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REX MARSHALL
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GEOFF HARROWER
WALTER STEINITZ
JACK CARRINGTON
ELSIE CARRINGTON
VICENTE GUTIERREZ
GEOFF COULTREAD

RON CRAYDEN
(England and Surrey)
Editorial OPINION

A Statement of Importance

THE relationship which exists between the majority of readers and the Editorship of Table Tennis is a very special one. The steady and ever-increasing flow of letters which come from all over England, and indeed, from all over the world, clearly demonstrate a unique spirit of goodwill and mutual confidence that rises happily above personalities; above indeed, politics, colours or creeds.

We have never ceased to emphasize that the criticisms of any reader is the most helpful of the letters we receive. We maintain that the Editorship of Table Tennis is a trusteeship that must be administered impartially and somewhat impersonally for the good of the game as a whole. It must offer a free forum for the opinion of its members, even when that opinion is contrary to its own or the official view. Sometimes it may be said that, like Conrad Barnabas, “We are not practical politicians. We are out to get something done. Practical politicians are people who have mastered the art of using parliament to prevent anything being done.” Sometimes, like all those who endeavour to be progressive, we have made mistakes, but we have never shirked the responsibility of admitting those mistakes and of expressing our gratitude to those who have pointed them out, because they have enabled us to improve our worth by avoiding a repetition.

This brief reiteration of policy is by way of a foreword to an apology we owe to you on two counts. The first is that in our issue for September we forecast a 24-page issue for October; the second matter is the late publication of both the September and the October issues. On the first matter, the statement was made in good faith and fair understanding at the time, but was apparently a little premature. The responsibility for this announcement and also for the late publication referred to must, of course (through whatever causes) be held as the personal responsibility of The Editor. The Editor personally accepts the responsibility and tenders his sincere regrets, together with an assurance that suitable steps are being taken to prevent a recurrence.

It gives us very much pleasure to announce that the December Table Tennis will definitely contain 24 pages (28 pages including cover) and will thus make a new high level in table tennis publication. Meanwhile all contributors are specially asked to note the revised press day noted in column three of this page.

Leslie S. Woollard, The EDITOR.

To be able to bring the magazine out on the 1st of each month, the publishers require copy, all ready for press, not later than the 15th of the month preceding. This means that all copy for the December issue should be received by the Editor NOT LATER than November 10th. Earlier if possible.

To avoid delay, all contributions should be sent DIRECT TO:

The Editor (Leslie S. Woollard),
Table Tennis,
12, Campbell Road,
Bedford.

Letters, Opinions, News Reports, Notes, Photographs, Suspensions, Criticisms, Captions, Ideas, Comments, etc., are always warmly welcome from officials, players and friends everywhere.

Circulation and Advertising Manager:
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68, Gloucester Rd., New Barnet, Herts.

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The English Table Tennis Association

WELSH EDITION

The Welsh Edition of Table Tennis includes an extra 4-page supplement incorporating the Official News of the Table Tennis Association of Wales. All enquiries should be addressed DIRECT to Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Penylan, Cardiff.

YORKSHIRE EDITION

The Yorkshire Edition of Table Tennis comprises the full-size magazine PLUS a fine 8-page supplement: The "White Rose Magazine" (which it edited and written entirely by Yorkshire people) and contains all the news and views of England's largest county. Single copies 8d. (9½d. post free) from Mr. Leslie E. Forrest, 15, Briarfield Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.
"Goodbye, Partner!"

"Mixed Up Doubles"
By Walter Steinitz

A not-so-serious interpretation.

THE day was cold and full of snow and my morale was very low. Then, thought I, to cure my troubles, I'll go and watch the Ladies' Doubles 'cause there is nothing that envigours Me more, than watching ladies' figures. Oh, not only when their frocks are 'short, but always when there is good sport. Now, in one pair there were two lassies with positively de luxe chassis, and brother, could they play! I see they could have wiped the floor with me. Not only had they looks that please, but also personalities. One of them was Peggy Franks, but about a date, she said, "No, thanks. You can't put me in your little book, but you can meet my hubby, Ronnie Hook!" I found her partner's name was Joyce—by no means—second choice. Roberts was her second name. I asked her, "Would you be my flame?" "I'm married to a lady-killer," said she, "by the name of Tony Miller." Ah, well, I pondered, 'such is life, and went off home to find my wife, who is a dear and loving mate, and lets me beat her in three straight.

T.T. School too Successful

JACK BOROUGH, one of the three New Zealanders who worked their way round the world to compete in the World Championships and subsequently the English Open in 1951, has been running a TT School in Christchurch, N.Z., since May, 1950. It proved so popular that he has now had to close it and go into temporary "retirement," because it allowed him no rest. The "school" combined an open club for every night of the week, a coaching school, and Sunday afternoon tournaments.

Page Two
National Ranking at 40!

by

FERENC GYORGY

Playing for ever. When he was 40 years old, they relented. "Perhaps," he mused, "they thought, 'he won't play, anyway!' I hadn't had a bat in my hand for 20 years. That's quite a time, you know, but age has its advantages, too, and I discovered that I could play with more calmness than the young ones do. But perhaps the real secret was my greater physical fitness which had helped to keep my nervous system in perfect condition for 20 years." (Among his recreational activities, Varkonyi had been a keen footballer of representative standard.)

With his keen love and perception for Table Tennis, it was only natural then that Varkonyi should bring up his only son, Laci Junior, to be a TT player. Madame Varkonyi had to give her consent, of course, but since she is a very popular umpire herself it was surely unlikely to be withheld. Laci Junior is now 18, and plays for the First-class team POSTAS (in which Laci Senior also plays). They are partners in the doubles. It is really delightful to see their good-humoured friendship and close understanding, and quite entertaining to hear (and see) them discussing tactics for a hard match, both during and after. Laci Junior cleverly "prepares" the balls for the tremendous hits of Laci Senior, and is not above making a "kill" himself when the opportunity offers.

Father makes a rather high return. "What's this—are you playing with them, Dad?" murmurs Junior.

"Watch those points, lad! I haven't the nerves for your light-minded play!"

The Varkonyi father-and-son team have defeated some notable doubles pairings. Probably one of their best wins was over the Gyetvai-Foris combination. Gyetvai is one of the top Hungarian players, and the champion of Budapest for 1951, and Foris is a coming player who is a member of the Preparation Cadre of the National Team for the Budapest World Championships this season.

Finally to a good-night story to leave you with. After a recent match, old Varkonyi was just going off to have a nightcap with his playmates, when young Laci said to him with an obliging smile (and perhaps a tongue in cheek):

"Well, Dad, we won the doubles together... but I am a student, and I cannot come to drink with you. You ought to give me 10 forints as my share—perhaps I can then tell mother that you are in conference until midnight..."

"With a friendly backhand cuff, old Laci passed over 10 forints with his forehand, and so, as they parted, it was good-bye to one of the happiest fathers and a unique doubles combination of the world."

BLOCK LOAN SERVICE

Blocks used in Table Tennis can be borrowed by organisers (of affiliated bodies) at a nominal charge of 2/6d. each (to cover packing, postage, registration, etc.). ALL applications should be sent direct to the Editor, 12, Campbell Road, Bedford, stating latest date they are required, date of return, players or pictures required and maximum sizes (with reference numbers where known), together with a P.O. for the cover charge of 2/6d. per block.

The number which is printed below a magazine picture (in the current volume) is the reference number of that block.

Although hundreds of blocks are available, those of some players are in great demand, and alternatives will be sent when any particular one is not available. Because of variations in size it is therefore helpful to give the Editor some idea of the purpose intended and the space available.

TABLE TENNIS

(YORKSHIRE EDITION)

Ambitious plans have been made by Yorkshire to make their edition of Table Tennis (which includes the 8 pm White Line) an outstanding achievement. Frank L. Temple; man of the Central Council of Physical Recreation has written a brilliant exclusive article on Coaching in Yorkshire for an early number, and Uniprima is only one of the wide range of features, including pictures and reports of Premier Div. matches against Middlesex and Gloucestershire and the Open Championships. See page 1, bottom of col. 3 for details.
10 Ways of Killing a Society

Mr. F. A. Webster, Secretary of the British Railways A.A.T.T.S., suggests that in connection with Editorial Comment in the October Table Tennis the following might be of interest: It is entitled "10 Ways of Killing a Society."

1. Don't go to Meetings. 2. If you do, go late. 3. If the weather doesn't suit, don't even think of going. 4. If you do attend a meeting, however, criticise the officers and members. 5. Never accept office, because it is always easier to criticise than to do things. 6. Regardless of Rule 5, however, always object if you are not appointed to the Committee. 7. If asked by The Chairman to give your opinions on any matter, tell him you have nothing to say; then after the meeting, tell everybody how things should have been done. 8. Never do more than is absolutely necessary, but if some members work hard to push the Society forward, complain that it isn't doing what it should have been done. 9. Hold your subscriptions back—or don't pay at all. 10. Don't bother about getting new members; let someone else do it.

"Ways to elect an enthusiast and devoted lover of the sport, like Mr. W. G. (Bill) Lancaster, who became, in 1950, the first and foremost, and his schemes to promote umpiring and coaching standards.

I Way of Building a League

Contrary to the above, one way of building a progressive T.T. League is to elect an enthusiastic and devoted lover of the sport, like Mr. W. G. (Bill) Lancaster, who became, in 1950, the Secretary-Founder of the Worthing T.T. League, and is now its Chairman. Although only founded in 1950, Worthing has gone rapidly to the fore of enterprising leagues, and a very great deal of this is due to the energy, hard work and ideas of "Bill" Lancaster and the co-operation which his fine example has inspired among his colleagues. Somehow, he still finds time to edit the league’s monthly news-sheet, “Love All,” a title which aptly describes his approach to the game, which is to put the game always first and foremost, and his schemes to promote umpiring and coaching standards.

(continued on page 17)
The Problems of a Bat

by Harry Venner

England and Surrey star Harry Venner, No. 4 in the current English Ranking List, shows that there is much more in a Table Tennis Racket than meets the eye, and disclosing the results of his own experiments, gives his personally considered view on the Ideal Bat.

WHEREVER table tennis players meet and chat about their common interest, the topic will inevitably at some stage focus on the Bat (known in the Laws as the Racket). This is true of the humblest clubroom as of a World Championship hall, for apart from being an essential item, the bat is also the most important and vital article of personal equipment and, one might almost say, of a player's game.

Early in my career I appreciated the importance of the bat in the development of one's game, and therefore took a close interest in the subject whenever the opportunity offered. It was only after some experience and technical knowledge acquired in the higher levels of play, however, that I finally felt sufficiently confident to conduct my own researches and experiments into what makes the ideal bat.

I became so interested in the subject and in trying out different shapes, sizes and materials, that for a while it became almost a hobby which took up much of my time, and these notes represent the main conclusions I have reached.

The blade of the bat is the direct connection between player and ball, and must, therefore, obviously be the basis from which to work. The two important factors are Material and Design.

Of all materials tried, I found that birch or beech plywood gave the best results, and could only probably be bettered by a combination of the two. Pine, although quite light, was too soft and deadening. The ball "came off" satisfactorily, but the resilient "feel" was absent. Birch wood gave me a feeling of "rightness" that was quite unmistakable.

It took a lot of experiments to get my ideal shape for the blade. I tried round and square, and rectangular shapes (some with rounded corners), and finally had to come back to the popular slight oval shape before I decided on my ideal. I discarded the rectangular shapes because I found there was not an even bounce all over the blade area.

Three points were to be decided for the handle. The material, the design, and thirdly, the extension of the blade to which the handle would be fitted; the two former points decide the third. It was especially interesting to note how the wood for the handle affected both the "feel" and the "touch" of the blade, depending on its degree of hardness or softness. My final choice for the handle was shared between beech and birch.

For the design of the handle I tried to get away from a straight and rounded style, because I had found that perspiration tended to make the hand slip both down and around the handle, and might thus affect (even very slightly) the angling of your bat during a match. My final conclusion was to have a fairly long handle which would reach as far on to the blade as was consistent with comfort, with a gently chamfered top to provide a non-slip base for the first finger and thumb. I liked this design also because it immediately seemed to give a correct orthodox grip to the user. One improvement suggested itself; this was to incorporate two shoulders where the handle meets the extension.

When it comes to bat rubber, I can but repeat my general recommendation to use a rubber with large pimples and a reasonable depth. This type is sometimes called "Slow," but this description is not really true. It will enable you to "hold" the ball on its surface for just that degree of time necessary for you to control and "feel" it. Actually, more spin is achieved with this type of rubber and (depending on the efficiency of your stroking) the ball will tend to kick as fast or faster than with rubber having fine pimples.

Congratulations

Warmest congratulations and best wishes to ALAN THOMPSON (National Selection Committee), and KATHLEEN BEST (Corbillon Cup International), both of Leeds, who recently announced their engagement.
ONE PAGE OF

OFFICIAL News?

English Table Tennis Association,
214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square,
London, W.C.2
Administrative Sec.: Mrs. K. Pegg
Telephone: TEAflez 2140
Telegraphic: ETAFLEZEN, Rando

Purchase Tax on Sports Equipment

The E.T.T.A. has been invited to submit evidence of any way(s) in which our work is frustrated, curtailed or handicapped by the costs of new table tennis equipment which have become inflated because of the heavy purchase tax. Any member with personal experience is particularly asked to send details to the E.T.T.A. as soon as possible, so that the maximum evidence can be submitted before the preparation of the next Budget.

County Umpire Scheme

Thirty-one County Umpires operating in the South of England have been asked to take part in selecting the Championship teams for the England v. Wales, England v. France and England v. Ireland. The selected teams are expected to meet in London on the dates indicated below and the results of these matches will be submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration. The fixing of the dates is due to the late publication of the fixture list for these matches.


Exhibitions

Rule 20, General Regulations of the E.T.T.A., reads: "No affiliated player or club may take part in competition with any player or club, or in exhibition at any club, without the sanction of the County Secretary concerned and a member of the National Executive Committee".

The new Rule 24, passed at the last A.G.M., requires that any affiliated player must obtain the sanction of an Officer of the E.T.T.A. before taking part in a televised event (unless the event itself has been authorised by the E.T.T.A.).

Dress

The Dress Recommendation which was passed by the last A.G.M. reads: "All competitors are strongly recommended to wear a sports shirt, or other top of single colour (except for a badge of reasonable size), trousers, skirts or shorts of single colour, and rubber shoes. All counties, leagues, local associations and clubs are requested to use their best endeavours to secure compliance with this recommendation."

Home International Matches

Details will be notified in the "Fixtures." v. FRANCE (Men). November 25th, 1952; December 4th, 1952; February 6th, 1953.

Away International Matches

v. WALES (Mixed). December 4th, 1953.

English Juniors: Swedish Tour

A team of English Juniors (with n-p-c) will leave England on December 30th, 1952, to meet the Swedish Juniors in a reciprocal tour of Sweden. They will return on January 26th, 1953.

World Championships, 1954

On behalf of the Members of the English T.T. Association, the National Executive Committee has accepted the option to stage the World T.T. Championships in England in 1954 (probably in early April).

The N.E.C. gave very careful consideration to the matter, recognising the obligations which they and members must take. The Guarantee total for which members had been asked had not been reached, but the National Executive were fortified by the ready response and encouraging messages which so many clubs (and some leagues) had sent, and it was felt that the Executive's action would be justified by their faith in the members of the Association.

The Appeal Fund is therefore now open to receive all contributions, and it is hoped that everyone will take active steps to either send in a donation personally, and/or to influence other people to contribute or become guarantors. Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, E.T.T.A.

Entertainments Duty

The E.T.T.A. is anxious to collect factual evidence to support the view that the increased rate of Entertainments Duty has caused or is causing unreasonable hardship or an adverse effect on the game. All organisers of public events are therefore particularly asked to send relevant particulars to the E.T.T.A., and it would also be helpful to have comparative figures of last season's event (e.g. admission prices, tax payable, attendance, etc.).
THE QUESTIONS YOU ASK
answered by Jack Carrington
The Hon. Director of Coaching

To help readers who may be privately wondering how they themselves might “fit in” to E.T.T.A. Coaching Courses, here are some of the questions already raised—and answered—in this connection.

** Who is eligible for an E.T.T.A. Course? **

Unless specially mentioned in the announcements, Courses at present being organised by E.T.T.A. are “open,” i.e. any member of E.T.T.A. is eligible: In fact, non-affiliated players can also attend, on payment of the individual affiliation fee of 5/- which makes them members of the E.T.T.A. for a whole season).

Players of any standard can thus attend; we must, however, reserve the right to select applicants in some cases in order to ensure that instructional groups are fairly balanced.

** Can an adult, aged say 30, benefit from coaching? **

Forget the age. It is a matter of “flexibility.” Flexibility of muscles, of course, is helpful—but far more important is flexibility of mind.

Anybody attending an instructional gathering, with an open mind, cannot fail to benefit. If his or her muscular limitations prohibit a big advance in practical play, the student will still benefit by a fuller enjoyment of the sport in future, springing from a deeper understanding of play and players.

By the way, the “muscular limitations” of our older students frequently prove to be imaginary!

** My style is unorthodox. Can I gain from a Standardised Coaching Course? **

Surely the attraction of table tennis is its wide variety of styles and personalities? This variety is just as interest-

ing, and as valuable, in an instructional session as in league or match play.

Look at it first from the reverse side: Orthodox players need to understand the principles behind the un-

orthodox player’s style (“How does he get away with it?”) because they have to meet such styles in match play.

And our unorthodox friend? He has to meet many more “orthodox” players in his match play. The know-

ledge to be derived from even a so-called “standardised” coaching lesson, must surely help him to analyse and understand his match opponents more thoroughly, whether or not he moulds any of the know-

ledge into his own playing style.

** Can coaching improve my temperament? **

Steady on, there! I must have notice of that one! It needs more than a one-paragraph answer, so I’ll try to enlarge upon this tantalising subject next time.

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NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME
Hon. Director of Coaching: Jack Carrington
N.C.S. NOTICE BOARD

Prices quoted include accommodation and food.

Dec. 17-19. Special E.T.T.A. Course for School Children ONLY (up to 16 years). National Recreation Centre, Bisham Abbey, nr. Maidenhead, Berks. All-in cost 30/-. Parents or guardians accompanying pupils accommodated at 25/- per head. Enrolment forms (to be signed by parent or guardian) obtainable from E.T.T.A.


NOTE: If, as seems probable, there are more applications than can be accommodated on the Week-end Course, it may be possible to arrange a small “overflow” course for Dec. 17-19.


July, 1953. A Proposed Summer Holiday Course. National Recreation Centre, Lilleshall. We shall be pleased to hear from Players or Potential Coaches who may be interested in a 3-day or full-week Training Course during July, 1953. An early indication of your interest will enable us to formulate plans to suit as many enthusiasts as possible. Approx. cost 75/- for 3 days, or 135/- for the full week.

APPLICATIONS for any Course(s) should be made direct to the Administrative Secretary, English Table Tennis Association, 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.
my Swedish diary

Continued from October Table Tennis

There are 11 trainees in this course: the 10 best 17-20’s in Sweden and 1 Norwegian boy. Also 6 top senior players (including Tage Flisberg, the Swedish champion, and Bengt Grieve) to learn something of coaching, etc.

August 26th.—This evening some of the boys of the Course played an exhibition in the Town Hall to raise money for the Sports School. Afterwards Jack and I were invited to supper by Mr. Raben’s cousin, who is a local dentist. “Supper” turned out to be a full dinner by our standards, where schnapps and wine flowed freely. Nearly 2 a.m. when we got home. That doesn’t make for good play the next day.

August 27th.—This morning Jack found that the services of the pupils were all so unsatisfactory that he gave them a lecture which would have warmed the cockles of Mr. Finch’s heart. Each player then had to come out and serve; everyone was faulted. BERG, who is a first-class footballer, the boys of the Course played the wonderful view of Stockholm across the sea.

Friday, September 1st.—Up at 6.30 on our way to Lielvesed, a sports school on an island about 30 kilos west of Stockholm. Beautiful place (by the sea, of course) which belongs to the Swedish Gymnastic Association. Has a fine gymnasium where we play, but the playing conditions are very grim. There are windows along both sides, and those on one side stretch from floor to ceiling! Blinds come half-way down on some, but that is about the only protection, and believe me it’s really grim. One just guesses where the ball is.

Wednesday, September 3rd.—The course is finishing today. We are really tired now—and it’s a real effort to bend down and pick up the ball! We have been playing eight hours a day—which is really hard work, and are therefore really tired. One has to exaggerate every movement so much to overcome the language difficulty (although we are speaking quite a lot of Swedish now) and to dim into the pupils the need for turning and bending. However, we are seeing results for our work, so it is worth the fatigue.

On Board the M.S. K. P. Frederich.—Left Lielvesed early on the morning of September 4th, and started on our two-day journey to Malmo. Stopped at Stockholm on the way and called in to the office of the S.B.T.F. to say our final good-byes to all our good friends, and especially to Arne Weidner (the Swedish Mrs. Pegg), who is always so kind and helpful to us in our Swedish trips.

We were under way again by one o’clock, not without a few pangs at leaving the so-beautiful city. We drove hard all day, and reached Grenna by 6.30 p.m. This is a lovely little town on the side of the lake, and a favourite summer resort. We stayed at a hotel overlooking the lake, and we wished we could stay a few days. However, we were off again at 8 a.m. the next morning, and arrived at Malmo about 6.30 the same evening. On the way we stopped at Vaknahö, and had lunch in the same cafe where we stopped with the hotel bus early in February, 1949, on our way to the World Championships.

The course started on Saturday afternoon, and as the time was short we were prepared to work Saturday night as well, but nobody wants to play T.T. in Sweden on a Saturday night—everybody wants to dance! So we went to films instead.

On Sunday afternoon we went to see a 1st Division football match at the Malmo Stadium between Malmo and Avelo, then in the evening we went to play T.T. with Gunnar Ollen, the President of the Swedish T.T.A., and Vice-President of the I.T.T.F. He is also the head of the Malmo radio, and it was in this studio that we played. Afterwards he took us to supper, and we talked until 1 o’clock in the morning.

On the job again at 9 o’clock the next morning, and worked right through to 9 o’clock at night. The boys and girls here in Skene have definitely improved, and the beginners are learning very fast.

On Tuesday the session was from 9 to 3, and in the evening we were asked to go to Mr. Sandberg’s factory about 60 miles away to look at T.T. equipment. Mr. Sandberg’s son (who is a motor salesman in Malmo) drove us over in a brand new Kaiser car. We stopped at Angelholm and had dinner, then on to the factory. Spotless little factory in the middle of the country, with cows grazing by the front door! Mr. Sandberg is a real enthusiast, and just loves his work, and likes nothing better than to potter among his bats, and talk T.T.

After visiting the factory we were taken to his house for coffee and sandwiches and more talk, and finally left there at 1 o’clock in the morning, which meant that we got home at 2.45!

(Continued on page 19)
South America Challenges the Future

by VICENTE GUTIERREZ

The Chilean National Team player whose unique repertoire of Table Tennis Tricks is now amusing and amazing exhibition audiences in this country.

A SUNCION, the beautiful capital of Paraguay, recently staged the South American T.T. Championships, and players from Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay took part. In May, the skate tournament at Rio de Janeiro and Santiago, Brazil had built up the reputation of being “Unbeatable” in the Southern American hemisphere. Chile wondered how it could raise its national standard, and eventually decided to send a team to the Bangkok World Championships. They returned filled with ideas and plans for the future, based on the lessons received from renowned players such as Bergmann, Leach, Barna, Sudo, Amouretti and others. The Chilean team immediately got down to work, co-ordinating their own special skills with some of the knowledge acquired in Bombay. Six months later was to come their wonderful reward, when, for the first time, Chile was declared Champion of South America. The “impossible” victory was decisive, too, for Chilean players won six of the eight titles.

This outstanding performance is all the more remarkable when Chile were short of, in my candid opinion, the best men their team should have had. This is Fernando Olazarri, who is now living in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I believe that if Fernando had the good fortune to be near some of the great coaches in England, he would soon be of world class. He is the ablest player and the best natural technician that South America has ever produced.

Brazil’s Hugo Severo was undoubtedly the best player in the tournament, and had no difficulty in retaining his title. He has a “penholder” style that is quite different from Dolinar, Satoh, Hayashi, Fujii, or any leading “penholder” player I have ever seen. He wins his titles by DEFENDING himself, which is very unusual for a player of his style. Other players who put up good performances included Gonzalez and LeteHer, of Chile, and Waldemar Duarte of Brazil. I think that these four, with the addition of Olazarri, could give a very good account of themselves in a world team contest, although I doubt their ability to beat such teams as the top ones of England, Hungary or Japan.

The Paraguayan Federation deserve congratulations for arranging one of the best tournaments ever held. The magnificent stadium had splendid facilities for play, and brand new tournament tables had been specially imported from Eastern Europe. The referees, umpires and other officials had been well briefed, and the distinguished tone given to the meeting impressed everyone.

There is no doubt that the game is making progress in South America, and coaches such as Djanja De Vicenzi and Luis Lagos Aguro will continue their efforts to ensure that the progress is maintained. So far, few South American players have had experience outside their sub-continent, but I think that one of the top well-known expert coaches, such as Carrington, Barna or Ehrlich, would be able to find some first-class material, especially in Chile, Brazil and Paraguay. These players have an innate agility, quick thinking and a “mischief in the shot” that could be usefully converted.

The participation of a country’s best players in World Championships and international matches can be of priceless benefit to the country generally, but it can only be done at great sacrifice and effort. After my extensive travels and just over eight months in this charming country, I have, however, formed a definite conclusion. This is, that a country should enter the World Championships certainly, but for a period of not less than six months before the championships they should engage top class coaches to concentrate mainly on the national team, and then be substantially guided by the coach’s advice and by the results obtained. One particularly valuable part of this coaching would be to give the players a confidence of their own ability against players known only by name or reputation. I do believe that something on these lines would be the quickest and the shortest way for the South American players to reach comparable standards to the top players of the world.

Geoff Coulthread says:

COMMENDATIONS to the Central and the South London leagues for securing better venues for their open championships, the former moving to Manor Place Baths (near the Elephant and Castle) and the latter to the Manor Street Baths, Clapham. Both halls have been used for county matches, and are easily accessible by main line tubes.

A new T.T. Column has made its appearance in the London Evening Standard. The writer of this column is George Rutherford, a pre-war Wembley League player, and it is pleasant to know that an ex-player is helping to build up a larger public and thus helping us toward financial freedom.

A recent statement by the English Bowling Association claimed that more people play bowls than any other game; and that it is the most popular sport. Can this statement go unchallenged? Surely Table Tennis has a major claim when one considers the fact that most clubs, even when primarily organised for other sports, have a table which is frequently used by all members.

Page Eleven
ABOUT TOWN

with Peggy Allen

NEW member of West Ealing Club, Margaret Fry, is a very busy person these days. Not only is she playing for Parker Street in the Central London Men's 1st Division, but she also represents both the men's and women's teams attached to the aircraft factory where she recently became employed.

Representing Gloucestershire in county matches, West London in inter-league matches, and Central London in Rose Bowl events, she must be creating something of a record.

With Joyce Roberts, Pinkie Barnes, Margaret Fry and Joy Seaman, Central London is all set to wrest the coveted J. M. Rose Bowl from West London's grasp. It is a pity that both teams play within the same zone, and will necessarily meet in the very early rounds of this competition.

Ken Stanley, lunching with Victor Barna and Corti Woodcock, on his return from New Zealand recently, brings me the news that Corti and spouse are expecting the stork one of these fine days. Here's hoping it will be a boy this time, Corti. Perhaps, even better, a male edition of the Rowe Twins, to bring back a title from the World Championships around 1972!

Ken himself looks brown and fit after a lazy four weeks' trip from Melbourne. He describes coaching six hours a day for six months as "solid, hard work," and his delight in the subsequent restful sea voyage can be well imagined. He has completely circled the globe since leaving London Airport last March but, disembarking on a bitterly cold, windy day to begin his third consecutive winter at home, he stoutly maintains that "England takes a lot of beating!"

In his newspaper cuttings from the New Zealand Press he is variously described as "stocky, sandy, pleasant and genial." Whichever way you prefer to think of him, he certainly seems to have left a good impression with our table tennis friends "down under," and Britain could have sent no finer ambassador.

Before leaving New Zealand, Ken annexed the National Singles and Men's Doubles titles, which, he remarks, with a rueful grin, "I don't think I shall be defending!"

Another newcomer to the London scene is Eric Filby, pre-war Swaythling Cup star, and a well-known Lawn Tennis international. He has deserted Norfolk to join Alec Brook in his sports business, and is already putting in intensive table tennis practice with the idea of entering most of our London "opens" this season. I understand that he and Ron Crayden intend to continue their doubles partnership. Believe me, as a regular combination, they are likely to meet with some success.

A Talented Trio

Problem still puzzling many Middlesex players is how young Alan Rhodes, No. 10 in National Ranking (and, incidentally, the only non-international listed) can have been omitted from the first two premier division county matches this season.

It may be a question of "horses for courses," since he lost both his singles matches against Yorks last season, added to the fact that Middlesex 2nd's were due to play the strong Surrey 2nd side in their first match this year. Nevertheless, it seems obvious to most people that Middlesex have nothing to gain by including older county players when a boy with such a brilliant 1951-52 record is left with so little encouragement to improve.

Among his victims last year were the French champion, Rene Roothoft (in the English Championships), the Indian, K. Jayant, Sharman, Hurlock, Thornhill and Craigie. He was finalist in the Middlesex Closed and won both the Kent and the Herga open titles in face of stiff opposition.

It is widely felt that the holding of trials in Middlesex, as in other counties, would help to remove some dissatisfaction regarding the choice of county teams. It does not follow that the results of games played in one day should provide the complete answer to the problem, but it would encourage the many brilliant young players who, given such a chance, might (by beating everyone in sight) play themselves into the premier side beyond the slightest shadow of a doubt.

Conversely to the way Northerners regard the allocation of international honours, I have a feeling that by now Alan would have secured not only county, but international recognition, had his home been north of Birmingham.

Middlesex is very fortunate in having a number of brilliant youngsters. Be courageous, give them their chance and the supremacy of this county will be assured for many years to come.

Operation 'Western Pioneers'

We have been assured that there are no "open" clubs in the Kensington and Bayswater neighbourhoods (two of the most sought after). If not, why not? If there are really so many enthusiasts in these neighbourhoods as there would appear to be enquiries, there must be nearly enough to form a league, let alone a club. Table Tennis suggests a solution, and places itself at the service of such areas. It suggests that every individual in such an area who is genuinely interested and would join a new club, should send their name and address to The Editor. (If more than one in a household would join, each name should be sent.) If sufficient interest results, a definite plan can be worked out. Now where are all those "Western (London) Pioneers"?
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF. HARROWER

Will readers please note the slightly altered arrangements this season to facilitate the publication of our Magazine on the first of each month, although we hope to be able to include the results of matches right up to within a few days of publication date, the reports will be of matches up to approximately the 20th of each month, and will have been written before results after that date are known. We hope that this will not result in any inconsistencies!

**PREMIER DIVISION**

Writing before the result of the Glos./Yorks match is known, it would appear that once again Essex, Surrey and Middlesex will be concerned in the struggle for honours.

The Champions have got off to a flying start with four points, but although the margin of their wins seems conclusive, nevertheless they have had to struggle very hard. 9—1 against Glamorgan was not reached until over 4½ hours' play, and six of the ten matches went to three games, five of these men's singles and the other the men's doubles—what a help to have the Rowe Twins. Middlesex also reversed their defeat by Yorkshire, but again it was a close thing, and five of the seven matches won went to three games. It is the ability to win the close games that wins the Championships.

Essex and Surrey, as expected, had comfortable wins over Devon and Lincolnshire respectively. Peggy Franks, unexpectedly, was concerned in both losses for Essex—bouquet of the month to Mrs. Willcocks for her fine win over Peggy. Lincoln's nearest approach to a win came through Harry Venner, who so nearly beat Harry Venner in the final tie.

**SECOND DIVISION SOUTH**

Last season Middlesex pipped Surrey by the narrowest margin possible, and the opening match of the season between these counties might be described as a battle to decide which county really was the best. Often in those circumstances you get a scrappy encounter, but this match was one of the best I have seen, with a draw a very fair result. Alan Rhodes was the star for Middlesex and Ron Crayden for Surrey, and the match between these two players was worth going a long way to see. Keith Hullock showed a welcome return to form, and was unlucky not to score against Derek Burridge, who got home at 29–27 in the third to save the match for his team.

**Glamorgan** beat **Sussex** in a convincing manner, Peter Shead was the star of the match, beating Gerry Chugg and David Phillips in no uncertain manner. Essex were too good for the newly promoted Bucks., and they will be strong challengers for honours this season.

**Cambridgeshire** 7, **Buckinghamshire** 3

**Glamorgan** 7, **Sussex** 3

**Surrey** 5, **Middlesex** 5

**Buckinghamshire** 0, **Essex** 10

**SECOND DIVISION NORTH**

(No report possible, all matches on the 25th October.)

**Cheshire** 7, **Yorkshire** 3

**Lancashire** 7, **Warwickshire** 3

**Durham** 1, **Northumberland** 9

**EASTERN DIVISION**

Bedfordshire made a good start to the season, but managed back to the Second Division, but not before the early shock of losing the first two matches. Colin Crowe did best for the visitors, while Paul Morecroft put up a brave show for Cambridge.

**Cambridgeshire** 2, **Bedfordshire** 8

**Hertfordshire** 7, **Suffolk** 3

**Norfolk** 2, **Bedfordshire** 8

**MIDLAND DIVISION**

(No report possible, first match on the 23rd October.)

**Warwickshire** 6, **Leicestershire** 4

**Northamptonshire** 4, **Worcestershire** 6

**Staffordshire** 6, **Derbyshire** 4

**NORTHERN DIVISION**

It appears that once again the struggle for leading position will be between Northumberland and Yorkshire. Both these counties made no mistake in their opening encounter. Unlucky Cumberland suffered the heaviest defeat, but four of their matches went to three games. With any luck, Durham might have had another match, but just lost the men's doubles at 22–20 in the third.

**Yorkshire** 9, **Durham** 1

**Northumberland** 10, **Cumberland** 0

**SOUTHERN DIVISION**

Kentish supporters feel confident that, for the first time, they are going to carry off this division, after five unsuccessful attempts. They made no mistake against Berkshire, but they had an early shock, finding themselves 2–1 down, Morecroft beating the Essex Junior International D. Eagles, and Wise overcoming Syndercombe. However, pronounced superiority in the ladies' events left the result in no doubt, and Ron Etheridge had two comfortable wins.

**Kent** 8, **Berkshire** 2

**Buckinghamshire** 1, **Hampshire** 9

**JUNIOR "A" DIVISION**

The first two matches in this section were full of interest. Sussex, making their first ever appearance with a Junior side did well to hold Surrey, especially as Surrey reckon they have their strongest side to date. 13-year-old G. Gladwish, playing at No. 1 for Sussex, won both his singles, and will obviously become a force in Junior Tournaments before long.

In the other match Essex beat Kent for the first time, this being Kent's second defeat by a Southern County in three years, the other being to the all powerful Middlesex side which included Diane and Rosalind Rowe, Jimmy Lowe and Derek Burridge. Unfortunately the match was not as good as one would have liked, and Danton was badly off form for Kent, but Working did enough to show that he will become a serious challenger to the Northern boys.

**Surrey** 5, **Sussex** 5

**Essex** 6, **Kent** 4

**JUNIOR "B" DIVISION**

It is yet too early to forecast who has the strongest side in this section, but I fancy that the title will rest between Middlesex and Notts., who both had comfortable victories.

**Hertfordshire** 2, **Middlesex** 8

**Cambridgeshire** 0, **Nottinghamshire** 10

**Bedfordshire** 10, **Cambridgeshire** 0
**Spotlight on Youth**

FOCUSED BY PETER MADGE

---

**JACK GREGORY** (son of the Surrey cricketer) is now with the R.A.F. and has been keeping his game in at the gallant St. Agnes T.T. Club at Newmarket. He hopes to be moving to Cambridge shortly, and is looking forward to some good battles with ex-R.A.F. and County players John Cornwell and John Thurston. Jack was formerly one of the promising proteges of the Albion Club.

---

**DEREK GRANT** is the youngest affiliated player in the Isle of Wight T.T. L. He is now eleven years old, but actually played his first league match when he was only seven, and could hardly see over the table top. Last season he played in the 3rd Division team of Ventnor and St. Wilfrid’s, who have been 1st Division Champions several times, and include five past champions in their membership. Father, Mr. Teddy Grant, has been responsible for coaching young Derek from the dining-room table stage, and hopes that Derek will follow his star, Victor Barna, who gave an exhibition in the Island earlier in the year.

---

**IT is good to see the names of some of our Junior Internationals and players appearing in the National Ranking list. Particular congratulations to Brian Merrett (No. 8), A. Rhodes (No. 10), Cliff Booth and Derek Burridge (both Group B). We hear that Lancashire are expecting Cliff Booth to earn County honours during the season. Meanwhile, Brian Merrett can be sure of his place in Glos. County’s Premier Division team. A county that can and does give encouragement to its young players is making an investment for the future.

---

**CONGRATULATIONS to Willie Knight also, for his well-deserved good luck in being specially selected by the L.T.A. for a six months’ Lawn Tennis training tour in Australia, on which he leaves shortly. We are sorry to lose one of our most talented Junior T.T. Internationals, but incline to agree and accept the opinion of the experts, that Willie Knight is one of our best hopes for years to bring back some L.T. honours to England, which badly needs them.

---

Belated credits to Ray Dorking (Essex) for winning the season’s first junior title. David House journeyed across uncharted wastes from Bath, but lost to the winner in straight games. Ray had some good results in the senior events of summer tournaments, and his tenacious game should claim a few distinguished scalps this season.

---

Although most of our teenage enthusiasts prefer to meet and play in “no-age-limit” courses, the organisation of a Special E.T.T.A. Coaching Course for School Children (up to 16 years), announced by the National Coaching Scheme, is rather interesting, particularly since I understand that a number of requests had been made for it.

---

I hear that big things are expected of still very young ANN HAYDON, of Birmingham, daughter of illustrious parents.

---

**CORRECTION**
An error last month in stating that Mary Gibbins (Gloucester) just misses the junior grade. She is actually just under 17... so welcome back, Mary!
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North of England Open
Rusholme, Manchester. October 18th
By FRANK GEE (Abridged)

OUTSIDE records for audience and entry greeted the first Manchester tournament appearance of the Rowe Twins. Chief among many upsets occurred in the 4th round, when Ray Hinchcliffe beat H. Venner 11, 19, and C. Skaj (Sweden) beat Ron Allcock 19, 19. Adele Wood proved her quality by a 14, 20, 6 win over to Cumberbatch, and in her semi-final against Diane Rowe forced her excited opponent to use every tactic at her command. Adele took the first game at 16, but though she is considered in the North to have a strong defence, she could not hold Diane's brilliant storming attack to more than 8 points in the second. An easy win over Kathleen Best gave Rosamund an easier entry to the final. In this the Twins gave the finest W.S. match seen in the North for years, evenly matched, full of fire, action, and dazzling technique, until Ros finally took the 2 point lead in the third.

ADAMS v. THORNHILL. Slow start, Thornhill gaining with sudden drives to Adams' backhand. At 10—10 in the first, Adams' backhand defence recovered, and with the subsidence of Thornhill's attack, he levelled to 1—game all. Third game was a repeat of the first to 10—10, then Thornhill shot swiftly ahead 18—13. Adams had recovered carefully to 18—15, when the game was suddenly suspended through Thornhill having a sudden attack of cramp. On the renewal of play, Thornhill managed to clinch at 21—17.

CASOFSKY v. KENNEDY. Throughout the tournament Benny Casofsky delighted everyone by regaining that fierce and fiery aggression which has electrified many a Northern crowd in the past. His semi with Kennedy provided a fireworks display which illuminated the evening. It was a tense, ding-dong, even battle all the way, until Casofsky's last blazing drive won the odd point. Winning the first, Kennedy was 2—8 down against Thornhill's attack. He levelled to 1—game all. Third game was a repeat of the first to 10—10, then Thornhill hit swiftly ahead 18—13. Adams had recovered carefully to 18—15, when the game was suddenly suspended through Thornhill having a sudden attack of cramp. On the renewal of play, Thornhill won the odd point

If we know anything of Ron's fine team loyalty, however, we would say two things must give him a justifiable pride. First, he has appeared for Surrey in EVERY county match (to the end of last season) since the beginning of County Championships, except, perhaps two.

Can any other player in the Premier Division claim any comparison? Secondly, another proud record is that of being a member of the South London League team which won (and still hold) the Wilmott Cup for the third year running. For a player of such distinguished record, Ron must be awarded a bar for his modesty, and we are proud to award him the honour of Cover Man. An honour which is much overdue, and which was only revealed by a chance check of our "Gallery." Ron Crayden's team spirit, tenacity, and good sportsmanship has enriched the game; may he live long with it and help younger men to gain something of its worth.

Page Sixteen
London "Discovery" No. 2

I

IN response to our last month's note and appeal for information about Table Tennis Clubs in the London area who are "open" to accepting playing members, Table Tennis is very pleased to announce Discovery No. 2. This is the Bishopsgate T.T. Club, which is organised in the Bishopsgate Institute, near Liverpool Street Station, and is conveniently placed for City workers. This club opens its doors to the ladies as well as the men. The Clubrooms are open every Monday and Friday, and have four and three tables respectively. The Club runs three league teams: one in the Premier Division, London League; one in the 1st Division, Central League (G.U. for last three seasons); and one team in the 2nd Division, Central League.

Enquiries should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. A. Pickett, 10 Marloes Road, Kensington, W.8.

YORKSHIRE OPEN


IN winning the M.S. title BRIAN KENNEDY became the first Yorks player to win the home title, breaking a spell of seven wins by Lancs players. KATH BEST, winning the W.S., was the only player to retain a title. The former Swedish junior international, Curt Skaj, who is now playing for the Bradford Y.M.C.A., reached the semi-final after beating A. Simons. W.S., C. K. BEST bt. A. WOOD 19, 14, 12.

FINALS

M.S. B. KENNEDY bt. R. Baker 19, 14, 12.

DEVON OPEN

Exeter. October 11th, 1952.

From E. DAVEY

THE ladies provided most of the highlights, and the W.S. Final was certainly the best event of the evening, when Miss F. Pomroy (Glos) beat Miss Yvonne Baker (Essex) in an evenly matched game of fast, open play. There was a dramatic final when Miss Baker led 20-15, and looked a certain winner. Miss Pomroy gained a lucky 16th point and made a grand recovery to finally win at 22-20.

STOP PRESS

Sussex Open. FINALS.


A Report will appear in the next issue.

SUSSEX OPEN

HARRY VENNER retained his Sussex Open title by beating Johnny Leach in the final. Alan Rhodes reached the semi-final with distinction, losing to Leach 16, -17, -13, Marjorie Cumberbatch distinguished herself by reaching the final after beating Diane Rowe in the semi at 19, 19.

FINALS

M.S. H. VENNER bt. J. Leach 21, 16, -11, 11.
X.D. V. BARN/A. ROWE bt. J. Leach/D. Rowe 18, -17, 17.
B.S. R. DORKING bt. A. Danton 20, 16.

Page Seventeen
MY SWEDISH DIARY
(Continued from page 10)

Had to be up at 7 the next morning, which didn’t give us much sleep! The course finished at 12 noon, and we were taken to lunch by the officials and presented with a very nice plaque as a memory of our visit.

At 4 o’clock we were on the ferry and seeing our last of Sweden—in case it is the last time we see it!

We were met in Copenhagen by Christian Jørgensen, who had our tickets for the Esberg boat. He had arranged that we drive to Vigel that night, stay with Sven Arge Thompson at the Sports College, and see the film he had made of us.

It was a very long drive, and we didn’t get there until 12.30. We had to wait for a ferry between the islands and then we were stopped at the famous Fredericia Bridge by the police, who were looking for a murderer who had escaped from prison! We were so tired that we were almost dropping asleep, but this news woke us up all right.

After tea and cakes, Sven took us into his study and showed us the film. It was very fine, and he is a wonderful chap altogether. Again it was late before we got to bed—3.30 a.m. this time—but it was kindly suggested that perhaps we might like to sleep until 10 the next morning—which suggestion was unanimously approved.

We stayed to lunch the next day and then reluctantly took our leave of this brilliant little man who had made us so warmly welcome.

Esberg at 4 o’clock—car on board and away at 6—with the Danish coastline disappearing in the distance.

Good-bye Skandinavia. “Vi vill komma tilbaka”—in English, “We will come back.”

Open Tournament or “Closed Shop”

By A. “Cliff” Weiner
(an ungraded Player)

W e must now face the difficulty that we are no longer able to keep pace with the increasing number of entries into tournaments. Every season the entries are bigger, the maximum reached and passed, and consequently the number of unfortunates who are rejected grows in proportion.

Admittedly the problem existed a year or so ago, but not to such a large extent, moreover everybody stood an equal chance of being able to play. THIS IS NOT SO TODAY.

A grading system was introduced by the E.T.T.A., a system for which I have nothing but praise. I do not believe that there is a single sport in which a player has such an opportunity to be recognised on merit as in table tennis under this method. There is, however, a snag. The chance for the unknown player to break into the elite is becoming endangered.

There is a rule which states that graded players must be accepted by tournament organisers in preference to ungraded players. I am aware that it is necessary for graded players to take part in a specific number of tournaments, but surely it is as important for the others to retain their chance of “making the grade.”

There is the possibility that the tendency will be for open tournaments to develop into “closed shops” for graded players only. IS THIS FAIR?

Destructive criticism is easy and I therefore end with one or two constructive suggestions.

(a) Where tournaments are run by clubs or leagues there should be a pairing up, whereby for competitions A and B both the premises of A and B clubs or leagues be used, enabling twice as many players to take part.

(b) More tournaments be introduced and the rule that dates should not clash be relaxed.

(c) A little liaison be used between organisers to ensure that the same people are not continually rejected because of bad luck in the ballot for places.

English Official National Ranking 1952-53

The initial letter in brackets appearing after the name is the initial letter of the following counties: Cheshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire (LI), Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Surrey, Warwickshire, Yorkshire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>GROUP A (in Alphabetic Order)</th>
<th>GROUP B (Consists of Men Only (Alphabetic Order))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. R. Bergmann (M)</td>
<td>1. Miss B. Rowe (M)</td>
<td>L. G. Adams (M)</td>
<td>R. Baker (L); C. Booth (L); D. C. Burbridge (M);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. J. Leach (E)</td>
<td>2. Miss D. Rowe (M)</td>
<td>R. Allcock (L)</td>
<td>B. Crouch (M); R. Griffin (G); R. Hitchon (Y); J. W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A. W. C. Simons (G)</td>
<td>3. Miss M. Franks (G)</td>
<td>B. Brunwell (W)</td>
<td>Lowe (M); R. J. Mackay (W); P. Skerritt (L);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. H. Vesner (S)</td>
<td>4. Mrs. M. Cumberbatch (W)</td>
<td>R. Casdinsky (L)</td>
<td>E. Anderson (G); N. Allcock (S); P. Allcock (L);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. R. Kennedy (Y)</td>
<td>5. Miss C. K. Best (Y)</td>
<td>R. Crewson (G)</td>
<td>R. Barrington (L); N. Burbridge (M); D. Crouch (M);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. G. Creigie (S)</td>
<td>6. Miss J. Win (S)</td>
<td>J. Head (G)</td>
<td>J. J. Power (M); R. Power (L); M. Power (E);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. M. Thorndill (M)</td>
<td>7. Miss M. Fry (G)</td>
<td>A. R. Miller (S)</td>
<td>H. Read (L); M. Read (L); N. Read (S);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. R. Merritt (G)</td>
<td>8. Miss J. Roberts (M)</td>
<td>A. E. Wilson (L)</td>
<td>E. Hill (M); R. Hill (M); L. Hill (L);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. K. Stanley (L)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>W. Jones (W); M. Jones (M); L. Jones (L);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. A. Rhodes (M)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>E. Jones (E); R. Jones (R); W. Jones (F);</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Another Record Entry for T.T. Cups

LADIES TEAMS SHOW 5-1 ADVANCE ON MEN

AN all-time record entry of 180 teams have lined up for the Cup this season (107 in the Men's and 73 in the Women's). Some teams, alas, have dropped out or failed to send their entry in, and the result is that while the entry for the Wilmott Cup (Men's Teams) has only increased by ONE team, the entry for the J. M. Rose Bowl (Women's Teams) has increased FIVE times as much. There are experienced men who would draw a comparison between this keenness for match experience and the international status of England's men and women players.

By the time you read this, nearly half of the teams will have been knocked out. Nevertheless, the 270 odd players out should have had two or three jolly good matches of representative standard, from which they should have benefited or enjoyed, or perhaps both. For the teams knocked out early, the T.T. Cup Competitions usually mean a trip to a not too distant league, and even defeat can be profitable for experience. Actually, if EVERY league entered, the travelling expenses for the more modest competitors should logically be quite modest. Some years ago, indeed, keen players would often be only too pleased to pay their own expenses just for the chance of going!

Remember, too, at this time, the donors of these famous cups, A. J. WILMOTT and J. M. ROSE. Wilmott died the year before last; Rose died last year. This is our first season without at least one of them. They were trail-blazers, these men. They were ever fighters, who would never admit defeat. Above all, they dearly wanted to see English players topping the best in the world. They knew that a World Champion could be born in the remotest village, but they knew also that such a player could never acquire the steel of such a champion until he had been tempered in the forge of varied match conditions and experience. The original idea behind the cups was to take town to the country, and vice versa, so that all players would get their chances and benefits of meeting the best. In a way it was a ladder by which unknown provincials could climb to the stars. Not quickly, perhaps, but quietly and steadily over the years, for as the twig is bent, so the tree inclines. Let the Record speak for itself.

Those who enter the Cup Competitions, even if they lose 0-9 in the first encounter, are (providing that they do not accept a loss as a final defeat) investing for the future playing standards of their community, and they are continuing the fighting spirit of England in the spirit which Wilmott and Rose did so much to encourage.

L. W.

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