

FEBRUARY, 1960
ONE SHILLING

Table Tennis

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

(Picture by courtesy of M. G. Maclaren)

BRYAN MERRETT and DIANE ROWE, First singles winners at the English "Closed" Championships with their trophies.

(See page 14)



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. 18

February, 1960

No. 5

A TIME OF RE-THINKING

IN many walks of life it is found that as an organisation grows and matures, a re-thinking of basic facts becomes necessary. This is now happening in the E.T.T.A., whose present constitution is basically the same as when the association consisted of a mere handful of leagues and members.

Some revisions have been made, and last season's N.E.C. proposal which established "single representation" has been welcomed as a step forward.

However, the most serious problem, apart from the financial situation, is the loss of contact between "headquarters" and members at large.

Much thought and discussion has been devoted to this for the N.E.C. realise they cannot rush into major changes affecting the constitution without first weighing up all aspects, and sifting public opinion.

It is apparent from the many discussions, and the County Conferences of recent years, that it is widely believed that the league-to-E.T.T.A. relationship, by-passing county organisations, has become impracticable.

Out of Touch

There are some 315 leagues, involving nearly 7,000 clubs and around 170,000 players within the E.T.T.A. It is impossible to keep personal contact with such numbers. The most that can be done is to circularise important matters. Experience has shown that this cannot provide the close relationship a healthy organisation requires.

Thus the N.E.C. feel that the time may have now come to establish a league-to-county-to-E.T.T.A. basis.

Under this leagues in each county would consult together on many problems which are now

considered an N.E.C. matter, and formulate county policy to be put forward by elected representatives at national level.

This would give a greatly increased "say" to county associations and through them to the leagues in the national affairs of table tennis.

While it is impossible to keep up close contact with the membership under present circumstances, the "new deal" would establish a relatively small number of 50 or so county representatives who would be consulted on all major problems.

Streamlined

The organisation would then be streamlined to an extent where it would be possible for the N.E.C. to hear responsible spokesmen of the membership at large before embarking on any scheme of important nature.

The N.E.C. meet on February 20 to agree the final draft of a document to be circulated to all affiliated leagues and counties, setting out in detail proposals of the "new deal." It will incorporate suggestions of a fee structure that would provide substantial finance for county associations, thus giving them the opportunity of developing the game in their areas without the constant worry of cash shortage.

The circular will also invite views of members to enable the N.E.C. to consider any angles that may have escaped their notice.

To give members the opportunity of adjusting local rules and requirement, it is not intended to bring the new proposals forward until the A.G.M. of 1961.

Meanwhile, to ease the E.T.T.A.'s immediate financial position, it is likely that the N.E.C. will propose a once-and-for-all individual levy to the 1960 annual meeting.

OFFICIAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WORLD RANKING

ANN HAYDON, who has dropped out of table tennis this season is the only English player among the 30 listed in the World Ranking. She is at No. 5 among the women.

Asiatic players dominated both men's and women's lists. China, including world champion Jung Kuo-tuan at the top, have four men ranked to Japan's three.

The full lists are :

MEN: 1, Jung Kuo-tuan (Ch); 2, F. Sido (Hun.), 3, I. Ogimura (Jap.); 4, T. Nurakamu (Jap.); 5, Z. Berczik (Hun.); 6, Le Van Tiet (Vietnam); 7, R. Miles (U.S.); 8, Vang Cuan-jao (Ch); 9, Harangozo (Yug); 10, Markovic II (Yug); 11, Yang Jui-hua (Ch); 12, Mal Van Hoa (Viet); 13, L. Stipek (Czech), C. Fruendorfer (W. Ger), T. Larsson (Sw), N. Hoshino (Jap), and Chuang Chal-Fu (Ch).

WOMEN: 1, K. Matzusaki (Jap); 2, F. Eguchi (Jap); 3, E. Koczian (Hun); 4, Chui Chung-hui (Ch); 5, A. Haydon (Eng); 6, G. Lantos (Hun); 7, Cho Kyung Cha (Korea); 8, A. Simon (Netherlands); 9, T. Namba (Jap); 10, Choe Kyong Ja (Kor); 11, Sun Mel-jin (Ch); 12, L. Mossoczy (Hun); 13, K. Yamaizumi (Jap).

Eva Koczian, of Hungary, has justified her position as top ranking European woman by winning the singles at the Austrian, Hungarian and Scandinavian championships. The respective men's winners at these meetings were Toni Larsson (Sweden), Zoltan Berczik (Hungary) and Chuang Tse-Tung (China).

JAPANESE CHAMPIONSHIP

Kimiyo Matsuzaki, the world champion, was taken to five games by both Kazuko Yamaizumi in the semi-final, and Murakami in the final before winning the women's singles in the Japanese national championship, to retain her No. 1 national ranking.

Shibutani, unranked last season, is the new men's No. 1, after beating former world champion Ichiro Ojimura in straight games in the final.

Sweden have been enjoying a successful international season with victories over East Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Rumania. However, they found China much too strong and were beaten 5-1.

AUSTRIAN "OPEN": Men's Singles: Larsson (Sw) bt Berczik (Hun) 18, 13, 15. Women's Singles: Koczian (Hun) bt Mathe (Hun) 18, 15, 11. Men's Doubles: Larsson/Mellstrom (Sw) bt Vynhanovsky/Miko (Czech) 17, -19, 17, -7, 17. Women's Doubles: Koczian/Mathe (Hun) bt Mittelstadt/Kalweit -21 17, 12, 16. Mixed Doubles: Berczik/Koczian bt Wegrath/Simon (Neth) 15, 14, 18.

HUNGARIAN "OPEN": Men's Singles: Berczik (Hun) bt Chuang Tse-Tung 15, 21, 8, -19, 17. Women's Singles: Koczian (Hun) bt Mathe (Hun) 3-0. Men's Doubles: Li/Chuang (Ch) bt Berczik/Bubanyi (Hun) 14, 16, 14. Women's Doubles: Golopenta/Pitica (Rum) bt Lantos/Kerekes (Hun) 15, 19, 16. Mixed Doubles: Berczik/Lantos (Hun) bt Chuang/Hui (Ch) 16, 18, -20, 14.

SCANDINAVIAN "OPEN": Winners.— Men's Singles: Chuang Tse-Tung (Ch). Women's Singles: Koczian (Hun). Men's

Top Twelve: This event, which will be the European Championships Trials, will be staged at the Drill Hall, 444, High Road, Finchley, on Sunday, February 7th. The following players will be taking part: **Ian Harrison, Bryan Merrett, Derek Burridge, Jeff Ingber, Laurie Landry, Alan Rhodes, Michael Thornhill, Diane Rowe, Betty Bird, Kathleen Best, Jean McCree and Shelagh Hession.**

Team Selections: In the International Tournament at Rotterdam on February 14 the E.T.T.A. will be represented by a team consisting of **Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett**, with **Ron Crayden** as Non-playing Captain. The same team, with the addition of **Diane Rowe and Betty Bird** will represent the Association in the German "Open" Championships in West Berlin on February 27/28.

Alma Taft, of Hertfordshire, playing in her first International, was included in the English Junior team which met Wales on January 29.

Open Tournament: The organisers of the South London "Open" Tournament, which was to be held from February 15-20, have notified the E.T.T.A. that owing to difficulties in arranging a venue the Tournament has been cancelled for this season.

National Team Competitions: The quarter-finals of these competitions are to be played by February 14. The draw is as follows:

Wilmott Cup: Huddersfield v. Manchester; Birmingham v. St. Albans; East London v. West London; Southampton v. Cheltenham.

Rose Bowl: Leeds v. Manchester; Birmingham v. St. Albans; London Business Houses v. North-West Kent; Portsmouth v. Plymouth.

N.E.C. Meeting: The next meeting of the Executive will be held at 2.30 p.m., on Saturday, February 20 at

Published on the 10th of each month October to May inclusive. Postal Subscription 10s. for eight issues, post free.

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

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

Editorial: W. Harrison Edwards, c/o Sports Press, 142, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4 (FLE 5352).

Hon. Associate Editor & E.T.T.A. Liaison Officer: Conrad Jaschke, 35 Eynswood Drive, Sidcup, Kent, (FOOTscray 5845).

the Royal Commonwealth Society Building, Northumberland Avenue. Among the subjects to be discussed will be a report from Geoff James and Colin Clemett, the London N.E.C. members, of a meeting they had recently with representatives of the Travel Trades League on the question of the County affiliation of London Leagues.

English "Open" Championships: The draw for this event will take place at Shellmex House, Strand, W.C.2 on Monday, February 29, and in conjunction a Press Reception will be held in Room E91 from 7-9 p.m. The E.T.T.A. wish to record their gratitude to the proprietors, Shellmex

English Table

Tennis Association

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Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

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

and B.P. Ltd., for all the facilities they have provided for this occasion.

Correction: The prices of the tickets for the Finals of the English "Open" range from 6/- to 21/-, and NOT 6/- to 2/- as quoted in last month's Magazine. Although the Association in unable to offer tickets at this low rate there is a worthwhile reduction in price for tickets sold in blocks of 12 or more, and full details can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. offices at 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.

King George's Jubilee Trust. The Hon. Ivor Montagu and Peter Lowen, as President and Secretary of the E.T.T.A., attended a meeting of King George's Jubilee Trust at St. James's Palace on January 27. The meeting was in connection with the launching in April of a National Appeal, to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Trust, whose object is the further advancement of the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of the younger generation in the United Kingdom.

Doubles: Li Fu-jung/Chuang Tse-Tung (Ch). Women's Doubles: Koczian/Mathe (Hun). Mixed Doubles: Corbirzon/Golopenta (Rum). Men's team: 1, China; 2, Czechoslovakia; 3, Hungary; 4, Sweden.

RUMANIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Winners.—Men's Singles: Negulescu. Women's Singles: Zeller. Men's Doubles: Popescu/Bottner. Women's Doubles: Zeller/Tompa. Mixed Doubles: Bottner/Zeller.

JAPANESE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Men's Singles: Shibutani bt Ogimura 15, 11, 16. Women's Singles: Matsuzaki bt Murakami -13, 17, 17, -16, 15. Men's Doubles: Shibutani/Murakami bt Hoshino/Ogimura 15, 19. Women's Doubles: Matsuzaki/Murakami bt Yamazumi/Shidara 10, -14, 4. Mixed Doubles: Murakami/Yamazumi

PARAGUAY CHAMPIONSHIPS: Winners.—Men's Singles: Flores. Women's Singles: Grant. Men's Doubles: Flores/Cajarville. Women's Doubles: Grant/Acura. Mixed Doubles: Flores/Grant.

CUBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Winners.—Men's Singles: Herrera. Women's Singles: Sanchez.

MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL MEETING: Men's Singles: Saunoris bt Paschkjawschus 3-0. Women's Singles: Pitica (Rum) bt Golopenta (Rum) 3-0. Men's Doubles: Paschkjawschus/Saunoris bt Popescu/Covaci (Rum) 3-2. Women's Doubles: Pitica/Golopenta bt Barasch/Ramansaukait. Mixed Doubles: Popescu/Pitica (Rum) bt Paissaru/Saunoris 3-0.

Men's Team: U.S.S.R. II. Women's team: Rumania. Boys team: U.S.S.R. Girls team: U.S.S.R.

INTERNATIONALS: Sweden bt E. Germany 5-2; Sweden bt Austria 5-1; China bt Sweden 5-1; Sweden bt Czechoslovakia 5-2; Sweden bt Hungary 3-2; Sweden bt Rumania 3-2; Sweden bt E. Germany (Women) 4-2; Poland bt E. Germany 5-4; E. Germany bt Poland (Women) 3-0.

ENGLISH "OPEN"

A NEW LOOK

This season's "new look" English "Open" Championships are the most crucial in the 38 years' history of this, the oldest established national event in the world.

Facing the fact that it is no longer a paying proposition to use the vast Wembley arena, the organisers have taken the bold step of transferring the championships to the centre of London.

The financial success of the venture hinges entirely on filling the Royal Albert Hall to capacity on finals night, Saturday, March 26.

EUROPE INVITED

It is hoped that the playing of all finals on one night and the easily accessible Albert Hall with its comfortable seating will be a big attraction to the public.

Invitations have been sent to all leading European countries to send players.

Ticket order forms have gone out to all clubs, together with details of the special party rates available to members.

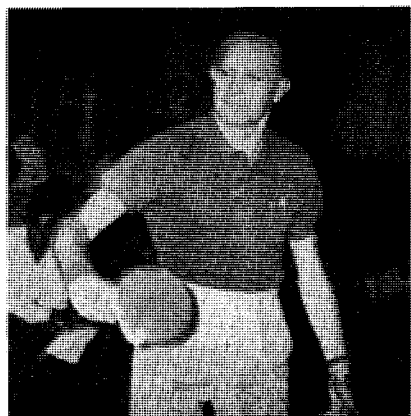
This season a special effort is being made by the newly formed championships' publicity committee who realise that with their restricted financial means it is impossible to make a wide, direct appeal to the general public.

It has therefore been decided to run a small advertising campaign in the London evening papers, and to produce a quantity of posters, window stickers and handbills which it is hoped all clubs will use to publicise the "Open."

If secretaries will ensure that at least one poster is prominently displayed in the club room and in places where they are likely to attract attention (such as libraries, etc.) and also to include a handbill in each letter written between now and the championships, the effect should be most valuable.

Any members wishing to assist in this publicity scheme should contact the E.T.T.A. secretary, 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

VICTOR BARNA SPORTSWEAR



**TOPS FOR
TABLE
TENNIS**

WORN BY THE STARS

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Surrey—From League to County

ALTHOUGH not claiming to be the oldest or the youngest, the largest or the smallest, the Surrey Association is not without distinction in the history of County Table Tennis.

The Association was not formed under its present name until after the war, but several Leagues were flourishing in the County in the early 1930s and in 1935 the Croydon League, which had begun the previous year, changed its name to the Surrey League to cover its widening field of activities.

This body sponsored and helped to organise a number of local Leagues, which by a generous interpretation of County boundaries, extended in some directions over an area greater than that served by the present Association.

Of the founders of the Surrey League only Charles Bourne, now the President, retains his connections with County table tennis, but many of the players of that time are still active.

Some are still playing regularly, like Eric Filby, former Swaythling Cup player, who is still a force to be reckoned with in League competition. Others have turned to the administra-

tive side of the game like Reg Good, Surrey's first N.E.C. member, and Dickie Dawson, at one time E.T.T.A. treasurer.

One of the best-known personalities of the pre-war period was the late Maurice Rose, donor of the "J. M. Rose Bowl," and just before the war he was propounding the idea of a County Association. It was not until the summer of 1946 that the idea was revived and, at Maurice Rose's suggestion, E. A. Stevenson called together representatives of the Leagues that had resumed operation.

The inaugural meeting was held on October 21 and four Leagues, Guildford, Croydon Business Houses, Thames Valley and Croydon, which had reverted to its original name to leave a clear field for the new Association, became the founder members.

By the end of the season two more Leagues had joined them, bringing the total strength to 89 clubs with nearly 1,300 members.

Soon after the first meeting L. A. Preston took over the jobs of secretary and treasurer, and he, with C. G. Milton as president, and Maurice Rose as chairman, continued in office through the first three seasons, laying

the foundations on which the Association has been built.

Maurice Rose resigned as chairman in 1949 following an illness, and was elected president. This was the first of several changes in the personnel of the Association.

The secretaryship passed to Bob Atherton, of Putney Club fame, and the new treasurer was Fred Joyce, who still holds the post together with that of match secretary. In the next few years the County Association grew almost to its present strength of 16 Leagues and an estimated 8,000 players.

Inter-League competitions had been held since the first days of the Association but changing conditions and the general increase in competitive events caused a gradual decline in support until in 1957 the committee took the drastic step of cancelling all the existing inter-League events. The following season a new competition was instituted on an entirely different basis and this now seems to be winning back the interest that had all but dwindled away.

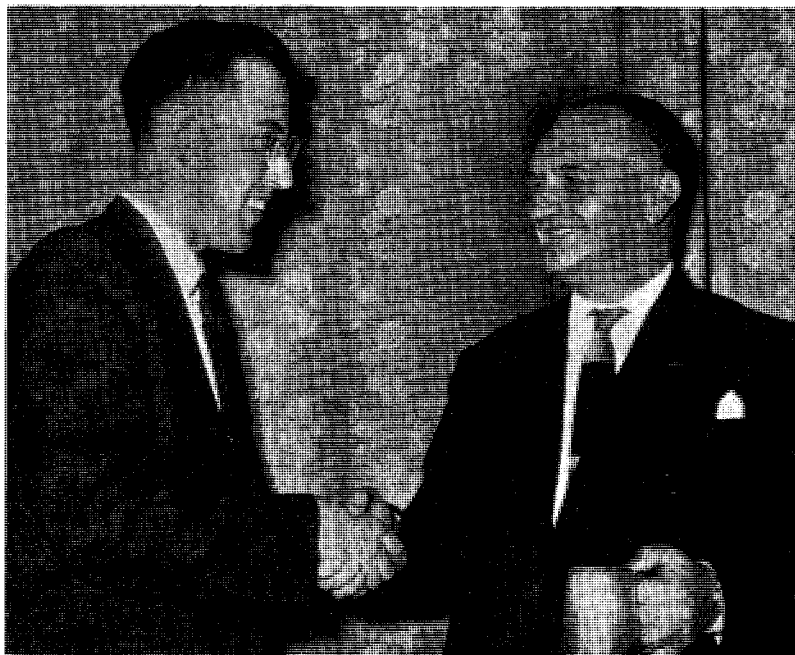
Playing in the National County Championships since their inception Surrey has at some time won every division it entered, and has figured in some incredibly near misses.

Surrey is also the only county other than Middlesex to have won the Premier Division, achieving this first in 1955-56, repeating it in 1958-59 and being strongly placed to complete the treble this season.

Harry Venner, Ken Craigie, Jean Winn and Betty Isaacs are among the 16 Surrey players who have represented their country, although this list does not include the current county champion, Tony Miller, probably the only Swaythling Cup reserve never to win an International badge.

Perhaps one of the greatest honours to be bestowed on a Surrey player was the appointment this season of County captain, Ron Crayden as England's team captain. This confirmed the county's long-held opinion of Crayden's qualities. He is one of several players in Surrey who are putting back into the game as much as they have received from it, and passing on their skill and experience to the players still on their way up.

Two others who have done this are Jean and Jackie Head, who followed



Picture by courtesy of M. G. Maclaren.

Colin Clemett presents a tankard to Chairman N. R. Maclaren at the Surrey dinner

(Continued at foot of column 1 page 7)

JUNIORS IN GERMANY

By BRIAN BRUMWELL

THIS was indeed a tour to remember, with Karl Morhard and his fellow helpers providing hospitality which I have never before experienced.

We left Victoria at 9 a.m. on January 2, arriving in Cologne at 10 p.m. We were all rather tired and after a pleasant meal were not sorry to go to bed.

This brought our first laugh of the trip.

In most German hotels they have central heating and instead of sheets and blankets just have one big eiderdown. The team, amidst much merriment, wondered whether they were supposed to open the eiderdown up and sleep in the middle or just put it on top of them.

On the Sunday morning we toured Cologne, visiting their beautiful cathedral where the team had their first training session—climbing the 450 steps to the top.

The shops were all very modern and we spent considerable time working out the price of goods in English money. All leather goods and watches were cheaper than in England but clothing was much dearer.

From Cologne we were taken to our main base, a sports school at Haachem. This was situated on a hill in beautiful countryside.

We had a short practice session before going to bed.

On the Monday morning we had a short lecture on Germany and its difficulties through being a split nation. This proved most interesting.

A visit to the village followed and we sampled tea as made by the Germans in one of their restaurants, finding it to our liking.

In the afternoon we had unofficial internationals against Belgium, the boys winning 3-2 and the girls 4-1.

The evening was spent enjoyably playing party games with our German, Austrian and Belgian friends.

The team had further practice on Tuesday morning, then played two more unofficial internationals, winning both. These were followed in the evening by films of the Hungarian Refugees and the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

On Wednesday we were taken by coach for a tour of the countryside. At one point on this trip I was shown the accuracy of the Germans by getting a snowball in the eye.

But I was not the only one too slow to duck. David Creamer had two snowballs down his neck, while Judy Williams in taking avoiding action sustained a long tear in her skirt.

That evening we played the International against West Germany before a capacity packed hall at Gellinghausen. Conditions were very good although they have different lighting and tables to ours. We were given a terrific reception which made us feel much at home, and eventually won the match 5-4.

This was the first time the German Juniors had been beaten at home since 1953.

On Thursday we divided forces, the girls looking over one steel works in Dortmund and the boys over another. We then had a guide take us by coach around the places of note in Dortmund. One of these was the indoor stadium which holds 13,000 spectators. This was the venue of last year's World Championships.

Mr. Morhard staged a tournament for both boys and girls on the Friday and England came to the front with Mary Shannon and David Creamer winning their respective events. David won without dropping a game.

There was a big get together in the evening which was rounded off when the English team got Mr. Morhard into the centre and sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

It was a sign that our stay was coming to an end but before leaving for home the next day we beat Austria 9-0 in an unofficial match.

The German officials and team escorted us to the station in the afternoon and there were lumps in our throats as we took our sad farewells.

One thing I have learned from this trip is that if only the politicians of

all countries played their politics the same way as the boys and girls played their sport there would never be any wars.

My congratulations first to Mr. Morhard and his helpers and secondly to the England team who came out of this tour with flying colours.

INTERNATIONAL

England 5, W. Germany 4

(English names first)

D. Creamer bt Dirks 21-8, 21-14. W. Barker lost Lieb 20-22, 19-21. J. Keogh lost Lorenz 9-21, 14-21. G. Livesey bt H. Rennings 21-11, 21-15.

Miss M. Shannon bt Ehebrecht 21-11, 21-7. Miss J. Williams bt Fischer 17-21, 21-13, 21-12.

Barker/Creamer lost Lorenz/Dirks 16-21, 13-21; Keogh/Livesey lost Lieb/Rennings 26-28, 21-10, 14-21.

Miss Shannon/Miss Williams bt Ehebrecht/Fischer 21-15, 21-18.

UNOFFICIAL INTERNATIONALS

Boys. England 3, Belgium 2

Livesey bt Zmuda 21-19, 21-6; bt Van Put 21-11, 8-21, 21-10. Keogh bt Zmuda 21-18, 21-12; lost Van Put 11-21, 18-21. Livesey/Keogh lost Zmuda/Van Put 14-21, 21-17, 17-21.

Girls. England 5, Belgium 0

Shannon bt Petri 21-10, 21-17; bt Stas 21-15, 21-7. Williams bt Petri 21-16, 20-22, 21-10; bt Stas 21-14, 21-8. Shannon/Williams bt Petri/Stas 22-20, 21-17.

Girls. England 4, Austria 1

Shannon bt Haustectner 21-12, 21-15; bt Straub 21-6, 21-12. Williams bt Haustectner 21-17, 21-3; bt Straub 21-9, 21-7. Shannon/Williams lost Haustectner/Straub 19-21, 19-21.

Boys. England 3, Belgium 2

Barker lost Zmuda 21-12, 20-22, 19-21; bt Van Put 21-15, 21-16. Creamer bt Zmuda 21-11, 21-17; bt Van Put 21-15, 21-7.

Barker/Creamer lost Zmuda/Van Put 21-4, 16-21, 23-25.

Boys. England 4, S.W. Germany 0

Livesey bt Brentzel 21-10, 21-10. Creamer bt Milz 21-7, 21-7. Barker bt Brodener 21-8, 21-17. Keogh bt Jakob 21-12, 21-14.

Boys. England 9, Austria 0

Livesey bt Nicolussi 23-21, 21-11; bt Eising 21-17, 21-9; bt Matuska 21-13, 21-8. Creamer bt Nicolussi 21-17, 21-17; bt Eising 21-10, 21-14; bt Matuska 21-15, 21-19. Barker b Nicolussi 21-10, 21-15; bt Eising 21-15, 11-21, 21-11; bt Matuska 21-8, 17-21, 21-16.

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SURREY—FROM LEAGUE TO COUNTY

(Continued from previous page)

many playing years by taking responsibility this season for the junior team.

Although the principal officers of the Association have all served continuously for nearly seven years, this is a sign not of stagnation in the administration but of the sound policy of keeping a successful team.

With a committee young in spirit (if not always in years!) and with players like *Daily Mirror* champion Michael Maclaren and Junior International Mary Shannon still fighting for places in the senior team, we are confident that in the future Surrey can maintain its position in the front rank of table tennis counties.

Orthodox Grip is Superior

By VICTOR BARNA

IS the penholder grip superior to the shakehand, or orthodox grip? This is the question which follows, logically enough, the sweeping successes of the Japanese and Chinese penholder players.

I was a witness of the well-deserved triumphs of the Far Easterners on many occasions, yet I maintain that the shakehand grip is better than the penholder.

The Asiatics are winning not because of the grip but because they are infinitely finer players—in tactics, brain power, footwork—than the Europeans.

In 1928 the Hungarian, Zoltan Mechlovits, a penholder, won the World singles title. At that time the penholder grip was commonplace. Shortly afterwards it went out of fashion when it was discovered that the penholding player, standing centre of the table, had no backhand and no defence.

These are weaknesses which were exploited to the full by the all-rounder.

The shakehand grip exponent could and did cover the whole table, whereas the penholder was at a great disadvantage, in that he covered only half the table.

This condition prevailed until 1952, when the Japanese burst upon the world scene. They used—as they still use—the penholder grip. But there is this vital difference: they stand to the left-hand corner of the table and not

to the centre of it, and therefore can cover the whole of the table and not merely one side of it.

The Europeans have neglected the backhand and forgotten how to attack with it, so reversing roles in that now it is the penholder who covers the whole of the table, while orthodox exponents make effective use of only half of it—the forehand half.

It is this lack of a backhand on the part of the Europeans which makes the Asiatics look so good. In Dortmund the championships were played on 16 tables and occasionally I went to the highest vantage point to gain a view of all the tables. Rarely did I see an attacking backhand stroke from any of the European players. Small wonder that the Asiatics, with their command of the whole table, play and force the game they wish!

PENHOLDER DEMAND

Their type of game demands tremendous stamina, footwork and thinking ability, assets which few possess. The Ogimuras and Tanakas—star Japanese who between them have won the World singles four times—are amongst those who possess those qualities. They are very much the exceptions.

I repeat, the Japanese are not successful because of their grip, and I firmly believe that if they used the orthodox hold, with its fewer demands on stamina and footwork and think-

ing power, they would be even better players.

Before long I expect the shakehand grip to be unanimously accepted as the best.

The grip permits the player to stand centre of the table, or anywhere else, and to play a natural game, with equal force forehand and backhand in defence and attack.

How much more economic this is, and how much less exposed to danger, than the penholder style, which forces the player to run continuously to one side to execute the forehand stroke his style compels him to use.

If the Europeans do not concentrate on developing a powerful, aggressive backhand, the Japanese and Chinese certainly will, because in addition to being fanatically keen they are always eager to improve and their approach to the game is scientific.

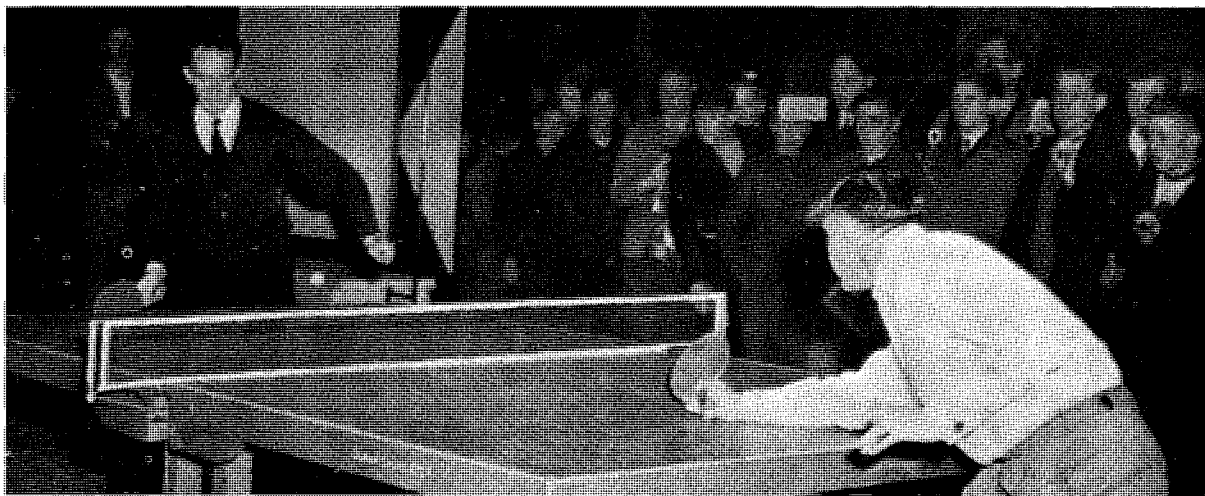
They are always striving for progress and it is inevitable that they will come to realise the advantages of the backhand.

I am equally sure that the Hungarians, and other countries who have a serious approach to the sport, will try to make their players backhand conscious.

The Europeans must, however, remember that methods and systems in themselves are not sufficient.

Keen, good players are needed for development—and the Japanese and Chinese have five millions of them.

(Reprinted by courtesy of "World Sports")



Victor Barna plays Bobby Wilson, the Davis Cup lawn tennis international during the Schoolboys' Exhibition

UMPIRES' CORNER

By Colin Clemett

THE TIME LIMIT

IN last month's article I drew attention to the umpire's responsibility for timing a match which he is controlling. It has since been pointed out that the majority of umpires have never been concerned in a match lasting 20 minutes and consequently have had no opportunity to test their efficiency in time-keeping.

This has led to a rather careless attitude to the whole question and in many "Open" tournaments it is quite obvious that no effort is being made to measure the time that elapses during the final matches, to say nothing of the earlier rounds.

In many cases this causes no trouble because of the comparative rarity of 20-minute games, but it is quite possible that some players are penalised by neglect of the rule.

We may well deprecate the type of play that necessitated the introduction of legislation to restrict its duration, but while such legislation exists it is our duty as umpires to ensure that it is applied impartially. If a player chooses to base his strategy on the very operation of the rule he is entitled to rely on its being enforced.

In tournaments in which the time-limit rule is strictly observed, such as the English "Open" it is usual for a separate official to be appointed as time-keeper. In theory he is under the direct control of

the umpire in measuring the time, but in practice the umpire can usually rely on his time-keeper acting on his own judgment in exactly the same way as he would himself.

To make such an arrangement successful it is necessary for the umpire and time-keeper to work to the same standards of time-keeping and these have been laid down in the I.T.T.F. Rules for Open Competition, as quoted in the Umpires' Handbook.

As all umpires may not yet have seen the latest amendments I will deal briefly with the most important points.

The time-clock is to be started at the moment that the umpire calls "Love-all" and is to be kept going throughout the game, not only while the ball is in play but also between rests while the player is recovering the ball within the playing space. If, however, the ball should go outside the playing space the clock must be stopped and re-started **as soon as the ball is returned within the playing area**; NOT when the umpire calls the score for the next rest to begin.

There are several exceptional circumstances in which the clock is to be stopped; while the players are changing ends in the fifth game, and during any incidental or accidental interruptions. In this category is included momentary towelling, adjustment of footwear or clothing, failure of the ball or the

lighting and, of course, injury or sudden illness. But the rule is less specific in its definition of the amount of time to be allowed for an interruption of this kind.

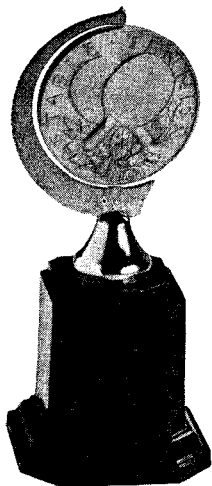
The umpire, or time-keeper, must therefore use his discretion and, in general, it seems reasonable that the clock should be re-started as soon as the umpire calls the beginning of the next rest.

If the umpire is in proper control of the match this moment will coincide with the players being ready to resume and so will, presumably, satisfy the intention of the rule, and be acceptable to those holding different points of view on the timing of the umpire's call.

Mention of calling reminds me that I have heard several comments lately about the different ways in which scores are called by umpires who have all passed the same test.

One of the objects of the County Umpires Scheme was to ensure a uniform standard of umpiring, and however attractive a little variety can be in some aspects of the game we should at least try to keep to one way of expressing each particular score.

Among the variations that I have heard this season are "Four-each," "Fours," and even "Four-four" for "Four-all," "Deuce" or "Twenties" for "Twenty-all" and "One-love, One-all" etc., instead of "Twenty-one twenty, Twenty-one all." There are doubtless other examples and as long as these departures from uniformity are allowed to persist we shall find it hard to achieve the umpire's ultimate objective of being so unobtrusively efficient that he is never noticed!



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Editor's Postbag . . .

Leach Suggestion Would Not Work

IN reply to Johnny Leach's article in the January issue I would like to add my thoughts on the subject of spectator appeal.

Table tennis is, I think, mainly a game for the participants. Only player-on-lookers really appreciate the skill of countering difficult strokes and tactical play. To the uninitiated, a game between two players of the style of Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett would seem quite lacking in excitement, whereas to a player it would be a game full of tension, patience and skill.

So, the games which would bring full houses are those featuring world class attacking players who have a good defence, but only use it for short periods, while awaiting the chance to dictate the game again.

That is the reason for the lack of spectators in this country where too many of our best players are essentially defenders. Defence will never win us a world title, the Japanese and Chinese have proved this conclusively.

Leach's suggestion of shortening games to 11 up will only tend to make more players fall back on to defence and wait for the other chap to make a mistake, apart from completely spoiling the game for every club player. Imagine travelling to an away match and only getting about 15 minutes play all evening.

I say leave the scoring as it is but encourage our junior players to attack hard and accurately rather than play "safe" by defending.

Leach also suggests making it impossible to win a point without first winning the service. This will only make things worse. Our lads would rarely win a point against players like the Chinese whose spin services win many of their points outright. And what a boring game would result from two players who were spin service experts.

Ron Weir,
(Sydenham Hill).

What About the Live Spectator?

AS a regular and enthusiastic supporter of tournaments and county matches, I am rapidly being forced to the conclusion that organisers at these events are not interested in "live" spectators as opposed to the TV variety.

Take the Champion County v The Rest fiasco as a concrete example. The first official news of this is in this month's TABLE TENNIS, reporting that on December 20 (after publication of your last issue) the organisers had arranged for this plum match of the year to be televised, on January 3.

There was some national press publicity but no newspaper I saw gave the time or exact venue.

However, I managed to track them

down and on arrival I was not surprised to see only a hard core of officials, close friends and relations watching.

I suppose by now it is common knowledge that the organisers had not even made sure that the venue was booked for sufficient time to enable the match to be completed. Imagine the F.A. Charity Shield match being abandoned because the pitch was wanted for a gymnastic display.

Yet that in effect is what was permitted at Hanwell in the finest county match of the year. It had to be abandoned with the score 5-3 to The Rest without even the courtesy of a public announcement, because those responsible did not know that there was a 3 p.m. booking for the rehearsal of a five-a-side football competition.

Finally some constructive criticism:

a. Please give more thought to the live spectator and less to the tele fan.

b. Please give as much advance publicity as possible, both in your magazine and by circulation to the Leagues in the London area, for Metropolitan Area events, including Bernard Crouch Trophy matches, the new Intermediate Tournaments and Wilmott Cup fixtures all of which would make new friends for our sport.

c. Please ensure that the actual venue and correct time and date are given, e.g. not just Hanwell but Hanwell Community Centre, off Westcott Crescent, Hanwell 12.30 p.m.

G. Harris
(Enfield).

OFFICIAL REPLY: Arrangements for this match were in the hands of the secretary of the E.T.T.A. who agreed to accept the offer of A.T.V. that they would be responsible for booking the hall. A.T.V. advised us that they had booked the hall for the whole afternoon and that they were not responsible for the misunderstanding which arose.

More Overseas Results

I HAVE been a regular subscriber to your magazine for several years and I must admit I enjoy reading it very much.

However I do feel that TABLE TENNIS should give more space to results of the principle "Open" championships such as the Austrian, Yugoslavian, Hungarian, Scandinavian, Belgian and French.

As the game is of little interest to most Argentinians these results are not published in our newspapers so it is only through your magazine that I can keep in touch with world table tennis.

Bogomir Trsinar,
Argentina.

Overlooked

I NOTICED in the January issue a reference to the E.T.T.A. Supporters' Club. I have never heard of this although I have taken TABLE TENNIS since its first issue.

I am close on 85 years old so I might have overlooked it at some time, but I would be glad if you could let me know something about it.

R. H. Primayes
(Wolverhampton).

EDITOR'S NOTE: Details of the Supporters' Club were published last season. However, as a guide to others who might have missed them, a full explanation of its activities appears at the foot of this page.

Smartness Pays

CONGRATULATIONS to Diane Rowe and Jill Rook, not so much for winning the doubles at the English "Close," but for neatness of turn out. Why don't other pairs follow their example and dress alike. Some players looked scruffy in comparison.

Jas. Medicott,
(Greenwich).

E.T.T.A. SUPPORTERS' CLUB

THE E.T.T.A. Supporters' Club is an organisation set up last season with the objective of raising funds for the game by means of a football pools competition.

Such has been the success of the venture that they have raised nearly £300 this season and will be financing England's team for the European Championships in Zagreb.

The Supporters' Club have set a target of 1,000 agents, who could assure an income of £150 per week and thus put English Table Tennis on a stronger financial footing.

The present competition offers prizes of £28 for sixpence each week. There are no records to keep and no postage to pay.

The Slough League have been giving tremendous support to the venture

selling over 400 tickets each week. If other leagues were as helpful then the E.T.T.A.'s financial troubles would be at an end.

Why not write for full details to the Chief Organiser, J. Ashley, 19, Lawrence Hill, Bristol, 5.

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THOSE FIENDISH CHINESE

By IAN HARRISON

ARE the Chinese so much better than us? Are they fitter and more experienced? Is the penholder grip more advanced than the shakehand style?

These are some of the questions that have been raised by our recent encounters with the Chinese in which we lost five and drew one of the six-match series.

The first match resulted in almost total annihilation. Only Betty Bird managed to win, and all the men's matches were lost in straight games.

However, Bryan Merrett and I were not discouraged. We found that we had lost an average of seven points per game as a result of our opponents' devilish services and many more through lame returns which were immediately "put away."

We were convinced that once we could overcome the intricacies of their service with a certain amount of accuracy we would have more than an even chance of victory.

But this was not the case, for after giving them serious frights at Hastings, where Bryan beat Hu-Tae-pen, and at Birmingham where I defeated Chuang-Tse-tung and Kuo-I-Ping, they seemed to raise their standard and in the final encounter won every match in two straight games.

I have, of course, written only about the men's matches. The girls more than held their own, particularly Di Rowe whom I have rarely seen play so well. If she continues this form in Yugoslavia she may well bring home the European title.

What are the reasons for the Chinese superiority? First they were all extremely fit. Before coming to

England they had been at a training camp for a month and had then travelled to Europe and clashed with all the top continental players in three major championships.

Another point is that the Asian game is also very difficult to master; the swift directional changes of the penholder so often leave the orthodox player "flat-footed" and their services cause every opponent a great deal of trouble.

The Chinese certainly encountered the same difficulty against the Westerners "chop" but they had just

completed a three weeks' tour playing against all the top European players and getting themselves accustomed to it.

The only real way to eventually beat the Easterners is practice, practice and more practice, with organised training camps and a lot of summer play.

The shakehand grip can be the complete answer to the penholder as Sido, Miles and Andreadis have all proved. But we must hit and hit hard on both wings. The penholder grip has many limitations which a good all round player can exploit. But it seems that only a good all-round player can match the speed and tenacity of these players from the East.

THE CIRCULATION DRIVE

By GEOFF HARROWER

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ON TOP

SO many good things have happened in the past few weeks that it is difficult to know where to begin. Pride of place just must be given to Mr. Rogerson. Twice he re-ordered in January, pushing Cambridgeshire's percentage up to a fantastic 290 per cent. Can any county stop them carrying off the ten guinea prize? Well, Suffolk pushed up their percentage slightly, but watch Wiltshire. Most people would have been satisfied to see their county with 123 per cent, as per our December table. Not Mr. Hillier. With great determination he plans to get up to 200 per cent this season, and top the table next.

An obvious target for all counties is a 100 per cent. figure, for with this total they get a special rebate from the publishers. To clear up any confusion among some readers, to gain 100 per cent. a county must sell

a set percentage according to the number of clubs in membership. In this way it is fair to large and small counties alike.

Last month only eight counties had got to that magic figure—this month there are eleven.

Both Essex and Middlesex are making great efforts, and I confidently predict they will stay well over 100 per cent., but my news from Berkshire is not so good, and any readers in this area who can help to increase sales will do their county a big service.

Another spectacular rise has been in the number of counties to get over 50 per cent. An increase of six this month brings the total up to 20, as against 14. Many extra subscribers in Devon have resulted in a 46 per cent. increase, and an order for 36 copies for February from Mr. Sleeman for sale at the Devon "Closed" may mean that Devon could be the next county over 100 per cent.

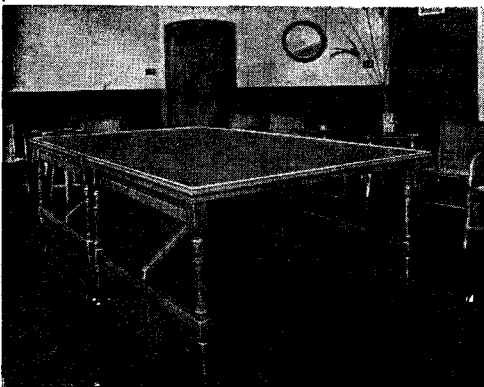
HANTS DOUBLE UP

I also predict that Hampshire will "make it" before the end of the season. Teddy Grant has pushed up his total from 32 per cent. to 68 per cent. in two months, a great effort from within a county where previously sales were small.

News from a county near the bottom of the table. Mr. Dignan writes from Northumberland pledging full support in the future, and ordering copies for their "Closed" Championships. Also from the North Mr. Morton writes from the Batley Club asking for six copies per month and apologises for such a small order.

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of any Sports Magazine in the country!

The trouble is that so few clubs make the effort. Others buy one copy and all their members read it. How about it, Club Secretaries? How about making a start THIS MONTH, like Tom Morton.

Finally, may I remind all County and League Secretaries that all too few orders have come in so far for your Annual "Closed" Championships. If you want the Magazine to continue next season we must have more effort made in this direction. Please do something about it straight away. Thanks.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE	290
SUFFOLK	253
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	165
WILTSHIRE	164
HERTFORDSHIRE	138
MIDDLESEX	132
OXFORDSHIRE	131
ESSEX	128
WARWICKSHIRE	121
NORFOLK	120
BERKSHIRE	105
DEVON	84
SUSSEX	83
LEICESTERSHIRE	80
SURREY	71
KENT	69
DURHAM	68
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	68
HAMPSHIRE	68
DERBYSHIRE	59
LANCASHIRE	49
LINCOLNSHIRE	47
YORKSHIRE	37
BEDFORDSHIRE	34
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	32
SOMERSET	31
STAFFORDSHIRE	30
CHESHIRE	23
CORNWALL	22
DORSET	9
WORCESTERSHIRE	9
NORTHUMBRIA	7
SHROPSHIRE	4
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	3
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	—

SURREY SURVEY

IT was disappointing that the Champion County v The Rest turned out such a fiasco. After the tough struggle Surrey gave the Rest in 1956 we were keenly hoping to beat them this time.

Crossing our fingers we now look forward to retaining the Premier Division title but some anxiety must be felt for the future when it is remembered that of the team to challenge the Rest only Joe Somogyi was not playing in the Premier team when we last fought as Champions. Compare the Rest team: not one of them were in the 1956 clash.

Of Surrey's younger players only Connie Warren looks, at this time, like a future "heavyweight" in the Senior Division.

A chance to prove these words wrong will be granted to all Surrey players in the "Closed Championships" at the Putney Club in March.

Jim Forrest.

MY PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Bryan Merrett and Shelagh Hession

By JOHNNY LEACH

IT is hard to become enthusiastic about the play of Bryan Merrett, so dour and unenterprising are his tactics these days. However, results count in table tennis as they do in every activity, and so far as results are concerned Bryan is not only the Player of the Month but will almost certainly rate as the outstanding English performer of the season.

Few people expected this likeable, 25-year-old Gloucestershire "stonewaller" to beat his county colleague Ian Harrison and win the first-ever English "Closed" singles title. Indeed, from his attitude in the dressing room before the final was played, I gathered that Bryan did not give himself much of a chance in view of a recent defeat he had suffered at Harrison's hands. But in the event, Harrison—perhaps through overconfidence, struck out rashly and proceeded to do what so many of us so often do when opposing Bryan; he beat himself.

Believe me, it takes the patience of a saint to stay the course with Bryan Merrett; and your attacking strokes must be working sweetly, and your concentration must be at its keenest in order to shock him into defeat.

NO FUTURE

An argument, you might think, for Bryan to persist in his present style of play? Not so: for the methods that pay him such handsome dividends in domestic competitions are sheer suicide against the foreign stars, as has often been proved in the past.

I will say without fear of contradiction that unless he remodels his style of play, Bryan has no future as a player of world class. A player who refuses to hit under any circumstances cannot live with the Asian, or top-European aces.

I cannot understand who, or what it was that changed Bryan from an all-round to a purely negative performer. I remember playing against him when he was just beginning, and my own game was at its peak. Midway through the game my young opponent got the bit between his teeth and started to crash unstoppable forehand and backhand "kills" past me down either side-line. I couldn't do a thing about it!

So don't tell me that Bryan cannot hit—he can if he wants to: though it might take six months' solid practice to get him back in the groove.

In my view, the very best thing that could happen now would be for Bryan to get a job in, or near London so that our top coaches could give him regular work-outs and help him to remodel his style. Add to this ample competitive play abroad, and England would produce a player of the highest international class.

For the present, however, the most that one can say about Bryan Merrett is that he is the most successful player in English table tennis this season.

One of the most successful of our teenage girls has been 19-year-old Shelagh Hession, of the Gidea Park Club, and I have pleasure in naming her as my Girl of the Month.

She gets my vote for her giant killing in the English "Closed" Championships where she beat the internationals Joyce Fielder and Jill Rook, then took Diane Rowe to five games in the semi-final.

Out of five "Opens" Shelagh has entered this season only in one—the Essex—has she failed to reach the quarter-finals of the women's singles. Moreover, since November 4 she has lost only to Diane Rowe.

Shelagh won the Portsmouth; lost 21-13 in the third to Joyce Fielder in the Sussex semi-final, and 22-20, 21-19 to Diane Rowe in the quarter-final, of the Middlesex. She also lost to Diane after a courageous display in the quarter-final of the North West Kent.

Since then this vastly improved young lady from Essex, who in the summer is opening bat for the Romford women's cricket team, has twice beaten Miss Fielder and shows great promise of triumphs to come.

The bespectacled Shelagh had her first table tennis lessons from the "boy next door"—in his bedroom! Later Jack Carrington gave her some coaching, and she reached the last 32 in the *Daily Mirror* tournaments.

But it is only this season that Shelagh has really come into her own, revealing a promise that may eventually lead to the fulfilment of her dearest ambition—an England badge.

Her mother claims that Shelagh is lazy—yet besides being so active in the table tennis world, she plays cricket for Romford Women and Essex, tennis for Gidea Park first team, and she collects stamps. Her job is with the B.B.C. Foreign News department.

TO Bryan ("Stonewall") **Merrett** goes the distinction of being the first home-born men's national table tennis champion since Percy Bromfield won the "Open" in 1923-4.

He gained this somewhat dubious honour when the E.T.T.A., obviously fed-up with the overseas monopoly of our titles, introduced the first English "closed" championships at Greenwich Baths from January 8 to 10.

Diane Rowe, unbeaten this season, became the first holder of the women's title, and secured the triple crown by winning the women's doubles with **Jill Rook**, and the mixed doubles with **Johnny Leach**.

STILL A POWER

Leach, who has retired from the international scene, gave conclusive proof that he is still a power in the game, by also winning the men's doubles with **Michael Thornhill**.

Merrett upset the National Ranking when he beat his Gloucestershire colleague **Ian** ("Occasional Hit") **Harrison** 16-21, 21-19, 21-16, 21-18, after 59 minutes of tedious "pushing."

This may have been all very well

The Hon. Ivor Montagu, President of the E.T.T.A., presents the Men's Doubles Trophy to Johnny Leach and Michael Thornhill. (Picture by M. G. Maclaren)



ENGLISH "CLOSED" SPECIAL

At Last—A Home Champion

● **MERRETT REVERSES RANKING**

● **TRIPLE CROWN FOR DIANE ROWE**

By **HARRISON EDWARDS**

for the student of table tennis, but it was a final calculated to do immeasurable harm as far as spectator appeal is concerned.

It was so slow and uninspiring that there was continuous shuffling and murmuring among the crowd, many of whom took the opportunity to slip out for a cup of tea, then returned to find the game had progressed by only a few points.

Harrison started off as though he would justify his No. 1 ranking, winning the opening game. He was the slightly more aggressive, but Merrett with the patience of Job tied him right down, offering a stonewall defence.

TOO FAMILIAR

Both players are of similar style, and as local rivals know each other's game too well. So it became a battle of defence.

The plain fact is that Harrison's game is limited and he does not possess a consistent fluent attack

CHAMPIONSHIP ROLL	
<i>Men's Singles</i>	<i>Women's Singles</i>
BRYAN MERRETT (Gloucestershire)	DIANE ROWE (Middlesex)
<i>Men's Doubles</i>	<i>Women's Doubles</i>
JOHNNY LEACH (Essex)	DIANE ROWE (Middlesex)
MICHAEL THORNHILL (Middlesex)	JILL ROOK (Surrey)
<i>(Mixed Doubles)</i>	
JOHNNY LEACH (Essex)	DIANE ROWE (Middlesex)

against a defensive player. When he did try to hit, it invariably led to a mistake and it was this that eventually decided the match.

I could not help but wish that Bobbie Raybould had beaten Merrett in the quarter-finals, or Alan Rhodes had overcome Harrison in the semi-final. Then we could have had a final of contrasting styles.

An attacker against a defender can be thrilling; two defenders is boring.

Both had close calls in those earlier rounds. Raybould was two-games-to-one and 9-6 up, before Merrett got out of trouble to win 20-22, 21-15, 14-21, 21-12, 21-11.

Raybould possibly threw his chance away when he took a five minutes' break after the third. He was right on top at this stage, but it was Merrett who reaped the advantage of the breather.

Harrison was in an even more precarious position against Rhodes, who recovered after losing the first two games to lead 8-4 and 11-10 in the decider.

Harrison, who had also been taken to five games by Ron Etheridge in the second round, had to tighten his defence considerably before emerging winner at 21-18, 21-9, 16-21, 17-21, 21-17.

Rhodes had a tough passage in his quarter-final against Derek Burridge,

an edge ball. As he won the second game this would have put him two up, a big psychological advantage.

One of the earliest shocks was the first round defeat of Harry Venner by Brighton's Peter Shead.

There never looked any doubt about Diane Rowe, who has swept all before her this season, winning the women's singles. She coasted through her opening matches against Mary Hicks, Margaret Fry and Jean Harrower, then received a temporary setback in the semi-final where she was taken to five games by Shelagh Hession, the Romford girl who cannot make her county team.

"GIANT KILLER"

Miss Hession, fresh from two giant killing wins over internationals Joyce Fielder and Jill Rook threatened to complete a "hat-trick" of shocks when she took the opening game at 19. She lost the next two then came back to square the match at two-all.

However, Miss Rowe, with her reputation at stake tightened up her defence and pushed her way to the front in a runaway fifth, winning 19-21, 21-15, 21-7, 14-21, 21-7.

Mrs. Jean McCree surprisingly came through the other half, after her Essex colleague Yvonne Baker had accounted for the second favourite, Mrs. Betty Bird.

Mrs. Bird, who had done so well in the early part of the season appeared to be over her peak and was out-generalled in a long 51 minutes tussle where Miss Baker's score was 26-24, 22-24, 21-14, 17-21, 21-7.

The final between Miss Rowe and Mrs. McCree was far more entertaining than the men's. Although Miss Rowe generally held the initiative she was a long way from having things all her own way.

Mrs. McCree fought back in great style after dropping the first two games. She forced her way to the top to take the third game at 14, and threatened to make it two-all when she led 16-5, and 19-18 in the fourth.

Miss Rowe's wider experience came to her rescue and she took three points running for victory, at 21-16, 21-15, 14-21, 21-19.

By far the most exciting of the



JILL ROOK, winner of the Women's Doubles with Diane Rowe

five finals was the men's doubles in which Leach and Thornhill narrowly overcame Len Adams and Derek Burridge after an advantage fifth game in which they saved three match points.

This was a thrill-a-shot encounter which had the crowd on tenterhooks as the lead seasawed. The scintillating rallies were fast and furious, with splendid retrieving from both sides.

It looked all over when the Adams-Burridge combination reached 20-17 in the fifth. Perhaps they subconsciously eased off, but fortunes took a dramatic switch with Leach and Thornhill taking five successive points to win 17-21, 21-13, 16-21, 21-10, 22-20.

The top "seeds" Raybould and Bobby Stevens crashed in the second round to Terry Densham and Eddie Hodson, who subsequently lost to Adams and Burridge.

Landry and Rhodes, who had been seeded to reach the final, fell to Leach and Thornhill in the "quarters."

With Ian Harrison and Michael Maclaren losing at the same stage to Ken Craigie and Harry Venner, it left Adams and Burridge as the only pair to justify seeding.

There were "seeding" upsets in the women's doubles when Yvonne Baker and Joyce Fielder crashed to the juniors Alma Taft and Susan Thomas, and Mrs. Jean Head and Peggy Piper lost in their opening match to Mrs. Elsie Carrington and Mrs. McCree.

The victory of the two juniors was the outstanding performance of this event.

Miss Rowe and Jill Rook lived up to their position as favourites by taking the title without loss of a game. In the final they were much too strong for Mrs. Bird and Jean

ENGLISH "CLOSED" SPECIAL

Harrower, winning 21-15, 21-14, 21-18.

Miss Rowe collected her third title when she teamed up with Leach to win the mixed doubles.

ANTI-CLIMAX

The final was something of an anti-climax, coming at the end of the evening and following that long men's singles. It featured the longest game of the meeting when Leach and Miss Rowe beat Harrison and Miss Baker 21-15, 21-10, 30-28.

This was another event in which there was an earlier departure of seeded pairs, with the exception, of course, of Leach and Miss Rowe.

Thornhill-Miss Rook fell to Merrett-Mrs. Carrington; while Raybould-Miss Piper, then Landry-Mrs. Bird lost to Harrison-Miss Baker in successive rounds.

Leach and Miss Rowe had their toughest match in the quarter-final when they overcame Rhodes and Miss Doreen Spooner 14-21, 21-13, 18-21, 21-12, 21-14.

Summing up the meeting it is interesting to note that all the new champions are from the older school, and apart from Leach all used rubber covered bats. So much for sandwich.

Full Results**MEN'S SINGLES**

First Round: A. R. Piddock (Kent) bt E. R. Hodson (Mddx.) 11, 16, -9, 13; R. F. Raybould (Essex) bt R. J. Crayden (Surrey) 14, -15, 21, 15; K. H. Beamish (Essex) bt G. L. Bebb (Herts.) 12, -19, -20, 19, 17; K. Edwards (Glos.) bt A. J. Cummin (Sussex) 9, -20, 18, 19.

J. P. Shead (Sussex) bt H. T. Venner (Surrey) 11, 18, -18, -10, 12; A. G. Cornish (Kent) bt J. A. Hunt (Herts.) 11, -14, 11, -12, 16; M. H. Thornhill (Mddx.) bt M. Wong (Kent) 20, 3, 15; J. A. Leader (Essex) bt M. J. Creamer (Mddx.) 11, 10, 16.

G. A. C. Chapman (Surrey) bt R. C. Thorn (Kent) 9, 18, 15; M. G. Maclaren (Surrey) bt D. Gilbert (Mddx.) -19, 18, 20, 14; R. J. Stevens (Essex) bt M. Ellis (Kent) 17, 11, 13; H. Buist (Kent) bt J. Martin (Mddx.) 13, 13, 19.

A. R. Miller (Surrey) bt J. Head (Surrey) 18, 17, 16; R. E. Etheridge (Kent) bt B. Mayfield (Bucks.) 11, 15, 19.

Second Round: B. Merrett (Glos.) bt M. Shearer (Lincs.), 8, 7, 18. B. Midgley (Hants.) bt Piddock 16, 19, -12, 17. Raybould bt T. Densham (Herts.) -19, 17, 14, 18. A. Lindsay (Mddx.) bt D. Whittaker (Kent) 17, 16, 7.

J. Ingber (Lancs.) bt Beamish 12, 10, 18; Shead bt K. Edwards (Glos.) 16, 12, -17, 17. K. Craigie (Surrey) bt Cornish 13, 15, 13; Thornhill bt D. Schofield (Cheshire) 9, 5, 8.

D. Burridge (Mddx.) bt Leach 21, -13, 18, 16; Chapman bt C. Crowe (Beds.) 12, 11, 10; L. Adams (Mddx.) bt Maclaren 18, -14, 13, 23. A. Rhodes (Mddx.) bt Stevens 20, 12, -19, -16, 14.

L. Landry (Mddx.) bt Buist -20, 16, -10, 14, 20; Miller bt D. Bloy (Kent) 12, 14, 17. A. Khana (Mddx.) bt J. Lewis (Hereford) 15, 11, 11. I. Harrison (Glos.) bt Etheridge 16, 12, -15, 19, 10.

Third Round: Merrett bt Midgley 19, 11, 10; Raybould bt Lindsay 14, 18, 12; Ingber bt Shead 12, 10, 23; Thornhill bt Craigie 20, -20, 17, 17.

Burridge bt Chapman 9, 15, 14; Rhodes bt Adams 13, 15, 12; Landry bt Miller 19, -19, 15; Harrison bt Khana 16, 11, 10.

Quarter - Finals: Merrett bt Raybould -20, 15, -14, 12, 11; Thornhill bt Ingber 20, -20, 17, 17; Rhodes bt Burridge -16, -14, 25, 21, 17; Harrison bt Landry 11, 13, 15.

Semi-Finals: MERRETT bt Thornhill 10, 16, 14; HARRISON bt Rhodes 18, 9, -16, -17, 17.

Final: MERRETT bt Harrison -16, 19, 16, 18.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

First Round: Mrs. J. Brencley (Kent) bt J. N. Matheson (Essex) 9, 16, 16; Y. J. Baker (Essex) bt Mrs. B. Andrews (Essex) 20, 21, -15, 18; P. Holes (Hants.) bt Mrs. D. Heading (Surrey) 16, 19, 12; Mrs. J. Pilfold (Kent), bt C. McColl (Mddx.) 6, 6, 9; C. Holes (Hants.) bt S. Thomas (Kent) 18, -18, -19, 16, 18; Mrs. J. McCree (Essex) bt Mrs. J. Head (Surrey) 15, 16, 6.

S. M. Hession (Essex) bt A. M. Taft (Herts.) 12, 25, 16; J. Rook (Surrey) bt M. Piper (Surrey) 16, 19, 17; J. Harrower (Mddx.) bt Mrs. S. Foster (Hants.) 15, 6, 17; M. G. Fry (Mddx.) bt D. E. Spooner (Devon) 10, -18, 9, 13; D. Rowe (Mddx.) bt M. I. Hicks (Mddx.) 11, 13, 11.

Second Round: Mrs. B. Bird (Surrey) bt Mrs. J. Carrington (Essex) 19, 19, 14; Baker bt Brencley 19, 14, 13. Mrs. Pilfold bt P. Holes 12, 16, 13. McCree bt C. Holes 12, 10, 8.

Hession bt J. Fielder (Kent) 12, 18, 16; Rook bt B. Barber (Kent) 12, 10, 12; Harrower bt H. Angel (Mddx.) 17, 16, 10. Rowe bt Fry 12, 11, 11.

Quarter-Finals: Baker bt Bird 24, -22, 14, -17, 7; McCree bt Pilfold 9, 9, 11; Hession bt Rook 8, 20, 18; Rowe bt Harrower 14, 17, 18.

Semi-Finals: MCCREE bt Baker -11, 10, 18, 11. ROWE bt Hession -19, 15, 7, -14, 4.

Final: ROWE bt McCree 16, 15, -14, 19.

MEN'S DOUBLES

First Round: R. F. Raybould/R. J. Stevens (Essex) bt R. J. Crayden/J. E. Head 10, 13, 14; K. Edwards (Glos.)/A. R. Piddock (Kent) bt A. J. Cummin (Sussex) R. T. P. Lambert (Bucks.) 9, 12, 19; B. Merrett (Glos.)/M. Shearer (Lincs.) bt J. B. Lewis (Hereford)/B. Mayfield (Bucks.) -20, 11, 18, 11; L. G. Adams/D. C. Burridge (Mddx.) bt B. Hellberg/M. Wong (Kent) 10, 15, 13.

I. Harrison (Glos.)/M. G. Maclaren (Surrey) bt D. S. Basden/M. R. Ellis (Kent) 14, 19, -17, 18; G. L. Bebb/J. A. Hunt (Herts.) bt M. Creamer/A. Lindsay (Mddx.) 15, -13, 18, -19, 13; D. Bloy/A. Cornish (Kent) bt K. Beamish (Essex)/J. Martin (Mddx.) 19, 20, 16; J. Leach (Essex)/M. Thornhill (Mddx.) bt J. Ingber (Lancs.) D. Schofield (Cheshire) -21, 21, 20, -17, 16; G. Chapman (Surrey)/B. Meisel (Kent) bt R. Thorn/D. Whittaker (Kent) 17, 16, 17; L. Landry/A. Rhodes (Mddx.) bt C. Banyard/P. Banyard (Mddx.) 7, 13, 5.

Second Round: J. T. Densham (Herts.)/E. R. Hodson (Mddx.) bt Raybould/Stevens -12, 15, 18, -16, 21. A. R. Miller (Surrey)/J. P. Shead (Sussex) bt A. Herbert/R. E. Etheridge (Kent) 9, 21, 15. Edwards/Piddock bt H. Buist/M. R. Westoby (Kent) -15, 15, 16, 13. Adams/Burridge bt Merrett/Shearer 14, -10, 14, -12, 15.

Harrison/Maclaren bt Bebb/Hunt -18, 16, 14, 14; K. R. Craigie/H. T. Venner (Surrey) bt Beamish/Martin 16, -18, 20, 14; Leach/Thornhill bt J. W. Richardson (Mddx.)/E. J. Scudds (Kent) 8, 2, 12. Landry/Rhodes bt Chapman/Melsel 19, 11, 15.

Quarter - Finals: Densham/Hodson bt Miller/Shead 19, 17, -19, -19, 12. Adams/Burridge bt Edwards/Piddock 20, -11, 12, 15; Craigie/Venner bt Harrison/Maclaren 17, -20, -17, 15, 14; Leach/Thornhill bt Landry/Rhodes -16, 10, 14, 11.

Semi-Finals: ADAMS/BURRIDGE bt Densham/Hodson -18, 22, 11, -19, 14; LEACH/THORNHILL bt Craigie/Venner -22, 15, 12, 12.

Final: LEACH/THORNHILL bt Adams/Burridge -17, 13, -16, 10, 20.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

First Round: C. Holes/P. Holes (Hants.) bt Mrs. J. Pilford (Kent)/J. Williamson (Mddx.) 20, 14, 16; A. Taft (Herts.)/S. Thomas (Kent) bt Mrs. J. Brencley (Kent)/C. McColl (Mddx.) 7, 15, 13; Y. Baker (Essex)/J. Fielder (Kent) bt S. Prior/C. Rose (Surrey) 19, 15, 17.

Mrs. B. Bird (Surrey)/J. Harrower (Mddx.) bt Mrs. S. Foster (Hants.)/M. Fry (Mddx.) 15, 10, 19; Mrs. S. Beamish/S. Hession (Essex) bt B. Barber (Kent)/D. Spooner (Devon) -19, 18, 21; Mrs. E. Carrington/Mrs. J. McCree (Essex) bt H. Angel/M. Hicks (Mddx.) 14, 12, 11.

Quarter-Finals: J. Rook (Surrey)/D. Rowe (Mddx.) bt C. Holes/P. Holes 6, 9, 9; Taft/Thomas bt Baker/Fielder 23, 19, -13, -16, 23. Bird/Harrower bt Beamish/Hession -18, 17, 7, 18; Carrington/McCree bt Mrs. J. Head/H. Piper (Surrey) 12, 19, -21, -17, 13.

Semi-Finals: ROOK/ROWE bt Taft/Thomas 19, 14, 19; BIRD/HARROWER bt Carrington/McCree 21, -9, 20, 9, 18.

Final: ROOK/ROWE bt Bird/Harrower 15, 14, 18.

MIXED DOUBLES

First Round: D. Schofield (Cheshire)/Mrs. S. Foster (Hants.) bt D. Bloy/Miss B. Barber (Kent) 18, 11, 16; A. Rhodes (Mddx.)/Miss D. Spooner (Devon) bt J. Richardson (Mddx.)/Mrs. J. Brencley (Kent) 11, 12, 12; D. Burridge/Miss J. Harrower (Mddx.) bt R. Stevens (Essex)/Miss M. Fry (Mddx.) -15, -14, 16, 15, 17; B. Merrett (Glos.)/Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex) bt G. Elliott/Miss J. Fielder (Kent) -20, 16, 12, 16.

K. Edwards (Glos.)/Miss A. Taft (Herts.) bt A. Cornish/Miss S. Thomas (Kent) 13, 15, -9, 17; I. Harrison (Glos.)/Miss Y. Baker (Essex) bt D. Basden/Miss P. Thomas (Kent), 17, 15, 13; J. Ingber (Lancs.)/Mrs. J. McCree (Essex) bt R. Crayden/Mrs. J. Head (Surrey) -13, 15, 18, 12; A. Hancock/Miss J. Williamson (Mddx.) bt M. Westoby (Kent)/Mrs. S. Beamish (Essex) 13, -21, 8, -7, 17; M. Ellis (Kent)/Miss M. Hicks (Mddx.) bt K. Beamish/Miss S. Hession (Essex) -6, 14, 17, 19.

Second Round: J. A. Leach (Essex)/Miss D. Rowe (Mddx.) bt Schofield/Mrs. Foster 15, 5, 19; Rhodes/Miss Spooner bt B. P. Hamill/Miss H. Angel (Mddx.) 14, 14, 17; Burridge/Miss Harrower bt C. Crowe (Beds.)/Miss P. Holes 9, 17, 11; Merrett/Mrs. Carrington bt M. H. Thornhill (Mddx.)/Miss J. Rook (Surrey) 15, -17, 18, 12.

R. F. Raybould (Essex)/Miss M. Piper (Surrey) bt Edwards/Miss Taft -9, 16, 12, 18; Harrison/Miss Baker bt Ingber/Mrs. McCree 14, 14, 17; Hancock/Miss Williamson bt Ellis/Miss Hicks 18, 17, 23, 16; L. F. Landry (Mddx.)/Mrs. B. Bird (Surrey) bt B. H. K. Midgley/C. Holes (Hants.) 17, -17, 15, 18.

Quarter-Finals: Leach/Miss Rowe bt Rhodes/Miss Spooner -14, 13, -18, 12, 14; Merrett/Mrs. Carrington bt Burridge/Miss Harrower 10, 11, -17, -15, 9. Harrison/Miss Baker bt Raybould/Miss Piper -18, 14, 7, 10, 15. Landry/Mrs. Bird bt Hancock/Miss Williamson -14, 13, 14, 19.

Semi-Finals: LEACH/MISS ROWE bt Merrett/Mrs. Carrington 19, -16, 16, 13. HARRISON/MISS BAKER bt Landry/Mrs. Bird -14, 13, 14, 19.

Finals: LEACH/MISS ROWE bt Harrison/Miss Baker 15, 10, 28.

TALKING POINTS

By **Laurie Landry**

WE'LL COME AGAIN

EXCELLENT conditions and good organisation. Those were the unsolicited sentiments of most competitors in the first-ever English "closed" championships.

Its success was obvious from the first view of the Greenwich Baths with five tables, amply spaced out and plenty of room, not only for the players but also for the spectators.

The only disappointing features were the small entry and the sparse crowd at the finals. Whether it was the distance from town or lack of publicity that was responsible for the small crowd I do not know. General opinion was the publicity side was at fault.

The fact that entry forms were not sent out until a week before the closing date, obviously accounted for the smallness of the entry. Some players complained they never received a form at all!

I raised this matter with the organisers and was told the lateness of the forms was because the venue had been settled only at the last minute, and that they were sent to all last year's competitors in the Metropolitan, Middlesex and English "Opens."

However, I think I can assure the E.T.T.A. that should they run the "closed" again next year, everyone who took part at Greenwich will "come again."

Down to Plymouth and the West of England "Open." The first tournament of this nature ever run by the live-wire Plymouth officials it was the best event I have ever entered in the West Country.

It was disappointing for Plymouth, one of the oldest leagues in the country, having been formed in 1903, that the entry did not live up to expectations. In fact, Alan Rhodes and I, who contested the final, were the only ranked players taking part.

MIDDLESEX MATTERS

WITH Diane Rowe, Derek Burridge, Laurie Landry, Alan Rhodes and Micky Thornhill, Middlesex are the most represented county in the England trials for the European championships.

Unbeaten Willesden are well on the way to retaining the Inter-League championship. Chief rivals, Acton, the only other unbeaten side, have a game in hand but so far have a worse games average.

Laurie Landry, the Willesden No. 1, was given his first beating in this championship for 2½ years by Wembley's Alan Rhodes. However, League-wise it made little difference for Willesden won the match by 6-3.

On the youth side, the Schools' tournament is now well into the second round while the inter-borough tournament has started with an entry of 16.

Next big events in the county are the West Middlesex "Open" at the West Ealing Club and a Premier Division fixture between Middlesex and Gloucestershire at Ascots, North Circular Road.

The awkward date (January 2) and the fact that the Surrey v. Rest match was on the following day did not help.

Only fault with the championships came from the umpiring side. A small nucleus of umpires is essential to the smooth running of any tournament, but here players were obliged to find their own umpires.

The cancellation of the popular Welsh "Open" for financial reasons is a blow. General feeling is that as a National championships, the Welsh Association should run it even at a loss for prestige value. Let us hope it will be back next year.



Picture by M. G. Maclaren.

June Hodson, former Middlesex player, home on holiday from Canada, seen with brother Eddie at the English "Closed."

West London are the only Middlesex League left in the Wilmott Cup competition having beaten Willesden 5-3 in the Zone final.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

LEICESTERSHIRE continue to prosper in the Northern Division of the Midland League and at the moment have dropped only one point in 20 matches. This is due largely to Charlie Jacques, Phillip Reid, Paul Newby, Clem Liversage, John Ellis, Joyce Knight and juniors, Graham Pickering and Stewart Tyers who have played in every match in their various sections and yet are still unbeaten.

The Y.M.C.A. "Open" tournament had its usual quota of surprises. Both Reid and Pat Kilsby retained their singles titles but all the other events changed hands.

Barrie Clarke took the Junior singles and with Trevor White won the Junior doubles. The men's doubles went to Reid and Brendon Thompson while Jacques and Pauline Jackson took the mixed title.

Stewart Tyers won the Under-15 title and looks a very promising youngster.

In the Leicestershire and District League, English Electric look to have 2B all tied up and with such a sound trio as Bernard Houghton, Stan Davies and John Geschke this is hardly surprising. Leicestershire Y.M.C.A. have also been able to establish a substantial lead in 2A their team of Colin Truman, Barrie Clarke and John Blackburn having still to drop a point.

Philip Reid.

LANCASHIRE and

CHESHIRE NOTES

AFTER serving the Ashton-under-Lyne League as a player and official for 28 years, Harry Renshaw, its popular chairman, has decided to relinquish his position in favour of another small, white-ball game—golf.

Harry has been a very useful "pen-holder" player in the League since its formation in 1932 and an excellent chairman for 13 years.

Macclesfield and District got off to a good start in Division IIIA of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, when their first team accounted for top-of-the-table, Urmston, at the Lyme Green Paraplegic Club.

Before the match, all present stood in silent memory of "Bob" Murrell of the Lyme Green Club, who despite his great handicap played a good game and was greatly admired for his courage and sportsmanship.

NORFOLK NOTES

AT the half-way stage of their East Anglian League programme Norwich teams head both the First and Second Divisions.

Norwich "A" have not yet conceded a point but still have to face Kings Lynn and the stiff opposition of Lowestoft.

The "B" team, although having dropped one point, already look set to win the Second Division title, despite outstanding fixtures against Lowestoft "B" and Dereham.

Norfolk renewed their battles with Suffolk at Lowestoft on January 16 and again met defeat. It was seven years since Norfolk took a point from this match but when they pulled up from 1-4 to 4-4 it looked as though this was going to be their year.

However, in the last two matches Hipperson was beaten in straight games by Pearson and then Culyer went down after a tough struggle to Cole, giving Suffolk a 6-4 victory.

Robin Wickens.

Bernard Crouch Competition

Essex, who are hoping to win the title for the first time, stepped to the top of the table in the Bernard Crouch Competition when they scored a narrow 5-4 victory over the holders, Middlesex.

Their only defeat in the first half of the programme was at the hands of Surrey, who gained their first two points with a surprise 7-2 win.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Essex	4	3	1	18	18	6
Middlesex	4	2	2	18	18	4
Surrey	4	1	3	18	18	2

WILTSHIRE WANDERINGS

CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY RECORDS

TWO Swindon players, A. Wolfe and E. Howell top the Premier Division averages at the half-way stage of the Wiltshire League programme. They are followed by A. Alexander (Devizes) and equal fourth, T. Edwards (West Wiltshire) and D. Waters (Salisbury).

Jack Pearce, the League Chairman, and Derick Taylor (Dilton A) were unbeaten when West Wiltshire, the Division One leaders, completed an 8-2 double over challengers, Devizes Literary Institute.

Studley "A" lead Division Two, three points ahead of Clarks Social while Conigre Youth "A" hold a similar lead over White Horse (Westbury) at the top of the Third Division.

The West Wiltshire Championships have attracted a record entry of 158 and is a fitting reward to the strenuous effort by secretary Johnny Leveland, now without the experienced help of Alec Craymer, who recently moved to Bournemouth.

A best-ever entry is also anticipated for the County "Closed" championships at Swindon on February 19 and 20.

The last three unbeaten records in the Devizes League went when ex-Lowestoft junior champion, John Darnham, now stationed locally with the Pay Corps, beat Alan Alexander, the Devizes champion, and John Leigh (Roundway Hos. C.) was defeated by R. Read (R.E.M.E. "B") who, in turn went down to Jack Pearce (Rowde).

Service teams, R.A.P.C. "A," R.A.P.C. "B" and R.E.M.E. "B," now lead all three divisions of the Devizes League.

G. Tyler (Men's Club "B") with 95.8% and S. Emery (Men's Club "C") 88.9% top the First and Second Division averages of the Wootton Bassett League.

The two divisions have been won by

Men's Club "B" and S. M. School "A" respectively.

Hospitals "A" lead the First Division of the Salisbury League with New Sarum "A," who include Wiltshire players, Tony Ward and Denis Waters, their closest rivals. Imperial lead the Second Division while only two points separate S.E.B. "A," Winterbourne and Porton Rec. "B" at the top of division three. Unbeaten Cholderton are almost certain winners of the Fourth Division.

Donald Hillier.

CAMBRIDGE ADVANCE

JOHN CORNWELL, now back to top form, gained revenge for two previous defeats when he beat Holdum and helped Cambridge to gain a brilliant 7-2 victory over Norwich in the third round of the Wilmott Cup.

Unbeaten records by Cornwell and John Thurston made Cambridge's task much easier than when they last met Norwich two seasons ago. On that occasion Cambridge snatched their victory by winning the last game of the last match by 23-21.

Congratulations to our President and match Secretary, "Bill" Rogerson who by sheer hard work has propelled Cambridgeshire to the top of the "Circulation Drive" table.

New Chesterton Institute, last season's champions, look almost certain to retain their First Division title in the Cambridgeshire League for with Thurston playing so well they will be a difficult side to beat.

The lower clubs are doing extremely well in the Handicap Knock-Out Competition. All the "big guns" have been eliminated and at present Wilburton, the fourth division champions, are favourites.

Sam Cooper, of Fire Brigade, is leaving the club and his team-mates Tony Brotchie and Tom Farrow after thirteen years service to become Station Officer at Wisbech.

Coaching sessions are still in progress at the Chesterton Youth Centre and Impington Village College. These are extremely popular and requests to be included in the sessions are coming in quite regularly.

Leslie Constable.

WORCESTERSHIRE
LOSE CHAIRMAN

WORCESTERSHIRE lose their county chairman next month, when Mr. Charles Jarvis, of Kidderminster, leaves to take up a business appointment in Australia. The county held a farewell dinner in his honour on February 5.

The County "closed" championships are being switched to a Sunday this year in an effort to attract more entries. No date has yet been fixed but the committee are investigating a venue at Barnards Green, Malvern.

Plans are afoot to hold an Inter-Towns junior team championship, to be run off in one day at a central venue.

Worcestershire are appealing for more umpires. They have only nine of county standard.

RISING DURHAM
STAR

WITH only half the fixtures completed in the Durham League, the ever-powerful Sunderland teams are already favourites to win championship honours.

Wilf Barker, Sunderland's junior international, is rapidly developing into the county's outstanding player. He already holds the Sunderland senior and junior championships, the Durham "closed" title, and won the Youths and men's titles in the Hartlepoons "Open."

THE END OF A RUN

THE Jim Holcroft marathon came to end when he recently missed his first Bradford League match since 1948. Holcroft had made 293 consecutive appearances seven short of his target of 300 (writes Malcolm Hartley).

It was a case of business before pleasure. Jim's job as a salesman now takes him to Birmingham and once he drove the 100 miles back from the Midlands specially to play for Tong Unionist Club.

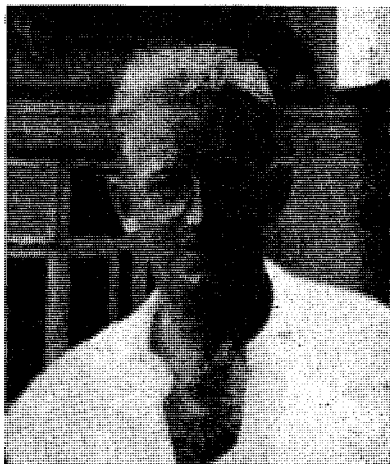
But on his next match-day visit he was kept far longer than he expected by a business appointment. He set off for Bradford but after a few miles realised he had no chance of getting to the match in time and reluctantly turned back.

Jim's magnificent run started when he represented St. Wilfrid's with the help of a walking stick only three weeks after breaking a leg while playing football. Once he went out into a thick fog with 'flu to play after the doctor had told him he must stay in bed.

He was in the St. Wilfrid's and Clayton Heights teams when they won the Division Two championship and also played for Sandoz, the Y.M.C.A. men's team and Tong Unionists.

No matter what the club, his name was always somewhere on the league's weekly batch of scorecards because Jim set an example to all those who fail to turn up for feeble reasons and let down both their own club and their opponents.

Jim's record is presumably a national one, since no challenger was nominated after I had spotlighted his feat in TABLE TENNIS at the 250 stage in 1957.



JIM HOLCROFT

YORKSHIRE NOTES

6-4 HOODOO

NIL desperandum, York! Against Doncaster down they went by 6-4 again. All four inter-league matches have been lost by this narrowest margin.

Michael Dainty and Pete Duncombe won two each for promoted Doncaster, leaving York to battle against relegation—and their 6-4 hoodoo score.

More 6-4 news . . . Sheffield, the inter-league champions, had a fight at Hull, where county man Maurice Simpson ran into heavy weather.

Defensive Clive Pollard beat him narrowly and then he lost the first game against all-action Pete Smith and was 19-20 down in the second, but survived to win in three.

Ronnie Ridge was in good form for Sheffield and was unbeaten, while Stan Mann proved the man for the occasion by overcoming Don Mein in the vital final game.

Bradford women suffered their fourth defeat when they met Hull, for whom Betty Kinsley and Gladys Mears were unbeaten in another 6-4 spree. Betty Clough was best for Bradford.

It has been a 6-4 month in league matters, too. Victoria pipped South Leeds Conservatives to step over them into the Leeds League top spot.

John Spencer was demobbed from the Army earlier that day in time to win the match in the last game for Vics, who owed most to unbeaten Kathie Best.

Metal Box were "dented" by Bradford Police. They had yielded only 11 games in 14 Bradford League wins but the absence of Maurice Pitts proved too much for them. The Police took both points when Joyce and Arthur Aspinall won the doubles 21-19 in the third for a 6-4 verdict.

However, Metal Box still remain the leaders. In the mid-season averages their regular trio of Pitts, Hans Soova and Forrest were parted only by dynamic Duncan Clayton (Salem War Memorial), who lost only two of his first 33 games.

Experience is counting in the Huddersfield League's second division. Meltham Liberals, relegated for the first time last season, are three points clear at the top with a team of pre-war players around the 40 mark in Bernard Dodson, Jim Sheridan and Harry Newsome.

Y.M.C.A. lead the first division with consistent R.A.F.A. "A" (Trevor Cockroft, Gerald Smith, Bob Broomhead) clinging to them a point behind. The three Lockwood teams, with guidance from league president Colin Butlin, top divisions three, five and six respectively.

Kirkburton Congs lost only their second match so far to Co-op despite the efforts of the Dysons, Stuart winning all three and Mavis notching one. Surely I don't need to mention the score?

No 6-4 struggle for Hull Juniors, however. They demolished Doncaster 9-1 and Colin Gray and Phil Burwell remain unbeaten in three matches. Geoff Atkinson was Doncaster's lone winner.

The Yorkshire Junior "Open" at Thornbury Barracks, Bradford, was a vast improvement on the senior "open" the previous month which ran on into

Sunday. The junior finals started dead on time at 7 p.m. and ended at 9.38.

Malcolm Hartley.

HERTS. RECORD

BRIAN BARR celebrated the arrival of a daughter by being a triple finalist in the Watford "Closed" Championships on January 15. After five years he has regained the Men's Singles title and in so doing prevented Brian Boyce from taking the title for the third time in succession.

Barr, with Janet White, also won the Mixed Doubles and partnered with junior, Geoff Seaholm was runner-up in the Men's Doubles to Jimmy Edwards and David Seaholm.

In the St. Albans league, De Havillands, First division champions four times in the last five years, suffered their only defeat in two-and-a-half seasons when they went down to Waverley who are now the only unbeaten team in the division. Glyn Bebb and Robert Ractliffe were in good form and won all their rubbers. However, these players have lost their 100% records to Terry Densham now the only player without defeat in the division.

Alma Taft's selection for the England Junior team to meet Wales at Aberdare, has created a new County record for she is our second girl to be capped this season. Judy Williams played against Germany during the recent Junior tour.

In last month's Yorkshire Junior "Open," Alma regained her girls' singles title, and with Susan Thomas (Kent) brought the girls' doubles title south.

Ractliffe, partnered by Brian Hill (Lincolnshire) was successful in the boys' doubles and with Alma, also reached the final of the mixed doubles losing to the Yorkshire County pair P. Duncombe and Miss Blackshaw.

Geoff Harrower and his wife Bobbie will be holding another Coaching Course for Juniors at Lilleshall next Whitsun. With three vacancies to be filled in next season's junior team, interest is running

at a particularly high level among the youngsters.

G. P. H. Butcher.

BUCKS NEED MORE YOUTH

IN the National County Championships, Buckinghamshire have so far had only two matches—one was won and the other lost both by equally convincing margins, but what sort of fixture list is it that gives one team four matches and another only two in the same three month period?

In announcing their team for the next match against Hertfordshire, the selectors are again showing their reluctance to take a chance with "new blood," despite several good performances in the recent "Closed" Championships.

Until they do pin their faith on youth and give one or two players at least a few matches to prove their worth the County will remain in the backwoods of the Championships.

Although the overall entry for the "Closed" Championships was the lowest for several seasons, the standard of play showed a marked improvement.

Four seeds were beaten before the quarter-finals and three more before the final, in which Brian Barnes, the Berkshire star, won the final leg of his third successive treble in these championships.

With J. Venables he beat Unsworth/Jones of Buckinghamshire to take the men's doubles title, in the Mixed he partnered Mrs. G. Veneer to victory over Thompson/Williams of Buckinghamshire.

The Slough League is a long way ahead of anyone else in the County in the matter of weekly ticket sales for the E.T.T.A. Supporters' Club.

Ian White.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

IN one of the most exciting finishes this season Cheltenham snatched a 5-4 victory over Bristol in the Women's Division of the Western Counties Championship.

Cheltenham were 3-4 down when Mrs. Shirley O'Brien completed her unbeaten run by conquering Mrs. Terry Spokes to level the scores and then in a thrill-packed final, Mollie Jones, a former international, narrowly defeated Miss Joan Collier by 21-18, 23-25, 25-23.

Cheltenham also met success in the men's division when represented by D. Griffiths, T. White and R. Griffin, they defeated Bristol "B" by 6-3.

By winning his three matches, Don Smith was again the hero of Bath's 6-3 win over Weston. He beat G. Brown, G. Woodforde and the star of the Weston team, Ray Phillpott, who accounted for both Bob House and M. Jefferies.

Cardiff's all-international side were in devastating form when they beat Bristol "A" by 7-1 and Bristol "B" by 6-2.

Roger Haydon gained the "A" team's sole victory beating Stan Jones while E. Buckley and T. Taylor supplied the only victories for the "B" team with wins over Jones and Bernard Dimascio respectively.

Grove Motlow.



JUDY WILLIAMS

CLUB BADGES

Attractive cloth badges can now be supplied in any quantity from six upwards at low prices and with quick delivery. Made entirely to your own design and suitable for wear on blazers or sweaters, etc. Free assistance given in designing your badge if required. Details from **S. A. CORY AND COMPANY, 20 St. John's Hill, LONDON, S.W.11**

ENGLAND WIN QUADRANGULAR

by RON CRAYDEN

THE first-ever Quadrangular International Tournament featuring the Home Countries was held at the Wellington Hall, Belfast on January 22-23. It was an unquestionable playing triumph for England.

Criticism has often been levelled at the performances of the English team, so it is especially heartening to report a success story. Our players were the principal actors in a new production. Out of the 30 sets played we lost but one, and what is more remarkable, all but two were won in straight games.

THE OPENING SCENE

The Wellington Hall was courted into two playing arenas and the opening scene on Friday evening found Scotland against Wales and England opposed to Ireland, the host country.

A near capacity crowd was naturally loud in its acclaim of the home side and the roof was raised when Tom Caffrey beat Bryan Merrett in straight games to level the match score at one-all. The 16-year-old lad from Dublin reached the heights and stole the heart of every spectator with

his fluent attacking style. His set-to with Merrett was perhaps the most exciting of the whole tournament with many sustained and thrilling rallies. Experience and greater mobility will make this Irish boy a menace to all the "top-notchers."

It was encouraging to note how one loss had the effect of spurring the England team to greater effort. They romped away to a 9-1 victory. Only the tenacious Mrs. Lindsay caused some anxiety in the camp when she took Betty Bird to 17 in the third.

Across the hall a determined Scotland, led by the still redoubtable Helen Elliot, accounted for Wales by 7-3. The Scots were more purposeful and spirited than I had seen them before and deserved their hard fought victory.

SATURDAY SESSIONS

Saturday afternoon brought few spectators but many interesting battles. In one court it was Ireland versus Scotland and in the other England against Wales.

I thought the Welsh team were

strangely subdued against us and because of it were crushed ten-til, not even collecting an individual game. Full marks however, must be credited to the English team for their high standard of play and the competent way in which they set about the job in hand.

Scotland continued their winning way at the expense of the green-shirted Irish, again by the convincing margin of 7-3.

BURNS NIGHT

It was coincidental that Scotland should have reached the final on such an important date in their calendar as Burns night. They were obviously hoping for a double celebration. England, however, had other ideas and quickly took control of the match, recording another ten-til win.

The Ladies' doubles went to three, otherwise it was two straight all along the line. Tommy Gilmour endeavoured to out-push and out-chop Bryan Merrett and when leading 10-7 clearly outlined his policy to play for time. This stung Bryan into prompt action. He hit a few scorching forehand winners, then played cat and mouse to win in two time-limit games.

The awaited clash between Diane Rowe and Helen Elliot was charged with excitement. Diane just got home in the first and then proceeded to play with superb control and confidence to leave even Helen groping and nonplussed.

On the other table Ireland and Wales put on a crowd pleaser with the Welsh team taking the honours. It was rather sad that the Irish, who had so admirably staged the show, had to be content with the wooden spoon.

ROUND-UP

The play of the English team was clearly superior to that of their opponents although the games were not nearly so one-sided as some of the scores might suggest.

Derek Burridge had the unenviable task of playing all the opening games and did so with competence and confidence.

Bryan Merrett was his imperturbable self and although caught on the hop by Caffrey, soon settled down to his match winning form.

Ian Harrison played like a number one with assurance and authority. He was never troubled, either at singles or doubles. Diane Rowe was generally too severe and skilful for the opposition and even when under fire just raised her game to meet the occasion.

Betty Bird held her end up as expected and fought hard and well at all times.

It was a successful and memorable trip.

DETAILED SCORES

England 9, Ireland 1 (English names first)

D. Burridge bt E. Allen 9, 15; bt W. Pappin 18, 19. B. Merrett lost to T. Caffrey —16, —16; bt E. Allen 12, 9. I. Harrison bt Pappin 12, 12; bt Caffrey 16, 15.

Miss D. Rowe bt Miss V. Lambert 12, 9. Mrs. B. Bird bt Mrs. C. Lindsay 12, —19, 17.

Miss Rowe/Mrs. Bird bt Miss Lambert/Mrs. Lindsay 14, 11.
Harrison/Merrett bt Caffrey/Pappin 9, 17.

Scotland 7, Wales 3 (Scottish names first)

T. McMichael lost to B. Dimascio —16, 14, —18; lost to G. Evans —18, —10. I. Barclay lost to Evans —14, —20; bt R. Davies —14, 13, 16. T. Gilmour bt Davies —13, 17, 14; bt Dimascio 19, —16, 19.

Miss H. Elliot bt Miss A. Bates 18, 22. Miss H. Houlston bt Mrs. A. Coombes Jones 15, 15.

Miss Elliot/Miss Houlston bt Miss Bates/Mrs. G. Dimascio 23, 14.
Gilmour/McMichael bt Dimascio/S. Jones 16, 13.

Ireland 3, Scotland 7 (Irish names first)

H. O'Prey bt McMichael 19, 18; lost to Gilmour 9, —13, 5. Caffrey bt Gilmour 9, 16; lost to R. Kerr —14, 13, —17. Pappin lost to Kerr —28, 18, —20; bt McMichael 18, 19.

Miss Lambert lost to Miss Elliot —11, —16. Mrs. Lindsay lost to Miss Houlston —16, —5.

Miss Lambert/Mrs. Lindsay lost to Miss Elliot/Miss Houlston —21, —15.
Caffrey/O'Prey lost to Gilmour/McMichael 12, —15, —14.

England 10, Wales 0 (English names first)

Burridge bt Jones 10, 12; bt Dimascio 13, 9. Harrison bt Dimascio 8, 14; bt Evans 11, 15. Merrett bt Evans 11, 9; bt Jones 7, 4.

Miss Rowe bt Miss Bates 14, 11. Mrs. Bird bt Mrs. Dimascio 9, 15.

Miss Rowe/Mrs. Bird bt Mrs. Dimascio/Mrs. Coombe Jones 13, 11.
Merrett/Burridge bt Evans/Davies 18, 20.

Ireland 2, Wales 8 (Irish names first)

O'Prey lost to Dimascio —21, —16; lost to Davies —17, 12, —16. Caffrey bt Davies —12, 19, 11; lost to Evans —13, —18. Pappin lost to Evans —18, —19; lost to Dimascio —15, 16, —11.

Miss Lambert lost to Miss Bates —6, —13. Mrs. Lindsay bt Mrs. Dimascio 13, —17, 17.

Miss Lambert/Mrs. Lindsay lost to Miss Bates/Mrs. Dimascio —15, 16, —19.
Caffrey/O'Prey lost to Evans/Davies —14, —17.

England 10, Scotland 0 (English names first)

Burridge bt Gilmour 14, 17; bt Kerr 13, 17. Merrett bt Barclay 6, 7; bt Gilmour 20-17 (time limit), 4-2 (t.l.). Harrison bt Kerr 12, 16; bt Barclay 14, 16.

Miss Rowe bt Miss Elliot 19, 12. Mrs. Bird bt Miss Houlston 15, 11.

Miss Rowe/Mrs. Bird bt Miss Elliot/Miss Houlston 17, —15, 15.
Harrison/Burridge bt Kerr/Barclay 16, 11.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

by **CONRAD JASCHKE**

SURREY—THREE TO GO

SURREY, the reigning champions, stepped into a very strong position at the top of the Premier Division table when they conquered Essex 8-2 at Leatherhead.

They now face only three matches—against Lancashire, Glamorgan and Yorkshire—to complete their programme and of these only Yorkshire, providing they are at full strength, can hold out much hope, of success.

Betty Bird, England's No. 2, was surprisingly concerned in both Surrey's losses against Essex. She was narrowly beaten in the singles by Jean McCree who later partnered Elsie Carrington to victory over the top Surrey combination completed by Peggy Piper.

Although the Essex men could not achieve any tangible successes the debut of Tony Condon, first Romford player in 11 years to make the first team, was most promising, for he extended both Ken Craigie and Harry Venner to three games.

Bobby Stevens could make no impression on Craigie who is playing exceptionally well these days, but gave Joe Somogyi a great battle.

The "old firm" of Craigie and Venner had the satisfaction of pipping the feared Raybould-Stevens combination by 19 in the third game.

In fact Surrey certainly looked worthy all-round champions.

Glamorgan appeared likely to pick up two valuable points and possibly avoid relegation, when they met Gloucestershire, who were without

their two stars, Ian Harrison (injured) and Bryan Merrett (influenza).

However, Gloucestershire, despite some difficulty in reaching Newport in time, soon squashed the Welshmen's hopes and gained a surprisingly convincing 8-2 win.

Both reserves, Derek Griffiths and

against R. Davies because of the late hour.

Gloucestershire's Terry Spokes and Shirley O'Brien, were in top form, winning all the women's matches.

The West country team must now be cursing their early season defeat by Yorkshire because apart from this they would now be strong contenders for the title.

A titanic struggle for promotion is developing in the Div. II South between Hertfordshire and Kent and their clash at Stevenage on March 5 should decide the championship.

Hertfordshire had to make a determined come-back against Hampshire at Portsmouth to remain in the running for the title. They lost three of the first four matches but were helped out of difficulty by their No. 3, Brian Barr who beat Derek Grant 22-20, 27-25, and Brian James by 21-17, 21-16, and clearly paved the way for their eventual 6-4 win.

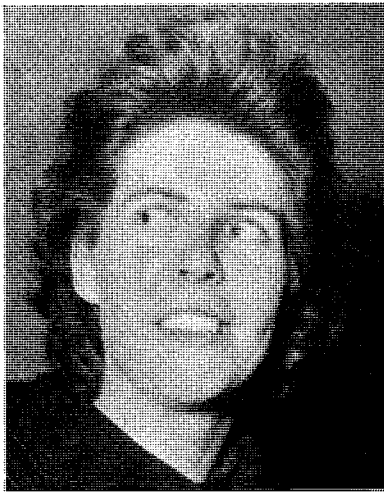
Promotion Play-off

The draw for the end of the season promotion play-off matches between the four Second Division winners has been made as follows:

Midlands v. South; North v. West.

Indications are that Warwickshire or Worcestershire will be at home to Kent or Hertfordshire, and that Cheshire or Durham will meet Devon.

The winners of these two matches will be promoted to the Premier Division from which Cheshire and Kent were relegated last season.



Picture by M. G. Maclaren.

JEAN MCCREE

Peter Partos contributed four singles wins, while Bob Griffin, after losing to George Evans was given a walk-over in the last match of the evening

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

February 20 Lancashire v Yorkshire, Messrs. Atkinsons Vehicles Ltd. Canteen, Winery Lane, Walton-Le-Dale, Preston 7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

February 27 Durham v Cheshire, Canteen, Whesoe Ltd., Brickburn Road, Darlington 7 p.m.

March 5 Derbyshire v Yorkshire.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

March 5 Hertfordshire v Kent, Eastern Electric Aviation Ltd., Stevenage.

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

March 5 Staffordshire v Worcestershire, Goodyear Sports Club, Stafford Road, Wolverhampton 7 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

February 20 Glamorgan v Warwickshire.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

February 19 Cambridgeshire v Suffolk, Impington Village College, Histon 7 p.m.

February 20 Norfolk v Hertfordshire, C.E.Y.M.S. Rooms, Norwich 7 p.m.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

February 20 Durham v Yorkshire, Redcar County Boys' Club, Burnhamthorpe, Coatham Road, Redcar 7 p.m.

March 5 Cheshire v Durham. Lancashire v Durham.

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

February 13 Leicestershire v Staffordshire, Y.M.C.A., Granty Street, Leicester 4 p.m.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

February 13 Essex v Hertfordshire, Y.M.C.A., Victoria Road, Chelmsford 6.30 p.m.

February 26 Middlesex v Essex, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, London, S.W.1 7 p.m.

Television proposals

Two proposals concerning the division of fees received from the televising of county matches come before the Annual Rules Meeting of the N.C.C. at the Bonnington Hotel, London, on February 21.

The Executive committee, endorsing a proposal originated by Kent and amended by Surrey, recommend that all fees be divided 25 per cent. to the Home County; 15 per cent. to the away team, 20 per cent. to the E.T.T.A., and 40 per cent. to an N.C.C. "Pool."

The Executive feel that, on a basis of an average £100 fee, the home county's share of £25 would more than compensate for any possible loss of gate, while the away team's excess expenditure would be covered by £15.

The E.T.T.A. would benefit more

substantially than in the past because of the work done by their office in negotiating television contracts.

The N.C.C. "pool" would be shared out between all counties at the end of the season in proportion to the teams entered.

The other proposal emanating from Middlesex is that the Home County takes the first £20 of the fee with the remainder equally divided between the two competing counties, the E.T.T.A. and the N.C.C. Pool.

On the £100 basis the home county would thus collect £40 with £20 each to the away team, the E.T.T.A. and the "Pool."

These proposals of course are only

concerned with sharing out the proceeds should it be possible, or even desirable to have county matches televised next season.

Opinions are widely divided and a lively discussion is anticipated.

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Surrey 8, Essex 2

H. Venner bt A. Condon —15, 15, 9; bt B. Brumwell 16, 17. J. Somogyi bt Brumwell 15, 20; bt Stevens 14, —19, 19. K. Craigie bt Stevens 16, 15; bt Condon 17, —18, 16.

Craigie/Venner bt R. Raybould/Stevens 13, —19, 19.

Mrs. B. Bird lost Mrs. J. McCree —20, —19.

Mrs. Bird/Miss P. Piper lost to Mrs. McCree/Mrs. E. Carrington 14, —18, —6.

A. Miller/Miss Piper bt Brumwell/Mrs. Carrington 15, 18.

Glamorgan 2, Gloucestershire 8

B. Dimascio lost D. Griffiths —13, 16,

—15; lost P. Partos —14, —13. R. Davies lost Partos —6, 20, —20; lost R. Griffin by walk-over. G. Evans bt Griffin 15, 15; lost Griffiths 15, —21, —8.

Davies/Evans bt Griffin/Griffiths 12, —9, 18.

Mrs. A. Jones lost Mrs. E. Spokes 19, —13, —22.

Miss A. Bates/Mrs. G. Dimascio lost Mrs. Spokes/Mrs. S. O'Brien —14, 15, —19.

B. Dimascio/Miss Bates lost Partos/Mrs. O'Brien —17, 18, —10.

DIVISION II SOUTH

Hampshire 4, Hertfordshire 6.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Staffordshire II 5, Nottinghamshire 5.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Suffolk 6, Norfolk 4.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Cheshire 0, Lancashire 8.

Lancashire 8, Cheshire 0.

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

Leicestershire 3, Oxfordshire 5.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Surrey 7, Essex 3.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

PREMIER DIV.	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Surrey	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Gloucestershire	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Middlesex	4	3	0	1	33	7	6
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Essex	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Glamorgan	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Lancashire	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Lincolnshire	4	0	0	4	4	36	0
DIV. II NORTH							
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Durham	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Yorkshire II	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Derbyshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Northumberland	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
DIV. II WEST							
Devon	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Cornwall	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Somerset	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Dorset	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
DIV. II SOUTH							
Hertfordshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Kent	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Sussex	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
Berkshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0
DIV. II MIDLAND							
Warwickshire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Worcestershire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Leicestershire	3	0	2	1	13	17	2
Staffordshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Bedfordshire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
MIDLAND DIV.							
Glamorgan II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Nottinghamshire	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Warwickshire II	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Staffordshire II	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
SOUTHERN DIV.							
Kent II	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Buckinghamshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Suffolk	2	1	0	1	6	14	2
Cambridgeshire	2	0	1	1	5	15	1
Norfolk	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Hertfordshire II	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
NORTH JUNIOR DIV.							
Lancashire	4	4	0	0	28	4	8
Durham	2	1	0	1	10	6	2
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	10	6	2
Cheshire	4	0	0	4	0	32	0
MIDLAND JUNIOR DIV.							
Warwickshire	3	3	0	0	19	5	6
Staffordshire	3	2	0	1	13	11	4
Oxfordshire	4	2	0	2	12	20	4
Leicestershire	4	0	0	4	12	20	0
SOUTH JUNIOR DIV.							
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Surrey	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Essex	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Hertfordshire	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Kent	4	1	2	1	17	23	4
Sussex	4	1	0	3	14	26	2
Suffolk	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

CHAMPION COUNTY v REST FLASCO

THE records will show the scores in the Annual Challenge match as The Rest 5, Surrey 3. But you will never get Surrey players to agree they were beaten

The plain fact is the match was abandoned with two ties unplayed when, due to a misunderstanding over the booking of the Hanwell Community Centre, time ran out.

So Surrey still had the chance of a draw. It was a slim one, it is true, with Ian Harrison, England's No. 1, still having to play Ken Craigie, but Ron Crayden, the Surrey captain, quite rightly refuse to concede victory.

This is the high spot of the National County Championships programme and it is disgraceful that proper arrangements were not made.

The N.C.C. decline responsibility for as a Televised event, negotiations were carried out between the E.T.T.A. office and the Television authorities. In this

case it was apparently left to the television people to book the hall. Presumably they were only concerned with the period of viewing.

At anyrate the hall was required later for five-a-side football, which began to take over during the eighth tie turning the whole episode into a shambles.

Table tennis administrators must take a lesson from this and ensure that such a thing is never allowed to happen again.

Detailed results (Surrey names first): H. Venner bt D. Burrige (Middlex.) 7-21, 21-15, 21-16; lost to I. Harrison (Glos.) 11-21, 11-21. J. Somogyi lost to Harrison 13-21, 8-21. K. Craigie lost to B. Merrett (Glos.) 19-21, 21-18, 12-21.

Mrs. B. Bird lost to Miss J. Fielder (Kent) 21-13, 13-21, 20-22.

Venner/Craigie bt Merrett/Harrison 21-12, 17-21, 21-19.

A. Miller/Miss P. Piper bt Burrige/Mrs. J. McCree (Essex) 22-20, 22-20.

Mrs. Bird/Miss Piper lost to Miss Fielder/Mrs. McCree 21-18, 17-21, 21-23.



IDOLS IN DEMAND
Johnny Leach and soccer's Billy Wright busy signing autographs at the Schoolboys' Exhibition

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	GWENT "OPEN" Newport.		Grove Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon.
Feb. 13-14	Bucks "Open" (Jan. 18) Slough Community Centre, Farnham Road, Slough.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	L. Thompson, Auchmead, The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraysbury, Bucks.
20	Devon "Closed" Trinity Hall, Park Hill Road, Torquay.	J.S.B. J.S.G. V.S.	P. R. Sleeman, 18, Warberry Road West, Torquay.
20	Grimsby "Open" (Feb. 13) Augusta Street Barracks, Grimsby.	J.S.B.	H. G. Vincent, 4, Orby Grove, Grimsby.
26-27	Midland "Open" (Feb. 15) Friends' Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham.	J.S.B. J.S.G. J.B.D. V.S.	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
27-28	WEST GERMAN "OPEN" Berlin.		
27/Mar. 5	West Middlesex "Open" (A) West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, West Ealing, W.13.	Y.S.B. Y.S.G. B.S. G.S.	D. N. Redfearn, 26, Woodstock Road, West Ealing, W.13.
March 1-5	IRISH "OPEN" Abbey Lecture Hall, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin.		R. I. Gill, 4, Oaklands Park, Ballsbridge, Dublin.
5	Cheshire Junior "Open" (Feb. 20) Livingstone Street Baths, Livingstone Street, Birkenhead, Cheshire.		R. A. Bissell, 75, Southdale Road, Birkenhead, Cheshire.
11-13	SURREY "CLOSED" Putney Club, Ruskie Hall, 63, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15.		
12-13	BELGIAN "OPEN" Brussels.		
18-20.	SCOTTISH "OPEN" Inverclyde House, Largs, Ayrshire.		G. A. Hawkins, 127, Monifieth Avenue, Glasgow, S.W.2.
20	Sussex Junior "Open" (Feb. 22) Assembly Hall, Worthing, Sussex.		G. Sindall, 16, Centrecourt Close, Worthing, Sussex.
21-26	ENGLISH "OPEN" Manor Place Baths, and Finals: Royal Albert Hall, London.		E.T.T.A., 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.
26-27	DANISH "OPEN"		
April 3-10	EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS Zagreb.		
16-18	North-East England "Open" (April 6) Burniston Road Barracks, Scarborough.	J.S.B. J.S.G. Y.S., V.S.	W. Mitton, 16, The Whins, Newby, Scarborough.
May 7-8	LUXEMBOURG "OPEN" Luxembourg.		

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTHBy **NIGEL IVE****ALMA'S DOUBLE IN YORKSHIRE JUNIOR "OPEN"**

ALMA TAFT was in top form during the Yorkshire Junior "Open" at Bradford, winning the girls' singles, the girls' doubles with Susan Thomas and narrowly losing in the final of the mixed with Bobby Ractliffe.

Her toughest opposition came from 14-year-old Pauline Holes who extended their semi-final encounter the full distance before being beaten 15-21, 21-14, 21-19. Pauline later gained some consolation by winning the under-15 girls' title at the expense of Susan Thomas.

Cynthia Blackshaw came through the other half of the draw in the under-17 singles but after winning the first game found Alma's steadiness and patience greater than her own.

The boys' singles under-17 was perhaps the most open event of all, and it was deservedly won by Barry Midgley who cleverly varied his "chop" to beat Brian Wright in the final.

In the semi-finals Midgley beat David Offenbach 21-18, 21-19, while Wright defeated Nigel Ive 21-13, 22-20.

The most exciting match of the day was the boys' doubles final in which B. Hill and R. Ractliffe met Wright and Offenbach.

Wright and Offenbach won a cautiously played first game 22-20, but lost the second. In the decider Wright and Offenbach went straight into a lead through over-anxious hits from their opponents and stayed as pace-makers until the final stage when they led 20-16.

However, with the match "in their pockets," Wright and Offenbach had an attack of nerves and lost the next four points. Having pulled up to deuce, Ractliffe then served into the net. But once again nerves struck at Wright and Offenbach and they lost it 21-23.

The under-15 boys' singles was won by Brian Hill. Although taken close in the final by Symmonds he never really seemed in danger with his all-round game and he won 19-21, 21-11, 21-18.

As the entry was below that expected, consolation singles events were run; the girls' being won by Linda Gordon and the boys' by Peter Duncombe.

The officials must be congratulated on running the tournament to time. The only complaint was that they did not insist on losers umpiring the next matches.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles (Under 17). Semi-Finals: B. MIDGLEY bt D. Offenbach 21-18, 21-19; B. WRIGHT bt N. Ive 21-13, 22-20.

Final: MIDGLEY bt Wright 21-17, 21-17.

Girls' Singles (Under 17). Semi-Finals: A. TAFT bt P. Holes 15-21, 21-14, 21-19; C. BLACKSHAW bt S. Thomas 18-21, 21-13, 21-7.

Final: TAFT bt Blackshaw 16-21, 21-18, 21-12.

Boys' Doubles. Final: RACTLIFFE/B. HILL bt Wright/Offenbach 20-22, 21-13, 23-21.

Girls' Doubles. Final: TAFT/THOMAS bt L. Proudlock/Blackshaw 21-7, 21-10.

Mixed Doubles. Final: P. DUNCOMBE/BLACKSHAW bt Ractliffe/Taft 21-14, 18-21, 21-18.

Boys' Singles (Under 15). Final: HILL bt B. Symonds 19-21, 21-11, 21-18.

Girls' Singles (Under 15). Final: P. HOLES bt Thomas 21-19, 21-18.

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LANCASHIRE "OPEN" By GEORGE R. YATES

INGBER WINS AGAIN

JEFF INGBER easily retained his men's singles title in the Lancashire "Open" with a 21-11, 21-7 victory over a tired Len Adams in the final at Bolton on January 16.

Ingber had earlier beaten Stuart Dyson 21-16, 21-10 and then, in the semi-final, Derek Backhouse by 21-6, 21-9.

Adams had his toughest match in the semi-final where after a long struggle he defeated Ron Allcock, conqueror of the No. 2 seed, Derek Schofield by 21-15, 20-22, 21-8.

Including doubles Adams played 19 matches in just over nine hours.

Mrs. D. B. Griffiths, of Warwickshire, won the women's title with a convincing 21-14, 21-19 victory over Mrs. M. Dyson in the final.

Local interest was roused by the return to competitive play of Bolton's Alan Costello, a post-war Lancashire county player.

He reached the last 16 of the men's singles and partnered by Adams defeated Ingber and Allcock in the semi-finals of the men's doubles before being beaten by Pitts and Dyson.

George Livesey retained his boys' singles title with a 21-10, 16-21, 21-13 win over Colin Thomas, of Wales, while the girls' title went to Susan Thomas who beat D. Fitzgerald 21-16, 21-13.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: J. INGBER bt D. Backhouse 21-16, 21-9; L. G. ADAMS bt R. Allcock 15-21, 21-14, 21-15.
Final: INGBER bt Adams 21-11, 21-7.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: Mrs. D. B. GRIFFITHS bt D. Worrall 21-13, 21-11; Mrs. M. DYSON bt L. S. Proudlock 21-9, 21-8.

Final: Mrs. GRIFFITHS bt Mrs. Dyson 21-14, 21-19.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: M. J. PITTS/S. DYSON bt Backhouse/J. N. Osborne 21-16, 20-22, 21-17; ADAMS/A. COSTELLO bt Ingber/Allcock 21-16, 21-17.

Final: PITTS/DYSON bt Adams/Costello 21-8, 21-17.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: D. RIDGEWAY/D. WRIGHT bt Mrs. Griffiths/Mrs. B. Carless 21-17, 12-21, 21-17; Mrs. C. SPENCER/Mrs. D. WILKINSON bt S. Thomas/V. A. Worth 21-14, 21-11.

Final: RIDGEWAY/WRIGHT bt Mrs. Spencer/Mrs. Wilkinson 21-19, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: INGBER/Mrs. SPENCER bt E. T. Johnson/Miss Wright 21-19, 21-15; L. G. ADAMS/Miss RIDGEWAY bt D. Schofield/Miss M. Leigh 21-9, 21-19.

Final: INGBER/Mrs. SPENCER bt Adams/Miss Ridgeway 21-16, 15-21, 21-15.

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: G. LIVESEY bt P. G. Duncombe 21-15, 21-16; C. THOMAS bt J. Keogh 21-18, 12-21, 21-14.

Final: LIVESEY bt Thomas 21-10, 16-21, 21-13.

Girls' Singles. Semi-Finals: THOMAS bt P. Dainty 21-8, 21-17; D. FITZGERALD bt L. A. Gordon 21-7, 16-21, 21-17.

Final: THOMAS bt Fitzgerald 21-16, 21-13.

Veterans' Singles. Semi-Finals: H. M. NIXON bt W. R. Shepherd 22-20, 21-15; E. A. BROWN bt C. Murgatroyd 20-22, 21-10, 21-18.

Final: NIXON bt Brown 10-21, 21-10, 21-10.

HARTLEPOOL "OPEN"

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: W. BARKER bt I. Barclay 21-13, 21-19; P. TINDALE bt P. Simpson 21-14, 21-14.
Final: BARKER bt Tindale 21-17, 21-12.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: L. HAMILTON bt Mrs. Riley 21-15, 21-17; I. M. ALLSOP bt Mrs. G. Brown 21-15, 21-18.
Final: HAMILTON bt Allsop 21-8, 21-12.

Men's Doubles. Final: TINDALE/R. D. EARL bt Barker/E. Taylor 22-20, 21-15.

Women's Doubles. Final: HAMILTON/Mrs. D. WARD bt L. Nisbett/Mrs. Riley 13-21, 21-16, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles. Final: TINDALE/Miss HAMILTON bt Barclay/Mrs. O. Holland 21-13, 19-21, 21-13.

Youths' Singles. Final: BARKER bt M. Dainty 21-11, 22-20.

BATH "OPEN" By DENIS GEORGE

THE Bath "Open," postponed from before Christmas until January 23 because of difficulty over the venue, attracted a bumper entry and was so successful that it will be held in the same month next year.

Stan Jacobson, of Middlesex, using his deceptive top-spin, won the men's singles title while Mrs. Terry Spokes took a new lease on the women's singles which she last held in 1956.

Jacobson had a tough semi-final battle against Roy Morley then gained a convincing 21-9, 21-18 victory over D. Lowe, who could not reproduce the earlier good form, with which he conquered Aubrey Simons, making one of his rare tournament appearances, by 25-23 in the third game of their quarter-final.

Mrs. Spokes was given some extremely determined opposition by team-mate Joan Collier, before winning the women's title by 22-20, 14-21, 21-19.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: S. JACOBSON bt R. Morley 18-21, 21-17, 21-17; D. LOWE bt B. Finucane 21-13, 21-13.
Final: JACOBSON bt Lowe 21-9, 21-18.

Women's Singles. Final: Mrs. T. SPOKES bt J. Collier 22-20, 14-21, 21-19.

Men's Doubles. Final: N. PARKER/A. THOMAS bt P. Harris/J. Evans 21-11, 21-13.

Women's Doubles. Final: Mrs. SPOKES/COLLIER bt Mrs. J. Willcocks/B. Pearson 20-22, 21-15, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles. Final: MORLEY/Mrs. MORLEY bt G. Howarth/Miss Collier 21-14, 21-15.

Boys' Singles: B. FINUCANE bt B. Kimber 18-21, 21-15, 21-12.

WEST OF ENGLAND "OPEN"

FEW players made the journey to the far West for the first tournament of the new decade—the West of England "Open" at Plymouth on January 2.

Laurie Landry won the men's singles title, beating the only other international competitor, Alan Rhodes by 21-18, 21-18 in the final and then partnered his victim to success over K. Bull and R. Fowler, of Cardiff, in the doubles.

Rhodes also took a second title when he teamed up with Doreen Spooner to win the mixed doubles with a 21-18, 21-16 win over Landry and Mrs. Crosby.

Joan Willcocks showed her superiority in the women's singles but had a tough struggle in the final before beating Mrs. K. Lemilliere (Devon) 21-18, 14-21, 21-12.

Mrs. Lemilliere gained some consolation when, paired with Mrs. V. Addacott, she won the women's doubles beating Miss Spooner and her sister Mrs. Beryl Smith.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: L. LANDRY bt D. Fletcher 21-10, 24-22; A. RHODES bt E. Buckley 21-17, 21-7.

Final: LANDRY bt Rhodes 21-18, 21-18.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: Mrs. J. WILLCOCKS bt Mrs. V. Addacott 21-11, 21-15; Mrs. K. LEMILLIERE bt Mrs. J. Crosby 21-13, 21-17.

Final: Mrs. WILLCOCKS bt Mrs. Lemilliere 21-18, 14-21, 21-12.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: LANDRY/RHODES bt R. Abrahams/J. Pape 21-17, 21-17; K. BULL/R. FOWLER bt S. Gilbert/P. Ofield 21-9, 21-13.

Final: LANDRY/RHODES bt Bull/Fowler 21-10, 21-8.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: Mrs. LEMILLIERE/Mrs. ADDACOTT bt Mrs. Willcocks/Mrs. M. Wakely 22-20, 22-20; Mrs. B. SMITH/D. SPOONER bt M. Phillips/S. Morgan 21-16, 21-13.

Final: Mrs. LEMILLIERE/Mrs. ADDACOTT bt Mrs. Smith/Spooner 21-16, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: RHODES/Miss SPOONER bt Abrahams/Mrs. Smith 17-21, 21-16, 21-15; LANDRY/Mrs. CROSBY bt Pape/Willcocks 21-14, 16-21, 21-15.

Final: RHODES/Miss SPOONER bt Landry/Mrs. Crosby 21-18, 21-16.

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: M. KIMBER bt T. Hocking 21-15, 24-22; D. BURGESS bt J. Paul 21-15, 23-21.

Final: KIMBER bt Burgess 21-14, 21-9.

Girls' Singles (3 entries only). Final: J. BRYANT bt V. Pearson 21-10, 21-19.

Junior Doubles. Final: BURGESS/D. POPLÉ bt Hocking/B. Davis 24-22, 21-19.

EAGLE/GIRL TOURNAMENTBy **KENNETH WHEELER****HAMPSHIRE HAPPENINGS****STRONG SCOTTISH CHALLENGE**

JOHNNY MANSFIELD, the pocket-rocket from Abergavenny, who created such a stir in last year's *Eagle/Girl* finals, has been beaten . . . by Welsh junior international **John Davies** at Cardiff.

But a brand new personality, who could make an equally dramatic impact, emerged from the Scottish finals at Murrayfield Indoor Sports Club on January 23.

He is **Willie Gibbs**, a bonny wee "southpaw" with a fizzing forehand who has been brought along by **Helen Elliot** at Edinburgh's Gambit Club.

At his first appearance in the *Eagle* under-13 event in 1959, Willie went out in the first round. This time he mowed down all opposition in the Edinburgh qualifying round in the morning then slashed a path through the ten Scottish club champions to take the trophy from an impressed **Johnny Leach**.

The other Scottish titles went to established champions. **Doreen Donaldson** completed her "hat-trick" in the senior Girls' with a victory in the final over **Margaret Kay**, who had won in Glasgow the previous evening.

Lydia Plotnikoff, who stands nearly six feet tall and towers over all the other "under-thirteens," won the

Junior Girls', while **Gary Brass**, reigning "under-13" champion of Great Britain, scored his initial success in the Senior event, despite formidable opposition from **Jim Cownie**, from Dundee.

There was a tremendous battle in the Scottish Regional Team Competition before Dundee T.T.A. with 149 points pipped the St. Luke's Boyds Guild, Glasgow for the Club Table award.

Scottish improvement in the competition over the past six years has been tremendous and it would come as no surprise if at least two of the British titles were to go North of the Border this season.

Janet King prevented a brother and sister triumph in the Midland Region finals at the Friends Institute, Birmingham, on January 16, when she beat **Maureen Billington** in the "under-13" final.

Hard-hitting Maurice Billington, who gave up goalkeeping because it interfered with table tennis practice, has previously taken the Boys' Senior trophy.

In the unfortunate absence through illness of **Sheila Griffiths**, **Pat Taylor** took the Senior Girls' from **Rita Daniels**, who now has a pair of plaques as runner-up.

Graham Pressick completed a quartet of first-time finalists from the Midlands by beating **Bernard Bryan** in the Junior Boys'.

The Birmingham Boys' and Girls' Union won the Midlands table although they failed to have a representative go through to the Grand Finals.

We have now reached the halfway stage, having found eight of the 16 British finalists with the South and West (February 20) and the North (February 27) results still to come.

SOUTHAMPTON and **Portsmouth** have given Hampshire good representation in the quarter-finals of the Wilmott and Rose Bowl competitions.

Southampton's men narrowly beat Brighton by 5-4 but Portsmouth, who had a team at this stage of the Wilmott Cup last year, crashed their way through to the last eight of the Rose Bowl with a 7-0 victory over Bournemouth.

Southampton was also successful in the inter-town league when they surprisingly defeated Portsmouth by 6-5.

Hampshire, now lying third in the Second Division South table, have high hopes of future Premier Division status for they have some very bright and forceful youngster coming along like twins, **Christine** and **Pauline Holes**, **Derek Grant** and **Barry Midgely**.

Midgely, now in his last season as a junior, has beaten most of the juniors in the country and although not having had a canter on the Continent as an English representative can certainly look forward to this experience as a senior.

SUSSEX NOTES

SUSSEX juniors face a busy weekend at Worthing next month with a county match against Hertfordshire on March 19 and the Junior "Open" Championships the following day.

Sussex youngsters, who have so far won only one of their county matches, are determined to pull themselves up the table by conquering their visitors and it is hoped they will receive plenty of support.

Officials are already circulating entry forms for the Sussex Junior "Open" which will again be held in the Assembly Hall. Nine tables will be used to accommodate the 11 events.

Bill Goldfinch, chairman of the Worthing Association for seven of its ten years' existence, has resigned this position because of other commitments. In recognition of his excellent and valuable service over the years, the Association recently presented him with a plaque.

Lilian Rymill.

ROMFORD "CLOSED" CHAMPIONSHIPS

SHELAGH HESSION won the triple crown for the second successive year in the Romford "Closed" championships at the Red Triangle Club on January 16 while **Ken Beamish** regained the men's title he previously won in 1958.

The two most outstanding performances were from juniors.

Lesley Bell a 13-year-old reached the final of the women's singles and, with her mother, the same stage in the doubles, while 15-year-old **David Garner** became the youngest player to reach the semi-final of the men's singles since **Johnny Leach** won the title in 1939.

FINALS RESULTS

Men's Singles: **K. BEAMISH** bt **A. Condon** 21-19, 21-18.

Women's Singles: **S. HESSION** bt **L. Bell** 21-8, 21-6.

Men's Doubles: **BEAMISH/CONDON** bt **R. Dickinson/E. Keller** 21-11, 22-20.

Women's Doubles: **Mrs. K. BEAMISH/HESSION** bt **Mrs. B. Bell/Bell** 21-11, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles: **CONDON/Miss HESSION** bt **Beamish/Mrs. Beamish** 21-19, 17-21, 21-17.

Boys' Singles: **D. GARNER** bt **R. Thysson** 21-12, 21-16.

Girls' Singles: **BELL** bt **J. Bailey** 21-9, 21-15.

Veterans' Singles: **H. THOMAS** bt **V. Ralls** 21-16, 21-13.

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