Contributors include:

PETER ADBY
R. S. WEERA
ALEC BROOK
PEGGY ALLEN
PETER MADGE
MURIEL WHIST
DENNIS HARLE
D. and R. ROWE
VICTOR BARNABY
ARTHUR WAITE
REX MARSHALL
NORMAN COOK
IVOR MONTAGU
JACK CARRINGTON
GEOFF. HARROWER
GEOFF. COULTHREAD
JEAN NICOLL BOSTOCK

JEAN WINN
(Surrey)
Sugar and Spice

It has been hectic—a lot of work and unceasing action—to produce Table Tennis, but it's also been full of fun and interest. Sometimes we've caused a frown, but how worthwhile were the smiles and how rewarding your wonderful letters! Here is a new achievement in our history: 24 pages (28 if you count the cover) for 6d., with some of the most illustrious writers in the T.T. world as our contributors! It is a season of goodwill so forgive us our brief moment of pride and glory while we lean back for a brief moment with a seasonal expansiveness and say to all subscribers (bless 'em), readers, players, to all our friends, our critics, and—if any—our enemies: “A Merry Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in which may all your good efforts have their Coronation of Success.”

Little girls are made of sugar and spice and all things nice, but what is a magazine made of? Sugar and spice, certainly, but also news and ideas. Our valiant endeavour is first to report truthfully, fairly and as refreshingly as our wit permits. Secondly, to present the Ideas and Thoughts mirrored by our family of readers. Some ideas may be fool ideas. Some may be vague or impracticable or tantalising or amusing, but remember that they are Ideas, and that Success is only a Idea that is translated into practical action. Ideas are like hope-bubbles that have an iridescent gleam worth looking at, and alert readers will be alive to see new possibilities, but “tenacious in loyalty to what is old and good.”

There is a myth that Table Tennis presents only that which is approved by the National Executive. This is poppycock; a hoary lying fable. Indeed, many comments or articles published may be contrary to official view. Using the “WE” that is the prerogative of editors, we endeavour to present (if not always refreshingly) a variety of schemes or policies. An classic example of this editorial freedom occurred last month with Mr. Weiner’s article “Open Tournament or ‘Closed Shop,’” which does not appear to coincide with the views of either the Open Tournaments or the Grading Committee of the E.T.T.A. The official view will, therefore, be presented in the next issue.

If you have an Idea or an Opinion, or if you disagree with a view expressed, you, dear reader, should write and tell us as freely as you would in the lounge of our clubroom. It is by such interchange of views that we make progress and sustain goodwill. Tell us your good stories, too, for we need the leavening of your good humour and the purifying gift of laughter.

Some readers ask for more of This and less of That. Others for more of That and less of This. Some want more instructional; some more detailed results or reports; some more photos, cartoons, terse verse, caricatures, jokes, personality pieces, world news, and so on. All of these things have their place, and you, wherever you are in the world are warmly invited to send your contribution and help us to present the best of Table Tennis to the Table Tennis World.

Finally, remember that more subscribers makes for a bigger and even better magazine. Buy a copy rather than loan it. And when you drink your Christmas toasts, include, as we shall, a special toast to Mr. Speak, the publishing director, and all his staff, for their goodwill, co-operation and interest has done so much for our continued expansion.

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD, The Editor

All copy for the JANUARY issue should be received by THE EDITOR NO LATER than DECEMBER 12th. Earlier if possible.

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

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD,
12, Campbell Road,
BEDFORD

Letters, Opinions, News, Reports, Notes, Photographs, Suggestions, Criticisms, Cuttings, Ideas, Comments, etc., are always welcomed from officials, players and friends everywhere in the world.
BIRMINGHAM OPEN
By JAMES SHRIMPTON
Birmingham, 1st Nov., 1952

In the absence of Johnny Leach and Richard Bergmann at the Austrian and Yugoslav championships, Aubrey Simons justified his position of favourite by winning the M.S. title for the second time. The tournament also, unfortunately, clashed with Birmingham University's Carnival Parade in the city, so it was a smaller-than-usual crowd at the Indoor Stadium who saw Aubrey outmanoeuvre his young county colleague Bryan Merrett in the final. Partnered by Adrian Haydon, Simons also won the M.D. title against Keith Hurlock and Jackie Head.

Birmingham's Jean Mackay reached the final of the W.S. but hopes of a home win were belled by Betty Gray of Swansea in straight sets. Some consolation, however, came when a local pair, Pat Mortimer and Pat Baird beat S. Jones and Vera Rowe in the W.D. final. Adrian Haydon's 14-year-old daughter Ann Haydon impressed many and had a great win over the Welsh junior star Shirley Jones.

DETAILS

JUST GIVE 'EM THE CHANCE

I READ Table Tennis with much interest, and in watching tournaments frequently certainly do agree with the views on improving dress—it is a very necessary course to raise the prestige of the game. To encourage the women players, why not have 3 women as well as 3 men in the County teams? And why not change both men and women as much as possible? There are frequently several players of almost equal standard, and apart from the thrill and encouragement of playing for the county, it would add to the interest considerably and, perhaps, give new talent a chance to develop.

VIOLET

THE SUSSEX OPEN
By GEOFF COULTHREAD
Hastings, 26th Oct., 1952

Some 380 players competed in this "week-end by the sea" tournament which was played on 19 ultra-fast tables. The social side was, as ever, most entertaining and the Saturday night dance was well supported by entrants which included many stars, and two overseas "residents" in Vincente Gutierrez (Chile) and Frank Wetzel (U.S.A.).

MEN'S SINGLES. Semi-finalists were K. Hurlock, H. Venner, A. Rhodes, and Johnny Leach and their respective paths, over leading players were: Hurlock beat House, Burridge and Head (last year's finalist). Venner beat Payne and D. Miller. Rhodes beat A. R. Miller and R. Crayden (23-21 in the third). Leach beat Len Adams and D. Eagles, whose 18, 19, 19 scored by excellent hitting is worthy of note.

Then Venner beat Hurlock in an entertaining game on which two men knew each other's game well from several seasons of playing together, while Leach was made to fight hard to defeat Rhodes over three games. Harry Venner on fast tables was too consistent for Leach and in a judicious display of controlled hitting against a Leach below his best, won a well deserved victory 3-1.

WOMEN'S SINGLES. Elsie Carrington provided a "near shock" for Di Rowe when she lead 19-16 in the third, only to drop the next 5 points in a row. Marjorie Cumberbatch, whose windmill style had already beaten Peggy Piper and Yvonne Baker, then accounted for Di Rowe. Local Vera Dale was surprisingly defeated Doreen Spooner at 19 in the third, and another "touch-and-go" match occurred when Jean Winn (with a new look defensive style) was 18-20 down to Miss Cherry before winning 24-22. Ros Rowe knew the answer to Mrs. Cumberbatch's unorthodoxy in the final and won by convincing margins.

DOUBLES. After dropping their first game of the morning to Betty Issacs and Jose King, the Rowe Twins won their usual merry way and ran out good winners over Joy Seaman/ Jean Winn. Ros Rowe gained her triple by—partnered by Victor Barna—winning the Mixed from sister Di and Johnny Leach in a closely contested affair. Crayden and Venner had their chances over Carrington and Leach in the M.D., but you cannot let Jack and Johnny have lives and expect to beat them.

JUNIOR BOYS. A. Danton beat the favourite D. House and then Roy Harford in the semi, but then lost to stylish Ray Dorking in the final by straight games. Dorking beat diminutive T. Densham in the semi, and looks like a player who could go places.

Final Scores were published in November issue.

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Another important I.T.T.F. recommendation to Umpires is:

"The Laws require that, if a player fails to make a good service, a point shall be gained by the opposing player (or pair). An umpire who does not penalise a player when he has committed a clear and obvious fault is favouring him and depriving his opponent of a point. A warning about services is appropriate when—and only when—the player, while serving very occasionally out of the strict geometrical vertical, or with hand not strictly flat or not precisely horizontal, is clearly obtaining no advantage (and, therefore, has not yet been penalised) yet is likely to be penalised for careless disregard (Knotty Point 6) if he continues to serve in this manner. In such circumstances, the umpire may warn the player that continued improper services will involve loss of points."

The subject of the service rule cannot be left without mention of another point. There have been some complaints recently about over-officiousness of umpires, and, in particular, about a few who wrongly assert their authority by penalising services at a critical stage of a match although similar services have been allowed to pass earlier in the match. Whilst a player who suddenly brings out a new—and unfair—service at the end of the game must clearly be penalised, there can be no justification for pulling up someone who has been allowed to serve all through the match in exactly the same way. Quite apart from the point awarded for the particular service, either the server or his opponent can be seriously put off by a sudden service penalty at 20-all in the final game.

The current written Test Paper will continue to be used for the time being, and meanwhile the National Umpires Committee is carefully considering what improvements, if any, can be made to the Practical Test introduced last year. A Memorandum combining all previous circulars has been sent to all County Secretaries and Umpiring Committees.

Umpires should know about a new ruling by the I.T.T.F. on the calling of the score when the service changes. This new ruling replaces one which most people in this country disliked, and has the advantage of being much simpler. The I.T.T.F. ruling (which is obligatory for International events), is that, when the service changes (that is, after each five points up to 20-all, and after each point thereafter) the umpire should call the score in the normal way; first the score of the opposing player (or pair), followed by the name of the player who is due to serve. This should put an end to various practices like prefacing the score by "service", "serving" or "change service."
WHAT COACHING IN LEAGUES CAN DO

By JACK CARRINGTON
Hon. Director of Coaching

"Before I could use that flick (or smash), in a match, I spent many hours perfecting my reliable topspin drive, with or without wrist-work, to make the correct openings for me. Before learning my topspin drive I practised for hours getting my right foot forward to the best spot for a backhand drive, and to do this I simply pushed the ball so that I could concentrate on my correct foot movement.

Also I had to remember to turn my trunk sideways, to give greater freedom to my arm-swing.

And another thing, lads and lasses, good and experienced Coach can do for his pupils. Moreover they can interrupt him to ask questions as situations arise and they can decide between them (Pupil and Coach) which strokes and tactics suit the individual's style and physical-mental make-up.

The above knowledge, presented clearly and reasonably by the Coach, will gain the respect of the young pupil, who will then submit with more.

(continued on page 24)
TABLE TENNIS TACTICS

By JEAN NICOLL

(MRS. JEAN BOSTOCK)∗

TACTICS depend on observation. By carefully observing an opponent in play a player can formulate his own plan of action. Note his style of play, whether he is naturally an attacker, a defender or a stonewall half-volleyer. Then find on which wing—forehand or backhand—he plays his weakest shot. If possible, find out these points before the game begins; otherwise ascertain them during the preliminary knock-up. Once the game has begun test your observation by playing on the opponent’s suspected weakness.

For the purposes of this article let us assume that the reader is a natural all-round player. Against a defensive player, he has three courses of action:

(a) To attack the defender’s weaker wing;
(b) to hit straight at the opponent’s body;
(c) to mix the drives with drop shots.

In the first few points of the game he should serve to, and attack, that wing which he believes to be the weaker, mainly to test its actual strength. Never maintain a continual attack that is aimed in one direction because this allows the opponent to play his weakest shot into better form. Mix your game. When you reach the stage where you feel the lead must be taken, it is THEN that you switch to a concentrated, all-out attack upon the opponent’s weaker wing.

Sometimes the defender appears to be equally strong on both wings. Such players are, however, frequently vulnerable to a drive hit straight at them, and find it very difficult to efficiently chop a ball that is right in front of the body. Consequently the opponent’s return is a fairly high ball without much chop. The attacker who employs this tactic, however, MUST remember that he has a shorter length of table to use than if he were driving across it diagonally.

When this mode of attack is successfully countered, then the tactic is to upset his defensive rhythm with a continual mixture of placed drives and drop shots. These should be calculated to keep the opponent continually on the move, leaping to and from the table and to both sides. Apart from upsetting the defensive rhythm, this type of play is very tiring and the continuous movement is likely to upset his timing. This tactic of attack is particularly useful for defeating a defender who is inclined to be slow on his feet.

The varying amount of chop spin which the defender can put on the ball can be very upsetting to his hitting opponent, who must judge—with each ball—the precise degree of lift and topspin that he must use to counteract the chop. In playing the defender, the attacker must always take particular note of the amount of spin given to each ball.

The tactics available to the defender against the attacker are:

(a) A low return to the attacker’s weaker wing;
(b) a wide return to the attacker’s strong wing;
(c) varying the amount of chop;
(d) topspin defence.

The primary consideration when defending is to get the ball back on to the table somehow and wait for the opponent to make the errors. A low, chopped ball to the attacker’s weaker wing is the safest defence but, because an attacker usually stands well to one side of the table to cover it, a defender sometimes finds it difficult to get at that weakness. In such cases, it is best to return as wide as possible to the attacker’s strong wing (to draw him away from the attacking position) and make the next return to the weak wing.

Varying the amount of chop on your returns can be very effective. Often, when the opponent has worked up for a kill, a return which has extra chop, or no chop at all, can prove sufficient to trap him into hitting into the net or off the table.

The “Top-Spin Defence” had become popular in recent years. For this, the defender returns all the attacker’s shots from little more than a yard or so from the table, using a little top-spin and just sufficient pace to take the ball well into the middle of the opponent’s side of the table.

Because the ball is returned before the attacker has had time to wind-up for a kill, this defence makes a full-blooded attack difficult. Moreover, it is comparatively easy for the defender

(Concluded on page 12)

∗ Mrs. Jean Bostock

introduced by C. M. JONES

British Davis Cup Player, well-known writer on Lawn Tennis and Squash

No. 797 Jean Nicoll in action

Jean Nicoll Bostock, on her retirement from competitive tennis in 1948, ended a line of players who, whilst they competed with enthusiasm, skill and filly of purpose, still retained the essence of amateur sport at its best. Her charm sprang from a real affection for her fellows and fell upon all ranks from beginners to champions. Her skill made her the feared opponent of the greatest, yet she never lost the ability to enjoy play with the clumpiest of novices. Those of us who saw her in action before the war, and again at Wimbledon seven years later, can never have seen one of the most loved champions of all. Our proof is in the way she has put it all behind her to enjoy equally, or more, the communal life of an English county town.

C. M. JONES
A REFRESHING breeze of uncertainty has come to stir the national team competitions, and the Goliath leagues that have dominated zones in the past are beginning to find that the persevering little Davids are beginning to challenge their long-standing supremacy, and may indeed have the prejudice and the luck to beat them. Even the ranks of Tuscany can scarce forbear to cheer the victory of a gallant little fellow over a be- muddled champion; there is no better tonic for everyone of both sides. Even when the element of chance enters, as it so frequently does, all credit to the challengers for having a go; their rewards will be in the confidence that what has been done once can be done again.

Manchester, 5 times winner of the Wilmott Cup (having to concede one game because of injury to Ron Rigg), are out in the first round, and Bristol out of the J. M. Rose Bowl, while new names enter the Second Round for the first time. There are heartening improvements throughout the country.

With the Rowes twins not competing this year, South London with Joan Wynn, left-handed Pamela Gall, and Jill Rook have high hopes of winning the keenly-fought trophy while the all-international men’s team of Cryden, Venner and Head are out to win the Wilmott Cup for the 4th year in succession. Central League, with Pinkie Barnes, Margaret Fry, Joyce Roberts and Joy Seaman available for their Rose Bowl match, but could not score more than 3-6 against an inspired Bourneometh trio of Eve Davis (who was unbeaten), Doris Grimley and Eileen Gilbert.

Mrs. G. Horn, winning both singles, was in great form to help Salisbury (with M. Baker and K. Walters) to beat Bristol (E. Pomroy, J. Collier and J. Douglas) 5-4 in the Rose Bowl match. ‘The following day, Mrs. Horn won both singles and doubles in the county match Hants. v. Bucks.

Bromley, with Kent’s Nos. 1 and 2 players, Ron Etheridge and Ray Syndercombe and Bobby Thorn (well known lawn tennis player) were much too strong in their Wilmott Cup match with Beckenham, who have hitherto relied on their older tried players, and won 8-1, though less easily than the last score suggests.

After Southend’s 2-7 defeat by Romford in the Wilmott Cup (Wally Hall won the two), it was left for the ladies (Winnie Dakin, Daphne Combes and Kathleen Harvey) to do the avenging, which they did, scoring 5-4 after some tight and exciting games. Southend’s Ray Davis and Trevor Pinkus have made a promising debut in the Essex Junior League.

Derek Miller (who plays cricket for Barrow C.C.) won his three ties to help his league to a 6-3 Wilmott Cup victory over W. Cumberland. 20-year-old Ron Rigg won two ties for the visitors, and the third was won by A. Brady after being game down and 20-13 against.
GET THIS SEEDING RIGHT

By VICTOR BARNA

HERE is one aspect of the game which surely needs a remedy. This is the question of seeding in the World Championships and big open International Tournaments.

In the old days, and until fairly recently, seeding was allowed only on the grounds of Nationality—that is, two players entered from one country could be put in the opposite halves or ("or" not "and") four players in each of the four quarters. The final decision rested with the Association making the nominations. For example, it was up to the Hungarian Association to decide whether Edafa and Szabados should be drawn in different halves, or—taking a chance that these top two players might be drawn in the same half—to request that four of their players should be seeded separately into the four quarters.

Every nation had the same privilege and on the whole, this method of seeding worked well. Of course, occasionally it occurred that two fancied players had to meet very early in the competition; as in 1932 when in the very first round I had to play the hero of the Swaythling Cup Competition, Lauterbach of Czechoslovakia. But that was all in the game.

Since the war, the International Federation has introduced an official Ranking List, and with it, a seeding based on strength plus nationality.

Basically there is nothing wrong with this but I have come to the conclusion that the very existence of the World Ranking List makes it practically unnecessary to conduct a draw at all. It almost draws itself, as to all intents and purposes, it enables the compilers of the lists to make the draw while they are about it.

Although, as far as I know, no lists have been published for 1951-52, let me give an illustration based on the official Ranking List issued for 1950-51, which was as follows:

1. Leach (England).
2. Andreadis (Czechoslovakia).
4. Tereba (Czechoslovakia).
5. Koczian (Hungary).
6. Harangozo (Yugoslavia).
7. Vana (Czechoslovakia).
8. Rodholt (France).

With seeding based on strength and Nationality, it means that Leach would automatically go in the top quarter, Tereba in the second, Sido in the third, and Andreadis in the fourth, without any need to draw them. But if eight players are seeded, then it is obvious that Koczian must be in the opposite half to Sido and in with either Leach or Tereba, and Vana has to be kept away from Tereba and Andreadis and must necessarily be placed in the same quarter as Leach or Sido. So it is plain from the start—even before the draw is made—that Leach is bound to meet either Vana or Koczian in the quarter final—and so on.

The position in regard to Doubles, where there is no official ranking, is even worse, as the seeding is more or less left to the organiser who can pretty well do just what he likes in fixing on the rankings, even at the last minute before the draw is made.

After what I have just said, the possibilities can be imagined. I am not suggesting that there ever has been any "fixed list," but I am bound to say that I have heard, especially on the Continent, some strange mutterings on the subject.

Naturally, we must have seeding, but I am firm in the opinion that it should be settled either on strength or on Nationality, and not on a combination of the two.

I freely admit there is a lot to be said for ranking and a lot to be said for seeding too. But for goodness sake, let a stop be put to this business of arranging the draw. In other words, let a draw be a draw!

VICTOR BARNA


World's Party Pageantry

Golf like Ping-Pong ???

THAT G.O.M. of Table Tennis, Mr. P. E. Warden sends us a cutting from an article by Leonard Crawford, golf correspondent of The Daily Telegraph. "I have played a lot of table tennis during the last 55 years," writes "Pew," "but only a little golf, but what on earth Mr. Crawford means when he states that under the conditions mentioned 'inland golf becomes more like ping-pong, I cannot conceive, can you?"

We were reminded of Oscar Wilde's famous response when asked what was the essential difference between a man and a woman, 'Madam,' he replied loftily, 'I cannot possibly conceive.'

"Play table tennis?" it starts. "If you aren't proficient at slamming the little white celluloid ball over the net and up to the other end of the nine by five table, you're missing a lot of fun. If you do play the game, it's odds on that, at some or another, no doubt in the absence of an umpire ..."
ON October 12th the All-China Table Tennis Championships opened in the Western University on the outskirts of Peking. Teams of boys and girls had been brought from all over the country by the Chinese authorities, and as they paraded in the sporting colours of their various provinces, the Hon. Iov Montagu, President of the I.T.T.F. gave a brief address of welcome in which he recalled the exploits of Hong Kong players both in Bombay and during the recent visit of the English team, concluding with the hope that Chinese players would soon join with those of the rest of the world. 61 competitors played before 7,000 spectators.

Table Tennis in China dates from 1916, and saw its main development in 1924-26 under the peculiar rules then operating in Japan and the Far East generally. In 1927 it was included as an event in the Far East Athletic meeting, and again in 1936 in the All-China Federation Athletic meeting. During the long years of war and civil war, the game became popular in army schools and government institutions and is now the second most popular sport in China—basketball being the first. Balls are manufactured in Shanghai and Tientsin.

This year's event, which lasted a week and was won by 24-year-old Chiang Yung-Ning from Central-South China and 21-year-old East Coast girl Sun May-Ying, was a pre­liminary to the selection and training of a team which has been entered in the first Asian T.T. Federation Championships which have been arranged to take place in the Badminton Stadium, Singapore, during November 22nd-29th, 1952. The All-China T.T. Association has also applied for I.T.T.F. membership and hope to compete in the World Championships at Bucarest this season.

T.T. Federation of Asia

The Asia T.T. Championship is mentioned above are open to all Associations affiliated to the I.T.T.F. and are the outcome of the formation of the Table Tennis Federation of Asia originated during the World Championships in Bombay this year. Mr. Rama Ramakrishna is the Hon. General Secretary of the Federation and Mr. P. C. Laxmi the Treasurer Secretary for the Championships. His Highness Maharajah Pratap Bihinji Gaekwar of Baroda is the President.

*a sudden appearance on the stage during our game. He generally rushes on, complete with bat and takes over against one of us without the game stopping. The biggest hits have been Arthur Asley and Paul Plasugan, both on account of their build, and the audience were convulsed at their antics. Eddie Gray—Moorsbeer going even one better, as in his excitement, he slowly climbs on to the table, finished up by sitting close to the net and juggling the bat and some extra balls. Some of these stars are excellent players. Teddy Knox and Vic Oliver especially. Both these comedians have a natural aptitude for ball games and Vic Oliver has played tennis and football for his country, besides now having a very low handicap at golf. Teddy Knox I believe once had a trial for Chelsea and is now a first class snooker player; two years ago he just missed winning the £5,000 Albany Club snooker handicap.

Another person I meet frequently, who could be a first rate player if he had the time to practise is Raymond Glendenning. He compared the television show Victor and I did recently and when we were rehearsing he played against Vic and I and displayed form far above most club players.

Oliver Hardy of Laurel and Hardy (although not playing) never missed a performance when Victor and I were in the same show. I remember being at Glasgow Empire where the dressing rooms are two flights up from the stage and every night as we were about to start our game, everyone could hear “thump, thump, thump” as Oliver came rushing heavily down the stairs to stand at the side until we had finished.
THEY PLAY WITH OIL LAMPS BUT...

The hazards of a golf links are, with devilish ingenuity, sited in the positions most propitious for the smooth progress of all but the expert, and your correspondent after a recent visit to Norfolk found that the villages which are grouped sporadically around Norwich seem to have been placed with the same discouraging lack of consideration for modern comfort.

But they say that there is a pot of gold at the rainbow’s end, and though your correspondent found this turn into a bottle of sherry won in a local raffle, he also found that Norfolk is rich in the worth of its leaders. County Sec. Eric Fairhead—resonant with R.A.F. slang—has the knack of "dressing the window" and then letting someone else do the unveiling, while Chairman Gerry Rix, twinkling and benevolent, does double duty for his office. So most certainly does Ron Giles, Umpiring Sec. and—with Jack Minors—a County Coach who attended the original E.T.T.A. Coaches Course at Lilleshall.

R. Lewis will travel 60 odd miles from Great Yarmouth just to be present or "ump" a match! The county first reserve will do likewise. One suspects that such examples do not stir many of the 1,300 odd players of Norwich to the activity desired by their Sec. Mr. Betts.

However, dear reader, do not suppose that those villages and their enthusiasts “waste their sweetness on the desert air.” Not while Ron Giles and Jack Minors (with his motorbike) and such officers are around. Here is REAL enthusiasm, and you should know JUST how hard provincial officials (Acting Unpaid) have to work to get results of any kind.

Ron Giles was watching a tournament at Harleston where every handicap of conditions was o’erleapt by a sparkling enthusiasm. 3 girls and 2 boys, ages 11 to 15, impressed Ron. They all came from Denton village. Consequently, with the aid of village schoolmistress Mrs. Hilston and her husband, these eager kids were driven the 15 miles into Norwich every fortnight to participate in the Summer County Coaching. Such rapid progress was made that two of the girls were finalists in the County Juniors.

The Hilston’s do a wonderful job at Denton, giving encouragement, facilities and transport (for the longer journey). Last season’s end saw county officials at a local tournament in Denton Village. Consequently, with the aid of village schoolmistress Mrs. Hilston and her husband, these eager kids were driven the 15 miles into Norwich every fortnight to participate in the Summer County Coaching. Such rapid progress was made that two of the girls were finalists in the County Juniors, 12-year Pauline Dyball taking the title.

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THE M.S. final was a really good match. With the same result by Surrey juniors Maclaren and Barr (Watford) had wins over Errol Peter and Terry Denham in the Juniors, and winning one game promised well in his losing final with RAY DORKING, who had been extended by Surrey juniors Maclaren (20 in the 3rd) and Sawyer (19 in the 3rd).

The Portsmouth finalists Peggy Piper and Pam Mortimer repeated their performance. With the same result, a narrow victory for Peggy in the 3rd game. Pam Gall impressed. B. T. Barr (Watford) had wins over Errol Peter and Terry Denham in the Juniors, and winning one game promised well in his losing final with RAY DORKING, who had been extended by Surrey juniors Maclaren (20 in the 3rd) and Sawyer (19 in the 3rd).

RESULTS


W.S. M. PIPER bt. P. Mortimer 12,—17, 19, 18, 19.


E.S. P. DORLING bt. R. Barr (Watford) 12,—12, 16.

C.S. J. BOOK bt. S. Fielder 18, 14.

By GEOFF. COULTHREAD

(This tournament justifies a long report and it is regretted that space permits only a brief summary of outstanding results—Ed.)

The most sensational post-war tournament I can remember, was seeded player even reached the semi-final and the M.S. title was nearly won by a non-graded, non-county player. Taking this event by quarters to the semi-final, outstanding matches were:

JACKIE HEAD’s wins over Eric Filby (14, 14), K. Hurlock (11,—15, 13) and H. Venner (20, 18). RON CRAVDEN beat Ken Craige (20, 12), Roy Turner (12, 14), and Tony Miller (12, 19). Derek Burridge then beat Bryan Merrett 13, 9, and was in turn beaten by Peter Pudney —17, 8, 15. ERIC MARSH (West Drayton 6-footer) had accounted for the Brunwell (12, —18, 18) and Bob Griffin (18, 19) and put out Pudney. ALAN RHODES bludgeoned his way through Johnny Leach’s defence to win 16, 18, and beat Alan Payne 16, 17.

Marsh prevented Head from getting into rhythm and fought well to gain his 11, 18 victory. Cranwell (4) put out the Rhodes by tactical defence and well angled counter-hits, and preventing Rhodes to play his best style. Marsh won the first two games of the final and looked confident, but Crayden also exuded a superior confidence, and, refusing to admit defeat pulled the next three games for an eminent victory.

The Portsmouth finalists Peggy Piper and Pam Mortimer repeated their performance. With the same result, a narrow victory for Peggy in the 3rd game. Pam Gall impressed. B. T. Barr (Watford) had wins over Errol Peter and Terry Denham in the Juniors, and winning one game promised well in his losing final with RAY DORKING, who had been extended by Surrey juniors Maclaren (20 in the 3rd) and Sawyer (19 in the 3rd).

RESULTS


W.S. M. PIPER bt. P. Mortimer 12,—17, 19, 18, 19.


E.S. P. DORLING bt. R. Barr (Watford) 12,—12, 16.

C.S. J. BOOK bt. S. Fielder 18, 14.
TACTICS by JEAN NICOLL

(Concluded from page 7)

to direct his return well on to the attacker's weaker wing. It is an excellent mode of defence but is not easy to effect, and only the most accomplished of present day players attempt its use.

The "stonewaller" should not present much difficulty to the all-round player. The play is somewhat similar to the topspin defence with the ball returning fairly quickly over the net but with hardly any spin and with very little pace. Most half-volleyers have no forehand at all and prefer to play all their shots with a backhand stroke. The obvious tactic is—compel them to play a forehand. To achieve this, play wide to the backhand, and, to the backhand side, send the next shot wide of the forehand side.

Finally, to achieve success with any of these tactics, it is most important to constantly practice and to persevere.

FOR THE RECORD

JEAN NICOLL won the Girls' Junior Lawn Tennis Championship of Great Britain in 1938. In the same season (1938-9) she won BOTH Junior and Senior English Open Table Tennis titles—the first time in modern history when any junior player had won both senior and junior events in one tournament. In the Junior Final she had beaten Betty Blackburn. In the senior event she beat three of the most renowned defensive players of the day, one of whom had beaten the reigning World Champion. In the quarter-finals she beat Depetriova (who was to win the World title that same year); in the semi-final she beat M. Osborne; and in the final, in a 5-game ordeal before 8,000 people, she beat one of England's greatest stars, the late Dora Emdin, after a start in which she was 1-8 down. This last match was, perhaps, not a pretty match for the spectator, and a determined will-to-win. Unfortunately that year, England was unable to send women players to the World Championships at Cairo (the year when King Farouk made the presentations), or Jean on authoritative opinion may have brought England her first W.S. World title.

Nowadays, as Mrs. Bottuck, housewife and mother of two, she regrettably cannot take part in competitive tennis of the day, although she still occasionally plays both and takes an active interest, being President of the Suffolk County T.T. Association.

COVER GIRL: JEAN WINN

TOWARDS the end of last season a brown-haired, blue-eyed, 5 ft. 4 ins. feminine hurricane from the South London and Wandsworth Leagues swept into star limelight, notching the Bournemouth W.S. and W.D., the West Middlesex X.D., and then a string of Open Singles in the Southampton, Middlesex Herga, Surrey, N.W. Kent and an exciting Bucks. Open. The young lady in a hurry was 22-year-old accounts clerk Miss JEAN WINN, and her achievements earned her quick promotion to a No. 6 England ranking. So far this season, although retaining her forcefulness, outstanding achievement has been elusive and she plays for Surrey County Premier Division team with a county ranking after Peggy Piper (who is not in the national ranking). But Jean is no newcomer to T.T. She started playing 5 years ago, and two years ago reached the Area Finals of The Daily Mirror National Tournament. Most of her leisure time is spent either playing or watching Table Tennis and then about once a week she "Washes that man (T.T.) right out of her hair"—in a manner of speaking—by relaxing at a movie. She won't say, but we suspect her secret ambition is an England badge and that she would play her heart out to justify it. She loves one-day tournaments and, yes, playing ALL events on the same day, but heaven protect her from bad umpiring and slippery floors! Here's a stonewaller who consolidates her defensive armoury occasionally.

Good Sportsmanship

A SPECIAL Bouquet to Herts.

New Match Secretary

A SPECIAL Bouquet to Herts.

Good Sportsmanship

A SPECIAL Bouquet to Herts.

No matter how well one plays or serves, the toughest games are won on nerves. Walter Steinitz
I.T.T.F. World Ranking

MEN:
1. Hiroji Satoh, Japan.
4. Rene Roothoft, France.
5. Ferenc Sido, Hungary.
7. Ivan Andreadis, Czechoslovakia.
8. Thadaaki Hayashi, Japan.

Supplementary:
12. Vaclav Tereba, Czechoslovakia.
13. Guy Amouretti, France.
15. F'rantisek Tokar, Czechoslovakia.

Not Classed:
L. Pagliaro (U.S.A.); M. Haguenauer (France); R. Miles (U.S.A.); A. W. C. Simons (England).

WOMEN:
1. Angelica Roscanu, Rumania.
2. Gizzi Gervai-Farkas, Hungary.
3. Linde Wortl, Austria.
5. Tomie Nishimura, Japan.
6. Trude Fritzi, Austria.
7. Shizuka Narahara, Japan.
8. Helen Elliot, Scotland.

Supplementary:
10. Leah (Thall) Neuberger, U.S.A.
11. Eliska Krejcova, Czechoslovakia.

Service faults Are
Commoner Than common cauls.

Walter Steinitz

Dropping — A Hint

AUSTRIAN OPEN
Vienna, 2nd Nov., 1952
England players won the W.D. and the X.D. titles of Austria, the latter being an all-British final. Bergmann/Leach were beaten in an exciting final for the M.D. title.
M.S.
Roothoft bt. J. Leach 14, 18, 21.
W.S.
Hootthoft bt. V. Harangozo 20, 14, 11, 19, 18/17 (time limit).

W.D.
D. & R. Rowe bt. T. Pritzi/L. Wertl 11, 15, 16.
X.D.
J. Leach/D. Rowe bt. R. Bergmann/R. Rowe 15, 18, 13.

YUGOSLAV OPEN
Belgrade, 6th Nov., 1952
M.S.
Bergmann bt. R. Rothe 13-12, 13-20; bt. Z. Dolinar 20, 16, 17.
W.S.

W.O.
Dolinar/V. Harangozo bt. Cifree/Vogrine 3-2.

SURPRISES IN PARIS
Roothoft and Bergmann beaten
Paris, 22nd Oct., 1952
In the International Tournament of Champions at Coubertin Stadium an early shock of surprise came when the brilliant, coloured junior French champion Jean Claude Sala beat Bergmann 12, 17, 14. Bergmann was admittedly unfit, but Sala played extremely well, sending over high returns and then killing with a very fierce, quick, left-handed attack. Later Sala led Amouretti 17, 16, but forgetting to play tactically, lost the next three games 4, 19, 18. Vilim Harangozo (Yugoslavia) won the title by defeating Rene Roothoft in three straight 13, 20, 17.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES
England bt. Austria 3-1 (Women)
Vienna, 1st Nov., 1952
R. Rowe bt. T. Pritzi 17, 11, 18; bt. L. Wortl 16, 17; bt. J. Leach 15, 17; bt. Z. Dolinar 17.

England bt. Yugoslavia 3-0 (Women)
Belgrade, 7th Nov., 1952

England bt. Yugoslavia 3-2 (Men)
Belgrade, 7th Nov., 1952
R. Bergmann bt. V. Harangozo 3-2; bt. Z. Dolinar 2-1; J. Leach bt. V. Harangozo 3-2; lost Z. Dolinar 1-3; R. Bergmann/J. Leach lost Z. Dolinar/V. Harangozo 3-2.
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF HARROWER

PREMIER DIVISION
With wins over Devon and Lincoln, Middlesex took a commanding lead, but they still have to play Essex, Gloucestershire and Surrey, so the fight is by no means over.

Lower down the table, Glamorgan and Yorkshire fought a keen battle with the honours even. John Davies notched two for Glamorgan, at the expense of Ray Hinchliff and Ron Thompson, whilst for Yorkshire Kathleen Best did well to beat Betty Gray in three close games, and Brian Kennedy claimed his usual two scalps, Walter Sweetland and Stan Jones this time.

At the foot of the table Devon and Lincoln are finding that the top division is by no means a bed of roses. Lincs. have still to win a single tie, but Devon have two players in Lionel Kerslake and Mrs. Willcocks who are causing the opposition some concern. Lionel beat Michael Thornhill and only just lost to Jackie Head during the month.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH
Once again Essex proved a thorn in the Surrey side, and a convincing 7-3 win not only put Surrey right out of the running but gave Essex a real chance of taking the title. Only Ron Crayden really put up a fight for Surrey.

Meanwhile Middlesex made no mistake against Warwickshire and Glamorgan, but they will have to pull their best to resist Essex.

MIDLAND DIVISION
It looks as though Warwickshire's third team will be able to hold the title which their second team won last year, but they will be strongly challenged by Staffs. Worcestershire, making their first appearance in the Championships, had a good win at Northampton (result in last month, but too late for a report) and they were helped by the 16-year-old Goodfellow to a good victory, which is expected.

NORTHERN DIVISION
The expected close struggle between Northumberland and Yorkshire couldn't have been any closer, and a draw was a fitting result. The lead changed hands, with a narrow Northumberland ahead at 1-0, 3-1, and 4-2. Then Yorks. took three in a row, and it was left to K. Smith to save a point by taking the last two against G. Brook. All the Northumberland players shared in the draw, Smith, K. Kerr and P. Wilson taking one singles each, whilst Miss Tully won the singles and shared a doubles win with Mrs. Waugh. Pitts was outstanding for Yorkshire and won both his singles, and the mixed doubles with Mrs. Whitchcock. Cumberlaid almost scored their first victory, after over five years of struggling, and were ahead at 4-3 against Durham, but lost the last three ties. Miss Sullivan shared in two of their wins, whilst J. Whittingham and K. Holland each won both their singles for Durham, and shared in doubles wins.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH
There seems to be no reasonable doubt that Lancashire will easily head this Division and win back their place in the Premier Division—already they are the only undefeated team. Best win of the month, however, goes to Ann Haydon who beat Adele Wood in straight games to score one of Warwickshire three sets against the “Champions elect.” There should be a good scrap for second position between Cheshire, Warwickshire and Yorkshire.

Yorkshire 6, Durham 4
Northumberland 1, Lancashire 9

EASTERN DIVISION
One of the key matches in this division was played at Hertford on the 13th November, and Beds. become favourites for the title by their narrow win. It could easily have been a draw, and the ninth tie, between Edwards for the home side and Holdroyd for Bedford, was a real thriller, with both men scoring defence. Holdroyd seemed to have it well won in the third, but Edwards staged a grand stand finish, but at 16-17 his back hand deserted him, and Beds. breathed again.

Norfolk 4, Hertfordshire 6
Hertfordshire 4, Bedfordshire 6
Bedfordshire 8, Suffolk 2

JUNIOR "A" DIVISION
Kent have certainly fallen from grace this season, and after their first ever defeat by Essex last month, they followed this with a first ever defeat by Surrey. Nevertheless the outstanding feat was by a Kentish player—Miss J. Fielder beating English Junior Champion Jill Rook. Although Miss Fielder is no stylist, she is difficult to beat, and at fourteen has a bright future ahead of her. Danton also won both his ties for Kent, but was fully extended by M. Madacent. Sawyer had the best record for Surrey, winning both his singles.

JUNIOR "B" DIVISION
Middlesex's chances of finishing at the top of this section improved when Hertfordshire succeeded in drawing with Nottinghamshire, at Nottingham. M. Leverton won both his singles, and shared in doubles win, for the home side, whilst D. Blacknell partnered Leverton and also won a singles, for Hertfordshire. Barr, Boyce and Cartwright all won one singles, and they were particularly pleased to take the girls' singles, Miss M. Cobb just getting the better of Miss P. Bacon. Middlesex won two matches; easily against Cambridgeshire, who do not seem quite up to the standard of the other counties, but by no means easily against Bedfordshire. In fact, at one stage Beds. led 3-2. Both Gill and Phillips played well for the visitors, but the Middlesex girls were too good for their opponents.

Cambridgeshire 0, Hertfordshire 5
Middlesex 7, Bedfordshire 3
Cambridgeshire 0, Middlesex 10
The Daily Mirror Tournament

The third round of the great all-Britain Table Tennis Tournament should now have been completed, and excitement grows as the ranks begin to thin out, and there is speculation on what new names may emerge. One of the interesting features is that this event has really been a Family tourney. From Bristol, for instance, three sisters and a brother have entered and all reached the second round; there are three brothers from Radcliffe, Lancs., who have done likewise, and there are at least ten brother or sister entries still going strong. In the Juniors a young lad—not yet 11 years old—Chambers of Romford has already beaten older boys and has reached the third round. Perhaps the most interesting entries are the well-known Lawn Tennis players Lorna Cornell and John Horn, for as Lorna Cornell says, Table Tennis is a wonderful way of keeping yourself fit in the winter months.

Table Tennis is a wonderful way of keeping yourself fit in the winter months. We congratulate Dr. W. G. Penney on his well-deserved knighthood, the reward of 8 years brilliant Atomic Research work culminating in the Australian experiments. Apart from being England’s most outstanding atomic expert, Sir William is a grand sportsman, having played representative football in both England and the U.S.A.; his golf handicap is 8; but above all, he is a very keen table tennis player and is not afraid to admit it in any company.

As we reported last season he spends quite a deal of his leisure time in teaching and encouraging his 11-year-old son to play Table Tennis. Apart from being England and the U.S.A.; his golf handicap is 8; but above all, he is a very keen table tennis player and is not afraid to admit it in any company.

WE REGRET THAT A NUMBER OF ARTICLES AND REPORTS HAVE HAD TO BE HELD OVER. THE JANUARY ISSUE WILL INCLUDE ITEMS BY THE ROWE TWINS, FEENEY-GORDON, AN IMPORTANT ARTICLE ON THE TRUTH OF GRADING AND OPENING, AND SELF-HELP SCHEMES FOR THE WORLD."

HULL AND E. RIDING OPEN

Hull, 15th Nov., 1952

B. Gray bt. E. Taylor 9, 16.
W.S. M. LIGHTFOOT bt. Mrs. C. Cook 15.

R. BERGMANN bt. C. Booth 17, 16.

STOP PRESS NEWS

4th BATH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bath, 22nd Nov., 1952

B. BERGMANN bt. J. Sula 18, 16.
B. BERGMANN bt. A. SIMONS 18, 15.

MERSEYSIDE OPEN

Liverpool, 22nd Nov., 1952

R. BERGMANN bt. C. Booth 17, 16.
W.D. C. K. BERT/A. WOOD bt. B. Gray/Mrs. V. Bows 17, 16, 15.
B. SIMONS bt. R. Roothoft 18, 14.

BIRMINGHAM, with well over 5,000 members and the largest one city Table Tennis Association in the world, celebrates its 30th Anniversary this season, and it seems truly astonishing that still youthful Maurice Goldstein has been Secretary for some 22 of those years. Last month the Association ran its 4th Coaching Course at Lilleshall; no modest course, but one embracing 80 candidates and taking over the entire Hall.

STOP PRESS NEWS

ENGLAND beat FRANCE 7—2

Aylesford, 25th Nov., 1952

J. LEACH bt. M. Lanskey 14, 18; lost R. Roothoft 14, 15, 17; lost J. Sula 12, 18, 17.

Report of Late Events in January issue.

HARRY VENNER

(Ukland and Surrey)

TABLE TENNIS EXHIBITIONS

Individual and Class Coaching

66, Tavistock Crescent, MITCHAM, Surrey
BOOK REVIEW

TABLE TENNIS

By LESLIE WOOLLARD

Published by W. & G. Foyle Ltd., Price 2/6d.

Reviewed by the Hon. IVOR MONTAGU

(President of International Table Tennis Federation and Chairman of English Table Tennis Association)

THOSE who have followed the fortunes of Table Tennis under its present editorship will already have a fair idea of the capacity of the author of this latest of Table Tennis manuals to cram gallons into pint pots. Nevertheless, this is an astonishing production of astonishing value, on which author and publisher alike must be congratulated for this day and age.

Most people, in a half-crown booklet these days, would give nothing but a few hints on beginners’ play. Not so Leslie Woollard. Magic Appeal, History, Governing Bodies, The Way to Win, Equipment and Conditions, Fundamentals, Play, Strokes, First Rungs, Attack and Postscript Paragraphs—together with a host of diagrams—all find their way into 96 pages within stiff covers at rather over 3 pages a penny.

Being myself incapable of learning to play Table Tennis, I never like to express an opinion on the effectiveness of written teaching chapters in a Table Tennis book, and in this case I strongly suspect that ardent perusal of Mr. Woollard’s fourth chapter will nevertheless leave me as unsuccessful as before. However, for those with the appetites to read, there is a real abundance of matter, and who knows, some passage in it may strike the eye of an editor and a chord with the future champion. Leslie has left out rules and practically left out doubles. There are, of course, better books on Table Tennis and more complete, but there are also many worse and lesser; I know nothing which contains so much at so cheap a price.

IVOR MONTAGU

Reviewed by ARTHUR WAITE

Former International, Founder of The Table Tennis Review, and Author of the first instruction book on modern Table Tennis in 1932

HERE is a book for which the table tennis public has been searching for quite some time. A complete manual of table tennis at a popular price.

It goes into the instructional side of the game as efficiently as books four times its price, and after the beginner has studied and practiced the contents of its ninety-six pages, he can surely consider himself well on his way out of the beginner’s stage. A number of previous books have been written by top ranking players but owing to the fact that they have lacked journalistic training they have failed to put over their ideas in a capable manner. While Leslie Woollard is not a top ranking player he certainly is a top ranking table tennis writer and the game, particularly of youngsters.

It is not strictly true to say that a complete, but there are also many worse and lesser; I know nothing which contains so much at so cheap a price.

ARThUR WaITE

Two chaps from our community
Invaded Jap immunity.
They took no chance, were well advised,
So, nothing has been jap-aridized.

Walter Steinitz

Proud Handicap

ALTHOUGH the Deptford Central Hall Youth Club could easily make up a full able-bodied team, they are very proud of their self-imposed handicap that at least one (if not two) of their team should be physically handicapped. It sometimes ruins the club’s chances of a championship but nobody complains. The Hall is the H.Q. of the Deptford Mission for children and teenagers who are physically handicapped and come from all over S.E. London. When fit members apply to join they are asked if they are prepared to give some of their time to helping the less fortunate members, and objections are rare.

The young are always ready to give those who are older than themselves the full benefit of their inexperience.

Oscar Wilde.

Knock Out ‘No Knocking’

“NO KNOCKING ON TABLE 3 . . . .” comes the old familiar Open Tournament cry. But why not? Surely some system could be evolved to safeguard the weak.

1. A knock-up gives all players an opportunity to play-in their strokes. It is not strictly true to say that a good player needs only a very short knock; it varies with the maturity, temperament and type of game of each player, and it is in the interest of the tournament to have all the players at their best.

2. Something which is usually overlooked is that few players are fortunate enough to have playing conditions comparable with those of most Opens, and the opportunity to practice in such conditions—providing it does not interfere with the progress of the tournament—should not be denied them. The conditions, example and presence of stars combined with the opportunity to practice such “lessons” could do much to strengthen the game, particularly of youngsters.

With acknowledgments to George Harding and colleagues, I can recommend the system employed at the Kent Open. A large card with a red “V” (for Vacant) is stood against the net after the completion of each match where it can be seen by the officials when they require the table. The only time knocking is restricted is in later rounds when adjoining tables are left vacant to ensure that there are no distractions. Visual systems may not be best. Is there a better alternative?

John Corser, Watford.
I JUST LOVE OPEN TOURNAMENTS

By MURIEL WHIST

I love open tournaments. I don't get anywhere past the first or second rounds, but I do have fun. I wonder just why I do enjoy myself, because it usually works out to the following routine.

On the night before I am due to play in, say, the Hogsnorton Open, I spend hours (well, about 20 minutes) cleaning shoes, putting all my kit together, sewing on club badge (it looks good and I always hope it may frighten some of the less professional of my opponents). Then ready and excited, off to bed—nice and easy because I must get plenty of sleep if I am to give of my best. But I don't sleep . . . I start thinking . . . planning . . . and drifting . . . It is then that my appendicitis starts.

I have been expecting appendicitis for years and every time I am looking forward to a certain event (usually connected with T.T.) my pain comes—in just the right region—and I get ready (mentally) to be whipped off to Hospital. However, the pain passes as my thoughts return to my thrilling table tennis duels of the morrow. (Odd thought—probably that a watched appendix never bursts).

No. 798

... whipped off to hospital.

I am soon immersed in my T.T. dreams again and I feel rather sorry for the people I shall meet (and beat) on my way to the final. I see the headlines in the next issue of Table Tennis: Unknown beats Diane and Rosalind Rowe, Peggy Franks and other internationals on the way to final!", followed by a detailed description of how, in a glorious grand finale, I vanquished Angelica Rozeanu and Hollywood to make a film on the arts of Table Tennis, my England shirt, I am touring the world . . .

Then we arrive at the hall where the tournament is being held. Good-o, everything is O.K. Excitedly I scan the draw on the notice board to see whom I meet in the first round of the singles . . . No one I've heard of before—so whacko, an easy round to get me warmed up for the final. It's the same in the ladies' and the mixed doubles—my titles are getting nearer. Gosh, but I am excited, the noise, the ping-pong (horrible expression) of the balls, the atmosphere, the crowds . . . already I am planning how I shall play in the final. Shall I defend or attack? Probably defend at first, just to sort of feel my way, then build up into a terrific storming attack . . . the headlines are getting bigger and bigger.

We sit around for an hour or so, trying to get a knock-up. Quite vainly, of course, as there are always a couple of fellows waiting under the table. Then my name is called. Table 4. I grab my bat . . . have I the nerve to take my towel to the table, slung over my shoulder (the towel, not the table)—very professional like? . . . No, I just sink to the table, a bat clutched nervously in damp hands. I greet my opponent, a mild, quiet looking girl. No one I've ever seen before . . . We knock up and I gain confidence from the immediately obvious fact that she has never before in her life played table tennis.

The Umpire then calls for service. He spins a coin, I call “Tails” . . . it's probably a double headed penny, anyway, as I'm sure the Umpire's京's against me . . . He grins encouragementingly at my opponent (bet he's her father or something) and bares his teeth in a snarl at me. I am reduced to a complete nervous wreck, my opponent seems to have increased in stature and she grips her bat in a very workmanlike fashion, crouching in an awkward professional manner. She serves—and then proceeds swiftly and mercilessly to wipe me off the table. We shake hands (she smiling broadly, I grinning weakly) and mutter something quite unintelligible to one another and walk away from table 4.

I go back to my group of friends. Luckily they have been watching a battle at the other end of the room. I walk up to them shaking my head. "Well, I guess it just isn't my day, I lost but I don't know how. She wasn't much good, but then, what can one do against net cords and edge balls by the dozen—Oh, by the way, the light isn't very good on table 4! . . . We had a rotten umpire. Didn't have the score right from beginning to end . . . still, nothing one can do about it."

Settling down for a long wait before the doubles events I console myself with the fact that I can still win these. At regular intervals I enquire after my respective partners' health. They are feeling fine (I hope they don't do anything silly) . . . Ah! Ladies' Doubles have started. Our names are called—drat it, table 4 . . . ! We wander back disconsolately to our group. Anyway, it was quite a good game. If only my partner hadn't served off the end just when we needed the point—ah, well, there's still the mixed doubles!—Well! ! Least said about them the better. I played well, but my partner, the ones he didn't hit off he sent into the net and, of course, there was nothing I could do about it; after all, he did have to take every alternate shot.

Well, we've finished for the day. We had bad luck, you know, but really the conditions weren't up to much—gosh, just look at the time! We'll have to hurry if we are to get that train. Pshaw! only just made it, good thing this line runs a bit late. Tell you what, we'll have that bar of chocolate I've been saving all day—I search frantically through my holdall (have you noticed . . . oh, sorry, I've said that bit before) . . . blimey, I've left half my kit again! . . . What a day!! . . . I lose more open tournaments that way . . .

Note to Doubles Partners—Honest, I don't mean it.
ACTIVE preparations are already well in hand by the Rumanian authorities for the staging of the World Table Tennis Championships in Bucharest during March 20th-29th, 1952, and the Hon. Ivor Montagu (I.T.T.F. President and E.T.T.A. Chairman) was a recent visitor to consult with the organisers.

There will be two halls used. One, with ample room for the hotel and excellent accommodation for officers and committees, is a basket-ball hall with seating for 4,000 spectators. The second hall will be either a neighbouring swimming pool (boarded over) or a large gymnasium (10 minutes distant) with seating for 4,500 spectators and a fine, non-slip wood floor.

All teams will be accommodated in a comfortable hotel with excellent feeding arrangements adjusted to the various foreign tastes. A 'shuttle' bus service will run from the hotel and between halls. The dressing rooms accommodation will include baths and showers, and a medical staff that specialises in sports health will be in attendance.

There should be one or even two days rest between team and individual events, allowing plenty of time for looking around the city.

Air facilities may be available (via Prague) for early requests only, and there may be limited accommodation for supporters or extra players accompanying the teams; prices are not known but may be about £2 a day including food, lodging, admission, etc.

The Rumanian T.T. authorities have arranged a school for umpires, a two-month training course based on the Recommendations for Umpires adopted at the last I.T.T.F. Congress.

The closing date for entries is shown in brackets after the title. Organisers should check information and advise The Editor of any additions or amendments. All available information at the time of going to press has been included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Details and Venue</th>
<th>Extra Events</th>
<th>Organising Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December, 1952.</td>
<td>4 WALES v. ENGLAND X.D.</td>
<td>Mrs. N. Roy Evans. See next entry.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>CENTRAL LONDON OPEN Manor Place Baths, London, S.E.</td>
<td>G.S.</td>
<td>Mrs. E. G. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>METROPOLITAN OPEN Polytechnic Extension (Nov. 26) Little Titchfield St., W.1.</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. J. Kurzman, 35, Suffolk Road, Barnes, London, S.W.13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/17</td>
<td>SOUTH YORKSHIRE OPEN Firth Brown Canteen, (Dec. 22) Savile Street, Sheffield.</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>G.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>SOUTHAMPTON OPEN Blighmont Drill Hall, (Jan. 5) Southampton.</td>
<td>J.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18/24</td>
<td>N.W. KENT OPEN Barnehurst Res. Ass. Club, Parkside Avenue, Barnehurst. (Dec. 15)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>G.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 ENGLAND v. IRELAND Mixed Philarmonic Hall, Liverpool.</td>
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<td>Mr. W. Stamp, Buena Ventura, Farmdale Close, Liverpool 18.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1/7</td>
<td>MIDLAND OPEN (Jan. 24) Indoor Stadium, Pershore Road, Birmingham.</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENGLAND v. SCOTLAND Mixed Baths Hall, Race Street, Barnsley.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21/22</td>
<td>DUTCHE OPEN At Rotterdam.</td>
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Oxford Replies

I must correct the errors in the letter of your London University correspondent (Table Tennis for September). Firstly, neither Oxford nor Cambridge Universities award any Blue at all for Table Tennis. Unlike London, where Table Tennis gets liberal treatment, at Oxford we have had to fight hard against strong forces of tradition to gain any recognition at all.

Secondly, his statements implying that London regularly "thrashes" all other Universities are misleading, at least in so far as they apply to Oxford. London must be congratulated in managing to beat Oxford last year, but it must not be forgotten that in the year before, London only collected 2 games out of 10.

D. S. Buchanan, Captain, Oxford University T.T.C.
PORTSMOUTH OPEN
Southsea Pier, 9th Nov., 1952
By Geoff. Coulthread (Abvd.)

P A U L B R O O K beat both Alan Rhodes (23-21 in the 3rd) and Terry Kirby, but fellow Croydon team-mate Roy Turner had a clear win over him in the semi. In the other semi, Derek Burridge (hardest worked player of the day) had a 3-game affair with Shead (Brighton) which they took too much out of him to do full justice to himself in the tightly contested final which gave Turner his first Open title. After losing a semi-final M.D. to Alexander/Shead, Derek was again on the losing side in the X.D. final against Paul Brook/Pam Mortimer. Pam Mortimer, at 17-all in the W.S. final against Peggy Piper, was shaken by volleying a ball that was no more than 2 inches off the table, as Peggy took the next four points for the title, which she deserved for her fine offensive win over Mrs. M. Cumberbatch. (Oddity: both seeds in the W.S. reached the final, but the No. 5 ranking player was not seeded)- Brightton's Alexander/Shead were the only non-London players to win a senior title with the M.D. Mrs. Bromfield, making one of her rare tournament appearances, showed that the old hand has lost little of its cunning when she partnered Pam Mortimer in a very good W.D. final which they lost to the holders Peggy Piper/Doreen Spooner. Local boy R. Hunt put up a very good performance in the B.S., taking 16 in each final game against D. House, but his little more control would have brought him even better figures.

DETAILS
B.S. D. HOUGHTON bt. D. Hunt 16, 16.

T.T. Peter Pan
By FRANK GEE

I N T R O D U C I N G Manchester League's popular President Mr. Jack Livingstone whose biography makes interesting reading, not in the way of generating sheer grit and determination to continue playing the game he loved in spite of a serious physical disability.

Mr. Livingstone volunteered for service in the Great War in 1915 and after serving in France, Belgium, Egypt and Palestine marched into Jerusalem with the victorious troops commanded by the late Field Marshal, the Rt. Hon. the Viscount Allenby. During his service he was badly wounded in the knee and lost the use of one leg from the hip down inwards. His playing career commenced in 1910 in the former Manchester and District Lawn Clubs Ping Pong League and he was for a long time the No. 1 player on Grove House. He represented Manchester for some years, winning his games with monotonous regularity. He holds Division I championship medals for the seasons 1927/28, 1925/26, 1931/32. The highlights of his playing career are reaching the last 32 out of 40,000 entries in the 1925 Daily Mirror All Britain Competition being presented with a runners-up medal by the late Lord Desbois, at Holbourn Stadium. In 1928/29 at the Albert Hall he was defeated in an early round of the veteran's singles by the former world champion, Zoltan Mecltovits, the scores being 21-16, 21-10.

No casual observer would detect that the "dead" left foot is running artificially to the normal position and not the least astonished is his manager.

Some years ago a famous Northern Sports writer described him as "The Peter Pan of Table Tennis" and in the Daily Dispatch Book he had the honour of being sandwiched between Jack Hobbs and Melbourne Hunt.

He is a founder member of the Manchester League being present at the first meeting in 1925 when the decision to form a Manchester League was made. He retired from competitive play two seasons ago. This is his 7th consecutive year as President of the Manchester and District League and all hope to see him on the pitch in office for many years to come.

EAST SUBURBAN OPEN
Ilford, 8th Nov., 1952
By Geoff. Coulthread (Abvd.)

M Y compliment of the month to the organisers for the improved and excellent conditions. Terry Kirby (Putney Club) reached the quarters after wins over Bobby Stevens and Brian Bromwell, and in his third game with Eric Filby led at 9-2. Aubrey Simons deservedly won from Filby. Ken Craigie (who had steadily settled against a defensively minded Venner in the semi), carried the attack to Simons in the final (with the thought of a recent county championships match to avenge). Craigie sustained a slender lead in the first game, won the second all the way, and the third game contained some thrilling counter-hitting by both players, with Craigie gaining the initiative to win a worthy win. (Oddity of draw: Craigie having to beat county colleagues Head and Venner to reach final).

Joyce Roberts made a welcome come-back to form to win the title, beating Peggy Piper and Peggy Franks (8, 18) on the way. Elsie Carrington reached the final with wins over Pam Mortimer, Barbara Milbank and Margaret Fry. The final was a close affair with Elsie chopping hard and placing well, but Joyce was really coming back to form and really putting the ball away cleanly.

The doubles finals were all entertaining, and I think the whimsical-personality combination of Ivor Jones/Dennis Miller will yet win a few titles. Peggy Piper/Jeans Winn did very well to beat the tactical play of Peggy Franks/Joyce Roberts.

DETAILS
W.S. J. ROBERTS bt. E. Carrington -20, 17, 12.
B.S. D. BROOMFIELD bt. A. Payne/ B. Milbank 17, 16, 12.
B.S. H. DOORKING bt. R. Gundry 14, 12.

TABLE TENNIS COACHING
By ERIC FILBY
(English Swaythling Cup Player)
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32, BARNFIELD AVENUE, SHIRLEY, SURREY
"YOUR SUCCESS IS MY AIM"
WITH nine or ten open tournaments already played and Rose Bowl, Wilmott Cup and inter-league matches in full spate, we are beginning to see which players are likely to make the season's headlines.

Among the women I plunge for Peggy Piper and Yvonne Baker, both young, both determined fighters and, incidently, both outstanding doubles players. Peggy (who gained her first singles in the Portsmouth Open) is well-known in the London area as a great little player. Not only is she a modest winner but, more important, a fine loser. No tantrums, no excuses, just a pert, youthful grin and inside, grim determination that next time Peggy will win. Last season she had the strokes. This season she has curbed her impetuosity and playing No. 1 for Surrey in front of both Jean Winn and Joyce Roberts, I forecast a very successful season for her.

Yvonne Baker was a promising Essex 2nd team player last year and has now emerged from the county trials as No. 2 to Peggy Franks in the Premier Division side. She almost secured the Devon Open in October after playing a truly exciting final with Bristol's Terry Pomroy. Yvonne has a stylish, "all round" game which is improving every month.

Elsie Carrington and Joyce Roberts, both currently appearing in their respective county second teams, are showing a welcome return to form. Elsie was 19-15 up in the deciding game against Di Rowe before losing 22-20 in the Sussex Open. She then proceeded to beat Pam Mortimer and Margaret Fry before losing to Joyce Roberts in the Eastern Suburban. Joyce herself had victories over both Peggy Piper and Peggy Franks.

On the other hand, Surrey's Jean Winn has not yet had any outstanding success after raising herself from comparative obscurity to a "B" grading between December and April last season.

Essex would seem to have a find worth cherishing in Ray Dorking, a slim, serious looking youth, whose name appears for junior titles with monotonous regularity.

The Eastern Suburban produced the most unexpected mixed doubles combinations seen around here for many a long year: Peggy Franks and Aubrey Simons; Peggy Piper with Bobby Stevens; Joyce Roberts with Len Adams; and Victor Barna with Margaret Fry. None of these illustrious names, however, reached the final which was won by Ken Craige with his young pupil Jill Rook, which was a pretty good victory in face of such competition.

I hear that Jimmy Lowe is back again after having decided against a teaching career. He tells me he has had very little time to practise during his "sojourn" at Loughborough but hopes to regain his place in the Staines and Middlesex teams soon. His team mate, Derek Burridge had a lucky escape from death a few weeks ago when the car he was driving home from his R.A.F. station completely overturned. He and two passengers emerged with nothing more than a grazed elbow, but the car was a wreck. Happily Derek wasn't on his way to play but, knowing him, I expect he would have carried on and returned later to salvage the remains of his vehicle.

Yvonne rides a Winner

No. 791 Coaching courses can have their funful sides as starlet Yvonne Baker proves as she romps home first in a Mobo Derby at Jack Carring­ton's summer course at Gurnard Pines, I.O.W.

CLAIMS DEPT.

The T.T. Section of the British Thomson-Houston (Willesden) S. & A. Club have a record entry of 34 teams (of 3) in their annual inter-departmental tournament representing 23 departments. Can any single manufacturing firm beat this?

J. S. KIRBY (T.T.S. Treasurer).

I take a claim to beating Ron Craig’s record—having played in every Yorkshire Premier Division match—except one—since the start of the N.A.C. and that was the only 1st team match I have missed since 1945, making a total of 40 appearances for the country.

MARJORIE LIGHTFOOT.

Donald Hillier recently made his 108th appearance when playing for Devizes Literary Institute against Trowbridge. Believed a record for any local player.

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JOHN G. TOMS
18, NORBETT ROAD,
Arnold - - - Notts.
IT was the final round of the men's doubles tournament, and the Sussex Open title was up for grabs. A good time was had by all, except one—a perfect stylist but needs a measure of comparative standards in the men's singles.

The week-end after the Sussex Open came the BIRMINGHAM OPEN and title No. 3 for Ray Dorking. The most interesting match here was probably the Dorking v. Pullar semi-final which provided a measure of comparative standards in the men's singles.

THE EASTERN SUBURBAN Open and title No. 4 for Ray Dorking came next. The first semi-final was a repeat of the East of England final. Dorking passed into the final at the expense of Roy Harford and won 22-20, 21-16. Bursts of applause during the men's doubles rounds usually meant that the Sussex junior pair George Gladwish and Jimmy Moore were performing. These two established themselves firmly as favorites with the crowd whilst their high-speed blasting tactics were taking them to the 4th round.

No. 803
David House (Bath)
David House notched his first title of the season at the DEVON OPEN, beating Gloucester's Roy Morley in the final.

No. 804
Charlie Darts (Essex)
Charlie Darts, No. 1 for Essex juniors all last season and holder of numerous junior Open and Closed titles, has recently gone for his National Service. He had the misfortune to be called up into the Army but it takes more than that to get Charlie down. Good luck!
LEAGUE COACHING

(continued from page 5)

confidence to an analysis of his own weaknesses (or prospects).
Even when the pupil knows his weaknesses—does he know how to fix them? No, but the Coach does, in most cases.
Pupils of high intelligence sometimes know their own weaknesses and realise what they should do to remove them. But this type is often too lazy; the good Coach is strong enough to shame them into making the effort, or to entice them into various situations in play or practice which will tend towards removal of bad habits. The Coach knows some pupils will have a relapse when he is gone to the next town, so he cunningly enlists the aid of a local senior, showing him the fault and the remedies, and extracting a promise that the pupil will be strictly "supervised" for his own eventual good.

Even if this doesn't work, the attention drawn to one player's failing almost always helps other pupils to avoid the same pitfalls.

It is in fact usual to find on a follow-up coaching visit that the best pupils are not now the original ones, but a set of eager new faces who merely sat and watched on the first occasion.

This fact underlines the chief benefit of the Coach's work—not merely an improvement in stroke play or tactics of a few individuals, but the instilling of a correct system of learning the game into the whole league or club.

Coaching experience shows that there are such things as "Club Faults," which run through all players in that club...and believe me there are "Town Faults" too! I have often pointed these out in small towns, to the general amusement.

If, therefore, we can have community faults, obviously we can bring about "community improvements" by eradicating faults from the key players.

Thus the good class Coach aims not merely to teach single strokes, but to leave behind a tendency towards good practice, a style of playing which will cause the young players to "train" each other instead of worrying how to beat each other every time they play in practice.

Sometimes the Coach will take the pupils into his confidence in this plan; sometimes he may be forgivably crafty in suggesting methods of practice which are mainly designed for the benefit of the "next generation" of pupils, if the present generation are poor pupils!

We started by saying "World Champions coach themselves"; but most of us know we cannot become world champions.

However, there is a certain "World Champion standard" for all of us—our personal best-possible. And most of us need the skilled Coach to focus and concentrate our intelligence, energy, and patience, so that we may learn quickly and not wastefully the lessons we need to enable us to attain that "personal world-championship."

What it boils down to is this: COACHING IS CRYSTALLISED EXPERIENCE, AND UNLIKE THE ORDINARY TYPE OF EXPERIENCE IT CAN BE HAD BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE TO MEND ONE'S WAYS.

Thus League Coaching can help to bring out the best in a whole crowd of players who otherwise might come to a "blind-alley" and if there is among them that rare animal, a potential World Champion, he will not be deprived of that contact with correct technique which he needs as his first step on the ladder.

Jack Carrington

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