LAURIE LANDRY,
the brilliant Middlesex junior.
(See Personality Parade)
CLASH OF RULES

ALL IS NOT WELL with the county championship, and Kent, with an intense publicity campaign, have been spotlighting what they term "a contradiction of rules."

It concerns promotion from the Second to Premier Division.

**Rule 3** states: "In each Second Division the team finishing nearest to the top, having no team in the Premier Division, shall be eligible to challenge for a place in the Premier Division."

But **Rule 4** says: "... In no circumstances shall a county finishing fourth be promoted."

Placed as they are in the Second Division South with the Second teams of Essex, Middlesex, and Surrey, and the prospects of finishing fourth, Kent are naturally anxious to know where they stand.

Teams in the Second North and Second West have no such worries, for with the exception of Yorkshire, these divisions are composed of first teams.

Kent are forwarding proposals to the Championships Executive Committee that the relevant part of Rule 4 be deleted.

OVERLOOKED?

When the matter is eventually thrashed out I think it will transpire that this is what was originally intended when the rules were amended at the Council Meeting, but that it was overlooked.

In this respect, Kent, who were one of the prime movers in having the rules altered, must share the responsibility for any clash. It was up to their two representatives to watch these points and bring them up at the time.

The promotion rules have long been a source of trouble, for it is hard to please everyone. The question of a team finishing fourth not being promoted was introduced when it was found that teams were going up one year and down the next.

In those days there were only two Second Divisions with one team going up from each. The inauguration of the Second West this season has altered the whole aspect and the leading sides from each of the three divisions are now required to play off so that one is eliminated.

Obviously, then, if a fourth placed team were to win this challenge and be denied promotion while the second team went up it would make the whole position ridiculous.

CHANGE ZONING

Another team competition that is apparently causing some discontent is the Wilmott Cup.

G. N. Harding, the Folkestone secretary, writes, "Having just played against Bromley in the Wilmott Cup for the fourth time in four years, I should like to fire off a salvo in support of a change of the present zoning."

He puts forward the following suggestion, which he feels would give weaker leagues more incentive to enter; a minimum of two matches; a chance to watch better teams; and reduce expenses.

Teams divided into groups of three, all play all, at a venue with four tables available making it possible to play off four groups plus semi-finals and final over a week-end.

This scheme would allow for all rounds up to the quarter finals to be completed on one weekend, thereby relieving the present congestion of fixtures.

I have no doubt that Harding can expect strong support from the Gloucestershire area, who campaigned last season for a change of zoning.

Cheltenham and Gloucester boycott the Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl as a protest when the old spread-eagle system was continued.

It would be interesting to hear other league's views on this.

HARRISON EDWARDS.
Official News:

BERNARD CROUCH. It is with very great regret that we have to record the death of Bernard Crouch, the English National and Swillo Cup player, in the recent Barns railway accident. As all our members know he was also a regular County player for Middlesex and he was known to all as a very modest and loyal sportsman. We extend to his family our most sincere and deep sympathy in their great loss. A floral tribute was sent on behalf of the Association.

Rumanian Tour. A most successful tour of three matches was arranged for the Rumanian team who recently visited this country. Rumania was represented by Angilea Rozeanu, Ella Zeller, and Mstres. Harasotzki, Gantner, Pesch and Popescu, with non-playing captain Mr. G. Blanu. Before the International match a luncheon was given in their honour by the Mayor of Tottenham. In addition, Civic Receptions were arranged at High Wycombe and Norwich.

English Open Championships 1955/56. Entry forms are now available and applications should be made to the E.T.T.A. office if any player wishes to receive one. May we remind our members that this season the Championships are to be held in Brussels on February 4 and 5, 1956. An announcement will be made in the next issue as to the players representing the E.T.T.A. at these Championships.

E.T.T.A. Representatives. For the purpose of nominating and electing Officers of the Association and members of the National Executive Committee, each County Association, League or Local Association is entitled to appoint "E.T.T.A. Representatives."

Under Rule 12 it is the responsibility of a County Association, League or Local Association to inform the Hon. General Secretary of the Association in writing not later than January 31 of the year in which the election takes place, the full name and address of the appointed Representative or Representatives.

The majority of Associations and Leagues have informed the E.T.T.A. as to the names of their Representatives, but those which have failed to inform the Association should do so by the last day of this month.

Official Handbook. Copies of the Official Handbook for season 1955/56 are on sale at a cost of 2/3d. each or £1 post free and can be obtained from the E.T.T.A. Office.

Books and Publications. The following publications are also available from the E.T.T.A. Office:

- Rules of the Game, in cardboard, size approx. 21in. x 14in., with hanging cord attached (suitable for hanging in club rooms) £1 4d.
- Know the Game—Table Tennis ... 2/3d.
- Table Tennis—J. Montagu ... 10/6d.
- Table Tennis Tips—J. Carrington £1 6d.
- Modern Table Tennis ... 1/6d.
- Table Tennis for All—J. Leach ... 9/6d.
- Table Tennis My Way—J. Leach ... 2/6d.
- Table Tennis Rackets—G. W. Woollard ... 2/6d.
- Table Tennis Spots—A. Brook ... 1/9d.
- Rules of the Game in booklet form ... 4/6d.
- The Twins on Table Tennis—J. Leach ... 8/6d.
- Official Badges. A reminder is given that the official badge of the Association is still available for sale and can be obtained at 2/3d. each or 24 per dozen from the E.T.T.A. Office. It is of attractive design, affixed to a pin.

International Contacts. We would like to draw our affiliated members' attention to the Regulation No. 1 covering International contacts (page 29 of the Official Handbook) and in particular other Countries' National Open Championships. The regulation reads as follows:

- English Players outside England. 1. Players duly affiliated to the E.T.T.A. may take part in the Open National Championships of other Associations only by permission of the E.T.T.A.
- We would point out that the above Regulation applies to players taking part in the Open Championships of the Home Countries, i.e., Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as to other Associations in the International Table Tennis Federation.
- We should also like to remind our members once more about the position in connection with television—either B.B.C. or Independent. The regulation reads as follows:

"No affiliated player may take part in a televised event in connection with table tennis, unless sanction has first been obtained from one of the Officers of the Association."

TABLE TENNIS

Published on the 10th of each month October to May inclusive. Post Subscriptions 7s. 6d. for eight issues.

WELSH EDITION with special Official Table Tennis Association of Wales Section from Mrs. N. Evans, Llwyn-Grant Road, Penylan, Cardiff.


HARRY VENNER

Ingen and Surrey

Coaching and Exhibitions arranged

Enquiries 66 TAVISTOCK CRESCENT, MITCHAM, SURREY.

CLUB BADGES

Attractive cloth badges can now be supplied in any quantity from six upwards at low prices and with quick delivery. Made entirely to your own design and suitable for wear on blazers or sweaters, etc. Free assistance given in designing your badge if required. Details from S. A. GORY and COMPANY, S. Warbeck Road, LONDON, N.5 28

LONDON

ROYAL HOTEL

WOBBURN PLACE, RUSSELL SQ., W.2.

789 Rooms with H. & C., Radio, Central Heating, Licensed. Room, Bath and Breakfast 

ONE PRICE ONLY—NO EXTRAS
Typical of the great rivalry existing between Lancashire and Yorkshire is the race now going on between these two great counties for the honour of staging the most Club Competitions for the World Championships "Traveling Expenses" Fund.

Yorkshire, who shared the lead with Essex last month with 25 competitions, have now taken a clear lead with 33 in the "Countrywise" Support table.

Lancashire, however, with an increase of 11 over the past month have now booked 29 to move up into second place, Essex third with 28.


Others—directly affiliated bodies 31.

The total of 270 competitions may appear to be going well, but the money raised so far would not take one player to Japan, let alone home again.

Thus it needs a much more concerted effort on the part of clubs. Remember there are at least 8,000 clubs in the country, so the results in comparison are very small.

There are still some four months to go, so why not make a New Year Resolution for your club to run at least one competition.

Remember that in running one of these events you are not only helping to send our team to Tokyo but also helping yourselves.

Plaques will be awarded by the National Association for all events in the ratio of one of each singles and two for each doubles.

The plaques incorporate the English Badge in colour and are a prize of which all winners can be proud.

There are 15 suggested types of competitions:

- Men's Singles and handicap singles
- Women's singles and handicap singles
- Junior singles and handicap singles
- Men's doubles and handicap doubles
- Women's doubles handicaps
- Mixed doubles handicaps
- Extraordinary handicap doubles (i.e. two men or two women in a mixed handicap doubles)

It is a great chance for players in your club to get extra tournament experience.

Details have already been sent to all club secretaries, but if you want further information just get in touch with the E.T.T.A. at 214, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London W.C.2.

If you already have one of the Blue Cards in your possession then return it to the E.T.T.A. and authority to run your first Club Competition will be forwarded together with a White Card asking you to run more and more Competitions.

Now, wake up your players in those counties which have nil return so far, and see that you are not left in the cold.
**England’s Best Junior**

**Fair-Haired Laurence**

Landry has much in common with the young Birmingham table tennis ace Ann Haydon. Both are 17, still at school, invariably topple their table tennis opponents with all-out, scorching attacks and are at their scintillating best when faced by older, more experienced rivals.

In the recent thrashing handed out to established England stars by the Romanian aces, both Laurence and Ann recorded solitary victories to save our faces in two of the three contests.

Much has already been written about the phenomenal progress of the young daughter of England’s captain Adrian Haydon, so let us look back over the rise in table tennis. Laurence, a pupil of William Ellis Grammar School, who likes mathematics and whose scholastic ambition is to finish his education at a university.

Young Landry played his first game of table tennis on a dining-room table in a friend’s house at the age of 12. With him at that time was his eldest brother Tom, better known as an expert chess player. Tom represented England as a junior open men’s singles event disposing of Surrey international Tony Miller on the way, again helped England trounce Belgium’s juniors 9-0, was promoted to the senior Middlesex second county team, and then crowned all by thrashing Romania’s former junior champion Mircea Popescu in the South of England v Romania representative game at High Wycombe.

Here is a record worthy of any player.

Although Landry gets very little spare time these days, he still manages to play some chess with his brother and have an occasional game of lawn tennis. He also competes in cross-country runs at school.

His table tennis ambition? Obviously, a senior England badge and an eventual place in our Swatling Cup world team.

Table tennis has to take a back seat for Peggy Franks these days, at least as far as competitive play is concerned. She is busy preparing for her first baby expected in June.

In private life she is Mrs. Ronnie Hook, wife of the Essex second team player. Their marriage in January 1950 was a table tennis romance, for they first met through the game when Ronnie used to give her advice and encouragement.

Later they became mixed doubles partners. Then they entered a business partnership in a toy factory, and later became husband and wife. They spent their honeymoon at the 1950 World’s championships in Budapest.

Peggy has been one of England’s leading players since the war and in 1947-8 season showed her ambition by winning the world doubles title with Vera (Dace) Thomas. She was also a member of the England team that won the Corbillon Cup in 1946-7 and 1947-8.

Her only national success was in 1949-50 when she partnered Johnny Leach to win the English mixed doubles title. Last season she ranked No. 5 among England’s woman players.

Peggy plans to return to table tennis next season. Meanwhile her temporary retirement has been a big blow to the Essex County side in their bid for County championship honours.

**Jill Rook,** twice English junior table tennis champion, is showing an increasing interest in lawn tennis. She is now training regularly with the young squad under Mary Halford, the Wightman Cup captain, and this could be the first step to international honours in the big court game.

In the past Jill has always left lawn tennis alone in the winter, but now feels that mixing the two will help her to keep tuned up for both games.

Jill has formed a formidable table tennis doubles partnership this season with Ann Haydon, who is reigning British Junior lawn tennis champion, and their first two appearances brought them the South of England and Birmingham titles.

**Wendy Blades,** who has for two seasons been Lincolnshire’s number one lady player has temporarily retired from competitive table tennis. She is at present in Mansfield Orthopaedic Hospital with a back injury. Her 24 trophies include the Lincolnshire and the North of England Junior Championships.
TIME, GENTLEMEN PLEASE

By

A FLEET STREET REPORTER

TABLE TENNIS, with its legion of clubs and players up and down the country, can hardly be termed a Cinderella sport. I wish it were. Before I am branded a "traitor" for writing such subversive propaganda (and in the sport's own magazine, too!) let me hasten to add that I only wish it would emulate the heroine of the Fairy Tale in one respect—go home by midnight.

I make this somewhat drastic plea less from selfish motives than in a genuine affection for the game. For as a Fleet Street sports journalist I am frequently asked by players at international, county and club level—and the ordinary paying man-in-the-street—why many newspaper sports editors tend to disregard all but the "show-piece" events.

I can tell you why. Usually because of the tendency for big-time matches to rarely finish before 11 p.m. and in many cases, approaching midnight.

You will tell me that table tennis bears favourable comparison in the amount of publicity it gets in relation to other sports. Agreed. But even so I know, and agree with, the E.T.T.A. view that it cannot have too much publicity. How can we get more? they ask.

I'll tell them, in one succinct sentence: See that matches end at a reasonable time, and cut out this midnight and later lark that has become all too prevalent in representative games.

OFFICIAL CONCERN

A top ranking official of the E.T.T.A. told me: "It is true that we are concerned at the way representative matches in which there is the greatest amount of public—and therefore newspaper interest—are finishing so late. But a match can go to three or five sets, or take almost an hour even allowing for a time limit to be imposed."

All right, so the length of a game cannot be pre-judged. But how is it that big London boxing promotions often advertise a show of 64 rounds, yet finish by 11 p.m.? And let me remind you that the duration of a boxing contest cannot be pre-judged any more than can table tennis.

But there is one vital difference. Boxing programmes invariably start on time, unnecessary "frills" are cut out, and there is little or no time-wasting between bouts.

EXAMPLES

I give you two recent examples of this nocturnal table tennis. At Norwich on December 13th, we had the important and news-worthy representative match between the Rest and Rumania. The last ball was struck a few minutes before midnight in a practically deserted hall. Deserted because spectators—and they paid, remember—had long since gone to catch the last bus or train home.

Yet here was the rare personal appearance in Eastern England of the greatest woman player in the game, Mrs. Angelica Rozeanu, winner of the world crown for the last six years. By an odd twist of fate she was who was destined to play out the final game of the night—not in the atmosphere of an arena full of excited spectators, but playing out time in which only the click of ball on bat broke the silence.

Surely a ridiculous and fantastic situation. Can you imagine the Wimbledon lawn tennis singles champion playing before an empty Centre Court?

An isolated example? Not so, unfortunately. Cast your mind back to November 30th. On that evening, Middlesex played the annual challenge match against The Rest at Lime Grove Baths. It was another late finish. The result? A mere paragraph in the newspapers.

Don't tell me the E.T.T.A. care. Publicity is the life-blood of sport. Yet again, the promoters failed to cash in on a first-class event.

Surely these two instances I have highlighted lost the sport a certain amount of good will by making it impossible for spectators relying on public transport home to see the end—and often the most interesting and vital stage. Moreover they certainly lost some valuable publicity.

I know from bitter experience that a reporter telephoning his paper with "copy" after 11 p.m. can expect it to be more harshly cut by sub-editors than an earlier story.

In my own office, we had inquiries from at least four national and provincial morning newspapers at 10.30 p.m. asking when they could expect over the teleprinters the result of the Norwich match. When it was finally put out within minutes of the end, most papers throughout Britain had put their sports pages "to bed."

And take it from me, to remake a sports page is the last thing.

Newspaper trains have to be caught, and they don't wait for anything—not even newspapers.

I exonerate such events as the World and English Open. With their vast entry, an early-morning finish is more often than not inevitable, even with 16 or so tables in play simultaneously. These are the exceptions. Let them remain so.

HAPPY LIAISON

Finally, a deserved tribute. At these two "National" events, and particularly the "Open," press relations are probably the best in the business. Stan Kempster, Bert Etheridge and Margaret Rowntree do a grand job, and keep Fleet Street happy.

Table tennis is a big-time sport now; gone are the days when it was a hit-or-miss affair called "ping pong," with little public interest.

I like to think the Press has helped. So please, tournament promoters, gear your organisation to merit your new status of Big Business.
FIRST STROKES and STANCE

Our young player has now reached the stage of taking his first lesson in table tennis, and, although the time spent learning the game on the table is extremely important, almost equally so are the preparations off the table.

It is essential to keep at a peak of physical fitness, so set aside half an hour a day for skipping, running and P.T. This is not asking too much.

The 16- or 17-year-old may not take this very seriously, but he will find this training invaluable, especially as he gets older.

Fitness cannot be stressed too strongly. What better example is there than Stanley Matthews of football fame. He has stayed at the top for so long because of his strict training, for even his genius would not be enough without the stamina required for a soccer match. And that goes for table tennis as well.

Before we actually approach the table—and I appreciate how anxious any young player is to get on with the game—let us take a look at that training, for even his genius would not be enough without the stamina that goes for table tennis as well.

So much could be written about the various types of spin, but of necessity we must be brief. The two main types are top spin and back spin, and to a much lesser degree side spin.

This may sound complicated to the newcomer, but in fact it is not. It is possible to pick up a bat for the first time and in knocking the ball backwards and forwards automatically play top spin and back spin strokes.

At this stage we will leave it at that, because at the start the young player must realise he cannot indulge in very spectacular play, nor must he attempt to do so.

The essential thing is to get the feel of the ball on the bat and use the push stroke to keep the ball going for as long as possible. And this is where I recommend medium rubber-sheeting as it gives you the best feel of the ball in the early stages.

In this you will need the co-operation of a friend who is at least capable of keeping the ball in play with you.

The comfortable stance will be facing the table and standing approximately half a yard away from it, holding the bat firmly with the orthodox grip described last month.

THE PAST WERE THE REAL CHAMPIONS

By LEN ADAMS

While admiring the efficiency of the Japanese in winning three world men’s singles titles in three attempts, I don’t think any of them will live long enough in the game to compare in stature with Barna, Bergmann and Vana.

To me these names are magic, yet I did not see them play in their youth. I have not yet seen, and perhaps will never see, the present world champion Tanaka in action, but I venture to suggest that for me he is not a great champion.

Let me put my case. If memory serves, since the war ended both Vana and Sido have won the world singles title in addition to winning all their Swatthling Cup matches in the same week. I think Bergmann may have lost only one cup match when notching his third or fourth title.

This year Tanaka lost three times in cup matches, his conquerors being Sido, Andreadis, and Vogrin. Now we have this to decide. Was he saving himself for the singles or was he beaten by more experienced, more accomplished players? I prefer to think the latter.

LUCK OF DRAW

How then did a person whose style should be more effective in a best of three, romp home in best of five matches? The answer must surely be the extreme luck of the draw.

Who did Tanaka beat to impress the experienced players that he is omitting several important points, but it must be noted these articles are not intended to replace any of the 20,000-word books written on the subject.—EDITOR.

The left leg should be slightly in front of the right leg with feet reasonably well apart.

Put the ball in play by holding the bat almost vertically and pushing the ball over the net. Practice this until you can keep the ball in play for half an hour.

In the next issue we will discuss a few more of the main basic strokes.

Note: In these articles for the newcomer to table tennis Aubrey Simons is dealing only briefly with various aspects of the game. It may be claimed by the experienced players that he is omitting several important points, but it must be realised these articles are not intended to replace any of the 20,000-word books written on the subject.—EDITOR.
Michael Thornhill writes

An Appreciation to Bernard Crouch

Normally this is not the type of article with which I would like to make my debut in “Table Tennis,” but I do indeed feel extremely honoured in being asked to write an appreciation to my great friend and team companion, Bernard Crouch, a victim of the Barnes train disaster.

Bernard first appeared on the table tennis scene as a boy of 14, joining a local club at Egham. His name was not widely known until the post-war period after he had served in the Fleet Air Arm.

I well remember meeting Bernard, for the first time. It was at a friend’s house in Ashford, where we gathered on Sundays for table tennis. He was then an established Staines League representative, but was only too keen to help us beginners.

Gradually we all improved and it was very obvious now that the Staines League was a great deal to Bernard for the position they enjoy today.

Shortly after this, Bernard was asked to play for Middlesex in their second team and, of course, eventually obtained his first team position. He held his place for several years and played a big part in establishing the Middlesex team spirit which has helped them win the county championship for the last eight successive seasons.

In 1950-51 Bernard was selected for the English Swathling Cup team competing in the World championships in Budapest. Thru he deservedly attained the highest honour that a team player can enjoy.

Bernard also excelled at Lawn Tennis, being a regular member of the Surrey County side. He was a well-known and respected tournament player, and several times played at Wimbledon.

But table tennis and lawn tennis were not his only sports. He was an all-rounder, being an above average amateur footballer, playing for Staines Town, and a useful club cricketer with the Laleham C.C.

Bernard had a somewhat shy manner and it was only his intimate friends and fellow team members who were permitted to appreciate his full worth.

He will always remain in my memory not only as a great friend, but as a person who played the game as it should be played.

Players of any sport, and I say this particularly for the younger generation, could do no better than to emulate his fine example.

From the L.C.C. (Staff) T.T.C.

comes this tribute

It was with profound sorrow that we heard of Bernard Crouch’s tragic death at the age of 30.

As a player, his hard hitting style was most attractive to watch and his demeanour both on and off the table, was an example to all.

Always keen to put back into the game some of the enjoyment he got out of it, Bernard had coached at L.C.C. Evening Institutes and served on the club committee for several seasons.

Rather shy and unassuming, he was a first class sportsman in every way and was particularly popular with contemporary first-class players.

He will be greatly missed by his friends in table tennis and at the County Hall.

L.B.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

from Margaret Fry

RESOLUTIONS—a dangerous word to bandy about on the brink of a new year.

As 1956 looms ahead let us spare a thought or two and see if the Table Tennis players can make a few resolutions that would improve the game as a whole.

Let us begin with punctuality at matches—whether they are humble Club games, County fixtures or the Championship itself. Don’t take it for granted that “someone” saw you arrive. Make sure and report yourself.

Appearance at the table is important to the spectator, and to yourself. Dirty shoes and creased flannels or shorts are not the sign of the casual genius. Track suits look fine worn correctly, but when the top half only is removed the effect is lost and one is reminded of children in pantaloons ! !

Track suits worn during competitive matches also give the impression that your opponent is not going to extend you, and can be disposed of with ease.

Good manners seem to indicate the removal of the suit in deference to all concerned, including spectators.

Let’s face it, UMPIRES LIKE THE REST OF US HUMAN BEINGS DO MAKE MISTAKES. Take them as part of the game. After all, the law of averages is inexorable.

Remember, too, that the man who sneezed at Bisley was committing no more serious a crime than the competitor walking thoughtlessly behind and between tables during rallies. You would be the first to complain if it happened to you, so DON’T DO IT TO OTHERS.

Lastly, let us treat this great game as a wonderful opportunity to put skill against skill in good sporting combat, and don’t allow it to develop into a fight to the death struggle.

Good hunting in the New Year.
PUT A SPARKLE IN IT
by J. PEPLOW

A GREAT deal has been written, and a great deal more will be written, about the “dwindling of spectators,” “dropping of setting in,” etc., of Table Tennis as a form of public entertainment.

Competitive Table Tennis is no doubt losing favour as a box office attraction. No none, however, seems to have reached the core of the matter. Most spectators of any kind want to see the end of the contest and join in the partisanship. No one seems to have reached the core of the matter.

A recent Inter-League match was timed for 7.30 p.m. Quite reasonable, in these terms, by 7.40 the visitors were at the Hall and had changed ready for play.

“Changing” of course varies with the individual. In some cases it is indeed a change into playing shirt and shorts and in others the barest formality of changing from outdoor shoes to grubby plimsoles.

In this particular match, both sides were well turned out and the audience reaction immediate and favourable (Please, players, take note of this—it is so important). Then came the inevitable “knocking up” all round and the first game started at 7.55.

This was an interesting game between a good attacking player and an astonishingly good defensive player. It went to three legs and eventually finished at 8.35. The second game went to three legs finishing at 9 p.m. Nine o’clock—2 games played and 8 to go.

At 9.30 there was a short break for tea and biscuits and at 10 p.m. the contest was not half way through. With buses to catch, and husbands and wives to appease, what spectators there were, left about 10.30, leaving the players to battle on, unhonoured, unseen and unapplauded until well into the night.

The star players, the ones the spectators particularly wanted to see in action, battled it out under the baleful eye of the Hall keeper, who was eventually appeased out of the private pocket of a committee man.

How long would football attract spectators if they had to wait until one side had scored say five goals. What housewife would plaudily see her man off to “the match” being told that it might finish at 4.30 or it might go on to 6.30—what about tea, and “Sports Report.”

Desperate ills need desperate remedies, and this matter must be approached in a new and visionary manner. Three legs or five legs and 21 up must go.

Each game should be eight minutes each way of the table, and the total points scored by each team to decide winners or losers. Each game would take 16 minutes, ten games 160 minutes plus say 20 minutes for between times and refreshments. Three hours—everyone having played, the result known, and the spectators out by 10.30 having seen every player in action.

Of course it would speed the game up—like a relay race. At the end of the first 16 minutes, one side would say three points up and the others three down. Those that were up would battle to increase the lead, and those that were down would battle just as hard to retrieve the position.

There would be no communal chiselling—there would be no point in it, and indeed no points.

Let all thinking T.T. players and officials give this suggestion serious consideration. Scrap the old ideas and let the public see a fast contest with a definite time factor. They’ll come back when they know that they will see the finish of the match and still be well in time for the last “bus home.”

Would anyone buy a Detective story if he knew that the last ten pages were missing. How can the public be expected to “buy” the equivalent.

Kenneth Wheeler comments on

THE EAGLE TOURNAMENT

The future of Scottish table tennis looks very bright indeed.

Last season, somewhat unexpectedly, they produced both Junior Champions in the Eagle/Girl Nation Finals. In this season’s Edinburgh tournament not only did the reigning champions again succeed but the senior events provided, in Alan three down. The boys of the first 16 minutes, one side would say three points up and the others three down. Those that were up would battle to increase the lead, and those that were down would battle just as hard to retrieve the position.

There would be no communal chiselling—there would be no point in it, and indeed no points.

Let all thinking T.T. players and officials give this suggestion serious consideration. Scrap the old ideas and let the public see a fast contest with a definite time factor. They’ll come back when they know that they will see the finish of the match and still be well in time for the last “bus home.”

Would anyone buy a Detective story if he knew that the last ten pages were missing. How can the public be expected to “buy” the equivalent.

Kenneth Wheeler comments on

THE EAGLE TOURNAMENT

The future of Scottish table tennis looks very bright indeed.

Last season, somewhat unexpectedly, they produced both Junior Champions in the Eagle/Girl Nation Finals. In this season’s Edinburgh tournament not only did the reigning champions again succeed but the senior events provided, in Alan

RONNIE BRASS

Chalmers and Pat McKenzie, two new champions capable of helping Scotland to make a clean sweep of all four titles in the Grand Finals to be held next February 25.

Ronnie Brass, the Junior champion, was again the outstanding player present, and had little difficulty in disposing of all his rivals.

In fact, the only boy able to produce shots against Ronnie was his younger brother Gary. Playing in his first tournament a few days before his tenth birthday Gary, who unlike his brother is a left-hander, smashed his way impressively into the final and may become an even better prospect than the 12-year-old Ronnie.

Of Alan Chalmers, the 13-year-old winner of the Senior event, Johnny Leach, who flew back from Sweden in time to be present, said: “Alan is a good all-round player with an excellent forehand attack. In my opinion he will give the others a good run in London.”

Jean Darling, who held the Girl Junior title, had a much harder passage in the keenly contested under-13 event, and 14-year-old Elizabeth Huggins, of Joppa, Edinburgh, came very near to beating her.

Pat McKenzie is, with her mother, a member of Edinburgh’s famous Gambit Club, and the coaching she has received from Helen Elliot and Bob Dykes gave her the edge over all her opponents in the Girl’s Senior event.

SCOTTISH REGION, EDINBURGH
(December 10)

Boys’ Senior Final: Alan CHALMERS (Edinburgh) bt Victor Silverstone (Glasgow) 21–9, 21–8, 21–9.

Boys’ Junior Final: Ronnie BRASS (Glasgow) bt Gary Brass (Glasgow) 21–9, 21–5, 21–12.


"Butterflies"—How to Pin Them Down

MOST players have experienced "butterflies in the tummy" and I am often asked if anything can be done to control it.

This particular sensation is bound up with the whole question of emotional disturbance in the athlete. Every coach knows that it can wreck the most promising pupil, and that "nerves" may appear only at the most testing time, ruining months, or even years of careful preparation.

Every player who is keen should feel some excitement before a match. Indeed this "sparking" is thought by some to be essential to top performance; lack of it may be the ruination of a player superbly equipped in every other respect.

It is when this "spark" spills over into anxiety or fear it is damaging. Thus the champion is one who is better equipped technically, physically and emotionally.

In recent years many new ideas have emerged concerning emotional stress. One thing is quite clear—a coach must view his charge as a whole person, taking into account his emotional make-up and understanding what makes him "tick". It is almost certain that no good will come from telling a nervous or anxious player to pull himself together.

Different emotions react on the body in various ways. Panic or extreme fear will root a man to the spot; great anger may lead to impulsive and violent movements. Generally intense emotion destroys logical thinking, which means a player may lose his sense of tactics and react confusedly to situations.

Some people are fortunately born with the right sort of emotional make-up for participating in competitions in which stress is high. For the rest can anything be done to minimise the effects of emotional impact?

I think the problem can be discussed under five headings:

**Technique and Skill**

Excessive emotional strain can play havoc with technique and skill—both can be lost in a welter of nervous apprehension, especially when they are dependent on conscious effort.

Therefore, if these can be perfected in practice so that the necessary movements become automatic, the effects of emotion will be reduced.

Further, the knowledge that he possesses a good technique and a high level of skill will provide a player with confidence which will also help to offset emotional strain.

**Study of the Individual**

The coach should study his charges individually. No human beings react the same way. Some can be soothed by one method, others by an entirely different approach. Where a team is concerned, it is useful to use the confidence and excitement of one to ignite the others.

In choosing doubles pairs it may well be as important to consider the players' emotional integration as their playing skill. If tension can be tackled before it has become too deep it can be dissipated.

It is important to watch for a crisis in susceptible people and apply appropriate measures, which will of course vary. Some need sympathy; others bantering or joking. Some can be jockeyed out of trouble; others need their attention drawn to something outside the game.

It is for the coach to discover the best approach.

**Games Playing Outlook**

The player who can develop a philosophical outlook on winning, losing and playing is less likely to suffer from excessive emotional tension. For him the game takes its proper perspective in the whole pattern of his life.

**Feeding**

Emotional stress can upset digestion. Generally the person who is upset will not settle down to a full meal and should be tempted with attractive and nutritious snacks. Don't try to force such a person to eat a hearty meal on the grounds that it will "do him good." It won't—it may even make him sick, or worsen matters considerably.

Glucose is sometimes successful in quietening "butterflies in the tummy" and is, of course, a source of energy.

**Relaxation**

This is probably the biggest single factor in tackling emotional stress. Some people cannot sleep before an important match and the result is that their minds and muscles being in a state of hyper-tension they are mentally and physically exhausted.

Numerous methods have been employed to induce relaxation. Light recreation or even a car drive have been known to be useful.

I have found, paradoxically perhaps, that a conscious effort to relax produces a good result in me and in those who have been in my charge.

It is essential to choose a quiet spot in which to lie down flat on the back, eyes closed. One then relaxes systematically, starting with the neck, then the shoulders, chest, arms, and so on to the toes. Then some really deep breaths and start again. It is surprising how often after a few repetitions, relaxation is obtained.

By FRANCIS THORNE*

[Byline: Director of The Crookes Athletes Advisory Service.]

---

Like the winning teams

**Bukta**

"T.T."

**Outfits**

**"BUXCORT" SHORTS**

These BUKTA Shorts are made with two slanted side pockets. Insert hip pocket with button flap, adjustable side straps with "Buxgrip" elastic tunnel belt and full tailored waistband to give fractional fit (as illustrated). FROM 27/6 PER PAIR

REGULATION SHIRTS

BUKTA Men's Table Tennis Shirts are made in the Regulation Design with Polo collar, zip front, short sleeves and extra body length, in White, Navy, Royal, Maroon and Bottle. Small, Medium and Large. FROM 14/11 EACH

Are consistently good

Obtainable from all good Sports Outfitters. Or if any difficulty write to: The Publicity Manager, Bukta, Stockport, Cheshire.
**AROUND THE LEAGUES**

Birmingham players are watching the boys in blue. The combined City Police team are busy arresting rivals in the Fourth Division and have gone to the top of the table with a 100 per cent record. It is the first time the City Police have got together for a representative team. In the past they have entered under their respective divisions.

Liverpool and District have shelved their coaching scheme until the end of the season.

The First Division of the Derby League is wide open with Railway Institute, St. Andrew's and Celenarc all having dropped only one match each. Celenarc took Railways unbeaten record with a 5-4 win.

R.A.F. Kirkham are making a bold bid for honours in the Blackpool and District League with the "A" team heading the Fifth Division, and the "B" side in second place in the Sixth Division.

Leeds with a 6-4 win over Huddersfield "seconds" took the lead in the Yorkshire Inter-Leagues championship with six points from their first three matches. Huddersfield, with a game in hand, and Bradford, who have drawn two matches each have four points.

First Division table (as at December 13):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leeds</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huddersfield</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradford</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huddersfield 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheffiled</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hull</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* * *

Jackie and Jean Head made a family affair of the South London "closed." Jackie won the men's singles, while Jean took the women's singles and doubles with Joy Faulkner.

Women's singles: Mrs. J. Head bt Miss B. Isaac 21-16, 21-17.
Women's doubles: Mrs. Head and Mrs. J. Faulkner bt Miss Isaac and Miss L. U. Withams 21-19, 21-15.
Men's doubles: R. Crayden and F. Goodwyn bt J. Head and T. Dennis 21-17, 21-19.
Mixed doubles: Crayden and Mrs. Faulkner bt D. Littlewort and Miss Isaac 21-14, 21-19.

Knight Cooke's run of 138 consecutive appearances over the past five years for Bath Street in the Liverpool League has now come to an end. He will be playing for the second team in future.

Bournemouth gained a triple success over Southampton in the Hampshire League, winning the men's tie 9-1, the women's 7-3 and the juniors 9-1.

Wessex Sports "A" and "B" teams, each with a 100 per cent record for their first ten matches, head the First and Second Divisions of the Southampton League.

Phoenix "A," languishing at the bottom of the Worthing First Division without a win from their first seven matches, are hoping that the return of Ray Little from National Service will improve their fortunes.

Exeter "A," so far unbeaten, head the men's section of the Devon League, with Exmouth, last year's champions in second place. Plymouth "A" are again at the top of the women's section.

Roy Willis, of Coventry, won the All-England singles for the deaf. He plays No. 1 for Deaf Social in the Fourth Division.

The Reg White cup in the Old Drakonians tournament at Plymorth changed hands, but stayed in the Turner family. C. R. Turner beat his brother P. V. Turner, last year's winner 19-21, 21-16, 21-16 in the final.

A record entry of 50 for the Cambridge and District League includes several new clubs. Last season's champions, Newham Institute, have, however, disbanded and three of their players, John Cornwell, John Thurston and Ron Noor have joined Wesley, Y.M.C.A., and New Chesterton Institute respectively, thus making the First Division championship more open than for several seasons.

Proud boast of Cambridge is that all their officials are active players. President H. R. J. Constable and League secretary J. W. Bangham, who is also veteran champion, reached the semi-finals of the men's doubles. County secretary Mrs. M. Cornewell won the women's "closed" singles, and with her match secretary husband John, (singles title holder) won the mixed doubles. Chairman P. Lanter was a semi-finalist in the handicap singles.

Charlton's famous footballer John Hewie plays regularly in the Woolwich league, having been a founder member of Decagon T.T. (1949/50), whom he helped to promotion to Division I last season.

Beckenham are becoming the sponge stronghold of Kent. They are the only league in the county who are regularly represented by sponge players, including J. Nixon and D. Eagan.

At the half-way stage in the Belleray and District League's programme Marconi "A" in their first season lead Division I, Runwell Youth Centre "A" with Wickford "A" are second and third respectively.

A tense battle is going on at the foot of the table between Hutton Wayfarers "A," Belleray British Legion "A" and Stock "B," Hutton Social "B" and Stock "C" lead Divisions two and three respectively.

---

**The "BROMFIELD" Championship Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Used last season in more International Matches in England than all other makes put together. This season already adopted for all matches except one! **£37.16.0.** Square leg model (£40.19.0. Turned leg model)

Discount 5% for Cash with Order. Deferred terms also available. Interest only 1/- in £.

**BROMFIELD & EGGAR (SPORTS) LTD.**

80a, High Street, Steyning, Sussex

Tel: Steyning 2004
A FUTURE WORLD CHAMPION

says JOEL HASKEL, of Sweden

I HAVE seen a lot of table tennis in Europe since the war, internationals, national and open championships and world meetings, but I cannot remember a game like the women's singles final in the Scandinavian Open in Stockholm at the beginning of December.

Those who know me as captain of Swedish teams and the fact that there was no Swedish player involved may well ask why? Well folks, let me tell you.

There was Angelica Rozeanu, six times world champion, on one side of the net faced by Ann Haydon, blonde 17-year-old English girl, whom no one gave a chance—no one but herself.

Ann started playing as if she was the world champion, took the first two games easily and went to 18–15 in the third. The champion was almost thrown out of her throne and we in Eriksdalshallen were prepared to shout “The Queen is dead; long live the Queen!”

But Angelica Rozeanu was not beaten yet. She called on all her experience and fighting spirit, and started to come back.

Ann wavered and for the first time looked a little uncertain of herself. She changed her tactics and stopped those untakeable fore-hand smashers. Mrs. Rozeanu saw her chance and did not miss it. She snatched the game, did not ask for the normal five minutes interval, and went on playing with great power and speed to win 12–21, 15–21, 21–19, 21–18, 21–17.

Ann Haydon did not win the Scandinavian Championship but she gained a lot of experience. She learned the lesson so many have had to learn before her: no match is won until the last shot.

When leading 18–15 it looked to me as though she suddenly started to think about what was going to happen—beating the world champion. And that is where Angelica caught her out.

LOST BUT WON

As I told my friend Johnny Leach after the final, I think Ann won more by losing to Angelica than if she had won the title. She gained in experience and had her possibilities revealed. I do not think there has been any more promising girl since 1945, and she seems certain to become a world champion if she keeps on working, and if the E.T.T.A. give her all the chances to which she is now entitled.

If I were to choose the English Tokio team (I'm glad I'm not) my first choice (men included) would be Ann Haydon, the new darling of Eriksdalshallen.

It is true she has no backhand yet, but she will learn. And when her back hand is only half as good as her forehand, she will take a lot of beating.

Good luck to Ann in Tokio!

There are two more things I would like to mention from this tournament, where 43 foreign players from 13 nations competed with the Swedish top players.

1. The fourth Hungarian generation is ready to take over from Sido and Koczian, Kalman Szepesi and Gyetvai played a marvellous final, demonstrating and the technique inherited from the days of Victor Barna, Bellak, and Szabados. I think the two Hungarians are Europe's greatest hope of wresting the world title from the Japanese.

2. There has been no international tournament since the war where Swedish players have done so well, excluding Tage Flisberg, Lennart Johansson and Bo Malmquist were beaten in the doubles by Szepesi and Gyetvai only after five games, while the blonde youngsters Elizabeth Thorsson and Birgita Tegner came near to reaching a final before falling to the French pair Christine Watel and Monique Albert. Then to round it off Sweden finally landed a title to win the men’s doubles.

The way these two old friends outplayed the Hungarians Szepesi and Gyetvai made us dream about them playing together in Tokio. But—dreams I know, never come true.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

LOST BUT WON

As I told my friend Johnny Leach after the final, I think Ann won more by losing to Angelica than if she had won the title. She gained in experience and had her possibilities revealed. I do not think there has been any more promising girl since 1945, and she seems certain to become a world champion if she keeps on working, and if the E.T.T.A. give her all the chances to which she is now entitled.

If I were to choose the English Tokio team (I'm glad I'm not) my first choice (men included) would be Ann Haydon, the new darling of Eriksdalshallen.

It is true she has no backhand yet, but she will learn. And when her back hand is only half as good as her forehand, she will take a lot of beating.

Good luck to Ann in Tokio!

There are two more things I would like to mention from this tournament, where 43 foreign players from 13 nations competed with the Swedish top players.

1. The fourth Hungarian generation is ready to take over from Sido and Koczian, Kalman Szepesi and Gyetvai played a marvellous final, demonstrating and the technique inherited from the days of Victor Barna, Bellak, and Szabados. I think the two Hungarians are Europe's greatest hope of wresting the world title from the Japanese.

2. There has been no international tournament since the war where Swedish players have done so well, excluding Tage Flisberg, Lennart Johansson and Bo Malmquist were beaten in the doubles by Szepesi and Gyetvai only after five games, while the blonde youngsters Elizabeth Thorsson and Birgita Tegner came near to reaching a final before falling to the French pair Christine Watel and Monique Albert. Then to round it off Sweden finally landed a title to win the men's doubles.

The way these two old friends outplayed the Hungarians Szepesi and Gyetvai made us dream about them playing together in Tokio. But—dreams I know, never come true.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

LOST BUT WON

As I told my friend Johnny Leach after the final, I think Ann won more by losing to Angelica than if she had won the title. She gained in experience and had her possibilities revealed. I do not think there has been any more promising girl since 1945, and she seems certain to become a world champion if she keeps on working, and if the E.T.T.A. give her all the chances to which she is now entitled.

If I were to choose the English Tokio team (I'm glad I'm not) my first choice (men included) would be Ann Haydon, the new darling of Eriksdalshallen.

It is true she has no backhand yet, but she will learn. And when her back hand is only half as good as her forehand, she will take a lot of beating.

Good luck to Ann in Tokio!

There are two more things I would like to mention from this tournament, where 43 foreign players from 13 nations competed with the Swedish top players.

1. The fourth Hungarian generation is ready to take over from Sido and Koczian, Kalman Szepesi and Gyetvai played a marvellous final, demonstrating and the technique inherited from the days of Victor Barna, Bellak, and Szabados. I think the two Hungarians are Europe's greatest hope of wresting the world title from the Japanese.

2. There has been no international tournament since the war where Swedish players have done so well, excluding Tage Flisberg, Lennart Johansson and Bo Malmquist were beaten in the doubles by Szepesi and Gyetvai only after five games, while the blonde youngsters Elizabeth Thorsson and Birgita Tegner came near to reaching a final before falling to the French pair Christine Watel and Monique Albert. Then to round it off Sweden finally landed a title to win the men's doubles.

The way these two old friends outplayed the Hungarians Szepesi and Gyetvai made us dream about them playing together in Tokio. But—dreams I know, never come true.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL
**KENT ANSWERS BACK**

WHY is it that one gets very little satisfaction on one's activity_ or even when most of the time goes right, but the moment one begins working, one is caught in the butterfly? For six years now the Kent Junior Open Championships have run fairly successfully, but have recently become a nightmare for us and, perhaps, for many others. 

We, in Kent, do not object to criticism, even if it is not exactly constructive, but I think we might object to the phrasing quite above, i.e., "this fiasco." finish of this year's event was a "fiasco." world. If a very young player is par¬

ments could equal. late enough to cope with this midnight look at

the situation next season. providing the medium for International mately an hour earlier. Having regard

sidering ways and me:tns of improving the younger players a great service by it was necessary to get up at approxi-

rest assured that we are already con-

We feel that, nationally, we are doing junior tournaments and matches is not

Fourteen Fifteen -

I

NO BREAKDOWN

Regarding your Editorial in the situation now, I understand that not only matches in which juniors take part fail to be completed as planned, but also that it is a prime aim of all organizers of these tournaments to provide as many junior players as possible, in order to finish these events as early as possible. Unfortunately, this is not always as easy as it sounds, as there are many factors which complicate matters, such as time, where it is impracticable to time schedule the games, etc., I think. As the Hon. Referee of the Kent junior open tournament, I must, however, dis¬
agree with your statement that the late finish of this year's event was a "fiasco" and that "a breakdown in organisation was responsible." There was, perhaps, an undue amount of lateness which, I feel, could have been avoided had the Kent Association been more constant in their plans. The problem of the problem of too late finish at junior tournaments and matches is not

an easy one to solve, and I am inclined to agree that the N.E.C's. attempt to examine this problem generally, perhaps at the same time they consider their training conditions.

As far as next year's Kent junior open is concerned, we are determined to find a solution, and believe that, with the help of our coaches, we shall succeed. 

F. TREV. (Chairman, Kent County T.T.A.)

EXAGGERATED

Nobody seems to see fit to stage an event comparable to the Kent Junior Open — an event staged with a far more substantial and worthwhile purpose, i.e., the provision of opportunities for junior players to take part in this sport and to receive the benefits of the experience. 

We have had a tremendous amount of encouragement and praise from players and officials of many countries, and from the competitions across the Channel. 

Many tournaments have, run late, this season more than ever. If juniority are concerned, that is in no sense unfortunate, we all agree. But running late is one thing that is not (even this aspect has been grousely exaggerated in last month's Editorial), a "fiasco," and a breakdown in organisation is responsible.

K.C.T.T.A. have, every, efficiency in the organisation and planning of every event, and we know that has been insufficiently

A Kent affair — it would have been the same for any county. For this disgraceful appearance of events to go on so late, we have, for some years, been expressing to the Press? For quite a few years we have been expressing our concern for the developing interest in this sport, but perhaps the problem is not the fault of the organizers, but of the players themselves after the event is over. I am certain that this has been one of the factors which have led to an increase in the number of players taking part in this sport. 

Another Kent event which goes on so late, we have, for some years, been expressing to the Press? For quite a few years we have been expressing our concern for the developing interest in this sport, but perhaps the problem is not the fault of the organizers, but of the players themselves after the event is over. I am certain that this has been one of the factors which have led to an increase in the number of players taking part in this sport.

The critics are now in hand which will correct a serious and perfect a great job.


**EDITOR REPLIES**

KENT has taken up the subject again. Here are some suggestions for the next year's season:

The Best T.T. Tables at any price

The Tournament Table

1, Birch Ply top

2, Folding Legs

3, A Superfast-4 surface

4, Self-aligning nuts and plates

5, Rigid when erected

6, Packed for home play

Mr. Jaschke goes so far as to say, "I think we can rightly object to the criticism on one's activities in your recent Editorial," and that "a breakdown in organisation was responsible." Surely, it is not the fault of the organizers, but of the players themselves after the event is over. I have, for some years, been expressing to the Press? For quite a few years we have been expressing our concern for the developing interest in this sport, but perhaps the problem is not the fault of the organizers, but of the players themselves after the event is over. I am certain that this has been one of the factors which have led to an increase in the number of players taking part in this sport.

**MIDNIGHT MADNESS**

Table Tennis late nights are affecting teenage players, . . . well enough has been said about the midnight finisher than table tennis. A move is going to be said in this month's issue of "Table Tennis." 

But what about late nights affecting the players who are in the Press? For quite a few years we have been expressing our concern for the developing interest in this sport, but perhaps the problem is not the fault of the organizers, but of the players themselves after the event is over. I have, for some years, been expressing to the Press? For quite a few years we have been expressing our concern for the developing interest in this sport, but perhaps the problem is not the fault of the organizers, but of the players themselves after the event is over. I am certain that this has been one of the factors which have led to an increase in the number of players taking part in this sport.

The Only solution for more newspaper space has been lost. Sports Editors have been saying that their pages have not been enough to cope with this midnight madness. The only solution for more newspaper space has been lost. Sports Editors have been saying that their pages have not been enough to cope with this midnight madness.

Top marks to Barbara Milbank for being "Table Tennis" most enthusiastic magazine secretary. She can always be found at any club, and "Table Tennis" can always be found at any club. She can always be found at any club.

**CRITICISM JUSTIFIED**

Table Tennis late nights are affecting teenage players, . . . well enough has been said about the midnight finisher than table tennis. A move is going to be said in this month's issue of "Table Tennis." 

But what about late nights affecting the players who are in the Press? For quite a few years we have been expressing our concern for the developing interest in this sport, but perhaps the problem is not the fault of the organizers, but of the players themselves after the event is over. I have, for some years, been expressing to the Press? For quite a few years we have been expressing our concern for the developing interest in this sport, but perhaps the problem is not the fault of the organizers, but of the players themselves after the event is over. I am certain that this has been one of the factors which have led to an increase in the number of players taking part in this sport.

We do not want our young players to be "Table Tennis" most enthusiastic magazine secretary. She can always be found at any club, and "Table Tennis" can always be found at any club. She can always be found at any club.
Letters to the Editor

THE BERGMANN CONTROVERSY

I have read with interest the articles in recent issues of the magazine in which direct and indirect reference has been made to Richard Bergmann, and in spite of all the opinions and advice offered I would like to suggest that they spare a thought to the players who take part in table tennis in England — without whom and their parent associations it would not be possible to send a team to Tokio!

I do not profess to be an expert—my job is simply administrative—but it seems to me wrong when a player can be out of the country for roughly two years and still be considered as a probable for the team.

Do these experts ever contact any of our leading players who are fighting throughout the season to achieve recognition and are doing so much for the game in England? Their views may be interesting to them.

We are told a lot about prestige and all that sort of thing, but it is not getting us very far, and what does it mean to the players? Very little, I can tell you. I would say, from a man in the street's point of view—pick our team from those who take part in table tennis in England, even if they are not so good. Give them a chance to play against some of the best players in the world, and maybe they will gain experience which will help us to get somewhere.

While the focus is on Bergmann at the present time, it is within the bounds of possibility that many other players may act in the same way, and one day our team would be comprised entirely of players who do not play in England.

The views expressed above are personal and are in no way connected with my office as County Secretary or as a member of the N.E.C.

HARRY WALKER,
(Essex T.T.A.).

I, too, am of the opinion that Richard Bergmann must go to Tokio. Of course he is unparalleled in his defensive work and outstanding footwork, which is most disconcerting at times to his opponents (even the Japanese).

Without him our Swaythling Cup team might well call it a day, as I think by his mere presence we can get that cup, and after all that is our object.

Play the best men, faithful or otherwise, and you will find that the younger players will automatically assume control at the appropriate moment.

LESLIE CONSTABLE,
(President, Cambridge T.T.A.).

Johnny Leach's and Richard Bergmann's respective places as first and second in the official ranking list surprised me almost as much as they did Richard himself. One indisputable advantage which Richard has is a fiercer fighting spirit.

One thing we shall admire in Richard is his fine sporting spirit! While obviously smarting with resentment he was able to inform Mr. Sam Kirkwood: "I don't want favours, thanks or sympathy, but I have a right to expect fair play and nothing will convince me that I have not been unjustly thrown out of the No. 1 place."

P. E. WARDEN,
(Taplow).

While my esteem for Richard Bergmann runs very high what about Harry Venner, who, as Richard states, has the best home record for last season, yet has been placed No. 5. Surely Venner deserves higher rating. I should suggest at least No. 3. What do other readers think about this?

R. GARLAND,
(Paddington.).
Western Counties Bulletin

In the First Division of the Western Counties League, Bath, without the services of David House, were trounced 1-9 in their away match with Cheltenham. Their only win was gained by G. B. Shelton and Miss F. Cotton, but went down 4-6 against Cornwall, but went down 4-6. Their only win was gained by G. B. Shelton and Miss F. Cotton. In the men's events, the county championships, John Thurston is as yet unbeaten in cup and league matches. He has played consistently throughout the season, and it will take a very good player to get the better of him.

A record entry is expected for the Cams. closed championship to be held at the Cambridge Corn Exchange in March. John Cornwall will be defending his singles title.

Leslie Constable.

Bryan Merrett

In great form for Cheltenham, winning their singles matches easily.

Bristol, last year's champions, weakened by the absence of Aubrey Simons and Miss P. Rowley, were beaten 4-6 in their away fixture with Gloucester.

Bryan Merrett was in good form for Gloucester, beating both R. B. Wood and B. Bucknell in straight sets, while Roy Morley marked up wins over Wood and F. Wiggins.

Mrs. Watts, who replaced Miss Porey, and Miss Jean Collier each won their singles, then combined to win the doubles.

With Simons and Miss Pam Poration back in the side, Bristol beat Cardiff 8-2 at home. Miss Pam Poration, however, was beaten by Miss Greta Holden in a close match, which could easily have gone either way, the scores being 21-18, 25-23. Simons had no trouble in winning his two singles against S. Jones and A. Thomas.

There was plenty of excitement in the women's doubles, where Miss M. Porey and Miss Collier beat Miss Holden and Miss Cotton 26-28, 21-19, 21-17. In the Second Division, Newport marked up a 6-4 win over Weston-super-Mare, the highspot being the 21-18, 21-19 win for Basil Evans (Newport) over D. Bates. There were also plenty of thrills when Trevor Jones lost in the last set to D. B. Shipman.

Newport were all conquering in the women's events. Mrs. Rome and Miss Harris winning their singles and doubles against Mrs. Bull and Miss J. Saunders. Bristol "seconds" had a close call against Taunton, P. Harris forcing a 5-all draw when he beat J. Garland in the last match.

Heartiest congratulations to Mr. R. Marshall, the Gloucester secretary, on his recent marriage.

Grove Molow.

Midland League

Cheltenham and Birmingham share all the honours between them in the Midland League, in clashes between the two leagues, played at Birmingham, the scores were:

Cheltenham (first) : Men 4-6, Ladies 5-3, Intermediate 9-1, Juniors 0-10, Veterans 0-10.

Midland Table Tennis League

P. W. L. D. F. A. P.

Men (Division 1)

Cheltenham ... 4 3 0 0 33 7 8
Birmingham ... 3 3 0 0 27 13 9
Coventry ... 3 1 1 2 17 15 5
Wolverhampton ... 4 2 0 0 18 22 4
Northampton ... 3 1 0 2 10 8 3
West Bromwich ... 3 0 1 2 13 17 2
Leicester ... 3 1 0 2 12 18 2
Worcester ... 3 0 1 2 11 14 1
Derby ... 3 0 3 0 6 24 0

Men (Division 2)

Birmingham "B" ... 3 3 0 0 22 8 9
Nottingham "B" ... 3 2 0 1 15 15 4
Leicester "B" ... 1 0 1 0 4 6 0.
Wolverhampton "B" ... 1 0 3 0 7 0 7
Kidderminster ... 2 0 2 0 6 14 0

Ladies' Division

Cheltenham ... 4 3 0 1 29 11 7
Birmingham ... 4 3 0 1 28 12 7
Coventry ... 3 1 1 1 17 13 3
Wolverhampton ... 4 2 0 0 12 18 5
West Bromwich ... 2 3 1 1 11 9 3
Leicester ... 3 0 1 2 10 20 1
Worcester ... 3 0 3 0 5 25 0

Veterans' Division

Birmingham "V" ... 4 2 0 0 25 5 9
West Bromwich ... 1 0 7 13 2
Nottingham ... 2 1 0 1 11 9 2
Wolverhampton ... 3 1 2 0 13 17 2
Cheltenham ... 2 0 2 0 15 0

Intermediate

Cheltenham ... 3 0 0 24 6 6
Birmingham ... 2 1 0 13 7 2
Nottingham ... 2 1 1 0 9 11 2
Wolverhampton ... 2 0 2 0 17 9 0
Worcester ... 1 0 1 0 1 9 0

Juniors

Birmingham ... 3 3 0 0 29 1 6
Nottingham ... 4 3 0 0 22 18 9
West Bromwich ... 1 1 0 0 6 4 2
Nottingham ... 2 1 1 0 9 11 2
Leicester ... 2 1 1 0 9 11 2
Worcester ... 2 0 2 0 7 13 0
Wolverhampton ... 3 0 3 0 7 23 0

Seventeen
Ellesmere Port report that the number of teams in their League remain the same as last year but they have lost two clubs, including the last remaining Youth Club. The League is now entirely composed of Works teams. Their experience is a lack of promising youngsters, which they put down to the demands of National Service, and the fact that most Youth Clubs have the use of their halls for only one or two nights a week, in which case their wide range of activities prevents them obtaining practice or entering League competitions.

Wiram, however, are in the happy position of having the use of Livingstone Street Baths with six tables every Saturday evening, lent to them by the Birkenhead Youth Committee, and in five weeks the attendance has grown from one to 60. Ages range from 12 to 18, and under the guidance of Mr. Cliff Swindells, competitions and varied events are arranged each week. Promising youngsters will be helped and persuaded to join clubs in the Wirral League, who, while they have lost some clubs, have increased the number of teams to 90.

Bill Stamp.

GLOUCESTER SNIPPETS

PRIDE of place this month goes to the county team. Visiting Shefield, with 13 to the county, they won their first match in three seasons. Last year’s runners-up, Bromley, have also dropped one point, by drawing with N.W. Kent “A” and Medway Towns, so the issue is still very much in doubt, with only Maidstone and Woolwich having full points so far. In the ladies’ division, Tonbridge are the surprise leaders with full points, but Maidstone have the strongest sides. Maidstone, winners of the division for the past five years, drew with Woolwich, but must be favourites for the title by virtue of their all-round strength. In the junior division, Folkstone and Woolwich have full points, while a storm battle for promotion is going on in both second divisions.

Men, Div. 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folkestone</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromley</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beckenham</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medway Towns</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.W. Kent “B”</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolwich</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.W. Kent “A”</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravesend</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunbridge Wells</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ladies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tunbridge</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medway Towns</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maidstone</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolwich</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravesend</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Wells</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folkestone</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromley</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Junior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>L</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woolwich</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravesend</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folkestone</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Promotion Rule Muddle. — Probably most people know by now that a serious error was made in the current handbook of the N.C.C. Rules 3 and 4 completely contradicted each other; rule 3 states: "in each second division, the team finishing nearest the top, having no runner-up titles in the premier division, shall be eligible to challenge for a place in the premier division." Rule 4 says: "...or in nearly all circumstances shall be eligible to place in the premier division." Now, in Division II (South) it is quite likely that the second teams of Surrey, Middlesex and Essex will finish in this order; therefore, the fourth county becomes eligible to challenge for promotion according to rule 3, but is banned under rule 4.

This matter should have been given immediate attention, instead of which it is still unresolved in mid-season.

There is a keen struggle going on for promotion in Division II (South) at this very moment, and the counties battling there are entitled to know how many games they have to win to be able to challenge.

Conrad Jaseke.

ESSEX NOTES

ESSEX hopes of winning the Premier Division of the National County Championship received a severe set-back when they lost narrowly 4-6 to Surrey at Kingston.

The result of the clash between Surrey and Middlesex on January 11 is therefore reversed, and for Middlesex could mean the championship being decided on games average after the Middlesex and Essex match at Tottenham Town Hall on March 22.

It is likely that the third pair of Tony North to Johnny Lewis will be available for this important match, as they were almost certain to play on the way to Tokyo for the World Championships.

Meanwhile, Essex have two still home games, against Yorkshire and Gloucestershire.

A sad blow to the East London League has been the death of their President, Mr. R. O. Adams. He was also connected with the Central London League.

Peter Bunce, co-founder of the Grove Sunday Club with Arthur Pickford, is severing his connections with the club. His place is being taken by Ron Parmenter.

County badge (second class) have been awarded to Bob McCree and Percy Curtis.

Chelmsford League have received a record entry for their championships (finals January 21). Veteran Charlie Wheeler is not defending his singles title, but Edna Sitch, the women's champion, is again competing and can expect a strong challenge, from an entry which includes Paula Songer.

Paula looks set all to win the "Daily Mirror" Zone final for the second successive year, having defeated her chief rival, Brenda Oliver, 3-2 in a very good match at Witham.

Table tennis is obviously flourishing in the Chelmsford area. Besides entering two new teams (veteran and junior) in the Essex League championship, their first team are unbeaten in the Second Division.

The well-known Ilford players Jack Anker and Pam Palmer were married recently.

Frank Bateman.
IRISH SCENE

The most sensational news in Irish table-tennis for some time is the announced retirement from representative games of Ireland's number one, Sean Clarkin, and also Miss Deirdre Fearon. These players have certain differences with the Leinster Branch, and until such times as these matters are cleared up they will not be available for selection.

Ulster once again proved itself to be the top province in the country when winning the inter-provincial championship at Limerick. In the deciding match they defeated old rivals Leinster 13-7, but I have no doubt that had Leinster been at full strength, positions would have been reversed.

The weakened Leinster side, however, did not go down without a fight, and several of the games were so close that they could quite easily have gone in their favour.

The most improved player in Ulster this season must be Colin Senior. He went through the whole contest without losing a match, a feat equalled only by Harry O'Prey. The surprise of the tournament was Leinster's Tommy Taylor. He certainly justified his unexpected selection by producing some devastating hitting. He won all his matches against Munster, and also defeated the Ulster number four, Ernie Walker. Walker, incidentally, made a most disappointing debut.

Munster had two very promising newcomers in T. Clancy, of Waterford, and Miss U. Cassin. Both played well throughout, Clancy capturing the "scalps" of Allen, Sterne, and G. Maher. If given the chance to play against top opposition, both could well develop into first-class players.

Ireland, even though they were defeated 10-0 by England in their first international of the season at Belfast, were not disgraced; for, in spite of the fact that this was an exceptionally strong English side, several of the games could quite easily have gone in Ireland's favour.

H. O'Prey is playing better than ever this season, and gave Aubrey Simons quite a shock in the singles. New cap Colin Senior put up a creditable performance against Jimmy Lowe. He took the first set, a thriller, at 22-20, lost the second, then came back again to gain a 10-5 lead in the third. At this point, however, Senior lost his touch, and Lowe levelled at 10 all, and went on to win 21-16.

Ernie Allen, too, performed commendably, and with a bit of luck could have accounted for Lowe. Having lost the first set, he led 19-16 in the second, but made a bad tactical mistake by changing his attacking policy, and Lowe pulled up to win 22-20.

The Leinster Open championships provided some first-class table-tennis, and also several surprises. Tommy Taylor, hitting the ball very hard and accurately, defeated Wesley Pappin in straight sets. Then Ray Killock, of Garda, ousted M. Behan after a thrilling encounter.

In the women's section the up-and-coming May Phillips defeated Mrs. Pappin rather easily. Perhaps the best and most exciting game of the early stages, however, was the semi-final of the boys' singles, in which the diminutive S. Clince, of Ballymoney, defeated N. Martin, of Dundalk. The popular Wexford boy was beaten in the final by Ray Linden, of Roscreva.

Sean Clarkin emerged an easy winner of the men's singles, without dropping a set in the event. Many thought that the Englishman, J. E. Head, who had previously eliminated Killock and E. I. Sterne, would pull something extra out in the final, but Clarkin knocked him completely off his game with his quick hitting and fleetness of foot.

The Englishman did, however, prove his worth by partnering his wife, formerly Jean Winn, to victory over Clarkin and Miss Fearon in a very close mixed doubles decider.

Mrs. Head, an English international and ranked number six, has a most deceptive and unorthodox style, which incorporates a deadly forehand, features that were amply demonstrated in the women's singles final against Helen Elliot.

By virtue of her earlier displays, Miss Elliot had established herself a firm favourite with the crowd, but when up against Miss Winn's sound defence and half-volley, her attack cracked up and the English girl went on to record a straight sets victory.

The men's doubles proved to be one of the best matches of the night, with Clarkin and Mick Behan producing the steadier play to defeat Head and Pappin. The one disappointing feature about the finals' night was the poor attendance.

S. Dignam.

The Toffee Specialists.
SURREY, with wins over Sussex and Essex, now take the lead in the Premier Division and with Gloucestershire are now the only unbeaten teams in this Division. 

Middlesex following their disastrous defeat at the hands of Yorkshire in this Division with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

Essex, without Leach and Stevens, could not hold either Venner or Craigie. Both Jones and Brumwell won their singles matches for Essex.

Gloucestershire, with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

In the Second Division North Cheshire retained their leadership and undefeated record with a 7–3 win over Durham at Macclesfield and having already beaten Yorkshire, present runners-up in this Division, appear to be in a strong position to challenge for their return to the Premier Division.

Yorkshire, now take the lead in the Premier Division and with Gloucestershire are now the only unbeaten teams in this Division. Middlesex following their disastrous defeat at the hands of Yorkshire in this Division with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

Essex, without Leach and Stevens, could not hold either Venner or Craigie. Both Jones and Brumwell won their singles matches for Essex.

Gloucestershire, with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

In the Second Division North Cheshire retained their leadership and undefeated record with a 7–3 win over Durham at Macclesfield and having already beaten Yorkshire, present runners-up in this Division, appear to be in a strong position to challenge for their return to the Premier Division.

Yorkshire, now take the lead in the Premier Division and with Gloucestershire are now the only unbeaten teams in this Division. Middlesex following their disastrous defeat at the hands of Yorkshire in this Division with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

Essex, without Leach and Stevens, could not hold either Venner or Craigie. Both Jones and Brumwell won their singles matches for Essex.

Gloucestershire, with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

In the Second Division North Cheshire retained their leadership and undefeated record with a 7–3 win over Durham at Macclesfield and having already beaten Yorkshire, present runners-up in this Division, appear to be in a strong position to challenge for their return to the Premier Division.

Yorkshire, now take the lead in the Premier Division and with Gloucestershire are now the only unbeaten teams in this Division. Middlesex following their disastrous defeat at the hands of Yorkshire in this Division with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

Essex, without Leach and Stevens, could not hold either Venner or Craigie. Both Jones and Brumwell won their singles matches for Essex.

Gloucestershire, with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

In the Second Division North Cheshire retained their leadership and undefeated record with a 7–3 win over Durham at Macclesfield and having already beaten Yorkshire, present runners-up in this Division, appear to be in a strong position to challenge for their return to the Premier Division.

Yorkshire, now take the lead in the Premier Division and with Gloucestershire are now the only unbeaten teams in this Division. Middlesex following their disastrous defeat at the hands of Yorkshire in this Division with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

Essex, without Leach and Stevens, could not hold either Venner or Craigie. Both Jones and Brumwell won their singles matches for Essex.

Gloucestershire, with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

In the Second Division North Cheshire retained their leadership and undefeated record with a 7–3 win over Durham at Macclesfield and having already beaten Yorkshire, present runners-up in this Division, appear to be in a strong position to challenge for their return to the Premier Division.

Yorkshire, now take the lead in the Premier Division and with Gloucestershire are now the only unbeaten teams in this Division. Middlesex following their disastrous defeat at the hands of Yorkshire in this Division with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

Essex, without Leach and Stevens, could not hold either Venner or Craigie. Both Jones and Brumwell won their singles matches for Essex.

Gloucestershire, with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

In the Second Division North Cheshire retained their leadership and undefeated record with a 7–3 win over Durham at Macclesfield and having already beaten Yorkshire, present runners-up in this Division, appear to be in a strong position to challenge for their return to the Premier Division.

Yorkshire, now take the lead in the Premier Division and with Gloucestershire are now the only unbeaten teams in this Division. Middlesex following their disastrous defeat at the hands of Yorkshire in this Division with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

Essex, without Leach and Stevens, could not hold either Venner or Craigie. Both Jones and Brumwell won their singles matches for Essex.

Gloucestershire, with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

In the Second Division North Cheshire retained their leadership and undefeated record with a 7–3 win over Durham at Macclesfield and having already beaten Yorkshire, present runners-up in this Division, appear to be in a strong position to challenge for their return to the Premier Division.

Yorkshire, now take the lead in the Premier Division and with Gloucestershire are now the only unbeaten teams in this Division. Middlesex following their disastrous defeat at the hands of Yorkshire in this Division with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

Essex, without Leach and Stevens, could not hold either Venner or Craigie. Both Jones and Brumwell won their singles matches for Essex.

Gloucestershire, with a 7–3 win over Yorkshire, and with only five sets against them in three ties, are still in the running for the major title although they still have their most difficult matches to play. Yorkshire were strengthened by Kennedy who won his singles against Worcestershire, and Woolley who won his doubles against Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, the latter of which took place this month.

In the Second Division North Cheshire retained their leadership and undefeated record with a 7–3 win over Durh
and Surrey now appear to be doomed to relegation.

The tie between Devonshire and Glamorgan in the Second Division West, which was expected to decide the leadership of this Division, resulted in a 5-all draw. So, Glamorgan retain the lead on a set average. Staffordshire's first appearance in this Division at Bath against Somerset gave the latter team their first points during December. Landry, with two more wins to his credit, has yet to drop a game. Suffolk beat Essex 7–3 at Stowmarket and now occupy increasing their points average by 11 per cent.

In the Southern section Middlesex increased their already strong position with a 9–1 win over Hertfordshire at Rickmansworth. Landry, with two more wins to his credit, has yet to win a point. In the Midland Division the position of the teams remains unchanged, the tie between Worcestershire and Derbyshire at Worcester resulting in a drawn game.

Hertfordshire still lead the Southern Division with an 8–2 win over Oxfordshire at Thame, but Berkshire now hold second place by virtue of their 7–3 win over Wiltshire at Swindon.

No fixtures were played in the Eastern and South Western Divisions during December.

Half way through this season and with the present sponge controversy raging, it is interesting to note that in the 67 Championship matches played, 564 players have used rubber bats and 52 sponge, approximately 8.4 per cent of the total. The average game lasted about 6 minutes, 446 games taking 5 minutes and 276 games 6 minutes. No rule limit matches have yet been recorded although 5 games took 15 minutes and 4 games 14 minutes. At the other end of the scale 38 games were over in three minutes or less.

Space does not permit a survey to be made of the success of the sponge players, but further details will be given at a later date.

DIVISIONAL TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P.</th>
<th>W.</th>
<th>L.</th>
<th>D.</th>
<th>F.</th>
<th>A.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREMIER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucestershire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warwickshire</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND NORTH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northumberland</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire Juniors</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND SOUTH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampshire</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hertfordshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedfordshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECOND WEST</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glamorgan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devonshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerset</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffordshire</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcestershire</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNIORS NORTH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH JUNIORS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middlesex</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hertfordshire</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EASTERN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norfolk</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDLAND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warwickshire</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffordshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derbyshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worcestershire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hertfordshire</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berkshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiltshire</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckinghamshire</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornwall</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SURREY OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

MUNICIPAL BATHS HALL, EAST STREET, EPSOM

FEBRUARY 20th-24th, 1956

FINALS FRIDAY 24th at 7 p.m.

Tickets 5/-, 3/-, 2/- and 2/- Rover

C. T. DEAN, 67 Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey

Twenty-one
NATIONAL CUP RESULTS AND DRAW

THE Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl national team championships have now reached the zone finals, and the respective holders Staines and Birmingham are still going strong in their efforts to win again.

Staines suffered a severe blow to their prospects by the tragic death of Bernard Crouch in the Barnes railway disaster, but veteran Leo Thompson has come in to fill the vacancy and they enter the Zone final at home to Folkestone full of confidence.

Birmingham, the women's champions are at home to King's Lynn.

WILMOTT CUP
Third Round Results

ZONE 1 (A)
Leeds 3, Huddersfield 5

ZONE 2 (A)
Southport 5, Burnley 4

ZONE 2 (B)
Stockport 5, Manchester 6

ZONE 3 (A)
Leicester 5, Coventry 3

ZONE 3 (B)
Cambridge 5, Wisbech 1

ZONE 4 (A)
Watford 4, Hitchin 5

ZONE 5 (A)
Wandsworth 5, South London 6

ZONE 6 (B)
Wembley 6, North Middlesex 3

Zone Finals Draw
(on or before January 22, 1956)

ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B) Scunthorpe v Huddersfield
ZONE 2 (A) and 2 (B) Southport v Manchester
ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B) Cambridge v Coventry
ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B) Hitchin v Ilford
ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B) Wembley v South London
ZONE 6 (A) and 6 (B) Staines v Folkestone

Bournemouth v Bognor
Brighton v Bognor

ROSE BOWL
Third Round Results

ZONE 3 (B)
Norwich 3, Kings Lynn 6

ZONE 4 (A)
St. Albans 1, Watford 8

ZONE 5 (A)
East London 5, London Business Houses 2

ZONE 6 (A)
Birmingham (holders) v Kings Lynn

ZONE 6 (B)
Staines v Maidstone

Zone Finals Draw
(on or before January 22, 1956)

ZONE 1 (A) and 1 (B) Grimsby v Northumberland
ZONE 2 Manchester v Liverpool
ZONE 3 (A) and 3 (B) Birmingham (holders) v Kings Lynn
ZONE 4 (A) and 4 (B) Ilford v Watford
ZONE 5 (A) and 5 (B) South London v East London
ZONE 6 (A) and 6 (B) Staines v Maidstone

Plymouth v Slough

To do the impossible with your budget?
To find the best service?
To obtain value?
Then consult us before buying

TABELS. We will offer you the highest price for your old table against a new one, irrespective of condition. H.P. terms. Tables carriage paid.

Alec Brook International Table £40. 0. 0.

CUPS, MEDALS and PLAQUES. An entirely new range at the most competitive prices. Write for illustrated catalogue.

CLUB BADGES. We supply many thousands including to British Railways, R.A.F., the Ministries, etc. Send rough sketch for quotation.

CLOTHING. All table tennis and other sports clothing available. Lists supplied.

ALEC BROOK (SPORTS EQUIPMENT) LTD.
85 DUKE STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

Telephone: MAYFAIR 3113/5775

Twenty-two
ENGLAND HUMILIATED
by HARRISON EDWARDS

English table tennis slumped badly last month when the Rumanian national team swept all before them in their first ever tour of this country.

They opened the tour by defeating the South of England 8–1 at High Wycombe, then trounced England 7–1 at Tottenham and wound up with a 6–3 win over the Rest of England at Norwich.

ENGLISH table tennis suffered its most humiliating reverse since the war with a 7–1 defeat by Rumania in their first ever mixed international between the two countries at Tottenham on December 12.

Ann Haydon was the only member of the English team to emerge with any credit, marking up the solitary win when she beat Ella Zeller over three games. The rest of the side appeared to have left most of their fighting spirit at home. They were out-paced, out-hit, and generally routed.

For some of the players like Bryan Merrett, who started promisingly against Paul Pesch in the opening tie, it was almost as though the occasion was too big. Merrett relied too much on defence and would probably have done much better had he come out and hit.

Ann Haydon levelled the match at one-all, though she fell away badly in losing the second game to Miss Zeller. However, she was grimly determined in the decisive third set as she crashed her way to victory, with powerful forehand smashes.

Harry Venner was next on the list and took a hiding at the hands of Mircea Popescu. Mistakes flowed from his bat and he seldom hit a ball over the net.

Enter twins Rosalind Cornett and Diane Rowe, and with recent wins over world champions Angelica Rozeanu and Zeller, the World Champions, in the women doubles, which was more than we hoped, but poor Betty will not want to remember her treatment against Rozeanu in the singles. Not that she played badly, she just wasn't allowed to play at all.

Conclusion: Our next to top girls need hard competitive practice against Continental opposition.


THE SPORTSWOMAN

The official sporting magazine for women

The only magazine of its kind giving pictures, news and views of women in sport, together with articles by leading sports personalities.

Read by over 200,000 sportswomen. Order your copy now. Your Newsagent will take your order.

Publishers:--FORUM PUBLICATIONS, LTD.
302 BRIDGE ROAD, LEICESTER

Wagstaff Advertising
Twenty-three
THE REST SHOW FIGHT

The Carrington Notebook moved over to East Anglia last month, primarily for the purpose of the representative match with Rumania at Norwich on December 13, but at the same time to take an opportunity of looking at the activities of the enterprising Norwich League.

Rumania, continuing their winning way, beat the Rest 6-3, but the Rest had the satisfaction of the best record against the visitors.

Good fighting spirit and general alertness was evident in this match from both sides — a welcome change from the showing of the English team the previous evening at Tottenham.

Ann Haydon must be excepted from the Tottenham criticism. There she was our only winner; at Norwich she lost, but her losses seemed almost like victories, so excellent were her performances against Rozeanu in the singles and doubles.

In her singles she rushed a shaky Rozeanu first game, then played a little loosely in the second. In the third she showed fine understanding of the need to change tactics at various intervals. At 14-19 down she hung on to every ball until Rozeanu obliged by over-pressing the matter. Ann came up from 17-20 to have a match point on the second deuce!

In this crisis Rozeanu showed supreme genius time and again before winning 24-22. The fact that she was compelled to, speaks volumes for the English girl's achievement.

In doubles, Ann Haydon found brilliant attacking support from Jill Rook and when Jill had temporarily shot her bolt, changed the situation single-handed many times. Jill Rook lacked just a little in adaptability to a surprise ball, but showed courage, skill and intelligence in attack.

I "apologised" to Jill for bringing her all the way to Norwich for one doubles match. Her reply, "Not at all. I have learned a great deal," shows the right spirit.

Diane Rowe played with utmost determination. Her first deuce game v Zeller was a classic. Zeller just would not lie down and it was clear that whoever won the deuce would take the match. The score 27-25 for Diane showed how well she kept her head.

The position was reversed when Rozeanu stole the first game from Diane at deuce. A sequence of brilliant winners alternating with lucky net cords gave Rozeanu an unbreakable lead in the second game, but Diane went down fighting.

All four Rumanian men played well above their Tottenham form, and this should be borne in mind when reading the following comments:

Derek Burridge showed signs of conquering previous "International nerves," playing more freely and retrieving some wonderful balls. Too acquiescent, however, in retreating as soon as the attack was mounted —which in Pesch's case, means the second ball of the rally! Burridge still gets so keyed up to fight each ball that he does not "see" the battle situation clearly.

Bryan Merrett played well and even scored a few bonus points from attacking strokes. Gantner, however, showed his superiority by cutting out all previous errors and punching extra hard to defeat Merrett's deuce challenge.

Johnny Leach was in pretty good form, hitting crisply many times. Unfortunately for him, Harastozi switched a world-beating blend of heavily-dragged defensive returns with piercing hits in Sido-Slar technique on both wings.

Aubrey Simons, drawing obvious confidence from the concerted pep-talk of our whole team, had to battle like—well, like the Simons of three years back, to beat a very dangerous Popescu.

Leach and Di Rowe looked very powerful as they won the mixed. Harastozi and Rozeanu mixed like oil and water!

In spite of the inevitable fatigue of a hectic 5-country tour, the Rumanians showed themselves very willing to be sociable and in fact naturally so, and on the last night in London they invited all who had contributed to the playing and staging of their southern matches to a cocktail party at the Romanian Legation.

If any tensions or inhibitions had remained they were well and truly washed away at this pleasant function.

**SCORcES** (English names first)

- Haydon and Rook lost to Rozeanu and Zeller 21-14, 17-21, 9-21.
- Leach and D. Rowe beat Harastozi and Rozeanu 21-15, 21-16.
About the Norwich and District League

This is the 21st Birthday Season of the League, and I found ample evidence of a mature table tennis organisation, which has had its struggles, but in reaching the age of 21 has acquired many friends and built many loyalties. It can afford to look back on quite a number of proud achievements.

From the original 10 teams in 1935, they now have nearly one hundred. Three of the 1935 founder clubs have maintained unbroken membership, as have three who joined in 1936.

The present secretary, Harold Betts, has held office since 1938, working closely with Gerald Rix, the present chairman, and Eric Fairhead (now of course the County Secretary). There are many other "old faithfuls"—the whole atmosphere of Norwich breathes dependability and a respect for the building of the past combined with a healthy forward outlook.

Norwich fans have flocked to six major international exhibitions and now some 850 have savoured international match-play at the Lads Club. This Club, by the way, was founded and is organised by the Police of Norwich, and I understand they are well satisfied that "Prevention is better than Punishment."

The 1938 champion of Norwich, Bill Hicks, is now a famous sports editor of the "News Chronicle," and was probably the first to give table tennis a prominent and regular place in the London dailies.

The city league even has its own Umpires' Scheme. To become a "Norwich Umpire" you must pass both a written and an oral examination.

Other leagues of comparable standing may wish to compare:—this league favours the 5-a-side match, each playing two opponents; a draw is thus possible. A 2s. 6d. transfer fee is charged to any player wishing to change clubs.

Players can aspire to earn "Norwich City Colours"—not too easily, since only seven have been awarded since their inception in 1947.

So far Norwich and Norfolk have not produced any international players, although they have been honoured by having two famous internationals, Jean Nichols (Mrs. Bostock) and Eric Filby as immigrant members. However, they have fostered local coaching schemes, often in conjunction with their Suffolk neighbours, and Billy Minors, holder of the E.T.T.A. Diploma, gives most of his time to the youngsters nowadays. Probably the chief trouble is distance from centres of hot competition, but you will have gathered that the Norwich Committee is a go-ahead team ... hence the words "so far" at the start of this paragraph.

Place a regular order with your local newsagent for "TABLE TENNIS"
or send for a year's subscription(eight issues) to:
THE WALTHAMSTOW PRESS LTD.,
161 Hoe Street, London, E.17.
Copies of earlier issues this season are still available if required.

OLDHAM SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

THERE is plenty of promising talent around Oldham judging by performances in the first ever Oldham Schools Championship promoted by the Oldham League in conjunction with the Oldham Chronicle.

Played as a mixed singles, Derek Senior came through as the winner out of an entry of 73. He beat J. Littleford in the final by 21—18, 21—11.

Littleford, a fine all-round stroke player, was the favourite, but had to play with his wrist bandaged following a nasty burn, and his defence was not equal to the aggressive attack of Senior, who is also a Lancashire Schoolboy cricketer.

Greater experience had helped to carry both these lads to the final, for both are already playing in the league, Senior as a member of the Chamber Road Baptists, and Littleford with Townfield Y.C.

J. Maxson, who lost to Senior in the semi-final was the only non-league player to reach this stage.

The last survivor of the girls was Margaret Schofield, who put up a really great show against Senior in the quarter-finals before being beaten 20—22, 15—21.

This was in fact Senior's toughest fight in the final rounds, which were played at the British Legion Club.

The Committee were agreeably surprised at the high standard set by these youngsters and there is no doubt that many of them will be giving a good account of themselves in League play within the next two or three years.

Final: SENIOR bt Littleford 21—18, 21—11.

Twenty-five
### FIXTURE ENGAGEMENTS

In the Open Tournaments below, events shown in the column are additional to M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D., and X.D., in every case. In specified junior tournaments they are additional to the normal under 17's events. The closing date for entries is shown in brackets after the title. Suitable entries are inserted in this diary without charge but all organisers should send information to the Editor at the earliest date possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details and Venue</th>
<th>Extra Events</th>
<th>Organising Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 14-15</td>
<td>Flintshire Open</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. R. D. Renshaw, 7, Luna Croft, Gleadless, Sheffield 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Midland Closed</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llyn-y-Grant Road, Penylan, Cardiff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>South Yorks Open (Jan. 14)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. K. H. Miles, 46, Bevois Valley Road, Southampton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wales v Scotland</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. P. H. Northcott, 31, Hillcrest Road, Weymouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-21</td>
<td>Welsh Open</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Lancs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Southampton Open (Jan 7)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. K. H. Miles, 46, Bevois Valley Road, Southampton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>England v Wales</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. P. H. Northcott, 31, Hillcrest Road, Weymouth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Lancashire Open (Jan. 21)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. A. Howcroft, 30, Thorne Street, Farnworth, Lancs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Kent Open (Jan. 14)</td>
<td>J.X.S.</td>
<td>Mr. J. Trigg, 21, Marler Road, Folkestone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/Jan.</td>
<td>French Open</td>
<td>G.S.</td>
<td>Mrs. E. Johnston, 141, Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>G.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>South London Open (Jan. 23)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. G. Motlow, 29, Carsisbrooke Road, Newport, Monmouthshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Belgium Open</td>
<td>J.S.</td>
<td>Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Gwent Open</td>
<td>J.S.</td>
<td>Mr. M. Goldstein, 415, Moseley Road, Birmingham 12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-18</td>
<td>Midland Open (Feb. 4)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>Surrey Open (Feb. 4)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. C. T. Dean, 67, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 28/</td>
<td>ENGLISH OPEN (Feb. 1)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. Norman Cook, 7, North Avenue, Stalybridge, Cheshire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>G.S.</td>
<td>Mr. S. Riddick, 29, Thorney Hedge Road, London W.4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 &amp; 29</td>
<td>West Middlesex Open (Feb. 14)</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>Mr. L. R. P. Westaway, 69, Quinta Road, Babbacombe, Torquay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-10</td>
<td>Ealing London, W.7.</td>
<td>G.S.</td>
<td>Mr. W. H. Gawne, 9, Eric Road, Wallasey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Hastings Closed</td>
<td>G.S.</td>
<td>Mr. E. Moirhouse, 26, Sherwood Street, Scarborough.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 31/</td>
<td>North East England Open (Mar. 21)</td>
<td>J.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 2</td>
<td>Burniston Barracks and Westborough</td>
<td>Y.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-11</td>
<td>WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.</td>
<td>V.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Twenty-six**
ENGLAND v SCOTLAND

BEFORE a crowd of nearly 400 enthusiastic supporters at Woodside Public Halls, Glasgow on December 2, England romped away to another convincing 9–1 victory over Scotland. With the exception of Helen Elliot, the Scots were outclassed although they tried hard.

Miss Elliot scored Scotland’s only success when she beat Betty Isaacs in straight games. Although the Surrey player fought tenaciously she lacked the class to combat the pace and changes of this great Scottish player.

However, Miss Isaacs, had some measure of revenge when she teamed up with Pam Mortimer, of Birmingham, for a similar win over Miss Elliot and Helen Houliston in the doubles. Miss Mortimer won her singles against Miss Houliston.

England’s male trio of Bryan Merrett, Derek Burridge and Ray Hinchliff were up to expectations, although Burridge was at first taken out of his stride by Garland’s half volley and hitting. But after the loss of the first game he came back with grim determination to take the next two.

Merrett’s defensive tactics involved him in two time limit games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–13. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett would have been better to at this stage. As it was only one further point was scored in the game... by Still. The second game found both sparring for an aggressive start, left little doubt as to the ultimate result of his match with T. Gilmour, the weakest of the Scottish team.

Conditions for the match were ideal, and wonderful hospitality made it a most enjoyable trip.


England 10 v Ireland 0

WELLINGTON Hall, Belfast, packed with nearly 1,000 spectators was the home venue for the annual match between England and Ireland which, in spite of the overwhelming score, was greatly enjoyed by the public and without question the Irish players gave a very good account of themselves.

J. Lowe, newly capped for this event, opened the match by defeating the Irish No. 3, E. Allen in two straight games. Aubrey Simons in his game with H. O’Prey had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.

Harry Venner had no difficulty in his games with Eddie Still, yet with three minutes to go in the first game he was leading 19–15. True both players put up the shutters, but surely Merrett had a shaky start, losing the first game at 11 but recovering in convincing style to win the next two games 21–16, 21–12.
HERGA "OPEN"

ENTRIES for the Herga Open at Harrow (November 8th to December 3rd) showed a 30 per cent increase over last year—a most welcome sign. Although attracting few players of note from outside Middlesex, it is run in a friendly efficient way by the young and not so young.

Michael Thornhill retained his singles title with wins over Redfearn, Sheldon, Adams, Craigie and in the final Alan Lindsey, and also took the mixed doubles with Jill Rook, who made a clean sweep of the women’s events.

The men’s final was prolonged but, on the whole, well received by the crowd, and there was very nearly a major upset. Lindsey, who had earlier beaten Alan Rhodes, R. Raybould and Laurie Landry, used sponge, and made such good use of the half volley that he led by a game and 16-7. But could not clinch one out of eight match points and was eventually beaten at 14 in the third.

Jill Rook, in sparkling form, proved much to strong for Margaret Fry in the women’s final, then with Janet White took the women’s doubles and followed with the mixed paired with Thornhill.

Len Adams and Tony Miller were surprise winners of the men’s doubles with wins over K. Craigie, Alan Rhodes and Thornhill; Raybould.

Young Landry notched up his seventh junior title at the expense of A. Gilles, while in the senior event he accounted for the internationals Ron Sharman and Tony Miller before falling to Lindsey.


Women’s Doubles: Semi-finals: Miss ROOK and Miss J. WHITE bt Miss J. Lewsey and Miss J. Murray 21−11, 21−13; Miss J. HARVEY and Miss I. GASTON bt Miss M. Stafford and Miss P. Ingram 22−20, 17−21, 22−20.

Final Miss ROOK and Miss WHITE bt Miss Harvey and Miss Gaston 21−11, 21−13.

Mixed Doubles: Final: THORNHILL and Miss ROOK bt Adams and Miss Fry 21−15, 10−21, 21−19.


BATH “OPEN”

HOPES that a local player would win the men’s singles for the first time in the Bath Open (Dec. 3) crashed at the last hurdle. David House was beaten 11−2 and 19 by the defending champion Ray Morley (Gloucester) in the final.

Morley took command from the start, and House was always fighting an uphill battle though he came within a couple of points of getting the second game. House and Morley then joined forces to take the men’s doubles with a straight sets win over the Bristol pair J. H. Bucknell and R. Haydon.

House landed a second title in the mixed with Joan Mackay of Birmingham. It was also a double for Miss Mackay, who won the women’s doubles with Marjorie Cumberbatch.

Miss E. Pomroy, a regular contender for the Bath’s trophies, won the women’s singles for the first time, staged a fine recovery after losing the first game to beat Mrs. Cumberbatch 13−21, 21−8, 21−15.

The young Welsh youth P. J. Crowley gave a most impressive display in beating J. G. Woodforde in the Boys’ final by 21−18, 21−18.

Finals Results

Men’s Singles: R. MORLEY (Gloucester) bt D. House (Bath) 21−12, 21−19.

Women’s Singles: Miss E. POMROY (Bristol) bt Mrs. M. Cumberbatch (Birmingham) 13−21, 21−8, 21−15.


Women’s Doubles: Mrs. CUMBERBATCH and Miss J. MACKAY bt Miss Pomroy and Miss J. Collier 21−20, 21−19.

Mixed Doubles: HOUSE and Miss MACKAY bt D. Woodcock and Mrs. Cumberbatch 21−17, 21−14, 21−14.

Boys’ Singles: P. J. CROWLEY (Cardiff) bt J. G. Woodforde (Wester-Super-Mare) 21−18, 21−18.

NORFOLK “CLOSED”

Results

Men’s Singles: L. HOLDOM (Norwich) bt J. Ewles (Norwich) 21−16, 21−22, 21−10, 21−19.

Women’s Singles: Mrs. B. CASSELL (King’s Lynn) bt Miss M. Turner (Norwich) 21−13, 21−15.


Women’s Doubles: Mrs. CASSELL and Miss TURNER bt Miss P. Nickalls and Miss B. Robson 22−20, 21−18.

Mixed Doubles: M. EWLES and Mrs. CASSELL bt G. Whitaker and Miss P. Dyball 21−17, 21−11.

Veteran Singles: R. DUNSTAN (Norwich) bt K. Gale (Gl. Yarmouth) 21−19, 21−18.

Youths’ Singles: D. MINNS (Gl. Yarmouth) bt W. Gooch (Gl. Yarmouth) 21−17, 22−20.

Girls’ Singles: Miss P. DYBALL (Norwich) bt Miss P. Dearling (Norwich) 21−7, 21−6.