
Pam Mortimer
(Warwickshire)
Wake Up-In the Back Row

NEW YEAR GREETINGS to all and Welcome to Coronation Year—a year that calls for an energetic spirit of enterprise, quest and adventurous endeavour: the New Elizabethan Age.

It is a time to clear mental cobwebs and spring-clean outlooks. It is a time to question whether all the ways that brought Success in the past are in tune with the times? Progress catches up with its own tail and while we are still on a universal upsurge of popularity we ought to be looking into the years ahead—to MAKE circumstances, not wait for them. We must beware the sickness of over-standardisation and the complacency which turns success into mediocrity.

To what point have the years brought your league? Have you got fine playing centres? Are all your events more crowded than ever? Are finances better and strong enough to back any scheme? Are all members active and club secretaries efficient? We are engrossed and close to the game, too close at times, perhaps, to know whether we have become adynamic.

There are critics who confess their ignorance by asserting that our sport is controlled (at its several levels, by self-electing oligarchies of reactionary die-hards! A tree can only flourish when its roots are healthy; get down to the roots and realities. THE PLAYERS ARE ALWAYS RESPONSIBLE for the Administration they get: THEY and no others elect them. Ordinary members (or those of them that have the common decency to attend meetings) elect local officers; these include league E.T.T.A. Representatives who can use the league’s vote(s) in the elections for the National Executive. About 60% use that vote.

The progress and authority of the national administration DEPENDS on and can rarely exceed the average efficiency of its local leagues. That average is not so hot. A permanent example is recorded in the current E.T.T.A. Handbook: Despite appeals and head office reminders key officials of 140 LEAGUES FAILED to send the few particulars asked for! A roughly 40% failure at league level!! But the root causes are deeper and come back first, to club secretaries and then to ordinary members—thousands of whom are either too thoughtless (in both senses), too lazy or too selfish to even attend just ONE league meeting in 365 days. Is it surprising then that local Table Tennis facilities cannot match local football, cricket or even bowls?

"WAKE UP there—you, me, all of us!" as President Jimmy Edwards might say. Go out and recruit the fainthearted. Let their many numbers enliven meetings with enterprising thought. Free the talents of some of the over-burdened. Stimulate activity with the inspiration of your own effort and support.

Table Tennis is team-work and those in the "back rows" should get to know that and take an active, positive interest in their league and its work. Table Tennis challenges alert minds to give us stimulating new ideas. VICTOR BARNAs article on page 11 suggests several possibilities, and the bold adventure of the World’s 1954 (see page 9) is a challenge to English T.T. South London includes a novel item in their Finals Programme (page 23). A league official suggests that counties should give incentives to the host leagues of county matches. (Some counties already allocate a percentage of profits.)

What about animated shop window displays? a Table Tennis Week? a Schools, Hospital and Cinema drive? new types of live exhibitions and Competitions, with features to interest and ENLARGE the local audiences? the establishment of fine local playing centres comparable with other sports? Ladies and Gentlemen, the meeting is open for discussion.

LESLIE S. WOOLLARD, The Editor.
SELECTION COMMITTEE NOTES

AUSTRALIAN AND YUGOSLAV CHAMPIONSHIPS. 30th Oct.-2nd Nov. and 7-9th Nov. Invitations from the respective associations for JOHNNY LEACH, DIANE ROWE and ROSALIND ROWE were accepted. Mrs. D. Leach was nominated as chaperone. (22nd Oct., 1952).


ENGLAND v. WALES (Mixed). Newport, 4th Dec., 1952. A. SIMONS (Capt.); H. VENNER; K. CRAIGIE; B. MERRETT; Miss D. ROWE; Miss R. ROWE. Reserve: J. Head and Miss C. K. Best. (20th Nov., 1952).

ENGLAND v. FRANCE (Women). Berck Plage, 7th Jan., 1953. Miss D. ROWE; Miss R. ROWE; Miss C. K. BEST. Capt.: A. A. Haydon. (9th Dec., 1952).


JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL TRIALS for Boys and Girls. Gillingham, 4 p.m., Saturday, 29th Nov., 1952 (held in the same venue and prior to the Kent Junior Open). The International Selection Committee issued a circular to all General and Match Secretaries of County Associations on the 22nd October, inviting nominations for the Trials.

FOCUS ON TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT 1952-53

By arrangement between the E.T.T.A., the C.C.F.E. and leagues interested. VICTOR KARSA and JOHNNY LEACH have again been engaged in the popular series of "Focus" Exhibitions. Performances have already been given with great success at Lowestoft, Cambridge and Yeovil. Future bookings so far include:

January:
- 29th, Lincoln, 1st, Grantham, 2nd, Lincoln;
- 28th, Sheffield; 29th, York.

February:
- 10th, Reading; 11th, Guildford; 12th, Oxford; 13th, Shrewsbury.

Page Two
THE MYTH OF THE 'YES'-MEN

By IVOR MONTAGU

I highly value the Review, and am extremely grateful for my free copy. There is bound to be more criticism in an independent paper than an official one, and criticism is always useful. When it just teaches one what is right, and even when its soppy it teaches one what others think. But why not criticise, also, within the organisation at the proper times? Credit to the charm and eloquence of the Selection Committee, sired, I think, by our good friend, excellent Table Tennis enthusiast and journalist, Sam Kirkwood, is becoming part of the game's mythology. When it started I used to think it was a compliment to the charm and eloquence of yours truly; one lifted eyebrow, a smile, or a wink from those brown eyes and everyone gets into line. But, as not a single one of my present colleagues agrees with, or even has the slightest sympathy with, any of my pet principles re team selection, trials, etc., and after every meeting I feel more and more like gravel that has met a steam roller. The allusion must be to someone else. A simple mathematical calculation shows that, while a mathematical calculation shows that, while the matter has been raised so strongly by Sam and Alec, however, two persons who certainly have the welfare of the game at heart, and since they say that other good persons are seething on the subject — (although I've not noticed it) — and since Brookie wasn't at the A.G.M. and the "personage" wasn't there long (so the question didn't come up), I offer here the facts of the Swayling Cup matches last year. I do so the more heartily because these facts rebound, I think, very much to the credit of Richard Bergmann's courage and sportsmanship, and — although others may disagree — I do not think they reflect particularly badly on anyone else.

One point first. No one, not even a selector, has the slightest doubt that Bergmann is No. 1 in the English ranking list. No one, not even a selector, has the slightest doubt that he is in the first 5 in England. But the business of the selectors is not just to list "the best" on paper, it is to get the best players to the table at their best, and if possible in such a way that they carry public confidence and are fortified by it.

At the A.G.M. at the end of the 1950-51 season, the retiring executive proposed that, despite the cost of travel to Bombay being nearly twice as high as any World Championship journey ever undertaken before, men's and women's teams should be sent. Following a question from the floor on how much it would cost, the incoming executive was encouraged to agree to send two teams, that of the women to consist of 3, and of the men, 3 plus Haydon, if he could be persuaded to captain both and to break his rule of refusing cup nomination (since the war he has always refused this, preferring to keep the way open for younger players), so that he could be eligible to make up the men's team (as did Gregory last year in the Davis Cup) in the event of an unforeseen accident to one of the other three.

The Executive later adopted this recommendation of the A.G.M. and the Selectors consequently had the task of selecting three in addition to Haydon, only three fares being available by that decision.

When the time for selection approached, it turned out that Bergmann, who had been suspended throughout the preceding season, had not played in one single competitive event in England for eighteen months. He was appearing on the music-hall in Paris, under long contract. His only competitive appearances during the season had been the French "Tournament of Champions" which he had won, but which is in any case of an exhibition nature (being by invitation) and which could shed no light on his speed owing to the nature of the styles of players met, and the Austrian Open, where he was beaten (in 3 games admittedly) by the hitter Dolinar. (We had reason to know, from two years previously, that Bergmann, when engaged in more exhibitions than matches is apt to form a habit of returning the ball much higher than usual to his game.)

What to do? The selectors did not like to choose a man (even though his ability was not and could not be in the slightest doubt), whose current physical condition and match-trim were unknown and whom they had not seen play for eighteen months. Was this wrong? Perhaps. Perhaps not. In any case, I think of no other sport selection committee which would have made such a selection. The officers, whenever Bergmann had applied for permission to play exhibitions abroad, had not liked to refuse on the grounds he must play and train with the rest in England. Was this wrong? Perhaps. Perhaps not. Bergmann is grown up. He was given (continued on next page)
MYTH OF THE "YES-MEN"  
(continued from previous page)  
every permission he requested. But the selectors told him they wished to see him play in one English tournament before the selection time. Bergmann's Paris music-hall show was a success. It was extended for many weeks. The selectors intervened with the management of one or two tournaments, and suggested to Bergmann dates where he could fix participation by only one day's absence from the cast. Suddenly the star of his show fell ill and had to foresee a day's rest. Bergmann intimated that he could come to England on a certain day, and that one day only, if that was any use. No tournament was available. The selectors decided to hold a trial on that day. The form of everyone else was sufficiently well-known for no trial to be required, except to make certain of Bergmann's form. Was it idiotic to have a trial just for the sake of Bergmann? Perhaps. Perhaps not. The Association had previously suspended Bergmann, for what it considered good reason. The Association is always anxious to fall over itself to show it bears no grudges against those who have taken their medicine.  

Very well. The trial took place. Nearly everyone beat Bergmann. Many beat him by a street. Venner beat him by a mile, more thoroughly, probably, than Bergmann had ever been beaten before in his whole career. True, the floor was disgracefully slippery (for which the selectors must care) which handicapped Bergmann badly. True also, however, that he put the ball up high in the air, that he was slow and that he was out of condition.  

What could the selectors do? They had a mandate to pick only three (because only three fares were authorized). How could they pick him before Leach? before Simons? above all, before Venner—who had put up to then been as successful in tournaments as in the trial? Perhaps they should have done—and been unfair to Leach, Simons or Venner? Perhaps not. Perhaps they had got themselves in a spot through silliness, and deserved no sympathy? Perhaps the spot was due, just a little, to their extreme anxiety to be fair to Richard. Richard himself said, what was obvious, that on the day he could not be selected. What did the selectors do? They selected Leach, Simons, Venner and A. N. Other. Richard was told: they had not power to promise his fare, but if he could get fit and show his true form before entry-closing date, and wished to go, he would at once receive nomination.  

Richard, with courage and sportsmanship, at once set about making a come-back. He made efforts to raise the fare. He ran round the Bois in Paris every morning. He entered every tournament he could the moment his music-hall show was over, and he won them both. But—it turned out that the entries must be made before the date these tournaments were held. The Selection Committee, however, knowing the effort he was making, had decided to nominate him even before the results were available.  

To be fair both to Richard and the Association, let the financial position be clearly understood. Richard had to take the responsibility. The selectors had no powers to vary their instructions received from the Executive Committee. Nor did the officers ever think him not worth his nomination. However, knowing the effort he was making, had decided to nominate him even before the results were available.  

I am anxious that this story should be known, because the question has been raised, not of course, in an ungracious way but in too simple a way. Selectors are always kicked. It is fun to kick them, and why not? But I am anxious that no one should woundfully hold the vileious thought that the Association has a grudge against Bergmann. He is a difficult person and does not try not to try. Well, that is his right. When he actually breaks a rule, he has to be kicked, because rules are bigger than people, and—especially when they are good rules—disregard of them can result in unhappiness to others. But, otherwise, he is an important contributor to our sport and even if he makes trouble, that is no reason not to go to trouble to set him as far as possible. Richard, for instance, also destroy the thought that a majority of selectors ever thought him not worth his place. They are dumb, perhaps, but not that dumb, and they are conscientious—the ablest among them might be superfluous to him, and fair to others. Did they make mistakes? Yes, of course, and cannot judge. But the result turned out well—because all were trying their utmost to be fair to and help each other. And I am not quite sure that the final good result was an accident. If we had not had the trial, it is at least possible Richard would not have been selected. The selectors did not hold the mischievous thought that Bergmann was from a New Match Venue Idea  

WHILE Liverpool has been holding committeematches round hospital beds Hull League have for some time been giving T.T. Exhibitions in their local hospital, where they have become very popular with both staff and patients. So much so, indeed, that a new high in benevolent enterprise was established on Dec. 6th when Hull staged its official inter-league match with Bradford actually in the hospital, before an audience which included a number of stretcher cases. Do a good deed and throw it in the way—it won't sink. A banquet to Hull . . . An all-night exhibition beneficent undertaking supplying T.T. tea to new match venues which might fairly be described as Operational Theatres . . .
"I was so excited..." said the Princess

**STARS**

of Sport, Stage, Screen, and World

love Table Tennis

**Memories of ALEC BROOK**

PART 2

Recently we played in a big London charity show. H.R.H. Princess Marie Louise was in one of the boxes. She afterwards sent for us to go to the Royal Box, saying, "It is a long time since I was so excited watching sport and I very nearly fell out of the box." A wonderful compliment which was much appreciated.

In South Africa I had the honour and pleasure of meeting the late Field Marshal Smuts at the House of Assembly. He told me that he enjoyed watching table tennis but was more interested in another table. When I asked which table, he replied "Table Mountain" and said he kept much of his fitness by walking up part of Table Mountain whenever he could.

Another exciting time was during the filming of the Royal Command film "A Matter of Life and Death." In the film, two people, Kim Hunter and Roger Livesey, must be able to play T.T. and keep a fairly long rally going. I was commissioned to coach them for the part and as the time they had available was somewhat limited, it took almost a month as neither had played previously. During that time, Raymond Massey and David Niven—who were also in the film—played quite a lot, and showed their keenness for the game.

To mention celebrities I have met I have to mention Fred Perry. I played in the same team as Fred for about three years, during which we were unbeaten for most of that time. Perry was a man who had more confidence than anyone I have ever known, yet how often was that confidence mistaken by the majority for conceit. I find many people cannot discriminate between faith in one's own ability or the inflated ego.

With stage and sport mixed together one meets celebrities in every walk of life. Space is short...

No. 812

**Autograph hunters bag a trio. Film star Hugh McDermott, Alec Brook and Victor Barna. Hugh McDermott has been policeman, sailor, lumberjack, golf pro. in America and Mexico, been mixed up in a Revolution, so still has time for T.T. His films include "The Young Mr. Pitt"; "Pinero SmOy"; "The Seventh Veil"; "No Orchids for Miss Blandish"; "The Huggets Abroad"; "Trent's Last Case," etc.**

Jessie Matthews auctioneering an autographed table tennis ball at one of our shows with the ball realising just over £60... Lord Leverhulme enjoying our game so much that he invited us to view the next Grand National from his private box...

A show for the Bolton Football disaster fund where so many stars appeared, it would have cost a fortune if each had been paid his salary...

Charlie Kunz, Ivy Benson, Victor and I judging a beauty contest and each differing in his opinion of the winner, and an exhibition we gave during the war for M.P.'s only.

**A Matter of Life and Death**

No. 813

David Niven interrupts Roger Livesey in the Table Tennis game from the first Royal Command Film "A Matter of Life and Death." Table Tennis was chosen—because of its high speed—to illustrate the theme of timelessness—Niven has a full adventure in the "In-Betweens" and cannot believe it has all happened during the single flight of a T.T. ball. Although Niven and others of the cast were T.T. players, Alec Brook tells how he was called in to coach Roger Livesey and Kim Hunter to ensure authenticity. (Produced in Technicolor by The ARCHERS; by Powell and Pressburger).

**CLAIMS DEPARTMENT**

S PARTAN CLUB (4th Div. Central London) won 160 of 162 league games played last season; 3 players gained 100% and the 4th (losing the 2 games) 95%. Can any affiliated team show a better record?

GLOUCESTER's team secretary Leslie Davis thinks they have the YOUNGEST SENIOR teams in the country. Western Counties League (Div. 1): B. Merrett 17, P. Smith about 19, R. Morley 16 and D. Woodcock 19, Shirley Davis 17, Mary Gubbins 17. AVERAGE AGE 18. Their Wilmott Cup team with M. Morgan 18) has an AVERAGE AGE of 17, and like their Rose Bowl team have reached the 3rd Round.
WHY Johnny and Daisy (Mrs. Leach) left London Airport on the 29th October and arrived at Vanna some while later to be welcomed by Dr. Konath. Then a good meal and some sleep. The England v. Austria (Women's) match was played the next day. The first stumbling block was that the umpiring was in German, but from the middle of the first game Johnny came and sat next to the umpire to help us out. Di lost the first set against Linde Wertl (-17, 16), but Rosanild beat both Wertl (17, 16) and Trudi Pritzi (-17, 11, 16) and we won 18, -15, -17, but Rosalind next to the umpire to help us out. The first stumbles were treated us wonderfully well.

On Saturday, November 3rd, we started out a 20-hour train journey to Belgrade. On the Tuesday, and it was a meal and straight into bed for us, with a cinema show in the evening. On Wednesday we played a young Yugoslav women's team, stage London v. Subotica, and won 5-0. There was a good crowd, which appreciated both appearance and play. Johnny played an exhibition singles with a local player which went down very well. Everyone was very nice in Subotica, which we left next day in the train for Belgrade. On the train, one of the Yugoslavs' produced a banjo and for 4 hours we lustily sang all the songs we knew; one of the pleasantest ways of spending a long train journey! Several officials of the Yugoslav Association met us at Belgrade and escorted us to our hotel, where we again caught up with Pritzi and Richard Bergmann. First a meal, then relaxation at the cinema again. (It seems to be generally known abroad that the English always dart into a cinema at every opportunity!)

On Friday, Richard and Ros played in the afternoon, and the England v. Yugoslavia international match was played in the evening. Richard won a very exciting match against Harangozo in the 5th game. Then Johnny—but not the Johnny that we know—lost 1-3 to Dolinar for the first time ever. Our boys lost the doubles 2-3 to Dolinar/Harangozo; then Johnny beat Harangozo 3-0. It was now about 1.30, and with the score at 2-all, we were in suspense about the last deciding tie, which to our great relief, Richard finally won 3-2, to give England a 3-2 victory. What a game that last one was!

The first shock in the Yugo Open (on Saturday) was Trudi Pritzi's coming out to another defensive player. There was some grievance about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some griping about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sorry for Trudi. All went well with us until Ros played. There was some gripe about time with this match and we felt more than sor
STOP PRESS — FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

A Special Meeting of the Sunday Freedom Association was held in London on Dec. 19, under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. M. Rose, representative of the T.T.A. Many national associations were represented, including the National Cyclists Union, Musicians Union, Concert Artists Association, and the Variety Artists Federation.

Mr. JOHN PARKER, M.P. (Healdon), announced that there had been an attempt to introduce, on January 30th, a Private Member's Bill designed to admit the anomalies and to repeal the anti-social laws which controlled what British people could and could not do on Sundays. Some of these laws dated from 1825 and many people thought quite innocently be convicted through doing something which was generally accepted.

It was made absolutely clear that it was not the intention of the Bill to licence abusive behaviour; it did not affect the Shops Acts nor the working hours of employees; it was in no way regulations; it did not more than permit other activities to claim equal rights with Sunday cinemas which in some areas were exempted from religious authority. In other words, it merely proposed to let every person have the right to vote on what should or could be permitted in their own area. It enabled every person to know exactly where they stood and gave them the right of letting them decide for themselves.

In some cases, it may be illegal to play Table Tennis or other sports on Sunday although some authorities can see much benefit in them to help counter modern youth delinquent trends. The passing of the Bill would still permit everyone to decide by local option. Many Members, on both sides of the House, have enthusiastically welcomed the very reasonable and much needed proposals.

The Sunday Freedom Association appeals to every individual to write to their local M.P. and say that you think the Bill is a good thing and hope he will support it. Do this now. It must reach your M.P. well before the end of this month.

AUSTRIAN TOUR

(Continuing previous page)

in a 5-set final battle, and together they beat Pritzi and Werti. Johnny Leach and Di beat Bergmann and Ros in the U.K. final, and Dolinar/Haran­
gozi beat Cafero/Vogrin 3-0 in the M.D.

With the finals over the great hall seemed suddenly extremely quiet; and, oh, so cold! On Monday, we played to an enormous crowd at Zagreb, and so to Vienna on Tuesday and on to London on Wednesday. It was a happy tour and everywhere we went, they always remarked how happy we all were, and always seemed to be laughing. Johnny and Daisy were full of laughs. They really are good and cheering company.

T.T. CUPS COMPETITIONS
Second Round Results

WILMOTT CUP (Men's)


J. M. ROSE BOWL (Women's)

Zone 1 — Northumberland 7 — Sanderland 3. Lincoln 2 — Shrewsbury 7.


TO many players and officials it may seem early to be talking about the 1954 World Championships (Wembley, April, 1954), but let us assure you that for over six months, considerable work has gone into preparing the structure of the Championships.

In June, 1952, a small committee was set up to carry on with all necessary functions. This committee consisted of:- Hon. I. Montagu (Chairman), Mr. A. K. Vint (Hon. General Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. G. R. Harrower (Hon. Organising Secretary, World Championships 1954), Mr. M. Goldstein and Mr. W. Stamp.

Even before that early date, however, you had been hearing a lot about "we must raise £4,000 to cover the loss". A Guarantee Fund was set up, and every club in membership of the Association has been invited to guarantee £1 against the anticipated loss. Each month we shall tell you of the Committee's schemes to raise money for the Guarantee Fund, but, before that, let us go into this question—indeed, the fundamental question—why should there be any loss at all? Why not a profit?

Many good supporters of the E.T.T.A., in conversations with members of the Committee, have brought home the point that with the increased popularity of the game even bigger audiences can be expected, and, therefore, why cannot we make a profit, instead of foreseeing this gigantic loss. Are we being too pessimistic?

What is not generally realised is that any National Association undertaking the organisation of a World Championships has to guarantee several things. From the financial standpoint, the important one is that WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HOSPITALITY (food, hotel, transport, etc.) OF ALL PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS FROM EVERY COUNTRY WHICH CARES TO TAKE PART.

Each country can send, and we must be responsible for, five men players, four women players, two non-playing captains, and two officials. Additionally, there are members of the International Federation Committee, who also will be our guests. We expect to entertain a minimum of 30 countries; probably the figure will be nearer 40, out of the 60 in membership with the International Federation. Certainly we shall see at least 300 players and officials as our guests.

The tournament itself will not last for nine days, and because transport from far parts of the world does not run every day we must allow between ten to fourteen days all told for each country. No need to labour the cost of food, hotel accommodation and transport in England today. One can safely assume that each guest will cost us a minimum of £25, and we expect at least 300. We would have to fill Wembley many times over to recoup that amount of money, let alone the other expenses.

That is why we wanted to know from our members, once a year ago, "Can you run the World Championships?". The answer was overwhelmingly in the affirmative. England leads the way in the organisation of Table Tennis, and it was felt that the immeasurable good that would be done for the cause, in drawing new players and supporters, and in increased publicity, would far outweigh the effort which would have to be put in by vast numbers of supporters to "pave the roads each".

Our only hope of covering all expenses is either by state subsidy or by our own efforts within the name. Unlike other countries, the former is not available to us, so we must concentrate on our own resources.

We do not expect, however, to sit back and wait for the guarantees to roll in. Each member would wish us to raise as much money as possible in other directions, and we have three main ways which it is hoped will help materially. Let us "let you in," briefly, on the first two of these.

Home Counties Tournament

It is planned to launch the World Championship season with a big Open Tournament, to be called the Home Counties Open Championships. This will be staged at the Polytechnic Extension, Little Titchfield Street, London, W.1, from the 31st August to the 5th September, 1953.

No need to extol the playing conditions at the Poly.: they are accepted as the best in the country. What we would like you to know is that it is possible to stage this tournament only by the generosity of the Polytechnic Authorities in giving us the use of their excellent facilities.

We are styling the Home Counties as "The Players' contribution to the World Championships 1954 Guarantee Fund". We hope that all players will support by entering. We are charging a little higher entry fee than usual, but we give you the best conditions and you will be helping the Guarantee Fund—of course, all proceeds will go to the Fund.

ENTRY FORMS ARE READY NOW. Because of the difficulty in gathering entries during the close season, there will be a substantial reduction in entry fees to early entries—apply today for a form from C. R. Harrower, 69, Gloucester Road, New Barnet, Herts.

in YOUR Club

However, it is realised that every player cannot possibly compete in the Home Counties, or the World, Championships.

In any case, there are some players who would not stand a chance of advancing beyond the first round. But those players are the backbone of the Association, and naturally we wish to entertain them. Therefore, from October to December, 1953, we shall be running tournaments in your own club. We hope that EVERY club will organise one or more competitions for the benefit of their members. This is the idea—every club will organise a tournament; they may be men's or women's singles, men's, women's or mixed doubles, handicap singles or doubles. In fact, any form of competition (or competitions), which the club committee feel will be most enjoyed by their members.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION WILL PRESENT TO EACH WINNER (winners in doubles) a Specially Designed and Engraved Plaque. This Plaque will have the English Badminton Federation logo incorporated in it. It will not by any means be a cheap plaque, and any player, be he International or beginner, will be proud to win one.

Just think of it. Nearly 8,000 clubs in this country, and all can run as many different competitions as they like. Each event brings a plaque or plaques to YOU and YOUR CLUB. Whether you belong to a very strong club with leading players, or one which figures at the bottom of the lowest division in your league, HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO TAKE PART IN A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL COMPETITION, and your best chance ever to win a prize. There will be more details next month, and every club in membership will receive, during February, full details.
DESPITE the Cream, the Duke and the House, there is no such place as Devonshire . . . there is only DEVON . . . unique, glorious DEVON . . . one of the oldest but progressive spheres of English Table Tennis. Its T.T. activity may not go back to the days

"When Adam and Eve were dispossessed of a Garden hard by Heaven. They planted another one down in the West, 'Twas Devon, Glorious Devon!"

and we are dubious that Plymouth sent its B team to meet the Armada's A, for records say Plymouth League was only founded in 1903. We like the one about Tom Pearce's Old Mare providing the team's transport for the Inter-League between S. Devon and Torbay and Newton Abott and can readily believe the sincerity with which convicts may volunteer to help the warders on their away fixtures!

Drake's spirit of courage and gallantry lives still in Devon. Isolated from strong centres they had to fight for entry into County Championships . . . and when there, fought so successfully they earned promotion! Even better, they earned universal tribute for their fine sportsmanship and hospitality.

H. G. Mitchelmore is President of county for both Lawn and Table Tennis; has his own Squash Court and an interest in Badminton. Chairman Harry Amery (N.E.C.) is one of the best known and loved men in Western T.T. He was playing for Exeter in 1923 and it is whispered that he can still beat some county players!

Devon is generous with her talent. They lost Dora Beregi to Australia; Betty Blackbourn and Ron Litten to South Africa, and so on. Betty, incidentally (now married and a chiropractor in Guildford), was born in New Zealand. Former Junior International Louis Devereux is in Hants. and Ron Giles (ex-Plymouth) is Norfolk's Umpire Sec. and Coach. Torquay's W. Rowe won the English Juniors in 1946-7, and Plymouth's E. C. Gunn won the Veteran's in 1925-6.

48 years are nothing to Lionel Kerslake who's been brought out of "retirement" again to lead the county team. First of his 6 county M.S. championships won over 20 years ago; won again last year. In 1937 was first Englishman to take game from Bergmann. Is now using sponge-faced bat which has brought him wins over Michael Thornhill and Roy Turner.

International Mrs. Joan Crosby has not lately been available but another

(continued on page 24, col. 3)
**THIS TEST IS WORTH A TRIAL**

For the more imaginative and courageous organisers in England

HALF of the season is over and an interesting feature of it is that with the exception of Richard Bergmann and Aubrey Simons, nobody has won more than one tournament. Actually, results have been so topsy-turvy, that it is extremely difficult to make head or tail of them, with the result that the question so frequently asked by Table Tennis players produces all sorts of answers.

Although I have a fair idea what I would do, I think it would be premature and unfair to express an opinion at this stage. Besides, I prefer to mind my own business!

How does it come about that many other countries—with much shorter fixture lists than ours—seem to know the result that the question so frequently asked by Table Tennis players I would do, I think it would be premature at this stage. Besides, I prefer to mind my own business. In November's Table Tennis Club, Mr. Weiner expressed concern over an aspect of the Grading Scheme and in a frank and friendly way suggested what he thought might be an improvement. Although Mr. Weiner's assumptions did not coincide with the facts as the Grading Committee, it was, of course, examined. Meanwhile, I hoped that many readers would send us their views and experiences (for against or even related to the Scheme but—most unusual—we did not receive a single comment! The facts are to date. From our experience of the development of the game in the immediate post-war years we realised that Open Tournaments were becoming increasingly popular and there was a real danger of entries being rejected on a large scale unless we legislated for the future. It will be realised that

the merits of your players, you do not need to bother about trials.

I believe that one reason (probably the main one) why other countries can assess their ranking without much difficulty is that they have a number of tournaments in which the finals are decided on the Round Robin principle; with everybody playing everybody else.

In central Europe, a Round Robin between, say, eight players (28 matches) is nothing out of the ordinary and some of their big National Championships are also decided in this way.

Now, I am quite familiar with the situation over here and I recognise that the organising of open tournaments with a Round Robin final can present certain difficulties. The majority of our open tournaments attract a very big entry; consequently organisers are happy if they can finish their tournaments in time without complicating the schedule by having to put on extra Round Robin matches with possible replays resulting from dead-heats.

However, some of the more imaginative and courageous organisers may yet treat us and the public to something new and interesting.

For example, there is no reason why two tables should not be used for the final session. After all, even at Wembley, the Friday night finals are played on two tables and if this is good enough for the National Championships, surely no other tournament committee should be ashamed to follow suit.

Anyhow, if the Round Robin applies to the last four players, it would mean 6 matches in all, instead of 2 semi-finals and a final—an addition of only 3 matches. The programme could commence 15 minutes earlier and play-offs eliminated by making a decision on the best average of wins to losses of games, or even of points.

Something new is not necessarily good—but that there is anything new (except in England) about the Round Robin system. Your say, I expected many tournaments of this kind and I firmly believe that its adoption here would be well worth a good trial.

It would certainly add greatly to the general interest, and would benefit the game into the bargain.

VICTOR BARNA.

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**THERE ARE NO "CLOSED SHOPS" IN OPEN TOURNAMENTS**

In November's Table Tennis Club, Mr. Weiner expressed concern over an aspect of the Grading Scheme and in a frank and friendly way suggested what he thought might be an improvement. Although Mr. Weiner's assumptions did not coincide with the facts as the Grading Committee, it was, of course, examined. Meanwhile, I hoped that many readers would send us their views and experiences (for against or even related to the Scheme but—most unusual—we did not receive a single comment! The facts are to date. From our experience of the development of the game in the immediate post-war years we realised that Open Tournaments were becoming increasingly popular and there was a real danger of entries being rejected on a large scale unless we legislated for the future. It will be realised that

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VICTOR BARNA.
Pride of Wales

No. 520

Peter Madge, 16-year-old SHIRLEY JONES from Llanelly has brought something of the zestful punch of Welsh rugger to Table Tennis. Already Welsh Junior Champion and a Junior International she has just won her Senior International badge (while still a junior) in play swift but successful raids on our open tournaments. They're just about made themselves Welsh Junior Champion and a Junior International and prizes. They've just about made themselves an enterprising force to-day who are making into attack like a Spitfire with all guns blazing. The Welsh Secretary Nancy Evans had a world ranking record that's still going to take some

THREE MEN IN A BOAT - T.T.

WHEN the S.S. Hindustan sails the seven seas she carries her Table Tennis room wherever she goes, cramped perhaps for room but in constant use. The "Three Musketeers" that make the ship's T.T. Team are 3 Chinese "penholder" players who emanated from Hong Kong's famous Sunlight T.T.C. They are Lee Ming (27), Wong Chee and Leung Keung (both 25). They practice whenever possible while at sea, and when coming into port their first thought is to fix one or more matches with local teams. When the Hindustan last month entered West Hartlepool for repairs the Hindustan pouters were in for a "smashing" time with the hospitable local T.T. fraternity whom—despite tight games—the Chinese T.T.-Tars have so far been unable to beat.

THERE are 700 sports clubs on ships of Norway's Mercantile Marine, and the Norwegian T.C.A. are trying to run Inter-Ship matches which will be played when ships meet in port, teams of 4 playing 4 singles. They hope that short visits in ports that have facilities will cooperate in staging such matches.

NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

COUNTY DIARY

PREMIER DIVISION

Sat., 16th Jan. — Yorkshire v. Devon, Teppos Hall, Princess Street, Huddersfield. 7.00.


Sat., 24th Jan. — Gloucestershire v. Essex, Batho, Gloucester. 7.00.


SECOND DIVISION

SOUTH


Sat., 17th Jan. — Middlesex v. Sussex, Sperry's, Great West Road, Brentford. 7.00.

Sat., 17th Jan. — Glouconopai v. Essex. 7.00.

Sat., 17th Jan. — Warwickshire v. Cambridgeshire, Nuneaton. 7.00.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Sat., 16th Jan. — Warwickshire v. Yorkshire. 7.00.


SOUTHERN DIVISION

Sat., 16th Jan. — Kent v. Hampshire, County Police H.Q., Sutton Road, Maidstone. 7.00.

Fri., 16th Jan. — Berkshire v. Buckinghamshire, All Saints Hall, Reading. 7.00.

EASTERN DIVISION


MIDLAND DIVISION

Sat., 16th Jan. — Worcestershire v. Staffordshire, Methodist School Room, Mill Street, Kidderminster. 7.15.

Sat., 17th Jan. — Northamptonshire v. Leicestershire, Westgate Hall, Peterborough. 7.00.

Fri., 16th Jan. — Warwickshire v. Worcestershire. 7.00.

NORTHERN DIVISION

Sat., 17th Jan. — Derby v. Cumberland. 7.00.


JUNIOR DIVISION "A"


Sat., 17th Jan. — Sussex v. Kent, Courtholm, Town Hall, Worthing. 7.00.

Sat., 17th Jan. — Essex v. Essex, Clacton Youth Club, Bexnet. 7.00.

JUNIOR DIVISION "B"

Sat., 16th Jan. — Hertfordshire v. Bedfordshire, Dunlop Hubbell, Cottam. 7.00.

Sat., 16th Jan. — Norfolk v. Norfolk, County Police H.Q., Sutton Road, Maidstone. 7.00.

Sat., 16th Jan. — Hertfordshire v. Bedfordshire, Dunlop Hubbell, Cottam. 7.00.

A BROTHER FOR SUSAN

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. CORTI WOODCOCK (Essex County Chairman and 3 times past Chairman, E.T.T.A.) on fathering a bonny baby boy on November 6th, 1952. The new arrival is to be christened "Charles Corl". One of the most excited members of the family was his young sister Susan who, being away at prep. school, had to wait until end-of-term before she could see her brother. Susan has already distinguished herself as a scholar/sportswoman and with such a family it’s a safe prophecy that Charles Corl will take his place in the sporting world of the future.

All Manchester —

is delighted at the selection of GEOFFREY PULLAR for the Junior Tour of Sweden. On present form he has few, if any, equals. He plays for Lytham House, a leading club, whose members include the energetic league secretary LESTER JONES, whose kindly interest and watchful eye should do much to benefit golf's cause and the soul in which he plays it.

FRANK GEE
Central London Open

Details on Page 14, col. 2

Here was a battleground to be remembered, my masters, for the stars were as thick as on the American banner, and many eager unknown ambitions had cause to surge at the thought of a worthy "scalp." Conflicts were fierce, mordant, and sometimes dazzling when someone let fall early to Eric Filby 18, -11, 9. Dorking, lost to Norton. Carrington Rare-comer E. Bubley just pipped off a whole box of fireworks .. Rhodeswhelmed J. Lowe, while Burridge,' (withf)'without' and H. Venner-from his path 'to the final

D. Miller's hopes for a "Burton" and thereby his "obit." thoughtfully and then (with any­
livelier bite in his play

hangs a tale, for newspavers changed the "D"

Uraigie. 

opponent!) attack. Tony has been

and a terrific match with Aubrey Simons who

more of some in next issue ... PETER

Venerable (alias

Reports in our next issue.

Team would be fair (instead

of £ 1

concern the World Championships

has sent a donation of ON £1000 for thl'

and feels sure that .. .veryone in Eng­

the money by a Penny-in-the-box, and the

first vayment has already been made to

Any T.T. Clubs HERE ?

ARE there any T.T. Clubs in the following area? One or two are very keen on playing friendly matches with this season with the idea of forming a League next season. Write to The Editor.

District : Pinner, Eastcote, Ruislip, Rickmansworth, Manor Hatch End, Rayners Lane, South Harrow, North Harrow, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Wealdstone, Kenton, Northwood, Northolt.

Czechoslovakia

Czech. Industry Prize, Prague, Oct. 12th, 1952

Prelims: Star bt. Vase 21, Andreasen bt. Gona 2, Taborsky bt. Tercha 21, Stipiek bt. Vyhnanovska 20. The final play-off (all-play-all) resulted in the following:


Other results:—


M.S. Prelims: Star bt. Stipek 20, 21. Plasings:

1. ANDREASSEN bt. 2, 3, 4; 2. Vase bt. 21; 3. Star bt. 41; 4. Tercha (bt. Vase);

W.S. HIRUNOVA bt. Vyhnanovska 2, 1.

Post Script for Page 11

"I should like to make it quite clear that my article was intended to be neither an attack on the E.T.T.A. nor upon the Grading Scheme. The ONLY thing that I feel is wrong is that amateur players have prefer­ential treatment; I do not think they should. I am sure that my constructive criticisms have been received in the same friendly spirit in which they were written.

A. "Cliff" Weiner.

Medals of the Month

TWO heart-warming messages that take the Medals of the Month, both concern the World Championships 1952 Guarantee Fund:

1. Miss pauline Robinson of New York (in top U.S.A. player born in England) has sent a donation of ONE POUND for the Fund and feels sure that "everyone in Eng­

land will be glad to rally round." 2. Sec. of SLOUGH C. Centre T.T.C., Mr. Frank Dunhill, writes that as a way­

what better wish than to give a contribution of £1, 1936 TEAM would be fair (instead of £1, a club asked for). They are raising the money by a Penny-in-the-box, and the first payment has already been made to E.T.T.A., and..." we shall not stop at £4." writes Mr. Dunhill, but will carry on.

National Coaching Scheme

Hon. Director of Coaching:

Jack Carrington

The first 3 official and the "overflow" Courses were over-subscribed. Reports in our next issue.

Feb. 27th—Mar. 1st. E.T.T.A. NORTHERN COURSE. Week-end Coaching. Annexes, Royal Conference Hall, HARROGATE. First class ac­

commodation. 35/-.

Aug. 15th—21st. E.T.T.A. SUMMER HOLIDAY COURSE. National Recreation Centre, LILLES­

HALL. Early application should be made direct to the Admin. Sec. E.T.T.A.

Wilmott Cup—Round 3


DURHAM 5—STAINES 7—N. Middlesex 2. Southampton 2—BOURNE­


J M. Rose Bowl—Round 3


Bournemouth Open

Bournemouth, 20th Nov., 1952


ney 1—2. 3: 4. X.D. Smith/M. RODDA bt. B. Townsley 1, 2, 1. T. WOOLLEY bt. E. Townsley 1—2, 1, 2. 3. 4. 5. Mrs. G. Smith 18, —17, 18.


Late News—Junior Page

From Peter Mudge

English Junior team for the Swedish tour (leaving Dec. 30th) is G. PULLAR (Lancs.), D. HOUSE (Somerset) and R. DORKING (Essex) n.p.c. LEO THOMP­

SON. Reserves: R. Morley (Glos.), and J. Inger (Lancs.). Tommy Sears is unable to accompany the team and his experience will be missed. Leo Thompson has a keen interest in juniors and the boys will not lack sound advice and good companion­ship. Bon voyage: good hunting!
WAR bombs and blast blew: somehow there are no com- ning. THERE SHOULD BE still can. It seems a monumental task— sending me your "bits" and what help EARNESTLY APPEAL and will b following kind—

INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS. (Who’s Who). I hope that many past and present players (Men, Women and Juniors) who have represented England will send me the following particulars of themselves, and I shall be most grateful for any information about players with whom we have lost touch, their present whereabouts, etc.: Full names, Date of birth, Birthplace, Address. Club and League played for. Profession. Married (change of name). Family. Physical description, height, complexion, hair, etc.). A photo, head and shoulders, preferably postcard size.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES. While I have the results of most war International matches, I want the details (scores and names of opponents) of a great many. I have no record of any war-time internationals and want confirmation details of matches played between 1939-40 and 1946. Copy-particulars will do, but original scored programmes can be returned within 10 to 14 days.

Send to LESLIE S. WOOLLARD, 12, Campbell Road, BEDFORD.
NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by GEOFF. HARROWER

BEST PERFORMANCE YET

At their fifth attempt Middlesex, for the first time, held the Rest of England team to a draw, when the match was played in the magnificent Cheltenham Town Hall before a large crowd, including a number of local celebrities.

Whilst it is true that Johnny Leach was not playing for the Rest, against that it must be remembered that they were strengthened by the inclusion of the Welsh girls. In fact, Middlesex would have won but for our friends over the border.

The match was often an exciting one, and spectators got good value for money, yet play was seldom of a high order. I think this was because all the players were out to win. A typical example was the first match, between Alan Rhodes (Midddx.) and Harry Kennedy, in the most exciting match played in the magnificent Chel­

Middlesex reduced this margin to 2-3 the first time, held the Rest of Eng­

Middlesex's undoing. The National team to a draw, when the match was not playing for the Rest, against they would have won but for our friends over the border.

It was the first match after the interval, however, which proved Middlesex's undoing. The National County Selectors had been roundly criticised for picking an allegedly out of form Audrey Bates, but you better not mention "out of form" to Diane Rowe! Audrey hit and counter-hit magnificently to all parts of the table, and was a clear winner.

In previous years Middlesex were always ready to fall away at the end and just lose—now they found themselves 2-2 down, and the boot was on the other foot, for the next three matches went their way. The mixed doubles was expected, but Alan Rhodes, in getting the better of Brian Kennedy, in the most exciting match of the evening, and Len Adams, in ousting Harry Venner, provided something of a surprise.

Michael Thornhill did well to take a game from Simons in the final tie, but the result was never really in doubt, and, on reflection, a draw was a fair result (scores on page 21).

PREMIER DIVISION

Only three matches played this month, but what a hearing on the title! Looking back over the six years since the Championships were first played, I cannot remember a more surprising result than the one this year. The.history seen, so did Aubrey Simons, and the Rest took a commanding 3-love lead. The failure of the three Surrey men outlasting Harry Venner, provided something of a surprise. But Alan Rhodes and Michael Thornhill, and to Stan Jones for again beating Harry Venner. Betty Gray got the better of Joyce Roberts in two close games, whilst the new International pairing of Shirley Jones and Vera Rowe proved too good for Joyce Roberts and Jean Winn.

Middlesex had a somewhat fortunate win over Gloucestershire—fortu­nate in as much as they found Brian Merrett badly off form. Three days later he was to startle the T.T. world with his performances in the Welsh Open, but against the Champions he just could not find his touch, and lost to both Alan Rhodes and Michael Thornhill. Bob Griffin played splendidly to beat Len Adams, and only just lost to Rhodes at 20-22 in the third game. Aubrey Simons got his usual two with no trouble.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Essex, with a strong all-round team of Roxy Stevens, Pat Pudney, Alan Payne, Elsie Carrington and Barbara Milbank, had little difficulty in disposing of Cambridgeshire, only Thurston, who got to 20-all in the third with Payne, putting up any resistance. The February match between Essex and Middlesex should decide the title, with Essex now the favourites. One thing may stop them, and that is if the County selectors decide to promote one or more players to the Premier team.

Warwickshire came back to form with a decisive win over Glamorgan, but they will have to continue in this form if they are to get ahead of Sussex and win back their place in the Premier Division. These two counties do not meet until the 7th March, and probably will win everything that depend on that encounter.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

There seems no reasonable doubt that Lancashire will regain their place in the Premier Division—a convincing win over Cheshire leaves them in a most satisfactory position. It is not­ able that two younger players, Ronnie Baker and Cliff Booth, have gained regular places in the Lancs. team, and it is hoped that these players will be included when Premier Division status is regained.

Yorkshire had little difficulty in boot­ing Northumberland, but Philomena Hepwell gained another good win for Northumberland when she scored over Miss J. Byrom.

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Page Fifteen
SOUTHERN DIVISION
Kent marched further towards their first senior title with another big win, this time over the luckless Bucks. 2nd team, who are buying their experience the hard way. Hampshire seemed destined to take second place, and they secured a good win over Berkshire, for whom only Wise scored. Berks. were moment as a reserve, and won both his singles and helped in the mixed doubles success.

Buckinghamshire 1, Kent 9
Hampshire 8, Berkshire 2
Kent 4 4 0 0 36 4 8
Hampshire 4 3 0 1 26 14 6
Berkshire 4 1 0 3 12 27 2
Berkshire 4 0 0 4 5 20 0

MIDLAND DIVISION

Pride of place this month must be given to the struggling Derbyshire side, usually to be found around the foot of the division, for securing a magnificent 6-4 win over Warwickshire, undefeated winners last season and strong favourites this. Although it is true that Warwickshire did not have their best side out, the county secured a good win over Berkshire, for their win Derby had mainly to thank the Misses Walker and Bannister and A. T. Bird. Bird won both his singles, the only Derby player to score in the men's events, and his final match with S. Higginson, on which everything depended, was a real thriller. Higginson took the first at 13, dropped the second at 9, but then led 11-3 in the decider, and Warwickshire seemed safe to save a point. Bird, however, thought otherwise, and with an amazing run of 18 points against his opponent's 5, ran out a deserved winner 21-16.

Worcestershire, newcomers to the championships, tie for the leading position, and I know that all readers will join me in congratulating them. However, they have still to play their co-leaders, Staffordshire and Warwickshire, and as Staffs. have also to meet Warwicks., it would be foolhardy to predict the eventual champions.

Leicestershire 4, Staffordshire 6
Staffordshire 7, Northamptonshire 3
Leicestershire 4, Worcestershire 6
Derbyshire 6, Warwickshire 4
Worcestershire 3 3 0 0 10 11 6
Staffordshire 3 3 0 0 19 11 6
Warwickshire 3 2 0 1 18 12 4
Derbyshire 3 1 0 2 13 17 2
Leicestershire 3 0 0 3 12 18 6
Northamptonshire 3 0 0 2 9 21 0

EASTERN DIVISION

There seems no reasonable doubt that Bedfordshire will win this division. Any doubts were dispelled when they beat Hertfordshire by 8-2 in the return match. Herts. were unfortunate that Glyn Bebb was unable to play at the last moment, I feel he would have helped the result to be closer, but no doubt Beds. would still have won. Ironmonger and Holroyd won both their singles for Beds., but Betty Carter unexpectedly went down to Peggy Cubitt, 19-21, 19-21, a fine performance by the St. Albans girl making her first appearance in the County team this season.

Suffolk jumped into second place with two good wins, over Cambridge-shire and Norfolk, but are too far behind to be serious challengers.

Suffolk 5, Norfolk 5
Bedfordshire 8, Hertfordshire 2
Suffolk 6, Cambridgeshire 2
Norfolk 2, Suffolk 8
Bedfordshire 5 5 0 0 38 12 10
Suffolk 5 3 1 2 28 24 5
Hertfordshire 1 2 0 2 19 21 4
Norfolk 1 5 0 3 17 27 1
Cambridgeshire 2 0 0 2 4 16 0

JUNIOR "A" DIVISION

It would be impossible to suggest a closer competition than is being enjoyed in this section. With six matches played two have resulted in draws and the other four have all finished at 6-4! In fact Kent, in the very unusual position of bottom, without a point, can still win the division.

Essex will be handicapped by having to play their next two matches without Docking, but they will not grudge him his trip to Sweden with the English Junior team. Nevertheless Essex would be strong favourites if they only had two girls who could compete on level terms with the other counties. My fave is Surrey, who seem the strongest all-round side.

Kent 4, Sussex 5
Essex 5, Surrey 6
Sussex 3 2 1 0 17 13 5
Surrey 3 1 1 0 16 14 4
Essex 3 1 1 1 15 13 3
Kent 3 0 0 3 12 18 0

JUNIOR "B" DIVISION

Competition is not so close in this section, and it seems certain that Middlesex will oppose the winners of section "A" in the title decider. They strengthened their position at the expense of Hertfordshire. Cambridgeshire put up an improved show against Bedfordshire, and secured their first tie this season. G. Walters was their star, and his two straight wins over R. Gill was the highlight of the evening.

Bedfordshire 5, Nottinghamshire 5
Cambridgeshire 3, Hertfordshire 2
Middlesex 3, Bedfordshire 2
Middlesex 4 4 0 0 33 7 8
Bedfordshire 4 2 1 1 25 15 5
Nottinghamshire 3 1 0 2 26 10 4
Hertfordshire 3 0 1 2 20 5 1
Cambridgeshire 4 0 0 1 5 37 0

(Advertisement)

JACQUES 1ST TOURNAMENT TABLE, EXCELLENT CONDITION 522 OR NEAR OFFER APPLY HON. SEC. BARNET T.T.C. 25A GREENHILL PARADE, NEW BARNET, HERTS.
REPORT FROM HUNGARY

By FERENC GYORGY

WHEN Koczian was unable to participate in the country championships at Debrecen, the 200 pound giant Sido with the powerful hit became a "certainty" for the title, but there was no reckoning for a dynamic Gyetvai who, in a marvellous display of all out hitting of a standard rarely seen, put a perplexed Sido out in the final with an easy and amazing superiority. This Gyetvai is a strange player. He has no defence, so he attacks EVERY ball, and he has perfected a kind of machine-gun forehand-backhand drive that makes very few mistakes. For example, in the rubbered Gyetvai hit 97 out of a 100 drives on to the table! But as an illustration of the amazing defence perfection of Koczian (in the team championships) Gyetvai did not score more than 4 points out of those 97 drives. Yet although Koczian won the first game and put up a dazzling and acrobatic defence, he was "shot off" the table by the fierce accuracy of Gyetvai in the next two games. Koczian then beat Sido in a match of fierce counter-attacks.

Probably the biggest sensation of the season, however, occurred in the team championships of Greater Budapest (covering 22 districts), with teams of 3 playing the best of 5 matches. The District 6 Women's team of Gizi Farkas, Rozzi Karpati and Mezei (unbeaten for 6 years) were defeated by the "Wonder-girl" team of Mergo from District 8, to a score of 3-3; Farkas was the only one to win all her matches. The Mergo team comprised Suzy Fantusz, Eve Koczian and Loretta Gyorgy.

The men's team competition also provided a surprise when it was won by the team of Jozko Farkas, Naposi and Varkonyi pushed the highest ranking one of Gyetvai, Sido and Sebok.

Hungarian Champions on "The Sponge Bat" . . .

THE Hungarian Team claims to have no fear of the Sponge Bat. Comments of the top players were (writes Ferenc Gyorgy):

Elmer Gyetvai: "There is no need to ban sponge bats because players using rubber-covered bats can beat them quite decisively as Bergmann and Leach proved by their recent victories in Japan. When the Japs see the superiority of the rubbered bat, sponge will die a natural death as a bat covering and be found only in the bathroom.

Josef Koczian: "Although we have no fear of the Japanese or the Hong Kong players, I think that the Sponge Bat should be prohibited, because I think that the rule which says 'any material' is now rather out-of-date. Now Table Tennis has become a real Sport.

Ferenc Sido: "The Japs are very good Table Tennis players, but we are good T.T. players too, and should be able to hold our own whatever they play with, only we must know how. If Bergmann and Leach can learn, other top players can learn also. No need to prohibit the bat; it will just vanish. The Japs are only dangerous for the Czechs who were not in Bombay.

Laci Varkonyi (Official Coach): "I am convinced that the Sponge Bat will never make a tabula rasa in world table tennis . . . it was the surprise element which won at Bombay, yet I do believe that a quiet player with a tennis - preferably trick stuff. He must be able to hold our own whatever they play with, only we must know how. If Bergmann and Leach can learn, other top players can learn also. No need to prohibit the bat; it will just vanish. The Japs are only dangerous for the Czechs who were not in Bombay."

October's article on the Varkonyi father-and-son partnership brings news of other combinations. Latest is father-daughter, Adrian Haydon and Ann, the brilliant 14-year-old. In Gloucester, hard-hitting Mrs. M. Dowding combines with 21-year-old son Alan, soon to join the R.A.F. Both started from scratch about 10 years ago. Romford's well-known S. H. Sugarhood (English Veteran Champion 1948-9 and 1949-50) combines both with 17-year-old son Norman, and 14-year-old schoolgirl Rita who has already earned her place in the Essex junior team.

Thurswood Club C in the Grimsby League have at last broken the ice. They recently won their first league match for 5 years.

Norman Wilding's first title of the season was the M.S. of the Central Bournemouth Saturday tournament. He then partnered Eileen Gilbert (who won the W.S.) to win the X.D.

vicente Gutierrez, 29-year-old Chilean star with the Impossible Shots, recently said that his ambition was to marry an English girl who plays table tennis — probably a junior player. He smiled when he said it. Was there a twinkle in his eye?
FRIEDAY THE 26th
By R. D. I. CHARLESWORTH

A CAUTIONARY TALE

In the team knock-out competition we had been drawn to play Blagstone St. Mary’s, and I duly received a postcard from them saying that the fixture would be held at 7.30 p.m. start. Would that be O.K.? We decided it would, despite the fact that Blagstone was some 37 miles away.

It was a 5-a-side match (as against the 4-a-side system played in our League). That meant bringing in another player. Looking at the County Handbook, however, we found some solace and satisfaction that Blagstone St. Mary’s had achieved the distinction of being bottom of the division last season. With a side of our experience-well! So we all felt unanimously that Bert Sharples should be our No.5.

Bert was no tennis player, mark you. His style at the best had some solace and satisfaction that Blagstone St. Mary’s ... he possessed a car. Bert’s car was not a recent model. His style at the best had some solace and satisfaction that Blagstone St. Mary’s ... he possessed a car.

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MONTHS TOP SHOW NIGHTS
Details of the following tournaments have been given in previous issues. Here are the dates of the Finals and the Venues.

Jan. 3. Dorset Open, Sidney Hall, Weymouth.
Jan. 24. N.W. Kent Open, Barnehurst Residents’ Club, Parkside Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.
Jan. 23. ENGLAND v. IRELAND, Mixed: International Match, Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool.

QUEBEC RANKINGS:

ROUND THE WORLD
U.S.A. BEAT CAMBODIA THRICE
AT Phnom-Penh, the U.S.A. team of D. Cartland and M. Reisman beat Cambodia 4-1 in 2 successive matches on March 27-29th. Total sets won by U.S.A. were 12, lost 3 sets. Games: for 41, against 22. The 3 sets were won by Cambodia by Tran-Ngoc-Chan and Tam-Var over Reisman 3-1 and 3-2 respectively, and Chan-Ngoc-Tan beat Cartland 3-0.

CAMBODIA beat Viet-Nam 4-1 in an international match at Phnom-Penh on August 19th. Tran-Ngoc-Chan and Tam-Var over Reisman 3-1 and 3-2 respectively, and Chan-Ngoc-Tan beat Cartland 3-0.

FRANCE, beat Sweden 5-1 at Stockholm on October 24th. Tarczynski was the star player winning all his 5 sets, beating Hammarberg (12). — 12, 11; Geston (32, 14), and Lanskoy (18, 19). Paterson and Hlumeland completed the Swedish team.

AFRICA having had a quick win over Humboldt at Leeds early in the year, the Swedes champion Umbertti won in splendid form in recently leading the Swiss team (Mayer de Stadlerhod and Verzian) to a 5-3 victory over Belgium (Roland, Dreyfus and Dompierre). Umbertti won all his matches. Switzerland subsequently defeated Luxembourg 5-1.

The T.T. Association of the Shanghai area is reported to have 10,000 members.

Page Twenty
**KENT JUNIOR OPEN**

Gillingham, 30th Nov., 1952


**MILES FAILS TO MAKE USA TEAM**

By PAULINE ROBINSON

BIGGEST late news in the U.S.A. is the Inter-cities or National Team Championships which are always held whether we are able to send a team or not. Each city has a "try-out" and sends its top 3-5 to the Big Show where a full round-robin of each team is played; best 5 of 9 sets decides the match. SURPRISE of New York's try-outs was the failure of Dick Miles to make the team. He tied for 4th place with junior star Bob Gusikoff. New York's team was Somael, Pinner and Hirschkowitz. Nine teams played: New York (placed 1st), Chicago (2nd), and Detroit, Indiana, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Washington, St. Louis, and New England. BERNARD BUKIET (ex-Munich and now Chicago) came out top in individual standings with 10 wins and no losses. No. 2, Tibor Hazi (Washington) 16 and 2. No. 3, Johnny Somael (New York) with 15 and 2. The Swaythling Cup team would probably have been Hazi, Somael and Holzrichter.

Women's matches are run a little differently. The Eastern girls play a round-robin and select the top four; Western girls do the same; then the 8 girls play another round-robin at the inter-cities. The Corbillon Cup team would have been selected from the following standings: 1. Leah Neuberger 7-0. 2. Pauline Robinson 5-2 (lost 1, 6). 3. Peggy Ichkoff 4-3 (lost 1, 2, 5). 4. Sally Green Prouty (lost 1, 2, 3). 5. Sharon Koecukne (lost 1, 2, 4). 6. Mildred Shaihan (lost 1, 3, 4, 5). 7. Carolee Litchy 1-6. 8. Sharline Kritzman 0-7.

The last two little girls, aged respectively 15 and 12, filled in at the last minute by a Pauline Robinson, who appears to have earned her way amongst the stars. Tibor Hazi and myself were honoured with the "Outstanding Player," awards and it was a wonderful thrill to share such a distinction with such an all-time star like Tibor.

It was a 21-hour car journey to South Bend from New York, but it was worth it. It was an excellent tournament. Biggest laugh of the Team matches was the defeat of a good mine players by a Sopha Man from Ohio—Dr. Richard Puls. He had the bat working well (NOT pen-hold) and was placed 7th with wins which included Pinner, Ferris and Hirschkowitz among his victims. This was the first time that most of us had seen the Sopha racket in action.

Peggy McLean Folke is playing again and expects to compete later this season. Former Corbillon Cup star Emily Fuller is getting married at Christmas time. . . . Mel Rut Aarons last week. She is now a slim, attractive theatrical agent and doesn't look a day older than when she was World Champion.

Pauline Robinson.
Sheila Takes the Cake

Sheila Tal(·es the Cake

SHEILA BAKER cuts the cake at her 21st birthday celebrations.

Note that cake: one-half is decorated as a Lawn Tennis and the other half as a Table Tennis court. Simplicity is that Sheila has won the Horsham, Sussex, T.T. Championship 4 times and the Lawn Tennis Championship twice. Her game is characterised by some- realy hard-hitting, and as her tactical know­

A TIER FOR DOUBLES

Meanwhile, in Liverpool, Peter Short and
drews. Nos. 3, 4 and 5, No. 5 beat
beat 3-No. 4 beat 7-No. 6 beat
beat No. 3, No. 5, No. 5 beat
beat No. 3, No. 6, No. 3 beat

The Star, 28th November.
SPOTLIGHT
ON YOUTH

focused by

PETER MADGE
who also took the photos

ENGLISH JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL TRIALS
Gillingham, 29th Nov., 1952

THE immediate purpose of the Trials was to assist the Selectors in choosing a team of 3 boys to tour Sweden this month and some junior representatives for the French Championships.

Some 4 hours play showed that 5 boys were in a class by themselves: Ray Dorking (Essex), David House (Bath), Jeff Ingber and Geoff Pullar (Lancs.), and Tony Morley (Gloucs.).

I feel the team for Sweden can hardly fail to include House and Pullar. There is little to choose between the other three . . . if anything anything already had one trip to Sweden may have to make way for Dorking or Morley. Dorking seems the more consistent and likely to succeed against a wider range of players than Morley, who, though having a crisp and attractive attacking game has a greater tendency to fluctuation of form.

Some results of the "Big Five" were:

HOUSE bt. Dorking 17, 19; bt. Inger 18, 19, 8; bt. Pullar 18, 19; bt. Morley 19, 19.

Dorking bt. House 18, 18; bt. Pullar 17, 18, 18; bt. Morley 17, 19, 22.


Other Results on Page 21

JUST MIST

On winning at the Central London Oven during an evening of The Great Fog. Referees: Geoff. James had to send out search parties to find what was happening on the 3 tables which had become totally obscured at the other end of the hall. Certain unscrupulous gentlemen took advantage of the situation and (when the umpire momentarily disappeared from view) they emulated British Railways and operated a Fog Service. No praise is too high for a Tournament Committee who hung red lamps on the corners of the tables for the benefit of long-range defenders.

PEACE ON EARTH . . .

A Christmas message which arrived too late for December publication came from BILLY KNIGHT, safely away in Australia. He writes with bared teeth and asks me to give his best wishes to all juniors and to assure them that if he had time he would come home and beat them all up "something horrible"!! Is this your "goodwill to all men" carol for Christmas, Billy? Sounds as though it must be from a not so Silent Knight!

SOUTH LONDON OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS
FINALS—SATURDAY 17th JANUARY, 7.15 p.m.
CLAPHAM MANOR STREET BATHS
(2 minutes from Clapham Common Tube, Northern Line)

ENTRANTS INCLUDE THE WINNERS OF EVERY SOUTHERN SINGLES TITLE THIS SEASON

TICKETS: 7/6; 5/-; 3/- (Res.) and 2/- (Unres. and rover) from G. Coulthread, 20a, High Street, S.W.17, or on the door

ADDED ATTRACTION
A display of WHIFF WHAFF—Table Tennis as played in 1901 using the original Vellum battledores, etc.—will be given by leading players . . . This is your only chance to see this fascinating glimpse of the beginnings of Table Tennis . . . so don't miss it!
This Way to Limit Knocking
Reverting to John Hurlock, December Table Tennis.

IN Exeter, our capable Referee, Mr. A. W. Bridle, has an effective method for controlling "Knocking" on free tournament tables: A piece of stout card about 10 x 8" is cut for each table, each card being labelled with the Table Number. All of these cards start on the Referee's table. When the Referee issues a Score Card to an umpire he attaches it to one of the large Table Cards which also clearly tells the umpire on which table the match is to be played. When the match is over, the umpire returns the Score Card TOGETHER with the large TABLE CARD.

This means that every Table Card on the Referee's table indicates a VACANT table, so "Knocking" can proceed without hindrance or hold-ups.

A similar method is also used and recommended by Leo Thompson, Bucks. County.

4th PUNJAB CHAMPIONSHIPS
Lahore, 10th Nov., 1952

M.S. C. N. BAKU bt. K. Bidani 15, 12, 15.
W.S. Mrs. TAGG BUTT bt. Mme Bashir 15, 21, 21.
B.S. PAREQ ZAMAN bt. Riaz Mahmud 15, -16, 15.
Double win by (M.) S. Haroon/G. Zaidi, (W.) Mrs. T. Butt/Miss Bashir.

From the American Ladies Home Journal for November, 1952.

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Everything for the player

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Tables now resurfaced.

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World Champion, Sponge or Crepe 10/- each
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