

DECEMBER, 1961
ONE SHILLING

Table Tennis

*The Official Magazine of the
English Table Tennis Association*



**DIANE ROWE and JOHNNY
LEACH** talk things over
before winning the mixed
doubles at Sussex Open

Picture by ALF REYNOLDS

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Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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Vol. 20

DECEMBER, 1961

No. 3

"Closed" in London, "Open" in Brighton

THE end of the year brings with it the completion of the first half of the season and, not unnaturally, thoughts begin to focus on events in the second half. Of these the most important at home are the English Closed and Open Championships to be staged in January and February respectively.

The 1962 English Closed will be held at Manor Place Baths, Walworth, London, S.E.17, from January 3 to 6 with the finals on Saturday, January 6, at 7 p.m.

Ticket prices are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 2s. 6d. each day, Saturday morning and afternoon 2s. 6d., Saturday evening 2s. 6d. and 5s.

Defending champions will be Ian Harrison and Diane Rowe and both will be reluctant to relinquish their titles. Diane, who is way out ahead of the ladies' field in the country at the moment, is a near certainty to retain hers, but Ian is likely to have more difficulty.

Doubts about Bryan Merrett being completely fit and back in form by January rule out his chances of repeating his winning performance in the first ever English Closed in 1960, but Jeff Ingber, currently England's No. 3 must be a strong challenger for the title and will carry northern hopes with him.

Jeff, who has been a regular member of the England team for some time now and is probably approaching his peak, may well confirm his successes in the recent "Top Ten" event when he was unbeaten and tucked Harrison's scalp under his belt. At the same time it is well not to forget the dark horses such as Brian Wright, England's latest international, and the unpredictable Alan Rhodes and Stanley Jacobson who, along with Tony Pidcock, are all capable of causing major upsets of form.

And a reminder also of the important engagement our leading juniors will be filling at about the same time at the International Youth meeting

in Germany from January 2 to 8. They will compete in under 17 team competitions with players from Germany, France and Sweden. The invitation arrived after the E.T.T.A. had planned its commitments for the season but it was decided to stretch the Budget to take advantage of this opportunity to provide valuable experience for tomorrow's stars.

The Open for the Provinces

For the first time since 1956 the English Open will be taken to the provinces when the E.T.T.A., in conjunction with the Brighton Corporation, stage this season's Championships at the Corn Exchange, Brighton, from February 22 to 24.

The Brighton Corporation is going out of its way to assist in organisation, and Referee Geoff James has expressed himself as well satisfied with the accommodation which will provide for eight tables under World Championship conditions. Novel means of publicity, particularly suited to the area, are being used and special arrangements are being worked out for the accommodation and feeding of players and officials.

At the moment it is possible to speculate only on the likely entry from overseas but it is almost certain that France, Hungary and Sweden will accept invitations to send players. News that a Chinese team will be in Europe early next year prompts the hope that, if their visit is timed for February, they will also accept an invitation to enter. The E.T.T.A. awaits news on this.

The experiment of staging the Open Championships at such a venue outside London will be welcomed, not only by Treasurer Tom Blunn, who is assured of a reduced deficit on the event, but also by those who maintain that there is a receptive audience for big time table tennis outside the capital. And if Brighton proves to be as successful a venue as it promises it could be a long time before London sees the event again.

TALKING POINTS

Conducted by LAURIE LANDRY

REPLICAS OR PREMIUM BONDS

SUSSEX OPEN: This was once again a successfully run tournament. The only complaint that I was able to pick up was the fact that the quarter- and semi-finals of the Men's Singles were held downstairs after the early rounds had been staged upstairs.

"This was done," says Tournament Secretary, Derek Tyler, "to enable us to prepare upstairs for the finals night programme."

The **Merseyside Open** showed a great improvement on last year. Picking up a few hints from the North of England, they did not really get into time trouble despite the large entry. The method of using Stewards, who held up cards with table numbers as soon as the table was free, saved a lot of time.

Another thing the Merseyside had in common with the North of England was three semi-finalists in the men's singles.

My report from the **Bournemouth Open** says that it was run perfectly. The only cause for complaint was that replicas were given for prizes. From previous chats with players, this does not seem to be a popular way of

rewarding winners and runners-up in events in Open Tournaments.

The Bournemouth Officials and many Organisers of Open Tournaments, would like to have some idea of preference of players. Should it be vouchers for table tennis kit, Premium Bond forms or gifts, or perhaps there are some other suggestions. This column would be pleased to hear any ideas on this subject. Just write to me, c/o this column.

Trouble again this year at **Birmingham**, where two of the finals were decided by walk-overs. This happened because two players, namely Terry Densham and Michael Creamer, went out for something to eat and by the time they returned they had been scratched from the doubles final and Creamer had conceded a walk-over to Josef Somogyi in the singles. They say that they had not eaten all day and had gone out in the evening not realising that the Tournament Venue had to be vacated by 10 p.m.

Last year when the tournament was running extremely late, it was decided to hold the finals downstairs in the gymnasium, and the tournament finished at midnight. Terry and Michael say they did not think that they only had until 10 o'clock, remembering last year, of course.

The Organising Committee have had to report it to the E.T.T.A. whilst Terry and Michael have sent a letter of apology. What action will be taken? This will be decided by the National Executive Committee when they meet on December 9.

Not many players are in favour of Johnny Leach's suggestion that we should all give up the loop shot. The general opinion is that we shall all learn soon enough how to take it and this will make its exponents resort to other methods of winning.

The announcement that the **English Open** is to be held at Brighton has been met with mixed feelings. Some say that the meeting is bound to suffer in entry as very few regular tournament goers will be prepared to go all the way to Brighton. Others say that those players who have to travel a distance will still come as it will not add all that much time to their journeys.

Local entries, including London, will also probably be high. A good weekend away is still very popular witness Sussex Open, which still had entries for the men's singles of around the 200-mark.

The England selection of 18-year-

old Brian Wright, has caused much comment mainly favourable. He deserves an International as much as any other player and his dedication to the game has received its just reward. He is the youngest International since the days Ian Harrison was a junior when three juniors got senior International badges.

Mary Shannon's selection for the Quadrangular Internationals was another popular and not surprising one. Mary is not yet 18 years of age.

THE Gloucestershire Junior Open will be held at the Public Baths, Gloucester, on January 27. There are boys and girls singles for under 17's and under 15's plus unrestricted boys, girls and mixed doubles.

Entries close on January 13 to J. R. Chalkley, at 17, Woods Orchard Road, Tuffley, Gloucester.

THE Staines and District general knock-out competition has attracted an entry of 60 teams, plus 11 for the ladies' event.

Table tennis will be featured among the demonstration at the 1962 Camping Exhibition at Olympia from January 5 to 13.

HARROWER RESIGNS

The publishers wish to express appreciation and gratitude to Geoff Harrower for his sterling work as circulation manager over the past three seasons. For personal reasons Geoff feels that he can no longer carry on and we reluctantly accept his resignation.

When Geoff took over the fortunes of the magazine were at a low ebb but by his continual exertion he increased the circulation figures, although, because of rising costs we are not yet completely "out of the wood."

In the recent circular issued on our behalf by the E.T.T.A., reference was made to the disappointing results of Geoff's efforts. This in no way reflects upon him but was merely our opinion that the unprecedented amount of work which he put in deserved better results.

Until other arrangements are made all correspondence regarding circulation should be addressed to Mrs. V. Todd, Guardian House, Walthamstow, London, E.17.

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OFFICIAL NEWS

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

AT their first meeting, the **Development Commission** decided that they would divide their initial study under six headings as follows:—

Play and Players—everyday play. This covers schools, youth clubs transition to adult clubs, and ordinary play in adult clubs; introduction to the game, elementary coaching, and types of competitive play amongst all the other features of everyday play.

Play and players—top-class play. This covers development and coaching of top players, the need for personalities or stars; classification of players, expenses, prizes and rewards, types of competition including international play and a variety of other aspects of "the big game."

The Commission decided that **facilities** was such an important item under both these main headings that this should be the subject of a special study, although it could not be treated as an entirely separate question.

Press and Public Relations covering the objectives which should be the aim, the methods which should be used, and the financial aspects of this subject. This would include questions of the presentation of the game to the public as viewed from the public and press aspect, thus linking with the next heading.

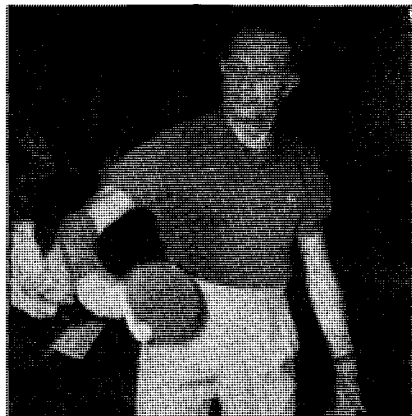
Public presentation. This would deal with types of competition seeking a public audience: standard of presentation; officials; television; and sponsorship amongst other issues.

Management and Administration. Amongst other topics to be examined under this heading will be the present local, county and national set-up, and possible alternatives, including different methods of arranging affiliation; the divisions of responsibilities (national, county, league and so on); relations between the administration of the game and the members and players, including the ways to be used for seeing that information passes free-

ly between members and administration in both directions; and the availability of officials for all the tasks needed.

Finance. Finance will inevitably enter into the discussions of every heading, but there will need be a final summing up of all the financial aspects.

At a later date, the Commission may wish to make enquiries of a variety of people concerned with the game in one way or another. Meanwhile, however, anyone who wishes to submit comments or ideas for their consideration may of course do so. Letters for the Commission should be addressed to the Secretary to the Development Commission at the E.T.T.A. Office; as initial work on each of the headings mentioned above is being undertaken by different groups of Commission members. Anyone wishing to offer comments or suggestions on more than one of these headings should, if possible, send a separate letter on each heading.



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GEOFF JAMES

TWO bachelors are the subjects for December in the N.E.C. pen picture series; the first, Geoffrey James, is surely one of the game's most eligible bachelor administrators. Born in London 38 years ago, he is a director of a city company concerned with ship's management.

Geoff's activities on behalf of the game have extended widely over many years and apart from being a senior member of the N.E.C. he is also Chairman of the Referees' and Umpires' Committee, Chairman of the English Championships' Committee, a member of the Development Commission, on the Middlesex County Executive Committee and Chairman of the Central League.

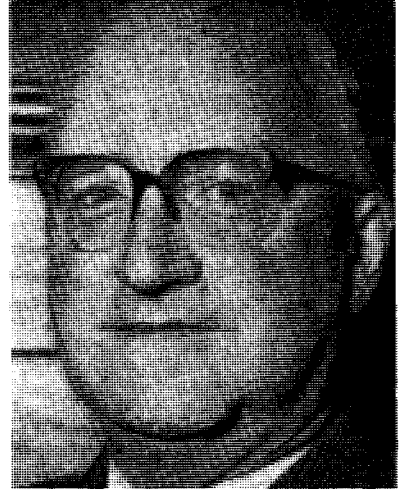
His particular forte is the refereeing and organisation of tournaments and he has firmly established himself

KNOW THE N.E.C.

as the leading referee in the country. In recent years he has been in charge of many of the major tournaments and events and is at present working on plans for the English Closed and Open Tournaments which take place early next year.

A player, not many years ago, in the Central and Civil Service Leagues, he was a member of the Gainsford and Ministry of Transport clubs, and although not an outstanding performer, he gained inter-league representative status in days when that was harder to achieve.

Geoff's second love is athletics, of which he is an avid spectator and follower, especially at the White City track which is almost on his doorstep. Another interest is food and wine, on which he is fast building up an authoritative knowledge, not only of what to eat and drink, but also of where to do so. He is no mean manipulator of culinary implements himself, as guests to his dinner parties will readily vouch, but the squeamish, who are put off their meal by even the sight of others eating snails, should politely refuse to join Geoff until the second course, because his appetiser is most likely to consist of a plate of his beloved escargots!



LES JONES

OUR second bachelor is Cost Accountant Leslie Jones, N.E.C. member for the North Midlands. In addition he is Chairman of the Lancashire County Association, Chairman of the Lancashire and Cheshire League and Honorary Secretary of the Manchester and District League. And, as if that were not enough, he is also Tournament Secretary and Referee of the North of England Open. On two occasions he has been referee of the English Open Championships and was twice non-playing captain of England, a distinction of which he is proud.

In his playing days he was a member of the Ladybarn House Club in the Manchester League. Leslie modestly admits that for two consecutive years he was Pontefract Veterans' Singles Champion and in typical joke adds "in fact I put it down to bad selection that I was never chosen to play for Lancashire and England!"

However much time he devotes to table tennis, one period of the week is sacrosanct. That is Saturday afternoon, when he takes his place as shareholder and season ticket holder at the Manchester City Football Ground. And let anyone try to tell him that "the City" is not England's No. 1 soccer team.

Leslie values highly the firm and lasting friendships he has made through table tennis and is proud of the fact that his relations with everyone in the game are excellent. He rarely tries to impose his opinion on others, but does hold strong views, which he freely expresses, on present-day bats. He is a strong opponent of sponge "except for use in the bath" and also of sandwich "which should be reserved for satisfying the appetite for food, not table tennis."

Pictures by Michael Maclaren.

Norway Comes to Durham

AS part of "Norway" week, Tyneside, Wearside and Teeside arranged to hold a series of table tennis matches. The Norwegians brought a strong team consisting of their national champion Knut Havag, S. Eruvik, T. Bergson, P. Stene and their captain Finn Schonberg.

The games were well staged and much appreciated by the large audiences. Wearside (Sunderland and District) managed to win 6-3 but Teeside were beaten by the same margin and Tyneside lost 8-2.

Out of all sports chosen for this "sporting and industrial week" only table tennis staged games on each of the three rivers. It is hoped that a return visit will be made in the near future.

Wilf Barker won his two singles and the doubles with E. Taylor, when Durham

were beaten 7-3 by Cheshire in the county championship.

Several matches have already been played in the Durham Senior League and once again the competition will be close. West Hartlepoons have an abundance of women players and it will be interesting to see how they fare in the months to come.

Dennis Neale, the county No. 1 junior, has found his form early and will be a tough opponent for all-comers.

Mr. Edgar Reay, the county secretary and National Executive representative is ill again, but it is hoped he will soon be back to full health and able to continue the grand job he has always done for Durham table tennis.

G. K. Fletcher.

VICTOR BARNA comments on

Proposed Swaythling Cup Changes

IT seems that the International Table Tennis Federation are seriously considering altering the present system of the Swaythling Cup, the team event of the World's Championships. Sweden are proposing that instead of the present system of dividing teams into groups of equal strength and group winners playing off for the world title, the tournament should be run in two stages. First, the teams would be divided into many smaller groups — approximately 4 to 8 — according to entries. Then all group winners would be put in one group, all seconds to another and so on for another Round Robin.

The Swedes are claiming that this will ensure a much fairer result, and that teams will be able to meet other teams of approximately the same strength instead of playing matches against much stronger and much weaker opposition.

I have no quarrel with their reasoning, although I believe that in the past usually the best team won the championship. Also it was said that it is a good thing for the weaker countries to play against better opposition where they can learn.

The proposal has been examined with regards to availability of time, space and tables and it is here that I beg to differ. Everyone with whom I have talked and every report I have seen, only deal with the problem of having enough time and tables and mathematicians have been employed to find the right answer. Nobody has thought of the players yet; how would the new system affect them and, I believe, these are the problems and not the lack of tables and time.

The strain on a player in the Swaythling Cup is tremendous. Getting through the group, then playing in one or two play-offs requires a great amount of stamina and use of nervous energy.

I know from experience how much those Swaythling Cup matches have taken out of me and I could name many players whose chances of winning the singles "evaporated" dur-

ing the team championships. How can you multiply their responsibilities by two or three and expect them to do well in the singles!

Not as fair

Furthermore, I dare to say that the results will be not as fair as hitherto. Because what will happen is this: Say, for example, six group winners play each other: Japan, China, Hungary, Sweden, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. If Japan and China meet in the first round—both countries will play their strongest team and players will do their utmost to win. But if they meet in the fourth or fifth round and one of the team, having already been defeated two or three times, having lost all chances of winning the competition, will the team field their best players? And, if so, will the player give his best when his mind is already on the singles?

I am not exaggerating—I remember the 1955 World Championships at Utrecht when Rosalind Rowe and her captain were harshly criticized because she played her heart out against Rumania's Angelica Rozeanu, yet England could do no better than be third whatever the result.

I am afraid, too, that the friendly atmosphere, which exists between players and nations on these occa-

sions in spite of political difficulties, will be a thing of the past. Nations will be accused, rightly or wrongly, of not giving their best when they lost their chances.

It seems to me, that the present system is good, at any rate adequate. As I said, usually the best team wins and the tournament finishes with a crescendo, with a real final, where everything is at stake. Maybe minor placings are not decided—so what? It gives the ranking committee something to argue about.

Looking at it from the players' point of view I go further than that. I think it is high time to do away with the early morning session and, if possible, stop morning play altogether. It is just not fair for a player who was still playing around midnight (sometimes later) could not be in bed before one or two a.m. to get up at seven in the morning to be ready to play at nine a.m. In the old days this was absolutely necessary as the tournament had to be finished in six days. Nowadays four days are given for the team events and a rest day before the individual competition starts, which too has been extended to four days. Halls are larger, more tables are available and I am sure with a little good will the early morning sessions could be scrapped. If morning play is absolutely necessary it could commence at 10.30 or 11 a.m.—nobody complaining of unfair treatment. Everybody would have a good chance to rest.

At Peking, even at Dortmund, where there was a record entry, I have seen many empty unoccupied tables during the late morning and afternoon sessions, proving that the abandoning of the early morning play is a possibility, and where players are concerned it is a "must."

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HONOUR FOR SUZI

Table tennis received a big boost when the Sportsman's Association of Australia named Mrs. Suzi Javor as one of Australia's top 20 sportsmen and sportswomen of the year. She receives one of the "Lindy" awards, which are presented to perpetuate the memory of the late Walter Lindrum, who was undisputed billiards champion of the world for a quarter of a century.

Since she migrated to Australia in 1957, Mrs. Javor, who as Miss Fantusz was a member of the Hungarian Corbillon Cup teams in 1953-4 and 1956, has had an unparalleled record in Australian table tennis. In championship play she has won 41 singles titles, 26 women's doubles, and 23 mixed doubles, while out of 300 rubbers pennant and inter-state team matches she has suffered only one defeat. She won three consecutive Australian singles titles.

JACK CARRINGTON looks back on . . .

FIVE MONTHS IN AUSTRALIA

TWO ocean voyages and five months in a new community 12,000 miles from home, working sometimes in the largest table tennis hall in the world, sometimes in small "bush" towns, that's a fair slice of experience to have in what is usually regarded as the off-season for table tennis.

How can one start to describe such a wealth of experience? Elsie and I had a taste of this difficulty when we showed off our toasted torsos at the Sussex Open on our return. Cheery re-unions all round, and then inevitably three questions:

1. *Enjoyed your trip?* That's easy—Yes!

2. *Did you like Australia?* That's easy, too—Yes!

Then comes No. 3.

What's it like out there? Well, really, it's like everything you ever knew, and it's like nothing you ever knew. These contradictory remarks apply to people, to places, to work and to play. To table tennis activity, of course.

Most table tennis travels can be described as hectic—this is inevitable because much has to be done on small budgets—but this Australian tour, while holding its own for "heftivity," was a deeper experience for us too. We saw new lands, we made new friends, we understood new viewpoints.

Many people do not realise the importance of present-day Australia. Modern travel has removed its isolation and has created instead a power-point of British character, leavened by European intelligence, which looks out sometimes hopefully, and sometimes doubtfully, at the equidistant power centres of Europe, America and China/Japan.

Table tennis often reflects more important facts of life. To view our Association and club efforts, from a distance, and through the eyes of Australians, ex-Europeans, and Asiatic students, was an education to me. Even to view one's own work and plans from the side, as it were, instead of from "behind" the job, was most valuable.

We met new problems, but mostly we met the old problems we knew so well in table tennis. However, some of our old problems had been approached in new ways, and I know our officials will value hearing about these in due course.

So the time spent down-under, which the Victorian officials were kind enough to say was helpful to them, will also add something to my efficiency as Director of Coaching here.

After a 26-day trip on which we had the benefit of a new Jaques tournament table specially installed by the Orient Line, we reached Melbourne in the same hour as the Australian team arrived from Peking.

Our working programme was divided between metropolitan Melbourne, and the provincial towns of Victoria. Melbourne is practically as large as London, but with one-quarter of the population.

The provincial towns run to about 30,000 population, with considerable empty distances between them. The normal difference in outlook between "city" and "country" players therefore exists, just as in England, but emphasised by the amazing and exceptional facilities available in Melbourne itself.

Vast Place

I refer, of course, to the unique Table Tennis Centre of Victoria, a vast place set in the beautiful Albert Park, one mile only from the city and one mile from the seashore. Here 41 tables, in full tournament conditions, are kept busy every day. In fact, more tables could be used on many days. This great venture could, of course, fill a book with stories; suffice it to say that here is a regular meeting-place for T.T. fans of three types—viz., Australian-bred youngsters, European-trained "New Australians," and many Asiatic students. The fourth ingredient in this table tennis pie is our old friend the family player. Strolling in, possibly in their outdoor shoes, they are tactfully guided to the concrete-floored sections, where grandad, mum, dad and the kids, boyfriend and girl-friend, bash blissfully at each other for hours. They don't disturb the champions sweating on the next table, because the courts are individually enclosed.

The family does not want to know about the organised game; there are also many ex-club players who cannot now commit their time to a team, but still want to play; and there are some 200 regular team bookings each week.

These varied classes of customers have one thing in common, they all *Pay as they Play*. The table-hires keep the place going and cover all the many expenses (which we know so well) of the "real" T.T. player.

Country towns, instead of curling

SCHOOLCHILDREN COACHING

It may be possible to hold a special School children's coaching day (between 10.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.) on the tables set up for the English Closed Championships at Manor Place Baths, London, S.E.17. A probable day would be Wednesday, January 3, with a possibility of Tuesday, January 2.

Children of all standards could be given some help on this occasion.

Will interested members, and any seniors who would like to help please contact the Director of Coaching, Jack Carrington, at 24, Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

COACHES STUDY SESSIONS

These are being held in various areas throughout the season, also at Lilleshall, December 28 to January 1st and it is hoped to arrange central sessions in London between December 9 and Christmas.

All members interested in being assessed for Diploma qualification or in taking up the study of coaching, please communicate with the Director of Coaching, address as above.

COACHING—Itineraries

Centres visited recently include: Bedford, Swindon, Boston, Stamford, Cambridge, Bognor, Hastings, Basildon, Dagenham, R.A.F. Championships Coaching groups (at Stanmore), Somerset, Suffolk, etc. Due to be visited in coming weeks are Oxford, Lilleshall, Torquay, Exeter, Bristol, Blackpool, Whitehaven, Barrow, Southport, Northumberland, Derbyshire, Bexhill, Braintree, etc.

I shall be pleased to receive requests or suggestions for contacts with local leagues, new Clubs, Youth Organisers, school groups, etc., which might be fitted in to my itineraries.

I should also be glad to hear from players having odd periods of spare time who might like to assist in small local demonstrations. Please indicate playing standard and area and times of availability.

up with impotent envy, for the most part are trying to follow Melbourne's lead by forming central halls appropriate to their size.

Everything depends on people in this world, and let me say now that T.T. people in Australia are no different from our own. They are no keener than English fans, they are no fitter, they have no magic source of income. However, they do like to have the right conditions for sport, and so they pay for them out of their own pockets.

Australia has kept up to date in T.T. through tours by Szabados and Kelen (pre-war), Barna, Bergman, Leach, Haguenauer, the Rowe Twins, an American team, Orimura and Tanaka, and the Japanese girls. Then they have gained experience by participation in most of the post-war World Championships. If we now include the recent acquisitions from Europe we find a top standard about equal to present England tops, a club standard rather below and a junior standard still lower.

The junior and lower club levels are now, however, nicely "on the move" and should show a breakthrough quite soon.

Melbourne's Victor Hirsch, ex-Austrian junior champion, is a well-

deserved No. 1 in Australia. His play is of the sort which we always say would bring back the spectators if anything ever would do that.

He uses varied speed aggression on forehand and backhand, usually gets in a tight spot and then pulls out the stops for a grandstand finish of blistering backhand drives.

However, he now has a worthy rival in the 16-year-old Murray Thompson, of Adelaide, a rangy lad who took to sponge after the Peking trip and now operates a long-distance break-up game, exactly like Tony Larsson of Sweden.

Hirsch uses pimped rubber and just knocks the spin off everything impartially without turning a hair.

Mrs. Suzy Javor, as Fantucz, was Hungarian No. 2 four years ago, which speaks for itself. She sets a terrific pace for the Australian girls with her half-volley and forehand smash, similar to Agnes Simon.

Friends From Home

There are no prominent English players "down-under" at present, but their various friends here may be interested to know that we met the following: John Taylor (Maidstone), Peter Mascall (Birmingham and Bedford), Charles Jarvis (ex-Worcester-

shire president), Michael Dupree (E. London League), Roy Warrior (Kent), Alan Rowden (Surrey), Peter Smith (Hastings), Noel Vella (Bradford), Ted Rothery (Lincs.), and Audrey Fowler (Harrow), who surprised us by bringing in to tea the only Kangaroo we met in Australia!

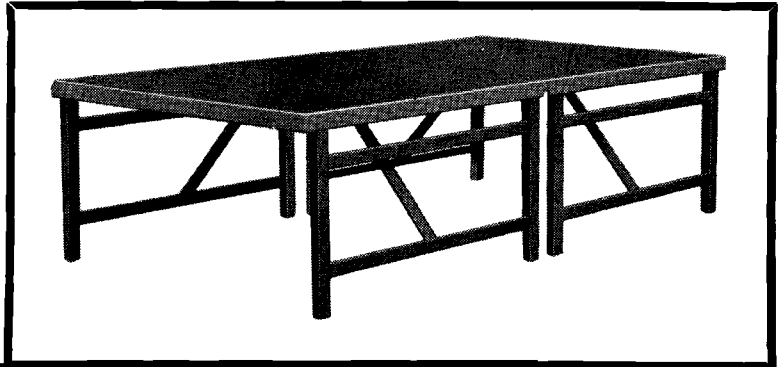
On route we visited Ceylon, and quickly tracked down Belle Wirekoon, who spent two years in England recently.

We bring back greetings too from Aussies who made many friends here, notably Barney Peters (he captained the 1961 Australian Maccabi contingent), Cec Wheeler, Arden Robinson, Bill Hodge, Michael Wilcox, Phil Anderson and Norma Buckland.

My task, of course, was to stimulate interest in the many forms of coaching and indeed of self-improvement which are open to players of various classes. Naturally, the more immediate results could be seen in country associations, and in junior or school groups.

I was, however, agreeably surprised by the serious attention to study shown by the 80-odd potential coaches who worked with me, and I have every hope that they will lead many new players across that critical bridge between "social" or "family" play and "real" table tennis.

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MRS. DOLLY EVANS

ALL the old ones will cherish their memories of Dolly Evans, who has just parted from us much too early—a loss to Kent and to us all.

But it is not under that name that she is enshrined in our hearts and recorded in table tennis archives. No, Mrs. Evans was sweet Dolly Gubbins, wooden racket, penholder, mighty basher and no respecter whatever of table tennis reputations when she first sprang to light as the champion of Wales, and it was to the Principality, one of the founder-members of the I.T.T.F., that Dolly brought world fame.

Look at the record sheets. There she is "D. E. Gubbins, runner-up" in the first ever Women's Singles Championship of the World, December 1926—stamping the Welsh name in the championship history long before anyone else from the home countries got anywhere near the prize money. (N.B. for purists, "money" in the table tennis sense is, of course, metaphorical, for cash read glory.) That very same year I see, in the English Open Championship roll "Women's Singles — Miss D. Gubbings (Wales)," "Women's Doubles"—same again, this time with Joan Ingram, and Singles Champion again in 1929-30 for good measure and just to show the first time was no flash in the pan. These successes were won with covets of tip-top women from half-a-dozen countries floating all over the place. Just as we would be saying "penholder grip is out," "pimpled rubber is in" and nattering around about top-spin drives, back-hand flicks, the new and latest thing in chop and slice and what have you, along would come Dolly Gubbins with her little wooden racket—very hard and not very large or very thick, if I remember rightly—stand up to the table and block and bash and have us all crawling around to pick them up from where they'd flown past to.

Embarrassing Misfortune

That was one claim to fame. Here is another, about one of the greatest misfortunes in sport. My dear friend Bernard Bernstein will forgive me telling it exactly as it happened.

At the 21st World Championships, their "coming of age," we decided to mark the event by institution, presented by my mother, the Jubilee

Cup. Men and women do not, as is well known, often compete together at table tennis, there is generally as big a gap between the form of these of corresponding standard as at lawn tennis, but as the Jubilee Cup was intended to be more a social and sentimental re-union than a championship, we made it open to any player, man or woman, who had competed in the championships twenty-one or more years before. We got a nice entry and everything was all set. The usual "technical hitches" and "unforeseen incidents" occurred and Maurice Rose (present-day fans know him as the donor of the Rose Bowl) was hard-pressed as referee. He switched the event to two days earlier than it was scheduled. Mighty battles occurred between giants of the past, lumbering dinosaurs of one kind or another, with bulging (if slightly rusty) muscles, and there eventually emerged victorious none but Bernard B., a pillar of our first-ever Swaythling Cup team, steady wooden half-volleyer with just the slightest touch of varied spin to tease into error the careless, more aggressive opponent, who would at last lose patience waiting for the loose lifted one he never got and thinking it had come when as yet it hadn't, Bernard Bernstein, first victor of the Jubilee Cup, emerged creditably from a heap of more showy, and (wrongly) thought to be more gifted, vanquished rivals. So far, so good. Came the last day. All set for the finals in the evening, the prize-giving, etc. Turned up at the originally scheduled early morning hour, all agog to take part, Dolly (now Evans and migrated to become a pillar of Kent), with, as in olden days, still her little wooden racket. Maurice came to me white-faced. "I thought I'd let everybody know," he said. "I don't know how I could have missed her. What on earth shall we do now?" "Replay the event," says I, in my customary grand, impractical manner. "You can't scratch a player who turns up at the time on their card and hasn't even been notified, just because you made a change and didn't tell them. Mrs. Evans' scratching can't be valid!" Replay the event—yes, but easier said than done. How can you replay the event when no one else is there? Dolly was brave, but nearly in tears. How she had practised for this resurrection. The battle of the sexes and its pleasant social side had

appealed to all her sporting instincts. And Mrs. Evans was properly and justifiably scornful. Trust bright-eyed little Ivor to think of a way out. We would stage a special match between Dolly and the winner. Dolly would have the satisfaction, if not of playing the early rounds, at least of playing, and going down before, the winner himself. Honour would be satisfied. I reached Bernard on the telephone and he handsomely agreed to come back to the hall and play the match that afternoon. Clever Ivor! Yes, all would have been well, but for one thing. Dolly wiped the floor with Bernard! I had forgotten that penholder wooden bashers loved penholder half-volleyers, however good, and however troublesome the latter might be to pimple-players of any but the highest class. What could we do now? There it is, you will find it recorded on page nine of the completed championship programme "Special Challenge Match for the Jubilee Medal: Mrs. D. E. Evans beat B. Bernstein 7, 16." We struck a special medal for Dolly, we presented it specially to Dolly, yet, of course, it could not be the same thing. There, but for our bungling, is one of the great sporting might-have-beens, a woman the first winner of a mixed table tennis competition open to all the world.

Another Claim to Fame

Well, that is her second claim to fame. And, as we old 'uns will testify, there is yet a third. She was such a nice person. I have called Dolly Gubbins a basher. Well, that is in comparison to the so-many tentative worriers of nowadays. But there was nothing wild about Dolly. She would set about it shrewdly, making biffs to one corner and the other corner, now short, now deep, the mind working always, the courage staunch and withal such a small, pretty smile. I never knew anyone angry with her, or anyone more popular with all. And she looked exactly the same, but with perhaps just a few grey hairs, twenty-one years further on. We can sympathise deeply with those near to her. We count her among the makers of our game whom we salute in their passing and whose memories we evoke as pattern. I hope she is not too angry with us!

JOHNNY LEACH *says*

"IT'S BACK TO THE RUBBER BAT FOR ME"

I HAVE returned to my old love the rubber-surfaced bat and a number of people have asked me if I am sponsoring a break away from the sandwich. It is nothing like that at all.

Let me make one thing clear. I am not trying to advise every table tennis player to change over from sandwich to rubber or vice versa. What I will say is that by making the switch from sandwich to rubber I have renewed interest in the playing side and met with renewed success.

How did this start? Well, a few weeks ago I was meditating in the chair at home, as I suppose we all do at times, and looked back over the past few years. I really took my game to pieces and realised that I had not been playing anywhere near as well as I could.

I knew that I had not been training or practising with the old intensity and that my form must suffer because of it. But I realised, too, that although slower physically and possibly mentally, I had nowhere near the control I used to enjoy in the old days.

So I decided to get out my rubber bat for another try. In no time at all I was playing more like my old self and enjoying full control of my game.

I began to search for the reason and the answer was not difficult to find. I had been playing for something like 20 years with a rubber bat—you might say served an apprenticeship and career—then suddenly turned over to a bat which was completely foreign and required complete change of timing, production of stroke and new tactics. It meant learning a new game and at my age, when I am more or less retired, and playing for enjoyment, I was not prepared, nor had the incentive or inclination, for this.

With the rubber bat I found I was able to do things automatically. I was able to time my strokes and had no

worries about timing once I got used to it. Therefore, I was able to concentrate on the tactical side of the play and have only one thing to think about instead of a number of things.

I would suggest that if there are any players of my age, or any who have played with rubber bats for a long period, but haven't the incentive to really get down and practice for, say, six to eight hours a day, then

try the rubber bat again. I am sure you will get more enjoyment from it.

However, for the youngsters, who have just made a dabble at the rubber bat, I would say that in modern table tennis it is an advantage to use the sandwich bat. And possibly the faster the better if you are willing to learn the game that goes with it and that you are prepared to practice the hours on end to get that complete control, which is needed to play any sport, especially table tennis.

UMPIRES' CORNER

by COLIN CLEMETT

OTHER ITEMS TO CHECK

MOST umpires, certainly those who are regular readers of the magazine, are by now well aware of their responsibility in ensuring that the racket and the player's clothing meet the requirements of the appropriate Law and Regulations. It is, however, sometimes forgotten that the umpire is equally responsible for checking the other items of equipment concerned in a match.

The most obvious of these is, of course, the net. The recent free issue by MESSRS. HALEX of plastic gauges for measuring net height, as well as racket-covering thickness, should help to settle the arguments, in which protesting players "measure" the net height with the blade of the racket.

Height, however, is not the only measurement that is specified for the net. Law 2 mentions also the height of the support posts, their distance from the edge of the table and the position of the lower edge of the net, as well as specifying the method of suspension.

My own experience is that no net and supports yet made can be adjusted to meet all these requirements perfectly, but it is the duty of the umpire to check that the net in use is fitted to give as close an approach as possible to the ideal.

While it is fairly straightforward to measure the net and its supports it is more of a problem to determine whether the table satisfies the requirements of Law 1. Most of us are quite happy to accept the maker's reputation as a guarantee that the major dimensions are correct. However, the condition of the surface, in particular its shininess, change with age and here the umpire has an obligation to see that an acceptable standard is maintained.

I have never come across a satisfactory method of checking the one specification of performance included in the Law, the height of bounce of a "standard ball," and

it seems curious that no-one has either developed one or proposed an alternative test, since this is a direct measure of the most commonly criticised property of the table, its "speed."

At least some of the difficulty lies in defining a standard ball, as is obvious from the difficulty some players have in selecting a suitable ball from a number of balls of approved type. Under present regulations the umpire cannot, as proposed by a recent correspondent to the magazine, go as far as selecting the ball to be used in a match but he should make sure that it is of an approved type, and if a particular make or grade has been specified for an event that it is of the correct make or grade. In addition, although he will, of course, investigate any complaint by either player that the ball has become defective in play, he is the final judge of whether the ball is damaged.

The N.U.R.C. is aware of the increasing tendency to prolong the selection of a suitable ball and of its effect on the presentation of matches, and is at present considering ways of limiting the misuse of the player's privilege of selection without introducing the simple but drastic change suggested of transferring the responsibility of choice to the umpire.

Finally, may I ask any readers, umpires or not, who have any comments or suggestions to make on the proposal to introduce a League Umpire qualification to write to me as soon as possible? The Committee is now preparing for submission to the N.E.C. its proposals, which I outlined in the May, 1961, issue, and we shall be most grateful for any guidance that we can get. Several people have already written to me with valuable suggestions, and we shall try to incorporate as many as possible of these in the final scheme.

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Editor's Postbag . . .

SELECTORS UNDER FIRE

IT is the favourite occupation in any sport to fire broadsides at selectors who either they are at League, County or International level. Any list of players invited to play in a "Top Ten" tournament must inevitably produce an ideal situation for the criticism of selectors.

The list published in your November issue is no exception and the major criticism in this case is the omission of Kent's top players.

Tony Piddock (England No. 8) was a reserve for England's Swaythling Cup Team in April, 1961, and finished joint second in last season's National County Championship (Premier Division) averages. It would appear that his prospects and past performances are sufficient to warrant inclusion.

There can be no doubt about Piddock's ability in the same way as there is no doubt about that of Joyce Fielder, who is the other Kent player many people think should have been invited. She was third in the National averages and is currently ranked No. 5 in England and has been consistently ignored during the past two years by the England selectors.

It may be that there is a reason for these omissions which has no connection with playing ability. The past year has seen Kent register strong disapproval of E.T.T.A. administration. Naturally everyone does not agree with Kent's ideas but everyone must agree that to discriminate against a County's players because of the views held and expressed by County officials and Committee members is unjust. Could it be that this is what has happened in this instance?

Reasons, please

Although it is impossible to probe the minds of selectors I should like to know the reason for these omissions and hope that there is no connection between it and the views held by Kent. The unfortunate thing is that Piddock and Miss Fielder must suffer in any case because if ranking lists are based on this tournament they obviously stand no chance of a good ranking. If on the other hand, the tournament is purely for training and guidance purposes, their chances must also be jeopardised by their exclusion.

I suppose people who read this will say, "Oh! he comes from Kent and he is biased." They are right, but I like to see fair play no matter who the players are. I cannot honestly say that Kent's players have been fairly treated on this occasion.

K. T. DANIEL
(Welling, Kent).

The Bishopsgate Table Tennis Club 230 Bishopsgate, E.C.2

has a few vacancies for this season.
The Club meets at 6.15 p.m. every
Monday and Friday.

Write to the Hon. Secretary,
H. A. Packett,
6 Ravenscourt Road, Hammersmith, W6

EDITOR'S NOTE

THE absence of Tony Piddock and Joyce Fielder from the original selections for the "Top Ten" Tournament has stirred up a hornets' nest, with letters of criticism.

It is perhaps understandable that with both these players coming from Kent, followers should ask if that county's differences of opinion with the E.T.T.A. over national organisation have any connection.

I am assured this is not the case, but much of the air could have been cleared with an early explanation. For the Chairman of the Selectors to want to change the title after the damage has been done is no answer. The fact that team selections were made shows this was more than a training session. If there are objections to "Top Ten" then the title must be trials, not training session which is something that happens at clubs every night.

An official reply will be published next month.

Who is Right ?

THERE has been a great deal of controversy over the selection of players by the E.T.T.A. Senior Selection Committee for the tournament staged on Sunday, November 5. In the past this tournament has always been known as a TOP TEN tournament, and was once again advertised as such in the national press.

Accordingly, as no Kent players were invited, I queried the reason with Mr. I. Eyles, the Chairman of the National Selection Committee. His reply was to the effect that there was now no such thing as a TOP TEN tournament, this being only a phrase coined by Johnny Leach for publicity purposes.

I was quite satisfied with this answer until I learned that the tournament had been listed as a TOP TEN in press hand-outs, and read in the current issue of TABLE TENNIS magazine that not only was this a TOP TEN, but that from the players selected for this tournament the team for the Scandinavian Open would be selected.

My only query now is, who is qualified to give me an accurate answer from the E.T.T.A. if their own officials cannot agree?

MIKE GRADY
(Sittingbourne).

Hardly a Veteran

I AM writing to express my surprise at the omission of Tony Piddock from the list of players originally selected for the TOP TEN tournament and was pleased to note that, presumably as a result of strong Kent Committee protests, he has now been selected as reserve for the match against Denmark.

The November edition of TABLE TENNIS definitely stated that the TOP TEN trials were being used for selecting players to take part in the Scandinavian Open at Stockholm. This statement conflicts with the E.T.T.A. reply to the Kent protests that these trials were primarily concerned with bringing on intermediate and junior players. In any case Piddock, at 21, can hardly be considered as a veteran.

It is gratifying to see a County Committee that is prepared to stand up for its players when they receive a raw deal and Kent are to be congratulated for their efforts which resulted in an obvious case of re-thinking by the selectors.

J. R. LEGG
(Crookham, Hants).

Civil Service Surprise

I SHOULD like to register a protest against the omission of Tony Piddock, our leading Civil Service player, from the TOP TEN competition. Surely Piddock's playing record last season together with his wins over Rhodes and Thornhill in the recent Kent/Middlesex match and his performance in the Sussex Open should have justified his selection. His omission has been a talking point at recent Civil Service league matches and it was encouraging to see the Kent Committee take the selectors to task over their error.

This Kent pressure is presumably responsible for the selectors naming Piddock as reserve for the England match against Denmark at Copenhagen. Possibly if the Civil Service League, one of the largest in the country, had added their weight to his County's protest, Piddock might well have been in the team proper instead of being nominated as reserve.

TABLE TENNIS magazine referred to the recent trials as the first TOP TEN of the season. Surely Piddock's name must now be added to those selected for the next of the series, whenever it may be held.

NORMAN G. WEBSTER
(Hackney).

Get with it, Johnny

DURING the past few years I have seen and read much unmitigated rubbish in the world of table tennis. The latest offering from Johnny Leach ("Kill This Shot Before it Kills Table Tennis") really takes the sandwich.

The so-called "Deadly Loop Drive" is doing more than any other shot to put the mainly defensive player where he can do least harm to the game as a spectacle . . . out of county and international teams and also out of tournaments in the early rounds. This is necessary because over the last decade the European game has gradually become dominated by a technique relying upon heavily chopped strokes relieved by the occasional hit or miss bash. Simultaneously there has been a steady decline in spectator appeal. I was amazed to read about "the layman in the audience." Get with it, Johnny. He just isn't there any more . . . unless someone like Richard Bergmann is giving an exhibition.

Meanwhile the Oriental version of Table Tennis based upon fast attacking topspin

has gone from strength to strength. The contrast was never made more plain than in the 1959 English Open when the men's semi's were contested by Berczik/Haran-go and Ogimura/Murakami. Those present will doubtless recall the applause awarded to the Japanese while they were still knocking up.

The suggestion that our leading "loopers" should lend their talents as practise "machines" to certain players makes a complete mockery of the whole concept of competitive sport. Far better that they should meet in tournaments, etc., and find out who really is the expert.

To sum up the Loop Drive has two outstanding virtues.

1. It constitutes an effective breaking-up stroke, particularly against the entirely defensive player.

2. It constitutes a means of getting more topspin into the game, and this is essential if Table Tennis is ever to regain the spectator appeal that it once held not so very long ago.

Naturally I have no wish to see develop a game based exclusively upon the Loop Drive, and a player with this shot and little or nothing else should never get very far. It is, however, an essential stroke for the reasons cited above and should on no account be discouraged.

J. P. DALY
(Sidcup).

Partisan Spirit

MAY I respectfully criticise Bill Harrison's letter in the November issue and suggest his remarks were inspired by his partisan spirit for Essex. If any exhibitionism or gamesmanship was displayed in the incident mentioned, surely both players were equally guilty. As I saw the incident, Peter Shead disliked the ball he was given, and Bobby Stevens disliked the ball Peter chose. A bit of good-natured banter followed between the two players and finally a ball was selected which satisfied neither player completely but was a compromise. Both players behaved like gentlemen and completely within their rights and at no time were guilty of exhibitionism or gamesmanship. The very contrast in their respective styles explains the difference in opinion, Bobby being the hitter prefers a hard ball, Peter basically defensive prefers a ball like a pudding.

I think it is not valid to compare table tennis with lawn tennis as the advent of the modern game has removed table tennis to a position far from lawn tennis and both have their different requirements regarding balls. I think the answer might possibly be to campaign for a higher standard of the top price balls. If one manufacturer produced a ball of a consistent standard it would give them a monopoly of the English trade. Surely table tennis has sufficient connections with the trade to achieve this.

O. BAKER
(Kilburn).

Preserve the Loop Drive at all Costs

WITH some trepidation I partially cross swords with our renowned Johnny Leach. He says in the November issue that "the deadly loop drive has got to be killed at all costs." I counter with a paradox—"the deadly loop drive must be both preserved and killed at all costs."

First as to its preservation. In my opinion one of the most important things that have come from the sandwich bat is the loop drive. This shot, however, is not entirely novel for I saw it used pre-war by among others, Swaythling Cup player Maurice Bergl of Middlesex, who tried to overcome heavy foreign chop while using the ordinary rubber bat, but the shot has acquired added potency with the advent of sandwich.

Why is the loop drive important? Because it at last means the end of wholly defensive players in Europe. In world class play, of course, the Eastern penholder attackers, with or without loop drive have by now sufficiently demonstrated that the wholly defensive player is a sitting pheasant.

In European play, however, the wholly defensive player has still been causing some trouble—the loop drive is the answer to this. "It makes you look such a fool," quotes Johnny. To me the more foolish such players are made to look the better. It is a travesty of sport for important titles to be won by wholly negative players. Those players will be laughed off the table—not the loop drivers. And remember that the loop driver is not wholly intent on getting the defensive player to make a silly outright loser, but is working to get the ball to be killed.

So much for preservation of the loop drive. Let us now deal with killing it.

A game between a wholly defensive player and a wholly loop driver can become monotonous but that is the fault of the defensive player and, in any case, such a game is decidedly less boring and less lengthy than one between two defensive players.

However, having eliminated the wholly defensive player it appears desirable to eliminate the wholly loop driver. This can be done by preventing the loop drive from being played at all . . . by taking up the attack.

The loop driver requires time to position himself and accurately time his shot which cannot be satisfactorily played on the run. He has ample time against the chop defensive player but not against the attacker. This has been demonstrated this season when we have seen the reputed defensive players lose in one tournament then beat the looper in the next by attacking him.

Our wholly defensive expert Brian Merrett—may he soon be playing again—has not as yet, I believe solved the problem of the loop driver. My betting is that he never will unless he develops an all-round game.

Where are we now? We appear not only to have eliminated the defensive player but the loop driver as well. This is not so. What we have done is eliminate the one-shot defensive and loop driver players.

The above is the analysis of the problem. Let us now deal with the synthesis. The defensive chop and loop drive

should be merely two strokes of many integrated into a players repertoire, the former as a get-out shot pending the resumption of the attack or counter-attack; and the latter for dealing with a mainly defensive player who is holding up the attack. By this means all shots will have their place but the emphasis will be as it should be, on the attack.

The above of course is concerned with European play and grip. How to deal with the Eastern penholders, is a horse of a different colour and must await a further letter.

Congratulations on the November issue. It is full of bright and interesting material and in passing I would like to agree with the sentiments expressed in the letter by Bill Harrison. Two or three balls should be selected by the umpire or referee for roundness and absence of soft spot then given to the players to make their choice, whatever the stage of a competition and whoever the players.

DENIS OFFER

Never Give Up

I HAVE been intrigued with some of the first round Wilmott Cup results, such as:—

Chesterfield 0, Sheffield 6; Horwich 0, Blackpool 5; Cambridge Uni. 0, Lowestoft 7; Sutton 0, Romford 5; Travel Trades 1, Barking 5; Basildon 0, Beckenham 6; Leatherhead 0, N. Middx. 5.

What is behind these one-sided unfinished matches? Is it possible that in all these seven games the away teams had an early train to catch or if it was an afternoon match, they did not want to spoil the evening. Was the boot on the other foot and the losers so disconcerted that they packed it in when their opponents had reached a winning set score? Were the home side afraid to get the "brush" in front of their own spectators, or were the visitors' finer feelings preventing them from making a clean sweep.

Doubtless there reasons unthought of for not playing the superfluous games. The winners perhaps have wearied of a one-sided match. Admittedly it is not like football where a last few minutes whirlwind play can turn a match round. How football would lose its flavour if a 5-0 lead finished the match! What would the crowd say? Incidentally what would the players say? And what do the players themselves say in unfinished Table Tennis matches?

Surely the remainder of the matches are good practice to the losing side. In any case how does a player feel when his team has either won or lost and he has still two matches to play! Let us have a hundred per cent match and play to the bitter end. Look at other results—Dagenham 0-9 to Bromley, Salford 0-9 to Stockport, Nalco 0-9 to Croydon and Chester 0-9 to West Bromwich. They all played on and winners and losers still tried to win.

Incidentally, I did not find any of this in the Rose Bowl results. Are the Ladies playing for the love of the game?

A. A. WALL

(West Bromwich).

JUNIOR RANKINGS

David and Lesley Tops

DAVID STANLEY, of Yorkshire, and **Lesley Bell**, of Essex, are England's new No. 1 juniors. Both won the major places after the final English Junior trials, in which 14 boys and 11 girls took part, at Ultra Electronics, Park Royal, on October 28.



DAVID STANLEY

Both share one thing in common, in that they have parental table tennis background. Stanley is the son of ex-international Ken, while Lesley is the daughter of Mrs. Brenda Bell, former English women's veteran champion.

Stanley went through the day unbeaten, winning all his nine matches, to jump from ninth ranking last season to No. 1.

The find of the trials was Dennis Neale, of Durham, who edged Brian Hill, equal two last season, into third place. Neale appeared to improve with every game, but Hill fell away after his long drawn out match with Stanley.

The disappointment of the trials was Ian Giles, of Middlesex. Towards the end of last season he was improving so rapidly, getting to the semi-final of the English Junior "Open," that it was thought he would be

JUNIOR RANKING LIST	
BOYS	
1.	David Stanley (Yorks) (9)
2.	Dennis Neale (Durham) (—)
3.	Brian Hill (Lincs) (=2)
4.	Michael Symonds (Lancs) (—)
5.	Chester Barnes (Essex) (—)
6.	Morley Mordeciai (Glouc.)
7.	B. Brady (Glouc.)
	Ian Giles (Middlex.)
	Bob McKeown (Surrey) and
	Brian Sykes (Herts.)
GIRLS	
1.	Lesley Bell (Essex) (2)
2.	Christine Holes (Hants) and
	Beverley Sayer (Essex)
4.	Jackie Canham (Herts.)
5.	Susan Thomas (Kent) (5)
6.	Lesley Proudlock (Yorks) (=6)
	(Last season's ranking in parentheses)

among the top boys. Instead, he just managed seventh place.

The brightest prospect was Chester Barnes, the young Essex boy, who, at the age of 14, is now No. 5. He obviously has a great future ahead.

Lesley Bell won all her games, but not without some trouble, although she was clearly No. 1. There was, however, little to choose between the next five and eventually the left-handers of two sets of twins, Christine Holes and Beverley Sayer, were

HULL SCHOOLS

HULL is very proud of its Schools League which this season has 24 teams competing in four Divisions, an Open Age Division, two Under 15 Divisions and a Girls' Division. Teams consist of four players playing eight singles with the addition of two doubles in the Open Age Division.

The beginnings were at Ainthorpe High School where Table Tennis after school tuition under Rea Baelmford was a regular feature for many years. Teams were entered in the local leagues and an indication of the ability shown is that Kathryn Whinham, Betty Kinsley, Irene Allsopp and David Bartlett have all represented the County, while these four with the addition of Irene Allon, Ann Brown, Mick Sothcott, Colin Gray and Don Mein have all played for the city.

The 1958/59 season saw a small league of four teams formed and a new enthusiast in Geoff Underwood, who took up a teaching appointment at Hymers College. His school team became the first champions.

During the next close season they were joined by Jim Prethero of Pitmans College and formed a committee. Helpful co-operation was provided by the Organiser of Physical Education of the local authority and all the schools in the city were circularised with the result that in the 1959/60 season 15 teams were entered and two Divisions formed—an Open Age one to

cater for the older Grammar School pupils and an under 15 Division to cater for the younger players from the Grammar Schools and the Secondary Modern Schools.

Eric Tomlinson of Craven High School joined the committee in the following close season and 1960/61 saw the number of teams rise to 17.

All the member schools are affiliated to the Hull and East Riding Association and a representative sits on that Association's committee. The actual organisation of the league is in the hands of the teaching profession and matches usually commence after school at 4 o'clock.

No affiliation fees are charged by the Hull and East Riding Association other than those required by the E.T.T.A. and the Yorkshire Association.

A further indication of the success achieved is that this season the city Junior team playing in the Yorkshire League is entirely composed of products of the scheme.

This seasons Eagle—Girl Tournament, which will be run at the Y.P.I., has attracted a total entry of 166 another indication of how Hull has claimed the interest of its schools in table tennis.

Hull realises that its future lies in the youth of the city and its example could well be followed by other leagues throughout the country.



BEVERLEY SAYER CHESTER BARNES

placed equal second. Jackie Canham was quite impressive, deserving her No. 4 spot, but Susan Thomas and Lesley Proudlock appear to have remained stationary, finishing in identical positions to last season.

Immediate rewards for the successful players were the selection of Stanley, Neale, Symonds, Miss Holes and Miss Sayer for the junior international against Wales in Cardiff on November 24.

Miss Bell was omitted to give selectors a further opportunity of testing the joint No. 2's under international conditions before making their choice for the International Youth Meeting at Flensburg in January.

Stanley is the only player with previous junior international experience.

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

By **BRIAN WRIGHT**

STILL JUNIORS NEXT YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS to all the juniors who have been included on the new English Junior Ranking list. Special congratulations to 15-year-old Lesley Bell and David Stanley who is 16, the current top girl and boy. David will still be a junior next season, while Lesley has two further years left before she joins the senior ranks. We can expect great things from both of them in the future.

The northern boys appear to be well ahead of the southerners as far as the ranking list is concerned. The first four places being occupied by them, Chester Barnes at No. 5 is the highest-ranked southern boy.

The ranking list as far as the girls are concerned is dominated by southerners, the first five places occupied by them, Lesley Proudlock being the only northern player ranked.

JUNIORS AT TOP TEN

England's top two boys, David Stanley and Dennis Neale, were invited to compete in the "Top Ten" Training Session, held at Ultra Electronics Ltd., on Sunday, November 5. Both David and Dennis played extremely well, both beating Surrey's Intermediate player, David Lowe, and also David Creamer, England's current No. 9.

Stanley lost, however, to Ian Harrison, Jeff Ingber and Peter Shead. Neale also lost to Harrison, Ingber

and Shead as well as to Middlesex's "Mr. Topspin," Stan Jacobson.

Senior selectors should be applauded for giving the chance to these boys to play against the best players in England, thus giving them the opportunity, not only to improve their own games but to be able to see the top players in action.

MERSEYSIDE "OPEN"

Lesley Bell won her fourth consecutive "Open" title when she beat Lesley Proudlock 21-5, 21-15 in the final of the girls' singles. Miss Bell was given a much harder fight in the semi-final against Pat Dainty winning the first game 21-16 and the second at 19. Lesley seems to be so far ahead of all other English junior girls. It is a good performance for an opponent to get more than 18 points in a game.

Lesley also reached the final of the ladies' singles, losing to Mary Shannon in two straight games. Lesley had previously thrashed No. 2 seed and England's No. 5 woman, Joyce Fielder (Kent), 21-12, 21-8, in the semi-final.

This was a very fine performance by diminutive Lesley as Joyce had been playing very well just two weeks previous to reach the final of the Sussex "Open" losing to England's top woman, Diane Rowe.

The honours of the boys' singles go to Dennis Neale for winning his first tournament title. He was helped by the shock defeat of No. 1 seed



LESLEY BELL

David Stanley by tall Mike Symonds. Mike, who a week before had changed over to a completely new bat was a little too strong for David, winning their semi-final encounter 21-12, 24-22. And so on to the final, where Symonds did not appear to hit his true form. Nevertheless, there were some very fine rallies before Neale merged triumphant, winning the title to the tune of 21-16, 13-21, 21-10.

It has been pointed out to me by Harry Walker, the General Secretary of the Essex County T.T.A., that an error was made in last month's article. It was stated that "Lesley Bell won all her games in the Essex Senior trials and was marked No. 1." This is not true. Mrs. Jean McCree won all her games in the trials and is currently ranked No. 1, Lesley is No. 2. My apologies go to Mrs. McCree and also to anyone else whom it may have concerned for the error.

KEEN 12 year old

KEENEST player in the Bradford League this season is Phillip Rowe. He makes a round trip of 60 miles every week from his home in Barnoldswick to play in the Sixth Division for Idle Playways' second team—and he is only 12 years old.

His interest in the game began at a holiday camp at the age of ten. Twice Lou Kerekes has named him "Boy of the Week" at Skegness.

Phillip, who is always smartly turned out in royal blue shirt and shorts, is taken to Bradford by his father, a turner at Barnoldswick's Rolls Royce factory.

By playing in a strong league he hopes to increase his skill and already his father has noticed improvements in his game.

POPULAR SCHOOLBOY

PAUL LOWEN, nine-year-old son of E.T.T.A. secretary Peter Lowen, was the most popular boy at his school on November 15. Through the good offices of his father, Christ Church Junior School, Ealing, were invited to provide the audience for the television match between internationals of the past and the up-and-coming young players at Guinness Sports, Park Royal. So Paul was credited with getting his school chums an extra half day.

The young brigade did better than in their first session against the same opposition in October, and won three of the seven matches, leaving the old hands with a lead of 9-4. The third and final session against the old internationals takes place this month.

Detailed scores (Internationals first) : **October:** J. Leach bt N. Ive 21-11, 21-13; bt B. Wright 21-15, 21-18. V. Barna bt D. Offenbach 21-18, 22-20; bt Ive 21-18, 21-15. R. Crayden lost to D. Creamer 15-21, 23-21, 12-21. H. Venner bt Offenbach 21-16, 21-10. **November:** Venner bt Creamer 21-15, 21-18; bt Wright 12-21, 21-15, 21-15. Crayden lost to Wright 22-20, 16-21, 10-21; lost to Ive 21-10, 14-21, 17-21. Leach bt Offenbach 21-15, 21-13. Barna lost to Creamer 21-17, 13-21, 19-21. Barna/Leach bt Creamer/Wright 21-14, 21-13.

Entries for the Eagle/Girl table tennis tournament have shown an increase over last season, to reach a grand total of 11,375.

The competition is already under way and January 13 will see the Birmingham Qualifying Rounds and Midland Area Finals, followed by the London Area and South Regional finals on January 20.

AROUND EAST ANGLIA

Ewles Family take Norfolk Titles

THE Ewles family were very much to the fore in the Norfolk closed championships at Norwich on November 11, collecting four of the five senior titles.

John Ewles won the men's singles, partnered brother Maurice to win the men's doubles and completed a treble by winning the mixed with his wife, Hilda. Then for good measure Mrs. Ewles teamed up with Mrs. E. Allen to retain the women's doubles.

It was a grand introduction to table tennis for Johnny and Hilda's four months' old son who was brought along to his first championship.

An even younger babe in attendance was Richard Perry, whose father Bob Perry celebrated by winning the consolation singles.

Johnny Ewles dethroned last year's

champion Len Holdom in an earlier round before beating P. Walsh in the men's singles final by 21-11, 17-21, 21-11.

C. Fields of Yarmouth Panthers showed his tenacity by beating Tim Coe after a disastrous first game, in the youth's singles, while Mary Turner proved too good for Mrs. Bamber in the women's singles final.

Men's Singles: J. Ewles bt P. Walsh 21-11, 17-21, 21-11. Women's Singles: M. Turner bt Mrs. M. Bamber 22-20, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: M. and J. Ewles bt W. Minors / L. Holdom 10-21, 21-11, 21-17. Women's Doubles: Mrs. H. Ewles / Mrs. E. Allen bt Turner / Mrs. M. Harrison 21-16, 21-15. Mixed Doubles: J. and Mrs. Ewles bt G. Smith / Mrs. Allen 21-13, 17-21, 21-12.

Girls' Singles: J. Hayes bt J. Tubby 21-12, 21-3. Youths' Singles: C. Fields bt T. Coe 6-21, 21-14, 21-15. Veterans' Singles: R. Morley bt G. Dearing 21-16, 21-15. Consolation Singles: R. Perry bt A. Mitchell 21-17, 21-3.

Norfolk who have set a target of 500 copies of Table Tennis, took the opportunity to press their sales campaign with a special magazine stand and two large showcards. It proved very successful. Sales have now reached 300 and if 20 more club secretaries can be persuaded to take out Postal Subscriptions Norfolk can achieve their target.

East Anglian League matches started with a 7-3 win for Norwich B at Dereham; but, at Beccles, Lowestoft beat Norwich A 7-3, despite a good win by Gordon Wood against Cooper.

Ex-Norwich player B. G. Jones is now Captain of Table Tennis at Cambridge University. His Norwich club, Cathedral Ex-Choristers, must play in one of the oldest clubrooms in England. It is 800 years old.

Congratulations to Norwich Electricity (S. Banham, V. Bennett and B. Lister)

upon winning Eastern Electricity Board's Area Trophy from 30 entrants. They beat Stevenage to take both trophy and silver tankards.

Norwich Committee Cup will again be on an inter-divisional handicap basis. Present holders are Division IV. In the Norwich Readwin (Team Knock-out) Cup a needle match is between Norwich Union and St John's. In the League, divisional leaders are Gothic, County Council, Christ Church, St. Faith's House, Sportsmen and MacCaley. New clubs: Park Lane, St. Albans and St. Mary Magdalene are well placed.

At Wymondham, Abbey A, without Peter Meadows, were lucky to beat Kings Head A 6-4 to keep their 100% record. Atleborough Threadbaires beat Abbey remnants 10-0.

For Yarmouth, Maurice Ewles, Tony Archer and George Smith could take only one game at Ipswich, but their B team beat Lowestoft 7-3. Caister heads the Premier Division and promoted Panthers lead Division I. Mr. Sidney Lewis is new Magazine Organiser for Yarmouth. He asks for your support.

Eric Fairhead, Championship Secretary, reports that boys' entries have doubled. If Norfolk's hopes are realised there will be a chance for keen aspirants to represent their county in the Junior Division of the county championships next season.

Coaching in Norwich is provided by Bill Minors, Tony Fox, Bernard Hurrell and Jo Malinowski: at Duke Street Youth Centre every Tuesday. So go to it! And good luck! Remember that ten minutes' practice at the push shot, backhand smash and chop is worth ten hours of aimless swiping. Make it a rule to practise one shot for ten minutes before each practice match, and in a few months your game will be better by ten points.

J. S. Penny

CAMBS. GOOD START

SUCCESS attended Cambridgeshire in their first county championship match against Norfolk at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. It was a great battle. Cambs. making a remarkable recovery in the last stages when on the brink of defeat.

John Thurston won both his singles and, helped by John Cornwell, the doubles. Keith Chapman's win over Leslie Holdom at a crucial stage was meritorious as well as remarkable. Cornwell was not at his best but managed one singles win while Mrs. Bamber in her first representative game did well against Betty Cassell.

Cambridgeshire Junior Coaching sessions for ages 11 to 15 commence on December 2 at Cambridge Y.M.C.A. from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. There are plenty of juniors now playing in the Cambs. League and enjoying success.

In the first of the Cambs. League matches it is clear that New Chesterton Institute are going to take some holding. They won their first two matches with ease but may find it tough going when they meet Y.M.C.A., who now include Cornwell, Thurston, who is in great form, may pull N.C.I. through.

Wesley, demoted to Division II, have made a winning start in the first two matches, with the help of Peter Tyrrell, Barry Nichols, and Jack Bangham, but Fire Brigade, the other relegated side, have not fared so good and suffered a heavy defeat by promoted Torchbearers.

There were plenty of thrills when Cambridge City and Cambridge University drew 5-5 in their South-East Midlands League clash. Albert Jackson played magnificently for the City to defeat the polished Varsity player Jacobson in three sets. John Constable beat Mick Reeve in the junior singles event and the City won both doubles.

Preparations are going ahead for the celebration of the Cambridgeshire Association Silver Jubilee which occurs this season. The association was formed in 1936.

Leslie Constable.

Suffolk Newsreel

HALLIDAY and PAM ROGERS LEAD

THE first events of the Suffolk "Top Ten" and "Leading Ladies" tournaments recently completed show the holders of each trophy in first place. In the former competition, Ipswich's Dave Halliday leads club-mate Howard Osborne by a solitary point, but Suffolk skipper, Peter Cole, languishes in fifth place. Cole suffered the unusual experience of being beaten two-straight by Hans Fleck, who subsequently lost his leg of the tournament in a play-off with Osborne.

The Ladies event found Pam Rogers in top form and she was undefeated, so gaining a commanding lead over runner-up Brenda Brown. Much of the interest in this event centred on youngsters Linda Barrett and Catherine Cleary, who both

performed with such success that the selection committee have an unenviable task in deciding the eight names for the next event.

Suffolk juniors began their programme with a 9-1 win over neighbouring Cambridgeshire, a result which might have been expected as this is the first season of the young Cambridge side. The opposition, however, should not be despondent because, whatever was lacking in skill and experience, there was no dearth of grit and determination. Suffolk's new boys acquitted themselves satisfactorily, but may find in later matches that looping topspin will not prove an advantage to them.

D. B.

FIRST ENGLAND BADGE FOR BRIAN WRIGHT

By LAURIE LANDRY

EVEN though this event has been advertised as a TOP TEN TOURNAMENT, Ivor Eyles, chairman of the Senior Selection Committee, said that this was not really the case. Firstly, twelve players had been invited and the intention was not to make them necessarily the top twelve. There were, in fact, eight of the top players plus two Intermediates and two Juniors. The definition of Intermediates for this purpose is taken to mean up to three years out of the Juniors, i.e. up to 21 years old approx.

Brian Merrett withdrew as he went into hospital, at last, for a hernia operation, and Tony Piddock, of Kent, was asked to take his place.

The success of the Session was undoubtedly 18-year-old Brian Wright, who earned himself a trip to Scandinavia (Sweden and Denmark). Brian won five of his matches and lost three.

The disappointments were two Davids, Creamer and Lowe, both of whom appeared to have an off-day.

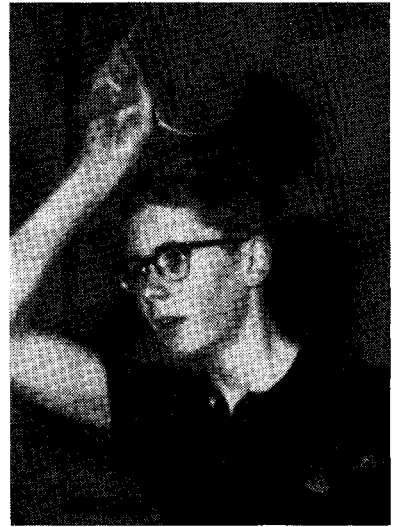
On the women's side, Diane Rowe, as expected, came through unscathed. Mary Shannon, 17-year-old Surrey player just out of the Juniors, staked her claim for more recognition with wins over Kathie Best and Jean McCree showing how much she had improved since last season. Mrs. McCree was a little disappointing.

All in all, this was a successful Ses-

sion and it can only be hoped that many more can be arranged with possibly the introduction of more Intermediates. It would therefore be extremely useful if counties which have good players in the 17-21 age group but out of the Juniors, would send their names, addresses and main recent results, to the Secretary of the Selection Committee, D. Peter Lowen, 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

The players taking part were: Ian Harrison (Glouc.), Jeff Ingber (Lancs), Peter Shead (Sussex), Stan Jacobson (Middx.), Jack Clayton (Lancs), Tony Piddock (Kent), David Creamer (Middx.), Alan Rhodes (Middx.), Brian Wright (Middx.), David Lowe (Surrey), David Stanley (Yorks), Dennis Neale (Durham), Diane Rowe (Middx.), Jean McCree (Essex), Mary Shannon (Surrey), Peggy Piper (Surrey), Diane Wright (Cheshire), Kathie Best (Yorks).

After the training session Harrison, Ingber, Wright, and Miss Rowe were selected to meet Denmark in an international in Copenhagen on November 22, then represent England in the



BRIAN WRIGHT

Scandinavian Championship in Stockholm on November 25-28. Ron Crayden was appointed non-playing captain, with standing by as reserve.

For Wright, an 18-year-old accounts clerk, it is his first senior international appearance.

Harrison, Ingber, Wright, Miss Shannon and Miss Best, with Len Adams as non-playing captain, were also selected for the Quadrangular home internationals with Ireland, Scotland and Wales in Glasgow on December 1-2.

Pictures by Michael Maclaren.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

SET BACK FOR WESTON

LAST year's champions, Weston, received a severe set back in their first match of the season when they visited Cardiff and lost heavily at 9-0. Cardiff were in brilliant form. The two Welsh Internationals A. Thomas and G. Evans played well and were ably supported by Ken Bull. Only G. Woodforde came near to a win, when he played Bull and lost narrowly.

Newport started their season with a home 5-4 win against Bath. B. Everson and W. Tomkins each won two matches, and T. Huish one. Bath's star player was D. Smith, who brilliantly won all his three matches. It is hoped that Smith will still be able to turn out for Bath, now that he has moved to live in London.

Abergavenny, newcomers to the League, found Bristol, led by Aubrey Simons, in tip top form and lost 8-1. Despite the wide margin they showed great fighting spirit, and Don Norris did well to beat D. Eneas, while Jack Price also took sets from Eneas and J. Evans.

Aubrey Simons was in scintillating form and won all his matches fairly comfortably.

Bristol 2nds were beaten 6-3 in this home match with Cheltenham. B. Brady, their under 17 star, played brilliantly for Bristol, beating both K. Edwards and A. Smith, while Morley Mordecai also beat Smith. Bob Griffin won all his three matches for Cheltenham.

Bristol ladies played Birmingham ladies who have returned to the league after an absence of four years, and won easily at 8-1. Birmingham were not at full strength and suffered in consequence. Mrs. Terry Spokes won all her three games as also did Miss J. Collier, but Mrs. J. Golding lost to Mrs. Carless, who also did well in her match against Mrs. Spokes, losing in the third at 19-21.

Birmingham ladies, making two changes from their Bristol match, were in devastating form against Newport, who were without town champion Mrs. C. Gray, and won 9-0.

Grove Motlow.



MARY SHANNON

YORKSHIRE NOTES

Both Stuart Dyson and Raymond Hinchliff are playing in Division Three of the Huddersfield League this season.

Raymond has helped Electric Sports to progress from Division Five and his teammates his season are Graham Walker and Mike Hancock, who also represents Halifax Juniors.

Now Stuart has joined the Hoyle Ing WMC side, in which his colleagues are D. Woodhead and B. King.

The former Yorkshire player, George Mitton, is with Salendine Nook, promoted to Division One. Early contenders for the championship are Milnsbridge YMCA, RAFA and YMCA Juniors.

Leeds gave early warning that they are all out to capture their 13th post-war Yorkshire women's championship.

At Bradford they trailed 2-4. Then Majorie Harrison beat Betty Clough 22-20 in the third, promising Linda Gordon pipped Joan Farnsworth 21-19, 22-20 and Marjorie Lightfoot and Shirley Riley gave them a 6-4 victory.

Despite a gallant show from Brian Starkie, who overcame Simpson and Ridge, Barnsley lost 6-4 to Sheffield.

Clive Pollard, who has moved from Hull to York, was unbeaten on his debut for the Minstermen, who defeated Bradford "B" 6-4.

The York League have a record 70 teams this season. The city's youth league is making a commendable effort to improve the future women's standard by ruling that each team must include at least one girl.

White Rose Annual (price 1s. 6d. plus postage) can be obtained from Walter Mitton, 16 The Whins, Newby, Scarborough. It contains everything about the game in Yorkshire and Alan Thompson writes on the value to players of watching and reading. I find it difficult to understand why there is not a really eager demand within the county for this excellent publication.

ALAN Thompson, Ken Park and Len Browning were table tennis friends at the funeral in Leeds of **Jim Suggitt**, a war-time Leeds champion and former Hampshire player.

A beautiful stylist, Jim was taken ill while abroad and never fully recovered. He was 36.

Malcolm Hartley

LANCS. and CHESHIRE

GREAT has been the jubilation in the North following the success of Manchester's Jeff Ingber in the "Top Ten" tournament and the announcement of the junior team to oppose Wales.

It was generally felt that Mike Symonds did not do himself full justice in the junior trials as emphasised by his defeat by David Stanley in the Mersey-side Open.

For the visit of Southport, Lancs. and Cheshire League champions Manchester retained Forshaw and Crusham of their winning team at Liverpool, Jack Clayton standing down to accommodate Peter Walmsley. This youthful trio were seldom extended in a 9-1 win.

One of the best matches seen in years

HULL'S NEW DATE

THE Hull and East Riding Open tournament was a victim of the polio epidemic in the city.

It was postponed ten days beforehand, partly because of the infection risk and also because entries were low following national publicity about the outbreak.

E.T.T.A. approval has been granted to stage the event on March 10 and the Hull Closed has been brought forward to January 13 to accommodate it.

The polio scare caused the suspension of all inter-league fixtures but the local league continued as usual.

emanated from the Burnley-Bolton clash which resulted in a draw. George Livesey was the mainstay of the East Lancashire team winning all his three singles.

In Division 2 (East) Blackpool, 8-2 winners over Oldham, would appear to have Barrow as chief obstacle to their first attempt return to the premier section. The men of Furness made the 190 miles round trip to Cheshire with a point from Stockport "A" as their reward.

Fellow demotees Wirral, this season with a much changed team, also staked their claim to a rapid ascent from Division 2 (West), J. Stoddart starring in their 7-3 defeat of Liverpool "A"

Manchester, last season's Ladies' Division 1 champions, got smartly off the mark in the now merged single division, crushing Liverpool 9-1

George R. Yates.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE TITBITS

L. J. BROOKS, father of Peter Brooks, a junior winner of the men's singles in the Bristol closed tournament has been appointed Press Secretary of Gloucestershire. Father and son are both enthusiasts about the game and prepared to devote all possible efforts to further the interest of the sport.

The omission of Peter Brooks and Dennis Holland from the recent England junior trials will long be a talking point in the county. It is felt that selectors have done a dis-service by ignoring them and that such action could have a bad effect on junior players.

Gloucestershire's senior side made heavy going of beating Warwickshire 5-4, when an off form Merrett lost to Baddeley.

"Onlooker"

STAFFORDSHIRE KNOTS

AS a reply to last month's article concerning the selection of older players, this month has been somewhat of a triumph for the "old firm." J. Robbins (Wolves), A. Hiscock (Walsall) and J. Osbourne (Stoke) have been busy defeating allcomers, especially in inter-town matches, where Robbins in particular has been outstanding. This situation has been to a certain degree accentuated by the

poor form of our county sides although D. Backhouse (West Brom.), M. Evans (Wolves) and B. Martin (Walsall) have had some success, and our reserves won 6-4 against Derbyshire 'A'.

As far as juniors are concerned, Staffs have had their usual spate of defeats although there is some hope for the future mainly due to work by A. Dunne (Stafford) and B. Hanson (Walsall) who have many youngsters under them with several seasons left as juniors.

Town matches have as yet to produce any shocks although Wolverhampton heralded their return to the Midland League with a very creditable draw at Leicester the league champions (Div. 2).

Mac. Evans

WARWICKS. WANDERINGS

NEW TO Warwickshire this season is a knock-out competition for all clubs in the county. These have proved very popular elsewhere. Clubs should get in touch with Mr. T. Sheffield, 230 Allesley Road, Coventry, as soon as possible.

Re-introduction of the inter-town league will help our selectors to check for any new prospects. Young players will be played, wherever possible, by the stronger towns.

The singles competition organised by the *Birmingham Sports Mail* is also running again this season. It is open only to non-representative players and many previous winners have since become county players. Let us have plenty of entries from the smaller towns instead of the usual 99% from Birmingham.

Anyone who wants to improve their game should go to Lilleshall for a weekend's coaching (next course Jan. 19/21). Organised by the Birmingham Association, these courses have been running successfully for seven years. (Details from Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.)

Roger Morris

NOTTINGHAM

NOTTINGHAM and District Table Tennis this season has 10 Divisions, and a Youth League, each containing 12 teams. During the summer, a Men's League and a Mixed League have been run, and both have proved very successful.

Chairman Ernie Taylor has been running his Coaching School during the summer months, and he is hoping to see the fruits of his labour during this season. President Clem Roberts, who has passed his Mid-Fifties (his age is a secret), is still playing in the First Division, and can still beat many of the top players with his unorthodox style.

D. Page

IRISH OPEN

THE Irish Open Championships which were originally to have taken place in Belfast will now be held at Dufferin Hall, Bangor, from January 18 to 20. Entries close on January 8 to the Organising Secretary, T. Huggins, 18 Fairview Gardens, Bangor, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.

MOORE'S WINNING COME-BACK

THE Surrey closed championships, heavily hit by the clash with the Sussex Open, gave those not always in the limelight a chance to shine. They took their chances boldly and Jimmy Moore, making a comeback after a three years lay off, emerged as the new men's singles champion.

After a semi-final win over Jackie Head, he went on to beat Bill Page, the Redhill and Reigate champion in two straight but hard fought games.

Page, making a rare appearance in town, had provided the shock of the meeting when he beat Ken Craigie, the only one of the big guns to be present.

Peggy Piper, despite sickness, swept through the ladies singles, which was played off in two groups. Her final victim was Joy Faulkner, whom she beat 21-19, 21-12.

Bad seeding brought England trialist Bob McKeown and Len Moore (No. 2 in the county) together in the first round of the boys singles and . . . it was exit Bobby! Moore, however, failed to consolidate his success and fell to Ken Glass, who in turn was beaten by Roy Petter (No. 4) in the three games final.

The girls singles was played off as one group and Janet Harrison, showing little sign that she had hardly touched a bat in the summer, took the title.

Men's Singles: J. MOORE bt W. Page 21-16, 21-18. **Women's Singles:** M. PIPER bt J. Faulkner 21-19, 21-12. **Boys' Singles:** R. PETTET bt K. Glass 21-15, 18-21, 21-18. **Girls' Singles:** J. HARRISON (won group).

Men's Doubles: K. GRAIGIE/J. HEAD bt R. McKeown/A. Lampe 21-18, 19-21, 11-17. **Women's Doubles:** PIPER/M. AUSTIN bt S. Prior/Faulkner 21-8, 21-16. **Mixed Doubles:** HEAD/Miss PIPER bt Graigie/Miss Faulkner 21-16, 21-7.

Surrey's hopes of regaining the Premier Division title, took a shattering knock with a defeat by Lancashire.

To have three players invited to the "Top Ten" was a return to our more glorious days. Mary Shannon, losing only to Di Rowe, once again demonstrated that only time and more experience is needed to reach the number one role among England's women.

It was unfortunate for Miss Piper that her chance should come in the middle of a three weeks' spell of illness and when she is battling to hold the singles place in the county team.

Dave Lowe obviously merited his chance, but in play demonstrated his lack of consistency. He has spells when he practices intensely for extended periods and then tends to fall off for almost as long. Steadier practice Dave and you'll be back yet.

In her first singles for the Premier team Hary Shannon accounted for Lancashire's Mrs. Jones.

Happy general note is that many of the Leagues in the county report higher numbers of registered players this year. If only a small fraction of them would occasionally support tournaments and county matches how happy the treasurer would be.

Jim Forrest



MIDDLESEX GOOD START

A very bright start to the season for the County Side. Apart from running the Rest very closely in the challenge match (4-5), they beat Kent, Lancashire and Yorkshire, 6-3, 6-3 and 7-2 respectively. The Bernard Crouch Trophy team beat Surrey 6-3 while the Juniors beat Cambridgeshire 10-0 and Herts 6-4.

Congratulations to Brian Wright on being selected for England to play Denmark and also for England in the Quadrangular Internationals.

Margaret Fry was once again elected on to the N.E.C. of the E.T.T.A. as the Woman's representative while Laurie Landry gets on for the first time as a National Member.

Dick Webb, of Willesden, is a new face on the Middlesex Executive. He becomes the new Inter-League Secretary while Lou Hofman of North Middlesex and Harry Archer of Staines, are also new members of the Committee.

THREE ESSEX JUNIORS RANKED

FOR the first time for many years three Essex players have been included in the English Junior ranking lists, Lesley Bell as top girl, with Beverley Sayer as joint No. 2, and Chester Barnes as No. 5 boy. An immediate reward for Beverley was a place in the England junior team against Wales on November 24.

Essex juniors continue to do well in open tournaments. Lesley Bell won the Kent title and two under-15's doubles, while Chester Barnes was the winner at Portsmouth and Folkestone, giving his three wins out of four tournaments entered.

Linda Heywood had a unique record when she made her debut for Romford's second team, the day before her 12th birthday, and before she had a chance of playing for Romford Juniors.

County President Johnny Leach proved he can still be a power on the table with two doubles titles in the Sussex Open.

Second team matches and the new under-25 campaign are now ready to get under way and all eyes will be on results to see if the scheme bears fruit.

GEORGE WENHAM.

KENT UMPIRE SHORTAGE

THIS month it is nice to be able to comment on a player who, while not quite making the headlines, must be one of the most consistent performers in Kent table tennis. Kent League records tend to get overlooked but there cannot be a player with a better record than John Nixon of Beckenham 'A'.

Beckenham 'A' have played 75 matches in Division I of the Kent League and John Nixon has played in every one. Apart from this very good record Nixon has twice been in the final of the Kent Closed Championships, has represented Kent's second team four times and is the only player from the Beckenham League to be awarded a county badge.

In addition to his excellent playing record John Nixon has a flair for administration, serving on tournament and selection committees, and has been representative match secretary for Beckenham for many seasons. All in all a remarkable achievement considering that the majority of players nowadays want nothing to do with administration problems.

This brings me to my next point; the shortage of County Umpires. At one time Kent had, probably, more qualified umpires than any other county, but this is no longer the case due to some umpires moving from the county and also, which is far more serious, the lack of new recruits for the county umpire scheme.

County Umpire secretary Geoff. Owen mentioned this problem at a recent Kent Executive meeting and managed to get three or four candidates from the members present so I am sure that it is only necessary to encourage budding umpires to take the first step and accept a test paper. Once this has been done prospective umpires will see that providing they have a commonsense approach to the game there is nothing to be afraid of.

County Knock-out secretary Geoff. Murray has made an excellent start in his new job by doubling the entries for both men's and ladies' events. However, despite this the ladies entry still stands at only nine teams and all of these come from the north-west of the county except for Folkestone. Really ladies, I am sure you can do much better next year.

One welcome item of news is the return of Joan Beadle to Division I (ladies) of the Kent League. From now on Joan will be playing with Gravesend and this will make them a force to be reckoned with.

Mike Grady.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UPby **FRANK BATEMAN****MIDDLESEX and GLOUCESTERSHIRE UNBEATEN**

WHAT a great night it will be on December 9th when the two unbeaten teams in the premier division, Middlesex and Gloucestershire, clash at the Brady Club and Settlement, Hanbury Street, E.1, 7 p.m.

The champions gained four more points in November by defeating Lancashire at home and Yorkshire away, an interesting feature of this latter match was that two eighteen-year-olds were making their county first team debuts. Although Brian Wright won easily, Peter Duncombe put up a good show against his international opponent and many people feel he has a bright future.

Gloucestershire with Ian Harrison in the side kept up their 5-4 sequence with a hard fought win over Kent—a match full of surprises with Molly Jones' win over Joyce Fielder and Kent's men's doubles success.

Surrey made a bad start against Lancashire, and although Tony Miller got off to an 8-2 start against Jeff Ingber they were soon 3 sets down. The men's doubles was very exciting, George Muranyi playing class stuff to help Ken Craigie. Mary Shannon was much too good for Moya Jones.

Warwickshire were comfortable winners against the other newcomers to the premier division—Hertfordshire—despite Judy Williams' win

**JUDY WILLIAMS**

over Pam Mortimer. Hertfordshire missed Terry Densham.

In the second division (West) Devon owed their win over Somerset to their ladies, Joan Crosby and Doreen Spooner. Somerset hope that

their former international Adele Pettifer's retirement is only temporary!

Former England and Middlesex junior Brian Hamill turned out for Devon; and their young No. 1 B. Davis, although losing his games, showed good footwork, fast anticipation and forceful attacking style (both back and forehand).

In their second division (North) match against Lincolnshire, Yorkshire were 5-4 up before the final set, when Doug McGarry beat Shearer 21-17 in the 3rd to clinch both points.

Durham had wins over both Cheshire and Lancashire in the Junior Division (N). Highlight of the latter match was the game between Denis Neale and Michael Symonds. Neither player would be forced on to the defence and the outcome was some fine counter hitting, which drew prolonged applause from the appreciative spectators. It was like old times!

Gloucestershire proved too strong for Oxfordshire in the Junior Division (M) and jumped into a 5-0 lead with the loss of only a single game. Oxfordshire fought back after Miss Daniels registered their first win at the expense of Miss Davis who was making her debut for the county, and eventually succeeded in winning 3 sets. The star of the Gloucestershire side was D. Holland who only lost a total of 25 points in his two singles. Miss Daniels played extremely well for Oxfordshire, and Stanley Hahn, after a disappointing start scored an excellent win over Morley Mordeca.

Middlesex jump to the top of the Junior Division (E) table with a 6-4 win over Hertfordshire—the latter beaten 7-3 by the strong Essex side. Hero of the Hertfordshire side in this match was Brian Sykes who beat both Danny Pryor and Chester Barnes. The other Hertfordshire success was Peter Williams who beat Denis Kerrison.

C. Lipscombe registered Cambridgeshire juniors first success of the season when he defeated E. Sharp 21-9, 22-20 in their match against Suffolk. Suffolk won 9-1.

Although Geoffrey French won both his singles and Stores beat Pauline Holes, Kent went down 4-6 in their home match against Hampshire in Junior Division (S).

The only Sussex win in their junior match against Surrey was the girls doubles. Sussex lost one game by default as one of their boys did not arrive until midway through the match. Although the car taking the party to Vauxhall waited 20 minutes

COUNTY DIARY**PREMIER DIVISION**

December 9 Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Brady Club and Settlement, Hanbury Street, E.1 7 p.m.
Hertfordshire v Lancashire
Kent v Yorkshire, County Police H.Q., Sutton Road, Maidstone 7 p.m.
Surrey v Warwickshire, Colman Institute, Redhill 7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

December 9 Suffolk v Essex, St. Margaret's Institute, Lowestoft 7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

December 9 Dorset v Wiltshire, Athletic Club, Broadstone 7 p.m.
Cornwall v Somerset, The Institute, Polcooth, St. Austell 7.15 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

December 9 Bedfordshire v Oxfordshire, Crystallo Canteen, Woburn Road, Kempston, nr. Bedford 7.30 p.m.
Glamorganshire v Worcestershire

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

December 9 Cheshire v Northumberland, Macclesfield 7 p.m.
Durham v Lincolnshire, Darlington 7 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

December 9 Nottinghamshire v Staffordshire 7 p.m.
Derbyshire v Warwickshire, Burton-on-Trent

SOUTHERN DIVISION

December 2 Worcestershire v Norfolk

JUNIOR DIVISION MIDLAND

December 9 Warwickshire v Oxfordshire, Birmingham Gas T.T.C., Devon Street, Birmingham 7 5.30 p.m.
Gloucestershire v Staffordshire

JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH

December 2 Durham v Yorkshire, Middlesborough 3 p.m.
Cheshire v Lancashire

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

December 9 Kent v Sussex, County Police H.Q., Sutton Road, Maidstone 2.30 p.m.
Surrey v Hampshire, Higgs and Hill, Vauxhall 4 p.m.

at the rendezvous—Three Bridges Station—he could not be found although he was actually there. Is the moral—take a reserve if you can?—not in every case would the missing player have the initiative to complete the journey by train.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P.	W.	L.	Games		P.
				F.	A.	
Middlesex	3	3	0	19	8	6
Gloucestershire	3	3	0	15	12	6
Surrey	3	2	1	18	9	4
Lancashire	3	2	1	14	13	4
Warwickshire	2	1	1	11	7	2
Kent	2	0	2	7	11	0
Hertfordshire	3	0	3	8	19	0
Yorkshire	3	0	3	6	21	0

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Games		P.
					F.	A.	
Hampshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Essex	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Sussex	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Kent	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Suffolk	2	0	1	1	8	12	1

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Devon	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Cornwall	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Dorset	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Wiltshire	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Somerset	1	0	0	0	4	6	0

SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Glamorgan	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Oxfordshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Worcestershire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Staffordshire	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	6	14	0

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Cheshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Lincolnshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Durham	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Northumberland	1	0	0	1	1	9	0

MIDLAND DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Warwickshire	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Nottighamshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Staffordshire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Derbyshire	2	0	0	2	8	12	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Buckingham	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Hertfordshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Cambridgeshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Norfolk	1	0	1	0	9	11	1
Worcestershire	1	0	0	1	2	8	0

JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Warwickshire	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Gloucestershire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Staffordshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	12	4	4
Durham	2	2	0	0	11	5	4
Lancashire	2	0	0	2	6	10	0
Cheshire	2	0	0	2	3	13	0

JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Hampshire	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Surrey	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Kent	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Sussex	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Middlesex	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Suffolk	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Essex	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Hertfordshire	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Cambridgeshire	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Surrey 4, Lancs. 5
 K. Craigie lost to R. Allcock —11, 22, —13; lost to J. Clayton —15, —15. J. Somogyi lost to Clayton —17, 19, —23; lost to J. Ingber —16, —11, A. Miller lost to Ingber —17, —9; bt Allcock 20, 12.
 Miss M. Shannon bt Mrs. M. Jones 6, 5. Craigie/G. Muranyi bt Clayton/Ingber 16, 18.
 Muranyi/Miss M. Piper bt Allcock/Mrs. Jones —16, 10, 10.

Middlesex 6, Lancs. 3

M. Thornhill lost to R. Allcock 15, —18, —18; lost to J. Clayton —12, —13. A. Rhodes bt Clayton 8, 12; lost to Ingber —13, —19. S. Jacobson bt Ingber 19, 14; bt Allcock —19, 15, 13.
 Miss D. Rowe bt Mrs. M. Jones 6, 14.
 Jacobson/Rhodes bt Ingber/Clayton 19, 15.
 Thornhill/Miss Rowe bt Allcock/Mrs. Jones 15, 14.

Warwickshire 7, Hertfordshire 2

W. Gallagher lost to G. Bebb —17, 13, —14; bt B. Barr 19, 17. D. Baddeley bt Barr 10, 14; bt J. Hunt 13, 16. C. Cadwallader bt Hunt 16, 16; bt Bebb 5, —14, 10.
 Miss P. Mortimer lost to Miss J. Williams —15, 19, —17.
 Cadwallader/Gallagher bt Bebb/Hunt 19, 17.
 Baddeley/Miss Mortimer bt Barr/Miss Williams —13, 11, 13.

Gloucestershire 5, Kent 4

R. Griffith lost to K. Jarvis 14, —15, —17; lost to H. Buist —21, 15, —20. I. Harrison bt A. Piddock 15, 17; bt Buist 7, 17. B. Merrett, bt Piddock 21, 16; bt Jarvis 13, 10.
 Miss M. Jones bt Miss J. Fielder 17, 13. Harrison/Merrett lost to Buist/Piddock —21, 9, —16.
 Griffiths/Miss Jones lost to Jarvis/Miss Fielder 17, —15, —13.

YORKSHIRE 2 MIDDLESEX 7

P. Duncombe lost to B. Wright —13, —17; lost to S. Jacobson —17, —13; R. Hinchliffe lost to Jacobson —20, —15; bt A. Rhodes —15, 16, 17; M. Simpson lost

to Rhodes —17, —13, lost to Wright —11, —11.
 Miss K. Best lost to Miss D. Rowe —15, —16.
 Hinchliffe/Simpson bt Rhodes/Jacobson 20, —20, 20.
 Duncombe/Miss Best lost to Wright/Miss Rowe —18, —15.

SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

Kent 4, Hampshire 6.

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

Somerset 4, Devon 6.

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

Yorkshire 6, Lincolnshire 4.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Cambridgeshire 4, Hertfordshire 6.

JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)

Gloucester 7, Oxfordshire 3.

JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)

Durham 5, Lancashire 3.

Durham 6, Cheshire 2.

JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)

Kent 4, Hampshire 6.

Surrey 3, Sussex 1.

JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)

Hertfordshire 4, Middlesex 6.

Cambridgeshire 1, Suffolk 9.

Essex 7, Hertfordshire 3.

Helen Elliot

A VERY happy event for Helen on Tuesday, November 14—a tiny, beautiful baby daughter. Both mother and baby are keeping well.

A lot of people in many places will be wishing both of them all the luck in the world. Few deserve it more.

Jack Hillan.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—Helen lost her husband, Bob Dykes, who died after a heart attack in October.

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EVANS—FIRST

OXFORDSHIRE WINNER

SEVENTEEN-year-old Evan Lloyd of Oxford Y.M.C.A. won the men's singles and the doubles with C. Jackson in Oxfordshire's first - ever invitation tournament at the Osberton Radiator Works Canteen on November 5. Players from Banbury, Reading, High Wycombe, Henley, Newbury, Didcot, Maidenhead, Oxford and District and Oxford University took part.

The highlight of the meeting was the men's doubles final, which went the full distance of five games and will be remembered for many a long day to come.

There were long and exciting rallies with fierce attacking play from Lloyd and Jackson, and superb retrieving by C. Collins and A. Davies. The climax came, when at 19-all in the final game, Jackson made a bold and daring forehand smash down Davies' forehand side to clinch a vital point lead. The Didcot pair stepped up the excitement as they levelled at 20-all and it was touch and go before Lloyd and Jackson secured the next two points.

Ray Cox (P. Steel Club), 17, did particularly well to reach the third round of the singles before losing to Lloyd and there was some fine play from David Harse (Ox. Co-op), who eventually lost in the third round to G. Pullin (Didcot), who had also accounted for Stanley Hahn (E.O.C.C.). Hahn was disappointing as he was in the junior international trials, where he lost all his four matches.

RESULTS

Men's Singles, Semi-Finals: E. LLOYD (Oxford) bt A. Davies (Didcot) 21-17, 21-14. D. S. HEAPS (Reading) bt G. Collins (Didcot) 21-16, 21-16.

Final: LLOYD bt Heaps 21-15, 21-17, 21-19.

Men's Doubles, Semi-Finals: G. COLLINS/A. DAVIES (Didcot) bt A. Foster/D. Campbell (Newbury) 21-17, 19-21, 21-13. C. JACKSON/E. LLOYD (Oxford) bt A. Evans (Oxford)/D. Heaps (Reading) 21-11, 21-17.

Final: JACKSON/LLOYD bt Davies/Collins 24-22, 16-21, 21-17, 18-21, 22-20.

Mixed Doubles, Semi-Finals: P. HARDY/Mrs. B. HARDY (Witney) bt I. Bennett/Miss C. Southern (Newbury) 21-9, 21-9. R. HOPKINS/Mrs. G. VENEER (Reading) bt C. Jackson/Miss R. Daniels (Oxford) 21-14, 14-21, 21-13.

Final: HOPKINS/Mrs. G. VENEER bt P. Hardy/Mrs. B. Hardy 21-11, 21-19.

Oxfordshire made a winning debut in the Second Division of the county championship, beating Staffordshire 6-4. They won five of the six men's singles and also the men's doubles. Their next match is away to Bedfordshire on December 9, the same day as their juniors travel to Warwickshire.

D. E. Thompson.

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FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are *additional* to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D. and X.D. in every case. Tournaments 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 possible date.

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Dec. 16-17	Middlesex Open (Nov. 30) Hanwell Community Centre, Westcott Crescent, Hanwell, London, W.7.	J.B.S. J.G.S.	G. James, 19, St. Ann's Villas, Kensington, W.11.
1962			
Jan. 1-6	ENGLISH CLOSED Manor Place Baths, Walworth, London, S.E.17.		
12-13	WELSH OPEN Drill Hall, Dumfries Place, Cardiff.	J.B.S. J.G.S.	Mrs. H. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Cardiff. Tel.: Cardiff 34744.
13	Lancashire Open (Jan. 3) De Havilland Aircraft Co. Lostock, Bolton, Lancs.	J.B.S. J.G.S. V.S.	A. Howcroft, 94, Bradford Street, Farnworth, Bolton, Lancs.
Jan. 18-20	IRISH OPEN (Jan. 8) Duffern Hall, Bangor, Co. Down, N. Ireland.	J.B.S. J.G.S.	T. Huggins, 18, Fairview Gardens, Bangor, Co. Down.
20	Bath Open (Jan. 8) Drill Hall and St. Peters Hall, Lower Bristol Road, Bath.	J.B.S.	J. A. Butcher, 1, South View Road, Bath.
20	Pontefract Open (A) Assembly Rooms and Town Hall, Pontefract.	Y.S. V.S.	T. Horrocks, 4, Bondgate, Pontefract, Yorks.
Jan. 27	Gloucester Junior Open Gloucester.		
27	Hartlepool Open (A) Hartlepool Trading Centre Canteen, West Hartlepool.	J.B.S.	S. Parker, 12, Stirling Street, West Hartlepool.
27-28	Kent Open Marine Pavilion, Folkestone, Kent.	Y.S.B. Y.S.G.	F. G. Mannoch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.
Jan. 28	West of Scotland Open Headquarters Club, 21, Taylor Street, Glasgow, C.4.	J.S.	Gwillian Brown, 2 up, 126, Adamwell Street, Glasgow, N.1.
Feb. 3	South Yorks Open (Jan. 27) Somme Barracks, West Street, Sheffield, Yorks.	J.S.B.	A. Heed, 1, Poplar Avenue, Beighton, Nr. Sheffield, Yorks.
4	Hythe Invitation Hythe, Kent.		
10	Midland Open (Jan. 31) Friends Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.	J.S.B. J.S.G. V.S.	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.
10-12	FRENCH OPEN		
17	Grimsby Open (Feb. 10) Augusta Street, Barracks, Grimsby.	J.S.B.	H. G. Vincent, 4, Orby Grove, Grimsby.
17-18	South of England Open (Feb. 1) Aurelia Road, Croydon, Surrey.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	S. H. Buchan, 124, Portnalls Road, Coulsdon, Surrey.
19-24	ENGLISH OPEN		E.T.T.A., 652, Grand Bldgs., Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.
21-25	RUMANIAN OPEN		
24-25	GERMAN (WEST) OPEN St. Ingbert, Saarbrücken.		
Mar. 3	West of England Open Civic Hall, Exeter, Devon.	J.S.B. J.S.G. J.D.	J. E. Fry, Two Trees, The Silvers, Clyst Road, Topsham, Exeter, Devon.
3	Cheshire Junior Open Livingstone Street Baths Birkenhead, Cheshire	Under-15 B.S. G.S.	R. A. Bissell, 75, Southdale Road, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Cheshire.
10-11	Bucks. Open (Feb. 17) Slough Community Centre Farnham Road, Slough, Bucks.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	L. Thompson, "Auchmead," The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraysbury, Bucks.

MERSEYSIDE OPENby **LAURIE LANDRY****TRIPLE SUCCESS FOR MARY**

THE outstanding performance in the Merseyside Open, held in the spacious Dunlop canteen at Speke, on November 10-11, was the triple success of Mary Shannon.

In the women's singles final she beat Lesley Bell, an excellent match in which neither girl was afraid to have a go. Mary's all-round improvement, particularly in defence, was the cause of her victory.

Two surprises in this event were the defeats of the second and third seeds Joyce Fielder and Diane Wright. Miss Fielder was overwhelmed by Miss Bell while Miss Wright lost to her Cheshire team-mate Doreen Schofield, who in turn lost to Alma Taft.

Miss Shannon won the women's doubles with Miss Taft. The final against Miss Bell and Margaret Fry was their hardest match and was extremely well-fought out, the winners getting the verdict by a fairly narrow margin.

Miss Shannon's third title was the mixed doubles with Brian Wright. This youthful pair beat George Livesey and Diane Wright in the final in straight games. Livesey and Miss Wright had some very hard matches to reach this stage. It was 19 in the third against Bobby Stevens and Lesley Bell and 24-22 in the third against Mike Ellis and Joyce Fielder.

The men's singles was very nearly a repeat of the

North of England, having three of the same semi-finalists. Somogyi, however, just scraped the first game against Michael Creamer after being well down and reversed their Manchester result. Somogyi lost in the final to Jack Clayton. Both players picked out their chances to hit which made the match close, interesting and enjoyable to watch.

Clayton was earlier taken to 18 in the third by Brian Wright and also taken to three by Ron Allcock while Somogyi beat Duncombe from Doncaster, who had earlier caused a major surprise with a straight game win over seeded Alan Lindsay. Michael Creamer beat top seeded Lauri Landry quite easily, his two-winged attack making him too fast for his opponent. Landry showed improved form, however, in beating Derek Baddeley who was not allowed to utilise his top-spin effectively. Allcock and Stevens had a fast and interesting game whilst Clayton and Wright repeated Manchester victories over Muranyi and Densham respectively.

Livesey and Kershaw Shine

Livesey and Kershaw shone in the men's doubles where they first beat Muranyi and Stevens and then Densham and Creamer before losing to Allcock and Vin Hankey, who subsequently went out to Clayton and Schofield in the semi-finals. Wright and Lindsay easily defeated Somogyi and Lajos Kerekes in the other semi. The final was fairly good with the defensive, Clayton and Schofield picking out some good hits and making the match go the full distance. Wright and Lindsay eventually proved too strong.

Lesley Bell went through the formality of winning the girls' singles, whilst Dennis Neale and Michael Symonds put on a wonderful show in the boys' final. Their counter-hitting rallies brought continuous and deserved applause. Neale got away sharply to a good lead in the third and went on to win 21-16, 13-21, 21-10.

RESULTS

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: J. CLAYTON (Lancashire) bt R. Allcock (Lancashire) 21-16, 13-21, 21-10, J. SOMOGYI (Surrey) bt M. Creamer (Middlesex) 23-21, 12-21, 21-16.

Final: CLAYTON bt Somogyi 20-22, 21-17, 21-19.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt A. Taft (Herts) 21-8, 21-11, L. BELL (Essex) bt J. Fielder (Kent) 21-12, 21-8.

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

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: B. WRIGHT/A. LINDSAY (Middlesex) bt J. Somogyi/L. Kerekes (Surrey) 21-12, 21-7, D. SCHOFIELD (Cheshire)/CLAYTON bt V. Hankey (Cheshire)/Allcock 13-21, 21-18, 21-6.

Final: WRIGHT/LINDSAY bt Schofield/Clayton 21-17, 18-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: SHANNON/TAFT bt B. Carless/D. Griffiths (Warwicks) 21-15, 21-19, M. FRY (Middlesex)/BELL bt C. Spencer/D. Fitzgerald 21-13, 21-10.

Final: SHANNON/TAFT bt Fry/Bell 21-18, 13-21, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: WRIGHT/MISS SHANNON bt Creamer/Taft 21-16, 15-21, 21-14, LIVESEY/MISS WRIGHT bt M. Ellis/Fielder (Kent) 21-10, 14-21, 24-22.

Final: WRIGHT/SHANNON bt Livesey/Wright 21-18, 21-15.

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: D. NEALE (Durham) bt B. Marsden (Lancashire) 21-13, 21-15, M. SYMONDS (Lancashire) bt D. Stanley (Yorkshire) 21-12, 24-22.

Final: NEALE bt Symonds 21-16, 13-21, 21-10.

Girls' Singles. Semi-Finals: BELL bt P. Dainty (Yorkshire) 21-16, 21-19, L. PROUDLOCK (Yorkshire) bt J. Harrison (Lancashire) 21-6, 21-6.

Final: BELL bt Proudlock 21-5, 21-15.

Veterans' Singles. Semi-Finals: H. SPIERS (Warwickshire) bt N. Lusher (Yorkshire) 21-12, 21-6, H. NIXON (Lancashire) bt M. Crawford (Lancashire) 21-9, 23-21.

Final: SPIERS bt Nixon 21-15, 21-10.

BOURNEMOUTH OPEN**DOUBLE FOR HARRISON**

IAN HARRISON collected two titles in the Bournemouth Approved Open at the Territorial Drill Hall on November 19. He beat G. Whalley of Sussex in the men's singles final, then partnered Michael Maclaren to beat the juniors Chester Barnes and Bob McKeown in the men's doubles final.

Former international Margaret Fry was successful in the women's singles, while Mrs. Sheila Foster and Mrs. Ivy Sawyer took the women's doubles. The mixed went to Brian Midgley and Christine Holes.

Chester Barnes proved just too strong for Morley Mordecai in the junior mixed singles.

With an entry of nearly 400—166 for the men's singles alone—it called for some slick organisation to get this one day programme through by 11 p.m. and in this the Bournemouth officials can give a lesson to some of the other tournaments. There was no waste of time with players being held at the table side to take over as soon as the previous match was finished.

RESULTS

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: 1, HARRISON bt G. Chapman 21-18, 21-10, G. WHALLEY bt R. Bowles 21-17, 21-14.

Final: HARRISON bt Whalley 21-11, 21-12.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: M. FRY bt J. Wilson 19-21, 21-12, 21-15, Mrs. S. FOSTER bt P. Venus 21-8, 21-17.

Final: FRY bt Foster 7-21, 21-17, 21-14.

Men's Doubles. Final: HARRISON/M. MACLAREN bt C. Barnes/R. McKeown 16-21, 21-11, 21-9.

Women's Doubles. Final: FOSTER/Mrs. I. SAWYER bt Mrs. D. Burnett/Mrs. V. Harnsworth 16-21, 21-18, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles. Final: B. MIDGELEY/Miss C. HOLES bt A. Herbert/Mrs. Harnsworth 21-18, 21-17.

Junior Mixed Singles. Semi-Finals: M. MORDECAI bt McKeown 16-21, 21-19, 21-17, BARNES bt P. Scott 21-5, 22-20.

Final: BARNES bt Mordecai 21-14, 19-21, 21-12.

KENT JUNIOR OPEN

Overseas Challenge Halted

SUSSEX youngsters Chester Barnes and Lesley Bell put a brake on the strong overseas challenger from France and Belgium, plus Okine Quaye, of Ghana, in the Kent Junior Open at Folkestone on November 4-5. They won the under-17's singles titles, teamed up to win the under-15's mixed doubles, and in addition Miss Bell also won the under-15's girls' doubles with Kay Stokes of Kent.

Quaye, winner of the boys' under-15's singles last season flew over especially to defend his title but was beaten in the second round by Barnes. However, Quaye did better in the under-17's event, where he lost in the semi-final to Germain Hermann, of France. He was also losing finalist with Kay Stokes in the under-15's mixed doubles, being beaten over three games by Barnes and Bell.

Barnes, unseeded in the senior event, had a comfortable draw his first serious opposition coming from Sterk of Belgium whom he beat 15-21, 21-19, 21-14. He then went on to overcome Bristol's Barry Brady, who had previously achieved a good win over Boston Brian Hill, conqueror of Brian Sykes.

The other half of the draw went as expected with Quaye beating Bob McKeown (Surrey) and Tony Robinson (Middx.), who had accounted for Detaille of Belgium. But he found Hermann too strong in the semi-final. In the quarter finals Hermann beat Danny Pryor (Essex), who had early disposed of Mordecai (Glos.).

Barnes was a decisive winner in the final even though he dropped the middle game.

Lesley Bell had a revenge win over Josianne Cornelis in the girls' final, the Belgian having beaten her the previous day in the under-15's event.

All French

The boys' doubles final was an all-French affair, Hermann and Secretin, who had disposed of Barnes and Quaye in the semi-final, beating Garaffi and Roesch. There was a Belgium success in the girls' doubles final when Cornelis and Stas beat below-form Essex twins Beverley and Gloria Sayer.

Brian Sykes and Jackie Canham stopped an overseas domination of the doubles when they won the mixed with a final win over Detaille and Cornelis.

Barnes accounted for three overseas players, Quaye, Secretin and Van Elewiler before losing to the French boy Roesch in the under-15's final.

The big surprise of the under-15's girls' singles was the defeat of England's joint No. 2 junior, Beverley Sayer, by 11-year-old Linda Henwood, but the title went to Belgium.

Miss Henwood, winner of the under-11's for the past two years, stepped up to win the under-13's girls' singles, the boys' title going to Secretin, of France.

Belgium proved much too strong for Kent in the representative matches, winning the boys' 7-2 and the girls' 5-0.

RESULTS

UNDER-17's:

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: G. HERMANN (France) bt O. Quaye (Ghana) 21-19, 16-21, 22-20. C. BARNES (Essex) bt B. Brady (Gloucester) 21-14, 21-9. Final: BARNES bt Hermann 21-14, 18-21, 21-12.

Girls' Singles. Semi-Finals: J. CORNELIS (Belgium) bt P.

Dainty (Yorkshire) 21-19, 21-11. L. BELL (Essex) bt J. Canham (Hertfordshire) 21-13, 21-15. Final: BELL bt Cornelis 22-20, 21-15.

Boys' Doubles. Final: HERMANN/J. SECRETIN (France) bt A. Garaffi/C. Roesch (France) 15-21, 21-16, 21-17. Girls' Doubles: CORNELIS/M. STAS (Belgium) bt B. Sayer/G. Sayer (Essex) 21-14, 21-7. Mixed Doubles: B. SYKES/Miss J. CANHAM (Hertfordshire) bt G. Detaille/Miss Cornelis (Belgium) 19-21, 21-12, 21-18.

UNDER-15's:

Boys' Singles: ROESCH bt Barnes 21-15, 22-20. Girls' Singles: CORNELIS bt G. Sayer 21-3, 21-17.

Boys' Doubles: GARAFFI/ROESCH bt P. Van Elewiler (Belgium)/ Quaye 21-15, 21-14. Girls' Doubles: BELL/K. STOKES (Kent) bt Sayer/Sayer 21-19, 21-17. Mixed Doubles: BARNES/Miss BELL bt Quaye/Miss Stokes 14-21, 21-19, 21-15.

UNDER-13's:

Boys' Singles: SECRETIN bt D. Corbett (Kent) 21-11, 21-11. Girls' Singles: L. ENWOOD (Essex) bt J. Harrison (Surrey) 16-21, 21-13, 21-11.

Boys' Doubles: P. HARMER (Bedfordshire)/G. SALTER (Middlesex) bt Corbett/T. Wilby (Hertfordshire) 21-19, 23-21. Girls' Doubles: HARRISON/HENWOOD bt P. Bonner (Somerset)/L. Thompson (Hants) 21-10, 17-21, 21-14.

UNDER-11's:

Boys' Singles: HARMER bt M. Thomas (Wales) 21-17, 21-10. Girls' Singles: K. SMITH (Middlesex) bt S. Sandy (Kent) 21-9, 21-16.

BIRMINGHAM OPEN

FINALISTS

THE Birmingham Open turned into a fiasco with the men's singles and doubles titles being conceded by default when Mike Creamer and Terry Densham went out for a meal and missed the finals. Josef Somgyi was awarded the singles, and Henry Buist and Tony Piddock the doubles.

Creamer and Densham have been reported to the E.T.T.A. for their untimely action, which placed the organisers in an embarrassing position.

Maurice Goldstein, the organising secretary, said, "We played off all the other finals when Creamer and Densham could not be found and held on as long as we could. We had to be out of the hall by 10 p.m. and when they were still missing with less than half-an-hour to go we had no alternative but to abandon the two finals."

The two offending players have apologised and Creamer explaining their absence said, "I had been playing all day without anything to eat and slipped out for a meal. It took longer than expected but we were away only an hour and did not know that everything had to be over by 10 p.m."

Big upset

The big upset of the men's singles was the first round defeat of Tony Piddock by Kevin Forshaw, who went on to reach the semi-final where he fell to Creamer.

Judy Williams, the Hertfordshire player who is now studying at Birmingham University scored a fine win in the women's singles, gaining a two straight win over

SUSSEX OPEN

TITLE FOR RHODES

THE Sussex Open at Hastings on October 28-29 once again proved its popularity, attracting ten of the fifteen ranked men and four of the seven women.

In the top quarter, 21-year-old Indian, Arun Khanna, a Middlesex second team player, gave Ian Harrison quite a shock. Ian scraped the first, just lost the second and only pulled away in the latter stages of the third (19, —21, 18). Alan Rhodes skipped through his early rounds and played superb table tennis to beat Harrison 11 and 19.

Meanwhile, Brian Wright was fighting his way to the semi-final with wins over Stan Jacobson and Bobby Raybould, both in three games. Raybould had shown improved form in beating ranked players, Lindsay and Buist. In the quarter-final, Wright played magnificently against Densham in the first game and just got through in a close second.

In the other half, Jack Clayton did not arrive allowing little-known Collins to reach the quarters where he lost to Piddock. Piddock had just got by against Somogyi (19 in the third), who in turn had beaten second seed Shead.

Last of the semi-finalists was Derek Schofield who beat Tony Miller. Both semi-finals followed the same pattern—very closely fought first game, the winner running away with the second.

The final was very exciting as far as scores were concerned. Rhodes just got the first 22-20 and then went to a 20-12 lead in the second. Rhodes then seemed to hold himself back perhaps thinking of his loss to Piddock in the county match. Piddock responded and picked out some nice hits to draw level only for Rhodes to pull himself together and win 23-21.

Diane Rowe added the women's singles to her North of England title. Betty Bird, making a re-appearance after her second child, took Diane closest (19, 17), whilst Mary Shannon lost to Diane for the second tournament running after beating Jill Mills in three, also for the second time.

Joyce Fielder reached the final beating Jean McCree in the semi-final and Pam Mortimer in the closest of early rounds (—19, 19, 19). The final was fairly one-sided once again showing that there is a large gap between Diane Rowe and the next few.

There were two matches in the women's Singles in which the expedite rule had to be enforced. Joyce Fielder and Mrs. A. Woodford (Sussex) and Alma Taft and Doreen Griffiths (Warwicks) were the players involved.

Johnny Leach did not enter the singles but he showed that he is still to be reckoned with, winning both doubles, the men's with young David Creamer, and mixed with Diane Rowe.

The new partnership of Ian Harrison and Brian Wright went out to East of England champions Densham and Hodson by the narrowest of margins. Lindsay and Jacobson reached the final which was closely fought though only good in patches.

Lindsay was also on the losing side in the mixed final. He and his young partner, Mary Shannon, were beaten in a thriller 25-23 in the third.

Mary Shannon played with Pam Mortimer for the first time, to win the women's doubles from Diane Rowe and Jill Mills in a good final.

Lou Hoffman won the veteran's in his first year of age.

RESULTS

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: A. RHODES (Middlesex) bt B. Wright (Middlesex) 22-20, 21-13. A. PIDDOCK (Kent) bt D. Schofield (Cheshire) 24-22, 21-12.

Final: RHODES bt Piddock 22-20, 23-21.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: D. ROWE (Middlesex) bt M. Shannon (Surrey) 21-22, 21-19. J. FIELDER (Kent) bt J. McCree (Essex) 21-19, 21-16.

Final: ROWE bt Fielder 21-10, 21-14.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: J. LEACH (Essex)/D. CREAMER (Middlesex) bt Piddock/H. Buist (Kent) 21-14, 21-17. A. LINDSAY/S. JACOBSON (Middlesex) bt R. Stevens/R. Raybould (Essex) 21-15, 21-19.

Final: LEACH/CREAMER bt Lindsay/Jacobson 21-18, 8-21, 24-22.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: P. MORTIMER (Warwickshire)/SHANNON bt McCree/E. Carrington (Essex) 21-11, 21-16. ROWE/J. MILLS (Middlesex) bt B. Bird (Surrey)/Fielder 21-12, 21-18.

Final: MORTIMER/SHANNON bt Rowe/Mills 19-21, 21-16, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Final: LEACH/ROWE bt T. Densham (Hertfordshire)/Mortimer 21-17, 21-19. LINDSAY/SHANNON bt J. Somogyi/Bird (Surrey) 21-9, 24-22.

Final: LEACH/ROWE bt Lindsay/Shannon 21-17, 19-21, 25-23.

Veterans' Singles. Semi-Finals: L. HOFFMAN (Middlesex) bt S. Summers (Middlesex) 21-19, 14-21, 21-9. V. RALLS (Essex) bt L. Thompson (Buckinghamshire) 21-16, 21-11.

Final: HOFFMAN bt Ralls 21-12, 23-21.

Pam Mortimer, then beating Audrey Bates, the Welsh international, in the final 21-18, 21-18.

Miss Bates had previously beaten Joyce Fielder and Lesley Proudlock, while an upset was the early defeat of Betty Bird by Doreen Griffiths.

Mrs. Bird, who has now returned to the tournament circuit after the birth of her baby, made up for her singles disappointment in the doubles, winning the women's with Miss Fielder and the mixed with Kevin Edwards.

Miss Bates was losing finalist with Alan Thomas in the mixed, and reached the semi-final of the women's doubles with Margaret Phillips before falling to Shelagh Hession and Miss Mortimer.

RESULTS

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: D. CREAMER bt K. Forshaw 21-12, 16-21, 21-22. J. SOMOGYI bt D. Lowe 18-21, 21-14, 21-15.

Final: SOMOGYI walk-over.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: A. BATES (Wales) bt L. Proudlock 21-7, 21-7; J. WILLIAMS bt Mrs. Deely 21-17, 21-23, 21-19.

Final: WILLIAMS bt Bates 21-18, 21-18.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: H. BUIST/L. PIDDOCK bt B. Baddeley/Robinson 21-19, 22-20. CREAMER/T. DENSHAM bt K. Baker/B. Gilbert 21-15, 24-22.

Final: BUIST/PIDDOCK walk-over.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: Mrs. B. BIRD/J. FIELDER bt J. Williams/A. Taft 21-19, 21-23, 21-18. S. HESSION/P. MORTIMER bt Bates/M. Phillips 21-15, 21-12.

Final: BIRD/FIELDER bt Hession/Mortimer 21-16, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: K. EDWARDS/Mrs. BIRD bt Densham/Miss Mortimer 21-18, 21-19. A. THOMAS/Miss BATES bt D. Offenbach/Miss Williams 21-15, 11-21, 21-13.

Final: EDWARDS/BIRD bt Thomas/Bates 21-18, 16-21, 21-18.

WELSH CORNER**SWANSEA TITLE FOR JACOBSON**

THE first Open Tournament in Wales this season saw an English "invasion" in the formidable shape of Stan Jacobson, of "top spin" fame. He came away with the Swansea Open title, but George Evans and Alan Thomas both made him fight hard, George in the quarters, when he was 20 all in the second, and Alan, chopping hard and hitting the occasional one, in the semi's. The final was disappointing, Ron Davies being quite unable to adopt any particular plan to try to counter Jacobson's unorthodox game.

Ron had a much better game in the other semi-final with Brian Everson, who was in good form during the day, and administered a sound thrashing to Emil Emezc.

There was nearly a sensation in the women's singles where Betty Gray, Welsh closed champion, after just scraping through the second game, had to survive three match points in the third to beat Margaret Phillips 18-21, 21-19, 26-24 in the semi-final.

Miss Phillips undoubtedly constitutes to the greatest danger to the old brigade of Audrey Bates and Betty Gray who came through to the final. This was their usual battle of wits with Betty eventually winning 21-23, 21-14, 21-15.

Jacobson came near to a second title in the men's double final he and David Jones led Ron Davies and George Evans 17-13 in the final game. However, the Welsh pair took courage in both hands to counter-hit their way to a brilliant 21-17 victory.

Audrey Coombs-Jones made a welcome re-appearance and, although beaten by a good performance from Dorothy Attenborough in the singles, combined well with Jackie Pettingdale (England) to beat Miss Bates and Miss Gray and reach the women's doubles final, where they found Margaret Phillips and Sandra Morgan just too strong.

Miss Phillips gained a second title with George Evans in the mixed doubles where they beat Glyn Morgan and Miss Bates in the final.

The boys' singles was an all-English affair, with Dennis Brady beating Morley Mordecai in the final. Hugh Plummer tried hard against Mordecai in one semi-final, but John Mansfield failed badly against Brady in the other.

RESULTS

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: S. JACOBSON (Reading) bt A. Thomas (Cardiff) 21-17, 21-17. R. DAVIES (Pontypridd) bt B. Everson (Newport) 21-11, 21-16.

Final: JACOBSON bt Davies 21-12, 21-7.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: B. GRAY (Swansea) bt M. Phillips (Cardiff) 18-21, 21-19, 26-24. A. BATES (Cardiff) bt Sandra Morgan (Cardiff) 21-15, 21-12.

Final: GRAY bt Bates 21-23, 21-14, 21-15.

Men's Doubles. Final: EVANS/DAVIES bt Jacobson/Jones 21-14, 13-21, 21-17.

Women's Doubles. Final: PHILLIPS/MORGAN bt Coombs-Jones / Pettingdale 25-23, 12-21, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles. Final: EVANS/Miss PHILLIPS bt Emezc/Miss Gray 21-11, 21-16.

Boys' Singles. Final: D. BRADY bt M. Mordecai 21-10, 21-15.

Team Selections

Prior to the tournament Welsh selectors conducted trials of fourteen boys and chose the following side to play England juniors at Abergavenny Town Hall on November 24: JOHN MANSFIELD (Abergavenny), BRIAN JENKINS (Aberdare), GRAHAM COGBILL (Bairry), SANDRA and ANGELA HINLEY (Abergavenny), and for doubles only HUGH PLUMMER (Tredegar) and DEREK HULBERT (Abergavenny). JACK PRICE was appointed non-playing captain and PAT BALE (Newport) reserve.

The following senior side was selected for the Quadrangular international in Glasgow on December 1-2: ALAN THOMAS (Cardiff), GEORGE EVANS (Bairry), RON DAVIES (Pontypridd), AUDREY BATES (Cardiff), BETTY GRAY (Swansea). Reserves: BRIAN EVERSON and MARGARET PHILLIPS.

The opening of the National Counties Championship season provided Glamorgan with a good send off, Bedfordshire becoming their first victims in Division Two (Midland).

The match was excellently staged at

the Canteen of the Metal Box Co., Ltd., at Neath, and the company's table tennis section is to be congratulated on its initiative and enthusiasm.

There was nothing particularly remarkable about the game itself, unless it was the fact that ex-Welsh International Norman Parker, now resident in Luton, was in the visiting side. He did not do particularly well as it happens, losing the opening match to his friend Alan Thomas, and also to Ron Davies, as well as going down in the vital men's doubles.

Although the final result of 8-2 seems conclusive enough, there was a time when things looked anything but rosy. After Alan's initial win, George Evans and Ron Davies both played poorly to put Glamorgan 2-1 behind. Fortunately Betty Gray and Audrey Bates were far too good for Bedfordshire's women, and this victory, followed by a shaky but welcome doubles win by Ron and George changed the picture.

WELSH LEAGUE TABLE

(as at November 10)

Division 1.—Cardiff 12 points, Abergavenny 10, Swansea 10, Eastern Valleys 8, Newport 8, Bridgend 6, Rhondda 6, Aberdare 4.

Division 2.—Cardiff 12 points, Bridgend 10, Tredegar 10, Eastern Valleys 9, Swansea 7, Aberdare 6, Abergavenny 6, Mumbles 5, Rhondda 4, Merthyr 3.

Junior.—Abergavenny 12, Barry 12, Aberdare 10, Newport 10, Tredegar 8, Cardiff 4, Eastern Valleys 4, Swansea 4.

Women.—Cardiff 6, Newport 4, Swansea 4, Abergavenny 2.

JUNIORS TO VISIT GERMANY

THE E.T.T.A. have accepted an invitation to send a team of three boys and two girls to an International Youth Meeting at Flensburg, Germany, from January 2 to 8. The team will be selected and announced later.

Teams from France and Sweden will also be taking part, and it has been laid down that players must have been born after July 1, 1944.

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