

JANUARY, 1960  
ONE SHILLING

# Table Tennis

*The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association*



*Photograph by PACE, Sidcup*

## **TABLE TENNIS ROMANCE**

**JOYCE FIELDER**, the international, and her Kent County mixed doubles partner, **GEORGE ELLIOTT**, who have recently announced their engagement

(See page 18)



# Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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## CUE FROM TABLE TENNIS

**EXACTLY** a year ago TABLE TENNIS called on other national bodies to follow the lead of the E.T.T.A. on the amateur-professional question. It is pleasing to note that Lawn Tennis is taking the hint.

The International Federation have a proposal before them for a system of "Authorised Players", which is closely based on the E.T.T.A.'s registered members definition.

Some two years ago the Lawn Tennis Association showed marked interest in the E.T.T.A. regulations covering the subject. The E.T.T.A. President, the Hon. Ivor Montagu, gave an exhaustive explanation of the history and effect of the registered members scheme to Mr. Basil Reay, Secretary of the L.T.A. Full details were also given to the French and Swedish Lawn Tennis Associations.

The French L.T.A., and Jean Borotra in particular, were known to have long favoured adoption of the table tennis idea to kill once and for all the hypocrisy which exists in Lawn Tennis.

### T.T. OVERLOOKED

Yet, His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, giving his personal views on the proposals in his presidential address to the annual meeting of the L.T.A. omitted to make any mention of the help given by the E.T.T.A. Instead he pointed to the amateur - professional understanding in Golf, Cricket and Football.

There are of course important differences in the Lawn Tennis recommendations which aim at three classes, "amateurs", "authorised players" and "professionals", but the similarities with the Table Tennis rule are so obvious as to acknowledge the pioneering spirit of the E.T.T.A. who set an example in this field 25 years ago.

*The All England Club, who are responsible for*

*the Wimbledon Championships and have been paving the way for radical changes, are not in full agreement with the suggestions. They would have preferred more the Table Tennis set up.*

"After consulting the E.T.T.A.," said their chairman Mr. Herman David, "We made some modifications and put forward a proposal which allowed for two classes, Lawn Tennis Players and Teaching Professionals, doing away with amateurs altogether. Our object of this was to protect the livelihood of coaches."

### SOUTH AFRICAN INVITATION

The E.T.T.A. received a handsome offer from the South African Table Tennis Union to send a touring team there next summer, all expenses paid.

Some doubt appears to have arisen about the E.T.T.A. attitude to this matter. Their policy is, and always has been, quite clear.

They are affiliated to the I.T.T.F. as are many associations whose political and cultural backgrounds are quite different from ours. It is only by complete tolerance and non-interference in each other's internal political life, that member countries can stay together.

On the other hand, neither the I.T.T.F. nor the E.T.T.A. will tolerate discrimination IN ANY FORM WITHIN THE GAME. We do not refuse to play other countries because we do not approve of their governments; but we do say we cannot play with or against associations who introduce racial discrimination.

The I.T.T.F. constitution allows affiliation only to organisations "conducting the sport in their territory in such a way as to allow participation in it of all their inhabitants without distinction of colour, race or creed."

Hence a visit to South Africa would depend on compliance with such I.T.T.F. aims.

# OFFICIAL NEWS

**National Executive.** The National Executive met in the Council Room of the British Commonwealth Society, in London, on Saturday, December 19, 1959, with Mr. A. K. Vint, O.B.E., in the chair. The meeting lasted for eight hours, and the main item discussed was the financial status of the Association.

Hon. treasurer, Tom Blunn, put before the meeting detailed figures showing items of income and expenditure for the last two seasons, plus a budget for the current season.

He pointed out that until an increase in fees was agreed by the Association, it was impossible to balance the budget at the present level of activity. Considerable economies had been made where possible, but any further reduction in expenditure could only be achieved by cutting out activities which had come to be accepted as necessary for the proper function of the E.T.T.A.

Means of increasing the Association's income were discussed, and it was decided that when a definite proposal has been formulated, this would then be circulated to all affiliated bodies as quickly as possible.

The N.E.C. accepted with thanks an offer from the English Table Tennis Supporters' Club to defray the expenses of sending players to the European Championships in Belgrade, in April, 1960. Chairman of Selectors, Ivor Eyles, on behalf of the Supporters' Club, stated that the Club would be happy to hand over the whole of the money raised during season 1959/60 for that purpose.

**Registered Players.** The applications of the following members to become registered players were approved, and this list is to be read in conjunction with that published in the October, 1959, issue of TABLE TENNIS—giving a complete record of players who are permitted to receive payments in connection with table tennis activities:

**L. A. Abraham** (Devonshire), **L. G. Adams** (Middlesex), **V. Barna** (Middlesex), **S. R. Basden** (Kent).

**C. Booth** (Lancashire), **B. Casofsky** (Lancashire), **G. R. Cooper** (Hampshire), **Mrs. W. Eanor** (Lincolnshire), **R. E. Etheridge** (Kent), **Miss J. Fielder** (Kent), **I. Harrison** (Gloucestershire), **Miss A. S. Haydon** (Warwickshire), **M. Maclaren** (Surrey), **R. J. McCree** (Essex), **Miss P. Mortimer** (Warwickshire), **D. W. Page** (Kent), **D. H. Paul** (Warwickshire), **L. J. Pickering** (Kent), **Miss J. Rook** (Surrey), **R. L. Sharman** (Middlesex), **T. E. Sears** (Middlesex), **A. W. C. Simons** (Gloucestershire), **K. Stanley** (Lancashire), **J. H. Tabbenor** (Kent), **A.**

## 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).

**Thompson** (Yorkshire), **R. A. Warner** (Warwickshire).

**Selections:** England's team against Wales in the junior international at Aberdare on January 29 will be: **Wilf Barker** (Durham), **David Creamer** (Middlesex), **Jackie Keogh** (Lancashire), **Jean Harrower** (Middlesex). Non-playing captain: **Brian Brumwell** (Essex).

**Doubles Line Experiment:** The proposal to abolish the centre line in doubles was decisively defeated at the last I.T.T.F. Congress and any leagues who have been trying out the rule are now asked to discontinue the experiment.

**International Selection.** The following players have been selected to represent England in the quadrangular tournament with Ireland, Scotland and Wales, in Belfast, on January 22/23: **Ian Harrison** (Gloucestershire), **Bryan Merrett** (Gloucestershire), **Brian Kennedy** (Yorkshire), **Diane Rowe** (Middlesex) and **Betty Bird** (Surrey).

Non-playing captain is **Ron Crayden** (Surrey).

**English "Open" Championships.** Entry forms for this event are now available from the Secretary, E.T.T.A. 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London W.C.2.

Play is from Monday to Friday, March 21-25 at Manor Place Baths, and all five main Finals are being staged at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on Saturday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Finals tickets, ranging in price from 6/6d. to 2/-, can now be obtained from the Secretary, E.T.T.A. There are special reductions for block bookings of 12 or more tickets, and anyone wishing to book at these party rates is advised to reserve seats immediately.

## NATIONAL JUNIOR RANKING

**THE** English Selection (Junior) Committee have revised the National Junior Ranking Lists, restricting them to five boys and four girls. **George Livesey** (Lancashire) and **Jean Harrower** (Middlesex) retain their No. 1 positions.

**David Creamer** (Middlesex) moves up from No. 6 to share the No. 2 spot with **Wilf Barker** (Durham), **Jackie Keogh** (Lancashire) drops from No. 2 to No. 4.

## BOYS

1. **George Livesey** (Lancashire) (1).
2. **Wilf Barker** (Durham) (3) and **David Creamer** (Middlesex) (6).
4. **Jackie Keogh** (Lancashire) (2).
5. **Brian Wright** (Middlesex) (5).

## GIRLS

1. **Jean Harrower** (Middlesex) (1).
2. **M. Shannon** (Surrey) (2) and **Judy Williams** (Hertfordshire) (2).
4. **Alma Taft** (Hertfordshire) (4).

*Figures in parentheses denote previous ranking.*

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Will correspondents please note that all copy should reach the Editor by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

**CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS****SOL SCHIFF AGAIN**

**T**HE 19th Canadian and International Championships, held in September were the most successful ever, with hard fought and keenly contested matches providing many exciting moments for both the spectators and contestants.

Sol Schiff, New York's "Mr. Table Tennis," continued to show his mastery after 30 years of competition. He led the U.S. team to a decisive victory in regaining the Men's International Team Match and was finalist in three events, winning the Men's Singles, for the fifth time, and the Mixed Doubles for the ninth time.

In the Men's Singles, Schiff's march to the finals consisted of wins over John Somael of New York, Eddie Brennan of Detroit, and Canada's No. 1, Max Marinko of Toronto.

In the final with Danny Vegh, of Cleveland, defending his crown, the scores were not entirely indicative of the play since there were many long and exciting rallies, but, Schiff was victorious in three straight games.

In reaching the final, Vegh had upset Robert Varadi of New York,

Howard Grossman of Toronto, and Tom Jokel of Montreal.

The Women's Singles provided the most surprising upset, when Mrs. Leah Neuberger (New York), the holder and nine times winner, bowed to the hard hitting, youthful, Barbara Chaimson of Washington, D.C., in four games.

The Senior Men's Singles event was won by Max Marinko of Toronto, who defeated Church Burns of Detroit in four games.

Clark Goldstein of Washington, successfully defended his Junior Men's Singles title, by beating Billy Keim, also of Washington in three straight games.

Barbara Chaimson won her second title by defeating sister Donna Lee three straight to retain the Junior Miss Singles event.

In the Boys' Singles, Ronald Hobson of Newport News, Va., defeated his fellow club mate, Solomon Hairston in a hard fought five-game match.

Emery Lippai and Danny Vegh of Cleveland, teamed to win the Men's Doubles by eking out a close decision

over Schiff and Bill Cross of New Jersey, in five games.

Max Marinko regained the Canadian "Closed" Men's Singles crown by defeating Tom Jokel of Montreal, who had upset the defending champion, Pranas Gvildys of Toronto.

In the Women's "Closed" division, there is a brand-new champion, Sofie Kasperaviciute of Toronto who upset defending champion, Jennie Marinko in the semi-finals, and former champion Susan Schmideck in the final.

United States beat Canada in both the International team events, their men winning 6-2 and the women 6-4.

Results in the Inter-Provincial team were: Men: Ontario bt. Quebec 6-3; Women: Ontario bt Quebec 6-0.

Teams: U.S.A. Men: Sol Schiff, capt., Danny Vegh, Ed Brennan, Clark Goldstein. Women: Leah Neuberger, Barbara Chaimson, Kay Young, Marianne Bessenger.

Canada: Men: Max Marinko, capt., Pranas Gvildys, Laimon Eichvald, Nick Gadanyi. Women: Jenny Marinko, Velta Arminis, Susan Schmideck, Helga Bultemeir.

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## JACK CARRINGTON'S NOTEBOOK

# COACHING INVESTMENT

**L**AST month I referred to the more realistic administrative set-up of the Association for coaching, training and general inspiration of young players.

It is unfortunate that this more progressive outlook has arrived at a time of general budget stringency (due chiefly to dwindling spectator support). Nevertheless, some money has been allocated to "development of players" this year, and I think it is now accepted as a sound principle that **some** such investment should be made however tight our budget may become.

I pass now to technical questions of coaching. What adjustment of theoretical or practical ideas are necessary in the light of recent developments?

These "developments" are, principally, the success of the Oriental players and the legitimising of the sponge-sandwich bat.

The new facts do require any Basic Coach to modify his thinking on the following lines:—

**1. A new respect for the "penholder" style**—as developed by the Japanese with their safe circular swings as contrasted with the older "jabbing" style of penholder play.

Any player who feels an urge to build up a penholder technique should certainly be allowed to try his luck. It carries undoubted advantages in lower and middle-class play, owing to a sense of deflection and the simplification of stroke selection and stroke-learning.

The price to be paid for these advantages lies in the very high level of footwork and match-aggressiveness which are required.

Of recent years, in Europe, any player possessing these so-desirable gifts, plus a penholder technique, has been firmly ousted from the international class by players of similar

quality plus a two-wing defence and a backhand hit.

The advent of "soft" rubbers, covering up the brittleness of a penholder's backhand defence, has improved the odds for the penholders, but to what extent, only time and experiment by European players can show.

**2. A new respect for side-spin.** In basic pimple-rubber coaching, the road to improvement is the straight and narrow, one of accurate top-spin and back-spin.

Side-spins in defence weaken consistency; side-spins in attack weaken accuracy and penetration. That is, of course, until the pupil's experience grows deep enough to ensure that his ventures into side-spin are deliberate and not accidental, and are profitable to his game.

In sandwich-bat play, however, side-spin in attack actually aids penetration (because of the wider angles it affords as compared with pimple-rubber); while side-spin in defence or sparring play can frustrate the quick-hitter and in some ways can substitute for an orthodox chopped defence, which it never can in the pimple-rubber game.

Nothing can replace a sound understanding of top-spin and chop, but it is clear that side-spin tendencies need not be frowned on.

**3. Greater emphasis on spin-service variations and the taking of them.** This is self-evident.

**4. Greater contrast between slow and fast tactical play.**

Gradual build-up of attack must still be taught in order to school the attacker's muscles into accurately graduated paths.

But, in sandwich-bat match-play, a too-regular attack is rather vulnerable to counter-attack. Variations of spin and force must be cultivated by the attacker, almost to the extent of "living dangerously."

Previously a coach was almost obliged to discourage this tendency in any pupil who wished to prepare for the top class of match-play.

The classic examples here are the Japanese national teams. Without exception, a Japanese player "in repose" (and this includes the time between two points!) is far more relaxed than our own, while a Japanese player "in explosion" is certainly more explosive than ours.

These states of Repose and Explosion of muscle-groups must be properly taught, in particular in relation

to the movements of the trunk in various arcs.

**5. It follows from point 4 that problems of balance become more than ever critical.** This calls for no revision of basic teaching, but for a fuller understanding of the same.

**6. Less concern with formal footwork positions, and more with lightness and fleetness of footwork, in all directions.**

Short, fast shifts-of-weight are becoming as important as fast running. In fast sandwich-bat play, the exact line of the feet takes second place to the line of the shoulders.

One may almost say, of advanced play today, that there is virtually no such thing as a "foot wrong."

**The player has to learn to make all shots from all positions.**

Of course, a coach building up a learner's game would still be correct to demand attention to the classic semi-sideways positions which have several technical advantages in the schooling of individual strokes.

**7. More practice of half-volley blocking.** Contrary to the maxims of many text-books, the half-volley was not a basic shot of the pimple-rubber game. It was a **useful** shot, but percentage-wise it hardly existed in top play.

Why anyone should have lamented this, or rejoice that "sandwich" has restored its necessity, I do not understand. To me it seems the negation of constructive, athletic play, and its clever use frustrates many enterprising moves by the attackers.

However, it exists again as an important move in the game, needing close study.

\* \* \*

These are some of the facts of life which today's coaches have to face. As compared with the pimple-rubber technique, the sandwich bat evolves a kind of "Table Tennis Shorthand," in which basic style is mainly as important as contributing to efficiency under pressure.

**BUT—THERE IS STILL NO SUBSTITUTE FOR BASIC KNOWLEDGE!**

## RECENT COACHING AND TRAINING EVENTS

December 5-6: Coaching Rallies were held at St. Neots and St. Ives on behalf of Huntingdonshire County

(Continued on Page 19)

### PLEASE NOTE

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

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# GOOD LOSERS MAKE GOOD WINNERS By CONRAD JASCHKE

**S**TORIES of good sportsmanship are not unusual in table tennis but I was impressed by a report of the final of the recent Hungarian "Open."

Zoltan Berczik was leading Chuang Tse-tung, of China 19-15 in the final game and was wrongly given the next point by the umpire. Berczik knew the ball had touched the table and insisted that it was Chuang's point. The decision was reversed making it 19-16.

Berczik went on to win 21-17, but it must have been very tempting to have kept quiet about the vital point.

Another similar incident occurred at a critical stage of the mixed doubles in the Kent - Hampshire county match between George Elliott and Joyce Fielder and Ray Henderson and Sheila Foster.

I was the umpire and a shot from Miss Fielder gave no indication of having touched the table but as I was about to give the point to Hampshire Mrs. Foster called "It touched". The other players looked blank and when I queried it Mrs. Foster again said "It definitely touched." So the point was given to Kent who went on to win.

We are often told that English

players should forget being good losers. I don't agree.

You should at all times try hard to win . . . but by **FAIR MEANS**. If the other player is better, or the luck against you, surely you would rather be a good loser than a bad winner.

If Berczik had kept quiet he had the match as good as won which must have meant a lot before his home crowd, but he was prepared to risk defeat than win unfairly.

And it was the same on the lower

plain of that county match. Mrs. Foster plays for fun and an unfair point is not her idea of fun.

So I must disagree with those who write so often and so voluminously that English sportsmen and women must forget about being good losers if they want to win.

It is quite true that sometimes one could win by unfair means, by not calling a wrong decision. But what does it really mean? "A" wins instead of "B", but we are all losers.

## UMPIRES' CORNER

**By COLIN CLEMETT**

### CLARIFYING LAWS

**I** SHOULD like to deal first this month with some of the comments I have received on my previous article describing the latest changes in the Laws and Regulations. When referring to the new Law 8 I pointed out that a player could now serve 10 times in succession, the first five out of order and the next five, after the mistake has been discovered, in the correct order.

It might have been better if I had said 15 times, the second set of five being out of correct order, but it is of course possible to extend this argument almost indefinitely and say that he might serve throughout the game although the chance of his opponent or the umpire not noticing the fact must be remote.

A more important aspect is that several umpires have said that, in their interpretation, the possibility of a player continuing to serve after a group of five services had been completed out of order and the mistake noticed, existed under the previous form of the Law.

It is obvious from the original wording that the procedure after the detection of such an error was intended to differ according to the number of out-of-order services that had been completed, and the E.T.T.A. President, who has been so closely in touch with the development of the Laws for many years, assures me that the significant word in the original form of the Law was "sequence"

At the beginning

of the game if A served first and B followed him then the "sequence established" was A B, A B, and so on. Then supposing that during the game A served first his own five services and then, out of order, the next five services before the mistake was realised the next five were not served by A, whose turn it would then have been had there been no mistake, but by B who would thus re-establish the original sequence of B following A.

**May I repeat that with the new form of law 8 there is no longer the possibility of ambiguity and, irrespective of the number of services completed when the error is discovered, the person who should have been serving had there been no error becomes the server.**

There was also, I regret, a slight inaccuracy in the wording I quoted for the Regulation concerning the indication of time in Time-Limit games.

In adopting the experimental method that had been tried for the previous seasons the Rules Committee of the I.T.T.F. made a slight modification which escaped our notice when we were abstracting the relevant sections from the Minutes of Congress. The calls and finger signals to indicate the length of time remaining are now made at 18 and 19 minutes only instead of beginning at 17 minutes as before. To add to the confusion in the new experimental scheme, the flag signals are made at 17 and 19 minutes only and as the E.T.T.A. has now approved the recommendation to make the experiment in this country we may soon have the opportunity to see how the two methods are accepted by players.

Mention of the time-limit reminds me that it has been reported that in some "Open" Tournaments held this season games have occasionally lasted well over twenty minutes without the time-limit being applied because the umpire had not been supplied with a stop-clock.

It is usually impractical for Tournament organisers to supply clocks for every table, and it is often difficult to predict which games are going to last as long as twenty minutes. **But the fact remains that under the present regulations for "Open" Tournaments it is the umpire's responsibility to ensure that the time-limit rule is properly applied whether he uses a proper stop-clock, an ordinary wrist-watch or a sundial!**



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# Leicester Y.M.C.A.'s Inspiration

By PHILLIP REID

THE standard of play in the Leicester Y.M.C.A. was just about as low as it could be on that dull February evening in 1956 when I contacted John Hubbard and suggested something be done about it.

The Y.M.C.A. which should have been the main supply line to the county, was falling down in its task and consequently Leicestershire were becoming weaker and weaker.

So John and I went down to the Y.M.C.A. gymnasium where the boys' club was in session. John called all the lads who were genuinely interested in the game up to the senior room and instituted a regular Friday night practice session.

The date was Friday, February 10. This has proved to be the biggest mark in the clubs' table tennis history because from then on it went from strength to strength.

Four youngsters were selected for the practice evenings but one soon fell out. However he was eagerly replaced and throughout the rest of the Winter and during the Summer months, Hubbard, a relentless taskmaster, kept them at it.

## STARTING FROM SCRATCH

When the new season started in September, Hubbard was ready. Starting from scratch he had produced the nucleus of the town junior team in just over six months and virtually unassisted! The four boys were Gordon Murray, Brian Kimble, John Blackburn and Michael Parry. ALL represented the town junior team.

Three of them, Murray, Blackburn and Kimble have subsequently played for the town intermediate side while Kimble and Blackburn became Leicestershire Junior Champions.

Of the four, Murray who has won the Y.M.C.A. "Open" Junior title has made most progress. He is a member of the Leicestershire SENIOR team and in his very first match, he beat John Osborne, the Staffordshire number two.

But what happened when these juniors progressed? Did John Hubbard just sit back and watch? Not likely. He produced another young player in Barrie Clarke, who was undefeated last season for the juniors in the Midland League. This season Clarke has been placed in the intermediate team (which last season, with three Leicester Y.M.C.A. players won the division), even though he is still within junior age limits.

There are other juniors coming along too. John Hubbard particularly mentions Peter Jacques, brother of the County number one, Michael Porter and Janet Shaw. What about this man responsible for the Y.M.C.A.'s revival? Is he well-known? Outside Leicestershire the answer is no.

He is not a holder of any coaching diploma. As a player he himself would admit he is only average. But at the

moment he is captain of both the town and county junior teams.

Every Saturday morning come rain, hail or snow, he can be seen coaching the youngsters at Leicester Y.M.C.A. These classes have now become famous throughout the county and any keen youngster is invited to join.

Many subsequently join the Y.M.C.A., though this is not compulsory, but the Leicester Y.M.C.A., appreciating the value of coaching from both the boys' angle and the publicity angle are only too pleased to loan their gymnasium free of charge.

Mr. Eric Haley, the General Secretary of Leicester Y.M.C.A., and a Vice-President of the Leicester and District League has done much to foster this spirit of friendship.

It has always been the aim of John Hubbard to have a strong Leicestershire junior team and a strong Y.M.C.A. team. He has done much to achieve both objectives.

He has always laid great emphasis on physical exercises and uses the gymnasium for other things besides table tennis. But if there is one thing Hubbard cannot tolerate, it is poor footwork. He has never had much time for a lazy player, and considering the amount of work he himself puts in this is hardly surprising.

At the moment he is trying to get details of the Chinese team's training programme. If he succeeds, his juniors can watch out for more strenuous exercises.

Anybody who has watched the footwork of Murray or Kimble will vouch for the wisdom of his theories.

Anything connected with table tennis

is immediately of interest to Hubbard, but more especially if it concerns young players.

The Y.M.C.A. "Open" Tournament has many events—but an "Under 16's" event was not amongst them until Hubbard donated a most handsome trophy.

The *Eagle/Girl* tournament is another of John's interests and he annually goes to Birmingham to watch the Midland finals, besides being responsible for the Leicestershire round.

## NEXT AMBITION

Next season should see another of Hubbard's ambitions achieved—a junior "Open" Tournament in Leicester. This is expected to create an enormous amount of interest locally.

As a player John is now happy to have an occasional game in the Y.M.C.A. sixth side, which is the "nursery team".

Coaching, training, playing and encouraging are not Hubbard's only interests in the game. This energetic personality, who is reputed to have been born with a pep pill in his mouth instead of the customary silver spoon, has also found time to become a county umpire, knowing the rules from A to Z, and a master at tournament lighting.

His great work for the organisation was soon noticed and it came as no surprise when he was asked to serve on the Y.M.C.A. board of Directors.

There are, of course, many John Hubbards in this game of ours. There are also many Y.M.C.A.'s who will so gladly do all in their power to help.

Nevertheless there is only one John Hubbard and one Y.M.C.A. as far as Leicestershire is concerned and as County secretary I shudder to think what we would do without them.



PHILLIP REID coaching some of the Y.M.C.A. youngsters

## COUNTY HISTORIES... 3

# THE TWINS OF TABLE TENNIS— LANCASHIRE and CHESHIRE

By NORMAN COOK

**L**ANCASHIRE and Cheshire although now separate associations, are very much at heart as one. They grew up together as one family and even though they went their separate ways in 1950 they still have a vital connecting link in that they share the same secretary and treasurer.

They are inseparable twins and together have played a big part in the affairs of English Table Tennis, particularly on the administrative side.

Indeed it was a Manchester man, the late Austin Carris, who provided the impetus to the game by introducing the doubles games — the "Manchester doubles" as it was then known — to the South.

Looking back over the game since its revival after the first world war



Tom Blunn

we find the "twins" have on the administrative side provided Mr. H. Oldroyd, president of the E.T.T.A. from 1931 until his death in 1953, Don Poupard, Mr. Swann, the late Billie Stamp, and Tom Blunn, now E.T.T.A. treasurer.

That is a proud record and they also have had their honours in the playing arena with such internationals as Foulis, Hyde, the Rumjahn, Cooke, Waite, Proffitt, Laurie, Stanley, Casofsky, Allcock, Ingber, Pullar and Adele Wood.

Yet the real pioneer of table tennis

in this area was a Northerner by adoption, Leslie Forrest, who originally hailed from Devon and has since migrated to Yorkshire, where he is still a pillar of administrative strength.

Forrest founded the Liverpool League in 1926 and attended the National Delegate Conference of 1927 from which sprang the present English Association.

This was followed by the Manchester Association, founded in 1927 by H. M. Bunbury, G. H. Jones and H. G. Nickson; the Preston Association (1929), Stockport and Nelson (1930), Blackpool (1931), and more leagues in 1932 and 1933.

The idea of a County Association must have been mooted quite early because we know that Lancashire met Yorkshire in a match at Bradford in 1927, and were represented by H. C. Cooke, S. Proffitt and L. Pittila, all of Manchester.

Little was heard for the next ten years until the counties divided themselves between Liverpool and Manchester.

Liverpool headed the South-West Lancashire and Cheshire Federation of eleven leagues, and Manchester the Manchester County Association of three leagues.

These bodies functioned until 1937 when E. Worsley, of Blackpool, J. R. Thompson, of Bury and W. H. Fox of Preston welded together the other leagues within the counties to form an efficient association.

From this emerged the Lancashire League for Minor Leagues and per-

formed its duty for two years. Then the Lancashire Association was formed, the E.T.T.A. allowing Cheshire to remain in membership.

The officers of the new organisation were S. Richardson, of Manchester (President); T. G. Brandeth, of Liverpool (Chairman) and E. Worsley, of Blackpool (Hon. General Secretary), with Billie Stamp coming into the picture for the first time as a member of the committee.

In June 1946, Stamp called a meeting in Manchester from which emerged the set-up which continued until Cheshire became a separate County Association in 1950 with Harry Renshaw its Chairman.

For financial reasons Lancashire shared their secretary and treasurer with Cheshire.

Meanwhile, Tom Blunn had made his presence felt, first as Chairman of Lancashire then treasurer to both associations. Norman Cook took over as secretary from E. Worsley and Leslie Jones was making his mark as a member of the Lancashire Committee and secretary of the large Manchester League.

Since the war the counties have been represented on the National Executive by the late W. Stamp, J. Hoy, E. Worsley, N. Cook, T. Blunn, L. W. Jones and Miss E. Grimstone.

Blunn has now moved over to Yorkshire but continues his good work as treasurer to the national body.

Jones has taken over the chair of the Lancashire Association and Renshaw continues in the same office for Cheshire.

The twin counties have five times had the honour of staging the English "Open," 1938 (Blackpool), 1947, 1953 and 1956 (Belle Vue, Manchester).

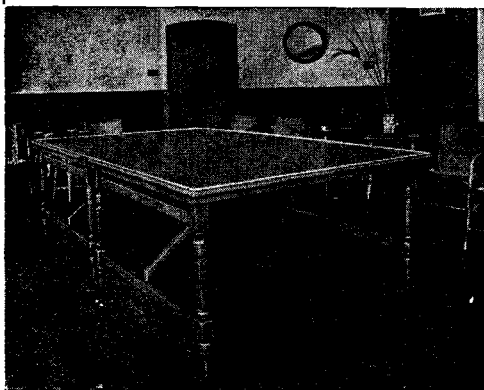
"Open" tournaments within their areas are the Lancashire, Cheshire, Cheshire Junior, Merseyside, and North of England.

Lancashire and Cheshire are not as strong as could be wished in the National County championships, but with such youngsters as George Livesey and Jackie Keogh, England's top two boys, and eighth ranking Lynda Gordon, prospects look brighter for the future.



Les Jones

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**TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS**Conducted by **LAURIE LANDRY**

# FIRST BIRTHDAY

**"TALKING POINTS"** celebrate their anniversary with this issue so let us look back over the past twelve months and weigh up stock.

It is difficult in fact and figures to tell precisely what has been accomplished as a thought-provoking offering, but there is no doubt about it being a popular feature.

About 30 distinct items have been brought up, being the views of probably ten times that many people.

They have been responsible for some dozen replies and counter-replies.

**WIDE FIELD**

The column has covered a vast amount of subject matter, including tournament conditions and organisation—both praiseworthy and depreciatory—umpiring problems, knocking-up facilities at tournaments, and finances, including prizes and their value.

Other subjects have been congested fixture lists, standardisation of the bat, both before and after the decision of the International congress, and the standard of play in England compared to other countries, and aspects of fitness.

This season we have discussed players playing their part in the smooth running of tournaments, the success of the Sussex "Open" with its new finals night conditions and last

month, the first controversy over bat thickness, anti-sematism and trials and selection committees.

I think you will agree a lot of ground has been covered and no-one can deny that only beneficial results are obtainable from this **YOUR COLUMN**.

Now down to business and very little of it this month. I have heard only praise for the North West Kent "Open" and the Middlesex "Open,"

which for referee Geoff James was a successful "knock-up" for taking control of this month's English "closed" championships.

Observation from last month—and a good one too—on the Kent Junior "Open," where a parent commented that the interruption in play because of the two minutes silence on Remembrance Day can have varying effects on players who hope to make their mark.

**GENERAL VIEWS**

Quite a few players and officials say, "If a junior is going to make his or her mark in the game, interruptions of this type will not have any detrimental effect. If it does, then they would probably not make their mark in the game, anyway."

Not quite the original point maybe, but nevertheless interesting and, I feel, quite true.

I will be going to tournaments at Cardiff, Folkestone, Slough, Grimsby and Birmingham in that order in the next few weeks and I'll be going "pen-in-hand" and with "ears open."

Good luck and let us hope that this was the first of many years of "Tournament Talking Points."

## WEDDING BELLS FOR JILL ROOK



## "FAMILIES" GET-TOGETHER

**A** "FAMILIES' DAY", for the encouragement of promising "Junior Juniors" and their Mums, Dads, and Uncles (including unofficial uncles and aunts who teach enthusiastic protégés) was held at Jack Carrington's T.T. School at Bethnal Green on Saturday, December 12.

The 26 participants included the Holes family of Southampton, the Woodings of Bletchley, the Sayers of Walthamstow, the Bells of Dagenham, and other interesting parties from Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire.

A little coaching, a little match-play, a lot of gossip, and a lot of fun was had by all.

Jack Carrington will be interested to hear from other family groups who might like to be notified of the next special "Day".

**SURREY** and England international **Jill Rook** will be changing her name on March 12. She is marrying British Davis Cup lawn tennis star **Alan Mills** at St. Mary's Church, Merton Park.

Like her husband-to-be Jill has also played Lawn Tennis for England and indeed it was through the big court game, at which they are regular mixed doubles partners, they first met in 1956.

Mills, who hails from Formby, Lancashire, has played table tennis in the Lancashire League but has no ambitions in this direction.

Meanwhile, they are busy house-hunting. "We would like a bungalow somewhere in easy reach of London, but whether it is Surrey, Essex or Middlesex we are not worried," said Jill.

## L.B.H. WINNERS

London Business Houses Championships at Manor Place Baths on December 3.

**Men's Singles:** T. Densham bt M. G. MacLaren 21-18, 16-21, 21-14, 21-10.

**Women's Singles:** M. Piper (holder) bt M. Fry 21-15, 21-10.

**Men's Doubles:** F. Ball/D. Mummery bt F. Batt/S. E. Straker 24-22, 21-18, 21-17.

**Women's Doubles:** M. Busby/Fry bt Mrs. J. Conetta/P. Davis 21-17, 16-21, 21-10.

**Mixed Doubles:** P. E. Morecroft/Mrs. J. Boddy bt D. C. F. Crisp/Miss Davis 21-14, 21-15.

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# COACHES HEART BREAK

By G. R. COOPER

**T**HE article on coaching by John Corser in the November issue and the reply of Jack Carrington in the December issue were excellent contributions on a vexing topic. I have coached scores of people but I have no certificate to prove it because I cannot play competitive table tennis and never will.

However I am very happy to coach and offer this little contribution towards it.

With complete beginners the approach is easy. Start to teach the basic strokes, then observe physical make-up because no two individuals are totally alike.

When you have got them really working and playing for points, watch reactions to a winning or losing stroke and try to assess potential as a match winner.

Having satisfied yourself that pupils have the necessary temperament and ability, take them to one side and find out their intentions. Do they want to play the game for fun? Do they want to play only in league matches as a club member, or have they ambitions to become champions?

## STATE FACTS

Then explain what is involved in the way of effect, training, practice and expense. Do not paint a rosy picture. Just state the facts. From there a coach can begin to look about for suitable club members to give the pupil practice with the strokes he has been taught. Added advice and the teaching of further strokes when necessary can build up a sound basic game.

The pupil should then be allowed to "get on with it" although the coach must check from time to time that progress is being made.

All this sounds easy but it can only be done if the pupil is fortunate enough to have an established club like the Grosvenor, open all day and every day right through the year.

These circumstances are almost as rare as snow in summer and however hard a coach may try he will quite often find that his protégé, anxious to demonstrate his new ability, has started to play competitive games too soon and in the desire to make points, forgets all about the basic strokes.

**It should therefore be made quite clear by the coach that competitive play is out until he thinks the player is ready.**

## THE "NATURAL"

Against all this, of course, is the "natural" who comes along with some fantastic footwork and really good responses to knock all your coaching ideas for six. You wonder why you try and teach anyone anything.

Despite this I am quite certain that our English coaches are not lacking in ability, nor enthusiasm. They do not have the facilities but if a few dozen folk get coaching diplomas and bat away on their one night a week club effort as so many do they are still doing a good job.

The trouble comes when the fledgling shows excellent promise and gets the better of his coach. That is when the real heartbreak begins.

Here is a potential champion and although he can mop up local opposition, we know he is not the finished article. Out in the tournament circuit there are dozens who can beat him and he has got to have "guts" to stay the pace. But the coach must sell the pupil the idea that he is

buying experience by these defeats.

Tournaments are the only place where this experience can be gained.

An alternative is to send him to another coach who is particularly strong in something we lack. But the trouble with this is that too many established coaches appear to spend the first hour or so asking "Who taught you that?" "That's not the way to do it," and so on, instead of studying the would-be champion and trying to add something to his armour.

What we need is a place under the direct jurisdiction of the Director of Coaching where both the coach and the pupil can go. Here the coach could tell his story, show off his pupil and then be advised on what further steps to take.

With this advice in mind he can take the pupil back to his club and select a member who has the necessary kind of play to supply the type of shots that the pupil most needs to practice.

It takes a long time before being able to see whether that particular bit of promising material is going to really fulfil expectations.

Of course, by the time the coach has done this a couple of times he will be tripping over his beard, but it's a lovely thought.

## HUNGARY HONOURS TABLE TENNIS STARS

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# Marathons Unlimited

## THE LONGEST POINT

By HARRISON EDWARDS

**TWO hours for a point . . . seven hours for one match (unfinished at that) . . . and eleven hours for the Swaythling Cup final.**

That was the farcical position at the Prague World Championships of 1936, which came near to putting table tennis in the category of "Pole Squatting" or other "I-can-do-it-longer-than-you" crazes, and eventually led to the introduction of the Time-Limit.

It all started in the earlier rounds of the Swaythling Cup. Rumania, developing an over-defensive campaign, "chiselled" their way to a shock win over all-conquering Hungary, champions of the three previous years, and wore down all opposition in their group. They were already assured of a place in the final, when they came up against Poland, but here their hearts and those of thousands of table tennis fans were to be broken on one of the rocks of rugged Alekszy Ehrlich, who could also give a lesson in stonewalling when necessary.

And this he considered was one of those times. He was determined to give the Rumanians a taste of their own medicine.

Facing Paneth, the Rumanian No. 1, Ehrlich became a machine-like automaton. He merely concentrated on returning the ball, making absolutely no effort to make a winning shot.

At a leisurely pace he just pushed the ball back over the net, and with Paneth doing the same it looked as though they had discovered the secret of perpetual motion.

Backwards and forwards the ball gently pinged and ponged. At first the spectators were amused. They shook with laughter for Ehrlich was truly holding the Rumanian tactics up to ridicule.

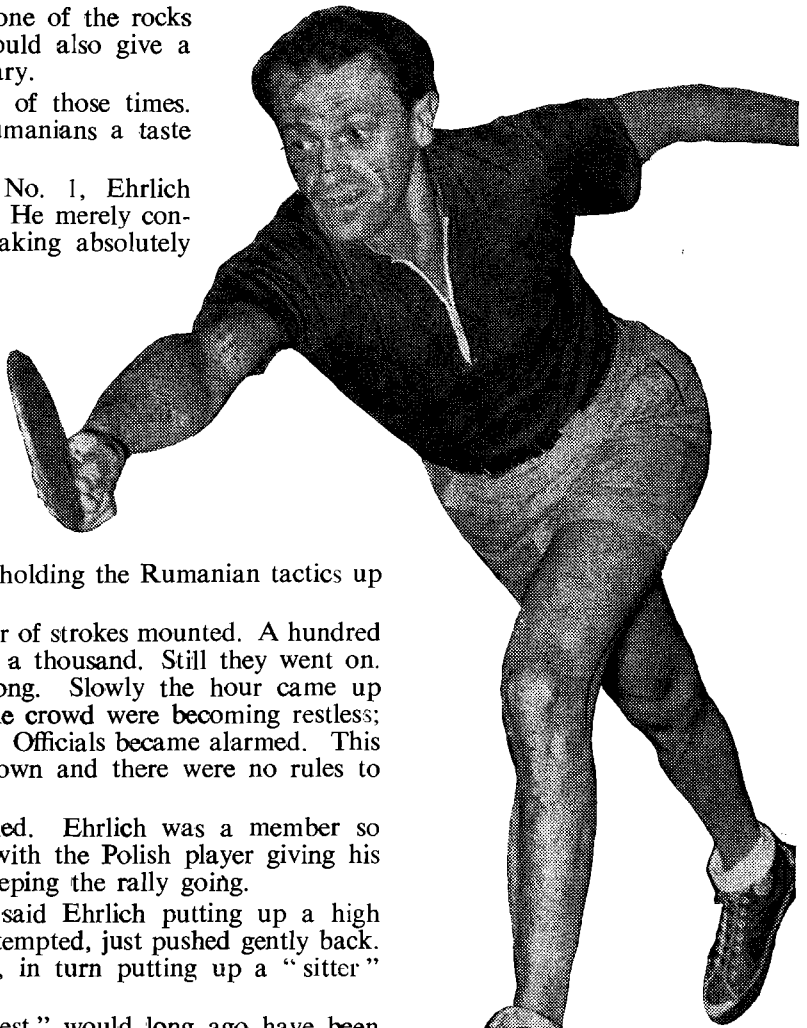
The minutes ticked by; the number of strokes mounted. A hundred times the ball crossed the net, then a thousand. Still they went on. Ping . . . pong . . . ping . . . pong. Slowly the hour came up and the score was still love-all. The crowd were becoming restless; they had long ceased to be amused. Officials became alarmed. This was a situation they had never known and there were no rules to cover it.

The International Jury were called. Ehrlich was a member so they met at the side of the table, with the Polish player giving his views and at the same time still keeping the rally going.

"Look, he just refuses to hit," said Ehrlich putting up a high sitter, which Paneth, refusing to be tempted, just pushed gently back. "But I can't hit," retorted Paneth, in turn putting up a "sitter" only for Ehrlich to push it back.

Had this been boxing, "No contest" would long ago have been called. But the referee, the umpire, and indeed the jury had no

(Continued on page 14)



ALEKSZY EHRLICH



## MARATHONS UNLIMITED (Continued)

powers to do anything about it. And so it went on. Ping . . . pong . . . ping . . . pong.

Ninety minutes. The crowd booed and whistled, but Ehrlich and Paneth still played on. Then around the two hours mark the ultimatum was delivered. "Unless they finished quickly, they would be relegated to a cold back room with no spectators and they could play there till the crack of doom."

Whether or not it was the threat, but Ehrlich made a mistake. He did not push quite hard enough. The ball touched the net and rolled over to give him the point.

The spell was broken and so was Paneth's spirit. The rest of the match took little time and indeed the standing joke was "Paneth had let Ehrlich get too far ahead."

Poland went on to win the tie 5-0, but it had no influence on the result of the group and Rumania went forward to the final against Austria and yet another marathon to end all table tennis marathons.

The final started at 9.30 p.m. on the Sunday evening. Long drawn out matches saw the hours tick by and with the bewitching hour of midnight a suggestion was made that the

match should be postponed. This was dismissed and the battle went on . . . 1 a.m. . . . 2 a.m. . . . 3 a.m. . . . The arena was nearly empty, officials were weary and eventually at 3.30 a.m. the Police stopped it with the score at two matches-all. They would not allow the hall to be occupied after 3 a.m. The remainder of the matches were played off later in the week with Austria winning 5-4, and three of their wins were recorded by a youngster playing in his first world's meeting . . . Richard Bergmann, later to win the singles title four times, twice as an English representative, for he sought refuge in Britain after the Germans walked into Austria.

## SEVEN HOURS

These two marathons should have been enough for anyone's taste, but yet a third was to come. And once again Paneth was involved. This time it was a seven hours' battle with another giant, Michele Haguenaeur of France, and it was eventually decided on the spin of a coin!

It was in the third round of the individual singles and on the last day of the meeting. They started at 10 a.m., took six hours over the first four games and with everything pointing to the programme not finishing the Jury delivered an ultimatum:

"Thirty minutes to complete the match, otherwise both scratched."

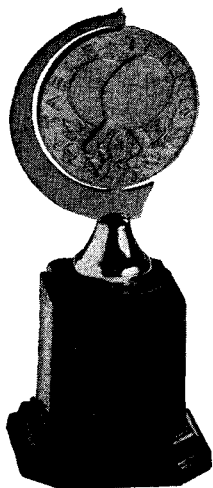
It was obvious they would not finish, so, the French and Rumanian captains got together, and rather than both lose their man decided to toss for it. The French skipper won, but that seven hours marathon took its toll of Haguenaeur and he was eliminated in the next round.

Such episodes cannot happen again, but there was to be another big incident before the existing rule of 20 minutes for the first games and ten for each succeeding game was introduced.

The first attempt at a time limit was the following year when it was decided to limit all five-game matches to 1 hour 45 minutes. This broke down after Ruth Aarons, of U.S.A., the defending champion, and Trudi Pritzi, of Austria, were disqualified in the women's singles final, having failed to reach a decision when the time limit was invoked. The title was declared vacant.

Miss Aarons was so disgusted that she never took part in another championship meeting, and the game lost a great player to the stage.

Such a thing could not happen under existing rules for the player who is ahead when time is called is the winner.



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# CAN YOU BEAT IT

By **BRYAN CUTRESS**

**W**HILE scientists are trying to get their rockets to the moon and politicians their problems to the Summit, the "silly season," which gets almost as much publicity, is rapidly reaching its peak.

In this progressive age when even some British Railways trains arrive on time, it seems odd that people still want to squat on top of a pole, play the piano or talk non-stop longer than anyone else; get the largest number of people into a car or telephone box; push a bed from Birmingham to London or march 110 miles in a record time.

But the latest craze in this, the space age, is beyond belief. Some people actually want to see how long they can play continuous table tennis before collapsing.

The record being claimed at present is 24 hours. Two 19-year-olds, Robert Barrett and Sidney Hollier set up the time last month at the Hatfield Youth Centre when they spent from 8 p.m. one Saturday until the same time on the following Sunday evening, playing a total of 289 games. For the statistically minded this is an average of approximately 12 games per hour.

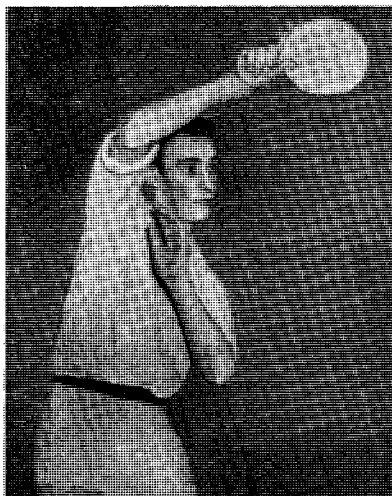
Neither of the boys collapsed so I suppose Barrett is the champion because he won 190 of the games. Congratulations.

## ANY CHALLENGERS

These two had umpires (anyone know of the world umpiring record?), ball-boys and were fed with chocolate glucose, orange juice etc., so it follows—I think—that should any hardy couple decide to attack the record without these little luxuries they would only have to play for 24 hours to capture the record. Any challengers?

I'm afraid I have never been able to understand the glory of self-inflicted boredom, fatigue and time wasting involved in these endurance tests.

I guess I must either be old-fashioned, lack the competitive spirit or be just plain lazy because although I play most sports all I ever want to do in the endurance line is bat for my cricket club longer than anyone else—providing, of course, it does not run into more than a couple of exhausting hours.



**ROBERT BARRETT and SIDNEY HOLLIER the Table Tennis "marathoners"**

*Herts. Advertiser picture.*

## THE CIRCULATION DRIVE

By **GEOFF HARROWER**

### A COPY PER CLUB

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. They both managed to increase their already terrific percentage during December. Can they be caught? Well, watch Buckinghamshire. Ian White won't be satisfied until every club in the county takes at least one copy each month.

Hertfordshire, like Buckinghamshire, are climbing up the table, and there are 50 extra copies going to Watford for their "Closed" Championships in January. Frankly, I consider that every League in the country can sell at least 50 copies during their Annual Championships, not only at the finals, but during the rounds as well. Today, many people only see Table Tennis once a year, on their annual excursion to the local championships. What about it, Magazine Secretaries? Any League Secretary who wants copies can have them on sale or return terms.

One prominent county, occupying a not-so-prominent position in the table, are so determined to alter that position that the Chairman is putting himself personally behind the drive.

My remarks last month about Teddy Grant were justified, as already Hampshire have jumped 6 places in the table, and they won't stop there. If you can't be top, at least qualify for the bonus by getting beyond 100 per cent.

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| CAMBRIDGESHIRE   | 253 |
| SUFFOLK          | 248 |
| BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  | 160 |
| NORFOLK          | 154 |
| OXFORDSHIRE      | 151 |
| WARWICKSHIRE     | 129 |
| HERTFORDSHIRE    | 121 |
| WILTSHIRE        | 119 |
| MIDDLESEX        | 96  |
| ESSEX            | 95  |
| BERKSHIRE        | 85  |
| SUSSEX           | 74  |
| DURHAM           | 66  |
| GLOUCESTERSHIRE  | 52  |
| SURREY           | 49  |
| HAMPSHIRE        | 42  |
| LINCOLNSHIRE     | 41  |
| LANCASHIRE       | 39  |
| YORKSHIRE        | 39  |
| DEVON            | 38  |
| KENT             | 38  |
| LEICESTERSHIRE   | 37  |
| DERBYSHIRE       | 34  |
| BEDFORDSHIRE     | 22  |
| STAFFORDSHIRE    | 17  |
| SOMERSET         | 15  |
| NORTHAMPTONSHIRE | 14  |
| CHESHIRE         | 9   |
| DORSET           | 9   |
| WORCESTERSHIRE   | 9   |
| NORTHUMBERLAND   | 4   |
| CORNWALL         | —   |
| HUNTINGDONSHIRE  | —   |
| NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  | —   |
| SHROPSHIRE       | —   |

# TRY A SCORING CHANGE

By JOHNNY LEACH

**L**ET'S face facts. Table Tennis, although it now boasts more players than ever before, is losing spectator appeal. No longer do the crowds cram the halls bringing out the "House Full" notices.

In fact such has been the falling off of public following that some tournaments are having to put up the shutters.

Why this change? Television has been partly blamed, and let's be honest, there are not the personalities of the Barna and Bergmann era.

What then can be done about it?

I have been examining this question and feel that perhaps the time has come to experiment.

Table tennis has all the ingredients for which the sporting public craves—tension, drama, uncertainty and thrills—but the climaxes are too often divided by long periods of dull, negative play.

And that I believe is the root of the trouble.

Matches last too long for modern tastes. Under traditional scoring a match can go on for as long as 95 minutes; county championship con-

tests often take over four hours.

That is much too long. Short, sharp games, with conclusive results within a limited time are needed to give the tournaments new life.

So let us take a look at the system of scoring. We accept it today because we were brought up on it, but is it necessarily the best?

## ELEVEN-UP

Why not play 11-up, instead of 21? That would encourage shorter games with more frequent climaxes and more varied opposition.

Of course, some players could still turn 11-up into a marathon, but not if we set a reasonable time-limit, then applied the "expedite rule," introduced by the Americans.

**We could even experiment with a sudden death tournament of one game of 11-up. Every point would be vital and it would help our players—notoriously slow starters—improve their concentration.**

A whole tournament could be run off in one evening, providing plenty of thrills to whet the public appetite.

Perhaps one of the clubs running Sunday tournaments would like to experiment with this idea and let me know the result.

Again looking for other means, why not try out the system used in badminton and squash rackets where you first have to win the service before you can score points.

That battle for the service can lead to a greater tensivity of play. Even a player at match point and with a comfortable lead, can never be certain of winning if he should drop the service.

Another alternative is the lawn tennis system of a series of games making up a set.

These are merely suggestions. I do not necessarily say they would provide the ideal solution, but we have got to start thinking.

Other people might have different suggestions which would lead to improvement. So why not experiment now?

Any improvements we are able to suggest as a result of successful experiment would, I am sure, be welcomed by the rest of the world. For other countries have invariably followed our lead.

Now to turn to another subject . . . the playing area. Recently tournament play with the much faster sandwich bat has convinced many of us that we need more space.

At the first English "Open" at Wembley the amount of run-back and side-room provided was 60ft. by 40ft. This was later reduced to 40ft. by 20ft., the maximum recommended to present day tournament organisers. The minimum is 36ft. by 18ft.

It is true the crowd love to see Bergmann crash against the barrier retrieving a boundary shot or Landry sprawling against a side wall in attempting a spectacular wide hit, but they would do the same if the area was twice as large.

Let's agree there should be a limit but under existing conditions we should revert to the old Wembley size.

Confined space is leading to bad habits, with young players learning to defend too close to the table. It spoils their footwork.

When opposing sandwich my experience is that it is better to take the ball as late as possible when defending.

Give our players extra space and they will soon acquire the extra speed necessary to make good use of it. Their play will become more spectacular.

## Australian Table Tennis Boom

By CLEM GRUBER

**T**HE Victorian Table Tennis Association, in the Olympic city of Melbourne, is conducting a world-wide advertising campaign for a full-time promotion officer and coach.

This action clearly shows the tremendous growth of the sport, not only in Victoria, but in Australia as a whole.

Since taking over a building in the Albert Park Reserve in 1956 the Victorian T.T.A. have converted it into the largest table tennis centre in the world. The building is 154ft. by 1,280ft. and has accommodation for 41 tables on regulation sized courts, under one roof. And each court is fenced.

The amenities include hot and cold showers for men and women, a luxurious committee room, a lounge where players and visitors can meet, and a snack bar.

The opening of the centre has had a tremendous influence on the sport in Melbourne and entries for Winter team matches have risen from a little over a hundred in 1955 to 365 in 1959. They are expected to top 400 next winter. Even the Summer competition attracted an entry of 330 teams.

The centre is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. and is accessible to all and sundry. It has become the venue for most Victorian tournaments and next September will be the scene of the Australian National Championships.

The Australian T.T.A. has applied for an option to conduct the 1965 World Championships, and if this is granted, they will be held at this wonderful Melbourne Centre.

Meanwhile, improvements are still being made. A grandstand area for 1,000 spectators has recently been opened and work is under way laying down a wooden floor to bring the centre up to world standards in every respect.

Such has been the success of this Melbourne venture that the Badminton and Basketball Associations have followed the example of the Victorian T.T.A. and opened similar centres in the same parklands.



## WELSH CORNER

## WELSH "OPEN" CANCELLED

**B**IG talking point in Welsh table tennis circles over Christmas was the announced cancellation of the Welsh "Open" Championships, an event as popular across the border in England as it is in Wales. The reason is purely one of finance, and one can only regret that this is a factor which is causing ever growing concern, not only in the Principality, but also in the administrative circles of our much more powerful neighbour.

The plain truth is table tennis in Britain no longer attracts crowds big enough to enable organisers to provide the minimum conditions necessary for a successful tournament, and if the present trend continues we shall have to accept tournaments like those of many years ago, when the sheer enthusiasm of the competitors surmounted the inconveniences of a cheaply run event.

The cost of running a competition continue to rise, whilst conversely the number of supporters paying at the turn-styles continues to fall. Time was when the mere inclusion of a Victor Barna or a Richard Bergmann or a Johnny Leach was sufficient to guarantee the organisers at least a chance to break even. Unfortunately it is not so today, and the "man in the street" would be hard put to it to call to mind more than one or two of those who seem to be amongst Britain's top performers.

An event like the Welsh "Open" never did make money, but the Welsh Association was content that it should be a prestige event. The fall off in public support, however, has been so marked that a large loss faces the organisers this season. So, for this season, at any rate, the Welsh "Open" is not to be.

## CARDIFF SUCCESS

Meanwhile, the Cardiff "Open" on December 12, although not attracting a large entry, proved most successful.

George Evans took the men's singles for his third title of the season, beating Ron Davies in the final.

Evans's style of play is certainly paying off this season, for he went through to the final without dropping a game.

His semi-final victim was Bernard Dimascio, who had previously just managed to scrape home against the very much improved junior Colin Thomas. Thomas accounted for Stan Jones, while Newport's Cyril Gray did well to beat Norman Parker.

Evans collected a second title in the mixed doubles with Joan Lloyd, and narrowly missed a third, losing, with Davies, 22-24 in the third to Alan Morris and Glyn Morgan in the men's doubles final.

Audrey Bates lost her singles title in the final where she found Audrey Coombs in brilliant form.

Showing no effects of a wrist injury suffered in the semi-final, where she appeared several times on the point of collapse against Betty Gray, Mrs. Coombs

tore through Miss Bates with tremendous forehands and backhands for a straight games win.

Miss Bates was also runner-up with Greta Dimascio in the women's doubles, won by Margaret Phillips and Margaret Jones.

Latest positions in the Welsh League are: **Division I:** Swansea 13 pts., Cardiff 12, Newport 11, Eastern Valleys 11, Abergavenny 9, Cardiff Public Services 4, Rhondda 4.

**Division II South:** Cardiff 12, Bridgend 7, Public Services 6, Rhondda 6, Eastern Valley 5.

**Division II North:** Aberdare 12, Merthyr 8, Tredegar 8, Abergavenny 5, Brecon 3.

**Women's Division:** Cardiff 4, Newport 4, Swansea 3, Public Services 1.

**Junior Division:** Abergavenny 12, Aberdare 10, Swansea 10, Cardiff 9, Newport 4, Port Talbot 3.

The Welsh team to meet England, Ireland and Scotland in the Quadrangular international in Belfast on January 22-23 is: Ron Davies, George Evans, Bernard Dimascio, Stan Jones, Audrey Bates, Audrey Coombs, and Greta Dimascio.

Glamorgan's December matches brought mixed fortune with a 10-0 hammering from Middlesex in the Premier Division and a 7-3 win over Oxford in the Midland Division.

## NATIONAL CUPS

**M**ANCHESTER and Birmingham, who between them have monopolised the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl national team championships, have again reached the Zone finals.

Both have been favoured with home draws, Manchester meeting Burnley, and Birmingham opposing Norwich.

Draws for the Zone finals to be played by January 24, 1960 are:

## WILMOTT CUP

1. Huddersfield v. Sheffield.
2. Manchester v. Burnley.
3. Birmingham v. Cambridge.
4. Watford v. St. Albans.
5. South London v. East London.
6. Willesden v. West London.
7. Southampton v. Brighton.
8. Maidenhead v. Cheltenham.

## ROSE BOWL

1. Winners: LEEDS.
2. Winners: MANCHESTER.
3. Birmingham v. Norwich.
4. Stevenage v. St. Albans.
5. South London v. London Business Houses.
6. Sutton v. North West Kent.
7. Portsmouth v. Bournemouth.
8. Reading v. Plymouth.

## BOOK REVIEW

## ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW

**I**N these days of television quizzes and panel games, most people are becoming statistically minded. This is particularly so among sports folk.

Whenever they get together, either at the club or at tournaments, it is almost certain that, sooner or later, the subject will turn to whom won what title and when.

It can frequently lead to quite heated arguments. So why not be prepared and make certain of your facts.

Most of the answers on sporting records are now available to everyone in a new publication *Encyclopaedia of Sport*. Published by Sampson Low, Marston and Co. at the bargain price of 12s. 6d., it is the greatest value yet in sports books.

Its 328 pages cover the records of some 50 sports, ranging from Angling to Wrestling, and there is a quiz on every page.

Table Tennis has a five-page section to itself, covering the history of the game, winners of World, European and English championships. There is also a list of all post-war internationals, both senior and junior, and from this we find that Johnny Leach has made the record of 150 appearances, while Diane Rowe

heads the women with 111 appearances.

The encyclopaedia has been edited by Charles Harvey, with the records of the individual sports compiled by specialists in their own field. W. Harrison Edwards, Editor of TABLE TENNIS, has been responsible for the Table Tennis section.

Covering thousands of records, involving some 40,000 players, and with 2,000 illustrations, including many caricatures by SPARK of the *Evening News*, on one can afford to be without this Sportsman's Bible.

Book now for

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## KENT PLAN FOR SUMMER

**C**ONTRARY to the view that lawn tennis kills table tennis in the summer, some 75 per cent of Kent clubs operate in the so-called "off season."

This has been revealed by the long awaited report of the Special Development Committee set up by Kent last season at the suggestion of their chairman Conrad Jaschke.

The conclusions of Brian Hartley, Kent's auditor, and Don Mitchell, the Bromley League hon. secretary, who were responsible for the report, are that the county must cater for them with organised summer competitions.

The report, to be circulated to all Kent clubs this month, has been compiled from a questionnaire returned by more than 100 of the 360 clubs in the county.

Other striking points are: Although 40 per cent of the clubs have entries in the Kent "closed" it is in most cases only one or two players from an average membership of 20. General reason for absentees is THEY DO NOT THINK THEMSELVES GOOD ENOUGH.

### COACHING

On a question of coaching some 95 per cent say they have not received any. The conclusion: if the average playing standard could be raised by a county coaching scheme, the problems of falling entry in the "closed" and other events could be solved.

The questionnaire reveals little interest in county administration, and none at E.T.T.A. level.

Generally, players are willing to face increased costs for their table tennis, but ONLY IF THEY ARE GOING TO GET MORE TANGIBLE BENEFITS FOR THEIR MONEY.

They feel too little is done for players on a lower level.

The conclusion of this is that the amount of money circulating within the game must be increased but at the same time a much larger proportion must be used for the benefit of the game generally and not just the few at the top.

The report condemns "ping-pong" mentality among some leading players, and suggest that whereas in other sports international fixtures are a source of revenue, they are a financial drain in table tennis and should be cut to a minimum until such time as it is possible to run them profitably.

It is also emphasised that direct or indirect government grants are necessary if this country is to compete on equal terms with State sponsored countries.

**Leslie Constable**

## MIXED DOUBLES ROMANCE

**A** NEW table tennis romance comes to light with the recent engagement of 21-year-old Kent County players Joyce Fielder and George Elliott (see cover picture).

A formidable mixed doubles combination, they have known each other since their early teens when they first met at the R.A.C.S. Sports Ground, New Eltham, where Joyce lives with her parents. Her father is the head groundsman.

George, who was recently demobbed from the R.A.F., has had to be content to remain in the back-

ground while Joyce has climbed the ladder to international status. But he comes into his own in the mixed doubles.

Gradually they have built up an impressive list of successes from the R.A.C.S. title they first won several years ago, to the more recent Sussex "Open." They are the Kent "Closed" champions.

George, who was the R.A.F. champion, is now No. 4 in the Kent ranking list. He works for a London shipping firm, while Joyce is a typist at Eltham.

## LEICESTERSHIRE TONIC

**F**OR the first time in two years Leicestershire won a women's singles and mixed doubles match when they drew 5-5 with Bedfordshire in Division II (Midland) of the National County Championship.

Pauline Jackson and Pat Kilsby were responsible for this long awaited tonic. Both were on top form and also combined to win the women's doubles.

The juniors are not having a very successful season and following their recent defeat by Oxford have now lost all three of their matches by 5-3.

It is a different story in the Midlands League where Leicester are having their best ever season with an unbeaten record of eleven wins and one draw.

English Electric II, with Stan Davies and John Geschke in top trim, have built up a substantial lead in Division 2B of the Leicester and District League and look certain winners.

Leicester Y.M.C.A. still head Division I but their position is being strongly challenged by the Leicester Club who have a very sound trio in Graham Newby, John Ellis and Rodney Pickering.

These two clubs look like coming into conflict quite a few times this season for they will meet in the final of the Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy and are also still in the running, with Post Office and Benteleys, for the Rose Johnson Bowl.

It has been decided to stage a Junior "Open" tournament in February and with such youngsters as Ivan Atanasoff, Peter Lewry, Stewart Tyers, Michael Porter, Peter Jacques and Andy Brunning all available it is causing plenty of interest.

The Leicestershire "Closed" will be held at the College of Art Gymnasium on February 13.

**Philip Reid**

## WESTERN COUNTIES

### BULLETIN

**M**OLLIE JONES, a former English international, showed she has lost little of her fire and skill when helping Cheltenham to easily defeat Newport by 7-2 in the Women's Division of the Western Counties Championship.

She played consistently well throughout the encounter and like Mrs. S. O'Brien, a Gloucestershire county player, won all her three matches.

Newport's only successes were gained by Miss Bale and Miss Council who were rewarded for their determined efforts with victories over Mrs. J. Cruwys.

Newport had some consolation when with the same side, they sprang a surprise 5-4 victory over Bristol Ladies, who were unfortunate to be deprived of the services of Mrs. Terry Spokes by county championship duty.

Mrs. J. Collier was in brilliant form and scored three of Bristol's victories while Mrs. J. Picking secured the other with a good win over Mrs. Cartwright.

Miss J. Moget, making her first appearance for Bristol, gave a very commendable performance for although losing her three matches she extended two of her opponents the full distance.

**Grove Motlow**

## NORFOLK TITLE CHANGES

**A**LL but two titles changed hands in the Norfolk County Championships at Norwich Lads' Club on November 28. A. Wickens (Norwich) in the men's singles and G. Whittaker (Norwich), who took the Veterans' singles, both won their titles for the third successive year.

Wickens beat C. Carter (Yarmouth) 21-10, 21-13 in the singles final, his delicately lofted ball and well timed flick getting the better of Carter's half volleyed defence. Wickens accounted for J. Ewles in the "quarters" and Tony Fox in the semi. Carter's victims in these rounds were Holden and Moore.

Mrs. E. Allen (Yarmouth) reversed last year's final result when she beat Miss M. Turner (Norwich) in the women's singles final and also shared the women's doubles with Mrs. H. Ewles. Miss Turner had her consolation by winning the mixed with W. Minors.

J. and M. Ewles regained the men's doubles, beating A. Archer and D. Clutton, who in the semi-final had accounted for the defending champions A. Hipperson and A. Launder.

**Men's Singles:** A. WICKENS (N) bt C. Carter (Y) 21-10, 21-13. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. E. ALLEN (Y) b M. Turner (N) 21-18, 21-18.

**Men's Doubles:** J. and M. EWLES (N and Y) bt A. Archer/D. Clutton (Y) 21-9, 16-21, 21-16. **Women's Doubles:** Mrs. H. EWLES (N)/Mrs. ALLEN bt Mrs. H. Harrison/Mrs. H. Bales (N) 21-13, 21-12. **Mixed Doubles:** W. MINORS/Miss TURNER (N) bt J. and H. Ewles 19-21, 21-19, 23-21.

**Boys' Singles:** J. TAYLOR (Y) bt R. Meadows (W) 21-7, 21-8. **Girls' Singles:** J. EVANS (Y) bt A. Seaman (D) 21-11, 21-8. **Veterans' Singles:** G. WHITTAKER (N) bt J. Malonowski (N) 22-20, 21-9.

Mrs. Cassell and Maurice Ewles suffered their first mixed doubles defeat in the County Championships when Norfolk were held to a 5-all draw by Cambridgeshire at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. in December.

Norwich Y.M.C.A. Boys' Club held their first *Eagle/Girl* competition. The club had 63 entries. The Under-13 section was won by Robin Huggins and the Under-15 by R. Pierce. Wymondham Secondary Modern School had an even better entry in this competition and this is their second year.

Wymondham recorded their first victory over Dereham since their re-entry into the East Anglian League. This is their second win in this League since its formation. This must be encouraging to the Wymondham Committee, as two seasons ago only four teams were competing in this League.

**Robin Wickens**

## WILTSHIRE WANDERINGS

**A** BRIEF look-around the various Wiltshire Leagues reveals that at the half-way stage the following players can boast of 100% averages:—

**Salisbury:** A. Ward (New Sarum), R. Pearcey (Imperial) and R. Sheppard (Woodford). **Swindon:** T. Wolfe (B.R. Staff Association A). **West Wiltshire:** W. Griffin (Clarks Social). **Devizes:** A. Alexander (Literary Institute), J. Leigh (Roundway Hospital), and B. Read (R.E.M.E. B).

Wiltshire League (Div. I) A. Alexander (Devizes) and T. Wolfe (Swindon) have

mediate" status, still improving, and still fighting.

The first two pilot events were held at:—

November 22 — North-West Kent. First place was shared by E. Hodson and C. Deaton. Others selected were: H. Buist, A. W. Condon, K. Edwards, D. Creamer, C. Warren, D. Lowe, M. Ellis.

December 12—Middlesex. First place was gained by A. Piddock who was unbeaten; second position went to C. Warren. Others selected were: E. Hodson, T. E. Densham, D. Grant, G. Livesey, G. Murray, A. W. Cornish.

It is already clear that the expansion of this programme (for which the co-operation of tournament organisers will be greatly valued) can in future offer welcome opportunity for young rising players to attend tournaments with the certainty of having good match practice irrespective of the luck of the main singles draw.

The events also give selectors an opportunity for a close look at some of the players who attract attention at a somewhat later age.

All counties have been asked to nominate potential candidates for selection.

the joint best aggregate having both lost one game.

Wolfe was beaten by Alexander who in turn lost to T. Cash at Salisbury.

Reigning champions of the Premier Division of the County League, Swindon opened up their top-of-the-table lead to four points with an 8-2 home win over hitherto challengers Salisbury.

Positions:—

|                   | DIVISION ONE |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |  |  |
|-------------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|
|                   | P.           | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |  |  |  |
| Swindon .....     | 6            | 5  | 1  | 0  | 46 | 14 | 11 |  |  |  |
| West Wilts .....  | 5            | 3  | 1  | 1  | 38 | 12 | 7  |  |  |  |
| Salisbury .....   | 5            | 3  | 1  | 1  | 31 | 19 | 7  |  |  |  |
| Devizes .....     | 5            | 2  | 1  | 2  | 26 | 24 | 5  |  |  |  |
| Corsham .....     | 6            | 1  | 0  | 5  | 11 | 49 | 2  |  |  |  |
| Chippenhams ..... | 5            | 0  | 0  | 5  | 8  | 42 | 0  |  |  |  |

**D. Hillier**

## DERBYSHIRE — GIRL WEAKNESS

**D**ERBYSHIRE'S 7-3 win over Northumberland, their first county championship victory of the season, and Chesterfield's defeat of Derby are the main talking points in the county this month.

The county side, unchanged from previous matches were soon the masters, but the big weakness was once again on the women's events. However, there are several promising young girls coming along so it is hoped this weakness will shortly be remedied.

Chesterfield, with a narrow 6-4 win over Derby, are now firm favourites for the county league. **A shock in this match was the double defeat of Colin Deaton, the County No. 1 by A. Hough and E. Still.**

Deaton was not at his best, but the following day he travelled to the North West Kent "Open" where he defeated Bobbie Raybould and also took a game from Ian Harrison.

Buxton, who in the past have had to rely on experienced campaigners have, according to county non-playing captain Fred Moody, the best prospect for many seasons in Harold Salt. He has a good all-round game and is keen to improve.

No venue has yet been fixed for the final home match with Yorkshire, but the general opinion is that the Chesterfield New Beetwell Street Police Headquarters where the Northumberland fixture took place is ideal.

## CHAMPION COUNTY v. REST

The Executive Committee of the National County Championships met in London on December 20 with Mr. Frank Bateman in the chair.

The arrangements for the televising of the Champion County (Surrey) v Rest match at Hanwell Community Centre on January 3 were approved. The following were selected to represent the Rest: **Bryan Merrett** (Gloucestershire), **Ian Harrison** (Gloucestershire), **Derek Burridge** (Middlesex), **Diane Rowe** (Middlesex), **Joyce Fielder** (Kent). Non-playing captain: **Ivor Eyles** (Gloucestershire).

## COACHING INVESTMENT

(Continued from page 6)

T.T.A. Instructors: J. Carrington and R. J. McCree. A total of 30 trainees attended.

December 9. A Coaching Demonstration was staged at Cheshunt on behalf of Cheshunt and District T.T. League. Eighteen trainees of Youth Club groups took part with others as non-playing spectators. Instructors: J. Carrington, G. R. Goulding, Mrs. E. Carrington.

November 1-3. Twenty-two trainees, including Club leaders, received practical and theoretical instruction in Table Tennis during the Residential Course of the Isle of Wight Youth Service at Shanklin. Instructors: E. Grant (Diploma candidate), assisted by Derek Grant, last year's junior International player.

## E.T.T.A. Intermediate Invitation Tournaments

These are a new venture by E.T.T.A., designed to provide additional tuning-up competition for players regarded by the National Selection Committees as of "Inter-



## YORKSHIRE NOTES

## GORDON BUCK(S) UP HULL

A NEW name to note at Hull is Gordon Buck. Stuart Dyson remembers him as his conqueror in the Hull "Open" and on his debut for Hull "B" against Harrogate (6-4 winners) Gordon won both his singles to enter the county grading scheme.

So Hull moved this sandwich player up to the first team against Barnsley. This proved a bit too much, though Buck helped unbeaten Peter Smith to a narrow doubles victory over Starkie/McGarry and Hull won 6-4.

Leeds held Sheffield to a draw and Huddersfield top the table after beating Bradford 6-4 without Ray Hinchliff.

Bradford ran up their best ever total against Leeds when they won 9-1 but Leeds women turned the scores round. In a youths' "decider" Bradford scraped home 6-4.

The decline of Bradford women has been an inter-league surprise. Runners-up

last season, they have also gone down to Dewsbury and Huddersfield and at this rate are heading fast for relegation.

Dewsbury won all the singles when they visited Hull "B" but lost both doubles. Hull women avenged by winning 7-3 at Dewsbury. Kath Whinham pipped Pam Morton 21-19 in the third.

Unlucky York's 6-4 defeat to Castleford/Pontefract was their third in a row by that score. For their second team F. Gregoire, a student from Barbados, won his singles against Harrogate "B."

D. Utley (Co-op.) was an unexpected winner of York's Bagshaw Handicap Trophy with a straight games final victory over Keith Dunn.

**Norman Moss** is SCARBOROUGH'S "closed" champion for the fourth year running after beating John Moorhouse 21-19 in the third. Other winners—**Mrs. J. Smithson**; juniors, **G. A. Tucker**; veterans, **E. Moorhouse**; doubles: **E. Lester** and **R. Dargue**, **Mrs. Smithson** and **Miss G. Rout**, and **Lester** and **Mrs. P. A. Maynard**.

John Spencer got Army leave specially to compete in the LEEDS championships and reached the semi-final before losing to **Mike Barratt** (Moor Allerton), who went on to become the first non-Victoria player to take the title in ten years. Runner-up **Stuart Laycock** put out Terry Lofthouse in the quarter-final.

**Shirley Riley** merited the women's title after upsetting favourites **Marjorie Harrison** and **Marjorie Lightfoot** in straight games.

Other winners—youths, **D. Laycock**; veterans, **N. Rushton**; doubles: **Spencer** and **P. Simpson**, **Mrs. Harrison** and **Miss Lightfoot** and **K. Park** and **Miss Lightfoot**.

A big Huddersfield League surprise the defeat of leaders Y.M.C.A. "A" by their own "B" team. Colin Butlin, the league president, and Gordon Hinchliff won two each in a 6-4 shaker. Four points separate the top eight in a grand division two scrap.

At Doncaster youngsters **Michael Dainty** and **Pete Duncombe** are doing well with Y.M.C.A. teams who lead in division one while the "C" team fight it out with Harvesters in division two. Y.M.C.A. Boys and Friends are contenders for the youth league. Young players to note are **Pat Dainty** (12) and **John Ratcliffe** (Waverley), who is 13.

Turf Hotel, usually so consistent in Doncaster's top division, have been in difficulties through service calls and shift work but will be strengthened in the New Year by the return of **Eric Smith** and **Jack Summerscales**.

A.E.D.

Malcolm Hartley

## MIDDLESEX HOPEFUL

AFTER last month's loss to Surrey, Middlesex are fighting back and have not dropped a rubber since, with wins over Glamorgam 10-0, and Essex 10-0. It is interesting to note that five different men and three women represented Middlesex in these two matches, which shows the all-round strength.

The Middlesex School's tournament has got past the first round and will continue after the holidays as will the Borough Youths' Competition which has 13 entries this year.

In the Middlesex Inter-League Competition, North Acton, last year's runners-up, lost to Acton 4-5 and seem to be out of the running. The holders, Willesden, started off impressively with an 8-1 victory over Central.

**But watch out for Wembley. In different last year, Wembley have thrashed North Middlesex 9-0 and Central 7-2.**

North Acton beat Barnets 7-2 to complete the monthly fixtures.

Another Middlesex tournament due shortly is the West Middlesex "Open" at West Ealing Club. Do please enter for the club needs a good entry if it is to continue its existence.

## EXCITING SEASON FOR HERTS.

THIS is proving to be one of the most exciting seasons for Hertfordshire. Three of the Juniors, **Ruby Williams**, **Alma Taft**, and **Robert Ractliffe** were included in the England Junior Ranking list. There was much local satisfaction when it was learnt that 15-year-old **Judy** had received an invitation for the England Junior Tour of Germany.

**Judy** has settled down in the County first team whilst **Alma** and **Robert** were selected for Hertfordshire II's opening match against Kent II.

It is encouraging to see Hertfordshire players doing increasingly well at open tournaments. At the Kent Junior our juniors won more titles and secured more placings in finals than any other County—**Geoff Harrower's** work with the Juniors being rewarded.

**Terry Densham** again pulled off the Men's Singles at the Birmingham "Open" and with **Judy** also took the Mixed Doubles. The two junior girls have also been winning senior titles.

The County Executive Committee was delighted when two very active players came forward to fill key vacancies on the Committee. Genial **Jimmy Edwards** (Rickmansworth) took over the Senior Match Secretaryship whilst **Brian Barr** has become the Senior "Closed" Championship Secretary. We hope others will follow their example.

**Stop Press.** Hertfordshire II lost 7-3 to Kent II in a very close match at Cheshunt on Saturday, December 19. Hertfordshire won two of the Doubles and **Ractliffe** won the only singles for Hertfordshire.

G. P. H. Butcher

## SUFFOLK'S BUSY MONTH

AT the half way stage of the season Ipswich head both the senior and junior divisions of the S.I.T.L. Neither team has yet lost in the S.I.T.L. and, although Lowestoft are pressing them strongly in the senior division, the juniors appear well set for the title.

January is always a busy month in Suffolk T.T. and this season is no exception. Quite apart from S.I.T.L. matches there are the Inter-Zones stage of the "Closed" Championships at Corn Hall, Stowmarket, on January 9, and Finals at Wesley Hall, Lowestoft, on January 23. Sandwiched between these events is the N.C.C. match with Norfolk at Lowestoft Y.M.C.A. on January 16.

The first of the eight titles at stake has already been won by Stowmarket's **Kay Powell** who beat **Linda Barrett** in the Final of the Junior Girls' Singles which is always played off separately at Ipswich Convent.

There is a drop of 27 in the entries of the Suffolk "Closed," but the figures still reach 197, bringing in fees of £20 13s. 0d. as against £23 18s. 0d. last season.

Over 150 boys watched the Suffolk Juniors v. Essex Juniors match at St. Joseph's College, Ipswich during December, and they willingly paid for admittance, too! The setting, conditions and hospitality were excellent and both St. Joseph's and Ipswich League are to be congratulated on a splendid job.

During this match young **David Halliday** was presented with his Suffolk Junior Badge—it was his fifth appearance. Star of the Suffolk team, however, was **Howard Osbourn**, who produced form which can only be described as an "eye-opener."

Suffolk's position near the top of the Magazine "League Table" is mainly due to the sterling efforts of **Miss Ann Baldry**, the Socials and Magazine Secretary. Ann has put in a lot of hard work these last two seasons on magazine sales and jumbles sales organisation. On a County Committee which does not generally believe in very young organisers, she is the only member under 21. Suffolk County has its views on most table tennis matters, but it also knows there are always exceptions.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

by CONRAD JASCHKE

## Middlesex in Top Gear

RARELY have I seen a classy team like Essex so thoroughly demoralised as they were in their 10-0 defeat at the hands of Middlesex at Tottenham just before Christmas. This was a different Middlesex from the side which took that 4-6 defeat from Surrey recently, but the North Londoners may have left it too late. While it would be foolish to say that the champions, Surrey, are home and dry, I must confess I feel rather more certain than I did at the start of the season when I forecast that Surrey would retain their title.

Middlesex have always been Essex's bogey, and indeed last season they deprived Essex of their first ever premier championship when they beat them 6-4 at Romford. That was a real fight; this a debacle.

Alan Rhodes gave the home team a good start with a really polished display against Percy Curtis, and Derek Burridge, though given a tough fight by England junior captain Brian Brumwell, always looked in command. Mickey Thornhill beat Bobby

Stevens with something to spare, and then came the hardest blow of all for Essex, when they lost the women's and the men's doubles—two events they had counted on.

There was never any doubt about Di Rowe having the measure of Jean McCree, and Rhodes put in another faultless display against Brumwell.

The mixed doubles saw another easy Middlesex win, and then came perhaps the best singles of the evening, when Percy Curtis put everything he had into his battle with Thornhill. The Middlesex man had too much class in the end, but I could not help admiring the determination of Curtis, who was facing an opponent of far superior equipment.

Burridge had a runaway win over Stevens, to give the home side a clean sheet.

After the match, the losing captain, Brumwell, congratulated Middlesex and apologised to the spectators for the fact that Essex, who have such a reputation for attractive table tennis did not put up a better show. He said

that there was no doubt that Middlesex were a far superior side on the day's play, and thoroughly deserved their runaway win.

Those were sporting words, but afterwards in the dressing room I heard players of both teams complain about the exceptionally slow table, which they felt severely affected the value of the match as a spectacle. The general opinion appeared to be that it was impossible to play attractive table tennis in those circumstances.

Earlier Essex had put themselves in a challenging position by defeating Yorkshire 7-3 at Southend. As I wrote last month, Yorkshire's chances of their first ever premier division championship depend entirely on the availability of Brian Kennedy and without him they had little hope in this match, although they put up some stubborn resistance.

Brian, who has sunk his savings in a coffee bar in Leeds, is most anxious to return to competitive table tennis, but obviously he must first see his new venture on a sound footing.

Everyone wishes him well and no one should criticise his decision.

Although we all love the game, often to the point of foolishness, Brian is well advised not to ignore his own future for the sake of the game.

Let us hope it will soon be such a success that he will be able to return to serious play in time for Yorkshire's key matches in March.

Maurice Simpson gave Yorkshire a good start when he beat Percy Curtis but that was the only time they were in front.

Curtis also lost to Stuart Dyson, but Bobby Stevens and Brian Brumwell were in sparkling form to win four singles and the men's doubles for Essex.

## A CELEBRATION

Jean McCree celebrated her first appearance in the England ranking list (No. 6) with a great win over England's No. 4, Kathie Best. It must be her best performance to date.

Surrey, playing at Grimsby, and Middlesex at Cardiff, both had runaway 10-0 wins at the expense of Lincolnshire and Glamorganshire respectively.

Lincolnshire appeared thoroughly demoralised after Tony Miller, deputising for Joe Somogyi had crushed B. Edlington 21-2, 21-6, in the opening match.

Alan Lindsay and Derek Burridge marked up the easiest of wins for

## COUNTY DIARY

## PREMIER DIVISION

|            |   |           |
|------------|---|-----------|
| January 13 | Surrey v Essex, Ronson Canteen, Leatherhead   | 7.15 p.m. |
|            | Glamorgan v Gloucestershire.  |           |
| January 30 | Lancashire v Lincolnshire, Y.M.C.A., Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3  | 7 p.m.    |
| February 5 | Surrey v Lancashire, Congregational Hall, Guildford   | 7.30 p.m. |
| February 6 | Lincolnshire v Yorkshire, Middlesex v Lancashire, Ascot Gas Water Heaters Ltd., 255, North Circular Road, London N.W.10 | 7.15 p.m. |
|            | Essex v Gloucestershire, Standard Telephone & Cables Works, Harlow  | 7 p.m.    |

## SECOND DIVISION NORTH

|            |  |        |
|------------|--|--------|
| January 30 | Yorkshire v Durham, Albion T.T.C., Bethel Walk, off Cambridge Street, Sheffield. | 7 p.m. |
|------------|--|--------|

## SECOND DIVISION WEST

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| February 6 | Cornwall v Devon, Wiltshire v Somerset. |  |
|------------|---|--|

## SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

|            |   |        |
|------------|---|--------|
| January 23 | Hampshire v Hertfordshire, Johnson & Johnson Factory Canteen, London Road, Portsmouth | 7 p.m. |
| February 6 | Berkshire v Sussex.   |        |

## SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

|            |   |           |
|------------|---|-----------|
| February 6 | Worcestershire v Warwickshire, Carpet Trade Ltd. Canteen, Kidderminster | 7.15 p.m. |
|            | Bedfordshire v Staffordshire.   |           |

## MIDLAND DIVISION

|            |   |        |
|------------|---|--------|
| January 16 | Staffordshire v Nottinghamshire.                    |        |
| February 6 | Oxfordshire v Warwickshire, Calthorpe Hall, Banbury | 4 p.m. |
|            | Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan.                        |        |

## SOUTHERN DIVISION

|            |  |        |
|------------|--|--------|
| January 16 | Suffolk v Norfolk, Y.M.C.A., Lowestoft   | 7 p.m. |
| January 29 | Cambridgeshire v Hertfordshire.  |        |
| February 6 | Kent v Norfolk, Bowater Canteen, Sittingbourne   | 7 p.m. |
|            | Hertfordshire v Buckinghamshire, William Baker Technical School Gymnasium, Golding, Hertford | 7 p.m. |

## NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

|            |   |        |
|------------|---|--------|
| January 9  | Cheshire v Yorkshire.   |        |
| January 30 | Yorkshire v Durham, Albion T.T.C., Bethel Walk, off Cambridge Street, Sheffield | 3 p.m. |

## MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

|            |   |        |
|------------|---|--------|
| January 23 | Leicestershire v Oxfordshire, Y.M.C.A., Leicester   | 7 p.m. |
| February 6 | Oxfordshire v Warwickshire, Calthorpe Hall, Banbury | 7 p.m. |

## SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

|            |  |           |
|------------|--|-----------|
| January 22 | Surrey v Essex, Higgs & Hill Ltd. Canteen, Crown Works, Lawn Lane, South Lambeth Road, London, S.W.8 | 7 p.m.    |
| February 6 | Kent v Sussex, Tarland House Sports Club, Bayhall Road, Tunbridge Wells                              | 6.30 p.m. |
|            | Suffolk v Middlesex, I.C.I. Sports Club, Stowmarket  | 4 p.m.    |

Middlesex but Laurie Landry again had his work cut out, scraping home 18-21, 21-19, 21-19, against Ron Davies.

Gloucestershire kept themselves in the top half of the table with a 7-3 win over Lancashire that was even more convincing than the score suggests, running out to a 6-0 lead.

Merrett, in terrific form, showed his iron temperament when beating Jeff Ingber, the Lancashire No. 1, 23-21, 21-14.

He was leading 20-18 in the first game when Ingber had three successive "edge" points. The Gloucestershire man refused to be rattled and came through with flying colours.

Merrett, with eight singles wins out of eight, is certainly making a strong bid to head the county averages in

in which he could finish only ninth last season.

Cheshire have a commanding lead in Division II North, where Derbyshire collected their first points at the expense of Northumberland. A. Hunt and Colin Deaton were unbeaten.

In Division II West, Cornwall fought back from 2-6 to 4-6 against Somersetshire, but their first defeat cleared the way for Devon to go to the top of the table.

The Worcestershire - Warwickshire clash next month looks like being the key to Division II Midland. They share the lead with identical games average.

Against Staffordshire, Warwickshire trailed all the way to 3-4 then ran out with the last three matches.

Even without Ann Haydon, Warwickshire still dominated the women's events in this division through Pam Mortimer and Mrs. D. Griffiths.

In Division II South, Hertfordshire started in grand style with a 9-1 win over Berkshire at Reading. With three former junior internationals, John Hunt, Terry Densham and Brian Barr, and current junior international Judy Williams, they have a powerful side.

At this stage it looks as though

the championship rests between Hertfordshire and Kent, who have taken the lead following a 7-3 win over Hampshire at Gravesend.

Hampshire, one of the most improved sides in the whole championships, fully extended Kent, with Daphne (Wightman) Gray almost pulling off a surprise at the expense of Joyce Fielder.

I thought Brian James the most improved of the Hampshire players, although he did not win a singles. Compared with last season he is a much more solid player. A little more accuracy in his push strokes, which are not of the same quality as his severe chop and flashing hit, and he could be a big success.

The attacking play of the Kent team against the long ranged defence of James and George Stevens, provided some first-class entertainment.

Sussex were a trifle unlucky not to gain their first point in the South Junior Division when they were beaten 6-4 by Surrey, after leading 2-0.

Mary Shannon and Carol Bagshaw (with R. McKewon in the mixed) saw to it that Surrey gained the three events in which the girls were involved.

## DIVISIONAL TABLES

| PREMIER DIV.        | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Middlesex           | 4  | 3  | 0  | 1  | 33 | 7  | 6  |
| Surrey              | 3  | 2  | 1  | 0  | 21 | 9  | 5  |
| Gloucestershire     | 4  | 2  | 1  | 1  | 24 | 16 | 5  |
| Yorkshire           | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 17 | 13 | 4  |
| Essex               | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 15 | 15 | 4  |
| Glamorgan           | 4  | 1  | 0  | 3  | 13 | 27 | 2  |
| Lancashire          | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3  | 7  | 0  |
| Lincolnshire        | 4  | 0  | 0  | 4  | 4  | 36 | 0  |
| DIV. II MIDLAND     | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
| Warwickshire        | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 14 | 6  | 4  |
| Worcestershire      | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 14 | 6  | 4  |
| Leicestershire      | 3  | 0  | 2  | 1  | 13 | 17 | 2  |
| Staffordshire       | 2  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 9  | 11 | 1  |
| Bedfordshire        | 3  | 0  | 1  | 2  | 10 | 20 | 1  |
| DIV. II NORTH       | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
| Cheshire            | 3  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 9  | 11 | 6  |
| Yorkshire II        | 2  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 12 | 8  | 2  |
| Durham              | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 7  | 3  | 2  |
| Derbyshire          | 3  | 1  | 0  | 2  | 13 | 17 | 2  |
| Northumberland      | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 9  | 21 | 0  |
| DIV. II SOUTH       | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
| Kent                | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 14 | 6  | 4  |
| Hampshire           | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 19 | 11 | 4  |
| Hertfordshire       | 1  | 1  | 0  | 0  | 9  | 1  | 2  |
| Sussex              | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 2  | 8  | 0  |
| Berkshire           | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 6  | 24 | 0  |
| DIV. II WEST        | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
| Devon               | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 16 | 4  | 4  |
| Cornwall            | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 17 | 13 | 4  |
| Wiltshire           | 2  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 11 | 9  | 2  |
| Somerset            | 2  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 9  | 11 | 2  |
| Dorset              | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 7  | 23 | 0  |
| MIDLAND DIV.        | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
| 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  |
| MIDLAND JUNIOR DIV. | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
| Warwickshire        | 3  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 19 | 5  | 6  |
| Staffordshire       | 3  | 2  | 0  | 1  | 13 | 11 | 4  |
| Oxfordshire         | 3  | 1  | 0  | 2  | 7  | 17 | 2  |
| Leicestershire      | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3  | 9  | 15 | 0  |
| SOUTHERN DIV.       | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
| Kent II             | 4  | 4  | 0  | 0  | 35 | 5  | 8  |
| Buckinghamshire     | 2  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 10 | 10 | 2  |
| Norfolk             | 2  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 7  | 13 | 1  |
| Cambridgeshire      | 2  | 0  | 1  | 1  | 5  | 15 | 1  |
| Hertfordshire II    | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3  | 7  | 0  |
| Suffolk             | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0  | 10 | 0  |
| NORTH JUNIOR DIV.   | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
| Lancashire          | 2  | 2  | 0  | 0  | 12 | 4  | 4  |
| Durham              | 2  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 10 | 6  | 2  |
| Yorkshire           | 2  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 10 | 6  | 2  |
| Cheshire            | 2  | 0  | 0  | 2  | 0  | 16 | 0  |
| SOUTH JUNIOR DIV.   | P. | W. | D. | L. | F. | A. | P. |
| Middlesex           | 3  | 3  | 0  | 0  | 25 | 5  | 6  |
| Essex               | 3  | 2  | 1  | 0  | 21 | 9  | 5  |
| Hertfordshire       | 4  | 2  | 1  | 1  | 24 | 16 | 5  |
| Surrey              | 4  | 2  | 0  | 2  | 23 | 17 | 4  |
| Kent                | 4  | 1  | 2  | 1  | 17 | 23 | 4  |
| Sussex              | 4  | 1  | 0  | 3  | 14 | 26 | 2  |
| Suffolk             | 4  | 0  | 0  | 4  | 6  | 34 | 0  |

## DETAILED RESULTS

### PREMIER DIVISION

#### Essex 7, Yorkshire 3

P. Curtis lost to M. Simpson —11, —11; lost to S. Dyson —15, —17. R. Stevens bt Dyson 15, —16, 14; bt R. Hinchliff 18, 15. B. Brumwell bt Hinchliff 18, 15; bt Simpson 15, 16.

Stevens/Brumwell bt Hinchliff/Dyson 16, 19.

Mrs. J. McCree bt Miss K. Best —13, 14, 18.

Mrs. McCree/Mrs. E. Carrington lost to Miss Best/Mrs. M. Harrison —21, 14, —17. Curtis/Mrs. Carrington bt Simpson/Mrs. Harrison 15, 13.

#### Gloucestershire 7, Lancashire 3

R. Griffin bt J. Clayton —14, 13, 15; lost to P. Strulovitch —17, 17, —19. I. Harrison bt Strulovitch 13, 13; lost to J. Ingber —23, —18. B. Merrett bt Ingber 23, 14; bt Clayton 12, 6.

Merrett/Harrison bt Ingber/Strulovitch —17, 8, 14.

Mrs. E. Spokes bt Miss M. Leigh 17, 13. Mrs. S. O'Brien/Mrs. Spokes bt Mrs. C. Spencer/Miss Leigh 18, 15.

Griffin/Mrs. O'Brien lost to Clayton/Mrs. Spencer 22, —17, —13.

#### Lincolnshire 0, Surrey 10

B. Edlington lost to A. Miller —2, —6; lost to K. Craigie —11, —12. P. Skerratt lost to K. Craigie —18, —15; lost to H. Venner —11, —13. M. Shearer lost to Miller —17, —18; lost to Venner —11, —15.

Shearer/Eglington lost to Venner/Craigie —15, —10.

Mrs. W. Eanor lost to Mrs. B. Bird —6, —15.

Mrs. Eanor/Mrs. C. Moran lost to Mrs. Bird/Miss M. Piper —9, —15.

Skerratt/Mrs. Moran lost to Miller/Miss Piper —16, —5.

#### Glamorgan 0, Middlesex 10

G. Evans lost to A. Lindsay —8, —13; lost to L. Landry —7, —18. R. Davies lost to Landry 18, —19, —19; lost to D. Burridge —11, —16. B. Dimascio lost to

Burridge —9, —7; lost to Lindsay —15, —11.

Davies/Evans lost to Landry/Lindsay 17, —13, —15.

Miss A. Bates lost to Miss D. Rowe —12, —19.

Mrs. A. Coombes-Jones/Mrs. G. Dimascio lost to Miss Rowe/Miss M. Fry —12, —9. Dimascio/Miss Bates lost to Burridge/Miss Fry 16, —17, —16.

#### Middlesex 10, Essex 0

A. Rhodes bt P. Curtis 13, 19; bt B. Brumwell 8, 13. D. Burridge bt Brumwell 21, 17; bt R. Stevens 7, 16. M. Thornhill bt Stevens 14, 11; bt Curtis 17, —17, 16. Rhodes/L. Landry bt Brumwell/Stevens 20, —17, 18.

Miss D. Rowe bt Mrs. J. McCree 10, 18. Thornhill/Miss Rowe bt Curtis/Mrs. E. Carrington 14, 12.

Miss M. Fry/Miss J. Harrower bt Mrs. Carrington/Mrs. McCree 19, —19, 17.

### SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Yorkshire 4, Cheshire 6.

Derbyshire 7, Northumberland 3.

### SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Kent 7, Hampshire 3.

Berkshire 1, Hertfordshire 9.

### SECOND DIVISION WEST

Somerset 6, Cornwall 4.

Devon 9, Dorset 1.

### SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

Warwickshire 6, Staffordshire 4.

Bedfordshire 5, Leicestershire 5.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hertfordshire 3, Kent 7.

Norfolk 5, Cambridgeshire 5.

### MIDLAND DIVISION

Warwickshire 7, Nottinghamshire 3.

Oxfordshire 3, Glamorgan 7.

### MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

Oxfordshire 5, Leicestershire 3.

Warwickshire 6, Staffordshire 2.

### NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Yorkshire 8, Cheshire 6.

Yorkshire 2, Lancashire 6.

### SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Sussex 7, Suffolk 3.

Sussex 4, Surrey 6.

Suffolk 2, Essex 8.

# FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

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

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Details and Venue</i>   | <i>Extra Events</i>                | <i>Organising Secretary</i>  |
|-------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Jan. 5-9    | <b>ENGLISH "CLOSED"</b><br>Greenwich Baths,<br>London, S.E.  |                                    | E.T.T.A.,<br>652, Grand Buildings,<br>Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. |
| 16          | <b>Lancashire "Open" (Jan. 2)</b><br>De Havilland Propellers Ltd.,<br>Lostock, Bolton, Lancs.                        | J.S.B.<br>J.S.G.<br>V.S.           | A. Howcroft,<br>30, Thorne Street,<br>Farnworth, Bolton.               |
| 22-23       | <b>QUADRANGULAR INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT</b><br>(England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales),<br>Belfast.                     |                                    |  |
| 23          | <b>Bath "Open" (Jan. 9)</b><br>Drill Hall, St. Peter's Church Hall,<br>Lower Bristol Road, Bath.                     | J.S.B.                             | J. A. Butcher,<br>1, South View Road,<br>Twerton, Bath.                |
| 23          | <b>Pontefract "Open" (Jan. 12)</b><br>Assembly Rooms and Town Hall,<br>Pontefract, Yorks.                            | J.S.<br>V.S.                       | T. Horrocks,<br>"Rockland,"<br>Bondgate, Pontefract.                   |
| 29          | <b>WALES v ENGLAND JUNIORS</b><br>Abadare.   |                                    |  |
| 30          | <b>Gloucestershire Junior "Open" (Jan. 20)</b><br>Public Baths, Barton Street,<br>Gloucester.                        |                                    | G. O'Brien,<br>4, Barrington Drive,<br>Hucclecote, Gloucester.         |
| 30-31       | <b>Kent "Open" (Jan. 11)</b><br>Marine Gardens Pavilion,<br>Folkestone.  | Y.S.B.<br>Y.S.G.                   | G. N. Harding,<br>7, Joyes Road,<br>Folkestone.                        |
| Feb. 13-14  | <b>Bucks "Open" (Jan. 18)</b><br>Slough Community Centre,<br>Farnham Road, Slough.                                   | J.S.B.<br>J.S.G.                   | L. Thompson,<br>Auchmead, The Avenue,<br>Sunnymeads, Wraysbury, Bucks. |
| 20          | <b>Devon "Closed"</b><br>Trinity Hall, Park Hill Road, Torquay.  | J.S.B.<br>J.S.G.<br>V.S.           | P. R. Sleeman,<br>18, Warberry Road West,<br>Torquay.                  |
| 20          | <b>Grimsby "Open" (Feb. 13)</b><br>Augusta Street Barracks,<br>Grimsby.  | J.S.B.                             | H. G. Vincent,<br>4, Orby Grove,<br>Grimsby.                           |
| 26-27       | <b>Midland "Open" (Feb. 15)</b><br>Friends' Institute,<br>220, Moseley Road,<br>Birmingham.                          | J.S.B.<br>J.S.G.<br>J.B.D.<br>V.S. | M. Goldstein,<br>415, Moseley Road,<br>Birmingham, 12.                 |
| 27-28       | <b>WEST GERMAN "OPEN"</b><br>Berlin.   |                                    |  |
| 27/Mar. 5   | <b>West Middlesex "Open" (A)</b><br>West Ealing Club,<br>Mervyn Road,<br>West Ealing, W.13.                          | Y.S.B.<br>Y.S.G.<br>B.S.<br>G.S.   | D. N. Redfearn,<br>26, Woodstock Road,<br>West Ealing, W.13.           |
| 5           | <b>Cheshire Junior "Open" (Feb. 20)</b><br>Livingstone Street Baths,<br>Livingstone Street,<br>Birkenhead, Cheshire. |                                    | R. A. Bissell,<br>75, Southdale Road,<br>Birkenhead, Cheshire.         |
| 12-13       | <b>BELGIAN "OPEN"</b><br>Brussels.   |                                    |  |
| 18-20       | <b>SCOTTISH "OPEN"</b>   |                                    |  |
| 20          | <b>Sussex Junior "Open" (Feb. 22)</b><br>Assembly Hall,<br>Worthing, Sussex.   |                                    | G. Sindall,<br>16, Centrecourt Close,<br>Worthing, Sussex.             |
| 21-26       | <b>ENGLISH "OPEN"</b>  |                                    |  |
| 26-27       | <b>DANISH "OPEN"</b>   |                                    |  |
| April 3-10  | <b>EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS</b><br>Zagreb.   |                                    |  |



**MIDDLESEX "OPEN"**by **LAURIE LANDRY**

# Three Titles for Diane Harrison Eclipsed

**T**HE Middlesex "Open" at Hanwell on December 12-13 was the strongest tournament of the season thus far and provided a major shock with the defeat of England's top ranking Ian Harrison in the men's singles.

He lost to Derek Burridge in the semi-final having held four match points!

Harrison had looked sure of his place in the final and when with the score at one game-all, he led Burridge 20-16 in the decider. Then for some inexplicable reason he cracked. He muffed two backhand shots made net errors, and it was Burridge who took the game at 23-21.

Except for a tough match with young David Creamer, where he had to come from behind in both games to win 23-21, 22-20, Harrison had little trouble in his "quarter." His victims had included Mike Creamer (David's elder brother) who had previously beaten Brian Brumwell, conquerer of Bobby Stevens.

Burridge had reached the semi-final via Harry Venner (15 and 19), Tony Piddock (13, -18, 17), and Ken Craigie (16 and 16).

Burridge, however, was unable to reproduce the same form in the final against Bryan Merrett, who avenged the defeat of his Gloucestershire colleague by winning in straight games 21-14, 21-10. Merrett, with his dour defence, gave little away and looked the better player all the way.

Merrett had come through against Terry Densham (16 and 16), Eddie Hodson (-12, 16, 10), Alan Lindsay (18 and 18), and Alan Rhodes (-16, 12, 18) in the semi-final.

Rhodes had looked in control after taking the first game but was gradually worn down by the stubborn Merrett.

Joe Somogyi was beaten by his lesser-known compatriot Lajos Kerekas (19, -15, 17), who in turn lost to Rhodes (13 and 15). Rhodes also beat Michael Thornhill (25, 14), who had previously beaten Laurie Landry (22, 1-17, 13).

## Champion Beaten

The defending champion Bobbie Raybould fell an early victim to the rapidly improving Piddock (13, -18, 17).

There were plenty of surprises in the women's singles, where little known Mrs. Sheila (Ball) Foster came through as a shock finalist with wins over Mrs. Betty Bird (16 and 12) and Peggy Piper (8 and 19).

However, she found Diane Rowe in superb form and was beaten 21-13, 21-18.

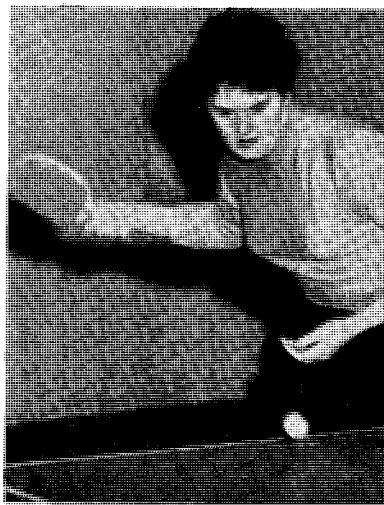
Miss Rowe went through the singles without dropping a game, and later completed the "hat-trick" by winning the women's doubles with Jill Rook and the mixed doubles with Stevens.

Mrs. Bird played perhaps a little too confidently in going down to Mrs. Foster, but the Hampshire player proved her success was no "flash in the pan" when she followed up with her semi-final win over Miss Piper.

Jean Harrower, the defending champion, lost her title when she was unexpectedly beaten by Mrs. Elsie Carrington (20 and 17), who in turn fell to the Danish girl Lise Christensen, later eliminated by Miss Piper.

Junior Judy Williams was impressive with wins over

Margaret Fry and Mrs. Jean McCree before going down to Miss Rowe in the semi-final.



**SHEILA FOSTER**

Jean Harrower retained her girls' title. She dropped a game to county partner Hilde Brautigam but was more convincing in the final against Miss Williams who in the previous round had beaten Mary Shannon.

David Creamer, with crushing wins over Barry Midgley and G. Whalley, kept the boys' singles in the county.

The men's doubles was labelled with such adjectives

as "fabulous," "terrific" and "amazing," but as I took part I can only pass judgment by saying there were some wonderful rallies.

Raybould and Stevens eventually got the better of Rhodes and myself by 21-14, 16-21, 21-19.

Raybould and Stevens had beaten Somogyi and Muranyi in the semi-final after a victory over the holders Venner and Craigie (-19, 10, 13).

**Men's Singles. Semi-finals:** B. MERRETT (Gloucestershire) bt A. Rhodes (Middlesex) 16-21, 21-12, 21-18. D. BURRIDGE (Middlesex) bt I. Harrison (Gloucestershire) 14-21, 21-10, 23-21. **Final:** MERRETT bt Burridge 21-14, 21-10.

**Women's Singles. Semi-finals:** D. ROWE (Middlesex) bt J. Williams (Herts) 21-14, 21-8. Mrs. S. Foster (Hants) bt P. Piper (Surrey) 21-8, 21-19.

**Final:** ROWE bt Foster 21-13, 21-16.

**Men's Doubles. Semi-finals:** R. RAYBOULD/R. STEVENS (Essex) bt J. Somogyi (Surrey)/G. Muranyi (London University) 15-21, 21-11, 21-12. L. LANDRY/A. RHODES (Middlesex) bt L. Adams/D. Burridge (Middlesex) 18-21, 21-10, 21-18.

**Final:** RAYBOULD/STEVENS bt Landry/Rhodes 21-14, 16-21, 21-19.

**Women's Doubles. Semi-finals:** ROWE/J. ROOK (Surrey) bt Foster/Mrs. I. Sawyer (Essex) 15-21, 21-5, 21-14. Mrs. B. BIRD (Surrey) J. HARROWER (Middlesex) bt Mrs. E. Carrington/Mrs. J. McCree (Essex) 21-17, 21-15.

**Final:** ROWE/ROOK bt Bird/Harrower 21-16, 21-15.

**Mixed Doubles. Semi-finals:** STEVENS/MISS ROWE bt Burridge/Miss Harrower 21-17, 21-12. RAYBOULD/MISS PIPER bt M. Thornhill (Middlesex)/Miss Rook 21-19, 10-21, 22-20.

**Final:** STEVENS/ROWE bt Raybould/Piper 21-18, 24-26, 21-19.

**Boys Singles. Semi-finals:** D. CREAMER (Middlesex) bt B. Midgley (Hampshire) 21-6, 21-9. G. WHALLEY (Sussex) bt B. Finucane (Surrey) 21-17, 21-18.

**Final:** CREAMER bt Whalley 21-9, 21-12.

**Girls' Singles. Semi-finals:** HARROWER bt H. Brautigam (Middlesex) 21-14, 20-22, 21-8; WILLIAMS bt M. Shannon (Surrey) 21-13, 21-19.

**Final:** HARROWER bt Williams 21-18, 21-14.

YORKSHIRE "OPEN"by MALCOLM HARTLEY

# SKERRATT TURNS TABLES

LINCOLNSHIRE'S Peter Skerratt turned the tables on Ray Hinchliff in the Yorkshire "Open" Championships at Leeds. For the second year in succession these two battled to the final and Hinchliff, the winner last time, was beaten in straight games.

Skerratt, giving nothing away, picked his shots carefully and firmly to cut through Hinchliff's defence with some lightning drives.

Immediately the set ended Ray rushed off to work and arrived for his 10.30 p.m. night shift at the Yorkshire Electricity Board 75 minutes late.

Because of a delay in erecting lighting and tables it was not until 90 minutes after the scheduled starting time of 10.30 a.m. that all nine tables were in use.

This bad start meant that when the finals should have been starting at 7.30, the early rounds of the doubles were in full swing on all tables. The tournament finished at 12.20 a.m.

This sort of organisation will recall to the minds of many the Yorkshire Junior "Open" of last January, which dragged on until 12.40 a.m. Yorkshire need to think hard about these blots on their record.

There was soon a big shock on the men's side when Maurice Simpson, the Yorkshire No. 4, knocked out seeded Derek Schofield, ranked No. 6 in England. Simpson's patient play brought him victory by scores of 9-21, 21-16, 21-13. He went on to round four before falling to Doug. McGarry.

Young Wilf Barker had a commendable win over

Maurice Pitts but he, too, found McGarry in grand form.

In the quarter-finals Skerratt beat Colin Deaton in straight games and George Carrigill, now playing brilliantly, came back after losing the first to eliminate seeded Stuart Dyson.

Big surprise in the doubles was the hairline win of Doncaster's young stars, Michael Dainty and Peter Roome, over the well-established Chesterfield partnership of Deaton and Hunt, finalists last year. Scores were 12-21, 24-22, 23-21.

Pam Morton, always going out for winning strokes, struck top form to go through the tourney without dropping a game. Her victims included Dolly Wilkinson, the holder, and Connie Moran, who beat her at the Hull "Open."

**Men's Singles, Semi-Finals:** R. HINCHLIFF bt G. Carrigill 21-16, 21-19. P. SKERRATT bt D. McGarry 21-15, 21-16.

**Final:** SKERRATT bt Hinchliff 21-10, 21-17.

**Women's Singles, Semi-Finals:** M. LEIGH bt L. Hamilton 21-19, 21-10. P. MORTON bt D. Wright 22-20, 21-18.

**Final:** MORTON bt Leigh 23-21, 21-9.

**Men's Doubles, Semi-Finals:** SKERRATT/M. SHEADER bt M. Simpson/Hinchliff 15-21, 21-16, 21-10. G. W. TEMPERTON/E. JOHNSON bt M. Dainty and P. Roome 21-15, 21-12.

**Final:** SKERRATT/SHEADER bt Temperton/Johnson 21-13, 21-19.

**Women's Doubles, Final:** WRIGHT/D. RIDGEWAY bt M. Harrison/D. Wilkinson 21-11, 21-12.

**Mixed Doubles, Final:** JOHNSON/MISS WRIGHT bt R. Ridge/ Miss Leigh 21-10, 22-20.

**Veterans' Singles, Final:** H. GREAVES bt E. Turton 21-15, 21-14.

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**EAGLE/GIRL TOURNAMENT**By **KENNETH WHEELER****PLENTY OF TALENT**

**S**PORTS organisers seldom make fluent correspondents. They are busy men, so what they have to say on paper is terse and to the point. At least, that has been my past experience.

But the 100 officials responsible for running school and club qualifying rounds in the *Eagle/Girl* Championships this season have surprised us. In submitting their block entry forms and immaculate detailed results, almost without exception they have enclosed a full and enthusiastic report concerning both the play and the performers.

In assessing the merit of his particular champions, many a correspondent has been guilty of slight exaggeration. Clearly there can be only one Champion of Great Britain in each of our four events. But equally certain is the fact that the Regional Finals, which start this month, are going to produce battles close enough to make our hair stand on end.

"Donald Imrie and Patrick Nolan both realise that the *Eagle* titles will be hard to win," writes Youth Leader James Marshall of the Royston Boys' Club, Edinburgh. Obviously he has high hopes for their success in the Scottish Finals on January 23.

Pat Nolan has been coached by brother Tom, the Edinburgh Boys' Clubs' individual champion, and has himself had a good deal of league experience.

Left-handed Don Imrie, however, is in his first season. He improves with very game, I'm told, and it was largely his strong defence which enabled him to win the Under-15 title.

Harry Graham of Willesden Schools is going to be very disappointed if his young prodigy Billy Walker doesn't reach the British Finals this time. Billy, who reached the quarter-finals last season, seems to have made steady progress with his sandwich bat and, to use Mr. Graham's words: "is one of the very few players of his age who can really play with his brain, being able to switch from a defensive to a vicious attacking game when the opportunity presents itself."

Susan Light, winner of the Willesden Schools' under-13 event, looks to be a promising "find." Another "sponge" enthusiast, she has been coached by her father who runs the table tennis section of the Metropolitan Police Athletic Association.

I'm also advised to look out for Kathleen Ballin, the under-15 champion.

Rea Balmford, secretary of the newly-formed Hull and District Schools League again ran a most successful tournament on our behalf, and as in the case of Willesden Schools, all four event winners used sandwich bats. There were quite a few surprises in the Hull results, only Ann Brown in the Girls' under-15 event having the comfortable win that one would expect of a girl who has represented Hull Ladies in the Senior Yorkshire League and been chosen for Junior International trials.

Mr. Balmford thinks that hard-hitting, 12-year-old Irene Allon might create a stir at Manchester, and warns other Northern Finalists to beware of Gerry Oldroy's "blistering fore-hand attack."

**HIGH STANDARD**

An encouraging feature has been the high standard of play shown by the girls. Jimmy Mannooch, who organised a very successful round for schoolgirls in Sittingbourne, tells us that of the 200 members of his Crescent Club no less than 134 are under 13, and that there is as little to choose between his top six players that the ranking list could almost bracket them together.

On the day, last year's winner Margaret Campbell lost her semi-final to Pat Canning, who in turn lost to Jose Cornford in the first qualifying final. Then, in the Regional play-off, Jose Cornford was beaten by the other qualifier, Diane Spice who can be expected to "go places" in the South Finals.

Fourteen-year-old Maureen Towns-

end was under-15 winner, and one of her London opponents will be Pauline Holes who beat her twin sister Christine to win the Senior event at the Grosvenor Club, Southsea.

There was a shock in the Girls' under-13 event at Southsea when Linda Roddis, from Havant, won the final from 12-year-old Carol Gifford, a second season member of Grosvenor Club's league team.

A boy we will be watching at Manchester is little Colin Jacques, *Eagle* under-15 champion yet the youngest member of the St. James Club, Barrow-in-Furness. Says his secretary, Alfred Pidduck: "Colin is very small—approximately 4ft. 8in.—but his wonderful fighting spirit might take him a long way in this competition. He always has a cheeky grin on his face which endears him to all."

I wish I had space to list the names of all the event winners from all over the country, because amongst them you would undoubtedly find many champions of the future.

Johnny Leach, Keith Motts and I saw some pretty hot play at the Liverpool qualifying round, for instance, and Keith can't stop talking about a Bristolian junior named Brady who lost his under-15 semi-final to the eventual winner, Morley Mordecai. Then again, as I write further reports are coming in from all over Britain, some of them concerning tournaments 400-strong.

Which of our 10,000 competitors will win the four Championship trophies? We don't know—and frankly, we don't care! The important thing is the one phrase that appears in every letter we receive: "Thanks for letting us take part—all the boys and girls enjoyed themselves."

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