

TABLE TENNIS

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



"News of the World" Picture

DAVID CREAMER and HILDE BRAUTIGAM winners of the "News of the World"
Boy and Girl of the year trophies.

Tribute to Corti Woodcock

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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No. 1

TABLE TENNIS IGNORED

PLENTY of just applause has been accorded to the British Pavilion in the World Exhibition in Brussels. For once in a way, skill of display, and imagination in choice, appears to have earned Britain full marks at an international show.

One of the best ideas is the Courtyard of Inventions, showing how many of the great discoveries that affect modern life, came from this country. Someone had the bright notion of including it in a showcase displaying some of the sports that originated in Britain.

Alas, there is no sign of Table Tennis.

The E.T.T.A. wrote to the Board of Trade, who were responsible for the Pavilion and to the Pavilion director, pointing out that Britain had been responsible for everything important connected with Table Tennis—not only the invention of the game as such, but the rubber racket, the celluloid ball (even the sponge racket, though it didn't say so).

It was also emphasised that since this has now grown to a sport played throughout the world (76 nations are affiliated to the I.T.T.F.) it would have been an advantage to British Trade to remind the from-all-over-the-world visitors of the fact.

WRONG IMPRESSION

The director wrote back that he had been unable to find room for all British inventions (obvious and not his fault), and that his researches, necessarily handicapped by not being in London, had led him to conclude that Table Tennis was probably the youngest British initiated sport (wrong), and for that reason he omitted it.

Belated changes were anyway impossible, he claimed, because of space, cost of new text, typesetting, etc.

What a pity he did not think to consult the game's governing body.

However, we must not be too hard on him. Everyone agrees he and his staff have done a good job.

It looks like a boom year for Table Tennis judging by the reports from areas of increased entries for their various competitions.

It is good to see this at a time when, with so much other distraction, particularly television, many sports are complaining of a falling off in members. Let us hope that the public following will show equal improvement.

CARRYING THE GOSPEL

Playing a big part in carrying the gospel of table tennis to the four corners of the country, has been the *News of the World* summer scheme at the various Butlin's Camps. Brian Kennedy, Harry Venner, Helen Elliot and Diane Rowe, and Joyce Williamson, have been resident coaches at the various camps with Johnny Leach in over-all charge.

They have brought the game to the holiday-maker, many of whom, once bitten by the bug, will be in the game to stay.

Similarly the *Eagle/Girl* tournaments do a grand job with tapping new sources of talent in the winter months.

Reports of the activities of both these benefactors are contained elsewhere in this issue.

With all this increased activity *Table Tennis* is launching a big drive for new readers under Geoff Harrower, who has taken over the job of Circulation Manager.

There are cash incentives for counties and leagues who can win new readers. It is up to counties to appoint a magazine secretary and see that the magazine is sold at tournaments and matches. The more they can sell the more for the county kitty.

"The incentives are like Premium Bonds," said Harrower. "You have everything to gain and nothing to lose."

Another new appointment for this season is that of Conrad Jaschke as Associate Editor, to liaise on Editorial matters.

Official News:

SINCE the Annual General Meeting of the E.T.T.A. last April, two meetings of the National Executive Committee have taken place in the Council Chambers of the Royal Empire Society, London, each meeting being of about eight hours' duration.

On September 13 a County Conference was convened in London, and representatives of some 30 counties were joined by members of the N.E.C., with Mr. A. K. Vint, O.B.E., in the chair.

Talks were given by Messrs. W. Harrison Edwards and Geoff Harrower (on the official magazine *Table Tennis*), Mr. Ivor Eyles (Money Raising Scheme), Mr. Conrad Jaschke (Table Tennis Publicity), and Mr. Leslie Forrest (County Administration).

There was much valuable discussion on a variety of subjects, and the views expressed will be further considered by the N.E.C. during the season.

Appointments for season 1958/59.

The decision of the A.G.M. to make the Deputy Chairman an executive officer of the Association, means that this post will go to nation-wide ballot next year, in the same way as the Chairman and Hon. Treasurer. The N.E.C. have filled the post of Deputy Chairman as a casual vacancy, and the E.T.T.A. therefore now have three executive officers, Mr. A. K. VINT, O.B.E. (Chairman), Mr. I. C. EYLES (Deputy Chairman) and Mr. T. BLUNN (Hon. Treasurer).

In addition, the N.E.C. have appointed two officers in accordance with rules, Mr. J. CARRINGTON (Hon. Director of Coaching), and Mr. C. JASCHKE (Hon. Press Officer).

Mr. D. PETER LOWEN has resigned as Hon. Secretary, and has been appointed to the new post of Professional Secretary of the E.T.T.A. on the basis of a three year contract at an agreed fee. The N.E.C. have decided *not* to fill the vacancy of Hon. Secretary.

Selection Committees.

The N.E.C. decided to continue last season's innovation of separate selection committees for seniors and juniors. Mr. PETER NORTHCOTT has been appointed as hon. secretary to both committees, which were elected as follows:

SENIOR: Messrs. I. C. EYLES (Chairman), V. BARNA, J. CARRINGTON, I. JONES and P. NORTHCOTT.

JUNIOR: Messrs. T. SEARS

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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

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

Deputy Chairman: I. C. Eyles.

Honorary Treasurer: T. Blunn.

Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

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

(Chairman), F. G. MANNOOCH, P. NORTHCOTT, M. SCOTT, and L. THOMPSON.

County Umpires' Committee.

Mr. GEOFF JAMES was appointed chairman of this committee, with Mr. JACK SENESCALL, 64, Monkgate, York, continuing as secretary.

International Matches.

BRIAN KENNEDY (Yorks.) and BRYAN MERRETT (Glous.), with RON CRAYDEN (Surrey) as N.P.C., were selected to represent England in an international tournament in Amsterdam on September 27.

For the England v Scotland (mixed senior) match, at Oxford on October 31, 1958 Mr. IVOR EYLES has been appointed Hon. Referee/E.T.T.A. representative.

Mr. COLIN CLEMETT and Mr.

GEOFF. JAMES have been appointed Hon. Referee and E.T.T.A. representatives respectively for the junior match between England and France in London on November 7.

Victor Barna Award.

Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe have been jointly awarded the "Victor Barna" award, in recognition of winning the women's team title in the European Championships in Budapest.

Football Pools Scheme.

The English Table Tennis Supporters' Club is now in operation, and all members wishing to act as agents for this money raising scheme, on an incentive basis, should immediately contact Mr. J. ASHLEY, 19, Lawrence Hill, Bristol, 5, for details.

Dates to Note.

The 1959 World Championships will take place in Dortmund (Germany) from March 27 to April 5. The English "Open" Championships are to be played from April 6-11, with finals at Wembley.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place at Onward Hall, 207, Deansgate, Manchester 3, on April 25, 1959.

Standardisation of the Racket.

Members are reminded that the Standardisation Rule has been continued for a further season. This restricts the racket covering to PIMPLED RUBBER ONLY as far as play in England is concerned (with the possible exception of the English "Open"). Leaflets describing the rule in detail can be obtained from the office of the E.T.T.A.

Television.

The N.E.C. are studying closely the effect of television on table tennis attendances, and discussions with television authorities are in progress.

Members are reminded of Rule 26, which stipulates that *no member may appear on television without the prior sanction of the E.T.T.A. Secretary.*

All negotiations with television authorities must be carried out through the E.T.T.A., and organisers of any table tennis event who are

APPROVED REGISTERED PLAYERS

R. Allcock (Lanes)
V. Barna (Mddx)
Mrs. Betty Bird
(Isaacs) (Surrey)
C. Booth (Lanes)
S. Boros (Mddx)
L. M. Bromfield (Sussex)
A. Brook (Mddx)
B. Brumwell (Essex)
D. C. Burridge (Mddx)
Mrs. E. M. Carrington
(Essex)
J. Carrington (Essex)

L. G. Carter (Kent)
B. Casofsky (Lanes)
J. Clayton (Lanes)
G. R. Cooper (Hants)
J. Corser (Surrey)
R. J. Crayden (Surrey)
Mrs. W. Eanor (Lincs)
E. G. Evans (Kent)
Miss J. Fielder (Kent)
I. Harrison (Glos)
G. R. Harrower (Herts)
Miss A. S. Haydon
(Warwick)

A. A. Haydon
(Warwick)
Mrs. J. Head (Surrey)
J. E. Head (Surrey)
A. Holland (Lanes)
F. Holman (Kent)
J. Ingber (Lanes)
E. T. Johnson (Cheshire)
S. Johnson (Essex)
L. W. Jones (Lanes)
M. Kriss (Warwick)
L. F. Landry (Mddx)
J. A. Leach (Essex)

R. Markwell (Essex)
B. Meisel (Kent)
Miss B. Milbank (Essex)
A. R. Miller (Surrey)
Hon. I. Montagu (Herts)
G. Muranyi (Mddx)
R. L. Parmenter (Essex)
D. H. Paul (Mddx)
A. R. Payne (Kent)
L. J. Pickering (Kent)
J. Rogers (Kent)
E. J. Rumjahn (Lanes)

P. U. Rumjahn (Lanes)
T. E. Sears (Mddx)
R. S. Sharman (Mddx)
A. W. C. Simons (Glos)
D. G. Steggall (Sussex)
H. W. Sweetman (Surrey)
J. Tabbenor (Kent)
L. Thompson (Bucks)
H. Venner (Surrey)
R. A. Warner
(Warwick)

approached direct should inform the television body concerned that they should contact the E.T.T.A. in the first instance.

Sanction has been given

... for the running of the *Eagle Girl* tournament this season.

... for E.T.T.A. Club Competitions to continue (for details apply to Secretary, E.T.T.A.).

There will be no *Daily Mirror* tournament this season.

Approved Balls.

The following balls are approved for the current season: Villa XXX and XX, Dunlop Barna "Three Crown" and "Two Crown," Halex "Three Star" and "Two Star," Haydon Tema "Three Star" and "Two Star."

Members' attention is drawn to:

The new definitions of "Open," "Approved Open," and "Invitation" Tournaments, and the E.T.T.A. levy of 1/- per player competing in any of these events (as outlined in *Table Tennis*, May 1958).

The obligation on all leagues, clubs and individuals to affiliate to their respective county association and to the E.T.T.A., as per rule 21B in the E.T.T.A. handbook (obtainable from the Secretary, E.T.T.A.).

ENGLISH RANKING LIST (Seniors)

Revised

MEN

1. I. Harrison (Glos.)
B. Merrett (Glos.) and
M. Thornhill (Mddx.)
4. J. Leach (Essex)
5. B. Kennedy (Yorks.)
6. A. Rhodes (Mddx.)
7. D. Burrige (Mddx.)
8. J. Somogyi (Surrey)
9. K. Craigie (Surrey)
10. R. Allcock (Lancs.)

Group A

- D. House (Somerset)
- A. Hodson (Mddx.)
- J. Ingber (Lancs.)
- L. Landry (Mddx.)
- M. MacLaren (Surrey)
- A. Miller (Surrey)
- R. Raybould (Essex)
- D. Schofield (Cheshire)
- A. Simons (Glos.)
- R. Stevens (Essex)
- H. Venner (Surrey)

WOMEN

1. Miss A. Haydon (Warwicks.)
2. Miss D. Rowe (Mddx.)
3. Miss K. Best (Yorks.)
4. Miss J. Fielder (Kent)
5. Miss P. Mortimer (Warwicks.)
and Miss J. Rook (Surrey)

Group A

- Miss Y. Baker (Essex)
- Miss L. Bown (Cheshire)
- Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex)
- Miss M. Fry (Mddx.)
- Miss J. Harrower (Mddx.)
- Mrs. J. Head (Surrey)
- Miss P. Piper (Surrey)
- Miss L. Whithams (Surrey)

Apologies are due for an error in the May, 1958, issue, when it was not made clear that Harrison, Merrett and Thornhill are joint No. 1 men's rankings, and that Miss Mortimer and Miss Rook are joint No. 5 in the women's list. Also Miller's name was inadvertently omitted.

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Associate Editor: Conrad Jaschke.

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EAGLE/GIRL TOURNAMENT**PLENTY OF FRESH TALENT****by KENNETH WHEELER**

BECAUSE of the age limit, the *EAGLE/GIRL* Under-15 Championship of Great Britain must each year tap a fresh source to maintain its high entry figure. Despite this, there is every indication that the entry for the fifth annual tournament, closing on October 13, will top last year's record total of 5,500.

The team prizes, which now supplement individual awards, give an extra incentive; and this time well over 100 schools and clubs from all parts of the country will be running their own qualifying rounds.

The battle to get representatives through to a late stage, where they can score points towards the winning of a match table, will no doubt intensify because of a slight change in the rules, which places more emphasis on playing results as opposed to sheer weight of numbers.

While a club will still gain one point for each entrant registered, it is on the actual qualifier and his or her results from the Regional Final stage onward that the club's main hope of success will depend; for now the qualifier is to be awarded ten, instead

of five points for each game won (i.e., twenty points per match).

Last season, by winning the Senior Championship title, Paul Racey raised his club's original total of 25 entry points to 85, which was within 10 points of Ainthorpe High School, Hull, the 'Top Team in Britain.'

Under the new rule, the Letchworth Table Tennis Club which Paul represented, would have accumulated a formidable 145 points!

Two New Centres

Bristol and Cardiff have been added to the list of centres where *EAGLE/GIRL* is to conduct its own Qualifying Round, and these tournaments will take place on January 2 and 3 respectively. The Liverpool Qualifying Round is scheduled to take place at the Bootle Y.M.C.A. on December 6.

Other fixtures are as follows:—

Jan. 17: Birmingham Qualifying Round and Midlands Finals. At Friends' Institute, Moseley Road.

Jan. 24: Edinburgh Qualifying Round and Scottish Finals. At Murrayfield Indoor Sports Club.

Jan. 31: London Qualifying (Boys' Senior only). At St. Bride's Institute.

Feb. 7: London Qualifying (Boys' Junior and Girls' events). At St. Bride's Institute.

Feb. 14: South Finals. At St. Bride's Institute.

Feb. 21: Manchester Qualifying Round and North Finals. At Openshaw Lads' Club.

The Championship Finals will take place in London on either Monday, March 23 or Saturday, April 11, 1959.

Twenty-three of the most promising of last season's competitors attended our Coaching Holiday at Butlin's Filey Holiday Camp last July where they spent three days' intensive practice under the direction of Chief Coach Johnny Leach, assisted by Peggy Franks and Ken Stanley.

Johnny Leach was extremely satisfied with the progress made, and thought the standard of play higher than ever before.

At the conclusion of the course a number of sporting celebrities, including World Snooker Champion, John Pulman, and cricketer "Lofty" Herman, partnered the youngsters in a Mixed Doubles Tournament, and soon admitted that they were far more in need of instruction than were the children.

However, those of us who were present were privileged to see a number of strokes not only "out of this world" but all too often out of court as well!



Members of the Eagle/Girl Coaching Course at Butlins, Filey, July 1958. Left to right, top row : C. Archbold, R. Broad, R. Brass, K. Stanley, P. Franks, J. Leach, P. Racey, J. Keogh, C. Gray. Middle Row : A. Brown, A. Charman, S. Griffiths, P. Livesey, C. Drinkwater, H. Grove, S. Thomas, D. Donaldson. Bottom Row : D. Creamer, G. Cohen, R. Ractliffe, D. Stanley, K. Jones, G. Blankey, K. Marsden, G. Brass.

HEADS—WE LOSE

by RON CRAYDEN

EACH T.T. season brings its inevitable changes; new faces appear and familiar ones disappear. Although this is a recurring pattern there is always a sad note struck when champions pass from the scene.

Such a note has been sounded by the announcement from Jean and Jackie Head of their retirement from competitive play.

For many years this charming couple have travelled a path dominated by the tiny white celluloid ball, leading them to the ultimate in mixed doubles—a life partnership. They have always set a high example of sportsmanship free from mud slinging and temperamental tantrums. Theirs has been a success story and I am concerned as to whether this tribute will do full justice to their talents.

JEAN (WINN) HEAD

I first recall meeting Jean when as a raw, but determined, teen-aged prodigy she came along to the Surrey trials and partnered me at doubles. Intent on using her booming forehand she zig-zagged back and forth across my vision, shaving my eyebrows with a vicious follow through.

I spent my time dodging and twisting like a boxer on the ropes. Needless to say our progress was not recorded.

We have often laughed about that occasion but it was Jean who really had the last laugh for in later years I was very much the second fiddle of the partnership.

Love of the game, physical fitness, and an inflexible determination to succeed have been the main factors of Jean's distinguished career.

She was encouraged but not methodically coached.

Unorthodox by accepted standards she was, nevertheless, an efficient craftsman and the power of her forehand drive exceeded that of many top class men.

Surrey's First Lady

At the table her behaviour was exemplary and her appearance commendable. For five years she reigned as the first lady of Surrey table tennis.

Sensitive, shy and reticent, Jean was not one for small talk or deep argument. It was on the table that she fully expressed herself. There, she was able to release her pent-up nervous energy and "thwack" the ball with explosive force.

THE BISHOPSGATE TABLE TENNIS CLUB 230 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2

have a few vacancies for the coming season. The Club meets at 6.30 p.m. every Monday and Friday. Write Hon. Secretary, H. A. Packett, 10, Marloes Road, Kensington, W.8.

Space does not allow me to catalogue the wonderful results she obtained but it would be remiss of me not to include the highlights. English International and member of



JACKIE and JEAN HEAD on the occasion of their wedding in 1955

the 1955 Corbillon Cup team; Surrey first team player on more than thirty-five occasions, and winner of most of the "open" tournaments in the South of England.

In the English "Open" of 1955 Jean partnered Ann Haydon to reach the doubles final, only to lose to the fabulous Rowe twins.

A fighter to the last gasp and as gracious in defeat as in victory, she was respected by the stars and admired by the rank and file.

A happy home life has lessened her desire to practice and make the necessary sacrifices that top class play demands. She will be sorely missed.

JACKIE HEAD

It was the season before the war that I first met Jackie, when as a pint-sized kid he was playing for the "A" team of Wimbledon Y.M.C.A. Although barely able to see over the net he had that indefinable something closely allied to genius. Unfortunately, war service came slap in the middle of his development stage and it must have robbed him of many triumphs.

Jackie was never systematically coached but his attacking strokes were stylish and full of swinging energy. His ability to take a very early ball and switch it with deceptive ease bamboozled the finest of defensive players. His sensitivity of touch and fluency delighted the spectator and caused much concern to the opposition. He was an artist with a bat in his hand.

Although record books are not always a true reflection of ability, Jackie, nevertheless, had many moments of great personal achievement.

A full English International and Surrey first team player on more than thirty occasions, Jackie won numerous "open" tournaments. He was also a member of the famous South London Wilmott Cup team that won the National Team Championship for five consecutive years.

Team Player

Always a team player of the highest order it is not just coincidence that Jackie considers his most memorable match to be one in which others were involved—the exciting occasion when South London beat Staines 5-4 to retain the Wilmott Cup for the fifth year.

Business commitments and home responsibilities (other than Jean) have curtailed his hours of leisure and practice and Jackie feels that he can no longer meet the demanding effort that is necessary for top class competitive play. His retirement will be strongly felt by players and officials alike.

(Reprinted from Surrey "News Letter")

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The International Picture

By IVOR C. EYLES

(Chairman National Selection Committee Seniors)

THE whole structure of international selection from the players' and selectors' viewpoints has been completely overhauled and changed with the selection committees having been reduced to five for seniors and four for juniors.

The senior committee will consist of Peter Northcott (Dorset), secretary, Jack Carrington (Essex), Victor Barna (Middlesex), Leslie Jones (Lancashire), with myself as Chairman, while the juniors will have Tommy Sears (Middlesex) Chairman, Leo Thompson (Buckinghamshire), Malcolm Scott (Cheshire), with Northcott, secretary.

Form Squad

The players at senior level have been placed in "Squads" the first comprising players from whom ALL internationals of major importance will be selected, and the second consisting of the players from whom, with the first "squad", the Home Counties' teams will be chosen. These "squads" will be studied at every selection meeting, and changes made where necessary, so that the incentive for all players **MUST BE TO BE IN-**

CLUDED ON THE LIST. The composition of the squads at the moment are:—

MEN: First "squad": I. HARRISON, E. HODSON, J. INGBER, B. KENNEDY, J. LEACH, B. MERRETT, A. RHODES, M. THORNHILL.

Second "squad": R. ALLCOCK, D. BURRIDGE, P. COLE, D. HOUSE, L. LANDRY, M. McLAREN, E. McLEISH, A. PIDDOCK, R. RAYBOULD, R. STEVENS.

WOMEN: First "squad": D. COLLINS, J. FIELDER, J. HARROWER, A. HAYDON, P. MORTIMER, J. ROOK, C. K. THOMPSON.

Second "squad": P. PIPER, L. WHITHAMS, B. (ISAACS) BIRD.

A further step is that all players according to geographical position have been placed under expert advice of our leading coaches, who will be responsible for planning and advising on play, training and physical fitness.

Carrington, as Hon. Director of Coaching, has been given the job of contacting the various coaches to bring this scheme to fruition.

Victor Barna already has the London group under his expert eye, al-

though Carrington and other London coaches will still take some London players.

The first selection of players was made when the *Top-Ten tournament* was played in London on September 27.

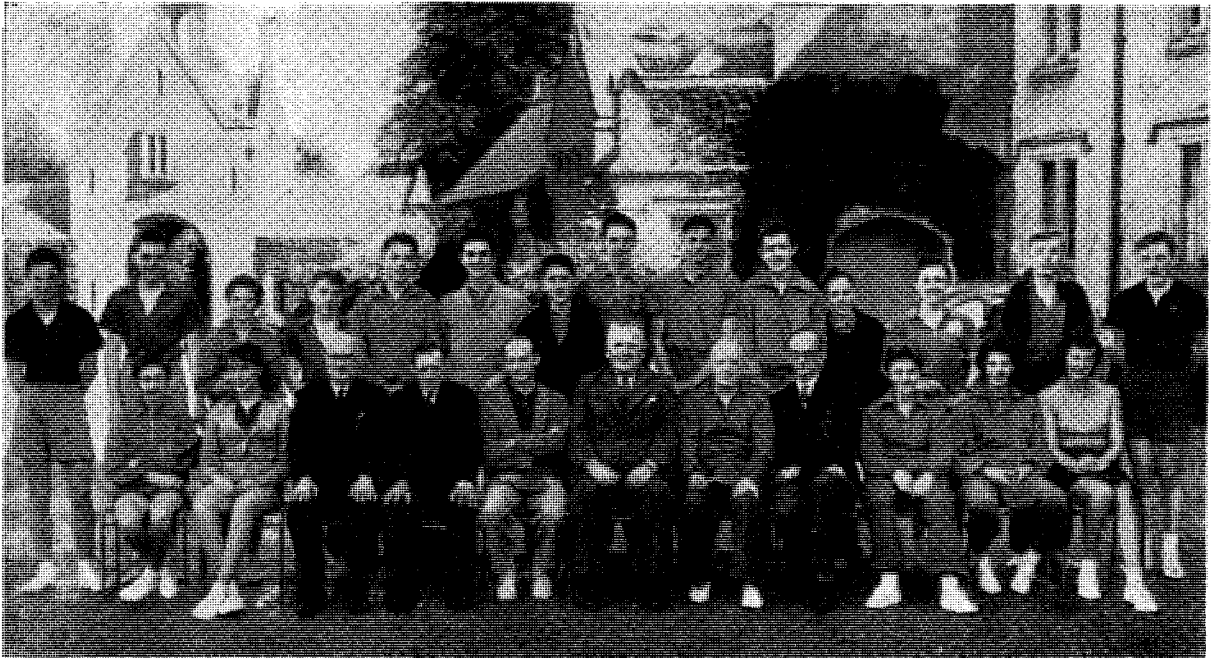
Plans are proceeding for other various internationals for which invitations have been pouring in from all over the world. Money is still the prime factor on what it is possible to do.

North v South

Towards the end of the season prior to the World Championships in Dortmund, Germany, a North versus South of England match will take place at Bradford, and it is hoped that this will give the players a final "tuning up."

For the Juniors a Lilleshall course was held from September 6 to 9, when 13 boys and six girls had extensive training under Victor Barna and Leo Thompson. A number of competitive matches were also played.

Area Junior trials, and final trials are to follow, when no doubt a



Members of the Junior Coaching Course at Lilleshall

ranking or seeding list will be published.

The junior programme will take in matches with Wales, Germany, and nominations in the French and Belgian "Open" Championships.

Arrangements have also been made for a German team to tour England.

The new system of issuing record books to the players last season, will be maintained, and I hope that all players will co-operate.

Say Your Piece

If you think you should be in the "squads," do not hesitate to write. Players' views are always welcomed by the Selectors, for your problems are ours. We want England to become a world power again.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

THERE is no close season as far as Hertfordshire table tennis is concerned. During the summer officials and players have been active, especially with a view to building up the Junior strength of the county.

Two courses have been held at Lilleshall, under Geoff and Bobbie Harrower, and as a result a fine young side has been built up for the County Championships. Appearing in the first match, against Suffolk, are Bob Ractliffe, Geoff Seaholme, Nick Szeremeta, Alma Taft and Judy Williams. The oldest player in the team is not yet 15½, and high hopes are entertained of winning the County Championships in the 1959/60 season.

Particularly impressive has been the form of the two girls. Judy Williams won the East of England Championships at Skegness last month, and both girls were invited to play games against some of England's top juniors at Lilleshall, and at the area trials at Slough. As a result of these matches it is obvious that they are both in the first six in the country and, indeed, Judy, undefeated except by Mary Shannon, lays strong claims to the No. 3 position behind Jean Harrower and Mary Shannon.

Strong efforts have again been made to augment the Junior coaching fund to enable the Lilleshall courses to take place. In May a special challenge match was played at St. Albans between De Havillands, champions of both the St. Albans and the Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield Leagues, and Gallants Farm, champions of the Barnet League. To everybody's surprise the young Gallants Farm side of Chris Gosling, Bob Ractliffe and Jean Harrower overwhelmed their more experienced opponents by 8-1.

As De Havillands included John Bryant and Roy Wilson, Hertfordshire senior county players, the performance of Miss Harrower in winning all three matches cannot be over-stressed. A large audience meant over £5 extra to the fund.

Increased entries are reported in the Senior Inter-League Championships, whilst the entry in the Junior section is another new record. Although entries to the Club Knock-out championships have not yet closed, Aubrey Seaholme reports that eight entirely fresh clubs had sent in their entries with more than a week to go, so the probability of another record is high.

There was keen competition at the Senior trials for places in the first team, and it is interesting to note that all three men players chosen for the first match against Suffolk at Stevenage on October 11th are former Junior Internationals—John Hunt, Brian Barr and Terry Densham. Terry makes his first appearance for the county.

DEATH OF CORTI WOODCOCK

An Appreciation from Leslie Woollard

On Thursday, 25th September—just when 18 months of ill-health and business problems seemed to be passing—Corti Woodcock had a sudden heart attack and died.

And so passed a prince of backroom sportsmen, and one to whom English table tennis in particular owes an incalculable debt. His death must cause a deep shock and sense of great personal loss to everyone who had the privilege of his inflexibly loyal friendship.

"I have lost the best friend I ever had," said Victor Barna with that simple, greatly moving sadness of deepfelt emotion.

"I have now changed ends at the score 10 in my last game," Corti told me a year or so back. Now the Great Umpire has called the Final Score and Corti—who bore his years so lightly—has gone while far from being an old man—and the achievements of his crowded life will be swiftly obscured in the rapid growth of new names.

No person could have a higher sense of duty than Corti Woodcock. He was always reluctant to project himself but once called forth, then there could be no more dedicated and zealous crusader to a cause. There was nothing mean, small or half-hearted about Corti. He liked things orderly, tidy, methodical. He loathed compromises. He was forthright and candid in an era when expediency rather than honesty ruled the day. It was a sad day when in recent years the actions of a few foolish men denied to the E.T.T.A., the wisdom and candour of his counsel and experience.

As a teenage volunteer in the First World War, Corti was severely wounded and gassed. A year or so later, in the 1920s—when he was a keen young advertising exponent—he was in the van of enthusiasts who supported the movement out of which emerged the E.T.T.A. He became hon. Secretary of the famous St. Bride's (All-England) Club and a noted referee, umpire and organiser of many tournaments.

In 1929, Corti donated the "St. Bride's Vase"—the much coveted World Singles Championship Trophy—in honour of his friend and clubmate Fred Perry winning the World Title for England.

In 1933 Corti was called forth to become Chairman of the E.T.T.A. He accepted the chair, and the vision, and swift and mighty action followed in the 3 years in which he retained this office. Three years in which the whole concept of table tennis was changed and Corti had slaved himself to a nervous breakdown.

For Corti, in those 3 years, took the role of a Prince Charming who turned the Cinderella sport into the queen of indoor pastimes. Corti it was who founded and edited the first official E.T.T.A. magazine "Table Tennis." Corti it was (later aided by Bill Pope) who won over the Press and the B.B.C., to take active interest in the sport. Corti it was who conceived the then fantastic idea of staging the 1934-35 World Championships at the Empire Pool, Wembley and persuaded the late Sir (then Mr.) Arthur Elvin to his thought. This at a time when the assets of the E.T.T.A. amounted to £11 12s. 0d.! Corti it was who took the lead in organising exhibition tours of England of the fabulous Hungarians with the spectacular magic of Barna, Szabados and Bellak. The cumulative effect of Corti's unsparing leadership in these fields that emphasised as nothing before in universal recognition that Table Tennis was really and truly a major in the world of minor sports, and culminated in the Royal Patronage in the year following Corti's retirement from the Chair. At the cost of his health, Corti Woodcock had successfully transmuted table tennis to the Big Stage and showed the world how England could lead.

Corti was also the "Arbiter Eleganter" of table tennis. A stickler for the "game according to Cocker." To him table tennis was so much worth doing, that it had to be done well at every level: play, presentation, dress, umpiring, etc. Generous, warm-hearted and helpful as he was to sincere beginners upward, he was fearlessly frank about factors detrimental to the sport. Here was a man of rare distinction whose place can never quite be filled by any other.

Our deep sympathy must go to Corti's wife, Mrs. Muriel Woodcock and their children Charles and Susan.

SAM KIRKWOOD'S World Round Up

Rumania Suspends Gantner and Zeller

TWO of Rumania's leading players, Gantner and Ella Zeller, have been suspended for playing abroad and are unlikely to represent their country at the World Series in Dortmund next March.

This is a serious blow to Rumania's World hopes, but there is some consolation in the fact that six-times world champion Angelica Rozeanu, who for some years now has been "retiring," will be a competitor in Germany.

On the subject of suspension, Ivan Andreadis, the Czech, who was kept out of play last season by his Association, is reported to be (a) available for Dortmund, and (b) unavailable for Dortmund. Yer pays yer money . . . etc.

Russians for Dortmund

The Russians are definitely turning out for Dortmund—their first-ever appearance in a World tournament. Their top lady is reputed to be good and likely to spring a surprise or two.

The Americans have banned sponge for a year, thus following the lead set by England. It seems the ban follows the freak upsets created by sponge-players in the U.S. "Open," when players like Dickie Miles and Bernie Bukiet were eclipsed by unknowns using thick sponge. Martin Reisman won the men's singles,

Next year the Hungarian Association celebrates its 35th birthday. To commemorate the occasion the Magyars are organising a big international tournament to take place in Budapest in the autumn.

An invitation to engage in a coaching-exhibition tour of Ghana and Nigeria has been extended to Victor Barna. If he goes, Victor will be accompanied by his sparring partner, Alec Brook.

Watch China

The Hungarians and East Germans are tipping China as favourites for the World Championships. This follows the thrashings both sides received when on tour of China. The Hungarians, far and away the stronger of the two touring teams, were walloped 7-2 and 5-2. Also significant is the fact that European champion, Zoltan Berczik, played four matches against a certain gentleman named Wang Chuan Yao—and lost them all.

The Japanese insisted on Table Tennis being included for the first time in the Asian Games held in Tokyo during the summer—and for their pains were defeated by Vietnam. Against the shock winners Ogimura won three, Tanaka lost three and Tsunoda lost two.

The Asian T.T. Championships, originally arranged for Colombo next



MARTIN REISMAN

April, have been postponed. General feeling in the Far East is that the Championships will be abandoned.

Ogimura and Tanaka toured Brazil during the summer and won all their team matches. Both, however, lost games, particularly Tanaka, who was beaten four times in seven outings by Biribe, who also defeated Ogimura once in four meetings. Biribe, an all-attacking penholder, is only 13 years old and is rated as a certain world champion of the near future.

Venezuela is the venue of the forthcoming South American championships. Chile, one of the best of South American countries, is not participating and it is felt that this leaves the field wide open for Brazil to romp away with most of the titles, particularly in the ladies' section.

Miklos Szabados, one of the famed "Three Musketeers" of the early '30's (Victor Barna and Laszlo Bellak were of course the other two) is flying to Germany from Australia to watch the World Series. "Mike" will have a particular interest in the tournament, for two of his pupils are likely to be competing—15-year-old Colin McDonald and 14-year-old M. Wilcox, who are named as probables for Australia's Swaythling Cup team, with Arden Robinson skipping the side.

Miklos was world champion in 1930-31, beating Barna in the final to take the title. He has been resident in Australia for many years.

Americans M. Ralston and N. Van de Walle toured Australia and won every Test match, although in one or two instances the margin of their victory was extremely narrow.

They stayed over to compete in the Australian "Open," played in September, and Ralston annexed the Singles, beating Robinson, the holder, in the final. The match went to five sets. S. Javor won the ladies' Singles, defeating L. Murphy in the final.

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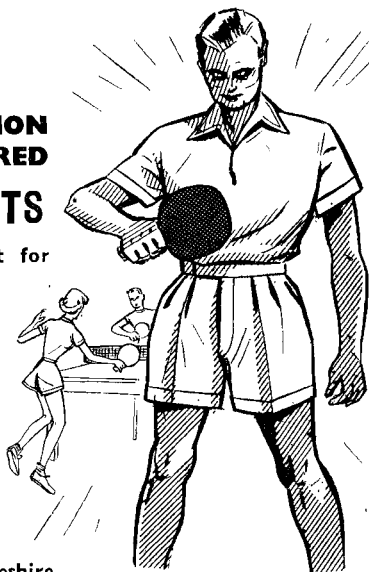
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LONDONERS TAKE HONOURS

"News of the World" Coaching Scheme

By JOHNNY LEACH

TWO Londoners, 14-year-old **Hilde Brautigam** and 15-year-old **David Creamer**, were elected the "Most Promising Girl and Boy of the Year" when the final stages of the *News of the World* Coaching Scheme were concluded last month.

Throughout the summer expert coaches from five Butlin Holiday Camps sifted through 15,000 competitors from all parts of the country and picked 118 finalists to spend a week at Clacton, where, during daily

lazy and slow but nothing could be further from the truth.

When necessary she moves like greased lightning and has a fine two-wing attack.

Her main interests outside table tennis are mathematics and music.

David Creamer, an apprenticed coachbuilder with London Transport, has only been playing two-and-a-half years, and owes his introduction to the game to his elder brother who took him along to the West Ealing Club.

Such has been his enthusiasm that he has hardly missed a day's practice



Johnny Leach separates the Coach and Pupil partnerships of Helen Elliot and Brian Hill (Skegness) and Harry Venner and Mary Luscombe (Pwllheli).

practice sessions, they were awarded points for every stroke they made.

There were no competitions for it was felt it was better for the players because of their age to concentrate on their strokes rather than chasing game points.

I joined the other five coaches, Brian Kennedy, Harry Venner, Helen Elliot, Diane Rowe and Joyce Williamson, for the final week, and, although only fractions separated the leading players, I had little difficulty in choosing Hilde and David as the "tops." They showed that little extra zest and ability which stamps them both as future champions.

Hilde, a tall North London school-girl and daughter of a hotel proprietor, has made tremendous strides since filling the runners-up position last season. Her style is deceptive. Because of her height she appears

since. He is a dedicated player possessing considerable ability.

This five feet tall fair-haired West Londoner, tells me that he has tried to model his game on that of Zoltan Berczik. He now possesses a solid defence with particularly nimble footwork.

I understand that David is a useful inside-forward on the football field, but that takes second place to table tennis where he is concerned.

Alma Taft (St. Albans), Cynthia Blackshawe (Doncaster), Judy Williams (Hatfield), Nigel Ive (North London), Brian Hill (Boston, Lincolnshire) and Barry Midgley (Southsea), who took the runners-up awards set an exceptionally high standard, indicating they could well become big names of the future.

Although he missed the best boy award, young Midgley, who is only

15, showed his fine match temperament when he partnered Diane Rowe to win the "Coach-and-Pupil Challenge Trophy."

This was a new event in which each of the five coaches chose a partner of the opposite sex and played off on a league basis.

Barry and Diane, representing Clacton went through their programme unbeaten, with wins over Helen Elliot and Brian Hill (Skegness), Joyce Williamson and Roger Jackson (Filey), Brian Kennedy and Vivien Punten (Ayr), and Harry Venner and Mary Luscombe (Pwllheli).

The Paid Secretary

BY the appointment of Mr. Peter Lowen, who is a professional accountant by occupation, as the first paid secretary of the E.T.T.A. another step has been taken to strengthen the organisational side of the game in this country.

In April last Mrs. Pegg-Lewis, who had been in the employ of the Association for many years, resigned. The National Executive Committee felt there should be a review of the administrative machine of the Association and as a result came to the conclusion that it would be beneficial for the Association to appoint a paid secretary.

The activities in the post-war years have increased beyond all recognition, and day-to-day working of the office and the Committee work of the Association calls for constant and regular attention of experienced and trained personnel. The Committee recognised it was essential in the interests of the Association that they should appoint a person who had a good knowledge of the work of the E.T.T.A. and also of the game.

After very careful consideration it was unanimously decided to invite Peter Lowen, who had been Assistant Secretary for a year, and Hon. Secretary since 1956 and Hon. Secretary/Treasurer of the Middlesex Association for four and six years respectively, to become the first paid Secretary of the E.T.T.A. To ensure a reasonable security of tenure the appointment has been made for three years.

Mr. Lowen is, of course, required to resign his office as Hon. Secretary but the National Executive Committee has decided it is not necessary to fill the vacant post.

We are sure all members will wish Mr. Lowen the best of luck and happiness in his new office, which is a further milestone in the history of the Association.

IN response to a recent request for instructional articles for the beginner we are introducing a new series written by Joyce Williamson, the former New Zealand champion.

Miss Williamson, who came here in search of competition and to develop her own game, has plenty of experience in coaching beginners having spent the last two summers at Butlin's Holiday Camps as resident coach under the *News of the World* scheme.

She is seen on the right with two of her pupils at the Filey Camp this summer.

LEARN TO PLAY

with **JOYCE WILLIAMSON**

(former New Zealand Champion)



IT does not take long to realise that table tennis has progressed greatly from the "ping pong" stage and that there is quite a lot of running about involved. It is essential to see that you have the right equipment.

I will therefore deal with clothing first. A good pair of pumps are essential to get a grip on the floor otherwise you will soon find yourself slipping and sliding about, and with so much exercise freedom of movement is most important.

Do not wear anything too tight, nor loose or flapping. Dress sensibly.

Shorts—with short skirt as an alternative for girls—are ideal. They are much cooler and give more freedom than slacks or a long skirt.

Please remember, though, that all clothing must be of plain colour—definitely not white. Keep clear of any light or bright and distracting colours.

It is always a good idea to have a warm jersey or tracksuit ready to slip on as soon as you have finished playing.

Now for the bat. There is a wide selection on the market and it is better to handle them all instead of just picking one at random. Choose one which is comfortable to your grip and not too heavy.

TIMING, NOT WEIGHT

Quite a number of beginners are inclined to choose a heavy bat thinking that having more weight behind their strokes, they can hit the ball harder. This is all wrong. Speed comes from timing and the spin imparted to the ball when you hit it. However, I will

explain that in more detail in a later article.

With your mind already made up on the bat, learn to hold it properly. Pick it up as though to shake hands with it, the forefinger and thumb fitting snugly up to the groove between handle and blade of the racket. Rest the forefinger on one side of the blade, with the thumb on the other side and curl the other three fingers firmly round the handle.

This will give you full control of the bat and does not hamper your strokes in any way.

CORRECT DISTANCE

We are now set to play so walk to the middle of one end of the table and stand a forearm's distance away. From this position you will find it easy to move to any part of the table without too much effort.

When the back of the hand is facing the table, the stroke is called backhand and the reverse way is of course forehand.

The most important thing in table tennis is footwork. If you are not in position you cannot hit the ball so you must get used to moving for every stroke, for the ball never comes back exactly to the same place every time.

Adopt a sideways stance, with right leg nearest the table for backhand, and left leg in front for forehand strokes. You will find it easiest if you aim to be a forearm's distance from the ball for all strokes. To be closer cramps the body, while at full length leads to over-reaching and loss of balance.

I am writing these articles for the right-handed players, so if you are left-handed the footwork must be reversed.

The first strokes to learn are the backhand and forehand "pushes". The ball is merely pushed over the net. You will find it easier to start off with the backhand.

Have your feet in line with the direction in which you intend hitting the ball, i.e., with the right leg to the table and hit the ball when it is in line with the body.

This stroke is not used for winning points, merely for keeping the ball in

play, but you will find it most important of all.

As it is not a point winning stroke, there is no purpose in rushing it. Let the ball drop right down low before striking.

Once you can keep the ball going consistently on the backhand turn round so that the left leg is closest the table and try the same thing with your forehand.

Keep the body perfectly relaxed as you hit the ball, with the weight slightly forward on the balls of your feet. Bend slightly from the waist so that you are looking over your racket as you play the ball.

As the arm goes forward you will keep perfect balance if you bring your weight forward on to your front foot at the same time.

Practice this and learn the control of keeping the ball on the table. In my next article I will explain how to use spin.

THE TABLE TENNIS UMPIRES' ASSOCIATION

THE Association recently supplied officials to staff the tournament at Stoke Mandeville Games, and Frank Bate-man, Stewart Dane, Arthur Wall, Charlie Mayne and Dennis Ingrey spent many happy hours among the participants. To witness the efforts of the players in wheel-chairs is certainly a great experience that can only fill one with admiration.

A branch of the Association is being formed in the Midlands. Organiser: Ian Crickmer, of 12, Cypress Street, Barbourne, Worcester.

Umpires in other parts of the country who wish to join the Association should write to the Hon. Secretary, D. R. Ingrey, 23, Warren Close, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, enclosing their subscription (5s.) and a stamped, addressed envelope.

National Umpires (N. Baker, W. Nicholson, C. Clement) beat County Umpires (H. Spraggs, R. Herridge, J. Barber) 5-4 in a Special Challenge Match at the Lensbury and Britannic House Club at Lower Sydenham on September 23. Baker won all three of his matches.

HARRY VENNER

England and Surrey

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ENGLAND FALL TO INSPIRED HOLLAND

by RON CRAYDEN (non-playing captain)

HUMBLED by Holland and eliminated before the final. That was the bitter experience of England's two-man team of Brian Kennedy and Bryan Merrett in the A.M.V.J. International Tournament won by Germany in Amsterdam on September 27.

Played on the Davis Cup lines of four singles and a doubles, the event was to commemorate the club's fortieth anniversary.

In competition with two teams from Holland and one each from France, Germany and Luxembourg, we were confident of at least reaching the final, particularly when drawn in the same group as Luxembourg and Holland. But what a shock when Holland beat us 3-2.

The opening scene found England playing Luxembourg (Felten and Jaminet) at one end of the hall, with France (Roothoft and Barouh) opposing Holland's old international side of Cor du Buy and W. V. Zoelen at the other end.

We had little difficulty in winning 5-0, while France coasted home 4-1.

Brian Kennedy, after several months of continuous coaching, was naturally short of match practice and his sledgehammer forehand did not quite have its usual accuracy and dropped a game to Jaminet. However, improvement was bound to come—or so we thought.

The two losing sides then met Holland

(Onnes and Schoofs) and Germany (Harst and Berger) respectively and suffered further setbacks. The Germans were particularly impressive and on paper everything indicated an England-Germany final.

But our best laid plans went astray before the ebullient Dutch youngsters who, in a match that had both drama and tension, emerged the victors at 3-2.

In the main our defeat was attributed to an unknown quantity—a determined and purposeful fighting fury named Schoofs. To the Dutch that evening, he ranked alongside the legendary youngster who saved Holland by blocking a hole in the dyke with his finger.

With an inspired display he beat both Merrett and Kennedy in the singles and partnered by Onnes also won the doubles.

On his showing in this tournament Schoofs has the potentialities of a world class player. He is temperamentally suited to the game, is fast, and furious. He has a fine defence with a deep chop that bites, and when the opportunity is right accelerates like a fire cracker. Personally I thought his hitting looked chancey, but under the conditions of the night it was warmly successful.

Merrett might have stopped Schoofs, but after having won the first game he became entangled in the time-limit. At 11-6 after ten minutes of the second set

things were looking rosy. Then the tide turned. Two lucky points and a backhand kill brought the Dutch boy back into the running, and he nosed ahead as the clock ticked away to the 20 minutes limit. There were only eight points in the decider, with Schoofs collecting five of them.

Meanwhile, Germany gained an equally dramatic 3-2 win over France and so the stage was set for the final, which proved little short of tragedy for the indefatigable Schoofs. Having done so much for his country, he accidentally volleyed a ball which would have given Holland victory. Holland were 2-1 up and Schoofs was holding match point at 20-19 against Harst in the third when he made this vital mistake. Harst won the two following points, and it was left for Berger to beat Onnes and give Germany the cup.

Details: Group 1: England bt Luxembourg 5-0 (Merrett bt Felten 13, 11; bt Jaminet 9, 17; Kennedy bt Jaminet —23, 13, 12; bt Felten 15, 14; Merrett/Kennedy bt Felten/Jaminet 12, 19).

Holland bt Luxembourg.

Holland bt England 3-2 (Merrett bt Onnes 15, 16; lost to Schoofs 15, 15-18 (t.l.), 3-5 (t.l.); Kennedy lost to Schoofs 13, —11, —12. Merrett/Kennedy lost to Onnes/ Schoofs 18, —14, —10).

Group 2: France bt Holland 4-1. Germany bt Holland 5-0. Germany bt France 3-2.

Final: Germany bt Holland 3-2.

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advice in this book can start you winning—and with concentration and practice—keep right on winning. Learn how to out-think, out-manoeuve and out-play your opponent; take advantage of the tips and the strategy picked up in a life-time of top-class table tennis. Get this book and see for yourself.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP - - - By CONRAD JASCHKE

ENTRIES EQUAL RECORD

STARTING their 12th season, the National County Championships report an increase of one county in membership, bringing the total back to the all-time record of the 1954-56 period. For a body which lately has had its funeral oration read by one or two vociferous pessimists, the N.C.C. are not doing too badly with 32 counties thinking it worthwhile to enter teams.

Congratulations to the officials of Leicestershire and Oxfordshire, who in their efforts of putting their counties on the map have now entered county teams. The only dampener to our delight at these new acquisitions is the withdrawal of Northamptonshire, due I understand, to financial considerations.

SCORE SHEETS. — Will match secretaries/team captains please help by posting score sheets on the night of the match without fail. Top sheet to Ivor Eyles, 26 Allison Road, Brislington, Bristol 4; and copy sheets to Conrad Jäschke, 35 Eynswood Drive, Sidcup, Kent, and Peter Northcott, 31 Hillcrest Road, Weymouth, Dorset.

Northants. have followed their exit by requesting neighbouring counties to meet them in friendly matches. Let's hope this indicates they will be back next season, when they can play these same counties within the framework of the N.C.C.'s Midland Division.

The disappearance of Northants. unfortunately has caused the collapse of the Midland Junior Division, and

this has resulted in a reduction of the total number of teams from 50 to 48. However, this is only a temporary setback, as the Midland Junior Division will be resurrected next season.

The big talking point in the Premier Division is whether or not Middlesex can retain the championship which they have now won ten times. I understand that stylish Len Adams will not be available this season, but Victor Barna can call on a galaxy of talent including Michael Thornhill, Alan Rhodes, Derek Burridge, Eddie Hodson, Laurie Landry, Diane Rowe, Margaret Fry and Jean Harrower. And the list does not end there.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

October 18	Yorkshire v Lancashire, Mechanics' Institute, Bridge Street, Bradford	7 p.m.
	Kent v Cheshire, Drill Hall, Maidstone	7 p.m.
October 31	Surrey v Gloucestershire	
	Essex v Kent, North Thames Gas Works Canteen, Beckton Road, East Ham, London, E.6	7.15 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

October 11	Durham v Warwickshire. <i>May be postponed to a later date</i>	
October 18	Northumberland v Lincolnshire, Vickers Armstrong Sports Club, Mechanics' Institute, Scottswold Road, Newcastle, 4	7 p.m.
	Warwickshire v Yorkshire, Mitchell & Butlers Pavilion, Portland Road, Birmingham 16	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

October 11	Hertfordshire v Suffolk, English Electric Co. Canteen, Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts.	7 p.m.
	Berkshire v Kent, Reading	7.30 p.m.
October 18	Hampshire v Sussex, Y.M.C.A., Westover Road, Bournemouth	6.30 p.m.
November 8	Sussex v Hertfordshire, St. Augustine's Hall, Stanford Avenue, Brighton	7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

October 11	Cornwall v Wiltshire, Primrose Dairy Canteen, St. Erth, Hayle	7 p.m.
October 18	Glamorgan v Wiltshire	
October 25	Devon v Worcestershire, Pitts Memorial Hall, Gibbon Street, Plymouth	7.15 p.m.
November 8	Glamorgan v Worcestershire	

MIDLAND DIVISION

October 18	Oxfordshire v Leicestershire, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road, Oxford	6 p.m.
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SOUTHERN DIVISION

October 31	Bedfordshire v Cambridgeshire	
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NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

October 25	Yorkshire v Cheshire	
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SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

October 11	Middlesex v Kent, British European Airways, Keyline House, South Ruislip	7 p.m.
	Sussex v Essex, Telcon Works Canteen, Manor Royal, Crawley	6 p.m.
October 18	Hertfordshire v Surrey, The Electrical Apparatus Co. Club House, St. Albans, Herts.	7 p.m.
October 28	Middlesex v Hertfordshire, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Bridge Road, London, S.W.1	7 p.m.
November 1	Suffolk v Surrey, Manganese Bronze Sports Pavilion, Ipswich	7 p.m.



BETTY (Isaacs) BIRD
(above)
JEAN HARROWER
(left)

Surrey, the only other county to have won the title (1955/56) are always regarded as dangerous opponents by Middlesex, and the addition of Hungarian exile Josef Somogyi will make them a tough nut to crack.

Somogyi showed his worth by beating all comers in the Surrey Trials, and seems assured of top ranking in the team. Backed by the "old guard" of Harry Venner, Ken Craigie and Tony Miller, and with Michael Maclaren a definite prospect if he can recapture his form of last season when he reached the English "Open" quarter-finals and became Surrey's "closed" singles champion, Surrey promise a strong line-up.

Nor are Surrey lagging in the ladies' department, with Betty (Isaacs) Bird, who is making a determined comeback, Peggy Piper, Jill Rook, and Lynne Whithams. Ron Crayden's side must stand a very good chance, if anyone is to topple Middlesex.

Yorkshire will once again be the leading northern challengers, and their trump card could be Kathie Best, who made a brilliant come-back

with a string of successes last season. Brian Kennedy, smarting under the indignity of having been relegated from No. 1 to No. 5 by the England selectors, will have most of the responsibility on his burly shoulders if Yorkshire's men are to get the best of their southern opponents.

Gloucestershire could be fancied for the championship if county

team, it will take a superhuman effort by their men to bring the title to the west country.

I do not fancy Essex or Lancashire as championship contenders, though both have plenty of talent. Essex will be without Johnny Leach for their opening match against Kent, but should have his help for most other matches.

If Bobby Stevens and Bobby Raybould maintain last season's improvement they should do well in the championships. Yvonne Baker has asked not to be considered for the early matches, and the women's places appear to rest between Elsie Carrington, Barbara Milbank, and Jean McCree... formerly Jean Page, a talented 22-year-old who married Essex player Bob McCree recently, and who may well be Essex's up-and-coming woman.

Lancashire's Weakness

Jeff Ingber strikes me as Lancashire's most improved player, and Ron Allcock showed much of his old fire last season. But Lancashire will be in danger until they can produce more strength on the women's side, where they are usually outplayed these days.

Cheshire and Kent complete the premier line-up, taking the place of

relegated Glamorgan and Sussex. Both sides had a 100% record of wins last season, when both beat Staffordshire 6-3 in promotion play-off matches. Kent's hopes of staying up rest heavily on their young stars, Joyce Fielder and Tony Piddock.

Last October I plumped for Cheshire, Kent and Devon (that last one was right off the beam) to win the respective second divisions, but I would hate to have to forecast this time. All three sections present a very open appearance, and with at least half a dozen teams holding promotion prospects.

The Newcomers

It will be interesting to see how newcomers Leicestershire and Oxfordshire compare with Staffordshire and Warwicks. second strings in the Midland Division. In the Southern Division, Buckinghamshire are back, having been relegated from Div. II (South). Bedfordshire look capable of winning this division.

Play in the two junior divisions will probably reach the highest standard for many years, with nearly all of last season's star turns still amongst the junior ranks.

Turning to the administration side, the A.G.M. of the N.C.C. in June learned that the first postal ballot had



AUBREY SIMONS

KATHIE BEST

matches were confined to men. Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett share two of the three joint England top rankings, while that old fox Aubrey Simons time and again pulls out something special in county matches.

However, until Gloucestershire can develop their women's side of the

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resulted in "no change" as far as the officers were concerned. In fact, all counties who sent in their ballots nominated the existing officers, S. R. Hoddy (Middx.) chairman, I. C. Eyles (Glos.) secretary, T. Blunn (Cheshire) treasurer, and C. Jaschke (Kent) publicity secretary.

Encouraging news was that there had been a steep reduction of expenditure as a result of the economies made by the officers, and a surplus of income over expenditure was indicated for the 1958/59 season.

Handbooks made a profit for the first time as a result of the efforts of Mr. Eyles.

The meeting received a proposal from Kent for the formation of a Youth Division for players between 17 and 19 years, and this was referred for consideration. Views were expressed that extra space should be sought in the official magazine "Table Tennis" to report county matches more fully.

Mr. A. K. Vint, O.B.E., the chairman of the E.T.T.A., was elected as Hon. Referee of the County Championships, and grateful thanks were expressed to the E.T.T.A. President, the Hon. Ivor Montagu, who had acted as Hon. Referee for many years.

Dress Clean Up

Perhaps the most important decision made at the A.G.M. was the introduction of DRESS REGULATIONS, which are compulsory for the current season, as far as county matches are concerned. These are the instructions to county players:

1. SHOES TO BE CLEAN AND RUBBER SOLED OR SPORTS TYPE.
2. SOCKS TO BE CLEAN, WHITE, AND ANKLE LENGTH.
3. TROUSERS, SLACKS, SHORTS OR SKIRTS, TO BE SELF-COLOURED, BUT NOT WHITE OR LIGHT COLOURED.
4. SHIRTS, BLOUSES, JERSEYS OR DRESSES, TO BE SELF-COLOURED, BUT NOT WHITE OR LIGHT COLOURED. ANY SHIRT, BLOUSE OR JERSEY MUST BE WORN INSIDE TROUSERS, SLACKS, SHORTS OR SKIRT.
5. PULLOVERS, CARDIGANS OR SLIPOVERS, IF WORN, TO BE SAME COLOUR AS SHIRT, ETC., AND MUST NOT BE REMOVED DURING ANY ONE GAME.
6. NO PART OF TRACK SUIT MAY BE WORN DURING ACTUAL PLAY.

Counties are to register county colours with the hon. secretary of the N.C.C., and it is hoped to obtain full co-operation in this attempt to enhance still further the prestige and value attached to county matches, and to improve the presentation to the public.

This is the line-up for season 1958-59.

PREMIER DIVISION

Cheshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Surrey, Yorkshire.

DIVISION II (NORTH)

Derbyshire, Durham, Lincolnshire, Northumberland, Warwickshire, Yorkshire II.

DIVISION II (SOUTH)

Berkshire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent II, Suffolk, Sussex.

DIVISION II (WEST)

Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Glamorgan,

Somerset, Staffordshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Leicestershire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire II, Warwickshire II.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire II, Norfolk.

JUNIOR NORTH

Cheshire, Durham, Lancashire, Yorkshire.

JUNIOR SOUTH

Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex.

Wheelchair Experts

TABLE TENNIS HELPS PARAPLEGICS

PARAPLEGIA no longer conjures up a vision of recluse and hopelessly paralysed people, but of courageous men and women striving, and in many cases succeeding, to lead as near to normal life as possible.

This has come about in only recent years and is in no small way due to Dr. L. Guttman, O.B.E., who in 1952 decided to organise the first ever Paralympic Games, and to table tennis.

Dr. Guttman considers that with archery, table tennis plays a major part in the rehabilitation of paraplegics, in that they can compete on near equal terms with ordinary players. For that reason it is high on the list of events contested in the British and International Games held at Stoke Mandeville hospital during the summer.

A total of over two hundred entries were received for the British Games and competitors from 31 countries contested the various events in the Paralympics.

For the table tennis championships the competitors were divided into three groups. Class A for those with cervical lesions as a result of broken necks which in many cases means having the hat bandaged to the hand; Class B for those paralysed above the waist; and Class C, paralysed below the waist.

All competitors play in wheelchairs, which they have learned to manoeuvre with uncanny skill. The emphasis is thus on "wheelwork" rather than footwork.

DOUBLE WINNER

Ex-Guardsman "Ginger" Swindlehurst (Lyme Green) was the most successful player, beating young Dudley Phillips (Rookwood, Cardiff), 21-14, 21-13 in the British Class "C" singles and also winning the doubles, partnering Bob Murrell to beat the Isleworth pair, W. Toman and S. Gibson.

Swindlehurst, who has brought

"wheelwork" to a fine art, was also runner-up in the International Games, being beaten by Yap Soen Lie (Netherlands). However, he had the consolation of winning the doubles with Murrell, beating Welgar and Foley of U.S.A.

Incidentally, Murrell must be a good coach for his daughter was *News of the World* "Girl of the Week" at Pwllheli Camp this summer.

HOLD THEIR OWN

The Lyme Green team are well known in the Cheshire Area, playing in the Third Division of the Macclesfield League, where they more than hold their own despite their handicap.

Phillips made up for his defeat by Swindlehurst, by winning Class "B" in the British Games, and followed up by taking the International title.

Then T. Taylor (Chaseley), runner-up in the British Class "A" to F. Cook (Star and Garter) provided a double home success in the International meeting by winning the singles and the doubles with A. Wilson.

Frank Bateman, one of the officiating umpires tells me that a tremendous amount of work must have gone into the efficient organising of the meeting and pays tribute to Miss Bell, the Superintendent physiotherapist and her staff, and also Jean Ayling, who he says, "I would thoroughly recommend to any tournament committee seeking an efficient referee."

WINNERS

BRITISH GAMES: Class "A" Singles: F. COOK; doubles: COOK and P. WITTER-ICK. Class "B". Singles: D. PHILLIPS (Roodwood); doubles: PHILLIPS and J. HARDY. Class "C". Singles: G. SWINDLEHURST (Lyme Green); doubles: SWINDLEHURST and R. MURRELL.

INTERNATIONAL GAMES: Class "A". Singles: T. TAYLOR (G.B.); doubles: TAYLOR and A. WILSON (G.B.). Class "B". Singles: PHILLIPS (G.B.); doubles: LUSTIG and ABELES (Israel). Class "C". Singles: YAP SOEN LIE (Netherlands); doubles: SWINDLEHURST and MURRELL (G.B.).

AREA NEWS

DURHAM'S PROSPECTS GOOD

LAST season the Durham senior side languished at the bottom of Div. 2 North, while the juniors, in their first attempt at the Junior North Div., were close runners-up to Lancashire.

This time the seniors should do better, particularly if Gordon Lumsden and Keith Holland can play regularly. Eddie Taylor, as Men's singles champion, will be in the line-up. He is showing excellent form in practise and hopes to participate in several "Open" tournaments this year.

Two promising players who may receive an outing in the team are 15-year-old Wilf Barker and Colin Campbell. A game against Northumberland or Yorkshire II would be good experience for young Wilf and he should not be outclassed by any means.

The juniors are likely to be successful again. Barker and Alma Johnson — a "Girl of the Week" at Skegness — remain of last season's trio. The other place seems to lie between several very useful boys, with Leslie Hewitt (Sunderland) probably the outstanding challenger.

However, Stockton's Kevin Whittingham — younger brother of ex-county singles champion, Joe — and Steve Elstob of Philadelphia are both making rapid progress and could be well in the running.

It is pleasing to note that George

Lumsden, the Sunderland and Durham county player, has recovered from a severe stomach illness and hopes to step out regularly for Southwick U.M. "A" in Div. 1 of the Sunderland and District League.

Arnold Warentz.

YORKSHIRE STICK TO CENTRAL VENUE

THE Bradford League continues to grow and again there are more teams than the previous season. There are 140 teams in ten divisions for this season. However, for the first time there will be no Women's section.

The intrepid heroes of Metal Box — Maurice Pitts, Hans Soova and "Sonny" Forrest — run the risk of being hauled before a Monopolies Commission for they are determined to repeat their feats of the last three seasons and refuse to let any other team within polishing distance of either cup or league trophy!

Geoff Kelly, Eddie Payne and Joan Farnsworth have joined Lister's and newcomers to division one are Tong Unionist, who have several recruits from other clubs.

Bradford Mechanics' Institute will again be the county Premier Division team's "home" table — for Yorkshire's 1957-8 gamble of playing all matches at the same hall paid off.

The scheme boosted the average attendance to 233 — best since 1954-5 — and also sliced the costs of promotion.

There will be only three county fixtures this time (Lancashire, Oct. 18; Essex,

Dec. 6; and Cheshire, Jan. 10) but officials have scooped up a most attractive match for next March — North of England v The South.

Transferable season tickets for cinema-type tiered seats cost 10s. and 15s.; matches start on the chime of 7 p.m. and there is no interval to crawl its tiresome way to a half-hour break.

Hull will have 104 teams in nine divisions this season and anticipate the further progress of starlet Betty Kinsley, who attended an E.T.T.A. junior coaching session last month.

Congratulations to Marjorie Rhodes and Bill Harrison (Leeds) on their wedding; and to "Sonny" Forrest on the birth of Stephen John — making Les Forrest, Yorkshire's doyen of table tennis, a proud grandpa.

Wibsey Liberals, a team which rose like a rocket in the Bradford League, have now fizzled out of existence. See now what has happened to their team.

One member has removed to Reading and another to Leeds for business reasons. A third left to start a team elsewhere in Bradford. But the truly tragic loss was of Joe England, who died suddenly during the summer. Joe was a well-liked and respected veteran of 43 who had played for his city in representative matches.

The Liberal Club redecorated the playing room and needed it for social events — and so with Joe England dies the life of his team, which entered the League in 1951 and won two championships on their way to division one.

Malcolm Hartley.



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BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS

CHESHIRE INTEND TO STAY UP

CHESHIRE are once again in the Premier Division of the County Championship having defeated Staffordshire, the Second Division West leaders, in a play-off for promotion.

After one season in the Second Division North the county side will be out to prove that the Premier Division is their rightful home.

This season they will be visiting Yorkshire, Kent, Surrey and Middlesex and as the last three involve long and expensive journeys it is up to all concerned to give maximum support to home matches in order to minimise the increased strain on the financial resources.

There are only two changes in the elected officers of the Cheshire Association. Mr. S. D. J. Thacker and Mr. J. K. Kennerley replacing Mr. W. Gawne and Mr. E. Hackney, to whom go our thanks for past services.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Leslie Jones on his appointment as chairman of the Lancashire Association following many years of unstinted service to both national and local table tennis.

It is also gratifying to see young players of the calibre of Phil Strulovitch taking an active part in the administration of county affairs.

The Lancashire and Cheshire League will again comprise of nine divisions with 65 teams from 30 leagues.

John K. Kennerley.

WEST COUNTRY ENTHUSIASM

AFTER the usual out-of-season "back-stage" preparations, the various Gloucestershire organisations report increasing enthusiasm for the game in the West Country.

A further change of officers finds "old stalwart" Les Davis, father of the well-known Gloucestershire table tennis-playing family, taking the reins as county secretary. Les stepped into the breach when Ron Bacon, who was to be Ivor Eyles' successor, found himself suddenly transferred to Milford Haven on business.

All Gloucestershire enthusiasts wish Ron every success in his new sphere. He did a grand job as County Umpires' secretary. Incidentally Les Davis, already a proud grandfather, is looking forward to a further increase in his "T.T." flock. Daughter Shirley is expecting a happy event in December. This news has set the selectors a big problem to find a replacement for Shirley in the county side. Gloucestershire are, at the moment, rather lacking in girl stars.

Congratulations to Peter and Joan Cruwys, who recently announced the birth of a daughter.

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Gloucestershire have four home matches in the County Championship and will play Yorkshire at Gloucester, Essex at Bristol and Kent at Cheltenham, while the game with Middlesex, the champions, goes to the progressive Stroud and District League as a "reward" for fine efforts in previous season's matches. The champions will find first-class conditions at the Stonehouse venue.

Once again the county committee have set a varying financial target for each match, and any profit above this figure will go to the League staging the match.

The Inter-County League for juniors has attracted entries from Bristol, Cirencester, Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud.

The County "Closed" Championship will be staged by Cheltenham, and, after the great success of last season's first Junior "Open," Gloucester will once again be the hosts for this popular event. The dates of these tournaments will be announced shortly.

Bristol report the usual mammoth League programme with 17 Divisions of 14 teams to do battle this winter.

The new Bristol Association H.Q. has been put to good use in the summer, mainly in connection with Junior and Intermediate coaching. Known as the Castle Club, it should be a very popular rendezvous this winter. Excellent playing conditions and similar social advantages make this new venture very attractive at a reasonable fee.

Another fine innovation by the Bristol officials will be a new "knock-out" tournament to be played during the week of the Bristol "Closed" on the Saturday. This will be for players in Division IV downwards and will take the place of the "Referees' nightmare"—the Consolation Singles—at the Saturday tournament. The final will be played with the usual "Closed" finals.

D. N. Andrews.

STAFFORDSHIRE KNOTS

THE new season promises to be most successful for the County team. After winning the Second Division West and narrowly failing in their third bid for Premier Division status last season, they are brim full of confidence.

All the regular players are still available and with plenty of promising youngsters hot on their tails there will be some keen competition for team places.

The senior side will again compete in the Second Division West and the second team in the Midland Division. However it has been decided not to run a Junior team.

The highly successful "Restricted" tournament will again be a feature of the fixture list and with the Staffordshire "Closed," Woodfield Invitation, Staffs. County League and Staffs. Club tournament there will be plenty of scope within the county for budding youngsters.

Staffordshire's coaching week-end at Lilleshall on October 3 to 5 certainly proved popular. Unfortunately the applications far exceeded the number of places and the unlucky ones will have to wait until 1960 before the county get another session.

Wolverhampton provided a shock at their A.G.M. when it was decided not to compete in the Midland League. There were plenty of players but not one volunteered to act as League Secretary, and as the chairman said, "There is more to the game than just playing."

By contrast Walsall, West Bromwich and Stafford will be well represented.

Beryl Upton, the junior discovery from the Potteries, brought further honours to the county on her selection for the junior training course at Lilleshall.

Only six girls were chosen from the whole country so it was a fine achievement by Beryl who showed such tremendous improvement during last season.

Alec Backhouse.



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WELSH CORNER

EVER GROWING BODY

INCREASED membership! That's the story from most of the Welsh Leagues, which is particularly gratifying at a time when the Jeremiahs are saying that interest in table tennis is on the wane.

We know, only too well, that our game does not draw the crowds it used to, but then, neither do many of the other sports. However, this proves that we have an ever-growing body of players of the game, and they, after all, are what really matter.

Newport, with 105 teams, claim the largest following, with Cardiff and Swansea coming up closely behind. Eastern Valleys and Rhondda both report more clubs; Barry is strengthening its position, and new leagues at Monmouth (in its third season) and Chepstow are growing steadily.

Up in the north there is good news from Anglesey, and although activity along the north coast is always somewhat later starting than in the south, there are signs of a better season than ever.

NEW SECRETARY

Certainly we hope that new North Wales Secretary, John Simpson, will be able to make things hum. We should like to see North Wales running a similar league to the one we have in the South, and also an inter-club competition on Swaythling Cup lines.

Matches in most leagues have only just got going and with representative matches due shortly, selectors of Welsh League sides will have to rely on past performances when picking initial teams.

We can expect therefore to see most of the familiar faces in the opening matches.

There will be at least one change in Cardiff's side, for Stan Jones has gone to Swansea to work, and the Cardiff selectors will have something of a task finding an adequate substitute.

Whether Stan will be available to assist Swansea is not yet known, but doubtless they could do with him.

Barry should again be strong, but much depends on how often George Evans is available. It is good to see them with a Junior side this season.

BEST JUNIOR SIDE

Newport should look much the same, but youngsters like Bobby Harries and Tony Hulsh should be of more value to them this season. They should again have the best junior side, with Aberdare chasing them in this sphere.

Aberdare needs to improve if they are to take advantage of their reprieve in Division One. On the other hand Cardiff Public Services, who lost so many games last season by the odd event, should be good enough to regain promotion from the Northern Section.

Trdegard will probably again be pretty strong in that section, with Brecon and Merthyr continuing to improve. The Abergavenny side is difficult to assess because of the many calls on the services of Jack Price, Clive Arkell and David Parry, who would appear to have pledged themselves to too many commitments.

Unless some completely new talent is available, there is unlikely to be much

change in the Rhondda or Bridgend representation. Both keep going remarkably well, and we wish them better success than they usually enjoy.

In the women's section, there will probably be the usual battle between Cardiff and Swansea. Last season they shared a title that ought really to have gone to Cardiff, who have only themselves to blame for failing when Swansea were without Shirley Jones, who will again be an absentee this season.

Cardiff may be able to call on the services of Eileen Fletcher, who as Eileen Grimstone, played for Lancashire. She is now living in Penarth.

Cardiff Public Services will have a claim on most of the strong Rhiwbina girls, while Newport should be stronger by virtue of some summer coaching two of their number undertook.

"Open" Tournaments already fixed for this season are as follows:— Cardiff—November 1, Swansea—December 6, Welsh "Open"—January 16-17, Newport—February 21, Welsh "Closed"—March 14.

International matches have been arranged as follows:— Senior Mixed v. England, January 16, probably at Newport; Senior Mixed v. Scotland, December 5, possibly at Porth.

Our game with Ireland away is yet to be fixed, but may be on January 24, at Dublin. We are also due to play England away in the Junior match on a date yet to be arranged.

Our National County commitments are:— Wiltshire (Home), October 18; Worcestershire (Home), November 8; Cornwall (Away), November 15; Staffordshire (Away), December 13; Somerset (Home), January 31; Dorset (Away), February 7; Devon (Away), March 7.

In closing, let us congratulate Shirley Jones who has started the season well by taking all three titles in the recent East of England Tournament.

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

AFTER an absence of two seasons, Cheltenham, the former champions, make a welcome return to the Western Counties League and will be competing in the Men's and Intermediate divisions.

This should give an added incentive to all the teams and particularly last season's champions, Birmingham, who are determined to retain their title.

Teams in the men's and women's divisions will, this season, comprise of three players, each opposing the other, while in the intermediate section, the teams will be made up of two men and two women who were under the age of 21, last July.

The teams competing will be: Men's Section, Bristol, Bristol Seconds, Birmingham, Cardiff, Bath, Weston, Cheltenham, Newport.

Women's Section: Weston, Bristol, Newport.

Intermediates: Cheltenham, Newport, Bristol.

It is hoped that the Intermediate division will bring to light some up and coming young players.

Although there are only three teams in the women's and intermediate divisions there will certainly be some keen matches, which will be played on a home and away basis.

Grove Motlow.



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KENT RECORD

IT'S a record year for the Kent League, with 15 of the county's 18 leagues having entered a total of 43 teams in the five divisions. The previous record of 42 teams was set up three years ago.

Woolwich will be attempting to set up a record by winning the Men's First Division for the sixth successive year, and with county players Barry Meisel, Alan Payne (ex-Essex) and Ming Wong (of London University's successful Wilmott Cup team) to call on, they will start favourites.

N.W. Kent, with county trio Henry Buist, George Elliott and Dennis Whitaker, will be their chief rivals.

N.W. Kent will also be favourites to retain the Women's Division title which they have won for the past three years. Even when Joyce Fielder is away on county or national duty, they can still field county pair Betty Landimore and Audrey Hallett, together with Brenda Barber or talented 14-year-old Susan Thomas.

Maidstone, who have won this title the record number of five times, will be one of the main challengers again, with Joyce Reeves their mainstay.

Folkestone will be seeking their fourth successive Junior Division title, and with Michael Pass and Clive Bloy having been placed No. 1 and 3 respectively in the recent Kent Junior Trials, they are highly rated.

Woolwich are the chief danger, having on their "books" Malcolm Ellis (transferred from Medway Towns), Roger Withey and Derek Basden, ranked Nos. 2, 4 and 5 respectively in Kent.

After only one year as chairman, Woolwich stalwart Stanley Pike informed the Kent A.G.M. in May that he could not continue as county chairman, owing

to mounting business commitments. The A.G.M. accepted his retirement with regret, and elected him a vice-president. Vice-chairman C. M. Wyles (Thanet) was unable to stand for the chair, owing to his impending move to Sussex (he has since been elected Sussex honorary general secretary), and the meeting elected Conrad Jaschke (N.W. Kent) as the new chairman, with F. "Mick" Betts (Folkestone) as vice-chairman.

Honorary secretary "Jimmy" Mannooch (Sittingbourne) was presented with a memento and a cheque on the occasion of completing 25 years as Kent county secretary.

ENCOURAGING YOUNGSTERS

IN an effort to encourage and improve the standard of youngsters in the county, Cambridgeshire at their last A.G.M., decided to set up a coaching committee. John Cornwall, Fred Larter and Leslie Constable were elected for the task.

They will be responsible for all types of coaching which will not be easy as conditions are limited.

The sudden death of George Harry Wright will be acutely felt in all sections of sport in Cambridgeshire but none more so than table tennis.

He was an energetic worker and secretary of the old Federation League before the Cambs. Association was formed.

The Cambs. Summer League once again proved a big success, with three

divisions comprising 24 teams. All divisions were closely contested, the winners being: Div. "A", University Press; Div. "B", St. George's; Div. "C", Telephones.

St. George's, helped by an unbeaten run by C. Norton, were the eventual winners, beating first Telephones then University Press each by 6-3 in the play-off.

This season the Cambs. League will consist of a record number of seven divisions involving 68 teams.

The Cambs. "Closed" Championships will be held at the Cambridge Corn Exchange from March 16 to 19.

Leslie Constable.

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

THE season opens in Suffolk with interest at a higher level than in any previous seasons, particularly on the administrative side where the committee has been strengthened to eleven officers plus league representatives.

One of the most pleasing features is that five officers hail from Ipswich—an indication of the greater interest that area is now showing.

All of last season's leagues Ipswich, Lowestoft, Stowmarket, Felixstowe, Sudbury and Peasenhall, are again affiliated while a newcomer is the Newmarket Club which is staging an Invitation tournament on November 22.

The Suffolk Inter-Town League now has six teams competing—Lowestoft, Ipswich, Stowmarket, Peasenhall, Sudbury and Newmarket and single fixtures will operate.

Suffolk is again competing in the N.C.C. with the senior team in Division Two (South) and the juniors in Junior Division (South). The colours registered in accordance with the new N.C.C. Dress Regulations are green shirts, grey shorts (or skirts for the girls) and white socks and shoes.

It would seem that the N.C.C. Dress Regulations have had repercussions inside Suffolk for both Ipswich, and Lowestoft will wear new shirts in inter-town matches—Lowestoft sporting maroon and Ipswich, blue.

The immediate pre-season news of social interest includes the recent wedding of Johnny Clarke to Heather Bond, a player in the Lowestoft League, and Pamela Garrett who married Michael Rogers, one of Suffolk County's back-room boys.

Mrs. Rogers, incidentally, won the Barclays Bank Lawn Tennis title during the summer.

An end-of-the-summer Coaching Session at Ipswich was attended by eleven would-be County Coaches.

A. E. D.

NORTH OF ENGLAND "OPEN"

The report in the May issue gave Ian Harrison as the winner of the Youth Singles. The winner was in fact Laurie Landry, who beat Harrison 21-12, 21-16 in the final.

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FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details and Venue</i>	<i>Extra Events</i>	<i>Organising Secretary</i>
Oct. 9-11	North of England "Open" (A) (Sept. 27) T.A. Drill Hall, Norman Road, Rusholme, Manchester, 14.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Burnage, Manchester, 19.
19	Portsmouth "Open" (A) (Oct. 3) South Parade Pier, Southsea.	J.X.S.	M. Constad, 12, Wilberforce Road, Southsea.
25-26	Sussex "Open" (Oct. 9) White Rock Pavilion, Hastings.		D. N. Tyler, 23, Elphinstone Road, Hastings.
31	ENGLAND v. SCOTLAND Oxford.		
Nov. 1	Hull and East Riding "Open" (Oct. 23) Madeley Street Baths, Hessle Road, Hull.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	K. H. F. Jordan, 6, Blackburn Avenue, Brough, E. Yorkshire.
1	Cardiff "Open" Llandaff North Drill Hall, Cardiff.	B.S.	Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff.
1-2	Essex "Open" (Oct. 13) Marconi Works, New Street Chelmsford.	J.S.B. J.S.G. V.S.	F. H. Bateman, Fairlop House, 61, Fairlop Road., London, E.11.
1-2	AUSTRIAN "OPEN" Vienna.		
7	ENGLAND v. FRANCE (Junior) Ascot Water Heaters, Ltd., North Circular Road, N.W.10.		
7-8	Merseyside "Open" (Oct. 25) Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., Speke, Liverpool, 19.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	Miss M. Lindner, 4, Hilltop Road, Liverpool, 16.
8	Hartlepoons "Open" (A) (Nov. 1) North-East Trading Estate Canteen, Easington Road, West Hartlepool.	Y.X.S.	T. Snowdon, 23, Bailey Street, W. Hartlepool, Co. Durham.
8-9	Kent Junior "Open" (Oct. 18) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone, Kent.	J.S.B., J.D.G. J.S.G., J.X.D. J.D.B.	F. G. Mannooch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.
14-16	South of England "Open" (A) (Oct. 31) Power Samas Welfare Hall, Aurelia Road, Croydon.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	C. A. Bourne, 15a, Reddown Road, Coulston, Surrey.
21-22	Birmingham "Open" (Nov. 11) Friends' Institute, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.	J.S.B., V.S. J.S.G. J.D.B.	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
21-22	IRISH INTER-PROVINCIALS Dublin.		
22	Yorkshire "Open" Railway Institute, York.		K. W. James, 25, Hallfield Road, Bradford.
23	Bournemouth "Open" (A) (Nov. 8) The Drill Hall, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.	J.S.	C. B. Cashell, 16, Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth.
29	Peterborough "Open" (Nov. 17) Baker Perkins, Ltd., Westwood Works, Peterborough	J.S.B. J.S.G.	K. Kent, 14, High Street, Eye, Near Peterborough.
28-30	SCANDINAVIAN "OPEN" Stockholm.		
Dec. 6	Swansea "Open"	B.S.	
11-13	Cheshire "Open" Birkenhead.	V.S.	W. H. Gawne, 9, Eric Road, Wallasey, Cheshire.

Kathie Best Unbeaten in Top Ten Tournament

by BRYAN CUTRESS

THE brilliant play of Kathie Best and the poor form of Diane Rowe were the outstanding features of the "Top Ten" Tournament at Handel-street, London last month.

Miss Best, attacking with great power and accuracy, was a class above her rivals coming through her programme without even conceding a game. She beat Joyce Fielder 13 and 14, Jean Harrower 14 and 11 and Diane Rowe 11 and 11.

For Miss Rowe it was a different story. From her opening match against Joyce Fielder it was obvious that she was badly out of touch, and although she fought gamely just could not find her true form. She was beaten in straight games by all three opponents.

Chopping viciously and attacking strongly Miss Fielder quickly got the measure of Miss Rowe, but she took a little longer to overcome Miss Harrower. The Middlesex junior possessed plenty of power with her forehand and gave Miss Fielder some anxious moments. However, her backhand, although adequate, lacked an attacking sting.

M i c h a e l Thornhill and Johnny Leach, the two oldest players in the tournament, shared top place in the men's section, each suffering one defeat.



MICHAEL THORNHILL

Thornhill received an early setback, being beaten 16-21, 15-21 in his first match by Ian Harrison, with whom he shares top English ranking. However, he quickly recovered his peak and for the rest of the afternoon was unbeaten.

Harrison, meanwhile, faded away after this initial success and failed to gain another victory.

Leach, down to No. 4 in National ranking, showed he is still not too old—at least for English opponents—when having already played three matches, he went to the table and accounted for Harrison and Rhodes within the matter of an hour. His one defeat came at the hands of Thornhill.

Surprise of the men's event was the form shown by unranked Eddie Hodson and Jeff Ingber, who finished third and fourth respectively.

Hodson beat Rhodes, Harrison and Ingber, while he took both Thornhill and Leach to three games. Similarly Ingber took each of the top two the full distance in addition to accounting for both Rhodes and Harrison.

Rhodes, despite a fine 22-23, 24-22, 21-18 success over Harrison in the last match, and a good performance against Thornhill, finished at the bottom of the list equal fifth with Harrison.

MEN: Michael Thornhill (Middlesex) bt Leach 21-12, 21-14; bt Hodson 21-17, 18-21, 21-17; bt Ingber 15-21, 21-13, 21-9; bt Rhodes 21-13, 21-11; lost to Harrison.

Johnny Leach (Essex) bt Ingber 22-20, 15-21, 21-9; bt Hodson 10-21, 21-14, 21-9; bt Harrison 13-21, 21-9, 21-14; bt Rhodes 21-11, 18-21, 21-19; lost to Thornhill.

Eddie Hodson (Middlesex) bt Rhodes 15-21, 21-14, 21-18; bt Harrison 16-21, 21-14, 21-12; bt Ingber 21-10, 21-15; lost to Thornhill and Leach.

Jeff Ingber (Lancs.) bt Rhodes 21-17, 21-19; bt Harrison 10-21, 21-16, 21-19; lost to Thornhill, Leach and Ingber.

Ian Harrison (Glos.) bt Thornhill 21-16, 21-15; lost to Leach, Hodson, Ingber and Rhodes.

Alan Rhodes (Middlesex) bt Harrison 22-24, 24-22, 21-18; lost to Thornhill, Leach, Hodson and Ingber.

WOMEN: Kathie Best (Yorks.) bt Miss Fielder 21-13, 21-14; bt Miss Harrower 21-14, 21-11; bt Miss Rowe 21-11, 21-11.

Joyce Fielder (Kent) bt Miss Harrower 21-19, 21-13; bt Miss Rowe 21-16, 21-14; lost to Miss Best.

Jean Harrower (Middlesex) bt Miss Rowe 23-21, 21-18; lost to Miss Best and Miss Fielder.

Diane Rowe (Middlesex) lost to Miss Best, Miss Fielder and Miss Harrower.

Final Placings: Men: Equal 1, THORNHILL and LEACH; 3, HODSON; 4, INGBER; equal 5, HARRISON and RHODES.

Women: 1, Miss BEST; 2, Miss FIELDER; 3, Miss HARROWER; 4, Miss ROWE.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

MISLEADING

IS it seriously suggested that the players in the "Top Ten" tournament were in fact our ten best? Unless the best take part the title should be changed, otherwise it is misleading to people who may know little about the sport. Whoever is responsible for choosing these players should study public reaction a little more.

My choice of players would have been Harrison, Merrett, Thornhill, Somogyi, Leach, Rhodes, the Misses Haydon, Rook, Best and Rowe.

Supporter.

(Name and address supplied.)

S.O.S. ALL FANS

THE Football Pool, recently inaugurated, needs your help.

The net gain so far to the E.T.T.A. is £42. The loss to the Organisers is £10. If this Pool is a success the benefit will be to all in the game. The E.T.T.A. urgently needs funds, and the Organisers cannot continually bear a loss. It is therefore up to all who are able to do their bit to help.

At Lilleshall recently it was a matter of concern that Juniors undergoing a Training Course were expected to make such a large contribution towards the cost. This is one of the things which could be taken care of were there more funds available.

To make the POOL a success it is necessary to have Agents. AT LEAST 200 are required throughout the country to make the POOL known and to collect and pass on the subscriptions.

The FINANCES of the E.T.T.A. need the money.

Commission is paid to all Agents at the rate of 2/- in the £, and a bonus scheme is under consideration for some later date. Postage to and from is paid by the Supporters' Club.

If you can help please get in touch immediately with the Chief Organiser, JACK ASHLEY, 19, Lawrence Hill, Bristol, 5.

ESSEX NOTES

WITH West Ham Y.O.C. returning to the County Association and many leagues reporting an increase in the number of both clubs and teams it appears certain that 1958-59 will be a boom season.

The Essex "Open" returns to the calendar at a new venue — Marconi Works, Chelmsford, on November 1 and 2. Despite the composition floor the playing conditions should be excellent. Thanks to the many helpers who have distributed the entry forms, a huge number of competitors seems assured.

Congratulations to county players; Bob McCree and Jean Page on their recent wedding.

Area junior trials were held for the first time this season, at Chelmsford Y.M.C.A. and St. Luke's Boys Club, Canning Town. Never before has so many promising juniors been spread so much around the county.

The final junior trials were held at St. Luke's and the following ranking lists were issued:

Boys: 1, T. LEVERNO (East London); 2, M. SWEETING (Chelmsford); 3, N. BATES (Chelmsford); 4, D. CARTER (East London); 5, C. GOODY (Chelmsford); 6, A. CLANCY (Chelmsford); 7, I. MACDONALD (Romford); 7, B. McDONALD (Chelmsford); 9, R. BLOOMFIELD (Chelmsford); 9, K. FALLAN (West Ham); 9, K. McMICHAEL (West Ham); 9, D. SIBLEY (Clacton).

Girls: 1, M. BOWN (East London); 2, J. SEABROOK (Chelmsford); 3, J. WIGGINS (Chelmsford); 4, J. MATHESON (Ilford).

Frank Bateman

LAURIE LANDRY reports . . .

EAST OF ENGLAND "OPEN"

THE East of England "Open" at Skegness on September 13-14 gave a good send-off to the new season, with a full quota of surprises. Some players, after their summer hibernation, were unable to produce their best form, while others, having played non-stop throughout the off-season, gained some good results.

Marking up the first singles titles of the season were **Derek Burridge**, of Middlesex, and **Shirley Jones**, of Wales, who also went on to win the women's and mixed doubles for a triple crown.

Heroes of the men's singles were Bobby Stevens, of Essex, and Alan Lindsay, of Middlesex, who gained some outstanding results on the way to their semi-final clash, won narrowly by Stevens, Burridge's victim in the final.

Stevens, with a bad cold and severely hampered by his long standing knee injury, produced some fantastic play to account for Dennis Whittaker (Kent) 14, 21, and Eddie Hodson (Middlesex) 9, 3, as well as Lindsay on his way to the final.

Lindsay, in superlative form the whole week-end, disposed of Bobby Raybould in a manner unlikely to be seen again, taking the Essex player's lightning hits on the half-volley and sending them back with still more speed, to win 16, —16, 15.

He also eliminated the only foreign competitor, Cor du Buy, several times Dutch champion, who commented later "I have never come across anything like it before." The score: 11, —19, 9.

Lindsay went on to oust Ian Harrison, the No. 1 seed, who by mainly defensive play, with an occasional hit, took the first game at 14.

Harrison was then forced to hitting by Lindsay's persistency and this was the beginning of the end. Harrison was never in it again, leaving Lindsay to take the next two games at 14 and 10.

The meeting between Lindsay and Stevens produced plenty of thrills. Stevens, limping slightly, could do little in the first game but quickly learned that he would have to slow down. He did this in the second but always remained a point or two behind. Then with a match point against him he suddenly burst out with a storm of fantastic hits, mainly on the forehand, and pulled the game out of the fire at 24-22.

After 15-all in the third it was Stevens all the way and he won the game at 17 for the match.

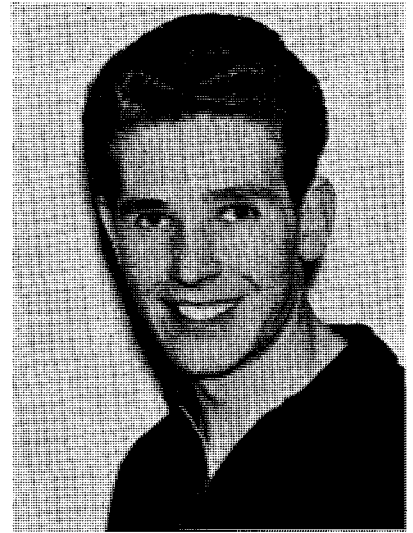
Burridge, following wins over

Tony Miller (12, 17) and Ken Stanley (13, —12, 17), was hard pressed in the semi-final before beating Laurie Landry —15, 19, 12.

Landry had accounted for Les Sawyer (16, 17), the seeded Derek Schofield (12, —20, 19) and David House (—12, 18, 14) on his way to the semi-final.

The final between Burridge and Stevens was a spirited affair, but it was obvious throughout that Stevens had taken too much out of himself in the close battle with Lindsay, and after the first two games had been shared, Burridge went on to win 20, —17, 12.

Among the other results in the men's singles, Schofield beat George Muranyi —13, 14, 17; Hodson beat Ron Allcock 15, 19, and Charlie Deaton 20, 16; while Michael



DEREK BURRIDGE

Maclaren overcame Kershaw —13, 19, 15, before losing to Stanley 20, 12.

Stanley also beat P. Skerratt 12, —12, 17, who had previously won a close match with Ray Dorking —19, 19, 12.

Shirley Jones quickly found her form when she captured three titles for the second successive year, beating Joyce Fielder 6 and 19 in the singles final, winning the women's doubles with Peggy Piper at —19, 14, 11 against Miss Fielder and Mrs. Bird (Betty Isaacs), and the mixed doubles with Raybould at 7 and 16 against Allcock and Miss C. Spencer.

The shock of this event was provided by Diana Wright, the Lancashire junior, who eliminated Peggy Franks 17, —14, 20.

Upsets in the men's doubles were the defeat of Raybould and Stevens, the favourites, by the scratch partnership of Kevin Edwards and Dennis Whittaker, and the victory of Stan Jacobson and Lindsay over Harrison and Maclaren in the final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: D. BURRIDGE bt L. Landry 15-21, 21-19, 21-12. R. STEVENS bt A. Lindsay 9-21, 24-22, 21-17.

Final: BURRIDGE bt Stevens 22-20, 17-21, 21-12.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: S. JONES bt M. Piper 19-21, 21-13, 21-11. J. FIELDER bt Mrs. E. Carrington 21-15, 21-13.

Final: JONES bt Fielder 21-6, 21-19.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: LINDSAY/S. JACOBSON bt Cor du Buy/A. Condon 21-18, 21-18. I. HARRISON/M. MACLAREN bt Burridge/G. Muranyi 21-17, 21-12.

Final: LINDSAY/JACOBSON bt Harrison/Maclaren 21-17, 21-11.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: JONES/PIPER bt Mrs. Carrington/B. Milbank 21-15, 21-10; FIELDER/Mrs. E. BIRD bt P. Franks/W. Eanor 21-3, 17-21, 21-14.

Final: JONES/PIPER bt Fielder/Mrs. Bird 19-21, 21-14, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: R. ALLCOCK/Miss C. SPENCER bt G. Elliott/Miss Fielder 21-17, 21-18. RAYBOULD/Miss JONES bt D. House/Mrs. Bird 21-16, 21-18.

Final: RAYBOULD/Miss JONES bt Allcock/Miss Spencer 21-7, 21-16.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: T. LEVERNO bt J. Keogh 13-21, 21-15, 22-20. P. RACEY bt M. Ellis 21-12, 22-20.

Final: LEVERNO bt Racey 20-22, 21-10, 22-20.

Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals: L. GORDON bt A. Taft 21-17, 13-21, 21-18. J. WILLIAMS bt S. Thomas 21-15, 21-13.

Final: WILLIAMS bt Gordon 21-18, 19-21, 21-16.



SHIRLEY JONES