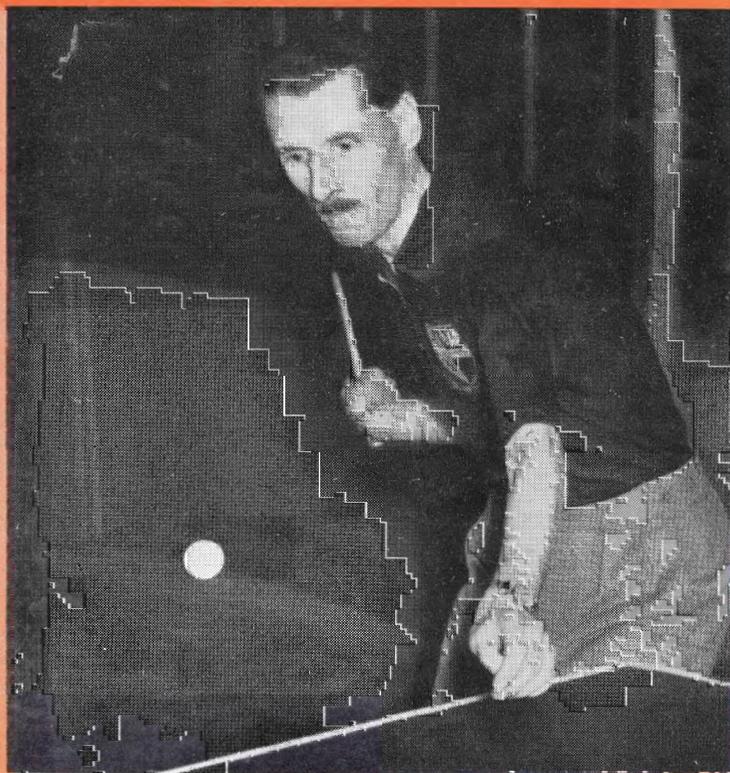


TABLE TENNIS



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(England and Surrey)

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Table



Tennis

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English Table Tennis Association

Edited by **LESLIE S. WOOLLARD**

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No. 5

EDITORIAL

On National Service

THE introduction of a National Coaching Scheme was a matter always close to the heart of our late, beloved Secretary Mr. BILL POPE and increasing expressions of sensible feeling suggest that he would have vigorously approved the inauguration of such a Scheme as an appropriate and practical way to mark our Silver Jubilee.

The official announcement concerning the appointment of an Honorary National Director of Coaching will be welcomed by those who, anxious to get on with a co-ordinated scheme of their own, have tended to be somewhat critical of what they have considered (without knowing the circumstances) tardiness of positive action.

The draft plan now accepted by the National Coaching Committee is a modification of the plan prepared by Mr. JACK CARRINGTON in 1949, and which was then recommended by Mr. POPE and the C.C.P.R. to the Ministry of Education. Mr. CARRINGTON has again been the principal architect of the new scheme which, wisely, envisages a three year progressive continuity (particularly necessary in view of the severe financial handicap), and by which any Director appointed must initially be an Honorary one.

The appointment is an invidious one requiring a highly specialised skill, technique and knowledge, not only of the game and its teaching, but also in administrative and similar fields, as well as the time, energy, patience, faith and national outlook, and understanding of local problems.

Because the issue closely concerns the whole country, the National Executive have, by their announcement, made the issue as wide as possible and have thereby exonerated themselves from any future criticism on the question of personal bias in the matter of appointment.

With his extensive experience in official schemes, national and regional, by his successful collaboration with authorities, administrators and fellow players (well evidenced in the initial E.T.T.A. Coaching experiment at Lilleshall), Mr. J. CARRINGTON appears to be the popular choice for the appointment, but the N.E.C. have made it clear that all suitably qualified volunteers will be equally and impartially considered.

By such a national selective process, the best man should ultimately gain the "Honourous" and important appointment of England's National Director of Coaching, and our long-awaited scheme can yet be launched in the year of our Silver Jubilee.

* * *

THE English Open Finals (as announced on another page) have been regrouped to meet popular demand, and will present TWO equally first-rate evenings of FINALS, plus a new, attractive programme of Finals especially for younger enthusiasts on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. W. STAMP (Liverpool) has conceived a brilliant plan for running a special train to Wembley (if he can get 300 applicants), and to ease any financial hardship has evolved an instalment method (similar to a Christmas Club) by which members can save the expense money before the end of March. We commend the idea to others, and also suggest that smaller leagues could combine with one another for the arrangement of either special trains or coaches.

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD, The Editor

★ IMPORTANT ★

¶ MSS., Articles, Reports, Letters, Notes, Photos, etc., should be addressed direct to THE EDITOR:

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* * *
All contributions appearing with the name of the writer are the personal opinions of that writer and are not necessarily those of the Association.

WELSH EDITION

All enquiries for the Welsh Edition of Table Tennis, which incorporates all the latest news of Welsh activities in addition, should be sent direct to Mrs. N. Roy Evans, "The Rise," 16, Ty-Mawr Road, Rumney, Cardiff.

A TIMELY THOUGHT

"There is perhaps no admission which it is harder to make with complete generosity and without reservation than that somebody else knows best . . .

Never is it more difficult to say it, freely and honestly, than of a Selection Committee who have the thankless task of choosing our team . . ."

From a Leader in *The Times*.

COVER NOTE on page 10

Right IS Right

declares
"VETERAN"

IN a most interesting issue this month, I was particularly interested in Jack Carrington's article, and glad to note that—speaking as a coach—he advocates a change to orthodoxy where possible.

Up to this year I was, to quote Jack, well "bedded-in," with a monotonous "ping-pong" technique, and though I have played in the local league for years with a fair quota of match results, I have never been able to produce any attacking stroke.

However, after much chivvying about "stone-walling," brought to a head by a press report which referred to CHISELLING and shocked my in-laws (they thought it meant twisting!), I took the bull by the horns and started to reform.

I approached a well-known coach in the Midlands and frankly confessed that I was a very bad case. To be perfectly truthful, if only my skill equalled my years of experience, I

could qualify for the Veteran Ladies' Open! However, sportingly, he took me on during the summer, and swore to alter me or bust! Fortunately for him, perhaps, but unfortunately for me, the onset of the league season brought my training to a stop.

Now I am trying to stick to my newly acquired style, although in tight corners, I occasionally find myself reverting to type. However, the seeds of improvement have been sown and even the few lessons have made a big difference to my style, not only at practice but in club fixtures.

So Mr. Hanson, or anyone else wondering about a change of style, my advice is—have a bash. If your coach can stand the strain, certainly you can, and it is well worth the trouble. I'm sure Mr. Proffitt could help Mr. Hanson.

Incidentally, I belong to the same club as "S.P." when he played for England, so you will see why I feel justified in signing myself as "Veteran."

Midland Hopes go West via South

By J. W. Shrimpton

SOMETHING struck me as vaguely familiar about Warwickshire's opening Premier Division matches. I checked up:

	1950-1	1951-2
1st Match	Essex	Middlesex
2nd Match	Middlesex	Essex
3rd Match	Surrey	Surrey

In successive seasons, the first 3 matches against the 3 leading counties!

Last season Warwickshire failed to glean a single point from the strong Southern counties. Without pessimism, Warwickshire have little chance against the star-studded Southerners, but it seems hardly fair that they should have to "go through the mill" at the beginning of the season without some respite in a match where they would stand an even money chance.

Then why south-south-south all together? Why not south-north-west-south, etc. Surely the N.C.C. date-men could plan something a little more original?

About Eric Laughton's comment on T.T. publicity in West Hartlepool I would like to mention that the *Birmingham Despatch* gives a weekly list of all Birmingham Association results (and there are nearly 30 divisions!), plus a substantial weekly article on Midland T.T. news and views, and also full reports and details of representative matches on the day following their occurrence.

We take this opportunity of wishing to ALL our friends :

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

and make this Very SPECIAL offer

The Alec Brook ½" Match table normally £29 10s. TO THE FIRST TWELVE customers will be £24 10s. Our Tournament table, an official table used in over 70 leagues. The finest available - - £41 19s. 6d. Jaques tournament table - - - - - £47 0s. 0d.

Secondhand Tables taken in part exchange. H.P. terms also arranged.

TABLE TENNIS SHIRTS - Official in Royal, Navy, Green and Maroon—29/6d. All sizes. Utility in same colours—13/4d. S., 14/- M., 14/8d. O.S. Postage on Utility only - - 1/- extra

BAT COVERS - - - 6/6d. each. Badges from 2/- according to design. Barna Net and Posts - 25/- complete.

RUBBER - - - Continental, Fast, Medium & Slow 1/- a piece. Top spin 1/3d. a piece.

BOOKS - - - "The International Sports Diary," 1952- - 6/-, plus 6d. postage.
"21-Up" by Bergmann - - - - - 12/6d.
"T.T. for All" by Johnny Leach - - - - - 9/6d.
"Modern T.T." by Carrington - - - - - 6/-

BATS - - - The new Alec Brook T.T. bat ideal for defence and attack, with special hard wood and top spin rubber - 8/6d.

We have the following useful T.T. articles in stock:—

Track Suits, Track Suit tops only, Basket Ball shoes, Canadian Fleetfoot shoes, and Windcheaters.

ALL SPORTS EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING.

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Overwhelming Vote for 'Glamour'

In the first week following publication of Mr. Wigg's letter, readers' votes were 27-2 in favour of "glamour," and have still been arriving. A new picture of Miss SHARON KOEHNKE, the subject of his main criticism, is published on page 9 with the note that she has now, although still a Junior, merited a No. 3 U.S.A. ranking and other honours. Mr. Densham and Mrs. Rook express typical strong feelings on the need for improvement in Dress Standards

OPEN LETTER from W. Densham

Dear Mr. Wigg,

On reading your letter in "Table Tennis" December Issue I experienced the feeling that must come to all missionaries—here is someone groping in darkness, what can I do to help?

The word glamour to-day can be described as an American interpretation enhancing the physical attributes of young ladies with a view to boosting box office appeal. It can, I agree, be left out of Table Tennis as our young lady representatives are sufficiently attractive to get by without its use as proved, for example, by the Rowe Twins in the last World Championships when they captured the support of all spectators by their appearance and play.

With the use of the word appearance I have arrived at the points for enlightenment. The backbone of sport is finance and this is provided mainly by the spectator with his admission ticket. He demands his value in return, and this includes the

staging of the event. Many players, past and present, are content to play in any old rags and cannot see that they are causing nothing but harm to the game, which will remain a minor one while such practices are continued.

Surrey have realised that the game is worthy of the word "great," not "minor," and by their example prove to the spectator that this is so. By the use of the words "ping pong, laughable and swagger," Mr. Wigg, you have proved that you are groping in darkness. Broaden your outlook and, by your own example, try to make Table Tennis worthy of the name of a great sport. Look ahead for the game's future, or otherwise keep to the minor game of ping pong.

I am, alas, a spectator asking something more from the game than you seem willing to give.

Yours etc.

W. DENSHAM

A "WIGG-ing" From Mrs. JOAN ROOK

It seems very evident that N. E. Wigg ("No Glamour Girls Please") is one of those untidy creatures one sees playing Table Tennis. I am not a tournament player, but as the mother of one, see a great many tournaments and am amazed at the slack, untidy way in which some players garb themselves. The maroon shirts and grey shorts worn by Surrey are a joy to behold, in striking contrast to the motley of some. They are neat, pleasant and inconspicuous.

Mr. Wigg's criticism infuriated me, it was so unfair, but I expect he is a priggish little man who puts T.T. in the same category as marbles. He should read Elsie Carrington's 'Do's and Dont's' in the December magazine. He can't possibly have seen Leach, Craigie, Venner, Head, Carrington and hosts of class T.T. players. If he goes to the finals at Wembley, he will realise that modern Table Tennis is not the little game he plays.

ENGLAND BEAT FRANCE 7-2

By R. W. EASON
Bristol, 4th Dec., 1951

IN the international match at Bristol's magnificent new Colston Hall, England eclipsed France 7-2.

It was a match of little real drama as the margin of 16 sets to 4 indicates. The one big roar of the evening from the 2,000 crowd came, appropriately, after a grand fighting recovery by JOHNNY LEACH—the only player to go through the evening unbeaten—against MICHAEL HAGUENAUER. Trailing 14-20 in the first game, Johnny saved six successive game points and by taking eight points in a row in a series of tremendous rallies won at 22-20.

England took 5 of the first 6 singles. After a 2-straight win by Leach over LANSKOY, GUY AMOURETTI (most successful of the visitors) equalised with a 2-1 victory over BRIAN KENNEDY.

There was an exciting moment when after SIMONS was leading 19-11, Haguener overhauled to 20-19 before Simons took command and comfortably won the match with fierce counter-hitting.

Left-handed Kennedy sent wide-angled drives past Haguener for another English win, and then Amouretti, after losing his first game, succeeded in just taking the lead from Simons.

If Leach v. Haguener was a fighting marathon, the Kennedy v. Lansky match was a whirlwind affair. The Yorkshireman beat a bewildered opponent 13 and 10 in eight minutes.

The Lord Mayor of Bristol (Alderman R. F. LYNE) welcomed both teams, who were then presented with plaques from the DUCHESS OF BEAUFORT.

DETAILS

J. LEACH bt. M. Haguener 20, 15; bt. G. Amouretti 17, 14; bt. M. Lansky 11, 17. A. SIMONS bt. Haguener 19, 13; bt. M. Lansky 17, 19; lost to Amouretti 19, —18, —17. B. KENNEDY bt. Haguener 17, 20; bt. Lansky 13, 10; lost to Amouretti —16, 21, —18.

Who Are They?



In this photograph there are 3 internationals of 3 different countries. Can you name them? Answer on page 8

TABLE TENNIS

By

IVOR MONTAGU

3rd Edition

Published by Sir Isaac Pitman & Sons, Ltd., 10/-

Reviewed by PETER WARGRAVE

WHEN asked to review IVOR MONTAGU's new edition of *TABLE TENNIS* I felt much like the music critic who wrote: "Who is there that has the authority to criticise Solomon—he is beyond criticism," for the author is in himself the most powerful single reason for the mighty success that international Table Tennis is to-day

No one is more qualified to write upon the game than he. He was in at the beginning and has been at its head ever since, more than a quarter century. No one has given more in time, money and brain-power. His authority is respected wherever in the world table tennis is played, and his book justifies that authority. It is the distillation of a life's work, experience and telling analysis.

"This book," says the author, "endeavours to answer all the questions about Table Tennis that occur to the ordinary man or woman, particularly if he or she is interested in other ball games." That just about summarises it—with an extreme of modesty. It does not set out to teach Table Tennis, but the reader who cannot learn something from it must be extremely rare. It analyses principles, "the right lines along which anyone must proceed to reach a high standard of performance."

"New personalities come and go, making the sport ever fresh, but the strokes and styles here illustrated and analysed from the great of the past are those which are still practised by the great of the present day." How true this is cannot be better illustrated than by looking at the group of pictures shown on this page (and actually taken from the book) showing the action of the classic Barna Backhand Flick as played by that incomparable player himself. These film frames are used extensively throughout the book, each taken from the best possible angle to expound principles, and during the actual play of great players. The Doubles, for instance, is illustrated with film frames taken from right overhead, and most clearly show the integrated movements of champion players. There are many,

I suspect, who will consider that these educative pictures and their attendant analyses alone are worth the cost of the book.

Do not be deceived by the slimness of the volume. Like the packing of a cigarette lighter—you would never believe it was possible to get so much into so small and compact a container!

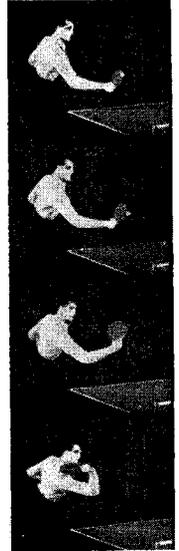
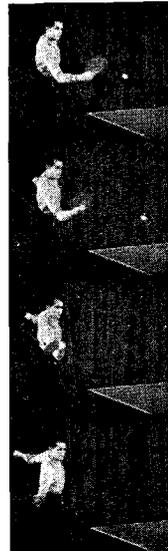
It is well printed, in very readable type, and has the strong cover it will need for reference and study. There are 133 pages of text and 78 illustrations. It opens with the history of Table Tennis from the very beginning long, long ago, and follows the evolution of equipment, laws, materials and styles entertainingly and concisely, giving the historical reasons, etc., and the analyses of principles, including Strategy and Tactics, can only be described as masterly. It is, indeed, a book to have for handy reference and not to borrow and skim through.

It is unfair to the author to quote any particular phrase out of its context, but one keeps encountering those little passages which "we must remember to tell so-and-so."

Mr. Montagu's summaries of World Champions are sparkling gems, almost epigrammatic, and particularly apposite to their subject. Typical comments on three players are (in part): "His gaiety scored vital points over the worried," "Won his title in a year when all but he lost their heads," "Can hit, but doesn't believe it." From even that part, you should know who they are. Do you?

The concluding sentence of the book is, "A world-class player at Table Tennis is nearly always distinguishable as such as soon as he or she appears."

TABLE TENNIS by Ivor Montagu has been THE standard textbook for the sport for 15 years, and this revision will clearly unmainain its unquestioned and unrivalled supremacy. It is a good investment.



ENGLAND 6—FRANCE 3

(Women)

Eltham, 12th Dec., 1951

R. ROWE bt. J. Delay 8, 17; bt. C. Watel 13, —9, 18; lost to H. Beolet —12, —19.
D. ROWE bt. J. Delay 10, 17; bt. C. Watel 17, 11; lost to H. Beolet 15, —17, —16.
K. BEST bt. J. Delay 13, 14; bt. C. Watel 11, —19, 6; lost to H. Beolet —18, 16, —16.

CENTRAL OPEN RESULTS

M.S. A. Simons bt. K. Jayant —19, 11, 15;
H. Venner bt. B. Kennedy 17, 21.
A. SIMONS bt. H. Venner 11, —13, 19, —16, 15.
W.S. D. ROWE bt. K. Best 13, 18.
M.D. D. MILLER/M. THORNHILL bt. R. Crayden/E. Pilby 7, 13.
W.D. D. & R. ROWE bt. K. Best/M. Fry 20, 19.
X.D. K. JAYANT/D. ROWE bt. A. Simons/R. Rowe 14, —18, 19.
B.S. C. DARTS bt. C. Campbell 11, —12, 21.
G.S. D. SPOONER bt. J. Rook 19, —14, 18.

Report of Page 8

J. M. ROSE BOWL—RESULTS

(continued from page 9)

Zone 3. GRIMSBY bt. Boston 9-0; bt. Kings Lynn 8-1 (bt. Cambridge w-o). PETERBOROUGH bt. Bishops Stortford w-o (bt. Royston 5-4).

Zone 4. CROYDON bt. Sutton 7-2; bt. N.W. Kent 7-2 (bt. Gravesend 8-1). WOOLWICH bt. Sittingbourne 9-0; bt. Byfleet 5-4 (bt. Beckenham 7-2).

Zone 5 (North). NORTHUMBERLAND bt. Sunderland 9-0; bt. Carlisle 8-1.

Zone 5 (South). SHEFFIELD (A) bt. Burton 6-3. LIVERPOOL (B) bt. Bradford 5-4 (bt. Burnley 8-1). LEEDS (X) bt. Barnsley 5-1 (bt. Blackpool 5-4). BIRMINGHAM (Y) bt. Manchester 5-4.

Zone 6. BEDFORD bt. Watford 9-0 (bt. Leighton Buzzard 9-0). ST. ALBANS bt. Barnets 8-1 (bt. Luton 7-2).

Zone 7. GUILDFORD bt. Eastbourne 7-2. BRIGHTON bt. Horsham 8-1; bt. Worthing w-o.

Zone 8. BOURNEMOUTH bt. Southampton 5-4 (bt. Bath 8-1). BRISTOL bt. S. Devon 9-0; bt. Southampton Civ. S. 9-0.

Jack Carrington's CAVALCADE

A LITTLE reminiscing is not out of place at the New Year. Most of us turn over in our minds the doings of the past 12 months, and plan to do better in the next 12 months. By way of a change, this New Year's Day, I cast my mind back over, not 12 months, but 12 active seasons, to the year when I first "discovered" table tennis.

(It was 1934, and the total of 17 years to 1951 includes the 5 war seasons when table tennis stood still.)

What a medley of memories
My first match, a "friendly" against the East London League champions, St. Mark's and St. James'. We played 5-a-side then, 25 single games to a match. The TEBBOTH brothers were supermen in our eyes. Yes, I won 1 out of my 5 games—I beat the club caretaker who stood in at the last moment, God bless him.

Then my first league match—versus one of the Whitefields' Tabernacle teams. I still remember the hollow feeling when I learned that, although ranked No. 5, I had to go to the table first . . . against a girl. My first 3 services in competitive table tennis disappeared in blithe succession under the table.

Still, I scored 8 against the dynamic Miss CORNELIUS. And I notched 1 out of 5 again. My victim was HARRY ROSEN that brilliant young international. Did I mention he was only 14 at this time?

My first tournament, the South London Open at Draper Street Lucania Club, now merely a bombed site.

What spacious days; we played the group system (all play all) and groused it a tournament did not allow both winners and runners-up to go through to the knock-out rounds.

I remember umpiring the group match in that tournament in which MAURICE BERGL (only 2 days previously the runner-up in the English Open) was beaten 21-8, 21-10 by a lad named O'HEFFERNAN.

But . . . "two went through" and Maurice Bergl duly won the tournament.

This sort of thing happened several times; in fact in one North London tournament T. Dawn beat ALEC BROOK in their group match. Both qualified and met once more in the tournament final proper, when Brook beat Dawn!

How nice to have a second chance; I am sure many of us feel that we would have won several more rounds in any tournament if we had not slipped up just that once! But organisers did not have to worry about entries of several hundreds then.

My first meeting with the fabulous BILL POPE. I got to hear about this English Table Tennis Association and called on the secretary to enquire whether they assisted promising players (that was me!) to make their way to the World Championships in Prague and such places. Of course, I did not know that Bill dug money out of his own and his best friends' pockets to enable our teams even to travel 3rd class on the Continental trains; nor that he turned down his own international trip to do a job of organising with the leagues back home. Those things are not advertised.

In his kindly but shrewd way Bill Pope explained that the F.T.T.A. might get around to my idea at some future date, but in the meantime how about helping him to get this pile of circulars addressed?

It was not long before I realised that Association implies people getting together to give something to their sport rather than to receive, and that in some strange way this makes everybody richer.



The English men's team with their German D.R. opponents after the last match of their exhausting tour early in the season. L. to R.: Hanschman (16-year old who beat Thornhill and who may compete in the English Open), A. Simons, M. Thornhill, K. Craigie, Ivor Montagu, Schneider (No. 1 G.D.R.) and Haupt

The next year saw England staging its first really big World Championships meeting. That opened the flood-gates for the new tide of enthusiasm on which we are still riding so strongly to-day. About this time office juniors began to flaunt their table tennis bats openly instead of tucking them inside their pullovers.

1936. Of importance—but only to me! —was my first break-through to a tournament semi-final session. I recall the other "unknown" semi-finalist asking me anxiously in the dressing-room "Do you think I've got a chance against this man Hales?"

That, I feel certain, was the last time ERNIE BUBLEY ever doubted his chances in a match. In fact he lost only by 2 deuce games and went on to top England ranking in two seasons. In the other semi, STAN PROFFITT "murdered" me but yet did me a good turn by his casual comment "You'll never keep your backhand chop low if you don't turn sideways to take the ball."

The truth of the matter was, I had only one stroke, a backhand flick, born of trailing VICTOR BARNA from table to table, and relied upon my super-gyroscopic fingers for service to win about 8 points per game.

When the I.T.T.F. banned these, I was convinced they had heard about me until GILBERT MARSHALL (the Anglo-American international) explained in *Table Tennis* that it was to stop him! Never mind, the I.T.T.F. did me another good turn . . . I was compelled to learn table tennis properly.

1937. Arriving at semi-finals a little more often, another great truth dawned upon some of us, viz., that you cannot play football on Saturday afternoon and top-class T.T. the same evening.

Such excellent players as TOMMY SEARS and BERT BRIDGE (who either did not credit this theory or preferred to chance their arm), found themselves frequently frustrated in the finals and semis, when dour defenders would retrieve the ball until literally the small hours if need be. Two defensive experts would chop each others chops about the table for 2 or 3 hours to win a title. Umpires sometimes worked on a shift system!

Action again by I.T.T.F., in lowering the net from 62-inches to 6-inches, and by F.T.T.A., in cold-shouldering unenterprising players, soon tipped the scale and attacking youngsters such as ERIC FLBY, BENNY CASOFSKY and CYRIL MERRETT began

to take the stage in England. Even before this happened I think credit is due to LEO BARON, an intelligent young Jewish player who worked out the looped topspin tactics against the "chisellers." By swinging his drives slowly up in the general vicinity of the lights he neutralised the value of the defender's chop. An occasional hard smash and a classy drop shot won critical points for him, but his real achievement lay in pitting his brain against the stonewallers and thereby showing the light to all attackers.

Since the war Leo has turned his talents to Bridge, and I see that he has represented England, and originated the well-known "Baron System" of Bidding. But, of course!

At world level the opposing schools were represented by VANA for attack and BERGMANN for defence. Their sharing of titles proved nothing, except that one good defender plus one good attacker equals Good Table Tennis.

It is interesting to reflect that when English fans in 1947-48 saw 4 consistent attackers neutralising each other in the Wembley finals, many voices were raised to protest against the "dull modern style" of play.

Post-war history is fresh to most readers and need not be recounted here. If I have to name the most significant differences between the sport in 1951 and the 1931 version, they are:—

1. The wide impact of the National County Championships.
2. Improvement in dress. (More, please.)
3. Improvement in standard of the average players.
4. Enormous improvement in style of the women's game. Most amazing change in Women's Doubles, which once almost emptied any hall but is now a very interesting item in most programmes.

Just one matter has not in my opinion, advanced in like proportion. I refer to playing conditions. It is disappointing in 1952 to find so many dirty or shiny tables, broken-down nets and brackets, slippery floors and quite inadequate lighting in many clubs and some tournaments.

Perhaps that could be our New Year Resolution—to advance playing conditions into line with improvement in playing technique, so far as they affect the average player.



English Open Championships

25th—29th March, 1952

TICKETS for the English Open are in brisk demand, all club tickets have been allocated, and individuals or parties are recommended to apply without delay. Some suggestions for improvement in the Finals Programmes have been accepted, and brief particulars are as follows:

FRIDAY, 28th MARCH

Main Programme

- 4 Quarter Finals Men's Singles
- Final of Women's Singles
- Final of Men's Doubles

Tickets:

12/6, 10/6, 8/6, 6/- and 3/6

At the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley.

SATURDAY, 29th MARCH

Main Programme

- 2 Semi-Finals of Men's Singles
- Final of Men's Singles
- Final of Women's Doubles
- Final of Mixed Doubles

Tickets:

21/-, 12/6, 8/6 and 5/-

Consideration is also being given to staging a special Saturday afternoon session for the Finals of the junior events. Undoubtedly, a very attractive programme could be arranged which should have a particular appeal to younger players, schools, etc. There are at present some difficulties but the Championships Committee hope to reach a decision early in the New Year.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL COACH

FOLLOWING a careful study by a Sub-Committee of the N.E.C., consideration is shortly to be given to the appointment of an Honorary Director of Coaching.

Although financial limitations prevent the E.T.T.A. from embarking at present upon such a comprehensive coaching scheme as could be wished for, it is clear that a great deal of help (without, of course, direct financial aid) can be given to local coaching schemes. It is in order to make a start towards providing such help that the appointment of an honorary Director of Coaching is proposed.

Further details of the proposals have been sent to County Associations and to the Registered Members' Committee. Counties have been invited to nominate any members qualified and keen to take on this job and it is also open to any individual to put his own name forward for consideration. The closing date for applications or nominations is the 15th January, 1952, and should be addressed to the Administrative Secretary, E.T.T.A.

HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

AS a contribution to the Jubilee Celebrations of the E.T.T.A. the N.E.C. are considering the staging of an Historical Exhibition at the A.G.M. of the Association illustrating the history and development of the E.T.T.A. over 25 years. Suggestions and help in preparation would be welcomed.

A Sub-Committee of Messrs. I. MONTAGU, L. FORREST and L. S. WOOLLARD has been appointed to consider the proposal.

CORRECTION

IN November *Table Tennis* we regretfully recorded the death of Mr. P. S. V. AYYAR of the Indian Association. This name should have been spelt IYER.

OPEN TOURNAMENT OBSERVERS

THE N.E.C. have given a limited sanction to the Open Tournaments Sub-Committee to nominate independent and qualified observers to report on conditions, etc., of various Open Tournaments throughout the country.

W. J. POPE MEMORIAL FUND

SUBSCRIPTIONS have been coming in quite well for the W. J. POPE FUND which is dedicated to the establishment of a permanent memorial to the late Hon. Gen. Secretary of the E.T.T.A. who, in more than 21 years of devoted service, was the prime architect and principal builder of the E.T.T.A. organisation. The N.E.C. feel that every league (as well as many clubs and individuals) will wish to be associated with the Fund. Subscriptions may be of any amount but should not exceed One Guinea, and should be sent to the Administrative Sec. of the E.T.T.A.

GENERAL COUNCIL

THE meeting of the General Council has been provisionally fixed for the 23rd February, 1951.

OFFICIAL HANDBOOK, 1951-52

IT is regretted that through circumstances outside the control of the E.T.T.A. the Official Handbook will not be available until the New Year. The delay has been occasioned to some degree by the failure of some leagues to send in their form of particulars promptly.

JUNIOR (MIXED) TRIALS

IT is probable that Junior International Matches will be played against Wales, Sweden, France and Germany in the first four months of 1952, and that 3 of the 4 matches will be between Mixed Teams.

It is proposed to hold Trials in London on the 6th January, and invitations were issued to selections made by the Selection Committee on 15th December, 1951. The expenses of those selected will be borne by the E.T.T.A. On December 6th ALL county associations were invited to nominate any candidate(s) they seriously considered suitable, but the E.T.T.A. could not, obviously, be responsible for these expenses.

SELECTION COMMITTEE NOTIFICATIONS, 1951

v. IRELAND, Belfast, 13th Nov., 1951:
A. Simons (Glos.), H. Venner (Surrey), M. Thornhill (Middx.), R. Alcock (Lancs.), Miss D. Rowe (Middx.), Miss C. K. Best (Yorks.), 5th Nov., 1951.

BELGIAN OPEN, Brussels, 10/11th Nov., 1951:
J. Leach (Essex), A. Simons (Glos.), Miss M. Franks (Essex), 5th Nov., 1951.

v. FRANCE, Bristol, 4th Dec., 1951:
J. LEACH (Essex), A. W. Simons (Glos.), B. Kennedy (Yorks.), Reserve: H. Venner (Surrey), 19th Nov., 1951.

v. FRANCE (Women), Eitham, 12th Dec., 1951:
K. Best, D. Rowe, R. Rowe, 26th Nov. 1951.

v. SCOTLAND, Glasgow, 17th Dec., 1951:
A. W. Simons (Glos.), K. Stanley (Lancs.), J. Head* (Surrey), R. Baker* (Lancs.), Miss R. Rowe (Middx.), Miss M. Fry* (Glos.).

* First international appearance.

Spotlight on YOUTH

FOCUSED BY PETER MADGE

+++++
 + Surrey Junior +
 + Review +
 +++++

OPEN TOURNAMENT STARLETS

BILLY ENGLAND travelled from Nottingham for the South of England tournament and took the junior title without conceding a game. His nearest challenge came from Essex junior RAY DORKING in the semi-final, scores in two tight games were 18 and 18. In the other semi NORMAN SUGARHOOD found BOB RAYBOULD in a less tenacious mood than in their Eastern Suburban encounter and won —17, 10, 8. Although keenly contested, the result of the final was not often in doubt; Sugarhood could find no chinks in the England armour and lost 15 and 15. COLIN CAMPBELL redeemed a lack-lustre loss to England with a storming victory in the men's singles over Surrey player Szychalski.

DORBEN SPOONER continues to add to her string of junior titles and on this occasion overcame a spirited challenge from Surrey's JILL ROOK, scores 18 and 12.

The Pontefract Open brought CLIFF BOOTH his second Open title of the season. In the final he beat England —14, 15, 16, having disposed of Newton in the semi-final 13, 15. In the other semi England passed JEFF INGBER by 15 and 9.

BRYAN MERRETT DEFEATS LANSKOY

New holder the Welsh Open junior singles is BRYAN MERRETT who underlined his Birmingham successes by taking the title in straight games from DAVID HOUSE. In the men's singles Bryan disposed of Gloucester team-mate Bob Griffin and French International Lanskoj before losing narrowly to the third member of the Gloucester team, Aubrey Simons.

Whilst the Welsh Open was in progress more battles were being fought at Bournemouth where the well-deserving winner was NORMAN WILDING, a really beautiful stylist who remains cool, calm and collects the points. In the final he beat club-mate Denis Welstead 12, —14, 15 and in an earlier round accounted for Norman Sugarhood in straight games. A first round surprise was the defeat of Colin Campbell by Welstead, the surprise being about equally shared between the two contestants.

I hear rumours that next year the organisers of a recent Open will supply ice-skates to competitors for a small extra fee; this probably follows complaints of splinters received from players who removed shoes and socks.

I SAY "PHOOEY!"

Correspondent JOHN WALTER (Balham) claims to have tried the 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch net some oldsters agitate for, and says "it doesn't seem to make much difference. What do you and other readers think?"

To those who say that the present height of 6 inches confers an unfair advantage on the hitters, I say "Phooey!" Of such successful hitters of to-day as Craigie, Reisman, Miles, Venner and company, how many of their hits clear the net by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or less? A minute percentage, because all good hitters employ sufficient top-spin to make the ball clear the net by a safe margin of between 2 to 6 inches. If anything the dropping of the net was a blow to the attackers in that it (literally) cleared the way for the short defence merchant who could now return a vicious ball skimming over the net to pitch considerably shorter on the table. Any comments?

Peter Madge



L. to R. : Derek Caulder, Jill Rook, Terry Densham, Ivy Carpenter, John Vincent, and (inset) Denis Rhodes

DEREK CAULDER, 17, is the stylist of the team with an all-round game. Slightly nervous in important matches he has not shown his best form in the county series. Started playing 2 years ago at a youth club and graduated to Kingston Y.M.C.A. Athletics are his other interest and he was runner-up in the 1951 Surrey mile championship for under-18's. Favourite star is Jack Carrington. Jack is also his favourite T.T. writer (or was until this issue appeared).



JILL ROOK, 15-year old Wimbledon schoolgirl, has two more seasons to go as a junior. The only member of the team to have played for Surrey throughout last season, and this season she has a 100% singles record. Recently won the Surrey junior girls' title for the second year in succession. Started T.T. in the tennis club pavilion. A crisp forehand hit and a sound all-round game took her to the final of the South of England junior singles in November. Favourite star is Ros. Rowe and she admires the twins for their dress. Hails from the same tennis club as Denis Rhodes and, like him, is a keen tennis player. In 1951 she reached the final of the *Evening News* under-15 girls' singles and is present holder of the Surrey under-15 title.



TERRY DENSHAM, Spotlit last month, has, for his size, an amazingly hard and varied attack with an efficient if somewhat improbable defence. He covers the ground at high speed and generally manages to maintain a fast tempo that enables him to beat more experienced players by "hustling" them off.



IVY CARPENTER, 15, appeared once for Surrey last season and since then has been the regular doubles partner for Jill Rook. Started playing two years ago and is developing an attacking game. Her favourite star is Johnny Leach whom she watches whenever possible . . . can't all have Continental shorts can we? Ivy is also a badminton player with an ambition to play for the county seniors in both games.



JOHN VINCENT, 16, justified his No. 1 position by winning the Surrey Closed junior singles last November. Possesses something of a windmill style, usually defends but is liable to produce a devastating attack when up against a weak defence. A free ticket took him to the English Open finals in 1949, he was so impressed that he started playing seriously the following week. John would like to see all nets and edges count as lets. Favourite star is Martin Reisman. Ambition? To play for Surrey seniors. Also plays badminton and holds a number of swimming titles.



DENIS RHODES, 17, is a newcomer to the team. Started playing 3 years ago at his tennis club and was runner-up to John Vincent for the Surrey junior title. Defends to the last ditch and attacks from there. Has met with considerable success at lawn tennis, having won the English Public Schools Under-16 in 1950 and (in 1951) the Wimbledon Plate for consolation singles of the All-England Junior Championships. Firmly believes that T.T. will never rank as a major sport until dress is standardised . . . "Imagine Wimbledon if all the players turned out in an odd assortment of shirts, shorts and socks," he says. Favourite star is Ehrlich.

Harry Venner Hits Brilliant Form

CENTRAL LONDON OPEN

by Geoff. Coulthead

Kentish Town, 15th Dec., 1951

THE Central was the first Open of the season to justify the name, with most of the members of the Ranking List present. The only notable absentees, I think, were Leach and Barna who were committed to a "Focus" exhibition in Sunderland. Of seven provincial players, five appeared in the finals, with Jayant (still an unfamiliar figure in England) making six players whom we rarely see.

It was a very well-run tournament with the only apparent fault being a rather slippery floor. Anyone watching T.T. for the first time must have been impressed by the fine sporting spirit evident throughout.

M.S. Semi : Simons v. Jayant

Opening cautiously, first game won by Jayant with judicious backhand attack. Simons tightened in second with a heavy chop defence which the Indian could not penetrate; an early 8-1 lead to a 21-11 win. Jayant's waiting game in the third was partially successful until Simons neutralised his opponent's backhand with well angled chop and clever placings.

M.S. Semi : Venner v. Kennedy

Both aggressive, but Venner's better table craft dictated the first game. Kennedy, leading 15-9, became a little uncertain, and Venner levelled at 17-all. Aided by a net, and a net and an edge, Kennedy reached match point, and then Venner deservedly won one of the quickest matches I have seen for a long time.

M.S. Final : SIMONS v. VENNER

Without doubt as good a match as has been seen this season. The way Venner was hitting and the way Simons defended was astonishing considering the slippery floor. How either player managed to maintain such form over 5 games is a mystery, but they did it, and I am glad that I was privileged to witness this game.

Venner lost the first game by going for quick winners. He built up his attack in the second and won with a series of long rallies and well hit kills. Simons, defending tightly from almost over the table, defied all Venner's efforts to make openings, and narrowly won the third game. In the fourth game, Venner varied his pace cleverly, occasionally showing his defence, which is better than is generally supposed.

In the vital fifth, Venner attacked with backhand from the start, not using his forehand until Simons led

8-7. It was anybody's game at 13-all, but Simons had the edge over all Venner's clever mixture of two-wing attack and defence. Venner will play worse and win tournaments, and as for Aubrey Simons—well! How CAN a man stand up close to Venner's hits and get away with it?—yet he did, and fully deserved his win.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Kathleen Best earned her place in the final by beating both Ros Rowe and Peggy Franks, but I feel that—despite a most excellent playing potential—she has by no means reached her true niche in T.T. At present she seems slow-footed in comparison with our other top girl players, a weakness which Di Rowe exploited to great effect in the final. In the first game, Miss Best attacked with a stream of hard, forehand Kennedy-like drives, but Di's defence was sound enough to win without trouble. Kathleen took an early lead in the second when Diane started to attack, but this was neutralised at 10-all and though the final score indicates the close game, the ultimate winner, by her clever play, had the lead. Miss Best impressed and should certainly make a class player.

G. Coulthead

Results on Page 9

WHO ARE THEY ?

See Picture on page 3

The players are winners of the Bath Open of 1950 and of 1951. The Internationals, seated, are Margaret Fry (England), K. Jayant (India), Audrey Bates (Wales). Standing are Charlie Dawes (Glos. "sponge bat" veteran), and L. Le Cren. Report on Page 19.

TEAMS FOR BOMBAY

Bergmann Off Form

ON December 19th the England selectors announced their teams for the World Championships to travel to Bombay, India, next month.

MEN : A. A. Haydon (Warwicks., Captain), J. Leach (Essex), A. Simons (Glos.), H. Venner (Surrey), A. N. Other.

WOMEN : C. K. Best (Yorks.), M. Franks (Essex), D. Rowe and R. Rowe (Middx.), with A. A. Haydon as non-playing captain.

Trials were held on Dec. 13th in which Richard Bergmann took part, losing to Thornhill, Venner and Kennedy and beating Stanley. He was obviously out of form and, it is understood, intends to get in some intensive match practice immediately. There is still one place in the men's team that can be filled. Venner, now in brilliant form, beat Bergmann, Simons, Stanley, Thornhill, Kennedy and lost only to Leach by the narrowest margin.

CONGRATULATIONS

and All Good Wishes to England's 3 new Internationals—JACKIE HEAD (Surrey), RONNIE BAKER (Manchester) and MARGARET FRY (Bristol).

ENGLAND BEAT SCOTLAND 9-0

Glasgow, 17th Dec., 1951

A. SIMONS bt. R. Foreman 12, 11. K. STANLEY bt. A. Metcalfe 9, 15. J. HEAD bt. M. McMillan 6, 14. R. BAKER bt. V. Garland 14, 14. DIANE ROWE bt. Helen Elliott —15, 10, 13. MARGARET FRY bt. Mrs. Josephson 16, 16. A. SIMONS/J. HEAD bt. R. Foreman/V. Garland 18, 15. K. STANLEY/R. BAKER bt. A. Metcalfe/M. McMillan 10, 9. D. ROWE/M. FRY bt. H. Elliott/Mrs. Josephson 11, 14.

MIDDLESEX CLOSED

Staines, 5th Dec., 1951

M.S. M. THORNHILL bt. A. Rhodes 12, 20. —15, 16.
W.S. Y. SEAMAN bt. D. Spooner 15, 14.
M.D. B. CROUCH/M. THORNHILL bt. V. Barna/K. Jayant —13, 18, 13.
W.D. Mrs. B. HARROWER/D. SPOONER bt. Mrs. P. Allen/K. Burse 15, 16.
X.D. B. CROUCH/D. SPOONER bt. L. Thompson/E. Benstead 15, 11.
B.S. I. JONES bt. S. Wickelholz 16, 11.
G.S. D. SPOONER bt. J. Bottrill 14, 5.

EDITORIAL NOTICE

On account of the long holiday period over Christmas, 1951, *Table Tennis* had to go to Press extra early, entailing several last minute changes in the intended contents, some of which have, regretfully, been held over for the next issue.

ABOUT TOWN

with

Peggy Allen



IT never ceases to amaze me how T.T. gathers momentum through the season until in the weeks just before Christmas—everyone is in a furious frenzy of club, inter-league, Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl matches, with the popular Central London Open providing a climax rather reminiscent of one of those spectacular, pre-interval scenes in a gigantic, glossy revue.

Christmas being the interval, the second half opens on an equally spectacular note with the other big Open, the Metropolitan. These two tourneys have probably the most representative entry of any in the country.

★ ★ ★

INSTEAD of a Sword of Damocles, young KATHLEEN BEST of Yorkshire had a large ? hanging over her head when she came down here in December for the International against France, the Corbillon Cup Trials and the Central Open.

Well known to the "Rose counties," she had yet to justify herself in Southern eyes. She left with nothing but praise for her quiet, natural manner, her complete calmness on and off the table, and her well deserved wins against strong opposition.

Kathleen made headline news when the Press learnt she had lost her job for requesting a half-day off to play for England against France, and reporters and photographers haunted her for 48 hours. In this, as in everything else, she maintained the utmost calm, and I was rather surprised when she confided to me, "Why all this fuss? No one said a word when I lost my previous job for the same reason!"

★ ★ ★

IT WAS very cheering to see such a youthful team standing on the England side in the match against France. It must be a long time since three 18-year-olds were fielded—not potentially great players—but already experienced and successful exponents.

I particularly noticed the difference in temperament between the French and English girls. It seemed to me that our girls fought just as hard, but without that trace of grim and concentrated ruthlessness. I guess it's just the fundamental difference between national characteristics.

Peggy Allen

Couldn't help thinking that TOMMY SEARS might have been saved a little discomfort if one of our girls had exchanged pennants with France's HUGUETTE BEOLET... He seemed very conscious of being the only male in the spotlight, poor soul, and I felt quite sorry for him.

★ ★ ★

GRANTED it was about the coldest night of 1951, but at this match the inevitable "baths hall" ventilators seemed to have been devised with particular cunning to blow blasts of cold air just on a level with one's neck.

"Baths Halls" (clumsy expression, isn't it?) seem to be a favourite venue for many organisers, but with slippery floors and these wretched ventilators, I can't help thinking that they are not the most suitable places for T.T.

I expect that will call for some curt remarks next time I meet these harassed and hard-working officials... it must be a headache for them to find first-class accommodation. Still, we all have our pet grouses, so please allow me mine!

★ ★ ★

JOYCE ROBERTS seems to have struck a bad patch following her transfer from Middlesex to Surrey, which appears—unfortunately—to have resulted in her exclusion from the Corbillon Trials.

Joyce has acquired a new house and fresh responsibilities, so let's hope her loss of form is very temporary and that her decorating, etc., will soon be complete. Many were surprised that as No. 4 in National Ranking and a member of last year's team, she did not have the opportunity to try for the Bombay trip, but the ranking was, of course, based on last year's form.

★ ★ ★

NEW YEAR'S DAY! I wonder what kind of a year it will prove to be for English T.T.? The World Championships, being held in so hot a climate, are bound to impose a tremendous strain on whoever is chosen, but here's hoping Johnny, Di and Ros can retain their titles, and there's nothing to stop us dreaming of a 1952 "Double" in winning the men's and the women's team events!

Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl Results Summary

THIS summary combines both First and Second Round results, and is prepared so that the name of no team is printed twice. A name in CAPITALS signifies that that team proceeds to the next round; and where followed by an initial in brackets, A will play B, and X will play Y. Where a result is shown in brackets, it means that it was beaten by the team whose name IMMEDIATELY precedes it.

WILMOTT CUP (Men's Team)

Zone 1. CENTRAL (A) bt. Byfleet 9-0; bt. Putney TTC w-o. STAINES (B) bt. High Wycombe 6-0; bt. London Civ.S. 5-2 (bt. W. London 8-1). NORTH MIDDY. (X) bt. Maidenhead 9-0; bt. Wembley 5-1 (bt. Willesden 5-4). THAMES VALLEY (Y) bt. London Bus.H. 6-3; bt. Slough 8-1 (bt. Reading 6-3).

Zone 2. UNIVERSITY OF LONDON bt. Manhattan 5-4; bt. Dagenham 6-3 (bt. Edwasa 9-0). ROMFORD (B) bt. Thames Ind. 8-1; bt. Southend 8-2 (bt. W. Essex 7-2). EAST LONDON (X) bt. Fellows Cranleigh 5-4 (bt. Laindon 9-0). SOUTH LONDON (Y) bt. London Banks 9-0; bt. Insur. Off. 9-0 (bt. Nalگو 5-4).

Zone 3. SITTINGBOURNE (A) bt. Beckenham 5-4 (bt. Gravesend 8-1). WOOLWICH (B) bt. Folkestone 6-3. CROYDON (X) bt. White Rose 9-0. BROMLEY (Y) bt. N.W. Kent 7-2; bt. Sutton 8-1.

Zone 4. LUTON bt. Bedford 5-4; bt. Barnets 6-3 (bt. St. Albans 7-2). OXFORD UNIVERSITY bt. Watford 5-4; bt. Welwyn 7-2 (bt. Leighton Buzzard 7-2).

Zone 5. GRIMSBY (A) bt. Cambridge 5-4; bt. Peterboro 7-2. NORWICH (B) bt. Boston 6-3 (bt. Royston 9-0). LINCOLN (X) bt. Cambridge University 8-1; bt. Bishops Stortford 7-2. NEW LINDUM (Y) bt. Kings Lynn 8-1.

Zone 6 (North). NORTHUMBERLAND bt. Sunderland 5-2. HARTLEPOOLS bt. W. Cumberland 6-3 (bt. Carlisle 5-4).

Zone 6 (South). LEEDS bt. Bradford 7-2 (bt. Barnsley 7-2). HUDDERSFIELD bt. Chesterfield 9-0; bt. Sheffield 8-1 (bt. Dewsbury 8-1).

Zone 7 (North). NELSON (A) bt. Darwen 9-0. MANCHESTER (B) bt. Rossendale 9-0; bt. Liverpool 7-2. CHESTER (X) bt. Farnworth 8-1. BOLTON (Y) bt. Burnley 9-0 (bt. Southport 6-3).

Zone 7 (South). BIRMINGHAM bt. Ashbourne 9-0; bt. Coventry 7-2 (bt. Burton 7-2). DUDLEY TEMP. bt. Shrewsbury 6-1; bt. Northampton 7-2 (bt. Kidderminster 6-3).

Zone 8 (South). SOUTHAMPTON C.S. bt. Eastbourne 7-2; bt. Southampton 9-0 (bt. Worthing 9-0). BRIGHTON bt. Horsham 9-0; bt. Bournemouth 6-3 (bt. Guildford 9-0).

Zone 8 (West). BRISTOL (A) bt. Taunton 8-1. BATH (B) bt. Weston-s-Mare 5-4; bt. W. Wilts. 8-1. PLYMOUTH (X) bt. S. Devon 6-3. GLOUCESTER (Y) bt. Devises 9-0.

J. M. ROSE BOWL (Ladies' Team)

Zone 1. LONDON C.S. (A) bt. Staines 6-1 (bt. N. Middx. 5-3). WILLESDEN (B) bt. Maidenhead 9-0. CENTRAL (X) bt. High Wycombe 9-0. WEST LONDON (Y) bt. Newbury 9-0; bt. Putney TTC 5-4 (bt. Wembley 5-1).

Zone 2. S. LONDON (A) bt. Insur. Off. 8-1. LONDON BUS.H. (B) bt. E. London 5-4; bt. Edwasa 6-1. THAMES VALLEY (X) bt. London Banks 6-3; bt. Romford 7-2. ILFORD (Y) bt. Laindon 9-0; bt. Southend 7-2 (bt. Nalگو w-o).

(continued on page 4)

JOHAN HEAD, invariably known as "Jackie," has had to wait 23 years for his first international "cap" (awarded for the Scotland v. England match a fortnight ago), for he has distinct memories of standing on a sewing machine cover in order to reach the table level when he was 5 years old! He has never forgotten all the help, financial and moral, which his father has always given him ever since, a loyalty typical of a personality which has made him so many friends.

COVER MAN

Jackie Head
(England and Surrey)

Photo - P. Madge

At 28, and single, this South London sales consultant, is a second team member of the Surrey galaxy, and has been on the list of Possibles since the war. He lacks the thunder of Venner and the lightning of Hurlock, his two post-war club colleagues who hit the spotlights before him, but he nevertheless has a magnificent record for being a reliable and consistent team man with a form graph much less erratic than many stars.

In the English Open of 1948, he

beat Guy Amouretti (once Johnny Leach's bogey) and reached the quarter finals of the M.S., and also reached the semi-finals of the M.D. In the following year he captained South London team (himself, R. Crayden, H. Venner) to win the Wilmott Cup in the first win of what he hopes will make the Hat Trick this season.

Like many sportsmen with an equable temperament, Jackie is a real all-rounder, being a good club cricketer, a lawn tennis player and ice skater, and enjoying an occasional exhausting evening of bridge. Sometimes you may meet him at a motor cycle rally or at motor race meetings, but nevertheless, you will find him at nearly every southern tournament (probably cat-napping between rounds) and represented somewhere among the title holders.

He plays a stylish, orthodox, all-round game with a determination that seems to say "Look after the points and the game will look after itself."



Sharon Koehnke—see story below

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TENIS DE MESA

Spain Wants English Players

By XAVIER VILA SUMOY

SPANISH organisers are trying to organise a 4-nation Tournament (England, France, Italy, Spain) in the New Year, and also to arrange a tour for top English players. Successful matches have been played with France and Vietnam, and Amouretti and Lansky are to be included in a Barcelona v. Paris match in December.

Top Spanish players are hard and quick hitters, but need international match experience to develop consistency and concentration. Tournaments give special trophies to the most spectacular players, and during the hot weather (84° in the shade) open air exhibitions are held at night.

ALBERTO DUESO is the Spanish champion, and other first-class players are shown in the pictures below. Left to right they are: RAMON, 18-year old all-rounder and runner-up in championships, CARLOS GIL, with a masterly long defence, and AGUERRI, a "two-winks" attacker with sound defence. CAPDEVILA (not shown) is a ferocious forehand hitter.

U.S.A. Trials

ALTHOUGH, because of the great expense, there is little chance of the U.S.A. competing in the World Championships, 1952, in Bombay, the U.S.T.T.A. international trials resulted in the following placings:

MEN: Dick Miles (no loss); Lou Pagliaro (no loss); John Somael (1 loss); Cy Sussman (1 loss).

WOMEN: Leah (Thal) Neuberger 7-0; Peggy Itchkoff 5-2; Sharon Koehnke, Lona Flam, Patty McLinn, all 4-3; Pauline Robinson 3-4; Jane Allison 1-6; Regina Greenstein 0-7.

The 8 women were all nominated because of the triple tie at No. 3, neither Itchkoff nor McLinn being able to make the trip for a play-off. Neuberger, Koehnke and Flam thus being placed.

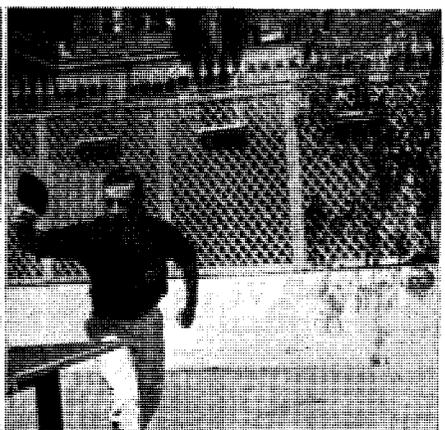
Reisman and Cartland are now touring Europe with the Harlem Globetrotters so did not compete, but Miles is reported to be coming into terrific form, while the former champion, Pagliaro, staging a heroic come-back, beat Miles in the team trials.

LEAH NEUBERGER'S superb form marks

her as a definite threat for the world's singles title, and although Peggy Itchkoff was playing better than last year, neither she nor any other player could take a game off her.

The 16-year old SHARON KOEHNKE, coming from a small town and lacking big match experience, showed a will-to-win inherited from her grandfather—an Olympics champion—and has fully justified her early promise, when winning the U.S.A. Junior Girls' title in the last National Championships.

Since that achievement (and her prowess in other sports), this attractive teen-ager has been starred in T.V. and featured in several magazines. Last September, although out of practice, she "walked" through the Juniors in the International Tournament, Toronto, and then went right through to the finals of the W.S. and W.D. senior events, being beaten in the singles by no one less than the U.S. No. 1, Leah Neuberger.





Left—
JEAN
BRADDOCK
(Manchester)

JEAN BRADDOCK (Manchester)

JEAN BRADDOCK, 22-year old happily married dictaphone typist, usually wins her league games twice, first with her personal charm and secondly with an all-round game with a reasonably reliable forehand drive to clinch the point. Her reputation is to play hard, win with a smile and lose with a laugh, and—a true Lancastrian—she makes no bones about giving a frank opinion, for instance, she **DETESTS** having her photo taken! Quite definitely.

She saw Table Tennis about 4 years ago, liked it, took it up, and soon got her first big thrill in being selected to play for Manchester. With a first-rate match record she has, like some more illustrious players, failed to notch any honours in her first 2 seasons of tournament play. Her ambition, expressed modestly and hopefully, is that she will merit selection for the first Lancs. team.

Actually, her first and greatest love is for Dancing. (We nearly said chocolates, but that's her weakness! She adores them.) She has won many competitions and medals in dancing spheres, and this supports our theory of good footwork being normally an essential to good table tennis.

BELGIUM OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Brussels, Nov., 1951

M.S. J. Leach bt. M. Haguenauer —10, —19, 18, 12, 14; R. Roothoft bt. A. Simons 17, 19, 13.

R. ROTHOFT bt. J. Leach 13, 16, 17.

W.S. L. WERTL bt. P. Franks 13, —12, 9, 16.
L. WERTL bt. C. Watel 14, —11, 14, —9, 10.

M.D. J. LEACH/A. SIMONS bt. M. Lans-
koy/R. Roothoft 11, —18, 17, 10.

W.D. T. PRITZI/L. WERTL bt. Detournai/
Wouters 12, —20, 15, 17.

X.D. J. LEACH/P. FRANKS bt. A. Fritsch/
T. Pritzi 16, 17, —18, —13, 14.

ROYAL COMMAND PERFORMANCE

DURING their recent highly successful tour of Sweden, England's famous 18-year old Twins, World Champions **DIANE** and **ROSALIND ROWE**, were called to give a Table Tennis Exhibition before the Swedish Royal Family at the Royal Palace, Stockholm.

In this special photograph, left-handed Diane is seen in a preliminary knock-up before some of the Royal party who are (left to right): Princess Desiree, Princess Christina, Princess Birgitta, Crown Prince Carl Gustaf, and their mother, Princess Sibylla.

The young princesses took a very keen interest in the exhibition, and are reported to be keen table tennis players, while Crown Prince Carl Gustaf has a new job—that of being ballboy to his sisters.



Pontefract Open

By TOM HORROCKS
Pontefract, 19th Nov., 1951

WITH nearly 800 entries, involving more than 320 competitors, the Pontefract Open furthered its claim to rank as a major event. Both the quality and quantity of its entry improves annually, and such setbacks that there were, were happily overcome.

After a struggle, the much improved RONNIE BAKER defeated RON ALLCOCK in one semi-final, while in the other BRIAN KENNEDY was always master of the Indian No. 1 K. JAYANT, from whom three preceding matches against D. G. Ellison, S. Dyson and Ray Hinchliff had taken the sting. The match with Ellison was a terrific affair of stylish hitting and counter-hitting, with Jayant fighting back in the third game to convert a 2—10 deficit into a 21—18 victory.

S. DYSON (Huddersfield) had waltzed his way merrily by four County players before being quelled by a steady Jayant in the 5th round.

The W.S. found Yorks. starlet KATH BEST overhitting against the unorthodox and effervescent MARJORIE CUMBERBATCH who had already defeated the holder, ADELE WOOD in the semi.

A. Holland and D. Shaw fought splendidly to take the title from the two Rons, Allcock and Baker in the M.D., but Kay Benson and Eileen Mansell again had to take second place to K. Best and Marjorie Lightfoot.

C. S. Roberts (Nottingham) just stopped Leslie Jones from taking a hat trick in the Veterans' Singles, while Jayant gained a consolation for his

long journey by winning the X.D. with Kath Best.

Jean Titterington had a tense struggle before winning the G.S. against P. Heppel, and C. Booth lost the first game before beating W. England in the B.S.

DETAILS

M.S. B. Kennedy bt. K. Jayant 16, 18.
R. Baker bt. R. Allcock 19, 19.
B. KENNEDY bt. R. Baker 16, 15.
W.S. C. K. BEST bt. K. Benson 8, 18.
M. Cumberbatch bt. A. Wood —13, 13, 18.
M. CUMBERBATCH bt. C. K. Best 15, —27, 12.
M.D. A. HOLLAND/D. SHAW bt. R. Allcock/R. Baker —19, 19, 18.
W.D. C. K. BEST/M. LIGHTFOOT bt. K. Benson/E. Mansell 19, 18.
X.D. K. JAYANT/C. K. BEST bt. K. Ghosh/M. Cumberbatch 14, 17.
Y.S. C. BOOTH bt. W. England —14, 15, 16.
G.S. J. TITTERINGTON bt. P. Heppel 25, 20.
V.S. C. S. ROBERTS bt. L. W. Jones 18, 13.

Welsh Open Championships

Cardiff, Dec., 1951

M.S. G. AMOURETTI bt. M. Haguenauer 15, 19, —12, 21.
W.S. H. ELLIOTT bt. R. Rowe 18, 16.
M.D. B. KENNEDY/A. SIMONS bt. M. Haguenauer/M. Lansby 23, 7.
W.D. D. and R. ROWE bt. A. Bates/E. Stevenston 10, 21.

France beat Surrey 6—3

Croydon, 5th Dec., 1951

H. VENNOR bt. M. Haguenauer 16, 18; lost to G. Amouretti —9, —14; lost to M. Lansky —10, 19, —17. K. CRAIGIE bt. Haguenauer 19, —10, 21; lost to Amouretti 20, —11, —14. R. CRAYDEN bt. Lansky 21-14, 31-29; lost to Haguenauer —10, 14. J. HEAD lost to Amouretti —12, 14; lost to Lansky —12, 16, —15.

Bournemouth Open

WON—BY GHOSH
Bournemouth, 8th Dec., 1951
By A. A. STICKLAND

WARWICKS. No. 1, 25-year old W. KUMAR GHOSH won the M.S. title by defeating ROY TURNER (Surrey) two straight games in a grand final.

Ghosh, a native of India, has been studying in this country with a Birmingham firm, and expects to return to his homeland in January next.

He gave a brilliant display throughout the event, winning all but one match in straight sets. His superlative backhand accounted for JIMMY LOWE, S. Sugarhood and England's No. 6 "seed" RON CRAYDEN, in the semi-final.

Turner attacked strongly on the forehand, but he could seldom penetrate Ghosh's stolid defence, and the Indian carefully picked his balls and used his backhand flick to claim the rally.

Miss JEAN WINN won the W.S. event, partnered Surrey's Mrs. Atherton in winning the W.D., and was a finalist in the X.D. event.

DETAILS

M.S. R. Turner bt. J. Welsh 17, 18.
K. Ghosh bt. R. Crayden 19, 8.
K. GHOSH bt. R. Turner 19, 20.
W.S. J. Winn bt. Mrs. G. Horn —15, 13, 18.
P. Allen bt. Y. Seaman 8, 21.
J. WINN bt. P. Allen 9, 10.
M.D. P. MORGANSTERN/E. SPIELBERG bt. J. Alderson/J. Gregory 11, 22.
W.D. Mrs. ATHERTON/J. WINN bt. Mrs. Baker/Mrs. G. Horn 11, 11.
X.D. D. BURRIDGE/P. PIPER bt. R. Crayden/J. Winn 9, 18.
J.S. N. WILDING bt. D. Wellstead 12, —14, 15.

WESTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION

RESULTS

Weston	9,	Oxford Univ.	1
Worcester	5,	Bath	5
Exeter	5,	Weston	5
Oxford Univ.	2,	Worcester	8
Bath	5,	Exeter	5
Western	8,	Worcester	2
Exeter	4,	Oxford Univ.	6
Oxford Univ.	9,	Bath	1
Worcester	7,	Exeter	3

TABLE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Weston	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Worcester	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Oxford Univ.							
Univ.	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Exeter	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Bath	3	0	2	1	11	19	2

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The ART of Umpiring

5 CARDINAL POINTS

WHENEVER I hear that beseeching call from the platform, "Umpire wanted, please," I often say to myself—"That ought to be in the plural." The thought being that though table tennis as a whole, as regards speed and skill, equipment, international organisation, popular acceptance and so forth, has marched steadily on these last 25 years, umpiring—the *ART* of umpiring—remains a closed book to all but a few. All the fewer, when one considers how much more umpiring has to be done nowadays on account of the great expansion of club play and particularly of enormous entries for an increasing number of open tournament.

The demand for umpires is incessant and clamant: and it can be satisfied—even then only with difficulty—if players are willing to put up with a poor performance from the man in the chair. For that's usually what it is.

I know well that the existence of this blemish on our organisation is recognised by the National Executive, and that the Sub-Committee specially appointed to deal with it last season, has done—and is still doing—a grand job of work. So far, it has received neither its due reward nor indeed the support and co-operation to which it is entitled. True, the experience of the initial campaign is being used in preparing for the issue of the second one, now imminent: which, with such shrewd characters as George White and Geoff James at the helm, is what one would expect. If, in addition to general instructions on the minutiae of the Laws and enlightenment on their interpretation, including the "knotty points," there is also guidance in respect to the wide range of other factors which a first-class umpire must comprehend, those who aspire to wear the County Umpire badge will be grateful: as will the majority who already possess one. For it is to them I wish to speak, in the hope that my reflections—which are entirely personal and non-official—may help candidates to appreciate what they're up against if they intend to undertake this umpiring business seriously and conscientiously.

Before stating the 5 Cardinal Points I wish to say right away that a really good umpire can make a match between scound-raters look practically first-class. Conversely, a bad one can so reduce the apparent standard, by worrying the players and irritating the public, as to wreck a match between opponents of the highest standing. The average umpire is blissfully unaware both of the responsibility he bears and of the power he wields—for good or ill.

The 5 "Cardinals" are :—
1. Accuracy. 2. Poise. 3. Knowledge. 4. Vocal. 5. Timing.

I give pride of place to "accuracy" with some hesitation, not because it is any less important than the others, but because inaccuracy is the most common failing, as well as being,



by CORTI WOODCOCK

Well-known sportsman, writer, broadcaster, Chairman Essex County T.T.A., Member of N.E.C. and former Chairman, E.T.T.A., etc.

probably, the chief irritant. Between the other four, there is little to choose: though I would say that if any one of them is defective, the quality of umpiring performance will suffer. But let me take them one at a time.

CARDINAL 1—ACCURACY

Almost invariably, the error under this head lies in awarding the point to the wrong player: though I have known instances of the umpire transposing the scores, even with one player having a long lead! The explanation is that, not unnaturally, the umpire's mind is concerned more with figures, than with individuals. What I myself rely on and recommend as a cure for inaccuracy in the calling the score, is for the umpire to put himself, *mentally*, on the side of the server. For that particular group his feeling must be that it is he himself who is winning or losing points. Of course, he must be careful that his tone of voice does not suggest the slightest partiality. With the change of service, he at once transfers his mental allegiance—as it were—to the other end of the table: and so on, group by group. You know how it is, when you are having a friendly knock-up, sans umpire, and you do your own counting—you won't make a mistake while you're serving: even though, as an umpire, you may be one of the world's worst and can't count right for nuts.

Umpires occasionally lose grip of the service sequences. The cure for this one is simply to fix in your mind the end at which the service begins

for the match. All one has to do is simply to remember that on reaching the **combined** score of 10 or its multiples, service returns to the original end. The same thing applies to the first service in the second and subsequent game—it always starts in each game from the end originally chosen in the first one. Fix the **end** in your mind—not the individual—and all will be well.

Accuracy is not limited merely to exact counting. It is also a matter of keen vision and sharp hearing: to give instant decisions regarding net-cords, edge-balls and the double bounce. Then there is the vexed question of applying the service law, with its fussing about flat hands, balls projected vertically upwards, geometrical patterns and so forth. Personally, the sooner this law is amended, the happier I shall be: but that does not alter the fact that so long as it remains on the Statute Book, it is the bounden duty of umpires to see that it is strictly observed.

And it isn't, you know! All sorts of people, eminent and otherwise, toss the ball sideways, backwards, and all over the place—and get away with it. Not a word out of the umpire! Perhaps he's too busy looking for "lets": or, maybe, wondering what will happen to him when his turn comes to play, if he now crisply calls "Fault" once or twice. Incidentally, if he is in no doubt that the law has been broken, that is what should be done. There is no warrant for *warning* the offender, any more than one would think of gently reminding him that he mustn't lean on the table with his free hand! It's a fault—and it's a lost point.

Another thing—those border-line cases of services perilously close to the side-line or end-line, for that matter. There's nothing laid down which obliges the umpire to remain seated in his chair. Unless the referee has already appointed side and end judges, what the umpire should do is to walk over—without suspending play—and place himself at one end or the other so that he can look straight along the line. With this sort of concentrated scrutiny, even for a single service delivery, it's a certainty that the player will be doubly careful over that particular shot, and knowing that the umpire is on the look-out, is unlikely to run the slightest risk in this respect—for the remainder of the match, anyway. I've done it many times: and it works like a charm!

(To be continued)

GRADING or RANKING?

The difference explained by Geoff. Harrower

AN astonishingly high percentage of letters received by our Editor and myself display, to put it politely, a substantial lack of knowledge about the difference between the National Association's Official Ranking List, issued at the beginning of each season, and prepared by the International Selection Committee, and the Grading Scheme, which takes into account the results of all players in various events (i.e., Open Tournaments, County matches, Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl matches, etc.), and AUTOMATICALLY gains or loses for a player certain points according to the Group of his or her opponent in the Grading Lists.

To put it in a nutshell: **Ranking** (the National Ranking List) is determined by the International Selection Committee, is issued only once per season, and although naturally they are influenced by results during the season, can only be an expression of their opinion. **Grading** is a scheme whereby if you beat players Graded higher than you, you gain points, and if you lose to players Graded lower than you, you lose points. No ex-

pression of opinion, just something which works automatically on results. The scheme was fully explained in our October issue.

Therefore, if you are tempted to write to me and say... "In the Blankshire Open I beat So and So and Such and Such, therefore, why am I not higher in the Ranking List, pause a moment and reflect that the Ranking List is made yearly, and, therefore, any list issued in September is based on form over the whole of the preceding season. What does happen is that your two hypothetical wins instanced above are credited to you in the Grading scheme, which may well improve your position when the next Alteration of Grading is announced (alterations several times per season). Eventually all your wins—and losses—are made available to the selectors at the end of the season, and on your ability and results during the season depends your position in the Ranking List for the following season.

But do I hear you saying "Why two schemes?" Simply explained. The Ranking List is the official guide

for seeding in Open Tournaments, and any tournament which wishes to seed players must do so according to this list, whereas Grading protects the keen, regular player who has worked his way on to the Grading List from having his entry refused in Open Tournaments, PROVIDING he enters by the closing date.

In order to get on the Grading List at all, you must have a few good wins, which means that you must be a fairly regular competitor in events, and the scheme was designed primarily to protect the regular players from being squeezed out of tournaments where the entry was judged to be too heavy. If you think this is unfair, there have never been as many as 50 graded players enter for any one Open Tournament, and if you feel that the graded player should take his chance with the others, well, perhaps you are right, but after all there is a closing date for entry, and if you enter by that time you have reasonable hopes of being allowed to compete, and the regular player is the backbone not only of the tournament, but the E.T.T.A. as well.

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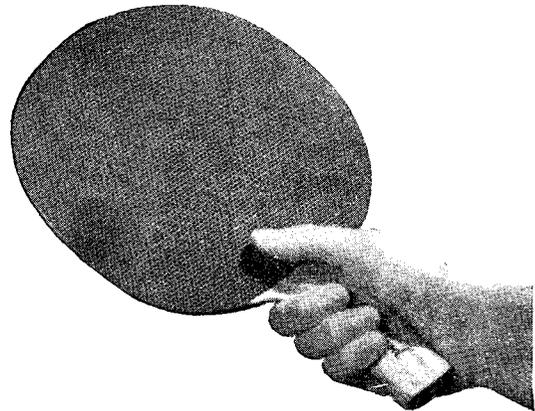
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Lucky Dip in the Editor's **Postbag**

ON account of illness and increased pressure, The Editor sincerely regrets that he has been unable to answer or attend to many letters received, and apologizes for the delay. He will deal with them all at the earliest opportunity.

Meanwhile, he is very, very grateful for the many gratifying tributes received from everywhere, and assures readers that he will also welcome constructive criticisms with the same measure of appreciation. Every letter is carefully read. Many letters, from various sources, can be answered collectively :

National Coaching Scheme : Accounts for many letters, enquiries, etc., The Official Announcement on page 6, and The Editor's personal leader article on page 1 indicate that the N.E.C. purpose a definite action, declared policy and appointment this season. It is hoped that a fuller comprehensive statement can be made in our next issue.

Photographs : Sorry, but at present we are unable to supply copies of photos used in Table Tennis. Arrangements, however, are being made whereby it is hoped to make a selection available in the future.

Diaries : There is no special Table Tennis Diary published. The Sportsman's Diary is the nearest we know.

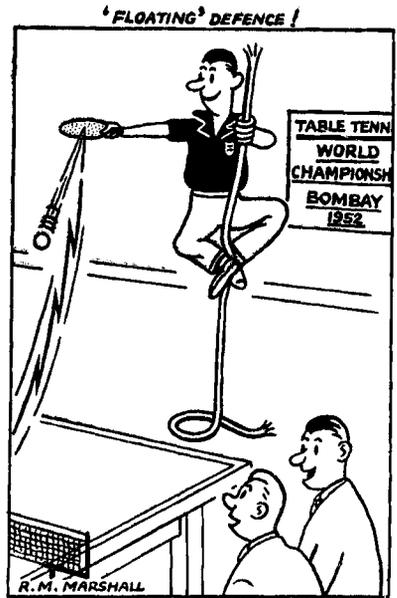
Clubs and Leagues : Information on these will be sent direct when available. Particulars of "open" clubs in the London area are urgently required by both the E.T.T.A. and The Editor.

"FOR THE E.T.T.A. JUBILEE . . . invite 2, 3 or 4 topline foreign players to compete in the English Open and then tour the country . . . have BOHUMIL VANA lead the party. There must be thousands who have never had the privilege of seeing this great player with his incredible footwork, powerful forehand, and most delicate drop shot. Even more important, his never failing courage and humour and manner which embody all that is best in our game, and would be an inspiration to all aspiring champions . . . I realise the difficulties involved, but if they could be overcome, the rewards would be great."

John Corser, Watford

* * *

Other comments and opinions will be found on other pages. Lucky Dip awards, some already sent, will be announced next month.



"It's certainly effective for getting back 'kills'!"

Any Claims ?

When Miss Pat Pulsford (Exeter) recently umpired at the England v. France International Match at Bristol, how many lady umpires had similarly officiated before her? We know Mrs. E. Aldridge and Mrs. K. Collings (Bedford) officiated at the U.S.A. International in March, 1950, but who was the first lady umpire in the country? At an International Match. NOT a tournament.

"No Bad Name . . ."

Says A. T. FINNEY
A Vice-President, E.T.T.A.

I THOUGHT A. R. Miller's article in the November *Table Tennis* showed a lack of appreciation for the qualities which went to make the great progress of the game . . .

I remember when a Ping-Pong Tournament was played in our Town Hall at Longton about 45 years ago, the players were in evening dress, and many well-known cricketers and lawn tennis players were attracted to the game . . .

Sports leaders of youth, particularly in chapels, churches and Y.M.C.A.'s can be credited for much of the progress that was made while the game was still known as Ping-Pong, and—especially in the Midlands—these bodies did great work for staff canteen and welfare clubs were rarely heard of then.

When Montagu, Pope, Carris and others started their years of toil and sweat, knowing nothing of the many difficulties ahead the sport was still known as Ping-Pong and gained considerable newspaper publicity.

No, not for a moment has the old name given our dog a bad name, but is remembered with esteem and affection, I am sure, by many who make up the thousands that crowd to Wembley.

DE - GRADING !

SO certain players are trying to "wangle" the Grading Scheme. Although such types are in the minority, one cannot help feeling sorry for them. They live in a world no bigger than the ball they hit with such vigour and grim determination. They do not "play!" for they have lost the sense of enjoyment, the thrill of a close match, and the exhilaration of victory.

They know only the despair of points lost, the anguish in the triumph of a same-grade rival, and the nerve-racking tension of never letting-up.

Fortunately, the honour and well-being of the E.T.T.A. does not depend on these Point and Pot Hunters. There are thousands of boys and girls, men and women, who still play Table Tennis because they like the game, and give of their best for the sake of the team, the club or the league, and therewith they and their colleagues are content.

May they ever be free of the bug of machination.
....." Provincial "



NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF. HARROWER

PREMIER DIVISION

What little chance Lancashire had of winning this division finally disappeared when they were unable to beat Warwickshire, and it looks as though the Southern Counties will once again emerge at the top. Warwickshire upheld my forecast that they would "rise a little," and there are sure to be some keen struggles before the two counties to be relegated are known.

Lancashire	5,	Warwickshire	5
Essex	6,	Gloucestershire	4
Surrey	7,	Glamorgan	3

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Essex	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Surrey	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Lancashire	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Glamorgan	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Gloucestershire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Yorkshire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Warwickshire	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Bedfordshire	5,	Devonshire	5
Cambridgeshire	1,	Middlesex	9

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Surrey	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Gloucestershire	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Essex	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Middlesex	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Bedfordshire	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Devonshire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Cambridgeshire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

It would seem that two of the three counties who were concerned in the tight finish, last season, for the North Midland Division are going to be equally concerned this season, although in a different division, and, at the moment, Lincolnshire are strong favourites for promotion. One must wait, however, for the outcome of an Official Dispute (first in the history of the Championships) concerning the playing conditions at Wigan, where Lancashire beat Cheshire. The Referee (Hon. I. Montagu) has the power to either (a) let the result stand, (b) order a replay, or (c) award the match to Cheshire. We should be able to let you know the outcome next month.

Lancashire	7,	Cheshire	3
Northumberl'd	3,	Yorkshire	7
Lincolnshire	10,	Durham	0

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Lincolnshire	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Lancashire	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Yorkshire	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Cheshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Northumberland	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Durham	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

MIDLAND DIVISION

Warwickshire seem to be assured of taking this section, and they have been greatly helped by Leicestershire, who surprisingly beat Nottinghamshire. Previously Leicestershire were without a win and Nottinghamshire had full points, but Burraston, Southam and Timmins took five of the men's singles, the latter two getting both their matches. Staffordshire fared badly against the leaders at the Walsall Town Hall, and could only contrive to take one set.

Northampton's're	3,	Staffordshire	7
Warwickshire	8,	Derbyshire	2
Nottingham's're	4,	Leicestershire	6
Staffordshire	1,	Warwickshire	9

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Warwickshire	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Nottinghamshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Staffordshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Derbyshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Leicestershire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Northampton's're	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

EASTERN DIVISION

Previously I mentioned that Cheshire's Official Complaint against the conditions at Wigan were the first in the history of the Championships, but this was followed the next day by a similar complaint by Hertfordshire against Suffolk's conditions at Stowmarket, and this complaint is also being fully investigated. Buckinghamshire lost their chance of taking the lead in this section owing to the "demon" fog, which caused the match against Bedfordshire to be abandoned, it being impossible for half the Bedfordshire team to get to Slough.

Suffolk	10,	Hertfordshire	0
Cambridgeshire	2,	Norfolk	8

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Norfolk	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Suffolk	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Buckingham's're	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Bedfordshire	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Hertfordshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Cambridgeshire	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION

The Kent challenge faded away when they went down 1—9 to Sussex at Shoreham, and only a complete reversal of form can now take the championship of this division away

from Sussex. They have Berkshire and Hampshire left to play.

Hampshire	5,	Berkshire	5
Sussex	9,	Kent	1

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Sussex	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Kent	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Hampshire	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Berkshire	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

NORTHERN DIVISION

This section could set an interesting poser, for if the Yorkshire first team are relegated from the Premier Division, it could be that their third team could win this division and yet have to drop out because the 1st team would then be in the Second Division North and the second team would drop to the Northern Division. Irony of this is that the amendments to the Rules which were carried to make this possible were proposed by Yorkshire! However, before they can win the division Yorkshire have to defeat both Northumberland and Durham.

Durham	4,	Northumberland	6
Yorkshire	9,	Cumberland	1

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Yorkshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	7
Northumberland	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Durham	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Cumberland	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

JUNIOR DIVISION

Four counties can still win this section, but Kent are favourites, and if they can beat Middlesex this month they should pull off the title, having already beaten the much improved Essex side.

Nottinghamshire did extremely well to take a point off Essex, and the continued good form of Billy England (he also won two against Middlesex) makes the Midland side a difficult proposition. At the other end of the table Hertfordshire, with their very young side, are rather outclassed at the moment, but should greatly benefit from the experience they are gaining.

Middlesex	9,	Hertfordshire	1
Cambridgeshire	3,	Essex	7
Hertfordshire	2,	Surrey	8
Nottinghamshire	8,	Bedfordshire	2

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Kent	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Essex	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Nottingham's're	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Surrey	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Hertfordshire	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Bedfordshire	4	1	0	3	9	31	2
Cambridgeshire	4	0	0	4	14	26	0

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER

Saturday, 12th January	Gloucestershire v. Lancashire, Gloucester.
Monday, 14th January	Surrey v. Middlesex, Coronation Hall, Kingston, 7 p.m.
Friday, 18th January	Yorkshire v. Middlesex, Church Inst., Albion Place, Leeds.
Monday, 21st January	Surrey v. Essex, Clapham Baths, 7 p.m.

SECOND SOUTH

Wednesday, 16th January	Essex v. Middlesex, Red Triangle, Romford.
Saturday, 19th January	Surrey v. Cambridge, Barnes, 7 p.m.
Friday, 25th January	Essex v. Surrey, Green & Silley Weir, Blake Hall Road, E.11, 7 p.m.
Saturday, 26th January	Devon v. Gloucester, Torquay.
Friday, 31st January	Middlesex v. Bedfordshire, Johnsons, Hendon, 7.30 p.m.

SECOND NORTH

Saturday, 12th January	Cheshire v. Northumberland, Runcorn.
Saturday, 19th January	Yorkshire v. Lincolnshire, Temple Street Sunday School, Keighley.

SOUTHERN

Saturday, 5th January	Kent v. Hampshire, St. John's Hall, Freeland Grove, Bromley, 7 p.m.
Saturday, 19th January	Berkshire v. Sussex, Little Town Hall, Reading, 7 p.m.

EASTERN

Saturday, 26th January	Norfolk v. Bedfordshire.
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NORTHERN

Saturday, 19th January	Cumberland v. Durham, St. George's Hall, Millom.
Saturday, 19th January	Northumberland v. Yorkshire, Rutherford Grammar School, Bath Lane, Newcastle.

MIDLAND

Saturday, 5th January	Nottinghamshire v. Warwickshire, Newark.
Saturday, 19th January	Leicestershire v. Northamptonshire, Leicester.

JUNIOR

Saturday, 12th January	Cambridgeshire v. Nottinghamshire, Cambridge Y.M.C.A.
Saturday, 19th January	Kent v. Middlesex, Victoria Hall, London Road, Southborough.

Addresses where to get tickets can be found in the September and October issues.

GRADING REVISIONS

It is regretted that due to unforeseen circumstances—including the slowness of certain organisers in furnishing results—we are unable to give the revised Gradings this month. They will, however, be circulated to all Tournament Organisers and County Secretaries as soon as possible.

The third period is due to end on the 27th January, and it will be impossible to compile the third list for inclusion in the February issue. Any player or official who would like a copy, however, is invited to send a stamped addressed envelope to the E.T.T.A. Offices, and a copy will be sent them as soon as issued.

QUERIES

Naturally, one or two queries are bound to arise, and if any player or interested party does not see their name in any revised list, when they consider that they should have been promoted (or relegated!), they will be doing the Association a favour by giving information to the Secretary of the Grading Sub-Committee, Mr. G. R. Harrower, 68, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts.

Similarly, organisers will greatly assist by making sure that they do send in the results of ALL Graded players who competed in their event(s).



The choice of champions

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OF ALL THE LEADING SPORTS OUTFITTERS

The First Reserve

A TABLE TENNIS ROMANCE

By WALTER STEINITZ

AT LAST, they took me into our team ;
 They couldn't do without me (it would seem),
 My formbook clearly showed an upward curve
 And so they put me in as First Reserve !
 There isn't anyone whom I could blame—
 The fact is that the others ALWAYS came !
 Actually, I never played a stroke,
 And that—you can believe me—was no joke :
 Sitting there, so to speak, on call,
 Properly fed up was I and all,
 When a young lady, quite perchance,
 Gave me a sympathetic glance.
 That's nice, I thought, a friendly dame,
 I asked her : " Do you play this game ? "
 Her answer was : " You've got a nerve !
 Of course . . . I am their First Reserve."
 To cut a longer story short . . .
 We had a knock. She was a sport
 And she, too, thought that I was " right"—
 We made a date for Saturday night.
 I never thought that I would have the nerve,
 But she came out of her First Reserve . . .
 I acted as her table tennis nurse.
 We formed our Team . . . " for better or for worse."

Postscript

Yes, I still play a lot, with sweat on my brow.
 The wife? No, she's not playing much now
 For our private Mixed Doubles looks forward, with verve,
 To the arrival—quite soon—of our OWN "First Reserve" !

"They also Serve . . ."

By JOAN E. PECK

THESE are, no doubt, still some people who do not know anything about Table Tennis, but in our family we have not been allowed that blissful ignorance.

Throughout the winter months I am trained to submission and sit through interminable games while the playing member of the family shows how the game should, or should not, be played. I gracefully refuse any engagements on club nights. I juggle with dates to find an evening which suits us all, and then I am told that this is one of those evenings for a match which doesn't happen to fall on a club night !

"You must be a table tennis widow?" a well-meaning person remarked once.

"I don't think so," I replied, having only been married a few weeks.

"You'll learn," she replied gaily.

I HAVE.

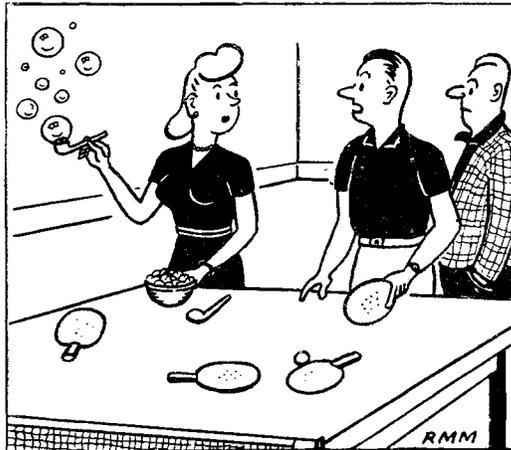
On playing evenings supper be-

comes a movable feast held any time between ten and midnight and the conversation is sprinkled with well worn forehand drives and back-hand flicks. Old So-and-so, we learn, is getting past it, but Young So-and-so will be good if . . . When we've won, the meal becomes a hilarious affair. If it's a "we lost" affair, then we sit in stern and noble silence and suffer.

Women have nothing on the men when gathered together. They will stand for hours happily exchanging table tennis notes, jokes, news and views, with careless disregard for their patient wives standing on the fringe.

What happens to all these enthusiasts in the summer? Do they spend their days marking off the months of the calendar? Once the last game of the season is played, they and their bats disappear, and for a few months we are allowed to forget that such a game exists A blessed respite that allows us to regain our sanity before the darkening evenings once more herald the approach of the new season.

'DOUBLE' FAULT



"But I suggested playing Doubles—not Bubbles!"

Bath Open

Bath, 24th Nov., 1951

By L. LE CREN

FOR the first time this tournament was held in one day and attracted entries from many parts. It was not completed until nearly midnight.

In the men's singles the finalists were the Indian champion K. JAYANT and R. GRIFFIN (Cheltenham), neither of whom had been really extended in the early rounds. Jayant was always steady and scored repeatedly with his strong back-hand drives. Griffin fought hard but seemed to tire in the fourth game.

In the women's singles, the holder Miss M. FRY had a tight quarter-final fight with Miss E. POMROY also of Bristol, before losing in the semi-final to young Miss P. MORTIMER (Birmingham), a most attractive player with a strong forehand drive. Miss AUDREY BATES (Cardiff) reached the final for the third successive year and at last captured the title, but only after a hard match with Miss Mortimer in which her greater experience told.

The mixed doubles was a splendid, evenly matched battle in which K. Jayant/A. Bates cleverly varied defence and attack tactics in the third game pulled them through. The men's doubles was a terrific affair and went the full five games. K. Jayant/C. Pickett, playing together for the first time, put up a splendid show, but Dawes' greater experience and generalship in combination with Griffin's hard point-winning drives won the latter pair the title.

DETAILS

M.S. K. JAYANT bt. R. Griffin 11, 13, —24, 8.

W.S. A. BATES bt. P. Mortimer 18, 18.

M.D. R. GRIFFIN/W. DAWES bt. K. Jayant/C. Pickett —19, 13, —18, 19, 16.

X.D. K. JAYANT/A. BATES bt. R. Griffin/M. Fry —20, 20, 10.

Sportsman of the Year National Ballot

WHICH Sportsman or Sportswoman has done most in the year 1951 to raise the prestige of British Sport ?

The national ballot to elect the "Sportsman of the Year," organised annually by *Sporting Record*, opened on December 1st and the result will be published this month, when the handsome trophy will be presented to the winner. Previous presentations have been made at the Savoy Hotel by the current Minister of Health. The 12 leading personalities in the poll receive engraved medallions.

Previous winners have been Bruce Woodcock (1946), Denis Compton (1947 and 8), and Reg. Harris (1949 and 50). Last year, nearly a quarter-million individual votes were cast. Everyone is entitled to one vote, and this can be sent in on plain paper to (or on one of the special forms obtainable from) : *The Sporting Record*, 184/5, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. Names and addresses must be given.

JOHNNY LEACH, for his great British world championship achievement, and DIANE and ROSALIND ROWE (for their world's Doubles title) must certainly stand very high in the "honours list" and it would give a great fillip to the interest in our sport if they were elected.

In table tennis circles we know that Johnny's victory, his great gallantry, his fine sense of sportsmanship, and his fighting tenacity have made a profound impression for British prestige over a wider area in the world than any other sport, because Table Tennis is the most international of any single sport.

There have been some notable British performances in the year, however, in many spheres, and as sportsmen we must say "May the best man (or woman) win."

If you want to vote, please send to the address given above immediately.

FIXTURE BOOK

In the Open Tournaments below, the Events shown are ADDITIONAL to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., and X.D., in every case. All organisers are asked to check information and to advise The Editor of any amendments. The CLOSING DATE for Entries, where known, is shown in brackets after the Title.

Date(s)	Details and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
1952			
Jan. 7-12	SOUTH LONDON OPEN Brotherhood Hall, (Dec. 22) Knights Hill, West Norwood, S.E.27.	B.S. G.S.	K. G. Havill, 4, Chesnut Road, West Norwood, S.E.27.
11	WALES v. ENGLAND (Juniors)		Mrs. H. Roy Evans, address as Welsh Open above.
11-12	SOUTH YORKS. OPEN Firth Brown's Canteen, (Dec. 20) Savile Street, Sheffield.	B.S.	Mrs. A. Cowen, 13, Gregg House Road, Sheffield 5.
19	ENGLAND v. WALES (Mixed) Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool.		W. Stamp, "Buena Vista," Farmdale Close, Liverpool 18.
20	SOUTHAMPTON OPEN Blighmont Drill Hall, (Jan. 7) Southampton, Hants.	B.S.	K. Miles, 46, Bevois Road, Southampton.
24-26	CHESHIRE OPEN (Jan. 12)		W. E. Wood, 44, Hill Lane, Blackley, Manchester 9.
26-27	KENT OPEN (Jan. 12) (mixed) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	J.S.	G. N. Harding, 7, Joyes Road, Folkestone.
NETHERLANDS OPEN			
Feb. 1-10	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, Brabourne Stadium, Bombay, India.		Shri T. D. Ramanujan, 10, Sunkuwar Agraharam, Mount Road, Madras 2.
9	PORTSMOUTH OPEN (Jan. 19) Tudor Drill Hall, Portsmouth, Hants.	M.S. W.S. M.D. X.D.	A. W. Williams, 85, Lyndhurst Road, North End, Portsmouth.
6-7 11-16	MIDDLESEX (Herga) OPEN Herga L.T. Club, (Jan. 26) Courtfield Avenue, Harrow.	B.S. G.S.	S. W. Martin, 55, Kings Way, Wealdstone, Harrow.
16	NEWPORT OPEN (Apx. Feb. 4) Newport.		G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport.
18-22	SURREY OPEN (Jan. 31) Municipal Baths Hall, East Street, Epsom.	B.S. G.S.	C. T. Dean, 56, Bute Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
24, 29 Mar. 1	MIDLAND OPEN (Feb. 9) Indoor Sports Stadium, Pershore Road, Birmingham.	B.S. G.S. J.D. V.S.	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.
Mar. 1	YORKS. JUNIOR OPEN Holdsworths Welfare (Feb. 17) Hall, Drighlington, Yorks.	B.S. B.S. J.D. Y.S.	J. B. Leyden, "Cliffoney," Hartley Park View, Pontefract.
7-8	IRISH OPEN. Sligo.		
8	OGMORE OPEN (Apx. Feb. 25) Nantymoel, Glamorgan.		R. Morris, 6, Dynam Street, Nantymoel, Glam.
8	FINALS : Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl, Birmingham and Worthing.		E.T.T.A. Office, London.
3-15	WEST MIDDLESEX OPEN West Ealing Club, (Feb. 9) West Ealing, W.7.	B.S. G.S.	J. Joyce, 7, Croft Gardens, Hanwell, W.7.