Only YOU can decide this

SHALL we, can we, have the World’s Table Tennis Championships in England in 1954?

This question is placed squarely before the Table Tennis players of this country—who alone can answer it—in a letter recently sent by the E.T.T.A. to every club secretary.

Gone are the days when the World Championships could be paid for by a few private enthusiasts, or out of entry fees or seat sales. Our sport is one of the widest in the world, embracing more than 50 countries. Catering properly for the event, in the sense both of sport and hospitality, involves nowadays a loss of about £4,000. In England, we do not enjoy the possibilities of municipal or state subsidy that are sometimes available abroad. Only our own fans can bring the event here. Is it worth while?

England’s place in the Table Tennis world is a proud one. In no sport is our word and example more generally respected. The active national organisation in county, league and club is envied as a model. The standard of equipment and conditions is regarded as the highest. The playing standard, senior and junior, is also justly respected. In this year’s World Championships—the first for several years from which we returned without a title—English entries won runner-up places in 3 out of 7 events, and a 19-year-old was a semi-finalist in a 6th event.

Our tournament regulations and umpiring interpretations are recognised as fair and unbiased. Our contributions to such ticklish questions as the amateur-professional problem, and the maintenance of universal sporting friendship amidst the international tensions of the present day have not been small.

How much have hundreds of thousands of our people gained from Table Tennis and how much have we given to the world, since the time, 25 years ago, when, together with the late Mr. Pope, we founded the E.T.T.A. in its present form and the international game?

Can we keep this up? Do we wish to do so? The World Championships are an indispensable means. On the one hand they represent the chance to show the best of English ways, English sportsmanship, to the half of humanity now newly entering our sport since Bombay. On the other, they represent the chance to show the best new skills of all the world as inspiration to our country’s youth.

Is this worth a sacrifice? Officials cannot answer. Only clubs, only players—by telling us if they will raise, during the next two years, £1 guarantee contributions—can give a decision. These times are difficult, but may the response be worthy of our country and the game we love.

IVOR MONTAGU,
Chairman, English T.T.A.
Random Shots
by A. R. (Tony) Miller

APART from occasional broken legs caused by slippery floors and bangs on the head from a violent partner, table tennis may be considered a fairly safe game unlike, for instance, chess. In the far-off days when huge boards were used, Renaud of Montauban killed Bertolai, nephew of Charlemagne with one after he had been checkmated. Nowadays we endeavour to control our feelings a little more.

*****

IT is not true that the tracks attributed to the "Abominable Snowman" were left by "Barefoot Bill" McCave who had lost his way en route to Canvey Island after playing in a northern tournament.

*****

AN old acquaintance in my Surrey club recently told me that, being dissatisfied with the results (i.e., painful lack of) he had obtained playing with his natural right-hand style he had now changed to the left hand side. He claims to have ironed out all his right-hand bad strokes and to be playing ten times better than before. He is not ambidextrous either, but, unfortunately for our story he is not a good player.

*****


WITH the advance of table tennis as a national sport, so the number of players increases who are prepared to give it their whole time and to depend on it for their livelihood. Tournament results indicate that these players—professionals in all but name—will win, and their occasional defeats by amateurs only illustrates that they have insufficient practice with other professionals to maintain their form. Though it may never be necessary to separate professionals from amateurs in the monetary sense and certainly never the ridiculous ostracism practised by some other sports, it may eventually prove useful to hold occasional tournaments confined to amateurs.

*****

GEOFF COULTREAD, contributor to the table tennis magazines, is both hard-working and versatile. His T.T. activities include administrative work in the South London and the Wandsworth Leagues, county umpiring (here his ability to count up to 21 is a great asset) and being Secretary of the Wimbledon Y.M.C.A. teams. His interests are wide, and have included broadcasting, writing, and stage-work, while his Admiralty post has enabled him to see the East. He is a first-rate club cricketer and represents the Y.M.C.A. at Billiards, Snooker and Badminton. After a long spell in Singapore Geoff is quickly getting used to English conditions and is so far unbeaten in the Wandsworth League. Those who knew him before he went “East” wondered what effect these strange and mysterious places might have on him. They need not have wondered. To the delight of his friends, Geoff is still as Coulthredian as ever.

A. R. Miller

Umpire's Corner

I 'faulted' Haguenauer

AT the recent International match between England and France at Bristol I had the honour to officiate as one of the Umpires.

My first game was between Aubrey Simons and Michel Haguenauer. The latter’s third service was delivered from an almost cupped hand and in a backward direction towards the right shoulder! I immediately “faulted” Haguenauer as, in my opinion, apart from being a bad service, more “chop” can be imparted on a ball delivered in a backward direction.

During an animated (but quite friendly!) discussion after the game, Michel assured me that the Service Rule is not strictly or rigidly adhered to by umpires in France. I am afraid that, if such conditions are prevalent on the Continent, the International Service Rule is a farce.

As the evening at Bristol continued, it was obviously apparent that Michel Haguenauer’s remarks were correct. All the Frenchmen served from almost cupped hands and, in numerous instances, threw the ball in a backward direction. Whilst no point was won direct from a service, it does seem a queer state of affairs that visiting players of international status do not even attempt to serve to rule.

County umpires in this country are frequently being told to enforce the rule very strictly on every occasion. It, therefore, seems pointless to be harsh with British club players who, in most cases I find, are trying to serve correctly, if such a position prevails on the Continent.

I would, therefore, welcome the opinion of the I.T.T.F. Executive (and county umpires!) on this—(the Umpires’ Nightmare)—the Service Rule.

D. N. Andrew.
County Umpire No. 50.
Ron Crayden, after playing well in the afternoon, had a bad final, and lost three games for the first time in one Wilmott Cup match. Jackie Head had won all his matches in the quarter, semi and final of the competition, beating no less than 5 internationals including 3 Swaythling Cup players. Bernard Crouch is showing a return to form and regaining his confidence, while Thornhill fought all the way but only touched top form against Venner.

Jimmy Lowe started off in storming style with a two straight win over Crayden, then Jack Head levelled against Thornhill with a mixture of heavy chop and top-spin attack and never allowing his opponent to settle down. Crouch caused Head trouble with his backhand in their first game, but Head changed his game and chopped Crouch off in the second and third.

With South London leading 4-2, Venner v. Thornhill presented the finest table tennis seen in this series with fierce counter-hitting rallies through three games that had the audience fairly on their toes. Venner took the first game at 18, and with Thornhill leading 20-18 in the second came a tight battle, in which the silence was electric, Thornhill finally settling at 24-22. In the third game, Thornhill built up a 15-10 lead, and Staines supporters raised the roof, but then—their hopes were crushed by Venner hitting like a bomb, blasting his way to a grandstand 21-19 victory, making a fitting end to a grand match which gave South London the Wilmott Cup for the 3rd successive year.

R. Good
This best, found the Wembley tornado narrowly in an exciting match. This ever done in this country chopped an opponent Leach in the semi-final round, the quarter-final and went on to nervous C. Osterholm of Sweden without ever extending the former opportunity with both hands, beat a effort sapped Alan's reserves and he in their quarter-final match, and world champion.

The Yugo-Slav has a forehand drive Merrett, after a time-limit picnic with
tive in its hidden power. He is now one of the greatest players in the world; worthy loser and was great in defeat, thus equalling Barna's long-standing record. Leach was, however, a most worthy loser and was great in defeat, showing his best form ever seen here.

MEN'S SINGLES
By A. R. (Tony) Miller
(who reached the 4th Round of the M.S. for the second year running)

The early rounds were remarkable mainly for the dearth of "surprises." Rene Roothoof below his best, found the Wembley tornado Alan Rhodes in top form and lost narrowly in an exciting match. This effort sapped Alan's reserves and he never looked like beating Gloucestershire's Bob Griffin, who, seizing his opportunity with both hands, beat a nervous C. Osterholm of Sweden in the quarter-final and went on to oppose Leach in the semi-final round, and gave a good account of himself without ever extending the former world champion.

Leach, playing as well as he has ever done in this country choppd an over-hasty Dolinar to rapid destruction in their quarter-final match, and showed his best counter-hitting skill in some fine rallies.

Bergmann, obviously resolved to get his match with Ehrlich over with all possible speed, hit well on both wings and a novice might have been excused for supposing that both were attacking players.

Vilmos Harangozo maintained a brilliant all-round standard of play in beating Amouretti with surprising ease. The Yugo-Slav has a forehand drive and side-spin kill often left him clean and attractively produced. Bergmann's semi-final with Harangozo was a really excellent match with many superlative exchanges. Bergmann began somewhat nervously and throughout the match treated Harangozo with great respect, for the Slav's forehand side spin on both wings was so good that Bergmann seemed a fraction less speedy in defence, a shade heavier and slower in the movement-now and again a drop shot beat him—an incredible happening. Bergmann counteracted this by hitting brilliantly forehand and backhand—one backhand after a solid defensive game remains vividly in the memory. In the end Harangozo grew impatient and lost his best control, but not before a stern contest had been witnessed. The Bergmann-Leach final was another brilliant display of world class table tennis. Bergmann began by hitting Leach off, game 6, but Leach matching Bergmann in consistency, fought back and won the next at 18. The third game saw Leach's concentration relax momentarily and Bergmann, exerting terrific pressure and hitting whenever possible won at 12. The next game was a great struggle, resulting in an 18 win and the title for the fifth time for Bergmann, thus equalling Barna's long-standing record. Leach was, however, a most worthy loser and was great in defeat, showing his best form ever seen here.

MEN'S DOUBLES
In this event Harangozo and Dolinar swept all their opponents away in three straight games. Defence proved ineffective against them and none of their opponents could sustain a strong enough attack to counter-hit them off the table. Their strength at doubles is their great speed, difficult services and the unusual fact that both can kill the ball from a variety of angles. Craigie and Venner beat Barna/Bergmann 3-2, mainly through Bergmann's failure to follow-up his partner's attacking shots.

Roy Turner and Paul Brook of Surrey did extremely well to demolish Amouretti/Ehrlich and Craigie/Venner in straight games. Lowe/Thompson beat Crayden/Filby 3-0, and Roothoof/Lansky of France beat Leach/Carrington 3-2 after the English pair had looked like winners.

MIXED DOUBLES
The most brilliant of the many tense struggles in this event was that of Barna/Rosalind Rowe and Harangozo/Wertl in the semi-final. Two games down and 16-19 down Barna/Rowe yet fought back to 9-9 in the fifth. The change of order favoured Harangozo/Wertl and his services baffled Ros. The stronger hitting pair won but not until a number of doubles had been seen, in many ways better than any men's doubles in the championships. Craigie/Roberts beat Crayden and Winn (conquerors of Ehrlich/Bates) and Carrington/Carrington, and led Leach/Diane Rowe 2-1 before losing a good match.

The final between Harangozo/Wertl and Leach/D. Rowe was excellent, both pairs hitting well with Leach/Rowe the more accurate.

ESSEX CLOSED
Plaistow, March 22nd, 1952
Jack Carrington, original holder of the Men's Singles, in first season of this competition, 1938-39, entered for the second time after an interval of 13 years.

He recaptured his title in convincing style, beating County players Bill McCave and Brian Bruinwell in straight sets, and clinching a marathon battle with Bergmann-esque Les Sawyer, in the final by 3-2.

The final lasted 55 minutes, with Jack sweeping through the first two games by all-out attack, only to find Sawyer's tenacity pinning him down to slow driving in the next two. Experience and tactics enabled the international to outwit the rising County star in the 5th game by a contrast of slow-motion and "blitz". Yvonne Baker, last year's Junior winner, claimed the women's singles title by a hard-punching victory over Barbara Milbank.

56-year-old Harry Meinick, terror of the early 1930's in the London League, contested the veterans' final against England ex-veteran champion Harry Sugarhood, whose speed won the day.
The Women's Events
by PINKIE BARNES

WENGLISHwomen still have a lot to learn. We become petrified with the slightest whisper of anything untoward, and then our leading lady player is taken by surprise by a young Austrian's whirlwind tactics. The Women's Singles Final was spelt for me because Rosalind Rowe was so obviously put out by the onslaught. The ebullient Linde bubbled over so much that every time she served the ball neither the umpire nor Rosalind quite knew what was happening. When the rallies did get under way Linde's hitting was superb and Rosalind had brilliant patches of counter-attacking. But her copy-book defence, beautiful to watch, was no match for the aggressive Linde who soon blotted it effectively. Rosalind was definitely upset by the speed of the game. She has specialised in being an Obstacle for 20 years. Bergmann assailed him head-on. With a snappy backhand drive which he had never shown before, he pressed Kinhch's classic control as Bergmann, to help tame her opponents. For her it was a clear-cut victory and a difference-the legendary defender was looking for attacking openings nearly all the time. Her placement in this round (all-round stroke policy) is part of Bergmann's plan to first knock the Japanese out. Now it's all on the attack. Richard has also maintained that every defeat is a lesson learned.

There were one or two notable achievements in the earlier rounds. I give bouquets to the following players: Joy Seaman (well in the running for international honours) who took Linde Witters into action and in the next three games against them. This setback galvanized the point is, should the umpire himself have used aggressive tactics and pulled Linde up for her service? I must admit that Rosalind's game seems to have altered in the last year—she relies on her defence much more than in the past. In this particular case the speed of the game was too much for her.

The Women's Doubles went rather as one would expect, although Doris Atherton/Peggy Piper deserve mention for their win against the Welsh pair A. Bates/J. Beer. And the Joy Seaman/Jean Winn combination performed mightily against the Rowe twins.

The final was fought out between the Rowe twins and Franks/Roberts. The first game started off rather shaky, and when Peggy's backhand began to work about half-way through the game the two were even around and finished up with the score 21/16 against them. This worked on the twins into action and in the next three games they showed better form, winning 5, 16, 17. But it was a great pity the audience were unable to see these four in top form.

"Winners' Wake"
by JACK CARRINGTON
(The Path to the Titles)

Championships can be won in various ways, sometimes the winner can be seen from the first round, standing boldly down the field. Sometimes he hides in the opening as it reveals itself. At other times a winner's progress is so smooth that a traveler in a hostile jungle, slipping precariously through the underbrush, may not know that he has crossed an insuperable obstacle until he reaches an unexpected oasis.

KORNHAUSEN WALTER, our 1952 Men's Singles Champion, who because he's so consistently adaptable. He knows just when to press boldly along the highway, and when to revert to stalking tactics. Elsewhere you will read of his mighty clash of honor with Leach at the All England Cross-court. Both of his performances in this round, are truly remarkable and could be dangerous Harangou in the semi.

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BOYS' JUNIOR SINGLES

Semi-Finals: Billy England failed to stem the total-wave attack of Raymond Boso, Karen Freundorfer and went down by 8 and 17. The German boy maintained an incredibly fast tempo and hits with equal facility on either wing. In the other semi Bryan Merritt, won two spirited games against Jeff Ingham. England winning the two deciding games by 15 and 12. But... what happened?
What Table Tennis is Costing You

by TOM BLUNN
Chairman, Lancs. T.T.A.

from affiliation fees continues to widen; 1948—£111, 1949—£134, 1950—£317 and now 1951—£625. Hitherto the gap has been closed by the Association’s unearned income from ball and shirt rebates and Open Tournament fees. These sources are now bringing up to £1,000 a year and have become a major factor in the Association’s budget. The English Open usually accounts for the surplus of income over expenditure each season, but this year there is no surplus. In fact, last year’s surplus of £1579 has been turned into a deficit of £169. This deficit would have been even more had not the treasurer crept behind the iron curtain and brought back £52 due from Europe Cup matches a year previously. Thus there has been a swing over of about £1800 and the reduced profit on the English Open only accounts for £950 of this. The widening of the gap has accounted for a further £300 and the remainder has arisen out of the normal course of the Association’s business. A particular disappointment is the reduced surplus on the international matches which has fallen from £129 to £35. Other activities have produced less profit or cost more money, and two new items of expenditure, Coaching and Umpire Schemes have cost £320, but most people will agree that this is money well spent.

Although the cost of sending our teams to the World’s has remained around £500 it is expected that the cost of the Bombay trip during the current season will be double that amount.

Where do you, the player, come in? Well, to put it simply, it costs the players £4. each in affiliation fees and out of that sum the county takes £2. Out of the balance comes one penny per player for the cost of the handbook, leaving 3d. to administer the game. Not very much when you realise that the fixed rent of the offices alone works out at 4d. per player.

The Balance Sheet which is summarised below contains no special problems and there is every reason to believe that the assets will realise at their book values. Although the stock of umpire handbooks is shown the stocks of stationery and office equipment have not been taken into account and to that extent there is a hidden reserve.

THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Summary of Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 30th June, 1951

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<th>1951</th>
<th>1950</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Affiliation Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>A.M. Cost of Handbooks</td>
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<td>Less: County Rebates</td>
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<td>World Championships</td>
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<td>Other Tournaments, etc.</td>
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<td>Visits abroad, etc.</td>
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Summary of Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 1951

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<tr>
<td>Income and Expenditure</td>
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<td>Cash at Bank</td>
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Page Seven
E. & O. E.*
(*Errors and Omissions Excepted)

Happy may be the man who can, with supine serenity, mark his bills E. & O.E. Even calculating machines can err and accountants can qualify the accuracy of their work. But not an Editor. He is like a football referee with whom at least one spectator must disagree. Perhaps it is this similarity of hazard that causes most Editors to remain anonymous, and remote from the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune!"

The Editorship of Table Tennis is a trusteeship to be administered in the best interests of the game. It seeks to give truth, knowledge, instruction and entertainment, and to provide the fullest possible access to the truth and the widest divergencies of viewpoint. It is partial to those things of good repute; intolerant of those customs which would harm or stultify the game. It is conscious of the traditions of English sportsmanship and the significance of the word amateur.

It welcomes constructive criticisms; they are signposts of progress. When errors are made, as they must in the nature of things be made, then we like to be told so that they can be corrected. When you are fortified by truth and sincerity you are not afraid of making mistakes (and profiting by the experience) and neither are you scared of admitting or apologising for that mistake.

Correction Corner

To illustrate the things which can happen to the most zealous of editors, three black marks in the March issue:—

No. 1. The article "In The Open" and the cartoon accompanying it—credit to Doreen and Beryl Spooner—were in actual fact the work of DOREEN LEVY and BERYL PURKISS to whom we thus pay belated acknowledgment. The Misses Spooner knew nothing about it.

No. 2 came from my friend Malcolm Scott, Staffs. County Chairman, telling me that the item entitled "Staffs. Championships" was NOT the Staffs. County Closed (which is to be held at Yarnfield on April 12th) but only a restricted invitation tournament.

No. 3. Mr. F. Bromley of Bolton has really caught me out. I said that Snob was the first bespectacled World Singles Table Tennis Champion. I overlooked the Czech Stanislav Kolar who won the title against Ehrlich in 1935-6 (year of "The Great Chisel").

Apologies to all concerned, and thanks for letting us know.

Sincere apologies also for not having been able to answer all of the many letters, etc. I hope to remedy this in due course. Meanwhile, thank you all, so much, for writing.

Leslie S. Woollard,
The Editor

Editorial Notice

Table Tennis has introduced the following usage in publishing the results of Men's Doubles and of Women's Doubles events:—

The names of partners are given in alphabetical order of their surnames, thus Algernon/Blackwood or Carlton/Hobbs and not vice versa.

In Mixed Doubles, the Man's name precedes the Woman's.

If the E.T.T.A. receives a Guarantee (similar to the above) from each club in the NEXT SIX WEEKS, the 1954 World Championships WILL be held in England.

— But —

If a number of clubs forget, leave it, or don't bother, the World Championships do NOT come here. It is not necessary to send the Cash now, but the Guarantee is URGENTLY REQUIRED. You have nearly 2 years to raise the £1; it is only a matter of coppers from club members.

Don't let your Club or England down. Insist on something being done now. It may only be done if YOU do it.

The £1 has been computed as an average per club. If it can be more, so much the better.

Mr. Bernard Shows HOW

Mr. F. H. Bernard of Plaxton's Social Club, Scarborough is organising an Easter Whist Drive and Social Evening (in conjunction with the N.E. Open Championships). The entire proceeds, estimated at £5, will go to England's Fighting Fund. A few more enterprising clubs like that, and England will be top o' the world.

REMEMBER—the E.T.T.A. MUST hear from you within the next few weeks.

Now is a good time to send a P.O. for 5/6d. for yourself or friend, and receive Table Tennis on the first of the month for a Year's issues. Be first with the NEWS.
BACKHAND TOP-SPIN ATTACK

The backhand top-spin drive is produced in the same way as the forehand (see May Table Tennis). Watch your footwork. You must "change feet" with a quick jump, getting your right leg in the lead before attempting the backhand drive. When the ball is at the top of its bounce strike it from slightly below with an upward sweep, swaying your body forward and following through. The famous backhand flick shot is developed from this stroke.

THE HALF VOLLEY

A useful surprise and defence shot, Perfect timing and correct angle of bat are essential. The dotted line shows the path of the ball and where I aim to make contact just as it bounces.

BACKSPIN (FOREHAND)

The counter to top-spin is back-spin, achieved by striking the ball from above and downwards, causing it to rotate in a backward direction. Known as the "Chop Stroke" it is the main defensive stroke and can be used against the hardest of drives. To learn this stroke, do the simple "push" stroke at the net and then move backward, increasing the downward chopping movement of your bat as you go. In the pictures above, I am defending against a fairly hard top-spin drive about two yards from the table. I move my bat back and as the ball begins to drop I push my forearm downward and forward, slicing the ball from underneath.

My weight shifts forward to my leading foot so that my whole body sways forward to direct the ball. Note that I keep my wrist firm, my eyes firmly fixed on the ball all the time and after striking, my arm and body continue in a natural follow-through.
JOY SEAMAN, 29-year-old ledger machinist in a London bank is a rising young player to be joy to meet; she intends to let T.T. remain a really enjoyable sport and not a worrying obsession. Although she started playing 7 years ago, no serious interest intended until 1948. With a little coaching from Ken Cruickshank last year, she won the Kent and the Northampton Open singles, and this season has taken the Middlesex Closed W.S., Southampton W.D. (with Dorothy Ellis), Surrey Open W.D. (with Joyce Roberts) and the real Indoor set in reaching 3 finals in the Metropolitan Open, winning the W.S. and the X.D. (with Tony Millet).

She thinks one should really enjoy a game, win or lose, or there is no sense in playing, but that doesn't stop the observer who comes up after a V.D. (with Dorothy Miller) for the game began! This charm real highspot WFS in V.S., Southampton Open is also kpPI!

In the Metropolitan Open, winning enlighten them on why the umpire Ellis), Surrey Open and knotting.

Roberts) and the reaching 3 finals mother who had to worrying obsession. Although she When on holiday in Majorca, Spain, last year she was delighted to find T.T. tables at almost every bar and hotel (usually on the terrace) and says they had many enjoyable games of mixed doubles. (No double extended intended.)

She is also keen on tennis, cycling and knitting. Father and brother, knew nothing about T.T. and it was another who had to enlighten them on why the umpire held the ball under the table before the same began! This charming Londoner has, so far as we could find, only one dislike; it's the observer who comes up after a gruelling "done in third" and says: "Now IF ONLY you had . . . ."

**COVER GIRL**

Joy Seaman

(Middlesex)

JOY SEAMAN, 29-year-old ledger machinist in a London bank is a rising young player to be joy to meet; she intends to let T.T. remain a really enjoyable sport and not a worrying obsession. Although she started playing 7 years ago, no serious interest intended until 1948. With a little coaching from Ken Cruickshank last year, she won the Kent and the Northampton Open singles, and this season has taken the Middlesex Closed W.S., Southampton W.D. (with Dorothy Ellis), Surrey Open W.D. (with Joyce Roberts) and the real Indoor set in reaching 3 finals in the Metropolitan Open, winning the W.S. and the X.D. (with Tony Millet).

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**Wilmott Cup Finals**

Other Details on Page 3

**Semi-Finals:**

STAINES 7-HUDDERSFIELD 1

Details

**Staines:** M. Thornhill, R. Crouch, J. Lowe,

Huddersfield: R. Hinchliff, G. Wadsworth,

S. Dyson.


bt. Wadsworth 8, — 22, 16; bt. Dyson 15, 16.


"It WOULD happen to us!"

**Midland ‘Open’ Championships**

By MAURICE GOLDSTEIN

Birmingham, March, 1952

THERE was little to enthuse over at the Finals of the 23rd Midland Counties Open Championships at the Indoor Sports Stadium, Birmingham. Although most of the stars in the country were competing, play was never brilliant, Leach having no difficulty in taking three titles. In the men’s singles, he beat Allcock in two games and Brian Kennedy in the final in three straight games.

Cruwys and Griffin of Cheltenham were too nervous to extend Leach and Filby in the final of the men’s doubles, although previously they had brought off a first-class win against Haydon/ Mackay.

M.G.

**DETAILS**

M.S. Semi-Finals:

H. Kennedy bt. P. Cowdrey 11, 15. J.

Leach bt. R. Allcock 15, 10.

W.S. Semi-Finals:

R. Rowe bt. P. Mortimer 12, 13. D.

Rowe bt. Mrs. M. Cumberland 14, 12.

**Finals Results on Page 3**

A Modest Champion

from Staines

DOBREEN SPOONER (Middlesex)

DOBREEN SPOONER, 5 ft. 9 ins. well-built brunette from Staines is a secretary in an engineering company and is playing in her third year (and last as a junior). Very pleasant, modest and unassuming she has achieved a most astonishing record of junior triumph more than meriting her award of an England Junior International badge this season. She holds 13 junior titles (including 2 nationals) and shares 9 senior doubles titles. At Staines League finals presentations she was called—as winner—6 times, and then, just for good luck, a 7th time as winner of the raffle! Six months later, in the same hall, she was playing in the Middlesex Closed in 4 finals and winning 3. Before she was 17 years old she had actually reached the final of the W.S. in 3 Opens AND the Middlesex W.S. Sh; is, we think, the only player to have played in each of the 3 Middlesex teams, standing-in for Di Rowe in the Premier Division once and playing regularly in the 2nd and Junior teams.

Father, Reg Spooner, is a well-known sportsman and keen T.T. enthusiast with many honours in athletics and football, and has done much to help his daughters’ careers. Heron’s sister, 14-year-old, left-handed Royl, is rising steadily. The Spooner’s went to Sweden last summer and Doreen renewed acquaintance with Lasse- Petersson, her partner in winning last year’s English J.X.D.

She is also very keen on tennis, and while having a high hope of an England senior T.T. "cap" is also hoping to reach county standard in more than one game. Incidentally, she is also a promising pianist with honours in examinations at the Royal Trinity College of Music.

Alltogether, there seems to be a very solid foundation for future success for this talented all-rounder with the orthodox style, and possessing a nice forehand smash for her set shot.
ABOUT TOWN
with
Peggy Allen

THE period between the middle of February and the end of March seems to be a strangely quiet one since the events held are inevitably dwarfed by the just completed World's in Bombay and the eagerly awaited English at Wembley.

However, things have been happening although they may not be world-shattering and during this period, Surrey's JEAN WINN has notched another two good wins (forgive the pun) namely the Middlesex Herta and Surrey Open titles.

To my mind, Jean is just about the most consistent and least appreciated player in England to-day. With a positive string of open singles titles won since last December, she still cannot find a place in the Surrey Premier Division team. We know this county is lucky in having five or six well-known women players, three of whom are internationals, but these kinds of results caused so many of us to expect too much, for Sharon, is really only a girl, a three well-known women players, three of whom are internationals, but these kinds of results cannot be ignored for ever and it would seem high time that Jean was given her chance.

In the Hertford tournament, she beat Eileen Carrington and in the Surrey Open both Joyce Roberts and Pinkie Barnes. All these girls have played for Surrey this season but Jean remains bewildered as to just what one must achieve to win a place in the county side.

A KENT player about whom we have not yet heard a great deal is JOAN BEADLE, nee Cuss, who won the Kent Closed Championship at Herne Bay last month.

Since the county team plays in the Southern Division, she does not often meet the best English women players but she has not been beaten in Kent league matches for the last two years and has held the women's singles title of the Medway Towns for the past five years.

Possessing both a sound defence and strong forehand attack, perhaps her greatest asset is her temperament and, in spite of nerves (which often result in an annoying habit when big matches are imminent), she has been known to pull up from an impossible position, thus showing her tremendous fighting power.

Jean is a school teacher married to another table tennis enthusiast. These two form a formidable mixed doubles combination and I'm sure quite I shall be hearing more of the Beadle family soon.

MAIN interest of the month has centred around young SHARON KOEHNKE. Surely no-one's arrival has been so eagerly awaited since the war, for this 15-year-old girl wins the English Junior Championship. Since the county team plays in the Southern Division she does not often meet the best English women players but she has not been beaten in Kent league matches for the last two years and has held the women's singles title of the Medway Towns for the past five years.

Possessing both a sound defence and strong forehand attack, perhaps her greatest asset is her temperament and, in spite of nerves (which often result in an annoying habit when big matches are imminent), she has been known to pull up from an impossible position, thus showing her tremendous fighting power.

Jean is a school teacher married to another table tennis enthusiast. These two form a formidable mixed doubles combination and I'm sure quite I shall be hearing more of the Beadle family soon.

ABSENCE IMPROVES!

"I was surprised (and somewhat disappointed) to read in the February Table Tenses of a well-known player arguing with the referee for 14 minutes whilst congratulating the referee on his able handling of the situation. I do think he would have been instilled in dosing down the player. Officials have sufficient to do in ensuring the smooth running of tournaments without being called upon to tolerate such incidents. Players who cannot bear to lose should refrain from entering tournaments. The game can do without them—and would be improved by their absence."

Philip Reid, Leicester.

"My sincere congratulations on your production of such a splendid magazine as Table Tennis. The extra pages have made all the difference and the articles are most interesting. I do think this institution is not for our players. I have managed to get 4 or 5 people sufficiently interested in the game to buy Table Tennis regularly. They have strict instructions not to lend their magazines to other people but to encourage them to buy it for themselves."

Having been fortunate in being able to play table tennis in foreign countries, I am naturally tremendously keen on knowing just how table tennis is progressing in those countries...

F. K. Smith, Trinity College, Carmarthen.

JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL ENGLAND — SWEDEN 2
Hull, 18th March, 1952.

DETAILS (England names first)
B. MERRETT bt. B. Malmsud 8, 12; C. Skaj 13, 12. B. Malmsud 19, 12; C. Skaj 12, 14. (time limit); bt. G. Rommark 12, 13; W. England lost B. Malmsud.—8, 19; lost C. Skaj,—12, —10.
Silver Jubilee Celebrations

On the 24th April, 1927, the Table Tennis Association formally became the English Table Tennis Association. This year, therefore, marks the 25th birthday, the Silver Jubilee, of the E.T.T.A. The day noted for the Official Birthday is SATURDAY, 26th APRIL, 1952, which is also the date of the Annual General Meeting.

The National Executive Committee hope that members, players and league officials from all over the country will join them in the Jubilee Celebration and make the greatest social get-together in the history of Table Tennis.

THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY IS:

12.30 p.m., LUNCH. St. Ermin's Hotel (almost next door to Caxton Hall, Westminster). Tickets 17/6d. each, from Mrs. Pegg.

3.0 p.m., ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Caxton Hall, Westminster.

A Wall Exhibition illustrating the expansion of the game and other interesting items (arranged by Mr. Leslie Forrest) will be on view to all visitors, and the W. J. Pope Memorial Chair (specially commisioned from Mr. Joyce) should be available.

8.0 p.m. (to 11.45 p.m.), DANCE AND GRAND GET-TOGETHER, Caxton Hall. Tickets 3/6d. Members of the General Council attending the A.G.M. admitted free. Informal Dress.

It is suggested wherever possible that leagues and clubs make up mixed parties and arrange to meet at 8 p.m. at Caxton Hall.

SELECTION COMMITTEE NOTIFICATION

THE following Juniors have been selected to play against the Swedish Juniors at Hull on the 18th March, 1952—

H. MEREDITH (Glos.), C. BOOTH (Lancs.), W. ENGLAND (Notts.), R. Everitt, D. HOUSE, Non-playing captain: T. MARR.

(18th March.)

FRENCH ANNIVERSARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Paris, 17th March, 1952

The French Association staged an International Tournament in Paris in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of their foundation. BRIAN KENNEDY was beaten 19, 18, 20 by Harangozo (Yugoslavia). In the quarter-finals, JOHNNY LEACH was beaten 15, 15, 12 by Rene Roothoof (France), and RICHARD BERGMANN by Michael Haguenauer (France) — 22, 15, 19, 16. In the final Roothoof beat Haguenauer — 15, 16, 16, 12.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

M.S. R. G. MILES (Jesus) bt. P. M. Ayles (St. John's), 15, 15.
M.D. R. G. MILES/R. M. SINCLAIR (Jesus) bt. G. Rothenburg, 15, 16, 16.

77-YEAR-OLD TAKES UP CHALLENGE

In the March Table Tennis, Scarborough League presented a Challenge to any player in the world (over 60) to meet their Chairman, Mr. A. Harrison, in match play in the North-East England Open, Scarborough at Easter. The challenge brought two contenders: Mr. GEORGE HURLOCK (61-year-old father of Keith Hurlock) and 77-year-old, Mr. R. H. PRIMAVESI, President of the Bournemouth Corinthians' Club. Both gentlemen have been invited to Scarborough, and the League are quite prepared to include an extra event—"The Over Sixties" if there is any more interest.

YORKS JUNIOR OPEN

8th March, 1952

B.S. G. INGHAM (Manchester) bt. R. Newton (Manchester), 14, 18.
G.S. F. BURKNELL (Harrogate) bt. J. Preston (Hartlepool), 8, 12, 19.

WEST OF ENGLAND OPEN

Bristol, 22nd March, 1952

M.S. B. KENNEDY bt. H. Venner 17, 10, 19.
M.D. F. RUBAY/R. GRIFFIN (Bristol) bt. R. Kenealy/M. Thornhill — 17, 18, 17.

16th March, 1952—Cardiff: IRELAND beat WALES 5-4

TRAINING HOLIDAYS AND WEEKENDS

I regret no vacancies on weeks or week-ends up to end of June.

Some places still free for:

Holiday Training Week, East Coast, 20-27th September.
Week-ends, London, during July.


Kent Junior Open
Gillingham, 16th March, 1952

There were 88 boys and 18 girls taking part, including entries from every county in the Junior Championships. Ten tables were in use. The Open Championships commenced at 9.0 p.m., despite the fact that the singles events were run on the group system.

RESULTS

Boys
1. J. Jones bt. R. Dorking 14, 18, 15
2. P. Inglis bt. J. Hook -18, 19, 15
4. P. Inglis bt. L. Selway 19, 10, 16, 9

Girls
1. B. S.
2. G. S.
3. P. Inglis bt. J. Hook -18, 19, 15
4. L. Selway bt. R. Dorking 14, 18, 15

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83, Bridge Street, Manchester 3

English Championships Results

MEN'S SINGLES (from the 4th Round)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Rhodes</td>
<td>Griffin</td>
<td>22, 17, 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Griffith</td>
<td>Osterholm</td>
<td>10, 16, -16, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Szechoski</td>
<td>Osterholm</td>
<td>15, -19, 16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Lasnky</td>
<td>Dolinar</td>
<td>22, 17, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. A. Leach</td>
<td>Leach</td>
<td>16, 10, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Amorosi</td>
<td>Amorosi</td>
<td>18, 13, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Miller</td>
<td>H. Collings</td>
<td>11, 19, 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Allong</td>
<td>P. Inglis</td>
<td>-16, 15, 12, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Olliar</td>
<td>Bergmann</td>
<td>17, 8, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Spooner</td>
<td>L. Selway</td>
<td>5, 11, 19</td>
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</table>

WOMEN'S SINGLES (from the 4th Round)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G. Petit</td>
<td>Fraize</td>
<td>15, -9, 9, 8/3, 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Gray</td>
<td>Row (W)</td>
<td>H. Rowe 17, 15, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Walt</td>
<td>Bates (W)</td>
<td>9, 6, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Rowe</td>
<td>Wertl</td>
<td>Wertl 15, 19, 18, 8, 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEN'S DOUBLES


WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Quarter-Finals: M. Fraize/J. Roberts beat D. Atterton/M. Piper 16, 17, 13; D. Rowe/R. Roe beat G. Petit/C. Watul 12, 16, 16.

Semi-Finals: M. Fraize/J. Roberts beat D. Atterton/M. Piper 16, 15, 14; D. Rowe/R. Roe beat G. Petit/C. Watul 12, 16, 16.


MEN'S MIXED DOUBLES


WOMEN'S MIXED DOUBLES

Quarter-Finals: M. Fraize/J. Roberts beat D. Atterton/M. Piper 16, 17, 13; D. Rowe/R. Roe beat G. Petit/C. Watul 12, 16, 16.

Semi-Finals: M. Fraize/J. Roberts beat D. Atterton/M. Piper 16, 15, 14; D. Rowe/R. Roe beat G. Petit/C. Watul 12, 16, 16.


MEN'S VETERANS' SINGLES

Final: T. Allcock beat K. Freundorfer 9, 16, 19, 17.

WOMEN'S VETERANS' SINGLES

Final: Mrs. A. G. Bateman beat Mrs. D. Bull 14, 16.

MEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES

Final: J. Carrington beat J. Head 14, 14.

WOMEN'S CONSOLATION SINGLES

Final: J. Carrington beat J. Head 14, 14.

BOYS' SINGLES


Semi-Finals: Freundorfer beat England 16, 17; Merrett beat Inger 17, 18.

Final: Freundorfer beat Merrett 15, 14.

BOYS' DOUBLES


Final: Danton/D. Eagles beat Inger/R. Newton 14, 20, 14.

BOYS' SINGLES

Final: J. Inger beat P. Heapell 21, 13; S. Koehnke (US) beat D. Spooner 18, 15.


BOYS' DOUBLES


Final: Danton/D. Eagles beat Inger/R. Newton 14, 20, 14.

GRIPS' SINGLES


GRIPS' DOUBLES


Final: Freundorfer/Paulsen beat Merrett/Spooner 23, -12, 18.

Page Thirteen
Hiroji Satoh, the new World Champion, a watchmaker by profession, is nicknamed "The Sponge Man". He attributes 50% of his success to his bat which has aroused more curiosity than the player himself. It is made of soft wood, barely an eighth of an inch thick, squarish in shape; on one side only it has a sponge pad and half an inch thick. It is kept in a special plastic case which also holds 4 balls. Six months ago in Japan, he told me, he was beaten by a player named Asano who used this type of bat, and has used one himself ever since.

Satoh started playing 14 years ago, modelling his game on that of an old Japanese champion, Takashi Kon. He says that The very thin wood and the very thick sponge takes the sting out of the most vicious shot and imparts a terrific side-spin to the ball. Perhaps the complete silence disconcerts the opponent also.

The sponge bat is a "New Look" in Japan—a controversial one—and only about 50 of the many thousands use it. Satoh and his sponge bat, however, are not invincible; Fuji told me—and Satoh ungrudgingly admitted it—that he can beat Satoh very easily any day.

Satoh mainly chop-pushes, holding the bat almost horizontally in front of his body and moves it from side to side, which according to Reisman (who lost to him in the second round) imparts the opponent also.

"The Cannon Ball Driver. Japan's No. 1, he has won 5 of the last 6 Japanese Nationals. He did not compete in the 6th. He has a terrific smash from the forehand side, and the speed with which he positions himself from either side of the table is remarkable. When he is out of position for his "forehand" he hits "backhanders" with a peculiar twist of his arm (near the shoulder) and wrist. He has been playing since he was 10, regularly has a couple of hours practice daily, and works in a technical college where he coaches a number of youngsters. His defensive ability is unknown because, in Bombay, he attacked constantly.

Shizuka Nakahara was in Hiroshima whom the A-Bomb was dropped, but luckily escaped a few minutes before the explosion. In her suburban school, she is just 5 feet tall, weighs 100 lbs, and is the Japanese No. 1. She hits with tremendous force with a "penholder" style. Her sister, another sponge bat is already school champion and Shizuka hopes to see her at the top in the near future.

Tokei Nishimura is still in her teens, but has a beautiful topspin and length control. Her bat has ordinary rubber on one side (not the normal playing face), and she imparts a vicious spin to all her strokes. She also scored innumerable points with an ace serve.

In doubles, Nishimura sends her top-spins high over the net and Nakahara "kills" high returns with a shot like a roller. With this strategy, they were not beaten in doubles in the whole championships.
OPEN TOURNAMENTS

Bobby Raybould (Essex) lifted his first Open title at the Surrey tournament; in the final he beat Essex team-mate Ray Dorking -15, 17, 19. A ding-dong semi-final gave Bobby victory over Ivor Jones by 13, -18, 19. In the other semi Doug. Brunt (Middx.) yielded to Dorking in straight games.


Ivor Jones (Middx.) took the Middlesex Herga title at the expense of Carpenter (Middx.) in the final and Campbell, Smith and Raybould en route. Carpenter passed Carrol (Essex) in the semis. The Yorkshire Junior Open is reported elsewhere but credit must go to Jeff. Ingber for winning both boys' and youths' singles.

Sins and Omissions Dept.

Mr. Finch, of Wembley, writes to tell me that in the February Spotlight I should not have referred to the Single COLOUR dress rule—I should have said Single SHADE. The only excuse I can offer is that my electronic hair-splitting machine was under repair at the time and I tender my apologies to the many who must have recoiled in horror at such a soul-searing misstatement.

Bedfordshire Junior Review

BRIAN PHILLIPS, 16-year-old electrical engineering apprentice, has one more season as a junior and is now in his first for the county team. Started playing 2 years ago and has developed a strong attacking game based on a hard-first-time forehand hit that bears a striking style resemblance to that of Ron Crayden. Likes to see similarly dressed doubles partners. Favourite star—Johnny Leach.

ROYSTON GILL, 15, possesses a most impressive name—but his friends, with a fine disregard for anti-Crime, call him "Gumber"!! Anyway, Gumber also has an exceedingly stylish game and plays with a calm assurance that promises well. He defends most of the time but will attack at the most-critical stages of a game. Has two more seasons as a junior and has been playing for just over two years. Favourite star is Berman.

RON GRAY, 16, is studying to become an engineer. Has played the game for 3 years and looks forward to one more junior season. Likes "Gumber"—can't resist that name! He is a defender and names Richard Berman as his favourite star. Also plays football and cricket but wants to go farther in T.T. Ron would like to see visits to this country arranged for the Czech and Hungarian men players; they he has something.

ERIC BASTERFIELD, 17, is in his last junior season and third playing year. Has an all-round game with the accent on attack. Favourite star is Ken Osbald. Has doubled in most common events at one time or another, with a slight preference for football and tennis. Likes players who stick to their guns and won't be shaken off their game.

MAUREEN HOWELL, 16, Bedford High School student. She has held the Junior Championship of Beds. for the last two years. Has played two years and has one more season as a junior. Attacks all the time in matches but devotes most of her practice time to defending. The Rose Twins are her favourite stars.

HEATHER COLLINGS, 16, Bedford High School student. Has two ambitions: one to play for Beds. Seniors and another to help Bedford win the Rose Bowl. Started playing two years ago and has developed an all-round game. Vera Thomas is her favourite star. Also plays hockey and representative tennis.

* Players not shown in photograph.

Page Fifteen
J. M. Rose Bowl Finals
By LESLIE BROMFIELD
Worthing, 8th March, 1952
ALTHOUGH retaining the women's national team championship of England, the J. M. Rose Bowl, West London's famous team did not have things all their own way.

West London beat Bristol 7-2. Considerable interest was shown as to how the new International, Miss M. Fry, would show up against the Rowe Twins, but although playing well (now in spectacles, by the way), the Bristol girl fell to Diane 14 and 15 and to Rosalind 15 and 18. The great feature of the tie was, of course, Terry Pomroy's gallant win over Rosalind -19, 20, 10, Terry hitting everything at the beginning of the third game to pile up a great lead.

Birmingham beat Bedford 9-0. Bedford deserved a better score than 0-9, and looked dangerous at the beginning of the match when Mrs. E. Aldridge and Mrs. K. Collings took Mrs. M. Cumberbatch and Miss P. Mortimer to 20-22, 21-19, 18-21, and Mrs. B. Carter then only lost to Miss J. Mackay 21-17, 11-21, 13-21. Birmingham then ran straight out, but Bedford never gave up trying.

FINAL. West London beat Birmingham 6-3.

England Juniors Lack Enterprise
By ABraham AbraHaMson (Abridged)
Hull, 18th March, 1952
ENGLAND beat Sweden 5-2 in the Junior International match, and though it reversed last year's defeat in Sweden, it was a disappointing display. Stolid defensive play with but rare glimpses of attacking strokes. The 45-minute Booth v. Malmquist match, decided on a time limit, was of the type which can do nothing but harm to the game. England led 3-1 and Malmquist was in the position of having to win the tie to give Sweden a chance of victory. His attack was not confident against Booth and he decided to defend; Booth, displaying a fine defence, showed no inclination to attack. This is the first, and I hope the last occasion in a Junior International in which the time limit was imposed.

The most attractive Swedish player was CURT SKAJ, whose nice backhand attack easily disposed of Billy England, but crumbled in his earlier match with Merrett, England rallied in his second game with Malmquist but nerves obviously handicapped his best performance.

Among those present were the Lord Mayor of Hull and his Lady, the Swedish Consul, the Hon. Ivar Montagu, Mr. S. Hanson and Miss M. I. Lightfoot (Chairman and Secretary of the Yorks. T.T.A. respectively). Presentations were exchanged by the non-playing captains, Mr. Ake Eldh and Mrs. T. Sears.

Scores on Page 11

England Juniors 8 German Juniors 2
At Clapham Baths, Monday, 31st March, 1952

HIGHLIGHT of this match was the final tie in which Konrad Freundorfer, who seemed invincible at Wembley last week, was beaten in straight games by Bryan Merrett. Although it was the final tie, and Germany had already lost, nevertheless much of the credit for the win must go to Tommy Sears, who planned the campaign of "how to win".

The match was marred by the very slippery floor, the Germans having protested before the commencement of the match, but the Baths authorities at first refused to have anything done. After Stauvermann had taken off both shoes and socks in the opening tie in an endeavour to get a better foothold, they consented to the putting down of soap flakes, but this only slightly improved conditions.

Most exciting match was the boys' doubles, in which the lead fluctuated many times before the German boys just got home.

Details:
D. House lost to Freundorfer -15, -9; beat J. Stauvermann 5, -18, 15.
W. Knight beat Stauvermann 14, 11; beat Lechel 19, 14.
Miss J. Rook beat Miss U. Paulsen 20, -16, 7.
Miss Rook and Miss D. Spooner beat Miss Paulsen and Miss H. Walz 17, 13.
Knight and House lost to Lechel and Stauvermann -17, 22, -19.
Merrett and Miss Spooner beat Freundorfer and Miss Walz 6, -18, 14.

The choice of champions

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Scottish Women's Singles ... 1945/51
Scottish Mixed Doubles ... 1949/51
Scottish Women's doubles ... 1946/51
English Open Mixed ... 1950/51

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OF ALL THE LEADING OUTFITTERS
No writer of popular fiction would have to invent such a finish to the Premier Division, for fear that people would say he was straining what was possible. Just imagine! The last two matches to decide which of four counties should be relegated and which of three counties should win the Championships! And all out of only eight competitors, title.

To deal with the five matches played since our last issue: First, the chances of Essex, the leaders, quickly disappeared when Middlesex soundly beat them by 7-3. On the following day, Surrey journeyed to Cheltenham, and seemed to have the title in their pocket, for poor Aubrey Simons was out of the game for the season, and so it seemed when Surrey led 5-2. Only one more match and the title was theirs for the first time.

It did not come. The mixed doubles was lost; Griffin beat Crayden, and it was 5-4. Surrey were still not worried, for they had Harry Venner to play the last match against the junior "hope," Bryan Merrett. Just think of it. The tried and seasoned International, one of the country's leading players, against the young boy who had just left school. Shades of the "Magnet," of the country's leading players, trying and seasoned International, one of the last match against the junior "hope," Bryan Merrett. Just think of it. The tried and seasoned International, one of the country's leading players, against the young boy who had just left school. Shades of the "Magnet,"

Middlesex v. Warwickshire, with the last match against the "junior" hope, Brian Kennedy to decide who played the third and only one more point needed to carry off the title.

Again it was thriller stuff: One game for the rest of the season, and it all seemed to play a big part in these final matches, for young Ronnie Baker was brought in, and he won both his singles, but still Lancs. found themselves losing county to be relegated! It was a great fight all the way. Youth brought in, and he won both his singles, but still Lancs. found themselves losing county to be relegated! It was a great fight all the way. Youth

Warwick knew that they would have the right to remain in the Premier Division, for fear that people would say he was straining what was possible. Just imagine! The last two matches to decide which of four counties should be relegated and which of three counties should win the Championships! And all out of only eight competitors, title.

Gloucestershire v. Warwickshire, with Warwickshire needing one point for safety and Gloucestershire needing both to retain an interest in the cup. Warwickshire led 5-4, but once again the West Country lads pulled the match out of the fire, and a 6-4 win meant that their hopes were still alive, whilst Warwickshire were there hoping Gloucestershire won. To refresh your memory, Warwickshire were Champions once again.

The play-off between Warwickshire and Glamorgan will be in Birmingham on the 5th April.

EASTERN DIVISION

Buckinghamshire just managed to carry off this section, by the narrowest possible margin, and it was fitting that this victory was secured by their chief campaigner, Leo Thompson, in the final match of the division.

Middlesex 7, Essex 3
Gloucestershire 6, Warwickshire 4
Cambridgeshire 4, Buckinghamshire 6
Suffolk 6, Cambridgeshire 4
Buckinghamshire 6, Bedfordshire 2
Bedfordshire 1, Hertfordshire 9

JUNIOR DIVISION

Kent finished worthy champions, and, to set the seal on their success, it is pleasing to see that Danton and Eagles have carried off the boys' doubles at the English Open Championships. Middlesex finished a good second, and, remembering that their games average suffered from the 1-9 defeat to Kent, makes one wonder how that defeat could have been so large. Essex just wrested third place from Notts., on games average, deservedly, but I am old-fashioned enough to have wished to see the enterprise of the Midland county in entering rewarded by a slightly higher position.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Devon 5, Cambridgeshire 5
Bedfordshire 2, Essex 8

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Lancashire beat Cheshire 8-2 in the replayed match, so still carry off the title.
West Middlesex Open

By GEOFF COULTHREAD

THIS tournament gave Londoners the opportunity of seeing Miss Sharon Koehnke in action almost immediately after arriving from the U.S.A. Perhaps she had not settled down but, though winning the Junior Girls, I should be surprised to see the English title leave England this year.

The best non-finals-night match was, it was generally agreed, the M.S. Semi-final between Crouch/Thorntill and Ivor Jones/Dennis Miller. If Jones and Miller decided to make a regular pairing, they will certainly win tournaments in the future and as it was they led 19-17 on the third, only to see Thornhill make four wins in a row. This was one of the few really touch-and-go finals that have been seen this season and a win which includes three misses indicates the measure of the evenly matched opponents.

The Rowe twins resumed their serial in the finals and on this occasion Ros beat Di once again on a series of close games. The twins also won the ladies doubles from Betty Bassett/Joan Winn. Consolation for Joan Winn came in the mixed doubles which she and Micky Thorntill won from Venner/Peggy Piper.

Geoff Coulthread

DETAILS


J. LOWE bt. Venner -12, 20, 19.


B.S. A. E. SMITH bt. I. D. Jones -17, 17, 10.


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BRIAR CLYFFE, standing in its own grounds and overlooking the sea, is the former residence of the late H. Hollingsworth; and it is in the Assembly Hall (the erstwhile billiards-room of the millionaire philanthropist) that 58 schoolboys relax after their day’s studies, and play table tennis.

On the wall of the Assembly Hall, with its beautifully ornate ceiling, hangs the School Escutcheon bearing the words "Amicitia Laetitiam Autem" (Friendship redoubled joy). A most appropriate motto which reflects through the whole school.

To those who know the Principal, Mr. Harry Levine, it is not so very surprising that upon this same escutcheon is embodied a design of T.T. bats and balls, for the Headmaster expounds the belief that table tennis, more than anything else, builds up the character and personality of a boy.

For two years the Head has been developing his table tennis "class" with remarkable success. Last season his own son, Antony (now at Carmel College), reached the Final of the Lowestoft Junior Championship.

The School Captain, David Bardsley to the "baby" Max Geller, aged 8—learn the game for the first time when they arrive at Briar Clyffe. They have expert coaching from Mr. A. F. G. Nickels (the Suffolk County player), who has, this year, joined Mr. Levine’s staff.

Boy star of the moment is David Bardsley, who hails from Harleston. He reached the zone final of the County Junior Singles and only lost after a brave display. But Bardsley is not alone; stars in embryo are common enough at Briar Clyffe. The most improved players are 13 years old John Collins and Peter Cole; two of the Day Boys’ team. They arrive at school 45 minutes early each morning to improve their game.

Many other boys’ names are well-known in Lowestoft League circles—Keith Goff, Trevor Reddish, Fulcher, Nixon, Strong, and others; they’re too numerous to mention. If only there were a Girls’ School run on similar lines to supply Lowestoft with future Town and County Players!

Challenge

BRIAR CLYFFE SCHOOL issues a challenge to any school in London or Birmingham to play a friendly match on Wilmott Cup lines, home or away.

MR. HARRY LEVINE’s interest in Table Tennis goes back to the foundation of the Birmingham T.T.A. 20 years ago with A. A. Haydon and Maurice Goldstein, and he remembers M. Kriese as a promising junior of 10 years of age. Although he only went to Lowestoft in 1949, he was Chairman of the League last year and Hon. Treasurer of Suffolk T.T.A. In addition to Mr. Nickels (County No. 2) on the staff the visiting Music Teacher is Miss Eunice Beech, No. 1 for Lowestoft and Suffolk ladies. Briar Clyffe School is used as the headquarters of the Norfolk and Suffolk Counties Coaching Scheme under Jack Carrington (and with the C.D.P.R.).

Relative Values

SURELY the Editor was over-rating the advance table tennis has made when he said, in the February Magazine, that it had not only become the Sport of the age, but also the most international of all sports? I agree that table tennis has become one of the major sports, but I am convinced that not many people outside the game realize this. I fail to see, therefore, how the superlatives the Editor uses can apply to table tennis.

Let me qualify those remarks. International Open Championships are a good guide, and serve as an excellent illustration to judge a sport’s international strength. Comparing last year’s Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships with the last English Open (or the "Table Tennis Wimbledon of the World"), there was a substantial difference in the amount of international competition. Wimbledon attracted 140 overseas competitors, representing 34 countries, while Wembley drew 30 visitors, from 9 countries.

Further, both lawn tennis and table tennis have the same number of countries affiliated to their respective international federations. These facts prove, firstly, that although not necessarily being superior to other sports in international representation, table tennis most certainly compares favourably, and, secondly, they help fans to view the great game in its true perspective during this, its Silver Jubilee Year.

H. C. Richards

Appeal to Juniors

ALTHOUGH having passed out of the "junior" stage several years ago, I feel that, as the representative of the juniors on the County Championships Committee, I may be allowed to express my views on junior matters.

What I want to do mostly is to appeal to all the juniors in the country to come into the limelight a little more and make the voice of the younger members heard at League, County and National Meetings throughout the country. A lot is being done in the interest of the juniors today, and nobody appreciates that more than I do, but there are many corners of the country where very little, if anything, is done for them. I am not even going to excuse my own County! Although the Kent juniors get a very fair share of activities in comparison with some counties, there is a vast amount more that could be done for them, especially in the way of coaching, and my voice on this subject is often a "voice in the wilderness".

I know the question of finance is a very real problem and, if there is no answer to this aspect, then it is futile to continue pressing; but I do feel that not enough consideration is given to the question of how to raise the funds for such a deserving purpose.

I do think that the juniors themselves can at least make known their wants and insist that the question of coaching should be seriously considered, not just shelved until next time. And what about the Junior Division of the National County Championships? When one considers the comparatively small counties now taking part, it makes one wonder why the larger counties cannot do likewise. The travelling in the present Junior Division is considerable, but this could surely be lessened if the number of teams was increased to the extent that regional sections could be formed. To win the present Division must be an honour, but it does not prove that the winning team is the best that could be produced. Or does it? What about it, you lads and lassies from Lincs., Lincs., Lancs., Yorks. and Glos.?

F. G. Mannooch
The Scottish Open will be staged at Murrayfield Indoor Sports Club, Roseburn Street, Edinburgh on the 12th and 13th April, 1952. Particulars: Mr. R. D. Dykes, 99, Henderson Row, Edinburgh 3.

***

A Ha'penny Tip
from A. A. WALL

In my new capacity as coach to my eleven-year-old daughter, I have discovered a new method of training, so will professional (sorry, should it be registered?) coaches please note.

In teaching her to hit, I could not get her to use her full powers, so jokingly suggested a halfpenny for every shot she got past me without my touching it. She won 4d. in the first half-hour! It may prove expensive, coaches, especially if older Juniors raise the hitting price, but it works.

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