

TABLE TENNIS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



MICHAEL THORNHILL, ANN HAYDON and BRIAN KENNEDY, complete with garlands of flowers are welcomed to the Islamia Championships, where they made a clean sweep of all titles.

With Barna and Brook in West Africa

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Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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APPROVED SELECTION

IN choosing our Corbillon Cup team for the World Championships at Dortmund the selectors have relied on the girls whose form this season stamps them as England's outstanding quartet. There can be little argument against the choice of KATHLEEN BEST (Yorkshire), ANN HAYDON (Warwickshire), PAM MORTIMER (Warwickshire) and DIANE ROWE (Middlesex), and for once a team has met with universal approval!

England's girls are the reigning European team champions, and in Dortmund they should again prove themselves Europe's best.

Biggest danger to our world championship aspirations is undoubtedly Japan, but the Chinese girls too, have a big reputation. It is no use making forecasts, but undoubtedly our girls have a good chance in the Corbillon Cup, and all will wish them every success in their attempt to bring further honour to this country.

Ann Haydon, runner-up in three finals of the world championship at Stockholm two years ago, is our chief hope in the singles event. If she is to win a world title at all, then this should be her year.

It is a long time since England had a world singles champion—Johnny Leach in 1951—while the women's title has always evaded us. What a boost for English table tennis if Ann succeeds.

MORE DIFFICULT

Turning to the Swaythling Cup the selectors' task was much more difficult. Indeed most of their two hours deliberation was taken up with picking this team. Finally they chose IAN HARRISON (Gloucestershire), JEFF INGBER (Lancashire), BRIAN KENNEDY (Yorkshire), JOHNNY LEACH (Essex) and MICHAEL THORNHILL (Middlesex).

Harrison, Leach and Thornhill have established their claim to be the most successful trio this season, by their results both before and after selection. Kennedy has not had a good season, and

from No. 1 when playing with sponge, he has dropped to No. 4. However, his experience in world class table tennis is a valuable asset.

Some controversy surrounds the selection of Ingber, but there is no doubt about his fighting qualities, and writing in the *News of the World* Johnny Leach, so often a critic of the selectors in the past, says "I applaud Ingber's choice. The selectors have done a good job. Now it is up to us."

TO CONVINCE CONGRESS

A task equally as tough as that of the players awaits E.T.T.A. delegates to the International Congress, Jack Carrington and Ivor Eyles. **They have to convince Congress that standardisation by pimped rubber is the best solution to the controversy which has raged in table tennis these past few years.**

Their cause has been made more difficult by the reported changes of heart in Sweden and Switzerland, who have turned against pimped rubber, and the clarification of the New Zealand attitude which turns out to be for thickness standardisation.

South America appears evenly divided for and against standardisation, while Japan, believed to be for sponge or nothing, has added further to the complexity of the situation by coming out in favour of SANDWICH BATS.

Ghana and Nigeria, on the other hand, have given the E.T.T.A. their proxies to be cast for pimped rubber.

As before, many more countries have declared for than against standardisation, and the "pimped rubber group" are still the largest single entity. But the key to it all is held by the 33 countries (out of 74) who are as yet uncommitted.

Unless a considerable number of these declare for pimped rubber, the necessary 75 per cent. majority is clearly out of the question.

Only time can tell how the I.T.T.F. resolve the impasse which threatens.

Official News:

National Executive Committee

The N.E.C. met on February 7 at the Royal Commonwealth Society, with Mr. A. K. Vint, O.B.E., as chairman. The meeting lasted nine hours.

The most important item on the agenda was finance, and the hon. treasurer, Tom Blunn, presented a carefully considered, detailed statement, which envisaged a deficit for the current season.

Mr. Blunn also gave a comprehensive estimate of the development of the Association's financial status to be expected in future seasons, which clearly indicated that it would be impossible to balance the Association's accounts unless income was increased, or the Association's activities, particularly in the international field, were drastically reduced.

Mr. Blunn pointed out that affiliation fees had been increased only once (by 20%) since the war, and income from manufacturers' contributions was at a rate which had been determined more than 20 years ago.

It was impossible to reconcile 1959 prices with income based on 1939 circumstances. The only way the Association had managed to exist in recent years was by income from international matches, the English "Open," and from other "fluctuating" sources. This type of income had steadily declined owing to present-day trends general to most sports, and improvement could not be expected in the foreseeable future.

The figures showed that in order to balance the Association's administration account—including an annual provision for World or European Championships at an average figure—it was necessary to increase by not less than £1,100 per annum.

Mr. Blunn submitted a proposal which apportioned this extra income

as follows: £500 extra to be obtained by manufacturers' contributions (subject, of course, to negotiations with the manufacturers in question); £500 extra to be obtained by an increase in affiliation fees, by an amount equal to 2/- per senior club; £100 extra to be obtained by doubling the registered members' fee. The hon. treasurer's report was discussed for several hours.

The hon. Press officer, Conrad Jaschke, then moved that a committee be set up to explore a scheme of graduated registered members fees, and if such a scheme produced revenue over and above the envisaged £100, then this should be proceeded with IN PREFERENCE to a general rise in affiliation fees.

Mr. Jaschke also moved that manufacturers be approached with a view to raising £1,000, not £500, from this source.

There was unanimous agreement to set up a committee to look into the

by a majority. It was decided to put an item on the agenda for the Annual General Meeting, proposing an increase of 2/- per senior club, and if the A.G.M. agreed to this proposal, the new fees would come into force not before season 1960/61.

Arising from suggestions made at previous Annual General Meetings and County Conferences, the Rules Committee had considered a revision of regions for election purposes. The N.E.C. adopted the following proposals to be put to the A.G.M.

There should be 12 regions, electing one member each, instead of eight regions electing up to two members, to meet the objections expressed against "throw-away votes." The N.E.C. should in future be constituted as follows:

Four officers (i.e., chairman, deputy chairman, treasurer, press officer), to be elected by national ballot.

One woman member to be elected by national ballot.

Three officials (i.e., director of coaching, secretary of selection committee, secretary of national umpires' committee) to be elected at the A.G.M.

Twelve members to be regionally elected, one per region.

Plus the Professional Secretary of the Association, to be appointed by the N.E.C.

It is also proposed that the system of "E.T.T.A. representatives" be discontinued, and votes in future be cast by leagues, voting papers being signed by the league secretary or his representative at the discretion of each league.

Suspension

The E.T.T.A. have suspended indefinitely Richard Bergmann, as a result of official information received that he is taking part in exhibition matches with another player who is under suspension by the Japanese T.T.A.

Team Selections

SWAYTHLING CUP. I. HARRISON (Gloucestershire), J. INGBER (Lancashire), B. KENNEDY (Yorkshire), J. LEACH (Essex), M. THORNHILL (Middlesex).

CORBILLOON CUP. MISSES K. BEST (Yorkshire), A. HAYDON (Warwickshire), P. MORTIMER (Warwickshire), D. ROWE (Middlesex).

v. EAST GERMANY (D.D.R.), on February 25, 1959, at Leipzig. I. HARRISON (Gloucestershire), J. INGBER (Lancashire), B. KENNEDY (Yorkshire), J. LEACH (Essex). N.P.C.—V. BARNA (Middlesex).

NORTH v. SOUTH, on March 7, 1959, at Bradford. R. HINCHLIFF (Yorkshire), J. INGBER (Lancashire),

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: 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Telephone: TRAFalgar 2165).

whole question of registered members contributions (and into the rules governing registered members' conduct). The committee elected was: Messrs. A. K. VINT, O.B.E. (chairman), T. BLUNN, J. CARRINGTON, C. JASCHKE, H. WALKER, with PETER LOWEN acting as secretary.

It was also unanimously agreed to double registered members' fees from £1 to £2 per annum operative from next season, under powers given the N.E.C. under the constitution.

The terms of reference of the new committee include investigation of methods of raising income ABOVE the fee of £2 per annum per registered member, on a basis of graduated contributions, according to the type of registered member. It was also decided to approach manufacturers along the lines proposed by Mr. Blunn and amended by Mr. Jaschke.

The question of increased affiliation fees was then put to the vote, and the treasurer's proposal was carried

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B. KENNEDY (Yorkshire) (Capt.) and MISS K. BEST (Yorkshire).
I. HARRISON (Gloucester), J. LEACH (Essex) (Capt.), M. THORNHILL (Middlesex), and MISS A. HAYDON (Warwickshire).

v. **FRANCE** (Women), on April 7, in England. N.P.C.—V. BARNA (Middlesex), MRS. B. BIRD (Surrey), MISS A. HAYDON (Warwickshire), MISS D. ROWE (Middlesex).

v. **FRANCE** (Men), on April 16, in France. N.P.C.—A. SIMMONS (Gloucester), J. LEACH (Essex), B. MERRITT (Gloucester), R. RAYBOULD (Essex).

Annual General Meeting

In accordance with precedent, members of the Press may apply for permission to attend the Annual General Meeting of the E.T.T.A., in Manchester, on Saturday afternoon, April 25, 1959. The N.E.C. instructed the Hon. Press Officer to contact Northern Sports Editors of national newspapers, with a view to meeting them on the day preceding the A.G.M. at an informal function, and to discuss with them means of establishing a more intimate relationship, such as exists between Fleet Street and the E.T.T.A.

COACHING THE OPPOSITION

JACK CARRINGTON, the E.T.T.A.

Hon. Director of Coaching, has been appointed by the West German Table Tennis Federation as Chief Instructor for a series of Training Weeks at the West German Central Sports School, Wedau, near Dusseldorf, between mid-March and mid-May.

In the courses before the World Championships, the West German Swaythling and Corbillon Cup teams will participate, together with some 15 other "Spitzenspieler" ("Summit-players" as the Germans rank them) of either sex.

Mrs. Elsie Carrington, well known as Jack's "right-hand man" on previous Continental training tours, will join him, and for the pre-Dortmund fortnight Jack is taking as assistant the young Willesden international, Laurie Landry.

Carrington commented, "It should be valuable experience for Laurie, leading up to the World's at Dortmund, and I am sure he will make many new friends with his cheerful tenacity on the table. Laurie has previously acted as assistant to Mrs. Carrington and myself on Lilleshall courses.

"Every week of the first half of the year, a group of 20 players is attending the School for training. This would be roughly the equivalent of a selected group from every county in E.T.T.A.—and all provided free to the invited players.

"Don't ask me where the money comes from—that's not my department!

"The West German Federation has placed P.T. instructors at my disposal for each squad, so that my favourite theme of "Fitness" will receive full attention.

"Our own Cup teams will be answerable to the captain Victor Barna for their personal training, and as he too is a hard taskmaster, I am sure he will keep them well up to the mark."

Change of Address

As from March 5, the address of Tom Blunn, E.T.T.A. Hon. Treasurer, will be:
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SUMMER HOLIDAY IN WINTER

By ANN HAYDON

EVER had a fortnight's summer holiday in January? No? Well, this was precisely what was in store for Mickey Thornhill, Brian Kennedy and myself at the Islamia Championship in Karachi, although on leaving the ice and snow of London Airport, warm sunshine was only a speculated hope.

Being the first English team to travel to Pakistan we were full of doubts and intrigued by the mysteries of the East. What would the place and the people be like? How would they treat us? How about the playing conditions and the audience?

After twenty-one hours on the plane we eventually arrived tired and jaded in the extreme. A reception committee of about fifty people, including Kardar, Pakistan's cricket captain (modestly pleased with Hanif's record of 499 runs) enthusiastically welcomed us, the only "foreign" competitors. Garlands of highly scented flowers were hung around our necks and how deliciously refreshing they were.

A Relief

Having been rushed through the customs hall and whisked off in a large American car, we were ushered into the large airy rooms of a first-class hotel. What a relief that was! After a fairly quick, but to us never-ending, supper we "hit the hay".

When we recovered consciousness, it was to a pure, blue sky and warm sunshine. Dressed in table tennis kit we emerged, trying to look keen. We were taken to a technical school where the Championships were to be played. Here we were all very pleasantly surprised to find two new Jaques and one Barna table recently imported from England. And so to practise, but what an effort!

The matches were not scheduled to start until five, so in the afternoon we had a quick "look-see" around the city and a ride to the nearest beach. The temperature by this time was in the seventies and believe me it was hot!

Our first impressions were of an extremely hospitable people, kind, warm-hearted and generous. The shops certainly had that Eastern look being so small and curious. Typically, dust lay everywhere, for Karachi has only

about one inch of rainfall in twelve months.

If the roads were bad with an uneven surface full of potholes, then the driving was worse. Complicating matters for the cars were the many cycle-rickshaws, scooter rickshaws, horse-carts, camel-carts and donkey-carts.

The time soon came round to our first matches. However, we soon discovered that time to the organisers meant nothing. Five crept to six before we even left the hotel. Back at the school hall we were again enthusiastically greeted and the matches in progress were halted on our entrance.

We saw that the opposition would



ANN HAYDON and BRIAN KENNEDY try the local transport

not be strong until the later stages, so we set about enjoying ourselves.

The following two days were pleasantly passed with morning practise, afternoon sunbathing and swimming on a lovely sandy beach followed by evening play.

We supplemented the evening's programme with exhibition games and applause, throughout was abundant, encouraging us to greater efforts.

Saturday quickly came bringing with it the prospect of finals. We had already decided not to make our daily excursion to the beach, but fortunately the sun failed to shine.

The evening's programme surprisingly started on time with the junior singles, and Khalid Ishag, showing excellent promise, speedily disposed of

his opponent. I then played Sayeed Sultana. This match lasted longer and was a much better game than the score would suggest. But Sayeed plays a nice defensive game and so long as I was patient I won the point in the end.

Then Brian and Mickey duly went to the table for the men's singles final, but apparently the guest of honour Lieutenant General H. Asim Kahn had not yet arrived. Half an hour later the programme resumed... The match itself was hard fought. Mickey played well to lead 2-1, but Brian eventually came out on top, showing superiority throughout the final game.

Micky and I won the mixed doubles then partnered by Brian. Mickey took the men's doubles. Rukia Fibrec (Pakistan No. 3) and I won the women's doubles.

Striving to Improve

At the prizegiving Mr. Asim Kahn in his speech said that Pakistan was, as yet, a young country striving to improve in every field, and they hoped in the near future to secure good new equipment for all sporting activities. He firmly believes that sport is an excellent way to bring about friendly meetings between nations.

We were then presented with huge trophies, the size of which I have never seen before. We literally staggered beneath the weight of them!

Following on the Championships was a week of full engagements, coaching, luncheon parties, tea parties and dinner parties. Mickey took three days of his holiday to take part in these — and also to stay in the sunshine.

Everything was organised exceedingly well by Majeed Kahn and his committee. They were very grateful to the E.T.T.A. for making our visit possible and I feel sure that the Pakistani players will benefit from our instruction.

INTER-SERVICES MATCH

Civil Service 8, R.A.F. 2

Waterloo Bridge House, January 26.
K. R. Craigie lost to A.C. E. Hodson —8, 7, —17; beat L.A.C. G. Elliott 6, 11.
L. G. Adams lost to Hodson —14, —18;
bt Cpl. B. Mayfield 19, —16, 19. K. Sheldon bt Elliott —16, 10, 13; bt Mayfield 17, 15. Miss C. Killington bt S.A.C.W. Piper 9, 17. Adams/Sheldon bt Elliott/Hodson 18, —15, 20. Miss Killington/Miss E. P. Roe bt Cpl. Clark/S.A.C.W. Hilton 8, 12. Craigie/Miss Roe bt Mayfield/S.A.C.W. Hilton 14, 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT PIMPLED RUBBER

MY attention has been drawn to an incorrect statement linking my Association in your editorial headed "Standardisation almost certain," as published in the November, 1958 issue. It was stated that New Zealand was in favour of standardisation by pimple rubber and later on in the same article states, quote, "A recent development was the change of Australia and New Zealand from 'thickness' to pimples rubber," unquote.

The correct position is that the New Zealand Association has not varied its original statement to the International Federation that it favours standardisation limited by thickness and that the thickness of the racket covering should be 5 mm.

In view of the wide circulation of your magazine I would appreciate if you would kindly inform your readers of the correct view of the New Zealand Association on this question of standardisation.

K. C. Wilkinson

(Hon. Sec., New Zealand T.T.A.)

Editor's Note: The information on which the November Editorial was based was received from an official I.T.T.F. source, and it appears there has been a misunderstanding. Table Tennis regrets any inconvenience caused to the New Zealand Association.

ALL ALIKE

HAVING witnessed a very well fought county match between Middlesex and Yorkshire last evening, I nevertheless left the venue, Ascots of the N.C. Road with mixed feelings concerning the future of table tennis.

In pre-war days the sport was full of varied exponents, the attacker, defender, chiseller and chopper, the Vic Barna flick, and the Bergmann retrieving act. But there were very few good all-rounders. Now in post-war days it is only the latter that seems to abound. I am sure that this diminishing number

of sensational playing celebrities is detrimental. The modern all alike exponents of all-round play makes T.T. a rather boring game to watch and to a lesser extent play.

I am prepared to believe the standard is higher than ever but it is a great deal less interesting. Oh, for a few top class "fiddlers" and "killers" and less of the wear 'em down modern mass produced style.

W. Hudson
(Kensal Rise)

LANDRY'S FINEST HOUR

I WOULD like to pay tribute to the wonderful display of Laurie Landry in the Essex/Middlesex match. He was the hero of the side in my opinion. Middlesex were leading after the eighth event 5-3 and winning Laurie's match would ensure victory. This he won after a terrific fight against Bobby Stevens. I have never seen him fight so hard, and I shall always look upon it as his "finest hour."

Many will recall his all-time record as a junior—a wonderful record, and given the chance I am sure he will even surpass that. I know that all will wish this fine sportsman all success in the coming world championships.

It was typical of Laurie after his match, when I went to congratulate him in his dressing room, to immediately say, "Sorry, Harry."

HARRY WALKER
(Chairman, Essex County T.T.A.).

HOLIDAY INVITATION

IF any players holidaying in North Devon feel like a spot of table tennis and care to contact me I shall be pleased to fit them up with a game any evening of any week-end.

I have recently started a team at my works, where we have a new Jaques table and good conditions. I feel rather off the main T.T. track down here but have been busy coaching the works team, who I am sure would benefit from a visit by any of my old friends.

Bill Collins

3, Easterley Ter., Barnstaple, N. Devon.

Editor's Note: Bill Collins formerly played in the North Middlesex League.

PRAISE FOR SELECTORS

I AM sure that everyone will join me in giving three cheers for the selectors of our Swaythling and Corbillion Cup teams which I think are the very best we can possibly send to Dortmund.

I am certain that Jeff Ingber, with his solid all-round game and excellent fighting spirit will make a very worthy choice.

Barry Meisel
(London, N.1).

NOT PLAYER'S CLAIM

MAY I be permitted to reply to Mr. J. McCaig's letter under "Not Hard Going" in your February issue.

Come, Come, Mr. McCaig, whose leg are you pulling? How can any team, defeated 10-0 in its opening match, claim to find it otherwise; but then perhaps the players are not staking the claim! I would add that before your ink was dry Liverpool had suffered a further reversal by 7-3 at the hands of a Burnley team composed of Fred Kershaw and Lancashire starlets George Livesey and Jackie Keogh. The latter two can hardly be considered seasoned campaigners in comparison with Arthur Taylor, Les Mulholland and Norman Jones, yet only Arthur Taylor came out on the credit side. I know the three players concerned and don't think any of them would claim that Division I was easy going.

I hope your ventured suggestion about the conclusion of the season is proved right, but as I see it they will probably finish just above the half way mark and even that will not shake my conviction that it was not easy going!

Best wishes for the future.

John K. Kennerley

HANKEY IS STYLISH

AFTER reading "County Championships Round Up" in the February issue, I felt I had to criticise.

I agree that Cheshire gave Yorkshire quite a handful of trouble in their match at Bradford and most of it, if not all, was from Cheshire's player V. Hankey.

I quote—"Hankey who has the ability to make up in 'guts' what he lacks in style."

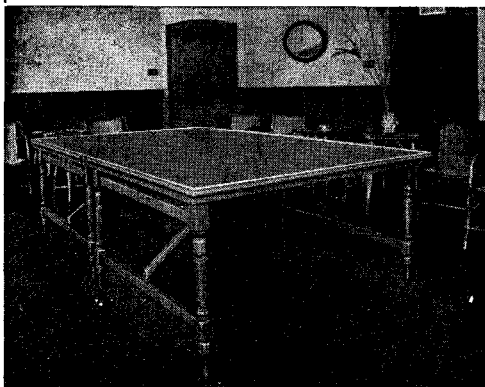
I feel sure that I can safely say that for myself and that of any other Cheshire fans, or any players who have played with or against V. Hankey, will agree, that he not only has "guts" as you put it, but is also a very stylish player indeed.

If you ever have the opportunity to see this stylish player in action I feel sure that you will be in agreement with me.

CHESHIRE FAN.

CONRAD JASCHKE REPLIES: I saw Hankey in action early this season against Kent, and was so impressed that I gave him a special match in TABLE TENNIS... long before his recent outstanding performances. I would not call him a stylish player BY PREMIER DIVISION STANDARD, but I concede that Cheshire Fan obviously knows Hankey much better than I do. What struck me about Hankey was his tremendous fighting quality, and the way his play reflected "character," or "guts" if you like.

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PLAYERS' TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS

Conducted by Laurie Landry

Bring back Sponge if the World does not Ban it!

BRING back sponge if the world does not ban it. That is the cry of 80 per cent. of England's ranked players (including Group A). The general feeling is that if England do not fall into line with world opinion we would be cutting our own throats. One has only to think of the Welsh "Open" where Ken Craigie won the singles after about a week's practise with his sponge bat.

Ken, himself, says that the other players did not stand a chance without practise against sponge.

Let us hope that standardisation does come, for most of the leading players, as do a substantial majority all over England want this above all.

Last month's "Talking Points" have certainly roused feeling.

From Leeds, Ken Park, popular Yorkshire player, replies to Mrs. Haydon's remarks, he says:

"How could Mrs. Haydon have the audacity to suggest that knocking-up facilities should be made available to seeded players! Lesser known players certainly would consider it hard and selfish, especially as they have probably been involved in just as much hard work and trouble in reaching their standard of play as have seeded players. Sure the organisers like to see the stars get through but it should be remembered that they run the tournament for the benefit of all the players, not themselves, and wouldn't 'opens' be dull if seedings were never upset?"

Many players share this point of view though they did not put pen to paper. It is very rare that a seeded player will lose entirely through lack of a knock-up.

Ken Park finishes his contribution in a lighter mood.

"For many years I have always considered that the most well organised and enjoyable tournament is the North of England, run by Les Jones and his merry men—despite the fact that Manchester is 'over the border.'"

Now to the tournaments and first the Kent "Open" where play did not run as well as usual. There were quite a few examples of long waits and some players did not take kindly to groups being played between 4 and 6.30 p.m. for this meant they were actually expected to wait for anything up to 2½ hours.

On to the finals night where the Junior singles was last but one on the programme. One of the youngsters partaking, he was from Middle-

sex, asked to play earlier. This wish was not granted.

Most tournaments tend to play the juniors off first and players in general think that this should be a rule.

Up to Birmingham for the Midland "Open." Maurice Goldstein and his helpers did everything they could for the smooth running of the tournament and even though entries were down a little, the "separate events in separate halls" idea was largely carried out. All this made for a very successful tournament.

Let me hear from some of the Northern Tournaments. How are things going? I understand that the Yorkshire Junior "Open" had a very

late finish. It was very unfortunate but it is something that must be avoided. The Kent Junior had the same trouble until they spread the tournament over two days. Well its over to you, Yorkshire Junior "Open" officials. Please see if you can do better next year.

One last comment on the Metropolitan "Open," my good friend Conrad Jaschke stated that no change was necessary for entry to the finals. This fact certainly never "came out" at the time, in fact some players were actually told that they had to pay.

I'm just off to brush up a few languages to get some "Talking Points" from the "Worlds."

EAGLE/GIRL TOURNAMENT

By KENNETH WHEELER

NOW FOR THE FINALS

SEVEN - AND - A - HALF thousand entrants for this season's *Eagle/Girl* tournament have now been reduced to sixteen, and the scene is set for the Grand Finals at Artillery House, Handel Street on Monday, March 23, 1959.

The draw for the semi-finals, which start at 2 p.m. is:

Girls' Junior: Lydia Plotnikoff (Scotland) v Kay Stokes (South); Rosalyn Gold (Midlands) v Janet Stanley (North).

Girls' Senior: Sheila Griffiths (Midlands) v Judy Williams (South); Doreen Donaldson (Scotland) v Diana Fitzgerald (North).

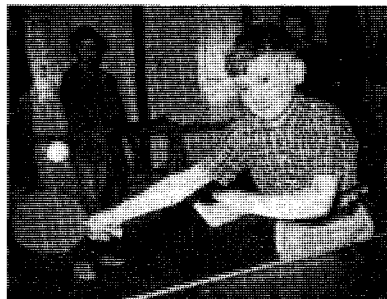
Boys' Junior: John Mansfield (South) v Joseph Allsop (Midlands); Gary Brass (Scotland) v Brian Marsden (North).

Boys' Senior: David Thomas (Midlands) v Nigel Iye (South); David Stanley (North) v Colin Hepburn (Scotland).

The standard of play in the South and North Finals, held in London and Manchester on February 14 and 21 respectively, was the highest yet seen, and when the champions of these two regions clash a battle of giants is in prospect. That is giants in ability, for Johnny Mansfield, the pocket rocket, from Abergavenny, who starred in the South under-13 event, stands barely 4 feet 4 inches in his socks.

Just 13 years of age, Johnny received a table tennis set two years ago as a Christmas present, and has since blazed a trail of success in tournaments culminating in a doubles victory and a runner-up award in the singles in the recent Kent under-13 championships.

Ken Stanley's starlets shone brilliantly at Manchester, where Ken's daughter Janet, his son David, and his pupil Brian Marsden captured three out of four of the titles. The Girl under-15 winner was Diana Fitzgerald, who was seen at her best in a superb final against the experienced left-hander, Ann Brown from Hull.



JOHNNY MANSFIELD

Those players who represent clubs can continue to score points towards the Team Prizes awarded to the highest-scoring club in Britain, and the best club in each of the four regions.

Thanks to the heavy scoring in the South of Hilde Brautigam and Nigel Iye, Ellenborough Club lead the table at present with 270 points.

In the regions, Wymondham School (South), Liverpool Bluecoats School (North), and Dundee (Scotland), have a clear lead over rival clubs, but in the Midlands, Wheelers Lane School (110 points) could be overhauled by South Birmingham (82 points) if David Thomas were to win both his games in the Grand Final.

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

Tackle Table Tennis This Way by Ann Haydon 10/6d. each
The Twins on Table Tennis by D. & R. Rowe 8/6d. each

SWEDEN'S NEW LOOK

SWEDEN topped off its greatest year of sport by emerging as a new world table tennis nation.

Though Tage Flisberg has long been a respected name, it was not until the recent Scandinavian "Open" that Swedes in considerable numbers began to make their quality felt among the established ranks. Following up their footballers' and swimmers' 1958 successes, the table tennis players came out into the limelight, and are here to stay.

It is the opinion of many, who were here to see the championships, that Sweden has perhaps the finest potential in young players of any country in the world, and it is quite possible that some high-priced scalps will fall to young Swedes at Dortmund.

Although it is the men and junior boys who dominate the picture, there are many young girls challenging. Birgitta Tegner became the first Swedish girl to win an international title (though she was the first to acknowledge how much she owed to doubles partner Agnes Simon, for her part in the doubles victory).

The semi-official rankings list has now been published, and while Bjorne Mellstrom had a disappointing S.O.C., he is still clearly No. 1 after his convincing national title win and some good displays in international matches.

Tony Larsson is the new star of Swedish table tennis, and moves up from his Autumn 7th place to No. 2. During the Autumn, Tony's form against strong Continental opposition indicated he is more likely than even Mellstrom to pull off a top honour soon.

Flisberg is still holding on at No. 3. Though his best international days are behind him, he still managed a Swedish title final place and had good results in the well-organised Swedish leagues in the Autumn.

He is still, at 41, the only table tennis player yet to have figured in Sweden's official lists of "10 best sportsmen of the year"—1954 was the year, of course.

The dominating part sponge plays in Sweden is emphasised in the ranking of the ten best men. Mellstrom, Ljungstrom and Jonsson are the only ones not using this surface. The full list is: 1, Bjorne Mellstrom; 2, Tony Larsson; 3, Tage Flisberg; 4, Hans Alser; 5, Toni Borg; 6, Reidar Ljungstrom; 7, Rolf Jonsson; 8, Georg Karlsson; 9, Ake Rakell; 10, Kalman Szepesi.

THE NETHERLANDS "OPEN"

THREE TITLES FOR ENGLAND

WE expected to leave the fog behind when we flew from London Airport for the Netherlands "Open" but it was as dense as ever on arrival at Eindhoven. A warm welcome, however, soon dispelled thoughts of the chill, damp weather and we were soon preparing for the great day ahead.

And a very successful tournament it proved for our party who took three of the five titles.

Ann Haydon won the women's singles, beating me in the final, then we teamed up to take the women's doubles. I also had a further success by winning the mixed with Johnny Leach.

In addition Johnny and Brian Kennedy were runners-up in the men's doubles, losing to the Swedes Alser and Ljungstroem.

The large international entry, including representatives from Sweden, Poland, France, West and East Germany, plus of course, the Dutch players, promised plenty of interest and we did not have to wait long for the first big shock. Agnes Simon, winner of several national titles throughout the Continent, crashed 1-3 to the German girl Jutta Kruse, who played extremely well attacking backhand and forehand with power and accuracy.

By DIANE ROWE

This was perhaps fortunate for me, for Simon has been my "bogey" player. Kruse was unable to handle my chop as well as Simon's half volley and I won 3-1 to enter the final.

Brian, still feeling the effects of an illness he picked up in Pakistan lost to Schoofs in the last 16, where Johnny beat Dugardin and went on to the semi-final, where feeling the strain of the heavy day's play, he lost to Kohler 3-0.

The men's final was a slow and uninteresting time limit affair with Alser beating Kohler 10-18, 18-9, 15-8, 5-3.

Although played in a large hall, conditions were somewhat difficult, with poor lighting, slow tables and heating under the floor which was tiring on the feet and because of the heavy programme left most of us with blisters.

Incidentally, Ann's prize as singles winner, was one of the best I have seen at an "open" tournament . . . a Philips portable radio.

The day following the championships Ann and I travelled to Rotterdam for an international, which we won 4-1. I dropped our one event . . . to Simon. By the way, the Dutch played a new youngster, Nellie Visscher, whom I predict will become quite a power in two years time.

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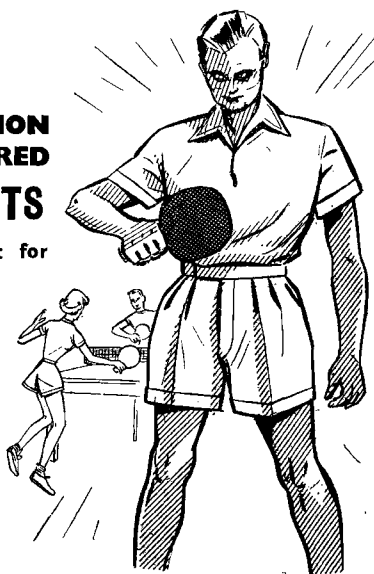
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EXCITEMENT IN AFRICA

By ALEC BROOK

WHEN Victor Barna and I left London for a tour of Nigeria, Ghana and Portugal, our first trip abroad for some time, little did we know just how fantastic it would be. It was action all the way with enough experiences to fill a book, starting from that moment when we were one of the few planes to leave the country, on foggy January 14th.

Our first stop was Frankfurt when we had just enough time for Victor to have a short chat with the secretary of the German Association about the forthcoming world championships in Dortmund. Next to Rome, an unscheduled stop in Tripoli and eventually at 8.45 in the morning we arrived at Kano, Nigeria.

We stepped out of the plane to a battery of pressmen, photographers, radio men, a committee of welcome and ... glorious sun and heat.

Long before the end of the tour we were a little sorry about that heat.

We drove to our hotel, changed, a short snack and in an hour we were on our way making a courtesy call on the Emir of Kano; followed by a visit to a Minoret, a school, an inspection of the hall, lunch, a short rest and to our first match in the early evening.

The programme of just over two hours was received with enthusiasm exceeding anything we had previously

seen but playing in the heat we found almost unbearable.

We were officially welcomed at a cocktail party immediately afterwards.

So began a period of five weeks, following almost the same pattern and leaving us with hardly a moment to spare.

We travelled a great deal by air from one town to another, Kano to Kaduna, on to Zaria, Enugu, Ibadam, and Lagos; then to the inaptly named Gold Coast, now called Ghana. Here we played in Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi, Takoradi, Cape Coast and various other places.

Everywhere the welcome was almost overpowering, the press featured us in headlines, we had to talk on the radio and when I was beaten for the first time it was a sensation. To me it was a sensation I only lost four matches during the whole tour. After all we were playing the champions at every venue and the standard amongst so many thousands of players was reasonably high. **Many of them did not realise Victor and I retired from competitive play some years ago and that the main purpose of our tour was exhibitions and coaching.**

In Nigeria they are crazy about table tennis and it looks like becoming a national sport for which they will owe much to an Englishman from Yorkshire, Jack Farnsworth who

organised the tour. He has lived there for some years.

In Lagos, the game is played in back alleys, on street corners and in fact anywhere a home made table can be set up.

We had crowds of between 500-1,000 who went almost hysterical at times and in some places our matches were held up for at least five minutes as the African spectators jumped round and round their seats, hung on to each others necks whilst at the same time shouting and cheering.

Victor agreed he had never witnessed such amazing scenes even at the height of his career; and the highlight of our trip came in Lagos.

The welcome, at the airport of the Nigerian capital, was fantastic; here a crowd of over 1,000 waited two and a half hours, due to our plane being delayed. One hundred students lined up with banners, **"Welcome to Lagos, Victor Barna and Alec Brook."**

A calypso band was installed on the lawn, playing all the time and including a specially composed Barna-Brook calypso.

INTENSE HEAT

It was all very exciting although conditions generally were really exhausting. Unfortunately, particularly in Ghana we had to play a great deal in the afternoon when the heat was most intense; this because of lighting difficulties and to halls being required as cinemas in the evening.

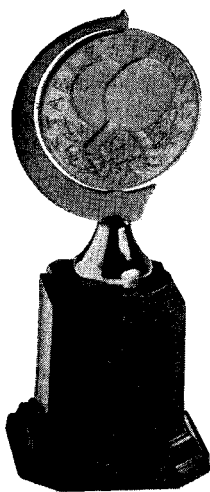
Tables were of poor quality, mostly local made and during the whole tour we only played on one tournament table, the others being $\frac{1}{2}$ in. models, not exactly conducive to the best of play and requiring extra concentration.

We both found it hard to sleep because of the humidity and even though we were careful over food, Victor had considerable tummy trouble. Nearly all our exhibitions were strenuous and the way Victor made me run around can be judged from the fact I lost $1\frac{1}{2}$ stone in the first 17 days of the tour. After ten days in England I have recovered only ten pounds.

One incident, amusing to others but not to me, was being stung by mosquitos. On this occasion we shared a room which did not have mosquito nets but the windows had been treated with fine wire so we were not worried.

As usual we could not get to sleep and decided to open the door for a little more breeze. We got the breeze and also the mosquitoes for in the morning I had been bitten in about 50 different places. Victor was untouched presumably because I was nearest the door; anyway our friends

(Continued on next page)



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CHINESE CRACKERS

FEARFUL calmness (not coolness), astonishing speed, and a high degree of intelligence. This is my summing up of the character of the Chinese team for the World Championships in Dortmund.

They revealed the strength of their challenge when they visited Budapest and won both internationals. Their women won 3-1, and their men 5-2. They also took part in a "Competition of Invitation," and took three of the five events, the Hungarian successes being in the women's singles and doubles.

European champion was made to look very ordinary as he was beaten by Su Jin-tsen (14, —19, 19) and Van Tsuan-jao (18, 10) in the international

EXCITEMENT IN AFRICA

(Continued from previous page)

laughed and hoped we had learnt a lesson.

During the tour we made a host of new friends and met many personalities. At Enugu, Nigeria, the Prime Minister, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe attended our show and no one was more excited during the games. We were introduced to him and later to Sir James Robertson, the Governor General, who watched us in Lagos. Here we met the fabulous King of the Ashanti's, Otumfuo Sir A. Prempeh at his palace.

Our final cocktail party was attended by five cabinet ministers and also Dick Tiger the British Empire Boxing champion.

In Ghana again, the Governor General, Lord Listowel watched us play and invited us to the State House. Later we met the Prime Minister, Dr. Nkrumah at Government House.

So we left Africa for a short tour of Portugal. We played in Lisbon before a large crowd and received the most wonderful hospitality.

Although I have played in nearly every European capital, in West and South Africa, in the Middle East and in many other places, I came away thinking Portugal is one of the nicest places in the world.

LINCOLNSHIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles: P. SKERRATT bt J. Radley 21-15, 21-16. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. W. EANOR bt Mrs. C. Moran 21-8, 21-13. **Boys' Singles:** R. NORTON bt B. Hill 21-23, 21-15, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: M. SHEADER / H. GRESSWELL bt B. Edlington/A Fear 21/15, 17-21, 23-21. **Women's Doubles:** Mrs. MORAN/Mrs. LAMMIN bt Mrs. Eanor/Mrs. Hardy 21-17, 21-16. **Mixed Doubles:** P. SKERRATT/Mrs. MORAN bt D. Smith/Mrs. Lammin 21-16, 21-13.

By Gyorgy Ferenc

and again by Van Tsuan-jao in the tournament final (7, 17, 16).

Sido was the best of the Hungarians beating Su Jin-tsen (17, —20, 11) but losing (10, —17, 18) to Van Tsuan-jao, against whom his finest defence was insufficient.

Eva Koczian had the measure of the Chinese girls winning both her ties in the international and also beating Suen Mei-jin (17, 17, —16, 19) in the tournament final.

Final results of the tournament were:

Men's Singles: VAN TSUAN-JAO bt Berezik 21-7, 21-17, 21-16.

Women's Singles: EVA KOZIAN bt Suen Mei-jin 21-17, 21-17, 16-21, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: VAN TSUAN-JAO/JANG TUO-HUA bt Su Jin-tsen/Hu Ping-tsun 21-15, 21-13, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: KOZIAN/MOSSOCZY bt Suen Mei-jin/Cu Cun-hui 21-14, 21-17, 13-21, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: VAN TSUAN JAO/SUEN-MEI-JIN bt Berezik/Farkas 3-0.

The Chinese men are superior to anyone in Europe, and they hit at 20-all as courageously as at Love-all, never yielding for a second the "authority" to an opponent.

The girls are good but not of the same standard as the men, although they attack continuously.

The remarkable coolness of the Chinese is emphasised by the spirit in which they take an edge ball from an opponent. They do not get angry and their nerves are not damaged at all. To them the "edge" is all part of the game. This one quality alone is sufficient to beat an opponent of equal standing.

Then their cleverness. It fascinates the public not only to applaud, but also to laugh. We had an example of this in one of the burly Sido's matches... a "David and Goliath" affair. Poor Sido was drawn to the table by a drop shot, only to be passed by a mighty drive to the other corner.

To my English friends who know the speed of our own Gyetvai I will merely say that the Chinese look about three times quicker.

WEST WILTSHIRE "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: T. EDWARDS bt D. Matthews 21-8, 21-23, 14-21, 24-22, 21-19.

Women's Singles: Mrs. M. BISHOP bt Mrs. P. Collins (holder) 21-14, 19-21, 21-19.

Junior Singles: A. NICHOLAS bt G. Mullen 21-8, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: EDWARDS/D. TAYLOR bt G. Broom/Matthews 21-15, 21-15, 10-21, 18-21, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles: A. E. CRAYMER/Mrs. COLLINS bt G. Harrison/Mrs. Bishop 21-19, 24-22.

Handicap Singles: CRAYMER bt E. Smith 22-20, 21-16.

STUDY THE UMPIRE

By Colin Clemett

THE English "Open" is for most people the climax of the season, and for umpires taking part it is their show-piece.

English umpiring, which enjoys worldwide respect, is probably of a higher standard here than at any other event during the season, possibly because they are inspired by the occasion.

There is, however, perceptible difference between a good umpire and the best. It is a difference not so much of efficiency as technique, and existing or prospective umpires attending Wembley would be well advised to study the various refinements of umpiring practice.

The English "Open" is one of the few tournaments conducted by a large squad of officials. There are timekeepers, line-judges and scoring machine operators, commonly known as "twiddlers."

Most umpires will have had experience of working under the time limit rule, but those who have not previously used one of the standard clocks should familiarise themselves with the starting and stopping mechanism before the match begins. After that they need to concentrate only on timing the match as instructed by the umpire. But it often helps towards smooth running if the timekeeper takes over the job of filling in scores and times on the results card, leaving the umpire free to control the playing without worrying about clerical details.

The "twiddlers" have only to adjust their indicators to the scores called by the umpire, but it is surprising how difficult this can be in an exciting or boring match. Continual concentration is essential.

Line-judging is the least familiar task for most umpires, but the experience of last year's English "Open," when side line judges were used throughout for the first time, showed that once the duty was understood it was competently carried out.

Points to remember are that the line-judge must face the server and must call "fault" whenever he sees the service made outside the side line of the table.

If his view is obstructed he must remain silent even though he thinks that the service was faulty.

Umpires must remember that the side-line judge is appointed not to give an opinion but to make a decision on a particular point of fact, which must be accepted.

Finally a reminder, to those who may be officiating at the English "Open" for the first time. Remember that the Laws are the same, whoever the player and whatever the state of the game. Don't let one of the top players get away with a service for which you would unhesitatingly penalise a lesser player in the preliminary round. Don't alter decisions, which you believe are right, because an important player insists. And if the top seed serves an ace from outside the line when he is 19-20 down in the fifth game to an unranked junior call "fault" in the same confident way as you would if it were love-all in the first.

You may not be popular at the time, but how they will respect your integrity!

JACK CARRINGTON'S NOTEBOOK

"FITNESS TO PLAY"

I WOULD like to thank all those who have written in response to my "Challenge" in the February issue of TABLE TENNIS.

I appealed for 16 volunteers. I already have far more than 16, but owing to their considerable diversity in type, I cannot truly say that I have the complete squad which I am seeking.

Some of the volunteers are perhaps too immature, physically, others may, regretfully come under the category of—to put it politely—"too mature." Some of them are not quite talented enough as players to fit into the group, whose object is, of course, to assess the effects of "pressurising" the training of players who are already reasonably accomplished.

In order to increase the chances of forming a well-balanced squad, I will therefore repeat the invitation this month, as follows:—

I would like to hear from players between say 16 and 28 years old, willing and able to attend in London regularly on a Wednesday or Thursday evening between April and June, to carry out a "Pressure

Training experiment." This will involve plenty of play but also plenty of exercise, which players must faithfully perform and record.

To be fair to the many keen types who may be interested, I would suggest that anybody interested should write to me, c/o TABLE TENNIS, quoting age, height, weight, and experience, as it may be possible to make a second squad for "lesser lights."

For the main squad we do not need top-ranking players, since that would prove nothing, but we do need good players, as the question is "*can special training systems find that little extra to bring a good player forward?*"

This all sprang from my attendance on behalf of E.T.T.A. at the high-level "*Fitness for Sport*" conference at the New Year. There it became apparent that much work had been devoted to training for sheer strength, for endurance, for speed (always forward), but little to the development of touch, balance, rapid reversal of movement, and quick thinking under physical and nervous pressure—qualities so important to good table tennis performance.

I regret that I cannot answer individual letters as they arrive, but all volunteers will be advised of the final decisions in April.

NATIONAL COACHING
SCHEME

Latest awards approved by the N.E.C. on the recommendation of the National Coaching Committee are:—

Basic Coaching Diploma:

K. F. G. FOGWELL (Surrey), G. HUMPHREYS (Middx.), B. A. KALINKA (Kent), G. MURANYI (Middx.), A. G. STEGGALL (Sussex), J. TREMAYNE (Surrey), R. E. VICKERS (Warwicks.), J. S. ROBBINS (Staffs.).

Teaching Theory Certificate:

F. E. BETTS (Kent), R. J. BIELBY (Durham), L. R. J. CONSTABLE (Cams.), G. R. COULTHEAD (Surrey), C. H. HAMILTON (Warwicks.), J. R. LOCKING (Lincs.), H. C. J. TAFT (Staffs.), D. G. FREER (Derbys).

The Teaching Theory Certificate is a newly instituted award, requiring the same standards as the Basic Coaching Diploma in respect of Theory, Personal Presentation and Teaching Skills. It accepts, however,

a lower standard of personal playing ability, where this is counter-balanced by a proven record of efficient results in the coaching of young pupils over a period.

While this enables the Association to recognise good work by candidates whose practical standard may be limited by age or physique, it does not by any means imply that all recipients of the Teaching Certificate are unable to attain the Diploma standards of practical play. In some cases the certificate is an interim award to a candidate who may need only a slight improvement, or has simply had no chance to attend a suitable test session.

TWINS
AGAIN!

VISITING the Gloucestershire Junior "Open" Championships my mind was taken back over the years by the sight of two small girls, one playing right handed and one left, and in a flash the Rowe twins jumped quickly into mind.

On enquiry I find that the two young girls were Pauline and Christine Holes, from Southampton, and I must say



CHRISTINE and PAULINE HOLES

watching their play it was evident that some very promising material is there.

Only 13 years old they are unique in as much that with sister Carole, 16, and Mum and Dad they have a complete family team in the local league.

Christine plays left handed and Pauline right, and I understand that they are pupils of the Grosvenor T.T. Club at Portsmouth, run by George Cooper. I sincerely hope that George will do everything possible to develop their game. I shall watch with interest future results in their league and tournament play.

IVOR C. EYLES.

MURANYI WINS U.A.U.
AFTER CAR-CRASH

THE London entry for the University Championships were involved in a car crash while travelling to Loughborough, but George Muranyi, who was slightly injured, successfully defended his singles title without the loss of a game.

Mistry scratched because of broken spectacles and Wong had to go to hospital to have a small piece of glass removed from his eye. However, playing with Muranyi he was an easy winner in the doubles against Hunter and Oughton, of Durham.

Derek Backhouse (Birmingham) once again reached the final of the singles but was not on his best form. He had match point against him in the first round when playing Israr (Reading), but improved to beat Wong in the semi-final. Hunter (Durham) opposed Muranyi in the other semi-final, but only after a close game with King (Leicester).

The championships were staged by Loughborough Colleges who provided first class conditions and organisation, and congratulations are due to their secretary, Ken James, for his efforts.

Singles. Semi-Finals: G. MURANYI (London) bt R. Hunter (Durham) 21-16, 21-12. D. BACKHOUSE (Birmingham) bt M. Wong (London) 21-16, 14-21, 21-11.

Final: MURANYI bt Backhouse 21-9, 21-17.

Doubles. Final: MURANYI/WONG (London) bt Hunter/Oughton (Durham) 21-15, 21-9.

P. Chaplin.

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS SUPPORTERS CLUB

Special Announcement

A new fund-raising scheme has been recently introduced to take the place of the Football Pools, which have not been the success one had hoped. This is a simple Football Lottery with a prize of £15. The lottery is by ticket price 6d., and inside is a list of teams, numbered, with three numbers printed at the bottom. The three teams scoring the highest number of goals being the winning ticket.

This prize and others will be increased as the number of tickets sold increases. No book-keeping is necessary, and to make this scheme successful many more people are required to dispose of the tickets week by week.

Several Leagues, already running their own fund-raising schemes are helping, and the idea of the York and District Association is commended to all. Out of their profits they are investing a sum each week in our Scheme, with the hope that the prize will come their way, thus by helping us, they may help themselves.

I am sure there are other Leagues willing to give their support to help English Table Tennis; no matter how small I shall be glad to hear from you.

This new scheme, falling under the Small Lotteries Act, is free from betting tax, and much easier and inexpensive to run unlike the former scheme, where due to lack of increasing members, the weekly expenditure did not exceed the income, the position is that each week a profit is made, and a sale of 2,000 tickets each week would bring in £15 to £20 profit for the Association.

I am very happy to report that starting the new scheme with 900 sold tickets, in three weeks it has increased to 1,500, and I am sure that we do appear to have found a scheme which is different, simple and easy to operate.

I do, therefore, appeal to you all to write now, giving the approximate number of tickets you may be able to sell, and these will be sent to you by return.

The future of table tennis I am sure, failing a direct subsidy from the Government, depends on the players and officials. It is up to you—give your help and give it quickly.

JACK ASHLEY,

Chief Organiser.

19 Lawrence Hill,
Bristol 5.

ESSEX NOTES**BEAT MUM**

Twelve-year-old Lesley Bell created a sensation in the Dagenham "Closed" Championships by winning the Senior triple crown. She beat her mother, twice former English Veteran title holder, in the final of the women's singles, took the women's doubles partnered by her mother and the mixed with Brian Parrish.

Tony Condon retained his title in the Chelmsford "Closed" Championships. Janet Andrews won the women's title. Winners of the Barking titles were Charlie Darts and Mrs. M. Gallagher.

In the Essex Junior "Closed" Championships, again staged at Marconi Works, Chelmsford, the favourite Trevor Leverno beat David Carter, also of East London in the final of the Boys' Singles. Leverno beat Alan Clancy (Chelmsford) in one semi-final and Carter beat Mark Sweeting (Chelmsford) in the other. Clancy had earlier eliminated the seeded Nigel Bates.

The draw for the girls' singles became rather "lop-sided" when both seeds in the top half, Margaret Bown and Joy Seabrook had to withdraw.

Boys' Singles: T. Leverno bt D. Carter 21-13, 21-17. **Girls' Singles:** J. Wiggins bt C. Rawles 21-11, 21-15. **Boys' Doubles:** N. Bates/M. Sweeting bt Carter/Leverno 21-16, 23-21. **Girls' Doubles:** J. Matheson/A. Sutton bt P. Martin/J. Wiggins 22-20, 21-15. **Mixed Doubles:** Leverno/Wiggins bt Sweeting/J. Matheson 21-18, 21-12.

Frank Bateman.

MIDDLESEX MATTERS

MIDDLESEX are still in the running for top honours in the County championship. That's the good news following our 6-4 victory over Essex, who were previously unbeaten.

Our junior side are doing extremely well and are now in a strong position to win their Division.

The Middlesex 2nd team is at the head of the Bernard Crouch Trophy table where the latest positions are:—

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	3	2	1	16	11	4
Essex	4	2	2	17	19	4
Surrey	3	1	2	12	15	2

In the Middlesex Inter-league championship Willesden, the holders, are off to a good start being unbeaten in three matches (average 24-3), North Acton have also won their three (17-10).

In the second division Acton II hold a good lead with full points from five matches, while Willesden III and Central III head the Third Division with six points from four games.

The semi-finals and finals of the Middlesex Schools tournaments which has reached its zone-final stage, have been provisionally arranged for March 21 at Salisbury Road School.

The Middlesex "Closed" is to be held March 14/15 at Utra, Western Avenue, W.3. Anyone is welcome to watch us at work.

L. Landry.

WARWICKSHIRE DIARY

BILL GALLAGHER justified his county ranking by carrying off the men's singles in the Warwickshire "Closed", producing some of his best form of the season to beat J. Harrison in the final.

Harrison had his revenge in the men's doubles final where he partnered R. Vickers to beat Gallagher and A. Stallard.

RESULTS

Finals: Men's Singles: W. GALLAGHER bt J. Harrison 21-13, 21-18, 21-17. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. D. GRIFFITHS bt Mrs. B. Carless 21-18, 25-23. **Junior Singles:** C. CADWALLADER bt N. Powell 12-21, 21-17, 21-13. **Veteran Singles:** L. WILKINSON bt L. Wilkins 21-13, 21-18.

Finals: Men's Doubles: HARRISON and R. VICKERS bt Gallagher and A. Stallard 21-19, 21-11. **Women's Doubles:** Mrs. GRIFFITHS and B. BROWN bt Mrs. Carless and D. Foster 21-9, 21-11. **Mixed Doubles:** VICKERS and Mrs. CARLESS bt R. Warner and Mrs. Griffiths 21-13, 21-11. **Junior Doubles:** J. DINGLEY and M. BILLINGTON bt Cadwallader and B. Whiting 21-18, 21-12.

Gallagher followed up his Warwickshire success by retaining his singles in the Coventry Championships and also won the mixed doubles with his wife Beryl, who has just returned to table tennis after the birth of their daughter.

The women's singles provided an unexpected surprise when Mrs. K. Jennings beat Miss B. Brown who was a strong favourite.

RESULTS

Finals: Men's Singles: W. GALLAGHER bt M. Leach 21-5, 12-21, 21-9, 21-17. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. K. JENNINGS bt B. Brown 9-21, 21-10, 21-14. **Junior Singles:** M. BILLINGTON bt J. Dingley 21-8, 12-21, 21-13. **Youth Singles:** C. SUTHERLAND bt D. Deare-Jones 19-21, 21-18, 21-12. **Veteran Singles:** F. BEECH bt R. Wilkins 21-16, 21-6.

Finals: Men's Doubles: A. BURY and W. BEVINS bt Wilkins and L. Plummer 21-12, 21-16. **Women's Doubles:** Mrs. E. GRIMMETT and BROWN bt Mrs. D. Pearce and Mrs. Jennings 21-17, 21-19. **Mixed Doubles:** GALLAGHER and Mrs. GALLAGHER bt Leach and Mrs. Pearce 11-21, 21-13, 21-13.

WARWICKSHIRE LEAGUE RESULTS

BIRMINGHAM 6, RUGBY 4; COVENTRY 6, TAMWORTH 4; LEAMINGTON 7, TAMWORTH 3.

SURREY TRY NEW BLOOD

SEARCHING for future first team players, Surrey "blooded" two more men, Jack Harrington and Gordon Chapman, in the two Bernard Crouch Trophy matches against Essex. These were played on successive nights giving a close opportunity of studying individual scores.

Although playing well and showing the right temperament with ability to fight from behind, Harrington fell to both Percy Curtis and Tony Condon.

Gordon made an auspicious debut by defeating Ken Beamish in his only singles and winning the doubles with Harrington against Beamish and Condon.

The match results swung with venue, Surrey winning 6-4 at Sutton, and Essex by the same margin at Eton Manor.

The Middlesex victory over Essex in the Premier Division has given our first team a big incentive for their remaining match with Yorkshire at St. Saviour's Hall, Woodbridge Road, Guildford, on March 14. A win can give Surrey the championship, unless Middlesex beat Gloucestershire by an avalanche score in their remaining fixture.

Joe Somogyi, who asked to withdraw against Kent, returns to the Surrey team, which is completed by Harry Venner, Ken Craigie, Betty Bird, Peggy Piper and Lynne Whitthams.

The revised Surrey Inter-League competition, in which county players are barred, is now running smoothly. Thames Valley hold a one point advantage over Guildford, with Sutton and Croydon jointly a further point behind.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

EIGHT YEARS RECORD GOES

THE Sheffield shock squad have moved in on Huddersfield. For several seasons the sterling steelmen have been threatening to grab Huddersfield's inter-league crown.

This year they are really gunning for it And they became the first Yorkshire side to beat Huddersfield in eight years when they toppled the champions by 7-3.

Dauntless Colin Deaton led this swashbuckling Sheffield raid by beating stars Ray Hinchliff and Stuart Dyson. His merry men were Maurice Simpson, Gerald Underwood and Ronnie Ridge. George Carrigill won two for Huddersfield.

Now Sheffield reflect ruefully on that earlier defeat at the hands of Leeds. For the determined men of Hull are still unbeaten — though they have yet to meet both Huddersfield and Sheffield.

All is set for the closest finish for years.

Without Kathie Best, Leeds dropped their first inter-league point since 1954 —and very nearly lost—to a Dewsbury side in great form. Pam Morton, the 17-year-old who is quickly making a name for herself, overcame county players, Marjorie Harrison and Marjorie Lightfoot and was also unbeaten in Dewsbury's 9-1 hiding of Hull.

Through their men's 'B' team, Hull counter-attacked and took an 8-2 revenge. Clive Pollard, who is having a grand season in Hull, won both his singles to move into grade two of the county scheme he entered only last November. He is undefeated in Division Three (West).

But Bradford made sure of winning this division when they beat Castleford/Pontefract 8-2 to register their sixth success in a row. Brewerton and Payne (Bradford) and Gerald Knowles (C./P.) were unbeaten.

Castleford's first team look like being relegated to Division Two because they lost to Leeds after building a 4-1 lead. Mike Barratt won two for Leeds to add to his pair in a draw with Hull to which Terry Lofthouse also contributed a couple. One of the games in this match were so close and long that two tables were used to help Hull catch their last train!

Although Dave Bartlett, who reached the semi-finals of the Pontefract "Open," beat Carrigill and Senior, Hull Y.P.I. were knocked out of the inter-club tournament by Slaithwaite 5-3.

At Pontefract Ray Hinchliff won the singles and the mixed with Pam Morton. Marjorie Harrison won her first open title in the women's singles.

Ray also retained his Huddersfield "Closed" crown for the fourth year. Other winners: doubles: HINCHLIFF and BOB HIRST; women's: FRANCES KITELEY; doubles: MAVIS DYSON and MARGARET SCARRAMUZZA; mixed: CARRIGILL and MAVIS DYSON; youths': DAVID HIRST.

Malcolm Hartley

HARRY VENNER

England and Surrey

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SUSSEX NOTES

THERE has been an encouraging increase in table tennis interest and activity in Sussex during this season. A real shot in the arm was received when Charles Wyles, for so long a leading Kent administrator, was elected County Secretary following his move of home from Broadstairs to Hastings.

Brighton are unbeaten in the Men's County league competition, which is being played on a home and away basis, while Crawley are junior champions.

The Division I final of the County club competition will be a repeat of last season with champions, Hove Club again meeting the Regency Club, Brighton.

In Division II the four semi-finalists are: Bexhill R.A.F.A.; Crawley Sports; Monarch (Hastings) and Tigers "B" (Hastings).

The Brighton League, as a gesture of appreciation and respect to Charlie Seaman, an ex-international and Brighton and Sussex stalwart for many years, have presented a cup, known as the "CHARLIE SEAMAN" Cup, to be competed for annually by the top eight players of Sussex.

The Sussex Junior Open on March 15 has this year moved from Littlehampton to the Assembly Hall, Worthing where there are better facilities and playing conditions. The number of events has been increased to 11 with the inclusion of two "under 15" doubles events and two "under 13" singles events.

The county has welcomed the affiliation of recently formed Cuckmere Valley League.

Bill Goldfinch.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

Bryn Thompson succeeded John Cornwell, who was unable to compete, as men's singles champion in the Cambridgeshire "Closed" championships at the Cambridge Corn Exchange.

In the final he easily defeated Reg

Dean, who had earlier accounted for John Thurston.

Heather Collings won the women's title beating the holder, Heather Mitchell, 21-19, 21-16.

FINAL RESULTS:

Men's Singles: B. A. H. THOMPSON bt R. Dean 21-10, 21-17.

Women's Singles: H. COLLINGS bt Mrs. H. Mitchell 21-19, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: D. MAHEN/J. K. FERGUSON bt Thompson/D. Norton 19-21, 21-15, 26-24.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. A. PAULEY/Mrs. MITCHELL bt A. Turvill/Collings 21-16, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: DEAN/Mrs. MARTIN bt J. A. Thurston/Mrs. Pauley 19-21, 21-19, 21-10.

Junior Singles: D. PONDER bt M. Byrd 21-10, 21-19.

Veterans' Singles: F. JEFFREY bt L. Brickwood 21-6, 21-15.

The tragic and sudden death of Police Sgt. O. C. W. Cornwell a vice-president of the Cambridgeshire Association and father of county star John Cornwell, was a great shock to players and fans alike. He will be greatly missed and our most sincere sympathies go to his wife and family.

New Chesterton Institute won the Cambridgeshire League title for the second successive year while the Great Ouse River Board head the second division.

Leslie Constable.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS to Reading's Margaret Butler who collected no less than six titles in the Berkshire "closed" and Reading Championships held last month. This creditable performance confirms her ranking as the County's No. 1 woman player.

WINNERS

BERKSHIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles: B. BARNES. Women's Singles: M. BUTLER. Junior Singles: G. STEWART. Veterans' Singles: D. S. HEAPS.

Men's Doubles: EGGINGTON / UNSWORTH. Women's Doubles: M. BUTLER / B. FEISLEY. Mixed Doubles: M. BUTLER / D. BARLEY.

READING CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Men's Singles: L. WISE. Women's Singles: M. BUTLER. Junior Singles: M. SOMAIA. Veterans' Singles: D. S. HEAPS.

Men's Doubles: L. WISE/M. DARLINGTON. Women's Doubles: M. BUTLER / M. STAFFORD. Mixed Doubles: M. BUTLER/D. BARLEY.

DURHAM DIARY

UP TO EXPECTATIONS

OUR county sides have certainly lived up to expectations this season. The senior team of Eddie Taylor, Wilf Barker, Gordon Lumsden, Grace Brown and Alma Johnson—average age 20—have defeated Northumberland 7-3 and only narrowly lost 4-6 to Derbyshire and Yorkshire.

The junior side (Barker, Les Hewitt and Miss Johnson) beat Cheshire 8-0 and drew with both Lancashire and Yorkshire. At least five points are now needed from the return games, which is a difficult, but not impossible, task.

In the Durham Senior League, Sunderland again appear to be the outstanding town. Stockton men were trounced 8-1 and look to have no chance of overhauling the Wearsiders.

Arnold Warentz.

WELSH CORNER**Set-backs against Ireland and Somerset**

GLAMORGAN dropped their first point in the National County championship when, after a runaway victory against Dorset, they were held to a draw by Somerset. Unfortunately neither Audrey Bates nor Betty Gray was available and this was the key to the lost point. For the West Country team has a strong women's section in Adele Pettifer and Margaret Lindsay.

Instead of winning the three events involving the ladies, Glamorgan won only one, the mixed doubles, when Bernard Dimascio and Margaret Jones teamed up to defeat the Lindsay husband and wife partnership.

Greta Dimascio started much too late with tactics which might have beaten Mrs. Pettifer in the singles, and also lost in the doubles with Miss Jones, to Mrs. Pettifer and Mrs. Lindsay.

Donald Morris was the best player on view winning his two events, but Ron Davies, who seems to have started too soon after his operation, lost to both Smith and Lindsay. George Evans broke even, beating Galdsack but failing against Smith.

Glamorgan now have to make certain of beating Devon in the last match of the season.

Welsh confidence received a set-back in the international against Ireland when the capacity crowd at the O'Connell Institute, Dublin, spurred the home side to a splendid and well deserved victory.

Norris won a fine match against veteran Harry O'Prey, and should have beaten Ireland's young prodigy Tommy Caffrey, but faded out when in a commanding position at the end of the third game.

Dimascio also lost to Caffrey, but recovered to beat McBridde. Nothing went right for Evans in his singles with O'Prey and McBridde, nor in the doubles with Dimascio, which they could have won to make it a draw.

Audrey Bates beat Jean Lynn in a game of quick hitting, and with Mrs. Dimascio took the doubles against Miss Lynn and Margaret Dowds. Mrs. Dimascio was much too nervous in her singles with Mrs. Dowds and her tentative half-hitting was not good enough.

So Wales finish the international season with only one win—against Scotland.

There are some interesting positions in the Premier and Second Divisions of the Welsh League. At the time of writing, Newport (27 points) and Abergavenny (25), both of whom have played 11 matches, head the Premier, followed by Cardiff (22), Port Talbot (21), Eastern Valleys (18) and Swansea (17), all with a game in hand. Aberdare also have 17

points from 11 matches, while Barry on the bottom of the table have now withdrawn.

Cardiff "Seconds" (24), Rhondda (22) and Brigid (17) are leading teams in the Second Division (South) while Cardiff Public Services "A" are top of the Second Division (North) with 21 points, followed by Tredegar (14).

There have been some good games in the Junior Section, with Aberdare standing head and shoulders above everyone. There record is 27 points from nine matches. Port Talbot their nearest rivals are nine points behind.

The Welsh "closed" Championships on March 14 at Llandaff North Drill Hall round off the home season. Normally held on Easter Monday it is hoped that the switch of dates will attract a much larger entry.

In North Wales, the inter-league competition is going well and it is good to hear of so much more interest in Wrexham. Next event in the North will be the North Wales "closed."

The big problem facing the Welsh Association is raising funds to send teams to the World Championships. A scheme has already been launched and it now needs clubs and players to support us as they have always done to ensure that Wales will be represented.

With biennial world championships now the rule, and the 1961 meeting booked for outside Europe, this is going to be our last chance for some time to be at this event.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

THINGS are certainly looking up Leicester way these days! After years as "underdogs" they have suddenly blossomed forth as one of the outstanding teams of juniors and intermediates in the Midlands. Indeed, with only one intermediate and two junior matches to play, neither team has lost so far this season in the Midland Table Tennis League.

The strength of good reserves was illustrated in the recent match at Worcester when Brian Kimble had to be switched to the intermediate side and Michael Parry and Martin Preston both made their debut for the juniors. Though the intermediates only drew, the juniors won 7-3 and all three players performed well.

The Leicestershire "Closed" have been arranged for April 4. at Leicester Y.M.C.A.

Post Office's hopes of topping Leicester and District First Division have dropped slightly due to drawn games with Byron & Knight and Charnwood. In the second divisions, Melton II (2A) and English Electric (2B) are strong promotion candidates. The latter team will shortly be losing Alan Wilson, who is going in the forces, but there is a big chance that Bernard Houghton will join them. In Division 5B J. Leonard (Civil Service) lost his 100 per cent. record when C. Measey (Frears) beat him.

Philip Reid.

LANCASHIRE and**CHESHIRE NOTES**

SOUTHPORT and District League are experiencing mixed fortunes with their representative teams this season. Last year the first team finished half way up Division I of the Lancashire and Cheshire League but are now in the relegation zone and have so far only recorded one win and that over current wooden spoonists Bolton.

The mid Cheshire League are enjoying one of their best ever seasons. Current League Champions, Broadhurst Club, well led by singles champion Lester Roberts are lying second to a "Crescent" team much strengthened by the inclusion of Town players Derrick Whitlow and Ken Cox.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE LEAGUE

Manchester and Burnley still remain undefeated in Division One with Liverpool in third place in spite of the 7-3 set-back at Burnley.

In Division II South Wirral top the league with four successive victories, with newly promoted Ellesmere Port in second place. Division II North is headed by Ashton who dropped their first point to lowly placed Farnworth. This could well be Ashton's promotion year.

Liverpool and Wirral head a very strong Junior Division and are no doubt reaping the benefits of their excellent junior coaching schemes.

John K. Kennerley.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

BRISTOL strengthened their position at the top of the Western Counties championship when they maintained their unbeaten record with easy wins over Weston and Newport.

Bristol's second string, who are faring less well in the championship, gained their first success in three matches when they beat Weston 7-2. They had earlier been narrowly beaten 5-4 by Birmingham.

Bath, second in the table, had little difficulty in beating Cardiff 8-1. The Welsh side, however, were below strength with their star player, Bernard Dimascio on international duty in Ireland, and Alan Thomas, indisposed.

Bristol Ladies, helped by an unbeaten run by Joan Collier, inflicted the first defeat of the season on Newport (8-1) and also beat Weston by 7-2.

Later, however, they too suffered their first defeat when in the return match with Weston they were surprisingly beaten 5-4.

In the season's first intermediate match Newport drew 5-5 with Bristol.

TABLES

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Bristol	4	4	0	30	6	8
Bath	5	4	1	27	18	8
Birmingham	4	2	2	15	21	4
Cheltenham	1	1	0	6	3	2
Cardiff	3	1	2	13	14	2
Bristol II	3	1	2	14	13	2
Weston	5	1	4	12	33	2
Newport	3	0	3	9	18	0

Ladies' Section

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Newport	3	2	1	18	9	4
Bristol	3	2	1	15	12	4
Weston	4	1	3	8	28	2

Grove Motlow.

CLUB BADGES

Attractive cloth badges can now be supplied in any quantity from six upwards at low prices and with quick delivery. Made entirely to your own design and suitable for wear on blazers or sweaters, etc. Free assistance given in designing your badge if required. Details from **S. A. CORY AND COMPANY, 20 St. John's Hill, LONDON, S.W.11**

HERTFORDSHIRE HAPPENINGS

WITH the Championship of the North Section of the 2nd Division so very close, all eyes will be on the result of the Lincolnshire v Durham match to see if it will be Lincolnshire or Warwickshire that we shall be welcoming to the Electrical Apparatus Co. Club House for the first of the Challenge Matches deciding promotion to the Premier Division.

Semi-finals of the Inter-Club Tournament have resulted in Y.M.C.A., Watford defeating De Havillands, Hatfield, 6-3 and Waverley (St. Albans) scraping home 5-4 against Water Lane (Bishop's Stortford). The Final is at the I.C.I. Plastics Division Recreation Club, Welwyn Garden City, on April 12.

County Association Chairman, Geoff. Harrower, reports that although the total applications had exceeded the number of available places, at Lilleshall this Easter, for the Hertfordshire Junior Coaching Course, he had been able to obtain another four places. Lucky juniors!

CAMBRIDGE JUST WIN

This year's Varsity match produced a series of close games between evenly matched teams, with the Cambridge 6-4 victory undecided until after the ninth game. The second teams met in the afternoon, and Oxford won 6-4.

For Oxford, the first team match was one of missed opportunity. In the opening game Cockayne led 20-17 before Mahen, relying on his fast low drive recovered to win 23-21. Mahen continued to unsettle his opponent and won the second game fairly comfortably.

Hope, leading 10-7 in the third game of the second match, became over cautious, and Ferguson seized his opportunity with some delightful drives and took the score to 2-0 for Cambridge.

In the third match Jacobs came up from behind in each game with an attack just too consistent for Thatcher's defence.

Against the defensive Mallinson, Maddrell launched straight into attack, but Mallinson held on to win in two close, exciting games.

The first doubles match resolved itself into an interesting duel between Geoghegan and Mahen, but the better balanced Cambridge pair were worthy winners. The second Oxford pair again levelled scores, at 3-all, in a game which was tense rather than spectacular.

The next match was vital. Ferguson needed to prevent the Oxford number one from settling down. He took the first game but lost the second as Cockayne seemed to be gathering confidence. In the third game Ferguson played very intelligently and did not look like being beaten until Cockayne pulled up to defeat in a desperate last-minute effort. But the Cambridge man coolly played his side into a 4-3 lead.

The next match was close, although Hope never really looked like beating the more confident Mahen, Jacobs and Maddrell were both extremely nervous, and Maddrell won, with the extra confidence of a 5-3 lead. Finally Mallinson deservedly made the score respectable for Oxford, with a win over Thatcher.

Results (Oxford names first): E. J. Cockayne lost to D. W. Mahen 21-23, 15-21; lost to J. K. Ferguson 17-21, 21-16, 21-23; J. M. Hope lost to Ferguson 21-19, 17-21, 15-21; lost to Mahen 21-23, 21-16, 15-21. B. Jacobs bt D. S. Thatcher 21-17, 21-19; lost to S. H. P. Maddrell 20-22, 17-21. J. H. Mallinson bt Maddrell 21-19, 22-20; bt Thatcher 21-11, 21-15.

Cockayne/S. L. Geoghegan lost to Mahen/Ferguson 9-21, 22-20, 12-21. Hope/Jacobs bt Thatcher/M. P. Humphries 22-20, 21-19.

THE NATIONAL CUPS

MANCHESTER and **Birmingham** both set up records when they retained their titles in the Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl national team competitions on **February 28**. Manchester won the Wilmott Cup for the eighth time when they beat London Civil Service 5-3 in the final at Brentford, while Birmingham marked up their fifth successive win in the Rose Bowl by crushing South London 7-1, at Acton.

In the semi-finals Manchester beat Gloucester 5-1 and Civil Service overcame Portsmouth by a similar margin, while Birmingham slammed North West Kent 5-0, and South London beat Leeds 5-1.

Detailed results: **Wilmott Cup, final:** Manchester 5, London Civil Service 3 (Manchester names first). R. ALLCOCK lost to K. Craigie 21-14, 13-21, 13-21; bt L. Adams 21-15, 19-21, 21-18; bt K. Sheldon 21-15, 19-21, 21-14. J. INGBER bt Craigie 17-21, 21-16, 21-16; bt Sheldon 21-12, 21-11. P. STRULOVITCH bt Sheldon 21-17, 20-22, 21-18; lost to Adams 21-18, 17-21, 8-21; lost to Craigie 17-21, 13-21.

Rose Bowl, final: Birmingham 7, South London 1 (Birmingham names first). A. HAYDON bt J. Rook 21-14, 21-11; bt Mrs. B. Bird 21-10, 21-10. P. MORTIMER bt Mrs. J. Head 21-17, 11-21, 21-14; bt Bird 21-17, 21-19. Mrs. D. GRIFFITHS bt Head 21-17, 21-15; lost to Rook 18-21, 15-21. GRIFFITHS/MORTIMER bt Bird/Head 21-17, 10-21, 21-19. HAYDON/MORTIMER bt Bird/Rook 21-19, 19-21, 21-19.

LEARNING TO PLAY with Joyce Williamson

IT is now time to learn something about wrist action when playing your strokes, for footwork, body and arm action should now become almost second nature.

The wrist can be used to impart more spin on to the ball, and consequently is most important in defence where variation of spin is the best way of fooling your opponent into making mistakes and giving a high return and open the way for attack.

When chopping the ball, draw your wrist up at the commencement of the stroke and at the moment of impact let it slide down and under the ball. When driving, bring the wrist down at the commencement and pull it up on impact.

Sidespin can be imparted by drawing the wrist sideways across the ball; most important when on the push and trying to angle the opponent out of position.

HALF-VOLLEY: This stroke is beneficial to both the defensive game as well as attack. There is no approach to the stroke and very little follow-through—timing and bat-angle being all that is needed. Play the ball **straight off the bounce** with a steady racket, the top of which is slightly tipped forward when receiving topspin or slightly back when receiving backspin.

The speed of the ball will send it back over the net and only a **slight** forward movement is necessary. Too few players take advantage of this very useful stroke. In attack it can be used to angle your opponent out of position without lessening the speed of the rally or giving him the initiative.

On defence it is just as effective as a sudden hit—in fact more so.

If you are well back from the table chopping and suddenly come in with a half-volley return the speed and angle will put your opponent right off balance.

HOW TO WIN A POINT.

DEFENCE: When defending you rely on your opponent's mistakes or to try and make him throw up a loose return which you can come in and hit hard. Placements are all-important. Keeping the ball away from his strongest stroke

and make it as hard as possible for him to hit a winner.

Change to spin is likely to fool your opponent more than anything. Don't return all the balls heavily or lightly chopped or your opponent will know what to expect. This is where wrist-action is most beneficial. Take full advantage of any high returns to you, move in quickly, straight on to the attack.

ATTACK: "Change of pace" and "Placements" are two main factors here. Vary the speed as much as possible with well-placed shots so as to get your opponent out of position when he will throw up a weak return for you to "kill."

This is where we use the SMASH, or FLAT HIT. To do this stroke we choose a high return (the closer the net the easier) and hit the ball as hard as possible with a forward and downward movement in the direction of the point where we wish the ball to hit.

Just as effective as the Smash is the DROP SHOT which, like the half-volley is neglected by too many players. It can be used to play your opponent out of position as well as a winning shot.

It is played with a "dead" racket. As the ball rises off the table, slide your racket underneath and try and drop the ball as low and close to the net as possible. The shorter and lower the ball you choose to hit the better.

CHOPPING CHOP AND DRIVING DRIVES

So far we have learnt to drive chops and vice-versa which actually keeps the ball spinning in the one direction. Much harder is to either drive a drive or chop a chop. It means reversing the spin already on the ball. Timing is the main pointer.

When chopping the chop, come well under the ball and, at the moment of impact, lift your racket slightly to help the ball over the net. To drive a drive, have your bat well angled forward and, if possible, hit the ball at the top of the bounce and follow through with a forward movement and very little upward.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP - - - By CONRAD JASCHKE

It's Surrey and Middlesex for Premier Title

SO near and yet so far . . . that's the swan song to Essex hopes of their first ever Premier Division title.

When, with an unbeaten record, they met Middlesex at Romford, they knew that a win or even a draw would almost certainly clinch the title, while defeat, because of game's aggregate, would end championships aspiration for another season.

And to the dismay of that large home crowd—it was a full house—Middlesex rose to the occasion and won 6-4.

The nigger in the wood pile as far as Essex were concerned was Laurie Landry, who had replaced Alan Rhodes in the singles. Playing like a cool calculated veteran, Landry gave Middlesex a winning start by beating Bobbie Raybould, and clinched victory with a great win over Bobby Stevens. That second match was a "thriller" with scenes of excitement so seldom seen at table tennis these days.

Landry took the first game comfortably and established a long lead in the second when Stevens staged a fantastic recovery to lead 18-17 with his service. The home hopes were given a tremendous boost, but Landry refused to be ruffled. Eighteen-all and 19-all were called then match point to Landry.

Stevens saved it with a stinging drive which sent Landry tumbling

into the stop-netting. But the Middlesex youth got up to win those next two vital points and it was all over.

Middlesex had threatened a comfortable win when they led 3-1, then after Stevens and Raybould had won



LAURIE LANDY

YVONNE BAKER

the men's doubles, Yvonne Baker sprang the shock of the match by beating Diane Rowe, who just before the start had learned of her Corbillion Cup selection.

Fighting hard for every point Miss Baker took the first game at 24-22, and lost the second 16-21. It was level pegging most of the way in that thrill-packed decider, but Miss Rowe missed easy "sitters" and Miss Baker, making full use of a backhand flick got home at 21-19.

It was a pity that such a great effort should be of no avail for Raybould failed to get the measure of Derek Burridge, Leach and Peggy Franks crashed in the mixed to Thornhill and Miss Rowe, and Stevens, lost that thriller with Landry.

Earlier in the month Essex had beaten Lancashire 7-3, while Middlesex had overwhelmed Yorkshire 9-1, and Surrey had humbled Kent by a similar score. All of this adds up to the championship resting between Surrey and Middlesex who both have vastly superior games aggregate to Essex.

Surrey are better placed and should be home and dry providing they beat Yorkshire at Guildford on March 14, unless Middlesex can win by at least 9-1 against Gloucestershire on March 21.

SITTING BACK WAITING

In Division II North, Warwickshire beat Durham and Northumberland on the same day by identical 7-3 scores on a round trip. With Ann Haydon in the team, Warwickshire did not give anything away in the women's events, though Alma Johnson/Mrs. G. Brown did well to take a game off Miss Haydon/Mrs. B. Carless in the women's doubles in the Durham match, before losing 13-21, 21-17, 6-21. Warwickshire having completed their programme, now await the outcome of the Lincolnshire v. Durham to see who gets the chance to challenge for promotion. If Lincolnshire win no better than 6-4, then Warwickshire are safe. If Lincolnshire win 8-2 or better, they get the chance to challenge. And if they win 7-3, then presumably games average will decide (as opposed to sets average!).

In Division II West, Glamorgan are in a virtually unassailable position, though theoretically Staffordshire could still overtake them. Somerset lost their chance when they crashed 3-7 to Staffordshire at Wolverhampton, despite a sterling performance by D. Smith who beat both J. Robbins and Derek Backhouse.

Smith again excelled when Somerset drew 5-5 with Glamorgan at Cardiff, on which occasion he beat R. Davies and G. Evans, but despite dropping this point the Welsh side were sitting pretty by that time.

We don't hear much about the Southern Division, but spare a thought for Norfolk, where match

COUNTY DIARY**PREMIER DIVISION**

March 14	Cheshire v Lancashire	
	Gloucestershire v Kent, The Baths, Barton Street, Gloucester	7 p.m.
	Surrey v Yorkshire, St. Saviours Hall, Woodbridge Road, Guildford	7 p.m.
March 21	Cheshire v Essex	
	Gloucestershire v Middlesex, Messrs. Hoffman's Canteen, Stonehouse Gloucester	7 p.m.
	Lancashire v Kent, Bibbys Sports Club, Orrell Lane, Liverpool, 9	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (NORTH)

March 14	Lincolnshire v Durham, Y.M.C.A., Heneage Road, Grimsby	7 p.m.
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SECOND DIVISION (SOUTH)

March 14	Suffolk v Kent, Y.M.C.A., Lowestoft	7 p.m.
March 21	Hampshire v Suffolk, The Guildhall, Winchester	7 p.m.
	Kent v Sussex, The Rowing Club, Deal	6 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION (WEST)

March 14	Devon v Staffordshire, Methodist Hall, Fore Street, Exeter	7.15 p.m.
March 15	Dorset v Staffordshire	
March 20	Worcestershire v Cornwall, Kidderminster	7 p.m.
March 21	Staffordshire v Cornwall, St. Paul's Institute, Wednesbury, Staffs.	7 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

March 14	Warwickshire v Leicestershire	
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SOUTHERN DIVISION

March 11	Bedfordshire v Hertfordshire, Commer Cars Canteen, Luton	7.30 p.m.
March 14	Cambridgeshire v Buckinghamshire	

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

March 21	Cheshire v Durham	
	Lancashire v Durham, Bibbys Sports Club, Orrell Lane, Liverpool, 9	3 p.m.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

March 17	Surrey v Middlesex	
April 4	Leicestershire "Closed," Y.M.C.A., Leicester	

secretary Eric Fairhead is getting hardened to nerve-racking finishes after watching his county's three matches. Having drawn with Cambridgeshire last December, Norfolk had a real tussle with Hertfordshire, pulling back from 1-5 to save a point. Only days later, against Bedfordshire at Norwich, Norfolk trailed 0-3, then led 4-3 . . . and finally lost 4-6!

It's a good job East Anglians have a sound constitution!

Now Bedfordshire, following two 6-4 wins, are still well placed for promotion, and with Colin Crowe and junior Paul Racey in the team, they may do it despite some weakness on the ladies' side.

A few words now about the recent

Annual Rules Meeting of the N.C.C. The constitution having been completely re-written not so long ago, the meeting were in no mood to accept alterations to rules. In fact, proposals by Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex and Yorkshire fared badly, some of them failing to get a seconder.

POSTAL BALLOT

The only amendments accepted were two from Hertfordshire regarding playing conditions, and this now establishes "thermoplastic" floors as permissible (letters asking for the definition of thermoplastic should NOT be addressed to me, but briefly, the position now is that non-slippery composition floors are now "legal").

The Yorkshire/Middlesex proposal whereby premier teams be reduced to three men and ONE woman did not get the necessary 75 per cent. majority, but having received 8 for and 4 against, it now goes to postal ballot, where it can be passed only if 50 PER CENT. OF ALL AFFILIATED COUNTIES vote "Yes."

Lastly, a request to all counties. Mr. Frank Bateman, of Essex, has again agreed to come to my rescue by calculating the season's averages. He will be doing this very tiresome job over Easter, and it would assist him very much if match secretaries would send him their own players' averages, so that Frank can compare and check his figures. Many thanks in advance for this help.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Surrey	6	5	0	1	45	15	10
Middlesex	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
Essex	5	4	0	1	29	21	8
Yorkshire	6	4	0	2	31	29	8
Gloucestershire	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Cheshire	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Lancashire	5	0	1	4	15	35	1
Kent	5	0	0	5	13	37	0

DIVISION II SOUTH

Hertfordshire	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Sussex	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Kent II	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Berkshire	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Suffolk	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

DIVISION II NORTH

Warwickshire	5	3	2	0	31	19	8
Yorkshire II	5	2	3	0	30	20	7
Lincolnshire	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
Derbyshire	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
Durham	4	1	0	3	18	22	2
Northumberland	5	0	0	5	14	36	0

DIVISION III WEST

Glamorgan	6	5	1	0	49	11	11
Somerset	6	4	1	1	38	22	9
Wiltshire	7	2	2	3	30	40	6
Staffordshire	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Worcestershire	6	2	1	3	31	29	5
Devon	5	2	1	2	28	22	5
Dorset	5	1	0	4	13	37	2
Cornwall	5	0	0	5	6	44	0

MIDLAND DIVISION

Warwickshire II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Leicestershire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Staffordshire II	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Bedfordshire	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Hertfordshire II	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Cambridgeshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Norfolk	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Buckinghamshire	1	0	0	1	3	7	0

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Lancashire	5	3	2	0	24	16	8
Yorkshire	6	2	3	1	30	18	7
Durham	4	1	3	0	20	12	5
Cheshire	5	0	0	5	6	34	0

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Middlesex	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Surrey	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Hertfordshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Kent	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Essex	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Sussex	6	1	0	5	12	48	2
Suffolk	5	0	0	5	8	42	0

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Middlesex 9, Yorkshire 1

A. Rhodes bt M. Simpson —18, 16, 16; bt R. Hinchliff 20, —18, 16. D. Burridge bt Hinchliff —19, 16, 11; bt B. Kennedy 18, 19. L. Landry bt Kennedy—19, 11, 13; bt Simpson —9, 10, 13.
Landry/Rhodes bt Hinchliff/Simpson 10, 19.
Miss D. Rowe beat Miss K. Best 15, 20.
Miss Rowe/Miss M. Fry bt Miss J. Preston/Mrs. M. Harrison 14, —16, 15.
Burridge/Miss Fry lost to Kennedy/Miss Best —15, —15.

Kent 1, Surrey 9

A. Piddock lost to A. Miller —7, 17; lost to K. Craigie —13, —8. D. Whittaker lost to Craigie 17, —18, —10; lost to H. Venner 17, —16, —16. H. Buist bt Venner 19, 19; lost to Miller —21, —12.

G. Elliott/Piddock lost to Craigie/Venner —18, —15.

Miss J. Fielder lost to Mrs. B. Bird —19, —15.
Mrs. J. Beadle/Miss B. Landimore lost to Miss P. Piper/Miss J. Rook 19, —14, —13.

Elliott/Miss Fielder lost to R. Craydon/Miss Rook —18, —19.

Essex 7, Lancashire 3

R. Raybould lost to P. Strulovich 16, —11, —10; bt. G. Pullar —8, 21, 15. J. Leach bt Pullar —12, 9, 17; bt J. Ingber —11, 20, 7. R. Stevens lost to Ingber —11, 19, —13; bt Strulovich 25, —18, 20.

Raybould/Stevens lost to Ingber/Pullar —20, —17.

Miss B. Milbank bt Miss W. Swift 25, 8.

Miss Milbank/Miss M. Franks bt Miss Swift/Mrs. C. Spencer 21, —13, 11.

Leach/Miss Franks bt Strulovich/Mrs. Spencer —19, 14, 18.

Essex 4, Middlesex 6

R. Raybould lost to L. Landry —16, 16, —6; lost to D. Burridge 21, —14, —15. J. Leach bt Burridge 14, 11, bt. M. Thornhill 10, —14, 15. R. Stevens lost to Thornhill —11, —12; lost to Landry —15, —20. Raybould/Stevens bt Landry/A. Rhodes —13, 15, 17.

Miss Y. Baker bt Miss D. Rowe 22, —16, 19.

Miss Baker/Mrs. J. McCree lost to Miss M. Fry/Miss J. Harrower —21, 16, 16.

Leach/Miss M. Franks lost to Thornhill/Miss Rowe —10, —12.

DIVISION II (NORTH)

Derbyshire 2, Lincolnshire 8.

Durham 3, Warwickshire 7.

Northumberland 3, Warwickshire 7.

Yorkshire 5, Derbyshire 5.

DIVISION II (SOUTH)

Berkshire 6, Suffolk 4.

DIVISION II (WEST)

Wiltshire 5, Devon 5.

Staffordshire 7, Somerset 3.

Dorset 0, Glamorgan 10.

Dorset 1, Worcestershire 9.

Somerset 9, Wiltshire 1.

Glamorgan 5, Somerset 5.

Worcestershire 3, Staffordshire 7.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Warwickshire II 9, Oxfordshire 1.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Buckinghamshire 3, Hertfordshire II 7.

Staffordshire II 5, Norfolk 5.

Norfolk 4, Bedfordshire 6.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Lancashire 4, Yorkshire 4.

Durham 4, Yorkshire 4.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Suffolk 3, Sussex 7.

Essex 1, Middlesex 9.

Kent 6, Essex 4.

SWISS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles: H. URCHETTI bt M. Meyer de Stadelhofen 24-22, 20-22, 23-21, 21-19.

Women's Singles: Mme. HASSLER bt Mlle. Jaquet 21-11, 20-22, 21-15, 22-20.

Men's Doubles: URCHETTI/MEYER de STADELHOFEN bt G. Wassmer/D. Giudici 21-16, 21-18, 21-4.

Women's Doubles: JAQUET/BARBEY bt Mme. Fischer/Mme. Hassler 21-19, 18-21, 21-15, 21-12.

Junior Singles: BENZ bt Corthesy 21-8, 21-16, 21-8.

Veterans' Singles: SCHNEITER bt Richard 21-9, 21-8.

JACK CARRINGTON'S HOLIDAY TRAINING WEEK

at SKEGNESS, 5-12 September, 1959

(Starting with East of England "Open")

Details from:

24 Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex

GLOUCESTERSHIRE JUNIOR

KEOGH BEATS LIVESEY

By D. N. ANDREWS

THE second Gloucestershire Junior "Open" Championships, which were once again expertly organised by the Gloucester League, proved to be a personal triumph for England's No. 6 Junior, Jack Keogh, of Lancashire.

He won the "under 17" Singles from the holder, George Livesey, England's top boy, with a decisive 21-19, 21-17 victory.

He then joined county team mate Livesey to take the Doubles from David Creamer (Middlesex) and Malcolm Ellis (Kent) after a grand battle, which produced an attractive brand of table tennis and which was the highlight of the finals.

In the mixed doubles, Keogh reached the final partnered by Ann Sharman of Warwickshire, but they were then decisively beaten by Livesey and Diana Wright of Cheshire.

Jean Harrower did not defend her titles in the girls' events, and Judy Williams, of Hertfordshire, her conqueror in the Metropolitan "Open," won the "under 15" Singles with a grand 22-20, 16-21, 21-19 revenge win against Mary Shannon, England's No. 2 from Surrey.

Mary had previously beaten the Hertfordshire girl 21-12, 22-20 in the semi-finals of the "Under 17" singles, and proceeded to win the final from Diana Wright—21-14, 20-22, 21-16.

Ian Bishop, of Hampshire, claimed the "Under 15" Boys' Singles title. In the semi-final he accounted for Geoff. Smith of Bristol—the only Gloucestershire player to reach this stage—then took the title with a fine victory over Welsh No. 1 Junior, Colin Thomas, 21-19, 14-21, 21-14.

The partnership of Mary Shannon and Sandra Morgan (Wales) proved too strong for Alma Taft (Hertfordshire), and Susan Thomas (Kent), whom they defeated 18-21,

21-18, 21-8 after having been given a fright in the first game.

A shock result in the third round of the "Under 17" Boys' Singles was the elimination of Chris. Gosling, England's No. 2 by David Offenbach, also of Middlesex, by 21-15, 18-21, 24-22. David then proceeded to the semi-final with a 11-21, 21-14, 21-19 win over Ian Bishop, who had previously beaten him 21-16, 21-16 in the "Under 15" Boys' Singles event!!

Offenbach also had a wonderful semi-final match with Jack Keogh, and just succumbed 8-21, 21-12, 17-21. Both played grand stuff, but the fine defence of the terrier-like Keogh earned him a place in the final.

RESULTS

Boys' "Under 15": Semi-Finals: C. THOMAS bt D. Stanley 10-21, 21-16, 21-19; I. BISHOP bt G. SMITH 22-20, 21-18.

Final: BISHOP bt Thomas 21-19, 14-21, 21-14.

Girls' "Under 15": Semi-Finals: M. SHANNON bt S. Thomas 18-21, 21-13, 21-12; J. WILLIAMS bt L. Gordon 21-18, 13-21, 21-16.

Final: WILLIAMS bt Shannon 22-20, 16-21, 21-19.

Boys' "Under 17": Semi-Finals: G. LIVESEY bt M. Ellis 21-12, 21-12; J. KEOGH bt D. Offenbach 21-8, 12-21, 21-17.

Final: KEOGH bt Livesey 21-19, 21-17.

Girls' "Under 17": Semi-Finals: M. SHANNON bt J. Williams 21-12, 22-20; D. WRIGHT bt M. Upton 21-19, 22-20.

Final: SHANNON bt Wright 21-14, 20-22, 21-16.

Boys' Doubles: Final: KEOGH/LIVESEY bt D. Creamore/M. Ellis 18-21, 23-21, 21-14.

Girls' Doubles: Final: SHANNON/S. MORGAN bt A. Taft/Thomas 18-21, 21-18, 21-8.

Mixed Doubles: Final: LIVESEY/Miss WRIGHT bt Keogh/Miss A. Sharman 21-11, 21-16.

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.

Date	Details and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Mar. 14	Welsh "Closed" Drill Hall, Llandaff North.		Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff.
15	Sussex Junior "Open" (Feb. 19) Assembly Hall, Worthing.	J.S.B., J.S.G. J.D.B., J.D.G. J.X.D. Under 15 B.S. Under 15 G.S.	Miss L. E. Aymill, "Imatone," 192, Goring Way, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex.
21-22	BELGIAN "OPEN"		
21	Cheshire Junior "Open" (Mar. 7) Livingstone Street Baths, Livingstone Street, Birkenhead.	J.S.B., J.S.G. J.D.B., J.D.G. J.X.D. Under 15 Boys. S. Under 15 Girls. S.	R. A. Bissell, 75, Southdale Road, Birkenhead.
21	Bath "Open" (March 7) The Drill Hall, Lower Bristol Road, Bath.	J.S.B.	J. A. Butcher, 1, South View Road, Twerton, Bath.

KENT "OPEN"

By CONRAD JASCHKE

Harrison and Cramp beat Thornhill

MICHAEL THORNHILL made his first English "open" tournament appearance of the season when he came to Folkestone to defend his men's singles title in the Kent "Open" Championships, but his journey had a most unhappy ending. An attack of cramp forced him to concede the final to Ian Harrison, after the Cheltenham boy, with his usual sportsmanship, had agreed to a half-hour postponement to give Thornhill a chance to recover.

Harrison had taken the first game 21-17, and Thornhill the second by 21-16. At 3-3 in the deciding game, Thornhill went in to smash a high return, stopped, and collapsed in agony. Cramp was diagnosed, and tournament referee Geoff Owen ruled that Thornhill could have 30 minutes' respite if Harrison agreed.

Harrison was very distressed when it was found that Thornhill could not resume after the ladies' doubles had been interposed, and kept saying: "I don't want to win the title this way."

Harrison can take consolation in the fact that to most observers he looked the most accomplished player throughout the tournament. Indeed his record this season stamps him as England's outstanding man. That England No. 3 tag looks mighty inadequate now, although, no doubt, it was right at the time of ranking!

Until the final, Harrison won all his matches in straight games. Thornhill, too, was well in command until reaching the semi-final, although dropping games to both Kevin Edwards (Gloucester) and Alan Lindsay (Middlesex).

In the semi-final, Thornhill met Bryan Merrett, who had overcome some very tough resistance by Laurie Landry (Middlesex) whom he beat 11-21, 21-17, 21-10, despite the Middlesex boy's very consistent forehand topspin, and had then disposed of Ken Craigie (Surrey) by 21-5, 22-20.

The semi-final proved a thriller, Thornhill making the pace, while Merrett defended stubbornly. The first game had some beautiful rallies, and Merrett was 17-19 down when the umpire indicated that there was only one minute left before the 20-minute time limit. Merrett immediately hit two outright winners to the great delight of the crowd . . . but all to no avail. Thornhill, keeping his head, got the last two points with only one second to spare! The second game was a replica of the first, except that this time there were still 67 seconds to go when Thornhill won 21-18.

The other semi-final offered no equivalent drama, for Harrison was too superior to hard-hitting Bobbie Raybould, who had just pipped Harry Venner (Surrey) by 21-17, 17-21, 21-19 in a quarter-final.

Kathie Best made her first visit to Folkestone a winning one, when she carried off the women's singles, without dropping a game. Her victims were Joyce Reeves (Kent), Peggy Piper (Surrey), Barbara Milbank (Essex) and, in the final, Yvonne Baker (Essex).

Miss Baker provided the main shock when she defeated Joyce Fielder, the No. 2 seed, 12-21, 21-17, 21-16, and followed up with a 22-20, 22-24, 21-16 win over Betty Bird, who had accounted for Jill Rook 21-14, 20-22, 21-14.

In the final Miss Best ran away with the first game 21-12, but in the second many of Miss Baker's backhand hits found their target. Miss Best was forced to change her tactics and put the Essex girl on the defensive before clinching the game at 21-19.

Landry and Merrett, who were unlucky in the singles,

had the consolation of winning the men's doubles, beating the holders, Edwards and Harrison.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: I. HARRISON bt R. Raybould 21-15, 21-12; M. THORNHILL bt B. Merrett 21-19, 21-18.

Final: HARRISON bt Thornhill 21-17, 16-21 3-3 rtd.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: K. BEST bt B. Milbank 21-7, 21-13; Y. BAKER bt Mrs. B. Bird 22-20, 22-24, 21-16.

Final: BEST bt Baker 21-12, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: L. LANDRY/MERRETT bt L. Adams/J. Carrington 21-13, 21-16; K. EDWARDS/HARRISON bt S. Jacobson/A. Lindsay 14-21, 21-18, 21-16.

Final: LANDRY/MERRETT bt Edwards/Harrison 21-13, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: BAKER/Mrs. J. McCREE bt J. Fielder/L. Whithams 14-21, 21-19, 21-16; P. PIPER/J. ROOK bt Best/J. Williamson 19-21, 21-19, 22-20.

Final: BAKER/Mrs. McCREE bt Piper/Rook 13-21, 21-17, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: RAYBOULD/Miss BEST bt Merrett/Miss Baker 23-25, 21-17, 21-14; LANDRY/Miss WILLIAMSON bt Adams/Miss Milbank 18-21, 21-17, 21-11.

Final: RAYBOULD/Miss BEST bt Landry/Miss Williamson 23-21, 21-18.

Youths' Singles: Semi-Finals: M. PASS bt D. Basden 21-9, 21-19; B. WRIGHT bt G. Whalley 21-18, 13-21, 22-20.

Final: PASS bt Wright 21-19, 21-18.

GWENT "OPEN"

THE Gwent "Open" at Newport, on February 21 did not attract quite as good an entry as usual, due to the absence of many West Country players. Nevertheless, there were some keen matches, although some of the Welsh players, looking for places in the World Championships party, did not produce their best form.

All titles changed hands, with Audrey Bates taking the major share of honours with a triple crown. She was much too good for a nervous Mrs. Lilian Coombs in the singles final, winning 21-9, 21-12, then joined Greta Dimascio to win the women's doubles, and took the mixed with Norman Parker.

Mrs. Coombs had handed out a few shocks before the final accounting for Mrs. Dimascio, Audrey Jones and Terry Spokes in the semi-final.

Derek Schofield captured the only title to cross the border when he won the men's singles after a three-set final against John Simonson by 21-12, 19-21, 21-15.

Schofield won the first set comfortably, but Simonson fought back strongly in the second, and after sensing his opponent's increasing anxiety, snatched it with some quick serves. Schofield however, recovered his ascendancy in the decider and hit some great shots to win.

Simonson had beaten Keith Edwards in the semi-final, while Schofield accounted for Ron Davies, who after losing the first after a long lead, fought to take the second, only to lose his touch in the third.

Of the other Welsh hopes, Bernard Dimascio was a victim of Schofield, George Evans lost to Edwards, Norman Parker went out to Buckley and Glyn Morgan lost to veteran Bristolian Bowles.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: D. SCHOFIELD bt R. Davies 21-19, 19-21, 21-11; J. SIMONSON bt K. Edwards 21-15, 21-18.

Final: SCHOFIELD bt Simonson 21-12, 19-21, 21-15.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: A. BATES bt M. Counsell; Mrs. L. COOMBS bt Mrs. T. Spokes.

Final: BATES bt Coombs 21-9, 21-12.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: DAVIES/G. EVANS bt N. Parker/A. Thomas; B. DIMASCIO/S. JONES bt G. Morgan/Simonson.

Final: DAVIES/EVANS bt Dimascio/Jones 21-23, 21-15, 21-15.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: BATES/Mrs. G. DIMASCIO bt G. Curtis/J. Moger; Mrs. A. JONES/Mrs. S. CARTWRIGHT bt Mrs. J. Thomas/Mrs. Coombs.

Final: BATES/DIMASCIO bt Jones/Cartwright 21-16, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: PARKER/Miss BATES bt Edwards/Mrs. Spokes; DIMASCIO/Mrs. DIMASCIO bt Simonson/Miss Counsell.

Final: PARKER/BATES bt Dimascio/Dimascio 21-16, 21-16.

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: C. THOMAS bt J. Bysh; K. CUTLER bt D. Lockwood.

Final: THOMAS bt Cutler 18-21, 24-22, 21-10.

MIDLAND "OPEN"

FOUR IN A ROW

EVERYTHING went according to plan in the Midland "Open" on February 14 and 15 and for once this season we had a tournament without any major surprises.

Ian Harrison, in marking up his fourth successive singles title, played his usual solid game and looked easily the best player on view. He dropped his only game to Bobby Stevens in the final, which he won 20-22, 21-15, 21-11.

Stevens played well, waiting for his opportunities, then hitting hard. However, he did not have the patience to continue that type of game to the end.

Stevens had beaten Alan Lindsay, Alan Rhodes, and Terry Densham in straight games although all were fairly close.

Harrison had a remarkable match with Landry, being within a point of losing the first game then recovering to win by the crushing score of 23-21, 21-3. He dealt comfortably with Bobbie Raybould in the semi-final.

Raybould had an anxious time against local left-hander B. Robinson before winning at 19 in the third. He also beat Stuart Dyson, who until then had done well in eliminating Derek Schofield, Derek Backhouse and Norman Parker.

Ann Haydon collected the women's singles, beating Diane Rowe in the final by 13-21, 21-18, 21-14. This was an interesting match with Miss Rowe concentrating on Miss Haydon's backhand. She was 7-2 up in the second game, but Miss Haydon steadily fought back to snatch this game, and eventually take the decider.

In the semi-finals Miss Haydon beat Joy Williamson and Miss Rowe beat Pam Mortimer.

The two finalists joined forces to win the women's doubles, proving much too solid for Miss Mortimer and Miss Williamson in the final.

The men's doubles went to Rhodes and Landry, who finally beat Raybould and Stevens, after a semi-final victory over Kershaw and Carrigill, whose sustained hitting had earlier accounted for Harrison and Keith Edwards.

Raybould and Stevens were on opposite sides in the mixed final, where Raybould, ably supported by Miss Mortimer, beat Stevens and Miss Rowe after an exciting match. The winners had shown their strength in the semi-final when they beat Harrison and Miss Haydon, who were paired for the first time.

Leading Boy

Paul Racey became the leading boys' winner of the season when he took the junior title, but in partnership with B. Midgley was surprisingly beaten in the junior doubles by J. Bysh and G. Whalley who went on to win the final against the Birmingham pair N. Powell and D. Thomas.

Bysh and Whalley were well tested by Ann Charman and Meryl Upton in the semi-final before winning 18 and 19.

Diane Wright won the girls' singles final beating Alma Taft, who had survived the groups only on games average, by 21-18, 21-16.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: I. HARRISON bt R. Raybould 21-11, 21-17; R. STEVENS bt T. Densham 21-16, 21-18.

Final: HARRISON bt Stevens 20-22, 21-15, 21-11.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: A. HAYDON bt J. Wil-

liamson 21-11, 21-13; D. ROWE bt P. Mortimer 21-18, 12-21, 21-8.

Final: HAYDON bt Rowe 13-21, 21-18, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: L. LANDRY/A. RHODES bt F. Kershaw/G. Carrigill 22-20, 21-17; RAYBOULD/STEVENS bt N. Parker/A. Thomas 21-8, 23-21.

Final: LANDRY/RHODES bt Raybould/Stevens 17-21, 21-15, 21-16.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: HAYDON/ROWE bt B. Carless/D. Foster 21-18, 21-7; MORTIMER/WILLIAMSON bt J. Walker/B. Morgan 21-12, 21-18.

Final: HAYDON/ROWE bt Mortimer/Williamson 21-12, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: RAYBOULD/Miss MORTIMER bt Harrison/Miss Haydon 21-17, 22-20; STEVENS/Miss ROWE bt Parker/Miss D. Griffiths 21-13, 21-16.

Final: RAYBOULD/Miss MORTIMER bt Stevens/Miss Rowe 17-21, 21-18, 21-19.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: P. RACEY bt M. Billington 21-13, 21-8; M. WHITE bt D. Allen 21-11, 21-16.

Final: RACEY bt White 21-13, 21-19.

Girls' Singles: Final: D. WRIGHT bt A. Taft 21-18, 21-16.

Junior Doubles: Final: J. BYSH/G. WHALLEY bt N. Powell/D. Thomas 13-21, 21-9, 21-15.

Veterans' Singles: Final: H. SPIERS bt L. Wilkinson 16-21, 22-20, 21-16.

PONTEFRAC "OPEN"

RAY HINCHLIFF (Huddersfield), displaying his best form this season, and Marjorie Harrison (Leeds) won the singles titles in the Pontefract "Open" which attracted 156 competitors to the town Hall, Pontefract.

Hinchliff beat the holder, Peter Skerratt (Scunthorpe) in the final by 21-13, 21-12, while Mrs. Harrison accounted for Betty Clough (Bradford), last year's runner-up, by 16-21, 21-19, 21-14.

Hinchliff took a second title when paired with Pamela Morton (Batley). They survived a bad start to beat Derek Schofield (Stockport) and Betty Cassell (King's Lynn) in the final of the mixed doubles.

Mrs. Harrison also collected a "double" partnering Mrs. Joan Farnsworth (Bradford) to a 18-21, 21-16, 21-15 victory over Mrs. Cassell and Jean Preston (Knaresborough).

Greatest shock of the day was the first round defeat of top seed, Schofield by N. F. Jones (Liverpool). Jones is now three-up in their personal battles.

The women's singles also produced its fair share of surprises—all four seeds being eliminated before the semi-final stage.

Only holders to retain their titles—Skerratt lost all three senior crowns—were Eddie Taylor (Sunderland) who was far too strong for a surprise finalist, C. Judson (Sheffield) in the Youths' singles and Harry Greaves (Oldham) who beat E. A. Brown (Stockport) in the Veterans' singles final.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: P. SKERRATT bt D. Bartlett 21-14, 21-16; R. HINCHLIFF bt C. Deaton 21-17, 21-12.

Final: HINCHLIFF bt Skerratt 21-13, 21-12.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: B. CLOUGH bt Mrs. C. Moran 21-23, 24-22, 21-18; Mrs. M. HARRISON bt P. Morton 21-18, 22-20.

Final: Mrs. HARRISON bt Clough 16-21, 21-19, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: Final: S. DYSON/M. J. PITTS bt Hinchliff/R. Hirst 21-16, 14-21, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: Final: Mrs. J. FRANSWORTH/Mrs. HARRISON bt Mrs. B. Cassell/J. Preston 18-21, 21-16, 21-15.

Mixed Doubles: Final: HINCHLIFF/Miss P. MORTON bt D. Schofield/Mrs. B. Cassell 15-21, 26-24, 21-18.

Youths' Singles: Final: E. TAYLOR bt C. Judson 21-12, 21-16.

Veterans' Singles: Final: H. GREAVES bt E. A. Brown 23-21, 21-9.

SOUTH LONDON "OPEN"**THORNHILL ENDS HARRISON'S TITLE SPREE**By **BRYAN CUTRESS**

MICKEY THORNHILL, celebrating his return to the Swaythling Cup team, brought an abrupt end to Ian Harrison's run of four successive titles by winning the South London "Open" at Bermondsey on February 14.

Attacking and defending with equal fluency, Thornhill won an exciting final 21-18, 21-16. It was the perfect answer to recent criticism over his absence from the tournament scene this season, and tempered the disappointment of the Kent "Open" final, when he had to retire to Harrison with a strained leg muscle.

Harrison, who had won the N.W. Kent, Metropolitan, Kent, and Midland titles in succession, started slowly in both games, but in the first staged a brilliant recovery to win eight successive points after trailing 10-19, but Thornhill managed to steady himself, and won the next

two points for the game. Having regained the initiative Thornhill led throughout the second.

In the semi-final where he beat Tony Condon 21-11, 21-14, Harrison also reached his best half way through the first game, when having been held to ten all he took 11 of the next 12 points.

Condon was in fine form and had previously gained a 21-15, 21-14 victory over Peter Shead, who in the third round defeated Harry Venner 21-19, 21-18.

In the quarter-finals Thornhill had a long tussle before overcoming George Muranyi 21-18, 20-22, 21-18, then went on to easily beat Ken Craigie 21-5, 21-14.

Yvonne Baker returning to top form having now become accustomed to wearing spectacles, won the women's singles title beating Mrs. Betty Bird 20-22, 21-12, 21-15 in the final.

Miss Baker accounted for a lethargic Jean Harrower in the second round by 21-16, 21-17 but only just managed to get the better of 14-year-old Judy Williams by 19-21, 21-18, 21-14 after trailing 6-15 in the second game.

Mrs. Bird gained her place in the final by beating Margaret Fry and Lynne Whithams then gaining her third victory in a month over the holder Joyce Fielder by 21-17, 21-16.

Cliff MacDonald, 15-year-old member of the Australian Swaythling Cup team and the smartest dressed player on view, took the boys' title beating Brian Hamill 20-22, 21-12, 21-15, while Jean Harrower, showing some of the form that she lacked in the senior

event, beat Judy Williams 21-17, 21-14 in the girls' final.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: M. THORNHILL bt K. Craigie 21-5, 21-14; I. HARRISON bt A. Condon 21-11, 21-14.

Final: THORNHILL bt Harrison 21-18, 21-16.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: Y. BAKER bt J. Williams 19-21, 21-18, 21-14; Mrs. B. BIRD bt J. Fielder 21-17, 21-16.

Final: BAKER bt Mrs. Bird 20-22, 21-13, 21-17.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: H. VENNER/CRAIGIE bt Thornhill/A. Rhodes 21-19, 21-19; J. HARRINGTON/T. KIRBY bt P. Shead/A. Miller 21-9, 19-21, 21-18.

Final: VENNER/CRAIGIE bt Harrington/Kirby 19-21, 21-19, 21-13.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: J. HARROWER/M. FRY bt Baker/Mrs. Bird 21-11, 22-24, 21-14; J. FIELDER/L. WHITHAMS bt M. Shannon/M. Austin 15-21, 21-12, 21-13.

Final: FIELDER/WHITHAMS bt Harrower/Fry 21-13, 15-21, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: L. ADAMS/MISS B. MILBANK bt R. Stevens/Miss Fielder 16-21, 21-10, 21-15; L. LANDRY/Miss BAKER bt P. Brook/Miss B. Landimore 22-20, 21-16.

Final: LANDRY/BAKER bt Adams/Milbank 21-14, 19-21, 21-16.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: B. HAMILL bt Finnucane 21-12, 21-15; C. MACDONALD (Australia) bt D. Offebach 21-14, 22-20.

Final: MACDONALD bt Hamill 20-22, 21-12, 21-15.

Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals: J. HARROWER bt A. Taft 21-11, 21-16; J. WILLIAMS bt M. Shannon 21-16, 21-16.

Final: HARROWER bt Williams 21-17, 21-14.

DORSET "OPEN"

PETER SHEAD, of Sussex, gained his second singles title of the season in the Dorset "Open" at Bournemouth on February 15, and went on to collect a triple crown by winning the men's doubles with county colleague John Quilter, and the mixed with his wife Pat.

Following a relatively easy quarter Shead defeated C. Warren in the semi-final. Quilter defeated Tony Piddock to get into the other semi-final, where he found Brian Brumwell, of Essex, too quick.

Shead's strong defence held him in good stead in the final against Brumwell's erratic attack and he won 21-12, 9-21, 21-17.

Both women's titles went to the Eastern Counties, Mrs. Betty Cassell (Norfolk) beat Mrs. Pat Rogers (Suffolk) 21-10, 21-16 in the singles, then they paired up to win the doubles, against Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Willcocks, of Devon.

The boys' singles, in which Derek Grant beat Michael Ellis 21-19, 18-21, 21-16, was the best of the finals. It was their first ever meeting. Ellis, with a fierce and accurate counter-attack was well on top in the first game, but Grant's wider experience enabled him to take the next two. Judy Williams easily won the girls' final.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: J. P. SHEAD bt C. Warren 21-15, 21-15; B. BRUMWELL bt J. Quilter 21-19, 21-13.

Final: SHEAD bt Brumwell 21-12, 9-21, 21-17.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: B. CASSELL bt J. Willcocks 21-14, 21-17; P. ROGERS bt B. Bonner 22-20, 21-10.

Final: CASSELL bt Rogers 21-10, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: SHEAD/QUILTER bt Pullin/Darlington 21-14, 20-22, 21-19; M. CLOSE/P. BROOK bt A. Herbert/W. Pape 21-15, 16-21, 21-18.

Final: SHEAD/QUILTER bt Close/Brook 21-18, 21-17.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: CASSELL/ROGERS bt S. Deacon/D. Spooner 21-18, 21-10; B. PEARSON/WILLCOCKS bt B. Landimore/B. Hallett 21-19, 16-21, 21-18.

Final: CASSELL/ROGERS bt Pearson/Willcocks 17-21, 21-13, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: SHEAD/Mrs. P. SHEAD bt P. Brook/Miss B. Landimore 11-21, 21-9, 21-18; PAPE/Mrs. WILLCOCKS bt R. Markwell/Mrs. Cassell 19-21, 21-13, 21-19.

Final: SHEAD/SHEAD bt Pape/Willcocks 21-16, 19-21, 21-7.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: D. GRANT bt G. Burgess 21-12, 21-18; M. ELLIS bt I. Bishop 21-19, 18-21, 21-16.

Final: GRANT bt Ellis 12-21, 21-17, 21-14.

Girls' Singles: Final: J. WILLIAMS bt B. Jones 21-15, 21-7.