 21	Dorset v Worcestershire Somerset v Wiltshire, St. Peter's Hall, Dorset Street, Lower Bristol Road, Bath	7.15 p.m.
February 28	Worcestershire v Staffordshire, Shirehall, Worcester	7.15 p.m.
March 7	Somerset v Dorset, British Cellophane Ltd. Canteen, Bath Road, Bridgwater	7.15 p.m.
	Devon v Glamorgan, Pitts Memorial Hall, Gibbon Street, Plymouth	7 p.m.
MIDLAND DIVISION		
March 7	Oxfordshire v Staffordshire	
SOUTHERN DIVISION		
February 14	Buckinghamshire v Hertfordshire, Manor Hall, Slough	7 p.m.
February 21	Norfolk v Bedfordshire, C.F.Y.M.S. Rooms, Norwich	7 p.m.
March 6	Buckinghamshire v Bedfordshire	
NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION		
February 14	Lancashire v Yorkshire, Waterside Mills, Greenfield, nr. Oldham	3 p.m.
February 21	Durham v Yorkshire, T.L.F. Institute, Fulwell Road, Sunderland	7.15 p.m.
SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION		
February 14	Kent v Suffolk, Holy Trinity Hall, Dover Street, Sittingbourne	2.30 p.m.
February 24	Essex v Middlesex, Mile End Old Boys Club, 241-3, Mile End Road, London, E.1	7 p.m.
February 28	Kent v Essex, Parish Hall, Doddington, Sittingbourne	6 p.m.
March 7	Hertfordshire v Essex, The Electrical Apparatus Co. Club House, New Barnes Avenue, St. Albans	7 p.m.
March 8	Surrey v Kent	

followed by Fry/Rowe and Fry/Harrower with two wins each.

Kent have one bright spot in the mixed doubles with George Elliott/Joyce Fielder sharing top place with Somogyi/Miss Rook (Surrey) at 4-0. The scarcity of consistent mixed pairs is quite startling, for apart from the top two, the next best are four pairs with a 1-0 average, and then we are down to 2-2!

CHAMPIONS!

Moving now to Div. II South, let me offer hearty congratulations to Hertfordshire on winning the division, by their 7-3 win over Hampshire at Oxhey, followed by a 6-4 victory over Kent at Greenwich.

A big share of this success must belong to the former junior international John Hunt, who won four singles in these two matches, as well as the men's doubles, partnered by Terry Densham on both occasions. Densham did not have a good start against Kent, where, having been introduced as England's newest international, he could not hold Kent's "hitting machine" Ming Wong.

However, Terry clinched the vital singles against Alan Gazley later on, so all ended well for Hertfordshire. Brian Barr, the Hertfordshire No. 3 and another former junior international, looks a much improved player. Though using a rather badly executed backhand push which too often found its way into the bottom of the net. Barr did look a class player against Kent when attacking, and has obviously made great strides this year.

INTRIGUING

Division II North presents a most intriguing situation, with Yorkshire II, Warwickshire and Lincolnshire locked together with four points each, each side having won one and drawn two matches.

When Lincolnshire entertained Yorkshire II at Boston, Peter Skerratt showed the home crowd his best form, defeating both M. Pitts and G. Carrigill. Skerratt has been riding on the crest of the wave lately, but by contrast Matt Sheader has not been able to play to his usual standard, though he certainly did not have the best of luck in suffering two narrow singles defeats in this match.

Brian Edlington found the opposition too strong and dropped two singles, and it was left to the Lincolnshire girls Mrs. C. Moran and Mrs. W. Eanor to contribute wins in the women's singles, women's doubles, and mixed (Skerratt/Moran).

Now both Yorkshire and Lincolnshire still have to play Derbyshire and Durham; while Warwickshire have to meet Northumberland and Durham. So it looks very much like a decision on games average between Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Warwickshire.

Division II West is developing into a duel between Glamorgan and

Somerset, the latter moving up on the leaders by virtue of their 6-4 win against Worcestershire at Bath.

Worcestershire have done well in the past by virtue of their excellent doubles play, but this season little has gone right for them in that department, and they have won only four doubles out of twelve.

Wiltshire have been greatly strengthened by the acquisition of their No. 1, A. Woolfe, of Swindon, but against Staffordshire they crashed 2-8, while Devon overpowered Cornwall by 9-1 at Torquay.

Cornwall's only success came in the first set of the match, when G. Cornelius beat A. Heals 12-21, 21-17, 21-16. A. Powning put up a battle for Cornwall, losing 12-21, 22-20, 20-22 to W. Pape, and 24-26, 22-24 to P. Ofield.

In the South Junior Division, Hertfordshire's 9-1 win over Sussex, at St. Albans, carried them into third place behind Middlesex, who defeated Suffolk 9-1 at Whitbread's Brewery in Chiswell, and Surrey. G. Whalley scored the only success for Sussex against Hertfordshire when he defeated promising Bob Ractliffe 21-18, 22-20, in the last set of the match, but previously Whalley had almost brought it off against G. Seaholme, who beat him 21-17, 17-21, 26-24.

FAVOURITES

In the North Junior, Lancashire's 5-3 win over Yorkshire at Sheffield, and a similar victory over Cheshire at Manchester, have put them ahead of the field at present, but they have to play Yorkshire again, as well as Durham, before the issue is settled.

With George Livesey, David Stanley Jack Keogh and Linda Gordon to call on, Lancashire are a powerful side, who must now be favourites to retain the championship.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
PREMIER DIVISION							
Surrey	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Yorkshire	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Middlesex	4	3	0	1	23	12	6
Essex	3	3	0	0	18	12	6
Gloucestershire	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Cheshire	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Lancashire	4	0	1	3	12	28	1
Kent	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
DIVISION II SOUTH							
Hertfordshire	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Sussex	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Kent II	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Berkshire	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
Suffolk	2	0	0	2	1	19	0
DIVISION II NORTH							
Yorkshire II	4	2	2	0	25	15	6
Warwickshire	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Lincolnshire	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Durham	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Derbyshire	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Northumberland	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
DIVISION II WEST							
Glamorgan	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Somerset	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Wiltshire	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Devon	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Worcestershire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Staffordshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Dorset	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Cornwall	5	0	0	5	6	44	0
MIDLAND DIVISION							
Leicestershire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Warwickshire I	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Staffordshire II	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Oxfordshire	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION							
Lancashire	4	3	1	0	20	12	7
Yorkshire	4	2	1	1	22	10	5
Durham	3	1	2	0	16	8	4
Cheshire	5	0	0	5	6	34	0
SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION							
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Surrey	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Hertfordshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Essex	3	2	0	1	22	8	4
Kent	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Suffolk	4	0	0	4	5	35	0
Sussex	5	0	0	5	5	45	0

DETAILED RESULTS

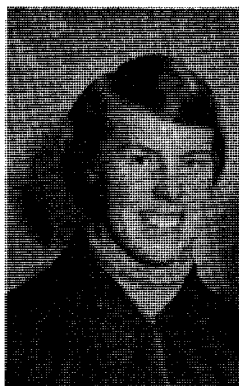
PREMIER DIVISION
 Lancashire 3, Middlesex 7
 (Lancashire names first): G. Pullar lost to A. Rhodes —11, —9; bt L. Landry 16, —9, 18. R. Alcock lost to Landry —18, —17; lost to D. Burridge —13, 15, —20. J. Ingber bt Burridge 15, —14, 17; bt Rhodes 10, 13.
 Ingber/D. Cartwright lost to Landry/Rhodes —22, —17.
 Miss I. Haney lost to Miss J. Harrower —15, —15.
 Miss Haney/Mrs. C. Spencer lost to Miss Harrower/Miss M. Fry —19, —13.
 Alcock/Mrs. Spencer lost to Burridge/Miss Fry —20, —15.
 Yorkshire 6, Cheshire 4
 (Yorkshire names first): M. Simpson lost to V. Hankey —19, —16; bt E. Johnson —10, 18, 16. R. Hinchliff bt Johnson 15, 19; bt D. Schofield 14, 11. S. Dyson bt Schofield 17, 17; lost to Hankey —18, —20.
 Dyson/Hinchliff lost to Johnson/Schofield 10, —11, —16.
 Miss K. Best bt Miss L. Bown 10, 15.
 Miss Best/Miss J. Preston bt Miss D. Wilkinson/Miss S. Illingworth 12, 12.

Simpson/Miss Preston lost to Hankey/Miss Wilkinson —19, —12.
DIVISION II (NORTH)
 Durham 7, Northumberland 3.
 Lincolnshire 5, Yorkshire II 5.
 Derbyshire 3, Warwickshire 7.
 Yorkshire 6, Durham 4.
 Derbyshire 7, Northumberland 3.
DIVISION II (SOUTH)
 Sussex 7, Berkshire 3.
 Hertfordshire 7, Hampshire 3.
 Kent II 4, Hertfordshire 6.
DIVISION II (WEST)
 Somerset 6, Worcestershire 4.
 Devonshire 9, Cornwall 1.
 Wiltshire 2, Staffordshire 8.
MIDLAND DIVISION
 Staffordshire II 3, Warwickshire II 7.
SOUTHERN DIVISION
 Hertfordshire II 4, Cambridgeshire 6.
NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION
 Yorkshire 3, Lancashire 5.
 Lancashire 5, Cheshire 3.
 Yorkshire 4, Durham 4.
SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION
 Middlesex 9, Suffolk 1.
 Hertfordshire 9, Sussex 1.

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 marked (A) are Approved. 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>
Feb. 13-14	LEINSTER "OPEN" Dublin.		
14-15	BELGIAN "OPEN" Brussels.		
14	Midland "Open" (Feb. 3) Friends' Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.	J.S.B., V.S. J.S.G. J.D.B.	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
15	Dorset "Open" (Feb. 1) Drill Hall, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	P. H. Northcott, 31, Hillcrest Road, Weymouth.
16-21	South London "Open" (Feb. 8) Central Baths, Grange Road, Bermondsey.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mrs. E. G. Strafford, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
21	Newport "Open" Standard Telephones, Newport.	B.S.	G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon.
21	Gwent "Open" (Feb. 14) Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., Newport, Monmouthshire.	J.S.B.	G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Monmouthshire.
27-28	IRISH "OPEN" Belfast.		
28	Grimsby "Open" Augusta Street Barracks, Grimsby.	J.S.B.	J. Browne, 245, Jarborough Road, Grimsby, Lincolnshire.
28	Wilmott Cup (Semi-Finals and Final). Messrs. Sperry's Sports and Social Club, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex.		R. H. Boorer, 50, Southdown Avenue, Hanwell, London, W.7.
28	J. M. Rose Bowl (Semi-Final and Final). Messrs. Ultra's Sports and Social Club, Western Avenue, London, W.3.		Miss M. Fry, 3, Montpelier Road, Ealing, London, W.5.
Feb. 28- Mar. 1-7	West Middlesex "Open" (A) West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, Ealing, W.13.	J.S.B., Y.M.S. J.S.G. Y.L.S.	D. M. Redfearn, 26, Woodstock Avenue, West Ealing, London, W.13.
Mar. 1	Sussex "Closed" Corn Exchange, Church Street, Brighton.		Miss S. Sacchi, Lower Flat, 60, Havelock Road, Brighton, 6.
7	South Yorkshire "Open" (Feb. 28) Somme Barracks, Glossop Road, Sheffield, 10.	J.S.B.	R. D. Renshaw, 7, Luna Croft, Gleadless, Sheffield, 12.
7	NORTH OF ENGLAND v. SOUTH OF ENGLAND Bradford.		
14	Welsh "Closed" Llandaff North Drill Hall, Cardiff.	B.S., G.S.	Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff.
15	Sussex Junior "Open" (Feb. 19) Assembly Hall, Worthing.	J.S.B., J.S.G. J.D.B., J.D.G. J.X.D. Under 15 B.S. Under 15 G.S.	Miss L. E. Aymill, "Imatone," 192, Goring Way, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex.
21	Cheshire Junior "Open" (Mar. 7) Livingstone Street Baths, Livingstone Street, Birkenhead.	J.S.B., J.S.G. J.D.B., J.D.G. J.X.D. Under 15 Boys. S. Under 15 Girls. S.	R. A. Bissell, 75, Southdale Road, Birkenhead.
21	Bath "Open" (March 7) St. Peter's Church Hall, Lower Bristol Road, Bath.	J.S.B.	J. A. Butcher, 1, South View Road, Twerton, Bath.



N.W. KENT "OPEN"

By BILL EDWARDS

A RECORD FOR ANN

HARRISON TAKES MEN'S TITLE

ANN HAYDON

IAN HARRISON

ANN HAYDON collected her first home title of the season and set up a new record by winning the women's singles for the fourth successive year in the North West Kent "Open" at Barnehurst, on January 3.

From a star-studded entry that included all the top girls, with the exception of Joyce Fielder and Jill Rook, both absent on international duty, she beat Diane Rowe 21-12, 22-20 in the final.

This meeting between England's respective Nos. 1 and 2, proved something of an anti-climax, for it was not until the match was as good as over that Miss Rowe offered any serious opposition.

Miss Haydon's toughest match was in the semi-final where she took 55 minutes to inflict on Kathie Best her first home defeat of the season, winning 21-14, 17-21, 21-10.

Previously Miss Haydon had beaten Mrs. Marina Dodd 21-3, 21-5, and Joyce Williamson 21-13, 21-13. Miss Best had a close call against Lynne Whithams, before winning 14-21, 21-17, 22-20.

Miss Rowe avenged two previous defeats by Jean Harrower when they clashed in the first round, and this time won in straight games 21-15, 21-9.

Miss Rowe followed up with a good semi-final win over Pam Mortimer at 21-16, 22-24, 21-11. Miss Mortimer beat Jean McCree in the quarter-final 21-16, 21-18.

Brian Kennedy lost his men's singles title when Josef Somogyi beat him 21-17, 21-13 in the semi-final. The former Hungarian hit through Kennedy in tremendous style, but did not meet with the same success in the final where Ian Harrison proved too solid.

The big upset of the men's singles was provided by Len Adams, who in a marathon with Bryan Merrett, won 17-21, 23-21, 21-10.

The minutes were rapidly ticking away in the final game with every prospect of a typical Merrett finish, but from 10-all the Gloucestershire international suddenly folded and lost the next 11 points in a row.

Adams was in good form throughout the meeting and had previously beaten Laurie Landry 17-21, 21-15, 21-10 but met his match when he came up against Harrison in the semi-final, losing 18 and 12.

J. O'Hara toppled new international Terry Densham 23-21, 11-21, 21-19, before falling to Kennedy in the "quarters." Bobby Stevens scored a straight games win over Harry Venner, but lost to Harrison in the last eight.

The left-handed pairing of the Misses Haydon and Rowe, who between them won the European team championship last season, swept all before them in the women's doubles where they followed up a semi-final win over Pam Mortimer and Betty Bird, with a 21-12, 21-17 win over Kathie Best and Yvonne Baker.

The Hungarian refugees Somogyi and Muranyi took the men's doubles, beating Kennedy and Venner 21-18,

16-21, 21-6, while Muranyi paired up with Miss Rowe to win the mixed doubles final.

David Creamer and Jean Harrower easily won the boys' and girls' singles.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: J. SOMOGYI bt B. Kennedy 21-17, 21-13; I. HARRISON bt L. Adams 21-18, 21-12.

Final: HARRISON bt Somogyi 21-19, 21-16.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: A. HAYDON bt K. Best 21-14, 17-21, 21-10; D. ROWE bt P. Mortimer 21-6, 22-24, 21-11.

Final: HAYDON bt Rowe 21-12, 22-20.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: G. MURANYI/SOMOGYI bt Harrison/M. Maclaren 21-11, 17-21, 21-18; KENNEDY/H. VENNOR bt Adams/D. Burrige 21-23, 21-14, 21-18.

Final: SOMOGYI/MURANYI bt Kennedy/Venner 21-18, 16-21, 21-6.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: HAYDON/ROWE bt Mrs. B. Bird/Mortimer 21-16, 21-17; BEST/Y. BAKER bt L. Whithams/J. Williams 21-8, 21-19.

Final: HAYDON/ROWE bt Best/Baker 21-12, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: KENNEDY/Miss BEST bt R. Stevens/Miss Whithams 22-20, 18-21, 21-15; MURANYI/Miss Rowe bt A. Piddock/Miss S. Hession 21-12, 21-16.

Final: MURANYI/Miss ROWE bt Kennedy/Miss Best 19-21, 21-9, 22-20.

Boys' Singles: Final: D. CREAMER bt M. Ellis 21-14, 21-16.

Girls' Singles: Final: J. HARROWER bt M. Shannon 21-19, 21-13.

YORKSHIRE JUNIOR "OPEN"

PAUL RACEY beats GEORGE LIVESEY

THE new venture by which the Yorkshire "Junior" has become a true junior tournament with the accent on the Under-17 age group, did not have any adverse effect on the entries which were, in fact, slightly up on last year.

The finals were dominated by a few players, with England No. 1 boy, George Livesey, taking major honours, having a part in four out of five finals. His partner, Jackie Keogh, figured in three, while on the girls' side, Judy Williams was also in three out of a possible four.

The boys' singles went to Paul Racey, who beat Livesey in straight sets in the final, following an earlier win over Keogh. Livesey's semi-final victim was Yorkshire boy, David Laycock, who had caused an upset in the fourth round with his defeat of No. 4 ranked, Derek Grant.

The girls' singles, too, saw the downfall of ranked players, with Diane Wright (ranked 3) and Judy Williams (4) going down to Meryl Upton (Group A) and Alma Taft (6) respectively. The Hertfordshire girl took the title in a close final. Surprise in this event was the defeat of ranked players, Margaret Bradnum and Susan Thomas by Carol Bagshaw, who reached the semi-final before losing to Miss Taft.

Both "Under-15" events produced a good standard, with the titles going to David Stanley and Judy Williams.

Livesey showed his class in the youths' event, including

METROPOLITAN "OPEN"

INSPIRED DIANE GAINS REVENGE

MAYBE it was coincidence but twin sister Rosalind in the audience appeared to inspire Diane Rowe to her best performance of the season when she took the women's singles in the Metropolitan "Open" at Artillery House, Handel Street, London, W.C.1, on January 24 (writes Bill Edwards).

Miss Rowe silenced all the criticism over her unpredictable form by the way in which she crushed Pam Mortimer 21-16, 21-11 in the final.

Playing with great skill the Middlesex left-hander steadily softened-up Miss Mortimer in the first game, then released a furious attack which carried all before it.

This was something like the Diane Rowe of the days when partnered by her twin sister she was twice world doubles champion. After this performance there can be no doubts about her place for Dortmund being automatic.

Miss Rowe produced good consistent form throughout, beating Joy Williamson, of New Zealand 21-11, 21-15; Joan Williamson, of Middlesex, 21-9, 21-10, and in the semi-final, Mrs. Betty Bird 21-15, 21-11.

Miss Mortimer, who the previous week had beaten Miss Rowe in the Welsh final, had looked all set to continue her giant killing when she beat Kathie Best in the semi-final 21-18, 21-17. It completed a hat-trick over the top three in the women's ranking.

Earlier, Miss Mortimer beat Jill Rook 21-9, 21-15, and Yvonne Baker 21-11, 21-14.

Mrs. Bird provided a ranking upset in the first round by beating Joyce Fielder 16-21, 21-11, 21-12, and followed up with a 21-17, 23-21 win over Lynne Whithams.

Gloucestershire's Ian Harrison came through with



DIANE ROWE

flyng colours to win the men's singles, beating the Essex players Bobby Stevens 21-14, 21-14 in the semi-final, and Bobby Raybould 21-13, 21-14 in the final.

Mixing a solid defence with a strong counter-attack, he was more than an answer to two hard hitting players, who got little change and eventually contributed to defeat with their own errors. Some of Harrison's retrieving was unbelievable.

Stevens had previously scored two outstanding successes, beating Ken Craigie 16-21, 21-18, 21-10, and Josef Somogyi 15-21, 21-13, 21-17. Raybould accounted for the seeded Harry Venner 21-14, 21-12, with some fine left hand hitting, and Laurie Landry 21-16, 18-21, 21-17, in the semi-final.

Geoff Elliott and Tony Piddock, the Kent pair, were shock performers of the men's doubles, accounting for Alan Rhodes and Somogyi in straight games before falling to Harrison and Michael Maclaren in the final at 11 and 14.

The winners had their toughest task in the semi-final where they overcame Raybould and Stevens 23-21, 16-21, 21-19.

Worthy Winners

Betty Bird and Miss Mortimer proved a well balanced pair in taking the women's doubles. It was a surprise when they beat Miss Best and Miss Fielder in the semi-final 21-16, 21-13, but just to show this was no flash in the pan they beat Miss Rowe and Miss Rook in the final 21-16, 21-19.

The two singles runners-up, Raybould and Miss Mortimer, joined forces to take the mixed doubles, beating Brian Brumwell and Peggy Franks 21-17, 21-18.

Shock of the junior events was the semi-final defeat of Jean Harrower by Judy Williams, the up-and-coming young Hertfordshire player, by 21-18, 21-19. She was not allowed to produce the same form in the final, won by Mary Shannon 21-8, 21-18. Derek Grant beat David White 22-20, 21-16 in the boys' final.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: R. RAYBOULD bt L. Landry 21-16, 18-21, 21-17; I. HARRISON bt R. Stevens 21-14, 21-14.

Final: HARRISON bt Raybould 21-13, 21-14.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: D. ROWE bt Mrs. B. Bird 21-15, 21-11; P. MORTIMER bt K. Best 21-18, 21-17.

Final: ROWE bt Mortimer 21-16, 21-11.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: HARRISON/M. MACLAREN bt Raybould/Stevens 23-21, 16-21, 21-12; G. ELLIOTT/A. PIDDOCK bt A. Rhodes/J. Somogyi 21-18, 21-13.

Final: HARRISON/MACLAREN bt Elliott/Piddock 21-11, 21-14.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: ROWE/J. ROOK bt Y. Baker/Mrs. R. Hook 16-21, 21-16, 21-13; MRS. BIRD/MORTIMER bt Best/J. Fielder 21-16, 21-13.

Final: MRS. BIRD/MORTIMER bt Rowe/Rook 21-16, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: RAYBOULD/MISS MORTIMER bt T. Densham/Miss B. Milbank 21-18, 21-12; B. BRUMWELL/MRS. HOOK bt Stevens/Miss Fielder 21-16, 21-15.

Final: RAYBOULD/MISS MORTIMER bt Brumwell/Mrs. Hook 21-17, 21-18.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: D. WHITE bt Whalley 21-11, 21-18; D. GRANT bt T. Leverno 19-21, 21-12, 21-15.

Final: GRANT bt White 22-20, 21-16.

Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals: J. WILLIAMS bt J. Harrower 21-18, 21-19; M. SHANNON bt A. Taft 21-16, 21-15.

Final: SHANNON bt Williams 21-8, 21-18.

WELSH "OPEN"

CRAIGIE SWITCHES TO SPONGE AND WINS WELSH "OPEN"

Pam Mortimer shocks Di Rowe

KEN CRAIGIE



IF all the "spongers" played like Ken Craigie, maybe we would not be having an international crisis now. This must have been the sentiment in the minds of all those who saw his great win in the final of the Welsh "Open" at Cardiff.

The sponge advocates say that sponge speeds up the game, and in Ken's hands it certainly does. The pity of it is that for every one of his kind, there are a score whose game is an eyesore.

He was in tremendous form, hitting with such speed and power that Ian Harrison, who got back some "impossible" shots in the semi-final, was beaten too straight. In the final, Johnny Leach just could not get in with his all-out attack which quelled Bryan Merrett in the previous round, and spent most of his time vainly trying to stem Ken's stream of hits to all parts of the table.

This was great stuff, and in fact, the finals generally were very good indeed.

The women's match was the best for a long time. Pam Mortimer was in tremendous form, and Diane Rowe, who seems to defend more than she did, could not get on top of Pam's game. After losing the second, she did make a belated attempt to "get in," and just scrambled it, but left it too late again in the third to try to break up the Birmingham girl's scintillating game.

The men's doubles was exciting, too. Merrett and Harrison, defending heavily, just got home in the first against Stevens and Raybould, who then struck top form to take the second. The third was ding-dong, and although the hitters from London put on a last moment "blitz," the Gloucester boys just managed to hold out.

The junior finals were excellent. Malcolm Ellis and David Creamer won their way through a strong entry and put on a fine final. Malcolm won fairly comfortably, his attack being particularly impressive, but the diminutive Creamer obviously has a great future.

Judy Williams, Carole Bagshaw and Alma Taft were after Welsh girl Sandra Morgan's title in the girls' event. Judy beat Carole in one semi-final and Sandra beat Alma in the other. In the final Sandra was a little too good, her forehand attack giving her just the edge on Judy.

The women's doubles was one-sided, Miss Rowe and Miss Mortimer having very little trouble with a "made-up" pair of Audrey Bates and Terry Spokes, while in the mixed Stevens and Miss Rowe were much too good for Johnny Leach and Peggy Franks.

There was plenty of good play in the earlier rounds, and more than a few shocks. Bobby Stevens breathed a sigh of relief after being given the run around by Welsh No. 1 Junior, Colin Thomas, who won the first and only lost the second and third at 21-23, 19-21!

Not to be outdone, young David Creamer beat Welsh international, Glyn Morgan.

Biggest shock of the lot was Harry Venner's two straight defeat by K. Whetlor. What did Harry say about sponge?

In the quarters, Craigie beat Lindsay, Leach beat Len

Adams, Harrison beat Aubrey Simons, and Merrett beat Bobby Stevens.

Women's semi-finalists were Audrey Bates, who hit well but not powerfully enough against Miss Rowe, and Gretta Dimascio, who found Miss Mortimer too dominant to let her get her own attack going.

Johnny Leach and Aubrey Simons teamed up well in the doubles, narrowly losing in the semi-final to Merrett and Harrison, while Craigie and Adams went to three before losing to Stevens and Raybould in the other.

Semi-finalists in the mixed were Harrison and Gretta Dimascio who went out to Leach and Miss Franks, and Raybould and Miss Mortimer who lost to the eventual winners.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: K. CRAIGIE bt I Harrison 21-16, 21-16; J. LEACH bt B. Merrett 21-10, 21-15.

Final: CRAIGIE bt Leach 21-14, 21-18.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: D. ROWE bt A. Bates 21-16, 21-13; P. MORTIMER bt Mrs. G. Dimascio 21-10, 21-9.

Final: MORTIMER bt Rowe 21-15, 23-25, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: Final: MERRETT/HARRISON bt R. Stevens/R. Raybould 21-14, 18-21, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Final: ROWE/MORTIMER bt A. Bates/T. Spokes 21-6, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles: Final: STEVENS/Miss ROWE bt Leach/Miss P. Franks 21-11, 21-11.

Boys' Singles: Final: M. ELLIS bt D. Creamer 21-12, 21-16.

LANCASHIRE "OPEN"

INGBER UPSETS RANKING

JEFF INGBER upset English ranking and kept the title within the County when he won the men's singles in the Lancashire "Open" at Lostock on January 17.

He beat sixth ranking Josef Somogyi, the top seed 21-11, 21-18 in the semi-final, then Maurice Simpson 21-6, 21-13 in the final.

Simpson had a tremendous run dethroning Ray Hinchliff, the defending champion, and also beating Ron Allcock and Derek Schofield. The effect of these three great wins took its toll in the final, where Simpson was unable to reproduce the same form.

Jill Rook gained her first title of the season in the women's singles where she beat Winifred Swift 18-21, 21-9, 21-10 in the final.

Somogyi made up for his singles set-back by winning the men's doubles with Allcock, and the mixed with Miss Rook.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: J. INGBER bt Somogyi 21-13, 21-18. M. SIMPSON bt D. Schofield 21-15, 21-19.

Final: INGBER bt Simpson 21-6, 21-13.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: J. ROOK bt Mrs. E. Carrington 21-15, 21-13. W. SWIFT bt I. Haney 22-20, 22-20.

Final: ROOK bt Swift 18-21, 21-9, 21-10.

Men's Doubles. Final: R. ALLCOCK/J. SOMOGYI bt S. Dyson/M. Pitts 21-17, 21-19.

Women's Doubles. Final: Mrs. SPENCER/Mrs. WILKINSON bt Mrs. Broad/D. Wright 21-11, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles. Final: SOMOGYI/Miss ROOK bt Simpson/Mrs. Dyson 21-17, 18-21, 21-9.

Boys' Singles. Final: G. LIVESEY bt J. Keogh 21-19, 21-19.

Girls' Singles. Final: D. WRIGHT bt L. Gordon 21-19, 21-15.

Veterans' Singles. Final: E. A. BROWN bt L. Hill 21-15, 21-17.