

MARCH, 1956

NINEPENCE

TABLETENNIS



GOOD LUCK FOR TOKIO!
ANN HAYDON and DIANE ROWE seen with their trophy
after their doubles win in the English "Open"

Table Tennis

Official Magazine of the

English Table Tennis Association

Edited by W. HARRISON EDWARDS

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No. 6

TO SPONGE OR NOT TO SPONGE

THE Controversial Sponge question will be coming up once again at the World Congress meeting in Tokio next month. Following the defeat at Utrecht of proposals for the alteration of the racket law, various members have been conducting an enquiry into the effects of this surface.

British representatives should be well armed with a variety of facts for a questionnaire is now going the rounds of County Secretaries, Ranked and Junior Players, members of the National Executive Committee and other interested persons.

No fewer than 20 questions divided into four categories (A). Vogue of Sponge; (B). Effect on Play: Direct; (C). Effect on Play: Indirect; and (D). Effect on Public Interest.

In addition there is a section for Opinions, catering for all types of players from international to average, and of course associations, and organisers.

Objects are to find out how many players are now using sponge, how many players have tried it then reverted back to orthodox rubber, Methods of combating sponge, whether or not it had speeded up play or made it duller.

It is a most searching enquiry and on its findings will rest the whole future of the game.

CHANGE OF HEART

At the start of the season many of our leading players and coaches were right against sponge, claiming that it would kill the game, and ruin skilled table tennis. Some are now beginning to change their opinions, particularly after the English "Open," where Sponge in the hands of the Hungarians was seen in a new light.

Players like Szepesi and Gyetvai used it for bold attacking play, and, while it may have reduced some of the rallies, it was far from being monotonous. **In fact the most boring game at Manchester concerned two players using orthodox rubber!**

Sponge in the hands of the "chiseller" is of

course a menace from the public point of view, but so is any surface.

Sponge, to my way of thinking, has mainly been a psychological advantage, but at Manchester most players appeared to have overcome this. They tackled it fearlessly and there were many instances of sponge going down to rubber.

Two such victims were Haguenuaer and Szepesi. In fact Gyetvai was the only "sponger" in the men's singles semi-finals, while the ordinary bats were used by all semi-finalists in the women's singles.

It is far better for the I.T.T.F. to get the facts, which is what they are now doing, rather than quarrel on prejudices, before the facts are known.

Incidentally any interested parties, who are not already in possession of the questionnaire, can obtain one by writing to the *E.T.T.A.* at 214 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

A MISTAKE

When the I.T.T.F. in their wisdom allocated the World Championships to Tokio, I suggest they did not give sufficient thought to other distractions. I refer of course to the Olympic Games in Melbourne at the end of the year. Many of the State Aided nations are directing their finances to this end, and as a result Tokio is going to suffer from a mediocre entry.

Too many of the top European nations, such as Hungary and Yugoslavia, are missing the championships, and it is on the grounds of expense.

Had Tokio been a season later then it may have been a different story. The Japanese as member nation, and world champions, are deserving of the championships meeting, but it seems unfair on them that so many nations will be missing.

This undoubtedly will add support to those who favour the world championships becoming a biennial event, with Continental championships being held on the alternative years.

HARRISON EDWARDS.

Official News :

Visit to Rumania.

The twins, Mrs. Rosalind Cornett and Miss Diane Rowe made a short tour of Rumania recently playing one International match at Bucharest which was lost 0—5. A. W. C. Simons acted as non-playing captain.

English Open Championships 1956.

These Championships were played at Belle Vue, Manchester from 28th February to 2nd March 1956. A first class souvenir programme was prepared and sold at a cost of 2/-. Copies are now available from the E.T.T.A. Office (2/3d. post free) for those of our members who would like to purchase a copy. The programme Editor was Mr. W. Stamp, secretary of the Liverpool Table Tennis League.

Wilmott Cup Competition.

The Acton and District Table Tennis League staged the semi-finals and finals of this competition on Saturday, February 25th, 1956, at Messrs. Sperry's Sports Club, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex. The results were as follows:—

Semi-Finals. South London beat Bristol. 5-2.

Manchester beat Ilford. 5-1.

Final. Manchester beat South London. 5-3.

J. M. Rose Bowl Competition.

The North West Kent Club organised the semi-finals and finals of this competition on Saturday, February 25th at the Barnehurst Residents' Club, Barnehurst, Kent. The results were as follows:—

Semi-Finals. Maidstone beat Portsmouth 5-4.

Birmingham beat Manchester. 6-3.

Final. Birmingham beat Maidstone. 7-2.

Election of Officers and National Executive Committee for 1956/57.

Final reminder to the E.T.T.A. representatives that ballot papers will be dispatched on or before March 15th, 1956, and must be returned to the Proportional Representation Society by March 29th, 1956.

Annual General Meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.1, on Saturday, April 28th, 1956.

National Umpires Examination.

The first examination for National Umpires was held on Sunday, February 19th, 1956 at the Southern Electricity Sports and Social Club, 2-6, Windmill Lane, Southall, Middlesex.

"Eagle"/"Girl" Clubs Tournaments.

The finals of these tournaments for under 15's and under 13's took place

on Saturday, February 25th, 1956, at the Friends House Hall, London, N.W.1. The members of the clubs and their parents were invited to attend the finals.

"Daily Mirror" National Table Tennis Tournament.

The area finals and national finals of all the events in the "Daily Mirror" National Table Tennis Tournament are to be played on Saturday, April 21st, 1956, at the Liverpool Stadium, Liverpool. The stadium adjoins the Liverpool Exchange Station.

Publications.

The following publications can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. Office for

English Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.

President: The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E.

Chairman: Hon. Ivor Montagu.

Honorary Secretary/Treasurer: A. K. Vint.

Hon. Assist. Secretary: D. P. Lowen.

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Kathleen Pegg.

Office of the Association: 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Telephone: TRAlfalgAr 2165).

those of our members who desire literature regarding Table Tennis.

- (i) *Rules of the Game in Card-board, size Approx 21½" x 14½" with hanging cord attached (suitable for hanging in club rooms).* 1/6d. each.
- (ii) *Know the Game—Table Tennis* 2/3d. each.
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- (viii) *Table Tennis Quiz—A. Brook* 1/6d. each.
- (ix) *Rules of the Game in Booklet form* 4½d. each.

In addition to the above we have two new books—

"Table Tennis my Way" by Johnny Leach @ 2/6d. each.

"The Twins on Table Tennis" by D. & R. Rowe @ 8/6d. each.

Badges.

Have you bought your official pin badge yet? We have these at the low price of 2/3d. each or 24/- per dozen. The badge is very neatly made with the letters E.T.T.A. on a blue background. Perhaps you would like to bring this to the notice of your club members.

Team Selections.

The following teams have been selected:—

Swaythling Cup, Tokio. G. V. Barna (Middlesex), R. Bergmann (Middlesex), B. Kennedy (Yorkshire), J. A. Leach (Essex).

Marcel Corbillon Cup, Tokio. Miss A. Haydon (Warwick), Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex).

v. France (Men), Cheltenham, 27th February, 1956. I. Harrison (Gloucester), B. Kennedy (Yorkshire), J. A. Leach (Essex), Non-playing Captain A. A. Haydon (Warwick).

v. Germany DDR. (Mixed), Sheffield, 3rd March, 1956. E. Hodson (Middlesex), L. Landry (Middlesex), H. T. Venner (Surrey), Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey), Miss P. Mortimer (Warwick), Non-playing Captain T. E. Sears (Middlesex).

v. Hungary (Mixed), Leeds, 5th March, 1956. B. Kennedy (Yorkshire), J. A. Leach (Essex), A. W. C. Simons (Gloucester), Miss A. Haydon (Warwick), Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex), Miss P. Mortimer (Warwick), Non-playing Captain A. Thompson (Yorks).

v. Hungary (Mixed), Tottenham, 6th March, 1956. B. Kennedy (Yorkshire), J. A. Leach (Essex), A. W. C. Simons (Gloucester), Miss A. Haydon (Warwick), Miss D. Rowe (Middlesex), Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey), Non-playing Captain T. E. Sears (Middlesex).

TABLE TENNIS

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THE NATIONAL CUPS

MANCHESTER pulled off the surprise of this season's National Cup competitions by winning the men's Willmott Cup at Brentford on February 25. Following a 5-1 win over Ilford in the semi-final, their young team of Ron Allcock, Arnold Shepherd and Geoff Pullar, went on to beat South London's all international trio of Harry Venner, Ron Crayden and Jackie Head 5-3 in the final.

It was Manchester's sixth win in the competition, thus enabling them to equal the record South London took from them in 1954.

Venner made a great effort on the part of South London, going through unbeaten in his three matches. Pullar, who is a Lancashire cricketer, was the only player to take a set from him.

One of the closest matches was that in which Pullar beat Crayden at 23-21, 22-20. Pullar also dropped a game to Head.

Birmingham, with Ann Haydon, Pam Mortimer and Jean Mackay, skated to an easy victory in the women's Rose Bowl, at Barnhurst,

beating Manchester 6-3 in the semi-final and Maidstone 7-2 in the final.

Miss Haydon and Miss Mortimer went through unbeaten in singles in both matches, but both suffered doubles defeats against Manchester.

Local interest was provided to the meeting with Maidstone beating Portsmouth 5-4 in the semi-final. This was a real thriller, with Portsmouth taking an earlier lead of 2-1, only to lose the next three in a row. They pulled back to 3-4 before Mrs. Joan Beadle, who was unbeaten, clinched the match by defeating Sheila Ball in the best encounter of the afternoon.

In the final it soon became clear that Maidstone, the first Kent side to get so far, stood little chance against the holders, who despite a weakness in Jean Mackay never let Maidstone get a grip on the game. Mrs. Beadle put up a great performance against Miss Haydon before going down at 20 and 15.

ROSE BOWL

Quarter Finals: Birmingham 6, South London 3; Manchester 8, Plymouth 1; Northumberland 4, Portsmouth 5; Maid-

stone 8, Ilford 1. **Semi-finals:** Maidstone 5, Portsmouth 4; Birmingham 6, Manchester 3.

Final: BIRMINGHAM 7, Maidstone 2.

Details (Birmingham first): Miss A. Haydon bt Mrs. J. Beadle 22-20, 21-15; bt Miss J. Robeson 21-17, 21-12. Miss P. Mortimer bt Mrs. Beadle 21-15, 21-14; bt Mrs. V. Fuller 21-8, 21-10. Miss J. Mackay lost to Miss Robeson 21-18, 15-21, 16-21; lost to Mrs. Fuller 18-21, 21-16, 18-21. Miss Haydon and Miss Mackay bt Miss Robeson and Mrs. Fuller 21-19, 21-13. Miss Haydon and Miss Mortimer bt Mrs. Beadle and Miss Robeson 21-7, 21-19. Miss Mortimer and Miss Mackay bt Mrs. Beadle and Mrs. Fuller 21-13, 21-9.

WILMOTT CUP

Quarter Finals: Manchester 6, Huddersfield 1; Coventry 0, Ilford 5; Staines 2, Bristol 5; Bognor 0, South London 9. **Semi-finals:** South London 5, Bristol 2; Manchester 5, Ilford 1.

Final: MANCHESTER 5, South London 3.

Details (Manchester first): R. Allcock bt R. Crayden 21-10, 21-17; lost to H. Venner 14-21, 18-21; bt J. Head 21-7, 21-11. A. Shepherd lost to Venner 16-21, 8-21; bt Head 21-11, 21-11. G. Pullar bt Head 18-21, 21-11, 21-13; bt Crayden 23-21, 22-20; lost to Venner 21-17, 17-21, 12-21.

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NEW "EAGLE"/"GIRL" CHAMPIONS

THERE is an atmosphere to this "EAGLE"/"GIRL" tournament, and a pleasant feeling that besides being good fun, it is also very much worthwhile.

When Bill Vint spoke, at the Grand Finals last February, of this "noble effort" on the part of Hulton Press, and thanked them for bringing "all these boys and girls into the sphere of organised table tennis," there was no doubting his sincerity. And when Mr. Peter Barker, the Deputy Editor, expressed his thanks to Bill Vint, and to "those Table Tennis officials all over the country, who gave up their Saturdays to the task of helping to run qualifying tournaments," you can be sure that he meant it, too.

"Our object," said Mr. Barker, "is not only to help discover new talent,



DEREK GRANT

but to give the average player every chance to improve his or her game." He also said that Hulton Press intended to continue their coaching scheme inaugurated last summer, and to launch their tournament again next year.

The higher standards achieved, and the result of the Finals were adequate proof of the success of the coaching conducted by Johnny Leach. Eight of the thirty two players taking part had had the benefit of this special coaching: five of them reached the semi-finals.

Training and experience counted all the way through, though Ronnie Brass, of Glasgow, who retained his Junior title, admitted that he found the going "much harder than last time." His final, against David Stanley, the 10-year-old son of Ken Stanley, the Lancashire international,

by KENNETH WHEELER

was the most exciting of all. David made a shaky start. Then he started to score with a series of fierce forehand drives. He appeared to have the second game in his pocket, but became over-impetuous and threw it away from deuce.

Derek Grant, from Ventnor, Isle of Wight, narrowly defeated by Donald Twigg in last year's senior finals, made no mistake this time, and gained adequate revenge for a defeat suffered at the hands of Christopher Gosling in the Kent Junior earlier in the season.

Boys who revealed a great deal of talent, and who gained experience which will serve them in good stead in future years, were the losing semi-finalists in each event—Alan Chalmers and Alan Holden (Senior) and Clive Bloy and Ian Gibson (Junior).

The entry of Jean Harrower into the Girls' Senior event caused a great deal of interest throughout the tournament. There was never any doubt that she would sail through and win the title; but she did provide us with a yardstick of judgment. Just how good were these "GIRL" newcomers who entered this year in such refreshingly large numbers?

The answer, clearly, was "not good enough"; but nevertheless, they are full of promise, and very worthy of encouragement.

UNSUCCESSFUL SOUTHPAW

Take Margaret Bradnum, the Leeds champion, for example. In the semi-final this "southpaw" wielded her sponge bat to such good effect that for a time she quite threw Jean out of her stride, and she became the only opponent throughout the tournament to score as many as thirteen points against this exceptionally talented young lady.

Or Sandra Morgan, of Cardiff, for that matter—a surprise winner over Scotland's Pat McKenzie in the quarter-finals, and a gallant loser in the final itself. Sandra has improved her game enormously since last year.

A bad case of tournament nerves contributed largely to the defeat of Kathleen Beal of Folkestone, the girl who most of us had fancied to reach the final and give Jean Harrower a run for her money.

The biggest improvement in standard was seen in the Girls' under-thirteen event. The first indication of this came in the first game of the day which ended at 28—26, and followed

with the early defeat of Jean Darling, last year's champion, by a newcomer, Carol Bagshaw (North London).

But the outstanding "discovery" was undoubtedly Mary Shannon, a 12½-year-old schoolgirl from Worcester



JEAN HARROWER

Park, who had been coached by Harry Venner. Apart from her forehand defensive weakness, pin-pointed by Tommy Sears, an interested spectator, Mary appeared to have all the makings of a fine all-round game, and in the final was much too strong for Lynda Gordon, of Manchester.

The tournament concluded with three rousing cheers from an excited audience nearly a thousand strong; and judging by their enthusiastic reception of the play we would appear to be stimulating interest in table tennis as a spectacle as well as a game, to be played competitively and enjoyed by the very young.

JACK CARRINGTON'S HOLIDAY TRAINING WEEKS 1956

19-26 May - South Coast

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—o—

Details from:-

24, Worcester Gardens,
Ilford, Essex

The Woman and The Man

by *ELSIE CARRINGTON*

IN my various table tennis travels, I am often asked by the layman, "How does the women's game compare with the men?" This is a question which is almost impossible to answer, as there are so many different "Levels" in our sport, with a niche for everybody.

One can reign supreme in Blankshire yet not get double figures in the preliminary rounds of an Open Tournament. Nevertheless, Blankshire's lady champion will be held in very high esteem there, and may even be able to beat most of the leading men in her area too.

Girls are extremely lucky in table tennis as most clubs are mixed and they can usually get plenty of practice with the men, a great help in quickening the footwork and the reactions.

More Active

Our system of playing mixed doubles, too, is very helpful in strengthening the womens game. There is no question of her just being a "Sleeping partner" (as sometimes happens in tennis or badminton) but has to take the alternate shots and thereby plays a very important part in the game.

She must be on her toes all the time and be even more alert when she is receiving from the man.

Many of us are very fortunate in that we are allowed to play in men's

leagues. Ours must be the only sport where women play singles matches against men. And the men must sometimes wish it wasn't allowed!

However, provided the competition is strong enough, I am all for girls playing in Ladies Leagues, as match practice against good girls is, to my mind, of more value than match practice against men.

Better Against Men

The women's game is quite a different type from what we get from the men. It is often slower but very often a more difficult game to play. Indeed, some girls are much better against men than they are against their own sex.

This, of course, is mostly psychological; she is not really expected to beat the man and consequently she plays in a nice relaxed and care-free manner, without the tension that brings mistakes. Against the girl, there are all sorts of odd things that worry her, quite apart from the fact she **must** win, if possible.

She is conscious of noise, of people moving about, and she allows these things to break her concentration, and play on her nerves.

So you see it is very hard to compare the womens game with that of the men. One thing seems to stand out; the higher the level, the wider the margin.

There must be five to ten points difference between the games of the top men and that of the top women

in the world. Even so, I wouldn't mind betting that some of those men would be more than a little shaky if they found Mrs. Rozeanu in the Men's Singles draw!

I have the greatest admiration for tournament organisers and all those hard-working officials we see at the "Opens," but I wish they would be a little more strict about the behaviour of some players.

They should stop this slovenly knocking-up that goes on during tournaments, players knocking-up with coats on, and scarves trailing round their necks.

At a recent tournament I saw an ex-junior international, who should have known better, knocking-up with his collar and tie on and in his outdoor shoes.

An Insult

Then, of course, there is the cardinal sin of smoking while playing. This, in my opinion is an insult to the game.

Imagine going to Wimbledon and finding players knocking up in their braces and smoking! Well, that is what we look like to the lawn tennis players.

It is hard enough even these days to get our game recognised as a serious sport, and while this sort of behaviour continues we cannot expect to earn the respect of the uninitiated.

I know the organisers have plenty on their plates at the tournaments, but perhaps a word over the "mike" to the offenders might improve them.

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WELSH GIRLS' SUCCESS AT BASLE

The formidable Welsh combination of Shirley Jones and Betty Gray won the Women's Doubles in the Swiss Open Championships at Basle, beating Lynda Werlt and Trudy Pritzi 22-20 in the 5th game after being 5-15 down!

In the Singles, Audrey Bates beat Lynda Werlt 3-1, while Betty Gray beat Kroupova and Shirley Jones beat Grafkova, (Czech No. 1 and No. 2). Betty Gray beat Audrey Bates in one Semi-final but in the Final lost to Trudy Pritzi who had beaten Shirley Jones in the other half.

John Simonson lost in the Final of the Boys' Singles.

WATCH OUT, GIRLS

There may be less games for you, says Geoff Harrower

TABLE Tennis has continued to make strides since the early days of the E.T.T.A., but in recent years there has been one development particularly noticeable. I refer to the number of young girls playing competitively.

It was an eye opener to attend the London heats of the "Girl" tournament and find there were over 200 entrants, **UNDER 14**, from South-East England.

Pre-war it was difficult to find any girls under 17 playing. Why, in 1939, there were only two entries for

however, has been the opportunity to win a Junior international Badge. But this honour may be denied the leading girl players this season.

I am not entirely throwing the blame on the National Selection Committee. They thought a girls singles would be included in the match against France; they hoped that Wales would relent and reintroduce a game for girls; they have approached Scotland for a mixed junior international; but they should have made efforts for a representative fixture when the Germans were here in November.

What has happened (or not happened!) this season cannot be undone. It is up to responsible Officials to take heed and ensure that this state of affairs does not continue next season, or subsequently.

One step would be to examine carefully whether we should continue to play Junior Internationals with Associations who stipulate "boys only."

If it were not only this point, there would still be quite a future for girls entering the game, but... Gloucestershire are out to see that girls, and women, get practically thrown out of the County Championships!

In fairness to them, they only

bring up their proposal because no one else will, but nevertheless they want to cut down the number of matches from ten to eight, eliminating the men's and women's doubles. This would reduce the number of girls games from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$, whilst the men would only go down from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$.

If this proposal goes through, it will halve the number of girls playing in the Championships, without cutting out a single man. Players like Pam Mortimer, and either Jean Winn or Betty Isaacs, will no longer be able to enjoy play in the Premier Division, whilst one outstanding girl junior in a county would mean no opportunity for any others.

The obvious solution, if matches are too long, is to cut the programme to nine by eliminating one of the men's singles. It would also save time to have punctual starts, less time wasting between events, shorter intervals, and reduce unnecessarily long announcements.

But none of these appear to have occurred to those who can see the cutting of the women's singles as the only solution.

They should reflect that, in recent years, it has been the success of the Rowe Twins, and more recently, the brilliant performances of Ann Haydon, that have inspired the average "fan" far more than the comparative insipid performances of our men.

We want to see youngsters encouraged to take up our sport—don't drive them away through lack of foresight.



JEAN WINN

the English Open girls singles (Betty Blackburn and Jean Nicoll): in 1947 this same event was declared "No Contest" as not even two girls could be found.

There can be little doubt that the vast increase is due largely to the greater opportunity that exists for girls in representative play. The County Championships have their own Junior section. Many counties run Junior sections of their Inter-League competitions, the "Daily Mirror" tournament has been the means of bringing a lot of girls into the fold, and other papers, on a more local basis, have catered for youngsters to a degree never previously known.

I wonder whether it is just coincidence that now there is a Northern Division the North have in Lorna Bown their first good Junior since the days of Adele Wood?

The best reward in recent years,

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English Swaythling & Corbillon Cup Team

MR. CLUB PLAYER vs. SPONGE —

The Charge: *That sponge is ruining the game known to many as Table Tennis.*

Counsel for the Prosecution: General Comment, Q.C.

Counsel for the Defence: Gordon R. Walker, Unattached.

Jury: Gentle Readers, "Table Tennis".

A hush settles on the crowded court room as **General Comment** rises to lead his evidence: "Your Worship, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, my client has instructed me to submit that the introduction of sponge rubber bats of various types by various types all the way from rabbits right up to the High and the Mighty, is having the effect of robbing the game called Table Tennis of such spectacular elements as used to draw large crowds to watch it being played. It is becoming simply a matter of who can keep the ball longest on the table, or who can best prevent his opponent from making an opening for a forcing shot.

"This is having an adverse effect on attendances at major events of the sport, and I have here the attestation of hundreds of area committee members, etc., that gate receipts are already on the wane and that unless this cancer, disease or pestilence is officially banished, the sport is likely to linger and die. I have here also the attestation of many among the High and the Mighty that the introduction of this material into play makes enterprising play impossible and reduces the combat to a test of endurance on the part of spectators and players alike.

"Further, your Worship, we would point out that these people have paid to be entertained, and that we are guilty of a breach of contract if we do not provide entertainment having charged for it.

"Finally, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I would have you consider the crushing testimony against sponge which has been made by some of the gentlemen of the Yorkshire County Committee, who, in their wisdom, saw fit to bring forward a motion to ban sponge players from their county team. The only factor which prevented this motion being carried was the fear that in so doing, the committee would *ipso facto* leave themselves without a team.

"To sum up, we cannot understand how anyone who really has the good of the game at heart, anyone who cares sincerely for its reputation as being second only to ice-hockey for speed and spectacle, can possibly bring any other verdict but guilty."

General Comment takes his seat with a satisfied air and a murmur of assent runs through the court.

Framed

Mr. Walker brings the following arguments in defence of Sponge, who by this time hangs limply in the dock, looking pretty soggy.

"Your Worship, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I submit that my client has been framed. This case has been building up for the last four years, and dates back to the World Championship in Bombay in 1952, when a Japanese called Satoh first carried all before him with the aid of my client.

"Diminishing gates I will leave aside for the moment as being something of a red herring.

"The charge is that Sponge is ruining the game with his bland, noiseless face; that he encourages a negative type of play which bores the spectator to

death. Ladies and gentlemen, I submit that the game today has degenerated to such an extent that the spectator would be bored to death with or without Sponge. The murderer of the modern game is not Sponge or soft rubber or any kindred gentleman, but our miserable colleague Chiseller."

Chief Justice: "Who?"

Mr. Walker: "Chiseller, your Worship, is the title given to any player of this sport who is so lacking in strokes as to be unable to win by any method but the negative one of awaiting his opponent's mistakes. This type of play was only encouraged by the introduction of the time limit rule, which was designed to curb it. Instead, this type of play became an art in its own right, which was unfortunately adopted and practised by quite a few among the High and the Mighty.

The Real Culprit

"I submit that if this practice had been left alone and on just one or two occasions two Chisellers had met and taken four or five hours to play their match to its protracted conclusion, the pointlessness and stupidity of it would have become apparent even to the Chisellers themselves, and the cancer—for I suggest that here is the real cancer—would have died a natural death. The old cut and thrust of attack and counter attack would once more have been as a magnet to the crowds.

"Not Sponge but the user of same is at fault if his game is dull and 'spoiling': give a Chiseller anything from a sheet of tissue paper to a butter pat to play with and he will still be a chiseller.

"The way in which Sponge is capable of *speeding up* the game and making it more spectacular has been strikingly demonstrated by the great exponents of this material, the Japs themselves—men like Tomita and Tanaka, the speed of whose offensive shots deceives the eye and catches the breath, thrilling the spectator instead of boring him.

"Finally, ladies and gentlemen, let us look for a moment at the question of diminishing gates. Once we have abolished the time limit rule and given the chiseller his head and enough rope to hang himself with, ruining a few tournaments in the process, but infallibly cutting out the cancer, we shall again have a game worth watching.

"To sum up, ladies and gentlemen: Sponge is essentially an offensive weapon, and the best way to play against it is to attack; if the 'sponger' and his opponent were to play this way, what a contest of skill and speed would develop, instead of the present 'I'm-not-risking-anything-against-this' type of battle."

Chief Justice: "General Comment's case, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, is that Sponge deadens play, and unless cut out will kill the game, while Mr. Walker's case is that not sponge but its users and their opponents are at fault, in other words, today's - er - chisellers.

"Gentle readers, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we await your verdict."

THE DROP AND HALF VOLLEY

ONE of the most effective shots in the game, and one which is consistently overlooked by beginners, is the **Drop Shot**. Why this is so has often puzzled me, but I believe the explanation is probably a psychological one in that the drop shot is seldom spectacular. And the spectacular always has the greatest appeal to the uninitiated.

Let me emphasize here that **Properly Used** the drop shot can not only win points outright, but even if returned, often leads to a hurried return which gives the opportunity for a "kill."

The secret of the successful drop shot is to be able to delay it until the last possible moment, disguising the intention so that the opponent cannot anticipate the shot and move up to the table.

One of the greatest exponents of the drop shot was Bo Vana, of Czechoslovakia, who had an uncanny delicacy of touch.

He used his wonderful forehand drive to the last split second and only at the instant of contact was it revealed he had not followed through but had instead just pulled across the ball sufficiently to carry it over the net.

The most effective answer to the Drop Shot will always be anticipation, but this is something which cannot be taught by "rule of thumb." It will only come with experience.

It should however be remembered that it is essential to move rapidly towards the table for the return of the drop shot and, most important, arrive **on balance**.

Correct footwork is more than ever a vital necessity.

It is true that some great players are able to "jump in" for the return of a drop shot, but I would say that the safest method is to approach the table in short steps, and play the actual return off the *Right Foot*.

Remember, the most successful drop shot is disguised until the last split second. Delicacy of touch is, therefore, essential. Just sufficient strength is needed to carry the ball over the net and no more.

Half Volley

This is probably the most basic of all basic strokes and I would recommend every beginner to concentrate on it.

The racquet should meet the ball just after the bounce with the back-hand face. The slope of the racquet should be roughly vertical to the table but will depend on the quantity of spin put on the ball by the opponent.

For top spin the racquet must slope forward to return, and backwards for chop or back spin.

The exact slope depends on your opponent's stroke and can only be learned by practice until the correct angle becomes automatic.

The half-volley is particularly useful against attacking shots aimed at the body, especially when sufficient

accuracy has been acquired to enable "angled" returns to be made.

Remember if the half-volley is played correctly against an attacking player, he has very little time to make his next shot and if you can angle it sufficiently either wide down the forehand or backhand court, he may not reach it at all.

These returns against any but the fastest moving opponents can have a deadly effect. At least an opponent will find it very disturbing when he is chiefly concerned with getting from one side of the table to the other in order to return the ball.

He has little time to think and plan the continuity of his own game, thereby losing the initiative.

One word of warning; a quick "natural eye" is essential and even then against a really fast attacking player mistakes are easy to make.



H.R.H. DUCHESS OF KENT has the shaping of table tennis bat handles explained by Mr. F. A. Turner during last month's visit to Spalding's Factory

JUNIORS ON PARADE

LORNA BOWN (Cheshire)

Commencing to play only just over two years ago, Lorna Bown has made a meteoric rise from obscurity to one of England's leading juniors. Undeclared for two seasons play with Cheshire Juniors, winner of the North Midlands, North of England and Prestatyn Open Championships, tournament victories over Mrs. Braddock and Miss Threlfall make up Lorna's impressive record. And having just celebrated her sixteenth birthday she still has another year as a junior!

An all-rounder Lorna is a member of her school senior Hockey, Netball and rounders teams also plays Tennis and swims.

JEAN HARROWER (Middlesex)

In an age when players tend to play an above average game at earlier ages, Jean stands out as the "youngest of the young." She is the youngest player ever to play for a county, win an Open Tournament, take part in International Trials (and finish with the best record)—and all done at the age of twelve.

With four further seasons as a junior, can Jean rise to even greater heights than Ann Haydon and the Rowe Twins? Time alone will tell, but she possesses two great assets, both unusual in one so young: consistency, as shown by her 100% record in the LADIES division of the Barnets League; and the "killer" instinct.

DAVID GRIFFITHS (Cheltenham)

Yet another Cheltenham star, like Harrison and Tarling first learning to play at the Cheltenham Spa Club, more would have been heard of David had it not been for Ian Harrison.

Ian has certainly been a "bogy" to David, as he has beaten him in the final of numerous events, including the Cheltenham Closed for several seasons, starting in 1952/53, the Gloucestershire Closed, Midland Closed, Gwent Open and also in the semi-final of the Birmingham Open! He has played regularly for the Cheltenham Junior side for the past three seasons.

David impressed me at the recent Junior Trials when he gave a very hard game to Laurie Landry, taking

the middle game. He is still at Cheltenham Grammar School, where he has already passed his School Certificate in EIGHT subjects, and is now studying Physics, Chemistry and Maths. Has also represented his school juniors at Cricket, and the school at Cross Country Running. After all this it is not surprising that he told me "I do not have time to play table tennis as often as I should like!"

DOROTHY WORRALL (Staffs)

Although Dorothy is only sixteen she has a wealth of experience, including a regular place in the Staffordshire second team in the County Championships, for the past two seasons. She first played competitively when thirteen, for Hateley Heath in the West Bromwich League.

Dorothy has won both junior and senior titles in the West Bromwich



DOROTHY WORRALL

League, and last season reached the semi-finals of both girls' and women's singles in the "Daily Mirror" tournament. This season she was successful with Laurie Landry in the mixed doubles at the Kent Junior.

Dorothy also plays Lawn Tennis, and Swims, and her principal hobby is classical music.

JOHN STODDART (Cheshire)

John Stoddart is clearly the outstanding boy from the North West of England, and it was particularly unfortunate that he should be well below his best at the recent International Trials. Previously this season his record has been impressive. At the East of England Open he beat Junior International Tindale, before losing

to Landry in the semi-final, won the Hull and East Riding Open, and at Peterborough took the first game off Landry, nearly winning in straight sets. John has not conceded a set in the Junior Division North.

John is a pupil of Wallasey Grammar School, and his interests include, besides Table Tennis, Athletics, Cricket, Chess, Reading, Rowing and Sculling.

KEITH TARLING (Cheltenham)

One of the successes of the recent Junior Trails, Keith Tarling is not well known in the London area, but has a record to command respect. His first success came in the final of the Midland Closed Championships, when in the 1953/54 season he beat Derek Backhouse. In the same season he was awarded his Junior Town Colours, and the following season he gained Senior Colours as well. Open Tournament successes include the Bath Open (1953/54), Dorset Open and Southampton Open (1954/55). As a result of his consistent play in the trials, where he beat Cole, Collins and Bradford, losing only to Hodson, he was made reserve against France. Maybe his chance will come against Wales.

CHANGING TABLES

Geoff Harrower, of Middlesex, is taking a big interest in another table these days—the card table. He is rapidly becoming a Bridge expert and has achieved county status, representing Herts in the finals of the "Daily Telegraph" Cup.

It will be recalled that a leading pro-war table tennis player Leo Baron turned to Bridge and is one of the games greatest experts. He gained international honours, and now lives in South Africa.

Double President

County President of two different sports. That's the rare distinction of C. Corti Woodcock, Adjudicator to the Umpires Committee.

He has of course been Table Tennis President for many years and now the Essex County Amateur Golf Union have bestowed on him a similar honour.

Corti has long shared his table tennis interests with golf and has been honorary secretary of the Theydon Bois Club since 1937, and a more recent appointment is that of Essex A.G.U. Secretary.

Corti was of course the donor of the St. Brides Vase, the World Singles trophy. The name comes from the St. Brides (All England) T.T.C. and the first winner was Fred Perry, then a member of that club.

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FOLLOWING DAD

The skill of a parent has led to the introduction of many young players to Table Tennis. Into this category comes pretty Jean Preston, of Knaresborough, surprise choice for Yorkshire's first team against Essex recently.

Seven years ago as a wee slip of a lass just 13 years old, Jean, who at that time was showing great promise as a swimmer, saw her Dad, George Preston, a Yorkshire official, win the local Knaresborough League tournament. As she proudly helped him carry the trophy home Jean turned round and said, "When I grow up I am going to play table tennis and win cups like you."

True to her word, Jean now has her share in the six trophies that grace the family sideboard. Some have been won by her father, who, although he took up the game 30 years ago, still plays for the Liberal Club in the Knaresbrook League.

Jean took her first steps to the game at a Youth Club and gained further experience when her father used to sneak her into his club for the odd knock.

Tables Turned

"In those days we used to give Jean 15 start," said George Preston, "now she gives us a start and often a beating."

Table tennis is a family sport for the Prestons, for brother George is captain of the St Hilda's Club, Darlington, where he works on the railways.

Jean is not particularly well known outside Yorkshire circles. Indeed, when Essex first heard she was in the Yorkshire team, they immediately asked "Who is this girl Preston?"

They quickly found out when she partnered Florence Wright to a surprise win in the doubles over Elsie Carrington and Barbara Milbank. It was a big blow to Essex for they had banked on winning this match and, as it turned out, it enabled Yorkshire to win 6-4.

Her work as a shop assistant does not enable Jean to go the usual tournament rounds, otherwise we would probably hear a great deal more about her, for her close to the table counter-attacking game, reveals talents which could be further developed.

The Prestons run a Fish and Chip saloon in Knaresborough and on certain nights a week the chairs and tables are cleared away from the dining room to become the home venue of Claro T.T.C., the club for which Jean plays in the local league. She also plays for Wesley Social in the Harrogate League.

Back Room Boy

LANCASHIRE and Yorkshire are traditional rivals so that it is surely unique to find the "Tykes" honouring a Lancastrian with the first award of their special badge for exceptional service to Table Tennis.

Yet such will be the occasion when Yorkshire make the presentation of a suitably engraved

plaque to Leslie Forrest at their annual dinner in April.

To the modern generation Mr. Forrest is essentially a Yorkshireman, and few will be aware that he originally hailed from the Merseyside



LESLIE FORREST

where the large Liverpool and District League stands as an everlasting memorial to his name.

He also had the distinction of playing for Lancashire against Yorkshire so that he is now entitled to wear both the Red and White Rose of these two great counties.

South Wales also have every reason to remember this energetic official, who is now the "elder statesman" of the Yorkshire Committee.

He formed the first Club in Barry and also helped to establish a league in that town.

Mr Forrest returned to the Liverpool area in 1925 and finding table tennis played in a very mediocre way immediately set about whipping up a wider interest.

His first job was to form the North Liverpool Y.M.C.A. team and within a year he had launched the Liverpool and District League. He also helped with the formation of other leagues in Lancashire and Cheshire.

Greater honours were on the way, a place on the English T.T.A. committees and eventually assistant secretary of the E.T.T.A.

This led him to leaving Merseyside and after a spell in London he moved to Yorkshire where his wholehearted enthusiasm has helped the "Tykes" become one of the most powerful bodies in the game.

Mr Forrest's enthusiasm for the game is shared by his wife Aranka, who is a cousin of Victor Barna.



JEAN PRESTON PARTNERING HER FATHER

MORE UMPIRES NEEDED

by BILL GOLDFINCH

WHEN the Editor asked me to write on the subject of "Umpiring"

I thought immediately of several colleagues who are much more competent than myself to make this contribution. They are Colleagues who never appear to have any qualms about umpiring, however important the match, know every law and regulation of the game without reference to the book, and have been associated with the game for almost a lifetime.

I can claim none of these distinctions. My own collection of butterflies invade my inner regions, in varying degree, whenever I am asked to umpire any sort of match from inter-league level upwards. My knowledge of the laws and regulations of the game is fallible requiring fairly frequent reference to the book, and indeed my association with the game is comparatively youthful, beginning only in September, 1939.

Nevertheless, I felt that perhaps two reasons justified, my acceptance of the Editor's invitation. First, is the conviction, shared with my more distinguished colleagues, that we must do all we can to implement and extend the existing umpire's scheme. The improvement and widening of the umpiring technique is of inestimable value to the game, and will tend to increase in importance as the popularity and "standing" of the game progresses.

Secondly, I thought, that as my opinions and ideas would be coming from a "middleman" they might have a larger appeal, and be more effective as a consequence, to a greater number of readers.

Although at the present time I hold office as Hon: Secretary of the National Umpire's Committee— I do not intend in these few articles to confine myself only to propounding official doctrine. I want to take this opportunity of discussing umpiring in its widest sense, to analyse a number of problems associated with it, and, I hope, to be sufficiently provocative to induce you to take up pen and paper in reply. I shall be official and unofficial, therefore I hope, human.

OUTNUMBERED

There are at the present time some 550 qualified County Umpires in England. Compare this figure with, what must be a very conservative estimate of some 8,000 competitive matches being played every week throughout the season, and if you think in terms of individual games, something between 70,000 and 90,000 might be nearer the mark.

On this assumption then, even if all the qualified umpires each officiated at 10 games per week, the startling

fact is revealed that more than 90 per cent of all competitive games played in this Country are being controlled by umpires who have no official qualification.

The degree of skill in competitive table tennis play varies enormously, and the fact that playing skill finds recognition and reward at all levels, is one of the main reasons why our game is so universally popular. But, the volunteer who becomes the umpire and is therefore put in the position of having to award points, mainly for skill, at whatever level, should surely have one basic qualification from which there can be no justifiable variation: **he must know the laws of the game he is controlling.** Also he must be able to satisfy the players and others concerned, that he knows the laws of the game.

BE CONSCIENTIOUS

Less I be misunderstood, let me hasten to explain that I am in no way critical of the many thousands of volunteers who take the central chair and call the score. Without them the game would be poorer. What I am suggesting is that every player should give serious consideration to this point—if, when I am playing I expect the umpire to record the score accurately, ought I not to be sure that when I am umpiring I am calling the score accurately also?

If your answer to the question is "yes," as I feel sure it must be, you should take the first step to becoming an "accurate caller of the score", by decided to become a qualified Umpire.

My suggestion is not only directed to the players, who like myself, have doubtful skill, but also to those



BILL GOLDFINCH

players with considerable talent and reputation. It would be of considerable advantage to the County Umpire Scheme to number among its members many of the Country's leading players.

The need for more qualified umpires shows itself in a number of ways, but never more than at the large tournaments. Current criticism of late finishing at some of the tournaments is in part a reflection of this problem. How frequently one hears the plea coming over the loudspeaker—"can we have a volunteer umpire for the game on table number so-and-so please?"

Every game played in a competitive tournament should be controlled by a qualified umpire, otherwise how can we expect to conduct our tournaments fully satisfied they comply with conditions of the tournament, as printed on the entry form.

HOW MANY?

For example, regulation No. 3 of the Open Tournament Regulations states—"That the Tournament will be conducted under the present laws of the game and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the I.T.T.F. and the E.T.T.A. with particular attention to the Time Limit Rule and the Dress Regulations.

Of the total number of volunteers who umpire at tournaments how many understand the time limit rule and the dress regulations? Not many I venture to suggest and less still who would be prepared to take action under them.

The Umpire is responsible for fact. It is a fact that we need more Umpires (qualified).

THE ENGLISH "OPEN"

THE 1956 English Open championships will go down in history as one of the finest, most popular and best run meetings since the war. They were full of shock results although in the end most of them finished up in the hands of the favourites.

Hungary took the major share with three titles, the men's and women's singles and men's doubles, while the women's and mixed doubles were kept in the country.

Diane Rowe, following her disappointing show in the singles, where she surprisingly went down to Betty Gray of Wales, proved our face saver, winning the women's doubles with **Ann Haydon** and the mixed with **Johnny Leach**.

The hoodoo of the men's singles still persisted, and it is now 32 years since a home player won the crown. In fact no English born player has won the title since the championships were thrown open to the world in 1926.

The unpredictable **Harry Venner**, coming through from an unseeded position, raised high hopes of a home success when, for the first game and a half of the final, he bashed **Elemér Gyetvai** off the table, only to break



BETTY GRAY

up under the relentless attack of the Hungarian who eventually won as he liked at 18-21, 21-19, 21-16, 21-11.

Gyetvai also won the men's doubles with **Kalman Szepesi** while the blonde

bombshell **Gizi Farkas** after a break of eight years came back to win the women's singles for the third time.

Ann Haydon annihilated all opposition in gaining the triple crown in the junior events, where **Ian Harrison**, of Gloucester, was surprise winner of the boys' singles and doubles with **Kevin Edwards**. **Laurie Landrie**, who had been strong favourite, had to be content with the junior mixed doubles in partnership with Miss Haydon.

And now a word of praise for the organisation. It was first class and



NORMAN COOK

hearty congratulations are due to Norman Cook, the Organising secretary, Leslie Jones the Referee, and their willing band of hard workers, who made the meeting flow without hitches.

There was always a smile and helpful understanding from "control." Sessions were planned to precision and programmes ran to schedule with early finishes, which was well reflected with a big National Press. Everyone was kept happy.

Conditions too were superb, nine tables being used in the long exhibition hall, each giving ample run bag and width so that there was no over-crowding. And such was the organising that competitors suffered no difficulties in finding space for practice "knock-ups."

The Kings Hall made a fine setting for the finals night, with a single table replacing the usual boxing ring for which this hall is famed.

Nearly 5,000 spectators were treated to a little over three hours of thrills, drama and excitement.

The giant killer of the meeting proved to be the stocky colourful Australian, Lou Laza, who came as

manna to the Press with a series of sensational wins.

He put out former Michel Haguenuaer, of France, the first night, and followed up by beating Josef Koczian, of Hungary, before eventu-



HARRY VENNER

ally going down to Leach in the quarter-finals. But Laza's giant killing was not restricted to the singles.

In a scratch partnership with fellow "Digger" Norma Buckland, who arrived in England only the day before the championships, he provided the biggest sensation of all, beating the world champions Szepesi and Eva Koczian in the third round after first saving two match points.

Shocks Galore

Laza's win over Haguenuaer, was the start of three seeds falling on the first night. Ivor Jones (Essex) beat Rene Roohoft (France) in the third round and at the same stage came Harry Venner's outstanding achievement, the defeat of Szepesi, who until then had been unbeaten in Europe this season, and was top favourite for the title.

Venner's brilliant counter-hitting and half-volleying from close to the table broke up the Hungarian's game, preventing him from making full use of his powerful driving.

It was a closely contested match with the result being in doubt right until the end where deuce was called in the fourth game before Venner got the final two points to win 21-17, 18-21, 21-19, 22-20.

Following this Venner had an easy

win over Bob Griffin (Gloucester) then in the quarter finals beat Jimmy Lowe (Middlesex) in a long stonewalling match.

Venner was now in the semi-final lined up against Johnny Leach in a match we all awaited with great expectation. It was Venner who came out on top, hammering Leach 21—11, 17—21, 21—10, 21—17.

Leach looked unaccountably nervous and never really got into his stride. He was driven back on defence by the furious pace of Venner's attack.

After losing the first game it looked as though Leach had stemmed the tide when he took the second, but Venner forged right ahead to take the third game with considerable ease and despite miraculous retrieving Leach fell behind at 13—20 in the fourth—seven match points to Venner.

With his back to the wall, Leach made a magnificent effort, saving four match points, but the task was too great and Venner got the game at 17.

With such a magnificent performance behind him Venner went into the final against Gyetvai. He started in storming style polishing off the first game in eight minutes, dashed to a 15—10 lead in the second and looked as though at last he was going to put an English name on the championship roll.

Fast and Furious

Venner looked as though he had gone mad, hitting fast and furious and virtually wiping the floor with the tall gangling Hungarian sponge man. Then came tragedy. With a series of spiteful forehands to all corners Gyetvai drove Venner back from the table and the Englishman's defence was not strong enough to take it. There were gloomy looks as the Hungarian took nine points in a row and eventually took the game at 21—19.

The smiles came back to the home supporters as Venner, regaining his position close to the table went ahead at 9—3 in the third game, but here his gallant display came to an end. The lethal drives from the man reputed to be the hardest hitter in the world put Gyetvai right on top once more and Venner's touch deserted him. From that stage he was completely crushed by the Hungarian hitting machine.

Gyetvai was a worthy champion, for in the semi-final he had revealed what a brilliant player he is by beating fellow countryman, former world champion Ferenc Sido 14—21 22—20, 10—21, 21—18, 21—17.

As can be seen from these results it was a close affair and more so in view of Gyetvai's wonderful recovery

in the fourth game where he had been 13—16 down.

Sido made a great effort to save the fifth, when after being 10—18 down he took six points in a row, but Gyetvai's splendid raking drives carried him to victory.

Leach ended the brilliant run of Laza in the quarter final, but the Australian fought well and may well have reversed the result had he taken the fourth game, for he had Leach worried when he pulled up to deuce.

Jeff Ingber, of Manchester, former junior international, did well in reaching the quarter final where he fell to Gyetvai. Brian Kennedy (Yorkshire) also tumbled at this stage to Sido.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

England's high hopes of keeping the Women's Singles crashed in the

quarter finals where Diane Rowe was beaten by Betty Gray, of Wales, and Ann Haydon fell to the experience of Miss Farkas. Miss Rowe unaccountably threw her match away for she was two games and 14—6 up with the match seemingly in her pocket. Mistake after mistake flowed from her bat and she looked more puzzled by her defeat than those watching.

Miss Haydon in the words of her mother was "petrified" at the thought of meeting Miss Farkas and her defeat may be put down as psychological.

Nevertheless, Miss Farkas was right at the top of her form, mixing her game well with a wide variety of strokes and generally breaking up Miss Haydon's game.

Miss Haydon had her chances, for she led 18—16 in the third and 18—15



The smiling champion. Gizi Farkas holds her trophy aloft.

in the fourth but lost both games for Miss Farkas to win 21-16, 16-21, 21-18, 21-19.

Miss Farkas dealt drastically with Miss Gray in the semi-final and when she met her team mate Eva Koczian in the final, went on for a comfortable win at 21-14, 22-20, 21-15.

Miss Farkas, a former world champion, won the English title in 1947 and 1948 and is thus champion again after a break of eight years.

MEN'S DOUBLES

The men's doubles provided an all-Hungarian final with Szepesi and Gyetvai beating Sido and Koczian 15-21, 21-15, 21-17, 18-21, 21-15.

The Hungarians were dominating throughout the whole event, which provided a second round shock with Leach and Kennedy, the No. 2 seeds,

falling easily to the combined efforts of Ken Craigie and Alan Rhodes.

Ivor Jones and Bobbie Stevens (Essex) showed some fine form before coming up against Sido and Koczian in the semi-final, the stage at which Len Adams and Derek Burridge lost to Szepesi and Gyetvai.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Diane Rowe, winner of the women's doubles for the past six years with her twin sister Mrs. Rosalind Cornett marked up her seventh win, this time with Ann Haydon. As this was a new partnership and both are left-handed they were somewhat of an unknown quantity. But they combined so well, that in the final they hit the Hungarian pair of Miss Farkas and Mrs. Ilonka Solyon-Kerekes off the table at 21-18, 21-14, 21-10.

In the semi-final the English pair had beaten the other Hungarian part-

nership of Mrs. A. Almasi-Simon and Miss Koczain.

MIXED DOUBLES

Leach and Miss Rowe, after some early shocks particularly against Kennedy and Mrs. Thompson (Kathie Best), making a welcome return, took the mixed doubles title when they beat Ivor Jones (Essex) and Shirley Jones (Wales) in an all-British final 22-20, 21-14, 21-19. It was a somewhat disappointing final for everyone had expected a tougher fight from the Jones pair, who had opened their bid by beating the defending champions Aubrey Simons (Glouc.) and Helen Elliot (Scotland) in their first match and followed up with victories over Koczian and Mrs. Almasi-Simon (Hungary) and Heinz Schneider and Miss Monica Wiskant (East Germany).

DETAILED RESULTS

Men's Singles: Third Round: H. VENNER (Surrey) bt K. Szepesi (Hungary) 21-17, 18-21, 21-19, 22-20. R. GRIFFIN (Glouc.) bt J. Gambier (France) 22-20, 21-13, 19-21, 23-21. J. LOWE (Mid dx.) bt E. Still (Scotland) 21-10, 17-21, 11-21, 21-11, 16-14 (T.L.). A. SIMONS (Glouc.) bt H. Schneider (East Germany) 21-15, 21-19, 21-16. L. LAZA (Australia) bt W. Bedford (Yorks.) 21-9, 21-9, 21-14. J. KOCZIAN (Hungary) bt R. Alcock (Lancs.) 21-11, 21-19, 21-15. L. LANDRY (Mid dx.) bt N. Zahid (Pakistan) 21-19, 21-16, 21-18. J. LEACH (Essex) bt M. Kriss (Warw.) 21-8, 21-6, 21-13. E. GYETVAI (Hungary) bt K. Stanley (Yorks.) 21-8, 21-17, 21-15. B. MERRETT (Glouc.) bt K. Edwards (Glouc.) 21-14, 21-16, 21-13. J. INGBER (Lancs.) bt H. Reimann (East Germany) 18-21, 21-15, 21-19, 21-16. I. JONES (Essex) bt R. Roothoft (France) 15-21, 22-20, 23-21, 21-19. B. KENNEDY (Yorks.) bt K. Craigie (Surrey) 21-13, 14-21, 21-12, 21-14. G. MATHIAS (East Germany) bt K. Said (Pakistan) 21-10, 21-10, 21-13. M. BAROUH (France) bt B. Brumwell (Essex) 22-20, 19-21, 21-18, 21-16. F. SIDO (Hungary) bt R. Sharman (Mid dx.) 21-11, 21-18, 21-15.

Fourth Round: VENNER bt Griffin 21-10, 21-13, 21-10. LOWE bt Simons 21-17, 21-18, 21-18. LAZA bt Koczian 17-21, 21-14, 21-12, 21-19. LEACH bt Landry 19-21, 21-15, 21-10, 21-15. GYETVAI bt Merrett 21-10, 21-6, 21-10. INGBER bt Jones 21-11, 21-15, 21-12. KENNEDY bt Mathias 21-15, 21-18, 21-15. SIDO bt Barouh 21-15, 23-21, 15-21, 21-11.

Quarter-finals: VENNER bt Lowe 21-19, 21-18, 21-19. LEACH bt Laza 21-15, 18-21, 21-16, 22-20. GYETVAI bt Inger 21-11, 21-12, 21-10. SIDO bt Kennedy 21-19, 21-9, 21-17.

Semi-finals: VENNER bt Leach 21-11, 17-21, 21-10, 21-17. GYETVAI bt Sido 14-21, 22-20, 10-21, 21-18, 21-17.

Final: GYETVAI bt Venner 18-21, 21-19, 21-16, 21-11.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals: Miss C. Watel (France) bt Miss S. Jones (Wales) 21-16, 21-16, 21-19. Miss E. Koczian (Hungary) bt Miss H. Elliot (Scotland) 21-16, 20-22, 21-16, 24-22. Miss B. Gray (Wales) bt Miss D. Rowe

(Mid dx.) 17-21, 15-21, 21-17, 21-18, 23-21. Miss G. Farkus (Hungary) bt Miss H. Haydon (Warw.) 21-16, 16-21, 21-18, 21-19.

Semi-finals: Miss KOCZIAN bt Miss Watel 21-12, 18-21, 21-12, 21-13. Miss FARKAS bt Miss Gray 21-12, 21-12, 21-8.

Final: Miss FARKAS bt Miss Koczian 21-14, 22-20, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals: Szepesi and Gyetvai bt R. Griffin and B. Merrett (Glouc.) 21-8, 21-9, 21-9. L. Adams and D. Burridge (Mid dx.) bt H. Reimann and H. Schneider (E. Germany) 21-18, 21-19, 15-21, 25-23. Sido and Koczian bt R. Alcock and C. Booth (Lancs.) 18-21, 21-18, 21-18, 21-16. I. Jones and R. Stevens (Essex) bt K. Craigie (Surrey) and A. Rhodes (Mid dx.) 19-21, 21-19, 21-9, 19-21, 24-22.

Semi-finals: SZEPEESI and GYETVAI bt Adams and Burridge 21-17, 21-12, 23-21. SIDO and KOCZIAN 21-18, 21-13, 21-13.

Final: SZEPEESI and GYETVAI bt Sido and Koczian 15-21, 21-15, 21-17, 18-21, 21-15.

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals: Miss Rowe and Miss Haydon bt Miss A. Bates (Wales) and Miss H. Elliot (Scotland) 21-16, 21-17, 14-21, 21-9. Mrs. Almasi Simon and Miss Koczian bt Miss Gray and Miss Jones 23-21, 21-17, 21-13. Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey) and Miss P. Mortimer (Warw.) bt Miss M. Cumberbatch and Miss J. Mackay (Warw.) 21-14, 21-14, 16-21, 21-14. Miss Farkas and Mrs. Solyon Kerekes bt Miss J. Rook (Surrey) and Mrs. A. Thompson (Yorks.) 21-18, 26-24, 21-18.

Semi-finals: Miss ROWE and Miss HAYDON bt Mrs. Simon and Miss Koczian 19-21, 21-14, 21-17, 19-21, 21-15. Miss FARKAS and Mrs. SOLYON-KEREKES bt Miss Isaacs and Miss Mortimer 21-13, 10-21, 21-11, 21-13.

Final: Miss ROWE and Miss HAYDON bt Miss Farkas and Mrs. Solyon-Kerekes 21-18, 21-14, 21-10.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals: I. Jones (Essex) and Miss S. Jones (Wales) bt J. Koczian and Mrs. Almasi Simon (Hungary) 21-19, 22-24, 19-21, 21-18, 21-16. H. Schneider and Miss M. Wiskant (East Germany) bt R. Griffin (Glouc.) and Miss A. Bates (Wales) 21-17, 19-21, 17-21, 21-17, 21-18. Leach and Miss Rowe bt Gyetvai and Mrs. Solyon Kerekes (Hungary) 21-15, 19-21, 21-13, 21-8. R. Alcock and Miss A. Wood (Lancs.)

bt Laza and Miss A. Buckland (Australia) 21-13, 20-22, 21-19, 18-21, 24-22.

Semi-finals: JONES and Miss JONES bt Schneider and Miss Wiskant 21-12, 21-19, 14-21, 21-11. LEACH and Miss ROWE bt Alcock and Miss Wood 22-20, 12-21, 21-13, 21-13.

Final: LEACH and Miss ROWE bt Jones and Miss Jones 22-20, 21-14, 21-19.

Boys' Singles: Semi-finals: L. LANDRY (Mid dx.) bt K. Tarling (Gloucester) 21-14, 21-17; I. HARRISON (Glouc.) bt J. Bradford (Essex) 21-19, 21-11.

Final: HARRISON bt Landry 21-19, 21-18.

Girls' Singles: Semi-finals: Miss A. HAYDON (holder, Warw.) bt Miss S. Pickard (Essex) 21-5, 21-3; Miss D. WORRALL (Staffs.) bt Miss L. Bown (Cheshire) 19-21, 21-16, 21-14.

Final: Miss HAYDON bt Miss Worrall 21-13, 21-16.

Boys' Doubles: Semi-finals: LANDRY and TARLING bt A. Crossley (Cheshire) and V. Dereza (Staffs.) 21-12, 21-15; HARRISON and K. EDWARDS (Glouc.) bt P. Crowley (Wales) and S. Rose (Mid dx.) 23-21, 17-21, 21-13.

Final: HARRISON and EDWARDS bt Landry and Tarling 17-21, 11-21, 21-18.

Girls' Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss A. HAYDON and Miss WORRALL bt Miss M. McMeekin (Kent) and Miss S. Thomas (Glam.) 21-10, 21-10. Miss PICKARD and Miss S. HESSION (Essex) bt Miss Bown and Miss J. Chadderton (Lancs.) 21-19, 17-21, 21-12.

Final: Miss HAYDON and Miss WORRALL bt Miss Pickard and Miss Hession 21-14, 21-16.

Junior Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: LANDRY and Miss HAYDON bt J. Stoddart (Cheshire) and Miss Chadderton 21-5, 21-7. BRADFORD and Miss PICKARD bt Harrison and Miss McMeekin 22-20, 21-18.

Final: LANDRY and Miss HAYDON bt Bradford and Miss Pickard 21-11, 21-8.

Veteran Singles: Final: H. SPEARS (Warw.) bt R. Markwell (Essex) 21-14, 12-21, 21-17.

Veteran Women's Singles: Final: Mrs. G. DAVIES (Lancs.) bt Mrs. V. Cherriman (Mid dx.) 21-10, 21-17.

Women's Consolation Singles: Final: Miss A. BATES (Wales) bt Miss M. Piper (Surrey) 15-21, 23-21, 21-15.

Men's Consolation Singles: Final: R. ALLCOCK (Lancs.) bt K. Cragie (Surrey) 21-7, 21-12.

NEW AMERICAN STAR

ERWIN KLEIN, the American youngster who won the junior boys and mixed doubles in the English "Open" Championships last year, moves up to Swaythling Cup honours for the coming World Championships.

The U.S.A. teams are *Swaythling Cup*: **Erwin Klein, Bob Gusikoff, Bernard Bukiet, H. Hirschowitz. Corbillon Cup. Leah Neuberger, Mildred Shahlian, Lorna Flam.**

Richard Miles, currently playing exhibitions in the Far East with Marty Reisman and Douglas Cartland, has not been selected for the official team but may be called upon as he has entered in the individual events along with Reisman and Cartland.

Richard Bergmann rates the team as "average," but considers Klein as a great prospect and easily America's best player.

Klein, who is 17, beat Bergmann in an exhibition in Los Angeles. The match had a 90 minutes gap in the middle while Bergmann went off to fulfil a Globetrotters' engagement six miles away.

Before the break Bergmann was leading two games to one. He immediately lost the fourth game on resumption then after leading 18—11 and 19—13 in the fifth lost 20—22.

Bergmann, however, reports that he is satisfied with his game which is improving daily.

Klein has a slogan which may interest us over here: "There are two kinds of players in the world today: sponge-users and those who lose."

Young Erwin, is of course, a sponge-user.

There are no transport problems for the U.S.A. teams. They are being flown to Tokio—free of charge—in an Army plane. In return for this service they will stay four weeks in the Far East playing exhibitions for U.S. servicemen.

Our Ivor Montagu, with an eye

OBITUARY

Yoshiji Tamasu, member of the Japanese team that won the Swaythling Cup at Wembley and Utrecht died in Western Japan at the young age of 21.

to economy, had hoped Bergmann could travel with them, but it seems the "hospitality" plane was full and could not accommodate our man.

The plan was for Bergmann to stay on and do a month's stint with the U.S. boys and girls. He was not keen on this idea, preferring to return to England before going to Tokio, and in any case has planned



ERWIN KLEIN

a fortnight's holiday after the World's.

Bergmann is expecting to travel with the Harlem Globetrotters on their South American tour in the summer.

In the meantime, he competes in the American "Open" at White Plains, New York City March 16-18. Miles who beat Bergmann in the 1955 final has left the singles vacant.

Bergmann and Klein defend the doubles.

The Gymnastic Hall, Tokio, where the World Series is being staged, is an up-to-date hall with a seating capacity of 8,000. It is said to compare with our Wembley Empire Pool and the host country is confident that Western visitors will be

impressed by facilities and playing conditions.

Japanese tables are slower than those used in England. As the Japanese themselves like fast surfaces they are planning to import "snapper" tables from Singapore.

Hong Kong fancy their chances of depriving Japan of the Swaythling Cup and many Asiatic countries think they have the strength to do it. We over here don't know much about the Hong Kong stars, but we do know that when world-class players—including Bergmann, Leach, Barna and Haguenuaer—passed through Hong Kong in the course of their travels, they received decisive beatings.

Japan, however, are firm favourites to retain their grip on the world team trophy. The main spearhead of their attack includes the men who performed so handsomely, and victoriously, last year—reigning singles champion Toshiaka Tanaka, 1954 champion Ichiro Ogimura, and that bouncing bundle of energy, Yoshio Tomita.

China is definitely entered to compete. Their top man, C. W. Ling, a player with a strong defence yet capable of putting away a loose ball, is said to be in devastating form and is likely to be a force to be reckoned with in the singles.

Among the many Asiatic nations competing are the Philippines, who are reputed to be better than average and are expected to make a good showing.

Among the Indian stars almost certain to go to Tokio are: Men—Vyas and Thackersay; Women—Sultana, Parandi and John. India expect to turn in their best-ever World performances.

Far Easterners are suitably impressed by Ann Haydon's imposing string of victories, but have the attitude: "We'll spin and hit first—and see what she does then."

HARRY VENNER

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Area News :

SCOTLAND SPEAKING

INTERNATIONALLY speaking, Scotland has had a very poor season. We are of course overjoyed at the sensational return of Helen Elliot as a world power on the strength of her recent brilliance in France, but one Elliot doesn't make a Scots team, any more than one swallow makes a summer.

Against an English side which was but a shadow of the strength England could send North if we made it worth her while, our best players were again impotent. Of the Scots, only Helen Elliot and Vic Garland came up to expectations, the former with a victory against Betty Isaacs, and the later with a near miss against Derek Burridge. Particularly reprehensible was the doubles display by Still and Garland against Merrett and Burridge, who were not impressive.

Against Wales, Helen Elliot knocked the bottom out of the Scots morale by losing to Shirley Jones at a crucial moment, and the new gents' doubles pairing of Garland and Gilmour did nothing to redress the balance. We have so often been on the brink of notching our first win against Wales in the past few seasons that this 7-3 reverse is a depressing step in the wrong direction.

Nor did the gods look kindly on us in Ireland, where one more victory would have gained us a draw. Those who made a mark for Scotland in the 4-6 defeat were Garland, Still and Miss Elliot with singles wins, and Miss Elliot and Miss Houlston with a doubles win.

NIGHT AND DAY

Luckless Tom Gilmour, who notched not one victory in the three matches, had less than no chance in the Irish game, for on the week of the match he had one decent night's sleep on Monday and no more until after the game. He finished work on the Tuesday at midnight and caught the 4 a.m. train from Dundee on the first leg of his journey to Ireland.

The wisdom of selecting a player so difficultly placed is, to say the least, questionable, and certainly not fair to the player.

Ex-Scottish International and sometimes understudy to the two Helens of Edinburgh, **Mrs. I. Cababe**, may be back in Scottish Table Tennis next season.

A native of Cyprus, Mrs. Cababe went back there last year, but with a young baby to care for, and with no signs of any improvement in the political crisis, she is seriously thinking of making the journey back to Edinburgh.

Two days after she and her husband had opened a new shop in Nicosia, the place was wrecked by a bomb thrown in the open door.

Interest in the **West of Scotland Open Championships** was sadly lacking this year, due largely to the absence of too many big guns at one time. Helen Elliot and Helen Houlston were both seeking glory elsewhere, and neither Garland or Still made the trip from Aberdeen to Glasgow.

One pleasant feature of this defection

was that it allowed young Diane Black, of Dundee, to come in and take her first Open Title, reward which she has earned the hard way with many luckless but spirited encounters with Miss Elliot and Miss Houlston.

Play in the men's event, won by Johnny Miller of Edinburgh with his sponge bat, was disappointing.

Junior Ian Barclay of Edinburgh scored another victory over his rival Jim Carswell in convincing style. These two youngsters have met in no less than three finals this season, Barclay winning two of the tussles and Carswell one.

Gordon Walker

IRISH SCENE

PRIDE of place in the Irish scene during the past month must go to our victory over Scotland at Bangor Co. Down. This 6-4 win, which reversed last seasons result, was a well deserved one as Ireland had Wesley Pappin a late substitute for the injured Colin Senior.



HELEN ELLIOT

Pappin must be considered very fortunate to have gained this cap as he has done nothing whatever this season to merit his selection.

The International was a game of fluctuating fortunes. Ireland got off to a great start when Pappin beat Tommy Gilmour 21-17, 21-17. Then along came the evergreen "Hopper" O'Prey to put them two up with a straight sets win over Eddie Still.

The visitors however were not long in getting on level terms when their number one, V. Garland defeated E. Allen, and the women's doubles pair Helen Elliot and Helen Houlston disposed of Joy Owens and Margaret Lyons.

O'Prey and Allen restored Ireland's lead in the men's doubles, but Miss Elliot levelled matters when she accounted for Margaret Lyons.

Then Pappin went under to Still, and Miss Owens gave a really great per-

formance by beating Helen Houlston in straight sets. With the score at 4-all Allen and O'Prey went on to record victories over Gilmour and Garland respectively to give Ireland a 6-4 victory.

Bangor had a regular feast of table-tennis, the International being followed by the Co. Down Open, with the best and most representative entry of any tournament in Ireland this season.

Here, O'Prey maintained his good form by winning the men's singles, defeating his old rival Sean Clarkin in the final after five very hard sets. The Ulster man defended magnificently, but Clarkin in the fifth set led to his own undoing by rushing his shots.

Clarkin partnered by M. Behan was also on the losing side in the men's doubles, but gained some consolation by winning the mixed with Deidre Fearon. O'Prey completed a double by adding the men's doubles to his singles title—a feat equalled by Helen Elliot, who won the women's singles and doubles. She defeated Joy Owens in a most disappointing final.

STARS ABSENT

There was a most disappointing entry for the Irish Closed Championships held at Sligo, only a very small fraction of the leading players taking part. Ernie Allen, of Ulster, was perhaps the tournament's most successful entrant as he won the men's singles and doubles, and was on the losing side in the mixed.

In the finals of the men's singles he defeated Wesley Pappin, who, after winning the first set, fell away to lose the next three. The standard of play left much to be desired, being of a hit-or-miss nature, and aroused little enthusiasm from the spectators.

The semi-finals saw Allen beat Ray Linden and Pappin beat club-mate Noel Kerr.

As has been the case at practically all this season's major tournaments it was the women who stole the limelight. Their standard of play has improved beyond all recognition and it is encouraging to see new names coming to the fore after each event.

This time it was Irene Jordan, from Belfast, who caused the major upset by defeating Ireland's number one Joy Owens in the semi-final. She went on to give Margaret Lyons a rare fright in the final when she led 9-2 having won the first, but she eased off and went from attack to defence, a change that cost her the title for Miss Lyons was hitting very accurately and went on to win.

Miss Jordan was most unfortunate as she figured in three deciders without capturing one title.

S. DIGNAM

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KENT NOTES

BROMLEY take over the leadership in Kent League First Division by their 7-3 victory over Folkestone, after the seashiders had made all the running so far this season. Medway Towns also challenge for the lead, in the most open contest in this division for years.

While the issue is still undecided in the first division, Bromley "B" have already won Div. II (North), having gained maximum points from their six matches, and the amazing games average of 51-9. Thanet and Sittingbourne are fighting it out in Div. II (South), and the winner will play off against Bromley "B" for promotion.

In the ladies' division, N.W. Kent have taken the lead, but Maidstone and Woolwich are both only one point behind, with one match each in hand.

There can be little doubt about the outcome of the junior division, where Folkestone have only to draw with bottom-of-table Bromley to take the title. Woolwich, Sittingbourne and N.W. Kent are fighting it out for second place.

DIVISION I

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Bromley	6	4	2	0	42	18	10
Folkestone	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Medway Towns	6	3	2	1	35	25	8
Beckenham	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
N.W. Kent "A"	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
N.W. Kent "B"	5	1	2	2	27	23	4
Woolwich	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Gravesend	5	0	1	4	12	38	1
Tunbridge Wells	6	0	1	5	10	50	1

Canterbury have withdrawn.

Table tennis is making great strides in Beckenham, and their only team in the Kent League are doing better than in recent years, following "conversion" of their team to sponge. John Nixon, their captain, has been particularly successful with the new medium. New Beckenham secretary Elisabeth Wakelam tells me that they hope to enter a ladies' team next year.

Miss Wakelam is currently ranked No. 5 in Kent, and Norah Stevens is another good player the league can call upon. Beckenham will also try to find some juniors for a possible team in the Kent League.

By winning four open tournament titles in one season, Joyce Fielder, the 18-year-old Kent champion from New Eltham, has set up a new Kent record. An interesting fact is that all are doubles titles, and each one won with a different partner. Miss Fielder's regular partnership in mixed doubles with Bobby Raybould finally brought rewards in the South London Open, defeating Jimmy Lowe and Betty Isaacs, Alan Rhodes and Jean Head, and Jack Head and Joy Faulkner for the title. They intend to play regularly together next season. Miss Fielder's other three titles are in ladies' doubles, the Bucks., Portsmouth, and Midlands.

The Kent Open had its most successful year yet, and a record gate resulted in a record profit of £35, no mean achievements in these days of falling attendances. The Folkestone organising committee, including Jack Trigg, George Harding, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Betts, earned high praise from the county executive, who share this windfall with Folkestone.

The prospect of promotion brings to

Kent a pressing problem. If we go up, can we afford to run a second team, to prepare our second string players for Premier Division table tennis? Or rather, can we afford not to run this team?

John Winn and Lionel Pickering must be two of the youngest officials concerned with the running of an Open Tournament both are under 30. This was Winn's first year as Organising Sec. of the N.W. Kent Open, while Pickering acted at Tournament Sec. for the second time. Working with them on this year's tournament were Geoff Owen (Referee) and Bill Lewis, who have been connected with the event since its first year. The results of this blend of youth with experience speak for themselves.

Belated congratulations to Dennis Whittaker, the Kent and Woolwich player, currently ranked No. 3 in the county. Dennis was married on Christmas Eve. His bride, Joyce, is not a table tennis player, but together they enter dance contests, and have won many trophies.

Dennis' record in county matches, since making his debut this season, is four singles victories out of six.

Conrad Jaschke

MIDDLESEX NOTES

HOW ironical that in the very season they beat the Rest of England for the first time, Middlesex should fail to win the County Championship.

However, disappointed but not downhearted at failing to retain their title, Middlesex already have their thoughts

on next season's competitions and the fight they intend to make to regain lost laurels.

Immediate attention is being focused on the last county match of the season against Essex at Tottenham Baths on March 22. This could decide the runners-up position.

The re-introduction of the group system after a number of years was probably responsible for the increased entry for the Middlesex "closed" championships, where Michael Thornhill took the men's singles, and Margaret Fry scored a treble in the women's singles, women's doubles with Dot Ellis, and mixed doubles with Len Adams.

Giant-killing feats were achieved by J. Kavoor (Willesden), who disposed of Alan Rhodes, the defending champion, and R. Bradstreet (North Middlesex), who accounted for both Len Adams and Ken Craigie, before losing to Thornhill in the semi-final.

Laurie Landry once again beat his rival Eddie Hodson in the boys' final, then these two youngsters joined up to provide a surprise by winning the men's doubles, defeating Thornhill and Dennis Miller in the final.

Jean Harrower retained the girls' singles.

In the Inter-League competition Acton look set for yet another victory in the Premier Division and Staines are best set as runners-up.

North Middlesex head the Second Division, followed by Uxbridge and North Acton II, who are level on points.

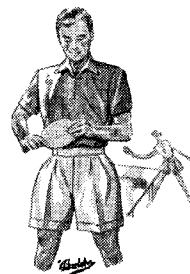
In the Third Division only three of the six teams have won any games and they each have four points. Wembley II lead with a superior games average and must have a good chance of regaining the place in the Second Division which they lost last season.

Norman Reeve

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GLOUCESTER SNIPPETS

GLOUCESTERSHIRE have again, after two terrific matches with Middlesex and Surrey, failed in their quest for the Premier Division title of the County championship, but we applaud the new champions, Surrey, as worthy winners.

Bob Griffin gave a great display in both fixtures, and there was never a dull moment when he was in action.

Late finishes were the big headache: 11.40 p.m. against Middlesex; 11.20 p.m. against Surrey. What about it, you officials? Surely the time has come to consider seriously the reduction in the number of ties from ten to at least eight, and why not seven?

Pride of place this month must undoubtedly be the great efforts of Bristol to encourage and develop their junior players. Under the planning of George Mortimer 20 players (**regret only one girl**) will meet every Saturday for an intensive coaching session, led by Norman Doble and Cliff Pickett. Only players who will again be juniors next season are to be called upon, and this coaching, followed by a series of Junior Town matches, will be the long-term planning to foster and encourage the talents of the Bristol youngsters. **Well done, Bristol.**

By the time these notes are read, two milestones will have been passed, both, I sincerely hope, successful. Young Ian Harrison will have had his baptism of International play, against the French at The Town Hall, Cheltenham, and Bristol will have played South London in the semi-finals of the Wilmott Cup, and I hope at least brought this trophy home. To both, **well done**, whatever the results; Gloucestershire are proud.

Gloucestershire will have also been represented by its chairman, Frank Newell, at the National Umpires' Examination and practical test in London, and here again we are quietly confident that he will have come through with flying colours. Lined up behind him are Dennis Andrews, Percy Crocker, George Mortimer and Bryan Willis, all waiting for a crack at this tough assignment.

In the County League, Gloucester (Juniors) drew with Dursley 5 sets all. Bristol (Juniors) beat Dursley 7-3, and Cheltenham (Juniors) crushed Gloucester (Juniors) 9-1, although not calling on their young "stars" Harrison, Tarling and Griffiths.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Bristol	...	2	2	0	0	13	7
Cheltenham	...	1	1	0	0	9	1
Dursley	...	2	0	1	1	8	12
Gloucester	...	3	0	2	1	10	20

It is gratifying to note signs of a revival in the Stroud Area, and it is hoped that the Stroud League will again be members next season.

Congratulations to Ian Harrison, Keith Tarling and David Griffiths for their Junior selection against Wales.

Wedding bells will ring out for the popular Bristol player Elizabeth Spokes, who will take that short walk into matrimony in July. Congratulations and best wishes.

Highlight of the Bristol Championships was the junior boys' final, in which A. Woodford beat C. Feltham 14-21, 21-19, 29-27. Both players produced many beautiful attacking shots.

Terry Pomroy won the women's singles for the sixth time, beating Mrs. K. Watts 21-19, 21-6, but Roger Haydon lost his men's title to David House, who landed the triple crown by winning the men's doubles with R. Wood, and the mixed with Miss Mathieson.

Gloucestershire take another step forward in the interest of youth. Following the Kent idea, a Junior singles event in the closed championships for the under 15's will be organised, and to avoid any late finishes, junior players will only be allowed to take part in so many events.

Looking ahead, the Bristol Association's annual dance will take place at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, Bristol, which dances 1,000. This follows on several very successful dances at the Corn Exchange, Bristol, when the "house full" notices had to be put out with 450 people on the floor.

Ivor Eyles

WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

WHEN Miss Muriel Vaughan (now Mrs. Barton) of the Newport League met with a serious accident to her left hand four years ago and was in danger of losing her arm, it looked like the end of the road as far as table tennis was concerned. But Mrs. Barton was not the type to give up easily and her love for the game overcame physical handicap.

Her reward came recently with a defeat of Mrs. Vera Rowe the League's No. 1 in a club match, which so impressed the selectors that she was called upon for the important match with Bristol when Mrs. Rowe had another engagement at Rhyl.

Although losing her singles Mrs. Barton played a big part in helping win the doubles, and so pave the way for Newport's 8-2 win, thus avenging their defeat in the opening match of the season.

Cheltenham and Birmingham joint leaders of the first division are still in the winning vein, and well ahead of the next team, Bath. Cheltenham visited Cardiff and beat them by 8-2. It is appreciated that Cardiff were without Misses Bates and Holden and Bernard Dimasie, but Cheltenham were in grand form. Alan Thomas for the home team played well to beat Peter Cruwys 22-20 15-21 21-19, and S. Jones beat A. Davies 21-13 15-21 21-19.

Mollie Jones for Cheltenham and Shirley Davies had easy victories in the ladies' singles. In the men's doubles Griffin and Cruwys had a hard match against A. Thomas and S. Jones winning 16-21 21-16 25-23.

Bath beat Bristol at Bath by 7-3. For the visitors it was pleasing to see the re-appearance of Charlie Dawes. He lost 20-22 22-20 20-22 to G. Holden, but beat D. Smith 21-15 21-17.

David House was in fine form winning both his singles quite comfortably. In the ladies' singles Miss Long of Bath had a hard fight against Miss M. Iles winning 21-23 23-21 21-19.

Cardiff entertained West Wilts. and won 8-2.

Bristol were beaten at home by Birmingham 7-1, two matches being unplayed. Bristol's only victory was gained by Terry Pomroy and Joan Collier in the doubles against Pam Mortimer and Jean

Mackay. In the men's singles events R. Vickers, M. Kriss and R. Murrell for Birmingham beat R. Haydon, B. Bucknell and R. Wood, respectively, but in each case the matches went to three sets.

Pam Mortimer and Jean Mackay had good victories against Terry Pomroy and Joan Collier in the singles.

As can be seen from the league tables Cheltenham and Birmingham are well in front, and last year's winners Bristol are surprisingly bottom but one. Bath are doing much better this season after their narrow escape from relegation last season.

Newly promoted West Wilts. have yet to win a match. In the Second Division, Newport relegated last year, are still at the top, but Bristol are on their heels.

WESTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Cheltenham	...	5	4	0	1	36	14
Birmingham	...	5	4	0	1	31	17
Bath	...	4	3	1	0	22	18
Cardiff	...	4	1	3	0	16	24
Gloucester	...	4	1	3	0	16	24
Bristol	...	5	1	4	0	18	30
West Wiltshire	...	3	0	3	0	9	21

SECOND DIVISION

Newport	...	4	3	1	0	26	14
Bristol	...	4	2	1	1	21	19
Weston	...	3	1	2	0	14	16
Taunton	...	3	0	2	1	9	21

Grove Motlow

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

FELIXSTOWE, Suffolk's first newly affiliated league for over four years, is a very small but enthusiastic organisation with a membership of seven clubs and ten teams. The guiding influence behind it is its secretary, Mr. T. D. Houlden.

Val. Martin, Suffolk's No. 1 girl, lost against another Suffolk girl for the first time for over three years when she was knocked out of the Suffolk Championships by 20-year-old Pam Garrett, of Ipswich. Pam, who has been playing in the Suffolk team this season, is regarded as the best prospect in years in the Suffolk area. She and Brenda Nugent (also of Ipswich) are regarded as the future Suffolk girls to form a young Suffolk team of tomorrow with Cole and Collins.

Suffolk has a 12-years-old prodigy in Kay Powell, daughter of Ken Powell, one of the Stowmarket regulars. Kay is not a Jean Harrower, but Senior County coach Terry Williams is well pleased with her progress.

Bury St. Edmunds won their first Suffolk Inter-Town match for several years when they beat Stowmarket 7-4. Stowmarket made amends in the return match, however, when they won 9-2.

In the Lowestoft League, Premier Division. Briar Clyffe "A" (Cole, Collins, Bardsley) remain unbeaten and appear certain champions.

Suffolk's 6-4 win over Cambs. in the Eastern Division of N.C.C. puts them in a strong position for the championship and promotion, but the boys and girls are not taking things for granted. The match v Norfolk, at Diss on March 10, is regarded as in the nature of a cup-tie, and anything can happen. Quiet confidence rather than certain victory is the order of the day.

A.E.D.

YORKSHIRE NEWS

FROM Yorkshire to Surrey, congratulations upon your winning the Premier Division championship, and now that you have become the first county to end the Middlesex monopoly of eight seasons, we hope the title will go round again next term and—Northwards.

The big Premier Division question now centres on the runners-up place and whether it will be Yorkshire repeating last season's performance, or Middlesex.

Tit-bit of the last matches is that Middlesex will entertain Essex two days before Sussex travel to Dewsbury (celebrating their 21st anniversary) on March 24.

When the popular Leeds player and Yorkshire Minute secretary, Marjorie Lightfoot, played in her first county match of the season against Warwickshire at Leamington last month, she chalked up her 49th county appearance—a Yorkshire record. Well done, Marjorie!

In their last match of the season our Junior team pulled off their first win 5—3 over Red Rose rivals at Ken Stanley's, Burnley. While the playing record of our Juniors has not reached the heights of last season's achievement in winning the new defunct Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cheshire Junior Championship, from an age standpoint the trio will be available next season.

Congratulations to Liliás Hamilton, of Barnsley, on winning the Yorkshire Zone final of the "Daily Mirror" girls' singles.

Probably no Junior player in the country has travelled more in Junior county matches, whether home or away, than Scarborough's 15-year-old John Moorhouse, son of Ernest, of North-East England Open fame. In the last match, and only across the Lancashire border, John left home at 8 a.m. to return 11 p.m.—this despite the match having been played in the afternoon—as have all our Junior matches.

While coaching of Junior girls carries on at Barnsley, it must be encouraging news—Hull way—to know despite their ladies not having been in the limelight in Inter-League affairs for many years, they have three promising girls in Betty Kinsley, Irene Allsopp and Kathryn Whinham, aged 13, 14 and 15 respectively.

WINCHESTER WARES

AFTER ten years as secretary of the Winchester League, Mr. H. A. Richards, has for personal reasons, tendered his resignation to take effect from the end of the season. This is a big blow to Winchester, for his untiring work has been the main inspiration behind the growth of the league from nine clubs, with 15 teams and approximately 90 players in 1946/47, to 21 clubs, with 43 teams and approximately 230 players this season.

Hiltingbury "B," with full points from all matches to date, look likely to gain First Division Championship honours at their first attempt.

Eastleigh B.C. are at the foot of the table with only four points.

There is some keen competition in the Second Division where North Hill "B" with 20 points are only a point above King Alfred College "B."

Newcomers United Banks share the leadership of the Third Division with Red Triangle "B." Hursley, after leading the mixed division for 13 weeks, have dropped to third position, being overtaken by Littleton (16 pts.) and North Hill "A" (14).

C. J. Hoare

CAMBRIDGSHIRE NOTES

Cambs. disappointed their supporters when they lost the crucial Eastern Division match against Suffolk at Impington. After leading 2—0 they lost 6 games in a row, including all ladies events and the Open Doubles.

Cambs. had their chances but luck seemed to be against them especially as it was *Friday the thirteenth!*

Cambs. Ladies are now getting regular practice and coaching weekly and hopes are high to have a really good Ladies team next season. There is quite a wealth of ladies who are most anxious to get on.

The Cambridge League are due to play the March League shortly and it will be interesting to see the strength of this new league who are most keen. It is anticipated that more villages and towns in the County will be competing against each other for supremacy which will certainly be a good thing for the County.

The Cambs. Open Championships will include extra Ladies' Events this year, namely the Ladies Doubles and Singles which should bring in many more entries from outlying districts and will certainly involve much more competition.

Leslie Constable

THE FACTS

by Ivor Eyles

Hon. Gen. Sec., National County Championships.

The January Editorial and "plugging" by members of the Kent Association re the contradiction of rules 3 and 4 of the County constitution was to my mind a complete waste of valuable space.

The plain straight-forward facts are that the Kent Association Secretary Jimmy Mannoch was informed in writing by myself early in the season, after he had taken up the matter of the rules, that at the first available opportunity the Executive Committee of the Championships would carefully peruse these rules and issue a statement.

The meeting did not take place until January 8, following the National Executive meeting, the first available date following my correspondence with them.

Now to the decision of the Executive: it was fully agreed that Rule 3 was the rule which was agreed at the last rules meeting and that Rule 4 (a) should have been deleted.

This means, therefore, that in the Second Divisions any county finishing in a position in the league table with only second teams above them, can challenge for the play-off matches for promotion.

However, out of this, the Championships Committee have set up a small sub-committee to examine all alteration of rules for season 1956/7 so that we may be assured that in the light of any such alterations becoming law, it will not alter the text of other rules, which would have to be revised in order that the constitution shall make sense.

SUMMER 1956

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WHO GOES UP?

The Championship of the Premier Division having been decided interest now lies in the promotion and relegation to the various divisions and the final few weeks of this season should provide some exciting matches.

In the Premier Division the two counties at present in danger of relegation are Sussex and Warwickshire with the latter county a match in hand. The two matches which Sussex played during the past month were both lost. Their match at Brighton against Lancashire, who last month were without a point in this Division, enabled the Northern County to register their first win. This was an exciting match marred only by the all sponge game in the early part of the evening between Leach and Allcock which lasted twenty minutes and proved extremely uninteresting. After six sets the score stood 4-2 in the favour of the home county, Lancashire however recovered to take the last four matches comprising three men's singles and the mixed doubles. I feel that this match has probably put an end to the short career of Sussex in the Premier Division. Their outstanding match is against Yorkshire at Dewsbury.

The Sussex match against Middlesex at Worthing resulted in a 7-3 win for the ex-champions and was uneventful apart from the last set of the evening between Shead and Burridge. At this stage Middlesex were leading 7-2 when, for no accountable reason,

Burridge decided to use sponge. He fared badly however and at 5-15 down in the first game reverted to a normal rubber bat, but Shead now had the advantage and took the second game without much trouble.

EASY FOR YORKS

Warwickshire were no match for Yorkshire at Leamington and only succeeded in taking three sets. The White Rose County are now level pegging with Middlesex for the runners up position to Surrey. Middlesex still have Essex to play.

If Warwickshire fail to hold Lancashire in their forthcoming match they look like returning to the Second Division as I cannot see them having much success against Gloucestershire when they meet at Brislington.

Gloucestershire held Essex to a 5-5 draw at Southend-on-Sea, winning four of the men's singles matches. Merrett won both his sets but Simons went down to Brumwell and Griffin to Stevens. Essex were without Leach.

The Champion County's final fixture against Lancashire found them at full strength and they retained their unbeaten record by an 8-2 win over the northern team. Both Venner and Miller have appeared in all Surrey's matches, Venner's only failure being against Kennedy in the Yorkshire tie.

The Second Division North have

now completed all their fixtures with Cheshire, relegated from the Premier Division last year, undisputed leaders. In their final match against Lincolnshire they won 9-1 and in their four matches they have dropped only ten sets. Both Schofield and Shepherd appeared in all four ties, Shepherd had an unbeaten record but Schofield lost one set to Park of Yorkshire.

Park of Yorkshire and Heslop of Northumberland played throughout the season and Lincolnshire fielded an unchanged team, apart from the women, for all their fixtures. Finneran, Skerratt and Merryweather played in all matches.

Following their 9-1 defeat at the hands of Cheshire, Lincolnshire met Durham at West Hartlepool and obtained a 9-1 win. Durham's only success was in the women's doubles and they again find themselves bottom of this Division without a win.

NO CHANGE

In the Second Division South the only match played last month has not affected the league positions. Essex met Hertfordshire at Eton Manor and obtained a 7-3 win. Hertfordshire won both the men's and women's doubles matches, their other success being Rogers singles win over McCree.

Bedfordshire remain at the bottom of this Division but still have three matches outstanding.

In the Second Division West, Devonshire's 8-2 win over Staffordshire at Exeter now brings them level with Glamorgan, both counties with five points out of a possible six. Devonshire still have Worcestershire to meet while Glamorgan's outstanding match is against Staffordshire. The ultimate winners of this Division challenge Kent and Cheshire for promotion to the Premier Division.

Cheshire, in the Junior Division North, like their senior team, completed the season with an unbeaten record, and with only four sets scored against them in four ties. They finished their programme with a 5-3 win over Lancashire and both Fryer and Stoddart who played in all the matches only lost one set each throughout the season. Miss Bown won all her girls' singles matches—two straight.

Yorkshire avenged their previous defeat at the hands of Lancashire with a 5-3 win at Burnley. Yorkshire brought in Lambert in place of Seeley who played in the previous match while Lancashire had Forbes in place of Proctor.

FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION :

March 22	Middlesex v Essex, Municipal Hall, High Road, Tottenham, London, N.15.	7.30 p.m.
March 24	Yorkshire v Sussex, The Exchange Hall, Town Hall, Dewsbury	7.00 p.m.
	Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Church Hall, Water Lane, Brislington, Bristol, 4.	7.00 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

March 15	Bedfordshire v Hertfordshire, Town Hall, Dunstable.	7.30 p.m.
March 17	Surrey v Bedfordshire, Higgs & Hill Canteen, Crown Works, Lawn Lane, Vauxhall.	7.00 p.m.
March 23	Middlesex v Bedfordshire, Johnsons of Hendon, Ltd., Hendon Way, London, N.W.4.	7.15 p.m.
March 24	Hampshire v Essex, The Civic Centre, Winchester.	6.30 p.m.

SECOND DIVISION WEST

March 24	Staffordshire v Glamorgan, F. H. Lloyd & Co. Works Canteen, Darlaston, Walsall.	7.30 p.m.
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EASTERN DIVISION

March 24	Norfolk v Cambridgeshire, C.E.Y.M.S. Rooms, Norwich (postponed from Feb. 4th)	7.15 p.m.
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SOUTHERN DIVISION

March 22	Buckinghamshire v Hertfordshire, Aylesbury Social Club, Park Street, Aylesbury.	7.15 p.m.
March 24	Berkshire v Oxfordshire.	

SOUTH WESTERN DIVISION

March 24	Dorset v Devon, Church House, Bridport, Dorset.	7.00 p.m.
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JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH

March 17	Middlesex v Essex, Brady Boys' Club, Durwood Street, London, E.1.	7.15 p.m.
March 24	Suffolk v Kent, Lads' Club, Arcade Street, Ipswich.	7.00 p.m.

Cheshire, as leaders of this Division, have the right to challenge the winners of the Junior South Division for the Junior Championship but have decided not to claim this privilege.

In the Junior South Division Kent had a 10-0 win over Hertfordshire at Watford which now takes them into third place. Suffolk retained their runners-up position to Middlesex when they defeated Sussex 7-3 at Haywards Heath and Hertfordshire, still without a win, managed to take two sets off Essex at Loughton, but this only brings their total to five, with fifty sets played. They, and Sussex, have now completed their fixtures in this Division, and Hertfordshire are

once again doomed to hold the "wooden spoon."

In the Midland Division all fixtures have been completed and Warwickshire retained their lead and undefeated record with an exciting 6-4 win over Worcestershire at Birmingham.

In this Division five players appeared continuously throughout the season, none of them succeeded in remaining unbeaten. Hallsworth of Derbyshire only won three sets but Miss P. Bannister of the same county only dropped one set to Mrs. D. Griffiths of Warwickshire. Osborne, of Staffordshire, dropped three sets during the year, but Wooley, also of Staffordshire, only lost one set to Baddeley of Warwickshire at 23-21 in the third game. Baddeley also appeared in all his county's matches dropping sets to Hallsworth and to Hogg of Northamptonshire.

Dorset again defeated Cornwall in the return match played at Redruth. This time the score read 7-3 and McQuade of Dorset avenged the defeat inflicted on him previously by Perriam who again lost to Wellstead.

Devonshire lead Dorset by two points in this Division and their forthcoming match at Bridport should prove interesting. In their previous meeting Devonshire won 6-4, Dorset winning four of the men's singles matches. If Dorset can turn the tables in this match the leadership of this Division will be determined by sets or games average.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
PREMIER :							
Surrey	7	7	0	0	50	20	14
Middlesex	6	4	2	0	35	25	8
Yorkshire	6	4	2	0	34	26	8
Gloucestershire	6	3	2	1	37	23	7
Essex	6	3	2	1	37	23	7
Lancashire	6	1	5	0	16	44	2
Warwickshire	5	0	4	1	17	33	1
Sussex	6	0	5	1	14	46	1
SECOND NORTH :							
Cheshire	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Yorkshire	4	2	2	0	22	18	4
Lincolnshire	4	2	2	0	21	19	4
Northumberland	4	2	2	0	19	21	4
Durham	4	0	4	0	8	32	0
SECOND SOUTH :							
Middlesex	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Surrey	4	3	1	0	26	14	6
Kent	5	3	2	0	31	19	6
Essex	5	3	2	0	30	20	6
Hampshire	5	1	3	1	16	34	3
Hertfordshire	5	0	4	1	16	34	1
Bedfordshire	3	0	3	0	4	26	0
SECOND WEST :							
Glamorgan	3	2	0	1	20	10	5
Devon	3	2	0	1	20	10	5
Somerset	3	1	2	0	13	17	2
Worcestershire	2	1	1	0	8	12	2
Staffordshire	3	0	3	0	9	21	0
MIDLAND :							
Warwickshire	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Staffordshire	4	3	1	0	28	12	6
Derbyshire	4	1	2	1	18	22	3
Worcestershire	4	1	2	1	18	22	3
Northamptonshire	4	0	4	0	7	33	0
EASTERN :							
Suffolk	3	2	0	1	18	12	5
Cambridgeshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Norfolk	2	0	2	0	7	13	0
SOUTHERN :							
Berkshire	3	2	0	1	18	12	5
Hertfordshire	3	2	1	0	20	10	4
Wiltshire	4	2	2	0	17	23	4
Buckinghamshire	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Oxfordshire	3	0	3	0	9	21	0
SOUTH WESTERN :							
Devon	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Dorset	3	2	1	0	17	13	4
Cornwall	4	0	4	0	8	32	0
JUNIOR SOUTH :							
Middlesex	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Suffolk	4	3	1	0	25	15	6
Kent	4	3	1	0	24	16	6
Essex	4	2	2	0	21	19	4
Sussex	5	1	4	0	22	28	2
Hertfordshire	5	0	5	0	5	45	0
JUNIOR NORTH :							
Cheshire	4	4	0	0	28	4	8
Lancashire	4	1	3	0	12	20	2
Yorkshire	4	1	3	0	8	24	2

TOP BERKS

Berkshire, with a 6-4 win over Hertfordshire, the previous leaders, go to the top of the Southern Division. This match probably determined the championship of this Division and proved an exciting game with Berkshire winning the last two sets.

At Banbury Oxfordshire lost to Buckinghamshire 3-7 and are still without a point this season. This was Buckinghamshire's first win although they had previously drawn with Berkshire.

In the South-Western Division

FEBRUARY RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION :			
Sussex	3	Middlesex	7
Warwickshire	3	Yorkshire	7
Surrey	8	Lancashire	2
Essex	5	Gloucestershire	5
Sussex	4	Lancashire	6
SECOND DIVISION NORTH :			
Lincolnshire	1	Cheshire	9
Durham	1	Lincolnshire	9
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH :			
Essex	7	Hertfordshire	3
SECOND DIVISION WEST :			
Devonshire	8	Staffordshire	2
JUNIOR DIVISION NORTH :			
Lancashire	3	Cheshire	5
Lancashire	3	Yorkshire	5
JUNIOR DIVISION SOUTH :			
Hertfordshire	0	Kent	10
Sussex	3	Suffolk	7
Essex	8	Hertfordshire	2
Essex	4	Kent	6
MIDLAND DIVISION :			
Warwickshire	6	Worcestershire	4
SOUTHERN DIVISION :			
Oxfordshire	3	Buckinghamshire	7
Hertfordshire	4	Berkshire	6
SOUTH WESTERN DIVISION :			
Cornwall	3	Dorset	7

DETAILED RESULTS—PREMIER DIVISION

Sussex 3, Middlesex 7		Miss Isaacs bt Miss Threfall 21-12, 21-15.
Shead bt Adams 21-13, 11-21, 21-15; bt Burrige 21-10, 21-14. B. Leach lost to Burrige 10-21, 10-21; lost to Rhodes 23-25, 19-21. Gladwish lost to Rhodes 7-21, 18-21; lost to Adams 11-21, 21-18, 12-21.		Miss Piper and Miss Rook bt Mrs. Braddock and Miss Threfall 21-10, 21-13. Venner and Craigie bt Alcock and Booth 21-17, 21-13.
Miss Bates bt Mrs. Faulkner 14-21, 21-10, 21-10.		Craydon and Miss Rook bt Pullar and Mrs. Braddock 21-16, 23-21.
Miss Bates and Mrs. Woodford lost to Miss Cherry and Mrs. Faulkner 17-21, 13-21.		Essex 5, Gloucestershire 5
Shead and Gladwish lost to Burrige and Adams 13-21, 21-11, 16-21.		Brumwell bt Simons 21-8, 25-23; lost to Merrett 12-21, 17-21. Stevens lost to Merrett 15-21, 19-21; bt Griffin 21-19, 21-19. Jones lost to Griffin 21-13, 17-21, 11-21; lost to Simons 11-21, 14-21.
B. Leach and Mrs. Woodford lost to Rhodes and Miss Cherry 20-22, 18-21.		Miss Baker bt Miss Davis 19-21, 21-14, 21-19.
Warwickshire 3, Yorkshire 7		Miss Milbank and Miss Page bt Miss Davis and Miss Pometoy 21-16, 22-20.
Kriss lost to Dove 10-21, 19-21; lost to Hinchliff 11-21, 21-19, 18-21. Morrell lost to Hinchliff 22-20, 8-21, 9-21; lost to Dyson 9-21, 18-21. Bevins lost to Dyson 17-21, 21-18, 15-21; lost to Dove 13-21, 17-21.		Brumwell and Jones lost to Simons and Griffin 17-21, 14-21.
Miss Mortimer bt Miss Lightfoot 21-13, 21-19.		Stevens and Miss Baker bt Merrett and Miss Pomeroy 21-15, 21-15.
Miss Mackay and Mrs. Cumberbatch bt Miss Ingleson and Miss Lightfoot 21-14, 22-20.		Sussex 4, Lancashire 6
Harrison and Vickers lost to Dove and Hinchliff 20-22, 21-18, 15-21.		Shead bt Pullar 21-14, 20-22, 21-7; lost to Alcock 12-21, 14-21. B. Leach lost to Alcock 19-21, 25-23, 15-21; lost to Booth 21-12, 14-21, 10-21. Gladwish bt Booth 21-16, 21-13; lost to Pullar 21-17, 16-21, 15-21.
Harrison and Miss Mortimer bt Dyson and Miss Ingleson 21-6, 21-12.		Miss Bates bt Miss Threfall 21-17, 21-12.
Surrey 8, Lancashire 2		Miss Bates and Mrs. Shead lost to Miss Threfall and Miss Swift 21-15, 17-21, 15-21.
Venner bt Pullar 22-20, 22-24, 21-15; bt Alcock 18-21, 21-13, 21-17. Miller lost to Alcock 15-21, 9-21; bt Booth 21-13, 21-13. Craigie bt Booth 21-17, 21-15; lost to Pullar 21-16, 11-21, 15-21.		Shead and Gladwish bt Alcock and Booth 21-16, 21-13.
		B. Leach and Mrs. Shead lost to Pullar and Miss Swift 21-15, 22-24, 18-21.

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. In specified junior tournaments they are additional to the normal under 17's events. The closing date for entries is shown in brackets after the title. Suitable entries are inserted in this diary without charge but all organisers should send information to the Editor at the earliest date possible.

Date	Details and Venue	Extra Events	Organising Secretary
Mar. 14-24	IRISH OPEN Dublin.		
16	England v. Wales (Boys) Aberdare.		Mrs. H. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Penylan, Cardiff.
17	West of England Open (Feb. 24) Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay	B.S. G.S.	Mr. L. R. P. Westaway, 69, Quinta Road, Babbacombe, Torquay.
17	Cheshire Junior Open Livingstone Street Baths, Birkenhead.	Under 15's B.S., G.S., B.D.	Mr. W. H. Gawne, 9, Eric Road, Wallasey.
18	Kent Closed Pier Pavilion, Herne Bay.		
Mar. 31/ Apr. 2	North East England Open (Mar. 21) Burniston Barracks and Westborough Concert Hall, Scarborough	J.S. Y.S. V.S.	Mr. E. Moorhouse, 26, Sherwood Street, Scarborough.
2-11	WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS. Tokio.		
15	Kent Junior Closed Pier Pavilion, Herne Bay.		
23-28	Essex Closed Y.M.C.A. Plaistow		



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TWINS TROUNCED

ALTHOUGH the weather at home was bad enough during the month of February it did not compare for severity with the appalling conditions on the Continent (*writes Aubrey Simons*). Because of this we did not arrive in Bucharest until 12 noon on the day of the International, after an all night journey by train. Without wishing to make excuses it undoubtedly did affect the play of the Rowe Twins in this all important match which Rumania won 5—nil.

The conditions at this magnificent sports stadium were excellent and the Hall was full of V.I.P. spectators, including the President of Rumania, and the British Minister and his wife, together with officials from the British Embassy.

As the scores indicate the Rumanians thoroughly deserved their victory. Ella Zeller in particular played a very good game against Rosalind and Diane, and on this occasion looked even more convincing than the great Angelica.

Diane played well against Mrs. Rozeanu in the second game and should have won after leading 20—18, but it was not to be and the world looked relieved that she was not forced to a third game. Although the girls fought gallantly they could not stop the Rumanians.

After a good night's rest we played our other match against a Rumanian side which included Miss Zeller, at Ploesti, a city famous for its oil fields. Our girls were a much different proposition and won 5—1, although Miss Zeller hit brilliantly to beat Diane.

Rosalind avenged this defeat after being 17—14 down to Miss Zeller in the third, and she played the kind of table tennis which we all know her capable of, at the crucial stage.

Following this match we caught the mid-night train and after a 40-hours journey arrived in Prague where we at last managed to get a plane for home.

Detailed Results (English names first): Miss D. Rowe lost to Mrs. A. Rozeanu 7—21, 22—24; lost to Miss E. Zeller 10—21, 12—21. Mrs. R. Cornett lost to Mrs. Rozeanu 21—23, 10—21; lost to Miss Zeller 9—21, 11—21.

Mrs. Cornett and Miss Rowe lost to Mrs. Rozeanu and Miss Zeller 11—21, 21—19, 10—21.

SUCCESSFUL GAMBLE

ENGLAND overwhelmingly defeated France by seven matches to two in the international table tennis fixture at Cheltenham on February 28.

Ian Harrison, the Gloucester Junior making his first senior appearance,

suffered the two defeats at the hands of the World class players, Rene Roothoof and Michael Hagenauer, however he marked up a good win over J. Gambier in straight games.

While there is room for plenty of improvement Harrison shows outstanding promise of a good career in the game.

Many regarded it as risky to play a junior against France, but Johnny Leach and Brian Kennedy, by each winning their three matches, made it a successful gamble.

Leach, although dropping a game to both Roothoof and Hagenauer, completely crushed both players in the deciding games.

Detailed results (England first): J. Leach bt J. Gambier 21—5, 21—10; bt R. Roothoof 21—15, 13—21, 21—7; bt M. Hagenauer 13—21, 21—15, 21—6.

B. Kennedy bt M. Hagenauer 24—22, 21—12; bt J. Gambier 21—17, 21—15; bt R. Roothoof 24—22, 21—10.

I. Harrison lost to R. Roothoof 13—21, 18—21; bt J. Gambier 21—17, 21—12; lost to M. Hagenauer 12—21, 12—21.

England 4—Germany-DDR 4

March 3, at Attercliffe Hall, Sheffield.
by Leslie Woollard

The teams were so evenly matched in this rumbustious, ding-dong affair, that a draw was the only fair result.

Except Hodson, all players had come from a gruelling week's play at Manchester and showed signs of some of the strain, evident in timing and finish particularly.

Laurie Landry, (Midx.) in his first senior international showed most of these effects and, judged solely on this performance, was disappointing. His opponent, Gunter Matthias, 21-year-old Berlin watchmaker, long-limbed and "Bergmanesque" in footwork defended gracefully, and attacked or counter-attacked with crisp decision and consistency on both wings.

Eddie Hodson, fresh and cool—also a junior in his first senior match—also impressed immensely against Heinz Reimann, 21-year-old tool-maker, a left-handed power hitter of well-angled drives.

This I rate as one of the best ties of the evening. Most of the points were won by playing merit and not by opponent's mistakes. There was nothing in it.

An Edge

Hodson, if anything looked the better. In both games he recovered a 5-point lead from Reimann, and from 17-all in the second game they went together point by point, with Hodson controlling the game most of the way. It was an untakeable edge at 21—20 that beat him just when he really looked like breaking through.

The two new young internationals were given plenty of exercise in their doubles against Reimann and Schneider, and in making errors in technique and tactics showed that—happily—they both have plenty of scope for improvement.

The Schneider v Venner match was a jet-propelled flurry of top-spinning attack and counter-attack that paused only, but often, for the loud and sustained applause.

The girls also, all played with fire and force, and have inspired Sheffield's ladies with new ambitions.

Detailed results (English names first): H. Venner bt H. Schneider 21—18, 12—21, 21—12. L. Landry lost to G. Matthias 12—21, 13—21. E. Hodson lost to H. Reimann 18—21, 21—23. Hodson and Landry lost to Reimann and Schneider 17—21, 14—21.

Miss B. Isaacs bt Miss L. Roedel 21—16, 22—20. Miss P. Mortimer bt Miss M. Wiskandt 21—7, 17—21, 21—15.

Isaacs and Mortimer bt Roedel and Wiskandt 21—11, 21—9. Venner and Mortimer lost to Schneider and Wiskandt 10—21, 21—17, 14—21.

CLUB COMPETITION CORNER

IN a few weeks England's team are due to leave for the World's Championships in Tokio but the cost of financing the trip is now a big problem.

The trade have come to the support of the "Travelling Expenses" fund with handsome gestures from Messrs Dunlops, Halex, Jaques, Spaldings, Educational Productions, J. Rose and Son, Wayfarers and Freeman Bros, while Fred Perry Sportswear will dress the team.

But what has your club done towards helping the fund? Have you run a club competition yet? That is your way of helping.

There are 8,000 clubs throughout the country, but the latest figure shows only 329 competitions arranged so far. This is only 59 increase since the last figures were published, and this number needs to be multiplied several times.

See your club secretary about your

club running one of these events. They can be open or scratch competitions, singles or doubles. And remember the E.T.T.A. present a specially designed plaque, incorporating the English crest, to all winners.

Write to the E.T.T.A. at 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. for further information.

Yorkshire (35) maintain their lead as the county with most competitions arranged, closely followed by Lancashire (33). Both will, however, have to look to their laurels judging by the terrific jump in Middlesex. They have arranged a further 19 events to bring their total up to 30, nosing Essex (30) out of third place.

There are still six counties who have not arranged a single club competition so far. Do clubs here wish to be left in the cold?

MIDLAND "OPEN"

THE black mark of the Birmingham Open was completely erased at the Midland Open in Birmingham on February 17—18. The organisers proved that with the co-operation of competitors it is still possible to run a large tournament to time.

The finals started promptly and were all completed by 9.25 p.m., allowing players and spectators ample time to return to their destinations.

Chief honours went to a subdued Brian Kennedy, who carried off the triple crown. From the entertainment point of view, however, credit must go to the ladies. Ann Haydon and Helen Elliot had the large crowd on their toes from start to finish in one of the best women's singles finals seen in this tournament.

Ann's devastating forehand won her the first game 21—11 but in the second Helen took command with a series of back-hand flicks that left Miss Haydon standing. The third game saw the Edinburgh girl stage a fighting recovery to level at 16 all, only to eventually lose 21—18. The great ovation accorded to them was well earned.

By contrast the men's singles between Kennedy and Ron Allcock came as an anti-climax. The former's forehand driving was most erratic, while Allcock rarely produced the backhand flick he is noted for. With both players using sponge there was hardly a rally worthy of mention, the game being all over in 10 minutes and Kennedy an easy winner.

Earlier Bryan Merrett had been surprisingly beaten by P. Cruwys of Cheltenham and Allcock accounted for Derek Burridge. Laurie Landry also put up a fine per-

formance in reaching the Quarter Finals where he was only beaten 24—22 in the third game by L. Hoffman (Middx.).

The mixed doubles and women's doubles saw two fighting recoveries by the eventual winners. In the former Kennedy and Miss Elliot pulled back from a 14—17 deficit in the third game to win 21—19. The second game of the women's doubles looked a certainty for Pam Mortimer and Betty Isaacs with a lead of 18—13, but yet again Helen Elliot in partnership with Joyce Fielder recovered to win by 21—19.

Kennedy and Tony Miller had an easy victory over J. Wordsley and Arnold Shepherd in the men's doubles, Kennedy showing a little of his real form in the second game.

Laurie Landry once more accounted for Eddie Hodson in the boys' final, but paired up in the doubles they were surprisingly beaten in the final by the Gloucestershire pair Ian Harrison and K. Edwards.

Shock of the Girls' events was the straight games defeat of the brilliant 13-year-old Jean Harrower in the final by Maureen McMeekin. In the semi-final Miss McMeekin had only just beaten Dorothy Worrall 22—20 in the third game.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: R. ALLCOCK (Lancs.) bt R. Griffin (Gloucs.) 21—13, 21—19; B. KENNEDY (Yorks.) beat L. Hoffman (Middx.) 21—14, 21—17.

Final: KENNEDY bt Allcock 21—16, 21—14.

Ladies' Singles: Semi-finals: Miss A. HAYDON (Birmingham) bt Miss B. Milbank (Essex) 21—9, 21—13; Miss H. ELLIOT (Edinburgh) bt Miss B. Isaacs (Surrey) 21—15, 21—19.

Final: Miss HAYDON bt Miss Elliot 21—11, 10—21, 21—18.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: KENNEDY and A. MILLER (London) bt J. Carrington (Essex) and J. Hunt (London) 21—10, 21—14; J. WORDSLEY and A. SHEPHERD (Manchester) bt Allcock and C. Booth (Manchester) 21—15, 13—21, 21—13.

Final: KENNEDY and MILLER bt Wordsley and Shepherd 21—16, 21—7.

Ladies' Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss ELLIOT and Miss J. FIELDER (Kent) bt Mrs. E. Carrington (Essex) and Miss Milbank 21—6, 21—17; Miss ISAACS and Miss P. MORTIMER (Birmingham) bt Mrs. D. Wilkinson (Manchester) and Miss A. Wood (Manchester) 16—21, 21—19, 21—18.

Final: Miss ELLIOT and Miss FIELDER bt Miss Mortimer and Miss Isaacs 21—18, 21—19.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: KENNEDY and Miss ELLIOT bt J. Carrington and Miss Milbank 21—12, 21—8; B. MERRETT (Gloucs.) and Miss HAYDON bt L. Hoffman (Middx.) and Miss M. McMeekin (N.W. Kent) 21—10, 21—17.

Final: KENNEDY and Miss ELLIOT bt Merrett and Miss Haydon 21—18, 13—21, 21—19.

Girls' Singles: Final: Miss M. McMEEKIN bt Miss J. Harrower 21—10, 21—17.

Boys' Singles: Final: L. LANDRY bt E. Hodson 21—15, 17—21, 21—13.

Boys' Doubles: Final: I. HARRISON and K. EDWARDS bt Hodson and Landry 21—15, 18—21, 23—21.

Veterans' Singles: Final: R. MARKWELL bt H. Spiers 21—19, 16—21, 21—18.

BRISTOL "CLOSED"

Men's Singles: D. HOUSE bt R. Haydon (holder) 21—14, 21—19. **Women's Singles:** Miss E. POMROY bt Mrs. K. Watts 21—19, 21—6. **Men's Doubles:** HOUSE and R. WOOD bt R. Bowles and K. Howse 21—19, 21—13. **Mixed Doubles:** HOUSE and Miss MATHIESON bt D. B. Shipton and Miss M. Francis 20—22, 21—9, 21—17.

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SURREY "OPEN"

HARRY VENNER and Jean Head warded off strong outside challenges to keep both singles within the county in the Surrey Open at Epsom Baths on February 24. Venner took the men's title for the second successive year, coming back from a game down to beat Michael Thornhill, of Middlesex, 12—21, 21—15, 21—12.

It had looked at one time as though the title would be Essex bound when Bobby Stevens beat Alan Rhodes, Ken Craigie and Ron Crayden. However, he met his match in Thornhill.

Venner on his way to the final beat Jackie Head, Ivor Jones and Brian Brumwell all in straight games.

Mrs. Head showed fine form, hitting with power and accuracy to both wings, as she beat Yvonne Baker 19 and 17, in the semi-final then swamped Betty Isaacs in the final at 11 in each game.

Miss Isaacs (with Miss Baker) was also on the losing side in the women's doubles, won by Peggy Piper and Jill Rook, but had the consolation of winning the mixed with Jimmy Lowe. In an even matched final they beat Ken Craigie and Jean Head 21—19, 21—19.

Thornhill also made up for his singles defeat by winning the men's doubles with Bobbie Raybould, beating Bobbie Stevens and Ivor Jones 21—17, 21—19.

Laurie Landry collected yet another junior title in the boys' singles, but surprisingly dropped a game to A. Lamprell in the final, before winning 21—11, 20—22, 21—3.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: M. THORNHILL bt R. Stevens 21—13, 21—14; H. VENNER bt B. Brumwell 21—19, 21—7.

Finals: VENNER bt Thornhill 12—21, 21—15, 21—12.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Mrs. J. HEAD bt Miss Y. Baker 21—19, 21—17; Miss B. ISAACS bt Miss J. Rook 12—21, 21—18, 21—17.

Final: Mrs. HEAD bt Miss Isaacs 21—11, 21—11.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: STEVENS and I. JONES bt K. Craigie and A. Rhodes 15—21, 21—11, 21—17, THORNHILL and R. RAYBOULD bt K. Hurlock and M. McLaren 19—21, 21—7, 21—15.

Final: THORNHILL and RAYBOULD bt Stevens and Jones 21—17, 21—19.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss ISAACS and Miss BAKER bt Miss S. Ralston and Miss T. Kirby 21—8, 21—12; Miss M. PIPER and Miss ROOK bt Mrs. Head and Mrs. J. Faulkner 21—19, 21—15.

Final: Miss PIPER and Miss ROOK bt Miss Isaacs and Miss Baker 21—12, 21—18.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: J. LOWE and Miss ISAACS bt Thornhill and Miss Rook 21—9, 12—21, 21—15; CRAIGIE and Mrs. HEAD bt Raybould and Miss J. Fielder 16—21, 21—9, 21—14.

Final: LOWE and Miss ISAACS bt Craigie and Mrs. Head 21—19, 21—19.

Boys' Singles: Final: L. LANDRY bt A. Lamprell 21—11, 20—22, 21—3.

Girls' Singles: Final: Miss M. McMEEKIN bt Miss I. P. Bailey 21—11, 21—4.

GWENT "OPEN"

ANN HAYDON added to her growing list of tournament wins by carrying off the women's singles in the Gwent Open at Newport on February 11. Her powerful driving put her in a class of her own as she beat Betty Gray 21—18, 21—11 in the semi-final then Audrey Bates by 21—15, 21—10 in the final.

She collected a second title in the mixed doubles with Bryan Merrett, beating Alan Morris and Miss Gray 21—6, 21—14 in the final.

Merrett was an easy winner in the men's singles, beating L. Wise 21—8, 21—17 in the final.

Wise and R. Forrest, also of Reading were surprise winners of the men's doubles, where they beat a Welsh pair A. Lewis and A. Morris 29-27, 21—8 in the final.

Welsh players collected only one senior title, Shirley Jones and Betty Gray winning the women's doubles, beating Audrey Bates and Greta Holden 21—14, 23—21 in the final.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: B. MERRETT (Glos.) bt R. Morley (Glos.) 21—13, 21—11; L. WISE (Reading) bt G. Morgan (Port Talbot) 21—11, 21—11.

Final: MERRETT bt Wise 21—8, 21—17.

Women's Singles: Miss A. HAYDON (Birmingham) bt Miss B. Gray (Swansea) 21—18, 21—11; Miss A. BATES (Cardiff) bt Miss S. Jones (Swansea) 21—16, 13—21, 22—20.

Final: Miss HAYDON bt Miss Bates 21—15, 21—10.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: WISE and R. FORREST (Reading) bt Morgan and J. Simonson (Port Talbot) 22—20, 19—21, 21—12; A. LEWIS and A. MORRIS (Swansea) bt Merrett and Morley 21—18, 21—16.

Final: WISE and FORREST bt Lewis and Morris 29—27, 21—8.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss BATES and Miss G. HOLDEN (Cardiff) bt Mrs. V. Rowe and Miss S. Harris (Newport) 21—17, 21—17; Miss B. GRAY and Miss JONES (Swansea) bt Miss D. Greenslade and Miss M. Edmund 21—13, 21—14.

Final: Miss JONES and Miss GRAY bt Miss Bates and Miss Holden 21—14, 23—21.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: MERRETT and Miss HAYDON bt Morgan and Miss Jones 21—18, 21—10; MORRIS and Miss GRAY bt B. Dimascie and Miss Bates 21—15, 21—15.

Final: MERRETT and Miss HAYDON bt Morris and Miss Gray 21—6, 21—14.

Boys' Singles: P. CROWLEY (Cardiff) bt G. Ponting (Newport) 21—19, 21—17.

"ROSE"

TABLE TENNIS TABLES

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SOUTH LONDON "OPEN"

IT is not often that doubles steal the show, but the mixed doubles provided the highlight of the South London "Open" finals at Manor Place Baths on February 11.

Two of the younger players Bobbie Raybould, of Essex, and Joyce Fielder, of Kent, marked up their first "Open" success in beating the international partnership of Jackie Head and Joyce Faulkner 20-22, 21-19, 21-19.

Fortunes fluctuated throughout and the result was in doubt until the end. Head and Mrs. Faulkner appeared to have the opening game well under control but a great rally from Raybould and Miss Fielder saw them draw level at 20-all, only to put the next two shots off the table.

The second game saw the younger partnership just scrape home at 19, then in the third the scores steadily mounted and at 19-all Raybould and Miss Fielder, a little more venturesome in attack forced the decision.

This was no flash in the pan, for in the previous round they had beaten another international pair, Alan Rhodes and Mrs. Jean Head.

Raybould also won the men's doubles with Ronnie Hook, beating J. Gregory and P. Brook 21-14, 21-17.

Mrs. Head and Mrs. Faulkner had the consolation of retaining the women's doubles with a 21-15, 21-14 win over Yvonne Baker and Betty Isaacs.

Mrs. Head lost her singles title in the semi-final when beaten 21-14, 18-21, 21-18 by Yvonne Baker, who went on to beat Barbara Milbank in the final 21-17, 21-10. Attacking strongly throughout Miss Baker has shown a most welcome return to form.

Miss Milbank got to the final with wins over Peggy Piper (who had earlier beaten Mrs. Faulkner) and Miss Isaacs.

Harry Venner, drawn in the toughest half came through with flying colours, beating Brian Brumwell, Len Adams, Alan Rhodes (semi-final) and Ken Craigie (final) to retain his men's singles.

His closest match was against Rhodes where he lost the first game at 11, but took the next two at 12 and 14.

Craigie offered little resistance in the final, where Venner crashed through in whirlwind style to win 21-13, 21-11.

Laurie Landry, the Middlesex junior, surprisingly beat Derek Burrige at 21-9, 21-19, but was no match for Craigie in the semi-final.

Young Landry won the boys title, once again beating Eddie Hodson, while Jean Harrower beat Sheila Pickard comfortably to win the girls singles.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Semi-finals: H. VENNER bt A. Rhodes 11-21, 21-12, 21-14; K. CRAIGIE bt L. Landry 21-15, 21-12.

Final: VENNER bt Craigie 21-13, 21-11.

Women's Singles: Semi-finals: Miss Y. BAKER bt Mrs. J. Head 21-14, 18-21, 21-18; Miss B. MILBANK bt Miss B. Isaacs 21-17, 21-19.

Final: Miss BAKER bt Miss Milbank 21-17, 21-10.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals: R. HOOK and R. RAYBOULD bt R. Crayden and T. Densham 21-17, 21-18; J. GREGORY and P. BROOK bt K. Beamish and R. McCree 22-20, 22-20.

Final: HOOK and RAYBOULD bt Gregory and Brook 21-14, 21-17.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss BAKER and Miss ISAACS bt Miss M. Stafford and Miss J. Williamson 21-17, 21-17; Mrs. HEAD and Mrs. J. FAULKNER bt Miss R. Welch and Miss D. Price 21-14, 21-15.

Final: Mrs. HEAD and Mrs. FAULKNER bt Miss Baker and Miss Isaacs 21-15, 21-14.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals: R. RAYBOULD and Miss J. FIELDER bt A. Rhodes and Mrs. Head 21-17, 21-17; J. HEAD and Mrs. FAULKNER bt Crayden and Miss M. Fry 21-16, 21-23, 21-8.

Final: RAYBOULD and Miss FIELDER bt Head and Mrs. Faulkner 20-22, 21-19, 21-19.

Boys Singles: Final: L. LANDRY bt. E. Hodson 21-8, 21-16.

Girls Singles: Final: Miss J. HARROWER bt Miss S. Pickard 21-13, 21-13.

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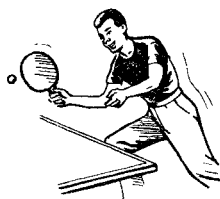
Men's Singles: K. SHELDON (E.T.E.) bt F. B. Brumwell (Guildhall) 16-21, 13-21, 21-19, 21-17, 23-21. **Women's Singles:** Miss B. E. MILBANK (Unilever) (holder) bt Miss B. Isaacs (G.E.C.) 26-28, 21-17, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: L. A. McLACHLAN and P. A. YATES (L.C.C. Staff) bt M.N. Sugarhood and R. A. Bruty (L.C.C. Staff) 20-22, 21-12, 21-7, 21-19. **Women's Doubles:** Miss ISAACS and Miss K. HANRAHAN (G.E.C.) bt Miss J. Lewsey and Miss L. Murray (G.E.C.) (holders) 15-21, 21-16, 21-16. **Mixed Doubles:** Miss M. CHERRY and K. SHELDON (E.T.E.) bt Miss Isaacs and J. R. Matthews (G.E.C.) 22-20, 21-17.

Junior Men's Singles: B. PARISH (Mirror Pictorial) bt R. Langheim (N.T.G.B.) 21-17, 21-16. **Junior Women's Singles:** Miss S. SMITH (L.C.C. Staff) bt Miss J. Nial (Robbialac) 21-11, 22-24, 21-16. **Veteran Singles:** F. WEBSPER (G.E.A.A.A.) bt H. E. Pearce (Lensbury) 11-21, 21-16, 21-19.

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