

MARCH, 1961
ONE SHILLING

Table Tennis

*The Official Magazine of the
English Table Tennis Association*



MARITA CARLSSON, the pretty
14-year-old Swede, who holds
the English Junior Mixed Doubles
title with Ireland's T. Caffrey

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. 19

March, 1961

No. 6

LESLIE EMBERRY FORREST

An appreciation from LESLIE WOOLLARD

ON FRIDAY, February 17, our dear friend Leslie Forrest died of coronary thrombosis in Leeds Infirmary. With his passing a light went out in English table tennis.

He was only 59, a young 59. We knew that illness had dragged his heels in late years but it seemed inconceivable that one, who was a part of all we are, could pass with such tragic suddenness. Yet, could he have chosen his end, this would have been the way of it, in harness.

On the Sunday I had discussed some Association business with him. He confessed disobedience to his doctor's orders; he admitted how ill he was and knew what he should do. But to Leslie, the game was always greater than any person, and it was characteristic that Wednesday found him at Leeds making his County Championship report to the Yorkshire Executive. He collapsed, and despite his appeals not to disrupt the business of the meeting, was finally taken to the Infirmary where he died 48 hours later.

Leslie had no life of his own: forty years ago he gave it to table tennis and the Y.M.C.A. movement. These **became** his life; they absorbed, used and finally extinguished it.

Greater and more brilliant men there may have been, but there never was a man of such absolute sincerity and untarnished honesty. His life was gentle. Violence he abhorred. He hated petty bickering, power-jockeying and the acrid atmosphere of personality conflicts, because he knew how much they injured the best interests of the game.

It is 39 years since he founded his first league in Barry (Wales). In 1925 he had started organising in Liverpool, first with the Y.M.C.A., then founding the League. This was quickly followed by 10 years of phenomenal pioneer

activity in his birth-county of Cheshire and Lancashire, founding of the Lancashire County, and playing against Yorkshire in the first county matches. But long before that, in 1926, Leslie had become one of the founding members of the National Executive of the E.T.T.A., — a membership retained for the rest of his life.

In 1938 he became Assistant Secretary of the E.T.T.A. (to Bill Pope) at the London headquarters, and *inter alia* Chairman of the Wembley League. In the post-war years he was the main pivot of Yorkshire's reformation and materially aided (with all the steadfast pride of a native "Tyke") Yorkshire's climb to the topmost level.

In January, 1949 he married Aranka (a zealot of equal fervency) and a cousin of the one and only Victor Barna. Together they watched the promising emergence of Leslie's son "Sonny" in county colours. It seems a little sad that Leslie will not see his three-year-old grandson Steven make his debut.

Dear Leslie. His patience was greater than all of us. "I must tell you this . . ." he would say, or "Let's talk it out over a brew." We would smile (and forever be amazed) at his super-meticulous concentration on every tiny detail. Nothing was too much trouble. He would do anything, write immensely long letters, help anyone. An Elder Statesman (and a Life Member) of the game he may have been, but he never lost the golden touch on the heart of the game. He had fresh ideas, and he worked on them. He loved the youthful side, developed, encouraged it, stayed young with it.

Leslie Forrest was a fine Christian gentleman and one of the most lovable characters I ever knew. His loss is irreparable. His absence leaves a gap that cannot be filled, and a great sadness in the hearts of all who knew him.

OFFICIAL NEWS

THE National Executive Committee held a meeting in the Council Chamber, of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2, on Saturday, 18th February, 1961. There was a full agenda for discussion and some of the items considered were:

Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on 24th June, 1961, in the Derby Room, Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1.

Election of Officers and National Executive Committee 1961/62. The Committee agreed the following dates for the elections for the 1961/62:

Nomination Papers to be dispatched by 4th April, 1961.

Nomination Papers to be returned by 1st May, 1961.

Voting Papers to be dispatched by the 15th May, 1961.

Voting Papers to be returned by the 12th June, 1961.

Director of Coaching. The Committee agreed to allow Mr. J. H. Carrington leave of absence from the 1st April to the 30th September, 1961, from his duties as the Association's Director of Coaching. In Mr. Carrington's absence in Australia, the Committee agreed that Mr. H. T. Venner take over the duties as the Association's Coach for the period noted above.

Tour of U.S.S.R. The Committee agreed that a tour of the U.S.S.R. be made in October, 1961, in reciprocation of the Tour of England made by the players of the U.S.S.R. in October, 1960. This tour would be for three men and a non-playing captain.

Hon. Life Members. The Committee agreed unanimously to recommend to the A.G.M. on 24th June next that Mr. George White be made an Hon. Life Member of the Association in recognition of his long service to National Table Tennis.

World Championships. The Com-

mittee were informed that the E.T.T.A. party travelling to the World Championships in Peking, China, in April next would leave England on the 1st April and travel to Peking by All-Jet transport. The route taken will be via Moscow and the party will arrive in Peking on the 2nd April, 1961, which will give the Association's representatives a little time to settle down to the conditions before actually participating in the Championships.

A number of practices have been arranged by the Senior Selection Committee for the players travelling to the World Championships and the Association are most appreciative of the kindness shown by Whitbread's Sports Club in this connection. Whitbread's Sports Club have loaned their premises to the E.T.T.A. on each Wednesday and Sunday throughout March, 1961, for practice sessions and have arranged for training equipment

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: TRAlfagar 2165).

to be available for the players in order that they will be fit for the strenuous travelling and tiring Championships.

The Association would also like to place on record their appreciation of the kindness of certain firms in donating the players' equipment for the Championships as follows:

Shirts. Messrs. Humphreys Bros. Ltd., Umbro Works, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Shorts and Skirts. Messrs. Johnny Leach Sports Co. Ltd., 69 Longwood Gardens, Ilford, Essex.

Shoes. Messrs. Dunlop Sports Co. Ltd., Allington House, 136/142 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Coaching Committee Awards. The Committee endorsed the recommendations of the Coaching Committee that the following awards be made:

Basic Coaching Diploma.

MR. H. WILCOCK (LIVERPOOL).
MR. M. J. KERCHER (CARSHALTON).
MR. E. A. QUAYE (GHANA).

Teaching Theory Certificate.

MR. R. BALMFORD (HULL).
MR. G. P. H. BUTCHER (CHESHUNT).
MR. E. DAVIES (WIDNES).
MR. G. C. SWINDELLS (WIRRAL).

"Open" Tournaments — 1961/62 Season. The Committee agreed that the first application forms for next season's Tournaments should be circulated early in March to organisers of these events.

Alterations to the Rules of the Association. The Committee considered at great length the various recommendations made by the Rules Committee. The various alterations to the Rules as agreed by the Committee will be circulated to the membership during March next in accordance with Rule 31 of the E.T.T.A. Constitution.

Registered Members — 1960/61 Season. The following members applications were endorsed: MR. F. T. BAMFORD (LANCASHIRE). MR. T. W. GRANT (HAMPSHIRE). MRS. J. MCCREE (ESSEX).

TEAM SELECTIONS

Belgian "Open" Championships (18th/19th February, 1961):

MISS J. HARROWER (Middlesex).
MISS D. ROWE (Middlesex). Playing Captain, MISS D. ROWE (Middlesex).

Rumanian "Open" Championships (23rd/28th February, 1961):

MISS J. HARROWER (Middlesex).
MISS D. ROWE (Middlesex). Non-Playing Captain, L. G. ADAMS (Middlesex).

v. Wales (Juniors) (Birkenhead, 3rd March, 1961):

M. BILLINGTON (Warwickshire), B. WRIGHT (Middlesex), B. HILL (Lincolnshire), MISS M. SHANNON (Surrey), MISS L. BELL (Essex). Non-Playing Captain, E. REAY (Durham).

E.T.T.A. Members' Levy. The N.E.C. wish to bring to the notice of all affiliated League Hon. Treasurers, Rule 6(e) which reads as follows:

"Members Levy. A levy of 6d. per member for all members registered with or in membership with a League shall be paid in accordance with Rule 7, but the Levy due from members registered with or becoming members of a League after 31st October shall be paid to the Secretary of the Association by the following 31st March."

It is noted that a number of Leagues have not yet remitted the Levy on behalf of their members and also that additional amounts of Levy are still due from other Leagues. It would be much appreciated if League

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

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

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

Editorial: W. Harrison Edwards, c/o Sports Press, 142, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. (FLE 5352).

Hon. Treasurers cleared these outstanding amounts as soon as possible.

WILMOTT CUP

Draw for Semi-finals: Manchester v Luton; London Civil Service v Gloucester.

Quarter-finals results: Huddersfield 0, Manchester 5; Leamington 4, Luton 5; London Civil Service 5, South London 2; Portsmouth 2, Gloucester 5.

J. M. ROSE BOWL

Draw for Semi-finals: Manchester v Birmingham; London Business Houses v Portsmouth.

Quarter-finals results: Huddersfield 1, Manchester 5; Birmingham 8, St. Albans 1; London Business Houses 6, Sutton 3; Portsmouth 6, Bristol 3.

Table Tennis Library. The Association's Librarian, Mr. L. S. Woollard, is still desirous of receiving any further books of interest and any members wishing to donate a book should get into touch with him at 12 Campbell Road, Bedford.

English "Open" Programme. Completed copies of the recently held English "Open" Championships programme are now on sale at the E.T.T.A. office. The price of the programmes is 2s. 9d. each (post free) and they can be obtained from 652 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

DYSON KEEPS HUDDERSFIELD TITLE

TIME and place of matches are no object to Leeds teams. Blenheim Institute and Rowland Road "C" could not find a venue for their team tournament fixture—so they went 16 miles outside the city to Harrogate.

Leeds University had team difficulties for a mid-week cup match—so Moor Allerton agreed to meet them on Sunday morning at 9.45 a.m.

A shining performance from the coal town of Barnsley gave them a draw with Huddersfield. Doug McGarry overcame Ray Hinchliff 21—16 in the third and bottom pair, Peter Kenyon and Brian Biggar, won two each. Odd thing was that they defeated Stuart Sykes—who had beaten both of them in a match between the leagues' "B" teams earlier in the season!

Bob Hirst, however, was unbeaten and his victims included McGarry.

Bob has been in top gear of late and stopped his old "sparring partner," Ray Hinchliff, from reaching the final of the Huddersfield "Closed," for the first time in 12 years.

Hinchliff was the aggressor but after leading 12-6 he lost the first game 19-21. In the second he pulled a 6-12 deficit into a 17-14 lead but went down for the count at 20-22.

But Hirst could not win the cup, losing to the holder, **Stuart Dyson.**

Frank Jarman and Les Bucci played well to reach the doubles final, where they fell to the holders, **Hinchliff/Hirst**, who had survived against Stuart Sykes and Ray Howland after being 19-20 down in the decider.

David Hirst took the junior title for the third year running. **May Dyson** had a treble with the women's singles, the doubles with **Margaret Scaramuzza** and the mixed with her husband.

There were few surprises in the Leeds "Closed," though **Lillian Nisbet** did well to capture the women's crown.

Other winners: Men's singles, **Michael Barratt**; men's doubles, **Peter Simpson/John Spencer**; women's doubles, **Linda Gordon/Molly Browning**; mixed doubles, **Barratt/Gordon.**

Sheffield made sure of the men's inter-league championship when they beat Bradford 8-2 — Simpson, Ridge and Coward all being unbeaten. But Bradford women turned the score round to avenge this defeat.

In the relegation battle Hull crushed Halifax by 9-1.

David Poole lost all three singles for the first time in a York League match when NALGO were whipped 9-1 by the champions, Railway Institute.

Malcolm Hartley.

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MEDALS ARE A WASTE OF TIME

A SAD OCCASION

LEADING personalities in table tennis attended the funeral of Leslie Forrest at Hall Royd Methodist Church, Shipley, on Wednesday, February 22. Victor Barna, cousin of Mrs. Forrest, was with the family mourners.

The E.T.T.A. was represented by Mr. Peter Lowen (also representing Mr. A. R. Vint) and Mr. Tom Blunn.

They heard the Minister of Hall Royd, the Rev. Sidney Tong, say: "One of the greatest things he treasured—and I am sure one of the things his family will always treasure—was his life-membership of the English Table Tennis Association."



LESLIE FORREST

Mr. Tong said: "Leslie Forrest was a man not big in stature but big in every other way. He was known to many people in numerous circles as a busy, efficient, devoted and earnest server of humanity."

Among players present were Kathleen Best, Brian Kennedy, Ray Hinchliff and Maurice Pitts.

Mr. Frank Templeman represented the Central Council of Physical Recreation and there were several representatives of Bradford Y.M.C.A., where Mr. Forrest had been chairman of the board of management.

Malcolm Hartley.

More Modern Outlook Needed

I PROBABLY attend more local league and club finals than many, and every season I wonder how long it will be before the "long suffering" winners and runners-up will keep accepting the outdated prizes of medals, which I imagine are tucked away in a drawer and forgotten.

The strange point is that one rarely hears of a player complaining. Somehow it seems to be the accepted thing to receive a medal.

In addition the modern trend appears to be to abbreviate the engraving to something like this: "G.S. & D.T.T.L.—M/D—W."

Meaningless

This may mean a lot to the organiser but what does it mean to the triumphant receiver if she shows it to a friend not interested in table tennis?

No, I think that the time has arrived when medals should be banished from table tennis. The award should be worthy of the competition; something of which to be proud.

Most catalogues illustrate medals but they also show suggested replacements, something modern and interesting. I do not think the manufacturers would mind a scrap if medals were not required. For them it is simply a question of meeting a demand, which has become automatic.

I appreciate that costs will go up for organisers but this can be remedied by a small increase in the entry fee. Even that may not be necessary for I believe most leagues run their events at a slight profit and would not feel it.

After all it is their duty to provide

By HARRY WALKER

ESSEX T.T.A. SECRETARY

an award that can be treasured and not dumped anywhere out of the way.

Most leagues appear to carry on in the same old way taking the simplest way out instead of thinking of the players' reactions. So, please, secretaries, give this matter some thought.

Why not ask your players if they like receiving medals.

And that question of engraving. How much extra would it cost to have it done in full? Have the awards returned after presentation and have the names engraved. It would be just a little extra trouble and cost . . . but think how the players would receive it.

I would be interested to know the views of players on this subject and what happens to their medals. I have never won one but my idea has always been that in the past they were to be worn on watch chains, or round the neck by ladies.

But we are now living in 1961 so let us have a more modern outlook.

These are of course my private views. Maybe my colleagues do not agree . . . but I am hoping.

Grandfather

Cheshire N.E.C. member Norman Cooke has now achieved the status of grandfather. His daughter Jean had a daughter, Janet on St. Valentine's Day.

WOLVES SEEK STADIUM

THE go ahead committee of the Wolverhampton Table Tennis Association have started the ball rolling to get an indoor sports stadium built in Wolverhampton.

Although the Association has been in existence for 22 years it is still without its own headquarters. This, of course, means asking local firms to stage town matches and tournaments.

The place for this new civic sports centre would be at Alderley Stadium, where at present only athletics are held.

Some 20 acres of undeveloped land there will be under discussion shortly when table tennis officials will meet the local council.

With 600 members playing in the Wolverhampton Association this is certainly a move in the right direction. For if this scheme is approved Wolverhampton will then be able to stage Internationals and other big events in the table tennis calendar.

JOHN PIKE.

THE MATCH I REMEMBER

by PEGGY FRANKS

BEATEN BY GAMESMANSHIP

MOST people will expect my world's double title of 1948 with Vera Dace to be the match that I remember most. Surprisingly, that is not so.

It is a defeat that I remember most vividly... by Kiiko Watanabe of Japan in the first round of the singles at the Wembley World Championships in 1954.

This stands out because of the unusual circumstances in which the match was played.

Although seven years have elapsed I can still recall that fateful Tuesday morning on table No. 1 when I appeared to be robbed by gamesmanship.

I needed just two points for victory when Watanabe refused to play and sat on the floor in tears. I was at a loss to deal with the situation being unable to speak to her because of the language difficulty.

I appealed to the umpire to get Watanabe to go on as other members of the Japanese team entered the arena and held a conference.

I felt she had flagrantly broken the rules. But what hurt most was that no one came to my assistance. I might just as well have been on my own in a foreign country.

The break seemed interminable, then she came back to the table and served before I realised she was ready to start. And the umpire awarded her the point. We were level.

Immediately Watanabe stopped playing again. Once more I entreated her to get on with it, but she only looked blank.

I was steadily becoming more and more annoyed until eventually she broke my concentration and won the game. Subsequently she went on to win 11-21, 21-23, 21-19, 21-11, 21-10.

I had seen the Japanese in Bombay two years earlier and had formed my own ideas of how they could be beaten.

Consequently, when the draw revealed I had to meet Watanabe in the first round I set out to develop a fast backhand return of service.

My good friend Bobbie Raybould gave me the necessary practice in this direction.

This was to be a match of tactics and I had worked out the all-conquering Japanese could be beaten by breaking up their game. They survive largely by a fast service which forces you on defence, giving them the initiative to get on their ferocious attack.

I had to get in first. But the question was how to do so safely?

A simple block return led to forehead massacre. A forehand chop would be similarly treated. Thus the only answer was to attack immediately their fast service.

They naturally direct service at the weaker backhand side. So I decided to stand close and attack the service quickly on the backhand, slamming it straight back from where it came. This produced winning returns or at the worst, let me in for attack.

These tactics could not be continued however, because of the extra speed of the Japanese, so I had to flash backhands to the other side of the table to break up Watanabe's game and not let her settle down.

Everything worked to perfection and I reduced this all-out attacking machine to a nervous, frustrated wreck, until that sit down strike.

There is no doubt that the practice and thought given to this was worth while. I proved that the Japanese could be beaten by a good backhand.

But how disappointed I was to find that skill and tactics were not good enough. Perhaps gamesmanship was the thing I should have practised.



PEGGY FRANKS

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

WESTON sprang a surprise by winning the home match with Cheltenham 5-4. G. Woodford won all three of his singles, while Ray Philpott won the other two, including the decider in which he beat P. Cruwys when the score stood at 4-all.

Philpott, the Weston captain, won all his three matches, in another narrow 5-4 win over Bristol "Seconds."

Weston, however, met their match against Bath and were beaten 6-3, despite some more fine play by "penholder" Philpott.

D. Smith was unbeaten for Bath while R. House scored two fine wins.

Bristol scored a 7-2 home success over Cardiff, last year's champions, who were unfortunately without Welsh international Ron Davies.

Aubrey Simons was in great form for Bristol, winning all his matches comfortably.

Cardiff also went down 4-5 to Weston, who are enjoying what is easily their best ever season.

SUSSEX HOPE

CRAWLEY'S Graham Whalley looks like being the eventual successor to Peter Shead, the Sussex No. 1. Unbeaten in singles and doubles for Sussex against Berkshire Whalley will shortly defend his title in the Sussex "Closed" to be held shortly at Hastings.

The search for junior talent continues throughout the length and breadth of the county but the only real ray of hope was Nigerian Tunde Ogundipe's recent junior county match win over Kent's Clive Bloy.

J.W.

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JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

by BRIAN BRUMWELL

YOU MUST PRACTICE MORE

WHEN the German Junior team visited us in January, our boys were very disappointing in the internationals. They seemed very nervous and their play was affected accordingly.

What have we learnt from this tour? One thing, I think, is that it is not always policy to play one's best strokes in matches but to find the opponent's weak points and adjust your game in an effort to play on his weaknesses.

Naturally these tactics don't always prove successful but I would say that if they had been adopted a little more in the games I saw on the German tour our boys would have done considerably better.

One player who did change his game in an effort to overcome his opposition was Nigel Ive. This season Nigel has been trying to play all the strokes in the book, in every game, and I think this has caused him to make too many mistakes. In this match he changed his game entirely; he just tried to keep that ball on the table with as much chop as possible. He was a little unlucky to lose 19 in the third to Baumann but I was pleased to see him change his game completely in an effort to win.

Now, you other up and coming juniors, I get the impression that some of you are not practising enough. Of course some of you claim you play five nights a week but this quite often means playing games. When I say practise I do not mean playing games, I mean practising strokes. You must do this if you intend to become a star.

Congratulations to Maurice Billington and Judy Williams on winning the singles title in the Gloucestershire Junior, and to Mary Shannon and Ian Giles on winning the Kent Junior; also to Lesley Bell on making a successful debut into the Essex Premier County side.

Month's Spotlight

My spotlight this month falls on Mary Shannon, runner-up in the ladies' singles in the Kent "Open."

Mary is 17, 5ft. 2in. small, weighs about 8st. 1lb. and is still at school. On leaving school she hopes to become a radiographer. Her hobbies include tennis, hockey, and knitting herself long jumpers. Her brother Paul, who is 20, is a player of some note.

Her vital statistics (i.e., Junior Singles Titles won)—12—which includes the English Junior "Open" last year. Coached by Harry Venner, she is England and Surrey No. 1 Junior, and plays for her County's Premier side.

When representing England in



MARY SHANNON

Germany last year Mary was undefeated, winning all her games against Germany, Austria and Belgium, then going on to win an "open" tournament held at Hachen. Although still a junior, Mary is already making her presence felt in the senior ranks.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

AFTER their 6-4 win over Essex, Herts Juniors are within reach of a season without defeat. Their remaining match is against bottom of the table Sussex.

The two Senior teams are also in similar positions and could make it a hat-trick.

By winning both singles in his 29th consecutive match for the Juniors, Bob Ractliffe has qualified for the individual averages of the Junior South Division for the fourth successive year, a new National Record for Junior Boys.

The match with Essex Juniors produced some top rate table tennis played under perfect conditions in the new headquarters of the Cheshunt Boys' Club. Peter Williams making his County debut had a fine win over Danny Pryor in one singles. In the Mixed Doubles he was partnered by sister Judy who had been moved from the Girls' Singles where Jackie Canham took over.

This season's Junior "Closed" Championships will be on Sunday, 23rd April, at the English Electric Canteen, Stevenage, and with the flourish of juniors in North Herts, a large entry is expected.

Obituary

EILEEN BENSTEAD

Eileen Benstead died suddenly on the 29th January at the age of 42. The news stunned Middlesex and shocked many players and officials over much of the country where her activity in the game spread over some 23 years, had made her a well known and popular figure.

Eileen started her table tennis in 1937 with the Finchley Club in the London League and during the war played regularly in the Central, Barnets and the North Middlesex Leagues, winning many of their closed titles.

In 1947 she became the first winner of the Middlesex "Closed" Singles and in the same year was a member of the North Middlesex League team which won the J. M. Rose Bowl.

Never able to tour the tournament circuits as much as she would have liked, Eileen did win the singles at the Bucks "Open" in 1946 and the West Middlesex "Open" in 1948. She also won several doubles titles as well as appearing 13 times for Middlesex in the County Championships.

It was her misfortune to reach her peak when women's table tennis in England was probably at its strongest ever with such players as Dace, Blackburn, Beregi, Franks, Barnes and Roberts and the up and coming Rowe Twins. Amid such talent there is little wonder that her steady all round orthodox game, which just lacked that severity which makes a great player, did not let her name appear in the records as much as it might have done in a less talented era.

Eileen had served on the Middlesex County Committee since its formation and had also been on the committees of the Central and North Middlesex Leagues.

A popular personality, she never became involved in personal quarrels and, bearing no malice toward anyone, quietly served the game she loved. She will be sadly missed by many and is someone the game can ill afford to lose.

GEOFF JAMES

CASE OF THE MISSING SPECTATOR

by JOHNNY LEACH

IT is a statistical fact that there are more people playing table tennis today than ever before, and that the numbers increase considerably every year.

It is played by young and old in nine homes out of ten. It is one of the main recreations in Holiday Camps and Hotels—why, at Butlin's Bognor Camp there are sixty tables constantly in use—and in conversation with Sports Secretaries of business houses, like Mr. Reddy of the London Electricity Board, I have been told that table tennis is the best supported sport of all. It gives us all tremendous enjoyment.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

MIDDLESEX beat Lancashire 6-4 and thus kept up in the championship race. It's all on the last two matches against Yorkshire and Gloucestershire now.

Congratulations to the Middlesex women who are also the England women for the World Championships in Peking. Best of luck to Diane Rowe and Jean Harrower. Congratulations also to Stanley Jacobson who has been picked as reserve for the Championships.

Wilkesden are still at the top of the inter-league championships followed closely by Central. The match between these two leagues should give the key to the final winners. Wilkesden second team are also leading the Second Division and Wembley 2nds lead the Third Division.

The Middlesex Inter-Schools Tournament has now reached the semi-final stage and the holders, Tottenham Grammar, are still going strong. They must stand a good chance of retaining their title with young Ian Giles still playing for them.

The Inter-Borough Youth Competition is also progressing and the holders, Wilkesden, very nearly had a shock in the first round when they just scraped home against Wembley by 5-4.

The County "Closed" Championships once again take place at Ultra Electric, Western Avenue, N.W.10. The dates are March 4 and 5. Finals at 7 p.m. on the Sunday.

Yes, our sport is thriving on the playing side: but here's the snag—the numbers watching the game have declined to a new low. At the finals of the English "Open" staged at the Royal Albert Hall recently there were barely 2,500 spectators present compared with 8,000 some few years ago.

This is serious, because it means a big financial loss to the English Association, who rely on profits from such big international meetings to keep the game well organised. And with so many active participants you can imagine just what organisation is entailed.

I know that the Case of the Missing Spectators is a mystery that all sports are desperately anxious to solve at this time, and I cannot myself produce an easy answer so far as table tennis is concerned. What I do think, however, is that we are too ready to blame both the officials and the players without considering what we ordinary sports-minded members of the community can do about it.

We blame the Association for lack of publicity, though bulletins are sent out regularly to its 200,000 members in addition to which TABLE TENNIS the official magazine, keeps readers right up to date with news.

And we blame our top players for lack of spectacular play, and for not getting better results against foreign opposition.

In this I think we are right out of line. The future of British Table Tennis rests not on the officials, not on the top players, but on the ordinary chap, who enjoys taking part in organised competitions at the average level. It is time that he put back a little of what he takes from the game in the form of giving it his support on the big occasions.

It is surprising what loyal support and understanding can do for a player. It can raise his standard to a new height and encourage him to train and practice harder than ever.

By supporting his local league, county and above all national events, the ordinary player can not only be of service to his sport but increase his own enjoyment at the same time.

LINCOLNSHIRE "CLOSED"

Skerratt's Triple Crown

ALTHOUGH Peter Skerratt has not played regularly this season, he gave a most consistent display to win the triple crown in the Lincolnshire "Closed" at Skegness.

He beat B. Hill (Boston) 21-18, 21-10 to retain his men's singles title and later captured the men's doubles with Les Oram and the mixed with Connie Moran.

Mavis Hardy won the women's singles when she defeated Wendy Eanor, holder for the past three years, by 21-19, 21-23, 21-11 in the final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: P. SKERRATT (Scunthorpe) bt G. Stanley (Boston) 21-13, 21-16; B. HILL (Boston) bt D. Smith (Grimsby) 21-16, 21-7.

Final: SKERRATT bt Hill 21-18, 21-10.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Mrs. M. HARDY (Spalding) bt Mrs. C. Moran (Grimsby) 21-13, 21-7; Mrs. W. EANOR (Boston) bt Mrs. P. Lammin (Grimsby) 18-21, 21-17, 21-12.

Final: Mrs. HARDY bt Mrs. Eanor 21-19, 21-23, 21-11.

Men's Doubles: Final: SKERRATT/L. ORAM bt Stanley/Hill 17-21, 21-11, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Final: Mrs. EANOR/Mrs. HARDY bt J. M. James/J. White 21-18, 22-20.

Mixed Doubles: Final: SKERRATT/Mrs. MORAN bt B. Edlington/Mrs. Macted 21-11, 21-13.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals: A. BRUNCH (Scunthorpe) bt J. Hartley (Lincoln) 21-16; 21-16; B. HILL bt M. Hawksley (Scunthorpe) 21-19, 21-11.

Final: HILL bt Brunch 21-8, 22-7.

EUROPEAN RAILWAY CHAMPIONSHIP

British Railway Staff Association take part in a table tennis competition for the staff of European Railways at Bled, Yugoslavia, on April 24-29.

PUTNEY INTERNATIONAL

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Editor's Postbag . . .

PLAYING TO RULE

THE "warning to fiddlers" in Leeds, reported in the February issue, is an example of a problem which I have felt for some time is affecting table tennis as an organised sport. That problem is the apparent unwillingness of many players and officials to accept and abide by a code of rules when it happened to be inconvenient.

We must all have seen many instances of League rules, tournament rules and even laws of the game stretched, or ignored, to suit particular individuals. Too often the unfortunate administrator, who attempts to run events fairly and strictly, is pilloried as a pompous autocrat if he refuses to waive a rule.

My contact with a number of Leagues shows that the same troubles occur everywhere . . . late starts, absent players, fiddled order of play. In tournaments, "Open" or "Closed," one finds late arrivals allowed to play when, perhaps, others less fortunate or influential have been scratched.

One instance I remember of a final actually being called off the table and another substituted until a player deigned to return to the hall. Then the laws of the game have to be winked at apparently because "everybody does it".

I have been attacked for harsh treatment of players when in one event I used line judges to call services which were two feet outside the table. Now we have a rash of light yellow bats which cannot possibly meet the requirements of Law No. 4. Yet none are banned.

One may say simply "It's up to the organisers to stop these things". But do they get much support if they try? Some Leagues do manage to impose penalties for late starts and absenteeism but in others the offenders are numerous enough to stamp on anyone who opposes these practices.

I have been told that my remedies such as going to a match without tea if necessary to avoid being late or having a reserve standing by to meet emergencies might have been all right twenty years ago but players will not be prepared to behave like that now. So many see nothing wrong in inconveniencing opponents by making them wait, or wasting their evening through lack of a team or upsetting their order so that one individual can play his games early to go to some other appointment.

It is considered unsporting to complain about such things and insist on the rules being observed.

I always remember one eminent sportsman, I believe it was Henry Cotton, writing: "When an opponent asks you to be a sport he is usually trying to get you to relinquish your legitimate rights or advantages". At the risk of being a bad sport, therefore, I advocate "throwing the book" at these people.

Of course, there is another point of

view to all this bother which says that, after all, they are only playing for fun so why be so sticky about rules. You will only drive away many players who just want a friendly evening's game.

This is certainly a tenable argument but it has two serious objections in my opinion. Firstly, it omits the danger of driving away the really keen players who get fed-up with spoiled evenings and unsatisfactory matches. Secondly, how can we expect the public to take table tennis seriously as a major sport if its own members are not sufficiently interested to see that it is conducted in an orderly manner?

The alternative is for table tennis to drift back into being a pleasant parlour game to while away the odd half-hour.

KEITH WATTS

FOOTNOTE: As an officer of Sussex C.T.T.A. (Chairman) I wish to stress that this is written by me as a purely personal expression of my view.

Oldest League

IN reply to Mr. R. J. Nicholls (T.T., April, 1960) I agreed that the Plymouth League will be older than the Sunderland Association if it has maintained an unbroken run since 1903.

Many years ago I was led to understand that the Plymouth League had suffered the same fate as the other "ping-pong" bodies in disbanding as quickly as it had arisen.

The pioneer National Association was one of the bodies to pass out. So was the original Sunderland Association. I myself played several games in 1902-3 for Sunderland Y.M.C.A.,



ANDREW DONALDSON

one of them against the present Sunderland champions, Southwick U.M., but the present unbroken spell of the Sunderland Association does not date back beyond 1910.

I was amazed to hear from Mr. Nicholls that I had "obviously never heard of the Plymouth League", but I would not be amazed to know that I heard of it before he was born.

I congratulate Plymouth enthusiasts on their long record, and wish them continued future success.

ANDREW DONALDSON
(Sunderland)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Donaldson, who was the first English singles champion, apologises for the long delay in answering Mr. Nicholl's letter, but he has been suffering from thrombosis and due to injections upsetting his eyesight has only recently read the letter.

Anti-Sandwich

THROUGH your magazine, I would like to thank the organisers of the English "Open", who carried out their duties in a very friendly yet firm manner which I am sure made every competitor feel at ease.

It was a most enjoyable tournament, but after seeing the men's singles final, I feel even more strongly that sandwich bats are killing the game as a spectacle.

Markovic II and Larsson are two great players but the final was a battle of spin, nerves and sudden smashes and one of the best arguments that can be put forward for the abolition of sponge, sandwich, butterfly and similar bats.

GEORGE D. MAXWELL
(British Legion Plebeians Club, Dundee).

Pro-Sponge

I DISAGREE with Peter Eagles' assumption (Letters, February issue) that sponge sandwich bats have made a ruinous change in the game.

I have been playing for four and a half years now using pimpled rubber. Lately I switched to sandwich and find my game has greatly improved. Although my game is better with sponge I still have good footwork, reliable technique plus really high spin.

These three including ability and stamina make an excellent combination.

K. THOMPSON (age 14)
(Lancashire)

Short and Sweet

PLEASE,—more news, facts, names, results and readers' views—and less waffle.

A. J. H. WICKENS
(Bucks.).

Home Internationals

RE the Johnny Leach—Roy Evans debate.

For many many years England international matches against Wales, Scotland and Ireland have been used to blood youngsters and to reward deserving players such as Jacobson and Miller.

If we are to solely consider the views of the Welsh Association in picking teams, when are new internationals to be created.

Surely it is not necessary for the English team to always consist of all the strongest players against each of these countries.

Or is Roy Evans saying "We must have the best three, Ireland and Scotland can have the rest!"

W. LUCIA,
(Shenley, Herts.).

WEST OF SCOTLAND TOURNAMENT

(Glasgow, January 28-29).

Men's Singles: B. KERR bt T. McMichell 19-21, 21-16, 21-16. Women's Singles: H. ELLIOT bt Mrs. M. Coates 21-16, 21-13.

Men's Doubles: I. BARCLAY/A. LAIDLAW bt McMichell/T. Gilmour 21-14, 21-18. Women's Doubles: ELLIOT/JULIUS bt Coates/G. Shields 24-22, 21-16. Mixed Doubles: BARCLAY/Miss ELLIOT bt E. Still/Miss D. Donaldson 19-21, 21-12, 21-18. Boys' Singles: J. DOW bt R. Brass 12-21, 21-19, 21-5.

CZECH "OPEN"

Geta Pitica won the women's singles and the mixed doubles with Radu Negulescu, in the Ccechoslovak "Open." In winning the singles, Miss Pitica beat Eva (Koczan) Foldi, Mathe (semi-final), and Kerekes (final).

GIZI FARKAS EASES OFF —MAY TURN TO COACHING



GIZI (FARKAS) LANTOS, 34-year-old Hungarian, has decided she will not take part in any more individual events.

She feels that she "Can't cope with the strain of individual events any more".

However, Mrs. Lantos, who played 96 times for Hungary and won ten World titles, including three singles will not be leaving the sport completely.

"While my club, Red Meteor, still find me of use to them I shall continue to play. Then I shall withdraw competitive playing" she said.

Even then she will keep some interest in the game. "I have been coaching several talented young players for some time," she said, hinting that this might then become her main interest.

Her last competitive match in London was at the 1959 English "Open" when she was beaten by Ann Haydon in the quarter-finals.

NORFOLK NOTES

Fox Wins Title and Colours

TONY FOX, who was presented with his county colours after Norfolk's 3-7 defeat by Suffolk, won the County "Closed" Championship singles title, beating Les Holdom 21-15, 21-16 in the final.

Holdom gained some consolation for this defeat when he partnered W. Minors to win the men's doubles title for the third successive year. In the final they defeated C. Moore and G. Wood 21-17, 23-21.

The women's title went to Miss M. Turner (St. Faith's House) who narrowly

beat Mrs. S. Perry (Brit. Railways) 24-22, 19-21, 21-17 in the final.

Jack Carrington and Emmanuel Quaye provided a most popular evening's coaching in Norwich last month.

Yarmouth surprisingly took their first point of the season in the East Anglian League when they held top-of-the-table Ipswich to a draw.

Ipswich and Norwich are battling it out for the second division title. Both have unbeaten records and it seems likely that the title will not be decided until the two teams clash later in the season.

WELSH CORNER

GLAMORGAN STAY DOWN

DEFEAT at Birmingham by Warwickshire means that Glamorgan must languish for another season in Division Two of the National Counties Championship.

The match was exciting and could easily have gone the other way, for several results were close. From the Glamorgan point of view the final result was a disappointment, this being the first time we have failed in an attempt to get back to the better company of the Premier Division.

Alan Thomas won both his matches and, with Stan Jones, figured in a thrilling game before losing 23-25 in the third. Stan won one and lost one.

Margaret Phillips and Margaret Jones, as a reward for their recent improvement, particularly in the Welsh "Open," were the original choice for the women's doubles, but Margaret Jones became a 'flu victim. Greta Dimascio was recalled to team up with Audrey Bates. They lost in the third game of a good doubles. Later Audrey lost 19-21 in the third game of her battle with Pam Mortimer.

Ron Davies and Greta Dimascio also had a good game in the mixed, and might have won two straight, but eventually lost in the third.

Ron Davies, who had earlier won his first singles, went on last wanting victory to force a draw. Unfortunately for him, the Warwickshire No. 1 seemed to thrive on Ron's rather high returns, and although the match was spectacular and tremendously exciting at the finish, victory went 26-24 to Warwickshire in the third.

Too Late

Glamorgan's outstanding match is with Staffordshire at Home on March 4th, and it is possible this will be played at Newport. It is too late now for the result to have any effect on the championship of this Division, and it seems that Warwickshire must go forward to the play off.

For Glamorgan this is a mixed blessing. It is doubtful whether in fact with our present strength we could have stayed more than a season in the Premier Division, and although the matches would have been more attractive, the expense of a bigger programme with more travelling is one which would have been an embarrassment in present circumstances.

The advantage of the smaller commitment of Division II is that it

allows more Saturdays free for our players to play in tournaments, and there is no doubt this is the sort of competition we miss. The opportunity to do more of it should benefit us in the long run, and temper the disappointment of failure in the Second Division.

The Junior International with England at Birkenhead on March 3rd, gives our players the chance of playing in the Cheshire Junior "Open" on the following day. In juniors, too, our choice is very limited, and it seems certain that the side will be an obvious combination.

Final placings in the Welsh League are beginning to take shape. Here are the league tables up to and including results received for February 11th:—

DIVISION I

Cardiff	11	11	0	33
Eastern Valleys	11	8	3	27
Swansea	9	7	2	23
Newport	9	6	3	21
Rhondda	10	3	7	16
Aberdare	10	2	8	14
Bridgend	9	2	7	13
Abergavenny	9	0	9	9

DIVISION II

Cardiff II's	10	9	1	28
Abergavenny II's	8	7	1	22
Rhondda II's	9	5	4	19
Tredeggar	7	3	4	13
Bridgend II's	5	2	3	9
Merthyr	7	1	6	9
Aberdare II's	8	0	8	8

JUNIOR

Abergavenny	9	8	1	25
Aberdare	8	6	2	20
Cardiff	9	4	5	17
Newport	7	3	4	13
Tredeggar	8	1	7	10
Barry	5	2	3	9
Swansea	5	1	4	7

WOMEN

Cardiff	3	3	0	9
Swansea	2	2	0	6
Newport	3	0	3	3
Abergavenny	2	0	2	2

P W L P

Here are the First Round results in the Club Team Championship of Wales:—

Alma Newport beat Cardiff Y.M.C.A. "B" 6/3, Overseas "A" beat Porth Y.M.C.A. 9/0, G.P.O. beat Overseas "B" 6/3, Sketty Court beat Regional Hospital Board 9/0, Rhiwbina "A" beat Roath Road 6/3, Overseas "C" beat Rhiwbina "B" 7/2, Penarth Y.M.C.A. beat Cardiff

Second Round Draw is as follows:—Overseas "A" v. Penarth Y.M.C.A., G.P.O. v. Risca, Overseas "C" v. Sketty Court, and Alma v. Rhiwbina.

In North Wales, Wrexham played

matches against Whitchurch League across the border in Shropshire. The First Teams drew five each, but Wrexham Seconds won their match with Whitchurch Seconds 8/2. Return matches have been fixed.

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

PETER AND PAM LEAD

PLENTY of activities and news have marked the early months of 1961 in Suffolk. Four days after playing for England Juniors, David Halliday fell through a plate-glass window and sustained injuries to his playing wrist which necessitated the insertion of twenty stitches. After being out of the game for three weeks he returned to play in the Suffolk "Closed" Championships and won two titles.

With just one event to go in each of the Suffolk Invitation Tournament's twin competitions—"Top Ten" and "Leading Ladies"—Peter Cole and Pam Rogers lead the field and must be favourites to become first winners.

Halliday is Cole's greatest rival—28 marks behind, but consolation marks have still to be allocated him for a missed event. Osborne, 22½ marks behind Cole, has only an outside chance.

Pam Rogers leads Hazel Hawkes by 26½ and Val. Martin by 26½ marks, but both the challengers have yet to receive consolation marks for a missed event.

During January Jack Carrington paid a visit to Ipswich and coached youngsters at St. Joseph's College. Shortly Emmanuel Quayle will make a return visit, I understand. St. Joseph's, incidentally, came third in the Eagle Tournament in London in early February, Harry Anton lost in the final of the Under 13s and Michael Marcus reached the semi-final of the Under 15s before losing to Wright.

In the East Anglian League the struggle for the championship title has developed into a battle between Lowestoft and Ipswich. Both sides have surrendered a point to Yarmouth, but they have yet to meet each other. These two matches promise an exciting finale.

A.E.D.

PEN FRIEND WANTED

The 14-year-old daughter of the secretary of the Auvergne Club, France, would like to form a pen-friendship with a young English girl who is also keen on the game.

Anyone who is interested should contact Peter Lowen, Secretary E.T.T.A., 652, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

TOURNAMENT TALKING POINTSConducted by **LAURIE LANDRY****Midland—Near Perfect**

FROM the Bath "Open," which I could not personally attend, comes the report that the conditions were fine and catering fairly good. There was also a bar open in the evening. The only trouble was with regard to time. This meant that the finals did not start, or rather could not be staged, at the advertised time. A largish entry was probably the cause and most of those who went said they had enjoyed it.

Over to the other side of the country and the Kent "Open." As ever this was most popular with the players and the lively conditions tended to be conducive to attractive play. The final between Ghana champion, Emmanuel Quaye and Alan Lindsay of Middlesex received more unsolicited praise than I have ever heard from players with regard to a tournament final. Certainly it was surprising because of the feeling amongst most of them that they should have been out there in the final instead.

Big Improvement

At any rate there was little doubt that it was a great match. The general feeling about Quaye is that he has improved in the region of 6-9 points per game since he arrived here. It only goes to prove that there may quite possibly be players in the "wilds" as it were, who only need good competition to bring out their nascent skill to its best effect.

Quite a few players who had gone to the Birmingham "Open" in November, vowed that they would not go to the Midland "Open," organised by the same league. It is very pleasing to have to say it—but it is true—they missed a very good tournament.

At the Birmingham "Open," a member of the Birmingham Committee told me how bad it was that tournaments could be criticised in a column such as this. In as many words this person did not agree that this column should even exist. The main reason for this opinion was that the tournaments are run for the benefit of players and that they ought to be pleased with what they get, especially as they are usually run at a loss.

The Birmingham "Open" however, was of no benefit to the players at all, though this might have been its intention. As a complete contrast the Midland went a long way to obliterate the memory of the abortive Birmingham "Open."

It was as near perfectly run as any tournament. For a start the use of the two halls as separate entities or units, which is an absolute must, saved hours in waiting for players. Also the schedule of play was arranged long before the day of the tournament and was adhered to rigidly. We players can only say, "Well done Midland and same again next year, please."

The South of England was another tournament with the good sense to have everything worked out before the day. Smooth running was the keynote. One thing, however, that is of the greatest importance to players is the conditions. At Croydon the tables were extremely slow and very few of them had an even bounce all over their surface. This tended to make players more careful, unable to take risks. And, of course, produced rather long games. For instance the final of the men's singles was between a hitter and a defender and the first game was 16 minutes and the second 14 minutes. The third game was about the same length. This made the finals finish rather late after they had got off to an early start.

If play is to be and/or become more attractive, the conditions have got to be reasonable.

Which are the best Tournaments?

There are many things that go to make a good tournament. It is not sufficient just to have a good venue if the most is not made of it. It is not sufficient to have a well organised playing schedule if there are no umpires to carry it out. It is not good

enough to have both these aspects adequately dealt with if there is nothing laid on in the way of refreshments and meals.

In order to get some idea of what are the most popular and successful tournaments, I would be pleased if any player or official would write to this column c/o the Editor, and give ideas either from experience or imagination as to how a tournament should be run.

To get an idea of which are, in the opinion of the players, the best tournaments, I would like to receive ratings with 10 as a maximum on the following basis: For Organisation (the actual running of the tournament); for the dealing with the Umpires problem (not so much as to how it was dealt with as to how successfully it was dealt with); for the basic Conditions (i.e., venue); actual Playing Conditions, such as tables, lighting and other aspects that are up to a Tournament Committee to arrange; and for Catering.

It will be seen that a maximum of 50 can be given to a tournament. Anyone is welcome to send in ratings. In fact the more the better. The only qualification is that the tournament must be one held this season and one you have attended. For the moment this is confined to Open or Approved Open Tournaments.

So come on players, let's hear from you, particularly up in the north where I have had less chance to mention you, as northern Tournaments very often clash with those in the south. In fact, of the 17 Tournaments that I have been to up to and including the South of England, only 4 have been in the north.

ESSEX**BELGIUM BOUND**

THE progressive Frenford Club in the Ilford League are making their third trip to Belgium over Easter. They play T.T.C. Kortrijk and Small Street T.T.C., Ghent.

Among the sixteen strong party are Alan Gazley, Charlie Carroll, Diane Dunand, Tony Connell, Stan Criddle, Shirley Carroll, Ken Smith, Derrick Dunand and Pat Watts.

No former Essex junior boy has made even County second team standard since Ray Dorking, so it is nice to see the younger players doing well in their league championship finals. Mark Sweeting won the Chelmsford men's singles title, and David Wiggins beat Hugh Molloy to take the Southend title.

Shelagh Hession and Lesley Bell both did well in Romford's recent 8-2 defeat by East London. Lesley beat Elsie Carrington two straight, while Shelagh narrowly lost in the third to Jean McCree. The Romford girls beat the English "Closed" Champions 21-17 in the third to win the ladies' doubles.

Frank Bateman

Profiles of . . .

THE TEAM FOR PEKING

JEFF INGBER

AS a little boy Jeff Ingber dreamed of being a big table tennis star. At the age of 25 he is a high-ranking English international.

"But I can never be great," declared Jeff emphatically. "I think I am just a hard worker. Not a brilliant player by any means."

Ingber the talker, the athlete, was in reflective mood.

"You know, I owe an awful lot to George Goodman," he mused. "When I was a youngster in my teens he used to play with me at a time others weren't interested in me.

"Those pre-war players were great. I have always played with older ones—Casofsky, Lurie, Cohen, Cromwell—and I've been schooled in the old style.

"I've never at any time used sponge. I tried it when it first came out and I didn't enjoy playing with it. I couldn't get the control I wanted."

But with traditional rubber bat he nurtured traditional, stylish, open

play that brought him to the top among the moderns. "If I were playing in pre-war days I don't think I would be doing so well," he maintains.

At the table he is a handsome, lithe athlete with the feather-soft agility of a ballet dancer and the rock-hard punch of a heavyweight boxer in his sweeping forehand drive.

He keeps fit by playing other games—energetic sports like fives and basketball.

He lives and works in Manchester, playing regularly in their league of five-man teams. "It's good practice," said Jeff. "Match practice is what you really need in this game and we have some strong teams in Manchester."

Jack Clayton and Derek Schofield, for instance, turn out for Y.M.C.A., who won the championship last season from Ingber's club, Waterpark.

Jeff took up table tennis seriously at Grove House—a famous name in the game at Manchester—when he was 12 and in three years he was a junior international.

He recalls: "As a junior I didn't have the temperament. I remember playing against France with Merrett and Booth. We were beaten 4-5 and I lost three of them.

"But I had a lot of opportunities as a junior. They gave me every chance."

So the junior made progress until in his first time out for Lancashire's Premier Division squad he won both his singles—against Stevens and Sawyer, of Essex.

He progressed to the full England side and made the Swaythling Cup team last time as the surprise choice. But his selection for Peking in April was no surprise—for nimble Ingber is now the best left-hander in the country.

He progressed to a peak performance in 1957. "My finest," he asserts. He was crowned men's singles champion at the Maccabi Sports in Israel—the Jewish Olympic Games.

And later this year Jeff hopes to be back in Tel-Aviv to defend the title he keeps so proudly.

Malcolm Hartley

JEAN HARROWER

TABLE TENNIS to Jean Harrower, the newcomer to England's World Championship team, is like football to most boys; she has been playing

since she was big enough to run.

Daughter of international Geoff Harrower, and county player "Bobbie", it is not surprising that she made rapid strides with her inherent ability.

First of many major honours fell to Jean when she became the youngest player to represent England in a junior international. That was against France in 1956 and since then she has won 10 other junior international badges—more than any other boy or girl.

Other records toppled under her bat as she became the youngest player to win an "Open" senior title and to play for her county. She has since set up the hard-to-beat performance of playing over 50 times for Middlesex before she was 18.

Jean, a clerk in a London branch of an Australian departmental store, is currently the most consistent player in the country being top of the Premier Division averages of the County Championship.

But despite all this Jean still has several interests outside table tennis.

In between practice sessions, county matches, tournaments and internationals, she has learnt to play the piano, trumpet and guitar, and also managed to pass her G.C.E.

Bryan Cutress

IAN HARRISON

IAN HARRISON, of Cheltenham, has been at the top of English table tennis for so long that it seems strange to look back and find that only five seasons ago he was an unknown.

His stepping stone to fame was unexpectedly winning the English junior championship at Manchester in February 1956. He has not looked back since.

Harrison moved straight away into the international team and within a year was picked for the World Championships of 1957. And he has played in each world meeting since.

Steadily building himself up he zoomed to No. 1 ranking in 1959 and the following year became the first home-born player to win the English "Open" in 36 years.

He was to lose that title this season in the face of the powerful overseas challenge from the Yugoslav's and Swede's, but earlier had firmly enplanted his name on the English "closed" title.

Harrison is not yet of the class that took Johnny Leach twice to the world

RON CRAYDEN

TO RON CRAYDEN, a 40-year-old representative for a safe manufacturing firm, goes the honour, and worry, of captaining the World Championship team

This is not such an easy job as most people assume. To succeed Crayden must be a top class diplomat, adviser, father confessor and master of sign language—he cannot be expected to learn Chinese.

Fortunately this lean 6ft. 3in. English Veteran champion has proved himself in all these departments having captained England teams on and off for the last ten years.

Crayden, of course, has also had plenty of playing experience. After getting the first taste of table tennis-itis on his dining-room table, he quickly took to the competitive side and in 1937 joined the Ravensbourne Club in Brixton.

Ten years later he achieved a feat which has never since been equalled. He won two "Open" singles titles, the South of England and Surrey, in the same evening.

Then came the first of 15 international appearances, his last, ironically, being in the 1951 Swaythling Cup team.

Bryan Cutress



BRYAN MERRETT **DIANE ROWE**

singles crown, but at 21 he still has plenty of room for improvement. His big need is regular competition against the world's best players for he has shown he is willing to learn.

Whatever his future, the Harrison story is one of encouragement to all aspiring youngsters. And to think it all started with a Christmas present of a table tennis set when he was 12 years old.

W.H.E.

DIANE ROWE

DIANE ROWE, longest serving member of England's team for Peking, has already tasted the fruits of being a world champion. She twice won the doubles crown with twin sister Rosalind, 1951 and 1954, but her greatest ambition, the singles crown, is still out of her reach.

It was 11 years ago that the Rowe twins first burst on the championship scene, and Diane has been there ever since.

Diane did not find it easy at first when Rosalind married and left the game. She undoubtedly missed her sister's support, for as identical twins they were exceptionally close.



JEFF INGBER

However, Diane weathered the storm and secured her unchallenged place at the top of the English rankings.

Although the English "Open" singles title has always evaded her she has been the "closed" champion for the past two years.

There is one similarity with the Diane Rowe story and that of Ian Harrison. Both entered table tennis because of a Christmas present of a table tennis set.

W.H.E.

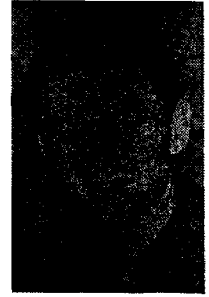
BRYAN MERRETT

WITH more than 50 international appearances behind him Bryan Merrett, of Gloucester, has been a sheet anchor of England team for several years. His selection for Peking was, therefore, automatic.

Merrett is not a great player in the spectacular sense, but his cast iron defence makes him a hard player to



JEAN HARROWER



IAN HARRISON

beat, so much so that for the past year he has shared the No. 1 spot in the English rankings with Ian Harrison.

Merrett is so dedicated to defence that he must have figured in more time-limit matches than any other English player.

From the ordinary spectators point of view he is a dour player to watch, and his tactics has been the subject of much criticism.

Nevertheless, Merrett set himself a policy to make his way in the game, and who can blame him sticking to it when it keeps him at the top.

He was the natural successor to Aubrey Simons in the Gloucestershire team, where he has since formed strong partnership with Harrison.

Quiet and unassuming, Merrett has always been popular with the other players off the table, and has a strong enough back to take all the criticism that has been showered upon him.

W.H.E.

SUFFOLK "CLOSED" CHAMPS

SEVENTEEN-year-old Howard Osborne of Ipswich, after losing his junior title to David Halliday, won the plum prize when he beat Peter Cole in the Men's Singles Final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: P. Cole (Lowestoft) bt M. Ewles (Lowestoft) 21-14, 21-17; H. Osborne (Ipswich) bt D. Halliday (Ipswich) 21-22, 21-18.

Final: H. OSBORNE bt P. Cole 22-20, 20-22, 21-14, 22-20.

Women's Singles: Mrs. P. ROGERS (Ipswich) bt Mrs. B. Brown (Ipswich) 21-16, 21-15.

Boys' Singles: D. HALLIDAY bt H. Osborne 21-13, 21-14.

Girls' Singles: Miss L. BARRETT (Ipswich) bt Miss A. Lipscombe (Ipswich) 21-18, 14-21, 21-12.

Veterans' Singles: J. KENWORTHY (Ipswich) bt G. Lipscombe (Ipswich) 21-18, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: COLE/J. COLLINS (Lowestoft) bt D. Halliday/G. Eagle (Ipswich) 21-19, 18-21, 21-17, 19-21, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: Mrs. ROGERS/Mrs. B. BROWN bt Miss V. Martin/Mrs. J. Jefferies (Lowestoft) 21-18, 21-11.

Mixed Doubles: HALLIDAY / Mrs. BROWN bt P. Rudd/Miss A. Baldry (Lowestoft) 21-13, 21-17.

OGIMURA LEADS JAPANESE TEAM

ICHIRO OGIMURA, world champion of 1954 and 1956, once again holds his place in Japan's team for the World Championships in Peking. He is joined by Teruo Murakami and Nobuya Hoshino, both of whom have previous Swaythling Cup experience,

and three newcomers Goro Shibutani, Koji Kimura and Keiichi Miki.

Kimizo Matsuzaki will be defending the women's singles with the team completed by Kazuko (Yamaizumi) Ito, Temi (Okawa) Okada, world champion of 1952, and Masako Sedi. Miss Sedi is the only newcomer to the world championship team.

The Japanese team is being given four five-day training sessions before leaving for Peking on March 24 and following the championships will make a tour of China.

In the Japanese championships Hoshino beat Ogimura 17, —17, 18, —19, 8 for the men's singles, while in the women's title Ito beat Matsuzaki 17, 20, —16, —17, 11.

JASCHKE GIVING UP SEAT

CONRAD JASCHKE, who has been a member of the N.E.C. since 1955, has decided not to seek re-election this year.

He will, however, continue his table tennis activities in Kent, where he is the county chairman.

EAGLE/GIRL TOURNAMENT

By **KENNETH WHEELER**

Survivors of Eleven Thousand

IS it going to be a case of "third time lucky" for David Stanley, the 15-year-old son of Ken Stanley who, before the war won the English "Open" Junior title three years in succession?

David, already a Junior International, was runner-up in the EAGLE Senior Championship both in 1959 and 1960. Now once again he has fought his way to the British Final of this event, one of the four to be decided at the Friends' Meeting House, opposite Euston Station, between 11.15 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, March 18 next.

David's opponent will be Brian Sykes (Letchworth T.T.A.) winner of the star-studded London and Southern Area rounds, and then of a hard-fought Regional round against the champions of Wales and the Midlands.

Now resident in Huddersfield, David Stanley is one of four Yorkshire players who took the honours

at the North Finals at Manchester on February 11. The other "White Rose" winners were Lesley Proudlock (Sheffield) and Irene Allon and Paul Canham of Hull Schools.

LOOP DRIVE

Paul Canham's victory over hard-hitting little Willie Gibbs from Edinburgh in the North v. Scotland round was one of the highlight matches. The key to Paul's success was a topspin loop drive which he introduced at the psychological moment to throw the Scottish boy out of his stride.

It is a shot that Paul confessed to have added to his armoury only five days previously, having seen Stan Jacobson perform it on television!

It will be interesting to see what Chester Barnes (Forest Gate and South champion) will make of this disturbing shot in the Under-13 Final.

Two left-handed twins gained revenge over their right-handed sisters to qualify for the GIRL Finals. They

are Christine Holes (Grosvenor Club Southsea) and Beverley Sayer (London) who will oppose Lesley Proudlock and Irene Allon respectively.

Last year it was the right-handed twins Christine Holes and Gloria Sayer who did best. Christine defeated Pauline early on and finished as the National runner-up, while Gloria, after beating Beverley, lost the London Final to Lesley Bell.

Lesley Bell, incidentally, went down to Christine Holes in the London semi-final on February 4 and then left immediately by car for Bristol where she made a successful debut for the Essex county senior team.

This year's *Eagle/Girl* Championships attracted a record entry of 11,331 competitors, and has been an outstanding success in the schools where well over 300 boys and girls took part in several individual cases.

Wymondham School, Norfolk, who have again won the club table awarded to the top team in the South,



The Finalists: Top Row: Beverley Sayer (London). Irene Allon (Hull Schools Club). Chester Barnes (Forest Gate). Paul Canham (Hull Schools Club). Bottom Row: Christine Holmes (Southampton). Lesley Proudlock (Sheffield). Brian Sykes (Letchworth). David Stanley (Huddersfield).

had no less than 450 entrants, and were followed by Ramsey School, Hunts, with 406.

In the North, where Doncaster Youth finished champion team, Pensby School, Cheshire, had 189 entrants—all girls!

And witness the enthusiasm and enterprise of these schools—for example, that of North Walsham S.M. School, Norfolk, where the expenses grant paid by the sponsors has been used to buy materials for making an extra table tennis table during woodwork classes.

So far as the quality of the play is concerned, Chief Coach Johnny Leach gives his opinion that it has never

been higher in all the seven years he has been associated with the tournament.

Eagle/Girl Editor Clifford Makins extends a general invitation to all readers of TABLE TENNIS to attend the Grand Finals, for which over 1,000 seats are available. Last year celebrities from many sports, including Denis Compton, Bobby Charlton and Danny Blanchflower, were present, and they have been invited again.

The line up for the finals:

- Under 15:**
Eagle: BRIAN SYKES v. DAVID STANLEY.
Girl: CHRISTINE HOLES v. LESLEY PROUDLOCK.

Under 13:

- Eagle:* CHESTER BARNES v. PAUL CANHAM.
Girl: BEVERLEY SAYER v. IRENE ALLON.

OVERSEAS NEWS

South American "Closed" Championships (Sao Paulo)

- Men's Singles: Biriba (Brazil) bt Aravena (Chile) 3-1.
 Women's Singles: Emiko (Brazil) bt Glades (Chile).
 Men's Doubles: Biriba/Roth (Brazil) bt Aravena/Flores (Chile).
 Women's Doubles: Emiko/Nakima (Brazil) bt Glades/Navarte (Chile).
 Mixed Doubles: Biriba/Emiko (Brazil) bt Flores/Glades (Chile).

HUNGARY WIN

- Hungary 5, Roumania 0 (Men): Rozsas bt Negulescu 2-0, Berczik bt Reti 2-0, Sidó bt Kovacs 2-0, Berczik bt Negulescu 2-0, Rozsas bt Reti 2-0.
 Hungary 3, Roumania 1 (Women): Koczian bt Pitica 2-1, Mathe lost Alexandru 1-2, Koczian/Mathe bt Alex-andru/Pitica 2-1, Koczian bt Alexandru 2-0.
 In the individual competition held in conjunction with the internationals, Berczik bt Peterffy 3-1, and Mrs. Koczian bt Mrs. Kerekcs 3-1.

Area Winners

	EAGLE Under-15	EAGLE Under-13	GIRL Under-15	GIRL Under-13
Scottish: (at Glasgow)	James Dow (Glasgow)	William Gibbs (Edinburgh)	Doreen Donaldson (Dundee)	Doreen Ireland (Fort William)
Welsh: (at Cardiff)	John Mansfield (Cardiff)	Cedric Parker (Cardiff)	Angela Hinley (Cardiff)	Sandra Hinley (Cardiff)
Midlands: (at Birmingham)	Roy Cutler (Birmingham)	Geoffrey Shakeshaft (Kenilworth BC)	Lorna Brown (Birmingham)	Maureen Billington (Birmingham)
South: (at London)	Brian Sykes (Letchworth)	Chester Barnes (Forest Gate)	Christine Holes (Grosvenor)	Beverley Sayer (London)
North: (at Manchester)	David Stanley (Manchester)	Paul Canham (Manchester)	Lesley Proudlock (Manchester)	Irene Allon (Manchester)

**Come and see
the Table Tennis
Stars of Tomorrow**

at the **GRAND FINALS** of the **EAGLE** and **GIRL**
NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

**FRIENDS HOUSE, EUSTON ROAD,
LONDON NW1 (opposite Euston Station)
Saturday 18th March, 11.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
(doors open 10.30 a.m.)**

ADMISSION FREE by producing a copy
of **EAGLE, GIRL** or **TABLE TENNIS**

Many past winners of these contests are now International players—Jean Harrower, picked to play for England in Pekin this year is one. There are also many Junior Internationals who first hit the headlines in this contest.

EVERY **EAGLE** *Girl* **WEDNESDAY**

A NEW LOOK AT THE TIME

by TOM BLUNN

IN recent issues Umpires' Corner has been concerned mainly with a consideration of the Time-Limit Rules governing uninteresting play.

Both the existing Time-Limit Rule, which normally applies in this country, and the Expedite Rule, which is mainly applied in the U.S.A., have been considered along with a composite rule suggested by George White.

Most people will have seen the Time-Limit Rule in operation and some will by now have seen the Expedite Rule operate or will have read recent comments in this magazine.

George White's suggested rule has not yet had much publicity, and has obviously not been put into practise, but it is certainly worthy of serious consideration.

My first impression is that it is a little complicated and might be difficult for umpires in practice.

All three rules have been designed to limit the length of a game or set and on the conclusion thereof, to declare a winner. I also suspect that a further objective is to eliminate this type of game altogether.

Experience has shown that, if only to assist the organisers, lengthy games must be curtailed, and it is with this in mind that these rules have been designed.

I feel that we could quite well consider all three and experiment with them at various events and arrive at some conclusion as to which is the best to adopt to satisfy the requirements in this country.

I do not wish to dwell on the advantages and disadvantages of each but would prefer to put forward another idea based on a different assumption.

Hit Both Players

The three rules so far attempt to legislate for an ultimate winner, so that one player will always benefit from the application of one of the rules. Is it really necessary to make sure that one player is rewarded?

Why not work on the lines that neither player deserves any reward?

If I am right that one purpose of the Time-Limit Rules is to eliminate the incidence of unenterprising play then I feel sure that a rule that penalises both players will achieve that purpose much sooner than any of the present rules.

A simple rule could be on the following lines:

"When a game has been in progress for 20 minutes, a halt shall be

called, and that game and all remaining games in that particular set shall be declared void."

In a tournament both players would be eliminated from that particular event and in a match the set would not figure in the result. This may mean that a tournament title could be declared vacant but there is nothing new in that.

A feature of this suggested rule is that it is simple in its interpretation and operation by players and umpires.

I think we have to find a solution to the problem, and I think there is

no doubt that there is a problem, otherwise there would be no need for a rule at all.

The answer may not lie at all in a rule that penalises one or both players but might well be found in an entirely new direction whereby the enterprising player is given some additional reward and thus encouraged to practice the enterprising type of play.

A reward for enterprise is something you might like to think about and if you are interested the Editor may find some space for me to write about my ideas at some future date.

THE CIRCULATION DRIVE

By GEOFF HARROWER

WILTS. CHASING HARD

ALL too few Leagues are coming forward with offers to sell Magazines at their Closed Championships, and other similar events. One notable exception is Blackpool, where Mr. Hardy, their Secretary, who ordered 50 copies for both February and March. There is still time for others to follow Mr. Hardy's example.

While the larger counties seem disposed to let Hertfordshire top the table, the other competition is hotting up. As I forecast last month, Donald Hillier is setting things alight in Wiltshire, and they have improved their percentage from 248 to 299, whilst Ron Nicholls efforts in Plymouth have pushed the Devon total from 206 to 223. The difference here is that, whilst Donald gets a bit of help outside Devises, Plymouth seem to be the only centre in Devon where they are 100% behind the drive.

What will Cambridge do to stave off this strong challenge? They have improved to 322%, but it seems certain that this will not be enough to keep Wilts. at bay. With only three months to go, expect something spectacular to happen.

Equally tense is the battle for some counties to keep over the 100% mark. It looks as though Peggy Piper needs just a little more support in Surrey—and I feel sure she will get it. Teddy Grant has managed to keep Hampshire just over the 100 mark all the season, but he is not out of the wood yet, while Maurice Goldstein at 101% is on the danger mark in Warwickshire.

A final word. Please do everything you can to stimulate sales during the

next three months. Unless I can report a satisfactory increase to the publishers, our position is by no means secure.

THE "OVER 100" COUNTIES

	Per Cent.
HERTFORDSHIRE	238
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	177
ESSEX	140
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	123
NORFOLK	114
MIDDLESEX	111
KENT	110
HAMPSHIRE	102
WARWICKSHIRE	101
SURREY	98
LINCOLNSHIRE	66
DURHAM	65
LANCASHIRE	55
SUSSEX	54
YORKSHIRE	36
STAFFORDSHIRE	25
CHESHIRE	21

THE "UNDER 100" COUNTIES

CAMBRIDGESHIRE	322
WILTSHIRE	299
DEVON	223
SUFFOLK	194
DERBYSHIRE	143
OXFORDSHIRE	129
NORTHUMBERLAND	85
CORNWALL	70
LEICESTERSHIRE	47
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	43
BEDFORDSHIRE	34
WORCESTERSHIRE	34
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	30
SOMERSET	25
BERKSHIRE	21
DORSET	12
SHROPSHIRE	12

UMPIRES' CORNER

By Colin Clemett

PROBLEM OF FINDING UMPIRES

AT the recent County Secretaries' Conference mention was made of the great difficulty being experienced by tournament organisers in ensuring that all matches were controlled by qualified umpires. It was obvious from the comments made that this problem was general throughout the country.

There is no doubt that since the practice of the losing player being compelled to umpire the next match in Open Tournaments was discontinued the difficulty of keeping to this ideal has been an added burden on organisers and there have, regrettably, been occasions on which a Tournament could not have been run at all without relying on at least some of the players to umpire.

It is often suggested that the "loser-umpires" rule should apply for the early rounds of the competitions, the qualified officials being employed only in the later or allegedly more important matches. But there is surely little to commend this. After all, why should some players merit what ought to be more efficient umpiring, and why is a bad decision that loses a game in the first round less important than one in the semi-final?

Constructive Approach

Having instituted the system it would be a great pity to revert to the previous conditions for there is no doubt that, in spite of the occasional criticisms heard, the general standard of umpiring in this country is widely recognised as being the best in the table tennis world. A more constructive approach is to enquire why it is so hard to find enough umpires, and to try to correct the shortcomings of the present arrangements.

I doubt if there is a single cause for the decline in support for officiating at tournaments, although the often-heard comments on the lower standard of play, which is alleged to be driving away the paying spectators, may have something to do with it.

It can be just as tedious umpiring a top-flight pushing match as watching it, and the umpire doesn't have the opportunity to take refuge in the bar!

The rising cost of travel is another deterrent to umpires and some tournaments have recognised this by paying

as expenses a small nominal sum which will at least enable the official to have a snack without being further out of pocket.

Other organisers provide meals for helpers and it may be a sign of better times to come for umpires that I heard recently of an umpire being offered accommodation for the duration of the tournament!

In some sports officials such as umpires or referees are paid an often quite substantial match fee. It is fortunate that table tennis umpires have not been quite as demanding as some of their counterparts.

It would mean the end of many tournaments if all the helpers were to expect full recompense for their legitimate expenses, although some players have not always been quite so self-sacrificing.

Nevertheless, there is a case for some consideration for the hard work

and time put in by the voluntary helpers. One suggestion, made some years ago, may be worthy of consideration, although as far as I know it has never received authoritative approval (or disapproval). It is that on the entry form players be asked to state whether they were prepared to umpire the match following the one they lose and, if they were not, to invite them to contribute a small "contracting-out" fee of, say 3d., towards the expenses of the officials.

I must emphasise that this idea is not in any way an official recommendation of the N.U.R.C., but is merely a suggestion that has been made by tournament organisers for overcoming what is to them a considerable difficulty.

It would be interesting to hear from umpires and, more important, from players whether such a scheme would be generally acceptable.

WILTSHIRE WANDERINGS

ANNIVERSARY RECORD

ALTHOUGH there was much disappointment at the Moonrakers 9-1 defeat by Somerset our thanks are due to the victors for their valuable contribution to our magazine circulation drive.

West Wilts celebrated their Silver Anniversary with a record entry for their individual championships. John Ford, junior champion three years ago, stepped up as the new open singles champion.

Results: Open Singles: **J. FORD** bt B. Wickham 21-16, 21-16, 21-16. Open Doubles: **WICKHAM/G. CHANDLER** bt G. Broome/J. Anults 21-17, 17-21, 21-10, 19-21. Junior Singles: **J. OTTEMBRAZZO** bt D. Garrett 20-22, 21-14, 22-20.

Conigre "B" beat Daires "D" 7-2 in the final of the newly instituted Team Handicap K.O. Competition, while Daires "A" beat Spencers "A" 6-3 in the Melksham Shield Final.

Unbeaten Dilton "A" look well set to retain their First Division title while St. John's (War.), NALGO "A" and White Hart "A" are neck and neck for the Second Division. Newcomers Rowde lead the Third Division.

B.R. Athletic preserved their hundred per cent record by beating Staff Association 7-2 in a top of the Swindon Premier Division clash. With three games in hand they are two points behind the leaders, Staff Association "A"

Still unbeaten, Stratton YG "A" top Division IV with SEB "C" comfortably

leading Division V, and Ferndale YC "E" at the head of Division VI.

Mrs. Jean Hillier, reigning Devizes singles champion, beat Donald Hams to become the first woman to win the Handicap Singles title. Ron Weeding and Paul Salter beat V. and D. Fielding in the doubles final.

Newcomers, R.A.F. Yatesbury "A" hold a slender lead in the **Devizes League** (Div. I) over Institute "A", while R.E.M.E. hold a similar lead over Roundway Hos. "B", in the Second Division.

A run of 13 wins gives Urchont Y.C. "A" a ten points lead over the Third Division, where they have won 124 games and lost only 6.

Salisbury Hospitals and New Sarun "A" share First Division leadership in the **Salisbury League**, while SEB have a four points lead at the top of the Second Division. South Newton "A" and Salisbury Insurance jointly top the Third Division, with Netherton "B" runaway leaders of Division Four.

Youth Centre, so far unbeaten, look set for the **Walmminster League** (Div. II) honours, with Christchurch "B" in front in the First Division.

Wootton Bassett scored their first **Wilts League** (Junior Division) success with an away 7-3 win over reigning champions West Wilts.

Don Hillier

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

by CONRAD JASCHKE

MIDDLESEX OUT TO MAKE IT A DOZEN

ALTHOUGH Middlesex still have two difficult matches against Gloucestershire and Yorkshire to surmount, indications are that they are heading for their twelfth championships title. Nevertheless, Lancashire gave the Londoners a fright at the start of their match at Walton-le-Dale, when they twice took the lead, first when Ron Allcock beat Michael Thornhill, and again when Jack Clayton defeated Derek Burridge.

Sandwiched between these two home successes was a win by Alan Rhodes over Jeff Ingber, and thanks to fine play by Rhodes, Di Rowe and Jean Harrower, Middlesex went from 1-2 down to a 6-2 lead.

Particularly impressive was Miss Harrower's 21-11, 21-7 win over Winnie Swift.

Lancashire made the score respectable when Clayton beat Thornhill and Ingber beat Burridge, to make it 6-4 to Middlesex.

Lancashire gained two most valuable points in drawing 5-5 with Surrey and Gloucestershire, and the

position now is that Essex would have to beat both Kent and Lancashire (who presumably will collect two points from Cheshire) to have any chance of avoiding relegation. And even if Essex get these four points "goal average" would decide.

In fact, it looks as if Essex are doomed to a year in the second division . . . a very unusual experience for them, and a great loss to the premier division where their attractive play would be badly missed.

To return to the Lancashire v Surrey match, at Oldham, Lancashire made a wonderful start, for after Allcock just pipped Gordon Chapman at 22-20 in the third, Ingber beat Tony Miller and Clayton accounted for Ken Craigie, to make it 3-0. However, Surrey took the men's and women's doubles. Reserve Mary Shannon beat Miss Swift, then Miller put Surrey ahead by defeating Allcock. With Peggy Piper absent, Allcock and Connie Spencer took the mixed doubles. After Clayton had put Lancashire ahead, indestructable Ken Craigie put on another one of his life

saving acts to beat Ingber and save a point for Surrey.

The outstanding result of the Lancashire v Gloucestershire match was a win by Clayton over Ian Harrison. The unorthodox Lancashire player is certainly having a fantastic season.

Earlier, Gloucestershire had kept themselves in the title hunt with a 6-4 win over Essex, at Bristol. The joint England No. 1 players Ian



LESLEY BELL

Harrison and Bryan Merrett collected five wins between them—not an uncommon feat for these two—and that old fox Aubrey Simons weighed in with a victory over Brian Brumwell in a battle of the England selectors.

Fourteen-year-old Miss Lesley Bell made a winning premier division debut in this match, and no doubt this is just one of many successes which will come the way of this plucky attacking youngster.

Kent surprised everyone including themselves by the extent of their 9-1 win over Yorkshire. From the Kent point of view, the important thing was that in Ken arvis, a young player from Woolwich, they have at last found a No. 3 who can back up Henry Buist and Tony Piddock, who so far have had to carry the men's side by themselves.

Kathie Best scored Yorkshire's only success when she beat Joyce Fielder. This was Yorkshire's first defeat of the season, but it put paid to their championship hopes for this season.

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

- March 11 Essex v Lancashire, Standard Telephones, Harlow.
- March 17 Middlesex v Yorkshire, Petter's Canteen, Staines 7.00 p.m.
- March 18 Surrey v Yorkshire, Adult School, Benhill Avenue, Sutton 7.00 p.m.
- Kent v Essex, Bowaters Canteen, Remembrance Avenue, Sittingbourne 7.00 p.m.
- Gloucestershire v Middlesex, Hoffman's Canteen, Stonehouse 7.00 p.m.
- Lancashire v Cheshire, Messrs. Rubery Owen Ltd., Cleveleys Road, Great Sankey, Warrington 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

- March 25 Durham v Yorkshire, Westbourne Church Hall, West Hartlepool 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

- March 4 Hertfordshire v Kent, Hillside Hall, School Mead, Hazelwood Lane, Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire 7.00 p.m.
- March 18 Kent v Sussex, Rowing Club, The Parade, Deal 7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

- March 11 Wiltshire v Devon, Community Centre, Corsham, Wiltshire 7.30 p.m.
- Dorset v Somerset, Athletic Club, Station Road, Broadstone 7.15 p.m.
- March 18 Somerset v Worcestershire

SECOND DIVISION MIDLAND

- March 4 Glamorgan v Staffordshire, C.J.Y.S. Club, Cathedral Road, Cardiff 7.00 p.m.

- March 11 Warwickshire v Leicestershire

MIDLAND DIVISION

- March 11 Nottinghamshire v Oxfordshire, Headquarters, New Burford, Nottingham 6.45 p.m.

- March 18 Staffordshire v Warwickshire

SOUTHERN DIVISION

- March 10 Cambridgeshire v Buckinghamshire, Reed Cases Sports & Social Club, Histon 7.30 p.m.

- March 11 Suffolk v Hertfordshire, Manganese Bronze S.C., Hadleigh Road, Ipswich 7.00 p.m.

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

- March 4 Cheshire v Durham and Lancashire v Durham, Livingstone Street Baths, Birkenhead 3.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

- March 11 Lancashire v Yorkshire and Cheshire v Yorkshire, Messrs. Tanner Bros., Greenfield 3.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m.

- March 18 Yorkshire v Durham, Railway Institute, Queen Street, York 3.00 p.m.

- March 25 Durham v Yorkshire, Westbourne Church Hall, West Hartlepool 3.00 p.m.

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

- March 18 Staffordshire v Warwickshire

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

- March 14 Surrey v Middlesex, Higgs & Hill Ltd. Canteen, Vauxhall 7.00 p.m.
- March 18 Sussex v Hertfordshire, Foresters Hall, Worthing 7.15 p.m.
- Kent v Suffolk, Bowaters Canteen, Remembrance Avenue, Sittingbourne 7.00 p.m.

This was Kent's best-ever performance, and it seems they are a side that excels in away matches. With seven points from four away matches, it is hard to appreciate that Kent have never won a premier match at home in the premier division.

Warwickshire's 6-4 win over Glamorgan, at Birmingham, virtually assures them the Division II Midland title. It was a terrific battle, with England No. 1 junior Maurice Billington giving the home team a good start. The Welsh side then won the next two singles to lead 2-1, but Pam Mortimer/Doreen Griffiths took the women's doubles to make it 2-2. Billington/W. Gallagher won the

men's doubles at 25-23 in the third, and Pam Mortimer just pipped Audrey Bates 21-19 in the third to give Warwickshire a 4-2 lead.

However, Glamorgan pulled back to 4-5, so everything depended on the last set, when Gallagher just beat Ron Davies 21-23, 21-19, 26-24.

It is some years since Warwickshire have enjoyed premier status. but I should not be surprised to see them successful in the play-off matches this time.

Hertfordshire need only draw with Kent II to clinch the Division II South title. In Division II West a convincing 9-1 win over Wiltshire put Somerset in a strong position, and their clash with Worcestershire on March 18 will decide the issue.

There must be a new champion in the Midland division, and the Nottinghamshire v Oxfordshire match on March 11 will decide which of the two sides it is. Suffolk v Hertfordshire II on the same date should decide the fate of the Southern Division.

Oxfordshire, who are having an

excellent season, have completed their programme in the Midland Junior division. but Warwickshire, who still have Staffordshire to play twice, look like overtaking them, to retain the title.

A tribute to the late Leslie Forrest appears on the editorial page of this magazine, but it is only right that a few words should be said here in the County Championships column, for Leslie was truly a County Championships man through and through. He showed us all the way.

He made Yorkshire the one county which consistently made an income from county matches, and if gates decreased in line with current trends in recent years, Yorkshire, thanks to his efforts, were always streets ahead of any other county in the field of county match presentation.

Leslie Forrest was loved by all who knew him. I cannot imagine that he ever had an enemy. He showed understanding and tolerance to all. It was an experience to meet a man of this kind . . . there are not many like it.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Middlesex	5	4	1	0	38	12	9
Gloucestershire	6	3	3	0	35	25	9
Kent	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
Yorkshire	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Surrey	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
Lancashire	5	1	2	2	24	26	4
Essex	5	1	0	4	22	28	2
Cheshire	6	0	0	6	10	50	0

DIV. II NORTH

Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Durham	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Lincolnshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Northumberland	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Derbyshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

DIV. II MIDLAND

Warwickshire	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Glamorgan	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Staffordshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Bedfordshire	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Leicestershire	3	0	1	2	13	17	1

DIV. II SOUTH

Hampshire	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Hertfordshire	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Sussex	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Kent II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Berkshire	4	0	0	4	13	27	0

DIV. II WEST

Worcestershire	4	3	1	0	27	13	7
Somerset	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Devon	4	1	2	1	23	17	4
Cornwall	5	1	2	2	20	30	4
Wiltshire	4	1	1	2	13	27	0
Dorset	4	0	0	4	13	27	0

MIDLAND DIVISION

Oxfordshire	5	2	2	1	27	23	6
Nottinghamshire	5	2	1	2	26	24	6
Staffordshire II	5	2	1	2	21	29	5
Warwickshire II	5	1	1	3	26	24	3

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hertfordshire II	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Suffolk	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Buckinghamshire	3	1	0	2	8	22	2
Cambridgeshire	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Norfolk	4	0	1	3	14	26	1

NORTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Lancashire	3	3	0	0	18	6	6
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	11	5	2
Durham	2	1	0	1	8	8	2
Cheshire	3	0	0	3	3	21	0

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION

Oxfordshire	4	2	1	1	27	13	5
Warwickshire	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Staffordshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Hertfordshire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Essex	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Middlesex	4	3	1	0	33	7	7
Kent	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Surrey	5	0	2	3	20	30	2
Suffolk	5	0	2	3	16	34	2
Sussex	5	0	2	3	14	36	2

Gloucestershire 6, Essex 4.

I Harrison bt R. Raybould 15, 14; bt R. Stevens 13, 10. B. Merrett bt Stevens 15, 16; bt B. Brumwell 13, 19. A Simons bt Brumwell 19, 17; lost to Raybould —14, 15, —10.

Harrison/Merrett bt Raybould/Stevens —17, 16, 20.
Miss J. Collier lost to Miss L. Bell —18, —12. Miss Collier/Mrs. E. Spokes lost to Miss Bell/Mrs. J. McCree 13, —15, —15.
R. Morley/Mrs. Spokes lost to Brumwell/Mrs. McCree —17, —9.

Yorkshire 1, Kent 9.

S. Dyson lost to K. Jarvis —16, 14, —16; lost to A. Piddock —12, —9. R. Hinchliff lost to Piddock —16, 16, —16; lost to H. Buist —17, 18, —15. M. Simpson lost to Buist 19, —18, —13; lost to Jarvis —6, —19.

Hinchliff/Simpson lost to Buist/Piddock —15, 14, —17.

Miss C. Best bt Miss J. Fielder 19, 13. Miss Best/Miss J. Hamilton lost to Miss Fielder/Mrs. J. Beadle —19, —19.

Dyson/Miss Hamilton lost to G. Elliott/Mrs. Beadle —15, 10, —17.

Lancashire 5, Gloucestershire 5.

R. Alcock bt A. Simons 19, —17, 17; lost to B. Merrett —17, 17, —15. J. Ingber lost to Merrett —18, 11, —16; lost to I. Harrison —20, —16. J. Clayton bt Harrison 19, —12, 21; bt Simons 15, 18. Ingber/F. Strulovitch bt Merrett/Harrison 18, —18, 18.

Miss W. Swift lost to Miss M. Jones 15, —11, —15. Miss Swift/Mrs. C. Spencer bt Miss Jones/Miss J. Dando 12, —23, 22. Strulovitch/Mrs. Spencer lost to Simons/Miss Dando —20, 11, —15.

Lancashire 4, Middlesex 6.

R. Alcock bt M. Thornhill 19, 18; lost to A. Rhodes —14, —18. J. Ingber lost to Rhodes 19, —18, —15; bt Burridge 13, 11. J. Clayton bt Burridge —18, 16, 16; bt Thornhill —13, 18, 17.

Ingber/Clayton lost to Burridge/Rhodes —10, 20, —14.

Miss W. Swift lost to Miss J. Harrower —11, —7. Miss Swift/Mrs. C. Spencer lost to Miss D. Rowe/Miss Harrower —12, —15. Alcock/Mrs. Spencer lost to Thornhill/Miss Rowe —23, —15.

Lancashire 5, Surrey 5.

R. Alcock bt G. Chapman 11, —12, 20; lost to A. Miller 19, —18, —13. J. Ingber bt Miller 9, 19; lost to K. Craigie —16, 7, —17. J. Clayton bt Craigie 10, 13; bt Chapman 18, 15.

Ingber/Clayton lost to Craigie/M. MacLaren 20, —19, —17.

Miss W. Swift lost to Miss M. Shannon —11, 17, —12. Miss Swift/Mrs. C. Spencer lost to Miss Shannon/Mrs. B. Andrews 14, —17, —9.

Alcock/Mrs. Spencer bt MacLaren/Mrs. Andrews 9, —8, 17.

Cheshire 2, Surrey 8.

E. Johnson lost to G. Chapman 19, —10; lost to A. Miller —17, —13. D. Schofield lost to Miller —17, —17; bt K. Craigie 9, —20, 12. V. Hankey lost to Craigie 16, —13, —11; lost to Chapman 17, —16, —6.

Hankey/Johnson lost to Craigie/M. MacLaren —20, —11.

Miss D. Wright bt Mrs. B. Andrews 16, 15. Miss Wright/Mrs. D. Schofield lost to Miss M. Shannon/Mrs. Andrews —17, —11. Schofield/Mrs. D. Schofield lost to MacLaren/Miss Shannon —10, —16.

Cheshire 2, Gloucestershire 8.

DIV. III MIDLAND

Warwickshire 6, Glamorgan 4.
Staffordshire 8, Bedfordshire 2.

DIV. II SOUTH

Sussex 7, Berkshire 3.

DIV. II WEST

Devon 5, Cornwall 5.
Somerset 9, Wiltshire 1.
Dorset 4, Worcestershire 6.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Warwickshire 4, Nottinghamshire 6.
Staffordshire 5, Oxfordshire 5.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Hertfordshire 7, Cambridgeshire 3.
Buckinghamshire 2, Hertfordshire 8.
Hertfordshire 8, Norfolk 2.

MIDLAND JUNIOR DIVISION
Staffordshire 2, Oxfordshire 8.

SOUTH JUNIOR DIVISION

Sussex 2, Kent 8.
Hertfordshire 6, Essex 4.

SURREY NOTES

“Things Ain't What They Used To Be”

TO Fred Joyce, Surrey Treasurer and Chairman of selectors, this must be one of his grimmest years. With the Premier Division team fighting to stave off the stigma of relegation, our second team in the “Bernard Crouch” series of matches—against Essex and Middlesex—on the wrong end of five matches, 2-3, and little money in the kitty, “Things Ain't Wot They Used To Be”.

As ever the money creates a vicious circle. Special training costs money but something is being done. Never too proud to copy a good idea the County have just commenced a series of fights, once monthly, where selected players can take part in either in a “Closed” tournament organised by a selector or merely engage in concentrated practice.

These are being held at the Putney Club where, besides fine conditions, refreshments are on tap to replace lost energy!

Harry Venner, for many years one of our brightest lights is on hand with advice and service.

The players, realising the financial burden, pay 2s. a night to cover cost of the hall.

These nights will carry on through at least a large part of the summer and could well eliminate County trials on one or two days—always debatable!

A fine idea, which was earlier suggested and will now be acted upon to encourage competitive spirit between leagues—and friendliness between players who seldom meet, is a one-day tournament run on the lines of the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl.

This it is hoped will take place early in March also at the Putney Club where four tables will enable us to conclude the matches and stage the finals all in the same day.

This is additional to the inter-League tournament which is run all through the season but which is for mixed teams only. The Sunday show will have men's and ladies' teams separately and is intended to permit of competitive play by Leagues who, either through lack of facilities for staging many matches or inability to find a team capable of the travelling necessary to matches spread over a period, cannot play in the running mixed competition. Entry, a nominal 5/- should frighten no League—usually far wealthier than Counties—and will minimise the inevitable loss to the County who regret they are unable to stage this entirely free.

A side on which, to close on a happier note, we can take joy. The one, two, three boys' umpires. At a recent meeting opportunity was taken to prune the lists of the named but non-active intoners of doom—or joy depending on which end of the table one stands. When the scissors

were relinquished there still remained 12 active umpires backed by two probationers. That they are good umpires, as well as active, we've had many chances to judge this season: thank you Gentlemen.

In Bernard Crouch matches we have used six men and four women. Gordon Chapman and Mary Shannon are now “tied” as first team members. Despite giving chances wherever reasonable the County are no nearer replacing Harry Venner in the first team. None of our men can win consistently.

Speaking purely personally my happiest sight this season: the improvement of Shirley Prior now she is moving round the tournaments—and gaining an “Open” title (West of England Women's doubles with Mary Shannon). Saddest: The lack of improvement IN SINGLES of Mary Shannon.

Jim Forrest

Leslie Constable

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

ONLY encouraging pointer from Cambs' defeat by Herts in the Southern Division of the National County championships, was the come-back of John Cornwell.

Despite his long lay off he found sufficient good form to beat Racliffe quite convincingly and offer some stiff resistance to Glyn Bebb.

The failure of the women again emphasises the need for stronger talent in this department.

The youngsters who attend our weekly junior coaching course were recently put through their paces by Jack Carrington and Emmanuel Quayle, champion of Ghana.

Cambridge City, beaten 4-6 in a friendly match against the University were consoled by the promising form of newcomers to the side, Albert Jackson and Peter Baker.

Keith Chapman's key-match victory over John Thurston gave University Press a draw against Cambs League leaders, New Chesterton Institute.

All the first division teams have again been eliminated from the Handicap Knock-Out Trophy but Wilburton, the holders, are still in with a chance.

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 parenthesis 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.

Date	Title and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
March 4	Cheshire Junior “Open” (Feb. 20) Livingstone St. Baths., Livingstone Street, Birkenhead.	J.S.B. J.S.G. J.B.D.	R. A. Bissell, 75 Southdale Road, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead.
18-19	Bucks “Open” Slough Social Centre, Farnham Road, Slough.		L. Thompson, Auchmead, The Avenue, Sunnymeads, Wraysbury.
18	WELSH “CLOSED”		
19	Sussex Junior “Open” Assembly Hall, Worthing, Sussex.		A. L. West, 7 Courtlands Terrace, Goring Road, Goring-by-Sea, Sussex.
21-25	Leinster “Open” (March 11) Abbey Lecture Hall, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin.	B.S. G.S.	R. I. Gill, 4, Oaklands Park, Balsbridge, Dublin.
Ap. 1-3	North East of England “Open” Burniston Barracks, Scarborough.		W. Mitton, 16 The Whins, Newby, Scarborough.
5-14	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Peking, China.		
8	Gwent “Open” (Mar. 20) Canteen, Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd., Newport.		G. E. Motlow, 29, Carisbrooke Road, Newport, Mon. Tel. Newport 71964.

KENT "OPEN"

by **FRANK BATEMAN**

QUAYE COLLECTS A TITLE

ALTHOUGH three of the seeds had to scratch from the Kent "Open" at Folkestone on January 28-29 due to the trip to Sweden, the men's final was one of the most attractive since the tournament first started.

Ghana champion Emanuel Quaye showed the benefit of his long stay in this country by collecting the title at the expense of Alan Lindsay, of Middlesex, winning 21-14, 15-21, 23-21.

There was plenty of excitement as Quaye, driving Lindsay back from the table then beating him with well placed drop shots comfortably won the first game. Lindsay, quickly learning the lesson, came back to take the second game and it looked as though he would emerge a comfortable winner.

Hung On

But Quaye went out to 16-13 in the decider only to be caught at 20-all, then hung on to get three of the next four points.

There was plenty of upsets before the final was reached and the first major casualty was the 21-15, 21-19 defeat of Michael Thornhill by Bobby Stevens, who went on to beat Ian Redfearn before falling to Lindsay in the semi-final.

Among Lindsay's victims were county colleagues Stan Jacobson and Alan Rhodes.

Derek Burridge looked set for an easy passage in the other half but after beating David Creamer, who had eliminated Tony Piddock, he was well beaten by Quaye.

Les Sawyer reached the semi-final beating Tony Condon, Jim O'Hara and George Walsh, then found Quaye too strong.

Shock of the women's singles was the defeat of Mrs. Jean McCree by Mary Shannon who went on to reach the final, where Jean Harrower had the best of three games winning 21-7, 21-23, 21-14.

Shelagh Hession, after beating Peggy Piper, fell to Miss Shannon, while Joyce Fielder beat Elsie Carrington, only to lose to Miss Harrower.

The men's doubles was full of surprises. Burridge and Thornhill lost to Berzins and D. Redfearn, who were in turn beaten by Buist and Piddock, while Craigie and Lindsay after beating Landry and Rhodes went out to Khanna and I. Redfearn.

Champions' Early Exit

Buist and Piddock recovered from the loss of the first game to beat Khanna and I. Redfearn in the final.

Leslie Bell and Julie Pilfold took the women's doubles, beating Jean Harrower and Mrs. Sawyer in the final.

English "closed" champion Mike Maclaren and Peggy made an early exit from the mixed doubles, being beaten by Les and Ivy Sawyer, who went on to reach the final where they lost over three games to Rhodes and Miss Fielder.

The defeats of Nigel Ive by Clive Bloy and Lesley Bell by Kay Stokes were the surprises of the junior singles won by Ian Giles and Mary Shannon respectively.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: A. LINDSAY (Middx.) bt R. Stevens (Essex) 21-10, 21-18; E. QUAYE (Ghana) bt L. Sawyer (Essex) 21-19, 21-14.

Final: QUAYE bt Lindsay 21-14, 15-21, 23-21.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt S. Hession (Essex) 22-20, 14-21, 21-19; J. HARROWER (Middx.) bt J. Fielder (Kent) 21-14, 10-21, 21-13.

Final: HARROWER bt Shannon 21-7, 21-23, 21-14.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: H. BUIST/A. PIDDOCK bt G. Berzins/D. Redfearn 21-16, 21-12; A. KHANNA/ I. REDFEARN bt Lindsay/K. Craigie 21-10, 17-21, 21-8.

Final: BUIST/PIDDOCK bt Khanna/Redfearn 10-21, 21-17, 21-7.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: HARROWER/Mrs. I. SAWYER bt G. Robinson/K. Stokes 21-14, 21-11; L. BELL/Mrs. J. PILFOLD bt J. Abrahams/J. Bukler 21-17, 21-12.

Final: BELL/PILFOLD bt Harrower/Sawyer 21-19, 14-21, 21-18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: STEVENS/MISS ROBINSON bt Sawyer/Mrs. Sawyer 21-17, 14-21, 21-13; A. RHODES/MISS FIELDER bt M. Thornhill/Mrs. J. McCree 21-16, 21-11.

Final: RHODES/MISS FIELDER bt Stevens/Miss Robinson 17-21, 21-19, 21-14.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: G. BLOY (Kent) bt N. Ive (Middx.) 15-21, 21-16, 21-19; I. GILES (Middx.) bt P. Roberts (Kent) 21-17, 21-10.

Final: GILES bt Bloy 21-5, 21-17.

Girls' Singles: Semi-Finals: M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt J. Roberts (Warwicks.) 21-12, 21-11; K. STOKES (Kent) bt L. Bell (Essex) 21-11, 21-11.

Final: SHANNON bt Stokes 21-11, 21-15.

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SOUTH OF ENGLAND "OPEN"

Shannon Wins Senior but Loses Junior

MARY SHANNON, Surrey's young star, and Judy Williams, her Hertfordshire counterpart, met in both the finals of the girl's and women's singles in the South of England "Open" at Croydon on February 18-19. In the first girl's event, Judy proved far too strong and hit extremely well to take it two straight, but the women's final was a different story.

Shannon, hitting hard and well, took the first at 15, but Judy reverting to her junior form won the second at 11. The third was much closer and the girls went point for point to 15-all, when Mary producing more penetrating hits forged ahead to win.

Mary had had a tough draw beating Shelagh Hession, Barbara Andrews, Ivy Sawyer and Audrey Bates in quick succession. Judy beat Joyce Fielder then Mary Austin, who had previously won a marathon with Margaret Fry at time limit in the third (-18, 13, 19-17 t.l.).

Peter Shead won the men's singles beating Laurie Landry in the final, a long and steady match taking just on three-quarters of an hour. Laurie won the first and Peter the second and then Laurie sprinted into a 9-1 third game lead but changing at 10-5 all his energy seemed spent for he got but two more points in the whole match.

He was too fatigued even to get into position for his next "hit," whereas before he had been moving extremely well

Shead had won an awkward game with Arun Khanna, who had a god tournament with straight game wins over Maclaren and Rhodes. Shead also beat Venner, who was making a rare appearance in the tournament arena.

Landry showed us a bit of his old fighting form. On slow conditions that demanded the maximum of control he kept plugging away with his forehand and won long matches against David Creamer (21, --20, 19), and in the semi-final, Piddock (16 in the third). He also beat Densham in straight games. Piddock beat Tony Miller, who had hit Lindsay to defeat in the previous round.

There were new title-winners in all three doubles events. Terry Densham and Eddie Hodson won their first title together (they have titles with other partners) with a very good win over Landry and Rhodes. They were in irrepressible form all the way through.

FIRST MIXED

Stanley Jacobson won his first ever mixed "open" with Joyce Fielder who won the mixed title for the third tournament running. They beat Les and Ivy Sawyer in the final.

Mary Shannon and Shelagh Hession won the women's doubles combining well together to beat the Kent pair of Fielder and Beadle.

Brian Wright took the junior singles beating Garner of Essex in the final. Amongst the juniors the surprise player was young Chester Barnes. Though he lost to Garner in the juniors, he beat Brian Wright in the men's and took Landry to 17 in the third in a very good match. **We'll hear more of him I'm sure.**

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: P. SHEAD (Sussex) bt A. Khanna (Middlesex) 21-14, 21-11. L. LANDRY (Middlesex) bt A. Piddock (Kent) 21-12, 17-21, 21-16.

Final: SHEAD bt Landry 18-21, 21-14, 21-12.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: M. SHANNON (Surrey) bt A. Bates (Wales) 21-15, 21-11. J. WILLIAMS (Hertfordshire) bt M. Austin (Surrey) 21-15, 18-21, 21-11.

Final: SHANNON bt Williams 21-15, 11-21, 21-17.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: E. HODSON (Middlesex)/T. DENSHAM (Hertfordshire) bt S. Jacobson (Middlesex)/E. Quaye (Ghana) 12-21, 21-15, 21-16. LANDRY/A. RHODES (Middlesex) bt A. Thomas/N. Parker (Wales) 21-17, 19-21, 21-15.

Final: HODSON/DENSHAM bt Landry/Rhodes 21-13, 21-18.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: S. HESSION (Essex)/SHANNON bt Bates/M. Phillips (Wales) 13-21, 21-17, 21-12. J. FIELDER/J. BEADLE (Kent) bt Williams/D. Baines (Hertfordshire) 21-15, 21-11.

Final: HESSION/SHANNON bt Fielder/Beadle 21-9, 18-21, 21-6.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: JACOBSON/FIELDER bt K. Beamish/Hession (Essex) 16-21, 21-12, 21-17. L. SAWYER/I. SAWYER (Essex) bt Landry/M. Fry (Middlesex) 9-21, 21-14, 21-14.

Final: JACOBSON/FIELDER bt L. Sawyer/I. Sawyer 21-13, 12-21, 21-14.

Boy's Singles: Semi-Finals: B. WRIGHT (Middlesex) bt S. Ogundipe (Sussex) 21-14, 23-21. D. GARNER (Essex) bt B. Sykes (Hertfordshire)

Final: WRIGHT bt Garner 21-17, 21-16.

Girl's Singles: Semi-Finals: SHANNON bt C. Carter (Kent) 21-8, 21-12. WILLIAMS bt L. Bell (Essex) 21-12, 21-18.

Final: WILLIAMS bt Shannon 21-13, 21-17.

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BATH "OPEN"

HARRISON'S REVENGE OVER JACOBSON

THE 1961 Bath "Open" concluded with a most interesting duel for the Men's singles title in which Ian Harrison (Gloucestershire and England No. 1) beat Stan Jacobson (Middlesex) in three sets. Jacobson made a great effort in the second and quite deserved to win it, but taking a 7-3 lead in the third Harrison pressed home his advantage to win 21-8.

Miss Gwen Robinson (Hertfordshire) won the Women's Singles, beating Miss Margaret Fry (Middlesex) in two sets.

In the Men's doubles S. Jacobson and Alan Lindsay were much too strong for Stan Jones (Swansea) and Jim Evans (Bristol), while in the Women's Doubles Mrs. J. Lloyd (Worcester) and Miss B. Broad (Stoke) played extremely well to beat Miss M. Fry and Miss D. Spooner (Devon).

The Mixed Doubles provided the most exciting final in which S. Jones and Mrs. S. Jones (Swansea and Wales) put up a grand struggle against Alan Lindsay and Gwen Robinson. Leading 20-18 in the second, over-eagerness robbed them of the vital point and the game. Several rallies, with all four players attacking and counter-attacking, earned tremendous applause from an appreciative audience.

M. Mordecai (Bristol) won the Boys' Singles, beating E. Lloyd (Oxford).

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: I. HARRISON bt A. Lindsay 21-9, 21-13; S. JACOBSON bt A. Simons 21-9, 21-14.

Final: HARRISON bt Jacobson 21-12, 19-21, 21-8.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: M. FRY bt J. Collier 21-15, 16-21, 21-14; G. ROBINSON bt H. Angell 21-8, 21-11.

Final: ROBINSON bt Fry 21-16, 21-15.

Boys' Singles: Semi-Finals: M. MORDECAI bt W. Hocking; E. Lloyd bt B. Davis.

Final: M. MORDECAI bt E. Lloyd 21-11, 21-18.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: S. JONES/J. EVANS bt G. Whalley/M. Ellis 17-21, 21-14, 22-20; S. JACOBSON/A. LINDSAY bt R. Davies/G. Evans 21-11, 22-24, 21-13.

Final: JACOBSON/LINDSAY bt Jones/Evans 21-14, 21-10.



Gwen Robinson, watched by Margaret Fry, receives the Bath "Open" Singles Cup from Mr. Reg Williams, President of Bath T.T.A. Picture by courtesy of Bath and Wilts. Chronicle and Herald.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: Mrs. J. LLOYD/B. BROAD bt Mrs. J. Tyler/G. Hazell 21-14, 21-17; M. FRY/D. SPOONER bt G. Robinson/H. Angell 21-9, 11-21, 21-14.

Final: LLOYD/BROAD bt Fry/Spooner 21-19, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: LINDSAY/Miss ROBINSON bt Davies/Miss Broad 21-17, 21-13; Mr. and Mrs. S. JONES bt G. Gear/Mrs. Lloyd 19-21, 21-16, 21-12.

Final: LINDSAY/Miss ROBINSON bt Mr. and Mrs. Jones 21-14, 22-20.

GLOUCESTER JUNIOR "OPEN"

by **LESLIE DAVIES**

Titles for Twins

THE Gloucestershire Junior "Open" once again attracted a large entry from all parts of England and Wales. Twelve of the English ranked boys and girls provided stiff opposition and produced some excellent table tennis.

There were a few surprises. Unranked B. Allen of Birmingham, reached the final of the Boys' under 17's singles where he lost to his county colleague Maurice Billington, England's No. 1 junior.

In the boys' under 15's the only ranked junior David Stanley won, but less easier than the score suggests, against Chester Barnes of the East London League.

Barnes produced some very fine stroke play for one so young, but had bad lapses that more experience and determination would overcome.

Judy Williams justified her top seeding by overcoming Miss J. Canham in a very close contest. Only Miss Williams' top match experience pulled her through the second game.

Christine Holes, official favourite for the under under

15's girls' singles lost to another "twin", Beverley Sayer, of Essex, over three games. I thought Miss Holes appeared "off colour" as she had to stop once during an earlier round against Miss Williams.

This, however, did not stop Christine and sister Pam coasting through to win the girls' doubles against Miss Fitzgerald and Miss Dainty.

Miss Fitzgerald won the mixed doubles with Billington against Peter and Judy Williams.

RESULTS

UNDER 17's:

Boys' Singles: M. BILLINGTON bt D. Allen 21-14, 21-12.

Girls' Singles: J. WILLIAMS bt J. Canham 21-14, 22-20.

Boys' Doubles: B. WRIGHT/D. OFFENBACH bt H. Coward/D. Stanley 20-22, 21-13, 21-19.

Girls' Doubles: C. HOLES/P. HOLES bt Fitzgerald/Dainty 21-19, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles: BILLINGTON/Miss FITZGERALD bt P. Williams/Miss J. Williams 21-18, 21-14.

UNDER 15's:

Boys' Singles: D. STANLEY bt C. Barnes 21-17, 21-9.

Girls' Singles: B. SAYER bt C. Holes 18-21, 21-19, 21-15.

MIDLAND "OPEN"

Harrison Good but Harrower Beaten

AFTER the announcement of the team to represent England in the World Championships, the main interest was to see how they fared.

Ian Harrison, playing with extreme confidence, and indeed he should, came through with flying colours. He won the men's singles, dropping only one game. Jean Harrower was the only other of the chosen few but she was not so successful. Gwen Robinson of Hertfordshire beat her with something to spare (12-21, 21-9, 21-13).

Harrison's only dropped game was the first against Alan Lindsay. After that he was irrepressible and won the next two 8 and 13. He gave the same treatment to Jacobson in the semi-final and to Rhodes in the final even though he was trailing against Rhodes by 20-17 in the first.

Lindsay had a difficult passage beating young Brian Wright after being 20-18 down in the third. He also beat Jack Clayton in a close match (17, —18, 18).

Jacobson had a good win over Bobby Stevens without the use of the "topspin." Stevens would not allow him. Terry Densham, who seems to save his best for this town, had good wins over Schofield (14, 14), and Shead (12, 18) before losing to Rhodes.

Rhodes beat off a challenge from Emmanuel Quaye, being far too fast off the table for him. Quaye had previously beaten Landry in a close match.

Audrey Bates won the women's singles with a repeat



AUDREY BATES

English "Open" win over Pam Mortimer in the final. Audrey's backhand was the deciding factor in the hit for hit final. Pam had previously beaten Joyce Fielder. Audrey Bates had ended Gwen Robinson's challenge after a three-game struggle.

Alan Rhodes made up a little for his lack of success in the singles by winning both doubles, the mixed with Joyce Fielder and the men's with Laurie Landry.

Dorothy Worrall and Ann Charman scored a surprising win in the women's doubles. In the final they beat Gwen Robinson and Heather Angel who had really caused a surprise by defeating Harrower and Mortimer. Worrall and Charman played well as a pair and after two close games, took the third quite comfortably.

Maurice Billington once again proved to be a stumbling block for English junior champion Brian Wright. After trailing at 5-15 in the first, Billington

managed to catch up and win. Wright seemed to lose control and lost the second also. Billington also won the junior doubles with Derek Allen. Irene Ogus of Middlesex won her first junior title when she won the girl's event.

Men's Singles: Semi-Finals: I. HARRISON (Gloucestershire) bt S. Jacobson (Middlesex) 21-13, 21-18. A. RHODES (Middlesex) bt T. Densham (Hertfordshire) 22-20, 21-16.

Final: HARRISON bt Rhodes 22-20, 21-12.

Women's Singles: Semi-Finals: A. BATES (Wales) bt G. Robinson (Hertfordshire) 11-21, 21-17, 21-17. P. MORTIMER (Warwickshire) bt J. Fielder (Kent) 22-20, 21-14.

Final: BATES bt Mortimer 21-16, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: Semi-Finals: RHODES/L. LANDRY (Middlesex) bt M. Pitts/S. Dyson (Yorkshire) 21-15, 21-11. HARRISON/K. EDWARDS (Gloucestershire) bt Jacobson/A. Lindsay (Middlesex) 21-18, 21-14.

Final: RHODES/LANDRY bt Harrison/Edwards 21-11, 21-19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-Finals: D. WORRALL/A. CHARMAN (Staffordshire) bt Bates/M. Phillips (Wales) 21-13, 21-15. ROBINSON/H. ANGEL (Middlesex) bt J. Harrower (Middlesex)/Mortimer 21-13, 19-21, 21-18.

Final: WORRALL/CHARMAN bt Robinson/Angel 18-21, 21-18, 21-13.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-Finals: RHODES/FIELDER bt Lindsay/Angel 17-21, 21-14, 22-20. DENSHAM/MORTIMER bt R. Stevens (Essex)/Harrower 21-17, 21-17.

Final: RHODES/FIELDER bt Densham/Mortimer 21-14, 13-21, 21-12.

Boy's Singles: Semi-Finals: M. BILLINGTON (Warwickshire) bt N. IVE (Middlesex) 21-11, 19-21, 21-7. B. WRIGHT (Middlesex) bt M. Symonds (Lancashire) 21-13, 24-22.

Final: BILLINGTON bt Wright 21-18, 21-16.

Girl's Singles: Semi-Finals: I. OGUS (Middlesex) bt H. Grove (Warwickshire) 21-11, 21-16. J. ROBERTS (Warwickshire) bt L. Morrish (Middlesex) 21-11, 21-18.

Final: OGUS bt Roberts 21-17, 21-17.

Junior Doubles: Semi-Finals: BILLINGTON/D. ALLEN (Warwickshire) bt B. Hill (Lincolnshire)/I. Giles (Middlesex) 14-21, 21-13, 21-14. WRIGHT/IVE bt A. Goldstein (Warwickshire)/M. Mordecai (Gloucestershire) 21-13, 21-23, 21-13.

Final: BILLINGTON/ALLEN bt Wright/Ive 21-16, 18-21, 21-16.

Veteran's Singles: Final: H. SPIERS (Warwickshire) bt F. Smith (Warwickshire) 21-3, 21-10.

PONTEFRACT "OPEN"

TRANS-PENNINE invaders had a day of triumph at the Pontefract "Approved" "Open," capturing seven of the eight titles. The only home success was in the mixed, won by Maurice Pitts and Mavis Dyson.

Young Di Fitzgerald's cracking backhand brought her the girls' and women's singles titles.

Derek Schofield took the men's title but was just as happy to see his wife—formerly Doreen Ridgeway—win the women's doubles with Mary Leigh.

A big surprise in the women's event was Mary's second round defeat at the hands of Kathleen (Woodhead) Sykes, the Dewsbury player, 11-21, 21-19, 21-18.

Yorkshire had six beaten finalists.

Men's Singles: D. SCHOFIELD (Stockport) bt Maurice Simpson (Sheffield) 22-20, 13-21, 21-15.

Women's Singles: D. FITZGERALD (Manchester) bt P. Morton (Huddersfield) 21-17, 17-21, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: R. CRUSHAM/K. FORSHAW bt G. Stanley/B. Edlington 21-17, 21-12.

Women's Doubles: M. LEIGH (Salford)/Mrs. D. SCHOFIELD bt P. Morton/M. Dyson 21-18, 22-20.

Mixed Doubles: M. J. PITTS/Mrs. M. DYSON bt G. Livesey/Miss M. Leigh 13-21, 21-17, 21-16.

Youths' Singles: G. LIVESEY (Burnley) bt P. Duncombe (Doncaster) 21-14, 21-16.

Girls' Singles: D. FITZGERALD bt L. Gordon (Leeds) 21-12, 21-14.

Veterans' singles: E. A. BROWN (Stockport) bt N. Lusher (Harrogate) 14-21, 21-18, 23-21.