

MARCH, 1960
ONE SHILLING

Table Tennis

*The Official Magazine of the
English Table Tennis Association*



BEVERLEY and GLORIA SAYER
of Walthamstow. See "Twin
Hopes" by Sydney Hulls on
page 14.

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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No. 6

JINX MAY BE BROKEN

THE inauguration of an English "Closed" championship this season gave us a home born men's singles champion for the first time in 36 years.

Now it is possible that the spell will be broken altogether for the English "Open" has a great chance of having the "export only" tag removed when the five main finals take place at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, March 26.

The nearness of the European championships in Zagreb only a week later has somewhat curtailed the Continental entry, though there will be strong contingents from France and Germany.

France will be represented by old favourites Rene Roothoft and Guy Amouretti, plus young Claude Jean Treinen, while glamour is provided by tall Monique Albert and Claudia Rougagnou.

The German challengers are Gomella and Berger for the men's singles and the Misses G. Mueller and Mielenhausen in the women's singles.

As far as the men's singles are concerned home players occupy the top four "seeding," so that the outlook has never been brighter.

However, we have been optimistic in the past only for that "hoodoo" to raise its persistent head. In trying to break that 36 years spell of overseas winners, our men have not only to set their sights at European opponents but also on brilliant Erwin Klein, from California.

World Champions

This red headed San Francisco dentist startled everyone when at the age of 18, he won the world mixed doubles title partnered by Mrs. Leah Neuberger, in 1956.

They will again be teamed up to try and capture the English mixed doubles, where they share top seeding with the new partnership of Ian Harrison and Diane Rowe.

Another contender, who will be viewed with great interest for the men's singles, is Tommy Caffrey, the 17 years old Irish boy who beat

English "closed" champion Bryan Merrett, in the recent quadrangular international.

Apart from Gloucestershire's Merrett and Harrison, our joint No. 1 players, the Middlesex pair of Derek Burrige and Alan Rhodes, and Lancashire's pride Jeff Ingber, will carry most of the English hopes.

Rival Highlight

Mrs. Agnes Simon, the Hungarian born player who fled to Holland after winning the world's women's doubles title, will be the chief overseas challenger for the women's singles and everything points to her fighting out the final with Diane Rowe. They met in the recent German final, with Mrs. Simon inflicting the first defeat on Miss Rowe this season.

A final between them could provide the highlight of the championships.

The decision to hold the finals at the Albert Hall appears to have met with general approval. The comfortable seating arrangements of this central London venue, and the more intimate atmosphere as compared with the vast Wembley arena, should recapture that something special which has marked so many English "Open" finals.

It is the one annual occasion when table tennis friends from all parts of the country get together. It is more than a tournament—it is a social occasion, a gathering of the clans.

Advance bookings show that enthusiasts from many parts of the country are taking this opportunity to arrange coach parties to the finals, and those who have not yet made the arrangements can still obtain tickets at the reduced party rates (for 12 or more) from the E.T.T.A.

The "Open" starts at the Manor Place Baths on March 22 in the evening, and continues throughout Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, before moving to the Royal Albert Hall for the finals on Saturday at 7 p.m.

OFFICIAL NEWS

N.E.C. Meeting: A six-hour meeting of the N.E.C. was held on Saturday, February 20 at the Royal Commonwealth Society Building, Northumberland Avenue, with A. K. Vint, O.B.E., in the chair. Among the items discussed was the news that the Ministry of Education is prepared to make a substantial grant towards the salary of a full-time National Coach for the Association in the year 1960-61.

Although the appointment would imply a further demand on the Association's limited finances it was agreed that every effort should be made to take advantage of the opportunity offered. The matter is likely to be discussed again at the next meeting of the N.E.C. on March 27.

N.E.C. Elections: Nomination papers for this year's N.E.C. elections, the first to be held under the revised regional system, are being sent to Leagues on April 4, and must be returned by May 2.

English "Open" Championships: Tickets are still available for the Finals of this tournament, and full details of prices and reductions for party bookings may be obtained from the E.T.T.A. Office. In addition to the top-ranking English players there will be competitors from the Home Countries, Europe and the U.S.A.

Trophies will be presented on Finals Night at the Albert Hall by Sir John Wolfenden.

European Championships: The English team for these Championships will be: **Ian Harrison** (Gloucestershire), **Bryan Merrett** (Gloucestershire), **Derek Burridge** (Middlesex), **Diane Rowe** (Middlesex) and **Kathleen Best** (Yorkshire), with **Ron Crayden** (Surrey) as non-playing Captain.

The doubles pairings will be Harrison/Merrett, Burridge/Crayden, Rowe/Best, Harrison/Rowe, Burridge/Best and Merrett/Mrs. E. Carrington.

The team will play a challenge match against the Rest of England at the Municipal Hall, Tottenham on Tuesday, March 8, at 7.15 p.m.

The Rest team will consist of Jeff Ingber (Lancashire), Alan Rhodes (Middlesex), Josef Somogyi (Surrey), Jean McCree (Essex) and Joyce Fielder (Kent), with Len Adams (Middlesex) as non-playing Captain.

England v France (Men): The England team to meet France at the Slough Social Centre, on Monday, March 21, at 7.15 p.m. will be: **Ian Harrison** (Gloucestershire), **Bryan Merrett** (Gloucestershire) and **Derek**

Burridge (Middlesex), with **Ron Crayden** (Surrey) as non-playing Captain.

Russian Tour of England: Negotiations are now in progress with the U.S.S.R. Table Tennis Authorities in an endeavour to arrange a tour by a Russian team early in the 1960-61 season, with a return tour in the U.S.S.R. by an English team in the following season.

National Umpires' Examination: Only one examination is to be held this season—in London, on Saturday, March 26. Eight candidates have been accepted by the National Umpires Committee from those nominated by their County Umpires' Committees.

Willmott Cup and Rose Bowl: In the final of the Willmott Cup competition, Manchester will meet Cheltenham, while finalists for the J. M.

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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

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

Rose Bowl competition are St. Albans and London Business Houses or Portsmouth.

E.T.T.A. Supporters' Club: After largely financing the English entry in the European Championships this year the Supporters' Club has now turned its attention to the next World's Championships, to be held in Peking in 1961. As a first step they guaranteed £400 towards the cost of sending an English team.

The organisation and operation of the Club were described in last month's Magazine, and the organisers will be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in the scheme.

Hon. Life Members: In the absence of the three members concerned the N.E.C. agreed unanimously to recommend to the A.G.M. on June 25, that **Ivor Eyles**, **Jimmy Mannoch**

and **Edgar Reay** be made Life Members of the Association in recognition of their long service to National Table Tennis.

Royal Birth: The following reply to a telegram of congratulation, on the birth of the new Prince, was received from Buckingham Palace.

President English Table Tennis Association, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London.

"Please convey the sincere thanks of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to all those associated with you in your kind message of congratulations on the birth of their son.—Private Secretary."

Meeting with the Manufacturers. The Chairman reported that he and the Secretary had met representatives of Messrs. Dunlop, Halex and Spaldings to discuss matters of mutual interest and various suggestions made by the E.T.T.A. were sympathetically received.

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

	s.	d.
Handy Pocket Edition of the Laws	4	½
Table Tennis Tips by Jack Carrington	1	3
Table Tennis Quiz by Alec Brook	1	6
Know the Game Table Tennis	2	6
Table Tennis My Way by Johnny Leach	2	6
How to win at Table Tennis by Victor Barna	6	0
Modern Table Tennis by Jack Carrington	7	6
The Twins on Table Tennis by D. & R. Rowe	8	6
Tackle Table Tennis This Way by Ann Haydon	10	6

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ENGLISH RANKING LIST

MERRETT CATCHES HARRISON

FOLLOWING the European trials "Top Eleven" tournament at Finchley, on February 7, the selectors have once again revised the National Ranking list. This is the third list they have issued this season.

Bryan Merrett, as the English "closed" champion, moves up to share the top ranking with Ian Harrison, his Gloucestershire colleague, while Diane Rowe maintains her leading position among the women.

The most spectacular change in the men's list is that of Derek Burridge,

who went through the trials unbeaten and subsequently earned European championship selection. He is now No. 3.

Burridge started the season at No. 8 and moved up to No. 5 on the second list. Thus this further promotion is an example of his consistent progress throughout the season.

There is also promotion for Jeff Ingber from No. 7 to No. 4, and Alan Rhodes from No. 9 to No. 5.

Michael Thornhill and Ken Craigie, who were dropped from the last list, both return at the expense of Derek Schofield and Bobby Stevens.

The most notable absentee is Brian Kennedy, whose business commitments have left him no time to play in major events.

Appearing in the list for the first time is Tony Piddock, the young Kent player, who is joint No. 10 with Craigie.

The extension of the women's list to ten—only six were ranked last time—has made way for four newcomers, Mrs. Elsie Carrington (6),

Shelagh Hession (7), Mrs. Sheila Foster (9) and Peggy Piper (10), and the return of Jean Harrower (8).

Kathie Best has moved into second place behind Diane Rowe, while Mrs. Betty Bird drops a place to No. 3.

Mrs. Jean McCree, who appeared for the first time in the last list, has moved up two places to No. 4.

MEN

1. Ian Harrison (Glous.) (1) and Bryan Merrett (Glous.) (2).
3. Derek Burridge (Middx.) (5).
4. Jeff Ingber (Lancs.) (7).
5. Alan Rhodes (Middx.) (9).
6. Josef Somogyi (Surrey) (4).
7. Michael Thornhill (Middx.) (—)
8. Laurie Landry (Middx.) (7).
9. Alan Lindsay (Middx.) (10).
10. Ken Craigie (Surrey) (—) and Tony Piddock (Kent) (—).

WOMEN

1. Diane Rowe (Middx.) (1).
2. Kathie Best (Yorks.) (4).
3. Mrs. Betty Bird (Surrey) (2).
4. Mrs. Jean McCree (Essex) (6).
5. Joyce Fielder (Kent) (5).
6. Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex) (—).
7. Shelagh Hession (Essex) (—).
8. Jean Harrower (Middx.) (—).
9. Mrs. Sheila Foster (Hants.) (—).
10. Peggy Piper (—).

Figures in parentheses denote position of previous ranking list.

SOMERSET "CLOSED"

DON SMITH (Bath) and Mrs. Adele Pettifer (Bridgwater) each won two titles in the Somerset "Closed" Championships at Taunton.

Smith retained his men's singles title and partnered Bob House to victory in the men's doubles, while Mrs. Pettifer won the women's singles and with D. Hebden the mixed doubles.

Bath players appeared in all finals except the junior singles, won by G. Burgess (Street).



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ENGLAND WIN JUBILEE TOURNAMENT

By **RON CRAYDEN**



RON CRAYDEN

AN International Team Tournament held in Rotterdam on February 14 to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Netherlands Association, provided a success story for the English team of Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett.

Six countries competed and the teams were drawn up into two pools with the winning team from each pool emerging to play the final. We were lined up with Holland (Onnes and Schoofs) and Luxembourg (Felten and Jaminet) in Pool 1, while Pool 2 was composed of Belgium (Dugardins and Roland), France (Cafiero and Dubouillé), and Germany (Gäb, Langer and Scholer). Matches were played on the Davis Cup system of four men's singles and a men's doubles.

England won their pool in convincing style and went on to topple Germany—winner of Pool 2—in the final.

OPENING SESSIONS

The modern Ahoy stadium had been specially prepared for the occasion with a wooden platform courted into two arenas. The early morning session saw Holland beat Luxembourg, and Belgium defeat France, both by 3-1.

The afternoon matches brought in England and Germany who were drawn against the losing teams, Luxembourg and France respectively. We disposed of Luxembourg in an hour winning in straight sets, while the French veterans put up a spirited fight against the Germans (Gäb and Langer) but went down 3-0.

In the late afternoon, before an enthusiastic crowd, England played Holland and Germany opposed Belgium.

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We had a few apprehensive moments against the Dutch boys but managed to win through at 3-1.

Schoofs, the purposeful "chopper" with his reversed sandwich bat, looked quite formidable and dealt rather severely with Bryan Merrett in the opening game. Both our boys however, beat Onnes and we took the doubles to ensure a place in the final.

Germany brought in a new face (E. Scholer) for their match against Belgium and he beat the fiery hitter Dugardins to help his team win 3-0.

THE FINAL

For the final the German captain selected Gäb and Scholer in the singles and Gäb and Langer in the doubles. We, of course, relied on the old firm of Harrison and Merrett.

This being the showpiece of the tournament, each match consisted of the best of five games.

Scholer with his crew cut and fresh appearance reminded me of an American college boy in the first match against Harrison, yet throughout he played with the impenetrable look of a poker player. His play was lacking in style but he had a stubborn defence and a smooth temperament.

Harrison won the first game at deuce and then with complete confidence gave a demonstration of all court play, producing winners from both wings with fluency and ease. One up to us.

SPLENDID TUSSLE

Gäb, who so far had been the main prop of the German team, faced a determined Merrett, and even the most partisan gained enjoyment from this splendid tussle.

Gäb was the opposite of his teammate Scholer, playing objectively and with much fire. One side of his bat was faced with reversed sandwich, and the other, with which he hit an effective forehand, was ordinary pimped rubber. To add to the mixture he had devilish spin services which were varied intelligently.

Merrett played with great determination and led 2-1 and 16-12 only to be pipped on the run in. In the decider Gäb took an early lead and ran away to lead 18-8 before Bryan's dogged perseverance pegged back the score to 18-20 only to make a mistake from a sponge "twister."

The doubles was a vital affair and throughout fortunes fluctuated alarmingly. However, we scrambled the

fourth on deuce and then won the fifth with eight points to spare.

Leading 2-1 we were optimistic of taking the next two singles and the championship. Gäb, however, beat Harrison in straight games.

The score now stood at two all and the atmosphere was charged for the decider between the two masters of push and parry.

The first game Merrett skated, hitting a spate of selective forehand kills that had us cheering. The second followed a similar pattern with Bryan leading 16-12, but as there was less than five minutes to go for time he decided to put up the shutters and was nearly caught. One minute was left for play with the score standing at 16-15. Scholer had to force the pace but his limited attack was not equal to the task. Merrett took the game 18-16.

Scholer, completely unruffled, jumped into a quick lead and was more than holding his own, in fact he led 5-2 with but three minutes to go. Very gallantly Bryan decided to hit and did so with telling effect to take the lead. Scholer tried to hit back but did not have the ability—it was all over.

A commendable effort by the English team and we left for our hotel singing a happy song.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Pool 1

Holland 3, Luxembourg 1

England 3, Luxembourg 0

B. Merrett bt F. Felten 21-7, 21-7; I. Harrison bt C. Jaminet 21-10, 21-16; Harrison/Merrett bt Felten/Jaminet 21-11, 21-16.

England 3, Netherlands 1

Merrett lost to F. Schoofs 7-21, 12-21; Harrison bt B. Onnes 21-15, 20-22, 21-8; Merrett/Harrison bt Schoofs/Onnes 21-19, 21-13; Merrett bt Onnes 21-17, 18-21, 21-11.

Pool 2

Belgium 3, France 1

Germany 3, France 0

Germany 3, Belgium 0

FINAL

England 3, Germany 2

Harrison bt E. Scholer 24-22, 21-11, 21-13; lost to H. Gäb 16-21, 20-22, 6-21; Merrett lost to H. Gäb 21-19, 16-21, 21-17, 18-21, 18-21; bt Scholer 21-13, 18-16 (t.l.), 12-7 (t.l.); Harrison/Merrett bt Gäb/H. Langer 21-13, 19-21, 14-21, 22-20, 21-13.

THE OTHER SIDE

By GEOFF HARROWER

RECENTLY there has been an increase in the amount of table tennis news appearing in some national newspapers. Nearly all of it concerns one subject: Were the selectors right in choosing Kathleen Best, or should they have sent Betty Bird, as second string to Diane Rowe for the European Championships?

I may have missed some articles, and letters from readers, but all those I have seen are unanimous that Betty Bird is the one who should be sent. One article referred to our selectors as "Guilty Men," and there has been much talk about Betty's "four major singles titles." No reference, as far as I have seen, to any losses!

Perhaps it might be pertinent to take a look at these "Guilty Men." There is Ron Crayden, for many years a popular international player, a great success as Captain of Surrey, and, in my view, one of our best ever non-playing captains: Aubrey Simons was for a long time a salwart in our Swaythling Cup team; a brainy player who always thought a lot about the game. He brings now his knowledge gained against almost all of the world's top players to the committee table: Len Adams, another brainy English International, who appeared 65 times for Middlesex.

I don't agree with all they do, but I respect their efforts. They have a lot of recent international experience behind them, and are constantly to be seen watching AND PLAYING at tournaments. I'll back them every time against their critics, some of whom, I believe, are non-players!

This season saw the re-introduction of sandwich bats to England. Somewhat naturally form was topsy-turvy in the early part of the season. Obviously, therefore, any selector worthy of his name must attach more importance to recent form. Even in a nor-



BETTY BIRD

mal season slightly more importance would be attached to more recent performances. This season, more than ever, the player doing well (or badly) in December or January could expect those performances to weigh heavily with the selectors.

Had the European cup team been chosen at the end of November or early December then, undoubtedly, Betty Bird would have been chosen. Since then, however, Betty seems to have gone off that peak form which made her clearly No. 2. At the Middlesex "Open" in mid-December she was badly beaten by Sheila Foster, 16-21, 12-21; the Champion County v The Rest match saw her losing narrowly to Joyce Fielder, whilst in the English "Closed" she unexpectedly went down to Yvonne Baker, who in turn was eliminated by Jean McCree. I haven't noticed any of these points being mentioned by the critics.

This, then, was the background of the "TOP ELEVEN" tournament held at Finchley in early February. Kathleen Best, who must have counted herself lucky to be invited, due to her lack of competition this season, nevertheless justified her selec-

tion, losing only to Diane Rowe—in passing, as I write, Di is still undefeated this season, a wonderful record.

The main bone of contention, to my mind, is whether a player who has not been able to compete in tournaments should be selected over the heads of those who have trudged the competitive circuit. Under normal circumstances I should say NO. But . . . are the circumstances normal? Obviously, the selectors don't think so, and after carefully weighing up all the facts, I agree with them.

It is no good glossing over the fact that, in recent years, we have been singularly unsuccessful in International competitions that matter. In fact, the only really major trophy England holds is the Women's team event in the European Championships. Diane Rowe is playing so well that, if she can be well backed up in the doubles, we may even stand a chance of retaining this trophy. The selectors, with their wealth of experience, think that Kathleen Best is the best player to give us that outside chance of success. Are they really wrong?

TOP ELEVEN TOURNAMENT

Results in the "TOP ELEVEN" TOURNAMENT were:

MEN. — 1. **D. Burridge** (Middlesex) played 5, won 5, Bt I. Harrison 21-19, 15-21, 21-15; bt J. Ingber 21-19, 21-12; bt L. Landry 21-9, 21-12; bt B. Merrett 21-11, 21-16; bt A. Rhodes 21-12, 21-16. 2. **I. Harrison** (Gloucestershire) played 4, won 3. Bt Ingber 21-8, 21-8; bt Landry 21-17, 21-8; bt Rhodes 23-21, 21-18. 3. **B. Merrett** (Gloucestershire) played four, won two. Bt Landry 21-12, 16-14 (t.l.); bt Rhodes 21-17, 13-21, 22-20. **Equal 4th. A. Rhodes** (Middlesex) played five, won two. Bt Ingber 10-21, 21-18, 21-18; bt Landry 21-4, 21-16; and **J. Ingber** (Lancashire) played five won two. Bt Landry 21-16, 17-21, 21-12; bt Merrett 22-20, 21-19. **6th. Landry** (Middlesex) played five, won nil.

WOMEN. — 1. **D. Rowe** (Middlesex) played four, won four. Bt Best 23-21, 21-17; bt Bird 21-23, 21-12, 21-16; bt Hession 21-13, 18-21, 21-13; bt McCree 21-16, 21-15. **2nd. Mrs. K. Best** (Yorkshire) played four, won three. Bt Bird 18-21, 21-17, 21-17; bt Hession 21-14, 21-13; bt McCree 21-19, 21-14. **3rd. Mrs. B. Bird** (Surrey) played four, won two. Bt McCree 21-18, 16-21, 21-7; bt Hession 21-18, 21-15. **4th. Mrs. McCree** (Essex) played four, won one. Bt Hession 19-21, 21-9, 21-16. **5th. Miss S. Hession** (Essex) played four, won nil.

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DON'T WRITE OFF ENGLAND

Says CONRAD JASCHKE

THE middle-aged stranger watching the E.T.T.A. European Trials turned to me and said: "No Bergmann or Barna in this lot, but in my playing days we did not have eleven players of the quality you see here. From such a standard you'll get your world class players before long."

If this table tennis enthusiast reads these lines, perhaps he will accept my thanks for bringing some sanity to the unreal atmosphere created by the apostles of doom. Watching the Trials one was struck with the progress which has been made in the last 12 months.

Take Ian Harrison. This young Cheltenham boy is dissatisfied with his own progress, because so much is expected of him, and when he fails he feels it strongly. But Harrison is learning to subdue that "temperament" which has sometimes let him down, and he is today a much improved player, poised on the edge of world class with time still on his side.

What about Bryan Merrett? Out of the Swaythling Cup last season, writ-

make similar arrangements near their own homes."

Our men are not approaching the European Championships like lambs being led to the slaughter. Far from it. They are out to win as many matches as humanly possible, and they are full of confidence in the knowledge that, though admittedly they have not met the top teams, they have not lost to a European country this season. Nobody is going to scream "disgrace" if they fail to come back with the European title, but what we do expect is that they put in every ounce of effort.

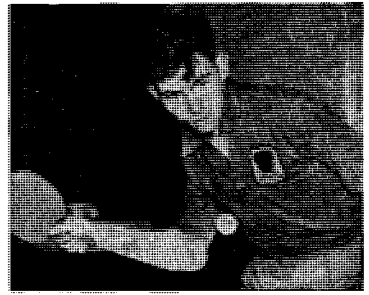
Turning to the girls, Diane Rowe again proved that she stands head and shoulders above the rest. She remains unbeaten this season. Can she triumph over Europe's best? Only a fool would make a definite forecast. But Di has been a better singles player than ever this season and could do it.

Kathleen Best came out second in the Trials, and we all know that at her peak she is a world class player. She needs intensive match practice between now and April.

These two girls must have a chance of retaining the women's European Cup.

Said England captain Ron Crayden when quizzed on this point: "The girls have a fine chance of retaining the Cup. We fear nobody, providing the girls are playing up to their top form."

Much has already been written in the Press about the omission of Betty Bird from our team. I am not entering into the rights and wrongs of the decision, which I know the selectors made in the sincere belief that they



BRYAN MERRETT

were doing what was best for England. But I offer this suggestion for the future.

Let the selectors, in conjunction with the N.E.C., "nominate" 12 "open" tournaments and make it clear BEFORE the season starts that only players who have played in ONE THIRD of these when teams are to be chosen, will be considered.

This means each aspiring international player would have to play in one of the first three to be eligible for early selection, or two of the first six events, and so on for later teams.

If this were established as a firm principle, everyone would know where they stand. Selectors would be able to go on up-to-date form and it would remove misunderstandings between players.

Top players, who do yeoman service to the game by playing in events all over England thereby ensuring a high standard in tournaments, could not be faced with a situation which must appear terribly unfair to them. Let's be honest about this: where would we be if the Betty Bird's and Laurie Landry's adopted the same attitude towards "open" tournaments as do some of our stars. (And I don't mean Kathie Best who, when able, has played in tournaments all over the country).



DIANE ROWE

IAN HARRISON

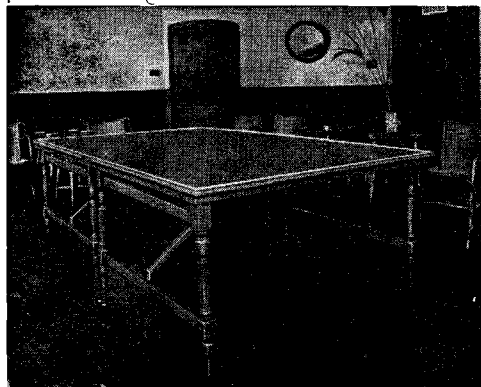
ten off by knowledgeable people, Bryan today is English champion.

He is still too defensive, but in the recent Rotterdam tournament he gave clear evidence that he is trying to use more attacking shots.

Derek Burridge, of course, was the hero of the Trials, winning every match, and being extended to three games only by Harrison. At 28, Derek is no longer a "promising youngster," but his form this season has been far better than anything we have seen from him in the past. And he means business.

Says England selector Len Adams: "Derek, despite impending fatherhood and having recently launched into business on his own account, has arranged for regular fitness training sessions at Brentford football ground. I hope that Harrison and Merrett can

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My Players of the Month**KATHIE BEST and DEREK BURRIDGE**

By Johnny Leach

MY players of the Month are **Kathie Best** and **Derek Burridge**. At the same time I offer my condolences to Betty Bird and Alan Rhodes and nominate them as the Unluckiest Players of the Year.

Until the European Trials, staged at Finchley in February, I thought that Betty and Alan were certainties for places in England's team at Zagreb. At the start of this season, Betty took advantage of the absence of our top trio—Haydon, Rowe and Best—to win everything in sight, while we all know Alan to be a class player capable of producing his best form when it is needed most.

Then came those trials—and if you were present as I was, you will surely agree that Kathie and Derek played well enough to select themselves.

Slating the selectors is a pastime in which we all indulge from time to time, but this time I am firmly on their side. Look at the way the Yorkshire housewife dealt with match-tight Betty Bird, Jean McCree and Shelagh Hession! Kathie made such light work of this powerful opposition that it was amazing to remember she has gone so long without competitive practice.

Mind you, Kathie is nowhere near her peak, and she has got to get



KATHIE BEST

down to work now. By getting match-tight and physically fit she will reduce her errors and add seven points to her game. Incidentally, the same goes for Diane Rowe. Good as she is this season, Di can be still better at Zagreb by getting down to hard training and practice against the men without any further delay.

I am sure that both our girls realise this, and will find some way of overcoming the many difficulties which make all-out training such a problem for players in this country. And if they succeed, with a pair as powerful and experienced as Di and Kathie, England could retain the women's team title at Zagreb.

Hard luck Betty Bird! I know that you cannot accept the idea that Kathie is a better player than you are, and that does you great credit. Indeed, if you did accept this opinion it would be quite impossible for you to become the great player which even your greatest critics are convinced you will be quite soon.

It was not so much the fact that Derek Burridge finished unbeaten in the trials that impressed me, as the manner of his victories over Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett.

The one thing about Derek that has been suspect in the past is his temperament. Yet here he was, with so much at stake, absolutely sure in his strokes and his footwork, and apparently seeing the ball as big as a football.

Then one week later he captured



DEREK BURRIDGE

the Bucks "Open" Singles title to show that his newly-gained No. 3 ranking is not going to weigh too heavily on his shoulders.

Look to your laurels, Ian Harrison and Bryan Merrett! If Derek Burridge continues to improve at this rate, your top rankings are in serious danger.

Well done selectors! In my opinion you have chosen the best available team for the European Championships, and I am sure that none of the players will let you down in either fighting spirit or sportsmanship.

THE BOY FROM BALBRIGGAN

The Irish are proud, and justly so, of a 16-year-old lad from Dublin way who carries the number one tag of his country. His name . . . Tom Caffrey.

A few discerning fans here may remember him as a promising youngster with a useful forehand and a casual style. Today, he still has that casual approach which is inclined to conceal his real speed.

In addition, however, he has surety of stroke and a surprise backhand which opens up the game for a whiplash forehand that is accurate and penetrative.

How is it that in quick time he has become top dog on the Irish scene and was skilful enough to beat the present English "closed" champion in a recent International?

The answer seems obvious. Joe Veselsky, the ex-Czech team captain, now living in Dublin, has taken an interest in this boy and, I understand,

recently sent him to the Continent for a few weeks to practise with Sido and company. Could there be a better training ground?

Caffrey is as yet far from world championship class but he has great talent and plenty of time to reach the top.

To my way of thinking he lacks mobility and has not enough spring from his knees. Sandwich at the moment causes him noticeable concern, the variations of spin upsetting his rhythm, and he has not sufficient experience or a tight enough defence to single out the right ball for his explosive attack.

If, however, like me, you get a kick from seeing a forehand drive executed with style, control and deceptive speeds, make a point of watching this boy from Balbriggan at the forthcoming English "Open."

Ron Crayden.

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTS

Conducted by **LAURIE LANDRY**

WHY WAS HARRISON DROPPED?

GENERAL opinion at the English "Closed" was that the publicity side was at fault for the poor attendance. However it has since been brought to my notice exactly how much publicity was given.

Research has shown that eight different morning papers gave reports on the finals day and the evening papers also gave good coverage although mainly contained in the early editions.

The "locals" also gave enough publicity to drag the most lethargic supporter away from his television set.

All this and a piece in "What's On in London" seems to suggest that spectator interest is still on the decline.

On the brighter side it was good to learn that despite the smallness of the finals-night crowd a small profit was made and the original guarantee was well covered.

Gloucestershire travelled to Essex for a recent Premier Division match without their England star, Ian Harrison, who dropped out of the previous county match, because of a bad leg.

While the full facts are not known and this is, of course, a pure county matter, it seems both harsh and strange that a county should lessen their chance of victory because of a possible mistake by their star player.

For repetitive bad service or disinterest—Yes. But for one solitary incident—we players don't think it deserves this treatment.

There must be something more behind it all. Perhaps we could all be enlightened?

Northern Complaints

On to the tournaments and first the Yorkshire "Open," where it seemed that the layout of tables with respect to lighting left much to be desired.

The fact that Ray Hinchliff found himself chasing after umpires and allocating tables is in itself sufficient testimony that either there were not enough officials or that they did not organise themselves properly.

The Lancashire "Open" did not fall into the trap of asking all players to be present at the same time. The staggering of the Men's Singles is an essential part of a well-run tournament. It was a pity that no food was available after 5 p.m.

Lots of northern players are complaining about some of the conditions that still exist in some of their tournaments. The Pontefract "Open" was one with below-standard conditions.

The South Yorkshire was another about which I received several letters and reports. The start was 1 p.m. on Saturday and it did not finish until 2.30 a.m. the following day. **THIS IS RIDICULOUS.** Table tennis is a sport, not an endurance test.

Perhaps an article in this magazine called, "How to run a tournament," is required. Another suggestion is that any tournament committee wishing for guidance should write to the E.T.T.A. and Geoff James or Geoff Owen, who did a grand job with the

Kent "Open," and will be pleased to help.

I tried a northern tournament myself recently, the Grimsby "Open." It started at 1.45 p.m. and managed without microphone to finish dead on 11 p.m. A hard-working committee was responsible. Well done!

The Buckinghamshire "Open" after a gap of one year, made a welcome return and though rather slow getting matches to the tables on the Saturday, went through Sunday fairly well with the finals over by 9.45 p.m.

CIRCULATION DRIVE

CAMBRIDGESHIRE TOP 300%

NOTHING seems to stop Bill Rogerson. On he forges, with a fantastic 315 percentage. And yet Cambridge are being challenged more closely than a month ago! Hats off to both Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire. It seems that, last month, I underestimated the determination of Mr. Hillier. It's not at the end of the season he saw 200% for Wiltshire, but right now, and with another 40% heave he moves a little closer to the top. Even so, Wiltshire didn't do quite so well as Buckinghamshire. Ian White's various schemes for selling magazines are now paying off, and with the England/France men's International at Slough on March 21, I wouldn't be surprised if Buckinghamshire didn't move into second place.

Spare a thought for Suffolk, who continue to add the odd 5% each month. One or two counties with less than 50% must marvel at their 28%, yet it looks as though Ann Baldry must get even more out of her sellers to remain in second place. There ain't no justice!

Hertfordshire maintain their fifth place, but will probably be passed next month by Essex, for whom George Wenham loses no opportunity to push sales. Middlesex have slipped slightly, but the Leagues in Middlesex have only themselves to blame. Laurie Landry printed an appeal to League Secretaries in January to contact Bill Mildenhall with the date of their League "Closed" Championships—Bill tells me that he has had no response.

As I predicted, Devon have now topped the 100%, and I am still tipping Hampshire to get there by May. Pride of place, in mid-table this month, must be given to Derbyshire. Due almost entirely to the enthusiasm of Colin Deaton, they have pushed along to 62% from nil in

December. With extra copies for the Derby "Closed" next month, we may see Derby top the 100% before the end of the season.

Quite frankly, so could several other counties, if they would only put themselves behind the drive. The many counties who have responded will be glad to know that we are selling more copies than last year—with a dearer magazine. Just a few more on the circulation during March, April and May and your magazine will be safe for at least another season. How about it chaps?

	%
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	317
SUFFOLK	258
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	226
WILTSHIRE	212
HERTFORDSHIRE	140
ESSEX	136
MIDDLESEX	124
NORFOLK	122
WARWICKSHIRE	122
OXFORDSHIRE	121
DEVON	110
BERKSHIRE	90
LEICESTERSHIRE	81
SUSSEX	80
HAMPSHIRE	76
SURREY	72
DURHAM	67
KENT	67
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	66
DERBYSHIRE	62
SOMERSET	58
LINCOLNSHIRE	56
LANCASHIRE	49
YORKSHIRE	39
BEDFORDSHIRE	34
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	33
NORTHUMBERLAND	31
STAFFORDSHIRE	30
CORNWALL	22
CHESHIRE	17
WORCESTERSHIRE	12
DORSET	9
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	7
SHROPSHIRE	4
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	-

Geoff. Harrower.

BRYAN CUTRESS spotlights**AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION and . . .**

In only eight years the table tennis section in the Kings Park branch of the Woolwich Recreational Institute has swept from the obscurity of three plywood tables and plain wooden bats to one of the best equipped and most go-ahead clubs in the country.

This amazing transformation began when Leslie Bell, principal of the Institute, saw the numerous opportunities for enticing youngsters into the game and enlarging the section.

At that time table tennis came a very poor last among the other activities at Kings Park which is hidden away among a maze of Eltham side roads.

Billiards and snooker, ballroom dancing, indoor cricket nets, boat-building, physical training and photography all commanded much more support.

Having set his sights on sending table tennis to the top of the club's popularity poll there was no stopping Mr. Bell.

He called in Stan Basden, who was then at Kennington, to take over the coaching and organisation. Immediately Mr. Basden decided that the best way to foster enthusiasm was to enter competitions.

So from the twelve youngsters who occasionally played he picked the best four, Benny Howe, George Cobb, David Roper and Colin Dyke, to form the nucleus of their first team.

The determined effort soon began to draw outside attention and it was not long before experienced players, including Joyce Fielder, began to give voluntary help.

Meanwhile, membership began to grow out of all proportion to the facilities available.

So Mr. Bell started to remedy this and with Terry Fiore, an electrical engineer by day and a table tennis player by night, giving valuable advice on lighting, Kings Park rapidly improved until now it can boast of nine amply-spaced tables and two fine match rooms.

Even these are barely enough, for the section now has about 70 members—a larger number than any of the other pastimes catered for at this institute.

With this increased interest has naturally come a higher standard of play.

In its second year of reorganisation the Kings Park Club entered a team in the sixth division of the Woolwich and District League.

Now it has progressed to the Premier Division and runs eight teams

the most successful being the women's side, of Madge Croke, Jean Clark and Pat Thomas, who have not lost a match in the N.W. Kent league for over two years.

Madge and Jean came to the table tennis section via the indoor nets. They are both county-class cricketers—in fact Jean has had a trial for England women—and while visiting the nets sensed the wonderful atmosphere prevailing around the tables and decided to join. With a natural ball sense gained from cricket they were ideal pupils, as their results in the N.W. Kent League have shown.

The main successes of the Club so far has been to produce Kent county juniors Susan Thomas, 15, Derek Basden, 15, and Sylvia Deaking, 17, and to shoulder the responsibility of or-

ganising the arrangements for the Women's County trials.

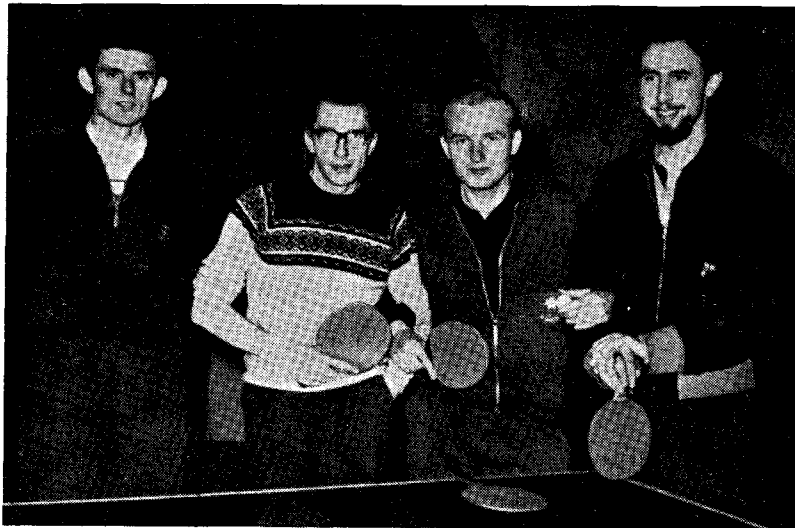
This latest honour released probably the biggest show of enthusiasm from the members since the Club began.

The girls eagerly set about the refreshments side while the boys looked after the umpiring and general hospitality.

I understand Kent will not be backward in asking to return another time.

So it seems Kings Park Club can look forward to more interesting promotions, perhaps one day even an international.

Whatever it is one can be sure the organisation will be perfect judging by the keenness of the members who have lifted the club to such high esteem in the county.

The WELSH MARATHONEERS

HATFIELD Youth Centre certainly started a crazy craze when two of their members claimed the record for playing non-stop table tennis.

Already their marathon time of 24 hours has been increased by four students from the University of Wales while the challenge has also been taken up by two other Welshmen.

Emil Emecz, Norman Sidebottom and Stephen Morgan made their attempt on the record as part of their University's Rag Week in aid of the World Refugee Fund.

For two hours these three played

American Doubles until joined by fellow student, Tony Howley. Together they continued playing, at the Pier Pavilion, Aberystwith for another 24 hours 8 minutes.

They were fed on chocolate, fruit, orange juice and milk; completed 267 games and used four balls, one of which was stepped on.

However the biggest bouquet must go to Nigel Graham, another student at the University, who umpired for 24 hours, 30 minutes before retiring with, I should think, an aching neck, a sore throat, and a vow never to watch table tennis again.

WELSH NOTES

GLAMORGAN SUCCESS

WELSH results in the first Quadrangular Tournament in Belfast were a little disappointing.

The team were expecting to finish second to England but a rough sea between Liverpool and Ireland upset calculations.

Cat-naps during the day could not compensate for the lack of sleep on the boat journey and in the first match against Scotland, the Welsh team showed obvious signs of tiredness.

George Evans, who won two singles, and Bernard Dimascio scored the only Welsh successes.

Evans was again our best against England and partnered by Ron Davies extended Derek Burridge and Bryan Merrett to 21-18, 22-20.

Our only victory in the tournament came in the "wooden-spoonist" battle against Ireland.

The Welsh players had by then run into good form and thrashed their opponents with the loss of only two matches.

The next Quadrangular International will be held in Cardiff on December 2 and 3.

With good wins over Nottinghamshire (7-3) and Warwickshire II (6-4), Glamorgan II have won the Midland Division of the National County Championships.

Dick Hopkins, coming in as a last minute reserve, played extremely well

against Nottinghamshire to win both his matches.

Congratulations to Colin Thomas, our Llandudno Junior international, who seems to be having a good tournament season over the border in England.

First round results in the Club Team Championship of Wales were: Roath Road "B" bt Merthyr High St. Youth; Roath Road "D" bt Pontypridd Y.M.C.A. "B"; Alma, Newport bt R.T.B. Ebbw Vale Youth; Welsh Regional Hospital Board bt Pontypridd Y.M.C.A. "A"; Overseas "B" bt Aberdare Church "B." Cardiff G.P.O. bt Bridgehead Y.M.C.A.; Rhiwbina "B" bt Romilly Youth, Barry; Rhiwbina "A" bt Port Talbot Y.M.C.A.; Cardiff Y.M.C.A. "B" bt Aberdare.

The draw for the second round is: Alma, Newport v Roath Road "A"; Barry Central v Rhiwbina "B"; Cardiff G.P.O. v Sketty Court; Mumbles v Overseas "A"; Roath Road "C" v Welsh Regional Hospital Board; Cardiff Y.M.C.A. "A" v Roath Road "B"; Overseas "B" v Rhiwbina "A"; Roath Road "D" v Cardiff Y.M.C.A. "B."

feated 6-4 by Hertfordshire.

Cornwell came out of this encounter the best, winning both his singles matches although being extended by Ractliffe.

Bill Rogerson, our hard working president and match secretary, is still not satisfied with the Cambridgeshire percentage in the "Circulation Drive" table. He wants to get it well over the 300 mark.

New Chesterton Institute are now in a strong position to retain the First Division title in the Cambridgeshire League following the defeat of their nearest rivals, Wesley, by University Press, who now have the services of Don Norton.

The two Impington teams head the Second Division but are being closely pressed by N.A.L.G.O., for whom John Harding is having a good season.

Barry Nicholas is greatly helping Cherryhinton in their bid to displace Pest Control I at the top of the Third Division.

The Wilburton village team dropped their first point in the Fourth Division when they were held to a 5-all draw by their chief rivals, Junior Y.M.C.A.

Leslie Constable.

SILVER JUBILEE

To celebrate their silver jubilee the Lensbury and Britannic House club have invited Victor Barna to raise an international side to meet another all international team raised by Harold Pearce, the club's secretary, at the Badminton Hall, Lower Sydenham, on March 18.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

SANDWICHED OUT

UNABLE to find a suitable answer to the sandwich bat problem, Cambridgeshire went down 2-7 to Birmingham in the zone final of the Wilmott Cup.

John Thurston and John Cornwell played extremely well to win one match each but obviously need a great deal of practice against the sandwich bat.

The same problem arose in the National County Championships when Cambridgeshire were surprisingly de-

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TWIN HOPES *By Sydney Hulls*

of the "Daily Express"

THE twin hopes of table tennis are the 14-year-old Holes of Southampton, and the 12-year-old Sayer girls of Walthamstow, London.

They are four girls who aim to win back for Britain the world title glory of those other twins, the Rowe girls, Diane and Rosalind.

Incredibly, just like the Rowe girls, these new table tennis playing twins also have that left-and-right-handed partnership so invaluable to doubles play.

Christine is the left-hander and Pauline the right-hander of the Holes family.

Beverley is the left-hander and Gloria the right-hander of the Sayer clan.

And just to make it perfect, both sets of twins come from happy table tennis families.

The whole of the Holes play—father Norrie, mother Queenie, big sister Carol, 17, and the twins.

Dad, a 45-year-old house furnisher, cracks: "I used to play the twins for a friendly penny-a-point. Now I wouldn't play them for a penny a game."

But Dad is not hoarding the mound of pennies he is saving. Oh, no!

He is investing it all and more to the tune of nearly £300 in fares and expenses this season so his twins can play in every attractive tournament from Land's End to John O'Groats.

The dividends so far are all five Southampton titles, the Yorkshire and Kent junior "Open" titles, and reaching the final stage of the women's consolation singles in the new English "Closed" Championships at Greenwich.

And in addition a grand total of 69 cups!

As the titles and cups have been shared out nicely between the twins, there are no arguments about whom should clean the cups every week. It is a job that Christine and Pauline have to share between them.

Near-tragedy came close to breaking up this excellent partnership six months back.

The twins were skylarking about at their Shirley Avenue home when Pauline put her left arm through a glass door.

For a few terrible moments there was some doubt whether the doctors could repair the damage, but finally, thank goodness, 19 stitches helped to heal the injuries and the twins were on their playing way again.

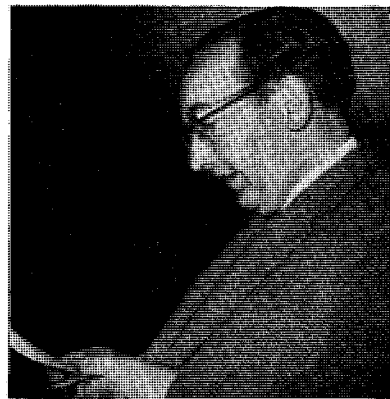
Now they are again up to their old schedule of five nights play and practise a week.

They would play more—if they were allowed. But Mr. and Mrs. Holes say firmly: "There is school-work to be done, and anyway five nights a week is enough for them. The two days away from the table stops them going stale."

And Portsmouth coach George Cooper, who has developed from the start the talent in these twins, fully agrees.

However keen on table tennis the Holes girls are, they could not be more so than the Sayer girls.

Their fireman father, Jack Sayer, approached the hon. director of coaching, Jack Carrington, two years ago.



SYDNEY HULLS

"I'm sure you could turn my girls into first-class players," Mr. Sayer said.

Carrington saw the girls play, saw the promise behind their attempts to imitate top class strokes, and agreed to help them.

Now Carrington beams happily: "They show such wonderful progress I have hopes of them going right to the top."

The Sayer girls have begun to fulfil that prophesy early by winning their first major title, the Kent Under 13 "Open" doubles championship.

Now they are after bigger things, but they are not in a violent hurry.

They are prepared to play when they can, and even make tea for other players when the tables are full. For they reckon time is on their side and they have four years yet before they have to play like world-beaters.

"The Rowe twins were 16 before they won their first world title," the Sayer girls recall wisely. "We've got oodles of time to practise yet."

Diane Rowe, now England's No. 1 girl, has seen the Sayer twins in action. She reports: "Their keenness and enthusiasm is so great when they are watching as well as playing. They should go a long way."

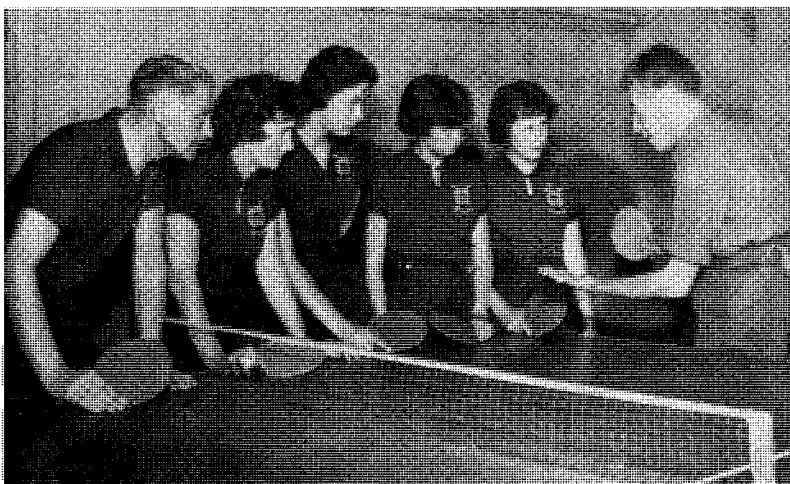
What a wonderful prospect for England—two pairs of twins with big-time promise.

We may yet see the day, and a day not too far off, when England's girls will be top of the world ratings once again.

But long before then will come the day that will produce one of the most interesting clashes of all time.

That will be the day and the tournament when the Holes girls and the Sayer girls meet in the final doubles of the English "Open" Table Tennis championships.

It should be quite a match!



CHRISTINE and PAULINE HOLES, nearest coach GEORGE COOPER, with MUM, DAD and sister CAROL

FIFTY YEARS OF TABLE TENNIS

By ANDREW DONALDSON

We are interrupting the County History series, to give the Story of SUNDERLAND, who are celebrating their Golden Jubilee this month. It is written by Andrew Donaldson, the first ever English champion, who the N.E.C. are proposing as a Vice-President of the E.T.T.A. at the next annual meeting.

YORKSHIRE, says Mr. M. Hartley, possesses England's oldest Table Tennis County Association, but Sunderland can proudly boast of England's oldest Town Association, which was founded in 1910, and on March 3 celebrated its golden anniversary.

The game locally enjoyed the boom, which spread over the whole country when it was introduced in 1899. I was one of the many lads lucky enough to be initiated into its intricacies at a boys' evening school, where three blackboards placed together over the tops of four dual desks formed an ideal fast surface at the perfect height of 2½ feet, the green white-topped 6½ inch net projecting some five inches over the sides of the middle of the blackboard.

From there I moved on to Sunderland Y.M.C.A., to gain my place in a team which was renowned as being one of the two leading lights in the district. The height of the net in the meantime had been reduced to six inches.

A Sporting Joke

Ping-pong, the "closed shop" name common to table tennis, even until the English Table Tennis Association had passed its first birthday in 1922, was universally derided as a target for sporting jokes, and the game died in 1905 as suddenly as it had arisen a few years ago.

In many Institutes the 9ft. x 5ft. boards, painted green save for the one-inch border, lay forgotten against storeroom walls. Those lads who opposed each other on three blackboards had meantime been scattered over the town.

In 1909 attempts were made by some of them to renew their friendships by resurrecting the forsaken boards to indulge in a few friendly games.

Thus was the Sunderland and District Association formed at the end of Season 1909-10, when six clubs, four including blackboard partisans, became founders of a most successful League which still operates today without a break, save that competition was suspended during two world wars in favour of friendly games.

The pioneers faced no easy task, but with the ready assistance of Mr.

W. M. Worthy of Southwick Congers, now in the United States, the new venture began to take shape. Twenty-eight of the 30 matches were played and I was fortunate enough to see all, or a portion of every one.

Other clubs, including my old love Sunderland Y.M.C.A., joined the Association, and by 1914 ten teams

nationally adopted in 1921 and threw off its "ping-pong" shackles a year later.

Aspirants hoping to reach the summit must be properly clothed, play under suitable conditions without unnecessary and noisy interruptions, concentrate upon contesting every stroke, indulge in regular and plain meals, and train industriously all the year round. I have always observed these simple rules, though much of my spare time was devoted to cricket and rugby football.

"Did you use vellum rackets when you commenced to play?" I have on occasions been asked. Such objects were usually brought at Christmas time to provide entertainment in parlour games at family parties.

Mr. C. F. Hardy, who over sixty years ago introduced the game on those three blackboards, always used a pimped rubber even till he retired from the Y.M.C.A. club in 1914.

The "Ghost"

The "ghost," as the rubber bat was appropriately called, had its few admirers. Most rackets were made of wood, mostly three-ply, either plain or surfaced with emery or glass paper. No restriction was placed on size, the 12-inch "barn-door" of the revered John Reay acting as a sight-board for his opponents and a general object of amusement.

Of the balls, Halex and Lyx were of varied textures, so that the more consistent Tema was best fitted for match play.

Neighbouring towns such as Newcastle, South Shields, West Hartlepool and Middlesbrough were tapped in order to find if any friendly rivalry existed, but the response was half-hearted and scanty.

The best playing board, with its surface of slate, belonged to a club in Bishop Auckland, while locally that of Southwick Congers was probably the most accurate and popular.

Present-day players can thus rest assured that the materials used in what they thought was merely "ping-pong" are now after more than fifty years almost similar to those with which their grandfathers commenced their careers.



ANDREW DONALDSON

formed the first and eight the second division of a flourishing competition.

The Individual Championship provided another annual event, and soon the Individual and Club Handicaps increased the interest. No enthusiasm could be raised for the doubles game, so popular on those three blackboards.

The ideal League was assumed to consist of three twelve-men divisions, an dthis was attained in 1925. Seven players completed a team, each playing an opponent in two 20 point games. Thus 252 players enjoyed a weekly game, a number now equal to the strength of 63 teams.

I am often asked if table tennis is as good today as it was years ago. Like all other games it has benefited from years of experience, and has improved considerably since it was

Spotlight on Youth

By NIGEL IVE

A new feature written by Youth for Youth. Nigel Ive, who is now training as a junior sports reporter in Fleet Street, hails from North Middlesex and was winner of the EAGLE title last season, and NEWS OF THE WORLD "Boy of the Year."



Photo by Michael Maciaren
NIGEL IVE

THE England junior team of Wilf Barker, Jackie Keogh, David Creamer, Alma Taft and Jean Harrower, fresh from their 9-1 win over Wales the previous evening, took most of the honours in the Gloucester Junior "Open."

In the boys' singles, won by Barker, unranked Barry Midgeley caused an early upset by beating England's No. 5, Brian Wright before going down in the next round to George Livesey.

Creamer reached the final beating the top ranked Livesey while Barker avenged his international defeat by beating the Welsh boy Colin Thomas.

Both Barker and Creamer started cautiously in the final but after losing the first game the Durham boy got into his stride and won the next two by 14 and 16.

Girls' form seems much more predictable than boys', and this was certainly the case in this tournament where all four "seeds" reached their allotted places in the semi-finals.

Jean Harrower and Mary Shannon emerged the finalists after beating Judy Williams (18, 17), and Alma Taft (13 and 15) respectively.

In the final Jean's forehand attack proved much too strong for her opponent and she won convincingly by 21-15, 21-17.

The Holes twins came into the spotlight again in the girls' doubles where they reached the finals at the expense of two notable pairs, Harrower/Janet Roberts and Taft/Susan Thomas.

In the final, however, Mary Shannon and Judy Williams were in command throughout winning 21-17, 21-7.

Although Keogh and Livesey won

the boys' doubles, neither of them was at his best until the final where they beat Whalley and Creamer by 21-17, 16-21, 25-23.

Barry Midgeley and Mary Shannon deservedly won the mixed title with a good win over Bob Ractliffe and Judy Williams in the final.

Brian Hill won the under-15 singles after a narrow escape in the semi-final where he trailed 6-16 to Ian Giles in the third game, and Sue Thomas won the equivalent girls' title. In the final she beat Pauline Holes—her conqueror in the Yorkshire Junior "Open"—by 18-21, 21-18, 21-18.

KENT "OPEN"

David Creamer made up for the disappointment of losing in two finals at the Gloucester by beating me two-straight and in the Junior Singles final at the Kent "Open" the following day.

From the spectator's point of view it was a poor final, because it developed into a chiselling match. Dave was the more consistent, winning 19 and 10.

Creamer added another junior cup to his collection in the South Yorkshire "Open." Not satisfied with keeping to junior finals, he also won the men's doubles with his brother Mike.

David, recently promoted from No. 6 to No. 2 in the Junior rankings, is certainly justifying this up-grading. In an earlier round he beat the No. 4, Keogh, and went on to conquer his joint No. 2, Barker.

Working his way up the ranking list, he beat current No. 1, Livesey, by 21-16 in the third game of the final.

ARMS TWISTED HERE . . .

If you played in, or watched, the Kent "Open" you will remember that a diminutive figure frequently stood in your way, or on your foot, and asked you to buy raffle tickets. Finally, you could not hold out against this sort of psychological warfare and you bought some. So did I.

An army of three fought this highly organised campaign and it resulted in the sale of two thousand tickets. The troops were from Folkestone's Beverley Club: Iain Perkins, 14; Tony Boyer, 14; and Chris Hooper, 13. They were given the job by tournament organiser, Mick Betts, and their pay was 2/6d. each and free front seats at the finals.

Individual ticket sales were: Iain 800, Tony 700 and Chris 500. Tony had three tickets left just before the draw so he sold them to Chris.

I should have mentioned that they also sold programmes and "Table Tennis" magazines and played in the junior singles and men's doubles.

Mr. Betts should consider hiring out this high-pressure sales team to other tournaments . . . Have Tickets—Will Travel.

Preston Roberts, 16-year-old from Deal, faced a big problem before leaving for the Kent "Open"—should he take his beautiful Border Collie called Judy, official kennel name, Jiggly-Judy, to a dog show or go to Folkestone.

Eventually he decided to leave her at home with a giant bone for company.

After all, Judy had won seven titles in her career and Preston had just one . . . the junior singles of his club, the South-Eastern Electricity Board.

He did not win the Kent title, but he is more than a promising player and will probably be winning titles long after middle-age spread has got the better of Judy and she has retired from "tournaments" altogether!

TRAVELOGUE

David Creamer, currently England's No. 2 junior, had a busy time over the Kent "Open" week-end.

He left London on the Friday bound for Cardiff to play in the Junior International that evening.

By 8 a.m. on Saturday he and the rest of the team were on their way to Gloucester for the Junior "Open," and a little later encountered flooded roads.

Their car, with team captain Brian "Fangio" Brumwell at the wheel, plunged through the shallower waters but finally stalled in a dip.

There was only one thing for it . . . the team, up to their knees in icy water, pushed it out on to dry land.

But the car would not start again, so, leaving their captain brooding over a lifeless engine, our cold and cursing colleagues "thumbed" lifts to Gloucester.

They arrived at 11.30, to find the kindly organisers had held up their games for two hours.

David, having appeared in two finals, left Gloucester by road at 10 p.m. and travelled across country to arrive in Crawley, near Brighton, at 2 a.m.

Then up at 6.30 and on to Folkestone where he was due three hours later; played all day, in three events, reached the semi-final of the men's doubles and won the junior singles. Back home in Ealing at midnight.

All go, isn't it?

BUCKS "OPEN"

Brendan Finucane notched up his second "Open" junior title, the first being at Bath in January, when he beat Graham Whalley in the final of the Bucks "Open."

The less said about the final the better. Bren started strongly and established a good lead which discouraged Graham, who started making seemingly deliberate careless shots and gazing helplessly either at the ceiling or at his friends in the corner.

This performance rather upset Bren and he fell into error, winning the game by a narrower margin than he should have done.

Graham felt the same way about the second game and Bren deservedly won the title, by 22-20, 21-13.

He is not a ranked junior but he went through this tournament without dropping a game, demolishing England's Nos. 5 and 7 on the way.



JUNIORS IN GERMANY. WILF BARKER, GEORGE LIVESEY, JACKIE KEOGH, MARY SHANNON, JUDY WILLIAMS and DAVID CREAMER, the successful England Junior team who visited Germany in January

WELSH JUNIORS

OVERWHELMED

THE junior international match between Wales and England aroused considerable interest in Aberdare although the result was completely one-sided.

Colin Thomas, the Welsh No. 1, scored the home side's lone victory when he defeated Wilf Barker in the final match by 21-17, 19-21, 21-19.

Ian Gibson was the only other Welsh boy who caused any difficulty. He took David Creamer to 21-10, 21-18, and later partnered Thomas to win a game from Barker and Creamer.

The English girls were much too strong for their Welsh opponents and won without any difficulty.

Wales 1, England 9
(Welsh names first)

J. Davies (Abergavenny) lost to W. Barker (Durham) —5, —13; lost to J. Keogh (Lancs.) —6, —7.

I. Gibson (Talbot Green) lost to Keogh —14, —10; lost to D. Creamer (Middlesex) —6, —18. C. Thomas (Llandudno) lost to Creamer —11, —9; bt Barker 17, —19, 19.

Miss J. Bennett (Newport) lost to Miss J. Harrower (Middlesex) —7, —12. Miss F. Norris (Ebbw Vale) lost to Miss A. Taft (Hertfordshire) —5, —7.

Thomas/Gibson lost to Creamer/Barker —13, 16, —9. Miss Bennett/Miss Norris lost to Miss Harrower/Miss Taft —11, —8.

OBITUARY

PASSING OF A PIONEER

AT the close of last month passed away one of the most notable table tennis figures of the early days, one who was familiar to all of us a generation ago—F. S. B. Lawes of Birmingham.

Lawes was a lean man, slim and active, with a tough, weatherbeaten complexion and prematurely grey hair worn en brosse over his scalp but rising in front to a cockatoo's quiff. He was swashbuckling and sardonic, with a wristy attacking game full of side-spins to one or other corner of the table.

Lawes was in international, but he just failed to make the grade in 1926, being chosen first reserve for England's first-ever Swaythling Cup team. Next year he won his place but said: "I can't spare the time to go abroad. If you think I'm good enough, I'll tell you whom to try. There's a schoolboy lives not far from me in Birmingham. He can lick me hollow."

So the schoolboy, who up to that time had never played outside his home or anywhere but on his father's table, came to town—socks, knickers, peaked school cap with a button on the top, and all. The first tournament he ever played in he won from all the best players of three countries. And went straight on to Stockholm where, at the age of 16, he got ranked 6th in the world. That was Ann Haydon's father, Adrian.

A long time ago, now. Yes. Lawes was a sportsman. And unselfish. His fierce eye could pick 'em out to hit, and could he pick 'em. Honour to the pioneer.—I.M.

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HUSBAND AND WIFE DOUBLE

HUDDERSFIELD have won the battle of the strong men. Last year Sheffield halted their seven-year run of inter-league titles. But this time Huddersfield won 7-3 and are the only unbeaten team left.

Ray Hinchliff, George Carrigill and Bob Hirst took two each.

Stuart Dyson was back to his hurricane hitting best to win the **Huddersfield "Closed"** before a large crowd which enjoyed a real exhibition display.

Against Hirst (semi-final) and Hinchliff (final), Stuart stormed from behind to take the title Ray has held for five years. And his wife **Mavis** made it a family double by taking the women's crown from Frances Kiteley.

Other winners: **David Hirst** (youths) beat J. Knowles; **Hinchliff** and **Hirst** beat Dyson and Carrigill; **Mavis Priestley** and **Yvonne Robinson** beat Joyce Dyson and Miss Kiteley; **Carrigill** and **Mavis Dyson** beat Hinchliff and Joyce Dyson.

Francis Gregoire (Combined Hospitals) handed out the shocks in the **York "Closed."** He beat John Lyon, champion Jack Senescall and Bob Lowe to take the singles trophy.

Jack and Betty Senescall, winners of the mixed for six years, succumbed to **Low**e and **Elaine Lodge**, while Elaine's husband, **George**, who is York's general secretary, won the veterans' competition.

Other winners: women's, **Mary Ellis**; juniors, **Keith Dunn**; doubles, **Lyon** and **Senescall**, **Betty Senescall** and **Elaine Lodge**.

Dynamic Pete Smith had his best win to date when he outthit Ray Hinchliff at Huddersfield, but that was Hull's only success. He also won two in a draw with Leeds and figured in a spectacular though unsuccessful clash with Geoff Kidd against Halifax, whose defeat leaves them in the thick of a relegation struggle.

York's Keith Dunn destroyed Colin Gray's unbeaten record for Hull in the Youths' East Division—but Phil Burwell kept his by a point, beating Keith Webster at deuce in the third. Hull won 8-2 to strengthen their top place claim.

Hull Y.P.L. gave holders Leeds Victoria a good fight in the inter-club contest, going down 4-5 after leading. Clive Pollard had a good night and registered a hat-trick.

Alan Brook (Carlinghow) leads the Batley Youth League averages despite his first defeat of the season at the hands of Paul Phillips (Central "B").

Maurice Pitts and Hans Soova (Metal Box) suffered their first Bradford League defeats to Brian Joyce and Billy Rhodes (Tong Unionists) respectively. Maurice came near to his first "open" singles success, failing 19-21 in the third to Jack Clayton in the South Yorkshire final.

Malcolm Hartley.

CLUB BADGES

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

ST. ALBANS IN FINAL

THE toast of Hertfordshire these days is St. Albans. They have given the county a big boost with performances in the National Team Championships.

After disposing of Birmingham in both the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl they travelled to Manchester for the semi-finals and although unable to make it another double the women managed to win quite convincingly by 5-1. The men, however went down 3-5 to the powerful Manchester side.

Winners of the match with Kent could well decide the Second Division title in the County Championships.

So far both teams have beaten Berkshire and Hampshire and neither should be troubled by pointless Sussex.

With three wins in a row the second team look certain to be runners-up in the Southern Division. Their latest successes include 9-1 wins over Buckinghamshire and Norfolk and a 6-4 victory at Cambridge.

The Juniors had their backs to the wall in their clash with Essex but after being 3-0 down, came back to win 6-4. They have only to beat Sussex on March 19 to gain their highest ever place in the Championship.

In the Grimsby "Open" St. Albans players again made their mark. Gwen Robinson winning her first "Open" Singles title. Terry Densham featured in two finals, and partnered Judy Williams to take the Mixed event. Runners-up on this occasion were Laurie Landry and Gwen Robinson.

G. P. H. Butcher

EDWARDS' HAT-TRICK

TOMMY EDWARDS (Dilton A) won the West Wilts. men's singles title for the third time, beating ex-Romford player, Bryan Bond, who is stationed in the Pay Corps at Devizes, by 10-21, 21-13, 21-17, 21-16.

He also enjoyed his first mixed doubles success, partnering Muriel Ford to a 16-21, 21-15, 21-14 win over C. Chandler and Mrs. P. Collins in the final.

Mrs. M. Alexander (Lit. Inst.) beat Miss Ford 21-18, 15-21, 21-9 in the women's singles final, while the junior event went to Terry Vance.

Bond and Alan Alexander took the men's doubles; ex-junior champion, A. Nicholas, won the handicap title.

A best ever entry so strained the West Wilts. organisation that the preliminary rounds continued from 6 p.m. on Friday until 12.35 a.m. on the Saturday morning. Next season the organ-

isers will have to spread the play over a week.

Dilton A continue to lead Division One of the West Wilts. League, with Spencers A and Lit. Inst. joint second..

Unbeaten Studley A top Division Two, followed by Clarks S.C. and Christchurch B, who are fighting out the runners-up position.

Conigre A are four points ahead of White Horse in Division Three.

J. McNeilly (Manor House) beat R. Norris (Con.) 21-19, 21-15 in the Wootton Bassett men's singles final, while Mrs. M. Fawthrop (United Dairies) took the women's title.

Other winners were: Junior singles: M. Thomas (Men's Club); doubles, G. Tyler and M. Thomas.

Service teams continue their grip on all three divisions of the Devizes League. R.A.P.C. (Records) "A" still retain a semi-final interest in the Team handicap competition which attracted a record of 23 entries.

Donald Hillier.

JEAN HARROWER RECORD

IT will be a long time before anyone breaks the record achievement of Jean Harrower in the Middlesex "Closed" Championships.

She took four titles including the junior girls' event which she won for the sixth year running.

Michael Thornhill after narrowly avoiding defeat in the second game went on to beat Alan Rhodes in the men's final by 23-25, 21-19, 21-16.

Men's Singles: M. THORNHILL bt A. Rhodes 23-25, 21-19, 21-16.

Women's Singles: J. HARROWER bt M. Fry 21-11, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: RHODES/L. LANDRY bt S. Jacobson/A. Lindsay 21-16, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: HARROWER/FRY bt M. Stafford/J. Williams 24-22, 21-12. **Mixed Doubles: LANDRY/Miss HARROWER** bt A. Khanna/Miss J. Abraham 14-21, 21-11, 21-16.

Junior Boys: D. CREAMER bt B. Wright 21-11, 10-21, 21-9. **Junior Girls: HARROWER** bt I. Ogun 21-10, 21-15.

Willesden are the only unbeaten side in the Inter-Leagues Championship and their teams lead all three senior divisions.

The finals of the Schools' Tournament will take place at the West Ealing Club on March 12.

WEALTH OF TALENT

SURREY will still be one of the top counties for several years to come judging by the wealth of talent at the newly opened Putney International Club.

Harry Venner reports that he has several boys and girls at the Club who, although still very young, are already showing the hallmarks of future champions.

What is the largest numbers of matches that can be played on four tables in six hours? Last month the Putney Club pushed the number up to 83.

Jim Forrest

SUFFOLK TITLE SHOCKS

PETER RUDD and Val Martin, both of Lowestoft, won the singles titles in the shock-filled Suffolk "Closed" Championships.

Earlier Peter Cole, champion for the past four years, had been beaten in two straight games by Ken Perry, of Ipswich, while Pam Rogers' three year hold on the women's title was ended by Brenda Brown.

Cole and Miss Martin, the mixed doubles champions since 1955, also surrendered their title after a close fought final with Ron Well and Pam Rogers.

Men's Singles: P. RUDD bt K. Perry 22-20, 21-13, 21-14.

Women's Singles: V. MARTIN bt Mrs. J. Jefferies 21-17, 21-10.

Men's Doubles: P. COLE/J. COLLINS bt R. Purnell/H. Pettingill 21-12, 21-15, 21-9. **Women's Doubles:** Mrs. B. BROWN/Mrs. P. ROGERS bt Martin/Mrs. Jefferies 21-13, 22-24, 21-13. **Mixed Doubles:** R. WELLS/Mrs. ROGERS bt Cole/Miss Martin 16-21, 21-16, 21-19.

Boys' Singles: H. OSBOURNE bt D. Halliday 9-21, 21-17, 21-11. **Girls' Singles:** K. POWELL bt L. Barrett 21-14, 21-11.

Veteran Singles: J. KENWORTHY bt K. Goodman 17-21, 21-13, 21-6.

FAMILY AFFAIR

HUSBAND and wife, Jack and Hilda Ewles (Y.M.C.A.) won three titles in the Norwich Championships for which the entries were drastically down on previous years.

Mr. Ewles won the men's singles for the third successive year by beating Bill Minors in the final and later partnered his wife, who won the women's singles title, to success in the mixed doubles event.

Men's Singles: J. EWLES bt W. Minors 19-21, 21-16, 23-21.

Men Doubles: MINORS/L. HOLDOM bt R. Harris/G. Arnison 21-11, 25-23.

Women's Singles: Mrs. H. EWLES bt M. Turner 21-11, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: EWLES/Mrs. EWLES bt Minors/Miss Turner 15-21, 21-12, 21-19. **Junior Singles:** J. FROST bt P. Graver 17-21, 21-16, 21-19.

Veterans' Singles: G. WHITTAKER bt R. Giles 21-17, 21-9.

Norwich retained their Division II title in the East Anglian League for the third time when they beat Lowestoft II in a thrilling match by 6-4.

Robin Wickens.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SNIPPETS

A FIGHTING display by the Gloucestershire team earned them two unexpected points when they defeated Essex by 7-3 in the County Championship.

Little hope of success was held because Ian Harrison was absent from the side but this disadvantage was countered by the fact that Essex were also below strength.

The Gloucestershire Junior "Open" was once again a resounding success thanks to the tournament secretary, George O'Brien, who ensured near-perfect organisation.

Cheltenham are in a strong position to win both the men's and women's sections of the Western Counties Championships.

Harrison, Griffiths and Griffin look unbeatable in the men's division while the women's team of Molly Jones and Shirley O'Brien recently defeated their nearest rivals, Bristol, by 5-4.

In their first season of County League competition Bristol Methodists are doing exceptionally well and recently gained a surprise draw against Cheltenham juniors.

Les Davis.

LINCS.—NO CHANGE

ALTHOUGH Peter Skerratt of Scunthorpe, the county's No. 1, retained his men's singles title and was a worthy winner, the spotlight of this tournament was on Garry Stanley of Boston. This 17-year-old won the boys' singles and reached the semi-finals in the men's before losing narrowly to John Radley of Lincoln 22-24 in the third.

Mrs. Wendy Eanor retained her women's singles title, beating Mrs. Connie Moran in a keen final. Mrs. Pat Chadwick appeared unsuccessfully in two finals, narrowly losing the mixed with Matt Shearer, to the champions partnership of Sherratt and Mrs. Moran in the third. Even closer was the women's doubles final when, with Mrs. Wilmore, she lost 23-21 in the third to Mrs. Moran and Mrs. Lammin.

Men's Singles: P. SKERRATT bt J. Radley 21-13, 21-12. **Women's Singles:** Mrs. W. EANOR bt Mrs. C. Moran 21-16, 21-18. **Boys' Singles:** G. STANLEY bt B. Hill 21-10, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: B. FINNUCAN/W. V. MORAN bt B. Edlington/A. Fear 16-21, 21-11, 21-7. **Women's Doubles:** Mrs. C. MORAN/Mrs. P. LAMMIN bt Mrs. P. Chadwick/Mrs. H. Wilmore 21-16, 14-21, 23-21. **Mixed Doubles:** P. SKERRATT/Mrs. C. MORAN bt M. Shearer/Mrs. P. Chadwick 21-17, 22-24, 21-13.

NEW LEICESTERSHIRE CHAMPIONS

CHARLIE JACQUES beat Philip Reid in the final of the men's singles to become Leicestershire singles champion. Reid had beaten Johnny Burraston, the holder, in the semi-final, while Jacques' semi-final opponent was Paul Newby.

Jacques went on to win the men's doubles, with J. Burraston, against Rodney Pickering and Gordon Murray in the final, and the mixed doubles with Muriel Whait, beating Mick and Rita Beith in the final.

Rita Beith and Sally Willson, neither of whom is ranked in the top three in Leicestershire, reached the final of the women's singles, Rita winning by virtue of her strong defence.

Pauline Jackson and Pat Kilsby won the women's doubles, beating Glenys Odams and Muriel Whait in the final. The veterans' singles, held for the first time, was won by Frank Pickering. Stewart Tyers was runner-up in both junior singles and under-15 singles, losing to Barrie Clarke in the juniors and Ivan Atanasoff in the under-15s.

ROZEANU RETURNS

ANGELICA ROZEANU, one of the greatest post-war world champions, is making a table tennis come-back and expected to be selected for Rumania's team in the European Championships next month.

In a recent match against Hungary, Mrs. Rozeanu, 39, showed she had lost little of her old skill, and was involved in Rumania's only two victories. She beat Livia Mossoczy in two straight games and then partnered Maria Alexandri to beat Eva Koczian and Mossoczy.

Hungary also won the men's match beating Rumania by 5-4.

In the following individual events Mrs. Rozeanu was runner-up to Miss Koczian in the women's singles.

The first Mongolian Championships, which attracted 100 entries, took place in Ulan Bator, capital of the Mongolian People's Republic in January.

Badikhu became the first men's singles champion and Nansalma won the women's title.

BERCZIK AGAIN

WITH his usual faultless defence and a surprisingly devastating counter-attack, **Zoltan Berczik** retained his singles title in the Budapest "Open" Championships, beating Elmer Gyetvai in the final.

Gyetvai, known as the "hitting machine," had a tough semi-final match against Ferenc Sido, but his coolness pulled him through when at 19-all in the deciding game he hit two winners with an ease and surety which suggested they were the opening rallies of the match.

Eva Koczian came majestically through the strong women's entry to win the title once again.

The biggest surprise of the championships was the mixed doubles defeat of Berczik and Gizi Farkas by Rozsas, a 16-year-old boy and his partner 17-year-old Miss Friesenhahn in the quarter-finals.

Sido collected a brace of doubles titles, winning the men's with Berczik and the mixed with Miss Farkas.

SHORT COURSE FOR COACHES AND POTENTIAL COACHES

A one-day course for diploma candidates and potential candidates will be held at Bethnal Green, London, E.2, in the near future.

The probable date will be March 19, but this may be postponed until an April Saturday.

Anyone interested, who is not already on the register of candidates, should apply for details to Jack Carrington, Hon. Director of Coaching, E.T.T.A., 24, Worcester Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP

by CONRAD JASCHKE

YORKSHIRE STAND BETWEEN SURREY AND TITLE

SURREY, still ahead in the championship race, face their last hurdle on March 19 when they travel to Bradford to meet Yorkshire.

Big query against this match is whether Brian Kennedy will leave his coffee bar to strengthen his county team.

Without him I cannot give the Northerners very much chance, but a Yorkshire team with Kennedy at his best, will be a very hard nut to crack.

Any slip by Surrey could let in Middlesex or Gloucestershire, who scored an excellent 7-3 away win over Essex despite being without Ian Harrison.

At one time in this match Gloucestershire were 5-0 up with the help of an unexpected win by Shirley O'Brien and Terry Spokes over the strong Jean McCree/Elsie Carrington combination.

I have in the past called Gloucestershire a "two man team" but this is becoming less true this season for Derek Griffiths, Bob Griffin and Peter Partos have all done well when called upon.

Lancashire gathered three valuable points from their last four matches

to lift them away from the relegation "hot seat" position at the bottom of the table.

This was largely due to the brilliant form shown by Jeff Ingber who won seven of his eight matches.

He began by helping to take two points from Lincolnshire with two singles victories and then in the matches which Lancashire lost, against Surrey and Middlesex, he beat Ken Craigie, Jo Somogyi and Michael Thornhill losing only to Derek Burridge.

Ingber followed this performance with priceless victories over Stuart Dyson and Ray Hinchliff to help Lancashire glean a point from their battle with Yorkshire.

Another Lancashire player who has been in good form lately is J. Clayton. He has come to the fore since the loss of Ron Allcock and Geoff. Pullar and scored some good wins over Harry Venner. Thornhill and Dyson which must have warmed the Lancashire selector's hearts.

Glamorgan still have a remote chance of staying in the Premier Division, but to do so they have to beat Lancashire who would then

have to drop both points against Essex.

Lincolnshire's fate is already sealed and so they are taking the opportunity of an outstanding match against Essex on March 19 to try out 17-year-old Garry Stanley, who won the boys' singles and reached the men's singles semi-finals in the County "Closed."

Warwickshire secured the Div. II Midland title when they handed out a surprise 10-0 thrashing to their hosts, Worcestershire, in the championship-deciding clash at Kidderminster.

The Warwickshire players were so superior that only one match, between R. Goode and D. Baddeley, went to three games.

Some of the Worcestershire players felt that the conditions did not help their attacking style, but their non-playing captain, Mr. D. J. Moss, had no doubt that the visitors were the better team.

Another team who are all but home and dry in the championship race are Devon in Div. II West. Their 7-3 away win over Cornwall at St. Austell leaves them in the happy position of only needing to avoid an 8-2 or worse defeat in their last match against Wiltshire to take the title.

J. Bassett was Cornwall's hero with wins over P. Ofield and K. James, while W. Northcott also beat Ofield.

Devon, whose No. 3 man, R. Abrahams, was unbeaten, are particularly strong in the women's department, where Joan Willcocks and Doreen Spooner give them a strong pull.

The Div. II North title depended on the Durham-Cheshire clash. Durham beat Yorkshire II by 6-4 at Sheffield due to the brilliant form of their two youngsters, Eddie Taylor and Wilf Barker, who won four singles and the men's doubles.

Div. II South will be decided by the three matches in which Hertfordshire, Kent and Sussex meet each other. Theoretically Sussex could still win by beating the other two, but I think this possibility can be ruled out, and the meeting between Hertfordshire and Kent, at Stevenage, on March 5 should provide the answer.

Nottinghamshire completed their programme in the Midland Division with a 3-7 defeat at the hands of Glamorgan II at Nottingham. Their

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

March 12	Yorkshire v Middlesex, Mechanics Institute, Bridge Street, Bradford	7.00 p.m.
	Lancashire v Essex, Holy Trinity Memorial Hall, Doan Street, Blackpool	7.00 p.m.
	Surrey v Glamorgan, Sutton Adult School, Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey	7.00 p.m.
March 19	Yorkshire v Surrey, Mechanics Institute, Bridge Street, Bradford	7.00 p.m.
	Essex v Lincolnshire	7.00 p.m.
	Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Ascot Gas Water Heaters, 255 North Circular Road, London, N.W.10	7.00 p.m.
	Glamorgan v Lancashire	

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

April 2 Northumberland v Durham, Y.M.C.A., North Shields 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

March 12 Devon v Wiltshire, St. Simons Church Hall, Farringdon Road, St. Judes, Plymouth, 7.15 p.m.

Somerset v Dorset, St. Peter's Hall, Dorset Street, Lower Bristol Road, Bath 7.15 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

March 19 Sussex v Kent, Y.M.C.A., Hartinton Hall, Bolton Road, Eastbourne 7.30 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

March 12 Leicestershire v Warwickshire, Dunlop Rubber Co., Evelyn Drive, Leicester 7.00 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

March 12 Warwickshire v Staffordshire

March 19 Staffordshire v Oxfordshire

SOUTHERN DIVISION

March 11 Buckinghamshire v Cambridgeshire, New Methodist Hall, Woodside Road, Amersham 7.15 p.m.

March 12 Hertfordshire v Suffolk

April 2 Buckinghamshire v Suffolk

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

March 12 Staffordshire v Warwickshire

March 19 Staffordshire v Oxfordshire

Warwickshire v Leicestershire

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

March 15 Middlesex v Surrey, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, London, S.E.1 7.00 p.m.

March 19 Sussex v Hertfordshire, Civil Defence H.Q. (Annexe), Portland Road, Worthing 7.30 p.m.

Suffolk v Kent

match secretary Neville Ross tells me that the county are pleased with their team's performances this season. Pat Hammond, the County No. 1, was undefeated in women's doubles this season, while Keith Shaw, a rapidly improving player, won six out of eight singles.

Kent II, who have "run away" with the Southern Division, completed their programme with a 9-1 win over Norfolk at Sittingbourne.

Mrs. B. Cassell, always a tough proposition, gained Norfolk's only success when defeating junior player, Susan Thomas.

There will be a three-way play-off in the junior section this time, and there is little doubt that it will be between Middlesex, Lancashire and Warwickshire.

My money is on Middlesex, captained by Harry Edwards, to win the junior championship for the fifth year running. However Lancashire, with George Livesey and Jackie Keogh, cannot be ignored.

The annual rules meeting of the N.C.C. took place at the Bonnington Hotel at the end of February, and a very substantial agenda was disposed of in two hours, thanks to the skill of chairman, Frank Bateman, who presided at his first full meeting in a

way that suggested that he was very much at home in the "chair."

The meeting overwhelmingly accepted the Executive's proposal for a television rule, based on 25 per cent. to the home county, 15 per cent. away county, 20 per cent. to the E.T.T.A. and the rest to the N.C.C. pool.

COUNTY MATCHES ONLY

It was made clear that this applies only to ordinary county matches, and not the annual Champions v. The Rest match which would continue to be subject to a special allocation.

The meeting decided on sums of money out of this season's match to be allocated to Surrey (champions), Middlesex (who provided stewards and umpires) and the E.T.T.A. (who negotiated and organised the match), which left a balance of £70 uncommitted.

It was proposed that this balance should be divided between all counties—but the 17 counties represented at the meeting were unanimous that, on this occasion, they would rather forego the share-out.

They wanted the money used to pay for the junior and Div. II play-off matches which otherwise would impose a heavy extra burden on the

counties concerned. This unselfish attitude is more and more in evidence when county representatives meet these days. In my view it is a further sign of the growing sense of responsibility within county organisations. . . .

The meeting also decided to abolish the rule requiring notification of teams to the N.C.C. It was felt that counties could be trusted to exchange teams with each other at the proper time without the N.C.C. secretary keeping check that this rule is complied with.

It was also agreed that in future seasons the business of the N.C.C. would be transacted at ONE meeting, instead of the separate A.G.M. and Annual Rules Meetings, which it was felt caused unnecessary expense.

An executive proposal to give the Secretary powers to permit players to represent a county in which they had taken temporary residence, was supported by a majority of less than 75 per cent. This proposal therefore now goes to a postal ballot.

It was made clear by the Secretary, Ivor Eyles, that if the postal ballot was positive, he would never grant this permission without the consent of the player's county of origin.

A proposal by Warwickshire that in the Midland Junior Division a

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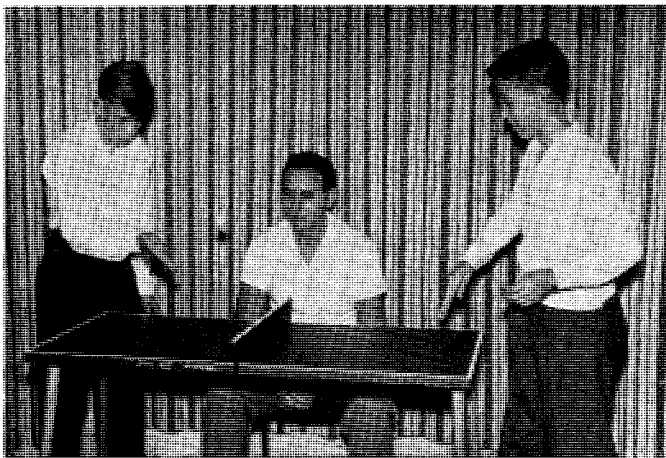
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match should consist of 10 sets, and teams of three boys and one girl, was carried.

Several speakers expressed the view that the Northern and Midland junior divisions should aim, in due time, to fall in line with the other division by playing three boys and two girls per team, but it was realised that there were some difficulties which at present prevented this ideal situation.

The Annual General Meeting of the N.C.C. was fixed for Sunday 18th June, 1960.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

PREMIER DIV.	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Surrey	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Gloucestershire	6	4	1	1	39	21	9
Middlesex	5	4	0	1	41	9	8
Yorkshire	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Essex	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Lancashire	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Glamorgan	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Lincolnshire	6	0	0	6	6	54	0

DIV. II NORTH	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Cheshire	4	4	0	0	25	15	8
Durham	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Yorkshire II	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Derbyshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Northumberland	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

DIV. II SOUTH	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Hertfordshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Kent	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Hampshire	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Sussex	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Berkshire	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

DIV. II MIDLAND	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Warwickshire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Worcestershire	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Staffordshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Leicestershire	3	0	2	1	13	17	2
Bedfordshire	4	0	1	3	12	28	1

DIV. II WEST	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Devon	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Somerset	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Cornwall	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Wiltshire	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Dorset	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

MIDLAND DIVISION	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Glamorgan II	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Warwickshire II	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Nottinghamshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Oxfordshire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Staffordshire II	2	0	1	1	6	14	1

SOUTHERN DIVISION	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Kent II	5	5	0	0	44	6	10
Hertfordshire II	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Suffolk	3	1	1	1	11	19	3
Cambridgeshire	4	0	2	2	14	26	2
Buckinghamshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Norfolk	5	0	1	4	13	37	1

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIV.	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Warwickshire	4	4	0	0	26	6	8
Staffordshire	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Oxfordshire	5	2	0	3	13	27	4
Leicestershire	5	0	1	4	16	24	1

SOUTH JUNIOR DIV.	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Middlesex	5	5	0	0	34	8	10
Hertfordshire	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Surrey	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Kent	5	2	2	1	27	23	6
Essex	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Sussex	5	1	0	4	14	36	2
Suffolk	5	0	0	5	6	44	0

NORTH JUNIOR DIV.	P.	W.	L.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Lancashire	4	4	0	0	28	4	8
Yorkshire	4	3	0	1	21	11	6
Durham	4	1	0	3	15	17	2
Cheshire	4	0	0	4	0	32	0

DETAILED RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Lancashire 9, Lincolnshire 1
A. Taylor lost to W. Moran 14, —15, —19, bt J. Radley —15, 5, 11. J. Ingber bt Radley 22, 17, bt B. Edlington 13, 15. P. Strulovitch bt Edlington 5, 19, bt Moran 8, 13. Ingber/Strulovitch bt Moran/Radley 11, 14.

Miss M. Leigh bt Mrs. W. Eanor —17, 15, 16.

Miss Leigh/Miss W. Swift bt Mrs. Eanor/Mrs. C. Moran 9, 17.

Taylor/Miss Swift bt Edlington/Mrs. Moran 11, 11.

Surrey 7, Lancashire 3

H. Venner lost to J. Clayton 11, —9, —14, bt Strulovitch —19, 13, 17. J. Somogyi bt Strulovitch 16, 18, lost to Ingber 19, —17, —19. K. Craigie lost to Ingber —12, —19, bt Clayton 18, —8, 20.

Craigie/Venner bt Ingber/Strulovitch 11, 10.

Mrs. B. Bird bt Miss M. Leigh 6, 10.

Mrs. Bird/Miss M. Piper bt Miss Leigh/Miss Swift 13, 9.

A. Miller/Miss Piper bt Clayton/Miss Swift 11, —13, 14.

Middlesex 8, Lancashire 2

A. Rhodes bt Clayton 12, 6, bt Strulovitch 10, 15. D. Burridge bt Strulovitch —20, 18, 11, bt Ingber 16, 21. M. Thornhill lost to Ingber 19, —14, —6, lost to Clayton —9, —13.

L. Landry/Rhodes bt Ingber/Strulovitch 17, —14, 24.

Miss D. Rowe bt Miss Leigh 20, 15.

Miss Rowe/Miss M. Fry bt Miss Leigh/Miss Swift —22 12, 9.

Landry/Miss Fry bt Clayton/Miss Swift 15, 12.

Lancashire 5, Yorkshire 5

Clayton lost to M. Pitts —9, 17, —18, bt S. Dyson —6, 20, 22. Ingber bt Dyson —17, 15, 21, bt R. Hinchliff 13, 18. Strulovitch lost to Hinchliff 13, —4, —14, bt Pitts —13, 7, 16.

Ingber/Strulovitch bt Hinchliff/Dyson 16, 17.

Miss Leigh lost to Miss K. Best —8, —18.

Miss Leigh/Miss Swift lost to Miss Best/Mrs. M. Harrison —13, —8.

Clayton/Miss Swift lost to Pitts/Mrs. Harrison —17, —15.

Lincolnshire 1, Yorkshire 9

Moran lost to Pitts —10, —13, lost to M. Simpson —12, —15. P. Skerratt lost to Simpson —10, —18, lost to Hinchliff 13, —17, —17. Edlington lost to Hinchliff —13, —15, lost to Pitts —10, 13, —12.

Edlington/Moran lost to Hinchliff/Simpson —18, —15.

Mrs. Eanor lost to Miss Best —8, —7.

Mrs. Eanor/Mrs. Moran lost to Miss Best/Mrs. Harrison —20, —13.

Skerratt/Mrs. Moran bt Pitts/Mrs. Harrison 21 —14, 17.

Essex 3, Gloucestershire 7

A. Condon lost to R. Griffin 11, —13, —19, lost to P. Partos 21, —15, —8. R. Stevens lost to Partos 30, —21, —16, lost to B. Merrett —12, —9. B. Brumwell lost to Merrett —14, —11, bt Griffin 17, —15, 18.

Brumwell/Stevens lost to Merrett/Griffin 19, —20, —11.

Mrs. J. McCree bt Mrs. T. Spokes 17, 5.

Mrs. McCree/Mrs. E. Carrington lost to Mrs Spokes/Mrs. S. O'Brien —11, 12, —27.

Condon/Mrs. Carrington bt Partos/Mrs. O'Brien —19, 9, 10.

DIVISION II NORTH

Yorkshire II 4, Durham 4, Cheshire 6.

DIVISION II WEST

Cornwall 3, Devon 7. Wiltshire 4, Somerset 6.

DIVISION II SOUTH

Berkshire 3, Sussex 7.

DIVISION II MIDLAND

Worcestershire 0, Warwickshire 10. Bedfordshire 2, Staffordshire 8.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Glamorgan II 6, Warwickshire II 4.

Oxfordshire 5, Warwickshire II 5. Nottinghamshire 3, Glamorganshire II 7.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Cambridgeshire 4, Hertfordshire II 6, Kent II 9, Norfolk 1. Hertfordshire II 9, Buckinghamshire 1. Cambridgeshire 5, Suffolk 5. Norfolk 1, Hertfordshire II 9.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Yorkshire 6, Durham 2. Durham 3, Yorkshire 5.

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

Oxfordshire 1, Warwickshire 7. Leicestershire 4, Staffordshire 4.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

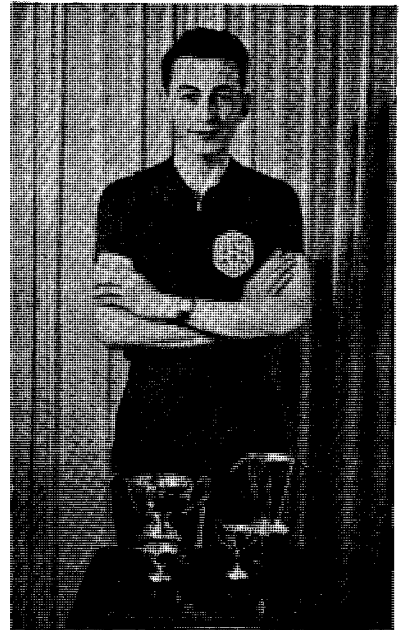
Kent 10, Sussex 0. Suffolk 0, Middlesex 10. Essex 4, Hertfordshire 6. Middlesex 8, Essex 2.

CORNISH HOPE

THE big hope of Cornwall is John Bassett (seen here with some of his trophies). In the space of three short years he has progressed from novice to the County's No. 1.

Within a few weeks of joining the St. Ives club in 1957 he was playing for their first team.

His first full competitive season was 1957-8 and although beating several of the county's leading players he was unable to take part in the Cornish championships.



Representative play for the West Cornwall League followed and last March he made his county debut. This season he has been Cornwall's No. 1 and has an unbeaten record in singles.

A hard hitting left-hander, Bassett, who is 19, is an assistant with the St. Ives Co-operative Society. Table tennis is his only hobby and he plays almost every night of the week, against varying types of opposition. He has a reputation of rising to the occasion.

KENT LET LEAD SLIP

KENT looked certain to gain revenge for their 4-6 defeat last season by the Civil Service when in the return match at Kemsley they swept into a 3-0 lead.

However, the Civil Service fought back strongly to win the next four ties including a totally unexpected victory by ex-Middlesex star Margaret Cherry over Joyce Fielder, and eventually forced a draw.

Kent's Tony Piddock, new on the England ranking list, did well to beat Ken Craigie and Michael Close, but Craigie later saved his side by beating Henry Buist in the last match of the evening.

(Kent names first): A. Cornish bt M. Close 23-21, 21-13, lost to L. Adams 24-22, 16-21, 13-21. H. Buist bt Adams 9-21, 22-20, 21-17, lost to K. Craigie 19-21, 20-22.

A. Piddock bt Craigie 21-19, 12-21, 21-11, bt Close 21-13, 21-15.

Buist/Piddock lost to Craigie/Adams 21-14, 16-21, 17-21.

Miss J. Fielder lost to Miss M. Cherry 15-21, 14-21.

G. Elliott/Miss Fielder bt Close/Miss B. Landimore 17-21, 21-17, 21-13. Mrs. J. Piffold/Miss S. Thomas lost to Miss Cherry/Miss Landimore 21-16, 20-22, 13-21.

CIVIL SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS

TONY PIDDOCK won the men's singles title in the Civil Service Championships when, after trailing 17-20 in the third game, he defeated Kent colleague, Henry Buist, 15-21, 21-15, 22-20 in the final.

In the semi-finals Buist defeated Ken Craigie, who has won the title seven times, while Piddock beat another regular finalist, Len Adams.

Margaret Cherry retained her women's title with a 21-11, 18-21, 21-14 victory over Miss D. Moors.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: H. S. BUIST bt K. R. Craigie 21-10, 17-21, 21-13; A. R. PIDDOCK bt L. G. Adams 21-15, 21-14.

Final: PIDDOCK bt Buist 15-21, 21-15, 22-20.

Women's Singles: M. H. CHERRY bt Miss D. L. Moors 21-11, 18-21, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: BUIST/PIDDOCK bt Adams/K. Sheldon 18-21, 21-16, 21-3.

Women's Doubles: B. A. LANDIMORE/Mrs. M. KNOW bt Cherry/J. Jessop 21-11, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: CRAIGIE/Miss CHERRY bt Piddock/Miss S. M. Eagles 21-5, 21-14

Boys' Singles: PIDDOCK bt J. W. King 21-9, 21-5.

Girls' Singles: W. M. THRELFALL bt H. Lamb 21-12, 21-12.

Junior Singles: T. A. REARDON bt D. McIntosh 21-7, 21-12.

Veteran Singles: D. LIGHT bt R. L. Howe 21-9, 21-15.

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>
Mar. 11-13	SURREY "CLOSED" Putney Club, Ruskie Hall, 63, Upper Richmond Road, London, S.W.15.		
11-13	U.S. NATIONAL "OPEN" Washington.		Robert Chaimson, 2507, Lake Avenue, Cheverly, Maryland, U.S.A.
12-13	BELGIAN "OPEN" Brussels.		
18-20	SCOTTISH "OPEN" Inverclyde House, Largs, Ayrshire.		G. A. Hawkins, 127, Monifieth Avenue, Glasgow, S.W.2.
20	Sussex Junior "Open" (Feb. 22) Assembly Hall, Worthing, Sussex.		G. Sindall, 16, Centrecourt Close, Worthing, Sussex.
20	Worcestershire "Closed" Geraldine Staff Club, Barnards Green, Malvern.	J.S. J.D. V.S.	D. J. Moss, 23, Woodstock Road, Saint John's, Worcester.
21-26	ENGLISH "OPEN" Manor Place Baths, and Finals: Royal Albert Hall, London.		E.T.T.A., 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.
26-27	DANISH "OPEN"		
April 3-10	EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS Zagreb.		
16-18	North-East England "Open" (April 6) Burniston Road Barracks, Scarborough.	J.S.B. J.S.G. Y.S., V.S.	W. Mitton, 16, The Whins, Newby, Scarborough.
May 7-8	LUXEMBOURG "OPEN" Luxembourg.		

KENT "OPEN"**HARRISON'S THIRD "OPEN" TITLE**

IN HARRISON won his third tournament of the season at Folkestone but was not so convincing as his ranking would suggest.

After overwhelming Lindsay he was in trouble against vastly improved Connie Warren of Surrey. The score stood at 12-all in the third before Harrison was able to unsettle his opponent.

Rhodes qualified to meet Harrison in the semi-final with a close win over Thornhill (12, —19, 17).

Tony Condon was the surprise packet in the other half, with a 17, —19, 18 win over Stevens, who previously beat Densham (21, 20).

Stan Jacobson beat Craigie (14, 19), then lost to Landry (13, 14).

Both semi-finals were exciting. Condon, playing well above himself, won the first game against Landry but lost the second and was 15-20 down in the decider.

He managed to pull back to within one point of deuce but wasted his chances with a silly shot.

Rhodes and Harrison shared the first two games of their semi-final, both at 15, and after going point for point all the way in the third Rhodes made an incredible miss at deuce and it was all over.

The final, although not as exciting as the previous round, was not without interest. Landry shot ahead in the first game to lead 12-3 and took the game at 17. He again led in the second, showing much greater control now he has reverted to rubber, but with the score at 12-7, Harrison suddenly found his touch and eventually overhauled his opponent to win the third.

Betty Bird continued her pre-Christmas run of tournament successes when she beat Jean McCree in the semi-final and then Joyce Fielder.

Shelagh Hession, who did so well in the English, lost to Elsie Carrington, who later went down to Fielder (9, —21, 13).

Michael Thornhill and Jean McCree, playing together for the first time, won the mixed doubles title. Their final victims were Landry and Bird, both of whom appeared in all three finals.

Rhodes and Landry won another men's doubles title when they beat the unusual partnership of Thornhill and Stevens in the final.

Betty Bird and Joyce Fielder paired to win the women's doubles. They were too strong in the third for regular partnership Jean McCree and Elsie Carrington.

Men's Singles, Semi-Finals: I. HARRISON (Gloucestershire) bt A. Rhodes (Middlesex) 15-21, 21-15, 24-22. L. LANDRY (Middlesex) bt A. Condon (Essex) 18-21, 23-18, 21-19.
Final: HARRISON bt Landry 17-21, 21-16, 21-15.

Women's Singles, Semi-Finals: E. BIRD (Surrey) bt J. McCree (Essex) 21-16, 20-22, 21-16. J. FIELDER (Kent) bt S. Foster (Hampshire) 21-17, 21-15.
Final: BIRD bt Fielder 21-16, 21-18.

Men's Doubles, Semi-Finals: LANDRY/RHODES bt Harrison/J. Kerekes (London) 21-15, 21-9. M. THORNEILL (Middlesex)/R. STEVENS (Essex) bt D. Creamer/J. REDFEARN (Middlesex) 21-11, 21-14.
Final: LANDRY/RHODES bt Thornhill/Stevens 21-19, 21-19.

Women's Doubles, Semi-Finals: BIRD/FIELDER bt D. Magor/J. White (Hertfordshire) 21-15, 21-6. MCCREE/E. CARRINGTON (Essex) bt S. Foster/P. Shead (Sussex) 21-17, 21-5.
Final: BIRD/FIELDER bt McCree/Carrington 21-15, 18-21, 21-12.

Mixed Doubles, Semi-Finals: LANDRY/Mrs. BIRD bt A. Khanna/Mrs. J. Abraham (Middlesex) 18-21, 21-7, 21-10. THORNHILL/Mrs. MCCREE bt K. Beamish/Miss Hession (Essex) 21-18, 21-16.
Final: THORNHILL/Mrs. MCCREE bt Landry/Mrs. Bird 21-19, 17-21, 21-12.

Youths' Singles—Boys, Semi-Finals: D. CREAMER (Middlesex) bt G. Whalley (Sussex) 21-15, 21-16. N. IVE (Middlesex) bt B. Finucane (Surrey) 21-17, 21-19.
Final: CREAMER bt Ive 21-19, 21-10.

Youths' Singles—Girls, Semi-Finals: H. BRAUTIGAM (Middlesex) bt S. Deakin (Kent) 17-21, 22-20, 21-9. A. TAFT (Hertfordshire) bt K. Stokes (Kent) 21-18, 21-11.
Final: BRAUTIGAM bt Taft 16-21, 21-17, 21-18.

GRIMSBY "OPEN"**GWEN ROBINSON OPENS HER ACCOUNT**

GWEN ROBINSON of Hertfordshire scored her first "Open" success when she won the women's singles in the Grimsby "Open." Her final victim was Wendy Eanor of Lincolnshire.

The hardest match was in the semi-final against Diane Wright of Cheshire, whom she beat narrowly in the third game.

Junior Judy Williams lost to Doreen Ridgeway, but gained some measure of consolation by winning the mixed doubles with Terry Densham. In the final they beat Laurie Landry and Robinson for their second title of the season (they won at Peterborough).

Landry won his fourth men's title this season but was very fortunate to be in the final because he only just scraped home against George Livesey, Junior No. 1, after being 18-20 in the third game.

In the final Landry beat Terry Densham who had produced some very good form earlier to beat Skerratt (—14, 18, 16), and Sheader (—11, 19, 15). Livesey had also shone, for apart from winning the junior singles he also beat Schofield in the men's by 20-22, 21-14, 21-7.

Skerratt and Sheader took the men's doubles, while Doreen Ridgeway and Diane Wright, who are having a very good season, won yet another women's doubles title.

RESULTS

Men's Singles, Semi-Finals: L. LANDRY (Middlesex) bt G. Livesey (Lancashire) 16-21, 21-10, 23-21. T. DENSHAM (Hertfordshire) bt R. Jackson (Yorkshire) 21-13, 21-10.
Final: LANDRY bt Densham 21-16, 22-24, 21-17.

Women's Singles, Semi-Finals: G. ROBINSON (Hertfordshire) bt D. Wright (Cheshire) 17-21, 21-12, 21-18. W. EANOR (Lincolnshire) bt D. Ridgeway (Cheshire) 21-19, 21-10.
Final: ROBINSON bt Eanor 21-14, 21-11.

Men's Doubles, Semi-Finals: P. SKERRATT/M. SHEADER (Lincolnshire) bt Landry/Densham 21-17, 21-16. D. MCGARRY/T. JONES (Yorkshire) bt P. Smith/A. Beedle (Yorkshire) 21-10, 21-19.
Final: SKERRATT/SHEADER bt McGarry/Jones 21-15, 21-9.

Women's Doubles, Semi-Finals: RIDGEWAY/WRIGHT bt M. Maxted/E. Elliott (Lincolnshire) 21-12, 21-17. J. WILLIAMS (Hertfordshire)/P. ROGERS (Suffolk) bt P. Hammond/M. Dolby (Nottinghamshire) 21-14, 17-21, 21-13.
Final: RIDGEWAY/WRIGHT bt Williams/Rogers 21-10, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles, Semi-Finals: DENSHAM/Miss WILLIAMS bt Sheader/Miss Chadwick (Lincolnshire) 20-22, 21-5, 23-21. LANDRY/Miss ROBINSON bt C. Pollard/Miss Bradnour (Yorkshire) 21-13, 23-21.
Final: DENSHAM/Miss WILLIAMS bt Landry/Miss Robinson 21-16, 21-17.

Junior Singles—Boys, Semi-Finals: G. LIVESEY bt P. Reddish (Suffolk) 21-7, 21-15; H. COWARD (Yorkshire) bt P. Clowes (Yorkshire) 21-18, 18-21, 21-16.
Final: LIVESEY bt Coward 21-18, 18-21, 21-16.

BUCKS "OPEN"

Burridge Celebrates New Ranking

DEREK BURRIDGE, now England No. 3, certainly justified his ranking in the Buckinghamshire "Open" at Slough. Coming through the "easy" quarter he beat Len Adams (18, 14) in the quarter-final.

Alan Rhodes got through to meet Burridge in the semi after a quarter-final win over Eddie Hodson (10, 18). Hodson had won a good match against Venner (-18, 13, 19).

In the third quarter Bobby Stevens was run very close by "unknown" G. W. Pullin (-19, 11, 19) and then by Les Sawyer (19, -17, 19). Laurie Landry qualified by beating Stevens by the narrowest of margins (15, -14, 20). Landry also dropped a game to Bob McCree.

Tony Pidcock gave a good all round display when he beat Brumwell (17, 18), Craigie (-18, 14, 18), and in the quarter-final, Alan Lindsay (14, -19, 19). Brumwell had beaten both Jacobson and Densham in straight games.

Burridge and Rhodes played a rather awkward semi-final before Burridge won a comfortable third after two close games. Tony Pidcock again showed his nerves when he led Landry 17-13 in the first and 17-15 in the second but could win neither.

The final, though closely knit and containing some good rallies, was never in doubt after Burridge had lost the first game where he had held a good lead. Showing good form, Burridge completely dominated Landry in the last two games.

Betty Bird won her fifth singles title this season. Peggy Piper extended her full distance but was beaten in the end by her opponent's steadiness.

Miss Piper had previously beaten Sheila Foster 21 and 19.

Gwen Robinson of Hertfordshire scored a shock win over Jean Harrower only to lose to Mary Shannon (17, -22, 18).

Lynne Whithams, making a rare tournament appearance, reached the final, beating Mary Shannon over three games.

Miss Whithams was not quite good enough in the final and it says much for her that she reached this stage.

Betty won the second leg of her triple crown when, partnered by Jean Harrower, she took the women's doubles. They had a good win over the North West Kent champions, Miss Piper and Miss Whithams.

Partnering Laurie Landry, Mrs. Bird added her third title in the mixed doubles. They beat juniors Barry Midgeley and Mary Shannon in two straight in the final.

Midgeley and Miss Shannon had beaten Brian Wright and Jean Harrower in an all-junior semi-final.

After both pairs had easy passages to the final of the men's doubles, Bobby Stevens and Brian Brumwell scored an easy win over Landry and Rhodes. Hitting top form they never allowed their opponents to get into the match.

Young David Creamer and Ian Redfearn had another good run. They beat Jacobson and Lindsay for the second week running (19, 18) and Craigie and Venner (16, -16, 17). Tony Condon and Arun Khanna surprised Len Adams and Derek Burridge to the tune of -21, 16, 13.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: D. BURRIDGE (Middlesex) bt A. Rhodes (Middlesex) 21-19, 23-25, 21-13. L. LANDRY (Middlesex) bt A. Pidcock (Kent) 21-18, 21-17.

Final: BURRIDGE bt Landry 19-21, 21-12, 21-12.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: B. BIRD (Surrey) bt P. Piper (Surrey) 20-22, 21-20, 21-15. L. WHITHAMS (Middlesex) bt M. Shannon (Surrey) 15-21, 21-17, 21-15.

Final: BIRD bt Whithams 21-18, 21-12.

Men's Doubles. Semi-Finals: R. STEVENS/B. BRUMWELL (Essex) bt D. Creamer/I. Redfearn 21-19, 21-17. LANDRY/RHODES bt A. Condon (Essex)/A. Khanna (Middlesex) 21-17, 21-9.

Final: STEVENS/BRUMWELL bt Landry/Rhodes 21-16, 21-16.

Women's Doubles. Semi-Finals: BIRD/J. HARROWER (Middlesex) bt P. Holes/C. Holes (Hampshire) 21-18, 21-15. PIPER/WHITHAMS bt P. A. Mobbs/G. Robinson (Hertfordshire) 22-24, 21-18, 21-12.

Final: BIRD/HARROWER bt Piper/Whithams 21-11, 21-17.

Mixed Doubles. Semi-Finals: LANDRY/Mrs. BIRD bt L. Hoffman (Middlesex)/Miss Robinson 9-21, 21-18, 21-18. B. MIDGELEY (Hampshire)/Miss SHANNON bt B. Wright (Middlesex)/Miss Harrower 16-21, 21-15, 21-14.

Final: LANDRY/Mrs. BIRD bt Midgeley/Miss Shannon 21-18, 21-12.

Boys' Singles. Semi-Finals: B. FINUCANE (Surrey) bt Wright 21-16, 21-8. G. WHALLEY (Sussex) bt D. Offenbach (Middlesex) 21-14, 21-17.

Final: FINUCANE bt Whalley 23-21, 21-13.

Girls' Singles. Semi-Finals: SHANNON bt P. Holes (Hampshire) 21-10, 21-8. HARROWER bt C. S. Holes (Hampshire) 21-10, 21-18.

Final: SHANNON bt Harrower 21-10, 18-21, 21-17.

GWENT "OPEN"

BETTY GRAY gained her revenge when she dethroned the reigning singles champion. Audrey Bates in the final of the Gwent "Open" championships at Newport on February 13.

Miss Bates, who had won all their previous encounters this season, was unable to overcome the steadier and more confident play of Miss Gray who won 21-11, 21-19.

Both had easy semi-final victories. Miss Gray beat Mrs. Shirley O'Brien 21-13, 21-18, while Miss Bates defeated Mrs. Gretta Dimascio by 21-15, 21-19.

Roy Morley won the men's singles title with a convincing 21-16, 21-13 success over Welsh international Ron Davies.

Morley, who quickly swept through Davies' defence, had his toughest match in the semi-final where he lost the opening game before recovering to beat another Welshman, George Evans, by 15-21, 21-17, 21-6.

The losing singles finalists had some consolation in the doubles; Davies partnering Evans to take the men's event and Miss Bates joining Mrs. Dimascio to win the women's title.

Miss Gray won her second title of the day when teamed with Alan Thomas, she won the final of the mixed doubles against David Griffiths and Joan Collier.

A car break-down prevented the junior singles champion, Colin Thomas from competing and in his absence the title went to J. Davies who beat another Cheltenham youngster, N. Stribling, 21-15, 21-17 in the final.

Men's Singles. Semi-Finals: R. DAVIES bt B. Everson 15-21, 21-13, 21-18. R. MORLEY bt G. Evans 15-21, 21-17, 21-6.

Final: MORLEY bt Davies 21-16, 21-13.

Women's Singles. Semi-Finals: A. BATES bt Mrs. G. Dimascio 21-15, 21-19. B. GRAY bt Mrs. S. O'Brien 21-13, 21-18.

Final: GRAY bt Bates 21-11, 21-19.

Men's Doubles. Final: DAVIES/EVANS bt Thomas/Barker 21-11, 19-21, 21-15.

Women's Doubles. Final: BATES/Mrs. DIMASCIO bt Jones/Phillips 21-14, 21-16.

Mixed Doubles: Thomas/Miss Grey bt Griffiths/Miss Collins (Bristol) 19-21, 22-20, 21-16.

Junior Singles. Final: J. DAVIS bt N. Stribling 21-17, 13-21, 21-16.

EAGLE/GIRL TOURNAMENT | | By KENNETH WHEELER**ALL SET FOR FINALS**

LAST October, more than 10,000 schoolchildren set out eagerly on the trail of table tennis honours. Now after 100 tournaments only 16 remain to contest the finals of the *Eagle/Girl* Championships of Great Britain at the Friends' House, Euston, on April 22.

It took some 400 ties on successive Saturdays at St. Bride's Institute to find the Champions of London. Then on February 20, the London medalists joined battle with 60 champions, from clubs all over the South and West of England and Wales, for the Regional Finals.

The victorious quartet were Pauline Holes (Hampshire) and Lesley Bell (Essex) in the *Girl* events. Derek Basden (Kent), and Dennis Holland (Gloucester) in the *Eagle*.

Winners of the Regional team competition were Wymondham School, Norfolk, with 712 points. They share with Willesden Schools a total of 280 playing points and so lead the table for the All-Britain award.

A large and appreciative audience at St. Bride's greeted the victory of Lesley Bell over Gloria Sayer in the Girls "under 13" final, and Johnny Leach announced that in his opinion the standard of play in this particular event had never been so high throughout his six-year association with our tournament.

Though Gloria Sayer, encouraged by her twin sister who was a losing semi-finalist in London, played with considerable verve and admirable concentration, Lesley, who is assuredly a star of the future, was hitting just that little bit harder and more accurately.

Another twin, Pauline Holes, who beat sister Christine to earn the right to represent Grosvenor Club, Southsea, made lighter work of the "under-15" championship. Pauline was in such devastating form that not even Susan Thomas, or the grimly determined Irene Ogus (the runner-up), could spoil her run of "two straight" victories.

In the battle of big forehands, Derek Basden took the Boys' Senior from Morley Mordecai by 12-21, 21-12, 21-14, while Dennis Holland, a new name to us this season, showed impressive all-round ability to win the Junior final from London champion, Anthony Robinson by 21-11, 21-11.

All-round Honours undoubtedly belonged to Bristol, for all their champions, Dennis Holland, Morley Mordecai, Jill Crosby and Jennifer Davis,

got at least as far as the semi-final stage of their respective events.

Another feather in the cap of the West Country was the performance of a small contingent from Saltash Grammar School, who between them amassed 120 points in the team competition though faced by powerful, and more experienced opposition.

The demand for the Grand Finals tickets has never been greater, though at the time of writing there are just a few free, reserved seats available. Application should be made without delay to the Admin. Secretary,

UMPIRES' CORNER**By COLIN CLEMETT****A COLOURFUL PROBLEM**

ONE of the problems of the umpire, and referee, which has become increasingly obvious in recent seasons is determining what constitutes "light-coloured or reflecting" as applied to table tennis clothing or rackets.

The Law and the I.T.T.F. Regulation, which use this description, were intended to preclude a player from wearing or carrying anything that might unsettle his opponent and for many years the majority of shirts and rackets were produced only in a range of colours that could not possibly be said to violate even such a loosely-worded condition.

As the game grew it was inevitable that players, particularly the ladies, began to consider ways of introducing individuality into the colours of clothing and racket coverings, and it cannot be denied that such variety is, on the whole, an improvement.

There is, however, the danger that the process will be carried too far and that the game itself, which should be of prime importance, will suffer.

A similar situation occurred in connection with the Law defining the racket. Until the widespread adoption of sponge there had been little divergence from the generally accepted form of pimped-rubber covering on a wooden blade, but when it became apparent that the latitude allowed was tending to alter the nature of the game people felt that some action must be taken.

The long negotiations which led to the ratification of the present Law 4 are now well known and although the definition of the permitted racket is still far from exact it is clear enough in intention to be the basis of a workable system of limitation.

We are not likely to find a similar solution to the problem of restricting colour variations. With the enormous variety of coloured fabrics available today it would be impossible to define with any consistency the point at which a colour becomes light, and even the

Eagle/Girl Table Tennis, 161-166, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. Play starts at 2 p.m. and continues until 6 p.m.

In addition to the boys' and girls' semi-finals and finals, there is to be a "sudden death" Doubles Championship match between pairs from Willesden Schools and West Ham Youth, and a special Challenge match featuring Johnny Leach.

Through the columns of *Eagle* Magazine, Johnny Leach has challenged any player in England to a "best of three" contest. Readers have been invited to select Johnny's opponent themselves, with the chance to win prizes if the challenger they nominate manages to get the better of our distinguished Chief Coach.

more sober colours can become quite distractingly bright after treatment with some of the more exotic washing powders.

One solution would be to limit the colours to a carefully-chosen few, and allow no variation in shade.

This would, I am sure, be an admission of defeat and a better solution ought to be found, although it must be admitted that drab and unimaginative colours would be appropriate for much of today's competitive play.

An additional complication is introduced by the inclusion of the word "non-reflecting" in the Law defining the racket. If the Law were applied literally all permissible rackets would be invisible. Presumably what is intended is "shiny."

Here again no difficulty was experienced while rackets were of "normal" pattern but at least one of the currently-popular coverings, sandwich with reversed pimped-rubber, has a surface which is often quite glossy. Degrees of shininess would be even harder to measure than gradations of colour.

At the request of several county umpires and tournament organisers, who have noticed an increase in the use of colours which might be considered distracting, the N.U.C. is looking into the problems and will be interested to hear any views or suggestions from readers.

It may well be that players are not unsettled by the lightness, or brightness, of what their opponent is wearing or carrying, and that the difficulty is psychological rather than physical, being created by the implication in the wording of the regulation.

Nevertheless, there is little doubt that some distraction can be caused in this way and we must try to find a simple method of limiting its effect.

Until a better solution is found we shall have to continue relying on the good sense of players and the judgment of the experienced referee to see that colour schemes do not get out of hand.