

FEBRUARY, 1962  
ONE SHILLING

# Table Tennis

*The Official Magazine of the  
English Table Tennis Association*



IVOR MONTAGU, BILL VINT and NANCY ROY EVANS pictured in ancient Egypt

# Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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## TABLE TENNIS COLOUR BAR

**THE new and controversial topic of discussion at the English Closed Championships, among both players and officials, was the I.T.T.F.'s ban on light coloured clothing. This was not unexpected; but what was surprising, was the attitude adopted by one or two leading players who regarded the Referee's request for them to wear darker clothing as a display of officiousness on the part of officials. Of all players, they should have been well aware of the E.T.T.A.'s recommendations for compliance with the Federation's ban. If the stars are allowed to flout the regulations what chance remains of persuading the ordinary club player to fall in line?**

That being said, and the Referee's action being vindicated — were vindication necessary of fair, tolerant and polite insistence on adherence to the regulations — the subject merits and needs further examination. Rightly concerned about the introduction, by some Associations, of light coloured clothing, even as team uniform, the I.T.T.F. seek to ban the wearing of colours which might tend to unsight an opponent. An admirable aim in itself, (though some might dispute the assertion) but to what extent is it practicable and possible?

### Must Not Rest On Opinion

Light grey and light blue are among the colours banned, but where does "light" end and "dark" begin? And this concerns not only clothes but rackets also. To be effective rules must not rest for interpretation on a matter of opinion, especially when something so intangible as colour sight — or blindness! — is concerned. As a start, no one knows what another actually sees when referring to a colour by one of the accepted names.

But this apart, what of the game as a spectacle. Must we really resort to having all players dressed

in drab navy blue or black or similar? Does not colour and change add to the presentation of the game? White or yellow may need to be excluded but let not the administrators be too hasty in ruling out other colours.

Most important, let them not deny the ladies their right to appear at the table in attractive and different colours, for not only will they have the ladies views to contend with but also those of the mere male spectators. And particularly so in this country which for many years has been able to boast of the neatest clad lady players of all, especially in contests abroad.

### Background More

### Important

Then there is another opinion—does the colour of either clothes or rackets have any effect on the sighting of the ball? The Americans have recently decided to ban white clothing but not because it tends to unsight the player. Their ban was entirely on the grounds of appearance — white kit so quickly becomes grubby and its use is impracticable. And indeed the results obtained from experiments carried out here some years ago were far from conclusive. Many held the view that far more important than the colour the player wore, was the colour of the background against which he was playing.

Enough has been said perhaps to illustrate briefly that this is a difficult subject, not to say a highly contentious one. The I.T.T.F. have a knotty problem to tackle, but one which must be solved, taking into account all the best interests of the game.

Meanwhile the E.T.T.A. will continue to carry out the I.T.T.F.'s recommendations. An explanatory note has been included in the entry form for the English Open Championships at Brighton this

month, and all Tournament Referees have been asked to apply the regulation with tolerance and discretion, but firmly.

The views of players and spectators (and even the manufacturers) are being sought and will be noted with interest, so that they may be voiced and taken into account when it comes to the time. Equally the views of other Associations will be interesting to know: at least as far as the colour

of the racket is concerned, there are strong indications that some are being far from meticulous in applying the Law.

Thus while controversy at the Closed raged on clothing, at the Open it could well centre on the racket and the breaking of a Law of the game, as distinct from disregarding a recommendation of a governing authority.

## TRAINING SESSION

# SHOCK DEFEATS FOR STEVENS

**BOBBY STEVENS**, the new English closed champion, suffered two shock defeats at the hands of Brian Wright and David Creamer in the Second Training Session (successor to the Top Ten Tournaments) at Ultra Electric on January 21.

Wright beat him 21-11, 21-18; while Creamer won 21-22, 19-21, 21-19. This meant Stevens finishing bottom of his group, although he beat the group winner Joe Somogyi. However, in the second group of matches Stevens swept through with straight games wins over Michael Creamer, Brian Hill, and Chester Barnes.

The 16 men were divided into four groups of four, then played in further groups, the winners in one, seconds in another, and so on.

Alan Rhodes, Jeff Ingber, and Ian Harrison, went through the opening groups without defeat, but in the final pool, made up by Somogyi who had scraped in on games aggregate, each suffered a loss. Rhodes beat Harrison; Harrison beat Ingber; and Ingber beat Rhodes; while all three were successful against Somogyi.

Chester Barnes and Brian Hill, the two juniors, and Michael Creamer, lost all their games in the first groups, then beat each other in the final pool.

No player was really disappointing and it was good to see David Creamer finding some of his old form with wins over Brian Wright, Stevens, Stan Jacobson, and Tony Pidcock. His two defeats were at the hands of Somogyi, and Jack Clayton.

The six women invited to the session played off in one group, with Diane Rowe going through unbeaten although she was given a hard fight by Judy Williams, who led 13-8 and 14-11 in the third, then dropped ten points in a row.

But what a headache the next four girls provided for the selectors. Mary Shannon beat Jean McCree and Lesley Bell; Mrs. McCree beat Miss Bell and Judy Williams; and Miss Williams beat Miss Shannon.

Jill Mills failed to win a match.

**Group "A":** J. Harrison bt J. Clayton 14, 14; bt W. Barker 22, 7; bt M. Creamer 14, 19.

Clayton bt Barker 13, 16; bt M. Creamer 19, 19.

Barker bt M. Creamer 16, 18.

**Group "B":** A. Rhodes bt S. Jacobson 12, 14; bt K. Forshaw 17, 6; bt B. Hill —17, 16, 17.

Jacobson bt Forshaw 12, —14, 19; bt Hill 13, 17.

Forshaw bt B. Hill 16, —18, 19.

**Group "C":** J. Ingber bt A. Pidcock —17, 21, 14; bt K. Edwards 15, 10; bt C. Barnes 9, 14.

Pidcock bt Edwards 15, 11; bt Barnes 8, 12.

Edwards bt Barnes 12, —18, 18.

**Group "D":** J. Somogyi bt D. Creamer 16, 18; bt B. Wright 11, 21.

D. Creamer bt Wright 16, —18, 11; bt R. Stevens 12, —19, 19.

Wright bt Stevens 11, 18.

Stevens bt Somogyi 20, 16.

**Group Firsts:** Ingber bt Rhodes 9, 15; bt Somogyi 11, 10.

Harrison bt Ingber 22, 14; bt Somogyi 10, 18.

Rhodes bt Harrison 17, 20; bt Somogyi 16, 13.

**Group Seconds:** Clayton bt D. Creamer 16, 11; bt Pidcock 15, 10.

D. Creamer bt Jacobson 18, 15; bt Pidcock 17, 18.

Jacobson bt Clayton 9, 13; bt A. Pidcock 23, —18, 16.

**Group Thirds:** Forshaw bt Wright 16, —18, 21; bt Barker —23, 15, 19; bt Edwards 19, 18.

Wright bt Barker 17, —17, 17; bt Edwards 18, —18, 19.

Barker bt Edwards —14, 12, 18.

**Group Fourths:** Stevens bt M. Creamer 12, 20; bt Hill 14, 12; bt Barnes 10, 17.

M. Creamer bt Barnes 16, 11.

Hill bt M. Creamer 14, 16.

Barnes bt Hill 21, 15.

## WOMEN

D. Rowe bt M. Shannon 7, 13; bt Mrs. J. McCree 18, 21; bt J. Williams —16, 12, 14; bt L. Bell 13, 12; bt Mrs. J. Mills 18, 20.

Shannon bt McCree 12, 19; bt Bell 18, —8, 19; bt Mills 13, 14. McCree bt Williams 16, 18; bt Bell 16, —18, 15; bt Mills 19, 15.

Williams bt Shannon 18, —16, 19; bt Mills 17, 10.

Bell bt Williams 11, —19, 16; bt Mills —15, 12, 12.

## A New Infant Prodigy

**THE Romford area has become used to infant prodigies over the past few years. First there was Shelagh Hession, then Lesley Bell. Now comes a new mighty atom in 12 years old Linda Henwood, who shocked everyone in the recent Romford League championships by winning the women's singles and the mixed doubles with Tony Condon.**

Linda is only 4ft. 6in. tall and has been playing just three years but already she is being hailed as a great prospect of the future.

A protege of Harry Venner, Linda possesses a lively attacking game, and in the singles final hit Mrs. Fred Stedman off the table 21-12, 21-14.

Linda was dwarfed by the 6ft. tall Condon when they came out for the mixed final but they combined so well that they had no trouble in beating Lionel Parks and Mrs. Brenda Bell 21-18, 21-14.

**Men's Singles: A. CONDON** bt K. Beamish 21-18, 23-21.

**Women's Singles: L. HENWOOD** bt Mrs. F. Stedman 21-12, 21-14.

**Men's Doubles: CONDON/BEAMISH** bt Levinge/Page 23-21, 21-13.

**Women's Doubles: Mrs. P. LAUDER/Mrs. STEDMAN** bt Mrs. B. Bell/Mrs. M. Parmenter 22-20, 18-21, 21-15.

**Mixed Doubles: CONDON/Miss HENWOOD** bt L. Parks/Mrs. Bell 21-18, 21-14.

## BATH OPEN

**Men's Singles: G. MURANYI** (Surrey) bt G. Evans (Wales) 23-21, 21-18.

**Women's Singles: J. FIELDER** (Kent) bt Mrs. D. Baines (Hertfordshire) 21-14, 20-22, 21-16.

**Men's Doubles: S. JACOBSON/E. JONES** bt R. Dorking/D. House 21-19, 21-19.

**Women's Doubles: T. COLLIER/Mrs. T. SPOKES** bt Mrs. L. Maggs/G. Robinson 21-8, 16-21, 21-19.

**Mixed Doubles: M. ELLIS/Miss FIELDER** bt B. Sykes/Mrs. Baines 21-18, 21-19.

**Boys' Singles: M. MORDECAI** (Gloucestershire) bt B. Brady (Gloucestershire) 21-12, 21-19.

## BOOK REVIEW

# Let Height not Age Decide when to Start

says VICTOR BARNA

Coaches and top players are frequently asked at what age should a youngster start to learn table tennis?

According to Victor Barna in his latest book "TABLE TENNIS TODAY," height and not age should be the pre-determining factor.

He writes, "Obviously an early start need not be a disadvantage, but I have always been against young people playing the game before they reach a certain physical height. I have seen many very promising boys and girls with great potential talent not making any headway in their later years for the simple reason that they had hardly reached the height of the table when they first learned to play.

"Consequently, all their strokes were cramped and restricted and their style was not an easy-flowing one. My experience has also shown that once a bad playing habit is formed it is very difficult to change it to a good one."

He goes on to advise that youngsters in their earlier years

should be encouraged in the pursuit of football, cricket and the running or jumping athletic events. These he claims will enable them to acquire some of the qualities needed, footwork, speed, agility and fitness and make the learning of table tennis easier.

Barna learned to play at the age of 13, and it should be remembered he too was a footballer of considerable skill—a junior international in fact—before he specialised in table tennis.

He re-emphasises the value of other sports in a special chapter on footwork, and in another on fitness he draws attention to the little regard English players show to this department of the game.

"They seem to think that playing in itself is enough and the more games the better," writes Barna.

There is plenty of controversy in "TABLE TENNIS TODAY," for the outspoken Barna does not mince words over the subject of sponge and the pen-holder grip.

While he considers sponge is here

to stay he contends that the present regulation could be bettered by banning reverse rubber bats, and says that sooner or later it will have to come.

On the question of the pen-holder grip he quotes former world champion Ogimura, an exponent of this style, as saying "it is something of a handicap."

Barna's book is mainly instructional but is interspersed with reminiscences of past championships and champions, which keep the reader's interest alive.

There are sixty photographs and a gallery of 28 "Greats of Table Tennis" from Maria Mednyanszky, the first women's singles champion, to Chuang Tse-Tung, the reigning world champion. He analyses what made them outstanding players, their strong points and their weaknesses.

The book is published by Arthur Baker Ltd. at a cost of 15s., which by modern day prices, makes it good value for anyone, whether you are a beginner, a champion, or merely an interested fan.



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JACK SENESCALL

**B**ORN in Huddersfield thirty-six years ago, Jack Senescall, Yorkshire Regional Representative on the N.E.C., now lives in York. He is married, with two children Jacqueline Anne (4) and Paul (2), and by profession is an Organisation and Methods Investigator on the staff of British Railways.

A former secretary/treasurer of the Yorkshire County Association, he is now a regional member of the County Executive Committee in addition to being honorary secretary of the York and District Association. His talents are shared, however, between the administrative and the playing sides. In the York League he plays for Railway Institute and is currently holder of the league's men's

## KNOW THE N.E.C.

doubles and mixed doubles closed titles. Jack proudly holds the local record of 60 appearances for the York League in inter-league matches and has also represented the British Railways in the European Railways Championships.

Mrs. Senescall, who formerly lived in Bradford, plays for the same club as her husband and, like him, is a right-handed attacking player. The similarity does not end there: she also represents York League for which she has made over forty appearances and has also represented British Railways in the Railways European Championships.

Jack is a member of the Rules, Tournaments and Umpires and Referees Sub-Committees of the N.E.C. on all of which he is a lively and discerning contributor to discussion as befits the O. and M. man. He is also a National Umpire and a qualified coach and, although a sandwich-bat user himself, is convinced that this type is not good for the game either as a spectacle or from the playing point of view. In his opinion, if a census of players were held, over 70 per cent. would prefer standardisation of the bat with pimped rubber only.



LEO THOMPSON

**L**EO THOMPSON, this month's other pen portrait, originally supported the introduction of sponge in the hope that it would push pushers out of the game. But there are just as many as ever and he, too, thinks that sponge has done the game no good. In his opinion there are now too many who hit and hope and until the stroke players return the game's progress will be retarded.

A "young veteran" Leo, who is a heating engineer, lives at Wraysbury and is married with a young daughter, Teresa Ann. Regional Representative for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Berkshire, his election last year, although not expected by many, came as no surprise to those who know of the energy and enthusiasm he puts into administering the game at all levels. A Life Member of the Staines League, he is vice-chairman of the Slough League, chairman of the Slough centre club, general secretary of the Buckinghamshire County Association and annual organiser of the Buckinghamshire Open Tournament.

Leo is a former county player, having represented both Buckinghamshire and Middlesex on a total of nearly sixty occasions. He plays in two Leagues—Slough and Staines—in which he represents Slough Centre and Staines Co-op. respectively, and his orthodox all-round game still gives the run around to up-and-coming youngsters, who are a third of his age.

Not surprisingly, Mrs. Thompson, who has represented Buckinghamshire County and Slough District, now devotes her spare time to assisting

## WARWICKSHIRE WINS MIDLAND DIVISION

**W**ARWICKSHIRE have won the Midland Division of the County Championships in a convincing manner, but whether or not they gain promotion to the Second Division now rests with the first team holding their newly won position in the Premier Division.

Doreen Griffiths has played a big part in the second team success having an unbeaten record in both singles and doubles.

Warwickshire Junior are also heading for success in their division following their exciting 7-3 win over the more fancied Gloucestershire Juniors.

**Graham Pressick was the star of the match beating both Morley Mordecai and Brian Brady to retain his 100 per cent. record.**

A newcomer to the County from Liverpool is Ralph Gunnion. He should be a great acquisition for Birmingham

and possibly Warwickshire in future seasons.

In the Inter-town League, Tamworth and Nuneaton had a keen and hard fought match ending in a 5-5 draw. The Storr brothers pulled back the last two games of the night for Tamworth after being 3-5 down. The sportsmanship on both sides was remarked on by visitors and the re-introduction of this league will go a long way towards producing a better spirit throughout the County.

The only team from the County still left in the Wilmott Cup is Leamington, who overcame Birmingham by five games to four after being four-two down.

A one day Coaching Class is being organised by the Birmingham Association on February 17 details can be obtained from Mr. M. Goldstein, 415 Moseley Road, Birmingham 12. Meals will be laid on for lunch and tea breaks.

**ROGER MORRIS**

*Continued on page 7*

# HARRISON KEEPS TOP RANKING

**IAN HARRISON and Jeff Ingber, despite their shock defeats in the English closed championships, remain England's two top players in the newly issued Ranking List. Bobby Stevens, the new champion, is placed No. 3. (Writes Harrison Edwards.)**

## ENGLISH RANKINGS, 1962

(January 9, 1962)

### MEN:

1. I. Harrison (Gloucestershire) (1)
2. J. Ingber (Lancashire) (3)
3. R. Stevens (Essex) (14)
4. S. Jacobson (Middlesex) (5)
5. J. Somogyi (Surrey) (-)
6. A. Rhodes (Middlesex) (11)
7. J. Clayton (Lancashire) (7)
8. B. Wright (Middlesex) (-)
9. A. Piddock (Kent) (8)
10. P. Shead (Sussex) (4)

### WOMEN:

1. D. Rowe (Middlesex) (1)
2. M. Shannon (Surrey) (4)
3. Mrs. McCree (Essex) (3)
4. J. Williams (Hertfordshire) (4)
5. L. Bell (Essex) (-)
6. Mrs. A. Mills (Surrey) (-)
7. M. Piper (Surrey) (7)
8. J. Fielder (Kent) (5)
9. B. Bird (Essex) (-)
10. P. Mortimer (Warwickshire) (-)

Not ranked because of insufficient evidence:

- B. Merrett (Gloucestershire) (2),  
Miss C. K. Best (Yorkshire) (-).

Figures in parenthesis denote position in last list.

At first glance, while everyone is wrapped up in the enthusiasm of his spectacular success, it would appear Stevens has perhaps been harshly treated.

But has he? Remember that rankings should not be made on the strength of one tournament, alone, but on form over the season. Stevens on his own admission did nothing up to a couple of months ago. So I don't think there can be many grumbles at a jump from No. 14 on the previous list to No. 3.

There can be little criticism of Harrison being No. 1, a position he has held since 1958, but Ingber's position must be open to some question. He has not won a tournament this season.

The most under-ranked player must surely be Alan Rhodes at No. 6. He has had his tournament successes and he came as near as anyone to beating Stevens in the English.

I feel he should have been above both Stan Jacobson (No. 4) and Jo Somogyi (No. 5). Similarly Jack Clayton (No. 7) would appear to have a better record than Somogyi.

Appearing in the list for the first time is Brian Wright at No. 8.

Diane Rowe keeps the No. 1 spot among the women and there could never be any doubt about that. She is in a class of her own, with a wide gap to the next best. Mary Shannon, moves into the No. 2 position immediately above Jean McCree who beat her to reach the English final. Here again form over the season must be the deciding factor. There is in fact little to choose between Miss Shannon, Mrs. McCree, Judy Williams (No. 4) and Lesley Bell (No. 5). Miss Williams and Miss Bell are newcomers, and making a return to the rankings are Jill Mills, (6), Betty Bird (9) and Pam Mortimer (10).

## YORKSHIRE NOTES

### REMARKABLE BRADFORD

#### WIN

**BRADFORD** women had the remarkable experience of beating Leeds by winning only one set. It happened in the Rose Bowl when Leeds took the first set of the match and Marjorie Lightfoot led Betty Clough 19-16 in the second.

At this stage Marjorie pulled a muscle so badly that a visit to hospital was necessary. She had to concede three singles and the doubles for which she was marked, leaving Bradford 4-1 up. Jean Jones, a former Essex second-teamer, then had a good win over Marjorie Harrison and Bradford were through 5-1! They won the zone by beating York in the final.

York men supplied the biggest shock of the day when they knocked Huddersfield out of the Wilmott Cup. Their star was Clive Pollard, whose victims included Ray Hinchliff. York were then defeated by Bradford but Sunderland won the final 5-4.

Huddersfield have been bringing younger players into their town team and they pulled off a 7-3 win at Hull when Peter Clowes, David Hirst and John Beaumont each collected two. Although Don Mein was unbeaten, Hull also went down at Doncaster, 6-4.

Barnsley beat Leeds 7-3 despite a fighting show from Geoff Stead, a reserve choice, who won two. Barnsley's second team picked themselves off the floor of Division Two by winning at Bradford, whose second-team record reads 4-6, 5-5, 4-6, 4-6.

John Barker was unbeaten for North-allerton in a Division Three fixture at Hull, whose "B" team survived 6-4.

In their quest for the women's title Leeds were held by Dewsbury, with Kathleen Sykes and Doris Colbeck in grand form.

### Sheffield Strong

Sheffield have a strong youth team this year with two county second-teamers, Harvey Coward and Lesley Proudlock, and the keen Roderick Oglesby all eligible. Hull, well led by Colin Gray, are their main rivals.

Tong have emerged as serious challengers to the Bradford supremacy of Metal Box. They have two teams in the top four and among their ranks are inter-league players like John Page, Brian Joyce, Alan Goldsbrough and Billy Rhodes, a Nottinghamshire wicket-keeper.

Victoria, whose rule in Leeds was interrupted last year by Rowland Road, beat them 9-1 and prepare to remount the champions' throne.

Doncaster's Cynthia Blackshaw has a remarkable doubles record for Yorkshire. In junior and second-team games since 1959 she has figured in 26—and lost only one, at 21-19 in the third!

Promising Pat Dainty won her first open title at the Lancashire championships the day before her 15th birthday and is doing well in Doncaster's First Division, headed by the champions for three seasons running, Y.M.C.A. Boys.

Malcolm Hartley.

## BERLIN PROBLEM

**T**HE choice of Berlin as the venue for the European Championships has created problems where Iron Curtain countries are concerned. Russia have already stated they will not be represented, which is regrettable for they have several good young players coming along.

## KNOW THE N.E.C. Continued

her husband with secretarial work. In addition to his other jobs he is the new secretary of the Coaching Sub-Committee of the N.E.C., which makes a heavy call on his time. He is himself an active coach, particularly interested in the progress of juniors, and is disappointed in what he regards as the poor progress which has been made during the years with national coaching.

## AMONG THE TOPS

**Maria Alexandru and Georgeta Pitica, winners of the women's Doubles World title in Peking last April, have been voted third and fourth respectively in the Rumanian "Sportsmen of the Year" Pool.**

# JUNIORS IN GERMANY

## Day By Day Reports

By LAURIE LANDRY

**M**MARGARET FRY and the players David Stanley, Denis Neale, Brian Hill, Michael Symonds, Lesley Bell, Christine Holes and Beverley Sayer, met up with me at the Sports School, Malente at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2. Teams from France and Sweden plus players from all over Germany were also there.

After a welcome by Herr Rousseau, of the Schleswig-Holstein area, which was organising the event, captains and team officers met to finalise the programme and agree procedure, while the players were entertained to dancing, an ideal opportunity for them to meet each other.

**Wednesday:** A start was made on the tournament with an entry of 25 boys and 18 girls, who were each divided into two groups, the top three of each to qualify for the final pool.

In the evening, Germany played France at the small town of Plön. Germany won the boys' match 5-0, but lost the girls 1-3, paying the penalty of leaving their best player out of the singles.

**Thursday:** Further play in the tournament then England's first international against France with a 5-1 win for the boys and 3-0 success for the girls. The only loss was by Stanley to Guilbert, whom he had beaten in the tournament in the morning.

We then went to nearby Eutin to see the Swedish boys win 5-3 against Germany, who had their revenge in the girls match which they won 3-0. The boys match was good, with Bernard outstanding.

**Friday:** The girls tournament was completed with Lesley Bell going through unbeaten to provide a great British success. Christine Holes had been unbeaten in her group, but finished fourth in the final pool.

### Three Qualify

The two boys groups were completed, Brian Hill winning his section with Denis Neale finishing third, to qualify along with Michael Symonds, who was second in his section, in which David Stanley was seventh.

In the afternoon we went to Lubeck to play Germany, and were presented to the Mayor and given souvenirs.

**The girls started on the wrong foot when Lesley Bell lost her only match of the trip, to Siebert, who she had previously beaten in the tournament.**

A great recovery by Christine Holes to beat Kohl at 17 in the third after being 11-15 down put England on

level terms. Lesley and Beverley Sayer then won the doubles, and after Christine had also found Siebert too strong, Lesley easily beat Kohl for the match.

The boys match was also exciting. Hill lost to Dahlmann, who had a very good top-spin combined with power, but Stanley levelled the scores by beating Hahn, a solid defensive player. Neale then proved too good for Grube and Hill pushed to success against Hahn, after the expedite rule had been enforced to put England 3-1 up. Time was called when Brian led 16-8 and there were deafening cheers when Hahn levelled at 16-all. However Hill kept control and won at 18.

Neale won the first game against Dahlmann, but the German produced unstoppable hits to take the second

and lead 19-16 in the third. Hill held on to 20-all but just lost at 23-21 on a lucky point.

England's big chance slipped as Stanley lost to Grube, and Neale went down to Hahn. It was now 4-3 to Germany. Hill brought us level by beating Grube, but Stanley was outplayed in the decider by Dahlmann who proved German's hero by winning all three of his singles.

**Saturday:** The tournament was finished and with another English success, Hill winning the boys singles, where his only defeat was by Bernard, the best of the Swedes. Symonds and Neale were fifth and sixth respectively, but both excelled in beating Bernard, thus giving Hill a clear win.

Sweden scored a doubles victory over France by 5-2 for the boys and  
(Continued on Page 26)

## CHAMPION SALESMAN

**L**OU HOFFMAN, the veteran Middlesex player, must surely rank as our champion magazine seller. His press-gang tactics at the English Closed Championships sold 220 copies. Among his customers were Bill Vint, the E.T.T.A. chairman, and Ivor Eyles, the vice-chairman.

"He just won't take no for an answer," said Bill Vint expressing his delight at Lou's enthusiasm in pushing the magazine.

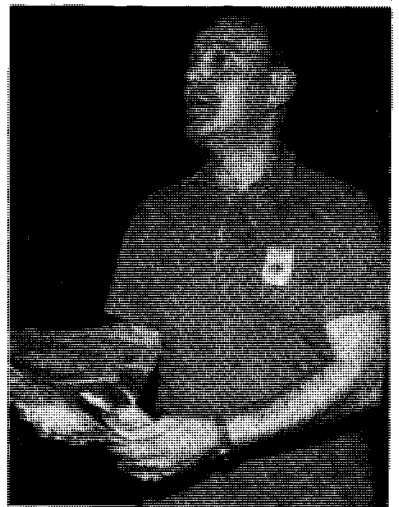
Lou, who is pictured here in action at the English Closed, is magazine secretary for Middlesex and has his own personal mailing list of around 150 copies a month, including clients in Australia and South Africa.

Is there anyone to beat Lou's record?

We have been so impressed by Lou's salesmanship that he has now been appointed Circulation Manager of "TABLE TENNIS" and takes up his new duties with this issue.

"I have proved there is a demand for the magazine providing someone in the counties is prepared to go out and sell them," said Lou. "What I've done in Middlesex can be done in other areas.

"There is potentially a far greater readership but you have got to use a little persuasion at first and bring the magazine to everyone's notice. It has shocked me to find there are some players who have no idea there is a national magazine. Every club in the country should take at least one copy.



So you county magazine secretaries—why not try to bring that about? Remember the more copies you can sell, the better it is for your county financially."

Lou is full of ideas and one of these will go into operation next month with a special competition for which there will be good prizes.

So make sure of your March issue now by placing an order. Maybe you can be one of the winners.

Full details will be published next month.

# Editor's Postbag . . .

## Suggestions to Boost Table Tennis

WHAT is wrong with English Table Tennis? The finest sport in the World languishes in England from lack of public support, and yet again the ironic situation arises where the pupils lead and the masters are way behind. Why this is so seems to be the concern of no one.

It is significant that on the occasion of the first visit to England of the U.S.S.R. the Colston Hall, Bristol, capable of seating 3,000 drew an immense crowd of a little over 500 to see the first international match England v U.S.S.R. How many of these people had passes I do not know.

The official journal of the English Table Tennis Association, TABLE TENNIS, frequently finds it necessary to appeal for support and a drive is made for more readers. The readers come from a restricted section of the population, from that section which are solely interested in Table Tennis from active participation as players or administrators. In my opinion the end result savours of taking in each others washing. Do not let us kid ourselves that we are furthering the interest of table tennis.

### Lack of Drive

Basically and obviously the only thing wrong with the sport in England is a lack of drive which effects all. An all-pervading inertia stifles any attempt at initiative and apathy strangles at birth any and every idea. If this is not so; why is it that a recent appeal for umpires by some County Associations resulted in two more names being added to the list of official umpires. Two, out of the thousands who profess an interest in the game. If it was not so tragic it would be laughable.

Is there a full-time public relations officer employed by the E.T.T.A.? If there is he hides his light under a bushel.

Do we ever see any advertising publicising the table tennis magazine on television or in other mediums?

Why is it that we never see a table tennis player selected by the British Broadcasting Corporation in their Sports View programme as sportsman of the year?

Is there at the moment a fact-finding committee in England getting down to constructive thought and effort in order to put England back where she rightfully belongs, a World-power in Table Tennis?

I can almost feel certain people thinking: "It's all very well for this fellow 'Onlooker' to ask questions but what is he going to do." In the interest of the game I love I put forward as talking points the following ideas.

1. An immediate levy of 1s. per week from all players who come under the jurisdiction of the E.T.T.A.

2. The appointment of a full-time public relations officer.

3. A committee to be formed with one member from each county association with the qualification that the county must have a team in the Premier Division of the National County Championships. Such committee meeting quarterly and in close liaison with the County Executive, committees could become the channel whereby ideas for the furtherance of public interest in table tennis would filter through from Town level to County level to national level.

At least the ideas I have put forward can be talking points and if any good can result then I feel that I have in some measure helped the game I love. I always

## SANDWICH MUST STAY

THE writer of "Standardise Rubber" in the January issue complains that rubber bat players are at a disadvantage in playing against Sandwich bat players owing to the "plop" and "splosh" returns from the latter and that most of the young players are taking advantage of this to the discomfiture of the mature rubber bat players.

The younger players, will be quick to point out that no player is forced to handicap himself by playing with a rubber bat and that in this scientific age the terms "plop" and "splosh" are mere emotive words empty of content.

Different bat surfaces, whatever they are, result in definite predictable spins and forward speeds imparted to the ball.

Incidentally, the Sandwich Bat has resulted in a ball bill less than a quarter of what it would be with the hard rubber bat.

The writer is apprehensive that the sandwich will standardise itself within five to ten years. If he attends tournaments, surely he realises that the sandwich bat has practically standardised itself now, particularly among younger players.

His second complaint is that less skill and agility are required with the sandwich. If he used one he would soon discover that more skill is required and particularly agility in, for example, in passing between attack over the table and counter-attack from away back — a set-up common to sandwich players — than is needed with the normal rubber bat mainly defensive play.

He harks back to the past "as we used to know it," but apparently remembers only the highlight matches, and forgets the many times that number of dreary pushing matches that accompanied them. In fact the game so degenerated that an article "Time Marches On" in the programme of the 1950 English Championships Programme, Victor Barna wrote:

"Today, however, I realise that rubber, with its capacity for heavy chop, has improved defence far more than attack, and therefore it must be held mainly

remember the advertising adage: "Talk about us, good or bad, but Talk About Us."

To end on a note of praise. I quote from a letter received from Bob Ward of Gloucestershire:

"At the moment Roy Morley, along with a few executive committee men, are holding fortnightly coaching sessions for the juniors. With no County Junior League this season, we are planning to keep the juniors occupied by arranging a few matches against some of our first division sides. The matches will be considered as trials and the most promising juniors will be sponsored by the league in a few tournaments to be held round and about the West Country."

Well done Gloucester; other leagues could well take a leaf out of your book. With men with the vision of Bob Ward it is surprising that players of the calibre of Harrison, Merritt and Morley are produced.

### "ONLOOKER"

responsible for the menace of time-limit games which is threatening to ruin table tennis. If "chisselling" is to be eliminated, I am certain that the time-limit rule will not do the trick. The solution must be found in equipment which gives greater advantage to the attacker than the defender, and by this, I don't mean the lowering of the net."

Prophetic words indeed . . . the years from 1952 onwards saw the introduction of that new equipment "sandwich" which gives greater advantage to the attacker than to the defender.

Our "Standardise Rubber" champion, also states that the vote by the I.T.T.F. at Dortmund in 1959 in favour of the sandwich bat cannot be regarded as a true one owing to political bias against this country.

I cannot work out what this "political bias" was. In any case does he think it has changed among the 80 odd nations in the I.T.T.F.?

What his phrase "60 per cent. of the I.T.T.F. were in favour of sandwich" at Dortmund means I don't know. The final vote in favour of the Chinese-Swedish inspired proposal of sandwich was over 75 per cent. as required by rules.

He suggests that we start up a "band-waggon" of our own and play only countries using the rubber bat. He does not appear to know that we had a "band-waggon" in the years 1957-1959 when our own players were restricted to the use of the rubber bat.

Did the other countries jump on the band-waggon? One or two European countries did but the vast majority, including Hungary, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia, and non-European countries did not.

This meant that our players, including Ann Haydon, a triple finalist at the World Championships in 1957 using a thin sponge racket, went to the world Championships in 1959 not only without sponge or sandwich bats had they desired to use them but also without practice against them.

The cost? Possible world titles in 1959

Continued on Page 13



**EAGLE GIRL TOURNAMENT**by **KENNETH WHEELER****LONDON CHAMPIONS SWEEP THROUGH**

**A**T St. Bride's Institute, on January 20, four London champions proved too good for the best boys and girls of Wales and the Midlands, and swept through to the All-Britain Finals of the EAGLE/GIRL Tournament. They were Chester Barnes (under-15), Derek Corbett (under-13), Lesley Bell (under-15), and Linda Henwood (under-13).

Their particular opponents in the Grand Finals at St. Luke's School, Canning Town, on April 27, will emerge from the eliminating rounds to be held at Leeds (February 10) and Glasgow (February 17).

It is particularly appropriate that St. Luke's should be selected as the venue, since the boys of West Ham have figured among the most enthusiastic competitors over the last eight years. Both of last year's junior titles were taken by East Londoners, Chester Barnes and Beverley Sayer, and now Chester will be battling on his home ground with the chance of making it a "double" success.

Qualifying rounds for the 12,000 competitors in this season's championships began last October and continued in over 100 schools and clubs throughout Britain until the end of 1961. There were some very large team entries, notably from Doncaster Youth (475); Wymondham School, Norfolk (473); Ramsey School, Huntingdonshire (385); and Wigan Road School, Lancashire (385).

The Forest Gate Junior Club can not only boast Chester Barnes, but a possible future champion in 13-year-old Harry Cox of Stratford, who impressed in reaching the fourth round of the South Area Finals, where he was put out, after a terrific fight, by fellow Londoner John Woodcock.

**Brothers**

Winners of the Bradfield Club round at Peckham were the Pettet brothers, Derek and Roy, both of

whom represent Surrey Juniors. Derek was a victim of Chester Barnes at a late stage of the Senior event, while Roy reached the South Area Junior Final where he lost to Derek Corbett.

The GIRL under-13 final at Crescent Club was contested between the Brown sisters, Elizabeth and Sally, both of whom are considered to be of equal promise, and on this occasion it was Elizabeth who smashed her way through to the Area Final, where she succumbed to Pixie Thompson, of Cowplain Club, Havant. Pixie promptly lost the next tie to Linda Henwood, the eventual champion, but earned a consolation prize from Diane Rowe for a spirited performance, as did Evelyn Canham (Letchworth) and Janet Harrison (London) in the same event.

**Lesley Bell and Kay Stokes marched convincingly through all opposition in the South Senior event until they met head-on in the final where Lesley won 21-14, 21-18.**

In the Regional Finals, which followed the South Area Finals at St. Bride's, Wales were represented by four Cardiff qualifiers in David Burrige (Boys' Senior), Graham Davies (Boys' Junior), Sandra Hinley (Girls' Senior), and Caroline Joseph (Girls' Junior). Only Sandra Hinley, who looked full of promise but short of competitive experience, managed to defeat a Midlands opponent in order to challenge the appropriate winner from the South. Sandra beat Lorna Brown, of Birmingham, by 21-19, 21-19, but then found Lesley Bell in such devastating form that each of the 13 points that the Welsh girl chalked up in two final games was a badge for courage.

**Heath Impresses**

At the Midlands Finals at Birmingham the previous week, Johnny Leach was impressed by the high standard, and he congratulated all the event winners (Graham Pressick, Raymond Heath, Lorna Brown and Ingrid Sykes). In particular, he praised Raymond Heath, the 12-year-old Junior winner, who after joining the Moseley Carnegie Club in Birmingham at the age of nine, today represents that club's under-17 team. Undoubtedly Ray must have a great future, but at the final stage in London Derek Corbett's all-round game proved just that bit too strong for him.

"I'll be practising more each week," Ray told an EAGLE reporter, "but I won't learn defence, because I have always told myself that a good counter-attack can cut out the need for defensive strokes.

"When Ian Harrison coached me at Butlin's last summer he advised me to learn *some* sort of defence," Ray admitted. "But though I think that Mr. Harrison is one of our best players, I'm still not convinced. I still think I can get by without it."

Raymond was representing Wheelers Lane School which has had a particularly interesting record in our competition. In 1959, 250 pupils were staying to lunch at the school and the problem that arose was what to do with them for the 30-minute period between the end of their meal and the resumption of lessons. The boys solved this for themselves by putting the dining tables together in pairs and organising their own ping-pong tournaments with cheap wooden bats and penny ha'penny balls.

Noting the boys' enthusiasm, Mr. Harry Levene, the English and mathematics master, persuaded his headmaster, Mr. A. W. North, B.A., to make a grant of £20 from the sports fund to buy a table of regulation pattern. That year 200 of the boys entered the EAGLE Tournament and did so well that they won a second regulation table awarded by the sponsors.

Needless to say, the boys of Wheelers Lane School have figured prominently in our tournament ever since, and this season they also joined the Birmingham Schools League.

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# CONFERENCE DELEGATES IN CAIRO

- The conference hall at the formation of the new African Federation.
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- Under the shadow of the Sphinx.
- Cairo's new stadium to seat 120,000 spectators.



# "THEORY" IN COACHING

By JACK CARRINGTON

*Director of Coaching, E.T.T.A.*

**R**ECENTLY I attended a Conference of National Coaches, at which the Coaching leaders of some 15 sports exchanged ideas and experience. Present were such well-established experts as Walter Winterbotham, Dan Maskell, and Geoff Dyson, and others representing Cricket, Basketball, Badminton, Judo, Weight-lifting, Swimming, Canoeing, Horseriding sports, etc.

Probably Table Tennis rated about the middle in the minds of the company, a good auxiliary sport to their own, but also recognised by these practical Coaches as an all-in sport for many hundreds of dedicated players.

I feel that Table Tennis, even organised Table Tennis, has to cater for a wider range of skill-standards than most of the others. For instance if you rode a horse or paddled a canoe as inefficiently as many of our followers play Table Tennis, you would probably not be on the horse or in the canoe very long! If you pick the bat up awkwardly no great harm is done, but if you pick up the Weights awkwardly you may come to wish you had listened to the Coach after all. As for that Sabre—well, you see what I mean.

Nevertheless, discussion confirmed that all the sports were catering for enthusiasts with divergent motives or attitudes; some to whom competition was the breath of life and others who

derived their enjoyment more from mastering the ball or object, rather than mastering their competitors.

Can Coaching benefit these two main classes of sport-players—and indeed in Table Tennis I suggest we have three classes, (1) those who want to take it out of the opponent (2) those who just want to take it out of the ball, to prove they are the boss of **something**, and (3) those who just want company or to pass 15 minutes without the expense of lighting another cigarette? The answer of the assembled experts was: "In most cases, Yes."

## The Key

The key lies in that word "inefficiently". Some Coaches might say "you are going about it **wrongly**" . . . but first we must know the player's real motive and hopes. If he enjoys the artistry of ball-play, and "looking good" to his friends, he may be right to practice a balanced stylish attack on both wings, and a long-distance chop defence. But if his motive is to climb the national or County ranking-list, he may be wrong; the Coach would have to convince him he was going wrongly about it, suggests alternative ideas and reasons for urging these on the player.

So the thinking Coach must ask himself, "Is this player operating **efficiently**, getting less results from his time and labour than he should, bearing mind what he wants from the game and what he is willing to put into it?"

Then comes the second question "Does this player realise **how much more** he could get out of his game, whether he wants points or whether he wants the enjoyment of complete ball-control?" The third class mentioned above, the purely casual player of Table Tennis, clearly does not appreciate the possibilities until they are presented to him dramatically or at least imaginatively, usually by a Coach but often by an attractively played game between good Club players.

But reverting to our first two types, the "Point-seekers" and the "Enjoyment-and-Fitness-seekers", they frequently go through their careers losing points or enjoyment through inefficiency which a qualified Coach can smooth out in an hour or so. These players have resigned themselves to certain weaknesses at some

early stage, not realising that they could tackle these weaknesses afresh when they have gained experience.

Once the Coach gets them **thinking** and ready to **try** things, the battle is half won. There may be a price to pay, in the sense of work and patience, but every good investment starts with a payment! In the Coaches' Conference it was apparent that many sportsmen would study a Coach's analysis of his high-jump action, or diving position, etc., then retire and work on this action through associated motions and exercises, perhaps for months before testing it out in competition. Let the Coach suggest some new movement or tactic to our Table Tennis player, and he tries it out the next night in a tough match, if it doesn't work at once he is frightened ever to try it again.

From these observations, it must be clear that a qualified Coach has to do a lot of thinking—about strokes (but much more important, about **stroke-combinations**) about footwork (but more important, **about agility**), about tactics and trends, about teaching methods, about people, and then some more about **himself as he appears to other people**.

## Confidence from Sound Knowledge

There you have the reasons for the fairly high content of Theory sessions which come into most Training syllabuses for Coaching candidates. It is not so necessary for the Coach who just wants to help a few familiar youngsters to get going in his own club surroundings; they can copy him and make gradual progress. But any Coach who wants to be proficient enough to help all comers and players of varying levels, must have the Confidence which comes from a sound knowledge of the theoretical aspects of his topic. The knowledge will make him more efficient, the Confidence will brush off on to the pupil.

The E.T.T.A. Diploma syllabus, which deals with candidates who must be capable of helping all types of players, endeavours to interpret the whole Theory of Teaching Table Tennis, as far as we can know it at any time. For example, our official Theory syllabus does not take attitudes as to whether "Penholder" technique is "better" than "Tennis-style". What does "better" mean? We have shown that it depends on

## INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS

Jack Carrington, E.T.T.A. Director of Coaching, will be conducting various instructional sessions in following areas:

February 2-3-4-5 Stowmarket, Woodbridge, Gt. Yarmouth, Norwich; February 6-7 Braintree, Debden; February 9 and 12 Cheshunt; February 17-18 Southampton.

March 2-3-4 Yeovil; March 6-7-8-9-10-11 Southport, Whitehaven, Carlisle, Newcastle, Ryedale (Yorkshire); March 16-17-18 Torquay; March 19 Bristol.

April 1 Deal.

Anyone requiring further information, or wishing to suggest visits conforming to the above programme, please write direct to: 24 Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

The session in Bristol is of a special kind; first half Theory for Coaches, second half Training Exercises for Top Players.

your personal motives and interest. Rather, we teach: "there is a well-founded body of evidence for the efficiency of both techniques, and probably some others too, so let us try to embrace all known systems in our theory studies. That way a qualified Coach can teach almost any player, not the same things to all, but what each requires or desires.

It is open to a private individual to say, as some do: "My theory is this . . .". He can choose his pupils and throw overboard those who do not fit his theory. But too often what he is really saying is "The only piece of the whole theory which I know or teach, is this . . .". Some never look any further than the portion of knowledge that they happened to imbibe in their young days; an official instructor must however always keep an open mind, testing new thoughts against accepted theory and observed facts. Which reminds me, that we usually have to spend considerable time teaching Coaches how to observe people and situations, another "theoretical" part of the syllabus.

Cannot Theory be overdone, then? Of course it can. One of the points which the National Coaches made in common was that some of their Coaches frustrate pupils by over-long lecturing, especially in the middle of play and without allowing the pupil a fair time to adapt himself practically to the problem in hand. It is a temptation to expound all that one has studied so logically, but the good Coach must know when to keep quiet too . . . watch the interest of the pupil always.

**Can Be Overdone**

Can practical Coaching be overdone, too? All the chief Coaches agreed it could and it sometimes is. Most complained of is the older player who continually batters his demands at the bright young player.

In this case too there is a phase in progress when the Coaches should keep quiet and let the native personality take a part in the youngster's game. If he then feels that a Coach can help him again, let him come and ask, and you will really see some results.

The parents and spouses who fail to see when to let the young fledglings fly on their own, also came in for comment, but this is an old topic of mine in these columns.

I regret these dominations of personality, but I do not think we should read tragedy for England into them. Why not? Because I believe that a personality which can be overdominated by a friendly adviser is not likely to dominate hostile opponents in the international sphere.

In short, these shortcomings of a

few "coaches" cannot detract from the great good being done by the body of qualified Coaches who have studied in the modern manner.

Incidentally a good point on which we all agreed was that candidates are being found suitable at a lower age nowadays. We used to think that a player would be unlikely to have enough understanding of people until about the 24 mark, but we do find some excellent leaders around 20 or 21 today.

**Coaches, take stock of your methods, and players . . . how about you doing the same?**

**EDITOR'S POSTBAG**

*Continued from page 9*

and in my opinion the abandonment (notwithstanding Lawn Tennis) of Table Tennis by Ann Haydon.

I sincerely hope that England does not tread that road again. It is appalling to come across someone who appears to be advocating it.

I would advise the writer of "Standardise Rubber" if he did not see them, to obtain first hand reports of the excellent attacking sandwich bat matches at the recent English closed championships, including those of Bobby Stevens

and Bobbie Raybould, winners of the men's singles and doubles. Both are recent converts to sandwich.

I would also advise him to come South and see some of the potentially brilliant youngsters in tournaments and, for example at Harry Venner's coaching classes.

He might insist on coaches who can teach competently with sandwich bat, and for their advanced pupils, can demonstrate that most important shot, the loop drive, for the discomfort of negative chop players.

His younger players will then, I feel sure, be extremely grateful to him.

**DENIS OFFER**

**CLOSED SCRATCHINGS**

**I**N the recent English Closed Championships there were no less than 24 scratchings or walk-overs due to non-appearance of players. This is without other last minute substitutions.

In quite a few cases the officials had no notification of withdrawal on the part of players.

Surely, it is about time some players realised their responsibilities and made the work of the officials easier.

One observation on the part of the players was the lateness in sending out notifications, otherwise WELL DONE!

**P. R. SLEEMAN**  
(Torquay)

**SELECTION COMMITTEE REPLY**

**To December Top Ten Criticism**

**T**O the disillusionment of many table tennis players in general and our critics in particular, we are committed to unfold the mystery of the Top Ten.

Originally introduced as a television programme to show attractive table tennis it included some, but not all, of the leading six men and four women. The E.T.T.A. had no voice in this arrangement except to give approval for the event.

Subsequently the Selection Committee took over the staging of this event and the pattern has gradually changed as time has passed and experience been gained.

Although we travel far and wide watching as many tournaments as possible and keep comprehensive results of nearly one hundred players there are many matches we would like to see which don't materialise because of the luck of the draw or otherwise. In addition, we are interested in the progress of the younger players comparatively fresh from junior play and wish to see them per-

form without the sudden death strain of tournament play.

Hence the present position has been reached where only some of the leading players are selected each time, firstly for serious match play and secondly to act as a standard against which to measure the performances of the up and coming.

We were hopeful that this approach would be generally welcomed not only by the Press but by the Intermediates themselves and even those young only in heart. In the event we managed to give the Editor his biggest postbag for years and although we don't expect written apologies we hope that our critics will realise that we are not concerned with any aspect of the administration of the game; nor are we concerned with the geographical location by birth or residence of any players.

Finally if it would make everybody happy we will give permission for future events of this nature to be called Top Ten on the understanding that it neither consists of TEN nor includes all at the TOP.

The best finals for years. That was the unanimous opinion of the English closed championships at Manor Place Baths, Walworth, on January 6, when **BOBBY STEVENS**, of Essex, came through unseeded to win the men's singles.

There was never a dull moment in all five finals. **Diane Rowe** won the women's singles for the third successive year, collected the women's doubles with **Jill Mills**, and made it a treble in the mixed with **Johnny Leach**.

Stevens also won the men's doubles with **Bobbie Raybould** and was losing finalist in the mixed with **Jean McCree**.

It was perhaps fitting that we should have such a good meeting in the year when the E.T.T.A., concerned about falling gates, have set up a Development Commission to look into ways of increasing interest in the game.

**A Television Boost**

Indeed table tennis could not have had a bigger boost than the men's singles semi-final in which Stevens dethroned **Ian Harrison**. For this was seen throughout the country on television.

This was undoubtedly the match of the meeting, full of thrills from start to finish. Stevens is a much underrated player and using his new sandwich bat he hit through Harrison in great style.

*ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL*

# STEVENS DETHRONES HARRISON

## ● BEST FINALS FOR YEARS

## ● DIANE IN A CLASS OF HER OWN

by **HARRISON EDWARDS**

### CHAMPIONSHIP ROLL

<p><i>Men's Singles</i> <b>BOBBY STEVENS</b> (Essex)</p> <p><i>Men's Doubles</i> <b>BOBBY STEVENS</b> (Essex) and <b>BOBBIE RAYBOULD</b> (Essex)</p> <p><i>Mixed Doubles</i> <b>JOHNNY LEACH</b> (Essex)</p>	<p><i>Women's Singles</i> <b>DIANE ROWE</b> (Middlesex)</p> <p><i>Women's Doubles</i> <b>DIANE ROWE</b> (Middlesex) and <b>JILL MILLS</b> (Surrey)</p> <p><b>DIANE ROWE</b> (Middlesex)</p>
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There was none of that dull pushing play, which has marred so many finals in recent years. It was good honest table tennis of contrasting styles, with a wide variety of shots, in a mixture of defence and attack. And the emphasis was mainly on attack.

Harrison looked to be well on the way to keeping his crown when he took a 20-16 lead in the opening game but Stevens swung the changes with a tremendous recovery to win the next four points for 20-all then take the game at 24-22.

Stevens immediately forced home his advantage to take the next game to eight and went on to reach match point at 20-19 in the third. With his crown only a point away from tottering Harrison made a desperate effort to save the day and helped by an edge ball he came right back to win three points and the game.

So the picture changed once again and it was Harrison who took over the initiative to sweep through the next game for the lost of only nine points and draw level at two games all.

Harrison was now playing like a champion and his title looked secure but Stevens recovered from his setback and everything worked up to a

grand climax as they see-sawed through the early part of the final game until Stevens went away with a rush to win it at 21-13.

Meanwhile, **Stan Jacobson**, of the "loop spin drive" provided another upset in the other semi-final when he beat the second favourite **Jeff Ingber** 21-19 21-16 21-17.

The defeat of Ingber was perhaps not quite surprising for he has made hard going of his two previous rounds when beating **Alan Lindsay** 19-21 16-21 21-19 21-16 21-10, and **George Muranyi** 16-21 17-21 21-9 21-15 21-15.

Ingber had a severe attack of cramp early in the final game of the match with Muranyi and the match was held up several minutes while he received court-side attention. The break appeared to have had a bigger effect on Muranyi who changed his tactics to hit out and paid the penalty.

Ingber could not cater with the wily play of Jacobson, who looped his way to success in the manner

which at the age of 32 has made him one of the top players in the country.

So we came to the final with two sandwich bat players, neither of whom had expected to get so far. Once again we had a match of fluctuating fortunes, but Stevens eventually became the winner at 21-15 17-21 21-17 21-17.

Jacobson took a 4-1 lead in the opening game and they were level at 13-all when Stevens went away with seven points in a row. Jacobson got the next two points but could not save the game. In the second game Stevens went out to an 8-5 lead but was caught and passed at 16-13 by Jacobson and trailed for the rest of the game.

Stevens, who has learned the top spin drive but uses it only to open up the game, began to show his true merits. He forced Jacobson to put the ball up then crashed home winners to both wings and take the third at 17.

Jacobson led 4-3 and 11-10 in the fourth game, but from 13-12, on Jacobson's service, Stevens took all five points to put him in a strong position with a six points lead. Still Jacobson was not finished and pulled up to 17-19 before Stevens hit two cracking winners to become the new champion.

There was no question as to Stevens's right to the title for he had the toughest draw of anyone, and cleared the field of seeded players himself.

Only in the first round where he beat **L. Cooper**, a qualifier, did he have easy opposition. He followed this by beating **Harry Venner** 14-21 21-19 16-21 21-12 21-18, and **Alan Rhodes** 21-23 21-17 21-16 21-19, then Harrison.

The first seed to fall was **Tony Piddock**, who lost his opening match to Venner, and **Jack Clayton**, beaten by Muranyi was the next to go. The remaining six all achieved the appointed places in the quarter-finals.

**Diane Rowe** swept through the women's singles without loss of a game and is obviously in a class of her own among the home players. There is a wide gap between her and the next best.

**Jill Mills** gave her the closest match in the quarter-final where the scores were 21-13, 21-16, 21-18.

Miss Rowe then beat **Peggy Piper** 21-8 21-15 21-14 in the semi-final and **Jean McCree** 21-12 21-16 21-12 in the final.

Women's form is much more predictable for all four seeded players reached the semi-finals, where the only upset was the defeat of **Mary Shannon** by **Jean McCree**, who won a thrilling encounter at 12-21 22-20 21-14 21-23 21-19.

The responsibility of being second seed had proved just a little too much for the 18-year-old **Worcester Park** girl, although she fought stubbornly, and saved match point at 20-21 in the fourth game.

It was good to see Mrs. McCree make such a welcome return to form after a somewhat indifferent season.

**Main Upset**

**Michael Maclaren** and **Muranyi** provided the main upset of the men's doubles when they beat **Johnny Leach** and **Michael Thornhill** 21-9 21-18 21-16 in the semi-final but they found Stevens and Raybould just that little too strong in the final, which went to four games and was far from being one sided. Indeed it always appeared touch and go with Stevens having to carry his partner in the early stages, before Raybould found his touch to crash home winners with devastating effect in the last game.

Stevens and Raybould had eliminated the seeded Harrison and **Brian Wright** in the semi-final at 21-15 21-16 21-18.

Defending champions **Elsie Carrington** and **Jean McCree** lost their women's doubles in the quarter-finals—their first match—when they

**THE CHAMPIONS and . . .**



**DIANE ROWE** receives Singles Trophy from **IVOR MONTAGU**



**BOBBY STEVENS**, new Men's Champion



**JEAN MCCREE**, Women's Runner-up



**STAN JACOBSON**, losing Men's Finalist

**HOW'S THIS FOR SLIMMING?**  
**BOBBY STEVENS** lost 13lb. in the three days of the English closed championships. He could hardly believe his eyes when he jumped on the scales following a query over his weight and found they registered only 10st. 8lb.  
 "I've lost nearly a stone," said the astounded Stevens. "I never realised it was possible at table tennis."

**ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL**

were beaten by Joyce Fielder and Betty Bird who eventually went on to reach the final where Diane Rowe and Jill Mills were much too strong.

Maclaren and Peggy Piper lost their mixed doubles title when they fell to Stevens and Mrs. McCree in the semi-final after three tight games. Leach and Miss Rowe beat Raybould and Mrs. Mill in the other semi-final.

**MEN'S SINGLES**

**First Round:** D. Gilbert (Surrey) bt K. Baker (Middlesex) 14, —12, —18, 19, 16. P. Shead (Sussex) bt G. Whalley (Sussex) 15, 17, 17. J. Leach (Essex) bt K. Beamish (Essex) 11, 10, 14. D. Creamer (Middlesex) bt I. Jones (Essex) —5, 12, 16, 11. W. Evans (Surrey) bt P. Sleeman (Devon) 5, 4, 5. D. Bloy (Kent) bt L. Hoffman (Middlesex) 18, 9, —16, 19.

H. Venner (Surrey) bt K. Edwards (Gloucestershire) 15, 19, 18. M. Creamer (Middlesex) bt B. Brumwell (Essex) —14, —18, 11, 19, 13. R. Stevens (Essex) bt L. Cooper (Kent) 15, 13, 16. G. Taylor (Middlesex) bt M. Maclaren (Surrey) 16, —18, 14, —14, 19. M. Thornhill (Middlesex) bt N. Brabrook (Surrey) 9, 16, 9.

E. Meisel (Kent) bt R. Etheridge (Kent) 11, 17, 21. A. Condon (Essex) bt J. Feinstein (Lancashire) 19, 19, 10. D. Heaps (Berkshire) bt R. Thorn (Kent) —16, 21, 12, 19. M. Ellis (Kent) bt M. Westoby (Kent) 12, —17, 19, 15. R. Raybould (Essex) bt G. Chapman (Surrey) —19, —14, 20, 17, 17.

G. Golding (Essex) bt B. Midgley (Hampshire) 15, 17, 16. G. Muranyi (Surrey) bt D. Whittaker (Kent) 15, 19, 12. A. Cornish (Kent) bt A. Ward (Hampshire) 17, —17, 17, —11, 21. A. Lindsay (Middlesex) bt A. Miller (Surrey) 13, —19, 18, 22. D. Lowe (Surrey) bt L. Kerekas (Middlesex) 17, 17, 8.

**Second Round:** L. Harrison (Gloucestershire) bt Gilbert 17, 15, —18, 12. Shead bt Leach —8, 16, 12, 15. D. Creamer bt Evans 3, 19, 13. B. Wright (Middlesex) bt Bloy —19, 17, 12, 10.

Venner bt A. Piddock (Kent) 15, 20, —12, 12. Stevens bt M. Creamer —14, 10, 17, 21. Taylor bt D. Basden (Kent) 14, 14, —18, 14. A. Rhodes (Middlesex) bt Thornhill 15, 18, 18.

J. Somogyi (Surrey) bt Meisel 12, 17, 15. Condon bt Heaps —16, 18, 15, 11. D. Wall (Middlesex) bt Ellis —18, 17, 18, 16. S. Jacobson (Middlesex) bt Raybould —17, —18, 13, 11, 14.

J. Clayton (Lancashire) bt Golding 18, —12, 16, —10. 14. Muranyi bt J. Densham (Hertfordshire) 16, 12, —11, 19. Lindsay bt Cornish —16, 17, 7, 14. J. Ingber (Lancashire) bt Lowe 12, 9, 8.

**Third Round:** Harrison bt Shead 9, 12, 11. Wright bt D. Creamer 19, 19, 16. Stevens bt Venner —14, 19, —16, 12, 18. Rhodes bt Taylor —21, 17, 16, 19.

Somogyi bt Condon 13, 14, 17. Jacobson bt Wall 14, 9, 5. Muranyi bt Clayton —20, 22, —15, 19, 17. Ingber bt Lindsay —19, 16, 9, 16, 10.

**Quarter-Finals:** Harrison bt Wright 13, 7, 15. Stevens bt Rhodes 19, —20, 13, 23. Jacobson bt Somogyi —8, 17, 14, 19. Ingber bt Muranyi —16, —17, 9, 15, 15.

**Semi-Finals:** STEVENS bt Harrison 22, 18, —20, —9, 13. JACOBSON bt Ingber 19, 16, 17.

**Final:** STEVENS bt Jacobson 15, —17, 17, 17.

**WOMEN'S SINGLES**

**First Round:** Mrs. L. Pilfold (Kent) bt C. S. Holes (Hampshire) 4, 8, 10. Mrs. J. Carrington (Essex) bt P. Venus (Middlesex) 14, 17, 5. J. Williams (Hertfordshire)

The final provided a grand climax to the whole meeting with either Stevens or Miss Rowe, on the opposite sides, due to achieve a triple crown. And it went the full distance of five games with an electrifying finish. Twice Stevens and Mrs. McCree pulled back the loss of a game. In the decider they changed ends with Leach and Rowe leading 10-8 only to

**RESULTS IN FULL**

bt G. Sayer (Essex) 17, 7, —19, 14. M. Pinner (Kent) bt Mrs. P. Harvey (Kent) —17, 16, 16, —14, 15. Mrs. J. McCree (Essex) bt D. Spooner (Devon) 15, 10, 7.

M. Piper (Surrey) bt S. Hession (Essex) 5, 17, 14. Mrs. B. Andrews (Surrey) bt C. Carter (Kent) 20, —18, 12, —21, 18. Mrs. P. Clark (Northumberland) bt M. Hicks (Middlesex) 13, 16, —9, 10. Mrs. R. Bird (Essex) bt J. Collier (Gloucestershire) 11, 21, 22. A. Taft (Hertfordshire) bt P. Holes (Hampshire) 13, 10, 17.

**Second Round:** M. Shannon (Surrey) bt Pilfold 6, 8, 13. Williams bt Carrington 16, 18, —18, 13. Mrs. T. Spokes (Gloucestershire) bt Pinner 9, 7, 16. McCree w.o. Piper bt Andrews 17, —16, —17, 11, 14. Bird bt Clark 14, 18, 15. Mrs. A. Mills (Surrey) bt Taft 14, 14, 11. D. Rowe (Middlesex) w.o.

**Quarter-Finals:** Shannon bt Williams 16, 13, 16. McCree bt Spokes 14, 9, 15. Piper bt Bird —19, 21, 18, 18. Rowe bt Mills 13, 16, 18.

**Semi-Finals:** MCCREE bt Shannon —12, 20, 14, —21, 19. ROWE bt Piper 8, 15, 14.

**Final:** ROWE bt McCree 12, 16, 12.

**MEN'S DOUBLES**

**First Round:** J. Ingber (Lancashire)/K. Edwards (Gloucestershire) bt T. Williams (Surrey)/P. Sleeman (Devon) 7, 7, 5. L. Gresswell/A. Robinson (Middlesex) bt D. Heaps/A. Reeves (Hertfordshire) 18, —20, 14, —21, 25. J. Clayton (Lancashire)/E. Midgley (Hampshire) bt B. Brumwell (Essex)/A. Ward (Hampshire) 13, 16, 17. M. Maclaren/G. Muranyi (Surrey) bt K. Baker (Middlesex)/D. Gilbert (Surrey) 15, 13, 12.

J. Densham (Hertfordshire)/E. Hodson (Middlesex) bt L. Cooper/R. Etheridge (Kent) 12, 11, 19. W. Evans/D. Lowe (Surrey) bt G. Taylor (Middlesex)/D. Whittaker (Kent) 12, 16, —14, 18. S. Jacobson/A. Lindsay (Middlesex) bt N. Brabrook (Surrey)/P. Harding (Middlesex) 11, 11, 3.

**Second Round:** J. Leach (Essex)/M. Thornhill (Middlesex) bt Ingber/Edwards 13, 19, 17. D. Baddeley (Warwickshire)/J. Somogyi (Surrey) bt D. Bloy/B. Meisel (Kent) —17, 14, 18, 15. Gresswell/Robinson bt Clayton/Midgley —16, 19, —15, 19, 18. Maclaren/Muranyi w.o.

R. Raybould/R. Stevens (Essex) bt I. Jones (Essex)/M. Westoby (Kent) —13, 11, 16, 15. Densham/Hodson bt M. Ellis (Kent)/G. Whalley (Sussex) —12, 11, —16, 19, 19. Evans/Lowe bt D. Creamer (Middlesex)/P. Shead (Sussex) 11, 17, —9, 20. I. Harrison (Gloucestershire)/B. Wright (Middlesex) bt Jacobson/Lindsay 19, —14, 16, 21.

**Quarter-Finals:** Leach/Thornhill bt Baddeley/Somogyi 15, 17, 14. Maclaren/Muranyi bt Gresswell/Robinson 20, 15, 19. Raybould/Stevens bt Densham/Hodson 17, —10, 7, 16. Harrison/Wright bt Evans/Lowe 19, 17, 17.

**Semi-Finals:** MACLAREN/MURANYI bt Leach/Thornhill 9, 18, 16. RAYBOULD/STEVENS bt Harrison/Wright 15, 16, 18.

**Final:** RAYBOULD/STEVENS bt Maclaren/Muranyi —18, 16, 14, 19.

**WOMEN'S DOUBLES**

**First Round:** C. Holes/P. Holes (Hampshire) bt M. Peake (Surrey)/P. Venus (Middlesex) 12, 18, 17. D. Spooner (Devon)/G. Sayer (Essex) bt J. Collier/Mrs. T. Spokes (Gloucestershire) —17, —10, 15, 14, 18. Mrs. L. Pilfold (Kent)/M. Piper (Surrey) bt S. Hession (Essex)/J. Williams (Hertfordshire) —6, 17, 20, 10. Mrs. R. Bird (Essex)/J. Fielder (Kent) bt P. Harvey/E. Pinner (Kent) 15, 16, 17.

**Quarter-Finals:** Mrs. A. Mills (Surrey)/D. Rowe (Middlesex) bt Holes/Holes 18, 10, 12. M. Shannon (Surrey)/M. Hicks (Middlesex) bt A. Taft (Hertfordshire)/S. Thomas (Kent) 16, 14, 15. Pilfold/Piper bt Spooner/Sayer 20, —18, —18, 13, 15. Bird/Fielder bt Mrs. J. Carrington/Mrs. J. McCree (Essex) 20, 19, 14.

**Semi-Finals:** MILLS/ROWE bt Shannon/Hicks 14, 16, 17. BIRD/FIELDER bt Pilfold/Piper 17, —15, —12, 12, 15.

**Final:** MILLS/ROWE bt Bird/Fielder 14, 12, 14.

**MIXED DOUBLES**

**First Round:** L. Hoffman (Middlesex)/Mrs. T. Spokes (Gloucestershire) bt S. Ogundipe (Sussex)/Miss C. S. Holes (Hampshire) 7, 14, 13. K. Beamish/Miss S. Hession (Essex) bt S. Hodge/Miss P. Harvey (Kent) —19, 11, 17, 14. J. Ingber (Lancashire)/Mrs. J. Carrington (Essex) bt K. Edwards (Gloucestershire)/Miss G. Sayer (Essex) 12, —8, —14, 10, 15.

J. Densham (Hertfordshire)/Mrs. R. Bird (Essex) bt M. Westoby/Mrs. L. Pilfold (Kent) 13, 16, 10. J. Feinstein (Lancashire)/Mrs. J. Collier (Gloucestershire) bt P. Fenwick (Essex)/Miss M. Pinner (Kent) —18, 16, 22, 21. R. Raybould (Essex)/Mrs. A. Mills (Surrey) bt A. Ward/Miss P. Holes (Hampshire) 22, 16, —15, 19. D. Baddeley (Warwickshire)/Miss J. Williams (Hertfordshire) bt B. Midgley (Hampshire)/Miss D. Spooner (Devonshire) 8, 20, 11. D. Basden/Miss C. Carter (Kent) bt N. Brabrook (Surrey)/Miss P. Venus (Middlesex) 9, 20, —13, 19.

**Second Round:** M. Maclaren/Miss M. Piper (Surrey) bt Hoffman/Spokes 14, 13, —21, 19. M. Ellis/Miss J. Fielder (Kent) bt Beamish/Hession 9, 17, 20. M. Creamer (Middlesex)/Miss A. Taft (Hertfordshire) bt I. Jones/Mrs. Jones (Essex) 18, 8, 17. R. Stevens/Mrs. J. McCree (Essex) bt Ingber/Carrington 17, 18, —19, 20.

Densham/Bird bt B. Wright (Middlesex)/Miss M. Shannon (Surrey) 16, —14, 15, —16, 19. Raybould/Mills bt Feinstein/Collier 19, 17, 8. M. Thornhill/Miss M. Hicks (Middlesex) bt Baddeley/Williams —18, 22, 13, —16, 19. J. Leach (Essex)/Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex) bt Basden/Carter —19, 14, 16, 16.

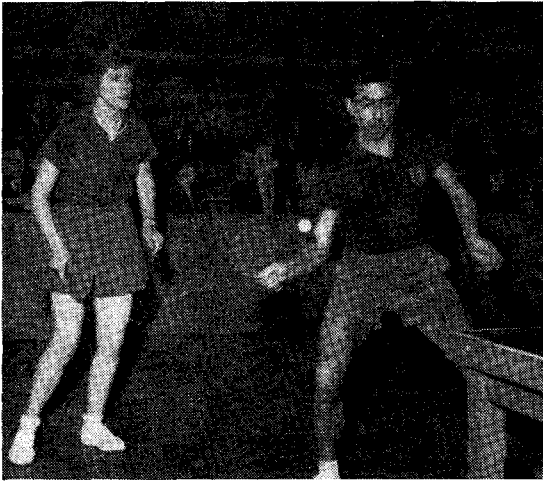
**Quarter-Finals:** Maclaren/Piper bt Ellis/Fielder 19, —14, —20, 16, 11. Stevens/McCree bt Creamer/Taft 15, 13, 12. Raybould/Mills bt Densham/Bird 18, 18, 19. Leach/Rowe bt Thornhill/Hicks —19, 14, 16, 16.

**Semi-Finals:** STEVENS/MCCREE bt Maclaren/Piper 19, 22, 16. LEACH/ROWE bt Raybould/Mills 18, 15, 20.

**Final:** LEACH/ROWE bt Stevens/McCree 10, —17, 16, —12, 18.

# ENGLISH CLOSED PICTURE PARADE

By *Michael Maclaren*



**Top:** Jean McCree and Bobby Stevens, in mixed doubles final. Diane Rowe explains. **Centre:** Johnny Leach, mixed doubles winner. Diane Rowe and Jill Mills, women's doubles champions. Bobbie Raybould men's doubles winner. **Bottom:** Ivor Montagu and Bill Wint, B.T.T.A., President and Chairman. Stevens interviewed by Sidney Hulls (Daily Express) and Roy Moor (Daily Mail).

ENGLISH CLOSED SPECIAL

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING FIT

**AFTER four years of being almost in the wilderness it is good to be back in the top flight of table tennis once again and the winning of the English closed title is a day dream come true.**

Naturally I did not expect to win. Form was all against it, so it has come as big a surprise to me as to everyone else.

## ESSEX PROVIDE FOUR OF ELEVEN FINALISTS

**WELL** done Bobby. Essex table tennis received a much needed pick-me-up, as do all bodies from time to time, from the results of the English Closed. The television coverage of the afternoon's play did much good for the sport in general, but the wins of Bobby Stevens have set the whole County talking. A big hand also for Jean McCree, Bobbie Raybould and Johnny Leach for their part in making the English Closed very much an Essex triumph, four out of eleven finalists.

Congratulations to Lesley Bell and Beverley Sayer on their selection for the English Junior team that spent a week in Germany.

The County Junior team continue on the tail of the Senior team, both have two wins from two matches, but the first team have one game better average at the moment.

Chester Barnes and Lesley Bell continue in their domination of the English Junior tournament singles events. Chester has now won six out of seven entered, but Lesley has yet to lose to an English girl this year and can also add six titles this season to her already long list of wins.

### Encouraging

The new England ranking lists are very encouraging from the Essex angle. Jean McCree at No. 3 and Lesley Bell at No. 5 in the Ladies and Bobby Stevens at No. 3 in the Men. This is a big improvement over recent years, and we can add to this Chester Barnes's invitation to attend the E.T.T.A. training session on January 21st.

Romford made their exit from the Rose Bowl when they received the very strong Sutton team. However, with a team in which Shelagh Hession at 22 is seven years older than the next eldest, their time must surely come in the not too distant future.

East London lost their Wilmott Cup interests for another year when the Willesden team, taking the last game, won 5-4. A very good match though which could have just as easily gone the other way.

How did I manage it? That is a question I am constantly asked in the stream of congratulatory letters I have received from all over the country.

I suppose there are two main reasons, closely allied to each other... **physical fitness and the switch to the "sandwich" bat.**

It was Diane Rowe who persuaded me to make the bat change. In fact she gave me my "sandwich" in the summer and also acted as a sparring partner. For the first three months I did not know what was happening; I merely ran around. Then, around November I began to get the feel of the new surface and was hitting harder and with more consistency.

I find it a big advantage to my type of game for I am a retriever rather than a "chopper." It helps me to make returns without chopping, is most useful on the half volley, and I can hit the ball hard.

I always make a point of hitting hard to win the point rather than make the opponent go back on defence. This applies to every rally as soon as the ball becomes hittable. Most players do not appear to do this now.

### Use Own Speed

"Sandwich" does tend to slow down the game unless you use your own speed, which I do, and this is where physical fitness has played its part.

**Every night before going to bed I spend about 15 minutes doing special exercises to strengthen my legs and stomach muscles. It has helped to give me the speed.**

Insufficient attention is paid to physical fitness by the majority and this I feel is a big mistake made by home players.

I try to worry opponents into errors by putting the ball up and rely on my speed of foot to get into the drop shot and really hit it. That is when an opponent is least prepared, for the English game has become too defensive, even with hitting.

When I took up "sandwich" I also took up the loop drive as I felt it

**By BOBBY STEVENS**

would go in with my style. Now I am playing better I use it less, just occasional for making the openings. It certainly helped me gain confidence. But if you use it too much opponents become used to it.

I must admit I was loathed to take up sponge, the advent of which help push me out of the English rankings in 1958. I felt it had taken the spectacle out of the game and was bad for the spectators. And the spectator has to be considered.

We should all do our best to make games attractive and presentable. And that also goes for dress. I dislike seeing scruffiness at the table and always make a point of being neat and clean. It looks so much better.

Take Johnny Leach, the Rowe twins, or Jill Mills, they always set a high standard in dress; all other players should follow suit.

### I Was Nervous

My win over Harrison, naturally, gave me greatest satisfaction in the championships. I was nervous and did not expect to win. I was more concerned in putting up a good show. When he reached 20-14 in the first game I felt he could not get the ball past me and that gave me the confidence to play him shot for shot.

I began to feel comfortable and after winning the game knew I had a chance. However, I thought I had let it go when he came back to save a match point and win the third game then go to a good lead in the fourth.

**I decided to gamble on a little subtlety and let the game go. Harrison I feel was lulled into a sense of false security as he hit his way to level at two-all. He was unprepared when I hit back in the fifth.**

It was a most exhilarating win, after which I felt the final was somewhat of an anti-climax. I had beaten Jacobson in our two previous meetings and he considers me his "bogey man." I was confident I would win as long as I did not do anything foolish.

My main concern now is that I can fully justify my success and my return to the international scene.



**AROUND EAST ANGLIA**

**NORFOLK WOULD LIKE MATCH WITH ESSEX**

**STAR-STUDED** Essex played Suffolk at St. Margaret's Institute, Lowestoft in December. Bobby Stevens, Brian Brumwell, Chester Barnes, Lesley Bell and Shelagh Hession delighted a strong Norwich contingent who had travelled 25 miles to watch the match. Also there were well-known figures from Yarmouth, Ipswich, Stowmarket and Woodbridge. Mrs. Marion Harrison, East Anglian League Secretary, spoke for us all when she said, "I would not have missed it for worlds!"

Essex would be a real draw if a match could be arranged with Norfolk. Their clean, quick returns were a lesson to those who tiredly push back the slower ball.

Norwich registered umpires will be interested to know that their League registration forestalls by several seasons the N.U.R.C.'s scheme for a League Umpire qualification. Colin Clemett writes: "I found you the scheme you describe most interesting and it is by far the most advanced of its kind that I have heard of."

One of the ten questions in the test paper reads: "Give the number and letter of the Law for the following awards:—1, Fault; 2, Touched net; 3, Table moved; 4, Hand on table; 5, Over table; 6, Volley; 7, Not up; 8, Double hit; and 9, Wrong player."

The latest E.T.T.A. Handbook containing the Laws should now be in the hands of all club secretaries. We will award a free copy of TABLE TENNIS for three months to the secretary or umpire who returns the first correct answer. Copies of the paper may be had from George Dearing.

At the half-way stage, placings in the East Anglian League read: **Division I:** Ipswich 5, Lowestoft 4, Norwich 3, Yarmouth 0; **Division II:** Norwich B 4, Yarmouth B 4, Lowestoft B 0, Dereham 0, Wymondham 0.

One match in which Yarmouth B beat Dereham 8-2 produced the most unusual struggle of the season. Charlie Carter of Yarmouth, with his famous wooden bat and defensive half-volley, met his match in W. Matthews of Dereham, who decided to play the same game. After 20 minutes Carter had won the first game 18-14. Matthews warmed up to take the next 7-3. Then, taking eight minutes to decide the final point, Matthews romped home 3-2!

The Schoolboys' Tournament run by Norwich Y.M.C.A. is always a happy occasion. Secretary S. Larmour, Peter Soutar and Georg Beer had two busy evenings umpiring for a record entry of 150. In the "Teams of Three" event each man played his opposite number for one game only; changing ends at score 10, of course. Wymondham S.M.X. (Dix, McGregor, Betts) beat Lakenham A (McDonald, Steward, Blackburn) 2-1 to win this, and Armstrong and Hagan beat Palmer and

Hodges in an all-Wymondham doubles final. In the singles, Robert Watts of Aylsham S.M. beat Colin Blackburn of Lakenham. We are now hoping that Wymondham S.M. will repeat their successes in the EAGLE/GIRL Tournament.

Gothic, Bullards and St. Barnabas are unbeaten in Division I of the Norwich League and CEYMS B and Gothic C head Divisions II and III. In Division IV only two points separate Jewsons B, St. Faith's House, Bullards B and Sprowston United; Sprowston B.L. and Sportsmen lead Division V, and Park Lane Division VI

J. S. Penny.

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES**

by Leslie Constable

**CORNWELL BACK IN FORM**

**JOHN CORNWELL** who has returned to the county after a long lay-off has found much of his old form and is as dominating as ever in Cambridgeshire circles.

Along with John Thurston he has been a mainstay of the county team, while he played a big part in the 5-0 win by Cambridge over Norwich in the Wilmott Cup.



**JOHN CORNWELL**

Cambridge won the first five games and it was decided to stop the match there because of the tricky weather conditions facing Norwich on their return home. Cambs. have had mixed fortunes in the county championship, beating Norfolk then losing to Hertfordshire. The absence of Keith Chapman was felt, although Albert Jackson played to the best of his ability.

**CAMBS and HUNTS SHARE LEAD**

**THE** new South-East Midlands League, with its unusual scoring system of points for the number of sets won, is working up a lively interest. Cambridge "A" and Hunts. T.T.A. head the table with 23 points each with Bedford "A2" only one point behind.

Although Cambridge "A" beat Hunts. 6-4, they have played one match more and could well be passed before the competition ends.

The policy of playing a junior in each team is proving most successful, and some of the seniors are finding it hard work to win their points.

**SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE LEAGUE TABLE (to date)**

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Cambridge "A" .....	5	2	1	2	23	27	23
Hunts. T.T.A. ....	4	2	0	2	23	17	23
Bedford "A" .....	4	2	0	2	22	18	22
Cambs. Univ. ....	4	2	1	1	19	21	19
Kettering .....	3	1	0	2	13	17	13

A newcomer to the county team is Margaret Bradnum and it is hoped her influence will considerably strengthen the women's game in the county.

The Cambs. League has reached an interesting position with Y.M.C.A., who include Cornwell, and New Chesterton, whose mainstay is John Thurston, fighting it out for the title. New Chesterton are the holders, but there is every indication they will be unseated by Y.M.C.A.

Wesley, who were relegated last season, are heading the Second Division, with Wilburton and Salvationists close on their heels. Wilburton have risen from the Sixth Division in as many years, and although they may well go up again. Wesley, with Jack Baughan, Peter Tyrell and Barry Nicholls are favourites to win the division.

The Cambs. Closed Championships are being held at the Corn Exchange on March 19-22 and a record entry is expected, especially in the junior ranks.

There is some keen competition in the other divisions, with Kerridge's, Northern Assurance, Y.M.C.A. II, and Chesterton Youth striving hard to gain honours.

**OUR APOLOGIES**

**THE** Editor wishes to express his sincere apologies to Messrs. **JOHN JAQUES and SONS, LTD.**, one of the most valued supporters of TABLE TENNIS, for price errors which appeared in their advertisement in the January issue.

The prices of the **ANN HAYDON "55" Pip Rubber bat** should read 11s. 9d. (not 11s. 7d.); The **LEN ADAMS "55" Sandwich** 15s. 9d. (not 15s. 10d.) and the **DEREK BURRIDGE "55" Sandwich** 13s. 9d. (not 13s. 8d.).

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused to Messrs. Jaques and readers.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

by FRANK BATEMAN

## ONLY SURREY CAN STOP MIDDLESEX

**TO do full justice to this round-up of the county championship matches it is necessary to have first hand information. This I am afraid has not been forthcoming. Despite repeated requests, no county has sent me a match report this month.**

True I get the score-sheets but they can be most misleading. Will county secretaries or captains, therefore, please let me have more information on their matches.

Having got this grouse off my chest, here is the news as I see it.

Middlesex, with a crushing 9—0 win over Hertfordshire, are heading for yet another win in the Premier Division. They are unbeaten from their five matches and have a games aggregate of 35-10.

Only Surrey, who kept in the running with a 6—3 win over Gloucestershire, have any chance of overhauling Middlesex, and that big chance comes on March 2 when they are due to meet in Surrey. The remaining Middlesex match is a home fixture with Warwickshire, scheduled for March 17.

Hertfordshire, in their first season in the top grade, are finding the going tough, and this defeat by Middlesex has sent them slumping to the bottom of the table, without a win.

They were right out of their depth

against Middlesex, with only Terry Densham getting within sight of a success when he held Stan Jacobson to 21 in the third. He also took a game off Alan Rhodes.

David Seaholme, making his county senior debut for Hertfordshire, started well when he took the opening games from Brian Wright, but after that fell away badly.

**Joe Somogyi provided the big upset of Surrey's win over Gloucestershire when he beat Ian Harrison 21-16, 21-19, but by this time a decision had already been reached, George Muranyi having given Surrey a 5-3 lead when he beat Bob Morley.**

## Led 3-1

Gloucestershire actually took a 3-1 lead then lost five matches in a row, their big weakness once again being on the women's section, where Molly Jones was beaten by Mary Shannon and also lost the mixed doubles with Morley, to Michael Maclaren and Miss Shannon.

In the Second Division (South), the young Kent team went down 1-9 to Sussex, their only success being in the men's doubles. Oxford maintained their good form by holding Worcestershire, last season's winners, to 5-all in the Second Division (Midland), but are still a point behind Glamorgan, who have a match in hand.

Bassett and Bush gained Dorset's two successes when they crashed 2-8

to Devon in the Second Division (West).

**Warwickshire are the first divisional champions of the season. Although they have still to meet Nottinghamshire, their 6-4 win over Staffordshire has put them in an unbeatable position with a maximum of ten points.**

Notts, even if they win their two remaining matches, can only total nine points.

Veteran Harry Spiers is skipper of the Warwickshire team and proved once again he can still hold his own in the Midland Section. Maurice Billington, last year's England No. 1 junior, clinched the issue with a 21-16, 24-22 final set over Martin.

Notts romped away to a 6-1 lead then lost the last three games when beating Derby 6-4.

Bucks never recovered from a bad start in their Southern Division match against Cambridgeshire and went down 3-7. It was the ladies who saved Bucks from an even heavier defeat. They won the women's singles, women's doubles and mixed doubles.

## Hants Title

Despite a fighting display by Graham French, Kent could only hold Hampshire to a draw at Basingstoke, and that one point is sufficient to make Hampshire winners of the Junior Division (South), even though they still have one match to come against Surrey on March 17.

Surrey handed out a 9—1 thrashing to Sussex, who are without a point from five matches.

Gloucestershire received a shock set back in the Junior Division (Midland) when they were beaten 7-3 by Warwickshire, who having won all four of their matches, must now be strong favourites to take the title. The two teams have, however, to meet again on March 17, and the title must hang in the balance till then.

Graham Pressick was the star of the Warwickshire success, beating both Morley Mordecai and Brian Brady to retain his 100 per cent. record in this division.

Stanley Hahn and Miss Daniels were once again unbeaten in Oxford's 5-5 draw with Staffordshire.

Essex, following a crushing 9-1 win over Suffolk, share the lead with Middlesex in the Junior Division (East). They have identical games aggregate of 16-4 and it seems

## COUNTY DIARY

## PREMIER DIVISION

February 11 Warwickshire v Kent, Wright's Ropes Ltd., Jarrison Street, Birmingham 9. 3.15 p.m.

February 17 Warwickshire v Yorkshire, Hubert's Social Club, Cross Roads, Foleshill, Coventry. 7.15 p.m.

## SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

February 10 Devon v Cornwall, Falmouth Docks Canteen, Falmouth. 7.15 p.m.

## SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)

February 17 Worcestershire v Staffordshire, Shire Hall, Worcester. 7.15 p.m.

## SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

February 10 Northumberland v Durham.

## MIDLAND DIVISION

February 17 Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire, Combustion Club Room, Sinfon Lane, Derby. 7 p.m.

## SOUTHERN DIVISION

February 3 Norfolk v Hertfordshire, C.E.Y.M.S., Brigg Street, Norwich. 7 p.m.

February 17 Hertfordshire v Buckinghamshire.

## JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)

February 3 Essex v Cambridgeshire, W. J. Fraser, Harold Hill Industrial Estate, Romford.

February 10 Hertfordshire v Suffolk, Letchworth Grammar School, The Broadway, Letchworth. 5 p.m.

obvious that their clash on March 16, when Middlesex have home advantage, will be the deciding factor.

Suffolk's lone win was scored by Chris Lipscombe over Dennis Kerison.

## DIVISIONAL TABLES

### PREMIER DIVISION

	Games			
	P. W. L. F. A. P.			
Middlesex	5	5	0	35 10 10
Surrey	5	4	1	30 15 8
Lancashire	4	3	1	20 16 6
Gloucestershire	5	3	2	20 25 6
Warwickshire	3	1	2	14 13 2
Kent	3	1	2	13 14 2
Yorkshire	4	0	4	9 27 0
Hertfordshire	5	0	5	12 33 0

### SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

	P. W. D. L. F. A. P.			
Essex	2	2	0	0 17 3 4
Sussex	3	2	0	1 18 12 4
Hampshire	3	2	0	1 17 13 4
Kent	3	0	1	2 10 20 1
Suffolk	3	0	1	2 8 22 1

### SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

Devonshire	2	2	0	0 14 6 4
Wiltshire	2	1	1	0 12 8 3
Cornwall	3	0	3	0 15 15 3
Somerset	2	0	1	1 9 11 1
Dorsetshire	3	0	1	2 10 20 1

### SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)

Glamorgan	2	2	0	0 18 2 4
Oxfordshire	3	1	1	1 15 15 3
Worcestershire	3	1	1	1 11 19 3
Bedfordshire	3	1	0	2 12 18 2
Staffordshire	1	0	0	1 4 6 0

### SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

Yorkshire	2	2	0	0 15 5 4
Cheshire	3	2	0	1 20 10 4
Lincolnshire	3	1	0	2 14 16 2
Durham	2	1	0	1 9 11 2
Northumberland	2	0	0	2 2 18 0

### MIDLAND DIVISION

Warwickshire	5	5	0	0 33 17 10
Nottinghamshire	4	2	1	1 21 19 5
Staffordshire	5	1	1	3 22 28 3
Derbyshire	4	0	0	4 14 26 0

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1 17 13 4
Buckinghamshire	3	1	1	1 16 14 3
Hertfordshire	1	1	0	0 6 4 2
Worcestershire	2	1	0	1 8 12 2
Norfolk	3	0	1	2 13 17 1

### JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)

Warwickshire	4	4	0	0 32 8 8
Gloucestershire	3	2	0	1 18 12 4
Oxfordshire	4	0	1	3 13 27 1
Staffordshire	3	0	1	2 7 23 1

### JUNIOR DIVISION (NORTH)

Yorkshire	3	3	0	0 18 6 6
Durham	3	2	0	0 13 11 4
Lancashire	3	1	0	2 12 12 2
Cheshire	3	0	0	3 5 19 0

### JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)

Hampshire	5	4	1	0 34 16 9
Kent	4	2	1	1 23 17 5
Surrey	4	2	0	2 26 14 4
Sussex	5	0	0	5 7 43 0

### JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)

Essex	2	2	0	0 16 4 4
Middlesex	2	2	0	0 16 4 4
Suffolk	2	1	0	1 10 10 2
Hertfordshire	2	0	0	2 7 13 0
Cambridgeshire	2	0	0	2 1 19 0

# DETAILED RESULTS

### PREMIER DIVISION

Gloucestershire 3, Surrey 6.  
 K. Edwards bt G. Muranyi 19, —24, 19;  
 lost to A. Miller —16, —9. I. Harrison bt  
 Miller 14, 17; lost to J. Somogyi —16,  
 —19. R. Morley lost to Somogyi —17,  
 —15; lost to Muranyi —17, —17.  
 Miss M. Jones lost to Miss M. Shannon  
 —10, 18, —8.  
 Edwards Harrison bt M. Maclaren/  
 Muranyi —16, 10, 17.  
 Morley/Miss Jones lost to Maclaren/Miss  
 Shannon —18, 21, —17.

### Hertfordshire 0, Middlesex 9.

D. Seaholme lost to B. Wright 20, —11,  
 —11; lost to S. Jacobson —9, —11. T.  
 Densham lost to Jacobson 19, —9, —21;  
 lost to A. Rhodes —22, 19, —13. J. Hunt  
 lost to Rhodes —18, —15; lost to Wright  
 —17, —14.  
 Miss J. Williams lost to Miss D. Rowe  
 —14, —11.  
 Densham/Hunt lost to Rhodes/M.  
 Thornhill 15, —10, —13.  
 B. Barr/Miss Williams lost to Thornhill/  
 Miss Rowe —14, —20.

### SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

Sussex 9, Kent 1.  
 SECOND DIVISION (MIDLAND)  
 Oxfordshire 5, Worcestershire 5.

### SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

Devon 8, Dorset 2.  
 MIDLAND DIVISION  
 Staffordshire 4, Warwickshire 6.  
 Nottinghamshire 6, Derbyshire 4.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

Buckinghamshire 3, Cambridgeshire 7.  
 JUNIOR DIVISION (SOUTH)  
 Sussex 1, Surrey 9.  
 Hampshire 5, Kent 5.

JUNIOR DIVISION (MIDLAND)  
 Warwickshire 7, Gloucestershire 3.  
 Staffordshire 5, Oxfordshire 5.

JUNIOR DIVISION (EAST)  
 Suffolk 1, Essex 9.

## WELSH CORNER

# Three Cardiff Teams Unbeaten

THE half-way stage in the Welsh League finds Cardiff with three unbeaten teams, but, ironically enough, a team without a win in the Junior Section.

In Division 1, they have won all six of their matches, their nearest challengers being Abergavenny, with five wins out of six. Swansea come next with four wins out of five, followed by Bridgend with three out of seven, and Newport with two out of seven played. Eastern Valleys and Rhondda have two each out of six, with Aberdare on the bottom, with one out of seven.

Bridgend, with quite a good record in the top division, actually head Division 2, with seven wins out of nine, followed by Aberdare, with five out of nine. Cardiff, although unbeaten, have to be content with third place.

Barry boys have joined the junior struggle, hitherto confined to Aberdare and Abergavenny, and all these three have five wins out of six matches. This promises a thrilling final struggle for the Championship. Newport, with three wins out of six come fourth, followed by Eastern Valleys, two out of six, Tredegar, one out of six, and Cardiff, with a victory yet to come.

Cardiff's women have won their three matches, including beating their usual rivals, Swansea, who have now only won one out of three. Newport are second with two wins, with Abergavenny on the bottom.

Although the Welsh Open was an undoubted success, Welsh officials were disappointed to find so many of the usual local tournament entrants absent. It is difficult to discover the reason for this, and suggestions that the possibility of having to play on the Friday evening, or early on the Saturday morning are deterrents, ought not to hold water.

After all, such inconveniences are the same everywhere. Some players appear to think that because they go to other tournaments, which appear to be on on Saturday morning and afternoon, that this is the whole tournament. They are apparently unaware that in most cases an eliminating competition for locals has gone on throughout the week.

An official Welsh entry to the European Championships is out of the question, but the opportunity may be given to selected players to make the trip if they are prepared to pay their own expenses. Any financing by the Welsh Association can be ruled out.

News from North Wales is sparse, and little or nothing is heard of activities along the North Coast. In Wrexham, a league which continues to grow, there is splendid enthusiasm and a series of interleague matches with nearby towns across the border should stimulate this even more. West Wales appear to keep busy, and they are already preparing for their popular Milford Open Tournament on March 4th. When they hope to attract some of the best English players "down West."

**JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT**

by **BRIAN WRIGHT**

**THIS IS NOT GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S  
BEST JUNIOR SIDE**

**MIKE SYMONDS**, just back from Germany with the English junior team, played brilliantly in the Lancashire Open to become the first junior for nearly two years to win a senior title.

In the semi-final he beat ex-junior No. 1 George Livesey and followed this with a win over Derek Schofield, who had previously beaten Jack Clayton.

By his play in the Lancashire it seems that the German tour has done Mike a world of good and if he can keep up his present form the English open junior cup must have a great chance of ending up in Warrington this year.

I noticed in last month's magazine "Onlooker," when reviewing the Gloucestershire Junior open, stated that the junior strength of that county is the highest it has ever been.

Although their strength is very high with Morley Mordecai and Barry Bady Nos. 6 and 7 on the present English Junior Ranking List I do not think the standard is anywhere near so high as that of six seasons ago.

Then Gloucestershire not only had Ian Harrison, English junior champion, but also Keith Tarling, capped for England juniors against Wales, David Griffiths, a reserve for the same match, and Kevin Edwards, who with Ian won many junior double titles including the English Junior open.

I think "Onlooker" must agree that Gloucestershire's present junior standard is only approaching that of six years ago.

A few people have asked why there is no English closed juniors as in most years we get a good foreign entry for the "open" (last year's entries came from Germany, France, Wales and Ireland) and the chances are pretty high that the title goes abroad. I think that it would be a good idea if the junior closed tournament could be run with present English closed.

Congratulations to the English junior team who did so well on their

recent trip to Germany. The girls were undefeated in their matches, while the boys beat France 5-1, lost to Sweden 2-5, and just lost to Germany 4-5. Particular congratulations to Lesley Bell on winning the girls' individual tournament and to Brian Hill, who produced his best form to win the boys' event.

If anyone has items of interest for the Junior column I shall be pleased to hear from you. I will be around at most of tournaments and can also be contacted at my home address: **69 Tubbs Road, Harlesden, London, N.W.10.**

**AN EDUCATION**

by **DAVID STANLEY**

**O**N Monday, January 1, an enthusiastic team of junior table tennis players, including myself, met at Liverpool Street Station equipped in anticipation of severe winter conditions in Germany.

We had a very calm crossing from Harwich to the Hook of Holland where we climbed aboard the Scandinavia Express to take us to Lubeck in North Western German. The 10½ hours train journey was far more enjoyable than most of us had thought possible, with scenery and buildings so different from home. We arrived in Malente at 5.30 p.m. on the Tuesday and were warmly greeted by the German officials. The Sportheim, where we stayed, was very pleasantly situated and much to our surprise, the weather was much warmer than that we had left in England.

We soon made friends with the other players, and the language difficulty, which we all expected to be a barrier, was non-existent. At the start, we were very much aware of the difference in the food, but by the end of the week our palates had become accustomed to it and from then on, we all enjoyed meal times.

The International match staged at Lubeck was perfectly organised, even to the Brass Band and the playing of the National Anthems. The match itself was most exciting, made us proud to be playing for England and will stay in our memory for evermore.

The scenery around Malente was very beautiful and the sightseeing trips most interesting and educational. The trip around Lubeck enabled us to see the border between East and West Germany.

There was always a very friendly atmosphere at the Sportheim and the hospitality was second to none. I am sure that I speak for all the team, when I say, that both our table tennis and education benefited immensely from this wonderful experience.

In conclusion, on behalf of all the members of the teams, I would like to thank both non-playing captains, Margaret Fry and Laurie Landry for looking after all of us so well and the E.T.T.A. and all concerned for giving us this terrific opportunity.

We assure you, we shall all try in the seasons ahead to justify the chance given and to reach the standard which we all know has to be attained.

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WELSH OPEN**ANOTHER NATIONAL TITLE FOR STEVENS**

**BOBBY STEVENS**, the new English Closed Champion, continued his winning way at Cardiff, taking the Welsh Open Singles title, and the doubles with his English title partner **Bobbie Raybould**.

The piquancy of the expected Harrison/Stevens return was missing from the tournament, for although Harrison had entered, he was wanted for the Gloucestershire-Surrey County match. Nevertheless there was plenty of other opposition for Stevens to surmount, and the fact that he dropped only one game during the day shows how he was still "on form."

His only slip was against Welsh international George Evans, who took the first game in the quarter final 21-17. But Bobby soon "got the message" about George's game, and was in no trouble thereafter. He beat Ray Dorking with ease in his semi-final, and in the final, Michael Thornhill, who had played his slower, more deliberate game with great effect up to then, just did not have any answer to Stevens' clever use of top spin and fast attack.

Thornhill had had a fine battle with Alan Rhodes in the "quarters", winning 17 in the third, and another tight game with David Creamer, who had previously eliminated Tony Piddock. There was an upset early on, when Dorking beat Brian Wright with apparent ease. Welshman Alan Thomas gave him a far harder three game struggle in the quarters.

**Diane Rowe looked head and shoulders better than anyone else in the women's section, and it was no surprise to see her take three titles.**

In the singles semi-final she beat Judy Williams without much trouble, and repeated earlier victories over second seed Jean McCree in the final. Jean tried hard enough, but she lacks the game to upset Di. Her semi-final victim was Audrey Bates, who attacked well in the first game, but got too far behind at the beginning of the second.

The exciting men's doubles final could hardly have been closer, Stevens and Raybould beating Wright and Landry 22-20, 22-20. David House, back with Shirley on a holiday from the U.S.A., teamed up with Dorking, to reach the semi-final, where they lost to the eventual winners. Earlier they had had the narrowest of wins against David Creamer and South African Derek Wall. Wright and Landry beat Thornhill and Michael Creamer in their semi, after the latter had disposed of Rhodes and Piddock.

Diane Rowe and Judy Williams beat Jean McCree and Alma Taft in the doubles, whilst in the mixed Diane partnered Alan Rhodes to victory over Stevens and Jean McCree. The winners beat Piddock and Judy Williams in their semi, while the scratch pairing of Brian Wright and Terry Spokes were losers in the other.

The Boys' Singles, restricted to Welsh youngsters through the non-arrival of Bistol's Mordecai and Brady, provided an excellent final. The diminutive Johnny Mansfield from Abergavenny was the eventual winner, but most of the enthusiastic crowd would have been quite happy to see him share the title with Barry's Graham Cogbill. It was a match of swaying fortunes, with victory coming by the narrowest of margins.

Although played at a smaller Drill Hall than the past and with only six tables in use, the tournament appeared

to run smoothly, providing about an hour's interval between the end of rounds and the actual finals. The meals and refreshments, all provided by voluntary help, seemed to receive universal praise.

**Men's Singles: Semi-Finals:** R. STEVENS (Essex) bt R. Dorking (Essex) 21-16, 21-9, M. THORNHILL (Middlesex) bt D. Creamer (Middlesex) 21-19, 21-18.

**Final: STEVENS** bt Thornhill 21-5, 21-15.

**Women's Singles: Semi-Finals:** D. ROWE (Middlesex) bt J. Williams (Hertfordshire) 21-14, 21-7, J. MCCREE (Essex) bt R. Bates (Wales) 21-18, 21-11.

**Final: ROWE** bt McCree 21-13, 21-14

**Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals:** STEVENS/RAYBOULD bt Dorking/ D. House. B. WRIGHT/L. LANDRY bt Thornhill/M. Creamer.

**Final: STEVENS/RAYBOULD** bt Wright/Landry 22-20, 22-20.

**Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals:** ROWE/WILLIAMS bt Bates/ Gray; McCree/A. Taft bt Spokes/Collier.

**Final: ROWE/WILLIAMS** bt McCree/Taft 21-17, 21-14.

**Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals:** A. RHODES/Miss ROWE bt A. Piddock/Miss Williams. STEVENS/Mrs. MCCREE bt Wright/Mrs. T. Spokes.

**Final: RHODES/ROWE** bt Stevens/McCree 22-20, 21-15.

**Boys' Singles: Final:** J. MANSFIELD bt G. Cogbill 11-21, 21-11, 22-20.

**Girls' Singles: Final:** P. VENUS bt S. Hinley 21-12, 20-22, 21-11.

PONTEFRAC T OPEN**JUNIORS TAKE SENIOR TITLES**

**TWO** juniors won the senior titles but failed in the junior events at the Pontefract Approved Open. On his way to the men's final David Stanley (Huddersfield) had straight game wins over Roy Crusham, George Livesey and Doug McGarry, and his defence then proved too tight for Matt Sheader (Lincs.).

But in the junior final Denis Neale (Middlesbrough) used the table to full advantage in reversing his defeat by Stanley in the previous week's Lancashire Open junior final.

Di Fitzgerald (Manchester) retained the women's title but was knocked out of the girls' event in the semi-final by Cynthia Blackshaw 21-16, 21-15.

Fitzgerald and Stanley were together in the mixed—but went out in the first round to Maurice Pitts (Bradford) and Mavis Dyson (Huddersfield), who went on to keep their title.

**Men's Singles: Semi-Finals:** D. STANLEY bt D. McGarry 21-17, 21-3, M. SHEADER bt S. Dyson 21-18, 21-19.

**Final: STANLEY** bt Sheader 21-15, 21-19.

**Women's Singles: Final:** D. FITZGERALD bt W. Swift 21-11, 20-22, 21-13.

**Men's Doubles: Final:** M. SIMPSON/McGARRY bt M. J. Pitts/Dyson 21-12, 21-8.

**Women's Doubles: Final:** FITZGERALD/C. SPENCER bt C. D. Blackshaw/L. Proudlock 21-18, 21-10.

**Mixed Doubles: Final:** PITTS/M. DYSON bt Sheader/P. Chadwick 21-19, 21-13.

**Youths' Singles: Final:** D. NEALE bt Stanley 21-17, 15-21, 21-18.

**Girls' Singles: Final:** BLACKSHAW bt P. Dainty 19-21, 21-17, 21-12.

**Veterans' Singles: Final:** N. LUSHER bt H. Greaves 21-15, 21-13.

**LANCASHIRE OPEN**By **GEORGE YATES****SYMONDS WINS FIRST SENIOR TITLES**

**JEFF INGBER'S** three year reign as men's singles title holder of the **Lancashire Open** was terminated at the **De Havilland (Northern) Sports Club, Bolton** where **Durham's Eddie Taylor** brought off a tremendous 21-17, 19-21, 21-18 victory in the top quarter. It was Lancashire's own **Mike Symonds** who eventually stole the show to win his first ever senior open title defeating Taylor's conqueror, **Derek Schofield** in the final.

Seventeen-year-old Symonds is surely destined for high honours as witness his victims including the former top two England juniors **George Livesey** and **Jack Keogh** both in straight sets, former Essex county man **Fred Kershaw** and England No. 7 **Jack Clayton**.

In an event full of surprises all four seeds were eliminated before the semi-finals. Apart from **Ingber** and **Clayton**, third seed **Ron Alcock** fell to **Schofield** and the fourth, Scottish invader **Ian Barclay**, was easily accounted for by **Livesey**, who later basked in greater glory by his defeat of the much fancied **Kevin Forshaw**. **Schofield** did well also in seeing off **Warwickshire's Derek Baddeley**, whose other representative **Colin Cadwallader** went out to **Kershaw**.

**Diane Wright** retained her women's crown, despite a gallant attempt by **Diane Fitzgerald** in an event which saw the complete eclipse of the trans-Pennine challengers from **Yorkshire**.

The "Tykes" came into their own in the junior events capturing both through the medium of **David Stanley** and **Pat Dainty**, surprise winner over **Lesley Proudlock**. In the junior boys' which, in contrast to the men's, went strictly in accordance with the book all four seeds reached the penultimate stage.

Co-holder of the men's doubles **Ingber**, with former county man **Alan Costello** instead of **Phil Strulovitch**, again reached the final there to fall to the **Clayton-Schofield** combination.

Women's holders **Winnie Swift** and **Mary Leigh** were beaten by the eventual winners **Diane Wright** and **Mrs. Doreen Schofield**. Partnered by **George Livesey**, **Miss Wright** just failed to land a treble **Peter Duncombe**, partnering **Cynthia Blackshaw**, really whalloping the deciding point.

**RESULTS**

**Men's Singles: Semi-Finals:** M. SYMONDS (Lancashire) bt G. Livesey (Lancashire) 21-16, 21-18, D. SCHOFIELD (Cheshire) bt E. Taylor (Durham) 21-18, 24-22.

**Final:** SYMONDS bt Schofield 21-12, 21-16.

**Women's Singles: Semi-Finals:** D. WRIGHT (Cheshire) bt L. S. Proudlock (Yorkshire) 18-21, 21-16, 21-12, D. FITZGERALD (Lancashire) bt C. Spencer (Lancashire) 21-12, 21-12.

**Final:** WRIGHT bt Fitzgerald 21-18, 21-17.

**Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals:** J. INGBER (Lancashire)/A. COSTELLO (Lancashire) bt G. Beardsworth (Lancashire)/H. M. Nixon (Lancashire) 21-15, 21-18, J. CLAYTON (Lancashire)/SCHOFIELD bt Symonds/D. H. Stanley (Yorkshire) 21-13, 21-18.

**Final:** CLAYTON/SCHOFIELD bt Ingber/Costello 21-15, 21-19.

**Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals:** WRIGHT/D. SCHOFIELD (Cheshire) bt W. Swift (Lancashire)/M. Leigh (Lancashire) 21-16, 21-18, C. BLACKSHAW (Yorkshire)/PROUDLOCK bt Fitzgerald/C. Spencer 21-18, 21-19.

**Final:** WRIGHT/SCHOFIELD bt Blackshaw/Proudlock 21-17, 21-17.

**Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals:** LIVESEY/Miss WRIGHT bt C. Cadwallader (Warwickshire)/Miss Fitzgerald 14-21, 21-11, 21-9, P. C. DUNCOMBE (Yorkshire)/Miss BLACKSHAW bt K. Forshaw (Lancashire)/Miss Proudlock 21-8, 17-21, 21-11.

**Final:** DUNCOMBE/BLACKSHAW bt Livesey/Wright 21-13, 21-19.

**Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals:** D. NEALE (Durham) bt B. J. Marsden (Lancashire) 21-11, 21-8, D. H. STANLEY bt Symonds 21-17, 19-21, 21-19.

**Final:** STANLEY bt Neale 21-9, 21-18.

**Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals:** PROUDLOCK bt P. Humphreys (Durham) 21-16, 21-12, P. DAINTY (Yorkshire) bt J. A. Crafter (Lancashire) 21-17, 22-20.

**Final:** DAINTY bt Proudlock 21-14, 21-14.

**Veterans' Singles: Semi-Finals:** N. LUSHER (Yorkshire) bt V. R. Kiernan (Lancashire) 21-17, 21-9, H. M. NIXON (Lancashire) bt H. Greaves (Lancashire) 21-18, 21-15.

**Final:** LUSHER bt Nixon 21-17, 21-14.

**IRISH OPEN****LEACH AGAIN**

**JUST 20 years ago Johnny Leach** gained the first major success of the illustrious table tennis career that was to take him to two world titles, when he won the **Irish Open**

At **Bangor** on **January 20** the circle took another full turn when **Leach** again won the **Irish singles** for the sixth time.

The **Dufferin Hall** was packed to overflowing, when **Leach** beat **Ralph Gunnion**, the **Liverpool** champion who now lives in **Birmingham**, in straight games 21-18, 21-10, 21-18. The scenes were reminiscent of those boom years of just after the war and the players had to force their way through the crowds to get to the table, the hall was so tightly packed. Indeed, one **V.I.P.** was unable to get to his seat at all.

**Leach** played with a confidence he has not shown for a long, long time, and appeared caught up in the enthusiastic atmosphere as he beat **Alan Lindsay** in the semi-final, where he took an 11-1 lead in the third game, then disposed of **Gunnion** in the final.

Defending champion **Mickey Thornhill**, who appears to make a habit of winning the **Irish crown** every other year, lost his title in the quarter-finals when he lost to giant-killer **Gunnion**, who followed up by beating the **Irish hope Tommy Caffrey** in the semi-final.

**Leach** scored a second success when he partnered **Thornhill** to win the men's doubles with a finals win over the **Anglo-Irish** combination of **Lindsay** and **Harry O'Prey**.

**Mrs. Doreen Schofield**, who has comparatively little standing in **England**, won the women's singles for the second successive year, and also partnered her international husband **Derek** to win the mixed doubles.

In the singles final she beat **Mrs. Reid**, who had a measure of revenge in the women's doubles final where she partnered **Violet Lambert** to beat **Mrs. Schofield** and the **Australian girl Pat Hughes**.

**RESULTS**

**Men's Singles:** J. LEACH bt R. Gunnion 21-18, 21-10, 21-18.

**Women's Singles:** Mrs. D. SCHOFIELD (Cheshire) bt Mrs. Reid 21-10, 21-11.

**Men's Doubles:** LEACH/M. THORNHILL bt H. O'Prey/A. Lindsay 21-16, 21-18.

**Women's Doubles:** V. LAMBERT/Mrs. REID bt Mrs. Schofield/P. Hughes 21-10, 21-11.

**Mixed Doubles:** D. SCHOFIELD/Mrs. SCHOFIELD bt Lindsay/Miss J. Stimson 21-14, 21-17.

# OFFICIAL NEWS

## ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

As reported in the January issue, the English Open Championships this season will be played at the Corn Exchange, Brighton. Play will commence on Thursday the 22nd February at 6 p.m. and will continue all day on Friday the 23rd and Saturday the 24th February, 1962. The Men's Doubles Final will be played in the afternoon session of Saturday with the Men's Semi-Finals and all other Finals taking place at 7 p.m. in the evening.

Prices of Admission to the Finals will be 10s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 5s. 0d. for seats and 2s. 6d. for standing, and bookings for seats for the Finals session should be made to the BOX OFFICE, NEW ROAD, BRIGHTON, BY POST.

Prices for admission to all other sessions will be 2s. 6d. per session (with a special ALL DAY ticket of 5s. being available) and the sessions will be 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

With regard to accommodation for those who wish to spend a few days at Brighton, the Office of the Association has copies of the official Brighton Corporation Accommodation List and any member desirous of receiving a copy of same should write to the E.T.T.A. office. ALL ENTRANTS will automatically receive a copy of this List.

The Draw for the Championship will be made at Shell Mex House,

Strand, London, W.C.2, on Wednesday, February 7, 1962, commencing at 7 p.m. It will be held in Room E50 and the Mayor of Brighton (Councillor G. B. Baldwin, J.P.) will be in attendance to draw the positions of the Seeded Players.

The E.T.T.A. wish to record their gratitude to the proprietors, Shell Mex and B.P. Ltd. for all the facilities they have provided for this occasion.

The Czechoslovakian Association has agreed to send three men players to the Championships and they will be—IVAN ANDREADIS, V. MIKO, S. SVARC. Replies are still awaited from the Hungarian and Swedish Associations regarding their players taking part. The Hungarian Association have already stated that they will be sending two men and two women players, but it is not yet known who the players will be. The French Association are also considering sending some of their Junior players and there is also a possibility that I. Ogimura (Japan) may be able to compete, but, the final details have as yet not been finalised.

ALL ENQUIRIES regarding the Championships should be made to the E.T.T.A. Office, 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2, or by telephone TRAfalgar 2165.

### Match Play Session

A match play session was held on Sunday, January 21, 1962, at Messrs. Ultra Electric Ltd., Western Avenue,

London W.3. The players invited to attend were:—

MEN: I. HARRISON (Glos.), D. O. CREAMER (Middx.), J. INGBER (Lancs.), B. WRIGHT (Middx.), M. J. CREAMER (Middx.), W. Barker (Durham), K. FORSHAW (Lancs.), R. J. STEVENS (Essex), A. RHODES (Middx.), J. CLAYTON (Lancs.), J. SOMOGYI (Surrey), C. BARNES (Essex), A. R. PIDDOCK (Kent), K. EDWARDS (Glos.), S. JACOBSON (Middx.), B. HILL (Lincs.).

WOMEN: Miss D. ROWE (Middx.), Miss M. SHANNON (Surrey), Miss Y. J. WILLIAMS (Herts.), Miss L. BELL (Essex), Mrs. A. R. MILLS (Surrey), Mrs. J. MCCREE.

The Association would like to express their appreciation to the management of Messrs. Ultra Electric Ltd. for their kindness in allowing the Association the use of their excellent conditions for this event.

### International Match

An opportunity has been found to play an International match against Czechoslovakia at the Municipal Hall, Tottenham, London, N.15, on Thursday February 22, 1962. The match will commence at 7 p.m. and the Czechoslovakian team will be—I. Andreadis, V. Miko and S. Svarc; non-playing captain L. Stipek.

The England team is as noted under Team Selections.

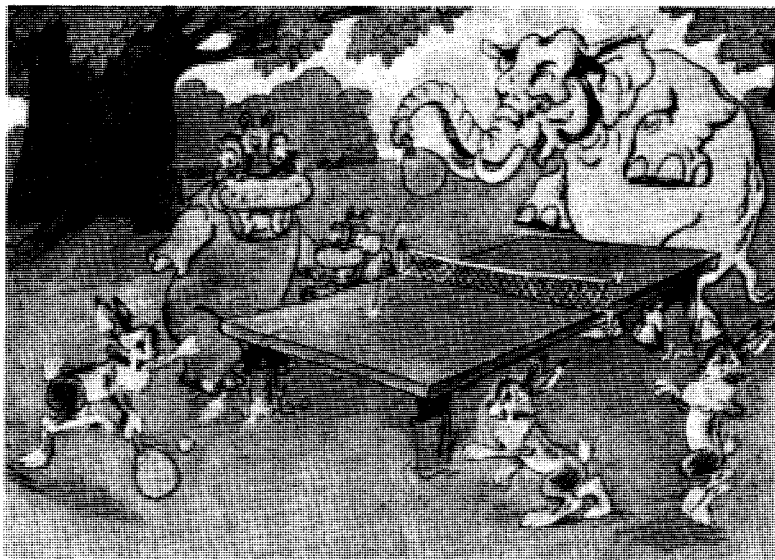
Applications for tickets should be made to the Entertainments Manager, Tottenham Borough Council, 290 High Road, Tottenham, N.15. Telephone: TOT 1000.

### Team Selections

**Czechoslovakian Open Championships—Prague—January 25-28, 1962.** I. HARRISON (Glos.), R. J. STEVENS (Essex), Miss D. ROWE (Middx.); non-playing captain D. PETER LOWEN (Middx.).

v **Czechoslovakia—Karlary Vary—January 24, 1962.** I. HARRISON (Glos.), R. J. STEVENS (Essex), Miss D. ROWE (Middx.); non-playing captain D. PETER LOWEN (Middx.).

v **Czechoslovakia—Tottenham, London—February 22, 1962.** I. HARRISON (Glos.), J. INGBER (Lancs.), A. RHODES (Middx.); non-playing captain R. J. CRAYDEN (Surrey).



"THE CHAMPIONS." A greetings card received by the Hon. Ivor Montagu, President of the I.T.T.F. and E.T.T.A. from V. Kollegorski, one of the Soviet Sports Party who came to London to watch the 1954 World Championships.

### MARCH ISSUE DELAYED

In order to carry a full report on the English Open Championships the March issue of TABLE TENNIS will be a few days late in publication.

EDITOR

**JUNIORS IN GERMANY**

(Continued from Page 8)

3-0 for the girls and it was England's turn to meet Sweden in the afternoon. Once again we had to rely on the girls for success. They won their match 5-1, the only loss being that of Beverley Sayer to Walfridsson.

The boys were beaten 5-2. Johannsson beat each of the English boys in turn to provide three of the Swedish wins.

There was a get-together in the evening with games and dancing, each country giving its own performance. England's was "Rock around the Clock."

**Sunday:** With the end of play we were entertained to films of the Rome Olympics and the Dortmund World Table tennis championship and had the rest of the day free.

**Monday:** And so homeward bound. We went to Hamburg where we had time to look around the city before catching the 3.30 train to the Hook of Holland, by-passing Utrecht and going via Amsterdam, because the Scandinavian Express had crashed earlier that morning. It meant the boat leaving an hour late but we were on time when we arrived at Liverpool-street Station, after a most enjoyable trip.

**ENGLAND v FRANCE**

**Boys won 5-1:** D. Stanley lost to A. Guilbert —25, —15; bt C. Roesch 14, 10. B. Hill bt G. Pontille 15, 13; bt Roesch 18, —12, 13. M. Symonds bt Guilbert 8, 19; bt Pontille 19, 12.

**Girls won 3-0:** L. Bell bt L. Stutzmann 5, 7. C. Holes bt M. Boiteux —20, 11, 17. Bell/B. Sayer bt Stutzmann/Boiteux 13, 2.

**ENGLAND v WEST GERMANY**

**Boys lost 4-5:** Stanley bt B. Hahn 18, 12; lost to W. Grobe —16, —19; lost to W. Dahlmann —15, —13. D. Neale lost to Hahn 15, —18, —13; bt Grobe 13, 9; lost to Dahlmann 7, —18, —21. Hill bt Hahn 14, —13, 18; bt Grobe 14, 14; lost to Dahlmann —21, —11.

**Girls won 3-2:** Bell lost to M. Siebert —13, 12, —16; bt W. Kohl 11, 9. Holes lost to Siebert —16, —19; bt Kohl —16, 18, 17. Bell/Sayer bt Siebert/Kohl 15, 21.

**ENGLAND v SWEDEN**

**Boys lost 2-5:** Stanley lost to K. Johannsson 16, —17, —17; lost to K. Nilsson —16, —14. Neale lost to Johannsson —14, —17;

bt Nilsson 4, 17; lost to K. Bernard —7, —10. Symonds lost to Johannsson 11, —19, —18; bt Bernhard 16, 17.

**Girls won 5-1:** Bell bt E. Johannsson 19, 10; bt M. Hedquist 12, 12. Holes bt Johannsson 12, —13, 17; bt B. Walfridsson 19, 21. Sayer bt Hedquist 15, —11, 8; lost to Walfridsson 19, —14, —11.

**Other Results:** Boys: Germany bt France 5-0; Sweden bt Germany 5-3; Sweden bt France 5-2.

Girls: France bt Germany 3-1; Germany bt Sweden 3-0; Sweden bt France 3-0.

**JUNIOR TOURNAMENT**

BOYS—Group 1:				
	P.	W.	L.	Sets
1. W. Liek (Germany)	11	10	1	21-4
2. M. Symonds (Eng.)	11	8	3	16-9
3. J. Lunck (Germany)	11	7	4	16-8
7. D. Stanley (Eng.)...	11	6	5	15-11

Group 2:				
1. B. Hill (England)...	12	10	2	21-6
2. B. Bernard (Sweden)	12	9	3	20-6
3. D. Neale (Eng.)	12	9	3	18-10
B. Becker (Ger.)				

Neale bt Becker 2-0 for third place.

Final Pool (top three in each group):				
1. Hill ...	5	4	1	8-3
2. Liek ...	5	3	2	8-5
3. Bernard ...	5	3	2	8-6
4. Lunck ...	5	2	3	6-6
5. Symonds ...	5	2	3	4-8
6. Neale ...	5	1	4	3-9

**GIRLS—Group 1:**

1. L. Bell (England)...	9	9	0	18-2
2. E. Jansen (Ger.) ...	9	7	2	15-5
3. M. Siebert (Sweden)	8	7	2	16-2

**Group 2:**

1. C. Holes (England)	9	9	0	18-0
2. K. Scholz (Ger.) ...	9	8	1	16-5
3. M. Hedquist (Swdn.)	9	6	3	14-9
4. B. Sayer (Eng.) ...	9	6	3	13-9

**Final Pool:**

1. Bell ...	5	5	0	10-1
2. Siebert ...	5	4	1	9-6
3. Jansen ...	5	3	2	7-5
4. Holes ...	5	2	1	6-6
5. Scholz ...	5	1	4	3-9
6. Hedquist ...	5	0	5	2-10

**UNOFFICIAL PLACINGS**

Boys:	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	P.
1. Sweden ...	3	3	0	15	7	6
2. Germany ...	3	2	1	13	8	4
3. England ...	3	1	2	11	11	2
4. France ...	3	0	3	3	15	0

**Girls:**

1. England ...	3	3	0	11	3	6
2. Germany ...	3	1	2	6	6	2
3. Sweden ...	3	1	2	4	8	2
4. France ...	3	1	2	3	7	2

**Combined:**

1. England ...	6	4	2	22	14	8
2. Sweden ...	6	4	2	19	15	8
3. Germany ...	6	3	3	19	15	6
4. France ...	6	1	5	6	22	2

**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
Feb. 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	<b>FRENCH OPEN</b>		
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, Coulson, Surrey.
19-24	<b>ENGLISH OPEN</b>		E.T.T.A., 652, Grand Bldgs., Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.
21-25	<b>RUMANIAN OPEN</b>		
24-25	<b>GERMAN (WEST) OPEN</b> St. Ingbert, Saarbrucken.		
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.
3-4	Middlesex Closed Smiths of England Staples Corner North Circular Road London, N.W.		
4	Milford Haven Open		C. T. Smith, 18, Picton Close, Hakin, Milford Haven.
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.
18	Sussex Junior Open (Feb. 18) Assembly Hall, Worthing, Sussex	Under 15 Under 13	M. Joyce, 42, Livsey Crescent, Worthing, Sussex.

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TOURNAMENT TABLES

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