

OCTOBER, 1959
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The Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

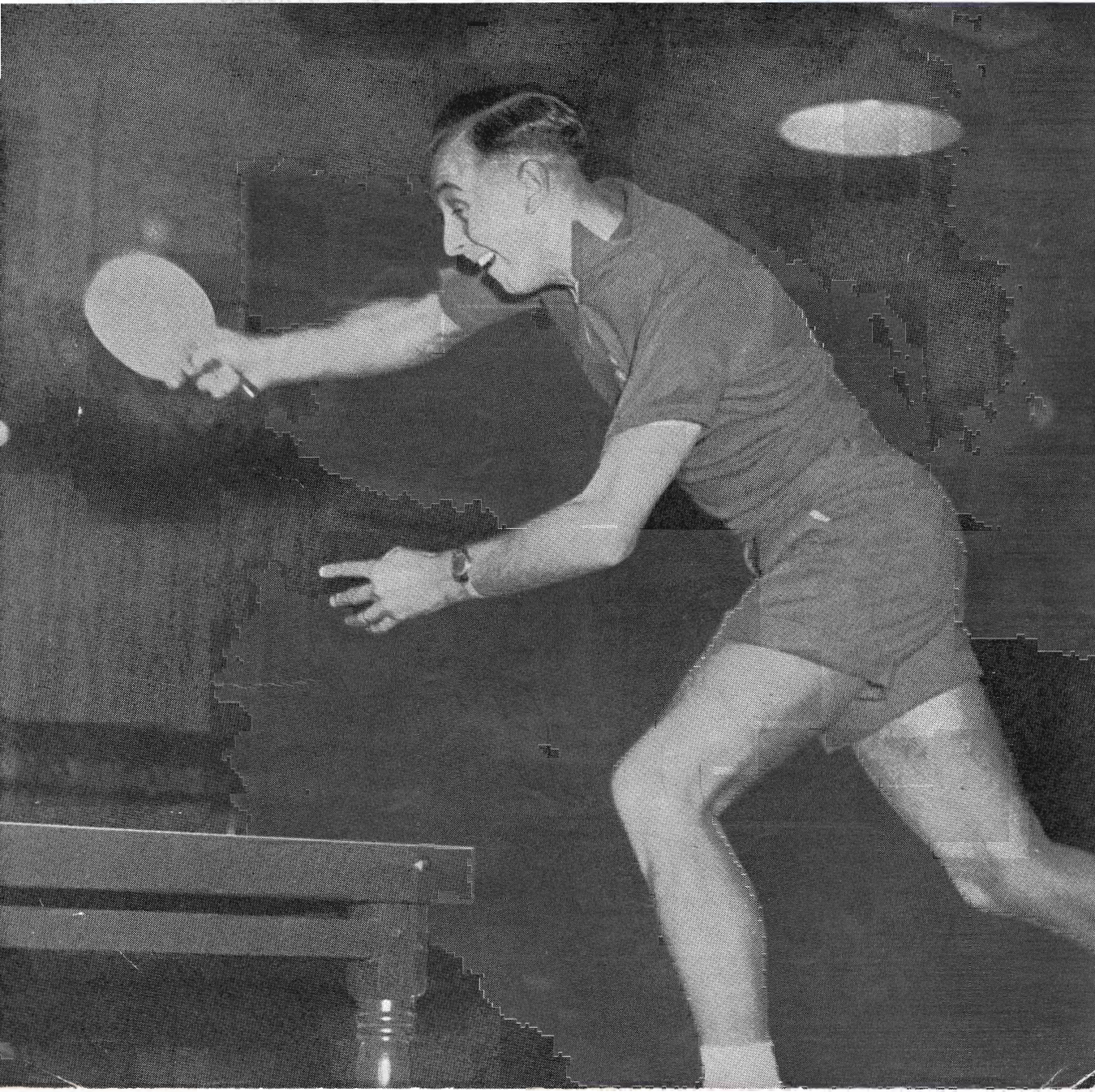


Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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

Vol. 18

October, 1959

No. 1

"TABLE TENNIS" CARRIES ON

IT is no secret that towards the end of last season it became obvious that TABLE TENNIS might have to cease publication. Our regular readers, who know how popular this magazine has become, may ask themselves why this should be.

One factor, of course, is rising printing costs. Another is the difficulty, experienced by most publications these days, of obtaining sufficient advertising revenue.

These trends are general, but they are particularly damaging to publications which are "run on a shoe string."

The only reason TABLE TENNIS has survived so far, is the enthusiasm which is shared by the National Executive Committee of the E.T.T.A., and the publishers, who were determined that the magazine should continue if it was humanly possible.

TABLE TENNIS is read by many thousands throughout the country. Its contents are known and discussed freely at tournaments, matches and committee meetings. In fact everywhere there is a gathering of the game's enthusiasts.

Why then these difficulties? The answer lies in the accepted habit of two, three or even more people sharing one copy.

This is all very well, but the time has come for YOU to ask yourself if it would not be better to encourage every "reader" to buy a copy, rather than risk the future of the magazine through insufficient income.

Try and persuade that friend who usually borrows your copy to take out a subscription of

his own. That would help double the circulation and so solve the problems by putting it on a safe and sound basis.

To continue selling TABLE TENNIS at the same price as last season would mean certain financial loss to the publishers so it is with regret that we have to increase the price from 9d. to 1s. The new price comes into force in November, and accordingly the subscription (eight consecutive issues) will go up to 10s. (post free).

Compare TABLE TENNIS with any sporting publication of similar quality and you can see for yourself it is still cheap.

SPECIAL OFFER

In recognition of the support given by our regular readers, any subscription or renewal taken out by 31st October, 1959 will still be at the old rate of 7s. 6d. post free.

To qualify for this special offer, subscriptions must be sent by the end of October to Walthamstow Press Ltd., Guardian House, 644, Forest Road, London E.17. Existing subscribers will continue to receive their copies at the old rate until their present subscription expires.

It is intended that County Associations and others who help sell the magazine should benefit from the increased price. A scheme has been prepared which will mean extra profit for all those who obtain subscriptions for TABLE TENNIS, and in addition there will be a special incentive scheme giving extra benefits to those counties who make a really worthwhile effort to sell.

Details of these schemes, and terms for anyone interested, can be obtained from the CIRCULATION MANAGER, GEOFF HARROWER, 68 GLOUCESTER ROAD, NEW BARNET, HERTFORDSHIRE.

There has been a very noticeable upsurge of confidence in TABLE TENNIS as the official magazine of the E.T.T.A. amongst the membership last

COVER PICTURE

JOHNNY LEACH, twice world singles champion, who has announced his retirement from the international scene. Sam Leitch, "Daily Herald" Columnist, writes a tribute to Johnny on Page 7.

Picture by courtesy of the "Daily Herald".

season. This was apparent during the season, and the same sentiments were again expressed at the Annual General Meeting in Manchester, when one of the chief critics of the previous A.G.M. made a point of congratulating all those concerned with the publication during season 1958/59 for its high standard.

Great concern was expressed at the A.G.M. at the thought that TABLE TENNIS might cease publication, and the Associate Editor was asked to impress on the publishers the importance which the E.T.T.A. attached to its continuation.

In the new season, the policy of the magazine will remain in the same hands as last season, with W. Harrison Edwards as Editor, and Conrad Jaschke as Hon. Associate Editor.

The magazine will continue to be an open platform for all who are interested in the game, and will continue to help, in association with the E.T.T.A., in building up public interest in table tennis.

We ask all readers to write to us if they have any suggestions on how TABLE TENNIS can be made even more interesting. We welcome all comments, critical or otherwise.

Finally, we wish all our readers an enjoyable season's table tennis.

ENGLISH "OPEN" MOVES TO ROYAL ALBERT HALL

THE English "Open" championships have said goodbye to Wembley . . . at least for the time being. This season's finals are returning to an old home, the Royal Albert Hall on the 26th March, 1960.

The earlier rounds will be at Manor Place Baths, Waltham, starting March 21.

Dwindling support is behind the switch. Officials feel that Wembley has become too big for the championships and it provides for a much better atmosphere to play before a packed smaller hall than in a vast arena with hundreds of empty seats.

Wembley, seating between 8,000 and 9,000, can be most impersonal unless packed.

The Royal Albert Hall has accommodation for around 5,000 spectators and no difficulty is anticipated in drawing a full house.

The English "Open" last took place at The Royal Albert Hall in 1939-40 when Richard Bergmann and Vera Dace carried off the singles titles.

It was after the war, when table tennis enjoyed the boom of most sports, that the championships outgrew the venue and Wembley became the permanent home.

There are many who will regret leaving Wembley, one of the finest indoor stadiums in the world, but it is a sign of the times and the switch has not been made without reluctance on the part of officials.

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



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Official News:

The National Executive Committee met on 27th June and 5th September, 1959, with A. K. Vint, O.B.E., in the chair. Both meetings were at the Royal Commonwealth Society, London.

The N.E.C. decided that it was desirable to appoint a senior and a junior non-playing captain for the whole of the season, to take charge of England teams ON EVERY POSSIBLE OCCASION, and thus to establish a close and permanent relationship with the chosen players.

It was felt that this was much preferable to different captains being chosen during the season.

The N.E.C. deliberated at great length on this important aspect, and heard a full report on the world championships at Dortmund from the chairman of senior selectors, Ivor Eyles, and on the coaching and training aspect from Jack Carrington.

It was resolved to appoint RON CRAYDEN (Surrey) as the new senior captain, and BRIAN BRUMWELL (Essex) as the new junior captain.

JACK CARRINGTON was re-appointed Hon. Director of Coaching, and was entrusted with the task of establishing liaison between the two captains and himself for the purposes of players' training programmes. It was felt desirable that he and the two captains should attend all meetings of the selection and coaching committees, as observers if not appointed directly. These committees were elected as follows:

Senior Selection. IVOR EYLES (Chairman), RON CRAYDEN, LEN ADAMS and AUBREY SIMONS.

Junior Selection. JACK CARRINGTON (Chairman), BRIAN BRUMWELL, EDGAR REAY, ALAN THOMPSON and PETER NORTHCOTT (Hon. Secretary).

Coaching. LESLIE WOLLARD (Chairman), LEN ADAMS, ERIC JOHNSON, MALCOLM SCOTT and JACK CARRINGTON (Hon. Secretary).

The number of sub-committees elected for season 1959/60 was further reduced, in an effort to save expenditure. PETER LOWEN was requested to act as Secretary to those sub-committees where none was directly appointed.

CONRAD JASCHKE was re-appointed Hon. Press Officer of the E.T.T.A., and also agreed to act again as Hon. Associate Editor of TABLE TENNIS. COLIN CLEMETT agreed to assist Mr. Jaschke in his work connected with the official magazine. It was resolved to disband the Magazine Committee, and in its place Mr. Jaschke was asked to act as the official liaison between the publishers and the E.T.T.A.

Death of Vice-Presidents. With deep regret we advise our members of the death of two of our old and valued Vice-Presidents, Mr. A. F. Carris and Mr. W. H. Pritchard.

Suspension. Notice is given that Mr. Parsons has been suspended by the Ipswich League, and the suspension has been made national

the new law, which came into force on 1st July, 1959, were published in the May issue of TABLE TENNIS.

Sanction has been given . . . for the running of the "Eagle/Girl" Tournament this season.

. . . for E.T.T.A. Club Competitions to continue (for details please refer to the office of the Association).

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

New service. The E.T.T.A. office can provide a duplicating service for leagues and clubs who lack such facilities, at a very reasonable cost. Interested members are invited to apply for further details to the office of the Association.

Stop Press: the first league to avail themselves of the service report "fully satisfied with work done, charges, and speed."

On sale at the E.T.T.A. office. Official E.T.T.A. ties at 12s. 6d., Metal Lapel Badges at 2s. 3d., Car Badges at 27s. 6d., English "Open" Programmes (1959) with full details, including finals, 2s. 3d. post free.

Top Ten. The Senior Selection Committee have chosen the following players for the Top Ten Tournament, at Finchley Drill Hall, 444, High Road, Finchley, London, N.12, on Saturday, 24th October: Ian Harrison (Gloucestershire), Brian Kennedy (Yorkshire), Josef Somogyi (Surrey), Bryan Merrett (Gloucestershire), Michael Thornhill (Middlesex), Laurie Landry (Middlesex), Diane Rowe (Middlesex), Kathleen Best (Yorkshire), Pam Mortimer (Warrickshire) and Jean Harrower (Middlesex). Because of tennis commitments, Ann Haydon is not available.

Barna award. The National Executive Committee have given the Victor Barna Award for season 1958/59 to Johnny Leach (Essex), in recognition of his achievement of completing 150 appearances for England in international matches. At the end of last season Johnny announced his retirement from the international team, in which he had performed with distinction on so many occasions.

Johnny Leach is the only English-born man to have won the world's men's singles title on two occasions, in 1949 and 1951.

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

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

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

Deputy Chairman: I. C. Eyles.

Honorary Treasurer: T. Blunn.

Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

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

under rule 21 (g), subject to his right of appeal to the N.E.C.

E.T.T. Supporters' Club. The revised scheme now in operation is proving a great success, and the organisers will be pleased to hear from anyone interested in becoming an agent, either leagues or individuals. The sole aim of the club is to provide finance for the furthering of English Table Tennis. Full details will be given with pleasure by the **Chief Organiser, Mr. J. Ashley, 19, Lawrence Hill, Bristol 5.**

Racket Standardisation. Messrs. JACK CARRINGTON, NORMAN COOK and GEOFF JAMES have been appointed to deal with any queries that may arise from the new standardisation law. The E.T.T.A. are obtaining thickness gauges for the use of members. Full details of

APPROVED REGISTERED PLAYERS

L. M. Bromfield (Sussex)
A. D. Brook (Mddx)
B. Brumwell (Essex)
D. C. Burridge (Mddx)
Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex)
J. H. Carrington (Essex)
R. J. Crayden (Surrey)
A. E. Coles (Beds)

J. Corser (Herts)
D. G. Freer (Derby)
J. E. Head (Surrey)
R. Hinchliffe (Yorks)
F. Holman (Kent)
S. Johnson (Essex)
E. T. Johnson (Cheshire)
J. A. Leach (Essex)
L. F. Landry (Mddx)

K. S. Lipscombe (Mddx)
R. Markwell (Essex)
Hon. I. Montagu (Herts)
P. H. Norman (Derby)
A. R. Payne (Kent)
P. Rumjahn (Lancs)
E. J. Rumjahn (Lancs)
G. A. Starke (London Banks)

D. G. Steggal (Sussex)
P. F. Taylor (Kent)
H. T. Verner (Surrey)
Mrs. B. Andrews (MILbank) (Essex)
E. G. Evans (Kent)
R. Allcock (Lancs)
J. Ingber (Lancs)
L. W. Jones (Lancs)

Chinese tour. China are sending a team of 10-12 players to tour England from 17th to 27th November. A number of international matches are being arranged.

ENGLISH RANKING LIST

The English (Senior) Selection committee have compiled these lists as a guide to tournament organisers for seeding purposes.

They have been based on last season's performances, but it is realised that with the impact of "sandwich" bats, form may alter considerably. It is therefore intended that the lists shall be revised early in the season.

MEN

1. Ian Harrison (Glous.)
2. Brian Kennedy (Yorks.)
3. Josef Somogyi (Surrey)
4. Bryan Merrett (Glous.)
5. Michael Thornhill (Mddx.)
6. Laurie Landry (Mddx.)
7. Jeff Ingber (Lancs.)
8. Derek Burrige (Mddx.)
9. Ken Craigie (Surrey) and Bobbie Raybould (Essex)

WOMEN

1. Ann Haydon (Warwicks.)
2. Diane Rowe (Mddx.)
3. Kathleen Best (Yorks.) and Pam Mortimer (Warwicks.)
5. Jean Harrower (Mddx.)
6. Betty Bird (Surrey)
7. Jill Rook (Surrey)
8. Joyce Fielder (Kent)

EXTRACTS FROM I.T.T.F. BULLETIN

SUSPENSION. Martin Reisman has been suspended by the United States T.T.A. until January 1, 1960.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, FRANCE Men's Singles: G. Amouretti. Women's Singles: Rougnagnou. Men's Doubles: Barouk/Granier. Women's Doubles: Tarlet/Albert. Mixed Doubles: Roothoof/Rougnagnou. **ITALY.** Men's Singles: Gall. Women's Singles: Colombo. Men's Doubles: Winderling/Della. Mixed Doubles: Winderling/Malvano. **LUXEMBOURG.** Men's Singles: Krecke. Men's Doubles: Krecke/Jaminet.

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

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

UMPIRES CORNER

OPERATING STANDARDISATION

It is not very often that a Law of the game is modified so drastically as was Law 4 at the last meeting of Congress, when the I.T.T.F. finally reached agreement on the standardisation of the racket. Whatever we may think as players of the form and intention of this new Law it is our job as umpires to see that it is properly operated, and the N.E.C. have recently approved a procedure recommended by the Standardisation sub-committee which is intended to help umpires in applying the Law.

It is fair to assume that those who think that sponge or sandwich covering confers some benefit on their game are going to try to use as thick a covering as they are allowed and it is likely that most of the disputes about thickness will occur during the next few months while the new surfaces are being introduced.

Most players use proprietary rackets and it is obviously in the interest of the manufacturers that their rackets should conform to the Law, so that after an experimental period there should be little difficulty in its

application, although there will always be the would-be Dolinars, making their own rackets, who will need watching.

A standard 4 millimetre gauge has been produced and although there are not many available at present it is hoped eventually that supplies will be sufficient at least for every tournament referee to have one.

These gauges consist of an L-shaped piece of metal with the shorter arm exactly 4 millimetres long, measured from the inside edge of the longer arm. They are used by placing the longer arm flat on the surface of the racket, without pressure, with the shorter arm against the edge. The tip of the shorter arm must then meet the wood of the blade and if it does not do so the covering is too thick.

This measurement includes the adhesive layer and, in case you think that this is negligible, it is not unknown for this layer to be almost 1 millimetre thick.

Many rackets are sold with a plastic tape round their edges which completely conceals the thickness of the wood and covering layers, and it is important to note that the E.T.T.A. have laid down that the onus of proof that the racket is legally acceptable is on the owner. If there is any dispute about the thickness and the owner makes it impossible to determine this figure then the racket is automatically disqualified.

Under the proposed procedure, as soon as a player suspects that his opponent's racket does not conform he will ask the umpire to check it. If the verdict is obvious to the umpire's experienced eye he may give an on-the-spot ruling which may be accepted by both players, and this judgment will more readily be accepted if he has some simple gauge or reference to back it.

If either player is not satisfied, or if the umpire feels that the decision is too close for him to make, the matter is then reported to the referee, who will be supplied with one of the official gauges. The referee will then make his decision which can be disputed only by the user of the racket and not by his opponent.

This procedure serves a double purpose; it prevents a player upsetting his opponent's game by protesting against his racket as a form of gamesmanship, and it discourages the use of coverings which are unnecessarily close to the permitted maximum thickness since if the user refuses to accept the referee's ruling his racket is forthwith withdrawn from use pending examination by the officials appointed by the N.E.C.

Carefully controlled workshop tests will then be applied to the racket and a final decision made. Against this solemn judgment there is no appeal and no reprieve and woe betide the racket that is found wanting in the supreme test!

There is a good chance that we shall never have recourse to such extreme measures (no pun intended), and with co-operation among players, manufacturers and umpires we shall bring the new Law smoothly into operation in the coming season.

It should not be long before the idea of standardisation is so familiar and readily accepted that non-conformity will be nothing more than another topic for the compilers of umpires' test-papers.

Colin Clemett

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

have a few vacancies for the coming season. The Club meets at 6.30 p.m. every Monday and Friday. Write to the Hon. Secretary, H. A. Packett, 10, Marlboro Road, Kensington, W.3.

Obituary

M. JEAN BELOT

Monsieur Jean Belot, for several years the secretary of the Fédération Française de Tennis de Table and a pillar of international table tennis organisation, died suddenly and unexpectedly while on holiday at Cayeux-sur-Mer, in August.

M. Belot had served on many I.T.T.F. Committees and, at the time of his death was President of the European Table Tennis Union, having been elected to that office at the foundation of the Union.

A comparatively young man, only 46, the loss of M. Belot, following on that of Karl Eckardt of Germany (B.R.D.) and Marcel Corbillon, so long I.T.T.F. Deputy President, is a sad blow to European and International Table Tennis.

In recent years the French T.T. Federation has had many troubles, some of them personal, and in these M. Belot had been a participant. We are happy to say that throughout these troubles (no affair of ours on this side of the Channel) our relations—both personal and formal—with the French T.T. Federation and all its officials have been invariably happy.

The Association, and English players generally, have always received, from every F.F.T.T. officer without exception, the greatest collaboration and kindness. We can therefore say, without fear of being thought partial, how deeply we feel the loss of M. Belot. He often visited England, and was always welcome.

In international affairs at least he was quick, intelligent, experienced and a tower of carefulness and tact, always exerting his efforts to secure agreement without quarrel in every argument.

His tall figure, with dark hair *en brosse*, and the face with its cautious expression, were familiar to us all, and his sense of humour a frequent relief in times of difficulty. Table Tennis has lost an able personality. To his widow, family and colleagues goes our sympathy.

IVOR MONTAGU.

SAM LEITCH "Daily Herald" Columnist pays tribute to . . .

JOHNNY LEACH — 150 CAPS

WHEN you consider it quietly, to represent your country one hundred and fifty times at anything is a tremendous achievement.

It means that not only must you be good but you must stay good as younger and flashier pretenders to your titles come on the scene—brash and brilliant kids with nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Johnny Leach as a table tennis player has been a superb advertisement for the game, for his country and for himself.

Writing this sort of profile-in-the-news always leads one into the pitfall of the past tense. One tends to think of Johnny not on the scene any more.

And of course table tennis in this country will rarely be remembered without reference to Bergmann and Leach, the old hands, the veterans, the characters, the chaps who stayed up at the top of the tree for so long that even the tree objected.

World Champion

Goodness knows it has taken us long enough to try and get Bergmann out of our systems—that is if we want to, which I don't—without having to face up to the sport without the long legs and the persistent smile (fixed though it sometimes 'is) of Johnny Leach.

I can never remember dates, title or champions. So no mathematical recitation of the things Johnny won and the places Johnny went to will come from me.

I suppose it is necessary to say he was champion of the world twice, in 1949 and 1951 and it was through the R.A.F. and his association with Jack Carrington that he hit the game at all.

I feel it is to his credit to say he was never once ranked lower than

No. 4 since the war in the English Table Tennis Association's ranking lists.

I confess I do not know in how many countries he has toured for England. But I vaguely recall that he has been champion of America but never champion of England!

The important things, in my opinion, about Leach are these:

- HE HAD TALENT AND HE WORKED HARD TO PERFECT THAT TALENT.
- HE ALWAYS LOOKED AND DRESSED THE PART OF A CHAMPION AND KIDS UP AND DOWN THE LAND WERE LURED TO A GAME BY SEEING JOHNNY AND LIKING WHAT THEY SAW.
- HE USED HIS BRAINS, NOT ONLY IN THE ART OF HITTING A BALL BUT IN MAKING THAT BALL EARN MONEY FOR JOHNNY LEACH.
- IN AN ENGLAND SHIRT HE ALWAYS MADE OVERSEAS PLAYERS RESPECT ENGLAND FIRST AND LEACH SECOND.

The important things about Leach the person as opposed to Leach the player were frankness, courtesy and reliability.

(See how it's so easy to drop into the horrible past tense. Sorry if it sounds like a playing obituary, Johnny!)

I think the first time I saw Johnny play was at the Merseyside tournament just before the 1952 world championships in Bombay, and the last time in the world championships in Dortmund. Of course it is impossible to say in that span—not a long one, I admit, by the standards of most officials and probably most readers—what were the best matches he played.

Unfortunately I missed both his world championship successes.

Night to Remember

But the night Leach gave me the most enjoyment, made me really bounce with the result of his victory, was not so long ago in Birmingham—in April, 1957—when England met Japan in an international.

That night the old war-horses Bergmann and Leach sweated and strained in a doubles match against the then world champion Toshiaki Tanaka and the then world's No. 2, Ichiro Ogimura.

Now just before the clash "Oggie," probably the most intelligent and at

times most critical of all the famous Japanese players, had made a slashing personal attack on both Bergmann and Leach.

"The sport of table tennis," Ogimura had decided, "was for youngsters. Such stars as Bergmann and Leach were too old for modern competitive international table tennis."

Enter the veterans. And the veterans won. The score—its funny how some scores will stick in your mind and yet the results of world championships you forget the next night—was 21-16, 18-21, 21-15 for the Now Bergmann and Leach have English pair.

piled up a great mountain of titles and trophies between them, but, oh boy, how they really loved winning that night.

Tactfully Johnny summed up the victory as: "Not bad for the old 'Uns."

Barna Award

The E.T.T.A. in giving Johnny the Victor Barna award for 1958-59 must be congratulated on a wise and pleasant choice. Governing bodies of sport are not always renowned for their tact and their timing. In this case the bosses of the game have readily saluted one of their best internationals—of all time.

One person it has been my pleasure to note at many of Johnny's overseas outings is his wife, Daisy. Unobtrusively and gently she has been with Johnny on the nights he has had triumph and on the nights he has had tears.

She is the perfect sportsman's wife. And I suspect that a lot of Johnny's patience and perfection has been due to her unflinching support at the critical stages.

Well done . . . Johnny Leach. One hundred and fifty salutes from England.

ST. BRIDES TABLE TENNIS CLUB

St. Brides Institute, Bride Lane,
Fleet Street, E.C.4.

have a few vacancies for the coming season. The Club meets at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. Write Hon. Secretary, Miss M. Robins, 129a, Green Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.

PLEASE NOTE

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FOR the first time in many years England have a completely "new look" senior selection committee. The task of the new Committee is clear: to try and lift England out of the rut into which we have sunk.

Let us be fair to the new committee and not expect the impossible. Consider their inheritance. In the current world classification, England's men are ranked joint 11th to 17th with Austria, Egypt, France, India, Iran and Poland. The girls rank joint fourth with Hungary.

Not too bad? Well, we in England GAVE table tennis to the world. Until recent years there have been few times when we have not been up with the leaders in the playing field. We shall not get back there overnight, but we must make sure we are at least going in the right direction.

Ivor Eyles, the chairman of selectors, is the only link the new committee have with the old. HIS OFFER TO MAKE WAY FOR A NEW MAN WAS REJECTED BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OUT OF HAND. He has the confidence of players and officials alike.

Under his experienced guidance, the new selectors, Ron Crayden (Surrey), captain, Len Adams (Middlesex) and Aubrey Simons (Gloucestershire) will have full powers and every opportunity to develop their ideas and to put them into practice. True, they will be hampered by lack of funds; indeed, this is a most serious problem, but it is surprising what can be done as long as the basic approach is right. Let's give the new boys every help and encouragement to make up for the limited means at their disposal.

In the following article, Ivor Eyles, the chairman of selectors, airs the views of the new committee and its problems.

TEAM SELECTION — THE NEW LOOK

by IVOR C. EYLES

Chairman Selection Committee

THE National Selection Committee, recognising that with such a full table tennis calendar it is a problem for players wishing to be considered for international honours to decide which events or matches count for recognition, have made some important decisions.

- (1) The only competitions and matches which will be assessed by the Selectors will be National "Open" Championships, Internationals, County Championships, "Open" Tournaments, the English "Closed," the Wilmott Cup and J. M. Rose Bowl Competition and any official E.T.T.A. events. It is intended that at least one Selector or a Deputy shall be present at all "Open" Tournaments. Thus all assessable results will now be available to the Selection Committee.
- (2) Players are expected to play as many "Open" Tournaments as possible and performances in these will be a necessary consideration when selecting teams.

Players who are regarded by the Selection Committee as "elite," i.e., with chances of achieving international honours, will also, from time to time, be detailed to attend "TRAINING EVENTS," and their diligence and attention to detail on these will be taken into account. Such events may include players of full international class, intermediate or junior age.

These "Training Events" will be controlled by the Director of Coaching, Jack Carrington, with the co-operation of the respective senior and junior captains, Ron Crayden and Brian Brumwell.

All ranked and promising players will be asked to discuss their personal programme with these three officials, and the "Training Events" are a TOP PRIORITY.

- (3) Team selections will always be the best available (subject to para. 2).

*

Here is a problem on which I should like the help of the County and League Secretaries!!! Players, knowing the events FOR WHICH THEIR PERFORMANCES WILL BE NOTED and the fact that playing in tournaments is essential and attendance at Training Events compulsory, may have their loyalties strained.

I know full well that in addition to the National events, a large series of Inter-Town matches are played in all parts of the Country. The Midland and Western League carry out an extensive programme and these matches often clash with National events. Where players of "elite" calibre are concerned I would appeal to Counties and Leagues to do all in their power to help their players when necessary by releasing them from local teams so that they may play in the National events and attend Training events, as such opportunities of playing are of great practical value to the Country and also to the players in question.

The immediate advantages are :

firstly, a contribution towards the improvement of the English teams and, secondly, the chance of bringing into the Town teams other up-and-coming players, which, in due course, is bound to raise the general standard of play for all concerned.

Therefore, League Secretaries, please try to fix your matches avoiding clashes; do please consult any of your leading players who may be in the international class and try to plan with them their programme so that they can meet their obligations for County matches and Tournaments and official training programmes. By so doing you will have done your best in the interests of the English teams.

To conclude—may I refer to one point on which all players have the only say and for which we administrators can only play a small part and that is personal fitness.

It is essential that all players discipline themselves and come to any National team 100 per cent. fit. This may mean prior to a big event—less smoking, less drinking, going to bed early and taking the exercises which help to tune the mind and body to a fit state, and at ALL TIMES CARRYING OUT THE PROGRAMME WHICH FROM TIME TO TIME the officials responsible for the Training events (Jack Carrington, Ron Crayden and Brian Brumwell) will think necessary. The effort will be worth it and I am sure that players aspiring for international honours will be prepared to fully play their part in this direction. We have a formidable task to perform but I am sure that with goodwill and an effort to understand each other we can achieve success.

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTSBy **Laurie Landry**

Laurie Landry

Big Change Over to Sandwich

Main talking point from the first tournament of the season, the **East of England** at Skegness, was about the bat. At Skegness, they came in all shapes and sizes; some thin, some very thin, but none over 4 mm. thickness (we hope?).

A rough census revealed that about 55-60 per cent. of all men used sandwich and about 40 per cent. in the women. It is interesting to note that the proportion is higher (nearer 75 per cent.) among the county players. So it seems that those players who were playing at a fairly high standard already were more able to adapt themselves to a new type of bat.

Attacking players appeared to get more benefit from using sandwich though this was by no means a rule for Harrison was playing better than ever and chopping with as much accuracy, using a reversed rubber sandwich bat. Hungarians Josef Somogyi and Lajos Kerekes were also able to control the ball very well in defence.

Of the players who have not changed over, Stevens was the most successful, being the only rubber bat player in the last four. It is interesting to note that two other "faithfuls," Maclaren and Raybould, were both beaten by Stevens after successes against sandwich.

All in all one feels that the results will not alter very much with the re-entry of sandwich but games may be much faster with the unexpected always in the offing.

One success of the "East of England" was the splitting of the Men's Singles into two halves and, playing them one after another giving players

a chance to take advantage of the amenities of Butlin's Camp in the period when they were not required. Also, the playing of the Men's Doubles on Saturday evening right up to the final stage was a good idea even though it finished late, for players always prefer to have continuity in an event of this kind.

The only annoying thing about the "East of England" was the non-appearance of some players after winning a round. This led in many cases to inevitable scratching. **One hears many complaints from players**

about the organisers and this is one little thing were the players can play their part too.

From Hastings it's good to hear that the Sussex "open" finals will be staged in an arena on the floor of the main hall instead of on the stage as in the past. Let us hope it is a success for here is one case where a tournament is co-operating with general opinion and experimenting for the better.

Lastly, please remember that this is everyone's column so let's hear from you all.

THOUGHTLESS PLAYERS

by Derek Tyler

Players through the medium of TALKING POINTS conducted by Laurie Landry get a chance to air grievances. Faults, however are not entirely on the side of the organisers. They too have their moans about players. So Derek Tyler, Hon. Sec. of the Sussex "Open" has been given the opportunity to put the other side, and points out how players can help.

OF COURSE the vast majority of Tournament competitors are beyond reproach, and without their assistance, particularly in umpiring, few "Opens" could ever run to schedule, but there are the minority who act thoughtlessly and cause a great deal of unnecessary work and difficulties.

The Doubles events are the cause of most worry. Too few entrants take the trouble to ascertain the willingness of their presumed doubles partners; the result being either that the partners do not enter at all or else enter with somebody different. This involves correspondence to try to sort things out just when the Tournament Secretary is trying to get organised for the Draw.

Then there is the chap who puts "Partner Wanted" and just as the event is due to go "on table" complains bitterly that he wanted to play with someone else instead, and expects the Draw to be rearranged to meet his wishes.

Too many players, receiving no invitation from the organisers to

compete, nevertheless feel that their presence at the Tournament does it great honour, and they should therefore not be expected to contribute to its success by way of entry fees! Perhaps they are just very careless or forgetful, as few of these people seek out the Tournament organisers to pay their dues, and of course, if the Secretary is too busy to chase them up at the week-end . . . !

Is it too much to expect competitors to read the instructions sent to them, to expect them to be in the correct hall at the required time for each event, to remain in the hall when still challenging, instead of having to be sought out in the cafe or cloakroom, and not to overstay leave of absence — by as much as half an hour in one instance.

These are the most frequent sources of irritation: there are other isolated occurrences which do no credit to the game and of which the players concerned should be frankly ashamed, but these are not suitable to record in this feature.

One last plea—do send your entry in **EARLY**—and try to ease our rush at Closing Date (and after).

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**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

RON CRAYDEN, England's new Table Tennis captain, has recently changed his address to: **7, Grennell Road, Sutton, Surrey.**

DEFENSIVE WEAKNESS

By the Hon. Ivor Montagu

President of the I.T.T.F. and E.T.T.A.

ATTACK OR DEFENCE ?

This is a great question nowadays. It has many aspects. Which is better as a basic style and why? Which is better tactics, if you can do either, and which to do when? Which to learn first, as basis for the youngsters' game? Some of these questions I may perhaps try to tackle later. Here I want to show only the weakness of the defensive mind.

Remember: defence never won a match. I will go further—defence never won a point. If defence scored a win in a match (or even a point) it could be for only one reason—the opponent gave it away. This is not splitting hairs. It is the champion's secret. It is the secret of winning matches in the highest class.

If a player settles down to try to win matches or tournaments by defence, what does this mean? He may for a time and in certain encounters pile up a number of results that will foster in his mind a tempting delusion. But, in fact, he has renounced the ability to have a say in the result of the match.

OPPONENT DECIDES

It is not he, but his opponent, who decides whether he wins or loses the match. If his opponent makes mistakes, the player will score points. But if his opponent does not make mistakes. . . ?

Consider this. One player, the defensive mind, sets out merely to keep the ball in play. The opponent plays carelessly, or under-estimates the capacity of the defensive player, and loses the point. But if the opponent plays carefully, bides his time, does not make the same mistake again, why should he lose it? And what happens on one point can happen on every point—it can happen as easily when the defensive player is leading as at any other time. The opponent may be 5/15 down when he tightens his game, it will not make any difference. If the defensive-minded player does nothing to interrupt him, to hurry him, the opponent can go on and win all the rest. It only depends on him. That is, of course, in first-class play, where the opponent is skilled and able to tighten his game.

You may ask, of course, what if the opponent is not as skilled as all that (i.e., to be able to take the initiative and win when careful)? What if the opponent is only stubborn, and when he is careful the original player is careful too? Well then, the original player doesn't necessarily lose, but he still renounces the final decision of "who wins." It becomes decided by edges and nets. And then he curses his bad luck if he loses, and too often others sympathise when they (and he) should blame only himself.

When, towards the close of Bergmann's great career, he and Johnny Leach used to play doubles together, Bergmann did great harm by inventing the slogan (which Johnny swallowed): "They can't keep it up."

Bergmann and Leach were one of the most formidable pairs in the world, but they just didn't make it, ever. Why was this? Because, in the lead, they would not (or could not) take chances.

I have seen them lead two games to love, or two all and 15/5 in vital matches (finals and semi-finals) and not get home. Why? Because, defending brilliantly, they had got their lead on their opponents' mistakes and then, quite simply, the opponents had noticed this, and taken their time, played more carefully, and stopped making mistakes. The opponents were good players: why should they make mistakes? If, as they suddenly realised, nothing was being done by Bergmann and Leach to hurry them into error? "They can't keep it up." But they could, and did.

MISREADING

Of course, Bergmann's slogan was based on experience. How many wonderful matches had he won because, his opponent leading, he himself had refused to give up and his opponent had cracked? But this was a mis-reading of experience.

Bergmann at his peak, though the greatest defensive player of his time, was never only a defensive player. He was never defensive-minded.

The moment his opponent relaxed, the moment he played a return higher or slower than usual, Bergmann would be on it like a knife, with a flashing forehand. The knowledge that this might happen, that he must at all costs avoid slackening, that he

must win the point before Bergmann got his chance, was what imposed the strain on the opponent and made him crack.

Similarly with Johnny Leach at his best. His attacking strokes were never flashingly fast, his strength was rather in defence, but his virtue was his wonderful variety, he was forever probing, testing, changing — this is also a form of aggression, imposing a strain on the opponent, who must be super-careful not to mis-read Johnny's last stroke so as not himself to make a slip.

But if you are not imposing a strain on the opponent, why should he ever crack? If he is good he doesn't, not even if he is behind. He just takes his time, tightens up, and instead of winning two out of five takes care he wins three out of five, or, if need be, five out of five. There's only one way to stop this. Get out of your defensive rut. Win a point. Then the opponent must hurry. Then he will start making mistakes. Better than do nothing, do something, even if you lose a point. Some opponents in such case will at least think they have to hurry. But if you do nothing at all except hope for the best, the biggest lead can melt away (and will).

TILDEN'S ADVICE

The great Lawn Tennis player Tilden gave a powerful piece of advice: "Never change a winning game, always change a losing game." But, like every such piece of advice, you must use your loaf in interpreting it.

Don't think your game is necessarily a winning game just because you have got to 15/5. The winning score is 21, not 15. If you have got to 15 on your defence and your opponent's mistakes, and your opponent at that stage changes his game, plays more carefully and more accurately so as to win several points in succession which you wanted and were trying your best to get, then, even if you are at the moment in the lead, a long lead, yours is no longer the winning lead. You must do something to interfere with him, to stop him.

If you can't, you're no champion. Rozeanu was a mainly defensive player and, indeed, won her first titles as such. But she would not have won the greatest sequence of world titles ever if she had not improved with the times.

She did not stand still. She learned a forehand hit and a backhand hit. She did not squander them. But out they would flash, with the utmost care and effort at accuracy—just as with Bergmann's forehand wallop—

at the very most critical situations. So that the opponent, coping with her defence, could yet never relax, never be sure when that flash might not come and completely transform the game.

So far we have talked of defensively-minded defenders. But, of course, there are defensively-minded attackers too. The ones who, having reached their 18 or 19 by a brave show begin hitting just that little bit more slowly or gently to make sure, who even when opportunity offers miss their chance of a winner for fear of making a mistake.

COWARDLY

These are the cowardly, the non-champions, the just-a-little-bit-lacking folk. But when one sees, from attacker or defender, the firm, risk-taking aggression at the critical moment, then one says: that was a **real champion's** stroke, the hall-mark.

Yet again, at another level: I do not wish to make invidious comparisons, name names or contrast what is true of **some** home and **some** foreign players.

Here is a word of advice. Watch two players who appear evenly matched both in style and for skill of stroke. Why is one winning, the other doomed from the start? Because one, when his opponent does play a loose stroke, is on it like a flash, treating it as it should be treated, and has been on the look-out for it all the time, and because the other, lacking confidence (defensive-minded, shall we say?) or lacking imagination, has been just content, even glad, to hold on, and look at any loose stroke by an opponent with a sort of fear and distaste, as a snare that might bite him rather than a snake to be scotched, as something taking him out of his rhythm and creating a new danger to be overcome only by extra care in getting it back so that the rally can continue safely. You recognise my description?

Nothing can be more fatally comforting and ease-of-mind making to an opponent than the knowledge that if he or she does deliver a loose ball it will not receive the punishment it deserves. We know this phenomenon in cricket. The man who hits the half-volley and the man who steps back to give it a dead bat. We can't all be Bradmans. But if the players don't take advantage of the moves on the board, what is there left of the game, for players or spectators? See—there's the table, the ball, the racket—go in and win. If you leave it up to your opponent to decide whether you win or lose, you start by acknowledging yourself second. Why play?

New Hungarian Sensation

by GYORGY FERENC

THAT old proverb "he who laughs last laughs longest" is certainly proving correct for "Papa" Heirits, father of Erzsi Heirits, Hungary's latest table tennis sensation.

Erzsi, 20, and little more than a novice, has just won the first Hungarian tournament of the season after sensationally beating Eva Koczian, the European champion, Gizi Farkas, former world champion, and Livia Mossoczy, a former world double champion, **without losing a game.**

Yet "Papa" Heirits is the man who was ridiculed because of his confidence in his daughter's ability.

Some five years ago "Papa" Heirits, a weak-looking little man, walked into a Hungarian club with his red-headed daughter and said, "Start training her. If she gets a good coach she will be the future world champion."

The specialists burst out laughing and began to regard him as the "foolish daddy." But he was convinced of his daughter's capabilities and attended every training session. Later he began to give special instructions to the coach until in the end he was regarded as a nuisance and asked to leave the hall.

His immediate reaction was to take Erzsi away from the club and also from school, saying "She has learned enough. Now she has to learn how to become the world champion."

Still the critics laughed and still "Papa" Heirits took no notice. He became his daughter's trainer, and beside making her play five or six hours a day, started to make her a perfect all-round athlete.

He made her run (eight to ten kilometres a day), jump, put the shot, and do weight training. It was an exhausting programme and there were some quarrels.

Merciless Father

But the merciless father kept her at it. Erzsi became a splendid defence player, then changing her rubber bat to a "soft" one she developed a devastating hit. Now Erzsi is a fine all-round athlete, with movements and behaviour like a boy, and she is able to play ten hours a day without a break.

Yet Erzsi is not talented. She has achieved her skill by superhuman will and diligence, which proves that determination is worth at least as much as talent in table tennis.

With three of the world's top women players already among her



ERZSI HEIRITS

victims, Erzsi certainly looks well on the road to carrying out her father's prophesy that she will become a world champion.

And "Papa" Heirits? He is now laughing at the critics.

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Entry forms and Finals Tickets from the Organising Secretary, K. T. Daniel, 22, St. Michael's Rd., Welling, Kent (Bexleyheath 3172).

Entries close Monday, 2nd Nov., 1959.

BOOK REVIEW**TABLE TENNIS—A NEW APPROACH**

TWENTY-FIVE years of playing and teaching experience go into the latest table tennis book "*Table Tennis—a new approach*," by Ken Stanley. It is published by Nicholas Kaye, price 10/6d.

Stanley, who won the English junior championship three successive years and was in England's world championship team at 16, is perhaps better known to the modern generation as a coach rather than a player. He runs his famous academy at Burnley, which has turned out many fine young players. He has also been coach to the E.T.T.A., Scotland, New Zealand and Norway.

Stanley is therefore well qualified to write this valuable book on coaching. He sets out techniques, which must be acquired for first class play, but does not forget the beginner.

He deals with all the strokes and in addition to the instruction has a supplement on training.

Dealing with tactics, Stanley frankly advocates gamesmanship, telling his readers they must be ruthless and exploit the opponent's temperament.

Against the highly-strung individual who no sooner collects the ball than he serves, Stanley writes: "Take your time when you are going for the ball, delay your services by being very meticulous over having the regulation flat palm for serving and throw the ball high. If defend-

ing, play a long defence so that the ball is taking longer to return to him."

Then against someone who is slow with his reactions he adds: "Do not stroll for the ball this time. Run and serve it as quickly as possible."

Stanley then qualifies this by writing "There will be many, I know, who will say that these tactics are poor sportsmanship, but if you want to reach the top in any sport today, you must, let's face it, be ruthless in competitive play.

"If you are clever enough to upset the player on the other side—well, I reckon that is one up to you; it all fits in with the game."

"*Table Tennis—a new approach*" is well illustrated and is a must for anyone taking up table tennis or wanting to improve their game. It could well become a coaching classic.

Sponge Still Banned

Austria will be lone wolves in the new racket standardisation. While the rest of the world fall into line with the new thickness limits on the racket surface, they are sticking to "pimpled rubber only."

It is understood they feel it would have been better for all to stay with pimpled rubber at least until manufacturers had the opportunity of getting the new bats on the market.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Untidy Players**

Reprinted from *South African Table Tennis News*

This is a subject that is just as applicable in this country, where too many players even at the English "Open," give little thought to neat turn-out.

CAN any of our readers tell me why, in table tennis, which is just about the cheapest sport to play, so many of our leading players, as well as the less prominent players, appear on the table as though they are about to clean the car or work in the garden.

Last year, in the City Hall, one of South Africa's leading Table Tennis players appeared on the table, in front of about 600 spectators, dressed in a pair of shorts which looked like dungarees cut down, and a shirt which has obviously seen the washing machine many times. I do not say that these clothes were not clean; they were spotless; but oh, the colour! To watch a combination of players playing doubles is too colourful for words, but surely wrong on the table tennis table.

I have seen four men take the table in four different colour shirts. Surely a brief telephone conversation beforehand could have avoided this.

When one considers the outlay of cricketers, tennis players, footballers, badminton, in fact any other sport, as compared to table tennis, there is a vast difference in the price of equipment alone, surely then a few extra shillings spent on clothing would not make anyone any poorer.

Referring to the same night in the City Hall. As a spectator I assumed that players were permitted to appear in black sand shoes, and was most surprised to learn that the shoes were supposed to be white. I have been told by some leading players that certain outfits of clothing are lucky, or that it is unlucky to clean your shoes before a big game, but surely even a slight wash to the shoes would do a lot to improve them, and players must be able to have a new lucky set of clothing once in a while.

It can be no example to the juniors or players who play around the lower leagues if the player whom they place on a pinnacle, or look up to as the leading players, do not appear on the tables neatly dressed.

"Long Suffering Spectator."

Snob View ?

WHY is Table Tennis the Cinderella game of sports? Despite the fact of it being the most popular indoor sport in the World it is always regarded here in England as the tailend activity in sports club itineraries.

Spare cash in the kitty seems always available for everything bar Table Tennis.

Could it be that after the table has been purchased the rest of the playing equipment is so comparatively cheap with other sports equipment that a snob view is taken of those that play such a cheap game.

Certain it is that expensive sports get a great deal more consideration when replenishment of equipment is required.

W. HUDSON.
(Kensal Rise)

**WESTINGHOUSE-CHIPPENHAM
"MERGER"**

Chippenham Club who had been forced to obtain temporary accommodation for some time have now joined forces with Westinghouse the title of the new club being Westinghouse and Chippenham T.T.C. **Donald Hillier.**

NEW**Ken Stanley's****TABLE TENNIS—
A NEW APPROACH**

Ken Stanley has a high reputation as an instructor and is an English ex-International and Swaythling Cup player. Here he draws on his long practical experience setting down all the techniques he feels must be acquired to become "better than average". He gives advice on all aspects of play, and provides a unique P.T. schedule.

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V.I.P. WELCOME FOR HIGH WYCOMBE

by Cyril Dawson

IT was V.I.P. treatment all the way for High Wycombe when they flew to Ghent at the end of last season. From the moment we touched down in the plane, owned and piloted by the team captain Roland Sewell, nothing was too much trouble for the Belgium people. Even the customs officials had been sent from Brussels to reduce any delay to our team.

Following a tour of the night spots on the Friday evening the team saw many of the outstanding beauties of the city the following morning when well-known local people showed us around.

However the original welcome we received was nothing in comparison to the one which awaited us on Saturday evening when we arrived at the Small St. Table Tennis Club for our key match against Ghent.

The Ghent team included several players well up in the Belgium national ranking, but against them our team excelled themselves and produced some terrific play.

Although obviously outclassed from the start everyone found a little extra something to make his opponents fight for every point, and our final 7-3 defeat was certainly not a disgrace.

Highlight of the evening was the battle between Sewell and the Belgium No. 1, Keppene. Sewell gave the finest display of his 13 years career before losing 18-21, 21-20, 21-17, 21-17.

This enjoyable trip, the cost of which was borne by the four players concerned, has since brought numerous enquiries from various other leagues, not only in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire but also in London.

It looks as though High Wycombe have started something.

DOWN UNDER

by Clem M. Gruber

There were more shocks than ever before in the Victorian Championships, which attracted 260 players to the new "Table Tennis Centre".

Biggest upset was the semi-final defeat of Australian No. 1 Arden Robinson. He went down 15-21, 14-21, 20-22 to the smooth sandwich bat wielded by J. Marton, of Victoria.

In the other semi-final Cliff McDonald trounced Australia's second ranked player, T. Maraczy by 21-14, 21-11, 21-16.

McDonald had a little trouble in the final but eventually overcome Marton, whose over-eagerness cost him several points, by 21-18, 19-21, 21-18, 21-15.

The doubles, too, had their quota of surprises with top seeds Robinson and V. Matison being beaten in the first round, and the National champions, T. Maraczy and T. Sokolowski falling at the semi-final stage.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: C. McDONALD bt J. Marton 21-18, 19-21, 21-18, 21-15. Women's Singles: S. JAVOR bt N. Buckland 16-21, 11-21, 21-11, 21-12, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: K. FAHEY/ B. BATES bt Barton/T. Kurtak 21-11, 21-16, 21-19. Women's Doubles: JAVOR /A. O'BRIEN bt H. Law/M. Freeman 17-21, 22-20, 21-19. Mixed Doubles: FAHEY/BUCKLAND bt G. Stirling/Freeman 21-14, 21-15.

Boys' Singles: R. LIM bt J. Plain 21-12, 21-19.



Roland Sewell, Ian Harvey, Cyril Dawson and Ian Hone, the High Wycombe quartet who visited Ghent

NEW ZEALAND NEW CHAMPIONS

ALAN TOMLINSON, of Auckland, and Pat Purdon, of Canterbury, became the new table tennis champions of New Zealand when they won the National singles titles at the Y.M.C.A. Sports Stadium in Auckland from August 31 to September 4.

Tomlinson caused the biggest shock of the meeting when he defeated seven time champion, Bob Jackson by 21-10, 18-21, 21-15 in the final.

Jackson played brilliantly and fought strongly but could not contain his opponent's punishing forehand attack which grew more lethal as the match progressed.

Mrs. Purdon, the South Island champion, notched up her first national title with a 21-17, 10-21, 21-13 victory over Mary Anderson, of Hutt Valley.

Mrs. Anderson attacked vigorously to win the second game but following this, Mrs Purdon tightened up her defence and from then on proved too steady for her unseeded opponent.

For the eleventh year the men's national team championship went to the Auckland team of Jackson, Tomlinson, P. Thompson, R. Taylor and G. Williams. Auckland also took the women's team championship when represented by S. Biddle, J. Grace, K. Jaine and B. Packwood they narrowly defeated the holders, Canterbury in the final.

Men's Singles: A. R. TOMLINSON (Auckland) bt. R. V. Jackson (Auckland) 21-10, 18-21, 21-18, 21-15.

Women's Singles: Mrs. P. PURDON (Canterbury) bt. Mrs. M. J. Anderson (Hutt Valley) 21-17, 10-21, 21-3, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: JACKSON/TOMLINSON bt. G. A. Frew/M. L. Dunn 23-21, 16-21, 21-16, 21-12.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. ANDERSON/M. V. V. WHITE bt. J. E. Brown/Mrs. V. E. Muirhead 21-13, 13-21, 21-15, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: FREW/Miss N. DAVIS bt. G. E. Smith/Mrs. Purdon 21-13, 15-21, 21-8, 17-21, 21-19.

EUROPEAN JUNIOR MEETING

Rumania all but swept the board in the European Junior meeting at Constanza, Rumania, recently, taking four individual titles and sharing in a fifth. In addition they also won the girls' team final, beating Hungary 3-0.

Hungary gained some revenge when they beat Rumania 5-4 in the boys team.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles: RADU NEGULESCU (Rum.) bt Rozsas (Hun.) 2-0. Girls' Singles: MARANA BARASCH (Rum.) bt Ramananskaire (U.S.S.R.) 2-0.

Boys' Doubles: NEGULESCU/RETHI (Rum.) bt Rozsas/Biro (Hun.) 2-0. Girls' Doubles: BARASCH (Rum.)/RAMANANSKAIRE (U.S.S.R.) bt Ehbrecht/Gordes (W. Germany 2-0. Mixed Doubles: NEGULESCU/BARASCH (Rum.) bt Friesenhahn/Jansco (Hun.) 2-0.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND UP . . . by CONRAD JASCHKE



CONRAD JASCHKE

UP GO THE ENTRIES

TO the superstitious 13 is an unlucky number, but not for the County Championships. For their thirteenth season they have broken all records.

1954 saw a record number of 32 counties competing in the Championships and it has taken five years to improve on this. So let's give three cheers for Nottinghamshire who have come in to make it 33 this season!

This leaves only three of the E.T.T.A.'s affiliated counties without teams in the Championships.

There is also a startling increase in teams. Last season's 48 compared unfavourably with the 1956 record figure of 51 teams. Now they have jumped to 54. To accommodate the increase, two new divisions have been formed.

As advocated in this column in previous years, we now have a better balanced set-up than for a long time. Below the Premier Division, the Second Division now consists of four sections of five teams each, cutting travelling to a minimum. The Third (Regional) Division consists of five teams in the Midland section and six in the Southern.

Although the Midland and North sections of the junior division have only four teams each, they can have an equal number of matches to the Southern section, by playing home and away.

Can Surrey retain the Premier championship? On the only previous occasion when the title was wrested from Middlesex — by Surrey in 1955/56—Middlesex regained it in the

following season. They have been champions 10 times.

Last season Middlesex finished third behind Surrey and Essex, with only one point dividing the three. We look set for another tight struggle, and I think the reigning champions will put up a great fight to retain the title, under the leadership of the new England captain Ron Clayden.

We already know that Josef Somogyi is a demon when playing with a sandwich bat, and now that those evergreen campaigners Harry Venner and Ken Craigie have also switched to the new bat, I can see all kinds of problems arising for their opponents.

Surrey have other tried premier



JOSEF SOMOGYI

performers in Tony Miller, Betty Bird, Jill Rook, and Peggy Piper.

Middlesex are probably the only county who can say that they have so many talented players that team selection becomes embarrassing. Established international players like Michael Thornhill, Derek Burridge, and classy Di Rowe; up-and-coming young internationals Laurie Landry, Eddie Hodson and Jean Harrower; plus players like new England selector Len Adams, Alan Lindsay, and Margaret Fry, who are all expected to put points on their game with the return to sandwich. And don't forget popular Alan Rhodes, who was England No. 3 with sandwich!

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

- October 3 Yorkshire v Gloucestershire, Mechanics Institute, Bridge Street, Bradford 7 p.m.
- Lincolnshire v Middlesex, British Legion Hall, Northgate, Louth 7.15 p.m.
- October 10 Glamorgan v Essex
- October 17 Lincolnshire v Glamorgan
- October 31 Gloucestershire v Surrey

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

- October 17 Cheshire v Northumberland Durham v Derbyshire, Y.M.C.A., Dovecot Street, Stockton-on-Tees 7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

- October 18 Wiltshire v Cornwall
- October 17 Dorset v Cornwall, British Drug Houses Canteen, Butts Road, Poole 7 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

- October 10 Kent v Berkshire, Rowing Club, Deal 7 p.m.
- October 17 Sussex v Hampshire
- November 7 Hertfordshire v Sussex

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

- October 17 Leicestershire v Worcestershire
- October 24 Warwickshire v Bedfordshire
- November 7 Worcestershire v Bedfordshire, Shirehall, Worcester 7 p.m.

MIDLAND DIVISION

- October 17 Glamorgan v Warwickshire
- Nottinghamshire v Oxfordshire
- October 31 Glamorgan v Staffordshire

SOUTHERN DIVISION

- October 17 Buckinghamshire v Norfolk Suffolk v Kent, Ipswich Lads Club, Arcade Street, Ipswich 7 p.m.
- October 30 Cambridgeshire v Kent

JUNIOR DIVISION MIDLAND

- October 17 Oxfordshire v Staffordshire

JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

- October 3 Essex v Kent, St. Luke's Boyd Institute, Jude Street, Tarling Road, Keir Hardie Estate, Canning Town, London, E.16. 3 p.m.
- October 17 Middlesex v Sussex, B.E.A., Keyline House, South Ruislip 6 p.m.
- Kent v Surrey, Gas Board Social Club, Folkestone 3 p.m.
- Hertfordshire v Suffolk, The Electrical Apparatus Co. Club House, New Barnes Avenue, St. Albans 7 p.m.
- October 24 Surrey v Suffolk, Higgs & Hill Canteen, Vauxhall, London 3.30 p.m.
- October 31 Hertfordshire v Middlesex, The Electrical Apparatus Co. Club House, New Barnes Avenue, St. Albans 7 p.m.

Who would be a Middlesex selector?

Essex were one of the most attractive sides to watch last year and I'll not forget the heart-warming sight of a hall filled to overflow with spectators on the foggiest night of the year, when they entertained Middlesex.

That match, brilliantly stage-managed by Harry Walker and Frank Bateman, was a sight for sore eyes for those of us who believe in the future of county table tennis. What a pity Essex were not seen on television throughout last season... no doubt they will again be a side worth watching, win or lose.

Yorkshire, fourth last time, have been knocking at the door for many years now, and their chances should not be ignored. Their team will again be built around big Brian Kennedy and brilliant Kathie Best. If only they could find one other man to back up Brian, the title could go north for the first time.

Gloucestershire and Lancashire complete the "big six" who have kept premier status without break for several years now but, neither can be regarded as championship contenders while they rely exclusively on their men to see them through.

Gloucestershire will again rely mainly on Ian Harrison, deservedly England's No. 1, and Bryan Merrett, but Lancashire will surely have to find a replacement for Geoff Pullar now that the modest lefthander has stepped into Test cricket as an England opener.

Jeff Ingber and Ron Allcock will be the backbone of the "red rose" side.

The odds may be against newly promoted Glamorgan and Lincolnshire in their fight against the big six, but you never can tell.

Cheshire, Kent, Somerset, Staffordshire and Warwickshire look the leading promotion candidates in Division Two.

I know quite a few premier counties would like to see Warwickshire up there, for there are few bigger attractions in English table tennis than Ann Haydon and Pam Mortimer.

NEW CHAIRMAN

Biggest news on the administrative side is that the County Championships have a new chairman. Frank Bateman (Essex) polled 13 votes in a postal ballot, against the 10 cast for previous chairman Sidney Hoddy (Mddx.). The other three officers were re-elected unopposed.

The A.G.M. of the N.C.C. received a most satisfactory financial report from hon. treasurer Tom Blunn. Once again the officers' expenses showed a decrease, and the television

fee for the Champions v The Rest match boosted the income side.

After donations to Middlesex (The Champions), Gloucestershire (staging county) and the E.T.T.A., money was allocated for a refund of all entry fees already paid by counties for season 1958/59.

Moreover, the N.C.C. undertook the expenses of staging the junior play-off, in which Middlesex defeated Lancashire to become junior champions.

After all these generous allocations, Mr. Blunn was able to report a surplus of £65 for the season.

Surrey match secretary, Fred Joyce, immediately jumped in with an offer from the new champions to play next season's Champions v. The Rest match **AT ANY VENUE AND AT WHATEVER TERMS THE N.C.C. EXECUTIVE DECIDED**... a gesture that was received with acclamation, and which, let's hope, will mean another worthwhile contribution from TV for the benefit of all affiliated counties.

The Annual General Meeting paid high tribute to the work of Ivor Eyles as hon. secretary. He has carried the main burden of running the championships since the retirement of Geoff Harrower in 1955, and an addendum to the annual report, thanking Ivor Eyles for all he has done for the N.C.C. was passed and warmly applauded.

HARROWER'S "SWAN SONG"

Geoff Harrower "sang his swan song"—as he put it—at this meeting. He has now retired from the Hertfordshire post which still bound him to the N.C.C., and I cannot let this event pass without saying something about Geoff's part in founding the County Championships.

It was at Wembley Town Hall, in 1946, that Geoff Harrower and Bill Worsley were entrusted with the task of drafting the original constitution. In September 1947 the championships were inaugurated, with 15 counties fielding 19 teams. In his last full season as N.C.C. Secretary he had seen this grow to 32 counties playing 48 teams.

Of the original Executive, Bill Vint (chairman), Geoff Harrower (secretary), Bill Worsley (treasurer), Stan Kempster (publicity secretary), Les Forrest, Les Preston and Lena Ferguson, only one, Yorkshire's ever-green match secretary Les Forrest, is still left on the N.C.C. Executive, though Bill Worsley continues as auditor.

There is no question that from 1947 to 1955, Geoff Harrower carried the main burden, as Eyles does today. He put his heart and soul into the welfare of the County Champions-



LESLIE FORREST

ships, and it must give him more than a little satisfaction and pride to look at the big organisation of today, for I doubt that the championships would be what it is without Geoff's vision and enthusiasm in the years gone by.

Lastly, a minor yet important alteration to rules. In future, team details are to be sent to the publicity secretary, **NOT** to the secretary. This will help with the press work, so please remember, all teams should be sent to me, **AT LEAST NINE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MATCH**, at 35 Eynswood Drive, Sidcup, Kent. Teams, endorsed with a "date received" stamp, will be forwarded by me to Mr. Eyles.

Line-up for season 1959/60.

PREMIER DIVISION

Essex, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Surrey, Yorkshire.

SECOND DIVISION

MIDLAND: Bedfordshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire.

NORTH: Cheshire, Derbyshire, Durham, Northumberland, Yorkshire II.

SOUTH: Berkshire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Sussex.

WEST: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire.

THIRD (REGIONAL) DIVISION

MIDLAND: Glamorgan II, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire II, Warwickshire II.

SOUTHERN: Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire II, Kent II, Norfolk, Suffolk.

JUNIOR DIVISION

MIDLAND: Leicestershire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire.

NORTH: Cheshire, Durham, Lancashire, Yorkshire.

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

Middlesex Junior Ranking

As usual during the summer Middlesex have had a junior coaching scheme and the junior ranking list is 1 **DAVID CREAMER**, 2 **BRIAN WRIGHT**, 3 **DAVID OFFENBACH**, 4 **NIGEL IVE** and girls 1 **JEAN HARROWER** and 2 **HILDA BRAUTIGAM**.

Stan Jacobson, who appeared in the Middlesex Bernard Crouch Trophy team for the first time last season, put in a good performance in Copenhagen in August. In the European Maccabi Championships he took the Singles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles and also won a team event championship medal.

The Middlesex "closed" Championships will be held at Ultra Electric Ltd., on January 23rd/24th.

The Middlesex "open" will again be held this year at Hanwell Community Centre. Forms are available from G. James, 19, St. Ann's Villas, W.11. Dates are 12/13th December.

LEICESTER LEAGUE INCREASE

LEICESTERSHIRE, newly promoted to Division II (Midland) will be able to call on all last season's players plus Brendon Thompson and Michael Beith Thompson, after a season at Cambridge, is now working nearer home at Nottingham, and Beith has taken up a

teaching appointment locally.

Leicestershire will also have a team in the Junior Midland Division, and although this is a new venture we hope to do well.

In the Leicester and District League 153 teams will be competing—an increase of three over last season.

This season the league welcome five new clubs—Highcross, Frears Wigston, St. John's, St. Chad's and Stoking Farm.

Hinckley Y.M.C.A. have lost one of their most consistent players in John Hincklin, who is now working in Nottingham.

Congratulations to League Secretary, Tony Odams and his wife, Assistant Secretary, Glenys, on the birth of a daughter.

Leicester have entered their usual teams in the Midland League: two men's, one women's, an intermediate's and a junior.

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

HIGH hopes and anticipation of a happy and successful season has been somewhat marred by the sad news of a serious accident sustained by former Suffolk Junior, Trevor Reddish. The car he was driving overturned causing him serious injuries which will deprive Ipswich Y.M.C.A. of his services — at least for the time being. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Team membership in Ipswich has risen by 16 to a total of 88 teams and Stowmarket's increase of two brings their total to 19. Lowestoft's figures remain at 59 teams.

All of last season's five leagues are again affiliating together with directly affiliated clubs, Newmarket and Ipswich Convent.

Excellent news is the inauguration of the Suffolk N.A.L.G.O. League (thanks to yeoman efforts by Bill Buxton of Ipswich) with 4 teams.

The Suffolk Inter-Town League will operate single fixtures again with Ipswich, Lowestoft, Stowmarket, Sudbury, Peasehall and Newmarket participating.

A new piece of enterprise is the formation of a Junior Division in which Ipswich, Lowestoft, Stowmarket and Peasehall will take part.

Two senior and junior trials were held during September and with all of last season's team players available, together with Simon Pearson (just returned from the R.A.F.) and Val. Martin (now available for county fixtures), the selectors are in for a few headaches.



BARBARA MILBANK, the popular Essex international, is the latest of the table tennis newly-weds. She was married at Goodmayes in July to Mr. Ken Andrews, of Purley.

This has been an office romance for both are employed at Unilever. Barbara as a secretary and her husband as a statistician.

"Ken has little interest in table tennis," said the new Mrs. Andrews, "but I hope to continue to play at least at club level for the time being. Because of my domestic duties I am extremely doubtful about playing in tournaments."

Barbara has now gone to live at Purley, which means she will be breaking her long association with Essex. She has already told them she is no longer available.

Jack Carrington, for many years friend and coach to Barbara, gave the bride away.

NEW GLOS. SECRETARY

BRISTOL fans will be pleased to know that Miss Pat Wilkinson of Clifton has consented to take the office of Hon. Gen. Sec. of the County Association.

His many friends will congratulate Ian Harrison on being the first winner of a major tournament this year and at the same time hail him for his premier national ranking.

This year the County "Closed" Tournament is being held at Bristol on October 17. The venue should attract many more entrants.

Each of the three larger associations within the Gloucestershire area have new secretaries.

With Aubrey Simons on the National Selection Committee and Ivor Eyles as the re-elected Chairman, no one can say that the South West are not fairly represented.

NORFOLK NOTES

THIS season Norfolk have two more county matches against Kent II and Suffolk. The last time we met Suffolk was at Diss in 1956, when we lost 7-3.

Our prospects in the Southern League are promising, providing that last season's form can be maintained. Competition will be very strong.

We shall be visiting Kent, Buckinghamshire and Suffolk, which will involve some long, expensive journeys, so it is up to everybody concerned to give maximum support to the home matches to ease the strain on our financial resources.

There were no changes in the elected officers of the association and the vacancy of the magazine secretary was filled. All of last season's leagues, Norwich, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, East Dereham, Wymondham, Harleston and N.F.I.C. have affiliated again this season.

It is good to see Wymondham back in the East Anglian League after a lapse of a season or two.

WESTERN COUNTIES LOSS

BEFORE the start of the season the league suffered a severe blow with the death of their very popular president, Mr. Monty Mendleson, after a long illness.

He was an exceptionally active president and a keen follower of all the league's activities. Mr. Mendleson, who lived in Newport, had been associated with table tennis from as far back as 1908 when he instigated the formation of the local league.

The league this season will be without Birmingham who have found it impossible to enter a team.

The three-a-side experiment for town matches in both the women's and men's section was a complete success, and will be the rule again this season.

It is pleasing to note that Cheltenham have, for this year, entered a women's team, and their section will comprise of Bristol, Newport, Weston and Cheltenham.

YORKSHIRE LOOK TO MARCH

MARCH may be a momentous month for Yorkshire this season. They wind up their championship programme with an eight-day highspot when they entertain Middlesex and Surrey on successive Saturdays.

If they do well in early matches these could be the vital matches in the title chase.

This unusual arrangement has helped the E.T.T.A. to stage their new "closed" championship in January, when one of Yorkshire's fixtures would otherwise have been played.

All home Premier Division matches will again be played at Bradford Mechanics' Institute, where the average attendance took another slight step forward last season.

Lost to the county: Colin Slater, editor for the past seven years of the "White Rose" magazine, who has moved to Nottingham. He has been a prodigious worker in programme production and a splendid toastmaster at annual dinners.

Lost to the Halifax League: Mr. Harold Helliwell, whose unfortunate death in an accident at work robbed table tennis of a very keen worker.

Lost to the Leeds League: their coaching and practice headquarters, St. James's Institute, which is being auctioned.

Lost to Yorkshire Juniors: Hull's talented teenage trio, Betty Kinsley, Irene Allsopp and Margaret Bradnum, and Doncaster's Michael Dainty—all now over age. The same centres may supply successors in Ann Brown (Hull) and Cynthia Blackshaw and Pete Duncombe (Doncaster).

George Lodge is York's new secretary. He previously held the position with great distinction in the Bradford League.

At Hull, Dave Bartlett is now doing National Service and Dave McGee is in the R.A.F. awaiting a Singapore posting. Bartlett's fiancée, Susan Cole, is the new secretary of Hull Y.P.I.

Wedding bells for county player Jean Preston, married to Colin Bentley (Knaresborough) on September 12.

Malcolm Hartley.

WEST EALING CLOSES

Unless . . .

FOR nearly forty years West Ealing, the most famous of London table tennis clubs, has been able to field more than one team of internationals simultaneously. From before the era of Fred Perry, world champion in 1928-9 to the reign of the Rowe twins, world doubles champions 1950-1 and 1953-4 and subsequently, countless players have represented England one night and West Ealing the next.

Enormous though their contribution has been to table tennis in general and West Ealing in particular, it is dwarfed by that of the members who not only provide the stars of tomorrow but also the bread and butter of the day.

For the usual economic reasons and counter attractions prevailing today West Ealing is down to bread alone. The management, whilst extremely loath to close the table tennis section down, realise that by judicial letting of the hall they can have, bread, butter and jam, but unfortunately no table tennis players to tea.

The table tennis section has accordingly been informed that unless there are 75 paid up members by the middle of October there will be no alternative to a complete cessation of all table tennis activities.

Prime Minister Accepts

The Rt. Hon. Harold Macmillan, the Prime Minister, has accepted an invitation to become a Life Vice-President of the Stockton and District League which this year celebrates its Jubilee.

This is not Mr Macmillan's first connection with the League. He was a vice-president in 1933-34 when M.P. for Stockton.

A day's coaching course conducted by Jack Carrington and his wife, Elsie, at Sunderland on August 15 proved to be a big success.

Twenty players from Northumberland and Durham took part and during the course had individual instruction, talks, match play, and physical exercise. In the evening they saw films of two world championships.

Junior area trials were held at the Leeds Y.M.C.A. on September 12. Players invited from Durham were Wilf Barker, B. Clark, Michael Ford, who is only 13, Maureen Coe, Kevin Whittingham and cousins, Carole and Lesley Dollen.

G. K. Fletcher.

DERBY GIVE LEAD

DERBY and District T.T.A. have given a lead to the rest of the country in trying to ease the financial burden of the E.T.T.A.

Their member clubs are voluntarily increasing their affiliation fees by 6s. per club, making a total of 15s.

A proposal to this effect was approved at their annual meeting after it has been reported that the National Executive Committee's proposed increase in affiliation fees had been withdrawn at the E.T.T.A. annual meeting.

Derby have 24 clubs under their control and this voluntary fee is to be paid to the E.T.T.A. irrespective of whether or not the E.T.T.A. fees are increased at a later date.

Well done Derby!

CAMBRIDGESHIRE LOSE THOMPSON

FRANK JEFFREY, a 46-year-old former county player, is out to regain his place in the Cambridgeshire team judging by his recent performance in the Summer League.

Jeffery was unbeaten throughout the League and his consistent record helped New Chesterton Institute win Division "A" and later beat Newmarket, the division "B" champions, by 8 - 1 in the play-off.

Coaching sessions will again be given in as many parts of the county as possible in an effort to increase the playing standard and the popularity of the sport.

Missing from this season's county side will be Bren Thompson. He has now left the district so John Cornwell and John Thurston will have a new partner.

Most likely candidates to fill the vacancy are Chris Reeve and Keith Chapman, who were playing exceptionally well at the end of last season.

Margaret Cornwell, Avis Pauley, Heather Mitchell and Heather Collings will again carry Cambridgeshire hopes in the women's division.

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FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Details and Venue</i>	<i>Extra Events</i>	<i>Organising Secretary</i>
Oct. 8-10	North of England "Open" (A) Drill Hall, Seymour Grove, Old Trafford, Manchester, 16.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	L. W. Jones, 261, Mauldeth Road, Burnage, Manchester, 19.
23-24	Cheshire "Open" (Oct. 17) T.A. Centre, Harrowby Road, Birkenhead, Cheshire.	J.X.S.	L. C. Hall, 66, Larch Road, Birkenhead, Cheshire.
24-25	Sussex "Open" (Oct. 10) White Rock Pavilion, Hastings.		D. N. Tyler, 23, Elphinstone Road, Hastings.
18	Portsmouth "Open" (A) (Oct. 2) South Parade Pier, Southsea.	J.X.S.	M. Constad, 12, Wilberforce Road, Southsea.
30/Nov. 1	AUSTRIAN "OPEN" Vienna.		
31	Hull and East Riding "Open" (Oct. 21) Madeley Street Baths, Hessle Road, Hull.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	K. H. F. Jordan, 6, Blackburn Avenue, Brough, E. Yorks.
31/Nov. 1	Essex "Open" (Oct. 12) Eton Manor Club, Riseholme Street, Hackney Wick, London, E.	J.S.B. J.S.G. V.S.	H. A. Spragg, 6, Pevensey Road, Forest Gate, London, E.7.
Nov. 6-7	Merseyside "Open" (Oct. 24) Dunlop Rubber Co. Ltd. (Canteen), Speke, Liverpool, 24.	J.S.B. J.S.G. V.S.	Miss M. Lindner, 4, Hilltop Road, Liverpool, 16.
6-8	YUGOSLAV "OPEN" Ljubljana.		
7-8	Kent Junior "Open" (Oct. 17) Marine Gardens Pavilion, Folkestone.		F. G. Mannooch, 216, Park Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.
13-15	HUNGARIAN "OPEN" Budapest.		
20-21	Birmingham "Open" (Nov. 9) Friends Institute, 220, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.	J.S.B. J.S.G. J.D.B. V.S.	M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham, 12.
21	Hartlepoons "Open" (A) (Nov. 14) North-East Trading Estate Canteen, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham.	J.X.S.	E. Laughton, 7, Lovat Grove, Owton Manor, West Hartlepool.
22	Bournemouth "Open" (A) (Nov. 7) The Drill Hall, Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth.	J.X.S.	C. B. Cashell, 16, Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bournemouth.
22-28	North-West Kent "Open" (Nov. 2) Barnehurst Residents' Club, Parkside Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	M. C. Heasman, 77, Welling Way, Welling, Kent.
24-28	Leinster "Open" (Nov. 13) Abbey Lecture Hall, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin.		Mrs. G. Doyle, 55, Highfield Park, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.
28	Bath "Open" (Nov. 16) Drill Hall, St. Peter's Church Hall, Lower Bristol Road, Bath.	J.S.B.	J. A. Butcher, 1, South View Road, Twerton, Bath.
28	Peterborough "Open" (A) (Nov. 16) Messrs. Baker Perkins, Ltd., Westwood Works, Peterborough, Northants.	J.S.B. J.S.G.	E. Kent, 14, High Street, Eye, Nr. Peterborough.
Dec. 6-8	SCANDINAVIAN "OPEN" Boras.		



EAST OF ENGLAND "OPEN"

by Laurie Landry

HARRISON IS TOPS

SWITCHES TO SANDWICH AND
CONFIRMS No. 1 RANKING

IAN HARRISON

APART from the interest of this tournament as being the first since the re-introduction of sandwich, it proved that 20-year-old Ian Harrison is undoubtedly England's No. 1. Ian has been given the top spot in the new ranking list, but it is always good to have confirmation.

Using a reversed rubber sandwich, Ian played as tightly as ever and picked out his hits magnificently to squash any resistance from Joe Somogyi, who had been tipped as the likely winner.

They met in the final with Harrison winning 21-11, 12-21, 21-16.

After an understandably shaky start in the early rounds, Harrison improved with every game and he certainly gave Landry no chance in the semi-final.

Rubber bat Bobby Stevens performed admirably under his disadvantage, beating both Bobbie Raybould and Michael Maclaren (both rubber) before going down to Somogyi in a quick moving and varied game.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was when Con Warren, ex-Surrey junior, beat international Terry Densham —17, 14, 19. He went on to beat junior winner George Livesey before finally losing to Kerekes, who eventually lost over three games to Landry in the "quarters."

Women's singles top seed Jean Harrower, newly ranked England's No. 5, was surprisingly beaten by Jean McCree. Both used sandwich, but Mrs. McCree made the running and won in straight games.

Another surprise was the victory of Pam Morton, of Huddersfield, of Peggy Piper. She won 19, —13, 18.

Betty Bird, playing steadily with a rubber bat, and quite unperturbed by the sandwich menace, took the title with a solid victory over Mrs. McCree in the final.

Judy Williams, who had previously beaten Mary Shannon, conquerer of Pam Morton, extended Mrs. Bird the full distance in the semi-final.

Mrs. McCree gained some measure of revenge when she partnered Elsie Carrington to win the women's doubles final against Mrs. Bird and Miss Piper.

Spectacular Recoveries

A feature of the men's doubles was that all five ranked players teamed up with different partners, the title eventually going to Landry and Brian Brumwell with a 21-19, 22-20 win over Stan Jacobson and Alan Lindsay in the final.

Landry and Brumwell made heavy going of their earlier rounds, being a game and 15-19 down to the scratch pair of Kevin Edwards and Graham Woodford in the second Round, a game and 13-17 down to Adams and Burridge in round 4, and 13-17 down in the third to Densham and Eddie Hodson in the semi-final.

They appeared to thrive on spectacular recoveries, for

even in the final they trailed 13-20 in the second game, taking nine points in a row for victory.

Landry and Mrs. Bird each gained second titles, when they teamed up to win the mixed doubles, beating Brumwell and Mrs. Carrington 21-19, 21-14 in the final.

One of the most notable performances in the junior events was that of the 13-year-old Dagenham girl Lesley Bell, who extended Jean Harrower to 22-20 in the third in the girls' semi-final. Lesley, whose mother, Mrs. Iris Bell is the English "open" veterans' champion, looks a bright prospect for the future.

Jean Harrower eventually won the title with a final win over Judy Williams, who in the semi-final had beaten Mary Shannon for the second time in the week-end.

When Jackie Keogh surprisingly outthit Paul Racey in the semi-final he ensured an all-Burnley final, which was won by George Livesey 16-21, 21-18, 21-15. It was well fought in all stages and it was Livesey's ability to vary his game that pulled him through.

Men's Singles: semi-finals: I. HARRISON (Glos.) bt L. Landry (Middx.) 21-10, 21-7. **J. SOMOGYI** (Surrey) bt R. Stevens (Essex) 21-12, 19-21, 21-17.

Final: HARRISON bt Somogyi 21-11, 21-12.

Women's Singles semi-finals: Mrs. B. BIRD (Surrey) bt J. Williams (Herts.) 2 games to 1. **Mrs. J. McCREE** bt J. Harrower (Middx.) 23-21, 21-24.

Final: BIRD bt McCree 21-17, 12-21, 21-16.

Men's Doubles: semi-finals: LANDRY/B. BRUMWELL (Essex) bt T. Denham (Herts.)/E. Hodson (Middx.) 19-21, 21-18, 21-17. **S. JACOBSON/A. LINDSAY** (Middx.) bt R. Raybould/R. Stevens (Essex) 22-20, 21-12.

Final: LANDRY/BRUMWELL bt Jacobson/Lindsay 21-19, 22-20.

Women's Doubles: semi-finals: Mrs. E. CARRINGTON (Essex)/**McCREE** bt M. Leigh/W. Swift (Lancs.) 17-21, 21-17, 21-18. **P. PIPER** (Surrey)/**BIRD** bt J. Williams/A. Taft (Herts.) 21-11, 21-15.

Final: CARRINGTON/McCREE bt Piper/Bird 21-13, 17-21, 21-19.

Mixed Doubles: semi-finals: LANDRY/Mrs. BIRD bt Raybould/Miss Piper 11-21, 21-8, 21-12. **BRUMWELL/Mrs. CARRINGTON** bt L. Adams (Middx.)/Mrs. McCree 22-24, 21-9, 21-11.

Final: LANDRY/Mrs. BIRD bt Brumwell/Carrington 21-19, 21-14.

Boys' Singles: semi-finals: G. LIVESEY (Lancs.) bt G. Hill (Lincs.) 2-12, 19-21, 21-6. **J. KEOGH** (Lancs.) bt P. Racey (Beds.) 21-10, 21-21, 21-16.

Final: LIVESEY bt Keogh 16-21, 21-18, 21-15.

Girls singles: Semi-finals: J. HARROWER (Middx.) bt L. Bell (Essex) 21-15, 25-27, 22-20. **J. WILLIAMS** bt M. Shannon (Surrey) 21-15, 22-20.

Final: HARROWER bt Williams 21-13, 24-22.



PETER SKERRATT, Lincolnshire's leading player, with his bride MARION PERRY after their wedding at Scunthorpe on August 22

RECORD ENTRY FOR KENT LEAGUE

ENTRIES for the Kent League have again increased. An additional six teams added to last season's record entry of 43, make a total of 49 from 16 of the county's 18 leagues.

The majority of these are women's teams, and to facilitate them another division has been added, making a record of six divisions.

N.W. Kent, with county trio Henry Buist, Dennis Whittaker and George Elliott, will be attempting to retain the Men's First Division title they won last season.

Woolwich, from whom they took the title, will again be their chief rivals, and with Alan Payne, Barry Meisel and Reg Tutt to call on will be a difficult team to beat.

N.W. Kent must again start favourites for the Women's First Division title, and with Joyce Fielder, Betty Landimore and Audrey Hallett look set to equal Maidstone's record and take the title for the fifth year in succession.

Folkestone will be out to regain the Junior Division title they lost to Woolwich by one game last season, and with Michael Pass, Clive Bloy and Alan Elliott still in the junior ranks, appear certain to do so.

The Honorary Treasurer, Brian Hartley (Bromley) informed the Kent A.G.M. in May that due to pressure of work he could not continue in office for a further year, and Miss Barbara Cripps, daughter of the county's president Mr. W. H. Cripps was elected.

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Christmas/New Year Coaching Holiday Course

THE Central Council of Physical Recreation are running their annual Christmas Course at Lilleshall National Recreation Centre, from Monday evening, December 28 to Friday morning, January 1. The Course will be under the direction of Jack Carrington, and by agreement with the E.T.T.A. will consist of three sections, namely:

- Potential candidates for the E.T.T.A. Coaching Diploma or Teaching Theory Certificate.*
- Players wishing to improve their personal skill.*
- Selected Juniors or Intermediates nominated or approved by the National Selection Committees.*

Each section will receive training appropriate to its standards.

The fee for the Course including board residence, is £5 10s.; applications should be made direct to C.C.P.R. at 6 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1 (as early as possible, as places usually fill up quickly).

Training of good Junior or Intermediate Players:

Jack Carrington, the Hon. Director of Coaching, writes: "We are trying to make a serious effort to help along any juniors or 'intermediates' (age

groups 17 to 21), who are willing to work seriously themselves, so I shall be glad to receive enquiries from players in these categories.

The Coaching Committee will look into their problems and see what can be done to help."

Training of Potential Coaches:

Any senior interested in studying Coaching seriously, is eligible to apply for inclusion on the Christmas Course, or may apply to the Director of Coaching (c/o this magazine) for further guidance."

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