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and CORBILLON CUP
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AUBREY SIMONS ON
DEFENCE

PAM MORTIMER, of Birmingham,
chosen for the Internationals against
Hungary and Germany DDR
SO NEAR, YET SO FAR

A BIG hand for England's gallant quintet in the World's Table Tennis Championships in Tokio. They did not win one of the team titles, but they went down fighting, and by their brilliant efforts have proved that England is still one of the foremost nations.

A little luck and it could have been a story of success. The girls, Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe, finished as runners-up to Rumania, the only team to beat them, in the Corbillon Cup, while Richard Bergmann, Johnny Leach and Brian Kennedy were just pipped by Czechoslovakia for a place in the Swaythling Cup final.

It has been a magnificent performance, better than we expected, and has justified the cost of sending them on this long trip.

On page 28 Table Tennis brings you the first complete list of results, with tables and the detailed results of all matches in which England were involved.

Japan and Rumania retained the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups respectively, but as these tables show England improved on last year's efforts.

Most of the honours go to the two girls, whose outstanding performance was to inflict the first home defeat on Japan, who had been fully confident of winning the title.

DELAYING TACTICS

The Japanese girls, particularly Fujie Eguchi, tried delaying tactics, playing on their opponents nerves, by holding up the service and generally wasting time. They were a repeat of tactics which caused the Japanese to be booted at the Wembley meeting of 1954, and are not in keeping with the spirit of the game.

Both Miss Haydon and Miss Rowe had to call to their opponents to "get on with the game."

After their magnificent win over the Japanese, England's hopes soared high, only to crash against Rumania, for whom the merciless Angelica Rozeanu, with a debt to settle, was magnificent.

Mrs. Rozeanu was determined to wipe out that defeat by Miss Haydon in the French championships earlier this year, and although successful found it a tough assignment. A lucky net cord here and there enabled her to scrape home at 19—21, 21—18, 21—18.

This win, and, of course, the vital doubles, where Mrs. Rozeanu was again outstanding, assured Rumania of keeping their title.

An analysis of the results in the Corbillon Cup show Miss Haydon to have won eight of her eleven matches, while Miss Rowe won six and lost two. Together they won five out of the seven doubles.

SELECTION JUSTIFIED

Bergmann gave an effective answer to those critics of his inclusion in the England team with a stout hearted display which saw him win 12 out of 15 matches. Leach won ten out of 16, while Kennedy won nine and lost seven.

Bergmann was the only one to beat Ivan Andreadis, when Czechoslovakia finally ended our run of wins.

This was a fantastic match inasmuch as Leach was the only one of the trio to beat Ladislav Stipek, yet he lost the decisive game to L. Vyhanovsky, who had already been beaten by both Bergmann and Kennedy.

Leach took the first game, narrowly lost the second at 19, then the third at 18.

It was perhaps unfortunate that on the adjoining table Japan were having a hard tussle with Rumania in a crucial Group A match. The enthusiastic cheering helped to upset the concentration.

A full report, with on the spot comments of the individual events, will be published in the May issue. Order your copy now.

HARRISON EDWARDS.
Table Tennis Association

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

President: The Dowager Lady Swaythling, O.B.E.

Chairman: Hon. Ivor Montagu

Honorary Secretary/Treasurer: A. K. Vint

Assist. Secretary: D. P. Lowen

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Kathleen Pegg


Registered Members. Applications from the following members were approved—L. F. Landry (Middlesex), R. Sharman (Middlesex), R. J. Stevens (Essex), G. H. Teague (Surrey), L. S. Woollard (Beds.).

Election of Officers and Members of the National Executive Committee 1956/57.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association has been fixed for Saturday, 28th April, 1956, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1, and the voting for the various members of the National Executive Committee has now been completed. The office of Chairman has already been filled as the Hon. I. Montagu was returned unopposed as was A. K. Vint as the Association’s Hon. Treasurer.

One of the interesting results was that the switch to the new system, where members who desire literature regarding Table Tennis—

1. Rules of the Game in Cardboard. Size approx. 21¼ x 14¼ with hanging cord attached (suitable for hanging in club rooms) 1/6d. each.
2. Know the Game—Table Tennis. 2/3d. each.
3. Table Tennis—L. Montagu 10/6d. each.
4. Table Tennis Tips—J. Carlington. 1/6d. each.
5. Modern Table Tennis—J. Carlington. 7/6d. each.
6. Table Tennis for All—L. Leach 9/6d. each.
7. Table Tennis—L. Wootliff 2/6d. each.
8. Table Tennis Quiz—A. Brook. 1/6d. each.
9. Rules of the Game in Booklet form. 4/6d. each.
10. Table Tennis My Way—J. Leach 2/6d. each.
11. The Twins on Table Tennis—D. & R. Rowe 8/6d. each.

Badges. Have you bought your official pin badge? We have these at the reasonable price of 2s. 3d. each, or 2s. 6d. per dozen. The badge is very neatly made with the letters E.T.T.A. on a blue background. Perhaps you would bring this to the notice of your Club Chairman.

“Daily Mirror” National Table Tennis Tournament. The area finals and national finals of all the events in the “Daily Mirror” National Table Tennis Tournament are to be played on Saturday, April 21st, 1956, at the Liverpool Stadium, Liverpool. The stadium adjoins the Liverpool Exchange Station.

Team Selections:—Wales, Junior Boys, Aberdare, 16th March, 1956. J. Collins (Sussex), R. J. Stevens (Sussex), I. Harrison (Gloucestershire), K. Tarling (Gloucestershire), Non-playing captain T. E. Sears (Middlesex).

C.C.P.R. The Central Council of Physical Recreation comes of age this year. To mark the occasion, its President, The Duke of Edinburgh, is to make a televised broadcast on “Active Leisure” from 8.30 to 9 p.m. on Monday, 30th April. It is hoped that the broadcast will create fresh interest in the development of games, sports and other forms of physical recreation in general, and in the work of the organisations represented on the Council in particular. Please “look in” on this unique occasion and encourage others who are interested in sport and youth welfare to do so.

M. B. Roberts. In the E.T.T.A. Office a receipt is being held for Mr. M. B. Roberts in respect of a donation of £1 in aid of the World Championships 1956 Travelling Expenses Fund. We should like to acknowledge the donation kindly made by Mr. Roberts if he would be good enough to send his address.

TABLE TENNIS

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

WELSH EDITION with special Official Table Tennis Association of Wales Section, 10d. monthly, from Mrs. N. Roy Evans, 1, Llwyn-y-Grant Road, Pensylan, Cardiff.


WOMAN'S VIEW

SHORTS v SKIRTS
by ELSIE CARRINGTON

Since writing the article on slovenly dress which appeared in last month's magazine, I made the trip to Manchester for the English Open Championships and what I saw there has prompted me to question of dress.

On the first day of play at Belle Vue, I saw three English Internationals (two of them ex-Swaythling Cup players) practising. They had a lot in common, in as much as they all wore white shirts, all played in their collars and ties and two of them wore outdoor shoes!

What an example to the Juniors who were playing their matches on adjoining tables. And what an advertisement for table tennis.

What must the foreign players think of this? It is no wonder that they have so little respect for some of our players, when they see them taking their training so lightly that they practise in their outdoor clothes.

Mother's Help

By contrast, how neat were the Juniors, whose day it was. I noticed that all the boys had remembered to clean their shoes (or maybe their mothers had done it for them). The girls' shoes, too, were spotless, but then the ladies very seldom offend on this question of dress.

It is mostly the men who will not bother to look smart on the table—yet these same men are extremely smart and well dressed in their out-of-court clothes.

How fresh and neat the junior girls looked. Lorna Bown in her royal blue pleated skirt and "Micki" McMeekin creating a new fashion with her matching skirt and stole of turquoise felt. Micki looked very neat, but I did wonder if the stole was adequate enough to keep the muscles warm after playing. I think a sweater would be necessary as well to stop any possible chill.

The fashion for skirts is becoming increasingly popular amongst the girls. Started by the Rowe Twins a couple of years ago, the short skirt (pleated or flared) is definitely coming into its own.

Opinion is divided (amongst both men and women) as to which is best, or most suitable. Some feel that the shorts are more suitable for sport, while others feel that it is time that the fashions changed. Girls, who do wear shorts, tell me that they feel much more free in them than in shorts.

For my part, although I have not, as yet, been completely converted, I must admit that the permanently pleated variety on the market just now, does appeal to me. The fact that they are uncrushable and so easy to pack, gives them high marks for me.

So for the ladies, it's a question of shorts versus skirts. Which will gain the greater hold? In any case, it's a fairly safe bet that they will all look neat and attractive on the table and the more colour and originality (within reason!) the better.

But please girls, stick to uniformity when it comes to County Matches. You owe it to your counties to wear the proper county colours. Indeed you should feel a pride in doing so.

And let's have a little pride from the men too. We are not asking that they start a new fashion for pleated shorts or striped knee-breeches, only for an end to the rolled up trousers, trousers tucked in socks, and filthy shoes fashion.

LIGHT BLUES SUPREME

In the Inter-Varsity match played under superb conditions at Fenner's, Cambridge on February 25, the home team never looked in any real danger of losing the supremacy which they have held over Oxford for the last few years. Their 7-3 victory puts them two matches ahead of Oxford in the post-war series, with one match drawn.

There was one brief spell when the score stood at 2-2, and Oxford were raised, but after a shaky doubles win for Cambridge by Zahid and Cooke, there was no doubt about the final result.

Eagles, the Cambridge captain, was completely untroubled by Brown's attack, and countered on both wings with an ease so nonchalant that his skill was not always appreciated by the crowd. He had an easy win, too, against Davis.

Zahid, who was nominated by Pakistan for the English Open, beat Davis very comfortably in an uninteresting match, and with his combination of Asiatic anticipation and Far-Eastern sponginess, proved much too strong for Brown, whom he annihilated in the match with gave Cambridge a 6-2 lead and victory.

It was left to Charlier and Jones, who filled the third and fourth places for Oxford, to record the only win for the Dark Blues. Charlier played well against the left-handed Barkey, but cracked up in the third game after his opponent had got away to a 7-3 lead. Jones, defending solidly, had a fine win over Barkey in the best match of the evening. Trailing by 13-15 in the third game, the Cambridge man won five constructive points with a superb display of controlled hitting, but Jones recovered and eventually won a hard-fought game at deuce.

Charlier took some time to settle down in Reid's tight defence and won narrowly in the third game. In the last match of the evening, Jones made the final score a little more respectable for Oxford by beating Reid in straight games.

Detailed results (Cambridge first):

D. M. Eagles (Brenton G.B. and St. John's) bt R. Brown (Allrights and New College) 21-8, 21-12; bt E. Davis (Whitegift and St. Edmund Hall) 21-12, 21-14.

Z. Zahid (Government College, Lahore, and Fitzwilliam House) bt Brown 21-17, 21-9; bt Davis 21-11, 21-13.

E. R. Barkey (K.C.S., Wimbledon, and Trinity) bt L. A. Charlier (Blackfriars and Brasenose) 21-14, 15-21, 21-12; lost to M. Jones (Brookeshurst County High and Jesus) 21-16, 21-25, 24-26.

J. Reid (Wallington G.B. and Selwyn) lost to Charlier 21-19, 17-21, 21-19; lost to Jones 16-21, 14-21.

Eagles and Barkey bt Brown and Davis 21-6, 21-15.

Zahid and G. O. Cooke (Bournemouth School and Jesus) bt Charlier and Jones 21-15, 15-21, 21-16.

Three
The “Daily Mirror” Tournament with its 12,000 entry from all over the country catering for young and promising players who have not received International honours or won an Open Tournament at the time of the closing date for entries, is travelling North.

Many players of both sexes, who have reached International standard gained their first honours through this Tournament, and two that come easiest to mind are the Rowe twins.

There are four events: Girls’ and Boys’ Singles, and the Senior Singles, all matches being the best of five games.

The Tournament has now been played down to the last 16 in each event and these area finalists will play off in Liverpool on Saturday, April 21st commencing at 9.30 a.m. The grand finals will be staged at the Liverpool Stadium the same day at 7.0 p.m.

This is the first time all these events have taken place on the same day, and it is also the first occasion the Finals have taken place outside London.

My colleagues and I of the Liverpool League are fully conscious of the task we have undertaken, but with the backing we are receiving from the “Daily Mirror” plus our local organisation, we are confident we can ask for the public’s support at the Stadium, knowing they will get value for their money.

All Stars

In previous years at the Albert Hall the Finals have always been augmented by exhibitions and matches with world famous stars taking part. This year is no exception. Both Victor Barna and Alec Brook have promised to be present. Neither have appeared in the north since their retirement from competitive play, in fact Victor has not been in these parts for over 10 years. The older generation will want to renew acquaintance with the greatest player of them all, while the younger generation will want to see in action the player they have heard so much about, “Mr. Table Tennis” himself.

We also expect Ann Haydon, holder of innumerable Junior and Senior singles and doubles titles, and whom we hope may be World Champion when she arrives back from Tokio with Barna on April 19th, Harry Venner, the 31-year-old Surrey player, who hit the headlines at the English Open with wins over K. Szepesi of Hungary, and Johnny Leach; Lou Laza of Australia, one of the sensations of the recent “English.”

The boxing ring is being taken down at the Stadium and a special raised platform erected with a playing area of 42 ft. by 34 ft. The tickets for local people can be obtained from the Stadium of Jack Sharps, but on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope and remittance, I will be pleased to forward tickets to any Club or League in the country either for single of block bookings. Popular prices (including tax) are 5/-, 4/-, and 3/-, and the address is W. Stamp, Farmdale Close, Liverpool 18. There is ample parking space for coaches, so get out your diary and make a note that SATURDAY, APRIL 21st is “DAILY MIRROR” night at Liverpool Stadium.

AUBREY SIMONS introduces

DEFENCE

Young is ever adventurous and it is a human certainty that flashing attacking play will, psychologically, appeal to the young player more than the less spectacular defensive methods.

This is unquestionably a good thing for the game as a whole and for spectators in particular, but for the aspirant for serious honours I feel a warning is necessary. Remember that glamour alone will not win games.

In my view there is no doubt whatever that any young player who hopes to reach a high standard in table tennis, must realise from the start that first and foremost he must have a very sound defence.

Certainly attack must come, but defence must be there when needed. Believe me, however good you attack, in tough games under varying conditions, you will not always have the attacking initiative all to yourself.

Very important, too, is the fact that since temperament counts for so much in match play, a defence, which can be used effectively against all an opponent puts over the net, gives that inner feeling of confidence which prevents “silly” mistakes at vital points.

There are many players who, although first-class in attack, have an inadequate defence, which often forces them to feel that whatever happens they must keep hitting. They know that if they are forced away from the table they will lose. Consequently they keep attacking, although it is playing a losing game.

Let it be emphasised that I am not saying for one moment that defence is the beginning and end of successful table tennis. That is far from the truth.

What I do believe is that the player who sets the foundations of his game on a solid defence is the one who builds his table tennis house upon a rock.

Let us reduce the terms of basic logic to the importance of a sound defence. The primary object of the serious player is to win the game, and this can be accomplished only if he scores 21 points before his opponent. This can be done by:

(a) scoring 21 “winners” off his own bat;
(b) his opponent making 21 mistakes first; or
(c) a combination of the two.

It is obviously true that if a player is able to return the ball into play every time, he cannot possibly lose. Also, if his opponent did the same thing it would result in a stalemate—neither being able to win.

To err, however, is undoubtedly human, and in practice, therefore, I would say without hesitation that anyone who relies purely on defence, and is efficient in that department of the game, will win the majority of his matches.

This applies in all grades of play since, on the average, a player will make more mistakes than he will score “winners.”

I would like to make it clear that I am not advocating the kind of negative table tennis which leads to the enforcement of the 20 minutes rule. Nothing could be worse for the game, as anyone who has been forced to watch these dreary time limit matches will testify.

I am convinced in my own mind that the game has now progressed too far for a purely defensive player to be able to carry the honours in World Class table tennis.

Five
ENGLAND won a moral victory by losing 2-6 to Hungary at the Town Hall, Leeds, on March 5.

Hungary played to win, a wobbly England showed they could be good losers, and 1,200 spectators departed with memories of a wonderfully exciting evening.

Even the Lord Mayor confided later: "I came only to officiate at the opening formalities, but it was so enjoyable and exciting that I stayed right to the end."

So everyone should be happy.

By LESLIE WOOLLARD

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So everyone should be happy.

SIMONS SHOWS HOW BUT ENGLAND GO HUNGAR(ARY)!

For the less philistine enthusiasts, who know that the score could have been reversed, all the praise which disappointment can spare must go to Aubrey Simons. Once again the sheet-anchor, Aubrey was simply and severely great.

"First man in, Aubrey Simons faced Europe's No. 1 player, the nervously brilliant, left-handed Kalmán Szepesi. "Poor old Aubrey... He's had it!" I heard someone whisper. Szepesi held the crowd entranced with the perfect positioning, the gentle drop, and the lightning directional change of his jet-propelled drives.

Aubrey wasn't playing badly, but Szepesi - looking like a fencing master teasing a presumptuous Billy to-win that was quite heartening. A shade more of the luck and Pam might have done it. The next day she was down with flu and tonsillitis, so perhaps it wasn't entirely luck, after all.

Burly Brian Kennedy looked in wonderful form when he met the new English Open champion, the Hungarian "hitting machine" Elemer Gyetvai. Losing the first game at 19 (after a netcord and an edge), Brian won the second 21-16 so convincingly that optimists ticked up an English win.

Gripping

The third game was a furious high-speed counter-driving affair with hardly ever more than one point between them. Brian led at 20-19 and everyone held their breath. Twenty-all, and a great sigh. Then another match point to Brian, 21-20. Then, at 21—all came the brittle moment of disaster: Brian's concentration flickered and Gyetvai's was redoubled. That moment brought the two points for Hungarian victory.

The same weakness in finishing lost us the men's doubles, where Kennedy and Simons, after being 7-13 down in the third against Gyetvai and Szepesi, levelled at 18, only for the Hungarians to win with a great finishing burst.

Light Relief

Johnny Leach and heavyweight Ferenc Sido brought welcome laughter and a high-spot of entertainment. "Oohs" for Sido's mighty drives and gasps when Leach, nimble as Nijinsky, retrieved the "impossible." Sido's mind was definitely focused on winning, and perhaps Johnny played with a dangerous gaiety where Bergmann would have fought for precocious titles. 1,200 folk (who had paid to come in) enjoyed it all vastly, and went home with re-kindled enthusiasm for Table Tennis.

Detailed results (England first) :

J. Leach lost to P. Sido 17-21, 17-21.
B. Kennedy lost to E. Gyetvai 19-21, 21-16, 21-23.
Miss A. Haydon bt Miss E. Koczian 17-21, 21-7, 21-17.
Miss Farkas bt Miss K. Szepesi 12-21, 12-21.
Miss P. Mortimer lost to Mrs. A. Simons 17-21, 17-21.
Kennedy and Simons lost to Gyetvai and Szepesi 16-21, 21-16, 19-21.
Miss Haydon and Mrs. Rowe lost to Miss Farkas and Mrs. Kerekes 21-11, 20-22, 18-21.

Six
**THE TABLES TURNED**

AUBREY SIMONS ONCE again turned giant killer when, with the support of Ann Haydon and Diane Rowe, he enabled England to turn the tables on Hungary for a 5-4 win in the repeat match at Tottenham on March 6 (writes Harrison Edwards).

Simons beat Elemor Gyetvai, the new English champion, and partnered by Miss Haydon beat Ferenc Sido and Gizi Farkas, former world champions, in the mixed doubles, which was added to the programme so that a decision could be reached after the two teams had finished level at four-all.

Encouraged by his defeat of Kalman Szepesi, Europe's No. 1, the previous night, Simons started quietly against Gyetvai but, quickly weighing up the situation, broke up the Hungarian's game with a mixture of change and push.

Gyetvai appeared unable to distinguish between the cleverly disguised strokes and fell into repeated errors with his powerful driving.

Simons won in straight games 21—17, 21—19, but had to fight hard for the second game when, after leading 20—13, he lost six points in a row.

Gyetvai, blowing anxiously on his handkerchief, finally tried all he could to pull this game out of the fire, but Simons, refusing to be ruffled, stuck to his guns and hit the decisive winner.

**Weak Order**

Some of the cream was removed from England's victory inasmuch as the order of play saw Hungary put Hungary did not call on Eva Koczian for the singles, while Gizi Farkas, former world champions, in the mixed doubles, which was added to the programme so that a decision could be reached after the two teams had finished level at four-all.

Simons won in straight games 21—17, 21—19, but had to fight hard for the second game when, after leading 20—13, he lost six points in a row.

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**NEW CAPS GAIN WIN**

BY beating Ireland by 7 events to 3 at Treharris on March 16, Wales avenged the defeat by the Irish in Dublin last season.

The match was a triumph for the new caps in the Welsh team, particularly Norman Parker, who played extremely well in the opening game of the evening beating Wesley Pappin very convincingly, then Colin Senior in straight games, though the opposition was much stiffer.

Bernard Dimascio, also did well in his first International. Although he failed against the experienced veteran Harry O'Prey, his defeat of Wesley Pappin put Wales on the road to victory.

Shirley Jones and Betty Gray won their three events and although Joy Owens and Mary Wilson tried very hard, their game was not sufficiently good to extend the Welsh pair in singles or doubles.


Norris and Dimascio bt O'Prey and Senior 21—17, 21—16.

Miss Gray and Mrs. Jones bt Miss Owens and Miss Wilson 21—11, 21—19.

**ENGLAND EASY WINNERS**

The absence of Laurie Landry and Eddie Hodson—both resting—made little difference to England's superiority when they beat Wales 8-2 in the junior international at Aberdare on March 16.

The two new "caps," John Collins and Keith Tarling, suffered England's defeats, Collins by Brian Lewis and Tarling by David Parry.

Parry, who comes from Abergavenny and was playing in his first international, was the best of the Welsh team and should also have beaten Collins, failing in the later stages through lack of experience.

Nevertheless he showed plenty of promise for the future.

The two top Welsh boys G. Ponting and Pat Crowley were a big disappointment and did not play well. Ponting had his chances to beat George Gladwish in the opening match, and later lost easily to Ian Harrison.

Crowley, whose experience should have stood him in better stead, played badly and lost easily to both Harrison and Gladwish.

The pairings of Gladwish and Collins, and Harrison and Tarling in the doubles were much too strong for the Welsh.


Seven
WE played a match at Long Stebton the other evening and having beaten them, both teams retired to the "Three Horseshoes" in accordance with local custom. The villagers of Long Stebton—there must be about five hundred of them—are a very friendly lot and one can always be sure of a drink and a good chat after a match.

This particular night I was in the bar with Charlie Simpkins, our number one player, so it was only natural that our thoughts and conversation should be of table-tennis.

Charlie was gossiping about the days when he used to play for a big works team up north and, as I listened, my eyes travelled around the bar of the old pub. I couldn't help noticing a massive collection of silver cups and trophies on the shelf over the blazing fire. The landlord must have noticed my interest in them. "Grand collection isn't it," he said. "And all won by the same man."

"Who?" said Charlie and myself in the same astonished breath. "Not Albie, for he was unbeatable. He cruised through round after round disposing of internationals and county players alike, but it was in the semi-final that he met his downfall. He played a young fellow named Harry Parks, a local lad, who had reached the last four almost unnoticed. Albie, all set for another win, won the toss and took service. Five serves and the score was five-all. The spectators sat back to watch another Albie Porter victory but . . ."

"How did he give up the game at all?" asked Charlie. "If he really did have a service like that he could have won the World Championship."

"You may well look amazed, gents," said the landlord. "Don't you see that Albie's career would be ruined. It It was just as the landlord had said: both of them could serve the ball so that it didn't bounce. It was quite fantastic. A bored onlooker who was acting as umpire called out the score—fifty-five all."

"It's always like this," said the landlord, who had joined us at the door. "Albie and Harry come down here every night and play each other for an hour or more. They must have played about five hundred times, but I've never seen either of them drop a point on his own service, so they have had to call every game a draw. Strange, isn't it?"

"But why?" I asked. "Surely there was room in the game for both of them."

"Of course there wasn't," retorted the landlord. "Don't you see that Albie and young Parks could never reach a decisive result. They would go on and on until the score was a hundred-all. It meant that they would have had to share the honours in any event for which they both retired. Albie would never have been able to win the World Championship—not outright anyway."

"So he retired," I said.
HOW TO BECOME AN UMPIRE

By BILL GOLDFINCH

Executive Committee as qualified and registered NATIONAL UMPIRES.

The Scheme does not aim solely to find and qualify a few perfect Umpires, but to establish a large corps of efficient personnel, who measure up to official standards and qualification, and to assist them towards a greater efficiency, knowledge and pride in the technique of Umpiring.

Two Classes

Arisign from the reports of this Sub-Committee, the broad policy and objects of the Scheme were laid down and they remain substantially unaltered today. It is part of the object of the Scheme to provide for the qualification and registration of two classes of Umpires:

Firstly, those who know and understand the Laws of the Game— and the Knotty Point interpretations— and who can be relied upon to apply them correctly, to call the games fairly, but tactfully, and to play adequately the Umpires’ part in the presentation of Table Tennis before a public audience.

Those who satisfy these requirements and pass the official Tests are called COUNTY UMPIRES.

Secondly, those who reach a much higher standard and in addition to fulfilling all the County Umpire requirements, are capable of applying the additional regulations appropriate to International competitions, have at least three years' experience as County Umpire, during which period they have officiated at events of a National character, are eligible for nomination by their County Association to sit for a Nationally conducted examination.

The candidates who pass this examination are then eligible for recommendation to the National Executive Committee as qualified and registered NATIONAL UMPIRES.

Questions

Here are three questions drawn at random from the current County Umpire Test Paper to give you some examples of the type of questions to be answered:

(1) What options has the player winning the toss in a singles match?
(2) (a) Both players have scored twenty points; how should the score be called?
   (b) After this score, four more points are necessary to decide the game, and the first three of these are all won by “ace” services (i.e. services which the striker-out fails to return). What is the score after each of these four points?
(3) In a doubles match A and B are playing X and Y. In the first point of the match X serves to A. When the second game begins, A insists on serving to X, but X insists that Y shall serve. Who is right? A or X?

Give reasons.

Book A’d

You must obtain a Test Paper from the Secretary of your County Umpire Committee, names and addresses of all the Secretaries are listed in the E.T.T.A. Handbook, a copy of which is available in every Club (in case of difficulty, write to E.T.T.A. Headquarters). The written Test is not intended to be taken under examination room conditions. You may spend as long as you like in answering the questions and may consult the Laws of the Game or any other reference book required.

The only thing not permitted is the copying of someone else’s answers.

The current County Umpire Test Paper contains some 28 questions, all of which should be answered. Each question has a set number of marks allowed for the answer, and the maximum marks possible for the whole paper is 200. To pass the written examination you must obtain not less than 170 marks. There are no trick questions, and every question can be answered correctly by reference to the Laws of the Game or the Knotty Point interpretations.

Ten
Those who fail at the first attempt may, if they desire, make a second attempt at the Paper. If you pass your Written Test you will become a Probationary County Umpire and will be issued with the appropriate Certificate by your County Umpire Committee.

Having passed the Written Test, and therefore qualified on theory, you will become by DON ANTHONY a Probationary County Umpire and will be issued with the appropriate Certificate by your County Umpire Committee.

In Public

This will be done through the medium of the Practical Test which is arranged so that you, as a Probationary Umpire, officiate for at least two singles and two doubles matches in the presence of two members of the County Umpire Committee acting as examiners for this part of the Test.

On this occasion the examiners will be judging you on such things as: presentation; clear and well-timed announcement of the score; accurate interpretation of the Laws and unhurried decisions on questions of fact; calm authority; impartial control and pleasant manner and firmness coupled with tactfulness.

These Practical Tests will be arranged for you as conveniently as possible, and the occasions can range from minor Club games up to National events. The importance of the occasion is taken into consideration by the examiners.

If you pass this Practical Test also, and the great majority of candidates do at the first attempt, you are then registered as an official County Umpire, issued with a County Umpire Badge, Certificate and Handbook. You may also purchase, if you wish, the Official Blazer Badge.

"The Tests are simple—the need is great.
Send for your paper — why hesitate?"

NEW ZEALAND'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Indirectly England and Winchester have been responsible for New Zealand's "Player of the Year" Trophy.

The trophy was purchased out of the £50 proceeds handed over to the "Kiwies" from the international at Winchester last season. First winner is Bob Johnson.

ALEX ERLICH, three times world singles finalist and well known continental table tennis coach, spends much of his time in Sweden as official coach to the Swedish Table Tennis Association. Last summer, for example, he organized several training weeks for table tennis players and coaches at the Swedish National Institute of Sport.

This Institute, owned by the National federation of sport governing bodies in the country and financed mainly by profits from the football pools, caters for every form of sport; it is situated in beautiful countryside on an island just 10 miles from the centre of Stockholm.

Erlich's training courses are very intensive and the unique facilities of the Institute enable the special table tennis training to be supplemented by a variety of other interesting activities. The courses cater for both players and coaches, the majority of whom are nominated by their local association, and the curriculum includes such topics as, youth psychology, approach to competition, physiology of coaching, and health and fresh air activity.

Sport in general and particular is stressed; the former by runs through the forests and gymnastics, the latter by mass practice in table tennis strokes whilst moving, mock playing or running on the spot.

Each day starts at 8 a.m. and finishes at 8.15 a.m., after continuous training, competition, and study, with a Finnish 'Hot air bath' . . . . . . . a feature, and a very popular one at that, of all sports training of Scandinavia.

Three of the six evenings are devoted to films or social activity. It is also well to note the financial arrangements.

The courses are all heavily subsidised by the national association and a week's training costs very little for the individual participant.

The Swedes might not be as good as many other countries in the table tennis world but this is not through lack of effort or opportunity. In time this conscientious training and coaching must make its mark.
CHAMPIONS OF JUNIORS

STEP forward, Barbara Milbank and Jimmy Mannooch. You may not be similar in age and even in table tennis ability, but you are equal in your enthusiasm and help for young girls.

This was pinpointed in an interesting match in January, when Jimmy's youngest from the Crescent Club, Sittingbourne, travelled to town to play friendly games with Barbara's girls from the Albion Club. At least, it ought to have been girls, but in an eight-a-side encounter two of Barbara's contingent cried off, to be replaced by two "Old" boys.

One of these, a veteran of nine, was playing in his very first match. When the game was called, his "elderly" opponent, of 12, Pat Mowbray, got stage fright, but recovered in time to make a close match of it, before losing.

And why should Pat be alarmed at playing a boy of nine? Well, wouldn't you be if the referee called "Johnny Leach against Pat Mowbray"? Yes, it was Johnny's son, playing his very first match.

Karen Prothero, aged 11, didn't mind the name at all, and later beat young Johnny and can now claim to be the first Sittingbourne player to beat Johnny Leach!

Two matches were played, Albion "A" beating Crescent "A" by 6-4, and Albion "B" succeeding against Crescent "B" by 8-2. In the first match, Anthea Sutton (12) and Valerie Lamborn (14) were unbeaten for Albion, whilst Betty Elvey (12) won all her matches for Crescent.

Shirley Busby (13), Barbara Stuchfield (12), and Susan Rider (12) won all their singles in the "B" match, although Margaret McConomy (12) was unlucky not to beat Susan Rider.

A return match may be played in Sittingbourne later in the season.

PROMISING GIRL

There seems little doubt that next season Shelagh Hession will be one of England's three leading junior girls. With two further seasons in the junior game—born on the 11th July, 1940, gives her an extra season by eleven days—her future is a bright one.

And Shelagh's record this season entitles her to membership of "the big six club" (with Lorna Bown, Jean Harrower, Micki McMeekin, Sheila Pickard and Dorothy Worrall). These six girls seem clearly better than all other juniors, the last three will be over age next season.

Frank Bateman, that tireless Essex worker who has done so much for the junior game, especially girls, considers that Shelagh's best performance was when she lost—at 20-22 in the third to Heide Dauphin when Essex Juniors played the German contingent last November. Running this performance close must be her win over Micki McMeekin in the under 21 girls' singles in the West Middlesex Open—a repeat of her win over Micki at the International trials—and her performance in running Dorothy Worrall to 22-24 in the third game, also at the trials.

Shelagh is a clever all-round player with a good defence, but rather slow on her feet. She is well aware of this, and will be making big efforts to overcome this handicap during the summer. Probable reason for this slowness is the fact that she learned to play in a rather confined space.

She was originally taught by Leslie Gibbons, a keen pre-war player who suffered from a spine accident. Leslie has great patience, and this is reflected in Shelagh's game.

Mrs. Hession tells me that her daughter is sitting for the G.C.E. this year, is expected to do well in Science and Chemistry, and hopes to stay at school until she is 18. This won't stop her turning out for Romford Ladies this summer at Cricket! Shelagh is a spin bowler, but holds a batting record which takes a lot of beating. Opening the innings against Metropolitan Police, she carried her bat. Excellent, but there was just one unusual feature about this. In a total of over 50, Shelagh failed to score!

XMAS BAT

Christmas 1952 is regarded as just another Christmas to most people, but for 16 years old Ian Harrison, of Cheltenham, it has special significance.

It was then that he received, as a present, a table tennis set, which has paved the way to a promising career in the sport.

When he first received the present, Ian had no intention of taking up the game seriously, but as he became more skilful so it took hold of him. He was soon looking for outside competition and decided to join a local table tennis club.

Ian has never looked back. From watching and playing against others his own skill increased. Soon he was entering local competitions, then county and open tournaments until now he is the English junior singles and doubles champion and a senior international while still a junior.

After playing against France in a junior international in January he gained his senior badge against the same country the following month.

An apprentice draughtsman, Ian spends two nights a week at night school, devoting the rest of his time to table tennis. He has a keen interest in cricket and is also a keen diver.
WHAT ABOUT BALL CONTROL?

THERE are recurring outbreaks of sponge talk which produce notably little that is new and nothing that is genuinely constructive. In the welter of for-and-against arguments over the past three years, I have been astonished that no-one has so far noticed that the most effective players have not been those who use sponge or pig-iron or wood, instead of sponge. Some of us, I fear, are inclined to confuse a state of mind with the composition of a racket-surface. Time, and the right players, will prove beyond all question that rubber is far superior to sponge. And that unforeseeable future will bring back the controlled classical game of "The Three Musketeers" era, when the public was only too happy to pay to see masters of exquisite skill playing all-round table tennis that was a joy to behold and which is fast becoming only a memory, alas.

It must be obvious to everyone that the future rests on Players, not regulations, so do please let's cut out the interminable nattering and apply our energies to playing genuine table tennis. Or is that asking too much of the chiselling brigade whose stone walls have been blown to bits by hitters and find a useful "bogy" to blame in sponge?

AN APOLOGY

IN the February issue of this column I wrote: "In an inter-city tournament—New York beat all-comers—Swaythling Cup player Johnny Somael failed in the pre-tournament trials and lost his place in the N.Y. team. He has since told friends that he is through with competitive play." I have since received a letter from Pauline Robinson, who, apparently in her capacity of eastern associate editor of the U.S. Table Tennis Topics, writes to tell me I was misinformed. Somael did in fact make the New York City side but was unable to attend the inter-city tournament and was subsequently omitted from the U.S. team. Also, he has no intention of quitting the game and never said he had.

I am happy to correct my earlier statement, which was published in good faith, and apologise for any embarrassment it may have caused Johnny.

Lost Champion

Severe blow to India when their champion, Sayeed Sultana, could not lead their Cobrillion Cup team into action in Tokio. A few weeks before the tournament pig-tailed Sayeed emigrated to Pakistan and therefore had to refuse the trip to Japan. The Australian Swaythling team, Jennings, Robinson, Anderson and Matheson (we have had first-hand acquaintance with the first three), are playing in Hong Kong in June. They played there on their way to Tokio.

The Australians, by the way, are paying a first-ever official visit to New Zealand.

T. D. Ranga Ramanujan, honorary secretary of the I.T. Federation of India, is so enthusiastic about his country's junior players that he has gone on record as saying: "If a world championship were to be organised for junior table tennis, India's youngsters would sweep the board."

Mr. Ramanujan credits the Rajkumari Sports Coaching Scheme, which currently is subsidising Victor Barna's coaching tour of India, as did last year, for the progress of his youngsters.

Barna himself, who normally is not given to enthusing over players-in-the-making, says flat out that within the next year or two lads like Jayant Vora (Bombay), G. R. Divan (Bombay), S. K. Srinath (Delhi) and Kishen Mubayi (Delhi) will be making head line news in major international tournaments. "Mister Table Tennis" says that no country he has ever visited has boasted so many potential world-class stars as India. He should know!

Suzie Barna, incidentally, left Bombay for England on March 25th. Victor flies home from Tokio on April 19th or 20th.

EMBROIDERED BADGES

We welcome your enquiries. Send sketch or sample. Official Embroiderers to E.T. A. Freeman Bros., (Crofton Pk. Ltd.), 309-401, Brockley Road, London, S.E.4. Phone Tideway 1701.

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Full size table tennis table with 1in. top. Pre-war and in good condition. Apply: Mr. D. M. Goodbody, 41, Buckingham Mansions, West End Lane, N.W. 6 (Phone Hampstead 2838).
THE COACHING DIPLOMA

FROM MALTA comes this cry from the heart:

"I am a veteran at table tennis, with 25 years' experience. Is it possible for me to obtain an official Coaching 'Certificate'; is a correspondence course on coaching permissible?"

(signed) J. F. GAY.

Well, Mr. Gay, you are just the sort of keen veteran we would like to encourage, but unfortunately the E.T.T.A. Diploma Scheme does not cover such a case as yours. The requirements are that the National Coaching Committee shall be satisfied as to the candidate's coaching ability both theoretical and practical.

Possible theoretical knowledge could be tested by correspondence, by means of a locally supervised examination paper, but under the heading "THEORY" we include the ability to deliver a short lecture correctly and to hold and interest a small audience. These qualities need a "live" audition.

As to the practical test, we usually have to ask candidates to show their paces at an officially recognised coaching event. This might be a course at Lilleshall, Bisham Abbey, or other central venue, or it might be a locally organised course or scheme of good standing.

Another resident of Malta, the Reverend Brother Abela, was actually progressing well towards his work at St. Peter's School, Bournemouth, before leaving

for Malta. To our regret, his application has to go "on the shelf" because we just cannot assess his current practical standards without seeing him at work.

If it is any consolation, I may say that these Maltese friends are in good company. I could name several local coaches in England who are doing sterling work, especially amongst youngsters, but just cannot earn the Diploma because they cannot hope to attain the practical standards we have set.

Sometimes, health reasons prevent a veteran from playing, but make him all the more unselfish in teaching. Shortcomings of speech and "address," cramp the chances of many other candidates in public, although they may, by their private endeavours, turn out a stream of well-trained young players.

We know this, of course. Perhaps one day we shall develop a scheme to recognise the value of such teachers.

But we must remember that the holder of a Diploma from a National body is, in a way, a public figure. He must inspire confidence in himself and the Association which has awarded him his Diploma (and now the Coaches' Badges, too, can be worn).

To put it briefly, while the absence of a Diploma does not mean that a local Coach may not be doing sterling work in his own way, you may be sure that the holder of a Diploma has had to demonstrate his ability in the following spheres:

1. Theoretical Knowledge.
2. Practical Playing Skill in Coaching (not match play).
3. Exposition (i.e. ability to "put out" to others all that he knows).
4. Handling of groups of pupils.
5. Background knowledge of the game, for example, organisation and history.

As the summer season, free from the stress of match play, is the ideal time to study all these things, I shall be glad to hear soon from anybody who would like to know more about getting the Diploma, or from leagues who want to establish a "Coaching nucleus" on sound lines.

OH, JOHNNY!

COINCIDENCE of the season occurred on a cold, rainy January night in Plymouth, when Johnny Leach and I were playing in a show at which Tom Graveney, the Gloucester cricketer, was receiving an award as "West-Country Sportsman of the Year."

Tom asked Johnny to take his blue Prefect car down town for him. In the car park were four cars only—two of them being blue Prefects!

Sleuthing round, I called over to Johnny, "Here we are, it must be this one—cricket pads on the back seat."

"But Tom . . . " we said . . . "These cricket pads on the back seat?"

"Definitely NOT," said Tom.

"What have you done with it Johnny?"

Back in the original car park, reposing Graveney's little Prefect, quite undisturbed.

Meanwhile, the owner of one blue Prefect, complete with pads on back seat, walked home, cursing car ban.

TO our regret, his application has to go...
THE GRAND FINALE

by PETER LAKER of the “DAILY MIRROR”

The Grand National chase for titles in the 1955/56 “Daily Mirror” National Table Tennis Tournament jumps from London to Liverpool and the North for the first time in history.

What is more, lucky Liverpool has drawn the “plum” of this or any other “Mirror” tournament.

The grand finale at Littlewoods Social Club, 14, Dale Street, and The Stadium, St. Paul’s Square on Saturday, April 21, will boast a cast of SIXTY-FOUR instead of the customary sixteen.

In other words, the Area semi-finals and finals AND the national semi-finals and finals will be fought out in ONE day—a day, we trust, Northern fans will long remember.

This switch to the “all-in-one-on-Saturday” project is basically for the benefit of competitors. In previous years, the sixteen survivors of the Area finals had to contest the final stages of the tournament at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on a week-day. That inevitably meant time off from office or classroom—and more than a little worry for the players concerned.

No worries now... and less travelling in tedious railway trains.

Liverpool was selected as the venue because it is fairly accessible to all parts of Great Britain. What a wonderful opportunity for our men, women, boys and girls to show the North that they really are of the stuff that makes champions!

On, then, to some of those “white hopes”.

Those who cheered a gallant, graceful loser in the women’s final at the Albert Hall last April will be delighted—and not one wit surprised—to learn that Winifred Swift, modest 27-year-old Wigan schoolteacher, is back in the fray full of fight as ever.

It took Joyce Fielder, dazzling Kent and England star, five sets to break down the obstinate defence of the blonde Wigan girl in that terrific final of 1954/55. And, mark you, Winifred lost the first two sets!

A fighter, this girl... OH, YES! More important, one of the “true blues” of the sporting sphere. Almost every hour of Winifred’s spare time is devoted to helping run the same Wigan youth club that taught her table tennis eleven years ago.

A win on April 21 would certainly not be undeserving. Play on, Miss Swift.

Among the other “old faces” we find Barbara Wall, 15-year-old West Bromwich schoolgirl, who last year was squeezed out in the Albert Hall girls’ semi-finals.

Family Affair

Here is a case, pure and simple, of table tennis dropping straight in your lap. Barbara’s grandfather was no mean performer at the table—he played until he was sixty-five! His son, Arthur, caught the “bug” of the game at Jean’s present age!

So Barbara has the background—and the backhand! The latter is a methodical, defensive affair which sooner or later tempts the opposition into an ill-timed burst of hitting. Patience really is a virtue to Barbara.

Welcome back to Brian Clark, of Luton! You may remember my telling you about this cheery youngster in “Table Tennis” last year. To my mind, nineteen-year-old Brian is an object lesson to all who want to be a success.

A severe bout of polio at the age three left him with a permanent limp, an impossible handicap, you would think, in the realm of sport. Not so. Brian’s tremendous courage forced him to take up table tennis five years ago... and he reached the last-sixty-four of the “Mirror” tournament two seasons ago.

He’s here again. THIS LAD JUST DOESN’T KNOW HOW TO GIVE IN.

Three of the new corners to this late stage of the tournament are, ironically, among the most promising youngsters of the moment. They are Jean Harrower, 13, of New Barnet, and seventeen-year-old Laurie Landry (Hampstead) and Terry Densham (London).

Jean Harrower, daughter of former England international Geoff, is truly a fantastic prospect. Winner of countless titles this season, she has the guile and power of one years her senior. Makes you scratch your head a bit when you note that wonder-girl Ann Haydon had just STARTED to play the game at Jean’s present age!

Both Landry and Densham are junior internationals of fine skill. Indeed, Landry won his first senior “cap” this season—against Germany D.D.R. I wouldn’t care to make any predictions if and when these two fiery lads meet in the men’s singles.

In fact, natural caution forbids me to make predictions of ANY description in a tournament of this keen nature. You just never know who can win... until it’s all over.

And we wouldn’t wish it any other way. THAT’S THE FUN OF IT.
Watch Out Girls—The Truth

By IVOR EYLES

Once again I have to pick up my pen, to correct, and put into its right perspective, an erroneous article. This time it is "Watch Out Girls," written by Geoff Harrower last month.

Gloucestershire put forward the following letter to the National County Championships. "Gloucestershire view with alarm that no county (especially) in the Premier Division has not sought to propose any alterations, reducing by at least two events, the constitution of the teams. Although we realise, that we ourselves could have submitted such, we stood aside. It may well have been constructed, as an attempt to cut out games (women) at which we stood little chance of winning, hence our desire to see any such alterations come from other counties, not so placed.

We would therefore like at this late stage 6th February, 1956 (Closing date 31st December, 1955) to make the following three proposals, hoping that the meeting will accept ONE, and not rule the proposals as being OUT OF ORDER.

1. All matches as now being played the Junior (North).
2. S.IX men's singles as now being played, plus one women's singles and one mixed doubles.
3. THREE men's singles (Order of merit), two women's singles (Order of merit), one women's doubles, one men's doubles, and one mixed doubles.

Should any of these find favour the necessary wording can be readily found."

This was the actual wording on the Order Paper sent out to N.C.C. Officials for consideration at the Annual Rules meeting, held on Sunday, March 11th, 1956.

Mr. Harrower must have written his article before this meeting. How then can we say "Gloucestershire are out to see that girls, and women, are thrown out of the National Championships?" How did he know, which of the three proposals Gloucestershire would press?

Little Change

Proposal 1 was a fair ratio, two boys and one girl. Proposal 2, would, we agree, have deleted one girl. Proposal 3 did not alter in any way the three men and two girls constitution which we now enjoy. What utter rot you wrote Geoff!!! If his article was written after the rules meeting it made the case much more sily.

The Chairman ruled the proposals as being out of order, having been received after December 31st, 1955, and only observations from the counties present were taken.

Gloucestershire, mark you, girls, did not differentiate between any of their proposals.

It was further agreed that a questionnaire should be sent to all counties requesting information, when this matter would be reviewed by the incoming Executive of the County Championships in the light of information received.

It is generally conceded in the Premier Division, that matches are too long, ill-presented, and it is uppermost in our minds, to so present a match, so that the public want more, and will come again.

It is much more important to give the spectators half hour less of what they want, than 15 minutes or more, when they have had enough.

It was this coupled with the financial problem, which prompted Gloucestershire to make their proposals, and I am glad that the Rest of the Country, I believe, take this view.

Personal Attitude

I wonder if Mr. Harrower's child had been a boy, just as promising as young Jean, what sort of an article would we have read if Gloucestershire made similar proposals to his, cutting out one men's singles. Would WATCH OUT BOYS have the heading of the article? I wonder!!!

In conclusion I feel that too many articles are being published in the magazine, without the actual checking of facts, and I would suggest that any further articles, attacking other individuals, leagues or counties should be forwarded to the accused, who can thus take up the cudgels in the same issue of the magazine thus putting the country in full possession of both sides of the question.

GEOGRAPHICALLY, Middlesex are one of the smallest counties, but they are a tower of strength when it comes to table tennis. They have provided a constant flow of internationals and now they are playing a big part in helping foot the bill for the team that went to Tokio for the World's Championships.

A great effort on the part of their clubs and leagues has taken them into the lead as the county with most club competitions arranged for the "Travelling Expenses" Fund. Their total to date is 37, taking them above Lancashire (36) and Yorkshire (35).

The grand total of competitions so far arranged is 342, but this is a poor percentage when it is realised there are some 8,000 clubs in the country.

Remember that bill for Tokio has still to be met so all you clubs who have blank returns so far should see that you play a part.

You are not being asked to give something for nothing. You help yourselves by running one of these competitions, for they provide extra competition for your members, and a prize in the form of a plaque is awarded to all winners by the National Association.

Competitions can take almost any form. If you require further information write now to Mr. E. E. DIXON, Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Geoff Harrower's suggestion of nine ties—it does away with the possibility of shared points. My suggestion would be for matches to consist of three men's singles, two ladies' singles, and the three doubles, making eight ties. All players should be restricted to one singles, to give a fair reflection of a county's all-round strength.

It would not be opportune for Kent to put forward this suggestion officially, because we are exceptionally strong in ladies. The suggestion should only be considered if there is backing from counties who do not stand to gain considerably from the change.

I am convinced that in the long run such a change would result in great benefit to the game as a whole, and it is because of this conviction I believe, take this view.

In conclusion, just a word to the ladies. Are you too disinterested in this matter to write to the magazine about it? Without wishing to start a suffragette movement, may I suggest that you do something to help your own cause? Or do you wish to be known as the quiet sex?

CONRAD JASCHKE

CLUB COMPETITION CORNER

Once again I have to pick up my pen, to correct, and put into its right perspective, an erroneous article. This time it is "Watch Out Girls," written by Geoff Harrower last month.

Speaking as an organiser of both international and open events, I would honestly say that the Rowe Twins, Ann Haydon, and Helen Elliot have been the game's greatest box office attractions during the past season or two, leaving aside Richard Bergmann, who has been away from this country.

Concerning the very high standard of the ladies' game in this country, there is no real case for giving them inferior status in the county championships.

I have one objection to Mr. Harrower's suggestion of nine ties—it does away with the possibility of shared points. My suggestion would be for matches to consist of three men's singles, two ladies' singles, and the three doubles, making eight ties. All players should be restricted to one singles, to give a fair reflection of a county's all-round strength.

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CONRAD JASCHKE
I was hot favourite to take the Singles title of the U.S. Open Championships, played at White Plains, near New York City, on March 16, 17 and 18. Alas, I came a cropper, losing in the semi-finals to Erwin Klein, who, although only 17, is a very fine player indeed.

I went down in three straight, although every game was closely contested. I might add, and I'm not alibi-ing by any means or trying to take anything away from young Erwin's well-earned victory, that this was my first tournament of the season and I was, on the whole, satisfied with my showing.

Against Klein, I know now that I used bad tactics in that I let him have his head too much. The Californian has a game very much like my unfavourite "bock" player, Flisberg.

Like the Swede, Erwin is a left-handed "sponger" who angles the ball very accurately and has a deadly smash. Like Flisberg, too, he is inclined to be slow on his feet.

Against this type of player I need to be completely fresh. It was a little unfortunate, at least from my point of view, that I had just played a hard game against Johnny Somael (I won 3–1), and just prior to that had engaged in a mixed doubles with Mildred Shahian which we lost.

**GREAT RECOVERY**

However, Erwin beat me fairly and squarely and I'm not complaining. He beat Bernard Bukiet 3–2 in the final, after an amazing last-stand battle. Bernard was 2–1 up in games and leading 20–15 in the fourth.

Klein fought back with tremendous tenacity and pulled the game out of the bag. He really showed the guts of a champion.

Norman Van de Waldo, a 15-year-old from Chicago, won the boys' Singles, and I rate him as America's finest prospect. Norman gave Klein a hard fight in the junior final, and again in the senior Singles. The Chicago youngster—he came from Belgium four years ago—is an orthodox player, who uses a rubber bat, and I already rate him as worthy of a place amongst the country's top six players. I would not be surprised if he makes next year's U.S. Swaythling team.

Leah Neuberger retained her Singles' title. That girl has a remarkable record of consistency over quite a few years!

Just after my game against Hirschkowitz, a male spectator collapsed and died, and this naturally depressed everyone a little.

After the tournament, a high-ranking official stated that he is going to fight for sponge to be banned in the State of Ohio. It is contended that such minor interest in T.T. as exists in Ohio is being killed by sponge.

On this point it is interesting to note that California, red-headed Klein's home state, is almost entirely 100 per cent. sponge-using.

Bob Gusikoff, my Globetrotters partner, was knocked out in the first round of the Singles by an entirely unknown sponge-user, and another comparatively obscure "sponger," a Californian named Royston, sprang a big surprise by reaching the semi-finals.
Leinster’s only representative was Joy Owens, and W. Pappin, who came in hard pressed to overhaul their Northern rivals. O’Prey turned in his usual reliable performance, winning both his singles, and Senior won the remaining game, but Pappin lost both his singles, while the Irish girls were completely out-classed by the Welsh pair Betty Gray and Shirley Jones.

The East of Ireland championships proved a personal success for Sean Clarkin, who gained a triple crown in the men’s singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Clarkin was well tested when defeating team-mate Michael Behan in a most interesting final.

Behan has shown marked improvement throughout the current season, and is now one of the leading players in Leinster.

Joy Owens won the women’s final against her great rival Deirdre Fearon, but was closer than the straight sets’ victory suggests.

Miss Fearon and Behan gained some consolation for their singles defeat when they partnered Clarkin to win the mixed and men’s doubles respectively.

The absence of Clarkin and Miss Fearon from all representative teams has aroused considerable controversy in Irish table tennis this season. It is a most unfortunate affair, and despite several recent attempts to clear matters up no reunion has yet been accomplished.

From inquiries I have made it appears that the Leinster selectors in an honest endeavour to field the best possible team for the annual inter-provincial tournament, invited a panel of players for a series of practices. These were then abandoned in favour of trials on the American tournament (handicap singles) system. The players were told that those who did not attend would not be considered for selection.

Clarkin, Behan, Mahony, and the Misses Fearon and Anderson—all members of a separate coaching school—were considered for selection. Those who did not attend would not be available as they were already working to a schedule, timed to conclude just before the Co. Dublin championships, and that any break in this training would nullify their previous work.

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The foregoing is the nucleus of the affair as I have been informed from several sources. No doubt there are many conflicting opinions as to who is right and who is wrong, but in the interests of Irish table tennis I recommend that this breach be healed before it is too late.

Seamus Dignam.

GLOUCESTER SNIPPETS

The West Country in its own impeccable manner staged the France v England International, and a full house saw what was probably the worst International match ever played in England. Redeemed only by a wonderful game Leach v Reethoff, the crowd sat in silence whilst the “spongers” performed.

Young Harrison did not let the side down, but is not yet anywhere near senior standard.

Notabilities included the Mayor of Cheltenham and the Duke of Beaufort.

Bristol failed in their quest for the Wilmott Cup, losing to South London in the semi-final, whilst Frank Newell failed the National Umpires’ Examination. Hard luck both, but I feel these defeats will only spur them on next season.

Many discussions are now ensuing over the practical test of the Umpires’ examination, but this will no doubt be dealt with shortly.

In the Country League, Cheltenham have played four matches since last month, and have swept the board to easily retain the Championship. A surprise result was the defeat of Bristol by Dursley 7–3, whilst Gloucester now occupy bottom place, also losing to Bristol.

Cheltenham held their annual dinner and presentation of awards on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, whilst an exhibition in the venue at Cheltenham for the Gloucestershire Closed Championships finds the event going on at Cheltenham Technical High School, Gloucester Road.

Ivor Eves

Area News:

IRISH SCENE

Leinster League has once again been humbled by Belfast and District. During the past month at Ballraggan and plays in Div. I “B” of the Leinster League, achieved a really fine performance in defeating the well-known D. McClusker after a hard struggle.

Many wonder if the Leinster team was the strongest possible. According to the officials it was, for, apart from the players who had already gained inter-provincial honours, those selected, with the exception of Caffrey, had the best records in the respective league divisions.

Belfast selectors no doubt followed the same routine when picking their side, all of which is a definite reflection on the standard of play in the province of Leinster.

The recent international, in which Ireland went 3–1 to Wales, was an example of the North’s supremacy. They provide H. O’Prey, C. Senior, Mary Wilson, and W. Pappin, who came in as a late substitute for E. Allen, while Leinster’s only representative was Joy Owens.

The Irish team were disappointing. O’Prey turned in his usual reliable performance, winning both his singles, and Senior won the remaining game, but Pappin lost both his singles, while the Irish girls were completely out-classed by the Welsh pair Betty Gray and Shirley Jones.

The East of Ireland championships proved a personal success for Sean Clarkin, who gained a triple crown in the men’s singles, doubles, and mixed doubles.

Clarkin was well tested when defeating team-mate Michael Behan in a most interesting final.

Behan has shown marked improvement throughout the current season, and is now one of the leading players in Leinster.

Joy Owens won the women’s final against her great rival Deirdre Fearon, but was closer than the straight sets’ victory suggests.

Miss Fearon and Behan gained some consolation for their singles defeat when they partnered Clarkin to win the mixed and men’s doubles respectively.

The absence of Clarkin and Miss Fearon from all representative teams has aroused considerable controversy in Irish table tennis this season. It is a most unfortunate affair, and despite several recent attempts to clear matters up no reunion has yet been accomplished.

From inquiries I have made it appears that the Leinster selectors in an honest endeavour to field the best possible team for the annual inter-provincial tournament, invited a panel of players for a series of practices. These were then abandoned in favour of trials on the American tournament (handicap singles) system. The players were told that those who did not attend would not be considered for selection.

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Seamus Dignam.

Like the winning teams

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SUSSEX BY THE SEA

Although at the Annual General Meeting of the Sussex County T.T.A. there was a wholesale change of officers, the 1955-56 season has been a period of steady progress, despite the failure once more of the county team to hold its place in the Premier Division of the National County Championships.

The present county officers are Chairman, Keith Watts (Hastings); Vice-Chairman, W. G. Goldfinch (Worthing); Secretary, Press Liaison Officer and Match Secretary, Leslie Bromfield (Hove); Treasurer, Mr. B. G. Gordon (Southwick). One great loss was the resignation of the founder-chairman, Bill Vint, E.T.T.A. Secretary/Treasurer, who has guided the Sussex organisation since its inception in 1947, but Bill has his hands more than full with the national body.

Another international badge was awarded to a Sussex player, young George Gladwish (Bexhill), who was chosen to represent England in the junior match versus Wales. George, still only 17, has been the county leading left-hander for four years, and has been knocking at the door for a badge for two or three years. This season, he has greatly consolidated his game, and from being a pure "bash"er" who was liable to come unstuck against difficult styles, his game is now very well controlled and mature. George has now earned a place in the county senior team, after having helped the junior team to win the National Junior County Championship on two occasions.

Post-War Trio

It is worth noting that three international badges have come to Sussex since the war, the other recipients being Peter Shead (senior) and Wendy Bates (junior). Before the war, only one Sussex player earned an international honour, the ever-green Charlie Seaman, Brighton left-hander, with a similar style to Gladwish and a disciple of attack.

In the national county championships, Sussex has twice earned promotion in alternate years to the Premier Division and this season missed a great chance to hold their place, drawing 5–5 to Wiltshire after leading 4–2 in the first round. The Sussex Inter-League Championship, which has always been held by Brighton, the largest league in the county and the virtual centre of the game, Opposition from the other large towns is however now increasing, and Brighton had a shock in the Wilmot Cup competition, losing to the Bognor Regis and Chichester League. The Inter-Club Championship also attracted a good entry, the holders being the Regency T.T.C. Brighton, represented by Shead and Alexander. Their opponents in this year’s final are the King Alfred T.T.C., Hove, who just noded out in the semi-final over Hove T.T.C., by 5–4.

Finance is a great problem in the country, but great help has been given by a go-ahead Supporters’ Club which was formed by the enterprising H. Jenner (Crawley) and is now run under the secretaryship of John Symons, the Brighton T.T.C. Secretary. Without the Supporters Club it is very doubtful if the association could afford to enter teams in the County Championships, and in particular the Sussex Internationals owe the Supporters Club a debt, as without participation in the Championships, their winning standard could not have improved again won. This season, two of the leading juniors, Wendy Bates (Hove) and John Quilter (Hove) are over age, and with their loss, first-class replacements have not yet been found. The most successful this season, apart from Gladwish, has been J. Dobell (Eastbourne), but hopes are entertained for the future of 14 year old Stephen Bubley, nephew of pre-war Swaithing cup player, Ernest Bubley.

The great event of the year is the closed championships which are always held at the Gold Estate, Steyning. Brighton, Charlie Seaman has won the men’s singles on more occasions than any other player, but he now has to give way to youth, the holder for the last few years being Peter Shead, whilst Wendy Bates has held the women’s title for two years, after being runners-up for five years.

Sandy’s three inter-war trophies are still in doubt, and rests between Mechanics’ III and Y.M. III, who are certain winners in their respective divisions. The A.R.A. F.A. (4) and Combustion (6) are unbeaten, and are certain winners in their respective division. The A.R.A. F.A. won Div. 5 last season and所以 have won two division titles in successive years.

Div. 2 is still in doubt, and rests between Mechanics’ III and Y.M. III, who are certain winners in their respective divisions.

Derby Men’s team are looking for relegation in the Midland League, but all are agreed that a spell in the lower division will help to restore their confidence. At the moment their players are rather overworked, playing in the Midland League and the County League, plus their ordinary club league matches.

Derby Ladies have not kept up their early signs of improvement, and they are also near the bottom of their division.

They should, however, remain in their division of the Midland League, and it is hoped that the continuation of better standard table tennis will have its effect in time.

More Derby players are taking part in many “Opens” within easy travelling distance of the town. If this spirit continues the standard of play is bound to rise, and Derby will become recognised as a table tennis centre.

W. Reeves

Nineteen
ESSEX NOTES

The Eastern Suburban looks like disappearing from the open tournament list next season. Ilford have withdrawn from their joint undertaking with Essex for the promotion of this event.

The county, meanwhile, are considering the staging of an Essex "Open" to attract the best players. A new event is expected for the Essex Closed Championships at Plaistow Y.M.C.A. from April 23rd to 28th. A new event is the junior mixed doubles.

The Premier Division of the Essex Leagues' Championship has been won by East London. Thameside Industries go down with Clacton, who are level on points with Dagenham, but have a slightly better games average, are due for promotion.

It is almost certain that East London will again win the Junior Division, with Southend as runners-up.

Bob Sheildrake is the only member of the East London team who is still a junior next year, whilst Southend will still have Hugh Mulloy, David Wiggins, and the twins Ann and Mary Collins.

Romford, without their No. 1, Herbert Thomas, who is recovering from an operation, will be held for these juniors throughout the new season at venues in Hertfordshire.

Ron Crayden carried off the triple crown in the Surrey "Closed," winning the men's singles, the mixed doubles with Jackie Head, and the mixed doubles with nearly 450 games!

Terry Kirby, losing finalist in the Edinburgh Open, hit two winners for the match.

Ron Crayden, of E.C.C., but he recovered to win the match.

The North of Scotland Open was notable for much livelier play and early surprises included the defeats of Vic Garland by R. Park (Aberdeen), and M. Forman (Dundee) by A. Masson (Aberdeen), and of J. Weatherstone (Glasgow) by I. Fraser (Aberdeen) all in the first round. In the absence of Still, Gilmour, and Miller, Billy McCandlish, who has recently been demobbed took over the men's singles, with a finals win over Alex Metcalfe at 21-10, 21-19.

Garland and Park's doubles, while Miss Black (Dundee) bt Miss Dunbar (Dundee) in the women's singles final 21-13, 21-14.

The biggest surprise of the season was Monty McMillan's win over Johnny Miller in the final of the Lanarkshire Open.

Playing brilliantly McMillan hit Miller off the table in the first two sets, but Miller with some brilliant defensive play took the next two to get on level terms. The final set was a nerve wracking affair, and 20-all was called before McMillan hit two winners for the match.

McMillan reaps the due reward of being the only man in Scotland with the spirit to go on against Miller with the idea of winning, and it is to be hoped that all the "weeping Willies" will now try to play table tennis instead of starting movements for the abolition of a sport which they are unreasonably afraid—spoon.

Frank Bateman.

SURREY NOTES

Ron Crayden carried off the triple crown in the Surrey "Closed," winning the men's singles, the mixed doubles with Jackie Head, and the mixed doubles with Betty Issacs. Miss Issacs also won the tournament, beating McMillan hit two winners for the match.

Observations: Jack Austen, who has considerable local fame in the Leatherhead area, did well against Crayden in the semi-final, and a few more performances like this will find him bidding for a place in the County team.

Terry Desham has the most promising of the younger school, but he is too hopeful on his long looping recovery shot and counter hit taken far from the table.

Jean Head displayed considerable skill and intelligence, but Betty Issacs tended, as did all our Surrey girls, to look at defeat before the match is over. She closed up too much after one missed smash, and appeared to allow Jean for hitting without trying to beat her to the punch.

Jim Forrest.

JEAN HEAD

SCOTLAND SPEAKING

CRAMPED conditions somewhat marred the Scottish Confined championships at Hamilton. Only half the expected floor space was available and with players crashing into one another the tournament started badly and deteriorated as it went on.

There were deplorable instances of ill-feeling and lack of determination by several players who found themselves faced with the sponge bat of Edinburgh's John Miller, who took the men's singles with remarkable ease.

Helen Elliot won the women's title, beating Heather Bell two straight, while Miller and Teasdale took the men's doubles, despite a bold bid by the "old firm" pairing of McMillan and Braithwaite, who had gained a great semi-final win over Gilmour and McMichael, and also took the first game in the final.

Miss Elliot and Miss Houstoun were easy winners of the women's doubles, while the junior singles went to I. Barclay.

Barclay beat newcomer K. Farrer in the final. Both these boys are only 15, and played so well that Edinburgh officials must be confident indeed about the future of this pair.

Gordon Walker.

HERTFORDSHIRE NEWS

The Association are organising a Coaching Weekend at Lillibridge over the Whitsun holiday. Some 40 junior players will take part. Man in charge will be Geoff Halsted, who will have assistance from Johnny Hunt and John Corser.

It is hoped that refresher courses will be held for these juniors throughout the new season at venues in Hertfordshire.

The County Junior Closed Championships will be held on 28th April at the Murphy Radio, Ltd., Canteen, Welwyn Garden City.

Watford "B" remain at the top of the Inter-League Championship, Senior Section, whilst St. Albans have moved into second place. Favourites for the title, Watford "A", are in third place with a game in hand.

Senior Section

Watford "B" ... 7 6 0 1 51 19 12
St. Albans ... 7 5 1 14 22 11
Watford "A" ... 6 5 0 1 42 18 10
Letchworth ... 7 3 1 2 26 44 7
Welwyn Garden C. and Ha'Field ... 5 2 1 2 50 30 5
Bishops Stortford ... 5 2 2 1 25 32 3
Hertford ... 5 0 2 2 22 26 7
Cheshunt ... 7 0 1 6 48 49 1

Letchworth have won the Junior Title for the first time. The final table is as follows:

Junior Section

Watford ... 4 0 2 0 29 11 8
Letchworth ... 4 3 0 1 33 14 6
St. Albans ... 5 1 1 22 29 3
Watford ... 4 0 2 2 21 27 2
Bishop's Stortford ... 4 0 1 3 31 1

Dennis Williams

Twenty-one
WESTERN COUNTIES BULLETIN

WITH the playing season drawing to a close, a great deal of excitement and speculation has been aroused over the first division meeting between Birmingham and Cheltenham, both of whom have completed only two points above West Wilts, at the bottom of the table.

This promises plenty of thrills, for their last meeting ended in a five-all draw. Birmingham completed their programme with an 8-2 away win over Bath. Jen Mackay and Mrs. Cumberbatch were in good form for Birmingham, winning their singles and their doubles. Bath's only victories were gained by A. Golrsack and D. Smith, who beat R. Holt and R. Murrell respectively.

Cheltenham beat West Wilts, without the loss of a match to wind up their programme.

West Wilts, who also lost 3-7 to Gloucester, are still without a point since being promoted to the First Division, and seem almost certain to go down.

Cardiff, unable to field their strongest team, put up a gallant fight against Gloucester, losing narrowly 4-6. The two sides have a much better season and now occupy third place, but what a different story for Bristol, last year's champions, who are only two points above West Wilts, at the bottom of the table.

This 8-2 win over Weston has assured Newport of promotion after only one season in the Second Division. With a match in hand, they total seven points, whereas Bristol, second, have only two points above West Wilts, at the bottom of the table.

The first time with a fine display in the doubles.

Kent have set a precedent by grading their county umpires. All non-active umpires have been removed from the list, and of the 43 left, only five - C. W. J. J. T. (Cheltenham), G. Lawrence (Erith), G. Owen (Oprington), S. Pike (Woolwich), and D. W. Webb (Bexley) — have been placed in Grade 1.

The others are fairly evenly divided in Grades 2 and 3. Grade 2 umpires are recommended for national progression and will be nominated for national and international events. Grade 2 contains "above average" umpires, and Grade 3: those who have not completed a full season and those who are unable to take part in other than purely local events.

The Sidcup boy has developed from an average and rather nervous county junior into one of Kent's best prospects. Dennis Whitaker, who appears to do better in team events than when playing for himself, was runner-up for the second successive year. The holder Stan Kempster in the January championships review writing, "even if Kempster loses as I imagine they will. Your imagination is running away with you. Stan Kempster, champion of Kent so perhaps one of these days you will actually watch us play. It would be your first time. I wonder what the average player in

JOYLEY FIELDER

women's singles to Mrs. Joan Beadle, who has now won the title four times. Linda Selway, of Folkstone showed great promise and Brenda Barber, of Birchwood, came to notice for the first time with a fine display in the doubles. The Sidcup boy has developed from an average and rather nervous county junior into one of Kent's best prospects. Dennis Whitaker, who appears to do better in team events than when playing for himself. The Sidcup boy has developed from an average and rather nervous county junior into one of Kent's best prospects. Dennis Whitaker, who appears to do better in team events than when playing for himself, was runner-up for the second successive year. The holder Stan Kempster in the January championships review writing, "even if Kempster loses as I imagine they will. Your imagination is running away with you. Stan Kempster, champion of Kent so perhaps one of these days you will actually watch us play. It would be your first time. I wonder what the average player in

Kent thinks of a suggestion that we run a second senior team providing we win promotion. Some cautious people say the cost would be prohibitive but against this there is the case for blooding our youngsters if we are to maintain Premier Division status. And don't forget our neighbours Essex, Herts, Middlesex, and Surrey all seem to be able to manage to run second teams. If they can do it, then surely we can.

Bromley "seconds" beat Thanet 7-3 in the play-off between the North and South zone winners of the Kent League Second Division and win promotion. Thus Bromley join N.W.Kent in having two teams in the First Division next season.

Conrad Jaschke.

SUFFOLK NEWSREEL

THE selection of John Collins for the Junior International against Wales and the recent reports of young Cole as reserve, has been the recent talking point in Suffolk circles.

Strangely enough most people in East Anglia feel that Cole is playing better than Collins this season. Indeed general opinion in Lowestoft is that Cole is the best player yet produced by Suffolk.

The winning of the Eastern Division of the National County Championship and with it promotion, is a great fillip to the game in this area. The experience of Second Division (South) next season will be of great value to our young players. At the same time it will bring with it other problems such as the long distance travelling and the ensuing costs of running a team in this higher division.

The players have no illusions about the standard of play in the Second Division and except some heavy beatings, but upon such experience is built a higher standard of play.

Next season we shall miss out annual meetings with our sister county - Norfolk. From the playing point of view Norfolk have had little to enthuse over these few years. Yet they have some good players, especially young Hiperson. Good luck to them.

In the lowestoft Championships former Suffolk Junior, Simon Pearson, stole a march on Cole and Collins by winning the Men's Singles. His form throughout was a revelation and on this display he is almost a certainty for the Suffolk team next season.

There's many a slip ... Early in the season Norwich "A" inflicted the first defeat in four years on Lowestoft "A" in the East Anglian League. Lowestoft, who were without Cole and Collins, congratulated Norwich and kissed goodbye to the championship title, but they are champions again for the fifth successive year. And a surprise 7-3 win over Norwich, who had needed only a draw to clinch the title.

Simon Pearson and John Clarke showed terrific fighting spirit in this unexpected win.

As one of the "B" players said. "The least the "A" players can do now is fill up the cup and pass it round."

A.E.D.

Twenty-three
THE conclusion of the ninth season of the National County Championships produced ten divisional leaders all of whom played throughout the year without losing a fixture. In six cases the leading counties finished with 100% records, in four divisions, the Second West, Eastern, Southern and South Western, they finished with an unbeaten record having drawn one or more of their matches.

A remarkable difference in the standard of play is indicated in each division as in six cases the bottom team scored a point. Only in the Premier, Second West, Junior North and Eastern divisions do we find all the counties with at least one point to their credit.

In the Premier Division Surrey became champions for the first time with a 100% record. Middlesex, champions for the past eight years, finished as runners up after a shaky start and a thrilling finish in which they won their last three fixtures against Gloucestershire, Sussex and Essex.

Their last match against Essex, played at Tottenham, produced an 8–2 win and enabled the ex-champions to beat Yorkshire into second place on games average. Middlesex winning 43 to Yorkshire's 41. The two wins of Essex were Leach's victories over Burridge and Thornhill. Sussex and Warwickshire, both promoted to the Premier Division this season appear to be doomed to relegation. Neither met with any success and they finished the season with one point each, obtained from a drawn match when they played each other. Warwickshire has the better games average.

Cheshire topped the Second Division North with a 100% record, with Durham carrying the wooden spoon without gaining a single point. The other three counties in this division finished in the usual position of scoring equal points and with two wins each. All three counties beat Durham then Yorkshire defeated Lincolnshire 6–4, Lincolnshire beat Northumberland 7–3 and Northumberland beat Yorkshire 6–4. Middlesex ran away with the Second Division South winning all six ties without loss. Kent struggled desperately for the runners-up position but Surrey's 10–0 win over Bedfordshire at Vauxhall gave them a better games average. Both teams finished the season with four wins, with Surrey winning 39 games against Kent's 38.

Essex also in the running for the second position went down badly at Winchester to Hampshire. They lost 4–6 and had to be content with fourth place.

Bedfordshire, newcomers to this division this season failed dismally and only won six games out of sixty played.

TEAM WORK WINS

It's happened. After eight years Surrey have won their seventh championship. They are Premier Division Champions. We have now held all three, Premier, 2nd Division and Junior titles and proved, by points the proud position we have always held we were entitled to.

As ever team work has been the basis of the feat; team work and perseverance. Perseverance? A few years ago Surrey went through an entire season without winning a single ladies' doubles; this season they chalked up an average of 71%. On the mixed too the results, with captain Ron Crydon usually acting as anchor, rose to 57%.

Those few figures illustrate, I believe, that the present system of play calls for not just an outstanding man or woman to dominate but a high average standard. Though Harry Venner, in the men's singles with an average of 86%, proved his justification to number one position over A. (Tony) Miller (57%) and Ken Craigie (58%) he would be the first to admit it was the ability of these two to pull off the odd game against the run of form or play that contributed to our success.

Similarly Betty Isaacs, who gradually took over the ladies singles from Jean Head (nee Winn) and remained unbeaten in five matches would pay tribute to Jean who had some of the hardest\n
A particularly fine thing to see was the bolstering of the off form player during those spells that came to the best. This is best shown by Harry Venner and Ken Craigie, who went through the season in the men's doubles, although Ken has been often at odds with himself this year in singles. his agent to Harry Venner, Tony Miller, Ken Craigie, Jean Head, Betty Isaacs, Peggy Piper (surely one of the best ladies' doubles players in England?), Jill Rook and, perhaps most of all, to Captain Ken Crydon, who over the years lived and blended the side who at last justify those always unpopular but now proven experts—the selectors!\n
Jim Forrest

HARRY VENNER

Twenty-four
was undecided until the tie between Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire had been played at Aylesbury. This resulted in a 5 all draw and Hertfordshire finished the season one point ahead of Buckinghamshire. Oxfordshire brought up the rear having lost all their fixtures.

Devonshire gained their second set of Championship medals in the Western Division leading Dorsetshire by two points. The leadership was in doubt until the last moment, when with Dorsetshire needing a 10–0 win over Devon to snatch the leadership could only manage to draw 5–5.

Their previous match had resulted in a 6–4 win for Devonshire. Cornwall failed to collect a point in this division.

All the normal fixtures of the various divisions have now been completed, there only remains the challenge match between the leaders of the Second Division regions to determine the constitution of the Premier Division for the tenth season.

**FINAL DIVISIONAL TABLES**

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WEST MIDDLESEX „OPEN”

A FEATURE of this year’s tournament was the strong entry for the Youth’s under 21 Invitation Event. Michael McLaren emerged the winner in three games over Ian Redfearn who had disposed of R. Dorking and L. Landry.

Three titles were successfully defended. Derek Burridge becoming the first player ever to win the singles two years in succession, while also retaining the doubles with Len Adams. The latter also retained the mixed doubles with Margaret Fry.

D) Rowe, knocked out of both doubles by inoculations in readiness for the trip to Tokio, made little impression on Jean Head in the singles final.

Jean made it a double success when, with Peggy Piper, she beat Betty Isaacs and Yvonne Baker in straight games in the women’s doubles.

Laurie Landry notched his fifteenth junior singles this season while Jean Harrower stayed long enough to win the girls from Sheila Pickard.

Some remarkably good matches took place during the rounds. On top form was Ron Crayden, losing in a close thriller to Alan Rhodes after having beaten Brian Brumwell.

Pride of place on Friday evening went to David House, excellent wins over Ivor Jones and Mickey Thornhill giving him a place against Burridge in the semi-final.

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Pride of place on Friday evening went to David House, excellent wins over Ivor Jones and Mickey Thornhill giving him a place against Burridge in the semi-final.
SURVIVING a match point against him, Ian Redfearn, the Middlesex second team player, beat Bryan Merrett in the men's singles final to provide the upset of the West of England Open at Torquay on March 17. He won 8-21, 22-20, 21-19.

In the absence of Brian Kennedy, the holder, Merrett had been strong favourite for the title and he appeared to be in for an easy victory when he ran away with the first game at 21-8.

Then Redfearn found his touch. In a close second game they were level at 16—11 and 19—11, but when Merrett got the next point he looked as good as home.

Redfearn staked everything on three beautiful winners, and snatched the game to make it one-all. There was little between them in the decisive final game, but Redfearn gradually got on top to get home at 19.

Earlier Redfearn had just scraped through against Alan Lindsay, surviving three match points in the second game before winning 19-21, 24-22, 21-16.

Ken Craigie experienced plenty of trouble against the sponge bat of A. Squire before winning over three games in the fourth round, and eventually fell to Merrett in the semi-final.

Merrett made up for his singles defeat by winning the men's doubles with Squire, and also took the mixed doubles with Ann Haydon.

Miss Haydon once again emphasised her superiority in the women's singles taking the title without loss of a game. Until the semi-final no player was able to mark up double figures against her.

The final, in which she beat Mrs. Vera Rowe, was a disappointing affair. Both players were using sponge and rallies were practically non-existent. No point took more than six strokes.

The tournament was run off efficiently, everything being over by 10.30 p.m., and apart from the women's singles all the finals proved good entertainment.


Final: REDFEARN bt Merrett 8-21, 22-20, 21-19.


Final Miss HAYDON bt Mrs. Rowe 21-14, 21-10.


Final: MERRETT and Miss HAYDON bt Craigie and Miss Rook 22-20, 21-18.

Final: MERRETT and Miss HAYDON bt Squire and Miss Bates 21-19, 21-16.

Boys' Singles: Final: B. GLOVER bt W. Northcott 21-18, 21-17.

Girls' Singles: Final: Miss J. GORDON bt Miss T. Salter 21-19, 21-12.

BERKSHIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's Singles: M. THORNHILL bt L. Landry 21-18, 21-17, 21-18. Women's Singles: Miss B. PEASLEY (Didcot) bt Miss M. Butler (Reading) 13-21, 21-19, 21-15.

Men's Doubles: E. ADAMS and Miss FRY bt K. Craigie and Miss M. Cherry 18-21, 21-12, 21-10.

Women's Doubles: Miss FRY and Miss E. HAMILTON bt Miss J. Crosby and Mrs. J. Head 21-14, 21-14.


Girls' Singles: Miss J. GORDON bt Miss M. Hicks 17-21, 21-19, 21-15.
SWAYTHLING and CORBILLON CUPS

COMPLETE TABLES

It was as you were in the World team championships, with Japan and Rumania retaining the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups respectively. Both countries went through unbeaten.

Japan, who have now won the men’s trophy for the past three years, had their toughest match with Rumania, scraping home by the odd game in nine, but greatly improved on last year’s performance in the final when they beat Czechoslovakia 3-1.

The English trio of Bergmann, Leach and Kennedy had a great run in their group until they met the Czechs, and were beaten 5-4. It was a touch and go affair, with Leach losing the deciding match to Vyhynovsky at 18 in the third.

With their last chance gone, England then suffered a surprise 5-2 defeat at the hands of Vietnam, who finished only fourth in this group.

Rumania were overwhelmingly strong in the Corbillon Cup, suffering only two individual defeats throughout. Angelica Rozeanu went through unbeaten, but Ela Zeller lost to both Ann Haydon, of England, and Yoshiko Tanaka, of Japan.

Mrs. test winner was against Miss Haydon, who had beaten her earlier in the season. They fought a terrific battle which might well be said to have cost England the Cup.

Miss Haydon and Di Rowe, however, gained a magnificent win over the Japanese to finish as runners-up.

SWAYTHLING CUP

GROUP A

Jap. 5-2 5-0 5-0 5-0 5-0 5-0

Eng. 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-0 5-0 5-0

Rumania 4-5 5-0 5-2 5-2 5-0 5-0

Czechoslovakia 4-5 5-2 5-2 5-0 5-0 5-0


World Champions: JAPAN

Runners-up: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

CORBILLON CUP

RunNERs-up: ENGLAND

Published by The Walthamstow Press Ltd., Guardian House, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E.17.

Printed by West Essex Printing Co. Ltd., Gazette Offices, High Street, Epping, Essex.