

# TABLE TENNIS



JILL ROOK



JOYCE FIELDER



IAN HARRISON

England's trio of newcomers for the World Championships

*VICTOR BARNA on the County Championships*

# Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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## TOO OLD AT 30 ?

**I**CHIRO OGIMURA, the 24-year-old sponge-playing world table tennis champion, will be a marked man when he defends his title in Stockholm next month.

At least half of Europe's top stars will be out to make him eat his words, for he is reported as saying, "Table tennis is a sport for youngsters and not 30-year-old and 40-year-old men."

Ogimura, usually so polite, has apparently "blown his top" at the E.T.T.A.'s proposal for a standardised racket as a means to ban sponge. He makes a slashing attack on England's two leading players, Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach, and Sam Leitch, writing in the *Daily Herald* reports the champion as saying, "*The move in Europe to outlaw sponge bats is led by people who want to slow down the game and by professionals who sell THEIR PERSONALLY ENDORSED BATS . . .*"

*"I hope to stay champion but I know I cannot. If I am still champion when I am 30 it means something is wrong with the youngsters . . ."*

*"Such stars as Bergmann and Leach are TOO old . . ."*

*"I have not lost to Bergmann or Leach since last year . . ."*

Leach laughed when I asked him how he felt about this attack, then said, "I am surprised Ogimura should make such a ridiculous statement for I forecast that if he doesn't successfully defend his title he will go out to what he calls an old man.

"It sounds as though he is frightened that if sponge is banned he will be finished as a player.

### IN JAPAN MAYBE

"Over 30's in Japan may be finished because of their style of game (penholder) requires abnormal fitness," continued Leach, "but it is not too old in Europe."

Examine the Ogimura statements closely and he would appear to be right off the beam.

If 30 is too old, then the new world seeding/

ranking list is ridiculous. Five of the first nine are 30 or over.

He talks of professionals. They do not exist in table tennis. All are players. And as for their selling of their bats, he apparently does not realise that they also have personally endorsed sponge and sandwich bats.

Why suggest that Leach and Bergmann are behind the proposed sponge ban. It's main supporters are officials and spectators who feel that sponge is ruining the spectacle. And it is not because it gives the youngsters superior speed, but rather that it gives so-called old men a new lease of life. Take Sweden's Tage Flisberg, for example. Some considered he was as good as finished until he took to sponge. Now he could upset anyone in the world.

And as for saying he has not lost to Leach and Bergmann in the past year, the answer to that one is easy. He hasn't played them. But I wonder if he cares to remember last time he was world champion and what happened when he toured Europe and failed to win a tournament. Or when Leach and Bergmann visited Japan?

### ASIAN BLOCK

Meanwhile, the E.T.T.A. are not going to find it easy to steer their proposal through the world congress. Opposition is mounting. Sweden are not in favour—they feel that sponge has improved the game. But the biggest obstacle is likely to come from the East. T. D. Ranga Ramanjan, Secretary of the Asian Federation, has advised all their affiliated countries to protest strongly.

An Asian block will go a long way towards preventing the proposal getting the necessary 75 per cent. majority vote to win the day.

Passing shot. Ogimura and Tomi Okawa, the reigning champions, are No. 1 seeds for the world championships, but they have slipped down the scale in Japanese ranking. Ogimura to No. 3 and Okawa to No. 4.

**HARRISON EDWARDS.**

## Official Notes

The National Committee held two meetings in the Council Chamber of the Royal Empire Society, London on Saturday and Sunday the 5th and 6th January, 1957, the first meeting lasting for just over six hours and the second three and a quarter hours. There was a full Agenda for discussion, certain items of which were necessarily postponed until the next meeting, and some of the matters discussed were:

### Standardisation of the Racket:

Arising from the resolution submitted to the National Executive Committee by the Gloucestershire Association for discussion, the following recommendation was agreed to be put before the Annual General Meeting of the Association which will be held in London on the 27th April, 1957:

*"The National Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association has unanimously decided to propose to the International Table Tennis Federation a standardisation of the racket calculated to eliminate sponge and other 'freak' materials, and to recommend to the Annual General Meeting of the English Table Tennis Association measures to effect this result so far as this country next season is concerned irrespective of the decision of the International Table Tennis Federation."*

It was further agreed that a Sub-Committee be appointed to prepare instructions on this subject for our delegates at the forthcoming International Table Tennis Federation Congress. This Sub-Committee to consist of G. V. Barna, J. Carrington, I. C. Eyles, G. James and I. Montagu with the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary ex-officio.

### European Championships

A meeting to discuss these Championships has been arranged to take place during the French Open Championships which are to be held on the 16th and 17th February, 1957. It was agreed that the Association be represented and that I. Montagu be the Association's representative. Should the Chairman be unable to attend, Mr. G. James to attend in his stead.

### Hungarian Immigrants

It was agreed that should members know of any Hungarian Immigrants in this country wishing to join affiliated Clubs they should instruct them to write to the Hon. Secretary of the Association explaining their position as to whether they now intended to reside in this country.

### International Table Tennis Federation Congress

It was agreed that the Association's

delegates to the International Table Tennis Federation's Congress to be held in Stockholm in March, 1957 should be I. Montagu and A. K. Vint. It was further agreed that if any other member of the Association be present at the time of the Congress the request will be made to the Congress to admit them as observers.

### Welsh Open Championships 1956-57

It was reported that this Open Tournament had been cancelled and that it would be organised later in the season. It was agreed that a block approval be given to all members of the Association who wished to take part in this event who were not receiving expenses from the Organisers. For those members receiving expenses permission must be obtained from the Association in the usual manner.

### Development Committee

The findings of this sub-committee

## English Table

### Tennis Association

**Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.**

**President: The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E.**

**Chairman: Hon. Ivor Montagu.**

**Honorary Treasurer: A. K. Vint, O.B.E.**

**Hon. Secretary: D. P. Lowen.**

**Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Kathleen Pegg.**

**Office of the Association: 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Telephone: TRAfalgar 2165).**

were discussed at length and it was agreed that (a) the matter of making matches attractive, proposed tours, match presentation, etc. be referred to the Open Tournaments Committee and (b) the improvement of top-class play to the Selection Committee.

The question of improving the machinery of the National Body and its liaison with the members was referred to the next meeting of the National Executive Committee as time did not permit full discussion.

### Election of Officers and Members of the National Executive Committee 1957-58.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was fixed for Saturday, 27th April, 1957 and it was agreed that the dates for the Annual Election of Officers and Members of the National Executive Committee should be as follows:

Nomination Papers to be dispatched on or before the 15th February, 1957.

Nomination Papers to be returned on or before 1st March, 1957.

Voting papers to be dispatched on or before 15th March, 1957.

Voting papers to be returned on or before 29th March, 1957.

**Note:** Only those Leagues whose Affiliation Fees are fully paid are entitled to nominate and vote.

The Proportional Representation Society will conduct the Elections and Messrs. G. W. Decker and D. Poupard have kindly agreed to act as Scrutineers. Nomination papers and ballot papers will be sent to the appointed County and League E.T.T.A. Representatives. If any Representative does not receive his papers by the dates in question he should notify the Administrative Secretary of the Association immediately.

### Wilmot Cup Competition

The South London Table Tennis League have agreed to stage the semi-finals and Final of the Wilmot Cup on Saturday the 23rd February, 1957.

### J. M. Rose Bowl Competition.

The Acton and District Table Tennis League undertook to organise the Semi-finals and Final of the J. M. Rose Bowl Competition on Saturday the 23rd February, 1957 at Sperry's Sports Club, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex. Applications for tickets should be made to Mr. R. W. Boorer at 50, Southdown Avenue, Hanwell, W. 7. Price of tickets 1s. (afternoon session), 2s. 6d. ALL ONE PRICE (evening).

### "Eagle"- "Girl" Clubs Tournaments.

The finals of the "Eagle" and "Girl" Club Tournaments for under 15's and under 13's will take place on Saturday the 23rd February, 1957 at the Friends House Hall, Euston, N.W.1. The members of the club and their parents are being invited to apply for admission tickets to the Finals.

### Club Competitions

The total number of Competitions now arranged to be run and duly permitted is 97. We are most gratified by this response from our members.

If your Club has not run a Competition then ask your Secretary to organise one straightaway. Alternatively, if your Secretary does not know certain of the details of how the Competitions run then please ask him or her to write to the E.T.T.A. office without delay.

### Team Selections

Team selections and nominations have been made as follows:

**World Championships, Stockholm, Sweden, 7th to 15th March, 1957.**

**Swaythling Cup:** R. Bergmann (Middlesex), I. Harrison (G'os.), B. Kennedy (Yorks), J. A. Leach (Essex), A. Rhodes (Middlesex). Non-playing Captain: G. V. Barna (Middlesex).

**Corbillon Cup:** Miss J. Fielder (Kent), Miss A. S. Haydon (Warwickshire), Miss J. Rook (Surrey), Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex). Non-playing Captain: T. E. Sears (Middlesex).

**v Wales (Seniors),** 19th January, 1957 at Cardiff: B. Kennedy (Yorks), B. Merrett (Glos.), A. Rhodes (Middx), Miss A. S. Haydon (Warwicks), Miss J. Rook (Surrey). Non-playing Captain: T. E. Sears (Middlesex).

**Belgium Open Championships,** 2nd and 3rd February, 1957, at Brussels. J. A. Leach (Essex), A. Rhodes (Middlesex), Miss J. Fielder (Kent), Miss A. S. Haydon (Warwicks), Miss J. Rook (Surrey). Non-playing Captain: G. V. Barna (Middlesex).

### TABLE TENNIS

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# RANKING/SEEDING LISTS

## WORLD

### MEN

1. I. Ogimura (Japan)
2. T. Tanaka (Japan)
3. I. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia)
4. R. Bergmann (England)
5. F. Sido (Hungary)
6. M. Gantner (Rumania)
7. Y. Tomita (Japan)
8. E. Gyetvai (Hungary)
9. L. Stipek (Czechoslovakia)
10. K. Szepesi (Hungary)
11. Chiang Yung-ning (China)
12. T. Harasztosi (Rumania)

### WOMEN

1. T. Okawa (Japan)
2. A. Rozeanu (Rumania)
3. F. Eguchi (Japan)
4. A. Haydon (England)
5. G. Farkas (Hungary)
6. K. Watanabe (Japan)
7. E. Zeller (Rumania)
8. E. Kozcian (Hungary)
9. L. Wertl (Austria)
10. D. Rowe (England)
11. Y. Tanaka (Japan)
12. H. Elliot (Scotland)
13. C. Watel (France)

## REVISED ENGLISH

### MEN

1. R. Bergmann (Middx.)
2. J. Leach (Essex)
3. B. Kennedy (Yorks)
4. A. Rhodes (Middx.)
5. B. Merrett (Glos.)
6. M. Thornhill (Middx.)
7. H. T. Venner (Surrey)
8. A. W. C. Simons (Glos.)
9. L. Laza
10. R. Hinchliff (Yorks.)
11. D. Burridge (Middx.)
12. R. Allcock (Lanes.)
13. I. Jones (Essex)
14. I. Harrison (Glos.)
15. B. Brumwell (Essex)

### WOMEN

1. Miss A. Haydon (Warwicks)
2. Miss D. Rowe (Middx.)
3. Miss J. Rook (Surrey)
4. Miss J. Fielder (Kent)
5. Miss M. Fry (Middx.)
6. Mrs. J. Head (Surrey)
7. Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey)
8. Miss P. Mortimer (Warwicks)
9. Miss Y. Baker (Essex)
10. Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex)

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## Victor Barna proposes

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP CUT

**T**HE Editor recently drew attention to the growing threat to the County Championships and reviewed some of the problems. He dealt mainly with the length of the matches and suggested that ten ties are probably too many.

I'd go further and say that late finishes are only a minor worry. I use the word "minor" because, as it seems to me, the remedy is comparatively simple. I'll come back to it presently.

In my opinion, by far the biggest problem—one which threatens the whole structure and very existence of the Championships—is caused by dwindling attendances and consequent financial strain on most of the County Associations.

### Middlesex May Withdraw

It is widely known, I think, that my own county, Middlesex, is seriously considering the idea of leaving the Championship altogether; and who could blame us?

In spite of being champion County eight times out of a possible nine, we cannot make a profit from our home matches. More often than not, the hiring of halls and other costs exceeds the gate-money. And as for away matches, there's no escape from heavy travelling expenses.

Everybody is up against this problem. What are we all to do; how can we possibly carry on like this?

Don't run away with the idea that I am opposed to the County Championship system. On the contrary, I advocated it for many years in the columns of *Sporting Record*.

I firmly believed that it would do a tremendous amount of good for the game; and it certainly did. The smaller centres which normally would never see the "stars" because they could not afford to entertain them on their own account, were allocated an occasional county fixture.

The game was taken far into the country; the public and the press, both national and provincial, became deeply interested, and hundreds of players, senior and junior alike, were suddenly presented with a brand-new ambition—to earn a County badge!

Without doubt, all this did table tennis a power of good.

However, circumstances have changed. Who would have thought, even a few short years ago, that, whatever the reason—television, sponge, lack of personalities—County matches and Open tournaments would take place before rows of empty seats?

Something has got to be done and I am sure that neither the E.T.T.A. nor the County bodies will shirk their responsibilities.

I am proud to belong to the Association which was the first to tackle the amateur/professional question courageously and realistically (so setting an example to other sports organisations); which introduced the Law against finger-spin in service, and which had the pluck first to allow sponge to be used, and then—even more pluckily—set about banning it.

**Before going any further, let me make it quite plain that in spite of present difficulties, I believe as firmly as ever I did in the future of table tennis. One of the main reasons for my confidence is that, even today, when the number of spectators is diminishing, there are more players than ever before.**

**This is the healthiest of signs: and if we work now, as pioneering officials worked 25 years ago, I am positive that the big audiences will slowly but surely return.**

Well what is to be done to solve the County Championship problem? The general complaint is that matches finish far too late and that spectators have to leave long before the end if they want to catch their last buses and trains.

### Cut Time Waste

The Middlesex answer to this is: to begin the proceedings on time, to cut down the interval to the absolute minimum, and to instruct the umpires to allow only a brief knock-up.

Why a man who has already played one or more matches, strenuous ones maybe, wants still more practice, is something I just don't understand—and never will.

Another thing: there is often far too much time wasted between matches. It is a bad habit, which affects tournaments as well.

These are ways in which time can be saved during a match.

However, in the prevailing circumstances, it is no longer a matter of staging County matches in small



VICTOR BARNA

places, in order to create local interest and to stimulate the Press, for even the big towns produce flop after flop. It goes much deeper.

The main objective today is to make these matches, and the game itself, more attractive to the public—to make people want to go and see table tennis, knowing they'll spend an enjoyable evening watching keenly competitive play of the top class—and get home and to bed at a reasonable hour.

**I therefore propose that instead of three men and two women, teams consist of two men and one woman only. Instead of 10 matches, there would be seven—four men's singles, one women's singles, one men's doubles, and one mixed doubles.**

This plan would show three great advantages:—

(a) *Quality before quantity, as only the very best County players would be on view.*

(b) *With the weaker players eliminated, contests would be likely to become tougher and more spectacular, and (c) there would be substantial saving in expenses, for both teams.*

A number of high-ranking players would doubtless be disappointed at being unable to make their County side. On the other hand, the right types would regard it as an extra incentive to improve just that little bit more.

In any case, if audiences start rolling up once again, expenses will be less important, and teams could then be expanded. Then once more we could revert to our present system, and present the public more variety of players.

# UMPIRES DECLARE WAR

by ELSIE CARRINGTON

IT seems that Umpires have joined in the war on the slovenly dress problem. I hear that some of the Essex Umpires are contemplating refusing to start the game until the players have taken off at least the bottom half of their track-suits.

This reaction came after a wearing day at the Essex Junior Closed Championships, where the boys knocked up and played in a variety of bedraggled track suits, not to mention the towel tied like a muffler in the neck.

Track suits are for wearing between matches to keep the muscles warm and to prevent the wearer from catching cold. They are not the correct dress for our sport—nor indeed for any sport. They are only a cover-up.

## IN TRACK SUIT

Hard upon the heels of this Junior Closed, came a Premier Division County match, during which one international player played in her track suit the whole time, although the hall was exceptionally warm. The match itself was very well presented and attended by the Lord Mayor. What

a pity to spoil the occasion by such a careless attitude to the game.

Players should be proud to wear their county colours and should be impeccably dressed on the table at all times, and most certainly when playing in a County match.

*Girls, if you wear a little frilly skirt for table tennis, do see that the panties underneath match. I saw a most horrible sight recently, of a girl wearing a royal blue pleated skirt, with pale green silk panties underneath. You can get the under-garments to match you know—or failing that, you can make a perfectly good pair out of an old T.T. shirt.*

## NEAT OUTFIT

Lorna Bown had rather a nice outfit for the Kent Junior Open. She wore a grey circular skirt, edged and lined with red satin. I noticed Joy Fielder wore a similar type of outfit at Barnehurst. He's was a short dress, navy blue, the skirt being lined with pale blue.

*Incidentally, I hear that Rosalind Cornett is coming back into the game and is playing doubles with Diane in the English Open. Nice to see the twins together again.*

Another table tennis mother to start



PAM MORTIMER BETTY ISAACS

playing again is Pam Mortimer. She has been practising hard and plans to make the Midland Open her first tournament.

Congratulations to Jill Rook and Joy Fielder on their first selection for the Corbillon Cup. Good luck in Sweden girls!

Congratulations too, to Betty Isaacs on her recent engagement to Mr. Ronald Bird of South London. The wedding will take place on March 30.

Did anybody pick up the wrong royal blue shirt by mistake at the N.W. Kent Open at Barnehurst? Shelagh Hession lost her royal blue shirt with its Junior International badge, there. If anybody did find it, Shelagh's address is: 71, Elmhurst Drive, Hornchurch, Essex.

Latest casualty in table tennis is Jean Page, the Essex No. 3, with a dislocated thumb. And how did she do this? Fishing!!! Apparently the river had been in flood and the bank where she was sitting suddenly gave way and in trying to save herself from a ducking, injured her thumb. Seems she was the fish that got away!

## No Leg Pull

Joan Walker tells me that when petrol rationing prevented Derbyshire travelling by car for their away match with Warwickshire their captain wrote asking if the venue could be changed to "somewhere near a station."

No wonder Derby thought their legs were being pulled when they received their match directions reading: "Match will be played at No. 1 Platform, New Street Station!"

But it was no leg-pull; full marks to Warwickshire for being so "accommodating."

**Bukta**

TABLE TENNIS OUTFITS

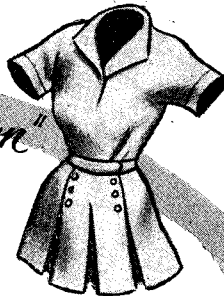
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# EMPHASIS ON FITNESS

by JOHNNY LEACH

TO many English players training for table tennis goes no further than the table. They just play, play and play with little thought given to the physical fitness side.

Yet a long succession of matches such as successful players have to face in the world championships calls for supreme fitness.

An occasional run is not good enough. You have to prepare like an Olympic athlete.

The Hungarians have realised this and so have the Swedes, while anyone who was at Tokyo last year could not help but be impressed by the superb fitness of the Japanese. And this undoubtedly went a long way towards helping them grab a large share of the honours.

I am indebted to Ferenc Sido, the former world champion, for details of the Hungarian training programme, but I have first hand knowledge of the Swedish preparation, having spent two weeks at Linköping, coaching their world championships team.

## Training Camp

Hungary's top ten men started training at the beginning of August, when they spent four weeks in a training camp. Their programme consisted of gymnastics, running and football.

"We never went near a table in the whole of that period," said Sido, "and when we did get down to practice, the emphasis was on strokes and not points gathering.

"It was not until October that we started match play, and although our team has been split up in different parts of Europe, we are all keeping to our practice routine."

Hungary of course missed the last world meeting, so they will be more than ever determined to bring back some of those titles to Europe.

The Swedish training has been no less intense, and in helping them with their play, I have helped myself. I have never felt fitter.

There were 12 of us at the training camp, seven men, and five girls. We were up at 7 a.m. every morning, and after a light breakfast got down to physical training under Lasse Holmo, a Swedish army instructor, who is expected to be trainer-manager of their team.

For 90 minutes he put us through

exercises that were suitable only for the very fit.

We then turned to the tables to loosen up with four players playing with two balls on each table, before devoting the rest of the morning to stroke practice according to individual needs.

After a shower, change of clothes, lunch and a short rest, we were ready for serious match-play and every afternoon held an all-play-all tournament.

By the time it was over it was a relief to spend thirty minutes in a steam bath, followed by a cold shower. Then came dinner, a brief game of cards and so to bed.

The Swedes are so fit and playing so well that they may well spring a few surprises at Stockholm. They could easily be among the top challengers for the Swaythling Cup.

Bjourné Hellstrom, 21, their present champion, who has remained faithful to the rubber bat, is improving all the time, while teenager Tony Borg, a great stylist with sponge, revealed some of his potentialities when he defeated Harangozo in the recent Yugoslav "Open."

Their key-man, however, is still the veteran Tage Flisberg, who is playing just as well as when he was runner-up for the singles at Wembley in 1954.

## ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

(April 2nd to 6th, 1957)

THE entry form for the English Open Championships is now available and players wishing to obtain a copy may do so by writing to the Administrative Secretary of the Association at 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

The opening rounds will be played at Manor Place Baths, Walworth, S.E.17, on the 2nd 3rd and 4th April, 1957, with the concluding rounds and finals of all events at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley, Middlesex on the 5th and 6th April, 1957.

## JAPS CHALLENGE

The best news we have had this month is the decision of the Japanese Table Tennis Association to send their Men's and Women's Teams to the Championships.

Hungary, Czechoslovakia, France, Scotland and Wales are sending players also, and we still have to hear from other foreign Associations.

Of course, our own Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach, Brian Kennedy, Ann Haydon, Diane Rowe and other leading International players will be entering the various events.

For many years now Saturday night at Wembley has been a gathering of the clans. Coaches, trains, buses, motorcars, motorcycles, pedal-bicycles are used to bring supporters from all parts of the country to this well

known table tennis Mecca. Year after year each Championship brings new enthusiasts, but, none go away without being duly thrilled and impressed with the strength and vigour of the support given to our game.

## WILL YOU BE THERE ?

### TICKETS OF ADMISSION

Daily admission ticket to all sessions will be available at the door, but tickets for the Friday and Saturday evenings are on sale and orders should be sent to the E.T.T.A. office.

Arrangements have been made for party reductions (12 persons or more) on all prices of tickets, other than the lowest. It is not necessary that the tickets should be of one price to obtain this concession. They can be made up of any price provided the total number is 12 or more. Seats are available as follows:—

**Friday, April 5.** 15/- for 12/6d.; 12/6d. for 10/6d.; 10/6d. for 8/6d.; 7/6d. for 5/-.

**Saturday, April 6.** 21/- for 17/6d.; 15/- for 12/6d.; 10/6d. for 8/6d.; 8/6d. for 6/6d.

**PLEASE NOTE: ORDERS** to the E.T.T.A. Office, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

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# ENGLAND AGAIN TOO STRONG

by H. ROY EVANS

THE twenty-ninth annual clash between Wales and England ended the same as have so many others — with a resounding 9-1 victory for the latter, and those three isolated wins which stand to Welsh credit fade further into history.

Yet, game for game, this was no walk over, and the fact that an encouragingly large crowd stayed at least until half way through the last game was sufficient indication of sustained interest.

No-one could blame them for going out during the dreadful anticlimax of Merrett's last match against John Simonson. The Gloucester lad must surely be the arch "pusher" in English table tennis now, a real ally to those who say that sponge eliminates pushing. Merrett can hit, Simonson cannot. But maybe it was too much to expect Bryan to open up after the Welsh No. 1 had deservedly taken the first game, and almost clinched the second.

Earlier Merrett had another fright, for in the opening match Norman Parker literally blasted him off the table in the first game.

Brian Kennedy was a disappointment. True he was jaded and tired after a long train journey, but only in spasms did he produce anything like World class. He had to struggle hard enough to win at 20 all in the first game against fellow

sponger John Simonson, whilst he actually dropped a game to Alan Thomas, who defended extremely well against Brian and against Rhodes.

The latter, too, was patchy. Spasms of apparently unstoppable attack were followed by some quite irresolute play, and this was very evident in his game against Norman Parker. The latter scored only 5 in the first game, but then "got his head down," and was unlucky to lose at 20 all!

Shirley Jones provided the sole Welsh success, and produced her best game for Wales in so doing. Too often in the past Shirley, fresh from tournament triumphs, has slumped badly for Wales, but this time she made no mistake. Jill Rook had a lead most of the way through the first game, but Shirley's attack got going at the right time, and she just won at 20 all. In the second she gained a real ascendancy, and her controlled hitting was all too good for Jill.

There were few long rallies in the Audrey Bates/Ann Haydon game, which was to be expected, for the Welsh girl's game was to break up Ann's rhythm, which she almost succeeded in doing. But Ann had a useful weapon in her chopped service which gave her an advantage she didn't fail to take.

Merrett and Rhodes, hardly an

ideal pairing, nevertheless had little real trouble with Bernard Dimascio and Stan Jones, the latter playing his first international.

Jill and Ann similarly won the women's doubles after a scrappy game with Shirley and Betty Gray.

**Detailed scores (English names first): Kennedy bt Simonson 23-21, 21-12, bt Thomas 20-22, 21-17, 21-12; Rhodes bt Thomas 21-15, 21-18, bt Parker 21-5, 22-20; Merrett bt Parker 18-21, 21-6, 21-9; Jill Rook lost to Shirley Jones 20-22, 13-21; Ann Haydon bt Audrey Bates 21-16, 21-16; Rhodes/Merrett bt Dimascio/Jones 21/17, 21/14; Haydon/Rook bt Jones/Gray 21-14, 21-16.**

## THE NATIONAL CUPS

### WILMOTT CUP

#### ZONE FINALS RESULTS

ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B)  
Sheffield 3, Huddersfield 5.  
ZONE 2 (A) and 2 (B)  
Burnley 1, Manchester 5.  
ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B)  
Coventry v Norwich (extension).  
ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B)  
East London 7, St. Albans 2.  
ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B)  
North Middx. 1, London Civ. Ser. 7.  
ZONE 6  
Croydon v Staines (extension).  
ZONE 7  
Bognor v Brighton (extension).  
ZONE 8  
Cheltenham 3, Gloucester 5.

#### QUARTER FINALS DRAW

Huddersfield v Manchester.  
Gloucester v Bognor or Brighton.  
Croydon or Staines v East London.  
Coventry or Norwich v London Civil Service.

The Semi-finals and Finals: at the Camberwell Baths, Camberwell Green, London, S.E. 5, on February 23rd.

### J. M. ROSE BOWL

#### ZONE FINALS RESULTS

ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B)  
Leeds 9, Grimsby 0.  
ZONE 2  
Liverpool 6, Manchester 3.  
ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B)  
Birmingham w.o., Boston scr.  
ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B)  
Ilford 4, Watford 5.  
ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B)  
East London 2, South London 5.  
ZONE 6 (A) and 6 (B)  
North West Kent v Leatherhead (extension).  
ZONE 7  
Worthing 0, Brighton 9.  
ZONE 8  
Bristol 5, Plymouth 3.

#### QUARTER FINALS DRAW

Leeds v Liverpool.  
Ilford or Watford v South London.  
Birmingham v North West Kent or Leatherhead.  
Bristol v Brighton.

The Semi-finals and Finals: at the Sperry's Sports Club, Great West Road, Brentford, on February 23rd.

## KEN STANLEY

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# World Champions Slip

**REIGNING** World singles champions, I. Ogimura and T. Okawa, may head the globe lists by virtue of their titles, but in the Japanese rankings they take several paces back. Ogimura rates no better than third place, while Miss Okawa fares even worse, being fourth.

No. 1 man is **T. Tanaka**, 1954/55 world kingpin, while Miss **Eguchi** is top girl.

The listing follow the Japanese championships, which were played in Tokyo in December.

In the men's final Tanaka beat Tsunoda three straight, 19, 18, 11, having first beaten Ogimura—22, 19, 10, —16, 18 in the semis, in which round Tsunoda defeated Narita —14, 13, 19, —16, 14.

Eguchi beat Watanabe in the women's final, —14, 19, 15, 20. Semis: Watanabe beat Sidara 14, 11, 21, and Eguchi beat Namba 21, 18, 18.

Rankings are as follows: **MEN—Tanaka, Tsunoda, Ogimura, Narita, Komiya, Sakai, Tsuno, Tomita, Amatake, Kawai, Kobayashi, Yamada.**

**WOMEN — Eguchi, Watanabe, Namba, Okawa, Tanaka, Shidara, Yamaizumi, Narahara.**

Notice how Tomita, that little bundle of energy, has slipped to No. 8? I'm told that Tanaka, Tsunoda, Ogmira, Eguchi and Watanabe are almost certain to appear at Stockholm —and in the English Open.

## White Hope

Who's the Big White Hope for Sweden—Andreadis, Sido, Flisberg, Bergmann? According to the Continentals, none of them.

Man they're banking on is J. Berczik, the Hungarian who has been in devastating form all season and has established himself as the European No. 1.

**Berczik has now added the Rumanian Open Singles to the Yugoslav title, in which he caned Andreadis in three straight games, and the Austrian title, where he handed out a similar beating to Stipek.**

In the Rumanian final Berczik beat his fellow countryman Peterfi.

Berczik uses a soft-rubber bat and his forte is defence.

The Hungarian Swaythling Cup team will be chosen from Berczik,

Sido, Gyetvai, Peterfi, Foldi, and Bubonyi.

On the girls' side Eva Koczian is a certain starter, but there appears to be a question mark against the availability of Gizi Farkas, who won the Yugoslav singles, beating Angelica Rozeanu 3—2 in the final.



OGIMURA OKAWA

News of another Hungarian. Kalmán Szepesi is in Sweden and hopes to live there permanently.

The 3rd Friendly International Games for Youth in Moscow are being held from July 29 to August 10, and will include table tennis.

Fine performance by the Rumanians, who beat Czechoslovakia 5—2. The young Rumanians used rubber bats in the orthodox style and their win was called "great" by observers. The Czechs, although without Andreadis, fielded a strong side.

The Yugoslav Association has requested Dolinar to play again and my information is that the burly player with the peaked cap and outside bat is competing in Stockholm.

The Yugoslavs, incidentally, have been invited to play in Russia prior to the world rally, but no decision has yet been made. Dolinar and Co. are, however, lined up to meet the Czechs. It is also possible that they may take on Hungary, who are also scheduled to face Rumania and Bulgaria.

**Communist Red China are definitely sending a team to Sweden. A team from Red China has never before been to Europe. In a pre-championships tour they are to play Rumania and Hungary, among other sides, but are disappointed that we cannot accommodate them in this country.**

Two New Zealand girls are to compete in the "world's" for the first

time. One is June Wilkinson, but the name of the other has somehow escaped getting abroad.

The Indian Championships were held in Saharanpur, Northern India. It may come as a surprise to those who imagine it's always sunny in India, that the tournament was held in bitterly cold weather.

The Men's singles was won by Divan, and Pirandhi emerged as ladies champion.

Jayant and Bhandari took the men's doubles, Pirandhi and Nunes the ladies' doubles, and Sampat and Nunes the mixed event, while the Junior boys' was won, for the second successive year, by Vora, and the boys' doubles by Shrinath and Ghosa.

Bombay won the team championship, and Delhi the junior title.

Thackersey, Nagara, Divan and Vora, and the girls, Indira and Usha Iyenger—they're cousins—represented India in the All-Asia championships played at Manila at the end of January.

## Barna's Deputy

Andreadis attended the Indian tournament, then went to Delhi to coach youngsters. Ivan was in India for a month, deputising for Victor Barna, who was unable to accept the invitation.

Max Marinko, Canada's "closed" champion, recently married Canada's top T.T. girl, who hails from Toronto. The bride's name has not been supplied.

Following New York team trials, Marty Reisman is expected to make the U.S. Swaythling team. Marty, by all accounts, played brilliantly. Cartland also made the N.Y. team, but Bob Gusikoff and Harry Hershkowitz failed to qualify.

Dick Miles beat Sol Schiff in a tournament final in New York City, while in the Western Championships final in Chicago, Bukiet beat Prager.

Erwin Klein, No. 1 man, has made no effort to gain a team place.

Experts feel that the team of Miles, Reisman, Klein and Bukiet could make a bold bid for the Swaythling trophy, but it seems unlikely that the quartet will take the field. On the contrary, I hear that several top men and women have, for various reasons, declined invitations to go to Sweden.

# Captains Should Keep Their Place <sup>says</sup> JACK CARRINGTON

**B**EFORE next month's *Table Tennis* is out, I hope to be on my way once more to the smiling land of Sweden, to savour again the magic atmosphere of "the World's."

Maybe the entry will not exceed our own Wembley record (1954) of 33 Swaythling and 25 Corbillon Cup teams. But each "World's" develops its own atmosphere, and this year's will have an exceptionally keen "edge" to it because it will be two years before the next world meeting.

The limelight of a good performance will last longer—and so will the shadow of a poor one. A rising contender, disappointed at the post, will have to nurse his hopes for two long years.

In this atmosphere one may, perhaps, expect a little more than the usual determination. This is a good thing, but there is one aspect which I hope will not be over-done this year.

**I refer to the growing tendency of the "non-playing" captains to take part in the play.**

We have all seen them, hanging over the barriers, pleading, threatening, or willing their protégés to victory. No harm in that; hundreds of spectators are doing the same, exhorting their favourites to "get stuck into it" in fifty different languages.

I remember in Budapest, when Soos led Bergmann by two games to one and about 10-3. A mighty "NO!" burst from 5,000 throats every time Soos chanced his arm with his (admittedly chance-y) hit.

I also recall, with a shudder, the habit of Czech crowds of letting out a deep growl of triumph whenever their own man reached, not 21 if you please, but 20!

These things are occupational risks—they add to the fun. What I want to see cut out is all this business of "advice" to players during matches.

Naturally when a player leaves the court for a permitted break such as after the 3rd game, advice will be given. It may even be requested. Apart from that, play is supposed to be continuous, and in my view, the assistance of a coach or adviser should finish when his player trots into the ring.

Yet what do we see? Captains and coaches

rushing out to pick balls up; lengthy towellings in mid-match; frantic semaphore between rallies, etc.

And what good is all this advice? For remember, these pearls of wisdom (typical examples I have over heard: "play low" . . . "keep it on the right side" . . . and, of course "don't attack") are available to both sides, and so on average the results can hardly be affected.

Some captains lose all sense of proportion. I remember one non-player falling flat on his face in his rush to give some advice to his No. 5 who had just gracefully lost the first game to Andreadis by 5—21.

In one famous team the star man, respected by players the world over, sits just behind and above the "captain" (appointed no doubt for many worthy qualities). Thus when a lesser player, having lost a point or two, looks dutifully towards the official oracle, he is really going "over his captain's head!"

Juniors players go nearly cross-eyed, trying to decipher messages from Dad on one side, the home-town coach on the other, and the team captain hovering around, not to mention scoring machines, clocks, and interpreters. Probably the only advice they could use at such a time is "keep your eye on the ball."

This slavish leaning on the captain—and others—leads to plenty of wrong advice too. I know I have in my time lost matches for players by feeling compelled to say something to them, when it would have been better to leave matters to their natural guts and gumption. If they still lose, they should have learned something in the process.

What kind of players are we breeding if they have not the capacity to keep a certain basic plan, and a few simple alternatives in their heads for the space of a match?

The captain has plenty to do, preparing the team mentally, physically and technically in advance, seeing to their travel, comfort and discipline, arranging match procedure and tournament formalities, representing his national Association, selecting the teams for particular matches and making reports. **When the match has started, can't the players play the games?**

## JACK CARRINGTON ON "SPONGE"

I had intended to air my personal views on "sponge" technical effects in this column, but ever since the December issue of "Table Tennis" the whole matter is being examined at E.T.T.A. and I.T.T.F. levels, so I do not propose to labour the topic here.

I will, however, send an extract of my ideas to any reader who cares to apply direct to me (with stamped envelope, please).

The following sub-committee have been instructed to prepare detailed proposals for the standardisation of the bat: Geoff James (Middx), Chairman; Jack Carrington (Essex), Hon. Secretary; Victor Barna (Middx), Ivor Eyles (Gloster), Ivor Montagu, Chairman E.T.T.A.

### NOTICE TO E.T.T.A. COACHING DIPLOMA CANDIDATES

**A** SHORT Up-Grading Course for Coaching Diploma candidates and potential candidates will be held at St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, off Ludgate Circus, London, E.C.4, on Saturday, February 23, 1957. Instruction will be in progress from 11.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

Any senior player not already registered on the official list of candidates, but who is interested in attending, should apply to: Mr. Jack Carrington, 24, Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

Enrolment fee is 2s. 6d. Entry is limited, but new students will be accepted if vacancies arise.

### THE E.T.T.A. "COACH" BADGE

Owing to a revision of design there has been a delay, but the new badges are expected very shortly. They will be available only to Diploma holders, price 10s. 6d.

# England's World Hopes

by Bryan Cutress

**A**FTER any National team selection in any sport a post mortem quickly follows, apparently by necessity of custom, with criticism of the team and abuse to the selectors.

It is, therefore, no surprise that the selectors of England's Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams are, in many quarters, regarded as having been rather rash.

But have they? With the World's championships now to take place bi-annually it will probably be the last appearance of the "Old Brigade" of Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann. Therefore, it is necessary to look to the future; a policy obviously adopted and reflected primarily in the choice of 18-year-old Ian Harrison of Cheltenham.

Harrison began playing only four years ago when a Christmas present of a table tennis set sparked off his fiery enthusiasm.

Last season he won the English Junior championship and gained both junior and senior international badges. Curiously enough he did not make his County debut for Gloucester until after news of his Swaythling Cup selection.

He has worked his way successfully through the junior ranks and made a lasting early impression in the seniors. What other youngster is more entitled to grooming into the shoes of Leach or Bergmann?

Two more newcomers are Jill Rook, of Surrey, and Joyce Fielder, of Kent.

Both are also young but are ranked Nos. 3 and 4 respectively and so their right for inclusion cannot be disputed.

Miss Rook, a 20-year-old secretary at Spaldings, was introduced to table tennis through lawn tennis, accompanying her parents to their club. While they were on court she was at the table and soon showed unusual skill. At 13 she entered tournament play and within two years was the National junior champion and played for England juniors. A senior badge followed a year later.

Meanwhile, her lawn tennis ability was also increasing and in 1954 she reached the semi-final of the British Junior championship—losing to Ann Haydon.

Of the two sports which does she prefer? "Table tennis in the winter and lawn tennis in the summer," was her non-committal reply.

## FAMOUS UNCLE

In contrast, 19-year-old Miss Fielder is a one-sport girl, table tennis filling most of her leisure time.

In Kent's sporting circles the name Fielder was well known before Joyce was born. Her great uncle, the late Arthur Fielder, was the famous Kent and England cricketer.

Joyce started her table tennis six years ago in the Pavilion of the Eltham Sports Club, where her father is groundsman.

Until last summer, however, she was only an average player, with little or no knowledge of the defensive art. Then Victor Barna came on the scene and offered to coach her; an offer eagerly accepted. Her entire game altered in the space of six months as did her status. She is now ranked the fourth best woman in England.

Joyce adheres rigidly to a keep-fit programme which includes a long run every morning before work—a lesson to all.

Completing the Corbillon Cup team are Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe.

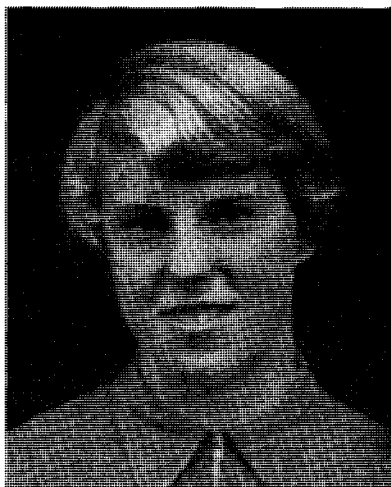
Miss Haydon, 18, can be compared with Miss Rook inasmuch as she is adept at both table tennis and lawn tennis.

Ann — full name Adrienne — might well be said to have been born into the game. Her father is Adrian Haydon, one of England's most "capped" players, while her mother, as Doris Jordan, was a pre-war international. Little wonder, Ann began playing as soon as she was big enough to hold a bat.

At 12 she was launched into competition and at 15 became the

youngest ever senior international, an honour she took from her father.

**Ann has experienced three world championship meetings, and was runner-up in both the women's**



ANN HAYDON

doubles (with Kathie Best) at Wembley in 1954, and the mixed doubles (with Andreadis) in Tokyo last year. In Stockholm she could become the first English girl to win the women's singles.

At lawn tennis Ann is among the best in the country. Twice British Junior champion, she is now being coached as a Wightman Cup prospect.

Diane Rowe, the 23 year-old left hander also has a wealth of experience, having twice held the world doubles title with twin sister Rosalind. Their famous partnership which did so much for the English game broke up shortly after Ros was married in 1955. It is however being renewed again shortly.

Diane is a world ranking player in singles and on her day can upset anyone, as she proved in Utrecht, when she beat Angelica Rozeanu in the team championship.

So much for the Corbillon Cup team. The selectors surely cannot be criticised for that. They are however being put into the witness box over their choice of Richard Bergmann.

The prosecution argues that Bergmann does little or nothing for the English game, spending most of the year touring the world with the Harlem Globe Trotters. But the defence produces the unquestionable fact that Bergmann is the country's best player



JOHNNY LEACH

and we can ill-afford to waste his services, however infrequently they may be offered.

Bergmann, a naturalised British subject also has the added experience of being four times the world singles champion, and feared by the world's best.

Johnny Leach is another of the team with world experience. The only English born player ever to have won the world singles championship twice, he hopes coincidence will play a part in this season's championships.

**The last time they took place in Stockholm, Leach returned with the singles trophy.**

Alan Rhodes was a member of our team at Utrecht in 1955, but subsequently fell out of form and slipped into the doldrums, while undergoing a change of grip at the suggestion of Victor Barna. He used to hold the



**RICHARD BERGMANN**

blade of the bat which, although giving him added power, made him prone to erratic phases.

Now he holds the handle and has returned to top form and must be regarded as one of the chief challengers for the top ranking position.

Left-handed Brian Kennedy, the 25-year-old tousle-haired Yorkshireman completes the team.

He is a most fluent stroke player with a devastating forehand and a most accomplished defence. He made his first appearance in the World championships at the age of 16 and has since reached the final of the English Open and won the majority of this country's tournaments.

Kennedy took up sponge last season and has had tremendous success with this surface.

On the whole, then, I think the selectors have done a good job this time.

They have left us with a good chance of winnings honours through the experienced members of the team, and at the same time look to the future by "bleeding" youngsters.

## Letters to the Editor

### **SPONGE—A RETROGRADE MOVE ?**

**I** WISH to submit the following comments regarding the N.E.C.'s recent proposal to standardise the racket in order to abolish sponge and other freak surfaces.

Let us consider a few prevalent misconceptions. It is said that unlike table tennis other racket-bat-ball games specify the material of the striking implement. This is not so.

It is said that the action produced on the ball by sponge is other than that to be expected by the arm action of the striker. I am of the opinion that no evidence can be produced that this is so.

Sponge, like pimped rubber or any other surface, will impart to the ball, a definite speed and spin, but with wider ranges. Therefore, a player used to playing against pimped rubber only, is likely to be upset by this change of tempo. But surely this should be overcome by practice against sponge.

Blood curdling stories of the effects produced by two and even three decker "sandwiches," should be discounted. They all produce actions on the ball falling within the above discussion and can be considered mainly as psychological weapons.

The answer to sponge is indicated by its properties. Because it gives more spin it is more vulnerable to heavy back-spin or top spin than pimped rubber. A surface giving a lot of spin will also "take" a lot of spin.

Again it is difficult for an attacking "sponger" with his speedier surface, to perform close-to-the-table defensive shots against continuous two wing attack.

Where the sponge has gained the advantage is against the mainly retrieving player with light or medium back spin. Such players, while often producing brilliant spectacles when opposed to bold attacking players, invariably produce dreary time-limit matches between themselves.

**Three of our five 1957 Swaythling Cup team and one of the four Corbillon Cup girls are playing with sponge of one kind or another.**

Why the rumpus over sponge? It cannot be because clubs, league and tournaments are cluttered up with a large number of erratic sponge players.

I play in more than one league and attend most tournaments. The number of "spongers" I have come across (apart from the top class players) is practically negligible. The pattern was much the same at the English Junior Championships, with no spongers at all among the top players. The trouble probably arises on two counts.

Some County Associations and tournament Committees are complaining that falling gates are due to unspectacular play by sponge players. Gates have of course been falling for years in the entertainment world for a variety of reasons.

Unspectacular play is probably in

isolated cases and due to inexperience of sponge v sponge, which would no doubt be overcome, with more practice. Matches between Japanese players are spectacular enough and sponge has certainly not killed the game in their country, which has the largest number of players and the largest proportion of sponge players in the world.

Then some coaches are complaining that players have actually approached them asking to be coached in the use of sponge. What blasphemy!

Jack Carrington in the November issue of "Table Tennis" states "**sponge is an evil not to be endured and that the proper reaction at this stage is to shake up the laws of the game rather than coaching methods.**"

This sounds like defeatism.

He goes on to say "**but give us a chance to think**" and refers to "**such unexplored territory.**"

It is of course over four years since Japan first pulverised the T.T. world at Bombay.

Then Victor Barna in the December issue says: "**My point is that to bash a ball you don't need to learn how to chop, to acquire fighting spirit and so on.**"

Is Victor seriously suggesting that to successfully "bash" the ball with sponge does not require control or that the top class sponge players of the world lack fighting spirit?

I do not think that either of the above counts justifies imposing a standardised racket on senior players. The position is not quite the same with juniors.

They should be restricted to the use of pimped rubber because (a) it is easier to control than sponge and (b) it takes some time before a beginner develops mainly defensive or mainly attacking characteristics. Sponge of course is an attacking weapon.

This could easily be defeated by restricting entries for Junior tournaments to orthodox bat players.

Summing up, I think, with the above reservation, the sub-committee of the E.T.T.A. who had collected the answers from a country-wide questionnaire, were justified in recommending no change in the racket rule. And this was published only last November.

I would suggest that the I.T.T.F. defer a decision on the proposals from the E.T.T.A. and Welsh T.T.A. for rackets to be standardised until the end of the Stockholm World Championships. They will then have further opportunity of studying sponge.

Incidentally Wales astonish me. For years they made their own players play with plain wooden bats when the rest of the world were using pimped rubber.

It maybe that the proposal will be rejected. If so the further N.E.C. proposal for the racket to be standardised in England does not appear to be wise. Our top-class players would be handicapped in international fixtures through lack of practice against sponge. Then our own tournaments would lack foreign sponge players and pimped players too if their own rules forbade their entry to events not governed by the I.T.T.F. rules.

**Dennis Offer.**

COACHES NEEDED

Much is written about the lack of promising juniors and the terrific beating by Germany. The coaching facilities offered to German youth are far greater than in England.

Linda Gordon, one of the "Girl" finalists has had only a few days coaching at Skegness by courtesy of Hulton Press. Her mother told me that she had tried in vain to get her daughter coached.

I had similar trouble with my own daughter Carol Bagshaw and in despair took her to Di Rowe. After only one lesson at the "News of the World" course at Skegness she won the North London section of the "Eagle-Girl" tournament, without dropping a game.

A great little junior not yet 13 is Mary Shannon, of Worcester Park, winner of the under 13 singles and doubles at Herne Bay. She is coached by Harry Venner, who appears to be the only coach around Surrey or Greater London.

Top coaches must be recruited for our juniors. I would also like to comment of the shocking state of publicity for table tennis. There are few means of telling when matches are on. The absence of advertisements leaves little means of telling when matches are on, and there are only microscopic results in the press.

A line or two advertisement in county papers or in London "evenings" would gain far bigger crowds.

W. J. BAGSHAW

(Chessington)

CROUCH REMEMBERED

You may remember that just over a year ago Table Tennis and sportsmen in general lost a great friend when Bernard Crouch was so tragically killed in the Barnes Railway accident.

Middlesex, Surrey and Essex have already dedicated a trophy to his name and after very careful consideration the Staines League, where Bernard's presence is so greatly missed, are making an annual individual award to commemorate his name and all that it stood for.

The purpose of this letter is not an appeal for donations but as Bernard had so many friends outside Staines we feel that they would like to know what is being done and thus have the opportunity of being connected with the trophy should they so wish.

MICHAEL THORNHILL,

on behalf of Staines League.

# THE NEAR MISSES

by KENNETH WHEELER

**SALUTE** six gallant losers—six youngsters who played well enough to deserve places amongst the 32 national finalists in the *Eagle* Girl Junior Championships, but who had to make way for others who, on the day at least, were even better.

First 13-year-old **Roger Cardwell**, from Sheffield. Last year, you may remember, he lost the Area under-13 title by a whisker to Peter Keating. This time, in his Nottingham qualifying final against Brian Hill, he again looked as if he would sweep to victory, but then he lost five vital points in a row and the deciding game.

Brian also joined the ranks of the gallant losers when his good eye and dogged 'straight-bat' defence eventually broke down before the devastating attack of Liverpool champion, **Johnny Ball**, of Bootle.

Gallant losers Nos 3 and 4 were **James Mangham** and **Jackie Keogh**, two of Ken Stanley's protégés from Burnley. Mangham, after beating the very promising Edward Hughes 16, 20, in the 3rd round of the Boys' Senior event, lost 'the tie of the day' in a quarter final battle against his friend, and 'bogey' opponent, Keogh.

Keogh went on to win the Liverpool Area title from **Peter Keating**, then came up against **Roy Norton**, of Louth, and, unfortunately for Keogh, the reigning champion was in such sparkling form that he was not to be denied another trip to London.

Last of the youngsters who did well only to fail at the last hurdle was **Nell Truman**, a 12-year-old girl from Essex who was visiting relatives in the Liverpool area. She fell before the onslaught of Carol Reeves' sandwich bat in the Regional Final.

So far, Miss Truman's only experience has been gained in play at home, whereas Carol Reeves, the Nottingham champion, is at 13 a comparatively 'hardened' campaigner who must be one of the favourites for the national Junior title. Even so Nell Truman, whose elder sister Christine is famous in the world of lawn tennis, has now won a little fame in her own right, and according to Johnny Leach and other experts present shows great promise for the future.

In the Girls' Senior event **Patricia Spencer**, who changed the wooden bat, with which she won at Nottingham, for a rubber one, beat Liver-

pool champion Beryl Cummins with rather surprising ease.

AREA RESULTS

NOTTINGHAM (5th Jan., 1957)

Boys' Senior: ROY NORTON bt Christopher Elson 21-12, 21-16.

Boys' Junior: BRIAN HILL bt Roger Cardwell 20-22, 25-23, 21-18.

Girls' Senior: PATRICIA SPENCER bt Janet Steedman 21-3, 21-2.

Girls' Junior: CAROL REEVES bt Margaret Hogg 21-14, 21-13.

LIVERPOOL (12 Jan.)

Boys' Senior: JACK KEOGH bt Peter Keating 21-16, 21-13.

Boys' Junior: JOHN BALL bt John Smith 21-12, 21-18.

Girls' Senior: BERYL CUMMINS bt Dian Foster 21-14, 21-16.

Girls' Junior: NELL TRUMAN bt Ruth Roberts 21-16, 21-19.

REGIONAL FINALS (Liverpool, 12 Jan.)

Boys' Senior: ROY NORTON bt Jack Keogh 21-17, 21-11.

Boys' Junior: JOHN BALL bt Brian Hill 21-18, 21-13.

Girls' Senior: PAT SPENCER bt Beryl Cummins 21-16, 21-13.

Girls' Junior: CAROL REEVES bt Nell Truman 21-15, 21-13.

The draw for the Grand Finals at the Friends House, Euston on Saturday, February 23, has now been made, and resulted as follows:—

Girls Junior Quarter-Finals (9 a.m.)  
H. Brautigam (N. London) v E. Osmond (Cardiff).

P. Martin (S. London) v L. Gordon (Manchester).

C. Reeves (Nottingham) v E. Hall (Leeds).

J. Roberts (Birmingham) v E. Huggins (Edinburgh).

Boys Junior Quarter-Finals (9.30 a.m.)  
I. Gibson (Cardiff) v D. Allen (Birmingham).

D. Stanley (Manchester) v R. Storer (S. London).

G. Brass (Edinburgh) v T. M. Wilson (Leeds).

N. Iye (N. London) v J. Ball (Liverpool).

Girls Senior Quarter-Finals (10 a.m.)  
M. Shannon (S. London) v S. Sharp (Bristol).

J. Shallcross (Manchester) v A. Charman (Birmingham).

B. Kinsley (Leeds) v P. Spencer (Nottingham).

P. McKenzie (Edinburgh) v C. Bagshaw (N. London).

Boys Senior Quarter-Finals (10.30 a.m.)  
P. Racey (Bristol) v D. White (N. London).

R. Brass (Edinburgh) v A. Holden (Manchester).

W. Cox (Birmingham) v G. Gosling (S. London).

G. Livesey (Leeds) v R. Norton (Nottingham).

The semi-finals will be played from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, and the finals of all four events, together with special exhibition matches, from 3 to 5 p.m.

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# Area News:

## MERSEYSIDE MEMO

THE "old hands" still have plenty of kick in them judging by the results of the Liverpool "closed" championships, which were held in January, instead of at the end of the season, to avoid a clash with the Easter Holidays.

Mrs. K. Casselman, formerly one of the May twins, and now mother of two children won the women's singles which she previously held in 1947, and with her sister, who is married to Ron Rumjahn and is also a mother, won the doubles.

Then Ted Rumijhan, winner in 1947 and 1950, once again carried off the men's singles.

Sponge being a topical subject these days I am passing over the rest of these notes to J. D. Loughrey, the Liverpool match secretary, who is a sponge bat player, and I quote his article in full.

I would like to point out that I do not agree with his point of view, except in relation to the highering of the net. But let us hear the other fellow's arguments by all means.

The news that the N.E.C. are determined to eliminate the use of sponge bats from the game, encourages me to set forward the view that they have not considered sufficiently the possibility of there being another side to the question.

The Executive are, in my opinion, arguing from a false standpoint in blaming sponge for the falling off in attendances, one of the main reasons for their action. In fact the reason for this is the lack of 'personality players' at top level, and it should be faced that the game has its limitations as a spectacle, always needing the player with a flair for the spectacular to sell it to the public.

The postwar boom in all sports has helped table tennis as well as others, and sponge should not be blamed for the steady decline in attendances common in all sports.

Sponge is condemned for short rallies and hit or miss tactics, which is fair criticism in a proportion of cases, but it is a proportion. A large number, especially at Club level, use the bat in much more orthodox fashion, and I defy anyone to prove this second group is succeeding with less skill or tactical play because of sponge, or are

having a bad effect on the game.

To meet the admitted criticisms of the all out hitter, I strongly suggest a trial of the 6½ in. net once more, and leave the bats alone.

The present orthodox bat users would be little affected generally, as so many are largely defensive at all levels of the game, and the comparatively few attackers, could still adapt their games to the higher net.

The sponge 'hitter' on the other hand would have to sufficiently moderate his game so as to forfeit the 'unfair' advantage he holds at present.

I believe this should be given a serious trial and the matter be reconsidered in 12 months' time.

It also seems wrong to me that the Executive are out to bring their proposal into force into this country, no matter what the I.T.T.F. decide.

Unless world wide agreement is reached, no change should be made under any circumstances.

There are those who have used the argument that no other sport allows the use of different materials in their equipment. They would have presumably then to defend the argument that an English player could play in two International Tournaments, and in one be allowed to use any make of bat and in the other be forbidden to do so, a very poor advert for uniformity and consistency in the game!

Bill Stamp.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

THE Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl experiment can now be fully assessed in as much as both the financial statement and the reactions for the Leagues taking part, are to hand.

The total cost of staging the Wilmott Cup was £22 13s. 4d. and the Rose Bowl £18 0s. 6d. This works out at £2 18s. 6d. to each of the eight leagues in the Wilmott Cup and £3 0s. 1d. to the six in the Rose Bowl.

This I claim is cheaper than many League could have staged a first round match, and speaks well for what Gloucestershire have always contended that Zones should be confined to eight teams, giving the finalists three matches.

Bristol can count itself fortunate in having had the Middlesex v. Gloucestershire match so soon after the announcement that Ian Harrison had been selected for the Swaythling Cup team.

Ian making his county debut, certainly upheld the selectors decision to "blood" him, beating first Alan Rhodes, another member of the Swathling Cup team, in two straight games, and then Derrick Burridge.

In the county league Cirencester surprisingly beat Bristol by 6-4 (B. Archer, D. Green and M. Taylor each winning two singles) and now look certain to wrest the title from Cheltenham.

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Cirencester	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Bristol	2	1	1	0	11	19	2
Cheltenham	2	0	2	0	8	12	0
Stroud	2	0	2	0	5	15	0

Gloucestershire have applied for permission to organise annually a West of England Open Junior Championship.

Congratulations to Ron Bacon, Dennis Collins and Mike Bayntum who have all passed their tests to become fully fledged County Umpires.

The efforts of George Mortimer to step up the supply of coaches, should be applauded. Classes are in progress under E.T.T.A. Coach, B. Jeffrey, formerly of Hunts who is now residing in Bristol.

## SURREY NOTES

Hearty congratulations to young Jill Rook on her selection for Stockholm.

We are far from being down-hearted at our bad spell in the Premier Division but we confess to a little disappointment at so narrowly missing beating the Rest of England at our first opportunity and at only drawing with what will almost certainly be the next Champion County—Middlesex.

We are nearly home in the Second Division having beaten what are generally regarded as the strongest sides and have won our matches in the Bernard Crouch Trophy. We are also holding our own in the Junior Division.

The Thames Valley League, which, it may surprise some to learn, is the largest in the County, is proud of K. Sheldon (formerly Spychalski) who has done very well in his first full season as a County second team player.

Sheldon, who hails from Walton Comrades, has been six times League Champion and is the present triple holder, having won the Men's Doubles with Peter Jemmett and Mixed with Barbara Hewett.

The Surrey County Closed will be held once again under the League's auspices at the palatial Surbiton Assembly Rooms towards the end of March. The League's Closed will be held at Teddington in the last two weeks of March and the first week of April.

The South London League have changed the venue of their "Open" from Manor Place Baths to Bermondsey Baths and they are awaiting reactions to their new choice of venue with interest. They hope that Leach, Somogyi, the Hungarian star, Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe will be competing in addition to Venner who makes a habit of winning the title.

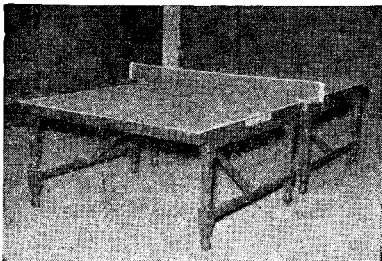
The Wandsworth League continues to be dominated by the Putney T.T. Club's first team who with their strong reserves are once again very well placed to retain the championship for the fifth year and the President's Cup.

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## DERBY NOTES

Derby women have managed to chalk up their first win of the season in the Midland League, beating Wolverhampton by 7—3.

Derby Men's "B" team put up a good performance, when, despite being without their recognised No. 1 and 2 players, Ron Hallsworth and Albert Hough respectively, they beat Wolverhampton by 6—4.

With good reserves to fill in for our top men when they are unable to play, Derby feel that they could well make the higher division next season.

The leading averages in Division One at the half-way stage include a new name in 7th position, that of 35-year-old Dennis Hedges. His attacking game is bringing him deserved success.

The top eleven places include the two youngsters, R. Dowding, the Junior Champion, and J. Cope, the runner-up.

Mrs. S. Caughey holds her own with the men in the Second Division where she is fifth in the averages with 76%. The only unbeaten player in the top three divisions is U. English (R.A.F.A.).

Carole Reeves repeated her success of last season by winning the "Girl" Area Final at Liverpool last month so qualifying for the finals in London on February 23rd.

She has also reached the Zone semifinal of the Girls' Singles of the Daily Mirror competition.

Not bad for a thirteen-year-old.

Walter Reeves

## ESSEX NOTES

ESSEX fans, particularly those who have seen Bobby Stevens play recently, are astonished at his omission from the National ranking list.

We are told that this is now a "seeding" list presumably to ensure that the paying customers get good value for their money at open tournament finals. If this is so, surely Bobby should be near the top?

Ever-faithful to pimple rubber, he is now playing better than ever before. Earlier in the season he was reserve against Ireland, and we all hope he will soon be rewarded with an international badge.

Essex Juniors defeated Surrey 8-2 to keep themselves well in the running for the Junior Division (South) title.

Our President, Corti Woodcock, has again been far from well and it is hoped he will make a speedy and permanent recovery.

Winnie Dakin suffered her first defeat in the Southend League since 1947 when she was recently beaten by Monica Porter, now the only undefeated player in the league. She had won 220 games in a row.

Women seem to dominate the administrative side of the League. Kathie Peer is the very able general secretary, Joyce Smith is match secretary, Joan Wood is record secretary, and Pamela Key is the handbook editor.

Holding the Essex Junior Closed championships separate from the Senior proved a great success and the Chelms-

ford League are to be congratulated on their excellent organisation.

### FINALS RESULTS

Boys' Singles: R. Sheldrake beat H. Molloy 21—14, 21—16.

Girls' Singles: S. Hession beat A. Stevens 21—17, 21—13.

Boys' Doubles: Molloy and K. Baker beat B. Leakey and M. Hutton 23—21, 21—15.

Girls' Doubles: Hession and Stevens beat V. Lamborn and A. Sutton 21—16, 22—20.

Mixed Doubles: Leakey and Hession beat Baker and Sutton 21—19, 21—13.

East London defeated St. Albans by 7-2 to become Zone winners in the Wilmott Cup. In the Rose Bowl, however, both East London and Ilford were knocked out in their respective zone finals.

Frank Bateman.

## KENT NOTES

Congratulations on behalf of the whole Kent Committee to Joyce Fielder on not only being included in the revised National ranking list but on winning a place in England's team for the World Championships. We are proud of you, Joyce.

The Kent League is now beginning to indicate the possible winners of the various divisions. In the First Division both Woolwich and N.W. Kent "B" have unbeaten records with Bromley "A" running close with only one loss.

Woolwich "B" lead the Second Division with seven out of a possible ten points, followed by Bromley "C" with five out of eight points. However, Beckenham "B" are so far unbeaten.

Similarly in the Second Division South Canterbury, with full points, and Folkestone, who have dropped only one, can both upset Sittingbourne who are top with five out of eight points.

The loss of a point to Sittingbourne, has meant Tunbridge Wells slipping to second place behind unbeaten N.W. Kent in the Ladies Division. Maidstone and Medway Towns, with matches in hand are still in the running.

### KENT LEAGUE

#### MEN'S 1st DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.S.
Woolwich "A" .....	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
N.W. Kent "B" .....	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Medway Towns "A" .....	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
Folkestone "A" .....	5	2	1	2	29	21	5
Bromley "A" .....	3	2	0	1	22	8	4
Beckenham "A" .....	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Bromley "B" .....	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
N.W. Kent "A" .....	4	0	0	4	7	33	0
Tunbridge Wells "A" .....	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

#### LADIES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.S.
N.W. Kent .....	5	5	0	0	35	15	10
Tunbridge Wells .....	5	4	1	0	31	19	9
Maidstone .....	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Gravesend .....	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Canterbury .....	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Medway Towns .....	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Sittingbourne .....	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Folkestone .....	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Bromley .....	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Tonbridge .....	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Woolwich .....	2	0	2	7	13	0	
Beckenham .....	4	0	0	4	11	29	0

#### JUNIORS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P.S.
Folkestone .....	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Woolwich .....	2	2	0	0	17	3	3
Sittingbourne .....	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Gravesend .....	2	1	0	1	7	13	2
Canterbury .....	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Bromley .....	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

Petrol rationing is taking its toll. Thanet have withdrawn from the senior and junior divisions, and there have been withdrawals in the Club Knock-out competition.

It is hoped everyone will do their best to overcome these difficulties and keep the competitions going.

Arrangements are in hand for the Kent Closed at Herne Bay in March and also for the Kent Junior Open.

The financial position took up considerable time at the Committee Meeting at Maidstone, and with expenses being in excess of those expected, it was resolved that every item of expenditure must be severely vetted for the rest of the season.

Jimmy Mannooch.

## YORKSHIRE NOTES

NO one can accuse Yorkshire of not being progressive. Last October I reported that county match attendances had dropped by nearly 50 per cent. in 1955-56. Yorkshire are now going all-out to make the game a crowd-puller again.

First they joined Gloucester in the crusade against sponge. Now comes another move to alter the pattern of county matches.

Yorkshire want the third man dropped from each team to cut the number of events from ten to eight.

They will put this new proposal to the National County Championship annual meeting.

This is the idea. Each team will comprise two men and two women and there will be four men's singles sets instead of six.

These are the benefits: Matches will not go on so late that many spectators have to leave before the end to catch the last bus home. A smaller team will deduce travelling and accommodation expenses (particularly in view of the petrol outlook). The crowd will see only the cream of county talent. The Yorkshire county championship sub-committee consider that without the No. 3, matches will be more of a spectacle.

They feel it would be unfair to cut down the number of ladies' events as it would virtually eliminate the ladies' game.

Leeds women avenged the men's defeats by trouncing Huddersfield 10—0, to put them well on the way to their third successive title and ninth since the war.

Bradford men won their first match this season when they beat Castleford 7—3.

Brian Kennedy became the first Yorkshireman to make 50 county appearances when he went through unbeaten against Essex.

Huddersfield men have scored a double over Leeds winning their Wilmott Cup tie 5—3, and the inter-Leagues match 7—3. Huddersfield have gone on to reach the last eight of the Wilmott Cup with a 5—3 win over Sheffield.

Malcolm Hartley

## HERTFORDSHIRE NEWS

**T**HE Hertford and District League have, as a result of petrol rationing, withdrawn from the County Inter-League Tournament and their record deleted from the table.

In an effort to avoid further withdrawals the leagues have been asked to co-operate with each other in arranging matches out of period and thus completing the fixture list by mutual agreement.

Watford and St. Albans jointly head the table, each with eight points and an equal games average. These two sides clash during February in a match which will virtually decide this season's champions.

### County Inter-League Championship Senior Section

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
St. Albans .....	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Watford "A" .....	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Watford "B" .....	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Bishop's Stortford ..	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Letchworth .....	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Welwyn Garden City	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Stevenage I.W.S.L....	3	0	0	3	10	20	0
Cheshunt .....	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

The surprise in the County Inter-Club Knock-Out tournament was the defeat of the holders for the past two years, Waverley, the St. Albans League club, by Oxhey Hall "B" from Watford.

St. Albans still have all three teams in the last eight of the tournament, and must be strongly fancied.

All roads, petrol permitting, will lead to the de Havilland Propellers Ltd., Canteen, Hatfield, on 23rd and 24th February for the County Senior Closed Championships.

Janet White is expected to retain her singles title, but the men's event could be a very open affair. This may be Johnny Hunt's year if he can reproduce the form that took him to the quarter-finals of the North West Kent Open.

The new address of the County Press Officer, Dennis H. Williams, is 41, Homestead Moat, Stevenage, Herts. He will be pleased to receive any items of interest for inclusion in the regular news issues to the County Press.

County Secretary, Frank Burvill, now has the telephone installed. The number: Stevenage 1615.

The question of an open league in the new town of Stevenage is still under discussion. The Stevenage Inter-Works

Sports League have suggested that the County Secretary call a meeting of interested parties, and the County and Inter-Works officials. This proposal is now under discussion by the Executive Committee, and it is hoped that there will shortly be some news for the league-less clubs of Stevenage.

Dennis H. Williams.

## DURHAM NEWS FARE

**D**URHAM lost one of her keenest players when Ronald Graham was killed in a motor-cycle accident in January.

Ronnie, who played for T.L.F. in the Sunderland and District League, will always be remembered for his modesty and great sportsmanship. Londoners may recollect how he hitch-hiked to the English Open, just after the war, although it took him two days to get back to Sunderland.

In the Men's Division of the Durham Senior League most of the teams are behind in their fixtures, but Stockton and Hartlepool appear to be well in the running for the championship with Sunderland and Middlesbrough close behind.

In contrast, the Boys' Division may well be a one horse race since Sunderland seem to have an extremely strong side.

A widely controversial topic of the moment is the scarcity of tournaments in this area. Other than the Hartlepoons Open we have to wait until the end of the season's play for the Durham "closed"—the next tournament. **Surely one town can stage another tournament in mid-season.**

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Alan Duncan on the birth of their daughter, and also the Hollands, Olive and Keith, whose son, Michael, was born while the County were struggling in the 2nd Division North.

Arnold Wareutz.

## WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

Cardiff, who last year finished third from the bottom of the Western Counties First Division table, appear determined not to come so close to relegation this season.

In fact they have played so well that at the half-way stage they head the Division having won all their matches strangely enough by the same score of 6-4.

Bristol, who were only saved from relegation by one place, have also made good headway this season and are, at present, lying second with Birmingham, last year's runners-up, third.

Cardiff recently entertained Birmingham and were hard pressed before gaining maximum points.

At one stage in the match Cardiff were leading 5-1 but were pulled back 5-4 before B. Dimascio beat D. Baddeley after an exciting match, in which the score stood at 19 all in the final game, to give Cardiff the winning margin.

In the Second Division Bristol 2nds visited Taunton and although at one

period they were 1-4 down they produced a brilliant recovery to capture the following five games to win the match by 6-4.

Bristol 2nds are now lying immediately below Weston, who, by virtue of some substantial victories, lead the Second Division.

## THE IRISH SCENE

**I**N last month's issue I announced that Victor Mercer had decided to come back out of retirement and once again play the game which gave him over fifty international caps. What a triumphant return it turned out to be.

After a tremendous five games battle in the final of the County Antrim Championship at Ballymena, Victor showed that he had lost none of his old skill by defeating Ulster inter-provincial Colin McBride.

This was a really astonishing performance, for McBride looked odds-on to take the title when he won the fourth game after Mercer had led 2-1. But Mercer, showing all his old-time fighting ability and most of the skill that had kept him at the top of the tree for so many years, was not to be denied. McBride fought for every point but could not subdue the tall Belfastman, whose win will certainly bring added spice to the competitions in the second half of the season.

Partnered by the improving Jean Lynn, Mercer added the mixed doubles to his prize list.

Mrs. M. Dowd had a surprisingly easy win over Miss Lynn in the Women's singles final, and then, partnered by Miss Lynn, won the Women's doubles, defeating Mrs. R. Buick and Miss F. Mercer in the final.

Ireland followed up last season's defeat of Scotland by repeating the dose at Dunoon, winning 6-4. Best performance of the night was given by Miss Deidre Fearon, who surprisingly defeated Helen Houliston, 18-21, 21-18, 21-15.

Petrol rationing has made its presence felt over here. Several of our leading provincial championships have had to be postponed. In fact, it is doubtful if they will be held at all this season.

S. Dignam.

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# WELSH CORNER

GLAMORGAN continue their winning way in the Second Division West, but victory over Somerset at Bath didn't come without a struggle.

It was a long match, five of the men's singles going to the third game.

David House beat both Simonson and Alan Thomas to record Somerset's only victories. Alan took him to three, but in the last match against Simonson, House won two straight. It is difficult to say whether the result would have been different had there been more time.

Parker had two victories to his credit, but in both he looked at first to be an easy winner, then had long struggles with both Hebden and Smith.

Alan Thomas also beat Hebden, with Parker and teamed up to beat House and Goldsack.

Simonson beat Smith in his other singles, but made a poor combination with Betty Gray against Goldsack and Diane Geen, who ran them quite close.

Shirley Jones won two straight after a shaky start against Miss Francis, and she and Betty Gray beat Miss Francis and Diane Geen in the doubles.

A home match with Staffordshire is all that remains of Glamorgan's County programme. It should bring us further victory, and so on for a tilt at promotion play-off for the Premier Division, but we slipped up against Staffordshire last season, and we must see that it doesn't happen again.

In the Welsh League, Newport, despite being beaten by Cardiff, Ebbw Vale, Abergavenny and Barry, nevertheless contrived to throw a spanner in the First Division works by thrashing Swansea to the tune of 8-1, a shock which has set unbeaten Cardiff more firmly at the top of affairs.

## STRONG TEAM

Eddie Still, the Scottish international stationed at St. Athan, is now assisting Barry in the Welsh League, and if they can turn out Graham James and George Evans as well, they will be a formidable combination. Mumbles have both Simonson and Glyn Morgan "on their books," but these two are not always available, otherwise Mumbles, too, would be a strong side.

Abergavenny, with their ever improving Parry and Arkell, are more than holding their own. Ebbw Vale, without Donald Norris, are having a rough time, whilst Aberdare, with David Bird away studying, are a disappointment to Secretary Eddie Thomas. But the latter is hoping that his second side will win the Southern Section. Unbeaten up to now, they may yet provide the piquant situation of winning promotion to the division their "betters" will drop out of!

Cardiff Seconds are running second in this section, followed by Rhondda, with Cardiff Public Services, an improved side, close on their heels, and Barry Seconds and Bridgend bringing up the rear.

Eastern Valleys are unbeaten in the Northern Section, and are making a strong bid to regain First Division status. Tredegar are just behind, then

Brecon, Abergavenny Seconds, and Merthyr, without a win, on the bottom.

Until the second Cardiff — Swansea clash in the women's section, the latter are likely to remain on top, whilst in the Junior Section, honours look like going to Abergavenny or Newport, both of whom are unbeaten.

Incidentally, it is gratifying to note that in the Yorkshire Junior the two Abergavenny youngsters opposed each other in the Final, and this time, Clive Arkell gained his revenge for the Swansea Open, by beating club mate David Parry.

**Entry Forms for the Gwent Open are now available, but it should be noted that this event will now take place on Saturday, March 2nd.**

Because of petrol rationing, and since

car travel is essential to get through the Club Team Championship of Wales, it is unlikely that this event will be run this season. It would be more than interesting if some new and more appealing way could be found of holding this event. The response to a tournament to determine the best club team in Wales is usually disappointing.

The Welsh Association has embarked on its usual fund raising effort to send teams to the World Championships in Stockholm, and it is hoped that there will be the usual ready response so that our women's team can defend their sixth world ranking, and our men can get much needed experience.

For the match with Ireland at Belfast on February 8th, the Selectors picked John Simonson, Alan Thomas and Bernard Dimascio. Norman Parker was not considered as he was not available. Shirley Jones regained the No. 1 place with Betty Gray included for the other singles.

# SCOTLAND SPEAKING

*The East of Scotland Open Championships were reported in these columns last month, and through an error in our records the result of the Women's Doubles Title was given as a victory for Miss Houlston and Mrs. Canollin of Edinburgh. In actual fact the winners were Misses Black and Dunbar of Dundee, who thus notched their first title win. Sincere apologies for this oversight.*

Players from the East of Scotland swept the boards at Bellahouston in the Scottish Confined, and the only man with a share in a title outside of the Edinburgh contingent was Tommy Gilmour of Dundee. He won the Men's doubles in partnership with young Tommy McMichael of Edinburgh.

McMichael scored a major victory in carrying off the men's singles title. Both he and John Braithwaite, of Hamilton, made their way to the final over the heads of more fancied opponents. McMichael beat I. Barclay, the junior champion, in the quarter finals after Barclay had beaten E. Still, international and former holder. McMichael entered the final by an excellent victory over back-to-form McMillan of Glasgow.

Meanwhile, Johnny Braithwaite completely upset the form book in beating first Miller and then Kerr.

The final, as is so often the case, proved rather an anti climax, McMichael winning in two straight sets.

Helen Elliot was supreme among the women and carried off three titles.

## RESULTS

**Men's Singles Semi-finals:** McMichael bt McMillan 17, —19, 14. Braithwaite bt Kerr 15, 19. **Final:** McMichael bt Braithwaite 13, 16.

**Women's Singles, Semi-finals:** Elliot bt Lindsay 10, 8. Houlston bt Black 14, 17. **Final:** Elliot bt Houlston 18, 14.

**Men's Doubles, Semi-finals:** McMichael and Gilmour bt McCandish and Metcalfe 18, 21. Barclay and Kerr bt Forman and Stewart —19, 13, 17. **Final:** McMichael and Gilmour bt Barclay and Kerr 21, 17.

**Women's Doubles, Final:** Elliot and Houlston bt Cruickshanks and Sinclair 9, 9.

**Mixed Doubles, Semi-finals:** Kerr and Elliot bt McCandish and Black 9, 16. Barclay and Houlston bt Fraser and Fraser 14, 19. **Final:** Kerr and Elliot bt Barclay and Houlston 16, 12.

**Junior Singles, Final:** Barclay bt Farrar —21, 13, 12.

## SCOTLAND 4, IRELAND 6

The successful debut of Tommy McMichael was the feature of the international in which Ireland beat Scotland 6-4 at Dunoon. The young Edinburgh player fully justified his selection with a great win over Harry O'Prey and he was unfortunate not to mark up a second victory against E. Allan, losing an advantage third game. He also shared in a doubles win with Kerr.

It is to be hoped that this successful departure from the old faces will encourage selectors to further experiment.

Braithwaite once again failed to produce tournament form in an international, and temperamentally superior Miller, of Edinburgh, should get his chance at the first opportunity. This, however, may not be until next season owing to difficulties being experienced with the Welsh match, for which no date has yet been agreed.

Kerr was unlucky not to beat Senior, losing in two advantage games. He also lost narrowly to O'Prey.

Results (Scottish names first): Braithwaite (Hamilton) lost to Allan (Ulster) —15, —8, lost to Senior (Ulster) —8, 16. Kerr (Edinburgh) lost to Senior —20, —24, lost to O'Prey (Ulster) —19, —17. McMichael lost to Allan 16, —14, —20, bt O'Prey —19, 17, 13.

Miss Elliot (Edinburgh) bt Miss J. Owens (Leinster) 12, 13. Miss Houlston (Edinburgh) lost to Miss D. Fearon (Leinster) 18, —18, —15.

McMichael and Kerr bt. O'Prey and Senior 6, 18.

Miss Elliot and Miss Houlston bt Miss Owens and Miss Fearon 18, 9.

**Gordon Walker**

# SURREY SHAKE THE LEADERS

**J**ANUARY has seen a determined come-back by Surrey the reigning premier division champions. Without points in their first three matches, they swamped luckless Cheshire by 10—0, and then caused a shock by taking a point off undefeated Middlesex.

Surrey's successes coincided with the return of Harry Venner to the No. 1 position, after his short rest. Now playing with a sandwich bat, Venner was the hero of the drawn match, defeating Thornhill and Burridge, and successfully pairing with Craigie in the men's doubles against Adams and Burridge.

The match started well enough for Middlesex, who led 2—0 and 3—1, but after dropping the men's doubles, they unexpectedly conceded the women's singles. Jean Head pulling up from a losing position in the second game, to beat Di Rowe two straight, and make it 3 all.

Rhodes, who had earlier defeated Craigie, then accounted for Jackie Head, and Middlesex took the mixed doubles to make it 5—3. However, Craigie made no mistake against Burridge, and in the last, Venner showed sparkling form to outthit Mike Thornhill.

*Watched by a good sized crowd at Tottenham, this had all the makings*

*of a thriller, yet the crowd were strangely subdued. Once again, I must blame the preponderance of freak bats (three on each side), which robbed the match of interesting rallies, a fact remarked upon by several spectators.*

Gloucestershire shot their bolt losing 4—6 to Middlesex, in a first-class encounter. Young Ian Harrison making his county debut, after having gained two senior international badges, gave Gloucester a great start by beating Rhodes, and showed that this was no fluke by also defeating Burridge.

It was an unhappy match for these two Middlesex players, for Rhodes also lost to Simons and Burridge to Merrett.

However, Thornhill was on the target to beat Simons and Merrett. Middlesex were on top in the ladies singles and all three doubles.

Yorkshire kept hard on Middlesex' heels, by their 8—2 win over Essex at Bradford. Essex fielded a weakened side, but made a great start when Fred Kershaw inflicted the first defeat of the season on Yorks' Maurice Simpson, and after Brian Kennedy had accounted for Ray Dorking, Essex again forged ahead when Bobby Stevens defeated Ray Hinchliff. That, however, was Essex's lot, and Yorkshire ran out easy winners.

One can but speculate what would

happen if Yorkshire had to meet Middlesex now, instead of at the start of the season, before the northerners had found their touch! However, such speculation is idle, and now Essex are the only side who could deprive Middlesex of their ninth title in 10 attempts (taking it that Middlesex will have taken the points off Cheshire by the time these notes appear!). It appears that Yorks will once again be the gallant runners-up.

There have been no matches in Division II (North). In Division II (West) Glamorgan have drawn further ahead, and appear booked for the promotion play-off.

*A sporting gesture on the part of Staffordshire gives Somerset their first point after all. Last month I reported that Somerset had forfeited the point from their draw with Staffs because they fielded an unregistered player. However, Staffs were satisfied with the reasons for his inclusion, and have asked for the result to stand. Mr. Eyles has agreed, and the tables have been amended accordingly. Must be the season of goodwill!*

Div. II (South) is shaping as I anticipated in previous notes, Sussex have now moved into second place, with Herts hard on their heels. Kent and Berks have dropped back, and the promotion issue now rests clearly between Herts and Sussex, while Surrey will surely get sufficient points from their matches against Kent and Suffolk to run out easy winners of the division.

In the Midland Division, Warwickshire need one point from their match with Worcestershire to make sure of the title, while in the Southern Division, Buckinghamshire who have completed their programme, must now await the outcome of Norfolk v Bedfordshire and Norfolk v Wiltshire, before knowing their fate. Either Norfolk or Beds could overtake them, but going on past results, I should not be unduly surprised if Norfolk and Beds draw, leaving Bucks on top. Still, it's still wide open between Beds and Bucks, while Norfolk would need large margin wins to make the title on games average.

In this division, of course, the counties do *not* play each other, and there is really very little in it between them, except for Cambridgeshire who are having a disappointing season. Leslie Constable tells me they have not been able to call on their strongest side.

## COUNTY DIARY

### PREMIER DIVISION

February 16 Lancashire v Cheshire, Hartford Youth Centre, Oldham 7.15 p.m.  
 March 9 Kent v Lancashire, Marina, Folkestone 7 p.m.

### SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

February 16 Yorkshire v Northumberland, Elephant and Castle Ballroom, Knaresborough 7 p.m.  
 Warwickshire v Lincolnshire, Flavells Ltd. Canteen, Leamington Spa 7 p.m.

### SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

February 16 Hampshire v Suffolk, Grosvenor Club, Taswell Road, Southsea 7 p.m.  
 March 2 Kent v Surrey, Trinity Hall, Sittingbourne 7.30 p.m.  
 March 9 Hertfordshire v Suffolk, Water Lane Institute, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford 6.45 p.m.

### SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

February 16 Dorset v Staffordshire, The Drill Hall, Dorset Depot Barracks, Dorchester 7 p.m.  
 March 2 Somerset v Worcestershire.  
 March 9 Devon v Worcestershire, Pitts Memorial Hall, Gibbon Street, Plymouth 7 p.m.

### NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

February 9 Lancashire v Cheshire, Ken Stanley's T.T. Academy, Burnley 3 p.m.  
 February 23 Lancashire v Yorkshire, N.W.E. Sports Centre, Dickinson Road, Manchester 2.30 p.m.

### SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

February 23 Kent v Essex, Petbow, Sandwich, 3.30 p.m.  
 March 9 Hertfordshire v Essex, Oxhey 3 p.m.

The position in the Junior Division (South) is intriguing. Suffolk practically put Middlesex out of the running when they beat them 6-4, but went down to Kent by the same margin, despite the great display of Peter Cole. We must face the fact that this is a very poor season for juniors, and while Kent have a workmanlike side, it is not one normally expected to have a chance of the championship. Tony Pidcock is the only player of international class in the team.

The position, however, now that Middlesex have beaten Essex (with Chris Gosling winning all his matches

#### DIVISIONAL TABLES

(at 1.2.57)

PREMIER	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Middlesex .....	5	4	0	1	37	13	9
Yorkshire .....	5	4	1	0	31	19	8
Essex .....	5	3	2	0	29	21	6
Gloucestershire .....	5	3	2	0	27	23	6
Surrey .....	5	1	3	1	26	24	3
Lancashire .....	4	1	3	0	14	26	2
Kent .....	3	1	2	0	8	22	2
Cheshire .....	4	0	4	0	8	32	0

#### DIV. II (NORTH)

Yorkshire .....	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Lincolnshire .....	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Warwickshire .....	3	2	1	0	18	12	4
Northumberland .....	3	1	2	0	16	14	2
Durham .....	4	0	4	0	5	35	0

#### DIV. II (SOUTH)

Surrey .....	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Sussex .....	4	3	1	0	27	13	6
Hertfordshire .....	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Kent .....	5	1	2	2	25	25	4
Berkshire .....	4	1	2	1	15	25	3
Hampshire .....	4	0	3	1	12	28	1
Suffolk .....	2	0	2	0	5	15	0

#### DIV. II (WEST)

Glamorgan .....	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Devon .....	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Worcestershire .....	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Staffordshire .....	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Somerset .....	3	0	2	1	9	21	1
Dorset .....	3	0	3	0	0	30	0

#### SOUTHERN DIVISION

Buckinghamshire .....	4	2	0	2	24	16	6
Bedfordshire .....	3	2	0	1	18	12	5
Hertfordshire .....	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Wiltshire .....	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Norfolk .....	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Cornwall .....	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Cambridgeshire .....	3	0	3	0	7	23	0

#### MIDLAND DIVISION

Warwickshire .....	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Staffordshire .....	3	2	1	0	19	11	4
Derbyshire .....	4	2	2	0	21	19	4
Worcestershire .....	3	1	2	0	11	19	2
Northamptonshire .....	3	0	3	0	6	24	0

#### NORTH JUNIOR

Yorkshire .....	1	1	0	0	7	1	2
Cheshire .....	1	0	0	1	4	4	1
Lancashire .....	2	0	1	1	5	11	1

#### SOUTH JUNIOR

Middlesex .....	5	3	1	1	35	15	7
Suffolk .....	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Kent .....	3	2	0	1	21	9	5
Essex .....	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Surrey .....	4	2	2	0	21	19	4
Hertfordshire .....	4	0	3	1	9	31	1
Sussex .....	5	0	4	1	8	42	1

#### MIDLAND JUNIOR

Northamptonshire .....	1	1	0	0	6	3	2
Staffordshire .....	1	1	0	0	5	4	2
Warwickshire .....	2	0	2	0	7	11	0

on his first appearance) Kent remain the only unbeaten side. I cannot see them drop a point against Surrey or Herts, and they only need one point from their match with Essex to make sure of the title. If Kent slip, then it is still anybody's title but I feel it is long odds on Kent repeating their 1951-52 success in taking the championship from the holders, Middlesex.

In the North Junior Division, the 4-4 draw between Cheshire and Lancashire indicates that Yorks are

well ahead of their rivals, and should confirm their superiority in the remaining matches (home and away basis). In the Midland Junior, only one match remains, Northants and Staffs having postponed their championship deciders so far.

While there have been a few postponements, it is pleasing to see how well counties have co-operated to ensure that most matches have been played on time despite the petrol shortage.

#### DETAILED RESULTS

##### PREMIER DIVISION

##### Cheshire 0, Surrey 10

E. Johnson lost K. Craigie -16, -14, lost J. Head -16, -19. A. Shepherd lost Head 18, -15, -14, lost H. Venner -14, -11. D. Schofield lost Venner 21, -14, -14, lost Craigie -12, -8.  
Johnson and Schofield lost Craigie and Venner -14, -17.  
Miss E. Grimstone lost Mrs. J. Head -19, -11.  
Miss Grimstone and Miss M. Young lost Mrs. Head and Miss J. Rook -18, -12. Shepherd and Miss Young lost Head and Miss Rook -14, 20, -14.

##### Gloucestershire 4, Middlesex 6

I. Harrison bt A. Rhodes 15, 20, bt D. Burridge 17, -20, 18. B. Merrett bt Burridge 12, -19, 11, lost M. Thornhill -18, -11. A. Simons lost Thornhill -18, -20, bt Rhodes 12, 6.  
Merrett and Simons lost L. Adams and Burridge -8, -16.  
Miss S. Davis lost Miss D. Rowe -16, -17.  
Miss M. Jones and Mrs. E. Spokes lost Miss M. Fry and Miss Rowe -15, 18, -19. R. Griffin and Miss Davis lost Adams and Miss Fry -7, -18.

##### Yorkshire 8, Essex 2

M. Simpson lost F. Kershaw -18, 18, -16, bt R. Dorking 15, 17. B. Kennedy bt Dorking 13, 16, bt R. Stevens 14, 11. R. Hinchliff lost Stevens -19, 19, -18, bt Kershaw 17, 11.  
Hinchliff and Simpson bt Dorking and Stevens -17, 16, 18.  
Miss C. K. Best bt Mrs. E. Carrington 14, 6.

#### SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

PETER COLE'S repeat of last year's feat by winning four titles in the Suffolk championships, a dramatic women's singles final in which Pam Garrett beat Val Martin, and Suffolk's first junior defeat for 14 months at the hands of Kent, were the highlights of January.

For those who talk about the namby-pamby play of the fair sex, the women's final was an eye-opener. Both showed real "devil" in their play.

Prior to their defeat by Kent, the Juniors beat Middlesex 6-4. Cole again won all his matches and remains unbeaten by an English junior this season.

##### Suffolk Closed Championships

Results: Men's Singles: P. Cole beat J. Collins 21-9, 21-12, 21-10. Ladies Singles: Miss P. Garrett beat Miss V. Martin 21-16, 24-26, 21-17. Junior Singles: P. Cole beat P. Rudd 21-7, 21-14. Veterans Singles: D. Madell beat G. Lipscombe 21-23, 21-8, 21-9. Mixed Doubles: P. Cole and J. Collins beat R. Purnell and A. Hawkes 21-12, 21-10, 21-15. Mixed Doubles: P. Cole and Miss V. Martin beat R. Purnell and Miss P. Garrett 21-13, 21-9. Ladies Doubles: Miss V. Martin and Miss E. Beech beat Mrs. D. Fox and Miss V. Moores 21-11, 21-13. A.E.D.

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE SNIPPETS

THE Cambridgeshire League shows interesting readings at the close of the first half of the season with all six divisions in a state of intense competition. Wesley, Telephones 1 and New Chesterton Institute 1 are all fighting it out in the first division with one defeat apiece, although Wesley were unlucky to lose to N.C.I. as they had a depleted team. With a full team they beat Telephones 1 by seven games to two and kept well in the running.

Y.M.C.A. I are having a tough season and find themselves behind their second team at the present moment although with a game in hand.

The other divisions are going well and United Hospitals, promoted from the Third Division, now head the Second Division with a clean sheet.

The Cambs. Closed Championships which are being held next month promise to attract a record entry and the Cambridge Corn Exchange will once again be the venue. The ever popular Radius Events will be held and no doubt we shall again see members of the Varsity in evidence. A new Junior champion will be heralded as Keith Chapman has now passed sweet seventeen. Leslie Constable.

# 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. The closing date for entries is shown in brackets after the title, Suitable entries are inserted in this diary without charge but all organisers should send information to The Editor at the earliest date possible.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details and Venue</i>	<i>Extra Events</i>	<i>Organising Secretary</i>
Feb. 11-16	<b>Surrey Open (Jan. 26)</b> Public Baths, London Road, Mitcham.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
16-17	<b>French Open</b> Rouen.		
17	<b>Sussex "Closed,"</b> Corn Exchange, Brighton.		Mr. R. D. Weeks, 111b, Ditchling Road, Brighton, Sussex.
23	<b>Wilmott Cup Semi-finals and Final</b> Camberwell Baths, Camberwell Green, London, S.E.5.		Mr. R. G. Parsons, 2, Penderley Road, Catford, London, S.E.6.
23	<b>J.M. Rose Bowl Semi-finals and Final</b> Sperry's Sports Club, Great West Road, Brentford.		Mr. R. W. Boorer, 50, Southdown Avenue, Hanwell, London, W.7.
23	<b>Eagle/Girl National Junior Tournament Finals</b> Friends' Meeting House, Euston, London.		
23-24	<b>Swiss Open</b>		
24	<b>Lincolnshire Championships</b> Skegness.		
23-24	<b>Hertfordshire Championships</b> de Havilland Propellers Ltd., Hatfield.		
Feb. 23-	<b>West Middlesex Open (Feb. 9)</b>	J.S.B.	Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Riddick, 29, Thorney
Mar. 2	West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, Ealing, W.13.	J.S.G. Y.S.(B) Y.S.(G)	Hedge Road, Chiswick, W.4.
2-3	<b>German Open</b>		
2	<b>Gwent Open (Feb. 18)</b> Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd., Newport, Mon.	J.S.	Mr. G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon.
7-15	<b>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS</b> Stockholm.		
9	<b>England v Wales (Juniors)</b> Sutton Adult School, Sutton.		Mr. J. J. Ledwich, 6, Kings Road, Belmont, Sutton.
16	<b>Cheshire Junior Open (Mar. 2)</b> Livingstone Street Baths, Birkenhead, Wirral, Cheshire.	Under 15's. B.S., G.S.	Mr. W. H. Gawne, 9, Eric Road, Wallasey, Wirral, Cheshire.
16	<b>Grimsby Open</b> Pier Pavilion and Town Hall, Cleethorpes.	B.S.	Mr. J. Browne, 245, Yarborough Road, Grimsby.
25-30	<b>Essex Open</b> Hydro Hall, Y.M.C.A., Plaistow, London, E.13.	B.S. G.S.	R. Markwell, 61, East Avenue, Manor Park, London, E.12.
April 2-6	<b>ENGLISH OPEN</b> Manor Place Baths, London, S.E.17, and Empire Pool, Wembley, Middlesex.		Secretary, E.T.T.A., 214 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.
2	<b>ENGLAND v. FRANCE (Women)</b> Waltham Abbey Town Hall, Waltham Abbey, Essex.		Mr. A. W. Dale, 9, Paternoster Close, Waltham Abbey, Essex.
13	<b>Daily Mirror National Tournament Finals</b>		
20-22	<b>North East England Open (April 10)</b> Burniston Barracks, Scarborough and Westborough Concert Hall, Scarborough.	J.S.B. J.S.G. Y.S. V.S.	Mr. E. Moorhouse, 26, Sherwood Street, Scarborough.

## IRISH "OPEN"

ENGLISH players swept the board in the senior titles at the Irish "Open" in Belfast on January 25th-26th, with Jill Rook providing the major upset by defeating Diane Rowe in the women's singles final.

This was a real thriller with Miss Rook, playing exceptionally well to save two match points and win at 22-20 in the third.

Miss Rowe was well on top in the opening game, and after narrowly losing the second, looked set for victory at 20-18 only to lose the next four points.

There was an even greater recovery by Micky Thornhill when he took the men's singles from Derek Burrige last year's winner. Burrige was leading two games to one and 18-11, when Thornhill by a superhuman effort captured ten points in a row to make it 2-all.

With such a set back it was perhaps not surprising that Burrige faded in the final game leaving Thornhill the winner at 21-16, 19-21, 10-21, 21-18, 21-11.

It was a match of changing fortunes. Thornhill took the first game after trailing 11-14, and lost the second after leading 19-16.

Thornhill had previously beaten two Irish internationals, E. Allen in the semi-final, and V. Mercer in the "quarters."

Burrige's semifinal victim was D. Smith, of Somerset, who sprung a surprise by defeating the Irish international O'Prey.

Burrige and Thornhill had no difficulty in winning the men's doubles, beating G. Collins and Mercer in straight games, but Miss Rook and Miss Rowe had a shock in the women's doubles final. They dropped the first game to Mrs. M. Dowd and Joy Owen, and trailed 11-14 in the final game before recovering to win 14-21, 21-14, 21-18.

Burrige and Miss Rowe had some measure of revenge for their singles defeat when they paired up to beat Thornhill and Miss Rook in the mixed final 10-21, 21-15, 21-17.

Tommy Caffrey, who is only 13, showed remarkable promise when he won the boys' singles beating G. Kelly 21-18, 21-23, 21-16. He has good temperament and a style that lends itself to improvement.

### RESULTS

**Men's Singles semi-finals:** D. BURRIDGE bt D. Smith 21-12, 21-17, 21-16; M. THORNHILL bt E. Allen 21-16, 21-19, 21-17.

**Final:** THORNHILL bt Burrige 21-16, 19-21, 10-21, 21-18, 21-11.

**Women's Singles: Semi-finals:** DIANE ROWE bt Joy Owen; JILL ROOK bt Jean Lynn.

**Final:** Miss ROOK bt Miss Rowe 16-21, 21-19, 22-20.

**Men's Doubles: Final:** BURRIDGE and THORNHILL bt G. Collins and V. Mercer 21-15, 21-16, 21-10.

**Women's Doubles: Final:** Miss ROOK and Miss ROWE bt Mrs. M. Dowd and Miss Owen 14-21, 21-14, 21-18.

**Mixed Doubles: Final:** BURRIDGE and Miss ROWE bt Thornhill and Miss Rook 10-21, 21-15, 21-17.

**Boys' Singles: Final:** T. CAFFREY bt G. Kelly 21-18, 21-23, 21-16.

**Girls' Singles: Final:** V. LAMBERT bt A. Murdock 21-13, 14-21, 21-14.

## LANCASHIRE "OPEN"

All titles changed hands in the Lancashire "Open" at Bolton on January 26. Ray Hinchliff, of Huddersfield, showing much more aggressiveness, won the men's title to beat Ken Stanley in the final 21-19, 18-21, 21-16, while Audrey Bates captured the women's singles for Wales.

Miss Bates, who has been showing grand form this season, landed a triple crown when she also won the

women's doubles with Mrs. Vera Rowe and the mixed with W. Devine.

One of the best finals was the junior singles in which Colin Deaton, the Chesterfield junior international, beat F. G. Lynch, of Sheffield, 21-16, 21-15.

### RESULTS

**Men's Doubles: Final:** E. T. JOHNSON and D. SCHOFIELD beat G. Cowgill and G. Carrogill 21-16, 21-18.

**Women's Doubles: Final:** A. BATES and Mrs. V. ROWE beat W. Swift and M. Rhodes 21-18, 21-12.

**Mixed Doubles: Final:** W. DEVINE and Miss BATES beat S. Dyson and Miss Rhodes 21-11, 21-6.

**Junior Singles: Final:** C. T. DEATON beat F. G. Lynch 21-16, 21-15.

**Men's Singles: Final:** R. HINCHLIFFE bt K. Stanley 21-19, 18-21, 21-16.

**Women's Singles: Final:** Miss A. BATES bt Mrs. B. Cassell 21-14, 21-11.

## YORKSHIRE JUNIOR "OPEN"

THE Yorkshire Junior "Open" at Madeley-street Baths, Hull, on January 5, attracted only 77 entries compared with 108 at Leeds last year. Petrol rationing was part of the reason, but support was lacking from several of the larger Yorkshire Leagues.

Star of the day from Yorkshire's viewpoint was 14-year-old M. Dainty, of the newly formed Doncaster Youth League. He won the Under 15 singles and also reached the last four of the Junior singles before losing to Clive Arkell, who went on to beat David Parry 21-19, 21-14 in an all-Welsh final.

Parry's semi-final victim was Colin Deaton, the Chesterfield junior international, who won the Youths singles.

The Youths singles was full of surprises. Arkell went out in the first round to J. Lyon, of York, and Parry was beaten by P. Shilcock (Notts.), who went on to reach the semi-final where he fell to J. Spencer (Leeds). A third Welsh challenger, Pat Crowley, lost to Deaton in the other semi-final. Deaton then beat Spencer 21-11, 21-19.

International Flo Wright (Barnsley) won the girls singles, beating 14-year-old Betty Kinsley (Hull) 21-15, 21-13. She gained a second title in the mixed doubles with Spencer. This was the best final of the evening, with Clive Pollard and Irene Allsopp of Hull coming near to creating an upset when they came from behind to take the lead at 20-18 in the final game, but they were eventually beaten 19-21, 21-10, 23-21.

Pollard had the consolation of winning the Youths' doubles with D. M. Bartlett.

### RESULTS

**Youths' Singles: Semi-finals:** C. T. DEATON (Chesterfield) bt P. Crowley (Cardiff) 21-11, 21-15; J. SPENCER (Leeds) bt P. Shilcock (Nottingham) 21-12, 21-16.

**Final:** DEATON bt Spencer 21-11, 21-19.

**Girls' Singles: Final:** F. WRIGHT (Barnsley) bt B. Kinsley (Hull) 21-15, 21-13.

**Junior Singles: Final:** C. ARKELL (Abergavenny) bt D. Parry (Abergavenny) 21-19, 21-14.

**Under 15 Singles: Final:** M. DAINTY (Doncaster) bt J. Mangham (Burnley) 21-18, 21-18.

**Youths' Doubles: Final:** D. N. BARTLETT and C. POLLARD (Hull) bt J. Stoddart (Wirral) and J. R. Moorhouse (Scarborough) 24-22, 15-21, 21-12.

**Mixed Youths' Doubles: Final:** SPENCER and Miss WRIGHT bt Pollard and Miss I. M. Allsopp (Hull) 19-21, 21-10, 23-21.

# KENT "OPEN"

by Conrad Jaschke

THE Kent "open" lived up to its reputation, at Folkestone on January 26th-27th, with fancied players tumbling like ninepins, in the men's singles, won by Ken Craigie, of Surrey.

None of the six ranked England players (including three of the Swaythling Cup team), two Australian Swaythling Cup side, nor Hungarian star Josef Somogyi, reached the final.

**Biggest shock was the defeat of top seed Brian Kennedy in the third round, by Dennis Whittaker, the Kent No. 3.**

Playing the game of his life, Whittaker neutralised Kennedy's sponge bat attack with exceptionally heavy chop, but the stroke that won him the match at 17, 8, 14, was his backhand flick, which repeatedly left the Yorkshireman standing, particularly when delivered from the forehand court.

Whittaker eventually found his match in Len Adams, who won their quarter-final tie 15, 19, 13.

Adams, who previously had accounted for Alan Lindsey, then had a

great win over Harry Venner for a place in the final, where Craigie was always on top and won 21-16, 23-21.

Craigie did not have things all his own way in the earlier rounds. He easily beat Somogyi 16 and 11, in the third round, but was in sight of defeat in the "quarters" before overcoming Brian Brumwell, the holder—19, 26, 19. Then he had another narrow escape in the semi-final where he beat Alan Rhodes 22-20 in the third.

The Australians Phil Anderson and Arden Robinson, playing in their first tournament, lost to Somogyi and Bobby Raybould respectively.

In contrast, all four "seeds" reached the semi-finals of the women's singles, won by Ann Haydon, who went through without loss of a game and was never extended. She made light work of Joyce Fielder in the semi-final at 5 and 18, and was much too strong for Scotland's Helen Elliot, the holder, in the final winning 14 and 18.

Miss Elliot accounted for Shirley Jones of Wales in the semi-final.

Miss Haydon's supreme confidence and top form augurs well for her chances at Stockholm.

The women's doubles went accord-

ing to form with the two seeded pairs reaching the final where Miss Haydon and Miss Jones won comfortably, chiefly by their attacking methods, against Miss Elliot and Miss Fielder.

Miss Haydon completed a hat-trick of wins in the mixed doubles final where she partnered Brian Kennedy to beat Venner and Betty Isaacs.

Drama struck the men's doubles final when Bobby Stevens partnering Ivor Jones against Eddie Hodson and Laurie Landry, slipped and partially dislodged a cartilage in his knee. He was helped off the court and after a conference between officials it was decided to interrupt the match and play the next event.

When the match was resumed later, Stevens with his knee heavily bandaged, kept his end going but the handicap was too much and the Middlesex youngsters ran out winners.

Tony Piddock provided a local success, when at his third and last attempt he won the boys' singles beating David Parry of Wales.

A final note: A record crowd, seats packed to capacity and several hundred spectators standing. It seems table tennis can still "pull them in" when presented correctly.

**Men's Singles: Semi-finals:** K. CRAIGIE bt A. Rhodes; L. ADAMS bt H. Venner.

**Final:** CRAIGIE bt Adams 21-16, 23-21.

**Women's Singles: Semi-finals:** Miss A HAYDON bt Miss J. Fielder 21-5, 21-18; Miss H. ELLIOT bt Miss S. Jones 21-8, 21-8.

**Final:** Miss HAYDON bt Miss Elliot 21-14, 21-18.

**Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:** E. HODSON and L. LANDRY bt R. Etheridge and B. Kennedy 21-17, 21-13; I. JONES and R. STEVENS bt P. Anderson and A. Robinson 15-21, 21-16, 21-8.

**Final:** HODSON and LANDRY bt Jones and Stevens 19-21, 21-14, 22-20.

**Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:** Miss HAYDON and Miss JONES bt Miss Y. Baker and Miss B. Isaacs 19-21, 21-11, 21-11; Miss ELLIOT and Miss FIELDER bt Mrs. J. Head and Miss M. Piper 21-13, 21-19.

**Final:** Miss HAYDON and Miss JONES bt Miss Elliot and Miss Fielder 21-9, 21-17.

**Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:** KENNEDY and Miss HAYDON bt J. Head and Miss Piper 21-11, 21-18; VENNER and Miss ISAACS bt Jones and Miss Jones 16-21, 21-10, 21-17.

**Final:** KENNEDY and Miss HAYDON bt Venner and Miss Isaacs 21-14, 19-21, 21-17.

**Junior Singles: Final:** A. PIDDOCK bt D. Parry 21-17, 21-17.

# YORKSHIRE "OPEN"

**Men's Singles:** P. SKERRATT bt A. Shepherd 21-14, 21-17.

**Women's Singles:** Mrs. J. BRADDOCK bt Mrs. Cassel 15-21, 21-19, 21-13.

**Men's Doubles:** M. SIMPSON and G. UNDERWOOD bt B. Eglinton and B. Sinneran 21-13, 21-19.

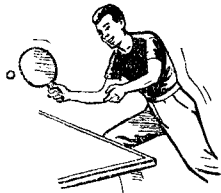
**Women's Doubles:** Mrs. BRADDOCK and Mrs. CASSELL bt Mrs. P. Chadwick and Miss F. Wright 21-11, 16-21, 21-12.

**Mixed Doubles:** R. RIDGE and Miss N. LEIGH bt Shepherd and Mrs. Braddock 26-24, 13-21, 21-13.

**Junior Singles:** C. DEATON bt J. Moorhouse 21-13, 21-9.

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