

FEBRUARY, 1950

SIXPENCE

# TABLE TENNIS



MISS JOYCE ROBERTS  
Middlesex

*Contributors include:*

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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

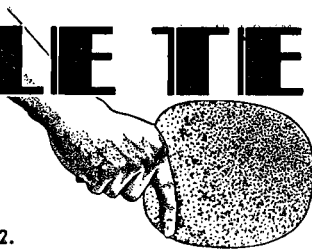
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# TABLE TENNIS

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## IS TABLE TENNIS GROWING TOO QUICKLY?

IT is not so many years since the English Table Tennis Association was fighting for recognition, fighting to build and enlarge the boundaries of the game, fighting a swarm of little red figures on the accounts. And because it was a fight against the odds, loyalties to the common cause were above what has been called "territorial aggrandisement."

They built well, did those pioneers, and it mattered not one whit whether they were from North or South or East or West. They were a team, determined to push England on top of the world. Their spirit of self-sacrifice was so great that one of them sacrificed an International "Cap" because he was told that there was an even chance of starting a new league nearly 200 miles from his own.

That is something worth thinking about.

\* \* \*

To-day, Table Tennis has growing pains. It is growing almost more speedily than administrative machinery can be geared to cope with it at all levels. Open tournaments are smothered and league officials groan at the burdens of their office and seemingly impossible programmes. Pressure and growth in league domestic circles has obviously tended to bring a certain remoteness to the E.T.T.A., who have, of course, got their full share of the increased work also. No longer is it possible to have that warm, personal contact with most of the principals of the game all over the country.

The personnel feature also has changed. The players of to-day fall roughly into either pre-war or post-war. The former loyal to their traditions, and the latter always seeking to streamline. It is inevitable that with all circumstances some division of opinion, ideas and ideals must arise. The miracle is that there is so little.

\* \* \*

The E.T.T.A. is the common focal point, which fortunately still retains that valuable direct contact with each league on which success was founded. Through its "TABLE TENNIS" Magazine it offers a platform to those who wish to advance opinions, progressive ideas, or criticisms, etc., for these things are some of the most important elements of progress.

When you criticise, however, never tear down without replacing by something you consider better. Incidentally, although we do not say so in each issue, it is always a *sine qua non* that any signed articles appearing do not necessarily represent the views of either the Magazine or of the E.T.T.A.

## Obituary

### A. J. Wilmott

Mr. A. J. Wilmott, a well-loved and respected member of the Association from its earliest days, died suddenly on January 26th. He had been in poor health for some time, but continued with his behind-the-scenes table tennis activities and with his duties as a Deputy-keeper at the British Museum (Natural History) to the last, and only with the greatest reluctance gave up regular match-play during the past two years.

Of Wilmott the man, *The Times* fittingly said this :—  
*In appearance Wilmott was a man of robust physique; but he had a highly strung and nervous temperament, which accounted for the mixture of kindness and abruptness in his manner, and for the occasional passionate vehemence with which he expressed his views.*

Wilmott has many claims to a permanent place of honour in the history of our game. He will be remembered as the donor of the Wilmott Cup, as an English International player, as Veteran Champion in 1939-40, and for his tireless work for the I.T.T.F. Equipment Committee.

## Some Leagues are Slipping

By LESLIE WOOLLARD, Associate Editor.

WHEN someone tells me they can't get a copy of *Table Tennis*, it notches a black mark against the local organisation.

The more I travel around, the more frequent is the complaint. Obviously some leagues haven't got organised for the benefit of all their members yet. One area I know has appointed an Hon. Magazine Sec. in each League, with the result that sales have increased 400%, not only bringing in a welcome contribution to both leagues and county funds, but resulting in really surprising developments in the local areas.

Don't misunderstand me. I'm not appealing. The facts are: hundreds of players are wanting the Mag. each month, and leagues are falling down on the job of giving members what they want.

Without any obligations, any league or club can get a supply of Magazines promptly every month, and can keep the news agency profit margin for its own funds. Could anything be easier? Yet why are hundreds of would-be buyers unable to get their copies?

You should have no difficulty in getting *Table Tennis* from your league. If you have, then I would like to know.

In between seasons, it would be interesting to work out how many copies have been sold by each league in relation to the number of clubs and affiliated members it has.

## NEWS FROM E.T.T.A. HEADQUARTERS

**R**EADERS may be interested in the following extracts from reports and decisions made at the last E.T.T.A. National Executive Committee meeting.

### Incorporation

**D**ISCUSSIONS with the Board of Trade were held recently, but a number of difficulties still have to be overcome, and it may be some time before the Association's plans for incorporation can become effective.

### Coaching Scheme

**T**HE Ministry of Education has unfortunately found it necessary to defer making a grant to the Association for the National Coaching Scheme, which has been referred to in previous issues of *Table Tennis*; the reason for this is the current need of reducing government expenditure.

### The Victor Barna Testimonial Fund

**T**HE National Executive Committee was told of fairly widespread misunderstanding of the objects of this fund, and decided that, to correct this, publicity should be given to the fact that the intention is to devote the sum subscribed to the purchase of a memento to be presented to Barna on a suitable occasion, and a trophy to bear his name. No money gift is to be made. It was also decided that the fund should close on April 30th next.

### Country Boundaries, London

**T**HE recommendations of a sub-committee which has considered the boundaries of the County Associations bordering on London were approved.

### English Open

**F**INALS-NIGHT tickets at the special Club price were sold out within a week of being placed on sale. The demand for tickets at other prices for Saturday, and at all prices for Friday evening, was already fairly high, and there might be difficulty in supplying tickets to those who were at all late in their applications.

### E.T.T.A. EDITORIAL BOARD

*General Editor:* JACK CARRINGTON.

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## OUR COVER PICTURE

**L**EADING LADY for Middlesex in the National County Championships, **JOYCE ROBERTS**, added to her consistently good record the Metropolitan Open singles title, a difficult one to win.

Joyce first attracted attention in 1947, when, as a W.A.A.F., she started to make headway in tournaments.

Last season's South of England Open gave her the confidence she needed, with victories over two internationals, and since then she has held her place worthily in top company.

Her game shows a preference for attack, but never, repeat never, at the expense of steadiness. Opponents find it most disconcerting that however long the rally goes on, Joyce cannot be tempted into making a rash shot, yet she is taking the initiative nearly all the time. She gets flushed, but seldom flustered.

This sporting and good-natured young star may also claim a part share of the credit for the performances of A. R. (Tony) Miller, of the Surrey team, whose lively tournament reports brighten our pages. They were married last September.

## WITHOUT COMMENT

### Some Game!

A report of the Middlesex v. Essex match fills us with awe. Bernard Crouch, it said, touched "great heights in his match with Brian Brumwell . . . Brumwell had won his first game against Bernard, and they were 71 all in the second . . ."

### For Students of Form

Meanwhile, a local journal tells a much more human story: "Pamela —, who had played so well in the early rounds, lost all three titles in the Finals session. It was a black **nighty** for her.

*Failed to reveal her true form, do doubt.*

### Skirl for the Sassenachs

Homer nodded when proofs of the English Open Entry Forms were passed. Notes to Competitors is quite categorical: "Men must wear grey flannel **skirts**, trousers or shorts . . ."

*With a sporran of reasonable size, of course.*



Reproduced by courtesy of *The Sunday Express*.

### PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS

(2/- per line. Box Nos. 1/- extra.)

TABLE TENNIS TABLE, pre-war Jaques Tournament. Little used. £24. PAL. 4464.



# Open Tournament Reports

## Crayden's Triple Triumph

### METROPOLITAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

January 2nd-7th, 1950

By A. R. Miller

WITH our three present-day giants, Bergmann, Leach and Simons, not competing, this tournament, usually a "closed shop," gave us the opportunity of seeing what players may eventually take their places. Crayden scooped the pool, winning three titles—Men's Singles and Doubles and the Mixed Doubles. His singles play was always good—at times excellent. But his quick, lethal forehand and placing at doubles were match-winning qualities, and I thought his doubles play the best in the tournament. Although McCave and Thornhill struggled hard against him in the semi-final and final, he always looked superior.

Bill McCave, the Essex "Robinson Crusoe," and Michael Thornhill both impressed and did well to reach "Finals Night." McCave showed his best form in beating a Harry Venner who was below his best. Thornhill beat International Dennis Miller quite comfortably, Dennis being both inconsistent and, of course, apparently indifferent. Thornhill also had little difficulty in beating Eric Filby.

Bernard Crouch, who touched his best form in winning a "deuce-in-the-third" struggle with Jack Carrington, and in demolishing Brian Brumwell 13 and 12, appeared mesmerised by Thornhill in the semi-final and lost 16 and 13. It seems that when team-mates and partners meet a boring game often results. Brumwell had earlier beaten International Ken Craigie in a spectacular mid-week battle, Craigie's inability to vary the speed and direction of his forehand drive being mainly responsible for his defeat.

## Joyce Roberts Convincing Win

Middlesex's Joyce Roberts won the Ladies' Singles in good style, beating the Misses MacKay, Fry and Barnes—the latter impressively in straight games. Miss Barnes was in fighting trim, winning the Mixed Doubles with Crayden and the Ladies' Doubles with Bristol's Margaret Fry, beating the Rowe Twins "deuce-in-the-third," thus breaking the Twins' list of consecutive doubles victories.

One of the most exciting games in the Men's Doubles was the fighting recovery of Smith and Beamish, who beat hitters Head and Hurlock after being a game and 16—20 down. Crayden and Filby teamed well at doubles, as Craigie/Sharman and Crouch/Thornhill found out.

We also saw the bright and spectacular play of the New Zealand Swaythling Cup entrants, Brightwell and Crossley. Together with John Stewart, they reached this country on their beam-ends. Their enterprise is to be admired, even if their table tennis is not likely to cause Czechoslovakia any fears.

### RESULTS

#### SEMI-FINALS :

M.S. R. Crayden bt. W. McCave; M. Thornhill bt. B. Crouch.

#### FINAL :

M.S. R. Crayden bt. M. Thornhill 19, 18.  
W.S. Miss J. Roberts bt. Miss L. Barnes 13, 18.

M.D. Crayden and E. Filby bt. Crouch and Thornhill —15, 14, 12.

W.D. Miss Barnes and Miss M. Fry bt. Misses D. and R. Rowe 16, —13, 20.

X.D. Crayden and Miss Barnes bt. D. Miller and Miss R. Rowe 18, 20.

J.B.S. J. Lowe bt. J. Hunt 8, —17, 7.

**EDITORIAL NOTE.** — Our young reporter himself made a good showing in this tournament. He reached the quarter-finals by defeating Ernie Bubley 17 and 11.

Tony Miller has previously fared badly against Bubley, largely because of his inability to take his attacking chances, but this time he hit many clean winners after holding Bubley off with his long, chop defence.

## First Open for Devereux

### HAMPSHIRE OPEN

Tidworth Camp, Salisbury, 14th Jan.

**CO-OPERATION** of the military authorities provided splendid facilities to the organising Secretary, Mr. W. CARR, of the Y.M.C.A., so that 16 tables were available.

Young international, LOUIS DEVEREUX, of Torquay, won his first Open title, and Bristol's gallant MARGARET FRY, her second. The holder, WALLY MULLER, was put out by fellow-townsmen G. WHITREN.

The Junior Final was one of the most attractive events of the day with Bourne-mouth's F. DAVIS putting tremendous effort into a close contest with talented JIMMY LOWE of Ashford.

### DETAILS

#### SEMI-FINALS :

M.S. C. Pickett bt. G. Whitren 20, 11 ;  
L. Devereux bt. L. Lata —19, 19, 15.

#### FINAL :

M.S. Devereux bt. Pickett 7, 9, —15, 17.  
W.S. Miss M. Fry bt. Mrs. J. Crosby 19, 19.

M.D. L. Thompson and J. Lowe bt. N. Way and J. Morris 15, —20, 16.

W.D. Miss Fry and Mrs. Crosby bt. Mrs. Horn and Mrs. Wilson 19, 15.

X.D. Minter and Mrs. Wilson bt. Spokes and Miss Pomroy —10, 16, 17.

J.B.S. J. Lowe bt. F. Davis 19, 18.

## Joyce Roberts Second Open In a Fortnight

### KENT OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Herne Bay, 22 Jan.

The Pier Pavilion at Herne Bay again provided an ideal stadium for the Kent Open Championships, which, as usual, attracted a large entry and provided some keen games, as illustrated in the M.S. final between Jackie HEAD and Dennis MILLER. Joyce ROBERTS proved a convincing champion destined for international honours.

### RESULTS

M.S. D. Miller beat Ecclestein: 13, 18.  
J. Head beat W. McCave: 19, 14.

#### FINAL :

M.S. J. Head beat D. Miller: —23, 14, 19, 19.

W.S. Miss J. Roberts beat Miss P. Cantor: 11, 16.

M.D. J. Lowe and P. Smith beat Roberts and Griffiths: —18, 14, 7.

W.D. J. Roberts and Wright-Swatman beat Stevens and Carruthers: 19, 10.

X.D. Adams and Benstead beat Head and Atherton: 15, 15.

## Rowe Twins Share Three Titles

### SOUTH LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

January 24th - 28th

Diane Rowe won her second singles "open" in fine style by defeating "Pinkie" Barnes in the final, and the twins recorded yet another double title to their already impressive list of successes.

K. Collar and B. Brumwell played very well throughout the men's doubles to reach the final, in which they ran K. Craigie and R. Sharman to 19 in the fifth game.

Rosalind and D. Miller took the mixed doubles quite comfortably as did Ron Crayden the men's singles. This was Crayden's second tournament singles triumph in three weeks.

### RESULTS

M.S. R. Crayden beat W. McCave: 15, 15, 14.

W.S. Miss D. Rowe beat Miss L. R. Barnes: 18, —25, 13.

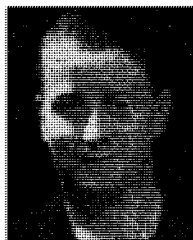
M.D. K. Craigie and E. Sharman beat K. Collar and B. Brumwell: 20, —20, 13, —19, 19.

W.D. Miss D. and R. Rowe beat Mrs. J. Miller and Mrs. P. George: 9, 13.

X.D. D. Miller and Miss R. Rowe beat A. Miller and Mrs. P. George: 11, 16.

# What is the Best Match Combination?

## Brains Trust gives lead to League Uniformity



**GEOFF HARROWER**, Hon. Sec., National County Championships, and of the English Selection Committee, has intimate knowledge of rule books and the extensive variety of "match-winning combinations" suggested by over-optimistic opponents.

"**G**ENERALLY speaking, I think the team of 3 each playing each, best of 3, takes a lot of beating. But you can't miss doubles out, so the only solution seems to be to include one doubles. That also gives the possibility of a draw.

"My main objection to teams of 4 is the problem of ranking. There seems to be no entirely satisfactory solution to this. Who is to say at any one time who is better than so-and-so in any particular match? It can only be a matter of personal opinion on both sides, and there's nothing more controversial than that."

(Continued from column 2)

in No. 4's position to assist themselves. He would only have the original No. 4 as his partner instead of his usual strong partner, No. 2. In the case of cup-ties there would be one doubles only, selected from any of the 4 singles players.

"Love" has more than a double meaning to a table tennis player, for it may mean that his opponent has not yet scored, or he himself has yet to win a point. In life, "love" brings suitable partners together to make a pair, and I verily believe that in table tennis doubles a pair of players matched together impromptu often bring about better results than the doubles pair who have been playing together until they know each other's every move.

The ideal way of discovering a doubles pair would be to match every player in the league with each other player in turn—a thing that is impossible. Therefore, by adding a doubles match to the singles matches in league play, we have ample chance of discovering an unknown pair, for every team would have to experiment.

No major sport has such a bewildering variety of match arrangements as has Table Tennis. It is the most controversial point on many league agendas. Should league and other matches be standardised for the whole country and avoid the argument?

There are no doubles in the Swaythling or Wilmott Cup Competitions (both men's contests), yet the Corbillon Cup includes one doubles (often a decider) and the J. M. Rose Bowl has three doubles. County matches feature two important doubles ties, a mixed and a women's. Why do doubles feature more prominently in women's matches?

To start you talking—and thinking—we present a Brains Trust of opinion. Now, what do you think?



Few people have made a closer study of match combinations than

**A. A. WALL**, Chairman of the S. Staffs. T.T.A., and Hon. Secretary of West Bromwich T.T.A. for 17 years, distinguished for shrewd perception and progressive enterprise.

### Standardise

**W**E are one of the very few sports bodies who are allowed to have local rules, and I do hope to see the method of play standardised.

From a fairness point of view there is no equivalent to a team of 3, each playing each, best of 3, but this means that a 5-4 win can make a difference of 2 league points over a 4-5 defeat. A team which loses six matches in a row 4-5 cannot help but feel aggrieved, but if they had lost them 4-6 (one extra tie), the more decisive result would have shown their defeat to have been justified, while 5-5 would have satisfied all parties.

Nine or 10 sets are necessary to make a good entertainment for both players and spectators, and for league play I have always felt that the chance of a draw should be included, but so far my own Association does not agree with me. Doubles tie(s) allow a team to play 3, 4 or 5 players, often a convenient elasticity in the composition of the team. For cup matches the doubles could be dropped.

The alternative method of play, and that favoured by a number of inter-league groups, is 4 players in a team; No. 1 v. 1 and 2; No. 2 v. 1 and 3; No. 3 v. 2 and 4; No. 4 v. 3 and 4, with one doubles. This, however, allows for a little bit of "hanky-panky" in the placing of one's team, especially if the peculiarities of an opponent's play are known. If this method is adopted in league play, however, I would suggest No. 1 plays 1 and 2; No. 2 plays 1 and 2; Nos. 1 and 2 play Nos. 1 and 2 in a doubles match. Similarly with Nos. 3 and 4.

This would make it essential for a team to place their players in order of merit, for if a team had placed No. 1

(Continued in column 1)

**A. H. (Bill) LEWIS**, Chairman of London Business Houses T.T. League (founded 1896) has earned distinction in high-level administrative work in a multitude of rôles in more than 20-odd years of intimate association with the game, and thoroughly merits the respect and popularity accorded him.

### Four Times as Many Defend Doubles!!

**A**T the Annual General Meeting of the London Business Houses T.T. League a proposal that we should discard our system of playing league matches (8 singles, 2 doubles, 4 players) for 3 aside, all singles, was to be discussed. We usually have an attendance of about 50 at our A.G.M.s, but to my surprise about 200 people put in an appearance.

During the meeting, and after, it was apparent that the proposal to leave out doubles was the main reason for the large attendance.

I thought that the proposal was likely to cause a fair amount of discussion, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that nearly all the people had come to defend doubles play and to make sure that the suggested style of play was defeated.

I feel that unless doubles are played in competition league games the standard of this type of game must fall, and this, I think, would be bad for the game in general, as I am sure that doubles improves the tactical play of all players.

I also feel that keeping doubles in makes for a more sociable evening.

**DENIS IRONMONGER**, Hon. Secretary of 30-year-old Luton League, Beds. Champion and Playing Captain, stoutly defends the now very rare single game match.

**A**S League Secretary, I favour the way we play here, viz., teams of 4, each playing one game of 21-up, plus two doubles of one game each. A total of 20 singles games.

I think this method has the advantage of giving every player an equal chance. Nos. 3 and 4, for instance, have the opportunity of playing the top numbers of the opposition, and this obviates the controversial problem of ranking.



## VICTOR BARNA



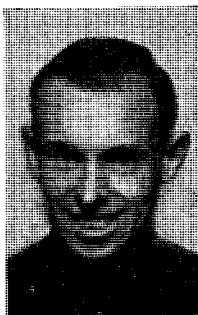
**VICTOR BARNA**, the world's unrivalled master, needs no introduction to any audience.

**F**ROM a point of strict fairness within a reasonable time limit," he told us, "a team of 3, each playing each, best of three is probably best in top class play. The league match is a little different and should, I think, give the possibility of a draw. The addition of a doubles match to the team of 3 would bring this in. I think the mixed combination of the County matches an excellent one.

"Doubles are essential, and few organisers have realised what an important part they can play. In my early days our practice games consisted largely of doubles, and I believe this was a wonderful help in developing my game. It is certainly the finest means of bringing the opportunity of closely watching not one but three players, and blending his own game accordingly. There is also the improvement in footwork, vision and team spirit. Doubles should never be dropped."



## ADRIAN HAYDON



**ADRIAN HAYDON**, England Captain, Chairman of Warwicks. T.T.A., and for more than 20 years one of England's most brilliant masters of play and tactics is quite definite:

**I** PLUMP for the following team combinations: *Men*: Team of 4, graded. 1 and 2 play 1 and 2; 3 and 4 play 3 and 4; 2 doubles. All best of 3 games. *Ladies*: Team of 3, each playing each, best of 3, plus 1 doubles best of 3.

The grading problem can be met by having grading lists vetted at the beginning of each season, and revised 3 months later. Alterations in the meantime to be sanctioned by the League Secretary.

### DOUBLES

Doubles are of growing importance in national events, and *it is essential* that they be included. Doubles combinations, incidentally, are born of long experience and are not necessarily the best individual players.

I also much prefer to preserve the possibility of a drawn game. It is a great incentive to obtain even 1 point, and how often is heard: "A drawn match would have been a much fairer result."



## JOHNNY LEACH



**JOHNNY LEACH**, just off to defend his World's singles title, gives these views.

**W**HEN I used to play a lot of team matches, my favourite combination was: 3 a side, all play all, best of 3.

This was because I was mad keen to improve my singles play, for with the three-a-side system you would get a crack at the best possible opposition of the other team even if you were the weakest member of your own side.

In recent years however, I have come to the conviction that 4-a-side is the ideal number to a team.

The inclusion of doubles, in my opinion, fosters a better team spirit as well as a variety of play. Further, the possibility of a draw is an added incentive for the weaker side to keep up the fight.

The last and most important point in favour of 4-a-side is that an additional player gets a game and, because of this, clubs have to cultivate a better standard all round.

## SUMMING UP

1. Unanimous agreement that Doubles must be included.
2. Majority in favour of the possibility of a Draw.
3. Teams of 4 preferred by league administrators in contrast to the 3-team favoured by top-class players of national standard.  
(Note: Where facilities are limited, a league playing teams of 3 instead of 4 is keeping one player per team out of league play, e.g., a league of 100 teams of 3 has 100 fewer active players).
4. Teams of 4 would be top choice for league play if the ranking problem could be solved.
5. A general view that it would be nice to bring uniformity to league and inter-league matches, but paragraph 4 is the thorny point.

### Have you a solution to the Ranking problem?

If so, send a brief account to the Editor.

# LANCASHIRE LINES

## By STANLEY PROFFITT

**U**NIQUE is the story of a man who in pre-war days won the English Junior Championship on three successive occasions, and just before being called into the colours, sailed to Egypt as a member of the Swaythling Cup team. Yes, his name is Ken Stanley, and although he is not more than 29 winters old, a good many of present-day readers would undoubtedly be in rompers when Ken first hit the spotlight.

Well, he again hit the spotlight by defeating Western Counties champion, Aubrey Simons, in the Lancs v. Gloucester clash at Cheltenham on December 17th. As a matter of fact, Ken's inspiration was the mainspring in the Red Rose first county championship win (5 games to 4) this season. It is also a tribute to his keenness, for Leyland (some thirty miles from Manchester), where he nowadays resides, is not, even in the wildest flights of fancy, a hot-bed of table tennis. In fact, the only means of practice is travelling in to Manchester and snatching an hour twice per week before going to his studies. Up here people are asking the question, "Could he still make the Swaythling Cup team?" It's a teaser considering he has beaten Simons (twice conqueror of Leach) two out of three times they have met, and never lost to either Venner, Crouch or Craydon.

Lancashire's tale of woe in the County Championship Table is due largely to the older players not being able to fit in odd practice moments between matches, coupled with the inability of the up-and-coming players to bridge the gap from league to county class. On the face of it, the authorities have a host of big-timers to call on. Names like these — Benny Casofsky, Hymie

Lurie, George Goodman and Leslie Cohen—have spelt disaster to many in the past; but now, with other responsibilities, they are not in real trim to counter the strength of the South to much purpose. A great pity. It is my contention, however, that if these players were to put in a month's hard practice, they would not only restore Lancashire's former glory, but oust Middlesex from their proud position at the head of the table. *Reason is that these men have been brought up the hard way. That is, they learned to play the game with the high net.* Here I am, on about the net again! Didn't mean to slip it in this month, but while we are on the subject, I do think that a player beginning with the high net has a better grasp of the arts and crafts of the game.

Meanwhile, the Selectors are pinning their faith on Ronnie Allcock who, despite having yet to register a win in the county programme, displayed sufficient ability at the International Trials to warrant all the good things said about him. Wins over Sharman, Thornhill, Kriss, Adams, Poole and Miller, who earlier in the season defeated him 21-2, has restored his lost confidence. Such skill did he show in outwitting these players that it wouldn't surprise me if further representative honours didn't come his way this season.

Running the rule over Bill Pierce, it was hard to define his poor form in the trials compared with his brilliant display in the Central London Tournament on the same evening. Not being content to defeat Howard Walton and Jackie Head, this 18-year-old brother of a boy ran veteran French star Michael Haguenuer around and all but brought off an amazing win. In the many seasons I have seen the Frenchman, he has never played better. It took every

ounce of his experience to hold the fierce hitting and uncanny deceptive strokes of young Pierce. The Liverpool laddie left a grand impression down South, and Haguenuer himself (super sportsman that he is) was full of praise. Bill does not only confine his game to singles. He co-starred along with Derek Ellison in the doubles at the Merseyside. After vanquishing the famous Leach-Carrington combination, it looked odds-on them gaining a sensational victory over Simons and the Swede, Grives, in the final. It was not to be, however; but wiseheads are saying that this pair are destined to make a name for themselves if they team together once their military spell of service is completed. Incidentally, Billie Stamp and Co. presented yet another fine show for us at the Philharmonic Hall finals. Certainly the best outside Wembley in the country.

Secretary to National Executive, Bill Worsley, is about to retire. Vacating the job as Secretary/Treasurer to the Lancashire Association is as big a wrench to Bill as it is to us. We all join hands in wishing Norman Cook, the man to step in and shoulder this labour of love, every help and success. In fact, let's open another bottle and drink a toast to both of them. They deserve it, don't you think?

## WILMOTT CUP—Round 3

- ZONE 1**  
London Civil Serv. 1, Central 8  
North Mdx. 5, Wembley 1
- ZONE 2**  
East London 8, Manhattan T.T.C. 1  
South London 9, London Banks 0
- ZONE 3**  
**ZONE FINAL**  
Beckenham v. Woolwich
- ZONE 4**  
**ZONE FINAL**  
Luton v. Bedford
- ZONE 5**  
Lincoln 6, Cambridge 3  
Grimsby 7, Newark 2
- ZONE 6**  
**SOUTH**  
Sheffield 3 v. Halifax 5
- ZONE 7**  
**NORTH**  
Manchester 5, Bolton S.S. 1  
**SOUTH**  
Ashbourne T.T.C. 8, Birmingham 1
- ZONE 8**  
**SOUTH**  
Brighton 7, Southampton Civ. Serv. T.C.C. 2

## J. M. ROSE BOWL—Round 3

- ZONE 1**  
West London 5, North Mdx. 1  
London Civ. Serv. 5, Wembley 4
- ZONE 2**  
South London 8, Iford 1  
East London 7, London Banks 2
- ZONE 3**  
**ZONE FINAL**  
Lowestoft 3, Grimsby 6
- ZONE 4**  
**ZONE FINAL**  
Byfleet v. Woolwich
- ZONE 5**  
**SOUTH**  
Liverpool 5, Blackpool 4
- ZONE 6**  
**ZONE FINAL**  
St. Albans 7, Luton 2

## FINE TRIPLE WIN FOR ADELE WOOD

Lancashire Open, Manchester, 19-21 January

**T**HE Championships were a huge success and a personal triumph for 17-year-old international, ADELE WOOD, who, playing in textbook fashion became the Women's Singles title holder, by defeating EILEEN MANSELL. Partnered by RONNIE ALLCOCK, she shared the Mixed title against JOHNNY LEACH/GLADYS HOLMES, and completed her hat-trick by taking the Ladies' Doubles with VERA TAYLOR.

The 1,000 odd spectators gave a well-deserved and terrific ovation to the closest contested final of the Junior Singles between JIMMY LOWE (Ashford) and PHIL STRULOVITCH (Manchester). A draw would have been a popular result were it possible, and both lads are possibles for a rosy future. Young ladies ANDREE JONES and GLADYS HOLMES are also noted for "going

places," and a line about HINCHLIFFE of Huddersfield is merited.

Employing Jack Carrington's Mersey-side tactics, RONNIE BAKER found an effective means of out-smarting new International RONNIE ALLCOCK. There was universal regret that KEN STANLEY was unable to compete, having sprained an ankle playing in an exhibition the night previously.

### RESULTS

- M.S. J. Leach bt. B. Casofsky 11, 17.  
W.S. Miss A. Wood bt. Miss E. Mansell 15, 14.  
W.D. Miss A. Wood and Mrs. V. Taylor bt. Miss D. Banks and Miss E. Grimstone 16, 15.  
X.D. R. Allcock and Miss A. Wood bt. J. Leach and Miss G. Holmes —19, 10, 14.  
J.S. J. W. Lowe bt. P. Strulovitch —15, 18, 20.

## Review of Christmas Competition Entries

**T**HE famous Xmas final at Much-Fiddling-in-the-Draw caused quite a few table tennis brains to stir during the festive season.

Two hundred put pen to paper in the hope of winning two Wembley tickets, and untold numbers of dressing-room lawyers delivered oral judgment.

Most of the solutions were faulty; only some 30 competitors realised that a game could be completed without the ball being struck at all. The majority plumped for 1 stroke to clinch the game after a succession of missed services by Nuts and Crackers.

The crafty ones saw that even this could be dispensed with, the vital winning point could be awarded for "Free Hand touching the Table," or "Moving the Playing Surface," while the ball was in play.

Some solvers visualised a 20-minute time-limit decision, but this is not a universal rule but is optional in closed tournaments. The Painless Knock-Out Cup was very much a "closed" tournament, and the time-limit has not penetrated to Much-Fiddling yet.

Several entrants allowed Nuts and Crackers to miss every one of their own services, but suggested that at some point in the game one of them would serve out of turn. This would give his opponent a lead which would finally bring about a score of 21—19 instead of deuce. (The point lost before the error was discovered would have to stand.)

We allowed this subtle solution to pass, in spite of a protest from the Much-Fiddling Umpires' Association.

Drawing a veil quickly over the League (yes, and Open Tournament) Secretary who gave 21 hits as the minimum, we find his rivals quoting such figures as 1, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 22, 36, 43, 127, 286 and 439!

We thought of awarding a booby prize to the last-named, but as it was the sender's *third* entry we decided to wait and see whether he had any further after-thoughts!

Many readers entered into the spirit of the thing, sending graphic descriptions of the imaginary game. Some became a little involved with their reasoning; instead of sticking to Nuts and Crackers,

## It was a Famous Victory

they would persist in bringing in A and B, and X and Y. One introduced Tom and Jim (but not Dick and Harry), while another ended up with himself "carrying a large 'L'" losing 0—21 to Barna. They do say you can't talk about table tennis without Victor's name coming into it somewhere!

J. S. Duffie, of Camberwell sent his solution in rhyme.

Two candidates resorted to graphs; a third illuminated his arguments with little men in pointed hats. When we solve this one, we hope he will award us some Wembley tickets. All three were wrong, anyway!

### Courageous:

David J. Blackmore, of Leyton, sent a correct solution from hospital, the day after his operation.

*We wish you a "Good Return" to form, David.*

### Thorough:

T. W. Green, of Mapperley, sent no less than 3 correct solutions, in 3 different coloured inks, with the footnote: "Now are you satisfied?"

*Really nice work, Mr. Green. Sorry to say you didn't come out of the hat first—we hope YOU'RE satisfied?*

### Original:

G. D. Alford, of Radford, Notts, pictures Nuts throwing the ball up so violently for his serve that it is lost in the crowd.

*Anybody know a table tennis rule to cover a "Lost Ball"?*

### Pugnacious:

Ralph Dean, the fiery Yorkshireman, says, "I'm sure 10 is the answer . . ." and signs himself "The Last of the Penholders, and proud of it!"

*No politics, please, Ralph.*

### TO LET OR NOT TO LET?

A. S. Gorton, of Surbiton, awards the match point to Nuts because Crackers shouts loudly at him when he puts the ball into play.

*Don't blame you, Mr. Gorton, but it's only wishful thinking. Knotty Point*

No. 8 classes a "sudden noise" as a "Let."

*A continuous sound of even volume, such as Richard Murdoch singing the "Sabre Dance," does not even qualify for a "Let."*

*Yet how many of us know players whose loud vocal interruptions are worth a point or two per game TO THEMSELVES?*

### THE PRACTICAL SCIENTISTS

Billie Stamp, Liverpool League Secretary, writes: "Money and I, the two heavyweight members of the Liverpool Management Committee, carried out a practical test . . . When the score reached 281—280, we unanimously decided that the ball need never be struck at all.

The answer is NIL—I trust you will agree that it is impossible to hit the ball less times than this?

*This entry was disqualified on the grounds that (a) Mr. Montgomery is an English Open umpire and therefore will not need a ticket for Wembley; and (b) Mr. Stamp is a member of the National Executive Committee, and therefore knows everything.*

### CAUTIOUS:

Malcolm Coombe, of Wallington, age 16, points out that some thinkers may hold that "0" is not a number, therefore we may regard 1 as the least (not "lowest," he says) number. He ends with: "I give both solutions in case there is a catch in your Query."

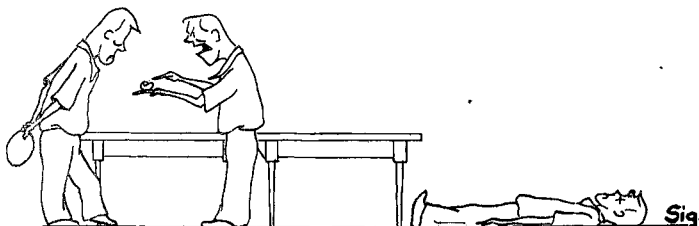
*A catch! Malcolm, how could you?*

### NUTTY POINT No. 7:

G. E. Harris, of Carshalton, declares: "Nuts has appealed to the Rules Committee under Knotty Point No. 7 . . . there will now be a replay with my Googly Special XXXXX Haldun Triple-seamed Export Reject.

There was no need for the ball to be struck. The only thing to be struck, in fact, is a celluloid medal to commemorate the great victory."

**YOU WIN, MR. HARRIS. THE FINAL CRACK!**





**TOM BLUNN**

to A. K. Vint

## TWO OPEN LETTERS

**A. K. VINT**

to Tom Blunn

**An Open Letter to Mr. A. K. Vint,  
Treasurer of the E.T.T.A.**

**From TOM BLUNN, Chairman, Lancs  
T.T.A. and of Oldham E.D.T.T.L.**

Dear Mr. Vint,

I was very interested in your article on finance in last month's Magazine. I was particularly pleased to see you writing on what must be your favourite topic. I do not think that there is sufficient stress put on the importance of the E.T.T.A. maintaining a strong financial position and one article per year is hardly sufficient. So what about a mid-season financial review?

The main purpose of this letter is to tell you that I consider your article to be rather misleading. Do you really think that the E.T.T.A. provides 29/- worth of services for each 7/6d. paid in fees? Surely the value of services rendered should be calculated on the net cost of each of the Association's activities and where these activities are self-supporting there is no cost that is related to the affiliation fees. Taken on this basis the return is more like 10/6d. for each 7/6d. paid in fees.

Even so, I think that to put forward such a claim would only cause Clubs to demand a reduction in the fees. If 29/- for 7/6d. is correct, why not abolish affiliation fees altogether and give the Clubs 21/6d. for nothing?

In my own County, this season one League has refused to affiliate because of the high cost of the fees. This League has asked us to state the services rendered by E.T.T.A. in return for the affiliation fee. Do we say 29/- worth? I can't imagine this League being delighted to know that 1/9d. was spent on each Club's behalf in sending our players to Stockholm, or that 1/3d. per Club was spent in competing for the Empire Cup, or even to learn that it cost 2d. per Club for Manchester to win the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl.

I would rather tell this League that 6/6d. of each affiliation fee is spent on Administration and that a further 1/- covers the cost of the Handbook which is issued free to every member. I would point out that the whole of the remaining activities of the E.T.T.A. were self-supporting or at least, were run at an overall profit.

The affiliation fee is essentially required to cover the cost of Administration and if the cost of distributing the handbooks is taken into account, there is a deficiency of £134 on last season. This gap will surely increase when a full-time Secretary is appointed and the E.T.T.A. operates from new offices as a limited company. It will take a lot more affiliation fees to close this gap and it may even mean an increased fee for a few seasons. If this happens, you know who will have the job of substantiating an increase! Let us hope that it never happens.

I admit that in previous years you have not had very much to boast about and a record working balance of £1,371 is a great temptation after so many uphill battles. But take away the profit

on the English Open and what have we left?—a loss of £456.

Please do not think that I am decrying the results from last season, but I do think that every effort should be made to show that it is one long struggle to make ends meet and that every year plans have to be made to fit in with the resources available and that much is left that ought to be done.

Yours sincerely,

T. BLUNN.

### —and Mr. Vint's Reply

Dear Mr. Blunn,

I am always interested to hear from members about Finance although I am never too sure they want to hear from me!

I agree with you that the importance of the E.T.T.A. being financially secure is not fully appreciated except by perhaps a few ardent administrators. The league or club and, perhaps, the player can be forgiven about this because they have their personal problems in matters of finance and the National Body becomes another debt as far as they are concerned. My battle is to ensure that we do not set our expenditure at such a rate that we have not got a chance to keep our income up with the pace. We have to be progressive but we cannot afford to be extravagant in our methods. On the suggestion you make about a Mid-season review, much as I am willing to do it, I am wondering if it would serve any useful purpose. All through the season money is being collected and paid out, but an examination of the Receipts and Payments Accounts does not really convey a true picture as to how we stand.

The point you make, Tom, about whether we really provide 29/- worth of Service for each 7/6d. is an interesting and pertinent one.

The operative word is Service! I am not unmindful of the fact that we can make figures talk whichever way we want to do a job of work and I would not quarrel with anyone who wanted to reduce the service to a net financial result. The real position is we have to finance all the activities undertaken by the Association and this is equivalent to capital. When we spend money on sending a team to the World Championships a valuable contribution is made, not only in the providing of a glittering prize to the ambitious player but maintaining the high prestige of the Association in the Table Tennis World. Have you given any thought as to where we should be as an Association if we did not take part in World Championships, International Matches, Tours, etc.? I would prophesy that once we cut ourselves away from this kind of activity, organised Table Tennis would, after a period of time, come down to being a very third-rate organisation and perhaps disappear altogether.

It is because of the intense activity of staging English Open Championships,

Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl Competitions, receiving and sending players to other countries, that we have such a vital life. This is a service which we cannot rate too highly although it is only an indirect benefit to the league.

The point you make as to what services does the league get for the affiliation fee is one I am constantly asked. I know I can refer to the provision of an office and staff to carry out the thousand and one things which require to be done in connection with our work, the normal running expenses—postages, stationery, etc.—the publication of handbooks, literature, the opportunity for players to compete in Open Tournaments, championships, inter-league games, and so on. But the point to remember is that by our getting together as a National Body (and incidentally taking our part in World Table Tennis Affairs) we are able to improve standards of play, tables, balls and other playing equipment and organise Table Tennis on a scale which has established the game so that it is accepted by the National Press and the Sporting World.

How one puts all this to a new member depends on outlook. Some accept a narrow view of wanting to get it all for nothing, others take the wider outlook of wanting to put something in and in return benefit by the activities of the work. This all boils down to Service!

As is usual in all your discussions, you have hit the nail on the head when you show that the cost of administration and the actual cost of running the Association is not being fully met by Affiliation Fees. In my opinion we must have a guaranteed income to cover the ordinary running costs of the Association and not rely on the success or otherwise of events dependent on public support.

I am glad of your support and for the opportunity you have given me to bring home the necessity to preserve our hard-won earnings.

Yours sincerely,

A. K. VINT.

### "SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR"

#### Another Title for Johnny Leach?

WHICH sportsman or sportswoman, in your opinion, has done most in the past year to raise the prestige of British sport?

This is the question asked annually by *The Sporting Record* in its national ballot to find "The Sportsman of the Year." We have a very special interest this year, because Table Tennis is represented by our own World Champion, great-hearted Johnny Leach. More than that, however, we last heard that the greatest ever poll appeared to indicate that Reg. Harris (cycling) and Johnny Leach were leading, with Billy Wright (soccer) and Freddie Mills (boxing) close behind.

# So Near — and yet so far!

## England teams fail narrowly in vital Swaythling and Corbillon matches

For the British party in Budapest, the first three days of the World Championships two needle matches, in both of which victory was wrested from the English teams by the odd set, dwarfed all other interests. In the Swaythling Cup, Czechoslovakia defeated our men 5-4 after we had led 4-1; whilst our girls lost 3-2 to Rumania. Czechoslovakia and Rumania went on to win the trophies for these two events.

In the men's match with Czechoslovakia, after Leach had lost 21-13, 21-19 to the immaculate Andreadis, Aubrey Simons out-generalled Bohumil Vana with close defence, quick smash, and clever drop-shot to win 17-21, 21-18, 21-17, and Bergmann put England in the lead after a long yet fast-played battle with Tereba which ended in time being called in the third game—21-23, 21-8, 19-18. Vana never settled down against an inspired Leach, who won 21-17, 21-16, and Andreadis seemed to lose his nerve when leading 15-12 in the first game and let Bergmann steal England's fourth set 21-16, 21-9.

What happened then I can't even yet decide. Vana, who should have been demoralised by two losses—his first in Swaythling Cup matches since the war—came back to display perfection against Richard Bergmann 21-11, 21-13. Tereba, who retired from big-time table tennis two years ago, staged a real come-back and overcame first Simons 16-21, 21-15, 21-12, and then Leach 21-18, 16-21, 21-17. So, at four-all—and after nearly four hours of tense play—Simons went on against the mastercraftsman Andreadis. Well as Simons played, Andreadis always had the answers, and won with apparent ease 21-15, 21-9.

Equally disappointing was our girls' 3-2 defeat by Rumania. Vera Thomas and Dora Beregi were both mastered by Angelica Roseanu, the scores being 21-14, 21-7 and 21-10, 21-12 respectively. Although Peggy Franks and Vera took the doubles against Roseanu and Slavescu 21-19, 21-18, and Dora beat Kolosvary 23-21, 21-24, 21-17, Vera could not get the upper hand against Rumania's second string, but, allowing herself to be bottled up in the back-hand corner, went down 21-15, 18-21, 15-21.

### SWAYTHLING CUP GROUP "A"

					Hungary	France	Switzerland	Israel	India	Italy	Denmark	Matches Won
1	Hungary	...	...	...	x	5-3	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	6
2	France	...	...	...	3-5	x	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5
3	Switzerland	...	...	...	0-5	0-5	x	5-3	5-2	5-1	5-0	4
4	Israel	...	...	...	0-5	0-5	3-5	x	5-3	5-4	5-0	3
5	India	...	...	...	0-5	0-5	2-5	3-5	x	5-1	5-1	2
6	Italy	...	...	...	0-5	0-5	1-5	4-5	1-5	x	5-1	1
7	Denmark	...	...	...	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	1-5	x	—

### GROUP "B"

					Czecho-slovakia	England	Sweden	Austria	Poland	Wales	Brazil	Ireland	N. Zealand	Matches Won
1	Czechoslovakia	...	x	5-4	5-0	5-2	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	8
2	England	...	4-5	x	5-0	5-1	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-1	5-1	5-1	5-1	7
3	Sweden	...	0-5	0-5	x	5-4	5-0	5-1	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	6
4	Austria	...	2-5	1-5	4-5	x	5-4	5-0	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5
5	Poland	...	0-5	1-5	0-5	4-5	x	5-0	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	4
6	Wales	...	0-5	0-5	1-5	0-5	0-5	x	5-2	5-0	5-1	5-1	5-1	3
7	Brazil	...	0-5	0-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	2-5	x	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	2
8	Ireland	...	0-5	1-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	x	5-4	5-1	5-1	1
9	New Zealand	...	0-5	1-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	0-5	4-5	x	—	—	—

### CORBILLON CUP GROUP "A"

						Rumania	England	Scotland	Italy	Wales	Matches Won
1	Rumania	...	...	...	...	x	3-2	3-1	3-0	3-0	4
2	England	...	...	...	...	2-3	x	3-2	3-0	3-0	3
3	Scotland	...	...	...	...	1-3	2-3	x	3-0	3-0	2
4	Italy	...	...	...	...	0-3	0-3	0-3	x	3-2	1
5	Wales	...	...	...	...	0-3	0-3	0-3	2-3	x	—

### GROUP "B"

						Hungary	Czecho-slovakia	France	Austria	Sweden	Matches Won
1	Hungary	...	...	...	...	x	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-1	4
2	Czechoslovakia	...	...	...	...	1-3	x	3-0	0-3	3-0	3
3	France	...	...	...	...	0-3	0-3	x	3-2	3-0	2
4	Austria	...	...	...	...	0-3	3-0	2-3	x	3-0	1
5	Sweden	...	...	...	...	1-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	x	—

### SWAYTHLING CUP. Czechoslovakia beat Hungary 5-3.

Andreadis bt Koczian 21-19, 19-21, 21-15.

Vana lost to Sido 16-21, 13-21; bt Koczian 21-10, 21-9; bt Soos 21-14, 21-16.

Tereba lost to Soos 17-21, 19-21; bt Sido 27-25, 22-20; w.o. v. Koczian. Koczian had been handicapped throughout the match by badly blistered feet,

and was unable to play his set with Tereba.

### CORBILLON CUP. Rumania beat Hungary 3-2.

Roseanu bt Farkas 21-18, 21-19; bt Karpati 21-14, 21-12.

Kolosvary bt Karpati 21-17, 21-15; lost to Farkas 9-21, 4-21.

Roseanu and Slavescu lost to Farkas and Karpati 2-1.

# BERGMANN REGAINS WORLD SINGLES

## Beregi, Elliot succeed in doubles

*Special despatch from JACK CARRINGTON in BUDAPEST*

THE champion has been defeated; there is a new champion. But once again the title comes to England—for the third season in succession. Bergmann won in 1948, Leach in 1949, and Richard Bergmann has won the title once again—for the fourth time, as he was also successful in 1937 and 1939.

Great Britain scored another success when Dora Beregi (England) and Helen Elliot (Scotland) won the women's doubles final, defeating the two contestants of the women's singles final Roseanu (Rumania) and Farkas (Hungary).



WORLD CHAMPION  
AGAIN

### Individual Events—

#### The Early Rounds

The feature of the first round play was veteran Haydon's tussle with the young Frenchman Roothoft. This was a terrific five-set match lasting over an hour, yet Haydon lasted the course just as well as his opponent.

Richard Bergmann had a hard fight with Turnovsky, of Czechoslovakia, in the same round. It went all the way to five games, and at one stage Richard was down 11—4 in the fifth. At this point, Richard forsook hitting to play safe, but had to do everything he knew (including running after the ball whenever it went off the table) to make sure that he didn't lose on the time limit rule.

Bernard Crouch just wasn't quite good enough to take a game off Ben Greve, the Swedish second string; and Harry Venner, after a good straight-sets victory over Chandrana of India, went out 3—1 in the second round to Tereba. Tereba also accounted for Simons in the third round, after the latter had put Haydon out in the second.

After his first round shock, Bergmann took no chances and made his way fairly easily to the last sixteen. Johnny Leach, however, after a first round walk-over and a good 3—1 victory over Marinko in the second, fell to Haguenauer, the tall French veteran in the third round.

#### Leach Goes Out

Attacking cleverly, Haguenauer took the first game to 16. Leach then levelled and went ahead with a stream of forehand drives to the Frenchman's backhand which gave him the second and third games both at fourteen. In the fourth, Johnny lost some of his venom, and Haguenauer was able to counter-attack to win the game at sixteen. In the final game, after struggling point for point up to 9—all, Haguenauer drew away to 14—9. Leach fought back to even the score

at 18—all, but then fell away to lose game and match.

#### Our Women Crash

The third round proved an insuperable obstacle to all the British girls. Miss Pithie went down in straight games to the Czech Furstova, and Helen Elliot, after leading 2—1, could not press home her advantage against the stubborn Hungarian second-string, Karpati. That was the end of Scotland; and England fared no better. Beregi had gone out to Karpati in the second round by 3—2. Eva Solyom, a Hungarian lass who had bravely played through from the qualifying rounds defeated Vera Thomas without conceding a single game. Kolsvary, Rumania's No. 2, accounted for Peggy Franks, also in the third round, by three games to one.

In the fourth round (semi-finals) Kolosvary went down to Farkas, and Roseanu beat Karpati.

#### The Doubles Events

Further disappointments came in the men's doubles event. Haydon-Simons could not make the grade against Andreadis and Tokar in the second round, and Johnny and I went out to Vana and Stipek in the same round. This left Bergmann and Victor Barna as our only challengers in the event. In their third round match with the Czechs Tereba and Turnovski, Richard and Victor gained a two-game lead. The Czechs then tightened their game to even the score, and went forward to the semi-final, taking the final game at 22—20.

The two chief contenders from Britain in the women's doubles were Vera Thomas and Peggy Franks, and Dora Beregi and Helen Elliot. These two pairs, after playing brilliantly to reach the semi-finals, were unlucky to be drawn together, and Dora and Helen went on to the final after a 3—1 victory.

We had four pairs in each quarter-final of the mixed doubles, but somehow none of them were able to get

any further. Sido and Farkas beat Victor Barna and Helen Elliot 12, 18, 18. Andreadis and Furstova beat Johnny Leach and Peggy Franks 18, 19, 20. Stipek and Roseanu beat Aubrey Simons and Dora Beregi—20, 14, 11, 15. Vana and Hruskova beat Richard Bergmann and Vera Thomas—19, 15, 14, 12.

#### The Finals

Richard Bergmann was at his brilliant best in his quarter-final with Bohumil Vana, rival for many years and his opponent in a number of previous world title clashes. Good as Bergmann was, however, Vana proved once again no easy adversary, and Richard got home by the narrowest of margins—the last two games went to 21-19 after Richard had been 2-1 down.

So Richard went on to the semi-final, where he met Ferenc Sido and won in four close games, and then to the final against Soos, who is probably one of the most difficult players for Bergmann to beat.

From the outset, Soos refused to attack against Bergmann's solid defence. Whatever Richard did, the ball came back heavily chopped and cleverly placed. The first two games went to Soos, 21-12 and 18-15, the time limit being reached in the second.

In the third game, Bergmann won early points, and Soos had to try aggression to get on even terms. This suited Bergmann well, and the game went to him 21-7. The fourth was similar—Bergmann getting an early lead and eventually winning to 14. In the fifth, fighting exhaustion after nearly an hour and three-quarters of play, Soos attacked furiously, but to no avail; the match went to Bergmann at 21-13.

Space and time prevent me from describing the great victory of Dora and Helen in the women's doubles, or from telling you this month about the finals of the remaining events. All the rest of the Budapest stories will be in the March issue.

## RESULTS IN FINAL ROUNDS

## MEN'S SINGLES

Soos (H)	} Soos	} Bergmann
Andreadis (Cz)		
Sido (H)	} Bergmann	}
Bergmann (E)		

## WOMEN'S SINGLES

Farkas (H)	{	Farkas	}	Roseanu 20, 15, 18
Kolosvary (R)		13, —16, 12, 13		
Karpati (H)	{	Roseanu	}	
Roseanu (R)		11, 14, 4		

## MEN'S DOUBLES

Andreadis and Tokar (Cz)	Andreadis and Tokar	} Sido and Soos —15, 16, 13, 18
Tereba and Turnovsky (Cz)	W.O.	
Vana and Stipek (Cz)	Sido and Soos —18, —20,	
Sido and Soos (H)	16, 20, 14	

**JUBILEE CUP**

(Open to players who took part in World Championships  
twenty years or more ago)

**Final: G. V. Barna beat A. A. Haydon 14, 20, 18.**

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## WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Farkas (H) and Roseanu (R)	Farkas and Roseanu	Beregi and Elliot —13, 10, 19, 17
Hruskova and Furstova (Cz)	13, —16, 12, 13	
Beregi (E) and Elliot (Sc)	Beregi and Elliot	
Thomas and Franks (E)	13, 16, —19, 18	

### MIXED DOUBLES

Sido and Farkas (H)	Sido and Farkas	Sido and Farkas 17, 18, 12
Andreadis and Furstova (Cz)	16, —21, —19, 19, 11	
Stipek (Cz) and Roseanu (R)	Vana and	
Vana and Hruskova (Cz)	Hruskova 15, 15, —18, 13	

## HOW BRITISH PLAYERS FARED

**First Round** **MEN'S SINGLES**

Leach w.o.; Oprey lost to Marinko (Cz.) 12, —13, —11, —9; Jones lost to Haguenaue (F) —19, —13, —16; Car-  
rington bt. Roux (S.) 15, 9, 5; Bergl lost to Severo (B.)  
18, 20, 11; Brown lost to Sebo (H.) 5, 14, 10; Seacy  
bt. Knoll (It.) 17, 16, 15; Haydon bt. Roothoft (F.) 10,  
—14, 18, —18, 16; Simons bt. Matrayvolgyi (H.) 13, 19, 21;  
Venner bt. Chandrana (In.) 10, 19, 18; Bergmann bt.  
Turnovsky (Cz.) —21, 11, 14, —13, 14; Morgan lost to  
Varkonyi (H.) 10, 16, 18; Davies lost to Ban (H.) —18,  
21, —18, —19; Clerkin lost to Z. Farkas 13, 19, 21;  
Crouch lost to Grieve (Sw.) 19, 11, 19.

## Second Round

Leach bt. L. Farkas (H.) 13, 18, -20, 11; Carrington bt. Midosi (B.) 10, 18, 14; Seacy lost to Stadelhofen (S.) -11, 14, -18, -14; Simons bt. Haydon 8, 20, 17; Venner lost to Stipek (Cz.) -13, -9, 11, -14; Bergmann bt. Varkonyi (H.) 14, 14, 17.

### Third Round

Leach bt. Marinko (Cz.) 11, -12, 22, 11; Carrington lost to Soos (H.) -17, -20, 19, -16; Simons lost to Tereba (Cz.) -14, 16, -13, -13; Bergmann bt. Ban (H.).

### Fourth Round

Leach lost to Haguenauer (F.) —16, 16, 14, —16, —18;  
Bergmann bt. Z. Fargas (H.) 6, 8, 16.

**First Round**      **WOMEN'S SINGLES**

Egan lost to Farkas (H.) 5, 14, 16; Bates bt. Knoll (It.) 11, 15, 10; Pithie w.o.; Franks bt. Schonek (H.) 10, 8, —19, 9; Beregi bt. Leipnik (Is.); Elliot w.o.; Thomas bt. Werlt (A.) 18, 13, 13; Carrington bt. Simmone (H.) 16, —19, 14, —18, 16.

## Second Round

Bates lost to Farkas (H.) 12, 11, 5; Pithie bt. Ericson (Sw.) —16, 11, 17, 11; Franks bt. Marchione (It.) 15, —13, —13, 10, 4; Beregi lost to Karpanti (H.) —16, —17, 20, 20, —16; Elliot bt. Simon (H.) 13, 21, 17; Thomas bt. Beolet (F.) 11, 19, 12; Carrington lost to Mezei (H.) 8, 15, 16.

### Third Round

Pithie lost to Furstova (Cz.) 9, 9, 11; Franks lost to Kolosvary (R) -18, 19, -14, -17; Elliot lost to Karpati (H.) -18, 6, 17, -10, -15; Thomas lost to Solyom (H.) 17, 17, 15.

**Abbreviations :** A.—Austria; B.—Brazil; Cz.—Czechoslovakia; E.—England; F.—France; H.—Hungary; In.—India; Is.—Israel; It.—Italy; R.—Rumania; S.—Switzerland; Sc.—Scotland; Sw.—Sweden.

## Answer to Critics

**A**LTHOUGH in Yorkshire we incline to the short "a" rather than the long "a," we consider that we have nothing to learn from our town and country cousins in the way of manners and hospitality. Above all, we have a healthy respect for the facts truthfully and fairly stated, and any misrepresentation of Yorkshire's case is always deeply resented. Articles have appeared recently under the names of well-known table tennis figures in which an accurate picture concerning Yorkshire affairs has not been given. So much so that I have been commissioned to complain officially, and I do in verse addressed to anyone it may concern, and entitled "People in Glass Houses."

Dear Mr. X of T.T. fame,  
You've always had an honoured name,  
But in your latest T.T. news  
I can detect some biased views.  
It seems that Yorkshire does not find  
A favoured place in your small mind.  
Criticise with all your might,  
So long as all the facts are right.  
Dear Mr. X, please understand,  
We only wish to guide your hand,  
To write in manner bold but fair,  
And treat the facts with utmost care.  
Should you do this, then I am sure  
You will return to grace once more.

## Match Headaches

Administrative problems in Yorkshire are becoming a real headache to the Executive Committee. The size of the county renders frequent personal contact between Committee members almost impossible. It is not surprising, therefore, that certain centres are necessarily more active than others.

The Yorkshire Inter-League Competition was revived this season and provoked much interest and enthusiasm. Many leagues, however, are feeling the financial strain of expenses incurred in fulfilling fixtures, and at least one league has already withdrawn from the competition. It is felt in some quarters that the playing experience gained within the county is not sufficient justification for the high expenses involved.

The suggestion of a Northern League in which several counties might be included has been received with more than a little warmth. Young players would then be assured of meeting the best opponents in this part of the country, and would, it is felt, benefit immensely. Geoff Harrower, when in Bradford, expressed the view that many of Yorkshire's young players would make huge strides forward given the right sort of opposition. I don't always agree with Geoff, but on this point our minds are *ad idem*.

Yorkshire players are wondering why Essex have got themselves into such difficulties with their National County

## MAURICE D. SHAFFNER

Chairman of the Yorks

T.T.A. since 1947.

Mr. Shaffner is to-day one of the best known, respected and well-loved figures of Northern T.T. It has been said that the keynote of his character is suggested in one of his well-turned phrases: "Though ignorance often may be innocent, pretension is always despicable." He is scrupulously fair, and it is not surprising to learn that he is one of the most prominent of Yorkshire's legal personalities. He has never been known to refuse a helping hand or word of advice, but hides from his own "good deeds" which are so considerable as to almost limit him from playing.

M.D.S. will always love Yorks first and foremost, but he is a man with the truest spirit of sportsmanship and with the breadth of vision of a national outlook. We are proud to allow him the freedom of this column.

(We must also apologise to him for these few personal notes, of which we know he will disapprove.)

Championship fixtures. We hope we have eased the position a little by agreeing to a transfer of the venue of the Yorkshire-Essex match.

## Workers Only

Shakespeare, I believe, once wrote, "What's in a name?" On perusing the handbooks of several county bodies, many distinguished names appear as patrons or presidents. Such persons undoubtedly lend standing to the association concerned, but one wonders what real and practical interest is taken by the owners of these names. The only people I want in my association's list are those prepared to work.

## Magazine Part of Player's Equipment

Extracting 6d. for a table tennis magazine is almost as difficult as pulling a tooth out with boxing gloves on. Young players are the most reluctant customers. The fact that the magazine is value for money is not always a persuasive argument. The view in Yorkshire is that a magazine is just as much a part of a table tennis player's equipment as his bat. It has not yet been possible, however, to reduce this view into actual sales.

I suggest that serious consideration should be given by the English Association to the question of making an increase in the amount of subscriptions to cover the cost of the magazine. In

this way only would it be possible to disseminate table tennis news to the furthest points of the country. In Yorkshire the cost of the handbook is now a part of some league's subscriptions. An extension of this principle might easily be made to cover the cost of the official magazine.

## What's the Difference ?

I often wonder whether there is any need to emphasise that a natural born British subject is now the holder of the world's title as opposed to a naturalised British subject. Is the title any more difficult to win for one than the other, given equal ability? Let us at all costs preserve table tennis as the only sport which is truly international.

Through the columns of this magazine, Yorkshire sends, belatedly but none the less meaningfully, to all readers cordial and sincere good wishes for 1950, with the hope that good will, good faith and good companionship may again prevail throughout the world.

## English Successes in FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Paris, 7—10th Jan.

England notched four major titles in the French Open Championships. RICHARD BERGMANN retained his Singles title by beating AUBREY SIMONS 19, —14, 13, 14 in the semi-final, and JOHNNY LEACH in the Final.

Simons had previously beaten GUY AMOURETTI, while in the other half, Johnny Leach had a gruelling 5-set semi-final to beat MICHEL HAGENAUER.

Making a welcome return, Mrs. VERA THOMAS had no difficulty in sweeping the women's singles without losing a game and, with Johnny Leach, also took the Mixed. Leach and Simons took the Men's Doubles.

## SCORES

Finals:

M.S. R. Bergmann bt. J. Leach  
17, 17, 14.

W.S. Mrs. V. Thomas bt. Mme. J.  
Delay 9, 14, 10.

M.D. Leach/Simons bt. A. Agopoff/R. Bedoc 14, 10, 18.



# The Drop Shot

described by Adrian Haydon

**T**HE "Drop Shot" is undoubtedly the most neglected shot in Table Tennis to-day, and I can't think why because this seemingly innocuous little push is a match winner. Introduced at the right time, and properly executed, it can save an awful amount of energy and have a very disturbing influence upon your opponent.

The originator of the "Drop" was Robert Thum, of Austria, in the early thirties, and the person that he first used it upon with such devastating effect was my late colleague, Charlie Bull. Charlie had the classic long distance defence of the time, but against Thum he covered so much ground back and forth from the table as to be completely outmanoeuvred and exhausted by the end of the game.

To my mind, however, the player

with the most classical "Drop" of all time is Bo. Vana, the Czecho-Slovak ace and ex-World Champion. Not only is his shot perfectly executed and timed, but he also has with it the guile so necessary to hoodwink his opponent. In other words it is only at the last second that his racket arm forsakes its piston-like thrust for the feathery touch of the "Drop," thus leaving little or no time to get up to it.

**Practically all effective "Drop Shots" are made from the forehand. The racket must be tilted backwards to give sufficient rise, the ball taken just beyond the half volley stage and the grip loosened at the last moment so as to take away all speed.**

**Important points to remember :**

Always "Drop" to the middle of the table obviously as low and as close

to the net as possible. If you place to the middle, your opponent coming up fast after retrieving an angled drive, has the corner of the table in his way. If it is placed on the side, it's far easier to make a kill from it.

The Defence against the "Drop Shot."

Well, my advice is: always have a crack at the first one or two. If your opponent makes a bad shot and you flash a forehand or backhand past him, he is loath to try it again, in case you now feel like trying out the "Drop" for yourselves. Just one word of warning. It is almost bound to upset the rhythm of your attack at first, particularly in competitive play, but don't worry, master the shot and you will have a weapon in your armour to be proud of.

## Dr. IVOR THEERY'S

# Guaranteed Guide to Winning

Our learned contributor attempts to blind us with science, yet we have a suspicion that he has borrowed the idea from Cricket and Lawn Tennis, where fault-analysis and remedial practice has been used for years. Suzanne Lenglen and Don Bradman have both used the basic principle, so perhaps it's not so cranky or frivolous after all.

**S**UCCESSFUL power-hitting needs accuracy. Accuracy has only one price: hours of the *right* practice at getting the *right* ball back at the *right* time into the *right* place.

Would you think of giving a player of equal merit, say, 10 points start in a match? Yet the points given away unnecessarily in a match through faulty practice technique can be just such a handicap.

If you are out to beat your opponent, then you don't want to keep beating yourself.

No player can see himself play, yet to improve, he should know what's wrong. Play a game from the ringside chair with pencil and paper and you'll learn plenty.

The important point is that a game is won not only by your own winning shots, but **ALSO** from the *losing shots of your opponent*. Conversely for the losing game.

Agreed? Then let's classify the main shots:—

**WINNING:** Smash; Passing Drive; Drop; Ace Service; Positional Return.

**LOSING:** Volley Balls; Fault; Out of Position; Hit Off; Hit into Net.

Blithely ignoring the denials of the Masters, let us agree that every rally will be concluded with one of these shots. That gives us a choice of 10 alternatives (5 winning, 5 losing) of deciding how a point is earned (or otherwise).

From this stage we can draw two sets of 5 columns on our paper, one set for winning, one set for losing, putting initial letters (e.g., "S" for Smash, etc.) at the head of each column. With someone else umpiring we are now ready to score, at this stage concentrating on one player only. After a little practice it will soon be quite easy to score for both players, your analysis score sheet being marked to double width.

The scoring of an actual game is shown in the diagram. Now for a few observations.

Peter beat Vera 21—9 tells little, but our marking shows quite a bit more. Peter's 21 points were made up of:—

Col. C: 6 winning shots.

Col. B: 15 losing shots of Vera.

Total 21.

Vera's score is analysed as:—

Col. A: 1 winning shot.

Col. D: 8 losing shots of Peter.

Total 9.

The game was decided, in fact, by points *given away*. Both young players gave away more points than they earned. Now the good player has a higher percentage of winning shots and a lower percentage of losing shots, and there was something obviously wrong with the technique of these two.

Vera, an attacker, lost 10 "Hits Off" plus 5 "Hits into Net," a total of 15. Reduce those losing faults and the result would be very different.

"Hitting Off" is the biggest fault of the aggressive youngster, and there are several possible reasons. Vera's faults were judged to be caused by insufficient anticipation of the return and the consequent faulty footwork.

A little coaching, explanation emphasised by the figures, and sound practice, showed tremendous improvement. In three weeks she had reduced her losing points by two-thirds, and at the same time steadily increased her winning points. She began to be a winning player.

Analysis scoring brings a cold emphasis of reason; add the essential follow-up coaching, and you have a system of practice which will definitely improve your game in a much quicker time.

VERA A+D=9										PETER B+C=21									
WINNING					LOSING					WINNING					LOSING				
S	P	D	A	S	P	D	A	S	P	D	A	S	P	D	A	S	P	D	A
/					///	///				///					/	///	///		
					///					/								3	4
A (1)					B (15)					C (6)					D (8)				

# Table Tennis Romance



**RONNIE HOOK and PEGGY FRANKS**

**Wedding Day Picture**

**MISS PEGGY FRANKS**, England Corbillon Cup star, World Doubles champion, 1948, was married on 12th January at Eltham to **Ronnie Hook**, the Kent and Essex player.

Partners in business as well as on the table, the newly weds had a hectic time getting their new home in running order at Chislehurst, and arranging their business matters, before flying off to Budapest with our teams on January 27th. The World Championship trip is thus a honeymoon trip for Peggy and Ronnie—fair enough, considering that they met at one tournament and became engaged at another. And if Wilfred Pickles had ever wanted to ask them "Are ye Courting?" he would probably have had to interrupt a mixed doubles!

Peggy says that it is Ronnie who is really keen about table tennis; but Ronnie says he plays because he must help Peggy to keep in training for her big matches. They do, however, have a "close season in the open" during the summer, since Ronnie has coached Peggy up to County lawn tennis standard.

Just before the war Ronnie and the late Cyril Merrett, that young genius, were making a fine name for themselves. African service, with the Royal Welch Fusiliers, resulted in an injured hand, which slowed down his style. Nevertheless, Ronnie has twice won the Kent Closed singles, and last season was as near as three match points to winning the Essex singles.

Can hubby beat wife? Now, now, let's leave them some private life!

## GLOBE TROTTERS

**THE** three New Zealanders, **JOHN STEWART**, **NEVILLE BRIGHTWELL** and **JOHN CROSSLEY**, who worked their passage here in order to take part in the World and English Championships, were guests of the Directors of Walthamstow Press, on January 13, on the occasion of the finals of the West Essex "Midweek" Team Tournament.

Together with their non-playing captain for the World events, Mr. C. Corti Woodcock, Victor Barna, Johnny Leach, Jack Carrington and Geoffrey Harrower, they were entertained to dinner and later attended the match, in company with the Mayor and Mayoress of Woodford, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Walthamstow.

The New Zealand visitors sportingly acted as umpires for some of the match and exhibition items, which were held at the canteen of the Express Rubber Company, and were "M.C'd" by Mr. Corti Woodcock.

The "Midweek" tournament, run on Davis Cup lines for teams of two, was expected to prove a straightforward win for Allan Payne and Albert Green, who won last year and continued this year under their adopted team-name "The Gruesome Twosome."

However, Norman Underdown and Teddy Grey surprised even their sup-

porters by their excellent "big-match temperament," and ran out winners in three straight sets. Memo. to Messrs Payne and Green: How about "The Ruesome Twosome" for next year.

### To Holland

#### —and Budapest

To the Dutch Open sailed the advance guard of the British party for Budapest: Bergmann, Venner, Pinkie Barnes, and the "enfant terrible" of continental tournaments, Keith Hurlock. The first three were to travel on by train to Vienna for the Austrian Open Championships, where they would be joined by Mrs. Vera Thomas, Maurice Bergl (ex-Swaythling Cup player himself) and the Irish team. The Irishmen are playing several provincial matches in Austria, too.

Along with our boys to Utrecht went the Three Musketeers from N.Z. They were to return to London in order to join the main body of troops travelling by charter plane to Budapest on January 27th. (Montagu, Haydon, Leach, Mrs. Leach, Simons, Crouch, Franks, Hook, Woodcock, Barna, Welsh team, etc.).

## NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL RANKINGS

By Air Mail from  
**K. C. WILKINSON**  
Hon Sec., N.Z.T.T.A.

**THE** New Zealand Association's Official Ranking Committee receives detailed information on all championships, representative matches, and other performances of note, and has just published its ranking list of the first 10 Men and Women.

**MEN:** Russell Algie; W. J. ("Wild Bill") Fogarty; H. Chapman; K. Dwyer; J. Crossley; L. M. Wilson; N. V. Brightwell; J. J. Borough; W. O. Jaine; Albert Kwok.

**WOMEN:** Miss M. Hoar; Miss J. Leathley; Miss A. Hughes; Miss McLennan; Miss J. Nicolas; Miss E. McNeill; Miss J. Williamson; Mrs. E. A. Collins; Mrs. D. Chapman; Miss B. Powell.

Twenty-eight-year-old, left-handed **ALGIE** has no peer in the Dominion, and has won the N.Z. Singles five times, and is the only New Zealander to have competed in a World's Championship. The young Chinese, Albert Kwok, has been named by Victor Barna as one of the two most promising players. 18-year-old Margaret Hoar did not start playing until 1947, yet has taken the Women's Singles title for two years running.

# “Avoid the T.T. Specialist”

SAM KIRKWOOD reports a challenging point of view

SAM KIRKWOOD, outspoken protagonist of sporting standards, this time hears another's point of view. Playing many sports as an Amateur, he writes about many more as a Professional; also author of "Hobnails On My Boots." To the punch of his words, it might be noted that his physical punch earned him a heavyweight boxing title in the Services.



**A** VERSATILE, very versatile, sportsman is NAWAB ALI AKBAR, as you can see. Before taking up an ambassadorial appointment on the Continent, Ali, living in London, is a member of Central London T.T. Club, Bishopsgate where his immense keenness and friendly smile make him a popular personality.

He has his particular views on the sport, and they are views which I think deserve some attention, coming as they do from a man who has a unique knowledge and experience of games.

Ali is convinced that no man should specialise in a single sport. "To enjoy games to the full," he asserts, "one should play at more than one pastime and get as broad an outlook as possible on sport. The specialist, in my experience, is a chap with a one-track mind who plays not to enjoy himself but to win. We all like to win, but the result should be of secondary importance to the spirit of the sport."

He is firm in his belief that the specialist table tennis player is, by and large, a person to be avoided. He dislikes their attitude to the game, their insular outlook, and the lack of spirit bred by their restricted interest. This attitude, Ali maintains, contributes nothing to further the game as a breeding ground for friendships.

I asked him: "If one is to reach the top, isn't one forced to specialise?"

To this, Ali gave out with: "It is my conviction that the only people who reach the top are the naturally gifted who don't need to devote their lives to one sport. Their hardest work is in learning the game. After that, occasional

practice will do. I have no time for the theory—and that is all it is—that your table tennis player has to cling to a table night after night to the exclusion of all else. That way he becomes almost a fanatic who loses all perspective and, incidentally, that free mind and open outlook that is desirable. As it is, what do we see with the specialist? A perpetually grim face, a chaser of points, a do-or-die character who would sooner lose a pound than a game."

Ali expounded further. "Look at your one-game man. From what I've seen of him he is dead scared to drop a game even in practice. He practises presumably to improve. Does he? He is so terribly afraid of losing to someone he thinks his inferior, or so morbidly keen to tan someone regarded as his superior, that he goes to the table intent on winning points to the exclusion of every other consideration. Every game in which he participates is a 'needle' affair. How can he improve on weaknesses when he is busy pandering only to personal conceit?"

"My advice to table tennis players is to play other games if they hope to extract the fullest enjoyment from T.T. That may sound a little crazy, but it really makes good sense."

## How Many People Play T.T. in England?

**"MASS-OBSERVATION"** recently conducted an enquiry on "Is there too much Sport" for publication in *News Review*. In the first five favourites, Table Tennis is ranked fifth for women, is unranked for men.

The "ranking" favourites are given as: *Women*: 1, Swimming; 2, Walking; 3, Tennis; 4, Rowing and Boating; 5, Horse-riding, Badminton, Table Tennis.

*Men*: 1, Swimming Walking, Tennis; 2, Cycling; 3, Golf; 4, Cricket; 5, Rugby and Football, Fishing and Shooting.

In the summary of those questioned to find the most popular sports, 38% did not participate; of the rest, Table Tennis notched only 5% (6% women, 3% men).

We are doubtful whether these figures represent a true cross-section of the English community although "Mass-Observation" tell us that if there are a million players in England, it would only mean that 3 in each 100 of their samples play.

We know that T.T. players are notoriously bad writers and do not do all they might in giving the game a fillip when they can, but nevertheless, this raises the query: How many people do play Table Tennis in England?

Affiliations to the E.T.T.A. are approaching 120,000, and for every affiliation there are estimated to be at least 10 players not yet affiliated, probably very many more. Has anyone any ideas?

## World's Most Versatile Sportsman?



THE NAWAB ALI AKBAR

nephew of the Nizam of Hyderabad, was first President and largely responsible for founding Cambridge University T.T. where he was a representative player. Ali has, however, many other claims to sporting recognition which seem almost as remarkable as a tale from *The Arabian Nights*.

In addition to playing a good club game of Table Tennis, he is Lawn Tennis Singles and Mixed Doubles Champion of Indians resident in London; captain All-Indian Hockey team; University Boxing Champion (Light- and Welter-Weight); winner Bowls Tournaments; holder of Indian Long-distance Cycle and Motor-Cycle records; a competitive Swimmer and Diver; Judo expert and Wrestler; a crack pistol and rifle shot.

He is also a Sprinter, Hurdler and Long Distance Runner; Squash, Badminton, Cricket, Basketball and Football player; a Racing Motorist; a Flier, Skier and Ice-Skater, a Mountaineer, Fencer, Big Game Hunter and a Physical Culture Exponent, and he also plays Bridge and Chess.

# County Championships

## PREMIER DIVISION STRUGGLE GROWS

### Games Average Will Probably Decide

**W**HEN, on January 18th, Middlesex soundly beat Surrey by 7—2, many people, including the "Daily Mirror," decided that the championship was decided, and that Middlesex had won for the third successive season.

Then, three days later, Gloucestershire unexpectedly beat Middlesex 5—4, and the tourney was wide open again. In fact, it seems almost certain that games average will decide the destination of the trophy this season, as a look at the current table will make evident:

Middlesex	5	4	1	31	14	8
Essex	4	3	1	22	14	6
Gloucestershire	4	3	1	22	14	6
Surrey	5	3	2	26	19	6
Warwickshire	5	2	3	19	26	4
Lancashire	5	1	4	16	29	2
Yorkshire	4	0	4	8	28	0

The remaining fixtures which affect the head of the table are:

February 4th—

Essex v. Yorkshire, at Bradford.

February 10th—

Warwickshire v. Middlesex, at Birmingham.

February 11th—

Gloucestershire v. Surrey, at Bristol.

February 18th—

Essex v. Gloucestershire, at South-end.

Our more enthusiastic readers can spend a pleasant half-hour working out all the possibilities, and no prize will be given for showing how Surrey can win! Now, down to details:

**JANUARY 14th**

**ESSEX 6, WARWICKSHIRE 3,**  
at Chelmsford

Keith Collar made an unexpected appearance in the Essex first team, due to the late arrival of McCave, and played his part with a well merited win over Maurice Kriss. The majority of the matches in this fixture went as expected, but Miss Gladys Hall, making her first county appearance, did extremely well to defeat Eileen Adams in straight games.

Scores:—

J. Leach beat W. Poole 13, 17; beat M. Kriss 12, 15.  
B. Brumwell lost to Poole —17, —14; beat W. Hall 18, —18, 9.  
K. Collar beat Kriss —17, 13, 15; lost to Hall 20, —9, —16.  
Mrs. E. Adams lost to Miss G. Hall, —19, —19.  
Mrs. Adams and Miss D. Rivett beat Mrs. D. Smith and Miss Hall 12, 20.  
Leach and Miss Rivett beat Kriss and Mrs. Smith 6, 21.

**JANUARY 18th.**

**SURREY 2, MIDDLESEX 7,**  
at Kingston

The Thames Valley League made a first class job of putting this event on, and 750 people saw a thrilling match, with Middlesex clearly on top. Most noteworthy performance was by Joyce Roberts, whom many consider long overdue for her first international badge, who defeated Mrs. Vera Thomas in two close games. Vera was too inclined to push on her backhand in the tight spots of the game, and Joyce won many points with a quick surprise backhand hit to the other side of the table, and then hitting a winner off the return to the other side of the table.

Jack Carrington did not have the best of luck in the opening match against Bernard Crouch, a close game which could have gone either way, but he was soundly beaten by Dennis Miller, although making a recovery in the second game from 11—20 right up to 19. Crouch on this occasion managed to beat his "bogey man," Ron Crayden, but there wasn't a lot in it. Victor Barna was as good as ever, polished off Crayden in great style, and also beat Harry Venner convincingly, although Harry was getting used to the heavy chop towards the close.

Scores:—

H. Venner lost to G. V. Barna —11, —19; beat D. Miller —10, 13, 8.  
R. Crayden lost to Barna —13, —14; lost to B. Crouch 14, —13, —19.  
J. Carrington lost to Crouch 19, —13, —19; lost to Miller —12, —19.  
Mrs. V. Thomas lost to Miss J. Roberts —21, —20.  
Mrs. Thomas and Miss L. Barnes beat Misses D. and R. Rowe 18, —9, 11.  
Carrington and Miss Barnes lost to Barna and Miss R. Rowe —16, 16, —17.

**JANUARY 21st.**

**MIDDLESEX 4, GLOUCESTERSHIRE 5,**  
at Staines

"He may be a veteran, but he showed the others how to do it," sums up the play of Charlie Dawes in this match, as neither Crouch nor Miller had any idea how to counteract the sponge rubber side spin. Crouch said after the game that the table wasn't wide enough, and that just about sums it up, as Dawes produced side spin services apparently at will which very seldom went near the table on the return, let alone on it.

Other features of the match were the brilliance of Aubrey Simons and the aggressive hitting of Molly Jones. Molly gave Joyce Roberts no chance to settle down, especially in the second

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game, in which she tore off to a terrific lead. With the score at four matches all, Simons played Victor Barna, and, with Barna leading by a game and 13—7, it seemed all over, but Aubrey produced a series of winning drives from all angles and to both sides of the table, won ten points in a row, and that was a well-merited win for Gloucester.

Most thrilling match of the evening, however, was that between Crouch and Griffin, with much backhand counter hitting four yards from the table by both players.

Scores:—

G. V. Barna lost to A. Simons 19, —17, —10; beat R. Griffin 10, 14.  
D. Miller lost to Simons —10, —11; lost to W. Dawes —13, —11.  
B. Crouch beat Griffin 17, —21, 17; lost to Dawes —17, —17.  
Miss J. Roberts lost to Miss M. Jones —19, —8.  
Misses D. and R. Rowe beat Miss Jones and Miss M. Fry —18, 20, 13.  
Barna and Miss R. Rowe beat Griffin and Miss Fry 18, 15.

**JANUARY 21st.**

**YORKSHIRE 1, SURREY 8,**  
at Pontefract

An unfamiliar looking Surrey side containing only two of the players who lost to Middlesex were much too strong for Yorkshire, for whom only George Mitton recorded a win. Mitton, however, was unable to repeat his wins in the two previous seasons over Ron Crayden, who this time managed to win in straight games. Crayden was hard pressed by Brian Kennedy, and won only by the narrowest of margins. Peggy Piper, playing her first senior match, did extremely well, and Surrey are fortunate in having such a talented young lady.

Scores:—

B. Kennedy lost to R. Crayden —11, 13, —20; lost to J. Carrington —20, —19.  
G. Mitton lost to Crayden —18, —18; beat A. R. Miller 9, 17.  
A. Thompson lost to Carrington —8, —17; lost to Miller —9, —17.  
Miss N. Senior lost to Miss P. Piper —19, 15, —9.  
Miss Senior and Miss M. Lightfoot lost to Miss Piper and Mrs. E. Carrington —9, —17.  
Mitton and Miss Lightfoot lost to Carrington and Mrs. Carrington 7, —16, —13.

## EAST ANGLIAN DIVISION

Only one match played in this section during January, when Cambridgeshire reversed their previous defeat at the hands of Suffolk, winning 6—3 at Beccles. J. Thurston, making one of his infrequent appearances whilst on leave from the forces, had a big hand in this win with two con-

## THE VISITING TEAM

LASSE PETTERS-SON, 16, of Stockholm. Swedish Junior Champion, 1950.

ROY GUSTAFSSON, 17, of Huskvarna. Junior Finalist, 1948; semi-finalist 1950.

JAN ERIK HELLGREN, 17, of Stockholm. Swedish Junior Champion, 1949. semi-finalist 1950.

## SWEDISH JUNIOR TOUR

### ITINERARY.

Feb. 14-15 Kent County.

16 ENGLAND v. SWEDEN, Aylesford, Kent.

17 Cumberland.

18 Newcastle.

19-22 Sunderland.

23-26 Lancashire (Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, Blackpool).

Feb. 27-28 Norwich.

Mar. 1 Norwich.

2-5 Hampshire.

6 Essex.

7-11 English Open Championships.

13 Eton Manor Club.

15 Return to Sweden.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS—Cont.

vincing victories, as did young Cornwell, also with two wins and a share in the mixed doubles. All the nine matches were ended in straight games.

### HOME COUNTIES DIVISION

I did promise to write more fully on this division last month, but a couple of postponed matches make it impossible to give an accurate survey of events. It is nice, however, to see Hertfordshire, after figuring at the foot of tables for two seasons, winning two of their first three matches. The newcomers to the Championships, Berkshire, are finding the pace a little too strong for them, but I am sure that the experience gained this season will prove beneficial during the coming years.

### NORTH MIDLAND DIVISION

This section has resolved itself into a keen fight for the Championship between Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, as the table will show:

Yorkshire	4	4	0	26	10	8
Lincolnshire	4	3	1	30	6	6
Leicestershire	4	1	3	9	27	2
Derbyshire	4	0	4	7	29	0

On February 18th, Yorkshire play Lincolnshire at Huddersfield, and it is obvious that Yorkshire must win, as Lincolnshire's superior games average would give them the title in the event of their being successful. At the other end of the table, Derbyshire play Leicestershire at Chesterfield, and no doubt both these counties will be all out to avoid the wooden spoon.

In the only match played during January, Lincolnshire scored a comfortable 9—0 win at Derby. Derbyshire, however, were unfortunate in that their Nos. 1 and 2, D. Walker and R. Tomlinson, were well below form. For Lincolnshire, the 18-year-old lad, P. Skerratt, played exceptionally well and shows promise of a good future.

I am wrong in saying the above was the only match, as I had overlooked the postponed fixture between Derbyshire and Yorkshire, which resulted in

a win for Yorkshire by 7—2. Walker recovered his form and beat Walton, whilst D. Daft, making his first appearance for Derbyshire, played extremely well to beat R. Hinchcliff. The Yorkshire No. 1, C. Whiteley, was not troubled and won his matches convincingly.

### JUNIOR DIVISION

Most significant feature of this division has been the strong challenge of Kent for the Championships. Owing to the fact that Kent's February fixture was to have been against Cambridgeshire, who withdrew before the season started, Kent have now finished their programme, and how they finished, beating both Surrey and Bedfordshire 9—0. The win against Bedfordshire was especially noteworthy as Bedfordshire's No. 1, Barnett, had been strongly tipped for Junior International honours. He was, however, soundly beaten by both Brocklebank and Eagles.

Kent have so improved their games average that Middlesex need to win their two remaining matches to take the title. The first of these two matches was played on January 30th, and the result will be included in the stop press of results.

Kent	5	4	1	34	11	8
Middlesex	3	3	0	22	5	6
Surrey	5	2	3	15	30	4
Essex	3	1	2	14	13	2
Bedfordshire	3	1	2	9	18	2
Hertfordshire	3	0	3	5	22	0

Those people interested in the future of the County Championships, especially the Junior Division or Divisions, will be keen to see whether the leading players participating in the Championships this season, Smith (Essex), Lowe and Burridge (Middlesex), Brocklebank and Eagles (Kent), Hunt (Hertfordshire) and Barnett (Bedfordshire), prove to be superior to other juniors from the rest of the country. This will be shown at the Junior International trials on February 5th.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

There is a terrific fight going on between Surrey and Devonshire to

decide the Championship of this division. In the first meeting, Surrey just won 5—4, but they will not again be able to play K. Hurlock, who has played twice for the first team, and it is possible that Devon may be able to reverse the decision, in which case the title will be decided on games average.

The present position is:—

Surrey	5	5	0	33	12	10
Devonshire	6	5	1	38	16	10
Sussex	5	2	3	21	24	4
Hampshire	4	1	3	13	23	2
Kent	6	0	6	12	42	0

A surprise has been caused by the eclipse of Hampshire, twice champions of this section. Hampshire have already lost to Devon, Surrey and Sussex, their defeat by Sussex last month by 7—2 being a real surprise. Sussex, in turn, lost by the same score to Devon, in a match which was played for four points, as Sussex were unable to travel to Devon. Surrey retained their position at the head of the table with a comfortable 8—1 win over Kent, but Kent did Surrey a good turn by only losing 3—6 to Devonshire on January 28th, the result of this match having come over the telephone so no details are yet available.

### NORTHERN DIVISION

As a result of the two matches played in January, Northumberland and Yorkshire drew further away from the other counties, and it seems that the return match between these two counties will decide the issue. Northumberland had a comfortable 9—0 win against Cumberland, although it should be noted that Cumberland did manage to make four matches go to three games. Yorkshire beat Durham by 6—3, a score taken over the telephone on January 28th, so no details are available.

Northumberland	4	4	0	29	7	8
Yorkshire	4	3	1	24	12	6
Durham	4	1	3	18	18	2
Cumberland	4	0	4	1	35	0

### LATE RESULTS

HOME COUNTIES DIVISION  
Essex 9, Berkshire 0

### JUNIOR DIVISION

Middlesex 9, Hertfordshire 0



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1950	Event	Venue	Details and Tickets from
Feb. 13 ...	... SCOTLAND v. ENGLAND	St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow	... R. W. Stewart, 45, Hope Street, Glasgow, C.2.
Feb. 13-18	... Middlesex (Herga Open (JB, JG))	Herga L.T.C., Harrow ...	... Miss A. Fowler, 196, East Lane, North Wembley, Middlesex.
Feb. 23-25	... Midland Open (JB, JG)	Birmingham Indoor Sports Stadium ...	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham.
Feb. 27 - Mar. 3	Surrey Open (JB, JG)	Baths Hall, Epsom ...	C. A. Bourne, 46, Elm Park Gardens, Selsdon, Croydon.
Mar. 4 ...	Yorkshire Junior Open	Mechanics' Institute, Bradford.	A. P. Cook, 54, Limesway, Barnsley.
Mar. 7-11	ENGLISH OPEN CHAMPION-SHIPS	Paddington Baths and Wembley	W. J. Pope, E.T.T.A., 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.
Mar. 17-18	West of England Open (JBS, JGS)	Palace Hotel, Torquay ...	T. I. Gill, "Ellington," Shirburn Road, Torquay, Devon.
Mar. 25 ...	Grimsby Open	Pier Pavilion, Cleethorpes ...	J. Browne, 331, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby, Lincs.
Apr. 1-2	Buckinghamshire Open	Community Centre, Slough ...	Leo Thompson, "Auchmead," The Avenue, Wraybury, Bucks.

### SOME LATER LANDMARKS

April 8-10	North-East England Open.	April 1	WALES v. ENGLAND JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL (in Wales).
12-14 and 17-22	West Middlesex Open.	May 1-6	Thameside Open.

## COUNTY WITH A "NEW LOOK"

COUNTY administrators with heads could learn a lot from gallant little Hertfordshire, the County Association with a "New Look."

Zero hour was October, 1948. Only three leagues affiliated, no more money in the bank, and fixtures in arrears.

To-day, eighteen odd months later, there are 9 leagues representing over 5,000 affiliated players; over £50 in the bank; up to date on fixtures; and, *inter alia*, an intensive and thorough coaching scheme.

It has not been easy to find how this was done, for Herts is unique in the modesty of its backstage workers. The solution lies in the magnificent teamwork and inspiration.

Mainspring of the "works" has been Miss JOY CULLINGFORD, of Watford, County Sec., for the second year, and a successful business woman with the comforting capacity of making molehills out of mountains. She couples a cheery personality with an amazing amount of activity, which ranges from top-match play to "standing-in" for refreshments.

But Herts has gathered together a splendid company of team-workers each fitting in its place round that mainspring. From the genial and benevolent Chairman, STANLEY MAYES, of St. Albans, down to 15-year-old B. HUNT, E.T.T.A. Representative for Bishop's Stortford, and eager county junior, JOHN CORSER of Watford, is believed to be the first Junior Secretary appointed by any county; he keeps records of all the juniors in the county with the efficiency of a Scotland Yard. Then, despite physical handicaps, DENIS WILLIAMS

(Continued at foot of next column)

## QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS SOLUTION TO OPEN PROBLEMS declares Don Foulis

*Chairman, Liverpool League, Swaythling Cup Player and International (1929-34), and one of the most stylish of pre-war players.*

THE article on Open Tournaments was full of interest, and there is no doubt that steps will soon have to be taken to deal with this problem. The present unrestricted system places an unnecessarily heavy burden on the leading players, the organisers, and sometimes the spectators, too.

The All-England Lawn Tennis Championships are open to all amateurs, but if you are not considered to be up to the necessary standard, your entry may either be refused altogether or you may be asked to take part in a qualifying competition. Much the same system obtains in many other sports, e.g., squash racquets, golf, etc. It is the solution of our problem, too.

Let us consider what would happen in the case of an imaginary tournament,

has made tremendous progress in his efforts to build up in S.E. Herts.

All this magnificent administrative work is beginning to show results in county matches. Internationals CONNIE BRIGDEN and DORIS EMDIN of St. Albans, have been the mainstay of the ladies' strength, but now have close challengers in Joy Cullingford herself and DAPHNE CLARKE, of Hoddesdon. The devastating penholder, GLYNN BEBB, of Welwyn, makes a formidable No. 1 while ROY ISLIP, of St. Albans, is rapidly becoming one of the leading players.

Yes, they have great hearts in Herts. From their "Dunkirk" of October, '48, they have reached a new high level that is a triumph of wise leadership, brilliant and thoroughly democratic administration and inspired team-work.

"The Open Blankshire," where in 1949 the Singles Finals were reached at 9.0 p.m. and play finished, with everyone exhausted, at 12.30 a.m. In future the Committee will decide in advance how many entries it can comfortably accommodate on the Saturday afternoon and evening, to finish at a reasonable hour, say 10.30 p.m. This may be Men's Singles 64, Ladies' Singles 32, M.D. 32 pairs, L.D. 16 pairs, Mixed 32 pairs.

Entry forms go out *ad lib* in the usual way, with suitable additions in the Conditions of Entry to cover the fact that players may be required to play in a preliminary qualifying competition to be held on specified evenings prior to "The Day." Most of the local league players would, of course, be required to play in this competition for, say, 4 or 8 places in the main events.

If 8 is the figure decided upon, then up to 56 long-distance entries can be accepted in the Men's Singles. If, however, the number of these exceeds 56, then the weakest of these will be required to play in the qualifying event. Owing to the distance to be travelled, these entries will probably be lost. Too bad, but if tournaments are to continue to attract the public we've got to keep faith with them.

The burden on the players must be eased, too.

Finally, every entrant accepted for any tournament, large or small, should be informed in advance at what time his first game is scheduled to be played on any given day. This should be a condition of E.T.T.A. sanction for a tournament.