

DECEMBER, 1960
ONE SHILLING

Table Tennis

*The Official Magazine of the
English Table Tennis Association*

GENNADI AVARIN (top)
ALJIGIMANTAS SAUNORIS
(bottom left) and **RIMA
PASCHKEAVICHUS** the
Russian trio who thrashed
England.

(Pictures by Michael Maclaren)

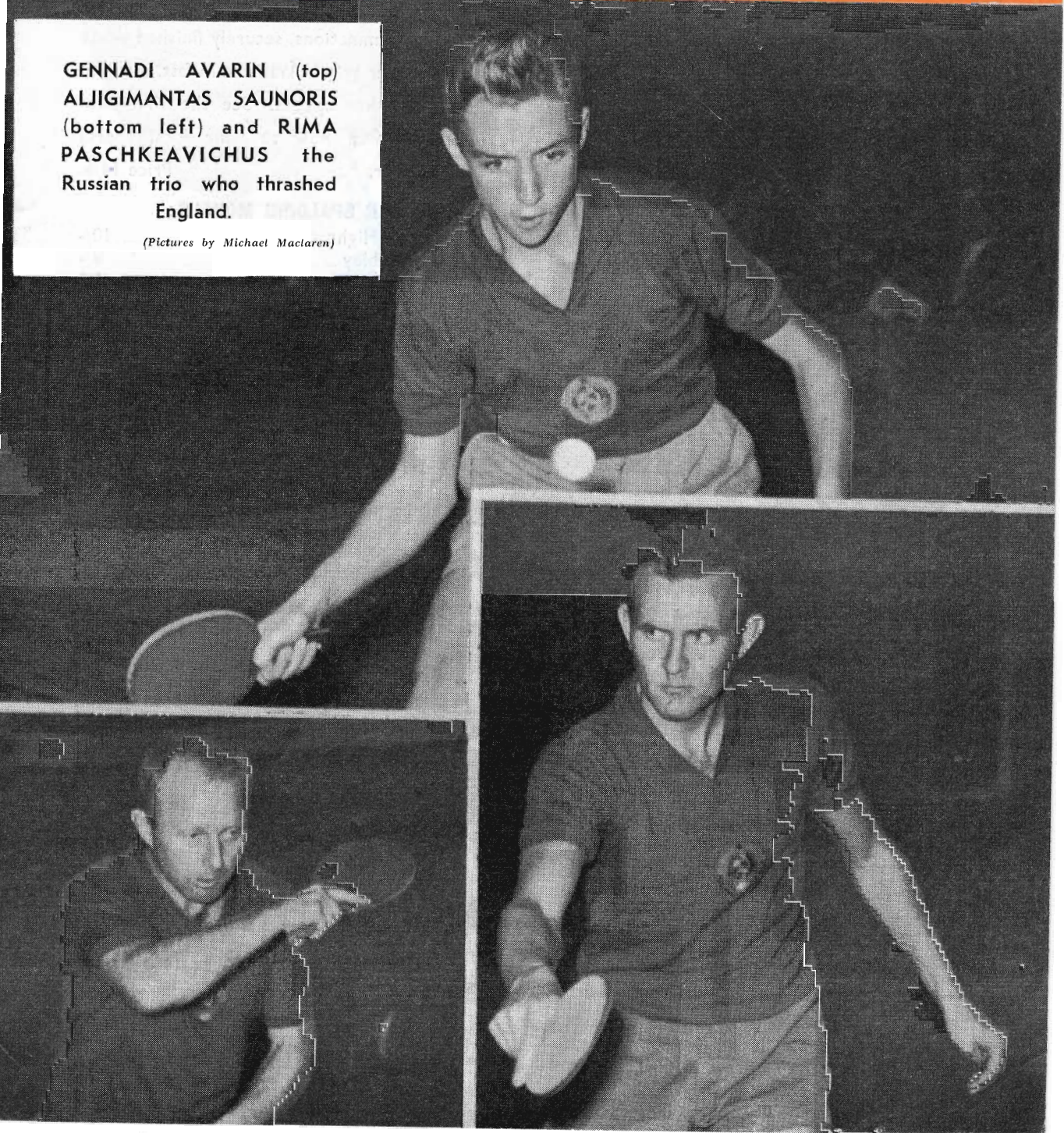


Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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Vol. 19

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No. 3

Strong Overseas Challenge for English "Open"

WHEN Ian Harrison won the men's singles at the English "Open" last season it marked the end of 36 years overseas domination of the title. Now as the championships come round again the big question is, can the title be kept at home?

The English "Open" finals are being staged at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on January 7, with the preceding rounds at Greenwich Baths, starting January 2.

The indications are that they will be a return to their old international glory with the promise of at least four Continental countries being represented.

Spearheading the invaders will be the Hungarians with an expected team of Zoltan Berczik and Eva (Koczian) Foldi, the European singles champions, and that old favourite former world champion Ferenc Sido.

In the face of such a challenge it would look as though it will be "export only" for the major titles once again.

KING OF EUROPE

Berczik, who won the English "Open" in 1957, has left little doubt this season as to his position of Table Tennis King of Europe.

As will be seen from reports in this issue he has already won the Austrian and Hungarian titles this season and he is going to take a lot of stopping.

We can therefore have little optimism of Harrison or Bryan Merrett, our top two, keeping the title at home.

Sweden plan on sending Hans Alser, winner of the recent Sussex "Open," Tony Larsson and Bjorne Mellstrom, while Markovic II will be a dangerous challenger from Yugoslavia.

He has already won his own national title against opposition which included a strong English team.

Then there will also be entries from West Germany to bolster up the international atmosphere.

Whether or not the titles stay at home, the interest of the English "Open" is the opportunity to see the Continental stars in action over here. We see all too little of them outside this meeting which is the high spot of the home season.

For the home players this can mean more than just the English titles. It is their opportunity to stake claims for places in the team for the World Championships in Peking next March.

Greenwich Baths is a new venue for the earlier rounds and offers better playing conditions than Manor Place Baths, which has been used for the past few years.

A wider hall, it offers more room to move. Kent is a progressive county table tennis-wise and by taking the championships into their area it is hoped they will be better supported.

Meanwhile, a big drive is going ahead to bring back the dwindling fans to the finals night at the Royal Albert Hall. It promises the biggest night of table tennis since the Japanese last visited here, and there should be no lack of thrills.

Party rates

Prices range from 6s. 6d. to 21s. and there are specially reduced rates for parties of 12 or more. These are as follows: 21s. for 17s. 6d.; 17s. 6d. for 15s.; 15s. for 12s. 6d.; 12s. 6d. for 10s. 6d.; 10s. 6d. for 8s. 6d.; and 8s. 6d. for 6s. 6d. They can be obtained by applying direct to the E.T.T.A. at 652 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar-square, London, W.C.2.

OFFICIAL NEWS

County Secretaries' Conference. The conference of County Secretaries and Representatives, reported last month in these columns, has now been arranged for Saturday, December 10, 1960, at the Royal Commonwealth Society (No. 1 Committee Room), Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2, commencing at 10.15 a.m. and continuing until 4 p.m. All Counties have been asked to send to the E.T.T.A. office, suggestions for items which will be placed on the Agenda for discussion.

Official Handbook. The 1960/61 Official Handbook has now been received from the printers and copies are being distributed from the Office of the Association to all Leagues and members. Extra copies can be obtained from the office at 2s. 6d. post free.

E.T.T.A. Representatives. For the purpose of nominating and electing Officers and members of the National Executive Committee, each County, League or Local Association is entitled to appoint E.T.T.A. Representatives.

The Secretary of the E.T.T.A. must be advised of the name(s) and address(es) not later than January 31, 1961. Unless this information is received by that date, the body concerned will lose its voting rights.

Germany D.T.T.B. Tour of England. Arrangements are now being made for a tour of the junior players of the Germany D.T.T.B. Association, the week following the English "Open" championships. To date, matches have been arranged at the following places: January 9, Warrington; January 11, Slough; January 13, Oxford.

Further details will be given regarding this tour in the next issue.

English "Open" Championships. A communication has recently been sent to Leagues and Clubs giving details of the arrangements now made for the 1960/61 English "Open" Championships. The Finals will again be played at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7, on January 7, and substantial reductions can be obtained on the higher priced tickets for orders of 12 or more in a party.

Invitations have been sent out to certain European countries and it is now known that the Hungarian, Swedish and Yugoslavian Associations will be sending players to take part. In view of the strong entry for the Championships, it is anticipated that there will be a great demand for tickets, especially the reduced price ones. Secretaries are advised to or-

ganise parties Now to save disappointment.

The earlier rounds of the Championships will be played in the Grand Hall, Greenwich Public Baths, Trafalgar Road, London, S.E., with the Finals being staged at the Royal Albert Hall on January 7, beginning at 7.30 p.m.

It is felt desirable to advertise the Championships as widely as possible and posters, handbills and car stickers are available from the Office of the Association if members would like to help in this way.

World Championships. At a recently held meeting with the Manufacturers, the Chairman of the Association, Mr. A. K. Vint, O.B.E., obtained a guarantee for a certain part of the travelling expenses required to send teams to the World Championships in Peking, next April. However, now that the Championships are drawing nearer, every effort

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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

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

Deputy Chairman: I. C. Eyles.

Honorary Treasurer: T. Blunn.

Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

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

to obtain the necessary finance for the long journey would be appreciated and the E.T.T.A. Club Competitions are available to all Club Secretaries who wish to help the Fund and also their own Clubs. The E.T.T.A. Secretary will be pleased to give details to anyone interested.

New Appointment. Mr. L. F. Landry (Middlesex) has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the National Junior Selection Committee. This vacancy was reported in these notes in the October issue.

Team Selections:

v France (Juniors), (London) (November 7): MAURICE BILLINGTON (Warwickshire), BRIAN WRIGHT (Middlesex), MARY SHANNON (Surrey), LESLEY

BELL (Essex). Non-Playing Captain: BRIAN BRUMWELL (Essex).

Yugoslavian Championships (Maribor Nov. 18-20): IAN HARRISON (Glos.), STAN JACOBSON (Middx.), JEFF INGBER (Lancs.), ALAN RHODES (Middx.), DIANE ROWE (Middx.), JEAN HARROWER (Middx.), Non-playing captain: PETER LOWEN (Middx.).

Scandinavian Championships (Helsingborg Nov. 27-29): IAN HARRISON (Glos.), BRYAN MERRETT (Glos.), DIANE ROWE (Middx.), Non-playing captain LEN ADAMS (Middx.).

Quadrangular International Championships (Cardiff Dec. 2-3): IAN HARRISON (Glos.), BRYAN MERRETT (Glos.), JEFF INGBER (Lancs.), DIANE ROWE (Middx.), JEAN MCCREE (Essex), non-playing captain RON CRAYDEN (Surrey).

For Sale in the E.T.T.A. Office. With Christmas drawing near, why not give your table tennis friend a book, E.T.T.A. lapel badge or car badge, as a present? The following items are available from the office: E.T.T.A. office, 652 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

CAR BADGES 27s. 6d.

LAPEL BADGES 2s. 3d. (24s. doz.)

ASSOCIATION TIES 12s. 6d.

HOW TO WIN AT TABLE TENNIS by Victor Barna Price 6s.

TABLE TENNIS MY WAY by Johnny Leach...Price 26s. 6d. and 5s.

TACKLE TABLE TENNIS THIS WAY by Ann Haydon. Price 10s. 6d.

MODERN TABLE TENNIS by Jack Carrington Price 10s. 6d.

TABLE TENNIS QUIZ by Alec Brook Price 1s. 6d.

TABLE TENNIS by Leslie Woollard Price 3s.

HANDY POCKET EDITION OF THE LAWS (the booklet every player should carry) Price 4½d.

LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS printed in black on large white card (21½in. by 14½in.) and corded for hanging in club room Price 2s. 6d.

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NEWS FROM RHODESIA

by GERRY THOMPSON

CURRENTLY very much in the news is the controversial Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Readers may be interested (not to say surprised) to know that amid the strikes, riots, government-appointed commissions and African nationalist movements, table tennis is a thriving sport.

Despite being rather an "island" as far as international competition is concerned, Rhodesian table tennis has reached a reasonably high standard within quite a short time. This is mainly due to the efforts of two ex-British players — former Scottish junior international John Fachie and the old Wembley player, Wally Franklin.

Wally represented Wembley for eight years and had much to do with the coaching of the Middlesex players Alan Rhodes and Laurie Landry. He arrived in Southern Rhodesia in 1957 at the ripe (table tennis) age of 34 and in his first season here, won all the country's major tournaments, culminating in the Rhodesian "Open" singles.

He still plays league table tennis and devotes much of his time to coaching and encouraging the younger enthusiasts.

The current Rhodesian champion is 27-year-old Paul Davis, who played for Oxford University in 1957, was University title-holder 1956-57 and represented Oxfordshire in 1958. He emigrated to Rhodesia the following year and won the Rhodesian "Open" at his first attempt.

The Rhodesian Table Tennis Union, still finding its feet financially, is doing much to expand the sport. An extensive league and tournament programme attracts heavy player entries, together with a reasonably large spectator attendance. It shouldn't be too long before Rhodesian players are in a position to compete on the international scene.

SUSSEX NOTES

PETER Shead and Joan Woodford, the leading County players, maintained their recent good form to reach the singles semi-finals in the Sussex Open at Hastings.

Shead was narrowly beaten at 19 in the third by Ian Harrison. Mrs. Woodford gained a great win over Mrs. Betty Bird by 21-16, 21-10 before eventually being defeated.

A week later Mrs. Woodford gained a revenge win over Judy Williams in a County match against Hertfordshire.

THE NEW RANKINGS NO CHANGE AT THE TOP

IT'S as you were at the top of the revised English Ranking Lists, with Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett sharing the No. 1 position among the men, and Diane Rowe still the leader of the women.

There have, however, been several changes in the lower positions. Stan Jacobson (6), Peter Shead (8) and Henry Buist (joint 12) enter the men's list for the first time, while Pam Mortimer (4), Jill Mills (6) and Margaret Fry (9) make a welcome return to the women's rankings where the only newcomer is Mrs. P. Clarke, of Northumberland, at joint 10.

Long overdue promotion comes to Jean Harrower who moves up from No. 7 to No. 2, while Jean McCree jumps a place to No. 3.

Peggy Piper (8) and Shelagh Hession (10) have switched places while Elsie Carrington has slipped one to No. 7 to make room for Mrs. Mills.

Kathie Best, No. 2 in the old list, and Sheila Foster, who was No. 9, are not ranked because of insufficient evidence, while Betty Bird, previously No. 3, has temporarily retired.

Jeff Ingber jumps a place to edge Derek Burridge out of the No. 3 spot, while making way for the newcomers Josef Somogyi drops to No. 7, Ken Craigie to 11 and Laurie Landry to 12.

Michael Thornhill is omitted for lack of evidence.

Jacobson, Shead and Buist have all received recognition following their greatly improved form this season. A further honour came Jacobson's way when he was picked for the Yugoslavian championships.

Among his successes this season are two victories each over Harrison and Merrett.

MEN

- 1 Ian Harrison (Glos) (1) and Bryan Merrett (Glos) (1).
- 3 Jeff Ingber (Lancs) (4).
- 4 Derek Burridge (Middx) (3).
- 5 Alan Rhodes (Middx) (5).
- 6 Stan Jacobson (Middx) (—).
- 7 Josef Somogyi (Surrey) (6).
- 8 Peter Shead (Sussex) (—).
- 9 Tony Piddock (Kent) (9).
- 10 Alan Lindsay (Middx) (10).
- 11 Ken Craigie (Surrey) (10).
- 12 Henry Buist (Kent) (—) and Laurie Landry (Middx) (8).

WOMEN

- 1 Diane Rowe (Middx) (1).
- 2 Jean Harrower (Middx) (7).
- 3 Jean McCree (Essex) (4).
- 4 Pam Mortimer (Warwicks) (—).
- 5 Joyce Fielder (Kent) (5).
- 6 Jill Mills (Middx) (—).
- 7 Elsie Carrington (Essex) (6).
- 8 Peggy Piper (Surrey) (10).
- 9 Margaret Fry (Middx) (—).
- 10 Shelagh Hession (Essex) (8) and P. Clarke (Northumberland) (—).

(Figures in parentheses denote position in previous ranking list).



The Mayor of Hastings, Alderman C. Barfoot, J.P., and Victor Barna examine the new bat used by Hans Alser, of Sweden, winner of the Sussex "Open." Pierre Juliens, of Belgium, looks on.

THE CHALLENGE FOR SCOTLAND

by Jack Hillman

READERS hear little or nothing about Table Tennis in Scotland. Of course, up here we are small in numbers, too lazy, or too busy perhaps, to air our views or send our news. Maybe it's because we have such a small Association that we feel that the happenings here may not have much general appeal.

Our trouble is that we always seem to be just "beginning"—we've been saying that since the founding of the Scottish Table Tennis Association some 25 years ago. We have not grown as we feel we should; we cannot seem to increase the numbers of affiliated members and, of course, we suffer from that seemingly incurable T.T. disease, lack of finance. And how we suffer from that!

Our largest league is the West of Scotland, formed from clubs in and around the Glasgow area and has some 500 registered players (last season's count). In its first 20 years its financial standing increased from nil to about £200, and from then on each season's results produced a loss until now the funds are exceedingly low.

A few years ago the League launched a Football Sweepstake,

Mr. Hillman is Chairman of the Scottish T.T.A. and President of the West of Scotland League.

which raised £800 for a Building Fund. A similar sum was paid back to the clubs, in commission, to help improve conditions, etc., in their own clubrooms.

A year ago, a disused Army drill hall became available for letting and was taken over by Mr. Mitchell Currie, a professional Lawn Tennis player, as an Indoor Sports Centre, with the accent on Lawn Tennis.

He offered the West of Scotland League part of the premises at a rental of £350 per annum and, after many meetings and a great deal of thought, they accepted.

The place was a shambles, filthy, no heating and very poor lighting. Now it has been completely transformed at the league's expense.

Walls were knocked down, rewiring carried out, wall heating installed and special lighting designed.

Today there are two halls, one with five "Barna" match tables, and the other with three. In addition there

are dressing rooms and a lounge furnished even to a television set.

In the smaller hall, clubs without adequate facilities of their own may hire a table for league matches. From Mondays to Thursdays it is reserved for matches only.

The other hall is open for general practice on these evenings, and the whole premises are available for this purpose on Friday evenings and from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The club is open all the year round.

Every member of the League is automatically a member, paying an increased £1 per year on their registration fee, which has been increased to 25s. This including the 2s. 6d. affiliation fee to the Scottish T.T.A.

Naturally, there was opposition to the extra £1, but it was passed by a substantial majority at an extraordinary general meeting. There is no question that members are getting wonderful value for their money.

The club was opened last February by Victor Barna, who delighted us with an exhibition match against our own Helen Elliot. He charmed us not only by his skill, but by his impeccable dress sense and his advice and encouragement.

Lots of players are now practising as they never did before, revelling in the conditions and fine atmosphere of the club. Handicap tournaments take place once a month on the Golf Club Monthly Medal principle and, of course, the League has to hand facilities for running off cup finals, representative matches and trials.

Food for Thought

I hope that those who read this, find it of interest. It may give some of you much food for thought. I feel that this sport of ours is too often reckoned to be "the poor man's sport," and that this label has stuck too long.

Too many players seem to be educated to the idea that Table Tennis should only cost them a few shillings. Yet the same people willingly pay large sums to play Golf or Lawn Tennis, or think little of paying 30s. for a gramophone record!

Isn't it high time we all took a more realistic view?

Let us not just wait and hope for some action on the Wolfenden Report . . . it may never happen.

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SPONGE HAS KILLED THE GAME

12 Years old forecast comes true

by ERNIE POWER

I HAVE watched and played table tennis for 25 years and my opinion is that sponge and sandwich bats have killed the game from a spectator's point of view. The only people that watch the game nowadays are players or relations of players.

However, with the visit of the U.S.S.R. team to play England at Manchester's Kings Hall, I thought it may be worth watching, so I arranged to go. After a rush home from work and a quick tea, my team-mate, Ron Allcock, and his wife, Tina, were at the gate with the car.

We were a little late and Ron made the remark that he didn't want to miss the preliminaries as these were quite a part of any International match.

Rubbish

This was quite an understatement because after the exchange of pennants, introduction of players and the National Anthems, I feel that what followed was a load of rubbish.

It was best summed up in one sentence by an ex-international player and coach who said, "This match should have been played somewhere in a private room."

I couldn't agree more. It should never have been offered to the public; it could only do the game more harm than good.

It was simply a repetition of vicious kicking serves, plenty of pushing, occasional "flat hits" and a ball that all the evening had to be treated with the greatest respect.

The sight of the Kings Hall less than half full for such a match, was a sad reminder of the way the game has lost its drawing power. It is greatly to the credit of the promoter, Benny Casofsky, that he made a profit for a worthy charity.

My views seemed to be shared by most of my friends who played before the war and are still managing to stagger to a table, but I do not think that the tournament types of the present day were inclined to agree with me.

They apparently saw quite a lot to enthuse about. One friend of mine, recently in the national ranking list, made my night complete when he said, "Victor Barna would never have lived with these chaps because he knew just what the ball was going to do. These days there is so much on the ball that it does amazing things with this sponge." (This probably explains why, for a few years, I have never seen a player in a match query whether a ball was

Ernie Power is a member of the Fallowfield Club, playing in Division I of the Manchester League.

true and round. It doesn't seem to matter any more.)

I can remember, as a boy of 15, watching Barna, Bellak, Vana and Bergmann playing in a packed Kings Hall with the crowd appreciating every minute of a thrill-packed evening, long after the last buses home had gone.

I know that TV keeps people at home these evenings, but I do not think that this is the sole reason for their absence from table tennis matches.

These four great players gave a student of the game everything he could wish for, the wonderful artistry of Victor Barna, the incredible antics of Bellak, Vana's whip-like forehand and Richard Bergmann with his amazing retrieving.

A modern player would probably dismiss this as "exhibition stuff," but I also remember Benny Casofsky, just before the war beating Bergmann, then champion of the world, in the North of England Open, with a display of hitting that I will never forget.

All this, I must agree, would not be possible with sponge or sandwich as neither player has the same ball control.

My first introduction to sponge came in 1948 when I was reserve to the Manchester team of Casofsky, Lurie and Cohen, when they won the Wilmott Cup. That day I saw Charlie

Dawes, a burly over-40-year-old, beat five English Internationals with a monstrosity of a bat, wood on one side and sponge on the other. (These were the days when one could play with anything for a bat.)

In the afternoon, he completely mesmerised into defeat Ron Crayden, Ron Sharman and Jackie Head in the semi-final. In the final he beat Hymie Lurie and Les Cohen. Benny Casofsky was the only one to beat him.

It is my opinion that using a rubber bat Charlie Dawes would not have reached double figures with any of these players, and I am sure he would agree, because later he told me while he got a lot of pleasure from playing with THAT bat, he hoped that younger players would not copy it as it would only ruin the game!

Sponge has now become common place and the game is much faster and more difficult to play, but is this good?

As We Were

We had Sol Schiff with his amazing finger spin services. It was decided that he was ruining the game so finger spin was banned. Players still did queer services so the open-hand service came into being. Now, with sponge we are back where we started with the service being all important.

Brian Kennedy, when asked once on TV what he liked about sponge, said, "Why take ten or 12 smashes to win a point when one with this will achieve the same result."

I can only reflect that when the making of strokes becomes a bore why do we play the game at all.

NEW INTERNATIONALS WIN

DESPITE "fielding" three new internationals, England juniors convincingly defeated their French counterparts by 7-1 at the St. Lukes Youth Club on November 7th.

Maurice Billington, Brian Wright and 13-years-old Lesley Bell bore their new responsibilities surprisingly well and gave some polished performances.

Billington was the only one to suffer defeat. After beating the determined B. Hoppenot he went down to the forceful but sometimes erratic, J. Coupry.

But he had a good chance of victory. Trailing 13-20 in the second game he pulled up to duce but lost the next two points and eventually the match by 21-19, 20-22, 10-21.

Wright, who played the first match, looked a little nervous but nevertheless managed to win both his singles in three games.

Unfortunately the French side contained only one girl Mlle M. Lebras, and she was well below our standards losing to Miss Bell 21-14, 21-6 and Mary Shannon, the only experienced member of England's team, by 21-10, 21-11.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES

B. Billington (Warwickshire) bt B. Hoppenot 21-12, 21-11; lost to J. Coupry 21-19, 20-22, 10-21. B. Wright (Middlesex) bt Hoppenot 21-15, 13-21, 21-11; bt Coupry 21-15, 7-21, 21-6.

Billington/Wright bt Coupry/Hoppenot 14-21, 21-17, 21-8.

Billington/M. Shannon (Surrey) bt Coupry/M. Lebras 21-15, 21-12.

M. Shannon bt M. Lebras 21-10, 21-11. L. Bell (Essex) bt Lebras 21-14, 21-6.

European Union Sanctions**NEW CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**by **NANCY EVANS**

(E.T.T.U. Secretary)

THE big news from the European Union Meeting in Vienna, on November 6, is that the European Club Team Championship is to start this season. Entries are due by December 15.

Despite the unfortunate experience of the Europe Cup several of the Central European Countries were anxious that the new club team proposal should be given a trial on the score that the football inter-club competition started in a small way, and now clubs in all countries were clamouring to get into it.

Each country will be allowed only one club team, duly sponsored by the national association, who will be responsible for all action of the club and its players in matters of finance and discipline.

It will be for teams of three, playing on Swathing Cup lines. The club match on the Friday or Saturday, will be followed by a match against a national side on the following day.

The Home Club will be responsible for all accommodation for two days, and half the visitors travel expenses, limited to second class rail and steamer. In addition, the visitors are to get half the net profit of the second match, or a minimum of at least £10, to give further help towards their expenses.

Obviously only the experience of playing these matches which will throw up snags likely to occur, and it may well be that some closer examination will prove necessary.

At Least Six

Nevertheless, at least six national clubs are ready to give the tournament a trial. As most of these are situated fairly close together it should be easier to organise.

The first round should see clubs from France, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria and West and East Germany in opposition. The general feeling is that this event will prove so popular that in the following season there will be a much larger entry.

The entry fee is £1, plus a guarantee fee of £5 to be lodged with the Union.

The Meeting discussed European rankings and it was decided not to issue an individual list this season as too long had elapsed since Zagreb.

It was agreed, however, that in future both team and individual

rankings should be issued within three months of the European Championships.

The recent U.S.A. paper on their expedite rule was also discussed, and associations are recommended to give it a trial.

There is to be a meeting of juniors, for a tournament and for other activities, at Bad Blankenburg in West Germany, from July 5 to 10, 1961.

The meeting discussed efforts to arrange a charter flight for the World Championships in Peking, but this would seem to be impracticable. It

is likely that the Chinese Association will request all participants to raise their own tickets to Peking, and that they will then give return tickets for the number stipulated in their offer.

The meeting was most enthusiastically attended by the majority of the committee members, who were guests of the Austrian Association, and it was felt that a great deal of useful work was accomplished. If there is a quorum of five present at Peking, a further meeting will be held there. If not, the next meeting is to take place in Prague, later in 1961.

AUSTRIAN "OPEN"**Improving Youngsters**

THE most interesting thing about the Austrian International Championships in Vienna on November 5-6, was the improvement of the younger players, particularly from West and East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria. It will not be long before they are springing surprises, writes Nancy Evans.

Eva (Koczian) Foldi the European champion, was taken to five games in every match after the first round before eventually beating Agnes Simon, now of West Germany, 21-14, 18-21, 21-14, 16-21, 21-15, in a dour final of fluctuating fortunes.

Mrs. Foldi was held to 18-all in the fifth by 17-years-old Kunz, of East Germany, and trailed one game to two against Steermark (Austria). In the semi-final she beat Kerekes (Hungary) 21-18, 20-22, 21-19, 10-21, 21-15.

Kerekes had earlier been taken to a fifth game by Kruse, another East German youngster.

Mrs. Simon beat Kroupova and Rozeanu on her way to the final.

The men's singles, won by Zoltan Berczik (Hungary), the European champion, proved interesting from the first round.

Berczik had to hit more than usual in the final to get the better of Larsson (Sweden), the defending champion, who had beaten him in two recent matches. There was little to choose between them, but Berczik just had the edge and ran out winner 21-17, 22-20, 21-19.

On his way to the final Berczik beat Zezula (Austria), in the quarter-final, and Foldi in the semi-final.

Zezula scored a shock win over

Ljungstrom, one of the two Swedish lads who had recently returned from a three weeks tour of China.

Larsson reached the final with a straight games semi-final win over Schnieder (East Germany), who in the

**EVA FOLDI**

previous round had a thrilling win over Sido at 19 in the fifth.

Berczik gained second title in the men's doubles with Sido. They beat Stanek and Posejpal (Czech) 21-18, 21-14, 20-22, 21-14.

Stanek and Posejpal, who created a surprise by beating Larson and Ljungstrom, are two of the four

(Continued on page 10)

Editor's Postbag . . .

ANNOYING TV

I HAVE watched television of table tennis events on both channels, and feel that coverage is far too infrequent.

It appears to be the invariable rule of the B.B.C. to show a maximum of 15 minutes play in approximately three spells of half a game each time.

In the recent Russia match the programme commenced part way through Merrett's first game and ended with the score 1-1. The second instalment consisted of part of Harrison's first game. It was indeed generous of the B.B.C. to stay with T.T. until the completion of the game.

In comparison I.T.V. have, in the past, televised T.T. for as much as 45 minutes in one programme. Interruptions for advertisements proving much less exasperating than the returns to Coleman (on the B.B.C.) and his endless repetitive football progress reports.

I would suggest that the strongest possible protest be sent to the B.B.C. at the manner in which they handle T.T. events.

TED BAKER
(Peterborough)

FOREIGN TECHNIQUES

REFERENCE Mr. B. Blanco's letter in the November issue.

It is not news of National Tournaments from China and Japan that we thirst for, but news of foreign techniques like the "loop drive."

Could we have details and drawn

AUSTRIAN "OPEN"

(Continued from page 9)

young players on whom the Czechs are placing high hopes.

The women's doubles was won by Mrs. Foldi and Mathe in a close match with Kroupova (Czech) and Kerekas (Hungary) 21-19, 21-19, 17-21, 21-17.

In an all-West German final Gab and Kruse beat Scholar and Simon 22-20, 22-20, 24-22 for the mixed doubles.

Berczik and Foldi fell to Scholar and Simon in the semi-final, while Gab and Kruse had wins over Pleuse and Kunz, and Sido and Kerekas.

Men's singles: **BERCZIK** (Hungary) bt Larsson (Sweden) 21-17, 22-20, 21-19.

Women's Singles: **FOLDI** (Hungary) bt Simon (W. Germany) 21-14, 18-21, 21-14, 16-21, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: **BERCZIK/SIDO** (Hungary) bt Stanek/Posejpal (Czech) 21-18, 21-14, 20-22, 21-14.

Women's Doubles: **FOLDI/MATHE** (Hungary) bt Kroupova (Czech)/Kerekas (Hungary) 21-19, 21-19, 17-21, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: **GAB/KRUSE** (W. Germany) bt Scholar/Simon (W. Germany) 22-20, 22-20, 24-22.

illustrations of this stroke and a few details of the Stan Jacobson "Super Top Spin" methods.

Players like myself, who never get the chance to see top line players, rely completely on TABLE TENNIS for such news and find it quite frustrating to read that "Super Top Spin" promises to be the death-knell of defenders and yet cannot develop these strokes as we don't really know what "Super Top Spin" is.

BERT POWIS
(Dorchester).

IN contrast to Mr. Blanco (Postbag, November issue), the disregard and lack of space given to home tournaments is more likely to make readers in this area think twice about renewing their subscription than the overdoes of foreign matter now appearing.

How many readers care two hoots whether the final of the Australian doubles went to three games or not? Only Mr. Blanco!

Circulation will be gained when the tournaments are reported more fully and more space is given to county and local notes and to contributors such as Laurie Landry.

JOHN WOODFORD
(Eastbourne).

AUSTRALIAN LETTER FROM CLEM GRUBER

The following team will represent Australia in the World Championship in Peking: G. JENNINGS (N.S.W.), C. McDONALD (N.S.W.), S. MORGAN (S.A.), M. WILCOX (N.S.W.), Women: N. BUCKLAND (Vic.), L. COHEN (Vic.), L. MURPHY (Q'land).

The team will be accompanied by KEITH BOWLER (non-playing-captain), A. COOPER (Manager) and R. JONES (I.T.T.F. delegate).

Mrs. Suzy Javor, the Australian champion, declined nomination.

The Australians will be joined on their trip to Peking by a men's and women's team from New Zealand.

Victor Hirsch and Suzy Javor won the singles titles in the Melbourne Metropolitan Championships.

Two years ago a National Umpires scheme was introduced in Australia in order to provide a higher qualification for State Umpires—the equivalent to English county status—with a minimum of three years active service.

So far only four have passed the searching practical and written tests. They are: G. Brandis (N.S.W.), R. Hutson (Vic.), C. Gruber (Vic.) and C. Gadd (Vic.).

BABY FOR BETTY



Mrs. Betty Bird, England's No. 3 player at the beginning of the season, has gone into temporary retirement. She is expecting a baby in the Spring.

Mrs. Bird, who already has a two-year-old daughter, Lesley, plans a return to the tournament scene next season . . . providing husband Ron is agreeable to continue in his role of baby sitter . . .

Although living at Chelmsford, Essex, Mrs. Bird has retained her loyalties with Surrey.

PUTNEY INTERNATIONAL

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THE EXPEDITE RULE or ALTERNATIVE METHOD

by NORMAN L. KIRKPATRICK, Jnr.

FOR many years, the United States Table Tennis Association has not used the internationally known "time-limit" rule in any of its tournaments. Instead, the I.T.T.F.'s less well-known "alternative method," or as we call it, the "expedite rule," is used whenever it is necessary to limit long drawn out matches.

We should, therefore, like to review our experience with the "alternative method" and explain why we use it.

The form of the rule used in the United States is as follows:

Whenever in any game the style of play is considered uninteresting to the spectators, or threatens to upset the schedule of other matches, in the opinion of the umpire, referee, or referee's committee, it shall be the duty of the umpire to call a let and to notify the players before the next serve that that particular game shall proceed under the following rules:

(a) *The server shall be permitted to hit the ball 13 times including the serve stroke, and if all such strokes are safely returned by the opponent one point shall be scored by the opponent.*

(b) *The serve shall alternate after each point when the rule is in force. The umpire shall declare the rule in effect automatically after 15 minutes' play in any one game. Time-outs, as defined in Law 16, shall not be considered as part of the 15 minutes playing time.*

(Note: In the U.S., Law 16 defines a "time-out" as a period interrupted because of injury, damage to equipment, lighting failure, etc.)

In this form we have found the "alternative method" to be very satisfactory in a number of ways.

MORE LIVELY

Its application generally succeeds in changing dull, defensive marathons into rather more lively play, featuring both attack and defence by both players. The very knowledge that this rule might be applied to a long, unenterprising defensive match encourages players to develop all-round games, rather than purely defensive strokes.

Finally the use of this rule results in each game ending at the seemingly more "natural" score of 21-something or higher.

Long drawn-out defensive matches,

NORMAN KIRKPATRICK'S article, written on behalf of the United States T.T.A., and circulated to all countries, comes at a time when the game in this country appears to have slumped into a defensive groove. English tournaments have been ruined by long defensive matches on which even the "time limit" rule makes no impression. Perhaps the "expedite rule" could be the answer. The European Union at the recent meeting in Vienna have recommended that all associations give it a trial.

EDITOR.

to which we owe the existence of any sort of limiting rule, come about as the result of a number of situations. They can occur when both players, lacking knowledge of each other's tactics, become over-cautious; when players have become so exhausted that no effort is made to force the game; when defences are superior to attack and the players settle down to a boring duel of endless points.

We find the "alternative rule" offers a better solution to the problem than "time-limit" to the spectators, tournament officials and perhaps the players themselves.

STRONGER INCENTIVE

Indirectly it offers a far stronger incentive for players to take the initiative. The pressure is on both players alternately throughout the game.

Under the "time-limit" there appears little incentive for a player to risk a forcing shot as such scores of 5-4 will attest. Then if one player is several points ahead he can be content to let his opponent take the risks and make the errors.

The general effect of the "expedite rule" is to force each player alternately to attack; thus presenting the spectators with a much more interesting style of play.

Our experience is that the "expedite rule" has a beneficial effect on the types of game our players develop even before they enter tournaments. They make sure they develop attacking strokes in addition to their defensive game.

Unlike the "time-limit" rule, the application of the "alternative method" does not result in the arbitrary cessation of play at a low score, possibly in the middle of a point. While it does somewhat limit the length of a game, it is a more gradual process, and allows the game to be played out to its more natural conclusion.

While the "time-limit" takes the negative approach of merely cutting short a dull match, the "expedite rule" is more positive. It attempts, in a way that is fair to the player, to improve the match.

Outside the United States, the "alternative method" has had limited, but successful use. In 1949 it was used to good effect in the English "Open." Canada regularly used it and report that, as in the United States, it results in the development of comprehensive styles of play, so that the rule seldom has to be employed.

Since the "expedite rule" seems to have worked out well in the countries that have used it, we would like to know what others think of the rule as compared to the "time-limit" and if they would be interested in carrying out experiments, in either tournaments or internationals.

We should be pleased to answer any questions that may arise.

Leaving the application of the "alternative method" to an umpire's discretion can lead to charges of unfairness. A way to avoid this would be to apply the rule after a given time and remove all discretionary powers. This would combine the essence of the "time-limit" with the "expedite" principle.

We do remove all discretionary powers but only after 15 minutes have elapsed. Then the rule is mandatory.

The mandatory application after, say, 15 minutes with no period of discretionary power would perhaps be especially suited to international matches.

ELASTIC IN U.S.

As the rule is used in the U.S., if an interesting game has lasted, say, ten minutes, there is no reason for the application of the rule. On the other hand we should consider using it very much earlier in a dull, almost scoreless, "chiselling" match.

It could be argued that a high-calibre match between an excellent attacking player and a similarly good defender could last longer than 15 minutes per game and yet be of absorbing interest to the spectators. While this is quite true, the "time-limit" rule restricts play in subsequent games to only ten minutes, so that the match would be further curtailed. Thus we feel the alternative method offers a better compromise.

(Continued on page 12)

VICTOR BARNA RECALLS

"The Match I shall never Forget"

WHENEVER I am asked which match stands out in my memory I immediately think back to that nightmare world final of 1935, the last time I won the singles.

I was playing my old friend and rival Mike Szabados at the Empire Pool, Wembley. The huge arena was packed to capacity with ten thousand spectators, the then largest crowd to watch the world championships.

That was memorable enough, but the drama of the final game, when I all but lost my title through cramp, is what makes it stick in my memory.

We had shared the first four games and when I changed ends leading 10-4 then increased my lead to 16-8, it looked all over bar the shouting. Then I felt the strength going from my arm and Mike gradually crept up to 18-all.

At this stage he put up a "sitter,"

EXPEDITE RULE

(Continued from page 11)

Of course, it can be said that any rule limiting the length of a match is unfair to certain players, and that we should first of all protect the right of a player to play in the way he desires. While this may sound good in theory, it has been found that spectator interest and overall schedule are the main factors that necessitate some kind of limit. The historical origin of the time limit rule makes it quite clear that limiting rules serve a definite purpose and are absolutely necessary. Thus the practical question is not whether a limiting rule should be applied, but rather what form that rule should take. Since this is the problem we felt we should be doing a service to disseminate this information about the "alternative method."

In conclusion we recognise that different conditions in other countries might suggest that the "alternative method" be amended somewhat from the version used in the U.S. In any case, we feel that it would be worth while, from the standpoint of better evaluating the relative merits of the two rules, for associations of the I.T.T.F. to provide for at least experimental use of the alternative method.

The reactions of different areas to this experimentation might also give some insight into the factors governing the different styles the world over.

but as I went for the kill the bat fell from my hand without even touching the ball. Bending down to pick up the bat I found I could not hold it. I had no use in my fingers.

After a spot of massage I tried a few back hand swings, but my hand



VICTOR BARNA

immediately seized up again. I realised I could no longer use my back-hand.

The problem was to keep this fact from Mike, and I decided to gamble everything on the forehand.

I was serving and immediately crashed Mike's return with the forehand. He was so surprised that he never looked at the ball. We were 19-all.

I followed up my next service with another successful forehand . . . 20-19, match point. I repeated the tactics yet again and it was all over.

Three shock forehands had given me the title for the fifth time.

Mike left the table crestfallen as the cheering crowds swarmed on to the arena and chaired me away.

Later, when the cheers had died down, some people began to accuse me of gamesmanship, saying how clever I was to have delayed matters to 18-all and put off my opponent.

That was an insult. There was no

question of stalling. In any case only a fool would let a "sitter" go at 18-all. I had cramp and could not hold the bat.

I had to switch to the forehand after recovering, for it was just impossible for me to play back-hand.

It had broken down under the strain of eight days play, but the main damage was caused by a 60 minutes' long semi-final the same evening against Alex Ehrlich, whose defence was so stubborn that I had to ward him off with back-hand play.

As long as I live I shall never forget that final, or indeed the 1935 world championships. They were my greatest ever, for Szabados and I teamed up to win the men's doubles and I also won the mixed with Anna Sipos.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

THE County "Closed" tournament was once again held in Bristol at Wills Hall, Bedminster. The results are as follows:—

Men's Singles: DAVID GRIFFITHS (Cheltenham) bt Roy Morley (Gloucester) 21-17, 21-18. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. E. SPOKES (Bristol) bt J. Collier (Bristol) 24-22, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: TONY DIMAMBRO/ROGER HAYDON (Bristol) bt Roy Morley (Gloucester)/Kevin Edwards (Cheltenham) 21-18, 17-21, 21-17. **Mixed Doubles:** K. EDWARDS (Cheltenham)/JOAN COLLIER (Bristol) bt David Beven (Gloucester)/Pat Taylor (Cheltenham) 21-19, 21-23, 21-41.

Women's Doubles: E. SPOKES/J. COLLIER (Bristol) bt Mrs. J. Watts/Mrs. J. Pickett (Bristol) 21-4, 21-9.

Junior Singles: PETER BROOKS (Bristol) bt Martin White (Cheltenham) 21-12, 20-22, 21-11. **Junior Doubles:** PETER BROOKS/BARRY BRADY (Bristol) bt Martin White/P. Stribling (Cheltenham) 22-20, 21-23, 21-17.

Veterans Singles: HARRY WHITE (Bristol) bt J. Mower (Cheltenham) 15-21, 23-21, 22-20.

David Griffiths was awarded his County badge and shirt shortly after the commencement of the season; David's sister, Sheila, has also played for the County in two Premier Division matches this season.

In the Bristol and District League match, excitement has recently been caused by the fact that a team which has not lost a league match since December, 1954, has at last been defeated. The team with such a fine record is Alfred Sports "A" who, for ten consecutive seasons, have been champions of Division I of the Bristol and District Table Tennis League. They were defeated 7-2 by Central "A" in their first meeting in the new Premier Division. Aubrey Simons recorded a fine "two-straight" possible for Central.

Ann Haydon Decides

IT'S LAWN TENNIS

by LANCE TINGAY

of "The Daily Telegraph"

THREE issues ago I wrote of Ann Haydon's achievements in lawn tennis since towards the end of last year she made the decision to devote herself wholeheartedly to that game. More recently she completed a season's schedule in lawn tennis more wide and complete than any I can recall being undertaken by any other British woman player.

More pertinently so far as table tennis enthusiasts are concerned she made the personal decision which, in effect, means she has forsworn table tennis for good.

Lawn tennis was given a year's trial and it has worked out well enough to justify continuance.

So table tennis will know the redoubtable Miss Haydon no longer. That will, I am sure, be much to the loss of the British game but, viewing the matter from a greater distance, the loss to table tennis will, I am sure, redound to the benefit of British lawn tennis.

One of the factors influencing Miss Haydon's decision is almost certainly that she feels she is unlikely to progress further in table tennis than her past achievements. In the other game it is a different matter.

In my world lawn tennis ranking list recently I had occasion to grade Miss Haydon as the sixth best performer. That, given normal development, she will better that position in 12 months time I am quite certain.

INEVITABLE

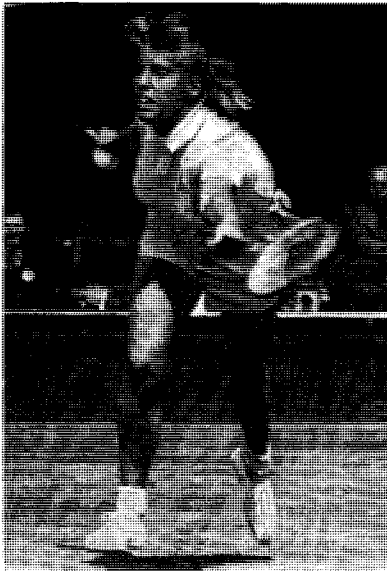
The decision was, I think, inevitable. At the level of ordinary mortals it is possible, of course, to combine table tennis with lawn tennis and, indeed, with half a dozen other sports as well. Many players frequently do, and those lucky enough to be blessed with that easy co-ordination of limb and eye that makes for sporting skill can, and do, reach happy standards at any game they care to take up.

The super expert—and those who climb to world ranking standards are necessarily super experts—is in a different category. It is not only a matter of physical demands but the mental concentration involved that debars, generally speaking, the champion of one sport becoming a champion at another.

There is no such thing as the universal genius in sport, if only for the reason that genius in sport is

natural talent plus the infinite capacity for taking pains. Roy Wilson, for instance, could be British Amateur Squash Rackets Champion but at the same time his lawn tennis could not get further than about the sixth place in the Surrey County team.

At the present time Dennis Hughes is one of the best squash players in



ANN HAYDON

"DAILY HERALD" PICTURE

the country. In lawn tennis he makes the grade as a Wimbledon player, but only just. In the same way Rita Bentley is ranked in the lawn tennis top ten and contrives to be a stalwart of England's women's international hockey side.

All these are notable examples of dual sporting achievement. But to be right at the top of one game and combine it with a similar position at the top of another is a virtual impossibility, unless it be in sports like real tennis and real rackets where the standards have been kept at what I may term a thoroughly amateur level.

Miss Haydon aimed at world supremacy in table tennis and just missed. Will she achieve it in lawn tennis? I think she could but, as is always the case, she will have to have a little luck.

If the Brazilian Maria Esther Bueno continues to fulfil her high natural genius in the events that matter then neither Miss Haydon nor anyone else will supplant her in the next few years. But Miss Haydon has already done enough to justify the highest ambitions.

She has been a Wimbledon singles semi-finalist and that is an achievement of no mean order. The best thing she did—it came after my previous article about her—was to win the Pacific South West women's singles title in Los Angeles, an achievement in prestige just after the acquisition of the more famous national titles.

WONDERFUL RECORD

Miss Haydon played in a total of 71 events in individual lawn tennis tournaments. In 58 of these events she got to the final. Half of these finals—29—she won. That is a very impressive percentage of success since the overwhelming majority of her competition was in a world standard field. In singles events she reached the final 26 times out of 30 and was successful in 14.

So 1960 was a pretty good year for Miss Haydon in lawn tennis. It was such that her decision to give up table tennis was more or less inevitable. I am sure table tennis, while regretful, will wish her all the luck in the world in the other game.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

ITALY: Men's Singles: **Wunderling**. Women's Singles: **Colombo**. Men's Doubles: **Moretti/Mugnoz**. Women's Doubles: **Colombo/Mugnoz**. Mixed Doubles: **Mugnoz/Mugnoz**.

SOUTH AFRICA BOARD: Men's Singles: **Moola**. Women's Singles: **Barry**. Men's Doubles: **Valjee/Moola**. Women's Doubles: **Meye/Marry**. Mixed Doubles: **Peer/Persadh**.

GHANA: Men's Singles: **Quaye**. Women's Singles: **Moukarzel**. Men's Doubles: **Allovey/Frant**. Women's Doubles: **Akutteh/Akutteh**. Mixed Doubles: **Quaye/Akutteh**.

P. Haldankor, of India, won the singles and the doubles with I Prakash in the Invitation Championships at Katmandu. They then played as India to beat Nepal 4-1 in the international.

Hungarian and Yugoslavian Tour

by PETER LOWEN (non-playing Captain)

IT was a cold, damp morning as Diane Rowe, Jean Harrower and I left London Airport for the Hungarian Championships in Budapest. We travelled via Amsterdam and Vienna and on our arrival were taken to the Palace Hotel by the Hungarian official to join the other foreign competitors.

The following day we went to the Sports Palace, an indoor stadium rather like Wembley, but about a fifth the size. Conditions were ideal.

The girls entered for the singles and doubles and the mixed doubles in which Diane paired with Wegrath (Austria) and Jean with Sedelmayer (Austria).

There were also representatives from Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Germany (D.D.R.) and Yugoslavia, and from the look of the draw it appeared we were in for a hard and energetic tournament.

Diane and Jean both reached the quarter-finals of the singles, where they were beaten by Mossoczy (Hungary), and Kunz (Germany) respectively.

Miss Harrower, with Sedelmayer lost in the first round of the mixed doubles, but Miss Rowe, with Wegrath reached the quarter-finals before falling to Sido and Mossoczy, the eventual winners.

It was in the women's doubles where our two-girl team fared best, reaching the final, where they appeared to lose their confidence and were beaten in straight games by Alexandru and Pitica.

HUNGARIAN "OPEN" RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: FOLDI bt Sido 19, 15, —19, 16. BERCZIK bt Rozsas 20, 13, —18, 9.

Final: BERCZIK bt Foldi 14, 8, 19.

Women's Singles: Final: ALEXANDRU bt Kerekes 20, 20, 12.

Men's Doubles: Final: BERCZIK/SIDO bt Teran/Kern —13, 11, 11, 16.

Women's Doubles: Final: ALEXANDRU/PITICA bt Rowe/Harrower 14, 15, 14.

Mixed Doubles: Final: SIDO/MOSSOCZY bt Vieberg/Kunz 19, —15, 20, 16.

ENGLISH RESULTS

Women's Singles: J. Harrower bt Toke 13, 12, —13, 16; bt Kroupova 19, 14, —16, —19, 15; lost to Kunz —7, —10, —17 (quarter-final).

D. Rowe bt Marosvolgyi —17, 7, 14, 13; bt Balatoni 7, 15, 11; lost to Mossoczy —20, 15, —12, —12 (quarter-final).

Women's Doubles: Rowe/Harrower bt Folea/Hollman 20, 18, 10; bt Schwarozova/Mathe 18, 15, —21, —14, 19; lost to Alexandru/Pitica —14, —15, —14 (final).

Mixed Doubles: Harrower/Sedelmayer

lost to Pignitzky/Kerekes —13, —17, —13. Rowe/Wegrath bt Peterfy/Balatoni 17, 17, 14; bt Miko/Schwarzova —16, 14, 17, —17, 16; lost to Sido/Mossoczy 18, —18, 17, —20, —9 (quarter-final).

Before the finals we were taken on a sight-seeing tour and to the football international in which Hungary beat Poland 4-1.

The following morning we left on a three-and-a-half hours journey to Miscoz, a town to the north-east of Budapest. After more sight-seeing we played a friendly match against Miscoz and won 4-1.

England 4, Miscoz 1: Detailed Results: Rowe bt Grigassy 19, 14; bt Weisz 9, 11. Harrower bt Weisz 11, —19, 12; lost to Grigassy —18, 13, —17. Rowe/Harrower bt Kilmont/Adorjan 19, 7.



ZOLTAN BERCZIK

We returned to Budapest and had a day of rest before travelling to the Yugoslavian Championships at Maribor, a journey of nearly 15 hours.

There we were joined by Ian Harrison, Jeff Ingber, Alan Rhodes and Stan Jacobson, who had travelled direct from London. By some mischance Ingber's baggage had been left at London Airport and he had to make do with kit borrowed from the other players. It was not surprising he was uncertain in his first match and was beaten. He was the only one to fail on this day, which found the men playing one round and the women two.

In the evening England met Yugoslavia in an international. I felt we had a good chance of winning, but the result was quite staggering. We won 5-1.

Rhodes, who had to withstand a great deal of gamesmanship and time-wasting, beat Markovic I. Then Ingber, now playing with his own gear, astonished us all by beating the younger Markovic, who was later to win the singles in the Yugoslavian championship.

Harrison, playing ten points better than usual, made it 3-0 by beating Teran. On this form Harrison could be one of the best players in Europe.

Markovic II registered Yugoslavia's only win when he beat Rhodes two straight, in a match of contrasting styles.

There is no doubt that the Yugoslavs had not expected such a rout and it was a great thrill to have captained this team.

Yugoslavia 1, England 5.

Detailed results: Markovic I lost to Rhodes —11, 12, —18; lost to Harrison —15, —14; Markovic II lost to Ingber —13, 12, —17; bt Rhodes 9, 7. Teran lost to Harrison 15, —11, —13; lost to Ingber —16, —13.

YUGOSLAVIAN "OPEN" FINALS RESULTS

Men's Singles: MARKOVIC II bt Rozsas 17, 18, —16, 14.

Women's Singles: ROZEANU bt Rowe 16, 15, —15, 10.

Men's Doubles: TERAN/KERN bt Fahazi/Horscar —19, 17, 15, 16.

Women's Doubles: ROWE/HARROWER bt Rozeanu/Streifer —18, 17, 12, 12.

Mixed Doubles: MARKOVIC II/ROZEANU bt Harrison/Rowe 19, 15, 20.

ENGLISH RESULTS

Men's Singles: Harrison bt Korpa 16, 13, 10; bt Pavasovic 17, 9, 8; bt Kern —18, —19, 11, 14, 19; bt Fahazi —16, 14, —15, 14; lost to Rozsas —16, —17, —16 (semi-final).

Ingber lost to Franjic —15, 17, —21, —13.

Rhodes bt Rehar 8, —16, 17, 17; bt Tomazic 18, 17, 19; bt Tomc —16, —15, 15, 21, 12; lost to Rozsas —16, —12, —7.

Jacobson bt Jamsek 4, 16, 11; bt Osmanagic 14, 5, —20, 15; lost to Gab —19, —17, —18.

ENGLISH RESULTS

Women's Singles: D. Rowe bt Lampret 6, 9, 6; bt Dauphin 13, 6, 12; bt Nikolic 10, 5, 11; bt Alber 12, 10, 9; lost to Rozeanu —16, —15, 15, —10 (Final).

J. Harrower bt Cadez 8, 9, 17; lost to Rozeanu —9, —15, 17, —15.

Men's Doubles: Ingber/Jacobson bt Rehar/Frelth 9, 20, 16; bt Biscan/Stencl —13, 11, 8, 12; bt Kos/Zupancic 15, 15, 15; lost to Teran/Kern —15, —16, —20 (Semi-Final).

Harrison/Rhodes bt Apostolovic/Ramposek 15, 16, 15; bt Melegi/Granic 16, 15, 15; lost to Poszas/Gab 18, —20, —18, —20.

Mixed Doubles: Harrison/Rowe bt Berger/Dauphin 17, 15, 10; bt Fahazi/Heirits 16, 18, —14, 14; bt Wegrath/Scharfegger 20, 13, 19; lost to Markovic II/Rozeanu —19, —15, —20 (Final).

Ingber/Harrower bt Sedelmayer/Haisleitner 14, —9, —19, 23, 19; lost to Markovic II/Rozeanu —17, —14, 13, —18.

Jacobson/Cadez lost to Wegrath/Scharfegger —16, —13, —18.

Women's Doubles: Rowe/Harrower bt Cadez/Pyke 13, 16, 20; bt Nikolic/Plut —10, 15, 5, 18; bt Rozeanu/Streifer —18, 17, 12, 12 (Final).

Back to the Championships in which Harrison was outstanding amongst our boys and reached the semi-final only to lose to the young Hungarian "top spinner" Roszas, three straight. Ian just did not find the answer to the top spin but, I feel, learned a lot from this match and is now determined to overcome this new type of shot from the "back-sided" sandwich bat.

In the quarter-final he disposed of the other young Hungarian player Fahazi in a thrilling five-set affair which showed how well Ian was playing. He defended as we all know he can defend, but, anything slightly loose was sent on its way either forehand or backhand with such speed that few came back.

Alan Rhodes also played well and reached the quarter-final before he too, lost to Roszas. He had a most exciting third round match with Tomc, losing the first two games then storming back to win the next three.

Stan Jacobson on his first representative tour reached the third round, where he lost to Gab of Germany.

Rozeanu Too Strong

Diane Rowe swept through to the women's singles final with straight games victories, only to find Rozeanu, the former world champion, too good for her. Diane played well and there were many exciting exchanges, but she fell away in the fourth game.

Rozeanu also beat Jean Harrower in the second round, her greater experience being the deciding factor after Jean had won the third game and threatened to win the fourth.

Ingber and Jacobson were more successful than Harrison and Rhodes in the men's doubles, reaching the semi-final where the young Yugoslavs Teran and Kern won in straight games. Teran and Kern, who created a big impression as the runners-up in Budapest went on to win the title.

Harrison and Rhodes ran into trouble against Roszas and Gab, losing over four games, but two of them were 22-20 affairs. Roszas's top spin was the deciding factor.

Our one success of the tournament

came in the women's doubles when Diane and Jean carried off the title, beating Rozeanu and Streifer in the final.

In both the Hungarian and Yugoslavian championships our two girls combined well when they were allowed to attack but lost a little of the rhythm if a game was taken from them. Fortunately Rozeanu and Streifer were on the defensive for most of the time.

We came near to another title when Harrison and Miss Rowe reached the final of the mixed doubles, only to fail against Markovic II and Rozeanu.

Ingber and Miss Harrower also fell to the same pair, but it was a close thing for they won the third game and got within an ace of winning the fourth.

One impression I retained from both championships was the sparkling good play which I sincerely hope will be repeated in the forthcoming English "Open."

There are many fine attacking players on the Continent. Although they may be defensive in their initial approach, they have the ability to hit the ball hard when the openings are made.

THE CIRCULATION DRIVE by Geoff Harrower

IT is difficult to prepare "League Tables" so early in the season, when we are dealing with only two months' sales. For example, there may be a few returns from some counties, which will affect, adversely, their totals. On the other hand some counties are still gathering in subscriptions. Then sales at big events have not yet had time to level themselves out. Middlesex will no doubt rise over the 100 per cent. after the Middlesex "Open" in December.

Although Gloucestershire may lose a little of their 161 per cent., swelled as it is by sales at the England/Russia match at Bristol, Miss Wilkinson is determined to keep it very well above the 100 per cent.

Another county to make vast strides since last year is Kent, where Jimmy Mannooch has taken on the Magazine Secretaryship (once again!) and he will be battling to keep over that magical 100 per cent. mark.

Clear leaders in the "big counties" table are Hertfordshire, which speaks volumes for the work put in by Bill Williams. He has got all but one of the Leagues in membership selling copies each month—and he is covering the defaulting league himself in his drive to keep Hertfordshire above the 250 per cent. mark.

Hampshire and Surrey are two counties just with their "nose in front" of the 100 per cent. mark. This represents quite a jump for Surrey, who can thank the enthusiasm of Peggy Piper, plus the support of four leagues and Harry Venner's Putney Club. In contrast, apart from Willesden and Wembley, Bill Mildenhall is unable to stimulate interest for the Magazine amongst the Middlesex Leagues.

Among the smaller counties, Cambridgeshire, as expected, have a good league, but I know that several other counties plan surprises for Cambs. A very big jump in sales down in Devon, entirely due to the efforts

being made in Plymouth.

Colin Deaton's work is now paying off, and Derby should be well in at the finish.

Cornwall will be hard put to it to keep their figures up, as they have already finished their home County programme for the season. More news next month. Now for the first tables of the season. Figures in brackets indicate the percentage shown at the end of last season in our May issue:

THE "OVER 100" COUNTIES

	Per cent.
HERTFORDSHIRE (151)	251
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (242)	161
GLOUCESTERSHIRE (74)	161
NORFOLK (126)	134
ESSEX (115)	126
KENT (68)	103
SURREY (77)	102
HAMPSHIRE (79)	101
WARWICKSHIRE (126)	98
MIDDLESEX (128)	92
DURHAM (65)	80
LANCASHIRE (50)	55
SUSSEX (81)	55
LINCOLNSHIRE (50)	45
YORKSHIRE (40)	32
STAFFORDSHIRE (31)	22
CHESHIRE (17)	19

THE "UNDER 100" COUNTIES

	Per cent.
CAMBRIDGESHIRE (412)	292
WILTSHIRE (243)	245
SUFFOLK (260)	193
DEVON (97)	173
DERBYSHIRE (83)	136
CORNWALL (22)	115
OXFORD (105)	100
NORTHUMBERLAND (38)	78
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (30)	43
BEDFORDSHIRE (34)	34
LEICESTERSHIRE (78)	30
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (7)	28
WORCESTERSHIRE (12)	25
SOMERSET (44)	22
SHROPSHIRE (4)	18
BERKSHIRE (73)	15
DORSET (9)	8

WASTED OPPORTUNITY

by JOHNNY LEACH

THE English selectors having ordered a steamroller to crack three hard little nuts at Cardiff on December 2-3, it would indeed be a "turn up for the book" if England failed to make a clean sweep of the honours in the Quadrangular International Tournament, as they did at Belfast last year.

Indeed, I cannot remember a single occasion since the war when either Scotland, Wales or Ireland have really extended England.

Now I have gone on record many times, and still believe, that when playing against a foreign country, we should always choose our strongest available team, irrespective of any other consideration. Only when it is a question of choice between two players of equal merit should the younger man be given preference for

But in my view, to select our top men and women straight from the current ranking list to oppose Scotland, Wales and Ireland is not only liable to kill all future interest in the Quadrangular Tournament, but is wasting a first-class opportunity to "blood" some of our young "hopes."

Suppose David Creamer, Tony Piddock and Mary Shannon were given places in this tournament? All three are already so near in class to their England rivals that the England team would still, in my view, gain a comfortable victory. The crowd would have the opportunity of seeing exciting new personalities in international action for the first time, and these youngsters themselves would get just the encouragement they need at this time to lift their game to still greater heights.

Our best players get all too few opportunities to play representative table tennis, and I think that there is a serious danger that they will lose their enthusiasm and, in some cases, turn their ability to other sports.

Jill Rook, neglected for so long, has already turned most of her attention towards lawn tennis, and but for her recent much-delayed recognition Jean Harrower might easily have been allowed to drift away from our game in which she should have a big future.

One thing that one must say for the England selectors this season is that they have been consistent in their policy of always choosing the best based on the results of the "Top Ten."

But if ever the selectors had an excuse to depart from a predetermined policy they had it in the case of the



TONY PIDDOCK

Quadrangular. Diane Rowe, Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett could barely have time for a change of clothes and a quick cup of tea, on returning from their exhausting representative engagement in Sweden, before boarding the train for Cardiff. It could be argued that a rest would do them more good than another journey for a one-sided event.

This whole question of internationals needs looking into, and I am not sure that we should not follow the example of football and classify the matches according to their importance. In other words, there would be a special badge for representing your country in the Swaythling Cup (as there is at present) which would rate absolute "tops," an "A" badge for matches against foreign countries, and a "B" for home internationals.

This would mean that players like Stan Jacobson and Tony Miller could receive well-deserved recognition in home internationals, and vacant places in overseas engagements

would go to younger players with a more obvious future. I have in mind the recent Yugoslav "Open", for which Merrett and Burridge were not available—to my mind this was the ideal opportunity to "blood" Creamer or Piddock.

And here's another point. The idea of calling a selectors' meeting at the venue of an important "Open" Championship, as in the case of the recent English "Closed" and Sussex "Open," is much to be commended since in theory it gives the selectors a chance to check-up on up-to-the-minute form.

However, I agree with players that the actual selectors' meeting should not be held in a backroom while play is in progress, but at the conclusion of the championships. A good example was provided at Hastings when, possibly at the very moment Alan Rhodes was being picked to go to Yugoslavia, in the hall adjoining the meeting room Creamer was beating Rhodes in convincing style!

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS

Conducted by LAURIE LANDRY

No Umpire Problems at Hull

SUSSEX "OPEN"

THE Silver Jubilee Sussex "Open" was a great success. The invitation of Swedish player Hans Alser and the Belgian, Juliens, was a most popular move amongst the players. It would be a good idea if more such invitations could be made by other tournaments.

HULL "OPEN"

The Hull "Open" Tournament was very well organised. The main thing that impressed was the way the umpires' problem was dealt with. Perhaps it was because Hull have the Yorkshire Umpires' Secretary in their midst that they were able to supply a quota of officials and not leave the task entirely to willing players. Nevertheless, players in the North seem to be far more willing to umpire than their Southern counterparts. At Hull losers seemed to "take the chair" without question!

MERSEYSIDE "OPEN"

The Merseyside "Open" Tournament is blessed with possibly the best

"Open" Tournament conditions in the country. The organisation also, apart from the occasional lapse in the flow of umpires, was also well up to standard.

BIRMINGHAM "OPEN"

There are precious few tournaments in the Midlands and the number has been reduced by the absence of the Peterborough "Open" in this year's calendar. Tournaments held in the Midlands are the best meeting places for players from all over the country. Some travel all over, but it is at a Midlands tournament that players from the North and South meet in large numbers. It is therefore, with some regret that I report on the Birmingham "Open" Tournament. The fact that the Mixed Doubles Event was unfinished is self-explanatory—there was a late finish. It is apparent therefore that the organisation did not run smoothly.

Agreed a few of the players probably turned up late but this does not explain the fact that the tournament

ran a total of about four hours late, and that the finals were not staged. Talking to various players, it seems that hardly any of them could clearly hear the loud-speaker system. This led to the inevitable long delays which were characteristic of this tournament. One must remember that no matter how willing and hard-working the committee there is no substitute for a foolproof system.

HANDICAPS

Mr. W. George, the chairman of the local Hastings Association, talked to me at the Sussex "Open" on the subject of Handicaps. He says that the local league have tried every known method of Handicapping and that recently they have decided that one system is the best. They work on a scale covering thirty-five units. All players are graded at a certain level and one of the more mathematically minded members of the committee has drawn up a comprehensive table showing handicaps to be given for any two grades.

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WELSH CORNER

EMECZ MAKES THE GRADE

FOR some years now Hungarian refugee, Emil Emezc, a student at Aberystwyth University, has hitch-hiked his way around the various Welsh tournaments in search of better form.

Now his tremendous enthusiasm is beginning to pay dividends. Last season he reached the semi-finals of the Gwent "Open" and Welsh "Closed," but the recent Swansea "Open" brought him right into the limelight.

He conquered George Evans in the first round, then Jack Price, Glyn Morgan in the quarter-final, and Alan Thomas in the semi-final.

Unfortunately Emezc's great effort seemed spent when he reached the final where he was beaten 21-18, 21-15 by Ron Davies.

For another player, too, the tournament brought success. Ken Bull, the Cardiff youngster, has promised well but never secured any good results until the Swansea "Open," where he reached the semi-final and took a game from Ron Davies before admitting defeat.

Without wishing to detract from the undoubted improvement of such as Emezc and Bull, one can only regret that the form of our acknowledged top players is still deplorably bad. The Swansea "Open" left no doubts about this. In fact, rarely has a tournament seemed so lacking in the atmosphere of real endeavour.

Certainly some of these players cannot hope to win their way back into the county and national sides so it is to players like Emezc and Bull that we must now turn.

The women's event was no better. There was one good game, the semi-final in which Audrey Bates beat Gretta Dimascio, but the final won by Betty Gray was deplorable.

The boys' event provided some compensation and the Welsh youngsters are to be congratulated on resisting a strong Bristol challenge. Ian Gibson, after a shaky start, displayed good form to beat diminutive John Mansfield, of Abergavenny, and take the title.

There were some quite good games in the doubles and in the men's, Bull formed a successful partnership with Alan Thomas.

An improved Margaret Phillips, who had led Audrey Bates in the deciding game of a first round singles, figured in two doubles finals, but was narrowly beaten in both.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: **RON DAVIES** bt Emil Emezc 21-18, 21-15. Women's Singles: **BETTY GRAY** bt Audrey Bates 21-6, 21-11.

Men's Doubles: **ALAN THOMAS/KEN BULL**, bt Stan Jones/Bernard Dimascio 16-21, 21-14, 23-21. Women's Doubles: **BATES/MARGARET DIMASCIO** bt. Margaret Jones/Margaret Phillips 21-8, 9-21, 21-18. Mixed Doubles: **GLYN MORGAN/**

Miss **BATES** bt George Evans/Miss Phillips 11-21, 25-23, 21-11.

Boy's Singles: **IAN GIBSON** bt John Mansfield 21-15, 21-15.

Glamorgan have won their opening two matches in the Midland Division of the National Counties Championship — the first not too convincingly against Leicestershire and the second fairly comfortably against Bedfordshire.

NORFOLK'S
SAD LOSS

DEREHAM, particularly, and in Norfolk generally, have lost one of their best friends with the recent death of Mr. Floering. A former president, Mr. Floering was very interested in Table Tennis and would do anything to promote the interests of the game.

The old 4-6 bogey is still with Norfolk. That was once again the score against Bucks, although our hopes were raised when, in the final match, Less Holdom and Dave Jones were 19-all in the third. Alas, Jones won the next two points.

On the same day Norfolk learned they were losing their county umpires secretary. Perhaps it was a coincidence as Ron Giles is moving to Buckinghamshire.

Mardlers Veterans (Fourth Division, Norwich League) claim that they are the oldest playing team, with an average age of 52½ years. County secretary, Eric Fairhead, has been persuaded to take out his bat again after eight years in retirement.

Another county official comes into the news, Bill Minors, the county coaching secretary, became a proud father again. A gift of a son, Michael John.

Entries were up for the Norfolk "Closed" Championships at the Norwich Lads Club on Saturday November 12, but it was most discouraging to see such poor support for the junior events.

Obvious a drive on juniors must be made throughout the county.

NEW CHAMPION

L. Holdom won the men's singles after last year's champion A. Wickens had been beaten 21-17, 22-20 in an early round by Bob Perry, a newcomer to Norwich.

Perry failed to survive the next round against John Ewles, who was in turn beaten by Holdom.

Holdom, who beat A. Arther 21-11, 21-16, in the final, had his narrowest squeak in the third round, where he survived two match points against him to overcome club mate R. Syder at 22-20 in the third.

Men's Singles: L. **HOLDOM** bt A. Archer 21-11, 21-16. Women's Singles: M. **TURNER** bt Mrs. H. Ewles 16-21, 17-21, 16-21.

Men's Doubles: A. **HARVEY/A. FOX** bt A. Archer/G. Smith 21-18, 21-14. Women's Doubles: Mrs. **EWLES/Mrs. Allen** bt Mrs. Harrison/Turner 18-21, 21-5, 21-15. Mixed Doubles: J. **EWLES/Mrs. EWLES** bt Holdom/Mrs. Ragan 21-16, 19-21, 21-11.

Youth Singles: A. **COOPER** bt R. Meadows 21-16, 21-17. Girls' Singles: P. **WADE** bt S. Mayhew. Veterans Singles: J. **MALONOWSKI** bt R. Giles 21-16, 21-18.

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YORKSHIRE NOTES

HUDDERSFIELD AFTER TREBLE

HUDDERSFIELD are this year aiming for the big treble—the men's, women's and youths' inter-league crowns, and are confident they can be the first to achieve this since Leeds in 1951.

The men, reigning champions, began by thrashing Halifax 9-1; the youths (David Hirst, David Stanley, Peter Clowes and Malcolm Mear) won their first two matches; and the women, strengthened by the "transfer" from Dewsbury of Pam Morton, beat fancied Barnsley 7-3.

Pam is now playing for Brighouse in the Huddersfield League's First Division, where newcomers Brook Motors (Stuart Sykes, Ray Howland and Frank Jackson) sped to the top with five wins running.

Barnsley women became the first to defeat Leeds since 1953-4. Having lost their top three players, Leeds are now relying on Molly Browning, Linda Gordon, Doreen Stones and Lillian Nisbet, the new county executive minutes secretary, who won two of Leeds three.

Barnsley men surprised Bradford—second last year—in an exciting draw. Doug McGarry beat Pitts 21-17 in the third, then with Brian Starkie overcame Pitts/Forrest in straight games.

Pitts and Forrest, usually a strong combination, also fell to Lofthouse/Barrett in a draw against Leeds. Maurice Pitts pipped Mike Barrett 25-23 in the third from 18-20.

Although young Harvey Coward and Derek Marples succumbed to Hull's experienced Eddie Beedle—Coward 28-26 in the decider—Sheffield won 8-2. In the women's clash Hull took a 9-1 revenge.

RECORD GOES

Doncaster's young women's team beat York 8-2, 13-year-old Pat Dainty taking two in straight games; but in the youths' league Doncaster lost their rst match for three years at Dewsbury.

Geoff Kidd was feeling rueful after Halifax Y.M.C.A.'s 5-4 defeat in the first round of the county club championship to Bradford Nomads. He lost to Eric Murgatroyd 20-22, 20-22, and to Keith Pollard 21-23 in the third game. Dennis Norburn won three for Halifax without dropping a game.

Alan Martindale (Heworth), unbeaten last season in the York League, soon slipped this time. His conqueror was Findlay (N.A.L.G.O. "B").

The Castleford and Pontefract League—which at one time had about 60 teams—has had to wind up after 29 years. The Pontefract "Open" on January 21, however, will not be affected.

"White Rose Annual" (copies from Walter Mitton, 16, The Whins, Newby, Scarborough, 1s. 10d., inc. post) is, if anything, better than ever. Its 90 pages are packed with information about leagues and personalities in the county.

Yorkshire's Division Two match against Northumberland marked a change of selection policy. In the past the second team has consisted of senior players in the fringe of the Premier Division side but this time, with an eye to the future, the selectors put in Doug McGarry (24) and four teenagers—David Lamb, David Stanley, Pam Morton and Cynthia Blackshaw.

Malcolm Hartley

UNIQUE TOURNAMENT

BRECON County Youth Service staged a new and novel form of table tennis tournament at the Brecon Secondary Modern School in November with a championship based on points scored in knockout competitions for boys singles and doubles and mixed doubles.

Each win in the k.o. events gained a point towards the championship, eventually won by Gilwern Youth Club.

The premier award — a frosted silver statuette — was keenly contested right to the last match, the boys doubles, in which Gerald Williams and Philip Saunders (Gilwern) beat Wyndham Jones and Gerald Davies (Builth Wells) 21-13, 18-21, 21-11.

Williams, promising 17-year-old Welsh League player, also won the singles, defeating club-mate Malcolm Muggerridge 21-16, 21-19.

Barrie Davies and Diane Jones won the mixed doubles beating Brian Jones and Mairwen Davies (Llangammarch Wells) 21-14, 21-19.

Other Youth Clubs taking part were Cefncoed, Brynmawr, Cwm-gieidd and Penderyn.

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

APART from the splendid 10-0 win of the senior team against Bucks., the spotlight for late October and November has played on the new Suffolk Invitation Tournament with its twin competitions, "Top Ten" and "Leading Ladies."

The first event of "Leading Ladies" made its debut at Lowestoft's Ashlea Boys' Club when Pam Rogers won and leads in the Table with 18½ marks. "Top Ten" followed at the same venue

on November 13 and another Ipswich player, David Halliday, won the event.

This new style tournament has caught on with the leading players and, when a few teething troubles have been obviated, there is every prospect of these twin competitions developing into a glamour event.

The Marks Table in each competition are as follows:

"TOP TEN": 1 D. Halliday 18; 2 P. Cole 15; 3 R. Purnell 13; 4 H. Osborne 10½; 5 H. Fleck 9; 6 K. Perry 8½; 7 Mrs. P. Rogers 8½; 8 G. Eagle 6; 9 T. Williams 4½; 10 Miss V. Martin 2½.

"LEADING LADIES": 1 Mrs. P. Rogers 18½; 2 Miss V. Martin 12½; 3 Miss A. Baldry 6½; 4 Mrs. D. Fox 6½; 5 Mrs. A. Pearson 6½; 6 Mrs. J. Jefferies 5½; 7 Miss K. Powell 3½; 8 Miss H. Barnard 2½.

In the E.A.L. First division Ipswich were off the mark with a fine win against Yarmouth by 9-1 and Lowestoft beat the champions, Norwich, by 8-2. In the 2nd division Lowestoft "B" after beating Yarmouth "B" 8-2 lost at Ipswich by 3-7 and the Ipswich "B" team followed up with a 10-0 win at Wymondham.

In the S.I.T.L. (senior division) Stowmarket won 9-1 at Sudbury but their junior team was beaten 8-1 at Lowestoft.

In the Junior Division of the N.C.C. Suffolk won its first point for two seasons by drawing with Surrey—Halliday and Osborne taking the five ties between them.

These two players each got a brace in the senior match against Buckinghamshire—a fine send off in the seniors initial match of the season. Peter Cole was acting as captain for the first time and must have been very pleased, not only with his own form but with that of his colleagues.

A.E.D.

ESSEX NOTES

ESSEX teams are lucky—they never play without home support!

Wherever they play, be it Yorkshire, Gloucestershire or nearer home, you will always find they have numerous supporters.

No other county has such a grand bunch of supporters, who include George Eagle, Harry Walker, Keith Low, George Wenham, Dick Frost, Harry Spraggs and Ray Moodie.

It will take a good team to beat Essex juniors (average age 14), the only 100 per cent. team in the Junior Division (South). They have already beaten Kent 6-4, Sussex 9-1, away from home.

Essex have yet to win this division—but they will!—If not this year then next!

Senior rankings: MEN: 1 B. Brumwell; 2 R. Stevens; 3 R. Raybould; 4 A. Condon; 5 (equal) I. Jones, R. McCree, P. Pudney and L. Sawyer; 9 K. Beamish; 10 P. Curtis.

WOMEN: 1 Mrs. J. McCree; 2 Mrs. E. Carrington; 3 S. Hession; 4 Mrs. I. Sawyer; 5 L. Bell; 6 Mrs. M. Jones; 7 B. Bassett.

Frank Bateman.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UPby **CONRAD JASCHKE**

Yorkshire and Middlesex lead

YORKSHIRE kept the Northern challenge alive with a polished 9-1 away win over Cheshire at Macclesfield. Stuart Dyson gave the visitors a good start with a straight win over Eric Johnson, but Derek Schofield, Cheshire's No. 1, levelled matters by defeating Maurice Simpson.

It looked as if Cheshire might take the lead when Vincent Hankey put up a spirited battle against Ray Hinchliff, but he was narrowly beaten.

In the last match of the evening, Hinchliff was again hard pressed before beating Schofield 20-22, 21-15, 24-22.

Hinchliff, Yorkshire's new No. 1, has now won five singles out of six for his county, losing only to Ian Harrison.

Middlesex joined Yorkshire as Premier Division leaders, when they slammed Surrey 9-1 at Tottenham. It was their biggest ever win over Surrey, and not even the most optimistic Middlesex supporter could have suspected such a result.

Jean Harrower, making her 51st appearance for Middlesex, took over the singles from Diane Rowe, and after a shaky start settled down to

beat Peggy Piper —18, 17, 20. She also partnered Miss Rowe to win the women's doubles against Mrs. Barbara Andrews and Mary Shannon.

Miss Harrower's county appearances have been shared between junior and senior matches and it is indeed an astonishing record to have completed the half-century before she is 18.

Surrey's only win was scored by Michael Maclaren and Miss Piper when they won the mixed doubles against Thornhill and Miss Rowe, but by this time Middlesex were already 7-0 up.

The visit of Gloucestershire to Sittingbourne saw the end of Kent's unbeaten run. Gloucestershire, helped by Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett, who took four singles and the doubles, winning 6-4.

The match was really settled in the very first encounter of the evening, when Gloucestershire's David Griffiths beat "new-boy" Alan Gazley by 21-19 in the third. This was a win Kent knew they needed, and the only other chance of a point appeared to rest on the next clash, between Henry Buist and Bryan Merrett.

This was the best match of the evening, with Buist, who had scored

past victories over his opponent, smashing away at everything, and Merrett retrieving as only he can. In the end Merrett's class paid dividends.

Tony Piddock put up a good fight against Harrison, but Ian always had something in reserve.

Kent "skated" the women's doubles, and Joyce Fielder had little difficulty in the singles. Gloucestershire, however, "stopped the rot" by winning the men's doubles, and then Merrett put them further ahead by winning a dreary, 34-minute-long pushing match against the outclassed Gazley.

As expected, Kent had little difficulty in winning the mixed doubles, the new pair, George Elliott/Joan Beadle beating the brother and sister combination, David and Sheila Griffiths. Then Piddock accounted for Griffiths to make the score 4-5.

However, Harrison was never troubled in the final match against Buist, and so Gloucestershire kept alive their challenge for the premier title.

Racey the Star

Glamorgan took the lead in the Division II (Midland) table with a 7-3 away win over Bedfordshire at Luton. However, it was Bedfordshire's young No. 1, Paul Racey, a former England junior, who was the star of the match, defeating Alan Thomas 22-20, 22-20, Ron Davies 21-16, 21-19, and also helping D. White to win the men's doubles.

Leicestershire held Staffordshire to a 5-5 draw, with Philip Reid shining for the home side, scoring victories over M. Evans and former England No. 1 junior, Derek Backhouse. C. Jacques and E. McLeish each contributed one singles to the Leicestershire total, and Jacques helped John Burraston to another men's doubles win—these two must be one of the most formidable pairs in the Midlands.

It is already clear that the Lincolnshire v. Durham match on February 25 is going to decide who challenges for promotion from Division II (North).

Although Durham beat Northumberland by 7-3, Lincolnshire just kept fractionally ahead of them in the table by beating Derbyshire 8-2 at Burton-on-Trent.

Hampshire jump into the lead in

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

December 3 Yorkshire v. Essex. Mechanics Institute, Bridge Street, Bradford. 7 p.m.

Surrey v. Kent. International Table Tennis Club, Putney. 7 p.m.

December 15 Essex v. Middlesex. Rotary House Canteen, West Horndon, Essex. 7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

December 3 Lincolnshire v. Yorkshire. Centenary Methodist Church Hall, Red Lion Street, Boston. 7.15 p.m.

Northumberland v. Derbyshire. Youth Centre, Y.M.C.A., Church Way, North Shields. 7.15 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

December 3 Hampshire v. Kent. Working Men's Club, Shirley Warren, Southampton. 6.30 p.m.

Hampshire v. Berkshire.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

December 3 Somerset v. Cornwall. Y.M.C.A., St. James Street, Taunton. 7.15 p.m.

Dorset v. Devon. B.D.H. Canteen, West Quay Road, Poole. 3 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

December 3 Staffordshire v. Warwickshire. Shelton Iron & Steel, Etrullia, Stoke-on-Trent. 7 p.m.

December 10 Leicestershire v. Bedfordshire.

MIDLAND DIVISION

December 10 Nottinghamshire v. Staffordshire.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

December 2 Cambridgeshire v. Norfolk. Impington Village Hall, Histon, Cambs. 7.30 p.m.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

December 14 Cheshire v. Lancashire.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

December 3 Surrey v. Sussex. Higgs & Hill Ltd., Canteen Vauxhall. 4 p.m.

December 10 Essex v. Suffolk.

December 17 Suffolk v. Sussex.

Division II (South) with a 7-3 win over Berkshire at Reading. It was a strange looking Hampshire side without George Stevens and Brian James, but they had the measure of the home team with the exception of Brian Barnes, who was concerned in all three Berkshire successes. He beat Ray Henderson and Fred Bradley, and took the men's doubles with indestructible Percy Morecroft.

W. Draper made a successful singles debut for Hampshire, beating J. Venables and A. Reeves, while Sheila Foster maintained her unbeaten record in singles and doubles so far this

season. In the women's doubles Hampshire put in the Holes twins, Christine and Pauline, and though they did not have matters all their own way they duly won 21-11 in the third against Miss M. Upton and Mrs. J. Woodley.

Peter Shead maintained his one hundred per cent. singles record with wins over Terry Densham and John Hunt in the 5-5 draw between Sussex and Hertfordshire at Brighton.

This fine Sussex player, who got a much deserved England ranking in the latest list, is leading a great Sussex revival, and with Ann Woodford, who beat Judy Williams 21-9, 21-18 in this match, adding much needed strength in the women's section, Sussex should be challenging for promotion in the not too distant future.

Hunt and Densham won the men's doubles and took one singles each, as did Brian Barr, who also annexed the mixed doubles in partnership with Miss Williams.

One Ahead

Worcestershire pulled ahead in Division II (West) by defeating Cornwall 7-3, however they will have to watch Somerset who started off with a 6-4 win over Devon at Exeter.

Wiltshire pulled away from the danger zone with a 6-4 win over Dorset at Swindon, but the result was in doubt until the very last minute. With the match score 5-4 to Wiltshire, C. Bush, the Dorest No. 1, led A. Alexander 19-16 in the third but then lost the next five points.

Oxfordshire took their first ever point in the Midland Division by drawing with Nottinghamshire, but were then unlucky to lose 4-6 to Staffordshire II—their new No. 1 ex-Kent player Alf Davies, going down 21-23 in the third game of the last match. However, against Warwickshire II, Davies made no mistake, winning two singles and the men's doubles (with G. Collins), to help his county to a 6-4 success.

Oxfordshire are now well placed for promotion after completing their first half programme.

Suffolk giving their best performance for some time scored a smashing 10-0 victory over Buckinghamshire at Ipswich, and a continuation of this form will soon see them back in the second division.

Lancashire took a big step towards retaining their North Junior championship with away wins over Yorkshire (5-3) and Durham (6-2).

It is developing into a three "horse" race in the South Junior Division, between Middlesex (the champions), Hertfordshire and Essex.

Bob Ractliffe, after disappointing start against Suffolk, has now played six singles in succession for Hertfordshire without defeat, accounting for Brian Wright and David Offenbach (Middlesex), R. McKewon and B. Smith (Surrey) and Derek Basden and Clive Bloy (Kent).

David Garner and Lesley Bell, who at 13 is already troubling the leading senior players, are undefeated in singles so far for Essex.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Yorkshire	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Gloucestershire	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	24	6	5
Kent	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Essex	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Surrey	2	0	1	1	6	15	1
Lancashire	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Cheshire	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

DIV. II MIDLAND

Glamorgan	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Warwickshire	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Staffordshire	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Leicestershire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

DIV. II NORTH

Lincolnshire	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Durham	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Yorkshire II	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Derbyshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0
Northumberland	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

DIV. II SOUTH

Hampshire	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Kent II	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Hertfordshire	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Sussex	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Berkshire	2	0	0	2	6	14	0

DIV. II WEST

Worcestershire	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Cornwall	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Wiltshire	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Somerset	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Devon	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Dorset	2	0	0	2	8	12	0

MIDLAND DIV.

Oxfordshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Staffordshire II	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Nottinghamshire	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Warwickshire II	2	0	1	1	9	11	1

SOUTHERN DIV.

Suffolk	1	1	0	0	10	0	2
Buckinghamshire	2	1	0	1	4	16	2
Norfolk	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

MIDLAND JUNIOR

Warwickshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Oxfordshire	2	1	0	1	14	6	2
Staffordshire	1	0	0	1	0	10	0

NORTH JUNIOR

Lancashire	2	2	0	0	11	5	4
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	11	5	2
Durham	2	1	0	1	8	8	2
Cheshire	2	0	0	2	2	14	0

SOUTH JUNIOR

Hertfordshire	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Essex	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Kent	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Suffolk	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Surrey	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Sussex	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Kent 4, Gloucestershire 6

A. Gazley lost to D. Griffiths 18 —20, —19; lost to B. Merrett —10, —7. H. Buist lost to Merrett —10, 17, —13; lost to I. Harrison —18, —14. T. Piddock lost to Harrison, —19, —15; bt Griffiths 9, 5. Buist/Piddock lost to Harrison/Merrett —16, —18. Miss J. Fielder bt Miss J. Collier 11, 14. Miss Fielder/Mrs. J. Beadle bt Miss Collier/Miss S. Griffiths 9, 10. G. Elliott/Mrs. Beadle bt Griffiths/Miss Griffiths 9, 10.

Cheshire 1, Yorkshire 9

E. Johnson lost to S. Dyson —12, —11; lost to M. Simpson —17, —17. D. Schofield bt Simpson 12, 18; lost to R. Hinchliff 20, —15, —22. V. Hankey lost to Hinchliff —14, 11, —17; lost to Dyson —12, —20. Schofield/Hankey lost to Hinchliff/Simpson —18, —13. Miss D. Ridgeway lost to Miss K. Best —10, —8. Miss Ridgeway/Miss D. Wright lost to Miss Best/Miss L. Hamilton —13, —18. Johnson/Miss Wright lost to Dyson/Miss Hamilton 17, —18, —15.

Middlesex 9, Surrey 1

L. Landry bt M. Maclaren 18, —19, 17; bt A. Miller —16, 20, 13. A. Rhodes bt Miller 16, 11; bt K. Craigie 15, 18. M. Thornhill bt Craigie 15, 8; bt Maclaren 9, 9. Landry/Rhodes bt Craigie/Miller 8, 16. Miss J. Harrower bt Miss M. Piper —18, 17, 20. Miss D. Rowe/Miss Harrower bt

Mrs. B. Andrews/Miss M. Shannon 20, 17. Thornhill/Miss Rowe lost to Maclaren/Miss Piper 11, —21, —10.

DIVISION II (MIDLAND)

Bedfordshire 3, Glamorgan 7. Leicestershire 5, Staffordshire 5.

DIVISION II (NORTH)

Yorkshire II 8, Northumberland 2. Derbyshire 2, Lincolnshire 8. Durham 7, Northumberland 3.

DIVISION II (SOUTH)

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

MIDLAND DIVISION

Warwickshire II 4, Oxfordshire 6.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Suffolk 10, Buckinghamshire 0.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Yorkshire 8, Cheshire 0. Yorkshire 3, Lancashire 5. Durham 2, Lancashire 6. Durham 6, Cheshire 2.

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

Warwickshire 6, Oxfordshire 4.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Middlesex 9, Kent 1. Sussex 1, Essex 9. Hertfordshire 6, Surrey 4. Kent 1, Hertfordshire 9.

UMPIRES' CORNER

CURIOUS "LAWS"

By Colin Clemett

I WAS very interested to read in last month's magazine the account by Iris Moss of the Stoke Mandeville table tennis tournament, and of the special "Laws" that are applied to these games. It reminds me that in spite of the adoption of so-called uniform Laws throughout the country there are many players who still recognise local variations which they are convinced are correct.

The best-known of these is probably the "vertical service" law. This was amended some seven seasons ago, yet I am sure most County Umpires' Secretaries will agree that the questions on this subject in the current C.U. Test Paper is frequently answered incorrectly by candidates.

This is possibly due to out-of-date copies of the Laws which are still in circulation.

There are several other "Local rules" that cannot claim even this much authority. One of these is the contention that a point is lost by a player whose return goes above the lights.

Admittedly, it is often difficult for the umpire to follow the movement of the ball in these circumstances, but the Law states quite clearly that the ball is in play until it touches some part of the surroundings.

There is no limit to the height to which it may travel during a rest.

A rather more curious "Law" sometimes encountered is the one that says that if the score reaches 11-love the game is ended at that point, presumably to spare the losing player further punishment! As far as I know there is no foundation for this idea and no game is complete until one player has scored at least 21 points, unless, of course, the time-limit rule has been applied.

Under the alternative method of controlling pushing play, the Expedite rule, even this exception is excluded and no game ends with both scores under 21.

Finally on my list is the "Law" that awards a point against a player who serves three successive net-cord services. There is no limit to the number of such services that may be made in succession without penalty.

There must be other "Laws" of the type I have mentioned that other umpires have met, and I should be interested to hear of any new versions.

One thing I have discovered is that the devotees will not hear any suggestion that they are wrong or out-of-date, and I find that the best way to deal with any argument is to take the war into the enemy's camp by handing them a copy of the Laws and asking them to show you the paragraph which supports their point of view.

With a little persuasion you may be able to get them interested enough to read the Laws, perhaps for the first time, and, who knows, you may end up by recruiting a new County Umpire!

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 parenthesis 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.

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Dec. 4	Newbury "Open" (A) Corn Exchange, Newbury.		A. A. J. Mosson, 29 Croft Road, Newbury, Berks.
10	Yorkshire Junior "Open" (Nov. 29)		K. Park, 7 Moss Rise, Leeds, 17.
10	Cardiff "Open"		
10-11	Middlesex "Open" Hanwell Community Centre, Westcott Crescent, Hanwell, W.7.	J.B.S. J.G.S.	Miss I. Moss, 49 Okehampton Road, London, N.W.10.
17	West of England "Open" (Dec. 3) H.M.S. Thunderer, Royal Naval Engineering College, Crownhill, Plymouth.	J.B.S. J.G.S. J.D.	R. J. Nicholls, 27 Palmerston Street, Stoke, Plymouth.
1961			
Jan. 2-7	ENGLISH "OPEN" London.	J.B.S. J.G.S. J.D.B. J.D.G. J.X.D. V.S.	E.T.T.A., 652 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.
13-14	WELSH "OPEN" Drill Hall, Dunfries Place, Cardiff.	J.B.S. J.G.S.	Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-Y-Grant Road, Cyncord, Cardiff.
14	Lancashire "Open" (Jan. 4) De Havilland Propellers Ltd., Lostock, Bolton.	J.B.S. J.G.S. V.S.	A. Howcroft, 94 Bradford Street, Farnworth, Bolton.
21	Pontefract "Open" (A) (Jan. 10) Assembly Rooms & Town Hall, Pontefract	J.B.S. J.G.S. V.S.	T. Horrocks, 2 Weald Terrace, Pontefract.
21	Bath "Open" (Jan. 9) Drill Hall (Lower Bristol Road), St. Peter's Hall, Dorset Street, Bath.	J.B.S.	J. A. Butcher, 1 South View Road, Bath.
28	Gloucester Junior "Open" Gloucester Baths, Barton Street, Gloucester.		G. G. O'Brien, 4 Barrington Drive, Hucclecote, Gloucester.
28-29	Kent "Open" (Jan. 11) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	Y.S.B. Y.S.G.	H. Stamp, 48 Foord Road, Folkestone, Kent.
Feb. 11	Midland "Open" (Feb. 1) Friends Institute, 220 Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.	J.S.B. J.S.G. J.B.D. V.S.	M. Goldstein, 415 Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
11	South Yorkshire "Open"		
17-19	South of England "Open" (A) I.C.T. Ltd., Aurelia Road, Croydon.		C. T. Dean, 67 Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
18	Grimsby "Open" (Feb. 11) Augusta St. Barracks, Grimsby.	J.S.B.	H. G. Vincent, 4 Orby Grove, Grimsby.
18	Gwent "Open"		
18-19	BELGIUM "OPEN"		
25-26	GERMAN "OPEN"		

SUSSEX "OPEN"**ALSER WINS EASILY**

MAIN interest in the Sussex "Open" at Hastings on October 29-30 was the appearance of the two foreign entrants Hans Alser, of Sweden, and P. Juliens, of Belgium.

Alser gave our boys a sound drubbing in the European Cup match against Sweden last year, so it was hardly surprising when he easily carried off the singles title, beating Ian Harrison 21-8, 21-14 in the final.

It is difficult to see how Harrison could have won for there was a noticeable difference in class between the two, just as there was in the semi-final when the Swede beat Bryan Merrett 21-7, 17-16 (time-limit).

The surprises of the championships were the -20, 19, 15, defeat of new international Stan Jacobson by David Offenbach, the fine victory of another young Middlesex player David Creamer over Alan Rhodes, and the amazing 7 and 9 thrashing of Harry Venner by Arun Khanna.

Peter Shead took full advantage of the situation to beat Offenbach (10, 15) and Khanna (6, 16) to reach the semi-final, where he narrowly lost at 19 in the third to Harrison.

Until then Harrison had a relatively easy time in disposing of Lindsay, Leach and Landry.

Merrett also had little trouble in getting to the same stage with a 9 and 5 win over Somogyi, who had previously accounted for Juliens.

Diane Rowe found herself in trouble for the first time this season in her semi-final match with Jean McCree. She scraped home by the narrowest of margins then went on to beat a back-to-form Pam Mortimer 21-18, 21-13 for the title.

Pam reached the final via Joyce Fielder and Jill (Rook) Mills, who earlier brought about the surprise downfall of Jean Harrower.

Defending champion Betty Bird lost her title when she fell to the Sussex No. 1 Joan Woodford.

Harrison and Merrett gained some revenge for their singles defeats when they teamed up to beat Alser and Juliens in the men's doubles final 19-21, 21-19, 21-19.

Alser gained a second title, winning the mixed doubles with Margaret Fry. They beat Landry and Betty Bird in the final 21-19, 21-14.

Diane Rowe and Jill Mills took the women's doubles without loss of a game, beating Joyce Fielder and Betty Bird, 21-12, 21-9 in the final.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: H. ALSER (Sweden) bt B. Merrett (Glos.) 21-7, 17-16 (T.L.), I. HARRISON (Glos.) bt P. Shead (Sussex) 18-21, 21-14, 21-19.

Final: ALSER bt Harrison 21-8, 21-14.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: D. ROWE (Middx.) bt J. McCree (Essex) 21-11, 17-21, 23-21. P. MORTIMER (Warwicks.) bt A. Woodford (Sussex) 21-18, 21-8.

Final: ROWE bt Mortimer 21-18, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: HARRISON/MERRETT bt M. MacLaren/H. Venner 25-23, 20-22, 21-14. ALSER/JULIENS bt B. Brumwell/S. Jacobson 21-12, 21-16.

Final: HARRISON/MERRETT bt Alser/Juliens 19-21, 21-19, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: ROWE/J. MILLS bt G. Robinson/J. Williamson 21-18, 21-11. B. BIRD/J. FIELDER bt L. Bell/J. Felfold 21-17, 21-15.

Final: ROWE/MILLS bt Bird/Fielder 21-12, 21-9.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: ALSER/Miss M. Fry bt Juliens/Miss H. Angel 21-16, 21-17. L. LANDRY/Mrs. BIRD bt K. Beamish/Miss S. Hession 21-15, 21-16.

Final: ALSER/FRY bt Landry/Bird 21-19, 21-14.

Veterans Singles: Semi-finals: R. MARKWELL (Essex) bt A. Murphy (Sussex) 21-15, 21-14. E. MARSH (Middx.) bt D. Hathiramini (Ghana) 16-21, 21-7, 21-14.

Final: MARKWELL bt Marsh 21-14, 21-14.

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KENT JUNIOR "OPEN" by FRANK BATEMAN

Boost for Girls

THOSE who think the ladies game is gradually fading away should have been at the Kent Junior "Open" at Folkestone on November 5-6. The girls entry was almost equal to that of the boys, which goes to prove that given equal facilities the number of women players would increase rapidly.

Too few leagues run a women's division to help young girls start competitive play.

The opposition from abroad was not so strong as in previous years, and popular little Okine Quaye (Ghana) was the only overseas visitor to win a title when he beat promising Chester Barnes (Essex) in the boys' under 15's singles final.

The boys under 17's singles went much as expected



Okine Quaye, the 13-year-old Ghana champion, seen here with his brother, E. A. Quaye, and coach, D. G. Hathiramani (centre). They are in England for a coaching course

with No. 1 seed Maurice Billington beating Brian Wright (Middx.) in the final 14-21, 21-12, 21-18, to confirm his England ranking.

Both Billington, whose most troublesome game was against Brian Hill (Lincs), and Wright reached the final without dropping a game.

Wright, who had the toughest draw beat Allen (Warwicks), Garner (Essex), Basden (Kent), the unorthodox Ogundipe (Sussex) and Ian Giles, who had wins over his Middlesex colleague Nigel Ive and T. Coupry (France).

The biggest surprise in the girls Under 17's singles was the defeat of new Essex international Lesley Bell, by Jackie Canham (Herts). Jackie, who fought back from 6-10 in the third to gain a thoroughly deserved victory 21-18, 13-21, 21-12, then went on to beat Cynthia Blackshaw (Yorks) 16-21, 21-19, 21-19 in the semi-final.

However Jackie appeared nervous in the final, where Mary Shannon (Surrey) had little difficulty in retaining her title with a score of 21-10, 21-14.

Miss Shannon had previously beaten Martine Lebras (France) and Judy Williams (Herts).

Brian Hill and Ian Giles were surprise winner of the under 17's boys doubles, beating Brian Wright and David Offenbach 18-21 12-19, 22-20 in the final. Another good final was the under 17's mixed doubles where the unseeded Offenbach and Susan Thomas (Kent) beat the strongly fancied Hertfordshire pair of Bob Ractcliffe and Judy Williams 19-21, 21-13, 24-22.

Mary Shannon and Miss Williams were easy winners of the girls doubles in this age group.

Lesley Bell dominated the under 15's group beating Gloria Sayer (Essex) in the girls singles final then partnering Jackie Canham to win the girls doubles, and Chester Barnes to win the mixed.

Peter Williams (Herts) and David Holland (Glos.) had a good win over Okine Quaye and Ken Clark (Kent) in the boys doubles.

It was good to see young Stuart Seaholme (Herts) playing again after his long illness. He did well to reach the under 13's final, won by John Blackman (Essex). Promising Surrey girl J. Harrison took the girls singles and is a youngster of obvious promise.

A remarkable high standard was set in the girls under 11 singles, retained by Linda Henwood (Essex).

Under 17's, Boys' Singles: M. BILLINGTON (Warwicks) bt B. Wright (Middx) 14-21, 21-12, 21-18. Girls' Singles: M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt J. Canham (Herts) 21-10, 21-14.

Boys' Doubles: I. GILES (Middx)/B. HILL (Lincs) bt D. Offenbach/Wright (Middx) 18-21, 21-19, 22-20. Girls' Doubles: SHANNON/J. WILLIAMS (Herts) bt L. Bell (Essex)/Canham 21-14, 21-10. Mixed Doubles: OFFENBACH/S. THOMAS (Kent) bt R. Ractcliffe/Williams (Herts) 19-21, 21-13, 24-22.

Under 15's, Boys' Singles: O. QUAYE (Ghana) bt C. Barnes (Essex) 18-21, 21-19, 21-8. Girls' Singles: BELL bt G. Sayer (Essex) 21-14, 21-11.

Boys' Doubles: P. WILLIAMS (Herts)/D. Holland (Glos) bt Quaye/K. Clark (Kent) 21-10, 21-23, 21-19. Girls' Doubles: BELL/CANHAM bt K. Stokes (Kent)/S. Hinley (Wales) 21-10, 21-8. Mixed Doubles: BARNES/BELL bt Quaye/Sayer 19-21, 21-18, 21-7.

Under 13's, Boys' Singles: J. BLACKMAN (Essex) bt S. Seaholme (Herts) 21-14, 21-17. Girls' Singles: J. HARRISON (Surrey) bt M. Campbell (Kent) 21-16, 17-21, 21-16.

Boys' Doubles: D. BROWN (Essex)/D. CORBETT (Kent) bt J. Blackman/P. Harmer (Beds) 21-10, 21-17. Girls' Doubles: L. HENWOOD (Essex)/HARRISON bt S. Beaney (Kent)/E. Canham (Herts) 21-6, 21-16.

Under 11's Boys Singles: HARMER bt J. Martin (Glos) 21-8, 21-16. Girls' Singles: HENWOOD bt L. Thompson (Hants) 21-13, 21-13.

HULL "OPEN"

CREAMER WINS SECOND "OPEN"

DAVID CREAMER won his second "Open" Men's Singles title when he beat Laurie Landry rather convincingly in the final of the Hull tournament.

In fact, David was rather convincing all the way through, beating Jack Clayton 7 and 12. The only time that Creamer was worried was in the special Intermediate Tournament held in conjunction with the "Open" when he lost to Barker in the group. However, he beat him in the final pool.

The Women's Singles went to young Diane Wright. She beat Lancastrian Mary Leigh in the final after having dealt with Pam Morton and Lillias Hamilton.

Creamer also won the doubles in partnership with Landry. This event was completely dominated by youth, and it is amazing to think that of the eight players involved in the Men's Doubles semi-finals, 21-year-old Landry was the oldest by 2 years!

The Yorkshire pair of Mavis Dyson and Pam Morton won the Women's Doubles, but were hard pressed in the final by the Cheshire pair Wright and Ridgeway. Morton also took the Mixed Doubles title with Stuart Dyson.

The junior events went to the Yorkshire players David Stanley and Lesley Proudlock.

BIRMINGHAM "OPEN"

Title for Shead

PETER SHEAD, who slipped into the new English ranking list at No. 12, won the men's singles title in the Birmingham "Open" on November 19, with a comfortable 21-18, 21-12 win over Kent's Henry Buist. Shead, solid and steady, swept through to the final at the expense of Pitts, Livesey, Simons and Ivor Jones.

The tournament lived up to its reputation for producing surprises and two of the four seeded players fell before the semi-final stage—Tony Pidcock going out to Les Sawyer and Laurie Landry losing to the lowly-ranked Sussex player, Baker.

Terry Densham's bid to win the title for the third time was crushed by Maurice Pitts who won their battle by 21-14 in the third.

Shead completed a sound performance by taking the men's doubles with Aubrey Simons and remaining in the unfinished mixed event.

Alma Taft starred in the women's singles although being beaten in the final by Jean McCree. Alma reached her second women's singles final in two weeks by beating England's ranked players, Mrs. Elsie Carrington, Shelagh Hession and Margaret Fry. Miss Fry had earlier eliminated Pam Mortimer.

In the junior events Brian Hill upset the rankings by beating the No. 1 Maurice Billington in a close, exciting final.

The "find" of the Intermediate tournament was definitely John Bassett from Cornwall who beat Cornish (conqueror of Livesey) and Forshaw before going down to Pidcock in the final.

Men's Singles, Semi-finals: P. SHEAD bt I. Jones (Essex) 21-9, 21-13; H. BUIST (Kent) bt A. Lindsay (Middx) 10-21, 21-18, 21-9.

Final: SHEAD bt Buist 21-18, 21-12.

Women's Singles, Semi-finals: J. MCCREE (Essex) bt P. Piper (Surrey) 21-10, 21-13; A. TAFT (Herts) bt M. Fry (Middx) 13-21, 21-19, 21-18.

Final: MCCREE bt Taft 21-12, 19-21, 21-19.

Men's Doubles, Semi-finals: SHEAD/A. SIMONS (Glos) bt K. Edwards/R. Griffin (Glos) 21-14, 20-22, 21-14; BUIST/

A. PIDDOCK (Kent) bt Lindsay/L. Landry (Middx) 21-15, 21-19.

Final: SHEAD/SIMONS bt Buist/Pidcock 21-15, 21-16.

Women's Doubles, Semi-finals: PIPER/P. MORTIMER (Warwicks) bt Fry/S. Hession (Essex) 21-12, 19-21, 21-14; MCCREE/ E. CARRINGTON (Essex) bt D. Griffiths/B. Carless (Warwicks) 21-9, 21-12.

Final: PIPER/MORTIMER bt McCree/Carrington 21-15, 23-21. Mixed Doubles: Event unfinished.

Intermediate (Under 21) Singles, Semi-finals: PIDDOCK bt J. Keogh (Lancs) 21-19, 21-17; J. BASSETT (Cornwall) bt K. Forshaw (Lancs) 21-17, 20-22, 21-16.

Final: PIDDOCK bt Bassett 21-8, 22-20.

Boys' Singles, Semi-finals: B. HILL (Lincs) bt M. Mordecai (Glos) 21-12, 22-20; M. BILLINGTON bt B. Wright 21-17, 23-21.

Final: HILL bt Billington 26-24, 23-25, 21-19.

Girls' Singles, Semi-finals M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt D. Fitzgerald (Lancs) 21-18, 22-20; L. PROUDLOCK (Yorks) bt C. Blackshaw (Yorks) 21-8, 21-18.

Final: SHANNON bt Proudlock 21-16, 21-17.

Junior Doubles, Semi-finals: B. WRIGHT/D. OFFENBACH bt D. Allen/M. Billington (Warwicks) 21-13, 19-21, 24-22; H. COWARD/D. STANLEY (Yorks) bt Hill/N. Ive (Middx) 21-11, 21-16.

Final: WRIGHT/OFFENBACH bt Coward/St Stanley 21-10, 11-21, 21-15.

Veterans' Singles, Semi-finals: H. SPIERS (Warwicks) bt D. Hathiramani (Ghana) 21-13, 21-15; J. KENNERLEY (Cheshire) bt F. Smith (Warwicks) 21-14, 21-15.

Final: SPIERS bt Kennerley 21-9, 21-16.

MERSEYSIDE "OPEN"

Surprise Champions

NORTHERNERS, Jack Clayton and Pam Morton were the surprise singles winners in the Merseyside "Open" at Liverpool on November 12.

Clayton, giving a consistent display, again beat Laurie Landry, although extended to three games this time, and then, in the final, defeated Ron Crayden, at the tournament in his capacity as selector, by 20-22, 21-6, 21-17.

It was not a happy tournament for Ireland's Tommy Caffrey. After being eliminated from the boys' singles by Maurice Billington he lost a fast and furious battle against Terry Densham in the senior event.

Miss Morton, dethroned the reigning champion, Pam Mortimer by 21-19 in the third, then had a tough, close match with Alma Taft in the final.

In the deciding game Miss Morton trailed 9-16 but steadied up her play to snatch the title by 21-14, 17-21, 23-21.

Landry and Densham were easy winners of the men's doubles, while Miss Mortimer and Miss Griffiths took the women's title. In the mixed event Miss Mortimer and Densham collected their second titles by beating Ron Alcock and Connie Spencer in the final.

Men's Singles, Semi-Finals: J. CLAYTON (Lancashire) bt. L. Landry (Middlesex) 13-21, 21-18, 21-11; R. CRAYDEN (Surrey) bt. T. Densham (Hertfordshire) 21-17, 21-17.

Final: CLAYTON bt. Crayden 20-22, 21-6, 21-17.

Women's Singles, Semi-Finals: P. MORTON (Yorkshire) bt. D. Fitzgerald (Lancashire) 21-18, 21-15; A. TAFT (Hertfordshire) bt. M. Dyson (Yorkshire) 18-21, 21-13, 21-15.

Final: MORTON bt. Taft 21-14, 17-21, 23-21.

Men's Doubles, Semi-Finals: DENSHAM/LANDRY bt. R. Alcock/D. Cartwright (Lancashire) 21-18, 21-12; R. GUNNION/W. PIERCE (Lancashire) bt. M. Pitts/G. Carrigill (Yorkshire) 21-16, 21-17.

Final: DENSHAM/LANDRY bt. Gunnion/Pierce 21-14, 21-7.

Women's Doubles, Semi-Finals: P. MORTIMER/D. GRIF-FITHS (Warwickshire) bt. D. Fitzgerald/C. Spencer (Lancashire) 16-21, 21-15, 21-19; V. LAMBERT (Ireland)/S. PRIOR (Surrey) bt. C. Blackshaw/L. Proudlock (Yorkshire) 21-8, 21-14.

Final: MORTIMER/GRIF-FITHS bt. Lambert/Prior 21-19, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles, Final: DENSHAM/Miss MORTIMER bt. Alcock/Miss Spencer 7-21, 21-17, 21-19.

Boys' Singles, Semi-Finals: M. BILLINGTON (Warwickshire) bt. T. Caffrey (Ireland) 21-11, 15-21, 21-17; C. CADWALLADER (Warwickshire) bt. G. Beardsworth (Lancashire) 21-11, 21-16.

Final: BILLINGTON bt. Cadwallader 11-21, 21-19, 21-8.

Girls' Singles, Semi-Finals: FITZGERALD bt. Blackshaw 18-21, 21-17, 21-17; PROUDLOCK bt. J. Crafier (Lancashire) 21-9, 21-11.

Final: FITZGERALD bt. Proudlock 21-8, 21-16.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

THE County Senior Team made a poor start in their bid to win the Second Division South title in their opening match with Sussex at Brighton, they were held to a draw.

The Juniors gave their best ever performance drawing with the champions, Middlesex at Hendon. Credit for this fine performance goes mainly to the boys and in particular, Brian Sykes and Bob Ractliffe the captain.

Our youngsters continue to do well in open tournaments, the County being represented in no less than seven finals at the Kent Junior Open. Here Miss Jacqueline Canhan (un-ranked) reached the final of the Junior Girls' Singles after wins over Miss Lesley Bell and Cynthia Blackshaw ranked England's number 2 and 4 respectively.

St. Albans began defence of the Senior Inter-League Competition in fine style when they defeated Hatfield/Welwyn 9-1. John Briant made a welcome re-appearance for the "twin towns" and registered their only success.

On this occasion, Judy Williams who has not reached her form of last season fell to both Alma Taft and Gwen Robinson.

The meeting of St. Albans and Watford in the second round of the Wilmott Cup should produce a grand battle, both leagues being in a position to field complete teams of county players.

G. P. H. Butcher

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

FOR the first time in many years Cambridge City have suffered a double blow in the first rounds of the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl competitions.

John Thurston played well to win all his games in the City's 3-6 defeat by Norwich but Reg Dean and Keke Mistry were unable to follow his example.

In the Rose Bowl the Cambridge girls were slightly unlucky to lose 3-6 to Kings Lynn. Beryl Sebley, making her City debut, Margaret Cornwell and Avril Dring played well and most of the matches went to three close games with the result in doubt until the last point.

Les Sleight, of Wisbech, gave a good display in the County trials and with wins over Keith Chapman, Dean and Mistry, has almost certainly earned himself a place in the Cams. side.

New Chesterton Institute have again started brilliantly in the Cams. League and have so far won all their matches.

Leslie Constable

WESTERN COUNTIES

BULLETIN

CHELTHENHAM despite the absence of stars, Ian Harrison and Bob Griffin, opened their bid for the Western Counties Championship with an easy 8-1 victory of Bristol II.

David Griffiths, Ken Edwards and Peter Cruwys played some fine attacking strokes which proved much too powerful for their Bristol opponents.

With the return of Griffin, Cheltenham took another two points when they

beat Bath, also with the loss of only one match.

Bath gained consolation for this defeat when, for the first time in many years they surprisingly beat Bristol by 5-4.

Cheltenham, fielding their youngest ever team, were beaten 2-7 by Bristol in the women's division. Pat Taylor, played well for Cheltenham scoring their only two victories.

Grove Motlow

OXFORDSHIRE NOTES

OXFORDSHIRE, took maximum points for the first time since entering the Midland Division of the National County Championships in 1958, when beating Warwickshire by 6-4 at Birmingham. A notable feature of the match was the prevalence of attacking play which produced a thrilling encounter from start to finish.

Alf Davies was again in excellent form, winning both his singles, while Gerald Collins also played extremely well to score two vital wins for Oxfordshire. These two then paired up and made certain that Oxfordshire could not lose by taking the men's doubles.

Oxfordshire Juniors were unable to copy the Senior's success going down 4-6 against Warwickshire at Birmingham. Stanley Hahn played particularly well to win both his singles for Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire will be staging one of the England v. Germany DBR Junior internationals on January 13 at Oxford Town Hall.

Dennis E. Thompson

KENT NOTES

BIG talking point in Kent just now is the recall of 25-year-old Brian Hellberg to the county team — he is in the Kent second team versus Hampshire early in December.

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