

TABLE TENNIS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



IVY HANEY, Lancashire's No. 1, and FRED KERSHAW, formerly Essex, who were married at Burnley on November 29th.

Tournament Talking Points

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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CLOSER LIAISON

A PERMANENT calendar of "Open" Tournaments and International Matches has long been a cherished dream of organisers. Nothing is more disheartening than to make every preparation for a first-class tournament only to find many of the star players whisked away to an international event.

England first has always been the rule—and rightly so—but it is very discouraging to the organiser, and to local followers, to have their annual highlight spoiled in this way.

Looking for a solution the E.T.T.A. are setting up an international sub-committee, to draft a full programme for season 1959/60.

It is too much to hope that all problems will be solved at one attempt, for complete liaison is not entirely in the hands of the E.T.T.A. It also requires the co-operation of Associations abroad whom we meet in international contests. Still, it's a step in the right direction.

Closely linked to the question of international contests is the problem of television. The E.T.T.A. do not fear television. On the contrary they see in it an exciting possibility of putting table tennis over to a new public.

SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The full implications are being studied by a newly appointed television sub-committee, who are to report back to the National Executive Committee on February 7.

Meanwhile television has made possible the international match between England and Holland in Birmingham on January 10.

What a pity this could not go out on the Eurovision link so that the Dutch could see it as well!

That does however suggest a great new idea for the future—a European inter-cities tourna-

ment, with Eurovision spreading the interest all over the Continent. It could be a boon to table tennis but there are many snags before such a scheme could come about, for most European countries do not enjoy the same number of hours of viewing as in Britain.

Speaking of television, table tennis followers will have been interested in hearing Dan Maskell, the famous lawn tennis coach, in a recent Sportsview programme, discuss the likelihood of lawn tennis adopting a "registered member" formula. Peter Dimmock acknowledged the initiative of table tennis in evolving the system.

STOOD THE TEST

Nobody claims that the table tennis scheme is 100% perfect. But it has stood the test of time better than the rules on the amateur-professional problem devised by any other sporting body.

Registered members have in almost every case observed both the letter and the spirit of the regulations. While the E.T.T.A. have never hesitated to step in and use the all-embracing powers given to the Association to safeguard the interests of the game when it has become necessary.

It is the proud boast of the E.T.T.A. that anyone playing the game of table tennis in England can be a full member of the E.T.T.A., whether he plays in the seventh division of a local league, or earns a substantial annual income from the game. The only thing a player has to do to legalise his earnings is to "register" his name with the E.T.T.A. This has of course to be approved by the player's County Association and by the E.T.T.A.

He has to observe a code of conduct devised to safeguard the good name of table tennis.

(Continued overleaf)

He MUST NOT enter into contract for exclusive play; allow his name to be used on articles not written by himself; or on equipment not personally designed; appear on television without prior sanction of the E.T.T.A. He must also be available for international matches, world championships and the English "Open." Failure to comply can lead to suspension.

PAYMENT PERMISSIBLE

Registered players can accept payment for coaching, and for exhibitions but under no circumstances may they accept payment for competitive play. Only bona fide expenses may be paid to players for international matches, county matches, tournaments, or other events organised by the E.T.T.A. or affiliated bodies.

This system has worked admirably in table tennis but may need some adapting if other sports were to use it.

Manufacturing, coaching, and other financial interests can be a very serious problem if allowed to take a hand in the administration of national sport. Table tennis has always been able to stop these influences from dominating administration, but a close watch has to be kept. It would be disastrous to allow financially committed persons to gain control.

A great compliment was paid to the E.T.T.A. this season when the Swedish and the French TENNIS Associations asked for full details of our registered member formula, with a view to putting these forward as a solution to the amateur-professional problem of international tennis, which is so much in the news just now.

To our friends in other sports we say: from our experience we are convinced that our solution is the one which will be the most suitable to future requirements. No more amateurs; no more professionals; only players!

HAVE YOUR SAY

In this issue we start a new feature . . . **Tournament Talking Points.** It is an open forum for both players and organisers. This also marks a new departure for TABLE TENNIS. According to wishes expressed at the last A.G.M. of the E.T.T.A., those who come in for criticism in letters or features are given a chance to reply in the same issue. This throws extra work on to the editorial staff, but every attempt will be made to meet the wishes of our readers. The Associate Editor has been delegated the task of "getting the other side" of all controversial material, in the hope that this will make TABLE TENNIS even more interesting.

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Official News:

International Selections — Correction: Due to a printing error in the December issue the team to meet Wales on January 16 appeared as meeting Holland at Birmingham on January 10. These should now read:

v Holland: IAN HARRISON (Gloucestershire), MICHAEL THORNHILL (Middlesex), ANN HAYDON (Warwickshire), DIANE ROWE (Middlesex). Non-playing captain: VICTOR BARNA.

v Wales: TERRY DENSHAM (Hertfordshire), BOBBY STEVENS (Essex), HARRY VENNER (Surrey), PAM MORTIMER (Warwickshire), DIANE ROWE (Middlesex). Non-playing captain: IVOR EYLES (Gloustershire).

This is a first "cap" for Densham, who was England's outstanding boy a few seasons ago, while Venner is recalled after a lengthy interval.

Tournament Fees: Organisers have asked for guidance in the matter of the E.T.T.A. levy on complimentary entries, given to top players by some tournaments at their own discretion.

The shilling per player levy has to be paid to the E.T.T.A. on every entry and, while organisers could if they wished pay this themselves, it is not intended it should become a charge on tournaments. It is felt therefore that the proper procedure is for organisers to collect this shilling.

No player who gets a free invitation to a tournament should object to paying a shilling towards the general administration costs of the governing body.

English "Open" Championships 1958/9. Entry forms are now available from the E.T.T.A. office. Dates and venues are as follows:

APRIL 6-8, MANOR PLACE BATHS, WALWORTH, S.E.17.

APRIL 9-11; EMPIRE POOL, WEMBLEY.

There are special reduced rates for orders of 12 or more tickets for the Friday and Saturday at Wembley. These can be made up of different priced tickets as follows:

Friday (April 10): 15/- reduced to 12/6; 12/6 to 10/-; 10/6 to 8/6; 7/6 to 5/-. There are also 4/- tickets available at list price.

Saturday (April 11): 21/- reduced to 17/6; 15/- to 12/6; 10/6 to 8/6; 8/6 to 6/6. There are also list price tickets at 6/6.

Early application for tickets at re-

duced rates is strongly advised to avoid disappointment. All indications are that this will be one of the strongest English "Open" entries ever, with overseas players coming here direct from the World Championships in Dortmund. The demand for reduced tickets may well exceed the number available, so it will be a case of first come, first served.

Some of the earlier rounds are being staged at Wembley on Thursday, April 9, when players from possibly 20 different countries will be taking part. Nine tables will be in operation simultaneously and there will be three sessions—10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be a charge of 3/6 per session for any seat in the house.

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

President: Hon. I. G. S. Montagu.

Chairman: A. K. Vint, O.B.E.

Deputy Chairman: I. C. Eyles.

Honorary Treasurer: T. Blunn.

Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

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

E.T.T.A. Representatives. For the purpose of nominating and electing Officers of the Association and members of the National Executive Committee, each County, League or Local Association is entitled to appoint E.T.T.A. Representatives. The Secretary of the E.T.T.A. must be advised by each body of the name(s) and address of their representatives not later than JANUARY 31. Unless this information is received by January 31, the body concerned lose their voting right.

Official Handbook. Copies of the official handbook of the E.T.T.A. can be obtained from the office, at 2/6d. per copy post free.

International Contacts. We would like to draw all affiliated members' attention to the regulations covering

international contacts (page 32 of the official handbook). Regulation No. 1 reads as follows: "Players duly affiliated to the E.T.T.A. may take part in the "Open" National Championships of other Associations only by permission of the E.T.T.A." May we point out that this regulation applies to players taking part in the "Open" of Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as other countries affiliated to the I.T.T.F.

Books and Publications. The following publications are available from the E.T.T.A. office:

<i>Handy Pocket Edition of the Laws</i>	4½d. each
<i>How to Win at Table Tennis</i> by Victor Barna	6/0d. each
<i>Know the Game Table Tennis</i>	2/6d. each
<i>Modern Table Tennis</i> by Jack Carrington ...	7/6d. each
<i>Table Tennis My Way</i> by Johnny Leach ...	2/6d. each
<i>Table Tennis Quiz</i> by Alec Brook	1/6d. each
<i>Table Tennis Tips</i> by Jack Carrington ...	1/3d. each
<i>Tackle Table Tennis This Way</i> by Ann Haydon	10/6d. each
<i>The Twins on Table Tennis</i> by D. & R. Rowe	8/6d. each

TABLE TENNIS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Attack on Selectors...

I READ in my daily newspaper that England's Selectors have "hammered out a crisp new policy," but unfortunately the new ranking list far from being evidence of a "new policy" appears to be another example of the senseless vacillating to which we have become accustomed in recent years.

Some players are given caps on the strength of one or two good performances; others have to go on for years beating top-class players and winning tournaments without any reward.

Then again a player who has been in the doldrums will suddenly find favour and then it is hardly possible to see an England team without that player.

More unfortunate is the player who falls from grace in the eyes of the selectors for he might not exist thereafter.

For example, Mickey Thornhill who has been under-ranked for years suddenly found himself England's joint No. 1 last year, while Laurie Landry, who has been more consistent than most in a poor season, and who many players think ought to have had one of the recent caps, is not in the ranking list.

Alan Rhodes' recent appalling form has taken him from being a regular England choice right out of the ranking list but no amount of bad form can alter the high ranking of Diane Collins and Johnny Leach.

I consider that the present low standard of the England men is due in no small part to the inconsistency and lack of confidence in the players shown by the selectors. There are, no doubt, competent and worthy people on the

Selection Committee but judged collectively (as they must be) their record is more deplorable than the players whom they are bewildering and discouraging by their frequent changes of heart.

Another disturbing feature of this problem is the current practice among the officials of running-down our players and constantly criticising their techniques and temperaments. Dare we point out to these very experienced administrators that players respond better to encouragement than criticism?

Had they used the methods now being employed in England, the Czechs for example, would have discarded (or at least discouraged) Andreadis as being temperamentally unreliable and Vana for his technical limitations.

Perhaps the most disgraceful thing which has happened in recent years was the criticism of England's men's team at the European Championships last season by their non-playing captain. On the radio (in Sports Report) and to reporters at the airport he described their performances as "pitiful."

The one person who should never engage in this kind of public criticism is the non-playing captain. Between a team and its captain there should be a bond of sympathy and confidence and, in any case, the captain should bear his share of responsibility for any failures.

I feel sure that all players will support me when I say that I hope that never again will an England team be subjected to the humiliation of public criticism by its own captain.

John Corser.
(Watford)

...and Barna Replies

OF course, if John Corser wants to criticise the Selection Committee and the current ranking, he is fully entitled to do so. I will admit that had he completely reversed the ranking he would have some justification for argument. One just has to look at this season's results. Practically every Tournament has been won by a different player. They beat each other in turn and sometimes lose against weaker players, making a mockery of known forms.

However, he picks out Laurie Landry as one of the neglected ones. Has Mr. Corser really studied his results? Laurie reached the final of the Sussex "Open," playing well, but losing to Venner. Can Mr. Corser tell me who beat Landry in all the other Tournaments? One or two of the names might stagger him. Nevertheless Landry was promoted into the first squad.

Then he says that Leach and Di Rowe cannot do anything bad enough to alter their high ranking. May I refresh his memory that Johnny Leach was dropped last year from the English team and ranked fifth.

This season he earned his No. 1 position because he played as well, or better than any other English player, either at home or abroad. And here I would like to point out that International Matches and International "Open" Championships should and do count more than a Home Tournament.

Di Rowe reached the final of the Austrian and Scandinavian Championships, losing only to the formidable Mrs. Simon and anybody who suggests that Di does not deserve her No. 2 rank in England, only shows his ignorance just as John Corser does, especially

when he talks of the Czech's methods. (I wonder how much Mr. Corser knows about them and the technical limitations of Vana?)

However, as I said before, anyone is entitled to have his say. My reason for answering this letter is that he uses very strong words for my terrible sin of describing our players' performances in the European Championships as pitiful.

Anybody who knows me, knows that I am rather outspoken, and try not to be a hypocrite. I do not believe in telling them, "Well done," or "Bad luck" when I do not think so. Yet, I do my utmost to help them off and on the table all the time. When I criticise them it is usually needed and very often does a lot of good!

I believe that Mr. Corser wrote his letter in bad faith and with the thought to discredit me with his untimely remarks. (Nine months after the European Championships and knowing full well that I have been appointed again as England's non-playing Captain).

Yes; he wrote with bad faith because he forgot to tell, that at the same time at the same Championships I was also captaining England's women's team, which happened to win the European Championship. And when I talked about our men's pitiful performance, in the same breath I talked ten times as much about our girls. Praising them as much as I could telling everybody how proud we could be of them.

Is it possible that John Corser hears and sees only what he wants to hear and see? It looks like it to me.

Victor Barna.

TOURNAMENT LEVY

AS the appointed representative of the West Essex Table Tennis League, I in association with others, voiced regret at the A.G.M. of the Association, on the motion to supplement the income of the Association, by imposing a surcharge on the entry for "open" and "approved" tournaments.

The view was expressed (I believe from the chair) that tournament organisers could be relied upon to reduce the entry fees by an amount similar to the commission being replaced.

In spite of this, the entry fee for the Metropolitan "Open" is five shillings for singles and 3s. 6d. for doubles plus 1s. per entry. This tournament is being run by the Association, and judging from remarks I have heard, is pricing itself out of existence.

I feel that an effort to cut expenses could be of considerable help to the Association's funds, as I personally have received three entry forms at three different times, by post.

K. A. Low.
(Woodford)

OFFICIAL REPLY:

THE Rule regarding the 12½ per cent. payable by "Open" Tournament Organisers, and the new rule that an E.T.T.A. fee of 1s. per player should be charged (with the exception of junior players entering only the junior events), was declared carried at the last A.G.M. of the Association.

At that meeting the N.E.C. spokesman pointed out that the income accruing from "open" tournaments was of a vital necessity to the Association and the proposed alteration to the rule would still allow the E.T.T.A. to receive an equivalent sum but would enable "Open" Tournament Organisers to continue to run their championships and not lose money, as many organisers had intimated was the case.

The question as to the reduction in the "Open" Tournament fees would therefore be one of discussion by the Organising Committee over which the E.T.T.A. have no control so far as fees are concerned. The Tournament Organisers know their own budget and charge fees accordingly.

The question of the fees payable by entrants in the Metropolitan "Open" Championships, was discussed at great length. The Organising Committee worked out a budget of expenses and agreed that the fees should be as now stated on the entry forms. Even so the tournament will possibly lose money, but, the "Open" Tournaments Committee appreciated the sad lack of London events during the 1956/57 season and decided to re-introduce the Metropolitan "Open" to give further competitive play in its own area.

However, this sub-committee was directed by the N.E.C. that it must be self-supporting and owing to the high charges made for the hall to be used (which it was felt was the most suitable owing to it being so centrally placed in London) the entry fees were by necessity made slightly higher than those of the normal "Open" Tournament.

On the question of duplicated entry forms, they were forwarded by other tournaments in the absence of an address list.

DODGING THE COLUMN

I WAS under the impression that there was a rule to the effect that if players did not compete in at least six English "Open" tournaments they would not be considered for English teams going abroad during the following season. If this rule does exist I suggest that the E.T.T.A. enforce it, or in my opinion English Table Tennis will carry on its downward trend.

At the moment the group A players and the players ranked 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 are not getting the chance to play the top ranking players in tournament.

What is happening in tournaments is that everyone is beating one another for the simple reason that they have no target at which to aim. How can the players ranked below the top five get a chance to improve their position if they do not get a chance to meet the top five in tournaments?

Now you top stars, you probably are better than the rest of us but let us have a look at you in tournaments to see what standard we have got to reach to be at the top. For the good of the public, the players and yourselves let us have a look at you.

Brian Brunwell.
(Essex)

OFFICIAL REPLY:

A resolution was passed at the A.G.M., that the National Executive Committee should note that this A.G.M. considered that English Players before selection to International teams should have played in a certain number of "Open" tournaments. They were requested to examine the position, and if need be pass on instruc-

tions to the N.S.C., that this position should be carried out.

The N.E.C. considered this principle, and unanimously agreed that no instructions should be passed to the Selectors, but that the Selectors should, in the light of all players' performances at home in the many "Open," County, Wilmott, Rose Bowl, etc., and abroad, and should not under any circumstances have their "hands tied" by such a directive as requested by this particular A.G.M.

To conclude I would point out that this resolution at the A.G.M. in question was only a majority decision, and in no way a unanimous decision.

Ivor Eyles.
(Chairman Selection Committee.)

SIMONSON EXPLAINS

Reference the report of the Cardiff "open" in the December issue.

I wish it to be known that the two paragraphs concerning me are completely fictitious. These are the facts.

We were given four sub-standard balls to choose from before the game had started. As the organisers told us that they had no more balls we selected one and started the match.

Only once I complained about the ball which was in the second game where I was informed by Mr. Roy Evans that either I play on or retire. He was then asked to inspect the ball but he refused. As reported I retired, therefore the game was not resumed shortly afterwards as was stated.

I walked off the table wearing a straight face and showing no sign of temper. Of course, inwardly I was very

annoyed, but to have detected this my friend who wrote this article would have had to be a mind reader.

This is the part which many people failed to notice. Not wanting to let my partner down I played in the final of the doubles where we were provided with a new box of balls.

One of our opponents was Bryan Merrett.

John Simonson.
(Glamorgan)

WASTED JOURNEY

YOUR November fixture list gave Middlesex v Kent at Acton on Dec. 6. I made the trip only to find the premises deserted with no one having any knowledge of such a match.

Subsequent enquiries revealed it had been postponed until Dec. 27 to suit television schedules. This may help to create fresh followers who will be inclined to attend personally in future, but they might well be "lost" if they meet with similar disappointment.

I realise the impossibility of anyone reading the magazine only being notified, but at least a notice of the change should have been posted at the venue.

Maybe one day newspapers will publish on a fixed day a current fixture list.

(Miss) J. Hammond
(Rendels T.T.C.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Iris Moss, Middlesex secretary says, "The change of date was made too late for inclusion in the November issue of TABLE TENNIS, but we published the correct date in the Middlesex Bulletin. I have written to Miss Hammond offering her free admission on the revised date."*

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SCANDINAVIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Diane Rowe

THE main English party left for Sweden a week before the championships for a short tour, and also an international match. Unfortunately it was not possible for me to join them until a week later, due to a County match.

However after a little mishap due to the car breaking down, and my missing the plane, which I might add took a lot of convincing to the English team who thought I had overslept (one of my bad habits!) I arrived safely in Stockholm.

These championships are always a great favourite amongst the players, with conditions at Eriksdalshallen almost perfect.

There was a strong entry from Hungary (unfortunately not the women due to Simon entering) Yugoslavia, Russia and, of course, Sweden. France and Rumania were also represented.

As in most big championships, there were some early shocks, such as Tony Borg beating Joseph Vogrinc, Hans Alser, Sweden's junior beating Gyetvai and the 16-year-old G. Averin from the U.S.S.R. beating Hague-nauer, also Alex Ehrlich beating K. Szapesi.

Unfortunately our men lost in the earlier rounds, Brian Kennedy to Har-

angozo, J. Ingber to Alser, the junior Swedish player. However, Johnny Leach and Ian Harrison played through to the last sixteen, where Harrison lost to the formidable Berczik. Johnny, however, beat G. Ammouretti, who had earlier put out Sido.

Throughout the championships Johnny played very well and eventually losing to Markovic.

In the team event, England lost to Sweden, which is no disgrace as in the final Sweden beat Hungary 3-1.

It is remarkable how well these Swedish boys, and they are boys, are playing, and in my opinion they will really show great form in Dortmund, and possibly prove they are Europe's top team.

In the ladies' singles, I had two tough battles with M. Barasch of Rumania and the U.S.S.R. girl, Ram-anuskajte both of whom were using sponge.

It seems that Simon is becoming my most difficult opponent. With her quick game over the table and obvious good form she is a most difficult girl to play, and I lost in three sets to her in the final.

In the men's doubles I saw the first time ever for me, a time limit game between Foldi, Berczik, Harangozo

and Vogrinc. It's amazing to think that a doubles could go to time limit as men's doubles is usually a very fast game. However, it was most interesting to watch, and the theory that sponge quickens the game up is to my mind nonsense, as three of these players were using sponge. In fact in many cases, players using sponge against sponge definitely are inclined to play longer games.

Markovic beat Berczik 3-2 in a very thrilling final at deuce in the fifth. Berczik is now playing better than he was in Yugoslavia but it is most noticeable that the one time feared chop is being handled with reasonable accuracy, by the other players.

Still no news regarding Rozeanu or Gantner and Zeller—I am wondering whether they will appear before Dortmund.

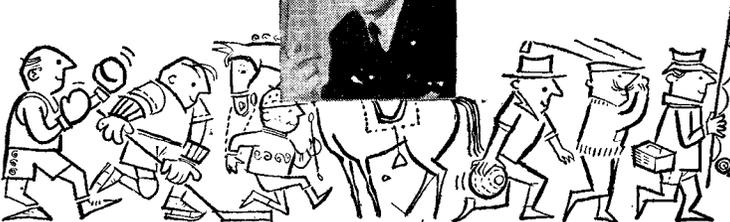
The results of the doubles events were Foldi and Berczik beat Sido-Gyetvai 3-1. Ladies' doubles Tegner-Simon beat Schlaf-Matthias 3-0. In the mixed Leach and Rowe lost to Cobirzan-Golopenta 3-2.

ENGLAND 3. SWEDEN 5.

Detailed results: J. Leach bt Borg 11-21, 21-71, 21-14; lost to Larsson 15-21, 15-21; bt Mellstrom 21-11, 21-18, Kennedy lost to Larsson 11-21, 18-21; lost to Mellstrom 18-21, 21-17, 14-21; lost to Borg 9-21, 17-21. Harrison bt Mellstrom 21-17, 19-21, 22-20; lost to Borg 12-21, 17-21.



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BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS

SAM KIRKWOOD'S World Round Up

JAPANESE ECLIPSED

SENSATION of the All-Asia Games was the winning of the men's title by Li-Kou-Tin, of Formosa. En route to his championship, L-K-T met and eclipsed leading Japanese stars and was, according to reports, extremely good value for his wins. While elated by his triumph, the Formosan is very disappointed indeed that he cannot compete in the imminent World Championships. Reason is that the Formosans have been refused affiliation to the International Federation and are therefore, of course, ineligible to participate at Dortmund.

The Japanese are keen to stage either the 1961 or 1963 World Series and have started putting out "feelers" to see if there is any chance of their wish being granted. The Orientals recently proved themselves excellent hosts, but if the Americans want one of the dates, as is said to be the case, they should be given priority, for the simple reason that they have never organised a global rally.

Micky Thornhill, Alan Rhodes and Ann Haydon have been invited to play in the Irish "Open" at Belfast on February 27-28. I understand all have accepted.

Much-improved player is Laszlo Foldi, who is considered to be No. 2 behind Josef Berczik in Hungary. His many followers are confident he will be a force to contend with in the "World's." His teenage sister, Marta,



VICTOR BARNÁ

is also creating something of a stir in South Africa, where she emigrated two years ago. She caused a big surprise by the winning of the S.A. singles title.

Tough schedule for Victor Barna and Alec Brook, who leave for an exhibition-coaching tour of Ghana and Nigeria on January 14. Amongst their ports of call will be Lagos, Accra, Caduna, Enugu, Tafo, Kumasi, Sekondi and the Cape Coast, and in most instances their itineraries call on them to show their wares three times a day, mostly in schools and universities. And in tropical heat! The day before he flies to Africa, Victor

will be a guest of honour at the Variety Club of Great Britain's "Sports Celebrities Luncheon" in London.

Let World contenders not be deceived by European champion Berczik's shock failures in the Yugoslav and Scandinavian "Opens." Josef played with a carbuncle under his playing arm, and for weeks prior to the tournaments was unable to practise owing to the affliction. And a Berczik who can't play at least eight hours a day is just not Berczik. The erstwhile "Beast" is back in full training and reckons to be at peak form when he makes his challenge in Germany.

The Americans plan to send a team of juniors to Europe in March and there is a likelihood that, if enough cash is raised for the project, we shall have the youngsters in London for junior internationals. They'll be more than welcome.

In case you missed the report, the Canadian and International championships, played in Toronto, resulted in wins for Daniel Vegh, of Lakewood, Ohio, and Leah ("No introduction needed") Neuberger, of New York. Losing finalists were Max Marinko, ex-Yugoslav now domiciled in Toronto, and his wife Jenny.

All credit to Johnny Leach for fighting his way back to recognition as our official No. 1. Veteran though he is, his performances this season have earned him the distinction. Whatever else one may say about him, Johnny remains a fighter with few equals. Younger stars (and their followers) may carp they have been overlooked, but what has any of them achieved this season, apart from showing quite remarkable in-and-out form? Our Swaythling Cup prospects look pretty bleak, to say the least of it.

AUSTRALIA FOR DORTMUND

AUSTRALIA will again be represented in the world championships at Dortmund and the three man team will consist of A. Robinson, C. McDonald and M. Wilcox.

Robinson, Australian champion of 1957 and twice runner-up, has already had experience of past world championships, but McDonald and Wilcox, both 15-year-old juniors, will be playing for the first time.

McDonald is the reigning Australian junior champion, beating in the final the American M. Ralston, who the same night won the Australian senior title.

Wilcox was Australian senior champion in 1957 and is present holder of the Victorian junior title.

It is not expected that this team will do as well as previous ones but taking into consideration the extreme youth of

McDonald and Wilcox the experience gained should be most valuable for the future.

The team was due to leave Australia on January 3 and plan to play in various "Open" championships as well as at Dortmund. On the way home they will make a tour of South Africa.

The Australian Rankings for 1958 are:
Men: 1, A. ROBINSON (Queensland); 2, T. MARACZY (Victoria); 3, G. JENNINGS (N.S.W.); 4, C. McDONALD (N.S.W.); 5, P. ANDERSON (W.A.); 6, W. HODGE (S.A.); 7, B. PETERS (Victoria); 8, T. KURTAK (Victoria); 9, E. SOKOLOWSKI (Victoria); 10, W. JONES (Queensland).

Women: 1, S. JAVOR (Victoria); 2, M. HOAR (N.S.W.); 3, N. BUCKLAND (Victoria); 4, L. MURPHY (Queensland); 5, J. MULLCONRY (N.S.W.); 6, A. O'BRIEN (Victoria); 7, J. SPENCE (Queensland); 8, D. SHIPP (N.S.W.); 9, J. STANAWAY (Queensland); 10, M. KEATING (N.S.W.).

LEARNING TO PLAY

with Joyce Williamson

EVERY player likes to hit winners, particularly so the beginner. But in table tennis as in other sports it is essential to walk before you run. Thus in this third article I say to the newcomer, **curb your impatience a little longer before learning the big hits.**

It is just as important to be able to save a point as it is to win one. Therefore it is essential to gain some kind of defence at the start.

The "CHOP" is the basic stroke of defence and those who have followed my previous articles are already half way to learning this. By acquiring the "PUSH" stroke, you have gained ball control, footwork, and patience—an absolute necessity for defensive play.

Do not for one moment think that defensive play is boring to watch or to execute. In my opinion a good defensive player is every bit as brilliant—if not more so—to watch as an attacker, and it is just as satisfying to return a smash (much to the annoyance of your opponent) as it is to hit one.

Before dealing with the actual stroke making of the "Chop" let us have a look at footwork and body action.

FOOTWORK:

This is more important in defence than at any other time in the game, as you have to move as smoothly and quickly as possible to retrieve any hard shots which your opponent may hit.

Whenever possible, I prefer moving with a short step as in this way you will land with your feet in the correct position whereas, if you take running steps, you are likely to end up off balance.

BODY ACTION:

This, too, is of utmost importance. When bringing back your arm for the approach to the ball, your weight should go on the back foot then transfer to the foot nearest the table as you make the stroke and follow through.

If you do this, you will find it easy to return to the middle of the table and be ready for the next stroke.

If you leave your weight on the back foot you will find that it seems as though you are stuck to the floor. This slows your movements if your opponent plays a short return just over the net.

The correct positioning again is

approximately a forearm's distance from the ball. Be ready to strike when the ball is in line, or just slightly in front of your body, which should be perfectly relaxed with knees slightly bent.

And now for the strokes.

BACKHAND CHOP:

Once again with sideways stance have your right leg nearest the table. The defender has to do most of the running around so it is policy to slow down the ball. There are two ways of doing this, by taking the ball later—on the drop after the peak of its bounce—and by imparting back spin.

UMPIRES' CORNER . . .

NEW RECOMMENDATIONS

MOST umpires will be (or should be!) familiar with the I.T.T.F.- and E.T.T.A.-approved "Recommendations to Umpires," published in the current Umpires Handbook, but how many have realised all the implications of the introductory paragraph which begins:

"The umpire has a three-fold responsibility. He has a responsibility to the players to see that the match is conducted fairly and correctly according to the Laws of Table Tennis and such additional regulations as may be applicable to it. He has a responsibility to the spectators, to see that they are able to follow the progress of the match as easily and as closely as possible. He has a responsibility to the game of Table Tennis, to see that his conduct of the match reflects credit upon the game as a whole."

Of these duties, the second is by far the most straightforward and is, in general, satisfactorily carried out by qualified umpires. The first and third duties are superficially just as straightforward, and for most matches an umpire can conscientiously carry them out without ever reading into the wording any deeper meaning than that he should know the Laws of the Game and apply them competently.

INTERPRETATION INADEQUATE

Many umpires with long experience will know, however, that there are occasions when such a simple interpretation is inadequate, and during the past few seasons the National Umpires' Committee has, from time to time, been asked for advice on questions not covered by existing Laws, Regulations or Recommendations.

What, for example, should the umpire do if he considers that a player's remarks or cries are affecting unduly his opponent's concentration? What if a player continually interrupts the game to tie up his shoelace, blow his nose or towel himself, to such an extent that his opponent is distracted? Suppose a player uses language which might offend spectators whenever he makes a bad

shot? Or if he plays his match smoking a cigarette?

Commence your stroke from the left shoulder, with the top of the racket tilted slightly back. Then with a downwards movement strike the ball when the racket is approximately at waist level.

To impart as much spin as possible, make sure that your racket follows the flight of the ball towards the table. If you let the arm swing across the body away from the direction the ball is travelling, you will lose any backspin you have imparted on the ball and only a slight amount of side-spin will be left, making it comparatively easy for the opponent to hit.

If you follow these directions you will find that as in the "Push" stroke, that arm moves in a semi-circle.

The most common fault I have
(Continued on page 13)

By COLIN CLEMETT

All of these examples have actually happened, though happily only rarely, and so far there has been no clear direction to the umpire about how he should deal with them.

To try to rectify this omission, the National Umpires' Committee has prepared a draft set of recommendations which, if approved by the N.E.C., will be submitted to the next I.T.T.F. Congress as a suggested addition to the current recommendations. It was felt that, because unseemly (or deliberately unfair) behaviour by players was such a rare occurrence, it would be more appropriate to give some guidance to umpires than to try to frame definite rules governing players' conduct.

A WARNING

These new recommendations warn the umpire of the danger of over-officiousness and emphasise that before taking any action he should be quite satisfied that the misbehaviour is either prejudicing the fair result of the match, is offensive to the ordinary spectator or is likely to bring the game into disrepute.

It is suggested that when the umpire is confident that one of these conditions exists he should draw the player's attention to the fact, and that if the practice continues he should report the matter to the Referee.

Generally this report should be made at the end of the match but if the umpire considers the misconduct is serious he should suspend play and report immediately to the Referee.

In making his report he should distinguish carefully between the facts and his opinions and should ensure that the Referee has a clear statement of all the circumstances.

Obviously the successful application of these recommendations depends ultimately on the judgment and common-sense of the umpire, but it is hoped that they will provide at least some guidance on an aspect of match control which has not so far been adequately considered.

PERSONALITY PARADE**LOST HER JOB FOR ENGLAND**By **MALCOLM HARTLEY**

KATHLEEN BEST has dropped a brick in Bombay, fought 'flu in France and worked to a world final at Wembley.

About that brick . . . or should I say stick? It happened one day in far-off Bombay.

It was awfully hot and as Gizi Farkas staggered away from the table after a strenuous doubles event she was perspiring freely. Kathie took pity on her and offered her an eau-de-cologne stick.

But it had worn down so much that it resembled a sweet—and Mrs. Farkas popped it into her mouth! She swiftly spat it out and mumbled something like the equivalent of "English sweets are so nasty!"

Quite a lot had happened before Kathie flew into India with the 1952 Corbillon Cup team.

She first played for Yorkshire at 17 and the following year went on a fortnight's tour of Germany with England. That had repercussions, for when she was chosen for England against France a few weeks later her boss would not give her time off and unleashed the ultimatum: job or table tennis. So Kathie was out of work.

She travelled to London, won two sets that eased England to a 6—3 victory and reached two finals. Then she stayed on for the Central London "Open." On her return north three offers of jobs as a shorthand typist were waiting!

Fine form earned her Corbillon Cup selection in 1952 but it looked as if only three players could be sent to Bombay—and Kathie was the fourth.

Yorkshire enthusiasts were not going to let that stop her. Mr. H. N. Smith, prominent Hull industrialist and county patron, started an appeal fund with £50 and business firms and members of 600 clubs throughout the county subscribed the rest to raise the £130 air fare.

Later in the year Miss Best was married in Wakefield to Alan Thompson, the Yorkshire captain. Brian Kennedy was best man. The honeymoon began in London but went on to Paris so that Kathie could play for England again.

**KATHIE BEST**

And then she went down with 'flu.

But she insisted on playing and won two to share another England triumph. She also entered the French "Open," winning the doubles with Diane Rowe and going out in the singles semi-final 2—3 to Trudi Pritzi.

In 1953 she became the first Yorkshire girl to crash the world rankings, stepping to the ninth rung after fighting to the world quarter-finals at Bucharest and being the first to take a game from Roseanu. With Linde Wertl she reached the semi-final stage of the doubles.

The following year saw an outstanding performance. With Ann Haydon—then only 15—she reached the final of the world women's doubles championship at Wembley. Once again she did it on Gizi!

They lost the first game against Mrs. Farkas and Angelica Roseanu and the second slipped away at 24-26. But the English pair battled in such magnificent style that the holders crumbled under relentless pressure and lost the next three. After that thrilling conquest it was a disappointment to lose in the final to the Rowe twins.

Kathie was No. 3 in England with three Corbillon Cup selections behind her when in 1955 she started a long lay-off, during which baby Christopher arrived.

Now she is on her way back to world recognition.

She returned in 1956 and was ranked No. 6 at the start of 1957-8. Now, this raven-haired star with the rampant attack is back at No. 3, unbeaten in the early season "Top Ten" tournament and her first four county matches.

Yorkshire feel that everyone will be happy to hear that during the recent match against Essex she received a presentation from president Maurice Shaffner, who said, "We hope she will have many more appearances for Yorkshire and do even better in the future than in the past."

It was Kathie's 50th county match.

EAGLE/GIRL TOURNAMENTBy **KENNETH WHEELER****POLIO VICTIM SHINES**

"HE'S the most astonishingly fast player of his age I have ever seen," said Mr. Foxen, headmaster of Salusbury Road Secondary Modern School. "Easily the best we have helped to produce so far," agreed Mr. Harry Graham, Secretary of the Willesden Schools' Table Tennis League.

They were talking about Billy Walker, winner of the *Eagle* under-13 event in the 240-strong Qualifying Round held last November by the Willesden Schools.

At the age of two, Billy was a polio victim. This has left one of his legs an inch shorter than the other, but the handicap does not appear to worry him. Indeed it seems to have given him an extra urge to shine at sport, for not only is Billy a rising table tennis star, but he bowls and opens the batting for the school cricket team, too.

Perhaps you saw Billy Walker on TV on December 15 last, when he represented Salusbury Road School in ATV's "Top School" Trophy Competition. *Eagle/Girl* were invited to select the schools best qualified to carry out a series of practice tests set by Johnny Leach, and Billy's school was chosen as South of England champions.

In the New Year, West Bromwich Grammar and then Ainthorpe High School of Hull, representing the Midlands and North respectively, will try to improve on the Salusbury standards.

As results and reports of school and club Qualifying Rounds pour in from all over the country there is increasing evidence that the entry for this season's British Schoolboy and Schoolgirl Tournament is even bigger, better and keener than ever. And Billy Walker is not the only youngster with a bright future.

Glowing reports have been received regarding the prospects of three 12-year-olds, **Margaret Campbell** (Crescent Club, Kent), **Hugo Scaife Gibson** (Grosvenor Club, Southsea), and **Jane Davies** (Willesden). Fourteen-year-old **James Roach** (Kyrle Hall, Birmingham) and many other winners have also caught the eye.

Johnny Leach gave a 15-minute coaching demonstration which proved very popular at the Qualifying Round at Liverpool on December 6. Here the outstanding young player to come to light was 14-year-old **Hilary Formby**, who comes from Formby, Lancashire, and packs a fierce forehand wallop—the result, she tells me of having played all her table tennis against boys.

MR. LEICESTERSHIRE

By PHILIP REID

LEICESTERSHIRE have never been one of the leading lights on the table tennis map, but any T.T. fan will tell you they are famous for three things—hosiery, boots and shoes, and Johnny Burraston.

It was back in 1947 after his return from the forces, that Burraston made his debut and he was already 25. In many "quarters"—certainly at that time—you were reckoned to be past your best at that age. But Johnny soon proved that this was not so.

Almost immediately his skill was recognised and at the start of the following season he was selected to play for the county against Nottinghamshire. He could not have faced two trickier opponents than Clem Roberts and Ted Anderson.

He lost both matches but during these defeats the county selectors noticed a sparkle in his game which prompted them to choose him again for the following match. This proved much more successful for him and paved the way to his fine future.

Burraston has played in more than 130 representative matches and has been dropped only once. Significantly, that was when he was on the selection committee.

Never attracted by the more fashionable clubs, Burraston has always played in the Leicester League for Hinckley Y.M.C.A. with whom his amazing consistency is almost unbelievable.

Throughout the last eleven seasons he has never finished with a first division average of less than 93 per cent.

But it is not only for this fine record that he is such a popular figure in Leicestershire. It is his most refreshing approach to the game. During the whole of his career he



JOHNNY BURRASTON

has never been known to query a point, however doubtful, or to make an excuse for losing.

Such a pleasant character could not go unnoticed and on making his 100th representative appearance he was made presentations by the Leicester League, the town representative players and the Hinckley and Leicester Y.M.C.As.

Burraston, who has also been a member of the Hinckley rugby football team for several seasons, can never have too much table tennis. It was at his suggestion that special Saturday practices for the women players were arranged.

"They need practice against the County players, and I don't mind coming over from Hinckley," he said.

He has also been over to give coaching sessions and exhibitions and has been known to cycle from Leicester to Hinckley—a distance of 13

miles—in the early hours of Sunday morning when he has missed the last bus home.

Such is the fine record, ability and personality of Johnny Burraston. WE IN LEICESTERSHIRE ARE VERY PROUD OF HIM.

Learning to Play

(Continued from page 11)

found with players learning this stroke is keeping their weight on the back foot. This restricts speed of movement between stroke, gives a tendency to fall backwards while stroking the ball with the arm being thrown upwards and making the return high without much backspin.

FOREHAND CHOP:

This calls for a reverse of the movements in the backhand chop. While practising it do not forget your service. You already have a short-chopped service, and after a little practice, you will have a chop service which lands nearer the end of the table.

When practising the chop, draw a line right across the table, about eight inches from the end and aim to land the ball in this area.

You will soon discover that the majority of players find a long length chop more awkward to return than one which lands only half-way between the net and the edge.

As you learn new strokes do not neglect those you have already been practising otherwise you will find you have to go back to the beginning and start all over again.

Give each stroke an equal amount of practise—perhaps a little more to the new one. Always start with the "Push" as this gives you the "feel" of the ball and table.

The tendency of a number of pupils when first learning the "Chop" is to hit the ball with the face of the racket flat and by just swinging the arm back then towards the table in a straight line.

By bringing their arm downwards they think that the ball should end up by hitting the floor instead of the table. Providing the racket is facing the opposite end of the table and you hit the ball just below the middle of the racket, it will be gripped by the pimples on the rubber and run up the face and travel safely in the right direction.

Only if you hit the ball with the bottom edge of the racket will the ball go floorwards and this, believe me, is not easy to do.

Note: Never go back any further from the table than necessary or you will find you will not be able to get in quickly enough for a short shot. Also by the time the ball reaches the other end any spin imparted will be lost.

Leach gives up Golf

A YEAR ago there was no keener golfer among table tennis players than Johnny Leach. His golf clubs were always in the back of his car for the chance of the odd round as he toured the country, and regularly every Sunday morning he was to be found on the "greens" of the Hainault course.

Now all that is a thing of the past. The clubs have been cleaned and put away in a dark cupboard, not to be taken out again until sometime in the future.

He has made this big sacrifice all because of a chance.

Johnny had got to talking about his indifferent table tennis form of last summer, and the friend suggested that it might well be due to hitting the stationary ball.

Deep thinking Leach, pondered over this and decided to experiment. The clubs were put away, and . . . Presto! Leach is back as England's No. 1.

"It may be just coincidence," said Leach, "but my table tennis has certainly improved."

Players' Tournament Talking Points

Conducted by LAURIE LANDRY

WHENEVER players gather together they are bound to discuss tournaments and conditions. They have their moans and groans and also make suggestions. Unfortunately these seldom go further than the dressing room or the train home.

There are lessons to be learned from them so at the request of the Editor I have been asked to give them a wider hearing.

Below I raise talking points from this season's tournaments and trust organisers will not take offence. They are given in a spirit of being helpful to the game and as a guide to the future.

All players are invited to air their views and make suggestions in the column. So let me hear from you.

The **Portsmouth "Open"** did not have any umpires and relied completely upon players volunteering. In the later stages this worked all right as there were quite a few willing helpers who had already been knocked out.

However, in the early stages when help was most needed, very few people were available as the players were busily engaged and not so ready to umpire.

It is a difficult problem to solve, but

why not ask local clubs to send a representative who is prepared to officiate? Free refreshments might be an incentive. The only alternative would be to make "losers umpire the next match" a condition of entry.

The **Sussex "Open"** is considered possibly the best tournament of the season, apart from the English "Open." It is certainly the best run. But the main complaint is that the table for the finals is on the stage at the White Rock Pavilion, which has an appreciable slope. *A ball placed at the back of the table will roll quickly off at the front.*

The only alternative would be to have the table on the floor level with seats all round and on the stage as at some of the baths halls. Chief difficulty is that it would cut out balcony viewing, but surely it could be so arranged to accommodate a good crowd.

Lighting was a subject of discussion at the **North of England "Open."** This was evenly distributed, but there was no actual light over the table and gave an effect of dimness.

This is not meant as a criticism on the conditions of the tournament, but as a practicable point for improvement that could lead to a brighter finals night next season.

Many players are talking about the inadequacy of prizes at some tourna-

ments. At the **East of England "Open"** for instance the prizes are usually in the form of miniature cups and replicas.

Something more in the line of a voucher as given in lawn tennis and which can be exchanged for goods of the winner's own choosing would be more appreciated. After all, players do not as a rule get expenses and playing in tournaments can be an expensive item.

This view has been expressed by many players, not only those who are on the winning end.

What was wrong with the table for the finals of the **South of England "Open"**? All too often players and spectators were left with the feeling the ball was cracked, when in fact it was due to the table surface.

As better tables were used in the earlier rounds it seems a bad choice was made from those available.

The **Birmingham "Open"** did not run quite so well as usual due a lot to co-ordination difficulties of the Upper and Lower halls. Separate events in separate halls might have eased this a little. Nevertheless the organisers are to be congratulated for their hard work throughout.

Last month's cover picture of Jean Harrower was taken by Mr. Derek Coleman.

Ann Haydon

TACKLE TABLE TENNIS THIS WAY



In this colourful book Ann Haydon has drawn upon her wealth of experience to press home some shrewd advice. Known for her devastating forehand and exceptional fighting spirit, her book is both stimulating and instructional. She is also, of course, a celebrated lawn tennis player and was a

member of Britain's successful Wightman Cup team in addition to reaching the semi-final of the Wimbledon Singles Final in 1958.

Tackle Table Tennis This Way will appeal strongly to all young players seeking advice on how to improve their game. 10s. 6d.



STANLEY PAUL

178-202, Great Portland St., London, W.1.

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS

ORGANISERS REPLY

ORGANISERS of all the tournaments mentioned in Laurie Landry's "Talking Points" have had the opportunity to comment, and they have not been slow in giving their views (writes Conrad Jaschke).

Says CHARLES BOURNE, organiser of the **South of England "Open"**: "I am amazed at Landry's remarks as I have had no complaint of any sort from anyone else. If Landry felt that way about the table, why did he not remark on it at the time while playing in the men's singles semi-final?"

FREDA MERRYWEATHER, organiser of the **East of England "Open"**, writes: "Thank you for the opportunity of replying to Laurie Landry's remarks. Not a very serious criticism I am glad to note!! Butlin's donated our perpetual trophies, and according to leading players they are one of the best collections anywhere in the world. They are insured for around £350. As far as the replicas are concerned, we have some sympathy with Landry's remarks, although we have never received any criticism from cup winners."

Over to the **Portsmouth "Open"**, and here is the broadside delivered by R. PEARSE, chairman of the Portsmouth League: "I agree that there was great difficulty in obtaining a steady flow of umpires, but this was not the fault of the officials, as they had tried unsuccessfully, prior to the tournament, to obtain the services of local players.

"While agreeing that in the later stages things were somewhat easier I entirely disagree with the view that in the early stages very few people were available.

"During that early period, with so many matches to play off, there was a considerable break in between first and second round, and it would have been no hardship for players knocked out—or even those left in—to umpire from time to time.

"Practically the only time we had offers was when anyone wished to umpire a match in which a friend was playing.

"In my opinion, if players can find time on such occasions, then they can also find time on other occasions to help the harassed officials, instead of lolling about, playing cards, or endeavouring to rush the tables for knock-ups.

"These remarks may seem harsh, but anyone with experience of these tournaments is aware that they are fact not fiction. Many of the players fail to appreciate all the hard work the organisers put in beforehand and

on the day, nor do they realise that the organisers are even more worried about the umpire shortage than the players themselves.

"From these remarks I want to exclude particularly L. Hoffman, who has for several years been a tower of strength to the Portsmouth officials on tournament day. Although playing in various events, he always finds time to help and advise. A few more like him, and there would be fewer 'moans and groans.'

"The suggestion that local clubs be asked to find helpers, who would be provided with refreshments, has already been tried and the response was negligible. The whole miserable position is caused by regulation 5(XVIII) which says no player shall be obliged to umpire.

"If this were amended as suggested by Mr. Landry, and losing players made to umpire as is done in "Closed" tournaments, then I feel certain that would ease the situation."

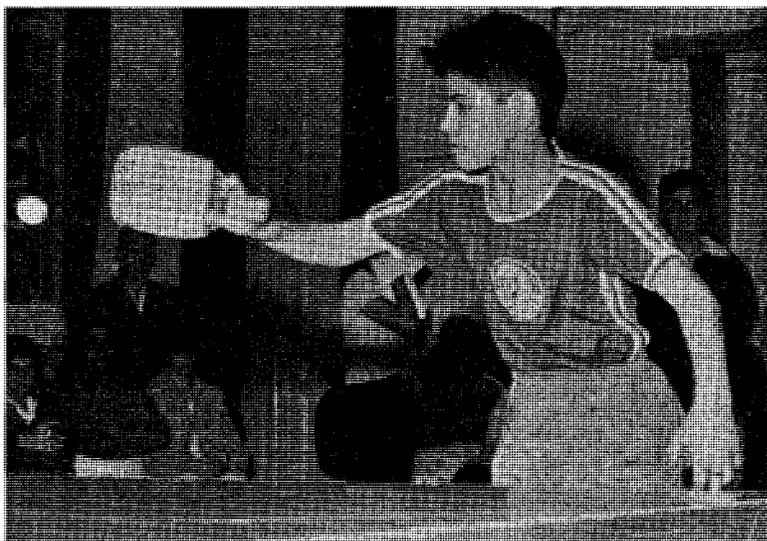
Now let's move over to Hastings, where DEREK TYLER makes this comment on behalf of the **Sussex "Open"** organisers: "It is quite impossible to comment adequately at a moment's

notice, but we would very much like to give our considered reply in the February issue. We do not take grave exception to the criticism as in some respects it is fair comment, and the main point raised has been our concern for some time. Efforts are being made to overcome the difficulties. We are all in favour of this new feature—compiled by an intelligent young man—and suggest that it should contain *Tournament Organisers' Talking Points* as well . . . a few examples of what the organisers have to cope with from some players might breed a more co-operative attitude generally."

Thanks for the suggestion, Mr. Tyler. We shall be pleased to include organisers' as well as players' comments in this feature, and space will be made available for a fuller comment from Hastings in the February issue.

The Editor and myself hope that a better understanding between organiser and player will result from this new feature . . . in future let's have all the moans in this column, and not just in the committee or dressing room!

A BUDDING CHAMPION



"Biriba" (it means petite) Ubiraci Rodrigues da Costa, 13-year-old prodigy from Brazil who has the hallmark of a future world champion. Players who can confirm this are the Japanese stars Tanaka and Ogimura.

In their tour of Brazil "Biriba" beat Tanaka four times out of seven, and Ogimura once out of five. And in two of the matches he lost to Ogimura he held match points!

YORKSHIRE NOTES

LYON AND LAMB

AMONG the latest laurel-winners are a Lyon and a Lamb. Beaten in the final of York's Bagshaw Handicap last year, John Lyon made no mistake this time. He put out holder David Poole in the quarter final and improved as the final progressed to beat Jack Senescall in three.

David Lamb, 15-year-old Dewsbury youths' singles champion, was awarded his Yorkshire badge along with Doncaster's Michael Dainty—and both celebrated by hauling two in a 7-1 junior county victory over Cheshire.

Bradford men's "B" team are bowling along at the top of the Third Division (West) with maximum points from four matches. Gordon Brewerton won four singles in 8-2 successes over Wharfedale and Dewsbury.

Bradford women rocketed to a 10-0 triumph over Dewsbury but were promptly hauled back to earth by Leeds, who won 9-1. Then the males avenged the females when Bradford beat a Leeds team without Kennedy, 9-1.

Margaret Bradnum, England's No. 5 junior, won both her singles at Sheffield to help Hull women to a 7-3 success. So too did Kath Winham, who defeated Jean Peet and Jean Butcher.

Sheffield men surprisingly slipped 4-6 at home to lowly Leeds.

Huddersfield Co-op. know the value of a star player. In their first season in Division I they lost only two of their opening seven, largely due to the consistent form of Gordon Cowgill, Y.M.C.A. "C" almost beat their own "B" team when Mike Binns won all three, but the "B" team survived by 6-4.

Victoria, who dominate Leeds affairs, beat chief league rivals Y.M.C.A. 9-1 and South Leeds Conservative Club 8-2. But when they met South Leeds, again in the cup, the holders found themselves 2-5 down and had to fight furiously for a 5-5 draw.

Their players were prominent in the Leeds "closed." Terry Lofthouse was in terrific form and like a crack rifleman at Bislely knocked down in quick succession such well-known men as Peter Simpson, John Hancock, Geoff. Stead and Mike Barratt to reach his first final. Then he shot up the hopes of clubmate Ken Park after being behind at 10-16 in the decider to take the trophy.

The finalists paired to beat holders Simpson and John Spencer in an all-Victoria doubles final.

Other winners: Women's Singles: Marjorie Lightfoot beat Marjorie Harrison; women's doubles: Lightfoot and Harrison beat Mollie Browning and Cynthia Wright; mixed doubles: Park and Lightfoot beat Simpson and Wright; veterans' singles: Geoff. Farrar; youths' singles: P. Davies.

The Premier Division match against Essex provided the most thrilling table tennis seen in Yorkshire for a long time. A packed house was particularly excited by the good form of Ray Hinchliff. He repeated his win of last season over Bobby Raybould, took a game off Johnny Leach and failed only narrowly with Stuart Dyson against Raybould and Stevens in the doubles.

Malcolm Hartley

LEICESTER IMPROVE

LEICESTERSHIRE'S 6-4 win over Staffordshire has given them a splendid chance of topping the Midland Division. Once again it was the men (C. Jacques, J. C. Burraston and P. Reid) who were responsible, taking all the six matches between them.

In the Midland League an improvement has been shown. The women's second team took their first point of the season when they drew with Hereford. Outstanding was Margaret Pittam, whose ice-cool temperament helped her win both her matches without difficulty.

The men's second team gained their first win of the season when they defeated Hereford.

Tony Odams, a last-minute choice, turned in a good display, winning one and taking the doubles with Paul Newby.

The Intermediates beat Hereford 9-1, leaving only Leicester and Worcester with maximum points.

If Leicester can win this division it will be the first time since the war they have topped any division of the Midland League.

The feature of the Hereford match was the return to form of Gordon Murray, who won both his matches easily.

In the Leicester and District League, the lower divisions are being keenly contested. Barwell Y.M.C.A., with Roger Huckle and Keith Brown, appear favourites for 3A, while the return to Revermacs of Roy Tester has considerably improved their chances in 3B.

Berridges look almost unbeatable in 4B and if any team is able to upset the powerful combination of Alan Taylor, Stan Turland and Dave White, it will come in the nature of a surprise. Spinney Hill W.M.C. II, for whom Ralph Clements and Stan Bruton are outstanding, have a good chance in 5B. A strong challenge, though, is coming from Civil Service, whose J. Leonard seems unbeatable.

There are also two teams fighting it out at the top of 5A—Banks III and Grieves II. Doreen Coombes and Mick Saunders have shown consistency for Grieves but it is possible that the slightly stronger all-round strength of Banks (B. Williams, G. Goodridge, R. Delves) may give them the title.

In 6A, Leicester Y.M.C.A. VI, captained by John Hubbard, lead at the moment. John Ratcliffe, Alec Beaton and Martin Preston are playing well. They may be hard-pressed by Whitwick Colliery (J. Radford, I. Hall and F. Perry) and Wadkins, for whom David Sparrow and Trevor Hexter-Millward are on form. In 6B, too, there is plenty of interest with Berridges II, holding a slight lead. P. Reid

WARWICKSHIRE
"CLOSED" REVIVED

ONE of the best New Year gifts for Maurice Goldstein is the revival of the Warwickshire "Closed" Championships which are being staged after a lapse of twelve years at Coventry on February 10. Maurice has tried for so long to get these Championships restarted but has been beaten time and again by the old and well known enemy "no suitable venue." Let us hope he gets a record entry to make up for all his past disappointments.

The International match at Birmingham against Holland on January 10 brings the TV cameras to cover table tennis in the Midlands for the first time. They will certainly have something good to look at, as the England team will be Ann Haydon, Di Rowe, Mike Thornhill, Brian Merrett and Ian Harrison.

The Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl Zone matches played in Birmingham were somewhat marred by the non-appearance of Shrewsbury and the fact that Coventry were playing one girl short. Birmingham took the Rose Bowl Zone Final and Leicester the Wilmott Cup, with Jacques, playing better than ever, Burraston and Reed. This present Leicester team stand a good chance of getting into the Final.

Our Juniors played their first friendly match on January 3 against Staffordshire. Any of the stronger counties interested in a junior friendly are asked to get in touch with Maurice Goldstein as soon as possible.

In the Warwickshire League the first two match results were: Leamington 7, Nuneaton 3; Coventry 6, Birmingham 4. Birmingham are playing all juniors in these matches in accordance with their policy—a very good one too.

It is always pleasant to see a small league blossom forth and this is happening in Leamington at the moment. They have, of course, always had Bill Gallagher, but with the welcome addition of Maurice Leach, and Johnny Earles playing better than ever, they are top of the Midland League Second Division and are almost certain of promotion. Not bad going for their first season in higher standard play. We would like to take this opportunity of sending good wishes from the Heart of England for a very happy and prosperous New Year to our table tennis friends everywhere.

M. E. Evans.

PARTNERS FOR LIFE

Burnley mixed doubles pair Ivy Haney, Lancashire's No. 1 woman player, and Fred Kershaw, formerly of Essex, have now become partners for life. They were married at St. Matthew's Church, Burnley, on November 29 (see cover picture.)

Kershaw went to Burnley to further his game at Ken Stanley's table tennis school. It was there they first met.

Both play in the Burnley town team and Stanley says they will soon be providing serious opposition to the best in the country.

Kershaw is an E.T.T.A. coach.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

A top form performance by Jack Lindsay helped Bath to climb into second place in the Western Counties championship table with a 7-2 win over Weston.

Lindsay won his three matches in convincing style beating J. Limna, G. Brown and R. Philpott.

Limna and Brown made amends by scoring the only Weston successes when they defeated A. Goldsack and D. Smith respectively.

Philpott, the Weston captain, had a strained back and consequently was never at his best.

Bristol, so far unbeaten, heads the championship table at the present with Cheltenham and Cardiff, who have played only one match lying third and fourth.

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Bristol	2	2	0	15	3	4
Bath	3	2	1	12	15	4
Cheltenham	1	1	0	6	4	2
Cardiff	1	1	0	8	1	2
Weston	2	1	1	7	11	2
Bristol II	1	0	1	3	6	0
Birmingham	2	0	2	7	13	0
Newport	2	0	2	7	11	0

Grove Motlow

STAFFORDSHIRE KNOTS

COUNTY activities in Staffordshire were off to a late start this season with the first match taking place on December 6 when the "B" team visited Leicestershire. With two new caps in the side in Deraza (Potteries) and Walton (Wolverhampton) they went down by the narrow margin of 6-4.

Chief credit must go to Beryl Broad, from the Potteries, and Barbara Wace, of West Bromwich. Miss Broad's experience helped her gain an easy win over Miss Wait and paired with Miss Wace they took the women's doubles in a close match. Miss Wall was also successful in the mixed doubles with N. Walton.

The only men's single success went to young Deraza who did extremely well to beat the experienced Burraston in two straight games.

Making a welcome return after a period of retirement, Rex Woolley (Potteries) was on the losing end in all his games but did enough to justify his inclusion.

The "A" team tackle what will probably be their toughest assignment in the Second Division West when in their opening match they meet Glamorgan. Last year's successful team will be on duty for this important match, the result of which could well have a bearing on the title.

Derek Backhouse is now running into his best form while Geoff. Robbins, as dependable as ever, recently achieved one of his dearest ambitions in taking the men's singles title at the Woodfield Invitation Tournament.

John Osborne is still a most difficult player to beat while the West Bromwich girls, Dorothy Worrall and Christine Charman have only to continue where they left off last season to make them a formidable combination.

The county coaching week-end at Lilleshall was a great success with all the

participants agreeing that the trip was more than worth while.

Last season's highly successful men's and women's singles tournament is being repeated in the New Year and will once more be seen as an "American" tournament. In addition, the Staffordshire "Closed" Tournament will be held in February so there will be plenty of competition to satisfy all enthusiasts.

Too little has been heard in the past concerning activities in Stafford so it is with great pleasure that I have to record the first win in two seasons by the Stafford "A" team. The victims were Dudley "A" who were defeated by 6-4. Eighteen-year-old John Taylor, who has vastly improved since his coaching week-end at Lilleshall, played a decisive part in his team's victory and recently claimed a win over V. Deraza.

Will all Associations please let me have news of their activities for inclusion in these notes. My prolonged stay in hospital prevents me going out in search of it. So its up to you.

Alec Backhouse

KENT NOTES

THE Folkestone "Invitation," the first major tournament in Kent's comprehensive programme, once again supplied it's usual shock results.

This season it was Ken Jarvis (Woolwich) who upset expectations. Showing the form that gave him a chance in the county team prior to his national service two years ago, he beat Kent's top two players, Dennis Whittaker and Henry Buist to reach the final.

However he then lost to a brilliant Tony Piddock, who before his home supporters went all out in a bid to regain the county No. 1 position which he conceded to Dennis Whittaker earlier this season.

Other surprises in this tournament were supplied by two county juniors, Mickie Pass and Susan Thomas. Mickie showed his capabilities by reaching the quarter-finals at the expense of three Beckenham Kent league players, Chris Hora, Tony Herbert and Paul Brook.

He then went down to Henry Buist.

Susan made her presence felt in the mixed doubles where partnered by Tony Piddock she showed little respect for the opposition and reached the semi-finals before losing to the formidable county first team combination of George Elliott and Joyce Fielder.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: K. JARVIS bt H. Buist 27-25, 21-13. T. PIDDOCK bt A. Gazeley 21-10, 21-17.

Final: PIDDOCK bt Jarvis 21-16, 21-14.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: J. FIELDER bt B. Landimore 21-18, 21-14.

Mrs. J. BEADLE bt M. Dodd 23-21, 21-16.

Final: FIELDER bt Mrs. J. Beadle 21-7, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: Final: BUIST / M. WESTOBY bt G. Elliott/Piddock 17-21, 21-15, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: Final: J. REEVES/ Mrs. BEADLE bt Fielder/Mrs. Dodd 21-16, 22-20.

Mixed doubles: Final: ELLIOTT/ Mrs. FIELDER bt A. Dodd/Mrs. Dodd 21-14, 21-13.

The Kentish Men's Federation, formed last season, held their first ever "closed" championships at Barnhurst last month. Unique feature of this event was the running of additional singles' events restricted to players who are not of a high enough standard to be in teams competing in the Kent league.

The idea proved highly successful for of the 366 entries 110 were for these events.

Of the players from the nine leagues taking part the Bromley contingent proved the most successful for they took the men's singles, both restricted singles and had a share in the men's doubles.

FINAL RESULTS

Men's Singles (unrestricted): M. WONG bt B. Heiberg 21-13, 21-14. **Men's Singles (restricted):** J. TABBENOR bt B. Hartley 21-7, 19-21, 21-14.

Women's singles (unrestricted): M. DODD bt B. Landimore 21-14, 21-15.

Women's Singles (Restricted): A. MITCHELL bt Mrs. McShee 21-16, 19-21, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: J. NIXON/ TABBENOR bt D. Loveridge/M. Westoby 23-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: LANDIMORE/A. HALLETT bt Dodd/J. Pilfold 21-14, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: R. TUTT/ LANDIMORE bt A. Dodd/Dodd 21-16, 19-21, 25-23.

Junior Singles: M. ELLIS bt D. Basden 21-19, 18-21, 21-17.

Len Pilfold

CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S FIRST POINT

FOR the first time since they joined the Southern Division championship two seasons ago, Cambridgeshire took a point and left the bottom of the table following their 5-all draw with Norfolk.

Cambridgeshire were, at one stage, 3-5 down but two fine wins by John Thurston, who won both his singles, and John Cornwell forced a draw.

Surprise was the earlier defeat of Cornwell by Holdum. Cornwell won the first game easily but against the good stroke play of his opponent lost the second 20-22 and the decider 16-21.

Cambridgeshire can now call on the services of Don Norton and Bryn Thompson who should add punch to the team.

Thompson showed himself to possess a good all-round ability when helping Cambridge City beat Wisbech by 9-0 in a recent Wilmott Cup tie.

The City were much too strong for Wisbech although R. Williams played extremely well to take games off both Cornwell and Thompson.

Gaining revenge for their defeat of last season, the City beat Kings Lynn in the second round of the Rose Bowl competition.

Avis Pauley and Margaret Cornwell gave the City a good start by beating Betty Cassell and Jean White in the first doubles match. From 0-4 down Kings Lynn pulled up to 2-4 but Avis Pauley clinched the match with a 21-6, 21-9 win over Jean White, who was still suffering from a strained back following a recent road accident.

New Chesterton Institute head the First Division of the Cambridgeshire league table having lost only one match—against Wesley.

Leslie Constable

ESSEX STRONG POSITION

A FINE 6-4 win over Yorkshire has put Essex in a strong position for winning the County Championship for the first time. We realise, however, we have four hard matches to play—Gloucestershire and Cheshire away, Lancashire and Middlesex at home.

The Braintree League stage the Lancashire match at the Crittall Social Club on February 7. While the Romford League put on the Middlesex match at Lambourne Hall, Y.M.C.A., Western Road, Romford, on Wednesday, February 18.

The number of spectators for the latter match will be strictly limited to 250.

Tickets, price 5s., 4s. and 3s. 6d.—all numbered and reserved will be available after January 17 from K. G. Catton, 8, Woodlands Avenue, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex.

Congratulations by Bobby Raybould who celebrated his international selection against Ireland, by winning the Middlesex "Open."

The go-ahead Chelmsford League have started a coaching scheme for both senior and junior players. Geoff Newman is in charge.

Entry forms are now available for the Essex Junior "Closed" Championships which will be played at Marconi Works, Chelmsford, on February 14.

Please note my new address: 4, Draycot Road, Wanstead, London, E.11.

Frank Bateman.

LANCASHIRE and

CHESHIRE NOTES

THE current season of the Lancashire and Cheshire League is now two months old and in Division I only Manchester and Burnley have full points—and they do not clash until the last match of the season at Burnley. Newly promoted Liverpool and Nelson are finding it rather hard going.

Not so in the second divisions where newcomers Ellesmere Port and Oldham "A" have both earned maximum as have last year's runners-up, Ashton and Wirral. Does this indicate a bigger difference in the standard between first and second than between second and third divisions.

Competition for promotion from the regional third divisions is going to be

particularly keen with nine teams still unbeaten. Three of these are in Division 3B each with 100 per cent. returns from three matches. Liverpool Business Houses have been well served by unbeaten No. 1 Harold Wilcock.

Special interest must centre on the Junior Division, which in the 1954-5 season had only three teams, 55-56, 56-57 and 57-58 six teams, now has a total of nine teams.

Liverpool, reaping the benefit of their excellent youth policy, previously mentioned in these columns, now head the division with maximum points from three games, closely followed by Ashton and Wirral.

Leading positions to date are

DIVISION ONE					
Manchester	2	2	0	0	20 0 4
Stockport	2	1	0	1	12 8 2
Liverpool	2	1	0	1	8 12 2
DIVISION TWO (SOUTH)					
Wirral	2	2	0	0	14 6 4
Ellesmere Port	2	2	0	0	13 7 4
Liverpool "A"	3	1	1	1	16 14 3
DIVISION TWO (NORTH)					
Oldham "A"	3	3	0	0	21 9 6
Ashton	2	2	0	0	14 6 4
Manchester "A"	2	1	0	1	12 8 2

Continuity of service seems to be the order of the day in the Ashton and District League, due undoubtedly to the league's confidence in the proven calibre of the men in office. Chairman Harry Renshaw and secretary Norman Cook have each been members of the executive committee for 25 years. Roy Normanton has been match secretary for 10 years and his father treasurer for nine years.

Harry Renshaw has also been chairman of the Cheshire Association since its inauguration as a separate body from Lancashire and has played for Cheshire many times but has now given up hitting the celluloid ball penholder fashion and enjoys a 'good game of golf.

Norman Cook of course is well known nationally and has been a member of the National Executive Committee and secretary of Lancashire and Cheshire for the past eight years.

The league is financially sound with some 40 teams competing in four divisions. Currently, of course, satisfaction is being derived from the performances of the senior and junior teams in the Lancashire and Cheshire League. Both are at present unbeaten, the senior team carrying on where they left off last year.

John K. Kennerley.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

READING are now in a strong position to win this season's Inter-Town League, despite being defeated by Didcot in the opening match of the season.

After their 8-2 win over last season's winners at Maidenhead, the Reading side went on to complete the double by winning 6-4 in the return match.

For this second encounter both towns made changes in their sides. Les Wise came into the Reading team and Ken Egginton played for Maidenhead.

With the men's singles being shared and Margaret Butler winning the women's singles for Reading, the doubles events finally settled the issue.

Maidenhead, however, have beaten Newbury twice and Didcot, so still have an outside chance if Reading fail to win their remaining matches.

Didcot could also climb to the top of the table but they would first have to defeat both Reading and Maidenhead.

Unfortunately for Didcot, Terry Densham has left the district and will not be available for their remaining matches.

We in Berkshire congratulate this young Hertfordshire County player on being selected for England.

INTER-TOWN LEAGUE TABLE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Reading	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Maidenhead	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Didcot	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Newbury	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

In this season's Wilmott Cup Competition both Reading and Maidenhead lost to Staines. Reading, with victories over Oxford University, Newbury and Slough, reached the zone semi-final but they found that Staines, with M. Thornhill and R. Sharman, were a very strong force, and although Reading's Mike Darlington beat H. Joyce, they were beaten by 5-1.

The Reading women's team played exceptionally well in the Rose Bowl Competition to reach the zone final. However, it was again Staines that won the day by the close margin of 5-4.

Brian Barnes, the County champion from Maidenhead, is enjoying a successful season in both town and county matches. His best performance was in the county match with Hertfordshire when he defeated both England's Terry Densham and John Hunt in straight games.

Barnes, playing a cool defensive game, refused to give in to Densham's hard hitting and his superb ball control decided the issue.

Les Wise is also coming back into form and his match with Hertfordshire's D. Barr provided plenty of tense moments before Wise won 26-24 in the third game.

M. W. Jerome

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

Wednesday, January 21, is Suffolk Champs. Finals' Night. Staging this event in mid-week is a new departure from custom and the change is because Wednesday is the half closing day in Ipswich while the venue, Orwell Works, is available only in mid-week.

The Championships officials attach considerable importance to this venue, which provides a splendid setting for such an event. A large crowd is expected.

The Junior Girls' singles have already been played off (by custom this tournament is played on a day before the main events) and a new champion has emerged. Carolyn Phillip beat last season's holder, Kay Powell, in an interesting encounter.

In the S.I.T.L. Ipswich and Lowestoft are still carrying everything before them. Results: Lowestoft 9, Newmarket 1; Peasehall 3, Stowmarket 7; Newmarket 1, Ipswich 9; Sudbury 1, Lowestoft 9.

In the East Anglian League Ipswich lost at home to Yarmouth by 3-7 but Lowestoft enhanced their chances of the championship title by winning at King's Lynn 7-3.

Carolyn Phillips has now played five times for the Junior Team and thus qualifies for her Junior Badge.

Peter Morley of Ipswich made his debut for the Suffolk Senior Team against Sussex during December.

Ipswich coaches have now extended their activities to Sudbury where 16 players are interested in receiving tuition.

A. E. D.

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WELSH CORNER

GLAMORGAN STILL UNBEATEN

WITH the season half way through, Glamorgan are still unbeaten in the Second Division (West) of the National County Championships.

Travelling to Stoke just before Christmas, the Welsh County withstood a determined challenge by Staffordshire, expected to be one of the hardest "nuts" to crack.

Ron Davies's excellent form undoubtedly had much to do with Glamorgan's win, for his victory over Derek Backhouse in the second match of the evening was a most important factor.

Norman Parker gave Glamorgan a good start by beating Osborne two straight. Then followed Ron's fine win, and after that Glyn Morgan beat Robbins, so we were now in a strong position.

Audrey Bates and Gretta Dimascio consolidated by beating Miss Worrall and Miss Charman comfortably, but we slipped when Ron and Glyn fell to Backhouse and Osborne. Audrey Bates put us back in winning vein with a good win over Miss Worrall, and Ron gave us victory with a win against Osborne.

We lost the mixed, Norman Parker being much too inaccurate in his partnership with Gretta against Robbins and Miss Charman, but he pulled himself together and worked for his win against Robbins. In the last match Glyn had an entertaining but unsuccessful match with Backhouse.

Our remaining matches in the County Championship are against Devon away, and Somerset and Dorset at home.

Highspots to come are our match with England at Newport Drill Hall, on January 16th, the Welsh "Open" on that evening and the following day at the Dumfries Place Drill Hall, and two matches on January 24th—against Ireland in Dublin, and the Juniors against England in London.

Tickets for the match against England at Newport are obtainable from Newport

League Secretary Grove Motlow, 29 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, and for the Welsh "Open" from Mrs. Roy Evans, 1 Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Cardiff. In both cases seats are reservable at 5/- and 3/6, and there will be unreserved accommodation at 2/6.

In the Welsh League, end of the year positions from results so far received are unexpected. Inavailability of key players in some matches has certainly had something to do with it. Maybe by the end of the season some of the apparent anomalies will have been ironed out.

Here are the league tables:—

	Won	Lost	Pts.
DIVISION ONE			
Abergavenny	4	2	14
Newport	4	2	14
Aberdare	3	3	12
Cardiff	3	3	12
Port Talbot	3	2	11
Swansea	2	3	9
Barry	1	3	6
Eastern Valleys	1	3	6
DIVISION TWO SOUTH			
Cardiff II	5	0	15
Rhondda	4	1	13
Bridgend	3	2	11
Eastern Valley II	2	3	9
Aberdare	1	4	7
Cardiff P.S.	0	5	5
DIVISION TWO NORTH			
Cardiff P.S.	4	0	12
Tredegar	3	1	10
Merthyr	2	2	8
Brecon	1	3	6
Abergavenny	0	4	4
JUNIOR			
Aberdare	6	0	18
Newport	4	2	14
Abergavenny	3	3	12
Swansea	3	3	12
Port Talbot	2	3	9
Cardiff	1	5	8
Barry	0	5	5
WOMEN			
Cardiff	3	0	9
Newport	1	2	5
Swansea	1	1	4
Cardiff P.S.	0	2	2

Congratulations to last season's unfortunates—Aberdare, who are doing better in Division I, and Cardiff Public Services, who look like fighting their way back to the upper circles. Aberdare are also the stars of the Junior Division this season, having won all their matches in most convincing manner.

SWANSEA "OPEN"

SCOTTISH internationals Ian Barclay and Tommy McMichael played in the Swansea "Open" on December 6th, and both reached the quarters, but there their progress ended.

Played at the Drill Hall, this event was easily the best organised by the Swansea League, and there was some excellent play to reward their efforts.

Welsh "Closed" Champion George Evans, not very convincing so far this season, won the men's singles. He lost the first game to Glyn Morgan and seeming to be well on the way to losing the second, but fought back splendidly and won the decider in very good style.

Evans had previously done well to beat Ian Barclay in the quarters, then went on to beat Bryn Bowden, who was playing well enough to beat Welsh No. 1 Ron Davies in the other quarter. Glyn Morgan repeated his international victory over Tommy McMichael, and in the semi-final beat Norman Parker, who had defeated Alan Thomas in his quarter.

The women's singles saw a popular local win for Betty Gray, whose form hitherto had not been good. She beat Audrey Bates in the semi-final, then won a close tussle with Gretta Dimascio in the final.

Twice defeated by Gretta this season, Betty fought hard and just won the first at 20-all. Then Gretta took the second easily, but although she lead most of the way through the third, Betty was steadier in the closing stages and ran out winner 21-18.

The men's doubles went to Ron Davies and George Evans who beat Bernard Dimascio and Stan Jones in the semi-final, and Glyn Morgan and Alan Morris in the final. The latter's semi-final victims were Norman Parker and Alan Thomas.

Audrey Bates and Gretta Dimascio took the women's doubles, beating Elizabeth Bale and Pat Adams in the semi-final, and Betty Gray and Audrey Jones (who had previously beaten Margaret Jones and Margaret Phillips) in the final.

In the mixed, Alan Morris and Betty Gray were too good for Norman Parker and Audrey Bates. The winners beat Stan and Margaret Jones in their semi-final, while Parker and Miss Bates beat Glyn Morgan and Audrey Jones.

Kerry Cutler beat Ian Gibson 23-21, 27-25 in the very good boys' final.

Men's Singles: G. EVANS bt G. Morgan 2-1.

Women's Singles: B. GRAY bt G. Dimascio 2-1.

Men's Doubles: R. DAVIES/EVANS bt Morgan/A. Morris.

Women's Doubles: A. BATES / DIMASCIO, bt Gray/A. Jones.

Mixed Doubles: MORRIS/Miss GRAY bt N. Parker/Miss Bates.

Boys' Singles: K. Cutler bt I. Gibson 23-21, 27-25.

WALES AVENGE DEFEAT

INTENT on avenging that first-ever defeat at the hands of Scotland at Motherwell last season, the Welsh side registered a convincing 7-3 victory at Porth on December 5th.

Things did not look too good for Wales to start with, for Barclay, the best of the Scots, was too good for Glyn Morgan, whose attack lacked bite.

Ronnie Davies levelled matters with a good win over Tommy McMichael, but Wales went behind again when Parker could not cope with John Braithwaite's sponge.

Then came an exciting doubles between Audrey Bates and Gretta Dimascio for Wales and Helen Houlston and Diane Black. At one time it looked as if the Welsh pair had the match nicely in hand, but the Scots, by virtue of some excellent retrieving by Miss Houlston levelled at 20-all in the second, only to lose 22-24.

Morgan and Davies also lost some long leads in a game of fluctuating fortune with McMichael and Barclay, but the Welsh pair eventually put the home side in the lead.

Then followed the most exciting game of the evening—the singles between Miss Bates and Miss Houlston. The latter's defence has improved immensely, and although Audrey was

not hitting hard enough, the game had the crowd on its toes. Audrey won the first, and had a long lead in the second, only for the Scot to make a great recovery and level at one game all. In the third it was Helen's turn to get a long lead, but Audrey fought back and finally scraped home 23-21.

Gretta Dimascio started nervously against Diane Black, but began to hit well towards the end of the first game. In the second she was well on top and her attack was much too good for Diane.

Norman Parker, not in good form, then lost to Barclay, but Ron Davies found no terrors in Braithwaite and Glyn Morgan, with the anxiety gone played fluently to beat McMichael.

Detailed results (Welsh names first): G. Morgan lost to I. Barclay —18, 18, —14; beat T. McMichael 13, 16. R. Davies beat McMichael 21, 14; J. Braithwaite 19, 16, N. Parker lost to Braithwaite —15, 15, —14; lost to Barclay —17, 14, —18.

Miss A. Bates beat Miss H. Houlston 19, —22, 21. Mrs. G. Dimascio beat Miss D. Black 18, 11. Morgan/Davies beat McMichael/Barclay 17, —17, 18. Miss Bates/Mrs. Dimascio beat Miss Houlston/Miss Black 16, 22.

To smoke or not to smoke

RECENTLY I was present at a gathering of sportsmen who were discussing the effect of smoking on the athlete (writes Conrad Jaschke). It will surprise nobody to learn that there were wide differences of opinion, mostly between smokers and non-smokers!

Through the smoke haze I fell to wondering what effect "Lady Nicotine" might have on sporting performances. Would a non-smoker have an advantage in wind, maybe? Or perhaps the soothing effect of tobacco might induce a better temperament?

The smoker may insist that a cigarette is as good as a tranquiliser, it relaxes him, aiding him in the nerve-straining business of playing top class sport. The non-smoker might retort that you cannot smoke "out in the middle."

Now, I cannot claim to be neutral in this matter. True, I used to smoke my regular ten a day, but I gave up smoking some ten years ago, and since those days I have become not so much a non-smoker as, an anti-smoker.

Smoke nauseates me. I suffer agonies travelling in a railway carriage surrounded by smokers blowing the filthy stuff all over me. I try desperately, time after time, to convince my wife

that by her smoking habit she is taking years off her life expectation, and condemning me to widowerhood before the age of 40.

My entreaties, to my surprise, have no effect.

Anyone coming to dinner at our house can ensure not being asked again by smoking between courses . . . but there is not much I can do about people spoiling my enjoyment of even the best meal when dining out, by their inconsiderate indulgence in cigarette, pipe, and worst of all, cigar, at adjoining tables.

CAMPAIGNED

For years I have campaigned, without success, for cinemas to ban smoking, and in despair I have forsaken the large screen for the small one, where at least there is only one person smoking in the room.

I hope that in the foregoing paragraph I have established the fact that, generally speaking, I am not all that much in favour of smoking.

But how does it affect table tennis players? Here my old friend Ron Etheridge, as Kent's match secretary, recently presented me with powerful ammunition. It appears that Ron most

carefully checked some statistics, and an amazing fact transpired:

Out of the nine men on Kent's ranking list, all are non-smokers, and of the nine women, only two smoke.

Surely here was the answer. The superior fitness, stamina, and general health of the non-smoker, was steadily and mercilessly pushing the smokers off the Kent ranking list. Another year or so, and we should have complete victory in our grasp, and be able to declare a smokeless zone in Kent.

At this stage, the smokers, however, appeared to have lost patience with me, and mounted a determined counter-attack. Their spies discovered my hidden schemes, and they declared, for all the world to hear, that I was using my position as chairman of Kent selectors to discriminate against smokers, and those whom I could not persuade to stop smoking (unlike Etheridge, from whom I extort a commission for all the money he is saving by not smoking) I had painlessly removed from the ranking list.

All this has put me very much on the defensive. And so I am willing to compromise. I will withdraw my charge that smokers are inferior to non-smokers, if the opposition will withdraw their charges against me. And together we shall tell the truth about the Kent ranking list: our players are non-smokers because they spend all their money entering tournaments from the far north to the deep south, which leaves them too poor to afford the luxury of tobacco.

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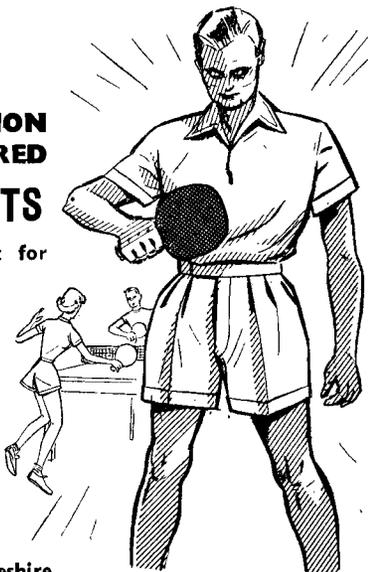
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UNIVERSITY COMMENTARY

Interest in this year's U.A.U. championship rests on Durham University's attempt to win the title for the third successive time. They have made an impressive start, beating Hull and Sheffield without loss of a game. Manchester, who have beaten Leeds and Liverpool in their game, are Durham's next opponents, the winner going forward to the semi-final. In the Southern Division, this stage has been reached by Bristol with impressive wins against Southampton, Exeter and last year's finalists, Reading.

This year's individual championships are at Loughborough on January 24. Entries must be in before the beginning of next term, so get an entry form from the U.A.U. office before going down.

Finally, an additional U.A.U. representative match has been provisionally arranged this season. The opponents will be the Civil Service, who will be able to field a strong team.

P. D. Chaplin.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP - - - By CONRAD JASCHKE

ESSEX HAVE BIG CHANCE

ESSEX, who have been for many years the underdogs, emerge as the only unbeaten team in the premier division following their 6-4 victory over Yorkshire.

For eleven years they have been chasing the title, but with the exception of 1955/56 when Surrey were successful, it has always gone to Middlesex.

Now Middlesex are the chief stumbling block to the Essex ambition, and when the two sides meet in February it could be a title decider. By then Essex may have beaten Lancashire and Gloucestershire—although as nothing is certain in table tennis I may have to eat my words by next month. An Essex defeat would bring not only Middlesex but also Surrey and Yorkshire back into the title hunt.

Three times this season Essex have taken two valuable points by 6-4 victories . . . against Kent, Surrey and now Yorkshire.

There was great excitement at Bradford when Yorkshire and Essex, as the only unbeaten sides, lined up for their needle match. Such was the demand for tickets that some 40 spectators were left outside. Those who did get in saw a thriller with the result delayed until the last event.

Bobby Raybould once again gave Essex a good start by a clear-cut victory over Stuart Dyson only for Brian Kennedy to put Yorkshire level with an equally convincing win over Bobby Stevens. Then Johnny Leach again gave Essex the lead by beating Ray Hinchliff, taking three games to do it.

By taking Kathie Best out of the

women's doubles Yorkshire had virtually conceded this match, which Essex won easily, but there followed a tremendous struggle in the men's doubles, with Raybould and Stevens getting home by 28-26, 21-19 against Dyson and Hinchliffe. It was a great effort by the Yorkshire partnership against what I now consider to be the best men's doubles pair in England.

Kathie Best, making her 50th appearance for Yorkshire, put the northerners back into the picture with a convincing win over Barbara Milbank who was given no chance to repeat the giant killing act she gave against Surrey.

Then Stevens defeated Dyson, this being the first time this season that the Yorkshire No. 3 has failed to win at least one singles in a match, and Essex were 5-2 up.

What Yorkshire had lost on the women's doubles they gained in the mixed, when Kennedy and Miss Best

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

January 10	Yorkshire v Cheshire, The Mechanics Institute, Bridge Street, Bradford	7 p.m.
	Lancashire v Middlesex, Holy Trinity Memorial Hall, Dean Street, Blackpool	7 p.m.
	Gloucestershire v Essex	
February 7	Middlesex v Yorkshire, Ascot Gas Water Heaters, North Road, London, N.W.10	7.15 p.m.
	Essex v Lancashire, Crittall Social Club, Braintree	7 p.m.
	Kent v Surrey, Barnehurst Residential Club, Parkside Avenue, Barnehurst	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

January 10	Durham v Northumberland, Middlesbrough	7 p.m.
	Lincolnshire v Yorkshire, Blenheim Memorial Hall, Wormgate, Boston	7 p.m.
	Derbyshire v Warwickshire	
January 31	Derbyshire v Northumberland	
	Yorkshire v Durham	
February 7	Derbyshire v Lincolnshire	

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

January 10	Sussex v Berkshire	
	Hertfordshire v Hampshire, The Oxhey Hall Community Centre, Hampermill Lane, Oxhey, Watford, Herts.	7 p.m.
January 17	Kent v Hertfordshire, S.E.G.B., Grenfell Street, Blackwall Lane, London, S.E.10	7 p.m.
February 7	Berkshire v Suffolk	

SECOND DIVISION WEST

January 10	Somerset v Worcestershire, St. Peter's Hall, Dorset Street, Lower Bristol Road, Bath	7.15 p.m.
	Devon v Cornwall	
January 17	Wiltshire v Staffordshire, Sanford Street School, Swindon	7.15 p.m.
January 24	Glamorgan v Somerset	
February 7	Wiltshire v Devon, Roundway Hospital, Devizes	7.15 p.m.
	Staffordshire v Somerset	
	Dorset v Glamorgan	

MIDLAND DIVISION

January 10	Staffordshire v Warwickshire, Landwell Castings Ltd., West Bromwich	7 p.m.
February 7	Warwickshire v Oxfordshire, Flavells Ltd., Canteen, Leamington Spa	7 p.m.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

January 10	Norfolk v Buckinghamshire	
January 16	Hertfordshire v Cambridgeshire, I.C.I. Canteen, Black Fan Road, Welwyn Garden City	7.15 p.m.
February 7	Hertfordshire v Norfolk, Dunlop Sports Co., Canteen, Lea Road Works, Waltham Abbey, Essex	7 p.m.
	Buckinghamshire v Bedfordshire	

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

January 31	Yorkshire v Durham	
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SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

January 10	Middlesex v Suffolk, Whitbreads Ltd., Chiswell Street, London, E.C.1	5 p.m.
	Hertfordshire v Sussex, The Electrical Apparatus Co., Club House, New Barnes Avenue, St. Albans	6.45 p.m.
February 7	Suffolk v Sussex	



JOHNNY LEACH BRIAN KENNEDY

showed themselves to be much superior to Leach and Mrs. Jean McCree, and when Hinchliffe beat Raybould it was 5-4 to Essex, who once again had all their chips staked on the last match of the evening.

What an asset to have Johnny Leach for such an occasion . . . "Old man" or not! There is not a player in the country other than Johnny whom one could have fancied to succeed against Kennedy before his own crowd, particularly as the Yorkshireman had not lost to any English player during the season.

However, Yorkshire hopes were dashed as Leach showed that even if his two world singles titles are now some years in the past, he is still a player of class, and won 21-16, 21-13.

Said Yorkshire's longtime match secretary and architect of that sell out, Les Forrest: "Essex played the sort of attractive table tennis we want our supporters to see. Everyone had their money's worth this time. I hope Essex go on to win the title."

Bryan Merrett and Ian Harrison had to put on the now well-known rescue act to salvage a point for

Gloucestershire against Lancashire. Between them they won four singles and the men's doubles in this 5-all draw.

Bob Morley almost gave Gloucestershire a winning start, but Geoff Pullar pipped him in the decider. Mrs. E. Morley took a game off Ivy Haney, but again the Lancashire girl succeeded in the end.

Though Ron Allcock was the only northerner without a singles win, he was the player who most troubled Harrison and Merrett, and he had the consolation of winning the mixed doubles partnered by Mrs. Connie Spencer. This was Lancashire's first point and it still leaves them precariously placed, so that they will have to be on their best behaviour again Cheshire and Kent.

Yorkshire went to the top of Division II North by virtue of their 9-1 victory over Northumberland. With Maurice Simpson, M. J. Pitts, G. Carrigill, Mrs. M. Dyson and Jean Preston, Yorkshire's second string proved much too strong for their opponents in this match played at Northallerton.

WINNING DEBUT

Derbyshire, playing their first match since being promoted to this division, made a winning debut with a 6-4 away win over Durham at Darlington. Durham are putting the accent on youth these days, and though they did not win this match, the policy is certainly paying off. They put in England No. 5 ranked junior, Wilf Barker, and he acknowledged the compliment by winning both singles in his first senior county match, defeating Derbyshire's A. Bird and A. Hunt.

Eddie Taylor, last year's England No. 1 junior, also defeated Bird, but just lost by 20-22, 21-23 to Derbyshire's No. 1, Colin Deaton, another talented young player, who sealed Derbyshire's success when he defeated Durham No. 1 G. Lumsden by 21-13, 21-19 in the last set of the evening.

Hertfordshire, with a 7-3 win over Berkshire at Hatfield, remained on top of Division II South. Brian Barnes was Berkshire's star defeating newly "capped" Terry Densham by 21-15, 21-17 and then hard-hitting John Hunt by 21-12, 21-18.

Les Wise beat Hertfordshire's No. 3, Brian Barr, but that was the full extent of Berkshire's successes, with Janet White and Mrs. D. Magor ensuring Hertfordshire victories in the three events in which they were engaged, and Densham/Hunt just getting home against Barnes/Wise in the men's doubles.

Kent's second team remained the only side with full points in this division when they defeated Hampshire by 6-4 at Portsmouth. Hamp-

shire had been undefeated until that match, and were perhaps unlucky not to get a point. Kent gained a 4-1 lead, and then Mrs. Joan Beadle was 17-21, 11-18 down to Hampshire's Mrs. Daphne Gray (née Wightman). Mrs. Beadle staged a magnificent recovery to put Kent 5-1 up, but it was left to Roy Coussens/Mrs. Joyce Reeves to clinch two points for Kent in the mixed doubles. Hampshire's trio of Fred Bradley, George Stevens and Brian James took the last three singles.

LOSING RETURN

Alan Gazeley made a successful debut for Kent, but Ron Etheridge, returning to county table tennis after lengthy tennis elbow trouble, lost two singles, but partnered by Roy Coussens, an excellent left-handed doubles player, won the men's doubles.

Sussex scored a convincing 9-1 win over Suffolk at Ipswich. Mrs. P. Rogers scored the home team's only success when she defeated Mrs. D. Barontini 21-10, 21-7. Sussex brought in F. Gillam as No. 3 to Peter Shead and J. Quilter. Suffolk's young No. 1 Peter Cole put up a good performance in the last game of the match, when he ran experienced international Shead very close at 21-18, 14-21, 16-21.

Glamorgan are still way out in front in Division II West, and only Somerset seem likely challengers. These two undefeated teams meet on 24th January, and although Glamorgan have now lost Shirley Jones, they fancy their chances in this title clash.

Somerset scored a clear-cut victory over Cornwall at Truro, when Mrs. Hatter, in women's singles and in doubles with Mrs. Charlesworth — were the only players to bring joy to the home supporters.

Wiltshire, a much improved side this season, did well to hold Worces-

tershire to a draw at Halesowen. A. Wolfe got two singles for Wiltshire, T. Cash added one, and Wiltshire also took the men's and mixed doubles. Considering that Wiltshire only had a total of three points last season compared with Worcestershire's 8, this was an unexpected result and takes Wiltshire into second place in the table.

Dorset, after leading Devon 1-0 at Poole as a result of a win by J. Rose over W. Wakley, fell away and were beaten 2-8. It was not until the ninth match of the evening that they scored their other success—G. Biles defeating the same Devon player.

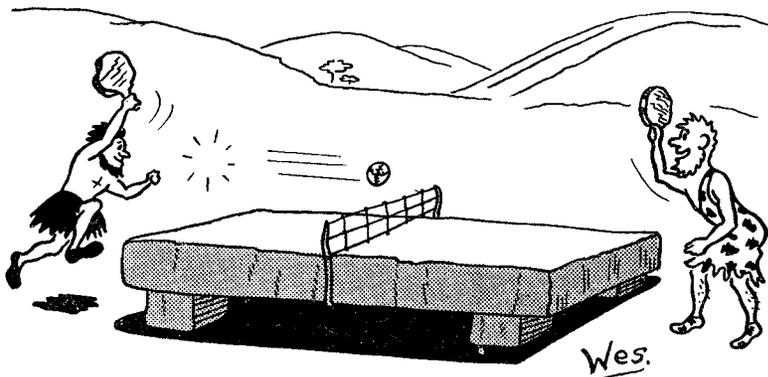
LEICESTER WIN

Newcomers, Leicestershire followed their win over Oxfordshire with a 6-4 victory over Staffordshire II at Whetstone, in the Midland Division. C. A. Jacques and P. Reid were the chief architects of victory, both winning their two singles. J. Burraston added one singles victory—when it was much needed with the score 4-all—and he also partnered Jacques in the winning men's doubles.

Cambridgeshire salvaged a point against Norfolk after being 3-5 down in their Southern Division match at Cambridge. J. A. Thurston and J. D. Cornwell took the last two matches in straight games, when all had seemed lost for Cambridgeshire.

Despite the scintillating form shown by Diane Wright, Cheshire lost two further matches in the Northern Junior Division. In the match at Stockport which Cheshire lost 2-6 to Lancashire, Miss Wright defeated Linda Gordon 21-14, 21-15, and was also concerned in a mixed doubles win when partnered by P. Barratt they beat Jackie Keogh/Miss Gordon 14-21, 21-17, 24-22.

When Cheshire lost 1-7 to Yorkshire Juniors the following week, at Macclesfield, it was again Miss Wright



“This might catch on”

who saved Cheshire's honour, by defeating Margaret Bradnum 21-12, 21-12. There was some criticism of Miss Wright's ranking as England No. 3 junior (criticism with which I don't agree), and on her latest form she appears to have given her own answer.

However, can the junior selectors afford to ignore Durham's Alma Johnson, who has defeated both Miss Gordon and Miss Wright in this division, and who is unranked? The junior selectors had no possible means of knowing about Miss John-

son's capabilities at the time of ranking, but does she not deserve the special consideration of inclusion in the ranking list now, even if a general re-ranking is impracticable?

After Essex had gained a runaway 10-0 victory at Romford over Suffolk Juniors in the Junior Division South, Surrey dampened Essex's joy when they defeated the home side by 7-3 at St. Luke's in Canning Town. Essex match secretary Frank Bateman said afterwards, "I am very disappointed. Essex collapsed badly after leading 3-2. Jim Bysh was Surrey's outstand-

ing player, with good wins over Nigel Bates and Mark Sweeting. We have no excuses, and we were particularly pleased with the first-class conditions at St. Luke's."

Kent Juniors had a good 8-2 win against Sussex at Worthing. Clive Bloy (younger brother of former junior international, Doug) fell to A. Jindani, and partnered by Michael Pass surprisingly lost the boys' doubles to Jindani/M. Gordon, to give Sussex their only successes. Sussex obviously miss Stephen Buble, now playing for Surrey.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
PREMIER DIVISION							
Surrey	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Essex	3	3	0	0	18	12	6
Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Gloucestershire	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Middlesex	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Cheshire	4	1	0	3	10	30	2
Lancashire	3	0	1	2	9	21	1
Kent	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
2nd DIVISION NORTH							
Yorkshire II	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Lincolnshire	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Warwickshire	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Derbyshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Durham	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Northumberland	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
2nd DIVISION SOUTH							
Hertfordshire	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Kent II	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Hampshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Sussex	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Berkshire	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Suffolk	2	0	0	2	1	19	0
2nd DIVISION WEST							
Glamorgan	4	4	0	0	34	6	8
Wiltshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Somersetshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Worcestershire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Devon	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Dorset	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Staffordshire	1	0	0	1	3	7	0
Cornwall	4	0	0	4	5	35	0
MIDLAND DIVISION							
Leicestershire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Staffordshire II	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Oxfordshire	1	0	0	1	2	8	0
SOUTHERN DIVISION							
Bedfordshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Cambridgeshire	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Norfolk	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire II	have not yet played.						
NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION							
Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	15	1	4
Durham	2	1	1	0	12	4	3
Lancashire	2	1	0	1	10	6	3
Cheshire	4	0	0	4	3	29	0
SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION							
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Surrey	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Essex	3	2	0	1	22	8	4
Kent	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Hertfordshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Suffolk	3	0	0	3	4	26	0
Sussex	4	0	0	4	4	36	0

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION
Yorkshire 4, Essex 6
 (Yorkshire names first.) S. Dyson lost to R. Raybould —16, —14; lost to R. Stevens —12, —13. B. Kennedy bt Stevens 18, 10, lost to J. Leach —16, —13. R. Hinchliffe lost to Leach 11, —14, —11; bt Raybould 18, 16.
 Dyson and Hinchliffe lost to Raybould and Stevens —26, —19.
 Miss K. Best bt Miss B. Milbank 17, 8. Mrs. J. Farnsworth and Miss J. Preston lost to Miss Milbank and Mrs. J. McCree —16, —16.
 Kennedy and Miss Best bt Leach and Mrs. McCree 12, 10.
Lancashire 5, Gloucestershire 5
 (Lancashire names first.) G. Pullar bt R. Morley 16, —14, 16; lost to I. Harrison —12, —14. R. Alcock lost to Garrison 22, —12, —18; lost to B. Merrett —22, —13. J. Ingber lost to Merrett —11, —21; bt Morley 11, 17.
 Ingber and P. Strulovitch lost to Harrison and Merrett —14, —14.
 Miss I. Haney bt Mrs. E. Morley —20, 15, 9.
 Mrs. C. Spencer and Miss W. Swift bt Mrs. Morley and Miss P. Taylor 11, 15.
 Alcock and Mrs. Spencer bt Morley and Miss Taylor 13, 14.
Middlesex 9, Kent 1
 A. Lindsay beat G. Elliott 9, —19, 11; beat H. Buist 8, —20, 17. D. Burridge

beat Buist 12, 13; beat D. Whittaker 10, 17. L. Landry beat Whittaker 14, 17; beat Elliott 13, 16.
 Landry/Lindsay beat Buist/A. Piddock 10, 15.
 Miss D. Rowe beat Miss J. Fielder 11, 13. Miss Rowe/Miss M. Fry beat Mrs. M. Dodd/Miss B. Landimore 12, 20.
 Burridge/Miss Fry lost to Elliott/Miss Fielder —17, 16, —20.

DIVISION II (NORTH)
Yorkshire II 9, Northumberland 1.
Durham 4, Derbyshire 6.
DIVISION II (SOUTH)
Hampshire 4, Kent II 6.
Suffolk 1, Sussex 9.
Hertfordshire 7, Berkshire 3.
DIVISION II (WEST)
Cornwall 2, Somerset 8.
Worcestershire 5, Wiltshire 5.
Dorset 2, Devonshire 8.
Staffordshire 3, Glamorgan 7.
MIDLAND DIVISION
Leicestershire 6, Staffordshire II 4.
SOUTHERN DIVISION
Cambridgeshire 5, Norfolk 5.
NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION
Cheshire 2, Lancashire 6.
Cheshire 1, Yorkshire 7.
SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION
Essex 10, Suffolk 0.
Essex 3, Surrey 7.
Sussex 2, Kent 8.

MIDDLESEX THRASHED

TELEVISION viewers saw Middlesex take their worst hiding ever when they were thrashed 6-1 by The Rest in the annual challenge match at Bristol on December 20.

It was a disastrous finish to what had promised a close contest, in keeping with past traditions, when Michael Thornhill, justifying his higher ranking, beat Brian Kennedy 21-18, 18-21, 21-17 in the opening match. But this was to prove the champion's only win for there followed a succession of defeats.

Thornhill made a determined attempt to mark up another Middlesex win when he met Johnny Leach, but after losing the first game at 21-23 then taking the next at 17, he lost the decider at 14.

Leach also beat Alan Rhodes at 19 and 15, and won the doubles with Kennedy against Len Adams and Derek Burridge at 19 in the third.

Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe, after a shaky start, settled down to produce some scintillating play, with Miss Haydon, running out with ten points in a row in the first game, winning 21-12, 21-19.

Despite the match being cut to eight games, three hours play provided insufficient time to complete the full programme and the tie between Bryan Merrett and Derek Burridge was left unplayed.

The Championship Cup was presented to Victor Barna, the Middlesex captain, and trophies to members of the team by Ivor Eyles, Deputy Chairman of the E.T.T.A.

Barna also presented his award to Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe for their performance in the European Championships last season.

Detailed Results (Rest names first): J. Leach (Essex) bt M. Thornhill 23-21, 17-21, 21-14; bt A. Rhodes 21-19, 21-15. B. Kennedy (Yorks.) bt Rhodes 21-13, 21-10; lost to Thornhill 18-21, 21-18, 17-21.

Miss A. Haydon (Warw.) bt Miss D. Rowe 21-12, 21-19.
 Kennedy/Leach bt L. Adams/D. Burridge 21-16, 13-21, 21-19. B. Merrett (Glos.)/Miss Haydon bt Adams/Miss M. Fry 21-13, 21-12.

FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are additional to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., and X.D., in every case. Tournaments marked (A) are Approved. The closing date for entries is shown in brackets after the title. Suitable entries are inserted in this diary without charge but all organisers should send information to The Editor at the earliest date possible.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details and Venue</i>	<i>Extra Events</i>	<i>Organising Secretary</i>
Jan. 16	WALES v. ENGLAND Wales.		
16-17	WELSH "OPEN" Dumfries Place Drill Hall, Cardiff.	B.S., G.S.	Mr. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff.
16-17	IRISH "CLOSED" Drogheda.		
17	Lancashire "Open" (Jan. 10) De Havilland Propellers, Ltd. Lostock, Bolton, Lancs.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Lancashire.
19-24	Metropolitan "Open" (Dec. 31) T.A. Drill Hall, Handel Street, London, W.C.1.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	E.T.T.A., 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2.
23	ENGLAND v. WALES (Juniors) Ultra Canteen, Western Avenue, Acton.		
24	Pontefract "Open" (A) (Jan. 13) Assembly Rooms and Town Hall, Pontefract, Yorks.	J.S.B. V.S.	T. Horrocks, "Rockland," Bondgate, Pontefract, Yorkshire.
31	Gloucestershire Junior "Open" (Jan. 15) Gloucester Public Baths, Barton Gates, Gloucester.	Under 17 J.S.B., J.D.B. Under 15 J.S.B., J.D.G. Under 17 J.S.G., J.X.D. Under 15 J.S.G.	V. Herbert, Springhill Cottage, Old Road, Maismore, Gloucestershire.
31/Feb. 1	NETHERLANDS "OPEN"		
31/Feb. 1	Kent "Open" (Jan. 12) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	Y.X.S.	F. Betts, 88, Surrenden Road, Folkestone.
7-8	Bucks. "Open" (A) Slough Community Centre.	J.S.B.	L. Thompson, "Auchmead," The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraysbury, Bucks.
13-14	LEINSTER "OPEN" Dublin.		
14-15	BELGIAN "OPEN" Brussels.		
14	Midland "Open" (Feb. 3) Friends' Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.	J.S.B., V.S. J.S.G. J.D.B.	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
15	Dorset "Open" (Feb. 1) Drill Hall, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	P. H. Northcott, 31, Hillcrest Road, Weymouth.
16-21	South London "Open" (Feb. 8) Central Baths, Grange Road, Bermondsey.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Mrs. E. G. Trafford, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.
21	Newport "Open" Standard Telephones, Newport.	B.S.	G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon.
21	Gwent "Open" (Feb. 14) Standard Telephones & Cables, Ltd., Newport, Monmouthshire.	J.S.B.	G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Monmouthshire.
27-28	IRISH "OPEN" Belfast.		
28	Grimsby "Open" Augusta Street Barracks, Grimsby.	J.S.B.	J. Browne, 245, Jarborough Road, Grimsby, Lincolnshire.
28	Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl (Semi-Finals and Final).		

MIDDLESEX "OPEN"

By LAURIE LANDRY

JEAN TOPPLES THE STARS

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jean Harrower gained the most impressive success of her career when beating Diane Rowe and Joyce Fielder each for the second time this season, to retain the women's singles in the Middlesex "Open" at Hanwell on December 13 and 14.

She also took the girls' singles and, with Margaret Fry, the women's doubles titles to complete the hat-trick, but it was in the women's singles that she really hit the high-spots.

Following wins over Miss Fry and Miss Fielder, she came up against Miss Rowe in the final.



JEAN HARROWER

This match was mainly backhand to backhand but when the opportunity arose Miss Harrower hit hard and well with her forehand. Miss Rowe was not hitting consistently enough towards the end of the third game and she never recovered after missing two forehands.

Miss Rowe was given a hard game by Joy Williamson (12, —19, 12) who was hitting extremely well.

If more of our leading women had played Miss Harrower as Mary Shannon did in the

junior girls' singles, they might have stood a chance. The first game went to 32-30 and it had everything. Miss Shannon retrieved fantastically at times by mainly keeping up an attack down Jean's backhand, found her just that bit too steady.

Main surprise in the ladies' doubles was Yvonne Baker and Peggy Franks beating "seeds" Joyce Fielder and Betty Bird. They fell to winners Margaret Fry/Harrower. The winners beat Paddy Barnes and Dot Ellis in the final. The latter pair did very well to beat Lynne Whithams/Williamson.

Old-established pair, Len Adams and Margaret Fry won the mixed doubles. They beat Raybould/Franks and "fancied" Ray Dorking and Diane Rowe before their final win over Venner and Whithams in a rather one-sided match.

Bobby Raybould secured his first-ever "open" singles success when with a fine display of controlled hitting he defeated Ian Redfearn in the final by 24-22, 21-10.

Bobby Stevens figured in one of the main surprises. After beating Rhodes (10, —13, 7) and Muranyi (20, —9, 17) after being 20-13 down in the first he appeared somewhat subdued in the semi against Raybould who was able to win two straight sets.

Raybould, though starting rather shakily, dropping games to Ractliffe and Morecroft, smashed through Venner (13, 15) and Paul Racey (6, 9).

Although Racey was easily beaten he must not be dismayed for he showed his improvement this season

when he beat Peter Pudney and also took the junior title beating Gosling comfortably.

In the final Raybould at last showed that he is able to control his hitting and though Ian Redfearn did well to reach 24-22 in the first game, he was well beaten in the second.

It was in the semi-final against Tony Miller that Redfearn gave us glimpses of the form that won him the "West of England" three seasons ago. In both the 1st and 3rd games, Miller looked a certain winner but out came Redfearn's unbelievable hits to give him the match 19 in the third.

Redfearn came through the quarter where Thornhill scratched and he edged out Brumwell (—14, 20, 19) who had beaten Densham.

Tony Miller showed good form to beat Shead and Burridge after the latter had eased out Landry (18, 20) and Lindsay (18, 18). Miller only beat D. Bloy, former junior international, on a Time Limit (—12, 9, 12-11 T.L.)

Harry Venner/Ken Craigie retained their men's doubles without dropping a game. Dorking/Michael Maclaren played well to beat Adams/Burridge before going down to the winners. The other finalists were "scratch" pair Alan Rhodes and Peter Shead, who came together because of Thornhill's withdrawal.

RESULTS

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: R. RAYBOULD (Essex) bt R. J. Stevens (Essex) 21-16, 22-20; J. REDFEARN (Mddx) bt A. R. Miller (Surrey) 22-20, 8-21, 21-19.

Final: RAYBOULD bt Redfearn 24-22, 21-10.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: J. HARROWER (Mddx) bt J. Fielder (Kent) 21-16, 21-19; D. ROWE (Mddx) bt J. Williamson (N.Z.) 21-12, 19-21, 21-12.

Final: HARROWER bt Rowe 22-20, 13-21, 21-18.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: H. VENNER/K. CRAIGIE bt M. Maclaren/R. Dorking 21-17, 21-14; A. RHODES/P. SHEAD bt Raybould/Stevens 8-21, 21-13, 21-17.

Final: VENNER/CRAIGIE bt Rhodes/Shead 21-13, 21-19.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: M. FRY/HARROWER bt Y. Baker/P. Franks 21-17, 21-15; P. BARNES/D. ELLIS bt L. Whithams/Williamson 21-17, 18-21, 21-17.

Final: FRY/HARROWER bt Barnes/Ellis 21-16, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: L. ADAMS/ MISS FRY bt Dorking/Miss Rowe 21-12, 10-21, 22-20; VENNER/MISS WHITHAMS bt Rhodes/Mrs. E. Bird 21-10, 21-23, 21-9.

Final: ADAMS/Miss FRY bt Venner/Miss Whithams 21-18, 21-11.

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: P. RACEY (Beds.) bt B. Ham-mil (Mddx) 21-14, 22-20; C. GOSLING (Mddx) bt G. Stewart (Berks.) 21-10, 25-27, 21-17.

Final: RACEY bt Gosling 21-77, 21-14.

Girls' Singles. Semi-Finals: HARROWER bt A. Taft (Herts.) 21-13, 21-13; M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt J. Williams (Herts.) 21-17, 21-15.

Final: HARROWER bt Shannon 32-30, 21-17.

LONDON BUSINESS HOUSES LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1958/59, at Newington Hall, Manor Place Baths, S.E.17, on November 27, 1958.

Men's Singles: K. CAMPBELL bt F. Ball 21-19, 21-18, 21-19.
Women's Singles: M. PIPER (holder) bt B. E. Milbank 21-10, 21-18.

Men's Doubles: J. ANKER/M. G. MACLAREN bt D. C. F. Crisp/R. J. Gregory (holders) 21-12, 21-19, 22-20.
Women's Doubles: P. DAVIS/J. L. SLADE bt J. L. Coleman/M. Piper 21-18, 21-10.
Mixed Doubles: Miss J. L. SLADE/R. J. GREGORY (holders) bt Mrs. J. Boddy/P. E. Morecroft 20-22, 21-16, 21-17.

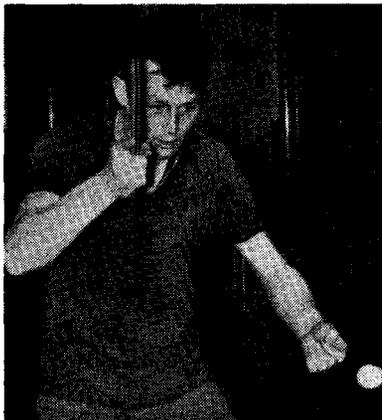
CHESHIRE "OPEN"**SOMOGYI WINS**

By Norman Cook

A PART from the low entry and the absence of top ranking players the Cheshire "Open" was staged with the usual efficiency at the Y.M.C.A., Birkenhead, on December 13.

Josef Somogyi, Surrey's Hungarian refugee, was the star attraction and as expected carried off the men's singles. He experienced little opposition until he reached the semi-final where he came up against Ronnie Allcock, who had also had a comfortable passage until this stage.

Allcock put up plenty of resistance but failed to stem the progress of Somogyi, who won 21-17, 22-20, then accounted for M. Simpson in the final, 21-15, 21-19.



JOSEF SOMOGYI

success by winning the women's singles, beating Norfolk's Mrs. Betty Cassell in the final 21-15, 13-21, 21-15.

Mrs. Wilkinson toppled Lorna Bown, Cheshire's No. 1 in the semi-final.

Mrs. Wilkinson gained a second title in the mixed doubles with G. Temperton, when they beat Allcock and Miss Bown.

Allcock was again losing finalist in the men's doubles with Somogyi. Hankey and Matt Sheader beat them 21-14, 24-22.

Miss Bown, however, had a consolation by winning the women's doubles with Mrs. Cassell, overcoming Mrs. Jones and Miss Roberts 21-18, 21-17.

The officials of the Warrall League, under the generalship of Tom Blunn are to be congratulated for the smooth running of the tournament. It was staged in two rooms, connected by inter-comm telephone and each controller knew exactly how the other was progressing. This was most convenient when the time came for the mixed doubles.

Men's Singles. Semi-finals: M. H. SIMPSON bt E. T. Johnson 21-16, 21-19; J. SOMOGYI bt A. Allcock 21-17, 22-20.

Final: SOMOGYI bt Simpson 21-15, 21-19.

Women's Singles. Final: Mrs. D. WILKINSON bt Mrs. B. Cassell 21-15, 13-21, 21-15.

Men's Doubles. Final: V. HANKEY/M. SHEADER bt Allcock/Somogyi 21-14, 24-22.

Women's Doubles. Final: Mrs. CASSELL/L. BOWN bt Mrs. Jones/Roberts 21-18, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles. Final: G. TEMPERTON/Mrs. WILKINSON bt Allcock/Miss Mansell 18-21, 21-7, 21-10.

PETERBOROUGH "OPEN"**TREBLE FOR SKERRATT**

By Keith Low

ALL three titles to Peter Skerratt and the quarter-final elimination of new international Terry Densham by Ken Park (Yorkshire), were the main features of the Peterborough "Open" on November 29.

Skerratt beat Park in the semi-final with surprising ease considering the way Park had out-hit Densham in two close games (18 and 20).

Derek Schofield showed his usual reliable form and got through to the final, although junior Paul Racey took the middle game from him when they met in the "quarters," Schofield winning 21-17, 18-21, 21-11.

The keenly contested final provided a vivid contrast of style with Skerratt's attack overcoming the defensive tactics of Schofield by 21-13, 16-21, 21-12.

Skerratt's treble was completed in partnership with county team-mate Matt Sheader in the men's doubles, and Connie Moran in the mixed.

The men's doubles was a good final with Ken Beamish and Bob McCree retrieving well but lacking point-winning shots.

Mrs. Moran apart from winning the mixed also reached the final of the singles where she was beaten 21-19, 21-8 by the still improving Jean McCree for whom this was her second "open" title.

Mrs. Mbran had good wins over Wendy Eanor (15-21, 21-10, 22-20), Mrs. Ivy Sawyer (18 and 13), and in the semi-final Joan Williamson (13 and 7). Mrs. McCree had to beat "Merseyside winner Lorna Bown (15 and 17) and in the semi-final Mary Stafford (21 and 10).

The two losing semi-finalists teamed up to retain the doubles crown, gaining revenge for their previous week's defeat by Mrs. Sawyer and Mrs. McCree.

Paul Racey gained another junior title when for the second week running he beat Michael Dainty. This was a good final with Racey hitting hard and well against Dainty's half-volleying to win 21-16, 21-16.

Judy Williams won the girls' title, beating Margaret Bradnum 21-14, 15-21, 21-10 in the final. Hilde Brautigam did well to beat England's sixth ranking girl Alma Taft by 19 and 18, before losing to Miss Bradnum.

The tournament was generally well run but with that same fault of other tournaments, all competitors being called for the same time which resulted in long waits early in the day, then for the successful player game after game with hardly a break. Refreshments were good and were available all day. A great help.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: P. SKERRATT bt K. Park 21-18, 21-18; D. SCHOFIELD bt M. Sheader 21-15, 21-17.
Final: SKERRATT bt Schofield 21-13, 16-21, 21-12.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: Mrs. J. MCCREE bt M. Stafford 23-21, 21-10; Mrs. C. MORAN bt J. Williamson 21-13, 21-7.

Final: MCCREE bt Moran 21-19, 21-8.

Men's Doubles. Final: SKERRATT/SHEADER bt K. Beamish/R. McCree 21-14, 21-19.

Women's Doubles. Final: STAFFORD/WILLIAMSON bt Mrs. McCree/Mrs. I. Sawyer 21-18, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles. Final: SKERRATT/Mrs. MORGAN bt Schofield/L. Bown 16-21, 21-15, 21-18.

Boys' Singles. Final: P. RACEY bt M. Dainty 21-16, 21-16.

Girls' Singles. Final: J. WILLIAMS bt M. Bradnum 21-14, 15-21, 21-10.