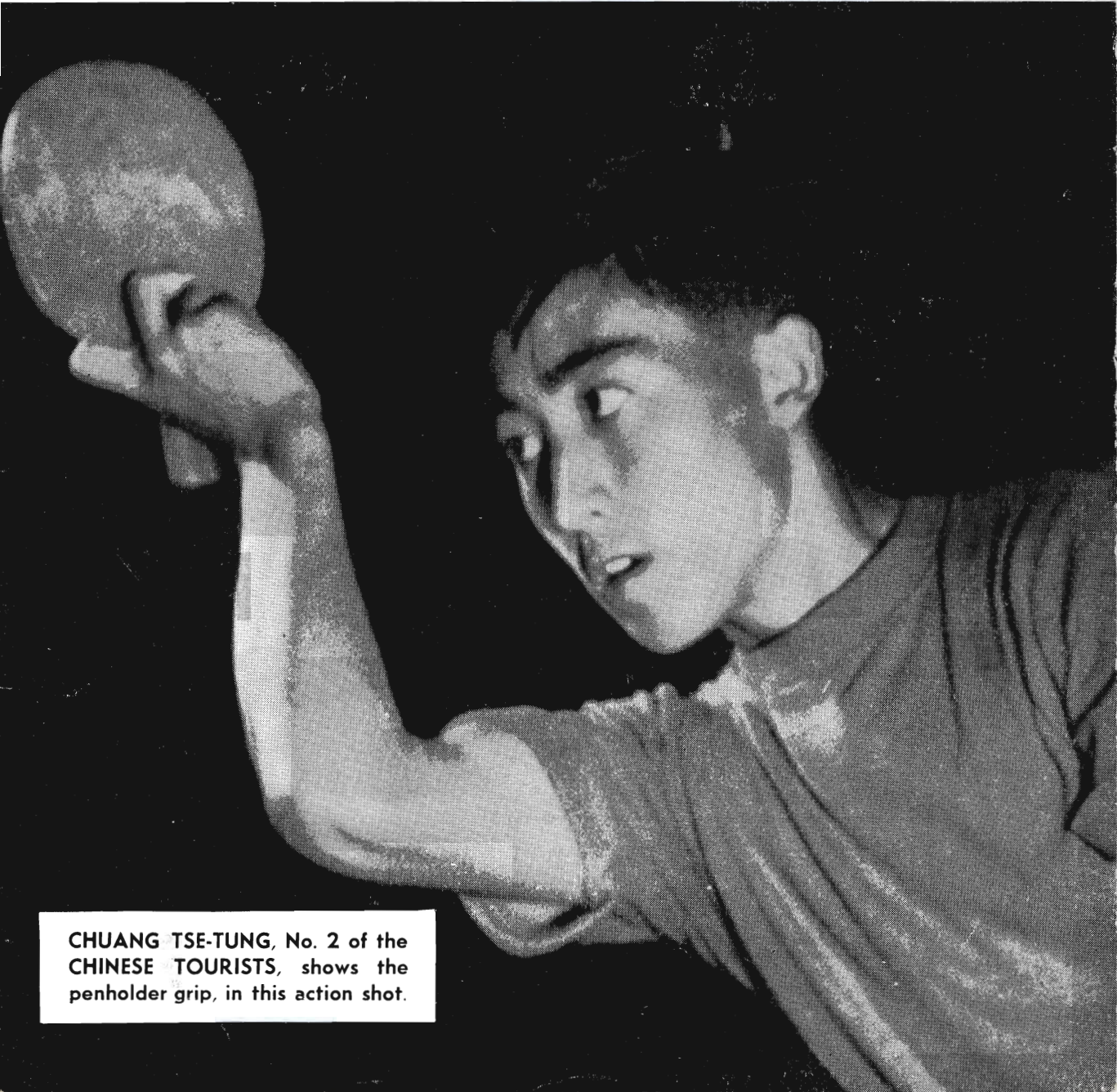


DECEMBER, 1959
ONE SHILLING

Table Tennis

The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association



CHUANG TSE-TUNG, No. 2 of the **CHINESE TOURISTS**, shows the penholder grip, in this action shot.

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

Published by Walthamstow Press, Ltd., Guardian House, 644 Forest Road, London, E.17

Vol. 18

December, 1959

No. 3

HOME PLAYERS ONLY

FOR many years there has been a widespread wish amongst E.T.T.A. players for the inauguration of an English "Closed" Championships. Most leading table tennis nations hold "Closed" as well as "Open" National Championships. Perhaps one of the reasons this has not happened before in this country is that the English "Open," second in importance only to the World Championships, is such a gigantic organising task that there has been some hesitation lest the burden falling on those undertaking the work connected with the running of the event—necessarily the same people who run the "Open"—would be too much.

However, objections and fears having been overcome, this season is to see the first ever English "Closed" Championships. **Yet it nearly was all off.** The difficulty of finding a suitable venue almost stumped the E.T.T.A. Six provincial centres and a dozen or so venues in London were explored, but were found to be either not up to the required standard, or were not available at the scheduled date.

Finally, thanks to the efforts of Geoff James, Conrad Jaschke and Peter Lowen, who pursued this project on behalf of the Championships Committee, the Greenwich Baths were booked for January 5-9.

This was one of the venues thought to be very desirable right from the start, and one coming up to all requirements.

WHO CAN PLAY?

Who can play in the "Closed"? The answer, every player who is affiliated to the E.T.T.A., either directly, or through a club or league.

Playing conditions? These will be up to full English "Open" standards, full international playing space, Jaques tables, Halex balls, Barna

nets, with Godfrey Decker doing his stuff as he does at all big E.T.T.A. events. Either four or five tables will be used, as required.

The organisation will also be of full strength: Geoff James (Referee), Geoff Oown (Asst. Referee and Box Office), Conrad Jaschke (Press and Publicity), Colin Clemett and Frank Bateman (Stewards and Umpires), Jimmy Mannooch (Programme), with Peter Lowen as Tournament Secretary. In a way, a practice run for the English "Open" team.

RESTRICTED NUMBERS

It is anticipated that entry to the competition proper will have to be restricted in numbers, but **ANYONE** will be able to enter the qualifying rounds. There will be a special exemption from qualifying rounds for players of a known standard, **AND FOR ALL PLAYERS TRAVELLING MORE THAN 50 MILES.**

Admission Tuesday to Thursday will be 2/6d. at door, Friday evening 3/6d., Saturday morning 3/6d., and Saturday afternoon 4/-. Finals tickets can be obtained in advance from the E.T.T.A. at 3/6d. and 5/-. Immediate application is essential, as there is only limited spectator room.

The Kent Table Tennis Association, who have the honour of the first ever English "Closed" being staged in their administrative area, appeal to those from outside Kent who wish to attend the finals to make immediate ticket application, as it is anticipated that there will be a large number of local table tennis enthusiasts coming to watch the finals.

The E.T.T.A. are most concerned that people from further afield should not come without having first reserved their tickets, in case they face a sell-out on arrival. So please reserve your tickets **NOW.**

THE ENGLISH "CLOSED"

THE English "Closed" Championships at Greenwich from January 5 to 9 will consist of Men's and Women's Singles, Men's and Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles (consolation events will be run, time permitting).

Entries, which close on Monday, December 14, should be sent to the office of the E.T.T.A., 265, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2, AND WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IF THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THE RELEVANT FEES. LATE ENTRIES CANNOT BE ACCEPTED. Entry fees are 7/6d. singles, 4/6d. per player in doubles. Singles entrants will gain free admission to the finals.

The draw will take place on Wednesday, December 16. Playing sessions have been planned as follows:

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY, JAN. 5/6: Men's Singles qualifying competition (6 p.m.).

THURSDAY, JAN. 7: Men's Doubles qualifying competition (6 p.m.). Part of rounds 1/2 of Men's Singles.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8: 10 a.m.: Rest of rounds 1/2 of Men's Singles. Afternoon: Men's Doubles. Rounds 1/2 Women's Singles. Evening: Round 3' Men's Singles. Rounds 1/2 Mixed Doubles.

SATURDAY, JAN. 9: 10 a.m.: Women's Doubles. Quarter-finals all events. Afternoon: Semi-finals all events. Evening (7 p.m.): Finals of all events.

HOW TO GET TO GREENWICH BATHS

Greenwich Baths are easily reached from the centre of London. Maze Hill Station (Southern Railway) is a mere 10-12 minutes from London Bridge/Charing Cross Stations. Turn right into Trafalgar Road and the Baths are on the left-hand side—2 minutes' walk. For those coming by bus, Numbers 70, 163, 177, 180 and 185 pass the door.

MORE THAN 90% OF ALL COMPETITORS at the WEMBLEY CHAMPIONSHIPS wore



Men's shirt

**VICTOR
BARNA
Sportswear**

Whether it is Ladies' or Men's Sportswear of any description, inspect first the

VICTOR BARNA RANGE
made by



Ladies' shirt and skirt

FRED PERRY SPORTSWEAR LTD.

14 Golden Square, London, W.1

OFFICIAL NEWS

Registered Members. In the October issue of *Table Tennis* a list of approved registered members was published, and it is pointed out that only registered members whose names appeared in that list are entitled to receive payments in connection with coaching, umpiring, writing, filming, broadcasting, televising, exhibitions, or in relation to equipment.

A further list of applications, received since the last meeting of the N.E.C., will be put before the N.E.C. meeting on 19th December, but members may not receive payments until approval has been given.

Any affiliated member giving or receiving payments in contravention of the rules is liable to disciplinary action.

Racket Standardisation. Complaints have been received that some players are using bats which do not conform to the standardisation law adopted by the I.T.T.F. and the E.T.T.A. This law was quoted in full in the May, 1959 issue of *Table Tennis*, and among other things, stipulates that sandwich bats must have a covering of not more than 4mm. thickness each side.

Thickness gauges can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. office, and in case of doubt bats can be forwarded to the E.T.T.A. office for a ruling.

Referees of tournaments and matches are under an obligation to stop players using bats which do not comply with the laws. Players using these bats are taking an unfair advantage over their opponents.

E.T.T.A. Representatives. For the purpose of nominating and electing Officers, and members of the National Executive Committee, each County, League or Local Association is entitled to appoint E.T.T.A. Representatives. The Secretary of the E.T.T.A. must be advised of the name(s) and address(es) not later than 31st January, 1960. Unless this information is received by that date, the body concerned loses its voting rights.

Chinese tour. The tour of players from the People's Republic of China has been most successful in every way, creating much interest in this country as witnessed by the good attendance at the matches played. The Chinese players, who are now on their way back to their country, created an excellent impression wherever they went in England, by their sportsmanship, courtesy, and by their exceptional playing ability. Special thanks are due to the organisers of the international matches, Messrs. Ian White (Slough), John Wyles (Hastings),

D. E. Thompson (Oxford), Maurice Goldstein (Birmingham), Frank Newell (Cheltenham), F. Smith (Tottenham), and to their many helpers, for a job well done.

Junior tour of Germany. The following juniors have been selected to represent England in a junior tournament in Aachen (West Germany) January 2-10, 1960: GEORGE LIVESEY (Lancs.), JACK KEOGH (Lancs.), WILF BARKER (Durham), DAVID CREAMER (Middx.), MARY SHANNON (Surrey) and JUDY WILLIAMS (Herts.).

They will meet teams from Austria, Belgium and Germany in the tournament, and will also play a junior international match against Germany on January 7 at Gellinghausen.

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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

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

Deputy Chairman: I. C. Eyles.

Honorary Treasurer: T. Blunn.

Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

Office of the Association: 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Telephone: TRAfalgar 2165).

Brian Brumwell, the new England junior captain, will be in charge of the team. It will be his first trip abroad as team captain, and the Association wishes him every success in his endeavours.

Ann Haydon. In a letter to the Secretary, Peter Lowen, Miss Ann Haydon states that to give herself a fair chance at Lawn Tennis, she has decided to play no more Table Tennis this season. The letter was received by the E.T.T.A. on November 24. The Association wish Ann every success in the sport of her choice.

National Junior Ranking. Boys: 1, G. Livesey (Lancs.); 2, J. Keogh (Lancs.); 3, W. Barker (Durham); 4, P. Racey (Herts.); 5, B. Wright (Middx.); 6, D. Creamer (Middx.); 7 (joint) D. Bevan (Glos.) and N. Ive (Middx.); 9, P. Ractliffe (Herts.); 10, M. White (Glos.).

Girls: 1, J. Harrower (Middx.); 2, (joint) M. Shannon (Surrey) and J. Williams (Herts.); 4, A. Taft (Herts.);

5, S. Thomas (Kent); 6, A. Charman (Staffs.); 7, P. Taylor (Glos.); 8, L. Gordon (Lancs.); 9, S. Griffiths (Glos.).

ENGLISH RANKING LIST

THE English (Senior) Selection Committee have revised the "seeding" list which was published in the October issue and now give the status of Ranking.

Ian Harrison retains his position as No. 1 among the men's, while Diane Rowe, in the absence of Ann Haydon, is top woman.

Derek Schofield (Cheshire), already winner of three "open" titles, is in the list for the first time at No. 6, and another newcomer is Alan Lindsay (Middlesex), joint No. 10.

Two notable absentees are Michael Thornhill and Ken Craigie, due to insufficient evidence.

The woman's list has been restricted to six, with Mrs. Jean McCree (Essex) as the only newcomer. Jean Harrower and Jill Rook have both been dropped.

MEN

1. Ian Harrison (Glos.) (1).
2. Bryan Merrett (Glos.) (4).
3. Brian Kennedy (Yorks.) (2).
4. Josef Somogyi (Surrey) (3).
5. Derek Burridge (Middx.) (8).
6. Derek Schofield (Cheshire). (-).
7. Jeff Ingber (Lancs.) (7) and Laurie Landry (Middx.) (6).
9. Alan Rhodes (Middx.) (-).
10. Alan Lindsay (Middx.) (-) and Bobby Stevens (Essex) (-).

WOMEN

1. Diane Rowe (Middx.) (2).
2. Betty Bird (Surrey) (6).
3. Pam Mortimer (Warw.) (3).
4. Kathleen Best (Yorks.) (3).
5. Joyce Fielder (Kent) (8).
6. Jean McCree (Essex) (-).

Figures in parentheses denote position on seeding list.

Published on the 10th of each month October to May inclusive. Postal Subscription 10s. for eight issues, post free.

Circulation & Advertisements: The Walthamstow Press Ltd., Guardian House, 644, Forest Road, London, E.17 (COPpermill 4301).

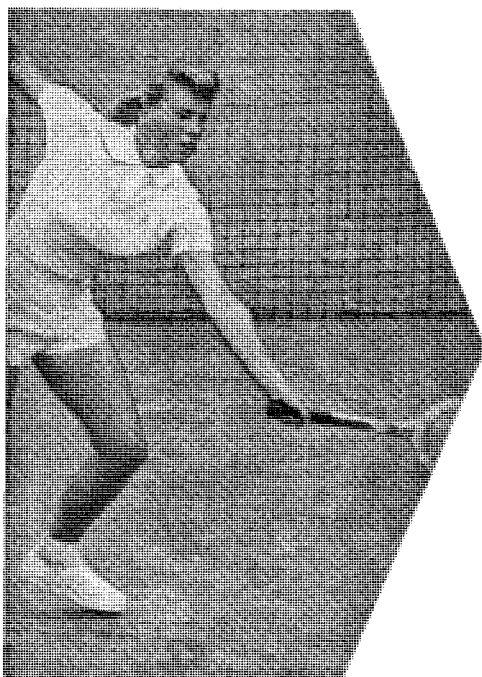
Circulation Manager: G. R. Harrower, 68, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts. (BARnet 7470).

Editorial: W. Harrison Edwards, c/o Sports Press, 149, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4 (FLE 9951).

Hon. Associate Editor & E.T.T.A. Liaison Officer: Conrad Jaschke, 35 Eynswood Drive, Sidcup, Kent, (FOOTscray 5845).

LANCE TINGAY (of the Daily Telegraph)

Spotlights England's Two-Sports Miss



ANN . . . A LAWN TENNIS "YES"

**ANN
HAYDON
MAKES
HER
CHOICE**



ANN . . . A TABLE TENNIS "NO"

ANN HAYDON was 21 on October 17 last and around about that time she made a decision which will be regretted, but I think well appreciated, by all table tennis enthusiasts. Having pursued the top honours in both table tennis and lawn tennis she balanced the claims of both sports and, while not abandoning table tennis, decided to give priority to the outdoor game.

In 1954, when only 15, Miss Haydon became the youngest player ever to have represented England in the world table tennis championships. In the same year she became British junior lawn tennis champion for the first time and I recall that it must have been around about then that I wrote for this magazine an article about this remarkable games playing youngster and the conflicting claims to be met in the pursuit of major honours in table tennis and lawn tennis at the same time.

"I've really had a go at table tennis," Miss Haydon told me, "and now I'm really going to have a go at lawn tennis. That means that in 1960 I shall have to begin earlier, not start, as I have been doing, in the middle of the season. I want to do the Caribbean circuit and that means I shall have to forgo the big table tennis events."

To play, and enjoy, more than one sport is not difficult—at the level, that is, reached by most of us. And so far as the mechanics of the two games

are concerned I doubt whether there is any conflict between table tennis and lawn tennis. Yet in these days of high sporting specialisation it is to be doubted of the aspirant to world class honours can hope to succeed in both. By success I mean, of course, the supreme success gained by the world champion at table tennis or the Wimbledon champion at lawn tennis. The steps in both games from one standard to another increase in a geometrical progression of difficulty.

In table tennis Miss Haydon has been outstandingly successful—and, at the same time, a sublime failure. Do you remember the year she was in all three finals of the world championships and beaten in every one? That is the sublimity of failure to which I refer.

Only a prodigious games player could be as outstanding in two sports as Miss Haydon has in fact been. Between 1954 and 1959 she made 63 international appearances for England at table tennis. In lawn tennis she played for Great Britain in the Wight-

man Cup contests of 1957, 1958 and 1959 and performed the feat, certainly unique since the war, of winning her third string singles on every occasion. Her performance in 1950, when she beat the American, Miss Mimi Arnold, was the crux of Britain's rare victory effort for it was the winning rubber. She was a singles semi-finalist at Wimbledon in 1958, a semi-finalist in the American singles at Forest Hills last autumn.

Judged by average standards of skill this, of course, is stupendous success. Yet it is not quite the success Miss Haydon has been justified in aiming at. When one is as good as she is one hopes, not to be second in the world, but the first.

In table tennis Miss Haydon has now thrown in the towel. Whether, in fact, she would, had she devoted her entire singleness of purpose and concentration to that end, have written "world champion" after her name is an imponderable speculation. Now the aspiration is no longer there.

Now Miss Haydon looks forward

to the long road along which ambitious lawn tennis players progress. It sounds romantic—Barranquilla, Caracas, San Juan, Montego Bay, perhaps Palermo, Naples, Rome, Paris, and Wimbledon and Forest Hills, Los Angeles and Mexico City, the last few of which she has done before—but the lawn tennis circuit is a demanding one and not all glamour.

Few games players are so seasoned as is Miss Haydon at 21, few so hardened to the harsh demands of competition. Table tennis and lawn tennis are much alike in that respect with a strong spotlight on the deeds of the individual performer, whether the occasion is in the middle of an arena at a table tennis table or on the Centre Court at Wimbledon.

She has not, as yet, reached the same high status in world lawn tennis as in world table tennis. In my world lawn tennis ranking list for 1957 I graded her seventh. She went down to eighth in 1958 and up to seventh again in 1959. Will she rate as high as second?

I certainly look to her to advance for she has earned her present position after efforts over four or five months against rivals who have played twice as long. She is a fine competitor and a fine match player, adroit in exploiting opposition weaknesses and, curiously, perhaps better against foreign players than against fellow British performers. One can say, I think, with virtual certainty, that what will be lost to table tennis will be gained by lawn tennis. She has already contributed an immense amount to both.

ABANDONED

The South London "Open" originally arranged for February has been abandoned for this season owing to a breakdown in negotiations over the venue.

It is hoped to resume the tournament next season.

COMMENT ON "OPEN" TOURNAMENTS

By D. R. INGREY, (National Umpire)

TOURNAMENT organisers are some of the hardest working people in table tennis. Among the qualities they must have are organising ability, experience in the game, tact, and resourcefulness.

Nevertheless, it has become painfully apparent to me that a number of small things still get forgotten and some major items ignored.

I have had the good fortune to be able to attend at least one day of a number of "open" tournaments this season—a temporary but necessary retirement kept me away from these events last year—and I looked forward to seeing a great improvement in the running of Championships. Unfortunately I was disappointed.

One general fault is the failure to enforce Tournament Regulations. Most forms stipulate that the time limit rule will be strictly applied. But there is seldom a clock suitable for this purpose in the building.

Dress regulations must be adhered to, is another cry. Nevertheless one still sees tartan trousers and shirts. In one case I even saw a player wearing a white blouse.

More than once I have had to request players to remove track-suit tops or multi-coloured sweaters.

Our organisers say they cannot control such matters and that the duty rests therefore with the umpire.

This is all very well in theory but the number of qualified umpires attending tournaments is very small and matches are therefore controlled by players and other unqualified but good-hearted folk who do not carry the authority of a qualified official.

One of the greatest errors I have witnessed was a semi-final being umpired by a 15-year-old. The lad may have been very efficient, but with qualified umpires in the hall he should

never have had the task put upon him.

Many of the folk persuaded to umpire are excellent, but an equal number are very bad, and players have to put up with whoever presents themselves to take the game.

Apart from three or four National or County umpires who travel with players, or the odd man out who turns up purely out of interest in the game, organisers seem to rely on unqualified aid.

May I suggest to organisers that they make conditions more congenial for umpires in order to enlist their help in ensuring the heavy match programme is executed on time.

At none of the tournaments I have attended have expenses or meals been offered, yet umpires have been expected to work continuously throughout the day.

Reasonable conditions, with time to relax will bring more qualified umpires into circulation.

Most tournaments boast an Umpires' Committee, yet they control in effect only people who turn up on the day; surely something can be done to enlist the help of umpires, not only in the county involved, but the more active officials round about.

Meals could be offered in these circumstances. Although the first objection put forward against this will be the old one "we cannot afford it."

How do organisers expect umpires to afford a week-end at a personal cost of about three pounds in order to work? Why not put on the entry form "Players not wishing to umpire please remit one shilling to cover umpiring expenses."

Well, organisers it is up to you, come out of your shells and help yourselves to solve your own problems in this direction.

Applications are invited for the position of Full Time

COACH

AND PROMOTION OFFICER

**AT THE LARGEST TABLE TENNIS CENTRE IN THE WORLD
(41 TABLES) SITUATED IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

Applications giving full details such as Nationality, Experience and Salary required to be sent to: **VICTORIAN TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 228E, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA by 31st JANUARY, 1960**

THE second in our series of *County Histories* is written by **GEOFF JAMES**, who with characteristic modesty, says nothing about the very considerable part he has played in the fortunes of the Middlesex County Association in recent years.

Nationally he is best known as Chairman of the National Umpires Committee and Hon. Referee of the English "Open."

MIDDLESEX—A GREAT RECORD

CHAMPION County ten times out of twelve, and a total of 22 divisional wins in the championships together with 315 international "caps" won by 20 of its first claim players. That is the proud record of England's smallest county (at least in area) over the fourteen seasons since its formation.

During that short period the Middlesex administrative fortunes were guided by such personalities as Geoff Harrower and Peter Lowen, while the playing record has been defended so brilliantly by Victor Barna, the Rowe twins and Michael Thornhill.

Perhaps the compactness of Middlesex has been its greatest advantage, because there can be no doubt that the administrative harmony and strong team spirit, which have prevailed throughout and contributed so largely to the successes, are the result of the continuous close contact.

Yet this was not always the case, for in the first years several demarcation problems arose because the L.C.C. area was then a table tennis wilderness.

Minutes of the first meeting of the Association on July 9, 1946, show that the late W. J. Pope, then E.T.T.A. hon. secretary, gave considerable "guidance" particularly in the reduction of the powers sought by the committee.

A committee was elected under the chairmanship of R. Mortlake Mann with Geoff Harrower as hon. secretary. Of the remaining members of that committee only Mr. Connell, chairman since 1948, and Miss Benstead are still serving.

PUTNEY INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Ruskie Hall,

63 Upper Richmond Road, S.W.15

Ideal Club Facilities — New Members
Welcomed — Sunday Tournaments
Individual and Class Coaching Session
Available.

Children and Youths a Speciality.
The "Harry Venner" Autographed
Sandwich Bat, as used personally.
Price 13/6d. post free.

All enquiries:

HARRY VENNER

45 Culmstock Road, Battersea,
London, S.W.11
BATTERSEA 1630

The "abolition" by the E.T.T.A. of the County of London in 1949 enabled Leagues like the Central, West London, and Barnets to affiliate and there are now some 16 senior Leagues in membership apart from the special arrangements made for local authority junior Leagues.

The Association's early days were dominated by Geoff Harrower whose organisation and hard work laid the foundations upon which the strength has been built. He originated a scheme which gave financial stability, ran a "closed" championship with more than 300 entrants and was behind an inter-league competition which at one time had 28 teams in five divisions.

The County Umpire scheme saw Middlesex first in the field, and it soon had more qualified umpires than any other county—a position it still holds although many names on the county list are far from active now. The early spade work was ably continued by three very competent Umpire secretaries, Bill Luff, Reg Boorer, and Iris Moss.

FOUNDER MEMBERS

Middlesex was of course, a founder member of the County Championships and the first registrations of players for the competition in 1947 were, among others, 1, Victor Barna, 2, Geoff Harrower, 3, Eric Marsh, 4, Gilbert Marshall and 5, Maurice Bergl, while at No. 18 was Michael Thornhill, who that season made the first of his 77 appearances for the county. Peggy Franks headed the women's rankings.

The most consistent county player has been Thornhill, whose success in the Premier Division of the Championships has in the past been in marked contrast to his national ranking.

Di Rowe has appeared 73 times for the county, new England selector Len Adams 64, Derek Burridge 62, Ros Rowe and Alan Rhodes 50.

The greatest season was 1955-56, when the Premier Division was won without the loss of a point, the second team won their division, and Middlesex beat the Rest of England 6-4.

This led to the Middlesex County Council chairman Mr. (now Sir Graham) Rowlandson, holding a re-



GEOFF JAMES

ception in honour of the players. Sir Graham is now the very active President of the Association.

Mention must be made of the very great debt the county owes to Victor Barna. He first played for Middlesex in 1946 and when he retired in 1955 continued with the team, acting as non-playing captain (jointly much of the time with Harry Edwards). In fact this will be the first season in which he has had no direct contact with the team. In 1951 Harrower felt compelled, through pressure of work, to relinquish the secretaryship, and the committee evolved the system whereby each of its members undertakes a specific task, evenly distributing the association's work.

Peter Lowen took over as hon. secretary in 1954, and during his term the initial steps were taken in what may yet prove the most valuable work ever done by the Association.

Contacts were made with the Youth authorities for both the Middlesex and the London County Councils. These were developed so successfully by Norman Reeve that an interborough youth competition is now being organised regularly, while a start was made last year with a schools' competition which attracted some 40-odd teams.

To Middlesex this must be a vital field which has to be exploited because the one black spot on their proud record is the present dearth of junior girl talent, in spite of having Jean Harrower England's No. 1 junior.

The junior inter-league competition was reduced last season to only four teams—it once had ten—almost entirely due to a lack of girls. This, in a county where not so long ago even the fabulous Rowe Twins did not have things all their own way in the junior field.

So, like most counties, Middlesex is having to adjust itself to changing circumstances and although six of the nine members of its committee have served for ten years or more, the average age is still low enough to give confidence that the challenge can be met successfully.

THE HUNGARIAN "OPEN"

A NOSTALGIC REUNION

By VICTOR BARNA

DURING November the Hungarian Table Tennis Association celebrated their 35th anniversary by staging their first international "open" tournament. It was an outstanding occasion and I was happy indeed that I could avail myself of their gracious invitation to be present.

Additional to the big international field, there was a reunion of past and present players and officials. Imagine my pleasure at being seated at the same table with those great Hungarian world champions of the past, **Maria Mednyansky** and **Ann Sipos** (she now has three grown-up children).

Needless to state, we chattered and gossiped about old times and past world championships, successes and failures, and pondered much over the fact that infinitely more help is today given to youngsters than was the case some 30 years ago.

The tournament itself was a spectacular success, due in the main to the participation of the Chinese and the amazing improvement of European champion **Zoltan Berczik's** play. It must be many years since spectators enjoyed thrilling games such as the finals provided.

FUTURE STARS

The first round brought no surprises, but I must mention the splendid display of a 16-year-old Hungarian boy, **Faházy**, who, in this opening stanza, gave a fright to **Vilmos Harangozo**, the Yugoslav ace.

Faházy is really good and we shall certainly be hearing a lot about him in the not too distant future.

His score against **Harangozo** tells its own tale: 21-14, 19-21, 21-19, 26-24.

The second round revealed that the Hungarians and Rumanians have some very promising youngsters and here I make special reference to the Rumanian teenager, **Réti**. If ever I saw a world champion in the making it is this boy!

He has everything—footwork, intelligence, talent, quick reflexes, will-power, fighting spirit—the lot. He impressed me enormously.

Réti beat **Borg**, of Sweden, with supreme ease, then lost to Germany's **Konrad Freundorfer** 24-26 in the fifth, realising too late that he should have attacked more.

Incidentally, I hope for **Réti's** sake that the Rumanians don't try to make a defensive player of him, as they have a habit of doing with most of their players.

I remember that several years ago I saw Cobirzan and Golopenta hitting beautifully down both wings. Today they rarely hit, relying almost entirely on defence.

The third round was a bad one for the Swedes. **Mellstrom** lost to **Pignitzky**, of Hungary, and **Larsson** to **Chung Tse-tung**, of China. The following round saw the exit of **Harangozo**, who lost by the narrowest of margins to **Li Fu-jung**, of China, 8-21, 21-18, 10-21, 21-15, 23-21.

The finals night was one of the most enjoyable I have ever had the pleasure of witnessing.

In the first men's semi-final, **Berczik** beat **Freundorfer** 3-1, after dropping the first game. In the other semi, the two Chinese gave the crowd plenty to cheer about, with **Chuang Tse-tung** beating **Li Fu-jung** in four games.

MORE CONSISTENT

On form the final seemed a "cert" for **Chuang**, but **Berczik**, hitting more consistently as the game progressed and feeding the Chinese on his forehand, saved the second game after losing the first and easily won the third.

He had a long lead in the fourth and then committed the fatal error of relaxing, due to over-confidence, and paid the penalty by losing 19-21.

Spectators thought this was the finish for the Hungarian, but Berczik, concentrating fully once again, produced the best table tennis of his career and deservedly won the title.

The women's title was won by the home girl and European champion, **Eva Koczian**. She was in superb form and had no difficulty at all in beating all who crossed her path. Young **Sári Máthé**, who reached the final, is extremely promising and with **Kerekes**, **Lantos**, **Heirits** and **Mosoczy**.



ZOLTAN BERCIK

Hungary has never been so rich in women players.

En route to Budapest I visited Vienna to watch the Austrian "Open" and meet some old friends. It was pleasant to see **Trudi Pritzi**, **Dr. Kunody**, **Nietchman** and other "familiaris."

The tournament produced poor table tennis and there was a sensational turn-up for the book when **Larsson** beat **Berczik** in three straight in the final. Earlier, the Swede had had a narrow escape against **Markovits**, the Yugoslav, whom he just pipped 22-20 in the fifth.

There is no doubt that his defeat by **Larsson** gave **Berczik** plenty to think about and did him the world of good. In Vienna he was relying almost entirely on his chop and on the few occasions when he decided to hit, he slammed wildly. In the Budapest tournament he took the initiative throughout, even against the Chinese, and his hitting was both accurate and consistent.

Reverting to Vienna, the Swedes won another Austrian title when **Mellstrom-Larsson** took the doubles.

Eva Koczian won three titles. The surprise of the women's singles was the defeat of **Mrs. Simon** by **Sári Máthé**.

Mrs. Simon, by the way, is now the proud mother of a baby daughter. **The amazing thing is that she played in the World Series last April and hasn't missed a tournament. Nobody can say that her timing is wrong!**

REVISE COACHING IDEAS — BUT WE ARE

Says JACK CARRINGTON

(Hon. Director of Coaching E.T.T.A.)

JOHN CORSER'S article in the November issue ("Revise Coaching Ideas") is useful in that it airs certain doubts and questions which may legitimately occur to many thoughtful enthusiasts who have not the opportunity of knowing from the inside how far official thought is progressing. Bear in mind of course that however progressive official thought may become, official *action* often lags behind somewhat owing to problems of finance, time, etc.

It is easy to answer the criticism implied in the title. So far as E.T.T.A. official coaching is concerned, Coaching Ideas are being revised.

Where, I suggest, some more flexible ideas are needed is among those local coaches and sturdy independent spirits who consider that a few years or even many years of coaching exempt them from the responsibility of learning anything more.

The very first thing that all E.T.T.A.

coaching candidates are told is, "BEWARE OF BEING DOGMATIC," and the next thing is, "ALWAYS WRITE DOWN YOUR OBJECTIVE BEFORE YOU START ANY COACHING TASK."

I think Mr. Corser's thinking suffers just a little in logic from relating the objective of winning honours in the world competitions with the different but necessary objective of interesting a large circle of people in the delights of a pleasant game.

This confusion of objectives is common to many who have expressed varying views on "Coaching" without clearly agreeing in advance what they are debating.

Returning to facts: the Association's coaching ideas are being revised, not only as regards technical details, but also administratively.

One important revision that has taken place this season, is that for the first time since the inception of the office in 1953, the Director of Coaching and his technical colleagues

are taking responsibility for the further training of "elite" talent.

Up to now, the idea has prevailed that persons elected as selectors and captains were automatically suited to be trainers and coaches, whether or not they had devoted any special study to coaching from the bottom upwards, as is required of any E.T.T.A. Diploma Coach.

As a result of this attitude, the E.T.T.A.'s Coaching specialists concentrated on that other important aspect of their mandate—the improvement and encouragement of Basic Coaches, to act as practical salesmen of the game, especially in remoter areas and in humbler circles. Mind you, a number of very advanced coaches hold the Diploma. This means that they have satisfied the Coaching Committee on the thoroughness of their basic studies, although their actual standard may be far above what is required by us.

We need not apologise for the work

FOR THE TENNIS PLAYER OR CLUB

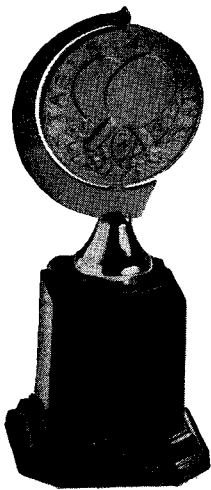
We will send a sample range of Sandwich Bats on approval for 10 days to any bona fide club.

SPORTS ENCYCLOPAEDIA

A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT

A complete record of all SPORTS including

TABLE TENNIS — Price 12/6



complete selection
of T.T. Trophies

White Tennis Shoes . . . originally double the price . . . 12s. 6d. and 8s. 6d.
Sizes 2-6 only in 8s. 6d. range.

Ladies' Windcheaters . . . 27s. 6d. down to 15s. 0d. Many colours and sizes.
All postage extra.

Combined net and sandwich gauge . . . 1s. including postage.

Blue Table Tennis Sweetlets . . . 2s. 6d. pair.

Complete range of Sandwich Bats.

Sandwich Pieces (rubber and sponge glued together) . . . 3s. 0d. per piece
(Fast, Medium or Continental 242).

Sponge Rubber 1s. 6d. per piece (I.T.T.F. Regulations).

Pimpled Rubber, Fast, Medium or Continental 242, 1s. 3d. per piece.

All Table Tennis Clothing, Shirts, Shorts, Socks, etc., including Barna Shirts
16s. 6d. and 23s. 6d., Official 21s.; Shorts, Socks, etc.

TABLES . . . ADB International Table . . . £38 10s. 0d.

ADB ½in. Match Table . . . £23 10s. 0d. H.P. Terms available.

ALEC BROOK (Sports Equipment) LTD.

85 Duke Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1.

Telephone: MAYfair 3113-5775

done at low level, since Table Tennis is an activity which must compete with other time-consuming interests in a world of ever more specialised salesmanship.

Good play in table tennis is an art—a form of personal expression within certain agreed conventions. The appeal and skill of great artists, in painting for example, varies enormously in style, but every one of them has to learn at an early stage how to draw a straight line, and a true curve.

A few geniuses, perhaps, do not actually need this instruction, but few would claim that their skill is harmed by having to perform the elementary drills.

It is in such simple skills, I think, that the only "Centralisation" of E.T.T.A. coaching exists. We do insist that all aspiring coaches must be able to demonstrate, and impart to others, such basic skills as straight line and true circle movements, soft touch, neutral balance, etc.

Although few coaching problems can be fairly stated as "Black versus White," it is tempting to mention

That Dortmund Statement—The Fact

I READ with interest the most admirable article "Revise Coaching Ideas" by John Corser, in the November issue. I would, however, like to correct the statement attributed to myself and made by the writer: "It will be remembered that last season the Chairman of Selectors said he hoped to persuade an Asian Coach to come to this country to teach us to play. This is, of course, a criticism of our own coaches, but in view of the sponge han then operating here I feel that this did not do much credit to his judgement."

The actual facts are that at the Dortmund World Championships last season, knowing the decision of the Congress on standardisation, and being quite sure that England would abide by the decision, after carrying out the experiment of rubber only, I did in the course of conversation with people, including members of the National Press, make a statement that I thought an Asian Coach would be of great help in raising our standard, I coupled this with the fact that the cost of such a coach would be beyond the limited finances of the E.T.T.A. The Press boys made much play of this.

This, I think, is somewhat different from the picture which John Corser paints of myself.

To conclude, we can all have ideas and schemes of how to put right English Table Tennis, but one always comes back to the basic fact that without the necessary cash, little progress can be achieved, unless the "natural" player, such as Leach or Simons bursts on the scene.

I. C. Eyles

(Chairman, National Selection Committee).

that many of our fans have recently watched a very highly ranked England player whose great advanced skills were largely frustrated once his Chinese opponents realised the weakness in his basic skills. He cannot, under pressure, perform a true and free circular forehand movement.

The remedy for this high-ranked player, still young, is not advanced coaching, but basic coaching!

Another young England player, well known in print to readers of these pages, still cannot, under pressure, produce a power-hit to penetrate a high-class defender. He, too, needs no advanced coaching. Any Diploma coach can tell him how to use his strength and balance more efficiently (and they do tell him!).

If our administration were "centralised" as in China, Japan, or Rumania, these talented players could be withdrawn from competition for two months to a training camp where they could be made to study the game they love.

We know this cannot happen here, even voluntarily. I contend, therefore, that Mr. Corser's "great fault of centralisation" (a) does not exist, and (b) if it did exist, might be the very thing he is looking for to drive our talented players higher!

WRONG ASSUMPTION

He is wrong, too, in assuming that only a few coaches are officially regarded as capable of teaching our better players. As I have suggested, there are many sound coaches who can see the basic errors in better players. But administratively, from an Association's point of view, a few must always take the responsibility. Other coaches are quite free to exercise their talents for money, or love, or local glory.

Let us remember, however, that even Harry Hopman or Franz Stampfl (whose technical problems are far simpler than those of a Table Tennis coach) never improved an advanced pupil who was not prepared to sacrifice something.

The French have a saying: "To jump further you must first draw back a little." Angelica Roseanu did this at the age of 27 when she withdrew from world competition and returned two years later equipped with a murderous flat hit which assisted her to win the World Singles for the next six years.

As drawing back is difficult for the established players, our official development policy is aimed at a younger generation. Nobody is stopping any established player, with or without the assistance of a coach, having a go at "jumping further" himself (or herself).

So much for revision of ideas administratively. The revision of

practical and technical ideas makes an interesting story, which I will unfold in our next issue.

Meanwhile, as an example of our "new look," may I quote the selection of Alan Lindsay as one of the coaches on the Training Course to be held at Lilleshall from December 28 to January 2.

Lindsay is hardly renowned for a slavish devotion to classical strokes; but he will be valuable in helping us to build up reaction and resourcefulness in our youthful squad on this Course.

The trainees are: Alma Taft (Hertfordshire); Diane Fitzgerald (Lancashire); Susan Thomas (Kent); Sheila Griffiths (Gloucestershire); Clive Bloy (Kent); Barry Clark and Trevor White (Leicestershire); Michael Brown (Hampshire); Derek Woodward (Cheshire).

Trainees on the September Course at Lilleshall were: Mary Shannon (Surrey); Judy Williams (Hertfordshire); Linda Gordon (Lancashire); Cynthia Blackshaw (Yorkshire); Pat Taylor (Gloucestershire).

Boys: Connie Warren (Surrey); Colin Deaton (Derbyshire); David Creamer (Middlesex); Paul Racey (Bedfordshire); Michael Pass (Kent); Barry Midgley (Hampshire); George Livesey and Jack Keogh (Lancashire); Wilfrid Barker (Durham); David Bevan and Martin White (Gloucestershire).

The training team included: Jack Carrington, Len Adams, Brian Brumwell, Ian Harrison, Mrs. Elsie Carrington, and Miss Pam Mortimer, with Peter Northcott as hon. secretary.

NORFOLK NOTES

A STRAIGHT fight seems to be developing in the Premier Division of the Yarmouth League between Caister "A" and T.U.S.C. "A".

Both teams have dropped only one point while their nearest rivals, Quayside "A" stand five points away.

Post Office "B" fill the top spot in Division One but their position is by no means safe for their chief challengers, Grouts, are so far unbeaten although they have played fewer games.

Hobbies "A", the Dereham League champions, suffered their first defeat for two years when they went down 4-6 to Dreiholz. The Saints, last year's runners-up, now move to the top of the table and their forthcoming match with Hobbies "A" might well decide the championship.

St. Barnabas still remain at the top of the First Division in the Norwich League despite their recent 8-2 defeat by Gothic.

Bullards and Spowston head Division Two but are closely pursued by St. Johns "B" and Electricity.

Yarmouth have received a record entry for their team knock out Cup competition and most sides have received byes into the second round.

Robin Wickens

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT APPRECIATED

I HAVE been running the Grosvenor Club in Southsea since March, 1952, and have found that the reasons given for the closing of the Putney Club (April issue) are equally valid here.

Increasing overheads, the tendency of the few not to pay their subscriptions and the regular abuse of the tables, nets and other facilities provided make it nearly impossible for clubs to continue.

Added to this is the failure on the part of the local and national table tennis organisations to appreciate the value of these permanent clubs and wilfully and obstinately refuse to patronise or help and sometimes actually obstruct.

Of course, if these organisations use the hall they want it free!

I run 15 teams in the Portsmouth League this year, paying affiliation fees of 15/- for each team of 3 players plus registration fees of 3/- per player plus postages, phone, heat. To my members I give Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for practice and matches. They pay me three guineas for membership from September 1 (practice each Monday in September) to March 31, so they will get 78 club nights and all fees and postages paid. Then I affiliate direct to the E.T.T.A. as well as to Hampshire and register myself as a registered member so that I can coach the youngsters, for which I only charge table time of 2/6 per hour, and honestly if they try to progress I often forget this one.

I have given them Carrington Coaching Sessions, free. I run cheap Sunday tournaments every month and my wife and I put in a working week of 84 hours each. I have had the coaching films and exhibitions of my own promoting, run raffles and here we are still wondering why we do it.

G. R. Cooper
(Hampshire).

NO REFLECTION

IT was with somewhat mixed feelings that my eyes caught the heading "Junior Upsurge" contributed by your Lancashire and Cheshire Associations' correspondent, J. K. Kennerley in the November issue.

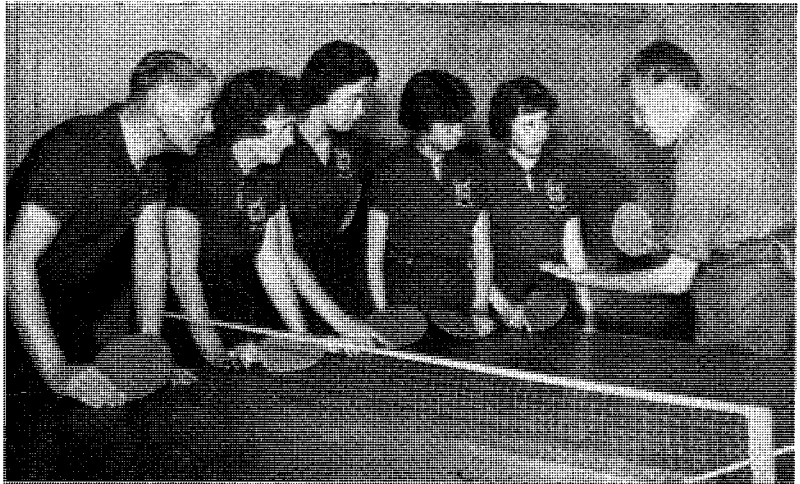
For far too long the Lancashire senior county team has been the chopping block of the Southern counties, merely providing opposition to boost their games

PLEASE NOTE

That Michael Maclaren can take Action Photographs and produce 4 10" x 8" Glossies for 1 Guinea. 12 Proofs submitted.

For information write:—

M.G.M. PHOTOGRAPHY
75 Oaklands Road, London, N.W.2



G. R. Cooper is here seen coaching members of the Holes family of Southampton. L. to R. Mr. and Mrs. Holes with Carole and twins Pauline and Christine

average, seldom, if ever, to be considered a threat.

This upsurge of junior talent in the county, personified in the ranking of Burnley's George Livesey as England's No. 1 junior, is in no great way a reflection on the policies pursued by the Lancashire County Committee in their internal administrations.

It is all very well to refer to two divisions of junior teams in such glowing terms but breaking this composition down, only 10 teams are involved—five per division. These teams meet each other only once in a season so that my own league Bolton, for example, have a programme of four matches, three up to the turn of the year and one match only in the second half of the season. Only by topping their own section can they be assured of another match against the winners of the other section.

Does this constitute a progressive policy by the architects of the County Committee whose future in the N.C.T.T.C., thanks to Ken Stanley and others outside the official sphere, has never been rosier?

G. R. Yates
(Bolton S.S.S. League)

SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEM

I WAS disturbed to read that the E.T.T.A. had made an application for permission to tour South Africa, even though the necessary I.T.T.F. sanction may well be withheld.

Table tennis has always been a shining example to other sports by rigidly adhering to our rules and not placing cash or expediency before principle.

It is well known that the Olympic Games organisers flout their own pious regulations and use specious arguments in order to include South Africa.

Similarly, cricket, rugby and soccer all indirectly support the racial policies in that country by allowing teams to travel there.

Let no body imagine that by taking part in such events we might eventually break down the barriers and soften official attitudes in that country.

Rather by tamely accepting their abhorrent policies we will reinforce their hold and allow them to take their place in world sport on their terms. And let nobody accuse those of us who oppose these tours of introducing politics into sport. The South Africans did this themselves long ago and did it with their eyes open.

After all, their action in taking away the passports of coloured representatives who dared to attend the World Championships should be warning enough to the rest of the Federation as to their attitude.

May we hope that the N.E.C. will have second thoughts and not put the I.T.T.F. committee into the position of having to remind us of the rules.

Keith Watts.
(St. Leonards-on-Sea).

BIRMINGHAM COMPLAINT

BLACK mark Birmingham "Open" for being the worst run tournament ever. Why was Bobby Stevens given special treatment? His late arrival caused great inconvenience to a lot of players who had been in the hall since 10 a.m.

Mr. Haydon must have known that in not scratching Bobby he would cause complete chaos. Mixed doubles due to start at 3 p.m. but the first round started at 6.45 p.m., 15 minutes before the finals.

Was it really necessary that while Barry Midgley was playing the semi-final of the mixed doubles (a tense, close game) he should be twice called over the loud speaker to go and play the final of the boys singles! Not good for play; most distracting.

Joan Shannon
(Worcester Park)

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH SANDWICH

By **RON CRAYDEN**

(*England's Senior Captain*)



RON CRAYDEN

ALTHOUGH the majority of tournament players are using the sandwich bat it is strangely paradoxical that most club performers remain true to ordinary pimped rubber. Is this a *laissez faire* attitude on the part of the club man or, because in his memory, there looms large the eruptions of the SPONGE era?

I am not upholding sandwich as a better medium than rubber, but I was surprised to hear that in many circles the sandwich bat is still regarded with awe, as if it were the product of a witch doctor.

Dispel such doubts and fears. Sandwich is relatively easy to play with and not unduly disturbing to play against. Standardisation has ruled out much of the devilish spins, drift and awkward bounces associated with sponge.

THE FIRST BITE

Having played with an ordinary pimped rubber bat for more than 20 years I had misgivings about changing over; perhaps the cliché about old dogs and new tricks was uppermost in my mind.

Without any practice and with but a short knock I played in a match with a sandwich bat and found my form to be round about par. A slight adjustment of strokes was necessary, perhaps most noticeably on the push shots, but it was not such a "bug-a-boo" as I had first imagined.

Careful analysis and application has added to my control and I have found enjoyment in playing, which was something missing when sponge was around.

PLAYING WITH SANDWICH

In my opinion the sandwich bat does not improve the lot of the defensive player, it lends itself to attack and counter attack. Acceleration of the ball from the table is evident but not nearly so noticeable as it was from thicker sponge materials.

Shot production is only a little different from that of an ordinary rubber bat, although certain difficulties may be experienced in gaining touch and control over the table.

Control of the push shot is of course essential and it may be gained by a forward and slightly upward movement of the racket arm making contact with the underside of the ball.

A characteristic feature of defensive shots with the sandwich is that the bat angle is greater. This allows for a flatter approach so that contact is made under rather than behind the ball. Such an adjustment should present little difficulty to those who, with rubber, had what I might term a flexible chop defence.

In attack, the short arm top spin lift is of no use. The upward path of the bat swing must now be less steep. Hitting through the ball gives that catapulting effect which accentuates the speed of the celluloid off the bounce. Control, of course, will come with practice.

WITH RUBBER AGAINST SANDWICH

When playing with ordinary pimped rubber against sandwich, use heavy chop and use it constructively. Take the bat high and bring it down sharply in a downward path letting the wrist follow through. A quick recovery is essential.

Over the table or if engaged in a pushing duel, do not cock the ball up or be timid. Chop the underside of the ball using sure steady strokes with the face of the bat paralleled to the table surface.

A loose ball or one top spun upwards calls for action; hit it cleanly and hit it hard. So many players make openings and do not position them-

selves to take advantage of them. This is so vitally important. If I may use alliteration to stress my point . . . Prepare, Position, Punch. The first two go hand in glove, the punch being the end product of earlier labours.

IN CONCLUSION

In my opinion, sponge with its varying thicknesses and surfaces was a destructive weapon. When let loose against rubber it was rather like a pistol being used at a sword fight. A case of unequal combat.

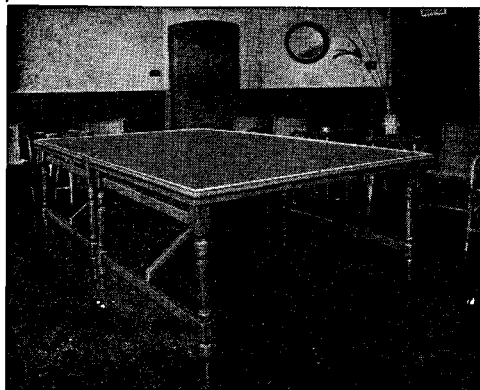
Standardisation has obviously brought a level of sanity to the game and limiting the thickness has eliminated much of the farcical.

Those bats which are thicker than the stipulated 4mm.—and there are plenty of them in use—do give additional help to the user. It is up to every fair minded player to ferret them out.

If you are not satisfied with your opponent's bat, have it measured. It is not unsporting. The bad sportsman is the one who flagrantly flaunts the rules. There are always those who given an inch will take the proverbial yard.

My summing up is that a sandwich bat is not a magic wand charged with supernatural qualities. There is still no substitute for talent.

THE BEST TABLE TENNIS TABLES AT ANY PRICE



Tournament table as illustrated - - £33 12s.

Club Model similar to above except it has $\frac{1}{2}$ " top - - - - £21
 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Top Table with folding legs - - - £19 7s. 6d.

Hire Purchase and Rental Terms available.

JOHN G. TOMS

18 Norbett Road, Arnold, Nottingham. Tel.: 268912

THE CHINESE TOUR

By GEOFF HARROWER

IF there has been a happier tour of England, made by a more friendly set of people, than the one in which the "B" team of the People's Republic of China administered a thrashing to England, then I have never seen or heard of one. What is more, this statement has the entire agreement of many long standing officials.

I had the pleasure of seeing more of them than anybody else in this country, with the exception of Ron Crayden and Ian Harrison, and I am certain that they never put a foot wrong, or said a word out of place, during the whole tour. I only hope that every British player and official

throughout, and won all eleven of his singles. Hardly less effective was Chuang Tse-tung, winner of nine out of ten singles, and the specialist in big recoveries—3-15 down against Merrett and won 21-18! Li is 17 and Chuang 18, and together these two boys won five out of the six men's doubles played.

You will see, therefore, that in the grand total of 30 men's ties, Li and Chuang played in 27. The other three men, Chu Jen-lung (aged 19), Kuo I-ping (also 19) and Hu Toa-pen (18), only one singles each. Kuo (the only Western grip player amongst them) and Hu did not appear to be good enough to trouble our best men, but Chu appeared more than useful, and it was a pity that we did not have an opportunity of seeing more of him.

China are not nearly so well off for girls. I could not understand how they came to send their champion, Miss Hu Ke-ming, with a "B" team, but it became obvious during the tour that without her the girls' side of the team would have taken a drubbing.

GIRLS NOT SO STRONG

Miss Hu, who is 18, played in every match, both singles and doubles, winning four out of six singles and two out of six doubles. The other two girls, Chih Hui-fang and Pang Hsien, are both 22, and thus considerably older than the rest of the party.

It can therefore be taken as fair inference that China do not possess any "depth" in promising young girls.

Chih won one out of four singles and Pang lost both those in which she played. If young Hu played in England throughout the season, I would expect to find her somewhere between Nos. 3 and 7 in our ranking list, with the other two not listed.

Make no mistake about it, Li and Chuang would be 1 and 2. What have their top players got that we haven't? Casual observers will answer "A series of dirty services," but this is only part of the answer. They concentrate throughout, never admit defeat, and, in fact, seem more dangerous when they are behind.

They have the supreme ability to completely relax between matches. Finding their players asleep was no surprise (after the first day!). Their success is not based on the incredible fleetness of foot which we have seen

from the Japanese. Of course, they are not slow, but then many of our players are as quick.

Now, these services. In my opinion they are perfectly fair. From close observation of many hundreds of serves, I saw less than a dozen that MIGHT have been just outside the sideline, and we all know a well known Surrey player who serves a much higher percentage than this and gets away with it! If any English player wants to compete with similar serves, then he will first of all have to do two things: Change to a penholder (or "Haydon") grip, and make his wrist more supple than any Westerner I know. After that you MIGHT develop their horrible sidespin, kicking top-spin, and disguised chop serves. Good luck.

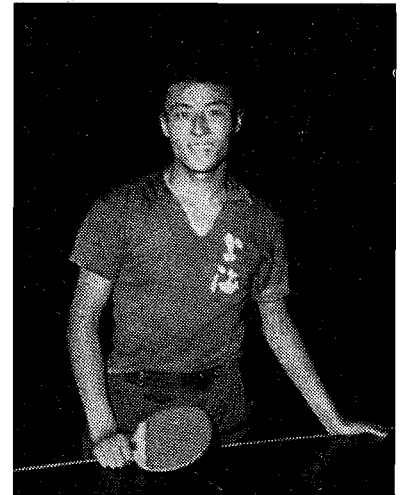


HU KE-MING

who met them will act in the same way at all times.

What can one write about a tour in which we could only draw one (and lose five) out of six matches? Of the 48 ties played we managed to win but 15. Eleven of these were won by our girls, who had a winning margin of 11 for and seven against. I hate to say it, but of the four victories by our men, two were rather hollow ones gained when China gave their Nos. 4 and 5 men one solitary match each.

Yet of the eight Chinese players, only three can be described as World class. Their two best men, who played in every match, did enough to sway the issue—and more. The No. 1 is Li Fu-jung, who played magnificently



LI FU-JUNG

If there is any reader who, not having seen any of the matches, believes that the newspaper stories about these serves were grossly exaggerated, then he must think again. Ask Bryan Merrett. He was the unfortunate who opened the tour, against Li, and to a non-player it must have appeared that his returns of the first three points were a music hall joke. Yes, they were feet off the table in three different directions!

Ian Harrison, who played in all six matches, and Merrett, playing in the first three, got used to the "secret weapon," and reduced them to very good serves which could be returned, if carefully watched. So did Betty Bird. Betty will forgive me if I say

she is not a class player, but her example of dogged determination to get stuck in and give as good as she got made her one of the few successes from our point of view.

Head and shoulders above everyone else stood Diane Rowe. Her record was even better than Li and Chuang's, as she won all her matches, singles and doubles. There can be little doubt, that, if Di can retain this form, and Ann Haydon plays next season, as is expected, then we do have an excellent chance of regaining the Corbillon Cup.

Don't, however, let us think of the Swaythling Cup. There were occasions when Harrison looked a class player, especially at Birmingham. Merrett improved considerably, and at Oxford might easily have won both his singles instead of losing them. It would be unfair to criticise Derek Burridge, Laurie Landry and Alan Rhodes. They each came in for one match, to replace Brian Kennedy, who was too busy with his coffee bar. As things turned out it was a mistake to give any player only one match. The handicap of getting used to the serves was too much.

DISAPPOINTING

Kathleen Best and Pam Mortimer were disappointing. Kathleen's game, so effective against English players, has not the same sting against Asians, it would seem. Brutally, her movements are too slow to deal with the quick counter hits. Pam is all at sea with spin services, but she laughs more merrily and plugs away. Here again, it seems that Pam is more effective against players she knows.

There were other successes on the tour. Ron Crayden was a tower of strength, and he must surely have come to stay as non-playing captain. Mr. Tu Chien, leader of the Chinese party, a vice-president of their Association, and vice-director of the

Shanghai Physical Culture Association, was never at a loss for a smile or a ready answer. The one which impressed me most was that there are 400,000 affiliated table tennis players in Shanghai alone! Mr. Kao Ho, the interpreter, was another who did much to make the tour a success.

Final summing up. If these Chinese spend all their time touring the world, there will be far less international tension. Please come again, and soon. And a word to those players likely to face these serves in the future. Go and take lessons from Adrian Haydon!

SLOUGH. England 1, China 7.

B. Merrett lost to Li Fu-jung 8-21, 12-21; lost to Chuang Tse-tung 19-21, 10-21. I. Harrison lost to Chuang 13-21, 21-23; lost to Li 16-21, 14-21.

Harrison/Merrett lost to Chuang/Li 20-22, 18-21.

Mrs. B. Bird bt Chih Hui-fang 21-12, 21-19. Miss P. Mortimer lost to Hu Ke-ming 18-21, 21-10, 14-21.

Mortimer/Bird lost to Hu/Chih 12-21, 21-17, 16-21.

HASTINGS. England 4, China 4.

Harrison lost to Li 15-21, 18-21; lost to Chuang 18-21, 21-13, 13-21. Merrett lost to Li 12-21, 12-21; bt Hu Tae-pen 21-13, 21-14.

Mrs. Bird bt Hu 19-21, 21-10, 21-17. Miss Rowe bt Pang 21-19, 21-13.

Mrs. Bird/Miss Rowe bt Hu/Chih 21-13, 8-21, 21-18.

Harrison/Merrett lost to Li/Chuang 22-20, 19-21, 21-15.

OXFORD. England 3, China 5.

Merrett lost to Chuang 21-12, 19-21, 19-21; lost to Li 20-22, 21-23. Harrison lost to Li 12-21, 14-21; lost to Chuang 10-21, 9-21.

Miss P. Mortimer bt Chih 12-21, 21-16, 22-20. Miss K. Best lost to Hu 14-21, 19-21.

Miss Best/Miss Mortimer bt Hu/Chih 21-17, 21-17.

Harrison/Merrett bt Li/Chuang 8-21, 21-16, 22-20.

BIRMINGHAM. England 3, China 5.

Harrison b Chuang 21-23, 22-20, 23-21; bt Kuo I-ping 21-13, 21-13. L. Landry lost to Li 16-21, 8-21; lost to Chuang 9-21, 19-21.

Mrs. Bird lost to Hu 16-21, 18-21. Miss Best bt Pang 21-13, 21-18.

Mrs. Bird/Miss Best lost to Hu/Pang 16-21, 20-22.

Harrison/Landry lost to Li/Chuang 6-21, 21-11, 18-21.

CHELTENHAM. England 2, China 6.

Harrison lost to Li 21-19, 12-21, 17-21; lost to Chuang 11-21, 21-23. A. Rhodes lost to Chuang 19-21, 19-21; lost to Li 15-21, 15-21.

Miss Best lost to Chih 21-11, 16-21, 14-21. Miss Rowe bt Hu 21-19, 21-16.

Miss Best/Miss Rowe bt Hu/Pang 18-21, 21-16, 21-12.

Harrison/Rhodes lost to Chunag/Li 19-21, 15-21.

TOTTENHAM. England 2, China 6.

Harrison lost to Li 16-21, 21-23; lost to Chuang 17-21, 16-21. D. Burridge lost to Chuang 11-21, 12-21; lost to Li 9-21, 20-22.

Miss Rowe bt Chih 21-15, 21-7. Miss Mortimer lost to Hu 19-21, 8-21.

Miss Rowe/Miss Mortimer bt Hu/Pang 21-18, 17-21, 21-19.

Harrison/Burridge lost to Chuang/Li 15-21, 15-21.

THE CIRCULATION DRIVE

THIS month we publish the first "League Table," based on the percentage of sales to actual membership. Hats off to East Anglia can be the only possible comment on this first list. Of course, some positions have been helped by International matches, etc., and other counties will rise when they have big events to catch the casual sales.

The story I like best this month comes from that tireless worker, Mrs. Edgar Reay. A little dissatisfied with her sales, she took quite a journey to a ladies inter-league match, only to find no audience, just the eight players. "So I just had to sell eight copies, one to each player — even though two already had copies," was Mrs. Reay's modest remark.

Teddy Grant has been persuaded to become Mazagine Secretary of Hampshire, and you can look for a steady climb up the table for Hants. Most of the sales from this county came from his own private efforts in the past, and now, with the county backing, I expect big things.

Please, any errors or queries, tell us first. Thanks! Note: 100 per cent. total indicates you are on target, under 50 per cent., then a big effort is needed.

County	Percentage
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	244
SUFFOLK	243
OXFORDSHIRE	190
NORFOLK	157
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	139
WARWICKSHIRE	130
WILTSHIRE	123
HERTFORDSHIRE	109
ESSEX	94
SUSSEX	85
BERKSHIRE	79
MIDDLESEX	77
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	70
DURHAM	70
LINCOLNSHIRE	53
SURREY	50
LANCASHIRE	44
LEICESTERSHIRE	41
DEVON	37
YORKSHIRE	36
KENT	32
HAMPSHIRE	32
BEDFORDSHIRE	22
STAFFORDSHIRE	20
SOMERSET	17
CHESHIRE	10
DORSET	9
WORCESTERSHIRE	9
NORTHUMBRLAND	4
CORNWALL	—
DERBYSHIRE	—
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	—
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	—
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	—
SHROPSHIRE	—

BERNARD CROUCH TROPHY

ESSEX, with wins over Middlesex and Surrey, have taken the lead at the end of the first round of matches in the Bernard Crouch Trophy, the annual competition between the three counties. They beat Middlesex 5-4 away and Surrey 6-3 at home.

Surrey were also unsuccessful in their home match with Middlesex losing 4-5.

The three counties have to meet each other twice more.

	P.	W.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Essex	2	2	0	11	7	4
Middlesex	2	1	1	9	9	2
Surrey	2	0	2	7	11	0

MY PLAYERS OF THE MONTH

Diane Rowe and David Creamer

by Johnny Leach

AS I see it, the top spot this month belongs undisputedly to Diane Rowe who, at the time of writing, is unbeaten this season, having won both the "Open" tournaments she has entered and proved the only English player the Chinese couldn't beat.

Di came in for a lot of criticism, some of it from official quarters, because she refused to take part in early-season tournaments. After an extremely busy summer coaching youngsters at Butlin's Holiday Camp, Skegness, she knew from previous experience that it was a mistake to plunge straight into the fray, and was

determined this time to have adequate period of preparation.

How wise she was is now apparent, for I have never known our "left-handed twin" so settled and composed in her demeanour, nor seen her so commanding in her play as she is at present.

This is a Diane we seldom saw during the reign of her sister Rosalind, or during that of Ann

found as his coach in the *News of the World* and *Eagle* schemes, and as his E.T.T.A. and Middlesex teachers will no doubt confirm, he responds particularly well to coaching.

So far as coaching is concerned, David owes a great deal to his older brother, Michael, who is himself an excellent all-round player with splendid footwork and stroke production, and is thus ideally equipped for teaching.

One thing I would like to see Michael work on is David's footwork which, when David is moving quickly from defence to attack, is a little suspect. Often he is forced to attempt a kill over his body, or while still moving, and this makes his aggressive strokes erratic.

It is gratifying to note the selectors, who originally ranked David at No. 6, have now promoted him to England's team of four juniors who are to compete in the International Junior Tournament in Aachen (West Germany) early in the New Year.

WELSH CORNER

SWANSEA ran a very successful "Open" Tournament in November, and form showed a great improvement on that of the Port Talbot "Open".

The men's final was a repeat of the same event last season, Morgan winning the first game, before Evans came into his own and retained his title.

In the women's singles, Audrey Coombs-Jones looked like hitting her way to victory after beating Greta Dimascio with ease in the semi-final. However, in the final, although hitting strongly down the backhand wing, she eventually went down in the third to the greater experience of Audrey Bates.

Audrey Coombs-Jones had her revenge in the women's doubles, partnering Betty Gray to a three games win over Audrey Bates and Greta Dimascio.

The mixed also went to Audrey Coombs-Jones who partnered Glyn Morgan, to beat Stan and Margaret Jones two straight.

Dimascio and Jones won the doubles, beating Thomas and Parker after a semi-final win against Glyn Morgan and Alan Morris.

Kimber, a Bristol boy, won the Junior title, beating Hulbert, another of Jack Price's Abergavenny treasures.

Latest positions in the Welsh League are as follows: Division 1: Cardiff 12 pts., Newport 10, Swansea 10, Port Talbot 7, Abergavenny 6, Cardiff Public Services 6, Eastern Valleys 5, Rhondda 4.

Division 2 North: Tredegar 7, Aberdare 6, Abergavenny II 4, Merthyr 4, Brecon 3.

Division 2 South: Cardiff II 6, Cardiff Public Services II 5, Rhondda II 5, Bridgend 4, Eastern Valleys II 4.

Women's Division: Cardiff 3, Swansea 3, Cardiff Public Services 1, Newport 1.

Junior: Cardiff 7, Swansea 7, Aberdare 6, Abergavenny 6, Newport 3, Port Talbot 3.



DIANE ROWE

DAVID CREAMER

Haydon which followed. She has fitted straight in to the role we need her to play now that she has the full responsibility of leading England on her shoulders.

Though she has remained faithful to "pimples," Diane has already proved that she can out-hit the most aggressive sandwich sponge opponent, while her low defensive returns carry very heavy backspin. But what impresses me most is Diane's much improved footwork which carries her into exactly the right position for each stroke, and virtually guarantees the success of the stroke before she makes it.

This calculated approach is the result of a new confidence which we all hope will grow with the further success she seems bound to enjoy this season.

To see Diane outplay the Chinese girls, always with something to spare, was a revelation.

My "Man of the Mouth" is young David Creamer, because of his consistent run of success in Junior "Open" tournaments and his outstanding performance at the Essex "Open", where he reached the Men's Senior Singles' Final.

David, with his "boxer-like" physique and the way he moves to the ball is a natural player, yet as I

PLYMOUTH ENTERPRISE

PLYMOUTH League bring a major tournament within reach of many players in what must be considered an outpost of table tennis, when they stage the West of England "Open" in the Gymnasium of the Royal Naval Engineering College, Crownhill, on January 2.

It is the first time the meeting has gone so far West, and for the convenience of competitors travelling long distances a limited amount of accommodation is being made available on the Friday and Saturday.

R. Nicholls.

WARWICKSHIRE DIARY

STILL on the trial of those elusive people, the "players of tomorrow", Warwickshire are broadening their coaching activities.

In addition to the schemes already in operation, the county are introducing a weekly four hours session at the central Y.M.C.A. Birmingham on Saturday mornings. These sessions are open to anyone, from beginners upwards and we are hoping they will bring to light some new material.

Our present Juniors appear to have a fair chance of winning their Division in the National County Championships, having beaten both Leicestershire and Bedfordshire, but the first team is still busy making the hard climb up the promotion ladder.

Both the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl matches are being played in Birmingham again, this year on December 19, the Wilmott Cup at Birmingham Gas Club and the Rose Bowl at Lucas's.

M. E. Evans.

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS

Conducted by LAURIE LANDRY

FIRST THICKNESS CONTROVERSY

THE Merseyside "Open," held at Speke, near Liverpool, in the spacious Dunlop Canteen which supplies possibly the best playing conditions in the country, was the scene of the first "thickness of bat" controversy.

Ron Crayden, the E.T.T.A. representative at the tournament, noticed one of his opponents using a bat which looked far too thick. The bat was subsequently measured and found to have a covering of 5mm.

This set other players wondering and many of them found that their bats were well outside the limits despite the fact that they had only recently bought them.

The only explanation seems to be that these were old "pre-ban" stock, and it is therefore advisable for anyone wishing to purchase a bat to make absolutely sure that it is within the stipulated limits of thickness.

I was disgusted by an anti-semitic remark passed to me by a nondescript player during the Merseyside tournament.

Table tennis is a world wide sport which embraces 73 nations in its International Federation. People of different colour, creed and nationality do their bit through the game to help make world peace a reality. Yet this stupid person saw fit to openly pass such a comment.

This type of behaviour will not be tolerated in table tennis. If the person who causes me to write this piece was expressing his true sentiments then he is not wanted in our sport.

Over to Birmingham and more trouble. Always a difficult tournament to run, the organisers never seem to make it easier for themselves.

Rules are made for the purpose of

the smooth running of the tournament and below are two extracts from those printed on the entry form.

Rule 6: "No player shall be permitted to substitute another to play in his or her place."

Rule 11: "No entries will be accepted for one event only with the exception of events 1, 3, 6, 7, and 9." (These are the five singles).

The organisers stuck rigidly to these early on and did not permit any substitutes to replace those who had scratched. Later, however, when it was apparent that Lynn Whithams would not be coming and that Pam Mortimer would be partnerless, we suddenly found that Ann Haydon had been substituted and that Rule 6 had therefore been broken. She had not entered in any other event and as the women's doubles is event No. 4 on the entry, Rule 11 had also been broken.

Come now, Birmingham, play the game. We players enter subject to the regulations and we expect them to be kept. Either leave out the rules or stick by them despite the status of players concerned otherwise ill-feeling is bred and this is the worst thing possible for the continued good relations between player and organiser.

ESSEX TRIALS

Over to something not to do with tournaments but with trials . . . in fact the Essex trials.

Are these really a worthwhile way of assessing a player's capabilities?

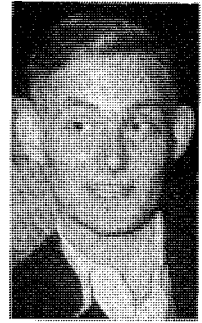
Each year the Essex ranking list is based on performances at the trials but the top players are so familiar with each other's play—they all compete in the East London League—that irregularities are bound to occur.

A notable example of this is Bobbie Raybould. He is currently ranked 9th in England, higher than any of his county colleagues, yet can manage only No. 4 in Essex behind Brumwell, Stevens and Curtis in that order.

Essex would also appear to be out of step with other counties by disobeying the golden rule that players, particularly those contending for places in the team, should not be on selection committees.

At present two Essex county players are on the selection committee, and unless this position is altered it could cause a lot of ill feeling.

I have received a letter from the mother of one young player asking



LAURIE LANDRY
Picture by courtesy
of Michael Maclaren

me to discuss tournaments played on Remembrance Sunday.

She writes: "The 'under 17's' singles in the Kent 'Open' at Folkestone had to be stopped for the two minutes' silence. The interruption affected most of the 22 players involved in varying degrees, some at vital points. Surely in this important tournament where many juniors hope to make their mark, and in which are many overseas entries, another date would seem desirable. Failing this, then a 20 minutes' interval which would give all matches a chance to finish before the 'silence' should be possible."

The writer goes on to point out there is criticism among parents and competitors about the small outlay on trophies, particularly for the runners-up.

"Even a small medal holds more significance for an aspiring junior than a certificate and the cost cannot be much more," she writes. "Naturally the game is played mainly for itself, but these youngsters could be greatly encouraged if their early efforts were acknowledged by some small trophy to keep."

"The tournament is well supported (511 entries in all events this year), many competitors and parents travelling a long way and staying over two nights."

"Surely a small trophy or medal for winners and runners-up to retain could be met from entry fees. If not I am sure there are many adults who, if approached, would willingly subscribe to make this possible. After all, future seniors are obtained from the juniors of today."

These are the views of one parent. What do you think?

It's the 1st anniversary of "Talking Points" next month, so let's hear from some of you who do not get around so much and make it truly representative of all players.

Keep talking!

BATH "OPEN"
POSTPONED

THE Bath "Open," originally arranged for November 28, has been postponed until January 23, owing to the military requiring the Drill Hall, Lower Bristol Road, Bath, for a big exercise.

The venue remains the same, but the closing date for entries will now be January 9. Mr. J. A. Butcher, 1, South View Road, Tiverton, Bath, is the organising secretary.

TALKING POINTS

ORGANISERS' REPLIES

Replying to criticism of the Kent Junior "Open" Jimmy Mannooh says, "This criticism appears to come from someone with little knowledge of 'Open' tournaments. The chance of changing dates are remote while the interruption of play on eleven tables for a period of 20 minutes could well jeopardise the early finish if entries were heavy.

"On the question of medals, the extra costs of these would present great difficulty. Entry fees are comparatively so small that they do not nearly cover the cost of running the tournament.

"We have been presenting certificates now for three years and to the best of my knowledge we have never had any previous criticism. In fact I had the impression that they were fairly well received on account of being different from the 'usual medals.'

"I do feel that parents with criticism would have been more courteous to approach the organisers direct."

Harry Walker, the Essex secretary writes:

"While the three points raised by Laurie Landry are all of interest the question of whether or not to have trials is one which is always open to conflicting ideas, particularly at a time of a change-over from one type of bat surface to another.

"The main object of selection committees at the start of the season must not be only to do justice to players but for it to be apparent that justice is done.

"On disagreements between two groups of selectors, first, as long as there are selectors, official and otherwise, there will always be disagreement on the relative merits of a player.

"The composition of a selection committee is always difficult and in fact the selection of selectors is probably more difficult than the selection of players.

"The maximum amount of knowledge is always desirable and it can be remarked that in addition to the two players of present county standard on the Essex committee there is an ex-county player, a regular player of average league standard, and an official of comparatively long experience of the administrative side of table tennis.

"This surely gives a wide coverage and with unbiased county players such as the two on the Essex committee, it is considered that only good can result.

"It could be commented that few will dispute Peter May, Colin Cowdrey and Brian Statham being on the cricket tour selection committee in the West Indies."

UMPIRES' CORNER

ADVICE NOW PERMITTED

A NUMBER of changes were made at the last meeting of the I.T.T.F. Congress in Dortmund, both to the Laws of the Game and the Regulations for International Competitions.

N.U.C. Chairman, Geoff James, has

now sorted out the alterations affecting us, and his Committee is preparing amendment sheets for the Umpires Handbooks.

As it may be a little time before all umpires receive these I should like to mention some of the more important matters which will be included.

An addition to "Knotty Points" concerns Law 10 and stipulates that it is the sole responsibility of the server even in doubles to ensure that the umpire is able to see that the service is a fair one.

If the umpire suspects that the service is not good, but cannot be sure because his view is obstructed he shall warn the server and on any subsequent occasion call a fault.

Law 8, which deals with the incorrect order of service, has been simplified. The new wording makes it clear that, as soon as the umpire notices the order of play is incorrect, he calls a let. The next rest begins with that player serving who would have been serving had the mistake not been made, irrespective of the score or the number of services that have been completed.

It is now possible, therefore, for a player to serve ten times in succession, the first five out of turn and the next five after the mistake has been discovered.

A corresponding amendment has been made to Law 21, covering incorrect order of serving or striking-out in doubles, and taking into account the possible change of order at the score of 10 in the final game.

A significant change has been made in the Regulations dealing with advice to players in International Competitions.

Players are now permitted to receive advice from any one person while they are changing ends between games, provided play is not unduly interrupted, but they must nominate this person before the start of the match and they are not allowed to change their adviser.

Finally, the recommendation that was made a few seasons ago that, as an experiment, the passage of time in a time-limit game be indicated by the umpire calling out the number of remaining minutes and raising the appropriate number of fingers at 17, 18 and 19 minutes, has now become a regulation. To take the place of the former recommended experiment a new idea is proposed that at the 17th minute the umpire is to hold up a green flag and at the 19th minute a red flag.

This has not yet been adopted by the E.T.T.A., but if it is the poor umpire will undoubtedly be subjected to comments about railway trains, and suggestions that the time-limit might be indicated by the blowing of a whistle!

He will, I am sure bear this with the quiet resignation which he has always shown and reflect with satisfaction that he at least, if not the players, is giving the spectators some entertainment.

ANOTHER LOSS

TABLE TENNIS has lost another of its stars to a different sport. Following on the heels of Ann Haydon is Geoff Pullar, 24-year-old Lancashire county player, now on his way with the rest of the England cricketers for a series of Test matches against the West Indies.



For the past few seasons cricket has been first choice for Pullar, but it was in table tennis that he first made his mark.

He began playing the game at the age of 10 and six years later was awarded a junior international badge. Then, while still a junior, he was selected for Lancashire seniors and has been a regular member of the side ever since.

Pullar's cricketing prestige has, however, risen much higher and much quicker. From playing his first county match in 1958 he jumped to international status within one season when he was selected to represent England against India last summer.

Perhaps more table tennis players should take up cricket. It certainly seems to be a good grounding for after playing regularly last season, Pullar swapped over to cricket and scored 2,700 runs to take second place in the batting averages.

Bryan Cutress.

SAVING THE CLUBS

ENTERPRISE on the part of players has saved two leading London clubs going out of existence, (writes Harrison Edwards).

International Harry Venner has taken over the Putney Club from Bob Atherton, while Alan Lindsay, Ian Redfearn, Mike Creamer and Norman Slifkin have between them found £200 to ensure the table tennis section of the West Ealing Club carries on for at least this season.

"As a club I don't expect Putney to pay," said Venner, "but I shall combine it with my coaching activities."

West Ealing was to have closed unless a membership of 75 was guaranteed. As this did not appear likely by the November deadline, the four players decided to cover the cost in the hopes of recovering it as the interest increases.

The club will be open all the week with the exception of Wednesdays and Fridays.

WEST BROMWICH CURTAILED

THE zoning of the Midland League, a step taken to prevent long distance travelling, has greatly curtailed the playing programme of West Bromwich.

However, to make up for this cut West Bromwich have re-entered the Staffordshire County League and playing in Division Two will have to meet Stone, Stafford, Dudley, etc.

The main hopes of success this season rest with the Women's "A" team of Dorothy Worrall (20), Christine Charman (19), Barbara Wall (19) and Marjorie Cumberbath, who has represented the town over 100 times.

For the past three seasons this team has finished runners-up to Birmingham and are now determined to go one better.

Christine Charman's 16-year-old sister Ann, who recently played in the England Junior trials, is improving every week.

A member of the Staffordshire Junior side, she also leads the Women's "B" team who this year are in the top Midland League Division with the "A" side.

Most disappointing feature in West Bromwich this season is the decline of the junior boys. Only four players have been nominated and the Selection Committee have therefore been forced to withdraw the junior team from the Midland League for the first time in many years.

The Oak Club, the only remaining club in West Bromwich, has among its six teams six of the town's veteran players.

In fact the Oak "B" team must be one of the oldest in the Midlands with an average age of 52, while their "E" team is one of the youngest with an average age of 15.

Recently a four-man team from Oak played the veterans of Meir Social Club and although the ages of the two teams totalled 402 years there was plenty of enthusiasm and quite a good standard of play.

A. A. Wall.

DERBY'S FIRST "OPEN" WINNER

AFTER a disappointing start to the season by the county team, what better news was there than Colin Deaton's success in the Hull "Open." This is the first time in history that a Derbyshire player has ever won an "Open" Championship.

With an unchanged team from the Durham match, Derbyshire were perhaps a little unfortunate to lose to Cheshire 7-3. Seven of the ten games went the full distance.

For the first time, a coaching week-end was organised at Buxton by the County Youth Service. E.T.T.A. Coach, P. Norman, was very impressed, and says that

with a little more experience, several of the pupils could be a useful asset to the County.

In the County League scene, Derby with a 6-4 win over Buxton are all set to retain the title, and are eagerly awaiting the clash with Chesterfield.

At the last County meeting, the proposition of a Junior Girl's event in the annual closed championship was carried.

GREAT WILTS. DEBUT

PAM SMITH, the Corsham Over-Eighteens Group player, made a great debut for Wiltshire in their Division Two (West) 7-3 away win over Dorset when she won her singles 21-16, 18-21, 21-15, against Dorset's No. 1 Mrs. Matthews, and partnered by Salisbury's Kathleen Waters were also successful in the Women's Doubles.



PAM SMITH

Seven times Division 1 Champion, Alan Alexander, currently ranked No. 6 in the Wiltshire Rankings took under ten minutes to end County Champion Tony Wolfe's (ranked No. 1) nineteen months' unbeaten run in Wiltshire League matches with a convincing 21-15, 21-8 victory when Devizes were beaten 6-4—after leading 3-1—by Wiltshire Premier League Champions Swindon.

Alexander, whose lightning forehand, has also given him wins over Salisbury Champion Denis Waters and team-mate Tony Ward, ranked 3 and 4, must certainly be a serious challenger for County honours after an absence of nearly two seasons from the Wiltshire side.

Both Major Roddham and Ben Sage provided upsets to form with wins over county seed Tony Ward when Chippenham were beaten 6-4 at Salisbury.

DIVISION 1 LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
West Wiltshire	3	2	0	1	23	7	4
Salisbury	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Swindon	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Devizes	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Corsham	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Chippenham	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

Donald Hillier.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

IT has been a busy month in the county for representative matches. In the Midland League three victories were recorded at Derby—the Men's First team won 8-2, the Second team won 6-4 and the intermediates won 10-0.

Since then the intermediates have won their return match by 8-2.

Brendon Thompson returned to the team for the match with Derby, in which Jacques and Reid both won two.

There were three players undefeated in the second team—Paul Newby, Glen Liversage and John Ellis, who are now playing with sandwich rubber. Newcomer Janet Shaw is showing good form in the

junior side. In her first game, against Staffordshire, she showed a good temperament, and looks to be a player of the future.

The senior team drew 5-5 with Staffordshire in Division 2 (Midland) but it was the same story as last year—all the wins came from the men's events. Charlie Jacques and Philip Reid both won their two singles, and Gordon Murray, at eighteen, the youngest player to represent the county for years, defeated John Osborne at a critical stage—when Leicestershire were trailing 5-3.

It is now over a year since Leicestershire won a mixed match and although both Pat Kilsby and Pauline Davis played better against Staffordshire, it will obviously be quite a long time before the county can expect many positive results in women's events.

In the Leicester and District League, interest has focused more on the lower divisions. Highcross, a new club, lead the way in both 5A and 6B. Stylish Brian Worsley is undefeated in 5A while in 6B Keith Jeffrey can boast a similar record. A.E.I. Lamps look hot favourites to take the 6A title, particularly if Tony Benigna can maintain his present form.

In cup competitions there has been the usual crop of surprises. Perhaps the biggest being the failure of Byron and Knight to hold Corona in the second round of the Rose Johnson Cup. Denis Smith, Roy Walker and Raymond Pollard all won two for the winners.

The Saracen Cup, looks to have some good third round matches. Likely winners Joseph Johnson and Highcross play each other.

The Rose Johnson Bowl has brought forward a good display from one of the junior team newcomers, R. Cooper. Playing for Barwell Y.M.C.A. he won both his matches in two straight which gave his team a 6-4 victory over Spinney Hill W.M.C.

Congratulations to Pauline Davis, the Leicester women's team captain on her November marriage to Jim Jackson, also a member of the Wiltshire first team.

Roy Tester has now joined the ranks of the County Umpires in Leicestershire, but more are still needed.

Philip Reid.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE STARS CLASH

A CLASH of Gloucestershire's leading players saw the full-strength Wagons Works team of Bryan Merrett, Roy Morley and his wife Betty suffer their first defeat for several years in the Gloucestershire League.

They went down 2-6 to G.A.C., represented by Ian Harrison, Bob Griffin and veteran Jack Yandell.

Merrett toppled Harrison when winning his three singles. However, Harrison got a measure of revenge by partnering Griffin to beat Merrett and Morley, who are the county champions.

Gloucester City League are bemoaning a dearth of junior talent. Apart from David Bevan they have no one of note. Cheltenham and Bristol are much better off in this direction.

Les Davis.

INDIVIDUAL & CLASS COACHING

G. A. STARKE

(E.T.T.A. Teaching Theory Cert.)
182 MORDEN ROAD,
MERTON PARK, S.W.19
Monarch 6060—Ext. 86

NO YORKSHIRE RELISH

STUART DYSON does not have Yorkshire relish for his sandwich. While getting used to the changeover he has been knocked out in the first round of three "open" tournaments running.

He had a remarkable inter-league match against Leeds. Against Phil Sladdin he led 15-5 in the first and lost; 11-4 in the second and scraped home 21-19; and lost a lead and the set in the third. Yet he was 15-19 down in the third against Terry Lofthouse—and won. Leeds lost this match 8-2 but their women reversed the score, Marjorie Lightfoot beating Mavis Dyson.

They also beat Barnsley, for whom Lillias Hamilton, back in Yorkshire after two years at Newcastle, beat Marjorie Harrison and Shirley Riley.

Doug McGarry played for Yorkshire's second team at Northumberland yet opened the season at number four in Barnsley's "B" side. His four wins were invaluable in 6-4 victories over York and Leeds "B," for whom Bill Harrison took two.

York's Bob Lowe lost to McGarry 20-22, 25-23, 21-23, but was unbeaten in York "B" wins over Knaresborough (9-1) and Harrogate "B" (6-4).

Halifax had two 7-3 wins, the youths beating Bradford and the women overcoming York.

Although Hull crashed 9-1 at Bradford, chunky Pete Smith was in good form to beat Soova and take Pitts to 21-19 in the third.

The "B" teams shared the points. Hull's Ron Jackson was the only unbeaten player, though he had a close call against Duncan Clayton. Losing the first, he was 16-19 down in the second but hit his way home 21-19 and took the third 21-11.

Barry Lightowler's two singles for Dewsbury did not save them from a 6-4 reverse against Bradford "B."

Crack clubs Victoria (Leeds) and Albion (Sheffield) met in the inter-club competition and although the steel men juggled their team order they failed by 5-1 because Kathie Best and Lofthouse hit peak form to beat Deaton and Ridge respectively. Ridge beat Kathleen by counter-hitting for Albion's sole win. Hull Y.P.I. put out Dewsbury Nelson, Clive Pollard winning three; Barnsley Wanderers (Chick Robinson, Peter Kenyon and Jim Harrison) upset the powerful South Leeds Conservatives, and Railway Institute "A" (York) knocked out Hermits (Bradford) 5-4.

Toast of Doncaster is Cynthia Blackshaw, who completed a hat-trick of girls' open championship titles within a month at the Merseyside.

A bouquet, too, to Batley/Dewsbury players, who sent 14 players to the Hull "Open." That was the biggest entry apart from local players and Sheffield's 15.

Rotherham Y.M.C.A. (holders) and Crookes lead the league in Sheffield; North End, Wanderers and Y.M.C.A. at Barnsley. Bradford League champions Metal Box beat Clayton Heights 10-0. Heights, the only team with continuous first division membership since the war, could not remember being "dry-rubbed" before.

Y.M.C.A. are 100 per cent. at Huddersfield, with Brighouse Co-op. and Britannia Works scrapping for division two. Y.M.C.A. Juniors (Dave Hirst, Stuart Sykes and Ray Howlands) are well up in their first season in the top division.

Malcolm Hartley.

CAMBS. GOOD START

CAMBRIDGE set off determinedly on the trail of the Wilmott Cup when they thrashed Cambridge University by 10-0 in the first round of the competition.

There was never any doubt about the outcome for Cambridge had previously inflicted the same crushing defeat on the University in a friendly match.

Nevertheless it was good to see John Cornwall, John Thurston and Reg Dean playing so well. On this form they can well conquer their next opponents, Norwich.

Cambridgeshire made a disastrous start to their programme in the National County championship. They were completely outplayed and failed to win a match against competent Kent.

The Cambridgeshire League is now in full swing and Wesley are at present occupying top place in the First Division table with New Chesterton Institute hard on their heels.

Cambridge City footballer, Michael Granger, is making good headway at table tennis and is among my "players to watch" list which also includes Michael Boland, Keith Chapman and David Ponder.

Leslie Constable.

WESTERN COUNTIES

BULLETIN

FANTASTIC RECOVERY

A FANTASTIC recovery by Bob House helped Bath to gain a narrow 5-4 victory over Newport in the Western Counties Championship.

House was trailing 1-17 in the third game of his match with Priting when he suddenly hit his top form, fought back gallantly and conceded only one further point!

House scored one other singles success while the remaining Bath victories were gained by D. Smith.

Newport gained some consolation for this defeat when they beat Weston by 5-4 while Bath were thrashed 7-2 by Bristol "A." Smith was again Bath's outstanding player, beating both R. Hayden and T. Dinambro.

Bristol "A" remained unbeaten when they scored an 8-1 victory over their "B" team.

Mrs. B. Bonner was the only successful player in the Weston Ladies team which went down 2-7 to Newport, for whom Miss M. Counsell won all her three matches.

Grove Motlow.

DURHAM NOTES

TWO, TOO MUCH

TWO county matches in the the one day proved a little too much for Durham juniors. They trounced Cheshire 8-0 in the afternoon only to go down 2-6 to Lancashire in the evening.

Wilf Barker, now England's No. 3 junior, provided one of the high spots of the Lancashire match when he beat Jackie Keogh, who ranks a place above him. Barker, who also partnered Miss M. Coe to beat George Livesey the No. 1 junior and Miss L. Gordon, is certainly making his mark outside the county. He won the junior title at the Hull "Open," and he has now been rewarded with a place in the England junior team for the International Tournament at Aachen, West Germany, in January.

Durham were well represented at the Hull meeting and there is every sign of a major revival of interest in this area.

G. K. Fletcher.

MIDDLESEX UPS AND DOWNS

THE last month has been one of ups and downs for Middlesex and its players. First the downs. A 4-6 defeat by Surrey was a severe blow to championships aspirations. Nevertheless it was a good match and we hope for better things in the remaining fixtures.

Down was the entry for the Middlesex Schools tournament, but it still boasts 33 schools and 46 teams.

On the brighter side, following Kennedy's withdrawal from the England team against China, Derek Burrige, Laurie Landry and Alan Rhodes were all picked for one international. Well done, boys.

Well done also David Creamer for getting into the final of the men's singles in the Essex "Open." A great effort.

The junior county team are well on the way to their fifth successive title with wins over Hertfordshire, Sussex and Kent.

The Bernard Crouch team have had two very close matches, losing to Essex 4-5 after having beaten Surrey 5-4. Stan Jacobson was outstanding, winning all his singles in both matches. He has shown good form this season with two semi-final tournament appearances and a doubles title.

It is now too late to enter the Middlesex "Open" at Hanwell Community Centre, Westcott Crescent, W.7, but spectators are welcome at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 13.

CLUB BADGES

Attractive cloth badges can now be supplied in any quantity from six upwards at low prices and with quick delivery. Made entirely to your own design and suitable for wear on blazers or sweaters, etc. Free assistance given in designing your badge if required. Details from S. A. CORY AND COMPANY, 30 St. John's Hill, LONDON, S.W.11

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

by CONRAD JASCHKE

SURREY STRENGTHEN HOLD

PREMIER DIVISION champions Surrey had a nasty shock at Gloucester, where they found Bryan Merrett and Ian Harrison in sparkling form. Taking four singles and the men's doubles between them, the two Gloucestershire men deprived the champions of a vital point.

However, Surrey came back in champion style by beating Middlesex 6-4 at Kingston.

Ken Craigie gave the home team a good start by out hitting Alan Rhodes, and although Jo Somogyi dropped the first game against Laurie Landry, he took the next two, having taken the measure of Landry's attack.

Harry Venner next had his chance when he led 17-14 against Derek Burridge, but he missed three "sitters" and the Middlesex man went on to wear him down with a solid defence. A women's doubles win followed for Surrey and when Craigie and Venner overcame Landy and Rhodes in the men's doubles, they had established a 4-1 lead.

Di Rowe, although not playing her best, still had the class to overcome Betty Bird who is playing so well this season, by 21-17, 17-21, 21-17. Middlesex hopes received another setback when Craigie beat Landry in straight games to make Surrey 5-2, but the mixed doubles reduced the lead, and when Rhodes beat Venner in the best match of the evening, it was 5-4.

KEEN STRUGGLE

Everything now depended on Somogyi v Burridge. After one game all, Somogyi pulled away to 9-4 in the third, only to let Derek catch up at 10-10. At 15-15 it was still anybody's game, but Somogyi with his super backhand hit made sure of the issue, to leave Surrey the winners.

Outstanding feature of the match was the way in which what looked at one stage like a runaway win developed into a tense and exciting struggle. Winning captain Fred Joyce—deputising for Ron Crayden who was away on England duty—was overjoyed at seeing his county beat Middlesex by 6-4 for the second year in succession.

Said hero of the match Ken Craigie: "I had all the luck that was going, but when we play Middlesex neither side ever wins unless the luck is with them. I had plenty of trouble with my Japanese sandwich bat, but the players against me had even more trouble!"

Middlesex captain Harry Edwards told me: "The luck was not with us, and the slippery floor did not help either. Burridge and Landry both had a fall, and this sort of thing is upsetting. We have now dropped two points, and Surrey have dropped one. We both still have to play Essex and Yorkshire. As far as I am concerned the championship is still wide open."

And as far as I am concerned, Harry, it is too, though I still say, as I did in October, that Surrey will put up a great fight to retain the title... and for my money they are still the favourites, in a four-horse race!

Michael Thornhill had been selected

for this match, but asked to be excused as pressure of business had prevented him from practising. I understand he will not be in the Middlesex team against Glamorgan either.

Yorkshire head the premier table by virtue of their two 7-3 wins over Gloucestershire and Glamorgan. Against Glamorgan they took the field without Brian Kennedy, and obviously their chances of taking the championship north for the first time must depend on his availability. Without him, I cannot imagine that they have any chance at present.

Maurice Simpson deputised ably against Glamorgan, but Yorkshire cannot look at the harder matches ahead with any confidence unless Kennedy is there to lead the way.

The big left-hander from Leeds has had his ups and downs on the international scene, but he is a magnificent team player when representing his county. His showing at the Top Ten indicates that sandwich has put points on his game compared with last season.

For Glamorgan, Ron Davies again put up a fine show when he beat Stuart Dyson, and although he could not overcome Ray Hinchliff he did take a game off him. Greta Dimascio was the Welsh side's other most successful player, being on the winning side both in the women's and mixed doubles.

SKERRATT MISSED

Lincolnshire could ill afford to be without their No. 1 Peter Skerratt for the match against Gloucestershire, who administered a 9-1 pasting at Stonehouse. Mike Sheader was Lincolnshire's only winner, beating Bob Griffin, who came into the Gloucestershire team in place of Peter Partos.

In Division II North, Cheshire made progress in their quest for promotion with a 7-3 win over Derbyshire at Stockport. Surprise of the match was the men's doubles defeat of Derek Schofield and Eric Johnson by Colin Deaton and A. Hunt, who also collected a singles win each. What is more, both extended Schofield to three games.

Worcestershire made a bad start in their Division II Midland match against Bedfordshire, at Worcester. Paul Racey gave Bedfordshire a winning start, and then B. Clark made it 2-0 when he beat R. Lush 20-22, 23-21, 27-25. However, Worcestershire

BEARDED WONDER

RAYMOND HINCHLIFF has grown a lucky beard. Lucky? Well this Yorkshire stalwart has known defeat in only one of six Premier Division sets so far.

Introducing him before the match against Gloucestershire, Mr. Maurice Shaffner, the Yorkshire president, announced: "You will have to take my word for it, but this is Raymond Hinchliff."



There was a hum of surprise from the spectators when they

saw what Raymond had been up to during the close season.

His only singles defeat so far was to Ian Harrison—and he won the first and led 17-16 in the second before his attack let him down. With Huddersfield colleague Stuart Dyson he has scored two doubles victories one over the redoubtable Harrison-Merrett partnership.

Yorkshire fans anticipate more successes from their "bearded wonder."—M.H.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

December 17 Middlesex v Essex, Municipal Hall, High Road, Tottenham, N.17

7.15 p.m.

SOUTH DIVISION

December 19 Hertfordshire v Kent, The Foresters Hall, Turners Hill, Cheshunt

7 p.m.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

January 6 Lancashire v Cheshire, Y.M.C.A., Peter Street, Manchester

7 p.m.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

December 19 Sussex v Suffolk.

took the next six matches in straight games, and although Racey won another singles, Bedfordshire lost 3-7.

A player calling for special mention is A. Wickens of Buckinghamshire. Facing Kent's second team in the Southern division, Buckinghamshire had little hope of winning, but although they went down 2-8, Wickens will have just cause in remembering the match with pride. He beat Kent's Dennis Whittaker who last season was regularly playing in the premier division. Although lacking the all-round equipment of the Kent player, Wickens won by sheer

determination. Whittaker, a very fine player when at his best, was visibly shaken, and lost the last match of the night to Buckinghamshire's No. 1, J. Unsworth.

Turning to the South Junior Division, it looks all over bar the shouting. Middlesex, winners for the past four years, have already beaten Hertfordshire, Sussex and Kent, and I cannot see Essex, Surrey or Suffolk stopping them.

TIP FOR HERTS.

Hertfordshire are my tip for runners-up. Herts. have beaten every county in this division at one time or other except Kent, but despite a valiant effort by Bob Ractliffe (who played though suffering from the after effects of a concussion he suffered at a school rugby match) they could only draw 5-5 when they entertained their bogey team at St. Albans. It was an exciting match, with Kent always one in front, until the end, when Ractliffe saved a point by beating Michael Pass 18-21, 21-12, 21-15, having earlier disposed of Derek Basden.

Judy Williams had a rare tussle in beating Susan Thomas 22-20, 22-20, while Alma Taft was on the winning side in the girls' doubles (with Judy)

and the mixed (with Bob). This broke up the successful Ractliffe and Williams mixed doubles partnership . . . which had won nine consecutive mixed doubles in county matches before the switch was made.

Previously, Hertfordshire had their work cut out to beat Surrey 6-4. Ractliffe was unbeaten, while N. Szeremeta weighed in with two singles wins, and G. Seaholme with one.

Alma Taft played the singles and was well beaten by Mary Shannon, who also partnered Carol Bagshaw in a 20-22, 21-18, 21-19 doubles win over the Hertfordshire girls.

B. Finucane scored Surrey's only boys' singles victory (over Seaholme) and was also on the winning side in the boys doubles.

Durham had mixed luck in the North Junior division, beating Cheshire 8-0 in the afternoon, but losing to Lancashire 2-6 the same evening. Wilf Barker was Durham's star turn against Lancashire, winning a mixed doubles (with Miss M. Coe) against George Livesey and Linda Gordon, then upsetting the junior rankings by beating Jackie Keogh 21-18, 22-20. Still, Lancashire, with Livesey, Keogh and Miss Gordon are well nigh unbeatable in this division.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

PREMIER DIV.					
Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	14 6 4
Surrey	2	1	1	0	11 9 3
Gloucestershire	3	1	1	1	17 13 3
Essex	1	1	0	0	8 2 2
Middlesex	2	1	0	1	13 7 2
Glamorgan	3	1	0	2	13 17 2
Lincolnshire	3	0	0	3	4 26 0
Lancashire	0	0	0	0	0 0 0

LEAGUE TABLES

DIV. II NORTH						
	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. P.
Cheshire	2	2	0	0	13	7 4
Yorkshire II	1	1	0	0	8	2 2
Durham	1	1	0	0	7	3 2
Derbyshire	2	0	0	2	6	14 0
Northumberland	2	0	0	2	6	14 0

DIV. II MIDLAND					
Worcestershire	2	2	0	0	14 6 4
Warwickshire	1	1	0	0	8 2 2
Staffordshire	1	0	1	0	5 5 1
Leicestershire	2	0	1	1	8 12 1
Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	5 15 0

DIV. II SOUTH					
Hampshire	2	2	0	0	16 4 4
Kent	1	1	0	0	7 3 2
Sussex	1	0	0	1	2 8 0
Berkshire	2	0	2	5	15 0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0 0 0

DIV. II WEST					
Cornwall	2	2	0	0	13 7 4
Devon	1	1	0	0	7 3 2
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	11 9 2
Somerset	1	0	0	1	3 7 0
Dorset	2	0	0	2	6 14 0

MIDLAND DIV.					
Glamorgan II	1	1	0	0	9 1 2
Nottinghamshire	1	1	0	0	8 2 2
Oxfordshire	1	0	0	1	2 8 0
Staffordshire II	1	0	0	1	1 9 0
Warwickshire II	0	0	0	0	0 0 0

SOUTHERN DIV.					
Kent II	3	3	0	0	28 2 6
Buckinghamshire	2	1	0	1	10 10 2
Norfolk	1	0	0	1	2 8 0
Cambridgeshire	1	0	0	1	0 10 0
Suffolk	1	0	0	1	0 10 0
Hertfordshire II	0	0	0	0	0 0 0

JUNIOR NORTH					
Lancashire	1	1	0	0	6 2 2
Durham	2	1	0	1	10 6 2
Cheshire	1	0	0	1	0 8 0
Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0 0 0

JUNIOR SOUTH					
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	25 5 6
Hertfordshire	4	2	1	1	24 16 5
Kent	4	1	2	1	17 23 4
Essex	2	1	1	0	13 7 3
Surrey	3	1	0	2	17 13 2
Sussex	2	0	0	2	3 17 0
Suffolk	2	0	0	2	1 19 0

JUNIOR MIDLAND					
Warwickshire	2	2	0	0	13 3 4
Staffordshire	2	2	0	0	11 5 4
Leicestershire	2	0	0	2	6 10 0
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	2 14 0

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Gloucestershire 5, Surrey 5
 P. Partos lost K. Craigie —10, —14; lost H. Venner —9, —6. I. Harrison bt Venner —12, 18, 15; bt J. Somogyi —17, 10, 15. B. Merrett bt Somogyi 16, 17; bt Craigie —15, 15, 15.
 Harrison/Merrett bt Craigie/Venner 15, —17, —15.
 Mrs. S. O'Brien lost Mrs. B. Bird —14, —9.
 Mrs. O'Brien/Mrs. E. Spokes lost Mrs. Bird/Miss P. Piper —8, 19, —18.
 Partos/Mrs. Spokes lost to Somogyi/Miss Piper 23, —14, —15.

Gloucestershire 9, Lincolnshire 1
 R. Griffin bt D. Smith 16, 13; lost M. Sheader —10, 13, —20. I. Harrison bt Sheader 10, —14, 17; bt B. Edlington 13, 14. B. Merrett bt Edlington 15, 7; bt Smith 12, 9.
 Harrison/Merrett bt Edlington/Sheader —16, 16, 7.
 Mrs. E. Spokes bt Mrs. W. Eanor 9, —18, 15.
 Mrs. S. O'Brien/Mrs. Spokes bt Mrs. Eanor/Mrs. C. Moran 11, 16.
 Griffin/Mrs. O'Brien bt Smith/Mrs. Moran —18, 11, 19.

Yorkshire 7, Glamorgan 3
 M. Simpson bt A. Thomas 18, 16; bt B. Dimascio 19, 16. R. Hinchliff bt Dimascio 21, 16; bt R. Davies 17, —18, 15. S. Dyson lost Davies —7, 15; bt Thomas —15, 13, 18.
 Dyson/Hinchliff bt Davies/Dimascio 15, 18.
 Miss K. Best bt Mrs. A. Coombe-Jones 13, 11.
 Miss Best/Mrs. M. Harrison lost Mrs. Coombes-Jones/Mrs. G. Dimascio —17, 9, —15.
 Simpson/Mrs. Harrison lost Thomas/Mrs. Dimascio —20, —20.

Surrey 6, Middlesex 4

J. Somogyi bt L. Landry —18, 10, 13; bt D. Burrige —16, 14, 16. H. Venner lost to Burrige —20, —14; lost to A. Rhodes —17, —17. K. Craigie bt Rhodes 16, 20; bt Landry 11, 14.
 Venner/Craigie bt Landry/Rhodes 17, 19.
 Mrs. B. Bird lost to Miss D. Rowe —17, 17, —17.
 Somogyi/Miss M. Piper lost to Burrige/Miss Rowe —16, —18.
 Mrs. Bird/Miss Piper bt Miss J. Harrower/Miss M. Fry 13, 18.

DIVISION II NORTH
 Northumberland 2, Yorkshire II 8.
Cheshire 7, Derbyshire 3.
DIVISION II MIDLAND
 Worcestershire 7, Bedfordshire 3.
 Staffordshire 5, Leicestershire 5.
DIVISION II SOUTH
 Hampshire 8, Berkshire 2.
DIVISION II WEST
 Wiltshire 4, Cornwall 6.
 Somerset 3, Devon 7.
 Dorset 3, Wiltshire 7.
MIDLAND DIVISION
 Glamorgan II 9, Staffordshire II 1.
JUNIOR NORTH
 Durham 8, Cheshire 0.
 Durham 2, Lancashire 6.
JUNIOR MIDLAND
 Leicestershire 3, Warwickshire 5.
 Oxfordshire 2, Staffordshire 6.
 Warwickshire 8, Oxfordshire 0.
 Staffordshire 5, Leicestershire 3.
SOUTHERN DIVISION
 Cambridgeshire 0, Kent II 10.
 Kent II 8, Buckinghamshire 2.
JUNIOR SOUTH
 Hertfordshire 3, Middlesex 7.
 Kent 1, Middlesex 7.
 Essex 8, Sussex 2.
 Surrey 4, Hertfordshire 6.
 Hertfordshire 5, Kent 5.

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>
Dec. 12-13	Middlesex "Open" (Nov. 28) Hanwell Community Centre, Westcott Crescent, W.7.	B.S. G.S.	Miss I. Moss, 49, Okehampton Road, Kensal Rise, N.W.10.
12	Yorkshire "Open"		
Jan. 2	West of England "Open" (Dec. 17) The Gymnasium, Royal Naval Engineering College, Crownhill, Plymouth.	J.S.B. J.S.G. J.D.	R. J. Nicholls, 27, Palmerston Street, Stoke, Plymouth.
2	Yorkshire Junior "Open"		
5-9	ENGLISH "CLOSED" (Dec. 14) Greenwich Baths, London, S.E.		E.T.T.A., 265, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.
15-16	WELSH "OPEN" Cardiff.		
16	Lancashire "Open" (Jan. 2) De Havilland Propellers Ltd., Lostock, Bolton, Lancs.	J.S.B. J.S.G. V.S.	A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Bolton.
22-23	QUADRANGLE INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales), Belfast.		
23	Bath "Open" (Jan. 9) Drill Hall, St. Peter's Church Hall, Lower Bristol Road, Bath.	J.S.B.	J. A. Butcher, 1, South View Road, Twerton, Bath.
23	Pontefract "Open" (Jan. 12) Assembly Rooms and Town Hall, Pontefract, Yorks.	J.S. V.S.	T. Horrocks, "Rockland," Bondgate, Pontefract.
30	Gloucestershire Junior "Open" (Jan. 20) Public Baths, Barton Street, Gloucester.		G. O'Brien, 4, Barrington Drive, Hucclecote, Gloucester.
30-31	Kent "Open" (Jan. 11) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.	Y.S.B. Y.S.G.	G. N. Harding, 7, Joyes Road, Folkestone.
Feb. 13-14	Bucks "Open" (Jan. 18) Slough Community Centre, Farnham Road, Slough.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	L. Thompson, Auchmead, The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraysbury, Bucks.
20	Devon "Closed" Trinity Hall, Park Hill Road, Torquay.	J.S.B. J.S.G. V.S.	P. R. Sleeman, 18, Warberry Road West, Torquay.
20	Grimsby "Open" (Feb. 13) Augusta Street Barracks, Grimsby.	J.S.B.	H. G. Vincent, 4, Orby Grove, Grimsby.
26-27	Midland "Open" (Feb. 15) Friends' Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham.	J.S.B. J.S.G. J.B.D. V.S.	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
27-28	WEST GERMAN "OPEN" Berlin.		
27/Mar. 5	West Middlesex "Open" (A) West Ealing Club, Mervyn Road, West Ealing, W.13.	Y.S.B. Y.S.G. B.S. G.S.	D. N. Redfearn, 26, Woodstock Road, West Ealing, W.13.
5	Cheshire Junior "Open" (Feb. 20) Livingstone Street Baths, Livingstone Street, Birkenhead, Cheshire.		R. A. Bissell, 75, Southdale Road, Birkenhead, Cheshire.
13-14	BELGIAN "OPEN" Brussels.		

KENT JUNIOR "OPEN"By **FRANK BATEMAN****GERMAN STRANGLEHOLD BROKEN**

AT long last the German stranglehold on the Kent Junior "Open" Championships was broken at the Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone, on November 7 and 8.

Only in the "under 17" boys' doubles event were they successful. Admittedly they had no Freundorfer, Arndt, Prandle or Heide Dauphin in the team, but none-the-less it was most pleasing to see Mary Shannon become the first English girl to win the "under 17" singles event since Joyce Fielder in 1954.

Entries were slightly down on previous years but in the lower age groups the girls outnumbered the boys—a thing unheard of before. This was mainly due to a large entry from the Crescent Club.

To reach the final of the "under 17" boys' singles George Livesey beat Brooks, Kaiser (Germany), who previously beat Mozdecaki, Offenbach and Whalley.

In the other half David Creamer beat Elliott, Easty, Lief (Germany), Hill and Keogh—after a tough struggle 21-12, 12-21, 21-18.

Creamer must have convinced the watching selectors that he is the top English junior in everything bar the ranking list when he crushed the official No. 1, George Livesey by 21-4, 21-16.

In the "under 17" girls' singles Judy Williams lost to the Belgian, M. Petre, who later went down to another Hertfordshire girl—the cheerful Alma Taft.

Mary Shannon, playing her usual attractive game, came through the other half of the draw proving too good for Carol Holes, Christine Holes, J. Cornelis (Belgium) and Jean Harrower.

Although Jean beat M. Knipschild (Germany) in the quarter-final, she was only a shadow of her former self.

Miss Shannon convincingly defeated Miss Taft in the final by 21-16, 21-12.

The German pair V. Kaiser and P. Lieb won the boys' doubles without much trouble.

The girls' doubles went to Alma Taft and Susan Thomas who, after defeating the Germans in the semi-final, conquered J. Cornelis and M. Petre (Belgium) in the final. Miss Cornelis and Miss Petre scored a good win in the semi-final over the fancied pair Miss Harrower and Miss Williams.

Michael Pass and Petre teamed up well together to win the mixed doubles. In the final they beat Livesey and Miss Harrower who had earlier disposed of the doubles specialists, Midgley and Miss Shannon, and the Germans Lieb and Miss Knipschild.

Brian Hill scored Lincolnshire's only success when he narrowly beat Ian Giles (Middlesex) 19-21, 23-21, 21-15, in the final of the "under 15" singles.

Two youngsters to note in this group are Hertfordshire's Brian Sykes and Geoffrey Parks, who lost to Hill and Giles in the final of the "under 15" boys' doubles—21-11, 21-15.

They have only been playing the game a few months and in the not too distant future may nurse Hertfordshire to premier division status.

Heroine of the "under 15" girls' singles was Christine Holes, who beat the Belgian M. Stas 18-21, 24-22, 21-15 in the final. What a keen table tennis family the Holes are. They should keep the Hampshire flag flying near the top for many years to come.

Miss Stas (Belgium) well deserved her two "under 15" doubles successes partnered by Susan Thomas and Peter Brooks, a member of Bristol's well known Page Club.

Hertfordshire boys Peter Williams and Stuart Seaholme were outstanding in the "under 13" events—Peter winning their singles battle 22-20, 22-20, while together they easily beat the Funnell brothers, of Sussex, in the final of the boys' doubles.

Cornelis beat Kay Stokes 21-7, 21-15 in the final of the girls' singles.

The left and right handed twins Beverley and Gloria Sayer were most convincing to win the girls' doubles and obviously have a great future.

New events this year were the "under 11" boys' and girls' singles won by Derek Corbett and nine-year-old Romford girl, Linda Henwood, who had only nineteen inches of her 4ft. 1in. appearing above the table.

Although having several anxious moments wondering whether the new flooring would be ready for the start—the last board was laid just in time—the Tournament Committee got through the large programme very well and all the finals were completed by 8.30 p.m. on Sunday.

"UNDER 17" EVENTS

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: G. LIVESEY (Lancs.) bt G. Whalley (Sussex) 21-13, 21-15. D. CREAMER (Middx.) bt B. Hill (Lincs.) 21-12, 12-21, 21-18.

Final: CREAMER bt Livesey 21-4, 21-13.

Girls' Singles. Semi-Finals: A. TAFT (Herts.) bt M. Petre (Belgium) 17-21, 21-17, 21-12. M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt J. Cornelis (Belgium) 21-15, 17-21, 21-9.

Final: SHANNON bt Taft 21-16, 21-12.

Boys' Doubles. Semi-Finals: U. KAISER/P. LIEB (Germany) bt Whalley/Creamer 21-15, 24-22. W. KEOGH/LIVESEY (Lancs.) bt B. Wright/D. Offenbach (Middx.) 21-17, 13-21, 21-16.

Final: KAISER/LIEB bt Keogh/Livesey 21-12, 21-19.

Girls' Doubles. Final: S. THOMAS (Kent)/TAFT bt Cornelis/Petre 21-16, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles. Final: M. PASS (Kent)/Miss PETRE bt Livesey/Miss J. Harrower (Middx.) 21-12, 21-9.

"UNDER 15" EVENTS**FINALS**

Boys' Singles: B. HILL (Lincs.) bt I. Giles (Middx.) 19-21, 23-21, 21-15.

Girls' Singles: C. HOLES (Hants.) bt M. Stas (Belgium) 15-21, 24-22, 21-15.

Boys' Doubles: HILL/GILES bt G. Parks/B. Sykes (Herts.) 21-11, 21-15.

Girls' Doubles: THOMAS/STAS bt Cornelis/Petre 19-21, 21-14, 21-10.

Mixed Doubles: P. BROOKS (Glos.)/Miss STAS bt G. Parks (Herts.)/Miss G. Sayer (Essex) 21-16, 21-17.

"UNDER 13" EVENTS**FINALS**

Boys' Singles: P. WILLIAMS (Herts.) bt S. Seaholme (Herts.) 22-20, 22-20.

Girls' Singles: CORNELIS bt K. Stokes (Kent) 21-11, 21-7.

Boys' Doubles: WILLIAMS/SEAHOLME bt D. Funnell/B. Funnell (Sussex) 21-7, 21-12.

Girls' Doubles: B. SAYER/G. SAYER (Essex) bt Cornelis/E. Wyles (Sussex) 21-13, 21-13.

"UNDER 11" EVENTS**FINALS**

Boys' Singles: D. CORBETT (Essex) bt D. Funnell (Sussex) 21-15, 23-21.

Girls' Singles: L. HENWOOD (Essex) bt M. Water (Kent) 21-15, 21-9.

PETERBOROUGH "OPEN"

Men's Singles Final: D. SCHOFIELD bt T. Densham 21-17, 21-18.

Women's Singles Final: J. WILLIAMS bt W. Blades 21-9, 21-11.

Men's Doubles Final: M. SHEADER/P. SHERRATT bt D. Griffiths/M. White 21-18, 23-21.

Women's Doubles Final: M. SHANNON/A. TAFT bt. J. Williamson/M. Stafford 21-9, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles Final: DENSHAM/Miss WILLIAMS bt B. Midgley/Miss Shannon 21-10, 21-12.

Boy Singles: MIDGLEY bt D. Basden 21-13, 12-21, 21-12.

Girls Singles: SHANNON bt Williams 23-21, 21-13.

ESSEX "OPEN"

By GEOFF HARROWER

Landry Wins Tournament of Shocks

THE Essex "Open" at Hackney on October 31/November 1 seemed a good tournament for the top men to avoid—at least, those who were wise after the event! Bobby Stevens was the first casualty, he lost to Ken Beamish at 19 in the third, in a group. Johnny Leach almost followed him: against recent Kent junior Michael Ellis he was a game and 11-18 down, then 17-20 down. Ellis had his fourth match point at 21-20, but Johnny got an edge, and scraped home 23-21. The third was easy for him.

These shocks were mild compared to Sunday. Laurie Landry, the "seed," got safely through the top quarter, with wins over Crayden and Densham, after Densham had won a thriller versus Lindsay at 19 in the third. In the second quarter, Derek Burrige had to scratch through illness, and Stan Jacobson used his excessive top spin to good advantage, beating in rapid succession McCree (4 and 5), Miller (11 and 15) and O'Hara (7 and 12), to reach the semi-final.

Thus the shocks were kept for the bottom half. In quarter No. 3 Tony Pidcock had his day of glory, with straight game wins over the "seed," Bobbie Raybould, and Eddie Hodson. Then followed a comfortable three game victory over Leach.

Perhaps even these surprises were mild compared with the bottom quarter. First Brumwell, celebrating his appointment as Junior Captain, beat holder Len Adams, and England No. 3 Somogyi. He was then himself beaten by one of the juniors he is encouraging, David Creamer. What is more, David was 13-17 down in the final game.

In the semi-finals Landry found Jacobson less formidable (due to the dozens of times he has played him in local leagues) than other players, while, in a rather nervous match, Creamer beat Pidcock and thus became the first junior boy to reach the final of a major "open" tournament for many years.

He nearly became the first winner, as, in the final, he took the first game 21-18 and led 5-3 in the second, but Landry's greater experience came to his rescue.

Juniors provided other items of comment. Jean Harrower, right off form so far this season, was beaten by Sheila Foster, and her rôle of giant killer was taken over by Mary Shannon, who beat Jean McCree, and only just lost to Joyce Fielder in the semi-final after leading 18-17 in the final game. In the other half, Betty Bird was really close to coming through to take yet another final, but Diane Rowe won the closest of close matches.

Mary Shannon also shone, with young Barry Midgley, in the mixed doubles, where they accounted for Landry and Mrs. Bird in straight games. They then took Raybould/Piper to 20-all in the third. The old partnership of Leach/Rowe were good winners of this event.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: L. LANDRY bt S. Jacobson 21-16, 21-18. D. CREAMER bt A. Pidcock 21-19, 21-17.

Final: LANDRY bt Creamer 18-21, 21-12, 21-13.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: J. FIELDER bt M. Shannon 21-17, 15-21, 21-18. D. ROWE bt Mrs. B. Bird 16-21, 21-13, 25-23.

Final: ROWE bt Fielder 21-14, 21-17.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: S. JACOBSON/A. LINDSAY bt E. Hodson/P. Pudney 19-21, 21-6, 21-17. B. BRUMWELL/J. LEACH bt L. Landry/A. Rhodes 21-11, 18-21, 24-22.

Final: JACOBSON/LINDSAY bt Brumwell/Leach 22-20, 21-9.

Women's Doubles. Final: Mrs. E. CARRINGTON/Mrs. J. McCree bt M. Shannin/S. Thomas 21-14, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: R. RAYBOULD/Miss M. Piper bt B. Midgley/Miss Shannon 18-21, 21-19, 24-22. J. LEACH/Miss ROWE bt R. Stevens/Miss M. Fry 21-18, 21-19.

Final: LEACH/ROWE bt Raybould/Piper 21-12, 16-21, 21-13.

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: B. WRIGHT bt P. Racey 21-11, 12-21, 21-11. D. CREAMER bt D. Offenbach 21-14, 21-7.

Final: CREAMER bt Wright 21-13, 21-11.

Girls' Singles. Semi-Finals: M. SHANNON bt A. Taft 23-21, 21-19. J. WILLIAMS bt J. Harrower 23-21, 21-23, 21-14.

Final: WILLIAMS bt Shannon 21-16, 14-21, 21-17.

MERSEYSIDE "OPEN"

PATIENCE paid off for Laurie Landry when he beat Jeff Ingber 21-18, 21-15, in the men's singles final at the Merseyside "Open" at Speke, near Liverpool, on November 7.

Forsaking his usual top spin attacking policy, Landry concentrated on keeping the ball going on the backhand and waiting for forehand returns before hitting out. The usually defensive Ingber became irritated and started to hit, which eventually led to his downfall.

Landry did not have things all his own way in the earlier rounds and had to survive two match points against him before overcoming Matt Sheader, while he also dropped a game to Maurice Pitts in the quarters.

Ingber won a long drawn out semi-final against Josef Somogyi by 22-20, 22-24, 21-18, both wating the other's mistakes.

Pam Mortimer and Betty Bird easily came through weak opposition to reach the women's singles final, which the Warwickshire player eventually won by 16-21, 21-14, 21-14.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: L. LANDRY bt V. Hankey 21-9, 21-12. J. INGBER bt J. Somogyi 22-20, 22-24, 21-18.

Final: LANDRY bt Ingber 21-18, 21-15.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: P. MORTIMER bt D. Wilkinson 21-12, 21-17. Mrs. B. BIRD bt M. Leigh 21-18, 21-16.

Final: MORTIMER bt Bird 16-21, 21-14, 21-14.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: J. SOMOGYI/G. MURANYI bt V. Hankey/J. Clayton 21-15, 21-14. LANDRY/R. CRAYDEN bt J. Ingber/P. Strulovitch 21-14, 21-19.

Final: SOMOGYI/MURANYI bt Landry/Crayden 21-17, 15-21, 21-15.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: MORTIMER/BIRD bt M. Illingworth/M. Bradshaw 21-23, 21-9, 21-16. W. SWIFT/LEIGH bt M. Jones/J. Roberts 21-19, 21-19.

Final: MORTIMER/BIRD bt Swift/Leigh 21-9, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: LANDRY/Mrs. BIRD bt E. Johnson/Miss D. Wright 21-16, 21-19. STRULOVITCH/Miss D. RIDGEWAY bt Muranyi/Miss Roberts 14-21, 21-17, 21-17.

Final: LANDRY/BIRD bt Strulovitch/Ridgeway 21-11, 21-16.

Junior Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: C. THOMAS bt P. Duncombe 21-15, 21-10. E. BRISCOE bt R. W. Smith 21-19, 21-17.

Final: THOMAS bt Briscoe 21-18, 21-16.

Junior Girls' Singles. Semi-Finals: C. BLACKSHAW bt L. Gordon (Lancs.) 21-14, 13-21, 21-12. L. PROUDLOCK bt L. Gordon (Yorks.) 21-17, 21-17.

Final: BLACKSHAW bt Proudlock 15-21, 21-11, 21-8.

Veterans' Singles. Final: H. SPIERS bt E. Mansell 21-6, 21-9.

BIRMINGHAM "OPEN"

Terry(fic) Densham Wins Again

THE Birmingham "Open" seems to inspire Terry Densham. Last year he shocked everyone by winning the men's singles and now, after an indifferent interim period, he has surprisingly retained the title.

His main rivals Alan Rhodes and Laurie Landry both fell early. Rhodes went down to Piddock (21, 17) while Landry found Maurice Simpson, a "return to rubber" player, much too steady, being beaten 10-21, 17-21.

So in the opposite half to Densham two surprise semi-finalists appeared, doubles partners, Alan Lindsay and Stan Jacobson.

Jacobson, employing his well-known super top-spin tactics, outplayed Derek Schofield (18, -19, 12) and then Simpson (7, 12). Lindsay after a tough battle with Connie Warren (19, -16, 15) beat Piddock by 21-14, 21-16.

Densham only just got through against Ray Hinchliff with a narrow 21-17, 16-21, 21-19 win while Stevens qualified as his semi-final opponent by beating Brumwell 21-16, 12-21, 21-18.

Brumwell had looked a certain winner when he led 18-12 in the third but Stevens, fighting grimly, avoided defeat by winning the next nine points in a row.

Lindsay beat Jacobson in one uninteresting semi-final and Densham accounted for Stevens in the other.

The final was the best I have seen this season. Some of the backhand to backhand rallies were brilliant and the retrieving from Lindsay was fantastic.

After losing the first game Densham fought back and from 14-all in the third secured his title without conceding another point.

The women's singles provided the biggest surprise of the tournament when Elsie Carrington beat Pam Mortimer in the semi-final. Mrs. Carrington dropped the first game easily and did not appear to have the necessary ability to topple Miss Mortimer. However, from then on she began to dominate the play and eventually gained her shock victory by 8-21, 21-19, 21-14.

Mrs. Carrington met her match in the final where after a close struggle she was beaten by Jean McCree 21-19, 12-21, 23-21.

Mrs. Carrington and Mrs. McCree paired up in the doubles but in the final were unable to make any impression on Miss Mortimer and Ann Haydon, a last minute substitute, when Lynn Whithams scratched.

Landry and Rhodes retained their doubles title in an event not overloaded with good play.

The mixed doubles had very few regular pairings. In fact the scratch partnership of Densham and M. Leigh won the title beating Diane Wright and Eric Johnson in the final.

George Livesey took the boys' singles title when, after being pressed for the first two games, he eventually defeated Barry Midgley.

Surprises in this event were caused by the Middlesex players, Offenbach, who conquered Racey by 21-8, 21-14, and Wright, who beat Keogh by 14-21, 21-9, 23-21.

Offenbach eventually went out to Livesey and Wright was surprisingly beaten by local boy C. Cadwallader.

Mary Shannon added yet another junior title to her collection when she beat Hilde Brautigam in the girls' final.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: T. DENSHAM bt R. Stevens 21-13, 22-20. A. LINDSAY bt S. Jacobson 21-15, 21-6.

Final: DENSHAM bt Lindsay 8-21, 21-16, 21-14.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: E. CARRINGTON bt P.

Mortimer 8-21, 21-19, 21-14. J. McCREE bt D. Griffiths 17-21, 21-7, 21-17.

Final: McCREE bt CARRINGTON 21-19, 12-21, 23-21.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: L. LANDRY/A. RHODES bt A. Lindsay/S. Jacobson 21-17, 21-17. M. SHEADER/B. EDLINGTON bt R. Stevens/L. Hoffman 21-12, 15-21, 21-13.

Final: LANDRY/RHODES bt Sheader/Edlington 18-21, 21-13, 21-17.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: A. HAYDON/MORTIMER bt D. Ridgeway/D. Wright 21-9, 24-22. J. McCREE/CARRINGTON bt L. Gordon/C. Blackshaw 21-16, 19-21, 21-11.

Final: HAYDON/MORTIMER bt McCree/Carrington 21-6, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: DENSHAM/Miss M. LEIGH bt Hoffman/Miss G. Robinson 22-20, 13-21, 21-13. E. JOHNSON/Miss D. WRIGHT bt B. Midgley/M. Shannon 21-18, 14-21, 24-22.

Final: DENSHAM/LEIGH bt Johnson/Wright 16-21, 21-17, 21-12.

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: G. LIVESEY bt D. Offenbach 21-19, 21-17. MIDGLEY bt C. Cadwallader 21-9, 21-23, 21-17.

Final: LIVESEY bt Midgley 19-21, 21-18, 21-11.

Girls' Singles. Semi-Finals: SHANNON bt L. Gordon 21-11, 21-9. H. BRAUTIGAM bt J. Roberts 21-12, 21-14.

Final: SHANNON bt Brautigam 21-8, 21-11.

Junior Doubles. Semi-Finals: LIVESEY/J. KEOGH bt M. Billington/J. Dingley 21-16, 21-17. G. WHALLEY/P. RACEY bt M. Cox/D. Allen 22-20, 21-12.

Final: LIVESEY/KEOGH bt Whalley/Racey 21-16, 21-15.

Veterans' Singles. Final: H. SPIERS bt L. Wilkinson 21-11, 21-18.

HULL "OPEN"

MORE SURPRISES THAN USUAL

THE silver jubilee of the Hull championships brought rather more than its usual quota of surprises and none of the three defending champions succeeded in retaining their crowns.

Outstanding features of the tournament were the run of Manchester's Jack Clayton, not yet "capped" by his County, who beat four former holders before losing in the final to Colin Deaton; and the promise shown by Doncaster's teenage pair, Peter Duncombe and Cynthia Blackshaw.

As well as pairing in the final of the Mixed, Duncombe reached the last eight in both the Men's Singles and Doubles, while Miss Blackshaw won the Girl's Singles and survived to the semi-finals of the Women's Singles.

In the Men's event, big names were toppled one after another. Shepherd, Schofield, Sheader and Skerratt, as well as Yorkshire's Maurice Simpson all went to sandwich player Clayton, while local man Gordon Buck, another sandwich player, caused one of the biggest upsets when he ousted Huddersfield's Stuart Dyson in the first round. However, he went out to Knighton (Sunderland) in the next round.

In the other half Deaton had to struggle for three game wins over Wilf Barker (Sunderland), Mick Sothcott (Hull), and holder Ray Hinchliff (Huddersfield) before beating Doug McGarry in a straight sets semi-final.

Mavis Dyson won the women's title but had two tough battles against Irene Allsopp (Hull) and the Lancashire No. 1, Winifred Swift. In the final she defeated Connie Moran (Grisby), who had previously dismissed holder Pam Morton (Batley) in a tight third round match.

Both Junior events went as expected, Wilf Barker, England's No. 3 junior, and Cynthia Blackshaw finding little difficulty in overcoming Michael Wadsworth (Doncaster) and Linda Gordon (Leeds).

N.W. KENT "OPEN"

Rowe and Harrison Tops

DIANE ROWE and Ian Harrison left little doubt about being England's top players when they carried off the singles titles in the North West Kent "Open" at Barnehurst (November 22-28).

Miss Rowe dropped only one game, to Betty Bird in the semi-final, while Harrison dropped one each to Colin Deaton in his opening match and to Josef Somogyi in the final.

Both singles had their share of surprises and one of the outstanding performances in the men's was the early defeat of Johnny Leach by Tony Piddock, who won in straight games 21-12, 21-11.

Piddock went on to beat Eddie Hodson 21-12, 21-15, before going down (15 and 14) to Harrison in the semi-final.

Harrison also accounted for John Hunt and Bobby Stevens, while Somogyi reached the final via Alan Lindsay, Ken Craigie, Harry Venner and Derek Burridge.

For two games the final was a touch and go affair. Somogyi led 19-18 in the first after being 4-10 down, only for Harrison to take three points in a row.

The second also see-sawed with Somogyi leading 7-3, trailing 7-9 then going ahead to 20-19 and having to save two match points before clinching it at 24-22. However, the decider found Harrison running away to take it at 21-8 for the match.

The biggest upset in the women's singles was Peggy Piper's 21-17, 19-21, 21-19 quarter-final win over Pam Mortimer, but she found a hard hitting Jean Harrower

By HARRISON EDWARDS

just too strong in the next round. Miss Harrower however lost her accuracy in the final which left Miss Rowe with a somewhat one-sided 21-11, 21-12 victory.

Miss Rowe's biggest test was in the semi-final where she beat Mrs. Bird 12-21, 23-21, 21-17.

Miss Rowe also won the mixed doubles with Leach, but missed the "hat-trick" with Jill Rook in the women's doubles when they were beaten by Miss Piper and Lynn Whithams 21-17, 22-20, 21-16.

Bobbie Rayboud and Bobby Stevens won the men's doubles, beating Harrison and Michael Maclaran 21-17, 21-11.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: I. HARRISON bt A. Piddock 21-15, 21-14. J. SOMOGYI bt D. Burridge 18-21, 21-13, 21-18.

Final: HARRISON bt Somogyi 21-19, 22-24, 21-8.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: D. ROWE bt Mrs. B. Bird 12-21, 23-21, 21-17. J. HARROWER bt P. Piper 10-21, 21-11, 22-20.

Final: ROWE bt Harrower 21-11, 21-12.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: HARRISON/M. MACLAREN w.o. Craigie/Venner, scr. R. STEVENS/R. RAYBOULD bt A. Rhodes/L. Landry 21-18, 21-13.

Final: RAYBOULD/STEVENS bt Harrison/Maclaren 21-17, 21-11.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: ROWE/J. ROOK bt J. Fielder/Harrower 21-9, 21-15. PIPER/L. WHITHAMS bt Bird/P. Mortimer 18-21, 21-12, 21-11.

Final: PIPER/WHITHAMS bt Rowe/Rook 21-17, 20-22, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: J. LEACH/Miss ROWE bt Rhodes/Miss D. Spooner 19-21, 21-13, 21-16. LANDRY/Mrs. BIRD bt Raybould/Miss Mortimer 16-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Final: LEACH/ROWE bt Landry/Bird 23-21, 21-18.

Boys' Singles. Final: D. CREAMER bt P. Wright 12-21, 21-19, 21-19.

Girls' Singles. Final: J. HARROWER bt S. Thomas 21-14, 21-6.

BOURNEMOUTH "OPEN"

SUCH was the heavy entry for the Bournemouth "Open" on November 22 that the organisers had to clamp down with a firm "No" to latecomers. Some 15 had to be refused for the men's singles, which finished up with 137 contestants.

Connie Warren took the title when, after a straight games semi-final win over Les Sawyer, he beat B. Barnes 21-15, 21-19 in the final.

Mrs. D. Gray won the women's singles, P. Shead and L. Gunn the men's doubles, E. Spokes and J. Collier the women's doubles, and A. Goldsack and Mrs. I. Sawyer the mixed.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: C. WARREN bt L. Sawyer 21-14, 21-17. B. BARNES bt R. Ractliffe 21-19, 21-6.

Final: WARREN bt Barnes 21-15, 21-19.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: S. FOSTER bt I. Sawyer 21-14, 23-21. D. GRAY bt B. Cassell 21-14, 26-24.

Final: GRAY bt Foster 21-11, 21-14.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: P. SHEAD/L. GUNN bt G. Whalley/D. Creamer 21-19, 21-11. P. BROOK/M. CLOSE bt R. Henderson/A. Goldsack 21-16, 21-11.

Final: SHEAD/GUNN bt Brook/Close 5-21, 21-13, 21-15.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: R. DONALDSON/GRAY bt Foster/Sawyer 21-19, 21-19. E. SPOKES/J. COLLIER bt Y. Wilson/D. Coop 21-16, 21-13.

Final: SPOKES/COLLIER bt Donaldson/Gray 15-21, 21-18, 21-10.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: HENDERSON/Mrs. FOSTER bt Warren/Miss A. Taft 21-19, 14-21, 21-11. GOLDSACK/Mrs. SAWYER bt W. Devine/Miss Donaldson 21-19, 20-22, 23-21.

Final: GOLDSACK/SAWYER bt Henderson/Foster 21-19, 21-16.

Junior Singles. Final: CREAMER bt K. Fallan 21-18, 21-13.

EAGLE/GIRL TOURNAMENTBy **KENNETH WHEELER****TEN THOUSAND ENTHUSIASTS**

THE *EAGLE/GIRL* table tennis championship which E.T.T.A. Chairman, Bill Vint, described last season as "the most successful Junior tournament in the world," has beaten all previous records with an entry topping 10,000.

This is a formidable total whichever way you look at it, but measured in terms of youthful enthusiasm it represents a veritable crusade.

It includes, for example, ten-year-old Gary Tanner who is so determined to take part that he is to travel all the way from his home at Jersey, in the Channel Islands, to play in the London qualifying round.

Significant points about the individual entry are that for the first time the under-13's outnumber the under-15's, while the girls are 20 per cent. more numerous than ever before.

Altogether 104 clubs have elected to run 306 qualifying events, in addition to the 51 events to be centrally organised at main centres.

First club to complete its qualifying events was Donaldson's School for the Deaf Boys' Club from Edinburgh

where William Mair and Michael Sadler were the winners. Both boys have been deaf from birth, but are keen and active members of the school team playing in the Edinburgh Boys' Club League.

Off to a flying start in the team competition are Paulred Sports of Ipswich, and Wymondham School of Norfolk, both of which have entered 400 competitors.

However, rivals for the prize of a club table in the South could easily overhaul these organisations by good playing results from their representatives at the Regional Final stage.

Here are the main fixtures:—

- Dec. 5. LIVERPOOL Qualifying Rounds.
- Dec. 12. BRISTOL Qualifying Rounds.
- Jan. 9. CARDIFF Qualifying Rounds, and SOUTH WALES FINALS.
- Jan. 16. BIRMINGHAM Qualifying Rounds and MIDLANDS FINALS.
- Jan. 22. GLASGOW Qualifying Rounds.
- Jan. 23. EDINBURGH Qualifying Rounds and SCOTTISH FINALS.
- Feb. 6. LONDON Boys' Senior and Girls' Junior Qualifying Rounds.

- Feb. 13. LONDON Boy's Junior and Girls' Senior Qualifying Rounds.
- Feb. 20. London: SOUTH OF ENGLAND FINALS.
- Feb. 27. MANCHESTER Qualifying Round and NORTH OF ENGLAND FINALS.

The Grand Finals will take place in London at Easter.

ESSEX NOTES

THE live-wire St. Luke's Club have been quick to respond to their write-up in last month's magazine.

The cover of the programme they produced for the recent Essex Juniors v Sussex Juniors match included a drawing of an Eskimo playing an African warrior, complete with spears, assegei and table tennis bat. The caption read; "All the table tennis world meets at St. Luke's—or nearly so. It must be right—it is in this month's Table Tennis! You can buy it here (Yes, HERE) for 1/-. Every copy sold helps Essex so if you already have a copy, buy ANOTHER for a friend."

After a recent local league cup match between the champions and a comparatively lowly side, the score card was sent in by the losers without the names of the opposing team.

"We thought they might be offended if we told them we didn't know their names, so we didn't ask them" explained the secretary!

Congratulations to Trevor Leverno, a member of the Essex junior side last season, who was married on October 31.

Jim Sargant.

Table fit for training champions

Presented by

Johnny Leach

Johnny Leach 'Mini-Ping' is the most advanced development in Table Tennis trainers. Beginners and champions alike agree that it is a terrific family game and the best method yet devised for practising table tennis strokes and tactics at home. The secret lies in the specially designed bats, two of which are supplied with each set. These enable you to play championship table tennis in an area as small as 8ft. x 4ft. using and developing all the main strokes at top speed without any adjustment.

The set comprises:—

2 Bats, 2 Balls, a net and a table 4ft. x 2ft. x 2ft. 6in.

Price complete **£4.19.6** (Carriage 4/- extra).



Obtainable direct from:

Johnny Leach Sports COMPANY LTD.

1 Newman Street, London, W.1

Telephone: LANGHAM 0804

(Trade enquiries welcome)